

Great Barrier Reef

Queensland Australia

Understanding the value of the
World Heritage Wonder



Quick facts

It makes up about **10%** of the world's coral reef ecosystems.

It is one of the **most complex natural systems** on earth.

It covers **344,400km²** in area, and stretches **2,300km** along the Queensland coast.

Includes the **world's largest coral reef ecosystem**, with **600** types of hard & soft coral.

Consists of **3,000** coral reefs, **600** continental islands, **1625** types of fish
and **133** varieties of sharks and rays.

It is roughly the **same area as Japan, Germany or Italy**.

Around **80%** of all tourism activity occurs within just **7%** of the Great Barrier Reef region.

Cairns is the **Gateway to the Great Barrier Reef**, with closest access points to the reef from Cairns, Port Douglas, Mission Beach and Cape Tribulation. The region provides the most diverse options in outer reef, inner reef, island, beach and coral cay experiences.



**CAIRNS & GREAT
BARRIER REEF**

Where rainforest meets the reef

It is the best managed reef in the world

The Great Barrier Reef Marine Park sets a **global benchmark** for marine protected area management. All commercial and recreational activities are regulated by the **Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority**. Best practice management and a firm commitment from the tourism industry to its conservation, result in best reef management and protects the values of the Marine Park.

Best management tools applied:

- Partnerships and innovative best practice initiatives
- Permits and licenses
- Education and community awareness
- Research
- **Zoning**

There are 8 different types of Zones with different rules for activities allowed, restricted and prohibited to protect the marine environment and to separate potentially conflicting activities:

- 1. General Use (30%)**
For reasonable general use of GBR Marine Park (tourism)
- 2. Habitat Protection (28%)**
For reasonable use of areas whilst protecting and managing sensitive areas.
- 3. Conservation Park (6%)**
Reasonable use of extractive activities with additional restrictions on most fishing activities.
- 4. Marine National Park (33%)**
A no take area (=115,374km²). Activities like fishing & collecting prohibited without a permit.
- 5. Preservation (<1%)**
A no go area. A person cannot enter this zone without written permission.
- 6. Scientific Research (<1%)**
Area for scientific research. No public access, area restricted to swimming, snorkelling, diving only.
- 7. Buffer (3%)**
Allows for pelagic species trolling only. Bottom and spear fishing prohibited. Seasonal closures apply to buffer zones.
- 8. Commonwealth Island Zones**
Those land areas of the marine park above the mean low water mark. Can be used and entered for low impact activities, filming, educational programs, camping (f.ex. Russell Island).

For more detailed information and zoning maps, visit gbrmpa.gov.au



Economic value of the Great Barrier Reef to Australia

It creates **64,000 jobs** (24,000 jobs within Great Barrier Reef region).

It provides **\$6.4 billion** to our national economy.

Provides **\$56 billion** of total economic, social and brand asset value.

Approximately **2 million visitors** per annum.

Strong significance to **Aboriginal** and **Torres Strait Islander** Traditional Owners.

From a global perspective, the Great Barrier Reef's **importance** and **value to the planet** and to biodiversity is paramount. It is seen as the natural asset contributing most powerfully to Australia's global brand and on top of the list for visitor preference, reputation and experience.



The "Reef Permit" – Environmental Management Charge (EMC)

Funds – \$6.50 per person – received from the EMC are vitally important in the day-to-day management of the Marine Park, contributing to the conservation of the Great Barrier Reef and **improving its long-term resilience.**

All funds received are applied directly to **management, research, protection** and preservation of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park.

Every person visiting the Great Barrier Reef contributes via the EMC, and as such **every person takes part in the reef's future.**

Great Barrier Reef Resources

Learn more about the Reef, its health, people and experiences by visiting:
bit.ly/GBR-resources

"The tourism industry has the power to amplify a Great Barrier Reef message via visitors, media and travel trade. Tourism is a significant avenue through which to raise awareness of the cultural and environmental values of the Great Barrier Reef and tourism operators play a key role in helping visitors to learn about the Great Barrier Reef and the variety of threats to it, its resilience and recovery mechanisms, and how its management and diversity contribute to its status as a World Heritage Area."

– Tourism and Events Queensland

