

## Vava'u, Ha'apai, Tongatapu, Nui Cruising Guide

This guide has been put together to provide information for yachts and vessels prior and during their stay in Vava'u. I would like to thank the crew of SV Olwen (Dean and Trish) and SV Cosmos (Suni and Charlie) and SV Passage for their assistance in checking and expanding this guide - if you have find information that is incorrect or missing please email me at [shoreassist@vavau.to](mailto:shoreassist@vavau.to) Malo Au'Pito (thank you very much).

The guide is now in it's fourth revision and expanding information is now available on Ha'apai and Tongatapu.

With one of the most sheltered harbours in the South Pacific Vava'u is home to a large number of charter yachts and with many sheltered coves and bays & 70 islands to visit it has a well deserved reputation for great Cruising grounds. Ha'apai is a more technical sailing area due to the sandy bottom, Tongatapu is used a lot as a staging area for weather windows down to New Zealand.

	Number of Yachts			
	2006	2007	2008	2009
<b>Tongatapu</b>	215	181	259	
<b>Vava'u</b>	444	416	551	460*
<b>Ha'apai</b>	62	36	91	
<b>Niua's</b>	65	85	80	
<b>Total</b>	<b>786</b>	<b>718</b>	<b>981</b>	

\*Estimate

### Emergencies

Police 911 or 922 or 70234

Hospital 933 or 70201

Fire 999

Port Captain - Vava'u 70639

Vava'u Emergency Response Association (VERA) 84114 or 7512347 or VHF 16 oVHF 26 (repeater station - range upto 40 nautical miles from Neiafu)

### General - Vava'u

Moorings are all privately owned in the harbour - DO NOT use a mooring without PRIOR approval to use it - you could be inconveniencing the owner.

Moorings have been laid using NZ charitable funds at anchorages in 2009 - they are marked with a yellow or orange mooring ball and are located at anchorages 7 (x 4) anchorages 16 (x 3) - they are suitable for 50ft yachts and 20 tonnes maximum. A receipted fee of \$10 a night, to maintain and increase these moorings over time, must be made at VTA officer at the Tongan Visitors Bureau, Cafe Tropicana, Aquarium Cafe, Crows Nest cafe.

Take care of the reefs - look before you drop your anchor! If a VTA mooring is available use it and pay the Fee - help us increase the moorings and rest easier!

Please don't buy or remove shells from the sea - they are someone's home. Please also be careful steering through shallow reef systems - save your keel and prop by being cautious...

Check-in and Check-out must be done between the 4 regions in Tonga (Tongatapu, Haapai, Vava'u, and Niutoputapu). This is very easy to do but remember to do it.

Speed limit inside the outer marker in the harbour is 5 knots - even in a dinghy! Watch out for other boats, bouys, floating obstacles, HUMANS!!

### **Cruiser Weather Guide**

From May to September, southeast trade winds range from 15-25 knots. During the summer months, northeast winds of 10-20 knots are the norm.

Click for : [Tonga Meteorological Services](http://www.met.gov.to) (www.met.gov.to)

Click for : [7 Day weather forecasts for the South Pacific](http://www.metvuw.com). (www.metvuw.com)

Click for : [General 3-7 Day Ocean Weather Forecasts](http://www.metvuw.com). (www.metvuw.com)

### **Faka Tonga**

"The Tongan Way" as in all Pacific countries it will happen when it happens...

See also [Culture](#)

Christianity is huge in Tonga - a wonderful way to spend a Sunday is attend a church service, please dress respectfully and modestly so as not to offend. No noisy activities can be done on a Sunday or you may be visited by the Police - I kid you not. Dress standards in town are: shirts MUST be worn by males, females should be covered below the knee and shoulder.

### **Clearance check-in and check-out**

Advanced Notice Of Arrival (ANOA) is required but is not being enforced currently. You may email details (Name and flag of the vessel, Name of the captain and crew and passport details, ETA into Vava'u) of your arrival to [custvav@kalianet.to](mailto:custvav@kalianet.to) Call Vava'u Marine and Ports on VHF 26 and go alongside the main Customs' wharf at the northern end of Neiafu Harbour, hoist your Q flag when you enter Tongan Water (50 miles). The Customs and Port Captain's offices are situated here. Customs may wish to board the boat.

Boats are cleared (free) between 0830 and 1630 Monday to Friday. They are closed for lunch, usually 1230-1330. Lunchtime, after-hours, and Saturday check-ins are available by special arrangement and for a fee - \$80TOP after hours Monday to Friday, \$100 + \$20 per officer per hour on Weekend and Holidays. If arriving after hours or at weekends and you prefer to wait until normal office opening times, boats are allowed to stay at anchor, flying the Q flag, but may not go ashore until clearance is completed.

For outward clearance, a visit must be made to the Immigration office, upstairs at the only 2 story building on the main road. There is a departure fee of \$40TOP.

Also, a Lights and Bouys fee of \$2.40TOP per gross tonne is payable at the Customs shed - upstairs.

### **Crewing positions**

A large number of yachts have crew flown in for the return trip to NZ or Fiji or just to cruise our wonderful Islands! There are several ways to bring crew in; 1. Crew member buys the most expensive fare (which is fully refundable of course) online, comes into Tonga and then cancels the ticket and gets the money back, 2. Complete **one way crew letter** and they come into Tonga on that.

See also **Crew wanted/Available**

### **Customs**

Tel: 70053 or 70928, VHF Ch. 16 or 26. May inspect your boat. No general problem. Please remember NOT to sell stores from your boat!!

### **Immigration**

Tel: 71142. If phone not working, please visit Immigration Office personally.

A 30 day Visa is granted upon entry and a second visa for 6 months can be purchased, or \$46 TOP per 28 days, \$5 TOP if your under 18 years of age. A passport photo is also required for the first extension. DO NOT give your passport to immigration (anywhere in the world in fact), a lot are lost!

BEWARE: Keep your Visa up to date at ALL Times, if you do not YOU risk a \$1,000TOP fine and also have to pay backfees! This is enforced here as in most countries around the world!!!

Government departs close 7+ days before the end of the year and reopen a week into the new year – make sure your visas are up to date before the holiday break.

Your boat may stay in Tonga for up to 12 months without having to pay duty - you must then leave for another country, get an entry stamp and you may return for another 12 months etc... Your vessel has a permit to stay for an initial 4 months, then a further 4 months, and a final 4 months. DO NOT let this permit lapse either!!

If your leaving your boat in Tonga for the summer cyclone season find a suitable mooring company and arrange a care package that suits you, (ventilate the boat, start the engines, run generators, check batteries etc). All of the moorings providers do this as a service. You must appoint a Master for your vessel while your away though!

Use the template form provided at **appointed masters letter.pdf** And leave it at the Customs Shed and your appointed master's office.

### **Health – Vava’u**

Tel: 70053 Practique Certificate issued. \$100TOP

### **Quarantine – Vava’u**

Tel: 70053 Inspection fee \$20TOP for under 25 metres/\$50TOP for over 25 metres.

Rubbish is \$0.40 per kilo. Fumigation, if required, can be arranged through Vava'u Pest Control at +676 7512347 or +676 71322.

Sailing Safaris may be able to assist with arranging out of hours clearance. Call on VHF Ch. 16 or [sailingsafaris@kalianetvav.to](mailto:sailingsafaris@kalianetvav.to)

The local radio net, VHF Ch. 26, 0830, Mon-Sun, will help provide useful information, run by various local marine operators.

## **Moorings and anchoring**

### **Moorings – Vava’u**

Yachts can hire moorings on both sides of Neiafu Harbour.

Moorings are all privately owned in the harbour - DO NOT use a mooring without PRIOR approval to use it - you could be inconveniencing the owner.

Moorings have been laid using NZ charitable funds at anchorages in 2009 - they are marked with a yellow or orange mooring ball and are located at anchorages 7 (x 4) anchorages 16 (x 3) - they are suitable for 50ft yachts and 20 tonnes maximum. A receipted fee of \$10 a night, to maintain and increase these moorings over time, must be made at VTA officer at the Tongan Visitors Bureau, Cafe Tropicana, Aquarium Cafe, Crows Nest cafe. Please be honest and assist us to improve and increase the moorings.

Take care of the reefs - look before you drop your anchor! If a VTA mooring is available use it and pay the Fee - help us increase the moorings and rest easier!

Moorings rent for approx TOP\$15 per night. Weekly or monthly rates can be arranged with mooring companies. Neiafu Harbour is very well protected & many insurance carriers will write riders.

- Aquarium Cafe (waterfront), Tel: +676 70493, VHF Ch. 16 [Aquarium.Cafe@yahoo.com](mailto:Aquarium.Cafe@yahoo.com)
- Beluga Diving, Tel: +676 70327, VHF Ch. 09 (yellow and white numbered buoys)
- Footloose Charters, VHF Ch. 68 (white buoys with poles in the inner harbour)
- Sailing Safaris (off Mermaid Bar), Tel: +676 70650, VHF Ch. 16 (various buoys, mostly white, between the town wharf and Sailing Safaris) [sailingsafaris@kalianet.to](mailto:sailingsafaris@kalianet.to)
- The Moorings, Tel: +676 70116, VHF Ch. 72 (orange buoys with poles located between Sailing Safaris and Footloose Charters) [tongaadmin@moorings.co.nz](mailto:tongaadmin@moorings.co.nz)
- Café Tropicana, Tel +676 71322, VHF 16. Various bouys black or yellow mussel floats) [tropicana@vavau.to](mailto:tropicana@vavau.to)

In the outer anchorages, the moorings are also privately owned, please call them BEFORE picking up a mooring - they may be holding it for someone...

- Hunga (anchorage #13) belong to Ika Lahi (VHF 71);
- In Tapana (anchorage #11) belong to The Ark Gallery (VHF 11) and Tapana (VHF 10) and
- Mounu (anchorage #41) belong to Mounu (VHF 77).

### **Anchoring – Vava’u**

If you choose to anchor in the main harbour, please do so far enough away from any moorings. On the western-side there are some good anchor spots toward the north. On the eastern-side there is plenty of room more to the south. Anchorage space can be a problem close to town because of deep water, except where most moorings are located. Take extreme care with reefs PRIOR to anchoring!

### **Duty Free Liquor – Vava’u**

Leiola Duty Free on the main road - take in your passport within 24 hours of checking in and also checking out.

### **Dinghy Docks – Vava’u**

Dinghy docks are at  
Aquarium/Megapode,  
Paradise (dangerous and slippery steps),  
Mangos/Moorings,  
The Mermaid,  
Manaia  
Small Boat Marina below Dive Vava'u.

### **Rigs & Sails & Maintenance – Vava’u**

#### **Canvas and Sail repairs**

Character Canvas - Located on the waterfront downstairs from Aquarium Cafe. Tel: +676 70975/ +676 70493, VHF Ch. 16 The Moorings - Located on the waterfront beside the Aquarium Cafe. Tel: +676 70016, VHF Ch. 72

#### **Metalwork**

Sailing Safaris Marine Center (Mermaids)

#### **Welding and Mechanical Engineering**

Professionally trained by a Master Dutch engineer.

Ashley on 7512408

#### **Hull & GRP Repair**

KW International - next to ANZ Bank in town  
Sailing Safaris (Mermaids)  
Endangered Encounters

#### **Woodworking**

Niu pacific +676 70573, +676 7512273

See also **Trades and Services**

#### **Maps and Flags**

Tongan Flags and Courtesy flags can be purchased at Café Tropicana or Megapode. Marine maps may also be purchased at Café Tropicana or Megapode.

### **Book Swap and Library**

Café Tropicana and Aquarium Café have a completely free book swap. Vava'u Public Library has a small joining fee and you can borrow books as well.

### **Fuel**

Diesel and Petrol available from various stations on the road to the airport (approx 500m and 800m from the Police Station), but only two are on the water

Sailing Safaris, Tel: +676 70650, VHF Ch. 16

BP Fuel, Tel: +676 70972, VHF Ch. 16 (200 litres minimum).

Will deliver to the commercial wharf area. Otomohemohe Petrol station is re-opening 2010 and is located next to Tonga Bobs just above the Small Dinghy Dock.

Please call BP in advance with the amount of fuel required, time, boat name and date of departure. Duty free fuel (MINIMUM 200 LITRES) can be purchased from BP Fuel the day you are leaving the country, you MUST be checked out with Customs and show proof. You will need to show proof from Customs that your checkout is complete – Customs will supply paperwork for Duty Free Fuel. The fuel truck can be pre-booked to come down to the Customs Wharf to coincide with when your boat is alongside. We strongly suggest you measure the fuel if possible as short dipping is very common with this BP office!!! As at 3/12/09 Duty Free Diesel is 1.44TOP a litre.

### **Water**

Water tanks or jerry cans can be filled at either:

Sailing Safaris Marine Centre (next to The Mermaid), Tel: +676 70650, VHF Ch. 16

or

Melinda Sea Adventures, Tel: +676 70975, VHF 16.

Town water is generally safe to drink but is hard and has a taste - you may wish to boil it.

Price per full tank is approx. \$15, or \$2 per Jerry Can, boat wash approx. \$25.

Contact them first to make a reservation to come alongside. Be advised there may be additional fees for extended stays tied to the dock.

### **LPG (gas)**

Butane gas is available in Vava'u. Bottles with Propane will be emptied for the Butane to be filled. Bottles can be refilled at Homegas in the village of Toula (at the head of the harbour). You can reach Homegas either by taxi or by dinghy (& short walk) as they have their own wharf - the steps are VERY steep though. A return taxi trip from Neiafu is approx. TOP\$8. A variety of international adaptors are available except Spanish. Very easy and prompt service!

Homegas Ltd Tel +676 70319

Opening Hours: Mon-Fri, 0900-1600

### **Rubbish Disposal**

Please feed the fish any organics, or call your favourite Café or Restaurant – most have a bucket for scraps that is given to staff for their pigs.

Plastic water bottles (with screw caps), Schweppes (Tonic, Ginger Ale, Soda Water), Wine Bottles (with screw caps) are used to store a variety of products (Nonu juice, Tapa Dyes, Water, Coconut Oil, Seafood Mix,) reduce landfill and your rubbish cost and give them to your

- favourite fruit and vegetable or craft merchant down at the market
- Tongan Visitors Bearau
- or lots of Cafés and Restaurants also collect and donate to the above people.

Don't leave your rubbish in any trash cans around town or use private rubbish bins at companies - you may be fined if your caught, it's not worth the risk!

You can recycle your aluminum at Aquarium Café or Café Tropicana - who donate the cans to a local school to sell to recycle agents.

You can take car batteries to Café Tropicana.

Bring your used motor oil to Sailing Safaris or Café Tropicana, but call them first to make sure they're available to receive it (Café Tropicana give it away to be used for staining wood, lubing winches, or in outer Island Generators)

Rubbish may be left at Aquarium - a small fee per bag is required, please see the staff.

See also **Communications**

See also **Post Office**

See also **Mail/Courier**

See also **Internet**

## **VHF**

Within Vava'u most businesses, including bars and restaurants, have VHF radio and the majority monitor channel 16. Please refrain from swearing and using the following channels unless you are calling them:

- 08 Tropo (reserved)
- 09 Beluga Diving and whalewatch
- 10 The Ark gallery and anchorages
- 11 Ta Pana Resort and anchorages
- 26 Marine and Ports repeater channel – keep conversation short
- 69 Dive Vava'u/Ikapuna/Alatini
- 71 Sport Fishing Vessels
- 72 Moorings Calling
- 73 Moorings Working
- 77 Mounu Island

Channel 26 is owned by Marine and Ports and is a repeater channel so has a better range than channel 16 - please keep your conversations short on this channel.

As in all countries listening in on peoples conversations is illegal – if your bored listen to the FM Radio!

The Cruisers Net information exchange service operates each morning at 0830 Monday to Saturday. VHF Ch. 26 until 0900 and then it generally moves to VHF Ch. 06

## **VHF Net Sections**

Emergencies/Priority Traffic

Whose listening?

Weather

Hellos/Goodbyes

Email/mail/fax received

Crew wanted/available

Lost and Found

Buy/Sell/Trade/Free

Local information and announcements

Local Services Offered and required

Public Events

Anything about anything

Adverts – will normally move to another channel depending on the day and time...

See also **Banks**

## **Laundry**

Adventure Backpackers

Self service, wash and line dry. Tel: +676 7095, VHF Ch. 71

Sailing Safaris

Self-service laundry. Bring your own washing powder and be present to remove clothes from washer and dryer. Call in advance to check if machines free. Tel: +676 70650, VHF Ch. 16

Coconet Cafe phone +676 71311 VHF 16 "Coconet"

Paradise Hotel (Laundry) Opposite Vava'u Guest House Tel:70 211, VHF Channel 71

## **Provisions**

There are various small supermarkets in Neiafu and a number of Caf  s do provisioning – including Caf   Tropicana. Most shops close Saturdays at noon and are closed on Sundays, except the bakeries which are open from 1600-2000.

## **Vava'u (Utukalungalu) Market**

Open Mon-Fri 0900-1600. Saturday until 1230. On Friday the main market turns into a night market, open all night when fresh supplies are being brought in from the outer islands.

## **Fresh Fish**

Some locals sell fresh fish. If not down at the main wharf just listen out for a whistle sound - this means there is fresh fish for sale! Alatini Fisheries do some imported items and fresh/frozen fish.

See also **Provisions**

See also **Transport & Travel**

See also **Car Hire**

If hiring a car, drivers require a Tongan license which is obtainable from the Police Station. Most of the roads are sealed but take care when travelling in outer areas as these roads are not sealed.

See also **Taxis**

See also **Computer/Photo/Video**

See also **Mobile Telephone**

See also **Medical/Health**

### The Friday Regatta.

Every Friday, from May to October the Vava'u Yacht Club at Mermaids Bar and Grille organise an afternoon yacht race, everyone is welcome. The course around Neiafu harbour changes every week. Skipper's meeting at 1600 at The Mermaid. Prizes are awarded to all participating boats including vouchers for local services.

### Island Trading

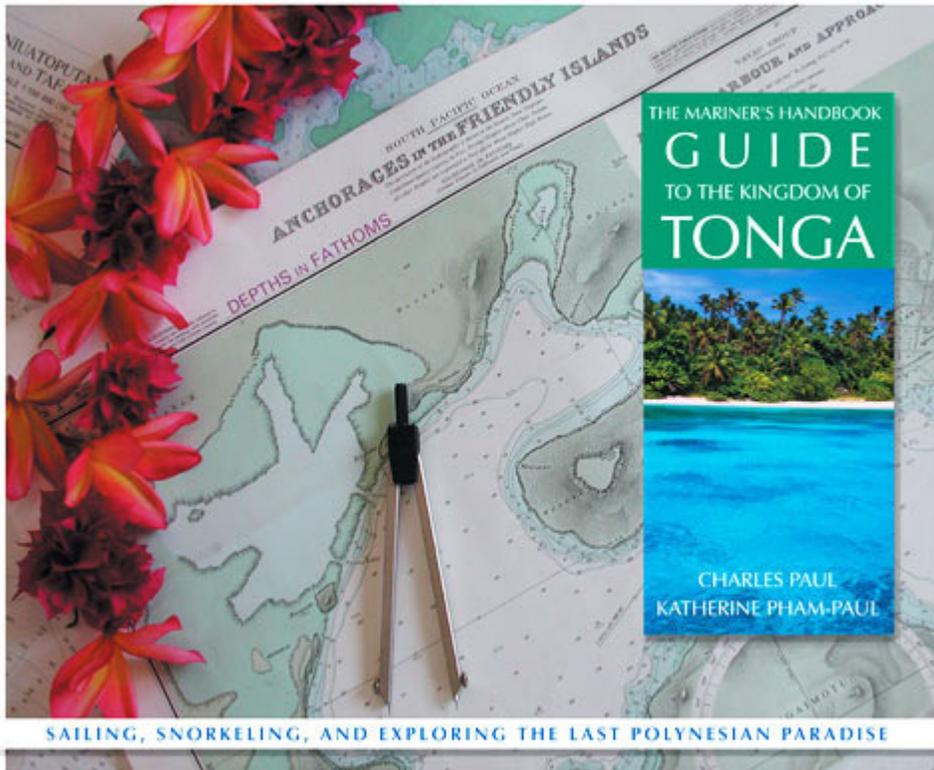
Trading with Islands is recommended rather than donating goods and services. This may seem tough but it means that people do not become dependent on Aid and Charity from yachties – if the next yachtie doesn't give them anything they could also become angry etc.

### Anchorage Notes:

The author would like to encourage cruisers to provide a brief summary of the anchorages in Vava'u, Haapai, Tongatapu and Eua to assist fellow yachties. Thanks to SV Passage [www.svpassage.com](http://www.svpassage.com) for permission to use their cruising notes.



You can also purchase the **Sailingbird Guide to Tonga**



which has extensive notes and pilot notes from Café Tropicana

- #1 Neiafu
- #2 Pangaimotu Courseway
- #3 Pangaimotu
- #4 Vaipua
- #5 Lotuma
- #6 Mala
- #7 Port Maurelle

Port Maurelle is the spot where the Spaniard, Maurelle, the first explorer to see Vava'u anchored his ship. It is a lovely and protected natural anchorage.

#7 Kapa

From this central location you can cruise to no less than forty recognised anchorages, many of them within two hours sailing of the base. Just out of Neiafu is the lovely island of Kapa with its Swallows Cave, similar to the Blue Grotto in Capri, and a spectacular sight. Kapa Island is only about 4 miles from Neiafu, but it is a world apart. Fangakima is on the western shore of Kapa Island, and it is well protected in all conditions except NW (we had southeasterlies). Fangakima is usually called by its English name – Port Maurelle - named after the Spanish navigator who was the first European to visit Vava'u. Our first stop was Swallows Cave on the NW tip of the island. Swallows Cave is a multi-chamber cave accessible only from the water. However, the water just off the cave is 250' deep, so one must anchor elsewhere and go by dinghy. We were fortunate to be there in the late afternoon when the sinking sun lights up the multi-colored stalactites and the beautiful deep

water and coral formations inside. There is also a dry cave accessible in one back corner, but we did not have shoes with us, so we could not explore. Although parts of the overhead contain the mud nests of the birds that live there, parts of the overhead are covered only by brush. At the turn of the 20th century, this cave was used to entertain important visitors, and entire feasts were lowered down in to the cave through the openings that are now brush-covered.

Ava

Adjacent to Nuku and Port Maurelle, Ava provides some amazing snorkelling and diving, particularly along the western shoreline. The mid afternoon sun highlights the natural colours of the coral and fish life, the depth dropping away to around 200 feet.

#8 Nuku

A tiny island with a cosy anchorage alongside an idyllic sands pit, Nuku is possibly the most photographed island in the Kingdom of Tonga. A perfect day stop for safe swimming and snorkelling for those beginners to gain their confidence. Nuku becomes a favourite with all who visit Vava'u.

#9 Luamoko

#10 Lisa Beach

#11 Tapanā

#12 Tapanā South

#14 Foeata

#15 and #13 and Nuapapu, Hunga and Vaka'eitu

Hunga's huge lagoon, formed by the crater of an extinct volcano, can only be reached through a 100 foot wide pass. Here a traditional Tongan village shares the shoreline with the 'Island Style' Club Hunga Resort. Further along, on the western coast of N'uapapu is the fascinating Mariner's Cave, an underwater cavern which good swimmers will be able to visit. In Vaka'eitu you will find a safe overnight anchorage and nice snorkelling.

#16 Vaka'eitu is a popular anchorage because it provides good overnight anchorage. It also has a lot to offer during the days. The island is heavily forested, but there are a few paths over which you can see much of the island, cross to the outside shore, and climb up to the top of the island. There are sandy beaches along much of the shoreline, and coral reefs extend from shore both inside and outside. There is a coral reef about a mile offshore that rises within 15 feet of the surface, and there are sandy patches where you can drop your dinghy anchor. A nice circular reef at 35-45 feet of depth. Lots of corals and sponges, interesting and plentiful fish, and a few anemones with very large clown fish. This is not a location that is easy to find, so hopefully the masses won't discover it too soon, and maybe it will have a chance to remain this nice for future divers.

#17 Lape

Lape is a small island in the middle of Nuapapu Island's bight. It has a very small anchorage on the NW side that provides protection from SE winds and swell. It provides wonderful isolation from the crowds that frequent many of the anchorages just a few miles closer to Neiafu.

#18 Fonua Lai

#19 Sisia

#20 katafanga

#21 Taunga – day stop

#22 Taunga – day stop

#23 Ngau – day stop

#24 Ngau – day stop

#25 Makave – Old Harbour

#26 `Olo'ua

#27 Mafana

#28 Ofu The approach to Ofu Island is in deep water, and the anchorage is accessible without having to negotiate around coral heads. The slope of the anchorage is very steep, but it is otherwise quite user friendly. Ofu is a small island with a quaint looking village. The only buildings visible from the anchorage, other than dwellings, are the school and church. There is no electricity, and there are no vehicles. This island, although only a few miles from Neiafu, seems a world removed.

#29 Euaiki

#30 Kenutu

Kenutu is an idyllic lagoon for an overnight anchorage, with an attractive beach, excellent diving for experienced divers on the reef and a walk on the ocean side to visit the caverns and blowholes. While you are here, the Berlin Bar is a great stopover. Throughout the cruising area, you will find amazing diving and snorkelling, in crystal clear waters, with brilliantly coloured coral and reef fish. Navigating to Kenutu Island was a bit more intricate than coming through Fanua Tapu pass. There are no markers, and there are reefs and isolated coral heads everywhere. So we chose to do this mid-day with the sun high overhead. We first explored just offshore in the dinghy. We have never seen so many starfish. They are around 10" in diameter, and they are colored red, brown, and black. Near shore there is short grass, and lots of life is moving around within the grass. Onshore, we hiked down to the pass between Kenutu and Lolo Islands while the tide was low. We found good shelling and great tide pools. There were many sponges and countless sea slugs. There were also lots of sapphire blue starfish of about 6" diameter. We wanted to cross over the island to see the rugged east side. After a few dead ends, we found a foot path that crossed over, and what a view! The shoreline is extremely steep and rugged. Waves explode on the cliffs and spray flies in all directions. We hiked south along the ridge as far as we could, and found thick stands of pandanus and iron wood trees. We hiked through an area where the needles from the iron wood trees are so thick that they appear as a carpet covering its surroundings. A bit eerie but beautiful. We had read that there is an enormous cave with a fresh water pool on Umuna, and we went looking for it the following morning. Any foot path that might have once existed is gone, and we could not find it.

#31 Mananita

Mananita is surrounded by reefs - which provide some of the best snorkelling in the area. Careful navigation through the reefs will be rewarded by the discovery of perfect white, powdery beaches. A stroll inland will take you into a luxuriant natural temple filled with the brilliant green light provided by the large-leafed puko trees.

#32 Euakafa

'Eukafa is a high island in the southeastern part of Vava'u. It is not inhabited, but it offers many other attractions. There is a great reef for diving on the east side of the island. There is ample shallow sand nearby in which one can anchor. There is also a footpath from the beach up to the top of the mountain which provides spectacular views of the surrounding islands. Because Fangakima is so close to town, it is a popular anchorage, and it is often crowded. There were twelve boats there when we arrived, but the cove is large enough that we did not feel crowded. And it also the site of some interesting Tongan history/legend - [the story of Telea and his queen, Talafaiva](#). The tomb of Talafaiva is found along the trail leading up the island. Along the beach, there are obvious slabs of coral missing where they were taken for Talafaiva's tomb. The walls of the actual tomb appear about 8" thick. However, there is also a short vertical wall (about 8" high) surrounding the tomb, and that wall is said to enclose an area about the size of a football field. We were not able to explore its perimeter because of the thick brush, but we believe the "football field" estimate is probably accurate. The tomb is open and empty. Some say that

Talafaiva was never buried in it. Others say that her body was stolen by Lepuha. Others say that her body was stolen by members of her family. No one knows. At the other end of the island is the site of Telea's house. Although the house and fence are gone, a few stones remain to mark the site. The fo'ui tree is gone too. This island has plenty to offer despite it being currently uninhabited

#33 Fua'amotu

#34 Lua Ui

#35 Luchiapo

#36 Fonua'one'one

#37 Fangasito

#38 Ovaka – day stop

#39 Ovaka – day stop

#40 Ovalau

#41 Mounu

A delightful small island surrounded by a sandy beach, Mounu is the South Pacific island of your dreams. A new mini resort has been established on the western end of the island, call ahead on the VHF and make your reservation for a gourmet meal. Mounu makes a perfect add on to your sailing holiday, why not book in for a day or two after your charter.

#42 Mu'omu'a

## **Ha'apai**

The Ha'apai group is comprised of 62 islands. The islands include barrier reefs, shallow lagoons, coral shoals, and even active volcanoes, but most are small low-lying coral atolls. The size of the smallest island is less than 1 hectare, and even the largest island is less than 18 square miles. The total land mass of the Ha'apai group is less than 43 square miles, and those islands are spread over less than 4,000 square miles of ocean.

There are east-west passes between islands which somewhat separate islands in to groups. However, the Ha'apai islands are most obviously separated in to an east and west group. The eastern islands are a series of barrier islands running north-south, and the western islands are individual islands. However, the east-west passes between the barrier islands do define the 'soft' boundaries between the four groups of western islands. From north to south, the western islands are sometimes described as the northern group, Lulunga group, Nomuka group, and southern group.

Of the 62 islands in the Ha'apai group, only 17 are inhabited. On those 17 islands, there are approximately 8,000 people settled in 30 villages. As throughout Tonga, all but a few of the population are of Polynesian descent, and almost all are active members of a Christian church.

There is limited infrastructure in this island group. Only the four largest islands have electricity. The other islands are without electricity, running water, or telephones. And even the largest islands with electricity do not have television.

Income for these islanders is from agriculture and/or fishing. However, as in much of Tonga, the largest source of income is remittances from family members living abroad.

Much of the history of the Ha'apai parallels that of all of Tonga, but the Ha'apai also has a remarkable maritime history. The [maritime history of the Ha'apai](#) includes the well-known explorers Captains Tasman, Cook, and Bligh. It also includes the lesser known, but equally interesting, William Mariner. Recognition of these mariners is found throughout the Ha'apai group, especially in the administrative center of Pangai.

The village of Pangai is on the island of Lifuka - one of the barrier islands. Pangai is the administrative center of the Ha'apai group, so that is where we 'officially' began our visit to this island group.

#### Ha'ano Island – Ha'apai

Ha'ano Island, about 8 miles north of Lifuka, was our first stop in the Ha'apai group. Although there are a few islands further north, they are also further west than we wanted to be. This was as far north as we could stop within the Ha'apai and stay near our intended course. After our daysail from Vava'u, we were happy to drop our anchor at Ha'ano before sunset. Ha'ano is inhabited, but we did not visit the village. In fact, we did not go ashore at all. Technically, we were not supposed to stop at any Ha'apai island before checking in on Lifuka. And even though we have heard that customs in Ha'apai are relatively easy going, we saw no need to test that. We had already somewhat stretched the rule, so we chose not to stretch it any further. From the anchorage we could enjoy the beautiful coast and Pukutola Point. From a distance, the point appears uninhabited, but we had read about the fruit bats. We did take the dinghy to the shallows to see them. There are hundreds of bats! They make a squeaking sound somewhat like a mouse - a very big mouse. And, like all bats, they hang upside down. Some of the trees were full of bats, and many more were flying around. Cool. Some of the coral looked inviting, and we thought about going for a quick dive before heading to Lifuka to check in, but we decided against it. We see no need to push our luck as we are entering a new area. So, by mid-morning we had our anchor up and we were off to Lifuka to check in.

#### Lifuka – Ha'apai

Lifuka is the island on which Pangai, the administrative center of the Ha'apai group, is located. So all boats passing through Ha'apai need to check in and out with customs in Pangai on Lifuka. Pangai on Lifuka is in the far north of the Ha'apai group. We had been trying to plan an itinerary during which we could 'circumnavigate' the Ha'apai islands so that we could start and stop our travels in Pangai and check out from Pangai before heading south to Tongatapu. However, when we checked in, the customs agent was willing to give us our check out immediately negating our need to return to Pangai. This greatly simplified our plans, and it is reflective of the friendliness and helpfulness we experienced wherever we went on Lifuka. The village of Pangai is small with dirt roads and a unique charm. It is neat and clean, and its people are friendly. It has miniature versions of institutions one might expect only in larger villages - a museum, library, bookstore, and hospital. It also has a small grocery market, produce market, and even an ice cream shop. We hit them all except the hospital. Probably our greatest surprise was to find a DSL internet connection at the Tongan Communications building - this on an island where there are few telephones. Also on Lifuka is the Mariner's Cafe. This is a small cafe run by Trevor Gregory - an Aussie expat (NOW owned by Craig and Magda from South Africa). Trevor is a former cruiser who swallowed the hook here eight years ago. As a former cruiser, he is well attuned to the wants and needs of visiting cruisers. His cafe offers excellent - albeit a bit pricey - food and cold beer.

We ate there a few times. It is an oasis. Lifuka also has a secure harbor in which visiting boats are welcome to anchor without charge. We prefer anchoring out, so we stayed outside of the harbor for a few nights. However, weather conditions began to deteriorate somewhat, so we moved inside. We stayed for a few nights until the weather calmed again, and it was a comfortable and secure place to be during bumpy weather.

#### Ha'afeva – Ha'apai

Ha'afeva was a nice surprise for us. We went there because it provides a relatively secure anchorage in a variety of conditions, so we thought we would explore and dive the surrounding islands with the confidence of knowing we could duck back in to Ha'afeva if conditions deteriorated. We knew that the island was inhabited (population 252), but we had not specifically planned to explore this island itself. But we did go ashore, and we are glad we did. We went ashore planning a quick walk-around, and it became a bit more. These are definitely the friendliest Tongans we have met yet! We had not been on the island half an hour when a young woman invited us to her home, and we made plans to return the following day. We stopped to talk with the nurse-midwife at the health center, and she, too, invited us to a feast the following day. We declined since we had already made plans, but within an hour on the island, our social calendar was full. The kids were great. Tongan kids love having their pictures taken like no other children we have seen anywhere. They have seen enough digital cameras that they know to ask to see the shot as soon as it is taken, and they don't ask for prints. But they are great hams. We met one very shy young boy, John, who seemed uncomfortable talking with us, but he didn't want us to leave either. When we said we were leaving, he climbed a coconut tree to get us drinking coconuts and maybe even to show off a bit. We also met two teenagers with whom we traded some t-shirts for some papaya, mango, yam, and bananas. They gave us so much that we had to return some to them so it would not get wasted. Our friends, Jim and Helen, on SV Gaia were also anchored here when we were, and we spent a very nice evening on their boat having drinks and dinner. We really enjoy spending time with them. We share many values, and it is great fun to share our thoughts and experiences as we go along. But Bud got a bee in his bonnet about heading south, and we left without doing much of what we had hoped to do. We did not visit Kayfour's home, and we did not explore/dive the surrounding islands. But at least we did have one great day among these most-friendly islanders.

#### Nomuka Iki – Ha'apai

Nomuka Iki is a small uninhabited island just off Nomuka Island. The larger Nomuka Island is inhabited, and somewhat like Ha'afeva, the area around the two islands provides safe anchorage in various conditions. So we stopped - planning to stay only one night - on our way south. Our winds and the seas were from the southeast. The wind held our bow to the southeast, and a reef in front of the anchorage dampened the seas considerably. It was not a bad anchorage, even if a bit bumpy. But we felt secure. Nomuka Iki has plentiful papaya, coconut, and mango trees on its shore just off where we anchored, but we did not go harvest any. Also on this near shore is the remains of an old prison and the wreck of the Takuo. The Takuo was a fishing vessel that foundered on Hakaufisi reef during a storm, and some of the men on board were lost. The hull later washed ashore on Nomuka Iki where it remains as a reminder of how treacherous these reefs can be. Because we had planned to stay at Nomuka Iki only one night, we did not launch the dinghy. But we heard on the SSB radio that the anchorage at Kelelesia - our next planned anchorage - was full (that is only three boats in that tiny anchorage), so we stayed another night. We planned to leave at 5:00 am local time, so we still did not launch the dinghy. All we saw of Nomuka Iki

was from our boat, and it was a beautiful island. Reportedly there is decent diving on the other side of the island, but it was too bumpy to go out there, so we passed by another opportunity...

#### Kelelesia - Ha'apai

Kelelesia is the southernmost island in the Ha'apai group, and it is only 35 miles north of Nuku'alofa - the administrative center of the Tongatapu group. It is also a dramatically beautiful island. These combined characteristics make it an ideal stop between the Ha'apai and Tongatapu groups. However, this time of the season, there are many boats making the trek southward, and the tiny anchorage at Kelelesia cannot handle more than three boats - assuming they are good friends - at any one time. In addition to being very small, this anchorage is also very rocky. It is not the most comfortable anchorage we have found, but it is one of the more beautiful. Kelelesia is a privately owned island. It was a gift from the king to a Tongan family a few generations back. The owners do not live on the island year-round, but they graciously welcome boaters to anchor here year-round and roam about on shore at will. The first thing one notices about Kelelesia is its dramatic prominent bluffs. These are different from any others we have seen in Tonga. And the anchorage faces these bluffs - beautiful... Reportedly there is also good diving just outside the anchorage. We did a brief snorkel around the anchorage, but it was cold, and the visibility was not particularly good, so we didn't gear up to dive. We did, however, see about six large clown fish in anemones at only about fifteen feet below our keel. But since we were just 'passing through' on our way to Nuku'alofa, that was the extent of our diving here. And, just in case you are keeping a head count, fish slayer struck again. He caught three tunas on this brief leg from Nomuka Iki to Kelelesia. We kept two and threw one back, so we will eat well for a few more days.

#### Tongatapu Malinoa

We didn't really plan on stopping at Malinoa. We had planned on sailing from the southernmost Ha'apai island - the beautiful Kelelesia - in to Nuku'alofa. But it was getting late in the day, and we decided to end a great day of sailing in a beautiful and isolated anchorage that we could have to ourselves. Malinoa was just right. Malinoa is just a dot on the chart about six miles north of the harbor in Nuku'alofa. It is very tiny - probably just a few acres - but what it lacks in size it makes up for in beauty. It is lightly wooded, and a sandy beach surrounds it. There are substantial coral reefs all around it, and there are plans to turn this island in to a protected marine preserve. We think that is a great idea if it will help preserve this island in this 'untouched' state. It took some effort to navigate our way in, but it was well worth the effort. We had to go in quite close to find a sandy patch in which to drop our anchor, and we ended up dropping in only 18 feet of sand. The crystal clear water revealed spectacular corals all over the bottom, but we did not get in (we were again pushing the envelope on being 'legal'). We were content to look at it through a few feet of clear water. We had a calm quiet night here before heading to the bright lights of the 'big city' (a relative term) of Nuku'alofa.

#### Tongatapu

Tongatapu is the southernmost island group in Tonga. It is also the name of the island on which Nuku'alofa - the capital of Tonga - is located. So, in an effort to minimize the inevitable confusion this causes, we will refer to the island group as Tongatapu and the island itself as Nuku'alofa. We do this knowing full well that there is much more to the island than just its capital city. However, we visited only the capital on this island, so this seems a workable way to organize our experience.

Tongatapu - meaning "sacred south" - is the government and cultural center of Tonga. The Tongatapu group - approximately 160 square miles - comprises one

third of the land mass of the Kingdom. Approximately two thirds of the Tongan population live on these islands in 60+ villages. Depending on the source, there are between 30 and 46 islands in the group (just how big does a rock have to be to be called an island?). Much of Tonga's early known history occurred in the Tongatapu group. Today, the capital of Tonga remains in Tongatapu. Nuku'alofa is the capital and center of Tonga. Here is where one finds government offices, historical landmarks, military installations, tourist attractions, and shopping. However, this is not a big city by western standards. There are cars and paved roads, but there are no stop lights or even stop signs. We did not go out to any of the tourist attractions, although many of them are reportedly quite interesting. There are blowholes on the south shore, many caves to explore, and tombs of ancient kings. There is also a Tongan National Center which displays artifacts of Tonga's history - including [tapa and weavings](#) - but we did not make it there. There is a small harbor - Fuaa Harbor - in which cruising boats are welcome to tie up stern-to, but we opted not to. The bottom is soft mud, and we didn't like the idea of caking our ground tackle in mud just before leaving on our week-long passage to New Zealand - stinky! Also, there are rats running around the harbor, and we try to discourage uninvited guests whenever possible. So we anchored outside the harbor while we checked in - a quick and easy process - then left town for a more remote anchorage. But we made a few trips to town, and we learned a bit about it and enjoyed our time there. Approximately 20,000 years ago, the Ha'apai volcano of Tofua - about 90 miles to the north - erupted, and it covered Nuku'alofa (as well as many other islands) with a thick layer of ash. This has developed in to a rich and fertile soil in which much grows. Consequently, Nuku'alofa grows a wealth of fruits and vegetables (they, too, have fruit bats here). There is a wonderful produce market with more variety than we have seen in many months, and the prices were remarkably low. While shopping in Nuku'alofa we found a larger variety of products than we have seen since the Samoas. Shopping in most of Tonga has been extremely limited. We found excellent food at Friends Cafe, and there are a few ice cream shops (so Bud is a happy camper). Although there are a few bakeries, they produce the same boring bread we have found throughout Tonga. At least we can buy it for only 70 seniti here (the equivalent of about 39 cents in U.S. currency). We also found internet access through which we were able to take care of a few business-related chores. One of those chores was paying for our domain name and web hosting for another year. Heaven forbid that this literary jewel might be removed from cyberspace for lack of payment! Duty-free fuel is available inside Fuaa Harbor, but there are two substantial obstacles to clear. First, you must be inside the harbor, and, as already mentioned, we really didn't want to go in. Second, you can purchase it duty-free only after you have checked out, but you need to order it in advance, so you need to plan at least a few days ahead - sometimes difficult in these rapidly changing weather conditions. We calculated that we needed 120 liters, and although we would probably save close to \$100 pa'anga by buying duty-free, it just was not worth the hassle. We paid a bit more, but it was delivered to our boat while at anchor. Money well spent. Then we spent the rest of our time in Tongatapu waiting - waiting for a weather window to head south to New Zealand. Although we have become marginally competent at reading local weather charts, we are quite perplexed by the interactions between northbound polar air masses that mix with tropical and sub-tropical systems between here and New Zealand. So we ordered a voyage forecast from Bob McDavitt - New Zealand's weather guru. We will use the info we get from Bob to plan our departure. We have completed our few minor chores, so now we wait.

Pangaimotu Island - Tongatapu

In the Tongan language, 'pangai' means royal, and 'motu' means island. So

pangaimotu means 'royal island'. It is, indeed. The King of Tonga owns all the land throughout the kingdom other than a few small parcels that have been given away. However, the Queen is related to one of the principals in Pangaimotu Island Resort, and she has granted them permission to live and run a business on the island even though the King retains ownership of the land itself. Pangaimotu Island is just over one mile northeast of the harbor in Nuku'alofa, but it feels a world apart. It is a small palm-covered island with a sandy beach completely surrounding it. There is a secure, albeit deep, anchorage on the SW side of the island just in front of the Pangaimotu Island Resort. The 'resort' is a low-key bar and restaurant that also has four fales (beach houses) for rent. Although we did see the bar and restaurant a few times, we did not see inside the fales. The bar and restaurant served tasty fish and chips, and the beer was always cold. The resort also offers shuttle service to Nuku'alofa a few times each day for \$7 pa'anga round trip, and they will take one's bags of garbage for only \$1 pa'anga each. The couple that runs the resort, Earle and Ana, are very helpful. When Ana saw us shopping in town, she brought our bags back out to the resort with her so that we would not have to carry them with us as we went about town. And Earle arranged our fuel delivery for us for a very small service charge. They do not charge boats for anchoring off the island, and they welcome cruisers to their bar and restaurant. They cater to the cruisers, and consequently, the cruisers give them some bar and restaurant business. A nice arrangement for all. And this is where we chose to spend our final days in Tonga. We needed to do a few things to get ready for our passage to New Zealand, and this was a great place in which to work on those things. We needed to fuel the boat and clean the bottom - done. We needed to catch up on our rest and sleep - done. Then we waited for a weather window. If you have to hang around and wait, this was a great place to do it!

#### The Niuas

meaning "rich in coconuts" – are three extinct volcanoes. They are remote islands located roughly mid-way between Western Samoa and Vava'u – about 160 nautical miles from each. Given their location and their relative isolation, they were a particularly appealing destination for us.

Niuatoputapu is the only Niua that has anchorage for boats, and its anchorage is excellent. The island has been described as resembling a straw hat. It has a tall ridge (438 feet) in the center, and that ridge is surrounded by a broad area of lush vegetation and white sand beach.

Tafahi is 6 miles north of Niuatoputapu. Tafahi is commonly called Volcano Island because of its conical shape. Its peak is over 1800 feet high, and it is often in the clouds. Tafahi has a small break in the reef through which small power boats can move, but they lack any harbor or anchorage.

Niuafou is thoroughly uninviting to all boats regardless of size – small day craft to delivery ships. The island has a rocky shore and is surrounded by deep sea. It lacks any anchorage whatsoever. It is often called Tin Can Island because mail and supplies are often packed in metal tins and thrown from delivery ships. Swimmers retrieve the packages and take them ashore.

While in the Niuas, we spent all our time on Niuatoputapu except for one memorable day on Tafahi. The channel in to the anchorage is narrow, and there are breakers on both sides, but it is extremely well marked. There were two other boats in the spacious anchorage, so we had plenty of room to settle in.

Checking in was a "different" experience, but we did get checked in. We got the boat put back together, we got ourselves cleaned up, and we slept briefly. We had both been looking forward to Tonga, and we were excited to finally be here.

Shortly after dark we heard an outboard engine approach us, and then we heard a woman's voice hailing us. This was how we met Sia. There were a few men holding their fishing boat off of ours, and Sia was sitting on the bow holding a large basket of fruit. She introduced herself and offered us fresh fruit. She gave us breadfruit, bananas, oranges, papaya, and limes. We asked what we could give her in return, and she said they needed some outboard oil.

We went ashore at the wharf which is in the easternmost village of Falehau, and we walked through the village of Vaipoa to get to the government offices in the village of Hihifa. There are three villages on the island, and in less than an hour we had done a walk-through of each. Niuatoputapu is a relatively undeveloped island. The only electricity is from a few generators mostly to power water pumps that supply one water faucet to most houses. There is no indoor plumbing, and all water remains outside. Toilets are in outhouses, and very few houses have any bathing/showering facilities. Cooking is done outside over wood fires. Surprisingly, though, many residents have a telephone – a new luxury in recent years. Although we were originally taken by the physical beauty and quaint charm of Niuatoputapu, we soon found that its beauty and charm are dwarfed by the friendliness of its people. We made friends here that we will remember long after we sail over the horizon. A few days after arriving here, our first Sunday here, we went to an umu (underground oven) potluck for the boaters that Sia hosts every Sunday out on Haukatu'utu'u Island. This is a little island that is part of the reef surrounding the anchorage. Sia prepares the entrees and side dishes in an umu, and she asks the boaters to bring desserts – especially anything chocolate. The tradeoff is that the boaters get to enjoy good food and a local experience, and Sia and her family get to enjoy desserts that they would not have without the boaters. Brownies and chocolate cake are huge hits!

The water outside the anchorage was glassy calm, and they could see humpback whales all around them. They jumped in the water to snorkel, and they were right on top of a cow and calf – about ten feet away. The whales didn't stay around long, but it was an experience of a lifetime to see them up close like that. We both did a few dives with the Tackless twosome, and we heard whale songs throughout our dives. During one dive, they sounded so close that we were constantly looking around to see them, but we did not.

We also rode our bicycles around the island one day in a few hours time. There is one dirt road in various states of repair that encircles the island. There are a few (four or five?) side roads that branch off it, and we explored each of those. There is a fresh water spring in Hihifa that runs through a natural crevice to the ocean. Although we didn't get in it, it looks very inviting. We rode by the Royal Palace; however, it is not looking very 'royal' at present. There are pigs, chickens, and horses everywhere. The pigs and chickens run free, but most of the horses are lightly tethered. And there are mango trees. We have never seen so many mango trees, nor have we ever seen trees so loaded with fruit. We are just at the very beginning of mango season, so they are just ripening. There aren't many things tastier than a tree-ripened mango. But the highlight of our bike ride was going to the isolated south shore beach. Very beautiful.

Although we don't know why, there are about 20 vehicles on the island. We understand the hospital/health center having one to transport patients. And we understand the agriculture guys having a truck. But we cannot imagine why anyone would want to own a car here. Bicycles are much more practical. There was a steel sailboat wreck somewhere near offshore, and Niko knew about where it was. We have been out there a few times, and it is a very cool dive.

The hospital/health center does not even have running water 24 hours per day! We also met the nurse-midwife, and her working conditions are equally arduous. This is tough duty out here.

A supply ship comes to the island fairly predictably every three months. When we were still in Samoa, we heard that the island was out of gasoline and rice until the next ship arrived. We do not have any way to carry gasoline, but we easily loaded 80 pounds of rice on board and brought it to give to whoever needed it. The customs agent, Bessie, distributed it for us. The supply ship arrived about two weeks later, so hopefully our small contribution helped tide over those that had run out. And what an experience it was when the ship arrived!

Ship day was a very festive day here. Many of the islanders came out and spent the entire day at the wharf watching the ship unload its cargo. We watched it unload its 55-gallon drums of gasoline with disbelief and fear. The drums were on a deck about 30 feet above the water. Like on Tin Can Island, the boat's crew pushed the drums overboard. They fell 30 feet in to the water, and swimmers took them ashore. There were swimmers in the water when the drums were being thrown overboard, but fortunately no one was hit by a falling drum. Also, fortunately no two drums collided which could have caused leaks and/or sparks. A very dangerous way to unload fuel.

And then there was the feast... Anyone who has spent time in the South Pacific has heard about Tongan feasts, and we had the pleasure to attend one. But it was finally time to move on. What we will always remember about this island is the friendliness of its people. We have felt welcomed in to people's lives and homes here. After being here a few weeks, people seemed to make an effort to acquaint themselves with us. They were not looking for what they could get from us other than our time and friendship. We have shared time and friendship with the local population here, and we have made friends that we will always remember. This is a special place populated with truly special people. This is why we are cruising the south pacific.

If you wish to add to these anchorage notes (navigation, diving and snorkeling, village information, trails and historical information) please email me at [shoreassist@vavau.to](mailto:shoreassist@vavau.to)

### **Fiji Clearance Procedures**

A large number of yachts depart from Tonga for Fiji, here are the links you need to familiarize yourself with Fiji's Clearance procedures...

**[Advanced Notice of Arrival \(ANOVA\) Form C2C](#)**

**[Inward Form C2C](#)**

**[Arrival card Fiji](#)**

**[FAQ Clearance into Fiji - simple](#)**

**[Clearance inward procedures - detailed](#)**

**[Noonsite Clearance procedures - detailed](#)**

### **New Zealand Clearance Procedures**

A large number of yachts depart for New Zealand from Tonga – NZ has a very efficient Customs and Immigration system and has a very strict quarantine service to protect the country from food hazards. Here is the information you need...

**[Noonsite Country details](#)**

**[NZ Customs Yacht inward procedures](#)** - forms/stores etc

## Australian Clearance Procedures

The following links are the most useful to look at to clear your Yacht into Australia.

**Noonsite Country details**  
**Australian Customs**

**Australian Customs Fees**

**Australian Customs forms etc**

## Hikes

The view from the top of Mt. Talau is not to be missed. Great for gaining some top-down perspective! Hike to the top from the trail head takes about 5-10 minutes. Can be slippery when wet. Hand-rails on parts of the trail. Trail head is about a 15-20 minute walk up-hill from town.

The fresh-water caves in Toula present a view of the eastern islands & local kids can often be found swimming there. Toula village is about a 25-minute walk from town.

Euakafa Island has great photo-ops from the top, where you'll also find a tomb!  
Good snorkel reef as well.

Email [shoreassist@vavau.to](mailto:shoreassist@vavau.to) for anything not covered in this guide and we'll see if we can help. You can also contact any of the ICA Port Captains – who are here to help

## Links

**Seven Seas Cruising Association**  
**Island Cruising Association**

## Directory - tourism/trades/government

<b>Directory - tourism/trades/government</b>					
<i>Company Name</i>	Phone	Phone	Mobile	VHF	Email/Notes
<b>EMERGENCY - FIRE/POLICE/AMBULANCE</b>	911	911	911		
<b>VAVAU.TO - email me to get on this directory</b>	<b>71322</b>		<b>7512347</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>info@vavau.to</b>
Adventure Backpackers	70 955			71	
Air Terminal Services (ATS) Lupepau'u Airport	70 139				
Air New Zealand	23 192				
Air Pacific	23 423				
Alatini Fisheries	70 939			69	

Aneti's Shop - art and craft	70 086				
Angela's Handicraft	70 684				
Anglican Church	70 354				
ANZ Bank	70 944				
Aquarium café	70 493			16	
Assembly of God	70 012				
Auspicious Trading - supermarket	71 388				
Avis - car rentals	70 847				
Beluga Diving	70 327	71 115		9	
Blue Lagoon Resort	71 300			16	
BP Oil Vavaú	70 972				<b>elone.siale@bp.com</b>
Café Tropicana - food and internet and art and bakery	71 322	71 324	7512 870	16	<b>tropicana@vavau.to</b>
Catholic Church	70 062	70 930			
Chathams Pacific Airline	71 280				
China Fortune - Luci's Supermarket	71 222				
Church of Jesus Christ of Latter day Saints (LDS)	70 470	70 765			
Church of Tonga	70 155	71 155			
Coconet Café - food and water tours and horse trekking and vehicle rentals	71 311		74 287	16	
Constitution Church of Tonga	70 075				
Custom Department	70 052			16/26	
Custom Shed	70 053			16/26	
D.M. Guttenbeil & Sons - supermarket	70 715				
Dancing Rooster - restaurant	70 886			16	
DHL - Vava'u Mapa the taxi driver			7512 363		
DHL - Tongatapu	27 700	23 617			

Dive Vavau - diving and whales	70 492	70 557	7776 616	69	
Dolphin Pacific Diving - diving and whales and tours	70 292		59 623	71	
Dora Malia - fishing	70 698			69	
Eastern island Ferry and tours	71 190		48 032		
E.M. Jones - building supplies	70 422	71 067			
E.M. Jones Travel	70 026				
Endangered Whale Encounters - whales and Fishing and water tours and surfing	7512 991	7512 929	8712 383		
Eueiki Island Eco resort (Formerly Treasure Island)	67 963		7512 935		
Fa Sea Jewellery	70 853				
Fakaánaua Ki Houmelei Tailor	70 803		7512 824		
Fangafoa Travel House	71 432				
Federal Pacific Finance	71 243				
Federal Pacific Insurance	71 243				
Fedex - Vava'u Western Union	70 888				
Fedex - Tongatapu	28 928		82 389		
Fire Station	70 089				
Fish Market	70 142				
Friendly Island Bookshop	70 505				
Friendly Island Kayak Company	70 173			71	
Friendly Island Security	70 876				
FM Peau Vava'u 88.6FM	71 128	71 129			
Free Church of Tonga	70 176				
Free Wesleyan Church of Tonga	71 294				
Gateway Service Station	70 742				
Gigging Whale Bar and grille		59 057	59 075	16	
Golden Fortune Store - supermarket	71 284				
Governor's Office	70 070				

Hakula Lodge - accommodation and fishing and whale and snorkelling	70 872			71	
Harbour View Resort	70 687			16	
Harbourside Holiday House	71 502				
Heilala Vanilla	71 400				
Hibiscus Hut - art and craft and T shirts	71 381	70 872		16/71	
Hilltop Hotel	70 209	71 095		16	
Home Gas Limited (LPG)	70 319				
Ika Lahi International Game Fishing Resort	70 611			71	
Ikapuna Game Fishing Store	70 698			69	
Infinity-Tec - IT supplier	70 605		75 141		
Inland Revenue Department	70 122				
Ísileli & Sons Bakery	70 486	70 046			
Island Explorer Apartments - accommodation and kayaking and water tours	71 453		84 046	16	
Invest in Tonga - real estate	70 788		8863 219		
J.V. Taxi	70 136				
Jack Guttenbeil Stores	70 072				
Jehovah Witnesses Church	70 827				
Jetsave Taufonua Travel	71 235				
J M Store Supermarket	71 195				
Kalia 2 - arts and crafts and clothes	70 985				
Kart Safaris	70 493			16	
Kelly's Trading - household goods	70 569				
Kiwi Magic - fishing and whales	71 032		7512 149	71	
La Vela Restaurant	71 395			16	
La Paella Restaurant	70 348		7512 310	11	
Langafonua Handicrafts Shop	70 356				

Leiola Duty Free Shop - liquor	70 748	70 645			
Liviela Taxi	70 240				
Loni Video Shop	70 025				
Look Sharp Vavaú - art and craft and T shirts	70 757				
Longomapu Community	70 701				
Lopaukamea Taxi	70 153				
Lucky's Beach House - accommodation	71 075			16/26	
Lupepauú Airport	71 403				
Mafana Island Beach - accommodation	74 834		84 126	11	
Mala Island Resort - accommodation	71 304			16	
Manaia - restaurant	70 107			16	
		75i			
Marnis - Cargo/80 person Barge	70 991	2347	751 2870	16	<b>marnis@vavau.to</b>
Mango café	70 664			16	
Matamaka Community	70 769				
Marlene Moa Bakery	70 025				
Mahimahi Curry		<>			
MBF Bank	70 466	70 006			
Megapode - art and craft	70 975			16	
Melinda Sea Adventure - sailing and whales	70 975			16	
Mermaid Restaurant	70 127			16	
Ministry of Civil Aviation	70 288				
Ministry of Education	70 511				
Ministry of Finance	70 141				
Ministry of Fisheries	70 399				
Ministry of Foreign Affairs & Defence	70 499				
Ministry of Health	70 201				
Ministry of Justice	70 077				

Ministry of Labour, Commerce & Industries	70 414				
Ministry of Lands, Survey & Natural Resources	70 033				
Ministry of Police, Fire Service & Prisons	70 234				
Ministry of Tourism	70 115			16	
Ministry of Works	70 100				
Moteli (Funga-'i- vava'u nite club)	70 137				
Mounu Island Resort	70 747	7754 331	8866 403	77	
Moorings - sailing and yacht services	70 016	70 697		72	
Motor Parts Service	70 854	71 122			
Mystic Sands Motel	70 688	70 647	84 027	16/71	
National Beverage - liquor	70 760				
Neiafu shopping Centre - supermarket					
New Life Church	67 935				
Niu Pacific	70 573	8740 107	7512 273	16	
Niva Boat Tours	70 380				
Ofu island Backpackers - accommodation	74 393		7512 461		
Olo'ua Community	70 850				
Orion Charters - sailing	70 327		8867 311	16	
Osteria - restaurant	70 220		7512 474	16	
Otumohemohe Shop - supermarket	70 382	71 078			
Ovaka Community	70 768				
Pacific Blue	23 770				
Pacific Finance & Investment Ltd	70 256				
Pacific Timber Hardware (PTH) - building supplies	70 500				

Paradise International Hotel	70 211	74 744		71	
Peace Corp - US volunteers	70 770	70 065			
PIG FM1 89.3FM	71 479		59 018	16	
Police Officer Commanding	70 230				
Police Officer in Charge	70 233				
Polynesian Airlines	24 566				
Port Wine Guest House - accommodation	70 479				
Post Office	70 052				
Prince Wellington Ngu Hospital	70 201				
Reef Resort - accommodation		59 279	59 276	71	
Reef Shipping ( <i>Southern Cross</i> )	70 915				
Riki Tiki Tours - diving and tours	70 975			16	
Royal Beer - liquor	71 484				
S.F. Paea & Sons - supermarket	70 644				
Sailing Safaris - sailing and whales and yacht services and moorings	70 650	70 730		16/68	
Saineha High School - LDS English Speaking High School	70 188	71 221			
Seventh Day Adventist Church	70 177				
Shipping Corporation Polynesia ()	70 128				
Shoreline Power Ltd - power supplier	70 798				
South Seas Treasures - art and craft	70 982		8887 711		
Sovereign Residence Vavaú - accommodation	70 760	70 725	7746 955	16	
Sovereign Restaurant and Bar	70 760	70 725	7746 955	16	
T & M Trader - supermarket	70 752				
Tahi Pacifika - fishing and water tours	70 278			16/71	

Tangitau Pafilio Bakery	70 105	70 206			
Tapana - accommodation	70 348		7512 310	11	
Target One Fishing	70 647			71	
Taunga Community	70 208				
Tefisi Community	70 755				
The Ark Gallery - art and moorings and yacht services		7512 673	8887 998	10	
The Balcony Lodge - accommodation	70 395		82 882	16	
The Balcony Restaurant	70 395		82 882	16	
The Tongan Beach Resort - accommodation and restaurant and bar	70 380			71	
Tina Bourke Store	70 210				
TNT Courier - Vava'u	71 280				
TNT Courier - Nuku'alofa	23 012				
Tokaikolo Church	70 475				
Tonga Airport Ltd	70 288				
Tonga Bobs - bar and restaurant and Kiteboarding	59 220			16	
Tonga Broadcasting Corporation	70 827	70 843			
Tonga Communication Corporation (TCC) - communications	70 255	70 111			
Tonga Development Bank	70 333	70 031			
Tonga Post	70 052				
Tonga Red Cross Society	71 449				
Tonga Timber Ltd - building supplies	70 996	70 661			
Tonga Trust/FSP	70 874				
Tonga Visitors Bureau	70 115			16	
Tonga Water Board	70 299	70 660			
Tongan Earth - arts and crafts	59 981				

Tradewind Island Sailing (Manuoko) - sailing			7513 305	16	
Treasure Island Resort (Now Eueiki Island) - accommodation	67 935		7512 935		
Tropical Tease - art and craft and T shirts	71 271			16	
Tu'anekeviale Community	70 700				
Tu'anuku Community	70 702				
TV Vava'u	70 827	70 843			
UATA Shipping Line ( <i>MV Pulapaki</i> )	70 490				
USP Centre (university of the South Pacific)	70 545				
UPS - Vava'u EM JONES	70 422				
UPS - Tongatapu EM JONES	23 423				or +679 720 043
Vaka'eitu Island (Papao Village)	70 308				
Vai Ko Lelea - Bar	71 484	8740 000	7516 148		
Vava'u Family Health Centre - sexual health and education	71 011				
Vava'u Football Association	70 048	70 186			
Vava'u Handicrafts	70 718				
Vava'u Harbourview Resort - accommodation	70 687			16	
Vavaunet - Wifi provider	70605 Tech	71322 Sales		16	
Vavau Pharmacy & Health Centre Ltd	70 213		59 289	16	
Vava'u Public Library	70 647				
Vava'u Rugby Union	70 694				
Vava'u Scooters and Snorkels	71 331				
Vavaú Shipping Services	70 915				
Vava'u Side School - English Speaking Primary and Intermediate School	71 162				
Vava'u Villa (formerly Pangai	71 010		59 057	16	

Villa) - accommodation					
Waterfront House - accommodation	70 182		48 032		
Western Union Money - money transfer	70 888				
Westpac Bank of Tonga	70 068				
Whale Discoveries - whales	70 173			71	
Whale Swim Adventures - whales	71 266		7512 730		
Whale Watch Vava'u -whales	70 747	7754 331	8866 403	77	
Whales in the Wild	70 872			71	