

Festival of Sites



Photo: NOAA NMSAS
Cruise ship passengers visiting the Ocean Center.

National Marine Sanctuary of American Samoa brings the village to the visitors!

For special events and days American Samoa receives cruise ships, the National Marine Sanctuary of American Samoa in partnership with the Department of Commerce is bringing the sanctuary village communities to the visitors at the Tauese P.F. Sunia Ocean Center from 9:00a.m. to 2:00p.m.

The Festival of Sites allows each village community to showcase unique traditions & cultural values that make it a special underwater treasure as a unit of the National Marine Sanctuary of American Samoa.

Embracing the Samoan spirit, sanctuary communities will provide visitors with a glimpse of life in the islands. Visitors will be able to husk their own coconuts, make beautiful prints on lavalavas, and taste the different delicacies of Samoa. The display consists of six tents operated by each village within the sanctuary system these are; Fagatele Bay, Fagalua/Fogama'a, Aunu'u, Ta'u, Muliava, and Swains Island.

Welcomed with a cultural experience at the Festival of Sites, visitors can also tour the Tauese P. F. Sunia Ocean Center where more information on each national marine sanctuary site is provided. The facility has interactive displays illustrating the unique history and culture of American Samoa as well as learn more about our underwater sanctuary units. Guests are also invited to watch educational films and view global model simulations on the state-of-the-art Science on a Sphere[®]. Sanctuary staff offers interpretive tours to guests and visiting groups.

The National Marine Sanctuary of American Samoa aims at engaging communities and protecting natural and cultural heritage. Beyond protecting these resources, understanding larger cultural heritage and connections between people and the maritime environment is essential to achieving and maintaining healthy coastal and marine ecosystems.

Cultural heritage features a variety of cultural resources, both tangible and intangible, that reflect the cultural identity of our people. Bringing the village community to the visitors allows a connection and experience without taking them to the actual location. The broad cultural heritage of American Samoa developed over the past 3,000 years, emphasizes human connections to the sea, and is reflected in Samoan traditions and lifestyles (*fa'a-Samoa*). Sharing this with the outside world helps visitors understand the unique and strong values that make communities thrive within and across the Pacific.

The Festival of Sites is the first of many planned visitor programs lead by the National Marine Sanctuary of American Samoa.



Photo: NOAA NMSAS
Traditional Performances

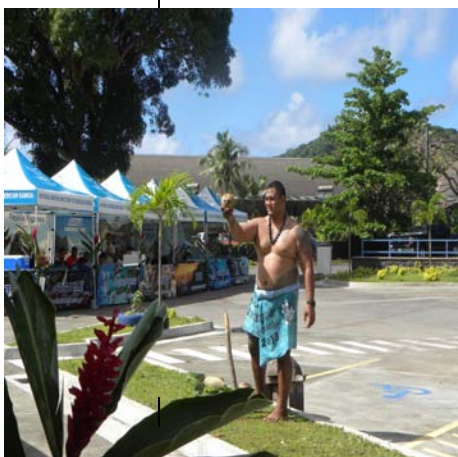


Photo: NOAA NMSAS
Husking demonstration by Peter Taliva'a, Aunu'u Liaison.

For more information, please contact:

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