

Google Treks to Christmas Island

“Whether you are in Ballarat, Bogota or Berlin, you’ll soon be able experience Christmas Island and it’s famous red crab migration on Google Street View” says Christmas Island’s latest crab advocate, Camilla Ibrahim, of Google Australia and New Zealand.

Earlier this week, Google Street View ventured to Christmas Island to join 45 million of it’s famous, endemic red crabs as they began their annual migration to the ocean. Dr Alasdair Grigg, on behalf of Parks Australia, is carrying the Google Street View Trekker collecting imagery of this amazing migration and destination. “Christmas Island is not on the radar of most travellers” says Alasdair “we hope people can get a taste of the magnificent nature and the red crab migration through the eyes of the Google Trekker. We also hope they are inspired to appreciate the world-class conservation values of the Island.”

Christmas Island’s annual red crab migration has been described by Sir David Attenborough as one of the “10 greatest natural wonders on Earth” so it’s no surprise that along with herds of elephants in Kenya, penguins in the Arctic, and frogs in the Amazon, the Christmas Island red crabs will soon join these amazing animal migrations on Google Street View.

The volume of red crabs presented unprecedented conditions for the Street View image capture, as crabs crowded the roads, boardwalks and beaches. Each step had to be taken with extreme care.

The migration has not yet concluded for this year, with the female crabs expected to spawn en-masse and release billions of larvae into the ocean on 13-14 December – an amazing spectacle linked to the moon and the tides – known locally as the “spawning morning”. Each female crab releases around 100,000 eggs using a fabulous shimmy dance movement.

Google expects the imagery from this collection to be on Street View in early 2018 in what is sure to provide a fantastic boost for ecotourism on the Island.

Also in early 2018, Swell Lodge, a small luxury EcoLodge located inside the Christmas Island National Park will open it’s doors to visitors further boosting the ecotourism industry on Christmas Island.

Christmas Island features diverse and unusual landscapes, blowholes and a variety of birdlife including tropicbirds, frigatebirds, brown and red-footed boobies and many endemic species including the Golden Bosun and endangered Abbott’s Booby that nest nowhere else on Earth – A Natural Wonder indeed.

Discover Christmas Island before the rest of the world does.



Christmas Island
A Natural Wonder

FACT FILE

- Virgin Australia services Christmas Island, flying twice a week ex-Perth.
- A Garuda charter flight also services a Jakarta-Christmas Island-Jakarta route every Saturday.

Christmas Island – A Natural Wonder

For more information images, videos, or gifs, contact
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