Guam's Tourism Industry has been built around its tropical weather and picturesque seascapes. The island owes its beauty to its location in the Western Pacific.

Located at approximately 13 degrees north latitude and 144 degrees east longitude, Guam is about 32 miles long and varies from four to nine miles wide. The island has 212 square miles of land area and a sizable reef as well.

Guam receives an average of between 90 to 110 inches of rain each year, mostly during the island's rainy season between June and December. The island enjoys sunnier months during the December to June dry season, and trade winds bring the coolest weather to Guam between December and February. Temperatures on the island range between 70 degrees Fahrenheit in the evening and afternoon highs in the upper 80's.

Guam's population of 153,000 includes people from every continent, but census figures indicate that people of Chamorro, Filipino, and Micronesia descent represent the bulk of the population. Since Congress passed the Organic Act in 1950, anyone born on Guam is a U.S. Citizen.

An unincorporated territory of the United States, Guam is subject to U.S. laws and uses the U.S. dollar as its currency. Guam became part of the United States over 100 years ago, after the treaty of Paris ended the Spanish American War. After becoming a U.S. territory in 1898, the island was governed by the U.S. Navy until the first civilian governor was elected in 1970.

The island now has its own three-branch government, patterned after the federal government. An elected governor heads the executive branch, while the legislative branch consists of a 15-member unicameral legislature. The island's supreme and superior courts make up the judicial branch.

The federal government also maintains a presence on Guam. The U.S. Attorney’s Office, numerous federal law enforcement agencies, the U.S. Department of Agriculture, the Internal Revenue Service and other federal departments all have representatives on the island. Guam residents do not vote for president, but the island has a non-voting delegate in the U.S. House of Representatives.

Residents and tourists alike enjoy the island's tropical weather and natural beauty. Snorkeling, scuba diving, fishing and other activities that take advantage of the island's spectacular marine surroundings are popular, as are other outdoor activities such as golf. Tourists - over 1 million last year - also come to the island to shop and visit attractions ranging from water parks to dinner shows. With more than 9,000 hotel rooms and new hotels in the works, the island's tourism industry brings billions of dollars to Guam annually. The majority of the island's visitors come from Japan, though industry leaders are aiming to attract more tourists from other countries as well.