

FACT SHEET

FANNING ISLAND

(NCL'S Pacific Hideaway)

At NCL, we are constantly looking for new ports and destinations around the world. In 1998, Norwegian Dynasty became the first cruise ship to have scheduled visits to Fanning Island, a quiet hideaway in the Line islands of the Republic of Kiribati, nearly 1,000 miles south of Hawaii. Since then, Norwegian Star, Norwegian Wind, Norwegian Sky have visited the island. Norwegian Star, with Hawaii as its home port Hawaii, makes Fanning Island a regular stop on its 7-day year round itinerary.

Island Profile

Captain Edmund Fanning discovered and named Fanning Island on June 11, 1798.

The Kiribati name for the island is Tabuaeran, deriving from the Manihiki word Tabuaerangi (heavenly footprint).

It is a large atoll measuring about 18 km long by 11 km broad. Its shape is roughly oval and a thin rim encloses a lagoon with three channels connecting it to the sea. The largest of these is at English Harbor and has a minimum depth of 8 meters allowing quite a large ship to anchor inside. The total land area is about 33.7 sq. km and the maximum towards the lagoon.

The main village at English Harbor has two churches, a primary school, post office, police office, a resthouse and small shopping houses. The secondary high school (Mereang Tabai Secondary School) is located at Napari village. On November 24, 1998, the MTK Primary School of the Terine Village was renamed the NCL Primary School.

Geographic Location: Fanning Island (3 52" N. 159 20 " W) is located about 285 km northeastern of Christmas Island and 140 km SE of Washington Island.

Government: Fanning Island is under the Republic of Kiribati, where the Island Council is the main head of local government on the island.

Population: 1,615.00 (1995 Census)

Vegetation: The vegetation is dominated by coconut plantations and there is little natural vegetation left. Small areas covered with *Pisonia* forest and *Messerschmidia* woodland are of particular interest. Six species and seabirds breed, all tree-nesting species and their numbers are not great. Scarlet-breasted Lorikeets are the only resident land birds. There are cats, dogs and pigs in the two settlements at English Harbor and Napari main villages.

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Climate: The average annual rainfall is 2.09 meters, varying from a low 0.71m to a high of 4.60. Rain falls in every month, but is usually heaviest from March to June and the least from September to November. The average temperature is 28.6 degrees C, (ranging from 22.8 to 33.3 C), modified by the steady easterly trade winds. Westerly winds are extremely rare, 45% of the winds are southeasterly 30% easterly, and 13% northeasterly.

The Language: The Kiribati language is the main language on the island. In schools the students begin to learn English by fifth grade. In South Tarawa, the office workers, teachers, nurses, and professional people tend to mix Kiribati with English.

Examples:

HELLO - Ko na mauri

GOODBYE - Tia bo

THANK YOU - Ko raba

EVENTS IN THE HISTORY OF FANNING

- 1798- Captain Edmund Fanning of the American ship Betsy discovered the island.
- 1814- Several Whalers visited Fanning Island.
- 1848- Fanning Island was inhabited by 500 I-Kiribati plantation workers and their families, who are now residents.
- 1855- Captain Henry English settled on the Island with 150 laborers from Manihiki and commenced production of coconut oil.
- 1877- Guano phosphate mining took place on Fanning Island where more than 19,500 tons were exported to Honolulu.
- 1879- Copa became the main export industry on this island.
- 1888- Fanning Island annexed to Great Britain by Captain Sir Wilson H.M.S. "Caroline". Used for Central Pacific Island as relay stations for Trans-Pacific cable.

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- 1902- Cable relay station was established on Fanning Island for Trans-Pacific cable from Canada to Australia.
- 1911- Dureing World War 1, German cruiser Nuremberg landed a raiding party and blew up the power station and cut the cable towing the ends out to sea.
- 1935- Fanning Island turned into a plantation island by Burns Philip and Co.
- 1979- Republic of Kiribati began to control Fanning Island.

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