

Celebration of the Tuvaluan Language and Culture

Fiafiaga o te gana Tuvalu mo ana tuu mo iloga

Fai ou aga fai ou tefa Tuvalu! – Enjoy and celebrate in your own unique Tuvaluan way!

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Facts on Tuvalu | Fakamatala e uiga mo Tuvalu

Tuvalu is a small Pacific island nation that lies midway between Australia and Hawaii. Tuvalu means eight islands standing together. The total land area is around 26 square kilometres.

The islands are:

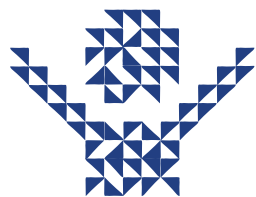
- Funafuti (the capital of the Tuvalu group)
- Nanumaga
- Nanumea
- Niutao
- Nui
- Niulakita (grouped up with Niutao to be one island).
- Nukufetau
- Nukulaelae

Population | Aofai Tino

In 2013, Tuvaluan people were the seventh largest Pacific ethnic group in New Zealand, making up 1.2 %¹ or 3,537 of New Zealand's Pacific peoples' population.

In 2013 there were

3,537



Tuvaluans living in New Zealand

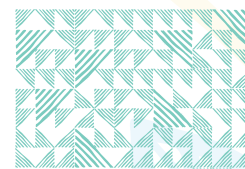
1. Source: Contemporary Pacific Status Report (2016) Ministry for Pacific Peoples, New Zealand

Language | Gana

Tuvaluan is spoken on the island of Tuvalu.

There are two groups of Tuvaluan dialects, based on dialects spoken in the northern and southern islands.

Tuvaluan is closely related to the language of Samoan. It is distantly related to most of the other Polynesian languages.



Counting – numbers | Lauga - Napa

One	Tasi
Two	Lua
Three	Tolu
Four	Fa
Five	Lima
Six	Ono
Seven	Fitu
Eight	Valu
Nine	Iva
Ten	Sefulu

Key words and phrases | Pati mo fakamunaga taaua

Greetings/welcome	Talofa
Goodbye	Tofa
How are you	Ea mai koe?
Please	Fakamolemole
What's your name?	Ko oi tou igoa?
My name is ...	Toku igoa ko ...
Good luck!	Manuia!
Have a nice day	Manuia te aso!
Bon appetit / Have a nice meal	Kai mālosi! (sg) 'Kai mālosi! (du/pl)
Bon voyage / Have a good journey	Manuia te malaga!
Excuse me	Tulou!
Sorry	Fakamolemole, au kō 'sē!
Thank you	Fakafetai / Fāfetai (more colloquial)
Reply to thank you	E 'lei.

Language, Culture and Identity | Te gana, tu mo faifaiga mo iloga

Tuvaluans are proud of their culture, history, stories and their uniqueness in the Pacific and in Aotearoa. They are guided by principles including:

- Ulu kite fatu e malu ei koe (Shelter in the Rock for your safety)
- Te olaga aava, matakū ki te Atua ko te kamataga o te Poto – Moe ki te Puka Lasi (Fear God is the beginning of wisdom)
- Olaga fiafia o sala te poto sala se lumanai manuia (Wisdom is the path to happiness and a bright future).



Te Ano

Te Ano is the national game of Tuvalu and has been described as being similar to volleyball. Tuvaluans of all ages and gender play *Te Ano*. Teams score points when the opposing team cannot keep the ano off the ground. The first team to ten points wins.



Spirituality | Fakateagaaga

Spiritual beliefs (talitonuga fakateagaaga) and values (fuataga) are an important part of the day to day lives of Tuvaluans who are grounded and enriched by the Tuvalu way (Faka Tuvalu).

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