



Tongan Country Guide

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Current DFAT Travel Advice

This advice is current for Thu, 1st November 2018.

Exercise normal safety precautions in Tonga. Use common sense. Look out for suspicious behaviour as you would in Australia. On 12 February 2018, Cyclone Gita caused widespread damage to the main island of Tongatapu. The island has generally returned to normal, but some infrastructure remains damaged and services may be affected. See [Safety and security](#).

There is a current dengue fever outbreak in Tonga. Protect yourself from mosquitoes, day and night. Chikungunya and Zika virus also occur. See [Health](#). Violent assaults occur, including sexual assaults and robberies. Avoid going out alone at night or to isolated locations, including beaches. See [Safety and security](#). Driving in Tonga can be hazardous, particularly at night. See [Local travel](#).

The above information is an edited excerpt of the Travel Advice Summary from The Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade. Travellers are encouraged to read the travel advice in full, subscribe to updates to this advice and to register their presence in Tonga at www.smartraveller.gov.au.

Tourist Visa Conditions

Australian ordinary passport holders do not require a visa in advance to enter Tonga as a tourist for a period of up to 31 days. Upon arrival in Tonga, a 31 day visa will usually be issued free of charge. Passports should be valid for at least six months beyond the period of intended stay in Tonga.

Travellers should also be able to show documentation confirming their ability to financially maintain themselves during their stay, as well as tickets and entry documents for their onward or return destination. Additional conditions may apply to minors. Travellers are recommended to contact a Tongan mission on the details below for further information and to ensure their specific circumstances make them eligible to enter Tonga without a visa.

Vaccinations and Health Precautions

The following information is intended as a guide only and in no way should it be used as a substitute for professional medical advice relative to a travellers individual needs and vaccination history. No guarantee is made as to its accuracy or thoroughness. For further information, please contact The Travel Doctor on 1300 658 844.

Vaccination against hepatitis A is recommended for travellers to Tonga. Vaccination against hepatitis B should be considered by frequent or long stay travellers. Vaccination against typhoid should be considered particularly when travelling to areas with poor sanitation and hygiene. As outbreaks of dengue fever, chikungunya and zika virus occur, particularly during the wet season in Tonga, mosquito avoidance measures are recommended, especially during the day. Tonga is listed as a zika category 1 country. For information on the risks the zika virus poses to pregnancy, including up to 6 months following the exposure of either parent, see www.who.int/csr/disease/zika/en/.

Regardless of destination, all travellers should be up-to-date with their routine "background" vaccinations, including a recent annual Influenza vaccination. Please consult a medical practitioner or contact The Travel Doctor for your specific risk to these preventable diseases and the appropriate avoidance measures. Australians travelling to Tonga should ensure that they have adequate travel insurance to cover the length of their stay. Medications that are legal in Australia may be illegal in other countries. For further information on insurance, taking medication overseas and other issues please visit www.smartraveller.gov.au/tips.

Tongan Representation in Australia

High Commission of Tonga, Canberra

7 Newdegate Street
DEAKIN ACT 2600

Tel: (02) 6232 4806
Fax: (02) 6232 4807

Consulate General of Tonga, Sydney

Level 6, 73 Walker Street
NORTH SYDNEY NSW 2059

Tel: (02) 9936 2028
Fax: (02) 9936 2098



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Time Differences between Tonga and Australia

Tonga is Greenwich Mean Time +13 hours. Daylight savings is not observed. The applicable time zone in Tonga is called Tonga Time (TOT).

Tonga, 12 noon, Winter (Jun) = Perth 7am; Adelaide, Darwin 8:30am; Brisbane, Hobart, Melbourne, Sydney 9am.

Tonga, 12 noon, Summer (Dec) = Perth 7am; Darwin 8:30am; Brisbane 9am; Adelaide 9:30am; Hobart, Melbourne, Sydney 10am.

Important Contact Numbers

Country Code for Tonga: +676

To Dial Australia Call: 00 61 <City> <Number>

Australian Reverse Charges Direct:
0800 611

Travelex Card Services:
Call the US on 00 1 954 838 8294

Visa Global Assist:
Call the US on 00 1 303 967 1090

MasterCard:
Call the US on 00 1 636 722 7111

American Express Cheques Services:
Call Australia on 00 61 2 8223 9171

The Visa, MasterCard and American Express assistance numbers can be called reverse charges by contacting the Tongan International Operator.

Emergency Services:
 All Emergencies - 911
 Police - 922
 Fire - 999
 Hospital - 933

Important Information to be Recorded

Travellers are encouraged to carry photocopies of all important documents separately to their originals, and to leave a set of these photocopies with someone in Australia. This includes those documents listed below.

Passports

Name: _____ Passport #: _ _ _ _ _

Name: _____ Passport #: _ _ _ _ _

Credit Cards

Name: _____ Institution: _____

Card Number: _ _ _ _ _

Name: _____ Institution: _____

Card Number: _ _ _ _ _

Travel Insurance

Name: _____ Institution: _____

Policy #: _____ Emergency #: _____

Name: _____ Institution: _____

Policy #: _____ Emergency #: _____

Australian Representation in Tonga

Australian High Commission, Tonga

Salote Road
 NUKU'ALOFA

Tel: (+676) 23 244
 Fax: (+676) 23 243

Web: www.tonga.embassy.gov.au

Alternatively, Australians may obtain assistance by contacting the 24 hour Consular Emergency Centre in Australia on (+61) 2 6261 3305.

Australians in Tonga are encouraged to register their presence and contact details with the Australian High Commission in Nuku'alofa, or online with the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade at www.orao.dfat.gov.au.



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Duty Free Allowances for Tonga and Australia

Duty free allowance when entering Tonga:

Alcohol: 2.25 litres of potable spirits or 4.5 litres of wine or 4.5 litres of beer.
 Tobacco: 500 cigarettes or up to 500 g of tobacco products.

Duty free allowance when entering Australia:

Alcohol: 2.25 litres.
 Tobacco: 25 cigarettes plus one open packet of cigarettes.
 Other Goods: Up to a value of \$900 (\$450 if under 18 years).

Minors may not claim alcohol or tobacco products. Further restrictions apply when entering Tonga and Australia. Travellers are encouraged to familiarise themselves with these restrictions before entering either country. For information on Tongan Customs regulations please visit www.revenue.gov.to or for information regarding Australian customs regulations please visit www.homeaffairs.gov.au.

Electrical and Telephone Adaptors

Electrical Plug type: Australian

Voltage: 220-240 volts (same as Australia, no voltage or frequency converter required).

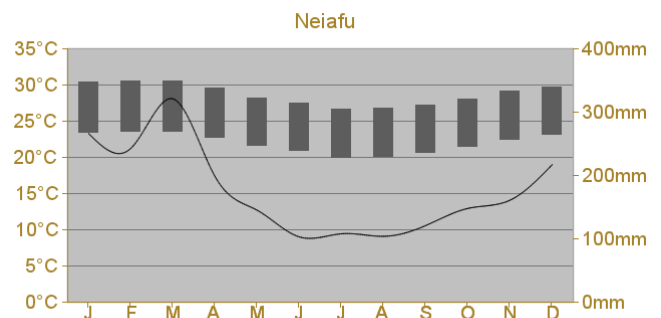
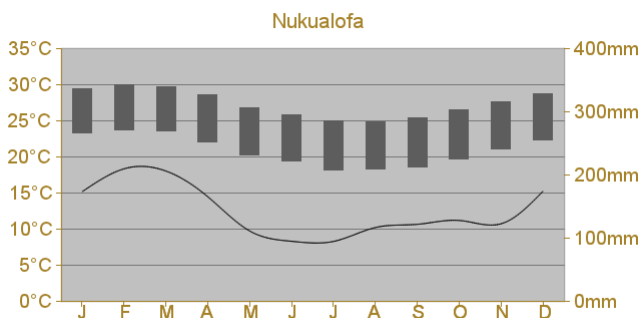
Source: Korjo Travel Products.
 To purchase electrical/modem adaptors, or for further information on this matter, please view the Korjo adaptor guide at www.korjo.com.au.



Tongan Public Holidays 2018

01 Jan:	New Year's Day	04/05 Nov:	Constitution Day
30 Mar:	Good Friday	03/04 Dec:	King Tupou I Day
02 Apr:	Easter Monday	25 Dec:	Christmas Day
25 Apr:	ANZAC Day	26 Dec:	Boxing Day
04 Jun:	Emancipation Day		
04 Jul:	Official Birthday of HM King Tupou VI		
17 Sep:	Birthday of HRH Crown Prince Tupouto'a 'Ulukalala		

Average Temperature (Bar) and Precipitation (Line) in Tonga



Source: Tonga Meteorological Services. For local forecasts, please go to www.met.gov.to or www.bbc.co.uk/weather.

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Page 4 of 5 Tongan Currency Information and Cheat Sheet Exchange Rate between Tonga and Australia

Interbank Rate

1 Australian Dollar (AUD) = 1.62 Tongan Pa'anga
 1 Tongan Pa'anga (TOP) = 0.62 Australian Dollars

Buy Rate

1 Australian Dollar (AUD) buys 1.49 Tongan Pa'anga
 1 Tongan Pa'anga (TOP) will cost 0.67 Australian Dollars

All rates were correct at a point in time on Monday, 05 Nov 2018. The "Interbank Rate" does not take into account any exchange fees, while the "Buy Rate" adds 9% to the exchange rate to simulate a typical margin paid when buying TOP notes in Australia. These rates have been rounded and should not be used when calculating transactions of large value.

Currency Cheat Sheet

0.50 TOP	=	\$0.34 AUD	This cheat sheet uses the "Buy Rate" of exchange listed above.		
1 TOP	=	\$0.67 AUD	10 TOP	=	\$6.73 AUD
2 TOP	=	\$1.35 AUD	20 TOP	=	\$13.45 AUD
3 TOP	=	\$2.02 AUD	30 TOP	=	\$20.18 AUD
4 TOP	=	\$2.69 AUD	40 TOP	=	\$26.91 AUD
5 TOP	=	\$3.36 AUD	50 TOP	=	\$33.64 AUD
6 TOP	=	\$4.04 AUD	60 TOP	=	\$40.36 AUD
7 TOP	=	\$4.71 AUD	70 TOP	=	\$47.09 AUD
8 TOP	=	\$5.38 AUD	80 TOP	=	\$53.82 AUD
9 TOP	=	\$6.05 AUD	90 TOP	=	\$60.54 AUD
			1,000 TOP	=	\$672.72 AUD

Banknotes of Tonga

The currency of Tonga is the Pa'anga (also called the dollar), which is abbreviated using the symbols "\$", "T\$", "PT" or the currency code "TOP". The pa'anga is divided into 100 seniti. The following units of currency are the most common however other units are also in circulation. As it is illegal in many countries to print copies of bank notes, travellers are advised to remove the below images prior to travelling.





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About Tonga

Full Name: Pule'anga Tonga (Kingdom of Tonga). Tonga is the only Monarchy in the Pacific.

Independence: 4 June 1970 (from a protectorate of the United Kingdom).

Size: 756 sq km (1% the size of Tasmania). The islands are arrayed across 740,000 sq km of the South Pacific Ocean.

Islands: 169 islands, 36 of which are inhabited.

Population: 106,146 (one of the smallest countries in the world).

Ethnicity: Mostly Polynesian.

Language: Tongan is the official language, but English is also widely spoken by most.

Religion: Most Tongans belong to a Christian denomination.

Location: One third of the way between New Zealand and Hawaii.

Significant Dates:

- 1000 BC - Lapita people from Southeast Asia begin to settle Tonga.
- c1200 AD - Ha'amonga 'a Maui is built.
- 1616 - Dutch explorers visit the northern Niua islands.
- 1643 - Dutch navigator Abel Tasman explores the southern islands.
- 1773-77 - Captain Cook charts the islands, naming them "The Friendly Isles".
- 1789 - Mutiny of the HMS Bounty occurs off the island of Tofua.
- 1845-75 - Islands are united as the Kingdom of Tonga, eventually becoming a UK protectorate.
- 1970 - Tonga leaves the protectorate and joins the Commonwealth.
- 2010 - First vote held for a popularly elected parliament.

