



12 Thomas Baechtold

# Swim with Minke Whales in **Australia**

**JUNE 27 - JULY 5, 2015**

Join Seacology's first trip to Australia and embark on an exciting marine adventure. Spend hours in the water up close with curious Minke whales and marvel at the underwater wonders of the Great Barrier Reef. This trip is suitable for divers and snorkelers alike.

**SEACOLOGY**

# The Great Barrier Reef



At the northern edge of the Great Barrier Reef, lies a region called the Ribbon Reefs. Days will be spent exploring these fabulous reefs, home to a number of spectacular diving sites including the world famous Cod Hole with its resident giant Potato cods. Far out of reach of any day boats, you'll see pristine coral pinnacles, and swim amongst a myriad of fish and corals.



## Elizabeth E II

## Liveaboard



Your home for the duration of the trip will be the Elizabeth E II, a 108ft vessel with a cruising range of 1500 nautical miles. The ship is fully equipped for extended trips with 12 air-conditioned ensuite cabins, fully catered dining, and bar facilities.



The Elizabeth E II is professionally crewed and outfitted for diving and exploration. With a reputation for serving meals of the highest quality and a crew trained to offer a high level of service, you will have fond memories of your time on board.

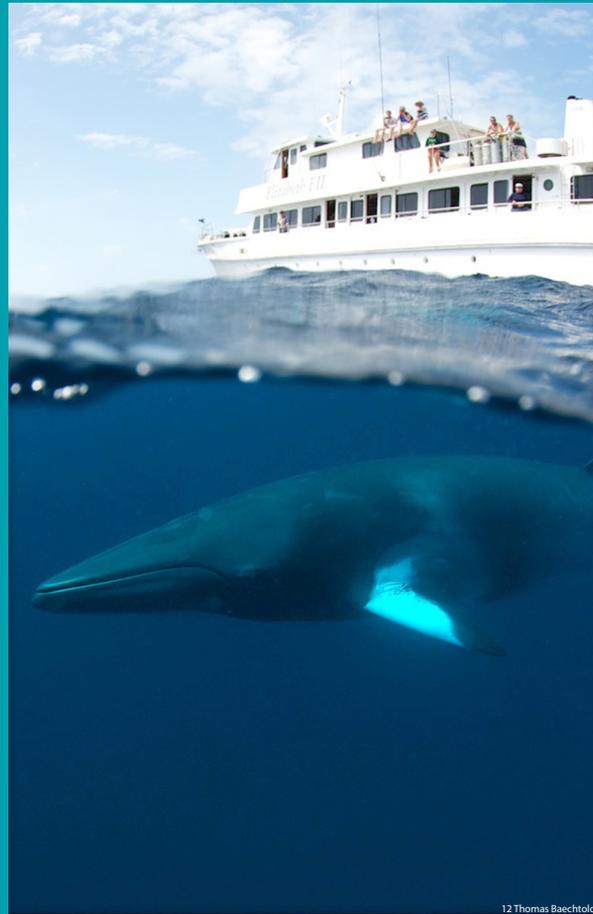


# Minke Whales

For a few short few weeks, the Southern Dwarf Minke whales migrate to the tropics to socialize, providing visitors with an incredible wildlife encounter that cannot be experienced anywhere else in the world. These playful and inquisitive whales actively seek out and interact with snorkelers. Encounters can last several hours, as these playful whales seem to never tire of gliding majestically past snorkelers and thrilling them with behavioural displays and vocalizations.

*"An encounter that leaves no-one unchanged and is second-to-none around the world for in-water whale encounters."*

-Thomas Baechtold, Wild Earth Expeditions



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John Rumney

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# TRAVEL ITINERARY

- June 27 Arrive, overnight at the Cairns Hilton.
- June 28 A chartered bus drives us to Cooktown. After lunch, we will embark on a guided tour of the town before boarding our chartered vessel and your home for the trip, the MV Elizabeth E II.
- June 28 - July 3 Spend six nights and five full days diving and snorkeling on the pristine Great Barrier Reef's Northern Section and snorkeling in the presence of inquisitive Dwarf Minke whales. Night dives will be offered on most nights.
- July 4 Disembark the Elizabeth E II at Lizard Island, board a chartered aircraft to return to Cairns. Trip ends.



# RESERVE YOUR SPOT

As we will be sharing this charter with Wild Earth Expeditions, there are a limited number of cabins available on the trip.

Double-Occupancy	\$5,680/person
Single-Occupancy	\$9,750/person

To make a reservation, please contact:

Christina Oraftik  
christina@seacology.org  
(510) 559-3505

Reservations can be made with a deposit of 50% of the per person cost. These deposits less a \$500 per person cancellation fee are 100% refundable up to February 1, 2015, after which deposits are not refundable. Final nonrefundable payments due April 15, 2015. Payments can be made by check made out to Seacology, or by a Visa, Mastercard, or American Express credit card. A surcharge of 4% will be applied to credit card payments.

**Price includes:** Lizard Island to Cairns group charter flight; Hilton Deluxe room at Cairns Hilton; Cabin onboard the Elisabeth EII; Exclusive van/bus charters; All meals; All group transfers and baggage handling; Diving, snorkeling, tanks and weights; Lectures by marine biologists and Minke experts onboard the Elisabeth EII; All permits, Entrance- and GBR Marine park fees; Minke Whale Research Donation (\$100 per person). **Price does not include:** international airfare, gratuities, personal expenses and travel insurance.

## HISTORIC COOKTOWN

Cooktown is the northernmost town on the east coast of Australia, and the closest to the Great Barrier Reef. It was founded in 1873 as a supply port for the goldfields along the Palmer River.

While there, you will visit the old Cooktown hospital, Cooktown cemetery, and the James Cook museum (right). Later you will head up Grassy-hill lookout for incredible views of the Barrier Reef, the town, and the Endeavour river.





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### **About Seacology**

We help island communities protect their forests and coral reefs by offering them a unique deal: agree to create a habitat reserve and we'll provide funds for something the community needs, like a school house or health clinic.

Since 1991, we've worked with approximately 200 villages on 155 islands in 55 countries to develop community-wide conservation plans, helping to protect over 1.5 million acres of some of the world's most vulnerable ecosystems.