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Superyachts choose Cairns for year-round base

Cairns Marlin Marina will be the home base for three superyachts with the arrival of the Morris Nautical's M.Y. Northern Escape, M.Y Flying Fish and M.Y Beluga highlighting the city's capabilities as a superyacht hub.

Tourism Tropical North Queensland Chief Executive Officer Mark Olsen welcomed the addition of the Morris Group's three superyachts to the Cairns Marina, the first to operate from the marina year-round.

"These three magnificent charter vessels further broaden Tropical North Queensland's diverse luxury offerings allowing visitors to experience the reef, rainforest and outback in style," he said.

"Departing from Cairns the superyachts can showcase extraordinary dive and snorkelling itineraries exploring pristine northern reefs with not another vessel in sight.

"Tropical North Queensland's dual World Heritage areas are an international drawcard that appeals to the growing luxury market encouraging investment such as this in high-quality tourism infrastructure."

Manager of Superyachts Great Barrier Reef Jodie Growden said the arrival of Morris Nautical Fleet would have long lasting benefits to the local economy.

"In the past six months, the superyacht industry has generated an impressive \$31.9 million for the Far North Queensland economy alone, with a significant increase in the number of 24-metre plus yachts," she said.

"We've seen a 52 per cent increase in the number of superyachts in the past six months along the east coast with Cairns now one of the most sought-after destinations on the superyacht itinerary."

Morris Nautical CEO Sam Aldred said the decision to bring the trio to Cairns was an easy one.

"With direct access to our international airport, the Great Barrier Reef, tropical islands and some of the most secluded anchorage, Cairns is becoming one of the most sought-after destinations on the superyacht itinerary," he said.

"Cairns Marina offers outstanding facilities, unrivalled access to some of the most beautiful waters in the world and with our fleet here I'm looking forward to showcasing the region to our international clientele who are yet to explore the area.

"M.Y. Northern Escape has been one of the top five most popular charter vessels in the Mediterranean after three successful seasons in the Mediterranean. Our collection in Cairns will provide high-end travellers the opportunity to experience the beauty of the region."

Ports North Chief Executive Officer Richard Stevenson said Ports North was delighted to welcome the trio of superyachts to Cairns Marlin Marina.

"Our marina facilities are world class, with supporting industries in very close proximity and our international airport only minutes away. This reaffirms the attractiveness of the Marlin Marina as the new home port for these impressive superyachts," he said.

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"Cairns is perfectly positioned as an entry or exit stop for the Asia Pacific and the Marlin Marina looks forward to continuing to work with Morris Nautical and the wider superyacht industry to continue to grow increased visitation and home porting opportunities."

Morris Nautical Fleet:

M.Y. Northern Escape, alongside M.Y Flying Fish (32-metre Warren) and M.Y Beluga (35-metre Moonen), will be available for bespoke charters, where guests can tailor their journey to explore Queensland's most remote islands, secluded beaches, and world-class dive sites. This exceptional fleet will expand even further in mid- 2025 with the arrival of Gambler — a 19-metre Assegai, custom-built for exhilarating game fishing adventures. Currently under construction, Gambler promises an unrivalled experience for fishing enthusiasts and luxury travellers alike.

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