



exploring Lord Howe Island



Lord Howe Island is part of New South Wales and is administered by the Lord Howe Island Board under special state legislation. The Board is charged with the care, control and management of the island, and its affairs and trade. The Board is also responsible for the day to day management and protection of the World Heritage values of the Lord Howe Island Group.

The inclusion of the Lord Howe Island Group on the World Heritage List in 1982, recognised the area's outstanding universal value. In addition to its superb natural features and native habitats, many of the species found here occur nowhere else in the world.

In 1999, the importance of the island's marine environments was further recognised through the establishment of the Lord Howe Island Marine Park covering NSW state territorial waters around both the island and the Balls Pyramid Group.

The Lord Howe Island Marine Park is administered by the NSW Dept of Primary Industries.

Enjoy a guided tour

One of the most popular ways to start exploring the island is by guided tour. Tours are run by local guides – many of whom have lived on the island all their lives. Tours cover activities including walks, boat trips and diving, to name a few. Drop in to the island's visitor centre for full details of the range of activities available.

Finding your own way

Alongside guided tours, the island also offers a wide range of options for independent activity. Access to native forests, scenic lookouts and bird colonies at Lord Howe Island is provided by a network of well marked walking tracks classed in accordance with Australian standards (i.e. Class 1 – very easy, through to Class 6 – very hard). Walks on the island actually range from Class 2 to Class 5 and are distinguished by guide posts at the start, pointing the way and giving distances.

These walks are complemented by the relaxed open road network around the centre of the island that makes cycling between trackheads and other beachside destinations such an integral part of the Lord Howe experience.

Good suitable footwear is recommended as most tracks are steep, interspersed with tree roots and rocks, and can be slippery at times. **Boot scrub bays are provided on the island, please be sure to clean your shoes and walking poles well before setting out on a walk so as to stop the spread of weeds and Phytophthora and Myrtle Rust fungus.** Always carry some drinking water as you may take longer than you think to complete some walks. Some of the tracks are used to access a number of fishing locations around the island.

The Lord Howe Island Board cautions against rock fishing. Slippery rocks and unpredictable seas make this method of fishing extremely hazardous.



Goat House: (2.1km) Class 4

Access is from Lagoon Road, past Capella Lodge. The track leads initially to Smoking Tree Ridge. From this point you can either turn off to Boat Harbour, or you can continue the ascent to the Goat House Cave. The track up to the Goat House Cave is very steep, and is a demanding climb. The track is narrow and is interspersed with tree roots and rocks.



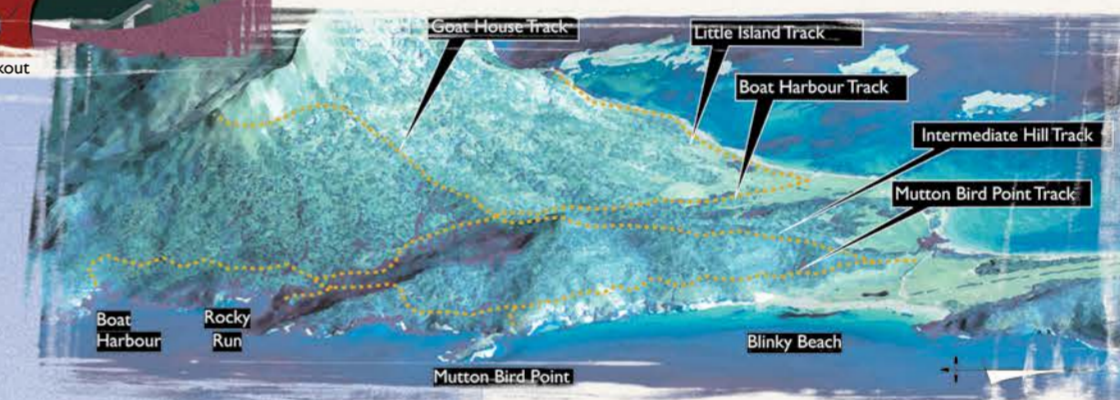
Little Island Track: (1.4km) Class 2

The track to Little Island starts at the southern end of Lagoon Road. It is an easy, flat walk along an old service road.



Mutton Bird Point Lookout

SOUTHERN WALKS



Intermediate Hill: (1.2km) Class 3

The track to Intermediate Hill branches off 0.2km from the commencement of the Coastal Track. It can be used to access the walks to Boat Harbour or the Goat House.

It is a steep and demanding climb to the summit of Intermediate Hill, 250m above sea level. From there you can backtrack to Lagoon Road, or continue to Smoking Tree Ridge. The descent to Smoking Tree Ridge is very steep and extra care should be taken on this section of the walk.

Mount Gower: (4.5km) Class 5



The Mount Gower walk is very hard and demanding, and takes about 8 hours to complete. This walk must only be attempted with a guide licensed by the Lord Howe Island Board. Ask your lodge proprietor for contact details for licensed guides. In preparation for this walk, ensure you have adequate footwear and clothing. Your guide can also advise of any extra precautions, particularly relating to weather conditions.

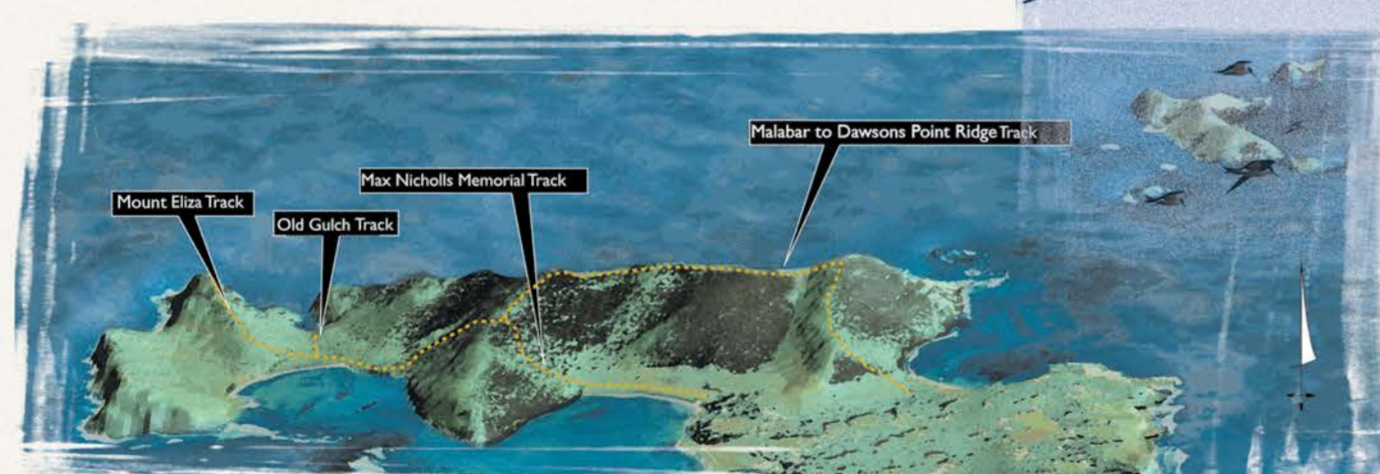


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NORTHERN WALKS



Malabar



Max Nicholls Memorial Track to North Bay: (1.5km) Class 3

This walk commences at the picnic area at Old Settlement Beach. The track crosses a cleared paddock and then winds its way up to the top of the ridge. The climb is demanding, though made easier by the steps. The track then descends steeply to the picnic area at North Bay where there are toilets and barbecue facilities. Return can be either by the same track, or at the Dawsons Point Ridge junction take the track to Malabar, and continue down to Neds Beach.



Old Gulch: (0.3km) Class 2

This is a short level walk, mostly along a timber boardwalk, from the picnic area at North Bay to the small rocky cove known as Old Gulch.



Mt Eliza: (0.6km) Class 4

The Mount Eliza walk starts at the picnic area at North Bay and climbs to the summit of Mount Eliza, 147m above sea level. The track is very rocky and steep.

From September to March, sooty terns nest along the trail and on the summit. During this period the track is closed to the public, to protect the birds and their young.



Malabar to Dawsons Point Ridge: (1.5km) Class 4

The Malabar walk commences at Neds Beach, with a climb up an open grassy slope to Pooles Lookout with its commanding views. From the lookout, the track leads to the summit of Malabar Hill, 208m above sea level.

This section of the climb is interspersed with tree roots and rocks, and is of a relatively moderate grade. The track then follows the cliff edge to Dawsons Point Ridge. Extra caution should be taken on this section of the walk.

N.B. DISTANCES STATED FOR THE WALKS ARE THE DISTANCE TO THE DESTINATION, UNLESS STATED OTHERWISE.

CENTRAL WALKS



Stevens Reserve: (1.2km return) Class 2

The Stevens Reserve loop track is a walk that starts opposite the boatsheds on Lagoon Road. The track is relatively flat, narrow in sections and is interspersed by tree roots. Interpretative signs along the way make this an informative and interesting walk.



Transit Hill: (1.2km) Class 3

This track starts opposite the Administration Centre and goes part way up Bowker Ave before branching off through the palm forest and coming out along the fence line above the Pinetrees' paddock. From there it climbs steadily to the summit of Transit Hill. The lookout platform on the summit gives excellent 360 degree views. Return can be either by the same track, or continue further for another 0.5km to Blinky Beach. This section of the walk is much steeper and slippery when wet. From Blinky Beach you can walk back along Lagoon Road.



The Clear Place



Clear Place: (1.2km return) Class 2

This is an easy, fairly level walk that starts at the southern end of Anderson Road. The track follows the fence line above Middle Beach, and then continues around a large land slip, through the palm forest, and out to The Clear Place.

A short diversion just before The Clear Place takes you down to the Valley of the Shadows, with views back towards Middle Beach. This section of track is steep, and is interspersed with tree roots and rocks.



Foreshore Walk: (0.5km) Class 2

This track commences at the boatsheds heading south to the Aquatic Club along the hind dune and continues south along the foreshore past Pinetrees boatshed. It offers an alternative to walking along Lagoon Road. Another option is to take a stroll along Lagoon Beach. We're sure you'll find your own way along this one.



LORD HOWE ISLAND GROUP

The Lord Howe Island Marine Park includes all of the seabed and waters extending to three nautical miles (just over 5.5 km) from the territorial sea baselines surrounding Lord Howe Island, Balls Pyramid, South-east Rock, and their adjacent rocks and islands.

Between three and twelve nautical miles seaward of the shore, the seabed and waters are contained within a Commonwealth marine park.

The entirety of the Lord Howe Island Marine Park is contained within the Lord Howe Island World Heritage Area.

A zoning plan specifies the range of activities that can and cannot be carried out in the marine park. Anyone engaging in boat use or fishing at Lord Howe should be sure to obtain a copy of the "Users guide to the zoning plan".

LORD HOWE ISLAND MARINE PARK



Lord Howe Island World Heritage Area



To get the most out of your visit to Lord Howe Island be sure to do two things. The first is to visit the island's museum and visitor centres. The second is to seek out a copy of the Australian Geographic Book of Lord Howe Island.

Both these avenues offer a comprehensive and entertaining account of the island's natural history that helps you understand why the Lord Howe Island Group was included on the World Heritage List.

Their insights into the world of past and present residents of the island also provide an invaluable perspective into what it was – and is – like to live on Lord Howe Island.



Illustration adapted from CSIRO marine research. See www.marine.csiro.au

There's a watery highway running south along the Queensland coast before swinging eastwards towards Lord Howe Island.

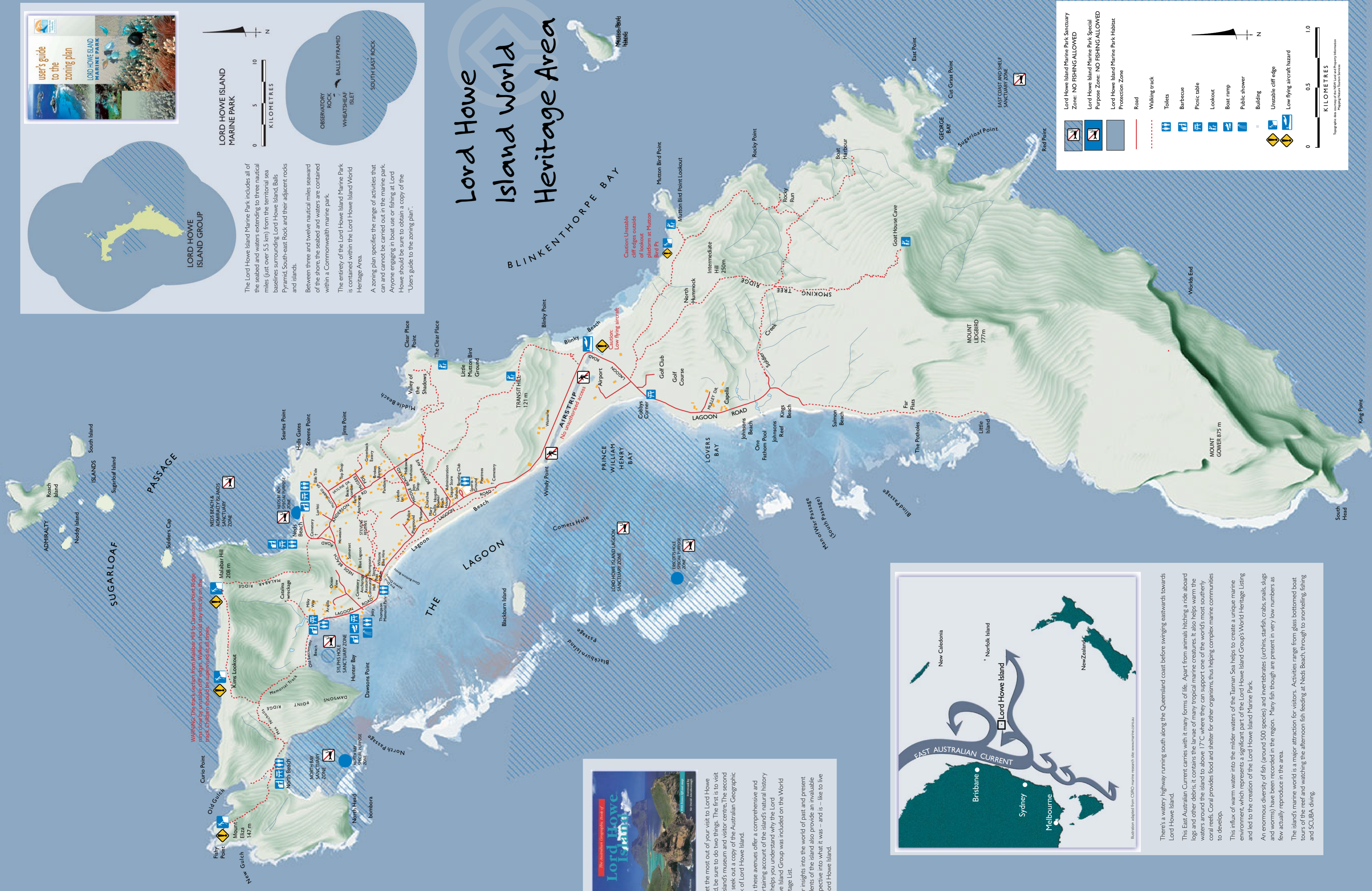
This East Australian Current carries with it many forms of life. Apart from animals hitching a ride aboard logs and other debris, it contains the larvae of many tropical marine creatures. It also helps warm the waters around the island to above 17°C, where they can support one of the world's most southerly coral reefs. Coral provides food and shelter for other organisms, thus helping complex marine communities to develop.

This influx of warm water into the milder waters of the Tasman Sea helps to create a unique marine environment, which represents a significant part of the Lord Howe Island Group's World Heritage Listing and led to the creation of the Lord Howe Island Marine Park.

An enormous diversity of fish (around 500 species) and invertebrates (urchins, starfish, crabs, snails, slugs and worms) have been recorded in the region. Many fish though are present in very low numbers as few actually reproduce in the area.

The island's marine world is a major attraction for visitors. Activities range from glass bottomed boat tours of the reef and watching the afternoon fish feeding at Needs Beach, through to snorkelling, fishing and SCUBA diving.

WARNING: The track sections from Malabar Hill to Dawsons Point Ridge runs close by unstable cliff edges. Walkers should stay strictly on the track. Children should be supervised at all times.



Lord Howe Island Marine Park Sanctuary
 Zone: NO FISHING ALLOWED
 Lord Howe Island Marine Park Special
 Purpose Zone: NO FISHING ALLOWED
 Lord Howe Island Marine Park Habitat
 Protection Zone

Road
 Walking track
 Toilets
 Barbecue
 Picnic cable
 Lookout
 Boat ramp
 Public shower
 Building
 Unstable cliff edge
 Low flying aircraft hazard

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 KILOMETRES

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