

# EXPLORE 'EUA



## Highlights

- Big Banyan Tree:** A magnificent 800+ year old banyan or strangling fig tree
- Natural Archway:** A natural land bridge on the South-east coast
- Ha'aluma Beach:** Beautiful beach an easily accessible
- Matalanga 'a Maui:** Giant hole in the ground made by the ancient God Maui thrusting his digging stick into 'Eua
- Hafu Pool:** A relaxing pool in the forest
- Mata Mahina hopo:** The red "pool" of small stones
- Laua Platform:** Fantastic vantage point looking out over the forest, or for spotting whales at sea
- Soldier's Grave:** Corporal Yealand's final resting place
- Lokupo Beach:** Spectacular beach with rock pool to cool off in after trekking through the forest
- Rats Cave:** A bit of a scramble with breath-taking views at the end

## SELF-GUIDED WALKING TRAILS

These trails are suitable for self-guiding, although you will get more from your visit if you have someone show you around, and you'll be able to cover more ground. Access roads to these spots are rough in places and having a local driver makes the journey safer. Your accommodation provider will be able to arrange pick-up and drop-off at the start points for these trails. Take water as there isn't any at these sites.

### Big Banyan Tree and Smoking Cave (1 hour return from Taina's)

Go past the entrance to Taina's Place and up the hill. At the top, and before the gate, there is a clearing on the left. Walk in here through the trees. In ten minutes you will see the magnificent banyan or strangling fig tree. This is over 800 years old and grows around a water source. Walk all the way around and down into the sink hole. It can be a scramble to get down, but well worth it.

Walk back to the clearing and to the Tonga Forest Products gate. Turn right down a track immediately before the gate, and walk for ten minutes and you will see a faint fence and path at your left, by a pine tree. Follow the path until you see the boardwalk and viewing platform. Take care as the timber can be slippery. Smoking Cave is named for the smoky look of the mist as the sunlight hits it in the fern-covered chute.

### Ha'aluma Beach, Rock Garden, Wild Horses, Laku Fa'anga and Natural Archway (half day from the Ha'aluma Beach turnoff)

To get to there, you need to go as far south as possible on the main road. Eventually you'll come to a sign pointing left towards the Rock Garden. If you want to go to Ha'aluma Beach go straight ahead and down a steep, rutted track for 1½ km to this pretty beach. Turn left here and travel another 500m to a beach with a rock pool with great snorkeling, but be careful that the strong tide does not pull you out, as there is a dangerous gap out through the reef.

Back up on the main road head towards the Rock Garden for 4km, enjoy the views of uninhabited Kalau Island to your right and go through a gate. The Rock Garden will open up before you. Once these large rock formations were coral reefs at the bottom of the ocean, and they were pushed up to this height by volcanic activity. If you look closely at the rocks you will see distinctive coral fossils. The wild horses that roam this area are owned by the locals.

A little further on you will see the sign for Laku Fa'anga Cliffs, which tells the legend of throwing the fa fruit over the cliff and calling the turtles. Travel on past this sign for 500m on the grass track until you come to the parking area with a sign. Climb left up a narrow path 400m up into the trees until you come to the viewing platform for the Natural Landbridge – Li'angahuo 'a Maui. There is a sign explaining the legend of Maui throwing his spear and this archway being created when he pulled the spear out of the ground.

### Matalanga 'a Maui (1 hour walk from Taina's Place)

This "hole in the ground" is the next track on the left as you travel south after the turn off to Taina's Place. Walk along the track for ten minutes until you see the giant pothole. Legend tells how the ancient God Maui thrust his digging stick into 'Eua and pulled it back and forth in anger at his mother, threatening to upset the whole island.

### Hafu Pool and Big Banyan Tree (3 hours walking from the main road)

As you travel away from 'Ohonua, in the village of Pangai, turn left at the MAF nursery and the old Visitor's Bureau. Follow this road for 2km through the avenue of pine, mahogany, and teak trees until you get to the Tonga Forest Products nursery and keep going until you reach the Hafu Pools.

To reach the banyan tree, carefully cross the stream and follow the path up through the forest for 1km until you get to a small path on your left. There is a sign here, and you can see the big banyan tree, or "Ovava" ahead of you. Walk around and climb down into the sinkhole at the bottom, where you may hear the chattering small bats that live here.

### Mata Mahina hopo and Anokula (one hour by car from 'Ohonua)

This magnificent viewing spot is at the north-eastern side of the island. From 'Ohonua, travel across the bridge, past the port, and head north for about 3km until you get to the pretty village of Houma. Continue on the unsealed road and through the King's pine plantation – look out for the coffee plants by the side of the road. Keep heading along the rutted track for another 1km until you reach the lookout platform. The red "pool" of small stones is to your right. Mata mahina hopo means moon and sunrise on the horizon, and anokula means red pool.

## GUIDED TRAILS

**WARNING:** These trails are **NOT** suitable for self-guiding as they use disused forest trails, and there are hidden caves, cliffs and sinkholes in these areas. Some of the rainforest is overgrown in parts, and there is no signage off the beaten track, so these spots are hard to find. Even with a map, it's easy to get lost.

### Laua Platform, Rats Cave, Lokupo Lookout and Soldier's Grave (half a day)

These amazing viewing spots are accessed along muddy forestry roads in the 'Eua National Park. Look below you from these fantastic vantage points onto the forest below you, and watch the sea birds like the white tropic birds and the black frigate birds as they circle around. Listen out for the fruit bats or peka as they chatter beneath you, and the pounding surf. Watch out for the whales in the season (July to October) as they splash their tails and jump out of the water. The Tongan Trench is 7km away and is 10.8km deep.

Corporal Yealands was stationed on 'Eua with another New Zealander and four Tongan soldiers. He was shot and killed on 22nd February 1943 by one of the Tongan soldiers after a disagreement about stolen equipment. The Tongan soldier was tried and convicted of Corporal Yealand's murder and served a life term in Tonga. Local people still care for the grave from time to time, and ancestors of Corporal Yealands still come to 'Eua to visit this special spot.

### Lokupo Beach

The trek down to Lokupo Beach is not maintained and is rough in places. Your guide will need to show you the way, as it can be easy to get lost in this area. You trek through the National Park to get to the beach and once you are there, enjoy the rock pools and have a swim to cool off. The climb back is over rocks and then through the rainforest.

### Fangatave Beach

This walk takes you to the North East of the island where you climb down a steep descent and stand on high cliffs looking down on Fangatave Beach. On the way down the first decline is over some rock faces to the foot track below. You continue down to the beach where there are about eleven caves to explore. The beach is a great spot for a picnic, and try a snorkel in the rock pool to see the colourful fish.

## WILDLIFE IN 'EUA

If you do walk in the 'Eua National Park, or the rainforest, you are likely to hear the loud squawking call of the koki or 'Eua Red Shining Parrot. Look out for this large bird, unique to 'Eua, as it flies through the canopy of trees. The population is strong, and these noisy birds are easy to spot.

'Eua is also home to a vast array of sea birds including the elegant tropic birds and frigate birds. Look out for turtles, spinner dolphins and other species of whales as you explore 'Eua's coast.

## ACCOMMODATION IN 'EUA

### THE HIDEAWAY

Located just south of the port, this Tongan-owned friendly guesthouse offers full meals and you can book all your activities during your stay. They have a viewing platform right on the water's edge, where you can relax and enjoy the sunset or even watch whales during the season.

Phone: +676 50255  
Email: [hideawayeua@gmail.com](mailto:hideawayeua@gmail.com)  
Web: [www.hideawayeuatonga.com](http://www.hideawayeuatonga.com)

### 'OVAVA TREE LODGE

Another Tongan-owned lodge, they have 10 bungalows constructed from local 'Eua cedar. Built on the cliff top, right opposite the ferry wharf, you can often see whales swim past from the decks or from the restaurant. Delicious meals are cooked in the wood fired pizza oven. Deep Blue Diving is on site for your scuba diving and whale swim tours.

Phone: +676 22840 / 27676 / 8715420  
Email: [deepdodge.to@gmail.com](mailto:deepdodge.to@gmail.com)  
Web: [www.deepdodge.to](http://www.deepdodge.to)

### DEEP RESORT

This resort is located on a sandy ocean beach close to 'Ohonua and the port. Meals can be prepared, or you can cook your own. Tours and activities can be arranged.

Phone: +676 50421  
Email: [thedeepresort@gmail.com](mailto:thedeepresort@gmail.com)

### TAINA'S PLACE

This cosy operator at the edge of the forest offers cabins or camping with communal cooking facilities and bathrooms, all set in beautiful gardens.

Phone: +676 50186  
Email: [tainasplace@gmail.com](mailto:tainasplace@gmail.com)  
Web: [www.tainasplace.com](http://www.tainasplace.com)



cover a long distance on a bike in 'Eua. ask about hiring a bike and cycle around - you can you can be driven to all the main spots. Alternatively it's recommended to take a 4WD guided tour so that or scooters.

'Eua basically has one long main road with fifteen villages along it, so it's easy to navigate your way around. There is no public transport apart from the school bus twice a day - no rental cars, taxis

## GETTING AROUND 'EUA

Freedom camping is not allowed on 'Eua as all of the land is privately owned. Talina's Place offers a clean campsite and all the facilities for campers.

## CAMPING IN 'EUA

Suitable footwear is recommended for hiking. Even though the locals will probably wear jandals or flip flops, there are rock scrambles, muddy areas and caves to explore, so more sturdy shoes are a good idea.

bring your favourite drink or snacks.

There are no bars and restaurants on 'Eua, but most local Tongan history, culture and the environment.

best spots and will make sure you learn about the your time on the island. A guide will take you to the tour, as this is the best way to make the most of

preparation will make your visit easier. Contact your accommodation provider to book a guided 'Eua's charm is in its basic nature so a little bit of

## ENJOYING 'EUA



Best to check with the company for times as they vary across the season.

### MV Alaimoana

Ph +676 21326 sea.transport@gmail.com

### MV 'Onemato

Ph +676 24755 leaves before the scheduled time.

operate on Sundays. It is best to be at the departure point an hour before departure as the ferry often vary across the season. The ferries do not

company for times as they days but check with the ferry The 'Eua ferry runs most

### BY FERRY

www.realtonga.to

### Real Tonga

Ph +676 21111 check their website.

is booked at Real Tonga's office in Nuku'alofa, or flight, operating most days apart from Sunday. This Take the plane for the breath-taking 8 minute scenic

### BY AIR

## GETTING THERE



'Eua is used to island in his journals. and noted many the English Road the reef in 'Ohonua the passage through in 1773 and called Captain Cook Middelburgh. January 1643 and he gave it the name Abel Tasman was the first European to sight 'Eua in by eruptions of nearby islands. is that of Tongatapu, but only the top layer, deposited bottom of the ocean. The soil of 'Eua is volcanic, as up and leaving the 7km deep Tonga Trench on the by the rubbing of the Tongan plate, pushing 'Eua eastern cliffs. The island is not volcanic, but shaped exposed outcrops along the eastern ridge and core consists of volcanic rocks, and these form 'Eua is unique amongst Tonga's islands in that its Although most of its surface is covered by limestone,

## ABOUT 'EUA

Tips

## Enjoy 'Eua and all it has to offer

'Eua Island is one of the oldest and the highest in the Tongan island group. Geographically speaking, it is not related to the rest of Tonga, it is 30 million years older.

From the low lying beaches on the western side to the dramatic cliffs of the east coast with 'Eua's National Park boasting lush tropical rain forest, which is the largest forest in the Kingdom of Tonga.

'Eua Island also known as "The Forgotten Island" is located only 17.5km eastsoutheast from Tonga's main island, Tongatapu. It is noted for its unique physical characteristics and is known for its eco-tourism and hiking.

## WELCOME

Come & Explore

Tips

Tips

## Things to do

## Things to do

### OTHER ACTIVITIES

#### HORSE RIDING

This is not a slick operation like elsewhere, just the working horses of the locals, so it's best to give a day's notice if you want to go horse-riding. It's bare back riding - no fancy saddles - and a great way to see 'Eua with a low impact on the environment. One of the most popular horse treks is to 'Ufilei Beach which has great snorkelling, or you can try a trek through the villages, the bush or to other beaches. The horse owner will accompany you as a guide, and this is a fun experience for people of all ages.

#### SCUBA DIVING

'Eua has beautiful diving with drop-offs, sea mountains, caves and canyons. The Cathedral Cave is a popular underwater spot where the light pours in through holes as if lit by spotlights. This is arguably the largest underwater cave in the South Pacific, shaped like an amphitheatre measuring about 100 meters. There are also all kinds of coral and sea life to explore in the waters around 'Eua.

#### HANDICRAFTS

For those wanting a less strenuous activity and the chance to meet some local people, try taking part in some traditional handicraft making. On 'Eua handicrafts are renowned for being some of the best, due to the unusual plants growing on the island and the rich soils. Learn to make bracelets and rings, and weave a basket. For about an hour and a half, you can interact with a local artist, and have a souvenir to take home.

#### KAVA DRINKING

Ask your accommodation provider to let you know where you can take part in a kava ceremony. This happens in the evening in each village, and visitors are usually welcome to join in for a small donation towards the kava.

#### SUNDAY CHURCH SERVICE

Visit a local Church to take part in the service and enjoy the melodic harmony of the locals singing hymns. Dress smartly, and the locals will welcome you into their community. Ask your accommodation provider to arrange having an 'umu (underground cooked) lunch with a local family. It's the best way to get an insight into local family life and taste local cuisine. The small cost will supplement local family incomes.

#### BICYCLE HIRE

Your accommodation provider can hire bikes for you. This is an effective way to get around. 'Eua is hilly but you will be able to cover the whole island with ease. Take plenty of water, sunscreen and a hat.

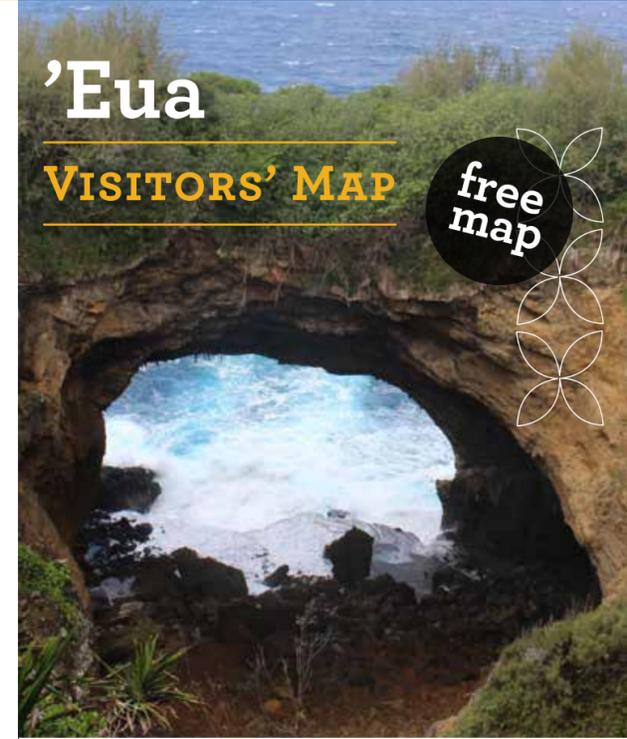
#### WHALE WATCHING

'Eua is the perfect spot to watch the humpback whales during the July to October season. It's easy to see the whales from the island if you don't want to get wet, or your accommodation provider can book you onto a whale watch boat if you want a more up-close experience. Only use licensed whale watch operators who have been trained to ensure your safety and the care of the whales.

## 'Eua

### VISITORS' MAP

free map



## FEATURING HIKING TRAILS & OTHER ACTIVITIES

## Tonga. The TRUE South Pacific

To find out more about our beautiful islands, see [www.tongaholiday.com](http://www.tongaholiday.com). Or visit us at the visitor information centre, located on Vuna Road, just three minutes from Nuku'alofa town centre.



### VISITOR CENTRE OPENING HOURS

8:30am - 4:30pm Monday - Saturday

Phone: 25 334

Email: [info@tourism-tonga.com](mailto:info@tourism-tonga.com)

[www.tongaholiday.com](http://www.tongaholiday.com)

[www.facebook.com/tonga](https://www.facebook.com/tonga)

Tongaholiday

[www.youtube.com/user/tongaholiday](https://www.youtube.com/user/tongaholiday)

[www.twitter.com/tongaholiday](https://www.twitter.com/tongaholiday)

Tonga App - [www.play.google.com/store/apps](http://www.play.google.com/store/apps)



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