

location



ISLAND IDYLL

Follow in the footsteps of our fashion team: discover Hayman for yourself. PHOTOGRAPHY MARISSA FINDLAY STORY JO SHARP

WHEN YOU FIRST SET FOOT on Hayman it's hard to believe it once changed hands for £10,000. Local legend has it that leaseholder Bert Hallam just wanted a fair price for his goats, and, in 1947, £10 a head was the going rate.

For Sir Reginald Ansett, this was something of a steal. The Australian aviation pioneer believed Hayman had the potential to become a top-flight resort for international sun seekers—and rightly so. Today, instead of grazing goats, it's home to an acclaimed resort on one of the most luxurious private island destinations in the world.

Of the 74 Whitsunday Islands, Hayman sits right inside the Great Barrier Reef. With an abundance of coves and majestic crags, it's easy to see why Ansett fell in love with the place.

The resort stretches across 30 acres on the island's southerly shore, surrounded by gorgeous beaches and crystal clear waters. Thanks to the region's tropical climate, you can take a dip and soak up the sun whenever you choose to visit. The weather is warm nearly all year round, with the hottest temperatures typically in January.

The epitome of laid-back luxury, Hayman has been designed to blend in with its surrounds and

little of the resort is any higher than the palms lining the beach. It is set amongst 14 hectares of lush tropical gardens full of ponds and waterfalls. Scattered throughout you'll find numerous pools—including the famous Hayman Pool—a delectable choice of restaurants and cocktail bars and a host of services and activities.

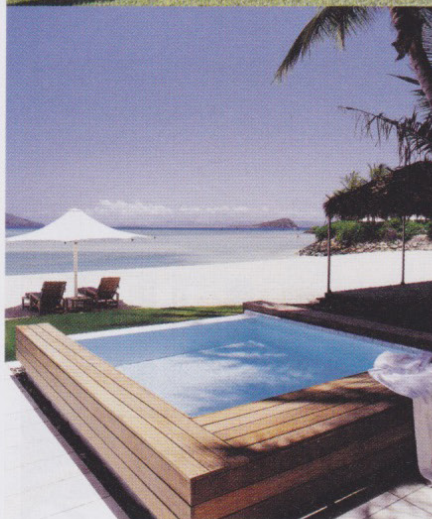
With accommodation to suit a variety of budgets, you can indulge in the Hayman experience without having to spend a fortune. There are 244 rooms, suites, penthouses and a



The Beach Front room with views over the resort's superb beach and crystal blue water. Each of the stylishly decorated 244 rooms enjoys a private terrace or balcony and offers guests every in-room facility imaginable.



Left: The famous saltwater Hayman Pool is one of the largest in the southern hemisphere. Right: From a resort walk to a waterfront meal overlooking a pristine beach, whatever your energy level, Hayman has the perfect activity for you.



private villa, many with views of neighbouring Hook Island and others set in peaceful gardens or positioned right on the beachfront. All offer a terrace or balcony and all imaginable in-room facilities.

No matter what you want from a holiday, Hayman can deliver on all fronts. If you're up for adventure there are endless opportunities, both above and below the water line.

Taking a cruise to Whitehaven Beach is a must. With 6km of white sand and a setting to die for, no wonder it's often voted the best beach in the world. If your budget will stretch to it, you could also charter a cruiser or sail boat and discover the neighbouring islands, stopping off at any number of beautiful bays. The resort's Marine Centre allows guests to delve into the Great Barrier Reef's underworld of colourful coral and fish. Snorkel or visit a range of superb dive sites. Both PADI diving and learners' courses are available. For the ultimate reef experience, visit Fantasea Reefworld, the largest purpose-built pontoon facility on the reef, or travel by helicopter or seaplane for a thrilling bird's-eye view.

Hayman has been a popular spot for sea fishing since the 1930s, when enthusiasts arrived by coastal steamer. In warmer months, black marlin and bluefin tuna abound. When the water is cooler, commonly caught fish include coral trout, cod and sea perch.

If you want to recharge your batteries, there's no better place. Hayman provides the ideal backdrop for every kind of relaxation.

Back on Hayman Beach there are various water sports to enjoy, from windsurfing, catamaran sailing and paddle skiing to inflatable tube rides for a bit of a giggle.

Landlubbers will find tennis and squash courts, a golf range and putting green and a fully-equipped gym right on your doorstep. You can even try a spot of croquet, or follow the resort's walking trail as it meanders through natural bushland to scenic lookouts and secluded beaches.

If all you want to do is recharge your batteries, there's no better place. Hayman provides the ideal backdrop for relaxation. Lie on the beach with the waves lapping at your feet or settle down by the pool and get stuck into a book and a cocktail. For a complete pampering, wander over to The Retreat where you can enjoy a range of spa treatments.

Parents looking for peace and quiet can book their children into Hernando's Hideaway Kids Club and Creche (for youngsters up to the age of 12), or use the resort's babysitting services.

For honeymooners and romantics, hire a motorised dinghy and spend the day at an isolated cove, or let the resort staff drop you at a nearby beach by speedboat. Take a picnic, or cuddle up and watch the sunset with a bottle of champagne in hand.

But don't just take our word for it. Why not go there and find out for yourself?

Jetstar flies direct to Great Barrier Reef Airport (Hamilton Island) from Sydney twice daily and Melbourne daily, with prices starting from \$199 out of Melbourne and \$179 out of Sydney. Book online at www.jetstar.com