

H U M A N S

of T H E

R E E F



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Find out more about Ocean
Rafting here: <https://oceanrafting.com.au/>



What does a day working at the reef look like for you?

Sunshine, turquoise water, happy relaxed people, colourful corals, and the most beautiful beach you will ever see.

What is your favourite part about working at the reef?

Getting people away from the everyday, showing how gorgeous, creative and captivating nature is and why we must preserve it.

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

There is no doubt in the past few years it has been tested. It has been pushed further than we have ever seen, taking on massive events, and in some locations, it is struggling, but there is still those pristine locations too. We show our passengers every day, what the reef goes through, what it has to with stand, yes some does die, everything alive will die some time, but there is new life too, and she is beautiful. If we are careful with our way of living, and cautious with our everyday lives, you will see more and more of that beauty, that I get to see every day. The Great Barrier Reef is absolutely massive, some locations are struggling, but others are thriving, we have to take into account the struggling parts to make us appreciate, and help the rest of the reef.

What questions do people always ask you about the reef?

Is there anything to see down there? Why is it so colourful? Why is the water this colour? I hear about the reef dying but that was amazing, why is that? Is it all dead?

What can people do to help preserve and protect the reef?

REDUCE YOUR PLASTIC! As a company we try to minimize our plastic use, of course some things can be hard to change, but we are constantly watching new ideas, and how we may be able to incorporate them. Reusable bags instead of plastic, paper straws instead of plastic paper bags, where you can, or a reusable keep-cup, have your own water bottle, dispose of your rubbish, don't chuck it anywhere, it will end up in the ocean, and then in a sea creature.

What is your favourite reef critter?

Oh that is hard..... Growing up I had dolphin everything, every birthday/Christmas I got something Dolphin, because you know I would love it! They are an amazing creature, so intelligent, and so beautiful. My parents started the Whale Watch Industry in Australia at Hervey Bay, and I was just one when they began, so I have literally grown up with the Whales, knowing quite a few of them with their markings, or features. They are inquisitive creatures and all have different personalities, the last few years swimming with the whales has started, that experience I can't explain, it just leaves you speechless, having a mammal the size of a bus coming to look at you, yep can't explain the feeling! so humpback whales will always have a special place in my heart. I have also spent some time at Lady Elliot Island where of course you would know is home to the Manta ray! and aren't they amazing! snorkelling and diving with these creatures, is an experience you just must have. Moving to the Whitsunday's 8 years ago, and skippering for Ocean Rafting, I have gotten to know the area quite well, you see the array reef structures and learn where different animals like to live, as we start to get to the warmer months and the jellyfish thrive, the turtles come to get a feast! No one can wipe the smile off your face after you have spent some quality time with a chilled-out turtle. So as you can tell I can't pick a favourite, the reef is a complex system, that relies on balance, so I love them all, because without any one of the creatures, it would fall out of balance.