

2025 CNMI SHORELINE PUBLIC ACCESS GUIDE



DIVISION OF COASTAL
RESOURCES
MANAGEMENT

BUREAU OF
ENVIRONMENTAL &
COASTAL QUALITY



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Tank Beach, Saipan
Site No. 31

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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INTRODUCTION

Surrounded by the vast Pacific Ocean, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI) are rich in beautiful shoreline areas — from sandy beaches sheltered by coral reefs to rocky cliffs met by deep ocean waves. Also where "America's Day Begins", the main islands of Saipan, Tinian, and Rota have many shoreline access sites within reach of the main roads. These spaces connect visitors to the unique nature and culture of the Marianas. Residents often picnic under **palapalas**, or “**roofed picnicking areas**” while their family members swim in the salty waters. Visitors can experience the native Chamorro and Carolinian cultures through enjoying the **utt**, or the “**canoe hut**”. These sites tell stories of the past through the presence of ancient latte stones and World War II relics.

The devastating impacts of Super Typhoon Soudelor (2015) and Super Typhoon Yutu (2018) resulted in damage to amenities at various sites. Since then, government agencies and public-private partnerships have actively engaged in restoration and enhancement efforts. Some locations may still be undergoing renovations during or after the publication of this guide, which may result in temporary variations in site amenities and facilities.

The purpose of this guide is to provide the public a handy reference of recreational opportunities and amenities available at various shoreline access points on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota. The guide does not include private or unofficial access sites. DCRM disclaims any liability for any damages or losses incur as a result of using this guide book. The guidebook and the accompanying Story Map will be updated regularly by the Division of Coastal Resources Management (DCRM). You can check out DCRM's work on public access enhancement at www.dcrm.gov.mp.

Explore and enjoy the CNMI's beautiful shorelines—safely, responsibly, and with a deep respect for our natural environment!

HOW TO USE THIS GUIDE

This guide provides essential information about Saipan, Tinian, and Rota shoreline access sites. Shoreline access sites are generally open to the public and accessible via main roads. These sites include locally or nationally managed beach parks, scenic cliffs, boat ramps, marinas, and even rugged paths leading to secluded pocket beaches. They offer a diverse range of activities from swimming, fishing, and boating to picnicking by the shore. Land from ridge to reef holds beautiful spaces for recreation and should be respected for all to enjoy.













The guide presents each site in a clear and logical layout, starting from the south and going clockwise for each island. Saipan, Tinian, and Rota are explored in sequence. The ID numbers label the sites to be easily referenced on the map, ensuring a smooth navigation. Each site has a brief description followed by icons highlighting their activities, facilities, and hazards. Reference the Icons on page 5 for a quick and easy guide of the sites.



ICONS

Easily navigate site features with these icons, helping you plan a safe and enjoyable visit!

Activities

 Swimming/Wading	 Motorized Activities/Boating	 Fishing
 Snorkeling	 Sports	 Picnicking
 Diving	 Sightseeing	 Watersports
 Camping	 Marine Protected Area (MPA)	 Drone Restricted Flight Zone

Facilities

 Designated Parking	 Restrooms	 Pavilions, or <i>palapas</i>
 Historical/Cultural Sites	 Dock/Harbor	 Playgrounds
 Fees	 Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) accessible	 No Designated Parking

Hazards

 Steep Grade Terrain	 Cliff	 Waves
 Current	 Boating Traffic	 Only 4 Wheel Drive

STORY MAP

In addition to this guide, there is an interactive Story Map with exact locations of the sites referenced in this guidebook.

To view the online ***“CNMI Shoreline Public Access Guide (2025)” Story Map***, scan the QR code below or access it through this link: <https://arcg.is/1HW1n92>.

The tabs on the bar offer the following content:

- Maps of Sites - Quick instructions for this interactive map: Click on any of the points of interest on left-side map or click on any of the sites on the list on the right side. When a site is selected, the photo and description are displayed.
- Introduction - Same content as page 4.
- Visitors Guidelines - Same content as page 8.
- Best Management Practices (BMPs) - Same content as page 9 and 10.
- Activities, Facilities, Hazards of Sites - Quick instructions for this interactive map: Click on the legend to toggle the uses, amenities, and hazards to view which sites are offered.
- Feedback - If you have any suggestions or comments on this Story Map, please fill out this form through this link: <https://forms.gle/oHyfSgQYKnfv4mjT7>.

SCAN ME



Obyan Beach Park

Obyan Beach is located off the road behind Saipan International Airport. Downslope of a paved parking lot, *palapalas* are accessible through steps and trails that lead to coral rubble and white sand beach. The nearshore water with corals and fish provide opportunities for quality snorkeling and swimming. Divers should take caution when passing an unmarked path with ropes through the fringing reef. The ancient Obyan Latte Site can be visited north of the *palapalas* with informational signs. Be careful for dangerous currents and respect monument sites.

VISITOR GUIDELINES

The Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas Islands is located on the Western Pacific Ocean with warm stable tropical temperature (79° F/26.2° C to 83.5° F/28.6° C) all year round. Dependent on the time of the year, hazards are present at the coast and the ocean. Most public access sites do not have life guards or security presence so users should be wary of site-specific hazards. Enjoy these sites while practicing safety precautions to prevent injury or loss of life.

July to December is usually the wet season. Typhoons and storms are frequent during this time and may bring dangerous surf and swell to coastal waters. Roads may be slippery, rough, or flooded. Hiking trails may become muddy and slippery.

January to April is usually when the northeast trade winds prevail, which can lead to windy conditions along with surf and swell at these sites and the surrounding ocean. Snorkeling and in-water activities may not be as suitable during rough ocean conditions.

January to June is usually the dry season, the hottest time of the year with the highest level of sun ray exposure. Staying hydrated and using sun protection are highly advised.

Visitors are encouraged to observe all posted signage, familiarize themselves with site conditions, and adhere to best practices for safe and responsible recreation in our waters and natural areas. This guide also informs the hazards present at these sites.

Water Quality Advisory

Please refer to the water quality rating sign before swimming or fishing:

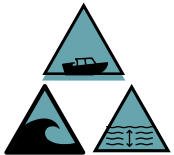
● Red Flag: Elevated bacterial contamination levels detected. Swimming and fishing are not advisable.

● Green Flag: Water quality is within safe limits. Swimming and fishing are permitted.

Safety Precautions

To ensure your safety, please remain vigilant and exercise caution:

- Assess environmental conditions before entering the water, such as [checking the National Weather Service page](#) for the area.
- Avoid ocean activities during adverse weather conditions.
- Be aware of personal limitations and potential hazards.
- Get an experienced guide to familiarize yourself with site-specific risks.



In case of emergencies:

Call **911** or seek help from people around you.

Call U.S. Coast Guard using **Channel 16 VHF 16-FM** if you are on a boat.

VISITOR GUIDELINES

Best Management Practices (BMPs) for Responsible Recreation Please follow these guidelines to help protect and preserve our beaches and natural sites while ensuring a safe and enjoyable experience for all:



Be sure to dispose of your trash properly. 8 million tons of plastic enters the ocean every year.



Volunteer for a community cleanup or tree planting event.



Coral reefs are fragile, living structures. Do not touch, step, or break corals.



Demonstrate mindfulness and respect when visiting cultural and historical sites.



Walk, don't drive, on our shorelines. Driving on the beach can lead to beach erosion and can cause harm to living creatures.



Speak up if you see something wrong encourage others to observe BMPs.

Pay any visitor fees at some popular sites, such as Mañagaha and Grotto. You may need cash. **For pavilion reservations**, contact the Division of Parks and Recreation at **(670) 322-9830/34**. **For a bonfire permit**, contact us the Division of Coastal Resources Management at (670) 664-8300.

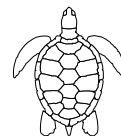
Report any of the following:

If someone is fishing or harvesting in a Marine Protected Area (MPA), report it to the Division of Fish & Wildlife at **(670) 664-6031** or **(670) 989-6092/3/4/5**. Learn about MPAs on page 10.

If you see a sea turtle in live, sick, wounded, or poached condition, report it to the Department of Lands and Natural Resources' Sea Turtle Program at **(670) 287-8537 (CTR-TLES)**.

If you spot other environmental problems – like illegal dumping or coral damage - report it to DCRM through our **Reef Report app** by scanning the QR code on the right or visiting www.dcrm.gov.mp, or email DCRM's Enforcement Section at enforcement@dcrm.gov.mp

MPA



MARINE PROTECTED AREAS

The map below displayed the locations of marine protected areas (MPAs) on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota. These areas, managed by the Division of Fish and Wildlife Service, are crucial for protecting living, non-living, cultural, and/or historical resources, including fish, corals, and invertebrates. The restrictions on harvesting these animals are in place to ensure their populations remain healthy and our natural environment continue to thrive.

The Light House Trochus Sanctuary on the Saipan Lagoon south of Garapan Fishing Base and Laolao Bay Sea Cucumber Sanctuary on the coastline of Dan Dan village are highlighted yellow as “species-specific” conservation areas on the Saipan map. The Light House Trochus Sanctuary does not allow the harvest of trochus, and the Laolao Bay Sea Cucumber Sanctuary does not allow the harvest of sea cucumbers. The Mañagaha Sanctuary, Bird Island Sanctuary, and Forbidden Island Sanctuary on Saipan, as well as the Sasanhaya Bay Sanctuary, are areas where the take of any marine resources is prohibited. Be careful as not to damage coral and do not feed or disturb the marine animals. Tinian does not currently have an active MPA. Visit dlnr.cnmi.gov for more information.

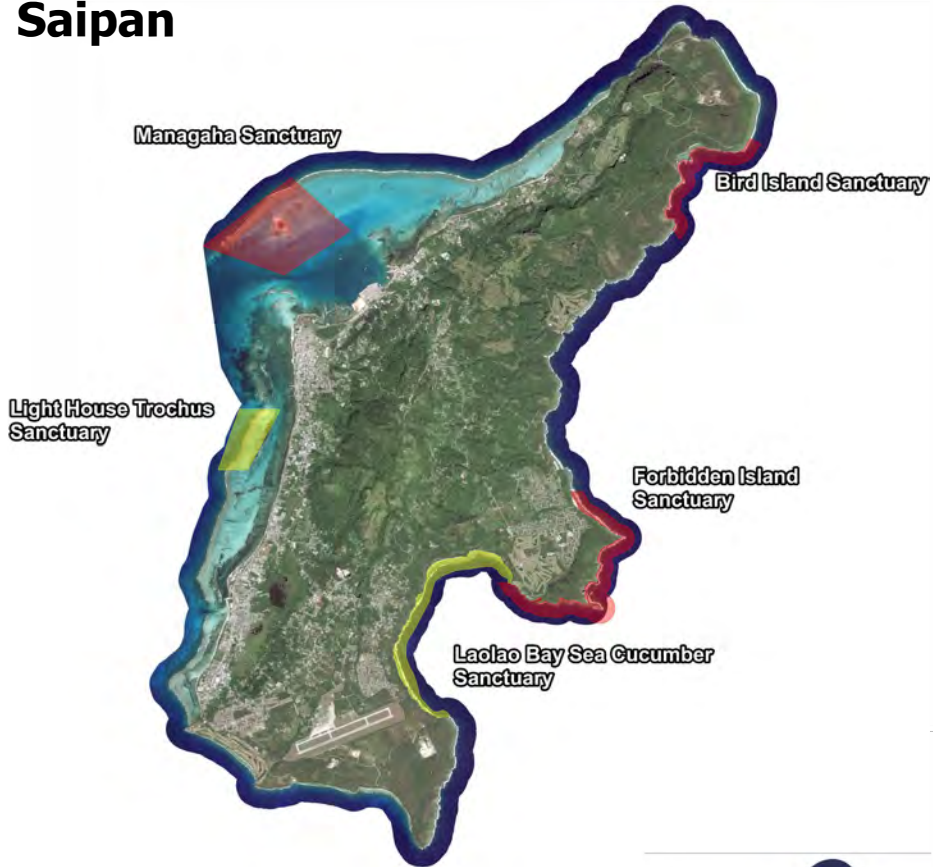
These areas are open to visit. All visitors and users must follow the MPA rules and regulations to help the CNMI conserve and preserve natural habitats for everyone's enjoyment now and in the future.



Bird Island, Saipan
Site No. 25

MARINE PROTECTED AREAS

Saipan



Rota



Sasanhaya Bay Sanctuary

Tinian



CNMI Division of Fish and Wildlife 2025. The map depicts general MPA locations only. Contact the CNMI Division of Fish and Wildlife for more information.

QUICK REFERENCE OF HIGHLIGHTED SAIPAN SITES

Boating Docks & Harbors

- Sugar Dock Beach
- Garapan Fishing Base
- Smiling Cove Marina
- Mañagaha Island
- Lower Base and Seaplane Ramp
- Tanapag Beach
- Lao Lao Bay (Emergency Boat Ramp)

Hiking Trail or Walking/Pathway Sites

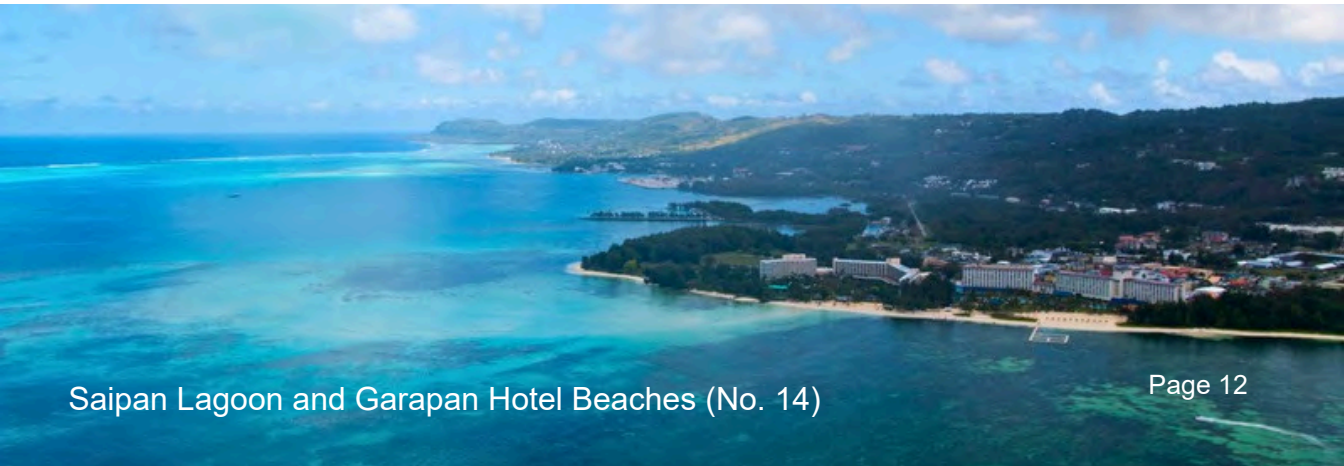
- Oleai and Beach Road Pathway
- American Memorial Park
- Eloy Inos Peace Park
- Old Man by the Sea
- Bird Island
- Forbidden Island

Dive Spots Accessed by Shoreline

- Grotto
- Obyan Beach
- Lao Lao Bay

Historical and Culturally Important Sites

- Sugar Dock Beach
- Civic Center
- Oleai and Beach Road Pathway
- Garapan Fishing Base
- American Memorial Park
- Mañagaha Island
- Lower Base and Seaplane Ramp
- Lao Lao Bay



SAIPAN

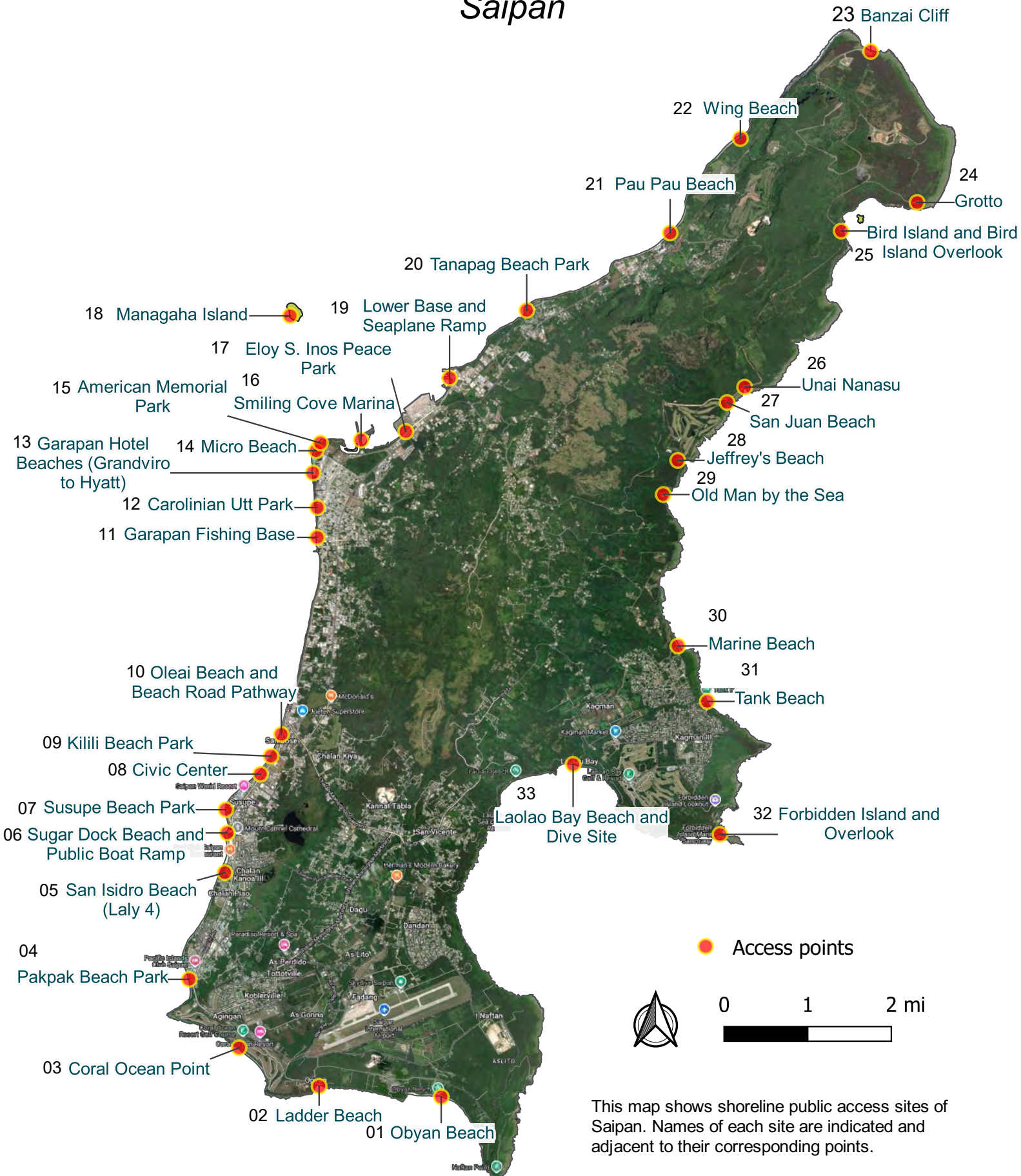
Saipan, as the capital of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, has a population of 43,000 people and the most developed infrastructure. The island covers an area of approximately 44 square miles and boasts numerous public access shoreline sites. Most commercial developments are submitted on the western coastal plain facing the lagoon. Residents and tourists alike enjoy beautiful sandy beaches, sandy lagoon waters, and scenic cliffs overlooking the blue Pacific Ocean. The rich culture and history of the CNMI are deeply rooted in the ocean.

Saipan is home to the native Chamorro people, who have inhabited the islands for over 4,000 years. In 1521, the renowned explorer Ferdinand Magellan discovered the islands for Spain. Spain gained full control in 1668, giving the name “Mariana Islands” to the territory. During this administration, the Chamorro people were introduced to Catholicism and western customs. The Spanish relocated all of the Chamorro people to Guam. The Refaluwasch people from the nearby Micronesian islands formally settled on Saipan. Eventually, the Chamorros returned to Saipan, Tinian, Rota and the northern islands. Spain transferred the ownership of the islands to Germany in 1898. Soon after, the islands were captured and awarded to Japan in 1914 during World War I. The Japanese administration initiated extensive infrastructural developments and focused on agriculture. In June 1944, Saipan was invaded by the United States military. The Battle of Saipan led to full control by the U.S., along with significant damage to natural environments and the loss of lives of Japanese and U.S. soldiers and civilians. After World War II, the Northern Mariana Islands became part of the United Nations Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands and a U.S. Commonwealth in 1982.

Today, Saipan is a popular tourism destination in Micronesia. Some shoreline areas have monuments commemorating those who lost their lives in World War II, such as Banzai Cliff and American Memorial Park. Historical landmarks, such as Chief Arubawal’s final resting place on Mañagaha island, remain culturally significant to the people of the CNMI. Garapan Fishing Base has been around since the German administration. The Chamorro and Carolinian cultures are actively present in some sites with the *uut*, traditional canoe huts, and the *sakman*, traditional canoes. Despite the impact of war and development, shoreline areas continue to serve as vital habitats for birds, fish, crabs, and plants, enhancing the experience for all who utilize these areas.

Shoreline Public Access Points

Saipan



This map shows shoreline public access sites of Saipan. Names of each site are indicated and adjacent to their corresponding points.



01 Obyan Beach Park

Obyan Beach is located off the road behind Saipan International Airport. Downslope of a paved parking lot, the palapalas are accessible through steps and trails that lead to coral rubble and white sand beach. The nearshore waters with corals and fish provide opportunities for quality snorkeling and swimming. Divers should take caution when passing an unmarked path with ropes through the fringing reef. The ancient Obyan Latte Stone Site can be visited north of the palapalas with informational signage. *Be careful of dangerous currents and respect ancient sites.*



02 Ladder Beach Park

Past the airport, Ladder Beach is a pocket beach surrounded by rugged limestone cliffs with restaurants. Coral rubble and white sand compose the beach and are usually invaded by morning glory. Rod and reel fishers are observed. The waters are not the best to swim in, but those who love the scenery can camp or experience the beach and ocean. The caves below the cliffs offer coverage from the sun and rain but avoid stepping on any pits that might be turtle nests. *Watch your step when going down the stairs especially during wet conditions!*





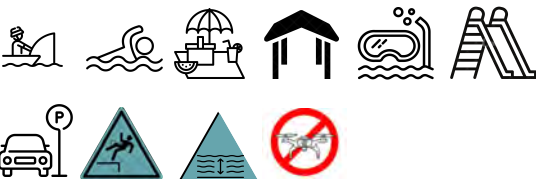
03 Coral Ocean Point Shoreline

Accessible through the Coral Ocean Point Resort golf course driveway, the Coral Ocean Point shoreline offers paved parking lot and three palapalas. This site was once a maritime ancient Chamorro village. The natives would navigate their proas past the fringing reef through the channel to the nearby island of Tinian. Rugged limestone paths lead to the beach. A federally protected World War II bunker faces the ocean along the rugged slope. Fishermen have been observed fishing with rod and reel while some spearfish.



04 Pakpak Beach Park

Located south of the Pacific Islands Club near Agingan Point, Pakpak Beach has a sandy stretch and lagoon waters used regularly by fishermen and swimmers alike. The reddish grounds tend to have glass and other debris. Concrete picnic tables and a restroom are found in the park. A playground exists with a sand box for children to play. A paved parking lot and improved amenities are anticipated in the next few years. A wastewater treatment plant on Agingan Point is nearby. *Check the water quality sign. An improvement project is underway in revitalizing the park.*





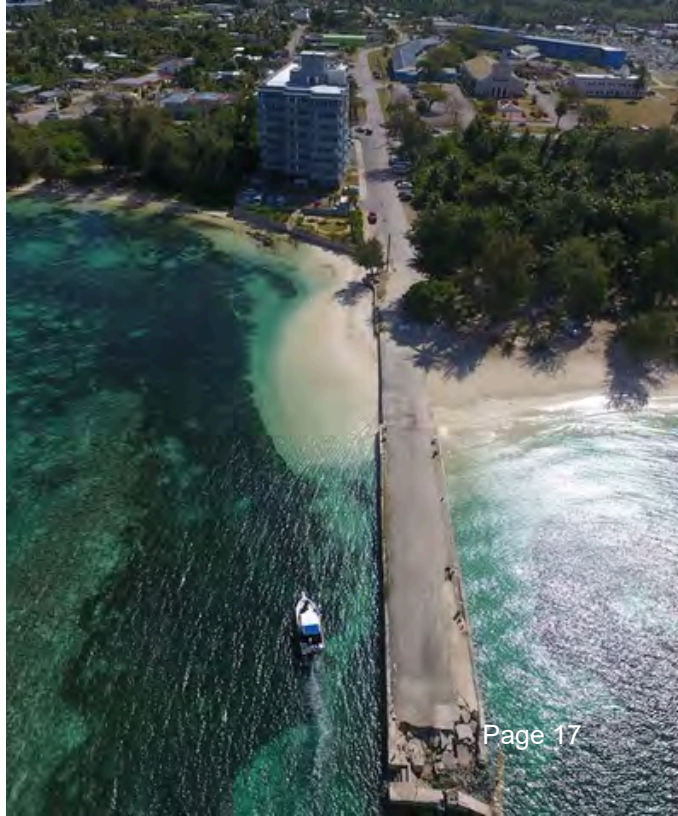
05 San Isidro Beach Park (Laly 4)

At the seaward areas of the Chalan Kanoa village is a beach park full of palapalas with a playground and basketball court. The San Isidro Beach Park is a local favorite of residents and visitors. The narrow white sand beach leads into lagoon waters at a relatively short distance to the reef.



06 Sugar Dock Beach

Sugar Dock serves as the southern boat launching area for Saipan. Historically used for sugar transporting during the Japanese era, the dock is a popular recreation and fishing spot today. Activities use of the dock and the surrounding deep waters consist of swimming, paddleboarding, and fishing. Waves and strong currents brought drowning incidents in the past. During calm, low tide conditions, a sand bar south of the dock is exposed. Palapalas and picnic tables are found on this stretch. *Be careful of dangerous currents and surf conditions.*





07 Susupe Beach Park

Vicente 'Pacho' Masga Sablan Susupe Beach Park is south of the Kanoa Resort along Route 30. It currently serves as a sediment staging site. A paved parking lot is available from the main road while driveways have enabled cars to enter the park. Tall trees and grasses provide nice, shady green space for walking, picnicking, and any outdoor activities. Benches and picnic tables are found in the park, but most of them are damaged by previous typhoons. Seagrass is the dominant marine habitat. *An improvement project is underway in revitalizing the park.*



08 Civic Center

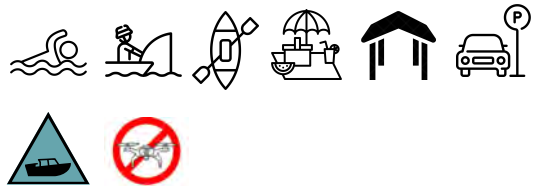
The Civic Center is located across from the Department of Public Safety along Route 30 in Susupe Village. Cultural facilities define this stretch. Utt, or traditional canoe houses, line the shoreline area. The Guma Sakman, or 500 Sails, promotes traditional sailing in the community. Swimming is commonly practiced in these waters with a route from one submerged World War II tank to another. The marked 500 Sails swimming zone is used for practice and classes. A playground and palapala are close to the Veteran's Memorial. *An improvement project is underway in revitalizing the park.*





09 Kilili Beach Park

Kilili Beach Park is adjacent to Civic Center and across from the Ada Gym. Palapalas, such as the large Minachom Atdao, are lined between the sandy beach and Route 30. These palapalas offer solar powered lights even at night and parking lots. A popular picnicking area with sidewalks and quick beach access, Kilili Beach Park often hosts community to private events. It is better known as prime grounds for outrigger canoes and paddling races.



10 Oleai Beach and Beach Road Pathway

Govt. Froilan C. Tenorio Beach Road pathway is the recreational highlight of Route 30, presenting a gorgeous view of the lagoon and the skyline. Stretching from Oleai Beach to the end of Garapan Fishing Base, the sidewalk is a total of 3.1 miles. The sandy stretch is short and greatly influenced by tides. A boardwalk connects a section of this pathway. Running, walking, and strolling are regular activities that peak after working hours.

Tall ironwood and native trees line the pathway, shading the area. Biking has been observed, but biking on the pathway is prohibited by law. Benches and exercise equipment are spread along the pathway. Parking areas exist on the south and north ends as well near the Tank. The Tank stands as a memorial of the Red Beach invasion during World War II. Informational signs tell the story of the World War II invasion on Red Beach. Farther north is the 13 Fisherman Memorial, which honors the lives of local fishermen who lost their lives while out on sea. Nearby seagrass beds are excellent habitat for young fish, attracting fishermen to these areas. Palapalas for picnicking are located on closer to the ends of the pathway. A Shoreline Enhancement Plan guides further improvement projects. Watch your step and be careful of other users.

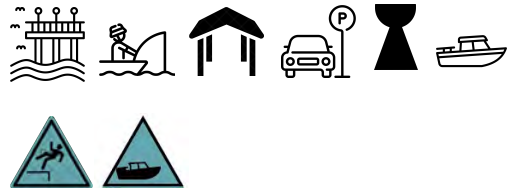






11 Garapan Fishing Base

Garapan Fishing Base is just north of the Beach Road pathway. The cement dock is a hub for fishing with a boat ramp launch area. Next to the boat ramp are paved parking lot and palapalas. Nearby, the Garapan Public Market building sells local produce and meat. The northern grounds host community events, such as the Sabalu farmers market every Saturday morning and music/food festivals for special occasions. *Be cautious of traffic during these events.*



12 Carolinian Utt Park

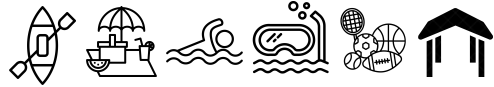
Situated across from the Bank of Guam on Garapan is the Carolinian Utt Park. Utt is a traditional building made of wood and thatch, which holds important cultural and historical value as a meeting space for the indigenous Carolinian people. Today, groups can rent the space out for community or private events. But the beach area is open for anyone's use. Fishing and picnicking have been observed at this stretch. A playground and a basketball court are nearby. Parking space is available closest to the entrance. *Avoid swimming in the waters adjacent to the outfall.*





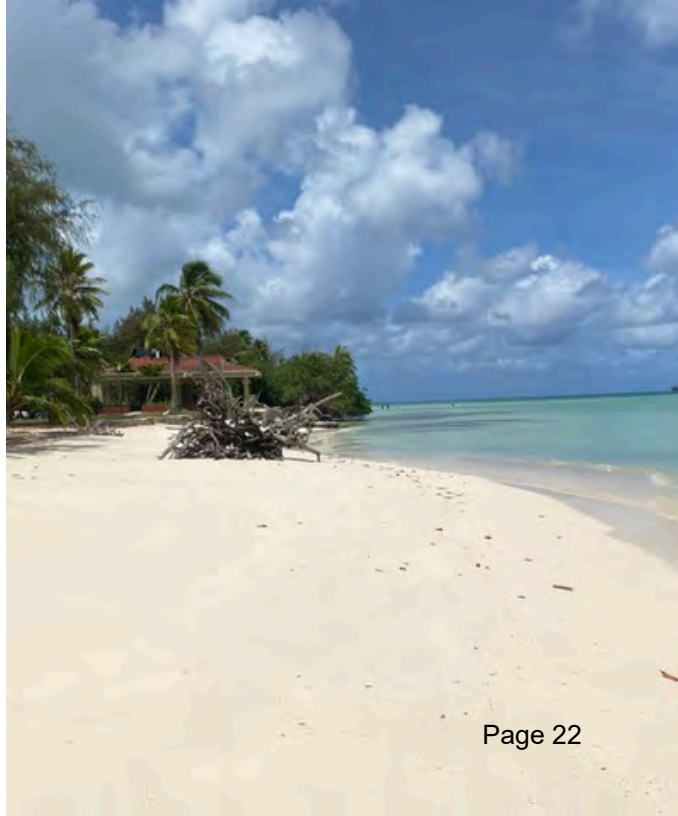
13 Garapan Hotel Beaches

This shoreline stretch is adjacent to the Grandviro Resort up to Hyatt Regency in Garapan. Commercial water sports and beach sports activities (like volleyball) are found within this stretch. These beaches are maintained by the hotel operators and marine sports operators. Fishermen occasionally visit this shoreline with their *talayas*, or traditional nets. Marked swim zones and beach chairs may be present seaward of their perspective hotels. The Sea Touch dock is seaward of the Crowne Plaza. From Crowne Plaza to Hyatt, the beach has subjected to shoreline erosion from storm and swell events. *Watch your step and be careful of other users.*



14 Micro Beach

Micro Beach is the stretch between the large palapala and the Hyatt Regency. The parking lot is near American Memorial Park in Garapan Village. Crystal blue waters with sandy grounds attract swimmers and waders. Kayaking and paddleboarding activities exist in this area. During low tide, a sand bar is exposed seaward of the remnants of a Japanese-era dock. Three palapalas shade those who picnic in the area. Seasonal wavy and/or windy conditions attract surfers/windsurfers. *Watch your step and be careful of other users.*





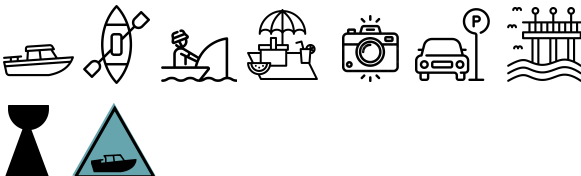
15 American Memorial Park

The American Memorial Park honors the American and Marianas people involved in the battles on Saipan, Tinian, and the Pacific Region during World War II. Managed by the United States National Park Service, the park is a grand recreational area with walkways, picnic areas, sports fields, sandy beaches, green/natural spaces, amphitheater and museum. The Monument and the Court of Honor and Flag Circle stand as a landmark for residents and visitors to respectfully remember the past. *Watch your step and be mindful of your surroundings.*



16 Smiling Cove Marina

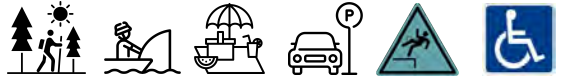
Smiling Cove Marina is accessible through the Middle Road in the Puerto Rico Village. This docking area is primarily used for commercial, recreational, and subsistence boats. Commercial activities by boat, such as parasailing and cruises, are often launched here. A parking lot is available. Rod and reel fishermen use the eastern side to catch fish. Because of the gorgeous view of the water and the nearby Mañagaha island, this area is also suitable for sightseeing as a waterfront. *Be mindful of your surroundings.*





17 Eloy Inos Peace Park

A rehabilitated former dump, the Eloy Inos Peace Park is a unique recreational park located north of the Smiling Cove Marina. Users are observed fishing, sightseeing, picnicking, and walking/running. Sloping pathways run around the concrete hill-like park. Revetment secures the coastline. Trash bins and benches are found along the pathways. The top offers palapas, grassy area, and a view of Garapan and surrounding areas from land to sea. Fisherman on boats have been observed in nearby waters. Watch your step during slippery conditions.





19 Lower Base and Seaplane Ramp

Lower Base, located north of Garapan, primarily consists of industrial and commercial ports. Delta dock is a popular docking site for those headed and returning to Mañagaha. A seaplane ramp exists here. A small beach area with picnic tables is found between the commercial port in Puerto Rico village and Delta Dock in Lower Base. The Division of Fish and Wildlife stream and mangroves run south. It is not advisable to fish in the areas with warning signs due to the risk of harmful water quality. The CUC power plant is right next to Delta Dock. *Best to avoid swimming.*



20 Tanapag Beach Park

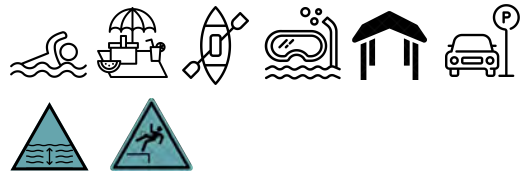
Tanapag Beach Park is seaward of the Santa Remedios Church on the northern village of Tanapag. To get there, turn into Tanapag Avenue from Route 30. The park has a playground, palapalas, stage area, and local boat ramp. Nearby, Dogas stream meets the ocean, south of the beach park. A mangrove forest surrounds Dogas stream by the shore. The lagoon offers some historical sites used for snorkeling, however downdrift currents present danger to swimmers, fishers, and ocean users alike. Seagrass habitats are found in the waters of Tanapag Beach Park. Avoid dangerous currents and respect the residents.





21 Pau Pau Beach

Pau Pau Beach is seaward of the abandoned La Fiesta Mall north of Kensington Hotel in San Roque Village. The sandy ocean bottom and palapalas make it an ideal spot for swimming and picnicking. Bathroom facilities and a large parking area exist. There is a volleyball court set up and a playground. The view of Marpi's limestone cliffs is breathtaking. Farther away from the coast are corals, which require some caution when close by. Watch out for small trees and sharp coral rubble.



22 Wing Beach

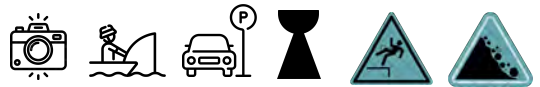
Named after a historic plane hidden in the area, Wing Beach is a drive down a dirt road north of the Marianas Trekking course in Marpi. The beach is underdeveloped, so parking may be limited. Lush beach strand vegetation and a nearby coral reef make Wing Beach a worthwhile visit. Coral rubble and white sand comprise the beach. Fishing has been observed at the shore and on boats past the reef. A dive spot is close to the nearby northern cliffs past the reef. Swimming and snorkeling conditions are best when the water is calm, usually in the summer. Be careful of waves and sharp coral rubble.





23 Banzai Cliff

At the northern edge of Marpi lies Banzai Cliff, which features a Japanese memorial and a lookout platform. This area witnessed thousands of deaths during World War II. Today, visitors can admire the stunning natural cliff formations and feel the refreshing breeze from the crashing ocean waves below. The lookout area provides seating for viewing the water and the arch. Rod and reel fishing has been observed on the slopes of the cliff near the lookout. The site offers parking and restroom facilities. Please remember to stay within the railing and show respect for the monument.



24 Grotto

The Grotto, a renowned dive site located in Marpi, is a natural underwater cavern connected to the ocean through three submerged tunnels. Many visitors come to snorkel or dive in the cool, shaded waters of the Grotto. Advanced divers who explore these waters via the tunnels can experience stunning variations of blue. The site has a permeable parking lot, restrooms, and a lookout/picnic area. It is important to carefully navigate the steps and rocky pathway leading to the area where visitors can jump into the water. *Be cautious of dangerous currents and tides. Enter the water with a guide or a buddy for safety.*





25 Bird Island

At the northeastern side of the island, connected by Middle Road in Marpi, is the iconic Bird Island. An overlook platform is a great nature viewing area with steps with railing. There is a parking area and picnic tables. Bird Island is a popular tourist destination and Marine Protected Area. The Bird Island trail entrance is north of the pathway and marked with a sign along Middle Road. The trail is steep with ropes and runs through a limestone forest. The beach is sand and coral rubble mix. During low tide conditions, one could walk out from the shoreline to the Bird Island. *Avoid swimming during high surf and dangerous current conditions. Do not harvest marine life.*

Overlook
platform



Hiking
trail



MPA

26 Unai Nanasu

Accessible through stairs leading from Route 36, Unai Nanasu is one of the latest sightseeing spots. It is a pocket limestone beach surrounded by cliffs. A natural stream drains through the culvert into the beach and receiving ocean. Fishing has been observed on the northern cliff adjacent to this beach. Best to be careful and avoid dangerous conditions.





27 San Juan (Hidden) Beach

Accessible through stairs leading from Route 36, Unai Nanasu is one of the latest sightseeing spots. It is a pocket limestone beach surrounded by cliffs. A natural stream drains through the culvert into the beach and receiving ocean. Fishing has been observed on the northern cliff adjacent to this beach. Best to be careful and avoid dangerous conditions.



28 Jeffrey's (Talofofo) Beach

Located along Route 36, Jeffrey's Beach is accessed through a forested pathway adjacent to the Talofofo stream. High clearance vehicles usually enter but risk driving through muddy conditions and scratchy tree branches. Best to park outside, next to the road, and walk with appropriate shoes. DCRM is proposing to construct a boardwalk to enhance public access and conserve Saipan's largest estuary. In the wet season, Talofofo stream is full and meets the ocean. Wave currents during high tide conditions pose risk to those who enter the waters.





29 Old Man by the Sea

Old Man By the Sea is reached through hiking trail located on the high slopes of Route 36. The trailhead is marked by an entrance sign. Parking is not available, so visitors park alongside the road. The trail has terrain and supports visitor passage with ropes for going up and down sloping areas. The trail runs through a native forest and intermittent stream. The beach has reddish sandy grounds and spectacular rock formations. The most iconic is the large rock figure, seen as the head of the “old man.” The terrace pool is shallow but poses dangerous wave and currents especially during high tide and storm conditions.



30 Marine Beach

Located on the sandy shores of Kagman village on the eastern side, Marine Beach is a beach park surrounded by two cliffs and protected by closeby fringing reef. During calm conditions, swimmers would enter the nearshore waters and even venture off to some hidden rock pools. It is known as a fishing site. The watery grounds are primarily rocky, so it may be wise to wear protective water shoes. Palapalas and paved parking provide excellent spaces for picnicking. Best to avoid swimming during high surf conditions.





31 Tank Beach

Tank Beach is within the village of Kagman, a dirt road away from Lalanghita Road. Tank Beach is part of the Forbidden Island Marine Sanctuary, so it is also a 'no fishing' or 'no take' site. It is an important sea turtle nesting site, protected by law. The cliffs and waves make it a gorgeous site for nature viewing. The view of the eastern side of the island attracts visitors. The hidden Japanese casemate gives the site its name. Swimming in deeper underwater pools is observed during calmer conditions. Best to avoid swimming during high surf condition.



32 Forbidden Island & Forbidden Island Overlook

Through Kagman village on the eastern peninsula, one can access the Forbidden Island trail and overlook. The trailhead is before the overlook area. The overlook has an informational sign and railing. Visitors usually park near there and alongside the road. The trail runs through steep, erodible soil terrain but it supports visitor passage with ropes. Below is a boulder beach with rock pools for swimming. The popular large rock pool facing the Forbidden Island has a tall rock with a rope for jumping. No fishing or harvesting of wildlife. This area can be highly dangerous due to its exposure to ocean waves and tides. Be careful of dangerous currents and tides.





33 Laolao Bay

The shoreline of Laolao Bay is accessible along the semi-paved Laolao Bay Drive in San Vicente. The road may not be suitable for most vehicles given its ruggedness. Streams are present during heavy rain events and cause flooding of the road.

The Laolao Bay Beach is a common swimming and picnicking site with palapalas and white sandy beaches. Nearby is an emergency boat launch area. A permeable parking lot was lost to Typhoon Yutu in 2018. The reef flat offers a nice area for swimming but could be dangerous during high surf events.

The Laolao Bay Dive Site is a popular diving and fishing spot given its beautiful coral reefs and marine life, such as reef fish and green sea turtle. The parking lot is a space where divers and fishermen park and prepare their gear. Short trails from the parking lot lead to the coral rubble beach and tidal reef flat. The white dive markers indicate the entry points into the deeper waters of the bay. Read informational signs about how to use the dive markers and dangers to look out for when using the area.

Laolao Bay was also an ancient Chamorro village. A latte stone monument is close to the Dive Site.



TINIAN

Tinian is the second largely populated island, located southeast of Saipan and an ocean channel away. Tinian can be accessed by boat or a 10 minute plane ride from Saipan International Airport. As a raised limestone plateau island, Tinian has a coastline consisting of sandy beaches and limestone cliffs. Currently, the island has a resident population of 2,044 people. The Military Leased Area (MLA), consisting of most of north and central part of island, is leased by the United States military. Due to the active military buildup, shoreline public access sites in the MLA (See Site 39 – 45 on the map, Page 35) require permission and guided access from the Public Access Coordinator. While a considerable amount of public access sites, such as Unai Dangkulo (Long Beach) and Unai Chulu (White Beach), are restricted in Tinian, Jones Beach, Taga Beach, and Tachogna Beach remain popular as quality shoreline access sites for the public.

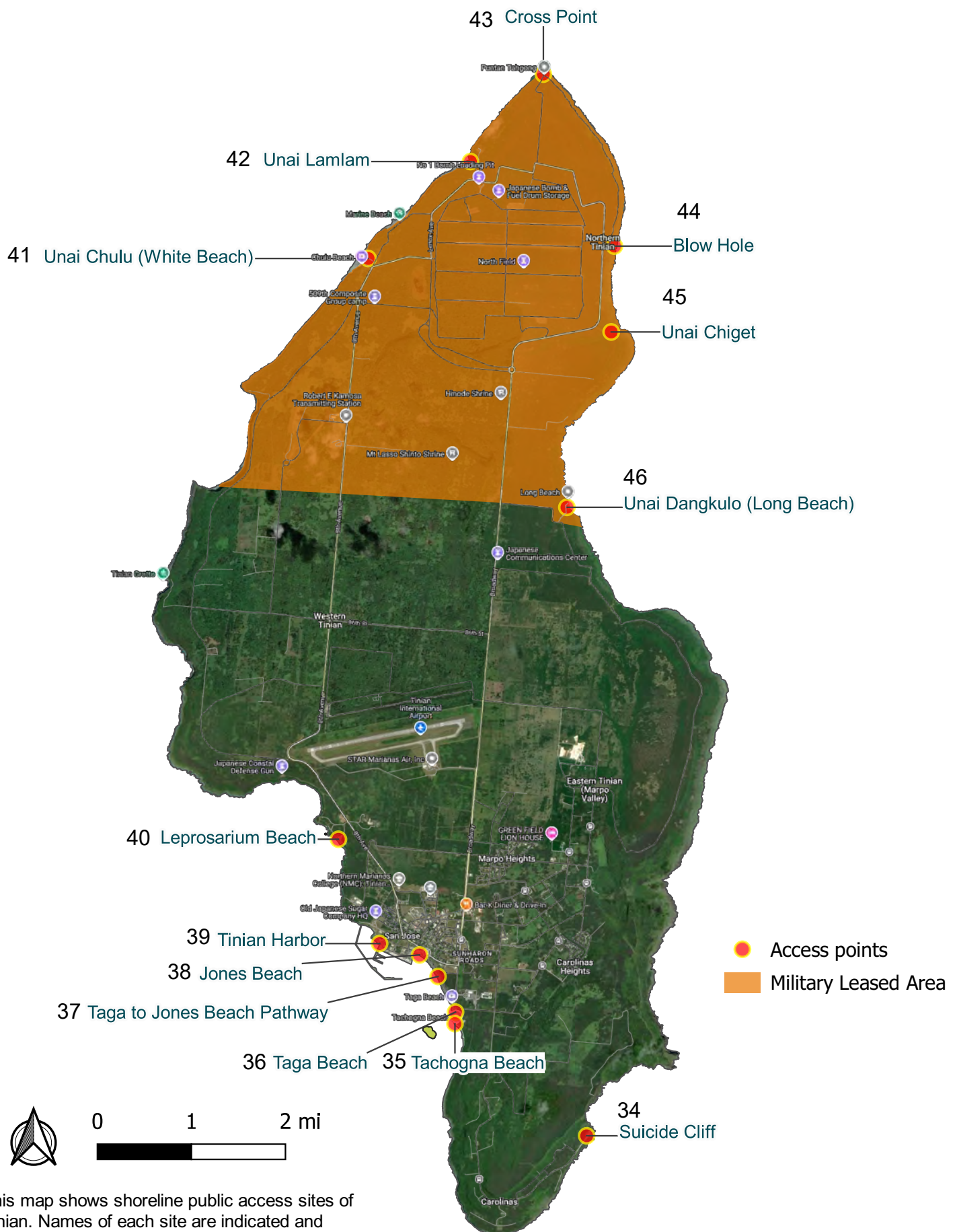
A significant cultural site Tinian is known for is the “House of Taga”, a site with large latte stones (Chamorro word for “stone pillars and capstones”) that once held up the palace of Chief Taga. According to the popular cultural legend, Chief Taga built his house on Tinian using his superhuman strength. These large “latte” were quarried from the limestone cliffs of Taga Beach and mounted on that spot as the foundation of the building about 800 years ago. “Latte” are only found in the Mariana Islands. The strength needed to perfectly carve and carry these large stones signify the strength and perseverance of the native Chamorro people. Taga Beach (Site 36) may have been the original quarry site that supplied the latte stone.

Similar to Saipan, Tinian has undergone Spanish, German, and Japanese colonization. During the Japanese administration, large-scale plantations, administrative buildings, and Shinto shrines were developed on the island.

During World War II, Tinian was seized by the United States-led Allied forces after they defeated the Japanese. Then, United States developed a major air base on the island, with a long runway on the North Field. This air base has been discontinued for decades and is undergoing revival. The Tinian North Field National Historic Landmark consist of various sites on North Field, including the atomic bomb pits. These atomic bombs were dropped on the Japanese cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki in 1944. The “Tinian North Field National Historic Landmark” ArcMap Story from the Northern Marianas Humanities Council gives a virtual tour of some restricted sites in the MLA on their historical significance. Meanwhile, access to the Tinian North Field National Historic Landmark is restricted as to date.

Shoreline Public Access Points

Tinian



This map shows shoreline public access sites of Tinian. Names of each site are indicated and adjacent to their corresponding points.



34 Suicide Cliff

Memorials stand on this cliff-side area to remember the lives lost during World War II. Many Japanese civilians and soldiers fell into the rough waters below rather than surrender to the US soldiers. There is a platform overlooking rough deep ocean waters and the cliff line of the southern peninsula of Tinian. The waters of Suicide Cliff are part of the Tinian Marine Reserve. Respect the monuments and enjoy the view.



35 Tachogna Beach

Tachogna Beach Park is located in the southern part of San Jose, across from the Tinian Ocean View Hotel. Palapalas, bathrooms, showers, and small parking lot are available facilities for swimming, snorkeling, and picnicking activities. Visitors can enjoy the wide sandy shoreline of Tachogna and swim in the blue beautiful waters with coral reef. This beach hosted other watersports activities, such as paddling and diving. The grounds of Tachogna are also ideal camping grounds with shady trees. The waters of Tachogna are part of the Tinian Marine Reserve. Be careful for falling coconuts. Avoid getting in the water during high surf and current conditions.





36 Taga Beach

Taga Beach is a limestone cliff beach with palapalas for picnicking set on the cliff overlooking a pretty bay. Railing supports a pathway from the palapala areas to jumping platforms where swimmers can dive into the glistening waters at a height of 15 feet. A staircase connecting the cliff and beach allows people to enter and exit the water below. The historic latte stone quarry site is adjacent to the jumping platform where you can observe the ancient pits on the cliff. The waters of Taga Beach are also designated areas for water-jet craft, parasailing, and towed floatation activities. The waters of Taga Beach are part of the Tinian Marine Reserve. Watch your step. Avoid getting in the water during high surf and current conditions.



37 Taga to Jones Beach Pathway

A concrete sidewalk connects Taga Beach to Jones Beach and runs for about half a mile long. Walkers and joggers can enjoy the pathway with the scenery of towering coconut trees and the limestone cliff bordering the ocean. The limestone cliff shoreline area can be dangerous and slippery for those who walk there. *Watch your step.*





38 Jones Beach

Jones Beach, previously known as Kammer Beach, is a park offering an ADA-accessible parking lot, palapalas, picnic areas, amphitheater, and restroom facilities. The shoreline area consists of sand and coral rubble and is adjacent to the Tinian Harbor. The waters have been observed for fishing and swimming. Be careful of falling coconuts. Avoid getting in the water during high surf and current conditions.



39 Tinian Harbor

The Tinian Harbor, or the Port of Tinian, is the island's only harbor. Currently, a small floating dock and boat ramp exist for recreational boaters. The Tinian Diamond Hotel stands on the Tinian Harbor. The Port is also used by the US military who are working on improvements to the harbor. Be careful about boat traffic. Swimming is not advisable.





40 Leprosarium Beach

Also known as Tinian Beach, Leprosarium Beach is accessed through 8th Avenue, further north from 42nd Street. A dirt road down from 8th Avenue, it is a beautiful, secluded beach surrounded by cliffs and fringing reef. The oceanic view has Aguigan Island. No cell reception available in this area. Take caution when entering the water.



41 Unai Chulu (White Beach)

(within the MLA)

Unai Chulu, or White Beach, is an undeveloped pocket beach with a fringing reef. It was one of the earliest known ancient Chamorro villages. In World War II, the American troops invaded this beach using amphibious vehicles. Today, two historic Japanese bunkers are found at this beach. Cell reception may be poor. Take caution when entering the water.



Photo not currently
available



42 Unai Lamlam (within the MLA)

Unai Lamlam is accessible through the dirt roads diverging from the North Field Trail close to the No 1 Bomb Loading Pit. It is a small secluded underdeveloped beach with inshore reef. Historically, it was an invasion beach.



43 Cross Point (within the MLA)

Cross Point is the northern most memorial site for local people who have lost their lives at sea. This limestone sea cliff has a view of Saipan. It used to be the Japanese Ushi Airfield before the Americans took control and built over the field. Take caution when exploring the area as this is a Former Military Use Area, and avoid the sharp slippery rocky cliffs. A sign says to call 670-433-0911 for emergencies.





44 Blow Hole

(within the MLA)

Blow Hole is a popular cliff attraction on the northeastern side of Tinian, featuring a natural hole that sprays seawater up to 30 ft. Sightseeing is a common activity here. A parking lot is available from the main road and a pebble pathway leads to this natural feature. Take caution when exploring this area given the potential for strong waves and slippery footing.



45 Unai Chiget

(within the MLA)

Unai Chiget, or Chiget Beach, was formerly the Tinian Mortar Range, a US military training range. The US Navy restored the area for public access by removing munitions debris. The natural feature is a small tidal area between two cliffs that is fed by the deep rough ocean. Seagrass floats in this shallow water. The beach is accessible through Broadway Road and the entrance is identified with signages. Stay within the pathway marked by railing.





46 Unai Dangkulo (Long Beach)

(within the MLA)

Unai Dangkulo, which is Chamorro for "Long Beach," is a long white sandy beach with a short lagoon area great for swimming and picnicking. An ancient Chamorro village site is found in the northern side of the beach, accessed through a hidden trail. It is accessible through Broadway Road and marked with a sign. It is a drive down a rocky road. It may be closed off during military training. Be careful of footing and dangerous currents and waves.



ROTA

Rota, or “Luta” in Chamorro, is the southernmost island of the Commonwealth of Northern Mariana Islands, accessible by boat or plane. There are close to 1,900 residents who mostly live in Sinapalo and Songsong village. Rota boasts a fairly pristine and rich natural environment. The surrounding limestone forests are abundant with common sightings of native birds and the protected, endangered Marianas fruit bat. The small village of Songsong is surrounded by the Pacific Ocean and has several beaches fronting a fringing reef. Most sites are accessible from the main roads, such as Songsong Beach (comprising the Chamorro Village and community valued Roundhouse). Other sites have to be accessed through private property and may require permission from the owner. It may be best to get a local tour guide if you are unfamiliar with the area. Please be respectful of nature and residents.

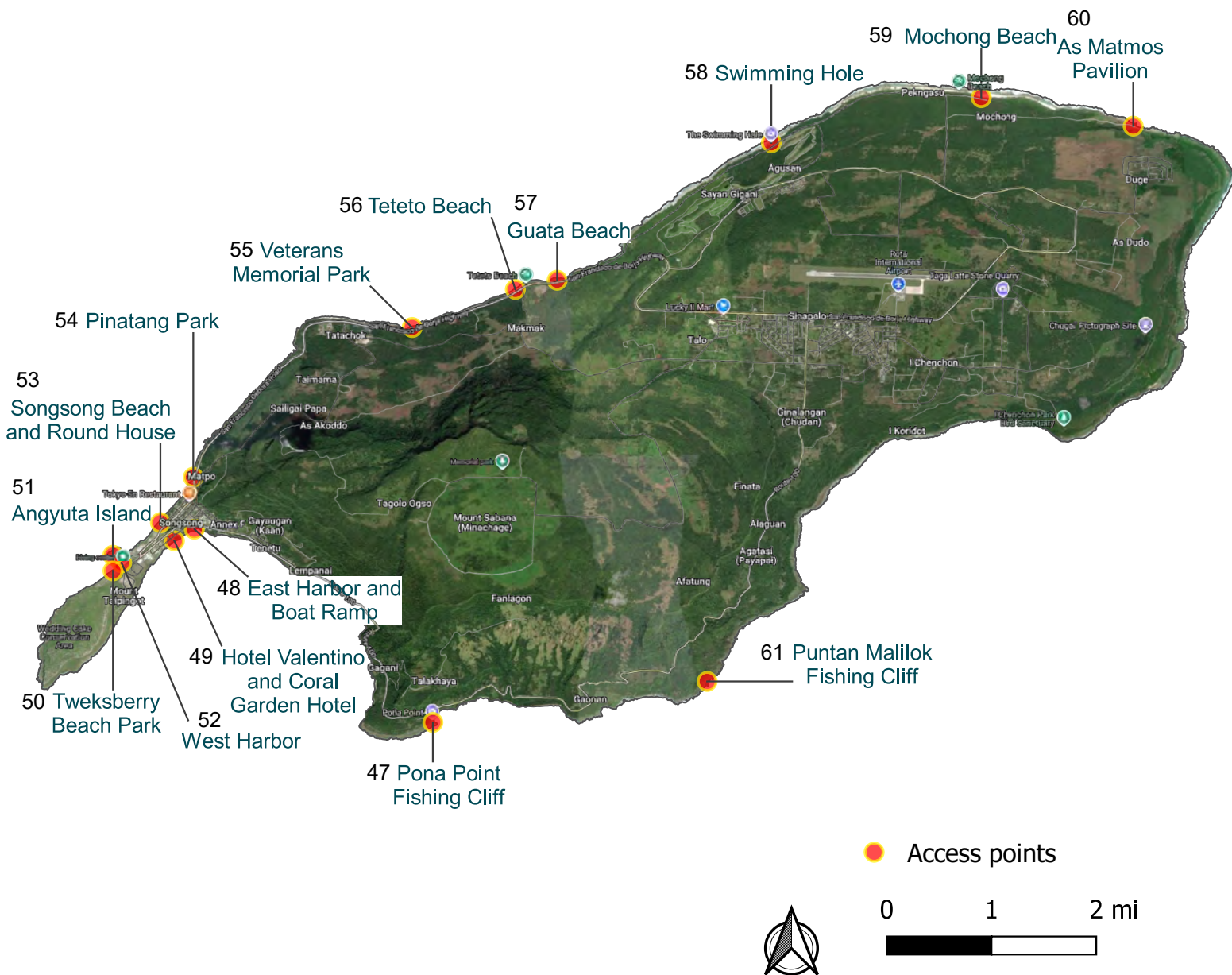
Rota is also known as the “Friendliest Island”. It is a common practice to wave your hand at every car passing through while driving on the road.

The island has a similar history of colonization as Tinian and Saipan. The Japanese administration brought sugar plantations and phosphate mining, which converted the land to agriculture. The natural environment was not as intensely damaged by World War II. Ancient latte stone and historic pictograph sites are hidden gems, with a few being close to shoreline areas. The Chugai’ Pictograph Site requires permission and assistance to visit by the local Historic Preservation Office.

The Sasanhaya Bay Fish Reserve is a marine protected area close to Talakhaya Wildlife Conservation Area, which means that fishing and harvesting of marine life are not allowed there.

Shoreline Public Access Points

Rota



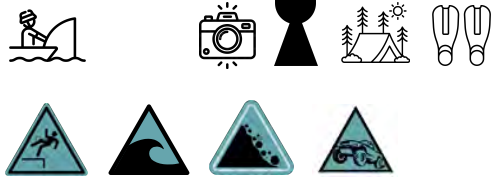
This map shows shoreline public access sites of Rota. Names of each site are indicated and adjacent to their corresponding points.



47 Pona Point Fishing Cliff

Pona Point Fishing Cliff is on the southeastern edge of Sansanhaya Bay. Fishing is a common activity here. The gorgeous view of the coral reef and the southern coastline make it an attraction for sightseeing.

Avoid getting too close to the cliff line. Planned improvements are underway.



48 East Harbor and Boat Ramp

East Harbor and Boat Ramp is located in Sasanhaya Bay, accessible by Route 100 and across from the Bayview Hotel. The dock has some picnic areas and a boat ramp. The dock has ladders for swimmers to climb out of the water. Divers have used this area. The East Harbor is adjacent to Mobil Fuel Riser and Pipeline. Be careful for dangerous wave and current conditions.





49 Hotel Valentino and Coral Garden Hotel

The limestone cliff shoreline of the Valentino Hotel and Coral Garden Hotel offer pocket beaches and swimming areas despite its rugged terrain. Stairs from both hotels provide access to the beach. Picnic areas are found at the Coral Garden Hotel side.



50 Tweksberry Beach Park

Tweksberry Beach Park is a beach near Wedding Cake and Angyuta with palapalas and parking. Due to the quarantine of the invasive Rhinoceros Beetle, access is restricted but available upon request from the Department of Lands and Natural Resources.





51 Angyuta Island (Prudencio T. Manglona Island Park)

Angyuta Island, also known as Mayor Prudencio Taisacan Manglona Harbor Island Park, is a recreational area connected by raised road and seawall. Fishing and picnicking are common activities in this area. This small island gives the West Harbor some coastal protection against the west swell and storm surge.



52 West Harbor and Boat Ramp

West Harbor is an important boating facility in Songsong. It has a boat ramp and a floating dock with sixteen 22-foot boat slips and a parking lot.





53 Songsong Beach and Round House

Songsong Village has a public beach park with the Round House, across from the Catholic church. This park hosts Rota's Chamorro Village, and is often grounds for community events. The white sand beach meets the shallow lagoon protected by a fringing reef. A large ship relict is north. Angyuta Island can be seen from the shoreline. Watch your footing!



54 Pinatang Park

Pinatang Park is an abandoned water park that remains a unique public access site. A bridge connects the concrete parking lot and viewing deck to the island park. Walking paths lead to a big palapala and murky swimming pools. Shallow lagoon and limestone outcrops surround this developed island area. Picnicking, sightseeing, swimming, and diving are expected here. Take caution when walking through the area and avoid the murky pools.





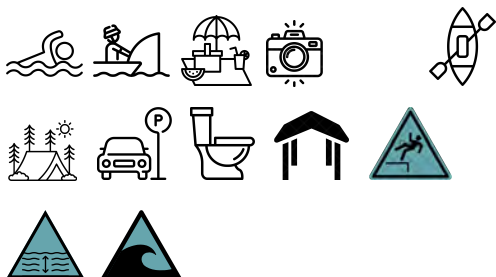
55 Veterans Memorial Beach Park

Located along the San Francisco de Borja Highway, Veterans Memorial Park is a white sand beach with lagoon area. It is also known as the Corporal Joe G. Charfauros Jr. Rota Veteran Memorial Park, to honor a resident who sacrificed his life in serving in the Iraq War, and honor all military veterans. Picnic areas and showers are available for those who use the area.



56 Teteto Beach

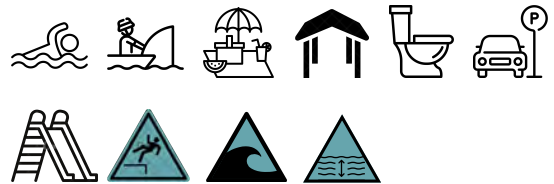
Located along the San Francisco de Borja Highway, Teteto Beach offers a parking area, row of palapalas, and a restroom. Limestone rock outcrops and sandy bottom crystal waters lead to a nearby fringing reef. Great for picnicking, swimming, snorkeling, and fishing! Watch your step!





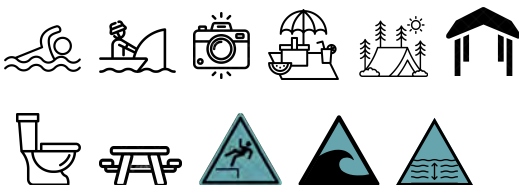
57 Guata Beach Park

Guata Beach Park is along the San Francisco de Borja Highway and close to the Luta Gas Station. The landmark is a giant clam shaped palapala. Other palapalas are available for picnicking. There is a restroom and showers. The beach has a combination of sand and limestone outcrops, making it great for swimming and snorkeling. *Be careful of the jagged rocks.*



58 Swimming Hole

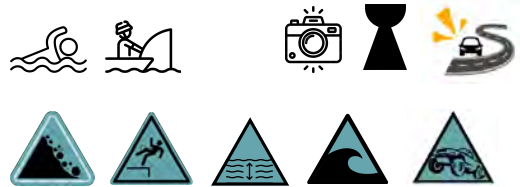
Swimming Hole is a natural tide pool attraction, a turn down the road facing Rota Resort and County Club. The depth of the pool can reach to a depth of 6 feet. The refreshing watery grounds are mostly sandy. Be cautious of currents and footing. Avoid the ocean's edge of the tide pool and the hidden underwater hole within the pool.





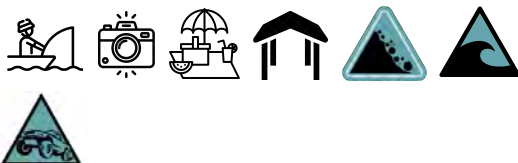
59 Mochong Beach

Mochong Beach is a very large pristine remote beach strand. It is the opposite side of the road to the Swimming Hole, and along the road heading to Matmos Cliff. Rich marine life is found even within its shallow lagoon. Fishing and snorkeling are known recreational activities in this area. The white sand beach is great for picnicking and relaxing.



60 As Matmos Cliff Fishing Park

As Matmos Cliff Fishing Park is a remote rod and reel fishing park with steep rugged terrain and crashing deep ocean waves. It is the farther north from Mochong Beach, and a 4-mile drive through agricultural land. A solar power-pavilion and railing system have been installed in September 2024.





61 Puntan Malilok Fishing Cliff

Puntan Malilok Fishing Cliff is a remote rod and reef fishing area closer to Sinapalo Village. The road goes through a scenic cliff and requires high clearance vehicles going down and up the steep slope.



