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## General

Kiribati, an independent republic within the British Commonwealth is located in the Pacific Ocean, straddling the equator and the International Date Line.

It consists of 33 islands scattered across about 2 million square miles of the central and South Pacific Ocean. There are three islands groups within the republic: Gilbert Islands, Phoenix Islands, and Line Islands.

The Gilbert Islands consist of 16 groups, lying approximately between 4°N and 3°S, and 172°E and 177°E.

The islands in these groups are Little Makin, Butaritari, Marakei, in the Northern Gilbert Islands; Abaiang, Tarawa, Maiana, Abemama, Kuria, and Aranuka in the Central Gilbert Islands; Nonouti, Tabiteuea, Beru, Nikunau, Onotoa, Tamana, and Arorae in the Southern Gilbert Islands.

The Phoenix Islands comprise a group of eight scattered islands lying approximately between 2°S and 5°S, and 170°W and 175°W. These islands include Canton, Enderbury, Phoenix, Sydney, Birnie, McKean, Gardner, and Hull, with Canton jointly administered by Britain and the United States.

The Line Islands include the Line Group, which is a part of the Republic of Kiribati, together with the United States possessions of Palmyra and Jarvis Islands.

The islands extend as a scattered chain for about 1,200 miles in a SSE direction from Palmyra Island (5°52'N., 162°06'W.) to Flint Island.

The Line Group is divided into three smaller groups, which are Northern Line Group, consisting of Washington, Fanning, and Christmas Islands; Central Line Group, consisting of Malden and Starbuk Islands; and Southern Line Group, consisting of Vostok, Caroline, and Flint Islands.

The climate is tropical marine. It is hot and humid with moderate trade winds.

The terrain is mostly low-lying coral atolls surrounded by extensive reefs.

## Buoyage System

The IALA Buoyage System (Region A) is in effect. See Chart No. 1 for further IALA Buoyage System information.

## Currency

The official unit of currency is the Australian dollar, consisting of 100 cents.

## Government

Kiribati is a republic with an elected head of government.

It has a single legislature, having 36 members elected for a four year term. The President is both head of the State and Government.

Tarawa is the capital.

## Holidays

The following holidays are observed:

January 1, New Year's Day; Good Friday; Easter Monday; Early June, Queen's Birthday; July 12, Independence Day; August Bank Holiday; November 14, Prince of Wales' Birthday; December 25, Christmas Day; and December 26, Boxing Day.

**Industries**

The main industries are based on fishing and handcrafts.

**Languages**

The official language of Kiribati is English. Gilbertese is the indigenous language.

**Time Zone**

The Time Zone description is MIKE (-12).

**U.S. Embassy**

The U.S. ambassador to the Marshall Islands is reported to be accredited to Kiribati.