

Shute Harbour

Charter Base: Mainland



The Whitsunday Rent A Yacht charter base is located at our private jetty facility - 6 Bay Terrace, Shute Harbour, the gateway to the Whitsunday Islands – 10 minutes drive from Airlie Beach.

Anchorage Points

If you arrive early or are having a pre charter sleep aboard take a walk up to Lion's lookout and take in the majestic view over the harbour and out to the islands. Watch the sunset over the Conway Range or try your luck at fishing.

Your charter will commence with a 3-4 hour briefing, which consists of an area brief, followed by a briefing on the operation of the vessel and its equipment.

Your briefer will take you for a test run on your vessel to ensure you and your crew are confident in its handling.

Once your briefer is satisfied you can handle your vessel, it's time to embark on your charter.

You will then head off to your first anchorage which, depending on the weather and the start time of your briefing, could be many amazing locations. You will be required to call in on the afternoon radio sched with your overnight anchorage. If you are still in transit at sched time, you must call the base again once safely moored for the evening. **Vessels must be anchored for the evening by 4pm.**

Nara Inlet

Anchorage One: Hook Island, Anchoring only



Nara Inlet is a narrow 3-mile-long anchorage, very protected and suitable as an overnight anchorage in almost all weather conditions.

Anchorage Points

The inlet offers several great anchorages, however we recommend anchorage 1 or 3 right at the top of the inlet if there is space available, as they are the most protected and quite beautiful. The anchorages are surrounded by steep rocky faces with ferns, hoop pines, palms and varieties of the rainforest plants and wildlife.

Nara is deep and fjord-like inlet with steep, heavily wooded embankments. If there have been recent showers, small waterfalls tumble down the rocky face to the shore and provide a refreshing bath. There is a track up to the **Ngaro Cultural site**, which is easily accessible for anyone with reasonable health and adequate footwear. With aboriginal cave paintings and interpretative signage explaining the history of the traditional owners of the Whitsundays.



Cid Harbour

Anchorage Two: Cid Harbour, Anchoring only



One of the area's most popular anchorages, Cid Harbour, on the western side of Whitsunday Island. Often chosen as a great first night anchorage, approximately 1.5-2 hours from our base. One of the great all-weather anchorages.

Anchorage Points

Enjoy the serenity the next morning by taking your dinghy ashore and enjoying a bushwalk through the lush forest throbbing with bird song. Then be enticed back onboard with the aroma of sizzling BBQ cooking on the rear deck.

All our vessels are equipped with a gas BBQ on the rear deck for al fresco dining Whitsunday-style.

The main anchorage at Sawmill Beach is off a shoaling sandy beach. Cid Harbour was used by the Australian & allied Navies during World War II. If you are feeling adventurous, climb through the rainforest over spring-fed streams and palm forests to the top of **Whitsunday Peak** (437m). Make sure you allow plenty of time and take plenty of water and sun screen. Watch for the majestic sea eagles that swoop the waves for small fish and take stunning photos of your vessel from the peak.



For the less energetic, the bush **walk from Sawmill Beach to Dugong Inlet** is a must do. This leisurely walk offers a secluded beach and is well worthwhile. Expect to encounter large, lazy goannas and lots of bird life on the way.

Don't forget your water, sunscreen and cameras.

Langford Island

Anchorage Three: Langford Island, Public Moorings



From both Nara Inlet and Cid Harbour take a leisurely cruise along the western side of Hook Island, heading north to Langford Island. This is a delightful daytime stop-over with the coral reef and sand spit emerging at low tide and disappearing at high tide.

Anchorage Points

The latest attraction to the Whitsunday Islands is Australia's first underwater sculpture trail.

Turtle Dream by Artist Col Henry, has been installed at Langford Reef, when you're visiting make sure you have a look.

Langford island, with its coral sand beach, has vegetation which gives the feeling of both a continental island and true coral cay. The long sand spit is interesting to explore – a great daytime choice for all.

Beachcombing is a must on the sand spit with a world of hidden treasures washed up with each tide.

Picnic on the beach at low tide and view tropical fish amongst the coral bommies - making it one of the best snorkelling spots in the area.

There is a very high chance of spotting a friendly turtle whilst snorkelling amongst the coral or while enjoying a bite to eat back on the boat before heading elsewhere for the evening. As navigation can be tricky through this area, always refer to your chart and the 100 Magic Miles guide book which shows how to enter and exit the area safely.

Stonehaven Anchorage

Anchorage Four: Stonehaven – Anchoring or Mooring



The next overnight anchorages in this area are at Stonehaven to the east of Langford Reef on Hook Island or Blue Pearl Bay on the western side of Hayman Island. Stonehaven is an expansive 3 mile long open bay with a 400 metre mountain range on the eastern side and the best sunsets in the Whitsundays to the western side.

Anchorage Points

Yes, Elvis is still alive! Watch for a glimpse of Whitsundays marine life celebrity, Elvis the Maori Wrasse, who calls Blue Pearl Bay home. He is thought to be about 50 years old and is very friendly to snorkelers.

Remember – don't touch or feed the wildlife.

Be sure to sit back on the deck with a refreshing beverage and your camera at the ready as the sunsets are not to be missed. There are three main anchorage areas to choose from and the northernmost anchorage has a very nice beach, with good fishing from the rocks to the south.

Stonehaven can be gusty in very strong winds, with wind bullets, but is a very secure anchorage and well worth the visit.

Blue Pearl Bay on the western side of Hayman Island offers another superb overnight anchorage in the easterly conditions and some of the Whitsundays' best snorkelling and diving opportunities.

Hook Island

Anchorage Five: Hook Island North – Moorings only

The northern side of Hook Island is where you need to be if you want to experience the inner Great Barrier Reef and all it has to offer. The numerous bays which line the northern end of Hook Island such as Butterfly Bay, Maureen's Cove, Luncheon Bay, Manta Ray Bay and Pinnacles Bay provide some of the best snorkelling conditions in our tropical waters and in the right conditions the visibility is superb.

Anchorage Points

There are 9 public moorings in Butterfly Bay, which are aimed at minimizing the impact in the coral and the risk of damage to the reef, as this is a very sensitive ecological area.

Remember to never stand on the coral or touch it when swimming past and always observe marine life from a distance.

When snorkelling and diving around this group, you can expect to see an amazing variety of coral species and marine creatures including enormous clams, huge gropers, sea turtles, dolphins, sting rays and large schools or colourful tropical fish. Remember to always snorkel with a buddy and we recommend stinger suits in all seasons for protection.



After a day of underwater activity make your way to either north Mackerel Bay on the eastern side of Hook Island or Butterfly Bay on the northern side, your choice will be guided by the wind direction. Butterfly Bay offers great protection from our south-east trade winds. Venture ashore at Butterfly Bay and explore the creeks at certain times of the year, the bushland is filled with thousands of butterflies.

Tongue Bay

Anchorage Six: Whitsunday Island - Anchoring or mooring



From the top of Hook Island take a gentle cruise south to Border Island and enjoy a light lunch onboard before walking to the top of this grassy little island ridge which offers a 360-degree view of the Whitsunday Islands. Moor in CATERAN BAY to the north, as it is well protected from our trade winds and offers excellent coral reef and marine life to explore for a mid-morning snorkel.

Anchorage Points

Get the cameras ready!
It is here at Hill Inlet that you will experience for yourself the picture-perfect turquoise waters and white silica sand that has become the trademark of the Whitsunday Islands. This vista has to be the most iconic and photographed Whitsunday vista and it won't disappoint.

After a relaxing lunch stop at Border Island, head to Tongue Bay for overnight anchorage. This is where you will find access to the lookout loop and viewing platform with views of the amazing Hill Inlet, with its pure white sandy shoals and pristine beaches. Here you are likely to see an array of rays and green turtles bobbing in the clear blue seas, so don't forget your camera.

Take the time to descend the walking track to Betty's Beach and experience the tropical warm waters on your toes whilst gazing out over the inlet and off to Whitehaven Beach in the distance.



Whitehaven Beach

Anchorage Seven: Whitsunday Island -Anchoring only



A calm day the northern end of Whitehaven Beach can provide a suitable anchorage for you to explore the beach and Hill Inlet from a different angle.

Anchorage Points

Include a trip to one of the world's 50 best beaches. The sand is made up of 89% pure silica, producing the sand's pure white appearance. Unlike normal sand, the sand on Whitehaven Beach does not retain heat, which makes it a dream to stroll along even on a hot summer's day!

At your leisure make the trip along the length of Whitehaven Beach where you will get stunning views of Australia's most famous beach. The best overnight anchorage is off the south end of the beach. Spend the day relaxing on the beach itself, take a picnic and enjoy a game of beach cricket, a swim in the shallows or an hour of peace and quiet before returning to the vessel for a delicious dinner with one of the best views in the world.

For an alternative overnight anchorage or day time stop in certain wind conditions, head east to Haselwood Island and moor at **Chalkies Beach**. (*note - anchoring is not permitted at Chalkies Beach, moorings only*)



Chalkies Beach is blessed with white silica sand & turquoise waters. Be aware of French Shoal when travelling from Whitehaven to Chalkies.