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**By Tracey Lenz**  
**591 words**

## THE SIRENS OF THE SOUTHERN GREAT BARRIER REEF

Can you hear that? They're calling you. Just like Pisinoe, Aglaope and Thelxiope; the Sirens of Greek mythology whose sweet song guided young sailors to their ultimate demise. The sound is irresistible, drawing you nearer and nearer. But unlike the sirens' majestic song, this sound does not lead to disaster and tortuous peril. Rather, it escorts you to places of exquisite beauty, luxury and relaxation where you can leave the real world behind. The sound is that of the crystal blue waves crashing against the castor sugar sands of Heron and Wilson Islands, located at the southern end of the Great Barrier Reef.

Reef island siren sisters, Heron and Wilson, are both well known for their world class snorkelling and diving attractions which highlight the reef's spectacular marine life as well as a variety of native fauna such as green turtles and sea birds. One would assume that embarking on an eco-tourism holiday would mean "roughing it". However, both Heron and Wilson islands boast a Voyages resort which not only form the basis for the perfect ecological holiday, but are the epitome of indulgence and relaxation for the mind, body and soul.

Heron's ethos of observing and preserving the island's natural wonders does not distract from its decadent resort life style. Heron Island Resort provides partons opulent accommodation which allows them to escape the stresses of everyday life. Featuring well-appointed deluxe suites and motel

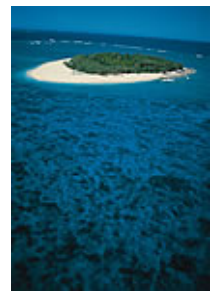


accommodation, many rooms have uninterrupted views of ocean while others boast private outdoor terraces, sun lounges and day beds. In addition, visitors' health and wellbeing can be enhanced by visiting the Aqua Soul Spa. The spa's mission is to use the healing properties of marine elements and natural botanicals to refresh the mind and restore natural energy.

If all that doesn't send you into a state of sheer bliss, the gastronomic delights will. Kick back and relax with a cocktail beside the pool at the Pandanus Lounge and Baillies Bar or indulge in the tempting morsels on offer in the Shearwater Restaurant. The seafood buffet on Saturday night showcases the best local delicacies.

A stones throw across the water, Wilson Island offers visitors the ultimate cast away experience for those in need of tranquillity, solitude and a little peace. The underlying philosophy of the island is to create a unique, private, ecologically-sound facility that ensures comfort and style to its patrons as well as highlights the natural wonders of the area.

Catering for just 12 guests at a time, Wilson Island is the essence of exclusivity. Designer tents featuring luxurious furnishings, two person hammocks and uninterrupted views of the beach are perfect for people to chill out or reconnect as couples.



Visitors are encouraged to set their own schedule. They may be drawn to The Longhouse and help themselves to the library, beverage and snacks, the 'Community' Tent's large day bed and comfortable arm chairs to take in the stunning ocean, reef and sunset views or may just want to hang around their tent or sun bake on the beach.

Meal times are the only planned part of the Wilson Island experience. Patrons can indulge in scrumptious food three times a day with the sunset drinks, canapés and the evening dinner party featuring modern Australian cuisine definite highlights.

Heron and Wilson Islands are located 72 and 80 kilometers north east of Gladstone respectively. Daily flights and launches to Heron Island are available. Wilson Island is reached by launch from Heron Island.

For further information please contact Gladstone Area Promotion and Development Limited on 4972 4000 or [www.gladstoneregion.info](http://www.gladstoneregion.info).