



GREAT BARRIER REEF MARINE CONSERVATION

Cairns, QUEENSLAND
AUSTRALIA

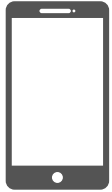
THANK YOU for booking your volunteer placement with Oceans 2 Earth Volunteers
Please read this information carefully, as it explains everything you need to know to prepare for
your trip and what to expect when you arrive



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Please consider the environment before printing this book. It looks just as good on your computer, tablet or phone!

Contact Information



Please note: Prior to starting your placement, please direct all correspondence to O2E on:

+614 5004 7100 (Whats App)
0450 047 100 (If calling from Australia)



While you are in Australia:

O2E Emergency Phone/WhatsApp:
+61-4-5004 7100 (Whats App)
0450 047 100 (If calling from Australia)

Volunteer & Research Coordinator
+61-433-133-543 (WhatsApp or call)



Australian Police
and Ambulance
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**Save these numbers
in your phone!**

About Marine Conservation Program

Project Overview

The Oceans 2 Earth Volunteers' Marine Conservation Program offers students the opportunity to participate in conservation activities and environmental research providing unique contributions to the wellbeing and preservation of the Far North Queensland eco-systems. This initiative aims to ensure each person walks away with a great deal of self-fulfillment from participating in our once in a lifetime program and strives onwards to protecting and preserving our precious planet. We want you to be impassioned and empowered to protect Mother Nature and the Great Barrier Reef is the perfect place to start.

Work locations are based in the Cairns area or on nearby tropical islands. There are three key project components divided according to the week's schedule – research, conservation and the Indigenous context. Research is conducted in work sessions that incorporate in-water surveys, reef monitoring, data collection of marine species and environmental elements. The second phase that is undertaken on the reef is conservation. This is where we make small changes for the greater cause to clear rubbish, remove marine debris, and contribute to local conservation initiatives with our partners. Thirdly, each day our Cultural Lead shares stories and Indigenous experiences with the group. This is not only a valuable, unique learning experience but ensures that we operate with the greatest respect, acknowledging the Traditional Owners of land and sea.



Our program's activities offer the experience firsthand, the beauty of the iconic Great Barrier Reef, blessed with the breathtaking beauty of the world's largest coral reef system and the majestic and unique Tropical Reef Islands.

Participants must have enthusiasm, compassion for marine life, be able to take directions, be a competent swimmer comfortable in the ocean and have a team spirit. We require all hands on deck to achieve this crucial mission, and these goals are only possible with passionate advocates working on the ground.

The Organisation's Objectives

The program has been developed to allow people with little to no reef or research experience to be involved in the marine conservation effort. Assisting us with an established reef monitoring program to help a dedicated team of Marine Biologists and other industry professionals in observing long term coral health on the Great Barrier Reef and joining forces with Marine Debris initiatives to clean up the Reef, providing a healthy environment for marine species to flourish, whilst contributing to the growing research about the effects of plastics and other debris in our oceans.

There are long-term impacts that are occurring right now that are having permanent and devastating consequences. This include ocean acidification, climate change, coral bleaching and general degradation of this underwater paradise. With death and decay resulting from this negligence, it is up to us to set such objectives to ensure that future generations can enjoy what we have taken for granted.

Common Challenges Encountered

The main requirement is to be confident in the water and to be able to swim a minimum of 50 metres.

You also have to be able to adapt to a warm and humid climate, as well as taking instruction from the team and applying them directly to the task at hand. Volunteers can require additional time to adjust outside their normal surrounds and comfort zone.



Getting Ready to Go - Preparation

Feel free to email O2E at any time during the lead up to your program as we are always happy to advise on preparations and answer any questions you have about your trip.



Packing List

Participants are required to bring the following items :



- Phone with good data coverage
 - Eco friendly 1+litre drinking bottle
 - Reusable lunchbox and coolpack
 - Snorkelling mask, snorkel and fins
 - Waterproof watch (ATM10) *
 - Work gloves
 - Lightweight work clothes
 - UV protection sunglasses
 - Swimwear
 - Long sleeved Rashie
 - You may want to consider bringing or purchasing a 3mm wetsuit when travelling in September if you feel the cold
 - Sunhat, cap or bandana
 - Quick dry towel
 - Go Pro or waterproof camera (for great underwater shots)
 - Day pack (either a small/medium backpack or dry bag)
 - Closed toes shoes such as reef shoes, crocs, trainers or work boots
- *Recommended but not compulsory. Water resistance rating of 100 meters (ATM10) means your watch can safely go swimming, snorkeling, and other water sports—but not scuba diving. 200-meter (20ATM) water resistance rating can accompany you on shallow dives. We don't recommend any particular watch or brand but you can search Amazon for "watch 10ATM" for options or try [www.https://deathlon.com.au/](https://deathlon.com.au/)
O2E uses the Kalenji W900 Running Fitness Watch from Decathlon. Retail \$49.00

- Minimum 30 SPF factor sunscreen – REEF Friendly
- Insect repellent - On the Island there are little insects called midges which they can be quite annoying as they give you little bites.



- Please consider the environment when packing and purchase eco-friendly products!



Volunteer Duties

Reef Monitoring

"The Great Barrier Reef is in grave danger. The twin perils brought by climate change – an increase in the temperature of the ocean and in its acidity – threaten its very existence." – Sir David Attenborough



Volunteers are trained in methodology of in-water surveying of the coral reef system during orientation.

On research days, they take a boat to either Fitzroy Island or Green Island on the Great Barrier Reef to undertake in-water surveys. In-water training takes place on the first day of surveying.

Volunteers are required to use snorkeling equipment (their own), waterproof watch (their own), cameras, measuring tape and data recording sheets to complete these timed surveys.

All volunteers must wear a full length lycra stinger suit (supplied) during this work as a safety measure. Each work session lasts approximately 2.5 hours with alternating periods in the water completing surveys and on land ensuring thorough data records are kept.

Marine Debris Collection & Research & Sorting

18,000 pieces of plastic are estimated to float in every square kilometre of ocean. 633 species worldwide including 77 Australian species are impacted by marine debris. – Australian Marine Debris Initiative



A unique opportunity to collect and sort through rubbish! Yes, that's right. Marine debris is a massive issue in every ocean in the world, with devastating impact on marine life.

Education is provided for all volunteers about the vital importance of this work, how to sort marine debris for recycling and/or repurposing.

Volunteers are provided with debris collection equipment to complete structured collection activities at highly polluted areas. Volunteers are required to wear their closed toes shoes and work gloves for safety.

Turtle Identification Research

"For more than 100 million years sea turtles have covered vast distances across the world's oceans, filling a vital role in the balance of marine habitats. 7 species of sea turtles grace our ocean waters and most are endangered"

Volunteers are given an induction to discuss the threats that have contributed to the endangerment of marine turtles. Volunteers will be involved in a Marine Turtle Identification Study. The study aims are:

- To video and record individual animals in the wild, contributing to the catalogue of turtles in specific locations.
- To document distinguishing features of each animal which make that individual recognisable.
- To determine behaviour and residency of turtles in fringing reef locations.

Volunteers are given information prior to the study and are trained on how to conduct the activities required.

Volunteers will spend time swimming with wild turtles videoing each animal in the fringing reef areas of tropical islands off Cairns.

Volunteers are required to snorkel during this data collection activity. Each day's work session takes approximately 3 hours before volunteers are allocated a ferry to return to Cairns (between 12pm and 5pm).





PROGRAM

- Day 0: Sunday Arrival
- Day 1: Monday Full day Marine Biology & Orientation
- Day 2 & 3 : Tuesday-
& Wednesday Reef Monitoring & Turtle Identification Survey
- Day 4: Thursday Marine Debris/Beach Clean up
- Day 5: Friday Time on Country with Traditional Owners
- Depart Cairns



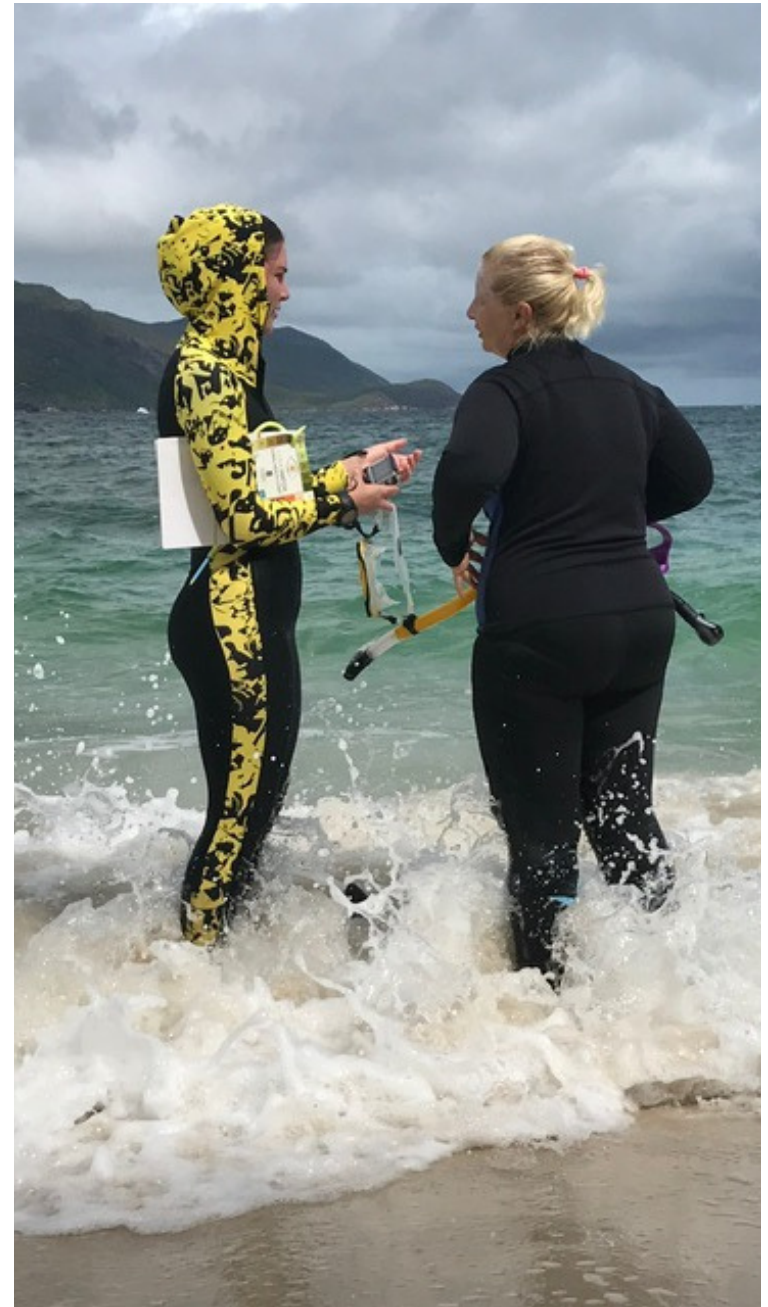
CHANGES

- Please note that the program is subject to change for a variety of reason such as weather, boat cancellations or changes and/or data collection requests by research partners.

Responsibilities and Behaviour

The Rules

- Listen ...
 - to instructions for your safety – if you don't understand ask again.
- Do not ...
 - pick up or touch any animal in the wild.
 - remove coral or any part of the Great Barrier Reef from where you found it. Apart from harming a living organism and its environment, if you are caught at Australian Customs with this biological (living) material, you may be fined heavily.
- Do...
 - drink lots of water.
 - wear and reapply sunscreen when in the field and in the ocean.
- Use your common sense
 - For example, do not put your hand near any animals' head or mouth. They can move fast and they bite!



Be the Change

Many people have the desire to give back to the environment but most fail to follow through. Congratulations on being one of the few who sees the value in contributing their time and money to helping our beautiful planet.

On behalf of the animals and organisations you will be working with...

Thank you!



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