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Visiting Lord Howe Island – restrictions on plants, animals and other things

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Lord Howe Island is a World Heritage Area of great biological significance. To protect its unique flora and fauna strict quarantine restrictions are in place. These are controlled by the Lord Howe Island Board.

Any animal or plant that is imported to Lord Howe Island illegally can be seized, removed from the island and may be destroyed.

Before you travel to Lord Howe Island please ensure your shoes, boots, socks and clothes are free of soil, mud and seeds of plants.

Please contact Lord Howe Island Board for specific information about quarantine restrictions on 02 6563 2066.

Lord Howe Island is part of New South Wales. If you are travelling to Lord Howe Island from interstate, then you must meet all of the requirements for importing plants and animals into NSW as well as the specific requirements for Lord Howe Island.

Please contact Industry & Investment NSW on 02 6391 3384 for the requirements for moving plants and animals into NSW from interstate.

Domestic animals

Dogs

Lord Howe Island Board has a strict "Dog Importation and Management Policy" that must be adhered to at all times.

Dogs are only permitted to be imported by leaseholders and residents who have lived on the island for more than two years. Only one desexed dog of an approved breed per household is allowed.

Guide dogs for the vision impaired are not restricted.

Cats

Cats are not permitted on Lord Howe Island.

Goats

Goats cannot be brought onto Lord Howe Island. Any goat currently on the island can only be kept with the permission of the Lord Howe Island Board and only if it is a doe or a desexed buck.

Chickens

Only day-olds chicks certified as being free of pests and disease are given approval to be imported to Lord Howe Island by the Board.

Chickens are not permitted to stray from the land that the owner occupies.

Importing other animals

Any other animals, vertebrate or invertebrate, at any stage of development, can only be imported to Lord Howe Island with the approval of the Lord Howe Island Board.

Plants

Prohibited plants

The following plants are not allowed to be taken to Lord Howe Island:

- any declared noxious plant in any part of Australia
- any garden plant that is not on the Lord Howe Island Board list of approved plants, unless prior approval has been given by Lord Howe Island Board

- palm plants, palm seeds, any part of a palm plant
- grasses
- ferns
- fresh and saltwater marsh plants
- marine plants

Fruit trees and vegetable seeds

Avocado plants, banana plants and citrus trees may only be imported from a restricted list of nurseries. Banana plants must be certified disease free. Contact Lord Howe Island Board for more information.

Most common vegetable seeds can be imported.

A permit is required before any fruit tree or seedling is imported. The plants are inspected on importation.

Please note: *Citrus* (orange, lemon, lime, etc) or *Fortunella* (cumquat) trees cannot be imported into any part of NSW from Queensland.

Plants that have never been imported to Lord Howe Island

Importation of any new species of plant to Lord Howe Island requires written approval from the Lord Howe Island Board. You must apply to the Board in writing. A full review of the application to determine the plant's potential impact on the unique environment of the Island is undertaken. This review can take a number of days and is at the cost of the importer.

Contact Lord Howe Island Board for more information.

Soil

Any plant imported to Lord Howe Island must be transported in soil-free potting mix.

Any footwear brought onto the Island must be clean and free of soil and plant material.

Footwear and walking poles should ideally be washed with a bleach solution or methylated spirit to prevent the spread of the root fungus *Phytophthora*.

Fresh fruit and vegetables for personal consumption

Fresh fruits and vegetables must be declared and made available for inspection on entry to Lord Howe Island.

Meat, poultry and fish for personal consumption

The importation of meat, poultry meat and dressed fish for personal consumption is unrestricted.

Processed foods

Processed foods and packaged nuts are not restricted from entry onto the Island.

Other restrictions

Aquatic activities

The waters surrounding the Island are a marine park. A zoning plan controls the location and types of aquatic activities that are permitted in the marine park; for example, spearfishing is not permitted.

Please contact the Marine Parks Authority office on 02 6563 2359 for specific information about aquatic activities, including fishing.

Motor vehicles

No motor vehicle, working or not, or caravan or trailer is allowed to be brought onto Lord Howe Island without the permission of the Board.

Any vehicle brought onto the island illegally will be removed at the owner's cost.

Any person driving a car or riding a motorcycle on the island must be licensed.

Please contact the Lord Howe Island Board for more information.

Boats mooring

There are restrictions on where a boat can be moored around Lord Howe Island. Please contact the Lord Howe Island Board for more information.

Things you cannot do on Lord Howe Island

You cannot:

- remove or destroy coral
- enter any part of the coral reef closed to visitors
- remove or destroy shells, rocks, soil
- damage, destroy or remove seed or cuttings of any native plant
- capture or kill any native species of birds or lizards, or their eggs
- capture, injure or kill any invertebrate animals, including insects, spiders and snails, at any stage of development
- camp on a public reserve or on any vacant Crown Land

- feed fish, other than at approved locations
- spearfish.

Please contact the Lord Howe Island Board for more information.

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