

# Kanton Island, Phoenix Islands, Kiribati

One of the world's most remote and untouched cruise stops, Kanton is a ghost-town atoll wrapped in UNESCO-protected reefs — no shops, no roads, just raw Pacific wilderness and living history.

- Tender only (no pier)
- Typical call: 6–8 hrs
- Australian Dollar (AUD)
- I-Kiribati / English
- Phoenix Islands Protected Area (PIPA)

## MY DAY IN PORT

|                  |               |                   |
|------------------|---------------|-------------------|
| Ship/Date: _____ | Arrive: _____ | All aboard: _____ |
| Excursion: _____ | Notes: _____  |                   |

## GETTING ASHORE

**Docking:** Tender / Zodiac only — no pier

**Walk to center:** ~10–20 min along sandy tracks to WWII ruins

**Best For:** Expedition travellers, history buffs, snorkellers

**Don't Miss:** Lagoon beach swim with blacktip reef sharks

Getting around: Rideshare not available

## TOP THINGS TO DO

- WWII & Pan Am Heritage Walk** — Trek along the old WWII airstrip past scattered rusting wartime debris, the foundations of Pan Am's mid-century passenger hotel, and the eerie...
- Lagoon Snorkel with Sharks & Rays** — Wade into the calm, crystal-clear lagoon to snorkel among near-pristine PIPA reefs.
- Visit the Local Community** — Kanton's tiny population of fewer than 50 government caretakers and meteorologists sometimes welcomes cruise visitors to their one-room school, where...
- Seabird & Wildlife Spotting** — Kanton and the surrounding Phoenix Islands are nesting grounds for enormous seabird colonies including frigatebirds, boobies, and shearwaters.
- Lagoon Beach BBQ** — Most cruise lines hosting Kanton calls set up a beach BBQ on the lagoon shore, bringing all food, drink, and equipment from the ship.

## BEST WALKS

- Airstrip & WWII Ruins Walk** ~3 km round trip · 1.5 hrs · Flat/easy — From the lagoon landing beach, follow the sandy track toward the island's sole settlement, Tebaronga, and on to the vast WWII runway.
- Lagoon Shore Stroll** ~1 km · 30 min · Very easy — A gentle walk along the inner lagoon beach past turquoise shallows.

## WEATHER · DAYLIGHT · MONEY

| CLIMATE (AVG °F · RAINY DAYS) |      |     |      | DAYLIGHT &  MONEY                                                                                 |  |
|-------------------------------|------|-----|------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--|
| Mon                           | High | Low | Rain | Apr 6:25AM–6:27PM · Jun 6:28AM–6:25PM · Aug 6:30AM–6:31PM · Sep 6:19AM–6:24PM · Oct 6:07AM–6:17PM |  |
| Apr                           | 83°  | 80° | 19d  |                                                                                                   |  |
| Jun                           | 83°  | 81° | 14d  |                                                                                                   |  |
| Aug                           | 83°  | 80° | 11d  |                                                                                                   |  |
| Sep                           | 83°  | 80° | 10d  |                                                                                                   |  |
| Oct                           | 83°  | 80° | 9d   |                                                                                                   |  |

## KNOW BEFORE YOU GO

- Wear water shoes. The tender landing often involves stepping into ankle-deep water, and tracks ashore are sandy with scattered coral rubble.
- No shade, no mercy. Kanton sits on the equator. Bring a hat, UV rash guard, and reef-safe sunscreen — the sun is intense and there's almost no tree cover along the main walking routes.
- Bring insect repellent. Flies and mosquitoes can be relentless near the vegetation and the ghost-town structures, especially in the early morning.
- Almost nothing to buy, but carry a few small AUD notes. A modest donation to the local school or community clinic is warmly appreciated — supply ships arrive only once or twice a year.
- Bring a dry bag. Protect your phone and camera during the Zodiac crossing — spray and wet landings are common, and there's nowhere to dry electronics ashore.
- Donation drives matter here. If your cruise director organises a community donation, school supplies (pencils, notebooks) or basic first-aid items make a real difference to the ~50 residents of this extraordinarily isolated atoll.

# Kanton Island, Phoenix Islands, Kiribati — Port Map

[cruiseports.org](https://cruiseports.org)

Red = walkable sights · Amber = excursions farther out · P = cruise terminal. Numbers match the order you'd typically visit.



- 1

**Kanton Island Lagoon**  
A vast turquoise atoll lagoon ringed by coral reef, home to abundant reef fish and seabird colonies with almost no permanent population.
- P

**Cruise port / terminal**

- 2

**WWII Airfield Ruins**  
Overgrown remnants of a US military airstrip and Pan Am seaplane base built during World War II and the early transpacific aviation era.