

## Samoa Country Guide

Page 1 of 5 Important Information Prior to Travelling to Samoa

### Passport and Tourist Visa Conditions

Australian ordinary passport holders usually do not require a visa to enter Samoa as a visitor for a period of up to 60 days. Passports should be valid for at least six months beyond the period of intended stay and travellers must possess return or onward travel tickets and the necessary entry documents for their onward destination. All travellers must have confirmed accommodation arrangements for their stay and evidence of funds to support themselves during their stay.

Those with a history of deportation from other countries, criminal convictions or communicable diseases may not be granted entry to Samoa. Travellers are recommended to contact a Samoan mission on the details below for further information and to ensure their specific circumstances make them eligible to enter Samoa without a visa.

### Current DFAT Travel Advice

This advice is current for Thu, 1st November 2018.

*Exercise normal safety precautions in Samoa. Use common sense. Look out for suspicious behaviour, as you would in Australia. Monitor the media and other sources for changes to local conditions. Protect yourself from mosquitoes, day and night. Dengue, zika and chikungunya outbreaks can occur. See [Health](#).*

*Violent assaults and robberies occur in Samoa. Sexual assaults against foreigners, including Australians, have occurred. See [Safety and security](#).*

*Samoa experiences tropical storms and cyclones throughout the year, mostly between November and April. See [Natural disasters](#).*

*Driving in Samoa is hazardous, particularly at night. Drive defensively and choose transport providers carefully. See [Local travel](#).*

The above information is an edited excerpt of the Travel Advice Summary from The Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade. Travellers are encouraged to read the travel advice in full, subscribe to updates to this advice and to register their presence in Samoa at [www.smartraveller.gov.au](http://www.smartraveller.gov.au).

### Vaccinations and Health Precautions

The following information is intended as a guide only and in no way should it be used as a substitute for professional medical advice relative to a travellers individual needs and vaccination history. No guarantee is made as to its accuracy or thoroughness. For further information, please contact The Travel Doctor on 1300 658 844.

Vaccination against Hepatitis A is recommended for travellers to Samoa. Vaccination against Hepatitis B should be considered by frequent or long stay travellers. Vaccination against Typhoid should be considered particularly when travelling to areas with poor sanitation and hygiene. As there is a risk of Dengue Fever in Samoa, insect avoidance measures may be necessary depending on your itinerary. Samoa is listed as a zika category 1 country. For information on the risks the zika virus poses to pregnancy, including up to 6 months following the exposure of either parent, see [www.who.int/csr/disease/zika/en/](http://www.who.int/csr/disease/zika/en/).

Regardless of destination, all travellers should be up-to-date with their routine "background" vaccinations including a recent annual influenza vaccination. Please consult a medical practitioner or contact The Travel Doctor for your specific risk to these preventable diseases and the appropriate avoidance measures. Australians travelling to Samoa should ensure that they have adequate travel insurance to cover the length of their stay. Medications that are legal in Australia may be illegal in other countries. For further information on insurance, taking medication overseas and other issues please visit [www.smartraveller.gov.au/tips](http://www.smartraveller.gov.au/tips).

### Samoa Representation in Australia

High Commission of Samoa, Canberra

13 Culgoa Circuit  
O'MALLEY ACT 2606

Tel: (02) 6286 5505

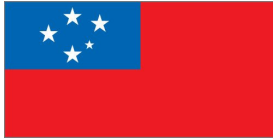
Consulate General of Samoa, Sydney

Suite 1, 45-47 Scott Street  
LIVERPOOL NSW 2170

Tel: (02) 9602 1967  
Web: [www.samoacgs.com.au](http://www.samoacgs.com.au)

Samoa Office of Immigration, Apia

Tel: (+685) 20291  
Fax: (+685) 22243  
Web: [www.samoaimmigration.gov.ws](http://www.samoaimmigration.gov.ws)



## Samoa Country Guide

Page 2 of 5 Important Information while Travelling in Samoa

### Time Differences between Samoa and Australia

Samoa is Greenwich Mean Time +13 hours (+14 during daylight saving). Daylight saving is usually observed from the last Sunday in September to the first Sunday in April. The applicable time zone is called West Samoa Time (WST).

Samoa, 12 noon, Winter (Jun) = Perth 7am; Adelaide, Darwin 8:30am; Brisbane, Hobart, Melbourne, Sydney 9am.

Samoa, 12 noon, Summer (Dec) = Perth 6am; Darwin 7:30am; Brisbane 8am; Adelaide 8:30am; Hobart, Melbourne, Sydney 9am.

### Important Contact Numbers

Country Code for Samoa: +685

To Dial Australia Call: 0 61 <City> <Number>

Travelex Card Services:

Call the US on (0 1 954) 838 8294

Visa Global Assist:

Call the US on (0 1 303) 967 1090

MasterCard:

Call the US on (0 1 636) 722 7111

American Express Travellers Cheques:

Call Australia on (0 61 2) 8223 9171

The Visa, MasterCard and American Express contacts can be called reverse charges by contacting the international operator.

Emergency Services:

Fire - 994

Police - 995

Ambulance - 996

Although there should be English speaking operators available, to avoid delay it is best to seek the assistance of an Samoan speaker to call the emergency services.

### Important Information to be Recorded

Travellers are encouraged to carry photocopies of all important documents separately to their originals, and to leave a set of these photocopies with someone in Australia. This includes those documents listed below.

Passports

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Passport #: \_ \_ \_ \_ \_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Passport #: \_ \_ \_ \_ \_

Credit Cards

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Institution: \_\_\_\_\_

Card Number: \_ \_ \_ \_ \_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Institution: \_\_\_\_\_

Card Number: \_ \_ \_ \_ \_

Travel Insurance

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Institution: \_\_\_\_\_

Policy #: \_\_\_\_\_ Emergency #: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Institution: \_\_\_\_\_

Policy #: \_\_\_\_\_ Emergency #: \_\_\_\_\_

### Australian Representation in Samoa

Australian High Commission, Samoa

Beach Road

APIA

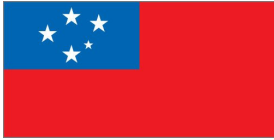
Tel: (+685) 23 411

Fax: (+685) 23 159

Web: [www.samoa.highcommission.gov.au](http://www.samoa.highcommission.gov.au)

Alternatively, Australians may obtain assistance by contacting the 24 hour Consular Emergency Centre in Australia on (+61) 2 6261 3305.

Australians in Samoa are encouraged to register their presence and contact details with the Australian High Commission in Apia, or online with the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade at [www.orao.dfat.gov.au](http://www.orao.dfat.gov.au).



## Samoa Country Guide

Page 3 of 5 General Destination Information for Samoa

### Duty Free Allowances

Duty Free limits when entering Samoa:

Alcohol: 1 litre of alcoholic beverages or spirits.  
 Tobacco: 200 cigarettes or 250 g of tobacco products.  
 Other Goods: Up to the value of WST250.

Minors (travellers under 16 years in Samoa) may not claim alcohol or tobacco products. Further restrictions apply, travellers should familiarise themselves with these restrictions before entry.

Duty Free limits when entering Australia:

Alcohol: 2.25 L.  
 Tobacco: 25 cigarettes plus one open packet of cigarettes.  
 Other Goods: Up to a value of \$900 (\$450 if under 18 years).

For further details on Australian duty free allowances and other customs restrictions please go to [www.homeaffairs.gov.au](http://www.homeaffairs.gov.au).

### Electrical and Telephone Adaptors

Electrical Socket: Australian  
 Voltage: 220-240 volts  
 Modem Plug Type: USA



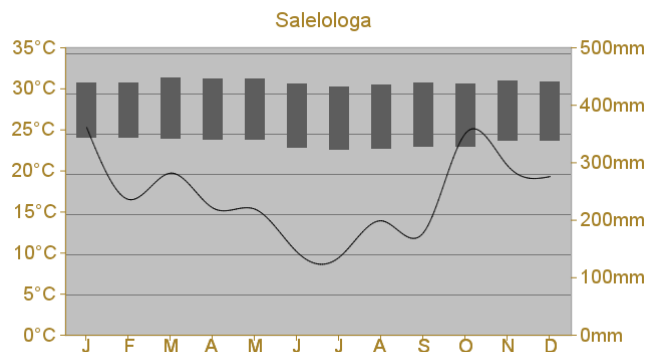
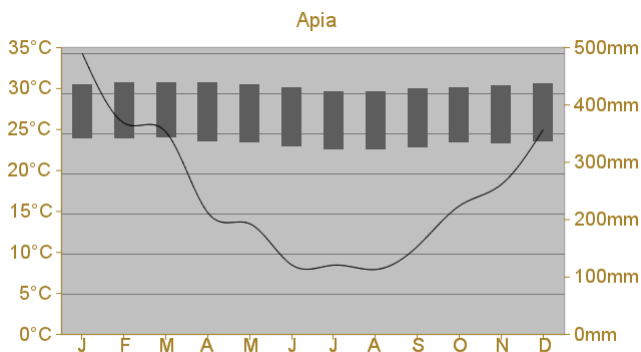
Source: Korjo Travel Products.  
 To purchase electrical/modem adaptors or for further information on this matter, please view the Korjo adapter guide at [www.korjo.com.au](http://www.korjo.com.au).

### Samoa Holidays 2018

Public Holidays

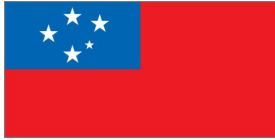
01-02 Jan:	New Year's Day	01 Jun:	Independence Day
30 Mar:	Good Friday	13 Aug:	Fathers Day
31 Mar:	Holy Saturday	15 Oct:	White Sunday Holiday
02 Apr:	Easter Monday	25 Dec:	Christmas Day
14 May:	Mothers Day	26 Dec:	Boxing Day

### Average Temperature (Bar) and Precipitation (Line) in Samoa



Source: Samoa Meteorology Division. For local forecasts please go to [www.mnre.gov.ws/meteorology](http://www.mnre.gov.ws/meteorology) or [www.bbc.co.uk/weather](http://www.bbc.co.uk/weather).

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# Samoa Country Guide

Page 4 of 5 Samoan Currency Information and Cheat Sheet

## Exchange Rate with Samoa

### Interbank Rate

1 Australian Dollar (AUD) = 1.87 Samoan Tala  
 1 Samoan Tala (WST) = 0.53 Australian Dollars

### With 4% Margin

1 Australian Dollar (AUD) buys 1.80 Samoan Tala  
 1 Samoan Tala (WST) will cost 0.56 Australian Dollars

All rates were correct at a point in time on Monday, 05 Nov 2018. The "Interbank Rate" does not take into account any exchange fees, while the "With 4% Margin" adds 4% to the exchange rate to simulate a typical margin that would be paid when exchanging currencies. These currency rates have been rounded and should not be used when calculating transactions of large value.

## Currency Cheat Sheet

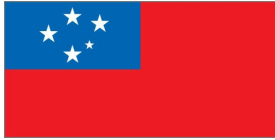
ST\$0.50	=	\$0.28 AUD	This cheat sheet uses the "With 4% Margin" rate of exchange listed above.		
ST\$1	=	\$0.56 AUD	ST\$10	=	\$5.56 AUD
ST\$2	=	\$1.11 AUD	ST\$20	=	\$11.11 AUD
ST\$3	=	\$1.67 AUD	ST\$30	=	\$16.67 AUD
ST\$4	=	\$2.22 AUD	ST\$40	=	\$22.22 AUD
ST\$5	=	\$2.78 AUD	ST\$50	=	\$27.78 AUD
ST\$6	=	\$3.33 AUD	ST\$60	=	\$33.33 AUD
ST\$7	=	\$3.89 AUD	ST\$70	=	\$38.89 AUD
ST\$8	=	\$4.44 AUD	ST\$80	=	\$44.44 AUD
ST\$9	=	\$5.00 AUD	ST\$90	=	\$50.00 AUD
			ST\$900	=	\$499.99 AUD
			ST\$1,000	=	\$555.55 AUD

## Notes and Coins of Samoa

The currency of Samoa is the Tala, which is abbreviated using the symbol "\$" or "ST\$". The tala is divided into 100 sene. The terms Tala and Sene translate as dollar and cents. The following units of currency are the most common however other units are also in circulation. Pictures are not to scale. As it is illegal in many countries to print copies of bank notes, travellers are advised to remove the below images when travelling.







# Samoa Country Guide

Page 5 of 5 About Samoa and Samoan Travel Map

## About Samoa

Full Name:	Malo Sa'oloto Tuto'atasi o Samoa (Independent State of Samoa).	Significant Dates:	1500 BC - First human settlement on the islands. 1722 AD - Dutchman Jacob Roggeveen explores the islands. 1830 - London Missionary Society arrives in Samoa. 1899 - Following civil war and Siege of Apia, Germany annexes the western islands, US annexes eastern ones and Britain withdraws from the islands. 1914 - New Zealand occupies Western (German) Samoa. 1962 - Western Samoa is the first Pacific island nation to become independent. 1997 - Western Samoa changes it name to Samoa. 2007 - King Malietoa Tanumafili II dies aged 94 after being on the throne since independence.
Independence:	1 Jan 1962 (from New Zealand under UN).		
Size:	2,831 sq km (120% the size of the ACT).		
Population:	194,320 (similar to the greater Hobart area). Apia population 38,000.		
Religion:	Protestant 60%, Catholic 20%, Mormon 13%.		
Language:	Samoaan and English are widely spoken.		
Ethnicity:	Samoaan 93%, Euronesian 7%		

