

Taka - Cod Hole and Coral Sea (Osprey Reef)

5 Days/4 Nights (4 Full Days Diving)

Trip Details

Departure: Friday -17:00

Return: Tuesday -14:30

Check-in:

3:30pm at DSDD/TAKA office.

Pickups for all locations are between 3pm and 3:30pm.

Number of dives: 14 Dives

Inclusions

- Cairns City Transfers
- Complimentary Tea & Coffee
- Hot Fresh Showers
- Air Fills
- Bed Linen
- All meals from dinner on the day of departure to lunch on the last day are included.
- Beer, wine and soft drinks are available from the bar.
- Masks
- Open & Closed Foot Fins
- Booties
- 5mm Long Arm & Short Leg Wetsuits
- Flashlights/Torch for night dives.
- Chemical glow sticks for night dive.
- Cabins made up daily

TAKA, being purpose built for these waters will offer you the best expedition possible to 'Osprey Reef' in the Coral Sea, "The Cod Hole" and the Northern Great Barrier Reef. Osprey reef in the Coral Sea is one of the most spectacular dive sites in the world. Offering a diverse range of shark life all year round and pristine soft corals unlike anything you have ever seen before.

On our shark feed dive, you are more than likely to see anywhere from 10 to 70 sharks at a time. Bob Halstead who was inducted into the International Scuba Diving Hall of Fame recently said "I'm thinking this is one of the best shark dives I have done in 41 years". You will also experience the



magic of diving with the 'Giant Potato Cod' at the [Cod Hole](#) and visit some truly amazing sites up and down the Ribbon Reefs, located within the World Heritage Listed Great Barrier Reef Marine Park.

You will depart Cairns on the Friday evening, with a leisurely cruise overnight, to wake up at the fantastic 'Cod Hole'. From there you will experience four full days of diving with a minimum of 14 dives over the trip. On this trip we regularly encounter huge schools of pelagic fish, Manta Rays, Giant Australian Cuttlefish, Loggerhead and Green Turtles, Moray Eels, Red Flame File Shell, Lionfish, various Nudibranchs as well as the magnificent Giant Potato Cod.

Friday

The first evening we travel overnight 150km to the [Cod Hole](#). During this time passengers organize their dive gear or hire gear. We also have a brief period of introduction followed by paperwork and a briefing on the schedule for the next day. Dinner is served at approx 7:30pm with the rest of the evening for relaxation.

Saturday:

7:30am - Breakfast

8:30am, arrive at the [Cod Hole](#), dive briefing.

Dive 1

Familiarization with the [Cod Hole](#).

Check out dive for those who have done less than 50 dives or have not dived in the past year.

Likely Sightings include Giant Potato Cod, Moray Eel, Reef Sharks & Maori Wrasse.

Dive 2

Cod Feed at the [Cod Hole](#) -

Close encounters with the Famous Potato Cod!



Lunch

Dive 3

[Pixie's Pinnacle](#)/Reef/Wall or [Challenger Bay](#) -

Likely Sightings include Lion Fish, Nudibranchs, Garden Eels & Barracuda.

Afternoon rest & snack.

Dive 4

6:30pm Night Dive at [Challenger Bay](#) -

Likely Sightings include Cuttle Fish, Sea Turtles, Reef Sharks & Manta Rays.

8:00pm Evening Meal

Sunday:

7:00am Breakfast

7:30am Arrive at Osprey Reef in the Coral Sea.

Dive 5

8:30am [North Horn](#). Wall Dive with drop-offs to 100m.

There is a fantastic variety of sharks swimming off the wall- such as Gray Whalers, White Tip & Black Tips, Hammerheads, A Giant Potato Cod and the occasional Bull Shark.

Dive 6

An amazing shark feed on this dive!

10:30am [North Horn SHARK FEED](#).

Divers observe this amazing spectacle from 15m sitting on dead coral palettes. The [SHARK FEED](#) can last anywhere from 5min to 30min depending on how many and how hungry the sharks are. Once the feed is completed and the instructors gives the 'all clear', the divers can leave the wall and continue the dive.



Lunch

Dive 7

1:30pm Half Way Wall.

Sightings include interesting coral formations, Feather Stars and Green Sea Turtles.

Dive 8

4:00pm [The Entrance](#).

Sightings include Puffer Fish & Clown Fish.



Evening Meal

8:00pm Depart Osprey Reef and head back to the Great Barrier Reef.

Monday

7:00am Breakfast

Dive Briefing

Dive 9

7:30am [Clam Gardens](#).

Likely Sightings include Giant Clams (150-200 y/o)



10:00am Steve's Bommie. Likely Sightings include Red flame File Shell, Stone Fish, Wobbegong Sharks, Turtles & Thousands of schooling Anthias.

Snack

Dive 11

12:00/1:00pm [Temple Of Doom](#).

Sightings include Flatworms & Clownfish.

Lunch followed by afternoon rest.

Dive 12

6:30pm [Beer Gardens](#).

Sightings include Sleepy Turtles & Parrot Fish.

8:00pm Evening Meal

Tuesday:

Dive Briefing

Dive 13

6:30am [Hogs Breath](#).

Sightings include Angelfish & Clown Fish.

7:30am Breakfast

Dive 14

8:30am [Split Bommie](#).

Sightings include Octopus & various Butterfly Fish.

As we sail back to Cairns, passengers have plenty of time to rest and relax in between snacks and lunch.

Taka then arrives back to Trinity Wharf in Cairns at 3:00pm.

Complimentary transfers to local accommodation between 3:00pm and 4:00pm.

Itinerary Notes

The above itinerary is only an example of a typical trip, and dive sites, times and sequences are subject to variables such as tides and [weather](#).

Snorkellers

Due to deeper reefs at some dive sites and stronger currents associated with the Coral Sea, snorkelling is only suitable for strong swimmers, and experienced snorkellers. Snorkelling may not be permitted at all dive sites. Snorkel buddies may not be available at all times, however Deep Sea Divers Den/Taka always have an experienced crew member on watch whenever people are in the water.

Dive Medicals

You will not normally require a dive medical to participate in a trip on board Taka. You will however require a dive medical if your medical conditions have changed since your certification, if you are on any prescription medications (excluding contraceptive), or if you have had recent surgery. All divers are required to complete a medical questionnaire at check in.

If you are concerned about your health and/or ability to dive, please contact your doctor.

Dive Sites

Please click on the links below to find more information about our dive sites.

- [Cod Hole](#)

Avg Depth: 30-35m

Cool things to see: Potato Cod, Camouflage Cod, Trigger Fish, White Tip Reef Sharks, Maori Wrasse, Coral Trout, Trevally

- [Pixies Pinnacle](#)

Avg Depth: 20m

Cool things to see: Anemone Fish, Anthias Fish, Lion Fish, Gorgonian Fan Coral, Peacock Grouper, Nudibranchs, Soft Sponges

- [Challenger Bay](#)

Avg Depth: 8-10m

Cool things to see: White-tip Reef Sharks, Parrot Fish sleeping, Feather Worms, Feather Stars, Puffer Fish, Coral Polyps feeding, Christmas Tree Worms

- [Clam Gardens](#)

Avg Depth: 35m

Cool things to see: Giant Clams, Cuttle Fish, Blue Tangs, Huge Staghorn Corals, Parrot Fish

- [Steve's Bommie](#)

Avg Depth: 15m

Cool things to see: Oceanic Barracuda, Clown Fish, Wide-eyed Trevally, Lion Fish, Yellow-tailed Goat Fish, Regal Angel Fish, Tomato Wrasse

- [Temple of Doom](#)

Avg Depth: 20m

Cool things to see: Surgeon Fish, Blue Fin Trevally, Yellow Goat Fish, Sea Squirrels, Trumpet Fish, Feather Stars, Bat Fish, Flat Worms

- [Beer Gardens](#)

Avg Depth: 8 - 10m

Cool things to see: Loggerhead Turtle, Green Turtle, Parrotfish, Slipper Lobster, Blue-Spotted Lagoon Ray, Christmas Tree Worms, Crayfish

- [Hogs Breath](#)

Avg Depth: 20m

Cool things to see: Scorpion Fish, Lizard Fish, Leopard Blenny, Cleaner Banded Shrimp, Reef Octopus, Soft Sponges

- [Split Bommie](#)

Avg Depth: 12-15m average

Cool things to see: Anemone Fish, Butterfly Fish, Angel Fish, Painted Flute-Mouth, Gorgonian Fan Coral, Nudibranchs

- [North Horn](#)

Avg Depth: 40m

Cool things to see: White Tip Reef Shark, Grey Whaler Shark, Silver Tip Shark, Hammerhead Shark, Giant Potato Cod, Moray Eel, Huge Soft Corals

- [The Entrance](#)

Avg Depth: 20m

Cool things to see: Manta Ray, Admiralty Anchor, Sharks, Huge Coral Trout, Angel Fish, Garden Eels, Surgeon Fish

- [Clam Gardens](#)

Avg Depth: 35m

Cool things to see: Giant Clams, Cuttle Fish, Blue Tangs, Huge Staghorn Corals, Parrot Fish