Welcome to this visitors guide to the recreational opportunities available within the Lord Howe Island Marine Park.

The marine environment of Lord Howe Island supports thousands of species, many of which have not been named and many waiting to be discovered. The main purpose of the Lord Howe Island Marine Park is to protect the biological diversity of this unique aquatic environment.

The marine park includes all of the seafloor and waters extending from the mean high water mark to twelve nautical miles seaward from Lord Howe Island, Balls Pyramid, and South-east Rock.

This park covers NSW waters from the shore to 3 nautical miles seaward, and Commonwealth waters from 3 to 12 nautical miles seaward. Sanctuary areas in both NSW and Commonwealth waters are designated to protect rare or threatened marine species and areas.

All forms of fishing are prohibited in sanctuary zones. Representative areas of each major type of habitat are protected in sanctuary zones (about 30% of the park), while sustainable fishing is allowed in the remainder.

Both Lord Howe Island and the adjacent Lord Howe Island Marine Park are NSW territory and all standard NSW fishing regulations and bag limits apply here unless specifically amended by the zoning plan that applies to the marine park.

This ideal way to get the most out of your fishing experience on Lord Howe Island is to participate in one of the regular fishing tours offered by local tour operators. Please inquire at the island’s visitor centre for details of the tours available.

Snorkelling

Snorkelling offers an easy way to discover some of the marine life of the park. Neds Beach, Sylph’s Hole and the legion lighthouse are popular locations offering a diversity of marine life accessible from shore. Several tour companies offer guided snorkel tours to coral gardens at the outer lagoon reef.

Fishing

Recreational fishing (but not spearfishing) is allowed in the habitat protection zones (coloured blue on the map). Accessible shore fishing areas are marked by a symbol on the map overleaf.

Recreational fishing in both NSW and Commonwealth waters of the park is subject to the NSW Fisheries Management Regulations, including size and bag limits. Offshore cleaning of fish that have been caught outside the lagoon must not be discarded within the lagoon.

The table below shows bag limits for fish that may be taken from areas outside of the sanctuary zones for recreational purposes. The bag limits prescribed in the Fisheries Management (General) Regulations 2003 also apply.

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### Fishing Bag Limits

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Species</th>
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<th>Bag limit</th>
<th>Combination limits by area or person per day</th>
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<tbody>
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Visitors Guide: Lord Howe Island Marine Park

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**Anchoring**

Mooring is permitted in some locations to reduce the need for anchoring.

Anchoring of larger vessels can destroy extensive areas of coral which take many years to recover and even small vessels can destroy delicate corals and de-stabilise seagrass beds by dragging anchors in some areas.

With some exceptions, all vessels are prohibited from anchoring in sanctuary zones, while vessels over 5 metres long are prohibited from anchoring in the Lagoon and vessels over 25 metres long may only anchor within one of six designated sites.

**Fish Feeding**

Attracting fish with small volumes of appropriate food material can be an exciting experience, but the cumulative effects of inappropriate fish feeding can disrupt normal fish populations and impact on ecological processes.

Please feed fish only near the shore at Neds Beach using less than 250 grams of food per person. Tour operators may use greater volumes of food at Sylph’s Hole, North Bay and Neds Beach under special permit arrangements.

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**NSW Marine Park - coastline - 3 nautical miles offshore from Lord Howe Island Group**

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This map provides a ready-reference guide to the location of zones in the Lord Howe Island Marine Park. The Marine Parks Regulation 1999 (NSW) and the Lord Howe Island Marine Park (Commonwealth Waters) Management Plan include further detailed provisions and should be consulted for legal interpretation. Geographical positions where shown are in degrees and decimal minutes using the datum WGS84 and can be found directly from GPS units.

Neds Beach and Admiralty Islands Sanctuary Zone
A distinctive type of reef with large foliose and vase shaped hard corals, whip corals, black coral, fan gorgonians, crinoids, colonial ascidians, coralliomorphs, basket stars and hydroids occupies this zone. Despite their ability to withstand strong currents, these organisms are vulnerable to physical damage from anchors and fishing gear.

North Bay Sanctuary Zone
This zone covers reef and lagoon north from North Passage. It protects the outer wave washed reef community with its deep ... diverse fish and invertebrate fauna. It also protects the most extensive bed of seagrass in the Lord Howe Island Lagoon.

Sylphs Hole Sanctuary Zone
This small zone extends to all areas within 50 metres of a yellow sanctuary-zone-marker-buoy at the centre of Sylphs ... are used as shelter by a diversity of fish and invertebrates. Both Green and Hawksbill Turtles are commonly seen here.

Lord Howe Island Lagoon Sanctuary Zone
This sanctuary zone covers the central section of the barrier reef and lagoon from south of Blackburn Island to Erscotts Passage. The northern boundary can be found by aligning the southern edge of Blackburn Island with the northern end of the airport rock break-wall. The southern boundary runs from the promontory just north of ... particularly dense and diverse coral communities, known as Comets Hole and Erscotts Hole, are included within the zone.

East Coast & Shelf Sanctuary Zone
This zone protects a representative sample of cliff and boulder rocky shores and associated submerged rocky reefs that ... Island shelf and its range of habitats which vary according to depth, slope and substrate type, including relict reefs, a vestige of lower sea levels, which provide vertical relief for attachment by a diversity of current-dependant filtering organisms.

Balls Pyramid Sanctuary Zone
This zone covers all of the Balls Pyramid section of the marine park south of 31º 46.833', and includes South East Rock and Sunken Rock. The zone protects a range of biological communities not recorded from the Lord Howe Island Section, including fish and invertebrates which live on the slopes of the sea-mount that descend to over 2 kilometres deep.

Observatory Rock Sanctuary Zone
The submerged flanks of Observatory Rock and surrounding boulder field are characterised by numerous large crevices, caves and overhangs. This habitat supports a very high diversity of species usually found in much deeper water, including the rare Ballina Angelfish delicate branching forms of corals, hydroids and bryozoans which are vulnerable to damage from anchors and fishing gear. The sanctuary zone surrounds Observatory Rock out to 50 metres from the high water mark.