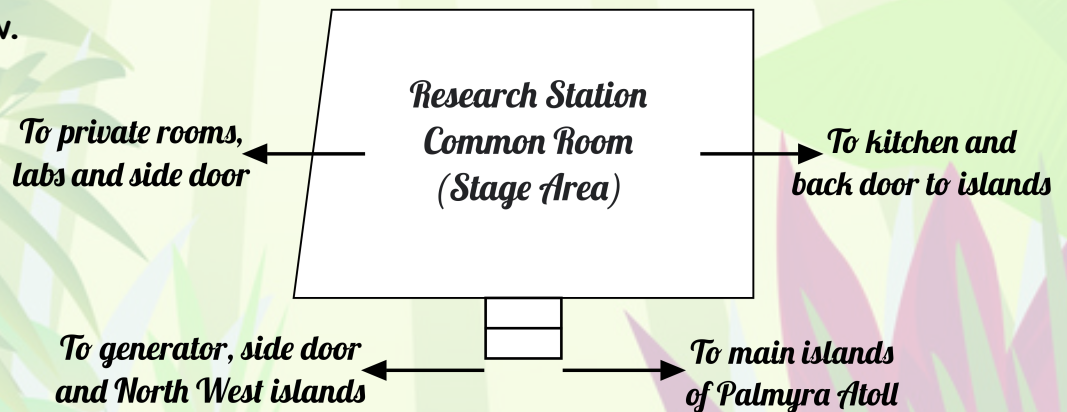


## Welcome to Palmyra Atoll

Brutal Biology is set on the most remote island in the world, Palmyra Atoll. It is a group of uninhabited, connected coral islands near the equator in the Northern Pacific Ocean. The closest habited place to the Atoll is Hawaii, which is over 1000 miles away. It is managed by the Nature Conservancy and the National Wildlife Refuge, all under the US government. There is a maximum of 25 people at one time staying on the islands for research and management purposes but they are not permanent residents. Tourists are rare and need special permission to moor their boats at, dive around or land on the islands in order to safeguard the extremely important, rare and protected habitats for marine life, seabirds (including several species of Booby) and other flora and fauna. Palmyra Atoll is also rumoured to be the most haunted place in the world with a history of shipwrecks, unexplained deaths, suicides, strange lights, disappearances, murders and reports by all those who set foot on the islands of a dark presence urging them to leave the Atoll. There is also reputed to be a lost haul of Incan gold, called the Esperanza Treasure, which was lost in 1817 somewhere near the Atoll. During World War II, there were troops stationed on the Atoll. There are structures from that time still present on the islands as well as areas that contain unexploded bombs. Our play is set in the common room area of the research station close to the only runway, as shown in the map below.



## Some key points to remember to help you in your sleuthing:

- The killer you see on stage is just a representation. The characters see the actual murderer but you will see a cloaked figure, who you cannot hear when they speak. This means you cannot rely on size, shape, handedness, etc. to guess the murderer.
- The actual murderer **IS** one of the suspects in the final lineup.
- Only the murderer can tell outright lies during audience questioning... but be careful, all characters can be very evasive!
- Ask as many questions as you can as the suspects come to your tables after Act Two and in the final lineup after Act Three. Listen carefully, some may have important clues! Take notes to help you remember questions and key facts.