

## **PALANAII, a Primer**

This is a small sleepy island located in Micronesia. It is an unincorporated territory of the United States. Tourists have only just begun to discover its beauty. It has fine white sandy beaches, a lush tropical forest, and a lovely lagoon. It is dominated by a dormant volcano. There is one prominent settlement, the small town of St. James (population around 6000) which was founded by English settlers in the early 1800's. The town is sparse on modern amenities and therefore a great place for those looking to "get away from it all." There are no cell towers, so cell phones won't work. Internet access is uncommon as it is only available to those with satellite service.



### **Places of interest:**

- The Pan-Am Hotel – Named for when the flying boats operated by Pan American Airlines would land in the 1930's.
- Palanaii International Airport – Originally known as Naval Air Station Palanaii, this small airport was built during World War II. In the 1970's, it was later repurposed as a civilian airport. It is home to a few small private aircraft and services the occasional visiting plane.
- The Marina – Located in the lagoon, it is mostly used by the local fishermen, but you can find a few tourist boats parked leisurely
- Governor's House – This historic mansion was built when St. James was founded and has housed all of the Governors of the island.
- The Tahaa Fish Market – While predominately known for its namesake, many other things can be found if you know where to look.
- Police Station – The Police Station is not a very big, only having about 20 or so officers on staff.
- St. Mary's Clinic – This is the local hospital. It can handle most day-to-day cases. Serious trauma is usually stabilized and then life-flighted to New Zealand.
- Fort Wayne – The abandoned military base. It is surrounded by an old, rusted chain link fence with a padlocked gate. The old and weathered Quonset huts are still visible. They are probably picked over, but who knows for sure?
- S-Mart – This global chain is in the process of opening a big box store here. Adjacent to it is a small pre-existing store that S-Mart bought to give them a presence while they build their new and improved store.
- Fire Department – The Island only has one small fire department with two second hand fire trucks.
- Four Seasons Resort Construction Site – This is the first major luxury resort in Palanaii. It is currently set to open next year and promises to bring in lots of tourist revenue.
- Surfers' Point – Located on the far side of the island, this is an isolated bay that only the locals know about.
- Hidden Bunkers – Scattered about the island are some hidden (and forgotten) concrete bunkers built during WWII. They are still mostly intact. Who knows, they might contain a crate or two of stored weapons?

