

Behind the Scenes

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OUR READERS

Many thanks to the travellers who used the last edition and wrote to us with helpful hints, useful advice and interesting anecdotes: Chris Evans, Inano McMurphy, Iris Hüll, Jim Green, Judy Chappell, Kaori Hashimoto, Katherine Lynch, Logan McDanel, Steve Waters.

AUTHOR THANKS

Brett Atkinson

Meitaki ma'ata to all the friendly Cook Islanders I met on my travels, especially Christian Mani, Nane Teokotai Vainepoto Papa and Daniel Fisher at Cook Islands Tourism in Avarua. On 'Atiu thanks to Mata Arai, Roger Malcolm, and Mareta Atetu, and to Tangata and Teata Ateriano on Ma'u'ke. Final thanks to Carol for sharing this latest South Pacific adventure with me – especially the mammoth tuna sandwiches, bush-bashing excitement and lazy sunset cocktails.

Charles Rawlings-Way

Huge thanks to Tasmin for the gig: it had been far too long since I'd experienced the South Pacific any closer than 39,000 feet above the waves. Thanks also to the all-star in-house LP production staff in London and Melbourne, and kudos to my island-addled crew of co-authors (dirty job, someone's gotta do it, etc). Special praise and adoration as always to Meg and our

daughters Lone and Remy, who held the fort at home while I reported in from sundry remote islands with stories of coral reefs, sunsets and cold beer.

Tamara Sheward

Fa'afetai tele to the wonderful folks of the erstwhile Navigator Isles for all of their invaluable guidance and assistance while researching and travelling for this book. Among hundreds of others, garlands must go to Maria, Sophie, Jay and Killi in Samoa, and Fanua, Cita, Tom and Howard in American Samoa. Frangipanis and South Sea smooches to my two crazy coco-nuts, Dušan and Masha.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Climate map data adapted from Peel MC, Finlayson BL & McMahon TA (2007) 'Updated World Map of the Köppen-Geiger Climate Classification', Hydrology and Earth System Sciences, 11, 163344.

Cover photograph: Humpback whale, Tonga. Maria Teresa Lara/500px ©



THIS BOOK

This 8th edition of Lonely Planet's *Rarotonga, Samoa & Tonga* guidebook was researched and written by Brett Atkinson, Charles Rawlings-Way and Tamara Sheward. The previous edition was written by Craig McLachlan, Brett Atkinson and Celeste Brash. This

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Thanks to Dan Corbett, Joel Cotterell, Laura Crawford, David Hodges, Lauren Keith, Kirsten Rawlings, Sarah Reid

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- Christian
- Confucian
- Hindu
- Islamic
- Jain
- Jewish
- Monument
- Museum/Gallery/Historic Building
- Ruin
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- Zoo/Wildlife Sanctuary
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- Diving
- Canoeing/Kayaking
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- Sento Hot Baths/Onsen
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- Sleeping
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- Eating

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- Drinking & Nightlife
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- Entertainment

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- Shopping

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- Cycling
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- Metro station
- Monorail
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- Subway station
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- Train station/Railway
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- Airport/Runway
- Beach/Desert
- Cemetery (Christian)
- Cemetery (Other)
- Glacier
- Mudflat
- Park/Forest
- Sight (Building)
- Sportsground
- Swamp/Mangrove

Note: Not all symbols displayed above appear on the maps in this book



OUR STORY

A beat-up old car, a few dollars in the pocket and a sense of adventure. In 1972 that's all Tony and Maureen Wheeler needed for the trip of a lifetime – across Europe and Asia overland to Australia. It took several months, and at the end – broke but inspired – they sat at their kitchen table writing and stapling together their first travel guide, *Across Asia on the Cheap*. Within a week they'd sold 1500 copies. Lonely Planet was born.

Today, Lonely Planet has offices in Franklin, London, Melbourne, Oakland, Dublin, Beijing and Delhi, with more than 600 staff and writers. We share Tony's belief that 'a great guidebook should do three things: inform, educate and amuse'.

OUR WRITERS



Brett Atkinson

From his home in Auckland, Brett has travelled to many of the islands in his South Pacific backyard. For this extended research trip to the Cook Islands, he snorkelled and scootered around Aitutaki, drank bush beer and organic coffee on 'Atiu, and explored Rarotonga on two and four wheels with his wife, Carol. Brett has covered more than 50 countries as a guidebook author and travel and food writer. See www.brett-atkinson.net for his most recent work and upcoming travels.



Charles Rawlings-Way

As a likely lad, Charles suffered in school shorts through Tasmanian winters: ice on the Hobart puddles, snow on Mt Wellington... He dreamed of one day exploring tropical isles with a more humane climate. After dropping a windsurfer mast on a Texan tourist's head in Fiji in 1985 and chasing rats around an Aitutaki guesthouse in 2005, a trip to see what Tonga had to offer was well overdue.

Charles has penned 30-something Lonely Planet guidebooks, and remains pathologically fixated on the virtues and vices of travel.



Tamara Sheward

Despite a hearty dislike of heat and humidity – not to mention that pesky mango allergy – Tamara not only lives in the tropics, but enjoys travelling them extensively. While researching the South Pacific, she rode in 50-plus boats, 14 aeroplanes, umpteen rattly open-air buses and one submarine; alas, no similar tally was kept on kava and coconut consumption. In addition to the islands in this book, Tamara has covered an incongruous miscellany of countries for Lonely

Planet, including Serbia, northern Australia, Bulgaria and Russia.

Published by Lonely Planet Global Limited

CRN 554153

8th edition – December 2016

ISBN 978 1 78657 217 2

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10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1

Printed in China

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