



# H U M A N S of T H E R E E F



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Eco Tour Guide - Ocean Safari

## **What is your favourite part about working at the reef?**

It's something I never imagined I would be doing for a job! I'm not a marine biologist or anything of the like - I'm just a gal with a passion, bucket loads of curiosity and a love for the daily beach hair effect, you know that real 'I woke up like this look'. I love observing the busy bodies of the reef, the rush hours, the farmers and the grazers all working around the clock keeping the dream alive and the show on the road. But above all coral is what underpins my bursting reef obsession, because frankly without it we lose species and diversity which would just give us a whole lot of vacant space. Coral is something I could ponder over all day and google until the cows come home. I won't lie, sometimes I feel like a 3rd wheel to that romantic symbiotic relationship that the coral polyps and zooxanthellae algae have going on, I mean name a more iconic duo.. I'll wait. I don't know how else to put it, it is just sooo fascinating! Another favourite aspect of working on the Great Barrier Reef is to be able to pass knowledge along by regurgitating some super-duper scientific jargon into relatable and retainable info, David Attenborough style of course. Because, let's be honest, knowledge is power and personal experience is impacting, and in my opinion the reef needs more of both!

## **In your opinion, what is the state of the reef?**

Evolving. Over the past couple of years with the increasing changes in the climatic state the reef is changing and trying to keep pace! To put it bluntly, it is an 'adapt or die' scenario, but hey - the Great Barrier Reef as we know it today isn't necessarily the GBR that it was 5,000 years ago nor will it be the same in another 5,000 years. It is forever changing, but I do believe it is necessary to nurture it and use our platforms to educate.

## **What is your favourite reef critter?**

Hands down the little Damsel fish! I snorkel with a go pro and each day I visit the same little school of Damsels who are doing the best job of protecting their patch of algae, just like a cattle dog would guarding their stock. I will always be greeted with an aggressive propulsion straight towards the camera lens, which is just enough time to capture a cheeky snap or selfie if I'm camera savvy!

## **Find out more about Ocean Safari Cape Tribulation**

**here:**[www.oceansafari.com.au](http://www.oceansafari.com.au)

