

# TUVALU AT A GLANCE

Tuvalu Island



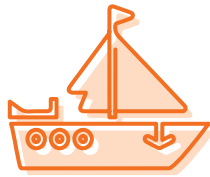
Home to over  
**11,000**  
PEOPLE

Most Tuvaluans are of  
Polynesian descent.

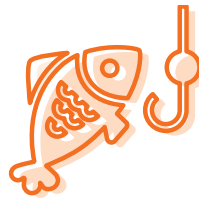


**CAPITAL**  
The island of  
Funafuti

## MAJOR INDUSTRIES



**Maritime**



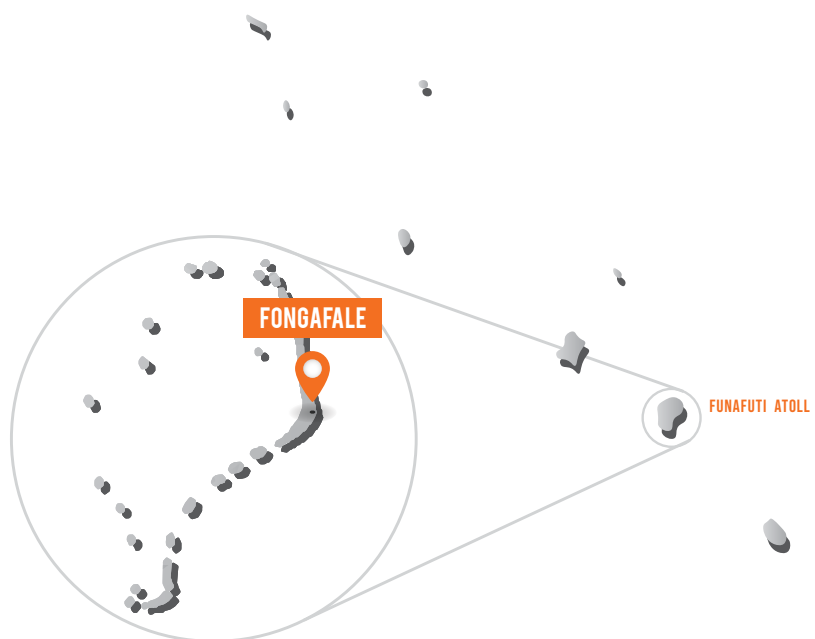
**Fishing**

The sale of fishing licenses is a major source of government revenue in Tuvalu. Tuvaluans are well known for their seafaring skills and many are employed on overseas merchant ships.

## GEOGRAPHY

The tiny island nation of Tuvalu is made up of **6 atolls** and **3 reef islands**.

It sits mid-way between Australia and Hawaii with a **total land area** of just **26 km<sup>2</sup>**.



For detailed country map please visit:  
[maps.google.com](https://maps.google.com)





## CULTURE

**Tuvalu has a traditional community system.**

In this system, each family has its own task, or salanga, to perform for the benefit of everyone, such as fishing, house building or defence.

Traditional ceremonies are important and include several dances such as fakaseasea, fakanau and fatele. These are often performed at community events and to celebrate high-ranking individuals.

## LANGUAGES

**Tuvaluan and English**



Tuvaluan and English are the national languages of Tuvalu, although English is not usually spoken in daily use. Tuvaluan is closely related to Samoan and other Polynesian languages. There are 2 different dialects spoken in the northern and southern islands.

## RELIGION

**Protestant Church of Tuvalu**



**Religion is an important part of life in Tuvalu and the pastor is a prominent figure in Tuvaluan communities.**

Approximately 91% of Tuvaluans are Protestant members of the Church of Tuvalu (otherwise known as Ekalesia Kelisiano Tuvalu). Seventh-Day Adventists account for 3% of the population, while 3% are Baha'is, 2% are Jehovah's Witnesses and 1% are Catholic. There are also small numbers of Muslims, Baptists, Mormons and atheists.



## DRESS

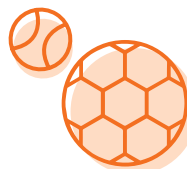
Modest dress codes apply for men and women in Tuvalu. In some outer islands and in all community meeting halls (Falekaupule), it is not acceptable for women to wear pants.



## WORKPLACE CULTURE

If you are meeting with village chiefs or Falekaupule (traditional assembly of elders), it is culturally acceptable to present the assembly with a gift, although this is not always expected. Shaking hands is appropriate but is considered a more formal way of greeting people. Kissing the cheek is regarded as a foreign custom and is frowned upon unless the person being greeted is an acquaintance or associate.

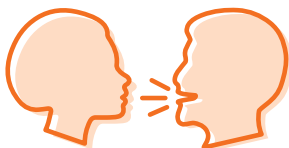
Swearing and blasphemy are not common and can be interpreted as offensive or aggressive behaviour.



## PASTIMES

**Soccer and traditional games**

The most popular sport in Tuvalu is soccer. However, there are several unique, traditional games in Tuvalu that are also popular. Kilikiti is a traditional sport and is similar to cricket. Te ano is a sport similar to volleyball that is played with 2 hard round balls made from pandanus leaves.



## PHRASES & GREETINGS

PHRASE — English	Tuvalu	PHRASE — English	Tuvalu
Hello	Talofa	Goodbye	Tofa
How are you?	E ā koe? (sg), E ā koutou? (pl)	I'm sorry	Fakamolemole, au kō 'sē!
Please	Fakamolemole	Do you speak English?	Koe e faipati faka-'Pālagi? (sg) Koutou e fai'pati faka-'Pālagi? (pl)
Thank you	Fakafetai		

For more common phrases and translations, refer to: <https://omniglot.com/language/phrases/tuvaluan.php>



Teone Church, Tuvalu