



Niue



Background Voyagers from Samoa first settled on Niue around A.D. 900, and a second main group of settlers came from Tonga around 1500. With only one reliable source of fresh water, conflict was high on the island. Samoan and Tongan customs heavily influenced Niuean culture, including the formation of an island-wide elected kingship system in the early 1700s. In 1774, British explorer James COOK landed on the island and named it Savage Island because of the Niueans' hostility. Missionaries arrived in 1830 but were also largely unsuccessful at staying on the island until 1846, when a Niuean trained as a Samoan missionary returned to the island and provided a space from which the missionaries could work. In addition to converting the population, the missionaries worked to stop the violent conflicts and helped establish the first parliament in 1849. Great Britain established a protectorate over Niue in 1900. The following year, Niue was annexed to New Zealand and included as part of the Cook Islands. Niue's remoteness and cultural and linguistic differences with the Cook Islands led New Zealand to separate Niue into its own administration in 1904. The island became internally self-governing in 1974; it is an independent member of international organizations but is in free association with New Zealand, which is responsible for defense and foreign affairs. In September 2023, the US recognized Niue as a sovereign and independent state.

Capital	name: Alofi
Government type	parliamentary democracy
Area	total : 260 sq km land: 260 sq km water: 0 sq km
Climate	tropical; modified by southeast trade winds
Natural resources	arable land, fish
Population	total: 1,815 (2024 est.)
Population growth rate	-0.03% (2021 est.)
Ethnic groups	Niuean 65.4%, part-Niuean 14%, non-Niuean 20.6% (2017 est.)
Religions	Ekalesia Niue (Congregational Christian Church of Niue - a Protestant church founded by missionaries from the London Missionary Society) 61.7%, Church of Jesus Christ 8.7%, Roman Catholic 8.4%, Jehovah's Witness 2.7%, Seventh Day Adventist 1.4%, other 8.2%, none 8.9% (2017 est.)
Languages	Niuean 46% (official, a Polynesian language closely related to Tongan and Samoan), Niuean and English 32%, English (official) 11%, Niuean and others 5%, other 6% (2011 est.)

Executive branch	chief of state: King CHARLES III (since 8 September 2022); represented by Governor-General of New Zealand Cindy KIRO (since 21 October 2021); the UK and New Zealand are represented by New Zealand High Commissioner Mark GIBBS (since 5 March 2024) head of government: Prime Minister Dalton TAGELAGI; also referred to as premier (since 10 June 2020)
Legislative branch	legislature name: Niue Assembly (Fono Ekepule)
Diplomatic representation from the US	embassy: none (self-governing territory in free association with New Zealand)
Economic overview	upper-middle-income self-governing New Zealand territorial economy; environmentally fragile; massive emigration; post-pandemic tourism rebound; postage stamps, small-scale agricultural processing, and subsistence farming; most recent Asian Development Bank member
Real GDP (purchasing power parity)	\$18.7 million (2021 est.) \$19.9 million (2020 est.) \$20.9 million (2019 est.)
Real GDP per capita	\$11,100 (2021 est.) \$11,800 (2020 est.) \$12,400 (2019 est.)
Exports	\$5.68 million (2021 est.)
Exports - partners	USA 54%, Germany 8%, Canada 5%, UK 5%, Guatemala 4% (2023)
Exports - commodities	abrasive powder, coin (2023)
Imports	\$43.8 million (2021 est.)
Imports - partners	NZ 87%, Fiji 6%, UAE 2%, Slovakia 1%, Australia 1% (2023)
Imports - commodities	refined petroleum, plastic products, machine parts, construction vehicles, cars (2023)