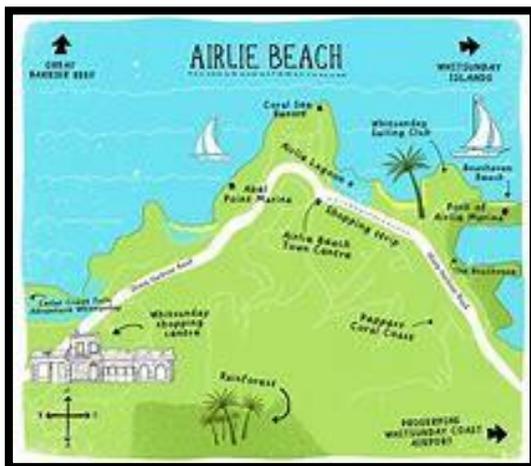


Travel to ...Airlie Beach Queensland Australia

Airlie Beach is in the Whitsundays Area of Northern Queensland Australia. The Whitsundays are in the heart of the Great Barrier Reef. There are 74 island wonders in the tropical waters of the Coral Sea. The Whitsundays is world-famous for its clear aqua waters and iconic landscapes including Whitehaven Beach and Hill Inlet, and the perfectly shaped natural formation of Heart Reef.



Airlie Beach a vibrant hub of the Whitsundays and is seen to be the ideal mainland base for people to use to explore the Whitsundays and have fun and adventure. It is the perfect as you can do activities on or in the water such as boat trips to reef where you can snorkel and swim with the marine life. Alternatively, you can enjoy the lush, green rainforest of the Whitsunday Coast.



Some of the more well known Whitsunday Islands are, Hamilton Island, Hayman Island, Lindeman Island and South Mole Island.

Airlie Beach has a laid-back, tropical atmosphere and a real holiday feel. Visitors stroll through the boutiques, cafes and shops of the main street; relax by the Airlie Beach lagoon and head to the Saturday morning markets that offer a quaint range of local arts and crafts, fresh fruit and vegetables and much more. And at the end of a great day, treat yourself at one of the alfresco restaurants - from fresh local seafood at a bustling seafood cafe, hand-made tapas made from fresh local produce, to a romantic sunset dinner for two.



In 1975 the Heart Reef was discovered by a local pilot and is now an internationally recognised attraction of the Whitsundays and features on many postcards and brochures promoting the Whitsunday region and the Great Barrier Reef.



The Whitsundays has a long and rich cultural heritage, beginning with the ancient Ngaro indigenous people who have lived in the Whitsundays region for over 8,000 years. The original inhabitants of the Whitsundays, the Ngaro moved seasonally throughout the islands in search of food and had no permanent settlements. The Ngaro were keen fisher people, making the most of the abundance of fish and other marine animals around the islands. They used spears and fashioned simple bark canoes 2-3 metres long, often made from a single piece of bark.



One of the most photographed beaches in the world is Whitehaven Beach. Whitehaven Beach is a 7 km stretch along Whitsunday Island, Australia. The island is accessible by boat, seaplane & helicopter from Airlie Beach, as well as Hamilton Island. It lies across from Stockyard Beach, better known as Chalkie's Beach, on Haslewood Island. The beach is known for its crystal white silica sands and turquoise coloured waters. The beach has barbeque and camping facilities.



In 1770, Europeans sailed through the Whitsunday Passage between the islands and the mainland for the first time. Captain James Cook was sailing the east coast of Australia in his ship The Endeavour on Sunday 3 June and named the area 'Whit Sunday' in reference to a Christian holiday on the religious calendar. Little did Cook know that in Australia it was Monday 4 June, as longitudinal time zones were not well understood at the time. Cook noted during this journey "Everywhere good anchorages... Indeed, the whole passage is one continued safe harbour." Cook was responsible for the naming of several points on the map, including Cape Hillsborough near Mackay, Cape Conway, Cape Gloucester and Edgecumbe Bay near Bowen.

Since these early days, agriculture and mining have flourished in the region. Some of the crops grown in the area are mangos, avocodos, lemons, melons, passionfruit and tomatoes.

A recent addition to the tourist attractions is one for snorkellers and divers. They will be treated to an underwater wonderland with the installation of underwater art in The Whitsundays Great Barrier Reef Marine Park. The underwater sculptures provide a new experience for travellers and marine enthusiasts. These unique artworks have been installed at various popular sites around The Whitsundays. These incredible sculptures will not only provide amazing scenery for guests to enjoy they will also act a new bases for coral growth and animal shelter.

With a population of approx. 1300 actual residents the coastal village is reliant on the tourist trade. It was a town named after Airlie in Scotland. It became Airlie Beach in 1987 when it amalgamated with the larger town of Whitsunday. Temperatures vary from a very humid 37C in the January summer months and 23C in the winter month of July.



Getaway – Airlie Beach (4.30min) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KUcmdqw2abo>

Travel Guide to the Whitsundays (7min) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0BkvpEpbItI>

Whitsundays and Airlie Beach video (7min) https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dj_ctem6leE