



TOPWATER LOCATIONS AND INFO

Tydeman Reef



Tydeman reef is situated north of Lizard Island, off the coast of Princess Charlotte Bay. Home to some pristine reef flats that make up the Great Barrier Reef. A short flight from Cairns to Lizard Island will be where this amazing trip will begin.

When:

Refer to our schedule, traditionally we run these trips over the summer months.

Target Species:

Like most of our northern live-aboard trips we target reef flat GT's, monster coral trout and an array of by-catch amongst all that chaos. Maroi Wrasse, Red Bass just to name a couple. Jigging, both light and heavy is also an option on these trips. Dogtooth Tuna and Yellowfin Tuna are a common catch as Tydeman Reef has good oceanic currents and deep shelf drops.

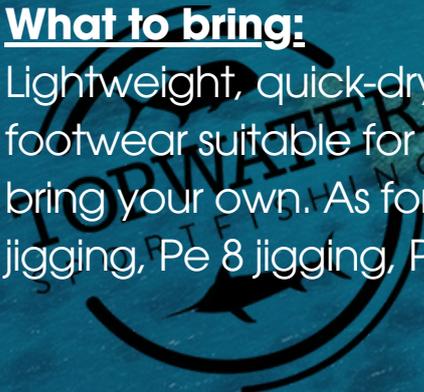
How to get there:

Lizard Island runs daily flights to and from Cairns. Approximately 1 hour from Cairns and you'll be landing at one of the most amazing islands on the Great Barrier Reef, where we will be waiting with our fleet of sportfishing machines.



What to bring:

Lightweight, quick-dry long-sleeve fishing shirts, a sun buff, and sturdy footwear suitable for getting wet. Sunscreen is provided, but feel free to bring your own. As for tackle, we recommend these outfits; Pe 3 Light jigging, Pe 8 jigging, Pe 6 Casting, Pe 8 Casting, Pe 3 Cast



Bligh Reef

Located north of Tydeman Reef, off the coast of Lockhart River and Portland Roads, Bligh Reef offers another incredible display of vast coral reef flats. At just 25 miles offshore, you'll be on the fishing grounds almost immediately after arriving.

When:

Our northern trips operate from January to March.

Target Species:

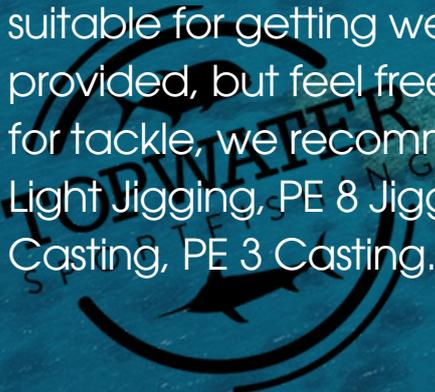
GTs, coral trout, red emperor, Maori wrasse, red bass, and dog tooth tuna are just a few of the species you can target. With both inshore and offshore reefs at your fingertips, catching a variety of species in a single day is very achievable.

How to get there:

Regional commercial flights operate daily from Cairns to Lockhart River. You'll fly in the day before your trip and be met at the boat ramp by our team. From there, it's a short ride to WHITE HAVEN, your hotel for the week.

What to bring:

Lightweight, quick-dry long-sleeve fishing shirts, a sun buff, and sturdy footwear suitable for getting wet. Sunscreen is provided, but feel free to bring your own. As for tackle, we recommend these outfits; PE 3 Light Jigging, PE 8 Jigging, PE 6 Casting, PE 8 Casting, PE 3 Casting.



Pandora Reef

One of our most remote trips, Pandora Reef lies deep within the rugged wilderness of Cape York. The name refers to a chain of unnamed reefs located between Lockhart River and the entrance to the Torres Strait. A personal favourite, this area offers an untouched, wild feel that few places can match. The main draw here is the sheer size of the reef fish—expect truly XL specimens.

When:

These northern trips operate from January to March.

Target Species:

While many of the species are similar to those found further south, the primary target here is big GTs. Other northern reef species are often encountered as welcome by-catch.

Influenced by the powerful currents of the Torres Strait, this area becomes a true washing machine of tides—conditions that consistently attract large GTs.

How to get there:

The trip departs from Lockhart River, accessed via a two-hour regional flight from Cairns. From there, we travel north, fishing our way through the Pandora reef systems. The trip concludes at Horn Island in the Torres Strait, where regular Qantas flights are available for your return.

What to bring:

Lightweight, quick-dry long-sleeve fishing shirts, a sun buff, and sturdy footwear suitable for getting wet. Sunscreen is provided, but feel free to bring your own. As for tackle, we recommend these outfits; PE 3 Light Jigging, PE 8 Jigging (optional), PE 6 Casting, PE 8 Casting, PE 3 Casting.



Torres Strait

The Torres Strait marks the northernmost region of Australia, where the Great Barrier Reef extends into Papua New Guinea waters. This truly unique destination features remote Indigenous islands, powerful tidal flows, and pristine reef systems, offering both inshore island GT fishing and expansive offshore reef flats.

When:

These northern trips operate from January to March.

Target Species:

Diversity is the focus of our Torres Strait trips. Expect jigging for red emperor and coral trout, followed by topwater action for Spanish mackerel, and ultimately the main event—beast GTs. We wouldn't have them in our logo if we weren't obsessed with targeting some of the biggest GTs in Australia.



How to get there:

Trips depart from both Horn Island and York Island. Mothership expeditions leave from York Island, which is a short flight from Horn Island. Our game boat live-aboard trips depart directly from Horn Island, serviced by daily commercial Qantas flights.

What to bring:

Lightweight, quick-dry long-sleeve fishing shirts, a sun buff, and sturdy footwear suitable for getting wet. Sunscreen is provided, but feel free to bring your own. As for tackle, we recommend these outfits; PE 3 Light Jigging, PE 6 Casting, PE 8 Casting, PE 3 Casting.



Ashmore Reef

Ashmore Reef is an iconic Coral Sea destination, first put on the map by the pioneering Nomad team. Requiring little introduction, it is the final Coral Sea reef before reaching the Papua New Guinea border. Remote, legendary, and rarely fished, Ashmore represents true blue-water adventure.

When:

January to March is when we operate these northern trips.

Target Species:

Dogtooth tuna are the primary focus of these trips, with the reef holding untouched populations of XL doggies alongside large aggregations of GTs. Blue marlin and sailfish are commonly encountered while trolling between fishing grounds, adding to the diversity and excitement of the trip.

How to get there:

Trips depart from both Horn Island and York Island. Mothership expeditions leave from York Island, which is a short flight from Horn Island. Our game boat live-aboard trips depart directly from Horn Island, serviced by daily commercial Qantas flights.



What to bring:

Lightweight, quick-dry long-sleeve fishing shirts, a sun buff, and sturdy footwear suitable for getting wet. Sunscreen is provided, but feel free to bring your own. As for tackle, we recommend these outfits; PE 6 Jigging, PE 8 Jigging, PE 8 Casting, PE 3 Casting.

Bugatti Reef

Bugatti Reef is a vast outer reef system located between Airlie Beach and Mackay. We depart from Airlie Beach the night before the charter, travelling overnight to reach the reef and maximise fishing time.



When:

Trips run from July to August. Please refer to our annual schedule, as dates may vary slightly each year.

Target Species:

GT, GT, GT—and more GT. While a variety of reef species can be targeted on light jiggging, there's no escaping the fact that this is one of the best destinations in Australia to hook a 50kg GT. Casting, and more casting, is the focus of our Bugatti Reef trips. This fishery is not for the faint-hearted—Bugatti is truly the home of giants.

How to get there:

Fly into Proserpine Airport, followed by a short shuttle transfer into the heart of Airlie Beach. We travel overnight to the reef prior to the trip and return to Airlie Beach at the conclusion of the charter.

What to bring:

Lightweight, quick-dry long-sleeve fishing shirts, a sun buff, and sturdy footwear suitable for getting wet. Sunscreen is provided, but feel free to bring your own. As for tackle, we recommend these outfits; PE 3 Light Jiggging, PE 10 Casting, PE 8 Casting, PE 3 Casting.



Princess Charlotte Bay

Situated approximately 350 km north of Cairns, Princess Charlotte Bay is one of the largest floodplain systems on the northeast coast of Cape York. This vast and remote region is renowned for its expansive wetlands and untouched fishing grounds.

When:

Trips operate from April to May. Please check our annual schedule, as dates may vary slightly each year.



Target Species:

Princess Charlotte Bay offers some of the best barramundi fishing on the east coast of Cape York, along with a diverse range of estuary species including black jewfish, fingermark, and mangrove jack.

How to get there:

Due to its remote location, accessing Princess Charlotte Bay requires some logistical planning. We offer several travel options to suit your preferences:

1. Self-Drive: Drive from Cairns to the Annie River boat ramp. The journey takes approximately six hours, with around 100 km of unsealed road—4WD is recommended.
2. Fly-In Option: Fly from Cairns to Musgrave Roadhouse (approximately 45 minutes). From there, we will arrange a comfortable transfer to the boat ramp on the day of your charter.
3. Helicopter Transfer: For the fastest and most scenic arrival, helicopter transfers are available, landing directly on the floodplains within the breathtaking landscape of Princess Charlotte Bay.

What to bring:

Lightweight, quick-dry long-sleeve fishing shirts, a sun buff, and sturdy footwear suitable for getting wet. Sunscreen is provided, but feel free to bring your own. As for tackle, we recommend these outfits; 6'6" baitcast rod, 20-30 lb, 6'6"-7' spin rod, 20 lb.

Meet Our Fleet

01. "WHITE HAVEN" 86' NORMAN WRIGHT



Welcoming our newest addition to Topwater Sportfishing, WHITE HAVEN is an 86ft Norman Wright luxury motor yacht built to an uncompromising standard. Designed for comfort and capability, she allows us to travel further into remote waters while offering a true five-star live-aboard experience.

Serving as our mothership for heavy tackle marlin season and remote sportfishing expeditions, WHITE HAVEN accommodates up to 9 guests across four luxury ensuite cabins, supported by two sportfishing boats, chef-prepared meals, and premium onboard amenities.



02. "KIAMA" 46' PLYSIER



KIAMA is a 45ft Plysier custom game boat, fully overhauled in 2021 and fitted with the latest electronics and twin brand-new Volvo D11 engines. She offers all the comforts for your adventure, including a fully air-conditioned saloon and suites, 240V power via a 7.5kW Onan generator, and an onboard desalination plant for endless fresh water. With a custom-built black marlin tuna tower and essential billfishing features, KIAMA is a true sportfishing powerhouse.

Operating from Cairns and taking up to six guests in comfort, your day can be tailored to suit your needs, whether it's marlin fishing, sportfishing, bottom fishing, or snorkeling—all achievable in a single day on board KIAMA.



03. “BAD BILLY” 25ft Contender



A world-renowned centre console built for hardcore sportfishing, this boat reaches the reef at speed and accommodates up to four guests (three for topwater casting). A toilet is on board for convenience.

Fishing options include stand-up marlin, topwater GT, reef flats casting, bottom fishing, and snorkeling—perfect for a full day of tailored adventure

04. “SPORTY” 19’ REEF SPORTSMAN



This capable centre console offers reef flats and topwater casting from Port Douglas, as well as estuary fishing for barramundi and inshore fly fishing. Trips accommodate up to two guests on reef adventures and three on inshore and estuary trips. Fishing experiences include topwater GT fishing, reef flats casting, fly fishing, and barramundi fishing.

05. "REEF FLY" 20' light tackle hewes



This is the ultimate fly skiff—American-built and designed for ultra-shallow waters. With this vessel, we offer inshore flats fly fishing, as well as Barramundi and Mangrove Jack fishing. Trips accommodate up to three guests, or two if fly casting.

Fishing experiences include fly fishing on reef flats, fly fishing for Barramundi, and Barramundi and Mangrove Jack fishing.



Liveaboard Sportfishing Dates:

2027

Experience world-class sportfishing aboard our luxury mothership and fleet of specialist fishing vessels. Target Giant Trevally, Dogtooth Tuna, and trophy reef species in the most remote and pristine regions of the Great Barrier Reef. All trips are fully catered and professionally crewed, delivering exceptional comfort, safety, and an unforgettable adventure.

Date	Location	Duration	Price (PP)	Charter Type	Transfers	Spots Remaining
4 - 8 March	Tydeman Reef	5 Days	\$9,000	Share	\$1,000	4
11 - 16 March	Pandora Reefs	6 Days	\$10,800	Share	\$1,000	8
20 - 26 March	Torres Strait	7 Days	\$12,600	Share	\$800	8
30 March - 4 April	Pandora Reefs	6 Days	\$10,800	Share	\$1,000	8
7 - 11 April	Tydeman Reef	5 Days	\$9,000	Share	\$1,000	8
14 - 17 April	Ribbon Reefs	4 Days	\$7,200	Share	\$700	8



Bookings and Enquiries

We look forward to welcoming you aboard a Topwater Sportfishing adventure. For enquiries or to secure your preferred 2027 trip dates, please get in touch with our team. We hope to see you out on the water.

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