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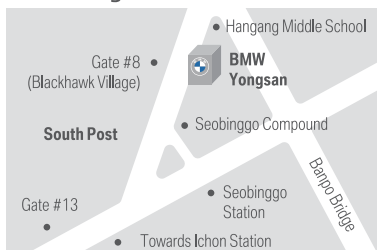
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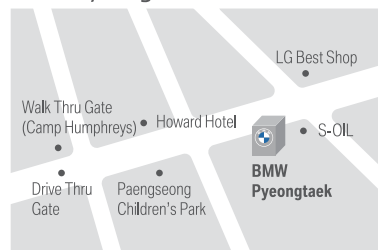
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GUAM

2025-2026 Welcome to the Pacific

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in the Pacific*

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Moving to a new home or to a new city can be stressful. Moving overseas, however, adds new layers of stress, anxiety and excitement no amount of advanced preparation can keep at bay.

You're not alone! Stars and Stripes is here to guide you through this new chapter in your career and life as you navigate a new duty station.

We know you have questions, but rest assured, Stars and Stripes is with you all the way. This magazine is the start of a beautiful journey together.

In the following pages you'll learn everything from buying a car and getting a cellphone, to local customs and an intro to delicious Chamorro food. We promise to answer most of your questions.

And when you're done, don't forget to pick up a copy of Stars and Stripes Guam on base or visit us online at guam.stripes.com! We keep you updated on fun activities, delicious restaurants and information you need to know so you'll be out and about in no time.

Our goal as your guide is to help ensure you always have all the information you need and to support you throughout your time here. Without you, there is no Stars and Stripes.

We also want to hear from you! You'll notice that throughout this magazine and on the cover feature photos from readers like you. We share this space and all our community publications with our audience. If you have a story to tell or a photo you want to submit for an edition of our newspaper or a future cover of Welcome to the Pacific, let us know!

We're in this together and can't wait to share Guam's beauty with you! Follow us on Facebook (Pacific Stars and Stripes), X (Twitter) (@StripesPacific) and Instagram (@Starsandstripespacific) as we continue to bring you the latest information and resources you don't want to miss.

Thank you for being a valued reader, and as they say here in Guam: Hafa adai!

Denisse Rauda
Publishing and Media Design Editor
Stars and Stripes
guam@stripes.com

Cover photo

Keiko Hoshijima took this photo of a fellow snorkeler enjoying the stunning array of coral and diverse fish of Fish Eye Bomb Hole in Piti.

Background photo

This stunning sunset was captured by Keiko Hoshijima during a peaceful evening in Mangilao.



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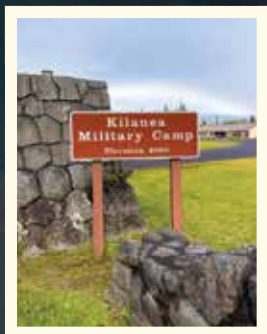
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Island life

Kaci Curtis
Navy spouse

In this military life, many of us have weathered the storm of at least ONE set of surprise PCS orders. The kind that knocked glasses askew when they blasted into our lives, and spun us in a whirlwind of confusion.

When my husband came home with the surprise choice between Bahrain or Guam, I suddenly doubted whether I'd ever studied a complete map of the world. For if I had, surely I would have been able to point to at least one of them on a map without googling it first. Neither of those options were Virginia, which was where we had been told we would be heading next. But I had to let that expectation go, and quickly. OCONUS (outside the continental United States) moves require a lot of preparation, and therefore, time. The choice turned out to be relatively easy: one was an accompanied tour, and the other was not. My family had endured enough of my husband's absence in recent years; I wouldn't choose a duty station where we weren't allowed to go with him.

Other side of the world

So here we are, two years later, living on an island in the middle of the Pacific Ocean. One that doesn't even show up on the map, unless you zoom in. A lot! Compared to some OCONUS locations, Guam is a gentler transition, because it is a U.S. territory. It was invaded and occupied by the Japanese during World War II in 1941, and liberated by U.S. Marines in 1944. Most people speak English here, though there is a heavy Asian influence, and a ton of tourists from Japan and other Asian countries. Though connected to the U.S. in name, it's impossible to forget that we're on the other side of the world. There's no daylight savings time here. Only 931 miles from the equator, the sun is incredibly powerful. It's always hot, and from May to November, the wet season hurls tropical depressions and typhoons toward our little



Author's family on a dolphin cruise.
Photo by Kaci Curtis

island with the accuracy of an MLB pitcher. Year round and without warning, we have earthquakes, averaging 170 of them per year.

There is plenty to miss about the mainland, if I allow myself to fall into the trap of comparison. Most recognizable American shopping: the big box stores, outdoor centers, bookstores, clothing outlets, or restaurants... won't be found here. Sometimes I dream of drifting through a Barnes N' Noble or browsing in Sam's Club. Don't even ask me how often I lament over the loss of Target or Whole Foods.

Logistical challenges

There are stocking issues in the stores that we do have. Everything takes a long time to get here, and so not only is our stock unreliable, but we can go weeks or even months without seeing our favorite products (or flavors) on the shelves. If we manage to get off-season produce, the price is three times what we were used to paying back in the States. And because of how long it takes to get it all here, it's neither very fresh, nor long-lasting. Living on the island has been an absolute eye-opener to just how much convenience and accessibility has embedded itself into the American lifestyle.

Until we left the mainland, my husband and I had no idea just how easy it had been for us to get whatever we wanted, whenever we wanted. It didn't matter if it was in season, or if there had been a bad storm. Now, it's the norm to wait 4 weeks or more just for an Amazon package to arrive (and that's if it manages not to get lost on the way here).

Ocean's wonders

Despite its logistical challenges, Guam has

a lot to offer, especially if you step off the beaten track. The beaches are stunning; the crystal waters everything you'd expect from a tropical island. The sea life we encounter in one afternoon at our local beach could fill a BBC documentary. It's provided a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to immerse our kids into the ocean's wonders.

Guam has fostered a connection to the sea that I hope will last throughout our lives. We frequently see baby black tip sharks, trigger fish, eels, butterfly fish, sea cucumbers, puffer fish, urchins, blue sea stars, and crabs of all kinds. Going down to the beach at sunset has become one of our favorite things to do as a family; we search for coconut crabs, which emerge at night and can weigh up to 9 lbs. We also look for eels and other nocturnal hunters among the tide pools. There's also lots of hiking, affectionately called "Boonie Stomping," here on the island. Most hikes lead to the beach, or to waterfalls and swimming holes. Some treks climb summits, including Mount Lam Lam. Some consider it to be the tallest mountain in the world, since it originates from the floor of the Marianas Trench, the deepest oceanic trench on our planet.

Be flexible

We never expected to be here, but the shift that our island home has provided has been invaluable. It has reinforced the need to be flexible, and to look for the good in the unexpected. It has illuminated the places where we needed to grow in gratitude, and given us a personal stake in the protection of our oceans. It has offered us the time, albeit at a slower island pace, to take in the adventures and lessons that this tiny green dot on the map has to offer, amidst its expanse of blue.

(This story first appeared on missionmilspouse.org)

About the Author: Kaci Curtis is a Navy wife and mom. Her historical fiction novel, "Along the Trail," is forthcoming with The Wild Rose Press. Follow her on FB (@KCurtisWriter) and check out her blog (and many others!) with Mission:Milspouse for more inspiring stories.



Our Mission: To globally empower military spouses with resources, supporting them to conquer adversity, foster confidence, and thrive in this military life.

Find resources and join the Mission: Milspouse team at missionmilspouse.org





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UNA APARTMENTS: DHSUD LTS No. 0001681 (Tower 2) | Sevina Park Apartments Midscale 1 | Location: Brgy. Biñan, Laguna | Date Issued: 24 November 2023 | Completion Date: December 2028 | Project Owner and Developer: Cazneau Inc.

Guam's vibrant culture

Guam, the largest and southernmost of the Mariana Islands chain, has a unique and complex cultural history. Located in the Western Pacific in the geographic region known as Micronesia, Guam is well known for its strategic military and economic position between Asia and the North American continent, but is less known for its remarkable history and resilient people.

Inhabited for thousands of years, archaeological evidence indicates that the Marianas Islands were one of the first places to be settled by seafaring peoples, possibly from the Maritime Southeast Asia area, over 4,000 years ago. The Mariana Islands appear to have been continuously occupied by people who shared the same culture and language that eventually became known as Chamorro.

Colonialism

Guam's history is also one of multi-colonialism, with the last 400 years of Guam's history marked by administrations of three different colonial powers: Spain, the United States and Japan.

The ceding of Guam to the United States as an unincorporated territory after the Spanish-American War in 1898 introduced Chamorros to democratic principles of government and the modern American lifestyle, while keeping them subjects of a sometimes-oppressive U.S. Naval administration.

Guam also had a unique position in World War II, when Japan invaded the island shortly after the attack on Pearl Harbor in December 1941. For the next three years, Guam was the only U.S. territory occupied by Japanese forces until the Americans returned in 1944 to reclaim the island.

The political maneuverings after World War II and the post-war buildup led to even more expansion of U.S. military interests

in Guam and the rest of Micronesia, with Guam becoming a hub for economic and commercial development. The easing of military restrictions for entering Guam and the establishment of a local, civilian government, have made the island an ideal place for people from all over the world to visit, go to school, find jobs or pursue a variety of economic interests.

Culture

Today, in addition to its inviting beaches, elegant hotels and great bargains, Guam has another vital attraction – its unique culture. The traditions and customs of Guam's proud island heritage thrive, despite invading conquerors, wars and epidemics, and changing governments. Forged from a neolithic foundation and molded by historical events, Guam's living culture has expanded into a vibrant, modern way of life.

Since the 17th century, Catholic churches have been the center of village activities. Even today, every village has its patron saint whose feast day is celebrated with an elaborate fiesta, which the entire island is invited to attend. Family groups still hold christening parties, weddings, novenas, funerals, and death- anniversary rosaries. All are flavored by the rich Spanish heritage.

Spanish influence may also be seen in the mestiza, a style of women's clothing, or in the architecture of Guam's southern villages.

Countless Americans, Europeans, Asians, Micronesians and other visitors have left their imprints on the island's pastimes and tastes, but nowhere is the island's multicultural influence more evident than in its food.

Folklore

Legends and folklore about village taotaomo'na (ancient spirits), doomed lovers leaping to their death off Two Lovers' Point (Puntan Dos Amantes), and Sirena,



Photo courtesy of Guam Visitors Bureau

a beautiful young girl who became a mermaid, are portrayed in many of Guam's enriching cultural dances.

Fiesta

At a fiesta or other island party, families prepare heavily laden tables of local delicacies, such as red rice, shrimp patties, a Filipino-style noodle dish called pancit, barbecued ribs and chicken, and taro leaves cooked in coconut milk. Another mouth-watering treat is kelaguen, usually prepared from chopped broiled chicken, lemon juice, grated coconut and hot peppers.

Fiery finadene sauce, made with soy sauce, lemon juice or vinegar, hot peppers, and onions, is sprinkled over the food for a truly memorable dish. After a hearty meal, Chamorros often enjoy chewing pugua (betel nut) mixed with powdered lime and wrapped in pepper leaf. *(Read more about Chamorro cuisine on Pages 34-35)*

Music

Music is an integral aspect of an island lifestyle, and performances using traditional instruments, such as the

Guam



Guam folktales

Chamorro culture



Two Lovers' Point



Young maidens that saved Guam



Alu and Pang



Gadao's strength



Chamorro dancing



Chamorro music

Guam's seven historical eras

2,000 BC - 1668: Ancient Guam

People first arrived on Guam and the rest of the Mariana Islands probably from Southeast Asia, possibly in many waves over many years. These people evolved into the Chamorro people with their own distinct language and way of life.

1668 - 1898: Spanish Era

Starting with the arrival of Father San Vi- tores, Guam was colonized by Spain until the Spanish-American War.

1898 - 1941: U.S. Naval Era

The U.S. Navy ruled Guam from the end of the Spanish-American War up until the Japanese invasion of Guam on Dec. 8, 1941. The Chamorros petitioned for U.S. citizenship for the first time in 1901.

1941 - 1944: World War II/Japanese Era

Japanese forces occupied Guam from Dec. 8, 1941 to July 21, 1944.

1944-1950: Post-War Era

A period of rebuilding after the destruction of World War II. Naval governors were once again in charge of the island. This is the period when the military took land and built several large bases. The people of Guam pushed hard for self-rule and U.S. citizenship.

1950 - 1970: Guamanian Era

With the signing of the Organic Act on Aug. 1, 1950, Chamorros became U.S. citizens, though they had limited self-government. The governor, a civilian, was appointed by the U.S. president. The Organic Act set up the government of Guam as well, with the administration, the legislature and the courts. The term "Guamanian" was coined, which includes Chamorros, Filipinos and everyone else who makes Guam their home.

1970 - Present: Contemporary Guam

Guam's first elected governor took office and Guam started getting more tourism business on a regular basis, which gave the island a second industry besides the military.

- Guampedia



Photo courtesy of Guam Visitors Bureau

Contemporary music is an important element of social gatherings, ranging from fiestas and fandangos to casual backyard parties. Musicians usually sing Chamorro, American, Filipino, or a variety of Asian songs.

Arts

Guam's traditional arts are very much alive. During cultural fairs and exhibitions, visitors often have the opportunity to watch master weavers, carvers and even a blacksmith at work.

Weavers, using the traditional pandanus or coconut fibers, fashion baskets of various sizes, purses, hats, floor mats and wall hangings. Carvers hew tables, plaques, figurines of people or animals, and household implements using ifil wood or pago woods.

The traditional ways are being passed along to the younger generations through apprenticeship programs in order to preserve the island's art heritage. A master blacksmith, for example, recently graduated three pupils who have learned how to make useful steel farming and fishing implements, such as coconut graters, hoes, machetes and fishing spearheads. Other hand-forged items include betel nut scissors, tools for weaving and knives.

Melting pot

A trip to Guam is like visiting the four exotic corners of the globe. Guam is considered the hub of the western Pacific and undeniably Micronesia's most cosmopolitan destination - a true example of the great American melting pot. In addition to the indigenous Chamorros and 'stateside' Americans, Guam boasts large populations of Filipinos, Chinese, Japanese, Koreans and Micronesian Islanders, as well as a few Vietnamese, Indians and Europeans.

- Guam Visitors Bureau



Photo by Keiko Hoshijima



belembaotuyan, are highlights of cultural presentations. The belembaotuyan, made from a hollow gourd and strung with a taut wire and pressed against one's bare stomach, creates a melodic sound enjoyed by all. The nose flute, once a long forgotten instrument, is now making a hearty return.

The Kantan Chamorro style of singing has been a favorite form of entertainment for generations. Additionally, it has been used to lighten long hours of group work activity, such as weaving, corn husking and net fishing. One singer would begin the familiar four-line chant, referring romantically or teasingly in the verse to another person in the group. The challenged person would then take up the tune and the song might continue in this fashion with different singers for hours.




**American
Red Cross**

Service to the Armed Forces

Across the Globe: Discover Your Local American Red Cross

The American Red Cross is committed to providing support and resources to members of our nation's military, veterans, Department of Defense personnel, and their families worldwide. From teaching life-saving skills and preparing families for natural disasters to providing workshops that address the unique challenges of military life and connecting families during emergencies, the Red Cross is always there.

Red Cross Emergency Messages

Available 24/7 through the Red Cross Hero Care Network, Red Cross emergency messages ensure that eligible personnel can connect with their loved ones during crisis, regardless of location. Red Cross messages can be initiated from the Hero Care App, by calling **+1 877-272-7337**, going online to **redcross.org/saf** or visiting your local Red Cross office during the duty day.

Training and Certifications

The Red Cross offers a range of training and certifications in lifesaving skills such as Adult and Pediatric First Aid/CPR/AED, Basic Life Support and Babysitting and Child Care. These courses equip individuals with essential skills and contribute to building a resilient community.

Behavioral Health Workshops

The Red Cross conducts workshops to address various aspects of military life. Some workshops, led by licensed mental health professionals, provide techniques to improve communication and coping skills, the mind body connection, and relationships with others. Mindful Movement workshops, led by coaches, incorporate breathing, stretching and mindfulness. All workshops are free of charge, with some available as virtual offerings. Programs may be offered at the location and time of your choosing, including after hours or weekends.

Disaster Preparedness

The Red Cross emphasizes disaster preparedness, offering free presentations to help families and military commands prepare for and respond to emergencies. From home fires to earthquakes and storms to evacuations, these sessions ensure individuals have the knowledge and skills to navigate disasters safely.

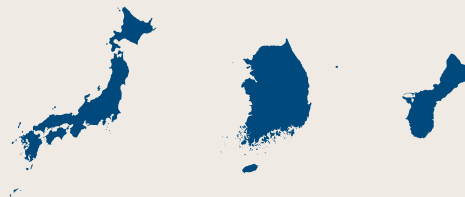


Volunteer Opportunities

Whether distributing care packages, serving those facing a crisis as a caseworker, facilitating workshops, participating in vocational medical training as a spouse, teaching CPR or disaster preparedness, or serving at military hospitals, volunteers are integral to the Red Cross mission and there are opportunities to serve in military communities around the globe.

Visit your local Red Cross office
or **redcross.org** to learn more.
Sign up as a volunteer today!

In locations across Japan, South Korea,
and Guam, the Red Cross is there!



The Red Cross is dedicated to supporting the
entire military community, providing assistance
wherever they may be serving.



**American
Red Cross**

Service to the Armed Forces

In an Emergency, You Can Call the American Red Cross

In times of emergency, the American Red Cross helps our U.S. military communities worldwide communicate with their loved ones and helps facilitate their return home through our Hero Care Network “Red Cross Emergency Message” program. The Hero Care Network is free and available 24/7.

Eligibility includes:

- All active-duty military members
- All personnel working under the Status of Armed Forces Agreement (SOFA) including Department of Defense personnel, contractors and their family members

How it works:

Military families can initiate an emergency message either online, over the phone or through the Hero Care App. The Red Cross verifies the emergency and notifies the service member’s military command, so they can make an informed decision regarding the possibility of emergency leave. The Red Cross also connects eligible military members and veterans to financial assistance provided by Military Aid Societies. Assistance can include funds for emergency travel, emergency food, shelter and more.

“Coming from a military background, I like working alongside the military and helping these service members get back home for these emergencies because I know how important it is... to these families.”

Ciana Naputi has dedicated six years to supporting military families as a Hero Care caseworker. Knowing firsthand the impact Red Cross messages had on her own family fuels her empathy and dedication, ensuring everyone behind the call knows they are not alone. When families call the Hero Care Center, they’ll connect with someone like Ciana who truly understands their challenges, working around the clock to get their service member home.



We encourage families to prepare for emergencies ahead of time by visiting redcross.org/saf, downloading the **FREE** Hero Care App by scanning the QR code or calling a Hero Care specialist at **+1 877-272-7337**.

Speakin' Chamorro

Most of the younger Chamorros you meet on Guam, or "Guåhan," are not likely to speak much more of the Chamorro language than the ubiquitous greeting, "Håfa adai!" But while the number of Chamorro speakers has decreased over the decades, a recent surge in interest in preserving local history, traditions and culture indicate the language may be around for centuries to come. English may be the lingua franca on the island today, but you might be surprised at how many speak some of the Chamorro language – and would appreciate your attempt to speak it, too. Here are some basics to get you started.

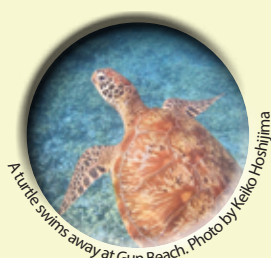
Letter Pronunciation

A (æ)	E (e)	I (i)	Ñ (ɲ)	~ (ɭ)
Å (a)	F (f)	K (k)	Ng (ŋ)	S (s)
B (b)	G (g)	L (l)	O (o)	T (t)
Ch (ts)	Gu (gʷ)	M (m)	P (p)	U (u)
D (d)	H (h)	N (n)	R (r)	Y (dz)

Note: The letter Y is pronounced more like DZ (an approximation of the regional Spanish pronunciation). The letters N and Ñ, and A and Å, are not always distinguished in print. Thus, the Guamanian place name spelled "Yona" is pronounced "Dzopa," not "Jona" as might be expected. "Ch" is usually pronounced like "Ts," rather than as it is in English. The Chamorro R is a flat (ɾ), like a Spanish R between vowels, and a retroflex approximant (ɭ), a type of consonantal sound, like the English R at the beginning of words.

BASIC CHAMORRO PHRASES

Welcome – **Bienbenidu**
 Hello – **Hafa Adai**
 How are you? – **Hafa tatamanu hao?**
 I'm fine – **Maolek ha yu**
 Long time no see – **Apmam tiempo ti uli'e hao**
 What's your name? – **Hayi na'an-mu?**
 My name is ... – **Na'an-hu si...**
 Where are you from? – **Taotao manu hao?**
 I'm from ... – **Taotao ... yu**
 Pleased to meet you – **Ma'gof yu sa umali'i hit**
 Good morning – **Buenos dias**
 Good afternoon – **Buenos tatdes**
 Good evening – **Buenas noches**



A turtle swims away at Gun Beach. Photo by Keiko Hoshijima

Hafa Adai!

Goodbye – **Adios**
 Good luck – **Suette!**
 Cheers/Good health! – **Hago lao!**
 Have a nice day – **Puedi ha todo maolek**
 Bon appetit – **Buen prubechu**
 Bon voyage – **Buen biahe**
 I don't understand – **Ti hu kumprende**
 Please speak more slowly – **Pot fabot na despasio i kuentos-mu**
 Please write it down – **Tuge' papa pot fabot**
 Do you speak Chamorro? – **Kao siña hao fumino' Chamorro?**
 Yes, a little – **A'a, didide' ha**
 How do you say ... in Chamorro? – **Hafa taimanu un sangan ... gi fino' Chamorro?**
 Excuse me/Sorry – **Dispensa yu**
 How much is this? – **Kuanto baliña?**
 Thank you – **Si Yu'us ma'ase**
 You're welcome – **Buen prubechu**
 Where's the toilet? – **Manu na gaige i kemmon?**
 This gentleman/lady will pay



A diver waves at Fish Eye Observatory. Photo by Keiko Hoshijima

for everything – **Para guiya hu apasi todo este**
 Would you like to dance with me? – **Malagu hao bumaila yan guahu?**
 I love you – **Hu guiya hao**
 Get well soon – **Puedi homlo hao ti apmam**
 Leave me alone! – **Sappe! Litira hao! Basta ma estotba yu!**
 Help! Fire! Stop! – **Ayuda! Guafe! Basta!**
 Call the police! – **Agang i polisia!**
 One language is never enough – **Un linguae ni ngai'an u nahom**



LearningCHamoru.com

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Garcia, Guam, Misawa, Okinawa,
Sasebo, Singapore, and Yokosuka

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Guam Reef Hotel offers hospitality and high quality entertainment venue. Located in the center of the shopping and entertainment district and within walking distance of all the exciting Tumon attractions.



ROOMS

Guam Reef Hotel has 426 well-appointed stylish rooms and is located in the heart of Tumon. Our Beach Tower and Infinity Tower offer you a wide range of rooms from modern minimalist to rooms with panoramic views of Tumon Bay. All rooms include a flat-screen TV, hot/cold water dispenser and free Wi-Fi for your pleasant stay.

FITNESS

You can take advantage of our fitness room (678 sq ft) to unwind and further enhance your stay with us. Whether you prefer cardio exercises, weightlifting, or stretching, our fitness room has everything you need to stay active during your stay.



AMENITIES

We have a free laundry facility located at the lobby level, available 24 hours for your convenience. Additionally, there is a microwave and ice machine available on every floor. Our newly opened meeting rooms, with three options available based on group size, are complimentary for military in-house guests.



Guam Reef Hotel

On The Beach in The Heart of Guam



For Reservations:



1-671-649-2229 / 1-671-646-6881



reservations@guamreef.com



****Military Rates available***

1317 Pale San Vitores Road, Tamuning, Guam 96913

Finding a job on Guam

So you've PCSed with your spouse to Guam. They have a job. You don't. There are jobs available on Guam, but you just need to know where to look. First of all, the Fleet & Family Support Center on Naval Base Guam and the Military & Family Support Center on Andersen Air Force Base offer classes to assist on finding employment, writing resumes, interviewing skills and techniques, starting your own business, applying for federal jobs and more. Here's some other helpful resources to get you started.

Guam Department of Labor's One-Stop Career Center

Great place to visit early on so your name can be placed on a list of jobseekers and your resume can be available to a potential employer match.

Office Location: Bell Tower Plaza, 3rd Floor
710 West Marine Corps Drive
Hagatna, GU 96910

Website: <https://dol.guam.gov>



The PDN's online job finder service

guampdn.com/classifieds/job/ is a great resource.



Indeed.com

Indeed strives to put job seekers first, giving them free access to search for jobs, post resumes and research companies. Every day, it connects millions of people to new opportunities.



www.usajobs.gov

Looking for a job with the U.S. government? Here's the site to check out.



ON-BASE AGENCIES

Regional NAF Human Resources Office

Joint Region Marianas

www.militarymwrguam.com/jobs

Phone: (671) 349-1154/2154
/2210/5154/ 3154

Email: NAFjobs@fe.navy.mil



USAF 36 FSS Civilian Personnel Office

Phone: (671) 366-3674/671-366-3677

Email: andersenstaffing@us.af.mil

DON Human Resources Office

Phone: (671) 333-4063/671-366-6817

Email: JRMHRO@ocon

Other job sites



guamjobsonline.com



simplyhired.com



aafes.com



deca.com



alutiiq.com



chugach.com

For more on jobs, go to guam.stripes.com

Community resources

Guam boasts a vibrant local community that provides resources and support to active duty military and their families. Check out the following resources and get connected with your new community!

Armed Forces Committee

Within the Guam Chamber of Commerce is the Armed Forces Committee (AFC), which "Fosters mutual respect and a congenial working relationship between businesses and the military communities; promotes cooperation through the free flow of information; and ensures fair treatment for local business with the military."



Website

Navy League

The role of the Navy League in Guam is "Proudly providing support for men and women who serve in our country's sea services; and the youth of Guam who participate in NLUS supported programs."



Website

American Red Cross

To access support from the American Red Cross 24/7:

Call the Red Cross Hero Care

Center at 1-877-272-7337

Andersen AFB: (671) 366-2574/688-0283

Guam Chapter (Main Office): (671) 472-6217/9



Website

Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society

The mission of the Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society is to provide, in partnership with the Navy and Marine Corps, financial, educational and other need-based assistance to active-duty and retired sailors and Marines, their eligible family members, and survivors.

NMCRS Guam: 671-564-1885

Email: Guam@nmcrs.org

Air Force Aid Society

When unexpected financial emergencies arise, AFAS provides no-interest loans and grants to help Air Force families meet immediate needs and make a positive step towards a lasting financial solution.

Location: Airman & Family Readiness Center, Bldg. 22026, Andersen AFB

Tel: (671) 366-8136

Email: 36fss.fsh@us.af.mil

SPOUSE PROGRAMS

COMPASS is a spouse-to-

spouse mentoring and orientation program that helps familiarize attendees to various aspects of the military lifestyle. Learn about your sailor's command, opportunities for you and your family, network with other spouses and develop skills to handle the challenges of military life.



Website

Heart Link

A fun, informative workshop geared for AF spouses married 5 or less years. Learn about local resources, military customs, traditions, and so much more! Games, prizes, giveaways and lots of fun! This is a great opportunity to network with fellow AF spouses during this interactive workshop.



Website

Veterinary services & clinics

The Boller Veterinary Clinic and the Andersen Veterinary Treatment Facility are fully operated vet clinics (i.e. grooming services, vaccinations, spay/neutering services, micro-chipping, deworming, etc), but do not have emergency care. Patrons who have MWR privileges are eligible to use both clinics.

For more information call:

- **Boller Veterinary Clinic:** 671-333-3225
- **Andersen Veterinary Treatment Facility:** 671-366-3205

Off-base veterinary clinics

- **Animal Medical Clinic (Dededo):**
Tel: 671-637-8387
- **Isla Veterinary Clinic (Asan):**
Tel: 671-477-7879
Emergency: 671-488-7892
- **Marianas Vet Care (Barrigada):**
Tel: 671-734-6341
- **Wise Owl (Tamuning):**
Tel: 671-646-2273



Vaccinations, licensing & registration

Guam does not have strict leash or pet licensing and registration laws. Although, if you live on base, your pet must always be on a leash, micro-chipped and registered at the Boller Veterinary Clinic on Naval Base Guam or the Andersen Veterinary Treatment Facility on Andersen Air Force Base.

Pet-friendly hotels on Guam

Navy Gateway Inns & Suites

Tel: 671-339-5259

The Westin Resort

105 Gun Beach Road, Tumon, Guam, 96913

Tel: 671-647-1020

LeoPalace Resort

221 Lake View Drive, Yona, GU 96915

Tel: 671-471-0001

Days Inn

155 Ypao Road, Tamuning,

GU 96913

Tel: 671-646-3297

Getting connected with a cell phone

You have probably had your own cell phone since you were in high school, and gradually learned the ins and outs of calling plans as you grew older. But now you are on Guam, and the familiar U.S. cell phone carriers are not available. Moreover, the distance between Guam and home in the U.S. means you have different service requirements than before.

Buying a cell phone is more than just getting a handset; you also have to select a service provider. And with a smorgasbord of carriers offering different technologies and service plans, choosing a provider should be the first step – before signing a contract that will tie you to a carrier for most of your time on the island.

On Guam, there are four main providers: Docomo Pacific, GTA, iConnect and IT&E.

DOCOMO PACIFIC

D O C O M O
PACIFIC is one of Guam and the CNMI's leading providers of telecommunications and entertainment services dedicated to bringing you closer to the things that matter most. DOCOMO PACIFIC offers the latest mobile services, cable TV, high-speed internet, and telephone services.

www.docomopacific.com



docomo pacific
Better Together



GTA

GTA provides complete communication services on Guam. These include local and long distance telephone service, wireless, high-speed internet, advanced digital television, and carrier-class data circuits. Based in Tamuning, Guam, GTA is privately owned and locally managed.

www.gta.net



IT&E

IT&E is the leading provider of mobile, data, long distance, roaming and corporate services in Guam and the CNMI. It has the widest 4G LTE data network in the islands, post-paid and prepaid plans to fit your needs, eSIM on select devices, and more.

www.ite.net



Dialing 988 and 671

The FCC has designated 988 as the service number for the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline. As a result, all local phone calls on Guam must include the 671 area code.

Who to Call

Department of Agriculture Animal Health Section

163 Dairy Road

Mangilao, Guam 96913

Tel: (671) 300-7964/66

Fax: (671) 734-6569

e-mail: quarantine@doag.guam.gov

Base Animal Control

Tel: 671-339-3414

Stray Animal/Adoption Facility G.A.I.N.

Address: PO Box 12013,
Yigo, GU 96929

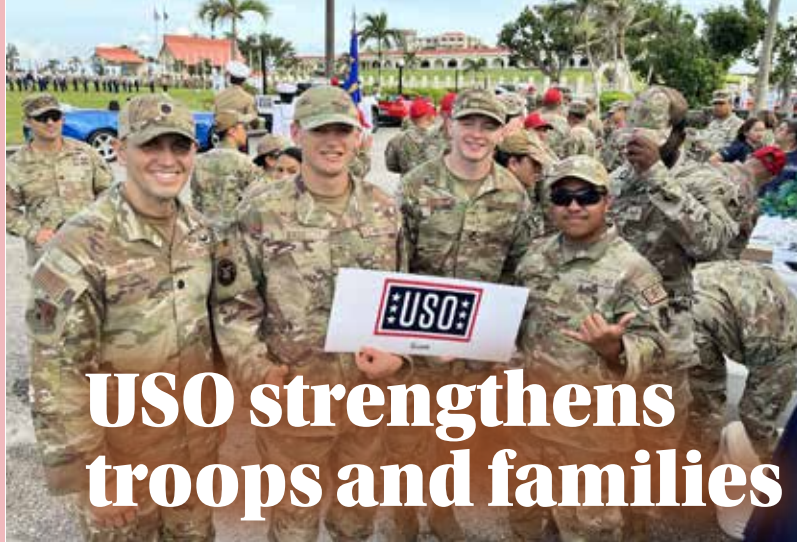
Tel: (671) 653-4246

e-mail: info@guamanimals.org



Website





USO strengthens troops and families

Since 1941, the USO has provided morale, welfare, and recreational support to enrich our military community worldwide. USO Guam strengthens the well-being of the people serving in America's military and their families by connecting them to what matters most – family, home and country. We offer in-person and virtual programs at our three center locations on Guam, in addition to outreach in the Northern Mariana Islands. Programs are available for service members, spouses, kids, teens and the entire family together.

Popular programs range from major holiday celebrations and cultural activities to gaming and homecoming support as well as opportunities to connect with others for the whole family. **USO**

Rest and relaxation

Air conditioning, billiards, video games, board games, family room, meeting space, library and outdoor space.

Food and beverages

Daily snacks, water, coffee, tea, juices and sodas.

Multimedia & gaming

Big screen TVs with hundreds of digital cable channels, PlayStation 5, Xbox Series X, Xbox Series S, Nintendo Switch, Gaming PCs

Connectivity

Free, high-speed fiber internet/Wi-Fi, computers (with CAC readers), DSN phones, charging stations, work areas, print, copy, scan services.

Other programs and resources

Local area information and expeditionary support.

**Amenities may differ from location to location*



VOLUNTEERS: We are always looking for volunteers who are passionate about supporting our military service members and families. If you are interested in giving back and joining our volunteer cadre, please register at volunteers.uso.org or stop into one of our centers to learn more. We can't wait to meet you!



Coffee Connections allows spouses to build relationships with other spouses while learning about local events, places, crafting and more. Our **Toddler Socials** offer story time, fun activities, games, snacks and great opportunities for children and parents to socialize. Recognizing the challenges military children often face when dealing with separation, the **USO Reading Program** keeps service members connected to and engaged with their children through story time. Additionally, the **USO Transition program** provides professional development, education, financial wellness and mentorship services.

To see the full scope of our amenities, programs, events and operating hours, please visit guam.uso.org or visit Facebook and Instagram: @usoguam.



Fast-track your success! **FREE** professional and educational support. Connect with a USO Transition Specialist. Scan the QR code to begin your journey!



Explore further insights into our centers and programs by scanning the QR code.



USO Naval Base Guam

Building 521 Battalion Drive
Camp Covington, U.S. Naval
Base Guam

Santa Rita, Guam
671-563-4USO (4876)

[Facebook.com/USONBG](https://www.facebook.com/USONBG)

USO Tumon Bay

Dusit-The Plaza Shopping
Center, 2nd Floor
1275 Pale San Vitores Road,
Suite 292

Tumon, Guam
671-648-4USO (4876)

[Facebook.com/USOTumonBay](https://www.facebook.com/USOTumonBay)



USO Andersen

Top of the Rock
Building 26006
Andersen Air Force Base
Yigo, Guam

671-654-4USO (4876)

[Facebook.com/USOAndersen](https://www.facebook.com/USOAndersen)



USO Mobile App: To learn about USO programs and services near you, make sure to download the USO Mobile App, for both iPhone and Android.



Learn more about USO Guam at guam.uso.org



Follow us on social media

Operation Christmas Drop

Kaci Curtis
Navy spouse

On Guam, Operation Christmas Drop is a tradition that sends “love from above” and dates back more than 70 years, making it the Department of Defense’s longest-running humanitarian airlift operation.

In 1952, the crew of a B-29 Superfortress saw islanders waving to them from the island of Kapingamarangi. In the spirit of Christmas, the aircrew dropped the islanders a parachute bundled with supplies, and OCD was born.

Today, partnered military bases and organizations airdrop boxes containing food, clothing, educational supplies and toys to more than 50 remote tropical islands during the holidays.

Anderson AFB acts as the base camp for

OCD. Preparations start long before the Christmas decorations go up.

Volunteers fundraise and collect donations for weeks before the drop. Then the donations are collected and sorted. More volunteers build boxes to hold all the collected goods, and then, donors and volunteers decorate the exterior of the boxes with holiday cheer before they are loaded up for their various flights.

My family was invited by friends to help decorate a box for OCD in 2024. The hangar at Andersen was full of families and volunteers bedecking their giant boxes with a myriad of fun holiday scenes, like “snowmen” made of sand, handprints, and palm trees strung with lights. My 9-year-old loves art and was very excited at the thought that kids on another island will see his paintings and Christmas wishes.

It’s a Christmas tradition that will never

be replicated at any other duty station we may go to in the future. After our few short hours of contributing passed, we followed along with the rest of the island on the OCD Facebook page and watched videos of boxes being delivered by excited aircrews (often wearing Santa hats).

OCD reinforces the giving spirit that we try to embody each holiday season. Instilling a grateful heart in our kids can seem difficult in the current culture, when we’re constantly bombarded with the suggestion that we need “more, more, more!”

Now that you are stationed in Guam, you can participate in this annual holiday operation that truly makes a difference in others’ lives.

(This story first appeared on missionmilsponse.org)

Follow Kaci on Facebook (@KCurtisWriter)



OCD website

Guam Liberation Day

July 21 is a significant day for Guam as people from every inch of the island commemorate Guam’s Liberation Day. Festivities include a queen contest, summer carnival, fireworks display, and mile-long parade on Marine Corps Drive in Hagåtña from Adelup to Paseo de Susana, as well as solemn memorials and visits to massacre sites.

On July 21, 1944, the 3rd Marine Division stormed the island’s beaches off the coasts of Asan and Agat to recapture the island from the Japanese Imperial Army. Marines fought their way toward the center of the island to Manenggon in Yona, the site of Guam’s largest concentration camp. It was there



Website



Photo by Shaina Marie O’Neal/ Joint Region Marianas

that Chamorro men, women and children found re-invigorated hope in America’s return to the island.

Though many lives were lost during the war, the people of Guam remember and pay them homage every year at memorial sites.

Serving Those Who Serve



GTA has proudly served the people of Guam and our military families, providing reliable, high-speed connectivity that keeps you close to home—even when you're oceans away.

We understand the importance of staying connected to loved ones, whether it's a video call with family, a message from a friend, or streaming your favorite comforts from home. That's why we continue to invest in state-of-the-art telecommunications technology, ensuring that our service members and their families have access to secure, typhoon-proven, and always-on connectivity—right here on Guam.

Wherever duty takes you, GTA keeps you connected because family, friends, and home should never feel out of reach.

Our Services:

Wireless – Fast and reliable 5G connections

Affordable Plans – Budget-friendly voice and data plans with low roaming rates

Fiber Fast Internet – Speeds up to 1GB for seamless browsing, gaming, and streaming

100% Digital TV – Premium movies, entertainment, and TV Everywhere streaming

24/7 Technical Support – Call us anytime at 671-644-4482 or chat with us at www.gta.net

GTA. Keeping Our Military Connected,
No Matter the Distance.



Call us at
671-644-4482



Visit us at
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Call us at
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We start with you

Getting behind the wheel

How, where to purchase a vehicle



In addition to the usual considerations for purchasing a vehicle, those in the military community must choose whether to buy from one another, a local resident or a car dealer. A fourth option is Military AutoSource.

Military AutoSource is ideal for those who can afford it. Vehicles come with import licenses, bill of sale and a warranty. Just because someone can afford such a purchase, however, does not mean they can afford to ship the vehicle back home or to their next duty station.

So, whether one's "follow-on" orders are likely to include vehicle shipment is one thing to stop and consider with this option. Chances of selling the vehicle for its true value before PCSing are not likely to be high.

Many people opt for buying used vehicles from PCSing military or civilian personnel. The ritual usually begins with a visit to the base's so-called (sometimes figuratively, sometimes not) "lemon lot" for a few rounds of tire kicking and/or haggling. It is possible to find one's ideal vehicle in near-perfect shape. The only guarantee, however, is that there are no guarantees.

People with short tours tend to do minimal maintenance and a vehicle may have had more than one short-term owner. Analyze any defects and consider the repair costs. Without any warranty, the risk is significant.

Also, bear in mind that regulations vary between military installations, requiring different steps for vehicle transfers between bases, import vehicles and motorcycles. Check with the appropriate offices before making any plans or purchases.

An off-base dealer is probably the safest bet for getting a quality

pre-owned vehicle. There are likely to be hundreds of cars to choose from. The registration process isn't difficult, and many dealers offer direct finance plans.

If the dealer has a garage for maintenance, that's a bonus. Minor repairs can be taken care of before and after you select your car. If you have access to a base auto hobby shop and you like working on cars you can save lots of money.

Always insist on a warranty when buying a car from a dealer.

For your added protection, the Auto Hobby Shop on Andersen Air Force Base and at the Navy Exchange Car Care Center offer inexpensive inspections of used cars that servicemenbers are considering purchasing. These cover the same points the local motor vehicle department checks.

The car dealers in Guam are just as sophisticated and high tech as those in the States, with the best of them operating websites that enable you to shop online before you visit the showroom. You can input the year, make and model of the vehicle you are interested in, and then see photos of the cars the dealers have in stock, the general specifications and the sticker price.

This goes for both new and pre-owned cars. You still must go to the dealership to negotiate the price and put up with the sales tactics that are universally used by car dealers, but you will at least have an idea of what you want and information in your hand before you go.

Some major dealerships catering to the military community on Guam are:

Military AutoSource offers Chrysler, Dodge, Jeep, Ram, Ford, and Lincoln vehicles to

military personnel stationed, or on TDY assignment, abroad for at least 30 days. www.militaryauto-source.com.

There are two offices on Andersen Air Force Base – one in the BX (671-653-3155) and one by the Shoppette (671-653-7741). On Naval Base Guam, you can contact the office near the Main Exchange (671-564-3259).

Atkins Kroll is the automotive distributor for Toyota, Lexus, BMW and Chevrolet. It has the largest inventory of used cars on the island, largest parts warehouse and is the only automotive dealer with its own body and paint shop. They are located at 443 South Marine Corps Drive and can be reached by telephone 671-649-6410, and by web at www.AKguam.com.

Guam AutoSpot carries the full line of new Mitsubishi cars and a huge selection of quality used cars and trucks from all major brands. For military discount pricing, just click military appreciation and shop "mouse to house" on www.guamautospot.com.

Cars Plus in Maite across from Tiyan, at 647 Route 8. It handles Jeep, Chrysler, Dodge and Hyundai vehicles, both new and used, as well as Honda, Kawasaki and Suzuki motorcycles and SYM scooter lines through its Cycles Plus Division. They are Guam's official Harley Davidson dealer. Visit www.carsplusguam.com or call 671-477-7807.

Nissan Motor Corp. offers a wide selection of both Nissan and Infiniti automobiles as well as a large number of pre-owned vehicles. Visit their website at www.nissanguam.com, drop by their showroom in Tamuning at 1012 North Marine Corps Drive, or call 671-647-7261.

PCS Used Car Lot This veteran-owned and operated dealer imports used cars directly from Japan to cut costs and offers an interesting selection of JDM autos not available at any other dealer on Guam. Find their lot at 732 W. Marine Corps Drive in Hagatna. Visit www.pcsusedcarlotguam.com or call 671-487-5490.

Prestige Automobiles is a sales office for Land Rover and Subaru at 491 East Marine Corps Drive in Dededo. Visit their website at www.prestigeautoguam.com or call 671-633-2698.

Triple J Motors has the widest selection of vehicle brands on Guam, including Ford, Honda, Acura, Mazda, Kia, Lincoln and Volvo, as well as top commercial brands like Isuzu and Blue Bird. They also offer all qualified military personnel a \$500 purchase incentive that can be used towards the purchase of a new or pre-owned vehicle at any of their Guam locations. It has two convenient locations: Triple J Honda/Acura/Used Car Mart next to McDonald's in Tamuning and Triple J Ford/Mazda/Used Car Mart in front of Kmart in upper Tumon. Get a real time 360-degree view of full inventory and be pre-approved at

www.triplejguam.com or call 671-648-(CARS) 2277.

Carmony is rapidly making a name for itself as the source for inexpensive used cars. They have a large selection of all makes and models in addition to rental cars. Located on Lot 131 Blk 6 in Hagatna on Soledad Dr. Just look for the lot overflowing with cars. Visit www.guamcarmony.com or call 671-979-2277.

Rules of the road

Safety inspections

All private motor vehicles must pass an annual Government of Guam Vehicle Safety Inspection. Before you buy a car, ensure that it has a current inspection. The safety inspection and the vehicle's license plates are transferable to the new owner.

Guam requires all vehicle operators to carry a minimum insurance coverage of \$25,000 personal liability for each injured person, \$50,000 personal liability for each accident, and \$20,000 personal liability for property damage.

Driver's license

For active duty military members, a valid driver's license from the member's state of legal residence or an expired license from a state of residence that honors a military waiver; as long as the military ID is current, is valid on Guam. For further information, please refer to the base legal office. However, spouses are required to get a Guam driver's license 30 days after arriving on island.

No need for speed

The highest speed limit on Guam roadways is 35 mph. Many areas are hazardous and therefore posted at reduced speeds.

Route #1, or Marine Corps Drive, is the most heavily traveled roadway on Guam. Traffic itself presents a hazard on this roadway most of the time. Additionally, wild and domestic animals may suddenly cross this roadway without warning. Numerous fatalities have occurred on this roadway, so use caution and drive defensively at all times.

Quick tips

- Guam's traffic laws require that your car's headlights be turned on during periods of reduced visibility (rainstorms, darkness, etc.).
- As a result of the coral roads, road conditions on Guam are extremely harsh on both car and bicycles causing the tires to wear fast. Pay attention to the level of air and constantly check for leaks.
- Most roadway shoulders are unimproved, so use caution when

pulling off onto the shoulder. Numerous roadways on Guam have uneven or jagged edges, with a drop off of one inch to six inches, or more. If you drive off the edge of the roadway, grip the steering wheel firmly, and gradually slow down without braking. When speed and conditions permit, steer back onto the roadway.

- Due to the numerous potholes along the roadways, motorists tend to swerve to avoid any possible tire damage, be aware and drive defensively. Many of the roadway entrances are blocked by overgrown vegetation, so never assume the person turning on or off of the highway can see you.

Motorcycles

All two-wheeled motor vehicles (including mopeds and scooters over 50cc) are required to be licensed by Guam. According to Guam law, you are required to obtain a Government of Guam license for motorcycle operation.

Motorcycle operators and passengers, and moped/scooter operators must wear a DOT approved helmet, impact resistant goggles or face shield, long sleeved shirt, long pants, sturdy shoes

that cover the ankle (no sandals or loafers), and full fingered motorcycle gloves. Passengers are prohibited on mopeds. Operators must have their headlight on at all times.

In addition, active-duty riders (motorcycles, mopeds/motorized scooters over 49cc) MUST attend your base's motorcycle safety course. Please call your Safety office for further details.

Bicycles

Bicycle riders are subject to all of the same traffic laws that govern motor vehicle operations. All bicyclists must wear an approved DoT, ANSI, or SNELL helmet. Bicyclists should wear a reflective vest or belt and have their headlights turned on if riding one hour before sunset to one hour after sunrise or during periods of reduced visibility or during inclement weather. Bicyclists are prohibited from wearing portable headphones, earphones.

Skateboards

All personnel who operate skateboards, non-motorized scooters, heeies, roller skates, and rollerblades must wear an approved helmet and knee and elbow pads.

Public transportation

Buses

Mass transit service is provided by the Guam Regional Transit Authority, which currently operates buses on several routes, connecting nearly all of the villages of the island.

Service frequencies vary from 30 minutes to two hours. Service on all routes is provided, Monday through Saturday and is available to people with disabilities.

No service is provided on Sundays or on holidays. Hours of service generally run from 6:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m., although a few of the routes begin service at 5:30 a.m.



Regular fare passes

- One Ride Pass = \$1.50
- One Day Pass = \$4
- One Week Pass = \$20
- One Month Pass = \$65

Discounted fare passes / Paratransit fares

Students 6-18 years, Seniors 55 years & Up and ADA Certified persons with disabilities.

- One Ride Pass = .50
- One Day Pass = \$1.50
- One Week Pass = \$7.50
- One Month Pass = \$25

For more information, go to grta.guam.gov/

Taxis

Taxis are readily available at all hotels and



GRTA website

major shopping centers. All taxis have regulated meters, and the standard flag rate is \$2.40, \$4 for the first mile, and \$0.80 every 1/4 mile thereafter.

Typical one-way fares are about \$5 to \$6 from the airport to Tumon Bay hotels, and \$8 to \$10 from Tumon to Hagåtña.

No Uber, but you can take Stroll

Stroll Guam is island's only ride-sharing transportation service. Pre-book ride requests through Stroll app.

<https://stroll.international>



Space-A travel

A way to see the world

Space Available travel offers a way for Armed Services personnel, their dependents, retirees and others who support the mission to see the world on a budget... if the timing is right. Below is what you need to know about this great privilege.

What is Space-A?

It is a program that allows authorized passengers to occupy surplus seats after all cargo and space-required duty passengers have been accommodated.

Who can fly Space-A?

Uniformed services duty personnel, their dependents, Red Cross personnel, USO personnel who also support the mission, and veterans. Passengers may not use the flights for personal gain, in relationship to employment, to find a house or for other prohibited activities.

What do I need to qualify?

- Qualified travelers must have completed the proper procedures and have the required documentation for travel.
- Active duty must be on leave before they can register for Space-A.
- Dependents of active duty flying unaccompanied need an Unaccompanied Command Sponsorship from his or her spouse's commander. The letter is valid for one round trip travel via military aircraft,

describes the reason for travel and the category of passenger travel.

- Also mandatory for travel: military ID cards, passports, social security numbers and emergency contact information at the final destination.

How much does it cost?

Most flights offered through the Air Force's Air Mobility Command (AMC) or the Navy and are usually free of charge.

Patriot Express flights are commercial, so a small tax (usually under \$30) is charged per seat and per leg.

Where can I go on Space-A?

Common destinations include the Continental U.S. states, Hawaii, Alaska, Germany, England, Spain, Italy, Japan and South Korea.

When is the best time to fly?

The best time to obtain seats is when DODEA schools are in session.

Because the program is a privilege, it is imperative to understand the circumstances may change due to mission mobility. Flying exactly where you want to go at the time or day you want to fly is not always possible. So, if you have a specific itinerary for your destination or your return, you may want to reconsider using Space-A for those travel plans. This program is designed for those who have enough available

leave, time and flexibility to wait or change their schedule.

Where can I register?

There are many ways. In-person registration can be completed at the terminal's helpdesk or self-help kiosks. You can also register via email, fax or online through www.takeahop.org. Registration is allowed for up to five departure airports and five countries of destination.

The website also offers a smartphone app where, for a couple of dollars, users can quickly sign up for the flights and destinations. Also, save time by monitoring terminal activity via the phone app.

What happens after I register?

Once registered, your information remains active for either 60 days, or for the duration of your leave orders or authorization of flight, whichever occurs first. Print a copy of your registration to keep on hand at the terminal. The time and date stamp of your registration determines your position and priority within your Space-A category.

On flight day, decide which terminal you think would be the best chance for Space-A departure and head out. It helps to phone the terminals that you requested for departure and to monitor recent schedules. Check online and on Facebook for your favorite Space-A terminals' information.

Quick links to ease travel

Travel page
AMC Space-A



PE travel FAQs



MC Pet
Travel Site



Military, DOD &
veteran travel



What are the categories?

Each passenger is assigned a passenger category for travel. These categories designate the order by which you may be boarded on Space-A flights. The following list is generalized:

Category I – Emergency travel on a round-trip basis in connection with serious illness, death, or impending death of a member of the immediate family.

Category II – Environmental Morale Leave (EML) and dependents.

Category III – Active duty ordinary Leave and dependents; convalescent leave; permissive TDYs; Unaccompanied dependent of deployed servicemember for more than a year.

Category IV – Unaccompanied dependent of deployed servicemember on EML status.

Category V – Unaccompanied military dependent of non-deployed servicemember.

Category VI – Retirees, Reservists.

PACIFIC LOCATIONS

GUAM

ANDERSEN AFB

Bldg. 17002 Unit
14008
Phone: 671-366-5165



OKINAWA KADENA AB

733 AMS, Unit 5145 Box 10
Phone: 634-5806
/ 098-962-6487



MAINLAND JAPAN

MISAWA AB

Bldg. 943
Phone: 315-226-
2370/2371
Commercial: 011-81-
176-77-2370/2371



NAF ATSUGI

Bldg. 206
Phone: 0467-63-3118



MCAS IWAKUNI

Bldg. 727
Phone: 315-253-5509



YOKOTA AB

Bldg. 80
Phone: 315-225-
5660/5661/5662



KOREA

OSAN AB

Bldg. 648
Phone: 315-784-6883



KUNSAN AB

Bldg. 2858
Phone: 063-470-4666





Clearance Guide

Andersen
Terminal FBAndersen
Terminal

Patriot Express: Seattle-Guam route

The government-chartered Patriot Express that connects Andersen Air Force Base with Seattle-Tacoma International Airport, flies that route every other week throughout the year. A stop at Kadena Air Base on Okinawa is also available. The aircraft leave Seattle, stop on Guam and then push on to Kadena. Those flights return to Guam before heading back to Seattle.

The Patriot Express — sometimes referred to as the Rotator or Cat B flight — ferries travelers on official duty to U.S. military installations around the globe. It also allows eligible passengers to fly on a space-available basis.

Travelers can make reservations for families and pets through their installation transportation office.

Families making PCS moves are permitted two animals, restricted to dogs and cats, and must meet all shipping and country entry requirements.

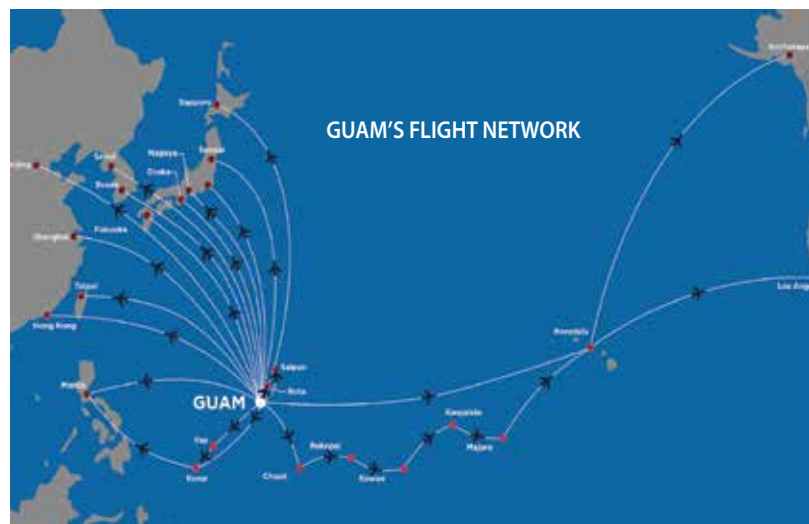
Capacity is limited based on the carrier's cargo configuration. Space-A travelers may not travel with their pets.

Pet fees

Military personnel who PCS with pets do not have to pay everything out of their pocket. Service members can submit associated expenses for reimbursement during their PCS voucher process. The entitlement is for only one pet (dog or cat) and is limited to \$2,000 for an overseas move or \$550 for movement within the United States. Travelers using AMC Patriot Express missions will receive a memo receipt for pet travel fees. Please ensure you receive a receipt for your pet's travel fees during check-in for your flight.

Travel to Japan

Per the Foreign Clearance Guide, the regular blue tourist passport is required to fly to Japan while on leave status.



Guam airport

Even though you are now on a tropical island, you may still want to explore the Pacific region. If Space-A and Patriot Express don't interest you, you'll need to fly commercial. Antonio B. Won Pat International Airport, also known as Guam International Airport, is located in Tamuning and Barrigada and is the only international airport on the island.

The airport is serviced by a number of international and commuter airlines. Regular

flights connect Guam with numerous points throughout Japan, the Philippines, Korea, Australia, Indonesia, Hawaii, the other Islands of Micronesia and the Continental U.S.

Airlines include: Air Busan, Cebu Pacific, Delta Airlines, Eva Air, Japan Airlines, Jeju Air, JINAIR, Korean Air, Philippine Airlines, T'Way, United Airlines.



Website

Explore the Pacific

Stars and Stripes is here to help you make the most of your time in Guam, and that includes taking advantage

of its location by visiting nearby countries. Here are some virtual travel videos to help you get motivated to explore off the island.



Australia



Singapore



Bali



Thailand



Myanmar



Seoul



Jeonju



Philippines



Taiwan



Hawaii



Okinawa



Sapporo



Photo by Yasuo Osakabe, 374th Airlift Wing

Get your DODEA homework done

The Department of Defense Education Activity is a PK-12 American school system for U.S. military, DOD civilian dependents and other eligible families. DODEA Pacific manages on-base schools in Guam, mainland Japan, Okinawa and South Korea.

takes about seven to 10 days, while other methods could take several months. The sending school can also ship records to the commercial address of the DODEA Pacific school. It is recommended that you confirm the current mailing address with the school.

Registration

Families can register online using the DODEA Student Information System (DSIS). This system allows sponsors to complete required documentation and include uploads of required forms prior to arriving at the new duty location. Families may also complete their registration in-country upon arrival to the new PCS location. Visit the school website for office hours.

Enrolled students who are advancing to the next grade level will need to revalidate enrollment eligibility by providing required documentation along with any required and/or updated immunization records for each child.

Students preparing to enter kindergarten must be five years old by Sept. 1 of the enrolling school year. Students entering first grade must be six years old by Sept. 1 of the enrolling school year. Proof of your child's age must be provided through documentation such as birth certificate or passport.

For the universal pre-kindergarten (UPK) program, students must be four years old by September 1 of the enrolling school year. Contact the school directly to learn more about eligibility requirements and how to apply for UPK.

Records

Parents should hand-carry all academic, immunization and special education records if possible. Some schools may require records to be mailed. If so, send records via U.S. Postal Service Priority Mail to the military address of the receiving school. Sending priority mail to the Pacific usually

Student meal / free and reduced lunch program

All families with students enrolled in DODEA Pacific schools are eligible to apply for the Free and Reduced Meal Program. Completing this application is an annual requirement for families, if eligible, to continue to receive either a free or reduced lunch. To find the correct Free and Reduced Meal Program point of contact for your family's school, please visit the DODEA Pacific website.

To pay for school lunches, parents and sponsors will need to set up and fund a prepaid account with the agency that operates your school's lunch program. Contact your school for additional information.

School liaison officers

School liaison officers can help your family with transition issues. SLOs operate independently of DOD schools and have expertise in transition support.

Special needs children

If your child has special needs, be sure to research the available support options for your desired location. DODEA schools follow student special education plans (IEPs) and are

committed to providing supports for students within the least restrictive settings. Services are provided to the greatest extent possible within inclusion environments as well as small group or individualized supports as needed.

However, many overseas locations are limited in their medical and educational resources. Specialized medical, mental health, or educational services may not be available to meet your child's unique needs. Parents should understand and take into consideration how limited services might impact the growth and development of their special needs child. DODEA Pacific staff members are available to help parents of special needs children to make informed choices.

You can reach out to the District Special Education Instructional Systems Specialist (ISS) by contacting the DODEA District Superintendent's Office in the location where you are considering your next assignment, or you can contact the Pacific Regional Special Education ISS at the DODEA Pacific Director's Office. In addition, very helpful information for families can also be accessed through the Exceptional Family Member Program (EFMP).

Sites to visit

DODEA registration information
www.dodea.edu/registration-process.cfm



DODEA-Pacific
www.dodea.edu/Pacific



Exchange Student Meal Program
www.aafes.com/about-exchange/school-lunch-program/



Exceptional Family Member Program
www.militaryonesource.mil/efmp



Tutor.com (Free online tutoring for military families)
www.tutor.com/military



Home school support

DODEA-Pacific schools offer auxiliary services to eligible military-connected families who choose to home school their children. Auxiliary services include use of academic resources, access to the library of the school, after hours use of school facilities, and participation in music, sports, and other extracurricular and interscholastic activities. Students whose eligibility category requires tuition may be charged for extra-curricular activities.

Home schoolers using or receiving auxiliary services must meet the same eligibility requirements as dependents enrolled in DODEA schools who use or receive the same auxiliary services. Eligible home schoolers are not required to attend a specific number of courses to receive auxiliary services, including participating in extracurricular and interscholastic activities.

DODEA encourages DOD sponsors who wish to home school their dependents to communicate the desire to their commanders in order to determine if there are any command policies or other rules ensuring that home schooling practices meet host nation, state, commonwealth, or territory requirements. Sponsors are responsible for complying with applicable local requirements.

Contact your local School Liaison Officer or command representative to learn more.

Celebrate April's
Month of the Military Child
with us!

Each year,
Stars and Stripes teams up with
DODEA to give our wonderful military brats
a platform to be heard. Kids of all ages from
across Pacific bases submit stories, poems,
drawings and photos about what life is like as
a military child. These run in our community
newspapers in mainland Japan,
Okinawa, Guam and Korea in April.
They are also all published at
<https://militarychild.stripes.com/>. We
hope you and your children join in on the fun.



Take advantage of on-base colleges

The Defense Department has contracted colleges and universities to provide in-resident college and graduate programs on military installations in mainland Japan, Okinawa, South Korea and Guam.

The current contracted institutions are:

Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University

Ranked No. 1 for Online Bachelor's Programs and Online Bachelor's Programs for Veterans by U.S. News & World Report, Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University is committed to helping you achieve your educational goals. Professional advising staff at their nine locations in Japan, Okinawa, and South Korea can help you select the right degree to propel your career in the aviation, management, safety, logistics, engineering, and space industries. The school offers local and online courses to accommodate your busy schedule, and awards credit for applicable military coursework and certificates. Visit your local campus and speak to an academic advisor today!

University of Maryland Global Campus

UMGC is one of 11 regionally accredited, degree-granting institutions in the University System of Maryland (USM). The university brings quality

higher education wherever the military needs it, with cutting-edge degree programs and classes offered both online and on-site at military installations worldwide. As the first university to serve military overseas, UMGC has earned a global reputation for excellence. Headquartered in Adelphi, Maryland, UMGC has on-site classroom locations in the Washington, D.C., metropolitan area, Europe, the Middle East, Africa, and Asia. Offering both undergraduate and graduate degree programs, UMGC Asia's mission is to provide top quality education and services to U.S. military communities in Asia and the Pacific.

Troy University

The University proudly counts some 60 flag officers among the ranks of its alumni, has a presence on or near over 30 military installations worldwide and participates in on-line learning programs with all service branches. For generations, Troy University has understood the needs of the military student and has built a military inclusive institution offering a broad range of high quality, very affordable undergraduate and graduate academic programs supported by outstanding student services. Contact your education center to learn what in-residence and distance-learning programs are available on your base.

Education Centers

Naval Base Guam
1-833-330-MNCC
www.myeducation.netc.
navy.mil

Andersen Air Force Base
Bldg. 25005
DSN: 366-3170

Colleges on Guam



University of Guam

University of Guam, located on a 120-acre campus in Mangilao, offers undergraduate and graduate degrees within five colleges: the College of Arts and Sciences, the College of Education, the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, College of Business and Public Administration and the College of Nursing and Health Science.



Guam Community College

The Guam Community College offers two-year degrees and certificate

programs in 50 areas of study in vocational-technical fields. GED, adult education and continuing education courses are also offered. The Western Association of Schools and Colleges accredits Guam Community College.



Pacific Islands University

Pacific Islands University is a private Christian university in Mangilao, Guam. Founded in 1976, the university offers Associate in Bible and Liberal Arts. PIU is nationally accredited by the Transnational Association of Christian Colleges and Schools. TRACS is recognized by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board and the US Department of Education as an approved accrediting agency.

Military Tuition Assistance

If you've thought about going to college, but didn't know if you could afford it, then the Military Tuition Assistance program may be just the benefit you need. The program is available to active duty, National Guard and Reserve Component service members. While the decision to pursue a degree may be a difficult one personally, TA can lessen your financial concerns considerably, since it now pays up to 100% of tuition expenses for semester hours costing \$250 or less.



Read more

virtual education center. Tuition assistance may be used for the following programs:

- Vocational/technical programs
- Undergraduate programs
- Graduate programs
- Independent study
- Distance-learning programs

Eligibility

All four service branches and the U.S. Coast Guard offer financial assistance for voluntary, off-duty education programs in support of service members' personal and professional goals. The program is open to officers, warrant officers and enlisted active-duty service personnel. In addition, members of the National Guard and Reserve Components may be eligible for TA based on their service eligibility. To be eligible for TA, an enlisted service member must have enough time remaining in service to complete the course for which he or she has applied. After the completion of a course, an officer using TA must fulfill a service obligation that runs parallel with – not in addition to – any existing service obligation.

FIND YOUR NEXT SUCCESS AT UMGC ASIA

University of Maryland Global Campus was founded to bring a respected state university education to working adults like you. With frequent start dates, convenient online and hybrid courses, and a variety of programs in Asia, we are committed to giving you an education to help you build the career and life you've always imagined.

Register to attend a no-cost webinar at asia.umgc.edu/webinars or scan the QR code below. If you apply for admission within 30 days of attending an Intro to UMGC Asia or Graduate Programs webinar, your \$50 application fee will be waived!



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As a leading provider of educational opportunities for veterans and active-duty personnel, Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University understands the challenges that come with serving far from home in the Pacific.

At any of our 11 Pacific locations, you'll receive award-winning in-person and online courses that will advance your military career or prepare you to transition into a rewarding civilian profession.

Our academic advisors offer expert, individualized support for your educational journey, and you can use our Transfer Portal to estimate how much credit you'll receive for previous classes or prior military training. To connect with a campus advisor, please visit erau.edu/pacom.

Embry-Riddle's dedication to your success also includes tutoring, financial aid assistance, career resources and direct connections to more than 160,000 alumni working in a range of industries around the globe.

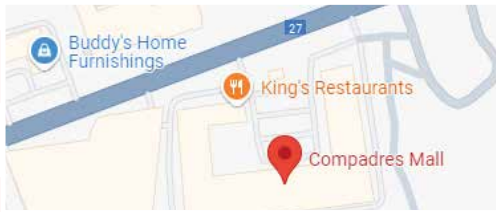


Find out more by visiting
erau.edu/military-degrees

EMBRY-RIDDLE
Aeronautical University



**Where your Music Journey starts Guam's one stop source
for all musical instruments and audio equipment**



American Music Guam
Compadres Mall
562 Harmon Loop Rd,
Suite 122
Dededo, GU 96929

Veteran owned

671-647-6895



<https://americanmusicguam.com>



FURNITURE
Kathy style



**Welcome to Guam,
Service Members!**

At Furniture-Kathy Style, we're proud to offer the best selection, unbeatable value, and top-quality furniture to make your island home feel just right.

With four convenient locations, stop by today and find the perfect pieces to make your new island home feel like home!

Showroom | 118 E Martyr St, Hagatna
 Furniture Outlet by Kathy's | 114 E Taitano Rd C, Harmon
 The Kids Boutique | 295 Chalan Ramon Pale Haya, Yigo
 Design Center | 295 Chalan Ramon Pale Haya, Yigo



All Open Every Day 10am-6pm

Eat like a Chamorro

Fiesta cuisine offers plethora of local fare

As in many places around the world, food is the center of celebration on Guam. A virtual cornucopia of fiesta foods are laid out – usually in a specific order – for every festive occasion. And “where America’s day begins,” there are ample opportunities to celebrate.

For starters, the island’s predominantly Roman Catholic population affords each village a patron saint and accompanying feast day. Each village parish honors this with an annual fiesta, and many families hold their own celebrations at home after the Festal Mass to make merry with relatives and friends.

There are also weddings, christenings, birthdays and graduations – not to mention holiday celebrations like Thanksgiving, Christmas and Easter.

Traditional Chamorro dishes such as red rice, citrus-marinated meat or seafood “kelaguen,” and barbecue may be the staple of any Guam fiesta. However, some local delicacies are the darlings of the fiesta table during certain celebrations or special times of the year.

Village fiestas and weddings are the biggest celebrations with the most elaborate menus, according to Lou Cruz of Santa Rita. As such, they are likely to serve up Chamorro classics ranging from red-and-white tamales, or “gisu” and “bunelos uhang,” or shrimp patties to smoke, dried beef and “panglao” (stuffed crab). These celebrations are

also the most likely to showcase the mother of all fiesta table features – “hotnon babui” – a roast pig.

“For magnificent celebrations we prepare and roast a whole pig,” says lifelong Guamanian Toshio Akigami. “Basting the pig while slowly roasting it over an open fire makes the skin crispy and the meat tender and juicy. The ears are the best parts; we like the crispy texture with the fat around the ears.”

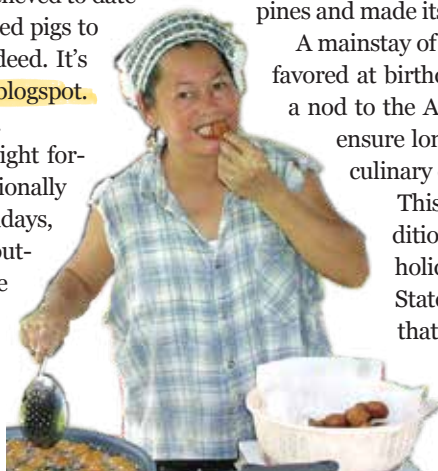
“For magnificent celebrations we prepare and roast a whole pig.”

- Lifelong Guamanian Toshio Akigami

Roasting pig for a wedding or fiesta – a practice believed to date back to the 17th century when the Spanish introduced pigs to the island – symbolizes a very special occasion, indeed. It’s a practice that grill aficionado behind BBQGuam.blogspot.com, Rueben Olivas, knows a little something about.

“Back in the 1950s, the roast pig was pretty straight forward for the most part on Guam,” he said of traditionally hand-turning the pig over a handmade spit. “Nowadays, they are roasted in large ovens and stainless steel outdoor spits, turned by electric motors. (But) some roasting is still done in the traditional way on occasion.”

Whether or not a wedding fiesta features roast pig, one thing is certain: The duty of providing adult beverages and soft drinks typically falls on



Breakfast recipes



Soup recipes



Beef Tinaktak

the groom’s godfather. But it’s the bride’s godmother, Cruz says, that provides the wedding cake and other desserts. It’s an opportunity for many to show off family recipes for “latiya” custard sponge cake, “kek chokulati” (chocolate cake) and sweet “apigigi” tamales.

As with any fiesta, sweets like these have their own special place or table. And it’s the dessert table that gets special attention during Christmas-time when seasonal donuts, cakes and other desserts rule.

“Bunelos dagu’ is a special treat during the holiday season,” says Guam Visitors Bureau’s Josh Tyquiangco. “The yams used to make these fried donuts are usually harvested during the Christmas season.”

Annette Merfalen, Chamorro food expert and author behind Annie-ChamorroKitchen.com, agrees that these deep-fried treats are “synonymous with Christmas” on Guam.

“There are several varieties of yams that you can use to make these donuts,” she writes in her online treasure trove of recipes. “If you live on Guam or the other Mariana Islands, you can use ‘dägu,’ ‘nika,’ or ‘gadu.’ There are also both white and red varieties of dagu (called dagun a’paka’ or dagun agaga’, respectively).”

Similarly, “bonelos dago,” or taro donuts, are also a traditional Christmas treat on Guam.

As with crispy fried “lumpia” spring rolls, pancit noodles with meat and vegetables is another popular dish Guam has adopted from the Philippines and made its own.

A mainstay of many fiesta tables on island, pancit is particularly favored at birthday and New Year’s Eve celebrations, perhaps as a nod to the Asian custom of eating them on such occasions to ensure long life. If so, it wouldn’t be Guam’s only imported culinary custom.

This U.S. territory also shares a very American traditional feast – Thanksgiving. As much a celebrated holiday for feasting with friends and family as in the States, the local love for barbecue on Guam means that a smoked or grilled turkey may take the place of an oven-roasted bird at the fiesta table. And what would a Thanksgiving turkey be without the stuffing?

“Chamorro stuffing, or ‘riyenu,’ is a delicious



Roast pig



Finadenne Sauce



BBQ Chicken

side dish usually served during special holiday meals, alongside baked turkey, ham, or roast pig,” writes Merfalen. “My mom taught me how to make this a very long time ago, when I was a very young girl. In fact, this recipe is one of the few I added to a recipe book that I made when I was perhaps 8 or 9 years old.”

So what makes Chamorro stuffing so Chamorro?

“Well, I guess it’s the addition of potatoes, pimento and olives, kind of like our Chamorro potato salad,” she says. “A few optional ingredients that my mom sometimes puts in her riyenu are finely diced celery and a small jar of sweet pickle relish. I prefer my stuffing without those two ingredients, so I leave them out.”

Like so many other delicacies – whether with a Chamorro twist or 100 percent native – that bear the indelible stamp of one of the island’s special occasions, church fiestas or state holidays, it’s just one more way to get a true taste of Guam.

Aggon (starch)

The most important dish in this section is red rice (“**hineksa agaga**”), which is similar to saffron rice in that it is prepared with water colored from soaking achiote seeds, which gives it a deep orange color. This section of the fiesta table is also where you’ll find starchy fruit and vegetable dishes made from such produce as bananas, sweet potatoes and taro. Traditionally, these kinds of dishes are typically reduced in a coconut-milk sauce to make such dishes as “**gollai appan suni**” (from taro) and “**gollai appan dagu**” (from yams) according to Jay Blas, manager of Island Cuisine restaurant. Dinner rolls and “**tiyas**” (tortillas) are also found in this section of the table.

Totche (meat)

Barbecue is a staple of many fiestas on Guam and this is where you’ll find totche. Pork spareribs, marinated chicken flavored with spicy “**finadenne sauce**,” fried chicken and roasted ham are regular staples, according to Toshio Akigami. “In hunting season, deer meat is also served,” Akigami says. “Locals usually cook dried beef by hanging the meat above a barbecue pit to smoke and dry the meat.” Finadenne sauce made from soy sauce or salt, lemon juice and/or calamansi citrus juice, wa-



Barbecued Fish

Guhan (seafood)

As the name suggest, this section is where such delicacies as fish, prawns and crab are placed. “**Eskabeche**,” sweet-and-sour fish or seafood cooked with vegetables and ginger, is a must-

have for this section of the fiesta table. Stuffed crab may also be found here. Though usually not locally caught, yellowfin tuna is often found here in the form of raw “**sashimi**” along with such grilled and barbecued local catch as parrot fish and other reef and open-sea fish. “**Salt-flavored finadenne sauce** is often applied to them,” says Akigami, adding that deep-fried mahi mahi is a seasonal fiesta treat found on this part of the table during spring and summer.

Chicken Kelaguen



Kelaguen

No fiesta, indeed, no meal, on Guam is complete without “**kelaguen**.” At this section you’ll usually find a variety of meat and seafood dishes prepared cerviche style, in which the meat is usually cooked overnight by the acidity of lemon or calamansi juice along with salt (sometimes soy sauce), hot peppers and onions. In the case of chicken kalaguen, the meat is usually lightly grilled first and freshly grated coconut is also added. The dish is served chilled as is, or as a side with tortillas or rice. Dishes such as lumpia spring rolls, pancit noodles and shrimp patties are also placed on this section of the fiesta table.



Shrimp Kelaguen

Kadu (soups)

This section of the fiesta table is not only where soups and stews are placed, you’ll also find a variety of vegetable dishes. Here you’ll find potato



Cucumber Salad

and garden salads of every ilk, coleslaw and cucumber

dishes such as “**diago**” cucumber kimchee. In addition to dishes like **cucumber salad** and spinach with coconut milk, you also



Daigo Salad

find such classic Chamorro soups as spicy chicken “**kadun pika**,” “chicken chalakiles” made with toasted rice and simple “**kadun manuk**” chicken soup as well as corn soup.

Fina’ mames (dessert)

The dessert section of the fiesta arrangement is so special that even at small events it often gets a table all to itself. Favorites to be found here include “**latiya**” custard cake as well as chocolate and red velvet cakes. Other staple sweets include warm “ahu” soup, sweet “apigigi” tamales, “bunelos aga” (banana donuts), “bunelos dagu” (yam donuts) and “bunelos manglo,” or typhoon donuts. “At most fiestas,” says Sayumi Ishioka, “people usually bring their homemade sweets, such as latiya or fruits, or sweets made from local fruits, such as mango, watermelon, papaya, banana, banana donut.”



Coconut Cake

– Takahiro Takiguchi

Photos courtesy of Fishermen’s Co-op / Guam Visitors Bureau



Latiya. Photo by Annie’s Chamorro Kitchen

Markets and produce stands

When it comes to produce, “buy local” is especially important — yes, even on Guam! If you’ve been living on Guam for a while or are new to the island, you’ve probably felt the struggle of hunting down some fresh produce without breaking the bank. Many items are imported, which increases the cost and reduces the freshness. Guam’s local produce scene is thriving, along with a growing commitment to sustainability. The island offers a bounty of fresh and vibrant fruits and vegetables. You might stumble upon a new fave when checking out some of the exotic fruits and vegetables unique to this climate and region.

Sure, you can find some locally grown items in grocery stores, but here’s a comprehensive guide to other places to find fresh, local produce on Guam. **Many vendors don’t take credit cards, so it’s best to carry cash.**



Guam Farmers Market

Kickstart your weekends right here — where you can get your fresh produce from local farmers. It’s a sweet spot to check out the local food and culture scene too. Enjoy breakfast from one of the food vendors while strolling through the market. There’s also a variety of vendors that sell plants and seedlings if you want to try growing your own garden of fruits and vegetables. It gets pretty busy, so we recommend you get there early to snag the best selection of produce and goodies.

Saturday and Sunday, 5-10 a.m.



Location

Follow Farmers’ Cooperative Association of Guam on Facebook for weekly updates of produce available.



Dededo Swap Meet (Old Flea Market)

Also referred to as the Old Flea Market, the former location of the Guam Farmers Market, you’ll find vendors selling fresh fruit, vegetables and plants. You may even pick up a few random items from vendors selling clothes, furniture and second-hand merch. The main stores are open daily but the best time to visit are on the weekends, when most vendors, who are independent farmers, bring out their harvest. It’s the best spot to get local bananas and try the many varieties of the fruit.

Best time to visit: Saturday and Sunday, 6-9 a.m.



Location



Chamorro Village Night Market

Every Wednesday evening in Hagatna, Chamorro Village becomes a bustling center for culture and food. It’s a popular event for locals and visitors. Catch a live performance while enjoying some local cuisine and treats while you shop for unique trinkets and gems. Pick up some fresh veggies and get adventurous



Location

with some exotic island fruits like starfruit and breadfruit. **Wednesdays, 5:30 p.m.-9:30 p.m.**



Mangilao Night Market

The Mangilao Night Market is open every Thursday evening and is located next to the Santa Teresita Catholic Church. It’s not as elaborate as the Guam Farmers Market, but there are small vendors that have local produce available along with some other vendors selling prepared food and arts and crafts. Make sure you pick up some hot peppers! The village hosts the Mangilao Donne Festival every year in September, so if you see a giant chili pepper near the market, you’re in the right place. There’s plenty of open parking and try to get there early because things sell out quickly.

Thursdays, 5-9 p.m.



Location



Agat Night Market

Take a trip down south on a Tuesday to visit the Agat Night Market located at the Hagat Sagan Bisita. The market is open every Tuesday night and the vendors have a great selection of local fruits and vegetables. You may even pick up some fresh fish and meat and get some tips from the vendors on how to best prepare them at



Location

home. **Tuesday, 3-7 p.m.**

Marcelino & Nghinh Tropia Vegetable Stand

This vegetable stand is conveniently located in Dededo on Fatima Street. It’s near the Guam Farmer’s Market. If you’re headed south from Route 1, after passing the Farmer’s Market on the right, you’ll see Mobil station on the left. Make that left immediately after the station and you’ll see this vegetable stand on your right. Add this stop to your daily errands and pick up your fresh produce on the way home.



Location



UOG Triton Farms

The University of Guam Triton Farm is a community-supported education farm open to the public. You can purchase fresh eggs, fruits and vegetables straight from the farm. They offer tours where you can also learn about aquaponics and sustainability.

Mon.-Fri., 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Closed on holidays.



Location



Guahan Sustainable Culture

Shop for fresh local produce online at Guahan Sustainable Culture’s farm fresh produce



website. They offer weekly deliveries, with produce from Guam farmers and other local products. They also have education and training programs and community events. Follow them on Instagram to stay updated with their latest events.



Website



Farm to Table Guam

Farm to Table Guam, a non-profit organization, was established in 2012 with the mission for every kitchen, cabinet and pantry to contain products

made on Guam from crops grown on Guam. You can participate in a CSA (community supported agriculture) subscription program to receive a box of locally grown produce on a weekly basis. See the CSA subscription box options on their website. They offer pick-up time and locations and delivery options as well. They currently don't offer base deliveries, but they can meet outside the gate. You can also purchase local produce every Tuesday, across from the Hagatna Post Office — they accept cash and credit cards. Follow Farm to Table Guam on Instagram for updates.

Every Tuesday, 4-6 p.m.

— *Guam Guide*



Subscription

Local produce on Instagram and FB

@farmtotableguam
@uogtritonfarm
@farmerscoop_guam
@gusustainable
@almightymicrogreens
@tinygreensguam
@fanaguefarms
The Gulay Garden
Growing on Guam
Guam Plant and Seed Share
Guam Farmer and Rancher



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Safety first

Risks lurk off Guam's shores

The best thing about being on Guam is all the opportunities there are for fun in the sun on the beach and beyond. There is an endless array of water sports from swimming, scuba and snorkeling to waterskiing, windsurfing sailing, fishing and more.

While young and old alike should take full advantage of all this, annual water-related deaths and injuries should be a sober reminder that you can never be too cautious when it comes to safety.

There are various dangers to be aware of

off Guam's shores where aquatic activities take place. Some of the main ones include powerful rip currents, waves, wind, rain, strong sun and sharp coral reef.

For swimmers and snorkelers, the safest areas are beaches protected from the ocean by a barrier reef. Inside this reef, the water is calm, shallow and has only a slight to non-existent current. However, swimming near the reef can be extremely dangerous because of waves and currents.

Whether using a beach that is off or on

base, you should always check the beach warning flags before deciding whether to get into the water. A red flag means it's too dangerous to swim, a yellow flag warns to swim with caution, green indicates all is good, while a blue flag warns that dangerous marine life is present. Also, keep an eye out for signage with specific precautions for beaches.

Active-duty military personnel are prohibited from reef walking anywhere on Guam. For these purposes, the reef is defined as the elevated ridge of coral or rock between the shore and the open sea. This ridge may be above or slightly below water level, depending on the tide. Keep well clear of the outer portion of the reef when the tide is going out. Rip tides are common on Guam and extremely dangerous.

Dangers of reefs, currents

Even in the calmest conditions, it is difficult and dangerous to cross the reef in the surf. The coral itself is extremely sharp and can cause deep and painful cuts. Gloves and foot protection are essential.

The second danger is the current caused by the waves. In almost all cases where the waves are consistently larger than one foot, and a strong current runs along the reef. This current, known as a "long shore" current, is created when the water forced inside the reef by the waves is higher than the sea level outside the reef. When this happens, the water tries to flow back out to sea but the waves bringing more water into the reef prevent it. The water will flow along the reef or shoreline



Piti view from the Fish Eye Observatory. Photo by Keiko Hoshijima

Boating

Even fishing boats in the presumed safety of Apra Harbor are routinely carried out of the harbor by the outgoing tide. Experience has shown that boats drifting in this area travel in a generally westerly direction at a minimum of one nautical mile per hour. Few people can paddle against a one-knot current for any length of time. Winds in the area of 15 to 20 knots can increase the drift to two knots. That means a rate of drift anywhere from 24 to 48 miles per day. What starts out as a simple frustration (i.e. dead battery within sight of land), can quickly lead to a large search covering hundreds of square miles of ocean.

Always observe a measure of caution and good judgment when boating around

Guam. One of the most important measures is to stop and take a good look at the situation. Ask yourself all the "what if" questions you can think of and make sure you have planned for the unexpected. Take plenty of extra water and food. Take as much fuel as possible. Make sure that the proper safety equipment is onboard. Have extra flares, a mirror, a flashlight, and extra flashlight batteries. Let someone know where you're going, when you'll return, and what equipment you have onboard.

No one should ever go out in the ocean without a marine VHF radio.

Snorkeling

Guam offers some of the best snorkel-

ing in the world. However, people venture out into unfamiliar waters and find themselves in serious trouble. The waters around Guam need to be respected.

Always snorkel with another person and use proper equipment: a snorkel, mask, and brightly colored fins. If you are not an experienced Guam swimmer, wear a snorkel vest (this will enable you to stay afloat if you become tired or carried out to sea). If a current carries you away from shore, wave one of your brightly colored fins in the air to signal someone on the shore to seek help.

Before you venture out, contact a local dive shop for information on areas you intend to snorkel. The National Weather Service (dial 211 off base and 99-211 on

base) has a record of winds, and tide condi-

Safest snorkeling

- Tarague Beach (swim)
- Any beach in the T area (Hilton to the G
- Gab Gab Beach (Big
- San Luis Beach (Big
- Outhouse Beach (N
- Piti Bomb Holes
- Dog Leg Reef (Fam

Hazardous snork

- Ritidian Beach
- Tanguisson Beach
- Asan Cut
- Gun Beach
- Haputo Beach

until it finds a place to flow back into the sea. This current can be very strong.

A person swimming too close to the reef's edge can become caught in the current and be swept onto or over the reef. When they attempt to climb back over the reef, not only do they have to fight the current pushing them sideways, but they must also fight the waves smashing against the reef. After struggling to cross the reef, many people become exhausted and are washed out to sea or banged along the reef until they die.

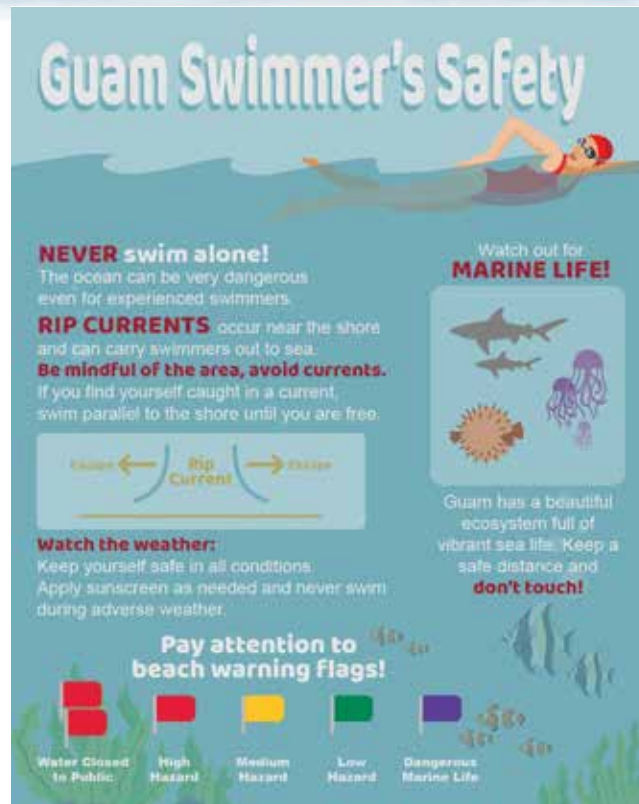
Wrestling a rip current

Tips on what people should do when they are caught in a rip current. Stay calm. Don't fight the current; you will lose all your strength.

- Escape the current by swimming in a direction that follows the coastline. When over the shallow reef flat, walk or swim to shore.

- If unable to escape by swimming, float or tread water. When the current weakens, swim toward the reef flat where the water is shallow.

- If at any time you feel you will be unable to reach shore, draw attention to yourself: face the shore, call or wave for help.



Prohibited swimming areas

All military members are prohibited from swimming in the following areas: **Pagat Point, Shark's Hole, and Shark's Cove.** Several beaches are especially hazardous due to strong waves and currents. Beaches from the northwest end of Guam around to Andersen AFB have consistently larger waves and are

greatly affected by the Rota Channel current. The Equatorial Current compresses between the islands of Guam and Rota which creates a Venturi effect that increases the current by two nautical miles per hour. Although the current is slower closer to shore, it still is strong enough to make swimming very dangerous.

Ritidian Beach, Gun Beach, Tanguisson Beach, Haputo Beach, Shark's Hole, Asan, and Andersen AFB's South Beach Scuba Cut are dangerous areas. Strong rip tide currents may be present during this time, especially on a high outgoing tide.

Hazardous marine life

Treat all seashells as poisonous. Do not handle shells with your bare hands as some contain live animals with deadly venom. The beaches on Andersen AFB are designated as a marine preserve; as a result, shell collecting on base beaches is prohibited.

Another danger to keep in mind is hazardous marine life such as scorpion fish, sea urchins, moray eels, cone snails, crown of thorns starfish, stingrays, sea snakes, stone fish, turkey lionfish and sharks. For protection while in the water, wear some type of footwear (preferably felt bottom or thick gripping rubber/plastic) to prevent painful coral cuts, sea urchin stings, etc.

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Surfing

Guam's location in the middle of the Pacific Ocean subjects it to many different ocean swells. Unfortunately, these swells hit on dangerously shallow and sharp reefs. Currents in these areas range from friendly to deadly causing surfing to be very deceptive and dangerous.

The best place to learn to surf or boogie board is Talafofo Bay. In addition, pay attention to surfing etiquette and perhaps talk to experienced local surfers before attempting to surf on Guam.

There have been a number of incidents where non-locals were harassed or even threatened by the "regulars" at the limited number of surfing sites.

Scuba diving

Guam features many excellent dive sites and a robust scuba-training infrastructure with several large dive centers, boat operators, and guides. Do not scuba dive deeper than your certification level. Always use the buddy system and use a dive flag at the surface. Newly assigned military personnel (PCS and TDY) should plan their first few dives through Outdoor Recreation or at one of the local dive shops until you are familiar with the area. Many local dive shops offer free shore dives led by a dive master on weekends. This is a great opportunity to learn the local area and meet new dive buddies.

– 36th Wing Safety Office

Piti Bomb Hole. Photo by Hatsue Kojima

Beachin' good fun on base

Naval Base Guam's Gab Gab Beach

Gab Gab Beach, or Fab Gab as we like to call it, is truly a hidden gem and easily our family's regular go-to place for no-frills, low-cost weekend fun.

Great for picnics, birthday parties, unit gatherings, hail & farewells, snorkeling, swimming, diving, sand volleyball, SUP'ing and all sorts of water play. The beach umbrellas and grill grates can be rented for a meager amount, and camping is allowed by reservation with the Outdoor Recreation Center. There is something for everyone.

Gab Gab is located on Naval Base Guam, so you'll need base access to get to it, its also one of the most popular shore dives on Guam, and any given day of the week you're likely to find divers exiting or readying to enter the water via the easy stairs next to the "3-sided pool."

If you get there early enough, make a leisure surface swim due north out to the Atlantis Submarine Tender buoy, and drop down on the plateau reef at about 50', known as Gab Gab II, where baited buckets attract the fish for the viewing pleasure of the underwater tourists. You're almost guaranteed to get an up close view of the docile Nurse Sharks, large schooling fish, and possibly a moray eel in the artificial reef ball. Also look out for anemones teeming with clown fish at various locations on the reef.

Steer clear of the submarine while diving, but be sure and give a wave to all the tourists peering out the portholes.

It's also a beginner snorkeler's paradise. Enter the water via the stairs and you're only yards from colorful coral, sloping reefs, an abundance of fish and there is always a greater than average chance of seeing a turtle along the reef edge. Note, no forms of fishing or collection of marine life (live or dead) is permitted at Gab Gab.

Bathrooms are provided, and outdoor showers are just steps away from the water



Gather with friends at Gab Gab Beach.
Courtesy Photo USS Emory S. Land



Bamboo Willies at Tarague Beach.



Gab Gab II is one of the most popular and most enjoyable dives on Guam. Photo by mdaguam.com

stairs—convenient for divers and snorkelers exiting the water to rinse their gear and themselves. During your surface interval, enjoy some beach volleyball, relaxing under the umbrellas, barbecuing in the poolside grills.

Enjoy fabulous Gab Gab, but be sure and clean up after yourselves when you leave.

Dadi Beach

Dadi Beach is also located on Naval Base Guam. It is quiet, away from the hustle and bustle, and is a great spot for laying out and soaking up some sun, swimming, picnics and watching sunrises. You can even catch glimpses of dolphins, turtles and manta rays.

San Luis Beach

San Luis Beach is another oasis on Naval Base Guam. It is known for being a great dive, standup paddle boarding and kayaking spot.

Fantasy Island

Fantasy Island is located off base at Polaris Point which is two miles from the front gate of Naval Base Guam in the beautiful village of Piti. It is most known for its camping grounds.

- Planning on heading out to the beaches this weekend but don't have the proper outdoor equipment? Don't let it ruin your plans! Drop into Rec-N-Crew and inquire about all your outdoor needs. Call (671) 564-1826.

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Orote Point.
Photo by Troy Green

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Family fun at Tarague Beach.
Photo by Tessie Faustino Guerrero

Andersen's Tarague Beach

Whether you're with a group of friends or looking for some personal time, Tarague Beach on Andersen Air Force Base is your answer to camping on Guam.

Make the most of the day at the beach enjoying activities such as swimming, snorkeling, beach volleyball or barbeque. The beach also provides a playground for kids, a nature trail for hiking and exploring the different historical highlights and agriculture in the area.

Tarague Beach offers 20 campsites along the sandy beach. Most of the campsites are shaded by beautiful pine trees and the ocean breeze keeps you cool. Each campsite includes a picnic table and grill. Bathrooms and showers are centrally located so all patrons can use them conveniently.

Bamboo Willies beachfront restaurant is open 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., Saturday and Sunday.

As the evening approaches, catch a breathtaking sunset, roast marshmallows or make smores.

Camping at Tarague is open all year round. However, December through February usually offers the best weather conditions: slightly cooler with a little less rain and

humidity. This makes for perfect camping.

Sirena Beach

Sirena Beach has a pavilion where you can spend the night camping under the stars.

- If you don't own any camping equipment, Outdoor Recreation has all your supplies such as tents and other camping equipment for rent. Reservations for campsites as well as supplies can be made online at www.MilitaryMWRGuam.com under Outdoor Recreation or by calling (671) 366-5204 or 5197.
- Fishing is allowed by permit only. Permits are \$12 at Outdoor Recreation.

Swimming pools

The Navy operates three swimming pools on the island. At Naval Base Guam, the swimming pool is located near South Tipalao Housing and the barracks area. Call the pool at (671) 564-1822.

At the Naval Communications Station, the pool is located on the main drive of the base, next to the laundromat. For more information, call (671) 355-5091/564-1822.

At the Naval Hospital, the pool is located near the housing area. To reach

the Naval Hospital pool please call (671) 564-1822/344-9009.

The Andersen pool is located near housing, directly next to the Youth Center and Skate Park. They have an aquatics program for all ages and interests. Red Cross certified instructors teach swim lessons to all ages and all ability levels. They also have lap swim, open recreation swim, a wading pool for your little ones and a picnic area that is available on a first come, first serve basis. For inquiries, email andersenaquatics@gmail.com, or call (671) 366-3202.

Marina/boating

Situated on scenic Apra Harbor, Sumay Marina Adventure center offers a variety of activities for water sports enthusiasts. Enjoy a day of sightseeing, fishing or diving on one of our 19' Edgewater rental boats. The Marina also offers fishing and dolphin-watching trips on its 23-foot Pro-Line charter boat.

To rent boats, you must have a National Association of Boating Law Administrators (NASBLA) endorsed certificate. If you need a certificate, go to BOATUS.ORG, click the link for Online Courses, then on to the Free Boating Safety Course. Choose any state that is endorsed by NASBLA. Print a certificate and present it to the marina staff and they will assist you with scheduling a check ride on our boats. Reservations start at \$100 plus the cost of fuel for four hours of boating.

For boat owners, two boat-launch ramps are provided as well as outdoor dry storage pads and wet slips at the marina docks. For more information, call (671) 564-1826.

Best public beaches

Guam is a beautiful island with some of the most breathtaking beaches in the world. From the calm waters of Tumon Bay to the rugged coastline of Ritidian Point, there is a beach for everyone on Guam. So come and explore the island's many beaches and experience the beauty of Guam for yourself!



Asan Beach Park

Asan Beach was one of the two primary beaches U.S. troops stormed when trying to recapture Guam from Japanese occupation during World War II. There are a number of memorials, relics, and informational signs scattered around the park for visitors. The beach area of Asan Beach Park is lined with coconut trees to provide shade from the tropical sun. In addition to the beach, there is a huge triangular park which can be used by the public for just about any activity.



Tanguisson

Covered picnic tables and BBQ pits are part of the park amenities at Tanguisson Beach. Entrance to the municipal power plant property is near Two Lover's Point. Uncultivated beach and rugged margin open up to a park setting with large shade trees and manicured grass for games and gatherings. If you're looking for Guam's famous "mushroom rocks," head to Hila'an Beach, which is a little further down from Tanguisson.



Shark Cove

Guam's exclusive beaches are off the beaten path. Shark Cove Beach is worth every minute

of the half-mile hike to get there. Protective beach shoes are a necessity and snorkel equipment is recommended.



Gun Beach

The namesake gun of Gun Beach is located in the far right end of the small lagoon created in part by a massive cliff on the north end. On the left of the old gun is an entrance to another secluded cove called Fai Fai Beach. Gun Beach features good snorkeling, when safe conditions prevail, and a dive site with steep reef sides and a cable trench leading into deep water.



Inarajan Pools

For rugged beauty and photo appeal, Inarajan Pools has the most intriguing geology. Natural bathing spots surround a public park on the main road that circumnavigates the island. Coral outcroppings resembling the lava flows of volcanic islands loom at 15 to 20 feet above the horizon, blocking the view of the reef beyond.



Tagachang

Set between jungle topped cliffs, Tagachang beach is one of Guam's many beautiful beaches but unlike some, this one is remote and ungroomed. Unlike Tumon Bay beaches, Tagachang is quiet, but best enjoyed during daylight hours for safety. Like many of

the eastern beaches, an outer reef breaks the surf and makes the beach calm and safe for swimming.



Talofofo Beach

This rock beach lies adjacent to the Talofofo River bridge. The low-lying outlet is lined with a protective rock levy reminiscent of San Francisco Bay.



Ipan Beach

This southern beach is popular with locals and right next to Jeff's Pirate's Cove. Kite surfers are often seen from this rugged spot.



Ritidian

The northernmost perimeter reef of Guam is accessible without security clearance from Ritidian Beach. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Preserve is located near the recreation area. Strict obedience to posted warnings about the rip currents and conditions will ensure a safe and enjoyable visit to one of the most pristine beaches on Guam.

— Guam Guide



Dealing with Mother Nature

Andersen AFB and Naval Base Guam are both equipped with a public alert system (AKA Giant Voice) that announces the Tropical Cyclone Condition or Readiness (TCCOR). Due to Guam being located inside Typhoon Alley, both bases are always in TCCOR 4 which is weather expected within 72 hours.

The 36 CES Readiness and Emergency Management Flight always has the most current information with regard to typhoon preparedness. They can be reached at 671-366-3113.

A typhoon is a large-scale tropical storm that occurs west of the International Date Line. It would be called a hurricane if it was east of the International Date Line. A typhoon has sustained wind speeds of at least 74 mph. The warm waters surrounding Guam are ideal for the development of typhoons year round. Most occur June – December but one can occur anytime.

Tropical Cyclone Condition of Readiness (TCCOR)

- **TCCOR 4:** Winds of 58 mph or greater are expected within 72 hours.
- **TCCOR 3:** Winds of 58 mph or greater are expected within 48 hours.
- **TCCOR 2:** Winds of 58 mph or greater are expected within 24 hours.
- **TCCOR 1 Caution:** Winds of 58 mph or greater are expected within 12 hours.
- **TCCOR 1 Emergency:** Declared when sustained destructive winds reach or exceed 58 mph.
- **TCCOR 1 Recovery:** Declared when destructive winds have passed, but dangerous weather may still exist.

- Little to no movement should take place on base TCCOR 3, 2, or 1. The base traffic signs (stop signs, speed limit signs, etc.) are removed during TCCOR 3, so proceed with caution at all intersections.

Typhoon Preparedness Kit should include enough supplies for at least 1-2 weeks. Contents should include: canned & ready-to-eat food, can opener, 1-2 gal water per person per day, propane stove, first aid kit, plastic dining ware, flashlight/batteries, cash, mop/towels, duct tape, hygiene items, baby supplies (formula, diapers, etc.), battery-operated radio, 550 cord/rope, medications, and tool kit.

Housing Residents and Member Responsibilities

Please refer to your base's housing guide for detailed information regarding typhoon preparedness.

Earthquakes

If inside...

1. Drop to the floor.
2. Take cover under a sturdy desk or furniture and be prepared to move with it. Hold this position until ground stops shaking and it is safe to move.
3. Stay clear of windows, fireplaces and heavy furniture or appliances.
4. Stay inside.
5. Stay calm.

If outside...

1. Get into the open and away from buildings and power lines.
2. If driving, stop if you are in a safe location; however, stay inside your car.
3. Stay away from bridges, overpasses, and tunnels.
4. If possible, avoid stopping under trees, light posts, power lines, or signs.

5. If near mountainous area or unstable cliffs, be alert for falling rock and other debris.
6. If at the beach, move to higher ground.

Tsunamis

Tsunamis are a series of large ocean waves generated by large undersea disturbances, such as a major earthquake or landslide. Tsunamis are not affected by tides or currents. A tsunami means the whole water column is moving, not just the surface. Tsunamis can strike any ocean shoreline. If you are on the beach or in low coastal areas, you may not have much time to seek higher ground. The tsunami danger period can last several hours as the waves move onto land, recede, and return. The second and third waves have been known to be more devastating than the first.

Be aware of the signs

1. A strong earthquake lasting 20 seconds or more near the coast.
2. A noticeable rapid rise or fall in coastal waters.
3. A loud roaring noise from the ocean. If you suspect a potential tsunami, move to your designated assembly area or proceed inland and uphill.

What to do during watch

1. Use a NOAA Weather Radio or listen to local radio or television stations for updated information.
2. Locate loved ones and review evacuation plans. Be ready to move quickly if a tsunami warning is issued.
3. Tsunamis produce strong currents or waves dangerous to those in or near the water. Local officials may close beaches, evacuate harbors and marinas, and ask ships to



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Dave Ornauer has been with Stars and Stripes since 1981, and one of his first assignments as a beat reporter in the old Japan News Bureau was "typhoon chaser." Pacific Storm Tracker is designed to take the technical weather lingo and simplify it for the average Stripes reader.

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reposition to deep water. Obey their directions.

What to do during warning

1. If you hear a tsunami warning siren or suspect a tsunami at your location, leave the area immediately.
2. Offer assistance to those who may need help evacuating the area.
3. Bring pets with you to keep them safe.
4. Take your disaster supply kit.
5. Move to higher ground as far inland as possible.
6. Keep listening to the NOAA Weather Radio, local radio, or TV for the latest updates.

What to do after tsunami

1. Return home only after local officials tell you it is safe.
2. Stay away from damaged areas so emergency responders can have full access.
3. Stay out of any building that has water around it.
4. Be careful re-entering buildings or homes. Tsunami-driven floodwater may have damaged buildings.

— Source: Andersen Air Force Base and Naval Base Guam

Exploring Guam's villages

Our footprint-shaped island is divided into 19 villages, each with its own distinct history and character.

Each of Guam's villages is also home to its own Catholic church.

Over the centuries, these communities' identities have evolved from bases for farming, ranching, and fishing to residential centers, hubs for commerce and history, and bases for the same food-producing activities that have long been a focus of life on Guam.

Visitors are invited to take special note of the island's colorful and uplifting village murals, beautiful works of art that arose as part of a revitalization project to unify the island, spearheaded by the Guam Visitors Bureau in cooperation with local mayors, businesses, schools, and residents.

Architecture in Guamanian villages varies widely, from strongly Spanish-influenced edifices to the matching two-story concrete homes in Asan-Maina, where in the 1980s

the Guam Housing and Urban Renewal Authority undertook a major redevelopment of residential structures, even painting the suburban-style houses the same color.

Some villages' borders are formed by modern highways, while the boundaries of others are defined by natural features; the municipality of Chalan Pago/Ordot, across the narrow "waist" of Guam, divides the predominantly volcanic southern half of the island from its mostly limestone northern half.



A beautiful view of Agana Heights.

Agana Heights

The villages of Asan/Maina, Hagåtña, Ordot/Chalan Pago and Sinajana border Agana Heights.

The sections of the village are Apugan, Timpugan, Fonte, Hilaan, Taigigao and Charito. Fonte River divides Agana Heights from Maina village and Taigigao Street is the boundary separating Agana Heights from Ordot/Chalan Pago. Sinajana village and Agana Heights village are also separated by a shared roadway.

Prior to World War II, Agana Heights was a farming community for residents who lived in Hagåtña. Today, sprinkled throughout the village are some beautiful homes with gated and manicured lawns, quaint residential homes, apartment complexes, and a row of buildings that serve as homes to different religious denominations and organizations. Agana Heights has been transformed into a thriving cosmopolitan community

Agat

While many regard Agat as the western gateway to the south, it is also the commercial center of the south. Numerous businesses - from merchants and restaurants to the 70-room Inn on the Bay - have sprung up in the once-quiet seaside village in the last 25 years. Despite Agat's thriving business center, the

old heart of the village that includes Our Lady of Mount Carmel Catholic Church, Convent and School, still exists.

The seaside village of Agat lies just south of Naval Base Guam. The village's main road, Route 2, meanders through several commercial and residential areas. The road also leads to a group of public buildings, such as the Agat Community Center and mayor's office and a community library and police station. Farther south, Route 2 runs along the coast of some of the finest beaches on Guam including Nimitz Beach. Nearby is the popular Agat Marina.

The village of Agat is also home to several parks dedicated to the events of World War II. These parks are part of the National Park Service's War in the Pacific National Historical Park.

Asan-Maina

The district of Asan-Maina encompasses a large area, including the main coastal village of Asan, the community of Maina nestled in a valley between Nimitz Hill and Agana Heights, and most of Nimitz Hill (also known as Libugon) and land beyond it further inland.

The main village of Asan was redeveloped

in the 1980s by the Guam Housing and Urban Renewal Authority (GHURA). The redevelopment changed the village's look from its more traditional Spanish flavor to a fairly modern-looking suburban appearance. The streets were straightened, sidewalks were added and the houses are nearly all concrete with many two-stories high. GHURA still owns many of the houses in the main village, houses that were all built exactly alike, and even



Culture

Community

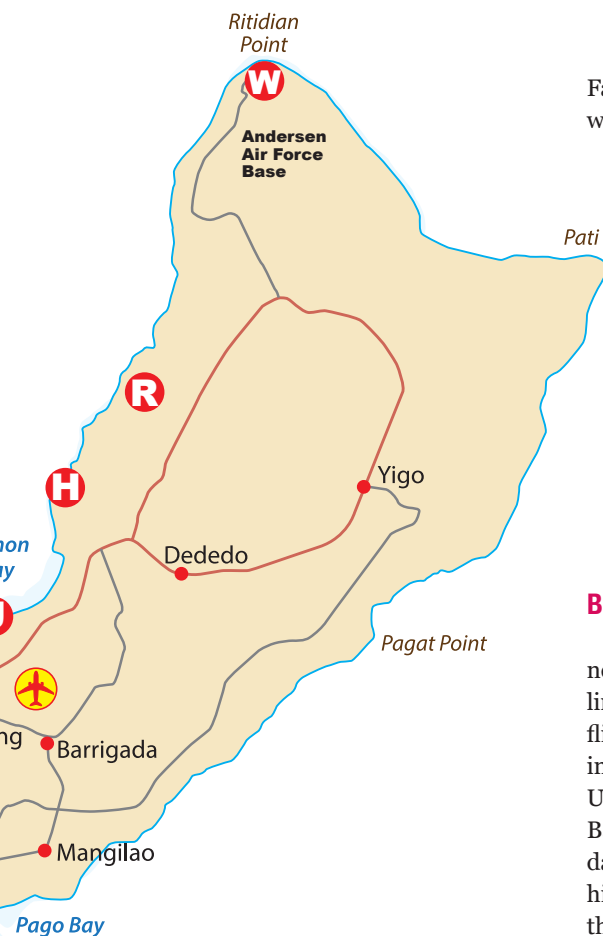
Transportation

Education

Food

Leisure

Online



- A** Plaza De Espana, Hagatna
- B** Latte Stone Park
- C** War in The Pacific National Historic Park
- D** Fort Nuestra Senora de la Soledad
- E** Marianas Military Museum
- F** Gadao's Cave
- G** Talofofo Caves
- H** Two Lovers' Point
- I** Southern Mountains Overlook
- J** Gov. Joseph F. Flores
- K** East Hagatna Beach
- L** Adelup Park
- M** Guam Veterans Cemetery
- N** Nimitz Beach
- O** Inarajan Pool
- P** Ipan Beach
- Q** Tarzan Falls
- R** Tanguisson Beach
- S** Get Pa'go
- T** Cathedral-Basilica Museum
- U** Tolofofo Falls
- V** Siqua Falls
- W** Guam National Wildlife Refuge
- X** Malesso Kombento

painted the same color. Space was limited by the ocean to the west and the hills to the east, which necessitated the two-story structures and small yards.

The village sits partly on the hillside of Nimitz Hill and partly on the flat land below it, just in front of the sea. Many of the houses are built on steep roads going up the hillside, reminiscent of San Francisco. The Catholic church, Niño Perdido Y Sagrada Familia (Holy

Family), sits at the center of the village, along with the community center and mayor's office.

Maina rests in a valley of lush vegetation, bamboo groves and colorful flowers that come right up to the houses and the main road. The small community is spread out along one small, winding main road, one end of which meets the road going up Nimitz Hill and twists its way to the back side of Agana Heights. The small Fonte Bridge at the end of the road is the site of the famous Guam legend of the "White Lady."

Barrigada

Barrigada is a land-locked village located near the center of the island on Guam's limestone plateau. It stretches from the cliffline overlooking Harmon Industrial Park in the East to Mt. Barrigada in the north. Upscale homes have been developed on Mt. Barrigada along an area known as Barrigada Heights overlooking Tiyan, the interior hills of Guam and the Philippine sea. To the south is the village of Mongmong-Toto-Maite and to the east is the village Mangilao.

In the past, Barrigada was a popular ranching area for people from Hagåtña. Today some parts of the village still have a rural feel attributed to the long winding roads that make their way through hills, valleys, dense vegetation and wetlands. Nevertheless, the village of Barrigada is now a heavily populated residential area bordered by considerable commercial development along routes 8 (Purple Heart Memorial Highway), 10 (Vietnam Veterans Highway) and 16 (U.S. Army Corps Drive). The recently returned former federally-designated land located in Tiyan (formerly the Naval Air Station, Guam) has become the site of some government of Guam offices, private businesses, and residential homes.

Chalan Pago/Ordot

The municipality of Chalan Pago-Ordot stretches across the narrow "waist" of the island of Guam. Housing areas are built mostly along Route 4. These villages are on the dividing line between the mostly volcanic southern half of the island and the mostly limestone northern half of the island. The result is a diverse and rugged topography characterized by low hills, small valleys, wetland areas and streams that seem to disappear into the ground. The area is covered with lush green vegetation and homes are built on flat areas

of land at times next to small valleys. Some residences have also been built at the foothills of nearby mountains.

The area had long been a center of ranching for people from Hagåtña but since World War II, it has become home to two tight knit village communities as well as several new housing subdivisions.

Chalan Pago also leads to Pago Bay where homeowners have a view of the ocean on Guam's eastern coast. A few people have also taken advantage of mountain properties, building residences overlooking the bay.

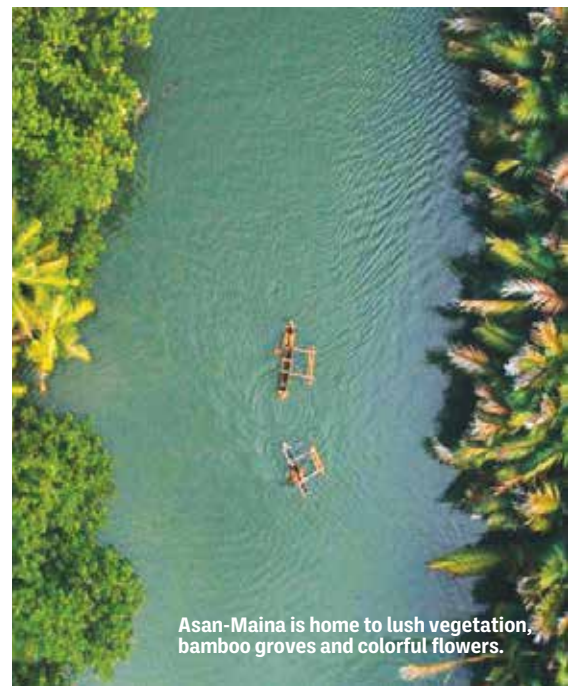
Ordot is also the site of the island's landfill. In March 2008, U.S. District Court of Guam Judge Frances Tydingco-Gatewood placed the dump under federal receivership after the local government failed to close it and build a sanitary landfill in another location as ordered by a federal mandate. An off-island solid waste management consulting firm has been given full authority to take over the closure of the dump.

Dededo

Dededo is Guam's second largest and most populous village, encompassing 30 square miles of northwestern Guam. Most of Dededo is located on Guam's limestone plateau and sits above the Northern Aquifer, an important fresh water resource for the island as it provides for about eighty percent of Guam's drinking water.

The main sections of this northern village lie on either side of Route 1, officially known as Marine Corps Drive, Guam's main thoroughfare. From a small pre-war farming community, it has become a major commercial and residential center.

Continued on Page 50



Asan-Maina is home to lush vegetation, bamboo groves and colorful flowers.



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Dededo is home to Micronesia Mall, the largest shopping mall in Micronesia, located at the corner of Route 1 and Route 16 (Army Corps Drive). Along Route 16 there are several small stores and other businesses that cater to the area's Filipino residents. Also along this strip is a two-story McDonald's restaurant, the Guam Power Authority main business office, and the gated Iglesia Ni Cristo Church. Along Fatima Road, off the highway, there are several vegetable stands selling local crop products.

Hagåtña

Hagåtña, located in central Guam, is nestled between Agana Bay and the cliffs of Agana Heights. It is considered the first European city in the Pacific because of the early colonization of the Marianas, as compared to the rest of the Pacific. It was declared a city by a Spanish royal decree March 30, 1686 as the capital of the Marianas, the residence of the Spanish governor and the site of the garrison.

Guam's main roadway, Marine Corps Drive, runs through the village from east to west. Another major artery, Route 4, dissects the village from the shoreline to the central part of the island, running east. Hagåtña borders the village of Tamuning in the east and Asan to the west.

The capital of Guam, Hagåtña is the seat of the island's three branches of government: Judicial, Legislative, and Executive as well as the religious center for the Catholic Church. It is also home to numerous commercial activities including legal offices, banks, department/variety stores, insurance, technical and professional services and restaurants.

The cultural resources of the village are significant being home to a large number of Guam's historical sites. The Hagåtña boat basin (formally known as the Gregorio D. Perez Marina), the Guam Public Library (formally the Nieves M. Flores Memorial Library) and numerous public facilities are also located within the village.

As opposed to the island's historical past, Hagåtña is currently one of the least populated villages on the island. Residential homes primarily are located below the cliff at the western portion of the village.

Inarajan

To the outside eye, the village of Inarajan seems to have been untouched by the hand of change. It is known as the most distinctly Spanish-style village on the island, with the village proper on Inarajan Bay, remaining

basically intact over the decades.

A visitor could drive through the small Spanish barrio-style streets, which until recently were one-way streets, and see the history of Inarajan in its old houses. The houses reflect a mixture of architecture influenced by the Spanish period and the early American period (early 1900s).

The village retains many of its traditional ways, with the St. Joseph Church still at the center of many activities, including the village's annual fiestas. Residents of the village are still a small number of families whose roots are deeply entwined in Inarajan. Very few outsiders have moved into the village, and very few modern structures have been erected.

Part of what gives Inarajan its heritage-rich flavor is one of its more recent additions: the Gef Pa'go Cultural Village, which sits right on the bay. The village, which consists of ancient-style, thatch-roofed huts, is staffed mainly by elder Chamorros who demonstrate traditional Chamorro arts, crafts, and cooking to visitors.

Mangilao

The village of Mangilao is located in central Guam. It lies between the villages of Barrigada and Chalan Pago. The village also branches off into subdivisions bordering Dededo and Yigo. These subdivisions include Latte Heights, Latte Plantation, Sunrise Villa, Banyan Heights, and lower and upper Pagat. The village has been called "Guam's capital of education" because both the University of Guam and the Guam Community College are located there.

Merizo

Merizo skirts Guam's scenic southern shoreline on a long strip of land between mountains and sea.

Cocos Lagoon, several miles square and enclosed by a large triangle of reef, extends about three miles out from the village. Cocos Island Resort draws day visitors to the small, densely-vegetated, low-lying strip of land along the lagoon's southern exposure. The lagoon is distinguished from the deeper water outside the reef by an array of vivid blues and greens that signify shallow water over sand flats and protected coral gardens. Mama'on Channel, the lagoon's deep main pass, runs west to east past Merizo Pier and the village boat ramp, gradually shallowing as it cuts farther into the lagoon.

Fiestan Tasi (Festival of the Sea) is held annually in Merizo, and celebrates the importance of the ocean to Guam's past, present and



Inarajan Village, the most distinctly Spanish-style village on Guam.

Photo by Keiko Hoshijima

future. It often includes boat races and other water sports competitions and exhibitions. Dates of the festival vary from year to year.

On the other side of the winding main coastal road, Route 4, several rivers flowing to the sea from the nearby mountains cut lush valleys through dry savanna foothills. Much of the population lives in these rural valleys, which are mainly residential areas dotted with a few farms and ranches, shadows of the community's agrarian past.

Mongmong-Toto-Maite

Mongmong-Toto-Maite is located in central Guam, just north of the capital city of Hagåtña. Aside from the airplanes flying directly over the tri-village before landing in the neighboring area of Tiyan, many residents of Mongmong-Toto-Maite find it to be a very quiet and peaceful place to live. Maite's cliffline, with beautiful sunset views, is home to some of the island's most well-known families, including the Calvos, whose attractive homes line the cliff above East Hagåtña.

Mongmong and Toto for the most part are rural, residential areas. Mongmong runs parallel to Maite and is at the center of the tri-village. It is heavily vegetated and is the most populated of the three villages. Toto borders Barrigada to the north of the other two villages, and is known for its winding roads and swamplands.

However, there is also a busy industrial side to the Mongmong-Toto-Maite. The area of Maite and Toto along Route 8 between Tiyan and the island's capital, Hagåtña is primarily an industrial area, filled with warehouses, hardware and furniture stores, mom-and-pop markets, and many popular bargain shops.



Mongmong's Catholic Church is Nuestra Senora de Las Aguas (Our Lady of the Waters). Parishioners celebrate their annual fiesta in honor of their patron saint on the last day of January.

The Immaculate Heart of Mary Church in Toto celebrates its patron saint's fiesta on the second or third Saturday of June each year.

The village of Maite does not have a Catholic Church and does not have a village fiesta. The Bayview Baptist Church and Son of God Baptist Church are located in Maite.

Piti

Most Guam residents know the village of Piti from what they see along Marine Corps Drive, Guam's main thoroughfare. The first noticeable landmark in the village along Marine Corps Drive when heading southbound is the Piti Underwater Observatory. The observatory juts out from the coastline into the ocean.

The Piti coastline is lined by two beach parks: Tepungan Beach Park, with newer pavilions, and the Pedro Santos Memorial Park, with an older, large pavilion and unused basketball court. This area of the coast, known as the Piti Bomb Holes, is a marine preserve, where fishing is now prohibited. This prohibition has resulted in an abundance of fish and other sea life that make the Piti waters popular among divers and snorkelers.

Slightly further south, across the road from the ocean, is the New J-Market grocery store and a gas station, just before the Piti Power Plant at the junction of Marine Corps Drive and Route 11, which leads out into Cabras Island. Cabras Island extends into the ocean to form part of Apra Harbor and

is further extended by the Glass Breakwater, named after U.S. Navy Captain Henry Glass. On this island is the Cabras Power Plant, the Port Authority of Guam and the Commercial Port. Further out is Family Beach, a secluded recreational spot.

The village proper is located just across from Cabras Island, on the cliffside of Marine Corps Drive. The village is a small residential area with curved two-lane roads and a scattering of homes, many of which date back to the decade after World War II. The village's most prominent features are Our Lady of the Assumption Catholic Church and the Mike S. Tajalle Baseball Field. The mayor's office is in a small house-like structure, and the old senior citizen's center is now being used as a youth center.

Santa Rita

The village of Santa Rita proper, not including the military housing areas, Naval Station and Naval Magazine, is one of the smallest, quietest, and least modernized villages on Guam. There are two small stores – D's Corner Store and Santa Rita Store – and a more recent addition, the Santa Rita Video Store adjoined to the Santa Rita Store within the main village. The village is surrounded by natural water sources. It's boundary with Yona is marked by Tarzan Falls, while its border with Talofofo is in the vicinity of Fena

Lake. Santa Rita's border with Piti lies along the Guatali river, while it shares a border with Agat along the Namo River. The village flower, previously the gardenia, has recently been changed to the ginger because of its present abundance throughout Santa Rita.

Most of the village's activities revolve around the church, Our Lady of Guadalupe Church, as well as the Mayor's Office and new Senior Citizen's Center and the baseball field that lies between them. Most of the families in the village have been there since it was built, just after the war, so most of the residents know each other or at least see one another at church every Sunday.

The Fena Reservoir in Santa Rita, located within the gates of Naval Magazine, was completed in 1951 with the intent of providing a dependable water supply to the U.S. Navy on Guam. It now serves as the main drinking water supply to a considerable portion of the southern region of the island. The reservoir is also home to a large population of carabao, once valued as an important animal for farm labor and transportation that has now become a cultural and historical icon on Guam. To support growing demand for water, a \$1.5 million upgrade was completed in 2007 on the Santa Rita Springs Booster Pump.

Sinajana

Sinajana is perched along a hilltop between Agana Springs and Agana Heights. When entering the village from San Ramon Hill, one comes upon the Catholic Saint Fidelis Franciscan Friary, whose order maintains Sinajana's Saint Jude Thaddeus Catholic Church, among others. The annual village fiesta is celebrated on the last weekend of October, in honor of Saint Jude, patron saint of the impossible.

The two main schools are Carlos L. Taitano Elementary School, a public school, and Bishop Baumgartner Memorial School, a private Catholic school.

C. L. Taitano Elementary School is centrally located within walking distance of the village fire station, St. Jude Thaddeus Church, mayor's office, and community center. Within this busy block, one will also pass the old Won Pat store, which is now an apartment complex. A hotnu, or old Spanish oven, can still be found in the yard.

Bishop Baumgartner Memorial School sits on the site of the old Saint Jude Thaddeus Junior High School campus.



Piti Beach.
Photo by Keiko Hoshijima

Continued on Page 52

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Continued from Page 51

Talofofo

Former Mayor Tito Mantanona coined the name “God’s Country” for Talofofo, a nickname affectionately used by many residents and seen on signs throughout the village. At the heart of Talofofo is a four-way intersection recognized as the crossroads of this small village. Anyone giving directions to a location in this village inevitably starts with this intersection, which is also at the heart of economic activity in Talofofo, with three corner stores doing business near the four-way intersection. North from the intersection is the village’s Catholic church, San Miguel Church, as well as the mayor’s office and houses, most of them similar to homes in suburban communities.

East from the intersection is the Onward Talofofo Golf Course, after which the road intersects with Route 17, locally known as Cross Island Road.

West from the intersection are more houses and Talofofo Elementary School, a sports field, and the Talofofo gym.

South of the intersection is the Seventh-day Adventist Church and Notre Dame High School, and as the road heads downhill toward the Talofofo subcommunity of Ipan and Talofofo Bay, it passes the ancient Talofofo Caves.

Sitting below the hills of the main village is the coastal community of Ipan, Talofofo. A number of secluded beaches and a scattering of houses, along with a gas station, make up most of Ipan. The area also includes Ipan Beach Park, a popular spot for barbecues. Jeff’s Pirates Cove is located on the northern border of Ipan and has become an institution in the area. It is best known for its relaxed-atmosphere bar and grill, along with a small souvenir store and an outdoor area used for arts and craft fairs, concerts and other gatherings.

The southern boundary of Talofofo is marked by the Ugum River (joined by the Talofofo River), which flows into Talofofo Bay. But as the Talofofo Bay park facilities are on the southern side of the bay, the area most people visit in Talofofo Bay is actually part of the neighboring village, Inarajan.

Tamuning/Tumon/Harmon

The main geographic features of this region are the low plateau of Oka (Saupon) Point which divides Tumon and Hagåtña bays, and the Tumon Bay area which is enclosed by high cliffs leading to relatively flat Upper Tumon/ Harmon areas.

Tumon, with its beautiful white sand beaches and protected waters, has developed over the last four decades into Guam’s

tourism center while Tamuning has become a major commercial and residential area. Harmon, the sight of the post-World War II airfield, is now an industrial park.

Umatac

The small village of Umatac is located in southern Guam along Umatac Bay. The community of Umatac is relatively smaller than others on Guam and made up of a handful of residents, many of whom are related to each other.

Interspersed between old houses that sit along the bay’s shoreline are ruins that have become prominent reminders of the Spanish colonial era in the village. Plaques are placed throughout the village that describe the Spanish era to visitors. Remains of the Spanish times include the former Spanish governor’s residence, the site of the old San Dionisio church and several Spanish forts and a battery.

A bumpy two-lane road runs through the center of the village, and visitors coming down into Umatac from the steep hills in the north will first notice stones placed into a hillside in the shape of the island of Guam, welcoming them to the village. A couple of small stores and the San Dionisio Church, built at its current location in 1939, sit along the road.

The road, with houses built in the first half of the last century, then opens up into a spectacular view of the bay before coming to a small park with a children’s playground built by IT&E in the 1990s. Adjacent to the park is the mayor’s office, right on the beach, with perhaps the best view of any mayor’s office on Guam.

At the center of the bay is an obelisk monument to Ferdinand Magellan’s landing in

1521, bearing the inscription, “Magellan landed here.” The bay is also home to some of the island’s best surfing.

Yigo

Yigo is the island’s largest and most northern village, encompassing 35 square miles. On the map the village looks like a triangle that stretches from Pati Point to Ritidian in the North and from Ritidian to the coast near Pagat.

Yigo is the home to Andersen Air Force Base and has secured access to the beaches of the village. Yigo has numerous housing subdivisions that have sprung up in the last three decades, but it still retains a rural feel thanks to its large open spaces and dense forests supported by some of the richest soil on Guam. Like all northern Guam villages, it sits on top of the Northern Aquifer, which supplies about 80 percent of the island’s drinking water supply.

Yona

Yona is the first southern village on the eastern side of Guam. Its boundaries stretch for six miles, from the south side of Pago Bay to the north side of the bridge at Jeff’s Pirates Cove in Ipan, Talofofo. The village also extends west on Route 17, or Cross Island Road, from Route 4, or Chalan Kanton Tasi, to Tarzan Falls, near the Naval Magazine overlook.

Its jurisdiction also includes the area from Pulantat and Manenggon Valley to Lonfit Bridge in Chalan Pago. As such, Yona is one of Guam’s largest municipalities in area and is divided into ten sections: Baza Gardens, Windward Hills, Ylig, Manenggon, Camp-Witek, Pulantat, Triangle, Central Yona, Tagachang and As Namo.

Watch Videos



Ga'an Point



Shark Cove



Fouha Rock



Dulce Nombre de Maria
Cathedral-Basilica



Humatak



Gef Pa'go



My Journey to Hawaii's Volcanic Paradise. Kilauea Military Camp!

Stepping out of my one-bedroom cabin, I head to the Java Café to savor a cup of coffee goodness as the crisp morning air embraces me. Just across the road, not fifty feet away, a small gaggle of Hawaiian Nēnē geese leisurely forage across the dewy lawn. A smile tugs at my lips as I watch these exquisite, protected creatures go about their morning ritual, undisturbed by my presence. Suddenly, the first golden rays of sunlight crest over the towering ohia trees, igniting the sky in a breathtaking symphony of amber, crimson, and tangerine hues. Savoring the rich, bold notes of my coffee, I stroll onto the sprawling lawn, giving my Nēnē companions a respectful berth while reflecting on my enchanting arrival at Kilauea Military Camp.



Just yesterday, on a tranquil Friday afternoon, I arrived in the charming seaside town of Hilo, where I swiftly procured my rental car and began my ascent into the ethereal landscapes of Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park. Perched at an elevation of 4,000 feet above sea level, KMC has stood as a serene retreat since the early 1900s. Upon arrival, I was met with the warm smile of the front desk, who ensured a seamless check-in, providing a thorough briefing on the camp's abundant amenities before sending me off to my cozy cabin. After refreshing myself from the long journey, I meandered over to the Crater Rim Café for a well-earned meal. The cool mountain air carried a whisper of nostalgia as I admired the historic buildings nestled amidst the ohia trees, their delicate lehua blossoms a striking contrast against



the deep greens of the foliage. The architecture exuded a captivating duality—part Army camp, part mountain sanctuary. Entering the café, I was greeted with another warm smile from the cashier, who enthusiastically recommended the Beer Battered Ono Fish and Chips special. The meal was nothing short of delightful—crisp, golden fillets accompanied by a fresh salad, a refreshing beverage, and a delectable dessert, all complemented by a final, aromatic cup of coffee.

As I lingered over my drink, soft strains of music drifted from somewhere nearby. Curious, I inquired with the cashier, who pointed toward an exquisite stained-glass door. "Just through there," she said with a knowing smile, "you'll find the Lava Lounge."

Drawn by intrigue, I followed her direction and stepped into a cozy, pub-like sanctuary brimming with life. A welcoming hum of conversation filled the air as guests sat at the U-shaped bar and around intimate tables and booths, some indulging in burgers, quesadillas, and fries. Families, couples, and solo travelers alike reveled in the warmth of the space, all under the gentle embrace of a small band playing contemporary Hawaiian melodies. The bartender caught my eye and, after a brief and amiable exchange, suggested a Longboard. As I took my first sip of the smooth, golden ale, a deep sense of contentment washed over me, my travel fatigue dissolving into the harmony of the music and the convivial ambiance.

Before retreating to my cabin, I remembered the friendly front desk clerk's mention of the camp store. A short walk from the Lava Lounge led me to the KMC General Store, where I found an impressive selection of snacks, beverages, groceries, and charming souvenirs. After selecting a few treats, flavored water, and a bundle of firewood for my cabin's inviting fireplace, I made my way to

the register. The affable store clerk engaged me in lighthearted conversation, thoughtfully reminding me to grab a lighter—a simple yet invaluable suggestion for my evening plans.

Back in the comfort of my cabin, I set about building a cozy fire, the flickering flames casting a golden glow across the room as I settled in with a movie. At last, exhaustion crept over me, and I surrendered to the plush embrace of my bed, pulling the warm covers snugly around me. My final thought before sleep claimed me was simple yet sincere: "What a perfect ending to a long day of travel."

My reverie is gently interrupted by the familiar honking of the Nēnē geese nearby. Lifting my



gaze, I am met with an exquisite sight—a radiant rainbow, luminous against the morning mist, arching gracefully over the parade field. Beneath it, the American flag flutters resolutely at the peak of the flagpole, kissed by the light morning breeze. A deep sense of serenity washes over me, and a smile spreads across my face as I revel in this perfect moment. I am profoundly grateful for my decision to explore this hidden gem—Kilauea Military Camp, a place where history, nature, and tranquility intertwine in the most enchanting of ways. ALOHA!

Visit www.kilaueamilitarycamp.com.
Facebook: @KMCHAWAII
Instagram: @kmcvolcano





Jungle safety

Pagat cave. Photo by Masae Nagashima

Guam's jungles, from the outside looking in, offer views of beautiful flowers, World War II relics, colorful foliage, secret caves, boonie peppers (which some people love to eat), hidden rivers, etc. This tropical paradise sometimes becomes so irresistible that we feel compelled to enter the exciting and seemingly harmless jungle.

The Wing Safety Division recommends that you do not enter nontraveled jungle areas. If you do, take the following mentioned precautions and notify someone when and where you are going and the time you will return. This is for your own safety. Andersen AFB Outdoor Recreation, Naval Base Guam and Guam's Department of Parks and Recreation often have organized boonie stomps conducted by trained guides. And you can always hook up with Guam Boonie Stompers (see story to the right).

It is recommended that you stay out of the caves on Guam unless you are prepared and aware of the hazards. There are many caves on Guam that are frequented and relatively safe to explore. If it's your first time, go with a guide who has been in the cave and can brief you on the dangers. Keep in mind that caves are not well lit, so bring a flashlight(s) and/or lantern. Also, the ground inside the cave will most likely be very slick and the rocks may be very sharp. Ensure you are wearing proper footwear for this event and take your time walking inside the cave.

Once you enter the jungle, you may encounter deer, wild pigs, frogs, brown tree snakes, mice, bats (dawn, dusk, and night), and coconut crabs (that can amputate fingers if given the chance).

Some of the insects you will see while enjoying your exploratory walk are ants, termites, several varieties of spiders, flies, gnats, and, worst of all, swarms of boonie bees (paper wasps) and other stinging insects. Something to be aware of is the fact that you might experience getting lost or walking in circles, due mainly to the limited visibility in the dense jungle. If you do get lost in the jungle stay calm, the heat and high humidity can dehydrate you and increase your need for food and water.

Other jungle hazards you should know about include slippery undergrowth and vines, razor sharp coral protruding from the ground, cliff lines and large holes hundreds of feet deep that are covered with leaves, fallen tree limbs, and undergrowth. There is razor sharp and poisonous vegetation throughout the jungle. World War II relics such as hand grenades, land mines, bombs, bullets, anti-personnel mines, rockets, and almost any other type of explosives known are still out there ready to explode. If you find any of these old relics, do not touch them, they may be very unstable. Alert authorities immediately.

— 36th Wing Safety Office



Gadao's Cave



Tarzan Falls



Lost Pond



Hilaan Beach



San Carlos Falls



Cetti Falls



Geocaching

Boonie stomping

WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/GUAMBOONIESTOMPERSINC



One of the most adventurous and memorable outdoor activities you can experience on Guam is "boonie stomping," which is what locals call hiking through the jungle. Guam's landscape is dotted with stunning off-the-beaten-path sites including secluded rivers and coastlines, cascading waterfalls, majestic mountain peaks, natural caves, remnants of ancient Chamorro civilization and historical World War II battlegrounds.

Boonie stomping trails range from easy walks across beaches to very difficult treks over rough rocky terrain. Many trails are unmarked and conditions can widely vary depending on weather, so it is recommended to go boonie stomping with an experienced guide or with a group such as the Guam Boonie Stompers.

Founded in 1970, Guam Boonie Stompers is a non-profit organization committed to helping island residents and visitors explore and preserve the natural beauty of Guam. Every Saturday, Guam Boonie Stompers leads groups to remote beaches, snorkeling sites, waterfalls, mountains, caves and cultural and historical sites.

To participate, the group meets at 9 a.m. at the center court of Chamorro Village in Hagåtña. After a short briefing, participants take their own transportation and meet at the trailhead. Children under the age of 12 must be accompanied by a parent or guardian. There is a nominal \$5 fee and no reservations are required.

Guam's tropical climate can sometimes mean intense rain and sweltering heat, so it is best to be very prepared when going on a boonie stomp. Bring plenty of water, wear appropriate clothing and shoes, and always inform someone of where you're going and when you expect to return.

Guam's beautiful landscape and fresh air offers many opportunities to enjoy the outdoors. When it comes to unique activities on Guam, add an element of adventure to your trip with an only-on-Guam boonie stomping experience.



Photo by Isa Kawasaki

Hiking with dogs

So, you've got a four-legged adventurer itching to explore Guam's trails with you? Let's go! Guam's lush jungles and views make it a paradise for hikers and their furry friend. But before you trek out into the boonies with your companion, here are some handy tips to ensure a fun and safe hiking experience.



Stay hydrated

Guam's tropical climate means it can get pretty hot and humid out there, even in the shade. Remember to bring plenty of water for you and your doggo. We recommend handy, space-saving collapsible bowls, which can easily fit into your backpack. Aside from water, don't forget to pack some treats to keep their energy up during the hike!

Leash up

The island's trails are usually dog-friendly, but it's always a good idea to keep your pup on a leash, just in case your dog or others on the trail are reactive. Having a leash ensures your dog's safety and helps minimize wildlife disturbances. We also recommend socializing your dog to other humans

and animals before the day of the hike, so they are comfortable around others.

Tick checks

The boonies provide the perfect habitat for ticks, dirt, bugs and all kinds of things that contribute to infections. After your hike, be sure to give your furry friend a thorough check, paying extra attention to their ears, necks, and paws. We have more tips in this article about medications, ear infections, and other helpful information when getting your dog acquainted to Guam.

Respect wildlife

Guam is home to diverse flora and fauna, some which may not play well with your canine companion. Try to keep your dog from disturbing any critters along the way, especially giant toads in swampy grounds — they are poisonous to dogs (and most pets). If you see them playing with a large toad or notice them foaming at the mouth, immediately use a wet cloth and thoroughly wipe the inside of their mouth, tongue, and throat as much as you can.



Stay trail savvy

From rugged jungle paths to coastal walks, make sure to choose a trail most suitable to your dog's fitness level and paw



protection. Listen to your dog — if they seem tired or overheated, take a nice break under the shade, and offer some water. With the different terrains, we may have hiking boots to protect our feet, but keep an eye out for sharp rocks, glass, and debris which can hurt those paws.



Leave no trace

Help preserve Guam's natural beauty by adopting the "leave no trace" principle. Pack out what you pack in — don't leave any trash and remember to pick up any dog waste. There's nothing worse than stumbling upon a surprise left behind in the boonies! With these tips in mind, you and your furry companion are ready for many adventures exploring Guam's scenic trails.

— Guam Guide



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Exploring Guam with your family

Kaci Curtis
Navy spouse

When my husband got orders to the island of Guam, I had to google its location on the global map. I knew it was in the Pacific, but that was about it. That was the first of hundreds of Google searches, each geared towards helping me understand a little bit more about the remote island that was about to become our home.

We came to the island as a family of four. My oldest was 7, and my youngest had just turned 2. We've always enjoyed being outside together, doing things like camping, hiking, gardening, boating, touring historical sites and viewing wildlife.

When online, I repeatedly read the advice that "if your family likes the outdoors, you'll enjoy your time on Guam."

I do agree with that assessment – most of our lasting memories took place in the jungle, on a trail, or on a beach. But there are still plenty of things to do that don't involve salt water or sword grass.

We've spent a lot of time together, done a lot of exploring, and found a lot of places and things that we enjoy. And most of them won't be found back in the States when we PCS again.

Boonie Stomping

In the dry season (January to May), our favorite outdoor activity is hiking, called boonie stomping here on the island. There are

many trails on Guam – so many that a book has been published to compile them all. Even in dry season, hiking in the powerful sun saps your energy, so it's best to go with others, know the route, and be sure to pack enough water!

Hikes range from simple paved treks like the [Heritage Walk around Hagåtña](#) to the [Southern Mountain Trail](#), which links multiple peaks together to form the island's longest hike. The base of [Mount Lam Lam](#) sits at the bottom of the Marianas Trench, making it a contender for the tallest peak in the world.

I would be remiss if I didn't mention our favorite hike, [San Carlos Falls](#), which combines creek walking, rope-assisted climbing and swimming holes with waterfalls into one glorious hike. It's also almost four miles long (if you do the loop), full of mosquitos, and at times, the trail is literally in the water, which is full of slippery rocks. My kids loved this hike, but they're experienced hikers, and my youngest is still small



Hiking along the Priest Pools trail.

enough to be piggybacked when she gets tired.

Shorter hikes (perhaps better suited for little legs) include: [Priest Pools](#), which winds through hills of sword grass to stunning coastal views and cascading swimming holes. [Piti Guns](#) travels into the jungle to the site of Japanese coastal defense guns, relics of World War II. [Asan Ridge](#) also integrates some history, offering a breathtaking view of Asan Beach, where

a 3-day battle took place between U.S. Marines and Japanese forces. [Fouha Rock](#) showcases a Chamorro creation story, and a relatively flat walk along pristine coastline.

[Pagat](#) has a bit of everything, with unobstructed views from atop rugged limestone cliffs, an ancient Chamorro village site and an awesome cave pool. [Tarzan Falls](#) is also relatively kid-friendly with an amazing waterfall at the

midway point.

My kids have completed all these hikes, and quite a few more. If you want to hike with your kids but haven't made many like-minded friends, take advantage of some local Facebook hiking groups. These groups organize hikes with guides who are already familiar with the trail. You'll get to explore, feel safe and probably make some new friends, too!

Fun facilities

If you're looking for something with the feel of a small-town theme park, check out [Talo'fo'fo Falls](#), which has a few rides (like bumper cars) and a cable car lift to one of the most popular waterfalls on Guam. There is also the small [Guam Zoo](#), which is privately owned, and the animals are all rescues.

If you want to get up close with some marine life, but don't feel like getting wet, check out the [Guam Aquarium](#), which is full of species native to the waters around Guam, like blacktip reef sharks, puffer fish, jellyfish and many more. Or head to the [Fish Eye Observatory](#) and cross the walkway over the crystal blue water before descending a spiral staircase to the ocean floor,



A rope-assisted descent on the San Carlos Falls trail.

where you can watch the sea life through porthole windows.

Cultural experiences

For some outdoor cultural experiences, head to the [Valley of the Latte Adventure Park](#), where they have a fantastic river cruise, kayak and paddle board rentals and many cultural workshops available, like coconut leaf weaving. On Wednesday nights, you can head to the night market at [Chamorro Village](#) in Hagåtña for dancing, local vendors, carabao rides and Chamorro BBQ.

Many of the villages have festivals at different times of the year. One family favorite is the [Mango Festival](#), held annually in May in the village of Agat. [Liberation Day](#), celebrated on July 21, commemorates Guam's liberation by American forces from Japanese control. There's a parade, fireworks and cultural displays to enjoy.

For an air-conditioned look at Guam's history, don't miss the [Guam Museum](#) in Hagåtña, which is a favorite for my kids. They also enjoy the [War in the Pacific National Historical Park Visitor Center](#), which has an interactive museum, gift shop, and offers a monthly story time for the kids, often featuring local authors and cultural activities.

Another way to experience local culture is to attend one of the many cultural dinner shows offered on the island, like [Fish Eye Cultural Dinner Show](#), [Cabana](#)

[Sunset Dinner show](#) and [Karera](#) at the Sandcastle. These vary in ticket price and in meal options, but all are family friendly.

Get active

For runners, various fun runs take place on the island, encouraging kids to enjoy active lifestyles with kid-friendly distances. Our family favorite is the [Ko'ko Kids Run](#), held annually in April. [Run Guam](#) also offers family friends runs, such as 5ks.

If you're looking for more ways to keep the kids active, they can learn to climb at [Climbing Guam](#), the island's only bouldering gym. Jiu-Jitsu is very popular here and there are many gyms available to choose from. Dance classes are offered at [SKIP](#) and [Elite Dance Academy](#). Kids can dive into gymnastics classes with [Island Twisters](#) or enjoy some tumbling time at [Funplex](#).

Horseback riding is even an option on the north side of the island, at [Rock N' Rail Ranch](#). They offer riding lessons and even pony rides for the younger crowd.

There are various indoor playgrounds around the island, and they're a great option to help the kids get the wiggles out while in the comfort of AC. Our personal favorite is [Paradise Playground](#), but plenty of our friends enjoy [Playtime Café](#), [Lollipop](#) (Micronesia Mall), and [Dream High](#) (inside the Lotte hotel).

To dip into your creative side (and spend some more time in the AC), consider doing a workshop at [Guam Potters](#). Or, bring the kids to [Artbeat](#) or [DearTree](#) for art classes and even camps during school breaks.

Hit the beach

As you might expect, an entire article could easily be written just about Guam's beaches. From the hotel and tourist beaches in Tumon, to the stretches of sand only accessible via a hiking trail, the island has



Hiking to the summit of Mount Lam Lam.

it all. The snorkeling is fantastic. There's so much sea life to enjoy! My kids also love to explore tidepools, and we often go to the beach after sunset, looking for coconut crabs, eels and hermit crabs with flashlights and headlamps.

A word of caution: learn about Guam's potentially hazardous sea life, so that you can help your kids avoid anything that may sting or bite. It's a good idea to make sure they have sturdy water shoes with a good sole, as well. The ocean is amazing, but not without its dangers. Familiarize yourself with the hazard flags, and what they mean. It's much easier to relax and have fun in the sand when you're knowledgeable about your surroundings.

If swimming or snorkeling seems too tame for your family, you can rent kayaks and paddleboards in many places around the island. A multitude of companies offer things like boat and jet ski rentals, dolphin cruises, sunset cruises and even parasailing.

Water parks

If you don't feel like getting sandy, there are several water parks on the island, and many hotels offer pool passes for families. "Stay-cationing" at a local hotel is a common practice during school breaks, and feels like a vacation without draining the

bank with flight costs. Our favorite waterpark is [The Hoshino Resorts Risonare](#) because it has attractions for all ages and doesn't feel crowded. But many families also enjoy [Leo Palace](#) and [Pacific Islands Club \(PIC\)](#).

If your head is spinning with what seems to be a ton of things to do and see in Guam, don't worry. If you're willing to explore a bit and keep an open mind, your family will thrive during your time on the island. You may even discover a love for something you've never tried before!

I hope that your time in Guam is as fulfilling, beautiful and inspiring as it has been for my family. It hasn't been perfect (what duty station is?) but it was exactly what we needed, before we even knew we needed it. I'm so grateful that we got to spend time here, ventured out, and got to experience this island.

About the Author: Kaci Curtis is a Navy wife and mom. Her historical fiction novel, "Along the Trail," is forthcoming with The Wild Rose Press. Follow her on FB (@KCurtisWriter) and check out her blog (and many others!) with Mission:Milspouse for more inspiring stories about military families.



Old Wives Beach, on Naval Base Guam.

Guam online

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Choice sites to help you enjoy your stay

Stars and Stripes

This is, hands down, the most comprehensive site for local military community news and events as well as travel, restaurant reviews and off-base activities on island.



guam.stripes.com

For important news you may have missed straight to your inbox, don't forget to sign up for one or all of Stars and Stripes informative newsletters.

ww2.stripes.com/subscribe/newsletters

No matter where you are stationed, this is the most relevant source of news for America's military, other Defense Department personnel and their families.

www.stripes.com

Guam news

This is Guam's major daily newspaper.

www.guampdn.com

Another source for island news.

www.postguam.com

Guam factoids

This is an online encyclopedia of almost all things Guam, including its history, culture and indigenous language as well as contemporary arts, issues and more.

www.guampedia.com

Government

The official website of the Guam government is loaded with useful info on the island territory, including a handy "how to" section with info ranging from registering a vehicle to starting a business.

www.guam.gov

Culture

Detailed site offers a wealth of information, from dining and shopping to entertainment and maps.

www.guam-online.com

Fun website and a great source for local activities, attractions, travel and more.

theguamguide.com

Food

Guam native and former Air Force officer can help you create some tasty Chamorro dishes.

www.annieschamorrokitchen.com

All things about BBQing, cooking and eating on bbqguam.blogspot.com

War in the Pacific

War in the Pacific National Historical Park was established to commemorate the bravery and sacrifice of those participating in the campaigns of the Pacific Theater of World War II.

<https://www.nps.gov/wapa/index.htm>

Tourism

The official website of Guam Visitors Bureau offers all the essentials needed for a first time visit or extended stay – including a pretty handy island-wide events calendar.

www.visitguam.com

Nearby islands

Information – including a handy events calendar – about the neighboring Northern Mariana Islands (Saipan, Tinian and Rota) is at:

mymarianas.com

Diving

Hosted by MDA (Micronesian Divers Association), this site is a great place to start when it comes to getting the basics on diving in Guam.

www.mdaguam.com

Hiking

Every Saturday, Guam Boonie Stompers offers public hikes to a variety of destinations such as beaches, snorkeling sites, waterfalls, mountains, caves, latte sites, and World War II sites. See where you can join in on the fun at: www.facebook.com/GuamBoonieStompersInc

Apps

Klook An excellent travel booking platform where you can discover top attractions and purchase tickets for tours, theme parks, transportation and more at good prices. It covers destinations worldwide including Guam.

Airbnb Offers diverse options for accommodations and experiences hosted by locals.

Agoda Specializes in accommodations with great deals, from luxury hotels to affordable guesthouses. It also provides transportation and activity options.

Trip.com A global app that's also popular in Guam. It offers great deals on accommodations, flights and rental cars. Before booking with other apps, compare prices on Trip.com!

Skyscanner An excellent app for finding the best deals on flights.



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