

# GREAT BARRIER REEF ORPHEUS ISLAND

## Be a coral reef surveyor

Stay and dive at a real marine research station



4 days/3 nights  
4-7 August, 2012  
ex-Townsville

from A\$2050 including GST per person

### Price includes:

- ◇ Transfers between Townsville/Townsville Airport to Orpheus Island.
- ◇ 3 nights dorm accommodation at Orpheus Island. 4 days dive and training activities, all boat transport, tanks, weights and survey equipment.
- ◇ Training materials.
- ◇ All food, community cooking.

Prices do not include flights, dive gear rental, travel insurance, alcohol, laundry, WIFI, personal expenses and excess baggage allowance, certification/PIC cards. All prices are quoted in Australian dollars and are subject to change without notice. Booking conditions apply.

## Adventure diving



in marine conservation

- ◇ Rare opportunity to stay and dive off Orpheus Island Research Station, Great Barrier Reef.
- ◇ Get accreditation to dive as coral reef surveyor with Reef Check Australia/International. Earn PADI specialisation as coral reef survey diver.

Reef Check Australia/International is a marine conservation charity whose volunteers collect data for public use to shape conservation management policies. Orpheus Island Research Station is located in a Great Barrier Reef marine park sanctuary. The research station normally allows diving to James Cook University registered divers only. Reef Check Australia has a special arrangement to allow training modules and diving to be conducted on the research station.

DiVo is an Australian non-profit organisation, working with marine conservation and research groups to introduce recreational divers to hands-on participation in marine conservation. Learn underwater research protocols, marine life ID, be part of genuine conservation and research, help give back to the oceans.

**DiVo** **Voluntourism**

*Dive with a Difference to Make a Difference*

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# Activities

## Introduction to Reef Check Australia

Reef Check Australia is an award-winning marine conservation charity responding to the severe threats facing Australia's beautiful coral reefs because there is hope if we *take action now!* The information that Reef Check Australia's volunteer divers collect is used by community groups, governments, universities and businesses to design and implement ecologically sound and economically sustainable coral reef management. In addition, Reef Check Australia's projects stimulate local action to protect and rehabilitate remaining reefs.



Reef Check Australia has a rare exemption allowing its survey trainees to dive on Orpheus Island Marine Research Station. After accreditation, you can join any Reef Check International survey around the world.

## Pre-trip

You will get a course manual to read beforehand. We will also be in touch on your food preferences and recipes!

## Saturday

**AM** Pick up from Townsville to be met by a marine research vessel at Taylor's Beach. Enjoy a scenic ride to Orpheus Island through the Great Barrier Reef Marine National Park and its pristine islands.

**PM** Orientation of the marine research station and an introductory session on coral with Reef Check Australia. If tides permit, you will conduct your check out dive and practise reef-friendly diving technique. In the evening, enjoy a community-cooked meal under the stars as each



volunteer team gets to serve up their favourite meal!

## Sunday

**AM** Theory and practical sessions on coral substrate identification and reef health indicators.

**PM** Put your training to a test...no worries! It's all about mentor-buddy camaraderie at its best.

## Monday

**AM and PM** Now we learn about invertebrates—sea stars, shells, sea cucumbers - and WHY we are monitoring this. Earn your stripes with a final quiz and practical, and get Reef Check accreditation as well as a PADI Coral Reef Survey Diver Specialty under your belt!



## Tuesday

**AM** A practice survey dive before graduation as a Reef Check Australia qualified surveyor.

**NOON** We will then transfer you back to Taylor's Beach and then onward to Townsville.

# WHAT YOU SHOULD KNOW

**PRE-TRIP:** You will get a course manual to read beforehand. We will also be in touch on your food preferences and recipes.

**LOCATION AND CLIMATE** Orpheus Island is in Northern Queensland. Mean temperatures in August vary between 22-28 °C and water temperatures around 24°C. 5-7 mm wetsuit recommended.

**INCLUDED** Dorm-style accommodation on Orpheus Island, all meals (cooked by volunteer teams taking turns), land transfers, boat transport, dive tanks and weights, survey slates and quadrats.

We will endeavour to place single travellers in twin shared accommodation with other travellers of the same sex. Single travellers may request a single room subject to availability and payment of single supplement.

**NOT INCLUDED** Flights, dive gear other than tanks and weights, self-catering food and drink, insurance, visas, excess baggage charges; personal items such as phone calls, laundry, drinks etc; airport taxes.

**WHAT THE VOLUNTOURIST SHOULD HAVE** Dive computer, torch, reef shoes, dive insurance\* and dive certification cards\*\* (minimum PADI advanced diver subject to change if Queensland state or Orpheus Island Research Station regulations change). \*Orpheus Island Research Station requires dive insurance, please contact your travel agent if you require this. \*\*Must be presented on arrival or participation void and no refunds given.

## BOOKING TERMS

Applicable between you and each of Dive Adventures and DiVo

**DEPOSIT AND BALANCE** A non refundable deposit of \$300 per person is required to secure a booking. Final payment is due 60 days prior to departure. Failure to comply may result in tour cancellation and forfeit of deposit.

**CREDIT CARDS** For any deposit or final balances payable if you elect to pay for your holiday with a credit card, an additional charge of 1% for Visa and Master Card and 3% for Diners and American Express Cards will be added to the invoice value of the booking.

**CANCELLATION** Bookings cancelled by you at any time after confirmation are subject to the forfeit of deposit or payments made, including any additional deposits required by suppliers.

In addition, we may charge any costs charged by the hotel or other contractor which cannot be avoided. This can amount to up to 100% of total land arrangement costs, particularly when cancelling tours and other arrangements within 60 days of departure. You should check what additional cancellation fees apply before paying deposit.

Airfares may attract a cancellation charge up to 100% depending on the conditions of the airfare. Please take out travel insurance, as this may prevent you having to pay these fees, if cancellation is due to circumstances beyond your control. Any refunds due will be available to you after we receive the monies from the airline/ operator involved.

**FORCE MAJEURE** Due to weather, transport delays, strikes and other causes beyond our control and that of our contractors and airlines, we reserve the right to cancel the trip or contracted services. We will endeavour to secure refunds, but will not be held responsible for refunds not forthcoming or other travel arrangements affected. All diving and ocean activities are subject to weather conditions. While we will endeavour to organise appropriate replacement activity or secure refunds where possible, refunds for certain fixed costs may not be obtained.

**GROUP DEPARTURE** DiVo charges the trips at cost on a non-profit basis and per person cost is based on a minimum number of 4 participants, therefore we reserve the right to cancel trips (subject to refund of the \$300 deposit) or adjust prices if numbers are not reached.

**CHANGES IN PRICES AND ITINERARIES** We reserve the right to adjust our prices as may be necessary to reflect fluctuations in exchange rates or increases in the cost of fuel, accommodation, and services in general at any time, up to and including the day of departure of tour. Although no

changes to itineraries, hotels or dive locations are anticipated, we reserve the right to make such changes if necessary without notice. If accommodation is not available due to overbooking or other situations through no fault of ours similar standard accommodation will be provided where possible. Amendment of individual itineraries at customer's request will be subject to the terms and conditions of the airline and land service provider.

**UNDERWATER ACTIVITIES** We and our servants, agents and employees do not assume any responsibility or liability for the safety of any participating individual in any activity offered by way of tour itinerary including but not by way of limitation, activities of scuba diving and snorkelling. Clients on all diving tours must be aware that the on-site dive operator has sole responsibility for diving activities and has the right to refuse diving to any individual without recompense for reasons of health including instability or suspect or real intoxication or the results thereof, or for any suspect or real inability or incompetence.

**AIRLINE SCHEDULES** If flight schedules changes occur for whatever reason it may be necessary to alter the itineraries. The services of the stipulated airline must be used on the route. Increase in airfares may apply if other carriers are used.

**RESPONSIBILITIES** We accept liability for, but only to the extent of, any loss or damage sustained by you as the result of negligence of that of our employees. We will endeavour that our service providers are of reputable standard, but we do not accept any liability of whatever nature for the acts, omissions, or default, whether negligent or otherwise, of service providers (including airlines, coach or dive operators, boat operators, shipping companies, hoteliers or other persons providing services) over whose conduct we have no direct and exclusive control. We do not accept liability in contract or in tort (actionable wrong) for any injury, damage, loss, delay, additional expenses or inconvenience caused directly or indirectly by force majeure or other events which are beyond our control, or which are not preventable by reasonable diligence on our part including but not limited to war, civil disturbance, fire, floods, unusually severe weather, acts of God, acts of Government or of any other authorities, accidents to or failure of machinery or equipment or industrial action.