

M/V Nimrod Explorer

Itinerary #12: Far Northern Reef Adventure

Lockhart River to Lockhart River

5 Nights /6 Days – 4.5 diving days with up to 18 dives and 1 turtle snorkel offered, conditions permitting

This expedition to the section of the Great Barrier Reef north of Lockhart River, on Queensland's Cape York Peninsula, offers an unparalleled opportunity to explore one of the most remote and pristine diving areas in the world! This special itinerary offers the best of the sites that we have found on previous expeditions, as well as the chance to experience reefs never before visited by divers.

Big animal fans won't be disappointed! Reef environment lovers will be astounded at the diversity and colour of the easily accessible, pristine coral reefs in shallow water.

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 CAIRNS TO LOCKHART RIVER

- Guests meet at Explorer Ventures' Cairns office at 7 am
- Bus transfer to General Aviation airport for charter flight to Lockhart River, departing at 8:30 am
- Arrive at Lockhart River by approximately 10:30 am
- 4WD transfer from airstrip to *M/V Nimrod Explorer* at Portland Roads – brunch provided enroute
- Depart Portland Roads by 2:00 pm
- A late lunch is served on the way to the first dive site
- 2 dives are offered today, including the orientation dive and a dusk/night dive, at the beautiful *Hybernia Reef Complex*. Rich coral growth with abundant and diverse fish life is found in this area.
- After dinner, the boat will steam overnight, heading to Great Detached Reef

DAY 2 GREAT DETACHED REEF

- 4 to 5 dives offered today, including a night or dusk dive
- Today we explore the *Great Detached Reef*, diving the walls and countless pinnacles of this unique reef system. The Great Detached Reef offers an ecosystem which is unlike the Great Barrier Reef and yet unlike the Coral Sea Atolls. It is an interesting blend of the two reef systems, and very exciting diving is found here.

DAY 3 GREAT DETACHED REEF & RAINE ISLAND

- 3 Dives offered today plus an afternoon Turtle Snorkel at Raine Island
- Raine Island is the world's largest green turtle rookery and is also an important nesting place for thousands of gannets, terns and frigate birds. You can expect to see green turtles, sharks and a huge variety of reef life.



DAY 4 **GREAT DETACHED REEF**

- 4 to 5 dives offered today, including night or dusk dives
- Today we will shift to the southern sector of the Great Detached Reef and then, weather permitting, on to the outer walls of *Wishbone Reef*. Here you can find caves and walls covered in soft corals and gorgonian fans, sharks, turtles and colourful reef life.

DAY 5 **MANTIS REEF**

- 3 day dives offered today starting at the Northern most point of Manits Reef at *Black Rock*. Where the hard corals, soft corals and sea fans make for a beautifully rich coral kaleidoscope.
- The last dive will be completed by 2:30 pm, and a late lunch is served on the way to Portland Roads, where we spend the night on board.

DAY 6 **LOCKHART RIVER TO CAIRNS**

- Guests disembark the M/V *Nimrod Explorer* by 8:30 am at Portland Roads
- 4WD transfer to the Lockhart River airstrip for charter flight to Cairns, departing at 11:00 am

- ARRIVE AT CAIRNS GENERAL AVIATION AIRPORT AT APPROXIMATELY 1:00 PM