



# A Day Trip to

# Savai'i

Story by Luc Callebaut & Jackie Lee  
Photos by Luc Callebaut



Pea Pea Lava Tube cave entrance is almost hidden by the lush vegetation.



Aerial 2: The magnificent aerial views make the flight from Upolu to Savaii an extra special treat.

After several weeks on Upolu, we decided to visit Savai'i. Bigger than Upolu but having only a fraction of its population, the island is even more laid-back. For many tourists, the island seems so far away from Apia but really it is only a 20 min flight or you can drive to the East side of Upolu and take a short ferry ride between both islands! We opted for the flight for 2 reasons: it would let us go for a one-day excursion and it would give us a great chance to take aerial photos. The pilot, that we just happen to have met the evening before at the fishing club was nice to

give us a scenic flight all the way with comments and photo opportunities. Only from the air can one see the incredible variations of aquas and blues of the ocean and reefs like a monochromatic stained glass window.

Like Upolu, Savai'i was refreshingly clean and beautifully tended, the people robust and spontaneously friendly and the whole atmosphere was like a breath of fresh air after other Pacific islands. Also the favorable rate of the Samoan Tala makes Samoa a great value for overseas travelers.

Our guide, Warren, a retired geologist

and free-lance guide, met us at the Savai'i terminal. He admonished us for only allowing one day for the island since his chosen home has SO much to offer. Still, he good-naturedly took us around. We visited the most recent lava fields and saw a village embedded in the 1902 flows with the grave of a virgin that the people believe was saved from the flow by divine intervention. Amazing to see the church walls still standing with lava inside and all around! We also visited Pea Pea caves ... nice to walk in a lava tunnel! (beats the metro for scenery!). Looking at several sites of interest along the way, we gained insight into why the island is as it is, and why the people have become who they are. We also saw a beautiful beach where you can choose between several places to stay. Before our 4 pm flight back, we had time to make a quick trip to the south where Warren showed us the Mu Pagoa waterfalls which tumble over the edge of an old lava flow and drop into the sea. Kids were playing under the falls and some were fishing in the surf. In the river, on top of the waterfall, some adults were bathing while others were washing clothes! The volcanic nature of Savai'i also provides many villages with crystal clear fresh water pools that seep out of the ground at sea level.

We can't say enough good things about Samoa. The greeting you get will be warm and genuine. We would urge you to learn about Samoan culture (Fa'a Samoa) before you arrive in any of the islands of Samoa. The land, family, church, and village chiefs are the basis for a very strong traditional culture. Permission should be asked, and traditions and local practices respected. Did we enjoy that day in Savai'i? You bet we did and next time ... we will stay a full week!

Polynesian Airlines has daily flights to and from Savai'i. For flight details please contact us on:

[enquiries@polynesianairlines.ws](mailto:enquiries@polynesianairlines.ws)



*Like it's sister, Upolu, Savai'i is a waterfall lover's paradise with scenes like Mu Pagoa tumbling directly into the black sands of the sea.*



*Many Samoans still prefer the natural ventilation of the open-air "Fales" to the introduced wood or brick house.*



*This church is a testament to the recent volcanic activity of Savai'i.*