



GOVERNMENT OF BERMUDA

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Mary Celeste Shipwreck on Google Street View

As of late last week, Bermuda's signature shipwreck the Mary Celeste now features on Google Street View.

Google Street View is a technology featured in Google Maps and Google Earth that provides panoramic views from positions along many streets in the world. It was launched on May 25, 2007, in several cities in the United States, and has since expanded to include cities and rural areas worldwide.

The Department of Conservation Services worked with Catlin Seaview Survey Head of Operations Christophe Bailhache and his team to make the Mary Celeste possibly the first shipwreck to appear on Google Street View.

"We picked the best spots to photograph, narrowed down the best tide for water clarity and then guided the Catlin team on the best way to shoot the wreck...and the results are just incredible," explained Custodian for Historic Wrecks, Department of Conservation Services Dr. Philippe Max Rouja. "The Mary Celeste is our signature wreck and with it being the 150th anniversary of the Civil War it is especially relevant.

"It is also the first shipwreck on Google Street View that I know of."

The Mary Celeste was a paddle steamer which sunk in 1864 after being used to run ammunitions and supplies to the Confederate forces during the American Civil War. The wreck sits in 55 feet of water and one of the huge paddle wheels is still clearly visible at the dive site.

This is the site where bottles of wine and perfume were found in 2011, and the story of that discovery is being prepared for a network documentary.

"The benefits of having the wreck on Google Street View are that it gives international exposure to one of Bermudas greatest assets," said Dr. Rouja. "Plus it gives us a record of what it looks like today and as we know that this wreck is exposed to extreme weather and will not always look this way.

"In short, it is a great way to preserve what it looks like now while also promoting diving in Bermuda as broadly as possible."

The Catlin Seaview Survey is sponsored by Catlin Group Limited, a specialty insurer and reinsurer that is domiciled in Bermuda.

Graham Pewter, President and Chief Executive Officer of Catlin Bermuda, said: "I am pleased that the scientific research that was conducted by the Catlin Seaview Survey in September off Bermuda can be used not only to protect Bermuda's coral reefs, but also to help promote Bermuda to a worldwide audience."

This story has already been picked up by several international media outlets, including the Daily Mail UK: <http://www.dailymail.co.uk/sciencetech/article-2478266/Google-SEA-view-Explore-Mary-Celeste-paddle-steamer-wreck-using-search-giants-Street-View.html>

To view the images on Google Street View go to:

<https://www.google.com/maps/views/view/streetview/oceans/mary-celeste-wreck/>