

Samoa

Samoa is a postcard of natural beauty consisting of ten islands, each offering very distinct and different environments to explore. From the rainforest covered rugged volcanic mountain peaks of the two main islands to the vast valleys leading down to a coastline ringed with a necklace of white sandy beaches. These beautiful islands are the perfect choice for any traveler who seeks something off-the-beaten-path, wants to avoid crowds and has a sense of adventure.

Samoa is halfway between Hawaii and New Zealand and about a 10-hour flight from Los Angeles, where you can fly non-stop on Air New Zealand.

On Arrival in Samoa

Visitors to Samoa are not required to obtain an entry permit for stays of less than 60 days, however you must have a return or onward ticket and your passport must be valid for six months or more at the time of entry into the country.

If your visit is for more than 60 days then you must apply for a permit to enter the country from the nearest Samoa Consulate General, High Commission or Embassy to you in New Zealand, Australia, United States of America and Belgium.

Climate

- Samoa's climate is tropical all year round, with two distinct seasons – the dry season running from May to October and the wet season from November to April.
- Average daily temperature is 29 degrees Celsius and ocean temperature in the low 20's.

Getting Around

- 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 or to the Transport Control Board office.
- There are 24 rental car companies to choose from. Some rental car companies can assist with getting your license endorsed.
- In 2009, Samoa switched from driving on the right hand side of the road, to the left.
- Another fun way to explore the islands is to take a map and board a local bus. There 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. Pay your fare as you leave the bus.
- The Samoa Shipping Corporation runs the passenger/vehicle ferry between the main islands of Upolu and Savaii.

Money

- The Samoa decimal currency is the Tala (dollar) and Sene (cent): 100 Sene = ST\$1 (Tala). All major foreign currencies are exchangeable in Samoa.
- Credit cards (Visa, Mastercard, American Express, Diners & JCB) are widely accepted in the major hotels, restaurants and stores. Travellers' cheques are also widely accepted at major banks and hotels.
- Tipping is not practiced or expected in Samoa. However, if a guest wishes to leave a gift for good service then you are welcome to do so directly with the employee or the hotel reception.

