

Cairns, North Queensland, Australia PADI Referral on The Great Barrier Reef

Do it differently!

If you prefer to do the academic part of the PADI Open Water Diver course in your own country with your local dive center, nothing is stopping you to do so. The PADI referral course allows you to start with the theory and pool sessions at home, and continue with your 4 open water dives at another PADI dive center, anywhere in the world. Only rule is, you have to complete it all within 12 months.

Finishing your course on a liveaboard, is a really nice way of doing it! The adventure of staying out on the reef for three days and the additional 5 extra recreational dives makes this course unmatched for experience and value. Since you have already done your dive theory and all the skills in the pool, you can focus on getting the experience in the open water on one of the most famous reefs in the world.

The Great Barrier Reef is a Marine Park and World Heritage area. It is recognized as one of the world's most unique and amazing marine spectacles and extends for 2300 kilometers along the northeastern coast of Australia. It consists of about 2900 individual reefs and covers an area the size of the United Kingdom. Its ecosystem supports the greatest concentration of life on this planet with its resident marine life including 1,500 species of fish, 350 different kinds of coral, 4000 species of mollusks and 10,000 species of sponges. It also provides breeding areas for humpback whales, sea turtles, dugong and seabirds.



Area name / Island name

Cairns, North Queensland, Australia

Nearest airport

Cairns International Airport

Season

All year round

Center type

PADI 5 Star Training and Instructor
Development center
Rated as one of the top 3 dive centers
in the world

Experience level

None - this is the initial course in the line of
PADI dive courses. You will learn to dive on
this trip!

Minimum age for participation

12 years

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Location

The Cairns region is a major destination for backpackers from around the world. As the gateway to the Great Barrier Reef and the Daintree rainforest, Cairns is an excellent spot for adventure travellers to base themselves. Cairns is the starting point for extended travel in the region including trips to the Daintree Rainforest and Cape York, the Atherton Tableland and Mission Beach area. As a popular tourism destination, there are a range of accommodation options and backpacker tours available in the region.

Your boat

Is one out of 3 custom built multimillion dollar liveaboard dive vessels providing the ideal way to really experience the Great Barrier Reef. These vessels are the only outer reef liveaboard dive boats in the area that are purpose built for what they do. Onboard you will find spacious dive decks and lounge areas and hearty healthy meals between diving and napping on the sundeck. Different options of Wifi are available for those who can't wait to tell their friends about the great experience. All accommodation on board is twin share.

Your room on the boat

Air-con twin share.



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Introduction to course

The PADI Open Water Diver course is the most popular diving certificate in the world. After completing this course you are certified to dive to 18 m independently with a buddy. The PADI diving license is recognized worldwide

The PADI Open Water Referral course is the open water training dive part of the full PADI Open Water course

By completing your confined water training, knowledge development, quizzes and exam with your local PADI center, you only have 4 Open Water dives to complete before you are certified as a PADI Open Water Diver. The 4 open water dives must be completed within a year after your theory and confined water sessions are completed. The Referral course takes 2 days. You must bring your referral training record completed and signed by your PADI instructor.

WHEN TAKING THE COURSE

Diving is a very safe sport. It is open to anyone in good health but a medical form must be filled out before starting the course. Students must also be able to swim at least 200 meters and float for 10 minutes.



The course in short:

Number of Dives:
Four Open Water Dives

Knowledge Development:
Five theoretical modules
(These 5 modules should be finished with your local dive center before you continue with your referral course on this location)

Prerequisites:
10 years for Junior Open Water Diver, 15 years for Open Water Diver. Good health, reasonable fitness and comfort in the water

Materials you'll need:
PADI Open Water Crew Pack, Log Book
(Not included in your package, you should obtain this at the dive center where you start your course)

Equipment you'll use during the course:
Mask, fins, snorkel, tank, regulator, buoyancy compensator, weightbelt, submersible pressure gauge and a wetsuit
(Included in your package)

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Itinerary

The PADI Open Water Course is performance based. That means you have to understand and pass the theory and perform the in-water skills correctly and with ease. To give you an idea of what to expect, see the itinerary below:

Day 1-3

You will spend your time out on the incredible reef, aboard one of the three multimillion dollar liveaboard dive boats. You will have the opportunity to do nine dives on a variety of the exclusive outer reef dive sites. These dives consist of four training dives to complete the certification, then five additional recreational dives to enjoy your new skills and gain some experience. One of these five dives is a guided night dive. These extra dives, especially the night dive, will be a highlight of your dive course and dive trip. On the night of day three, after your return from the reef you have the opportunity to join the crew from your trip for a farewell dinner at a local restaurant. (Dinner at own cost though)

Please note

Due to ocean and weather conditions, the itinerary can be subject to change.

A special Australian medical form must be signed by a doctor prior to course start. Please be sure to obtain the correct medical form from the sales agent and fill it out from home. A medical signature at sight is possible and will cost 65AUD. We advise you to see your own practicing doctor who is aware of your health history.



Activity starts

English courses start every day except
Sundays

Please note that daily start times can vary
from course to course. You will be notified
upon arrival.

Activity start from

Dive center

Group Size

No limit Max. 8 divers pr. Instructor

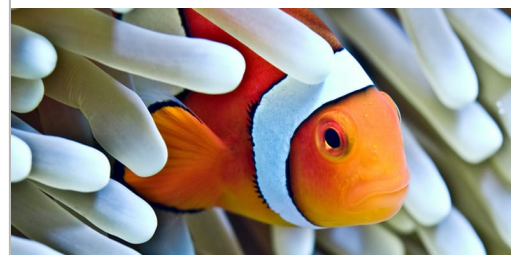
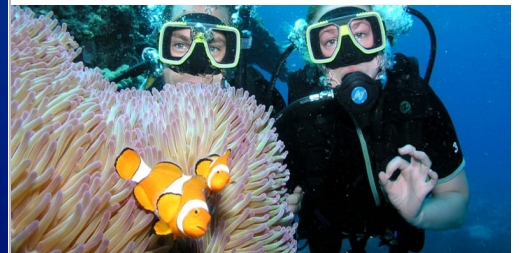
Language

English

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Transfer information

No accommodation on land is included in this package, and extended transfer info is therefore not available. However, traveling into town from Cairns Airport you will have a couple of options. It will cost you approximately AUD\$15.00 from the Airport to Cairns city by taxi. Depending on the hotel you choose to stay in, it may offer free pickups from the Airport so please ask at the time of making your booking.



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Prices below are based on 2 persons sharing accommodation, unless stated otherwise.

REFERRAL COURSE (OPEN WATER)	
Days / Nights	3/2
Amount of dives	9
Price (incl. accommodation)	551 EUR

Supplements	
1 day pool refresher - (certified diver)	122 EUR

Prices for supplementary accommodation are based on 2 persons sharing accommodation, unless stated otherwise.



Included

2 passport photos (needed for certification)
9 dives (4 training dives and 5 pleasure dives
- includes 1 night dive)
Accommodation transfers
All dive equipment (includes wetsuit, dive computer and torches)

On Board Vessel only:

All meals, water, coffee and tea
Twin share accommodation
Bed linen
Dive Insurance

Not included

All PADI course materials
Certification card (obtained at your local dive center)
All meals when not on boat
Alcoholic drinks (You are allowed to bring alcoholic drinks on the boat, but it is not advised to drink more than 2 drinks after diving)
Accommodation when not on boat

Pay On Board Fees

AUD60 per person fee consisting of AUD20 per day for the Government Environmental Management Charge as well as a Port Departure Tax and administration costs

Also available on site

Please ask at location for other continuing education

Continuing education

All continuing courses available on site

Cancellation

As written in terms and conditions

Dive insurance

Basic dive travel insurance required

General terms and conditions

GENERAL CONDITIONS

CHANGES OF BOOKINGS:

You can change your booking request or start date free of charge.

If you need to change your booking you must contact the **dive center** directly by e-mail or phone. You will find the contact details on your voucher. For verification purpose, please remember to mention your name and booking ID.

If you want to change your start date, we recommend that you do so minimum 10 days before the beginning of your dive package. Later than this, might cause the accommodation to be fully booked for alternative dates. During high seasons, 10 days might not be sufficient time, please allow extra time for changes in the high season. As a reminder, you will receive an email with general information and contact information of your dive center 10 days prior to your start date.

CANCELLATION RULES:

Any customer has the right to cancel their booking with Blue Venture Diving. In order to do so, you must contact your selling agent. The cancellation fees and rules of your selling agent will apply for your cancellation.

Blue Venture is not liable for any cancellations done by the customer of personal reason such as/or in the same category as sickness, family, missed flights etc, or other circumstances that is beyond reasonable control such as force majeure.

Blue Venture booking cancellation

In the unlikely event that Blue Venture is forced to cancel a booking, the customer will get direct notice. A cancellation will only happen if Blue Venture finds that the contracted dive center can't perform the needed service of the booked package or if the dive standards can't be fulfilled accordingly. Minor changes in the itinerary will not be defined as a valid cancellation reason, as diving is dictated by the environment and the people enrolled in the activity.

Blue Venture will always do their best to find another operator of same or higher standard, but it is up to the customer to decide whether they want to accept the change or get a refund.

INSURANCE:

A cancellation insurance is not included. It is highly advised recommended that you obtain adequate travel insurance prior to your departure from your home country.

REFUNDS:

Medical Statement

To enroll in an Open Water Course, all students **MUST** fill in the Medical Statement. Please ensure that you have received the medical statement from your travel agent. If any questions are replied with a "Yes", the medical statement must be signed by a doctor. Failing the medical statement at the destination, and therefore not being able to enroll in the diving course, you will not be entitled to a refund.

If you have not received your Medical Statement, please make sure to print it from this link.

<https://blueventure.net/files/information/12.pdf>

Restricted dives

Diving is dictated by the environment and the people enrolled in the activity. All diving is performance based. It is up to the discretion of the dive guide/instructor to restrict divers from entering activities that goes beyond their experience level. All guides strive to reach the expectations of the customers. However, if they find that the safety of the group or an individual is jeopardized or at risk by one or several individuals, it is up to the dive guide/instructor to restrict any divers from entering the water.

In this event the dive center or Blue Venture is not obliged to give a refund.

Dives not completed

There is no refund for dives not carried out.

Refund for dives not done for any reason is up to the discretion of the dive center. Most dive centers do not give refunds for dives not done with personal causes such as seasickness, low on air situations or a failure in mastering the equipment etc. All log books will be checked prior to the dive and the dive sites will be chosen accordingly to the experience level. It is however expected that certified divers keep within their limits and do not cross their comfort zone. Blue Venture and your travel agent is never responsible to pay a refund for dives not done.

Courses not completed

There is no refund for courses not completed! All courses are performance based, but it is up to the instructor to pass the student. If a customer can not complete a course with success they will receive their course documents for an optional referral, but the contracted dive center, your travel agent and Blue Venture is not responsible to pay a refund.

Boats or dives not departing

If boats or dives are cancelled due to bad weather or sea conditions, it is up to the dive center to re-schedule and compensate with a similar dive trip when conditions allow. If the customer does not have adequate time to enroll in another trip/course it is up to the customer to make sure the dive center notify Blue Venture of this in order to secure a refund via the sales agent who completed the sale with the customer. There will only be refund on the diving and not the accommodation.

ACCOMMODATION:

Unless mentioned in the destination information folder the accommodation is always part of the package.

If the dive center by any means can't deliver the agreed accommodation, it is up to their discretion to supply immediate accommodation of the same or higher standard. (the destination information folder is found on the Blue Venture website.)

If the accommodation somehow does not live up to satisfactory standards of the customer, the customer must contact Blue Venture by phone or email as soon as possible (preferably while still on site) in order to solve the problem.

DIVE INSTRUCTORS & DIVE GUIDES:

All contracted dive centers has been handpicked based on their level of professionalism and expertise. Blue Venture ensures that all guides and instructors have the correct education and experience. In the unlikely event that a customer suffers a bad experience with any guide, instructor or dive center facilities, Blue Venture is entitled to know, but can't by any means be held liable.

At the end of you dive experience as questionnaire will be sent out to you, that we would like you to answer. By doing this, you help securing a high level of professionalism towards all customers.

MEDICAL STATEMENT & LOGBOOK:

If you are about to enroll in a dive course (entry level only), you must fill out the RSTC Medical Statement before you leave your home country. Please make sure your agent has provided you with the RSTC Medical Statement. You can also print the medical statement from the link, further up on this page. If you need the medical statement reviewed by a doctor, you have 10 days from the date of the booking with the option of cancelling for free.

If you are already certified as a diver and about to go fundiving, you must remember your current dive certificate and your personal logbook or dive computer.