[Template:About](/wiki/Template:About" \o "Template:About) [Template:Pp-move-indef](/wiki/Template:Pp-move-indef)

[Template:Use mdy dates](/wiki/Template:Use_mdy_dates)

[Template:Infobox country](/wiki/Template:Infobox_country)

**Guam** ([Template:IPAc-en](/wiki/Template:IPAc-en) or [Template:IPAc-en](/wiki/Template:IPAc-en); [Chamorro](/wiki/Chamorro_language): [Template:Lang](/wiki/Template:Lang) [Template:IPA-ch](/wiki/Template:IPA-ch); formally the **Territory of Guam**) is an [unincorporated and organized territory of the United States](/wiki/Unincorporated_territories_of_the_United_States). Located in the northwestern [Pacific Ocean](/wiki/Pacific_Ocean), Guam is one of [five American territories](/wiki/Territories_of_the_United_States#Unincorporated_organized_territories) with an established civilian government.[[1]](#cite_note-1)[[2]](#cite_note-2) The [capital city](/wiki/List_of_national_capitals_and_largest_cities_by_country) is [Hagåtña](/wiki/Hagåtña,_Guam), and the most [populous city](/wiki/List_of_largest_cities_and_second-largest_cities_by_country) is [Dededo](/wiki/Dededo). In 2015, 161,785 people resided on Guam. Guamanians are [American citizens](/wiki/Citizenship_in_the_United_States) by birth. Guam has an [area](/wiki/List_of_countries_and_dependencies_by_area) of [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) and a [density](/wiki/List_of_sovereign_states_and_dependent_territories_by_population_density) of 297/km² (770/sq mi). It is the largest and southernmost of the [Mariana Islands](/wiki/Mariana_Islands), and the largest island in [Micronesia](/wiki/Micronesia). Among its municipalities, [Mongmong-Toto-Maite](/wiki/Mongmong-Toto-Maite,_Guam) has the highest density at 1,425/km² (3,691/sq mi), whereas [Inarajan](/wiki/Inarajan,_Guam) and [Umatac](/wiki/Umatac,_Guam) have the lowest density at 47/km² (119/sq mi), respectively. The [highest point](/wiki/List_of_elevation_extremes_by_country) is [Mount Lamlam](/wiki/Mount_Lamlam) at [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) [above sea level](/wiki/Above_sea_level).

The [Chamorros](/wiki/Chamorro_people), Guam's [indigenous people](/wiki/Indigenous_peoples), settled the island approximately 4,000 years ago. Portuguese explorer [Ferdinand Magellan](/wiki/Ferdinand_Magellan) was the first European to visit the island on March 6, 1521. Guam was colonized in 1668 with settlers, like [Diego Luis de San Vitores](/wiki/Diego_Luis_de_San_Vitores), a Catholic [missionary](/wiki/Missionary). Between the 1500s and the 1700s, Guam was an important stopover for the Spanish [Manila Galleons](/wiki/Manila_Galleons). During the [Spanish–American War](/wiki/Spanish–American_War), the United States [captured Guam](/wiki/Capture_of_Guam) on June 21, 1898. Under the [Treaty of Paris](/wiki/Treaty_of_Paris_(1898)), Spain ceded Guam to the United States on December 10, 1898. Guam is among the seventeen [Non-Self-Governing Territories](/wiki/United_Nations_list_of_Non-Self-Governing_Territories) of the [United Nations](/wiki/United_Nations).[[3]](#cite_note-3) Before [World War II](/wiki/World_War_II), Guam and three other territories – [American Samoa](/wiki/American_Samoa), [Hawaii](/wiki/Hawaii), and the [Philippines](/wiki/Philippines) – were the only American jurisdictions in the Pacific Ocean. On December 7, 1941, hours after the [attack on Pearl Harbor](/wiki/Attack_on_Pearl_Harbor), [Guam was captured](/wiki/Battle_of_Guam_(1941)) by the [Japanese](/wiki/Empire_of_Japan), and was occupied for thirty months. During the occupation, Guamanians were subjected to culture alignment, forced labor, beheadings, rape, and torture.[[4]](#cite_note-4)[[5]](#cite_note-5)[[6]](#cite_note-6) Guam endured hostilities [when American forces recaptured the island](/wiki/Battle_of_Guam_(1944)) on July 21, 1944; [Liberation Day](/wiki/Liberation_Day) commemorates the victory.[[7]](#cite_note-7) Since the 1960s, [the economy](/wiki/Economy_of_Guam) is supported by two industries: tourism and the [United States Armed Forces](/wiki/United_States_Armed_Forces).[[8]](#cite_note-8)

## Contents

* 1 History[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=1)]
  + 1.1 Magellan's discovery of Guam[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=2)]
  + 1.2 Spanish colonization and the Manila galleons[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=3)]
  + 1.3 Internal conflicts[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=4)]
  + 1.4 Expulsion of the Jesuits[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=5)]
  + 1.5 Post-Napoleonic Era[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=6)]
  + 1.6 Spanish–American War and World War II[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=7)]
  + 1.7 Post-war[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=8)]
  + 1.8 Vietnam War and later[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=9)]
* 2 Geography[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=10)]
  + 2.1 Public libraries[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=28)]
* 3 Health care[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=29)]
* 4 Film-making[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=30)]
* 5 Sports[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=31)]
  + 5.1 Pacific Games[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=32)]
  + 5.2 Association Football[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=33)]
  + 5.3 Swimming[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=34)]
  + 5.4 Rugby union[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=35)]
* 6 See also[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=36)]
* 7 References[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=37)]
* 8 External links[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=38)]

## History[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=1)]

[Template:Main](/wiki/Template:Main)

The original inhabitants of Guam and the [Northern Mariana Islands](/wiki/Northern_Mariana_Islands) are believed to be descendants of [Austronesian people](/wiki/Austronesian_people) originating from [Southeast Asia](/wiki/Southeast_Asia) as early as 2000 BC.<ref name=Carano>[Template:Cite book](/wiki/Template:Cite_book)</ref>[Template:Rp](/wiki/Template:Rp) They evolved into the [Chamorro people](/wiki/Chamorro_people).

The ancient-Chamorro society had four classes: *chamorri* (chiefs), *matua* (upper class), *achaot* (middle class), and *mana'chang* (lower class).[[9]](#cite_note-9)[Template:Rp](/wiki/Template:Rp) The *matua* were located in the coastal villages, which meant they had the best access to fishing grounds, whereas the *mana'chang* were located in the interior of the island. *Matua* and *mana'chang* rarely communicated with each other, and *matua* often used *achaot* as intermediaries. There were also "*makåhna*" (similar to shamans), skilled in healing and medicine. Belief in spirits of ancient Chamorros called "[*Taotao mo'na*](/wiki/Taotao_mo'na)" still persists as a remnant of pre-European culture. Their society was organized along [matrilineal](/wiki/Matrilineality) clans.[[9]](#cite_note-9)[Template:Rp](/wiki/Template:Rp)

[*Latte* stones](/wiki/Latte_stone) are stone pillars that are found only in the Mariana Islands; and, they are a recent development in Pre-Contact Chamorro society. The latte-stone was used as a foundation on which thatched huts were built.[[9]](#cite_note-9)[Template:Rp](/wiki/Template:Rp) Latte stones consist of a base shaped from limestone called the *haligi* and with a capstone, or *tåsa*, made either from a large brain coral or limestone, placed on top.[[9]](#cite_note-9)[Template:Rp](/wiki/Template:Rp) A possible source for these stones, the [Rota Latte Stone Quarry](/wiki/Rota_Latte_Stone_Quarry), was discovered in 1925 on [Rota](/wiki/Rota_(island)).[[9]](#cite_note-9)[Template:Rp](/wiki/Template:Rp)

### Magellan's discovery of Guam[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=2)]

The first European to discover Guam was Portuguese navigator [Ferdinand Magellan](/wiki/Ferdinand_Magellan), sailing for the [King of Spain](/wiki/Monarchy_of_Spain), when he sighted the island on March 6, 1521 during his fleet's circumnavigation of the globe.[[9]](#cite_note-9)[Template:Rp](/wiki/Template:Rp) When Magellan arrived on Guam, he was greeted by hundreds of small outrigger canoes that appeared to be flying over the water, due to their considerable speed. These outrigger canoes were called [Proas](/wiki/Proas), and resulted in Magellan naming Guam *Islas de las Velas Latinas* ("Islands of the [Lateen sails](/wiki/Lateen_sail)"). [Antonio Pigafetta](/wiki/Antonio_Pigafetta) (one of Magellan's original 18) said that the name was the name "Island of Sails", but he also writes that the inhabitants "entered the ships and stole whatever they could lay their hands on", including "the small boat that was fastened to the poop of the flagship."<ref name=Nowell>[Template:Cite book](/wiki/Template:Cite_book)</ref>[Template:Rp](/wiki/Template:Rp) "Those people are poor, but ingenious and very thievish, on account of which we called those three islands *Islas de los Ladrones* ("Islands of thieves")."[[10]](#cite_note-10)[Template:Rp](/wiki/Template:Rp)

### Spanish colonization and the Manila galleons[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=3)]

Despite Magellan's visit, Guam was not officially claimed by Spain until January 26, 1565 by General [Miguel López de Legazpi](/wiki/Miguel_López_de_Legazpi).[[9]](#cite_note-9)[Template:Rp](/wiki/Template:Rp) From 1565 to 1815, Guam and the Northern Mariana Islands, the only [Spanish](/wiki/Age_of_Discovery) outpost in the Pacific Ocean east of the [Philippines](/wiki/Philippines), was an important resting stop for the [Manila galleons](/wiki/Manila_galleons), a fleet that covered the Pacific trade route between [Acapulco](/wiki/Acapulco) and [Manila](/wiki/Manila).[[9]](#cite_note-9)[Template:Rp](/wiki/Template:Rp) To protect these Pacific fleets, Spain built several defensive structures which are still standing today, such as [Fort Nuestra Señora de la Soledad](/wiki/Fort_Nuestra_Senora_de_la_Soledad) in [Umatac](/wiki/Umatac). It is the biggest single segment of [Micronesia](/wiki/Micronesia), the largest islands between the island of [Kyushu](/wiki/Kyushu) (Japan), [New Guinea](/wiki/New_Guinea), the [Philippines](/wiki/Philippines), and the [Hawaiian Islands](/wiki/Hawaiian_Islands).

Spanish colonization commenced on June 15, 1668 with the arrival of [Diego Luis de San Vitores](/wiki/Diego_Luis_de_San_Vitores) and [Pedro Calungsod](/wiki/Pedro_Calungsod), who established the first Catholic church.[[9]](#cite_note-9)[Template:Rp](/wiki/Template:Rp) The islands were part of the [Spanish East Indies](/wiki/Spanish_East_Indies) governed from the Philippines, which were in turn part of the [Viceroyalty of New Spain](/wiki/Viceroyalty_of_New_Spain) based in [Mexico City](/wiki/Mexico_City). Other reminders of colonial times include the old Governor's Palace in [Plaza de España](/wiki/Plaza_de_España_(Hagåtña)) and the Spanish Bridge, both in [Hagatña](/wiki/Hagatña). Guam's Cathedral [Dulce Nombre de Maria](/wiki/Dulce_Nombre_de_Maria_Cathedral_Basilica) was formally opened on February 2, 1669, as was the Royal College of San Juan de Letran.[[9]](#cite_note-9)[Template:Rp](/wiki/Template:Rp) Guam, along with the rest of the Mariana and [Caroline Islands](/wiki/Caroline_Islands), were treated as part of Spain's colony in the Philippines. While Guam's Chamorro culture has indigenous roots, the cultures of both Guam and the Northern Marianas have many similarities with Spanish and Mexican culture due to three centuries of Spanish rule.[[8]](#cite_note-8)

### Internal conflicts[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=4)]

Intermittent warfare lasting from July 23, 1670 until July 1695, plus the typhoons of 1671 and 1693, and in particular the smallpox epidemic of 1688, reduced the Chamorro population from 50,000 to 10,000 to less than 5,000.[[9]](#cite_note-9)[Template:Rp](/wiki/Template:Rp) Precipitated by the death of [Quipuha](/wiki/Quipuha), and the murder of Father San Vitores and Pedro Calungsod by local rebel chief [Matapang](/wiki/Matapang), tensions led to a number of conflicts. Captain Juan de Santiago started a campaign to pacify the island, which was continued by the successive commanders of the Spanish forces.[[9]](#cite_note-9)[Template:Rp](/wiki/Template:Rp)

After his arrival in 1674, Captain Damian de Esplana ordered the arrest of rebels who attacked the population of certain towns. Hostilities eventually led to the destruction of villages such as Chochogo, Pepura, Tumon, Sidia-Aty, Sagua, Nagan and Ninca.[[9]](#cite_note-9)[Template:Rp](/wiki/Template:Rp) Starting in June 1676, the first Spanish Governor of Guam, Capt. Francisco de Irrisarri y Vinar controlled internal affairs more strictly than his predecessors in order to curb tensions. He also ordered the construction of schools, roads and other infrastructure.[[9]](#cite_note-9)[Template:Rp](/wiki/Template:Rp) Later, Capt. Jose de Quiroga arrived in 1680 and continued some of the development projects started by his predecessors. He also continued the search for the rebels who had assassinated Father San Vitores, resulting in campaigns against the rebels which were hiding out in some islands, eventually leading to the death of Matapang, Hurao and Aguarin.[[9]](#cite_note-9)[Template:Rp](/wiki/Template:Rp) Quiroga brought some natives from the northern islands to Guam, ordering the population to live in a few large villages.[[9]](#cite_note-9)[Template:Rp](/wiki/Template:Rp) These included Jinapsan, Umatac, Pago, Agat and Inarajan, where he built a number of churches.[[9]](#cite_note-9)[Template:Rp](/wiki/Template:Rp) By July 1695, Quiroga had completed the pacification process in Guam, Rota, Tinian and Aguigan.[[9]](#cite_note-9)[Template:Rp](/wiki/Template:Rp)

### Expulsion of the Jesuits[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=5)]

On February 26, 1767, [Charles III of Spain](/wiki/Charles_III_of_Spain) issued a decree confiscating the property of the [Jesuits](/wiki/Jesuits) and banishing them from Spain and her possessions.[[9]](#cite_note-9)[Template:Rp](/wiki/Template:Rp) As a consequence, the Jesuit fathers on Guam departed on November 2, 1769 on the schooner *Nuestra Senora de Guadalupe*, abandoning their churches, rectories and ranches.[[9]](#cite_note-9)[Template:Rp](/wiki/Template:Rp)

The arrival of Governor Don Mariano Tobias, on September 15, 1771, brought agricultural reforms, including making land available to the islanders for cultivation, encouraged the development of cattle raising, imported deer and water buffalos from [Manila](/wiki/Manila), donkeys and mules from [Acapulco](/wiki/Acapulco), established cotton mills and [salt pans](/wiki/Salt_evaporation_pond), free public schools, and the first Guam militia.[[9]](#cite_note-9)[Template:Rp](/wiki/Template:Rp) Later, he was transferred to Manila in June 1774.[[9]](#cite_note-9)[Template:Rp](/wiki/Template:Rp)

### Post-Napoleonic Era[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=6)]

Following the [Napoleonic Wars](/wiki/Napoleonic_Wars), many Spanish colonies in the Western Hemisphere had become independent, shifting the economic dependence of Guam from Mexico to the Philippines.[[9]](#cite_note-9)[Template:Rp](/wiki/Template:Rp) Don Francisco Ramon de Villalobos, who became governor in 1831, improved economic conditions including the promotion of rice cultivation and the establishment of a leper hospital.[[9]](#cite_note-9)[Template:Rp](/wiki/Template:Rp)

[Otto von Kotzebue](/wiki/Otto_von_Kotzebue) visited the island in November 1817,[[9]](#cite_note-9)[Template:Rp](/wiki/Template:Rp) and [Louis de Freycinet](/wiki/Louis_de_Freycinet) in March 1819.[[9]](#cite_note-9)[Template:Rp](/wiki/Template:Rp) [Jules Dumont d'Urville](/wiki/Jules_Dumont_d'Urville) made two visits, the first in May 1828.[[9]](#cite_note-9)[Template:Rp](/wiki/Template:Rp) The island became a rest stop for [whalers](/wiki/Whaling) starting in 1823.[[9]](#cite_note-9)[Template:Rp](/wiki/Template:Rp)

A devastating typhoon struck the island on August 10, 1848 and then a severe earthquake on January 25, 1849, which resulted in many refugees from the [Caroline Islands](/wiki/Caroline_Islands), victims of the resultant [tsunami](/wiki/Tsunami).[[9]](#cite_note-9)[Template:Rp](/wiki/Template:Rp) After a smallpox epidemic killed 3,644 Guamanians in 1856, Carolinians and Japanese were permitted to settle in the Marianas.[[9]](#cite_note-9)[Template:Rp](/wiki/Template:Rp) Guam received nineteen Filipino prisoners after their failed [1872 Cavite mutiny](/wiki/1872_Cavite_mutiny).[[9]](#cite_note-9)[Template:Rp](/wiki/Template:Rp)

### Spanish–American War and World War II[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=7)]

[Template:Multiple image](/wiki/Template:Multiple_image)

The United States [occupied](/wiki/Capture_of_Guam) the island in the 1898 [Spanish–American War](/wiki/Spanish–American_War), as part of the [Treaty of Paris](/wiki/Treaty_of_Paris_(1898)). Guam was transferred to U.S. Navy control on 23 December 1898 by [Executive Order 108-A](/wiki/S:Executive_Order_108-A). Guam came to serve as a station for American ships traveling to and from [the Philippines](/wiki/The_Philippines), while the [Northern Mariana Islands](/wiki/Northern_Mariana_Islands) passed to [Germany](/wiki/German_Empire), and then to Japan.[[8]](#cite_note-8) A U.S. Navy yard was established at Piti in 1899, and a marine barracks at Sumay in 1901.<ref name=Rottman>Rottman, G. (2004) *Guam 1941 & 1944: Loss and Reconquest*. Oxford: Osprey Publishing, ISBN 978-1-84176-811-3</ref>[Template:Rp](/wiki/Template:Rp) Following the [Philippine–American War](/wiki/Philippine–American_War), [Emilio Aguinaldo](/wiki/Emilio_Aguinaldo) and [Apolinario Mabini](/wiki/Apolinario_Mabini) were exiled on Guam in 1901.<ref name=Mabini>Mabini, A., 1969, *The Philippine Revolution*, Republic of the Philippines, Dept. of Education, National Historical Commission</ref>[Template:Rp](/wiki/Template:Rp)

A marine seaplane unit was stationed in Guam from 1921 to 1930, the first in the Pacific.[[11]](#cite_note-11)[Template:Rp](/wiki/Template:Rp) [Pan American Airways](/wiki/Pan_American_Airways) established a seaplane base on the island for its San Francisco-Manila-Hong Kong route, and the [Commercial Pacific Cable Company](/wiki/Commercial_Pacific_Cable_Company) built a telegraph/telephone station in 1903.[[11]](#cite_note-11)[Template:Rp](/wiki/Template:Rp) During [World War II](/wiki/World_War_II), Guam was [attacked and invaded](/wiki/Battle_of_Guam_(1941)) by the [Empire of Japan](/wiki/Empire_of_Japan) on December 8, 1941 shortly after the [attack on Pearl Harbor](/wiki/Attack_on_Pearl_Harbor).

The [Northern Mariana Islands](/wiki/Northern_Mariana_Islands) had become a Japanese protectorate before the war. It was the Chamorros from the Northern Marianas who were brought to Guam to serve as interpreters and in other capacities for the occupying Japanese force. The Guamanian Chamorros were treated as an occupied enemy by the Japanese military. After the war, this would cause resentment between the Guamanian Chamorros and the Chamorros of the Northern Marianas. Guam's Chamorros believed their northern brethren should have been compassionate towards them, whereas having been occupied for over 30 years, the Northern Mariana Chamorros were loyal to Japan.

Guam's Japanese occupation lasted for approximately thirty-one months. During this period, the indigenous people of Guam were subjected to forced labor, family separation, incarceration, execution, concentration camps and forced prostitution. Approximately one thousand people died during the occupation, according to Congressional testimony in 2004. Some historians estimate that war violence killed 10% of Guam's 20,000 population.[[12]](#cite_note-12) The United States returned and fought the [Battle of Guam](/wiki/Battle_of_Guam_(1944)) from July 21 to August 10, 1944, to recapture the island from Japanese military occupation. More than 18,000 Japanese were killed as only 485 surrendered. Sergeant [Shoichi Yokoi](/wiki/Shoichi_Yokoi), who surrendered in January 1972, appears to have been the last confirmed [Japanese holdout](/wiki/Japanese_holdout) in Guam.[[13]](#cite_note-13) The United States also captured and occupied the Northern Marianas.

**North Field** was established in 1944, and was renamed for Brigadier General [James Roy Andersen](/wiki/James_Roy_Andersen) (1904–1945) as [Andersen Air Force Base](/wiki/Andersen_Air_Force_Base).

### Post-war[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=8)]

After World War II, the [Guam Organic Act of 1950](/wiki/Guam_Organic_Act_of_1950) established Guam as an unincorporated [organized territory](/wiki/Organized_territory) of the United States, provided for the structure of the island's civilian government, and granted the people U.S. citizenship. The Governor of Guam was federally appointed until 1968, when the [Guam Elective Governor Act](/wiki/Guam_Elective_Governor_Act) provided for the office's popular election.[[14]](#cite_note-14)[Template:Rp](/wiki/Template:Rp) Since Guam is not a U.S. state, U.S. citizens residing on Guam are not allowed to vote for president and their congressional representative is a non-voting member.[[8]](#cite_note-8)

### Vietnam War and later[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=9)]

[Template:See also](/wiki/Template:See_also) Andersen Air Force Base played a major role in the Vietnam War. The host unit was later designated the [36th Wing](/wiki/36th_Wing#Pacific_Air_Forces) (36 WG), assigned to the [Pacific Air Forces](/wiki/Pacific_Air_Forces) (PACAF) [Thirteenth Air Force](/wiki/Thirteenth_Air_Force) (13AF). In September 2012, 13 AF was inactivated and its functions merged into PACAF.

On August 6, 1997, Guam was the site of the [Korean Air Flight 801](/wiki/Korean_Air_Flight_801) aircraft accident. The [Boeing 747–300](/wiki/Boeing_747) jetliner was preparing to land when it crashed into a hill, killing 228 of the 254 people on board. Since 1974, about [124 historic sites in Guam](/wiki/National_Register_of_Historic_Places_listings_in_Guam) have been recognized under the U.S. [National Register of Historic Places](/wiki/National_Register_of_Historic_Places). Guam temporarily hosted 100,000 Vietnamese refugees in 1975, and 6,600 [Kurdish](/wiki/Kurds) refugees in 1996.[[11]](#cite_note-11)[Template:Rp](/wiki/Template:Rp)

## Geography[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=10)]

[Template:Multiple image](/wiki/Template:Multiple_image)

[Template:Main](/wiki/Template:Main)

Guam lies between 13.2°N and 13.7°N and between 144.6°E and 145.0°E, and has an area of [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert), making it the [32nd largest island of the United States](/wiki/List_of_islands_of_the_United_States_by_area). It is the southernmost and largest island in the [Mariana](/wiki/Marianas) island chain and is also the largest island in [Micronesia](/wiki/Micronesia). This island chain was created by the colliding Pacific and Philippine Sea tectonic plates. Guam is the closest land mass to the [Mariana Trench](/wiki/Mariana_Trench), a deep [subduction zone](/wiki/Subduction), that lies beside the island chain to the east. [Challenger Deep](/wiki/Challenger_Deep), the deepest surveyed point in the [Oceans](/wiki/Oceans), is southwest of Guam at [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) deep. The highest point in Guam is [Mount Lamlam](/wiki/Mount_Lamlam) at an elevation of [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert).[[15]](#cite_note-15) An economic downturn in Guam since the mid-1990s has compounded the problems in schools.[[49]](#cite_note-49) Before September 1997, the [U.S. Department of Defense](/wiki/U.S._Department_of_Defense) partnered with Guam Board of Education.[[50]](#cite_note-50) In September 1997 the DoDEA opened its own schools for children of military personnel.[[51]](#cite_note-51) [DoDEA](/wiki/Department_of_Defense_Education_Activity) schools, which also serve children of some federal civilian employees, had an attendance of 2,500 in 2000. DoDEA Guam operates three elementary/middle schools and one high school.<ref name=DODEA>[Template:Cite web](/wiki/Template:Cite_web)</ref>

### Public libraries[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=28)]

[Guam Public Library System](/wiki/Guam_Public_Library_System) operates the Nieves M. Flores Memorial Library in [Hagåtña](/wiki/Hagåtña) and five branch libraries.[[52]](#cite_note-52)

## Health care[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=29)]

The Government of Guam maintains the island's main health care facility, [Guam Memorial Hospital](/wiki/Guam_Memorial_Hospital), in [Tamuning](/wiki/Tamuning,_Guam).[[53]](#cite_note-53) U.S. board certified doctors and dentists practice in all specialties. In addition, the U.S. Naval Hospital in [Agana Heights](/wiki/Agana_Heights,_Guam) serves active-duty members and dependents of the military community.[[54]](#cite_note-54) There is one subscriber-based [air ambulance](/wiki/Air_ambulance) located on the island, CareJet, which provides emergency patient transportation across Guam and surrounding islands.[[55]](#cite_note-55) A private hospital, the [Guam Regional Medical City](/wiki/Guam_Regional_Medical_City) opened its doors in early 2016.[[56]](#cite_note-56)

## Film-making[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=30)]

Over the years, a number of films have been shot on Guam, including *Shiro's Head* (directed by the Muna brothers) and the government-funded [*Max Havoc: Curse of the Dragon*](/wiki/Max_Havoc:_Curse_of_the_Dragon) (2004). Although set on Guam, [*No Man Is an Island*](/wiki/No_Man_Is_an_Island_(film)) (1962) was not shot there, but in the Republic of the [Philippines](/wiki/Philippines).

## Sports[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=31)]

### Pacific Games[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=32)]

Guam hosted the [Pacific Games](/wiki/Pacific_Games) in 1975 and 1999. At the [2007 Games](/wiki/2007_Pacific_Games), Guam finished 7th of 22 countries and 14th at the [2011 Games](/wiki/2011_Pacific_Games).

### Association Football[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=33)]

The [Guam national football team](/wiki/Guam_national_football_team) was founded in 1975 and joined [FIFA](/wiki/FIFA) in 1996. [Guam](/wiki/Guam_national_football_team) was once considered one of FIFA's weakest teams, and experienced their first victory over a FIFA-registered side in 2009, when they defeated [Mongolia](/wiki/Mongolia_national_football_team) in the [East Asian Cup](/wiki/East_Asian_Cup).

Guam entered the [2018 FIFA World Cup qualification](/wiki/2018_FIFA_World_Cup_qualification) Group D. Guam hosted qualifying games on island for the first time in 2015. During the qualifying round, Guam clinched their first FIFA World Cup Qualifying win by defeating [Turkmenistan](/wiki/Turkmenistan_national_football_team). Since then, the team has experienced moderate success in the Qualifying Round with a record of 2-1-1.[[57]](#cite_note-57) The national team plays at the [Guam National Football Stadium](/wiki/Guam_National_Football_Stadium), which has a capacity of 1,000. The men's national football team are known as the "matao" team. Matao is the definition of highest level or "noble" class; the matao team have done exceptionally well under the head coach Gary White.

The top football division in Guam is the [Guam Men's Soccer League](/wiki/Guam_Men's_Soccer_League). [Rovers FC](/wiki/Rovers_FC_(Guam)) and [Guam Shipyard](/wiki/Guam_Shipyard) are the league's most competitive and successful clubs, both have won nine championships in the past years.

### Swimming[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=34)]

In the [2012 Summer Olympics](/wiki/2012_Summer_Olympics) in London, [Pilar Shimizu](/wiki/Pilar_Shimizu) competed for Guam and placed 42nd in the breaststroke competition.

### Rugby union[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=35)]

Guam is represented in [rugby union](/wiki/Rugby_union) by the [Guam national rugby union team](/wiki/Guam_national_rugby_union_team). The team has never qualified for a [Rugby World Cup](/wiki/Rugby_World_Cup). Guam played their first match in 2005, an 8–8 draw with [India](/wiki/India_national_rugby_union_team). Guam's biggest win was a 74–0 thrashing of [Brunei](/wiki/Brunei_national_rugby_union_team) in June 2008.

## See also[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=36)]

[Template:Portal](/wiki/Template:Portal)

* [Index of Guam-related articles](/wiki/Index_of_Guam-related_articles)
* [List of National Register of Historic Places in Guam](/wiki/National_Register_of_Historic_Places_listings_in_Guam)
* [List of people from Guam](/wiki/List_of_people_from_Guam)
* [Mariana Islands](/wiki/Mariana_Islands)
* [Mariana Trench](/wiki/Mariana_Trench)
* [Micronesia](/wiki/Micronesia)
* [Outline of Guam](/wiki/Outline_of_Guam)
* [Voting in Guam](/wiki/Voting_in_Guam)

## References[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=37)]

[Template:Reflist](/wiki/Template:Reflist)

## External links[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=38)]

[Template:Sister project links](/wiki/Template:Sister_project_links)

* [Guam.gov](http://www.guam.gov/) – Official Government Website
* [Guampedia, Guam's Online Encyclopedia](http://guampedia.com/)
* [*The Insular Empire: America in the Mariana Islands*](http://www.theinsularempire.com/), PBS documentary film website.
* [Template:CIA World Factbook link](/wiki/Template:CIA_World_Factbook_link)
* [*U.S. Census Bureau: Island Areas Census 2000*](http://www.census.gov/population/www/cen2000/islandareas/)
* [Template:Dmoz](/wiki/Template:Dmoz)
* [Portals to the World: Guam](http://www.loc.gov/rr/international/hispanic/guam/guam.html) from the U.S. [Library of Congress](/wiki/Library_of_Congress).
* [Template:Wikiatlas](/wiki/Template:Wikiatlas)

[Template:Clear](/wiki/Template:Clear) [Template:Navboxes](/wiki/Template:Navboxes) [Template:United States political divisions](/wiki/Template:United_States_political_divisions) [Template:USCensus Geography](/wiki/Template:USCensus_Geography) [Template:Pacific Islands Forum (PIF)](/wiki/Template:Pacific_Islands_Forum_(PIF)) [Template:Spanish Empire](/wiki/Template:Spanish_Empire) [Template:Authority control](/wiki/Template:Authority_control)

[Template:Coord](/wiki/Template:Coord)

[Category:Guam](/wiki/Category:Guam) [Category:Former Spanish colonies](/wiki/Category:Former_Spanish_colonies) [Category:Insular areas of the United States](/wiki/Category:Insular_areas_of_the_United_States) [Category:World War II sites](/wiki/Category:World_War_II_sites) [Category:Islands of Oceania](/wiki/Category:Islands_of_Oceania) [Category:Micronesia](/wiki/Category:Micronesia) [Category:English-speaking countries and territories](/wiki/Category:English-speaking_countries_and_territories) [Category:States and territories established in 1898](/wiki/Category:States_and_territories_established_in_1898) [Category:Small Island Developing States](/wiki/Category:Small_Island_Developing_States)