

Tying the Knot at Taumeasina

If you're planning a romantic escape, honeymoon or wedding, Taumeasina Island Resort may just have an option to tick your boxes! The resort's lagoon, pristine white sand beach, and lush tropical gardens provide the perfect backdrop for saying 'I do', plus there's a private wedding pavilion if you'd like a more traditional setting.

On top of that, Taumeasina has a dedicated event team, including a personal wedding coordinator, who can take care of every detail. The resort offers a range of wedding packages or they can create a bespoke wedding experiences. They also offer a vow renewal package for those looking to reaffirm their love.

Taumeasina is currently offering a special Tu'u'afa'atasia package, designed for 30 people, including 4 nights' accommodation for the bride and groom with daily breakfast, a delightful fruit platter, a chilled bottle of wine on arrival, plus an impressive wedding setup that will guarantee a most memorable day! Get in touch with the resort to find out more.



Discover Fa'a Samoa at the Samoa Cultural Centre

Samoa has a rich history that stretches over 3,000 years and a culture deeply entrenched in community values. The Samoan people are strongly committed to Fa'a Samoa (the Samoan Way), a way of life informed by their extensive history and community principles.

Traditional Samoan culture, which isn't always exhibited at tourist sites, revolves around being a part of a community that takes care of one another. Rather than keeping to themselves, Samoans are known for their warmth and openness towards newcomers.

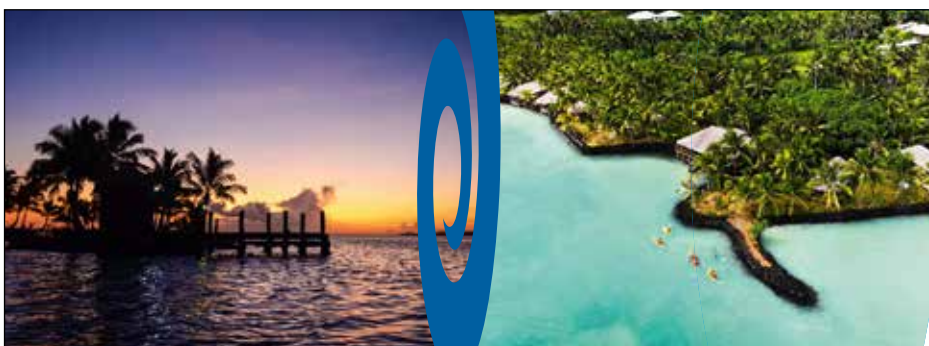
A fantastic place to experience Fa'a Samoa is the Samoa Cultural Centre in Falelauniu, Faleata, approximately 20 minutes from Apia.

Boasting nine traditional Samoan fale (houses), the Samoa Cultural Centre also has a falatele, a communal meeting house used for gatherings. Here, visitors can witness the true expression of Samoan culture as it's proudly displayed to welcome guests.

The Centre is recognised for promoting the Samoan way of life, ensuring that all visitors have complete access to experience the hospitality and scenic beauty of the village.

The Cultural Centre showcases a range of activities, including mat and basket weaving, Siapo Art (design motif imprinting on bark cloth), roasting cocoa Samoa for chocolate drinks, fresh coconut milk making, operating the Earth Oven, crafting sinnet afa (a strong string or cord made from coconut husk), and learning about the Samoan language and culture.

Each activity is led by community members who take pride in sharing their culture. Engaging in these activities and learning about their history and values is a must for any visit to Samoa.



A taste of Samoa's beauty, culture and nature

Home to only 18 bungalows, villas, and rooms, Le Vasa Resort is an ideal secluded paradise. Absolute oceanfront bungalows, stunning lagoon, and ocean views with amazing sunsets. Perfect for couples, families, and small groups, offering a distinctly Samoan holiday experience.

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Turtle Lounge: Waterside dining

Sitting on the waterfront in Saleimoa, the Turtle Lounge is a new bar and restaurant that promises an authentic Samoan culinary experience. Conveniently located halfway between Faleolo International Airport and Apia, Turtle Lounge is a great stopover for visitors wanting to refuel.

With its expansive outdoor dining deck overlooking the water, guests can dine al fresco, while taking in stunning views. BBQ is a specialty and all dishes use fresh, locally-sourced ingredients where possible. If you time it right, you'll also get to enjoy live music, with local musicians playing regularly.

At the moment, Turtle Lounge is open Friday 5 - 11pm and Saturday 12 midday - 11pm, with future plans to open Wednesday and Thursday, plus introduce a new kava bar!



Paddles Restaurant serves authentic Italian

Samoa is blessed with great dining options and one of the best is Paddles Restaurant in downtown Apia. Paddles is a highly regarded Italian restaurant, featuring cuisine that draws its influence from the northern regions of Italy, while incorporating selected local favourites.

Italian born owner Giovanni, his wife, and their team strive to create memorable visits for their guests. The team is warm, welcoming, and enjoys sharing jokes and treating all guests as friends. Giovanni genuinely loves his job!

The restaurant was recently honoured with the Hospitality Excellence Award, an accolade only bestowed upon establishments that consistently receive outstanding reviews on TripAdvisor. This award is only granted to the top-performing 10 percent of businesses listed on the platform. If you're in Apia, Paddles is a must-visit dining destination.



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Savai'i Lagoon Resort: Samoa's secluded gem

As far as South Pacific islands go, Savai'i is a hidden gem. It's around a 90-minute ferry ride from Upolu, Samoa's 'main' island and boasts diverse landscapes, breathtaking beaches, lush rainforests, hidden lava caves, vibrant coral reefs and magnificent waterfalls.

Nestled on Savai'i's north-eastern coastline is the village of Fagamalo, just a 45-minute drive from the Savai'i Ferry Terminal. In this idyllic setting, you'll find the Savai'i Lagoon Resort.

Located by one of the island's most beautiful beaches, the resort is the perfect spot to unwind and make the most of the surroundings - whether that's snorkelling in crystal clear waters, kayaking on the serene lagoon, or simply basking on the sandy beach.

The resort has recently changed hands, with New Zealanders Robyn and Grant Thornley taking the reins. With Robyn's background in travel and Grant's as a builder, their combined skills are the perfect match for enhancing the resort's offerings. Already on their agenda is the addition of air conditioning in all bungalows and the return of the glass-bottom cruises.

The resort will also reintroduce fishing charters aboard a seven-metre catamaran, offering an immersive fishing experience for up to four anglers at a time, regardless of their experience level. The energy and skill of the new owners, Robyn and Grant, have already begun to shine as they settle into their fantastic new property.



Options aplenty with Air New Zealand

Samoa is an ideal destination to relax and enjoy a leisurely change of pace, and now getting there is even more convenient. Until the end of October, Air New Zealand will operate nine flights per week, with each trip taking approximately four hours. Air New Zealand offers a variety of aircraft options for this route, including the A320/321 neos, which are narrow-body aircraft with economy class seating. Additionally, travellers have the opportunity to fly on Air New Zealand's Dreamliners and 777-300 aircraft, which feature economy, premium economy, and business premier cabins. All flights land at the recently upgraded Faleolo International Airport, just a 50-minute drive from Apia. From there, it's up to you to explore the rest of this magnificent island!



Fun under the sun at Saletoga Sands

Saletoga Sands Resort and Spa in Samoa has always been a favourite with families and their brand-new playground will only add to the fun vibes. Located on the lagoon bungalow side of the resort, this new addition has been carefully designed with kids and parents in mind.

The fully-fenced playground provides an exciting new area for children to explore and enjoy, plus its location means that parents can relax with a coffee while keeping an eye on their children at play. The playground is also next to the resort's Sunset Happy Hour Landing Bar, where mum and dad can unwind with an evening cocktail while the kids play away! Which sounds a lot like a win-win to us!



Exploring Savai'i:

Uncover Samoa's Best-Kept Secrets

If you're looking for a complete change of pace, Savai'i, the largest island in Samoa, offers a soothing antidote to our busy lives. Savai'i is often described as the 'Real Samoa' - an island that boasts pristine, breathtaking landscapes and a quiet, simple way of life.

A great place to start your Savai'i adventure is on the new Savai'i Tourism website – it offers a wealth of information and provides a convenient online road map that will help you plan the perfect itinerary – including natural attractions, activities, places to stay and eat, and general information that every visitor needs.

To make navigation easy, Savai'i Tourism have divided content to match the island's four main regions – Sunrise Coast (East), Sunshine Coast (North), Sunset Coast (West) and Surf Coast (South). And below we share some of these highlights!

Sunrise Coast

Home to the island's main ferry terminal, the Sunrise Coast is your entry point for Savai'i and provides a wonderful starting point for visitors keen to discover the wonders of Savai'i. This stretch of coast is home to an azure lagoon, unspoiled beaches and its convenient location makes it easily accessible from Upolu (the main island).



Highlights:

Places to Stay: Amoa Resort, Kukis by the Harbour

Must see: Afu Aau Waterfall

Must do: Watch a Siapo Demonstration (traditional Bark Cloth making)



Sunshine Coast

Looking for beach holiday bliss? The Sunshine Coast is a stunning destination brimming with breathtaking beaches and blue lagoons, making it an ideal choice for a seaside getaway or day trip from other areas of Savai'i. Diving and fishing expeditions will be unforgettable, you can hike through lava fields, swimming alongside turtles or climb Mt Matavanu (if you're feeling energetic).



Highlights:

Places to stay: Stevensons at Manase, Le Lagoto Resort and Spa, Savaii Lagoon Resort

Must see: Sale'aula Lava Fields

Must do: Snorkel Tour with Dive Savai'i, Stay in a beach fale at Manase Beach

Sunset Coast

Really want to get away from it all? Escape the bustle of modern life with a journey to the remote western reaches of Savai'i. The Sunset Coast, the island's least populated and most culturally authentic region, offers immaculate beaches, exceptional swimming spots, and fascinating natural attractions, including an adventurous canopy walk. The experience is rounded off by awe-inspiring sunsets!



Highlights:

Places to stay:

Va-i-mona Seaside Lodge, Vaisala Hotel

Must see: Cape Mulinuu

Must do: Falealupo Beach Fales Beach Day



Surf Coast

As the name suggests, the Surf Coast of Savai'i is a popular destination for visiting surfers! Aganoa Surf Resort is close to the best breaks and offers a place to stay and all-important local knowledge. But it's not all about the surf. The region offers excellent snorkelling, there are some amazing hikes on offer and a dramatic coastline with sea arches, blowholes and untamed coastal vistas. Venture inland and you'll find lush rainforest with hidden waterfalls.



Highlights:

Places to stay: Satuiatua Beach Fale

Must see: Taga Blowholes

Must do: Surf at Aganoa



TAKE ME TO SAVAI'I

Find out more about Savai'i visit www.savaiitourism.com