



**Western
Pacific
Regional
Fishery
Management
Council**

Protocols and Tips for Visiting and Doing Work in Guam, USA

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Message from Executive Director Kitty Simonds

This document was created by the Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council as a sensitivity guide for visiting Council Family. It provides important information describing how to plan and conduct work in a culturally appropriate manner, and the resources available to assist in the visitor's efforts.



Kitty Simonds
Executive Director
Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council

Introduction

Hafa Adai! and Welcome to Guam. Where America's Day Begins!

Guam has been an unincorporated territory of the United States since 1898 and is the largest at 215 square miles and the southernmost island of the Mariana Archipelago. Together with the Mariana Islands to the north, Guam has a more than 3,500-year-old Chamorro culture and traditional practices. Its indigenous residents are the Chamorros whose language is also called the same. Although it is a part of the U.S., Guam's deep-rooted culture is very much alive and practiced. This document will help guide you on how to address situations when meeting with the residents and how to show respect.

Portuguese explorer Ferdinand Magellan “discovered” Guam on March 6, 1521, and came ashore in the southern village of Umatac, sometimes pronounced Humatak. His stop in Guam started the galleon trade between Mexico and the Philippines, with Guam as a provisioning stopover. More can be found at: www.guampedia.com.

While in Guam, be mindful of your behavior. What may be appropriate where you come from may not be culturally appropriate in Guam.

Time Zone

Chamorro Standard Time.
Time Zone in Guam (GMT +10)

Guam Council Contact:

Felix S. Reyes
Guam Island Coordinator
Mobile: 671-483-1904
Email: felix.reyes@wpcouncil.org

Language

There are two official languages spoken in Guam:

- a. Chamorro (Native language)
- b. English

The Chamorro language is composed of about 30% Spanish, derived from the more than 300 years of Spanish rule and influence.

Everyone in Guam speaks and understands English.

Here are some useful phrases that might be useful on your visit to Guam:

Hello: **Håfa Adai** (HAH-fa-day)

The term Håfa Adai! is the ubiquitous phrase used by Chamorros as a greeting when meeting for the first time or the hundredth time. Similar to, and used in the same context as, the Hawaiian term Aloha.

Thank you: **Si Yu'us Må'ase** (see-dzoo-oos-mah-uh-see) is literally translated to God have mercy on you and is used to provide thanks or gratitude. You will often see this at the end of meeting presentations as well.

Goodbye: **Adios** (Spanish derivative)

My name is ...: **I na'ån hu si ...**

What's your name?: **Håyi i na'an mu?**

Please help me: **Pot fabot ayuda yu** (me singular), hami (plural)

Protocols for Council Family

While in Guam, be mindful of your behavior. What may be appropriate where you come from may not be culturally appropriate in Guam. Guam is not Hawaii or the states. Do not call fish names by their Hawaiian name for example.

Engage with Local Authorities: Before your visit, coordinate with local Council staff. Staff can help with dialogue with government officials and community leaders. They can provide valuable guidance and facilitate smoother interactions.

Be Prepared for Protocols: Follow established protocols for meetings and events. This may include presenting a gift or making formal introductions.

Respect Local Hierarchy: There are no Chiefs or any cultural hierarchy in Guam. But it is important to address the elderly, religious or those in elected office with due respect to their titles.

Learn Basic Chamorro Phrases: Learning simple greetings and phrases in Chamorro shows respect and can help build rapport.

Cultural Sensitivity and Respect

1. **Understand Chamorro:** The Chamorro or CHamoru way of life, Taotao Chamorro, is central to the culture. It emphasizes respect for elders, family, and community.
2. **Respect for Elders and Leaders:** Always show deference to elders and local leaders.
3. **Modesty in Dress:** Dress conservatively. Avoid wearing swimsuits or revealing clothing outside of beach areas.

Cultural Protocols when meeting people

Etiquette on Touching, Shaking Hands, and Personal Interactions

Touching and Personal Space

1. *Personal Boundaries:* Personal space is a gray area in Guam's culture. The Chamorros like to hug as a sign of friendship and welcoming.

It is always advisable to gauge the situation. Most will initiate outreach with a hug or a handshake. But it is always good practice to avoid unnecessary physical contact with people you do not know well.

Handshakes

1. *Gentle Handshakes:* Handshakes are common when greeting someone, but they are typically gentle and not as firm as in Western cultures. A gentle handshake with a smile and eye contact is appropriate.
2. *Two-Handed Shakes:* Sometimes, people may use their free hand to touch the shaking hand or the wrist of the person they are greeting and with eye

contact, adding a layer of warmth and respect to the gesture. This is common.

Greetings

1. *Use of Hafa Adai!:* It is always good practice to use the common English greeting terms you are used to or comfortable with. If you use Chamorro words, practice the pronunciation ahead of time. The Chamorro people are friendly and may laugh at your awkwardness and pronunciation. Join in the fun. First time meetings where visitors do not express joy in the greeting may be called *Matå'pang*, or cold and insensitive.
2. *Respectful Vocabulary:* Use respectful language, including body language, when addressing elders, religious or people holding elected office. Keep your nose level or if you are taller, point your nose towards the other person.

Communication and Interaction

1. *Listen More Than You Speak:* Show respect by listening attentively. Avoid interrupting or speaking over others.
2. *Non-Verbal Communication:* Be aware of non-verbal actions. A friendly smile and nod can go a long way. A nod or a quick upward tilt of the head is fine. Avoid tilting your head up and keeping it up for more than a few seconds. The Chamorros will construe this as a challenge and an affront.
3. *Be Humble:* Approach interactions with humility and an open mind. Avoid boasting or displaying superiority. The Chamorros like having fun, including with first time meetings. But this does not mean you should behave likewise. It is their way of showing they are comfortable with you or want you to be at ease. Do not get offended.
4. *Respetu:* When passing in front of someone sitting or standing, show respect by a slight bend at the waist and say *Dispensa yu* (dis-pen-sah-dzoo), or Excuse me. Do not walk in between two or more people talking to each other.

Sitting and Standing

1. *Do Not Stand Directly Behind Someone:* It is considered impolite to stand directly behind another person facing the same direction. This may be interpreted as you looking over their shoulder and may show a lack of trust.
2. *Sitting Positions for Women:* When sitting, always keep your knees together or cross your legs. Avoid showing excess thighs. Other women in the room may look at you not in a good light. First impressions are created with this behavior.

Attire

The Chamorros blame the western world, especially statesiders, for bringing indecency and carelessness to the island.

Wearing a tie is not expected, and long-sleeved shirts for both women and men will feel too warm.

Island formal is an island shirt, dress pants and shoes and is appropriate to wear during formal meetings. For females, a knee length dress is fine. Never wear slippers/flip flops to a meeting unless it is an informal gathering. Shorts for men are acceptable in an informal setting. Women wearing tights or loose attire is accepted. Short-shorts are a no-no.

Women: Always wear a bra and nice clothing, especially around elderly women. Never mind that their own family members or friends are dressed inappropriately, you are the guest and are expected to show respect by dressing up more than others. This attitude can lessen over time as they get to know you.

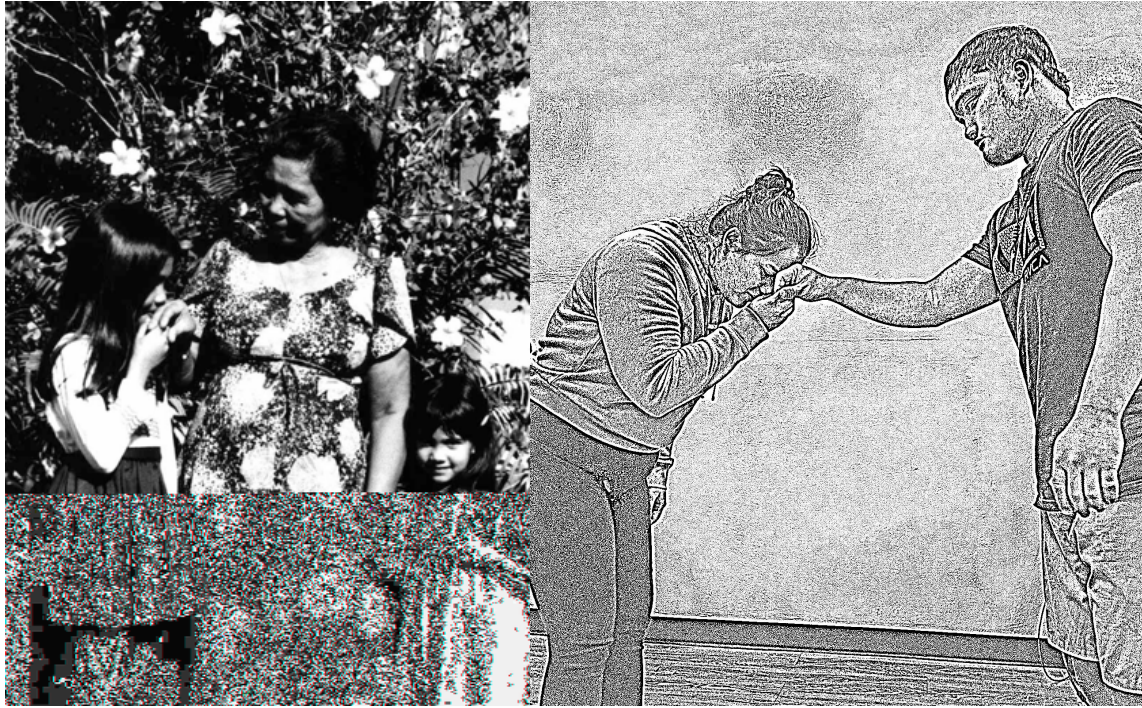
Nginge'

The term Nginge' describes the smelling or sniffing of the back part of an elder's slightly raised hand. This thousands year-old cultural practice is a way of taking in the essence of one's spirit and as a recognition of the importance of showing respect and honor towards elders. Elders of both sexes are called *manãmko*.

In a slightly bowed position, the giver of this gesture utters either '*ñora*,' derived from the Spanish '*señora*' or '*ñot*,' derived from the Spanish '*señor*,' for female and male elders, respectively. When this is done, the receiver responds by saying, '*Dioste ayudi*' or 'God help you.' They may also pinch the nose slightly

using the pointer and middle fingers. This custom is practiced across the Mariana Archipelago.

In recent times, this custom of showing respect has evolved to include sniffing or kissing the cheek of an elder with the same greeting and response.



Hugs

For people of any age, male or female, whenever you meet a new person, it is appropriate to greet and say *Hafa Adai*.

You must then allow the local resident to take the initiative to reach out to you and offer you a right-shoulder-to-right-shoulder hug. Not tight but just a touch.

Some residents may first reach out with their hand (either hand) to your hand before initiating the hug.

Some may even press their cheeks to yours. This is common and accepted.

Taotaomo'na (Ancient Chamorro spirits believed to protect the mountains and wild places)



When a person enters the 'boonies' or jungle, they must first ask permission of the *taotaomo'na*, most especially when a person needs to relieve themselves in the jungle. Dark bruises or pinches can be visible usually on the arm or thigh if permission is not requested and is a sign the person is not welcome. It is highly advisable not to remove or take any artifacts found in the jungle such as amot bowl (stone bowl used for medicinal purposes), sling stones and other items of significant cultural importance.

To request permission to enter the jungle or if there is a need to relieve oneself, this phrase must be whispered or spoken but not yelled:

Gue'lo yan Gue'la, na falofan yu' guine gi tãno' mu

- Gue'lo is a male ancestor.
- Gue'la is the female ancestor.

Phrase meaning: Ancestors, allow me to pass through your land.

Hosting Meetings

Large meetings sizes can be unavoidable, but in Guam, small meetings or breakout groups of about 5-10 attendees are most effective.

To solicit input from attendees, it is recommended each person be called upon around the room rather than a general request for input or questions.

Effort should be made to host community-related meetings in the villages. All Mayor's offices have Community Centers with facilities to hold gatherings, including presentations and internet. Hosting meetings that will need community participation is not very highly recommended to be held in Tumon or in any of the hotels.

Federal employees follow the federal holiday schedules. It is important to be conscious of the date and time difference with Guam being GMT +10, and west of the International Dateline. Guam time is called Chamorro Standard Time (ChST).

There are official Guam holidays that are observed that may differ from the federal holidays. Check the local calendar so meetings and events are not scheduled during these dates.

Internet

Internet connectivity via WIFI is available in most publicly accessible establishments such as restaurants, hotels, government buildings and businesses. There are a few that have WIFI available but not for the public. MIFI can be rented at the airport exit lobby for a small fee. Not all US internet providers work in Guam. It is best to purchase pre-paid Sim Cards at any of three internet providers, GTA, IT&E, and Docomo.

Religion

Due to more than 700 years of Spanish influence, Guam's residents are around 85% Roman Catholic. There are 19 villages and 21 Catholic churches. Many other denominations can be found.

Village Fiestas

Each village celebrates its patron Saint annually with a procession and fiesta. Homes around the village prepare food to honor the event. Visitors are welcomed

to join the festivities and eat at people's homes. This is a unique attribute of the Chamorro culture.



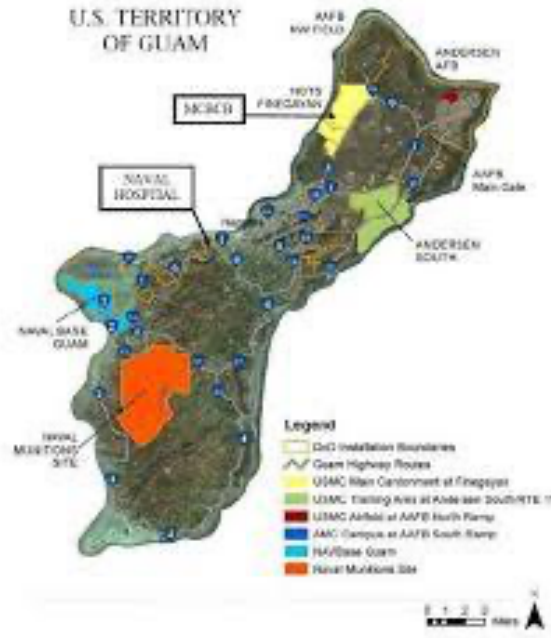
It is customary and polite to acknowledge the host family before joining the food line. And to thank them before leaving. Visitors are also encouraged but not mandatory to bring something like a case of sodas or beer. Any gift offered is locally called *Inifresi*.

It is always good practice to visit the Guam Mayor's Council office in Hagatña or website: mcog.guam.gov for more information, including fiesta dates and details.

Military

Guam has a population of around 170,000, including a large U.S. military presence. Guam is the 'Tip of the Spear' for the U.S. due to its close proximity to Asia. All U.S. military services have a presence in Guam. The buildup for transfer of up to 5,000 marines from Okinawa is ongoing with a new Marine Base Camp Blaz. In all, the "military population" is expected to grow from 26,000 in 2024 to 34,500 by 2028 and 44,000 by 2037.





The U.S. military hosts several large exercises and training in Guam and surrounding waters every year. When these exercises are held, expect to have difficulty getting a rental vehicle and lodging. It's always best to book as early as possible.

Education

Guam is home to the University of Guam (UOG) and the Guam Community College (GCC), institutions of higher learning.

The University of Guam is an accredited public land-grant university and offers 34 degree programs from undergraduate to doctoral levels. Degree programs include education, marine research, School of Business, social and applied sciences, engineering, public administration, and other career focused programs. Founded in 1952, UOG is the hub for higher education for the region. The student population is comprised of 94% Asian-Pacific Islander ethnicity. The UOG Marine Lab was established as a research unit in 1970 and plays an important role in both national and international marine research. The primary mission of the UOG Marine Laboratory faculty is basic and applied research on the biology of tropical marine organisms, with emphasis on the conservation and development of marine resources of the near-shore waters of Guam and Micronesia.

The Guam Community College (GCC), also located in Mangilao, provides technical training, adult evening learning, apprenticeship programs, and plays a

significant role in education programs in tourism, AutoCad, construction, marine and auto mechanics, and many more.

Marine Preserves

Guam has five Marine Preserves:

- Tumon Bay: Fishing allowed using hook-and-line from shore and talaya on the reef margin for four species year-round:
 - Ti'ao (Juvenile goatfish)
 - Mañahak (Juvenile rabbitfish)
 - I'e (Juvenile jack)
 - Kichu (Convict tang)

Rabbitfish and Convict tang can be caught along the reef margin with cast net (*talaya*).

- Pati Point: All species can be caught with hook-and-line from shore. A fishing permit is required and can be purchased at the base's Outdoor Recreation outlet. Base access is required.
 - **Address:** Bldg 25018 Bonins Avenue, Andersen AFB, 96929, Guam
 - **Phone:** +1 671-366-5197
- Achang Bay: No take. Except when the Guam Division of Aquatic and Wildlife Resources (DAWR) issues an open permit for seasonal fish.
- Sasa Bay: No take year-round.
- Piti Bomb Holes: No take. Except when DAWR issues an open permit for seasonal fish.

Fishing

Guam once held the world record for the Pacific Blue Marlin at 1,153 pounds, caught by the late Greg D. Perez on August 22, 1969, and held for 13 years. A replica of the marlin can be seen at the Guam International Airport.

A fishing permit is not required for any type of fishing along non-military shores.

Do not discard used fishing lines on the beaches and/or in the water.

Endangered Species

Sea Turtles

From April to July, Guam's shores become nesting sites for Green Sea Turtles, known locally as *Haggan*. Avoid walking over nesting sites. Green Sea Turtles are listed as Endangered with penalties for harassing them. They can also be found in seagrass beds in channel areas, harbors, lagoons and shallow reefs.

- It is illegal to hunt and harvest for sea turtles and their eggs
- It is illegal to harass sea turtles
- It is illegal to transport jewelry made from sea turtles

Guam also has Hawksbill turtles (*Haggan karai*) and are usually found in harbors and lagoons where they feed on sponges. They play an integral part of the reef ecosystem by controlling sponge growth. Their nesting season is from May-October. They are also listed as endangered under the Endangered Species Act (ESA). Avoid going near sea turtles.



Guam Rail

Also known as Ko'ko' bird, this flightless bird evolved to not needing to fly due to a lack of predators until the introduction of the Brown Tree Snake. The Ko'ko' bird is now highly endangered and is no longer found in the wild. There are eight other native birds that no longer exist in the wild because of brown tree snake predation.

There are other endangered creatures found on Guam. Consult with DAWR for a complete list. <https://doag.guam.gov/dawr/>



Guam 'Ko'ko' Rail

Invasive Species

Brown Tree Snake

Due to accidental introduction after World War II, Brown Tree Snakes (*Boiga irregularis*) are responsible for the decline of the majority of Guam's native bird populations, especially the Ko'ko' bird. It is nocturnal and can grow to 7 feet long. The longest recorded length caught in Guam measured 9.8 feet. They are found throughout the island. They are nocturnal and forage at night.

The snake is aggressive. Its fangs are located at the rear of its mouth, so the bite delivers toxins in small doses. Though it is mildly venomous for adult humans, young children can have reactions, and its bite is still quite painful and may require a visit to the doctor. Researchers have discovered that brown tree snakes in Guam can twist themselves into "lassos" to climb trees and poles.



Brown Tree Snake

Voltage

The standard voltage for Guam is 110 V and matches the voltage level your devices typically operate at in the United States (120v).

Outdoor Activities

Bicycle Rides

Guam has a large bicycle riding community. They usually ride along Guam's highways on the weekends with most seen on Sundays. Anyone can show up and join these rides. Some are long rides, but most are short of around 25-50 kilometers. Only a few sections of Guam's roads are marked for bicycles so exercise caution when riding along heavily trafficked roads.

Hiking

Guam has wonderful hiking trails and waterfalls. Exercise caution. Sword grass is abundant along the trails and can cut skin.

It is recommended to join the Guam Boonie Stompers (Facebook: GuamBoonieStompers), a non-profit organization that takes those interested on Saturday morning hikes. It is safe and the guides carry a lot of knowledge about the sites and Guam history. Before any hike, you will need:

- Flashlight
- Sound producing device (whistle, horn, etc)
- Hat
- Sunscreen
- Lots of hydration
- Good footwear
- Mosquito repellent
- Ointment to treat cuts

Also visit: <https://www.visitguam.com/things-to-do/adventures/hiking>.

Liberation Day

Guam was invaded by the Japanese on December 8, 1941, the same day Pearl Harbor was bombed. But Guam was occupied. The Japanese occupation lasted 2.5 years until the U.S. military forces liberated the island on July 21, 1944.

Each year since then, on July 21, the Guam community celebrates Liberation Day with major festivities and a very large parade along the appropriately named Marine Corps Drive. Everyone can join any of the events.

Saipan's largest fishing derby is also held annually around this period. It is not advisable to plan any community or fishery meetings as many will travel from Guam to join.



Liberation Day Parade

Marine and Water Activities

Beaches and Access

Guam has pristine and beautiful beaches, especially along the leeward side. Anyone can walk along the beaches as access is allowed up to the 10-meter-high tide mark. Guam has beach access laws that allow a pathway to the beach. But if the shoreline you want to visit is behind private property, it is best to ask for permission from the owner first.

Currents

Guam is a tiny island when taken into perspective with the huge Pacific Ocean. Currents from thousands of miles away hit Guam and create strong currents. Even flat and apparently calm waters may have strong currents below the surface. Riptides and Rip Currents are common in Guam and extremely dangerous.

- Undertow: These currents create strong undertows or currents not visible on the surface. Always exercise caution when entering the water.

- Avoid swimming over the reef. But should you be swept out over the reef, do not try to swim back in directly. Swim in the direction that follows the coastline until you find weak current then swim to shore.

Dangerous Sea Life

Poisonous fish

There are numerous poisonous fish found in Guam's waters. Enjoy the view but be careful what you step on and best not to touch if in doubt.

Corals

Corals are very sharp. Never attempt to walk along the reef margin where there are corals. Guam also has fire corals that when in contact with bare skin, can sting.

Jellyfish

Guam sees its share of jellyfish. Portuguese man-o-war or boxed jellyfish are usually found in the waters or along the beaches, especially after a period of high surf. Washed up man-o-war or boxed jellyfish can still sting even if they are dead. Rinse with vinegar to keep the sting from firing. Do not rinse with fresh water (like tap or bottled water) because that can make more stingers fire.



Portuguese Man o' war

Weather

Tropical Heat and Humidity

Guam's weather is tropical and temperatures, while very stable, can range between 76-88 degrees F during the year. Typical heat index is 15 degrees F on top of the posted temperature. Heat indices meeting or exceeding 103 degrees F can lead to dangerous heat disorders. The islands are only 13 degrees north of the equator so it can feel hotter, especially with the humidity ranging from 75-80% year-round. The average water temperature is around 84 degrees F.

Rain falls almost daily and can be abundant throughout the year. The average annual rainfall is between 84-116 inches.

Guam's climate is characterized by two distinct seasons: Dry season is from January to May. Rainy season from July to November; June and December are transitional months.

Storms

Tropical cyclones in the eastern hemisphere are called Typhoons and are the same as Hurricanes in the western hemisphere or cyclones in the southern hemisphere. Storms develop near the equator at the inter-tropical convergence zone and normally move west or northwest. This is called typhoon alley. Typhoons can occur in any month but generally have a season from June to December when the water temperatures are at their warmest. They can be very destructive and dangerous. Storms with damaging winds in excess of 200 mph are not common but happen. In the event of a typhoon, power, water, and internet will be disrupted so plan accordingly.

Typhoons and Tropical Storm Warnings

Condition of Readiness (COR) is the term used to describe the level of intensity expected on the island as a storm approaches.

COR 1: Destructive winds are anticipated within 12 hours (or already occurring).

Only emergency vehicles are allowed on the road.

COR 2: Destructive winds are possible within 24 hours. When this is announced, all non-essential workers are sent home.

COR 3: Destructive winds are possible within 48 hours.

COR 4: All clear. Guam is in COR 4 year-round.

Ears may feel some pain when the barometric pressure drops low, usually during the height of the storm.

Pregnancy: When a typhoon is forecasted to hit Guam within 24 hours, the hospitals will start accepting maternity patients who are 38 weeks pregnant or more or who have high-risk pregnancies. The drop in pressure with the storm is known to induce labor. The contacts for the two Guam hospitals are listed below.

After all the clear has been given:

- Look out for and do not touch dangling or downed power lines.
- Consider all water contaminated until it is declared safe by the local water agency. Boil all water for consumption.
- Do not go driving until the All Clear has been given.
- Dial 211 for a recording of all the latest weather information.
- Dial 911 for Emergencies.
- Tune in to 95.5 FM for live broadcast of storm updates.
- Tune in to TV (cable) Channel 2 for live satellite images of the island and the region 24/7.
- Jeff's Pirates Cove Weather site: www.jeffspiratescove.com/weather
- National Weather Service: www.weather.gov/gum

Preparation for storms is always a good habit.

Sample Preparation Kit and Must Do's

- Candles
- Matches/lighters
- Lots of drinking water
- Collect water for sanitation. The bathtub is a good place
- Flashlights
- Batteries
- Containers to collect water (for toilet and laundry)
- Battery operated radio
- Fully charge mobile devices.
- Get cash from an ATM. They may not work after a storm.
- Secure yard of equipment and loose material.
- Fill up vehicles with gas as soon as a storm warning is announced.
- Secure all windows and doors. Have rags or towels ready to absorb wind driven rain.
- During a strong typhoon, crack open a window opposite from the direction of the wind to equalize the pressure inside the house.

- Tape a large X from each corner of any glass window or door to prevent shatter should they break from wind pressure or flying debris hitting it.
- Do not venture out at any time during a storm.
- Should the eye of the typhoon pass over Guam, there may be a lull, a short period of little to no wind. Do not misinterpret this as the ending of the storm. The back end will soon come with winds coming from the opposite direction.

Earthquakes

When an earthquake is felt, get under a desk or doorway to prevent getting hit from falling debris.

Guam and the Mariana Archipelago are part of the Pacific Ring of Fire, a tectonic belt of volcanoes and earthquakes, a part of which parallels the archipelago and is the source of earthquakes in the region. Guam experiences several noticeable tremors throughout the year. If you are in a high-rise building, expect the elevators to stop working. Take the stairs.

The Marianas Trench is about 226 kilometers east of Guam and the Challenger Deep, the deepest trench on earth, is 200 miles southwest.

Tsunami (Tidal Wave)

When a large earthquake is felt on Guam or announced in the region, head immediately to higher ground. There are earthquake gathering signs located at designated areas around the island.

Travel (by Air)

As a small island, the only way to travel anywhere is by air.

There are daily international flights to Asian destinations such as Manila, Taipei, South Korea, Palau, and Japan.

There are also once daily jet flights from Guam to Saipan. Small commuter planes are available on short notice from Saipan to Tinian and Rota Islands.

There are also thrice weekly flights to Honolulu via the islands of the Federated States of Micronesia.

A U.S. Passport is required if traveling from a foreign country.

A Real ID and a legitimate birth certificate can be used for travel between Guam and Honolulu.

Hotels and Lodging

Guam is a tropical resort destination for visitors from Asia, including Japan, South Korea, China, Republic of China (Taiwan), Philippines, and elsewhere. There are many international brand hotels and a few Asian brands as well. It is best to book stays by communicating directly with the hotel to request if they offer federal per diem rates. Many do but not all. All hotels require a deposit upon check-in for incidentals; credit cards are not charged check-out if there are no charges related to the room. Most hotels and resorts are in Tumon, the tourist district of Guam but there are a few located elsewhere.

Shopping

Guam is a duty-free shopping destination. Purchases of goods are exempt from certain taxes on the requirement the goods will be sold to travelers who will take them out of the island. This however does not exempt goods from being taxed upon return to the home country.

Immigration

Guam is a U.S. immigration entry point. This means that a valid U.S. passport, immigrant visa or US green card must be presented upon entry from a foreign port. All outbound passengers to Honolulu must go through the U.S. Immigration checkpoint prior to boarding the flight.

Customs and Quarantine Agency

Upon arrival to Guam, expect to pass through Guam Customs and Quarantine Agency (CQA) after you have collected your luggage and before exiting the airport. Before boarding the plane at your destination, it is advisable to fill out the electronic CQA Electronic Declaration Form. Otherwise, your airport exit in Guam may be delayed as you will have to fill out a hard copy of the form.

Guam Electronic Declaration Form

Access it here:



www.cqa.guam.gov



Getting Around Guam

Rental Cars

Most stateside rental car companies are also available in Guam. You can book your vehicle online for airport pickup on arrival.

Public Transportation

Although there are buses that traverse the island, they are not very reliable, and the stops are sporadic. It is best to use other modes of transportation, like hiring a taxi (available at the airport and at all hotels 24 hours a day) or book with Stroll.

Stroll is Guam's version of Uber

<https://stroll.international>

671-647-8765

Driving

Driving Guam's roads follow the same rules and regulations as in the rest of the U.S.

Caution: Much of the pavement along the roads are made of crushed coral. Tiny organisms grow in the tiny cracks of the pavement and when wet become very slippery. Traffic lines are not always painted along the roads, especially in the villages. Exercise caution when driving and follow the posted speed limits.

New Year's Eve

Guam, like the rest of the country enjoy welcoming the new year during New Year's Eve with parties and celebrations. Take caution when venturing around midnight before the new year. Guns are often used to create noise with folks shooting into the night sky. What goes up must come down so falling bullets can be a hazard.

Useful links:

Guam Visitors Bureau: <https://www.guamvisitorsbureau.com>

Guam Economic Development Authority: <https://www.investguam.com>

Guam Division of Aquatic and Wildlife Resources: <https://doag.guam.gov/dawr>

University of Guam: <https://www.uog.edu>

Guam Police Department: Dial: 911 / <https://www.uog.edu>

Guam Memorial Hospital: <https://www.gmha.org>

Guam Regional Medical City: <https://www.grmc.gu>

GuamPedia: www.guampedia.com

Jeff's Pirates Cove Weather site: www.jeffspiratescove.com/weather

National Weather Service: www.weather.gov/gum

Guam Customs & Quarantine Agency: www.cqa.guam.gov

Guam Council Contact:

Felix S. Reyes

Guam Island Coordinator

Mobile: 671-483-1904

Email: felix.reyes@wpcouncil.org

Visit the Council website for more information:

www.wpcouncil.org