

LORD HOWE ISLAND

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FAMILY-FRIENDLY LORD HOWE ISLAND

Families in search of an easily-accessible, family-friendly island holiday need look no further than Lord Howe Island. Less than a two-hour flight from Sydney or Brisbane – on the same latitude as Port Macquarie – Lord Howe has been referred to as the most beautiful island in the entire Pacific region.

World Heritage-listed, Lord Howe lies on the southernmost coral reef in the world, which is home to 500 species of fish and over 90 species of brilliantly coloured coral, making for some of the world's best swimming, snorkelling and SCUBA diving. The island's lagoon and surrounding waters offer families plenty of other water-based activities, including surfing, kayaking, glass-bottom boating and fish feeding, even throughout the mild winter months.

Two-thirds of the island is covered in lush, natural forests and is criss-crossed with scenic walking trails, making it ideal for bushwalking, trekking, bike-riding and bird watching.

The island is also renowned for some of the world's best fishing: from the beach, rocks, jetty or professionally equipped game fishing boats. For the less energetic, all 11 of the untouched beaches are ideal for lazing the day away. There's no fear of sharks, stingrays or other harmful marine life.

With only 350 residents on Lord Howe and a limit of 400 tourists on the island at any one time, the island retains its peaceful, small-town charm and welcoming atmosphere. There is a casual friendliness that is immediately apparent when your hosts greet you at the airport – often in bare feet! There are only a few cars on the island (and a speed limit of 25kmh) with the main mode of transport being bicycle or on foot.

There are plenty of family-friendly accommodation choices on the island, ranging from self-contained budget units to high-quality, fully-equipped apartments and all-inclusive lodge accommodation.

For more information on Lord Howe Island visit www.lordhoweisland.info.

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