

Guam

I INTRODUCTION

Guam, island in the western North Pacific Ocean, unincorporated territory of the United States, largest and southernmost of the Mariana Islands. It is 48 km (30 mi) long and a maximum of about 13 km (about 8 mi) wide; the total area is 549 sq km (212 sq mi). The capital of Guam is Hagåtña.



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Umatac Bay, Guam

Umatac Bay is situated on the southwestern coast of the island of Guam. The adjacent town of Umatac is the center of an important cattle-grazing area. Guam, an unincorporated U.S. territory in the North Pacific Ocean, is the site of a large military establishment for the U.S. army, navy, and air force.

II LAND AND ECONOMY

The northern portion of the island is a plateau of coral formation; the southern portion is hilly and of volcanic origin. The only good anchorage is Apra Harbor, on the western coast. The climate is tropical, with an average annual temperature of 26.7° C (80° F).

Guam is one of the principal U.S. defense fortifications in the western Pacific Ocean and is the site of extensive naval, army, and air force installations. Petroleum refining, ship repairing, and other service industries to the military establishment form a major part of the local economy. Farming and fishing are relatively well developed. Vegetables, citrus and tropical fruits, coconuts, and sugarcane are grown, and livestock, especially poultry, is raised. Manufactures include textiles, cement, and plastics. Tourism is of growing importance.

III POPULATION AND GOVERNMENT

In 1990, the population of Guam was 133,152, including military personnel and dependents. The administrative center, Hagåtña, is located on the western coast north of Apra Harbor. The indigenous Guamanians, or Chamorro, constitute less than half the total population. The Chamorro are of mixed ancestral heritage but are basically Micronesian in origin and speak their own language, Chamorro. English is the official language and is taught in the schools. The University of Guam, in Mangilao, was established in 1952.

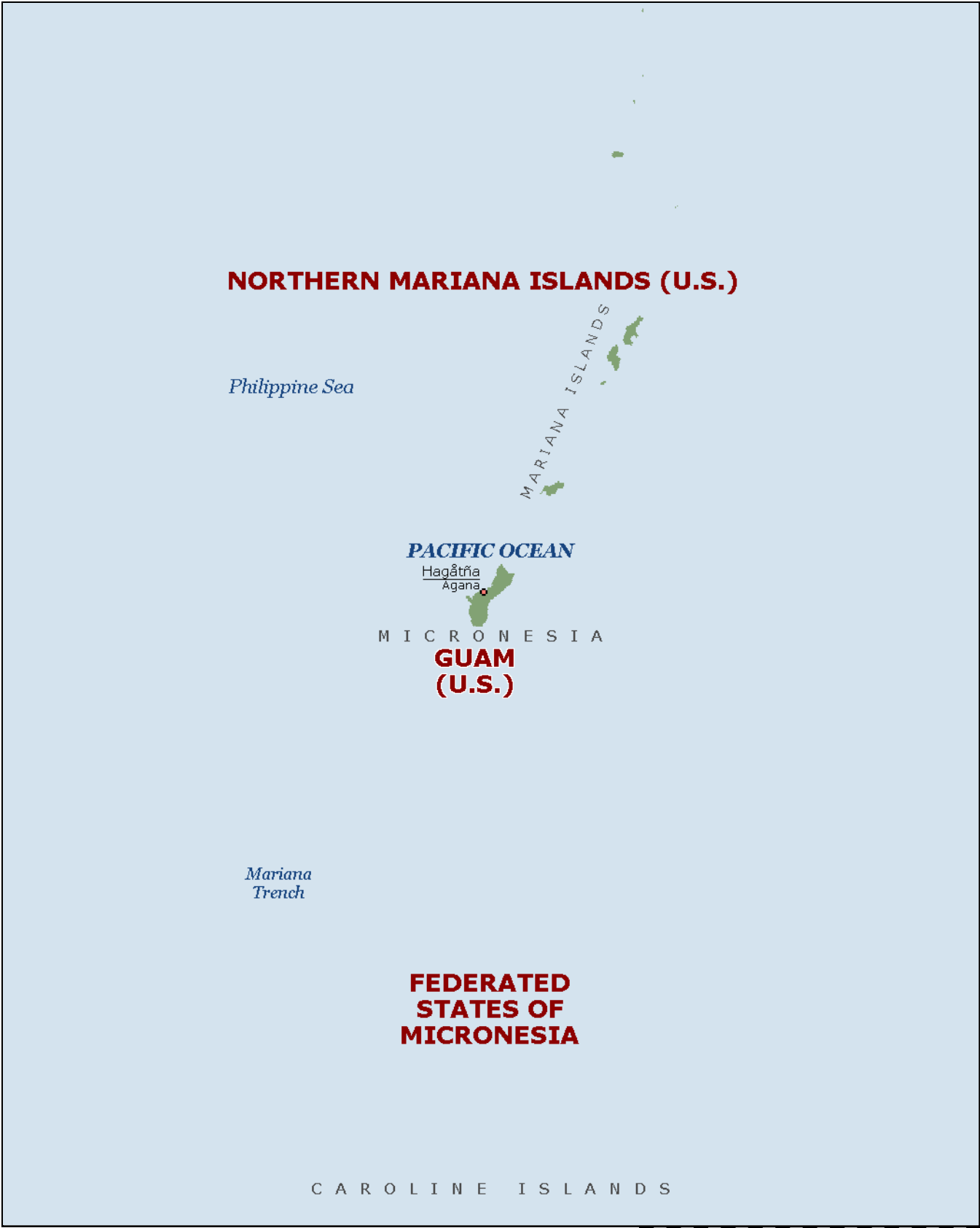
Executive power is vested in a governor, who is popularly elected to a four-year term. Legislative authority is vested in a unicameral legislature, consisting of 15 popularly elected members. Guam sends one nonvoting delegate to the United States House of Representatives.

IV HISTORY

The island was probably visited in 1521 by the Portuguese navigator Ferdinand Magellan, who, sailing for Spain, claimed it for that country. It was formally annexed by Spain in 1565. In 1898, by the terms of the Treaty of Paris at the end of the Spanish-American War, the island was ceded by Spain to the United States. The Japanese captured Guam in December 1941, during World War II (1939-1945). It was retaken by American forces between July 20 and August 10, 1944. In 1950 U.S. citizenship was conferred on the people of Guam. The island was devastated in August 1992 by Typhoon Omar. Winds of up to 240 km/h (about 150 mph) damaged 75 to 90 percent of the island's buildings.

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NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS (U.S.)

Philippine Sea

MARIANA ISLANDS

PACIFIC OCEAN

Hagåtña
Agaña

M I C R O N E S I A

**GUAM
(U.S.)**

*Mariana
Trench*

**FEDERATED
STATES OF
MICRONESIA**

C A R O L I N E I S L A N D S

0 km 50 100 150 200 250

Guam (U.S.)
Pacific Ocean



Jack Fields/Photo Researchers, Inc.

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United States

Alaska
Great Plains
Hawaii
Mid-Atlantic
Midwest
Northeast
Rocky Mountains
South
Southwest
West

World Map

Continents

Africa
Asia
Australia
Europe
Middle East
North America
Oceania
South America

Countries A-Z

A B C D E F G
H I J K L M N
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Guam

Average temperature, rainfall and snowfall information is available for the following climate stations in Guam

- [GUAM WFO](#)
- [GUAM, MARIANA IS](#)

Official name: Territory of Guam

Capital: Hagatna (Agana)

Area: total: 549 sq km
water: 0 sq km
land: 549 sq km

Climate: tropical marine; generally warm and humid, moderated by northeast trade winds; dry season from January to June, rainy season from July to December; little seasonal temperature variation

Location: Oceania, island in the North Pacific Ocean, about three-quarters of the way from Hawaii to the Philippines

Geographic coordinates: 13 28 N, 144 47 E

Comparative Area: three times the size of Washington, DC

Land boundaries: 0 km

Coastline: 125.5 km

Terrain: volcanic origin, surrounded by coral reefs; relatively flat coralline limestone plateau (source of most fresh water), with steep coastal cliffs and narrow coastal plains in north, low hills in center, mountains in south

Elevation extremes: lowest point: Pacific Ocean 0 m
highest point: Mount Lamlam 406 m

Map of Guam

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General info

Entity:
 Guam
Capital:
 Hagatna
Population (2008-07-01):
 175,877 (CIA)
Area:
 541 sq.km.
Country code:
 GU
Region:
 Micronesia

Guam

Administrative units

district	capital	area (sq.km.)	population 1990-04-01 census	population 2000-04-01 census
Agana Heights <i>District</i>			3,646	3,940
Agat <i>District</i>			4,960	5,656
Asan <i>District</i>			2,070	2,090
Barrigada <i>District</i>			8,846	8,652
Chalan Pago-Ordot <i>District</i>			4,451	5,923
Dededo <i>District</i>			31,728	42,980
Hagatña (Agana) <i>District</i>			1,139	1,100
Inajaran <i>District</i>			2,469	3,052
Mangilao <i>District</i>			10,483	13,313
Merizo <i>District</i>			1,742	2,163
Mongmong-Toto-Maite <i>District</i>			5,845	5,845
Piti <i>District</i>			1,827	1,666
Santa Rita <i>District</i>			11,857	7,500
Sinajana <i>District</i>			2,658	2,853
Talofofu <i>District</i>			2,310	3,215
Tamuning <i>District</i>			16,673	18,012
Umatac <i>District</i>			897	887
Yigo <i>District</i>			14,213	19,474
Yona <i>District</i>			5,338	6,484
total			133,152	154,805

source: [U.S. Census Bureau](#).