



WILDLIFE

Where to see wildlife on Christmas Island

Christmas Island is a great place for close encounters with wildlife.

Tens of thousands of seabirds nest in Christmas Island's rainforests, which are also home to endemic forest birds found no where else on earth. We have the world's most abundant and diverse range of land crabs, including tens of millions of red crabs. Generally you can see land crabs across much of the island all year round, except in the late dry season (around September).

Out in the forest

The Dales elevated walkway – Land crabs and forest birds

The elevated walkway to Hugh's Dale waterfall is a good place to see red crabs and robber crabs in the forest. Near Hugh's Dale stream you will see many blue crabs, which are endemic and only found in Christmas Island's wetlands.

Look and listen for imperial pigeons in the tree tops and the endemic thrush, white-eye and emerald dove in the forest understory. Goshawks are also here but can be difficult to see.

Margaret Knoll Lookout – Seabirds and the flying fox.

As you drive to the lookout, keep an eye out for forest birds, red crabs and robber crabs.

At the lookout, there are spectacular cliff top views of the east coast and you can see frigatebirds, golden bosuns and red-footed and brown boobies as they fly by. Endangered flying foxes may emerge from the forest below in the late afternoon, often providing close up views.

Martin Point – Seabirds

The viewing platform on the sea cliff is a good place to catch sunset and watch red-footed boobies. Brown boobies are sometimes seen nesting here.

Please avoid land crabs when you drive in and out of the Dales and Martin Point.

Blowholes – Red crabs, robber crabs and seabirds

The last kilometre of the Blowholes track is a great place to see red crabs, in their open understory rainforest habitat. The cleared ground is characteristic of areas with large numbers of red crabs. Robber crabs are seen here, as well as little and yellow nippers.

The elevated walkway provides spectacular views of blowholes and the rugged coastline. Red-footed boobies are also commonly seen flying by. Keep an eye out for spinner dolphins.



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Dolly Beach – Forest birds, robber crabs and green turtles

Dolly Beach is a picturesque sandy beach with a freshwater stream. On the walk through the rainforest keep an eye out for forest birds such as hawkowls roosting on branches in the shade. At the beach, robber crabs are common and green turtles nest all year round. To avoid disturbing the turtles, please keep your distance and stay quiet and calm.

Greta Beach – Green turtles

Green turtles nest all year round here. To avoid disturbing the turtles, please keep your distance and stay quiet and calm. You may also see birds such as common noddies and brown boobies on the cliffs above the beach.

LB 4 lookout – Abbott’s boobies

LB 4 lookout, opposite the LB 4 Temple and near the intersection of North-West Point and East West Bsaeline roads, is a good place to see Abbott’s boobies flying above the tall evergreen forest tree tops, especially as they return to their nests in the late afternoon.

Lily and Ethel beach – Seabirds

Large numbers of red-footed boobies roost along the Lily Beach road. The road between Lily and Ethel Beaches is one of the best places to see nesting red-footed boobies close up and you are also likely to see frigatebirds around Ethel Beach.

Common noddies nest in the cliffs around Lily and Ethel beaches and brown boobies often nest near the boardwalk that leads up from Lily Beach.

In and around the Settlement area

Territory Day Park – Sea and forest birds, red crabs and flying foxes

Perched high above Flying Fish Cove, the view from the Territory Day Park lookout provides a stunning backdrop to the antics of golden bosun-birds, and frigatebirds chasing boobies.

In the forest next to the Territory Day Park, look out for forest birds and red crabs. Flying foxes can sometimes be seen in the trees in the park or seen from the lookout.

Smith Point/Taj Jin House - Seabirds

Around Taj Jin House is a relaxing place to watch golden bosuns, frigatebirds and red-footed and brown boobies soaring above. Flying foxes can sometimes be seen in the tree tops.

Settlement – Red-tailed tropic birds and the golden bosun

Settlement’s rugged shoreline area (east of Rocky Point) is the best place to see and listen out for red-tailed tropic birds. In the early afternoon you can often see their courtship display which looks like the birds are flying backwards. Take care near the cliff terraces and please do not disturb nesting birds.

Golden bosuns are also commonly seen around the inland cliff areas.



Chinese Cemetery (between Rocky Point and North East Point) – Seabirds and hawk-owl

Christmas Island frigatebirds and red-footed boobies nest in the cliffs above the Cemetery. It's also a reasonable place to spot the endemic hawk-owl at night. Please respect the grave sites.

Golf Course – Seabirds and hawk-owl

Flying foxes camp in the trees near the Golf Club buildings and Christmas Island frigatebirds nest in the trees at the back of the links. The golf course is also a great place to spot vagrants like white-faced herons and egrets.

Wildlife species	Best places to see them	Comments
Red crabs	Blowholes, The Dales	Common in all forest areas
Robber crabs	Blowholes, The Dales and Dolly Beach	Common in all forest areas
Blue crabs	The Dales, Dolly Beach	Common in freshwater wetlands
Red-tailed tropic birds	Settlement shoreline (east of Rocky Point)	Common and easy to see
Golden bosun birds	Margaret Knoll, Territory Day Park, Taj Jin House, Settlement	Easy to see
Brown boobies	Lily Beach Boardwalk, Margaret Knoll	Commonly seen on coastal cliffs
Abbott's boobies	North west tall evergreen forests	Look out for their wide straight wings in the skyline
Frigatebirds	Margaret Knoll, Golf Course and Tai Jin House	Three frigate bird species live on Christmas Island (Christmas Island, great and lesser)
Forest birds white-eye, emerald dove, imperial pigeon and thrush	The Dales, Territory Day Park and Margaret Knoll	Common in most forest areas
Hawk-owls	Golf Course, Chinese Cemetery	Widespread but nocturnal and hard to find and see. Listen out for their boo-book, boobook calls
Goshawks	The Dales but also in other forest areas. Sometimes seen flying across roads and other open areas	Widespread but a very quiet forest bird and sometimes hard to see
Flying Foxes	Margaret Knoll, Tai Jin House, Territory Day Park, Golf Course	Best in the late afternoon
Green turtles	Greta and Dolly beaches	Please do not disturb nesting turtles or babies making their way to the ocean.

