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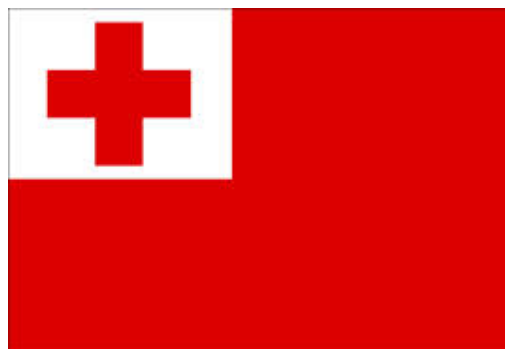
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TRANS OCEAN

Vava'u, Kingdom of Tonga, South Pacific **Café Tropicana**GPS Coordinates of location: Lat: **18°41' 60 S** Lon: **174°1' 60 W**

Version 2025/3

**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 JustEmail: greg@vavau.to

Twitter: @tongamazingweb

Instagram: tongamazingcom

Linkedin: tongamazingcom

Whatsapp +676 8812347

Whatsapp group "Sailing to Tonga" Admin

<https://chat.whatsapp.com/CMOnBCOYvcgKPZg63ZKGNX>

Viber: +676 8812347

Facebook: [m.me/gregjustnz](https://www.facebook.com/m.me/gregjustnz)

Phone +676 71322 VHF Ch: 26 "Tropicana"

Mobile: +676 8812347 or +676 7512347

Home Address: Mt Talau Citizen: NZ/UK/Tonga

Dive master IT Manager ITIL/PMP/CCNA

Yachtie Master Drycleaner (nz) Treasury Analyst

Website: www.vavau.to/tropicanaAgent www.tongasuperyachts.comMenu/Deli <https://cafetropicana.vavau.business.site/>Media www.offloop.net/media password tropoStuff For Sale <https://cafetropicana.company.site/>www.vavau.towww.haapai.towww.tongatapu.towww.whaleswim.to Booking site, whale infowww.sailingtonga.com online cruising guide homewww.tongamazing.com Booking site ALLwww.cruiseshiptonga.com Cruiseship info/bookingwww.tongaholidays.com Sparewww.vavau.to/guide.pdf Whats on in Tonga

Show your support for this information by donating

<https://www.buymeacoffee.com/tropicana>**Services available from Café 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

Pre shop of supermarket provision items

Resell Kingdom Koffee. Beans (Ground (to order)).

Solar powered USB/12v recharging points 2025

Vava'u Deli: meats, delicatessen items

Resell TCC/Digicel phone credit, Digicel Sms

Gift Vouchers. Games (chess, poker ...)

LPG tank refill – most adaptors/Fuel refill Tuesday 9am

Diesel/Petrol refill service Tuesday/Friday morning

AIS www.marinetraffic.com ADS-B www.flightradar24.comLaundry: only frontloading rain water laundry. Max 9kg per load. www.vavau.to/laundryIce cubes and 2kg solid ice blocks – rain water www.vavau.to/iceProvisioning for whales/picnics/passages. www.vavau.to/deli

TV 800+series (11TB) and 10TB Movie (8000+) Documentaries, Concerts, Music, Comedy, Children, Fitness,

Christian, Wiki offline). www.offloop.net/media password tropo www.vavau.to/mediaHarbour wifi provider SSID "Vava'u Net" Free info, weather etc. www.vavau.to/net

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

Musical instruments (guitar, harmonic, mandolin etc)

Free booking and information service. Go to guy for help... Visa and one way letter agents

Famous in Vava'u "Blue" comedy wall and "cyclone" wall

Huge free book swap and reference library. Free 120gb ebooks/audio books.

Rentals – mountain bikes, kayaks, snorkel gear, tents, cars, scooters

Local news/info feed Facebook www.facebook.com/groups/tongaexpatsandlocalshttps://www.vavau.to/Cruising_Guide3.pdf to be 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. Hotel information source www.vavau.to/compendium.pdf

Qualified Massage Therapist, Portable massage table, TENs unit, heat pad, Massage Gun, Swedish and Rock,

Please advise corrections/suggestions to greg@vavau.to



THE BEST DARN CAFÉ IN VAVA'U,

THE SWISS ARMY KNIFE OF CAFES

Fatafehi Rd, Neiafu, Vava'u, Kingdom of Tonga
Private Bag 34, Neiafu, Vava'u, Kingdom of Tonga
Email tropicana@vavau.to VHF 26 "Tropicana"
Website www.vavau.to/tropicana SSID "Vava'u Net"
Ph +676 71322 Mob +676 8812347 or +676 7512347



Ocean Cruising Club
Port Officer



Island Cruising New Zealand
Port Officer



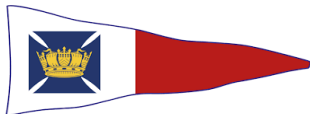
Seven Seas Cruising Association
Port Officer



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



Pacific Posse

[Port Officer, MP4, Facebook, Whatsapp](#)

Whatsapp group "Sailing to Tonga " Admin
Help/information sailing to, and in, the Kingdom Tonga ,
from someone based in Tonga that will help with options
rather than just clipping the ticket
<https://chat.whatsapp.com/CMOnBCOYvcgKPZg63ZKGN>

Video/info to promote Tonga Marine Tourism
www.vavau.to/tongabriefing.mp4
www.vavau.to/tongabriefing.pdf

Video/Info Passage planning to NZ
www.vavau.to/passageplanningtotonga.pdf
www.vavau.to/passageplanningtotonga.mp4

Pacific Puddle Jump (not rally) - Facebook asked
me to admin after creator left.
www.facebook.com/groups/pacificpuddlejumps

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

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

Future home of this and other Tongan cruising guides
www.sailingtonga.com

Sailingtonga.com - Facebook admin
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/sailingtonga>

Guide to whats on in Tonga
www.vavau.to/gigguide.pdf

Pay it Forward

*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 Padi Divemaster. Volunteered for NZ coastguard, Vava'u for 10 years with VERA (SAR).Began Vava'u Blue Water Festival 2014, donated to Vava'u Tourism Asscn in 2016.

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!). Although I have placed **WARNING** notices on a few things/business – too many confirmed complaints to ignore. 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 TOP123k+ loan since COVID, no time, and can no longer sail due to illness. 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 – first entry port ONLY. Phone health officers rather than waiting
\$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.
Niuatoputapu: \$100 anchorage. Free on wharf though? Go into Marine and ports for receipts. TOP only, NO BANKS! Do not pay in WINE!! **WARNING**

Maff/Quarantine

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

Revenue

TIN application for importing capital items for yachts – FREE. Take passport, yacht papers

Police

Fines of upto \$10,000 and/or imprisonment for swimming with whales on your own. Enforcement of Whale regulations.
Don't drink and drive, do not drink on public streets.
Do not park a car on the right hand side of the road, Random check points...

PLEASE ASK FOR RECEIPTS EVERYTIME **WARNING**
UPDATED frequently – please download frequently, content suggestions are appreciated greg@vavau.to

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 – Nuku'alofa, Lifuka (Ha'apai), Neiafu (Vava'u), Niuatoputapu
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 Nuku'alofa and Neiafu can do visa extensions!!
One way crew fee \$34.50 (fly in, sail out crew). Immigration.
One way crew visa \$34.50 (Nuku'alofa, Neiafu processing a week).
Visa expired/other breach fine \$1150. DO NOT LET THIS LAPSE **WARNING**
Overtime \$20 an hour

Fisheries

Vava'u use of Fisheries wharf during clear in/out, refuelling \$20, a receipt should be given. Enforcement of SMA/FHR Act (marine reserves).

Check in, Check out ports. Nuku'alofa Tongatapu, Lifuka Ha'apai, Neiafu Vava'u, Niuatoputapu.

Fees are required to be paid at the time of entry, I suggest you carry some Tongan cash, if you ask Customs they may permit someone to go to the ATM to get local currency in Nuk'ualofa, Ha'apai and Vava'u.. They may take foreign currency also, but you might not get change... **WARNING**
Niu'toiputapu DOES NOT HAVE BANKS, take Tongan cash! WARNING



Tonga Customs Advance Notice of Arrival (small craft)

Fax to: +876 24124 or email: information@customs.gov.to

Section 12, Customs & Excise Management Act 2007

PERIOD OF ADVANCE NOTICE AND OTHER ADVICE					
<p>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).</p> <p>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.</p>					
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	
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"/> Other (Specify)		Length (overall) metres		Draft metres	
Hull colour		Superstructure colour			
Yacht rig: Cutter <input type="checkbox"/> Sloop <input type="checkbox"/> Ketch <input type="checkbox"/> Yawl <input type="checkbox"/> Schooner <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)			Hull type: Mono <input type="checkbox"/> Catamaran <input type="checkbox"/> Trimaran <input type="checkbox"/> 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)					
Family name		First name(s)			
Nationality		Date of birth		Gender Male / Female	
Passport number		Place of issue (City)			
Date and place joining craft					
Family name		First name(s)			
Nationality		Date of birth		Gender Male / Female	
Passport number		Place of issue (City)			
Date and place joining craft					
Family name		First name(s)			
Nationality		Date of birth		Gender Male / Female	
Passport number		Place of issue (City)			
Date and place joining craft					
(Attach any additional details of crew members on a separate sheet)					
Family name		First name(s)			
Nationality		Date of birth		Gender Male / Female	
Passport number		Place of issue (City)			
Date and place joining craft					
Family name		First name(s)			
Nationality		Date of birth		Gender Male / Female	
Passport number		Place of issue (City)			
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	

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GOVERNMENT/IMPORTANT

ICE In Case of Emergency

911 or 70699 Fire NO VHF. 922 or 70233 Police VHF 16.

933 or 70201 Hospital NO VHF.

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: [Return to Table of Content]

Starlink has made a pronounced affect on cruising life. I have noticed VHF chat, get togethers 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 was 12.30pm to 1.30pm, this ended 3 February 2025. I would expect some services will not be available during lunch hours, like cashier services, but who knows.

Pre-arrival into Tonga

Complete Advanced Notice of Arrival and email to information@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 another page for low internet connections. [ANOA Text version](#)

ANOA details are checked and verified against Interpol and Pacific Customs Intelligence units, don’t mess around!

Pronunciation / Island Groups: [Return to Table of Content]

Nuku’alofa is the Capital of Tonga, it is located in the Island Group Tongatapu. It is an International Airport, and checkin/checkout port.

Neiafu is the capital of the Vava’u Island group. It is an International Airport, and checkin/checkout port.

Pangai is the capital of The Ha’apai Group. It is normally called “The Ha’apai”. It is a domestic airport and is a checkin/checkout port.

Nomuka group, no domestic airport, it is not a checkin/checkout port.

Niutoputapu is a domestic airport and is a checkin/checkout port. Niufo’uo has no airport or port.

Nuku’alofa		Niutoputapu	
Tongatapu		Niufo’uo	
Neiafu		Eua	
Vava’u		Lifuka	
Pangai		Tonga	
Ha’apai			
Nomuka			

TO do pronunciations phonetically

Customs: [Return to Table of Content]

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, they will answer, 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 officials! Offer a sprite, coffee or juice...

Customs are open business hours Monday to Friday (lunch time 12:30pm to 1:30pm), 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!

Print customs forms and complete prior to arrival to speed your checkin process up. Same for departure forms. If a lot of yachts are arriving/departing at the same time it can really speed the process up!

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

[Map of Vava'u harbour with description:](#) [\[Return to Table of Content\]](#)

International Clearance (domestic checkin does not require coming alongside)



Depth at customs wharf 10m+, depth at fishermans wharf 4m.. 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 a vessel. A recent case proved expensive (upto AUD5000) entering Australia after recent rat poo was found by Australian Border Force

Schedules:

FISA <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100076080790143>

Tofa Ramsay <https://www.facebook.com/tofaramsayshipping>

Kelesi <https://www.facebook.com/groups/912112239745156>

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 TO DO**

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 a hard copy of the notice with you, it will be required. Take local currency with you checkin fees are FJD600+ NZD 100 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.

Recheckin (mechanical/medical forces return prior to entering another country)

You may want to ask for a fellows cruisers help or Whatsapp group “sailing to Tonga’ OR CALL Customs on VHF 16 and explain circumstances. Mechanical take pics and arrange help as required, Medical make arrangements to have doctors as required. Customs will normally assist with immigration. Involve Police and Fire Services as required. They may also allow cruisers to assist, if required, just ask fist.

Domestic checkouts just have CANCELLED written across them and refilled.

International checkouts also have CANCELLED written across them and refilled.

Do not mess around and take this for granted. At the end of it all, stop by and express your appreciation please.

Remember to make sure your visa do not expire \$1150 Fine **WARNING!**

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 DO NOT need to take boat to the WHARF).

Anchor, and at your convenience (within 48 hours) 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 Halaevalu 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.	Niutoputapu Phone: None? VHF Ch: 16

Customs Forms, a good idea to print and complete before you head to customs! Can jump you to the front of the queue if your paper work is ready!!!

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, non waiver free visa 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. 9am to Noon Saturday

Website: www.revenue.gov.to

Email: info@revenue.gov.to

NO fees inward/outward

Weekend clearance \$140

\$20 per hour Sat/Sun OVERTIME.

Immigration: [\[Return to Table of Content\]](#)

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	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 tongapermit@gmail.com Not very responsive, all visa/fee's must be paid in cash, so consider using an agent for one way letters, non waiver country visa.

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 (Nuku'alofa based) 7755160 Havea

\$69 per 31 day Visa, \$57.50 for 15 day visa. (Café Tropicana does this for \$15 per visa if it has not expired!)

\$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 (letter) \$34.50 – must have colour bio page of passport, flight details, has to be done by Vava'u or Nuku'alofa <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, you will have to use a local agent in Tongatapu or Vava'u ONLY, ALLOW A WEEK (Café Tropicana does this for \$15 per visa). The only alternative is to buy a cancellable return ticket from say Air NZ. Or another option you can use is a service called [Onward Ticket](#). The fast, easy, and stress-free way to get a verified flight reservation for USD\$16.00.

\$20 per hour Sat/Sun OVERTIME.

Ministry of Health: [\[Return to Table of Content\]](#)

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.

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 only NO other fees inward/outward

\$20 per hour Sat/Sun OVERTIME.

Vava'u: 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 Toulia Dr Liane 70054 8788228 7731156

Vava'u: Pharmacy at Hospital. Vava'u has 3 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, or friends ... Vava'u VVMRA supplies loan hospital linen kits, suggest a donation.

Do not walk in bare feet. Pigs are wild, faeces can cause staph infections. Coral cuts are common and can become infected quickly.

Quarantine: [\[Return to Table of Content\]](#)

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 or meat. 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 pacific trends.

Fiji has increased biosecurity quarantine standards, no pork, labelled vac packed NZ meat, honey, eggs.

Animals bonded to private yachts, can come ashore after quarantine. NO Government vet in country so this is not a quarantine safe country to take pets to NZ/Fiji (6 months). NZ you must now fly animals in for quarantine. Fiji pets are now not allowed on or off the boat.

Alcohol: list everything! It may be bonded and duty paid on consumed portion

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

Fiji - labelled nz meat only, no pork

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

Vava'u 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.mafff.gov.to Email: info@mafff.gov.to

Marine and Ports: [\[Return to Table of Content\]](#)

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, if you anchor they may not charge this....

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. Apparently you are supposed to notify Marine and ports that you are going into the boatyard and they will suspend Lights and Bouys fees while you are on the hard! You could ask Boatyard office staff to see if they can assist.

Waste Authority Limited: [\[Return to Table of Content\]](#)

State owned enterprise of the government of Tonga, heavily supported by Japan. Rubbish fees are paid by all households and business. Fines for dumping waste \$20 to \$2000, do the right thing! Began charging boats 2024 for waste, attempting to move this to checkout fees based on weeks in country.

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	Tongatapu Phone: +676 27826 VHF Ch: NONE
	Ha'apai Phone: +676 60234 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 small boat marina for yachts and Beluga Diving, 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 [\[Return to Table of Content\]](#)

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)

Tongamazing online Survey [\[Return to Table of Content\]](#)

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 [\[Return to Table of Content\]](#)

	06	07	08	09	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
Tongatapu	215	181	259														
Vava'u	444	416	551	460	450												
Ha'apai	62	36	91														
Nlua's	65	85	80														
	786	718	981														

	23	24	25
Tongatapu			
Vava'u			
Ha'apai			
Nlua's			
	560		

ANOA Text version [\[Return to Table of Content\]](#)

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
 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 [\[Return to Table of Content\]](#)

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

Learn a little Tongan... to be completed [\[Return to Table of Content\]](#)

Tongan	Meaning	Phonetic	Tongan	Meaning	Phonetic
Hello, Hi	Malo e Lelei		Day	Aho	
My name is	Ko hoku hingoa ko		Night	Po'uli	
You're welcome/Okay?	Sai pe ia		Rain	'uha	
Goodbye – you are going	Nofo a		Sun	La'aa	
Goodbye – you	Alu a		Month, moon	mahina	

are staying					
One	Taha		thunder	Mana	
Two	Ua		Water	Vai	
Three	Tolu		Beautiful	Faka'ofa'ofa	
Four	Fa		Food	Me'akai	
Five	Nima		Movies	Faiva	
Six	Ono		Beef or ball	Pulu	
Seven	Fitu		lamb	Sipi	
Eight	Valu		chicken	Moa	
Nine	Hiva		horse	Hoosi	
10	Hongofulu		Movies	Faiva	
Zero	Noa		Beef or ball	Pulu	
Yes	Io	E O	lamb	Sipi	
No	Ikai	E Ki	chicken	Moa	
Fork or breast	Huhu		horse	Hoosi	
Go	'alu		dog	Kulii	
Come	Ha'u		cat	Pusi	
Fight	Fuhu		vegetable	Vesitapolo	
Look	Sio		carrot	Kaloti	
Crazy	Fakasesele		pepper	Polo	
i don't know	'ikai keu 'ilo		Spicy pepper	Polo fifisi	
Hungry	Fiekaia		tomatoes	Temata	
See you later	Tau toki sio		bean	Piini	
Goodnight	Po'uli a		lettuce	Letisi	
Drink	Inu		cabbage	Kapisi	
Thirsty	Fieinua		apple	Apele	
Please	Kataki		orange	Moli	
Come here	Ha'u ki heni		mangoes	Mango	
Sorry	Fakamolemole		papaya	Lesi	
Shops or store	Falekoloa		watermelon	Meleni	
Island, crazy, break	Motu				
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 [\[Return to Table of Content\]](#)

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.

Just because it says Anchorage, does not mean you can anchor, check the following charts for details on the zones..

An old tonga sma/fhr map is available https://vavau.to/Tonga_SMA-flier.pdf

Individual island updates here <https://vavau.to/vavausma2024.jpg> <https://vavau.to/haapaisma2023.jpeg>

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. If you are anchoring in front of a village or resort, please ask where to anchor as you might be in the way of village/resort tenders or affect the aesthetic view for guests.

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.

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.

All land is owned by someone. If you see a sign saying “private property” please respect it. Do not start bonfires on beaches without permission of the village or resorts, embers could blow and start a fire!

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 [\[Return to Table of Content\]](#)

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 Fiji vs New Zealand to be completed, peer reviewed [\[Return to Table of Content\]](#)

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 Schengen	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

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
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[Marine Insurance providers in NZ](#) [\[Return to Table of Content\]](#)

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

Nearly all insurance providers require you to be out of the pacific by 1 Nov. Topsail, a UK sail broker (Global Yacht cover underwriter) requires you to be out of the pacific by 1 December. Most cyclones in the pacific begin Jan/Feb.

[Marine Brokerage in NZ](#) [\[Return to Table of Content\]](#)

Looking to sell your yacht in NZ? We recommend the following broker in NZ.

36 degrees robbs@36degrees.nz

If you are looking to sell your yacht whilst in the Pacific, here are some suggestions. List with a broker, yacht for sale websites and also list where you are and intended ports- if someone wants to come out and view they can.

If you sell your vessel in Tonga and the new owners are taking the vessel out of the country: do a purchase and sale agreement here, get the magistrate to witness agreement, transfer funds as required, do a master letter so that the new owner can leave Tonga as the master, then enter the next country with a clean ownership record or masters letter. <https://vavau.to/master1.pdf>

[Immigration NZ requirements](#) [\[Return to Table of Content\]](#)

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.

[Pacific Fuels – Petrol/diesel](#) [\[Return to Table of Content\]](#)

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 7555210 NO VHF If you ask a business to call please pay for the call. Email: tuiaki.kauvaka@p.energy does not respond 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 Toulua fuel Bunker 18°40'36.58"S 173°59'8.61"W	Nuku'alofa Phone: 22511 22397 VHF Ch: None Email: ifalemi.tauheluhelumau@p.energy Website: www.p.energy
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Vava'u Minimum 24-48 hours' notice. CASH Only. Duty free 250litres 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.

Apr2024 truck has broken, using a trailer based 5000l tanker. New truck delivered June 2024.

Petrol stations in Vava'u are up Tui Rd, and a fuel station is just above Paradise Hotel (you CANNOT walk through the hotel from the dock, access has been stopped by the Government, you can also not swim off the dock.

Café Tropicana does a petrol/diesel fuel run Tuesday at 10am. \$10 per boat. Run back by 11am Drop your bottles in prior to 10am Tuesday.

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, hand pumping

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.

Price changes 18th of each month

[Departing Tonga \[Return to Table of Content\]](#)

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 restrictions NZ, Fiji, Australia \[Return to Table of Content\]](#)

Sailing to NZ www.mpi.govt.nz anything containing or might contain pork will be removed because of swine flu

Sailing to Australia

Sailing to 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...

[Tattoos in Tonga \[Return to Table of Content\]](#)

Vava'u Sani Ta Tatau

Phone: 8760237. Sani is a deaf mute. Please text only

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/sani.tapueluelululu>

Operating from: Toulua

Hours Flexible

Tongatapu: Happy Sailor Tattoo

Phone: 7756777

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/Happysailortattoo Tonga>

Operating from: 1-4 Taumoepeau Building. Corner Salote/Fatafehi Rd

Hours Unknown

[Projects to aid in sailing tourism. \[Return to Table of Content\]](#)

Small boat marina Vava'u- repair, extend.

Name the dock off the Vava'u small boat marina, so no business stakes a claim to it. Install a floating dock off the Vai Ko area for dinghy use, solar lights, CCTV.

Permanent home for Vava'u 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 \$25 top to yacht infrastructure fee.

Remove sunken fishing boat on fishing wharf. Vava'u

Stop silt mountain from town storm drains. Vava'u

Qballs to allow overflow yachts to wait for dock space, or held under quarantine rules or that get towed in and have a mechanical problem.

Quarantine dock to stop crew entering country until fully cleared n.

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 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

Commercial

[Safe Boating and Rescue Coordination Centre NZ](#) [\[Return to Table of Content\]](#)

RCCNZ

Calling from outside of New Zealand:

+64 4 577 8030

Email rccnz@maritime.govt.nz

contact.beacons@maritimenz.govt.nz 406 distress beacon enquiries

- 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](#) [\[Return to Table of Content\]](#)

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 TOP5.00, Local bread TOP3.00 (price controlled). Mobile Internet Top2.85 per GB (plan).

Ha'apai...

Nuku'alofa...

[Covid history, yacht industry in Tonga:](#) [\[Return to Table of Content\]](#)

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: [\[Return to Table of Content\]](#)

- Hardware : EM Jones, (PTH is out of town)
- Laundry: Café Tropicana (front loading, rain water) or Bubbles Laundry (top loading, town supply water). **WARNING** history of splitting a 9kg load into multiple small loads and charging you. See reviews on <https://www.noforeignland.com/place/4770656187056128> No Drycleaners in Tonga

- Supermarkets – China Fortune, Neiafu Shopping Centre, Pafilios, Leiola Duty Free and various others, No credit cards accepted. No shops open Sunday, few restaurants open Sundays. No single one good shop, get receipts, compare prices. Leiola duty free has the best and cheapest range of spirits, best beer is either Leiola or SNAB. Recommend Pafilios, SNAB or Lui's for general Shopping.

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 – Utulangivake Petrol station, Famili Vava'u USA Trading 8643822 a long way out of town towards airport.. Tina Bourkes closed prior to 2020

- 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)
Taro, giant Taro, Manioke (Tapioca), Yams, Kumala (sweet potato) (Hawaiian – purple inside and Palu - golden), Breadfruit, Avacado, Kola **To do – pics and recipe ideas**
- 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 now employed in NZ and Australia picking/packing fruit.
- Gig Guide/Whats on report/Calendar with summary of local regulations., other local events are on the calendar.

www.vavau.to/gigguide.pdf

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 \$10, [Sam Restaurant](#) \$10, [Humpback Lodge](#) (\$10+ 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, All restaurants and Cafes have free starlink with purchase, just ask for password.**
- 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, overnight \$90-\$120+ fuel (overnight rentals) Coconut Car Rentals.
- **Airlines. Aki/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 24021 or 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 <https://www.facebook.com/groups/912112239745156>

- Domestic Ferry FISA (Otu AngaOfa) +676 23853 friendlyislandshippingagency@gmail.com

www.friendlyislandshippingagency.com <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100076080790143...>

- Domestic Ferry Tofa Ramsay (Taka I Pomana and Vaomapa) +676 7725972

ramsayshippingcompany@gmail.com No website

<https://www.facebook.com/tofaramsayshipping?mibextid=ZbWKwL>

- Domestic Ferry Malau 75 (Malau) +676 7725972 No website 7713367 Cannot find email

<https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61550593538458>

- International Shipping Freight
Matson Shipping www.matson.com

NZ [Schedule](#)

Australia [Schedule](#)

Freight Consolidation Auckland

Fe'oFa'aki Shipping Services <https://fss.net.nz/> faith@fss.net.nz 14b Rennie Drive, Airport Oaks, Auckland 2150, New Zealand DO NOT FORGET to get your Tongan TIN from Ministry of Revenue before you ship something

- Customs Broker Vava'u
Jetsave Travel Vava'u Linda +676 8887726 Linda Pulini Tafea jetsave.vav@gmail.com All invoices, say if you're a yacht in transit.give TIN from revenue services.

Services available in area covered: [\[Return to Table of Content\]](#)

- **Superyacht Agencies**

Super Yacht Services dhunttonga@gmail.com David Hunt

Yacht Help dgleonard@hotmail.com Derek Leonard

Tongasuperyachts.com superyacht@vavau.to Greg Just.

If this summary helps you... Looking for a Patreon or please support Café Tropicana or give a donation

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

- **Slipways**

Fishing slipway for smaller monohulls

Pafilios slipway for multihulls

The Boatyard - Mono and multihulls on hard storage. In terms of costs for leaving a yachts in Tonga vs Fiji:

Cost comparison Fiji vs Tonga. Haul out and mooring fees in Tonga are generally cheaper than Fiji, repair facilities and staffing are better in Fiji, Cost of returning to Fiji is significantly cheaper to Fiji, Couriers are cheaper and faster to Fiji. More yards in Fiji. More international flights in Suva and Nadi. International flights into Tongatapu and Nadi/Vavau.

- **Water**
Town supply water available at Moorings/Riki Tiki by appointment please
Filtered rain water from Café Tropicana. Either bring in your own jugs or borrow upto 10*20 litre jugs (Free delivery to small boat marina, Belga, wharf, and use of 12v pump) . 50cents per liter. Wharf is good if you are checking out to fill tanks.
Rain water showers at Café Tropicana
- **Fuel**
Fuel available at fuel stations, or Pacific Fuel Truck (min 200 litres)
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. Sometime high alcohol hand steriliser is available as a pre warmer for a kerosene stove in EM Jones, PTH or OE. 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 on the day you are checking out, to duty free, purchase spirits ONLY, they will deliver to customs immediately. Customs will tick items off receipt and hand to the yacht. This change was made to stop a restaurant owner coming in with cruisers to buy duty free stock for his business. Mon to Frid 9am to 4.30pm Sat 8am to 1pm. Largest sprits range in Vava'u.
- Beluga Diving VHF 09 +676 70327 (yellow and white numbered buoys) belugadivingvavau@hotmail.com
- Moorings (red bouys) +676 8720022 shane@tongasailing.com Do not pay Mango.
No anchoring fields Neiafu www.vavau.to/vavauharbournanchor.jpg
- **Trades**
- Welding Ashley 7512408 or 8470572. Trained by a Dutch master welder . Ken Spence Australian Trained kiwi welder 87
- Vava'u Boatyard. Vaipua Inlet Anchorage 4 8816854. Haulout, storage, Shipwright, mechanical.
-Sewing/canvas repairs – Riki inherited sewing machines from the late Canvas repairer. Philip Wheeler 8771066
-Electrical/electronics - nil
- HVAC – some technicians. Tau +676 8731368 +676 8627252, Ask Greg
- Outboard – nil
- Diesel mechanic – Boatyard, MPS, Tau +676 8731368 +676 8627252
- Rigging – nil
-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
-Chandlery: Yacht shop which is Boatyard Vava'u business. Jets Hardware (next to vege market), Em Jones (across road from Café Tropicana), Motor Part Services (also hydraulics) (a few blocks up Tui Rd), PTH (after Mormon Temple), JW Hardware (across road from Mormon Temple) also have some yacht and hardware supplies
- 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
Trades in Ha'apai and nuku'alofa **TO DO**
- **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 [cyclone](#)

- **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 village 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.
 - Panda wharf has multiple height concrete platforms, not suitable for long term use if the tide changes. Also heavily used during the whale season.
 - Shore side of the Panda dock has tie downs but suggest leaving someone in the dinghy for security.
- 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.
- 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/vavausma2024.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.

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>
- **WARNING** Do not feed/pet 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.
- **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

Drones: [\[Return to Table of Content\]](#)

- **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.. NOT TO BE FLOWN ABOVE WHALES under 1000ft. Form and contact number in attachment <http://moi.gov.to/images/Drone%20Registration%20Form%20Rev%201.pdf>

Local Charts and Chartlets: [\[Return to Table of Content\]](#)

- 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!
- Gig Guide/Whats on report/Calendar with summary of local regulations., other local events are on the calendar. www.vavau.to/gigguide.pdf

Embassies, Consulates, Honorary consuls [\[Return to Table of Content\]](#)

- [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: [\[Return to Table of Content\]](#)

- VHF **Vava'u Cruisers Net** VHF Channel 26 8.30am each morning except Sunday, since late 80's. Alternative VHF 06 if 26 is down
www.vavau.to/cruisersnet
Whatsapp group "Sailing in Tonga" <https://chat.whatsapp.com/CMOnBCOYvcgKPZg63ZKGNX> as Starlink is so prevalent
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

Radio Check... All stations, All stations... this is "vessel name" radio check please. Stations will respond with your audio quality and there location so you can judge range etc.

May day... Use only in grave or imminent danger

"Mayday, Mayday, Mayday" "This is [vessel name and/or call sign if you have one]" (spoken three times) "My position is ... [Details of the ship's position]" "My vessel is ... [Nature of distress and assistance required is identified]" "I have ...

Pan Pan... Urgent call should be used when the distress call cannot be justified but there is an urgent message to transmit concerning the safety of the vessel or the safety of a person

"Pan-Pan, Pan-Pan, Pan-Pan. "This is (name of boat three times, call letters once)."Report your location. Report the nature of your urgent situation. Report the kind of assistance needed.Report the number of people on board.

Securite.... Used to advise others of general situational information

"Sécurité, Sécurité, Sécurité, This is (name of authority/vessel), we are currently conducting a Search and Rescue for (details...), please stay off VHF 26."

Radio relay... Relaying a distress or non-distress call via another boat not in distress.

Pan-pan relay (*spoken three times), This is (name of boat three times, call letters once)."Report your location. Report the nature of your urgent situation. Report the kind of assistance needed.Report the number of people on board.

Mayday Relay "This is [vessel name and/or call sign if you have one]" (spoken three times) "My position is ... [Details of the ship's position]" "My vessel is ... [Nature of distress and assistance required is identified]" "I have ...

[VHF Channels Vava'u: \[Return to Table of Content\]](#)

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!

60 New repeater station under test 9/24 Not so good in the harbour...

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....

VHF radio check

"All stations, all stations, this is ???? Requesting a radio check on VHF channel ??"

Someone will respond and advise quality of call, and their location so you can see how far you are reaching.

[Cruiseships \[Return to Table of Content\]](#)

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: [\[Return to Table of Content\]](#)

All have FB Points of Interest (POI) created by myself

<https://vavau.to/sitenames> *update as more have been added to do*

Suggested itineraries [3, 7, 14, 30 days to do KMZ to do](#)

Vava'u suggested 4 hour car itinerary

Puono Park – historical site
St Joseph Cathedral
Veimuminu Cave
Mt Talau Lookout
Mormon Temple
Utula'aina Lookout
Esi O Salote Lookout

Vava'u suggested 4 hour walking itinerary

Puono Park – historical site
St Joseph Cathedral
Veimuminu Cave
Mt Talau Lookout

- 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 Toula, 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](#)
- [Toula](#) 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), ['Otua'lea Beach](#) (Ha'alaufuli), [To 'anga'ofa](#) (Utui)
- Whaleswim 1/July to Oct/Nov. Season from 1/7. 26 Whale Licence holders in Vava'u. List provders **todo**
- Gamefishing – nearly all year. [Fighting Lady](#), [Ashlee G Fishing Adventures](#), [Blue Marlin Magic](#), [Kiwi Magic](#), [Monu la](#)
- Sailing – nearly all year. [Moorings/Sunsail](#)
- Sea kayaking – nearly all year, [FIKCO](#)
- Mananita Island is a bird sanctuary, no organised tours. Tongan Whistlers can be found in Mt Talau reserve – ask Greg for details.
- 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: [\[Return to Table of Content\]](#)

- 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/>
- US Peace Corp Volunteers are now based in Tongatapu and Vava'u. Some are teaching English in schools, some are environmental volunteers working in the community. <https://www.facebook.com/PeaceCorpsTonga>
Any assistance, books, pens etc are gladly accepted. Vava'u volunteers can be reached via Cafe Tropicana.
- 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>
- 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: [\[Return to Table of Content\]](#)

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. Cable was repaired 2023, an earthquake early 2024 took the cable out again – no word on timeframe to repair. A 6 month interim approval for Starlink was granted 6/24, Full licence issued 12/24

E-sims are active with TCC only in 2024, Digicel is set to follow.

Voicemail options exist on cellphones, but not widely used or understood, suggest not leaving a message... it will probably not be listened to.

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 since 2022. 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 *120# money Balance, *130# Plan summary *777# Sim number *123# plan purchasing My Digicel App for data balance. Starlink reseller

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

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

Niua only has TCC services, limited power/solar.

SSB/HF AIS/Internet Nets: [\[Return to Table of Content\]](#)

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@xtra.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: [\[Return to Table of Content\]](#)
www.vavau.to/tipstrickslaundry.pdf

Yacht lockup hard and floating tips: [\[Return to Table of Content\]](#)
www.vavau.to/tipstricksyachtstorage.pdf

Passage planning to NZ: www.vavau.to/passageplanningtonz.pdf [\[Return to Table of Content\]](#)
to be completed and peer reviewed, also NZ to Tonga passage planning to be done

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

Qualified Meteorologists

www.metbob.com bob@metbob.com Bob McDavitt NZ Meteorologist.

NZD10 per 5 minutes. 2 x Departure prep 10 minutes, voyage 1 x forecast 35 minutes, 3 x underway updates 15 minutes ballpark NZD120

brucetheweatherman@gmail.com Bruce Buckley, Perth Australia Meteorologist.

Dependent on ports. 10 to 30 minute per forecast. Pacific to NZ ballpark AUD450, long term client discounts around 20%

clouds@ozemail.com.au Roger Badham, Australia Meteorologist

App/Non-qualified Meteorologists

www.passageweather.com Free

www.predictwind.com \$0 to USD499 per annum

www.coastalandoffshorecruising.com/ocean-tactics-2/ John Martin Single Routing – \$250USD for C&OC members \$297USD for other associated club members (\$347USD, non members). for a single passage, up to 3000nm, longer passages by negotiation.

Making more than one passage in one cruising season? Then our Season Pass** may benefit your needs. \$550USD for C&OC and Ocean Posse members. \$597USD for other associated club members (\$650USD, non member)***.

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 too heavy.. A clean bottom also means a faster passage of course. Only 4 out of 2500+ yachts were sent to be hauled immediately. Watch out for open wounds getting infected if you do it yourself. Beluga staff do this if they have time, ask Huib if anyone is free. You can also buy, but not here, a 30ft air line for your dive regulator; leave the dive bottle on the yacht, no bcd... much easier.

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. Council owned marina profits are put back into the community. The council assists all marinas in Whangarei in terms of marketing.

Opuia 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* [\[Return to Table of Content\]](#)

Lau is not an entry port, do no 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.

Fiji has more Marine Services than Tonga. In 2023 a yacht had damaged rigging sent to Fiji by yacht, it was then sailed back by another yacht when it was repaired....

[https://www.fijimarinas.com/pdf/2020 Fiji Shores And Marinas Guide.pdf](https://www.fijimarinas.com/pdf/2020%20Fiji%20Shores%20And%20Marinas%20Guide.pdf) for a list of all services in Fiji

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"...[\[Return to Table of Content\]](#)

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 [\[Return to Table of Content\]](#)

NZ NIWA and Australia have a shared weather project for weather stations and Tide equipment in Tonga

Online tides for Tonga/Pacific... <http://www.bom.gov.au/australia/tides/#!/offshore> Neiafu and Nukualofa tonga

Apps <https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.anujdivesh.PacificTides>

<https://apps.apple.com/nz/app/pacific-tides/id1586592173>

Weather..

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

www.met.gov.fj

www.countrytv.co.nz/weather

Seasonality of groups by island **to do**

Temp, rain, wind

Starlink: [\[Return to Table of Content\]](#)

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>

Please don't turn your VHF off and live in Whatsapp, the life you save may be your own.

Also do not solely rely in Starlink, have a redundant fallback. SSB, Garmin in reach. A number of searches have begun because contact was lost to Starlink ONLY vessels. Cable, router, dish, power failures are more common than you think.

Café Tropicana normally holds Starlink Ethernet cables for resale. This is the most common item to fail on starlinks!

Interested in moving to Vava'u? [\[Return to Table of Content\]](#)

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 [\[Return to Table of Content\]](#)

Here are the visa checklists and visa application forms for the Kingdom of Tonga. Also below is all the forms for getting a Tongan police record, which is required for a liquor renewal, some job applications, overseas visa application, change/extension of Tongan visa if you have spent time within Tonga.

Change in Visa class requires 1. you to leave Tonga, have someone submit the new visa application or 2.TOP5,750 fee and stay in county.

[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

Tonga Police records [form](#)

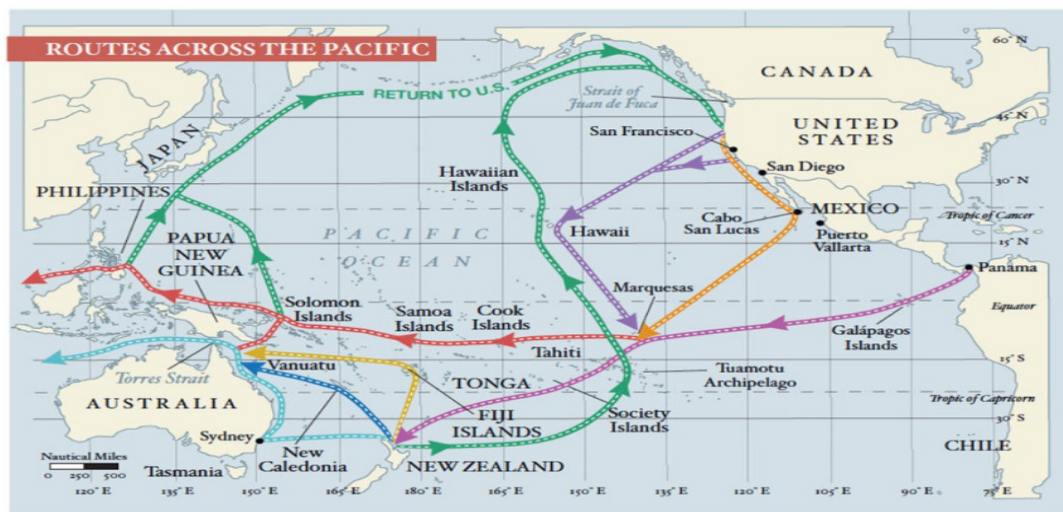
Treasures of the Bilge Vava'u [\[Return to Table of Content\]](#)

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 \[Return to Table of Content\]](#)

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: \[Return to Table of Content\]](#)



[Coffee \[Return to Table of Content\]](#)

Café Tropicana and Coffee and Tees retail Kingdom Koffee, grown and roasted in Tongatapu. Espresso machines in Vava'u are at Café Tropicana, Coffee and Tees, Bella Vista, Harbour view Resort. Cafe 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: \[Return to Table of Content\]](#)

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: Toula

fuel Bunker

Cash only

Vava'u Cafe Tropicana charges \$5 a kg and a \$10 surcharge per bottle, generally weekly on Tuesdays at 9am. Has 12+ adaptors,.. Camping Gaz, Calor, clipon 20, clipon 21, clipon 22, clip on 27mm, gasmate (NZ), Mini 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. Tonga gas has a large ACME but no other adaptors. Or taxi \$10 each way to depot.

Cafe Tropicana MAY have 4kg POL bottles for sale, please ask if you are desperate.
Access has been stopped up the stairs to TongaGas for health and safety reasons. Imagine dropping a gas bottle down stairs...
Be aware NZ and Australia do not refill fibreglass and only POL (US) bottles that are in test dates. You may have to gravity fill or swap to a POL bottle, which are filled everywhere.
Does a petrol/diesel fuel run Tuesday at 10am. \$10 per boat. Run back by 11am

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:[\[Return to Table of Content\]](#)

Tonga has the following couriers: UPS, Fedex, DHL. Service terminates in Nukualofa, you will have to pay for transhipment 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 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.

To import items you must use an Customs Agent. In Vava'u I recommend Jetsave Travel,

Post Office

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

\$10 handling fee per parcel to Post Office.

If you are using someone's private bag, it now costs \$125 annually – please consider a donation of \$10 per package

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 Taufa'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 Taufa'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....

https://www.fijimarinas.com/pdf/2020_Fiji_Shores_And_Marinas_Guide.pdf for a list of all services in Fiji

Apostille/Certified copies: [\[Return to Table of Content\]](#)

An Apostille or an Authentication certifies the authenticity of the signature, seal and position of the official who has executed, issued or certified a copy of a public document. An Apostille or an Authentication enables a public document issued in one country to be recognized as valid in another country. Justice of the Peace (JP) or a Magistrate (Court house) can do this for TOP10. Unfortunately no upto date list is available for JP's in Tonga, you will have to ask on FB or a local. You must take in photo ID – passport, drivers licence, national ID etc.

Accommodation off the boat: [\[Return to Table of Content\]](#)

A number of options exist depending on what you need. If your yacht is in the water and you just want a few days off.. Boathouse Apartments or Harbourview are popular as they have good access to the harbour.

If you are working at the boatyard and can't stay on board for many reasons, but want to be close you could stay at a managed property up the lagoon with water access and dinghy to it. Speak to Greg and see what's available through Vavau Island Property services.

Advertising from business Monetised:

[\[Return to Table of Content\]](#)

Cafe Tropicana

Tongan beach resort

Boathouse Apartments

Ax Factor dive

Harbour View Resort

Mia Beauty

Toafa Guest Lodge

Lagoon Apartments

Gym/Fitness: [\[Return to Table of Content\]](#)

Vava'u Lahi Fitness Centre is based in Puatakanave Hotel. Cardio machines are broken, weights and free weights may be working.

<https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100065078975484>

Recycling: [\[Return to Table of Content\]](#)

Glass can be crushed and used as an alternative for sand...

Tongatapu crush glass

Ha'apai crush glass

Vava'u does not crush glass

Used oil/contaminated fuel can be used as a wood preservative, markings sports fields, poison, fire starter, bicycle lube, soak bath, furnace fuel, chainsaw and water pump oil... Vava'u used oil, contaminated fuel can be dropped into Cafe Tropicana. TOP5

Dead 12v batteries are periodically collected on each island and recycled

Vava'u Cafe Tropicana accepts dead batteries

Various other

Cafe Tropicana accepts glass jars with metal lids for preserves.

Market accepts Schweppes glass bottles and lids, as well as soda plastic bottles and lids for various things.

Used plastic bags are accepted in the market, reused as shopping bags.

Food scraps can be dropped into Cafe Tropicana (no meat, egg shells, onions) and is dropped into a composter or home bio gas unit. Mounu Island will do the same.

Metal tins nothing

Glass bottles are accepted in Nukua'lofa and Ha'apai for glass crushing as a replacement for sand in concrete. Vava'u does not have a glass crusher!

Polystyrene/Plastic bottles can be melted into paving stones but nothing is done..

Biogas is just starting to be used for bio fertiliser and bio gas.

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.

If anyone has updated comments please email greg@vavau.to

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!

Be aware of Fisheries regulations that affect anchoring in SMA/FHR zones.

SMA – special management areas – anchoring fee paid to community

Taunga (21,22, 24) \$20 anchor and \$20 overnight

Otea (6) \$10 anchor and \$10 overnight

Falevai (7,8) \$20 anchor and \$20 overnight

Ovaka (38,39,40) \$10 anchor and \$20 overnight

Nuapapu (15) \$10 anchor and \$10 overnight

Hunga (9,13) \$20 anchor and \$20 overnight

Matamaka (15) \$10 anchor and \$20 overnight

Makave (25) \$10 anchor and \$20 overnight

Ofu (28) Donation

FHR – no anchoring, no fish, no take, some allow guided snorkelling

Refer to more extensive cruising notes/guides

Chartlet pic/drone

Bottom/reef. Hold, anchoring/mooring tips Moorings/fees. SMA/FHR exposed to winddirection. Swell.. Suitable ☺fair weather, wind warning, gale force) environmental..

Cell reception Digicel/TCC

inHabitated? Villages, close business?

All rights and copyright reserved, no replication of information, PRIOR Permission to use URL and Credit to www.vavau.to/portofficer.pdf

Neiafu 1 (Knee AH foo) The safest yachting harbour In Tonga, Friday night races have largely failed as not many people wish to race the house and the yacht club is in name only. This is not “port of refuge”, it is Port of Refuge Harbour. The original Port of Refuge is actually in Longamapu “Uluaki Puatalefusi. Wreck MV Clan Mcwilliam 18° 40' 15" S., 173° 59' 27" W. Paradise Hotel access is stopped until renovation gets underway. Cafes and restaurants, fruit, veg, arts markets. Shopping. LPG, fuel. Fuel tanker minimum 250 litres. Duty free if last Tongan port. Very quick drop off to 40m+ from shore

Pangai 2 (PAHNG-eye)

Pangaimotu Causeway 3 (PAHNG-eye-MOH-too) Hoping at some stage this will be turned into a low bridge to flush the harbour and allow dinghies to the eastern side.. Sandy Bottom. Ano Beach and Hinakaeua Beach.

Vaipua Lagoon 4 (vie-POO-ah) 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 Island (Vauleleva Bay) 5 (loh-TOO-mah) 18°30.746S / 174°00.484W Protection from E/SE. Bottom mostly rock. Not nice in NE. Dinghy to Tongan Beach Resort for drinks/food. Book first. www.thetonga.com Lotuma is a Tongan Navy Island, access is currently permitted.

Mala 6 (MAH-lah) 18°41.446S / 174°01.666W Good protection from SE. Shallow bommies. Shallow through pass, do not attempt. Japanese gardens snorkelling. SMA.Dinghy to Tongan Beach Resort for drinks/food. www.thetonga.com Book first.

Port Maurelle 7 (Port more elle) Fangakima (FAHNG-ah-KEE-mah) 18°41.980S / 174°01.788W Well protected except NW. SMA. Swallows Cave 18.6824° S, 174.0473° W. Mariners Cave 18°41.451S / 174°04.492W No Digicel

Nuku 8 (NOO-koo) Belongs to Falevai Island. SMA. Snorkel tour \$7 - \$10 per person

Luamoko day only 9. (LOO-ahMOH- koo) Sandy bottom, fine weather holding only. SMA. Mariners Cave 18°41.451S / 174°04.492W

Aisea's or Lisa Beach 10 (eye-SAY-ah) 18°41.833S / 173°59.892W Protected N to SE 6.5km walk to town.

Tapana 11 (tar par nar) 18°42.432S / 173°59.169W Sand bottom. Good protection SE to NW. The Ark/anchorage closed. Café Tropicana now owns several moorings – please pay if you use them TOP15 per night.

Tapana South 12 (Ta Paan Ah) 18°72.398S / 174°98.929W, Good protection except NW. The Ark/anchorage closed. *

Hunga 13 (hoo n g a) 18°41.59S / 174°07.69W Beware of bommie coming into Hunga Lagoon. Hunga Haven/anchorage closed. Ika Lahi closed. SMA/FHR

Foeata Island "Blue Lagoon" day only 14 (FOH-ay-AH-tah) 18°42.609S / 174°08.321W. Day ONLY. SMA/FHR

Nuapapu and Matamaka 15 (New a Pap OO) 18°42.355S / 174°5.546W Protection N to NW. Feasts are sometimes available. NO protection in S or SW wind . Protection N to SE SMA

Vaka'eitu 16 (vark eh A2) 18°43.356S / 174°6.003W mostly Sandy with some coral. Protection N to SE Coral Gardens snorkelling sites.. Feasts sometimes available on Island during season.

Lape Island 17 (LAH-pay) 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. Ok Digicel. SMA. Cultural tour Kolio 7513154

Fonua Lei day only 18 .(foh-NOO-ah-LIE)

Sisia day only 19 .(sis e ah) 18°43.910S / 174°03.257W Rocky. Protection E

Katafanga day only 20 (car ta far na)

Taunga overnight 21 (ta oong a) 18°44.4S / 174°00.6W. Protected S and W. Ngau island is good snorkelling and diving. SMA

Taunga Day Stop 22 (ta oong a) Exposed to Westerlies. SMA

Ngau Day Stop 23 (Now) 18°45.316S / 174°00.627W Diving and snorkelling. Wind protection N to NE, SE. SMA/FHR

Ngau Day Stop 24 (Now) 18°44.0S / 174°00.4W Protection from W and NW. SMA/FHR

Old Harbour / Makave 25 (mah-KAH-vay) 18°39.247S / 173°58.28527W coral bottom – float your chain. good protection NE to SE. Kilikiletefua Wall in Makave. SMA

'Olo'ua 26 (OH-loo-OO-ah) 18°40.206S / 173°57.473W protected in NE and S SMA

Mafana 27 (mah-FAH-nah) protected in N and E. Mafana Backpacker closed. SMA

Ofu 28 (OH-foo) 18°41.918S / 173°55.768W protected in NE and SE. Sand and rock. Good Digicel. SMA

Eueiki Day stop 29 (E wa icki) Treasure Island Resort, bookings only, privately owned island. No anchoring, may have mooring for rent VHF 26. FHR

Kenutu 30 (keh-NOO-too) 18°41.730S / 173°55.737W Uninhabited. Sand. Good protection from E and SE

Maninita Island 31 (MAH-nee-NEE-tah) 18°51.400S / 173°59.866W. Good weather only. Uninhabited. RAT free, check dinghy and any belongings to make sure no rats come ashore. Bird Sanctuary

Euakafa 32 (AY-wah-KAH-fah) 18°45.194S / 174°2.117W

Fuamotu Day only 33 (foo ah mo 2) 18°47.421S / 174°00.417W. Uninhabited. RAT free, permission must be given to go ashore

Lua Ui 34 (LOO-ah OO-ee)

Lahiapo (Luahaipo) daytime only 35 (LOO-ah-hee-AH-poh) Uninhabited. RAT free, check dinghy and any belongings to make sure no rats come ashore.

Fonua' One'One 36 (foh-NOO-ah-OH-nay-OH-nay) 18°48.935S / 174°03.918W. Sandy bottom. Good protection from SSW through E. Uninhabited. RAT free, check dinghy and any belongings to make sure no rats come ashore.

Fangasito day only 37 (FAHNG-ah-SEE-toh) Uninhabited. RAT free, check dinghy and any belongings to make sure no rats come ashore. Bird Sanctuary.

Ovaka 38 (oh-VAH-kah) Day Stop 18°45.935S / 174°05.206W Sandy bottom. Feast 7530552. Tavake Island Market day Thursday morning. Snorkel guide tour \$10 per person guide in FHR. Heavens Touch Gardens owned by Sergei from France

Ovaka day only 39 (o var ka) 18°45.145S / 174°05.172W

Ovalau 40 (oh-vah-LAHW) 18°44.985S / 174°04.844W Uninhabited sandy at 4m. Large sandy beach Protected SE to E. SMA/HR

Mounu 41 (moh-OO-noo) 18°45.01S / 174°04.3W. Sandy, call for anchoring instructions based on weather. VHF 77 www.mounuisland.com Mounu Island Resort, bookings only, privately owned.

Mou'mua (Mu'omu'a) day only 42 (moo a moo a) 18°45.436S / 174°02.613W (MOO-oh-MOO-ah) Inhabited, private Island. Mike is the lease owner. Wind protection NE to E.

North Shore 18°37.418S / 174°01.894W Coral Sand 60ft Wind protection SE Not recommended.

Big bay (Vaitutakau Bay) 18°35'55.93"S 174° 0'39.24"W No protection unless SE settled weather. Not recommended.

Port of Refuge originally is actually in Longamapu "Uluaki Puatalefusi named because No protection W, not recommended. Tall Ships could not sail into the harbour. 18°39'11.92"S 174° 3'40.17"W Village of Longamapu

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

This guide is not supported by Government, Aid or any Tongan business other than Café Tropicana. Please support us if you are in Vava'u or donate via <https://www.buymeacoffee.com/tropicana> Or paypal.me/greg.just@windowslive.com

Tonga Marine Tourism Briefing Video [\[Return to Table of Content\]](#)

www.vavau.to/tongabriefing.mp4 to do
www.vavau.to/tongabriefing.pdf

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 and improve safety at sea.. 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 Padi Divemaster. Volunteered for NZ coastguard, Vava'u SAR for 10 years with VERA. I do not rganise rallies but I am port officer for OCC, ICNZ, PCA, SSCA, CA, Noonsite, RCC, Trans Ocean, World Arc, Pacific Posse. I give SAFE information rather than to benefit a commercial business that a rally may promote.

Do not rush through Tonga, you are not doing it justice to spend less than 2 months here. Come back next year and enter in Ha'apai or Vava'u. A lot of people spend 5 years going through the Pacific before going to Australia and West.

[Tonga](#)
[\[Return to Table of Content\]](#)

The strategic location of Vava'u at the crossroads of several sailing routes, as well as the reputation of the main anchorage, Refuge Harbour, as a safe hurricane hole, has turned it into a busy yachting centre – Jimmy Cornell

Population 108,000, Vava'u 16000.

176 islands, 34 inhabited, 5 Island groups. Christianity in constitution. Modesty and Sabbath rules apply.

13 hours ahead of GMT. Be aware of dateline changes!

Named Friendly Islands by Capt cook in 1773. SIDS small island developing state.

Direct flights from Nukualofa to NZ, Australia, Samoa, and Fiji. Vava'u direct to Nadi, Fiji April to Feb, and Samoa. Vava'u international airport development starts 2025., finish 2028.

One way crew letter from immigration \$34.50 or <https://onwardticket.com/vavau> Visa for approved countries upon arrival at customs, other countries you must apply at immigration upon arrival – pre application is not required.

Trade winds April to December SE or E. spring tide 6 foot, average 4 to 5 foot

Cyclone season November to march. Most common cyclones jan, feb

Whale swim 1 July to October

VHF 26, 60 repeater, not much traffic on 16,

ANOA, 12 months boat visa. Human Visa 6 months max, requires exit to another country to reset.

Medical is varied but improving, recommend health insurance.

Large Christian based constitution. Conservative dress standards, Sunday rules apply.

Vava'u boatyard monohulls 50ft, 25 tonnes. Cats 58ft, 25 tonnes. Draft max 7ft. You can, import duty free, non consumable parts for yachts.

Shipping routes via Auckland and United State SF every month. Couriers 2 weeks +. Duty free for boat parts, require TIN from revenue.

Pets – quarantined on vessel for a term, vaccination paperwork.

Starlink is approved.

Ciguatera is a very small issue. Certain reefs and fish.

15/1/22 HTHH Underwater Volcano caused Tsunami. Largest Volcanic event in 100 years. Biggest impact on Tongatapu, then Nomuka.

Then Ha'apai, very little impact on Vava'u.

Social Media resource <https://www.facebook.com/groups/tongaexpatsandlocals>

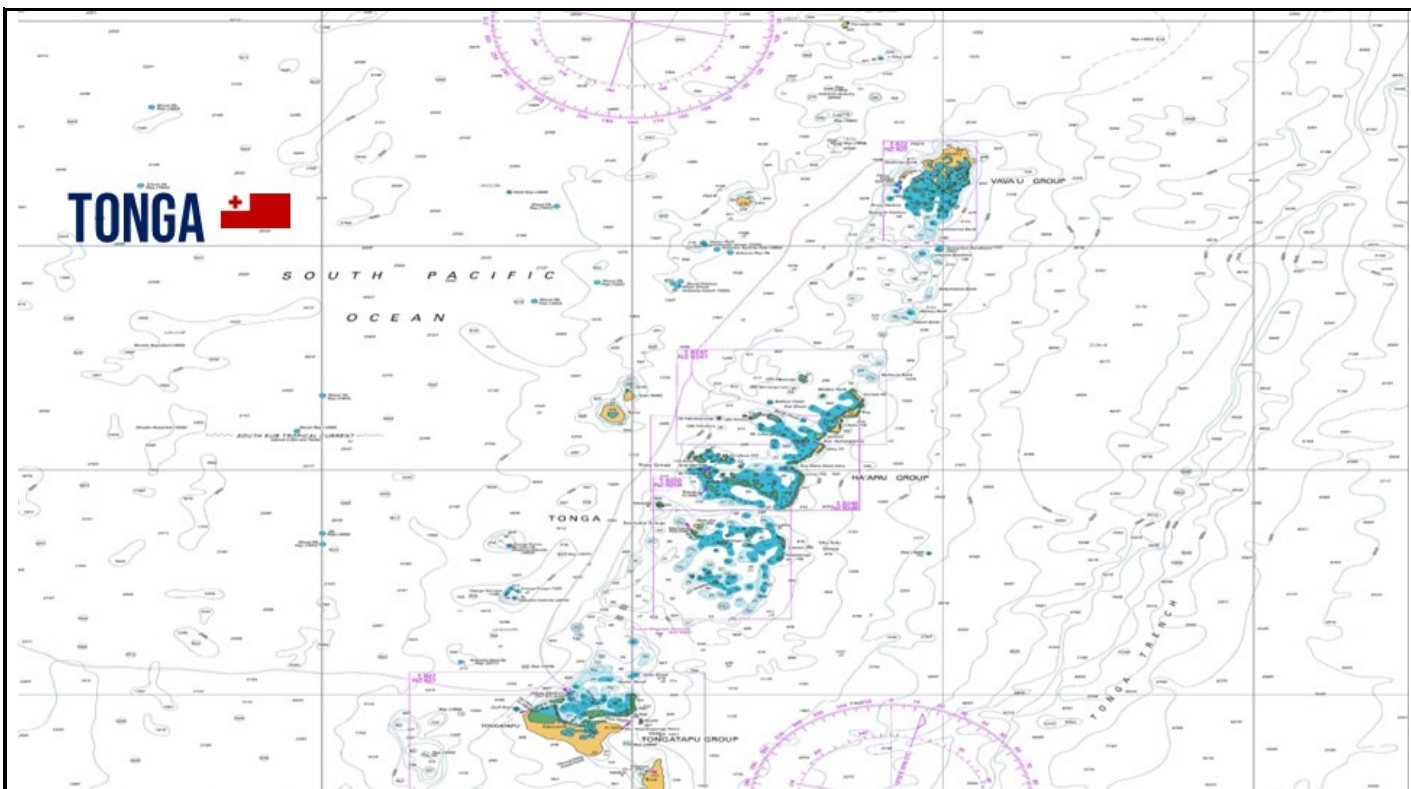
Social Media <https://www.facebook.com/vavaucruisersnet>

GPS mapping and info www.sailingtonga.com

Whatsapp **Whatsapp group "Sailing to Tonga " Admin Help/information sailing to, and in, the Kingdom Tonga, from someone based in Tonga that will help with options rather than just clipping your ticket**

<https://chat.whatsapp.com/CMOnBCOYvcgKPZg63ZKGN X>

Info www.vavau.to/portofficer.pdf always up to date



Niuas Island Group. [Return to Table of Content]

Furthest Northern Group. Entry/exit port Niutoputapu. Main islands Niutoputapu (sacred Island), Niuafu'ou (many coconuts) and Tafahi (Side Island). Cannot extend visa!

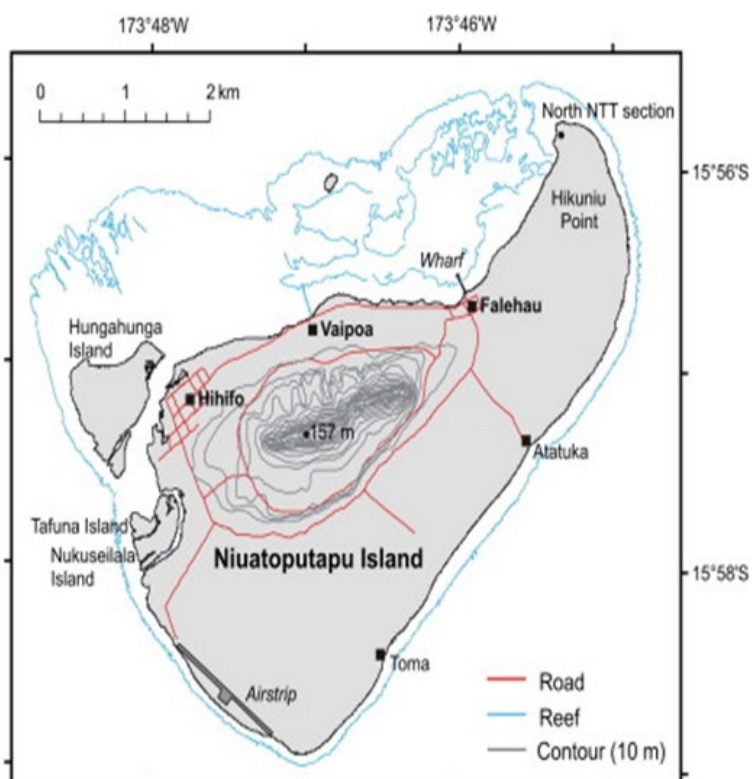
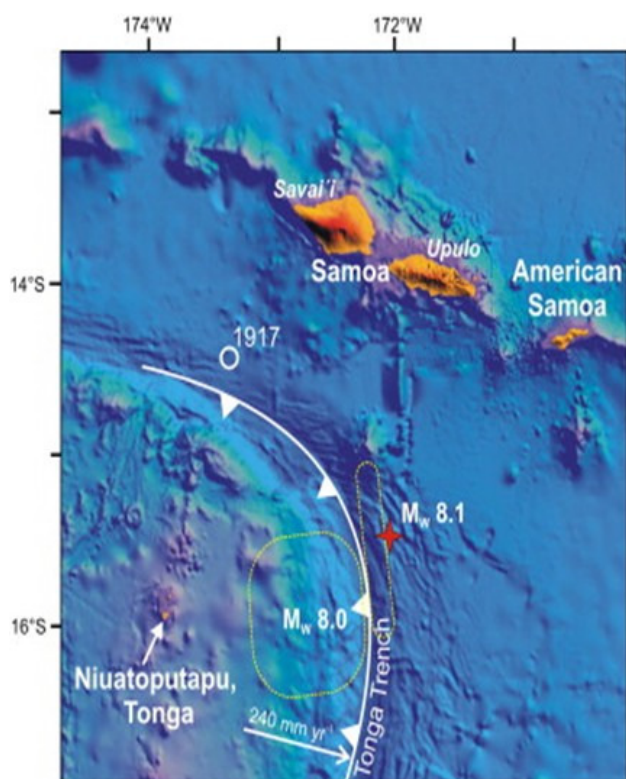
Niutoputapu has a good walk to the peak, freshwater spring. Snorkelling, diving and beaches are unspoilt. Whalewatch from a beach or the peak august, September. A ferry comes monthly or bi monthly from Nukualofa, Vava'u... shopping is limited, fuel and repairs are limited. Amazing local honey.

Niuafu'ou Has Vai Lahi (Big lake) in middle of island

Tafahi is an extinct Volcano, it has a spectacular crater. Hire a local fishing boat and guide most days from Niutoputapu. Fish with a local can be educational

<https://tongapocketguide.com/the-complete-guide-to-the-niuas/>

https://www.vavau.to/Cruising_Guide3.pdf From page 14 onwards.





Vava'u Island Group

[\[Return to Table of Content\]](#)

Capital Neiafu. Entry/exit point. The pearl of Tonga. Anchorage are close together. Diving, snorkelling. 50+ moorings. Good provisioning, café, restaurant. Duty free fuel at wharf if you are departing Tonga. LPG refilling. Crew change flying into Vava'u via Fiji and Samoa, True International airport completed by 2028 – private enterprise. A new Hospital is being built from 2025 by UN/Australia. A new Tongan Navy base begins 2025 onwards. Paradise Hotel is also being rebuilt probably 2026.

Pronounced Vavaoo.

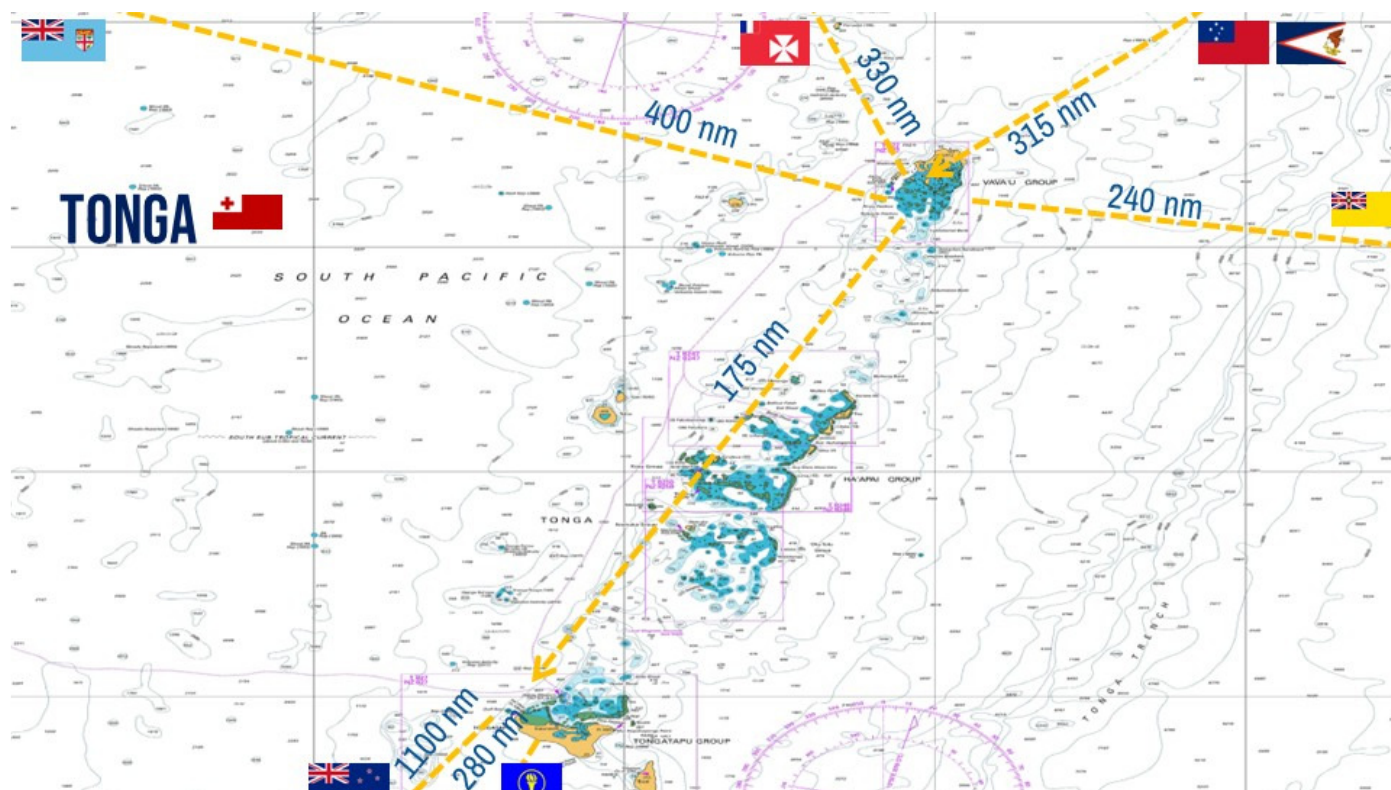
Traditionally yachts depart to NZ in October per cyclone insurance, weather is more stable the later you can leave. With the Vava'u boatyard this opens up staying all or part of the off season and have the option to haulout if required. Cruise without the maddening rush. If you are departing to NZ it is common "kiwi" practice to depart directly from Vava'u to Minerva. Vava'u allows you to fully provision and depart quickly if a weather window opens. Bear in mind swell and weather patterns frequently are uncomfortable to go through Ha'apai and Nukualofa, unless you have to collect crew in Nuku'alofa. 2022/3/4 bad storms went through Nuku'alofa, Ha'apai

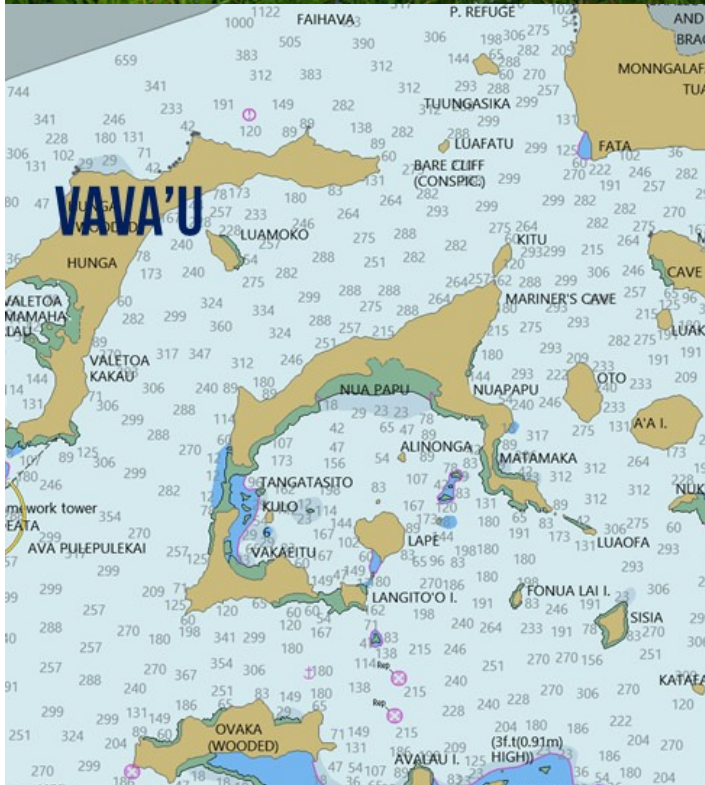
was unpleasant at times. You may also depart from Ha'apai. If you return next year enter in the Ha'apai, and go further north as you wish.

<https://tongapocketguide.com/the-complete-guide-to-vavau/>

www.vavau.to/passageplanningtonz.pdf

https://www.vavau.to/Cruising_Guide3.pdf From page 14 onwards.





Ha'apai Island Group

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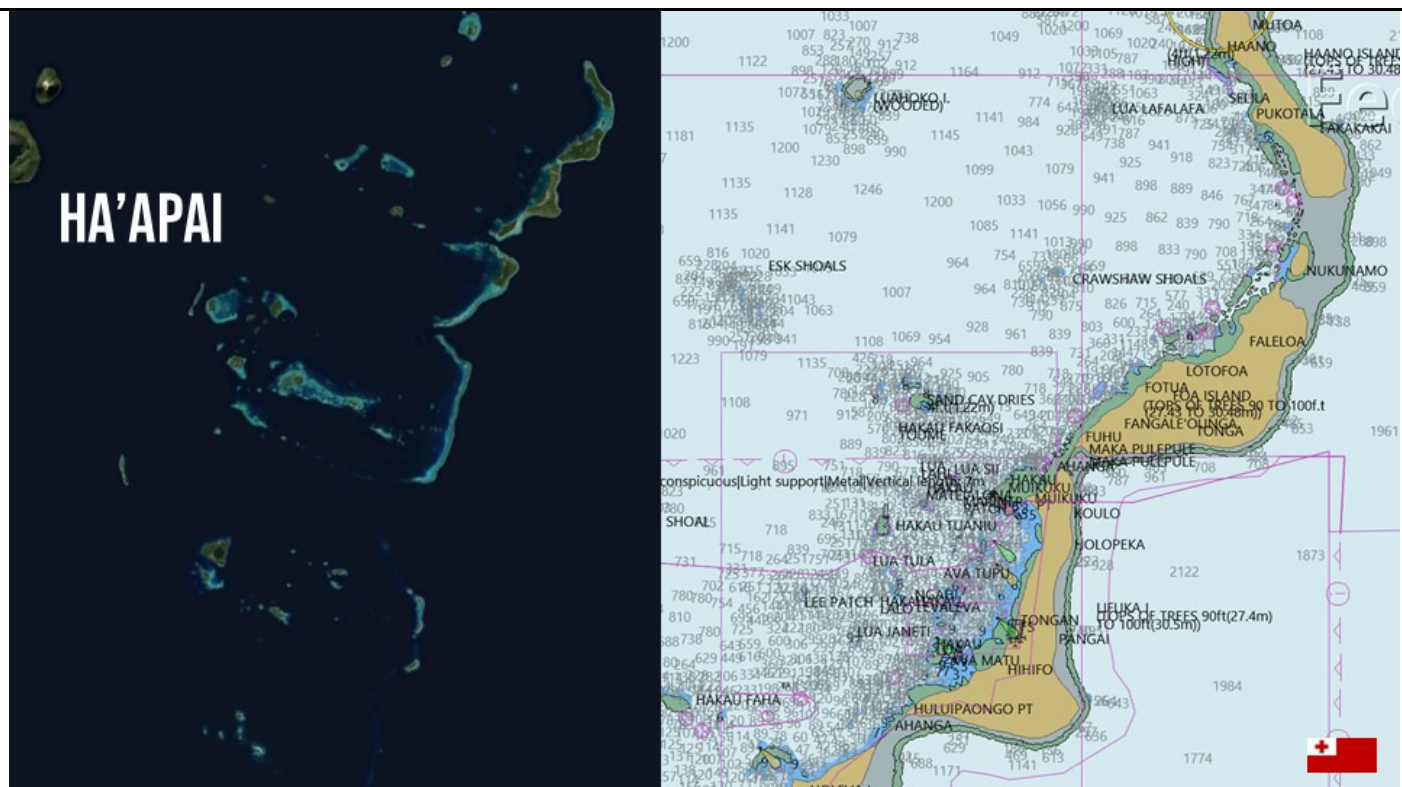
Capital Lifuka. Very little wind cover, sandy bottom. Good drift diving. Basic provisioning, refuelling and LPG is an issue. Entry/exit point – cannot extend visa!

Check in/Out Mornings ONLY

<https://tongapocketguide.com/the-complete-guide-to-haapai/>

www.vavau.to/passageplanningtonz.pdf

https://www.vavau.to/Cruising_Guide3.pdf From page 14 onwards.



Nomuka Island Group

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Good surfing. Snorkling. Not an entry/exit port

www.vavau.to/passageplanningtonz.pdf

https://www.vavau.to/Cruising_Guide3.pdf From page 14 onwards.

Tongatapu Island Group

[\[Return to Table of Content\]](#)

Capital Nukua'lofa. Commercial harbour, enter harbour during the day. Long entry/exit procedure. Entry/exit port. Fuel and LPG.

Check in vessel to main wharf. Customs, Health, Quarantine.

Domestic checkin (cleared in at another port, have domestic transfer papers. Does not require vessel to wharf, but drop in paper to customs within 48 hours of arrival.

Check out Customs, Marine and ports. Most immigration done by customs – not one way, not non waiver countries – not fines.

Hunga Tonga Hunga Ha'apai largest volcano in over 100 years 15/1/22 and tsunami. A lot of accommodation was destroyed in the Tsunami. Be aware of Late and Home reef volcanic activity which has been ongoing for a LONG time.

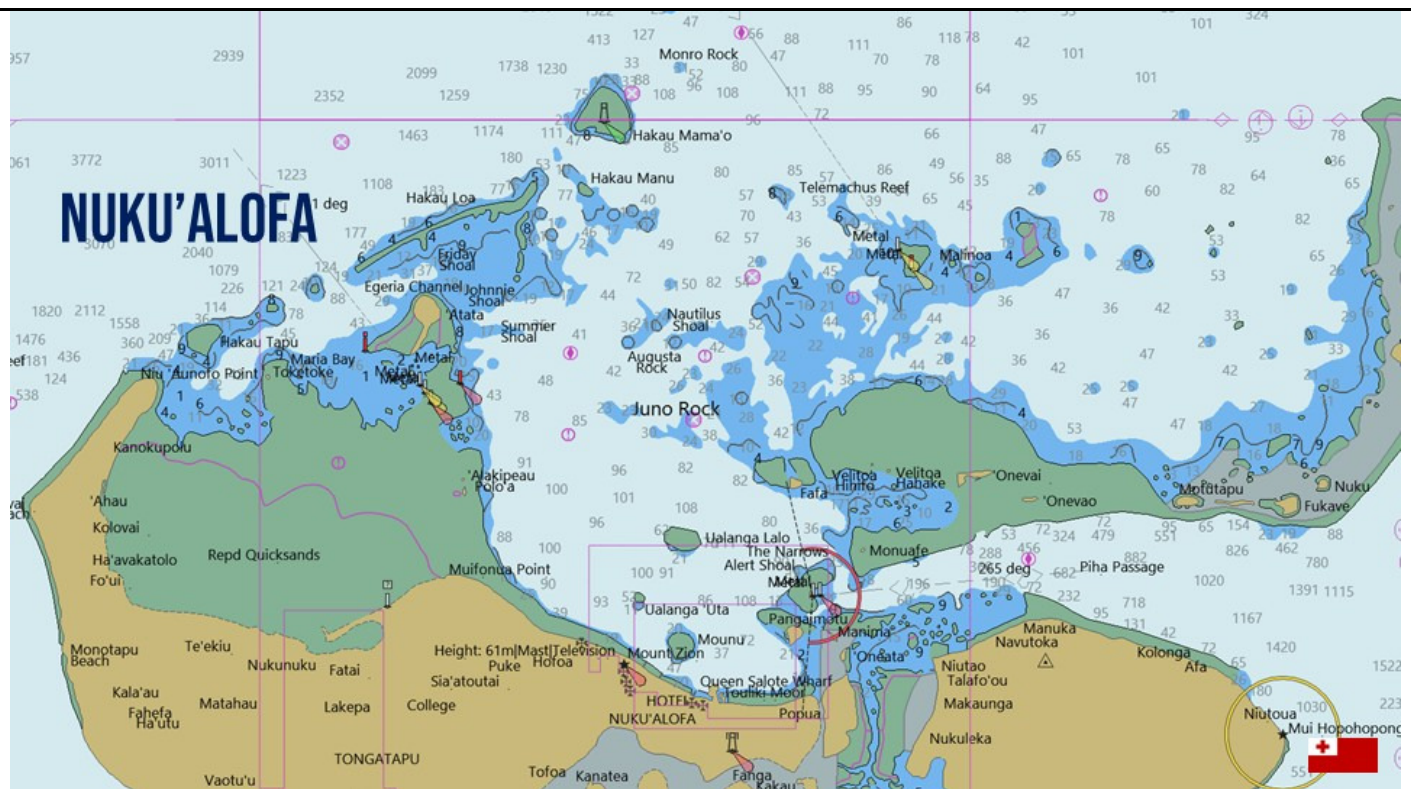
Not to much in the way of cruising grounds. Change of crew flying into Nukua'lofa.

Big Mamas Island is basic since HTHH Tsunami, recommend paying drinks as you go, do not run a TAB/Moua.

<https://tongapocketguide.com/the-complete-guide-to-tongatapu/>

www.vavau.to/passageplanningtonz.pdf

https://www.vavau.to/Cruising_Guide3.pdf From page 14 onwards.



Minerva Islands

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Disputed territory between Fiji and Tonga. Expect RNZAF Orion flyovers (turn on VHF 16) and a patrol boat from either Fiji or Tonga. Last few years have had very polite and professional behaviour. A good stopping point on the way to NZ from Tonga, do NOT stop in Minerva on the way to Tonga, you need to go EAST as early as possible. It is a weather hole, but you cannot get out until the weather passes.

https://www.vavau.to/Cruising_Guide3.pdf From page 14 onwards.

Price comparisons [\[Return to Table of Content\]](#)

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**

Pa'anga is the local currency, seniti is cents.

Vava'u 25/2/24 NZ butter 227g TOP 7.00. NZ Milk tetra TOP5.00, Local bread TOP3.00 (price controlled). Mobile Internet Top2.85 per GB (plan).

Ha'apai...

Nuku'alofa...

Marine Insurance providers in NZ [\[Return to Table of Content\]](#)

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

Nearly all insurance providers require you to be out of the Pacific by 1 Nov. Topsail, a UK sail broker (Global Yacht cover underwriter) requires you to be out of the Pacific by 1 December. Most cyclones in the Pacific Jan/Feb.

Cruising routes

[\[Return to Table of Content\]](#)

Passage planning/weather routing [\[Return to Table of Content\]](#) to be completed and peer reviewed, also NZ to Tonga passage planning to be done

www.vavau.to/passageplanningtonz.mp4 to do
www.vavau.to/passageplanningtonz.pdf

www.vavau.to/passageplanningtotonga.pdf
www.vavau.to/passageplanningtotonga.mp4 to do

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

www.metbob.com bob@metbob.com Bob McDavitt NZ Meteorologist.

NZD10 per 5 minutes. 2 x Departure prep 10 minutes, voyage 1 x forecast 35 minutes, 3 x underway updates 15 minutes ballpark NZD120

brucetheweatherman@gmail.com Bruce Buckley, Perth Australia Meteorologist.

Dependent on ports. 10 to 30 minute per forecast. Pacific to NZ ballpark AUD450, long term client discounts around 20%

clouds@ozemail.com.au Roger Badham, Australia Meteorologist. No pricing info.

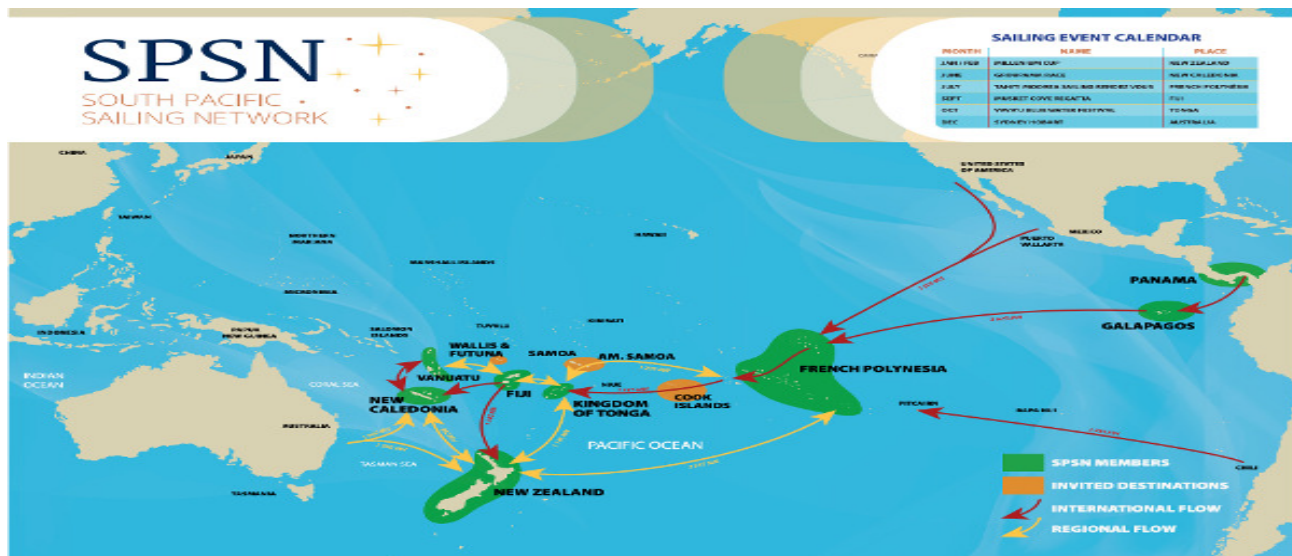
App/Non-qualified Meteorologists

www.passageweather.com Free

www.predictwind.com \$0 to USD499 per annum

www.coastalandoffshorecruising.com/ocean-tactics-2/ John Martin Single Routing – \$250USD for C&OC members \$297USD for other associated club members (\$347USD, non members). for a single passage, up to 3000nm, longer passages by negotiation. Making more than one passage in one cruising season? Then our Season Pass** may benefit your needs. \$550USD for C&OC and Ocean Posse members. \$597USD for other associated club members (\$650USD, non member)***.

<https://passageguardian.nz> Passage monitoring



NZ to Tonga and vice versa
Tonga to Vanuatu and Australia.
Tonga to Fiji and vice versa
Samoa to Tonga
French Poly to Tonga

Quarantine: [\[Return to Table of Content\]](#)

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 or meat. 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 pacific trends.

Fiji has increased biosecurity quarantine standards, no pork, labelled vac packed NZ meat, honey, eggs.

Animals bonded to private yachts, can come ashore after quarantine. NO Government vet in country so this is not a quarantine safe

country to take pets to NZ/Fiji (6 months). NZ you must now fly animals in for quarantine. Fiji pets are now not allowed on or off the boat.

Alcohol: list everything! It may be bonded and duty paid on consumed portion

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

Fiji - labelled nz meat only, no pork

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

Communications/Internet: [\[Return to Table of Content\]](#)

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. Cable was repaired 2023, an earthquake early 2024 took the cable out again –no word on timeframe to repair. A 6 month interim approval for Starlink was granted 6/24, Full licence issued 12/24

E-sims are active with TCC only in 2024, Digicel is set to follow.

Voicemail options exist on cellphones, but not widely used or understood, suggest not leaving a message... it will probably not be listened to.

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 since 2022. 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 *120# money Balance, *130# Plan summary *777# Sim number *123# plan purchasing My Digicel App for data balance. Starlink reseller

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

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

Niua only has TCC services, limited power/solar.



[Responsible Cruising](#) [\[Return to Table of Content\]](#)

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.

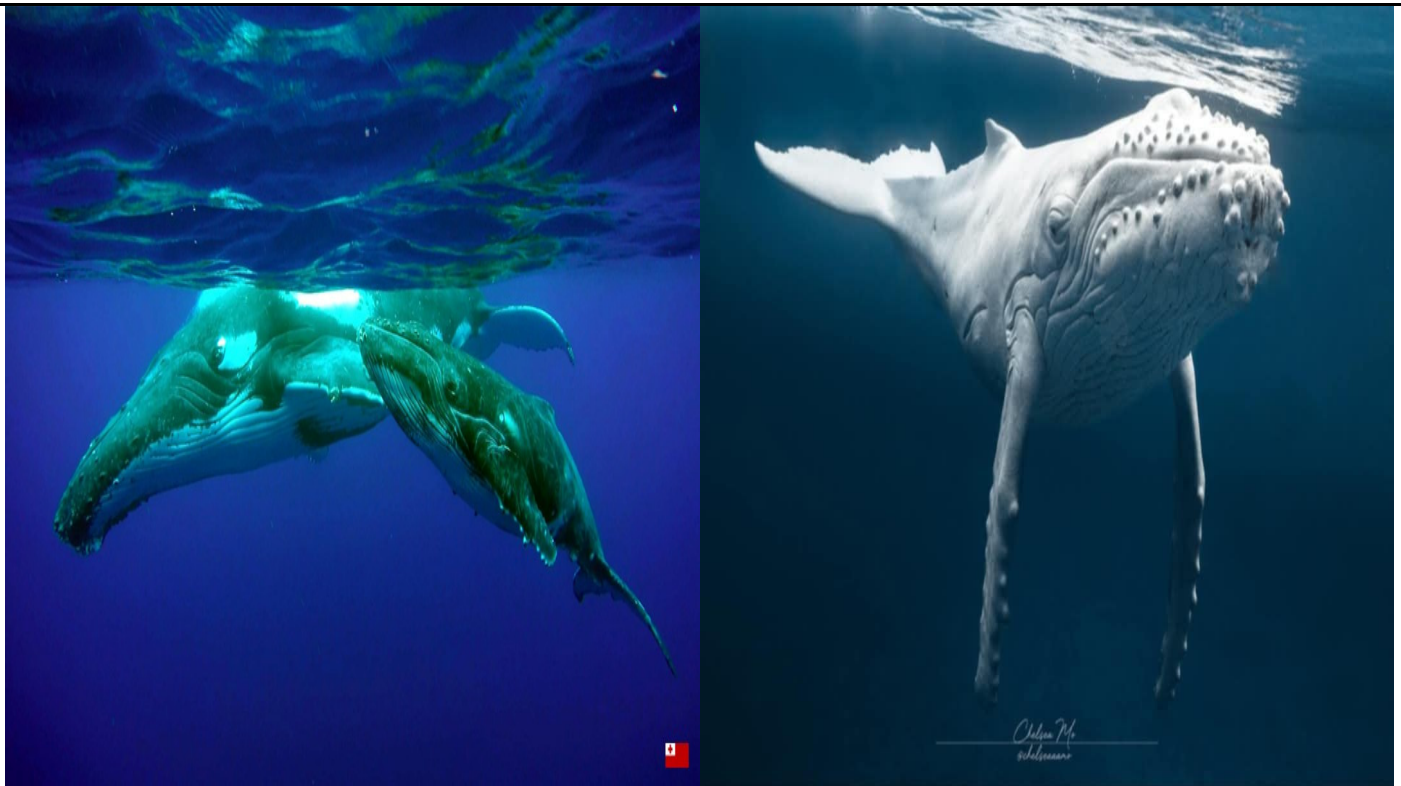
Fish Habitat Reserves (FHR): NO anchoring, NO fishing.

Just because it says Anchorage, does not mean you can anchor, check the following charts for details on the zones..

An old tonga sma/fhr map is available https://vavau.to/Tonga_SMA-flier.pdf

Individual island updates here <https://vavau.to/vavausma2024.jpeg> <https://vavau.to/haapaisma2023.jpeg>

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. Season 1 July till Octoberish



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. If you are anchoring in front of a village or resort, please ask where to anchor as you might be in the way of village/resort tenders or affect the aesthetic view for guests.

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.

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.

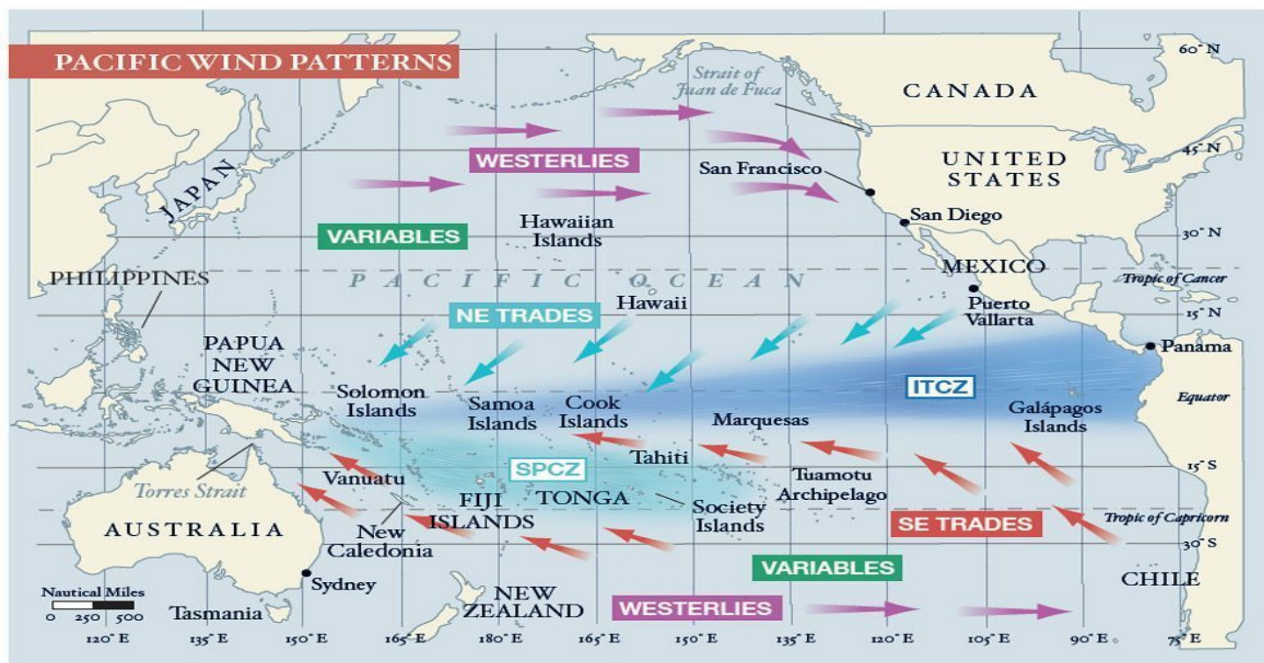
Absolutely no nudity – on your yacht, swimming etc. People can probably see you and may call the Police as it is illegal and offensive.

All land is owned by someone. If you see a sign saying “private property” please respect it. Do not start bonfires on beaches without permission of the village or resorts, embers could blow and start a fire!

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.



Start east and then go west.
NZ to Tonga: be an EASTern bunny

[Vava'u anchorage guide](#)

[\[Return to Table of Content\]](#)

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.

If anyone has updated comments please email greg@vavau.to

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!

Be aware of Fisheries regulations that affect anchoring in SMA/FHR zones.

SMA – special management areas – anchoring fee paid to community

Taunga (21,22, 24) \$20 anchor and \$20 overnight

Otea (6) \$10 anchor and \$10 overnight

Falevai (7,8) \$20 anchor and \$20 overnight

Ovaka (38,39,40) \$10 anchor and \$20 overnight

Nuapapu (15) \$10 anchor and \$10 overnight

Hunga (9,13) \$20 anchor and \$20 overnight

Matamaka (15) \$10 anchor and \$20 overnight

Makave (25) \$10 anchor and \$20 overnight

Ofu (28) Donation

FHR – no anchoring, no fish, no take, some allow guided snorkelling

Refer to more extensive cruising notes/guides

Chartlet pic/drone

Bottom/reef. Hold, anchoring/mooring tips Moorings/fees. SMA/FHR

exposed to winddirection. Swell.. Suitable ☺fair weather,

wind warning, gale force) environmental..

Cell reception Digicel/TCC

inHabitated? Villages, close business?

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www.vavau.to/portofficer.pdf

Neiafu 1 (Knee AH foo) The safest yachting harbour In Tonga, Friday night races have largely failed as not many people wish to race the house and the yacht club is in name only. This is not "port of refuge". Wreck MV Clan Mcwilliam 18° 40' 15" S., 173° 59' 27" W. Paradise Hotel access is stopped until renovation gets underway. Cafes and restaurants, fruit, veg, arts markets. Shopping.

LPG, fuel. Fuel tanker minimum 250 litres. Duty free if last Tongan port. Very quick drop off to 40m+ from shore

Pangai 2 (PAHNG-eye)

Pangaimotu Causeway 3 (PAHNG-eye-MOH-too) Hoping at some stage this will be turned into a low bridge to flush the harbour and allow dinghies to the eastern side.. Sandy Bottom. Ano Beach and Hinakaeua Beach.

Vaipua Lagoon 4 (vie-POO-ah) 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 Island (Vauleleva Bay) 5 (loh-TOO-mah) 18°30.746S / 174°00.484W Protection from E/SE. Bottom mostly rock. Not nice in NE. Dinghy to Tongan Beach Resort for drinks/food. Book first. www.thetonga.com Lotuma is a Tongan Navy Island, access is currently permitted.

Mala 6 (MAH-lah) 18°41.446S / 174°01.666W Good protection from SE. Shallow bommies. Shallow through pass, do not attempt. Japanese gardens snorkelling. SMA. Dinghy to Tongan Beach Resort for drinks/food. www.thetonga.com Book first.

Port Maurelle 7 (Port more elle) Fangakima(FAHNG-ah-KEE-mah) 18°41.980S / 174°01.788W Well protected except NW. SMA. Swallows Cave 18.6824° S, 174.0473° W . Mariners Cave 18°41.451S / 174°04.492W No Digicel

Nuku 8 (NOO-koo) Belongs to Falevai Island. SMA. Snorkel tour \$7 - \$10 per person

Luamoko day only 9 . (LOO-ahMOH- koo) Sandy bottom, fine weather holding only. SMA. Mariners Cave 18°41.451S / 174°04.492W

Aisea's or Lisa Beach 10 (eye-SAY-ah) 18°41.833S / 173°59.892W Protected N to SE 6.5km walk to town.

Tapana 11 (tar par nar) 18°42.432S / 173°59.169W Sand bottom. Good protection SE to NW. The Ark/anchorage closed. Café Tropicana owns several moorings – please pay if you use them.

Tapana South 12 (Ta Paan Ah) 18°72.398S / 174°98.929W, Good protection except NW. The Ark/anchorage closed. *

Hunga 13 (hoo n g a) 18°41.59S / 174°07.69W Beware of bommie coming into Hunga Lagoon. Hunga Haven/anchorage closed. Ika Lahi closed. SMA/FHR

Foeata Island "Blue Lagoon" day only 14 (FOH-ay-AH-tah) 18°42.609S / 174°08.321W. Day ONLY. SMA/FHR

Nuapapu and Matamaka 15 (New a Pap OO) 18°42.355S / 174°5.546W Protection N to NW. Feasts are sometimes available. NO protection in S or SW wind . Protection N to SE SMA

Vaka'eitu 16 (vark eh A2) 18°43.356S / 174°6.003W mostly Sandy with some coral. Protection N to SE Coral Gardens snorkelling sites.. Feasts sometimes available on Island during season.

Lape Island 17 (LAH-pay) 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. Ok Digicel. SMA. Cultural tour Kolio 7513154

Fonua Lei day only 18 .(foh-NOO-ah-LIE)

Sisia day only 19 (sis e ah) 18°43.910S / 174°03.257W Rocky. Protection E

Katafanga day only 20 (car ta far na)

Taunga overnight 21 (ta oong a) 18°44.45 / 174°00.6W. Protected S and W. Ngau island is good snorkelling and diving. SMA

Taunga Day Stop 22 (ta oong a) Exposed to Westerlies. SMA

Ngau Day Stop 23 (Now) 18°45.316S / 174°00.627W Diving and snorkelling. Wind protection N to NE, SE. SMA/FHR

Ngau Day Stop 24 (Now) 18°44.0S / 174°00.4W Protection from W and NW. SMA/FHR

Old Harbour / Makave 25 (mah-KAH-vay) 18°39.247S / 173°58.28527W coral bottom – float your chain. good protection NE to SE. Kilikiletefua Wall in Makave. SMA

'Olo'ua 26 (OH-loo-OO-ah) 18°40.206S / 173°57.473W protected in NE and S SMA

Mafana 27 (mah-FAH-nah) protected in N and E. Mafana Backpacker closed. SMA

Ofu 28 (OH-foo) 18°41.918S / 173°55.768W protected in NE and SE. Sand and rock. Good Digicel. SMA

Eueiki Day stop 29 (E wa icki) Treasure Island Resort, bookings only, privately owned island. No anchoring, may have mooring for rent VHF 26. FHR

Kenutu 30 (keh-NOO-too) 18°41.730S / 173°55.737W Uninhabited. Sand. Good protection from E and SE

Maninita Island 31 (MAH-nee-NEE-tah) 18°51.400S / 173°59.866W. Good weather only. Uninhabited. RAT free, check dinghy and any belongings to make sure no rats come ashore. Bird Sanctuary

Euakafa 32 (AY-wah-KAH-fah) 18°45.194S / 174°2.117W

Fuamotu Day only 33 (foo ah mo 2) 18°47.421S / 174°00.417W. Uninhabited. RAT free, permission must be given to go ashore

Lua Ui 34 (LOO-ah OO-ee)

Lahiapo (Luahaipo) daytime only 35 (LOO-ah-hee-AH-poh) Uninhabited. RAT free, check dinghy and any belongings to make sure no rats come ashore.

Fonua' One'One 36 (foh-NOO-ah-OH-nay-OH-nay) 18°48.935S / 174°03.918W. Sandy bottom. Good protection from SSW through E. Uninhabited. RAT free, check dinghy and any belongings to make sure no rats come ashore.

Fangasito day only 37 (FAHNG-ah-SEE-toh) Uninhabited. RAT free, check dinghy and any belongings to make sure no rats come ashore.

Bird Sanctuary.

Ovaka 38 (oh-VAH-kah) Day Stop 18°45.935S / 174°05.206W Sandy bottom. Feast 7530552. Tavake Island Market day Thursday morning. Snorkel guide tour \$10 per person guide in FHR. Heavens Touch Gardens owned by Sergei from France

Ovaka day only 39 (o var ka) 18°45.145S / 174°05.172W

Ovalau 40 (oh-vah-LAHW) 18°44.985S / 174°04.844W Uninhabited sandy at 4m. Large sandy beach Protected SE to E. SMA/HR

Mounu 41 (moh-OO-noo) 18°45.01S / 174°04.3W. Sandy, call for anchoring instructions based on weather. VHF 77

www.mounuisland.com Mounu Island Resort, bookings only, privately owned.

Mou'mua (Mu'omu'a) day only 42 (moo a moo a) 18°45.436S / 174°02.613W (MOO-oh-MOO-ah) Inhabited, private Island. Mike is the lease owner. Wind protection NE to E.

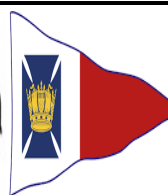
North Shore 18°37.418S / 174°01.894W Sand 60ft Wind protection NE to SE

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

This guide is not supported by Government, Aid or any Tongan business other than Café Tropicana. Please support us if you are in Vava'u or donate via <https://www.buymeacoffee.com/tropicana> Or

paypal.me/greg.just@windowslive.com

Download the full SailingTonga Port Officer guide for full information www.vavau.to/portofficer.pdf



OCC

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PCA

SSCA

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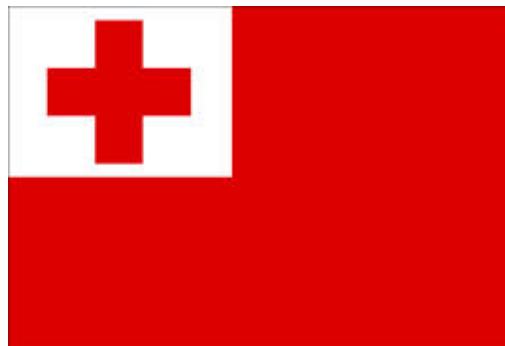
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TRANS OCEAN

Vava'u, Kingdom of Tonga, South Pacific **Café Tropicana**GPS Coordinates of location: Lat: **18°41' 60 S** Lon: **174°1' 60 W**

Version 2025/1

**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*Email: greg@vavau.to

Twitter: @tongamazingweb

Instagram: tongamazingcom

Linkedin: tongamazingcom

Whatsapp **+676 8812347**

Whatsapp group "Sailing to Tonga" Admin

<https://chat.whatsapp.com/CMOnBCOYvceKPZg63ZKGNX>

Viber: +676 8812347

Facebook: [m.me/gregjustnz](https://www.facebook.com/m.me/gregjustnz)

Phone +676 71322 VHF Ch: 26 "Tropicana"

Mobile: +676 8812347 or +676 7512347

Home Address: Mt Talau Citizen: NZ/UK/Tonga

Divemaster IT Manager BA/ITIL/PMP/CCNA

Yachtie Master Drycleaner (nz) Treasury Analyst

Website: www.vavau.to/tropicanaAgent www.tongasuperyachts.comMenu/Deli <https://cafetropicनावavau.business.site/>Media www.offloop.net/media password tropoStuff For Sale <https://cafetropicana.company.site/>www.vavau.towww.haapai.towww.tongatapu.towww.whaleswim.to Booking site, whale infowww.sailingtonga.com online cruising guidewww.tongamazing.com Hold Allwww.cruiseshiptonga.com Cruiseship info/bookingwww.tongaholidays.comwww.buymeacoffee.com/vavaucommunitytrust NGOwww.vavau.to/portofficer.pdf UPDATED frequently—please download regularly**Services available from Café Tropicana:**

- Offshore assist via offshoreassist@vavau.to
- Advanced Notice forms – Fiji/NZ/
- Courier package assistance/advice
- Snail Mail/Courier arrangements
- Yacht in transit SY Yacht Name
- c/- Café Tropicana
- Fatafehi Rd (or Private Bag 34 for
- Neiafu, Vava'u
- Kingdom of Tonga +676 71322
- Charts/Chartlets/Courtesy flags for
- Receiver of used oil/lead battery,
- Fully licenced bar
- Provisioning for whales/picnics/p
- Pre shop of supermarket provision
- Solar powered USB/12v recharging points 2024
- Vava'u Deli: meats, delicatessen www.vavau.to/deli
- Resell TCC/Digicel phone credit, Digicel Sms
- Gift Vouchers. Games (chess, poker ...
- LPG tank refill– most adaptors/Fuel refill service
- AIS host via www.marinetraffic.com ADS-B
- via www.flightradar24.com
- Ice cubes and 2kg solid ice blocks – rain water www.vavau.to/ice
- Laundry: the only frontloading rain water laundry. Max 9kg per load. www.vavau.to/laundry
- 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

- 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, 2024 name change
- 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 www.vavau.to/portofficer.pdf
- 24 whatsapp Sailing To Tonga
- 25 IAB Internet in a box wiki wifi
- 25 www.sailingtonga.com
- 25 www.cruiseshiptonga.com
- 25 www.whalewim.to

Show your support for this information by donating
<https://www.buymeacoffee.com/tropicana>

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... Visa and one way letter agents
- Famous in Vava'u "Blue" comedy wall 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



THE BEST DARN CAFÉ IN VAVA'U,

THE SWISS ARMY KNIFE OF CAFES

Fatafehi Rd, Neiafu, Vava'u, Kingdom of Tonga
Private Bag 34, Neiafu, Vava'u, Kingdom of Tonga
Email tropicana@vavau.to VHF 26 "Tropicana"
Website www.vavau.to/tropicana SSID "Vava'u Net"
Ph +676 71322 Mob +676 8812347 or +676 7512347



Ocean Cruising Club
Port Officer



Island Cruising New Zealand
Port Officer



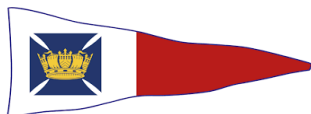
Seven Seas Cruising Association
Port Officer



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



Pacific Posse

[Port Officer, MP4, Facebook, Whatsapp](#)

Whatsapp group "Sailing to Tonga " Admin
Help/information sailing to, and in, the Kingdom Tonga ,
from someone based in Tonga that will help with options
rather than just clipping the ticket
<https://chat.whatsapp.com/CMOnBCOYvcgKPZg63ZKGN>

Video/info to promote Tonga Marine Tourism
www.vavau.to/tongabriefing.mp4
www.vavau.to/tongabriefing.pdf

Video/Info Passage planning to NZ
www.vavau.to/passageplanningtotonga.pdf
www.vavau.to/passageplanningtotonga.mp4

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

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

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

Future home of this and other Tongan cruising guides
www.sailingtonga.com

Sailingtonga.com - Facebook admin
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/sailingtonga>

Pay it Forward

*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 Padi Divemaster. Volunteered for NZ coastguard, Vava'u for 10 years with VERA (SAR).Began Vava'u Blue Water Festival 2014, donated to Vava'u Tourism Asscn in 2016.

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!). Although I have placed **WARNING** notices on a few things/business – too many confirmed complaints to ignore. 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 TOP113k+ loan since COVID, no time, and can 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 – first entry port ONLY. Phone health officers rather than waiting
\$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.
Niuatoputapu: \$100 anchorage. Free on wharf though? Go into Marine and ports for receipts. TOP only, NO BANKS! Do not pay in WINE!! **WARNING**

Maff/Quarantine

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

Revenue

TIN application for importing capital items for yachts – FREE. Take passport, yacht papers

Police

Fines of upto \$10,000 and/or imprisonment for swimming with whales on your own. Enforcement of Whale regulations.
Don't drink and drive, do not drink on public streets.
Do not park a car on the right hand side of the road, Random check points...

PLEASE ASK FOR RECEIPTS EVERYTIME **WARNING**
UPDATED frequently – please download frequently, content suggestions are appreciated greg@vavau.to

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 – Nuku'alofa, Lifuka (Ha'apai), Neiafu (Vava'u), Niuatoputapu
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 Nuku'alofa and Neiafu can do visa extensions!!
One way crew fee \$34.50 (fly in, sail out crew). Immigration.
One way crew visa \$34.50 (Nuku'alofa, Neiafu processing a week).
Visa expired/other breach fine \$1150. DO NOT LET THIS LAPSE **WARNING**
Overtime \$20 an hour

Fisheries

Vava'u use of Fisheries wharf during clear in/out, refuelling \$20, a receipt should be given. Enforcement of SMA/FHR Act (marine reserves).

Check in, Check out ports. Nuku'alofa Tongatapu, Lifuka Ha'apai, Neiafu Vava'u, Niuatoputapu.

Fees are required to be paid at the time of entry, I suggest you carry some Tongan cash, if you ask Customs they may permit someone to go to the ATM to get local currency in Nuk'ualofa, Ha'apai and Vava'u.. They may take foreign currency also, but you might not get change... **WARNING**
Niu'toiputapu DOES NOT HAVE BANKS, take Tongan cash! WARNING



Tonga Customs Advance Notice of Arrival (small craft)

Fax to: +876 24124 or email: information@customs.gov.to

Section 12, Customs & Excise Management Act 2007

PERIOD OF ADVANCE NOTICE AND OTHER ADVICE					
<p>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).</p> <p>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.</p>					
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	
Nationality		Date of birth	Gender	Nationality	
		Male / Female		Date of birth	
Passport number		Place of issue (City)		Gender	
				Male / Female	
Date and place joining craft				Passport number	
				Place of issue (City)	
Family name		First name(s)		Date and place joining craft	
Nationality		Date of birth	Gender		
		Male / Female		Family name	
Passport number		Place of issue (City)		First name(s)	
				Nationality	
Date and place joining craft				Date of birth	
				Gender	
Family name		First name(s)		Male / Female	
Nationality		Date of birth	Gender	Passport number	
		Male / Female		Place of issue (City)	
Passport number		Place of issue (City)		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

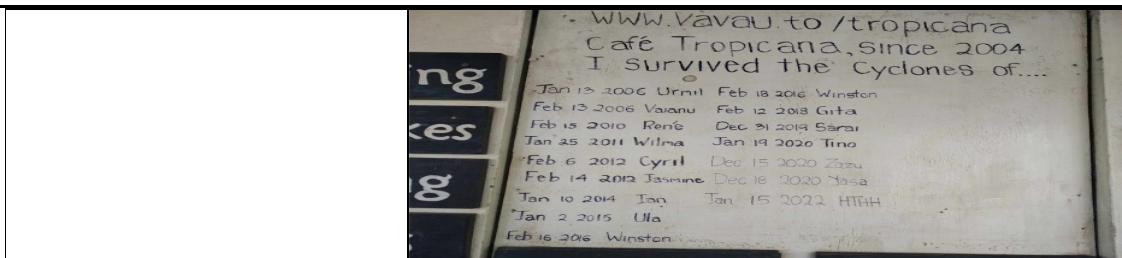
Tonga To NZ Passage Planning

www.vavau.to/passageplanningtonz.pdf

www.vavau.to/passageplanningtonz.mp4 to do

Tonga to NZ options and points to think about. Several passage planning notes, weather from experienced skippers, float plans, professional weather routing providers. NZ To Tonga passage planning notes.

Option	Details																												
1. Vava'u to NZ direct	Duty free fuel 250l+. Propane refill – nearly all adaptors Can extend visa. Crew have to fly domestic airlines and one way crew visa hassles. Aim 50nm above Minerva, option to stop for rest/weather. Halloween party at Vava'u Lahi bar. Better line to 30s 173w. West is best. Don't rush away – at least 2-8 weeks in some of the easiest cruising grounds in the Pacific																												
2. Vava'u to Ha'apai then NZ	No duty free fuel option. No Propane refill Cannot extend visa. Expensive shopping 1 x Interisland movement form, easy entry/clearance. Ha'apai not good in wind because of sand and low lying land. Good cruising otherwise Aim 50nm above Minerva, option to stop for rest/weather. Ha'apai is 1-3 weeks cruising, can be uncomfortable in high winds which are common in Sept/Oct																												
3. Vava'u to Ha'apai to Nuku'alofa to NZ	Duty free fuel option min 1000l. Propane refill – no adaptors Can extend Visa in Nuku'alofa 2 x Interisland movement form. Long process to check in, harbour should be entered daytime only. Stern to berths in commercial harbour, nor pretty. Nuku'alofa commercial harbour and not easy entry/clearance, good for provisioning, cheaper than Vava'u – not cheaper than NZ. Domestic transfer does not require vessel to customs wharf, exit does require vessel at customs, pay Marine and Ports for Lights and bouys No cruising grounds. Big Mamas is basic since HTHH Tsunami, recommend paying for drinks as you go, do not run a TAB/Moua. Good to collect crew and avoid domestic flights, still one way crew visa hassles. Aim 50nm above Minerva, option to stop for rest/weather. Viurtnually no cruising grounds																												
4. Go to Fiji, then NZ	Very expensive to check in to Fiji, just to head to NZ FJD and TOP are virtually identical Go to Fiji at the start of a season – 6 months travel. Good to collect crew from Fiji. One way letter from Fiji or cancellable return ticket to Fiji Entry cost week day, 2pax <table><tr><td>Ministry</td><td>Tonga TOP</td><td>Fiji FJD</td><td>NZ NZD</td></tr><tr><td>Maff/Quarantine/Biosec</td><td>22</td><td>85</td><td>17</td></tr><tr><td>Immigration</td><td></td><td></td><td>0</td></tr><tr><td>Health</td><td>100</td><td>165</td><td>0</td></tr><tr><td>Mooring/Agent fee</td><td></td><td>25</td><td>0</td></tr><tr><td>Customs</td><td></td><td></td><td>17</td></tr><tr><td>Total</td><td>122</td><td>275</td><td>34</td></tr></table>	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
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Health	100	165	0																										
Mooring/Agent fee		25	0																										
Customs			17																										
Total	122	275	34																										
5. Stay in Vava'u	Few boats in area. Majority of cyclones are February – see pic Sail to Ha'apai if weather is settled. Have Boatyard on haulout standby if a cyclone comes. Continue with boat maintenance Cyclone moorings available from Beluga Diving, Tongan Beach Resort Max 6 months immigration. Fly to a foreign country, then return for another 6 months Max 12 months boat visa Opportunity to look after a resort, house Volunteer Become a local!																												



Do not leave on a date, wait for a weather window, take professional passage planning information. I have seen some amazing routing plans from professionals. Check calendars for holidays, cruise ships, tides, local events.... A common misconception is to jump down to Nukualofa and leave to NZ. Most kiwi boats will leave from Vava'u, better line, depart as late as mid December. Attending a Halloween party in Nukua'lofa, NZ arrival party in a port can maybe wait? Nothing flies to windward like a 747, yachts don't!

Going through Vava'u and Ha'apai at the end of the season in a rush does not do it justice, Ha'apai is also not pleasant in high winds, which is common at the end of the year. Suggest staying in Vava'u and enter through Ha'apai then to Vava'u next year.

Vava'u lahi Sports bar in Vava'u has a Halloween party with some great prizes... get down with locals before heading to NZ
Nukualofa does not really have cruising grounds, enter harbour during the day, long process to check in, check out. Harbour does have a stern to berth, most people anchor at Pangaimotu Island. No wind protection, sandy bottom, no moorings. 2024 weather bomb caused a vessel to drag, another vessel had to drop its anchor to avoid being hit. A lot of yachts went North to avoid the predicted weather, and then left to NZ from Vava'u direct.

[Points to note Tonga to NZ](#)

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A sailing festival in Vava'u late September each year attracts yachts heading to NZ (Regatta Vava'u 2007-2013, Vava'u Blue Water Festival 2014-2023, Vava'u Sailing Festival 2024-), NZ ports attend the festival to promote NZ as a destination. Unfortunately Vava'u just sees a week long festival and the business it generates and forgets to promote itself. Vava'u hopes yachts will return next year on the way west. Please don't race through Tonga, to get to NZ. Promoting Tongatapu as the jumping off point to break the trip up and attend a party with "free" weather routing. It is free if you go with the pack. If a weather window opens before or after this party? They are promoting an easy/cheap method to promote a party to depart from Tongatapu. Don't race through some of the easiest cruising grounds in the world (Vava'u and The Ha'apai) to leave from Tongatapu. Test information for the truth and it's motives.

Next year enter Tonga in Ha'apai or Vava'u next year – cruising grounds for cruisers, not profits from cruisers!

Interestingly promoting Tongatapu as the entry point for Tonga is also very common, it is not! No cruising grounds, not a yacht friendly harbour! Long time to complete formalities.

Vava'u is a relatively safe anchorage, having a boatyard to haul out if a named cyclone were to close. Haulout, do maintenance and refloat after the cyclone has gne.

Do not stop in Minerva on the way to Tonga – if you don't get Easting in, it will be a hell ride!

Complete NZCS340 (Advanced Notice of Arrival). . NZ customs pack at Café Tropicana – free.

Do not let your visa expire - \$1150 fine, only Nukualofa and Vava'u can extend visa

To move between Island groups you must have an interisland movement form each time – the boat does not need to come alongside, just the last port to check out of the country

Only Vava'u (min 250 litres) and Nuku'alofa (min 1000 litres) can give duty free diesel when you check out from those ports. You cannot go to other ports in Tonga – unless you declare a genuine emergency of course.

If a storm is following you into NZ, hit your engines and run in front of it.

Clean your bottom prior to going to nz, take pictures if you can for NZ Biosecurity. Be careful if you have open wounds while you are cleaning the hull, wear a wetsuit clean and disinfect open wounds. A staph infection can wreck your passage.

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, this has happened 4 times out of 2500 yachts.. Beluga Dive staff sometimes do hull cleans, talk to Huib and see who is free.

A clean bottom also means a faster passage of course. When hauling anchor in NZ any type of seaweed should be removed immediately to stop seaweed spread please.

RNZAF orion p8 – turn on vhf 16 and answer questions, they might confirm you have completed ANOA or ask about other vessel movements. Australia is currently (2024) testing semi-autonomous drones for maritime surveillance, These are large Predator size units.

Most have a green light mounted in the front. I would expect NZ to start using them as well at some point. But be aware of the green light on drones – not a UFO!

Minerva reef is disputed territory between Tonga and Fiji, occasionally you might have both Navies facing off. Start of 2024 season Tongan navy did a magic job checking boats, even had children on board patrol boat for tour. NZ has responsibility for Search and Rescue in that area so Orion's will fly over Minerva.

[Food restrictions NZ, Fiji, Australia](#) [\[Return to Table of Content\]](#)

Sailing to NZ www.mpi.govt.nz anything containing or might contain pork will be removed because of swine flu

Sailing to Australia

Sailing to 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...

[Floatplan copies](#)

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Starlink has made a pronounced affect on cruising life. I have noticed VHF chat, get togethers and a sense of community has 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 we can respond quickly if you are overdue. Here are some of the reasons for a [float plan](#). This will not be used for Tropicana marketing!

[Safe Boating and Rescue Coordination Centre NZ](#)

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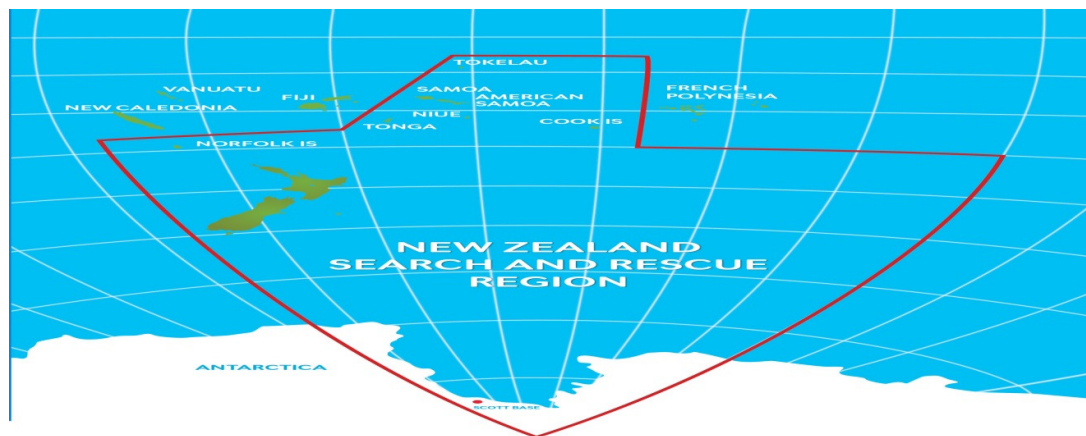
New Zealand (toll free): 508 4 RCCNZ or 0508 472 269

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

Email rccnz@maritimenz.govt.nz

contact.beacons@maritimenz.govt.nz 406 distress beacon enquiries

- 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

Rescue at Sea – how to improve your chances 20 points plus a few videos

[Weather sites/services/scheds and other handy information](#)

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<https://www.yit.nz/>

<https://www.ghradio.co.nz/>

8752 kHz or 8779 kHz or 8297 kHz. (In that order depending on interference).

0515 UTC, 5:15pm NZST

May 1 - 15 November

Monday - Friday

daily during passage time

www.Predictwind.com

Tongan Coastal Radio 2182 / 6215kHz Phone +676 7400093

[Passage planning/weather routing](#)

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

Qualified Meteorologists

www.metbob.com bob@metbob.com Bob McDavitt NZ Meteorologist.

NZD10 per 5 minutes. 2 x Departure prep 10 minutes, voyage 1 x forecast 35 minutes, 3 x underway updates 15 minutes ballpark NZD120

brucetheweatherman@gmail.com Bruce Buckley, Perth Australia Meteorologist.

Dependent on ports. 10 to 30 minute per forecast. Pacific to NZ ballpark AUD450, long term client discounts around 20%

clouds@ozemail.com.au Roger Badham, Australia Meteorologist

App/Non-qualified Meteorologists

www.passageweather.com Free

www.predictwind.com \$0 to USD499 per annum

www.coastalandoffshorecruising.com/ocean-tactics-2/ John Martin Single Routing – \$250USD for C&OC members \$297USD for other associated club members (\$347USD, non members). for a single passage, up to 3000nm, longer passages by negotiation. Making more than one passage in one cruising season? Then our Season Pass** may benefit your needs. \$550USD for C&OC and Ocean Posse members. \$597USD for other associated club members (\$650USD, non member)***.

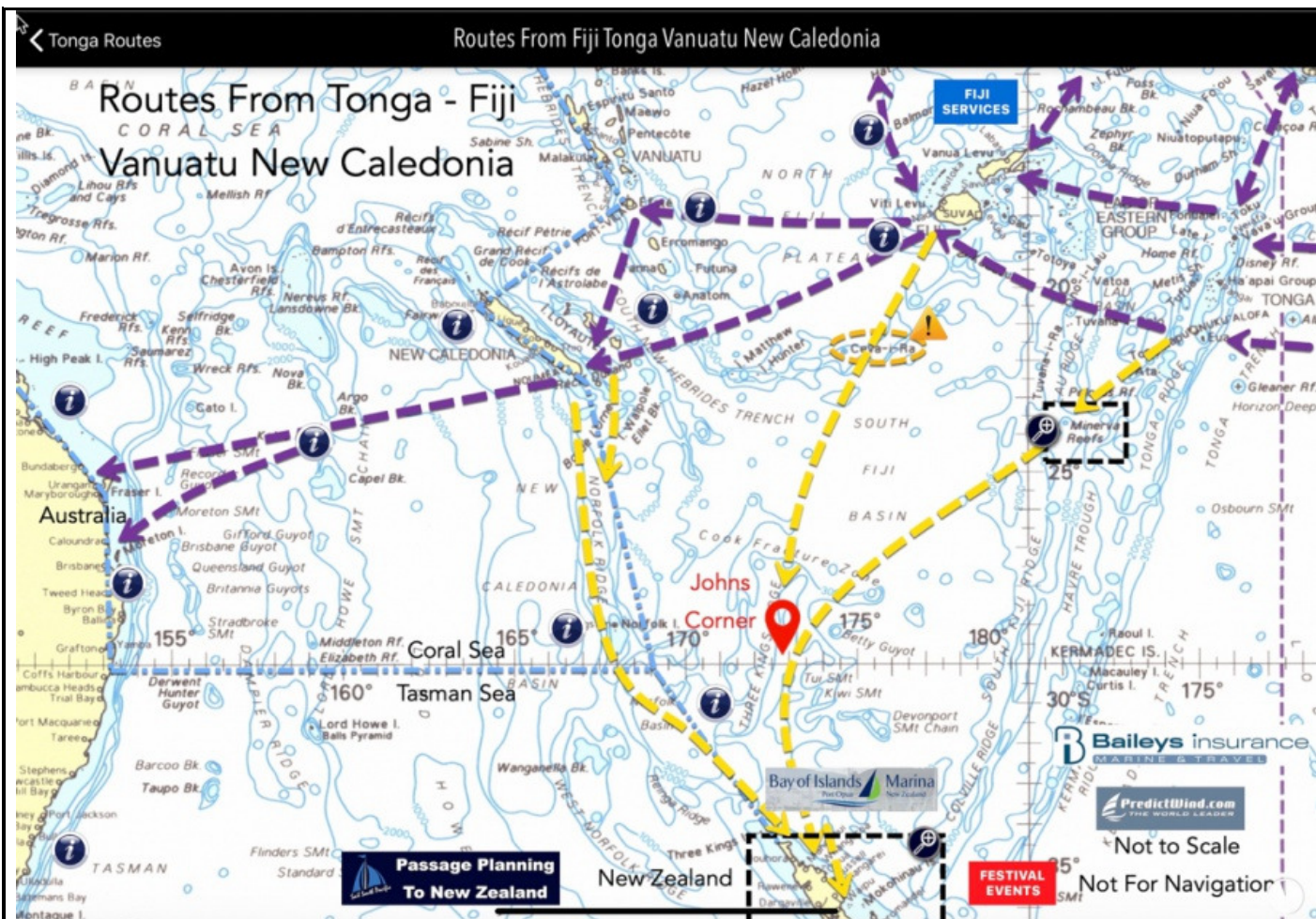
Passage monitoring

<https://passageguardian.nz>

www.yit.nz

[Passage plan to NZ from Tonga](#)

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Different views from a few experienced people.

1. (Greg Just) have done the passage 13 times. My worst passage was coming to Tonga (75 knot weather bomb – passage monitoring was responsible for the boat surviving), my fastest passage to NZ was also the most expensive (forestay sheared off (chinese stainless), pulpit badly damaged, shroud started uncoiling due to poor cargo placement. Crewed on a Whangarei based vessel, entered in Whangarei each time.

My advice Tonga to NZ; leave mid to late October or through to mid december on a weather window not to a date, go from Vava'u direct, get passage planning professionally done, if a storm is chasing you into NZ hit your engines and run into NZ.

2. John & Lyn Martin

2019 There are a lot of myths surrounding the passage to New Zealand from the pacific islands. Most are the result of inexperience and lack of knowledge, I've done the trip personally now 37 time and only had one really bad experience, the very first trip. The effort though is well worth it, NZ has some of the best cruising outside of the tropics anywhere in the world.

I decided after that first trip there had to be a better way so I started gathering some information. The first thing I learned is don't just pick a date and go. As it turned out boats that left just 3 days after we did had a great trip.

Weather is the governing factor when making this passage and your strategy will vary depending on your departure point. What doesn't change is the nature of weather in this region. In the South West Pacific the weather systems migrate from west to east, low follows high follows low in a never ending succession. Coming across the Pacific from French Polynesia the trade winds blow south east and east with the occasional hiccup to the north and north west as a front or trough passes through. These troughs (unless you are being affected by the SPCZ) are usually associated with a low pressure passing to the south. The strength of the trades at the STR (sub tropical ridge) is dictated by the center pressure of the high pressures passing below. These are the generalities and I will give you some events to look out for that have an adverse influence on weather for a passage at the end of this article.

The effect a high pressure system has on the trades depends on two factors, the center pressure and the latitude of the center. A 1020 center pressure high will give 15 to 20 knot trades at the STR, as the center pressure increases so do the winds along its top edge. This area of wind the STR is the squash zone between the high pressure cell and the sub tropical low which is the general area of low pressure either side of the equator. The latitude of this squash zone is dictated by the latitude of the center. For example a high of 1030 with a center at 30 south will give significant winds (30 to 35 knots) from 15s to 25s with the wind decreasing the further south you travel. This same high centered over the middle of New Zealand will have lower winds on its top edge (20 to 25 knots) but spread over a larger belt. This high is also likely to have a larger area of little to no wind in its center. The high pressure centers tend to trend south as summer

starts in NZ.

As the high pressures migrate east the direction of the winds changes. In the trade wind belt this variation is less pronounced but as you travel further south and move away from the influence of the STR the winds will tend to follow the rotation of the systems, both highs and lows. Highs rotating in an anticlockwise direction and lows, clockwise in the southern hemisphere.

As you travel further south the effect and intensity of the frontal bands associated with each low are magnified. The majority of low pressure cells during October and November migrate along under Australia and tend to pop north east in the Tasman, cross NZ and migrate to the east. All low pressure cells will have a frontal band originating well north of the system and rotating around the low to its center. The closer to the low and the deeper the low's center pressure will dictate how much punch it has. As the front moves through the wind direction will change, (as much as 90 deg) usually to the west and southwest with a disturbed flow. Rain is usually associated with a front with clearing showers behind. The strength of the wind in this area is determined by the pressure gradient. There will also be large variations in wind strength around rain cells.

So to summarize, the more intense the high the more wind you will get on its edge and the punch from a frontal band is greater the closer you get to the low. We also know the wind direction around a high is going to change as the high moves through and this is more pronounced the further south we are. We know further that as the high migrates through it will be followed by a low and its associated frontal band.

In the weeks leading up to your passage we need to be looking at the speed that the systems are coming through. This will be between 5 and 8 days typically. An 8 day cycle is easier to plan for but short is OK too, you just take a different approach. Now however is where we need to consider where we are departing from.

Tonga, the most eastern departure point has some advantages and some disadvantages. From here we are looking to leave in the top of a high pressure as the wind swings from south east towards the east. But being so far east means that once the wind is in the east the high pressure below is also well east, you will only have its influence for a short time. The advantage is that you can use Minerva reefs as a stop off point if required and sit for the next window. From Minerva you are only 800 miles to NZ at an average of 5.5 knots or 130 miles per day this will take 5 to 6 days. Again it's likely you won't be able to do this in one weather system so you need to plan to have a frontal system somewhere along the way. This is going to have less punch if you are still north of 30 deg south and with the wind direction changing to west and southwest behind the front the plan is to have put in enough westing so that you have cracked sheet for the last leg into NZ. We usually plan to aim for a spot directly north of North Cape, New Zealand's most northerly point, at 30 south. This means quite a dog leg from Tonga but is well worth the effort. If things change as you head south then the strategy can be changed. If you do decide that the high is moving slowly enough that you change your mind and head straight for NZ, make sure you can get there before the front comes through because those lovely NW winds you are enjoying will be right on the nose after the front passes. You are also likely to get an uncomfortable 18 hours as the front passes. It's this decision to take the shortcut that causes most of the horror stories you will hear about.

So in a nut shell, leaving Tonga. If you plan to stop at either North or South Minerva (North is a more secure anchorage) then wait until a high pressure (of around 1020 to 1025 centre pressure) is giving an easterly flow. You should be 2 to 3 days to Minerva with the wind tending northerly when you get there. Because you will be looking to put some westing in, on the next leg, you can leave from there on the front of the next high when the wind is still in the southeast. Depending on your progress and how fast the high is moving will dictate your strategy as you progress south. Remember it's better to take a front at 30 south even if you have to hove too for a day and wait for it, better still use the time to get further west. Remember the old expression, west is best.

If you have plenty of diesel and don't mind the donkey clattering away put peddle to the metal and start heading for the same point as described above, 30 south directly north of North cape. If the high is slow and you will make it in before the next front then great, go for it. You should get strengthening northerlies and northwesterly winds on the back of the high. Remember when it swings to NW the front is imminent. Regardless of how you think you are doing, don't vary your approach too much. If you want to cut the corner and you feel you have the time, change your waypoint from the one above but make North Cape your next waypoint. The fronts have a tendency to jump up from down south very quickly, if you are hugging the Northland coast by then you will be in relatively protected waters.

General strategies, look for a high of between 1020 and 1025, get west, take fronts north of 30 south, motor if your speed drops and don't cut the corner unless you are sure of getting in before the next front. The only other advice I can give you is to pick just one weather source. I use MetVuw, they have a very accurate 7 day forecast and use the same core data as the gfs gribs. If you allow yourself to get into groups that are discussing weather and they are using different sources you're in trouble, we call this analysis paralysis, you may never leave.

3. SV PILGRIM ,These are our views on planing a passage .

If heading to NZ then don't be in a rush to head off as the later you leave, the longer the lag time between systems.

Look at weather patterns note the pressures of both highs and lows , as these give indication of wind strengths .

I.E if a low has a barametric pressure of 950 at it's centre it will have higher winds than a low of 1005 centre.

The same applies to a high but in reverse. Barametric pressures of a high in the mid 20's will have less wind than highs in the 30's .

So looking at weather charts and finding that you have a barametric pressure low of a 1000 and a high below 1030 . The isobars far apart are all indicators of wind strength being low

Normal departure from Vava'u is with the trade winds these will take us with luck down to around the 30 deg mark .

Plan if possible to go into NZ on the back of a high this gives us winds from SE going around to NE and clocking right around to the NW . Making land fall before they get round to SW , the wind should not be a problem if the high is under the 1030 , one should be in the lee of the land .

If you make the trip heading for north cape this allows you sailing room to turn down the coast , sailing right into the BOI.

We always review what is ahead and if the situation requires , stopping at Minerva for a few days until one sees that the passage is suitable

Pay attention to weather coming through from sth Aust particularly Tasmania I look out four days with weather fax for this area all weather tends to track across from there, anything that is present there 4 days out should not make its way across for 2 days. This gives us a window of 5/6 days to make the passage from Minerva to Opuia. It is around 120 NM away.

Be prepared to motor or heave to for periods if need's arise.

There is some good advice out there on passage weather, the SSB if you have one, monitor and report your position.

Looks at windy TY and Grib files.

8752@ 0815hrs Gulf Harbour radio does passage weather and individual: where and when able if you are outside of the main passage routes

They have a large following due to fact that Patricia and David are recently retired off shore sailors.

The bonus here is that David is a meteorologist and is good at explaining what he sees.

They devote a good time to the passage weather.

One can register with them:

Email: register@yit.co.nz

Subject: Your boat name

Password:

Date format: m/d/y

Relace caption with boat description

WE find mid November on best for us to make the passage.

When heading back out of NZ we don't look at departure until mid May, looking to see that the trade winds have established themselves.

Once this happens aim to leave on the back of a low this pushes one out to the 200nm mark or beyond.

Picking up the trade winds then enable one to have good sailing north to Tonga at your leisure.

Stopping at Minerva for a break /fish / swim.

DON'T BE PRESSURED INTO LEAVING TO EARLY HEADING INTO NZ OR OUT.

Every season tends to be different, bare in mind that the sooner you arrive in NZ the sooner you are faced with departure unless you can extend your stay in NZ.

SV PILGRIM

4. Sv KOKOAMO 2019 This is my eighth time doing the trip down to NZ, having done my eighth trip up, so I have a fair idea what to look for. I shall deal with the trip down first.

I never even look at the weather until the first of November. By then a pattern is usually setting in, of great big highs leaving Australia, crossing the Tasman, and then NZ. They often stall there for a while. I use the "metvuw" site - forecasts - NZ-Fiji - ten day thumbnails. They provide forecast charts every six hours for ten days. For the last two years, particularly coming up, they have been spot on. What I look for is the arrival of the leading edge of the high. This gives SE winds, 15 knots being ideal, but anything from 10 to 25 can work. At 25 I just bear away a bit so that I am not hard on the wind. For the first 1,000 miles I don't worry if I am a hundred miles or more off course. The wind is going to change and take me back on course, which, by the way, is the rhumb line. I would once have been better going west, twice better going east, and the other five times made no difference.

I am a boring old fart, and don't have SSB or grib files en route. After all, it is pretty obvious if the weather is turning to crap, and I can't run away fast enough anyway. I am a slow boat, and assume I will do 100 miles a day. Times have varied from 9 to 18 days, the biggest problem being lack of wind.

On the subject of wind, there is a ridiculous amount of overexcited hype about this passage. After all, you must have done at least one ocean passage to be here, and if you or your boat are not capable of handling a gale, what are you doing out on the ocean? Anyway, the chances of seriously bad weather are pretty small if you are sensible. Also, for your general information, don't get too worried about named tropical depressions in this area. There are many systems which decide if one should be named. They all use a sustained wind speed of 35 knots as the trigger, but they all use different definitions of "sustained". The highest definition requires a sustained 35 knots for 10 minutes. Personally I would have the storm jib on long before that. The lowest definition is the one used in Australia and Fiji, the local forecast. It takes any gusts which exceed 35 knots for 3 seconds, and averages them for 10 minutes. Unpleasant enough, but not exactly a cyclone. Only just a gale. Many yachties want to stop at Minerva, so they can say they have anchored in the middle of nowhere. It is not unusual to stop there in the middle of a nice passage only to have the wind turn unfavorable and be stuck there for ten days. Your choice.

South of Minerva light variable or no wind is common, then increasing as you approach NZ. Opuia, the most northerly port of entry, is very easy to approach through the Bay of Islands, which are an exceptionally nice cruising area. Don't miss Russell either, or the Tall Ships Race run annually by the Russell Boating Club at the beginning of January. They feed up to a thousand people at the underground hangi, and the music is great.

Call NZ coastguard a few hours before you arrive and customs will meet you on arrival. As long as you declare everything

they are pretty easy, and there are no charges. Their hours are 9 to 5.

Another reason for not arriving in NZ too early is your departure. You will get a 6 month visa, and don't really want to leave before May. You don't want to leave after May either; it gets cold and unsettled, making passage planning very frustrating. Depending on the speed of your boat, you will want favourable winds to make about 500 miles before it changes. At that time of year there is a tendency for a series of small nasty depressions to form every three days about 300 to 400 miles north of Opuā.

Again, the "metvuw" forecast is an excellent guide, but be aware that the small depressions form quickly, and it may well be necessary to postpone your departure date more than once. Don't worry, NZ customs is well used to this. They require a 72 hour advance notice of departure, but you just call them every time you want to delay. The customs officers have to come from Whangarei, and don't really want a wasted trip.

The second half of the passage to Tonga is likely to have varied conditions, with probably at least one strong wind day. Again, I take the rhumb line, and have never regretted it, although some people like to put in some eastering in order to benefit later from the SE trades which hopefully will be kicking in by then.

Personally I avoid Nuku'alofa and check in at Pangai in the Ha'apai group. This also avoids having to go alongside the somewhat dangerous wharf in Neiafu. You receive a free one month visa, and sometimes can extend that in Pangai, otherwise you must go to Neiafu or Nuku'alofa. Cost TOP69 per month. If you are staying longer than 4 months you will need to go to customs a few days beforehand and ask them to let your boat stay longer. No charge, you just fill in the form and get a copy.

Enjoy your stay. Both Tonga and New Zealand are wonderful cruising areas.

Mike Watts S. V. Kokoamo mikwatts@gmail.com

Appreciate the info? I appreciate your financial help... <https://www.buymeacoffee.com/tropicana>

Download the full SailingTonga Port Officer guide for full information www.vavau.to/portofficer.pdf

							
<i>OCC</i>	<i>ICNZ</i>	<i>PCA</i>	<i>SSCA</i>	<i>CA</i>	<i>NOONSITE</i>	<i>RCC</i>	<i>TRANS OCEAN</i>
Vava'u, Kingdom of Tonga, South Pacific Café Tropicana							
GPS Coordinates of location: Lat: 18°41' 60 S Lon: 174°1' 60 W Version 2025/1							
				Description of geographic area covered: <i>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.</i> 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: <i>Greg Just</i>				Services available from Café Tropicana: <ul style="list-style-type: none">Offshore assist via offshoreassist@vavau.toAdvanced Notice forms – Fiji/NZ/Australia.Courier package assistance/advice on request			
				<ul style="list-style-type: none">08-17 SAR coordinator14 on ADS-B / AIS Host14-17 Formed Vava'u Blue Water Festival, gifted to VTA to manage 2018 on, 2024 name change15 on created 650+ FB POI16 on, 2 rubbish bins in town and Mt Talau14 to 19 wrote Cruising guide for Tonga, assist SV Soggy Paws			



Email: greg@vavau.to
 Twitter: @tongamazingweb
 Instagram: tongamazingcom
 LinkedIn: tongamazingcom
 Whatsapp +676 8812347
 Whatsapp group "Sailing to Tonga" Admin
<https://chat.whatsapp.com/CMOnBCOYvcgKPZg63ZKGNX>
 Viber: +676 8812347
 Facebook: m.me/gregiustnz
 Phone +676 71322 VHF Ch: 26 "Tropicana"
 Mobile: +676 8812347 or +676 7512347
 Home Address: Mt Talau Citizen: NZ/UK/Tonga
 Divemaster IT Manager BA/ITIL/PMP/CCNA
 Yachtie Master Drycleaner (nz) Treasury Analyst
 Website: www.vavau.to/tropicana
 Agent www.tongasuperyachts.com
 Menu/Deli <https://cafetropicनावavau.business.site/>
 Media www.offloop.net/media password tropo
 Stuff For Sale <https://cafetropicana.company.site/>
www.vavau.to
www.haapai.to
www.tongatapu.to
www.whaleswim.to Booking site, whale info
www.sailingtonga.com online cruising guide
www.tongamazing.com Hold All
www.cruiseshiptonga.com Cruiseship info/booking
www.tongaholidays.com
www.buymeacoffee.com/vavaucommunitytrust NGO
www.vavau.to/portofficer.pdf UPDATED frequently—
 please download regularly
 Show your support for this information by donating
<https://www.buymeacoffee.com/tropicana>

- 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
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- Fully licenced bar
- Provisioning for whales/picnics/passage.
- Pre shop of supermarket provision items
- Ice cubes and 2kg solid ice blocks – rain water
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- Vava'u Deli: meats, delicatessen items
- Resell TCC/Digicel phone credit, Digicel Sms
- Gift Vouchers. Games (chess, poker ...)
- LPG tank refill— most adaptors/Fuel refill service
- 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. Music 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... Visa and one way letter agents
- Famous in Vava'u "Blue" comedy wall 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
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- Spare parts (pc/electrical) and a huge range of loanable tools
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- Qualified Massage Therapist, Portable massage table, TENs unit, heat pad, Massage Gun, Swedish and Rock,
- Please advise corrections/suggestions to greg@vavau.to



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THE SWISS ARMY KNIFE OF CAFES

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Port Officer, MP4, Facebook, Whatsapp



Ocean Cruising Club
Port Officer



Island Cruising New Zealand
Port Officer



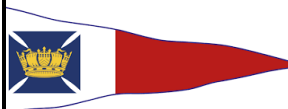
Seven Seas Cruising Association
Port Officer



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



Pacific Posse

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Video/Info Passage planning to NZ
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Vava'u Cruisers Net - Facebook admin
www.facebook.com/groups/vavaucruisers
www.facebook.com/vavaucruisersnet

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

Future home of this and other Tongan cruising guides
www.sailingtonga.com

Sailingtonga.com - Facebook admin
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/sailingtonga>

Pay it Forward

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 Padi Divemaster. Voluntereed for NZ coastguard, Vava'u for 10 years with VERA (SAR).Began Vava'u Blue Water Festival 2014, donated to Vava'u Tourism Asscn in 2016.

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!). Although I have placed **WARNING** notices on a few things/business – too many confirmed complaints to ignore. 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 TOP113k+ loan since COVID, no time, and can 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 – first entry port ONLY. Phone health officers rather than waiting

\$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.

Niutoputapu: \$100 anchorage. Free on wharf though? Go into Marine and ports for receipts. TOP only, NO BANKS! Do not pay in WINE!! **WARNING**

Maff/Quarantine

Clearance fee per boat \$22

Rubbish \$0.40 per kg

Overtime \$20 per hour

Revenue

TIN application for importing capital items for yachts – FREE. Take passport, yacht papers

Police

Fines of upto \$10,000 and/or imprisonment for swimming with whales on your own. Enforcement of Whale regulations.

Don't drink and drive, do not drink on public streets.

Do not park a car on the right hand side of the road,

Random check points...

PLEASE ASK FOR RECEIPTS EVERYTIME **WARNING**

UPDATED frequently – please download

frequently, content suggestions are

appreciated greg@vavau.to

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 – Nuku'alofa, 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 Nuku'alofa and Neiafu can do visa extensions!!

One way crew fee \$34.50 (fly in, sail out crew). Immigration.

One way crew visa \$34.50 (Nuku'alofa, Neiafu processing a week).

Visa expired/other breach fine \$1150. DO NOT LET THIS LAPSE **WARNING**

Overtime \$20 an hour

Fisheries

Vava'u use of Fisheries wharf during clear in/out, refuelling \$20, a receipt should be given. Enforcement of SMA/FHR Act (marine reserves).

Check in, Check out ports. Nuku'alofa Tongatapu, Lifuka Ha'apai, Neiafu Vava'u, Niutoputapu.

Fees are required to be paid at the time of entry, I suggest you carry some Tongan cash, if you ask Customs they may permit someone to go to the ATM to get local currency in Nuk'ualofa, Ha'apai and Vava'u.. They may take foreign currency also, but you might not get change... **WARNING**

Niu'toiputapu DOES NOT HAVE BANKS, take Tongan cash! WARNING

NZ to Tonga Passage Planning

[Points to note Tonga to NZ](#)

[\[Return to Table of Content\]](#)

www.vavau.to/passageplanningtotonga.pdf

www.vavau.to/passageplanningtotonga.mp4 to do

NZ to Tonga options and points to think about. Several passage planning notes, weather from experienced skippers, float plans, professional weather routing providers. NZ To Tonga passage planning notes.

Option	Details
1. NZ to Vava'u	Yacht Harbour, easy entry/clearance Duty free fuel 250l+. Propane refill – nearly all adaptors Can extend visa. Crew have to fly domestic airlines and one way crew visa hassles. Easter bunny. Get your EASTING in Most common port to enter.
2. NZ to Ha'apai	No duty free fuel option. No Propane refill Cannot extend visa. Can depart for Fiji Expensive shopping easy entry/clearance. Ha'apai not good in wind because of sand and low lying land. Good cruising otherwise Aim 50nm above Minerva, option to stop for rest/weather. Second most common port
3. NZ to Nuku'alofa	Duty free fuel option min 1000l. Propane refill – no adaptors Can extend Visa in Nuku'alofa Nuku'alofa commercial harbour and not easy entry/clearance, You have to take vessel into main harbour, clear in at customs (immigration normally done by customs) , health, Quarantine. Check out Customs (immigration normally done by customs), Marine and ports good for provisioning, cheaper than Vava'u – not cheaper than NZ. No cruising grounds. Good to collect crew and avoid domestic flights, still one way crew visa hassles. Big Mamas is basic since HTHH Tsunami, recommend paying drinks as you go. Least favoured entry port.

Leaving NZ to Tonga

Never leave into a storm

Get in easting,

Do not stop in Minerva! Anyone that promotes this does not have your best interests at heart!

You can enter in Tongatapu, Ha'apai, Vava'u, Niu, and leave from these ports!

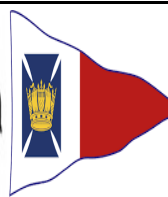
[Passage Plan NZ To Tonga](#)

[\[Return to Table of Content\]](#)

www.vavau.to/passageplanningtotonga.pdf

www.vavau.to/passageplanningtotonga.mp4

Download the full SailingTonga Port Officer guide for full information www.vavau.to/portofficer.pdf



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ICNZ

PCA

SSCA

CA

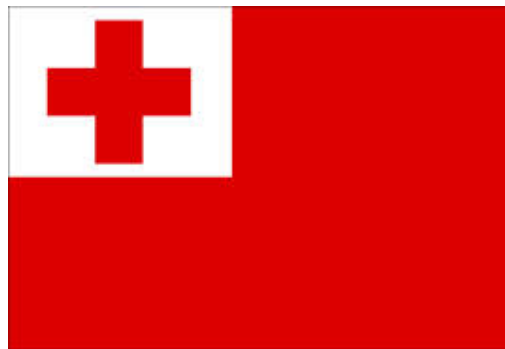
NOONSITE

RCC

TRANS OCEAN

Vava'u, Kingdom of Tonga, South Pacific **Café Tropicana**GPS Coordinates of location: Lat: **18°41' 60 S** Lon: **174°1' 60 W**

Version 2025/3

**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 JustEmail: greg@vavau.to

Twitter: @tongamazingweb

Instagram: tongamazingcom

Linkedin: tongamazingcom

Whatsapp +676 8812347

Whatsapp group "Sailing to Tonga" Admin

<https://chat.whatsapp.com/CMOnBCOYvcgKPZg63ZKGNX>

Viber: +676 8812347

Facebook: [m.me/gregjustnz](https://www.facebook.com/m.me/gregjustnz)

Phone +676 71322 VHF Ch: 26 "Tropicana"

Mobile: +676 8812347 or +676 7512347

Home Address: Mt Talau Citizen: NZ/UK/Tonga

Divemaster IT Manager BA/ITIL/PMP/CCNA

Yachtie Master Drycleaner (nz) Treasury Analyst

Website: www.vavau.to/tropicanaAgent www.tongasuperyachts.comMenu/Deli <https://cafetropicनावavau.business.site/>Media www.offloop.net/media password tropoStuff For Sale <https://cafetropicana.company.site/>www.vavau.towww.haapai.towww.tongatapu.towww.whaleswim.to Booking site, whale infowww.sailingtonga.com online cruising guide homewww.tongamazing.com Booking site ALLwww.cruiseshiptonga.com Cruiseship info/bookingwww.tongaholidays.com Sparewww.vavau.to/gigguide.pdf Whats on in Tonga

Show your support for this information by donating

<https://www.buymeacoffee.com/tropicana>**Services available from Café 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

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Charts/Chartlets/Courtesy flags for the area

Receiver of used oil/lead battery/dirty fuel

Fully licenced bar

Pre shop of supermarket provision items

Resell Kingdom Koffee. Beans (Ground (to order)).

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– most adaptors/Fuel refill Tuesday 9am

Diesel/Petrol refill service Tuesday/Friday morning

AIS www.marinetraffic.com ADS-B www.flightradar24.comLaundry: only frontloading rain water laundry. Max 9kg per load. www.vavau.to/laundryIce cubes and 2kg solid ice blocks – rain water www.vavau.to/iceProvisioning for whales/picnics/passage. www.vavau.to/deli

TV 800+series (11TB) and 10TB Movie (8000+) Documentaries, Concerts, Music, Comedy, Children, Fitness,

Christian, Wiki offline). www.offloop.net/media password tropo www.vavau.to/mediaHarbour wifi provider SSID "Vava'u Net" Free info, weather etc. www.vavau.to/net

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.

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Local news/info feed Facebook www.facebook.com/groups/tongaexpatsandlocalshttps://www.vavau.to/Cruising_Guide3.pdf to be updated,, but useful info**No credit card facilities** – only a few restaurants accept, no supermarkets.

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Port Officer, MP4, Facebook, Whatsapp



Ocean Cruising Club
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Island Cruising New Zealand
Port Officer



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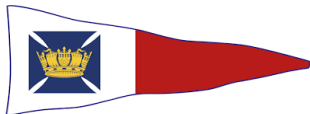
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Pacific Cruising Association
Port Officer/Secretary

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www.facebook.com/groups/pacificpuddlejump



The Royal Cruising Club
Port Officer

Vava'u Cruisers Net - Facebook admin

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www.facebook.com/vavaucruisersnet



Trans Ocean
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Oyster Rally
rally landbase

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World Arc



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\$20 per hour OVERTIME.

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

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Inter Island Movement forms - FREE

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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 Nuku'alofa and Neiafu can do visa extensions!!
One way crew fee \$34.50 (fly in, sail out crew). Immigration.
One way crew visa \$34.50 (Nuku'alofa, Neiafu processing a week).
Visa expired/other breach fine \$1150. DO NOT LET THIS LAPSE **WARNING**
Overtime \$20 an hour

Fisheries

Vava'u use of Fisheries wharf during clear in/out, refuelling \$20, a receipt should be given. Enforcement of SMA/FHR Act (marine reserves).

Check in, Check out ports. Nuku'alofa Tongatapu, Lifuka Ha'apai, Neiafu Vava'u, Niuatoputapu.

Fees are required to be paid at the time of entry, I suggest you carry some Tongan cash, if you ask Customs they may permit someone to go to the ATM to get local currency in Nuk'ualofa, Ha'apai and Vava'u.. They may take foreign currency also, but you might not get change... **WARNING**
Niu'toiputapu DOES NOT HAVE BANKS, take Tongan cash! WARNING