



## DIVING THE COCOS KEELING ISLANDS

The Cocos Keeling Islands are part of Australia and offer a unique diving experience!

Made up from 27 smaller islands, forming a U shaped coral atoll, with limited tourism and small population the islands offer secure and safe diving holidays with a maximum of 16 divers in the islands waters at any one time! So there is NEVER any OVER CROWDING of dive sites!!!

### THE FACTS

Location:	2750km North West of Perth and 900km south west of Christmas Island - it's closest neighbour. Lying approximately 12° South and 96.5° East.
Water Temperature:	26°C July to October and 29°C
Land Temperature:	Consistently year round day temperatures of 27-30°C, with tropical humid feel
Dive Level:	Multi level diving, suitable to any level of expertise
No of Dive Sites:	30 plus
Maximum Depth:	40 metres
Requirements:	Open water certificate(recommend Advanced Open Water) or equivalent, Qualification Card and Log Book
Diving Inclusions:	Two multi level boat dives, air fill, cylinders and weights, knowledgeable dive guide, refreshments and generous lunch (advance notice for special dietary needs catered required). Long surface interval usually at Direction Island. Transportation to and from your accommodation to the boat ramp or jetty.
Equipment Hire:	Quality Mares BCD's, Regulators and Uwaterc computers
Bring Your Own:	Thermal protection suits, masks, snorkel and fins
Dive Courses:	SSI Open water Course includes all text books, diving equipment, skills tuition at Direction Island -learn in open water! 4 boat dives and "C" card. Minimum of 4 students. Participants require a current scuba diving medical. Approximately 35-40 hours in duration.

### THE VESSELS:

Sayap Kecil	Purpose Built Dive 5.8m. Powered by two 60hp 4-stroke Yamaha engines. Minimum of 2 paying persons. Maximum of 6 divers (inc crew). Water entry is via backward roll. Sturdy ladder for easy exits. Communal tub for smaller camera's or space on deck for larger ones.
Putri Laut	8.5m aluminium mono hull, powered by a KAD 43 Volvo Penta diesel. Minimum of 5 paying persons. Maximum of 12 divers (inc crew). All divers have their own tank racks plus heaps of storage. Bins are available for camera gear. Launch 2 divers simultaneously and 2 deep ladders enable easy exits.

## POPULAR DIVE SITES:

- Cabbage Patch** Cabbage or Lettuce coral covers approximately 700 square metres from 6 to 18 metres wide. Common sights are stunning corals, garden eels and sleeping white tip reef sharks.
- Cologne Gardens** Wide flat reef with many species of leather corals. Falling sharply from 16 to 50 metres with apricot gorgonian fans on the wall. Common sights are 1000's of blacktail snappers, midnight snapper, fusiliers, grey reef sharks and sweetlip, larger plate corals and sea-anemones.
- Fan Wall** Ridges and walls are covered in huge gorgonian fans. Common sights are longnose hawkfish, Indian Ocean Butterflyfish, the elusive and rare Ornate Angelfish, blue and grey reef sharks, dogtooth tuna, Napoleon Wrasse and Manta Rays
- Two Caves** The Sri Lankan people smuggler was sunk and is covered in Fish Life! Common sights are Harlequin Sweetlip, sharks, black trevally, tuna, manta rays and Kat, the lone Dugong!
- Ski Run** Caters of the adventure diver or macro enthusiast. Common sights are huge gorgonian fans and whip corals, the rare Ornate Angelfish, Manta Rays, Batfish, queenfish, trevally, shrimp, nudibranches, gibbies, blennies, morays, leafy scorpion fish, wrasse and much more!



## GENERAL INFORMATION:

Currency	Australian Dollars (AUD)
Language	English is the official language although the traditional Cocos Islanders speak a derivative of Malay
Time Difference	GMT + 6.5 hours
Power Supply	Standard Australian 3 pin plug is used in all outlets. Current is 240v 50Hz available 24 hours per day
Drinking Water	Water is safe to drink from tap
Diving Emergency	There is no recompression chamber located on the Cocos Islands, the closest chamber is either Perth or Singapore.
Health Services	There are no poisonous plants, insects or animals however reef shoes are highly recommend, stone fish are common in some swimming areas. The use of an Australian Medicare card is accepted and full emergency services and equipped hospital is available if necessary. The islands are free from disease.
Road Rules	Standard Western Australian road rules apply. Seatbelts must be worn at all times and helmets are required for all push bikes, scooters and motorbikes. The speed limit through the settlement area on West Island is 30km and 50km outside.
Mobile Phones	The Cocos Islands have their own mobile network system and no other mobile phone service will operate on the islands.
Internet Services	Wireless Internet is currently not available in all areas. The Telecentre office located in settlement on West Island provides a public internet service.
Banking Facilities	It is advisable to carry a small amount of cash as no ATM banking facilities are available. Most businesses do accept EFTPOS, Visa and Master cards. Diners and American Express are not accepted.
Passport/Visa's	For travel from Perth, Australian citizens require photographic identification. All other visitors will require a valid passport and visa (if required) to enter Australia.

## TRAVEL SUGGESTIONS

Bookings	It is <u>essential to pre book</u> your Cocos Island Dive Holiday! To avoid being booked out on arrival, all diving trips, accommodation, car hire, tours and flights require pre-booking well in advance. The cheaper seats on flights can book out more than 6 months in advance and accommodation, especially the houses also books out quickly.
Luggage	Weight restrictions do apply. Generally 5kg and hand carry and 20kg luggage is the normal. Excess baggage is charged at \$10.00 per kilo. On some National Jet Systems flights, Cocos Dive may be able to offer additional assistance with excess baggage. Please advise the Island Explorer Holidays consultant on booking.
Food	If travelling from Perth, it is possible to bring food if purchased through any local Australian supermarket (receipts required). The Cocos Islands is limited with dining options with only one restaurant and one café. To ensure the most enjoyable holiday, it is recommended to bring any preferred or essential grocery item with you as part of your luggage, as the range of produce is limited. The local supermarket brings in a range of fresh food items but these are carried as airfreight and are more expensive than mainland Australia. Suggested items include favourite cheeses, meats, fruit and vegetables. Other grocery items are brought in via ship and on occasion, delay's can occur.