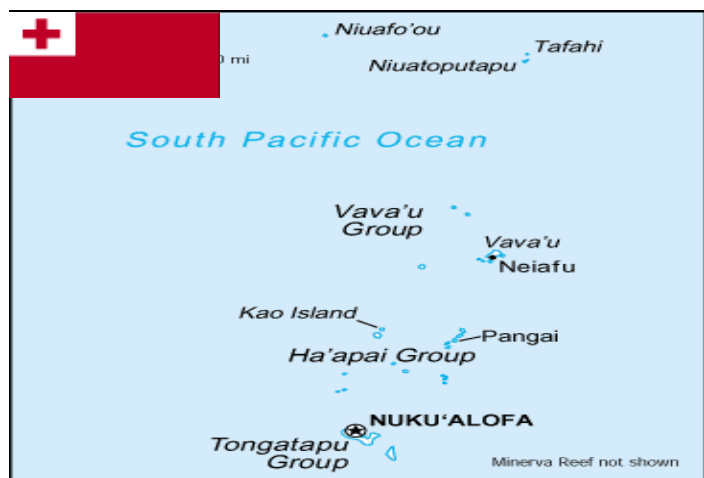


TONGA KINGDOM OF

**Country Dialling Code (Tel/Fax): +676**

Tonga Ministry of Tourism, PO Box 37, Vuna Road, Nuku'alofa, Tonga , Tel: +676-25334, Website: www.tongaholiday.com

Capital: Nuku'alofa, geographic coordinates: 21 08 S, 175 12 W, time difference: **UTC+13** (18 hours ahead of Washington, DC during Standard Time)

Background: Tonga - unique among Pacific nations - never completely lost its indigenous governance. The archipelagos of "The Friendly Islands" were united into a Polynesian kingdom in 1845. Tonga became a constitutional monarchy in 1875 and a British protectorate in 1900; it withdrew from the protectorate and joined the Commonwealth of Nations in 1970. Tonga remains the only monarchy in the Pacific.

Map References: Oceania

Area: total: 748 sq km , land: 718 sq km , water: 30 sq km

Terrain: most islands have limestone base formed from uplifted coral formation; others have limestone overlying volcanic base

Natural resources: fish, fertile soil

Population: 116,921 (July 2007 est.)

Nationality: noun: Tongan(s) , adjective: Tongan

Ethnic groups: Polynesian, Europeans

Religions: Christian (Free Wesleyan Church claims over 30,000 adherents)

Languages: Tongan, English

Economy: Tonga has a small, open, South Pacific island economy. It has a narrow export base in agricultural goods. Squash, coconuts, bananas, and vanilla beans are the main crops, and agricultural exports make up two-thirds of total exports. The country must import a high proportion of its food, mainly from New Zealand. The country remains dependent on external aid and remittances from Tongan communities overseas to offset its trade deficit. Tourism is the second-largest source of hard currency earnings following remittances. The government is emphasizing the development of the private sector, especially the encouragement of investment, and is committing increased funds for health and education. Tonga has a reasonably sound basic infrastructure and well-developed social services. High unemployment among the young, a continuing upturn in inflation, pressures for democratic reform, and rising civil service expenditures are major issues facing the government.

Industries: tourism, fishing

Currency : pa'anga (TOP)

Roadways: total: 680 km , paved: 184 km , unpaved: 496 km (1999)

Airports: 6 (2006), Airports - with paved runways: total: 1 , 2,438 to 3,047 m: 1 (2006) Airports - with unpaved runways:, total: 5 , 1,524 to 2,437 m: 1 914 to 1,523 m: 3, under 914 m: 1 (2006)

Visa: Travelers of any nationality holding confirmed round-trip or onward air tickets may arrive in Tonga without a visa for a stay of up to 30 days. For stay longer than 30 days, but less than 90 days, a visa may be issued on arrival at the airport. All other visitors, including those arriving by sea, please contact us for complete details and requirements.

Duty Free: Tonga: Spirits- 2.25 Ltrs or Wine-4.5 Ltrs, Cigarettes- 400 or Tobacco - 500g

Health: Tongans receive free medical and dental treatment, but must pay for dentures. Non-Tongans are charged on a fixed scale. There is one government medical department hospital each in Tongatapu, Vava'u, Ha'apai, and Eau Island, with several dispensaries. There are 4 hospitals and 14 health care centers, with a total of 307 beds on the islands. In 1991, Tonga had 49 physicians. In 1997 there were 0.4 physicians, 3.2 nurses, 0.3 midwives, and 0.09 dentists per 1,000 people.

Tonga is free of malaria and most tropical diseases, but tuberculosis, filariasis, typhoid fever, dysentery, and various eye and skin diseases remain common health problems. Nevertheless, in comparison with many other Pacific islands, Tonga is a healthy country. Approximately 85% of children were vaccinated against measles in 1994. By 1969, a joint WHO-UNICEF project had considerably reduced the incidence of yaws.

Other health projects deal with school sanitation, community water supplies, maternal and child health, and nursing education. The population has access to safe water and adequate sanitation.

There were no cases of polio, malaria, or neonatal tetanus in 1994. Tuberculosis was seen in only 23 cases in 1994. Twelve AIDS cases were reported in 1999, with eight resulting in death from the disease.

Life expectancy as of 2002 was estimated at 68.6 years. In the same year, infant mortality was an estimated 13.7 per 1,000 live births. As of 2002, the crude birth rate and overall mortality rate were estimated at, respectively, 24 and 5.6 per 1,000 people. The fertility rate was three children per woman

HOTELS•MOTELS•INNS

NUKU'ALOFA,

Fafa Island Resort, P.O. Box 1444, Nuku'alofa , Ph: (676) 22 800, Fax: (676) 23 592, Web site: www.fafa.to

Harbour View Motel, PO Box 83 Nuku'alofa, Ph: (676) 25 488, Fax: (676) 25 490

Heilala Holiday Lodge , PO Box 1698, Nuku'alofa Ph: (676) 29 910, Fax: (676) 29 410, www.heilala-holiday-lodge.com

Hotel Nuku'alofa , P.O. Box 32, Nuku'alofa, Kingdom of Tonga, Phone: (676) 24 244 , FAX: (676) 23 154 , Web site: www.vacations.tvb.gov.to

International Dateline Hotel, P.O.Box 39, Vuna Road, Nuku'alofa, The Kingdom of Tonga, Telephone: +(676) 23411, Fax: +(676) 23410, E-mail: idx@kalianet.to, Website: www.datelinehotel.com

Otuhaka Beach Resort , P.O. Box 374, Nuku'alofa, Ph: (676) 21266

Fax: (676) 24 782, Web site: www.otuhaka.to

Royal Sunset Island Resort P.O. Box 668, Nuku'alofa, Ph: (676) 21 254

Fax: (676) 21 254, Web site: www.royalsunset.to

The Friendly Islander Hotel, P.O. Box 142, Nuku'alofa, Kingdom of Tonga , Phone: (676) 23 810 , FAX: (676) 24 199 Web site: www.vacations.tvb.gov.to

AIRLINES/HELICOPTERS/AIRPORTS

FUA'AMOTU INT'L AIRPORT , Tonga, PO Box 845, Queen Salote Road, Nuku'alofa, Tel: +676 35001, +676 35002, Fax: +676 35003, , Email: kmafi@mca.gov.to, Website: www.mca.gov.to

ROYAL TONGAN AIRLINES, Region: Australia & Pacific, Address: Royco Building Fatafehi Road, Private Bag 9 Nuku'alofa, Tel: 00676 23 414, Fax: 00676 24 056, Web site: www.royaltonganairlines.com, Main Base: Tongatapu

