

About Tonga

Situated just west of the International Date Line and east of Fiji, the Kingdom of Tonga is the only Polynesian country never to be colonized, and the only monarchy in the Pacific. A proud, independent nation with a rich heritage, Tonga offers visitors a sense of discovery and adventure. Amongst its many sought-after attributes are a pristine natural environment; beautiful reefs and beaches; a tropical climate; friendly dignified people; strong cultural traditions; and few tourists.

In this age of political volatility, Tonga is a safe haven for international travellers, particularly families. Like Fletcher Christian and the crew of the Bounty, today's visitors are reluctant to leave this charming South Pacific island paradise. Many more yearn to return!

Vava'u or Ha'apai?

In the Lifuka Group of Ha'apai we paddle along the lee side of the 40 kilometre-long archipelago, occasionally venturing offshore into more exposed waters to access remoter islands. In contrast, the Vava'u Group is a cluster of fifty odd islands, most of which are protected from the ocean swells by a semi-circular fringing reef on the eastern side of the group.

It's a difficult choice, but if a feeling of remoteness is what you're seeking then Ha'apai is the place for you. Vava'u has a wider range of amenities for those wanting a few home comforts.

Whale Watching

From July through October observe the impressive acrobatic displays of the magnificent humpback whales, who migrate from Antarctica annually to breed, give birth and nurse their new-born calves in Tonga's sheltered, warm waters.

HOW TO BOOK

Terms and conditions, booking form and full trip details may be downloaded from our website: www.fikco.com

GROUP SIZE Maximum of 12 with an average group size of 7. We advertise in Australia, New Zealand, Western Europe and North America so you are likely to encounter a variety of nationalities on our tours.

KAYAKS We use quality single and double kayaks with cockpits.

INSURANCE Personal travel insurance is not included in the trip cost and is a pre-requisite for trip participation.

CANCELLATIONS, CHANGES, TRANSFERS Please refer to our full terms and conditions for details: <http://www.fikco.com/booking-howto.html>

SINGLE SUPPLEMENT A single supplement fee may apply to single participants if you prefer a private room or if we are unable to pair you with another participant.

FLIGHTS In addition to international flights, you will require a domestic flight from Tongatapu to Vava'u or Ha'apai.

About Us

Doug and Sharon Spence, Directors

Originally from Vancouver Island, Canada, the travel itch led Sharon and Doug to explore the South Pacific by sea kayak in 1989. Captivated by Tonga's natural beauty and friendly natives, the couple was inspired to establish a sea kayak business in situ. They and their Chinese adopted daughters spend southern hemisphere winters in the tropical Kingdom and summers in New Zealand's South Island.



'Epeli and Valeti Lavaki, Directors

Natives of Vava'u, Tonga, 'Epeli and Valeti have been company shareholders since its inception in 1991. 'Epeli's charisma, sense of humour, and intimate knowledge of his homeland never fail to win his guests' hearts. Valeti manages the Company's Tonga office in her typically calm, reliable way, ever ready to assist.



Kava and 'Ofa, Local Guides

With names like Kava (Tonga's ceremonial drink) and 'Ofa (love) these two are good value on tour! Strong, fit young men, they shimmy up coconut trees with seeming effortlessness in a quest to quench their guests' thirst. Their local knowledge adds cultural flavour to the tour experience while ensuring their guests' safety and comfort. 'Ofa's dry wit and Kava's charm are appreciated by all!



Glenis North, Reservations Manager

After many years in the travel industry Glenis brings her experience and passion to FIKCO and looks forward to continuing to provide friendly customer service while helping clients fulfill their dreams of a kayak adventure in this tropical paradise.



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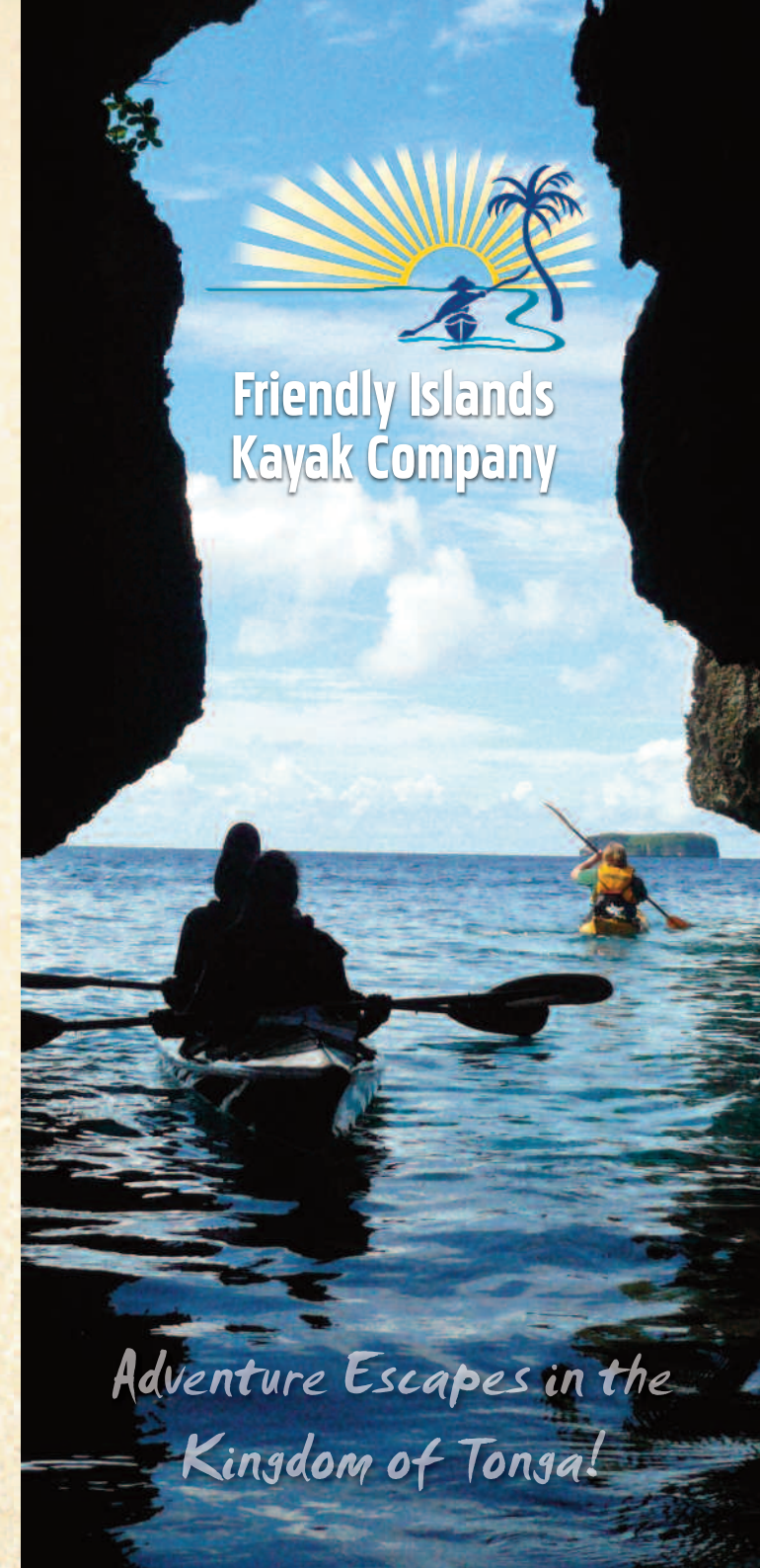
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**Friendly Islands
Kayak Company**



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Kayak Company**



*Adventure Escapes in the
Kingdom of Tonga!*

Our Mission

"To promote fun, safe adventure activities within an atmosphere of harmony and unity, specifically between the indigenous people, their natural environment and their guests."

With over 20 seasons in the Kingdom of Tonga, Friendly Islands Kayak Company is a model South Pacific eco-tourism operation committed to protecting the local culture and pristine natural environment. Our aim is to provide friendly, professional service in a safe, responsible manner.

About our Trips

Journey with us on a South Pacific adventure in Tonga and spend your evenings on deserted beaches beneath waving palms bathed by warm South Pacific breezes.

The hallmarks of our adventures are cultural contact; indigenous guides; a balance between activity and relaxation; idyllic beach camps; eco resorts; and fine food.

We offer a tour package to suit everyone from short trips and expeditions with camping to superior resort based adventures.



Family and Group Trips

Exclusive family trips for all ages are our specialty. We also offer custom designed tour for groups (6 min; 12 max).

Extra trips may be scheduled on request (subject to minimum numbers and guide availability).

Ha'apai 7-Day Eco-Resort

4 days kayaking | 1 day whale watching/snorkelling | 6 nights accommodation | Some resort meals | Easy-Moderate

Paddle the lee side of the Lifuka Archipelago to Serenity, an eco-resort situated on picturesque Uoleva Island. Island walks, whale watching, snorkelling and a day paddle to offshore Luangahu Island feature in this resort based package. A good choice for non-campers and families.



Ha'apai 9-Day Adventure

4 days kayaking | 1 day whale watching/snorkelling | 1 day sailing or diving | 1 day mountain biking | 4 nights camping | 4 nights accommodation | Some resort meals | Moderate+

Our Vava'u Adventure Week has proven so popular that we couldn't resist offering a similar package in Ha'apai! The fit and active derive the most from this tour package packed with activities.



Ha'apai 12-Day Classic

9 days kayaking | 8 nights camping | 3 nights accommodation | Some resort meals | Moderate+

The Ha'apai Classic remains our flagship adventure tour in this very special Conservation Area. Weather permitting, we paddle the length of the Lifuka Archipelago. Our base camp at the southernmost uninhabited island of wild and windswept Uanukuhahake is about as remote as one can get in Tonga!



Vava'u Discovery

1 day kayaking | 1 day land tour | 1 day whale watching/snorkelling | 1 day sailing or diving | 5 nights accommodation | Easy-Moderate

This non-camping package features a variety of day trips. After an active day in the outdoors, return to a hot shower, restaurant meal and a comfortable bed. Perfect for non-campers and those wanting a brief taste of adventure.



Vava'u 3-Day Starter

3 days kayaking | 2 nights camping | Easy-Moderate

This no frills kayak tour is for travellers short of time. It's also an ideal teaser for families with young children (exclusive family trips available on request). Transfers and accommodation (pre/post tour) are not included, but can be arranged.



Vava'u 6-Day Classic

4 days kayaking | 3 nights camping | 2 nights accommodation | Moderate

On this 4-day tour we paddle to islands in the middle of the Vava'u Island Group. We don't have time to paddle to the far eastern and western islands as we do on our longer trips. However, we still have endless snorkelling opportunities and experience the Tongan culture and an uninhabited island.



Vava'u 8-Day Classic

6 days kayaking | 5 nights camping | 2 nights accommodation | Moderate

Join us for 6 days of kayaking and snorkelling in azure blue coral rich waters and visits to remote island villages. On this popular tour, we have time to paddle to Vaka'eitu and Nuapapu Islands on the western fringe of the Vava'u Group before exploring the more central islands.



Vava'u 10-Day Classic

8 days kayaking | 7 nights camping | 2 nights accommodation | Moderate

Our longest Vava'u kayak tour allows time to truly unwind and gain a deeper experience of the islands and friendly locals. With 8 days available for paddling, we can explore the contrasting western and eastern Vava'u islands.



Vava'u 7-Day Superior

4 days kayaking | 1 day whale watching/snorkelling | 6 nights accommodation | All meals | Easy-Moderate

This all-inclusive non-camping tour is ideal for honeymooners, families and those who appreciate adventure with a few comforts. Kayak, snorkel and whale watch - all without sand between the sheets!



Vava'u 9-Day Adventure

4 days kayaking | 1 day whale watching/snorkelling | 1 day sailing or diving | 1 day mountain biking | 3 nights camping | 5 nights accommodation | Moderate+

A popular package for those who enjoy an activity-packed vacation. Suitable for the active traveller with physical stamina and a moderate degree of fitness.

