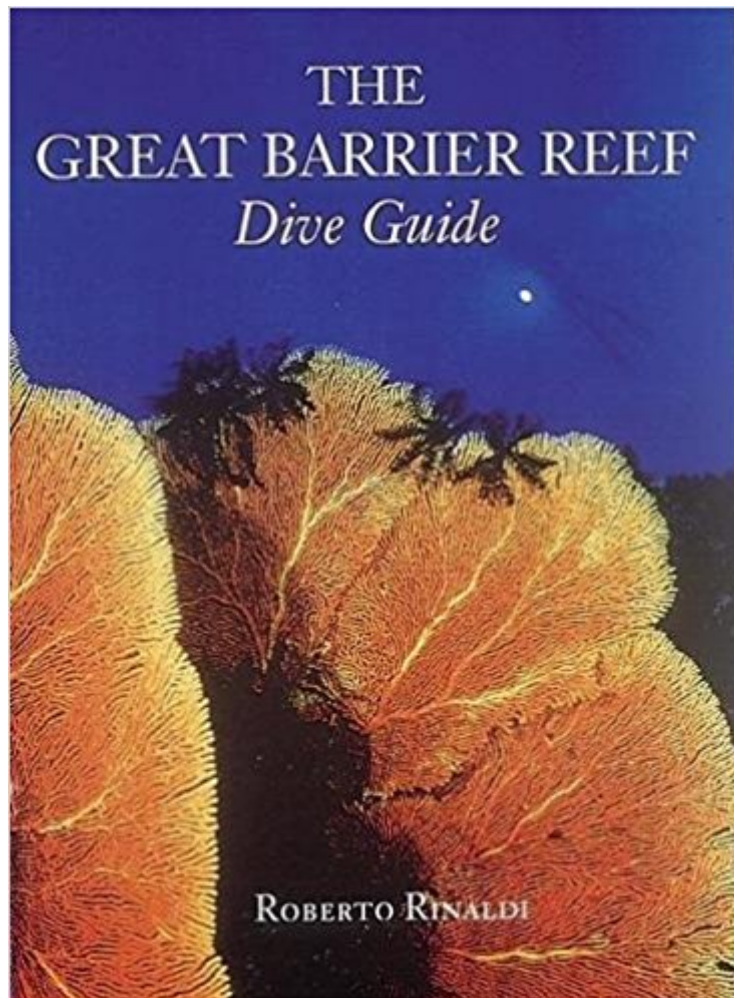




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The Great Barrier Reef Dive Guide (Abbeville Diving Guides)



Synopsis

Three-dimensional maps in full color of each site illustrating 27 of the most spectacular dives along Australia's Great Barrier Reef. These maps offer what no book has ever before provided: the information needed to plan your dive down to the last detail. You can review the exact layout of the site—including depths, sizes, and distances between reefs and wrecks or any hazards—and even the lighting conditions for optimum underwater photography. The short chapters covering each dive provide crucial data about depths, currents, weather variables, and plant and animal life, and each book ends with a full-color visual encyclopedia of the most common fish that inhabit the area. The experts' lively text has been vetted by Diving Science and Technology Corp. (DSAT), which is a corporate affiliate of Professional Association of Diving Instructors (PADI), making these the most reliable guides for the expert as well as the first-time diver.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Roberto Rinaldi is official photographer aboard Jacques Cousteaus Calypso and author and photographer of articles published in National Geographic and other publications around the world.

INTRODUCTION A detailed dive guide to the Great Barrier Reef would be a massive undertaking. It would be like describing what you would see on a walk across Europe—the flowers, the insects—the underwater life down to the tiny fish and crustaceans. The Great Barrier Reef is

1,430 miles (2,300 kilometers) long and from 37 to 168 miles (60 to 270 kilometers) wide, with more than 2,500 isolated reefs. IT is home to more than 400 coral species; more than 4,000 types of shellfish, crustaceans, and other invertebrates; and 1,500 species of fish, not counting reptiles and mammals. IT lies in an immense ocean, full of fish and corals; a fascinating and varied underwater world that offers an infinite number of dives. So, what is the scope of this work? It is not a list of the most beautiful dives in the Great Barrier Reef and the Coral Sea or even a list of our favorites. We describe a number of dives in a series of easy-to-follow itineraries, using the routes most commonly suggested by experienced tour operators. A family visiting the mainland could take a one-day cruise with only two dives; a dedicated diver could take a cruise of three or four days. An enthusiastic diver, who set off for Australia with the firm intention of examining the sea beds of the Pacific Ocean, could take a long cruise to the farthest reefs. For a diving holiday without having to live on board for days, divers could stay at an island resort. It is possible to choose from the itineraries to customize a vacation. Each chapter of the book presents a sample itinerary. The number of dives included in a chapter depends on the duration of the stay. For instance, cruises to Flinders Reef usually last almost a week, while those to Holmes Reef generally last from three to four days, so we have described more dives at Flinders than at Holmes. This book will be useful in planning your trip; a source of information before you reserve a bungalow in a resort or a cabin on a yacht. Once you have arrived, all the dives on the Great Barrier Reef, even if not exactly the same as those described here, will definitely be exciting.

I have given this book the lowest possible rating for two main reasons; Firstly it lacks overall credibility and, secondly, the State laws of Queensland have been flouted. Any book with a title that suggests it is a Diving Guide to the Great Barrier Reef is making a very big claim and I took delivery with great excitement. Sadly, I was very quickly disappointed. The Great Barrier Reef of Australia is over 1,200 miles long and this book covers just 27 dive sites with varying degrees of thoroughness. Starting with 7 sites off Cairns, the author then takes the reader on a quick dash to Heron Island - some 600 miles south, for another 3 sites before returning to those previously visited northern climes to resume and conclude. In short, the title of this book is misleading. More importantly, however, I did find certain specific content most upsetting. Pages 11 and 47 contain photographs showing Divers physically touching and manhandling, the Giant Grouper (*Epinephelus tukula*) commonly known as the Potato Cod. Strangely, the captions for these photographs are at odds with the content - in that they correctly inform the reader that human contact with these fish is detrimental and may leave them open to parasitic invasion by removing the creature's own protective mucus.

Clearly a question of do as I say - but NOT as I do when "I" take photographs. Similarly, page 140 describes how the "State Laws of Queensland" specifically prohibit divers from entering the shipwreck "Yongala." 137 people lost their lives when this vessel foundered in 1911 and, having made those "Laws" quite clear, the author then advises Divers to take a torch and on pages 140 and 141 promptly shows his own images from the ship's interior - a clear demonstration of how Australian laws have been blatantly flouted in the production of this book. Altogether, quite disgraceful! NM

The book contains lots of photos and description of different dive sites around the great barrier reef. However I believe it would be impossible to expect the book to include all dive sites. Net-net this is a book I enjoy reading it again and again.

This book is excellent at providing sample dives along the Great Barrier Reef off the coast of Queensland, Australia. Included are reef structure, marine life likely to be encountered, and photography tips specific to the site. At the back of the book are several pages of color drawings of the most prevalent fish for this area.

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