FANNING ISLAND TABUAERAN

Trip itinerary and information packet — one-week and two-week options, Tabuaeran, Republic of Kiribati.

BEFORE YOU GO

This is remote Pacific island travel. The fishing is as good as flats fishing gets and the logistics are the price of admission: two airlines, a boat, an international date line, and a lodge running on solar power. The trip comes in two lengths — seven fishing days or twelve — on the same travel spine, and both are laid out here day by day. Read the travel insurance section first; it is required for this trip, not encouraged.

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Twelve fishing days, every leg from Honolulu to the lodge and back, with the date line explained.

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Seven fishing days on the same travel spine, and how to choose between the two.

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The requirements and the honest picture.







Giant trevally on the edges, bonefish across the flats, and almost nobody else on the atoll.

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GETTING THERE AND BACK

READ THIS FIRST: THE INTERNATIONAL DATE LINE

Kiritimati observes UTC+14, the furthest-ahead time zone on earth. You lose a calendar day flying out from Honolulu and gain it back on the way home, landing in Honolulu on the same date you left Kiritimati. Build buffer days around the trip: weather and mechanical delays are normal on remote Pacific routes.

DAY 1

ARRIVE HONOLULU

Fly into Honolulu (HNL) and overnight at a hotel of your choosing, airport or Waikiki. Confirm your international flight details and baggage allowances with the airline. Fiji Airways check-in opens at 9 a.m.; plan to be there when it does.

DAY 2

HONOLULU TO KIRITIMATI

Depart Honolulu for Kiritimati (CXI) on Fiji Airways. Have your passport, proof of onward travel, and documents ready. Bring USD cash for incidentals.

DAY 3

ARRIVE CXI · THE VILLAGES

Land at Cassidy International around mid-afternoon, Kiribati time. Private transfer to The Villages, a lagoon-front lodge with air-conditioned bungalows. Unpack, rest, rig tackle, and eat a fresh island dinner.

DAY 4

TO TABUAERAN · FIRST SESSION

Morning transfer to Cassidy Airport and a short Air Kiribati flight, about an hour and fifteen, to Tabuaeran (TNV). Land near Napari village, then fifteen to twenty minutes by boat across the lagoon to the lodge. Afternoon: tackle setup, orientation, safety briefing, and your first session on the flats — a nearby wade or a short skiff run to ease in.

DAYS 5–15

FULL FISHING DAYS

Early breakfast, then out by skiff or on foot. Bonefish across the white-sand and turtle-grass flats, giant trevally on the edges and in the channels, plus bluefin trevally, milkfish, triggerfish, and the occasional bumphead parrotfish. Lunch beachside or on the skiff. Back to the lodge late afternoon for showers and a dinner built around the day's catch and island produce.

DAY 16

TABUAERAN TO CXI

Depart Fanning on the scheduled Air Kiribati flight back to Kiritimati. Transfer to The Villages or straight to the international terminal, depending on flight timing. Any last CXI fishing if the schedule allows.

DAY 16/17

HOME

Fiji Airways from CXI back to Honolulu. Because of the date line you land in Honolulu on the same calendar date you left Kiritimati, regaining the day you lost on the way out. Connect onward that day or the next morning.

FLIGHT NOTE

International flights to and from CXI are operated by Fiji Airways, typically weekly Tuesday departures from Honolulu. The CXI–TNV domestic leg is Air Kiribati, Tuesday and Thursday. Schedules in this region change. Insure the trip.

THE SHORTER WEEK

SAME TRAVEL, HALF THE FISHING

The one-week trip runs on the identical travel spine — Honolulu, Kiritimati, Tabuaeran, and back — you simply come off the atoll on the earlier Air Kiribati rotation. Getting there costs the same four days either way, which is the honest argument for the longer trip if you can spare the time.

DAY 1

ARRIVE HONOLULU

Fly into Honolulu (HNL) and overnight airport-side or in Waikiki. Confirm your international flight and baggage allowance with the airline; Fiji Airways check-in opens at 9 a.m. the next morning.

DAY 2

HONOLULU TO KIRITIMATI

Depart Honolulu for Kiritimati (CXI) on Fiji Airways. Passport, proof of onward travel, and USD cash for incidentals.

DAY 3

ARRIVE CXI · THE VILLAGES

Land at Cassidy International mid-afternoon, Kiribati time, and transfer to The Villages. Air-conditioned bungalows on the lagoon. Rig tackle, eat, and sleep off the crossing.

DAY 4

TO TABUAERAN · FIRST SESSION

Morning Air Kiribati flight to Tabuaeran (TNV), about an hour and fifteen, then fifteen to twenty minutes across the lagoon by boat. Afternoon: orientation, safety briefing, and your first session — a nearby wade or a short skiff run. That afternoon counts as fishing, and it is often better than it has any right to be.

DAYS 5–10

FULL FISHING DAYS

Six full days on the water. Bonefish across the white-sand and turtle-grass flats, giant trevally on the channel edges and outer reef, plus bluefin trevally, milkfish, and triggerfish. With a shorter window your guides push the good tides harder and skip the long exploratory runs.

DAY 11/12

BACK TO CXI · HOME

Boat back across the lagoon and the Air Kiribati flight to Kiritimati, with a last CXI session if the schedule allows. Then Fiji Airways to Honolulu, landing on the same calendar date you departed. Connect onward that day or the next morning.

CHOOSING BETWEEN THEM

One week

7

FISHING DAYS · ~12 DAYS DOOR TO DOOR

Enough to learn the flats and get your shots. The right call if you are working around a fixed window, or bringing someone who has never done a trip this remote.

Two weeks

12

FISHING DAYS · ~17 DAYS DOOR TO DOOR

The trip we recommend. Weather and tides get absorbed instead of ruining a week, the far end of the atoll comes into range, and the travel amortizes over twice the fishing.

Fiji Airways runs Honolulu–CXI weekly and Air Kiribati runs CXI–TNV on Tuesdays and Thursdays, so your exact dates fall out of those two schedules. Call before you book flights and we will give you the real calendar.

THE PACKAGE

INCLUDED

- ✓ Daily guided fishing, skiff and wading
- ✓ Round-trip Air Kiribati flights, CXI to TNV
- ✓ All boat transfers
- ✓ All meals on Fanning and on the CXI overnights
- ✓ Kiribati fishing license
- ✓ Lodge accommodations on both islands
- ✓ All on-island transportation

NOT INCLUDED

- ✓ International airfare to and from Honolulu
- ✓ Honolulu hotel nights
- ✓ Personal and fishing gear
- ✓ Alcohol
- ✓ Gratuities for guides and lodge staff
- ✓ Travel insurance — required for this trip

WHERE YOU SLEEP

THE VILLAGES · KIRITIMATI

A comfortable lagoon-front fishing lodge on Discovery Beach, with air-conditioned bungalows. Your transit stop on the way out and, schedule permitting, on the way back.

FIO LODGE · TABUAERAN

The premier — and only — dedicated fly fishing lodge on the atoll. Simple, comfortable, island-style. Solar power, scheduled Starlink, no cell service, and treated drinking water.

WHAT SWIMS HERE

BONEFISH
4–8+ lb average, across miles of white sand and turtle grass

GIANT TREVALLY
Channel edges and outer reef. Bring a 10-weight or heavier

BLUEFIN TREVALLY
Fast, aggressive, and everywhere

MILKFISH
Technical, and one of the hardest pulls in saltwater

TRIGGERFISH
Tailing on the flats, and rarely easy

BUMPHEAD PARROTFISH
A genuine oddity and a genuine trophy

THE WEEK AT A GLANCE

DAY 1	DAY 2	DAY 3	DAY 4	DAYS 5–10 / 5–15	DAY 11 / 16	HOME
Arrive Honolulu	Fly to Kiritimati	Overnight CXI	To Tabuaeran	Full fishing days	Back to CXI	Honolulu

SIX ANGLERS A WEEK

Fanning Island Outfitters caps the week at six. Roughly twenty anglers have fished Tabuaeran since Covid. Whichever length you pick, the atoll is effectively yours.

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TACKLE AND GEAR

Wind is a factor and the reef is sharp coral. There is no tackle shop within a thousand miles, so bring spares of anything critical. Fanning Island Outfitters sends a destination-specific list on booking; this is the proven baseline. On the one-week trip you carry the same kit — a short trip is no reason to bring less redundancy, since a broken rod costs a larger share of your days.

RODS

- 8 or 9 weight fast action, 9'0", for bonefish and most flats work
- 10 or 11 weight for giant trevally, or a second 9
- At least one spare rod — breakage happens here

REELS

- Large-arbor with sealed drag: Nautilus, Hatch, Tibor, or equal
- Capacity for 200+ yards of 60–100 lb backing
- Smooth drag matters when a GT turns on

LINES AND LEADERS

- Floating tropical or bonefish taper, weight-forward
- Spare backing
- 9–12 ft leaders in 12, 16, and 30 lb fluorocarbon
- Tippet spools 10–30 lb, plus 60–80 lb shock for GTs
- Pre-tie some leaders at home

FLIES — BRING 6 TO 12 DOZEN

- Bonefish: Crazy Charlies, Gotchas, Clousers, Merkin crabs, shrimp patterns
- Tan, pink, white, chartreuse, natural — sizes #4 to #8, weighted and unweighted
- Trevally: large poppers, bulky streamers, baitfish patterns 2/0 to 4/0
- A few triggerfish and milkfish patterns if you plan to target them

SUN PROTECTION

- Polarized sunglasses, amber or copper, plus a backup pair
- Wide-brim hat or cap with neck flap, and a buff
- UPF 50+ long-sleeve shirts, two or three
- Quick-dry pants or shorts in light colors
- Reef-safe mineral sunscreen and SPF lip balm

FOOTWEAR

- Flats boots with real grip for sharp coral — no felt soles
- Neoprene socks or booties if you like them
- Reef shoes or old sneakers as backup

PERSONAL

- Light rain jacket or windbreaker
- Casual island wear for the lodge, and a light fleece for A/C
- Quick-dry towel, dry bag, waterproof phone case
- Headlamp, power bank, Type I adapter (240V)
- Insect repellent, personal toiletries

SPARES AND SMALL PARTS

- Spare rod sections and reel parts
- Tippet, nippers, forceps, and a hook file
- Superglue, UV resin, and a small fly-tying kit if you tie
- Zip ties and electrical tape — they fix more than you would think

A WORD ON GEAR

Tell us what you own before you buy anything — between the guides, the lodge, and our own kit there is usually a way to cover a gap. Label rod tubes with your name, and bring the camera.

PACKING FOR SMALL PLANES

Weight limits on the CXI–TNV leg can be strict: one large duffel plus a dedicated rod tube. Label everything with your name. Lodge power is solar and Starlink is scheduled — charge during peak sun and bring a 10,000mAh power bank.

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BEFORE YOU BOOK FLIGHTS

TRAVEL INSURANCE · REQUIRED, NOT SUGGESTED

Medical facilities on Tabuaeran, and even on Kiritimati, are extremely limited. In a serious emergency, medical evacuation to Honolulu or Fiji can cost tens of thousands of dollars. Fanning Island Outfitters requires proof of adequate coverage including medical evacuation and trip interruption. Standard credit-card travel insurance usually will not qualify — those policies routinely exclude remote and adventure travel or cap payouts far too low.

Look at Ripcord, Global Rescue, or DAN for evacuation coverage, plus trip cancellation and interruption.

HEALTH AND SAFETY

Sun and heat

Equatorial sun is relentless. Reef-safe sunscreen, long sleeves, hat, buff, and constant hydration. The lodge provides treated water; bring electrolytes.

Coral and reef

Sharp coral, urchins, and the occasional stonefish. Wear protective footwear in the water at all times. Treat every cut immediately and watch it — coral cuts infect.

Medical kit

Prescriptions in duplicate in original containers, plus copies. Antibiotic ointment, antiseptic wipes, bandages, blister kit, pain relief, anti-diarrheal, antihistamine, motion sickness tablets, EpiPen if you carry one.

Money

USD cash, $300–500 for a one-week trip and more for two, covering gratuities and incidentals. Guides and staff appreciate cash. Cards are for larger purchases only.

WHAT TO EXPECT

This is a true remote adventure, not a luxury resort trip. Tabuaeran offers world-class fishing in an almost untouched environment, and the trade-offs are real: solar power, scheduled Starlink, no cell service, and simple island-style accommodations. Meals are fresh and island-sourced. The guiding is personal and the flats are spectacular.

Anglers who do well here are the ones who stay flexible, disconnect, and let the fishing and the place be the point. That is truer on the shorter trip than the longer one: with seven days you have less room to wait out a blown-out tide, so come ready to fish what the day gives you. The I-Kiribati people are warm and welcoming, and many trips turn into genuine cultural exchange. Practice Leave No Trace, use reef-safe products only, and be a good guest.

WEATHER

Warm year-round, 80–90°F, with cooling trade winds. Short showers are possible, mostly in the afternoon. Wind is a genuine factor — which is why casting ability and the right line weight matter more here than tackle brand.

QUESTIONS? ASK BEFORE YOU BOOK FLIGHTS

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tranquilotravelco.com · fanningislandoutfitters.com

Travel Insurance for Fanning Island (Tabuaeran)

Tranquilo Travel Co · What to buy before you go, and why

Why this matters here. Fanning Island has a small clinic, no hospital, and no scheduled flight off the island. A medical emergency means a boat or charter to Kiritimati (Christmas Island), then the weekly Fiji Airways flight or a chartered jet to Honolulu. Pacific air-ambulance evacuations commonly run **$75,000 or more**. Most standard travel policies will not coordinate a rescue from an island like this, so we ask every guest to carry two layers of coverage.

Layer 1 — Medical Evacuation Membership (required)

This is the piece that gets you off the island. Buy it for your exact trip dates (or annual if you travel often).

Provider	Best for	Notes
Global Rescue globalrescue.com	Remote field rescue — our recommended choice	Performs evacuation from the point of injury, not just hospital-to-hospital. Short-term and annual memberships. When you enroll, tell them: Tabuaeran, Kiribati — no commercial airport, ~150 nm from Kiritimati.
Medjet medjetassist.com	Hospital-to-home transport	Strong benefit for flying you home once you are already admitted to a hospital. Does not perform field rescue, so it is a supplement, not a substitute, for this trip.

Layer 2 — Trip & Travel Medical Policy (required)

Covers medical bills, trip cancellation, and the delays that are a normal part of travel to Kiribati. Look for these features:

- **Medical evacuation limit of $500,000 or more**, with “evacuation to hospital of choice” or “medically necessary repatriation” language
- **Trip interruption and travel delay** — the Fiji Airways Honolulu–Kiritimati flight is weekly and is rescheduled or cancelled with some regularity
- **Cancel For Any Reason (CFAR)** add-on — must usually be bought within 14–21 days of your first trip deposit
- **No exclusions** for fishing, small boats, or “remote area” travel; confirm this in writing if unsure

Provider	Strength	Notes
World Nomads (Explorer plan)	Activity coverage	Covers fishing and small-craft travel without extra riders. Easy online purchase.
IMG (Patriot Platinum)	High medical & evac limits	Strong medical/evacuation ceilings; pair with a cancellation policy if needed.
Allianz (OneTrip Prime / Premier)	Cancellation & delay	Solid trip cancellation, interruption, and delay benefits. Check evac limit on the plan you choose.
Travel Guard / AIG (Deluxe)	Cancellation incl. CFAR	Good CFAR option; confirm remote-area and boating language.
Compare: **Squaremouth.com** or **InsureMyTrip.com**	Shopping tools	Filter by evacuation limit, CFAR, and activity coverage side by side.

Before You Travel — Checklist

[ ] Global Rescue (or equivalent) membership active for all trip dates

[ ] Evacuation limit $500k+ confirmed; boating/fishing not excluded

[ ] Copies carried on paper (no reliable cell service on Fanning)

[ ] Trip policy purchased within the CFAR window of your deposit

[ ] Policy numbers and 24-hour assistance phone numbers sent to Tranquilo

[ ] Emergency contact and any medical conditions shared with your guide

This guide is general information from Tranquilo Travel Co, not insurance advice. Plans, limits, and exclusions change; confirm details with the carrier before purchase, and read the policy for the specific trip. Tranquilo Travel Co receives no compensation from any provider listed.