



Country Profile: Tonga

Tonga is a South Pacific island nation consisting of 171 islands, of which 45 are inhabited. Tonga is a constitutional monarchy and a member of the British Commonwealth. Its agrarian economy is developing and its tourist industry, although limited, is growing. Tourist facilities are concentrated in and around the main island of Tongatapu where the capital, Nuku'alofa, is located. The Tongan Tourist Bureau has a wide range of information of interest to travelers. The web site is <http://www.tongaholiday.com/>. Read the Department of State [Background Notes](#) on Tonga for additional information.

COUNTRY OVERVIEW



Country Name:	Tonga
Continent:	Oceania
Capital City:	Nuku'alofa
Boundary Countries:	
Recommended Hospitals in Capital:	
Main Cities:	Nuku'alofa, Neiafu
Country Size:	747 sq km
Population:	101,990

COUNTRY GENERAL INFORMATION

Language:	Tongan, English
Currency:	Tonga Pa'anga (TOP)
Predominant Religions:	Christian
National Holidays:	
Economic Status:	Tonga's economy is characterized by a large non-monetary sector and a heavy dependence on remittances from the more than half of the country's population that lives abroad, chiefly in Australia, New Zealand, and the United States. Much of the monetary sector of the economy is dominated, if not owned, by the royal family and nobles. This is particularly true of telecommunications and electricity generation and supply. Many small businesses, particularly in the retail sector on Tongatapu, are owned by recent Chinese immigrants who arrived under a cash-for-passports scheme ended in 1998. Royal-owned and Chinese businesses were among those targeted in the November 2006 rioting.
Security:	The Tonga Defense Service
US Presence:	There is no US embassy or other US diplomatic or consular post in Tonga. U.S. Embassy in Tonga 31 Loftus Street Suva, Fiji Telephone: (679) 331-4466
Major Airports:	Airports: 6; Airports with paved runways: 3 Piarco Airport, Trinidad & Tobago, Airports Authority of Trinidad & Tobago, Administration Center, South Terminal, Golden Grove Road, Piarco, Trinidad & Tobago Tel: +1 868 669-5311, +1 868 669-2288 Fax: +1 868 669-3410 Website: www.tntairports.com Customs Tel: +1 868 664-4361, +1 868 664-5183 Fax: +1 868 669-5138 Customs Hours: 24 hours

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