

AARHUS

Sketch map of wreck site
(key on reverse)

Sketch adapted with permission
from a plan drawn by Maritime
Archaeological Association
of Queensland



Site conditions vary and will
affect how much of the wreck
and its relics can be seen.
If you notice something
suspicious or see items not
marked on the plan, please
contact EHP.

Help protect shipwrecks!

In Australia, all shipwrecks and their associated relics that are older than 75 years are protected by law. Shipwrecks are underwater museums that reflect the history of discovery, trade and colonisation and provide important scientific, historical and educational information. When artefacts are removed from a shipwreck, valuable archaeological information is lost forever. Shipwrecks are fragile and once lost, cannot be replaced.

Interfering with or damaging shipwrecks is prohibited. The most common actions that damage or interfere with shipwrecks include:

- divers holding on to fragile structures
- divers uncovering parts of the wreck by digging or 'hand fanning'
- taking anything from a shipwreck site
- anchoring on a shipwreck
- attaching lines directly to a shipwreck.



**Take only photos,
leave only bubbles!**

Just like Moreton Bay is a unique underwater playground for divers, so too is the Great Barrier Reef. Protecting these precious marine areas and their natural and cultural heritage is everyone's responsibility. Visit www.qld.gov.au to find shipwreck locations on the Queensland coast including the reef, or www.reefacts.qld.gov.au to read more about how the iconic Great Barrier Reef world heritage area is being protected.

Your safety is your responsibility.

Anyone with information or queries about Queensland's historic shipwrecks should email archaeology@ehp.qld.gov.au

DIVE into history QUEENSLAND'S SHIPWRECKS



Aarhus (1894)



0 2 4 6 8 10
m
scale approximate



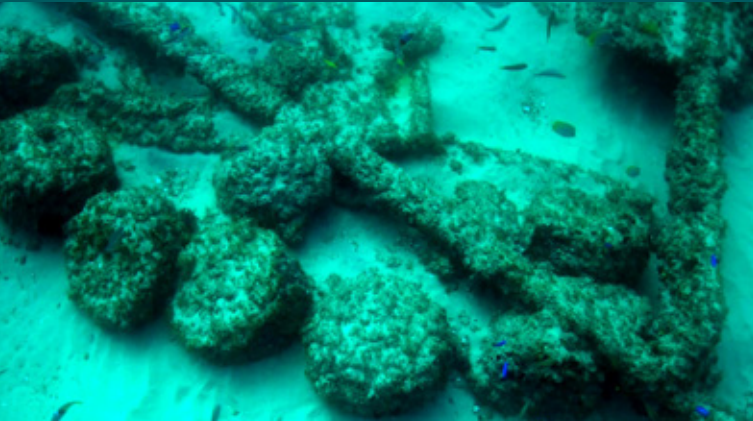
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#30550



Australian Government
Department of the Environment





Aarhus (1894)

Vessel type Iron sailing, barque
Built Hamburg, Germany 1875
Dimensions Length: 170ft Width: 28.3ft
 Depth: 17.6ft Tonnage: 640

General information

The *Aarhus* left New York for Brisbane on 24 February 1894 with a cargo of kerosene and general merchandise. Arriving off Cape Moreton at 4.30pm the captain signalled to the Cape Moreton lighthouse for a pilot. After an hour, the pilot vessel had made no attempt to assist the barque so the captain decided to wait in deeper water until the morning. However, in the early evening the vessel struck very hard three times on Smith Rock and within 10 minutes it sunk. The captain's wife—who was a passenger—and the crew of 15 made for Moreton Island in lifeboats, where they landed safely.

Site map of Aarhus

The wreck lies partially buried on a sandy bottom. The stern has collapsed and a large section of the starboard bow stands above the seabed. Site features include: bowsprit, large anchors, deck plating, and wire bales. Occasionally the stern and midships can be exposed.

Site marine life

The *Aarhus's* underwater superstructure is a habitat which provides food and shelter for a variety of marine life including sponges, corals, pelagic and reef fish, rays, octopus and wobbegong sharks.



This shipwreck diver guide was produced by the Department of Environment and Heritage Protection (EHP) to increase community awareness and to help protect, manage, and interpret Queensland's unique underwater cultural heritage.

Dive site information

Dive rating The *Aarhus* is suitable for advanced and experienced divers.

Protected zone Radius: 500m

Note: The *Aarhus* is in a protected zone and requires a permit to dive. Protected zones help to protect the wrecks, and the fragile and archaeologically important sites in which they are situated, from interference and damage.

Dive permits are free. Application forms can be completed online: www.environment.gov.au

Location Smith Rock (off Cape Moreton)

Max depth 21m **AVG depth** 18m

AVG visibility 25m

Current The site can be affected by currents of up to 2 knots, a bottom surge in heavy seas and an average of 2m swell. The site should only be dived at slack water and in good sea conditions.

Anchoring Avoid damaging the *Aarhus* by anchoring away from the shipwreck and letting the boat hang back over the site. Use a shot line to mark the site if necessary.

Aarhus map key

- | | | | |
|---|----------------------|--|--------------------------|
| ★ | star pickets | | crosstree |
| ● | coils of wire | | bollard |
| | wagon wheels | | sewing machine axe heads |
| | collapsed deck beams | | collapsed plates |
| | sections of masts | | tank |
| | ladder | | hatch coaming |
| | chain | | |
| | anchor | | |

*Artefacts not to scale

