

SPIRIT OF AUSTRALIA

QANTAS

— FIND YOUR PLACE —



LORD HOWE ISLAND, NSW



IND YOUR



ISLAND

There are more than 8000 Australian islands, many rugged and remote, some just a short journey from a capital city. It's time to find your perfect match...

A DROP IN THE OCEAN

NSW | Nature

Lord Howe Island

With towering peaks blanketed in lush greenery; banyan trees, pandanus and kentia palms rustling in the breeze; and red-tailed tropicbirds and masked boobies soaring in the sky, Lord Howe Island holds a Jurassic-period appeal. When you cast your eyes over the scene before you, you'll think you've travelled back in time rather than just jetted to a landmass that sits in the Tasman Sea, about 600 kilometres east of Port Macquarie. But it doesn't take much – a plunge pool, perhaps, or a daybed on the private deck of your suite at Capella Lodge (lordhowe.com) – to pull you happily, lazily back to the present.

Often called Australia's own Galapagos, Lord Howe (scheduled to reopen to visitors this spring) is a naturalist's dream. There are more than 200 recorded types of birds and

1600 terrestrial insect species to be discovered on long walks and challenging hikes – but if you prickle at those statistics, rest assured there are no snakes or deadly spiders. And below sea level? A swim around the lagoon, which is protected by a coral reef, might reveal a host of the island's 500-plus fish species, more than 90 types of coral, Galapagos sharks, giant stingrays and turtles.

And while the outdoors is dominated by untamed wilderness (an estimated two-thirds of the island is forest), inside Capella Lodge is all pared-back neutrals and nautical tones, timber floorboards and, in the spacious bar and dining area, windows that take in twin mountains Lidgbird and Gower, cloaked in mist as you sit down for breakfast and dark and moody as you settle in for sunset canapés.