Located in Oceania, the islands of Wallis and Futuna are the most distant French territory of the metropolis. They are located in the South Pacific, between the Fiji Islands 280 km west of Futuna. The Samoa Islands 370 km east of Wallis and the Tonga Islands, 400 km southeast of Wallis. Remote 19,500 km from metropolitan France, 2,100 km from New Caledonia and 2,700 km from French Polynesia. Located more than 16,000 km from Paris, this French overseas territory is made up of three islands: Wallis, Futuna and Alofi. The three islands represent a total area of 139.70 km² and are populated by 11,558 inhabitants.

The Territory of the Wallis and Futuna Islands is an Overseas Authority whose status Act 61-814 of 1961. It is composed of the kingdoms of Uvea (Wallis), Alo and Sigave (Futuna). In 1887, the Wallis and Futuna Islands and France signed a by referendum to become an overseas territory under special status. Wallis and Futuna Islands thus become French lands while the three monarchies. Thus, the customary law of Wallis and Futuna exists in parallel to French law, traditional institutions are represented and maintain prerogatives.
Flag of the Kingdom of Uvea

Flag of the Kingdom of Alo

Flag of the Kingdom of Sigave
ATTRACTIONS & ACTIVITIES

Wallis offers a wide range of activities, but mainly nautical activities that will delight those who love the sea, especially sailing at the spot of «Vakala», the Tau'a'alo (Polynesian paddle) or diving south of the island of Wallis.
Top 10 things to do in Wallis:
- Wear a flower necklace (tiare flowers, kakala...etc.)
- A day on the island
- Umu (in Wallisian): Stuffed pig with various traditional dishes.
- Saint John’s Royal Square (Royal Palace, Great Cathedral)
- Lac de Lalolalo
- Talietumu Tongan Fort
- Sunday Mass at the Great Cathedral of Mata’Utu
• A traditional canoe ride
• A ride in ULM
• Feast of the Assumption (August 15): Mass, customary ceremonies, festivities...etc.

**The Essentials in Futuna:**
- Go to Alofi
- Eating a coconut crab
- Participating in a tauasu
- The feast of Saint Pierre Chanel on April 28 in Poi
- Hiking to Mount Puke
- Anakele
- Mataki’Uvea
- Admire a sunset in Vele

**Fast Facts**

**Climat**

The islands of Wallis and Futuna are located near the equator and in the middle of the Pacific Ocean. The result is a warm and humid climate, affected by the passage of tropical depressions.

The climate of Wallis and Futuna is humid tropical with temperatures around 30°C. The climate is very regular, with barely marked seasons. Minimum and maximum temperatures are generally ranged between 24°C and 31°C and average temperatures are always above 25.5°C.

As the archipelago is close to the equator, the temperature cycle is very weak in Wallis as in Futuna due to the low variability of sunshine throughout the year. Humidity varies between 82% and 85%. Annual rainfall is greater than 3150 mm. The Territory has a cyclonic season between 15 November and 15 April.

**Currency**

In Wallis as in Futuna, the local currency is the Pacific Franc (XPF) as well as New Caledonia and French Polynesia with an exchange rate fixed at the Euro, the currency of France.

100 F. CFP = 0.838 Euros or 1 Euro = 119.33 F. CFP)

Wallis has a sole distributor located at the Bank Agency of Wallis and Futuna (BWF) in MATA-UTU. On the other hand, in Futuna, a distributor is available at the agency of the BWF located in the village of Leava, in SIGAVE
Visas et Passeport

(cf Traveller’s guide..)

Language

The official language in Wallis and Futuna is French. The two sister islands also have their own languages: Wallisian and Futunian, which are two languages that are quite similar.

Lexique :

Hello = Bonjour (french) = Malo te ma’uli (wallisian) / Malo le ma’uli (futunian)
Yes = Oui (french) = ‘Ei (wallisian) / ‘Eio (futunian)
No = Non (french) = ‘Oho (wallisian) / ‘E’ai (futunian)
Please = S’il vous plait (french) = Faka lelei pe si’ou loto (wallisian) / Faka malie lou loto (futunian)

Santé

No vaccine is necessary to visit the territory of Wallis and Futuna, except for your arrival at the airport of Hihifo, a document to fill out have provided you for a first legal and health check. The water coming from the Wallis water table is potable because treated by the EEWF the Water and Electricity Service of Wallis and Futuna.

Access

Air Caledonia provides air service to the Wallis and Futuna Islands International (Aircalin), the only airline operating in the Territory Nouméa with a stop in Fiji. However there are local travel agencies, «Wallis travel” to Wallis and “SB Travel” to Futuna, which offer alternative travel offers. Hihifo Airport in Wallis is the main airport of the Territory. It is equipped for accommodate Airbus A320 aircraft and fly at night.

Pointe Vele airfield in Futuna is equipped to accommodate 14 Twin-Otter aircraft passenger transfer places between Wallis and Futuna and making 2 daily flights with the exception of Sunday. In 2018, there were 13,640 inter-island domestic business4s. To date, the Futuna airfield is not yet able to operate night flights, but the development of the site is being planned and discussed in the Convergence and transformation of Wallis and Futuna. All air connections between Futuna and outside go through Wallis.
Shopping and Food

Shopping

To go shopping in Wallis and Futuna especially to bring back souvenirs, the craft shops are numerous, with offers of specific local products, for example fabrics made of natural fibres dyed named «Tapa», wooden sculptures, paintings, rugs or mats made with panda leaves, shell necklaces, etc.

The craftsmanship in Wallis and Futuna is the result of a know-how passed down from generation to generation that is the pride of the women of the territory.

Food

The restaurants in Wallis and Futuna offer diverse and varied dishes mixing European and Polynesian cuisine. The local cuisine is mainly composed of starchy dishes such as taro, yams, dishes made with coconut milk; local fruits and vegetables such as papaya, mango, pine fruit; fish and seafood; and pigs and chickens.

In most cases, the dishes are cooked in a traditional way, the “Umu”, which is a smothered oven made of heated volcanic rocks. This cooking is also found throughout the Pacific, in Polynesian and Melanesian cultures.
Nature and Geography

Although the cultural dimension needs to be highlighted to differentiate itself from competition, it is important to value the natural heritage as well. The Territory of Wallis and Futuna Islands presents landscapes with lush vegetation, a lagoon with multiple blue tonalities surrounded by an integral reef barrier with three passes for Wallis, fine sand beaches on the islets of Wallis or the coast of Alofi. The isolation of Wallis and Futuna and the low flow of tourists to date have conservation of the lagoon, the seabed, the beaches and the natural environment. This specificity must be enhanced in the development of the tourism project of Territory.
**Wallis Island**

Wallis Island has almost no beaches unlike islets and is bordered by a continuous fringing reef, barely covered at low tide. This explains the difficulties of berthing which forced the construction of wharfs in Mata'Utu and HALALO.
Futuna Island

Formerly named the Horn Islands by their Dutch discoverers. Futuna and Alofi form a mountainous archipelago bordered by a more or less wide fringing reef.

Despite the absence of a lagoon around the island, the natural heritage of Futuna has been even better preserved. A marked relief, a dense rainforest, numerous streams and beautiful waterfalls characterize the island of Futuna. So the seabed and the primary forest of Alofi are also significant assets in this perspective.
Not inhabited, Alofi still retains much of its very dense primary forest where majestic trees (tamanu; poutea; kolivai…), climbing plants, tree ferns, orchids and mosses grow. All the rest of the island is mainly coral, which explains the absence of permanent rivers, the waters seeping into the porous and permeable coral, pierced by numerous caves. The waters reappear near the shore as hot springs.

Culture and events

With the arrival of Catholic Marist missionaries in 1837, the archipelago was converted to Christianity. Wallis and Futunians are very attached to the practice of religion with a practising population of just over 90%.

The important place occupied by religion in Wallis and Futuna is reflected in the number religious buildings present in the Territory, including a basilica, a large Cathedral, nine churches and more than thirty chapels
Photos 1 + 2: Pilgrims in front of the Chapel of Poi in Futuna on the occasion of the feast of Saint Peter Chanel (28 April 2019)
Cathedral of Our Lady of the Assumption, Mata’Utu – WALLIS
Social life in Wallis as in Futuna is punctuated by year-round religious festivals commemorated by the villages, where the population is active around great festivities shared between religious worship and traditional ritual.

As a result, each District (3 in Wallis and 2 in Futuna) and each village (21 in Wallis and 15 in Futuna) has a feast assimilated to a Patron Saint of the Catholic religion.

Wallis and Futuna, like most of the Pacific Islands, are based on an oral tradition transmitted from generation to generation since the 15th century. The customary authorities are the guarantors of the daily practice of the traditional organisation of Wallis and Futunian companies. The culture, called «Aga'i fenua» in the vernacular, is very present in Wallis and Futuna whether through official ceremonies, territorial affairs or in the daily life of the inhabitants. Flower necklaces are worn daily and in total occasion. Also, during the evening Tauasu (known in Wallis as Faikava), the men gather around the traditional drink «the kava» and discuss the life problems or celebrate an event.
In addition, Wallis and Futunian songs and dances are significant. They interpret facts marked in time, such as stories of wars, of induction, the neighbouring islands, etc. The most legendary dances are for Wallis the «Eke», and the «Tapaki» and the «Kailao» for Futuna, interpreted by the men during special circumstances, such as customary ceremonies or religious holidays.

These shows are all the more singular by the wearing of traditional clothing made from panda leaf, burao bark or leaf stem coconut tree. Each great ceremony is initiated by the “Kava” ritual. Typical of the Wallisiian and Futunian culture, this ritual, practiced with respect, is only done in the presence of a king and his customary ministers.