GUAM (GUÅHAN)

Land: Hourglass-shaped Guam is about 48 km long, 6.4 km wide in the middle, and almost 13 km wide in the N and S. Guam is mostly volcanic grasslands in the south with some limestone caps and many streams which form the numerous watersheds found in southern Guam. Northern Guam is an uplifted coral reef that forms a limestone plateau with a water lens. Much of the forest was destroyed by WW II and modern development. The only mammals native to Guam are bats. The territorial bird is the endemic ko’ko’ (Guam Rail). The Spanish introduced chickens, pigs, cattle, goats, carabao, and deer. After WWII, the accidental introduction of the brown tree snake destroyed many of Guam’s vertebrates. There are 4,635 snakes per sq km and they can grow to 3.35 m.

Sea: Most of Guam is surrounded by fringing reefs and there are several marine preserves. Apra Harbor is a deep anchorage. There are many underwater landslides and canyons on the SW side. On the NW and E sides the slopes are plain. In the north there are landslides. Guam has shallow fishing banks at Santa Rosa Reef (46 km SSW and 1+ m deep), Galvez Bank (22 km SSW and 5+ m deep), and a deeper flat fishing area called the Rota Banks (19 km N and about 130 m deep).

People: Chamorros settled Guam about 4,000 years ago. They had about 150 latte villages. Umatac was a port in the galleon trade. The U.S. took Guam during the Spanish American War because of its strategic location. Guam remained under military rule until 1949. In 1935, Guam became part of Pan American’s China Clipper route. One WW II Japanese soldier hid in Guam until 1972. Today Guam has a diverse population. Guam is an important transshipment port, tourist destination, and U.S. Naval and Air Force base.

ROTA (LUTA)

Land: Rota is 17 km by 8 km. It is an uplifted limestone plateau with a large fresh water lens. It has one constant stream that flows east from a water cave. Rota’s “Wedding Cake Mountain” (Taipingot) is an excellent example of a series of uplifted coral reefs. Rota has phosphate deposits. Rota has extensive limestone forests and some grasslands. Rota’s Sea Bird Sanctuary has tropicbirds, boobies, noddies, and white fairy terns. Rota has many M.I. forest birds, including the green Rose Crowned Fruit Dove. There are several colonies of Marianas fruit bats (fanihi), wild pigs and deer.

Sea: Rota has a narrow fringing reef. Rota’s Sasanhya Marine Preserve has coral and sand habitats. Underwater, W and N of Rota, there are a series on step like terraces and cliffs. NW Rota 1 is an active submarine volcano. This is the first submarine volcanic eruption ever recorded on video. This 550 m deep seamount has erupted almost continuously since 2004. Shrimp and crabs live in this hot environment and feed on fish killed by the volcanic gases.

People: Chamorros settled Rota around 4,000 years ago. The largest M.I. latte are in the As Nieves Quarry. One pillar weighs 31,234 kg. One capstone weighs 19,834 kg. In 1601, the Chamorros captured a Spanish galleon full of treasure from Manila. The Spanish established rule in Rota, but had a hard time getting them to grow corn instead of rice. The Japanese developed Rota for sugar cane. There was a train to carry the sugar cane to the processing plant. They mined phosphate. The US did not invade Rota during WWII. Today, the main communities are Songsong and Sinapalo. Although Rota has some tourism, and agriculture, there are large areas of limestone forest. The Chamorro language is best preserved in Rota.
AGUIJAN (AGUIGUAN)

**Land:** Aguiguan is a small uplifted coral limestone plateau island 8 km SW of Tinian. It is 4 km long and 1 km wide. It is called Goat Island. Much of its native forest was destroyed by agriculture during Japanese times, by damage during WWII and by the feral goats (now removed). In 1998 it was estimated that 10-15 megapodes (Sasagnat) lived on Aguiguan. This bird is pigeon size and lives on the forest floor.

**Sea:** Underwater parallel ridges run to the SW of Aguiguan. Just south of Aguiguan is an islet called Naftan Rock that was used as a bombing target. There are many unexploded bombs in that area. Little shallow water data is available.

**People:** Aguiguan has no good landing places so it was probably settled later. There are well preserved latte in Aguiguan. In 1695, the people of Tinian and Aguiguan defended themselves against the Spanish conquest. They fought on Aguiguan because the steep cliffs on all sides made it easier to defend than Tinian. This was the last major battle against the Spanish. The survivors were relocated to Pago Bay and Hagåtña in Guam. The Japanese had a garrison and an airstrip on Aguiguan during WWII. They surrendered without an invasion. After WWII the U.S. bombed Aguguan for practice. There is some danger of unexploded bombs on the island today. Pink cannibal snails were tested on Aguiguan to see if they would eat the Giant African Snail. The test was a limited success. The Japanese introduced the Giant African Snail as an emergency food supply on many of the M.I. This snail was a pest for farmers. It ate their crops. Few people visit Aguiguan. People used to go there to hunt goats. They still go to Aguiguan to hunt coconut crabs (*ayuyu*).

TINIAN

**Land:** Tinian is an uplifted coral limestone island 19.9 km by 9.5 km. Little of the native forest is left because of extensive agriculture and WWII destruction. Tinian has the richest soil in the M.I.

**Sea:** Tinian has a narrow fringing reef. There are underwater eroded landsides and channels east of the island. In the 4.4 km channel between Tinian and Saipan, there are ridges and coral beds less than 50 m deep. The Tatsumi Reef 3 km SE of Tinian is a fishing area. Esmeralda Banks lies 39.3 km west of Tinian. It has 3 submarine peaks running N to S from 43 to 140 m deep. Sometimes pilots report yellow fumes in the area.

**People:** The Chamorros settled Tinian about 4,000 years ago. They built the largest standing latte (4.9 m tall). In 1695, the people of Tinian resisted Spanish conquest on Aguiguan. Survivors were relocated at Pago Bay and Hagåtña in Guam. In 1742, Commodore Anson found many wild cattle, pigs, and breadfruit trees in Tinian. He captured a Chamorro sailing canoe from Guam and made an excellent drawing of the canoe. During Spanish times Carolinians settled Tinian to raise copra and farm. The Chamorros sold sweet potatoes to visiting whalers. The Japanese, with Okinawan labor, made Tinian a sugar cane plantation. In WWII the U.S. captured Tinian and built the longest runways in the world. Planes from Tinian dropped atomic bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki. The U.S. got over 200 Chamorros from Yap to relocate on Tinian. In 1965, Ken Jones established the Bar K Ranch. Tinian exported beef, poultry, and dairy products. Many people maintain farms and raise cattle, and goats. The government has leased over 2/3 of Tinian to the U.S. Navy for a Marine training ground. In 1997, a tourist casino opened.
SAIPAN

Land: Saipan is 20 km long and 9 km wide. Saipan is a combination of volcanic grasslands and uplifted coral reefs that form a limestone plateau and terraces. On the west side of Saipan, there are large fringing reefs. Because of extensive agricultural use and damage during WWII there is little native limestone forest left. The Marianas Mallard can no longer be found on Saipan’s Lake Susupe.

Sea: Underwater, eroded blocks, channels and landslides surround Saipan. On the east side there are underwater canyons and terraces stretching 20 km from the shore to 3,000 m deep. On the west side there are offshore banks 50 sq km in area and 50-100 m deep. It is the most coral rich area in the M.I. The flat Marpi Bank (28 km north of Saipan) is 9 km long, 4 km wide, and 53+m deep.

People: Chamorros settled Saipan about 2,000 BC. There are many latte sites. By 1740, the Spanish removed the Chamorros of Saipan to Guam and Rota. In 1816, Carolinians settled Saipan. It was not until the 1870s that many Chamorros resettled Saipan. The migration of Micronesians continued during German, Japanese and U.S. times. Copra trade and farming were the main occupations until the Japanese raised sugar cane. Garapan became a city with trolley cars and sugar cane trains. Saipan was one of the bloodiest battles of WWII. After the war, Saipan became the administrative center for the TTPI. The U.S. established a secret CIA training center on the northern half of Saipan. With the formation of the CNMI, the Chamorros and Carolinians in all of the M.I. except Guam, determined their political status, and became U.S. citizens. Saipan’s tourism and garment industries are in decline and so is the population of citizens and guest workers in the CNMI.

FARALLON DE MEDINILLA (NO’OS)

Land: Farallon de Medinilla is an uplifted coral reef 2.75 km long and 0.47 km wide. The corals grow on a shallow volcanic seamount. Volcanic forces raised this limestone island above sea level. It is the smallest and eastern most M.I. It is the most northern island in the southern arc of the M.I. It is eroding away and is 0.1 sq km smaller than it was in the 1960s. There is very little vegetation on this island. It remains a habitat for many sea birds.

Sea: No underwater data is available. It is sometimes referred to as a bank which suggests a shallow area around the island.

People: The ancient Chamorros never inhabited Farallon de Medinilla. Louis de Freycinet named this island after the Governor of Guam in 1819. Farallon de Medinilla means the Rock of Medinilla. It seems that the Japanese built a metal observation tower on this island. An agreement between the CNMI and the U.S. permits the U.S. military to use Farallon de Medinilla as a target range for bombing and shelling,
ANATAHAN

**Land:** Anatahan is an active volcanic island, 9 km long and 3 km wide. There was a concern that Anatahan might erupt in 1990 and over 200 people from Gani were relocated to Saipan. Droughts, feral goats and pigs destroyed much of the island vegetation. This damage was made worse by the major volcanic eruption in 2003. All of these factors caused a loss of habitat for the Marianas fruit bat (fanihi). Nevertheless, there is still some native mixed broadleaf forest left.

**Sea:** Volcanic ash has covered the narrow fringing reef causing destruction of sea life.

**People:** The Chamorros visited Anatahan to collect volcanic rock to make tools. There was a small settlement on Anatahan a few centuries before the arrival of the Spanish, but no latte. In 1669, a Spanish mission worker was killed for baptizing a child. In 1697, the people of Anatahan and all of Gani were moved by the Spanish to Saipan and the next year to Guam. During late Spanish times Anatahan was repopulated with Chamorros and Carolinians for the copra trade (Pedro Ada’s Pagan Company). The copra trade continued during German, Japanese (Nam’yo Boeki Kaisha, South Seas Trading Company or Nambo), and U.S. times (Juan M. Ada’s Northern Islands Development Company and, United Micronesian Development Association). During WWII, survivors of a Japanese shipwreck reached Anatahan. These 32 men found a man and woman living there. Six men were murdered because they desired the woman. Finally, Kazuko Higa surrendered and the remaining men surrendered six years after the war was over. Gradually people returned to Gani. The copra trade ended in the 1970s. The few people in Anatahan made their living fishing, and farming. A 2003 eruption forced the lone Anatahan family to move to Saipan.

SARIGAN (SARIGUAN)

**Land:** Sariguan is a small steep volcanic island 2.5 km long and 2.5 km wide. The summit crater is about 0.75 km wide. There are lava domes from vents on the south cone and lava flows stretching from the vents into the ocean. There are flows from the north cone to the N and NW. In 2005 there were 630 earthquakes recorded. In 2010, earthquakes rocked Sariguan. Introduced animals are devastating the native plants and animals of Sariguan. There is little native mixed broadleaf forest left. There are between 500-800 megapodes (Sasagnat, a medium-large sized terrestrial bird) in Sariguan.

**Sea:** There are two shelves at 40-50 m and a third at 130–140 m deep that extend 2 km east of Sariguan. There is evidence of eroded underwater landslides surrounding the island. There is possibly another cone to the south. In the summer of 2010, there were underwater volcanic eruptions to the south. A seamount 33 km east of Sariguan has not been completely mapped. North of Sariguan, Zealandia Bank (Piedras de Torres) has two submerged pinnacles 1 km apart. One pinnacle reaches about 1 m above the water at low tide. Andesitic rocks and coral were dredged at the southern peak.

**People:** Chamorros settled Sariguan, and built a few latte sites. The Spanish relocated Chamorros from Sariguan to Guam in 1698. The Germans sent prisoners to Sariguan. Carolinians and Japanese collected tropicbirds, brown boobies, frigate birds and white fairy terns for the plumage trade. During Japanese times, copra was produced in Sariguan. When people did live in Sariguan, they lived on a cliff over 30 m above the ocean. There are plans to relocate threatened birds of Guam to Sariguan, when all the feral cats, pigs and goats on Sariguan are removed.
GUGUAN

**Land:** Guguan is a dormant volcanic island 3 km long and 2 km wide. Guguan erupted between 1882 and 1884 and produced the northern volcano. There is a lava flow from the crater to the west coast. There is an eroded, earlier volcano towards the south.

**Sea:** There are two underwater shelves one between 25-50 m and the second between 80-120 m deep, reaching out on the south side of Guguan. There are fewer landslides and erosion around Guguan than other M.I. volcanoes. There is some evidence of a possible seamount 15 km SE of Guguan.

**People:** There is very little evidence of people living on Guguan during ancient times. During Spanish times a French scientific expedition to the M.I. named this island Farallon de Luis de Torres in honor of their Chamorro friend from Guam. In German times, birds were harvested for feathers to supply hat fashions in Europe and Japan. In five months three Japanese bird catchers harvested 1370 tropicbirds, 160 boobies, and 200 frigate birds. The CNMI named this island a Wildlife Preserve in their constitution. Today no people live here and very few people visit Guguan.

ALAMAGAN

**Land:** Alamagan is a nearly round volcano 4.8 km long and 4 km wide. It is almost twice as high as Guam. The crater is 350 m deep. Scientists have determined that there was an eruption about 870 AD. There may have been eruptions in 1864 and 1887. There are 3 to 7 m cliffs all around the shore. There are no sandy beaches. There is a rocky place where people can come ashore. People raise cattle, pigs, and goats in Alamagan. It is the only home of the endangered endemic Nightengale Reed Warbler.

**Sea:** There is a narrow underwater shelf extending 3 km SE of Alamagan. It ranges from 25 -200 m deep. Underwater landslides can be found on all sides of the island. The Western Pacific Fisheries Management Council selected Alamagan for a remote fishing station.

**People:** Chamorros settled Alamagan. There are several latte sites. Analysis of stone tools in the southern M.I. indicates that the stone came from Alamagan. The clay pottery found in Alamagan and other islands of Gani is from the southern M.I.. There are no clay deposits in Gani. Alamagan has a stone lined pit or well. They found crescent shaped stones with holes in each end. During late Spanish times and under German and Japanese rule coconut plantations were maintained. In 1948, Juan M. Ada of the Northern Islands Development Company settled 57 Chamorros on Alamagan to harvest coconuts. In the 1960s there was the village of Partido with 6 houses and over the mountain, the village of Songsong with only 3 houses. There is a crack in the mountainside above Partido that releases volcanic smoke. In 1990, residents moved to Saipan, because of fear of an eruption on Anatahan. Recently, one family raises cattle, pigs and goats on the island.
PAGAN

Land: The active northern volcano, Mt. Pagan, is linked to the dormant southern volcano by a narrow isthmus. Pagan is 17 km long and 7 km at its widest. Pagan has both black and white sand beaches, hot springs, two lakes, and an eastern off-shore rock arch. Herds of wild cattle, pigs, and goats destroy vegetation. Little of the native mixed broadleaf forest survives. In 1989, Pagan had 2,500 fruit bats (fanihi).

Sea: An underwater shelf 2.8 by 3 sq. km extends south from Pagan. It has three terraces with depths of 20-30 m, 45-50 m and 90-130 m. On the eastern side of the Pagan isthmus there is a small shelf 18-300 m deep. The only anchorage (15-50 m deep) in the M.I. north of Saipan is on the west central side of Pagan. On all other sides, there are steep underwater slopes with many eroded landslides.

People: Chamorros sought rock in Pagan for tools. They built latte structures here. The Spanish removed the Chamorros from Pagan in 1697. Possibly a British captain buried silver and jewels in Pagan in the 1820s. In the mid-1800s, copra traders settled over 300 Carolinians in Pagan. During German and Japanese times the copra trade continued. The Nambo Company raised copra, sugar cane and pineapples and made rope. Japanese built a dock, a runway, and a military base. After WWII, residents of Pagan returned to farm and trade copra. In the 1970s, Ken Jones proposed Pagan as a tourist destination. The 1981, eruption of Mt. Pagan ended those plans. The 53 residents in Pagan relocated in Saipan. Pozzolan (volcanic ash) deposits in Pagan are worth 10 to 14 billion dollars to cement companies. The U.S. plans on combat troop training in Pagan. What will be the environmental impact of mining and war games?

AGRIHAN (AGRIGAN)

Land: Agrigan is a dormant volcano 10 km long and 7 km wide. It has the highest elevation in the M.I. and in all of Micronesia. Clouds usually hide the peak. The highlands are fertile. Closer to the sea there are coconut groves. The beaches are black sand. There are small phosphate deposits in Agrigan. Some of the native mixed broadleaf forest remains.

Sea: There are steep eroded underwater drop-offs and landslides on all sides of Agrigan. There is a small underwater shelf to a depth of 50 m on the SW side.

People: Ancient Chamorros lived here but so far no latte have been found. Chamorros from the southern arc islands sailed to Agrigan for basalt, a hard rock used to make stone tools, and for an unidentified type of tree to make canoes. Ignacio Nu’un, a Catholic Chamorro Chief, helped the Spanish move the people of Gani to Saipan in 1697 and eventually to Guam in 1698. In the early 1800s, Americans, Europeans, and Hawaiians tried several times to establish a trading and repair center for whalers and traders. The Spanish authorities deported these people by 1815. In 1818 some Americans wrecked their ship on Midway, and sailed in a small boat to Agrigan. They lived on Agrigan for one year before being rescued. During late Spanish, German and Japanese times Agrigan became important in the copra trade. Carolinian and Chamorros lived in Agrigan to plant, collect and process the coconuts. Agrigan was leased during German times for the plumage trade. In 1917, the people were evacuated because of a volcanic eruption. People were temporarily removed in 1990, when authorities feared Anatahan would erupt. There is no one living in Agrigan today, but one family fished and farmed there recently.
**ASUNCIÓN (ASONSONG)**

**Land:** Asunción is a dormant volcano 3.7 km long and 3.3 km wide. It last erupted in 1906. The sides of the island are steep cliffs, it looks like an upside down ice cream cone and is almost twice as high as Guam. It has the largest native scrub mixed broadleaf forest of all the northern arc islands. Recent surveys found 21 megapodes (Sasagnat) and 400 fruit bats (*fanihi*).

**Sea:** There is a 2.5 sq km underwater shelf on the SW side of the island. In this area there are two terraces: one 15-30 m deep and one 95-140 m deep. Beyond this and on all other sides of the island there are steep drop-offs.

**People:** There is no flat land for a proper village. Nevertheless, some Chamorros are reported to have lived on this island during early Spanish times. In 1522, Captain Gonzalo Gomez de Espinosa of the Trinidad captured a Chamorro in a canoe off Asunción. In June of 1684, Joseph Quiroga, a Spanish military leader, ordered Jose de Tapia and his men to sail to Asunción in canoes sailed by Chamorros. After a brief battle, the people agreed to be baptized and relocated in Saipan. In late Spanish times (1890s) the Japanese mined guano in Asunción. Germans harvested birds for their feathers for the plumage trade. By the 1930s the Japanese had coconut groves here for the copra trade. The CNMI named this island a Wildlife Preserve in the 1980s and the area was made part of the U.S. Marianas Trench Marine National Monument in 2008.

**MAUG (MA'O)**

**Land:** Maug is a nearly submerged volcanic caldera. The outer shore of the three islands is 3.3 km. The inner shore is 2.2 km. The three highest ridges on that caldera make up the North, East, and West islands of Maug. Maug is covered in low scrub vegetation, grass and a few palm trees. There are no feral animals. There are some Micronesian megapodes (Sasagnat) on each of the islands, but no longer are there fruit bats (*fanihi*).

**Sea:** In the center of the lagoon, formed by the three islands of Maug, the depth is an average of 22 m deep. However, a deeper area surrounding a submerged cone is 221 m deep. Maug has the most hard and soft corals of the northern arc islands. It has not erupted in historical times. Nevertheless, recently there has been some hydrothermal activity. Supply Reef 10 km NW of Maug is an active submarine volcano. It is connected to Maug by a ridge from 1600 m to 7.9 m deep.

**People:** No people live in Maug today, but in 1522, there were 20 Chamorros living temporarily in Maug. That year Gonzalo Alvarez de Vigo deserted the Trinidad. Four years later the Spanish found him living in Guam. He reported that the people called themselves, Chamurres. During German times Maug was leased to hunters in the plumage trade. The Japanese built a fish processing plant in Maug. In some years they caught 4,000 metric tons of bonita and tuna in the M.I. The Japanese also built a military observation post and a weather station in Maug. The CNMI named Maug a Wildlife Preserve in the 1980s. This area became part of the U.S. Marianas Trench Marine National Monument in 2008.
FARALLON DE PAJAROS (URACAS)

**Land:** Farallon de Pajaros is 2 km long and 1.7 km wide. The name of the island means “Rock of Birds.” The masked booby and the sooty tern are common. There are no bats. This is a volcanic cone island, and is the northern most of the M.I. In recorded times it is the most active volcano in the M.I. It is sometimes called the “Lighthouse of the Western Pacific.” There is little vegetation on the steep slopes of the island.

**Sea:** The steep slopes of this volcanic island continue into the sea. On the SE side there is a small underwater shelf about 300 m deep.

**People:** No people have ever settled on Uracas. In ancient times Chamorros sailed to this island to harvest eggs and sea birds. They salted the meat to preserve it. They shared this bounty with others on each island, as they sailed south to their home. The Japanese mined guano in Uracas in the 1890s. They took these bird droppings to Japan and used them for fertilizer. The CNMI made Uracas a Wildlife Preserve in the early 1980s. In 2008 this area became part of the U.S. Marianas Trench Marine National Monument.
MARIANA ISLANDS

Land

The Mariana Islands (M.I.) of the Western Pacific stretch north and south for nearly 800 kilometers (km). The total land area of the 15 islands is about 1,018 square kilometers (sq km). The highest elevation is 965 meters (m) in Agrihan. The southernmost island, Guam, is the largest. It is a little larger than the rest of the M.I. combined. This archipelago is made up of a southern and northern arc of islands. The southern arc islands are oldest (43,000,000 to 30,000,000 years old). From south to north the southern arc includes: Guam, Rota, Aguijan, Tinian, Saipan, and Farallon de Medinilla. These islands are both volcanic and limestone. The limestone areas are uplifted coral reefs. From south to north the northern arc includes: Anatahan, Sarigan, Guguan, Alamagan, Pagan, Agrihan, Asunción, Maug, and Farallon de Pajaros. The northern arc volcanic islands are less than 5,000,000 years old. Many of them are still active volcanoes.

Sea

The M.I. divide the Pacific Ocean to the east and the Philippine Sea to the west. These islands are 148 km west of the deepest oceanic trench, the Marianas Trench. In 2009, scientists measured the Marianas Trench’s Challenger Deep at 10.91 km. The Marianas Trench stretches 2,550 km long and 69 km wide. The islands of the southern arc have the largest fringing reefs. The M.I. formed just west of the subduction zone, where the Pacific plate and the Mariana plate (also called the Philippine Sea plate) meet. The Pacific plate is moving west about 7.5 centimeters (cm) a year and slides deep into the Mariana Trench and under the Marianas plate. As the basalt rock is pushed back into the earth’s mantle, it melts. Eruptions of this magma have formed the “basement” rocks of the M.I. In the shallow areas around these seamounts and islands, coral reefs have grown. Uplifted coral reefs can be found on all the islands of the Southern Mariana arc, and to a slight extent in Pagan. In 2008, the United States (U.S.) declared the area around the islands of Asunción, Maug, Farallon de Pajaros and the Marianas Trench, the Marianas Trench Marine National Monument. This natural environment of beauty and wonder will be protected from exploitation. In 2010, we celebrated the 50th anniversary of the first and only dive by humans to the bottom of the Marianas Trench in a bathysphere.

People

The first people of the M.I. are the Chamorros (Chamoru). They settled in the Marianas around 4,000 years ago. They were a seafaring people who fished and farmed. By 845 AD they were building houses on stone supports called latte. The latte had two parts, a trapezoidal stone pillar and a cup shaped capstone. The fast, light, outrigger sailing canoes, the latte, and the early settlement of these Pacific Islands, distinguish the Chamorros from other Pacific islanders. They were also the first of the Pacific island people to be colonized by Europeans. Spain found Guam in 1521 and claimed the M.I. in 1565. From that time until 1815, the M.I. served as a stop for the Manila galleons. Silver from New Spain, now Mexico, was traded for silks, spices, carved ivory and gold jewelry in Manila. The galleons stopped on Guam, and sometimes Rota, on their way from Acapulco to Manila. Unless bad weather inhibited a stopover in the M.I. on the Manila to Acapulco voyage. Spain occupied Guam in 1668. The Chamorros resisted colonization by the Spanish. In 1695, they fought the last major battle against the Spanish on Aguijan. The Spanish moved the people of Tinian and Aguijan to Pago Bay and Hagåtñain Guam. The Chamorros referred to the islands north of Saipan, Gani. In 1697, the Spanish relocated 1,200 Chamoros from Gani to first Saipan and then in 1698 to Inarajan and Malesso’ in Guam. By 1740, they relocated the people of Saipan to Guam and Rota. During the early 1800s, the Spanish allowed Carolinians to settle the uninhabited M.I. north of Rota. Chamorros returned to Saipan and other northern M.I. after 1870. Gani is a difficult place to live because of few good landing spots, frequent typhoons, volcanic activity, small reefs, little flat land, and variable rainfall. The Gani islands were settled by a few people to plant coconut tree plantations. Copra (the dried meat of the coconut) became an important cash crop in the late 1800s. The Japanese and Germans bought most of the copra. They made oil from the copra and used it to make soap and shampoo. The U.S. captured Guam during the Spanish American War in 1898. Guam remained under U.S. Navy rule for many years. In 1899, Spain sold the rest of the M.I. and Micronesia to Germany. Copra was the main cash crop for the German M.I. Another important trade item were tropical bird feathers, known as the plumage trade. The Japanese and Germans bought the feathers for hat decorations. In 1914 the Japanese captured these islands and took over all of Micronesia, except for Guam. During World War II (WW II) the Japanese also captured Guam and held it from 1941 to 1944. The Chamorros of Guam suffered greatly during this occupation and 700 died. Finally the U.S. recaptured Guam and the rest of Micronesia in 1944. Guam continued as a U.S. territory, under U.S. Navy rule, until 1949. In 1950 the Organic Act established the Government of Guam and the people became U.S. citizens. Guam is an organized, unincorporated U.S. territory under the Office of Insular Affairs of the US Department of Interior. In 1962, the U.S. Navy lifted security clearance requirements for travel to Guam. Within five years, Guam established a tourism industry. The M.I. north of Guam became part of the United Nations Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands (TTPI). The U.S. administered most of Micronesia as a strategic trust territory. Today, all the M.I. except Guam, are the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI). The people of the CNMI became self-governing in 1978 and U.S. citizens in 1986. Today, the entire M.I. population is approximately a quarter of a million people. The M.I. are important tourist destinations for people in Asia, especially for the Japanese. The M.I.’s strategic location makes them important U.S. Navy and Air Force Bases. The Chamorros of Guam are the only people in Micronesia, who have not yet determined their political status.
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<th>Location (approximate latitude &amp; longitude)</th>
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<th>Elevation (m)</th>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anatahan</td>
<td>less than 5 million</td>
<td>16° 21' N, 145° 40' E</td>
<td>32.4</td>
<td>788</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sarigan</td>
<td>less than 5 million</td>
<td>16° 42' N, 145° 46' E</td>
<td>4.9</td>
<td>549</td>
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<tr>
<td>Guguan</td>
<td>less than 5 million</td>
<td>17° 19' N, 145° 51' E</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>287</td>
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<td>Alamagan</td>
<td>less than 5 million</td>
<td>17° 36' N, 145° 50' E</td>
<td>11.2</td>
<td>744</td>
<td>7</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pagan</td>
<td>less than 5 million</td>
<td>18° 07' N, 145° 48' E</td>
<td>47.2</td>
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<td>6</td>
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<tr>
<td>Agrihan</td>
<td>less than 5 million</td>
<td>18° 46' N, 145° 40' E</td>
<td>47</td>
<td>965</td>
<td>0</td>
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<tr>
<td>Asuncion</td>
<td>less than 5 million</td>
<td>19° 41' N, 145° 14' E</td>
<td>7.3</td>
<td>857</td>
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<tr>
<td>Maug</td>
<td>less than 5 million</td>
<td>20° 02' N, 145° 13' E</td>
<td>2.1</td>
<td>227</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Farallon de Pajaros</td>
<td>less than 5 million</td>
<td>20° 31' N, 144° 54' E</td>
<td>2.5</td>
<td>360</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marianas Islands</td>
<td>over 30 million</td>
<td>see above</td>
<td>1018</td>
<td>965</td>
<td>247,658</td>
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Conversion Table

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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<tr>
<td>1 kilometer =</td>
<td>0.621371192 miles</td>
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<tr>
<td>1 meter =</td>
<td>3.2808399 feet</td>
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