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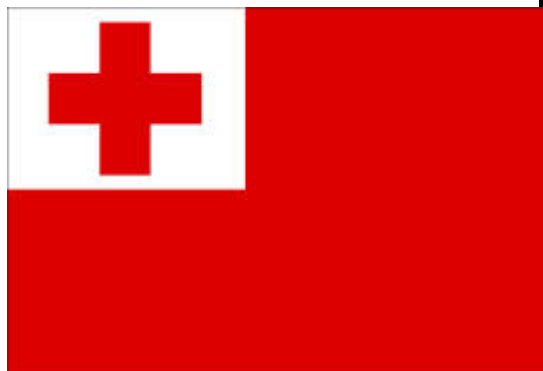
RCC

TRANS OCEAN

Vava'u, Kingdom of Tonga, South Pacific

GPS Coordinates of location: Lat: 18°41' 60 S Lon: 174°1' 60 W

Version 2024/01



Description of geographic area covered:

The **Vava'u Island group in the Kingdom of Tonga** is a spectacular tropical island paradise in the Pacific Ocean. It has a year-round climate suitable for swimming, snorkelling, diving and sailing. Some islands are ringed by white sand beaches while others have tropical forests, sea-level caves, and dramatic limestone cliffs with breath-taking vistas.

Remote and truly unspoiled, the waters around Vava'u are crystal clear with visibility exceeding 100 feet. Most of the islands are uninhabited, a few have villages, and a few have very small unique resorts with exceptional food. There is abundant sea life with over 100 species of colourful tropical fish, giant clams, manta rays, sea turtles, spinner dolphins, and July-October the Humpback whales! Truly a paradise with the only Polynesian Monarchy this is a truly remarkable place to explore.

Port officer's name: *Greg Just*
(Vava'u since 12 May 2007)



Email: greg@vavau.to
Twitter: @tongamazingweb
Instagram: tongamazingcom
Linkedin: tongamazingcom
Viber: +676 8812347
Phone +676 71322 VHF Ch: 26 "Tropicana"
Mobile: +676 8812347 or +676 7512347
Home Address: Mt Talau Citizen: NZ/UK/Tonga
Divemaster IT Manager Analyst/IT/Fin/PMP
Yachtie Master Drycleaner (nz) Treasury Analyst
Website: www.vavau.to/tropicana
Agent www.tongasuperyachts.com
Menu Deli <https://cafetropicnavavau.business.site/>
Media www.offloop.net/media password tropo
For Sale <https://cafetropicana.company.site/>
Tourism portals owned by Greg
www.vavau.to
www.haapai.to
www.tongatapu.to
www.whaleswim.to
www.sailingtonga.com
www.tongamazing.com
www.tongaholidays.com
Best way to contact: Cellphone
Online Tonga yacht survey **To Do**
www.vavau.to/portofficer.pdf
Show your support for this information
<https://www.buymeacoffee.com/tropicana>
UPDATED frequently– please download regularly

Services available from Cafe Tropicana:

- Offshore assist via offshoreassist@vavau.to
- Advanced Notice forms – Fiji/NZ/Australia.
- Courier package assistance/advice on request
- Snail Mail/Courier arrangements
- Yacht in transit SY Yacht Name
c/- Café Tropicana
Fatafehi Rd (or Private Bag 34 for Postal Service)
Neiafu, Vava'u
Kingdom of Tonga +676 71322
- Charts/Chartlets/Courtesy flags for the area
- Receiver of used oil/lead battery/dirty fuel
- Fully licenced bar
- Provisioning for whales/picnics/passage.
- Pre shop of supermarket provision items
- Ice cubes and 2kg solid ice blocks – rain water
- Solar powered USB/12v recharging points 2024
- Vava'u Deli: meats, delicatessen items
- Resell TCC/Digicel phone credit, Digicel Sms
- Gift Vouchers. Games (chess, poker ...
- LPG tank refill service – most adaptors
- AIS host via www.marinetraffic.com ADS-B
- via www.flightradar24.com
- Laundry: the only frontloading rain water and gas laundry in Tonga. Max 9kg per load.
- Shopping holding service (and frozen) while you shop intown.
- Espresso Coffee/Café/Bread/all day breakfast/lunch/Dinner
- Drinking water: potable filtered rain water, your container or our 20 litre loan container, free car ride to your yacht at wharf or small boat marina. Hot shower.
- Retail Store – carvings/maps/soaps/postcards/ magnets/iron on flags/lapel pins/cuff links...
Vava'u vanilla/coconut oil
- Harbour wifi provider SSID "Vava'u Net" Free info, weather etc. via a Walled Garden service. Musical instruments (guitar, harmonic, mandolin etc)
- Resell Kingdom Koffee. Beans (Ground (to order). Free cruisers welcome regular coffee – complete online survey
- Free booking and information service. Go to guy for help...
- Famous in Vava'u "Blue" comedy and "cyclone" wall
- Huge free book swap and reference library. Free 120gb ebooks/audio books.
- TV 800+series (11TB) and 10TB Movie (8000+) Documentaries, Concerts, Music, Comedy, Children, Fitness, Christian, Wiki offline). www.offloop.net/media password tropo
- Research, basic shopping cart. Series from 1978, hard to download over 5 years old series. Netflix drops older series. Working on tidying file order and gaps.
- Rentals – mountain bikes, kayaks, snorkel gear, tents, cars, scooters
- Local news/info feed Facebook www.facebook.com/groups/tongaexpatsandlocals
- https://www.vavau.to/Cruising_Guide3.pdf being updated., but useful info
- **No credit card facilities** – only a few restaurants accept, no supermarkets.
- Spare parts (pc/electrical) and a huge range of loanable tools
- Agents for Boat House Apartments in the harbour www.vavau.to/compendium.pdf useful landlubber information source
- Qualified Massage Therapist, Portable massage table, TENs unit, heat pad, Massage Gun, Swedish and Rock,
- Please advise corrections/suggestions to greg@vavau.to

- 08-17 SAR coordinator
- 14 on ADS-B / AIS Host
- 14-17 Formed Vava'u Blue Water Festival, gifted to VTA to manage 2018 on
- 15 on created 650+ FB POI
- 16 on, 2 rubbish bins in town and Mt Talau
- 14 to 19 wrote Cruising guide for Tonga, assist SV Soggy Paws
- 18 on, free reading glasses for locals, supplied by NZ
- 18 on formed PCA
- 20 on, formed Vava'u Community Trust NGO Youth sailing, education, employment Trust CT-199
- 23 on IIAB Internet in a box wiki wifi
- 23 on vavau.to/portofficer .pdf

*This guide will move to its permanent home www.sailingtonga.com with a lot more content when I can, an automatic redirect to the new page for www.vavau.to/portofficer.pdf. It will have a translation tool into other languages, searchable by subject, hosted on wifi and a few other surprises when it is converted to a web page. **TO DO***

All information is from my observations as a resident of Vava'u (since 2007) and citizen of Tonga (since 2015), it is given freely to improve tourism. I have sailed since I was 12, attended Outward Bound Anakiwa at 21. I have about 150 days of blue water sailing, Sunburst to yachts to Tall ships.NZ to Tonga 13 times. I am a divemaster. Voluntereed for NZ coastguard, Vava'u for 10 years with VERA (SAR).

I encourage yachts to join a Cruising Association of your choice, for those unforeseen events, sense of community, encourage the industry. Often I have been called blunt, this information is not to promote myself or my business, but to help you and Tonga. It is not a comparison and recommendation of providers (as some compendiums have done in 2023– if you wish to compare then use every provider, if you list a comment from one then talk to the other providers!). Ask if the operators recommend others, if they don't or won't help that gives you an indication of the persons character. This information is to be shared... Fair winds, following Seas. Leave only your wake and footprints in the sand, give more than you take...

I will add additional information on Ha'apai, Tongatapu, Eua, Niu when I can afford to travel, or get information from these Islands that is pertinent. I own a struggling Cafe with a TOP95k loan since COVID, no time, and no longer sail. If you wish to help with projects to help cruisers, like the following for example, come in and see me
Surveymonkey questions. Assist zuluwaterways.com with info. Drone/pic of POI. Passage plan to Fiji/Aus. Pacific cruising calendar
openstreetmaps.com/google earth gps info. Edit promo vid for Tonga. sailingtonga.com create wordpress.
Repair SY Lobo (sail school). Start sailing school. Convert PO guide to html. Help complete AID applications for various projects.
Complete Anchorage guide. Create Stopover in Tonga online pdf. Gather missing info from Ha'apai/Nukualofa.
Suggest itineraries sailing/activities. Build online app for SailingTonga. Review PO guide content ideas. Get Yacht Stats 2008 on.
Donate www.buymeacoffee.com/vavaucommunitytrust and state Cruising ONLY, or fund a project Other projects – see greg
We get little help from government like French Polynesia or AID to help with this type of work Any questions or suggestions for content are welcomed. greg@vavau.to
SY Two Moons

Tonga Government Fee summary for yachts

Ministry Health

Practique \$100 – entry port
\$20 per hour OVERTIME.

Marine and Ports, outward payment per port

Vava'u: \$0.45 per gross tonne per month.
Nuku'alofa: \$2.45 per gross tonne per month.
Ha'apai: \$0.80 per gross tonne per month.
Niu'toputapu: \$100 anchorage. Free on wharf though? Go into Marine and ports for receipts

Maff/Quarantine

Clearance fee per boat \$22
Rubbish \$0.40 per kg
Overtime \$20 per hour

Police

Fines of upto \$10,000 and/or imprisonment for swimming with whales on your own. Very dangerous anyway... a grumpy whale can hurt!
Don't drink and drive.
Do not park a car on the right hand side of the road,
Random check points...

PLEASE ASK FOR RECEIPTS EVERYTIME

UPDATED frequently – please download frequently, content suggestions are appreciated greg@vavau.to

Please share the link to fellow cruisers
www.vavau.to/portofficer.pdf

Add this link to your site, please try to let me know though as it is of interest to me.

Tonga Government Fee summary for yachts

Customs

After hours clearance \$140 – Saturday
Do not come ashore unless cleared by customs, fly Q flag
\$20 per hour OVERTIME
Entry/Exit ports – Nukua'lofa, Lifuka (Ha'apai), Neiafu (Vava'u), Niutoputapu
Boat visa 4 months, extend to 12 months on application - FREE
Inter Island Movement forms - FREE

Immigration

Non Visa country \$69 1 month
Schengen Country free 3 months
Visa waiver country free 1 month. Apply once you arrive, don't bother trying before hand.
Additional 31 day visa \$69 (max 6 months in total). A 15 day adult visa \$57.50. Children 31 day visa UNDER 16 \$11.50
ONLY Nukua'lofa and Neiafu can do visa extensions!!
One way crew fee \$34.50 (fly in, sail out crew).
One way crew visa \$34.50 (Nukua'lofa, Neiafu processing a week).
Visa expired/other breach fine \$1150
Overtime \$20 an hour

Fisheries

Vava'u use of Fisheries wharf during clear in/out, refuelling \$20

Consider doing an affidavit if you believe you have been corruptly charged....

Appreciate the info? I appreciate your financial help...

<https://www.buymeacoffee.com/tropicana>

Literally 100's of hours have been spent on this summary as people ask questions and I find information has changed.



Tonga Customs Advance Notice of Arrival (small craft)

Fax to: +676 24124 or email: Info@customs.gov.to

Section 12, Customs & Excise Management Act 2007

PERIOD OF ADVANCE NOTICE AND OTHER ADVICE

This form or the information on this form must be provided not less than 24 hours before the estimated time of arrival (ETA) of the craft in Tonga. Where it is not possible to give such notice electronically (e.g. by email or fax), the notice may be given by some other means (e.g. by telephone). To avoid delays in processing, in addition to providing this Advance Notice of Arrival, you should contact Maritime Radio on VHF channel 16, prior to arriving at your nominated Customs port to update or confirm your ETA. Please ensure that Customs continues to be updated via Maritime Radio or directly to Customs at the port of arrival.

PART A: CRAFT DETAILS

Name of craft		Value of craft	
Name of person in charge		Contact details	
Name of owner		Owner's address (Street number, street, city, country)	
Name of charterer (if applicable)		Charterer's address (Street number, street, city, country)	
Country of registration	Port of registration	Registration number	Total number of persons on board
Gross tonnage	Sail number	Home port	Radio call sign
Shore station or radio contact details			
Craft type: Yacht <input type="checkbox"/> Motor launch <input type="checkbox"/>	Length (overall) metres	Draft metres	Hull colour
Other (Specify)			Superstructure colour
Yacht rig: Cutter <input type="checkbox"/> Sloop <input type="checkbox"/> Ketch <input type="checkbox"/> Yawl <input type="checkbox"/> Schooner <input type="checkbox"/>	Hull type: Mono <input type="checkbox"/> Catamaran <input type="checkbox"/> Trimaran <input type="checkbox"/>		
Other (Specify)	Other (Specify)		

PART B: VOYAGE DETAILS

Port of arrival	Estimated date and time of arrival	Port arrived from and date of departure
LIST PREVIOUS OVERSEAS PORTS (Please list in sequence, last port first)		
1.	2.	
3.	4.	
5.	6.	

PART C: CREW AND PASSENGER DETAILS (PERSON IN CHARGE FIRST)

(Family name in block letters)

(Attach any additional details of crew members on a separate sheet)

Family name	First name(s)	Family name	First name(s)
Nationality	Date of birth	Nationality	Date of birth
	Gender		Gender
	Male / Female		Male / Female
Passport number	Place of issue (City)	Passport number	Place of issue (City)
Date and place joining craft		Date and place joining craft	
Family name	First name(s)	Family name	First name(s)
Nationality	Date of birth	Nationality	Date of birth
	Gender		Gender
	Male / Female		Male / Female
Passport number	Place of issue (City)	Passport number	Place of issue (City)
Date and place joining craft		Date and place joining craft	

PART D: COMMERCIAL CARGO (please record on a separate sheet and attach if additional space is required)

List all goods carried in or on the craft from a point outside Tonga, whether in the course of international trade or for sale or supply in those goods, but excludes the personal effects of crew and passengers and stores for craft.

PART E: OTHER DETAILS

FIREARMS	ANIMALS ON BOARD	
YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/>	Number of animals	Kind of animals
		Country and port where loaded

ICE In Case of Emergency

911 or 70699 Fire. 922 or 70233 Police.
933 or 70201 Hospital.
944 or 70798 or 7720115/6 Electricity.
Yachts can also hail 16/26 and ask for emergency assistance from "Vava'u Radio". See NGO section below for more details.

Float plan copies

Starlink has made a pronounced affect on cruising life. I have noticed VHF chat, get together and a sense of community have declined since SL is so prevalent. After a few to many instances of boats being overdue (partly because of Covid degrading yacht maintenance, and extreme weather). I have created floatplan@vavau.to so you can forward your [float plan](#) (editable pdf) to me so I can respond quickly if you are overdue. Here are some of the reasons for a [float plan](#). This will not be used for Tropicana for it's marketing, but I will add your email for national BCC marketing!

ALL Government departments will give receipts with the Tongan Crest on the top – anything else is NOT an official receipt, DO NOT encourage corruption!!!! See the last page for a summary of fees.

Government Ministry lunch break is 12.30pm to 1.30pm

Pre-arrival into Tonga

Complete Advanced Notice of Arrival and email to info@customs.gov.to or fax +676 24124 at least 24 hours prior to arrival, an email confirmation will normally be sent. Covid vaccination is not required any more. ---Remember it is illegal to charter your yacht in Tonga, do you really want to lose your boat?

-Guns must be handed in at your arrival port, they will be returned when you leave.

-All recreational drugs are Class A here. A recent group of locals and expats were handed down 2 to 15 year sentences in 2022 for Cocaine offences. <https://vavau.to/tongaanoa.pdf> a text version is on the second to last page for low internet connections. ANOA details are checked and verified against Interpol and Pacific Customs Intelligence units, don't mess around!

Customs:

International check in (first Tongan port – AT WHARF, unless bad weather, but call Customs to confirm)

Fly your Q flag; call Vava'u Customs on VHF 26/16, VVMRA may answer with details on procedure, wait for Customs, Health and Immigration (\$100 Practique FEE) to check you in. NO OTHER FEES, apart from overtime. Clear your cockpit of any cigarettes, alcohol, fishing lures and smaller items. We DO NOT encourage gifts to Government

Safe Boating and Rescue Coordination Centre NZ

RCCNZ

Calling from outside of New Zealand:
+64 4 577 8030

Email contact.beacons@maritimenz.govt.nz

- Spanning 30 million square kilometres, RCCNZ covers one of the largest search and rescue areas in the world.
- This area extends from the mid-Tasman Sea, halfway to Chile, and from the South Pole, almost up to the Equator.
- Every year, RCCNZ responds to approximately 1,200 search and rescue incidents.



Please check the registration name/address etc for your EPIRB, NZ is responsible for the 3rd largest marine Search and Rescue area in the World

Review the following articles to be better prepared, beforehand

[Rescue at sea, 20 things to be better prepared.](#)
[Things to know before a freighter rescues you at sea](#)

Price comparisons

Tonga is remote, outer Islands are even more so. International shipping and domestic shipping prices have sky rocketed especially since COVID. Food retail prices should be around 9% higher in outer Islands – they are closer to 50% on average or higher. Very little price regulation happens, or margin control. The only competition is to find the highest price to charge. Tonga revenue mandated retail shops use an online (linked to Revenue) POS in 2023. It has helped improve tax collection from the mainly Chinese supermarkets. ALL transactions must be entered and a receipt given. Report breaches to revenue (discreet video is best – it does not breach privacy law as only one party must consent to a recording – YOU).

This information is correct when it was entered and is given for you to be aware for comparison purposes only, no responsibility is taken for price changes. It will be updated periodically. **TO DO quarterly**

Vava'u 25/2/24 NZ butter 227g TOP 7.00. NZ Milk tetra TOP4.00, Local bread TOP3.00 (price controlled). Mobile Internet Top2.85 per GB (plan).

officials! Offer a sprite, coffee or juice...

Customs are open business hours Monday to Friday, Saturday till noon. You do not have to Clear in Saturday or after hours, an overtime fee of \$140 is charged on Saturday morning. Fly your Q flag, DO NOT come ashore, or allow non crew aboard – fines are \$1150 per person, plus deportation, confiscation of your vessel as in most countries!

Suitable casual attire to show respect please. Shirts, shorts, no see through clothing

International checkout; (last Tongan port - AT WHARF, unless bad weather). Immigration Office (only if you have crew flying in on one-way flights), then Marine and Ports to pay Lights and Buoy fee, then Customs and duty free fuel can begin once an Export permit has been written by customs.

Check calendar in Tonga for holidays, cruise ships, tides, sports and other events, also your destination country calendar for ETA. Nothing worse than prepping to leave and an event is on! **Pacific Calendar TODO**

As in ALL countries, you must leave the harbour and make your way out of Tongan waters... If you have issues VHF Customs and request return permission. The ONLY FEE payable on exit is to Ports and Marine unless you check out on weekends or overtime!!! DO NOT LOSE your Clearance/ZARPE documents! We have had several cases of people losing these.

DO NOT forget to complete your Advanced Notice of Arrivals for Fiji, NZ, and Australia etc.... massive fines! Take local currency with you checkin fees are FJD600+ NZD ? AUD ? Vanuatu ? New Cal ? Samoa USD? W Samoa ?

Fiji you must go to a quarantine ball, NZ/Aus you must go to a quarantine dock.

Check your passport is not within 6 months of expiring!

Cafe Tropicana has NZ yacht arrival packs – FREE. These have all the forms and information on arriving into NZ for a yacht

Customs, Health, Immigration have the option of coming aboard to check you out of the country.
Domestic checkout (not your final Tongan port. You DO NOT need to take the boat to the WHARF). Marine and ports to pay lights and buoys FEE, then Boarding Officer at Customs for local movement report – NO OTHER FEES, apart from overtime. CHECK your visa expiry DATES!
You will need boat papers and passports to complete this form.
Local Lights and Buoys fees must be paid at each Island prior to departing.

Domestic checkin (not your first Tongan Port. You

Ha'apai...

Nuku'alofa...

Covid history, yacht industry in Tonga:

Borders were closed January 2020. Covid was minimised by fairly tight requirement to stay in hotels for several weeks (MIQ) for people lucky enough to meet requirements. Very little (or fair) financial assistance was given to the Tourism industry from aid funds from overseas countries. An election in 11/21 changed the government. HTHH volcano 15/1/22 damaged the underwater fibre cable to Fiji (repaired 23/2/22) and buried the domestic cable to the outer Island (repaired 12/7/23). NZ, Australian and Fijian military force assisted but COVID became fairly widespread. Starlink delivered 50 units to Tonga (18/2/22), about 40 made it to the outer islands in very poorly planned locations. No assistance was forthcoming since the election. Maritime border reopens 27/9/22, minimal notice and less than 50 yachts for the year. Covid vaccination requirement removed 31/3/23. A few hundred yachts in 2023. September 2023 MDF (AUS/NZ) agrees to a review and assistance of the yachting industry, realistically this is a year long project before any improvement is felt. A yacht Steering Committee was approved by Cabinet and began mid Feb 2024. Tourism, Customs, Police, Marine and Ports, Health, Quarantine, Immigration, and eventually private sector. Please be mindful our tourism industry was poorly assisted, virtually no marketing of Tonga has occurred for many many years by Ministry of Tourism, which has 100 staff.

Services available within walking distance Vava'u:

- Hardware : EM Jones, (PTH is out of town)
- Laundry: Café Tropicana (front loading, rain water) or Bubbles Laundry (top loading, town supply water). No Drycleaners in Tonga
- Supermarkets – China Fortune, Neiafu Shopping Centre and various others, No credit cards accepted. No shops open Sunday, few restaurants open Sundays. No single one good shop, get receipts, compare prices.
Ministry of Revenue have installed POS terminals in nearly all shops to reduce tax evasion. It also helps reduce over charging and some profiteering. Ask for a receipt...
American Stores – Seventh Heaven, Utulangivake Petrol station, Famili Vava'u USA Trading. Tina Bourkes closed prior to 26
- Shopping is a lot better in Nukua'alofa, then Vava'u, then Ha'apai
- Produce at the 'Utakalongalu market on the waterfront, 6 days from 8am, best day Saturday, Night market Friday/Saturday up Tui road (police station road)
- Fish market just along from ferry ramp – best days Saturday, also you may hear a whistle from the fisherman. Ciguatera poisoning is in Rainbow Trout, Barracuda, and Moustache Snapper, not common in Vava'u, but it does occur
Ha'apai Northern reefs, active volcanoes to the west.
- Arts and Crafts market next to vegetable market on the waterfront, also Langafonua next to Tourism
- Post Office. Police, Fire Station and Governors Office
- Duty Free Liquor Shop
- Historical – Pounu Park
- **Cafe/Restaurant/Bar:** Please make reservations between July and October, if you can get menu's and preselect dishes. Hiring staff is a huge problem with so many Tongans

DO NOT need to take boat to the WHARF). Anchor, and at your convenience (within 2 days) visit immigration (copy of the crew list is also required) local movement report from Boarding Officer at Customs. NO FEES, apart from overtime. CHECK your visa expiry DATES!

Vava'u
Phone: +676 70053 676 70928 VHF 26/16
GPS: 18°39'7.04"S 173°59'4.18"W
Halaevahu Wharf
Boarding Officer pooikaufusi@gmail.com

Nuku'alofa
Phone: 23651 VHF Ch: 16
GPS coord: 21° 8'24.41"S 175°10'45.38"W
Location Port Authority Building.

Ha'apai
Phone: 60651 VHF Ch: 16
Does check ins once a day at 9am.

Niuaotupapu
Phone: None? VHF Ch: 16

Customs Forms and locations

Advance Notice Of Arrival
<https://vavau.to/tongaanoa.pdf>
Inward Report
<https://vavau.to/tongainwardreport.pdf>
Outward Report
<https://vavau.to/tongaoutwardreport.pdf>
Outward Clearance C15 – duty free fuel
<https://vavau.to/tongaoutwardclearance.pdf>

Local Movement Report (Internal) – domestic
<https://vavau.to/tongalocalmovement.pdf>

Appointed Masters Letter – if owner is absent from vessel. <https://vavau.to/master1.pdf>
See later for list of Yacht Masters based here.

Checkin and out for immigration purposes is done by Customs. New visa, one-way fee, fines must be done through Immigration Ministry.

Yachts have a 4 month visa, extendable to maximum 12 months by application prior to former boat visa expiring. See Customs.

Hours 9am 12:30pm. 1:30pm -4.30pm M to F
Website: www.revenue.gov.to
Email: inforev@revenue.gov.to
NO fees inward/outward
Weekend clearance \$140
\$20 per hour Sat/Sun OVERTIME.

Immigration:

Vava'u
Phone: +676 70629 +676 71443 VHF: None
GPS coord: 18°39'11.99"S 173°58'56.65"W
Location: Sanft Building I – first floor
Senior sunialilo@gmail.com +676 70629

now employed in NZ and Australia picking/packing fruit.

Food Price range [Cafe Tropicana bar and grill](#) (\$\$), [Humpback Lodge](#) (\$\$ dinghy access via causeway road), [Kraken Vava'u](#) (\$\$\$), [Bella Vista](#) (\$\$\$), [Basque Tavern](#) (\$\$\$), [Tongan Beach Resort](#) (\$\$\$\$), [Harbourview](#) (\$\$\$ dinghy access via Koko bay), [Mango Cafe](#) (\$\$\$\$)
Beer Prices to confirm [Café Tropicana Bar and grill](#) All \$9, [Sam Restaurant](#) \$8 to \$10, [Humpback Lodge](#) (\$9+ dinghy access via causeway road), [Kraken Vava'u](#) (\$10+), [Bella Vista](#) (\$10+), [Basque Tavern](#) (\$10+), [Tongan Beach Resort](#) (\$10+), [Harbourview](#) (\$10+ dinghy access via Koko bay), [Mango Cafe](#) (\$10+)

I recommend pay as you go for drinks at all establishments, it stops accidents happening – another tables drinks on yours, overcharging.

- **Free internet at Cafe Tropicana (minimum spend \$15 per device) please plug in ear buds do not use your speaker, Harbourview, Bella Vista free internet 30 minutes.**
- Transport:
 - Mountain Bike and Kayak hire in Café Tropicana
- **Vava'u Taxis:** Ana Tevunga Taxi Stand: 8872525 7519622 Tevita 7513124 Hene 8616430 Kava 8442756 Hingoa 7209072 Latu 8771826. Please ask for a price for your trip, PRIOR, to getting into the taxi. We don't have taxi meters. Carry small notes to avoid no change! 31/10 indicative Airport to Neiafu \$50. Airport to Nukualofa \$70
- **Vava'u Car Rentals.** Café Tropicana (day only \$45+ gas, \$15 fuel runs) 7am till 3pm, Coconut Car Rentals.
- **Airlines. Akl/Nuk. Nadi/Vav. Suva/Nuk.**
Do not rely on Taxi being at Vava'u airport: book one
 - Lulutai Tonga Domestic Airline +676 70688 next to Tourism, Nukualofa 264888.for.website basic no online booking/schedule overseas bookings please email lepani.baleinausori@lulutai-airlines.to or siaosi.tangitau@lulutai-airlines.to
Please check your flight times 24-48 hours prior to departure, best to give them your Tongan Cellphone number so they can text or call you for changes. Flight times change frequently! Book a taxi or arrange with your accommodation
 - Air Fiji +676 24022 Nadi to Vavau seasonal. Suva to Nuk most days. Also cheaper/better way to get to Auckland from Vava'u.
 - Talofa Airlines American Samoa pago pago Tue to Vava'u Fri Nukualofa www.talofaairways.com enquiries@talofaairways.com +685 26116 8829421 8722325
 - Airnz to Nukua'alofa 30073. Qantas to Nuk+679 323 9030.
- **Domestic National Ferries – freight/passage**
 - Domestic Ferry Kelesi (Ko e Kelesi Pe) +676 7770965 owned by Niu island osimiki@gmail.com No website
 - Domestic Ferry FISA (Otu AngaOfa and Niu Vaki) +676 23853 friendlyislandshippingagency@gmail.com www.friendlyislandshippingagency.com
 - Domestic Ferry Tofa Ramsay (Taka I Pomana and Vaomapa) +676 7725972 ramsayshippingcompany@gmail.com No website
- International Shipping Freight
Matson Shipping www.matson.com
NZ [Schedule](#)
Australia [Schedule](#)

Services available in area covered:

- **Superyacht Agencies**
Super Yacht Services dhunttonga@gmail.com David Hunt
Yacht Help dgleonard@hotmail.com Derek Leonard
Tongasuperyachts.com superyacht@vavau.to Greg Just.

Nuku'alofa
Phone: 23969 VHF Ch:
GPS coord: 21° 7'58.74"S 175°11'55.51"W
Location: St George building, Kolofo'au

Ha'apai – no extensions
Phone: NA VHF Ch:

Niutoputapu – no extensions
Phone: NA VHF Ch:

Email: visatonga@gmail.com
Hours 9am 12:30pm. 1.30pm -4:30pm M to F
Website: No website
Phone: 7401888
30 day free visa. 90 day free visa for Schengen countries. Check free list.
Maximum 6 months visa.
Country Boarding officer 7755160 Havea
\$69 per 31 day Visa, \$57.50 for 15 day visa
\$11.50 per 31 day under 16 years
DO NOT let it expire! \$1150 fine.
NO other fees inward/outward
One way crew fee \$34.50 (fly in, sail out crew).
One way crew visa \$34.50 – must have passport, flight details, has to be done by Vava'u or Nuku'alofa Officer in Charge, so may take 5+ days.
<https://vavau.to/crew1.doc> has all the information you need as a word document, edit the document as required, you must print it for immigration. Has to be paid in cash, can only process after a vessel arrives in the Kingdom, fee in cash. The only alternative is to buy a cancellable return ticket from say Air NZ.
\$20 per hour Sat/Sun OVERTIME.

Ministry of Health:

Vava'u
Phone: +676 70201 +676 70204 +676 758 4644
Health Officer 7710338, 7769916, 8845145
VHF Ch: NONE
GPS: 18°38'45.06"S 173°59'3.01"W
Ngu Hospital, Talau, Vava'u
Senior ftautuaa2018@gmail.com +676 7710338
+676 8840197

Nuku'alofa
Phone: 7400403
Health Officers 23200 VHF Ch: NA
GPS coord: 21° 9'19.56"S 175°13'6.79"W
Location Vaiola Hospital

Ha'apai
Phone: 60203 VHF Ch: NA
GPS coord: 19°48'12.88"S 174°20'42.81"W
Location Niu'ui Hospital, Hihifo

Niutoputapu
Phone: 7585605 80100 VHF Ch: NA
Location

Health Practique form is part of a book.

If this summary helps you... please support Café Tropicana or give a donation to

<https://www.buymeacoffee.com/tropicana>

- **Slipways**
Fishing slipway for smaller monohulls
Pafilios slipway for multihulls
The Boatyard - Mono and multihulls on hard storage.
- **Water**
Town supply water available at Moorings/Riki Tiki by appointment please
Filtered rain water from Café Tropicana
Rain water showers at Café Tropicana
- **Fuel**
Fuel available at Moorings or fuel stations.
Duty free fuel at check-out wharf Min 200litres 70972. Pacific Fuels booked 24-48 hours prior to departure. See later page for more info on Pacific Energy
Kerosene – Motor Part Services, Vaitohi Petrol Station, Maka Petrol Station. Or ask on VHF for advice if you can't find it
- **Duty Free Alcohol**
Leiola Duty Free +676 70148 next to Cafe Tropicana Take your clearance paper to duty free, purchase spirits ONLY, they will deliver to customs immediately. Customs will tick items off receipt and hand to the yacht.
- **Moorings** – All moorings are privately owned. Do not just take one, different size blocks, chain etc. Approx \$15 a night but does vary based on weight and season. Do not attempt to leave without paying, owners may talk to customs if monies are owed.
 - Beluga Diving VHF 09 +676 70327 (yellow and white numbered buoys) belugadivingvavau@hotmail.com
 - Moorings +676 8746400 Shane@moorings.co.nz
 - No anchoring fields Neiafu
www.vavau.to/vavauharbournanchor.jpg
- **Trades**
 - Welding/Fabrication. Friendly Island Fabrication Ken 8437123 friendlyislandfabrication@gmail.com
 - Diesel mechanic Tau +676 8731368 +676 8627252
 - Sewing/canvas repairs – Riki inherited sewing machines from the late Canvas repairer. Philip Wheeler 8771066
 - Sewing: clothing repairs/CMT. Contact Cafe Tropicana vhf 26 tropicana@vavau.to
 - Electrical/electronics - nil
 - HVAC -nil
 - Outboard – nil
 - Rigging – nil (tuning through Veni)
 - Yacht Master on water service: checking vessel, engines etc Riki Tiki Diving +676 8771066 rikikitonga2@gmail.com
 - Beluga Diving +676 70327 info@belugadivingvavau.com
 - Yacht cleaning/caretaking airing, cleaning, checking etc Cafe Tropicana +676 8812347 tropicana@vavau.to
 - Storage – dry/secure 2x20ft
Cafe Tropicana +676 8812347 tropicana@vavau.to
 - Fiji has a lot of services, send something to Fiji to be repaired by air or with your fellow cruisers and then have it flown or sailed back. See [Shores and Marinas](#) for facilities
- **Insurance** – Overseas insurers are now able to arrange cover through the cyclone season in Tonga (although the cover excludes Windstorm damage). In recent years, the only South Pacific location acceptable to our insurers during the Windstorm season was ashore at Vuda Point, in Fiji.
List of cyclones since 2004 to do

Other useful information specific to this area:

Hours 9am – 12:30pm, 1:30pm - 4.30pm, M to F
 Website: www.health.gov.to
 \$100 Practique form is in a book – entry port
 NO other fees inward/outward
 \$20 per hour Sat/Sun OVERTIME.
 An optometrist technician is available at the hospital, Fred Hollows Foundation donated equipment,
 Dental services are also available, Monday is the busiest day. A private Dental clinic is also in Toulra Dr Liane 70054 8788228 7731156

Pharmacy at Hospital. Vava'u has 2 independent pharmacies and doctor by appointment. Universal pharmacy and clinic +676 70213 and Seini's pharmacy and clinic +676 8820427. A third pharmacy is planned to be located in the old ANZ building (same block as Cafe Tropicana) March 2024.

A good idea to carry some PCR test for your own piece of mind.

Dengue, Zika and Chikungunya are in Tonga during the tourist season, bring deet spray etc

Staph is in the shoreline, do not swim if you have open cuts. Clean and cover 2-4 times a day, avoid an infection that requires antibiotics!

If you have to stay overnight in the Hospital, you have to supply your own linen, toiletries. Nurses do not look after you as such, you must have family, do friends this...

Quarantine:

Protecting Tongas plants and animals. Yacht rubbish clearance. Please also contact them regarding procedures for clearing in animals prior to arriving into the county.

www.vavau.to/biosecurityinvasivespecies.jpg

At this time no restrictions on fruit, veg, food. Best to declare fruit and veg though in case of issues. If you have crew they can bring in frozen meat in an insulated bag, with a receipt,.. Declare it on arrival and pay a very reasonable duty fee.
 Bear in mind below regulations as we tend to follow local trends.

No vets in Vava'u.

Fiji has increased biosecurity quarantine standards, no pork, labelled vac packed NZ meat, honey, eggs. animals bonded to private yachts.

Aus – no pork with bone, meat in cans only, no honey, cheese, eggs

NZ – labelled nz meat only, no honey, eggs, no veg

Vava'u

- **SPEED limit in the harbour** 5 knot – and/or no WAKE. Be aware of wake for other yachts, swimmers, divers, fisherman turtles, whales! By order Marine and Ports Harbourmaster.
- **Docks/Marina access in town.** The small boat marina in front of the 3 story blue roofed OTTO.G.SANFT VAVA'U LTD building is a good place to tie up the dinghy and has good access to the town. However, the dock is in pretty bad shape since 2017. So be careful when tying up. A few cruisers with inflatable dinghies received a puncture and or tear after docking here. Tongan government is waiting for AID money to repair/replace the dock after no maintenance was done and it sunk. Tongan viilage and fishing boats also use this marina. Several expats managed to get one pontoon re-established (Riki Tiki using line from Cafe Tropicana). Floating dock at Kraken Restaurant: welcomes yachts to use their dinghy dock for a safe place to leave their dinghy while they go to town. Climb the stairs and turn left to go to town. Kraken opens from 3pm Monday to Friday, 11am Saturday and Sunday
 Floating dock at Mango Restaurant: They do not mind if you tie your dinghy here and go to town, Climb the stairs on the right and turn left to go to town.
- Please consider the environment and follow MARPOL rules and go 3 nautical miles to dump septic waste.
- Please walk on the pavement/sidewalk – NOT the road, this is a LEFT side driving country, the roads, drivers and cars are not very good. If no sidewalk walk on the right side of the road (against traffic so you can see vehicles)
- Cover and clean any open wounds, flies carry staph bacteria. Stay out of the sea, especially the first 50 metres from shore.
- Beware of Alofi a tall Tongan hawker – flag maker/bread/feasts etc. he does not own cows and wil sell any lines/ropes you give him.. Rides a bike. Report any problems to the Police, or Ministry of Tourism. He does homemade flags from tshirt material, charges for everything he does and frequently exaggerates about services he offers. Cruises through town on a bicycle, catch phrase "hello my friend".to show you his guest book from other cruisers, AVOID talking to him...
- Security and Safety are not normally an issue, but lock your boat up, do not leave things in your dinghy etc
- Special Management Areas/Fish Habitat Reserve SMA/FHR are now in place, the legislation is designed to protect the breeding areas and environment. Fees to anchor, snorkel and dive can be levied by the village whose waters are protected. Officers carry ID, give receipts etc. An old tonga sma/fhr map is available https://vavau.to/Tonga_SMA-flier.pdf Individual island updates here <https://vavau.to/vavausma2023.jpeg> <https://vavau.to/haapaisma2023.jpeg> www.vavau.to/biosecurityinvasivespecies.jpg
- Whale watching regulations 2013
 1.Unless you are in a licenced whale watching or whale swimming vessel, you are not allowed to approach any whale closer than 300m
 2. Swimming with whales is prohibited unless you are on a licenced vessel and in the water with a certified guide.
 3. If a whale surfaces near you, you should change the course of your vessel, in a safe manner, and move 300m from the whales at no-wake speed.
 4. Kayaking with humpback whales is prohibited unless the kayak is launched from a licenced vessel.
 5 No jet Skis are allowed within 2km of any whale.
 First time offence is a fine of between \$1,000 and \$5,000 and/or imprisonment of up to 18 months
 Repeat offence is a fine of between \$1000 and \$10000 and/or imprisonment of upto 3 years.

Phone: 70635 VHF: no
Location: Quarantine building, next to customs
GPS Coord: 18°39'6.90"S 173°59'4.93"W
OIC tahi.vulangi22@gmail.com +676 8420147

Nuku'alofa
Phone: 24257 VHF:
Location: Post Harvest Building, Hala Vuna, Toulaki
GPS coord: 21° 8'23.91"S 175°10'37.59"W

Ha'apai
Phone: 60400 VHF:

Niutoputapu
Phone: 80010 VHF:

Conveyancing Inspection Form is part of a book.

Clearance fee per boat \$22
Rubbish \$0.40 per kg
Overtime \$20 per hour

Hours 8.30am to 12.30pm, 1.30pm to 3pm M to F
Website: www.maff.gov.to
Email: info@maff.gov.to

Marine and Ports:

Vava'u
Phone: +676 70100 +676 70657 VHF Ch: NONE
GPS coord: 18°38'57.61"S 173°58'43.86"W
Above Customs, Vava'u wharf
OIC Pahafuavao23@gmail.com +676 70639

Nuku'alofa
Phone: 22555 VHF Ch:
GPS coord: 21° 8'24.41"S 175°10'45.38"W
Location Port Authority Building.

Ha'apai
Phone: 60100 VHF Ch:

Niutoputapu
Phone: 7585506 VHF Ch:

Hours 8.30am - 12pm, 1.30pm - 3pm M to F
Email: akaufusi@foi.gov.to
Website: www.infrastructure.gov.to/marine-ports
No fees inward.

Vava'u: \$0.45 per gross tonne per month.
Nuku'alofa: \$2.45 per gross tonne per month.
Ha'apai: \$0.80 per gross tonne per month.
Niu'toputapu: \$100 A fee of some description- go into Marine and ports for receipts

Were doing no charge for time in the boatyard, stopped after Covid. If gross tonnage on yacht papers is incorrect, download proof from manufacturer, make/model sites.

Waste Authority Limited:

State owned enterprise of the government of Tonga, heavily supported by Japan. Rubbish fees are paid by all households and business. Fines for dumping

Season starts 1 July each year from 2023. No end date though, but generally whale numbers drop off markedly by mid November MOST years.

<https://vavau.to/TongaWhaleWatchingandSwimmingRegulations2013.pdf>

- Do not feed street dogs, they might bite the next person walking by with food who does not feed them....imagine if it is child... Please report dog bites to the Police.
- **Banks** BSP is the only full service bank 9am to 4.30pm. ANZ closed 2020.2 ATMS BSP bank and next to Leiola duty free. Cirrus/Visa. Foreign currency at BSP, MBF, Western Union. Take several forms of ID.
- **Drones** Drones must be registered at Tonga Civil Aviation before you fly them. Do not invade people's privacy, Not to be flown on Sundays.. <https://isp.page/news/how-to-obtain-a-drone-permit-in-tonga-a-step-by-step-guide/?fbclid=IwAR3xqwVuUT1TEmvvp-TZnlvCnS6265EE8-cCCQ2ZtPgSO8Bo3Lo08WZLTVs>
- **Etiquette** In town: men must wear a shirt at all times (and shorts of course). Woman dress conservatively (no bikini, see through clothing etc). Also do not get drunk or abusive, especially in town.
- **Sundays** only a few restaurants open. No shops. No noise
- **Power** 50hertz 220v Aus/NZ plug adaptors from most Chinese. 1/11/23 TOP1.06 per kwh i.e. NOT CHEAP, If you use power ashore please buy something from the shop to say thanks!
- **Smoking** law in restaurants, cafes, shops, public buildings Is NO SMOKING, please respect the law and others rights

Local Charts and Chartlets:

- Sailingbirds Guide to Vava'u/Ha'apai sold at Café Tropicana
- www.vavau.to/marineguide free pdf for all of Tonga. Created by Cafe Tropicana not updated since 2019
- NZ822 / NZ82 / NZ14605 / NZ14602/ 2691 Fiji A0 charts and laminated A3 Chartlets – sold at Café Tropicana
- www.vavau.to/weather all the weather in one spot!
- GigGuide/Calendar with summary of local regulations., other local events are on the calendar. www.vavau.to/gig_guide_2023.pdf

Embassies, Consulates, Honorary consuls

- [NZ](#) High Commission. Nukua'lofa
- [Australian](#) High Commission. Nukua'lofa
- [Japanese](#) Embassy. Nukua'lofa
- [United States of America](#) Embassy. Nukua'lofa
- [Chinese](#) Embassy. Nukua'lofa
- [United Kingdom](#) High Commission,. Nukua'lofa EU – see below
- [France](#) Honorary Consul, Nuku'aofa
- [Italy](#) Honorary Consul, Nuku'aofa
- [Sweden](#) Honorary Consul, Nuku'aofa
- [Czech](#) Honorary Consul, Nuku'aofa
- [Spanish](#) Honorary Consul. Nukua'lofa
- [German](#) Honorary Consul. Nukua'lofa
- [Netherlands](#) Honorary Consulate, Nukua'lofa
- [Finland](#) Honorary Consulate, Nuku'aofa

Local cruising NET:

- VHF Vava'u Cruisers Net VHF Channel 26 8.30am each

waste \$20 to \$2000, do the right thing!
Used oil, batteries please drop to Cafe Tropicana. No recycling for bottles, can etc.

Vava'u

Phone: +676 70704 VHF Ch: NONE
Kings Rd, way out of town
OIC Tevita Toli tevita.toli@gmail.com

Ha'apai

Phone: +676 60234 VHF Ch: NONE

Tongatapu

Phone: +676 27826 VHF Ch: NONE

Rubbish bins in town are for public use, normally collected Fridays in town, please be considerate if your rubbish smells. Do not use for used oil, batteries. A large bin down at the wharf for yachts, please bag rubbish, please respect this free service. For large collections please call or email Tevita.

Hours 8.30am - 12pm, 1.30pm - 3pm M to F

Email: it@wasteauthoritylimited.com

Website:

<https://www.facebook.com/wasteauthoritylimited>

Police

Visitor drivers licences are not required as of 2022. Any valid international drivers licence is acceptable, you are required to carry it when driving.

Left hand drive, park on the left hand side, not crossing traffic – european parking rules are illegal in the pacific!

No public drinking in town, no public drunkenness or swearing.

Vehicle registration plates – just for fun

C Car

T taxi

B Bus

H Heavy

L Large

J Jumbo

P Public (government)

National Yacht Survey -

Tonga is conducting a major Yachting Economic Impact Assessment which will help drive positive change at a national level. This is a HUGE opportunity to improve Tonga's yachting industry.

If you have sailed through Tonga please follow the link and complete the survey. Be in the draw to win a USD \$500 Amazon gift card!

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/SingleUseYachtTonga>

The survey has been funded by Market

morning except Sunday, since late 80's. Alternative VHF 06 if 26 is down <https://www.facebook.com/vavaucruisersnet>

Please observe net etiquette – hail and wait for the net controller to call you, don't just jump in and start talking or you could double with another station or your in the wrong section. VHF is not to be used to advertise – an exception is made for the Vava'u Cruisers Net, lets not screw this up.

As in most places that have a vhf net, it is called Vava'u Cruisers Net (and has been since the late 80's), It is not the Vava'u Cruisers Information Net as one business has renamed it to promote it's business.

Vava'u Cruisers Net...order of service

Emergency/priority traffic

Check-ins/Whose listening

Arrivals and departures

Weather

Buy/sell/trade/swap/free

Lost and found

Crew available/wanted

Local special events/information/announcements

Public events

Anything else

Brief adverts from local business 30 seconds each. Sometimes move to another channel if a fishing comp, other is on VHF26

VHF Channels Vava'u:

- 06 Backup channel for VHF Net
 - 09 Beluga dive/Beluga moorings
 - 16 Hailing ONLY – Mayday/Pan Pan etc.
 - 26 Repeater channel – VHF Net and used for long range communication, please be considerate, if you are talking to vessels that are close to you. Be aware this channel is monitored by Customs, Police, Governor and Tourism!
 - 71 Game Fishing
 - 72 Moorings/Sunsail calling
 - 73 Moorings/Sunsail working
 - 74 Whale watching operators
 - 77 Mounu Island
 - Please be considerate and discrete on all VHF channels, especially the above and move to a non-working channel as soon as practical...
- 08, 14, 17, 68 Common chat channels, be aware nosy people may follow you and listen in....

Cruiseships

Tonga gets over 20 cruiseships a year, Vava'u about 7+. Tours and venues are normally booked through the cruiseship, these venues/tours are not available except through the cruiseship, an exception are island tours using taxis but this is problematic as finding a taxi cannot be FUN or cheap! Most venues are normally paid tours from the cruiseship so not available to the public. **To do cruiseship guide for passengers – activities. Shops, cafes, internet, beer** www.vavau.to/cruiseships.pdf

For cruisers: not a good day to checkin, checkout, or refuel.

Customs staff are normally on board helping with immigration, wharf has stalls and tenders coming and going. Restaurants and cafes could be busy if the ship is over 2000 people.

Must See and do in VAVA'U: All have FB Points of Interest (POI) created by myself <https://vavau.to/sitenames> **update**

Development Facility (MDF) which is an Australian and New Zealand Government joint Funding initiative
<https://www.facebook.com/marketdevelopmentfacility>

Tongamazing online Survey

I am also conducting an ongoing online survey, aimed at quantifying economic benefits of yachting, as well as gathering comments and suggestions to improve cruising facilities, and customised to Tonga. Information shared with Vava'u Tourism Association (VTA) and possibly Ministry Tourism and Tonga Tourism Advisory Board. **To do tonga surveys marine.doc**

Yacht Numbers in Tonga; to be completed

	06	07	08	09	10
Tongatapu	215	181	259		
Vava'u	444	416	551	460	450
Ha'apai	62	36	91		
Niua's	65	85	80		
	786	718	981		

That's all we've got in terms of statistics.

ANOA Text version

If you have to divert to Tonga and have limited internet, email and complete text version of ANOA if you can. Explain reason for diversion. Signature is not required.

Info@customs.gov.to

Advanced Notice Of Arrival – text version

Part A craft details

Name of Craft

Name of person in charge

Name of owner

Name of Charterer

country of registration

port of registration

gross tonnage

sail number

home port

craft type - yacht/motor

length overall meter

yacht rig cutter/

sloop/ketch/yawl/schooner/other

value of craft

contact details

owners address (street, number, city, country)

charterers address (street, number, city, country)

registration number

total number of pax on board

radio call sign

as more have been added to do

Suggested itineraries 3, 7, 14, 30 days to do

- Tongan Feast – various. Island and main Island venues constantly change each year
- Walk up [Mt Talau](#) National Park; magnificent views from lookout platforms
- [Swallows](#) and [Mariners](#) cave tour
- Kava circle at Fire station or village, \$5 for the night. Great singing
- Church 10am for amazing singing at [Catholic Cathedral](#), English service at [City Impact Church](#) in Toulua, dress appropriately, sit at the back so you can leave.
- Talau Cemetery – Palangi Cemetery
- [Pouonu Park](#) – birth place of Vava'u Code
- [Kilikilitefua Wall](#) (Makave) the old census system
- Beaches ([Eneio](#) Private), Keitahi (Private), Talihau Beach, [Ano Beach](#), [Holeva Beach](#)
- [Toulua](#) cemetery and Veimumuni Caves
- 'Utula'aina (Holonga), 'Esi 'o Salota (Holonga), [Hila Ki Tapana/I 'o Mata'aho Mount](#) (Leimatua), Lolo 'a Halavalu (Neiafu), Fa ko Fiem'a (Vai ko lelea) (Neiafu), Sia 'o Kafoa (Taoa), 'Api 'o Maka (Taoa), ['Otualea Beach](#) (Ha'alaufuli), [To 'anga'ofa](#) (Utui)
- Whaleswim July to Oct/Nov. Season from 1/7. 26 Whale Licence holders in Vava'u.
- Gamefishing – nearly all year. [Fighting Lady](#), [Ashlee G Fishing Adventures](#), [Blue Marlin Magic](#), [Kiwi Magic](#), [Monu Ia](#)
- Sailing – nearly all year. [Moorings/Sunsail](#)
- Sea kayaking – nearly all year, [FIKCO](#)
- Diving - nearly all year. [Riki Tiki Dive](#), [Beluga Dive](#), [Tonga Dive](#). It is illegal to scuba with whales, a few operators will do a split dive/whale swim at the start and end of the season ONLY. Don't be a dick and spearfish around dive sites! Dive with local operators please, but here is a good list of popular/old dive sites, some would have changed with HTHH Tsunami, please advise changes.
<https://svsoggypaws.com/tongadive/index.htm>
www.vavau.to/vavaudivingkiteboardingsnorkelling.pdf
- Accommodation and Tourist information
www.tongatourism.travel or
<https://tongapocketguide.com/the-complete-guide-to-tonga/>
- Marine guides www.zuluwaterways.com (and app) is my recommended online/offline geo/app. **To do regional on/offline cruising guide.**
<https://www.svsoggypaws.com/files/Tonga Compendium.pdf>
- Surfing kitesurfing spots in Tonga at Ha'atafu, Vava'u
www.vavau.to/vavaudivingkiteboardingsnorkelling.pdf
- GPS geo information. Consider updating www.openstreetmaps.com and Google Maps if you find new POI as this feeds into most geo based apps/programs free of charge, wiki foundation and Google. **To Do update for sites of interest to cruisers and land tourists – looking for volunteer. Drone, camera, car loan, boat, pc and internet connection**

Non-Government Organisations/Charities/Volunteering:

- VCT/VBWS Vava'u Community Trust. Youth NGO Trust. CT-199 Employment, education. Owns Vava'u Blue Water School (Sailing and swimming school), Accepting volunteers to repair our training vessel SY Lobo and other projects. See Greg at Cafe Tropicana who is the secretary
<https://www.facebook.com/vavaucommunitytrust>
- VVMRA Vava'u Volunteer Maritime Response Association

shore station or radio contact
 draft meters
 hull colour
 superstructure colour
 hull type mono/catamaran/trimaran/other
 Part B voyage details
 port of arrival - tonga
 estimated date and time of arrival
 port arrived from and date departure
 list of overseas ports (last 6 ports, last port first)
 Part C crew and passengers - copy as required
 Family name
 first names
 nationality
 date of birth
 gender male/female
 passport number
 place of issue - city
 date and place of joining
 Part D cargo
 Any commercial cargo - details
 Part E - other
 Firearms
 animals on board - kind of animal/country and
 port boarded

Vava'u Directory **to be completed**

Name	Number	VHF
Police	911 or 922 70324	16
Fire	999 70089	
Ambulance	933 70201	
VVMRA	8465645 7565645 "Vava'u Radio"	26 16
Cafe Tropicana	71322 8812347 Tropicana@vavau.to	26
Customs	70052 70053	16 26
Immigration		
Quarantine		
MAFF		
Health		
Marine and Ports	70639	
Pharmacy	70213	
ATS Vava'u	70139	
Air NZ Nuk	23192 NUK	
BSP Bank		
Beluga Diving		09
DHL NUK	27700 NUK	
EM Jones hardware	70422	
Lukes Supermarket	71222	
Lulutai Airlines	70688	
Pacific Fuels	70972	
Tonga Gas	70319	
Western Union	70888	

Learn a little Tongan... **to be completed**

Monitors VHF 26/16 24 x 7, responds to local and EPIRB (via RCC NZ), works with Tonga police, and locals/yachts based in Vava'u for emergency Response www.vvmra.org VHF 16/26 "Vava'u Radio" emergency, not general enquiries Cell +8465645 +7565645 Brian. vvmratonga@gmail.com
 Also has hospital stay kits: linen etc you have to supply your own linen, toiletries etc if you have to stay in Hospital here.
 P O Box 43 Neiafu, Vava'u, Kingdom of Tonga

- VEPA Vava'u Environmental Protection Association. An environmental NGO based in Vava'u. Mangrove, education, turtle and other conservation. Located next to the Bookshop in the middle of town. www.vavauenvironment.org Accepting volunteers <https://vavauenvironment.org/volunteer/>
- Vava'u Public Library The first public library in Tonga and a self-funded NGO. Accepting volunteers for english story reading Saturday morning and English childrens books, free to all. Membership \$5 a year <https://www.facebook.com/groups/225935794136987>
- Host A Vet Partners with Vets to conduct Clinics/Surgeries/Neutering, free medicines etc. See The Yacht Shop for donations etc <https://www.facebook.com/hostavet>
- Pens, paper, drawing pencils etc, Toothpaste/Tooth brushes, English childrens books, reading glasses and Global Vision 2020 kits www.gv2020.org . Accepted and distributed by Café Tropicana (you choose: a church, widows/orphans, WCCC: womans refuge, school students), or we can make suggestions if you wish to drop them off yourselves. We can also suggest places to Volunteer your time...

Communications/Internet:

Tonga had the HTHH volcanic explosion 15/1/22 which created a Tsunami. This destroyed our submarine fibre cable. Tongatapu link was fixed in a few months, Ha'apai and Vava' were replaced in 7/23. Both Telco's relied on Satellite with Digicel invested in long range Microwave. Starlink also donated 50 units to Tonga, most were clustered in Government Ministries and Schools in the CBD of both outer Islands, these were supposed to be free to all public.

E-sims are not active with either Telco at the moment.

Voicemail options exist on cellphones, but not widely used or understood, suggest not leaving a message...

Turn data saver on. Android/Apple: search settings for "data saver" and activate it. Data is not cheap here or fast, this will save a considerable amount of data and give you more speed. It turns off autoplay, auto audio, drops image quality a little on facbook and youtube, it also stops autosync for backups, app polling. PC's turn on "metered connection" www.vavau.to/reducingdata.pdf

Digicel – owned by Telstra. GSM phone and internet services. 8nnnnnn number sequence. Internet top20 for 7gb over 30 day, \$50 for 22gb over 30 days, \$70 for 35gb over 30 days. Make sure you opt out of the off bundle casual rate, by sending Y to 515, or your money will disappear if you do not have a data plan active. International plans \$4 30 min, \$10 90 mins. Monthly local calling/texting \$12 2500 mins and texts to Digicel only otherwise 50 cents per min/text to TCC. Resellers all over, online credit card charging using My Digicel app, Cafe Tropicana is a reseller. SIM cards \$5 Also opt out of text ads – they get annoying. Call 123 and ask to remove text ads, takes 24 hours

TCC – government owned. Landline, GSM phone and Internet services.

Tongan	Meaning	Phonetic
Hello, Hi	Malo e Lelei	
My name is	Ko hoku hingoa ko	
You're welcome/Oka y?	Sai pe ia	
Goodbye – you are going	Nofo a	
Goodbye – you are staying	Alu a	
One	taha	
Two	ua	
Three	Tolu	
Four	Fa	
Five	Nima	
Six	Ono	
Seven	fitu	
Eight	Valu	
Nine	Hiva	
10	Hongofulu	
Zero	Noa	
Yes	Io	E O
No	Ikai	E Ki
Fork or breast	Huhu	
Go	'alu	
Come	Ha'u	
Fight	Fuhu	
Look	Sio	
Crazy	Fakasesele	
i don't know	'ikai keu 'ilo	
Hungry	Fiekaia	
See you later	Tau toki sio	
Goodnight	Po'uli a	
Drink	Inu	
Thirsty	Fieinua	
Please	Kataki	
Come here	Ha'u ki heni	
Sorry	Fakamolemole	
Shops or store	Falekoloa	
Island, crazy, break	Motu	
Day	Aho	
Night	Po'uli	
Rain	'uha	
Sun	La'aa	
Month, moon	mahina	
thunder	Mana	
Water	Vai	
Beautiful	Faka'ofa'ofa	
Food	Me'akai	
Movies	Faiva	
Beef or ball	Pulu	
lamb	Sipi	
chicken	Moa	
horse	Hoosi	
dog	Kulii	
cat	Pusi	
vegetable	Vesitapolo	
carrot	Kaloti	

7nnnnnn number sequence. Internet top20 for 7gb over 30 days. No opt out of the off bundle casual rate. International plans \$3.45 40 min, \$2.30 15 mins. Monthly local calling/texting \$10 1000 mins and texts to TCC only otherwise 50 cents per min/text to Digicel. Resellers all over, online credit card charging using TCC Mobile/Bing apps, Cafe Tropicana is a reseller. SIM cards \$5 through TCC shop ONLY. Also opt out of text ads – they get annoying. Call 800 222 and ask to remove text ads, takes 24 hours. TCC app does not work very well.

WANTOK – PNG/Local partnership just starting up, in Tongatapu only currently.

Niua only has TCC services, limited power/solar.

SSB/HF AIS/Internet Nets:

Far North Radio (NZ, Fiji, Tonga, Vanuatu) +64 94061423

miss5kitty1@yahoo.co.nz

https://www.noonsite.com/images/pdfs/new-zealand_far-north-radio-membership-form/view

1800-1900 NZDST 6.516Mhz

1900-1930 NZDST 4.417Mhz

Gulf Harbour Radio ZMH286

www.ghradio.co.nz ghradio@extra.co.nz +64 9 4245765 May 1 to November 30

8752Khz or 8779 or 8297 in that order depending on interference
NZST 0715 UTC 1915

Passage Guardian ZXMH292 AIS for passage tracking, either email/text of HF for information. Accepts float plans

www.passageguardian.nz

4149 Khz 6230 8713 8737 12353 13101 16534 17257
18840 22168 22801 25106

Laundry tips:

www.vavau.to/tipstrickslaundry.pdf

Yacht lockup hard and floating tips:

www.vavau.to/tipstricksyachtstorage.pdf

Passage planning to NZ: www.vavau.to/passageplanningtonz.pdf
to be completed and peer reviewed

It is well worth the money to get Passage planning for your vessel

www.metbob.com Bob Mcdavitt weather routing

brucetheweatherman@gmail.com Bruce Buckley, Weather

clouds@ozemail.com.au Roger Badham, Weather

www.passageweather.com

Passage monitoring <https://passageguardian.nz>

Be aware NZ has very strict biosecurity hull requirements as Fanworm is now established in NZ. You could get a local Tongan company to either do the hull clean work (and anchor well/chain) or inspect the work – with an invoice and underwater pictures or video. NZ could order your vessel straight to haulout if growth is to heavy.. A clean bottom also means a faster passage of course.

pepper	Polo	
Spicy pepper	Polo fifisi	
tomatoes	Temata	
bean	Piini	
lettuce	Letisi	
cabbage	Kapisi	
apple	Apele	
orange	Moli	
mangoes	Mango	
papaya	Lesi	
watermelon	Meleni	

<https://pacificlearners.co.nz/pacific-education-videos/> or the download the App “Takaua” for audio/videos to help you with pronunciation. Language is contextual: words have multiple meanings.

Responsible Cruising

Respect local ecosystems

Tonga has introduced marine reserves (SMAs and FHRs) to encourage conservation and village-only fishing areas.

Special Management Areas (SMA): NO fishing allowed and fees for anchoring, snorkelling may be charged by the Village.

Fish Habitat Reserves (FHR): NO anchoring, NO fishing. See SMA/FHR page 4 for chart links.

Whaleswim/watch: protected industry for your protection as well as the whales protection. Go with a trained/licenced operators, human vs Whale... you will lose everytime!! Don't be a dick!!! \$10,000 fine

Anchorage and mooring fields

Speed limit in Neiafu Bay is 5 KNOTS. You are responsible for your wake. Be aware of swimmers, spear fishermen, and pearl farms.

Tongans spear fish, hunt for sea cucumbers and tend pearl farms in anchorages and mooring fields DAY and NIGHT. At night they MAY use flashlights.

Anchor only in sandy bottoms and float your chain to protect coral. Damaged coral takes upto 75 years to regrow: don't be a dick. Tahiti is now anti yachts because of damage to coral and loss of fish... be respectful of someone's backyard.

Do not empty holding tanks close to a village!

Return rubbish to town, do not throw in the bush, overboard. Remove any fishing net, lines, plastic you find in the water – save the sea life and stop micro plastics entering the food chain

www.vavau.to/biosecurityinvasivespecies.jpg

Respect cultural traditions

Sundays are a day of rest, quiet day – no noise, no exercise (swim, run, bike). Go for a walk, eat, rest

Do not fly drones over villages, **without permission**, especially Sundays.

Only 4 out of 2500+ yachts were sent to be hauled immediately. Watch out for open wounds getting infected if you do it yourself.

Whangarei is a city, they have a variety of privately and council owned marina, and a huge range of boatyards and who compete and cooperate. A variety of other services you would expect in a city. Extensive shopping. A very hospitable NZ city.

Opua is a small town, has one council owned Marina, and a small privately owned Marina. A smaller range of yacht services. Limited shopping. Generally easier entrance after 7+ days sailing from Tonga. Council owned marina is run as a private enterprise.

Passage planning to Fiji: to be completed, I have only done one passage to Savu Savu by accident

Lau is not an entry port, do not stop either. You face deportation. Savua Savu is a yacht friendly harbour. From Vava'u most people use the Nanuku Passage to Savu Savu. Oneata passage to Suva, which is a commercial harbour, but good for re-provisioning.

It is well worth the money to get Passage planning for your vessel

www.metbob.com Bob Mcdavitt weather routing

brucetheweatherman@gmail.com Bruce Buckley, Weather

clouds@ozemail.com.au Roger Badham, Weather

www.passageweather.com

Passage monitoring <https://passageguardian.nz>

Passage planning to Aus: to be completed, looking for advice as I have never sailed to the West Island from Tonga. Just PNG from Brisbane on “Eye of the Wind”...

It is well worth the money to get Passage planning for your vessel

www.metbob.com Bob Mcdavitt weather routing

brucetheweatherman@gmail.com Bruce Buckley, Weather

clouds@ozemail.com.au Roger Badham, Weather

www.passageweather.com

Passage monitoring <https://passageguardian.nz>

Weather/Tides: NZ NIWA and Australia have a shared weather project for weather stations and Tide equipment in Tonga

Online tides for Tonga/Pacific...

Neiafu 2024

http://www.bom.gov.au/ntc/IDO59001/IDO59001_2024_INT_TPO

Nukualofa 2024

http://www.bom.gov.au/ntc/IDO59001/IDO59001_2024_INT_TPO

Apps “Real Tide” (IOS), “Tides Near Me” (Android)

Weather..

<https://met.gov.to/>

www.met.gov.fj

www.countrytv.co.nz/weather

Seasonality of groups by island **to do**

Temp, rain, wind

Trade or barter for fish, fruit, vegetables. School supplies are a priority trade item. Do NOT trade alcohol. Most villages are dry by choice. Respect the village traditions, history and culture.

Show interest in the village and people. You might learn something.

Absolutely no nudity – on your yacht, swimming etc. People can probably see you and may call the Police as it is illegal and offensive.

Marpol 73/78 Convention 1978

Tonga enacted "Marine Pollution Prevention Act" in 2020. It applies to ALL vessels in Tongan waters and enforces Marpol 73/78 as a result.

- Holding tanks for raw sewage, dumped at least 3 miles offshore, or pumped at an approved station.
- No rubbish dumping or oil dumping at sea.

Overseas information

Cafe Tropicana has NZ yacht arrival packs – FREE. These have all the forms and information on arriving into NZ for a yacht

Costs for entering Tonga vs Fijivs New Zealand to be completed, peer reviewed

Cost of entering for 2 pax 10 tonne vessel, week days. Suggest taking local currency to make entry faster for each country.

Item	Tonga TOP	Fiji FJD	NZ NZD
Free visa	1, 3 Mths Schengzen	3 mths	?
Cost visa month	69	91	?
Inflation rate 2022	11%	4.5%	7.2%
Max Stay boat tax free	12 months	60 mths	24 mths + extn
Max stay crew	6 months	?	?
Chartering	NO	Fee +\$%	?
Entry Qball/ wharf	Wharf	Q Ball	Q Dock
Marine ports lights bouys. Leaving fees	Vava'u \$0.45 per gross tonne per month	?	?

NZ, Fiji: do not leave the Qball or Qdock until fully cleared into the country, you face deportation, arrest, confiscation etc. Health, Quarantine, Customs, Immigration.

Entry cost week day, 2pax

Starlink:

Starlink has changed sailing. Unfortunately SL is currently going through the ISP licencing process in Tonga, and then residents can request permission/licencing for personal/business SL if this is granted, which seems unlikely based on Vanuatu SL. Who are now reapplying via a locally based reseller so a local presence requirement is met. Internet prices are about TOP2 a gb and max download 9Mbps, so not many business allow it. If someone does a favour for you using internet, think about paying or purchase something from them

Get one month free with this referral link

<https://www.starlink.com/?referral=RC-51686-12258-63>

Interested in moving to Vava'u?

Vava'u desperately need the following marine trades: electrical, electronics, HVAC, Solar, sail repair, rigger, diesel mechanic, outboard and small engine mechanic

If it is for a trade to work in Vava'u please contact

greg@vavau.to to discuss opportunities. Could be seasonal employment visa initially...

Visa forms Tonga- Assured, Business, Employment

Here are the visa checklists and visa application forms for the Kingdom of Tonga.

Assured income visa checklist. You cannot work here

Business Visa checklist. Setup as business here

Employment Visa checklist, you work for someone with a business

Application [form](#) all visa use this form

Treasures of the Bilge Vava'u

Café Tropicana has a treasures of the bilge basket just inside the door for any items you don't want anymore, your trash is someone's treasure... extremely popular and useful from a suggestion of a cruiser in the 2023 season.

Tipping

Tips are not cultural in Tonga (as USA is), it is appreciated for good service. Look for a tip jar... Wages for hospitality are anything from TOP2 to TOP15 an hour. Trades are anything from TOP10 upwards.

Sailing Routes - Pacific:

Ministry	Tonga TOP	Fiji FJD	NZ NZD
Maff/Quarantine/Biosec	22	85	17
Immigration			0
Health	100	165	0
Mooring/Agent fee		25	0
Customs			17
Total	122	275	34

Marine Insurance providers in NZ

We recommend the following insurance provider in NZ, it is required for marina and haul out in NZ.

The Marina Shop www.marine-insurance.co.nz

Marine Brokerage in NZ

Looking to sell your yacht in NZ? We recommend the following broker in NZ.
36 degrees robbs@36degrees.nz

Immigration NZ requirements

A medical visa may be required if you were in NZ and spent less than 12 months away, Friendly Island Medical Clinic in Nukua'lofa run by Dr Ana can do this. Open Monday to Friday 1630-1930, about 20-30 minutes walk from the port. They don't do appointments. Just walk to the clinic and state your business. They are familiar with the procedure and will file your results directly to your pending application.

Departing Tonga

Coins

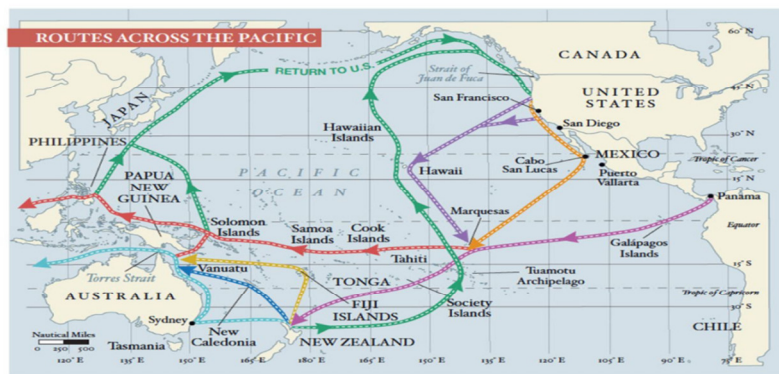
If you have coins (unless you want momentos of Tonga or giving them away as gifts or you collect) they cannot be changed overseas at all. You could give them to a charity, or as a tip for your favourite café, taxi, market vendor...

Food Stores – NZ, Australia or Fiji

If you have stores on board that you cannot take into your next port (meat, honey etc) you could

- Trade it with a yacht that does not have that issue
- Trade it with a café/restaurant for services
- Store it with a café/restaurant if you are returning next year. I once stored 30kg cheese in our freezers for 8 months!
- Gift it to someone that has gone out of there way for you, or just needs a hand up!
- Ask someone to give it to a charity of your choice, or give it them yourself of course, Cafe Tropicana can assist with this – you pick the charity, it will be dropped off anonymously (we just say a yacht) or in your yachts name....

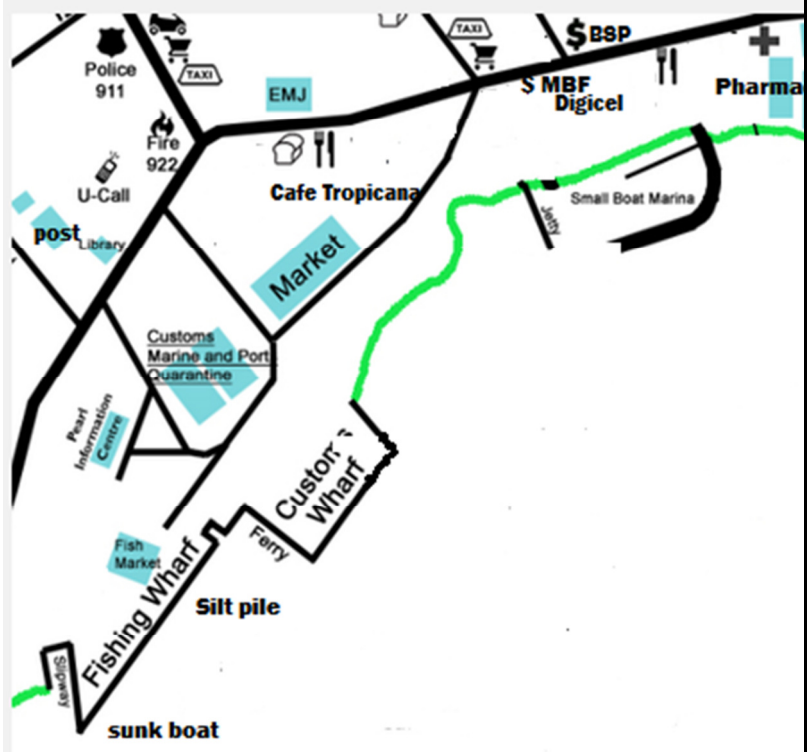
PAY IT FORWARD



Map of Vava'u harbour with description:

International Clearance

Berthing Note:



You will be instructed to tie up to the main wharf on the west side, in front of a container, lined up with your bow towards the main shore. This area is fenced off from the rest of the wharf. Occasionally the fishing wharf has to be used – a fee is charged \$20, a receipt should be offered. A sunken fishing boat is at the western end of the wharf since 2020 it is owned privately..

Also an island of silt is 50m off the wharf.at the eastern end. It has been increasing for many years from the storm drains in town.

A dock hand will (should) direct you into position and assist with line-handling. It is advisable to sling your fenders horizontally to protect your vessel from the hard rubber wharf bumpers which are spaced well apart. Ferry dock schedule is subject to change, you will be told to move quickly if a domestic ferry comes in.

WARNING: rats, cockroaches etc have walked along mooring lines onto you vessel. A recent case proved expensive (upto AUD5000) entering Australia after recent rat poo was found by ABF.

Coffee

Pacific Fuels – Petrol/diesel:

Duty free is available on the same day as the vessel is cleared out from Tonga and is the final port. It can be shared to meet minimums. Duty free is a significant saving, Fiji does not do duty free fuel. Fuel bunker is closed for trucks if a bunker boat is in the harbour. Appointment times are indicative only, 6 hours late is the record. Duty free is about 30% cheaper than the retail price at the pump (15% CT/15% Duty).

Fuel stations are on the main road, and on the road towards Utungake No credit cards! Café Tropicana has a few LOAN diesel bottles, also a hand cart or hire car for fuel runs.

Occasionally Tonga has fuel shortages, bunkering was extended in 2019. Our last shortage was because of bad weather delaying the bunker boat. My advice never let your jerry can's run to low. Tropicana may be able to help if you run out of petrol...

Vava'u

Phone: 70972 755210 NO VHF If you ask a business to call please pay for the call.

Email: tuiaki.kauvaka@p.energy

Website: www.p.energy

Hours 9am to 4.30pm M to F

GPS coordinates: at Wharf 18°39'6.97"S

173°59'9.03"W

OFFICE Toulā fuel Bunker 18°40'36.58"S

173°59'8.61"W

Vava'u Minimum 24-48 hours' notice. CASH Only. Duty free 200litres Min but boats can share. Duty free generally delivered after 10am to the wharf and AFTER customs have given clearance papers. MUST be last Tongan port. Tanker refills petrol stations Monday morning and Friday afternoon. Not an easy delivery when a ferry is at the ferry dock! ATM limit per day per card is upto \$800 5 days a week. See Tropicana if you have to get cash out using credit cards more than this.

Nuku'alofa

Phone: 22511 22397 VHF Ch: None

Email: ifalemi.tauheluhelumau@p.energy

Website: www.p.energy

Tongatapu Minimum 24 hours' notice. Cash Only. Duty free 1000litres Min but boats can share. Duty free generally delivered after 10am to the wharf and AFTER customs have given clearance papers. MUST be last Tongan port.

Ha'apai no duty free bunkering, fuel stations are not what you expect.

Niua-toputapu no duty free fuel, fuel bunkering is VERY VERY limited.

As at 18/10/23 Vava'u diesel \$4.38TOP per litre, duty free \$2.77 TOP per litre, Petrol is \$3.86TOP per litre, no duty free price.

Café Tropicana and Coffee and Tees retail Kingdom Coffee, grown and roasted in Tongatapu.

Espresso machines are at Café Tropicana, Coffee and Tees, Bella Vista, Harbour view Resort.

Café Tropicana has Extra Dark, Dark, and Medium roast beans.

They can grind to plunger and espresso in any quantity.

A guide to coffee...



Homegas/Tongagas – LPG:

Gas bunker is closed for refilling bottles if a Gas bunker vessel is in the harbour. LPG not butane. If you have butane, the bottle needs to be empty – the two gases don't mix, it will stop LPG going into the bottle...

Vava'u

Phone: 70319 VHF: NONE

Email: NONE

GPS coordinates: 18°40'37.44"S 173°59'8.27"W

Location: Toulā fuel Bunker

Vava'u Café Tropicana charges \$5 a kg and a \$10 surcharge per bottle, generally weekly. Has 12+ adaptors,.. Camping Gaz, Calor, clipon 20, clipon 21, clipon 22, clipon 27, gasmate (NZ), Acme, 3/8ths Gas nut, Coleman and more I have forgotten the names of. No Spanish adaptor, sorry I do not lend my adaptors out anymore. I do have some clipon adaptors for sale. Or taxi \$10 each way to depot.

Nuku'alofa

Phone: 21390 VHF Ch: None

GPS coordinates: 21° 8'33.09"S 175°10'33.57"W

Location Ma'ufanga Bunker

Ha'apai – direct swap for Tongagas bottles only!

Website: www.homegas.to

DOES not have any adaptors

Hours 9am to 4.30pm M to Fri, Sau 9am to noon

As at 9/9/23 Vava'u \$4.70 per kg price changes 18th of each month

Couriers:

Tonga has the following couriers: UPS, Fedex, DHL. Service terminates in Nukualofa, you will have to pay for transshipment to Vava'u or Ha'apai. DO NOT give an address outside of Nuku'alofa, you will end up paying twice... Couriers are not cheap or quick to outer islands (5-7+ days from the time parcel is in Tonga).

Send colour scans of practice, ships registration paper, skippers

Price changes 18th of each month

Projects to aid in sailing tourism.

Small boat marina- repaired, extended.

Permanent home for village and fishing boats – Navy yard build starts 2025 and this will force relocation of more local boats.

Secure/cctv Quarantine dock for checkin/ checkout. Q balls for vessels waiting to checkin/out, under investigation/covid/ overnight/emergency. Fee payable \$25top to yacht infrastructure fee.

Remove sunken fishing boat on fishing wharf. Vava'u

Stop silt mountain from town storm drains. Vava'u

Wharf unsuitable for yachts, maybe finger wharf, which could also be used for cruiseship tenders and emergencies as wharf is bigger. Safer/faster refuelling when ferry/cruiseship/container ship is in.

Review immigration free visa period – maybe 2-3 months. Other fees to be reviewed. Length of vessel stay to., Fiji is now 5 years.

Removing Inter Island movement procedure would encourage movement, but may be open to abuse? Random interdictions may help.

Random interdiction by police/navy may discourage drug/gun/no customs trade/not clearing in

Coast watch to aid in illegal customs breaches, drug running etc

Review possibility of wharf charge, used for that island group to improve regional yacht facilities ONLY, i.e not consolidated fund. Yacht infrastructure fee.

Dredge wharf, entrance hump to allow bigger cruisehips into the harbour/wharf.

ANOA system – use ABF online system? Or expand required info – like chartering.

Promo vid for yacht tourism – post ANOA

Post ANOA send out either www.vavau.to/portofficer.pdf or official summary

Formalise master/caretaker to stop unattended/unsafe moored vessels. Insurance/master mandatory.

Clean hull requirement/ effluent enforcement Marpol

VHF base station for immigration, health, Quarantine. USB powered VHF handhelds? From

passport to agent asap when you have the courier tracking number as this will speed up clearance of a yacht in transit.

A TIN (Tax identification number) is required for your vessel to import items – courier or sea freight. See Revenue services next to Tropicana, it will take 1-2 days.

Post Office

Receiving a Postal courier package is 3 weeks +. Normal mail 6 to 8 weeks+

\$10 handling fee per parcel

UPS

Nukualofa +676 30221

Vava'u +676 70422

Yacht in Transit Yacht name (yacht email address)

c/- EM Jones Logistics Tonga (Vava'u destination)

Hala Taufu'ahu

Nuku'alofa

Tongatapu, Kingdom of Tonga

Fedex

Western Union Nuku'alofa +676 23052

Vava'u Linda jetsave.vav@gmail.com +676 70215

Yacht in Transit Yacht name (plus yacht email address)

c/- Fedex Tonga (Vava'u destination)

Hala Taufu'ahu

Nuku'alofa

Tongatapu, Kingdom of Tonga

DHL

Tongatapu agent dhltongainfo@gmail.com Phone +676 27700.

Vava'u NO AGENT

Yacht in Transit Yacht name (plus yacht email address)

c/- DHL Tonga (Vava'u destination)

Vuna Road

Nuku'alofa, Tongatapu,

Kingdom of Tonga attn Silei

Your fellow cruisers may be able to bring stuff to and from Fiji – Request on #26 on Net. Also if you have flat mail, ask and offer a fellow cruiser to post it overseas, cheaper and FASTER!

In 2023 a yacht had damaged rigging sent to Fiji by yacht, it was then sailed back by another yacht when it was repaired....

Advertising from businesss to do

Cafe Tropicana

Friendly Island Fabrication Services

Boathouse Apartments

Yacht Infrastructure fee.

Body cams to be worn by officials boarding vessels
– paid for by yacht infrastructure fee. Uploaded where?

Marina in Ha'apai is unsuitable, Nuk year end only,
At least for now

Chartering option for super yachts by reasonable fee. Stop overseas private vessels.
ANOA forms get this and tourism link in reply.

Reasonable Chartering fee for private vessels operating under a tongan company, employing locals etc. similar to Bermuda/caribbean rather than high duty fees to import vessel.

Whale watch boats nearly all use panda wharf – extremely dangerous rafting up and moving passengers – use old vai ko and floating wharf? Fee for use per year per boat...

Webcams for remote viewing to encourage tourism.
Vav 4 NEWS TCC tower. 4 wharf, entrance. Ha'apai 4 NEWS TCC Tower. 2 wharf/harbour. Nuk 2 x 4 NEWS TCC Tower, 4wharf

Weather bouys

Anchorage summary to be completed

The Moorings chartering company numbered anchorages to make it easy for chartering its fleet. It continues to this day, see Cafe Tropicana who produce Chartlets with navigational info as well. Chartlets for Tongatapu, Ha'apai, Minerva, Fiji, Neiafu as well.

This is a very brief summary, refer to cruising guides or compendium for your vessels safety, or wait till it's rewritten as a website.

https://www.vavau.to/Cruising_Guide3.pdf

From page 14 onwards.

Electronic navigational charts were quite a few miles out early 2000, make sure you update to the latest version and ensure you spot check them!

Night sailing is not recommended, even if you know these waters well!

Lat/long. Bottom/reef. Stop info day/night.
Moorings. Hold, wind protection.
environmental sma etc. moorings. inHabitated?
Villages, zulu link, close business?

[Neiafu Mooring Base 1](#)

[Causeway Pangai 2](#)

[Pangaimotu 3](#)

[Vaipua Lagoon 4](#) 18°38.663S / 173°59.907W.

4 moorings+ closest to yard is only for boats waiting haulout not overnight. \$15 per night. Protection from SE. Reefs on either side, be aware of scope length. Villages Vaipua, Taua, Vai Malo. Business Vava'u Boatyard.

[Lotuma Bay 5](#) 18°30.746S / 174°00.484W

Protection from E/SE. Bottom mostly rock. Not nice in NE.

[Mala 6](#) 18°41.446S / 174°01.666W Good protection from SE.

[Port Maurelle 7](#) 18°41.980S / 174°01.788W

[Nuku 8](#)

[Luamoko 9](#)

[Aisea's or Lisa Beach 10](#)

[Tapana 11](#) 18°42.432S / 173°59.169W

[Tapana Island 12](#) 18°72.398S / 174°98.929W

[Hunga 13](#) 18°41.59S / 174°07.69W

[Foeata Island "Blue Lagoon" 14](#) 18°42.609S / 174°08.321W

[Nuapapu and Matamaka 15](#) 18°42.355S / 174°5.546W

[Vaka'eitu 16](#) 18°43.356S / 174°6.003W

[Lape Island 17](#) 18°42.929S / 174°5.015W. This has great SE protection and good holding. Better protection than it looks like it would be on the chart. There are no moorings remaining.

[Fonua Lei 18](#)

[Sieia 19](#)

[Katafanga 20](#)

[Taunga overnight 21](#) 18°44.4S / 174°00.6W

[Taunga Day Stop 22](#)

[Ngau Day Stop 23](#) 18°45.316S / 174°00.627W

[Ngau Day Stop 24](#) 18°44.0S / 174°00.4W

[Old Harbor / Makave 25](#) 18°39.247S / 173°58.28527W

['Olo'ua 26](#)

[Mafana 27](#)

[Ofu 28](#)

[Eueiki 29](#) Day stop

[Kenutu 30](#) 18°41.730S / 173°55.737W

[Maninita Island 31](#) 18°51.400S / 173°59.866W

[Euakafa 32](#) 18°45.194S / 174°2.117W

[Fuamotu 33](#) 18°47.421S / 174°00.417W

[Lua Ui 34](#)

[Lahiapo \(Luahaipo\) 35](#)

[Fonua' One'One 36](#) 18°48.935S / 174°03.918W

[Fangasito 37](#)

[Ovaka 38](#) Day Stop 18°45.935S / 174°05.206W

[Ovaka 39](#) 18°45.145S / 174°05.172W

[Ovalau 40](#)

[Mounu 41](#) 18°45.01S / 174°04.3W.

[Mou'mua \(Mu'omu'a\) 42](#)

Suggested anchorage and land itineraries [3, 7, 14 30, 60 days to do](#)



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Ocean Cruising Club – Port Officer



Island Cruising Association – Port Officer



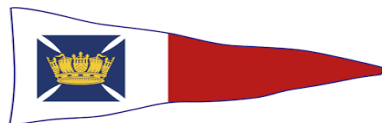
Seven Seas Cruising Association – Port Officer



Cruising Association – Honorary Local Representative



Pacific Cruising Association – Port Officer/Secretary



The Royal Cruising Club – Port Officer



Trans Ocean – Port Officer



Noonsite – Ambassador



Oyster Rally – rally landbase



World Arc Rally

Vava'u Cruisers Net - Facebook admin
www.facebook.com/vavaucruisersnet

www.sailingtonga.com

Future home of this and other Tongan cruising guides

Pacific Puddle Jump (not rally) - Facebook admin
www.facebook.com/groups/pacificpuddlejumps

Tonga Expats and Locals - News portal - Facebook admin
www.facebook.com/groups/tongaexpatsandlocals

Pay it F'ward