

DESTINATION INFORMATION - TONGA

The Kingdom of Tonga is made of up sixty-four islands in three main island groups and was given the honorary title of 'the Friendly Islands' by Captain Cook in 1777. The islands of Vava'u in the north are the favorite charter yacht destination, just over an hour's flight from Nuku'alofa International Airport.

COORDINATES	18°39S, 173°59E	
LANGUAGE	Tongan, English	
BIGGEST ISLAND	Vava'u Island with capital in Neiafu	
WEATHER	Tonga has a pleasant tropical climate with temperatures averaging around 24C (75F). SE trade winds can be expected from May to September and in summer breezes range from 10-20 knots from the SE. Seas are crystal clear and smooth.	
BEST TIME TO CHARTER	April-September	
AIRPORTS	Tonga has one international airport, Fua'amotu International (TBU) in the capital city of Nuku'alofa	
TIME	UTC+13	
CURRENCY	Pa'anga (TOP)=100 senti. Use of credit cards is limited in Tonga, it is best to carry cash. Currency exchange is available at banks at major hotels.	
ELECTRICITY	240 V, 50 Hz	
PUBLIC HOLIDAYS	1 Jan	New Year's Day
	Mar/Apr	Good Friday Easter Monday
	25 Apr	ANZAC Day
	4 Jun	Emancipation Day
	12 Jul	Crown Prince's Birthday
	1 Aug	King George Tupou V's Birthday
	4 Nov	National Tonga Day
	4 Dec	King George Tupou I Day
	25 Dec	Christmas Day
	26 Dec	Boxing Day
MAIN PORTS AND MARINAS	Neiafu Harbor on Vava'u is one of the Pacific's main sailing hubs and a key destination for the increasing number of sailors venturing in the Pacific.	
RECOMMENDED BEACHES	Tonga has it all. Private, remote or full of life, beaches in Tonga are family-friendly and offer plenty of relaxation and activities. Each visited beach will prove itself a piece of paradise.	
CULTURAL	Shaking hands is a suitable form of greeting. Casual wear is normal and beachwear is restricted to the beach. It is illegal for men and women to go shirtless in public. The Tongans are religious and Sunday is regarded as a sacred day.	

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