

H U M A N S

of T H E

R E E F



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

Snorkelling on the Ningaloo reef in the morning, taking guests to swim with whale sharks or sometimes manta rays during the day and then some whale watching (in season). I prepare some lunch, then we have an afternoon snorkel on the reef again and a cruise through the lagoon to spot dolphins, dugongs, and turtles.

What is your favourite part about working at the reef?

Getting to share it with customers and getting to educate the public about the importance of the reef and sharks.

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

Our reef [Ningaloo] is relatively healthy compared to other parts of the world - there's no bleaching or mass tourist impact.

What questions do people always ask you about the reef?

Is the reef dead? A lot of our corals in the lagoon are hard porites coral which have brown coloured algae, therefore they're not as colourful as people have seen on photos or in Asia. People assume they're dead but they're very much alive. People also ask 'Will sharks eat me?'

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

Directly:

1. While snorkelling on the reef, don't stand up or kick the coral
2. Reduce or stop eating seafood!
3. Understand how overfishing and destructive fishing directly harm our reef
4. Don't use sunscreens that are not reef safe

Indirectly, people should reduce their own plastic and waste footprint by saying no to single-use plastics and changing small behaviours to not use plastics. Also, don't use harsh chemicals on gardens that run into the ocean.

What is your favourite reef critter?

Tiger shark.

Find out more about Ningaloo Whaleshark n Dive here:

www.ningaloowhalesharkndive.com.au

Jessica Smith - Marine Tour Guide
Ningaloo Whaleshark n Dive

