The Great Barrier Reef

More than 90% of the world’s coral reefs occur in the Indo-West Pacific biogeographic region.

Water Type

- Sea surface temperatures range from 68° F to 82° F
- Warm and clear waters
- Clear, tropical oceans
- Need sunlight to survive
- Shallow waters (less than 150 ft)

Unique Features of Coral Reefs

- Covers 344,400 km² in area
- Includes the world’s largest coral reef ecosystem (about 3000 coral reefs)
- 600 continental islands
- 300 coral cays
- 150 inshore mangrove islands

Tourist Activities

- Snorkel and just keep swimming in the Great Barrier Reef with Marlin as your guide and experience a “reel” life Finding Nemo experience

Other activities include:
- Touching the butt!! (jk the boat)

Find Nemo in The Great Barrier Reef!

Explore the largest reef in the world while trying frantically to find your child!

Note: Lost children may give you the opportunity to explore the entire ocean.

By Thomas Mehdi, Sidney Montague, Camryn Steiner, and Kailee Yan

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P&S Travel Agency
42 Wallaby Way, Sydney

Located just a two hour plane ride from the Great Barrier Reef, we will arrange all travel accommodations. You just focus on not losing your kids!

References


Where are other Coral Reefs?

- Develop in areas that have a lot of wave action because the waves bring in food, nutrients and oxygen to the reef
- Most located near equator
- Barrier reefs border shorelines

Climate

- The region has two distinct seasons; a winter period of warm temperatures and low rainfall, and a summer period of balmy temperatures and higher rainfall.

Winter, or the 'Dry' season, begins in May and ends in October offering sunshine, fresh breezes and low humidity. Summer, or the 'Wet' season, extends from November to April and refreshes the region with tropical downpours of an afternoon and occasional dramatic electrical storms.

Marlin’s Friends

- 1625 species of fish
- 1400 coral reef species
- 3000+ species of molluscs
- 630 species of echinoderm (starfish, sea urchins)
- 14 breeding species of sea snakes
- 215 species of birds
- Six of the world's Seven species of marine turtle
- 30 species of whales and dolphins
- One of the world's most important dugong populations
- 133 species of sharks and ray
- Many plants including zooxanthellae, phytoplankton, seagrasses, and algaes

Plant and Animal Adaptations

- Fish have adapted a flat and maneuverable body structure to easily swim through the nooks between coral
- In order to collect the sunlight needed for photosynthesis, plants in coral reefs have larger cells. Plants have also created many symbiotic relationships with other animals in order to survive.

Protect Nemo, His Friends and His Family!

- Humans activities release pollutants such as sewage, agrochemicals and oils which are dumped into the oceans and waterways where coral reefs are located. The toxins are poisoning the reefs and causing them to die.
- Climate change and global warming affects corals because they cannot survive if the water temperature is too high. The higher temperature leads to increased levels of coral bleaching which puts more stress on the reefs and their ecosystems.

Seasonal Information

- Best time to visit: April-November (least rainy, least humid, mild weather)
- Whale Migrations – June to December
- Turtle Mating – October to February
- Reef Spawning – Early November, a night time event, six days after the full moon.
- Wet Season – December to March, Fantastic Waterfalls and afternoon monsoon rains.
- Fish Spawning – October to December