

# Celebration of the Niuean Language and Culture

## Ko e tau Fakafiafiaaga he Vagahau Niue mo e tau Aga Fakamotu

#pacificstars

### Facts on Niue | Folafolaaga hagaiia ke he motu ko Niue

- Niue is one of the world's largest coral islands.
- Niue (pronounced "New-e ('e' as in 'end' – which means 'behold the coconut') may be the world's smallest independent nation.
- The island is commonly referred to as "The Rock", a reference to Niue being one of the biggest raised coral islands in the world.
- The capital of Niue is the village of Alofi.
- Niueans are citizens of New Zealand.
- Niue is an elevated coral atoll with fringing coral reefs encircling steep limestone cliffs. It has a landmass of 259km and its highest point is about 60 metres above sea level.
- Niue lies 2400 km northeast of New Zealand between Tonga, Samoa and the Cook Islands.

### History | Tau Tala Tu Fakaholo

Polynesians from Samoa settled Niue around 900 AD. Further settlers arrived from Tonga in the 16th century<sup>21</sup>.

The first Europeans to sight Niue sailed under Captain James Cook in 1774.

In 1974, Niue became politically independent in free association with New Zealand.

### Population | Puke tagata

In 2013 Niue peoples were the fourth largest Pacific ethnic group in New Zealand making up 8.1% or 23,883 of New Zealand's Pacific peoples' population.

The most common region this group lived in was the Auckland Region (77.7 percent or 18,555 people), followed by the Wellington Region (6.6 percent or 1,575 people), and the Waikato Region (4.3 percent or 1,038 people).

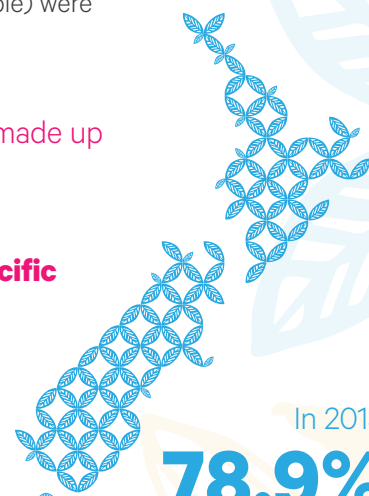
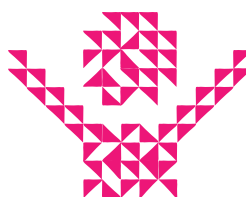
The median age was 20.4 years.

78.9 percent (18,465 people) were born in New Zealand.

In 2013 Niue peoples made up

# 23,883

of New Zealand's Pacific peoples' population



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**78.9%**  
were born in New Zealand

1. Source: Statistics New Zealand, 2013 Census ethnic group profiles: Niuean

2. <http://www.gov.nu/wb/pages/the-island.php>

## Language | Vagahau Fakamotu

Both Niuean and English are spoken by Niue peoples. The Niuean language is closely related to the Tongan language but also distantly to Māori, Sāmoan, and Hawaiian



## Culture and Identity | Tau Aga Fakamotu mo e Tu Tonuhia he tagata

Niueans take pride in their many traditions and culture being handed down from generation to generation as a 'living entity'.

Some cultural traditions still observed today:

### 1. Haircutting and Ear Piercing Ceremony

The haircutting ceremony is a major event for a teenage boy when a long tail of hair that is kept since childhood is removed. Guests and families are invited to this special event followed by a large feast where each invitee contributes to a monetary fund that goes to the boy after the ceremony costs are paid for.

Girls get their ears pierced for the first time since birth usually by a representative from each side of the girl's parent family. The girl is adorned with gifts and well wishes for the future.

### 2. Arts and Crafts

Niue is well known for its exquisite bags and hats as seen on show days and at the local market place in Alofi. Niuean culture and craft are key components of our 'Taoga Niue' and mean everything to a Niuean.

### 3. Annual Village Show Day

In Niue, this is an annual event for each village and is a memorable experience of local and European cuisine, handicrafts and fun.

### 4. Takai

This is the day that everyone from each village decorates their vehicles or transport with fancy items. Horns/sirens are beeped as they go around the island giving out goodies especially lollies.

## Key phrases and words | Tau uho laini tala mo e tau kupu

|  |   |
|--|---|
| Tulai o ho! Puipui o!                    | Come together, Gather hither!               |
| Monu! Monu! Monu Tagaloa!                | Bless Tagaloa                               |
| Haele mai a Niue!                        | Royal welcome Niue!                         |
| Fakaalofa lahi atu                       | Great greetings to you                      |
| Fakaalofa atu                            | Hello/Greetings                             |
| Koe Kia                                  | Goodbye                                     |
| Malolo nakai a koe?                      | How are you?                                |
| Malolo, fakaaue                          | Fine, thank you                             |
| Ko hai e higoa haau?                     | What is your name?                          |
| Ko _____ e higoa haaku                   | My name is _____                            |
| Nofo au i Tonga/Samoa/Ositalia/Niusilani | I live in Tonga/Samoa/Australia/New Zealand |
| Mitaki kua feleveia a taua               | Nice to meet you                            |
| Fakamolemole                             | Please                                      |
| Fakaue lahi                              | Thank you                                   |
| Fakamolemole la                          | I'm sorry                                   |
| Monuina e pogipogi                       | Good morning                                |
| Monuina e afiafi                         | Good evening                                |
| Monuina e po                             | Good night                                  |
| Ai maama e au                            | I don't understand                          |

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