

Welcome to Green Island and the Great Barrier Reef

Enjoy a true tropical island experience in a day full of adventure—in the air, on the island or below the sea. Or simply take a day to completely recharge on ‘island time’.

Dip into the sea for a refreshing swim or snorkel, go beyond the shoreline on a sea kayak or join a glass-bottom boat tour. Why not stop for a picnic in the rainforest, or make yourself comfortable on a beach lounge? You can do as much or as little as you like.

“Welcome to Green Island. This is the Great Barrier Reef at its best—dense tropical rainforest, beautiful white sandy beaches, warm turquoise water and coral reefs a short leisurely swim from the beach. It doesn’t get much better than this.
Ranger Wayne



Land and sea country

The Gunggandji Aboriginal people welcome you to Green Island—Wunyami—and ask that you take care of their special place. The island and reef hold traditional and contemporary cultural significance for the Gunggandji people, who have an active role in looking after these values for future generations. The reef was, and still is, a significant resource base for the First Nations people of Yarrabah. They share an understanding of their land and sea country including the creation of all things. This knowledge is passed on to younger generations through art, music, dance and stories.

“The Gunggandji people today are looking to the future. We recognise the people of the struggle, the Elders (some of whom have passed away) and the Gunggandji Prescribed Body Corporate (PBC) Aboriginal Corporation Registered Native Title Body Corporate (PNTBC). Our leaders have travelled a long road so that we can come back to country. Once again, our dance, stories and ceremonies ‘bring alive’ Green Island, as we pass our knowledge, customs and traditions on to our children. Old people, young people, our country.
The Gunggandji people PBC, 2016



Explore Green Island

A rainforest cay built entirely by coral, and fringed by sandy white beaches, Green Island combines the World Heritage environments of Green Island National Park and the surrounding Great Barrier Reef Marine Park.

Explore below

Get face-to-face with nature. Immerse yourself in the water wonderland below Green Island’s tropical surface. Snorkel right off the pristine shore and explore the unique differences between the coral reef and seagrass beds which surround the island. Brightly coloured tropical fish surround coral bommies while turtles live and feed in the seagrass. Remember, the safest place to snorkel is between the red and yellow flags.

From snorkelling, diving, sea floor walking, glass-bottom boat and semi-submarine journeys, Green Island has a variety of ways to explore the Great Barrier Reef.

Come face-to-face with turtles and tropical fish while snorkelling around Green Island.
Photos: © Big Cat Green Island Reef Cruises (right/far right); Maxime Coquard © Qld Govt (below); © Qld Govt (far left)



Marineland Melanesia is a unique experience for marine lovers.

Photo: © Big Cat Green Island Reef Cruises



Explore above

Above the water Green Island is just as incredible. Explore its cool rainforest where buff-banded rails scamper around the forest floor while butterflies dance in the tropical air. More than 130 species of plants and around 50 species of birds live on Green Island, so there is plenty to see.

For a bird’s-eye view get adventurous and try parasailing or a helicopter ride. Meet Cassius at Marineland Melanesia—more than 100 years old he is the world’s largest crocodile living in captivity.



Green Island National Park and surrounds

Getting there

Just 27km offshore from Cairns, Green Island is easily reached by tourist transport and there is a great range of adventurous travel options available including boat or helicopter. Make your journey part of the experience! Find out more at queensland.com

Further information

-  qld.gov.au/NationalParks
-  qld.gov.au/ParkAlerts
(access, closures and conditions)
-  [qldnationalparks](https://www.facebook.com/qldnationalparks)
-  [@QldParks; #QldParks](https://www.instagram.com/QldParks/)



This brochure is also available online at qld.gov.au/ParkBrochures



Everything you need

Green Island is completely equipped with a range of facilities.

- Toilets, showers, lockers, meals and refreshments are available at Green Island Resort, with snorkelling equipment for hire at the resort Dive Shop.
- Towels, beach umbrellas, sun lounges and non-motorised water sports (such as kayaking) are available at Beach Hire, located left of the jetty behind the patrolled swimming beach.

Boating and fishing

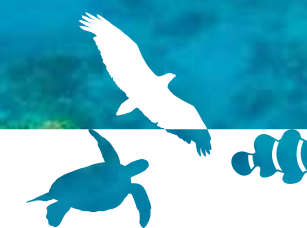
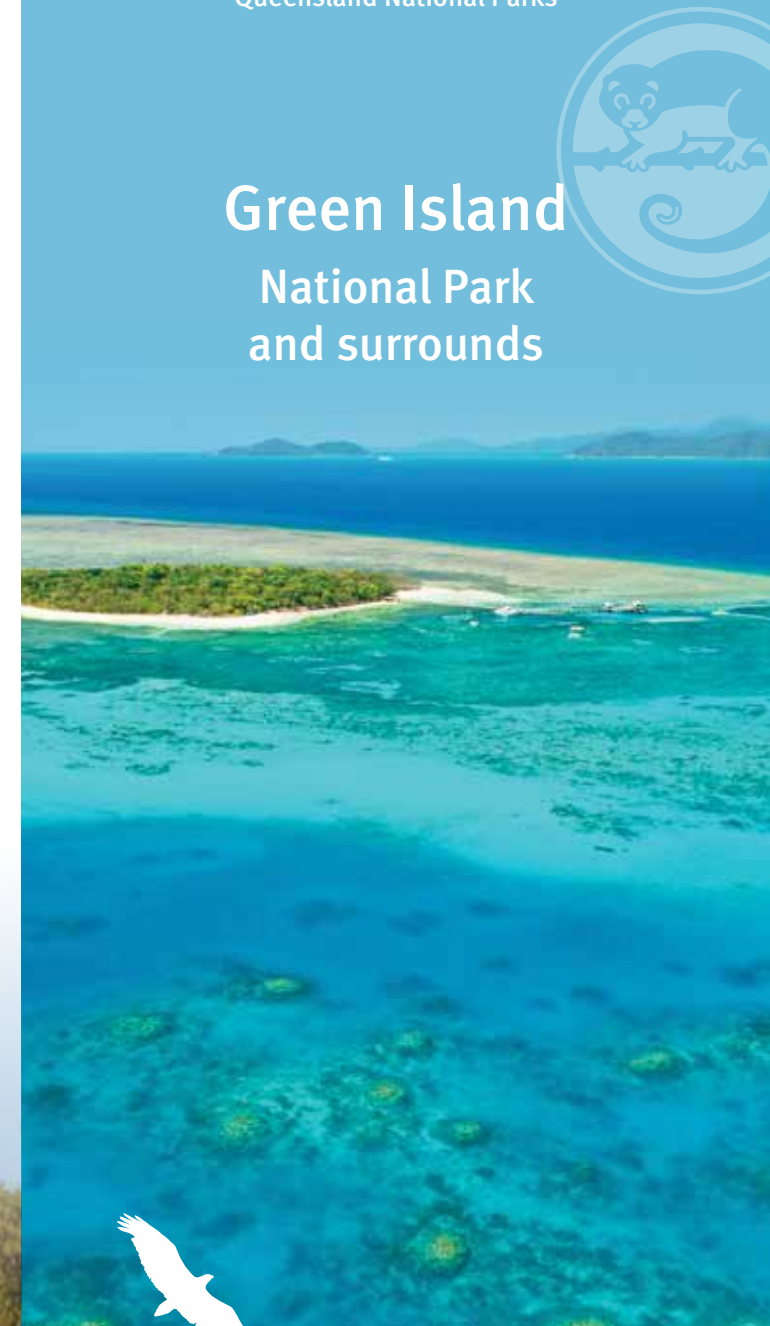
Safe anchorage is provided for vessels up to 20m by 3 public moorings near the island. If unavailable, anchor only on sand as anchoring on coral is prohibited. Boats are not permitted in the exclusion zone (refer to map). Fishing and motorised water sports, such as jet skiing, are not allowed in the waters surrounding Green Island. Refer to gbrmpa.gov.au for more information.

Explore safely

Make your visit to Green Island memorable for all the right reasons.

- Get advice and instructions from lifeguards, snorkel guides or dive instructors—especially if it is your first time swimming or snorkelling. The safest place to swim or snorkel is between the red and yellow flags.
- Always swim and snorkel in pairs and wear a personal flotation device or buoyancy device.

- Protect the coral by using rest stations, or only resting on the sand. Never stand on coral or coral rock.
- Wear a stinger suit if you plan to swim or snorkel—to help protect you from sun exposure and marine stingers (jellyfish) which may be present at any time, but occur more frequently in the warmer months.
- Plan your day to snorkel or swim at high tide when it is easier to enter and leave the water.
- Be sun safe—wear a hat and sunscreen and drink plenty of water.
- Pay close attention to all safety instructions given by tour guides, life guards, Park Rangers and on information signs.
- Green Island and the surrounding ocean is a ‘no-take’ zone. Never touch, pick-up or take plants or animals from the land or sea. You will be fined by a Park Ranger if you do.
- Never feed wildlife including birds or fish.
- Be pest free! Make sure your clothes, footwear and gear are free from soil, seeds, parts of plants, eggs, insects, spiders, lizards, toads, rats and mice.
- Place all rubbish, litter, and any plant or grass seeds attached to your clothes, into bins.
- Smoking is not allowed on most of the island. Smoke only in the designated smoking area. Place all cigarette butts in the special butt bins provided.
- No flying drones (unmanned aerial vehicles) on the island or over Green Island Reef.
- Remain on the boardwalks and marked tracks—don’t take short cuts or form new tracks through the rainforest.



Explore Green Island



A Queensland treasure

Green Island became a national park in 1937, a marine park in 1974 and a protected part of the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area in 1981. The Australian and Queensland



Explore Green Island by foot

Green Island is tropical nature at its best. Explore the island at your own pace on these easy walks.

Beach walk ○○○

Top 6

Green Island experiences

1 Come face-to-face with a sea turtle—you can see them from the jetty and walk on the beach.



governments recognise that Green Island is a very special place and have protected it in several ways:

- The reef and underwater habitats are part of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park.
- Both Green Island and its reefs are included in the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area, which gives it international protection under UNESCO.
- The island is a national park and the surrounding waters are marine park and all commercial activities are regulated by permits.

An island of firsts

With a rich past and present, Green Island is a true island of firsts. The island was:

- the first island national park in Queensland and the surrounding foreshore and reef the first protected marine area.
- the first tourist destination on the Great Barrier Reef.
- where the first glass-bottom boat was launched.
- the location of the world's first underwater observatory and island movie theatre.
- where Australia's first island tertiary sewage treatment plant was built.

Today, the island remains the only rainforest coral cay, with the most diverse flora, on the Great Barrier Reef.

1.5km circuit | Allow 45min

View the island from the outside in, as you wander around its perimeter. Beach almonds, pandanus, and casuarina trees thrive in the sandy conditions. Let the waves wash over your feet as you look out onto the reef while ospreys and white-bellied sea-eagles soar above. This walk should not be attempted at high tide.

Boardwalk walk

1.3km return | Allow 30min

(allow longer if stopping to read the signs)

Feel the temperature drop as you step onto the boardwalk and stroll through the cool, lush rainforest. Stop to read the signs along the way and discover the island's fascinating history. Be amused by the buff-banded rails as they scurry around the rainforest floor under the cheese-fruit trees and strangler figs.

Jetty walk

780m return | Allow 15min

For a different perspective of the reef, the jetty offers clear views to the sea life below. You'll be amazed as schools of colourful fish, rays, and sea turtles swim beneath you.

them from the jetty or shore, or get even closer while snorkelling and diving.

- 2 Be surrounded by colourful tropical fish as you snorkel or dive in the waters of the Great Barrier Reef.
- 3 See the sights and hear the sounds of the amazing tropical rainforest as you walk along the boardwalk.
- 4 Get adventurous and join a reef tour, or under sea experience.
- 5 Read about the history and natural environment of the island on signs along the boardwalk.
- 6 Relax on the white sandy shore while gazing into the turquoise waters of the Coral Sea. You might even spot a humpback whale in the distance, during their migration season (July–September).



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© Great Adventures (photo 5)