

## APIA, SAMOA

Apia is the capital city of Samoa, on the north side of Upolu. Apia is perhaps best known internationally as being Robert Louis Stevenson's home for the last four years of his life. He loved Samoa so much that he adopted a Samoan name: Tusitala, meaning Teller of Tales

### KEY INFO

**Currency:** Tala (1 USD = 2.75 SAT)

**Population:** 35,744 (200,000 Samoa)

**Emergency #:** 995 (Police)

**Drinking water:** Tap water is not drinkable

**Time Zone:** GMT+13

**ID Requirements:** Photo ID

**Languages:** Samoan & English

**Drive on the:** Left

**Pharmacy:** Samoa Pharmacy, 569J+Q64, Mall, Apia

**Bug Spray:** Recommended

**Wi-Fi:** Unlikely

### PORT LOCATION

Ships dock at the northeastern end of Apia Harbor, a 20-minute walk from the center of town

**Getting Around:** It is possible to walk from the port to town. Public buses operate between villages on the island. There is no set bus schedule. Taxis are available

**Port Facilities:** None

**Port Address:** Apia Cruise Terminal, 56FQ+R5C, Apia, Samoa

### BEACHES NEAR APIA

**Return To Paradise Beach:** Made famous by the 1952 movie of the same name. Not just a beach but a full resort. On opposite coast. 55-minute drive

📍 <https://returntoparadiseresort.com/>

**Tafatafa Beach:** Beautiful stretch of white sand, with gorgeous blue waters. Enjoy a BBQ lunch on the beach | 1-hour drive

### MORE WATER HIGHLIGHTS

**Palolo Deep Marine Reserve:** Coral beach, with fantastic snorkel park, with equipment rental available. Within easy walking distance of the ship. Don't touch the coral. 6-minute walk | 2-minute drive

**To Sua Ocean Trench:** A fantastic place to swim. Descend the 100ft ladder in this gorgeous sinkhole, complete with its own stunning cave. 1-hour drive

**Papaseea Sliding Rocks:** An all-natural waterpark along the Papase'ea Stream! Slide back down the rocks into the pool of water below. Pay close attention to your belongings. 18-minute drive

**Waterfalls:** Two waterfalls to hike to in the surrounding hills are **Papapapaitai Waterfalls** and **Sopoga Falls**. 25-minute drive and 1-hour drive respectively

**Alofaaga Ocean Blowholes:** With the effect of a giant geyser, these ocean blowholes send the incoming Pacific waves charging hundreds of feet into the air. Boat to Savai'i Island

For more: <https://samoapocketguide.com/>

## SHOPS + MARKETS IN APIA

There are some supermarkets and local shops along the beach road, leading to the town center. Also check out **Old Apia Market** for a traditional market experience.

## MUSEUMS & CULTURAL HIGHLIGHTS

**Falemata'aga Museum of Samoa:** The national museum of Samoa includes a large collection of artifacts and images showcasing Samoa's rich cultural history. A former German-era schoolhouse.

Free | 9:30am-4pm (Mon-Fri) | 6-minute drive/30-minute walk

**Robert Louis Stevenson Museum:** One of Samoa's most famous residents was Scottish writer, Robert Louis Stevenson. The museum is set in his former house. A short hike from the house is where the writer is buried. \$20SAT | 9am-4:30pm (Mon-Fri), 9am-12pm (Sat) | 12-minute drive

📍 [rlsmuseum.org](http://rlsmuseum.org)

**Samoa Cultural Village:** An excellent place to start, in order to gain a helpful overview of Samoan culture and traditions. \$20SAT | 10am-1:30pm | 6-minute drive/25-minute walk

**EFKS Fine Art Museum:** The largest museum in Samoa, this art gallery and museum is situated about 12 miles along the coast from Apia. \$10SAT | Opening hours unknown | 30-minute drive

## RELIGIOUS SITES

The main religion in Samoa is Christianity, and society is generally traditional and religious. In Apia, you can visit the **Immaculate Conception Cathedral**.

Apia is also home to one of just eight **Baha'i Houses of Worship** in the continent, which opened in 1984.

## SOMETHING TO EAT & DRINK

It is Samoan tradition to prepare food in an **Umu**, which is an earth-oven dug into the ground. Families will gather together - typically on Sundays - for a great Umu feast.

The national dish of Samoa is **Pani Popo** - sweet coconut buns, made with yeast flour and sweetened coconut milk.

The national drink is **Kava**, made from the Piper methysticum plant; Kava is not alcoholic but has a similar effect on the body and is used in traditional ceremonies for relaxation.