

M/V Nimrod Explorer

Itinerary #1: Coral Sea & Ribbon Reefs Expedition

Departs Tuesdays from Cairns, disembarks Saturdays at Lizard Island

5 Days/4 Nights – Approximately 15 dives, weather permitting

The *Nimrod Explorer* spends much of her time in the area of the Ribbon Reefs far north of Cairns, introducing guests to the more remote areas of the Great Barrier Reef inaccessible with day operators.

This itinerary includes two days' diving at the isolated coral atoll, Osprey Reef, located 120 miles off the Queensland coast. Known for its big animals and excellent visibility, Australia's Coral Sea is a pristine area that delivers diving memories lasting a lifetime! Following a day of diving along the northern Ribbon Reefs, an overnight steam delivers you to the idyllic Osprey Reef and 2 days at sites such as 'North Horn', with its big shark action, abundant reef inhabitants, and spectacular soft corals often exceeding 2 metres in height. Here you will find dynamic wall diving with sharks, beautiful soft corals and shoals of pelagic fishes

Though we are normally able to do four to five dives daily (including night dives), the remoteness of the area means that weather and tidal considerations sometimes unexpectedly and adversely affect certain sites.

The following itinerary is an example only, and can and will change during the course of the trip.

Day 1 - TUESDAY

CAIRNS TO THE GREAT BARRIER REEF

- Guests meet at Explorer Ventures office at 206 Draper Street, Cairns, at 3:00 pm
- At approximately 5:30 pm guests are welcomed aboard *M/V Nimrod Explorer*
- An evening meal is served as *M/V Nimrod Explorer* steams out to sea.
- Anchor near our first dive site between 2:00 am and 3:00 am

Day 2 – WEDNESDAY

RIBBON REEF # 9

- Orientation dive
- A total of 4 to 5 dives are offered today, including a night or dusk dive, at dive sites such as Lighthouse and Monolith
- Steam overnight to Osprey Reef

Day 3 – THURSDAY

OSPREY REEF

- 4 to 5 dives offered today, including night or dusk dives
- Dive sites will be selected according to the conditions on the day and include Raging Horn, North Horn, and Castles

Day 4 – FRIDAY

OSPREY REEF

- 4 to 5 dives offered today
- Dive sites such as Raging Horn, North Horn, Castles selected according to conditions on the day
- After dinner steam to Lizard Island (approximately 10 hours)

Day 5 - SATURDAY

LIZARD ISLAND TO CAIRNS

- Guests disembark the *M/V Nimrod Explorer* by 8:30 am for transfer to Lizard Island
- Time for a short walk on the island before a 50 minute low altitude flight to Cairns departing at approx 10.00 am
- Arrival into Cairns at approximately 11:00 am
- Our bus & driver will be at the airport to transfer passengers to inner city accommodation

