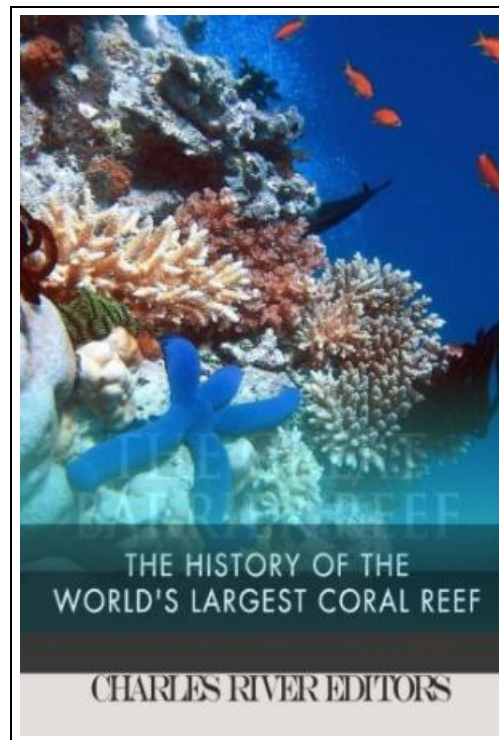


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(Lula Graham IV)

THE GREAT BARRIER REEF: THE HISTORY OF THE WORLD S LARGEST CORAL REEF



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Createspace, United States, 2015. Paperback. Book Condition: New. 229 x 152 mm. Language: English . Brand New Book ***** Print on Demand *****Includes pictures *Includes accounts of the reef and animals written by explorers *Includes a bibliography for further reading *Includes a table of contents Coral is a very beautiful and unusual animal. Each coral head consists of thousand of individual polyps. These polyps are continually budding and branching into genetically identical neighbors. - Antony Garrett List People have always loved to build things, whether it s a feat of engineering in an underground subway or the construction of the world s tallest skyscraper. Thus, it s somewhat ironic that the largest structure ever built was not made by humans but by incredibly tiny organisms known as coral polyps. Over the course of tens of thousands of years, these small organisms have put together a collection of nearly 3,000 reefs that form a collective stretching across 130,000 square miles. It is often mistakenly claimed that the Great Wall of China can be seen in space, but it s absolutely true that the enormous Great Barrier Reef is visible. The sheer size of the Great Barrier Reef is mind-boggling, but its importance extends far past its physical extent. Put simply, the Great Barrier Reef is one of the most beautiful spots on the planet, offering kaleidoscopic colors thanks to the coral and the species that call it home. This is understandable because a staggering number of species inhabit the Great Barrier Reef, ranging from starfish and turtles to alligators and birds. Scientists have counted about 1,500 different fish species using the reef, and it s estimated that even 1.5 million birds use the site. In designating it a World Heritage Site, UNESCO wrote of the Great Barrier Reef, The Great Barrier...



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