

Angaur

Angaur (Japanese: アンガウル, Hepburn: *Angauru*) or **Ngeaur** is an island and state in the island nation of Palau. .

Contents

History

Geography

Demography

Languages

Political system

Education

Tourism

See also

References

External links

History



Map including Ngeaur (DMA, 1991)


The first sighting of Angaur, Babeldaob, Koror, and Peleliu recorded by Westerners was by the Spanish expedition of Ruy López de Villalobos at the end of January 1543. They were then charted as *Los Arrecifes* (The Reefs in Spanish).^[1] In November and December 1710, these three islands were again visited and explored by the Spanish missionary expedition commanded by Sargento Mayor Francisco Padilla on board of the patache *Santísima Trinidad*. Two years later they were explored in detail by the expedition of Spanish naval officer Bernardo de Egoy.^[2]

From 1909 until 1954 phosphate mining took place on Angaur, originally by the Germans, then the Japanese, and finally by Americans. Angaur is the site of a major World War

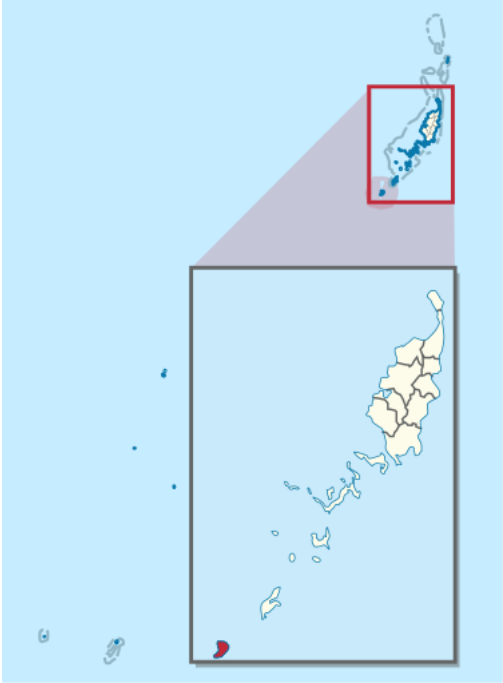
Angaur

アンガウル州

State




Flag



Location of Angaur in Palau

Coordinates:

Country

 Palau

Capital

Ngeremasch

Area

• Total

8 km² (3 sq mi)

Population (2015)

• Total

119

• Density

15/km² (39/sq mi)

• Official languages

Palauan
English
Japanese

Time zone

UTC+9 (Palau Standard Time)

II battle. The Battle of Angaur was part of the larger offensive campaign called Operation Forager that ran from June to Nov 1944. Many American and Japanese battle relics^[3] remain scattered throughout the island. The 7th Antiaircraft Artillery Battalion under Lieutenant colonel Henry R. Paige served as garrison forces for the remainder of the War. Angaur is the only place in Micronesia that has feral monkeys; they are descended from macaques that escaped during the period of German occupation.^[4] Thus it is also called Monkey Island.

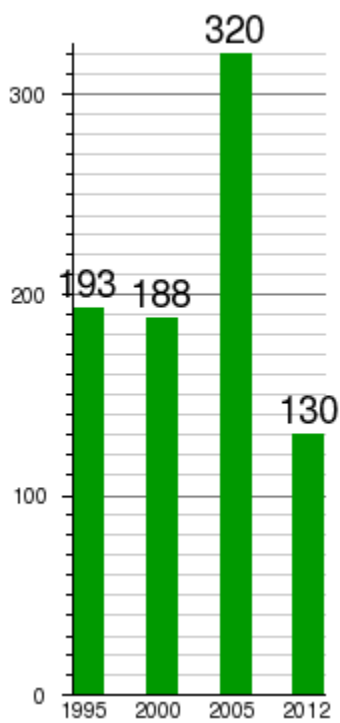
Angaur is accessible by boats and small planes, and Belau Air has service to Angaur Airstrip. From 1945 to 1978 the U.S. Coast Guard operated a LORAN transmitting station, LORSTA Palau, as part of the worldwide LORAN navigation system.

Geography

The island, which forms its own state, has an area of 8 km² (3 mi²). Its population was 130 in 2012.^[5] The state capital is the village of Ngeremasch on the western side. A second village, Rois, is immediately east of Ngeremasch. Angaur Island is located southwest of Peleliu, and it is a popular surfing location. The eastern side of the island is mostly sandy with rocky outcroppings, while the western side of the island has a small lagoon with a small fishing and transportation port.

Demography

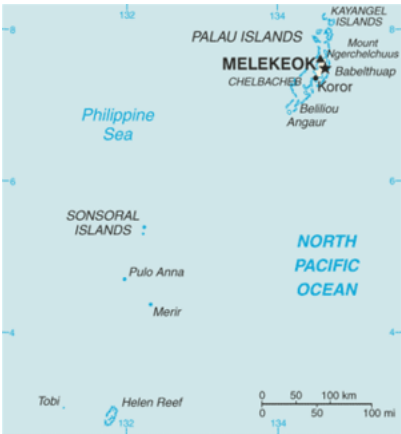
^[5]



Area code	(+680) 277
ISO 3166 code	PW-010



Map of Angaur State with the Lukes (traditional place).



Location of Angaur (upper right)

Languages

According to the state constitution of 1982, Angaur's official languages are Palauan, English and Japanese.^[6] It is the only place in the world where Japanese is a *de jure* official language, as it is only the *de facto* official language of Japan. However, the results of the 2005 census show that in April 2005 there were no usual or legal residents of Angaur aged 5 or older who spoke Japanese at home at all.^[7] No residents of Angaur reported themselves or were reported as being of Japanese ethnic origin.^[8] One person born (but apparently not residing) on Angaur reported to speak Japanese and Palauan equally often at home.^[7] The 2012 mini census showed 7 people aged 10 or older literate in any language other than Palauan and English for Angaur, out of a total population of 130.^[5]

Political system

The state of Angaur, with population of less than 150, has an elected chief executive, governor. The state also has a legislature elected every two years.^[9] The state population elects one of the members of the House of Delegates of Palau.

Education

The Ministry of Education operates public schools.

Angaur Elementary School was established in 1945. A new building in another location opened in 1953. It moved to the original site in 1966 in a new building but it later moved back to the second site.^[10]

Palau High School in Koror is the country's only public high school, so children from this community go there.^[11]

Tourism

It is a very popular place for surfing. In 2003, the Palau National Congress legalized casino gambling on the island.

Among other attractions are the cemetery of planes and ships that were destroyed in World War II, a Buddhist memorial honoring the Japanese fallen in combat and a small Japanese Shinto shrine.

See also

- Battle of Angaur
- Angaur Airstrip

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External links

- [Honorary Consulate of the Republic of Palau to the UK \(<http://palauconsulate.org.uk/>\)](http://palauconsulate.org.uk/)

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