



Balls Pyramid

“ A FEW DAYS ARE NOT ENOUGH – THE AVERAGE STAY IS NINE DAYS

Prodiver. No experience is necessary. Basic instruction is provided in shallow water before descending.

EXPERIENCED DIVERS WILL FIND PLENTY of inspiration at dive sites dotted around the island. Balls Pyramid is the most stunning – it towers some 550m towards the sky. Below, schools of stingrays cruise in formation. It's also the only place where the Ballina angelfish can often be seen.

If scuba diving sounds too deep and dark, grab a couple of bread rolls, head to Neds Beach and hire snorkelling gear. Locals and visitors have been hand-feeding the fish here for years so there is plenty of action just beneath the surface – rub noses with the fattest, most slothful fish you have ever seen. An official feeding occurs every couple of days and it is a frenzy not to be missed.

All this face-to-face action is bound to spawn some pressing aquatic questions – but it's hard to ask them while breathing through a tube. However, the answers are only a glass-bottom boat trip away. Stay dry as experts from Lord Howe Island Environmental Tours reveal the underwater scene on a two-hour lagoon tour that is educational



Kayak hire here



Community hall

and entertaining. Then hit the water and snorkel sites inaccessible to beach-bound swimmers.

The Lord Howe experience does not have to be adventure 24/7. Numerous picnic spots are perfect for kicking back on a rug and letting your mind drift. Sunbathe, swim or hire fishing gear from Thompson's General Store and cast a line off the jetty. The visitor centre can help with tour bookings, including round-island boat trips and expeditions for nature watching or game fishing. At sunset wander to Little Island and marvel as the last rays paint Mount Lidgbird with orange hues. The postcard vistas will make a photographer of the most inept shutterbug, so bring your camera. ➤