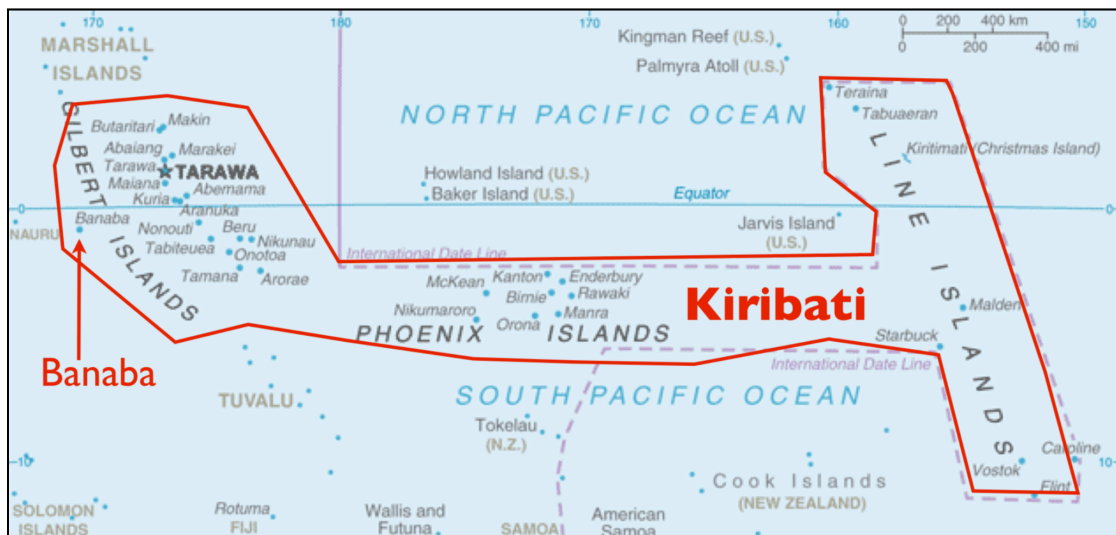
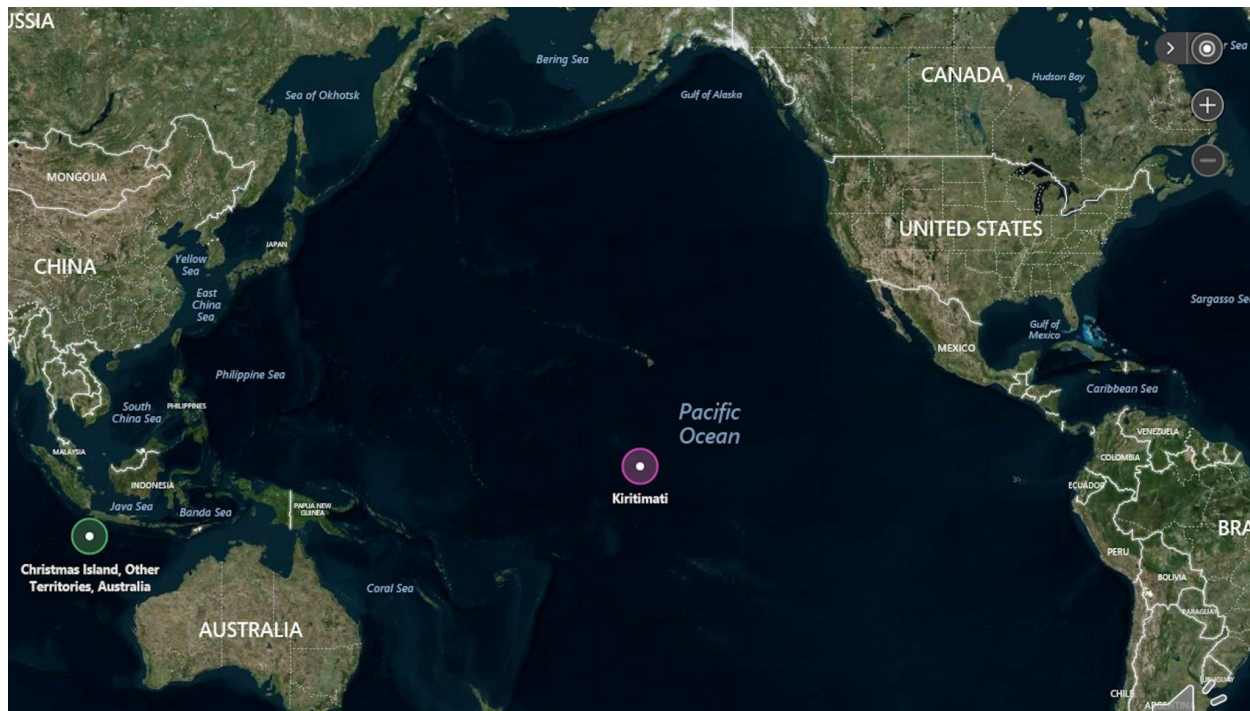


Christmas Island (Kiritimati) Information

Compiled by Steve Lanigan 9/15/2023



Kiritimati – also known as **Christmas Island** – is one of the Northern Line Islands of Kiribati. It is the largest coral atoll in the world (248mi², 642km²) and by itself represents the majority of the land area of Kiribati. The two main activities on the island are scuba diving and fishing. Being the largest coral atoll in the world, Kiritimati offers an impressive number of places to dive and things to see under the water. Almost every week there is a cruise ship stopping by the island, this is the best opportunity to find local handicrafts



Interacting with the local community

- ➡ The locals love to have their pictures taken however we do ask that you respect the dignity and privacy of others and ask before taking photos
- ➡ In all aspects of life, humility and humbleness are admired.
Direct eye contact is uncommon, and it is inappropriate to look directly at one of higher status. Touching of heads is considered extremely intimate, and the top of the head is a taboo area. Similarly, do not raise your hands/arms above another person's head (for example by leaning on a mwaneaba roof).
- ➡ Don't walk across or cut between the gaze of talking individuals. Go around them or stoop or when you do, bend down below eye level and pass, and use the word "matauninga."

English is widely spoken in Kiribati, and as a visitor you will have no problems communicating with the local people. Nevertheless, using some local words is certainly appreciated by the local community, and will put you in good stead for making new friends.

Note: in Kiribati language, "ti" is pronounced "ss". For example, "Kiribati" has to be pronounced "Kiribas".

Mauri	<i>Hello / Welcome</i> – this is the word you will hear and use most while in Kiribati – an embedded sign of the friendliness and welcoming nature of the Kiribati people.
Eng	<i>Yes</i> – also commonly used is "Ngaia", which means "okay"
Iaki	<i>No</i>
Ko rabwa	<i>Thankyou</i> – Kiribati is a very polite and friendly society, and using "Ko rabwa" is always appreciated.
Taiaoka	<i>Please</i> – very useful in Kiribati and great to create a polite impression of guests with the local community. Can also be combined with "ikai" (here) to ask the bus driver to stop for you ; or if you need to squeeze past someone in a crowd..
Ngkoe	<i>You</i> (the person you are talking too)
Ngai	<i>I</i> (yourself)
Tiabo	<i>Goodbye</i>

- [Useful phrases in Kiribati](#)
- [how to pronounce Gilbertese words](#)
-  [The Sound of the Kiribati / Gilbertese language \(Numbers, Greetings & The Parable\)](#)
- first 27 seconds
- [Common Kiribati Words - Pacific Education](#) - how to pronounce
- [Kiribati Language Week - Pacific Education](#)

PHRASES FOR VISITORS

Hello	Mauri
Goodbye	Tia boo
Yes/No	Ngaia/Tiaki
Thank You	Ko rabwa
My Name is	Arau bon.....
I come from.....	I roko mai.....
Where is the Hotel	E mena iaa te..... Uteroo
(Police, Hospital, Market, Restaurant)?	(Bureitiman, On-aoraki, Mwakete, Tabo n amwarake)?
Where can I borrow/hire a (Bicycle, Car, Motorbike)?	E ngaa te tabo ae I kona n tangoa te (te bwatika, te kaa, te rebwerebwe)?
Where Do I get the boat to 'North Tarawa (Abaiang, etc)?	E na reke iaa te waa nako Tarawa leta (Abaiang, etc)?
When does the boat leave?	E na mwananga ningai te waa / te booti?
Where can I find a place to stay on outer island?	E na reke iaa au tabo ni maeka iaon aba?
When is the last bus?	Ningai te kabanea ni bwaati?
Where is the nearest beach?	E ngaa te kabanea ni kaan ni bike?
Is it safe to swim here?	E raoiroi te uua ikai?
How far is it to.....?	Kanga raroara nako.....?
Where can I buy.....?	N na kaboa ia te.....?
When do you open/Close?	Ko na uki/in ningai?
Where is the toilet?	E ngaa te roki?
What is this called?	Tera arana?
What is this used for?	Tera bonganaana?
How much?	Iraua boona?
Too expensive	E rangi ni bobuaka
Is it ripe?	Ea tawaa?

ENGLISH	KIRIBATI
Hello	Mauri
Good morning	Mauri n te ingabong aei
Good Evening	Mauri n te tairiki aei
Welcome	Kaarakai
Friend	Raoraou
What is it?	Tera te bwai aei/anne?
How do you do?	Ko uara?
Fine, Thank you	E rabwa I marurung
Good bye	Tia boo
How much?	Iraua boona?
How many?	Mwaitira?
Cheap	Boraoi
Expensive	Bobuaka
Go straight	Kaineti
Turn right	Bwakee nakon te atai
Turn left	Bwakee nakon te maing
Stop	Tei
Go	Nako
Good	Tikiraoi
Bad	Buakaka
Mister	Ten.....
Mrs	Nei.....
Miss	Nei.....
I	Ngai

ENGLISH	KIRIBATI
You	Ngkoe
We	Ngaira
You (plural)	Ngaia
They	Ngaiaa
Mine	Au bwai
Yours	Am bwai
Theirs	Aia bwai
One	Teuana
Two	Uoua
Three	Teniuua
Four	Aua
Five	Nimaaua
Six	Onoua
Seven	Itiua
Eight	Waniuua
Nine	Ruaiua
Ten	Tebwina
Eleven	Tebwi ma teuana
Twenty	Uabwi
Twenty-five	Uabwi ma nimaaua
One Hundred	Tebubua
Thousand	Teuana te ngaa
Ten Thousand	Tebwina te ngaa

Links to Information about Kiritimati

- [Addressing the Humanitarian and Environmental Consequences of Atmospheric Nuclear Weapon Tests: A Case Study of UK and US Test Programs at Kiritimati \(Christmas\) and Malden Islands, Republic of Kiribati](#)[Atomic history of Kiritimati – a tiny island where humanity realized its most lethal potential](#)
- [Christmas-Island-Ultimate-Experience.pdf](#)
- [Hotspot Christmas Island](#)
- [Kiritimati Atoll](#)
- [Kiribati Ecology and Nature Protection Handbook \(2010\)](#)
- [Kiritimati Integrated Fisheries Master Plan, 2014-2016](#)
- [Kiritimati Island Conservation Protected Area Project](#)
- [Kiritimati Island for travelers](#)
- [Kiritimat Marine Turtles Profile](#)
- [Kiritimati Urban Council Profile](#)
- [Fin-Fish Species of Kiribati, pg 47-54](#)
- [Flora of Kiritimati \(Christmas\) Atoll Northern Line Islands, Republic of Kiribati](#) [The orange-jelly ponds of Kiritimati](#)
- List of Marine Fishes reported from Kiribati
https://fishbase.mnhn.fr/country/CountryChecklist.php?what=list&trpp=50&c_code=296&csub_code=&cpresence=present&sortby=alpha2&ext_pic=on&vhabitat=saltwater
- [Massive marine protected area is an even bigger sham](#)
- [Subsistence in isolation: Fishing Dependence and Perceptions of Change on Kiritimati, the world's largest atoll](#)
- [Surfing](#)
- [The Dying Island Country of Kiribati](#)
- [Things to Do & Experiences in Kiritimati Island](#)
- [Top 10 Things to do on Kiritimati \(aka Kiribati & Christmas Island\)](#)

Kiritimati Wildlife Sanctuary

The entire island of Kiritimati is a Wildlife Sanctuary and access to five particularly sensitive areas is restricted. Kiritimati is a sanctuary and breeding ground in the Pacific for seabirds, supporting 18 different species of birds, including the endemic Christmas Island Warbler. The island is home, and a population stronghold, to the endangered Phoenix Petrel and the White Throated Storm Petrel. Nine protected zones are designated to support the breeding and nesting of the various bird species. Motu Tabu has the world's largest populations of Phoenix Petrel and White-Throated Storm Petrel, as well as high diversity and abundance of other seabirds. Cook Island is important for many species, with the Phoenix Petrel recolonizing since the island was made pest-free in 2009. Some areas have also been designated by government as 'marine parks' to protect them from excessive fishing by villagers using gill nets.

Information About Kiribati

President: Anote Tong (2003)

Total area: 313 sq mi (811 sq km)

Population (2006 est.): 105,432 (growth rate: 2.2%); birth rate: 30.6/1000; infant mortality rate: 47.3/1000; life expectancy: 62.1; density per sq mi: 381

Capital and largest city (2003 est.): Tarawa, 26,600

Monetary unit: Australian dollar

Languages: English (official), I-Kiribati (Gilbertese)

Ethnicity/race: Micronesian 98.8%, other 1.2%

Religions: Roman Catholic 52%, Protestant (Congregational) 40%, some Seventh-Day Adventist, Muslim, Baha'i, Latter-day Saints, and Church of God (1999)

Economic summary: **GDP/PPP** (2001 est.): \$79 million, supplemented by a nearly equal amount from external sources; per capita \$800. **Real growth rate:** 1.5%. **Inflation:** 2.5%.

Unemployment: 2%; under-employment 70% (1992 est.). **Arable land:** 3%. **Agriculture:** copra, taro, breadfruit, sweet potatoes, vegetables; fish. **Labor force:** 7,870 economically active, not including subsistence farmers (2001 est.). **Industries:** fishing, handicrafts. **Natural resources:** phosphate (production discontinued in 1979). **Exports:** \$17 million f.o.b. (2004 est.): copra 62%, coconuts, seaweed, fish. **Imports:** \$62 million c.i.f. (2004): foodstuffs, machinery and equipment, miscellaneous manufactured goods, fuel. **Major trading partners:** France, Japan, U.S., Thailand, Australia, Fiji, New Zealand (2004).

Member of Commonwealth of Nations

Communications: **Telephones:** main lines in use: 3,800 (1999); mobile cellular: n.a. **Radio broadcast stations:** AM 1, FM 1, shortwave 1; note: the FM and shortwave stations may be inactive (2002). **Radios:** 17,000 (1997). **Television broadcast stations:** 1 (not reported to be active) (2002). **Televisions:** 1,000 (1997). **Internet Service Providers (ISPs):** 1 (2000).

Internet users: 1,000 (2000).

Transportation: **Railways:** 0 km. **Highways:** total: 670 km (1999 est.); paved: n.a.; unpaved: n.a. **Waterways:** small network of canals, totaling 5 km, in Line Islands. **Ports and harbors:** Banaba, Betio, English Harbor, Kanton. **Airports:** 20 (2002).

International disputes: none.