

3.8 RECREATION

3.8.1 Definition

Section 3.8 describes the existing recreational resources on Tinian and Pagan. Recreation is defined as any type of activity in which area residents or visitors, including military personnel on liberty, may participate in for enjoyment during leisure time. Recreational resources are primarily assets of the physical geography of each island; from the mountains to the ocean, and the terrain in between. There are also man-made recreational resources, including parks, monuments, points of interest, National Historic Landmarks, sports fields, and events (e.g., competitions, cultural festivals, food fairs). National Historic Landmarks are places that possess exceptional value or quality in illustrating and interpreting the heritage of the U.S.

The region of influence for recreation includes the islands of Tinian and Pagan, and their surrounding waters. Recreational resources for this EIS/OEIS are organized into the following five categories: (1) historic and cultural sites, (2) beaches and parks, (3) ocean-based resources, (4) scenic points, and (5) annual events. The description of resources in this chapter follows these categories. Although each resource is organized under one category, there may be multiple recreational opportunities from a single resource. For example, a resource described under historic sites may offer scenic views. Therefore, a description of each resource is provided to supplement its categorization.

3.8.2 Regulatory Framework

The following entities are responsible for the management and maintenance of tourist sites and recreational areas on Tinian and Pagan:

- **National Park Service** – The National Park Service is a federal agency that has one office on Guam, one office on Saipan, but does not currently have an office presence on Tinian. Although managed by the National Park Service, the North Field National Historic Landmark on Tinian (National Historic Preservation Act Site #85003268 designated on December 30, 1985, discussed in Section 3.11, *Cultural Resources*) is not maintained by the National Park Service. The Superintendent for the National Historic Landmark is based out of Saipan.
- **Tinian and the CNMI Mayor’s Offices** – The Tinian Mayor’s Office maintains visitor areas on Tinian, including the historic and cultural sites in and outside of the National Historic Landmark. The CNMI Mayor’s office is responsible for maintaining areas on Pagan for permitted ecotours.
- **CNMI Department of Land and Natural Resources – Division of Parks and Recreation** – This agency has a small presence on Tinian. The Division of Parks and Recreation is responsible for the administration of parks and recreational sports facilities in populated areas. However, this agency has no specific park management plans for Tinian or Pagan.
- **CNMI Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality – Division of Coastal Resources Management** – This agency ensures consistency with the Coastal Zone Management Program, and manages Areas of Particular Concern (see Section 3.7, *Land and Submerged Land Use*), which include areas extending 150 feet (45 meters) inland from shorelines, and extending

seaward to the outslope of lagoons and reefs. The Division of Coastal Resources Management requires commercial recreation and tourism operators to secure a permit to operate in the shoreline jurisdiction.

- **CNMI Department of Land and Natural Resources – Division of Fish and Wildlife** – This agency is responsible for the protection and enhancement of natural resources, both terrestrial and ocean-based. This agency issues fishing, harvesting, and hunting permits. In addition, this agency has law enforcement responsibilities and can issue citations for violations.
- **CNMI Department of Community and Cultural Affairs – Division of Sports and Recreation** – This agency oversees two facilities on Tinian, both located in the village of San Jose - the gymnasium and pool/ball field complex. The division is responsible for administration of the sports complexes and associated recreation programs.

3.8.3 Methodology

Information regarding the use of recreational resources was obtained through a series of agency interviews, phone calls, site visits, and focused internet searches.

3.8.4 Tinian

As discussed in Section 3.15, *Socioeconomics and Environmental Justice*, the tourism industry is the largest industry on Tinian, with over 54,000 visitors in 2013. According to the Tinian Dynasty, the average length of stay on Tinian is 2.5 nights, and the majority of the visitors to Tinian are there for the historic and cultural sites and to enjoy the warmth and the beaches (DoN 2014). Recreational resources enhance the visitor experience and help drive the local economy (DoN 2010). Most recreational facilities on Tinian are geared to visitors, and most commercial establishments catering to recreation activities are located in the village of San Jose. The most popular activities for visitors include historical island tours, snorkeling, and water sports at the beaches outside the Military Lease Area, as described below (Mariana Visitors Authority 2012). [Figure 3.8-1](#) shows locations of various recreational resources on Tinian.

3.8.4.1 Historic and Cultural Sites

Four agencies provide packaged tours of historic and cultural sites on and around Tinian. These tours are generally windshield tours with brief stops at the sites for the tourists to take photographs (DoN 2014). There are two tours sponsored by the Tinian Dynasty: South Side and North Side. The South Side tour makes stops at the following historic and cultural sites: Suicide Cliff and the House of Taga. The North Side tour stops at the North Field National Historic Landmark (DoN 2014). When the Tinian Dynasty is full, the bus tours will run all day with each tour accommodating up to 80 people and lasting 2 to 3 hours (DoN 2014).

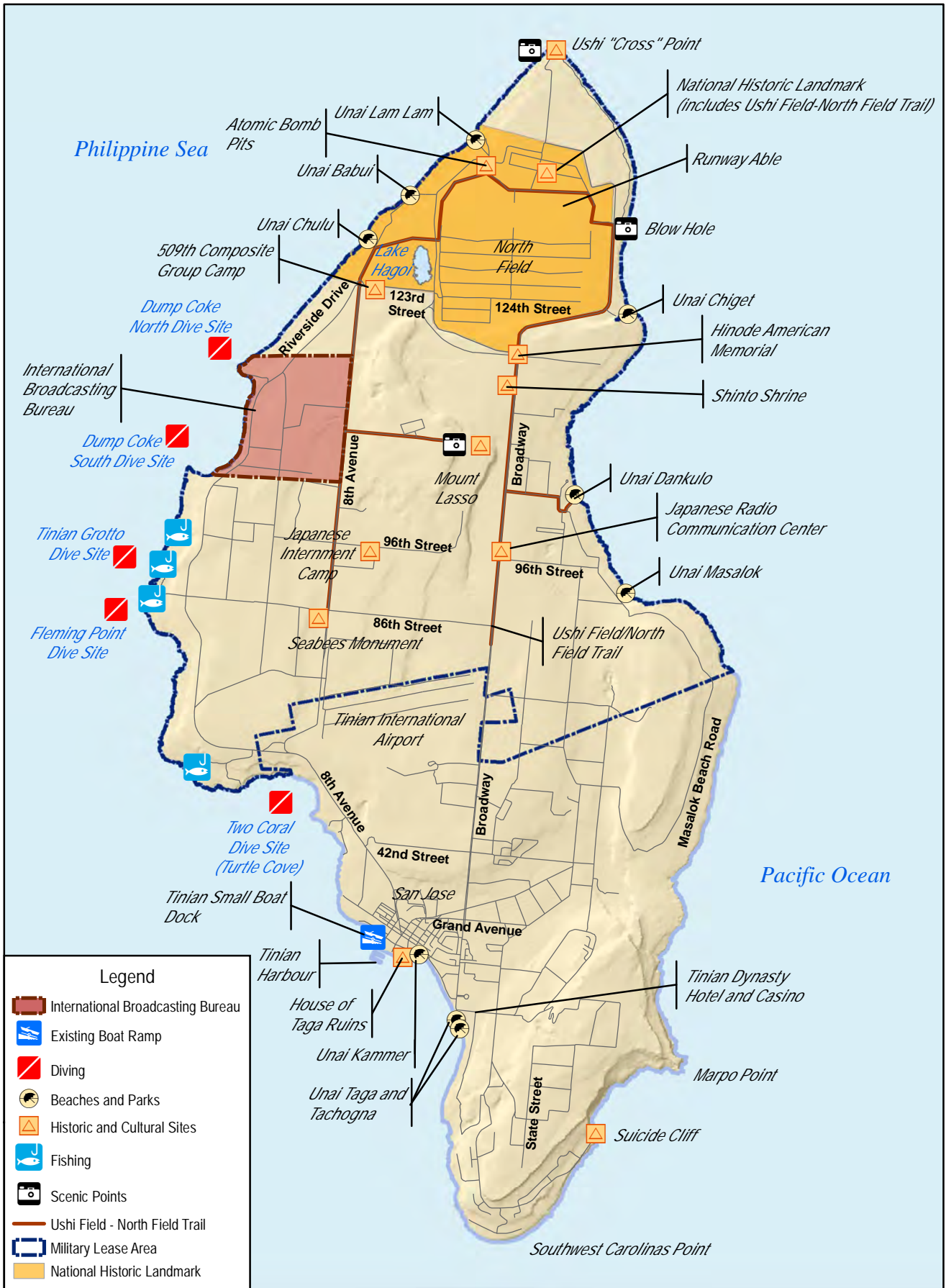


Figure 3.8-1
Tinian Recreation Resources
and Places of Interest

Sources: DoN no date; Busby 2007; DoN 2010a; DoN 2010b

3.8.4.1.1 Historic and Cultural Sites within the Military Lease Area

3.8.4.1.1.1 North Field National Historic Landmark

The North Field National Historic Landmark is located on the north end of the Military Lease Area (see Section 3.11, *Cultural Resources*, Figure 3.11-2) and is managed by the National Park Service. It includes World War II landing beaches at Unai Babui and Unai Chulu; World War II buildings, structures, and structural remains; and North Field runways (see below Photos 3.8-1 to 3.8-6). According to the Tinian Mayor's Office, the atomic bomb pits at North Field have approximately 100 visitors per day (DoN 2014).

The DoN retains control of lands encompassing the North Field National Historic Landmark based on a 50-year lease agreement with the CNMI (the landowner) that has been in place since 1983 (National Park Service 2001). The sites are accessible to the public, except during certain periods of military training. The DoN provides a 45-day advance notice to the CNMI agencies when military training is scheduled on Tinian (National Park Service 2001). The North Field National Historic Landmark is also the site of anniversary tours sponsored by private tour operators, such as Stephen Ambrose Historical Tours. The North Field National Historic Landmark is also a destination of the Tinian Dynasty North Side tour.

3.8.4.1.1.2 Ushi Field-North Field Trail

The Ushi Field-North Field Trail is an interpretive trail developed by the Department of Defense in 1999 that identifies 14 points of World War II historic interest. Ushi Field-North Field Trail is part of the National Historic Landmark and is managed by the National Park Service. During World War II, the Seabees (members of the U.S. Naval Mobile Construction Battalion) and Marine Corps constructed six large airstrips on Tinian. Four of the six airstrips (Runways Able, Baker, Charlie, and Dog) were located at North Field and constructed over the former Japanese Ushi Point airfield, formerly the Japanese Imperial Naval Air Forces headquarters. On August 6, 1945, the *Enola Gay* (B-29 bomber) took off from the northernmost runway (Runway Able) to drop an atomic bomb on Hiroshima, Japan. Three days later another B-29, *Bock's Car*, took off from the same runway to drop an atomic bomb on Nagasaki, Japan, on August 9, 1945. Also located along the trail are World War II Japanese fortification features (e.g., bunkers, naval batteries, a command post), a Radio Communications Center, and the Bomb Assembly Building.

To enhance the trail experience for visitors, the DoN, through funding from the Department of Defense Legacy Resource Management Program, cleared roads and trails, and installed interpretive signs. In 2001, a brochure was printed for a Self-Guided Tour of Historic North Tinian, including the North Field National Historic Landmark, which describes its historic resources. This brochure may be obtained through the National Park Service.



Photo 3.8-1. Historic Runway Able from which Numerous Aircraft Left for Bombing Raids over Japan



Photo 3.8-2. One of Two Loading Bays from which Atomic Bombs were Loaded into Aircraft for Bombing of Japan



Photo 3.8-3. Japanese Air Operations Building



Photo 3.8-4. Japanese Air Administration Building



Photo 3.8-5. Japanese Air Raid Shelter



Photo 3.8-6. Remains of Japanese Bomb Storage and Fuel Drum Storage

3.8.4.1.1.3 Ushi “Cross” Point

Ushi “Cross” Point is the northern-most point of the island. In addition to the various memorials at the point, the site and surrounding area are used by local fishermen. See Section 3.12, *Visual Resources* for photos of Ushi “Cross” Point.

3.8.4.1.1.4 Mount Lasso Scenic Lookout

Mount Lasso, located in the central portion of the Military Lease Area, is accessed from an unimproved road extending up the west side of the mountain off of 8th Avenue. The approach to the lookout involves passing the foundation of a former World War II Army Air Corps hospital and the remnants of a 1920s/1930s-era Japanese Shinto shrine near the lookout area.

3.8.4.1.1.5 Japanese Radio Communications Building

Located within the southern portion of the Military Lease Area along Broadway Avenue, the Japanese Radio Communications Building (Photo 3.8-7) is a World War II-era reinforced concrete shell of a two-story building. It is surrounded by smaller accessory facilities. The Tinian Mayor’s Office is responsible for maintaining vegetation at the Japanese Radio Communications Building. Just north of the Radio Communications Building is a staging area used for off-road vehicle tours.



Photo 3.8-7. Japanese Radio Communications Building along Broadway Avenue



Photo 3.8-8. Nan’yo Kohatsu Kaisha Shinto Shrine off Broadway Avenue

3.8.4.1.1.6 Nan’yo Kohatsu Kaisha Shinto Shrine

The Nan’yo Kohatsu Kaisha Shinto Shrine is in the North Field area off Broadway Avenue (Photo 3.8-8). It was constructed after World War II by Nan’yo Kohatsu Kaisha, a Japanese firm that harvested sugar cane on Tinian prior to World War II. The remains of a railroad track once used for hauling sugar cane are located between Broadway Avenue and the shrine. The Tinian Mayor’s Office is responsible for maintaining vegetation at the Nan’yo Kohatsu Kaisha Shinto Shrine.

3.8.4.1.1.7 Hinode American Memorial

North of the Shinto Shrine is a large traffic circle on Broadway Avenue. Traveling north, the road turns sharply to the east and begins its descent down to North Field plateau. The grass-covered center median of the traffic circle contains the American Memorial consisting of various Japanese-style small concrete monuments (Photo 3.8-9) that were built by Americans after World War II to honor those who were killed in the battle for Tinian. The Tinian Mayor's Office is responsible for maintaining vegetation at the Hinode American Memorial.



Photo 3.8-9. Hinode American Memorial



Photo 3.8-10. Remains of the Japanese Village – Last Used as an Internment Camp for Japanese during World War II

3.8.4.1.1.8 Japanese Village Internment Camp

This historic site, located just east of 8th Avenue, is reached via a forested narrow trail. It was formerly the site of the Japanese civilian internment camp after the capture of Tinian by American troops during World War II. The site is overgrown with a thick forested canopy. The most prominent feature is an entrance archway and concrete foundation structures (Photo 3.8-10). The Tinian Mayor's Office is responsible for maintaining vegetation at the Japanese Radio Communications Building.

3.8.4.1.1.9 Seabees Monument

Not far from the Japanese internment camp on the west side of the intersection of 86th Street and 8th Avenue is a small concrete and bronze monument to the Navy Seabees who constructed the facilities on island following the Battle of Tinian (Photo 3.8-11). The Tinian Mayor's Office is responsible for maintaining vegetation at the Seabees Monument.



Photo 3.8-11. Seabees Monument along 8th Avenue



Photo 3.8-12. Entrance to the 509th Composite Group Camp Area

3.8.4.1.1.10 509th Composite Group Camp Area

The 509th Composite Group was the U.S. Army Air Corps unit responsible for the delivery of the atomic bombs that were dropped on the Japanese cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki at the end of World War II. The group's camp area was southeast of the 8th Avenue traffic circle, just south of the North Field National Historic Landmark. The camp location is marked by a sign, and the ruins of building foundations can be found along trails that have been cleared in the thick jungle vegetation (Photo 3.8-12). The Tinian Mayor's Office is responsible for maintaining vegetation at the 509th Composite Group Camp Area.

3.8.4.1.2 Historic and Cultural Sites Outside of the Military Lease Area

3.8.4.1.2.1 Ruins of House of Taga

The remnants of a house belonging to the ancient Chamorro chief, Taga, are in the village of San Jose. This site contains the tallest set of *latte* stones used by the ancient Chamorros throughout the CNMI. *Latte* stones are pillars capped by a hemispherical stone capital with the flat side facing up that were used as building supports by the ancient Chamorro people. The stones are quarried limestone, each approximately 19 feet (6 meters) in length. Of the 12 large *latte* structures, only one remains standing (Photo 3.8-13). The Ruins of the House of Taga are listed on the National Register of Historic Places and is a stop on the Tinian Dynasty's South Side tour. The Tinian Mayor's Office is responsible for maintaining vegetation at the Ruins of the House of Taga.



Photo 3.8-13. Ruins of House of Taga in the Village of San Jose

3.8.4.1.2.2 Suicide Cliff

Suicide Cliff gets its name from the many Japanese civilians and military personnel that took their lives during the Battle of Tinian (DoN 2014). The cliff area contains a large paved parking area for cars and tour buses, as well as a comfort station. The center of the area contains bleachers facing a ceremonial area. Suicide Cliff is a stop on the Tinian Dynasty's South Side tour. The Tinian Mayor's Office manages the Suicide Cliff area.

3.8.4.2 Beaches and Parks

Although beaches and parks are frequented by both visitors and Tinian residents, social activities of Tinian residents center on the beaches outside the Military Lease Area. On the weekends, residents go to the beach to barbeque and spend time with friends and family (DoN 2014). Tourists also visit the beaches, but their visits are often short as they are part of a tour group. The following sections describe the use of the beaches located within and outside of the Military Lease Area.

3.8.4.2.1 Beaches and Parks within the Military Lease Area

Beaches and parks accessible to the public within the Military Lease Area include (from northwest to southeast) Unai Lam Lam, Unai Babui, Unai Chulu, Unai Chiget, Unai Dankulo, and Unai Masalok, as described below. The remote locations of these beaches, lack of facilities (e.g., restrooms, showers, picnic tables), and difficult access to some of these beaches, as discussed in the description for each beach, make these beaches less frequented than the beaches located outside of the Military Lease Area. All beaches within the Military Lease Area are on public lands that are leased to the military. Beaches within the Military Lease Area are not managed or maintained.

3.8.4.2.1.1 Unai Lam Lam

Unai Lam Lam is located on the northwest coast, a short distance from the atomic bomb pits. This small beach is accessed by a thickly vegetated foot trail off a narrow dirt road. The beach is approximately 52 feet (16 meters) wide and is protected by a coral reef. This location is remote and access is difficult, as the only access is a steeply graded, rocky trail.

3.8.4.2.1.2 Unai Babui

Unai Babui is located on the northwest coast between Unai Lam Lam and Unai Chulu. Unai Babui was designated “White Beach One” by the Allies during the World War II amphibious assault landings and is part of the North Field National Historic Landmark. The beach is approximately 177 feet (54 meters) in length. Unai Babui is accessible via a single-lane unimproved road.

3.8.4.2.1.3 Unai Chulu

Unai Chulu is located south of Unai Babui. Unai Chulu was designated “White Beach Two” by the Allies during the World War II invasion and is also part of the North Field National Historic Landmark. Unai Chulu is the most accessible beach in the Military Lease Area. Access to the beach is well marked along an improved road. This beach is approximately 479 feet (146 meters) long, with a World War II Japanese bunker located at the north end adjacent to the parking area (Photo 3.8-14).



Photo 3.8-14. Japanese Bunker at Unai Chulu

Like Unai Lam Lam and Unai Babui, Unai Chulu is on the leeward (western) side of the island and is less windswept with thicker and taller vegetation than east coast beaches. The beach consists of white sand and a rocky shoreline that offer an overlook of the

Philippine Sea. Because of the size and accessibility of the beach, it attracts visitor groups for entertainment and picnics. Additionally, Unai Chulu is the only beach within the Military Lease Area that is recommended by the Tinian Dynasty to visitors (DoN 2014).

3.8.4.2.1.4 Unai Chiget

Unai Chiget is remotely located on the east windward coast of Tinian. The beach is comprised of coarse grand sand and is accessible via a small turnoff just north of the former Japanese Radio Communications Building.

3.8.4.2.1.5 Unai Dankulo

Situated on the east windward coast, Unai Dankulo, or Long Beach, is the largest beach on Tinian and has a continuous sandy crest across the entire run of the beach. Unai Dankulo comprises at least 10 beaches over a distance of 4,900 feet (1,494 meters), and is frequented by shore-based spear fishermen (Mariana Visitors Authority 2014). Access to Unai Dankulo is via a single-lane, unimproved road that runs from Broadway to the beach (Photo 3.8-15) and is accessed by local tour companies (Mariana Visitors Authority 2014). Additionally, all-terrain vehicle rides start at Unai Dankulo (DoN 2014).



Photo 3.8-15. Unai Dankulo from the Terminus of the Access Road

3.8.4.2.1.6 Unai Masalok

Unai Masalok, located on Tinian's east (windward) coast, is protected by an offshore reef and is approximately 154 feet (47 meters) in length. The 1999 Partial Release of Leasehold Interest between the CNMI and the U.S., as discussed in Section 3.7, *Land and Submerged Land Use*, established a 10-acre (4-hectare) area for a CNMI youth site at Unai Masalok. To date, this agreement has not resulted in any development in the beach area.

3.8.4.2.2 Beaches and Parks Outside the Military Lease Area

Beaches and parks located outside the Military Lease Area include (from north to south) Unai Kammer, Unai Taga, and Unai Tachogna, as described below. These beaches are the most frequented by tourists since they are located near the Tinian Dynasty. Additionally, the local population frequents these beaches because they are closer to the populated areas and have support facilities (e.g., areas for picnics, parking). Beaches outside the Military Lease Area are managed by the Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality. The Division of Parks and Recreation is responsible for the administration and maintenance of these beach parks.

3.8.4.2.2.1 Unai Kammer

Unai Kammer is located on the southwestern side of Tinian facing the Philippine Sea near the village of San Jose. This white sand beach is surrounded by mature vegetation. Unai Kammer contains approximately six well-maintained covered picnic pavilions and a large paved parking lot (Photo 3.8-16). Unai Kammer is utilized by residents as well as tourists, and is one of four beaches recommended by the Tinian Dynasty to visitors (DoN 2014).



Photo 3.8-16. Unai Kammer



Photo 3.8-17. Unai Taga Stairway to the Beach and Overlook Platform with Aguijan Island in the Distance

3.8.4.2.2.2 Unai Taga

Unai Taga is located directly across from the Tinian Dynasty Hotel and Casino front entrance. The Unai Taga area is small and is accessed by a stairway system that extends to the beach and a concrete lookout area extending over the ocean where many local children enjoy diving and swimming (Photo 3.8-17). While the beach itself is quite small and generally frequented by residents, the site offers outstanding views to Aguijan Island and turquoise blue waters. It is a sightseeing stop for tourists. Unai Taga is one of four beaches recommended by the Tinian Dynasty to visitors (DoN 2014).

3.8.4.2.2.3 Unai Tachogna

Unai Tachogna is another one of four beaches recommended by the Tinian Dynasty to visitors. Unai Tachogna is located just south of Unai Taga and connected to it by a shoreline pathway (Photo 3.8-18). On weekends, local families and groups gather here to barbecue and picnic. It is also a popular place for snorkeling, personal watercraft, and banana boats, most of which can be rented from the beach operators (Photo 3.8-19) (Tinian Dynasty 2013). Like Unai Kammer, there are numerous covered pavilions for picnicking and socializing. The rental kiosk and covered pavilions make Unai Tachogna a popular destination for tourists.



Photo 3.8-18. Walkway Connecting Unai Taga to Unai Tachogna



Photo 3.8-19. Unai Tachogna Rental Kiosk

3.8.4.3 Ocean-based Resources

Coastal recreational activities on Tinian take place in the coastal zone and surf zone waters. Ocean-based recreational activities on Tinian include snorkeling, diving, recreational fishing, and boating.

3.8.4.3.1 Snorkeling and Driving

Tinian waters contain many World War II wrecks, coral structures, and abundant sea life. Below are descriptions of the most popular snorkel and dive spots around Tinian (from north to south). All are located on the western (leeward) side of the island and require boats to get to them. There are approximately six charter boats on Tinian (National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration 2012), as well as boats on Saipan, that offer charters to Tinian dive spots (DoN 2014).

- **Dump Coke (Cove) North/South** – Often mislabeled as Dump Cove, Dump Coke is located in Lamanibot Bay and gets its name from the many Coca-Cola bottles thrown from the cliffs during World War II. Dump Coke contains many World War II artifacts, such as airplanes, tanks, ammunition, and jeeps.
- **Tinian Grotto** – Tinian Grotto is a popular cavern dive in Tinian and is only reachable by boat. There are three main entry points. Most divers enter from the top to descend into the chamber below. Lionfish (*Pterois* sp.) can be observed in the cavern.
- **Fleming Point** – Fleming Point contains coral formations, small marine animals and fishes. The wall drops off to depths of more than 2,000 feet (609 meters) and has some of the best visibility of the waters surrounding Tinian.
- **Two Corals** – Two Corals consists of two adjacent coral formations. The fish life here includes varieties of parrot fish, grouper, damsel fish, and more. Two Corals is a short boat ride from Tinian Harbor.

3.8.4.3.2 Recreational Fishing

Most fishing activities on Tinian are of a subsistence or artisan (i.e., sell fish to cover cost of fishing excursion) variety (DoN 2014). However, recreational fishing is popular with the tourists. There are approximately six charter boats on Tinian available for recreational fishing charters. Subsistence, artisan, and recreational fishing activities include bottom fishing and trolling for barracuda, mahi-mahi, marlin, skipjack, red sea bass, and tuna. There are also shoreline fishing areas used for recreational fishing, which are primarily located south of Dump Coke South and north of the Two Coral (Turtle Cove) diving sites on the west side of Tinian (see [Figure 3.8-1](#)).

There are several fishing events held throughout the year within the CNMI. The most recent fishing events on Tinian include the Tinian Cliff Fishing Derby and the Tinian Bottom Fishing Derby. The Tinian Cliff Fishing Derby was held in April 2012. A total of 14 Tinian residents and five tourists participated in the competition sponsored by the Tinian Municipal Council and the Tinian Mayor's Office. In December 2013, the Tinian Mayor's Office hosted a bottom fishing derby. Anglers competed for prizes in seven categories: overall biggest, biggest deep water, biggest shallow water, most variety deep bottom, most variety shallow bottom, total weight deep bottom, and total weight shallow bottom (Saipan Tribune 2013).

3.8.4.3.3 Boating

Tinian Harbor's small boat dock is north of the main wharf and finger piers (Photo 3.8-20). The marina contains approximately 18 small craft mooring slips. The dock and finger piers support a variety of small craft used for fishing, diving, sight-seeing, and pleasure boating. The Tinian small boat dock is operated and maintained by the Boating Access program of the CNMI Division of Fisheries and Wildlife, which is 100% federally funded by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Vehicle access to the dock is via a paved road that services the port piers. North of the boat dock is a concrete boat ramp for launching and recovering small craft (Photo 3.8-21).



Photo 3.8-20. Mooring Slips at Tinian Small Boat Dock



Photo 3.8-21. Tinian Small Boat Ramp

As mentioned above, there are approximately six charter boats that serve tourist clientele. These charter boats are reportedly owned by non-local residents for tourists from their country of origin: Japan, China, and Korea. There is also one boat that is owned by the Tinian Dynasty's investors (DoN 2014). Although booked as charter fishing trips, these trips serve primarily as photographic opportunities for clients (National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration 2012). Additionally, there is at least one charter boat from Saipan that conducts a Tinian boat tour (DoN 2014).

3.8.4.4 Scenic Points

As discussed in Section 3.12, *Visual Resources*, there are several scenic points on Tinian. Many of the scenic points also include a historic or cultural component and have been discussed in [Section 3.8.4.1, Historic and Cultural Sites](#). However, the Blow Hole is a scenic point on Tinian, frequented by tourists, that was not discussed in [Section 3.8.4.1](#).

The Blow Hole is located on the rocky coast of northeast Tinian within the Military Lease Area and is a stop on the Tinian Dynasty's North Side tour. Access to the site is off a gravel road, with the remaining 100 yards (91 meters) approachable by foot.

3.8.4.5 Annual Events

3.8.4.5.1 Tinian Hot Pepper Festival

In February, the Tinian Mayor's Office sponsors its annual 2-day Pika, or Hot Pepper, Festival to honor the Tinian hot pepper (*Donni Sali*), a small but hot native pepper. The festival is an island-style show that features different kinds of locally prepared dishes, as well as arts and crafts. One of the highlights is the hot pepper eating contest. The festival location on Tinian varies from year to year, but the festival is always held in February over President's Day weekend. The 2014 festival was held at Unai Kammer, with ferry service from Saipan offered by the Mariana Visitors Authority (Saipan Tribune 2014a).

3.8.4.5.2 San Jose Fiesta

The San Jose Fiesta is an annual celebration of Tinian's patron saint, hosted in May by the Mayor's office at the Fiesta Grounds at Unai Kammer. The fiesta includes all night live entertainment, food and game concessions, carnival rides, cockfighting, big fish trolling competition, and a canoe race. The highlight of the fiesta is a free-for-all dinner banquet on Saturday following the Queen's coronation. Sunday starts with the San Jose Mass followed by a continuation of the games at the fiesta grounds. Camp grounds are also provided for those that wish to tent camp (Saipan Tribune 2014b).

3.8.1.1.1 Tinian Turquoise Blue Triathlon and Reef Swim

The Tinian Turquoise Blue Triathlon and Reef Swim is co-sponsored by the Mariana Visitors Authority, KFC Triathlon Club of Japan, Tinian Mayor's Office, and the Tinian Dynasty Hotel & Casino. The 2014 triathlon hosted 34 competitors from the CNMI and Japan (Mariana Visitors Authority 2014). The triathlon course starts at Unai Taga with a 1.5 kilometer swim, transitions to a 40 kilometer bike ride in southern Tinian between the airport and Suicide Cliff, and finishes with a 10 kilometer run from Unai Taga to Suicide Cliff and back. There is also a 1.5, 3.0, and 4.5 kilometer reef swim at Unai Taga. In 2014, the triathlon was held the same weekend as the Tinian Hot Pepper Festival. The 15th Annual Tinian Turquoise Blue Triathlon and Reef Swim is scheduled for February 14, 2015.

3.8.1.1.2 Tour de Tinian

The annual Tour de Tinian is a 100 kilometer mountain bike through the jungles of Tinian race hosted by the Bikers Association of Tinian. The race starts and ends in San Jose Village, and the race route includes interior and coastal areas in both north and south Tinian (i.e., within and outside of the Military Lease Area). In 2014, the Tour de Tinian was held May 3, 2014 in conjunction with the San Jose Fiesta and had more than 50 participants (DoN 2014). The 2015 Tour de Tinian will be held Memorial Day weekend (Mariana Visitors Authority, personal communication, September 4, 2014).

3.8.1.1.3 World War II Anniversaries

There are three tour seasons that correspond to specific World War II anniversaries: (1) March for the Iwo Jima anniversary, (2) June for the anniversary of the Battles of Saipan and Tinian, and (3) August for the anniversary of the Atomic Bomb. Star Marianas, the Tinian Dynasty, and private tour operators provide tours of the World War II historic sites, including the North Field National Historic Landmark, for these anniversaries. These tours are generally frequented by war veterans and their families and last a few days (DoN 2014). On every fifth anniversary of the End of the War in the Pacific, there is a larger event held at the North Field National Historic Landmark with guest speakers. There are also annual Memorial Day and Veteran's Day ceremonies (DoN 2014).

3.8.5 Pagan

Pagan is officially uninhabited because after the last major volcanic eruption in 1981, residents were evacuated from the island. There are currently no formally identified recreational facilities or activities on Pagan. Although there have been discussions about developing Pagan as an ecotourism destination and a staging area for visitors to the Marianas Trench Marine National Monument, these discussions have not resulted in establishment of Pagan as an official tourism destination. Nevertheless, Pagan offers a unique destination for backpackers, nature lovers, and hunters. Those who wish to visit Pagan must obtain a permit from the CNMI Homeland Security and Emergency Management Office. There are no scheduled flights or cruises to the island. Therefore, visitors generally come by private or chartered boats or aircraft (i.e., helicopters). Once on Pagan, visitors may visit the following historic resources (see Section 3.12, *Visual Resources*, Figure 3.12-2):

- Japanese-era concrete monument, which is a memorial to those that died in the Marianas during World War II
- World War II bomb shelter
- World War II Japanese Zero

Additionally, the black sand beaches on Pagan are undeveloped and generally untouched due to the lack of regular visitors, although there is feral livestock including goats, cows, pigs, and chickens (Photo 3.8-22). Since the beaches are not maintained, there is ocean-borne debris in the form of trash, fishing floats, and an occasional glass



Photo 3.8-22. Black Sand Beach on Pagan

ball (a type of fishing float). Banadeera Bay is known as a good snorkel spot (Ogumoro and Torres 2014).

There are currently two tour options being offered for Pagan: Pagan ecotour adventure and the Silver Explorer cruise ship. There is a 10-person minimum for the Pagan ecotour adventure via boat with a maximum person count of 18, which includes the tour guide and boat operator. The maximum person count for the Pagan ecotour adventure via plane is eight to ten (Goodridge, W.F.J., personal communication, August 28, 2014). The first Pagan ecotour adventure encompassed 5 days with 3 full days on Pagan in April 2014 (DoN 2014). The ecotour included camping, visiting historic sites, hiking, and enjoying the black sand beaches. The next tour is a plane charter scheduled in January 2015 (Goodridge, W.F.J., personal communication, August 28, 2014).

According to the Mariana Visitors Authority (DoN 2014), Pagan will be a regular cruise ship stop. The first cruise ship visit occurred in September 2014. The Silver Explorer cruise ship anchored and shuttled people between the ship and Pagan for a day trip nature excursion before sailing on to Saipan and Tinian. The day trip included observation of one of the most recent lava flows by trekking down the old Japanese runway, a walk to several bunkers and planes, and a hike to a scenic overlook of the two lakes. The Silver Explorer cruise ship accommodates 132 guests and 117 crew (Silversea Expeditions 2012).