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Australia Sailing Course Learn To Earn

Adventure



Relaxation



Culture



Trip Name: Australia Sailing Course Learn To Earn **Trip Code:** OZLS **Duration:** From 6 days

Trip Highlights

- Get hands on experience working on board a yacht sailing through the Great Barrier Reef!
- Learn or improve your sailing skills on land before living as part of a crew as you cruise around the Whitsundays
- Gain an internationally recognised qualification
- Enjoy relaxation time snorkelling and swimming in the reef



Overview

If you're looking for a course that will enable you to take on sailing jobs in Australia, then look no further! Our fantastic learn to earn courses offer you the chance to enjoy a fantastic sailing trip around Australia's renowned Barrier Reef Marine Park whilst giving you a real 'hands-on' experience and teaching you new, invaluable skills, which beats just sun bathing on deck!

Our sailing courses are the perfect way to learn this exciting capability, or a chance to improve your current sailing ability. You will learn the theory behind sailing and then you'll join sailing tours as an extra crew member aboard a charter yacht to reinforce the theory that you've learnt.

Destination Info

You will start your sailing adventure at Airlie Beach's Abel Point Marina. Airlie Beach is a lively resort where you can do just about everything from skydiving, parasailing, horse riding, fishing, sea kayaking, bush walking and tropical island and rainforest visits. The town benefits from a manmade tropical lagoon, which you can enjoy for free, all year round. In the evening the town comes to life and there are loads of bars, cafes, restaurants and nightclubs for you to enjoy.

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Throughout your voyage you will sail the beautiful Whitsundays. The Whitsunday Islands are located off the coast from Airlie Beach in the Great Barrier Reef. There are 74 Islands in total (66 of them are in their natural state with no tourist activity).

Itinerary



Sailing Courses

Our sailing courses are designed for those with an Australian Working Holiday Visa looking to gain employment in the Marine Tourism industry on a gap year and act as a stepping stone to leverage yourself into the Yachting Industry.

Our sailing school, an accredited NSCV training centre, has been operating in this area for over ten years and provides a personalised service and training excellence.

All courses begin on-land at Airlie Beach's Abel Point Marina. Here there will be an in-depth orientation and safety briefing before heading out onto the tropical waters.

There are three courses available to you depending on your previous experience or qualifications:

- **6 day/ 5 night NSCV Commercial Crew Course**
- **6 day/ 5 night International Bareboat Skippers Certificate**
- **23 day/ 23 night Learn to Earn course**



6 day/ 5 night NSCV Commercial Crew Course

Beginner (no previous experience required).

This course contains theory and practical elements giving you a basic understanding of the knowledge that is required to be an active crewmember on board a yacht under power or sail. The syllabus covers crew skills in the following areas:

- Terminology
- Nautical Knowledge
- Seamanship
- Boat Handling
- Engineering
- Meteorology
- Communication
- Passage Planning
- Navigation

6 day/ 5 night International Bareboat Skippers Certificate

Intermediate (pre-requisite is International Crew Certificate and/or approx 10 days prior sailing experience on cruising yachts).

This is a course of basic pilotage, boat handling, seamanship and navigation intended to assist you to skipper a vessel in familiar waters. These theory and practical modules are aimed at increasing your nautical knowledge sufficiently to be a watch keeper on board a bareboat yacht, or a flotilla skipper in fair weather, in daylight hours within sight of land.

Topics covered include:

- Responsibilities of a watchkeeper
- Charts and chart work

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- Compasses and magnetism
- Buoyage
- Safety Brief
- Galley
- Power boat handling skills
- Sailing boat handling skills
- Basic first aid
- Collision regulations
- Customs, manners and legal requirements
- Passage plan
- Short passage
- Anchoring

Both the 6 day / 5 night courses allow you to live aboard the sail training vessel while sailing around the Whitsundays and include all meals, course notes, tuition, snorkelling equipment and seetime log book.



23 day Learn to Earn course

Advanced (this course includes the NSCV Commercial Crew Course).

Our fantastic 23 day learn to earn course allows you to experience 12 nights on sailing tours (made up of 2 day / 2 night trips) around the Whitsundays as an extra crew member. Working with professional crews you'll reinforce the theory learnt from your sail training course in week 1 plus learn about the additional requirements of commercial charter work. In addition you need to muck in and help the crew with all charter duties on board. At the end of your course you'll have an interview and assistance finding work (depending on performance and work availability).

If you wish to take command of your own yacht or charter a small yacht with friends or family this certificate of excellence will enable you to do so safely and confidently.

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Your first week will involve you training on the 6 day 5 night NSCV Commercial Crew Course, where you will live-aboard our Sail Training Vessel, undergoing theory and practical application, while sailing around the stunning Whitsunday Islands.

All meals during the 6 days 5 nights are included as well as, course notes, tuition, snorkelling instruction and equipment, marine and National Park Fees, log books and course certificates.



The following 12 Nights will be spent on sailing tours (made up of 2 day 2 night or 3 day 2 night trips) around the Whitsundays as an extra crew member aboard our charter yachts to give you a true crew experience.

You will be added to the roster on the yachts and get to work with professional crews reinforcing the theory that you learned in your sail training course in your first week, plus learning other customer service aspects of working on Charter Yachts. As part of this experience you will also have 6 nights backpackers dorm/share based Accommodation in Airlie Beach to be used for nights off roster i.e. in between tours at sea.

Meals while on the sailing tours (12 days), 2 crew uniforms and 6 nights backpackers dorm/share based accommodation in Airlie Beach are all included during week 2-3.

At end of programme an interview will be arranged with our Human Resource / Recruitment Manager to evaluate performance with a view to employment. Employment is based on positions being available and successful performance.

Please Note: Work on the Commercial Charter Yachts is pretty hard, provisioning the yacht, assisting guests, assisting with cleaning, working the decks, assisting the cook. However, if you are energetic and don't mind mucking in, you will enjoy it.

Accommodation

Throughout the duration of your 6 day/ 5-night course you will live aboard the sailing vessel on which you will learn. The yacht sleeps a maximum of six students and one skipper, and you will be the crew! You will be in shared cabins with shared bathrooms facilities and linen will be provided.

For those on the 23 day/ 22 night course, during weeks two and three when you are part of the working crew, you will be onboard your sailing vessel. During your time when you are not on one of the scheduled 2-day/ 2-night trips, your accommodation will be in Airlie Beach, where you will stay in shared backpacker accommodation (6 nights).

Programme Services and Facilities

Internet

There is no Internet access on board your training vessel but there are plenty of Internet cafes in Airlie, so you can use it just before you sail and when you get back. Prices are around AUD\$5 per hour.

Telephone

The international telephone access code for Australia is +61.

To place an outgoing, direct dialled international call, dial +44 for the UK, +49 for Germany, followed by the telephone number. For example to call Real Gap Experience dial +44 1892 516164 / +49 69 222226 475.

There are payphones in Airlie, so you will need to get yourself an international phone card. You can buy one when you arrive, or get one before you go, such as the one Real Gap offers.

Another good option would be to take your cell phone and purchase a pay-as-you-go SIM in Australia, or get a Real Gap SIM before you depart, to allow you to text and call cheaply, and keep track of your spending. You will not always have signal onboard, but you will when closer to the mainland. Before you depart, please ensure that your cell phone is set up with international roaming and unlocked, so you may use a pay-as-you-go SIM while you are away.

Laundry

There is no laundry service or facilities on the boats, It is advisable to take some travel wash with you so that you can wash essentials, like underwear and swimwear, by hand as you go.

Electricity

There will be sockets onboard for your use.

Meals

Three tasty meals per day will be prepared for you whilst on board, usually consisting of fresh, local produce including a traditional Aussie BBQ, fresh fruit and vegetables.

Alcohol is not available to buy onboard so we recommend that you purchase some in Airlie beach to take onboard should you wish to have a cold beer or glass of wine in the evening after a hard day's work!

Please let us know if you have any special dietary requirements in advance.

What's Included

- One Sailing course
- Safety briefing
- Onboard accommodation
- 6 nights backpacker accommodation (only 23 day option)
- All meals whilst onboard
- Course completion certificate
- Log book



What's Not Included

- All flights
- Personal travel insurance
- Working Holiday Visa



Additional Information

Orientation

Upon your arrival at the marina, you will receive a full briefing about the adventure ahead of you. This will include an explanation of the course that you have chosen, what is involved and what you will learn, as well as an in-depth safety briefing. You will have the opportunity throughout the course to ask as many questions as you like. This is a good chance to ensure you are happy and confident before you set sail!

Throughout the course you will have the competent assistance of our qualified, experienced instructors. With a maximum ratio of six students to one instructor, you will be provided with the very best personalised service.

What to Pack

Please note that this kit list is intended to help you plan what you may need to take with you and therefore, you may not need all of the listed items on your travels nor is it exhaustive.

Personal Admin

- Two passport photos
- Visa documents
- Passport
- Driving Licence
- NHS card or a National Insurance card or proof of entitlement to your National Health Service, or the German Krankenversicherungskarte
- Insurance policy document or card
- Credit card, for emergencies and booking internal flights

General

- Journal or diary
- Towel
- Toiletries (shampoo, soap, toothbrush etc)
- Alarm clock
- Torch/ batteries
- Sleeping bag
- Sun block
- Small padlock to secure luggage

Clothing

- Clothing suitable for all weather conditions
- Waterproof clothing
- Sturdy walking boots/shoes and thick socks
- Wide brim hat
- Sunglasses
- Shorts
- T-shirts
- Swimming costumes

Medical Kit

- Medication
- First Aid Kit
- Insect repellent

Minimum Age

Minimum age 18 years, maximum age dependant on potential participant's health.

Flights

Your flight to Australia should arrive at Cairns Airport and then get a connecting flight to Proserpine Airport. You should arrange to arrive in Airlie Beach no later than 5/6pm on the day before your programme start date to register (please note that this night of accommodation is **not** included), and your return flight should be arranged for your programme end date.

Need flights? Of course you do! Contact us on 01273 647219 so that we can help find you some great priced flights.

Please note: If you are flying to Australia via the USA you will need to obtain Travel Authorisation by registering online through the Electronic System for Travel Authorisation (ESTA) no later than 72 hours before departure. This is compulsory and will cost USD\$14 to register. To register, please visit: www.esta.cbp.dhs.gov

It is important that once you have booked your flights you add these details to your Online account, or alternatively you can contact us with your departure date, the flight number and arrival time at your destination.

FAQs

- 1. Do I need a Working Holiday Visa for this programme?**
No, but if you intend to work afterwards in Australia, you will need a Working Holiday Visa.
- 2. Will this guarantee me work?**
You will not have guaranteed work, but at the end of the course you will have a meeting with HR to assess your results. You will be able to use the course in your CV for future employment.
- 3. If I find work, how much will I earn?**
The minimum wage in Australia is \$14 per hour. Your wage will start from here.
- 4. Will I be able to use my qualifications overseas or just in Australia?**
Yes! You will have gained an internationally recognised qualification.
- 5. Do I need to take a sleeping bag?**
You won't be allowed to take sleeping bags and pillows onto the tours, all bedding will be provided for you.
- 6. Do I need to take a mosquito net?**
You will be more than welcome to take mosquito nets however there are luggage restrictions and you will only be able to take a carry-on bag with you so we would recommend insect repellent.

7. Will there be a safe/safety deposit box available?

There are no safety deposit boxes on-board and so you will need to take responsibility for your own belongings. It is recommend they you valuables into waterproof/zip lock bags to prevent them from getting wet.

Support & Advice

Your safety is paramount which is why all our programs have been visited and assessments have been conducted to ensure any major risks have been minimized.

In addition, you will have access to a 24 hour emergency contact number so you can contact one of our staff at any time should you need to. In addition our overseas partners and coordinators are on hand in-country to assist you.

Financial Security

We know that the last thing you want to worry about when you're planning your trip of a lifetime is whether your money is in safe hands. As a leading global gap year provider it's our job to make sure your finances are secure, so when you book with us you can be confident that we do just that.

Real Gap Experience is part of TUI Travel Plc, one of the largest travel organisations in the world, and these days in the travel industry, large means secure.

Insurance

Whether you're traveling for two weeks or two years, trekking the Amazon in Ecuador or on safari in Africa, insurance is an essential part of your adventure and will help you enjoy your travels, secure in the knowledge that you have the protection you need. In fact, everyone traveling with us must have adequate cover before their trip begins.

Of course you are free to buy insurance from any provider, however at Real Gap Experience, we have partnered with World Nomads to offer policies that have been specifically designed to meet the needs of global travel. If you think you're already covered by an existing policy, such as those offered by credit card providers, check the policy wording very carefully to ensure it covers you for your Real Gap Experience.

For more information on travel insurance please contact us to speak to one of our travel advisors.

Money Matters

The unit of currency is the Australian Dollar. Changing foreign currency or travellers cheques is usually no problem at banks throughout Australia or at licensed moneychangers.

Australia is affordable by Western European and American standards, but if you are travelling on from Southeast Asia you'll notice a big increase in costs!

Meal, Inexpensive Restaurant 13.37 \$

Domestic Beer (0.5 litre draught) 5.04 \$

Coke/Pepsi (0.33 litre bottle) 2.40 \$

Water (0.33 litre bottle) 2.14 \$

(Prices quoted in US Dollar)

Passports and Visas

You should ensure that you have a full passport that is valid for 6 months beyond the intended length of stay. It is your responsibility to have the correct personal documents and to obtain your own visa, if one is necessary, in accordance with the regulations of the country you are to visit. The information provided below is to help you with that process. We are not responsible for the actions of local immigration and customs officials, whether at points of entry or otherwise, and any subsequent effects.

All visitors to Australia need a visa – only New Zealand nationals are exempt, however you will receive a 'special category' visa on arrival.

For entry into Australia you will require an eVisitor visa. UK passport holders can apply for a 90-day tourist visa online at www.immi.gov.au All other nationalities should consult the relevant embassy.

If you intend to work after your week in Sydney you will be required to apply for a working holiday visa.

Working Holiday Visa

To take part in this programme you will require a working holiday visa. The working holiday visa is available to anyone age 18-30. The emphasis is on casual employment: you are meant to work for no more than six months at any one job. If you want to stay in Australia for up to 24 months, this is now possible for some nationalities. Speak to one of our sales advisors for more information.

To be eligible for a Working Holiday Visa, you must:

- Be aged between 18 and 30 years at the time of application
- Have a valid passport for one of the countries listed at Australian Immigration, www.immi.gov.au
- Have no dependant children
- Have not previously entered Australia on a working holiday visa
- Meet health and character requirements
- Be outside Australia at the time of visa grant

To be granted a working holiday visa you must also agree that:

- Your main reason for coming to Australia is to holiday
- You must not undertake studies or training for more than 4 months
- You will leave Australia at the end of your authorized stay
- You must have sufficient funds to support yourself for the initial part of your stay. AUD\$5000 minimum is regarded as sufficient. You may have to provide evidence of this in the form of a bank statement.

For the most up to date information on visa requirements, please visit <http://www.immi.gov.au/>

Cultural Considerations

Australia is a melting pot of different cultures. It has a population of over 21 million people with most of the population living on the east coast between Adelaide and Cairns. High waves of immigration from England, Ireland, Italy, Greece, Malta and Eastern Europe have occurred during Australia's brief history, particularly after World War II, and the later waves from the Middle-East, East, and South-East Asia, as well as the Indian subcontinent, have created a truly diverse population.

Although Australia has no official language, English is spoken by 80% of the population. Chinese, Italian and Greek are respectively the next most common languages, reflecting Australia's cultural diversity and concentration of nationalities. Australians have very strong attitudes and belief systems which are reflected in their culture. Australians traditionally have a very ironic sense of humour.

Vaccinations & Health

Travel health can often be something people forget about before going away, but a little preparation and knowledge can go a long way to help you stay fit and healthy while abroad. The risks to your health whilst travelling will vary depending on your general health and the type of activities you are going to be partaking in and the length of your stay.

Since we are not medically qualified, it is recommended that you consult with your Doctor or a recognised Travel Medical Advisory Service who will assess your particular health risks before recommending vaccines and/or anti-malarial tablets and advising you on what precautions you should take.

Safety

As in most countries there are people who try to take advantage of tourists. The following advice is intended to help you keep safe:

- Always keep your personal items such as passport, money and camera with you and in a safe place. You can buy mini padlocks to prevent people from going into your bag without your permission.
- Don't carry excess amounts of cash
- Wherever possible, walk around in groups, especially after dark, and avoid taking short cuts
- Do not pick up hitchhikers if you are driving and do not hitch hike yourself
- When you are out do not leave your drinks unattended, as there have been reports of drinks being spiked

We advise that you check your government's advice before travelling abroad. For UK and American customers please see the relevant links below;

UK: www.fco.gov.uk

USA: www.travel.state.gov

ATM Theft

It is very likely that you will need to withdraw cash at some point during your travels. Please be cautious when

withdrawing money from an ATM and ensure that you are vigilant of other people near the ATM, especially those that offer unsolicited assistance if your card is detained. It has been recognised that individuals are operating unlawful withdrawals by placing 'traps' in ATMs whereby personal bank cards are being detained, causing the victim to believe their card transaction has not been completed, and leaving their bank card in the ATM which is then later retrieved by the thief.

If your card is confiscated or you are concerned that your card has been tampered with, please report immediately to the bank or cancel your card.

Language Guide

Here are some Australian terms and phrases that you might find useful:

Bottle Shop - *Off-licence/Liquor store*
Bonzer - *Good*
Bush - *Unsettled country area*
Dag - *Nerd*
Esky - *Portable insulated box to keep food/drink cold*
Fair Dinkum - *Honestly, truly*
Pokies - *Gambling machines*
Pom - *Person of English descent*
Singlet - *Sleeveless cotton vest*
Smoko - *Tea break*
Thongs - *Flip flops/Sandals*
Ute - *Utility vehicle/pick-up truck*

Food & Drink

You will find food in Australia to suit all taste buds, with the larger cities in particular offering a great range of places to eat. Due to the large amount of British settlers, Australian food is reasonably similar to that in Western Europe, but if you are feeling particularly adventurous get involved in some bush tucker (kangaroo, emus) or the infamous vegemite. For less scary Aussie food, look out for fresh seafood and of course, a typical Aussie barbecue!

Please let Real Gap know before you depart if you are a vegetarian or have any other dietary requirements.

Public Holidays

When planning your trip, you should be aware of the major national holidays celebrated throughout the country.

To view a list of the public holidays for Australia, please see the link below:

www.timeanddate.com/holidays/australia/

Weather

Australia is located in the southern hemisphere, where seasons are the opposite of those in the northern

hemisphere.

The summer months in Australia (November to March) can get very hot. Up north, in Queensland for example, the summer period brings the rainy season and the weather can be very hot and humid with lots of rainfall. The winter months (June to August) in Queensland bring much dryer weather but still heat. The further south you go the colder and wetter winter becomes and in some mountainous areas of New South Wales, Victoria and Tasmania skiing is possible.

Time

Australia is such a big country that it has three time zones:

Eastern Standard Time (Queensland) – 10 hours ahead of GMT depending on Daylight Savings

Central Time – 9.5 hours ahead of GMT

Western Time - 8 hours ahead of GMT

Electricity

Electricity in Australia is 240 Volts, alternating at 50 cycles per second.



Sockets in Australia are V-shaped flat prongs.

Trip Note Disclaimer

The information contained in this trip note has been compiled with great care and is provided in good faith. Any itinerary featured is correct at time of release. However, our itineraries may change as make improvements that result from travellers' comments, our own research or from time to time as a result of recommended travel advice.

You can rest assured that it is always our goal to provide you with the most rewarding trip and experience ever!

Our Details

If you have any questions about this trip please do not hesitate to contact us and we'll be happy to answer them.

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