VUNA WHARF is one of the oldest Port

Vuna Wharf is one of the oldest ports of call in the South Pacific. It is located in the capital, Nuku'alofa on the main island of Tongatapu.

As early as the 1860s, Vuna wharf was set out to link Tonga to the outside world. The wharf complemented the development of the early commerce when British and German traders took out tons of copra, sandalwood, beche de mer and brought in metal tools and fittings, clothing materials and processed food stuffs. Even though, the early wharf was of river sand and concrete brought in from abroad, in the days when Tonga’s main exports consist mainly of Copra and Banana, Vuna Wharf was the pivotal point of Tonga’s economic welfare.

In 1902, Vuna Wharf was opened for international shipping, a pillar of hope and legacy for generation to come. At a critical time for developing the Kingdom’s modern trade and economic relations, the wharf facilitated both cargo and passengers vessels.

One of the most prestigious moments of glory in the old wharf’s history, was the arrival of Her Majesty, The Queen Elizabeth II and the Duke of Edinburgh in 1953, on the flying-boat Aotearoa, where they landed on the western side of the wharf, and were welcomed by Her Late Majesty, The Queen Salote Tupou III, the reigning monarch of that day.

For nearly 120 years, the wharf has endured years of damage by earthquake (1970s), and tropical cyclones (1982), and was later suspended. Forty years later, Vuna Wharf, was resurrected, redeveloped, and re-opened in 2012 by His Majesty King Tupou VI.

Today, the grand old Wharf, is a reminder of our trading history with the outside world, is opened only to cater for passenger cruise liners, foreign naval ships and vessels. While the Queen Salote Wharf, serves cargo and shipping liners and the domestic wharf, Vuna Wharf continues to contribute to the development of the economy of the Kingdom.

Its location is ideal for access to the heart of the capital’s central business district, where visitors can tour on foot and experience Tongan cuisines and hospitality first-hand.