

Beauty of Christmas Island National Park Featured on New Issue



The stamps of Christmas Island are issued under the auspices of Australia Post. Although it was placed under Australian control in 1958, Christmas Island remained postally independent until 1993. Stamps issued by Australia Post since 1993 are also valid in Australia.

On June 17, Australia Post issued a set of four stamps highlighting Christmas Island. The island is a place of much natural beauty and scientific interest. This peak of a submarine mountain rises to a central plateau at about 1,200 feet above sea level. It is fringed by an almost continuous rocky cliff that rises to an average of 30–65 feet, broken in about a dozen places by shallow bays and small beaches.

The Christmas Island National Park comprises 64 per cent of the island's total area of 50 square miles. Since the first exploration of the island in 1887, there has been continuous interest in its unique natural history. Its isolation and varied habitats have allowed a great number of flora and fauna species to develop, many of which are endemic. The national park has 12 recognized habitats, four of which are represented in this stamp issue: forest, beach, sea cliffs and wetlands.

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