

Waku'ē



Waku'ē is an island country situated in the modern day territory of Uvea Island of the territory of Wallis and Futuna. It is a beautiful stellar country with beautiful landscapes but this country also has a very tragic past. You might think this is just a small island, but it has a lot to offer.

History

During the Tongan Invasions of 1410-1530, the island of Uvea held its ground against Tongan invasion. Even though the Tongan empire was strong, the islanders fought to protect Uvea. However, by the end of the fifteenth century, Uvea fell under Tongan control, becoming a territory of the empire. The Tongan Empire would soon collapse. In 1612, the people of Uvea seized this

opportunity to regain their independence and to successfully break free from Tongan rule. During the war, the French would arrive and spread Christianity. Seeing this war, the French chose to ally with Uvea against the Tongan Empire. Under the leadership of Kafoa Logologofolau, the Uvean Forces and the French forces combined to defeat the Tongans in 1612. But after the war, there was fear among the people of Uvea about the intentions of France, as France held a massive colonial empire in Oceania. To protect themselves from future threats, Uvea and Tonga formed a secret alliance in the 1700s, putting away their past wars. This diplomatic relation was used when France tried to claim Uvea in 1887 during treaty negotiations. The Uvean army led by [Amelia Tokagahahau Alik](#) and the Tongan army, led by [Tēvita 'Unga](#), successfully won the battle against the French. While Uvea was independent, Futuna fell under French control in 1888. Due to rising concerns of another conflict against one of the European powers, Uvea engaged in diplomatic relations with the European powers. After the country finished off the French from their homeland, the country adopted the name "Waku'ē," a reflection of their roots (from the the word "Faka'Uvea") and an acknowledgment of the present (resembling the French name for the island, Wallis). During WW1, Due to its need for trade, the country was very affected due to being a country of imports. The economy collapsed as the country went into a state of turmoil. Small UK ships came to stop the brutal and sad violence in Waku'ē by giving them water and other goods. Due to this small gesture, Waku'ē would always side with the UK But during WW2, the country was attacked by the Japanese, making it its territory. This caused many planes from the UK and the other allies to send aid and troops. This caused the Japanese to back out of Waku'ē. But due to the pacific nations being reliant on aid, a sense of collapse went into the people. So the leader [Mikaele Tufele II](#) made an agreement with the UK for unlimited aid for the sake of the people of Waku'ē. This caused the island to be one of the most aid-reliant nations.

Traditions

The island of Waku'ē is rich in culture and tradition, with unique customs that have been passed down through generations. One of the biggest and most popular tradition is Nive'tagī, a celebration where people gather to dance around celebratory fires and sing songs about the warriors who fought bravely in the war of 1887. During this festive event, the islanders also offer gifts to the gods in hopes of receiving blessings and good luck. Nive'tagī typically lasts from the end of December to the beginning of February. Another tradition of the island is Manu'ia e Fo'i Niu, a harvest festival that takes place in May. During this time, the islanders come together to harvest coconuts, adorned with flower necklaces as a symbol of abundance and fertility. As the harvesting concludes, the community gathers for a grand feast, where they feast on the freshly harvested coconuts. However, due to trade, people usually eat dishes with chicken from Southeast Asia alongside the traditional coconuts.

Geography

The island of Waku'ē is usually covered by a very beautiful jungle, with unique exotic flora and fauna. However, the issue of deforestation has plagued the country since ancient times, even before Tongan influence. Even though there is limited arable land space, with only 10% of the island suitable for cultivation, there are many food sources on land. Among these are bananas, yams, and coconuts, which provide many elements of the island's culinary traditions.

The highest point on the island is the very high Mont Lulu Fakahega, at to a height of 151 meters above sea level (495 feet). This natural landmark offers many views of the surrounding lush jungle and azure waters, serving as a sacred symbol of the people. This makes tourism one of the biggest money makers in the country.

Information

The capital city of Waku'ē, [Matā'utu](#), has around 1,000 residents who contribute to the city. This makes the city comparable to the capital of Guam, [Hagåtña](#). With a total population of approximately 8,100 inhabitants spread across the country, Waku'ē has a small population, its population can be compared to Saint Pierre and Miquelon in France. Waku'ē thrives on its main exports. Even though they don't produce much, their exports help the economy. These exports include fresh and traditional seafood, and hand crafted necklaces. These necklaces are usually sold in neighboring Australia. The national food of Waku'ē is fish salad with coconut milk, and According to tradition, every family in Waku'ē has its unique recipe for fish salad, passed down through generations, reflecting the individuality and creativity of each household. Even though most of the people follow tribal beliefs, Christianity is the official religion of the island. This is because the French had brought christianity in 1618, and following many agreements, it became the religion of the island. The official languages of Waku'ē are Wallisian, Tongan, and French. Tongan was added due to the secret alliance, and French was added as a compromise during the end of the Waku'ēan ~ French War. The Human Development Index (HDI) of this island nation stands at a respectable 0.763, which is on par with countries like Azerbaijan, an odd comparison. The country of Waku'ē boasts a low crime rate, making it a good choice for a summer vacation destination. Additionally, its GDP per Capita is 12,640, similar to countries such as Ukraine and Ecuador in terms of economic prosperity. This combination of high HDI, low crime rate, and decent GDP per Capita makes it an attractive choice for tourists looking for a safe and unique experience. Despite its high potential as a tourism destination, the island receives a relatively small number of visitors, with only around four hundred people venturing to it each year. This low number of tourists may come as a surprise given the country's attractive features. But it usually funds charities and schools instead of its tourism. The official currency of the island is the Tongan Pa'anga (TOP), but most shops accept the American dollar. The American dollar is used because of two factors. Firstly, the country usually imports items, and secondly, it usually engages in lots of trade with the USA. The Tongan Pa'anga is falling out, though.