



1 Neds Beach and Admiralty Islands Sanctuary Zone

Discover a wonderland of hard and soft corals and colourful fish so close to shore. You may also see green and hawksbill turtles and Galapagos whaler sharks. Offshore 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. There is a diversity of dive locations, frequented by dive and charter operators.

2 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 coral encrusted spur and groove formations, and the sheltered lagoon, dominated by extensive stands of delicate branching corals with their associated diverse fish and invertebrate fauna. It also protects the most extensive bed of seagrass in the Lord Howe Island Lagoon, an important and supportive habitat for many marine species and a vital food source for residing herbivores such as sea turtles.

3 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 Hole. It protects the coral and fish community that populates the fringes of this sandy depression in the lagoon floor associated with a fresh water spring in Hunter Bay.

This community is dominated by distinctive species of coral that are used as shelter by a diversity of fish and invertebrates.

Both green and hawksbill turtles are commonly seen here. Please do not feed or touch the turtles as they can become sick or develop unnatural behaviours.

4 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 Erscofts 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 Lovers Bay through Erscofts Passage.

The zone extends westward to a line between North and South Heads. The shoreline boundary is offset from the mean high water mark by 50 metres to allow for shore-based fishing from the beach.

This area supports an amazing concentration of marine biodiversity, and includes species found nowhere else. Two sand filled depressions in the lagoon floor which are flanked by particularly dense and diverse coral communities, known as Comets Hole and Erscofts Hole, are included within the zone.

7 East Coast & Shelf Sanctuary Zone

This zone protects a representative sample of cliff and boulder rocky shores and associated submerged rocky reefs that are characteristic of the southern end of Lord Howe Island.

Further offshore, this zone protects a segment of the Lord Howe 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.

6 Balls Pyramid Sanctuary Zone

This zone covers an area south of 31°46.833' which includes South East Rock and Sunken Rock. The zone protects a range of biological communities not recorded from the Lord Howe Island shelf, including fish and invertebrates which live on the slopes of the sea-mount that descend to over 2 kilometres deep.

5 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.