

KIRIBATI AT A GLANCE

Christmas Island (Kiritimati), Kiribati



Home to over
120,000
PEOPLE

Almost half of the population lives on South Tarawa.



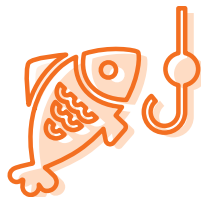
CAPITAL
South Tarawa

The capital of Kiribati is South Tarawa, which is a 5-hour flight from Brisbane.

MAJOR INDUSTRIES



Maritime



Fishing



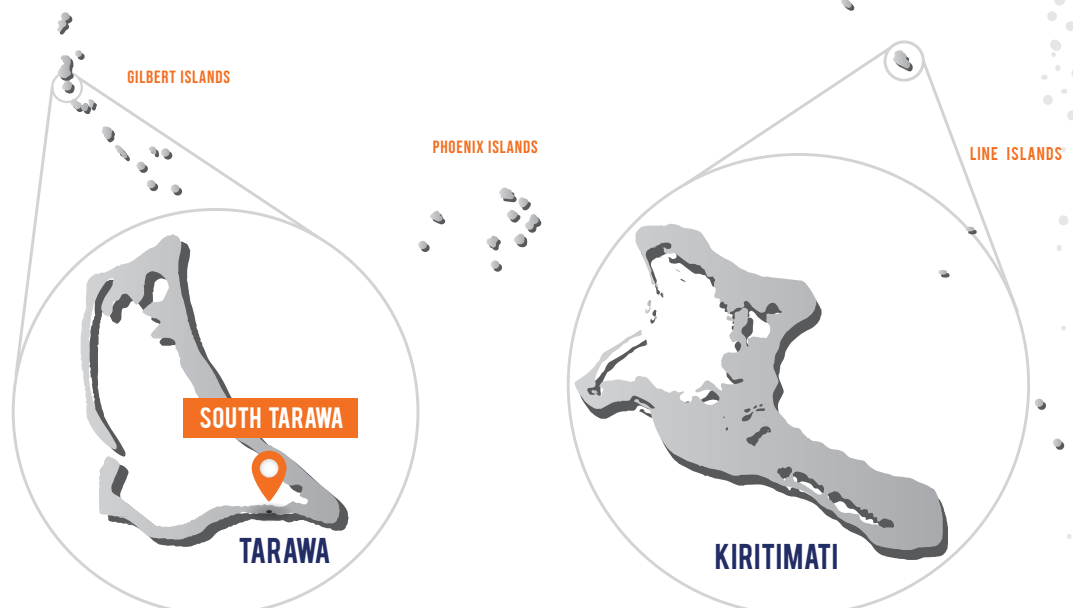
Agriculture

Kiribati has a strong maritime culture and produces world-class seafarers, with many I-Kiribati people working on merchant marine vessels, cruise ships and fishing vessels around the world. Most islanders engage in subsistence activities ranging from fishing to the growing of food crops like bananas, breadfruit, and papaya.

GEOGRAPHY

Kiribati (**pronounced Kir-i-bas**) is made up of **32 coral atolls** and the raised phosphate island of Banaba.

Kiribati's atolls cover a total **811 km² of land** distributed over **3.5 million km² of ocean** – an area the size of Western Australia and South Australia combined.



The people of Kiribati are referred to as I-Kiribati (pronounced ee-Kir-i-bas). When writing this, ensure to use the capitalised i (as in I-Kiribati), as using small i can be considered disrespectful.

For detailed country map please visit:
maps.google.com



CULTURE

Kiribati has a communal lifestyle and a culture of sharing.

Kiribati has a rich and diverse culture with a strong focus on people and good relationships.

I-Kiribati people are very social and place great value on family and friendships.

LANGUAGES

Indigenous I-Kiribati language



English is the official language of Kiribati, however the Indigenous I-Kiribati language is more commonly used.

English is used from middle primary and all high school instruction is in English.

PASTIMES

Sailing, music, dancing, volleyball, soccer



Building and racing sailing canoes is a common pastime in Kiribati. Traditional music and dancing are popular art forms, with the preparation and construction of costumes highly regarded amongst I-Kiribati people. Volleyball and soccer are popular sports.

DRESS



Loose cool clothing is encouraged to suit the hot climate in Kiribati however it is important to remember that I-Kiribati are modest people and will dress accordingly.

It is especially important to wear modest clothing in villages or religious and cultural areas.



WORKPLACE CULTURE

The Kiribati workplace can be very hierarchical. Respect for a person in a senior position is often shown by addressing them by their position and title rather than by their name.

Swearing and blasphemy are not common and can be interpreted as offensive or aggressive behaviour.

RELIGION

Catholic and Protestant



Religion is an important part of life in Kiribati.

Approximately 53% of the population is Catholic, around 39% is Protestant and the remainder is mostly a mix of Latter-Day Saints, Church of God and Bahai.



PHRASES & GREETINGS

Traditional welcome is very important in Kiribati. Employers and visitors should respect any preparations that are made regarding traditional welcomes.

PHRASE — English	Kiribati	PHRASE — English	Kiribati
Hello	Mauri	Goodbye	Ti a boo
How are you?	Ko uara? (sg) Kam uara? (pl)	I'm sorry	Kabara au bure
Please	Taiaoka	Do you speak English?	Ko rabakau n taetae n I-matang
Thank you	Ko rab'a		

For more common phrases and translations, refer to: <https://omniglot.com/language/phrases/kiribati.htm>



Beach at Tarawa, Kiribati