HOWE DELIGHTFUL

Lose the mobile phone, leave the laptop at home and put an out-of-office message on your email. You’re on Lord Howe Island now, a place where bare feet are part of the uniform and a bicycle is the best way to get around. It’s Australia’s very own Pacific paradise.

It’s an important link that makes Dani appreciate the island for more than just the pristine environment and natural beauty that draws hundreds of visitors to the World Heritage destination every year.

“Lord Howe Island is famous for its landscape, and it’s a gorgeous place to visit, but one of the things I value about the place is its people. That’s something that comes from having so much family history here,” she explains.

“I appreciate the link I have to the land. It’s nice to feel such a deep connection to a place, and I still find it amazing that I went to the same school as my mum, my grandfather and my great-grandfather.”

Dani says the island, just 11km long and 2km wide, has changed a lot since she was young, with a supply ship visiting every fortnight these days compared to the six-week schedule when she was growing up.

“We didn’t have phones when I was a kid. The internet has brought the outside world a lot closer — even though the internet speed is woeful and we still use faxes because they’re more reliable — and there are more cars around now.

“Food used to consist of tinned beetroot and tinned pineapple, but cuisine is a big part of the holiday experience now and we include all meals, from breakfast and lunch to afternoon tea and dinner, in a stay at Pinetrees. We’ll also pack a picnic for people who want to go out for the day.

“We drop the Esky at the beach so our guests can have a swim before barbecuing some fresh kingfish. One of the best things about Lord Howe Island is it’s so relaxed and crime-free — it’s perfectly possible to drop a hamper at a beach and know it will be where we left it.”

Dani says the best spots to picnic depend on the season, but with 11 stretches of sand it’s always easy to find a location that’s out of the wind and bathed in sunshine.

“Ned’s Beach is the place to go during winter with the coral coming right to the sand. You can snorkel or feed the fish,” she explains.

“In summer the best place is Old Settlement — there’s a secret spot around the corner from Main Beach with a view across the lagoon to the mountains, and you’ll feel like you’re the only person in paradise.”

DANI ROURKE
Executive manager, Pinetrees Lodge
LIVES Lord Howe Island

DANI ROURKE HAS A SPECIAL BOND WITH LORD HOWE ISLAND. THE MOTHER OF TWO YOUNG GIRLS, ELsie (PICTURED) AND PIXIE, WHO MANAGES PINETREES LODGE WITH HER HUSBAND LUKE HANSON, IS THE SIXTH GENERATION OF HER FAMILY TO BE BORN AND RAISED ON THE PACIFIC ISLAND THAT’S JUST A TWO-HOUR FLIGHT FROM SYDNEY AND BRISBANE.


Howe about accommodation?

**CAPELLA LODGE**
The ultimate in luxury lodging.
[lordhowe.com](http://lordhowe.com)

**EARL'S ANCHORAGE**
Spacious self-contained bungalows.
[earlanchorage.com](http://earlanchorage.com)

**HOWEANA APARTMENTS**
A beach house near Ned's Beach.

**MARY CHALLIS COTTAGES**
Cottages close to the best swimming spot.
[lordhoweisland.info](http://lordhoweisland.info)

**PINETREES LODGE**
Waterfront location, perfect for families.

**BLUE LAGOON LODGE**
Set in lush gardens close to The Lagoon.
[bluelagoonlodge.com](http://bluelagoonlodge.com)

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**DAY ONE**
**HOWE NOW**

Welcome to Lord Howe Island, the Pacific Ocean paradise where no more than 400 visitors are allowed to holiday at any time.

There’s no mobile reception, the few cars on the roads aren’t permitted to drive faster than 25km/h, there are no high-rise buildings, the locals don’t lock the doors, and bare feet are part of the official school uniform.

The first item on the agenda is to visit Wilson’s Hire Service to rent a bicycle to use during your stay, before calling into the Lord Howe Island Museum & Visitors Information Centre to learn more about this destination.

Find a table at the Anchorage Restaurant for a lunchtime bite and then walk to Malabar Hills and Kim’s Lookout to enjoy views across the island.

Join legendary island storyteller Peter Phillips from Chase 'n' Thyme for a tour of Lord Howe, with the itinerary designed to get visitors under the skin of this remote destination, before retracing to Middle Beach to indulge in some pre-dinner snorkelling or swimming.

When you’ve had your fill of coral and coloured fish – Lord Howe is home to more than 90 coral varieties and 500 species of fish – use the free firewood supplied by the Lord Howe Island Board to barbecue beside the sand and watch day gently turn to night.

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**DAY TWO**
**RELAX AND UNWIND**

Fishing is one of Lord Howe’s most popular activities, with kingfish, yellow fin tuna and wahoo fish swimming the water around the 11km-long island.

Join Greenback Fishing Tours or MV Carina Fishing and Sightseeing Cruises for a voyage to the deep water. Longer trips venture to the spectacular Ball’s Pyramid to discover where the big fish dwell.

If you prefer to keep your feet on land, take a trek to Mt Grower, the island’s highest peak at 875m. Sea To Summit and Lord Howe Island Environmental Tours all offer guided expeditions.

For something a little more relaxed, start the day with a stroll along the sand at Blinky Beach, Lord Howe’s top surfing spot, then rendezvous with Marine Adventures for the Turtle Tour.

Hire a stand-up paddle board from Lord Howe Island Windsports to explore the lagoon before withdrawing to one of the island’s day spas – try Aralja Retreat, Capella Lodge or Pinetrees Lodge – to indulge in a massage or facial.

Finish the afternoon with a lesson at Greenback Cooking School. Learn how to handle fish from hook to cook, or simply chill out at Greenback Eatery to feast on fresh local seafood.
DAY THREE
PARADISE FOUND

Start your third day on this World Heritage
haven with a visit to Ned’s Beach and feed
the fish that venture close to the sand to
nibble food from your fingers.

Lord Howe Island is one of Australia’s best
bird-watching destinations – 14 species
of seabirds visit to breed – so grab your
binoculars and follow the tracks to Clear
Place, Muttonbird Point, Mt Eliza or North
Bay to spot these feathered friends.

If you’re visiting during autumn and winter,
hike or bike to Little Island at the base of
Mt Gower to spy the Providence petrels that
nest on the cliffs of Lord Howe’s Everest,
and try calling the inquisitive birds to see
if they land at your feet.

Those in town on a Friday should pop
into the Kentia Palm Nursery for the
morning tour to learn more about the
island’s top export, before finding an empty
patch of sand at Lover’s Beach or Old
Settlement Beach to take a dip in the
clear water and picnic below the pines.

Take to the waves with Dean Hiscox
from Lord Howe Island Environmental
Tours for more aquatic exploring – try the
Admiralty Islands Ocean Kayak Tour or a
guided paddle around a quiet cove – before
watching the sun sink towards the horizon
on Islander Cruises sunset voyage.

Hit the Lord Howe Island Golf Club
for dinner on Friday night when the locals
gather to feast on steak and salads.

See for free
SURVEY THE REEF
Don sneakers to explore the coral at low tide.

SUN, SEA AND SAND
Flop on one of Lord Howe’s 11 beautiful beaches.

THE FAVOURITE
Peer into the wreck of The Favourite at North Bay.

TRANSIT HILL
Climb this central peak to get a 360-degree view.

ERSGOTT’S HOLE
See coral gardens at one of the safe snorkel spots.

NED’S BEACH
Feed the fish and be part of a Lord Howe ritual.

For more information on Lord Howe Island activities,
visit lordhoweisland.info

HOW TO GET THERE

Getting to Lord Howe Island is easy. Lord Howe Island is less than
two hours by air from Sydney and Brisbane, with Qantas flying daily
from the NSW capital during the peak season and offering regular
weekend flights from Queensland’s
biggest city. There are also weekly
Qantas flights from Port Macquarie
on the NSW north coast during
spring and autumn.

WHERE TO STAY

Lord Howe Island offers a
wide range of accommodation
to suit every budget.

HOTELS
expedia.com.au
wotif.com
tripadvisor.com.au
hotelmagazine.com.au
booking.com

WANT TO STAY LONGER?

Feast like spending more than
three days on Lord Howe Island?
That’s easy, because there’s so
much more to do. Just check out
the Lord Howe Island website
lordhoweisland.info for more
holiday ideas.