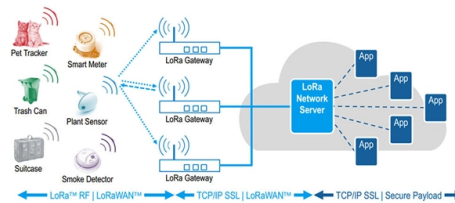


# Tonga-Suriname fiber optic cable falls



## Overview

A volcanic eruption in the South Pacific Ocean in January 2022 caused a tsunami and damaged an undersea fiber-optic telecommunication cable that connects Tonga, a Polynesian archipelago, to the rest of the world. The internet is kind of like drinking water, says UC Berkeley Professor Nicole. Tonga Cable System is a submarine fiber-optic cable system connecting Tonga with Fiji, where it connects to other international networks. It is 827 kilometres (514 mi) long and was activated in 2013. It has cable landing points at Sopu, a suburb of Nuku'alofa in Tonga, and Suva, Fiji. Resilience, the United States cable company SubCom's cable repair ship, that fixed Tonga's internet cables cut from the 2022 Hunga Tonga Hunga Ha'apai volcanic eruption. The residents of Vava'u and Ha'apai will continue experiencing phone and internet outages caused by the damaged submarine. Before August 2013, Tonga had no submarine cable. A nation of 100,000 people spread across 170 islands in the South Pacific depended entirely on Intelsat satellite links for all international communications. Internet was measured in single-digit megabits for the entire country. Tonga lost all internet access.



## Article Content

Mar 21, 2026

How will Tonga's broken internet cable be mended?

An undersea fibre-optic cable which connects Tonga to the rest of the world was severed during the eruption of a volcano. New Zealand's ministry of

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Tonga fibre-optic cable outage relieved by satellite

Since 8:30pm Sunday evening Tonga Cable experienced an outage in the submarine cable network that connects the island nation to the outside world, plunging the island nation into

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Extremely offline: what happened when a Pacific island was cut off

These cables sit on the sea floor, conducting 95% of all the world's international internet traffic. Humans have laid 870,000 miles of fibre optic cables under the ocean, connecting and...

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fibre optic cable | Matangi Tonga

Tonga's domestic fibre optic telecommunications cable was torn apart by tremendous forces and deeply buried under volcanic debris on the ocean floor. It may take up to a year to fix. Tonga Cable Ltd. is

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Tonga Cables cut after volcano eruption, at least four

Digicel reported on Monday there were two submarine cable cuts on the Tonga Cable and its domestic extension after the massive volcano eruption in

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How engineers will reconnect Tonga's broken internet

A light pulse sent through a fibre optic cable would usually travel to the other end. However, in a broken fibre, the pulse bounces back and engineers

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Undersea cable fault could cut off Tonga from rest of the ...

But the repair of Tonga's critical 827-km (514-mile) fibre-optic link to Fiji depends on the arrival of a specialised ship now days away in Port Moresby, the capital of Papua New Guinea.

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Tonga's Vulnerable Network: Lessons from the Recent

Tonga is once again experiencing a digital blackout following a new break in its domestic fibre-optic submarine communications cable, caused by a

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Tonga's severed internet cable will be hard to repair

These crucial but unseen fiber optic cables can carry about 200 times more data than a satellite, and form the backbone of the global internet.

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Severed fibre cable cuts off Internet in Tonga

Severed fibre cable cuts off Internet in Tonga The South Pacific island nation of Tonga lost access to the Internet as the undersea fibre cable that serves its citizens was severed possibly

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Volcano Damage to Tonga Undersea Cable Worse

The volcanic eruption near Tonga shredded an 80-kilometer (50 mile) stretch of undersea cable, complicating efforts to reconnect the Pacific kingdom

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Tongans look to starlink for internet, amid continued

Former head of the Tonga Cable Company, Edwin Liava'a, says fibre optics provide greater capacity and bandwidth, but continued breaks have made

Jul 14, 2025

The Day the Internet Died: How an Underwater Cable

Now, Tonga was officially alone, with no physical or digital connection to the outside world and no way to call for help. Underwater, the middle portion of

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Tonga Cable System Explained

Tonga Cable System is a submarine fiber-optic cable system connecting Tonga with Fiji, where it connects to other international networks. It is long and was activated in 2013.

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Tonga's fibre optic cable repair underway despite "data glitch"

The Cable Ship Lodbrog located the northern end of Tonga's damaged domestic fibre optic cable on Sunday and is now searching for the southern end attached to Tongatapu. The repair is expected to

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The Day the Internet Died: How an Underwater Cable Cut Plunged ...

A single garden hose-sized cable connected Tonga to the world until a natural disaster sent the country back to 1880. And it

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A volcanic eruption severed communications in Tonga.

A volcanic eruption in the South Pacific Ocean in January 2022 caused a tsunami and damaged an undersea fiber-optic telecommunication cable

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Tonga Cable

The Tonga-Fiji Submarine Cable System (also known as Tonga Cable) is a 827km fiber optic submarine cable system linking Nuku'alofa, Tonga and Suva, Fiji, and connects to the Southern Cross Cable

Mar 25, 2026

What Happened When a Pacific Island Was Cut Off From the Internet

The Hunga Tonga-Hunga Ha'apai volcano erupted on January 15, 2022. The pyroclastic flow severed both of Tonga's underwater internet cables. The eruption cut sixty-five miles from the

Apr 27, 2026

Tonga: One Cable, One Volcano — How a Pacific Island Nation Lost

Tonga had one submarine cable when a massive volcanic eruption severed it in 2022. The country was offline for 38 days. GeoCables traces the 339ms route from the Middle East through 5

Oct 16, 2025

Cable repair ship slow to arrive | Tonga News - Talanoa o Tonga

The residents of Vava'u and Ha'apai will continue experiencing phone and internet outages caused by the damaged submarine fibre-optic cable because the repair ship, en route from

Jan 12, 2026

### Tonga Cable System

Tonga Cable System is a submarine fiber-optic cable system connecting Tonga with Fiji, where it connects to other international networks. It is 827 kilometres (514 mi) long and was activated in 2013.

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### Tonga Cable Ltd: Undersea cable fault could cut off

Tonga Cable Ltd: The challenge underlines the vulnerability of undersea fibre-optic cables, which have become the backbone of global

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Tonga's volcano eruption has destroyed it's fibre optics.

Tonga's crucial single undersea fibre optic cable was severed on January 15 after a volcanic eruption and subsequent tsunami.

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### fibre optic cable | Matangi Tonga

A total communications failure on Tonga's only inter-island domestic submarine cable has disrupted normal telephone and internet services to the outer islands since 29 June and it is likely to be several

Mar 25, 2026

### Tonga Volcano Highlights Global Undersea Cable

Locally, communications with Tonga are disrupted as regular phone lines are down, and the internet cable from Fiji to Tonga seems to have been

Mar 10, 2026

### Tongan Fibre-Optic Cable Outage Relieved by Satellite

Tongan Fibre-Optic Cable Outage Relieved by Satellite Auckland, 21 January 2019 - Since 8:30pm yesterday evening (Sunday 20th January) Tonga

## Contact Us

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