

# VACATION IN TROPICAL RURA-TONGA PACIFIC ISLAND PARADISE

**R**URA-TONGA combines all the mystique of a tropical destination with a secluded location, helping you put all the world's cares behind you. This beautiful island lies 200 miles south of the Japanese Mandate, 150 miles northeast of New Ireland, and 800 miles northeast of New Guinea. Arrive by the monthly supply freighter or chartered flying boat, which offer access to locations throughout the Solomon Island chain and New Guinea. Pan Am clippers serve nearby New Caledonia once a week, offering continuing flights to New Zealand, San Francisco, Guam, Hawaii, Manila, and the Far East.

**T**HE ISLAND'S MAIN SETTLEMENT, Rura-Tonga, sits on a vast lagoon formed from the crater of a long-dormant volcano. One of the volcano's ridges rises from the center of the island as the dominant peak, towering over lush jungles and sandy, palm-shaded beaches. Although Rura-Tonga has no automobiles or even paved roads, one can easily walk the jungle paths to one of two native villages in half a day, or row there in a canoe along the coast for a magnificent view of the island. The two coastal villages, Levu and Suva, are home to the island's small native population. Here they live in quaint huts and wear picturesque costumes, providing local color to tourists seeking a taste of South Pacific life.

**V**ISITORS ARRIVE at Rura-Tonga's main dock, a small pier jutting out into the calm lagoon waters. Floatplanes and boats from larger ships can find safe harbor here. Occasionally a private yacht or touring sailboat make port and shelter in the lagoon. The dock leads to the intersection of the town's two streets, both dirt roads. Gauthier Street follows the coastline and contains bungalows for residents, each overlooking the lagoon. The road turns into a path and continues along the beach to Chateau Gauthier, a luxury bungalow on a small estate, home to Gaston Gauthier, Rura-Tonga's most illustrious resident.



The island's beaches, jungles, and mountains offer a tropical refuge from the busy world.



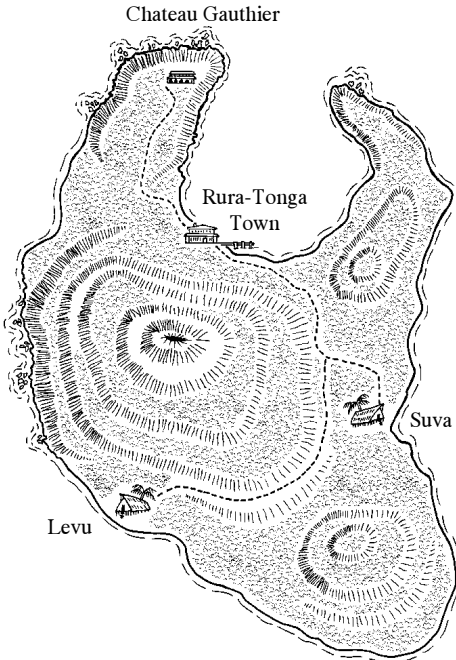
Rura-Tonga's natives provide an authentic slice of island life and local custom.



Captain Sharp ferries visitors to and from Rura-Tonga aboard his Grumman seaplane.

Advertisement from World Traveler Magazine, February 1938

# EXPLORE A COZY TROPICAL PARADISE



Gaston Gauthier's estate at Breezy Point plays host to the island's more affluent and influential guests.

**M**OST FOLKS arrive at the island aboard the twin-engine Grumman floatplane, the *Flying Fish*, owned by Captain Sharp. He runs his charter operation from a dockside shack with flight offices, parts storage, fuel drums, and a back bunk room. Unless you've made other arrangements, Sharp's aircraft is the only reliable means off the island until the monthly supply freighter makes port.

**D**OCK STREET leads from the pier up into town and eventually turns into a trail heading into the jungle to the island's two other coastal villages. Most of Rura-Tonga's key buildings stand at the intersection of Gauthier and Dock Streets.

**T**HE MATILDA HOTEL, named for the stuffed kangaroo mounted over the bar, offers drinks, meals, and lodgings to visitors. The two-story structure hosts guests in a large dining room downstairs, complete with bar, upright piano, and a tank of tropical fish. Upstairs rooms offer views of the lagoon and lush island foliage. The proprietress, Sally McKinsey, also serves as Rura-Tonga's unofficial mayor, maintaining order, spreading news, and keeping in touch with the mainland with the only wireless set on the island. She meets every ship or plane docking in the lagoon, keeps the town's official records, and performs the functions of a justice of the peace when necessary. Don't let her sometimes brusque manner and burly stature fool you...Sally's a friendly, rough-and-tumble Aussie who's glad to receive guests and offer a generous serving of hospitality.

**V**ISITORS can find souvenirs, travel guides, groceries, hiking supplies, and other basic goods for purchase at the Mainland Shipping Company store. Operated by Sally McKinsey's brother Ian, the store fronts the company's warehouse, which handles most of the imports and exports for the island. A slender, more dapper counterpart to his sister, Ian plays the friendly salesman, acting as envoy to the natives and enthusiastic wellspring of knowledge for visitors.

**T**HE RURA-TONGA ANGLICAN CHURCH serves the island's spiritual needs. Reverend James Carlisle, a missionary from England, ministers to residents, visitors, and natives, holding Sunday church services and visiting Levu and Suva to spread the Word of God to the local populace. His daughter Beth assists him, maintains the church and rectory buildings, and serves as the island's only qualified nurse.

**T**HE PICTURESQUE NATIVE HUT near the dock is Chief Lautoka's Island Souvenirs. Formerly the headman of Suva, the jovial Lautoka opens his souvenir shack whenever visitors come to town. He sells a wide range of hand-made tribal trinkets: tiki statues, spears, carved drums, shields, shells, jewelry. With Ian McKinsey he serves as unofficial liaison with the rest of the island's native population, even if it seems he's sold out to Westerners. The Chief knows the history and legends of Rura-Tonga and many of the neighboring islands, and, for a small donation, spends hours relating them to visitors.

**O**NLY THE MOST PRIVILEGED OF VISITORS receive invitations to Gaston Gauthier's luxurious bungalow, Chateau Gauthier. Although only a pleasant hour's stroll along coastal jungle paths to the spit of land known as Breezy Point, the Frenchman's small contingent of mercenary bodyguards ensure unwanted trespassers do not wander onto the estate's grounds. Gauthier, a French expatriate and native of the Alsace region, retired here after a successful career as a wine exporter. He visits town only on rare occasions when his personal guests arrive or depart at the dock. Gauthier politely whisks his guests off to his bungalow, adding a bit of mystique to the island's tropical charm.

## **BOOK YOUR ADVENTURE TODAY!**

*Heroes of Rura-Tonga* is a pulp-era roleplaying game supplement presenting source material outlining elements for a 1930s pulp campaign in the South Pacific and five, full-length scenarios.

Available soon at the Griffon Publishing Studio electronic storefront at [YourGamesNow.com](http://YourGamesNow.com). Visit the studio website at <http://griffonpub.home.att.net> for previews and other support material for *Heroes of Rura-Tonga*.

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**DISCOVER AN EXOTIC GETAWAY  
WITH THE RELAXING LIFESTYLE OF  
THE SOUTH PACIFIC ISLANDS**