

Google Street View explores Japan disaster zone

December 13 2011



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Vehicles from Google's [Street View](#) service drove along 44,000 kilometres (27,000 miles) of roads to collect the images from the areas worst affected by the twin [disasters](#), which killed about 20,000 people.

Mostly shot in July, the 360-degree images linked to a map of the area provide a portrait of devastation, with piles of debris, gutted and flattened buildings, and overturned boats amid a vast wasteland.

At users' request, Google also provides images of the same region before the quake, with a comparison tool for "before" and "after" pictures. The photos capture 82 cities and villages in the prefectures of Miyagi, Iwate, [Fukushima](#), Ibaraki, Yamagata and Aomori.

"It is our hope that this will help people rediscover lost memories of their homes and towns," said [Google](#) on the dedicated site, which will also host photos and videos uploaded by residents from the area.

The site can be accessed in English at www.miraikioku.com/streetview/en .

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Citation: Google Street View explores Japan disaster zone (2011, December 13) retrieved 1 May 2024 from <https://phys.org/news/2011-12-google-street-view-explores-japan.html>

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