

WALKABOUT TRAVEL GEAR ONLINE NEWSLETTER ++++++

<http://www.walkabouttravelgear.com>

We're not glossy but neither is the way we travel.

Volume 25

Hello. You're on this e-mail list because you requested to be on it or some mysterious Internet entity added you to it.

As always, if you prefer not to receive our newsletter (or if you receive duplicates) just let us know. Please type the term "C7" in your reply.

WALKABOUT NEWS+++++

Walkabout Travel Gear celebrates its 3rd year online soon, making it one of the older commercial sites on the Internet. Our formula: sell good gear, get it to the customer fast. We might look like survivors from the early days of the Internet sometimes, but don't care because we are.

FREE SHIPPING UNTIL DECEMBER 18++++

North America orders only. Orders must be placed online via our secure server.

WE NOW MATCH PRICES++++

Just let us know where you saw it cheaper, and the price.

"ON SALE" PAGE NOW UP++++

We now have an "on sale" page up, featuring products that are, by definition, selling for less than they previously were. Not much on it currently except some 98 Eagle Creek Journey backpacks:

<http://www.walkabouttravelgear.com/sale.htm>

GIFT CERTIFICATES++++

Excellent Xmas presents. Get yours at:

<http://www.walkabouttravelgear.com/wgift.htm>

MORE INFORMATION PRETENDING TO BE USEFUL  
BUT ACTUALLY PROPAGANDA +++++

We now have every Lonely Planet book integrated into our online shopping cart. If you need a guidebook, visit:

<http://www.walkabouttravelgear.com/planet.htm>

Diner's Club has been added to the credit cards we accept.  
(American Express, Discover, Visa, and MasterCard.)

International customers: remember that our area code has been changed from 801 to 435. (Our 800 and 888 toll-free numbers for North America remain the same.)

NEW PRODUCTS ++++++

BUDGET TRAVEL CLOCK

Many people indicated that they do not care if their travel alarm clocks performs extra functions beyond telling time and waking them up on cue. Thus our Budget Alarm Clock. It's on the "Sleep" page:

<http://www.walkabouttravelgear.com/sleep.htm>

PACK-MATE SET

The inexpensive yet essential packing aid can now be bought in a set:

<http://www.walkabouttravelgear.com/packit.htm>

220V SURGE PROTECTORS

We've got several 220 Volt surge protectors at:

<http://www.walkabouttravelgear.com/surge.htm>

RECOMMENDED LINK+++++

Euro Holiday Postage

A site that reminds you that the Internet is perfect for niche marketing, plus it lets you avoid standing in line for postage stamps in Europe:

<http://quickness.com/~EuroHolidayPostage/index.shtml>

TRAVEL TIP ++++++

Submit your travel tip. If it is accepted, you'll receive free shipping on your next order. This month's tip:

When renting a vehicle in a foreign country, always ask for an extra set of keys -- or have a set made. This advice comes from experience; I accidentally locked our keys in the car while visiting a remote Taiwanese village, far from -- well, anywhere. --M. Clawson.

More tips at:

<http://www.walkabouttravelgear.com/tips.htm>

XMAS STUFF+++++

FREE SHIPPING++++

Previously mentioned.

THE SANTA CLAUS TRAIL+++++

In what has become a minor Internet tradition, a visit



to our online Walkabout to The Santa Claus Trail is in order. Three things you'll find:

St. Nick was real, he didn't live where you think, and you can view his bones. It's at:

<http://www.walkabouttravelgear.com/santa.htm>

#### CHRISTMAS ISLANDS++++++

It is easy to determine what was on the minds of European ship captains responsible for attributing already populated islands with western names on a day in late December.

There are actually two Christmas Islands; one by Indonesia on the Indian Ocean side, and one about three hours south of Hawaii via airplane.

#### PART ONE:

##### Christmas Island+++

Christmas Island is part of the Republic of Kiribati, previously known as the Gilbert Islands. Independence was gained from the British in 1979. There is not much on Christmas Island to remind a visitor of the Arctic tradition of the holiday; the name's origin is a result of Captain James Cook "discovering" the island on Christmas Eve, 1777.

The island is in fact a tropical paradise, and is the largest coral atoll on the planet. The island is largely unspoiled and untouched by modern tourism, although like all undiscovered places will continue to see increasing visitors because of people like us who discover them then promote them. The island is already popular with fishermen, as bonefish fishing is reported to be the best in the world.

Escapeartist.com has an excellent page on Kiribati, with links:

<http://www.escapeartist.com/kiribati/kiribati.htm>

#### PART TWO:

##### Christmas Island+++

The "other" Christmas Island is located in the Indian Ocean south of Indonesia. It is an Australian territory, with English being the primary language. The island is small and sparsely populated, with approximately 2,000 residents. William Mynors, a British East India Company captain, was the first European to encounter the island when he sailed past it on December 25, 1643, and of course named it after Christmas Day.

There are nice beaches, most accessible by only four wheel drive vehicles, excellent reefs, and tropical rainforests. The only industry on the island was sporadic phosphate mining until recently, when it was decided

to pursue that other industry that all islands with limited resources eventually pursue: tourism.

Christmas Island still remains off the beaten track, but a new five star casino resort built to attract Singaporeans and others from nearby nations will help change that. Good snorkeling and scuba diving attract humans. Tourists also are discovering the annual November crab migration, when the island is almost covered with crustaceans making their way from the rain forests to the sea. Viewing this natural phenomenon becomes more popular every year, so go before the humans outnumber the crabs.

Lycos has a page, with links, on the Australian Christmas Island:

[http://cityguide.lycos.com/oceania/east\\_pacific/CXRChristmasIsland.html](http://cityguide.lycos.com/oceania/east_pacific/CXRChristmasIsland.html)

OTHER STUFF ++++++

As always, explore the world now.

Walkabout Travel Gear

Supplying the Independent Traveler with Essential Gear and Information

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