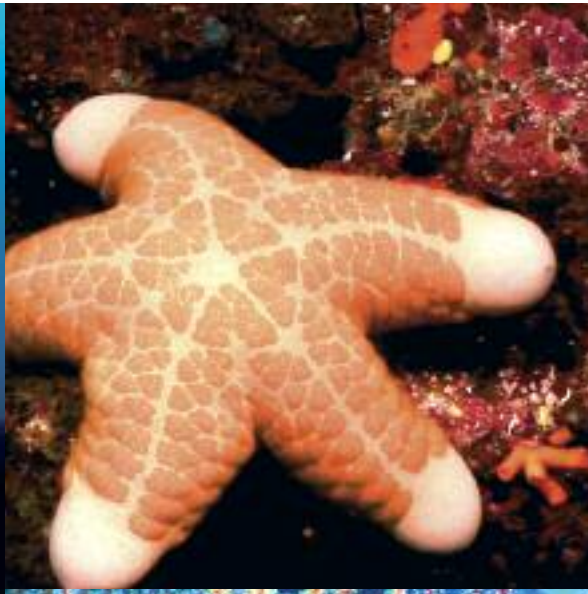
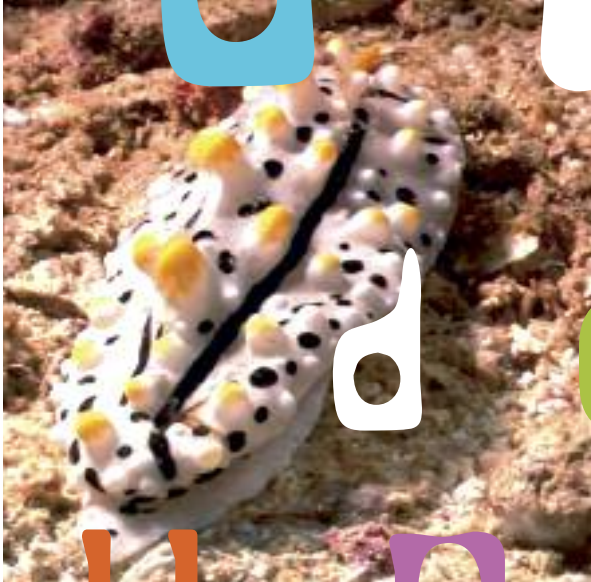


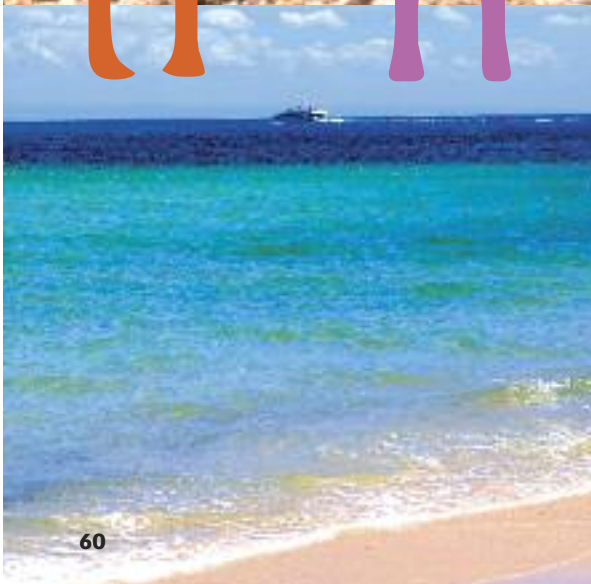
DIVE SPECIAL



d i v e



d o w n  
u n d e r



IF THE DIVING TALES TOLD IN OUR WONDERWORLD FEATURE HAVE WHET YOUR APPETITE, READ ON. SOME OF THE BEST DIVING IN THE WORLD IS FOUND ON AUSTRALIA'S GREAT BARRIER REEF, WHICH PROVIDES AN UNDERWATER EXPERIENCE LIKE NO OTHER. WHAT'S MORE, THE 41 METRE MOTOR YACHT **SEAFARIS** OFFERS A UNIQUE LUXURY PLATFORM FOR AN UNFORGETTABLE CRUISING AND DIVING HOLIDAY. FROM THEIR BASE IN CAIRNS, FAR NORTH QUEENSLAND, CAPTAIN DUNCAN SMITH AND HIS CREW SHARE A 'TASTING MENU' OF DIVES IN THEIR HOME TERRITORY.



## GREAT BARRIER REEF

Take a coral reef teeming with life, where the water temperature ranges from 24°C to 31°C and visibility from 15 metres to 75 metres. Add to this migrating minke and humpback whales, spectacular spawning coral, or thousands of turtle hatchlings emerging at night and heading for the sea. Throw in a decent tidal range offering some great drifts for more experienced divers, while beginners can enjoy some of the most pristine sites in the world. Now imagine you have the whole place to yourself. That's just a taste of what the Great Barrier Reef has to offer.

## STARTERS

There are plenty of local offshore reefs and sand cays for beginners and instructional dives where you can gain confidence, competence and increase your skills. We recommend Saxon & Norman Reefs, great fringing reefs, with a wide variety of hard and soft corals and marine life. Explore Undine Sand Cay and Vlassof Cay for a sheltered learning experience.

## MAINS

For more experienced divers, the Ribbon Reefs are less than 100 miles north of Cairns and offer some spectacular dives, all under 25 metres depth, combining both isolated pinnacles and shallow wall dives.

**BECAUSE OF THE REEF STRUCTURE AND PROLIFERATION, EXCELLENT SNORKELLING IS ALWAYS AVAILABLE EITHER AT THE SAME DIVE LOCATION OR VERY NEAR THE SAME REEF SYSTEM**

Expect to see large potato cod, schools of giant trevally, barracuda, an abundance of reef fish, white & black tip reef sharks, turtles, a variety of rays, sea-snakes and larger pelagic critters, including oceanic silvertip sharks, hammerheads, tiger sharks, whale sharks and manta rays.

Diving the outer reef on an incoming drift dive is like hanging out at an African watering hole at dusk. Pick literally any spot in a deep water pass, and there will be awesome marine life, healthy coral and big smiles all round.

On Ribbon Reef No. 3, our favourite dives are Temple of Doom and Steve's Bommie. We also like Andy's Postcard on Ribbon Reef No. 5, and three great dives on No 9: Challenger Bay, Pixie's Pinnacle and Pixie's Garden. The dive names give you a clue as to what you can expect: on Ribbon Reef No. 10 - try Cod Hole, Dynamite Pass and Snake Pit!

## SPECIALS

Head further out and we'll find you some remote and isolated Coral Sea diving. Impeccable visibility and multiple dive locations at one single reef system, so you can spend a week at one anchorage and take the tender to all the different sites. Expect to see huge sea fans, cave swim-throughs, blue spotted trevally, coral trout, rainbow runners, big schools of whaler sharks, dog tooth tuna and lots of smaller coral fish.

For shark feeds and multiple dive spots, you can't beat Osprey Reef, while on Flinders Reef, our favourite trips are Wotanabe Bommie, Gorgonia Garden, China Wall and Hungry Jacks.

## DESSERTS

Probably the most famous wreck dive in the area is the SS Yongala, sunk 23rd March 1911, and now protected under the Historic Shipwrecks Act, requiring a permit to dive. Ranging from 14 metres to 30 metres in depth, her hull and superstructure are relatively intact, but with a century of growth on her, she resembles an established reef section. Currents in the area bring in a myriad of coral species and communities, from millions of tiny cardinal fish to giant stingrays. For both day and night dives this is truly an amazing spot.

## SEAFARIS

### LOA

41m (134.5ft)

### Builder

Forgacs Shipyard, Australia

### Year

2006

### Cruising speed

16 knots

### Guests

10 guests in 5 cabins

### Crew

9

### Winter 2009/2010

Great Barrier Reef, Australia

### Summer 2010

Great Barrier Reef, Australia

### Charter rates

from US\$126,000 per week

See page 185 for further information on Seafaris.

Seafaris is under Charter Management with Burgess.

