

Public Shoreline Access Guide for Saipan, Tinian, and Rota

2015



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INTRODUCTION

The islands of Saipan, Tinian, and Rota in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI) contain incredibly diverse and beautiful shorelines: from idyllic beaches in reef-sheltered lagoons to sheer cliffs dropping into surging waves below. Visitors to these shorelines can find a wealth of natural beauty, crystal clear waters, rich history, and diverse culture.

This guide aims to provide the public with information regarding the recreational opportunities available at the various shoreline access points on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota. These sites include locally or nationally managed beach parks, scenic cliffs, boat ramps and marinas, and even small dirt paths leading to secluded pocket beaches. Each of these sites contains many different opportunities for boating, swimming, SCUBA diving, fishing, picnicking, or just relaxing.

This guide was created and produced by Rebecca Skeele, Coastal Resources Planner at the CNMI's Division of Coastal Resources Management (DCRM). Dana Okano, Megan Jungwi, and Lainie Zarones helped conduct the shoreline surveys and provided invaluable input in the development of this guide. Each of the sites included in this guide were visited and surveyed by DCRM and NOAA staff in 2014-2015. The information contained within this guide is based upon the personal observation of these staff in consultation with other local experts and agencies.

All aerial photographs were taken by Lainie Zarones of the Division of Lands and Natural Resources. All other photographs were taken by Rebecca Skeele at DCRM unless otherwise credited.

The Bird Island Overlook has spectacular views of Bird Island and the Bird Island Marine Sanctuary.

The shoreline at Micro Beach at American Memorial Park is constantly changing and evolving.



HOW TO USE THIS GUIDE

This guide is designed to help the public locate shoreline access points on the islands of Saipan, Tinian, and Rota. The shoreline access points of each island are presented in a clockwise manner beginning at a specific starting point: Obyan Beach Park on Saipan, Suicide Cliff on Tinian, and Poña Point on Rota. Each site will be identified by a number on the map of each island, and a summary of the primary uses and facilities of each site accompanies each map. A more detailed summary of the site corresponding with that number can be found in the pages following.

Not all shoreline access sites were included in this guide. Many access points that were surveyed during the production of this guide were found to cross over privately owned or privately leased land. Other sites were found to be overgrown or treacherous and therefore not suitable for common use by the public. Inclusion in this guide was at the discretion of DCRM staff, and may not reflect every used access point.

This guide will be made available to the public in both print and online form. The print version was published in September 2015 and contains information that is as current as possible at the time of publication, based upon shoreline surveys conducted in the months or year prior. However, our islands and their shorelines are constantly changing. It is important to note that not all of the information contained within this guide may be accurate or up to date. The online version will be updated periodically and will be accompanied by an interactive online map. Please visit DCRM's website to access the online version of this information, which may contain more current information.

If you have any questions or concerns about the information in this guide, or if you have information that might assist DCRM regarding public access, please contact DCRM at 664-8300 or access DCRM's website at <http://crm.gov.mp/>.

Shoreline Safety

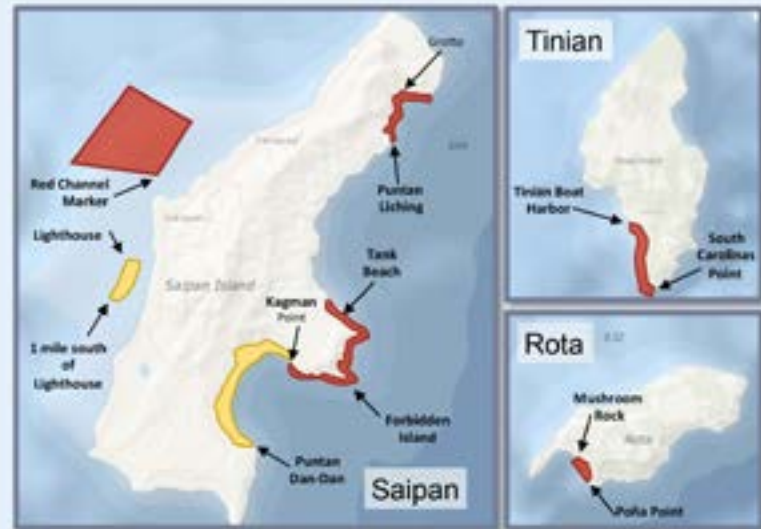
Inclusion in this guide does not guarantee the maintenance or the safe condition of these access sites. Several of these sites have little to no public amenities or development, and many sites are not regularly maintained. Visitors to any of these sites are reminded to exercise their best judgment and caution when accessing the shoreline and the ocean, as rocks or pathways may be slippery and ocean conditions may change quickly. As with any outdoor activity, unknown hazards may exist and DCRM disclaims any liability for failure to warn about specific hazards or new and changing conditions. DCRM has undertaken to highlight the most significant known hazards for the benefit of the public, but individuals are responsible for maintaining their own safety at all times.

CNMI'S MARINE PROTECTED AREAS

There are seven Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) in the CNMI, including five no-take protected areas and two species-specific conservation zones. Each MPA was created by legislative act, local law, or CNMI Administrative code and all are managed by the CNMI Division of Fish and Wildlife (DFW). These special conservation zones protect our fish, corals, and invertebrates and serve as safe havens for marine organisms to grow and reproduce.

Each of these areas is accessible via multiple shoreline access sites, so visitors are reminded to be aware of the specific activities that are restricted in the MPA that you are visiting. Several MPAs have informational signs posted at the access points, however some do not. If you are unsure of the rules or would like additional information about CNMI's MPAs, please call DFW at 664-6031/2 or visit their website at <http://www.cnmi-dfw.com/marine-protected-areas.php>

Red= No-take Areas; Yellow= Limited Take Zones



Note: Map depicts general MPA locations only. Contact the Division of Fish & Wildlife for more information.

Rules in No-Take Marine Conservation Areas



Rules in Species-Specific Conservation Zones



VISITOR GUIDELINES



Water Quality information signs are posted at many of CNMI's most popular beaches.

Water Quality Monitoring

The Water Quality Surveillance and Non-Point Source (WQS/NPS) Program at the Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality (BECQ) monitors and evaluates the health of the CNMI's surface waters. Marine water samples are collected weekly by WQS/NPS staff to monitor the quality of the near shore waters surrounding popular shoreline access points. Should the water quality results from a beach site pose a potential health risk, a Public Advisory, or "red flag" is posted on the BECQ website and posted on beach signs. The public is advised not to fish or swim within 300 feet of red flag locations for 48 hours or until otherwise notified.

How To Protect Our Shoreline

- **Dispose of trash properly:**

When visiting these sites, please be sure to collect your trash and pack it out and dispose of it properly off site. If there is a marked trash receptacle available, please use it and make sure the lid is closed. Many of these shoreline access points are remote and do not have regular trash collection services.

- **Volunteer for beach or shoreline cleanups:**

Join the monthly BECQ cleanup brigade! Call BECQ at 664-8500 to get involved.

- **Spread the word!**

Teach others how to practice good beach and shoreline safety and behavior. These shorelines are for all of us to enjoy!

- **Look but don't touch:**

When snorkeling or diving around coral reefs, please do not touch, pick up, or stand on the coral. Take only pictures, leave only bubbles.

- **Walk it, don't drive it!**

Driving and parking on the beach is illegal because it causes beach erosion and may destroy sea turtle nesting sites. Please obey posted signs and park in the designated parking areas.



Follow all signs posted at each shoreline access point.

The Saipan lagoon offers visitors beautiful scenery and many different recreational opportunities.

SAIPAN

Saipan is the largest and most populated island in the CNMI, stretching about 12 miles long and covering about 45 square miles. Residents and tourists alike are drawn to Saipan in part because of the island's beautiful beaches and striking shoreline attractions.

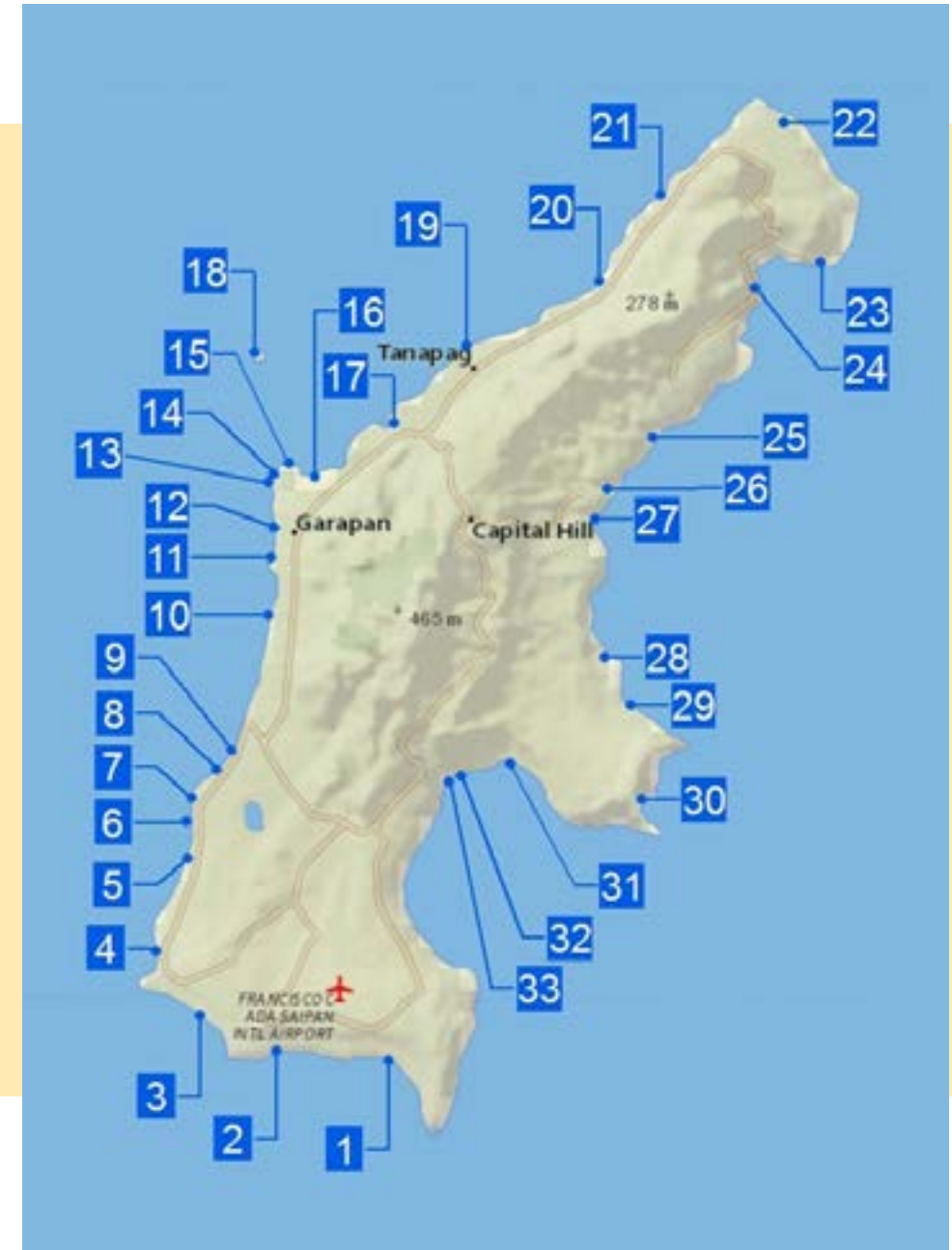
Saipan was originally settled by the Chamorro over 4,000 years ago. The first known Western contact to Saipan came in 1521 by the Spanish expedition of Ferdinand Magellan. The Spanish formally occupied the islands in 1668, after which Saipan subsequently became a Spanish colony. Under Spanish rule, many of the Chamorro were forcibly moved to Guam. It was during this time in the early 1800s that settlers from the Caroline Islands traveled to Saipan and also made the island their home.

Saipan and the other Northern Mariana Islands were passed from Spanish to German rule in 1898. The islands were then captured and awarded to Japan in 1914 during World War I. During the Japanese colonial administration, Saipan featured large-scale sugar plantations

and coffee farms and extensive infrastructure was developed around the island.

In June 1944 during World War II, the United States military launched an invasion on the Mariana Islands, starting with the Battle of Saipan. The Battle of Saipan was one of the major campaigns of World War II in the Pacific and resulted in the death of tens of thousands of Japanese and U.S. soldiers and civilians. U.S. forces were able to secure Saipan by July 9, 1944, and the Northern Mariana Islands became part of the United States Trust Territories upon the end of World War II.

Today, Saipan is a bustling tourist destination. Many artifacts from World War II still remain in the Saipan lagoon and along Saipan's shorelines. There are also several monuments and memorials around Saipan commemorating the thousands of people who died during World War II, as well as several Chamorro or Carolinian cultural and archaeological sites. Native flora and fauna thrive throughout the island, and visitors and locals alike continue to enjoy the beautiful coastlines and beaches that Saipan has to offer.



Southern Shoreline



	Swimming / Wading	Snorkeling	SCUBA diving	Fishing	Picnicking	Nature viewing	Sightseeing	Walking / Hiking	Boating	Volleyball / Basketball	Marine sports	Parking	Restrooms	Palapapas (beach pavilions)	Picnic areas	Grills / Fire pits	Trash receptacles	Dock / Harbor	Boat ramp	Historical / Cultural site	Playground
(1) Obyan Beach Park	x	x	x	x		x	x					x					x			x	
(2) Ladder Beach	x	x		x		x						x									
(3) Coral Ocean Point	x	x		x								x									
(4) Pakpak Beach	x			x	x							x		x	x	x					x
(5) San Isidro Beach Park (Laly 4)	x			x	x							x		x	x	x					x
(6) Sugar Dock Beach	x			x	x			x						x	x	x		x	x		
(7) Susupe Beach Park	x			x	x							x		x	x	x					x
(8) Civic Center	x			x	x				x			x		x	x	x				x	x
(9) Kili Beach Park	x			x	x							x		x	x	x					

(1) Obyan Beach Park

Obyan Beach Park is located on the southern end of Saipan, off of the road behind Saipan International Airport. The long beach is made up of white sand and coral rubble, leading into a calm tidal area protected by a fringing reef. This beach is popular for swimming, snorkeling, and SCUBA diving, and on clear days visitors can expect to find beautiful views of the northern cliffs of Tinian.

At the far end of the parking lot are a large World War II era bunker and a trail leading to more remote areas of the beach. Obyan Beach is included on the National Register of Historic Places due to a nearby latte site that includes the remains of a latte stone house and other artifacts.

Primary Uses: swimming, snorkeling, SCUBA diving, fishing, nature viewing, sightseeing

Features: parking, trash receptacles, historical site

Hazards: waves

Visitors enjoy the cool water and views of Tinian at Obyan Beach Park.



(2) Ladder Beach

Just past the airport, close to Coral Ocean Point, lies a pocket beach surrounded by rugged cliffs. Ladder Beach is a large beach of white sand and coral rubble that can be accessed by climbing down a series of stairs from the parking area above.

The limestone cliffs surrounding the beach contain several large caves that visitors can explore. The beach has beautiful views of the Tinian channel and the cliffs on the northern end of Tinian. Visitors to this beach can swim, snorkel, or relax on the sandy beach.

Primary Uses: swimming, snorkeling, fishing, nature viewing

Features: parking (off road), stairs down to beach

Hazards: footing, waves

A sign and stone steps welcome visitors to Ladder Beach.



The limestone cliffs surrounding Ladder Beach contain several large caves where visitors can find shade from the sun.

(3) Coral Ocean Point

On the southern end of Saipan, the beach at Coral Ocean Point abuts a resort and golf course bearing the same name. A paved public access road leads through the resort to the beach where it meets an unpaved road that follows the shoreline. As of this publication a picnicking area was under construction. Visitors can enjoy views of Tinian while swimming and snorkeling inside the reef.

Primary Uses: swimming/wading, snorkeling, fishing

Features: parking (off road)

Hazards: none

(4) Pakpak Beach

Pakpak Beach is a small public park located at the southern-most end of the Saipan Lagoon, just past the Pacific Islands Club on Beach Road. Its shoreline is made up of a narrow beach leading into the lagoon where visitors can enjoy swimming

and fishing. The park contains a playground, ample parking, and several palapalas and grills.

Primary Uses: picnicking, swimming, fishing

Features: playground, picnic areas, palapalas, grills/fire pits, parking

Hazards: none

(5) San Isidro Beach Park (Laly 4)

Located in Chalan Kanoa, San Isidro Beach Park (aka Laly 4) is a grassy area interspersed with coconut and ironwood trees offering visitors plenty of shade. A narrow white sand beach leads into the lagoon. The park contains several palapalas and grills, as well as a playground, a basketball court, and some off-road parking.

Primary Uses: picnicking, swimming, fishing

Features: playground, picnic areas, palapalas, grills/fire pits, parking

Hazards: falling coconuts

(6) Sugar Dock Beach

Sugar Dock Beach is a popular picnic and hangout spot located in Susupe across Beach Road from Mount Carmel Cathedral. The boat ramp at the northern end of the beach is frequently used by boaters due to its proximity to the Sugar Dock channel, which allows boats to cross through the reef and into open ocean. The nearby dock has been a popular spot to fish or swim, however it is now closed due to the far end collapsing into the water. The beach itself stretches from the boat ramp south to behind Aquarius Beach Tower. There is no official parking area, although visitors to the beach can find plenty of space to park their vehicles. A small outdoor shower is located close to the dock, and there are several palapalas and picnic areas scattered along the beach. Swimming and other water activities are popular at this beach, however visitors are advised to stay close to shore to avoid being pulled out the channel by potentially strong currents.

Primary Uses: picnicking, swimming, fishing, boating

Features: boat ramp, dock, picnic areas, palapalas, grills/fire pits, shower

Hazards: waves, currents, boat traffic

Fishing and swimming are two of the popular recreational activities that visitors enjoy at Sugar Dock.



(7) Susupe Beach Park

This beautiful, shady park offers visitors an ideal location for a relaxing afternoon picnic. Located just south of Kanoa Resort, this beach park includes several palapalas and picnic areas, plenty of grills, a playground, and even a community stage.

Primary Uses: picnicking, swimming, fishing

Features: picnic areas, palapalas, trash receptacles, playground, parking

Hazards: none



The shoreline stretching from Susupe to Garapan.



Children enjoy swimming to and climbing on one of the Sherman Tanks sitting semi-submerged in the lagoon.

well as a Veterans Memorial and the 4H building. The Sabalu Farmer's Market is held at this park every Saturday morning, and the Flame Tree Arts Festival is held here in April.

Just off the shore within swimming distance lies one of the three U.S. Sherman tanks still remaining in the lagoon. These tanks played a significant role in the United States invasion of Saipan in 1944. Today all three are semi-submerged in the lagoon and are a part of Saipan's Maritime Heritage Trail, making them a popular tourist attraction.

Primary Uses: picnicking, swimming, fishing, basketball

Features: picnic areas, palapalas, trash receptacles, grills/fire pits, playground, basketball court, historical site, parking

Hazards: boat traffic

(8) Civic Center

In Susupe, the Civic Center beach area extends about a quarter mile north to Kilili Beach Park. This public area contains a basketball court, a playground, several palapalas and picnic areas, as

(9) Kilili Beach Park

Kilili Beach Park lies adjacent to the Civic Center shoreline, just across Beach Road from Ada Gym. The park contains several palapalas, picnic areas, and grill pits. The big iron wood trees and coconut trees offer visitors plenty of shade. There are two large parking areas for visitors who wish to come here for an afternoon picnic and swim.

This is also the beach where the local outrigger paddling clubs keep their boats. Visitors are welcome to observe the outrigger paddling practices and events, but are asked to respect the boats and not climb or sit on the canoes.

Primary Uses: picnicking, swimming, fishing

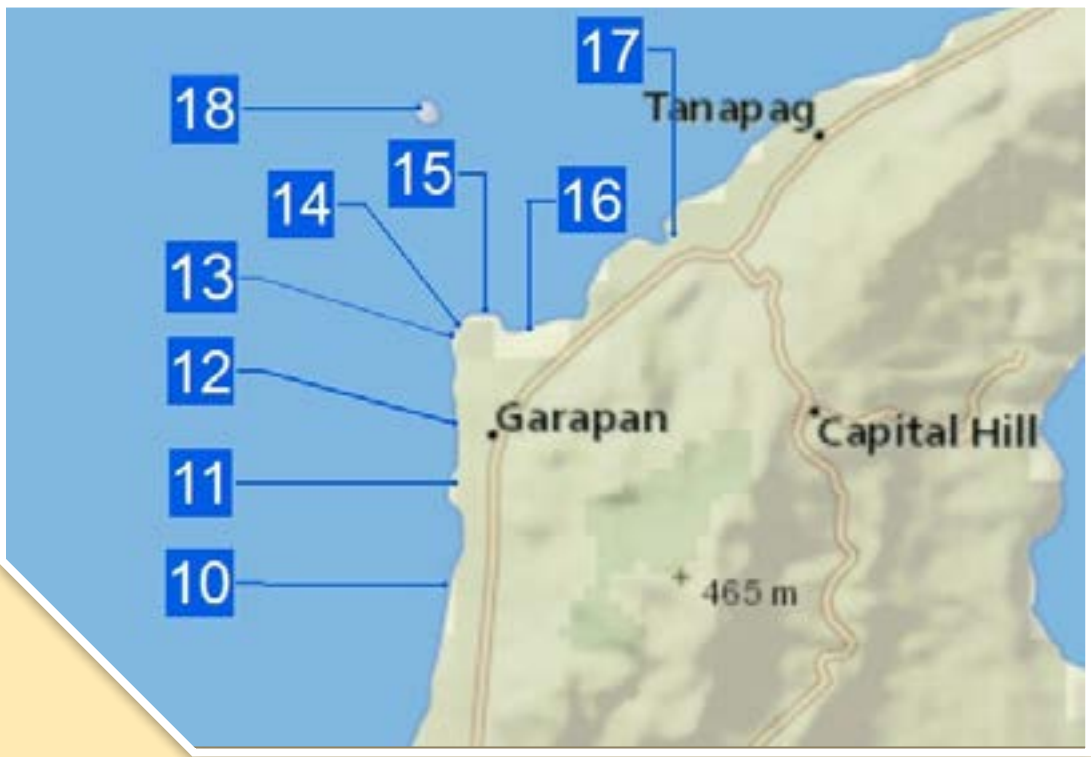
Features: picnic areas, palapalas, trash receptacles, grills/fire pits, parking

Hazards: boat traffic



Kilili Beach Park has several palapalas and picnic areas where visitors can enjoy an afternoon picnic and watch the local outrigger paddling clubs practice.

Garapan Area Shoreline



	Swimming / Wading	Shorkeling	SCUBA diving	Fishing	Picnicking	Nature viewing	Sightseeing	Walking / Hiking	Boating	Volleyball / Basketball	Marine sports	Parking	Restrooms	Palapalas (beach pavilions)	Picnic areas	Grills / Fire pits	Trash receptacles	Dock / Harbor	Boat ramp	Historical / Cultural site	Playground
(10) Oleai Beach and Beach Rd Pathway	x			x	x	x	x					x		x	x	x				x	
(11) Fishing Base				x				x				x					x	x			
(12) Carolinian Utt Park	x			x	x		x			x		x		x	x				x	x	
(13) Fiesta Resort and Hyatt Regency Beaches	x									x	x			x		x					
(14) Micro Beach	x				x							x		x		x					
(15) American Memorial Park	x				x		x	x				x	x		x	x			x	x	
(16) Smiling Cove									x		x	x	x			x	x	x			
(17) Lower Base & Seaplane Ramp					x				x			x			x		x	x			
(18) Mañagaha	x	x			x	x	x	x		x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x		x		

(10) Oleai Beach and the Beach Road Pathway

The Beach Road Pathway is a paved pathway about 2.5 miles long that follows the shoreline from Kilili Beach, past Oleai Beach to Fishing Base in Garapan. This pathway is a popular site for walking, jogging, and biking. Along the pathway are multiple palapalas and picnic areas, benches for watching the sunset, and several parking areas. The shoreline is easily accessible along most of the pathway.

Pedestrians using the pathway will pass by several historical sites and memorials. At the intersection with Quartermaster Road, visitors

can see the Japanese Tank Memorial. Further up the pathway, just before reaching Fishing Base, is the 13 Fishermen Memorial. This palapala and monument commemorate the 13 local fishermen who were lost at sea during a fishing expedition to the Northern Islands in 1986.

Primary Uses: walking/jogging, biking, sightseeing, picnicking, swimming, fishing, nature viewing

Features: walking path, picnic areas, palapalas, trash receptacles, parking, grills/fire pits, historical site

Hazards: none



The boat ramp and pier at Fishing Base in Garapan.



Several palapalas and picnic areas line the Beach Road Pathway.

(11) Fishing Base

Fishing Base is an open public area located at the northern end of the Beach Road Pathway, just outside of the main commercial district of Garapan. There is a public boat ramp, as well as a cement pier that is often used for fishing.

The local Garapan Public Market, which sells local produce and meat, is located at the south end of Fishing Base. Every Thursday vendors and restaurants set up booths at Fishing Base for the weekly Street Market, where visitors can purchase food and souvenirs.

Primary Uses: boating, fishing, public market

Features: boat ramp, dock, parking, public farmers’ market

Hazards: boat traffic

(12) Carolinian Utt Park

Just next to the Carolinian Affairs Office in Garapan is a small shoreline park featuring the Carolinian Utt (pronounced “oot”). An utt is a traditional men’s meeting house where men would gather as well as build canoes.

The park’s utt is a concrete version of the original thatched-roof structure, and is used today for various private, public, and cultural functions.

Primary Uses: community center, swimming, picnicking, basketball, fishing

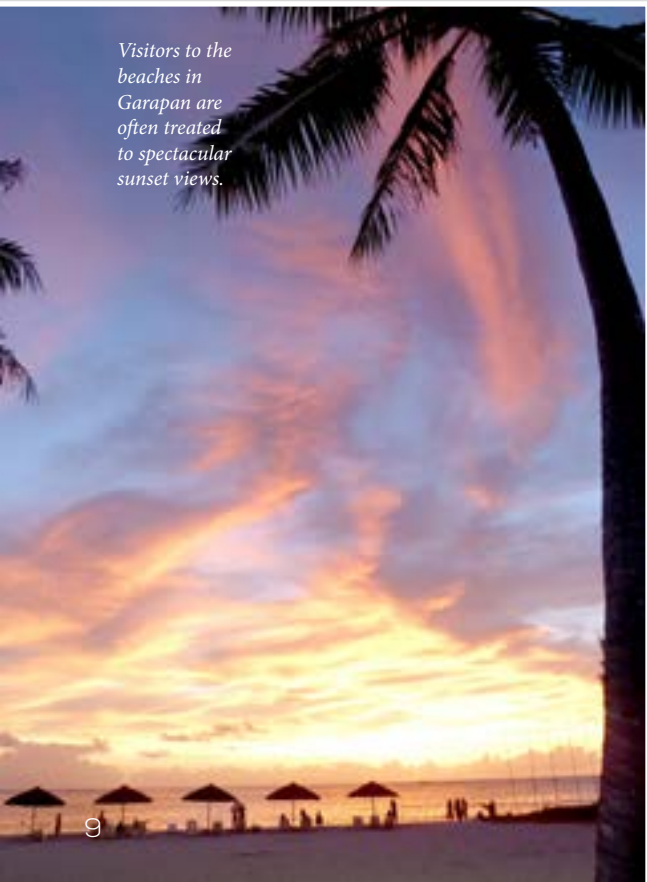
Features: picnic areas, palapalas, parking, playground, basketball court, cultural site

Hazards: none

(13) Fiesta Resort and Hyatt Regency Beaches

In downtown Garapan, visitors can enjoy the lagoon and the sandy beaches in front of Fiesta Resort and Hyatt Regency Hotel. The beaches are accessible via the public access road between the two hotels. Visitors to the beach can get refreshments at Godfather's Beach Bar on the beach at Fiesta Resort or at Skippers Beach Bar at the Hyatt. Recreational opportunities include renting stand up paddleboards and other marine sports equipment from the beachfront vendor at Hyatt, or playing beach volleyball at one of several volleyball nets at both Hyatt and Fiesta. At low tide, the sandbar in front of Hyatt Regency offers an ideal place to view the sunset.

- Primary Uses:** swimming, volleyball, marine sports
- Features:** volleyball nets, picnic areas, trash receptacles
- Hazards:** boat traffic



Visitors to the beaches in Garapan are often treated to spectacular sunset views.



Micro Beach contains a large palapala and excellent views of Mañagaha and the shipping channel.

(14) Micro Beach

Just north of Hyatt Regency is Micro Beach. A parking lot is located at the end of Micro Beach Road, next to American Memorial Park. There is a large palapala and trash receptacles, making this beach an ideal location for a relaxing Saturday afternoon picnic.

- Primary Uses:** swimming, picnicking
- Features:** palapalas, parking, trash receptacles
- Hazards:** none

(15) American Memorial Park

American Memorial Park (AMP) is the CNMI's largest park and the only one affiliated with the U.S. National Park Service. The park spans over 133 acres and contains a walking path, a playground, a baseball field, picnic areas, an amphitheater, and a 30-acre protected wetland and mangrove forest. The park commemorates World War II with a flag memorial inscribed with 5,204 names of United States military personnel and locals who lost their lives in the Marianas during the war. The main building, just off of Micro Beach Road, also houses the American Memorial Park museum, which details the Battle of Saipan and its aftermath.

- Primary Uses:** swimming, walking, sightseeing, picnicking
- Features:** parking, picnic areas, grills/fire pits, playground, walking path, baseball field, historical site
- Hazards:** none

(16) Smiling Cove Marina

Smiling Cove is the primary recreational marina on Saipan. The "Inner Cove" contains a boat ramp and for-hire slips. The "Outer Cove" is where most of the commercial boat tours, the parasail operators, and the ferries to and from Mañagaha Island are launched. There are large parking areas at both the Inner and Outer Cove, and a pier at Outer Cove that offers bystanders an excellent view of the shipping channel, Micro Beach, and Mañagaha. The Department of Public Safety has an office near the entrance to Smiling Cove. There are public restrooms near the DPS building.

- Primary Uses:** boating, marine sports
- Features:** boat ramp, parking, dock, restrooms, trash receptacles
- Hazards:** boat traffic



The Inner Cove marina of Smiling Cove contains a long floating dock and boat slips.



Ferries to Mañagaha and other commercial marine operations depart from the Outer Cove marina at Smiling Cove.

(17) Lower Base and Seaplane Ramp

Just north of the commercial port in the industrial area of Lower Base is a small beach area and several docks. The beach at Lower Base, located across from the Division of Fish and Wildlife's main office, contains a few picnic areas. Just past the beach, close to the CUC power plant, lies Delta Dock. This is where the Tasi Tours ferries to Mañagaha depart and the seaplane ramp is located.

- Primary Uses:** boating, picnicking
- Features:** picnic areas, trash receptacles, boat ramp, dock
- Hazards:** boat traffic



The American Memorial Park & Micro Beach shoreline.



Mañagaha is surrounded by crystal clear water and colorful reefs.

Swimming and banana boat rides are two of the many recreational opportunities available on Mañagaha.

(18) Mañagaha Island

Mañagaha Island is a small islet located in the Saipan Lagoon, about 1.5 miles off the shore of Micro Beach. The island is a popular day-trip destination for tourists and locals. Visitors can get to Mañagaha on one of several large ferries that launch from Outer Cove at Smiling Cove Marina. Tasi Tours out of Delta Dock in Lower Base also offers ferry services, as do many hotels in Garapan from their beach front areas. Facilities on Mañagaha are typically open from 9 am until 4 pm and include a food court, restrooms, showers, trash receptacles and recreational activities.

Marine sports operators who offer activities such as parasailing and banana boat riding offer pick up or drop off on Mañagaha at the dock. Visitors can picnic at one of several picnic areas, or purchase food at the food court. There are volleyball courts towards the north side of the island, and a large white sand beach. A marked swimming area with a designated lifeguard on duty is located just south of the sandy beach.

Mañagaha is an important terrestrial and marine conservation area. The island is critical wedge-tailed shearwater bird nesting habitat and visitors are reminded to stay on the marked paths in order to avoid disturbing the nests.

The waters surrounding Mañagaha are included in the Mañagaha Marine Conservation Area, which protects critical breeding and feeding habitat for many of the CNMI's reef fish species. Please preserve this area by following the rules posted on signs.

The small island has historical significance as well. Mañagaha is the burial ground for the famous Carolinian Chief Aghurubw, who led a group of Carolinians to Saipan in 1815 to settle the island after their home island was destroyed by a typhoon. There is a monument to Chief Aghurubw in the jungle along Mañagaha's southern coast.

The island also contains multiple World War II artifacts remaining from the Japanese fortification of the island before the Battle of Saipan, and the Mañagaha Marine Conservation Area contains several underwater wrecks that are a part of the underwater World War II Maritime Heritage Trail.

Primary Uses: nature study, walking/hiking, swimming, snorkeling, historical site, picnicking, marine motor sports, volleyball

Features: picnic areas, palapalas, grills/fire pits, showers, restrooms, trash receptacles, dock, walking path (sandy), volleyball nets, historical site

Hazards: currents



Swimmers and snorkelers enjoy the water and white sandy beaches of Mañagaha.

Northern Shoreline



	Swimming / Wading	Snorkeling	SCUBA diving	Fishing	Picnicking	Nature viewing	Sightseeing	Walking / Hiking	Boating	Volleyball / Basketball	Marine sports	Parking	Restrooms	Palapalas (beach pavilions)	Picnic areas	Grills / Fire pits	Trash receptacles	Dock / Harbor	Boat ramp	Historical / Cultural site	Playground
(19) Tanapag Beach & Public Boat Ramp	x			x				x				x	x					x			
(20) Paupau Beach Park	x	x		x	x							x		x	x	x					
(21) Wing Beach	x	x	x	x								x				x					
(22) Banzai Cliff							x					x	x	x		x			x		
(23) Grotto		x	x		x	x						x	x	x	x		x				
(24) Bird Island & Bird Island Overlook	x				x		x					x			x						



(19) Tanapag Beach and Public Boat Ramp

In the village of Tanapag is a public park area along the shoreline. This beach park contains several palapalas, a playground, and plenty of parking. There is also a public boat ramp managed by the Division of Fish and Wildlife.

Primary Uses: boating, fishing, swimming

Features: boat ramp, palapalas, parking, playground

Hazards: boat traffic

(20) Paupau Beach Park

Paupau Beach Park is located in As Matuis on Middle Road, just past the Palms Resort. The park and beach can be accessed from a large paved parking area. The park contains several palapalas with cooking areas and picnic tables under a canopy of coconut and flame trees. The beach is made up of sand and coral rubble and extends south towards Tanapag. The nearshore water is mostly sheltered from waves by the fringe reef about a half mile offshore. This area is ideal for swimming and snorkeling, although there is sometimes a moderate current that swimmers should be aware of.

Primary Uses: picnicking, swimming, fishing, snorkeling

Features: picnic areas, palapalas, grills/fire pits, trash receptacles, parking

Hazards: none

(21) Wing Beach

Just past Marianas Trekking, a narrow and bumpy dirt vehicle trail leads to an unpaved parking area by Wing Beach. The beach is a pristine combination of sand and coral rubble, and the water is ideal for. The water is sheltered by a fringe reef making swimming and snorkeling enjoyable. A premier dive site that is only accessible for a few summer months each year can be accessed over the fringe reef from the northern most point of the beach. Only divers accompanied by an experienced local guide should attempt to dive at this location.

Primary Uses: swimming, fishing, snorkeling, SCUBA diving

Features: parking, trash receptacles

Hazards: waves

(22) Banzai Cliff

On the northern coast of Saipan lies Banzai Cliff, a rugged shoreline cliff where thousands of Japanese civilians and soldiers jumped to their death following the Battle of Saipan in World War II. The cliff is lined with several shrines and monuments in their honor. There is a viewing platform on the cliff offering visitors excellent views of the shrines and the ocean surf about 100 feet below.

Primary Uses: sightseeing

Features: historical site, palapalas, trash receptacles, parking, restrooms

Hazards: cliffs



The monuments at Banzai commemorate the death of thousands of Japanese civilians on the cliffs during World War II.

(23) Grotto

The Grotto is a massive cavity in the limestone cliffs on the northern part of Saipan and is considered one of the most scenic and remarkable underwater features of the island. It is a world-renowned dive spot, with three underwater passages that connect the Grotto with the open ocean at depths ranging from 40 to 60 feet. The Bird Island Marine Sanctuary, a fully protected no-take conservation area, extends to the ocean area surrounding the Grotto.

The entrance to the water is located down 118 rocky steps that are narrow, steep, and often slippery. Dangerous wave swells and currents are common, and only experienced snorkelers and divers accompanied by knowledgeable local guides should enter the water.

The Grotto and its unique geological features can be viewed from a series of lookouts above the cavity.

Primary Uses: SCUBA diving, snorkeling, picnicking, nature viewing



The Grotto is a massive, natural cavity in the limestone cliffs that extends into the ocean.

Features: parking, picnic areas, palapalas, trash receptacles, restrooms

Hazards: cliffs, footing, waves, currents

(24) Bird Island and Bird Island Overlook

Bird Island is one of the premier wildlife and marine sanctuaries on Saipan, located on the northeastern tip of the island. The beach, the nearby limestone island and the surrounding land area are all part of the Bird Island Wildlife Conservation Area, and the surrounding water is all part of the Bird Island Marine Sanctuary. Both of these are fully protected no-take areas managed by DFW. Visitors are reminded to observe the conservation area rules posted on the informational signs.

The beach can be accessed from a narrow dirt road and path through the jungle, located just off of the main road up to Suicide Cliff past the turn off for the Grotto. The trail is about 150 meters long, but may be steep and slippery in some areas. The trail ends at a long beach of white sand and coral rubble, interspersed with coconut trees and low vegetation.

Bird Island and the surrounding area can be viewed from the Bird Island Overlook, located about three-quarters of a mile down the paved

road past the trailhead. The Overlook has a series of stairs and a lookout platform with an excellent view of the entire area. A wide variety of seabirds can be seen flying around and nesting on Bird Island. Visitors may also see turtles and other wildlife in the ocean below.

Primary Uses: swimming, nature viewing, hiking

Features: trail (off road), parking, picnic areas, trash receptacles, overlook

Hazards: currents, waves, footing



Bird Island and the Bird Island Overlook.

Eastern Shoreline



	Swimming / Wading	Snorkeling	SCUBA diving	Fishing	Picnicking	Nature viewing	Stargazing	Walking / Hiking	Boating	Volleyball / Basketball	Marine sports	Parking	Restrooms	Palapas (beach pavilions)	Picnic areas	Grills / Fire pits	Trash receptacles	Deck / Harbor	Boat ramp	Historical / Cultural site	Playground
(25) Hidden (San Juan) Beach	x					x						x									
(26) Jeffrey's (Talofofo) Beach	x					x						x									
(27) Old Man by the Sea	x					x		x													
(28) Marine Beach	x			x	x							x		x	x		x				
(29) Tank Beach	x					x						x									
(30) Forbidden Island & Forbidden Island Overlook	x	x				x		x				x					x				
(31) Laolao Bay Dive Site			x	x								x									
(32) Laolao Bay Permeable Parking Lot	x			x	x	x						x		x		x	x				
(33) Laolao Bay Boat Launch	x			x					x												



Visitors to Hidden Beach enjoy wading in the tidal area.

(25) Hidden (San Juan) Beach

Hidden Beach, also known as San Juan beach, is one of several pocket beaches in the Talofofo area on the east side of Saipan. Past Kingfisher Golf Course at the end of the paved road, the

dirt road continues to where it ends at a large dirt parking lot. The road to Hidden is rough and should only be driven in high-clearance vehicles. The wide sandy beach leads into a shallow tidal area, and can be reached after about a five minute hike through the jungle.

The area is ideal for relaxing on the sand or wading in the water. Visitors should be aware of ocean conditions, as big waves can cross the fringing rocks and cause rough conditions in the tidal area.

Primary Uses: swimming/wading, nature study

Features: parking (off road), trail (off road)

Hazards: footing, waves

(26) Jeffrey's (Talofofo) Beach

Jeffrey's Beach is located at the mouth of the Talofofo streambed, located at the end of a rough dirt road just off of the main road to Kingfisher golf course. Only vehicles with high clearance should drive to Jeffrey's Beach. The dirt road follows the stream bed, which ends up at a long, wide rocky beach that leads into a shallow tidal area. Visitors

are asked to park in the designated parking area and enjoy Jeffrey's Beach on foot.

Primary Uses: swimming/wading, nature study

Features: parking

Hazards: waves, footing



The limestone rock shaped as the face of an old man gives the secluded beach of Old Man By the Sea its name.

(27) Old Man by the Sea

Old Man by the Sea is the first of the pocket beaches in the Talofofo area, accessible along the road to Kingfisher golf course. There is no parking area, but there is a sign on the side of the road marking the trailhead to the beach.

The trail extends about a mile through the jungle, down a natural ravine to the wide beach of coral rubble and sand.

The beach is named for the odd shaped limestone rock at the tidal area edge that resembles a human face. The beach is a wide sandy beach that leads into a shallow tidal area. The water is sheltered by fringing reef and rocks, but visitors should be aware of ocean conditions, as big waves may cross into the tidal area.

Primary Uses: hiking, swimming/wading, nature study

Features: trail

Hazards: waves, footing

(28) Marine Beach

Marine Beach is located in the neighborhood of Kagman, at the end of a narrow dirt road. There is a long parking area and several palapalas and picnic areas, and a short trail leading from the parking lot down to the shore. The beach is a wide, long beach of coral rubble and sand leading into a rocky tidal area.

- Primary Uses:** picnicking, swimming, fishing
- Features:** picnic areas, palapalas, trash receptacles, parking
- Hazards:** waves, currents



Marine Beach can be accessed from the parking lot by following a short, sandy trail.

(29) Tank Beach

Tank Beach is located on the east side of Saipan in Kagman. It can be reached by turning left at the intersection by Chacha Middle School and following the road until it ends in a dirt parking lot. The beach is a long, wide flat beach of coral rubble and sand, and has excellent views of Suicide Cliff and the northern part of Saipan. Tank Beach and its parking lot are a part of the Kagman Wildlife

- Conservation Area, and the waters off of Tank Beach are part of the Forbidden Island Marine Sanctuary. No fishing or taking of plants or animals is allowed.
- Primary Uses:** swimming/wading, nature viewing
- Features:** parking
- Hazards:** waves

(30) Forbidden Island and Forbidden Island Overlook

Forbidden Island and the Forbidden Island Overlook are both part of the Kagman Wildlife Conservation Area and Forbidden Island Marine Sanctuary, managed by DFW. At Chacha Middle School turn right and follow the road until it ends and then turn left on Forbidden Island Road. The road up to the trailhead and Overlook is steep and covers rough terrain. Only vehicles with high clearance and 4WD should attempt to make the drive.

The trailhead is marked by a marine sanctuary informational sign on the side of the road. The unmaintained trail to access the beach and Forbidden Island is about 500 meters long and is steep and may be slippery in places. The long beach is made up of coral rubble and sand, interspersed with big boulders. The tidal area has a swimming hole ideal for cooling off and snorkeling.

Visitors can find spectacular views of Forbidden Island and the nearby beach and marine areas from the Forbidden Island Overlook, located at



Forbidden Island and the surrounding Marine Sanctuary, as seen from the Forbidden Island Overlook.



Laolao Bay has beautiful corals and fish for divers to view. (Credit: J. Buniag)

(31) Laolao Bay Dive Site

The Laolao Bay Dive Site is located about 2 miles down Laolao Bay Drive, just before the intersection with Gapgap Road, and is an incredibly popular dive. There is a large, shady parking area that has a security guard during the day, with several short trails leading down to the beach. Once in the water, there are several cuts in the reef that allow SCUBA divers to enter the deeper water, where they can find beautiful corals, reef fish, and even the occasional turtle. These cuts into deeper water may be challenging to find, and footing to these access points may be slippery and impacted by incoming waves. Divers should always dive with experienced local dive guides who know the reef and the safe access and exit points. Remember that coral are living organisms. Please try to avoid stepping on the reef whenever possible.

- Primary Uses:** SCUBA diving, fishing
- Features:** parking
- Hazards:** footing, wavess



Visitors to Laolao Bay take advantage of the permeable parking lot, built to reduce storm water runoff into the water.

(32) Laolao Permeable Parking Lot

A shady, scenic parking lot located about halfway down Laolao Bay Drive offers visitors a peaceful place to enjoy the beautiful Laolao Bay. This “permeable parking lot” was created using cinder blocks and vegetation, designed to protect the bay’s reefs by allowing rain and storm water to permeate into the soil rather than run off into the water. There are multiple signs to provide visitors with information about the native vegetation surrounding the parking lot and the sea turtles that may nest on Saipan’s beaches. Nearby there is a shelter with a grill area, as well as trash and recycling receptacles.

All three Laolao Bay access sites are included in the Laolao Bay Sea Cucumber Sanctuary, where no harvesting of sea cucumbers is allowed.

- Primary Uses:** swimming/wading, fishing, picnicking, nature viewing
- Features:** parking lot, palapalas, trash receptacles, grills/fire pits
- Hazards:** none



The dive site parking area has plenty of shade and is a short walk to the shoreline.

(33) Laolao Bay Boat Launching Site

Just before the permeable parking lot is a large beach that serves as a boat launch point for Laolao Bay. This beach area is an official boat launch, but does not have any paving or infrastructure in place. The beach is wide and sandy, ideal for a relaxing swim.

- Primary Uses:** boating, swimming, fishing
- Features:** boat launch (undeveloped)
- Hazards:** boat traffic



Views of the southern point of Tinian from Tachogna Beach.

TINIAN

Slightly smaller than Saipan at about 39 square miles, Tinian is located just south of Saipan across the Saipan Channel. Archeological evidence suggests that Tinian was the first of the Mariana Islands to be settled by the Chamorro, about 4,000 years ago. Large latte stones and the remnants of Chamorro King Taga's great stone palace remain standing and are easily visited at the House of Taga close to Kammer Beach.

Since settlement by the Chamorro, Tinian was a Spanish, then German, then Japanese colony. Under Japanese rule, large-scale plantations along with infrastructure and Shinto shrines were developed on the island. During World War II, Tinian was seized by U.S. forces during the Battle

of Tinian shortly after their successful campaign during the Battle of Saipan. After the battle, Tinian became the site of the construction of one of the largest air bases of World War II. This air base included the North Field runway complex, designed to accommodate the U.S. B-29 bombers. In 1945, the bombers Enola Gay and Bockscar departed from North Field carrying the two atomic bombs that were subsequently dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

Today, the northern two-thirds of Tinian are leased by the United States military for maneuvers and training, with most of Tinian's 3,000 residents living in the southern town of San Jose. Visitors can still explore the military leased area to find the Atomic Bomb Pits, Japanese shrines, and beautiful secluded beaches.



	Swimming / Wading	Snorkeling	SCUBA diving	Fishing	Picnicking	Nature viewing	Sightseeing	Walking / Hiking	Boating	Volleyball / Basketball	Marine sports	Parking	Restrooms	Palapas (beach pavilions)	Picnic areas	Grills / Fire pits	Trash receptacles	Dock / Harbor	Boat ramp	Historical / Cultural site	Playground
(1) Suicide Cliff						x	x					x								x	
(2) Tachogna Beach Park	x	x			x					x		x	x	x		x					
(3) Taga Beach	x	x			x	x	x					x	x	x	x					x	
(4) Taga to Kammer Pathway					x	x		x							x						
(5) Kammer Beach Park	x	x			x							x	x	x	x	x					
(6) Port of Tinian									x			x					x	x			
(7) Unai Chulu (White Beach)	x			x		x						x									
(8) White Cross Memorial Point						x	x					x								x	
(9) Blow Hole						x						x									
(10) Unai Dangkulo (Long Beach)	x	x				x	x	x				x								x	
(11) Unai Masalok	x	x				x	x					x								x	

(1) Suicide Cliff

At this site during the Battle of Tinian in World War II, hundreds of Japanese citizens and soldiers jumped to their death rather than face capture by United States troops. Today, this cliff area contains several memorials to the hundreds who died. There is a large parking lot and several monuments and memorials. There are also stunning views of the Tinian cliff line and the ocean below.

Primary Uses: sightseeing, nature viewing

Features: parking area, monuments

Hazards: cliffs



The monuments lining the cliff line at Suicide Cliff.

(4) Taga to Kammer Pathway

This is a paved pathway a little over a half mile long that follows the shoreline and connects Taga Beach Park and Kammer Beach Park. There are several picnic areas, and the shoreline into the Tinian Marine Reserve is accessible at multiple locations along the trail. However, the shoreline is mostly uneven with steep rocks and may be slippery and potentially dangerous.

Primary Uses: walking/hiking, picnicking

Features: picnic areas, walking path

Hazards: footing (to shoreline)



The southern shoreline stretches from Taga Beach to Kammer Beach.



Palapalas and coconut trees offer shade for visitors to Tachogna Beach.

(2) Tachogna Beach

Tachogna Beach Park is located at the end of the road, just past the Tinian Dynasty and Taga Beach. The park contains a paved parking area, several old palapalas and picnic areas, and a long beach of white sand and coral rubble lining a shallow lagoon. Marine sports vendors and dive operators conduct operations under the shelter of the park's palapalas. This shoreline is one of several that borders the Tinian Marine Reserve.

Primary Uses: swimming, snorkeling, picnicking, marine sports

Features: parking, picnic areas, palapalas, showers, restrooms, trash receptacles

Hazards: falling coconuts

(3) Taga Beach

Located just across the road from Tinian Dynasty, Taga Beach is a popular spot for tourists and locals alike. The park faces west and provides visitors with an excellent vantage point to view the sunset. There are several picnic tables and palapalas that are well maintained, and the remnants of an old latte stone quarry can be found nearby. There is a small beach that can be accessed by going down some old and broken concrete stairs; however the footing can be slippery and dangerous so caution must be taken. Taga Beach and the surrounding waters are part of the Tinian Marine Reserve.

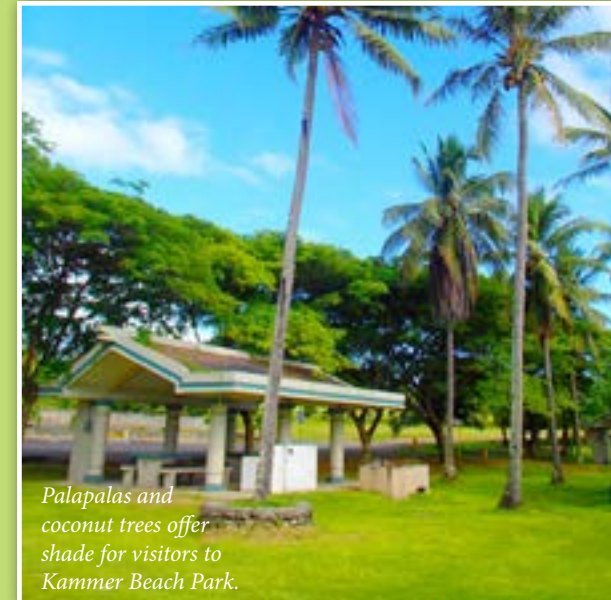
Primary Uses: swimming, snorkeling, picnicking, nature viewing, sightseeing

Features: historical site, parking, palapalas, picnic areas, showers, restrooms

Hazards: cliffs, footing



Stairs down to the cliffs and pocket beach at Taga Beach.



Palapalas and coconut trees offer shade for visitors to Kammer Beach Park.

(5) Kammer Beach

Kammer Beach Park is located next to the harbor and close to Tinian's famous House of Taga latte stones. The park has multiple picnic palapalas and fire pit grill areas, an amphitheater, and a large paved parking area with ADA accessibility. The shoreline of sand and coral rubble is easily accessible, and the nearby lagoon is ideal for wading and swimming. The marine habitats off of Kammer Beach are a part of the Tinian Marine Reserve. The Tinian Hot Pepper Festival is held here every February.

Primary Uses: swimming, snorkeling, picnicking

Features: parking, picnic areas, palapalas, grills/fire pits, showers, restrooms

Hazards: falling coconuts

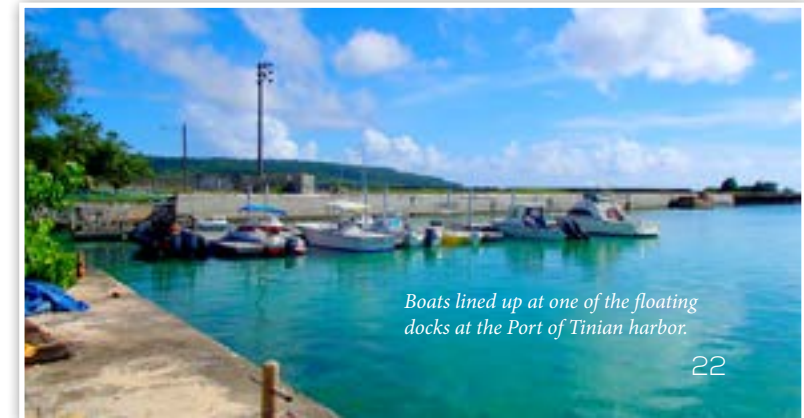
(6) Port of Tinian

The Port of Tinian is the island's only harbor. There is a small floating dock for recreational boaters, as well as a boat ramp. The Tinian Marine Reserve extends past the harbor.

Primary Uses: boating

Features: parking, boat ramp, dock

Hazards: boat traffic



Boats lined up at one of the floating docks at the Port of Tinian harbor.



Visitors enjoy a relaxing afternoon at Unai Chulu.

(7) Unai Chulu (White Beach)

During the Battle of Tinian of World War II, Chulu Beach was used as a landing site and invasion beach by U.S. forces. Today it is a secluded, white-sand beach that is popular among tourists for swimming in the shallow lagoon or relaxing under one of the many nearby coconut trees that offer shade.

Primary Uses: swimming, fishing, nature viewing

Features: parking

Hazards: waves, falling coconuts

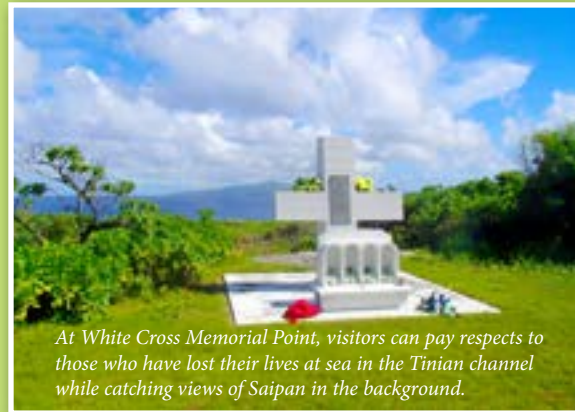
(8) White Cross Memorial Point

The White Cross Memorial is located at the northern-most point on Tinian. The two memorials that mark this point commemorate people who were lost at sea in the channel: eight people in 1974 and four people in 1997. From the memorial visitors can see views of Saipan across the Tinian channel.

Primary Uses: nature viewing, sightseeing

Features: parking, historical site

Hazards: footing (to shoreline), waves, currents



At White Cross Memorial Point, visitors can pay respects to those who have lost their lives at sea in the Tinian channel while catching views of Saipan in the background.

(9) Blow Hole

The Blow Hole is one of the more popular tourist spots on Tinian, located on the northeast coastline just east of the North Field runway. Over the years waves and wind have carved a natural cave in the limestone cliff. When waves crash into the cave, the water is forced up and sprays up to 30 feet high out of a hole at the top of the cave. Caution is necessary when exploring this natural phenomenon, due to uneven and slippery footing and the unpredictability of the ocean.

Primary Uses: nature viewing

Features: parking

Hazards: footing (to shoreline), waves, cliffs



Waves rush up through the Blow Hole, spraying up to 30 feet in the air.



Saipan's Mount Takpochau provides a scenic backdrop to the sandy beach and clear lagoon at Unai Dangkulo.

10) Unai Dangkulo (Long Beach)

Long Beach is a long white sand beach leading into a small shallow lagoon that is ideal for swimming and snorkeling. At the northern end of the beach there is a trail that extends about 1.8 kilometers into the jungle, ending at a group of latte stones from an old Chamorro village. The trail is marked with sporadic signs but is not regularly maintained.

Primary Uses: nature viewing, swimming, snorkeling, hiking, sightseeing

Features: parking, hiking trail (not maintained), historical site

Hazards: waves; falling coconuts



There are plenty of coconut trees offering shade and possible refreshment to visitors at Unai Dangkulo.

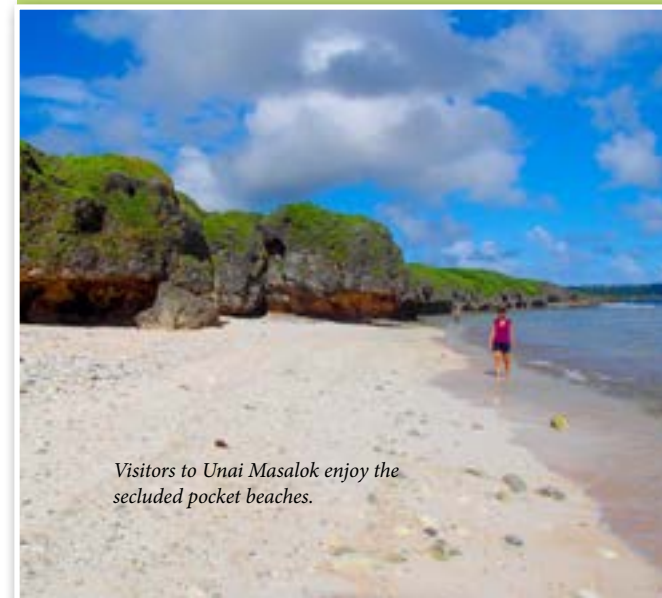
(11) Unai Masalok

Located just south of Long Beach, Unai Masalok consists of three small pocket beaches. The first of the pocket beaches can be reached at the end of a steep, very overgrown trail leading through the brush from the parking area. The next two pocket beaches can be reached by wading through shallow water at high tide. The parking area is in a shady forest area and contains signs describing an ancient latte stone site. Artifacts from World War II can also be seen nearby.

Primary Uses: swimming/wading, snorkeling, nature viewing, sightseeing

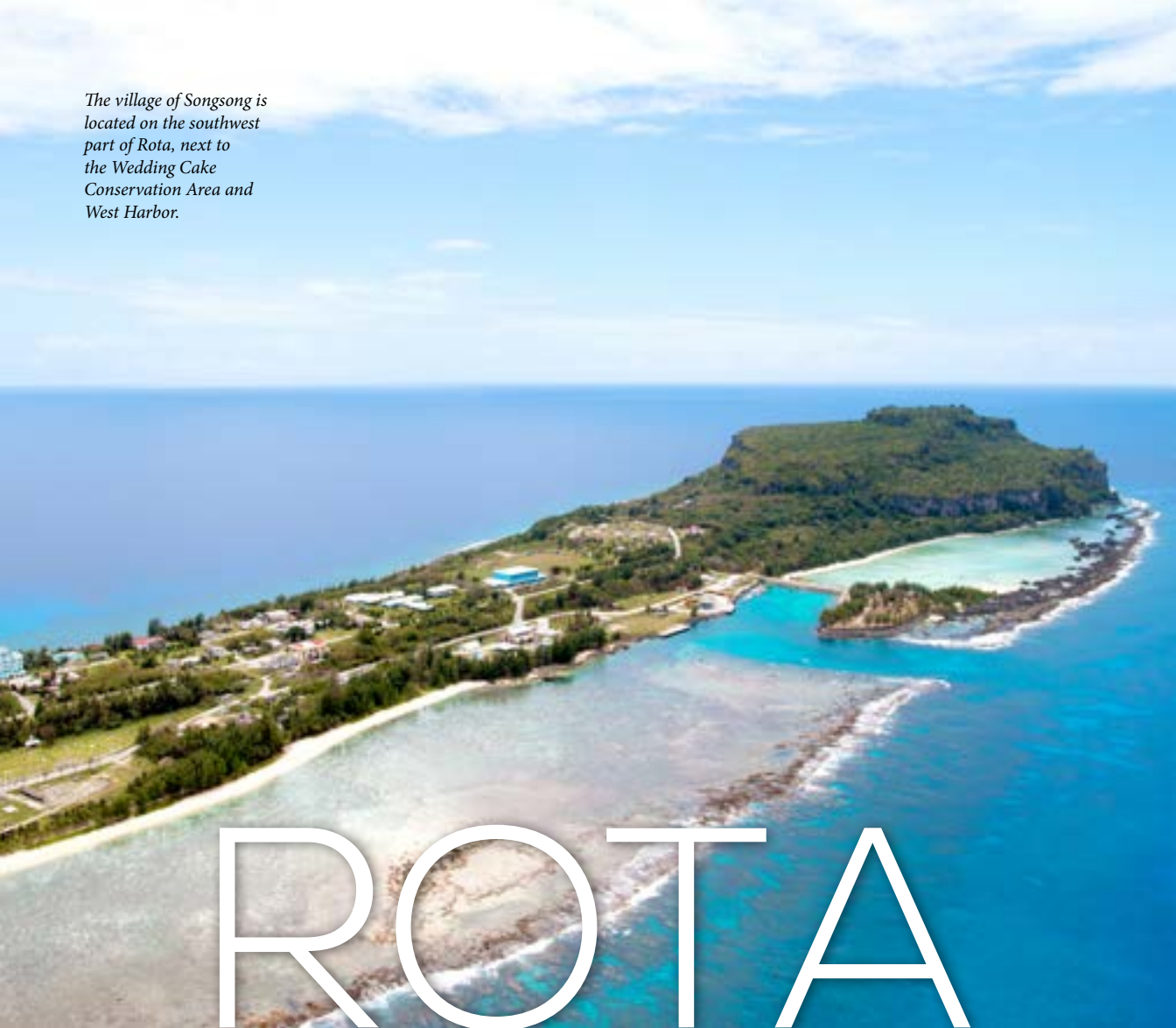
Features: parking, historical site (not maintained)

Hazards: footing; waves; currents



Visitors to Unai Masalok enjoy the secluded pocket beaches.

The village of Songsong is located on the southwest part of Rota, next to the Wedding Cake Conservation Area and West Harbor.



Pronounced Luta in Chamorro, Rota is also known as the “Friendly Island”. It is the southernmost island of the CNMI and is home to roughly 2,500 residents. As with the other islands in the CNMI, Rota was first settled by the Chamorro before passing through Spanish, German, and Japanese colonial administrations. During World War II, the Japanese garrisoned soldiers on Rota and the island was occasionally bombed by U.S. aircraft,

but the island was never invaded by U.S. troops and remained relatively untouched by the war. Today, Rota is home to a variety of spectacular natural and cultural sites, including its many beaches and coastlines. Most of the island's beaches are undeveloped, but there are quite a few beach parks and swimming areas that visitors often frequent for picnicking, swimming, fishing, and relaxation.



	Swimming / Wading	Snorkeling	SCUBA diving	Fishing	Picnicking	Nature viewing	Sightseeing	Walking / Hiking	Boating	Volleyball / Basketball	Marine sports	Parking	Restrooms	Palapas (beach pavilions)	Picnic areas	Grills / Fire pits	Trash receptacles	Dock / Harbor	Boat ramp	Historical / Cultural site	Playground
(1) Poña Point Fishing Cliff				x		x						x									
(2) East Harbor	x	x	x	x	x							x						x	x		
(3) Valentino Hotel & Coral Garden Hotel	x	x		x	x									x	x	x					
(4) Twerksberry Beach Park	x			x	x							x	x	x	x	x					
(5) Angyuta Island (Small Island)					x	x										x	x				
(6) West Harbor			x						x			x						x	x	x	
(7) Songsong Beach & Round House	x			x								x					x				
(8) Pinatang Park	x			x	x							x		x	x	x					
(9) Veterans Memorial Park	x			x								x		x	x	x				x	
(10) Teteto Beach	x			x	x							x	x	x	x	x	x				
(11) Guata Beach Park	x			x	x							x	x	x	x	x	x				x
(12) Swimming Hole	x	x			x	x						x	x	x	x	x	x				
(13) As Matmos Fishing Cliff				x		x						x									



The view of Rota's southern coastline from Poña Point.

(1) Poña Point Fishing Cliff

On the southeastern edge of Sasanhaya Bay is the Poña Point Fishing Cliff. Lush vegetation extends from the dirt road to the edge of the cliffs, which plunge into the ocean about 100 feet below. Visitors can view the coral reefs beneath the water below, and may be lucky enough to spot a turtle or two surfacing for air. To the east, the view extends along Rota's southern coastline. There is plenty of off road parking; however there are no other amenities at Poña Point. Visitors should exercise caution when approaching the cliff line.

Primary Uses: nature viewing, fishing

Features: parking (off road)

Hazards: cliffs



The Poña Point cliff, with views of the vibrant coral reefs in the water below.

(2) East Harbor

East Harbor dock and boat ramp can be found off the main highway on the southeast side of Songsong village. The facility contains a boat ramp and parking areas as well as a few picnic tables.

Primary Uses: boating, picnicking, swimming, snorkeling, fishing, SCUBA

Features: harbor, boat ramp, parking, picnic areas

Hazards: waves, footing, currents, boat traffic

(3) Valentino Hotel & Coral Garden Hotel

Behind Valentino Hotel and Coral Garden Hotel are stairs leading down to a small, rocky shoreline. Visitors can swim or snorkel, but should use caution when climbing on the slippery or sharp limestone shoreline. Above the shoreline is a grassy area with a few picnic tables, as well as a fire pit.

Primary Uses: picnicking, swimming, snorkeling, fishing

Features: picnic areas, palapalas, fire pits

Hazards: waves, footing, currents



Tweksberry Beach Park contains plenty of shade from coconut trees and several palapalas and picnic shelters.

(5) Angyuta Island (Small Island)

Angyuta Island, also known as "Small Island", is located just outside West Harbor and is connected to Rota by a manmade seawall and causeway that allow visitors to access the island. The small, wooded island provides the harbor facility some protection against west swell and large storm surge. The island is often used as a recreational area for fishing and picnicking.

Primary Uses: picnicking, fishing

Features: grills/fire pits, trash receptacles

Hazards: waves, boat traffic; currents

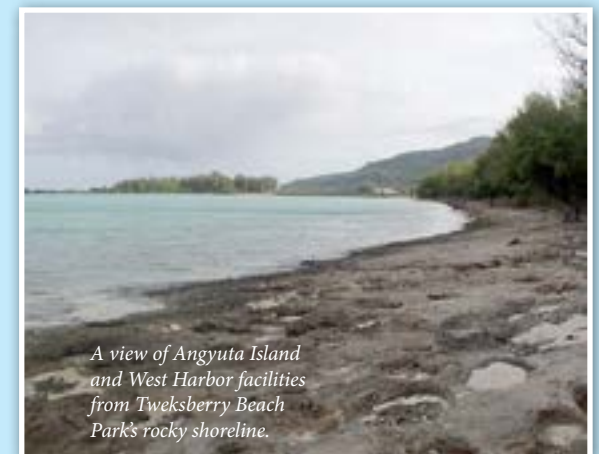
(4) Tweksberry Beach Park

Tweksberry Beach Park is located at the end of the main road from the West Harbor boating facilities, next to the gate into the Wedding Cake Conservation Area. The park is well maintained, and contains several palapalas, picnic areas, and barbecue pits making it ideal for an afternoon picnic. There are plenty of coconut trees and ironwood trees offering shade, and the rocky shoreline is easily accessible.

Primary Uses: picnicking, fishing, swimming

Features: parking, picnic areas, palapalas, grills/fire pits, restrooms, trash receptacles

Hazards: currents, falling coconuts



A view of Angyuta Island and West Harbor facilities from Tweksberry Beach Park's rocky shoreline.

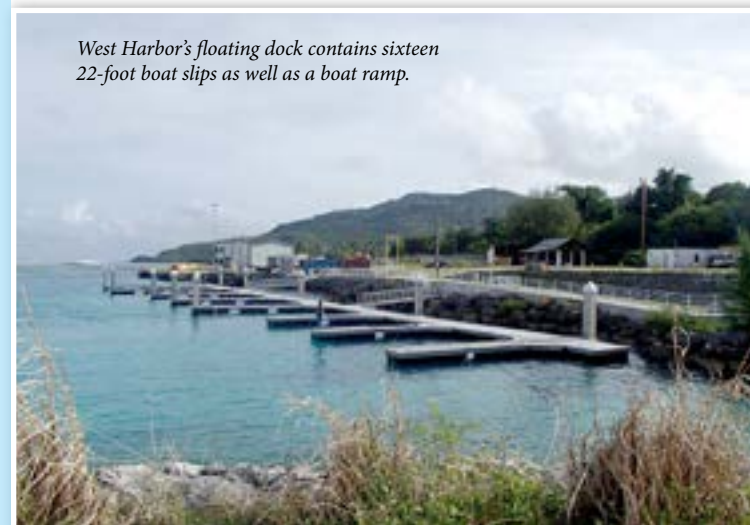
(6) West Harbor

West Harbor is one of Rota's boating facilities, located in the port and industrial area just outside Songsong village. The facility contains a boat ramp and a floating dock with sixteen 22-foot boat slips, as well as ample parking.

Primary Uses: boating, SCUBA diving

Features: dock, boat ramp, parking, trash receptacles

Hazards: boat traffic; currents; waves



West Harbor's floating dock contains sixteen 22-foot boat slips as well as a boat ramp.

(7) Songsong Beach & Round House

This large community area is located on the west side of downtown Songsong village along the Sasanlagu beach shoreline on the main road heading to West Harbor. The Round House is often used for large community events, and the nearby beach provides visitors with fishing and swimming opportunities.

Primary Uses: swimming, fishing, community center

Features: trash receptacles, parking

Hazards: none

(8) Pinatang Park

Just outside Songsong Village on the north coast lies the entrance to Pinatang Park. This abandoned water park still offers visitors striking sunset views and picnic opportunities. There is a large paved parking lot and a bridge across a channel to a small island. The island contains a few picnic areas and palapalas, as well as a fire pit and the entrance to the water park. The water park itself is officially closed, so visitors should use caution when exploring the area.

Primary Uses: swimming, fishing, picnicking

Features: picnic areas, palapalas, grills/fire pits, parking

Hazards: waves, currents

(9) Veterans Memorial Park

Located about 3 miles up the main road from Songsong towards the airport is the U.S. Memorial Veterans Memorial Park, located next to the Sunset Villa Hotel. This shoreline contains a long, sandy beach as well as a few palapalas and trees for shade.

Primary Uses: swimming, fishing

Features: picnic areas, palapalas, grills/fire pits, trash receptacles, parking

Hazards: none

(10) Teteto Beach

About a half-mile down the main road from Guata Beach Park towards Songsong Village is Teteto Beach, a popular beach of white sand interspersed with jagged exposed limestone rocks. There is a long, semi-paved parking area as well as several newly constructed picnic pavilions and a working restroom.

Primary Uses: picnicking, swimming, fishing

Features: picnic areas, palapalas, grills/fire pits, trash receptacles, restrooms, parking

Hazards: none

(11) Guata Beach Park

The Guata Beach Park is located on the northern coast of Rota, on the main road just before the road leaves the coast and heads uphill towards the airport. The park is marked by the large “Giant Clam” palapala and a roadside sign. This park contains multiple picnic palapalas, a playground, and restrooms and showers.

Primary Uses: picnicking, swimming, fishing

Features: picnic areas, palapalas, grills/fire pits,

playground, showers, trash receptacles, parking

Hazards: none

The “Giant Clam” palapala of Guata Beach Park is easy to recognize from the main road.



Swimming Hole is a serene little shoreline park, containing picnic shelters, shade trees, and a deep tide pool for swimming.

(12) Swimming Hole

The Swimming Hole is a popular shoreline park built around a picturesque natural tide pool where visitors can swim. The swimming area is about 4-6 feet deep in most areas, and can be accessed by climbing down from the rocky shoreline around the pool.

The park contains coconut palms and other shade trees covering a grassy area. There are picnic shelters with benches and tables, and a few barbecue grill pits. Shower facilities and restrooms are located at the far end of the park. Across the road from the Swimming Hole is a nature trail that leads up to Rota Resort through the jungle.

At certain times of year and at high tide the water at Swimming Hole may be rough, so visitors should be mindful of incoming waves and potentially strong currents.

Primary Uses: swimming, snorkeling, nature viewing, picnicking

Features: parking, picnic shelters, grills/fire pits, restrooms, showers, trash receptacles

Hazards: waves, currents, footing



The tide pool that Swimming Hole is named for can reach depths of 5-6 feet.



Waves crash against the steep cliff line of As Matmos Fishing Cliff.

(13) As Matmos Fishing Cliff

As Matmos Fishing Cliff is located at the northeastern most point of Rota, about 4 miles down a dirt road. This is an open rocky cliff area covered in low lying grass and other vegetation. The vantage point offers some spectacular views of the ocean; visitors may even see turtles surfacing in the water. Visitors to the cliff should maintain a safe distance from the cliff’s edge and be cautious when exploring the area. There is no access to the water from these cliffs.

Primary Uses: nature viewing, fishing

Features: parking area (off road)

Hazards: cliffs, waves

