



Lagoon Beach looking postcard perfect – Rob Embury

Itinerary – Lord Howe Island 8 Day Photography Adventure

Introduction

Join Lord Howe Island local Dave Gardiner and Melbourne-based photographer Rob Embury for the ultimate photographic adventure experience on World Heritage listed Lord Howe Island.

Lord Howe Island offers unique landscapes and dramatic beauty including spectacular volcanic cliffs, sea caves, pristine clear waters, as well as exotic bird and marine life. Explore the network of walking trails leading to breathtaking vantage points. Discover a myriad of sea birds, and photograph them in their natural habitat. Marvel at the Milky Way under incredibly clear night skies.

This is a unique experience that will suit all adventurers, explorers and photographers alike, regardless of skill level. The itinerary has been formulated to give you an opportunity to learn and put into practice a number of photographic elements including landscapes, wildlife, underwater and astrophotography. You will also get to experience the best activities that Lord Howe Island has to offer, with plenty of spare to time relax or explore at your own pace.

Day 1 | Arrival and Orientation

You depart Sydney or Brisbane for a short 2-hour flight with QantasLink to Lord Howe Island. The Island is located 320nm due east of Port Macquarie and made up of the remnants of a long extinct volcano.

Upon arrival you will be met by your accommodation provider, and hosts Dave Gardiner and Rob Embury. You will be taken to your chosen accommodation to settle in and meet other participants, and an island orientation tour will be provided by Chase 'n' Thyme bus tours if arrival time permits.

A detailed briefing on your Lord Howe Island photographic adventure will be provided after dinner.

Day 2 | Balls Pyramid and Island Scenic Cruise

Take in this stunning part of the world from the water on an adventure cruise with Greenback Scenic Tours, hosted by Dave Gardiner and Rob Embury (duration 5 hours approx).

You will enjoy spectacular boat based landscape, seascape, marine life and sea bird photographic opportunities including the mind-blowing Balls Pyramid – a 7-million-year-old, 562m high volcanic remnant, and the world's tallest stand-alone volcanic stack.

This tour can be tailored catered towards the needs of the participants. For more information head to <http://www.fishlordhowe.com.au/> and https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ball%27s_Pyramid



The incredible Balls Pyramid creating its own weather – Dave Gardiner

Day 3 | Lagoon Snorkelling Tour | Night Sky Photographic Experience

Hosted by Dean Hiscox from Lord Howe Island Environmental Tours, you will enjoy a snorkelling tour taking in the best spots in the island's lagoon (duration 3 hours approx).

The Lord Howe Island lagoon contains a myriad of diverse of marine life, and offers brilliant snorkel and boat based photographic opportunities. The scene under the lagoon's crystal clear water is spectacular. Exploring the reefs and drop-offs you will find schools of vividly coloured fish, sea turtles, rays, Lord Howe's endemic Double Header Wrasse, as well as an abundance of both soft and hard corals.

LHI's reefs have been described by many as more visually stunning than the Great Barrier Reef itself, and Dean is the perfect person to introduce you to their beauty. For more information head to <http://www.lordhoweislandtours.com/> and <https://www.lordhoweisland.info/points-of-interest/marine-park/>

After you have taken in a brilliant Lord Howe sunset and darkness has fallen over the island, join Dave Gardiner and Rob Embury for an astrophotography session under a clear night sky.

The group will be taken to one of the many vantage points around the island where you will have minimal light pollution, mountain silhouettes and a huge expanse of sky to take in, including the galactic core of the Milky Way. Rob will teach you a bit about the visible features on show, and walk you through some basic (or advanced) astrophotography techniques so you can get the perfect shot.

Note that this activity is very much dependent on weather conditions, and can be moved to another night if required.

Day 4 | Northern Hills Scenic Walk | Long Exposure Workshop

Hosted by Dave Gardiner and Rob Embury, this day sees you exploring and photographing the unique LHI landscape on the northern stretch of the island by foot (duration 4 hours approx).

The well-defined tracks to Kim's Lookout, Malabar and Mt Eliza take you through lush endemic vegetation, leading to views of spectacular volcanic cliffs and breathtaking vistas of the island including the lagoon, beaches and the majestic twin peaks of Mt Lidgbird and Mt Gower.

The stunning landscape and nesting seabirds offer many unique land based photographic opportunities. The hike finishes at Ned's Beach, where you can paddle amongst and hand feed fish including Drummer, Silver Trevally (the island's enormous endemic subspecies) and Yellowtail Kingfish.

If you are interested in long exposure photography, Rob will conduct a session in the afternoon (or at sunset depending on weather conditions).

Learn how to use Neutral Density filter systems in conjunction with smaller apertures and longer exposure times to get that flat, smooth and milky look on your water shots, or dynamic streaky clouds, whilst retaining the sharpness of other objects in your frame.



The stunning Red Tailed Tropicbird – Dave Gardiner

Day 5 | Little Island and Erskine Valley Walk | Post-Processing Workshop

Hosted by Dave Gardiner and Rob Embury, this hike takes you through some of Lord Howe's incredible dense rainforest areas (duration 4 hours approx).

The Erskine Valley lies between LHI's famed peaks of Mt Gower and Mt Lidgbird, and you will be able to take some incredible shots with these towering monoliths as your backdrop. On the walk through this special part of the island you'll find amazing rainforest vegetation, sheer cliffs, waterfalls, expansive ocean views and ample birdlife.

Little Island is a gentle walk along the south western shoreline, taking you through ancient forests of banyan trees and endemic kentia palms. You may even be lucky enough to witness the spectacular aerial courtship display of the rare Providence Petrel, an island resident during breeding season. You can even summon these

birds to you by calling – no, really – check out this video of Sir David Attenborough doing just that <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UgHch5Bg9Jg>

In the evening, those keen on honing their post-processing skills or learning some new editing techniques can attend a group session with Rob. The session will cover editing techniques in Lightroom and Photoshop, and help you to bring the best out of your stunning images in preparation for the following night’s presentation and exhibition!

Day 6 | Clear Place and Middle Beach Tidal Zone Walk | Time Lapse Workshop

This leisurely walk hosted by Dave Gardiner and Rob Embury combines subtropical forest, mystical banyan groves, and majestic coastal views (duration 3 hours approx).

After following a path that weaves in and out of palms, you find yourself in the grassy clearing known as the “Clear Place”. Here you can enjoy brilliant views to the south of the island including Mt Lidgbird, Mt Gower and Intermediate Hill. You can also check out the mystical “Valley of Shadows” where mottled light reaches the forest floor through an incredible maze on banyan trees.

At Middle Beach you can take in exposed rock platforms, crashing surf and marvel at the amazing array of tones and contrasts in the calcarenite cliffs. You can also explore the marine life and micro ecosystems in an abundance of crystal clear rock pools.

Any members of the group interested in time lapse photography will be able to attend a workshop with Rob around sunset (weather dependent). Learn how to use an intervalometer to control your camera and take a sequence of shots to compile into a time lapse movie. The session will also focus on batch editing your shots then processing your movies.

After this session you can enjoy a \$50 dining credit at Greenback’s Restaurant, serving the freshest seafood dishes on the island.



Lenticular clouds over Mt Lidgbird and Mt Gower – Rob Embury

Day 7 | Free Day | Night Time Outdoor Photographic Exhibition

Enjoy a free day to relax and take in the island at your own pace, or visit some of your favourite spots again. There are a number of activity options including fishing charters, kite-surfing, bicycling, surfing, kayaking or paddle boarding – or you could simply spend the day sunbathing and swimming at one of Lord Howe’s incredible beaches (which have been widely named as some of the best in the world).

As a client of our travel partner Spacific Travel, you can enjoy a free lunch at the Coral Café, located at the Lord Howe Island Museum and Visitor’s Centre. For the more adventurous and able, it may even be possible to organise a trek up Mt Gower, which is an experience that will never be forgotten.

After sunset, you will get the chance to showcase your best photos from the trip to the rest of the group and the island locals in an outdoor photographic exhibition.

Day 8 | Departure

Guests can enjoy free time before being transported to the Lord Howe Island Airport for their return QantasLink flight.

Note: The order of activities may change dependent on weather conditions, with as much notice as possible, to ensure that the group can get the most out of their trip. Should a particular activity not be possible at all, a suitable alternative will be provided. All tours/activities can be tailored to meet the interests and needs of the group.

Additional Links

Rob Embury – Pale Blue Dot Photography www.palebluedotphotography.com.au

Dave Gardiner – Greenback Tours <http://www.fishlordhowe.com.au/>

Lord Howe Island Tourist Association <https://www.lordhoweisland.info/>

Lord Howe Island Board <http://www.lhib.nsw.gov.au/>

Stephan Kleinlein – “Lord Howe Island – A Paradise On Its Own” <https://vimeo.com/130522944>

Lee Abbamonte Interview in Traveller – “The Most Perfect Place” <http://www.traveller.com.au/the-most-perfect-place-in-the-world-belongs-to-australia-26nc4>



It's all about the timing... Malabar (and Sooty Tern) – Rob Embury

What to Bring

- Your camera (ideally a DSLR but not essential)
- A range of lenses (depending on what you have available)
- Tripod (recommended but not essential)
- Filters (if you have them – a Neutral Density filter is recommended but not essential)
- Remote shutter release or intervalometer (if you have them – not essential)
- Laptop (for editing photos – not essential as Rob will run the post-processing session on a projector, but handy for your own edits)
- GoPro or underwater camera (not essential if you don't have one)
- Comfy and sturdy walking shoes (the tracks are well made but you'll be far more comfortable in shoes)
- Something warm for the astrophotography session (overnight temps are quite mild but just in case)
- Swimming gear (and snorkel/flippers if you prefer your own and have them)
- A sense of adventure!



Long exposure sunset at Lover's Beach – Rob Embury

Questions and Enquiries

If you have any questions about camera gear and what to bring, or you would potentially like advice on purchasing additional gear prior to the trip, please email Rob Embury at rob@palebluedotphotography.com.au

If you have any questions related to Lord Howe Island and the activities listed on the itinerary, please contact Dave Gardiner at greenback@fishlordhowe.com.au

We look forward to meeting you!

Dave and Rob