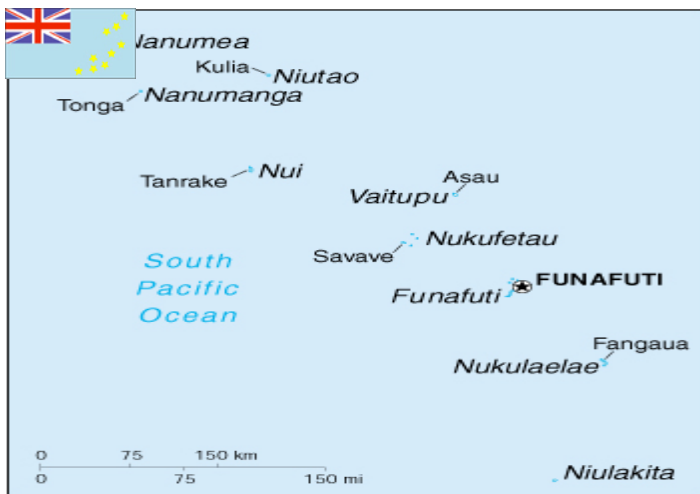


TUVALU



Country Dialling Code (Tel/Fax): ++688

Ministry of Tourism, Trade and Commerce: PMB, Vaiaku, Funafuti, Tuvalu
Tel: 20184 Fax: 20829

Capital: Funafuti **Time:** GMT + 12

Background: In 1974, ethnic differences within the British colony of the Gilbert and Ellice Islands caused the Polynesians of the Ellice Islands to vote for separation from the Micronesians of the Gilbert Islands. The following year, the Ellice Islands became the separate British colony of Tuvalu. Independence was granted in 1978. In 2000, Tuvalu negotiated a contract leasing its Internet domain name ".tv" for \$50 million in royalties over the next dozen years.

Location: Oceania, island group consisting of nine coral atolls in the South Pacific Ocean, about one-half of the way from Hawaii to Australia

Map References: Oceania

Area: total: 26 sq km, land: 26 sq km, water: 0 sq km

Climate: tropical; moderated by easterly trade winds (March to November); westerly gales and heavy rain (November to March)

Terrain: very low-lying and narrow coral atolls

Natural Resources: fish

Population: 10,838 (July 2000 est.)

Nationality: noun: Tuvaluan(s), adjective: Tuvaluan

Ethnic Groups: Polynesian 96%

Religions: Church of Tuvalu (Congregationalist) 97%, Seventh-Day Adventist 1.4%, Baha'i 1%, other 0.6%

Languages: Tuvaluan, English

Economy: Tuvalu consists of a densely populated, scattered group of nine coral atolls with poor soil. The country has no known mineral resources and few exports. Subsistence farming and fishing are the primary economic activities. Government revenues largely come from the sale of stamps and coins and worker remittances. About 1,000 Tuvaluans work in Nauru in the phosphate mining industry. Nauru has begun repatriating Tuvaluans, however, as phosphate resources decline. Substantial income is received annually from an international trust fund established in 1987 by Australia, NZ, and the UK and supported also by Japan and South Korea. Thanks to wise investments and conservative withdrawals, this Fund has grown from an initial \$17 million to over \$35 million in 1999. The US government is also a major revenue source for Tuvalu, with 1999 payments from a 1988 treaty on fisheries at about \$9 million, a total which is expected to rise annually. In an effort to reduce its dependence on foreign aid, the government is pursuing public sector reforms, including privatization of some government functions and personnel cuts of up to 7%. In 1998, Tuvalu began deriving revenue from use of its area code for "900" lines and from the sale of its ".tv" Internet domain name. Royalties from these new technology sources could raise GDP three or more times over the next decade. Low-lying Tuvalu is particularly vulnerable to any rise in the sea level from future global warming.

Industries: fishing, tourism, copra

Currency: 1 Tuvaluan dollar (\$T) or 1 Australian dollar (\$) = 100 cents

Railways: 0 km

Highways: total: 8 km (1996 est.), paved: NA km, unpaved: NA km

Ports and Harbors: Funafuti, Nukufetau

Airports: 1 (1999 est.) Airports - with unpaved runways: total: 1, 1,524 to 2,437 m: 1 (1999 est.)

Visa: required by all except the following nationals of: British, Australian, Canadian, USA and other EU.

Duty Free: 200 cigarettes or 225g of tobacco or cigars; 1 litre of spirits and 1 litre of wine.

Health: all water is stored in tanks and supply is limited so visitors are advised to use water sparingly and take local advice.

HOTELS•MOTELS•INNS

FUNAFUTI

COCONUT LODGE, Funafuti, Tuvalu , Phone: 688 20 911, Fax: 688 20 800

DRUM GUESTHOUSE, Funafuti, Tuvalu , T: +688 209-70

ISLAND BREEZE GUESTHOUSE, Funafuti 3 rooms, Tel: (688) 20606, Funafuti, Tuvalu

SOLOMAI GUESTHOUSE, Funafuti, Tuvalu, guesthouse, Tel: (688) 20811

SU'S HOLIDAY FLATS, Funafuti self catering, Tel: (688) 20612, Funafuti, Tuvalu

VAIAKU LAGI HOTEL Vaiaku Station, Funafuti Atoll, Tuvalu, Phone: +688 0 20 733, Location, Nearest Airports: Funafuti Atoll Intl- 1 mi, 5 min drive



AIRLINES & HELIPORTS

AIR FIJI, Tuvalu, Airport, Ph: +688 20737, Travel Office, Fax: +688 20057, Headquarters, Fax: +688 20722, <http://www.airfiji.com.fj>

AIR PACIFIC, Funafuti Airport, Tuvalu, Reservations / Customer Relations, P: +688 20737, F: +688 20722, E: travel@tuvalu.tv , <http://www.airpacific.com>

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