

**Pictures of the Week 2013 - #2**  
**Treasures of Tonga**



Tonga is decidedly off most of the main tourist paths but travelers who do come here find a true South Pacific cultural experience almost everywhere. We flew to a small island group called Vava'u, where we found our own piece of paradise by the ocean - and we had it to ourselves. Tonga isn't a big country. Their population is just about 107,000. Everyone we came across was smiling and friendly and genuinely happy that we chose to visit. Natural treasures are rare, but those that Tonga does have make their people proud. On another island group called Tongatapu we took a fascinating day tour to some of the islands natural sights, including a very cool tree and the only one of its kind known in the entire South Pacific. It is a multi-headed coconut tree, straight out of Dr. Suess.

Anya and I are safe and sound and have fallen back into the traveling mode we were so used to in 2011 and 2012. Thank you for taking the time to read this, and for the great comments you send our way.

-Don & Anya Mammoser

