

# SOCIAL & CULTURAL SUSTAINABILITY

Reef Daytripper is committed to improving and sustaining the efforts of local businesses and organisations where we are able to, so we can contribute economically and socially to the local community. We recognise that Upolu Reef is of great importance to local indigenous groups and firmly believe that recognising and educating visitors and locals of their ongoing connection to the Great Barrier Reef is key to maintaining cultural sustainability.

At Reef Daytripper we firmly believe that a community that works together, thrives together and provides an environment that can be enjoyed by locals and visitors alike, and one that cohesively offers a world-class experience.

Key components of our commitment to social and cultural sustainability include:

- Prioritising the health and well-being of our crew and guests via policies and planning that ensures we meet a high standard of safety at all times.
- Maintaining strong relationships with membership organisations, local councils, peak tourism bodies and government bodies to ensure we maintain a high level of safety and customer service.
- Actively engaging with local businesses to maintain our daily operations, and to ensure we are supporting local suppliers.
- Supporting community groups and businesses through charitable donations.
- Recognising the correct indigenous groups and acknowledging their connection to Upolu Reef.

## PRIORITISING THE HEALTH AND WELL-BEING OF OUR CREW AND GUESTS VIA POLICIES AND PLANNING

Reef Daytripper conducts an annual review of all policies and procedures within our Safety Management System to ensure our policies and procedures are compliant with WorkSafe Queensland, The Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority, and the Australian Maritime Safety Authority. We also conduct regular drills, on at least a monthly basis to prepare in the event of reasonably foreseeable incidents including:

- Fire
- Man Overboard
- Steering loss
- Missing diver/snorkeller
- Unconscious diver/snorkeller
- Suspected DCS (decompression sickness)



Our crew are required to have the following licenses/certificates in order for them to work as PADI dive instructors:

- PADI OWSI or higher
- In current teaching status
- Current occupational dive medical - AS2299
- Current O2 & first aid certificates
- 2 to 3 years of Dive industry experience
- Sailing experience
- Excellent sales & customer service skills
- Works well in a team.
- High-Level English language skills required.
- Certificate II in Maritime Operations (Coxswain Grade 1 Near Coastal Skippers Only).

All our crew are afforded the opportunities for ongoing professional development, and to obtain the Certificate II in Maritime Operations (Coxswain Grade 1 Near Coastal) certification.

## MAINTAINING STRONG RELATIONSHIPS WITH MEMBERSHIP ORGANISATIONS, LOCAL COUNCILS, TOURISM OPERATORS AND GOVERNMENT BODIES

Reef Daytripper is a proud [PADI](#) member since 2023, which helps us deliver a world class SCUBA diving experience to our valued guests and crew alike. We operate our SCUBA diving activities in line with PADI programs and frameworks to ensure that our guests safety needs & enjoyment are prioritised, and introductory diving participants are provided opportunities to pursue SCUBA diving certification through the PADI Discover Scuba Diving program.



**PADI**





Reef Daytripper has been a member of the [Cairns Chamber of Commerce](#) since 2025 and are proud to be part of a community of local businesses big and small alike. Membership affords us opportunities to listen and learn from successful local business owners, industry professionals and experts in their respective fields, so that we can model our business practices on proven and effective strategies. The Cairns Chamber of Commerce actively engages with all tiers of government to advocate for its stakeholders and the wider Cairns community.

Reef Daytripper has been a Partner of Tourism member with [Tourism Tropical North Queensland](#) (TTNQ) since 2022, which is the peak Regional Tourism Organisation for Far North Queensland. As the peak tourism body, TTNQ actively collaborate with government bodies and the Tropical North Queensland tourism industry to advocate on behalf of tourism operators with a view to keep the region competitive, along with procuring resources and strategies that help tell the destinations unique story. Being part of TTNQ helps Reef Daytripper to stay aligned with the expectations and traits of tourism operators offering world-class experiences.



**CAIRNS CHAMBER  
OF COMMERCE**

*building business since 1909*

**TOURISM  
TROPICAL NORTH  
QUEENSLAND**

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**PARTNER OF TOURISM  
2025/26**



To ensure all aspects of our service are carried out with professionalism and safety in mind, we hold and maintain the required food licence issued by the [Cairns Regional Council](#) and compelled by [Section 48 of the Food Act 2006](#) and [Food Safety Standard 3.2.2A](#)



As a dive and snorkel operator in Queensland, Reef Daytripper must comply with the [Safety in Recreational Water Activities Regulation 2024](#) and the [Recreational Diving, Recreational Technical Diving and Snorkelling Code of Practice 2024](#) as required by Workplace Health and Safety Queensland. These also provide us a framework and set of guiding principles that help us to ensure the health and safety of our crew, contractors and guests alike while we conduct our daily operations.

As a commercial vessel Reef Daytripper must comply with the Australian Maritime Safety Authority regulations, under the [National Standard for Commercial Vessels](#). This provides minimum standards for vessel design, construction and equipment required to ensure the health and safety of all persons travelling with Reef Daytripper.

Reef Daytripper owns and maintains several moorings at Upolu Reef, where our permits restrict us to. As required by the [Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority](#), we must only conduct the approved activities specified within our permits and zone which we operate. As Upolu Reef is in a Marine National Park zone, we can only conduct approved boating, diving, photography, and research with any fishing netting and collecting marine life strictly prohibited.





Eye on  
the Reef

Reef Daytripper crew actively participates in the [Eye on the Reef](#) programs including reef health and impact surveys, weekly monitoring surveys, along with reporting any marine life sightings of interest. The Eye on the Reef programs serve as an important data collection method that aims to preserve the Great Barrier Reef and ensure its long-term protection. The tourism program we conduct as per the parameters of our permit's places a duty on us to be custodians of the reef and ensure that all our guests leave with knowledge of the environment and are educated on the potential and current threats to the reef.

To ensure that our valued guests are fully informed before joining our tour, we provide an [accessibility self-assessment guide](#) on our website so that they can check to see if our facilities can service their needs.



As testament to our commitment to providing a world-class experience, encompassing outstanding customer service and high standards of safety, Reef Daytripper has been bestowed the honour of receiving [Tourism and Events Queensland's](#) Best of Queensland Experience recognition in both 2024 and 2025. This recognition is developed in partnership with Queensland's Regional Tourism Organisations, [The Queensland Tourism Industry Council](#), and [The Department of Environment, Tourism, Science and Innovation](#), and as such, this aligns Reef Daytripper with the best tourism experiences in the state.

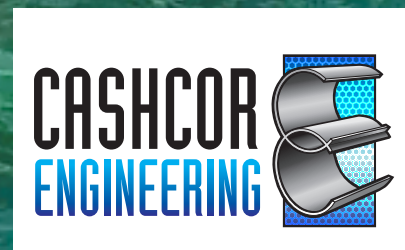




# ENGAGING WITH LOCAL BUSINESSES AND SUPPLIERS

Reef Daytripper uses local businesses to service our operating needs and to ensure we are actively supporting local businesses and suppliers. By using local suppliers, we are further reducing our carbon foot by reducing carbon emissions through improved logistics.

The local suppliers we regularly conduct business with in our local area include:





# SUPPORTING COMMUNITY GROUPS AND BUSINESSES THROUGH CHARITABLE DONATIONS



Reef Daytripper is a proud sponsor of NQ Burnouts and their fundraising efforts and Monster Charity Raffle and proceeds going towards a Christmas party, dedicated to bring joy to children with serious illnesses, physical and/or intellectual disabilities, and children with complex needs. NQ Burnouts is a Not-for-Profit aiming to provide community members opportunities to come together competitively in a controlled environment, keeping the streets safe.



Reef Daytripper is proud to sponsor the Cairns Training Academy's Monster Raffle to raise funds for [Kickon](#) and their efforts to raise awareness for suicide prevention, coinciding with World Suicide Prevention Day on September 10<sup>th</sup>. Cairns Training Academy are dedicated to fostering inclusive training environments, providing employment pathways for both mainstream and secondary school students.



Reef Daytripper is a proud sponsor of the Cairns Youth Orchestra and their efforts to provide residents of Far North Queensland access to cultural enrichment through classical music. This community-based organisation provides opportunities for young people to gain experience and ongoing development of their musical abilities, which serves a valuable function to the community at large.



Reef Daytripper has been a proud sponsor of NuNu's Restaurant Melbourne Cup event since 2017. This event helps to raise funds for the [Far North Queensland Hospital Foundation](#), contributing towards state-of-the-art surgical technology, transforming how surgery is delivered across Far North Queensland.



Reef Daytripper is proud to sponsor Every Moment photography for their annual Christmas Winter Wonderland event, aimed at supporting local businesses. The owner, Natalie, has been capturing precious family moments and delivering a personalised touch to the photographic needs of local businesses since 2021.



St Francis Xavier School Manunda strives to provide an educational environment that fosters learning and faith, so students can reach their full potential. Reef Daytripper is proud to sponsor the senior class of 2025 in their fundraising efforts, to purchase a gift that can be enjoyed by future St Francis Xavier students.



# CULTURAL SUSTAINABILITY

Upolu Reef is part of the traditional sea country of several indigenous groups, who are recognised as the traditional owners with their own specific interests in the area. The traditional owners include the following groups:

**Yirrganydji (Irukanjdji) people:** Saltwater Aboriginal people whose country extends along the coast from Cairns to Port Douglas.

**Mandingalbay Yidinji people:** Custodians of land and sea country that includes areas across the water from Cairns, extending to the reef.

**Gungandji people:** traditional owners of the coastal area around Yarrabah and offshore islands.

Reef Daytripper recognises the thousands-of-years-old connection to Upolu Reef held by traditional owners and their ongoing traditional management. Upolu Reef and the surrounding sea country form part of a broader cultural landscape and the connection to history, dreaming stories, and traditional knowledge.

Today, the Yirrganydji and Gungandji peoples conduct hunting, fishing and other traditional activities under Traditional Use of Marine Resources Agreements (TURMAs). Members of these groups are actively involved in monitoring reef health, conducting research, and managing the area as part of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park.

Year-round Cairns hosts major indigenous festivals and light shows including:

- The Cairns Indigenous Art Fair (CIAF) During July
- Shine on Gimuy immersive light shows on the Cairns Esplanade During October
- Flames of the Forest year-round intimate dining experience under the rainforest canopy that features Aboriginal storytelling, music, and culture
- Yarrabah Music & Cultural Festival event held in the seaside town of Yarrabah that celebrates indigenous music, culture, and community.

Reef Daytripper includes an acknowledgement of country on our website and in onboard materials during our tour to foster respect and recognition.



#### ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

Reef Daytripper acknowledges the Yirrganydji, Mandingalbay-Yidinji and Gungandji people as the traditional custodians of the land and sea, and recognise their ongoing connection to Upolu Reef. We pay respect to elders both past and present and proudly stand united with the First Nations people of today, tomorrow and always.