

Enjoy perfect tropical sunshine while the rest of the country shivers. Spend this August in the Whitsundays with Australian Sailing.

CREDIT: ANDREA FRANCOLINI/AUDI

Australian Sailing offers exclusive race week packages

**MERIDIEN MARINAS AIRLIE
BEACH RACE WEEK,
AUGUST 12-19, 2010
AUDI HAMILTON ISLAND
RACE WEEK,
AUGUST 20-28, 2010**

THINK winter! If you live in Victoria, Tasmania, South Australia or even southern NSW or WA, imagine what the weather will be like in August. Probably, cold wet and miserable.

By contrast, in the Whitsundays it will be sunny one day and perfect the next. Airlie Beach and Hamilton Island will both be humming with activity as more than 100 racing yachts get ready for the annual race weeks.

In the past you probably put competing at Airlie or Hammo in the "too hard" basket because of the logistics – organising crew, getting your boat there, arranging accommodation and entries...

Now, a very select few Australian Sailing readers can enjoy two of the very best regatta weeks in the world and have everything organised for them.

In combination with Trevor and Maggie Joyce at Mariner Boating Holidays, Australian Sailing is putting together special Whitsunday packages for both Airlie Beach and Hamilton Island race weeks.



The 75ft Maxi Hammer of Queensland competed in the Sydney-Hobart from 1987 to 1994. She has been kept in great trim and is ready to race at Airlie Beach and Hamilton Island.

The boat(s)

Finding boats to charter at this time of year isn't easy, but Dave and Alison Molloy of Explore Whitsundays have made Hammer of Queensland, one of their legendary maxis, available to us. (Negotiations are continuing to find more boats if the demand is higher than we expect.)

The 75ft long Hammer was designed by Kel Steinman and owned and campaigned by Arthur Bloore. Throughout her racing career she competed in many blue water events and was best known for her five consecutive placings in the Sydney to Hobart. She has been set up to race or cruise, with an asymmetrical spinnaker that makes gybing like the rest of life up in the Whitsundays – easy and stress-free.

The packages

Both packages include boat charter, quality four-star accommodation on a twin-share basis, race entries, lunch on board and transfers to and from the airport. We decided to leave airfares to the individuals, as most people have frequent flier points they can use, can access budget flights or may decide to stay on and discover Queensland after the regattas.

You can choose either Airlie Beach or Hamilton Island packages, or if you're really keen you can book for both. At this stage, places are limited to 14 people per regatta. The packages are available to individuals, a few mates or we might even be able to accommodate a full crew of six to eight people on a separate, modern cruiser/racer.



BELOW: The Reef View Hotel offers commanding views of the Whitsundays from its elevated position on Hamilton Island. Shuttle buses connect to the marina and other hotels and attractions every 5 to 15 minutes.



ABOVE: The beer tent at Airlie Beach rocks to the sound of popular band The Wolverines and hundreds of people having a great time.

LEFT: There's plenty for partners to do if they don't want to be part of the crew. Hamilton Island puts together a comprehensive package of lunches, dinners, fashion parades, wine tasting, tennis lessons, golf and much, much more.

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If you're really keen you can book for both regattas.

(At time of going to press we were still negotiating this boat.)

The price for Airlie Beach race week (eight nights) will be \$3,900 per person for sailors and \$1,995 per person for partners. The price for Hamilton Island Race Week (nine nights) is \$4,400 per person for sailors and \$2,495 per person for partners*.

Something for your partners

At Hamilton Island, in particular, there is plenty for partners to do while the yacht racing takes place. We have reserved some much-sought-after tickets to the fashion parades, Moët lunches, seafood dinners, tennis coaching, golf tournament and other delights that take place during race week. These are optional extras, but when you confirm your places on the boat, you can also reserve your tickets for any or all of the special treats that Hamilton Island has in store this year.

A learning experience

Because you're already a sailor (or you probably wouldn't be reading this magazine) we're assuming you already know how to race on a large yacht. However, we promise to send you home with some new knowledge. Although Hammer will include three professional crew, you - the Australian Sailing crew - will be racing the boat. Everyone will get the chance to helm and positions will be moved around - the afterguard can even renew their acquaintance with the foredeck if they feel so inclined!

Ask for more information

You don't need to commit yourself now. If you just want more information to show your partner or your mates at the yacht club, email

us today and we'll send the full package details. This will include more information about the accommodation, some preliminary details on the social calendar and more about the boat or boats you'll be racing.

Email sailing@aussailing.com and let us know how many people you are likely to bring (sailors and partners). The information package will be on its way to you straight away.

In the meantime, go to www.mysailing.com.au/hammo and watch the video of last year's race week, including the yacht racing, the social events and the idyllic experience that awaits you in paradise.

* Prices are based on twin-share and may vary for individuals or larger groups. A final price will be confirmed with you before you commit to the package. 📧

