

Kiritimati

Christmas Island

Travel & Trade Guide 2017



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for Anglers

Where the Game is always on!

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About Kiritimati Island

Location: Kiritimati Island (pronounced Christmas Island) is located in the Line Islands Group of the Republic of Kiribati located at (2° N, 157°, 20' W) 1200 km south of Honolulu just north of the equator. Kiritimati was discovered and named "Christmas Island" by Captain James Cook on his third Pacific voyage on the eve of the 24th December 1777.

Area: Kiritimati Island is the world's largest coral atoll with an Area of 610 sq km (240 sq mi). The island is generally low-lying and flat, seldom rising to more than 3 or 4 metres over sea level.

Time Zone: Christmas Island is 20 hours ahead of Honolulu on the other side of the international dateline and 2 hours ahead of Tarawa the capital and administrative center located in the Gilbert Islands Group.



Climate: All year round, daytime highs are in the mid-80's (26 - 32°C+) with moderate humidity, while evening lows are typically 72 degrees (18 - 20°C) with a light breeze. Fishing is available year-round on Christmas Island due to the remarkably stable weather.

Currency: AUD\$, Australian dollars is the main currency however USD\$ is also accepted.

Flights: Kiritimati Island is connected by Fiji Airways directly out of Nadi (Fiji) and Honolulu (Hawaii). Flights from Nadi (Fiji) are every Tuesday nights arriving in Kiritimati Christmas Island on Wednesdays around 6:30am. Flights from Honolulu arrive on Wednesdays afternoons. Flight times are approximately 3hrs from Nadi and Honolulu.

VISA & Travelling Requirements: Citizens from most from countries such as USA, Australia, NZ, Canada, France, Germany, Japan, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, and UK can travel to Kiritimati island without a VISA for a period of 30 days, except for nationals from other countries who are not listed in the Kiribati VISA-waiver list will require a visa to travel. For Visa enquires, please contact:

Kiribati Immigration Division (Ministry of Foreign Affairs & Immigration), Ph: +686 21342, Email: ddi@mfa.gov.ki (Deputy Director of Immigration) or Email: sio@mfa.gov.ki (Senior Immigration Officer)

Customs & Duty Free: Your personal concession: 2.25 L of portable spirits, 4L wine or beer, ale, stout; 200 cigarettes or 250 grams of tobacco applies to 21yrs+ only.

Medical Facilities: Medical facilities are limited on the island and it is strongly recommended that travelers must have an emergency medical evacuation insurance. We also suggest that travelers bring their own medication for common ailments as well as any prescription medication needed.

Game Fishing License: AUD\$50 per angler, payable at airport upon arrival.

Getting Around (Transport): Public transport bus service is available but limited. Private taxi, rental cars and motorbikes can be arranged by the hotels or you can contact:

- **Gamespot Services Taxi service 15 - 25 seats and Motorbike rental:** Contact: Mr. Asan, Ph: +686 78192011, E: gamespotkiribati@gmail.com
- **JMP rental services:** Email address jmb3134@gmail.com
- **KANROY Car Rental Service:** contact, Ms. Karetita Mwetaake. Ph: +686 73091158
- **FBRCV Car Rental Service:** contact, The Villages Fishing Lodge, Ph: +686 81348

Internet Cafes:

- **ATHKL** - Located at Tabon Te Kee, Ronton (London)
- **KPA** - Located at KPA Entrance gate, Ronton (London)

The Tourism Offer

WHAT MAKES KIRITIMATI ISLAND SPECIAL

- It is the largest Coral Atoll in the World
- It is the most premier world class salt-water fly fishing destination in the South Pacific where the fishing is all year round.
- The island is a Sanctuary for 26 species of birds (tropic and land birds) and home to the endemic bird the “Christmas Island Warbler” locally known as the “Bokikokiko.”
- It is the site of the Millennium Monument, which internationally declares Kiritimati Island being the first country to see in the Millennium in the year 2000.
- It is not a touristy destination and visitors get to enjoy and experience more of the island to them selves.

KIRITIMATI ISLAND...WHAT DOES IT OFFER?

- **Fishing** - Kiritimati Christmas Island is an ultimate fly fishing holiday destination. If you really want to disconnect from the modern world and do some serious fishing this is the place.

Apart from the fishing:

- **Wild-life tours** - Birdwatching and Manta Ray watching
- **Surfing (seasonal) & Kite Boarding**
- **Scuba Diving**
- **Snorkeling & Swimming**

Pages 6 to 17 provides more information on these holiday activities and accommodation.



World Class Fishing Mix

Kiritimati Island Fishing...the facts?

- ⇒ **The Fishing** - Kiritimati Christmas Island is one of the best saltwater fly fishing destinations in the world for both beginning and advanced fly fishing on practically endless flats with remarkable numbers of cruising bonefish and giant trevally. The flats are so vast that it's common to fish all day and never see another group of anglers! Christmas Island also offers great fishing opportunities for offshore fishing, catching tuna, wahoo, and billfish.
- ⇒ **Fishing Season** - Fishing all year round with consistent weather.
- ⇒ **Fish Populations** - Offers the highest population density of bonefish and GTs in the world. Bone fish & GT populations sustained through catch & release.
- ⇒ **Fishing grounds** - Endless flats of this world's largest coral atoll provides the perfect habitat for bonefish and GTs. Whilst offshore offers exciting tuna and billfish game.
- ⇒ **Catch & Release** - applied to Bonefish and GTs.
- ⇒ **Fishing Guides** - They know their craft with years of experience in the business. They are always producing a big difference in fishing as they know their own flats, tides, reefs, waters, and fish. Their eagle eyes can spot the fish in any kind of condition.
- ⇒ **Fishing License** - AUD\$50 applies to anglers and paid at airport on arrival.
- ⇒ **Holiday Fishing Accommodation and Packages** - Information on fishing packages are available from agents and local operators on the island (see local contact details on page 12 to 15).

Bonefish - Saltwater Fly-Fishing

Kiritimati atoll, aka Christmas Island is a destination that offers the highest population density of bonefish in the world. The island itself has the largest land area of any coral atoll to be found, and its vast lagoon and sand flats provide the perfect habitat for bonefish.



Giant Trevally...GT Fishing

Apart from the bonefish the hardest fighting of them all: is the Giant Trevally. The GT's on Kiritimati Island grow to extraordinary sizes and landing one will test your skills and your gear to the limit.



Offshore Game

Apart from fishing on the lagoon flats; anglers can always head to the other side of the reef to test their stamina and angling skills with the pelagics. The remote location makes Kiritimati island one of the most fertile fishing grounds for game fish species commonly the yellow-fin tuna, marlin, sailfish, wahoo, giant trevally, barracuda are known to surround the island in great numbers.



Diving, Snorkeling & Swimming

Scuba diving on Christmas Island is available year-round but the best conditions are April through November.

The undisturbed virgin waters, beautiful coral ecosystems and abundance of underwater marine life provide the opportunity for a breathtaking undersea exploration around the waters of the largest coral atoll in the world.

Diving on Kiritimati Christmas Island is done in a variety of ways.

Shore diving and snorkeling are available, with transportation and accompaniment by staff and dive masters to known and yet-to-be-discovered locations. Boat diving & snorkeling is from custom-built 38-ft outrigger canoes. From the shore, the reef is only 100 feet wide with a wall starting at 15-20 feet. Fish abound in this area -- pelagics just off the wall and sharks everywhere.

Visibility averages in the 100-150 ft. range. From the boat, divers experience amazing walls, pinnacles, as well as spur and groove formations. Christmas Island waters teem with colorful reef fish that dart around the beautiful rainbow-colored coral. It is a sight to behold. Many varieties of angelfish, butterfly pairs, triggerfish, puffers and parrotfish. You'll add plenty of species to your life list on this trip (how about a flame angel, dragon moray or an oscillated lionfish). You will also encounter a school of manta rays, witness a wall of lionfish, laugh with acrobatic spinner dolphins, glide with sea turtles, and encounter pelagics every day.



Day trip to Cook Islet Bay or Paris Point

A day tour to Cook Islet and Paris Point gives you the opportunity to combine spectacular activities - fishing, swimming, snorkeling and bird watching. With sparkling white sandy beaches and crystal blue waters; is something to experience when visiting Kiritimati Island. Day tours to Cook Islet Bay and Paris Point can be arranged and organized with any of the accommodations and local tour operators on the island.



Surfing & Kite Boarding

The great thing about surfing Kiritimati Island is that “there are no crowds.”

Kiritimati is host to a golden five kilometer stretch of points, reefs and channels between London village and Paris point. This stretch is reputed to have 24 surfable waves - with surf season October through to March. The swell hits Kiritimati about a day or two after it hits Hawaii - a 8' to 12' swell at Sunset Beach in Hawaii will result in 6' to 10' clean faces in Kiritimati one to two days later. Of the 24 breaks, two third are user friendly with deep channels and sand of soft reef bottom. The other third is has rough coral bottoms and are for experienced surfers only.

Kitesurfing is also incredible with constant winds and endless lagoon flats. Recently it's been said to be "the best flat water kitesurfing discovery so far" due to our reliable winds and our vast, unique & totally uncrowded inner lagoon.

In 2012 Cabrinha team-riders / test-pilots Reo Stevens and Cole Whitney came down on a voyage of discovery with Pro-Photographer Stephen Whitesell. They were stoked at what they found and the unique images scored - great work if you can get it!! When asked to describe the whole Christmas Island Kiteboarding experience, Cole Whitney simply said, "It's sick !!"



© Chris Burkhard



© Stephen Whitesell



Wildlife Tours

Bird Watching

The entire island is a sanctuary for 18 species of birds (tropic and land birds) and home to an endemic bird the “Christmas Island Warbler” locally known as the “Bokikokiko.” On the island there are 9 designated protected zones that supports bird breeding and nesting. For a bird watching enthusiast, Kiritimati is a truly exceptional island for bird watching experience offering the opportunity to see the endemic bird and the endangered species, together with extensive colonies of interesting sea bird species. A bird watching tour on Kiritimati Island will involve an escort by a local Wildlife Ranger who will take you on various trips on and off the island, experiencing an array of bird watching adventures.



Manta Ray Encounter

Schools of Manta Rays is one the wildlife attractions you can encounter in Kiritimati Island lagoon. In the water these sea creatures look like a slick of oil on the water surface. A tour of the lagoon on boat or while snorkeling gives you a chance for a close encounter with these creatures.



Tourism Operator Listings

Captain Cook Hotel

- Operation:** Holiday Fly-fishing operator & Accommodation
- Location:** Main Camp, Kiritimati Island.
- Capacity:** 40 to 70 guests per week, 7 nights minimum stay.
- Clients:** Anglers, Surfers, Birdwatchers, FITs, & Travellers.
- Tours Activities:** Game Fishing (Fly Fishing & Deep Sea Fishing); Lagoon Day Tours at Cook & Paris Islet; birdwatching, manta ray watching; snorkeling & swimming; Cultural Tour; and Luau.
- Contacts:** Manager, Captain Cook Hotel, Mr. Bwereti Tentoa (OIC):
E: bttentoa@gmail.com
Reception Ph: (+61) 731880441
- Website:** www.captaincook-kiribati.com



Christmas Island Surf

- Operation:** Inbound tour operator for surfers - Surf package holidays on Kiritimati Christmas Island and Fanning Island
- Location:** Tabwakea, Kiritimati Island.
- Capacity:** Small group surfers
- Clients:** Surfers
- Tour Activities:** Surfing, kite boarding and fishing
- Contacts:** Manager (Kiritimati Island) - Mr. Buraing Tion,
Email: tibariki@gmail.com
- Or contact: Peter Harding
Ph: (+64) 274 484 598
E: info@christmasislandsurf.com
- Website:** www.christmasislandsurf.com



Crystal Beach Fishing Lodge

Operation	Holiday Fly-fishing operator & Accommodation
Location:	Terawanibakoa, Tabwakea Village, Kiritimati Island, Kiribati
Capacity:	30 guests per week, 7 nights minimum stay.
Clients:	Anglers, surfers, bird watchers, travellers, FITs
Tour Activities	Fly Fishing, Deep Sea Fishing, Surfing, Snorkeling & Swimming at islets and Bird Watching
Contacts:	Anita Taekiti Ph: +686 81282 E: crystalbeach12@gmail.com
Website:	www.crystalbeach-kiribati.com



Dive & Fishing Adventure Lodge

Operation	Holiday Fly-fishing, Dive and Accommodation.
Location:	London, Kiritimati Island, Kiribati
Capacity:	7 - 14 guests per week, 7 nights min. stay.
Clients:	Anglers, divers, surfers, FITs, Travellers and Birdwatchers
Tour Activities	Fly Fishing, Kayak Fishing, Deep Sea Fishing, Scuba Diving & snorkeling, Surfing & Kite Surfing, Bird Watching, islet excursion.
Contacts:	Ms. Ereti Tekabaia Ph: +686 730 91376 or 730 91377 E: etekabaia2@gmail.com
Website:	www.diveandfishkiribati.com



Ikari House

- Operation:** Holiday Fly-fishing operator & Accommodation
- Location:** London, Kiritimati Island.
- Capacity:** Up to 29 guests per week, 7 night minimum stay.
- Clients:** Anglers, Travellers, FITs, Divers,

Tours Activities: Game Fishing (Fly fishing & blue water fishing), Non-fishing (Diving, Snorkeling, Swimming, Day tours to Paris Point or Cook Islet, and Bird-watching.

Contacts: Jacob Teem, Ph:+686 81110 / 50410. E: jacobteem@aol.com

Website: www.ikarihouse.com



Lagoon View Resort

- Operation:** Accommodation & tours
- Location:** Tabwakea Village, Kiritimati, Kiribati
- Capacity:** 10 guests per week, 7 night minimum stay.
- Clients:** Anglers, surfers, travellers, backpackers and FITs

Tour Activities: Sun tanning, Swimming in the lagoon, Canoe paddling and sailing in the lagoon, Traditional nighttime fishing in the lagoon, Table tennis, Darts
Coconut palm tree climbing, Toddy cutting, Snorkeling at the jetty, Crab hunting, Kava night, Local dancing & Choir.

Contacts: Mr. & Mrs. Timei & Tiima,
Ph: +686 78195093
E: timeitima@gmail.com

Website: <http://www.kiritimatilagoonview.com>



Ma Motel

- Operation:** Accommodation & tours
- Island Style bungalow / Homestay
- Location:** Tennessee Village, Kiritimati Island
- Capacity:** Up to 6 guests per week, 7 night minimum stay.
- Clients:** Travellers, surfers, and FITs.
- Tours Activities:** Wildlife Tour, Lagoon Tour, bird watching, Manta Ray watching, Cultural Tour, Swimming, Surfing and Snorkeling.
- Contacts:** Ms. Lisa Arebonto,
E: lisarebonto@gmail.com
- Website:** www.moumouhomestay.com



Mini Kiritimati Hotel

- Operation:** Holiday Fly-fishing operator & Accommodation
- Location:** London, Kiritimati Island, Kiribati
- Capacity:** Up to 8 guests per week, 7 nights minimum stay.
- Clients:** Anglers, travelers, FITs and Surfers
- Tour Activities:** Fly Fishing, Bluewater Fishing, Snorkeling & Swimming at islets and bird Watching
- Contacts:** Mr. & Mrs. Eritaia and Agnes Reiti,
Ph: +686 81371
Fax: +686 81 336,
VHF: call "Minihotel" on Channel 16
E: minihotel.xmas@gmail.com
- Website:** www.minihotelxmas.com



Sunset Horizon Fishing Lodge

- Operation:** Accommodation & Tours
- Location:** London, Kiritimati Island, Kiribati
- Capacity:** Up to 10 guests per week, 7 minimum night stay.
- Clients:** Anglers, Business Travellers, FITs, and surfers.
- Tour Activities:** Fishing, Swimming, Surfing, Snorkeling is right at the door step. Tours can be arranged with local tour operators.
- Contacts:** Mr Ritemba Moantau
Ph: +686 73091215
E: sunsethorizonmotel@gmail.com
- Website:** sunsethorizonmotel.yolasite.com



The Villages

- Operation** Holiday Fly-fishing operator & Accommodation
- Location:** KPC Tabwakea Village, Kiritimati Island
- Capacity:** Up to 26 guests per week, 7 nights minimum stay.
- Clients:** Anglers, travelers, FITs, Ecotourists.
- Tour Activities** Fly Fishing and Bluewater fishing, Cultural Tours, Bird watching on Motu Tapu and Cook islet, Wildlife Lagoon (Manta Ray Watching), Snorkel at Paris Point and The Bay of Cook Island Tour
- Contacts:** Manager, Mr. Tetaeka Nangka
Ph: +686 81348
E: mrnangka1@gmail.com
- Website:** www.thevillages-kiribati.com



More on Kiritimati Is. Fishing...let the pictures do the talking!



CONNECT to

Fanning Island

Kiritimati neighbouring atoll Fanning Island "Tabuaeran" renowned as the heavenly foot print has recently opened up domestic flights from Kiritimati Christmas Island offering exciting activities to explore:



Surfing



Surfing enthusiasts... this is your chance to surf in once was called the "Secret Surf Spot" by Bicho Papao (video on youtube).



Of all Kiribati, Fanning Island, is the pick with almost year round consistent swell. Fanning has breaks on the North and South, making the most of both Northern Hemisphere and Southern Hemisphere swells. The two most consistent breaks are 'English Harbour' in the South with strong and consistent March to June; while 'Walers Anchorage' in the North has strong and consistent swell from October to March, and even picks up some southern swell.

The best thing about the surfing... "there no crowds" and we intend to keep it that way to maximize that surfing experience on Fanning.

Fly Fishing

The bonefish and GTs of Fanning Island are rarely fished, offering anglers an opportunity to explore. Nevertheless it is once said that Fanning held the IGFA for the largest bonefish ever caught; this would be something find out.



Exploration & Adventure

There is nothing more amazing than to escape on a island in the middle of the Pacific and just relax timelessly. Sunbathe on the beautiful beach of Napali and swim in the turquoise blue lagoon.

The small community of I-Kiribati on Fanning also offer something unique to explore - the Kiribati culture and the Pacific Way. Don't forget to buy

a local souvenir as a way to give back to our local community on Fanning.



For information on flights, surfing or fly-fishing travel plans, accommodation and packages on Fanning, contact:

Kiribati National Tourism Office (Xmas Branch)

LINNIX Office, London, Kiritimati Christmas Island.

Email: Mr. Tiuti Biribo - tbiribo@kiribatitourism.gov.ki

or

Email: Ms. Ereti Tekabaia - etekabaia@kiribatitourism.gov.ki



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