

## SAFE SNORKELLING TIPS

Safe snorkelling is important for you and the environment. Please follow these simple steps to ensure both you and the coral stay safe.

- Never swim out further than you are comfortable swimming back.
- Maintain a state of positive buoyancy so you can float easily at all times.
- Always tell someone you are going out and what time you expect to return.
- Do not touch the living coral.
- Do not feed the fish, especially moray eels.
- If you get tired or become distressed signal the shore by waving one hand from above your head to the water at your side. Do this until your signal is acknowledged.

## MARINE IDENTIFICATION GUIDE

If you want to identify marine life from below the surface, purchase your waterproof Cook Islands Coral Reef and Creatures Guide from our Front Desk and take it along with you on your underwater adventures!

## BEWARE OF FIRE CORAL

Fire coral (Millipore spp) is common in the lagoon. If you brush up next to it you can get a mild sting similar to a jelly fish.



An initiative of Pacific Resort Hotel Group with Pacific Islands Conservation Initiative PICI. [www.picionline.org](http://www.picionline.org)



The Pacific Islands Conservation Initiative is a charitable trust working in the areas of environmental research and conservation. For a full list of the projects we currently have active visit us at [www.picionline.org](http://www.picionline.org)

## AQUATIC ECO TRAIL

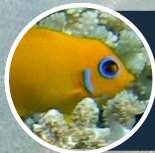
A self guided snorkelling tour of our resort lagoon







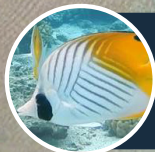
Black-dotted Sandperch  
*Parapercis millepunctata*  
L=18cm



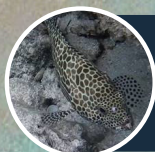
Lemonpeel Angelfish  
*Centropyge flavissimus*  
L=10.5cm



Whitesaddle Goatfish  
*Parupeneus porphyreus*  
L=38cm



Treadfin Butterfly  
*Chaetodon auriga*  
L=20cm



Honeycomb Grouper  
*Epinephelus merra*  
L=31cm



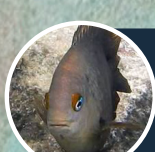
Spotfin Squirrelfish  
*Neoniphon sammara*  
L=30cm



Floral Wrasse  
*Cheilinus chlorourus*  
L=36cm



Flametail Snapper  
*Lutjanus fulvus*  
L=40cm



Darky Gregory  
*Stegastes nigricans*  
L=14cm

## SEE WHICH OF THESE FISH SPECIES YOU CAN SPOT ALONG THE WAY . . .



Blue Starfish  
*Linckia laevigata*



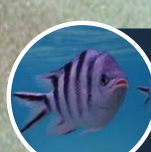
Giant Clam  
*Tridacna gigas*



Humbbug Dascyllus  
*Dascyllus aruanus*



Blue-Green Chromis  
*Chromis viridis*  
L=10cm



Scissortail Sergeant  
*Abudefduf sexfasciatus*  
L=19cm



Blue Damsel  
*Pomacentrus pavo*  
L=11cm

## AQUATIC ECO TRAIL

A self guided snorkelling and educational tour of our lagoon environment.

## HABITAT KEY

Relate these colours to the shaded areas on the map to learn about the different lagoon habitats. Please note that habitat areas indicated below are not marked in the lagoon.

### MATURE PORITES BOMMIES

This habitat is constructed around mature living Porites coral bommies. Up to 3m across, these colonies of millions of tiny coral polyps are hundreds of years old. Around this habitat more mature fish such as Parrots, Butterflies and Puffer fish can be seen.

### REGENERATING CORALS

This habitat is dominated by regenerating coral growing on old massive coral remains. A range of corals exists here and this area is home to some mature reef dwellers such as the Giant Moray, large Puffer Fish and the occasional Octopus.

### ACROPORA NURSERY

The Acropora family of corals forms an intricate array of branches and overhangs for juvenile fish to hide in. This near shore area is a great place to see a variety of reef fish in their juvenile forms. Some look just like the adult phase and some look completely different.

### HOLOTHURIAN BEDS

Holothurians are commonly known as sea cucumbers and look like dark slugs on the sea floor. They are completely harmless and filter algae off the sand, keeping the floor of the lagoon clean.

### NEAR SHORE SANDY NURSERY

Schools of juvenile goat fish feed in the early morning and evening along the beach, with rings of ripples giving away their presence. Birds and Trevally can be seen hunting these young fish.

