

**ORIGINAL  
NAMES OF  
GUAM'S  
VILLAGES  
AND THEIR  
MEANINGS**

## VILLAGE NAMES OF GUAM

**GUAM** was called "Omiya Jima" in 1942 by the Japanese who occupied the island at the time. Omiya Jima means "The Great Shrine Island"

**AGANA HEIGHTS (TUTUHAN):** The village derives its name from two words "tutuhon luhan." Tutuhon luhan" means someone who starts to get scared because of impending doom or is terrified about something. The village has no Spanish name.

**AGAT (HAGAT):** It is possible that "Hagat" is derived from the word "aga" which is the Marianas crow now listed on the endangered species list. This bird species was flourishing in this area at one time. It is also possible that the village may also derive its name from the word "haga" which means the blood of the people. In 1942 Guam's Japanese occupants referred to Agat as "Showa Mura." The Spanish referred to this village as "Agat." Agat is the only village that maintained its original name. The village has no Spanish name.

**ASAN (ASSAN):** This village derives its name from the word "hassan." "Hassan" means scarce or rare. In 1942 Guam's Japanese occupants referred to Asan as "Asama Mura." The Spanish referred to this village as "Azan."

**BARRIGADA (BARIGADA):** This village derives its name from the word "barigada." "Barigada means the flank of a person or beast such as a deer, cow, or goat. In 1942 Guam's Japanese occupants referred to Barrigada as "Haruta Mura."

**CHALAN PAGO (CHALAN):** The word "chalan" makes up the first part of this village name. "Chalan" means, road, street, and in olden days, paths or trails.

(PAGU): The word "pagu" makes up the second part of this village name. "Pagu" is the wild hibiscus tree that grows in abundance in this area.

**DEDEDO (DEDEDU):** The word dedidu comes from a system of measurement using the fingers and each finger signifies an inch. So as one measures, "one inch, two inches, three inches" the name

Dedidu derived from it with the measurement of two fingers indicating two inches.

There is another word that possibly gives this village its name. The word "dedeggo" which means a person who walks on tiptoes so as not to wake up those who are sleeping. In 1942 Guam's Japanese occupants referred to Dededo as "Hiratsuka Mura."

**HAGATNA:** The village derives its name from the word "haga." "Haga" means blood and that this village came about because of the bloodlines of families and relatives that helped establish this village. In 1942 Guam's Japanese occupants referred to Hagatna as "Akashi."

**INARAJAN (INALAHAN):** This village derives its name from the word "halla." "Halla" means to pull something or move something with a rope tied to it.

Another word that may give meaning to this village's name is the "ala." This word refers to a kind of large woven coconut basket used for storage for fish or vegetables. In 1942 Guam's Japanese occupants referred to Inarajan as "Inada Mura." The Spanish referred to this village as "Narajan."

**MAINA (MA'INA):** The word "ma'ina" refers to the other village that makes up this district together with Assan. Hunters hunted by the light of the same torch.

Another meaning of the word "ma'ina" deals with an infant who, between the time of his birth to his baptism, is taken by the mother to a church mass before sunrise and this ritual is considered the presentation of the child to the temple or church. The village has no Japanese name listed.

**MAITE (MAITE):** The third village derives its name from the word "ma'ette." "Ma'ette" means to nudge or touch another person usually accidentally with your hands or with some part of your body. In 1942 Guam's Japanese occupants referred to Maite' as "Harada Mura."

**MANGILAO:** This village derives its name from the word "ilao." "Iao" means to look for something or to search for something and hunters or fishermen went to this area to search for crabs, deer, wild

pigs, or fish. In 1942 Guam's Japanese occupants referred to Mangilao as "Sawahara Mura."

**MERIZO (MALESSO):** The village derives its name from the word "lesso'." "Lesso'" is the next growth size of the juvenile rabbit fish locally known as "manahak" and these were caught at the mouth of the bay of that village. In 1942 Guam's Japanese occupants referred to Merizo as "Matsuyama Mura." The Spanish referred to this village as "Merico."

**MONGMONG:** The first of three villages combined into one derives its name from the word "momongmong." Momongmong" comes from the sound of the heartbeat but through word evolution came out to "mongmong." The village has no Japanese name listed.

**ORDOT (OTDOT):** refers to the other village, it means ant. In 1942 Guam's Japanese occupants referred to Ordot as "Orita mura."

**PITI:** This village derives its name from the word "puti." "Puti" means pain either through sore, disease, illness, or through physical or emotional pain. In 1942 Guam's Japanese occupants referred to Piti as "Hanabi Machi."

**SANTA RITA:** This village does not have an original name because it was established in 1945 when residents were moved from destroyed Sumai village. "Santa Rita" is the patron saint of abused wives and it is not clear who decided upon this name nor for what reason the name was chosen when the village was established.

**SINAJANA (SINAHANNA):** The village derives its name from the word "chinahan." Chinahan" means the method of baking wild yams in the dirt. the "-na" at the end of the word refers to the people who helped in the baking process. In 1942 Guam's Japanese occupants referred to Sinajana as "Sinagawa Mura."

**TALOFOFO (TALO'FO'FO):** The village derives its name from the saying "entalo' ife'fo'." "Entalo' i fe'fo'" means between the cliffs where this place is situated at and surrounded by cliffs.

It is possible that another word gave this village its ending name. The word "fo'fo'" means a bubbling spring and because the Talo'fo'fo' River and the Talo'fo'fo' Falls is located there the name could possibly mean between the bubbling springs. In 1942 Guam's Japanese occupants referred to Talo'fo'fo' as "Taro Mura." The Spanish referred to this village as "Tanuftofo."

**TAMUNING (TAMUNENG):** There are two Carolinian stories that relate to how this village derives its name. First, there was a Carolinian chief named Tamuneng who was brought over from Ulul Atoll in the Caroline Islands. The second came from a Carolinian word "tamuneng" which is the movement of people from Apotguan on to the area where a cotton plantation was run by a George Johnston, Mr. Johnston was an American businessman who married a Spaniard woman and was permitted to grow cotton in what is now Tamuning. This village was referred to by the Spanish as "Tupungam."

**TOTO:** The second village derives its name from the word "to'to." To'to means to lie or recline on one's back. The village has no Japanese name listed.

**TUMON (TOMHOM):** "Ti apnam hom hom" means it is getting dark and refers to hunters and fishermen who walk from southern guahan to fish or hunt in this place and by the time they get there it is nearing darkness. The Spanish referred to Tumon as "Tuham."

**UMATAC (HUMATAK):** This village derives its name from the word "uma." "Uma" means to carry something on the back or a heavy load on the shoulders. In 1942 Guam's Japanese occupants referred to Umatac as "Umada Mura." The Spanish referred to this village as "Umatag."

**YIGO (YIGU):** This village derives its name from the word "yugu." "Yugu" means the frame placed over the neck of a carabao and harnessed to a cart.

Yigu is the island's northernmost village. The soil is rich for coffee, cocoa, pineapples, oranges, and tangerines which grew in abundance before the war. This village also produced chocolates which were then transported to Hagatna where they were served to

visitors in the Chocolate House of the governor's palace. Yigo also has many ifil wood trees, the hard wood used to make the yoke of the carabao and oftentimes the construction of the carabao cart. Hence, the village got its name Yigo. In 1942 Guam's Japanese occupants referred to Yigo as "Kita Mura."

**YONA (YO'NA):** The village derives its name from the word "iyo-na." "Iyo-na" means the possession of something be it material things, personal items, or spiritual ownership. In 1942 Guam's Japanese occupants referred to Yona as "Hakoya Mura." The Spanish referred to Yona as "Irig."

Isle de Guabau  
ou  
Isle S<sup>t</sup> Jean



