

NPCATRAVEL



The Travel Program of the National Parks Conservation Association

OCT. 6-13, 2022

FA'A SAMOA

THE NATIONAL PARK OF AMERICAN SAMOA

*NPCA Safeguards Natural & Cultural
Resources of the National Park of
American Samoa*

AERIAL VIEW OF ROSE ATOLL
American Samoa

EXPLORE

THE EXQUISITE BEAUTY OF THE
NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY
OF AMERICAN SAMOA

EXPERIENCE

TRADITIONAL CULTURAL
PRACTICES OF SAMOA

CALL FOR INQUIRES OR TO BOOK: 800.628.7275



Fa'a Samoa

The National Park of American Samoa

AVAILABLE DATES: October 6-13, 2022 | Min/Max: 8/12

Length of Tour: 8 days/7 nights

NPCA Member Price: \$4,600 per person double occupancy; \$325 single supplement*

*Due to limited availability of accommodations on the islands of Ta'u and Ofu, clients paying Single Supplement must be willing to share double-occupancy rooms at Vaoto Lodge in the Manu'a Group (Days 5, 6 and 7).

Estimated Additional Cost of Internal Transportation: \$325 per person*

*Please note that the interisland transportation fee must be paid by all guests and is an estimated figure

Deposit: \$500 per person due at registration

Arrive/Depart: Honolulu, HI

Reservations: Please contact Jared Dial, NPCA's Associate Director of the Educational Travel Program, at 1.800.628.7275 or email the Travel Program at travel@npca.org.

Activity Level: Travelers should be physically fit and prepared for full-day adventures of walking, standing and sitting. This tour includes hikes and opportunities to swim, snorkel and canoe. Hikes during our journey range from 1-3 miles on rugged terrain and sandy beaches. There is significant elevation descent and gain, with our Mt. Tumutumumu hike reaching an elevation of 1,000 feet. Inter-island travel is on small planes and boats and vehicle transportation and boat rides may be on rough terrain/surf and take multiple hours. Travelers will spend 6 to 8 hours each day outdoors in hot and humid weather.

Inclusions: Lodging, meals as noted in the itinerary (B-breakfast, L-lunch, D-dinner), Interisland transportation between Pago Pago/Ta'u/Ofu Islands (with payment of "Estimated Additional Cost of Internal Transportation" quoted above), all activities, tips and entry fees. Baggage restrictions will apply, especially in the Manu'a portion of the itinerary.

Exclusions: Airfare to trip start and back from trip end, luggage charges, excess baggage charges between islands, meals not included in the Itinerary, alcoholic drinks, travel insurance, items of a purely personal nature and any items not listed in Inclusions.

ACTIVITY LEVEL

Moderate-Active



HIGHLIGHTS

- Experience the wonders of three different American Samoa islands
- Cherish traditional Samoan dishes prepared specially for you by local village members
- Adventure to hidden beaches and exciting geological sites on exclusive excursions
- Explore the U.S. Naval Station Tutuila Historic District (in Pago Pago Harbor) to learn about a more recent history and why NPCA prioritizes historical site protections

Rose Atoll Marine National Monument and National Wildlife Refuge

Talofa! Welcome to American Samoa and to the only U.S. National Park south of the equator.

On this tour, you have the rare opportunity to visit all three of the islands which each contain a section of the National Park of American Samoa. It is one of the most remote national parks and the only U.S. National Park in which the federal government leases the land. The land is still owned by the villages, whose chiefs agreed in 1993 to sign a 50-year lease that enables the National Park Service (NPS) to manage an area of rainforest, beach and coral reef on the three islands.

The NPS works very closely with the local villages on conservation, and all the park's resources are interwoven within the Samoan culture. The traditions and social customs and hierarchies started over 3,000 years ago, long before the arrival of the first Europeans, are still followed by the locals today. The Samoan

way, or fa'asamoa is still deeply ingrained in American Samoa culture and holds the natural environment and land as being most precious.

You will be spending time with the community and learning about the customs of the islands, while also visiting paleotropic rainforests and seeing flora and fauna that are found in no other U.S. National Park. Along with the ecologically diverse National Park of American Samoa, you'll also learn about lesser known Rose Atoll Marine National Monument. Find out why its protected species are thriving and the imperative role NPCA plays in shielding this area and other marine protected areas from the threat of harmful proposed changes. During this unforgettable NPCA small group tour, you'll feel the warm welcome of Samoan culture as a guest in an immersive experience of community, culture and conservation.

ITINERARY

DAY OCT 6: Arrival Day Pago Pago, Tutuila

1 Arrive in the late evening in **Pago Pago** on the main island of **Tutuila** and your NPCA host and trip leader will meet you once you clear immigration and customs. When the group has gathered, transfer in private shuttles to your beachfront hotel, **Sadie's by the Sea**, and check-in. Your NPCA host will provide an overview of their role and priorities in the region and the exciting sites you can expect to see throughout your carefully crafted NPCA small group adventure. *Sadie's by the Sea (D)*

DAY OCT 7: Pago Pago, Tutuila

2 Start your first full day in **American Samoa** with a group breakfast, introductions, and an orientation to the islands and to **fa'asamoa**. The group will then head out together for the **National Park of American Samoa (NPAS) Visitor Center**, where we will get an overview of the park, which spans land and offshore areas on and around the islands of **Tutuila**, **Ofu** and **Ta'u**. A National Park Ranger will join the group as we head out to the **Pago Pago** section of the national park, which is located on the north side of **Tutuila** island between **Fagasā Bay** and **Afono Bay** and extends from **Mt. Alava** and the **Maunaloa Ridge** to the offshore reefs. A picnic lunch will be provided to enjoy during our outing. On the way to the park, we will pass the villages whose chiefs signed the 50-year leases. You may also catch the

first glimpse of the large fruit bats, some of which have the wingspan of an owl. Following the visit to the national park, the group will enjoy a tour of the state-of-the-art **Tauese P.F. Sunia Ocean Center** to learn about the **National Marine Sanctuary of American Samoa**, the largest and most remote of the **U.S. National Marine Sanctuaries**. Formed by extinct volcanoes, its habitats are host to a bewildering variety of tropical fish, invertebrates and algae. This ecologically diverse oasis with its abundance of extraordinary coral has faced unprecedented threats to its vital protections -- threats NPCA matched with immediate action ensuring the sanctuary's natural and cultural resources remained under protection. As you will experience first-hand, its unparalleled beauty is a legacy NPCA remains vigilant in preserving. The group will walk back to the hotel from the Ocean Center to prepare for a group dinner at a local restaurant. *Sadie's by the Sea (B, L, D)*

DAY OCT 8: Aunu'u Island

3 After enjoying breakfast, depart for your day excursion to **Aunu'u National Natural Landmark**. **Aunu'u** is a small volcanic island 1.2 miles south-east of **Tutuila** with a land area of 0.58 square miles and is home to **Aunu'u Village**. We will head out to **Aunu'u** in water taxis (small boats) with your local guide from **Aunu'u** who will take you on a special



Sī'u Point Trail, Ta'u Island, National Park of American Samoa, U.S. Department of the Interior, Flickr

“insider's tour” to meet the residents of the village. Residents will share typical aspects of daily village life and Samoan practices and customs, including a traditional “ava” welcome ceremony. They will also share beautiful sites where you can spend some time swimming or snorkeling if you choose. Treasured gifts, these majestic sites that local residents and trip leaders will share with you are not untouched by a changing climate. Although the beauty of these sites is unmistakable, residents of the village may share their experiences with challenges from rising sea levels – challenges NPCA is spearheading through innovative plans to help uplift communities most affected from these undue burdens. A local style *umu* lunch will be served, prepared especially for the group by a local family. The “umu” is a traditional Samoan above-ground earthen oven in which food is cooked on heated stones. Samoans usually prepare food in the “umu” on special occasions and for special guests. After lunch we will depart on our return water taxi ride back to **Tutuila**. At the hotel, you can enjoy a bit of free time before gathering for dinner at the hotel restaurant. *Sadie's by the Sea (B, L, D)*

DAY OCT 9: Pago Pago, Tutuila

4 Sunday is a day of worship in Samoa. Your morning schedule is free, and you may choose to attend one of the many church services in town. Christian missionaries were very successful throughout Polynesia, and church is a very important part of today's Samoan culture. Attending church is an interesting cultural experience and an excellent opportunity to also hear wonderful Samoan singing. Services are available in Samoan and English and last approximately an hour. Enjoy lunch in the hotel restaurant, then join your trip leader to head out for a canoe excursion. Paddle an outrigger canoe in **Pago Pago Harbor** near the hotel with a local canoe club and enjoy panoramic views of **Rainmaker Mountain** and the historic **World War**

II landmarks of Breakers and Blunts Points under your own power. The group will have dinner together at the hotel, and your trip leader will go over instructions for the three-day visit to the **Manu'a** districts of the national park. The islands of **Ta'u** and **Ofu** are extremely remote with limited modern services. Due to the weight restrictions on the small aircraft for the flight, you will need to pack everything you will need in carry-on sized luggage. The remainder of your luggage will be kept at the hotel in **Pago Pago**. *Sadie's by the Sea (B, L, D)*

DAY OCT 10: Ta'u – Ofu, Manu'a Islands

5 We will be departing the hotel early this morning to catch the flight to our first stop - **Ta'u**, the largest of the **Manu'a Islands**. A boxed breakfast will be provided for you. Historically the island of **Ta'u** enjoys high status, not only because its size and beauty, but also because of its connection to *Tu'i Manu'a*, the oldest chiefly title in the **Samoan Islands** and in all of **Polynesia**. The national park covers the southeastern half of the island, which makes **Ta'u's** portion the largest area (approximately 5,400 acres, of which 1,000 acres is offshore) of the national park. We will be exploring coastal areas and paths which are often overgrown. An “explorer's spirit” will be rewarded with access to secluded beaches, a littoral forest and archaeological sites. While you delight in the deeply significant histories and culture on the remarkable journey through **Ta'u**, we'll delve deeper into NPCA's efforts to ensure national parks thrive for the next 100 years, a goal that prioritizes the protection of cultural sites and artifacts. We will enjoy lunch prepared by local residents before we depart on a 2-hour boat ride to **Ofu**. Upon our arrival on **Ofu**, the group will transfer to the **Vaoto Lodge**, located in the national park and check-in. There will be some time to explore the area and the sandy beach in front of the lodge before joining the group for dinner. *Vaoto Lodge (B, L, D)*



East Coast of Tutuila Island, American Samoa

DAYS OCT 11 & 12: Ofu, Manu'a Islands

6-7 We will be spending 2 days on **Ofu Island**, hiking its mountains, exploring its island wildlife and plants, swimming and snorkeling in a pristine sea, getting to know their beautiful coral reefs and enjoying American Samoa's loveliest beach all within the national park. As there are less than 200 residents on this island, it is truly a "private paradise." As you enjoy the remarkable treasures of **American Samoa National Park**, get a behind the scenes look at how NPCA and thousands of park advocates helped secure permanent funding for our world-class national parks through the Great American Outdoors Act. In the evening, **Ofu** is a perfect spot for stargazing and viewing the **Southern Cross** and falling stars in the night sky of the Southern Hemisphere. All meals will be prepared by the owner and served at the lodge. **Vaoto Lodge (B, L, D)**



National Marine Sanctuary of American Samoa

DAY OCT 13: Departure Day - Return to Pago Pago, Tutuila

8 Today, we will enjoy our last breakfast at **Vaoto Lodge** and check out. We will walk over to the **Ofu** airport, just a few steps away from the lodge and check-in for our flight back to **Pago Pago**. We will arrive in **Pago Pago** in time to drop off our luggage at **Sadie's by the Sea** before continuing on to a local restaurant for lunch. After lunch, we will take a historic walking tour of **Fagatogo** with a local guide. The village of **Fagatogo** has been the center of American Samoa since serving as the administrative headquarters of the **U.S. Naval base Pago Pago** from 1900 to 1951. It was for many decades the most westernized village in the Territory, and the only village with a paved road. Today, only 14 Naval buildings remain, and in 1988 many of them were entered onto the **National Register of Historic Places** to become part of the **U.S. Naval Station Tutuila Historic District (in Pago Pago Harbor)**. We'll learn why expanding protections for historic sites is a high priority for NPCA. The remainder of the day is free to explore the town on your own or enjoy the beach in front of the hotel or squeeze in a late hike. Check-out of your room in the evening before joining the group for a farewell dinner at the hotel. After dinner, we will transfer to **Pago Pago** Airport by private shuttle to catch the flight to Honolulu, Hawai'i. **Day use rooms at Sadie's by the Sea (B, L, D)**

Please note: This itinerary is subject to change based on weather conditions and park closures related to COVID-19.

Travel Insurance: To protect yourself from the loss of deposit and cancellation fees, you are encouraged to purchase travel insurance. If you need assistance, NPCA recommends contacting Travel Insurance Services through USI Affinity at 1-800-937-1387 or at <http://my.travelinsure.com/npc>; email confirmation packets will include additional details.

Activity Level: Our trips are appropriate for people in good health with overall good mobility. Travelers should be comfortable participating in up to three hours of physical activity per day, which include walking or standing for extended periods (sometimes on uneven terrain) and climbing stairs. Any physical conditions requiring special attention, diet or treatment should be reported when booking to determine what accommodations can be made.

Traveler Responsibility: Travelers are responsible for choosing an NPCA trip consistent with their ability, fitness and overall health. All travelers are required to complete and return their NPCA waiver of liability, personal information form, flight form and accept Pacific Island Institute's Terms and Conditions before being allowed to participate in a trip. Travelers also are responsible for reading and understanding all pre-departure materials and bringing appropriate clothing and gear.

LODGING

Find comfort and relaxation in each of the hotel properties we carefully selected for your NPCA trip.



Sadie's by the Sea (Pago Pago, Tutuila): *Sadie's by the Sea is a fun, charming resort with first class Polynesian service. It is the only full service, beach front resort in American Samoa, located close to many tourist attractions. Lush, forested mountains surrounding Pago Pago's deep blue harbor complete the view from every room. The private beach and clear warm water, just a few steps from your room, are perfect for swimming, snorkeling and kayaking year-round.*



Vaoto Lodge (Ofu, Manu'a Islands): *Vaoto Lodge is a family-owned hotel located on beautiful Ofu Island in American Samoa. Located on its own sandy beach at the foot of Mount Tumutumumu, Vaoto Lodge, owned and operated by the Malae family, is the premier lodging and dining choice on this quiet island of less than 200 people. Ofu Island has been called the jewel of the South Pacific. The island boasts one of the healthiest and most diverse coral reefs in the world. A ten-minute stroll from the lodge is the Ofu portion of the National Park of American Samoa, the United States' most remote National Park with its pristine beach fringing a crystal clear lagoon and a coral garden with every color imaginable.*



Trip Cancellation Policy: Cancellation notice must be submitted in writing and is effective upon date of receipt.

June 8, 2022	121+ days prior to departure	120-91 days prior	90-0 days prior
<i>Final payment is due</i>	<i>Deposit is 100% refundable minus a \$250 processing fee</i>	<i>75% of trip cost is refunded</i>	<i>No refund</i>

COVID19 SAFETY PROTOCOLS

Each of our travel partners have developed robust safety protocols to protect the health of our guests, staff and the communities we visit. **At this time, proof of vaccination is required to participate in this trip.** All tour staff and partners associated with the trip, including drivers, guides, NPCA staff and speakers will be fully vaccinated. As conditions and guidelines continue to evolve, our travel partners are committed to easing concerns and creating flexible options for those interested in rescheduling or booking new travel. Please contact us for details.



Why Travel with NPCA?

EXCELLENT VALUE

Our tours offer NPCA members the opportunity for behind-the-scenes access and unique insights because of our intimate relationship with the national parks. A small portion of your trip cost supports NPCA's mission to protect the parks for present and future generations.

EXPERT TRIP LEADERS

Every trip will be led by at least one NPCA expert, as well as tour operators who provide professionally managed tours in and around our national parks. Your trip leaders, guest lecturers and savvy NPCA staff will give you insights into the flora, fauna and history of each destination, leading lively discussions, and answering your questions.

ENVIRONMENTALLY CONSCIOUS TOURS

NPCA partners with tour operators that support cultural and natural heritage, maximizing the economic benefits in the trip destinations and establishing guidelines for managing environmental impacts. Our goal is to ensure your travel will have a positive impact on the parks so that your children and their children can enjoy them in perpetuity.

CONVENIENT TRAVEL

Everything is included in your tour, such as meals, accommodations, snacks, expert speakers, transportation at the destination and all activities (unless otherwise stated). With NPCA, you can explore the parks without the hassle of planning or the frustration of crowds.

SMALL-SIZED GROUPS

Group size on each of our trips is limited to no more than 18 people to maximize your interactions with the experts, enhance wildlife viewing and boost educational opportunities throughout your experience. Enjoy stimulating conversations with other like-minded NPCA members and supporters from around the country.

SAFETY AND FLEXIBILITY

Your health and safety is our top priority. We have worked with each of our travel partners to develop safety measures for our trips in response to the global pandemic. As conditions and guidelines continue to evolve, our travel partners are committed to easing concerns and creating flexible options for rescheduling travel.

NPCA EXCLUSIVE COLLECTION

Our custom-designed itineraries are designed to give NPCA members exclusive experiences that highlight NPCA's important contributions to park protection and provide special behind-the-scenes access to National Park Service staff, NPCA partners and other local specialists. Our goal is to offer the best itineraries in adventure and educational travel in the places we know best: America's national parks.

NPCA is the only independent, nonpartisan organization dedicated to advocacy on behalf of the National Park System. We are 100% privately funded and we rely on donations from individuals like you. NPCA trips are an exclusive NPCA member benefit. One traveler per group must be an active NPCA member to participate in an NPCA trip. An annual membership starts at \$15 per person. Please make dues payable to NPCA by check or credit card at npca.org.