

ECO ISLAND HOPPING IN THE *Gladstone Region*

Our region's Eco Tourism Australia Certified tourism operators are leading the way in high-quality eco and sustainable tourism experiences. Island-hop through the region with eco certified operators and immerse yourself in the best nature has to offer. Experience an extraordinary variety of marine life in and around the pristine sanctuaries of Heron Island and Lady Elliot Island within the Southern Great Barrier Reef Marine Park.

DAY 1

Depart Gladstone from the Heron Island Ferry Terminal on a Monday, Wednesday, Friday, Saturday or Sunday for a two night stay. Check-in at the Heron Island Ferry Terminal opens at 7.45am and closes promptly at 9.00am. The Ferry ride takes approximately 2 hours. Alternatively, enjoy a 30 minute helicopter ride.

Enjoy a delightful lunch at Shearwater Restaurant before collecting baggage and checking into your accommodation this afternoon. Spend the afternoon snorkelling amongst the unspoiled beauty of the Southern Great Barrier Reef. This evening, watch the sunset over the reef. Tonight, delight in a delectable dinner followed by cocktails with a view overlooking the pool at Baillie's Bar.

DAY 2

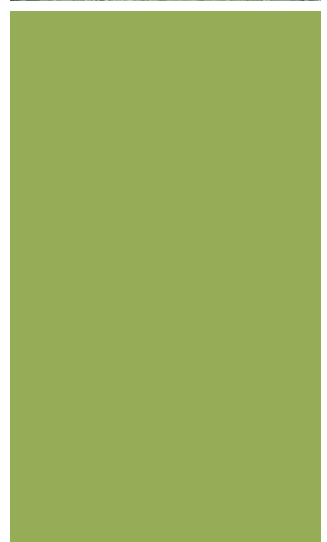
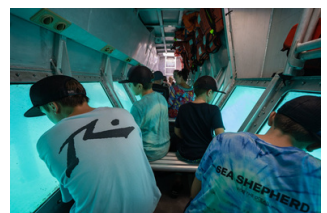
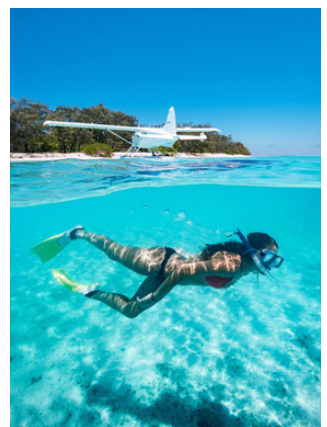
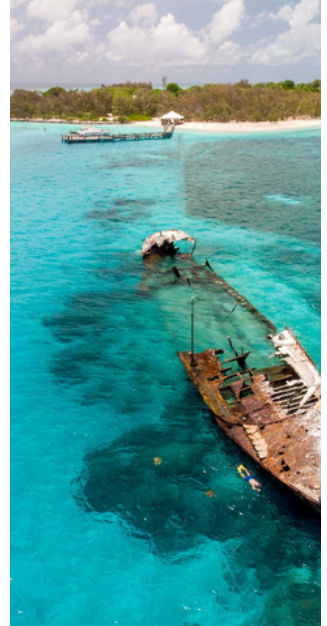
Wake early to see if you can spot any turtles returning to the reef from nesting (seasonal) before breakfast is served at the Shearwater Restaurant. Explore the information centre and its collection of artefacts and island history, followed by a guided snorkel or dive tour. Experience ultimate relaxation with a massage from Aqua Soul Spa before lunching at Shearwater Restaurant.

Spend the afternoon on a Glass Bottom Boat or Guided Island Tour (seasonal), followed by sunset drinks overlooking the reef and a cheese platter. Dinner will be served at Shearwater Restaurant, with Baillie's Bar open for cocktails.

DAY 3

Wake up early to witness the spectacular sunrise over the reef. Indulge in a breakfast before exploring the University of Queensland's Research Station and hear about the ongoing marine research on a guided tour, followed by a final snorkel. Bid farewell to the Island and board The Heron Islander, to the Helicopter for a 45-minute scenic helicopter flight with Marine Helicopters Gladstone back to the mainland; soaring above the coral formations and majestic reef.

Make the 1h 20m drive to the pristine coastal town of Agnes Water where you will stay the night.



Access to Lady Elliot Island Eco Resort is on small aircraft. Check in at the Lady Elliot Island/QantasLink counter at Bundaberg Airport for a day trip or one night stays. The scenic flight leaves Bundaberg at 8:40am, arriving at 9:10am.

During your stay, make use of the free guided activities and/or tours daily.

After spending the morning soaking up all that Lady Elliot Island has to offer, make your way back to the mainland at 4:40pm.



Lady Elliot Island Activities



- 1h Eco Walking Trail
- 1h Discovery Walking Trail
- Night Explorer
- Evening Reef Education Centre Presentation
- Star Gazing

The guided tours/activities are available three times a day, in the morning, afternoon and evening:



- Island Discovery tour
- Behind the Scenes Tour
- Guided Fish Feeding
- Island Nursery Tour
- Reef Walking Tour
- Bird Watching Tour
- Historical Tour
- Island Survival Tour
- Turtle Treck (seasonal)

Alternatively, indulge with these additional cost activities:

- Glass Bottom Boat Tour
- Clear Bottom Kayak Tour
- Sunset Cruise





HERON ISLAND ECO-EFFORTS

To achieve Advanced Ecotourism accreditation, Heron Island has undertaken major steps in the direction of reducing their carbon footprint while increasing resilience to Climate Change.

- 118kW Solar PV were installed to offset daytime loads and reduce demand on the diesel gensets, with the next stage aiming to either reducing diesel usage even further or relegate it to backup use only.
- Single use plastic have been removed from the Island, including straws and single use plastic toiletries from all guest rooms (replaced with refillable containers).
- 24 High Efficiency "Air to Energy" Hot water systems have been installed, reducing loads by approximately 40-60kWh/Day and reducing the amount of LP gas used.
- Reducing waste by using a food composter, wood chipper and cardboard chipper
- Recycling all cans, plastic, cardboard, bottles, glass
- Use of 100% recycled material where possible for resort repairs and upgrades

LADY ELLIOT ISLAND ECO-EFFORTS

Lady Elliot Island Eco Resort is a world-leading, award-winning ecologically sustainable tourism operator dedicated to protecting and enhancing Lady Elliot Island, the Great Barrier Reef and surrounding communities. Implementing sustainability initiatives on a remote, off-grid Island is an extreme challenge. There is no supplied electricity, no mains water or wastewater treatment operation and no weekly garbage truck. The Resort has to produce its own electricity, desalinate its own water, treat all water and sewage and remove ALL waste whilst adhering to our sustainability objectives of minimal impact on the planet.

- Lady Elliot Island Eco Resort and Greenfleet have partnered to offset 100% of carbon emissions from flights to and from the Island.
- Historically Lady Elliot Island was a degraded landscape following guano mining in the 1800's which removed all topsoil and vegetation, leaving only bare rock. Some huge progress has been made so far: 7.5 hectares have been revegetated, 4000 native trees, plants and ground covers have been planted with invasive species removed
- As Lady Elliot Island Eco Resort is the second largest bird rookery on the Great Barrier Reef, we are unable to capture rainwater for drinking. To combat this the water supply on Lady Elliot Island is created by a reverse osmosis desalination system converting sea water to pristine clean fresh water.
- The resort is with Soap Aid, an Australian based, not-for-profit organisation that takes used hotel soap and turns them into new bars of soap to be distributed to communities in need.
- Today the Resort is a mini solar city with 891 solar panels & 256 batteries. In 2020, solar hot water systems were installed with an additional 162 solar panels. Now, the island's resort is 100% powered by renewable energy.
- Lady Elliot Island eliminate selling single-use plastic water bottles in the resort, along with single-use plastic straws from the bar and cafe.
- Being remote, the island must remove/reuse/recycle ALL waste. Guests are required to sort rubbish during their stay on the island e.g. Food, plastic, paper, aluminium and glass. All glass is crushed using a glass pressor and converted to sand, aluminium, tin cans and general refuse is returned to the mainland for recycling where possible. Food waste, plant matter and cardboard is composted. All waste oil from the kitchen and machinery is collected in 200 litre drums and returned to the mainland for recycling.
- All accommodation options are designed to minimise the environmental impact on the island