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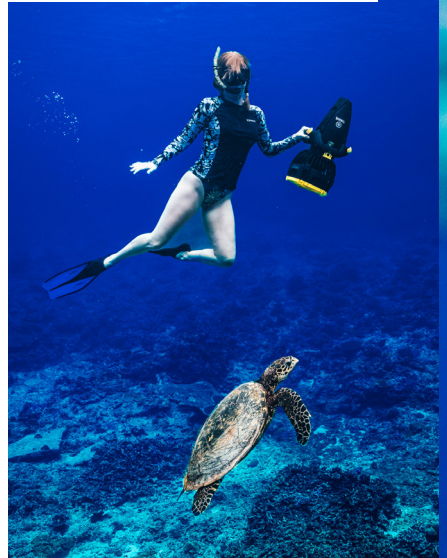
FLYING FISH COVE

Pack a snorkel, reef shoes and fins and head to Flying Fish Cove, the island's central hub. Float out with the current and forget about life above as you follow colourful fish around the densely populated fringing reef. The protected coral garden is home to myriad marine life, including turtles, octopus, butterflyfish and blue tang, all found within metres of the beach.

4 SPOTS TO DIVE INTO CHRISTMAS ISLAND

A lush UTOPIA just waiting to be explored, this small island is home to *BREATHTAKING* swimming spots, stunning seascapes, and a wealth of *COLOURFUL* marine life. Even its name, Christmas Island, invokes visions of *GLORIOUS* beach getaways.

DIVING FROM THE COVE IF DIVING IS ON YOUR RADAR, HOOK UP WITH A LOCAL OPERATOR – THERE'S CHRISTMAS ISLAND EXTRA DIVERS, WET AND DRY ADVENTURES, AND FREEDIVE CHRISTMAS ISLAND – AND HEAD OUT TO DIVE SPOTS WITH 20+ METRES VISIBILITY, WITH OVER 64 DIVE SITES, WHERE CAVERNOUS CAVES, DEEP DROP-OFFS AND SECOND WORLD WAR WRECKS TOP THE BILLING, THERE'S A TANTALISING TARDIS OF EASILY ACCESSIBLE WORLD-CLASS SCUBA EXPERIENCES AVAILABLE. WANT TO SELF-EXPLORE? HIRE AN AQUA SCOOTER AND LET TIME SLIP AWAY IN THE ISLAND'S UNPARALLELED UNDERWATER WORLD.



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THE GROTTO

This cave-encrusted, arctic-blue tinged pool is just a five-minute drive from town. Filled with a cooling mix of ocean and fresh water, this tiny watering hole is often deserted, your only company the island's famous red crabs clambering through the undergrowth. Switch off, float on your back, and marvel at the ceiling of ancient stalactites as ocean waves woosh against limestone walls in a meditative soundtrack. Rested and restored, hire a mountain bike from The Bike Kiosk, then ride around the coast to explore secluded hideaways and jaw-dropping viewpoints. Spend the night at heavenly Swell Lodge.

Visit christmas.net.au/australian-traveller

Dolly Beach

Lace up your trekking boots and become a castaway for a day on Dolly Beach. Local expert Lisa Preston, from Indian Ocean Experiences, hosts tours to the picturesque spot, along with other immersive island packages. The tour is a 45-minute ramble along raised boardwalks through tropical rainforest to a secluded stretch of sand edged by overhanging coconut palms. The shallow rock pools create a natural spa as gentle waves topple over a reef shelf.

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