

Sheraton to offer 'best of both worlds' in Samoa



Chris Rabang, General Manager of Sheraton Samoa Aggie Grey's Resort.



Melissa Greig Callaghan and Carl Amos of Sheraton Samoa Aggie Grey's Resort at the Samoa Tourism Exchange 2015.



Rooms with a view at Sheraton Samoa Aggie Grey's Resort.

With Sheraton Samoa Aggie Grey's Hotel and Bungalows opening within the last quarter of 2015, director of sales and marketing Carl Amos says visitors to Samoa will get 'the best of both worlds'.

"The fact that the new property will be under the Sheraton brand means Samoa can now say it has two Sheraton properties in the destination.

"A great town hotel which has all the business facilities but still looks after the leisure traveller, and then has a 133 room resort 40 minutes away lagoon side, all ocean facing rooms and fully refurbished as well.

"It means people can split their time evenly between being in Apia and being out on the coast."

The new property will be located in Apia and will feature 175

rooms and bungalows along with a convention centre and ballroom.

Amos says he expects conference and business meetings to increase with the new facilities.

"The new facilities also gives us the ability to bid for larger destination quotes, which is a big plus.

"We can house all visiting delegates with our 175 rooms, meaning they can come on site, do the conference, stay on and there's no logistical issues - which is what has been a problem in the last year - there's not one property that can house and also take an event on that's for a large number of delegates, so that's big for us."

- TRAVELinc



Aerial view of Sheraton Samoa Aggie Grey's Resort.

Destination Savai'i offers plenty



Back row: Mane Leilua, Tailua Beach Fales; Sipili Tonuga, Amoa Resort; Gabriella Tuatagaloa, Le Lagoto Resort; Faaga Tau, Savaii Samoa Tourism Association (SSTA); Jerry Epati, Le Lagoto Resort.

Front: Sesilia Schwalger, Bayview Resort and Elisabeth Siaosi, Amoa Resort promoting Savai'i at the 2015 Samoa Tourism Exchange.

Although Savai'i may be an ideal one or two night excursion for travellers while exploring Samoa, the Savai'i Samoa Tourism Association (SSTA) is letting the trade know the

island has much more to offer.

Coming together more than three years ago, the SSTA is a non-governmental organisation looking to compete with Upolu as a tourism hot spot.

SSTA's Elisabeth Siaosi says there are a number of factors which make Savai'i a less utilised holiday destination.

"I think there's a lack of knowledge about Savai'i, and historically it's mainly been beach fale accommodation.

"However, this has changed and there's now a number of deluxe accommodation spots available," she says.

Elisabeth also says Savai'i is increasingly popular because people are looking for something different on their trips.

"The Australia and New Zealand markets are especially looking for real experiences on their holidays, not a fabricated version of the South Pacific, and that's what we offer.

"The community oriented culture and alternative way of living is fascinating and unavoidable," she says.

- TRAVELinc



Siufaga rebrands

Siufaga Beach Resort is rebranding as Amoa Resort, which is set to open soon this year in Savai'i.

Shaking off the Siufaga name due to troubling pronunciation issues, Amoa is the Samoan word for beautiful.

The property is located within a region surrounded by 450 volcanic sites, as well as in a 190km stretch of Samoa's best roads.

Under the new brand, the property will reveal upgraded rooms featuring flat screen televisions, the only swim up bar in Savai'i, fishing and wedding packages as well as a menu consisting of organic, homegrown produce.

- TRAVELinc

Robert Louis Stevenson hits 20



View of Robert Louis Stevenson Museum.

Twenty years after opening its doors for the first time, one of Samoa's premier tourist attractions is playing host to a number of large functions in 2015.

Robert Louis Stevenson Museum will host the official All Blacks versus Samoa after party, while later on in the year the property's annual Garden Party is set to be its biggest ever, with government dignitaries and ambassadors attending the event.

General manager of the Robert Louis Stevenson Museum, Margaret Silva, says the venue's expanding services of its conference and meeting facilities are making the location an ideal spot for hosting functions.

"Since the end of last year, we have included weddings, birthday parties and other functions into what we offer here at the museum.

"Since doing so, we've seen a considerable number of Kiwis

and Australians come through. We have a large carpark and 28 acres of land so it's great for conferences, meetings and any sort of function," she says.

- TRAVELinc



Apoiliu Taafale and Margaret Silva, Robert Louis Stevenson Museum at the Samoa Tourism Exchange 2015.

COUNTDOWN to the Samoa Commonwealth Youth Games 2015

89 DAYS September 5, 2015

Paradise awaits



New to the market, Return to Paradise Resort is preparing for its first peak season.

After opening in September 2014, Return to Paradise Resort in Lefaga is preparing for its first peak tourism season coming through June, July and August.

Named after the 1953 movie filmed in Lefaga, the Return to Paradise Resort property spans 1.8km and has been carved out of the jungle by local villagers.

After multiple big name hotel companies were denied permission to build on the land from local villagers, the Return to Paradise Resort management team were granted consent.

All staff at the property are from villages within the region, supplying the local community with employment opportunities and valuable work experience.

In their short time operating so far, Return to Paradise Resort has seen a high number of Kiwi and Australian visitors as

well as conference groups, who utilise their 170 person conference 'Gary Cooper' room – named after the lead actor in the Return to Paradise film.

Developer Ramona Gilchrist says the future looks bright for the property.

'We have big plans here, one of our main goals is to improve our self sufficiency – growing our own fruit and vegetables, and this has already begun.

'We're also planning to establish a cultural centre and a nursery,' she says.

Four rooms are currently undergoing renovations, due to be completed within two weeks, which will bring the total number of rooms at the property to 60.

- TRAVELinc

Quote of the month

"TRAVELLING - It leaves you speechless, then turns you into a storyteller."

- IBN Battuta

A warm Samoan welcome - Climate Change & Tourism in Samoa



Proud Owner of Faofao Beach Fales, Ms. Koroseta Legalo and her resilient efforts to deal with climate change

The people of Samoa are well aware of climate change. Still shaken by the devastating memories of Cyclone Evan which affected Samoa in 2012, people feel a real sense of urgency to deal with it.

Ms. Koroseta Legalo is an example. She owns the Faofao Beach Fales and guest house. Three months ago, her son, an engineer and plumber helped her business by designing and building a short seawall to prevent high tides from overflowing the road.

“After the tsunami hit in 2009, the level of the sea rose, and now due to changing weather we no longer know when we’ll get the high tide or heavy rain which overflow the road. Every month, the waves come up, so we built the seawall, because if the road is not safe, then my guest house is not safe.”

Ms. Koroseta’s business is not big. Set in the beautiful and peaceful village of Saleapaga, the ‘fales’, or simple thatched huts are a unique way to enjoy the beach. This is an important means of livelihood for many who live along the palm-tree-dotted coastline of Samoa.

Other than planning for the daily operation of her resort, Ms. Koroseta also plans for a climate-risk reduction strategy to ensure the safety of her guests.

To assist people such as Ms. Koroseta, ‘Enhancing the Resilience of Tourism-reliant Communities to Climate Change Risks’ is a project implemented by the Samoa Tourism Authority with UNDP support. It has the objective of integrating climate change into national development planning for the tourism sector and makes financing available that can be invested in adaptation actions that would benefit the tourism operators. Consultations with business owners like Ms. Koroseta to understand their needs and what they’ve been doing to make their resorts more climate-resilient, have informed the design of this initiative.

Ms. Koroseta wants to build a safe ‘assembly point’ behind

her guest house to ensure the safety of her guests and others in her village in case of extreme weather. She and her staff have already created a muddy ‘evacuation route’ up the hill behind her resort. However, in spite of these efforts, she lacks the necessary resources to build concrete steps and to flatten the land for the assembly point, to fit as many village members as possible in case of a disaster. She has expressed this need in the village consultations.

Tourism counts for more than 20% of the GDP in Samoa, mostly thanks to small operators who rely on goods and services related to other industries, and who in turn bring employment and capital for the villages they operate in. Therefore, it is essential to protect the strong and diverse value chain from the impact of climate change.

Mr. Taleo Vaaiga and his wife Leilani are the owners of Manusina Beach Fales. In recent years they have witnessed changes in weather patterns, they have noted the increasing erosion of their beach. Six years ago, he planted some coconut trees to ‘hold’ the sand in place to avoid high tides from damaging the fales. With financing from the Least Developed Countries Fund, the Samoa Tourism Authority is providing tourism operators like Mr. Taleo the necessary tools to better understand and plan for the risks that their businesses face due to climate change, and is helping them design and carry out resilient management plans and possible adaptation measures.

Mr. Taleo and Leilani have attended the Community-Tourism Operators Workshops conducted by the Samoa Tourism Authority and UNDP Samoa, along with other representatives of the village including the village mayor and women and youth representatives. They want their needs to be heard so that soon enough they can benefit from the resources of the Least Developed Countries Fund.

CRUISE SHIPS FIGURES

2015 3rd Quarter			
Date	Ship	Pax	Crew
Feb-05	Pacific Princess	585	381
Feb-14	Arcadia	1933	839
Feb-22	Queen Elizabeth	1811	983
Mar-02	Queen Victoria	1807	965
Mar-09	Marina	1127	773
Mar-12	Silver Spirit	430	371
Total		7693	4312

2014 3rd Quarter			
Date	Ship	Pax	Crew
Feb-03	Amadea	446	320
Feb-12	Marina	1170	763
Feb-15	Europa	362	284
Mar-21	Marina	1226	763
Total		3204	2130

- Total Ships visited for the quarter have increased to 6 from 4 last year, an increase of 50% and there would have been more if it wasn't for the cancellation of 4 more ships this year due to bad weather.
- Total cruise ship passengers increased by **4,489** or grew by a solid **140%** while crew numbers have also doubled increasing growing by **102%**.



ULTIMATE RUGBY CELEBRATION

Tuesday 7th July 2015

0700 - 2100hrs	Ultimate Rugby Celebration Food Stalls Open	Government Plaza
1200 - 1400hrs	Ultimate Rugby Celebration Parade: All Blacks and Manu Samoa Teams	Police Station to Government Plaza
1900 - 2100hrs	Ultimate Rugby Celebration Variety Show	Government Plaza

Wednesday 8th July 2015

0700 - 2100hrs	Ultimate Rugby Celebration Food Stalls Open	Government Plaza
1300 - 1500hrs	Ultimate Rugby Celebration Pre-game Entertainment	Government Plaza
1300 - 0000hrs	Marist Rugby Extravaganza	Ace of Clubs Compound
1500hrs	Live Streaming of All Blacks and Manu Samoa Match	Government Plaza
1900 - 2100hrs	Ultimate Rugby Celebration Post Game Concert	Government Plaza

Ultimate Rugby Celebration | Manu Samoa vs All Blacks Registration for Food Stalls

The Samoa Tourism Authority would like to invite all interested Restaurants, Hotels, and Individuals whom would like to be a part of the Ultimate Rugby Celebration by way of Food Stalls in the Government Plaza (Eleele Fou), from Monday 6th to Friday 10th of July 2015.

First priority will be given to the Savaii Samoa Tourism Association Hotels, and those whom received excellence in the Samoa Tourism Authority Trainings for the SIDS and Teuila Festival Food Stalls last year.

All interested parties are to register at the Samoa Tourism Authority Main Office, on the Ground Floor of the FMFMII Building. Registrations close on the 5th of June 2015.

For more information, please contact Sheena Ng Lam on email sheena@samoa.travel or telephone 63508 or Marita Ah Sam-Tekiu on email marita@samoa.travel or telephone 63507.

Local Wooden Buses for Float Parade

The Samoa Tourism Authority would like to invite all interested Bus Owners to register their Busses for the Ultimate Rugby Celebration Parade, which will take place on the morning of Tuesday 7th July 2015. A total of six buses are required.

Criteria:

- Must be a Local Wooden Bus
- Must be Bright and Colorful
- Buses must have a good engine with no exhaust fumes
- Bus owners must decorate busses using fresh fauna and flora to be specified by the authority

All interested parties are to register at the Samoa Tourism Authority Main Office, on the Ground Floor of the FMFMII Building. Registrations close on the 12th of June 2015.

For more information, please contact Fanaea Natu Taulealo on email natu@samoa.travel or telephone 63510 or Kristian Scanlan on email kristian@samoa.travel or telephone 63509.



MARIST RUGBY EXTRAVAGANZA



MARIST BROTHERS OLD PUPILS ASSOCIATION
INVITES YOU TO COME AND CELEBRATE WITH US RUGBY AND
MARIST BROTHERS CONTRIBUTION TO RUGBY IN SAMOA

DATE: WEDNESDAY 8 JULY 2015

TIME: 1PM TO 12 MIDNIGHT VENUE: ACE OF CLUBS



(UPSTAIRS, DOWNSTAIRS & WHOLE OUTSIDE COMPOUND), MULIVAI, APIA

COST: \$100 PER TICKET; OR \$150 PER VIP TICKET.
TICKETS SOLD AT SSAB MEGASTORE, TOGAFUAFUA.

FREE PUPU & FREE BEER & WINE.

(TANOVA AVA AVAILABLE)

COME AND WATCH WITH US ON A BIG SCREEN
LIVE THE HISTORIC GAME BETWEEN
MANU SAMOA AND ALL BLACKS.

After the game you can
socialise with friends downstairs or outside in the compound
or dance the night away upstairs.

Live band ("On Fire") downstairs and outside the compound.



FEATURING UPSTAIRS
DJ.LX

Meet also famous Marist rugby players
(eg *Soifua John Schuster* (ex-All Black),
Muliagatele Brian Lima
(ex-Manu Samoa) and get their autographs.

PROCEEDS WILL GO TOWARDS
THE CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES OF MBOPA

MAJOR SPONSORS: MANUTAGI AND SSAB





Extreme Tides in Samoa 2015

10 lowest tides for 2015

Date	Time	Height
20 Feb	20 Feb	0.11m
21 Mar	21 Mar	0.13m
19 Mar	19 Mar	0.13m
20 Mar	20 Mar	0.13m
19 Feb	19 Feb	0.13m
22 Jan	22 Jan	0.14m
29 Sep	29 Sep	0.14m
28 Oct	28 Oct	0.14m
28 Sep	28 Sep	0.14m
21 Feb	21 Feb	0.14m



10 highest tides for 2015

Date	Time	Height
19 Feb	18:37	1.53m
20 Mar	18:18	1.51m
30 Aug	06:10	1.51m
27 Oct	17:57	1.51m
28 Sep	05:49	1.51m
18 Feb	17:46	1.51m
20 Feb	19:28	1.51m
21 Jan	18:55	1.50m
19 Mar	17:28	1.50m
31 Aug	07:00	1.50m

Tide predictions are based on the effects of the gravitational forces exerted by the moon, the sun, the rotation of the earth and averaged seasonal changes

The actual tide height will be a combination of these effects and the weather conditions at the time. The effects of the weather are not included in these tide predictions

What are tides?

Tides are the daily rise and fall of sea levels, caused mainly by the gravitational pull of the moon as it revolves around the earth.

Tides are also affected by the earth's rotational and the gravitational pull of the sun.

What are spring and neap tides?

Spring and neap tides are part of the normal tidal cycle and occur regularly, usually twice per month.

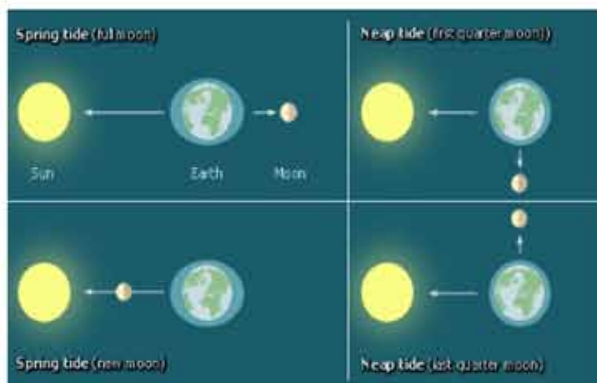
Spring tides are very high tides and very low tides that occur during full and new moon phases, when the gravitational forces of the sun and moon combine to exert a stronger pull on the oceans.

What are king tides?

The term king tide is commonly used to describe an especially high spring tide. King tides occur a few times every year, when the gravitational pull of the sun and moon upon earth is strongest.

This happens when the moon is closest to the earth in its monthly orbit. When this coincides with a spring tide, it will produce an especially high tide, or king tide.

In the Pacific, the highest king tides are likely to occur during the months from November to March, when the earth is also closest to the sun in its annual orbit.



During the moon's quarter phases each month, the sun and moon are at right angles, and the gravitational forces cancel each other out, resulting in lower high tides and higher low tides called neap tides.

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