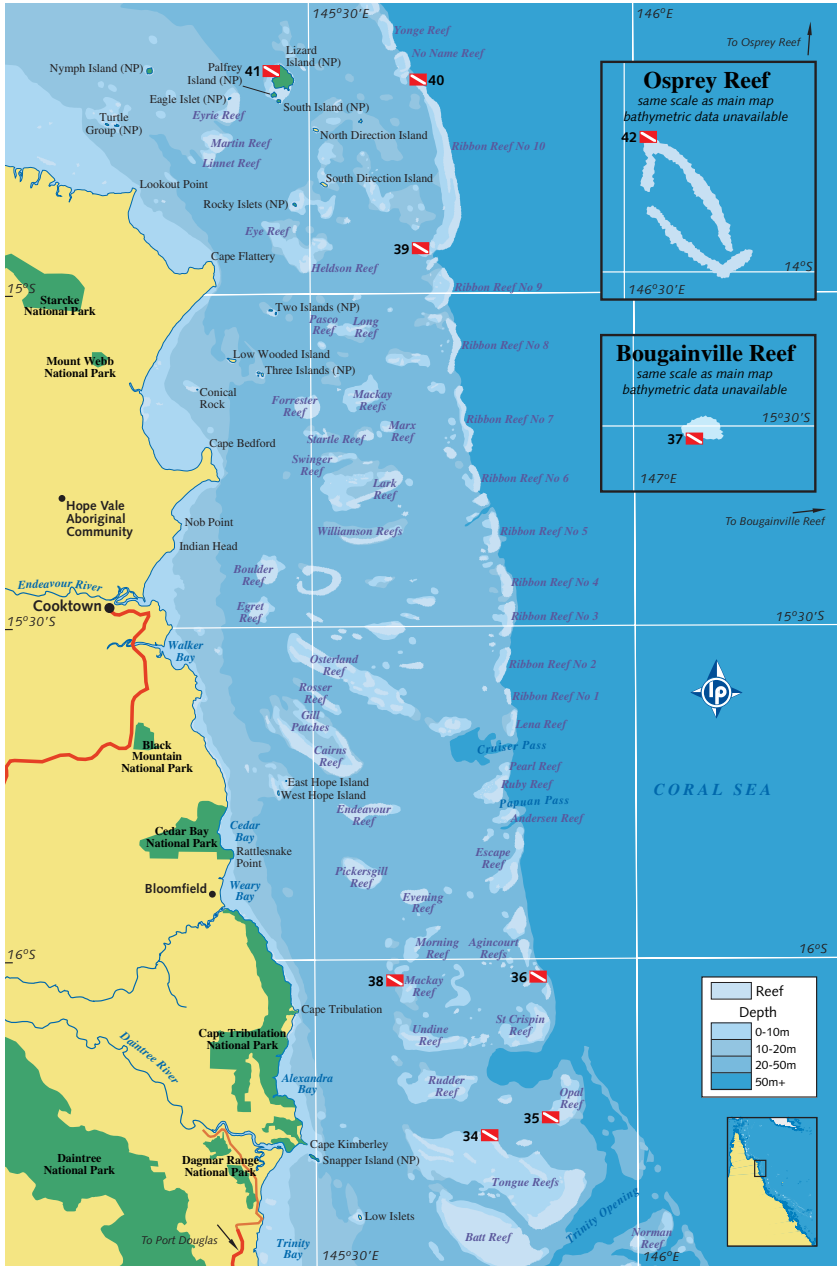


Port Douglas



Port Douglas Dive Sites



A famed 'hideaway' for movie stars and presidents, Port Douglas is Australia's premier tropical destination. No longer a sleepy village, it is decidedly friendly, casual and energetic, with the highest number of restaurants per capita in the country.

Port (as it is locally known) is the coastal centre located closest to the Australian Wet Tropics (which includes 19 National Parks, 31 State Forests, timber reserves and an Aboriginal Reserve) and the Great Barrier Reef (GBR). Both of these enormous areas were designated UNESCO World Heritage Areas, in 1988 and 1981 respectively.

Port's Four Mile beach is delightful, with a central marina harbouring many dive boats, yachts and private vessels. Adventure trips in addition to diving and snorkeling include rafting, kayaking, horse riding, ballooning, 4WD, motorcycling and mountain biking. A wide range of accommodations – from camping grounds to 5-star hotels – are available.

Day trips to the reefs (starting around 90 minutes) can be made on large wave-piercing catamarans, smaller 10-30 person vessels and helicopters. Several

extended stay and charter boats operate to the Ribbon Reefs, Coral Sea and Far Northern Reefs from here as well. Low Isles, just 15km offshore, is a popular nearby destination, with a sand cay and mangrove cay on a typical mid-shelf reef. The mangrove cay is closed during the nesting season of thousands of Torresian Imperial Pigeons, from August to February. Agincourt and Opal Reefs extend southwards from the Ribbons and are also popular outer edge reefs on this narrow part of the continental shelf, generally giving better visibility.

Port Douglas Dive Sites

	GOOD SNORKELING	NOVICE	INTERMEDIATE	ADVANCED
34 TONGUE REEF – TURTLE BAY	•	•		
35 OPAL REEF – BARRACUDA PASS	•		•	
36 AGINCOURT REEF – CASTLE ROCK	•	•		
37 THE ZOO – BOUGANVILLE REEF	•	•		
38 MACKAY REEF	•	•		
39 PIXIE'S PINNACLE	•	•		
40 RIBBON REEF NO 10 – THE COD HOLE	•	•		
41 LIZARD ISLAND – COBIA HOLE			•	
42 OSPREY REEF – NORTH HORN	•		•	