

Tonga



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Includes »

Tongatapu	171
Nuku'alofa	172
Offshore Islands	181
'Eua	181
Ha'apai Group	183
Lifuka Group	185
Vava'u Group	189
Neiafu	190
Niua Group	198
Understand Tonga	200
Survival Guide	205

Best Eco-Accommodation

- » 'Eua'iki Island Eco-Resort (p199)
- » Hideaway (p182)
- » Port Wine Guest House (p193)
- » Serenity Beaches (p188)
- » Matafonua Lodge (p187)

Best Cafes

- » Friends Café (p177)
- » Mariner's Cafe (p186)
- » Café Tropicana (p196)
- » Aquarium Café (p196)
- » Café Escape (p178)

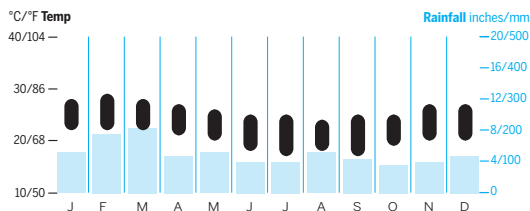
Why Go?

Say goodbye to tourist hype – you're now in the Kingdom of Tonga. This is a country that survives on international aid and remittances sent from Tongans living overseas. You may get the impression that most Tongans would prefer visitors to donate their dollars and not leave the airport; expats seem determined to build a tourist industry, but most of the locals just don't seem to care. In some ways, this is incredibly refreshing and in others incredibly frustrating. You won't have to try to gain a cultural experience – it's all around.

There's no doubting the natural beauty of Tonga. Travellers choose the pace of their adventure here, mixing sun-and-sand holidays with unique and intrepid experiences. Throw away any preconceived ideas, slow down to the pace of local life, and you'll love the place. Expect too much and you'll likely go away frustrated.

When to Go

Nuku'alofa



Jun–Oct Hump-back whales frolic in the waters throughout Tonga. A rare chance to swim with whales!

May–Oct The cooler, dryer, less humid season when yachties turn up to play.

Nov–Apr Warm and wet but fine for water sports. Cyclone season, but they rarely hit Tonga.