

The Ultimate Samoa Guide: PRE-ARRIVAL HACK LIST



SUITCASE MUST HAVE

Light clothing

Exchange the big jackets, jeans and close-pointed shoes for some singlets, shorts and jandals. Summer is here to stay in Samoa, with sunlight so good your Instagram followers will think you use lo-fi filter on all your grams.

Rain poncho

During the wet season (November – March) a light rain poncho can go a long way. It is easy, it is light and it will snuggle in your everyday carry bag perfectly. The wet season is the best time to go to all the waterfall attractions (In particular the sliding rock) as it is filled with an abundance of water. Don't be fooled by the rain, the Samoan sun is still working strong at 25-30 degrees, so light clothing is still a must.

Insect repellent

The tropical weather is prone to mosquitoes. Most resorts provide nets, foils or repellents. But always bring an extra repellent to slap on for the extra safety layer.

Sunscreen

The sun is not your friend here. So be sure to bring some SPF50+ to slip, slop and slap on before getting your tan on. Because at the end of the day, Melanoma will always beat a good tan. #besunsmart

Map

It will be your bible here in Samoa. Street names is not a "thing" here, so a map of Samoa is the best way to get around. These maps are available at the airport stands as you arrive. Look out for the Samoa Tourism Authority Stands at Faleolo Airport. If you missed it, do not be alarmed, most resorts have them.

Camera/GoPro/Drone

Capture your moments and share them with your loved ones, surely your family & friends will envy your lifestyle. Samoa is one of the most picturesque places with ombre of blue waters and majestic mountain backgrounds. Don't forget to add #beautifulsamoa to your photos.



QUICK TIPS & TRICKS

Departure Tax

Forget what the books told you. The Departure tax is now included in your flight ticket. Unless you are planning on going to American Samoa (where the departure tax still applies). So go, use that spare 50 on a cocktail... or 10.

Ferry Fare

If you are planning to take your car over to Savaii, be sure to pre-book your tickets. This will ensure you will get on the Ferry without waiting in line (and trust me these lines are long). Ask your Car rental provider if they can pre-book on your behalf. Otherwise, you can book at the Wharf.

Dietary needs

It may be a developing country, but Samoa's culinary industry is way up there. If you are gluten-free, vegetarian or vegan, there is a place for you here! Most Cafés and restaurants will be able to cater to your needs *cue Destiny's Child song 'cater to you'.

Repellent remedies

Run out of Insect repellents? Lemons make great substitutes. Just ask your resort bar for some, if not they can always supply you with mosquito nets or foils.

Unlock your Phone

Before you arrive, make sure you get your phone unlocked so that you are able to use Digicel and/or Bluesky. Aint nobody got time to pay for expensive roaming. Unlocking your phone in Samoa can also be a hassle, it can take up to 3 working days to retrieve the codes. So do yourself a favour and unlock it before you jump on that plane!

Public Transport

Catching a bus in Samoa is a MUST do. The experience is like no other. Booming surround-sound system, friendly local people and wooden chairs. It is a great way to fully embrace the Samoan lifestyle. Do not be alarmed if someone has to sit on you, or you have to sit on someone, it is just to allow more space for more passengers.

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USEFUL SENTENCES

Hello (informal)	Malo	Mah-Loh
Hello	Talofa	Tah-loh-fah
Goodbye	Tofa	Toh-fah
Thank you	Faafetai	Fah-ah-fay-tie
Yes	loe	Ee-oh-e
No	Leai	Le-ah-e
Maybe	Masalo	Mah-sah-loh
Tomorrow	Taeao	Tah-ee-ao
Goodnight	Manuia le po	Mah-new-ee- ah-leh-po
I am hungry	Fia ai	Fear-ah-ee
How are you?	O a mai oe?	o-ah-my-o-he



PLACES TO EAT

Cornwall Rooftop Café

Hidden in town amongst the rooftop is this wee gem. The perfect spot for lunch or dinner. One of my favourite things about this place is the spit roast nights. Meat lovers this place will be your best friend forever.

Krush Juice Lounge

This place is every Vegan's dream - and if you're not a vegan, well it will become your thing. Not only does it have top notch service, but the food is out of this world. Be sure to check them out!

Koko-Bananas

Steak & Lobster is their speciality. If that made your mouth water, then wait until you try it - because it will blow your mind.



HIDDEN ADVENTURE SPOTS

Matareva Beach

If there is a Guinness record for the longest driveway in Samoa, this place will win. But as they say, long waits are always worth it, and this place is no exception. Catch a fish, explore the rocks and dive into the crystal clear waters. Entry fee is based on car size.

Sauniatu Waterfall

A true eye-grabber, hidden amongst the jungle. Drive 7kms inland from the main east coast road and you will end up finding a fresh, swimming hole. The best-kept secret in Samoa. Even better, it is free!

Vavau Beach

Instagrammers will swoon over this spot. An under-utilised and excluded area of Samoa. It was home for the Australian Survivor in 2016. The backdrop is so picturesque, people will think it is photo-shopped
#nofilterneeded #allnaturale



ITS GOOD TO KNOW

- Town opens Monday – Saturday: 9am to 4:30pm
- Super market opens until 8:00pm
- Sunday town is closed (except for Farmer joe supermarket)
- Power is around 240 volts
- Most places have power plug converters for power points (more for American style plugs)
- Get your phone unlocked before arriving to Samoa so you can buy a sim card to use.