

## South tarawa specific companies and products

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Te Atinimarawa Co., Ltd, a state-owned enterprise established in 2013, is overseeing operations of the barge, as well as the aggregate depot and processing facility on Betio Island. When it is not dredging for aggregate in the Betio lagoon, the open-ocean capable barge can also be used to help meet Kiribati's growing needs for inter-island, ensuring that the Te Atinimarawa Co., Ltd generates reliable revenue for the Kiribati Government (Ratuyawa, 2013).

Te Atinimarawa Company Limited produces sands and different types of gravels from crushing coral stones and boulders. Mixed aggregates and boulders are also available for sales to the general public.

South Tarawa the capital and commercial centre of Kiribati provides a perfect introduction to Kiribati and the gateway to explore North Tarawa and the rest of the Gilbert outer Islands. South Tarawa consists of islets connected by one main road and causeways stretching from Betio all the way to Tanaea, the end point of South Tarawa. The capital city Bairiki is where the head of government resides. Here in the capital you will find an excellent insight into the varied history and modern day life of the people.

South Tarawa (Gilbertese: Tarawa Teinainano) is the capital and hub of the Republic of Kiribati and home to more than half of Kiribati"s population.[2] The South Tarawa population centre consists of all the small islets from Betio in the west to Bonriki and Tanaea in the north-east, connected by the South Tarawa main road, with a population of 63,439 as of 2020[update].[1]

Buota, which is part of North Tarawa and administered by the Eutan Tarawa Council (or ETC), is linked by road to South Tarawa and is experiencing many similar issues of rapid population growth, urbanisation and environmental degradation.

South Tarawa is a string of islets on the atoll of Tarawa, between the Tarawa Lagoon to the north, with a maximum depth of 25 metres (82 ft), and the Pacific Ocean to the south, with a depth of up to 4,000 metres (13,000 ft).[5] The island has been built from sediments from the lagoon.[6]

The process of soil accumulation is driven by the dominant easterly trade winds and can be reversed during extended periods of westerly winds during El Ni?o-Southern Oscillations.[7]

These islets are now joined by causeways, forming one long islet on the reef along the southern side of the Tarawa Lagoon. Most of South Tarawa is less than 3 metres (9.8 feet) above sea level with an average width of only 450 metres (1,480 feet).[4]



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At the time of the 1978 Census, South Tarawa had a population of 17,921 with most residents living in the main population centres of Betio, Bairiki and Bikenibeu. Since Kiribati became independent in 1979, the population of South Tarawa has more than tripled, and now stands at 63,439 people (2020).[1] All of South Tarawa is now urbanised and is effectively one continuous settlement from the northeastern end of the island, Tanaea, to its southwestern end at Betio.

Tarawa island is central to Kiribati mythology and culture, but life on South Tarawa was little different to that on other islands before it was selected in 1895 as the seat of colonial government for the Protectorate of the Gilbert and Ellice Islands. From 1906 to 1942, Ocean Island was the headquarters of the colony, then Funafuti because of the Japanese occupation of the Gilbert Islands until 1946, when it returned to Tarawa.

The highest point on South Tarawa is only a very few meters above sea level (Eita, 3 metres), making the island extremely vulnerable to natural disasters. The effects of floods and associated soil salination are starting to threaten limited freshwater supplies.[10]

The climate in South Tarawa is a Tropical rainforest climate (Koppen: Af) which is warm and humid all year round and average rainfalls are relatively high. However, rainfall is very unpredictable, varying with the El Ni?o-Southern Oscillation, and South Tarawa can go for many months with almost no rain during La Ni?a cycles. The hottest and coldest temperatures ever recorded in South Tarawa are 35 ?C (95 ?F) and 21 ?C (70 ?F), respectively, which is one of the narrowest temperature ranges in the world.

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