



Rare parrots have best breeding season on record!

The New Zealand Kakapo parrot is critically endangered with just over a hundred birds living on a specially protected island, where there are no predatory animals like feral cats, stoats and rats. The Kakapo can't fly but their strong legs allow them to hike, climb trees and they can parachute themselves down using their wings. They are the fattest, heaviest parrot, weighing up to 4Kg. The nocturnal parrot is also the world's longest-living bird, they can live up to 95 years! The New Zealand Department of Conservation (DOC), who implemented a Kakapo Recovery Plan, have announced that the 2019 breeding season has produced a record breaking 76 chicks more than double the previous season!



Pictured: A photo of a Kakapos parrot during a viewing session taken from New Zealand's Department of Conservation (DOC) Twitter page.

Tourists to pay to drive on the 'Crookedest Street in the World'



Pictured: A typical view of Lombard Street in San Francisco.

Lombard Street is an east-west street in San Francisco, California in the USA that is famous for a steep, one way (downhill), section of road with eight hairpin bends. The sign at the top of the hill recommends a top speed of 5 mph. The road, which also boasts gardens filled with hydrangeas and roses, has become one of San Francisco's top tourist attractions. The road normally sees around 250 vehicles per hour prompting residents to complain that it is getting too busy!

Now city officials have announced a bill that would give San Francisco the authority to set up a toll and reservation system for the road, to reduce crowds and traffic congestion. The fee of about £7 would be used to help sustain the reservations system, pay for more traffic control officers, increased police patrols in the area and tourism ambassadors.



Satellite-launching aircraft gets maiden flight



Pictured: The Stratolaunch taken from the Stratolaunch Twitter page.

The Stratolaunch company are developing an air-launch platform to make access to space more convenient, reliable and routine.

The Stratolaunch aircraft boasts six engines, two fuselages and can carry up to three rockets designed to launch satellites into space. It's the world's largest aircraft and has a wingspan over 117 metres. The tail is 15 metres from the ground. It was made by reassembling parts from two used Boeing jetliners. Its first voyage took place for about two and a half hours over the Mojave Desert in Southern California, reaching a speed of 189 miles per hour and an altitude of 5181 metres. The huge airplane, nick-named Roc, has a wingspan bigger than a football field.

Tallest indoor waterfall opens!

Thousands of people are flocking to a new extension of Singapore's Changi Airport, to see the world's tallest indoor waterfall.

The HSBC Rain Vortex is seven storeys tall, and pumps 500,000 litres of rainwater through the roof of the Jewel building down to an underground tank and up round again!

It has only just opened but is already very popular, particularly with selfie hunters and draws big crowds at night when an elaborate light display is put on.

The waterfall isn't the only attraction at the airport. The world's best airport also features an indoor forest with more than a thousand trees, bouncy nets, shops, restaurants and an 11-screen movie theatre!



Pictured: The HSBC Rain Vortex at Jewel taken from the Changi airport Twitter page.

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