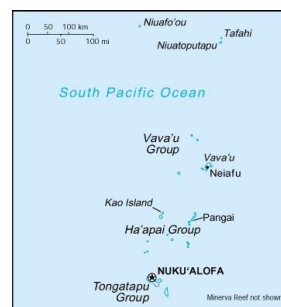
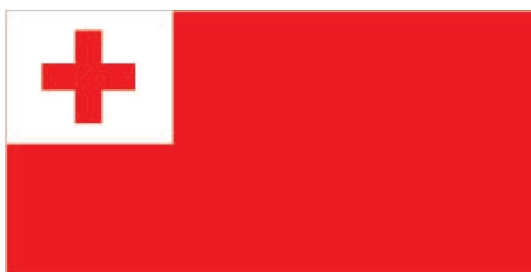




# TONGA



## INTRODUCTION

Tonga - unique among Pacific nations - never completely lost its indigenous governance. The archipelagos of "The Friendly Islands" were united into a Polynesian kingdom in 1845. Tonga became a constitutional monarchy in 1875 and a British protectorate in 1900. It withdrew from the protectorate and joined the Commonwealth of Nations in 1970. Tonga remains the only monarchy in the Pacific.

## GOVERNMENT

### Chief of State

King TUPOU VI

### Head of Government

Prime Minister Siaosi SOVALENI

### Government Type

constitutional monarchy

### Capital

Nuku'alofa

### Legislature

unicameral Legislative Assembly or Fale Alea (30 seats statutory, 26 current)

### Ambassador to US

Ambassador Viliana Va'inga TONE

### US Ambassador

the US does not have an embassy in Tonga; the US Ambassador to Fiji Marie DAMOUR is accredited to Tonga

## GEOGRAPHY

### Area

Total: 747 sq km  
Land: 717 sq km  
Water: 30 sq km

### Climate

tropical; modified by trade winds; warm season (December to May), cool season (May to December)

### Natural Resources

arable land, fish

## ECONOMY

### Economic Overview

upper middle-income Pacific island economy; enormous diaspora and remittance reliance; key tourism and agricultural sectors; major fish exporter; rapidly growing Chinese infrastructure investments; rising methamphetamine hub

**GDP (Purchasing Power Parity)** \$651.2 million (2021)

**GDP per capita (Purchasing Power Parity)** \$6,100 (2021)

**Industries** - tourism, construction, fishing

**Agricultural products** - coconuts, gourds, cassava, sweet potatoes, vegetables, yams, taro, roots/tubers, plantains, lemons/limes

**Exports** \$58.75 million (2021 est.)

natural gas, shellfish, various fruits and nuts, vegetables, cassava, coral and shells (2021)

**partners:** US 22%, South Africa 18%, New Zealand 15%, Australia 13%, South Korea 11% (2021)

**Imports** \$285.7 million (2021 est.)

refined petroleum, poultry meats, cars, mutton, goat meat, lumber, x-ray equipment, broadcasting equipment (2021)

**partners:** New Zealand 36%, China 20%, Fiji 18%, Australia 6%, US 6% (2021)

## PEOPLE & SOCIETY

### Population

105,220 (2023 est.)

### Population Growth

-0.3% (2023 est.)

### Ethnicity

Tongan 96.5%, other (European, Fijian, Samoan, Indian, Chinese, other Pacific Islander, other Asian, other) 3.5% (2021 est.)

### Language

Tongan only 85%, Tongan and other language 13.9%, Tongan not used at home 1.1% (2021 est.)

### Religion

Protestant 63.9%, Church of Jesus Christ 19.7%, Roman Catholic 13.7%, other 2.1%, none 0.6%, no answer 0.1% (2021 est.)

### Urbanization

urban population: 23.2% of total population (2023)

rate of urbanization: 0.99% annual rate of change (2020-25 est.)