

Kiritimati (Christmas Island), Line Islands, Kiribati

Named by Captain Cook on Christmas Eve 1777, Kiritimati is the world's largest coral atoll — a sun-scorched, breathtakingly remote stop where bonefishing is world-class, seabirds nest by the million, and your ship anchors far offshore.

- Tender port (no cruise pier)
- Typical call: 6–8 hrs
- Australian Dollar (AUD) — cash only, no ATMs
- Gilbertese & English
- Equatorial — hot and sunny year-round

MY DAY IN PORT

Ship/Date:	Arrive:	All aboard:
Excursion:	Notes:	

GETTING ASHORE

- Docking:** Tender to London jetty — no cruise berth exists
- Best For:** Bonefishing, birdwatching, off-the-beaten-path Pacific
- Walk to center:** On the jetty — London village is immediate
- Don't Miss:** Cook Island Bird Sanctuary boat tour & the London Post Office stamps

Getting around: Taxi Negotiate on arrival (approx. AUD 5–15) · Rideshare not available

TOP THINGS TO DO

- Cook Island Bird Sanctuary Boat Tour** — Cook Island sits inside the lagoon and protects nesting colonies of red-tailed tropicbirds, masked boobies, frigatebirds, and sooty terns.
- Bonefishing on the Flats** — Kiritimati is legendary in fly-fishing circles — its shallow, crystal-clear lagoon flats hold some of the densest bonefish populations on the planet.
- WWII & Nuclear Testing Relics Walk** — The UK and US conducted atmospheric nuclear tests here in the 1950s–60s.
- Salt Flats & Lagoon Interior** — The vast salt evaporation pans in the island's interior create a surreal white-and-pink landscape.
- London Beach & Lagoon Swimming** — A curve of white sand right near the tender pier.

BEST WALKS

- London Village Stroll** 30–45 min · Flat · Free — From the jetty, walk through London's dusty streets past the cooperative stores, the local school, and the church.
- London Beach Walk** 20–30 min · Easy · Free — Head from the tender jetty along the lagoon-side beach.

WEATHER · DAYLIGHT · MONEY

CLIMATE (AVG °F · RAINY DAYS)				DAYLIGHT & MONEY	
Mon	High	Low	Rain	Apr 6:25AM–6:34PM · Jun 6:23AM–6:37PM · Aug 6:29AM–6:39PM · Sep 6:21AM–6:28PM · Oct 6:13AM–6:17PM	
Apr	81°	79°	21d		
Jun	82°	80°	14d		
Aug	81°	79°	8d		
Sep	81°	79°	6d		
Oct	81°	79°	4d		

KNOW BEFORE YOU GO

- Cash in AUD only. There are no ATMs accepting international cards and no credit card terminals anywhere on the island. Bring Australian dollars in small denominations from your ship or last port.
- Tendering can be cancelled. Kiritimati's anchorage is exposed. If swells are high, tenders may not run — have a Plan B and keep your excursion expectations flexible.
- Brutal equatorial sun. The island sits just 144 miles north of the Equator. Wear reef-safe SPF 50+, a wide-brimmed hat, and polarized sunglasses — the lagoon reflection intensifies the heat considerably.
- Dress modestly in the villages. Kiribati is a conservative, deeply Christian society. Cover shoulders and knees when walking through London. Swimwear is fine at the beach.
- Do not drink the tap water. Bring bottled water from the ship. Fresh coconut water sold by locals is safe, cheap, and refreshing.
- Pre-book fishing and bird tours. Local guides are few and in demand on ship days. If bonefishing or Cook Island birding is your priority, arrange it weeks in advance through the ship or a specialist operator.

Kiritimati (Christmas Island), Line Islands, Kiribati — Port Map

cruiseports.org

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



- 1

London Bridge (Kiritimati)

A natural coral rock formation resembling a bridge, connecting two shore sections near the London jetty landing.
- 2

Cook Island Wildlife Sanctuary

A protected islet within Kiritimati's lagoon hosting large seabird colonies, including frigatebirds and terns.
- P

Cruise port / terminal