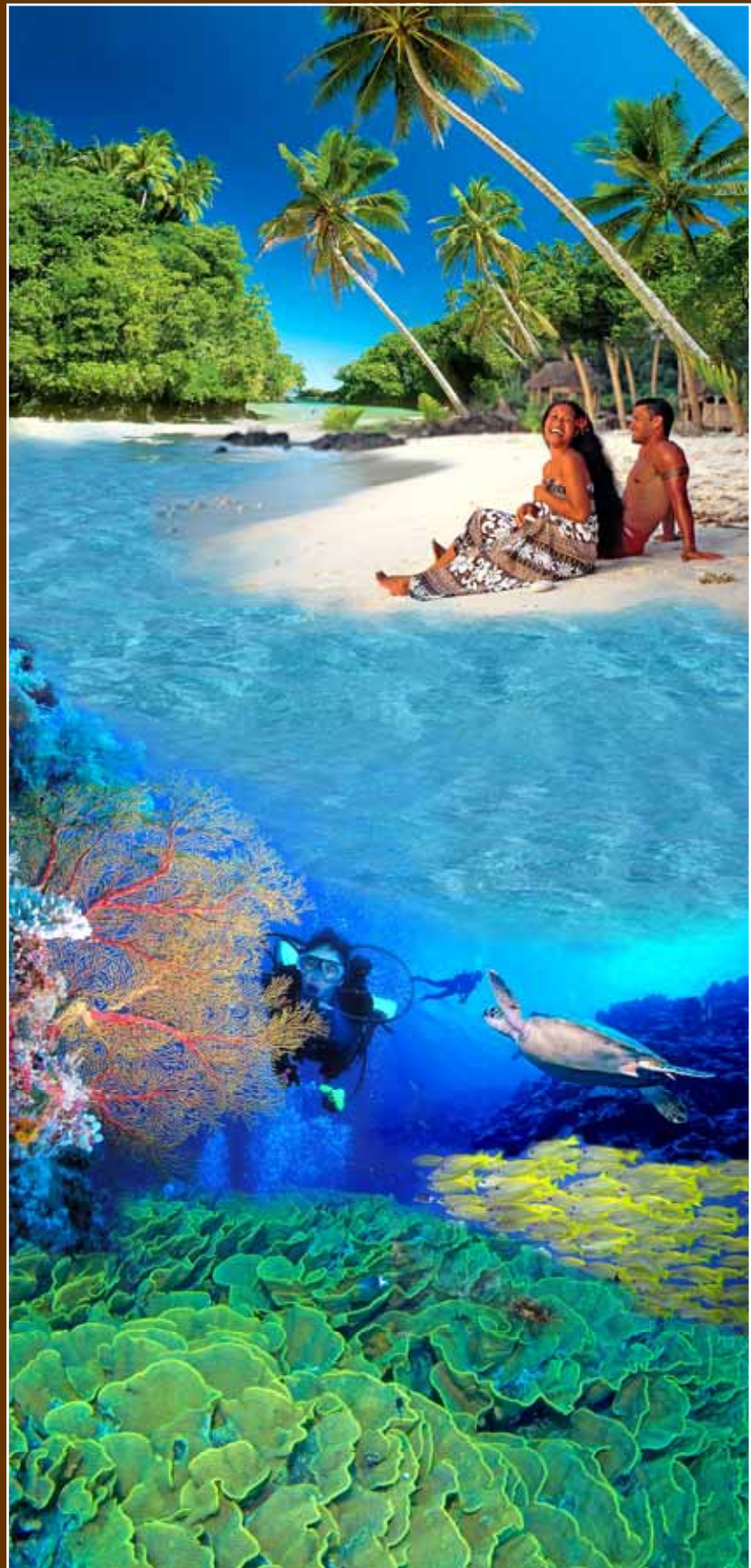


Samoa



SAMOA
The Treasured Islands of the South Pacific

polynesian
blue

DIVE 
ADVENTURES
YOUR DIVING HOLIDAY SPECIALIST

Samoa

Samoa is a picture perfect island paradise, known for its natural beauty and gentle, unhurried way of life.

Located in the heart of the South Pacific, just east of the International Dateline, Samoa lies approximately half way between New Zealand and Hawaii. Samoan culture or "Fa'a Samoa" is over 3000 years old and remains the basis for every day community and village life. Fa'a Samoa revolves around three key elements; the respect for the "matai" or chief, the happiness and well being of the "aiga" or extended family unit and their strong Christian beliefs and faith.



The environment:

The Samoa archipelago consists of two large and eight small islands. The two main islands Upolu and Savaii, are rugged, volcanic mountain peaks, covered in a canopy of virgin rainforest, with lush, green valleys sweeping down to the coastline of white sand beaches, some stretching for miles. Along the coastline and nestled in the valleys are picturesque villages with their traditional "fales" or homes, community meeting houses and churches encircling the village green where children play. Walking tracks through rainforests bursting with tropical blooms, lead to; steep gorges, cascading water-falls, spring-fed pools and streams and a number of archaeological sites. The smaller islands, many uninhabited, are scattered amongst the sparkling, blue lagoons, protected from the pounding Pacific Ocean by the fringing coral reef.



The people:

Samoa mythology and legend says that the inhabitants of these islands descended from the Gods and Heavens. Samoan people are deeply spiritual and extremely proud of their cultural heritage. They are a happy and friendly people who welcome visitors with open arms. The population of nearly 180,000 is predominately Polynesian, with a large Chinese community in the capital, Apia. Most live a subsistent village lifestyle in one of the 362 villages, where life moves along at a gentle pace and laughter is commonplace. Each village has a "matai" or chief responsible for making major policies and social decisions for his community. Samoans are devout Christians and Sundays are set aside for attending church and spending time with family. Harmonious singing can be heard coming from the many churches of various denominations.



Things to do: The sparkling blue waters with average temperatures of 25 degrees, provides ideal conditions for a vast array of water sports. The surrounding reefs have over 200 varieties of coral and some 900 species of fish. Walls of hard and soft corals, canyons and caves can be found. Samoa is also gaining attention on the world 's surfing trails. November to April brings the northern swells, while May to October has southern swells. Many of the waves break directly onto the reef and with quite unpredictable currents, surfing experience is recommended. **Activities include:** Diving, snorkelling, swimming with turtles, sailing, kayaking, fishing, surfing, golf, cycling and trekking through rainforests.



Come and explore the "Treasured Islands of the Pacific", experience the warm hospitality of the Samoan people and discover the true meaning of "Fa'a Samoa".

General Information:

Entry Requirements: Permitted entry for stays of less than 30 days will require a return or onward ticket. Passports must be valid for a minimum six months at time of entry. **Departure Tax:** A local departure tax of WST\$40 applies to all travellers over 12 years of age and is payable at the airport.

Climate: Tropical year round – Average temperatures 26°C-29°C. **Health:** The islands are free from most tropical diseases. Vaccinations are not required unless, coming from an area infected with yellow fever within 6 days of arrival. There is no malaria however, outbreaks of dengue fever have occurred on the rare occasion. The use of a good insect repellent is highly recommended.

Language: Samoan is the national language. English is the official language of business and is widely spoken and understood. **Currency:** The Samoan Tala (dollar) and Sene (cent). Credit cards are widely accepted at major hotels, restaurants and stores. **EFTPOS machines** can be found throughout Upolu and Savaii. **Electricity:** 240 volts / AC 50 cycles that can be converted to 110 volts in some hotels. Power points can accept the three pronged plugs used in Australia and New Zealand.

Tipping: Tipping is not expected however, if a guest wishes to leave a gift for good service, you can do so directly with the employee or the hotel reception.

Dress: Light clothing with a sweater for cooler evenings. Visitors are requested not to wear swimwear or brief clothing in Apia or the villages. Topless or nude sunbathing is not permitted.



Upolu



The island of Upolu is where the capital, Apia is situated. The township of Apia is the commercial hub of Samoa. Apia has a good selection of restaurants, cafes, shops, pubs, nightclubs, cultural shows and market places. At the colourful Maketi Fou (food market), you can sample and purchase fresh local produce. The nearby

flea market offers a great selection of souvenirs from; clubs, kava bowls, lava lavas (sarongs), baskets, jewellery and authentic Samoan music. Famous Scottish adventurer Robert Louis Stevenson, author of *Treasure Island* and *Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde* chose Samoa as the place to live out his life. Samoan people affectionately named him "Tusitala", teller of tales. His home has been transformed into a museum with his personal items and early editions of his works on display.



Upolu has many stunning beaches providing excellent swimming, fishing, diving and snorkelling spots. The Palolo Deep Marine Reserve, only a 5 minute walk from Apia, is a blue hole surrounded by walls of coral and teeming with tropical fish. Lalomanu Beach down the east coast, is a white sand beach with a turquoise lagoon and a protected marine reserve. Away from the beaches, numerous walking tracks lead through the lush rainforests, to uncover beautiful waterfalls and rivers. You can have a swim or enjoy a romantic picnic lunch surrounded by the beauty of nature in its purest form.



Diving - Upolu



Aqua Samoa Water Sports and Diving Centre based on the grounds of Aggie Grey's Lagoon Beach Resort and Spa is just a short drive from the airport. The PADI Dive Centre offers boat dives, drift dives, deep dives, Nitrox, explorer dives and a range of beginner and specialty courses.

Much of the area around the north west tip of Upolu and off Apolima and Manono Islands remains unexplored. "Explorer Dives" are offered to advanced divers and above. The strike rate for new sites being discovered is about one in every four dives. Any new sites found will be named after the explorer who discovers it. Sites already bearing the names of their discoverers are Bucks Reef, Opperra House and Aurora Maze. During the month of September migrating whales can usually be seen passing through the area.

Some of the more popular dive sites:

The Rock - A small, volcanic pinnacle where you often plunge straight into a school of Barracuda. At 12-18 metres you drop onto a small plateau where you'll feel like you're floating in an aquarium. Surrounded by mostly hard corals and giant clams, the area teems with a large variety of



tropical fish, anemone, clown trigger fish, manta rays, trevally, napoleon, tuna and moray eels. Schools of fusilier often follow you around. At 18 metres a wall of soft coral begins as the Advanced Diver drops off the plateau to where the reef sharks like to hide out.

Apolima Gardens - Located about 70m from the prehistorically rugged and sheer cliffs of Apolima Island. The extensive coral gardens begin at about 8 metres dropping to 40 metres. Large table corals screen the lobsters and rainbow runners, unicorn fish, turtles, napoleon, reef sharks and blue fin trevally. A drift dive with excellent visibility.

Manono Reef - Located just off the lagoon surrounding Manono Island.



The site is home to a number of large turtles. The reef falls away to around 40 metres and the wall of brightly coloured soft and hard corals houses an abundance of anemone fish. The variety of sites along the wall will have you coming back to enjoy a new experience with each dive.

Accommodation - Upolu

Aggie Grey's Lagoon, Beach Resort & Spa

Location: Set amongst 50 acres of tropical gardens fronting a white sand beach and turquoise lagoon.

Accommodation: 140 ocean view deluxe rooms. Each room features central air conditioning, satellite TV, in house movies, mini bar, tea and coffee making, hairdryer, iron and board and in-room safe.

Amenities: Buffet breakfast is included. Restaurant, 2 cocktail bars, swimming pool, 18 hole golf course, tennis courts, water-sports centre, kids club, Polynesian Spa, 24 hour room service, wedding co-ordinators and a 100 year old coral church on site.

Activities: Scuba diving, snorkelling, swimming, sailing, paddle canoes, banana boat rides, water skiing, jet skiing, fishing trips, beach walks, golf, tennis, guided village tours and island hopping excursions.

Our Comment: A large, well appointed resort with lots of amenities and activities.



Accommodation - Upolu

Le Vasa Resort:

Location: Set amongst a secluded coconut plantation on the western tip of Upolu, 15 minutes from the airport. The property faces a beautiful, private lagoon and beach surrounded by coral reef.

Accommodation: A range of one and two bedroom fale and premium villas with ocean and island views. Each individual fale features a queen or king size bed, private bathroom, open-beam ceilings, balcony, ceiling fans and air conditioning, separate living area with day beds, fridge, tea and coffee making facilities.

Amenities: Private beach, ocean view restaurant, bar and swimming pool.

Activities: diving, snorkelling, fishing, surfing, kayaking, golf, Island tours.

Our Comment: A boutique style, tropical hideaway with modern amenities. Ideal for honeymoons and romantic getaways.



Airport Lodge

Location: Located in a quiet coastal area, 10 minutes from the airport and 5 minutes to the Savaii and Manono Island ferry wharfs.

Accommodation: 8 individual, air conditioned or fan cooled bungalows, nestled in a tranquil garden setting. Each bungalow sleeps up to 3 adults and offers en-suite bathrooms, showers with hot and cold water, fridge, tea and coffee making facilities.

Amenities: Continental breakfast and home cooked dinners are available at the lodge. 24 hour reception. Laundry service. Small swimming pool. Games room. Snacks and beverages can be arranged through reception.

Activities: Diving, snorkelling, golf, fishing, island excursions, handicrafts and cultural demonstrations, swimming from the private jetty across the road.

Our Comment: Comfortable budget style accommodation. Suitable for dive groups and the budget conscious traveller.



Sinalei Reef Resort & Spa

Location: Set amongst lush tropical surroundings on the south coast of Upolu, a 45 minute drive from the Airport.

Accommodation: Garden View, Ocean View and Beach Side Fales, a Honeymoon Villa, an Executive and Presidential Fale Suite.

Each fale has private bathroom facilities, private deck, air conditioning (with exception of beachside fale) fridge, tea / coffee making facilities, DD telephone and traditional style décor.

Amenities: Breakfast and afternoon tea is inclusive. 2 restaurants and bars, health spa, swimming pool, 2 x tennis courts, 9 hole golf course, game fishing boat, gift shop, library, conference centre and wedding/honeymoon packages.

Activities: Diving, snorkelling, swimming, kayaking, canoeing, tennis, golf and fishing.

Our Comment: A romantic and relaxing escape for those who like a bit of pampering. Ideal for honeymooners and couples.



Coconuts Beach Club Resort & Spa

Location: Located along a sandy beachfront on the south coast of Upolu, 45 minutes from the airport.

Accommodation: Beach Side Fales, Over-the-Water Fales, Suites and Royal Villas. All feature private bathroom facilities, air-conditioning, ceiling fans, hair dryer, mini bar, tea and coffee making facilities and in-room safe.

Amenities: Full spa facilities, gecko shaped pool with swim up bar, fine cuisine, beachside restaurant and bar, wedding/honeymoon packages.

Activities: Scuba diving (by arrangement), snorkelling, swimming, surfing guides, kayaking, yoga and tours

Our Comment: A world class resort for the discerning traveller with many great amenities and fine dining.



Accommodation - Upolu

Sa'Moana Resort

Location: Set amongst a coconut grove along a secluded beach on the south-west coast of Upolu, a 45 minutes drive from the airport.

Accommodation: Catering for up to 26 guests in a variety of beachfront fales decorated in vibrant, Polynesian tones. The fales have assorted bedding configurations and bathroom facilities, (some have environmental, waterless toilet systems). Each fale is fan-cooled and has a private verandah, small fridge, tea / coffee making facilities.

Amenities: Breakfast is included. Dining deck, bar, communal lounge area has TV / DVD, HI FI, pool-table, games and book library, saltwater swimming pool and surf board storage racks under fales.

Activities: Swimming, surfing, snorkelling, sea kayaking, canoeing, pool, table tennis and volleyball.
Our Comment: Comfortable accommodation with a laid back atmosphere. Suitable for couples, families and groups.



Savaii

Savaii, meaning big land, is Samoa's other main island. Located just over one hour by ferry from Upolu, Savaii's population of around 42,000 maintains the traditional Samoan way of life. With much of the island uninhabited, Savaii is a pristine, scenic treasure trove of palm fringed, white sand beaches, turquoise lagoons, a rich marine environment, caves, blowholes, tumbling waterfalls and rainforests, teeming with harmless wild life, birds and health-giving plants. Savaii is also the last place on earth to witness the sun setting, each day.



Places of interest include; The Saleaula lava fields is a geological feature created by the eruption of Mt Matavanu, over 102 years ago. The volcanic eruption wiped out many villages and left 50 kilometres of wrinkly, lava tongues in its wake. The impressive Alofaaga Blowholes near Taga Village are also well worth a visit.



Diving - Savaii



Dive Savaii is located across the road from Le Lagoto Resort in Fagamalo village, a 45 minute drive from the ferry wharf. The PADI operated dive centre is the only one on the island. Diving and snorkelling in the sheltered, turquoise lagoon is easy and relaxing, with a maximum depth of 25 metres. Outside the lagoon there are many interesting dive sites still waiting to be explored. Dive Savaii offers a variety of courses up to Assistant Instructor level and also runs daily snorkelling trips (with Sundays the exception.)

Popular Dive Sites:

Juno Wreck - A three masted, missionary sailing ship that sunk in Lelepa Bay in 1881. The iron wreck is covered with corals and a variety of colourful reef fish, trumpet fish, turtles, parrot fish, yellow snappers and big-eyes are present. Following this dive you can explore the fringing coral gardens.

Coral Gardens - this site consists of a huge variety of corals: cabbage, bubble, leather, head and purple corals stretch along the reef wall. Schools of parrot fish, snappers, clown fish, lazy turtles, eagle rays, sea cucumbers, nudibranchs, star fish and if you have a quick eye, the titan trigger fish. The shallow surrounding waters offer great sites for snorkelling.



Accommodation - Savaii

Le Lagoto Resort

Location: Located beachfront on the north coast of Savaii, a 45minute drive from the ferry terminal. Le Lagoto means sunset in Samoan.

Accommodation: The 10 Ocean-view and Beach-front Faes and Beach House are set along a secluded, white sand beach fringed with coconut palms. Each individual fale is air-conditioned and contains double or twin beds, en-suite bathroom, kitchen with small fridge, telephone, TV and private patio with a hammock. The Beach House can accommodate large families or groups.

Amenities: Complimentary tropical breakfast, a restaurant, beach/pool bar, swimming pool, small library, massage and beauty treatments.

Activities: Diving, snorkelling, swimming, kayaking, picnics, scenic tours.

Our Comment: A small, boutique resort. Fabulous sunset viewing. Suitable for couples, families and groups.



Accommodation - Savaii

Savaii Lagoon Resort

Location: Situated beachfront near the village of Fagamalo on the north east coast of Savaii, a 45 minute drive from the ferry wharf.

Accommodation: The 6 self contained, western-style bungalows have a kitchenette, a separate bedroom with queen size bed, en-suite bathroom and separate living area with a fold down settee.

The Studio Unit has a double bed, en-suite bathroom and kitchenette.

Amenities: Tropical breakfast is included. Filtered drinking water, sunshade fales and BBQ on the beach, complimentary use of dinghies, kayak, small library, boules and volleyball, bicycle hire.

Laundry and babysitting services are available on request.

Activities: Scuba diving, snorkelling, swimming, kayaking, surfing, cycling and trekking.

Our comment: Private and self contained, quality bungalows with the added convenience of a restaurant and bar just a short stroll up the beach. Suitable for couples, families and groups



Tanu Beach Fales

Location: A family owned property set out along a white sand beachfront and overlooking a crystal clear, turquoise lagoon, a 50 minute scenic drive from the ferry wharf .

Accommodation: Traditional, open-sided, timber fales with drop down blinds that can be lowered for privacy or left open to enjoy the sea breezes and tranquil surroundings. Each fale is furnished with a mattress, clean linen, mosquito nets and electric lighting.

Shared bathroom facilities are housed separately in a central fale.

Amenities: Breakfast and dinner is included during your stay and served in the central dining fale. A small shop offers basic supplies.

Activities: Diving, snorkelling, fishing, swimming, trekking, beach combing or sunning on the beach

Our Comment: Unique, basic accommodation with friendly hospitality. Simplicity amongst beautiful surroundings. For the adventurous and budget minded traveller wanting the traditional Samoan experience.

Vacations Beach Fales

Location: A small, family owned property set along the beachfront near Manase Village on the north east coast of Savaii, a 45minute drive from the ferry wharf.

Accommodation: 20 open-style, Samoan fales with woven mesh walls and drop down blinds. Fales are equipped with mattresses, mosquito nets, clean linen and towels and an electrical outlet.

Shared bathroom facilities are housed separately in a central fale.

There are also 2 self-contained units with en-suite and fan.

Amenities: Breakfast and dinners are included and served in the Restaurant. Bar, reception and guest fale with tour desk, safe deposit and internet facilities. Bakery and mini supermarket situated adjacent. Andrews Jetty offers stunning views of the sunset, stars and ocean.

Activities: Diving, snorkelling, kayaking, swimming, entertainment.

Our Comment: A choice of western style or traditional Samoan accommodation in a superb setting.



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