

Hayman – a haven for everyone

From honeymooners to baby boomers, Hayman has a holiday option to suit a wide demographic of visitors.

words Rhonda Oxnam



Are you looking for the ultimate family holiday destination? Do you need a brief 'refresh and relax' vacation? Is a luxury island escape your idea of the perfect honeymoon? If you answered yes to any or all of these questions I highly recommend you head straight to Hayman, in the heart of the glorious Whitsundays.

While this luxurious resort already boasts a well-deserved reputation as Australia's premier island destination, it is its wide-ranging appeal that really sets Hayman apart from its contemporaries.

Cove publisher Clare E. Urwin, along with her husband Bryan, were recent visitors to the resort and Clare speaks very highly of Hayman's ambience and location.

"It really is a special destination ... and the food was fabulous," insists Clare. "We ate at Fontaine restaurant on the first night and the meal was so delicious we went back again the next night.

"We were also able to meet the General Manager Shane Green, who took us on a tour of the Hayman Residences and the new Beach Villas.

"These stunning villas feature the most stylish appointments, including a large private plunge pool and direct beach access, and would be the ideal accommodation for a honeymoon or other special occasion.

"There really is the option to do as little or as much as you want while on Hayman," Clare says. "We were more than happy to enjoy the peacefulness of our Lagoon Suite and unwind by the pool (with our mobiles and laptops switched off, of course!)"

While Clare and Bryan opted for the 'relax and recharge' option, fellow staff member Jacqui Forrester took a more active approach during her visit.

Having stayed at the resort with her parents when she was a teenager, Jacqui decided to take her children, Oscar, 16, and ten-year-old Maya along to experience the beauty of Hayman first hand.

"I have some wonderful memories from my childhood holidays there and wanted to introduce my own children to the resort," Jacqui explains. "While there have been a lot of refurbishments since my last visit, it still retains the sense of calm and luxury I remember.

"And the children enjoyed every minute of our visit," Jacqui continues. "There were so many things to keep them occupied, particularly all the water sport activities.

"We tried kayaking, snorkelling and catamaraning, which Oscar loved.

"And the staff were fantastic, making sure we had all the right equipment and giving us comprehensive training and safety briefings."

For Jacqui, Oscar and Maya the highlight of their holiday was the Speedboat Island Escapade, which featured a visit to Langford Island to swim with the turtles.

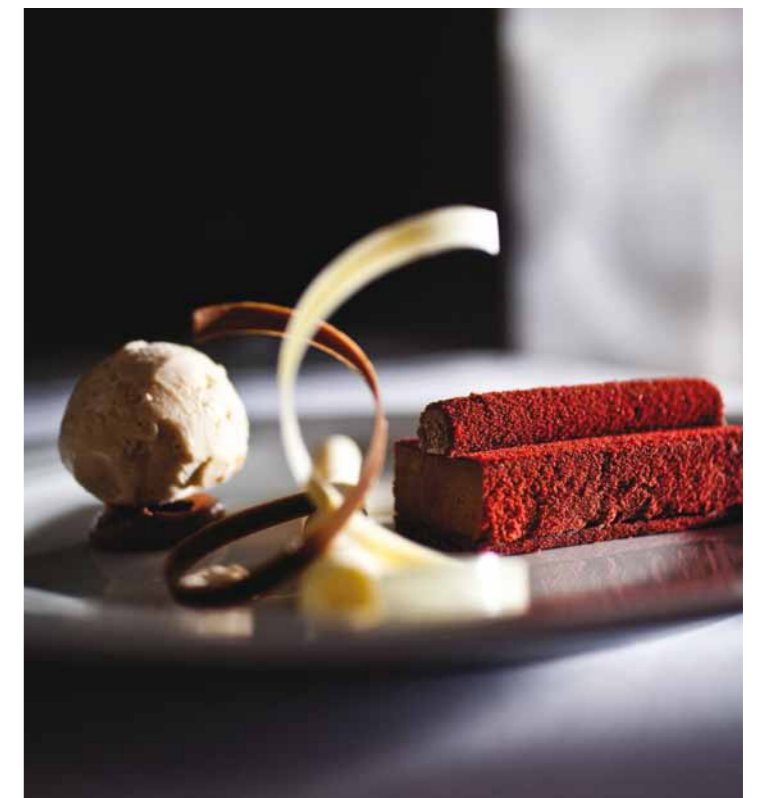
"We were taken by boat over to the island, given a 'survival kit' which included a gorgeous beach umbrella, deckchairs, a bag containing snorkelling equipment and a stinger suit, and a mobile phone and flag for attracting attention in the unlikely event of an emergency, and left to enjoy the experience for two hours," Jacqui explains. "To be able to interact with these incredible creatures in their own environment was an unforgettable experience and one we will all treasure."

Joining the family on this adventure were a young couple from Melbourne with their one year-old son, and a pair of honeymooners visiting from overseas – proving once again just how diverse the Hayman demographic is.

Speaking of diverse, Jacqui was also very impressed with the range of dining options at the resort.

"Breakfast in Azure was a great way to start the day, then at night we had the choice of visiting one of the restaurants (La Trattoria and Oriental proved popular) or we could eat early by the pool, which was sensational.

"From the food and activities to the service and surroundings, Hayman really is a very special place," Jacqui concludes. "I think a visit to the resort should be on everyone's 'to do' list in 2012." ●



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