



## TUVALU CRUISING INFORMATION

The nine islands of Tuvalu are located in the north of Fiji - and therefore off the usual sailing routes. Only a few yachts visit them - but for us with our boat name the trip to these islands was almost obligatory. We visited Funafuti in July 2017, but we did not visit the northern atolls due to the expected complicated weather conditions on our planned southern course back to Fiji. The expectations have been high - for obvious reasons - the surprises as well: The first landing in Funafuti not only gave us the feeling to be on a lost atoll in the South Seas, so with palm trees, sand beach, lagoon, friendly people. Because it also has a lot of scooters, motorcycles - up to a few handsome, lovingly maintained Harley Davidson. In a traffic density, which sometimes hardly matches to our hometown Barcelona. So it was really coming back home ...

We are not native English speakers, so sorry about all the grammatical mistakes. In the download sections on our website [www.tuvalubarcelona.es](http://www.tuvalubarcelona.es) you will find the original version in German. Our Cruising information's for sailors are treating only what we have seen, where we have been. Photos and lyrics (in German and Spanish, but not in English) can be found in our blog. But you must find out by yourselves if you like this island as much as we do...

## BASIC INFORMATIONS

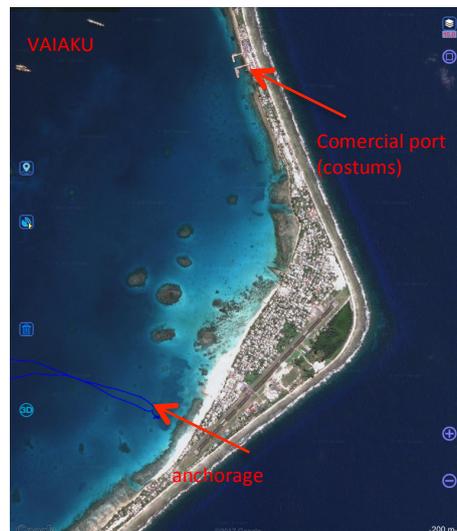
### Weather & communication

The Tuvalu Islands are often located in the South Pacific Convergence Zone (SPCZ), so the weather on the route between Fiji - Tuvalu - Micronesia is habitually changing. One often travels from one weather system to the other, getting rain, thunderstorms and winds from different directions. In addition to the prevailing south east winds (which mainly complicate the trip to the south), one should observe the development of the Convergence Zone. Nevertheless; we haven't seen a single lightning on our trip from Fiji to Funafuti (Tuvalu) and back to Fiji ...

Everything else about weather systems, weather resources, on-board communication, special navigation techniques, sea charts, cruising guides, literature in the South Pacific you will find on a separate PDF document which you can download on our website (only in German): WETTER & KOMMUNIKATION IM SÜDPAZIFIK.

### Crossing

Coming from Fiji we arrived to Funafuti (Tuvalu Island) in August 2017. For meteorological reasons a stop in *Rotuma* - in the middle of the crossing from or to the Yasawa Islands (Fiji) - makes sense. Because here you can wait again for the next good weather window for the next 250 miles. Of course, the island is about 10 degrees from the direct line, but this is not a problem with a good weather window and therefore better wind and wave conditions. More about *Rotuma* in separate PDF documentation on our website.



### Check in

Official check in and check out to all the nine islands of Tuvalu is only possible in the "capital" *Vaiaku* on the island of *Funafuti*. At the weekend, this means from Friday 4PM to Monday 09AM, the office is closed and you can't make paperwork. We have been calling the authorities unsuccessfully on CH16, but at the end this is not necessary. Go with the dinghy to the government building (the large, two-storey, white building - well seen from the anchorage). There you must

go first to immigration. Then you have to walk to the hospital (health) and then on to the commercial port mole (costumes). This is a 30 minute walk, but the cars that go out there pick you up gladly. Check-in is free. The check out cost is 30AUD per person (an additional we paid 25AUD overtime fee, as we could do this as an exception on Saturday).

- Language** English, own Polynesian dialect.
- Money** Australia Dollar. In *Vaiaku* (Funafuti) there is a bank, but no ATM and it is also not possible to get money by credit card. It is possible to change cash € and USD.
- Mobile | Internet** Tuvalu Telecom with 3G, works in *Vaiaku* / Funafuti quite well (and also at the anchorage in front of the village), but is expensive. Tuvalu Telecom also has a WIFI, which can also be reached on the anchorage in front of *Vaiaku*: 600MB for 20AUD.
- Web** <http://tuvalu.southpacific.org/index.html>  
<http://www.tuvalubarcelona.es/index.php/category/2017/tuvalu-2017/> - our blog with pictures of Tuvalu
- Meteo** *Tuvalu Meteo Service* is located in *Vaiaku*, one pass by personally and get the weather forecast and can also arrange a daily e-mail with the sea weather report. The station is small, well equipped, but without great experience what sailors are expecting. But a visit is always worthwhile and they are very friendly.
- Shopping** In *Vaiaku* (Funafuti) there are several grocery stores, bakeries, hardware stores. For such a remote island with a surprisingly acceptable offer. Apples, pears and oranges are available, but not the typical tropical fruits like papayas – everybody has it on there own garden. Coffee (except Nescafe) is not available. On Saturday morning, there is a vegetable market in front (seaside) of the government building. The vegetable comes from the vegetable plantation, which has been created by a project supported by Taiwan. From 6 o'clock in the morning a list of interested parties is created, and so from 8 o'clock comes the tractor with the vegetables. Everyone then receives, according to the order of the list, a prepared assortment of different vegetables and salads. Great system!
- Post Office** In *Vaiaku* there is a Post office, of course with many own brands. A worthwhile visit!
- Library** There is also a library in *Vaiaku*, right next to the post office, with interesting literature on Tuvalu.
- Tourist information** In *Vaiaku*, specifically in the government building, there is tourist information. This means a lady who is responsible for it (there is actually no tourism in Tuvalu). She is very helpful and resolved us a lot of questions.
- Spare parts / refueling** Specific spare parts are not available, but at least there are hardware stores. Refueling is easy at the various filling stations, but only with jerry cans. We went to the runaway station (see map), they told us that there you will find the best diesel. They brought us the jerry cans with there scooter to the dinghy on the beach.
- Water** We have a water maker, so we had no needs. However, I assume that getting water is quite difficult, because Funafuti as an atoll is chronically lack of water.
- Hospital** Funafuti has a new, well-equipped hospital (paid by Japan) with qualified doctors. Comparable in quality with the hospitals in French Polynesia.
- Radio** Radio Tuvalu broadcasts from Funafuti on AM 621, partly with its own program and music from Tuvalu, partly with BBC World Broadcast Service.
- Fly in / out** 3 times weekly flights to Suva / Fiji. They are just building a new terminal (2017).



## CRUISING INFORMATION FUNAFUTI ISLAND

- Reef passage** There are two reefs passages into the Funafuti lagoon, we have used the south easterly *Te Ava Pua Pua* (08 34S 179 07E). It seems to us that this is an all-weather passage, wide, deep and easy in all aspects. We have had about 2m wave from SE, but I think that I would enter there also with absolute bad weather. Navionics (last update 2017) shows exactly all details, once inside continue between the red and green steels.
- Anchorage** **Vaiaku 08 31,52S | 179 11.36E** SV Tuvalu 16.-25.07.2017 & 02.08 - 08.08.2017  
We have anchored on 10m sand. You can anchor wherever you wants in front of the village of Vaiaku, only keep care of some isolated coral heads. With the prevailing winds from E / SE the anchorage is absolutely quiet. If the wind turns to NW / W of course you will be without protection, in the wide lagoon NW winds will building up considerable waves. Theoretically, you can go to the commercial harbor in the north, but we think it will be even more dangerous there. We would probably stay and put during a short wind-turner (as it is normally during a trough), with a longer NW wind situation we would go to Funafara. However we have had always winds from SE to NE. You needs to land and anchor the dinghy directly on the beach, the former Dinghi Dock was washed away. In front of the government building a mole and a large landfill as a public square is under construction (August 2017).
- Sightseeing**  
- Every day in the evening from 5 pm the runaway coverts to an urban public space: plenty of people play football, rugby, volleyball and amo (a local game with 2 balls), they drive up and down with the scooters, and everybody meets everybody. Incredible!  
- Rent a scooter and run up and down the coastal road (20km).  
- Soccer: Join a match in the football stadium, when we stayed the Tuvalu Cup was underway ... The main sport here is soccer – and not rugby!
- Anchorage** **Funafara 08 37,98S | 179 05.67E** SV Tuvalu 25.07 - 02.08.2017  
This is the opposite of Vaiaku, where you can find the perfect South Sea Paradise. The anchorage is well protected against the prevailing winds from SE / E and lies calmly. Wonderful, don't miss it!
- Sightseeing**  
- This is the perfect place to do nothing!  
- The coral heads near the anchorage are beautiful.  
- The small village of Funafara is beautifully situated between the palm trees, we went to the church on Sundays. People are very friendly!

## IMPRINT

We have written this very personal information about what we have experienced and applied ourselves. So with all subjectivity and without any claim of a full cruising guide completely covering the sailing region. Of course we are looking forward to additions and corrections, we will occasionally update this document on our website.

This PDF should be gladly passed on to all your friends - by mail, on the memory sticks, printed, however. This is what we thought about it and that is why we wrote it. However, the distribution and publication remains subject to commercial intentions; the copyright – also in parts - remains unrestricted to us.

We have been sailing around the world slowly since 2011 with our Dufour 40 Performance "TUVALU". 36'000 nautical miles are behind us (as of 2017), and hopefully many more. Our website is in Spanish and German. All about us you can find here: [www.tuvalubarcelona.es/index.php/crew/](http://www.tuvalubarcelona.es/index.php/crew/), further details on the yacht as well as our blog on [www.tuvalubarcelona.es](http://www.tuvalubarcelona.es).



Fair winds  
*Hans & Imma*