

OCEANIA · DIVING · ISLANDS · BEACHES · HISTORY · OFF THE BEATEN PATH



Marshall Islands

The Marshall Islands scatter 29 low coral atolls and five islands across a vast stretch of the central Pacific. Bikini Atoll's ghost fleet, sunk by nuclear tests in 1946, draws technical divers, while Majuro's lagoon and the outer atolls offer quiet beaches and traditional island life. Flights are few, so plan around them.

 Before you go, read the UK government's travel advice for Marshall Islands and entry requirements (visas, passport validity).
Last updated by FCDO 19 March 2026.

 CAPITAL Majuro	 CURRENCY US dollar (USD) £1 ≈ US\$1.34	 LANGUAGE Marshallese, English	 BEST TIME Jan–Mar
 DAILY BUDGET £80–£260 £££ Expensive	 PLUGS Type A, B 120V · adapter needed	 FLIGHT FROM LONDON 30h via Los Angeles/San Francisco and Honolulu ~£1,600–£2,600 return	 TIME ZONE UTC+12 standard time

The Marshall Islands are almost all edges: 29 atolls and five islands whose land adds up to barely 181 km², spread across nearly two million square kilometres of ocean. Most visitors spend their time on Majuro, the capital atoll, where a single long road runs from the crowded Delap-Uliga-Djarrit end to the quieter village of Laura. From there, the logic is to add an outer atoll such as Arno, a short boat ride away, or Mili for Second World War ruins, reached on Air Marshall Islands flights. Bikini Atoll's wrecks are reached only on specialist liveaboard trips from Kwajalein.

This is not a resort destination. Hotels are few and simple, prices are in US dollars and higher than you might expect because almost everything is imported, and outer-island visits need planning with local councils and patience with flight schedules. In return you get empty lagoons, superb diving and a strong Marshallese culture of church, family and outrigger canoes. History is everywhere, from Japanese wartime bunkers to the legacy of 67 US nuclear tests at Bikini and Enewetak between 1946 and 1958. It suits divers, history enthusiasts and travellers comfortable with very little tourist infrastructure.

Top 5 highlights

1

HISTORY

Bikini Atoll

A UNESCO World Heritage Site where the US tested nuclear weapons from 1946. The aircraft carrier USS Saratoga and the Japanese battleship Nagato lie in its lagoon, dived on a few technical liveaboard trips each year.

2

BEACH

Laura Beach

At the western end of Majuro's road, Laura has the atoll's best beach, with calm lagoon water, palm shade and a slower village pace, about an hour's drive from the capital's centre.

3

NATURE

Arno Atoll

A short boat crossing east of Majuro, Arno's islets offer simple guesthouses, snorkelling, fishing and a taste of outer-island life without needing a flight; arrange transport and permission through Majuro.

4

HISTORY

Mili Atoll

Japan fortified Mili heavily in the Second World War; bombed and bypassed by US forces, it still holds bunkers, artillery, rail lines and aircraft wrecks among the palms. Unexploded munitions remain, so go with a local guide.

5

CULTURE

Alele Museum

Majuro's small national museum explains Marshallese navigation, including the stick charts that mapped ocean swells, alongside traditional canoes, weaving and photographs of island life before the Second World War.

Biggest cities

LARGEST CITY

Majuro

≈ 23,000 people

The capital atoll's built-up eastern end is functional rather than pretty, but has the Alele Museum, lagoon-side bars, dive operators and boats out to quieter islets.

2ND LARGEST CITY

Ebeye

≈ 8,400 people

One of the Pacific's most densely populated islands, next to the US military base on Kwajalein; few visitors come except en route to Bikini dive trips, which start from Kwajalein Atoll.

Only Majuro and Ebeye are genuine towns (2021 census figures; Majuro's covers the whole atoll, of which the Delap-Uliga-Djarrit core holds roughly 14,000). Everyone else lives in small villages on the outer atolls.

When to go to Marshall Islands

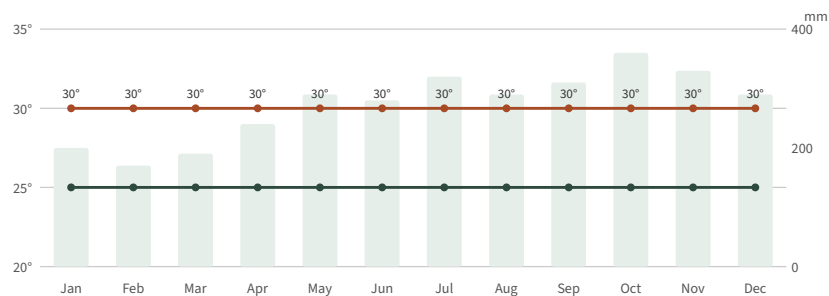
Best time: **Jan–Mar**.



■ Best ■ Good ■ Mixed ■ Poor

Average climate in Majuro

— High °C — Low °C ■ Rain (mm)



Festivals & events

Sep	Manit Day Marshallese Culture Day, on the last Friday of September, brings canoe races, traditional dancing, and handicraft and food stalls, with the main celebrations at the Alele Museum in Majuro.
Dec	Gospel Day and Christmas From Gospel Day on the first Friday of December through Christmas, church groups called jepta perform long, rehearsed programmes of singing and dancing, with gift-giving in packed churches.

How much does Marshall Islands cost?

SHOESTRING £80 per person / day ≈ US\$107 hostels, street food, buses	MID-RANGE £150 per person / day ≈ US\$200 3-star hotels, restaurants, some taxis	COMFORTABLE £260 per person / day ≈ US\$347 4-star+, guided trips, private transfers
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Estimates per person per day, excluding flights. Prices vary by season and city.

Food to try

Breadfruit (mā) The Marshallese staple, baked, boiled or fried in season and preserved as fermented bwiro paste for leaner months and long voyages.	Reef fish and tuna Caught daily in the lagoon and open ocean and eaten grilled, fried or raw with lime and coconut; Majuro's restaurants serve excellent sashimi-grade tuna.	Pandanus (bōb) The fibrous orange fruit of the pandanus tree, chewed raw for its sweet juice or cooked into a paste; a key traditional food on the atolls.
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Getting around

On Majuro, cheap shared taxis run constantly along the single main road, picking up anyone heading their way; just tell the driver your destination. Car hire exists but is rarely necessary. Air Marshall Islands flies small planes to the outer atolls on schedules that change often, and government field-trip ships call at remote islands every few weeks. For Arno or lagoon islets, arrange boats through hotels or dive operators.

Practical information

PLUGS & VOLTAGE A B 120V — bring a UK-to-A/B adapter	EMERGENCY NUMBERS Ambulance: 625 4142 Police: 625 8666 Source: FCDO “Getting help”
DIALLING CODE +692	TIME ZONE UTC+12 (standard time)
TAP WATER Not safe — drink bottled or treated water	DRIVING On the right
TIPPING Tipping is not customary in Marshallese culture, though hotel and dive staff appreciate something for good service.	

ETIQUETTE

Women should keep thighs covered, with knee-length skirts or shorts, and swim in shorts and a T-shirt away from hotels. Greet people with 'lòkwe' and ask before visiting outer-island villages.

MAIN AIRPORTS

Amata Kabua International Airport (MAJ), Majuro

Visas & entry for Marshall Islands

Shown for a British passport.

No visa needed

British citizen passport holders with an onward or return ticket do not require a visa to enter the Marshall Islands for up to 90 days.

If you are visiting, you will get a visa waiver on arrival. To work or study, you must apply before you travel.

From the UK government's FCDO entry requirements for British passport holders — read the full page for passport validity, permits and exceptions.

Health & vaccinations

See a travel health nurse, GP or travel clinic **6–8 weeks before you go**. Make sure routine UK vaccinations (such as MMR and diphtheria-tetanus-polio) are up to date.

RECOMMENDED FOR MOST TRAVELLERS

Hepatitis A Tetanus Typhoid

SOMETIMES ADVISED — DEPENDS ON YOUR TRIP, ACTIVITIES AND HEALTH

Dengue Hepatitis B Bat Lyssavirus Tuberculosis

YELLOW FEVER CERTIFICATE

No yellow fever certificate is required to enter.

MALARIA

No malaria risk

Source: TravelHealthPro (National Travel Health Network and Centre), checked 21 October 2026. This is a summary, not medical advice.

Public holidays in Marshall Islands

The next 12 months. Banks, offices and some sights may close, and transport and hotels get busy around these dates.

Tue 17 Nov 2026	President's Day
Fri 4 Dec 2026	Gospel Day
Fri 25 Dec 2026	Christmas Day
Fri 1 Jan 2027	New Year's Day
Mon 1 Mar 2027	Nuclear Victims Remembrance Day
Fri 26 Mar 2027	Good Friday

Fri 30 Apr 2027	Constitution Day Holiday
Sat 1 May 2027	Constitution Day
Fri 2 Jul 2027	Fisherman's Day
Fri 3 Sep 2027	Dri-jerbal Day
Fri 24 Sep 2027	Manit Day

National holidays only. Dates based on lunar calendars can move by a day or two depending on official announcements.

Useful phrases in Marshallese

ENGLISH	MARSHALLESE	SAY IT
Hello	Iḷkwe	YOK-way
Thank you	Komṁṁool	kom-MOHL
Please	Jouj	jowj
Excuse me	Jḷḷḷḷ bōd	JAW-lawk bud
How much is this?	Ewi jonān?	EH-wee JAW-ngahn

Know before you go

- United's Island Hopper between Honolulu and Guam is the main air link and runs only a few times a week, so build spare days around flights, especially for outer-island trips.
- Bring US dollars in cash: Majuro has a few ATMs and cards work at larger hotels, but the outer islands are cash-only and have no banks.
- Visiting outer atolls usually needs prior permission from the local government and landowners; the national tourism office in Majuro can help arrange it, along with homestays and boats.

Visa, health and safety rules change. Before you book or travel, check the FCDO travel advice (gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice) and TravelHealthPro (travelhealthpro.org.uk). Costs are estimates. © 2026 Pick My Trip.