

# Eclípse by Reef Boat

Featuring 2011 Nobel Laureate and Astronomer Dr. Brian Schmidt



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A total solar eclipse is one of nature's most spectacular shows, and we invite you to witness the **November 14, 2012** eclipse with us. Join a group of other like-minded adventurers and witness this celestial magic from a perfect position at the incomparable Great Barrier Reef, one of the world's greatest natural wonders. For this special adventure, Small World Journeys has secured the exclusive use of OceanQuest, a live aboard boat from which you can watch the early morning eclipse. Your boat will be positioned at the eclipse's centre line at the Great Barrier Reef, and you will experience just over two minutes of totality.

**In a group of no more than 12 guests**, you will enjoy other adventure activities like riding the rollicking rapids of the Tully River and discovering the rainforest by mountain bike (no experience necessary!) An all-inclusive trip with four-star accommodation and delicious modern cuisine ensures you don't have to give up your creature comforts on this small group adventure.

# Highlights:

- Live aboard boat at The Great Barrier Reef at the eclipse centre line!
- 8 Day action-packed trip with naturalist guide
- Meals & hotels and activities included
- Whitewater raft, hike, mountain bike and discover aboriginal culture
- Lodging voted #1 of World's Best Beachfront Hotels

#### **Small World Journeys**



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#### Day 1 (8 Nov): Arrival, Welcome Orientation and Sunset Cruise

After transferring from the Cairns airport, you settle into your accommodation at The Cairns Central Plaza Apartments - elegant and spacious suites that offer views over Cairns, across the Coral Sea and beyond. Suites have CD and DVD player and wide flat screen tv, ipod docking station, hair dryer, WiFi, kitchenette, and private laundry. The rooftop pool is a perfect place to relax and soak up the sun.

You gather in the afternoon for a welcome orientation over drinks and tapas with your naturalist guide who will lead you on your trip. Then you board a sunset boat cruise on Trinity Inlet—a perfect introduction to Cairns and its harbour. Afterwards you enjoy a 3-course meal at one of Cairns restaurants in the heart of the city, where you sample classic Australian cuisine and get to know the other travelers in your group.

Accommodation: Cairns Central Plaza Apartment Hotel Included: Dinner

# Day 2 (9 Nov): Aboriginal-Guided Hike, Daintree National Park, Wildlife Sanctuary and Port Douglas

The Kuku Yalanji are the only tribal rainforest people in Australia who still have their own culture and language, and this morning you join an aboriginal guide for a hike to see the rainforest through their indigenous eyes. You discover how these aboriginal people found their way through dense rainforest and learn what native plants were used for food, medicine, and even soap. You listen for the call of the wild cockatoo or the laughing kookaburra, view traditional rock art, and perhaps learn to paint your faces with traditional ochre rock paint. Your guide recounts stories from the aboriginal Dreamtime, and a sonorous didgeridoo demonstration completes your morning.

From here your indigenous guide leads you into Mossman Gorge, part of the celebrated Daintree National Park. Considered one of the most biologically diverse places in the entire world, this UNESCO World-Heritage site is home of animals found nowhere else on earth, such as the Daintree River ringtail possum, the southern cassowary (a giant flightless bird) and Bennett's tree kangaroo.

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In the afternoon you visit a wildlife park that is an award-winning refuge for Australian animals such as the endangered cassowary, crocodiles, kangaroos, koalas, and countless exotic birds. Your guide teaches you more about these different species, and you have an opportunity to interact with the animals up close, whether it's holding a python, feeding a lorikeet or meeting a mother kangaroo and her joey. For those who have always wanted a quintessential photo with a koala - here's your chance. This evening you have time for a stroll and a savory seaside dinner in the charming town of Port Douglas before returning to Cairns.

Accommodation: Cairns Central Plaza Apartment Hotel Included: Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner

# Day 3 (10 Nov): Hiking to Nandroya Falls and The Waterfalls Loop

Wooroonooran National Park hosts some of the oldest continually surviving rainforest in the world, and the park reaches its highest diversity in the area of today's hike. You hike to an enchanting set of falls, where the creek drops in a narrow, uninterrupted, 50 metre fall from a basalt parapet. Your guide helps you look for Australia's unique rainforest species like the brilliant blue Ulysses Butterfly, the giant tree frog, and the musky rat kangaroo, which you may spot along the way. This magical section of the park also has a special connection to the Wari and Dulgubara aboriginal people who once lived here.

Then you explore the Waterfalls Circuit: a series of three grand waterfalls under which you can swim or view from above. Millaa Millaa Falls are the icon of north Queensland and perhaps one of the most photographed sites in the region. In the late afternoon you travel to Mission Beach, home of at least 33 rare and threatened plants, including endangered ferns, orchids and flowering plants.

Situated on absolute beachfront property, your stylish resort-style hotel boasts ocean views, a day spa, and delicious meals al fresco. Voted #1 on Frommer's "*World's Best Beachfront Hotels*" in 2011, this tropical retreat is a perfect hideaway beneath the palms.

Accommodation: Castaways Resort Included: Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner

# Day 4 (11 Nov): Whitewater Rafting the Tully River

The Tully River ranks high with rafting enthusiasts around the globe for its stunning course through national parklands, thrilling Class III-IV rapids, and its reliable year-round flows. First timers and

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experienced rafters alike will be spoiled by the Tully's non-stop action and gorgeous pristine wilderness.

From your lodge you travel a short distance to your put-in at Tully Gorge National Park. There you are fitted with life jackets and helmets and after a safety briefing you are on the water. You raft through lush UNESCO-World Heritage rainforest and below waterfalls that tumble from the walls of the gorge. Rousing rapids with evocative names like The Staircase, Corkscrew and Alarm Clock mark the start of your day, after which you paddle through another 41 rapids, stopping midway for a riverside BBQ.

You return to your lodge in the late afternoon where you can relax by the pool, stroll the beach, or take advantage of a luxurious spa treatment.

Accommodation: Castaways Resort

Included: Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner

# Day 5 (12 Nov): Mountain Biking and Astronomy Presentation

Mountain biking in Cairns is a biker's dream: mild to challenging singletrack, fun rolling terrain, gorgeous vistas and little-seen wilderness areas. This morning you are fitted to superbly crafted Canadian Norco mountain bikes, and mountain biking basics are reviewed for the first-time—or more timid—biker. You can choose from one of two options: a thrilling singletrack circuit or a more relaxed scenic route. Either path rewards you with a gorgeous ride ending at a refreshing swimming hole. Not to miss Australia's other type of watering hole, you stop for "a stubbie" at a classic Aussie pub at route's end. This afternoon you return to Cairns for a bit a free time and you are free to sample the local fare for dinner.

As a special treat tonight, you have 2011 Nobel Laureate Dr. Brian Schmidt introducing you to total solar eclipses. By studying exploding stars, astrophysicist Dr. Schmidt helped discover the universe is expanding at an accelerating rate, for which he won the Nobel Prize for Physics in 2011. He has extensive public speaking experience, having given last year's Halley Lecture (named after Edmund Halley, as in the comet) at Oxford and appearing occasionally on ABC Television's *Catalyst*. Speaking *only* to Small World Journeys' guests, Dr. Schmidt will cover a variety of topics, conversing in layman's terms about astronomy and the significance of total solar eclipses. There will be time afterwards to chat with Dr. Schmidt with your eclipse-related questions.

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Accommodation: Cairns Central Plaza Apartment Hotel Included: Breakfast and Lunch

# Day 6 (13 Nov): The Great Barrier Reef, Snorkeling or SCUBA Diving, Live Aboard Boat

No trip to Cairns is complete without a visit to the outer Great Barrier Reef--a UNESCO World Heritage Site and easily one of the world's top natural wonders. It is also one of the most unique sites from which to view the total solar eclipse.

Small World Journeys has secured an exclusive booking aboard the 35-metre OceanQuest live aboard catamaran for this special event. Early this morning you travel to the outer Great Barrier Reef, your captain choosing between fourteen permanent moorings (including Norman and Saxon reefs) that allow snorkelers fantastic access to this underwater universe. Upon arrival at the reef, snorkelers will delight in viewing the incredible array of life and colours that exist just below the surface.

Snorkelers can also opt to learn about SCUBA diving one-on-one from the dive instructor—Intro Diving (also known as "resort diving") is a fantastic way to see the reef without having a certification. SCUBA divers can log 7 dives during these two days at the reef, diving along bommies and coral walls with mysterious swim-throughs that dance with light. Divers can also get to experience the magic and glow of the reef at night with a night dive. There will be a maximum of 48 Small World Journeys guests on the boat trip, and you will enjoy sumptuous buffet meals. Accommodation is in twin share cabins (a limited number of doubles available) with bathroom, air conditioning and television.

(SCUBA Diving is an extra cost. All divers must fill out a medical form, and those with special medical conditions, such as diabetes, asthma or taking certain medications may disqualify you from diving. Please ask us for more information if you are interested in SCUBA diving)

Accommodation: OceanQuest Live Aboard Boat Included: Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner

# Day 7 (14 Nov): Total Solar Eclipse at The Great Barrier Reef. Snorkeling and/or SCUBA Diving.

In the early morning, you prepare for a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity - the chance to see a <u>total solar</u> <u>eclipse</u> as the shadow of the moon passes over you. The Cairns region will be the best place in the

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world to witness this exciting event, and your position on the ocean will allow for the best line-of-sight of this early morning eclipse. Your boat will have the flexibility to moor at the eclipse centre line of totality and special solar eclipse glasses will allow you to view the event. Totality will last just over two minutes after which the shadow will move out across unpopulated areas of the South Pacific.

Following the eclipse, you spend another day exploring the wonders of the Great Barrier Reef, snorkeling or optional diving on reefs that offer you exclusivity and a variety of underwater features. Coral thrives in this clear water, creating spectacular gardens and drawing a mosaic of marine life. Among the 1,800 species of fish and 450 species of coral, you can expect to see turtles, gigantic Maori wrasse, giant clams, fan corals, sea cucumbers, stag horn coral gardens, and just about the whole cast of Finding Nemo. On the way back to Cairns, you can keep an eye out for dolphins swimming and playing in the wake.

This evening you recount your adventures from the week with a celebratory dinner with your guide and new-found friends.

Accommodation: Cairns Central Plaza Apartments Included: Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner

# Day 8 (15 Nov): Departure or Trip Extension

After breakfast, you prepare for your journey home or enjoy a few optional activities such as the Kuranda Skyrail, bungy jumping, or a sunrise balloon flight. Alternatively, ask us about other destinations in Australia!

Included: Breakfast

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# **Eclipse by Reef Boat**

Per Person Price: \$4295 AUD includes GST Single Supplement: \$920 AUD\* Maximum Group Size: 12 guests Dates: 8-15 November, 2012

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# What's Included:

- Fully guided trip with a local Australian naturalist guide
- 2011 Nobel Laureate guest speaker and astronomer Brian Schmidt *only* for Small World Journeys guests
- 4 nights central 4-star Cairns hotel, standard room (based on double occupancy)
- 2 nights 4-star beachfront resort, resort room (based on double occupancy)
- 1 night on a live aboard boat (double or twin share cabins with ensuite)
- All meals (except for 1 dinner) we choose unique and stylish restaurants
- Mask, fins, snorkel and wetsuit rental on the reef trip
- All transportation during the trip in air-conditioned 12-passenger vans or smaller
- A basic field guide of local flora and fauna
- Water bottle and cloth shopping bag
- Special eclipse-viewing solar filter glasses
- Background information and cultural etiquette tips
- 25-square metres of Daintree rainforest adopted in your name by the Australian Rainforest Foundation
- *Climate Care*<sup>™</sup> carbon-offsetting for a carbon-neutral trip

**What is NOT Included:** Airfare to Cairns, Travel insurance, airport transfers (about \$18 AUD), alcohol, Items of a personal nature (internet, phone, laundry etc.), 1 dinner, photo with koala, optional guide gratuities, options listed below and items of a personal nature (internet, phone, laundry etc.)

\*If you are traveling alone and wish to share accommodations, we will attempt to match you with a roommate of the same gender. However, if a roommate is not available, the single supplement will be charged, but we will only charge you 50% of the single supplement.

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#### **SCUBA DIVING OPTIONS**

**Certified SCUBA diving:** \$50 AUD for a 7-dive package, including a night dive. Includes wetsuit and equipment hire.

**Intro Dive with a dive instructor:** \$200 AUD for a 5-Intro Dive package. Includes wetsuit and equipment hire.

All divers must fill out a diving medical form, and some medical conditions such as asthma, diabetes and certain medications may disqualify a guest from diving. Tell us if you are interested in SCUBA diving, and we will forward you the medical form in advance. Please remember to bring your certification card.

Please note that if you are a certified diver, then you are able to dive with a buddy and without a dive master. If you wish to have a dive master accompany you, it is \$15 AUD per person, per dive.

#### **POST-TRIP OPTIONS**

**Skyrail, Kuranda Village and Historic Train:** Soar above the rainforest canopy on the Skyrail eco-attraction, explore the markets in Kuranda mountain village, and wind down through Barron River Gorge on a historic train. \$111 AUD adult, \$56 child

**Bungy Jumping:** Jump from a tower in the rainforest with spectacular views over Cairns or try the equally thrilling Midjin Swing. Bungy: \$139 AUD and includes Jumpers edition t-shirt and certificate. Bungy & Midjin Swing Combo: \$204 AUD and includes Jumpers edition t-shirt, certificate and photo.

**Skydiving:** You're adventurous – why not take the ultimate plunge? Take to the skies and jump tandem with an instructor from 14,000 feet. Unparalleled views over the reef and rainforest. \$334 AUD, which includes levies.

**OTHER DESTINATIONS IN AUSTRALIA:** Ask us about continuing your Australian adventures in Melbourne and the Great Ocean Road, Sydney and The Blue Mountains, and The Red Centre/Uluru!

#### THE START OF YOUR TRIP

Gateway City/Meeting Place: Cairns, Queensland, Australia

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**Meeting Time & Place:** 4:00 p.m. on Day 1 in reception at The Cairns Central Plaza Apartments. Please plan to transfer on your own to Cairns Central Plaza Apartments at Street when you arrive at the Cairns airport. The transfer is approximately 10 minutes. You may take a taxi cab (immediately outside terminals; fare is about \$18 AUD) or use Sun Palm Transport (airport shuttle bus service located in arrival halls at either terminal; fare is \$10 AUD per person to Cairns)

When you arrive at your hotel, a hard copy of your detailed itinerary (you will have already received an electronic copy of your itinerary 2 weeks before your trip) will be waiting for you.

# FAQ'S

# What is a total solar eclipse?

When the moon passes between the earth and the sun and covers the sun, a solar eclipse occurs. This creates a shadow on the Earth, which moves in a narrow path across the planet. When a solar eclipse begins, it appears as though a bite is being taken out of the sun. In the last few minutes before the total eclipse, points of light around the moon appear, which are called Bailey's Beads. When the eclipse finally occurs, the sun is completely blocked out, with only a ghostly corona visible. This occurrence has been described as eerie and unearthly—animals become quiet, the temperature drops, and you are shrouded in darkness. You don't have to be an astronomer to appreciate a total solar eclipse, which is one of nature's greatest spectacles.

# Where will be the best place to view the eclipse?

Our research has concluded that a viewing spot over the ocean at The Great Barrier Reef will provide a location with the least likelihood of coastal cloud cover and a direct line-of-sight of the eclipse.

In Cairns, warm winds from the Coral Sea (the SE tradewinds) carry moisture-laden air towards the coast, and clouds form when it hits these mountains. Therefore, a viewing spot free from these coastal mountain effects is highly desirable. It is fortunate that the eclipse occurs in the early morning when the least build up of cloud has occurred.

According to The Astronomical Society of Australia, "The best places to view are likely to in the vicinity of Cairns in North Queensland. From Cairns any viewing spot selected should have an

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unobstructed view over the ocean so that a clear view of totality can be obtained with the Sun low in the eastern sky."

We consulted with **Jay Anderson**, veteran eclipse chaser, meteorologist and co-author of the NASA eclipse circulars. Jay told Small World Journeys: "Under more typical Cairns conditions, only small position changes would be needed to get out from behind a cloud, since the patches are usually small and slow moving. Your boat on the outer reef would be suitable under those circumstances."

Jay has also stated, "In November, the cloud along the Australian coast is about 10 percent more than over the adjacent ocean. The mobility of a ship adds to this advantage, and gives eclipse-viewing prospects in the 60-65% range, as good as it gets for this eclipse."

**WARNING:** Never look directly at the sun. All Small World Journeys guests will be provided with special eclipse-viewing glasses. The only time that the Sun can be viewed safely with the naked eye is when the moon completely covers the disk of the Sun during the total eclipse.

# What will the weather be like?

It will be impossible to predict the weather or cloud cover for the day of the eclipse. However, we can consider seasonal averages. Cairns has a tropical climate, and it is highly likely there will be scattered to broken clouds on the morning of the eclipse. According to the **Australian Bureau of Meteorology's climate statistics for Cairns**, in November the mean number of clear days is 7.9, while the mean number of cloudy days is 7.6.

Taking into account the eclipse occurs in the early morning, chances are greater that the skies will be clear at that time of day. Please note that while we can hope for sunny skies, we cannot guarantee them!

# Is the eclipse on November 13<sup>th</sup> or 14<sup>th</sup>?

Both are correct. In Universal Time, the total eclipse begins in northern Australia at 20:35:08 UT on November 13 (which is November 14 Australian time), and ends in the South Pacific at 23:48:24 UT on November 13.

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# What should I bring with me?

We will provide you with a suggested packing list in your Confirmation Packet.

# What about sharks or jellyfish?

The ocean is home to sharks, but the ones you may encounter at the Great Barrier Reef are small and pose little threat to swimmers. In fact, divers and snorkelers often consider themselves lucky to spot one of these shy, magnificent creatures. Australia's famed Great White sharks prefer cold water, and therefore are **not** found at the Great Barrier Reef.

Box jellyfish, irukandji and other jellyfish, collectively known as "stingers" breed along the coast in estuaries and are not commonly found at The Great Barrier Reef. Therefore, they do not pose a major threat to snorkelers or divers at the reef. As a precaution you can choose to use a full body lycra suit on the reef boat (provided free). Stingers are only a consideration between November and April/May.

# Do I need a visa to visit Australia?

All visitors to Australia need a visa, with the exception of visitors from New Zealand. An Australian entry visa, commonly known as an ETA (Electronic Travel Authority) will let you spend up to three months in Australia. In most countries it is easily obtained by the travel agent who issues your ticket, and should be free of charge. You can also get an ETA on line by visiting www.eta.immi.gov.au. There is no need for you to visit an Australian diplomatic office to submit an application, and you do not need a stamp or label in your passport. Upon check in at the airport, the airline agent will be able to confirm your ETA electronically. All visitors will also need a passport, valid for at least six months after the planned return date.

# Do I need to bring my own snorkelling or dive equipment?

You may bring your own equipment if you wish; however mask, fins and snorkel **are provided** on the outer Barrier Reef trip for snorkelers and all dive equipment is included in the dive package.

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# Why should I travel with Small World Journeys?

#### LOCAL SUPPORT & KNOWLEDGE

Our office is in Cairns – this means we are right around the corner for 24-hour support, to answer your questions, or if you have an emergency in the middle of the trip.

Local knowledge means we know the restaurant owners who catch their own fish (and then deliciously prepare it for you!), where to buy the *real* indigenous-made souvenirs, and where the mobs of people will be on the morning of the eclipse (hint: we're not going there.)

#### **ECO-CREDENTIALS**

Being an "eco" tour operator means more to us than just offering walks outdoors. It means we pay to offset the carbon emissions from your trip, give a percentage of profits to local environmental and community organizations, plant trees, recycle, and participate in the Australian Rainforest Foundation's Adopt-a-Square program. See <u>10 Reasons Why We're Eco</u> for more on what we do for our environment and community.

#### HUNDREDS OF HAPPY GUESTS

We could tell you that we provide highly professional customer service, respond attentively and consistently exceed our guests' expectations. But don't believe us! Read some of <u>our</u> <u>testimonials</u> or ask us for references from past guests who are willing to tell you all about their experience with Small World Journeys.

#### GOODIES!

You get a Small World Journeys water bottle, a cloth carry bag, a regional field guide, eclipseviewing glasses, and a 25-square metre of Daintree rainforest adopted in your name, plus a certificate detailing where your rainforest square is located. Plus you get an unforgettable trip too.

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#### **TERMS & CONDITIONS**

#### BOOKING

Once we have received your:

- a) Booking Form (http://www.smallworldjourneys.com.au/booking\_form.html)
- b) Release, Discharge and Indemnity form and
- c) Deposit

we will, subject to availability, confirm your trip by sending you a booking confirmation. This will normally be done within 48 hours and by email. We advise you not to make any international travel plans until you have received our confirmation. We urge you to check the details we send you carefully and to contact us immediately if there is any incorrect information.

Please note that before we can accept your booking it is a mandatory requirement that you accept these terms and conditions. You understand that you are entering into this agreement electronically and that by clicking "Submit Form", you are agreeing to the terms and conditions of this agreement and that it is a legally binding agreement between Small World Journeys and you.

# **PAYMENT FOR SPECIAL ECLIPSE DEPARTURES:**

At time of reservation......\$500 non-refundable deposit due per person 90 days prior to departure......Balance is due

If you sign up for a trip within 90 days of trip departure, full payment is due at the time of booking. If your payment is not received when due, Small World Journeys reserves the right to consider the reservation canceled and you will be forfeiting your deposit.

We accept MasterCard, Visa, Australian bank cheques, and international cheques in Australian dollars. Please contact us for our bank details if you wish to pay by direct deposit or international wire transfer.

#### **SINGLE SUPPLEMENT & ROOMATES:**

Accommodations are based on double occupancy. If you are traveling alone and wish to share accommodations, we will attempt to match you with a roommate of the same gender. However, if a roommate is not available, the single supplement will be charged, but we will only charge you half of the single supplement. If you prefer single occupancy, a full single supplement will be charged. We will not be responsible for incompatibility of a roommate for any reason.

# CANCELLATIONS

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#### **IF YOU CANCEL**

Accidents happen; emergencies occur. For this reason we strongly recommend travel insurance. Travel insurance will protect you should an emergency happen that prevents you from participating on your Small World Journeys trip.

If it is necessary for you to cancel your trip, you must notify us in writing by email, fax or letter immediately. If we are unable to find a suitable alternative trip or trip date, we will refund you the cost of your trip less the following, per person charges:

For **Special Eclipse Departures**, we will refund you the cost of your trip less the following charges:

91 days or more prior to departure	\$500 deposit
90-61 days prior to departure	50% of total price
60 days or less prior to departure	No Refund

Your refund will be calculated on the day we receive your written cancellation.

#### **IF WE CANCEL**

Small World Journeys may cancel a Small Group departure due to logistical or operational issues, insufficient signups or any other cause that makes the trip unfeasible for us to operate. We will advise you of such cancellations *at a minimum* of one month prior to departure. At that time we will endeavour to find an alternative trip for you. If we do not find an alternative for you that is acceptable, you are entitled to a full refund and that will constitute full settlement.

We may also cancel departures if forced to do so by circumstances such as war, civil or political unrest or what is commonly referred to as *force majeure*.

#### Force Majeure

In the case of Force Majeure (meaning a circumstance beyond Small World Journeys' reasonable control including, but not limited to, war or threat of war, riot, civil strife, terrorist activity, industrial dispute, disease, industrial or nuclear disaster, adverse weather conditions, fire and strikes), Small World Journeys will not be liable for any delay, change or cancellation of trips.

Small World Journeys normally makes significant payments to its suppliers (hotels, outfitters, etc.) far in advance of the scheduled departure date. If a trip is cancelled due to force majeure, Small World Journeys will promptly refund the portion of the trip cost not already advanced to suppliers. Small World Journeys may, in its discretion, recover from its suppliers a refund of money paid in respect of any trip cancelled due to Force Majeure. Where this occurs, a refund will be given. Otherwise, Small World Journeys will not be liable to refund money paid in respect of a cancelled trip.

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Please note Small World Journeys is also not responsible for expenses incurred while preparing for a cancelled trip (e.g., nonrefundable advance purchase air tickets, special equipment, visa fees, loss of enjoyment, etc.) or for any additional arrangements made before or after the cancelled trip.

#### REFUNDS

Prices are quoted as a package, and in many cases are based on group participation. Therefore, Small World Journeys does not give refunds for unused services, activities or meals. Additionally, no refunds will be given if you voluntarily leave a trip for any reason after the trip has begun.

Refunds will be at the discretion of Small World Journeys should you be forced to leave a trip for any reason.

# TRANSFERS

For Special Eclipse Departures: due to the special nature of these adventures, transfers will not be possible.

#### PRICING

**Eclipse By Reef Boat** is a small group guided trip and will confirm at 4 guests. For those first to sign up, guests may opt to pay an additional fee of \$600 and \$300, to **confirm** the trip at 2 or 3 people, respectively. If Small World Journeys signs up an additional guest or two, taking the confirmed number of participants to four, the price difference will be refunded to each guest.

We reserve the right to change our prices without prior notice, due to factors beyond our control. Price increases are not passed on to participants who have already paid a deposit.

#### **ITINERARIES & CHANGES**

We will take every measure to ensure the accuracy of the website, promotional literature, itineraries and prices, but conditions can change and errors can occur. Circumstances beyond our control may also necessitate changes to our itineraries. In this case, guests should refer to the tour itinerary included in the Pre-Departure packet with the updates. Changing conditions in the field may also necessitate itinerary modifications after the trip has departed.

#### **VIEWING THE ECLIPSE**

We have made every effort to select the locations with the highest probability of actually being able to view the eclipse. However, please understand that Small World Journeys cannot control the weather and therefore cannot *guarantee* the observation of the total solar eclipse. Cloud cover or other unforeseeable weather conditions may prevent you from viewing this event.

#### **PRE-TRIP MATERIALS**

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Once you have signed up for a trip, Small World Journeys will send you additional information to help you prepare for your trip. Please note we send correspondence by email to cut down on paper usage. *If you wish to receive correspondence by mail, please advise us upon booking.* 

We will send you the following:

**Confirmation Packet:** General Information document which includes climate, visa, and travel insurance information, reading list, and other helpful information; Suggested Packing List, our Responsible Tourism document and Responsible Travel Policy.

**Pre-Departure Packet:** Last-minute information on the trip, detailed itinerary, rendezvous instructions, and emergency numbers--sent approximately 2 weeks prior to your scheduled departure date.

#### COMPLAINTS

Small World Journeys takes guest satisfaction and feedback quite seriously. This is why we give every guest who travels with us an Evaluation Form so that he or she may give us honest feedback, and if applicable, lodge a formal complaint with Small World Journeys.

Before you enter the state of Queensland, and as a condition of booking, we ask you to read our Complaints Policy, found in our Terms & Conditions document. We will provide a copy of this Policy in your first language if requested.

Eclipse By Reef Boat: Should you have any complaints about any aspect of Small World Journeys' operations or our suppliers, tell your guide immediately. Most problems can be dealt with quickly and may be due to cultural misunderstandings. If you are not comfortable discussing the matter with your guide, or if the problem is not rectified to your satisfaction, please inform us in writing. We will address your complaint in a prompt and professional manner within 5 working days of having received the complaint, and if appropriate, take remedial action.

You may contact us by email: <u>info@smallworldjourneys.com.au</u>, by fax: + 61 7 4032 1590 or by post: PO Box 6267, Cairns, QLD 4870. If you are dissatisfied with the conduct of Small World Journeys, you may contact the Commissioner of the Office of Fair Trading on 131 304 or via email at <u>www.fairtrading.qld.gov.au/complaint-general.htm</u>.

At no point will this dispute resolution process affect you from exercising your rights to other legal remedies.

#### INSURANCE

We strongly recommend you purchase insurance coverage to protect you in the event of trip cancellation, protection to baggage, possessions and valuables and to cover against personal accident.

For more information on travel insurance, go to: http://www.smallworldjourneys.com.au/travel\_insurance.html

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We will not be responsible for any loss, damage, or theft of your baggage, possessions or valuables under any circumstances.

# **RESPONSIBILITY OF THE CLIENT**

You are responsible for:

- 1. Choosing a trip appropriate to your physical abilities and interests. Guests are responsible for being in sufficiently good health to participate on their trip and may be required to obtain a medical practitioner's clearance. Once a trip has been confirmed medical circumstances will not be considered as exceptions to our cancellation policy. Small World Journeys takes no responsibility regarding medical advice, medications or vaccinations that you or your doctor feel is necessary for your safe participation. All journeys are undertaken at your own risk and we reserve the right to refuse your participation in a particular activity or a complete journey if we believe it is for your own safety and the safety of other passengers.
- 2. Having a valid passport for international travel. Your passport should be valid for at least six months beyond the date which you expect to return home. You are responsible for arranging visas or travel permits, if applicable. We regret we cannot accept any liability if you are refused entry to Australia.
- 3. Providing Small World Journeys with correct information regarding your personal details. This includes name, address, email, medical conditions and flight details. We will not be responsible for losses incurred due to incorrect, incomplete or inaccurate information.
- 4. Providing Small World Journeys with a signed **Release, Discharge and Indemnity Waiver** prior to trip departure (You will not be permitted to join a trip without this information on file). This can be signed electronically by ticking the applicable box on the Booking Form.
- 5. Studying the pre-departure information sent to you, and arriving at the trip start with the recommended clothing and gear as specified on the Packing List.
- 6. Respecting the laws and customs of Australia.
- 7. Following the leader's directions in accordance with environmental guidelines and regulations. This includes abiding by Leave No Trace Environmental Ethics as instructed by the trip leader.
- 8. Appreciating that in Australia, level of service, local customs, etiquette, food, living standards and accommodation may differ from those in the your home country. In Cairns especially, the pace of life and service can differ significantly from other Westernized nations.
- 9. Respecting the rights and privacy of other trip members. Any cause of danger, distress or annoyance to the group will be acted upon. You may be asked to leave a trip if the guide feels that your continuing participation may prove detrimental to yourself or to the safety or well-being of other guests. Any expenses incurred from removal from a tour will be your responsibility.

# Small World Journeys



#### **RESPONSIBILITY OF SMALL WORLD JOURNEYS**

**LIMIT OF LIABILITY:** Small World Journeys will take all reasonable steps expected of a tour operator to ensure your safety and well being.

Some days or activities and certain trips listed in this catalog are operated by local tour operators contracted with Small World Journeys. We assume no liability or responsibility in connection with any injury, death, loss, accident, damage, cancellation, delay or inconvenience to person or property which may result through the acts of any company or person engaged in carrying out arrangements of the trip or resulting directly from the following: acts of God, detention, annoyance, terrorism, thefts, pilferage, force majeure, civil disturbances, government restrictions or regulations, strikes, delays and expenses arising from quarantine, failure of any means of conveyance to arrive or depart as scheduled, discrepancies or change in transit or hotel services beyond the control of Small World Journeys.

Extreme care is taken in the contracting of all services, however we cannot be responsible for the errors or omissions of the suppliers or services. In the unlikely event that a supplier fails to honour their contract with us, we reserve the right to alter, change or cancel such services which are outlined in our website and promotional material. If and when such a change occurs, we will attempt to substitute a comparable service. However, we will not be liable for any difference in the quality or enjoyment.

You acknowledge that during the trip which you are choosing to participate in you are subjecting yourself to certain risks including, but not limited to: forces of nature, travel in remote areas and wilderness terrain, and transportation by coach. You recognise that such risks may be present at any time during the trip.

Small World Journeys reserves the right and trip participants agree to allow Small World Journeys to take photographic or film records of any of our trips and trip participants, and may use any such records for promotional and/or commercial purposes. Payment of your deposit represents your acceptance of the above terms and conditions.

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