

Airlie Beach, Queensland, Australia

The gateway to 74 tropical islands — tender ashore to a small resort town, then sail or fly out to Whitehaven Beach's dazzling silica sands and the technicolour corals of the Great Barrier Reef.

Tender port (ships anchor offshore)

Typical call: 7–9 hrs

Australian Dollar (AUD)

English

MY DAY IN PORT

Ship/Date: Arrive: All aboard:

Excursion: Notes:

GETTING ASHORE

Docking: Tender to Port of Airlie

Best For: Whitehaven Beach · Reef snorkelling

Walk to center: 5 min from tender dock

Don't Miss: Hill Inlet lookout

Getting around: Taxi AUD \$8–14 · Rideshare Uber

TOP THINGS TO DO

- Whitehaven Beach & Hill Inlet** — One of the world's finest beaches — 7 km of 98% pure silica sand on Whitsunday Island, blinding white and squeaky underfoot.
- Great Barrier Reef Snorkel & Dive** — Day trips to the outer reef — Hardy Reef, Hook Reef, or Knoll — put you on coral bommies alive with turtles, reef sharks, parrotfish, and giant clams.
- Whitsunday Islands Sailing** — Charter a crewed yacht or join a group sailing tour through the 74 islands — anchoring in secluded bays, snorkelling reefs, and watching the sun set...
- Seaplane or Helicopter Reef Flight** — A scenic flight over the Heart Reef (a naturally heart-shaped coral formation), Hill Inlet, and the outer reef gives a perspective no boat can match.
- Airlie Beach Lagoon & Town** — The free foreshore lagoon is a stinger-safe saltwater swimming pool right on the beach — perfect if you're skipping an island trip.

BEST WALKS

- Foreshore Promenade & Airlie Beach Lagoon** ~2 km · 45 min · easy — Walk the Bicentennial Walkway from the Port of Airlie marina along the foreshore past the free saltwater lagoon, the main beach, and the town's cafes and tour desks.
- Conway National Park — Whitsunday Passage Lookout** ~3.6 km return · 1.5 hrs · moderate — A 10-minute drive from town leads to the Conway NP trailhead.

WEATHER · DAYLIGHT · MONEY

CLIMATE (AVG °F · RAINY DAYS)

	Mon	High	Low	Rain
Apr		79°	72°	14d
Jun		72°	65°	7d
Aug		72°	63°	4d
Sep		76°	67°	4d
Oct		79°	70°	6d

DAYLIGHT & MONEY

Apr 6:16AM–5:53PM · Jun 6:38AM–5:32PM · Aug 6:27AM–5:52PM · Sep 6:01AM–5:59PM · Oct 5:34AM–6:07PM

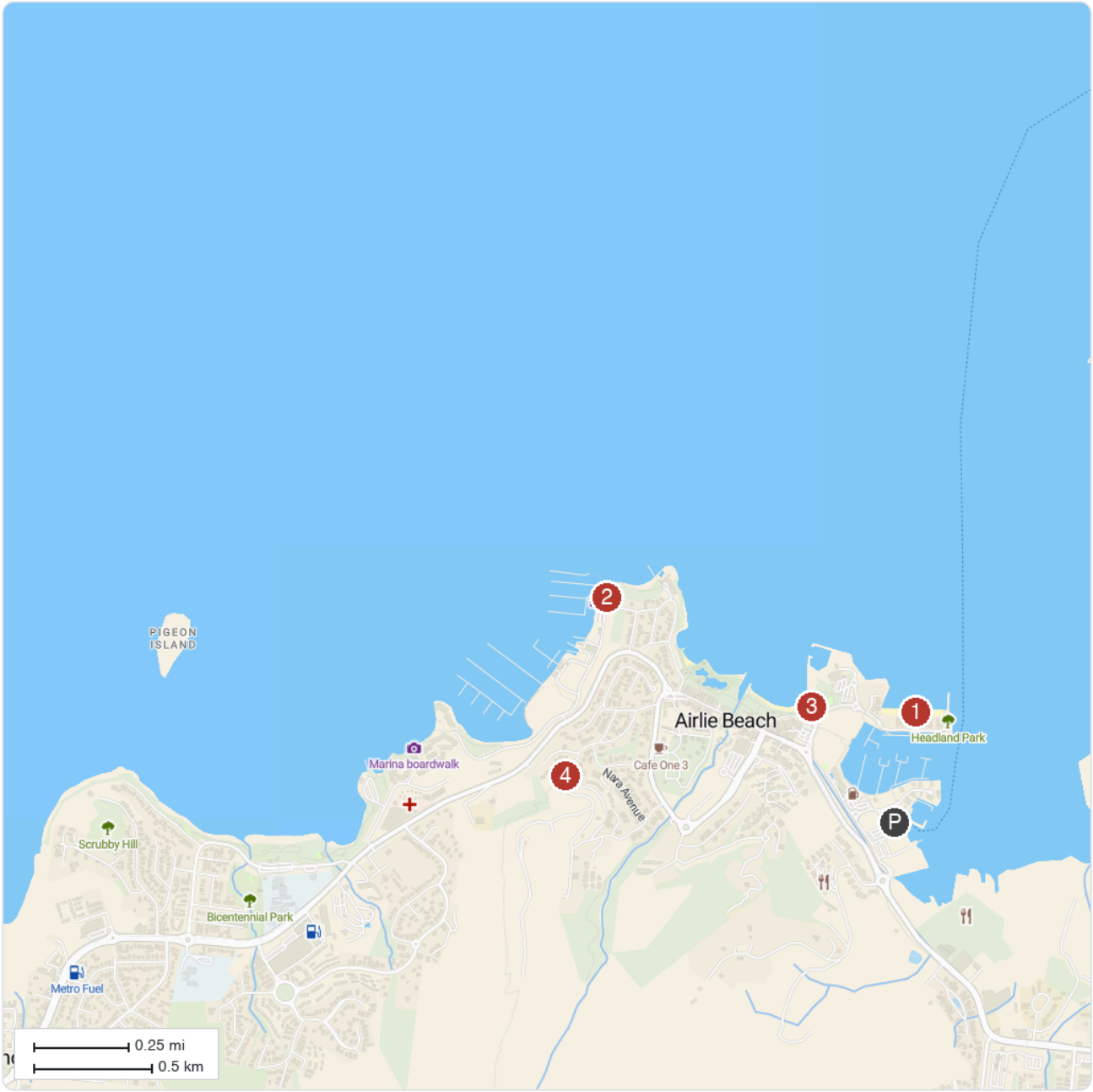
KNOW BEFORE YOU GO

- Book island trips before you sail. Whitehaven Beach catamarans and reef day trips fill weeks ahead — secure your spot online before embarkation day.
- Stingers are real. Box jellyfish and Irukandji are present in inshore waters October–May. Wear a stinger suit (provided by tour operators) and stick to the lagoon or boat trips — don't swim off the beach unprotected.
- Watch your tender return time. Island and reef trips run tight against last tender back. Confirm your tour's return time with your tender schedule — the ship will not wait.
- Sun protection is non-negotiable. Queensland UV is extreme year-round. Reef-safe sunscreen (required at many reef sites), a rashie, and a hat are essentials, not options.
- Cards accepted everywhere. Australia is nearly cashless — tap-and-pay works at all tour operators, cafes, and shops. No need to carry AUD cash.
- If the reef is the goal, go outer reef. Snorkelling directly off Whitehaven Beach is limited. Dedicated reef trips (Hardy Reef, Hook Reef) give you proper coral and marine life — book a combined Whitehaven + reef day if time allows.

Airlie Beach, Queensland, Australia — Port Map

cruiseports.org

Red = walkable sights · Amber = excursions farther out · P = cruise terminal. Numbers match the order you'd typically visit.



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| 1 Boathaven Beach | Boathaven Beach is a man-made beach perfect for swimming and relaxing. | 2 Providence Whitsunday Sailing | Providence offers classic tall ship sailing tours of the Whitsundays. |
| 3 Whitsunday Saturday Markets | The Saturday Markets offer local crafts, produce, and souvenirs. | 4 Honeyeater Lookout Trail | This trail leads to a scenic lookout with panoramic ocean views. |
| 5 Cruise Whitsundays | Cruise Whitsundays offers ferry transfers and tours to islands and reefs. | P Cruise port / terminal | |