

**MISSIONS ATLAS PROJECT
NORTHWESTERN PACIFIC OCEAN
GUAM**

Snapshots Section

Territory Name: Territory of Guam

US Citizenship Given to Guam Inhabitants: 1950

Population: 178,430 (2009 estimate)

Government Type: Unincorporated, organized territory of the United States

Geography/location in the world: Guam is an island in the northwestern Pacific Ocean roughly half-way between Japan and Papua New Guinea and to the east of the Philippines.

Number of people groups: 13

Picture of flag:



Religion Snapshot: Roman Catholic 85%

Source: <https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/gq.html>

Territory Profile

Basic Facts

Territory Name: Territory of Guam

Demographics:

The population of Guam is 178,430 and 93% of the population lives in urban areas. Nearly 28% of the population is 14 or younger. 65% is between 15 and 64 years old. Only about 7% is 65 and older.

Life expectancy for men is about 75 years, and for women it is 81 years. The birth rate in 2009 was about 18 births per 1,000 population; the death rate was just under 5 deaths per 1,000 population.

<https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/gq.html>

Language:

English is the majority language, followed by Chamorro. There are also languages from the Philippines and other Pacific islands, as well as Asia.

<https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/gq.html>

Society/Culture:

The society of Guam is cosmopolitan, influenced by many cultures, including American, Spanish, Filipino, Japanese, Korean, Chinese, Micronesia, and Chamorro.

Interdependence is a core value of the Chamorro culture. Cooperation is an important aspect of their society—individualism is less so. The Chamorro culture is seen in the way they share their legends with the younger generation. Stories include tales of the *taotaomona* or ancient spirits; Two Lovers' Point where an unfortunate couple allegedly jumped to their deaths; and Sirena, the young girl who became a mermaid.

The Chamorro culture is evident in their music, dance, chants, crafts, and rituals for courtship and burial. They also pass along their knowledge of making herbal medicines.

The Spanish influenced the culture since they controlled the island for a few hundred years. For instance, Spanish architecture can be seen in the southern villages. However, of all the Spanish influence, that of the Catholic Church has been the greatest. Each village today has a patron saint. Feast days associated with those saints are celebrated with food, and the whole island is invited to the fiesta.

Finally, since Guam is part of the United States, American influence is felt on the island. The United States has a military presence on the island so Guam's calendar is filled with typical American holidays, too.

<http://www.guam-online.com/history/history.htm>

Internet - As of June 2009, there were about 85,000 Internet users in Guam, which accounts for approximately 48% of the population.

<http://www.internetworldstats.com/pacific.htm#gu>

Government:

Guam is an unincorporated and organized territory of the United States. *Unincorporated* means not all of the US Constitution applies to Guam. For example, the people of Guam are considered to be United States citizens and can vote during Democratic and Republican presidential primaries; however, they cannot vote in presidential elections held in November. Also, Guam elects a representative who goes to Washington. That representative has the same power and privileges as other representatives—except he or she cannot vote on the House floor.

Guam is also an *organized* territory. This happened when Congress passed the Organic Act in 1950 that organized the island's government in a similar way that a constitution would have. It provides for a republican form of government. Although Guam is not a state, the structure of the government resembles one. Guam has a governor, legislature, and a local judiciary.

Executive - The governor and lieutenant governor are elected to four-year terms. They can serve two consecutive terms in office, but then must wait before running again.

The current governor of Guam is Felix Camacho, who has served since January 6, 2003. The Lieutenant Governor is Michael W. Cruz; he has held that office since January 1, 2007. The next election is November 2010.

Cabinet members are appointed by the governor with consent from Guam's legislature.

Legislative - Guam has one legislative body consisting of 15 members. Legislative elections are held every two years. The next election will be in November 2010.

Guam also elects one person as a non-voting delegate to the United States House of Representatives in Washington, D.C.

Judicial - Guam has a territorial court called the Superior Court; judges are appointed for eight-year terms by the Governor of Guam.

Guam also has a Federal District Court, which deals with questions regarding the constitution and other Federal cases. Appeals then go to the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals in San Francisco and then to the U.S. Supreme Court. The judge is appointed by the president of the United States.

<http://www.doi.gov/oia/Islandpages/gumain.htm>

<https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/gq.html>

Economy:

Guam's economy mostly depends on tourism and US military spending. Guam's currency is the US dollar.

Primary exports from Guam are refined petroleum products, materials for construction, fish, and other food and beverages. Primary imports are petroleum and related products, food, and manufactured goods.

<https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/gq.html>

Literacy:

The literacy rate for both men and women in Guam is 99% (as of 1990 estimates).

<https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/gq.html>

Land/Geography:

The island of Guam is in the northwest Pacific Ocean, roughly half-way between Japan and Papua New Guinea and to the east of the Philippines. Guam is the largest of the Mariana Islands archipelago. It was formed by a volcano and is now surrounded by coral reefs. The island features steep cliffs along the coast and narrow plains in the north. There is also a limestone plateau, which is the source of most of Guam's fresh water.

The climate is usually warm and humid, cooled a bit by northeast trade winds. Temperatures do not vary much during the year. The rainy season is from July to December.

<https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/gq.html>

History

Guam and surrounding islands were settled about 3,000 years ago. The island's huge and heavy mushroom-shaped Latte (or Taga) stones are believed by some to be former foundation stones for homes used by the upper class in that society. By the time Ferdinand Magellan discovered the island in 1521, that old society had been long since forgotten.

In 1565, Spain claimed the island now known as Guam, along with the other nearby islands. More than a century later, Spain began to colonize the islands. Guam was essentially a way station for galleons sailing from Acapulco to Manila between 1668 and 1815.

The Chamorro people numbered around 50,000 when the Spanish came to the islands. The Chamorro people were exposed to new diseases, and many died. Wars between the Spanish and

Chamorro people led to more deaths. By 1700, the Chamorro population dropped to less than 2,000.

In 1898, the United States took control of Guam during the Spanish-American War. After the war, President McKinley negotiated a treaty that transferred control of Guam officially to the United States.

At the beginning of World War II, the Japanese captured Guam and occupied it for more than two years. American forces liberated Guam in July 1944.

In 1950, the United States passed the Guam Organic Act that gave U.S. citizenship to the people of Guam and created a system of local self-governance.

<http://ns.gov.gu/people.html>

http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/asia-pacific/country_profiles/4102043.stm

<https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/gq.html>

<http://uog2.uog.edu/chamorro.strength>

<http://www.joshuaproject.net/countries.php?rog3=GQ>

<http://ns.gov.gu/>

<http://www.doi.gov/oia/Islandpages/gumain.htm>

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Guam>

http://www.worldinformation.com/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=1660&Itemid=2121

Christian History

Catholics from Spain began working on the island of Guam in 1668. It was not until 1911 that General Baptists began their mission work, and other Protestant groups did not come to Guam until after World War II.

World Christian Encyclopedia, Vol. 1, 2nd ed. ISBN: 0195103181

Religion

Non Christian

Buddhism - As of 2000 there were about 2,932 Buddhists in Guam.

Baha'i - As of 2000 there were 1,508 people affiliated with the Baha'i faith.

Chinese Folk-Religionists - As of 1995 there were about 1,050 followers of this religion.

Confucianism - As of 1995 there were about 200 Confucianists in Guam.

Jehovah's Witness - Jehovah's Witnesses began working in Guam around 1950. As of 2000 there were 11 congregations and 619 members; 1,900 people were affiliated with the church.

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints (Mormons) - Mormons began working in Guam around 1932. As of 2000 there were 3 congregations and 838 members; 1,400 people were affiliated with the church.

Non-religious - As of 1995, there were about 1600 people who were in this category.

Catholic/Orthodox - The Catholic Church (D Agaña) began in 1668. As of 2000 there were 25 congregations and 74,000 members; 129,500 people were affiliated with the church.

Christian/Evangelical

Anglican – The Episcopal Church in the USA began working in Guam in 1960. As of 1995 there were 3 congregations and 500 members; 830 people were affiliated with the church.

Baptists

The Baptist Church, as of 1995, had 2 congregations and 400 members; 667 people were affiliated with the church.

Baptist Convention began in 1961. As of 2000 there were 3 congregations and 340 members; 850 people were affiliated with this organization.

Conservative Baptist Churches began in 1956. As of 1995 there were 2 congregations and 200 members; 400 people were affiliated with the church.

General Baptist Mission began in 1911. As of 1995 there were 4 congregations and 300 members; 667 people were affiliated with the church.

Church of Christ

The Church of Christ began in 1969. As of 1995 there were 2 congregations and 300 members; 429 people were affiliated with the church.

Church of Christ, Scientist (Christian Science), as of 1995, had one congregation and 20 members; 40 people were affiliated with the church.

Churches of Christ (non-instrumental), as of 1995, had 4 congregations and 400 members; 600 people were affiliated with the church.

Lutheran

The Lutheran Church began around 1980. As of 1995, there was one congregation and 100 members; 154 people were affiliated with the church.

Methodists

The Methodist Church, as of 1995, had 2 congregations and 200 members; 333 people were affiliated with the church.

Pentecostal/Holiness

Assemblies of God began in Guam in 1960. As of 2000 there were 5 congregations and 900 members; 1260 people were affiliated with the church.

Church of God (Anderson), as of 1995, had 4 congregations and 200 members; 400 people were affiliated with the church.

Church of God (Cleveland) began in 1956. As of 1995 there were 10 congregations and 300 members; 500 people were affiliated with the church.

Church of the Nazarene began in 1970. As of 1995 there was one congregation and 75 members; 210 people were affiliated with the church.

Pacific Ocean Mission began in 1956. As of 1995 there were 6 congregations and 100 members; 150 people were affiliated with the church.

United Pentecostals, as of 2000, had 54 congregations and 4,200 members; 7,800 people were affiliated with the church.

Presbyterian/Reformed

Christian Reformed Church started in 1962. As of 1995 there were 3 congregations and 200 members; 400 people were affiliated with the church.

Korean Presbyterian Churches began around 1975. As of 2000 there were 6 congregations and 1,000 members; 1,700 people were affiliated with the church.

Seventh-day Adventist - The Seventh-day Adventist Church began in 1930. As of 2000 there were 6 congregations and 771 members; 1,200 people were affiliated with the church.

World Christian Encyclopedia, Vol. 1, 2nd ed. ISBN: 0195103181

People Groups

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Americans, U.S. (22,500)

The Americans are primarily Christian. The number of evangelical Christians is unknown. The Bible, *Jesus* film, Gospel recordings, and radio broadcasts are all available in their language.

<http://www.joshuaproject.net/peopctry.php?rog3=GQ&rop3=110448>

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British (50)

The British are primarily Christian. The number of evangelical Christians is unknown. The Bible, *Jesus* film, Gospel recordings, and radio broadcasts are all available in their language.

<http://www.joshuaproject.net/peopctry.php?rog3=GQ&rop3=102927>

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Chamorro (81,400)

The Chamorro are primarily Christian. The number of evangelical Christians is unknown. Portions of the Bible have been translated into their primary language. The *Jesus* film is available, but there are no Gospel recordings or radio broadcasts.

<http://www.joshuaproject.net/peopctry.php?rog3=GQ&rop3=103498>

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Deaf (population unknown)

The deaf are primarily Christian. The number of evangelical Christians is unknown.

<http://www.joshuaproject.net/peopctry.php?rog3=GQ&rop3=114916>

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Filipino (31,900)

The Filipino are primarily Christian. The number of evangelical Christians is unknown. The Bible, *Jesus* film, Gospel recordings, and radio broadcasts are all available in their language.

<http://www.joshuaproject.net/peopctry.php?rog3=GQ&rop3=109692>

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Han Chinese, Cantonese (540)

The Cantonese people primarily follow Chinese folk religion. About 40 percent are Christian. The number of evangelical believers is unknown. The Bible, *Jesus* film, Gospel recordings, and radio broadcasts are available in their language.

<http://www.joshuaproject.net/peopctry.php?rog3=GQ&rop3=103701>

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Han Chinese, Mandarin (1,780)

The Mandarin people are primarily non-religious. About 40 percent are Christian. The number of evangelical believers is unknown. The Bible, *Jesus* film, Gospel recordings, and radio broadcasts are available in their language.

<http://www.joshuaproject.net/peopctry.php?rog3=GQ&rop3=103686>

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Ilocano (23,200)

The Ilocano are primarily Christian. The number of evangelical believers is unknown. The Bible, *Jesus* film, and Gospel recordings are available in their language, but radio broadcasts are not.

<http://www.joshuaproject.net/peopctry.php?rog3=GQ&rop3=103997>

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Japanese (2,980)

The Japanese are primarily Buddhists. The number of evangelical Christians is unknown. The Bible, *Jesus* film, Gospel recordings, and radio broadcasts are all available in Japanese.

<http://www.joshuaproject.net/peopctry.php?rog3=GQ&rop3=104189>

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Korean (6,240)

The Korean are primarily Christian, but the number of evangelical believers is unknown. About 25 percent are Buddhists. The Bible, *Jesus* film, Gospel recordings, and radio broadcasts are all available in the Korean language.

<http://www.joshuaproject.net/peopctry.php?rog3=GQ&rop3=105225>

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Palauan (5,350)

The Palauan people are primarily Christian. The number of evangelical Christians is unknown. The New Testament, *Jesus* film, and Gospel recordings are available in their language, but there are no radio broadcasts.

<http://www.joshuaproject.net/peopctry.php?rog3=GQ&rop3=107776>

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Ulithian (360)

The Ulithian people are primarily Christian. The number of evangelical Christians is unknown. The New Testament is available in their language, but the *Jesus* film, Gospel recordings, and radio broadcasts are not.

<http://www.joshuaproject.net/peopctry.php?rog3=GQ&rop3=110385>

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Woleaian (180)

The Woleaian people are primarily Christian. The number of evangelical Christians is unknown. The Bible, *Jesus* film, Gospel recordings, and radio broadcasts are have not been translated into their primary language.

<http://www.joshuaproject.net/peopctry.php?rog3=GQ&rop3=110854>

Missiological Implications

1. Evangelical Christians and churches should emphasize evangelism and church starting among the largest population groups—Americans, Chamorro, and Filipino. The great majority of these people are not evangelical. Evangelicals need to be moved by this obvious need.
2. Evangelical Christians and churches should seek to aid local believers in evangelizing among the large Roman Catholic contingent on this island. Evangelicals should provide materials and training for sharing the Good News with Roman Catholics.
3. Evangelical Christians and churches should seek ways to reach the Ilocano people (23,000) with the Good News.
4. Evangelical Christians and churches should make religious provision for the 26,000 plus illegal immigrants to these islands.

Links

Ancient Chamorros of Guam

<http://ns.gov.gu/people.html>

BBC News Country Profiles

http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/asia-pacific/country_profiles/4102043.stm

CIA Factbook – Guam

<https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/gq.html>

Contact History with Guam

<http://uog2.uog.edu/chamorro.strength>

Guam's History in Songs

<http://jessica.web.gu/guamsong1>

Joshua Project – Guam

<http://www.joshuaproject.net/countries.php?rog3=GQ>

Latte Stones of Guam

<http://ns.gov.gu/latte.html>

Operation World – Guam

<http://www.operationworld.org/country/guam/owtext.html>

Ultimate Guide into Guam and Her People

<http://ns.gov.gu/>

US Department of the Interior

<http://www.doi.gov/oia/Islandpages/gumain.htm>

Wikipedia – Guam

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Guam>

World Information – Guam

http://www.worldinformation.com/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=1660&Itemid=2121