



TROPIC *Sail*

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SUGGESTED 7 NIGHT ITINERARY

Picture this... Over 12 secluded, coral fringed islands all to yourself in one of the best locations on the Great Barrier Reef. You will be swimming through crystal clear waters amongst 1,100 species of brightly coloured fish and exploring the best coral reefs in the world...

Did we mention that thrown into the mix is the feeling of total relaxation that comes from having your own luxury yacht for 8 whole days?

This part of Queensland is one of the area's best kept secrets and that is why so many of our customers keep coming back year after year, taking advantage of over 40 recognised, secluded anchorages to choose from. It really is a holiday of total relaxation, fun & adventure.



Fantome Island

If you are looking for a unique holiday destination and a way to escape the crowds, then the serenity of sailing these spectacular waters will not disappoint. Lush tropical rainforests, deserted sun drenched beaches, Aboriginal culture, pristine fringing coral reefs and fascinating historic ruins makes this one of Queensland's most exclusive and exciting holiday destinations - and to date it's best kept secret.

DAY 1 – Getting ready to set sail

Briefing time is usually at 1000, at this time you can stow your bags and familiarize yourself with the boat. One of our friendly & experienced staff will brief you on the vessel, cruising grounds and anything else you may want to know.

If you have ordered provisioning from us we will have it stowed away for you. All you need do is just turn up with your holiday attitude.



Breakwater Marina

After the briefing we fit you with complimentary snorkelling gear and then you're ready to set sail.

A short charter allows you to explore the unique beauty of Magnetic Island and surrounding waters. Often underestimated, our customers often regret not having enough time to take it all in, and always vow to return for a longer stay. A longer charter allows you to sample Magnetic Island and explore the stunning Palm group of islands.



Your first decision will be where to spend your first night. Most people choose to ease into the charter and head for Magnetic Island. You can take advantage of one of our private moorings in Horseshoe Bay and the journey should take around 3 hours (about 13 nm). Alternatively you may wish to sail across to Nelly Bay Harbour and a berth in the marina and just spend the night getting used to onboard life.

Either way, Magnetic Island has plenty of things to offer including fabulous restaurants & bars, cafes, supermarkets and bottle shops, beautiful parks, secluded beaches and breathtaking views.

← **Sailing to Magnetic Island**

DAY 2 – Exploring on island time

One of the mysteries of island life is how the laid-back island attitude affects even short-term visitors. There just doesn't seem to be a rush to do anything. For those that chose Horseshoe Bay for their first night, perhaps you'd like to share a Champagne Bush Tucker Brunch with the koalas at Bungalow Bay Koala Village, a mere 100 metres from the beach.

You may plan to leave exploring "Maggie" for your journey home, start early and sail north for the Palm Group of islands. Alternatively, relax a bit and once you've organized yourselves it may be time to explore some of the island treasures.

Stop and have a snorkel at Florence Bay, the local yachties favourite. With its casuarinas lined foreshore and fringing reef it's a true tropical paradise. There is wonderful fish life to discover; you can even feed the friendly batfish by hand as they swim up to the back of your boat.



Feeding Bat Fish

Day 2 Cont'.....

For the energetic, follow the road south to the bus stop and the start of the walking track to the Forts. The view afforded by this World War 2 relic encompasses the Palm Islands in the North to Bowling Green Bay in the South. Allow about 3 hours to complete the round trip. The descendants of koalas introduced to the island in the 1930s are regularly spotted during this walk.

You could then cruise around to Radical Bay, frequented by tourists and islanders alike for swimming and sunbathing. Due to its North facing aspect it is well protected from the prevailing Sou' Easters, the granite boulder headlands that dominate the bay make an impressive backdrop for a BBQ lunch.



The Forts



One of Magnetic Islands many secluded bays

Afterwards, enjoy a short & leisurely cruise to Horseshoe Bay. This large bay is the island's best refuge from the trade winds. The esplanade here boasts an array of activities to tempt everyone. It features bars, restaurants and cafes and is the base for numerous marine based activities such as water skiing, Jet Ski hire, sea-kayaks and the unique "red baron" float bi-plane.

Enjoy sundowners from the comfort of your cockpit, secure on one of Tropic Sail's private moorings. Dinghy ashore for a delicious meal from one of the fantastic restaurants, or rub elbows with some of the locals & backpackers that frequent the bars of an evening.

If you've spent the first night at Horseshoe you may plan to head the 14 nm North to Rattlesnake & Herald Islands, although most charterers choose to leave them for an overnight stopover on the return trip from Palm.

If you get an early start, Havannah Island (~ 25 nm North) is your ideal destination with it's perfect white sandy beach surrounded by pristine coral reef, you'll think you're in a postcard. On the way don't be surprised to be accompanied by a pod of dolphins as you traverse the "paddock". Mid year keep a sharp lookout for whales wintering in the warm shallow waters.

Day 2 Cont'.....

The channel between Havannah and Fly Islet is renowned for providing fresh fish for dinner. This is where you really begin to discover some of the best fringing reef on the Great Barrier Reef and these are best explored by snorkelling or diving. If you're a qualified diver we can arrange a dive boat to collect you from your charter vessel. For those seeking to learn, contact us about learn to dive packages tailored to your charter.

If the winds are a little fresh, you may head to Casement Bay at Great Palm Island – an excellent anchorage in even strong SE winds.

From here you have great views of all the islands and can go ashore to re-stock at the General Store if necessary. Returning to your boat you can enjoy the sunset behind the islands, while dangling a line to tempt a coral trout before firing up the onboard BBQ. Early risers may be able to buy fresh seafood direct from the local trawlers that use the bay as a day anchorage.

DAY 3 - 5 – Time to start Island hopping.

Now that you're in among the island group, everywhere is just a short cruise away. Whether you choose a short sail to Curacoa Island and snorkel it's spectacular coral gardens or decide to head further North there is so much to do and so many places to explore.

Curacoa Island features a coral wall that drops straight down from about a metre below the surface to around 10 metres. This ledge runs almost unbroken for the entire Western side of the island, making anchoring challenging but snorkelling very rewarding.

Juno Bay on Fantome Island is known by locals as "Bommie City" due to the prolific coral bommies throughout. Despite this it offers a secure anchorage at the Northern End of the bay. While here, take a dinghy ride and explore the ruins of the leprosarium operated by Catholic nuns from 1939 to 1974. The coral in the channel between Fantome and Orpheus is well worth a look.

Orpheus Island has an international reputation for 2 main reasons; it is home to the exclusive Orpheus Island Resort at Hazard Bay and James Cook University Research Station at Pioneer Bay. Aside from these aspects, Orpheus offers many lesser known attractions.

If the ruins of the World War 2 degaussing station at Yanks Jetty aren't enough to interest you, the abundant friendly fish life is bound to get you into the water. Picture lunching on a pontoon floating above verdant coral reef, surrounded by tropical waters with only soaring eagles and kites for company – you could imagine yourself as part of the elite.

Yanks Jetty provides very sheltered snorkelling for those more timid but with a sufficient abundance and variety of marine life to keep even experienced divers interested.



Yanks Jetty on Orpheus Island

From the security of a public mooring in Little Pioneer Bay, follow the track to the ruins of a stone cottage and if you can, continue along the poorly marked trail to the summit and views well worth the effort.

If conditions permit a day trip to Pelorus to explore the coral gardens that abound along its Western shore is bound to amaze. Pelorus is a popular dive site for locals and visitors and the fringing reef at Iris Point aptly illustrates why a marine research station was located at Orpheus.

DAY 6 – Civilization beckons

Regrettably, it's now time to think about making your way casually southward. The stretch across the "paddock" between Great Palm & Magnetic Islands may seem inordinately long in light conditions and can develop a short sharp swell in established Sou' Easterlies, so it may be prudent to break the trip up by planning to stop at Havannah or Herald Islands on your way back to base. From there it's a relatively short hop to Horseshoe Bay and Townsville.

DAY 7 – A gradual return to normality

Depending on your preference, you can have a leisurely snorkel on the reefs of Herald and Rattlesnake; you may even snag one of the local crayfish for the pot.

Most of our customers elect to spend their last night afloat securely moored to one of our private moorings in Horseshoe Bay. From here you can dinghy ashore for a casual dinner at one of several restaurants, swap seafaring yarns with the locals at the pub or just enjoy the peace and quiet of your final night on board.



Beaches all to yourself

Alternatively, drop the anchor at one of the other bays for a final night of solitude.

DAY 8 – Soak up the sun, the end is nigh.

There is still plenty of time today for a last snorkel or long lazy breakfast before returning your boat to Townsville's Breakwater Marina by midday. Allow about 3 hours for the transit from Horseshoe to Townsville via the East coast or more if going via West Point. A staff member from Tropic Sail will greet you at the fuel wharf and park the boat back in the berth before a short de-brief and farewells. We know you'll be back.

We will drop you to the airport ourselves if you can all fit in our vehicles or if not, we'll arrange transfers for you.

This itinerary gives you an idea of what is possible on a 7 night charter around Magnetic Island & the Palm Group, but it's all up to you – with your own yacht you're in charge and you can sail off into the sunset or stay closer to shore – it's your holiday so you get to choose.



Sailing back to civilization



So what are you waiting for?

Contact Wendy or Shaun at Tropic Sail and we'll be only too happy to work with you to ensure the best holiday experience possible.

← **The sun setting over Magnetic Island**