

Your pocket guide to LORD HOWE ISLAND just paradise.

Welcome

From mountains to beaches, bird watching to deep sea diving, World Heritage listed Lord Howe Island has so much to do.

If you're not sure where to begin, get started with these local favourites.

1 Take your shoes off

Take your shoes off and feel the sand between your toes. You might notice that the local kids don't wear shoes to school! Take a stroll and leave your phone, your worries and maybe your shoes behind.

It's nice to know, there are no snakes on the island!

2 Swim in pristine water

The currents that wrap Lord Howe Island keep the water quite temperate and you can swim all year round.

Whether you're looking to body surf, distance swim or splash in the shallows, we're proud of our clean, crystal clear water.

Lord Howe Island Marine Park is one of the few places in Australia where such a diversity of fish, coral, algae and marine creatures can be seen by snorkeling just a few meters from the shore.



3 Enjoy a lazy lunch

There are a number of BBQ facilities around the island. Most are wood fired and stocked daily with dry, cut, wood, some are electric with no need for matches!

Spend a long lunch at the grill, with BBQ packs available for purchase on the island or from your guest house. It's one of our favourite ways to laze an afternoon away.

4 Watch the sunset

In the summer months, the lagoon, Flagstaff lookout and the jetty are excellent vantage points to watch the sun go down over the ocean. On a clear day watch the whole sky light up in front of you, while behind you the mountains glow pink and purple.

Bring a torch as dusk sets in pretty quickly once the sun dips below the horizon.

5 Check out the stars

The island doesn't have many street lights, so as not to disrupt the natural navigation of native and visiting wildlife. So take advantage of our big open skies and zero light pollution for world class stargazing on a clear and cloudless night.



Getting around

Welcome to the slow life! The maximum speed limit on Lord Howe Island is 25km/hour. Join the locals and slow down to smell the frangipani!

Cycling

Peddle power is one of the best ways to get around, hire a bike once you get settled in. You're required by law to wear a fastened helmet when cycling, and you must have a fixed light for cycling after sunset.

Walking

You can wander the palm-lined roads and paths to discover the beaches and walking tracks. Remember to take a water bottle if you are out for the day. At night take a torch with you as there are few streetlights.

Evening services

As is island custom, your guest house will drive you to restaurants for dinner service. The restaurants provide transport back to your accommodation. Check your guest house for availability and schedule.

Hire cars and mobility scooters

There are a limited number of hire cars and mobility scooters available for hire. Contact the Visitors Centre for more information.



Beaches

Lord Howe Island's unique geology forms vastly different coast lines all around the island. The surrounding Lord Howe Island Marine Park contains an extensive barrier coral reef, that protects a broad sheltered lagoon and sandy beach on the western side of the island while fringing coral reefs lie immediately offshore of the beaches on the eastern side.

Swimming

There are so many options for swimming, but please be aware that strong currents may occur at any time and the beaches are unattended so please check the conditions and use common sense before swimming.

Wildlife

The marine park is home to fragile coral that can take hundreds of years to grow. Please do not stand on or break fragile coral reef habitats. For protection from sea urchins and reef shells, we advise wearing footwear when wading or reef walking. On sandy coastlines be careful to not disturb bird nests and eggs.

Pollution

In an effort to protect our oceans, marine and bird life please pick up any man-made debris washed ashore. There are plastic collection stations around the island to help measure and monitor debris found. Hold onto and deposit picnic waste into the correct bins around the island.



Ball's Pyramid

23 kilometres southeast of the island, within the marine park, lies the world's tallest sea stack 551 metres tall Ball's Pyramid. Like nearby Lord Howe Island, Ball's Pyramid is just a tiny remnant of a much larger volcanic island that formed 7 million years ago, and has been eroded by ocean swells.

Ball's Pyramid is a popular spot for fishing charters and is the only known place where the Ballina angelfish can be sighted scuba diving.

Nearly all Lord Howe seabirds nest on Ball's Pyramid. Take a seabird cruise to this craggy rock and marvel not only at its magnificent structure but the myriad of seabirds that feed and breed there.

A variety of tour and charter boats operate from Lord Howe Island for sightseeing, snorkeling, fishing and scuba diving around Ball's Pyramid.

LORD HOWE ISLAND just paradise.

Want to know more? Get Lord Howe Island maps, official travel information, weather updates and tour operator guides from the Visitors Centre.

www.lordhoweisland.info



Fishing

Surrounded by the Lord Howe Island Marine Park and with only a small-scale local fishery, the diversity of species, terrain, methods and the sheer abundance of fish, ranks Lord Howe among the world's top fishing destinations.

Boat fishing

A variety of dedicated charter fishing boats operate from Lord Howe, with half, full-day and private charter tours on offer. All boats provide quality fishing tackle suited to Lord Howe's conditions and a great day on the water, you don't need to bring a thing. There is no private boat hire available on the island.

Shore fishing

Easily accessible shore-based fishing locations can be found along most sandy beaches and various headlands, where anglers may catch silver trevally, silver drummer, kingfish and spangled emperor. Fishing equipment is available for hire for beach fishing. Rock fishing is only for the experienced and safety gear is required.

Marine park sanctuary zones

All forms of fishing and collecting are prohibited in our sanctuary zones. Grab a Lord Howe Island Marine Park Guide before heading out.

Spearfishing, snares, lobster traps and crab traps are prohibited. NSW commercial fishing and recreational fishing rules apply. For more information visit the Visitor Centre or Marine Parks office.



Walking and hiking

Walking and hiking is the best way to see beautiful landscapes and explore vast wilderness areas of Lord Howe Island.

The diversity of tracks means there's something for everyone, from leisurely nature trails that bring unique ecosystems into focus, to challenging adventures and dizzying heights.

Safety

Remember to take water and a snack with you on long or difficult walks.

Make sure you allow enough time and check what time the sun is settings, and if you're heading out in the afternoon take a torch.

Solo travellers, it's a good idea to leave a note in your lodge letting us know where you're heading.

For more information pick up a Walking Track Map 'Exploring Lord Howe Island' from the Visitor Centre.

Guided walks

Mt Gower may only be accessed with a registered guide, so check the local operators for availability and to book.



Water sports

The Lord Howe Island Marine Park's crystal-clear lagoon and sheltered bays, provide abundant opportunities for water sports activities.

Snorkeling

Snorkel gear is available for hire to explore some of our best off shore snorkel sites. You can also visit great snorkel spots within the lagoon with a kayak (available for hire), or join a boat tour to visit off-shore features.

Diving

The island's unique World Heritage listed marine park hosts a diverse mix of tropical, sub-tropical and temperate marine species many of which are found nowhere else on earth. Hundreds of different dive sites are ready to be explored with local dive operators. Divers can explore underwater trenches, caves and volcanic drop-offs filled with colourful marine-life.

Paddle boarding

Beginners and intermediate paddle boarders can enjoy the shelter of the lagoon, while experienced paddlers can head out to the rolling surf at the surrounding outer reef.

Kayaking

Kayaks are a great way to explore the protected waters of the lagoon. Summit Blackburn Island or take a picnic lunch and explore North Bay and Old Settlement. Don't forget to look down, you might spot a turtle or ray through the water.



Bird life

Surrounded by ocean for hundreds of kilometres, Lord Howe Island is a haven for breeding seabirds and is one of Australia's premier bird watching destination.

Two hundred and eight species of birds have been recorded on Lord Howe Island; of which thirty two are regular breeders today, fourteen species of seabirds, and eighteen species of landbirds.

Lord Howe Island is one of only two breeding locations in Australia for the Kermadec petrel and grey ternlet; the most southerly breeding location in the world for the sooty tern, common noddy, black noddy and masked booby; the world's largest concentration of red-tailed tropicbirds breeding, and the only breeding population of flesh-footed shearwaters off Eastern Australia.

The Lord Howe Island (LHI) Currawong, the LHI golden whistler, the LHI white-eye, the emerald ground dove, sacred kingfisher and woodhen are the last remaining, native landbird species that have survived the predation by introduced animals.

There are also a number of regular visitors that return at the same time each year on migratory paths.



Marine life

Lord Howe Island Marine Park is an underwater paradise. The marine communities are globally unique, and contain thousands of tropical, subtropical and temperate species, including some endemic species that are found nowhere else.

There are diverse habitats to explore within the marine park state and Commonwealth waters, extending from the shore to 200 nautical miles and covering an area of over 110, 500 square kilometres.

Around 90 coral species feature in this world's southernmost true coral reef. The fish fauna of Lord Howe Island Marine Park has been well documented, with more than 500 species recorded. Approximately 60% of the fish species are tropical, 15 species are endemic to the region, and the remainder are sub-tropical and temperate fish species.

The pristine waters are also home to around 70 echinoderm species (starfish, urchins and their cousins), hundreds of mollusc species (snails, slugs and bivalves) plus hundreds of other species such as crustaceans (crabs and crayfish), turtles, dolphins and a myriad of other creatures.



Plant life

Lord Howe Island has a diverse flora with relatives from around the surrounding Tasman Sea - Australia, New Caledonia and New Zealand. 75% of the island is covered by a conservation area called the Permanent Park Preserve that protects the island's flora. 43% of the island's vegetation is endemic - found nowhere else on earth!

Lord Howe Island's vegetation is broadly described as Oceanic Rainforest with the Oceanic Cloud Forest atop Mt Gower.

There are species of flowering plants ranging from tiny herbs to tall rainforest trees 20 metres tall. Most of these flower during spring and summer, but there are some plants to be seen in flower any time of the year you visit.

The rainforest understory and exposed ridges and cliffs of Lord Howe Island are home to 24 shrub species. While exploring the island walking tracks you can view many of these close up and enjoy observing their detailed leaf structure, flowers and fruits.

Look up to see how any of the 24 different creepers climb into the tree tops, or hunt for the 12 orchid species of many shapes and sizes. Slow down to take in the delicate flowers and seed structures of native herbs, abundant mosses or varying characteristics of the 56 species of ferns.

Lord Howe Island

Lord Howe Island lies 780km northeast of Sydney; 11km long and 2.8km at its widest, with an area of 56km²

- 1 Post office & bank at post office
- 2 ATM
- 3 Doctor & pharmacy
- 4 Police
- 5 Marine Parks
- 6 Park Rangers & LHI Board
- 7 SES
- 8 Bike hire
- 9 Visitors Centre & museum
- 10 Playground
- 11 Churches
- BBQ
- Toilets
- Drinking water







Balls Pyramid

562 metres high
1,100 metres long and 300 metres across

23km Southeast of Lord Howe Island

Something for everyone, year round

From golden summer evenings to crisp and clear winter days, Lord Howe Island's climate is mild, year-round.

- 
Summer
 December / January / February
 Average daytime temperature: 24°C - 26°C
 Average water temperature: 24°C - 26°C
 Summer is about making the most of the sun, warm water and water sports.
- 
Autumn
 March / April / May
 Average daytime temperature: 18°C - 23°C
 Average water temperature: 26°C - 22°C
 Autumn brings settled weather for hiking, kayaking and nature trails.
- 
Winter
 June / July / August
 Average daytime temperature: 14°C - 19°C
 Average water temperature: 20°C - 19°C
 Clear winter days are perfect for fishing and beach combing, and mountain waterfalls flow.
- 
Spring
 September / October / November
 Average daytime temperature: 16°C - 19°C
 Average water temperature: 24°C - 26°C
 The Island bursts with new life in spring as land birds start nesting and native flowers bloom.

Caring for Lord Howe Island

Lord Howe Island's renowned, pristine natural environment is maintained through world-class conservation efforts that began more than 100 years ago and continue today.

With a legacy of world-class conservation projects under its belt, Lord Howe Island's community is deeply connected to the environment and many of the successful conservation projects that have been carried out over the last century have been pioneered by the community, who take great pride in ensuring the island is protected.

- Lord Howe Island's conservation legacy includes;**
- Pigs eradicated 1979
 - Cats eradicated 1981
 - Feral Goats eradicated 1999
 - Myrtle Rust 2018
 - Woodhen recovery plan 1980 to 1983
 - Phasid captive breeding
 - Rodent Eradication 2019
 - Weeding - continuous from 1980's
 - Phasid breeding continuous from 2002

A state Marine Park was declared in 1998 and a Commonwealth Marine Park in 1999. Visit the Visitor Centre or Marine Parks office to find out more about previous or ongoing initiatives.



Preservation

We feel a special connection with the island we live on and a duty of care to preserve our home and protect our future. You can help us contribute to the island's conservation while visiting.

Plastic bag free
Lord Howe Island promotes the use of reusable bags, available for purchase on the island.

Water bottles
Be sure to bring your own water bottle on your outings. Lord Howe Island has water refill stations to allow you to fill your bottle with fresh clean drinking water.

Scrub your boots
Phytophthora is a root fungus that presents a serious threat to the island's unique flora. Please scrub your boots/shoes at the stations before entering walking tracks.

Waste
The island has no land fill capacity so all waste that's not able to be composted or used on the island, is shipped to the mainland for recycling, reuse or land fill disposal.

Please help our waste management by sorting rubbish into the correct bins at your guest house, or at public bins located around the island.

Native species protected
All native flora and fauna, including birds and invertebrates are protected, which means you cannot take or harm any species.

Discover our top experiences and be inspired

Whether you're here for the first time or you're a regular visitor to the island, there's so much to see and do.

Our map is indicative of the adventures to be had - always check conditions before setting out and follow the advice and instructions from your tour operator or accommodation.

- Lookouts**
- The locals joke it's hard to take a bad photo on Lord Howe Island! Many of the mountain walks have a summit with a rewarding view. If you're not looking to climb our highest peaks, try these favourite photo opportunities.
- Flagstaff:** An excellent sunset spot in the summer months
 - Blinky Beach:** Watch the moon rise from the sea
 - Muttonbird Point:** Worth the initial incline for a lookout platform high over the crashing waves
 - Lovers Bay:** For a panorama of the lagoon

- Discovering island plants**
- The complex landscape of lowland, valley, mountain and ridge provides many microhabitats for diverse plants to exist. Exploring the island's network of walking tracks, lets you observe our oceanic rainforest close up.
- Settlement roads and lowland forest: **Berrywood trees** with red fruits, tall **Kentia palms** and **Sallywood** with white flowers in summer; **Blackbutt** with dark brown trunk.
 - Clear Place: **Kentia palm** forest and 20 metre tall **Banyan** trees.
 - Boat Harbour walk: **hotbark** trees with 18cm long straplike leaves; **Pandanus** trees with many prop roots forming a teepee shape under the trunk; and the endemic **curly palm**.
 - Many endemic species flower on Mt Gower in summer: including the **mountain rose** with bright red flowers; **Fitzgeraldii tree** with 15cm long spikes of tiny white flowers; **pumpkin tree** with 3cm long yellow flowers; the **big mountain palm** with fruit the size of a golf ball, and the **little mountain palm** with marble sized fruits.

Fishing around the island

70% of the marine park is habitat protection zones where most forms of fishing are allowed. The remaining 30% of the park is within sanctuary zones to protect unique marine habitats and all forms of fishing and collecting are not allowed. Always check the zones and management rules in the Lord Howe Island Marine Park Guide before you head off.

Beach fishing: Blinky Beach, Old Settlement Beach, Lagoon Beach
Rock fishing: Middle Beach, Boat Harbour, Little Island, Old Gulch.

Local operators run group or private fishing boat charters around the island and Ball's Pyramid. NSW fishing rules apply and most people fishing need to pay the NSW recreational fishing fee.

Marine life, snorkeling and diving

With over 500 fish species and more than 1500 species of snails and shellfish, Lord Howe Island Marine Park is home to a number of endemic species - animals only found within the Lord Howe region.

Many of the diverse and colourful marine life that live within the marine park are close to shore and can be seen snorkeling.

- McCullochs anemone fish:** (Nemo's cool cousin) look around its anemone home at Neds Beach, Comets Hole, Far Rocks, North Bay and Sylphs Hole
- Three-striped butterfly fish:** North Bay, Neds Beach, Far Rocks, Comets Hole
- Bluefish:** Neds Beach SZ, Pot Holes
- Double-header wrasse:** Neds Beach, North Bay, Comets Hole.
- Green and hawkbill turtles:** Sylphs Hole, Neds Beach, Old Settlement Beach and throughout the Lagoon.
- Coral:** Neds Beach SZ, Sylphs Hole SZ, Pot Holes
- Giant clam:** Middle Beach rock platform
- Dolphins:** most often seen from boats outside the lagoon

Discover the greatest diversity and abundance of sea life with a guided snorkel or scuba dive. Known as one of best diving destinations in the world, scuba dive sites are selected daily based on the conditions and include the lagoon, outer reef and island coastline, extending to the Admiralty Islands and Ball's Pyramid.

Water activities

The crystal-clear lagoon and island's sheltered bays, provide abundant opportunities for water sports activities.

- Fish feeding:** Ned's Beach Special Purpose Zone (Pellets in Ned's shed)
- Kayaking:** In the lagoon, North Bay, Blackburn Island, Comet's hole
- Paddleboarding:** In the lagoon
- Body surf:** at Blinky Beach
- Surfing:** Local beach and reef breaks when conditions are suitable

Bird watching

Twitcheers delight! Local and visiting birds can be spotted all over the island. These are some of their common locations.

- Providence petrel:** (March to July) Little Island
- Grey ternlet:** (Sept to March) Old Gulch
- Sooty tern:** (Sept to Feb) Ned's Beach, Blinky Beach, North Beach
- Brown noddy:** (Sept to May) Ned's Beach, Old Gulch
- Black noddy:** (Sept to May) North Beach, behind post office
- Masked booby:** (all year) Muttonbird Point lookout
- Red tailed tropicbird:** (Oct to June) Malabar, Kim's Lookout, Old Gulch
- Flesh footed shearwater:** (Sept to April) Ned's Beach dusk and night
- Wedgetailed shearwater:** (Sept to April) Signal Point, Blackburn Island
- Black-winged petrel:** (Nov to May) Ned's Beach, Clear Place in afternoons

Landbirds, including the **Lord Howe Island golden whistler**, **Lord Howe Island white-eye**, **emerald ground dove** and **woodhen** can be seen around the settlement area all year round.

Walking trails

Pick up a walking track map "Exploring Lord Howe Island" before you head out, available at the Visitors Centre. Keep an eye out for the small green posts that mark the trails and stick to the tracks.

- Easy walks**
 - Stevens Reserve
 - Little Island
 - Clear Place
 - Foreshore Walk
 - Valley of the Shadows
 - Bowker Ave
 - Transit Hill
- Moderate hiking**
 - Muttonbird Point
 - Coastal track to Rocky Run and Boat Harbour
 - Old Gulch
 - Kim's Lookout to Malabar
 - Kim's Lookout
 - Boat Harbour via Smoking Tree Ridge
- More difficult, strenuous hiking**
 - The Goat House
 - Intermediate Hill
 - Mt Eliza
 - Max Nicholl's Memorial Track to North Bay
 - Mt Gower - only with an authorised guide