



Photo: corners74/Shutterstock



Think of picture-perfect, long sandy white beaches framed by a lapping marine-blue ocean, lush rainforests with cascading waterfalls, vibrant flora and fauna, and under the ocean, the most amazing colourful gardens you could imagine: this is Samoa, the last unspoilt paradise in the world.

Sorin Colac/Shutterstock



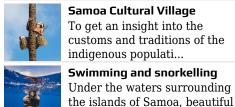
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Featured







**Fuipisia Falls** If you are feeling more energetic, take the hike to the top of the 55m high ...

Under the waters surrounding

Immaculate Conception of M...

Located in the centre of the capital city, Apia, you will find

coral gardens a ...

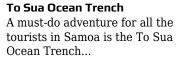
this beautifu ...



Lefaga Bay Famous for being the setting of the 2004 Gary Cooper film "Return to Paradis...

Swimming With Turtles Swim with green turtles with guides that can show you these ancient mariners...





#### The Rainforests

Due to the tropical climate and fertile soils, the rainforests of Samoa are ...

Lalomanu Beach Beautiful beaches are one of Samoa's fine points and Lalomanu Beach is one o...



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#### THE COUNTRY



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Samoa is a holiday destination suited for couples and families within all budget ranges, and is indeed 'The Treasured Island of the South Pacific'. Open arms and laughter are the first things you will notice about the Samoan way of life, and when you arrive, you'll be greeted by a wide smile and the welcoming word 'Talofa'. You will then notice the endless blue skies, crystal clear waters, and the uncrowded beaches — this is why Samoa is known as a modern-day paradise.

In Samoa, life moves at a slower pace, and the Samoan way is one of generosity and kindness. Sundays are sacred here, and the Samoans generally attend a church service. Listen as their melodious singing echoes from the churches across the land. Furthermore, every visitor should experience a Fiafia, which in Samoan means celebration. This traditional form of entertainment incorporates song, dance and spectacular fire dancers twirling batons of fire on strings around their bodies, while traditional foods are served in a feast style.

#### DO & SEE



Ethan Elisara/unsplash

Each of the islands offer a totally different experience – from dense rainforests to soaring cliffs and tranquil lagoons. The fishing is excellent, snorkelling and diving superb, hiking amazing and, for those that simply want to lie and do nothing, there's deserted beaches and peaceful lodgings to let time pass you by. Samoa is also blessed with an abundance of beautiful waterfalls. On the island of Upolu you will find some of the most spectacular near the southern coast.

#### Lefaga Bay



Famous for being the setting of the 2004 Gary Cooper film "Return to Paradise", Lefaga Beach is a lovely beach where to relax and sunbath. For

those who likes to snorkel, this is a great place to search for giant clams in the crystal clear water or why not take a kayak and explore the shoreline?

There is a nearby resort providing toilets, showers, a restaurant and other conveniences.

Photo: LH11/shutterstock Address: Apia, Upolu, Samoa

#### Swimming With Turtles



Swim with green turtles with guides that can show you these ancient mariners before they are released back into the wild. The Satoalepai

Wetlands sanctuary is the ideal place to bring your family. The kids will love feeding these gentle giants and swimming among them will be a memorable experience.

Photo: tropicdreams/Shutterstock Address: Satoalepai village, Savaii, Samoa

Opening hours: Mon-Sat 9am-7pm, Sun closed Phone: +685 845 3408

#### To Sua Ocean Trench



A must-do adventure for all the tourists in Samoa is the To Sua Ocean Trench: climb down the steep ladder leading to a natural pool of crystal

clear, serene waters, and enjoy the unique experience of swimming in a grotto!

Photo: Romeo Leaupepe Su'a/unsplash Address: Lotofaga, Upolu, Samoa

#### **The Rainforests**



Due to the tropical climate and fertile soils, the rainforests of Samoa are a lush and vibrant paradise. Native wildlife such as seabirds, skinks,

flying foxes, geckos, as well as a plethora of unique flora call the forests home.

Le Pupu-Pue National Park on Upolu is one of the best with extensive walking tracks and a listed 42 bird species. Tafua Peninsula Rainforest Reserve, in the southeast, is another bird watchers haven where you may see the rare Samoan tooth-billed pigeon. In the Falealupo Rainforest Reserve, take the treetop canopy walkway built about 40 metres above the ground among giant Banyan trees!

Photo: Valery Shanin/Shutterstock Address: Le Pupu-Pue National Park, Upolu, Samoa

#### Lalomanu Beach



Beautiful beaches are one of Samoa's fine points and Lalomanu Beach is one of them. The picturesque white-sand and the blue-green

transparent waters are like straight off a postcard, and the tranquil vibe just makes it a great place to relax and recharge your energy.

Photo: Libor Fousek/Shutterstock Address: Lalomanu, Upolu, Samoa

#### **Robert Louis Stevenson Museum**



Villa Vailima mansion was built in 1890 by the famous Scottish author Robert Louis Stevenson and was his home for the last five years of his life.

Even though he only lived in Samoa for a few years, he did write quite a number of novels during that time. The Samoan people loved him and he was given the name Tusitala, which means 'storyteller.'

A half-hour tour explores Villa Vailima and, inside the museum. You'll discover a myriad of artefacts, while outside carefully manicured lawns give an air of elegance. Stevenson and his wife Fanny Osborne are buried next door in the Mt Valea Scenic Reserve.

Photo: Ed Goodacre/unsplash Address: Cross Island Rd, Apia, Samoa Opening hours: Mon-Fri 9am-3:30pm, Sat 8am-noon, Sun closed Phone: +685 20798 Internet: www.robert-louis-stevenson.org/109-samoa-museu m-western-samoa

#### Alofaaga Blowholes



At Alofaaga Blowholes, witness jets of water forced hundreds of feet in the air. These impressive blowholes are found near the village of Taga, on

southwest Savaii, so come here to have a look and if you are lucky you also notice some locals throwing coconuts into the holes, which then are blasted back into the air!

Photo: Ignacio Moya Coronado/shutterstock Address: Taga village, Savaii, Samoa

#### Samoa Cultural Village



To get an insight into the customs and traditions of the indigenous population, save some time to visit the Samoa Cultural Village where

ceremonies, rituals, songs, dances and workshops will be performed. Although participation is free, donations are accepted.

#### Photo: Michal Pechardo/unsplash

Address: Beach Rd, Apia, Upolu, Samoa Opening hours: Mon-Fri 9am-5pm, Sat & Sun closed Phone: +685 63521 Email: info@samoa.travel

#### Swimming and snorkelling



Under the waters surrounding the islands of Samoa, beautiful coral gardens are teeming with an astonishing 900 species of fishes and 200

varieties of corals. The coast from Lalomanu to Lotofaga has plenty of swimming and snorkelling beaches. Samoan Island Adventures organises snorkelling trips as well as tours and scooter rentals.

Photo: Jakob Owens/unsplash Address: The Booking Hub Apia Marina, Apia, Samoa Phone: +685 77 74744 Internet: www.samoanislandadventures.com Email: samoanislandadventures@gmail.com

#### Togitogiga Waterfalls



At the Togitogiga Waterfalls, in the village of Salailua, enjoy a swim in one of the delightful swimming holes. There is no entry fee here and

toilets and changing rooms are always available.

Photo: Libor Fousek/Shutterstock Address: Togitogiga Waterfalls, Salailua, Samoa

#### Fuipisia Falls



If you are feeling more energetic, take the hike to the top of the 55m high Fuipisia falls. You will find this spectacular jungle waterfall off the

pass road in the village of Lotofaga. This is also a great place for bird watching.

Photo: Ed Goodacre/unsplash Address: Fuipisia falls, Samoa

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#### Sopoaga Falls



Another powerful waterfall is the Sopoaga Falls where you will find a lovely garden and picnic area. The garden is full of native plants and

trees making it a beautiful place. Make sure not to miss the coconut-husking demonstration and taste the lovely fruit before leaving.

Photo: Libor Fousek/Shutterstock Address: Sopoaga Falls, Upolu, Samoa

#### Mu Pagoa Falls



The Mu Pagoa Falls, mark the point where Samoa's largest river tumbles into the sea. This is for sure an excellent place to take pictures and experience

local villagers as they are engage in using this natural resource in their daily life activities.

Photo: amara Cerqueira/shutterstock Address: Mu Pagoa Falls, Palauli, Samoa

#### Upolu



Upolu is the main and most populated of the islands in Samoa. The nation's capital Apia is located here, the perfect place to familiarise

yourself with the island life, pick some souvenirs and get to know the cultural heritage and history.

Photo: Valery Shanin/Shutterstock Address: Upolu, Samoa

#### Savaii



Savaii is actually a little bigger than Upolu and offers their visitors a true insight into the traditional Samoan way of life. It is also here the

nation's highest peak, Mt Silisili rises 1866 metres and at Cape Mulinuu you can stand at the last place on earth and view the final sunset of every day.

Photo: Valery Shanin/Shutterstock Address: Savaii, Samoa

#### **Piula Cave Pool**



A beautiful spot to explore, Piula Cave Pool is a crystal clear freshwater spring pool and cave that was originally formed by a

lava tube. There are lot of small-middle sized fish to swim with and the amazing setting with the beach view just enhances the experience.

A good advice is to bring your own food with you since there are no restaurant nearby. Also, there is a entrance fee.

Photo: Libor Fousek/Shutterstock Address: The Main east coast road, Piula, Upolu, Samoa

#### Tafa Tafa Beach



Another beautiful scenic beach with white sandy beach and clear blue water, Tafa Tafa Beach is the ideal place for a day trip where to sunbath,

swim and snorkel. After the tide goes out, search for the gorgeous shells and natural souvenirs to

bring back home.

There are organised trips to this beach with companies such as: Samoa Scenic

Photo: Libor Fousek/Shutterstock Address: Apia, Upolu, Samoa

## Papapapai-Tai Falls



Admire the powerful Papapapai-Tai Falls plunging 100 metres from the lookout. This is one of the longest waterfalls in Samoa and is truly a

beautiful sight even though visitors can't actually get too close to the waterfall for safety reasons.

Photo: Shin Kang/Shutterstock Address: Cross Island Rd, Upolu, Samoa

#### **Pulemelei Ancient Mound**



On Savaii, Pulemelei Ancient Mound is a historical site located on Letolo Plantation. At 12 metres tall, it's the largest ancient structure

in Polynesia. This massive man-made mound measures a whopping 61x50 metres. The mystery of how and why it was built still remains unsolved. It's marked on some maps as Tia Seu Ancient Mound.

Photo: Evgeny Haritonov/shutterstock Address: Letolo Plantation, Palauli, Savaii, Samoa

### Immaculate Conception of Mary Cathedral



Located in the centre of the capital city, Apia, you will find this beautiful church with stained glass and art on the walls. The architectural beauty and

the decor blends Samoan culture and Catholicism and it is truly a place where to admire icons, paintings, marble floors and carvings.

Photo: PongMoji/Shutterstock Address: Main Beach Road, Apia, Upolu, Samoa Phone: +685 20869 Internet: www.gcatholic.org/churches/oceania/2277.htm Email: apiacathedral@gmail.com

#### DINING



Dolly MJ/Shutterstock

Food plays an important role in the Samoan culture, with many festivities based on huge feasts. Traditional foods include Taro, pork, chicken, breadfruit and fresh fruit.

The traditional way of cooking is in an earth oven called Uma, where the food is wrapped in banana leaves. No oils are used in this method of cooking, making it extremely healthy as well as flavoursome.

Delicacies on the Samoan menu include palusami, 'young Taro leaves baked in coconut cream,' and oka, 'raw fish in coconut cream,' both are must-try dishes on any holiday to Samoa.

The ocean provides bountiful feasts of crayfish, snapper, masimasi, octopus, and tuna to name just a few, but along with traditional dishes, there is a wide range of Western cuisines available, too.

#### Le Lagoto Resort & Spa Restaurant



Dine on some of the freshest seafood you could find on these islands at Le Lagoto Resort, situated in the village of Fagamalo in

Savaii. The restaurant is open daily, but Thursday nights are particularly special with a themed buffet and a traditional fiafia show.

Photo: vsl/Shutterstock.com Address: Fagamalo, Savaii, Samoa Phone: +685 58189 Internet: www.lelagoto.ws Email: lelagoto@samoa.ws

#### **Sheraton Samoa Feast Restaurant**



The Feast Restaurant at Sheraton Samoa Aggie Grey's Resort is renowned for its tantalising seafood cuisine combined with

local produce. Besides a great dining experience, you can also enjoy their stunning views of the Pacific Ocean. This terrific resort is to be found near the village of Mulifanua.

Photo: Farhad Ibrahimzade/unsplash Address: Mulifanua village, Apia, Upolu, Samoa Opening hours: Daily 6:30am-9:30pm Phone: +685 84 62800 Internet: www.marriott.com/en-us/hotels/apwsi-sheraton-sam oa-aggie-greys-hotel-and-bungalows/dining

#### Giordano's Pizzeria



Giordano's Pizzeria, in Apia, is a popular meeting place for locals who happily mingle with the tourists while dining. This place in fact, is often

full of tourists who, for one night, feel like indulging in some pizza and in a western-tasting meal.

Photo: Brent Hofacker/Shutterstock Address: Salanesa Road, Samoa Opening hours: Mon noon-9:30pm, Wed-Sat 2pm-9:30pm, Sun 4pm-midnight, Tue closed Phone: +685 25985 Email: giordanopizza1990@gmail.com

#### Salelologa Market



At the Salelologa Market, you can taste traditional-style dishes from the stalls located on the first floor, while on the second one you will

find beautiful handicrafts and clothing. To get to the Salelologa area, you must take a boat ride from the Salelologa wharf, which is an enjoyable experience.

Photo: zcw/Shutterstock Address: Salelologa, Savaii, Samoa Phone: +685 601 563

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#### **Paddles Restaurant**



This restaurant's consistently high rankings and popularity among visitors and locals alike mean that a wonderful dining

experience is guaranteed. Be seated overlooking the Apia harbour and take in the views, while you dine Italian food with Samoan twist.

#### Photo: p.studio66/Shutterstock

Address: Main Beach Rd, Apia, Samoa Opening hours: Mon-Sat 5pm-10pm, Sun closed Phone: +685 21819 Internet: www.paddlesrestaurantsamoa.com

#### Amanaki



The restaurant serves superb seafood, including sashimi and ota, a locally Samoan take on sushi, which is raw fish cubes pre-marinated in coconut

milk and served with vegetables on top. Furthermore, there are several vegetarian options available, as well as dishes that children will love.

Photo: cegoh/pixabay Address: Mulinu'u Rd, Apia, Samoa Phone: +685 27889 Email: contact@amanakihotel.com

#### Scalini's Restaurant



Scalinis enjoys a spotless reputation in Samoa and rightfully so, since the food served surpasses all expectations. Founded in 1999, the restaurant

serves dishes prepared in a perfect Italian style.

#### Photo: Romi/pixabay

Address: Falealili Street, Apia, Samoa Opening hours: Mon & Tue 7:30am-4pm, Wed-Fri 7:30am-10pm, Sat & Sun closed Phone: +685 36720

#### Kokobanana Bar & Grill



Generous portions of perfectly prepared food, such as lobster or the unmissable steak, to be eaten with the heavenly sauce with onions. If you

are not that much into meat, just ask the helpful staff that will surely advice you with other mouth-watering dishes.

Photo: Brent Hofacker/Shutterstock Address: Motootua Off Ifi ifi street Apia, Samoa Phone: +685 26880 Email: kokobananasamoa@gmail.com

#### **Bistro Tatau Restaurant**



Located in the centre on the busy intersection along the Main Beach Road, Bistro Tatau is a great choice for fresh and innovative food with a

touch of European, Mediterranean, Australian and Asian cuisines while keeping the essence of the South Pacific. Apart from the food, the decor is modern and eclectic which creates a causal and sophisticated ambiance.

Photo: anyamuse/Shutterstock Address: Main Beach Road, Apia, Samoa Phone: +685 22727 Internet: www.tataubistro.ws Email: billgunnsamoa@gmail.com

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#### Izzy's Restaurant



If you are craving for a juicy American style burger with a Samoan twist, then Izzy's Restaurant is a great place to go to. If burgers

are not what you're looking for, they also offer tasty salads and grilled fish on flatbread on their menu.

#### Photo: Dziewul/Shutterstock

Address: Meredith House, Savalalo, Apia, Samoa Opening hours: Mon-Sat 7:30am-2pm, Sun closed Phone: +685 34047

#### Tifaimoana Indian Restaurant



In the centre of Apia, you will find this exotic spot to relish creamy, dry, sweet or spicy Indian food. The menu offers a huge range of Indian food

from different regions both meat and vegetarian dishes, all served by their friendly staff.

Photo: Joe Gough/Shutterstock Address: Fugalei St, Apia, Samoa Opening hours: Mon-Sat 11am-3pm / 5pm-10pm, Sun closed Phone: +685 29604

#### CAFES



zstock/Shutterstock.com

The lines that separate the definition of a Western cafe and a restaurant, are blurred in Samoa, as many local establishments may well easily fit into both categories. There are, however, a few places leaning more towards serving lighter foods and offering a selection of coffee varieties.

#### Pinati



At Pinati, there is a good range of well-priced large servings of Samoan food; however, you could simply go to enjoy their great coffee. What most

customers enjoy about this cafe, is its laid-back atmosphere.

Photo: Billion Photos/Shutterstock Address: Convent Street, Apia, Upolu, Samoa Opening hours: Mon-Sat 6am-3pm, Sun closed Phone: +685 24248

#### Forest Café



Located just 10 minutes from town, Forest Cafe, as its name suggests, offers a breath-taking panorama over the dense Samoan forests. Discover

the sounds of the nature and observe birds in

their natural habitat, while sipping tea and spoiling yourself with a slice of cake.

Photo: Kazitafahnizeer/Shutterstock Address: Tiapapata, Samoa Opening hours: Mon-Sat 8am-2pm, Sun closed Phone: +685 77 55101 Email: forestcafesamoa@gmail.com

#### Pacific Jewell's Garden cafe



Ideal location for a lovely breakfast or lunch, Pacific Jewell's is a beautiful garden cafe with a relaxed atmosphere. Healthy food,

sandwiches, wraps, delicious coffee are all on the menu. There is a store adjoined to the cafe where you can buy some amazing gifts to bring back home.

Photo: PJjaruwan/Shutterstock Address: Levili village, Apia, Upolu, Samoa Opening hours: Mon-Fri 7:30am-4:30pm, Sat 7:30am-2:30pm, Sun closed Phone: +685 32888 Internet: www.pacificjewell.com

#### Milani Caffe



A family business that takes great pride in customer satisfaction, Milani Caffe is an Italian-style cafe mixed with Samoan flavours

where the menu incorporates locally sourced organic ingredients. Real Italian coffee, freshly baked croissants, salads, pasta, sandwiches, cakes, muffins, and much more are served at this lovely cafe.

Photo: S\_Photo/Shutterstock Address: ACC Building, Convent St, Apia, Samoa Opening hours: Mon-Fri 7:30am-2:30pm, Sat 7:30am-1pm, Sun closed Phone: +685 20584

#### Kure Juice Bar



Create your own roll, wrap or salad at this healthy juice bar and vegetarian friendly restaurant. Not only serving food, but also

delicious and healthy smoothies and juices.

Photo: Marcelo\_Krelling/Shutterstock Address: Atina'e Street, Apia, Samoa Opening hours: Mon-Sat 6:30am-1:30pm, Sun closed Phone: +685 75 05873

#### **Nourish Cafe**



Local cuisine and organic farming are the main concepts at Nourish Cafe who also promote healthy eating. Their incredibly tasty food is well

presented and served by the attentive staff. Coffee, smoothies and desserts are also offered on the menu.

Photo: Snowbelle/Shutterstock Address: Mulivai street, Apia, Samoa Opening hours: Mon-Fri 7:30am-3pm, Sat 8am-3pm, Sun closed Phone: +685 840 0602 Email: nourishcafesamoa@gmail.com

## **BARS & NIGHTLIFE**



Deborah Kolb/Shutterstock.com

Nightlife in Samoa varies from bars and clubs to cultural shows and events. Watching the sun dip below the horizon while sitting at one of the beach bars with a cocktail in hand is, for many, a fine way to see the end of another day in paradise.

For a lively night out, Apia is the place to go, featuring the main concentration of clubs and bars in Samoa. Few bars are open after midnight, let alone on Sundays, the day of worship.

Fiafias is a spectacular Samoan dance accompanied by a buffet of traditional dishes that many hotels and resorts present as special entertainment for their guests. Kava is the traditional drink, but it is usually kept for special occasions.

#### Apia Harbour



There are quite a few establishments lining the harbour, most of which offer incredible views over the sea and the busy Beach Road. Take your

pick and enjoy the glorious sunset while sipping on your favourite drink! Photo: Thoom/Shutterstock Address: Apia, Samoa

#### **Aggie Grey's Resort**



Aggie Grey's Resort houses two cocktail bars: the 'Bloody Mary's,' and the 'Solent Bar,' both of which have their own signature cocktail and

extensive range of imported beers, spirits and wines.

Photo: Johann Trasch/unsplash

Address: Mulifanua village, Apia, Upolu, Samoa Phone: +685 22880

Internet: www.marriott.com/en-us/hotels/apwsi-sheraton-sam oa-aggie-greys-hotel-and-bungalows/dining

#### **RSA Night Club**



The centrally located RSA Night Club is another popular spot and the favourite haunt for locals. Check it out and experience a great night

out thanks to the talented DJs and musicians playing there every weekend. Don't forget to try one of their refreshing beers.

Photo: Razumovskaya Marina Nikolaevna/Shutterstock Address: Mulinu'u Rd, Apia, Samoa Opening hours: Mon-Thu 2pm-10pm, Fri 2pm-midnight, Sat 2pm-10pm, Sun closed Phone: +685 20171 Email: rosanightclubsamoa@gmail.com

#### **Cocktails on the Rocks**



This bar is a long-standing venue in Apia. Popular among both locals and tourists, it's a great place to grab an evening drink. Some

nights, there are local bands playing here, so make sure to check their website for more details.

#### Photo: Unsplash/pixabay

Address: Beach Rd, Apia, Upolu, Samoa Opening hours: Mon-Thu 3pm-10pm, Fri & Sat 3pm-midnight, Sun closed Phone: +685 76 79250 Email: cocktailsontherocks21@gmail.com

#### Hans Bar, Le Lagoto Beach Resort



Hans Bar at Le Lagoto Beach Resort, on Savaii Island is a lovely poolside bar with an idyllic location. The pool, the palms and the suffused

lightning create the perfect atmosphere for sipping a local Vailima beer or having a nightcap.

Photo: haveseen/Shutterstock Address: Fagamalo, Savaii, Samoa Phone: +685 58 189 Internet: www.lelagoto.ws Email: lelagoto@samoa.ws

#### Le Vasa



Le Vasa is a luxury beach front resort offering traditional Fiafia nights that gives a great insight to the cultural side of Samoa. Professional

dancers wearing mat dresses and flower

## garlands perform an unforgettable and fiery dance to the sound of rhythmic drumming.

Photo: CO Leong/Shutterstock Address: Cape Fatuosofia, Upolu Island, Samoa Phone: +685 46028 Internet: www.levasaresort.com Email: sales@levasaresort.com

#### Uncle Harry's Bar



Relax and enjoy your holiday at Uncle Harry's Bar which is located at Sinalei Reef Resort & Spa, a true paradise with a stunning surrounding

with trees and plants. The pool is just a few steps away from the bar, and when the evening falls, watch the sun go down while sipping a cocktail or two.

Photo: altafulla/Shutterstock Address: Siumu Village, Samoa Opening hours: Daily 9am-7pm Phone: +685 25191 Internet: www.sinalei.com/uncle-harrys-bar

#### The Edge Marina View



At the Edge Cocktail Lounge, you can enjoy the beautiful marina view and catch the sunset while sipping a tasty drink. Beside cocktails, a

great range of mocktails, shots, wines, spirits, juices, smoothies and delicious tapas style food are served. Dj nights on Thursday to Saturday.

Photo: Ildi Papp/Shutterstock Address: Matautu-Tai Road, Apia, Upolu, Samoa Opening hours: Mon-Sat 9am-10pm, Sun closed Phone: +685 27979 Internet: www.theedgemarina.com

#### The Deck



Located at Tanoa Tusitala Hotel, you will find this poolside bar and restaurant where to chill and enjoy in the company of friends and family. The

Deck offers a wide range of alcoholic and non-alcoholic refreshments, including lunch and dinner.

Photo: Everything/Shutterstock Address: Apia, Samoa Phone: +685 211 22 Internet: www.tanoahotels.com/tanoa-tusitala-hotel/sub-navipages/dining

### SHOPPING



Gts/Shutterstock.com

When on Samoa, you should not expect to shop at a department store style. There are no pushy salesmen making quotas for their day, instead you will be lured by the quality of handmade crafts, colourful lava-lava prints, remarkable souvenirs and amazing artworks.

Popular with many visitors is a sample of siapo, a bark cloth made from the beaten bark of the u'a, or paper mulberry tree, and the medium for many artworks from Samoa. Siapo's are decorated with natural dyes and are considered one of the finest of artwork in the Pacific. On Savaii you can see Siapo being made at the village of Palauli. The Toga is a finely woven mat made from pandanus fibres. These can take years and years to make and when finished, it has the texture of silk or linen and are prized souvenirs to bring home.

In March, each year, don't miss Apia's Arts and Crafts Fair — a great time to purchase fine art and craft works. There are also a few galleries on Ifiifi Street, where the contemporary Samoan painter Momeo von Reiche showcases not only exceptional examples of artworks, but often you will witness dance, poetry and other forms of readings.

#### Maketi Fou



Maketi Fou, the local food market on Apia's Fugalei Street, is perfect for stocking up on fresh fruit like pawpaws and sweet little ladyfinger bananas.

This market is always lively and visited by both Samoans and tourists that are looking for household goods or genuine produce such as coconut milk!

Photo: romanov/pixabay Address: Fugalei Street, Apia

#### Apia Flea Market



Old Apia Market – about a 10-minute walk from the food market – is a terrific souvenir haunt where you'll find everything from clubs and kava

bowls to lava-lavas, baskets, jewellery and authentic Samoan music. It's the place to go to look for souvenirs and to discover a bit more the Samoan culture.

Photo: ChameleonsEye/Shutterstock Address: Beach Rd, Apia, Upolu, Samoa Opening hours: Mon-Fri 8am-4pm, Sat 8am-noon, Sun closed

#### **Fish Market**



The place to go for the catch of the day is, of course, the Fish Market, located in very close proximity to the Flea Market. Buy fresh

ingredients and prepare your own culinary masterpiece with local seafood.

Photo: PaelmerPhotoArts/pixabay Address: Beach Rd, Apia, Upolu, Samoa Phone: +685 72 82629

#### Salelologa Market



At Salelologa Market, near the wharf on Savaii, you'll discover fresh tropical fruits and vegetables alongside other delicious produce.

Take your time to look for the hidden gems and don't forget to purchase traditional items, such as lava lavas.

Photo: Photology1971/Shutterstock Address: Savaii, Salelologa, Samoa Phone: +685 60 1563

#### Janet's Samoa



In Samoa there are some wonderful, locally made coconut and shell jewellery available throughout markets and villages. In particular,

Janet's Samoa is the place for jewellery and traditional items such as Pacific Island clothing,

#### cosmetics, bracelets, necklaces and much more.

Photo: hookmedia/Shutterstock

Address: Lotemau Mall, 2nd, Vaea St, Apia, Samoa Opening hours: Mon-Fri 9am-5pm, Sat 8:30am-1:30pm, Sun closed Phone: +685 23371 Internet: www.janetssamoa.com Email: sales@janetssamoa.com

#### Mailelani Samoa Body Care



When in Samoa, make use of the opportunity to shop for high-quality cosmetics and body care items made with certified organic coconut oil at

Mailelani. Here, in fact, you will find soaps, lotions, oils and every kind of creams made from what the Samoan soil has to offer.

Photo: Africa Studio/Shutterstock Address: Apia, Tuamasaga, Samoa Opening hours: Mon-Fri 9am-4:30pm, Sat 9am-2pm, Sun closed Phone: +685 22111 Internet: www.mailelani-samoa.com Email: info@mailelani-samoa.com

#### Mena



Mena is a local fashion brand that specialises on fun and vibrant women's clothing. The brand is well-known in Samoa and enjoys popularity as well

as a good reputation among locals, but also among the visitors that discover it. You won't get enough of its colourful, high-quality clothes.

Photo: Shebeko/Shutterstock Address: Fugalei Street, Apia Opening hours: Mon-Fri 8:30am-5pm, Sat 8am-1pm, Sun closed Internet: www.menashop.com

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Email: hello@menashop.com

#### **Pacific Jewell Gift Shop**



If you're looking to stock up on peculiar souvenirs from Samoa, take a look at the Pacific Jewel Gift Shop and browse through its many items - from

artworks to small souvenirs, all locally produced. The Polynesian style that permeates every item is sometimes tempered by a modern design, without attenuating its uniqueness.

Photo: naluwan/Shutterstock Address: Levili Blvd, Apia Opening hours: Mon-Fri 7:30am-4:30pm, Sat 7:30am-2pm, Sun closed Phone: +685 32888 Internet: www.pacificjewell.com Email: pacificjewell@gmail.com

#### **Plantation House Samoa**



Head for this store for amazing gift ideas, Plantation House Samoa offers stunning contemporary designs and handprinted textiles.

Jewellery, homeware, and handbags are some of the items that can be bought here.

Photo: Gts/Shutterstock Address: Lotopa Road, Apia, Samoa Opening hours: Mon-Fri 8:30am-5pm, Sat 8:30am-1:30pm, Sun closed Phone: +685 22839 Email: plantationhouse@hotmail.com

#### **TOURIST INFORMATION**



Vidi Drone/unsplash

#### Faleolo International Airport (APW)



The main entry point into Samoa is Faleolo International Airport, located 40 km from Apia, on the island of Upolu. Airport shuttles are

provided by the major hotels and they can be booked prior to arrival or organised when you arrive after clearing customs.

Taxis are also available. if your flight lands during the day, then you can catch a local bus into Apia from the main gate of the airport. There are no set timetables; however, the departures from both the city and the airport are usually synchronised with the flights. The bus service ends at 5pm.

Photo: Randy Fath/unsplash Address: Main West Coast Rd, Faleolo, Samoa Phone: +685 23 201 Internet: www.samoaairports.com Email: info@saa.ws

#### Bus



Have fun exploring Samoa inexpensively by taking the local buses. If the bus is full when you board locals will sit on a person's lap to make

more room, and if it's heading into either Apia or Salelologa, the locals will often be carrying their produce to the markets.

The are no bus stops around the islands, so just wave down a bus if you want to get on, and when you want to get off simply pull the cord to ring the buzzer. You pay your fare as you leave the bus.

Photo: kilarov zaneit/unsplash

#### Ferry



The Samoa Shipping Corporation runs the passenger/vehicle ferry between the main islands of Upolu and Savaii. The ferry departs from the

Mulifanua Wharf on Upolu, near the

international airport, while for the return journey the ferry departs from the Salelologa Wharf on Savaii. The trip takes one hour each way and you can purchase your ticket directly at the wharf.

Photo: Joseph Barrientos/unsplash Phone: +685 20935 Internet: www.ssc.ws Email: info@ssc.ws

#### **Rental Cars**



There is a wide variety of car hire companies in Samoa, but Discovery Rentals is one of the companies offering great price and service. To

drive in Samoa, you need to validate your foreign driver's license by taking it to the Ministry of Works Transport & Infrastructure in Apia. Some rental car companies may assist you in the process of getting your license endorsed. There several rental car companies to choose from and you could hire everything from sedans and soft top 4WDs to 12-seater vans, if you're part of a big group. Don't forget that all vehicles are right hand drive.

Photo: Ryan Spencer/unsplash Address: Discovery Rentals Samoa: Tanoa Tusitala Hotel, Beach Road Apia, Samoa Phone: +685 29230 Internet: www.discovery-rental.com Email: discoveryrentals@samoa.ws

#### Taxi



Taxis can be hired and are popular for day tripping around the island, although it is strongly advisable to agree on your fare before

departure. Db Taxi Service is a reputable company in Apia.

Photo: Mike Tsitas/unsplash Phone: +685 22380

# ArrivalGuides

Post



The main Post Office in town is located in the Vodafone Samoa Retail, a few metres away from the Samoa Housing Corporation.

Photo: Kelly Sikkema/unsplash Address: Togafu'afu'a Rd, Apia, Samoa Opening hours: Mon-Fri 8:30am-4pm, Sat & Sun closed Phone: +685 27640 Internet: www.samoapost.ws

#### Pharmacy



There are some pharmacies scattered around the islands, so it's a good idea to locate those near your accommodation. In Apia,

Maria's Healthcare Pharmacy is a reliable choice.

#### Photo: Diana Polekhina/unsplash

Address: Maria's Healthcare Pharmacy: Vaea Street, Apia, Samoa

Opening hours: Mon-Fri 8am-5:30pm, Sat 8am-1pm, Sun closed

Phone: +685 29834

Email: hunter.maria.m@gmail.com

#### Telephone



Country code: +685



Photo: Fab\_ Fotos/unsplash

#### Electricity



Samoa operates on a 230V supply voltage and 50Hz. The power plugs and sockets are Type I.

Photo: Andrik Langfield/unsplash

Population 228,966 (2024)

Currency Samoan Tala (WS\$) 1/100 = sene (cents)

**Opening hours** 

Shops are usually open Monday to Friday 8am-4:30pm and Saturday 8am-noon. They are generally closed on Sundays.

Internet www.samoa.travel www.samoagovt.ws

#### Newspapers

Samoa Observer: www.samoaobserver.ws Samoa Times: www.samoatimes.co.nz Talamua Online News: www.talamua.com

**Emergency numbers** 911

#### **Tourist information**

Visitor Information Centre Beach Rd, Apia, Samoa Open Mon-Fri 9am-4pm, Sat 8am-noon +685 63 500 social@samoa.travel www.samoa.travel