



Sample Itinerary

Take a look at this sample itinerary that will give you some guidance on a 4 night stay at **Stevensons @ Manase**. With so much to see & do on the island of Savai'i, this itinerary may be way too short but it will give you some ideas on how you can spend your precious time on the island – Enjoy !!

Day One – Saturday

Arrive at Faleolo International Airport on Upolu. Mulifanua Wharf where you board for your ferry across to Savai'i is just a 5 minute drive south of Faleolo Airport or 45 minute drive if you're coming from downtown Apia. Regular ferry crossings between Upolu & Savai'i operate between the hours of 6.00 am – 4.00 pm Monday - Saturday with 2 sailings only on Sundays. The ferry ride is between 1 hour & 1½ hours depending on the ferry taken

Once you arrive at the wharf on Savai'i (**Salelologa**) you'll be transferred to **Stevensons @ Manase**, 45 kilometres away. Stevensons @ Manase is on the North Coast of Savaii in the Manase District. On your way to the resort you'll start feeling the Samoan culture in the air and all around you. Your transfer to the resort will take you through 25 beautiful villages, each comprising of warm meeting houses, grand churches, wandering herds of animals and cute little kids waving to you, busy in their own little world with the local kilikiti (Samoan cricket) to trimming the grass with Samoan bush knives.

On arrival at Stevensons @ Manase enjoy an arrival fruit juice before checking in to your accommodation. Check in time is 2.00 pm. The rest of the day at leisure enjoying the resorts activities & facilities.

Saturday night is **Fiafia night**. The Fiafia night is preceded by the umu demonstration at 5:30pm so you'll see how the food is prepared. It includes climbing the coconut tree, husking the coconut, grating it and squeezing it for coconut cream which is an essential ingredient in Samoan food. You'll also learn how to weave your own dinner plate. The Samoan Umu Buffet Feast opens at 7.00 pm in the Tusitala Restaurant and the show starts at 7:30 pm. The Fiafia night is a great opportunity to experience the vibrant and exotic Samoan history & culture through songs & dances. Cost is WST\$65 per adult & WST\$40 per child. During your stay at Stevensons you'll get to know the performers as they are resort staff.

Day Two – Sunday

Start your day with a leisurely breakfast at the Garden Fale (on the inland side of the road). It offers a peaceful environment surrounded by lush tropical gardens to enjoy your breakfast that is included in your room rate and is served between 8.00 am - 10.00 am. Sunday in Samoa is a day for church. Throngs of locals will dress in white and attend the beautiful churches across the country. **Safotu Catholic Church** is nearby, just a 5 minute drive away. Stevensons @ Manase can arrange to get you there at a small fee. After mass we'll return you back to the resort.

Enjoy a lunch at the Beach Bar then spend the afternoon relaxing poolside or snorkelling in our crystal clear ocean amidst tropical fish & colourful coral. Why not explore Stevensons @ Manase from another perspective? Perhaps you wish to see Stevensons the way a Hawksbill or Green Turtle sees this tropical paradise? No need to take a cruise or tour to swim with the turtles because the turtles here can be found as close as 10 metres from the high tide mark directly in front of the resort and generally no further than 30 metres from the shoreline. Now that's close !!

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Day Two – Continued

If you enjoy snorkelling, you'll absolutely have to graduate from fish to sea turtles. Observing sea turtles in their natural habitat is a magical experience. At Stevensons, swimming with the turtles is a popular activity. All we ask is that you act respectfully around them & don't try to lift them or ride on them. The aim is to get a good view of them without getting too close or making too much noise otherwise they tend to swim away. Sightings are regular on the incoming or high tide almost every day, year round.

At the end of the day enjoy Happy Hour drinks at the Beach Bar (4.00 pm – 7.00 pm) whilst watching the sun set before enjoying casual mouth-watering cuisine from the Beach Bar. The last orders for dinner from the Beach Bar are at 9.00 pm

Day Three – Monday

Enjoy your breakfast served with Samoan coffee to your taste. This morning we're going to visit **Safotu Village**, our neighbouring village. This is a walking tour of about 1½ hours conducted by our own staff and is a wonderful way to gain some insight into village life in Savaii and to meet the local people. Best time to do the walking tour is soon after breakfast (ideally 8.30am – 9.00 am) to see the villagers start their day and to escape the heat of the day. Cost WST\$20 per person. Then it's back to the resort. Time for some kayaking and paddleboarding in our safe lagoon subject to the tide. We ask that you do not take these out during low tide. Use of kayaks & paddleboards are included in your room rate.

After lunch its time for some exploration. A good way to explore the Island at your own pace is by rental car. We have our own supply of small rental cars. A WST\$500 refundable deposit is required and car rental is WST\$110 per day. A Samoa temporary license is required and this can be issued at reception for WST\$21. Watch out for roaming pigs and chickens, not to mention locals walking on the roadside. Once you've mastered this, it's a lot of fun and you don't have to worry about getting lost either, as there's only one sealed road that runs around the island. Alternatively we can arrange tours with a local tour guide who can provide a locals insight into things – the choice is yours !!

Head clockwise from Stevensons. Swimming with the turtles is located in the Village of **Satoalepai**, just 20 minutes away. It's one of the most common sites visited by tourists in Savai'i. Its owned & operated by the Matai'a family and it's beautiful unique setting portrays a conservation of turtles in a wide spacious water pool/site. An entrance fee is charged.

Head further east and you'll come across the **Saleaula Lava Fields**. The fields were created where molten lava had flowed from the **Mt Matavanu** eruption between 1905 – 1911 leaving a somewhat eerie and barren landscape. Lava from the eruption flowed 13km's out to the sea burying 5 villages under a hard lava crust. Incredibly there were no recorded deaths in the village from the eruption. Island history tells of the slow moving lava that gave villagers time to evacuate to safe ground and later establish the village of **Le'auva'a**. Incredibly there are still people living on the lava at Saleaula, their homes somehow attached to the undulating solid rock beneath them.

Head back to Stevensons for Happy Hour drinks. The resorts local string band plays on the Vailima Deck tonight from 7.00pm , so sit back & enjoy their music then sample Samoan or Western cuisine in the Bentley Bistro, next to the pool and beach bar

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Day Four – Tuesday

After a breakfast at leisure we suggest today a full day of exploring the delights of Savai'i. Before you head off ask our staff for recommendations for a lunch stop. Head off in an anti – clockwise direction from Stevensons.

First stop is **Peapea Cave** a drive of ½ hour from the resort. This lava tube cave, named after the swallows that inhabit it, is easily accessible from the road and runs more than a kilometre towards the coast. The entrance to the cave is locked and that makes a guide essential. This cave is home to a unique nocturnal creature, the white rumped swiftlet.

Next stop is the **Falealupo Rainforest/Canopy Walk**. This remains one of the must-do activities for visitors exploring Savaii. Here, visitors climb a hanging bridge crossing a 30 metre gap between two big tropical trees. Passing over the canopy across a hanging bridge is a memorable experience and a challenge for those trying to overcome their fear of heights. The canopy walk will cost you WST\$20.

Then head further south to **Lovers Leap**. A cliff-top vantage point, offers a birds eye view of the foaming waters surging into this small cove, which is steeped in legend. This rest area is found in a dramatic and romantic setting amidst sea cliffs in the village of **Falelima**, along the southwestern coast of Savaii. This beautiful dumbfounded cliff reaches approximately 300 metres high from the sea point. A person in a small fale across the road will come and collect from you WST\$2 per person to view.

Next stop is **Alofaaga Blowholes** at Taga. A volcanic eruption in the last 100 years or so created a network of cliffs, tunnels and caves at Taga. Try & time your stop here at high tide when the sea water gets trapped in these caves under pressure and blasts out of the blowholes with a dramatic display – truly spectacular !!

Then it's on to **Afu a'au Waterfalls**. This place is everything you could ever ask for in a waterfall and swimming hole. Wonderfully fresh water, a deep pool in which you can jump from the cliff on the side, and many rocky areas where you can lounge around, so make sure you take your swimmers.

A visit to **Salelologa Markets** is a must do activity. The market is the beating heart of southeastern Savai'i. Just as popular for people-watching as it is for purchasing goods, the market is where you can tap into the pulse of everyday life in Samoa, as well as sample exotic produce or find some locally made crafts. Since Salelologa is the island's only town with a ferry off of the island, the market exudes a port town feel with the comings and goings of commerce, and is also the central meeting point for many of the island's tours. It's also the site of the central bus terminal, where residents from every corner of the island will come to sell their wares at the stalls or catch a ride to the village. When visiting Salelologa Market, search for local clothing items like colorful lavalavas, or watch as locals pick through fish.

Head back to Stevensons just under a leisurely 1 hour drive. Tonight you'll watch & learn how to weave . The weaving demonstration is on the Vailima Deck at 7.30 pm. Then enjoy casual beachfront dining under the stars.

Day Five – Wednesday

Sadly today we bid you farewell. After your complimentary breakfast you'll need to checkout by 10.30 am and get ready for your transfer to the wharf on Savai'i (Salelologa) – a drive of 45 minutes and take the ferry ride across to Mulifanua Wharf on Upolu Island. From here you'll head to **Faleolo International Airport**, just a 5 minute drive North of Mulifanua Wharf for your flight home.