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| Vava’u, Kingdom of Tonga, South Pacific  GPS Coordinates of location: Lat: 18°41' 60 S Lon: 174°1' 60 W | |
|  | **Description of geographic area covered:**  The **Vava’u Island group in the Kingdom of Tonga** is a spectacular tropical island paradise in the Pacific Ocean. It has a year-round climate suitable for swimming, snorkeling, diving and sailing. Some islands are ringed by white sand beaches while others have tropical forests, sea-level caves, and dramatic limestone cliffs with breathtaking vistas.  Remote and truly unspoiled, the waters around Vava'u are crystal clear with visibility exceeding 100 feet. Most of the islands are uninhabited, a few have villages, a few have very small unique resorts with exceptional food. There is abundant sea life with over 100 species of colorful tropical fish, giant clams, manta rays, sea turtles, spinner dolphins, and July-October the Humpback whales!Truly a paradise with the only Polynesian Monarchy this is a truly remarkable place to explore. |
| **Port officer’s names:**    PO contact information:  Greg Just  Email: [greg@vavau.to](mailto:greg@vavau.to)  Phone +676 71322 (café)  Mobile: +676 8812347 or +676 7512347  VHF ch: 26  Address: Mt Talau Park  Citizen NZ/UK/Tonga  Divemaster  IT Manager  Analyst IT/Fin/Proj/PM  Yachtie  Master Drycleaner (nz)  Website: [www.vavau.to/Tropicana](http://www.vavau.to/Tropicana) [www.tongamazing.com](http://www.tongamazing.com) [www.vavau.to](http://www.vavau.to) [www.haapai.to](http://www.haapai.to) [www.tongatapu.to](http://www.tongatapu.to) [www.whaleswim.to](http://www.whaleswim.to)  Best way to contact: Cellphone | **Services available from Port Officer:**   * Assistance with clearing in formalities * Offshore assist via [offshoreassist@vavau.to](mailto:offshoreassist@vavau.to) * Advanced Notice forms – Fiji/NZ/Australia. * Courier package assistance/advice on request * Snail Mail arrangements –please advise before sending   Yacht in transit SY Yacht Name  c/- Café Tropicana  Fatafehi Rd  Neiafu  Vava’u  Kingdom of Tonga +676 71322 [tropicana@vavau.to](mailto:tropicana@vavau.to)   * Charts/Courtesy flags for the Pacific/Asia * Free Recycling/Used Oil/Battery receiver * Harbour wifi provider and free info, weather etc * AIS receiver provider via [www.marinetraffic.com](http://www.marinetraffic.com) * Laundry the only frontloading rain water and gas laundry in Tonga. Max 9kg per load * Espresso Coffee/Café/Bread/all day breakfast/lunch/ Provisioning for whales/picnics/passage. Pre shop of supermarket items * Ice cubes and 2kg solid ice blocks – rain water * Drinking water – potable filtered rain water * Fully licenced bar * Vava’u Deli * Rain water hot shower * Retail Store – carvings/maps/soaps/postcards/ magnets/iron on flags/lapel pins/cuff links * vanilla/coconut oil * Resell TCC/Digicel credit * Resell kingdom Koffee. Beans and Ground * Free booking and information service * Huge free book swap and reference library * TV (11tb) and Movie (8000+) Documentaries, Concerts, Music, Comedy, Christian. [www.offloop.net/media](http://www.offloop.net/media) password tropo Research and shopping cart * Overnight computer update/download service * Rentals – mountain bikes, kayaks, snorkel gear, tents * Gas tanks refill service * Local news/info feed Facebook “Tonga Expats and Locals” * Gift Vouchers * Agents for Boat House Apartments in the harbour |

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| **ALL Government departments will give receipts with the Tongan Crest on the top – anything else is NOT an official receipt, DO NOT encourage corruption!!!!**  **International check in** (first Tongan port – AT WHARF, unless bad weather, but call Customs to confirm)  Fly your Q flag, call Vava’u Customs on VHF 26 and wait for Customs, Health and Immigration ($100 Practique FEE) to check you in. NO OTHER FEES, apart from overtime. Clear your cockpit of any cigarettes, alcohol, fishing lures and smaller items. We DO NOT encourage gifts to Government officials! Offer a sprite, coffee or juice…  Suitable casual attire to show respect please.  **International checkout**; (last Tongan port - AT WHARF, unless bad weather). Immigration Office (only if you have crew flying in on one-way flights), then Marine and Ports then Customs and duty free fuel afterwards.  As in ALL countries, you must leave the harbour and make your way out of Tongan waters…  The ONLY FEE payable on exit is to Ports and Marine unless you check out on weekends or overtime!!!  DO NOT LOSE your Clearance/ZARPE documents! We have had several cases of people losing these,  DO NOT forget to complete your Advanced Notice of Arrivals for Fiji, NZ, Australia etc… massive fines!  Clear your cockpit of any cigarettes, alcohol, fishing lures and small expensive items. Customs, Health, Immigration have the option of coming aboard.  We DO NOT encourage gifts to Government officials for doing their job. Offer a sprite, coffee or juice…  Suitable casual attire to show respect please.  **Domestic checkin** (not your first Tongan Port NOT AT WHARF)  Anchor, and at your convenience (within 2 days) visit immigration (copy of the crew list is also required) for inward clearance papers from Boarding Officer at Customs. NO FEES, apart from overtime.  CHECK your visa expiry DATES!  **Domestic checkout** (not your final Tongan port NOT AT WHARF)  Marine and ports to pay lights and bouys FEE, then Boarding Officer at Customs for outward clearance – NO OTHER FEES, apart from overtime.  CHECK your visa expiry DATES!  **Customs**  Vava’u  Phone: +676 70053 +676 70928 VHF Ch: 26  GPS coordinates: 18°39'7.04"S 173°59'4.18"W  Halaevalu Wharf  Nuku’alofa  Phone: 23651 VHF Ch:  Location Port Authority Building.  Ha’apai  Phone: 60651 VHF Ch:  Location Pangai  Niuatoputapu  Phone: VHF Ch:  Email: [inforev@revenue.gov.to](mailto:inforev@revenue.gov.to)  Hours 9am to 4.30pm, lunch 12.30am to 1.30pm M to F  Website: [www.revenue.gov.to](http://www.revenue.gov.to)  NO fees inward/outward  $130 per hour Sat/Sun OVERTIME.  **Immigration - wharf**  Vava’u  Phone:+676 70629 +676 71443 VHF: None  GPS coordinates: 18°39'11.99"S 173°58'56.65"W  Sanft Building next to Digicel – first floor  Nuku’alofa  Phone: 23969 VHF Ch:  Ha’apai  Phone: VHF Ch:  Niuatoputapu  Phone: VHF Ch:  Email: [visatonga@gmail.com](mailto:visatonga@gmail.com)  Hours 9am to 4.30pm, lunch 12.30am to 1.30pm M to F  Website: [www.foi.to](http://www.foi.to)  $69 per month Visa – DO NOT let it expire! $1150 fine.  NO other fees inward/outward  $70 per hour Sat/Sun OVERTIME.  **Ministry of health**  Vava’u  Phone: +676 70201 +676 70204 +676 758 4644  Health Officer 7710338, 7769916, 8845145  VHF Ch: NONE  GPS coordinates: 18°38'45.06"S 173°59'3.01"W  Ngu Hospital, Talau  Nuku’alofa  Phone: 7400403 VHF Ch:  Location Vaiola Hospital  Ha’apai  Phone: 60203 VHF Ch:  Location hihifo  Niuatoputapu  Phone: 7585605 VHF Ch:  Location  Hours 9am to 4.30pm, lunch 12.30am to 1.30pm M to F  Website: [www.health.gov.to](http://www.health.gov.to)  $100 Practique plus rubbish @ $ per kg.  NO other fees inward/outward  $100 per hour Sat/Sun OVERTIME.  **Marine and Ports**  Vava’u  Phone: +676 70100 +676 70657 VHF Ch: NONE  GPS coordinates: 18°38'57.61"S 173°58'43.86"W  Above Customs  Nuku’alofa  Phone: 22555 VHF Ch:  Location  Ha’apai  Phone: 60100 VHF Ch:  Location  Niuatoputapu  Phone: 7585506 VHF Ch:  Location  Hours 8.30am to 12pm, 1.30pm to 3pm M to F  Email: [akaufusi@foi.gov.to](mailto:akaufusi@foi.gov.to)  Website: [www.infrastructure.gov.to/marine-ports](http://www.infrastructure.gov.to/marine-ports)  No other fees inward/outward  Vava’u: Lights and bouys fee $0.45 per gross tonne per month.  Nuku’alofa: $2.45 per gross tonne per month.  Ha’apai: Lights and bouys fee $0.80 per gross tonne per month.  Were doing no charge for time in the boatyard , stopped after Covid  **Pacific Fuels** - Petrol/Diesel  Vava’u  Phone: 70972 NO VHF  Email: [tuiaki.kauvaka@p.energy](mailto:tuiaki.kauvaka@p.energy)  Website: [www.p.energy](http://www.p.energy)  Hours 9am to 4.30pm M to F  GPS coordinates: at Wharf 18°39'6.97"S 173°59'9.03"W  OFFICE Toula fuel Bunker 18°40'36.58"S 173°59'8.61"W  Nuku’alofa  Phone: 22511 22397 VHF Ch: None  Email: [ifalemi.tauheluhelumau@p.energy](mailto:ifalemi.tauheluhelumau@p.energy)  Website: [www.p.energy](http://www.pacificpetrole.com)  Vava’u Minimum 24 hours notice. Cash Only. Duty free 200litres Min but boats can share. Duty free generally delivered after 10am to the wharf and AFTER customs have given clearance papers. MUST be last Tongan port. Tanker refills petrol stations Monday morning and Friday afternoon  Tongatapu Minimum 24 hours notice. Cash Only. Duty free 1000litres Min but boats can share. Duty free generally delivered after 10am to the wharf and AFTER customs have given clearance papers. MUST be last Tongan port.  Ha’apai no duty free fuel  Niuatoputapu no duty free fuel  **Homegas/Tongagas** - Butane  Vava’u  Phone: 70319 VHF: NONE  Email: NONE  GPS coordinates: 18°40'37.44"S 173°59'8.27"W  Toula fuel Bunker  Nuku’alofa  Phone: 21390 VHF Ch: None  Location  Website: [www.homegas.to](http://www.homegas.to)  DOES not have all adaptors – NO CAMPINGAZ fittings!!  Vava’u Taxi from town is $5 each way. Or bring in to Café Tropicana  Hours 9am to 4.30pm M to Sa  Vava’u Tropicana on charge $5 a kg and a $5 surcharge – generally next day. | **Services available within walking distance:**   * Hardware : EM Jones, PTH and Pua Laundry – * Laundry: Café Tropicana and Vava’u Laundry * Supermarkets – China Fortune, Mele Mei langi, Neaifu Shopping Centre and various others, * Produce and Fish down at the market on the waterfront * Arts and Crafts market next to vegetable market on the waterfront * Post Office * Police and Fire Station * Historical – Pounu Park * Scenic – Mt Talau National Park   Transport:   * + Jetsave Travel – car rentals.   + Mountain Bike and Kayak hire in Café Tropicana   + Lulutai Tonga Domestic Airline 71115   + Airport transfers through Ana Tevunga Taxi opposite Tropicana   Taxi Stand: Phone 70 009 8872525 7519622 VHF 26  **Services available in area covered:**   * **Superyacht Agencies**   -Yachthelp  -Super Yacht Services Tonga   * **Slipways**   Fishing slipway for smaller monohulls  Pafilios slipway for multihulls  Kraken for monohulls  The Boatyard Vava’u - Mono and multihulls on hard   * **Water**   Town supply water available at Moorings/Aquarium/ Megapode  Rain water from Café Tropicana  Rain water showers at Café Tropicana   * **Fuel**   Fuel available at Moorings or fuel stations.  Duty free at check-out wharf Min 200litres 70972. Pacific Fuels   * **Trades**   -Vavau Canvas Repairs VHF 26 behind Mango Café  - Rigging. See Mary at Poolside Café  - Welding/Fabrication. Friendly Island Fabrication Ken 8437123 friendlyislandfabrication@gmail.com  **Local cruising guides and charts:**   * VHF Cruisers Net VHF Channel 26 8.30am each morning except Sunday. Alternative VHF 06   Order of service  Emergency/priority traffic  Checkins  Arrivals and departures  Weather  Buy/sell/trade  Crew available/wanted  Local special events  Anything else  Adverts from local business   * Sailingbirds Guide to Vava’u/Ha’apai sold at Café Tropicana * [www.vavau.to/marineguide](http://www.vavau.to/marineguide) free pdf for all of Tonga * NZ822 / NZ82 / NZ14605 / NZ14602/ 2691Fiji chart – sold at Café Tropicana * [www.vavau.to/weather](http://www.vavau.to/weather) all the weather in one spot!   **VHF Channels**   * 06 Backup channel for VHF Net * 09 Beluga dive/Beluga moorings * 11 Te Pana Island * 16 Hailing ONLY – Mayday/Pan Pan etc * 26 Repeater channel – VHF Net and used for long range communication, please be considerate, if you are talking to vessels that are close to you. Be aware this channel is monitored by Customs, Police and Tourism! * 71 Game Fishing * 72 Moorings calling * 73 Moorings working * 77 Mounu Island * Please be considerate and discrete on all VHF channels, especially the above and move to a non-working channel as soon as practical…   08, 14, 17, 68 Common chat channels, be aware nosy people may follow you and listen in….  **Other useful information specific to this area:**   * SPEED limit in the harbour 5 knot – and/or no WAKE.   Be aware of wake for other yachts, swimmers, divers, fisherman turtles, whales!  By order Marine and Ports Harbourmaster.   * Please walk on the pavement/sidewalk – NOT the road, this is a LEFT side driving country, the roads, drivers and cars are not very good. If no sidewalk walk on the right side of the road (against traffic so you can see vehicles) * Cover and clean any open wounds, flys carry staph bacteria. Stay out of the sea, especially the first 50 metres from shore. * VVMRA Vava’u Volunteer Marine Response Association   Monitors VHF 26/16 24 x 7, responds to local and EPIRB (via RCC NZ), works with Tonga police, and locals/yachts based in Vava’u for emergency Response  VHF 16/26  Cell +8465645  P o Box 43 Neiafu, Vava’u, Tonga  [www.vvmra.org](http://www.vvmra.org)   * VEPA Vava’u Environmental Protection Association. An environmental NGO based in Vava’u. Mangrove, education, turtle and other conservation. Located next to the Bookshop in the middle of town.   [www.vavauenvironment.org](http://www.vavauenvironment.org)   * Vava’u Public Library The only public library in Tonga and a self funded NGO. English story reading Saturday mornings – volunteer… Membership $5 a year * Beware of Alofi a tall Tongan hawker – flag maker/bread/feasts etc. Rows a dinghy and rides a bike. Report any problems to the Police, or Ministry of Tourism. He does homemade flags from tshirt material, charges for everything he does and frequently exaggerates about services he offers. * Whalewatching regulations 2013   1.Unless you are in a licenced whale watching or whale swimming vessel, you are not allowed to approach any whale closer than 300m  2.Swimming with whales is prohibited unless you are on a licenced vessel and in the water with a certified guide.  3. If a whale surfaces near you, you should change th course of your vessel, in a safe manner, and move 300m from the whales at no-wake speed.  4. kayaking with humpback whales is prohibited unless the kayak is launched from a licenced vessel.  5 No jet Skis are allowed within 2km of any whale.  First time offence is a fine of between $1,000 and $5,000 and/or imprisonment of up to 18 months  Repeat offence is a fine of between $1,000 and $10,000 and/or imprisonment of up to 3 years.  <http://www.tongawhalewatch.com/2013regulations.pdf>  **Must See and do VAVA’U**   * **Sunday Tongan Feast** * **Walk up Mt Talau National Park; magnificent views** * **Swallows and Mariners cave tour on Hakau Adventures** * **Kava circle at Fire station or any village** * **Sunday church service 10am for amazing singing**   **Map of Vava’u harbour** |

