



Wilson Island

Great Barrier Reef

“Tiny Wilson Island has a unique and fragile environment, so it’s a privilege just to be allowed to land on it, much less stay.”

Sunday Mail

Wilson Island is a tiny coral cay located just 40 minutes from Heron Island. A divine sweep of castor-sugar sands that is home to turtles and birds, Wilson is both part of the Great Barrier Reef, and surrounded by it. Its pristine waters are host to an unimaginable variety of marine life, including colourful coral and fish, with some of the best snorkelling in the Great Barrier Reef, just off the beach.

Those who are drawn to the Wilson Island experience will see the pristine nature of the island, its seclusion and freedom from modern-day living as part of its appeal. The island caters to a maximum of just 12 guests with access to the magnificent reef and beach environments, including rare turtle and bird breeding grounds.

ORIENTATION

Wilson Island first opened in 2002, attracting international acclaim as one of the world’s finest island eco-resorts. Designed by Pike Withers, the property caters for just 12 adults at any one time and is all inclusive of deluxe tented accommodation, sumptuous cuisine, premium beverages and snorkelling over coral gardens that simply have to be seen to be believed.

Situated approximately 80km off Gladstone on Queensland’s Capricorn Coast, guests must first arrive on Heron Island before joining a short 40 minute (15km) launch transfer.

Wilson Island is essentially natural - a divine sweep of sugar white crushed coral that is home to turtles and birds: its pristine waters are home to an unimaginable variety of marine life.

This tiny five acre coral cay is both part of the Great Barrier Reef and surrounded by it.

Those who are drawn to Wilson Island are seeking a true castaway experience, removed from the hustle of busy lives and more traditional island resort holidays.

Each of the deluxe tents boasts private beach access and ocean views, lightly filtered by She-oak and Pisonia trees. Between November and January guests share the island with female loggerhead or green turtles as they come ashore to lay their eggs. Between March and April, hatchlings appear and scramble to the relative safety of the water's edge.

AT A GLANCE

- Wilson Island is a private island resort catering for a maximum of 12 guests at any time.
- The island is a coral cay and part of the World Heritage listed Great Barrier Reef Marine Park.
- All inclusive tariff, minimum two-night stay.
- Children under 12 years are not catered for on Wilson Island.
- Peak season: July to November (recommended booking period in advance: at least three months).
- Wilson Island is closed during the month of February for the bird nesting season.
- Two 'hosts' attend to guest whims, including the preparation of sumptuous cuisine.
- Guest bathroom facilities are centrally located in order to minimise environmental impacts. There are no shared facilities: a shower and toilet are assigned to each couple, or tent.
- The Longhouse is the soul of Wilson, featuring an open kitchen and bar that reflects the relaxed, laid-back charm of the island itself. Guests have free reign of the facility at any time of day or night, helping themselves to snacks, drinks, books from the library, or lounging over a game of backgammon.

GETTING THERE

Access to Wilson Island is via Heron Island. Regular flights are available from all Australian capital cities to Heron Island via Gladstone. Australian Helicopters depart Gladstone Airport for Heron daily during daylight hours. A launch service departs Gladstone Marina for the island once a day. Wilson Island is a 40-minute boat ride from Heron Island.

For full information, visit www.wilsonisland.com/getting

ACCOMMODATION

Wilson Island offers deluxe tented accommodation. A king size bed rests comfortably inside, complimented by a large sun deck and king double hammock. Each tent boasts sweeping ocean vistas in the shade of She-oak and Pisonia trees, with private shower and toilet facilities centrally located near the Longhouse and within two minutes walk.

ACTIVITIES

Guests revel in the relaxed, intimate and personal style of Wilson Island. Depending upon the time of day or state of mind, guests can choose from reading in a deck chair, playing a game of chess or backgammon in the Longhouse, contemplating in a hammock, or circumnavigating the island with one of the hosts as their guide. Conversation comes easily, as does eating and drinking, but it is the snorkelling that assumes pride of place as Wilson's premier activity.

ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

The Island is home to the endangered Roseate Tern, and the Island is closed during February, which coincides with their nesting season. The Island is also home to the Endangered loggerhead and Green Turtles, which use the Island to lay their eggs.

Due to the remoteness of Wilson Island, the Island must generate its own electricity. The majority of electricity is provided by roof-mounted solar panels, which feed into a battery bank. Energy needed for refrigeration and cooking is supplied by LPG, which is supplied by refillable gas bottles.

The Deed of Agreement that allows Delaware North Australia Parks & Resorts to operate on Wilson Island clearly states that no waste products are to be left on Wilson Island. Due to this, all waste is removed from the Island by barge and returned to Gladstone for disposal. Recycling programs are present on the Island to minimise the amount of waste that is disposed of to landfill.

Currently Wilson Island treats its sewage using a septic system. This system was chosen due to the small numbers of people inhabiting the Island. Waste sludge decomposes in the holding tanks, using anaerobic digestion.

Water used by the Resort is obtained by capturing rain water into holding tanks. Water is disinfected using ultra violet light prior to entering the Resort, to ensure it is safe to drink. In times of little rainfall, water is brought to the Island by barge, sourced from Gladstone's drinking water supply. Due to the limited amount of water present, every

effort is taken to reduce the amount of water used at the Resort including using dual flush toilets, tap aerators and towel reuse programs.

An Environmental Management Plan has been developed for Wilson Island, to ensure that operation of the Resort causes minimal disturbance to the environment.

Wilson Island has “Advanced eco tourism” certification for Accommodation, Dive Tour, Semi-Submersible Coral View Tour and Snorkel Tour.

For more information on the Eco Certification Program, visit www.ecotourism.org.au/eco_certification.asp

FILM & PHOTOGRAPHY

Resort Film & Photography Guidelines

Media capturing images on resort property must be accompanied by a staff member at all times.

Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Film & Photography Guidelines

Under Australian law, any commercial film and/or photography conducted within the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park requires a permit.

Permits are obtained through the Environmental Protection Agency of Queensland Parks & Wildlife Services.

For more information on Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Commercial Film & Photography Guidelines or Permit Applications, visit http://www.derm.qld.gov.au/ecoaccess/parks_and_forest_management/commercial_activities/commercial_filming_photography

WEATHER

Wilson Island enjoys a tropical climate, with an average year-round temperature of approximately 27 degrees Celsius (80 degrees Fahrenheit). Its location at the southern end of the Great Barrier Reef diminishes the influence of traditional wet season weather conditions associated with islands further north.

For the current weather, visit www.bom.gov.au

Average monthly maximum temperatures for Wilson Island:
(degree Celsius and Fahrenheit)

JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
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30	30	29	27	24	22	21	26	27	29	29	29
8693	86	84	80	75	72	70	79	80	84	84	84

BIOLOGICAL CALENDAR

Visitors to Wilson Island are indeed guests of Mother Nature and, in particular, bird species such as Black Noddies, Wedge-tailed Shearwater Mutton Birds, Reef Herons, Ruddy Turn-stone, Eastern Golden Plover, and Buffbanded Rails.

From November through to March, female loggerhead and green turtles come ashore at high tide to lay their eggs: hatchlings appear a month after the egg is laid and scramble desperately to relative safety of the water's edge.

Between June and October, a transient character cruises the waters off Wilson: the Humpback whale. Sightings (and breechings) are common throughout these months as the Humpback migration heads north, then south again with their calves in tow.

For more information on Wilson Island's biological calendar, visit www.heronisland.com/biological-calendar

THE GREAT BARRIER REEF

On October 26, 1981, the Great Barrier Reef was inscribed onto the World Heritage list. The Park covers 345,000 square kilometres and is both the largest World Heritage listed natural area and marine protected area.

Comprising 2,900 reefs, 600 continental islands and 300 coral cays the Reef extends 2,300 kilometres from the tip of Cape York to just south of Gladstone and is between 60km and 250km in width.

There are approximately 1,500 species of fish, 360 species of coral, one third of the world's soft coral, up to 8,000 species of molluscs, between 400-500 species of algae, 600 species of echinoderm, 17 species of sea snakes, 22 species of seabirds, 32 species of shorebirds, 6 species of marine turtles, and 30 species of cetaceans.

Tourism is the largest activity in the Marine Park, generating over \$5 billion each year and contributing significantly to local and national economies. With around 1.9 million people experiencing this natural wonder every year, it is one of Australia's most recognised attractions.

Almost 85% of visitors access the Reef from Tropical North Queensland (Cairns, Port Douglas and Cape Tribulation) as well as the Whitsunday's, home to Australia's largest bareboat (self-sail) yacht fleet and an array of day boat operators.

The Great Barrier Reef first attracted tourists in the 1890s when Green Island became a popular destination for pleasure cruises from nearby Cairns. Organised tourism remained inshore for most of the next 50 years, close to regional centres and within reach of the type of craft or vessels used by operators.

From the 1960s tourism steadily increased, with the introduction of faster vessels able to carry visitors up to 20 nautical miles on a day trip. In the 80s tourism boomed, growing 30% as the capacity, range and diversity of products expanded to meet demand. Since then, visitation has gradually increased and is carefully managed in accordance with strict policies and guidelines designed to protect the Reef for generations to come.

The waters off Wilson Island reflect the Great Barrier Reef at its breathtaking and remarkable best. Coral gardens flourish, including species such as Plate, Staghorn, Branching, Fan, Gorgonia and Nudibranch. Coral trout, Jacks, Barracuda, sharks, rays, eels, turtles, Clown-fish and many, many more make their home in and around the coral.

WHO ARE OUR GUESTS?

- Couples, friends, families and groups looking for a nature-orientated holiday where they can relax and enjoy their surrounds right on the reef
- Special occasions such as weddings, honeymoons, anniversaries and birthdays

RATES & PACKAGES

For full list of current rates and packages, visit www.wilsonisland.com/pricing

CONSUMER BOOKINGS

Reservations:

Phone: 1300 233 432 (within Australia only)

+61 3 9413 6288

Email: travel@dncinc.com

Web/online: www.wilsonisland.com.au

PLEASE NOTE: no bookings are managed/taken at Wilson Island.

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