

WALKABOUT TRAVEL GEAR ONLINE NEWSLETTER ++++++

<http://www.walkabouttravelgear.com>

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

Volume 30

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 "sept99" in your reply.

XMAS NEWS ++++++

Our four year anniversary online coincides with the Holidays and the new Millennium. All reasons to celebrate. So:

Take \$20.00 off any order \$100.00 or more

Or

Free shipping on any order, no matter the amount. (Free shipping reflected as \$5.00 off order.) Visit:

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

Free Inflatable Neck Pillow ++++++

You can also get a free inflatable neck pillow (regularly \$6.25) with any order. (On top of the above discounts.) Just visit:

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

and click the free pillow box. (One per order; order must include merchandise besides a neck pillow.) We're happy to ship the free neck pillow to you if you are ordering a present for someone else at another address-- just let us know in the comments box of the order form. Get a free present for giving a present.

Remember we ship very fast -- almost all orders go out the



same day via Priority Mail 2 or 3 day delivery. Plenty of time for Christmas delivery.

WALKABOUT: CHRISTMAS ISLAND(S) (Yes, there are two.)

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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.

Christmas Island One ++++++

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>

Christmas Island Two ++++++

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 rain forests.

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)

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

Sale Item ++++

Our waterproof headlamp is on sale for just \$6.00:

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

Some Cascade Design products (PackTowl, Platypus etc.) are about to go up in price.

Canada shipping rates reduced +++++

The shipping charges to Canada are now the same as the USA: \$5.00 per order up to \$200.00 and free on orders over \$200.00. Also free on backpack orders.

We Match Prices, as always +++++

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



## WEBSITE UPDATES ++++++

### HO HO HO AND SANTA'S BONES ++++++

The holidays are a time of tradition, and we've got Santa's trail back up as our Walkabout. Where else can you see the holiday icon's mortal remains ~~but at walkabout?~~

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

The WalkBoard section now has a comprehensive list of Visa requirements for USA citizens. If anyone would like to help us post similar requirement for other nationalities, please let us know.

Also remember we've added a real-time world time clock in the WalkBoard section that allows you to see the time for anywhere on the planet.

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

### NEW PRODUCTS ++++++

#### PacSafes

We've stocked the original PacSafe Backpacker since Magnus and the crew invented it, and now we've added two other sizes. Perhaps the best new backpack travel product to come around in years.

#### FilmShields

The new FilmShields protect your film even from the more powerful XRay machines being placed in operation in airports around the globe.

All new items are also at:

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

### TRAVEL TIP ++++++

A Hot Tip during a Cold Season:

Thanks to Amy K.



Beware of the temperature of hot water in the UK! We measured 180 degrees F in several showers which is hot enough to cause third degree burns in several seconds. Most of the temperature controls ranged from 1 to 9 but anything over 1.5 was too hot. (Most homes in the UK use the same boiler unit for both hot water and heating the house.)

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

OTHER STUFF ++++++

Thanks for all the support over the years, and enjoy the new year.

*MILLENNIUM*  
As always, explore the world now.

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Walkabout Travel Gear

Supplying the Independent Traveler with Essential Gear and Information

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