



**10 NIGHTS | DEPARTING CAIRNS 30 JUNE 2021 | ONBOARD CORAL DISCOVERER**

We have partnered with Australian Geographic Society and GBR Legacy for a once-in-a-lifetime nature conservation experience on Australia's Great Barrier Reef. On this special Citizen Science departure, explore some of the most remote edges of the outer reef with leading reef scientists and researchers Dr Dean Miller, John Rumney, and Dr Charlie Veron. Discover beautiful and complex habitats, and find sanctuary in the peaceful oases of the Coral Sea.

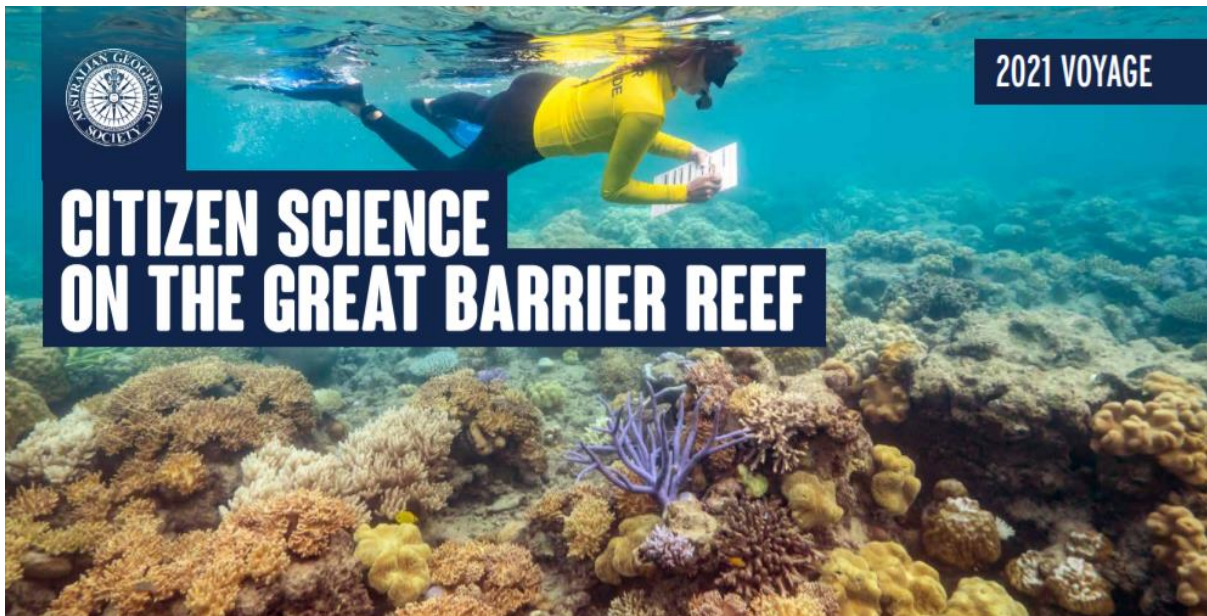
This expedition offers a rare chance to learn and make a difference in coral conservation while travelling alongside the most knowledgeable and respected Marine Scientists in the world. **\$500 from your fare benefits GBR Legacy.**





2021 VOYAGE

# CITIZEN SCIENCE ON THE GREAT BARRIER REEF



## Expedition Highlights

- > Have the chance to swim amongst the Minke Whales and come eye to eye to make a true personal connection with these beautiful and curious creatures.
- > Be a part of conservation history by taking part in coral surveying and collections for the world's first Living Coral Biobank project
- > Share your journey with a team of the most respected and knowledgeable Marine Scientists in the world
- > Discover Australian heritage and history as you explore the frontier township of Cooktown
- > Make connections with ancient indigenous culture and hear the tales of creation from a traditional elder amongst the rock art at the sheltered Yindayin cave
- > Learn about reef conservation at the Research Station on Lizard Island and visit the Turtle Rehabilitation Centre on Fitzroy Island
- > Close each day over a refreshing sundowner as you watch the sun set over the blue expanse of the Coral Sea
- > Explore spectacular Osprey Reef, and observe overnight scientific research on the elusive Nautilus



This Australian Geographic Society voyage is hosted by Australia's leading reef experts. From left: John Rumney, Dr Charlie Veron ("Godfather of the Reef") and Dr Dean Miller.

## DEPARTURES & FARES

10 Nights - Departs: 30 June 2021 aboard *Coral Discoverer*

	Bridge Deck Stateroom	Promenade Deck Cat A	Promenade Deck Cat B	Main Deck Cat A	Main Deck Cat B
<b>Twin Share</b>	\$17,250	\$15,150	n/a	\$13,050	\$12,400
<b>Sole Use</b>	n/a	n/a	\$19,900*	n/a	n/a

Prices are per person, listed in Australian Dollars (AUD) and include GST.  
\*Limited sole use occupancy available.

IMAGES + 1 Master Reef Guide surveying, credit Tourism and Events Queensland  
2 Snorkellers with Dwarf Minke Whales, credit Tourism and Events Queensland

## INCLUSIONS

- All excursions, including hiking, kayaking, snorkelling and introductory scuba session, with the exclusion of selected optional museum entry fees and scuba diving
- Presentations, briefings & workshops by our highly experienced Expedition Team and guest hosts
- Snorkelling and introductory scuba session
- All meals, with morning and afternoon tea
- Selected beers, wines, spirits, juices & soft drinks with lunch and dinner service, and 24 hour tea and coffee
- Post-cruise transfers
- Open bridge access and engine room tours
- Australian Geographic expedition jacket and hat
- All fees & gratuities

## ITINERARY: 10 NIGHTS CAIRNS TO CAIRNS

### DAY 1: DEPART CAIRNS

Board at Cairns Cruise Liner Terminal at 4pm for a 5pm departure.

### DAYS 1-10:

*Our Great Barrier Reef itineraries are flexible, to take advantage of changing conditions. Below are the key destinations we visit.*

#### RIBBON REEF #9 & #10

The Ribbon Reefs are renowned for their prolific marine life. Enjoy excellent diving and snorkelling, with interpretation from our marine biologist and the opportunity to spot iconic species. Here we may have the chance to snorkel with the graceful dwarf Minke whales. Growing 8-9 metres long, they migrate through the Great Barrier Reef during the winter months. An encounter with them is a magical experience, as the whales are known for their curiosity and may want to have a closer look at you. Our time here will be dictated by the whales. As wild animals, they are unpredictable, and we cannot guarantee a whale encounter.

#### RACHEL CARSON REEF & MACKAY REEF

Named after the famous American conservationist, Rachel Carson, this well-protected platform reef provides our main opportunity to assist with the citizen science project. Dr Miller will present on the *Coral Biobank* project before he leads an expedition underwater to survey coral species and marine life. The GBR Legacy team will review survey results and conduct collection of specimens. The following day, continue your surveying work at beautiful Mackay Reef, located off Cape Tribulation. The vibrant fringing reef offers a rewarding underwater discovery and you might spot some of the numerous turtles that gather here.

#### OSPREY REEF

Osprey Reef is the summit of an undersea mountain in the Coral Sea. With amazing underwater visibility, magnificent coral, and plummeting drop-offs, it is a highly prized dive destination and a true expedition experience. In the late evening, observe as the marine science team conducts research on the elusive Nautilus. Our visit here is subject to weather conditions.

#### COOKTOWN

Come ashore in historic Cooktown and learn the history of the *Guugu Yimithirr*, the first people of this country. Discover European history at the site where Lt. James Cook beached *HMB Endeavour*, wander through the rare flora collection at the Botanic Gardens and visit James Cook Museum.

#### DAVIE REEF & STANLEY ISLAND

With a Traditional Owner guide, view the remarkable Endaen Aboriginal rock art at Stanley Island. Hear the stories of the first settlements on the island and marvel at the contact-period paintings in the impressive rock shelter. At Davie Reef enjoy snorkelling or observe the resident Brown Boobie colony.

#### LIZARD ISLAND

Start the day with a dawn hike to the summit of Cook's Look, from where Lt. James Cook searched for safe passage through the reef. Snorkel over giant clam gardens, or relax with a walk on the beach. We may visit Lizard Island Research Station to learn about coral reef research. Later, enjoy sunset drinks on a quiet beach.

#### FITZROY ISLAND & SUDBURY CAY

Today, explore beautiful Fitzroy Island with a walk through the Secret Garden or a hike to the Summit to enjoy panoramic views. Snorkel over the fringing reef, relax on spectacular Nudey beach, and learn all about turtles at the Cairns Turtle Rehabilitation Centre, where sick or injured turtles are cared for before being returned to the wild. In the late afternoon, arrive at Sudbury Cay, a tiny sand cay that barely rises above the Coral Sea, to enjoy the Captain's Farewell Drinks as the sun sinks below the horizon.

### DAY 11: ARRIVE CAIRNS

Disembark in Cairns at 8:00am

A post cruise transfer to the city or airport is included.