



Suggested 14 night itinerary for a start & finish at Airlie Beach

	Airlie Beach / Airlie Beach - 14 night	N/M
Day/night 1	Airlie Beach to Cid Harbour	14.5nm
Day/night 2	Cid Harbour to Plantation/Neck Bay	17nm/18nm
Day/night 3	Plantation/Neck to Thomas Island	10.5nm
Day/night 4	Thomas Island to Palm Bay	22nm
Day/night 5	Palm Bay to Whitehaven Beach	17nm
Day/night 6	Whitehaven Beach to Hamilton Island	10nm
Day/night 7	Hamilton Island to Cateran Bay	18.5nm
Day/night 8	Cateran Bay to Macona Inlet	8nm
Day/night 9	Macona Inlet to Stonehaven	8nm
Day/night 10	Stonehaven via Langford to Blue Pearl	4nm
Day/night 11	Blue Pearl Bay to Butterfly Bay	5.5nm
Day/night 12	Butterfly Bay to Nara Inlet	11nm
Day/night 13	Nara Inlet to Happy Bay	12nm
Day/night 14	Happy Bay to Mays Bay	8nm
Day 15	Mays Bay to Airlie Beach	14nm

Cid Harbour (Whitsunday Island)

Sawmill Beach is a very good anchorage in anything except W-NW-N winds. In this case anchoring in Dugong Inlet is an option in all but West winds. Sawmill Beach has a great walking track which is not too strenuous around to Dugong Beach or if you are fit and have the whole day consider a walk to Whitsunday Peak for spectacular views over The Whitsundays. This anchorage is teeming with Turtles and you will also spot Sea Eagles and the occasional Dugong!

Plantation Bay (Lindeman Island) or Neck Bay (Shaw Island)

Plantation Bay is a tranquil anchorage with a nice long beach to explore. Good anchoring in NW-NE and okay in E-SE-E up to 15 knots.

Neck Bay has a great beach and you can access the other side of the island by a short walk. There is an extensive reef, so you need to watch the tides when going into shore. Good in S-SE winds and can be a bit rolly if it is more easterly.

Thomas Island

There are anchorages on either side of Thomas that afford protection from all breezes up to 15-25kn except from the West. There are nice sandy beaches on either side and this island is less frequented than those to the north. Some vessels are restricted in coming this far south. Check with reservations.

Palm Bay (Long Island)

The bay provides a snug anchorage but extreme care must be taken entering this bay. Before entering please call the caretaker on 0429 873 938. A fee is payable for use of a mooring. There is a swimming pool, toilets, showers and BBQ area, but no food or drink available.

Whitehaven Beach (Whitsunday Island)

This 5km beach of pure white silica sand is extremely popular and a must to visit on everyone's itinerary. Can sometimes be roly at night and at dusk and dawn. If on the beach watch out for the sand-flies! Good in all breezes but N-NE.

Hamilton Island Resort

This resort island is located in the middle of the Whitsunday's group and can be a great mid-charter stop over for many reasons. You are free to use all the resort facilities (pools, restaurants, showers, etc.) and there are a great many restaurants and cafés to choose from and a good range of activities to keep you amused. Fill up with water, top up the fridge & get rid of your rubbish. There is also a Doctor, General Store, Bakery, Bottle Shop, Bank, Post Office and many boutique clothing stores.

Cateran Bay (Border Island)

Good in E-SE-S-SW breezes but can be a little roly as the wind swings more East. Best in lighter conditions. Great snorkelling and diving in the bay. There is a pretty beach accessible at high tide. There are public moorings in place here and anchoring is permitted outside of the reef protection buoys.

Macona Inlet (Hook Island)

Entrance to Macona is on the Port side. Almost as protected as Nara Inlet and has some nice sand beaches to explore. Good in all winds.

Stonehaven (Hook Island)

This is a really good anchorage that has 10 or so Moorings to pick up. Anchoring is also possible however it will be in fairly deep water. This anchorage is known for its bullets in strong breezes but does offer protection between NE-E-SE-S between 15 to 25 knots. There are some snorkel spots to be found here.

Langford Reef (Langford Island)

When approaching Langford from Stonehaven be very careful to negotiate your path between the special mark on the southern end of Black Island and the starboard mark on the SE edge of Langford's sand spit. There are moorings to pick here and very good snorkelling. Great lunchtime spot and walking along the sand spit which gets more exposed as the tide goes out is amazing. Protected in SW-S-SE to 15 knots.

Blue Pearl Bay (Hayman Island)

Can be reached easily from Langford, making sure you stay on the outside of Akhurst Island as you make your way into this anchorage. There are moorings to pick up and some great snorkelling and diving to be found in this popular anchorage. Protected from NE-E-SE 15-25kn this anchorage can get roly at times.

Butterfly Bay (Hook Island)

A great place to snorkel or dive. There are quite a few public moorings in these bays but anchoring can also be done outside of the reef protection markers. Bullets can be frequent in strong southerlies, so if anchoring make sure it is well set. From Butterfly you can also dinghy around to Maureen's Cove for more beautiful snorkelling and diving. There is an abundance of fish and corals that can take you days to explore. Not a good anchorage in northerlies & fishing is not permitted.

Nara Inlet (Hook Island)

Beautiful Fjord like inlet. Entrance is on the starboard side as there is an extensive reef to port. Nara Inlet features ancient aboriginal cave paintings with a good bush walk and views over the inlet. Take a walk to the top of the waterfall which is spectacular after heavy rains. Anchoring only (no moorings) with very good holding and one of the best places for a sound night's sleep in all conditions.

Happy Bay, Break Free Long Island Resort

Good in NE-E-SE-S-SW 15-25kn. Can be a good first night or last night stop over. Moorings are available (currently \$55.00). There are 20kms of walking tracks for those wanting to stretch their legs or the on island activities include tennis, mini golf, jet skis, parasailing, volleyball etc. Have a meal in the restaurant or café or laze by the pool with a few drinks from the bar!

May's Bay

A pretty anchorage that can give a great view of the sun setting over the mainland. Caution must be taken when anchoring here as there are a few isolated bommies. The anchorage can be roly in a more easterly breeze but suitable for conditions E-SE-S 15-25 knots.

Other Whitsunday Island Bays:

Bauer Bay (South Molle Island Resort)

Good in E-SE-S-SW 15-25kn. Can become roly as the wind swings more East. The resort is out of bounds for yachtsmen, however it is worth stopping at to stretch the legs and enjoy over 16 kms of walking tracks (some offer outstanding views). There is a fee to pick up a mooring.

Daydream Island Resort & Spa

There are moorings here which are located just outside the harbour entrance. This bay is not the best in windy conditions but the resort is well worth a visit especially if you want to treat yourself to a wonderful spa experience. There is a bar, restaurant, pool, outdoor aquarium, mini golf and outdoor cinema to enjoy.

Hook Island Resort & Observatory

The underwater observatory is closed until further notice. There is the possibility to anchor temporarily, but the current can be strong and the vessel should not be left alone. Good in most winds except from the NE.

Lindeman Island

There used to be a Club Med on the island, but that closed down. Currently there is a caretaker but no facilities. Lindeman has some great walking tracks through vine forests and valleys filled with butterflies. Protected in N-NE-E-SE-S up to 15 knots.

For further details – consult the book “100 Magic Miles of the Great Barrier Reef” by David Colfelt