

An LGBTQ Guide to Guam





JOSHUA TENORIO,
THE HONORABLE
LT. GOVERNOR

Håfa Adai,

Welcome! As Lieutenant Governor of Guam and proud member of the LGBTQ community, I am grateful that Guam’s residents have given me the opportunity to help direct the island’s future. Also, Guam has just elected its first female Governor, and now holds the record for the largest women majority in U.S. history. Guam’s diverse political leadership is a direct reflection of the broadening views within our island community.

I will advocate for policy that is fair and equal for all and will positively impact LGBTQ rights. I applaud the Guam Visitors Bureau’s efforts in developing the Guam travel industry to better serve LGBTQ travelers and give my full support to their ongoing efforts.

We look forward to your visit and providing you with the adventure of a lifetime!

Si Yu’os Ma’åse’



21



Contents

02	Welcome
04	LGBTQ Guam
06	LGBTQ Resources
08	Visiting Guam With Other LGBTQ Destinations
09	Guam + Japan
09	Guam + Korea
10	Guam + Taiwan
10	Guam + Hong Kong
11	Guam + Philippines
11	Guam + Micronesia



16

12	Things to do
12	Outdoors
16	Culture
18	Shopping
20	Dining
24	Nightlife



LGBTQ Guam

Travelers from all over the world are rapidly discovering this friendly island with year-round sunshine, spectacular scenery, romantic beach resorts, and a vibrant and inclusive Chamorro culture that dates back 4,000 years. One of the most LGBTQ-welcoming destinations in the Pacific Rim Guam became the first U.S. territory to legalize same-sex marriage in 2015, and in 2018, the island elected its first openly gay Lieutenant Governor, Joshua Tenorio, and Lasia Casil became the first transgender woman appointed to Guam's Governor's Cabinet. The hospitality industry on this island of 163,000 residents enthusiastically welcomes LGBTQ visitors.

The Guam Pride march and festival in June is a terrific time to get to know the island's spirited gay scene, but with constant light trade winds and average year-round high temperatures in the mid-80s, there's never a wrong time to visit. As you ease into Guam's relaxing pace, you'll discover endless beaches and lush mountains, internationally diverse restaurants, duty-free shopping at dozens of both local and name-brand retailers, and just enough gay-friendly nightlife options to satisfy social butterflies. Come see for yourself why so many LGBTQ visitors fall in love with Guam!

Guam Historical Highlights

- 2000 BC** "Early seafaring inhabitants, now known as Chamorros and likely from Southeast Asia, establish permanent settlements on Guam.
- 1521** Portuguese explorer Ferdinand Magellan sets ashore, establishing the earliest known contact between Guam and Western Europe.
- 1565** The Spanish Crown formally claims Guam.
- 1668** Jesuit missionaries become the first Spaniards to reside permanently on Guam.
- 1898** Following the Spanish-American War, Spain cedes Guam to the United States.
- 1941** Hours after the Pearl Harbor attack, the Japanese invade and occupy Guam until U.S. military forces retake it in 1944.
- 1950** The Guam Organic Act confers greater autonomy by establishing the island as an unincorporated organized territory of the United States.
- 1972** Guam receives the right to elect its own governor and a non-voting Delegate to the U.S. House of Representatives.



“Nathan Lizama, Student

Being a member of the LGBTQ community on Guam has been a great experience. Because here we're taught to respect everyone no matter who they are, or what they believe in, it makes me feel both safe and accepted.

LGBTQ WEDDINGS

Same-sex weddings were legalized in Guam before majority of the United States. The island has dozens of breathtakingly beautiful venues for wedding ceremonies, including oceanfront chapels and glass walled ballrooms at nearly every major scenic vista.

Many persons in Guam can serve as officiants, from clergy to various political figures and elected officials it's quite easy to find folks who are happy to perform same-sex weddings.

For more details and to apply for a marriage license please visit govguamdocs.com/dphss

LGBTQ Resources

GUAM VISITORS BUREAU

Comprehensive information for planning your visit

📍 401 San Vitores Rd., Tumon
📞 671-646-5278

VisitGuam.com

EQUALITY GUAM

A non-profit organization committed to celebrating, educating, and empowering community with and for Guam's LGBTQIA+ community.

Equalityguam.org

GALA (GUAM'S ALTERNATIVE LIFESTYLE ASSOCIATION)

Community-based advocacy and education organization

📞 671-969-5483

GALAGuam.org

GUAHAN PROJECT

Nonprofit HIV and TD testing and support

📍 WestCare Pacific Islands
222 Chalan Santo Papa, Hagåtña
📞 671-482-9001 or 671-472-0219

Westcare.com



“ Kyla Limtiaco, Student

Living as transgender person on Guam has been nothing but a good experience. I believe it has a lot to do with the culture here, which emphasizes respecting others and focuses on acceptance rather than judging.






Visiting Guam With Other LGBTQ Destinations

Situated in the Pacific Ocean more than 1,800 miles southeast of mainland China and 3,700 miles west of Hawaii, Guam is the ultimate tropical getaway—it’s blissfully relaxing and far from crowds. Although our setting is remote, **Guam’s Antonio B. Won Pat International Airport** is served by more than a dozen airlines and offers direct flights to some of the Pacific Rim’s most alluring—and LGBTQ-popular—destinations, from **Hong Kong** and **Taipei** to **Seoul** and **Tokyo**.

A trip from North America to Guam presents travelers with the perfect opportunity to visit one or more additional Asian cities. And if you’re interested in traveling someplace without direct service to Guam—such as **Bali**, **Bangkok**, **Shanghai**, or **Sydney**—it’s relatively easy to connect to most other Pacific locales through **Manila**, **Tokyo**, or another major hub.

For tips on LGBTQ travel throughout the region, TravelGayAsia.com is a very helpful resource.

 3.5 to 4 hours

GUAM + JAPAN

Japan enjoys close ties with Guam, which offers direct flights to **Tokyo** as well as **Osaka**, **Fukuoka**, and **Nagoya**. Tokyo is a thrilling year-round destination with a lively LGBTQ nightlife quarter in **Shinjuku** and an extensive Gay Pride festival in late April–early May. Other highlights include the trendy shopping and dining of **Shibuya**, **Aoyama**, and **Harajuku**, the newly relocated **Tsukiji** fish market, and a slew of world-class art and history museums. The cosmopolitan metropolis of **Osaka** hosts a well-attended Pride festival in October and has a fast-growing gay scene, and nearby **Kyoto** is one of the world’s most picturesque and inviting small cities.



 4 to 4.5 hours

GUAM + SOUTH KOREA

South Korea has developed into one of Guam’s most important markets, and numerous flights are offered to **Seoul-Incheon Airport** as well as to **Busan**, **Cheongju**, and **Daegu**. A dynamic center of art and design, **Seoul** offers trendy neighborhoods—such as hipster-minded **Hongdae** and gay-popular **Itaewon**—abundant with late-night shopping, dining, and nightlife, and the not-to-be-missed three-day Seoul Queer Culture Festival takes place in July. Beyond Seoul, the scenic resort island of **Jeju** is known for its fine beaches and volcanic rock formations, and the country’s second-largest city, **Busan**, has a growing LGBTQ scene concentrated around the **Beomil** neighborhood and offers beautiful coastal and mountain scenery.

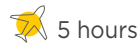




4 hours

GUAM + TAIWAN

With rugged mountains and vibrant cities, the island of Taiwan—which is also Asia’s leading nation on marriage equality—has a highly visible LGBTQ community. Much of the action is centered around **Taipei**, whose late October Pride celebration—drawing 130,000 participants—is the largest in Asia. The city’s **Red House District** pulses with gay bars and clubs, and design-driven **Songshan Cultural and Creative Park** is a must for art lovers and shoppers. Farther south on the island you can take in the gorgeous scenery of **Sun Moon Lake National Park**, and the sunny beaches and lush hiking in **Kenting National Park**.



5 hours

GUAM + HONG KONG

With its storied setting on the South China Sea, an iconic contemporary skyline, and trendy restaurants, bustling night markets, and chic hotels, **Hong Kong** is a long-time LGBTQ hub as well as a distinct amalgam of British and Chinese culture. In the same day, you can take a funicular to **Victoria Peak**, sunbathe at gay-popular **Middle Bay Beach**, visit **Tian Tan Buddha**, and take a cruise on magnificent **Victoria Harbour**—there’s even a **Disneyland** theme park in this fabled city. Both Central Hong Kong and Kowloon—across the harbor—buzz with gay nightlife, and the city’s exciting Gay Pride festival takes place in November.



3.5 to 4 hours

GUAM + PHILIPPINES

About 1,500 miles away, the Philippines is a favorite vacation destination among Guamanians, roughly a quarter of whom claim Filipino lineage. With its mix of Spanish Colonial buildings and shiny new skyscrapers, friendly and densely populated **Manila** has a sizeable LGBTQ scene and hosts an increasingly well-attended Pride festival, usually in late June. Picturesque resort getaways such as **Camiguin**, **Cebu**, **Palawan**, and especially **Boracay** are also becoming steadily more popular with LGBTQ travelers.



20 minutes to 2 hours

GUAM + MICRONESIA

The largest of the 2,100 islands that make up Micronesia, Guam is an ideal base for exploring the other popular destinations in this vast region that comprises four main island groups. Nearest are the **Northern Mariana Islands**, a U.S. Commonwealth. Here you can visit **Saipan**, with its internationally renowned casinos and sandy beaches, and **Rota**, a stunning 33-square-mile island just 40 miles north of Guam with a few small hotels, an acclaimed golf course, and superb diving, swimming, and beachcombing. From Guam you can also fly direct to several other areas of Micronesia, including **Chuuk**, **Kosrae**, **Majuro**, **Palau**, **Pohnpei**, and **Yap**.



Things to do OUTDOORS

Guam is a mecca for outdoor recreation and adventure, whether it's hiking to a magnificent waterfall or diving beside World War II shipwrecks just off the coast.



BEACHES

Home to most of Guam's inviting resorts, **Tumon Bay** is fringed by a gorgeous crescent of soft, sandy beach. Protected by reefs, the bay itself is shallow, warm, and calm—ideal for swimming or zipping around in kayaks or on stand-up paddleboards. For a more remote and rugged experience, consider the eastern shore's **Taga'chang** and **Talofofo** beaches, which offer protected swimming and are surrounded by lush natural scenery. You'll find one of the most stunning beaches on the island at **Ritidian Point**, at the northern tip of Guam. The surf is rough here and unsafe for swimming, but this is a beautiful spot to gaze out at the endless turquoise surf.

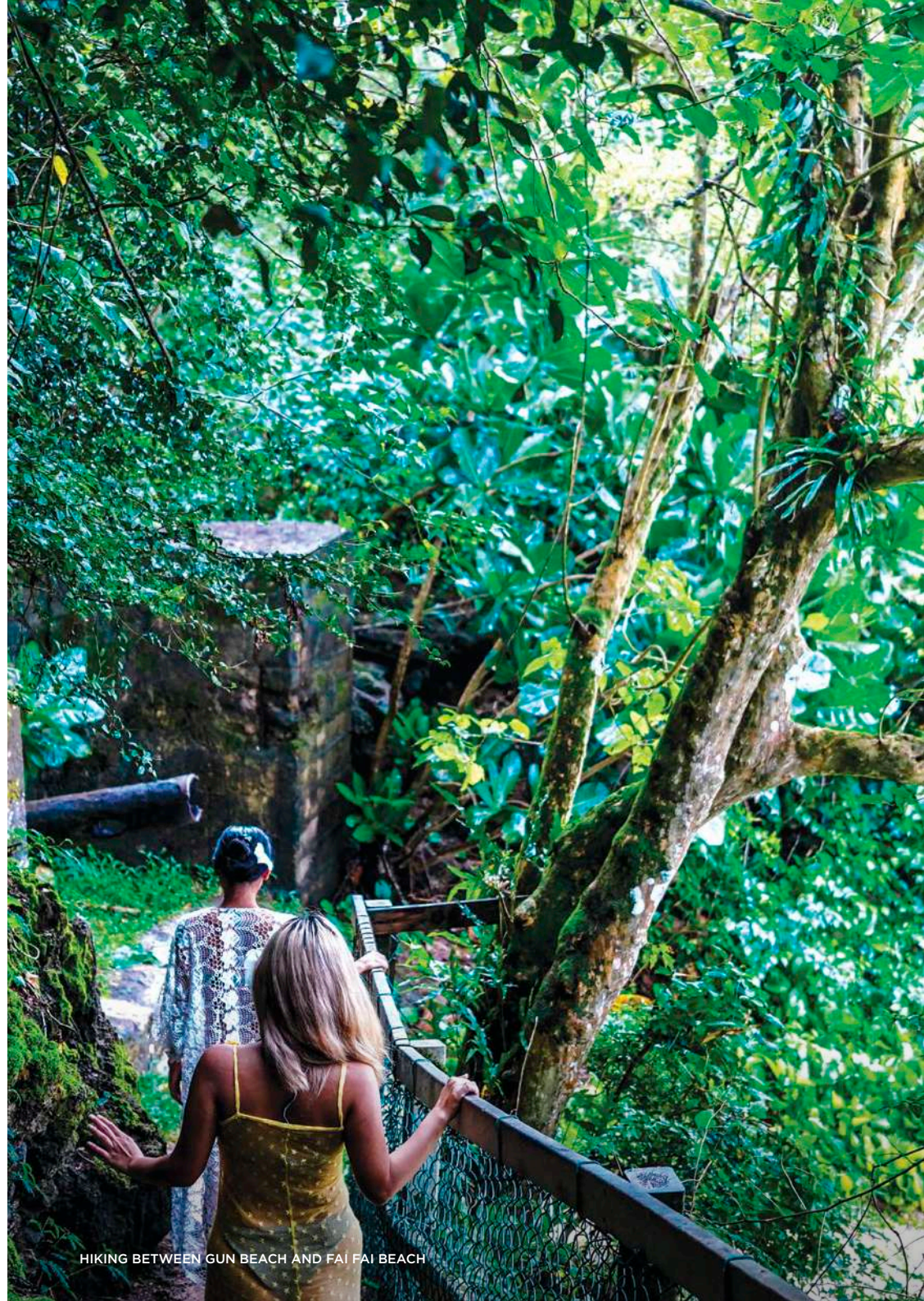


FISH EYE MARINE PARK



WATER ACTIVITIES

If it's underwater fun you're after, you've come to the right island. Several companies offer scuba diving and even certification, and Tumon Bay is amazing for snorkeling. A must for venturing beneath the sea: **Fish Eye Marine Park** has both a scenic above-ground observation deck and an underwater observatory some 30-feet beneath the ocean's surface.



HIKING BETWEEN GUN BEACH AND FAI FAI BEACH

TANGUISSON BEACH





FORT NUESTRA SENORA DE LA SOLEDAD, UMATAC

The Scenic Route

A must when visiting Guam is renting a car or hiring a guide and making the 60-mile drive around the island's southern half, a region steeped in both rugged beauty and fascinating history. Start in **Hagåtña**, driving along Highway 4 across the island's hilly center until you reach the east coast. Take in the sweeping panorama at **Pago Bay Overlook**, or stop for a bite to eat at quirky **Jeff's Pirates Cove**, which also contains a museum with interesting artwork and local artifacts. Continue south past **Valley of the Latte** before reaching **Inaláhan**, home to stunning waterfall hikes and dramatic **Inaláhan Pools Beach**, with its volcanic-rock pools.

McKraut's known for beer and hearty German food—is a good option for lunch in this part of the island with few eateries.

Continue to **Merizo** for a picnic at beautiful **Santa Marian Kamalen Park**, and on to **Fort Nuestra Senora de la Soledad**. Follow Highway 2 north to **Cetti Bay Overlook** for a grand view of the island's west coast. Then make your way back toward Tumon via the military history sites in **Hågat**. Give yourself four to six hours, allowing for stops, and bear in mind that you'll pass many diversions, from swimming holes to waterfall hikes, that you may want to return to later in your trip.



HIKING

Guam is justly famous for “boonie stomping,” as this activity is known locally. Mesmerizing trails lead to dramatic waterfalls, including legendary **Tarzan Falls** and several cataracts in **Waterfall Valley**—family-friendly **Tinago Falls** is a favorite. Other top treks include the challenging climb through the jungles of Piti to towering **San Carlos Falls**, the breathtaking ramble to Guam's highest peak, 1,332-foot **Mt. Jumullong Manglo**, and **Pågat** and **Marbo Caves**, which reward adventurers through splendid freshwater grotto. Several tour companies offer guided hikes, and nonprofit **Guam Boonie Stompers, Inc.** leads public hikes throughout the island on Saturday mornings.



ONWARD MANGILAO GOLF CLUB



GOLF

A haven for golf, Guam has six popular courses, including the acclaimed **LeoPalace Resort & Country Club** and the **Guam International Country Club**. For its sterling views of the ocean and coconut-tree-flanked fairways, it's hard to beat the **Country Club of the Pacific** golf course.

MARBO CAVE



“**Brandon Sofranko,**
Firefighter
Kevin Sofranko,
Aerospace repairman

We love to take family and friends to Sigua Falls—it's a long but beautiful hike—and also to Tumon's beaches. The sand is some of the softest we've ever found. We also really appreciate that the LGBTQ community on Guam is pretty big and organizes a lot of fun events.

Things to do

CULTURE

Inhabited by humans for more than 4,500 years, Guam has preserved its rich heritage at several fascinating attractions, which touch on everything from ancient Chamorro culture to 20th-century military history.



HISTORIC SITES

Start in island's capital, **Hagåtña**, with a stroll around **Plaza de Espana** and its gardens, kiosko, and preserved structures, three dating from Guam's period of Spanish control (from the late 17th through late 19th centuries). Also note the stately **Dulce Nombre de Maria Cathedral Basilica**. Learn of Guam's more recent past at the exceptional **War in the Pacific National Historic Park's T. Stell Newman Visitor Center**. Poignant interactive exhibits and a 10-minute movie relate the story of Guam's pivotal military and geopolitical role throughout the past few centuries and especially during World War II. The park also comprises key war battle sites, including **Agat Beach, Ga'an Point**, and **Asan Bay Overlook**.



FIRST BEACH

For a glimpse into Guam's ancient past, make the scenic drive to **Valley of the Latte Adventure Park** for a narrated boat ride along the Talofofo River and to visit a re-created ancient Chamorro living-history village and botanical garden with ancient latte stones and traditionally attired Ulitao guides. Continue south around the island, stopping in **Merizo** to admire the mid-19th-century **Merizo Combento**, and in Umatac to visit **Fort Nuestra Senora de la Soledad**, built by the Spanish in the early 1800s high on a bluff overlooking Umatac Bay.



HAGÁTÑA



ATTRACTIONS

In Hagåtña, view a captivating art exhibit at the gorgeously designed **Guam Museum**, which opened in 2016. Tumon Bay is home to delightful **Aquarium of Guam**, offering amazing up-close opportunities to view reef and zebra sharks as well as colorful orangespine surgeonfish and black whiptail rays. The aquarium offers dinner and “diving with the sharks” packages, too. Nearby, experience a magical island sunset at **Puntan Dos Amantes**, or **Two Lovers Point**, a majestic overlook set atop sheer seaside cliffs 368 feet above the sea. A cantilevered observation deck that offers stupendous views of Tumon Bay and the Philippine Sea.



GUAM MUSEUM



UNDERWATER WORLD

“ Lasia Casil, Guam Pride Founder



In Guam, you can be on a beautiful beach within 10 minutes of walking out of the airport. We have soft white-sand, pink-sand, and black-sand beaches—and crystal clear, warm waters. If you're outdoorsy, we have amazing hiking trails, waterfalls, snorkeling, and scuba-diving. And our sunsets are dazzling, unforgettable works of art that stretch across the horizon.

Things to do SHOPPING

You needn't fly to Tokyo, New York, or Paris to visit the world's most famous high-end fashion, jewelry, and luxury-goods retailers. Right in Guam, particularly along Pale San Vitores Road in Tumon, you'll find retail from such vaunted names as Prada, Louis Vuitton, and Gucci. Best of all, shopping in Guam is duty free, which may explain why visitors sometimes show up with extra empty suitcases to accommodate all of the treasures they pick up during their visit.



MALLS & SHOPPING CENTERS

The island's major shopping centers abound with exciting shops. There's **Guam Premier Outlets**, the island's only outlet shopping destination, where you can check out such popular brands as Calvin Klein, Guess, Nike Sports, and Tommy Hilfiger. In nearby Hagåtña, **Agana Shopping Center** contains about 70 different stores and eateries. And just a few minutes' drive from Tumon Bay, explore more than 100 shops as well as a large theater at **Micronesia Mall**—highlights include Macy's, the Original Levi's Store, and great savings at Ross. There are popular food courts with both national chains and local eateries at these shopping centers.



SHOPPING IN TUMON



“**Mikah Meyer,**
Founder of **Travel Beyond Convention**

The beaches, climate, and activities are tropical, as you might expect, but what makes Guam unique—and such an enjoyable travel experience—is how organized and affordable it is.



TUMON SANDS PLAZA



BOUTIQUES

Spend the afternoon in Tumon, where you can either stroll or get around by trolley along Pale San Vitores Road. An absolute must is **T Galleria by DFS** which is home to Louis Vuitton, Burberry, Fendi, Hermès, Prada, Saint Laurent, and Marc Jacobs among others, plus fine spirits like Glenfiddich and Hennessy. And finally, no shopping adventure on San Vitores Road is complete without a stop at **Dusit Place**, where you can browse the latest styles from Bottega Veneta, LeSportsac, Vivienne Westwood, and Longchamp.

Market Watch

One of Guam's most festive—and affordable—traditions, the open-air **Chamorro Night Market** takes place at Chamorro Village in Hagåtña from around 5:30 until 9:30 pm every Wednesday and features dozens of vendors specializing in hand-made crafts and colorful artwork. At this joyful celebration, there's great people-watching, music and dance performances, and tasty food, too, including local Chamorro specialties, fresh-squeezed lemonade, and banana lumpia.

Things to do

DINING

Guam abounds with delicious food and drink—you'd be wise to arrive with a big appetite. It's a wonderful destination for foodies, and many places specialize in the island's flavorful Chamorro cuisine.



CAFE CULTURE

In Tamuning, playfully named **Coffee Slut Guam**, a supporter of Guam Pride, takes its java seriously, serving first-rate nitro coffee and some delicious signature blends. Look to cheerful **Infusion Coffee & Tea** in Tamuning for tasty espresso drinks as well as smoothies, crepes, and panini.



Hot Stuff

If you like a bit of kick to your food, do generously apply traditional Chamorro sauces, such as finadene (a soy-and-lemon-based condiment with chopped onions and local peppers) and the thicker and usually spicier dinanche, a fiery paste of hot chilies and garlic.



“**Leonardo De Asis,**
Student & dancer

I love to bring people to our local restaurants, especially Fuji Ichiban Ramen, King's, and Linda's Coffee Shop—don't miss their famous corned-beef fried rice.



LOCAL FLAVOR

Breakfast is a popular meal on Guam. For a genuine slice of Chamorro culinary culture, visit a restaurant that's popular with locals, such as **Shirley's Coffee Shop**, a bustling gathering spot known for delicious island favorites, such as milkfish-and-eggplant omelets and Chamorro sausage with corned-beef hash. One of the best lunch spots on the island, **Pika's**—and its younger sister **Little Pika's**—serves Hawaiian-style loco moco burgers, Korean barbecue, and salmon tinaktak. And **Three Squares** in Tamuning is a fantastic place to sample traditional Chamorro fare.

Other great lunch options for authentic island fare include **Meskla Bistro** (which has a few different locations), which is especially beloved for its island hospitality and fusion cuisine. Or if you're in the mood for a modern fusion-inspired take on Chamorro food, try **Proa**—which has a menu that blends local and international styles. The Hawaiian rock salt-pressed rib eye steak is a favorite. On the deck of the open-air **Tomhom Grill** restaurant, sip signature cocktails and enjoy a relaxing dinner—maybe chicken and shrimp kelaguen—while you watch the sun fall gently over the sea.



RED RICE WITH CHAMORRO BARBECUE RIBS



INTERNATIONAL FLAIR

You'll discover a wealth of globally inspired restaurants on Guam, including excellent Japanese, Filipino, Korean, Italian, and Thai options as well as an increasing number of eateries specializing in inventive fusion fare. Hip **Primo Pizzakaya** continues to push the boundaries of food and dining with their unique premium concepts and fun atmosphere. Mediterranean-themed **Habibi Catering** also turns out diverse culinary traditions of the Middle East creating delectable authentic flavors and impeccable service.

Some of Guam's most romantic venues are at resorts. Among the standouts, softly lighted **Soi**, at Dusit Thani, serves such imaginative Thai fare as Kurobuta pork with Thai eggplant and panang curry in a high-ceilinged dining room with stunning ocean views. Also consider **Issin** at the Westin for authentic sushi, **Roy's Restaurant** at the Hilton—which is renowned for modern Hawaiian fusion cuisine—and the elegant **Alfredo's Steakhouse** which earned a prestigious TripAdvisor ranking for best dining in the South Pacific. Many resorts also have popular buffets, such as **La Seine** at Lotte Hotel and **Café Kitchen** at the Hyatt, which is a favorite for its lavish Sunday brunch.

Beach Party

One very enjoyable way to end a day of exploring the island is at a casual sunset barbecue. These are offered at a number of hotels and other restaurants—including the Dusit Beach Resort, Westin, Lotte Hotel, and Hotel Nikko. They often feature live entertainment along with tasty local food.



Things to do NIGHTLIFE

For many, nightlife in Guam consists of listening to the gentle surf of Tumon Bay, or just maybe dropping by the hotel bar for a nightcap. But the island does have plenty of lively LGBTQ-welcoming bars and clubs, the majority near Tumon hotels.

Late in the afternoon, grab a seat at the open-air **Guam Beach Bar**, where you can sip a mango madness cocktail and munch on nachos as you watch the magnificent sunset. On Thursday nights, head to **Club Icon** for their legendary weekly queer dance party, Gender Bender, a spirited celebration with captivating drag performances. Icon is fun and welcoming any night of the week, as is the island's biggest dance venue, **ZOH Night Club**, which hosts popular LGBTQ parties during Guam Pride. Finally, the trendy lounge **Drop** is a relaxing spot for conversation and first-rate craft cocktails.

“**Iowani Unpingco,**
Celebrity makeup artist

Guam is paradise—it's beautiful, it's safe. Being part of the LGBTQ community, we don't need to hide our truth which is very liberating. We all live on this island as equals.

Show Time

After dark, Tumon Bay comes alive with the colorful, Las Vegas-style sizzle show called **Kâraera** at the SandCastle. Audiences of all ages will thrill exotic fire dancers, breathtaking acrobatics, live musicians, and stunning visual effects on a stage larger than any on Broadway. Others provide a novel approach to Guam's rich culture. Consider the **Taotao Tasi Beach Dinner Show**, set in an open-air theater overlooking the Pacific and featuring more than 50 incredibly talented male and female performers dressed in traditional Chamorro warrior attire who will absolutely dazzle you with fire dancing and other dramatic moves.



TAOTAO TASI BEACH DINNER SHOW



KÂRERA AT THE SANDCASTLE

