

## **Introduction to Northern Mariana Islands Slot Machine Casino Gambling 2018**

*Northern Mariana Islands slot machine casino gambling* consists of 7 casinos, with 5 gambling facilities on the island of Saipan and the remaining 2 casinos located in San Jose on the island of Tinian. Additional casinos include visiting cruise ships, which are legally allowed to keep their casinos open while docked.

Casino gambling on the Northern Mariana Islands is a small but growing sector of the island economy formerly mainly reliant on tourism. Officially the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, this U.S. territory is a collection of 15 islands in the northwestern Pacific Ocean about three-quarters of the way to the Philippines from Hawaii.

These islands are part of the Mariana Archipelago. The chain of islands also includes the southernmost island of [Guam](#), a separate U.S. territory already reviewed as part of this blog series.

According to the 2010 U.S. Census, 53,883 people were living in the Northern Mariana Islands. Most of the population resides on the islands of Saipan with the capital of Capitol Hill, Tinian, and Rota. The other islands of the Northern Marianas are lightly inhabited, with the island of Pagan experiencing the largest population fluxes.

Gaming regulation activities in the Commonwealth of Northern Mariana Islands has been highly dynamic ever since casino gaming was legalized on Saipan by the CNMI Senate on March 3, 2014 without being put to a vote by the residents of CNMI, after years of such proposals being rejected by voters.

Even as recently as November of 2017, areas of gaming regulation development include various new gaming legislation is being proposed to the House Gaming Committee. The constitutionality of current gaming law in Tinian is being heard by the High Court, and the Governor of Saipan has requested a report on the gambling market for Saipan.

Northern Mariana Islands has an active casino junket industry, according to the Commonwealth Casino Commission regulations, where:

*"..gamblers are flown to an area where legalized gambling is available and booked into a hotel/casino at a discount provided by a junket promoter or operator who engages in junket activity, which includes but is not limited to the provision of transportation, accommodation, food and drinks, discounts, rebates or entertainment with the purpose of promoting wagering in exchange for receiving commissions or other compensation paid by a casino operator."*

This post continues the weekly blog series "[Slot Machine Casino Gambling, State-By-State](#)", a year-long online resource project dedicated to guiding slot machine gambling enthusiasts to success.

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Northern Mariana Islands Slot Machine Casino Gambling: An American flag just offshore from Saipan.

## Relevant Legal Statutes on Gambling in Northern Mariana Islands\*

The minimum legal age for gambling in Northern Mariana Islands is 21 years of age.

\*The purpose of this section is to inform the public of state gambling laws and how the laws apply to various forms of gambling. This information is not intended to provide legal advice.

## Slot Machine Private Ownership in Northern Mariana Islands

There is no information available online regarding private ownership of a slot machine on the

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.



Northern Mariana Islands Slot Machine Casino Gambling: The island of Saipan.

## **Gaming Control Board in Northern Mariana Islands**

Article XXI of the constitution of the U.S. territory of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands prohibits gambling except as provided by Commonwealth law or established through initiative in the Commonwealth or in any senatorial district.

Because of this article, the Commonwealth has an interesting approach to gaming regulations and gaming commissions. They appear to have two such commissions, established by initiative and senatorial district, where the scope of authority for each is less than clear. The islands of Saipan and Tinian appear to have effectively established their own local gaming control commissions.

According to my best understanding at this moment, Saipan has its Commonwealth Casino Commission established through initiative in the Commonwealth, while Tinian has the Tinian Casino Gaming Control Commission established through its senatorial district.

There are legal debates ongoing as to whether the gaming regulations of the Commonwealth Casino Commission also apply to or even override those established locally in Tinian.

There is limited information available online with regards to the historical establishment of these locally-run gaming control commissions. However, Tinian voters in their senatorial district established a local initiative to legalize gambling and create its commission on Tinian with the Tinian Casino Gaming Control Act of 1989.

This enabling act was revised in 2004 and 2013 to become the current Revised Tinian Casino

Gaming Control Act of 1989.

The ongoing legal disputes regarding the legality of various components of this act, mostly being settled by trial and the Supreme Court of the territory, including the length of commissioner's term runs as well as the constitutionality of a legislative delegation being empowered to amend a gambling law enacted by local initiative.

With regards to the Commonwealth Casino Commission, as of August 2017 its Executive Director Edward Deleon Guerrero is supporting the Governor of Saipan by working on a report aimed at clarifying for policymakers as many details as possible of the gambling market of a casino located in Saipan.

In essence, the report will focus on the model of gaming market which is currently applied to Macau, and its general difference compared to the established model of gaming in the U.S.

It has been reported that the government of this U.S. territory is researching new capabilities of regulation in the field. In response to this report, Executive Director Guerrero has stated that an existing robust regime of regulations is currently functioning in the industry with a high rate of success.

Slot machine payout return percentages have not been made available to the public, including the legal establishment of minimum payout return limits.

However, Paragraph b4 of Section 175-10.1-515: Accounting Records of the [Title 175: Commonwealth Casino Commission Regulations](#) does state accounting records must include "Slot analysis report which, by each machine, compare actual hold percentages to theoretical hold percentages."

So, these return percentages are legally required to be collected, but are apparently not shared with the public.



Northern Mariana Islands Slot Machine Casino Gambling: Island tourism industry.

## List of Casinos in Northern Mariana Islands

There are 5 gambling facilities on the island of Saipan and 2 casinos located in San Jose on the island of Tinian. Saipan has more than 540 slots and gaming machines as well as 126 table games. Tinian has a total of 250 slots and gaming machines along with 100 table games.

The 5 casinos on the island of Saipan are:

1. Best Sunshine Live Garapan in Garapan.
2. Club 88 Garapan in Garapan.
3. Club 88 Marianas Resort and Spa in Garapan.
4. Club C e-Gaming Club in Susupe.
5. [Imperial Pacific Resort](#) in Garapan.

The 2 casinos on the island of Tinian are:

1. Plumeria Golf and Casino Resort in San Jose.
2. [Tinian Ocean View Casino Resort](#) in San Jose.



Northern Mariana Islands Slot Machine Casino Gambling: The island of Saipan.

## **Summary of Northern Mariana Islands Slot Machine Casino Gambling 2018**

The U.S. territory of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands is a collection of 15 islands in the northwestern Pacific Ocean about three-quarters of the way from to the Philippines from Hawaii. With its 53,883 residents as of the U.S. Census of 2010, most reside on the islands of Saipan, Tinian, and Rota.

Casino gambling was legalized in 2014 by the Senate, after years of being rejected by voters. Since, casino gambling has been a small but growing sector of the island economy formerly mainly reliant on tourism, and has an active casino junket industry.

*Northern Mariana Islands slot machine casino gambling* consists of 5 casinos on Saipan and 2 casinos on Tinian. Additional casinos include visiting cruise ships, legally allowed to keep their casinos open while docked.

Slot machine payout return percentages have not been made available to the public. Also, there has been no legal establishment of minimum payout return limits.

## **Professor Slots Video on Northern Mariana Islands Slot Machine Casino Gambling 2018**

<https://youtu.be/5y5-jEZ4Nzo>

## **Other State-By-State Articles from Professor Slots**

- Series: [Online Resource: State-By-State Slots Gambling Summaries](#) - Now in its second year, this series is an online resource dedicated to slot machine casino gambling enthusiasts. It provides 56 weekly, detailed gambling summaries covering each U.S. state, territory, and the federal district to capture dynamic changes occurring of late in the U.S. gaming/gambling industry specific to slots play.
- Previous: [North Dakota Slot Machine Casino Gambling 2019](#) - North Dakota slot machine casino gambling consists of 6 tribal casinos. The maximum bet is \$25. Slot machines have payout returns between 80% and 100%. Video games of skill have payout returns between 83% and 100%. Actual payout return statistics are not publicly available. Slots are not at racetracks or charitable gaming sites.
- Next: [Ohio Slot Machine Casino Gambling 2018](#) - Ohio slot machine casino gambling consists of 11 casinos, with all but 4 being pari-mutuel sites with video lottery terminal slot machines. Ohio has 4 Vegas-style casinos with traditional slot machines in Cincinnati, Cleveland, Columbus, and Toledo. All casinos report slot payout returns to the state gaming commission.