

How tourists actively help to protect the Great Barrier Reef

Did you know the Great Barrier Reef is part of the largest World Heritage Area in the world?

And unlike most other protected marine areas, the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park allows for a whole range of activities such as shipping, commercial fishing, recreational boating, fishing and diving, aquaculture, research and of course, tourism.

Managing all these activities in an area as vast as the Great Barrier Reef, which is approximately 348 000² km and roughly the same size as Japan, takes a lot of resources, and is undertaken by the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority.

Tourists visiting the Great Barrier Reef with a tourism operator are doing their bit to help keep the Great Barrier Reef great for future generations to enjoy. On average \$5.00* from the cost of each full day reef trip will go directly to the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority, to be applied across all aspects of Marine Park management including education and research, ranger patrols, site planning, public moorings, reef protection markers, and information signs and maps.

This charge, collected by all tourism operators, is called the Environmental Management Charge (EMC) and is GST exempt.

How important is the EMC in protecting the Great Barrier Reef?

To give you an indication just how important the EMC is to managing the Marine Park, in the 2005-2006 financial year, EMC funds contributed 19 per cent of the annual operational

budget for the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority.

Some of this money is shared with the Queensland Environmental Protection Agency and used for joint management activities such as ranger patrols.

Does everyone pay the same amount?

Different tourists pay different amounts depending on how much time they spend in the Marine Park.

The standard charge per person per day is \$5.00*, however tourists spending less than three hours in the Marine Park are only charged \$2.50* each. Transfer passengers, children less than four years of age and supervised school groups are generally free.

More information about how the Great Barrier Reef is managed can be found on the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority's website: www.gbrmpa.gov.au

The Great Barrier Reef Marine Park
Thank you for doing your bit to look after it!

**Prices correct as of 1 April 2007*

