

# Coral Coast

## BUNDABERG - CORAL COAST - QUEENSLAND - AUSTRALIA

Corals can be found all along the Coral Coast. Close to shore, the inshore reefs are dominated by soft corals with scattered hard corals and sea fans. Offshore from the Coral Coast and within the World Heritage Great Barrier Reef Marine Park lies Lady Musgrave Island and Reef. It is home to more than 244 species of coral and supports a great diversity of marine life, including 920 species of fish, as well as invertebrates, mammals, sharks, rays and an abundance of marine turtles. The island is a coral cay, composed entirely of broken down coral fragments. It wouldn't exist without the healthy surrounding reefs, which is why it's so important to look after them.



### INSHORE REEFS

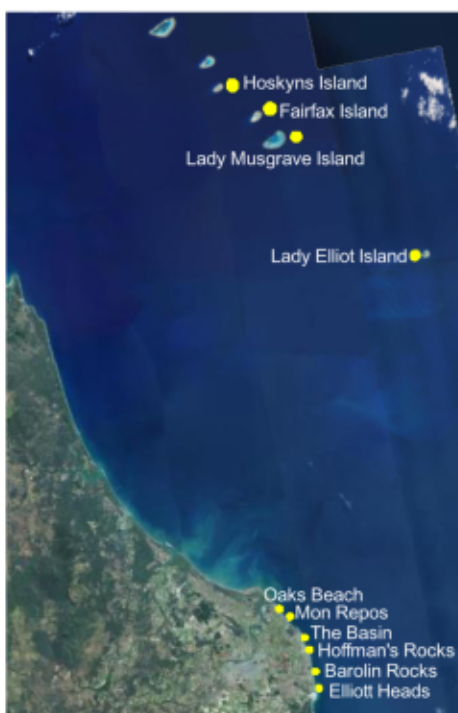


#### Characteristics

- Temperature range: 18-28°C
- High levels of sedimentation and turbidity
- Changes in salinity
- Coral diversity limited to harsh and constantly changing conditions
- Soft corals are dominant

#### Locations

Oaks Beach, The Basin, Hoffman's Rocks, Barolin Rocks, Elliot Heads



Map of the Coral Coast. Source: Queensland Globe

### OFFSHORE REEFS



#### Characteristics

- Temperature range: 18-26°C
- Low levels of sedimentation and turbidity
- Stable salinity
- High coral diversity >244 species
- Various growth forms: plating, branching and encrusting coral

#### Locations

Lady Musgrave Island, Lady Elliot Island, Fairfax Island, Hoskyns Island

### CORALS HARD VERSUS SOFT



#### Hard corals - Characteristics

- Hard calcium carbonate skeleton
- Reef building
- Rigid structure
- Symbiotic relationship with zooxanthellae
- Each polyp has 6 tentacles or multiples of 6
- Lots of research



#### Soft corals - Characteristics

- No calcium carbonate skeleton – may appear soft or leathery
- Non-reef building
- Soft structure that can move
- Some have symbiotic zooxanthellae
- Each polyp has 8 tentacles or multiples of 8
- Not much research

### CORALWATCH



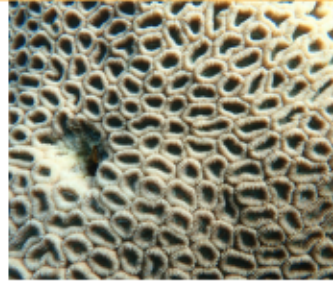
CoralWatch integrates coral reef education and global reef monitoring. Using the Coral Health Chart volunteers from around the globe can monitor reefs and contribute to our global coral bleaching database. Anyone can get involved. Download a 'Do-It-Yourself' kit and order a free Coral Health Chart at [www.coralwatch.org](http://www.coralwatch.org) today!

# Common Corals - Coral Coast area

## HARD CORALS



Stem coral  
*Pocillopora* sp.



Stony coral  
*Favia* sp.

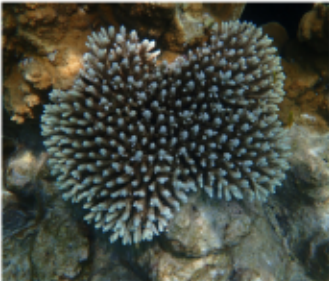
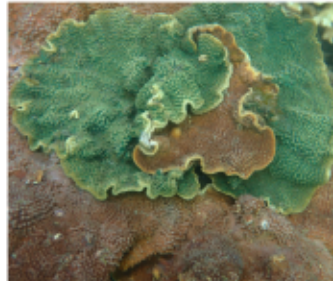


Plate coral  
*Acropora* sp.



Ruffled ridge coral  
*Turbinaria* sp.

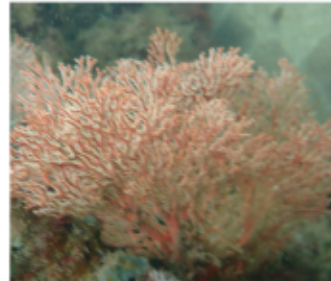
## SOFT CORALS



Leather coral  
*Sarcophytum* sp.



Leather coral  
*Sinularia* sp.



Gorgonian  
*Melithaea* sp.



Spotted soft coral  
*Cladiella* sp.

# Common Corals - Lady Musgrave Island

## HARD CORALS



Staghorn coral  
*Acropora formosa*



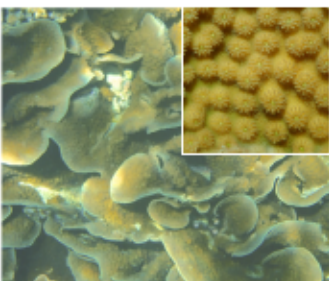
Finger coral  
*Acropora humilis*



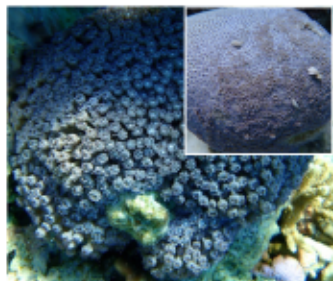
Plate coral  
*Acropora tenuis*



Mushroom coral  
*Fungia* sp.



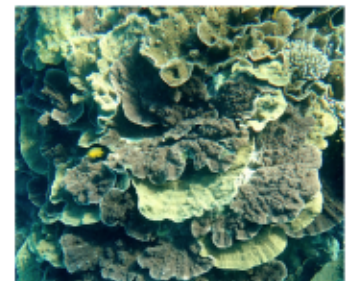
Leafy hedgehog coral  
*Echinopora* sp.



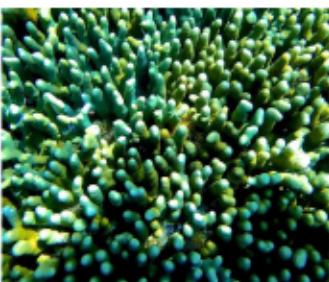
Daisy coral  
*Goniopora* sp.



Thin birdsnest coral  
*Seriatopora* sp.



Encrusting coral  
*Montipora* sp.



Yellow finger coral  
*Porites* sp.



Boulder coral  
*Porites* sp.



Lobed brain coral  
*Lobophyllia* sp.



Soft coral  
*Paralemnalia* sp.

## SOFT CORAL

© CoralWatch, July 2020. Photos: Natalie Lobartolo, Lady Musgrave Experience, Chris Roelfsema