

# TRAVEL TIPS

**Entry Requirements:** Requirements for travel to the U.S. Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands are administered by the U.S. Dept. Of State: [www.state.gov/travelers/](http://www.state.gov/travelers/). Qualified nonimmigrant visitors from many countries may also travel to the islands under the U.S. Guam-CNMI Visa Waiver Program administered by the U.S. Dept. of Homeland Security: <https://www.dhs.gov/guam-cnmi-visa-waiver-program>

**Time Zone:** GMT +10

**Climate:** 77-92 degrees F (25-33 degrees C): high temperature and high humidity

**What to Wear:** The warm, tropical climate dictates loose, comfortable clothing. A casual dress atmosphere prevails at most locations. Hats, sunglasses, and sunscreen are recommended.

**Electricity:** 110V, 60Hz

**Currency:** US Dollar

**Getting Around:** Public buses serve the main thoroughfare of Beach Rd. and other routes ([transit.cnmi.gov](http://transit.cnmi.gov)). Visitors can also freely move around the island via rental car or taxi. U.S. drivers license can be used, and foreign visitors can use their home country licenses for up to one month. Please check with your hotel for the availability of other transportation such as a shuttle bus.

**Emergency:** Call 911 for emergencies or police assistance.

**Must-do:** Diving and golfing The Marianas has an abundance of shore, boat, wreck, cavern, night, and marine life encounter dive options with award-winning dive sites, dive operators, and dive shops. Our warm water and clear visibility make diving a dream year-round. For the golfer, we have several professionally designed courses with stunning ocean views and cliff line holes.



## Saipan

Saipan is the capitol island of The Marianas with a well-balanced mix of beautiful nature and modern amenities, nightlife, and shopping venues. Must-sees: Managaha\*, Banzai Cliff\*, Bird Island, Grotto, outrigger canoes and indigenous maritime traditions



## Tinian

Only 10 minutes from Saipan by air, Tinian is rich in historic sites from ancient to modern times. Its quiet beauty also leaves a lasting memory. Must sees: House of Taga\*, Blowhole, WWII sites and atomic bomb pits\*, Taga Beach



## Rota

Known for its pristine nature and friendly people, "Nature's Treasure Island" is the perfect escape for those seeking to rejuvenate their body, mind, and spirit. Must-see: As Nieves Latte Stone Quarry\*, Swimming Hole, I Chen'chon Bird Sanctuary, stargazing

*\*U.S. National Register of Historic Places*

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS & FESTIVALS\*

- JAN** Rota Marathon
- FEB** Tinian Hot Pepper Festival
- MAR** Saipan Marathon
- APR** Flame Tree Arts Festival (Saipan)
  
- MAY** Taste of The Marianas International Food Festival (Saipan)  
San Jose Fiesta (Tinian)
  
- JUL** Liberation Day
  
- OCT** San Francisco de Borja Fiesta (Rota)
  
- DEC** Christmas in The Marianas  
Hell of the Marianas 100km Century Cycle (Saipan)

*\*Date subject to change; check website for changes.*



## MARIANAS VISITORS AUTHORITY

MVA Saipan Headquarters:

☎ 1.670.664.3200/1

MVA Tinian: 1.670.433.9365

MVA Rota: 1.670.532.0327

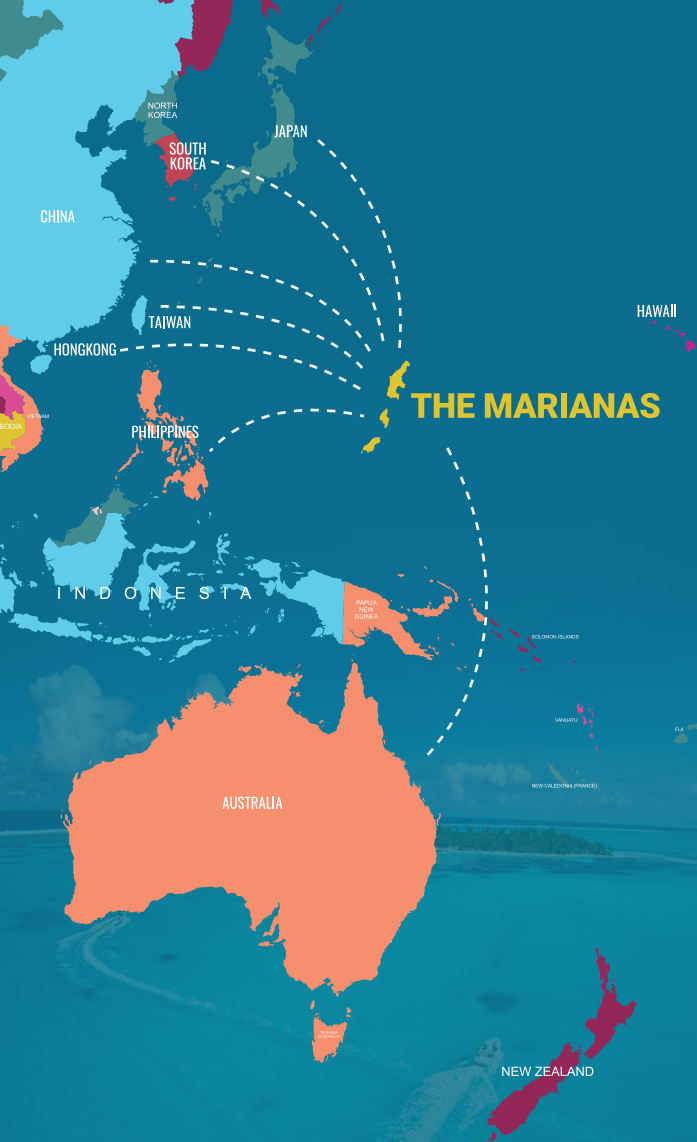
✉ [info@mymarianas.com](mailto:info@mymarianas.com)



The Marianas  
| Saipan | Tinian | Rota |

# The Marianas





## THE MARIANAS

**OFFICIAL NAME:**

U.S. Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

**NUMBER OF ISLANDS:** 14

**CAPITOL ISLAND:** Saipan

**AREA:** 184 sq. mi. (477 sq. km)

**POPULATION:** 47,000 (2020 Census)

**DEMOGRAPHICS (2020 CENSUS):**

Chamorro / Carolinian / Pacific Islanders 44%, Asians 47% (Korean, Japanese, Filipino, etc.), Others 9%

**OFFICIAL LANGUAGES:** Chamorro, Carolinian, English



## GEOGRAPHY

The Marianas are 14 coral uplift and volcanic islands located in the western Pacific along the edge of the Marianas Trench -the deepest point on Earth- south of Japan, and southeast of Korea and China. White and black sand beaches and rugged cliffs line the coastline, with lush forests on the interior. Some islands – such as Saipan – have fringing coral reefs encompassing clear, shallow lagoons that are simply perfect for swimming and snorkelling.

## HISTORY

The islands were first settled by an ancient seafaring people – the ancestors of today’s indigenous Chamorro – over 4,000 years ago. The islands were encountered by Spanish explorer Ferdinand Magellan in 1521 during his world exploration voyage. In 1668, the islands were colonized by Spain. Resistance to colonization and forced conversion to Catholicism – along with foreign diseases – decimated the Chamorro population from an estimated 40,000 to a mere 1,500 people. In 1815 and following a series of devastating typhoons, Chiefs Aghurubw and Nguschul of the Caroline Islands south of The Marianas led the Carolinian settlement of the islands under the permission of the Spanish government. Germany acquired the islands from Spain and administered them from 1899 to 1914. In 1914, after WW1, Japan took possession of the islands and developed a thriving sugar cane economy. During World War II, U.S. forces gained control of the islands in 1944. The islands were placed in a United Nations trusteeship in 1947, and the people voted to becoming a commonwealth in political union with the U.S. beginning in 1978.

## CULTURE

Chamorros and Carolinians are the indigenous people of The Marianas. The Chamorros were described by early Western chronicles as ingenious in their creation of tools for daily living. Their outrigger – called “proa” – was noted as the fastest vessel ever seen in its time. Large, limestone monoliths called latte stones- some weighing up to 70 tons- used by ancient Chamorros as support structures for buildings can still be seen throughout the Marianas archipelago today. Among the Carolinians, the sacred knowledge of celestial navigation across the open ocean based on stars, the sun and moon, currents, and other natural phenomena has been passed from generation to generation in an unbroken chain. This knowledge is having a renaissance in modern times, reinvigorating indigenous maritime skills through The Marianas, Micronesia, Polynesia, and beyond. For both cultures, agriculture and fishing are widely practiced and the interconnectedness of families and harmony with nature remains an important value.

