

TUVALU

Discover the Hidden Gem of the South Pacific - Tuvalu!

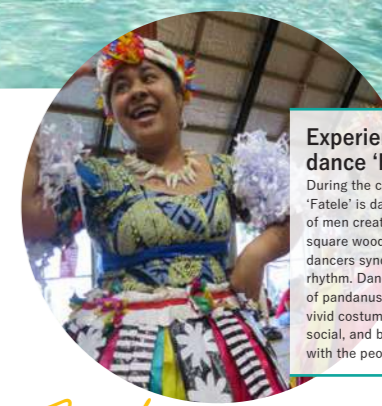
Tuvalu, a captivating atoll nation, lies just south of the equator. Covering a mere 26 km², the coral reef islands boast vast territorial waters spanning 1.3 million km². Uncover Tuvalu's hidden beauty, an untouched gem awaiting your discovery. Dive into vibrant underwater realms, encountering kaleidoscopic coral reefs and exotic marine life akin to living artwork. Delve deeper into Tuvalu's soul through its rich culture and warm hospitality. Engaged with locals, immersed in traditional dances, melodious songs, and exquisite crafts. Each interaction is promising for an unattractive memory. As night descends, bask in Tuvalu's tranquil embrace under star-studded skies, serenaded by the rhythmic lull of the sea. Embrace Tuvalu's magic - a destination like no other. Embark on a journey to Tuvalu and craft timeless memories.



Example of flight routes
Narita ⇒ Nandi (Fiji) ⇒ Suva (Fiji) ⇒ Funafuti (Tuvalu)

Plan for Enjoying Tuvalu / Beginners' course Plan to enjoy Funafuti!

- 1st day**
- AM ● Arrive at Funafuti Airport.
 - PM ● Enjoy Tuvalu cuisine for lunch. Try 'Meaota fakalolo', raw tuna seasoned with coconut milk! After dropping off your luggage at the hotel, take a walk around the town of Vaiaku. Let's talk to friendly Tuvaluans with a cheerful 'Talofa!' greeting and talk to them! Taste traditional cuisine with a beautiful view of the ocean and beautiful sunset in the background.
- 2nd day**
- AM ● Let's go by boat to the island of Funafala Islet! Snorkelling surrounded by beautiful coral reefs and tropical fish. Immerse yourself in the world of the sea and forget about everyday life...
 - PM ● Enjoy Tuvalu cuisine at lunch. Try the sea turtle dish called 'fonu'! After lunch, sunbathe on the white beach! Take a nap, read a book, or just relax and enjoy the tropical atmosphere. With a sense of regret, we return by boat to Vaiaku. Dinner at a restaurant while reflecting on the beautiful scenery in Funafala.
- 3rd day**
- AM ● Visit the Women's handicraft centre. Find your favourite handicrafts as souvenirs! Find mats made from dried pandanus leaves and necklaces made from wonderfully coloured seashells.
 - PM ● Go to the post office for rare stamps from Tuvalu! Find your favourite stamps among the many stamps on the wall. Watch the traditional Tuvaluan dance 'fatele'...sing and dance together!
- 4th day**
- AM ● Return to Japan via Fiji.



Experience Tuvalu's traditional dance 'Fatele'
During the celebration, a traditional dance called 'Fatele' is danced. Using their bare hands, a group of men create a rhythmic beat by tapping on a square wooden box, leading to more than a dozen dancers synchronising their movements with the rhythm. Dancers wear skirts made from the leaves of pandanus plants and flower crowns in traditional vivid costumes. The songs vary in their cultural, social, and biblical teachings. Come sing and dance with the people of Tuvalu!

Food Recommend Food

Traditional Tuvaluan dishes include coconut, potatoes, breadfruit, seafood, and bananas.
Meaota fakalolo
Ancient staple foods included coconuts, placa potatoes, taros, and breadfruits. In recent years, bread has become a common consumer. Meaota fakalolo is a dish made of raw tuna dressed in coconut milk. They are served with bread or rice. Coconut milk or coconut sap (kaleve) is often used to flavour dishes.
Fonu
Sea Turtle Cuisine. The meat is cooked slowly over a long period of time using a heat-retention cooking method called 'umu', which uses the residual heat from the soil and stones heated over an open fire and is full of flavour!



Plan to Enjoy the Differences Between the Islands / Advanced course Island Hopping in Tuvalu! Plan to enjoy the difference of islands

- 1st day**
- AM ● Arrive at Funafuti Airport. Leave your luggage at the hotel and go to lunch!
 - PM ● Enjoy Tuvalu cuisine which is arranged raw fish seasoned with coconut milk! Rent a bicycle and explore the town of Vaiaku. Let's run through the continuous straight road while bathing in the pleasant sea breeze! Buy a postcard to send when you go to the post office the next day.
- 2nd day**
- AM ● A leisurely breakfast at the hotel where you are staying. Fresh and energetic morning with tropical fruits. Go to the post office for rare stamps of Tuvalu!
 - PM ● Take a lunch break in the shade of a tree. Visit the Women's handicraft centre. Find your favourite handicrafts as souvenirs!
- Funafala islet 3rd day**
- AM ● Let's go by boat to the Funafala islet! Snorkelling surrounded by beautiful coral reefs and tropical fish.
 - PM ● Enjoy Tuvalu cuisine at lunch. Try the sea turtle dish called 'fonu'! After lunch, sunbathe on the white beach! Enjoy the luxury time doing nothing.
- Funafuti Marine Conservation Area 4th day**
- All day ● Take a boat arranged by the hotel to the Funafuti Marine Conservation Area! The Funafuti Conservation Area includes the western part of the Funafuti Atoll, 6 islands and lagoons such as Tepuka Savilivili Islet and Fefala Islet, coral reefs, channels, and the ocean. There is no better place for snorkelling! Peek into the world of tiger sharks, rays, turtles, and a wide variety of other fish! If you are in luck, you can see endangered green turtles and crabs.
- Nukufetau Atoll 5th day**
- All day ● To Nukufetau Atoll, an island 100 km northwest of Funafuti! (by domestic flight) Let's cruise along the quiet lagoon. The beautiful sea will enchant you. Take a walk and enjoy the breathtaking scenery or spend the day soaking up the sun.
- Nukulaelae Atoll 6th day**
- AM ● Go to Nukulaelae Atoll by domestic flight or boat. (Both schedules are rare and few.) Relaxing snorkelling in picturesque coral atolls. Relax on the beach and enjoy the tropical atmosphere.
 - PM ● Go to World War II sites. Visit the remains of bunkers and buildings from the Japanese occupation period to get a sense of the history of the area.
- 7th day**
- AM ● Return to Japan via Fiji.



Gift
Tuvalu's unique stamp designs have attracted the attention of philatelists around the world. The government is making efforts to sell them and they have even become sources of foreign currency. The stamps come in various styles featuring nature, wildlife, local culture, traditions, and historical events. The post office also issues several stamps annually, such as commemorative stamps for the birth and death of famous historical figures. There are many stamps on the display in the facility, so please take your time and find your favourite stamp.

Q What does 'Tuvalu' which is also the country's name mean in Tuvaluan language?

A The answer is on p.22!

Column 1 Flag history of Tuvalu

The flag used since independence had the Union Jack in the upper left corner of the flag to indicate membership in the British Commonwealth, and the nine stars that make up Tuvalu. In 1995, a new flag was adopted without the Union Jack, but in 1997, the Tuvalu flag was restored to its original design.

Column 2 Tuna from Tuvalu to Japan?

Traditionally, interaction with Japan was limited, but after gaining independence in 1978, Japan immediately recognised the country as a state and established diplomatic relations. Friendly relationships have since been established. Japan has also concluded a Japan-Tuvalu Fisheries Agreement with Tuvalu and pays an entry fee for fishing vessels to operate in the Tuvalu Economic Zone. The tuna and bonito you eat in Japan may actually come from Tuvalu...!



Let's enjoy online content
Visit the Tuvalu website which is managed by the Ministry of Transport, Energy and Tourism of Tuvalu, for more information! You can find the information on the tours and activities.

