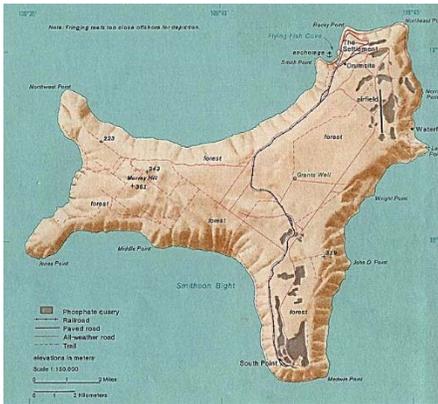


Where is the World is . . .

Christmas Island, (VK9X)

OC-002



That's right little Jimmy. Do you think Santa Clause really likes living at the North Pole? He prefers the temperate climates of the tropics. Christmas Island is a territory of Australia in the Indian Ocean. It has a population of 2,072 residents who live in several "settlement areas" on the northern tip of the island variously called Flying Fish Cove, Kampong, Silver City, Poon Saan and Drumsite (I will leave the visual picture of the last two to the reader). Most of the population are Chinese Australian. It is called Christmas Island because it was discovered on Christmas Day, 1643 by Capt. William Mynors of the Royal Mary an East India Company trading vessel as he sailed past it. In 1957, the island was transferred from the U.K. to Australian sovereignty.

Geographically, the island lies closer to Central Java than Australia but it seems that the Indonesians aren't interested and the Australians aren't having much luck either. Phosphate mining had been the only significant economic activity, but in December 1987 the Australian government closed the mine. In 1991, the mine was reopened by a consortium which included many of the former mine workers as shareholders. With the support of the government, the \$34 million Christmas Island Casino and Resort opened in 1993 but was closed in 1998. As of 2011, the resort has re-opened without the casino.

The Australian government in 2001 agreed to support the creation of a commercial spaceport on the island, however this has not yet been constructed, and appears that it will not proceed in the future. The Australian government built a temporary immigration detention center on the island in 2001

Christmas Island ranks 69th on the DXCC Most Wanted List.

Kiritimati (The Other Christmas Island) (T32)

OC-024

Kiritimati or Christmas Island is a Pacific Ocean raised coral atoll in the northern Line Islands, and part of the Republic of Kiribati. The name "Kiritimati" is a rather straightforward respelling of the English word "Christmas" in Gilbertese, in which the combination *ti* is pronounced *s*, and the name is thus pronounced [kə'ri:sməs]. The island has the greatest land area of any coral atoll in the world: about 150 sq mi; its lagoon is about the same size. The atoll is about 93 mi in perimeter, while the lagoon shoreline extends for over 30 mi. Christmas Island comprises over 70% of the total land area of Kiribati, a country encompassing 33 Pacific atolls and islands. It lies 144 mi north of the Equator, 4,160 mi from Sydney, and 3,330 mi from San Francisco. Christmas Island is in the world's farthest forward time zone, UTC+14 and is one of the first inhabited places on Earth to experience the New Year



Christmas Island was discovered by the Spanish in 1537. Captain James Cook visited it on Christmas Eve (24 December) 1777. It was claimed by the United States under the Guano Islands Act of 1856. During the 1840s, guano came to be prized as a source of saltpeter for gunpowder as well as an agricultural fertilizer. In 1855, the U.S. learned of rich guano deposits on islands in the Pacific Ocean. Congress passed the Guano Islands Act to take advantage of these deposits. It allowed any citizen of the United States who discovers a deposit of guano on any island, rock, or key, not within the lawful jurisdiction of any other Government, and not

occupied by the citizens of any other Government, to take peaceable possession of, such island, rock, or key and the discretion of the President, be considered as a part of the United States. In 1983, the island was ceded to the Republic of Kiribati as most Americans had plenty of guano from their politicians.

Christmas island has been visited by eight recent DX-peditions. As part of Eastern Kiribati, it is the 154th most wanted DXCC entity.

Reporting from the Dark Side,

Ron, K5HM