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Our odyssey aboard

Destiny

10 days sailing the Whitsunday islands on a Seawind 1160 38ft Catamaran

The Whitsunday Islands



The Whitsundays are a group of more than 150 islands and inlets off the sub-tropical central Queensland coast of Australia between approximately 20° and 21° south latitude. While there is contention as to exactly which islands are within the informally named Whitsunday Islands, what is certain is that they lie within the chain named '*The Cumberland Isles*' by Captain Cook (the Cumberland Islands).

Captain James Cook sailed through the Whitsunday Passage during his voyage around Australia in 1770. It's believed he travelled through the area on the ancient British festival of Whit Sunday (the Seventh Sunday after Easter).

The Central Group of the Whitsunday Islands lie in the heart of the Great Barrier Reef. These 74 islands provide a true Queensland paradise that continually surprise with the unexpected and provide the freedom to relax, adventure, romance and reflect all at the same time.

The brilliant turquoise color of the Whitsunday waters is caused by the scattering of light by particles of fine sediments that come mostly from the river systems of the mainland. Huge tides (typically 3–5 meters in rise and fall) that sweep this part of the coast keep these sediments stirred up and scatter the sunlight, in the same way that scattering of light gives the sky its blue color.

Most of the Whitsunday Islands are beautiful, tropical deserted islands, with stunning natural landscapes of coast and dotted with secluded beaches that give meaning to the famous quote from William G.T Shedd '*A ship in a harbor is safe, but that is not what ships are built for*'.

Destiny

Destiny is a Seawind 1160 in the Cumberland Charter Yacht fleet, based in Abell Point Marina, Airlie Beach.

The Seawind 1160 creatively blends key concepts of other popular Seawind models, creating a vessel that successfully combines the huge living space and all round visibility. The cabins have a luxurious fit out, the forward port side cabin offers a large island bed and the further 2 doubles are light and airy.

The saloon is spacious and opens out on to the cockpit, providing a fantastic entertaining space. The fully equipped galley has the feel of a gourmet kitchen!

For more information on availability and pricing, go to www.ccy.com.au or call Jenny at Cumberland Charter Yachts on 1800 075 101. All of our dealings with CCY were fantastic!

Specifications

Type	Sailing Catamaran
Length	11.6 Metres (38 Feet)
Beam	6.5 Metres
Draft	1.1 Metres
Headroom	1.9 Metres
Survey Limit	1F Extended
Star Rating	5 Star
PAX Maximum	8

Accommodation

Private Cabins	3
Double Berths	4
Interior Showers	2
Toilets	2
Water capacity	800 Litres

Power

Engines	2 x 30HP Inboard Diesels
Fuel capacity	360 Litres
Furling Sail (s)	Headsail
Steering Type	Twin Wheel
Anchor winch	Electric
Instruments	Sounder, Wind, Speed and Plotter

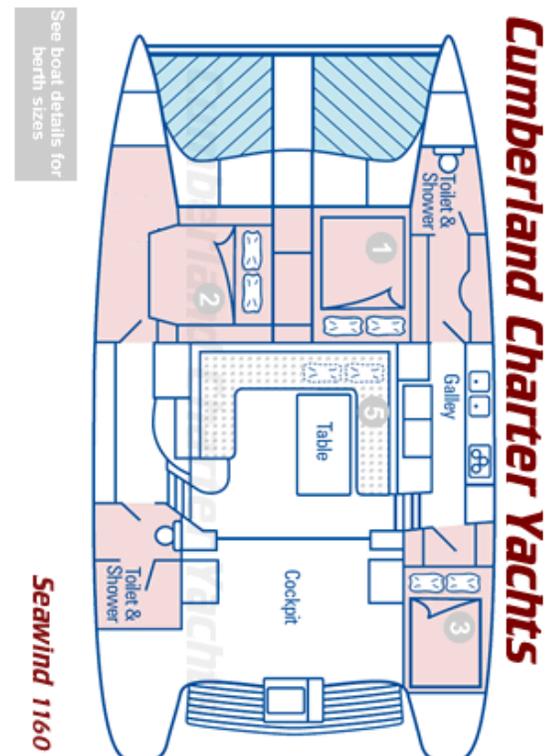
Galley

Refrigeration	130 Litres Upright Fridge
Freezer	60 Litre Chest Freezer
Oven	Yes
Deck BBQ	Yes

*information from www.ccy.com.au

Comforts

AM/FM Radio
Cassette Player
CD Player
TV/ VCR
240 Volt Power
Fans
Bimini
Deck Esky
Deck Shower



Day 1 – Briefing at Abell Point Marina and Sailing to Long Island

The Briefing

Luckily, all of the hard work of loading the boat and packing the fridges had been completed the night before. Our sail guide Terry arrived just after 8am to run through the boat and area briefing. Kaitlyn and Mum took a dip in the Airlie Beach Lagoon while the rest of us heard horror stories of blocked toilets and running into reefs. All in all the briefing was informative and provided us with everything we needed to know about the boat, AV system, Raymarine navigator and running gear. The hard part – the sails - was the next to come.



Underway!

We motored out of the marina full of anticipation about what the days ahead would be like. We set a short course towards pioneer rocks and then spent some time going through anchoring procedures and completing the required radio checks and log ons.



Setting Sail

Turning into the wind for the first of many times to come, we hoisted the main sail, turned off 40 degrees, set the head sail, shut the engines off and we were sailing! The days sailing took us past Pioneer Rocks, south down Molle Channel, through Unsafe Pass into the Whitsunday Passage and then back past Daydream Island where we dropped the sail guide off. Everything had gone swimmingly well with the sail guide showing us small adjustments to make. Problem was, we knew how to make the adjustments to the sail but not when we needed to do it! Needless to say the sail from Daydream to Long Island took a little longer than we expected but it was clear we had starting our sometimes tempestuous relationship with Destiny.

Tides	Winds & Conditions	Morning	Lunch	Afternoon / Evening	Comments
0004 2.74m	NE, 10-15kn, tending north in the afternoon. Calm sailing conditions	Abell Point Marina	Sailing, en-route to the Whitsunday Passage	Happy Bay, Long Island	Breakfree Long Island, good casual atmosphere, recommended
0558 0.55m					
1243 3.27m					
1901 0.98m					



Day 2 – Happy Bay to Chalkies (Stockyard) Beach

(continued) We arrived at Long Island a bit later than expected but were happy to be there. Happy Bay is a great little modest resort with pale-ale on tap, a pool bar and relaxed atmosphere.

Accommodation is available in the resort, or yachts can pick up one of the many moorings in the bay and tender in / out for island activities, drinks and dinner. After an early dinner and many requests from the toddler to go swimming, we headed back to Destiny for an early night.

In the morning Rob, Kaitlyn and David tendered back to the island (identifying on the way the channel we should have used the previous night). As promised Rob and Kaitlyn went for a long swim and then a shower. The resort and pool were much less busy than the night before and it appeared that late night activities were more predominant than early morning activities at the resort.

After breakfast and back aboard Destiny we were all keen to get sailing given we had a fair bit of distance to cover and the sailing crew had few wrinkles to iron out.

Our days sailing took us around the northern end of Long Island, across the Whitsunday Passage (without a single tack and decent wind!) to the north of Henning Island, between Whitsunday and Hamilton Islands through Fitzalan Passage, past Turtle and Chance Bays, through Solway Passage and to the western side of Hasslewood Island. While Destiny did come into the wind a few times we were reaching a negotiated comfort with the boat. A favorable wind direction made for a more direct route and we spent most of the day sitting between 7 and 8 knots. The highlight was cracking 8.2 knots under sail coming past Turtle Bay!

Relaxing afternoons

This was to be our first night at anchor and we chose Chalkies Beach - a challenging anchorage with a small 5 metre shelf that drops off to 30 meters. After setting the anchor we made preparations for sunset - Moët, cheese and nibbles and our afternoon exploration of the beach.

It had been a long day sailing for Kaitlyn and she loved running up and down the pristine sand beach and it didn't take her long to find her way in to the crystal clear warm waters of the Whitsundays.





Snorkeling and Diving Chalkies

The next morning Margaret decided to go for a short walk on the beach and to have some quiet time reflecting in this amazing setting – she didn’t really think through the suitability of taking the toddler along for this activity. The rest of the crew seized the opportunity to don snorkels / dive tanks and disappear off the back of the boat quicker than you could say – ‘has any seen Kaitlyn’s’ The afternoon on the beach did however produce the first of many beautifully decorated sand castles.

David and Rob dived north, working along the reef wall, exploring the coral and many drop offs. Jen snorkeled along the reef and over the top of pristine coral seeing lots of color and marine life. Jen also spent some time introducing Kaitlyn to the idea of snorkeling.

While a slightly challenging anchorage initially, Chalkies provided excellent access to the beach as well as reef right off the back of the boat. We all had a quiet night’s sleep with a gentle breeze coming through the open hatches.



Tides	Winds & Conditions	Morning	Lunch	Afternoon / Evening	Comments
0052 2.53m	10kn SE, tending 15-20kn ESE later in day, seas to 1m	Happy Bay, Long Island	Chalkies	Chalkies	Chalkies is a challenging but rewarding anchorage in these conditions
0645 0.68m					
1335 3.20m					
2009 1.07m					

Day 3 – Chalkies & Whitehaven Beach (south)

After cleaning up all of the dive and snorkel gear we fired the engines, upped the anchor and started the short motor across from Chalkies to the famous Whitehaven Beach. While it only took 15 minutes to get there, it took about the same time to anchor as we had trouble getting the anchor to set in the fine sand. We also managed to throw a fuse on the anchor winch that provided some color and movement to the morning. Part of the entertainment of Whitehaven is the comings and goings of all the tourist boats. In between these boats, the beach is quite nice.

We spent a relaxing afternoon between the boat, beach and water. Kaitlyn loved the beach and water and enjoyed going out to the deep water on Daddy’s back, jumping off from time to time to go for a swim or to show how long she could tread water for.

In the afternoon Kaitlyn, Jen and Rob walked to the southern end of the beach, exploring and climbing on the rocks before walking back for the obligatory sunset drinks on the back deck of Destiny.

Our night at Whitehaven was calm but a bit noisy thanks to an all night party on a near by mono-hull sailing boat.

Early the next morning others (in a 6metre power cat) who were closer than us, and apparently a bit more upset, repaid the favor by practicing some high speed circle work around the yacht and washing down the decks with the engines trimmed out before heading off for the day! At the same time the group of kayakers who had camped for the night cheered loudly from the beach before heading off to their next destination.



Tides	Winds & Conditions	Morning	Lunch	Afternoon / Evening	Comments
0152 2.35m	East, 10-15kn changing to 10kn northerly, seas below 1m	Chalkies	Whitehaven Beach (South)	Whitehaven Beach (South)	Whitehaven is a must to go to, but there are better, places to see ;)
0747 0.82m					
1442 3.14m					
2137 1.06m					

Day 4 – Whitehaven Beach & Torres Harold Bay



We spent all morning and part of the afternoon on Whitehaven. David and Margaret took the opportunity to walk the track from Whitehaven, across Whitsunday Island to Chance Bay, looping back around through the track lined with hoop pines and pandanus. The track was shaded, a total change of scenery and a welcome change from the heat and sun of the beach.

Jen, Rob and Kaitlyn spent the morning on the beach watching the coming and goings the boats.

It had been a big morning and as the sailing crew pulled the anchor and set sail for Turtle Bay, Kaitlyn took the opportunity for a long sleep.

Our peaceful sail was disrupted as we passed Chance Bay with the scream of a reel. Jen abandoned captain duty and jumped on the end of the rod. After a short struggle we had a nice 70cm-ish school mackerel aboard that would serve us well for dinner.

There were a number of boats in Turtle Bay so we had a scout around and found a small bay to the East that would provide good protection and was enclosed by reef. Best of all, there were no other boats!

With the anchor set, we headed out in the tender to explore the bay and ended up around the corner on a beach in Crayfish Bay. En-route we saw many turtles and even two large turtles mating. On the beach Jen found a collection of exquisite shells that had been well preserved through the decades. It's these small treasures that made exploring so much fun.



Tides	Winds & Conditions	Morning	Lunch	Afternoon / Evening	Comments
0320 2.27m	NNE 10-15kn, seas less than 1m	Whitehaven Beach (South)	Whitehaven Beach (South)	Torres Herald Bay, Crayfish Bay, Turtle Bay	There are some great smaller bays opposite Turtle bay – nice & quiet!
0909 0.92m					
1608 3.17m					
2302 0.89m					

Day 5 –Torres Harold Bay, Hamilton & Tongue Inlet

Early Start

It was going to be a busy day that would involve filling up the water tanks and a spot of re-provisioning at Hamilton Island before heading back onto the eastern side of the island and sailing up to Tongue Inlet for the night. Given the short distance to Hamilton we motored around eating an early breakfast en-route.



Hamilton Island

Once moored at Hamilton Jen and Margaret went to pick up some provisions. Rob (a little too quickly) offered to look after Kaitlyn and once ready, was on a shuttle bus that took him, David and Kaitlyn on a tour of the island to get to the other side of the hill! Once finally at the pool, and with the pool bar open, all had a good time! With the provisioning done and delivered back to the boat (despite a minor dispute with a forklift) we had a quick lunch at the Tavern and were all very pleased to be back on the water, en-route to the northern end of Whitehaven Beach.

Hill Inlet

Our afternoon’s sail took us back through the familiar Fitzalan Passage and past the bays on the southern end of Whitsunday Island. Once on the outside of the Islands again, we tacked north along Whitehaven. We reached Tongue Inlet about an hour before high tide – perfect timing to make the short walk across to the outlook and beautiful sand of Hill Inlet. Kaitlyn and Rob spent what seemed like hours exploring the foreshore. The best part was that we had the whole place to ourselves – an experience that we didn’t really realise the uniqueness of at the time.



Tides	Winds & Conditions	Morning	Lunch	Afternoon / Evening	Comments
0455 2.40m	N10-15kn tending northeasterly, seas less than 1m	Torres Herald Bay	Hamilton Island	Tongue Bay	Pit stop at Hamilton to pick up water (down to 551 litres)
1041 0.87m					
1727 3.23m					

Day 6 – Tongue Inlet to Cateran Bay



An unexpected shower during the night and our first night of continuing northerlies lead to a late start. Kaitlyn, still disappointed that she had missed out on seeing Jen's fish from the day before, was keen to go fishing so she put her little rod down over the back and caught her first ever fish. It was a small but beautiful reef fish that we released.

The leisurely morning allowed us to see the coming and goings of the many tourist boats that were coming in to do the walk across to Hill Inlet that we had done the previous night in isolation. After seeing little blue inflates being loaded to the hilt we were pleased to be aboard Destiny and able to set our own itinerary.

After going for a short dive to retrieve a snagged fishing line and sitting down to a nice breakfast of bacon and eggs (during two plungers of coffee) we upped anchor, set the sail and headed for Boarder Island and Cateran Bay.

It was a good sailing day. After some advice from Craig (Scarlett) on the email, and some more sail tinkering, we had Destiny sailing and turning well.

The combination of sharper turns for tacking as well as having the headsail in tight, but further out on the traveller made the boat sail a lot better and reduced instances of coming around.

Our journey took us on the eastern side of Dumbell Island and with a few tacks we were safely anchored on the northwestern side of Cateran Bay as there was another boat on the single available mooring.

Jen and Margaret took the opportunity for a snorkel while Kaitlyn had a sleep in the Tender with Rob who was providing snorkel support.





While the conditions for snorkeling were not 100%, the snorkeling was some of the best of the trip. Kaitlyn achieved a major developmental milestone at Cateran Bay, learning how breathe through a snorkel while floating with Jen above the wonders that lay beneath. While we had practiced and spoken about how cool snorkeling was, Jen and Rob were very proud parents when their three year old (nearly four) managed to put it all together. This would be the first of many snorkels for Kaitlyn over the next few days – and once she had discovered the wonders of the underwater world there were many, many requests of mum, dad, can we go snorkeling please!

Our afternoon was interrupted by a thought about the tanks we forgot to empty en-route, so after a trip back out to sea, we returned to Cateran Bay to find the Bay empty and the single mooring available for us to pick up.

Once moored safely, we dropped the tender and headed across to the small beach at the end of the bay. Kaitlyn, Jen and Rob built sandcastles and decorated them with all sorts of shells, sticks and rocks. Preliminary investigations that afternoon also confirmed that we should go exploring the hills that sat above the Bay in the morning.

Cateran Bay was good for the conditions, with a little roll from the northeasterly winds.

Before turning in, we noticed the abundance of massive batfish that had congregated under the boat as well as a large grey shape that we were quite unsure of.



Tides	Winds & Conditions	Morning	Lunch	Afternoon / Evening	Comments
0011 0.65m	NE 10-15, turning north to 10kn in the afternoon and strengthening, Seas to 1m	Toungue Inslet	Cateran Bay	Cateran Bay	Caterman bay is on the return list to explore the bays on the eastern side!
0610 2.65m					
1158 0.73m					
1833 3.48m					



Day 7 – Cateran Bay & Butterfly Bay

The northerly change came through at approximately 2am (1.53am to be precise) and made for a rolly early morning. Not any worse than Tongue Inlet and we were all again pleased to be aboard a decent size cat.

A few hours later, after breakfast, we loaded the tender and made the short trip to the beach. Rob, Jen and Kaitlyn headed to the back of the beach (behind the Cateran Bay sign) to sniff out a trail that might lead to the top of the mountain. Not really a trail, but there was enough resemblance of a path that had been used previously to navigate over the rocky crops and through the hundreds of black boys growing on the side of the cliff and reach the top. Kaitlyn absolutely loved the adventure and suitably met the challenge of large rocks and some tricky conditions that presented an obstacle to her reaching the summit!

The top of the hill was absolutely amazing. Looking down and seeing all of the colors of a perfect and picturesque bay was an experience very difficult to explain. The sense of adventure and solitary was reinforced by looking down and seeing only a single white dot in the bay - that was indeed our 38 foot sailing boat.

The exploring didn't stop there. Further exploration identified a rock pile that had been built from the many visitors to the summit

adding one rock each. Of course the toddler needed to find a large rock and insist on placing it on the top of the pile.

A short hike across to the other side of the summit revealed a series of beautiful bays that were calm in the northerly and had crystal clear water – next time these bays will provide for some excellent snorkeling and diving. Looking further East another long white beach on Deloraine Island looked inviting – again a destination to be properly explored perhaps on the next visit.

All the exploring was making us hungry so we found a suitably flat rock, laid out a towel and sat down for a an apple, banana and muesli bar – our very own hill top picnic.

The trip down the mountain was a bit more technical than the traverse up, but we all managed to make it down without any cuts or bumps.

Margaret had spent the time exploring the beach and found a number of small creatures and rocks.

Before heading off, we just had to find out what that big grey shape that kept appearing at the back of the boat with the batfish was. After a bit of exploring, we discovered it to be a massive resident giant trevally (GT)!



Butterfly Bay

On arrival at Butterfly Bay we found the bay pretty much empty except for a couple of boats. Importantly, the third mooring in on the western side of the bay was available, which provides good access to the reef from the back of the boat. For the afternoon, we took the tender over and explored the beach and rocks on the eastern side of the bay. Kaitlyn played happily on the beach making a really long line of precious collectables and had a great time swinging from pandanus palms and landing in the soft white sand. Rob and Kaitlyn also went rock hopping along the shoreline, which gradually changed from sand to boulder rocks.

In the bay, the northerly was in full force and making things a bit bumpy so Rob and David abandoned plans for a high tide dive, and instead Destiny set sail for the calm waters of Butterfly Bay.

Our days sailing took us from Boarder Island around the northeastern end of Hook Island. On the way we passed Saba and Mackerel bays which are reportedly good for snorkeling and diving in the right conditions and the past Pinnacle, Manta Ray and Luncheon Bays and Maureen’s Cove before arriving at the beautiful Butterfly Bay.



Tides	Winds & Conditions	Morning	Lunch	Evening	Comments
0109 0.44m	N-NW 10-15kn shifting N-NE in the afternoon, Seas to 1m	Cateran Bay	Sailing	Butterfly Bay	The walk to the top of the hill and exploring the summit is recommended
0712 2.92m					
1303 0.59m					
1930 3.57m					

Day 8 – Butterfly Bay

After a restful night's sleep (with the exception of a few midnight trips to the front of the boat to sort out the banging mooring buoy) we rose to a picture perfect sunrise over smooth water. As we were eating breakfast David pointed out four goats who were making their way along the rocks lining the eastern side of the bay – an interesting sight and not something we expected to see on the Whitsunday Islands.



After breakfast we took to some boathold chores including rubbish, sweeping, cleaning and washing before heading out for a snorkel on the western side of the bay following some advice from our sail guide on the first day that this is the best coral in the bay. And right he was, we snorkeled quite a few sites in the bay during our couple of days there and this site defiantly provided the greatest variety of coral and fish, not to mention having almost 100% coral

Jen and Margaret had a great snorkel, all by themselves out in the deep water, returning with tales of big fish and terrific coral. This of course led to Kaitlyn wanting to go out in the deep water and to jump off the back of the boat like everyone else to go snorkeling. Rob of course obliged and after some initial concerns about the bottom being a long way away, Kaitlyn was off – kicking around here and there, floating and pointing at every single fish!



The rest of the day was spent just meandering around the bay and the deck. As the day went on, the conditions improved and the bay became very popular. At one point were sure we would need to move for the night, but just as we were thinking about whether to stay at Maureen’s Cove or Luncheon Bay, a mooring became available just after 3pm, which meant we were able to stay for another night.



Tides	Winds & Conditions	Morning	Lunch	Afternoon / Evening	Comments
0156 0.30m	Variable winds, mainly from the east 10-15kn	Butterfly Bay	Butterfly Bay	Butterfly Bay	Coral and snorkling is better (exquisite) on north western side – from beach
0804 3.14m					
1357 0.51m					
2017 3.56m					



Day 9 – Langford Island, Reef & Blue Pearl Bay

An early start had us around the northwestern tip of Hook Island, past Hayman Island and moored up next to Langford Island with plenty of time to prepare for the morning activities including a dive on Langford reef for David and Rob and a trip to Langford Island for Margaret, Jen and Kaitlyn.

The conditions were good for diving, despite a little surface chop created by the continuing northwesterly wind.

David and Rob covered a lot of ground due to the current that was running. While there was abundant coral and fish life, the highlight of the dive was the largest turtle that either had ever seen, sitting underneath a large bommie.

Wanting to save some air for a third and final dive later in the trip, this was a short dive and rather than fight the current back to the boat Rob and David opted to come up next to the island and wait for a pick up.

Jen Margaret and Kaitlyn soon turned up ready for more sandy adventures and exploring which they did while the boys cleaned up the dive gear and restocked the fridges and freezers.

Just after 11am, we dropped the mooring - that was now in high demand from a number of other boats – and headed around the southwestern point of Hayman Island to Blue Pearl Bay.

The conditions at Blue Pearl were absolutely fantastic. The easterly aspect of the bay sheltered it from the now predominantly northwesterly winds and the water was a amazing clear blue color.

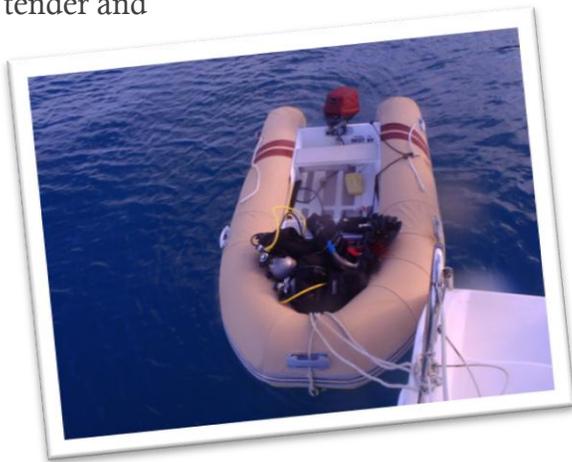
We pulled up for lunch and snorkeled the reef, which was again a stones throw from the back of Destiny. After confirming the suitability of the anchorage of overnight with Cumberland base, we decided to stay for the night.

Tides	Winds & Conditions	Morning	Lunch	Afternoon / Evening	Comments
0237 0.24m	Easterly 10-15kn, seas to 1.5m	Butterfly Bay, to Langford Island for a dive	Blue Pearl	Blue Pearl	Time your snorkling for 2 hours either side of low tide – works a treat!
0849 3.30m					
1443 0.49m					
2100 3.47m					

Day 10 – Blue Pearl Bay, The Pinnacles & Stonehaven Anchorage

Diving Blue Pearl Bay – Castle Rock

After an early start and Kaitlyn requesting banana, pear, apple and peaches on her Weet-Bix it was all systems go to get the dive gear ready. We had observed a number of tourist boats diving in a few locations, and after consulting the 100 magic miles, decided to dive to the south of Castle Rock. Rob and David loaded the tender and



set off to the beach. After waiting for the sun to come up from behind Hayman Island, David and Rob started their decent, only to surface again quickly after realizing Rob's mask was missing a lens! A quick tender back to Destiny to pick up a replacement lens we were off on what would be the most spectacular dive of the trip. After dropping to 10-12 meters Rob

and David just followed the countless trenches that were covered with coral and full of life. As time and air started to become limited, we went up to 3-5 meters and navigated back over the top of the coral covered trenches that we had earlier traversed. After seeing a black tip reef shark the grand finale to the dive was meeting the resident Maori Wrasse that is about the size of a fully-grown human – it was extraordinary!

After the obligatory organizing, we set sail around the northern end of Hayman Island and tacked for the Pinnacles – a protected bay that we had seen earlier in the day and which is reportedly one of the best dive sites in the central group of Whitsunday Islands.

After lunch and some snorkeling, reality started to set in that this would in fact be our last night on Destiny. We made our way past Mantra Ray, Luncheon and Butterfly Bays as we headed for Stonehaven

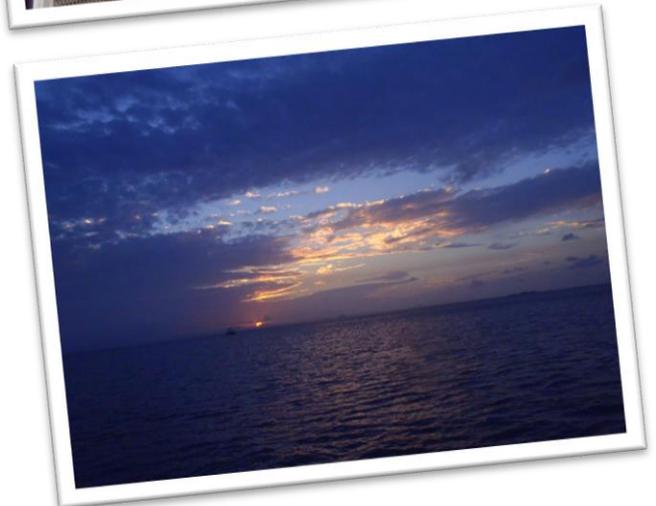


We dealt with the impending end to our holiday in different ways, Jen packed and organized, Rob was in denial and held on to hope that there might be enough air left in the tanks for a last early morning dive in the morning – hence there was no point in packing up, Kaitlyn was bratty. David and Margaret packed, organized and cleaned.

On arrival at Stonehaven just before 3pm, there were no moorings left (a phenomenon difficult to comprehend) so we dropped anchor and headed for the small beach on southwestern side of the anchorage.



After a lot of rock climbing and collecting more precious shells and rocks, we headed back to Destiny and enjoyed a bottle of Bolli while watching the sunset. Over dinner we recounted all of the terrific experiences of the holiday and planned all of the sailing techniques we would no doubt perfect on our trip across the passage in the morning.



Tides	Winds & Conditions	Morning	Lunch	Afternoon / Evening	Comments
10313 0.24m	10-15kn Easterly winds, Seas to 1m and 1m swell offshore	Blue Pearl Bay	Pinnical Bay	Stonehaven	Dive Manta to Lunchon, finding the pinnical at 18m under the marker
0930 3.40m					
1526 0.52m					
2139 3.33m					



Day 11 – Stonehaven to Abell Point Marina

Despite our eagerness to have the perfect sail home, the wind gods were not looking on us with favor. While we did get the sails up, we estimated that the benefit we were getting from the 3-4 knots of wind equated to approximately 0.5-1 knot of speed over ground.

Our journey home across a glassy Whitsunday Passage took us past the Mole Group of islands, past Pioneer Rocks and into Pioneer Bay before entering Abell Point Marina.

Jen’s water saving measures had worked well and not only did we manage to wash down all of the dive and snorkel gear as well as having luxurious showers on the last night, we still had 47 liters of water on board as well as plenty of cold water bottles.

Once in the marina, Shane from Cumberland Charter Yachts met us and took over control of Destiny for refueling and re-gassing. It was a little strange to have it all end so quickly.

After many trips and loading the 4WD for its return home with David and Margaret, the weary sailors retired to the restaurant for a couple of beers and pizzas.

- **1003 litres of water used**
- **16 engine hours per engine and 68 litres of fuel**
- **5 dive tanks**



Tides	Winds & Conditions	Morning	Lunch	Afternoon / Evening	Comments
0346 0.27m	Wind to 5Kn when we were lucky, no seas, no swell – 100% calm!	Stonehaven	Abell Point Maring	Homeward bound ☺	But I don't want to go home or back to reality
1009 3.46m					
1609 0.60m					
2216 3.15m					

The wrap

Rob: Best holiday in a long time, returning to the place where Jen and I are truly happy, rock hopping with Kaitlyn, one of my most enjoyable dives ever, snorkeling with a three year old, building sandcastles and collecting lifetime memories, spending precious time with family that just worked – thank you to the Crew, Destiny and Cumberland Charter Yachts, I'll be back to dive from Manta to Luncheon Bay and the Pinnacles and explore the bays of Deloraine Island and beyond!



Margaret: Great holiday. Really enjoyed spending the time with family. Australia continues to amaze me with its places of natural beauty. The Whitsundays is truly a special place. Many thanks to Robert whose drive and energy got us all to the holiday that David and I would not have been able to access without him and Jen. Thanks to David, Jen and Kaitlyn who made it a holiday to remember.

Jen: A truly amazing place and the best company to share it with! Who knew you can teach a not-yet-4 year old to snorkel? I'll look forward to returning again and again with the people who make an already amazing place truly magical.

David: The trip was great. It brought back memories of the mid-seventies and racing. Good diving, good company - does not get much better.

