Atlas of Tokelau

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Tokelau

Tokelau is a non-self-governing colonial territory of New Zealand that comprises a group of three tropical coral atolls in the South Pacific Ocean. The islands are occasionally referred to by Westerners by an older colonial name, The Union Islands. Until 1976, the official name was Tokelau Islands. Tokelau lies near Kiribati, Samoa, American Samoa, Tuvalu and the Cook Islands.

Short name: Tokelau
Official name: Tokelau
Status: New Zealand overseas territory, New Zealandian since 1926.
Location: Pacific Ocean
Capital: None, each atoll has its own administrative centre
Population: 1,392 inhabitants
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Area</strong></th>
<th>12 km²</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Major language(s)</strong></td>
<td>English, Tokelauan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Major religion(s)</strong></td>
<td>Congregational Christian Church, Roman Catholicism</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>More information</strong></td>
<td>Tokelau, Geography of Tokelau, History of Tokelau and Politics of Tokelau</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>More images</strong></td>
<td>Tokelau - Tokelau (Category)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## General maps

Map of Tokelau

## History maps

This section holds a short summary of the history of the area of present-day Tokelau, illustrated with maps, including historical maps of former countries and empires that included present-day Tokelau.

Before 1600 an independent state of Fakaofo is formed in the archipelago that is now Tokelau. Beside Fakaofo also Nukunonu and Atafu become later independent. The British explorer John Byron discovers the Tokelau Islands in 1765. When Peruvian slave traders target the islands, this leads in 1877 to a British protectorate of Tokelau. In 1916 Tokelau becomes as Union Group part of the British colony of the Gilbert and Ellice Islands. The islands come under New Zealand administration in 1926 and are incorporated into Western Samoa in 1948. In 1962 the Union Group becomes a separate New Zealand dependency and in 1976 the islands are renamed Tokelau.
Satellite maps

Satellite map of Tokelau

Notes and references

General remarks:

- The WIKIMEDIA COMMONS Atlas of the World is an organized and commented collection of geographical, political and historical maps available at Wikimedia Commons. The main page is therefore the portal to maps and cartography on Wikimedia. That page contains links to entries by country, continent and by topic as well as general notes and references.
- Every entry has an introduction section in English. If other languages are native and/or official in an entity, introductions in other languages are added in separate sections. The text of the introduction(s) is based on the content of the Wikipedia encyclopedia. For sources of the introduction see therefore the Wikipedia entries linked to.
- Historical maps are included in the continent, country and dependency entries.
- For Burma, see Myanmar; Great Britain and Northern Ireland, see United Kingdom; Ivory Coast, see Côte d'Ivoire; Pridnestrovie, see Transnistria; Taiwan, see China, Republic of; Timor-Leste, see East Timor.
- The status of various entities is disputed. See the content for the entities concerned.
- The maps of former countries that are more or less continued by a present-day country or had a territory included in only one or two countries are included in the atlas of the present-day country. For example the Ottoman Empire can be found in the Atlas of Turkey.

Entries available in the atlas

General pages
Atlas • Historical atlas • Index of the Atlas • Names in native languages

The world and its continents and oceans
General maps of the world • Historical maps of the world • Old maps • Africa • North and South America • Antarctica • Asia • Europe (History, European Union) • Oceania • Oceans

Historical era and themes
Prehistory • Antiquity • Middle Ages • Rise of Islam • Early Modern Age • Early American Societies • Early Asian Societies • Age of Renaissance • Colonialism • 20th Century • World War I • World War II

Countries with undisputed status
Afghanistan • Albania • Algeria • Andorra • Angola • Antigua and Barbuda • Argentina • Armenia • Australia • Austria • Azerbaijan • Bahamas • Bahrain • Bangladesh • Barbados • Belarus • Belgium • Belize • Benin • Bhutan • Bolivia • Bosnia and Herzegovina • Botswana • Brazil • Brunei • Bulgaria • Burkina Faso • Burundi • Cambodia • Cameroon • Canada • Cape Verde • Central African Republic • Chad • Chile • China • Colombia • Comoros • Congo (Democratic Republic) • Congo (Republic) • Costa Rica • Côte d’Ivoire • Croatia • Cuba • Cyprus • Czech Republic • Denmark • Djibouti • Dominica • Dominican Republic •
### Countries with disputed status

Abkhazia · China (Republic)/Taiwan · Kosovo · Nagorno-Karabakh · Northern Cyprus · Palestine · Somaliland · South Ossetia · Tamil Eelam · Transnistria · Western Sahara

### Dependencies and other overseas territories

Akrotiri and Dhekelia · Åland · American Samoa · Anguilla · Aruba · Ascension Island · Ashmore and Cartier Islands · Baker Island · Bermuda · Bouvet Island · British Indian Ocean Territory · British Virgin Islands · Cayman Islands · Christmas Island · Clipperton Island · cocos (Keeling) Islands · Cook Islands · Coral Sea Islands · Falkland Islands · Faroe Islands · French Guiana · French Polynesia · French Southern and Antarctic Lands · Gibraltar · Greenland · Guadeloupe · Guam · Guantánamo Bay · Guernsey · Heard Island and McDonald Islands · Hong Kong · Howland Island · Isle of Man · Jan Mayen · Jarvis Island · Jersey · Johnston Atoll · Kingman Reef · Macau · Martinique · Mayotte · Midway Atoll · Montserrat · Navassa Island · Netherlands Antilles · New Caledonia · Niue · Norfolk Island · Northern Mariana Islands · Palmyra Atoll · Pitcairn Islands · Puerto Rico · Réunion · Saint Helena · Saint-Barthélemy · Saint Martin (France) · Saint-Pierre and Miquelon · South Georgia and South Sandwich Islands · Svalbard · Tokelau · Tristan da Cunha · Turks and Caicos Islands · United States Virgin Islands · Wake Island · Wallis and Futuna

### Disputed areas

Kashmir · Paracel Islands · Spratly Islands

### Subnational autonomous entities

Aceh · Adjara · Adygea · Altai · Andalusia · Aosta Valley · Aragon · Athens · Azores · Balearic Islands · Bashkortostan · Basque Autonomous Community · Bougainville · Brussels · Buryatia · Canary Islands · Catalonia · Chechnya · Chuvashia · Corsica · Crimea · Cureña · Dagestan · Easter Island · England · Estremadura · Bosnia and Herzegovina (Federation of) · Flanders · Friuli-Venezia Giulia · Gagauzia · Galicia · Galápagos Islands · Gorno-Badakhshan · Guanxi · Ingushetia · Inner Mongolia · Kabardino-Balkaria · Kalmykia · Karachay-Cherkessia · Karakalpakstan · Karelia · Khakassia · Komi · Kurdistan (Iraqi) · Madeira · Mari El · Mindanao · Mordovia · Nakhichevan · Narrar · Nevis · Ningxia · North Ossetia-Alania · Northern Ireland · Quebec · Saint Martin (Netherlands) · Sukha · Sardinia · Scotland · Sicily · Srpska · Tatarstan · Tibet · Trentino-Alto Adige · Tuva · Udmurtia · Vojvodina · Wales · Wallonia · Xinjiang · Zanzibar

### Other regions

Basque Country · Burzenland · Kurdistan · Sápmi

### Former countries

Austria-Hungary · Byzantine Empire · Caliphate · Czechoslovakia · Frankish Empire · Inca Empire · Macedonian Empire · Prussia · Roman Empire · Soviet Union · Yugoslavia

### Themes

Administrative divisions · International organizations · Languages · Religions

### Old atlas

Stieler's Handatlas 1891

Tokelau

Tokelau, overseas territory of New Zealand, consisting of the Tokelau Islands, in the southwestern
Pacific Ocean. It comprises three coral atolls—Atafu, Fakaofo, and Nukunonu—and has a total area of
10 sq km (4 sq mi). Copra and woven handicrafts are the principal exports. The islands were first
visited by the British in 1765 and became a British protectorate in 1877. Administration of the islands
was transferred to New Zealand in 1926, and in 1948 they were included within its territorial
boundaries. In 1976 the territory's name was officially changed from Tokelau Islands to Tokelau.

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Tokelau Information

Low Carb Fruit
The Top 25 Lowest-Carb Fruits and Vegetables.

Prepare to be Shocked
Millions have already taken this amazing test. What's your RealAge?

Geography
Tokelau, in Oceania, is a territory of New Zealand consisting of the atolls of Atafu, Fakaofo and Nukunonu.

There is not a capital but each atoll has its own administrative centre.

Atafu, Fakaofo and Nukunonu are low-lying coral atolls enclosing large lagoons.

The climate of Tokelau is tropical.

Environment
Conservation on the islands is overseen by the Council of Elders. The atolls are at risk from rising sea levels caused by global warming.

The most common trees are coconut and pandanus. Other trees include banana, breadfruit and papaya.

Boobies, noddies and terns can be found on the atolls and nearby islets. Green Turtles, Hawksbills and Loggerhead Turtles are known to nest on the islands.

Architecture
The traditional Polynesian home was designed to protect occupants from the sun and rain and to keep the inside temperature as comfortable as possible. Building materials were wood and palm leaves.

Today, concrete and corrugated iron are often used in construction.

Population
The population of the Tokelau was estimated at 1,433 in 2008.

Languages
Languages spoken are Tokelauan, a Polynesian language, and English.

Religion
The majority of the people of Tokelau are Christians.

Food
Fish and shellfish are an important part of the Tokelauan diet. Chicken and pork are also eaten. Breadfruit, sweet potatoes and taro are traditional foods.

Coconuts, bananas, pandanus fruit and papayas are grown.

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Geography

Map of all Tokelau Islands. Swains Island is shown to the south

Tokelau comprises three atolls in the South Pacific Ocean between 171° and 173° W longitude and 8° and 10° S latitude, approximately midway between Hawaii and New Zealand. They lie about 500 km (311 mi) north of Samoa. The islands are Atafu, at one time known as the Duke of York Group, Nukunonu, also the Duke of Clarence Group, and Fakaofo, once Bowditch Island. Between them they comprise a land area of 10.8 km². There are no ports or harbours. Tokelau lies in the Pacific typhoon belt. A fourth island that is culturally, historically, and geographically, but not politically, part of the Tokelau chain is Swains Island (Olohega), under United States control since about 1900 and administered as part of American Samoa since 1925. The island was claimed by the United States pursuant to the Guano Islands Act as were the other three islands of Tokelau, which claims were ceded to Tokelau by treaty in 1979. In the draft constitution of Tokelau subject to the Tokelauan self-determination referendum in 2006, Olohega is claimed as part of Tokelau, a claim surrendered in the same 1979 treaty which established a boundary between American Samoa and Tokelau.
Tokelau's claim to Swains is generally comparable to the Marshall Islands' claim to US-administered Wake Island, but the re-emergence of this somewhat dormant issue has been an unintended result of the United Nations' recent efforts to promote decolonization in Tokelau. Basically, Tokelauans have proved somewhat reluctant to push their national identity in the political realm: recent decolonization moves have mainly been driven from outside for ideological reasons. But at the same time, Tokelauans are reluctant to disown their common cultural identity with Swains Islanders who speak their language.

Tokelau is in a completely different time zone to most of New Zealand, being 10 hours behind Coordinated Universal Time (UTC) rather than 12 hours in front, meaning a 22 hour time difference for much of the year (New Zealand has daylight saving time (DST) for part of the year while Tokelau never participates). Tokelau is in the same time zone as the Cook Islands and Hawaii rather than neighbouring Samoa and American Samoa. Geographic locations of Tokelau's atolls

- Atafu: 8°33′6″S 172°30′3″W / -8.55167, -172.50083
- Nukunonu: 9°10′6″S 171°48′35″W / -9.16833, -171.80972
- Fakaofo: 9°21′55″S 171°12′54″W / -9.36528, -171.215
This New Zealand dependency in the southwestern Pacific lies north of Samoa. It shares with the other areas of the western Pacific near the equator the features of a tropical oceanic climate.

Very similar conditions prevail throughout the year, with high temperatures and humidity. The daily range of temperature is quite small - about 4°C to 5°C/10°F.

There is abundant rainfall. Being south of the equator, Tokelau has its season of maximum rainfall between November and April. On some islands there is no great difference between the amount of rain from month to month. Tropical cyclones are less frequent than in the Pacific north of the equator.

Except in the wettest places, where cloud is more frequent, Tokelau has moderately large amounts of sunshine, averaging from six to eight hours a day. Much of the rainfall comes in short, heavy showers, often after a sunny morning, but longer periods of heavy rain lasting a day or so occur in the wetter months.

The climate may generally be described as pleasant and healthy, although the combination of high temperature and humidity can be a little oppressive when not tempered by sea breezes or a brisk wind.

The table for Apia in Samoa shows weather that is similar to that of Tokelau.
### General info

**Entity:**
- Tokelau

**Capital:**
- none

**Population (2008-07-01):**
- 1,433 (CIA)

**Area:**
- 10 sq.km.

**Country code:**
- TK

**Region:**
- Polynesia

### Tokelau

#### Administrative units

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>atoll</th>
<th>capital</th>
<th>area (sq.km.)</th>
<th>population 2001 census</th>
<th>population 2006-10-19 census</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Atafu</td>
<td></td>
<td>598</td>
<td>524</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fakaofo</td>
<td></td>
<td>482</td>
<td>483</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nukunonu</td>
<td></td>
<td>369</td>
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<tr>
<td>Samoa (Apia)</td>
<td></td>
<td>88</td>
<td>33</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>total</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>10</strong></td>
<td><strong>1,508</strong></td>
<td><strong>1,466</strong></td>
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Source: Tokelau Statistics Unit.