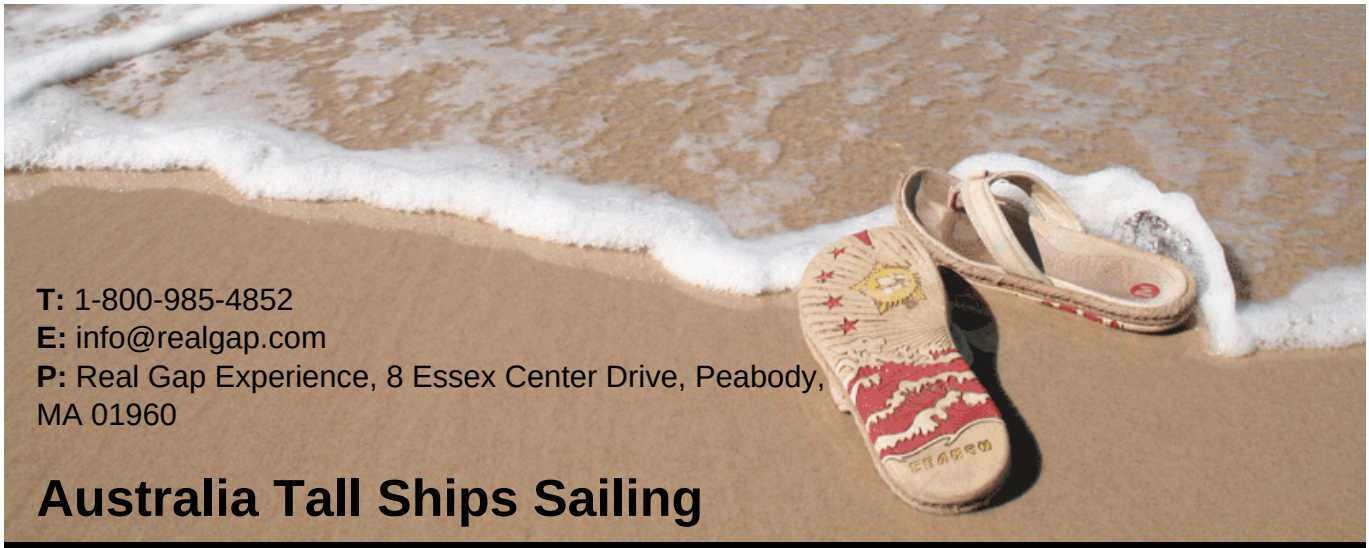

T: 1-800-985-4852
E: info@realgap.com
P: Real Gap Experience, 8 Essex Center Drive, Peabody, MA 01960

Australia Tall Ships Sailing

Adventure Relaxation Culture

Trip Name: Australia Tall Ships Sailing **Trip Code:** OZTS **Duration:** From 4 days

Trip Highlights

- Experience sailing as it was a century ago and cruise the Whitsunday Islands on board a fabulous Tall Ship around the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park
- Assist the crew hoist the sails and steer the ship, or just relax on the huge decks and take in the views that the Great Barrier Reef provides
- For the adventurous, find the Tarzan in you as you drop from the rope swing into the ocean!
- For those seeking serenity, close your eyes and listen to the waves lap beneath you as you lay in the bow net

Overview

Three lovely relaxing days, one group of beautiful Islands! Our Tall Ship sailing trip is perfect for those travelling along the East Coast and ideal for those who want to explore the outstanding Whitsunday Islands and Great Barrier Reef in style!

Your experience of the Whitsundays will involve exploring the bays, coves and islets aboard a 105-year-old Tall Ship. With 10 sails and 5500 square feet of sail area your ship will provide you with an authentic Australian shipping adventure! As a fully Eco Certified operator, your crew can provide knowledgeable and informative talks about the Islands, the Great Barrier Reef and the marine life, so that you can fully appreciate your surroundings.

You'll get the chance to snorkel, swim, discover the area and learn the basics of sailing - or just relax and soak up the sun. You're in for a never-to-be forgotten cruise!

Destination Info

You will start your sailing adventure at the port in Airlie Beach. 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.

Throughout your voyage you will sail the 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). Your captain will make anchor near various sites including Whitehaven Beach (true to its name, it boasts the finest white sand) and Nara Inlet on Hook Island.

Itinerary

The Whitsunday group has a total of 22 islands, all named by Captain Cook on his voyage on the Endeavour in 1770. The islands remain relatively unspoilt with only eight of them now with resort style developments. All islands are truly magnificent and offer an abundance of colourful sights and scenes, which you will discover on one of the guided hikes, bush walks or beach relaxation times!

The Whitsundays are the perfect place for you to have this sailing experience, as the conditions are terrific!

The consistent South Easterly breezes and calm water anchorages that are situated among the islands make overnight stopovers especially relaxing and provide you with a comfortable nights sleep, as well as a steady deck to sunbath on, all year round!

As you can see from the typical day above, you will have plenty of time to snorkel along the Great Barrier Reef, examining the huge amount of marine life, visiting the gorgeous sandy beaches (Whitehaven Beach being a highlight), swimming, throwing yourself overboard on the rope swing and of course, relaxing.

Typical Anchorages: (1) Bauer Bay. (2) Nara Inlet at Hook Island. (3) Cataran Bay on Border Island. (4) Whitehaven Beach on Whitsunday Island. (5) Mantaray Bay on Whitsunday Island. (6) Cid Harbour on Whitsunday Island. (7) Langford Reef. (8) Blue Pearl Bay on Hayman.

Please Note: Trips will differ depending on the prevailing breezes and tides so we are unable to provide you with a concrete itinerary and route. Itineraries are planned by the Captain considering the safety and well being of guests and crew.

If you would like to, the crew will be more than happy to let you get involved in the actually sailing of the ship, and will take the time to explain the basics to you. One of the activities to get involved with is the hoisting of the sails, something that will take some very co-operative teamwork! Of course if you'd rather sit back in the bow net with a nice beverage from the bar, that is fine too. As a fully Eco Certified operator, your crew can also provide interpretive talks and information about the Islands, the Great Barrier Reef and the marine life, so that you can fully appreciate your surroundings.

Snorkelling and Scuba Diving
When the ship is on anchor, there are organised on-island activities for you, such as island walks, as well as time for you to spend as you wish. The ship has a stock of mask and snorkels that you are able to use to explore the underwater world. The ships crew will provide you with an introduction to snorkelling and give you any advice you may need, especially if you are a beginner. They will then stand by and watch while you snorkel to ensure that guests are safe and provide any advice or assistance you need while snorkelling.

The snorkelling locations are well protected and generally they are relatively close to the beaches. While snorkelling you can expect to see a large variety of tropical fish, colourful soft corals, manta rays, and maybe even the occasional turtle.

If you need a mask with a prescription lens, these can be hired from local dive shops in Airlie Beach, prior to departure.

Scuba Diving will be made available through a dive company that you will meet up with during the trip. It is not a requirement for you to already be a certified diver as introductory dives are available (subject to the completion of a medical questionnaire). Diving sites will be on the Fringing Coral Reefs that extend from Hayman Island or Hook Island. Your dive will last approximately 25 to 30 minutes, providing you with enough time to explore the marine wonderland.

Please note: This is an optional activity and will therefore be at your own expense. It is also worth noting that dives may be cancelled due to strong winds and bad weather. However, this only occurs occasionally.

Your days will generally start at around 8am with breakfast and a swim or bush walk. This will be followed by one to two hours of sailing to either a snorkelling, diving or beach destination. You then have 1½ hours to explore the coral reefs, swim in the sea or relax at the beach.

Lunch will be at around 1pm and then at 2.30pm you will continue sailing around the Whitsundays, arriving at an overnight anchorage by 4.30-5.30pm. Time to enjoy a pre-dinner snack and watch the sunset over the islands before dinner at 7.30pm. After dinner the evening is yours to either have a few drinks under the stars or call it a day and chill out in your cabin.

Accommodation

You can choose between multi-share cabins or twin/double cabins (the cost of the programme will vary accordingly). The cabin accommodation is comfortable and air conditioned and has 11 double, twin or shared cabins. The cabins have comfy beds, personal reading lamps and there are separate male and female bathrooms with hot showers and domestic style toilets.

We can also offer you pre and post trip accommodation for an additional cost so that you can make sure you don't miss the ship's departure! This accommodation is in a backpacker's hostel in Airlie Beach with shared or twin/double options available.

Programme Services and Facilities

Internet

There are no Internet facilities available on the boat. You will be able to check your e-mail before and after the trip at Airlie Beach.

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.

As above, there will be no telephone facilities on the boat, however it may be possible that your mobile phone will work, depending on how close to the main land you are.

Laundry

There are no laundry facilities, though if necessary you will be able to hand wash items in a sink. If you think you might need to do this, remember your washing powder!

Meals

On-board you will be provided with freshly prepared meals that you can enjoy in the open-air restaurant, which benefits from spectacular ever-changing Whitsunday views. Meals will include a continental breakfast, morning tea, buffet style lunches, pre-dinner snacks and cooked evening meals. The ship also has a fully covered Saloon/Bar area serving cold drinks.

An example of a day's menu:

- Continental breakfast
- Morning tea – fruit cake, tea and coffee
- Lunch – Quiche, bread, pasta, salads
- Mid afternoon – fresh tropical fruit
- Dinner snacks – Nachos, dips, cheese and crackers
- Dinner – Chicken cooked on the BBQ, rice, salad and bread
- Dessert – Fruit and ice cream

What's Included

- 3 day/3 night sailing trip
- 3 nights accommodation on-board
- Meals while on-board
- Guided Island walks
- Snorkelling

What's Not Included

- Flights and transport to Airlie Beach
- Personal travel insurance
- Visas

Additional Information

Orientation

There will be a pre-departure talk at the Airlie Beach office before you set sail, which will give you information on health and safety as well as information about the ship, the route that you are sailing and any other useful information that is necessary.

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

- Documents
- Passport
- Driving licence
- Insurance policy document or card
- Credit card, for emergencies and booking internal flights

General

- Journal or diary
- Towel
- Toiletries
- Torch
- Hat and Sunglasses

Clothing

- Causal clothes
- Shorts
- T-shirts
- Swimming costume
- Comfortable footwear for beach walking
- Warm sweater for evenings
- Waterproof jacket

Medical Kit

- Medication
- First Aid Kit
- Insect repellent
- Sunscreen

In an effort to stop insects from being carried on board in passengers' luggage you will be supplied with two green material shopping bags (free of charge) to take your belongings on board with you.

As there is not much storage space onboard the ship you will only be able to take belongings on board that fit inside these bags. You will be able to store any larger luggage whilst you are at sea at the hostel for a small charge.

Minimum Age

Minimum 18 years, maximum decided on potential participants health.

Flights

Your flight to Australia should arrive at Cairns Airport and then get a connecting flight to Proserpine Airport on your programme start date, and your return flight should be arranged for your programme end date.

To book your flights, please contact your travel advisor who will do their best to get you the best deal on the day. Please provide them with your full name as it is stated in your passport. Before you make the call please make sure you have your required departure dates, return dates and other details you may require.

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. **What ages are those that book the Sailling?**
   Average ages are between 21 to 35 but anyone over the age of 18 is welcome!

2. **When is the best time to go?**
   All year round it's pretty warm in the islands

3. **Can you arrange an airport transfer?**
   Yes! For a small fee this is possible.

4. **I have certain dietary requirements, will this be a problem?**

Not at all! Special diets can be catered for at no extra cost.

5. **I'm travelling with a friend, can we book together?**
   Absolutely! Just mention it at the time of booking and we will get you onto the same boat.

6. **Do I need to take a sleeping bag?**
   You won't bet allowed to take sleeping bags and pillows onto the tours, all bedding will be provided for you.

7. **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 take a carry-on bag with you so we would recommend insect repellent.

8. **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 reommended 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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