

Google Earth dives into oceans and WW II

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A screen shot of the Google Earth application on the Google Nexus One smartphone, on the Android platform, is shown on a news conference at Google headquarters in Mountain View, California. Google Earth mapping service is letting people use the Internet to dive into the world's oceans or see the ruin that World War II bombings rained on European cities.

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The Internet powerhouse on Thursday added an Ocean Showcase and WW II era [aerial photographs](#) to its free, interactive online atlas.

"The historical imagery feature gives people a unique perspective on the events of the past using today's latest mapping technology," Laura Scott of Google Europe said in a blog post.

"We hope that this World War II imagery will enable all of us to understand our shared history in a new way and to learn more about the impact of the war on the development of our cities."

The feature includes images taken in 1943 of 35 European cities pictures and of war-battered Warsaw in 1935 and 1945. [Google Earth](#) users are able to do side-by-side comparisons of the cities then and now.

"They remind us all of the devastating impact of

war on the people in those cities and also the remarkable way in which urban environments are reconstructed and regenerated over time," Scott said.

The Showcase adds an under-sea tour narrated by renowned National Geographic oceanographer Sylvia Earle to Google Earth.

"Anyone can be a desktop (Jacques-Yves Cousteau," Google product manager Jenifer Austin Foulkes said, referring to the famed French sea explorer.

"You can pause the tour at any time to watch videos of the surrounding areas and marine animals, like the humpback whales."

Photographers, naturalists, government agencies, and non-profit groups have contributed countless photos and videos to an Explore the Ocean layer of [Google Earth](#) launched a year ago.

The service has grown to include tours of [Monterey Bay Aquarium](#), sunken ships, and prize surfing locales.

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