

Funafuti, Tuvalu

A narrow ribbon of coral rising barely above the Pacific — Funafuti is one of the world's most remote and authentic cruise calls. No big-ship terminals, no tourist traps, just an island nation where your arrival is a genuine event.

- Tender (no pier)
- Typical call: 6–8 hrs
- Australian Dollar (AUD cash only)
- Tuvaluan & English

MY DAY IN PORT

Ship/Date: _____	Arrive: _____	All aboard: _____
Excursion: _____	Notes: _____	

GETTING ASHORE

Docking: Tender — ships anchor in Te Namu Lagoon; boats to Fongafale Wharf

Best For: Snorkeling the Conservation Area, rare stamps & handicrafts, climate-change insight

Walk to center: 5 min from wharf to airport runway and handicraft centre

Don't Miss: Funafuti Conservation Area — boat to uninhabited islets with sea turtles and pristine reef

Getting around: Taxi AUD — Rideshare not available

TOP THINGS TO DO

- Funafuti Conservation Area Boat Trip** — Charter a local boat to the 33 km² protected area encompassing six uninhabited islets (Tepuka Vilivili, Fualopa, Fuafatu, Vasafua, Fuagea, Tefala)...
- Tuvalu Women's Handicraft Centre** — Located right next to the airport terminal, this small cooperative sells authentic Tuvaluan handicrafts: pandanus-woven fans, te titi dancing skirts...
- WWII Airstrip & Borrow Pits Heritage** — US Navy Seabees built Funafuti's airstrip in 1943, excavating the 'borrow pits' — craters dug for landfill that for decades flooded and collected...
- Lagoon Islet Picnic & Snorkel** — Day-trip by charter boat to uninhabited islets such as Tepuka or Fualopa — powdery white-sand beaches, coconut palms, turquoise shallows.
- Walk the Runway & Town Center** — The international airport runway doubles as the island's social hub when no planes are expected.

BEST WALKS

- Wharf to Runway & Handicraft Centre** 1.2 km · 15 min · flat · free — Walk from the government wharf along the lagoon-side road to the airport terminal.
- North to the Narrowest Point (Tengako)** 2–4 km one way · scooter or walk · free — Head north on the single paved road to see the island at its narrowest — barely wider than the road itself, with open Pacific Ocean on one side and lagoon on the other.

WEATHER · DAYLIGHT · MONEY

CLIMATE (AVG °F · RAINY DAYS)				DAYLIGHT & MONEY	
Mon	High	Low	Rain	Apr 6:05AM–6:00PM · Jun 6:14AM–5:52PM · Aug 6:13AM–6:02PM · Sep 5:57AM–5:59PM · Oct 5:40AM–5:57PM	
Apr	84°	80°	24d		
Jun	84°	80°	22d		
Aug	83°	79°	25d		
Sep	83°	80°	22d		
Oct	83°	80°	24d		

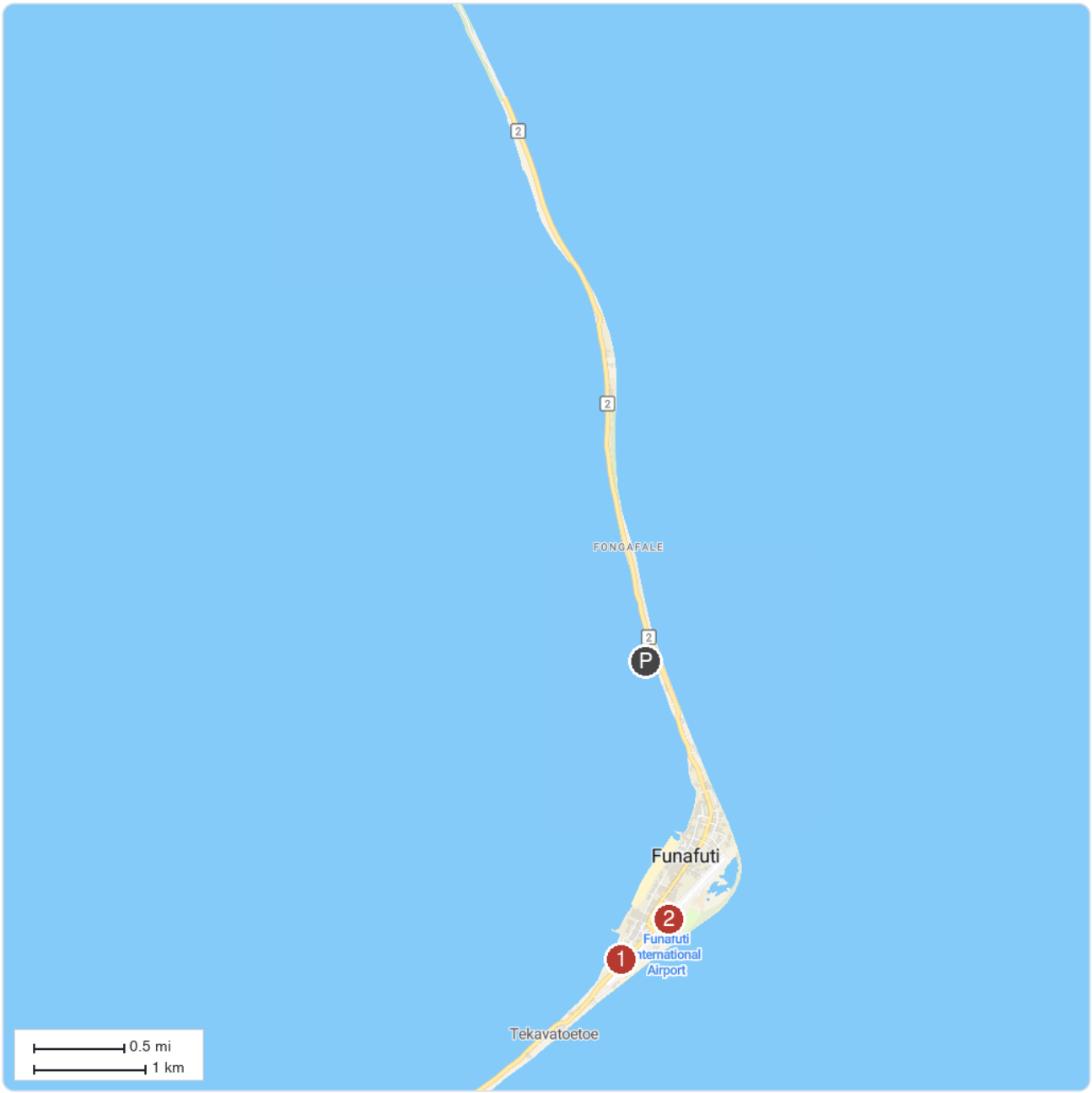
KNOW BEFORE YOU GO

- Bring AUD cash — there is no alternative. Tuvalu has no international ATMs and almost no card acceptance. Bring Australian Dollars from your ship or a previous port. You will need cash for boat charters, food, and handicrafts.
- Dress conservatively in town. Tuvalu is a devout Christian community. Women should cover shoulders and knees when walking through Fongafale. Swimwear is fine on uninhabited islets but not on town beaches.
- Sun is intense at 8°S. The equatorial sun is brutal with no shade on the runway or lagoon. Bring a hat, sunscreen, and a refillable water bottle — bottled water is available at local fusi (corner stores).
- Book boat charters early. Local boat owners are limited in number. Once tenders start, head straight to the wharf and arrange a Conservation Area charter before they fill up — groups can easily share costs.
- Mobile roaming won't work. International roaming is essentially unavailable. Wi-Fi tokens are sold by Tuvalu Telecom but speeds are very slow. A great excuse for a digital detox.
- Sunday = everything closed. If your ship calls on a Sunday, almost all shops and restaurants will be shut and community noise rules apply. Plan accordingly — the Conservation Area boat trip may still be possible with advance arrangement.

Funafuti, Tuvalu — Port Map

cruiseports.org

Red = walkable sights · Amber = excursions farther out · P = cruise terminal. Numbers match the order you'd typically visit.



1 Philatelic Bureau Small government office selling Tuvalu's famously collectible postage stamps, a niche national export.

2 Airport Runway The atoll's single airstrip doubles as the community's public plaza and gathering space between flights.

P Cruise port / terminal