



TRAVEL INFORMATION

Getting To Samoa

Both Air New Zealand and Samoa Airways operate regular services into Faleolo International Airport from Auckland, so you have plenty of flight options to choose from. Samoa Airways also operate twice weekly services into Apia from Brisbane & Sydney. Faleolo Airport is located 35 kilometres away from Apia.

Customs/ Entry Requirements

Visitors to Samoa are not required to obtain a visa for stays of less than 60 days. Travellers must have a return or onward ticket and passports must be valid for at least 6 months at time of entry into Samoa.

Climate

Samoa's climate is tropical all year round with just 2 Seasons - dry & wet. The dry season runs from May through to October and the wet season from November to April. The average daily temperature in Samoa is 28°celsius.

Language

Samoa is the first language of the people of Samoa. However English is widely spoken and understood and is the official language of business in Samoa. It's always helpful to know a few words of the local language.

Electricity

The electricity is the same as in New Zealand and Australia, 240V/50Hz

Medical

Samoa just like any other tropical destination has mosquitos. While there is no risk catching malaria in Samoa, dengue fever outbreaks have occurred on odd occasions and to keep the mozzies at bay, it's recommended you pack a good insect repellent. The main hospital is in Apia and there are also a number of district hospitals throughout Upolu and Savai'i.

Driving

A visitor may drive in Samoa if they're in possession of a valid home country driving licence for the same class of vehicle. You'll be required to apply for a temporary drivers licence at a cost of T\$20. Driving is on the left side of the road. The speed limit is 40 kilometres per hour in town & villages and 56 kilometres elsewhere. Roads are often used by locals for socialising, so be sure to slow down and always watch for children and livestock.

Drinking Water

Although the water in Samoa is generally safe to drink, it is advisable to boil any required for drinking. If in doubt we recommend you purchase bottled water which is widely available.

Duty Free

Each visitor aged 21 years and older in to Samoa may bring in 2.25 litres of alcohol and 200 cigarettes or 50 cigars duty free.



Banks

ANZ and Bank South Pacific are two international banks found in Samoa. Both have branches at the International Airport in Apia and at Salelologa on Savai'i. National Bank of Samoa and Samoa Commercial Bank provide currency exchange and ATM's services. ATM's are located in and around Apia and on the island of Savai'i. Travellers can use credit cards in the machines but you are required to have a PIN number to withdraw cash.

Getting Around

Taxis are abundant around the islands & offer their services at very good value. Taxis are not metered so it's recommended you agree on a price with the driver first. Another fun way to explore the islands & to get to know the locals is to hop on a local bus. Samoa's brightly coloured buses provide inexpensive transport for the locals and an invaluable experience & memories for travellers. Getting between Upolu & Savai'i is easy. A regular ferry service operates between Mulifanua Wharf on Upolu and Salelologa Wharf on Savai'i. The trip takes just over an hour each way & it pays to arrive early at the wharf to purchase your tickets.

Clothing

Light summer clothing is appropriate year round with a sweater useful for cooler evenings. For evenings, smart casual is recommended for hotels, resorts and restaurants. If visiting a village, it's not appropriate to wear skimpy clothes as this would cause offence.

Weddings

Visitors intending to get married in Samoa must provide the following personal documents; Birth certificates, decree absolute in English (divorce papers) if relevant, and death certificate of deceased former spouse (if relevant). An application for a marriage licence must be filed with the Justice Department in Apia along with relevant documentation no less than 14 days prior to the intended date of marriage.

Food

In Samoan culture food is a social event that brings together family and friends to share what bountiful wonders nature has provided.

Traditional food consists largely of root vegetables, including taro (talo) and breadfruit (ulu), along with coconut cream, pork, chicken (moa), and fish (i'a) dishes. The local staple of oka (raw fish marinated in coconut cream, lemon juice, chilli and onions) is delicious. A favourite of many visitors to Samoa is the tasty palusami (baked coconut cream in taro leaves) cooked in the umu (earth - cooked). Many hotels & resorts offer traditional Samoan food, usually at their Fiafia nights, with traditional buffets and entertainment.

Access & Entry Fees

Many beaches & natural areas are owned by traditional villages and for many of these natural attractions a small entry fee may be required. It's always best to ask first than apologize later.