

## Tuvalu

Have you ever heard of a country called Tuvalu? It's between Hawaii and Australia in the middle of the Pacific Ocean. Some people might not know much about it, so let's take a look!

There are nine stars on Tuvalu's flag because Tuvalu has nine islands. At just 26 square kilometers and only 10,000 people, Tuvalu is one of the smallest countries in the world.

While it doesn't get many tourists, it is a great place to visit. Visitors can enjoy the traditional culture and the relaxing lifestyle of the friendly people of Tuvalu. There are marine sports such as diving and snorkeling, and yachting is very popular. It's a great place to relax and experience island life.

However, like some other Pacific islands, Tuvalu has a big problem. The land of Tuvalu is very low, so the government of Tuvalu is worried that the islands will disappear as sea levels rise. Because of this, the government asked Australia and New Zealand if the Tuvaluan people can live there.

Many Tuvaluans disagree with this idea. They want to stay and protect their islands and their way of life. Will building sea walls to protect from rising sea levels save the islands? Some Japanese scientists think a better solution is to make the land stronger by using "star sand."

Star sand is a type of small living creature that looks like sand. The creatures grow quickly in large numbers, supporting the ground. The scientists believe that using star sand is better than building sea walls because it will last longer and is better for the environment. This solution may take some time, but it may be the best and most natural way to save Tuvalu.

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