

'Uike Katoanga'i 'oe Lea Faka-Tonga Celebration of the Tongan Language

#pacificstars

*Mālō e lelei! Fakatūlou atu ki he Hou'eiki
moe tauhi fonua. Tulou atu kihe Tonga kotoa
pe 'oku tau lōnuku henī. 'Oku talitali lelei
kimoutolu hono kotoa 'i he kamata ke tau
Kātoanga'i e mahu'inga 'o e Lea Faka-Tonga!*



The Kingdom of Tonga

The great navigator and explorer Captain James Cook was impressed with the people of Tonga, he named it the 'Friendly Islands' due to the hospitality that was afforded to him during his visit to the Kingdom.

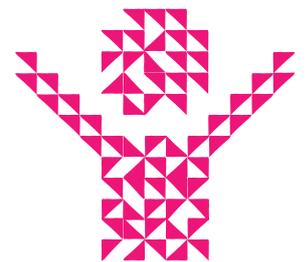
Tonga consists of 176 islands of which only 40 are inhabited. There are 6 main islands. In the north is Niuafu'ou, Niuatoputapu and the beautiful Vava'u, central is the enchanting Ha'apai and in the south is the largest island Tongatapu and the mysterious 'Eua. Nuku'alofa is the capital of Tonga and is situated on the main island of Tongatapu.

Tonga is the only country in the South Pacific to never have been colonised by a foreign power and also lays claim to be the first place in the world to see the rising Sun.

As it has never been colonised or annexed, Tonga still has its own monarchy. The current King is Tupou VI. He represented Tonga in a Judo competition in Wellington in the early 90's and is also an old boy of Kings College, South Auckland.

Population

20.4%



Tongans are the third largest (20.4 percent or 60,333) Pacific community in Aotearoa behind Samoans and the Cook Islanders.¹

The Tongan population grew almost 20 percent during the 2006 – 2013 census period, lower than the growth rate in the 2001 – 2006 census period of 24.0 percent.²

Tongan Calendar³

The Tongan Calendar Year consists of 13 months and is based on the phases of the moon. The months are Lihamu'a, Lihamui, Vaimu'a, Vaimui, Faka'afumo'ui, Faka'afumate, Hilingakelekele, Hilingamea'a, 'Ao 'ao, Tanumanga, 'Ō'ōamofangongo, Fu'ufu'unekinanga and 'Uluenga.

These months dictate the planting and harvesting of crops, the breeding seasons of varieties of fish, different birds and animals behavioural patterns, trees, plants, hurricane season and the environment.

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

2. Source: <http://www.stats.govt.nz/Census/2013-census/profile-and-summary-reports/quickstats-culture-identity/pacific-peoples.aspx>

3. Source: Ko e Talamalu 'o e Fonua, Ko e Kava, Koloa mo e Fatunga Lea 'a e Kakai Tonga 2013

The months have a persona and a poem that explains what you should do and expect in each month on the land, and in the sea and air. i.e. the month of Lihamu'a (early November to early December):

Koau ko Lihamu'a, 'uluaki māhina fakakuongamu'a.

Ko e māfanā 'oku ou ha'u mo au, pea moto ai e ngaahi 'akau,

Hoto hingoa ngali fakaofó, koe fakafanau ai 'a e oó.

'Oku lau 'i hono talatupu'á, koe omi mei Pulotu tokua.

I am Lihamu'a, the first moon (month) of the traditional/ancient calendar.

I bring warmth for the flowers and plants to bloom.

My name is wonderful, birthed from oó (a type of fish whose genealogy states that it is from the underworld).

Tongan Proverbs / Palövepi 'a e Kakai Tonga⁴

'Api fa'a toe tu'u ai 'e teve: In a well stocked farm still stands a teve.

Meaning: Tevé is a weed that grows abundantly but is useful in times of famine or need. One that is always prepared in case of an emergency or the unexpected.



Fakatou Katea: Double Katea.

Meaning: A Katea is the body of the Canoe. When a large canoe's Katea and it's Hama (balancing mechanism) are the same and there is no difference between them, it is then Fakatou Katea. Often referenced when a perfect matched bride and groom unite. They are the same in their beauty, personality and wisdom.



Tamas'i'i 'uke kia Maui: A boy challenging Maui, the legendary hero.

Meaning: Someone that challenges someone or something bigger and stronger than him/her.

Fele 'a tou'a: The Tou'a (the person serving the kava) is widely spread.

Meaning: Refers to a group of people who are situated in an area but have no use or purpose there.

'Auhia 'a motu'a fānifo: A surf board rider carried away by the current or waves.

Meaning: Someone who we rely on in difficult/challenging times because of their wisdom and experience. Like a surf board rider carried away by the current or waves, we rely on their experience to get him/her to safety.

Tongan Villages and their Synonyms

Kolo/Village	Hingoa Fakatenetene/ Synonym
Nukunuku	Funga Fele'ave
Houma (Tt)	Funga Mahofā
Vaotu'u	Kele'amaka
Matahau	Ngalukilo
Fo'ui	Lolopaongo
Kolovai	Fala 'o 'Ata
Ha'avakatolo	Vaikohiva
Fāhefa	Toahola
Kolonga	Siale Haevaia
Lapaha	Pakimoeto'i
Fua'amotu	Vai-ko-Latai
Pelehake	Vaomapa
Malapo	Afo e teau
Ha'ateiho	Silapelua
Veitongo	Halafuoleva
Vaini	Hufangalupe
Pea	Vai-ko-Puna
Ma'ufanga	Sia'atēvolo
Tatakamotonga	Kolokakala
'Uiha	Makahokovalu
Holonga (Vv)	'Esi 'o Salote

4. Source: Ko e Ngaahi Palövepi 'i he lea Faka-Tonga

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