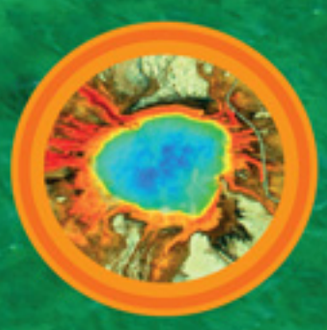
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OCEANIA



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Uluru



Komodo National Park



The Great Barrier Reef

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THE GREAT BARRIER REEF



The Great Barrier Reef, off the eastern coast of Australia, is the largest living structure on Earth.

Of all the coral in the world, a third of it can be found here!

It is a huge coral reef ecosystem, home to hundreds of types of colourful coral and bursting with marine animals.

WOW!

In total the Great Barrier Reef is made up of around 2,500 individual reefs and over 900 islands.

The reef stretches for over 2,300 km and covers an area about the size of Italy.

Beneath the surface, the reef is home to hard and soft corals, as well as amazingly-coloured fish, such as the stars of *Finding Nemo* – the stripy clownfish and bright blue surgeonfish.

Many types of sea snake weave their way around the reef. Even though most are venomous, they are fairly shy and unlikely to bite divers.

The reef is also home to many endangered species like the dugong (also known as 'sea cows') and green turtle.

Scientists have a lot to study on the Great Barrier Reef, and there are more than 60 reef-saving projects underway.

Global warming has caused sea temperatures to rise and this causes damage to the reef. Algae that live on the coral, and provide it with food, leave the warmer waters. The coral turns white giving it a 'bleached' look, and much of the reef is now dying.



Clownfish

MARIANA TRENCH

The Mariana Trench in the Western Pacific Ocean is the deepest part of the world's oceans.

It was formed 180 million years ago and is one of the oldest parts of the world's seabeds.

The trench is at a place where one tectonic plate (the vast rocky areas of the Earth's crust) is pushed beneath another.

It is more than 2,540 km long and around 69 km wide.

The very deepest part is called the Challenger Deep. The seabed here is nearly 11,000 metres below the surface.

The Challenger Deep was first discovered in 1875 by the research ship HMS Challenger, after which it is named.

WOW!

If you put the world's highest mountain – Mount Everest – into the trench, its peak would still be two kilometres under water!

The pressure at the bottom of the trench is more than 1,071 times the pressure at the surface of the Earth. Anything that is not designed to survive high pressure will be crushed by the water. Anglerfish, certain jellyfish and translucent seapigs have all adapted to withstand the high pressure.

Living organisms have been found at a record depth of 10,600 m in the trench.

In 2012, the film director James Cameron went all the way to the bottom of the trench in a special underwater vehicle.



Anglerfish

Jellyfish



Translucent seapig

