

Welcome to Kiribati

Tobaraoi Accommodation Information



We hope you enjoy your stay !



T + 686 28 715

Tobaraoi Group, Bikenibeu, Tarawa, Kiribati
www.tobaraoiaccommodation.com

F + 686 28 989

Welcome to Kiribati

Welcome to Kiribati! We hope you enjoy your stay!

We have prepared this short information leaflet to provide you with some useful information on the accommodation and the facilities available in Kiribati.

We have also included some information on visitor activities just in case you do get some free time during your stay.

If any of your questions are not answered here, or there is something that you think we might be able to help you with, please come into Tobaraoi and ask at reception or at the Kiribati Holidays desk and we will try and help.

Welcome to Kiribati

Electricity

Electricity is 240V. All electrical appliances have been checked to ensure that they are in working order. If a problem does develop please let us know as soon as possible.

Kiribati does experience power outages - if this should happen we will get electricity restored as soon as we can. However we can not be responsible for any loss of food stored in the fridge or damage to appliances plugged into the mains. Unfortunately this is a fact of life in Kiribati and is entirely beyond our control.

Gas

Bottled gas is used to operate the cook top.

Before your arrival we check that there will be sufficient gas for your stay. If you do run out of gas please let us know immediately and we will replace your gas cylinder.

Water

The water connected to the taps and shower is rainwater. It has not been treated in any way but it is potable.

If however, you do wish to take precautions with the water you drink and cook with, we have provided a water filter for you.

You can boil water if you wish to take further precautions.

Gas, electric & water

Your electricity, gas and water usage is included in the rental rate. We hope to provide an uninterrupted service to you but due to the infrastructure of Kiribati this is not always possible.

Please bear with us in such inconvenient circumstances ...

Accommodation information

Cleaning & Laundry

Your apartment should be clean on your arrival. If you have any concerns please let us know and we will do our best to rectify the problem.

Cleaning equipment is stored in your apartment for your convenience.

We offer a twice weekly service which involves a linen and towel change as well as cleaning of the apartment. If you do not require this service please let us know.

A washing machine is provided for your convenience underneath the apartments. To access this you should contact reception/watchman and pay up front for the number of loads you wish to wash. Payment for laundry is on an honesty system basis so please respect this. The cost per load is \$5.

A full laundry service is available for \$20 on request. Please leave your laundry out and advise reception/cleaner. Items will be washed, ironed and returned the same day or early next.

An iron / ironing board are in the apartment.

Service

Laundry

Check in / out

Check-in and check-out times are flexible and are usually linked to flight departure times.

If you are moving to the apartment from elsewhere on the islands please contact us for the most suitable time to check in. If you are not departing on a flight, then the check out time is 10am.

Check in

Welcome to Kiribati

Water

Despite being surrounded by water on all sides, Tarawa is currently suffering from a period of drought. Water is scarce due to insufficient rainfall. Although there are some wells that provide water, the main source of potable drinking water is from the rain.

Much of our grey water and air-conditioning water is recycled and used in toilets and other such systems where possible. Most of the other water is rain water. We must therefore do everything we can to conserve the fresh water that we do have.

During your stay with us please try and use water sparingly, particularly when you wash and shower.

The following are suggested ways to save water:

- wash dishes in as little water as possible, using a washing up bowl
- take shorter showers
- ensure all taps and shower are properly turned off to avoid drips
- rinse food, hands or washing up in the sink not under a running tap.
- reuse towels to save on laundry
- only wash full loads in the laundry

We appreciate your help in trying to help us conserve water.

Kiribati has a very limited supply of resources at its disposal due to its remote and isolated location. There are also environmental concerns facing the nation.

While we hope that you will be comfortable during your stay in Kiribati, we ask you to help us address some of these issues and be as environmentally friendly as you can during your stay.

Environmental concerns

Due to our isolated location and limited resources, electricity in Kiribati is very expensive.

For your convenience we have included all electricity use in the cost of renting the apartment. However, we do ask for your co-operation in trying to limit your electricity consumption in order to conserve resources.

It would be greatly appreciated if you could try to conserve energy as much as possible in the following suggested ways:

- use the natural breeze instead of air conditioning to cool the apartment, particularly at night
- ensure that all doors and windows are closed when the air conditioner is in use
- turn off the air conditioner when you are not in the apartment and turn it off half an hour before you go out
- turn off lights when not needed
- turn off appliances at the switch when you have used them or they have finished charging
- Only fill the kettle with as much water as you actually need rather than filling it to the top each time you use it

Thank you for your support in this matter.

Welcome to Kiribati

Banks, ATMs & Credit Cards

There are ANZ bank branches in Betio and Bairiki. Bank opening hours are 09:30 to 15:00 Monday to Thursday and 9:30 to 16:00 on Friday.

Major foreign currencies can also be changed at the Bank.

ATMs can also be found in these locations as well as at the hospital, University, Inanoi Store in Bikenibeu and Taotin Store in Teaoaraereke.

Credit cards are uncommon in Kiribati and are accepted in few places. Whenever a credit card is used it usually attracts a fee.

Banks & Money

The currency of Kiribati is the Australian dollar.

Phones, Sim Cards & Recharge

The telephone system in Kiribati is operated by TSKL. There are few public telephones on the islands. There is a mobile network but coverage and connection can be patchy (upgrade due mid'13).

Purchase a local sim card and prepaid credit will have you contactable locally and to/from overseas.

If you do need to make a call urgently please ask at reception and we will try to accommodate your needs.

Communication

The local phone service provider in Kiribati is TSKL.

Internet

Tobaraoi has installed its own satellite system in order to improve the speed and reliability of our internet connection in Kiribati.

During your stay in the apartment you will have 24 hour access to this connection via wireless internet for your convenience. On your arrival you should have been provided with details about how to connect to the system.

Useful information

Food & Shopping

Local food in Tarawa largely consists of fish and rice although other products are becoming more widely available.

Shopping facilities and choices are limited.

Food in Kiribati is limited in variety. Fish and seafood are readily available but the choice and availability of other protein is limited. Very little grows on the islands and so the choice of fruits and vegetables is again limited. Pandanus, breadfruit, coconut and bananas grow locally but almost everything else must be imported. Because of this it may be more expensive.

Other foodstuffs are imported and are available in the mini markets and local shops.

There are a variety of local eateries, many of which offer a set menu and are influenced by Chinese cuisine.

Shopping in Kiribati is generally limited to supplying the local population with the essentials for living. There is not an extensive selection of shops or items to buy.

Local style clothing and handicrafts are the main options for spending.

Food

Shopping

Emergencies

If you have an emergency with the apartment, outside of office opening hours please contact the duty watchman on site or call:

28715

For all other emergencies please call the local emergency numbers:

Police	192 or 188	Ambulance	194
Fire	193		

Emergencies

Welcome to Kiribati

Cultural

Culture forms a major part of Kiribati life and there are several tours available that allow you to experience various elements of Kiribati culture from handicraft making to clam farming, and toddy cutting to traditional stories and many other elements.

It is also possible to arrange to see traditional dance.

War Relics

Tarawa was the scene of one of the Pacific's bloodiest battles of World War II between the Americans and the Japanese. War relics still remain on Tarawa and can be discovered on a guided tour when you learn about what happened at that time.

Conservation Area

The North Tarawa Conservation Area was established to preserve the area's culture and environment for the future. It remains largely untouched by the modern world and retains many of the traditional practices and legends. A tour to this region allows you to experience stories of times past, witness traditional techniques in practise and explore the beauty of an area of untouched Tarawa environment.

Fishing

Fishing is a way of life for the I-Kiribati, traditionally using nets. However, deep sea and game fishing is available from Tarawa and Abaiang.

Things to do

Most activities for visitors to Kiribati focus on experiencing the culture or the lagoon or ocean environment.



Things to Do

Things to do

Kiribati Holidays in the Tobaraoi building, can advise on and arrange all activities for you.



Snorkelling is possible in the warm lagoon waters but around the edges of the lagoon there is little to see. Further out in the centre there is more to see and Na'a offers good snorkelling. However to experience the best snorkelling it is necessary to hire a boat to get to the locations.

Diving is possible in Tarawa, however we can not guarantee the quality of equipment or air.

Swimming in the lagoon in South Tarawa is not recommended due to pollution. Swimming however is possible at various sites in North Tarawa. The ocean side of the islands is very rough and is not advised. Please respect local attitudes by not wearing brief swimwear.

If you fancy a break from Tarawa, several outer islands are now within easy to reach by either sea or air transport. Each island offers opportunities to experience various aspects of Kiribati life - culture, traditional stories, history, snorkelling, fishing traditionally or game, deep sea & fly fishing for Ikarii (bone fish). Visit an outer island to simply get away from the hustle and bustle of South Tarawa for a few days, and discover how the different rest of Kiribati is.

Accommodation and food standards can be inconsistent, and communications and other facilities are fewer than on Tarawa so you do need to be prepared.

Snorkelling

Swimming

Outer island



T + 686 28 715

Tobaraoi Group, Bikenibeu, Tarawa, Kiribati
www.tobaraoiaccommodation.com

F + 686 28 989