

KIRITIMATI (CHRISTMAS ISLAND), KIRIBATI

Pronounced Kir-ees-ee-mass, Kiritimati is the largest coral atoll in the world, part of the Line Islands group in the middle of the Pacific Ocean. The 150 sq mile atoll is home to a coconut plantation and a traditional kind of island life

KEY INFO

Currency: Kiribati Dollar/AUD

Population: 7,380 (2020)

Emergency #: Dial 999

Drinking water: Tap water is not drinkable

Time Zone: GMT+14

ID Requirements: Photo ID

Languages: Gilbertese (English not widely spoken)

Drive on the: Left

Pharmacy: London Kiritimati Hospital (XGQH+47Q)

Bug Spray: Recommended

Wi-Fi: None (& no cell signal outside of main towns)

PORT LOCATION

Ships use tender boats to ferry guests ashore. Tenders dock at the pier in London

Getting Around: It is possible to walk from the tender pier to the town of London. There are no taxis on the island, however a private minibuss service operates as a public bus. It can get quite crowded and road safety is not to the same standards as tourists may be used to.

Port Facilities: None

Port Address: 2G47+XV2, London, Kiribati (coordinates)

BEACHES ON KIRITIMATI ISLAND

Rainbow Park: Follow the road out of London to Tabwakea. This paradisaical beach and park is located at the northern point of the atoll. 11km from London | 20-minute drive

Lagoon View Resort: The closest beach resort to London. This small resort has a beach overlooking the lagoon. 3.5km from London | 10-minute drive, 50-minute walk

Torbens Beach: The main beach for Paris. The best way to reach Torbens Beach is to take a boat across the channel. 80.7km from London by road | 3-hour 40-minute drive, 30-minute boat

SHOPS + MARKETS IN LONDON (KIRITIMATI ISLAND)

Council Retail Shops: This small retail center is where locals do their shopping.

Craft Market: Usually locals put on a market of local handicrafts close to the tender pier in London. Sellers are only able to accept cash payment (in AUD or Kiribati Dollars). Walkable from Pier

TOWNS ON KIRITIMATI ISLAND

Life is uncomplicated by modern ways on Kiritimati Island and therefore there is little by way of modern amenities and entertainment on the island. It's not uncommon for locals to walk around town barefoot.

Locals swim and fish. Each town also has a football field. The towns also have local shops (often unmarked), and schools (typically open-air and divided into two age groups).

Christianity is the main religion on the island, and Catholic, Protestant and Mormon churches are all represented

① **London:** The ship's tenders dock in London and this is the most convenient town to explore. About 1,900 people live in London. There are some shops, churches, and a maneaba (place of public gathering). Walkable from Pier

② **Paris:** The site of Father Emmanuel Rougier's Parisian-style home, when he owned the island's coconut plantation from 1917 to 1939. Nowadays Paris has been abandoned and is in ruins. 80.7km from London by road | 3-hour 40-minute drive, 30-minute boat

③ **Poland:** About 500 people call Poland home. This small village found at the southwestern point of St Stanislas Bay, 21km from Paris. 71km from London by road | 2-hour 40-minute drive

④ **Banana:** The location of Cassidy International Airport - the only working airfield on the island. About 1000 people live in Banana. 24.4km from London | 40-minute drive

⑤ **Tabwakea:** The largest population on the island - 2000 people - live in Tabwakea. Locals live in simple handmade shacks on dirt roads that lead from the main inter-town road. 6.3km from London | 17-minute drive

⑥ **Aeon Point:** The easternmost point of the island is the site of an abandoned Cold War era airfield, named Aeon Field, constructed by the Royal Engineers squadron, who also built most of the island's road network. 61.7km from London | 1-hour 15-minute drive

