



GUAM VISITORS BUREAU

GUAM FACTSHEET



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THE ISLAND

Guam, an island territory of the United States, is located 900 miles north of the equator in the Western Pacific. From four to eight miles in width and 32 miles long. Guam covers approximately 220 square miles (549 sq. km) - the largest island in Micronesia and the gateway to the region. It is approximately 6,000 miles from San Francisco; 3,800



Tumon Bay Marine Park

miles west of Honolulu; 1,500 miles south of Japan; 1,596 miles from the Philippines and 2,026 miles east of Hong Kong. The southernmost of the Mariana Islands, Guam shares a common culture with the rest of the group, which also includes Saipan, Rota, and Tinian. The island was created from the peaks of two ancient volcanoes that sank into the sea and were fused together millions years ago.

The capital of Guam is Hågatña (Agana).

POPULATION

The population of Guam is approximately 171,000 as of 2006 and can be divided into three ethnic groups. Chamorros, Guam's original inhabitants, make up approximately 37% of the population, Filipinos 26%, Caucasian (including military personnel and families) 10%, Korean, Japanese, Chinese, and others 27%. Age distribution: 1-14 years: 35.1%, 15-64: 58.4%, 65+ years: 6.4%. Population growth rate: 1.5%.

POLITICAL STATUS & FORM OF GOVERNMENT

Organized, unincorporated territory of the U.S. The government has three branches as set up by Congress through the Organic Act in 1950, and one (1) non-voting Congressional delegate to the House of Representative.

HISTORY

The first inhabitants of Guam, the Chamorro people, are thought to have traveled to the Mariana Islands from

Southeast Asia by canoe. They developed a clan and caste system as part of a matrilineal society and they lived isolated from the rest of the world.

Ferdinand Magellan was the first westerner to set foot on Guam in 1521. Nearly 50 years later, Spain claimed the Marianas and controlled them for more than 300 years. Jesuit missionaries brought Catholicism and a western way of life to the island. Because of its location between the Philippines and Mexico, Guam became an important link in the Spanish empire and culture, with the church as the center of village life.

A new era began 1898, when the island became a U.S. territory after the Spanish-American War.

Japanese forces invaded in 1941 and assumed control of the island until July 1944, when U.S. troops reclaimed it.

The Organic Act, signed by President Truman in 1950, made Guam an unincorporated territory and its people American citizens, as they remain today.

GETTING THERE

Guam is Continental Airlines' hub in Asia Pacific. The Antonio B. Won Pat International airport is served by Continental Airlines from Guam to multiple points in Asia Pacific and to Hawaii and the mainlan U.S.A. Guam can also be reached via Manila, Tokyo, Osaka, Seoul, Taipei, or other Asian gateways on Philippine Airlines, Northwest Airlines, Japan Airlines, All Nippon Airways, China Airlines, and Korean Air. The average travel time from Guam to key Asian cities is 3.5 hours to 4.5 hours. Travel time to Hawaii is 7 hours.

ACCOMMODATIONS

Guam has an array of accommodations including luxury resorts, business hotels, family-style accommodations and bed and breakfast inns. Hilton, Westin, Hyatt Regency, Outrigger, Nikko, Pacific Islands Club (PIC), Hotel Okura, Marriott, and other international and regional hotel chains have beach front properties on the island.

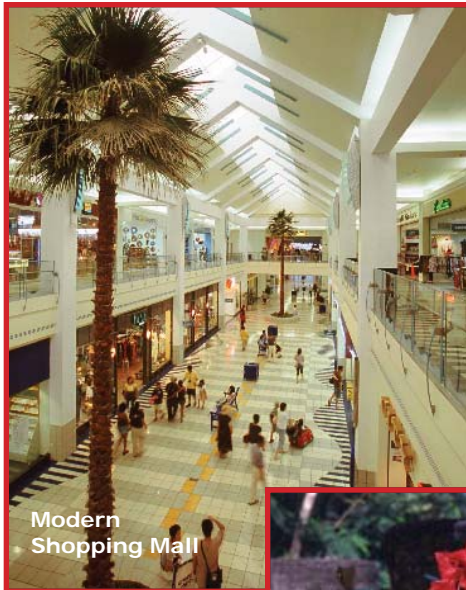
LANGUAGE

English and Chamorro are the official languages of Guam.

CLIMATE

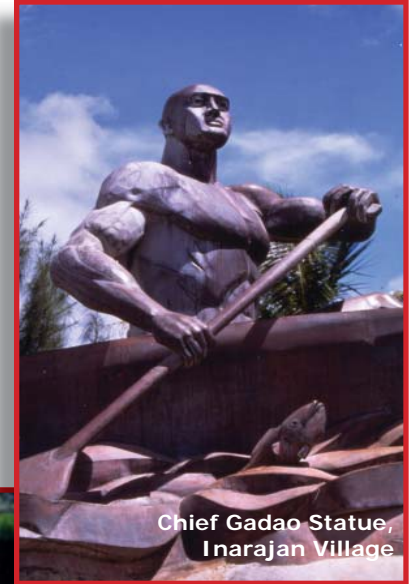
Located in the tropics, Guam's average yearly temperature is 85 degrees fahrenheit. The temperature rarely falls

below 70 degrees or rises above 90 degrees. The average water temperature is also 85 degrees, providing excellent opportunities for a variety of water sports. July through November is the rainy season and December through June the dry season. September and October are the wettest months, each averaging about 14 inches of rainfall.



Modern Shopping Mall

introduced by the Spanish in 1668 and held every year since then by the island's Chamorro people — often allow visitors the opportunity to experience the traditions and lifestyle of Guam's indigenous people. The island custom is to welcome those who visit the village to join in the festivities.



Chief Gadao Statue, Inarajan Village

ATTRACTIONS

Guam's attractions range from tropical beaches and waterfalls to historic monuments and museums. Petroglyphs (cave paintings) and latte stones (pillars which supported ancient buildings and houses) provide insight into the lives of the ancient Chamorro people. Spanish ruins and World War II memorials are reminders of both the distant past and more recent events.



Guam Chamorritas in traditional mestisa dresses

Guam's cuisine is a rich mixture of Spanish, Filipino, and Pacific dishes. Delicacies include whole roast pig, tropical fruits, yam, taro, and coconut crabs, red rice colored by achote seeds and just about anything grilled outdoors over an open flame.

Sports enthusiasts enjoy world-class scuba diving to explore coral reefs and underwater wrecks, as well as snorkeling, windsurfing, fishing, parasailing and swimming. Golf is available on courses designed by the legends of professional golf. Nature lovers can embark on one of the island's many hiking trails to spectacular waterfalls, secluded beaches and World War II historical sites. Much of the island's history is embodied within two major attractions, the Guam Museum in Hågatña and the War in the Pacific Historical Park in Asan.

Some of the barbecue specialties include grilled reef fish, Chorizo sausages, beef short ribs, chicken, pork spare ribs, breadfruit, and tortillas.

To transform dishes into a Chamorro meal, request finadene. It is a piquant sauce packed with red local chili peppers, soy sauce, lemon juice, and yellow onions. Most restaurants have a very mild version of finadene. If you really enjoy spicy food, ask your wait staff for additional red peppers. Usually, family style finadene has more heat than the restaurant version.

Guam's traditional fiestas — village-wide celebrations

Guam is a haven of the culinary arts. Despite Guam's small population, a wide array of restaurants offer scrumptious delicacies to satisfy any palate. Major hotels serve quality Western meal while a wide range of freestanding restaurants serve a variety of Asian ethnic dishes. Fresh seafood is always a favorite. Fresh fish, octopus, and lobster are either grilled or baked with vegetables or fruit, prepared for sashimi, and in other imaginative ways unique to the Pacific.



Senator Angel Santos Latte Park, Hågatña

**TRAVEL DOCUMENTS:
ENTRY AND EXIT FORMALITIES**

Entry requirements for Guam are the same as for any U.S. destination. Although U.S. citizens are required to possess a U.S. passport, on a case-by-case basis, photo I.D. and proof of citizenship may be required. Citizens of most other countries must have

a valid passport with a U.S. visa. In October 1988, the U.S. Government implemented the Guam-only visa waiver program. Citizens of more than a dozen countries have been allowed entry to Guam without a visa for a period of up to 15 days; travel onward to other U.S. ports is not allowed. Must arrive on a signatory carrier.

The following countries are eligible for the Guam Visa Waiver Program: Australia, Brunei, Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia, Nauru, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Republic of Korea, Singapore, Solomon Islands, Taiwan (only authorized for citizens and residents arriving directly from Taiwan or arriving on a flight from Taiwan which stopped in Saipan enroute, must possess a Taiwan National Identity Card), United Kingdom (including British National Overseas), Vanuatu, and Western Samoa.

In 1986, the Immigration Reform and Control Act (IRCA) incorporated the Visa Waiver Program; the program became effective on July 1, 1988. On October 30, 2000, the Visa Waiver Permanent Program Act made the pilot program permanent. The Visa Waiver Program permits nationals from the designated countries to apply for admission to the United States for ninety days or less as non-immigrant visitors for business or pleasure without first obtaining a U.S. non-immigrant visa, must have a machine-readable passport, and arrive on a signatory carrier.

The following countries are eligible for the Visa Waiver Program: Andorra, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Brunei, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Iceland, Indonesia, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Malaysia, Monaco, Nauru, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Papua New Guinea, Portugal, Republic of Korea, San Marino, Singapore, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Taiwan (only on direct flights from Taiwan to Guam), United Kingdom, Vanuatu, and Western Solomon.

For more detailed information, please visit the U.S. Department of Homeland Security website: www.dhs.gov.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Health: No vaccination certificates are required.

Time: Guam is 18 hours ahead of Pacific Time and 10 hours ahead of Greenwich Meridian Time.

Electricity: The electrical current is the same as on the U.S. Mainland: 120 volts/60 cycles.

Currency: The U.S. Dollar

Main banks on island: Bank of Guam, Bank of Hawaii, First Hawaiian Bank, Bank Pacific

Credit Cards: American Express, Diners Club, Visa, Mastercard, JCB, and other major credit cards accepted.

Media/Internet Services: Internet dial-up, broadband, Wi-Fi, cable tv, local & national newspapers available

For more information, contact:

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Guam is one of the least expensive dive training places in the world. Dive around the world's tallest ocean mountain

around the world's deepest point, the Mariana Trench. Scuba diving and snorkeling are especially popular on Guam. Guam has one of the richest and most diverse coral reef area in the United States. With more than 300 types of corals, 220 species of benthic marine algae, and 950 species of coral reef fishes, and submerged wrecks inhabit Guam's incredible reefs. The best snorkeling spots for beginners and experienced snorkelers alike are the protected reefs of the Tumon Bay Marine Preserve and Piti Bomb Holes, and in Merizo.

With Guam's tropical weather, one can dive year-round in its average 80 degree waters using 1.5 mm shortie. And the average underwater visibility is up to 100 feet. Boat, shore, reef, technical, wreck, underwater photography, and night dives are common on island.

There are five (5) dive spots that every diver must experience while on Guam:

WWI & WWII wreck dives:

SMS Cormoran & Tokai Maru

Blue Hole

GabGab 2

Haps Reef

Kitsukawa Maru

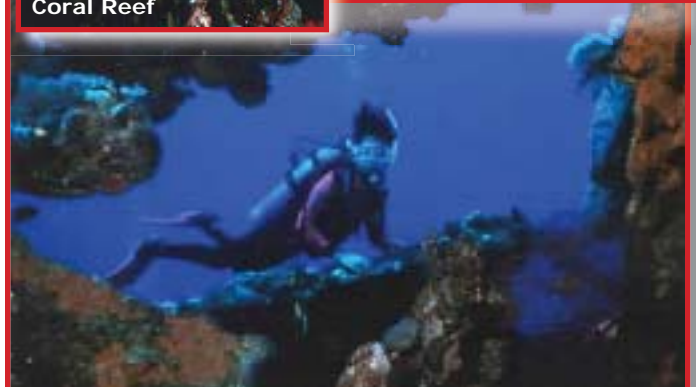
For more details and information about the many other dive sites and dive opportunities on Guam, contact and visit the many dive shops on Guam.



Coral Reef



Blue Hole





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WAYS TO ENJOY GUAM

Water activities are not the only pastime when it comes to vacationing on the island! Whether you want a romantic wedding, to experience traditional Chamorro culture, or lose yourself in an irresistible shopping environment, Guam is the perfect holiday destination. With different combinations of entertainment available, the lucky vacationer will find paradise on Earth and endless pleasure on cool, fun Guam.

Guam's tropical weather allows for a multitude of activities. Adrenaline junkies will love the tandem skydiving, jetskiing, parasailing, kite surfing, and many others; dive enthusiasts will enjoy the waters off Guam; snorkelers will be in awe of the Tumon Bay Marine Park protected marine life; Submersible vehicles and devices will excite the young and old. And golf has been one of the more popular activities to do on Guam. Guam boasts 7 golf courses, each with a different environment and degree of difficulty.

For those who prefer to stay indoors, Guam also offers a plethora of activities to experience. One can go shopping in many shopping areas on Guam. There are the Acanta Mall, Guam Premier Outlets,

Micronesia Mall, Agana Shopping Center, Tumon Sands Plaza, DFS Galleria, and many others. Or the family can experience the wonders of the sea at "Underwater World" at "Pleasure Island."

For those who want to know more about the culture and history of the island, one can visit the many cultural and historic sites throughout the island. There is Two Lovers' Point, Plaza de Espana, Latte Park, the many World War II memorial sites, Adventure River Cruise, Chamorro Village Wednesday night market, and many others. In addition, do not miss the local village celebrations - *fiestas* - which are both authentic and entertaining.

For the romantic, Guam is the place to be. With the many beautiful and pristine wedding chapels and scenic viewing locations, weddings on Guam are becoming more popular with young couples.

For those who wish to experience the night life of Guam, one can visit the many bars, lounges, and clubs throughout Tumon. Each place offers something different. There is always something for everybody.