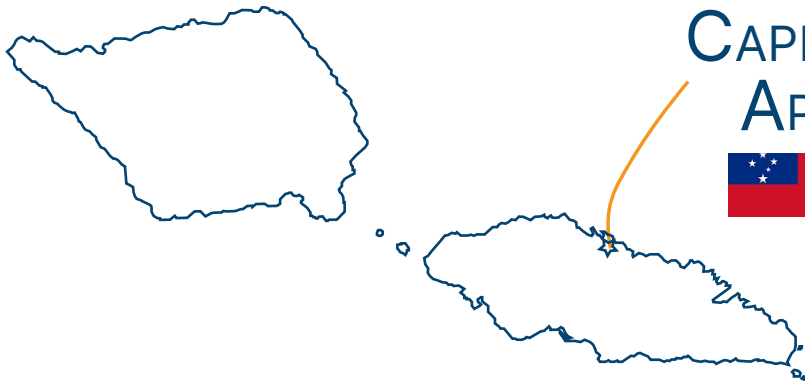


# SAMOA



CAPITAL:  
APIA



POPULATION OF  
202,000



FAVOURITE SPORTS:  
KILIKITI (A FORM OF CRICKET)  
RUGBY UNION



SAMOAN TĀLĀ

53%  
OF POPULATION  
ARE UNDER  
24 YEARS OLD

MAJOR INDUSTRIES:  
FOOD PROCESSING  
MANUFACTURING

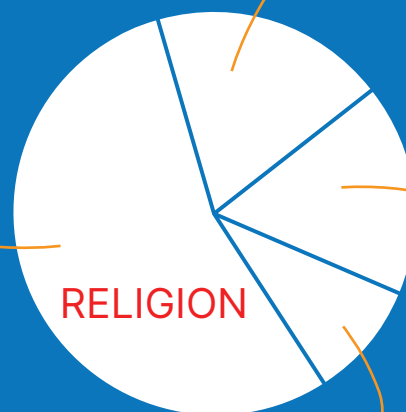
2842 SQ KM  
IN LAND SIZE



LANGUAGES

SAMOAN

54.9%  
PROTESTANT



18.8%  
CATHOLIC

16.9%  
MORMON

9.4%  
OTHER



Students enjoying some ice cream.



Station 14 with Samoan custom

## Geography

Samoa comprises two main islands, Savaii and Upolu, and several smaller islands and an uninhabited islet. Apia, the capital city of Samoa, is located on Upolu and is the only city in the country.

The climate is tropical, with a rainy season from November to April.

## History

Samoa has been inhabited for about 3000 years. Europeans did not arrive in the area until the 1700s.

At the beginning of the 20th century, the Samoan islands were politically divided and in 1904 the easternmost islands became the U.S. territory known as American Samoa.

At the same time, the western islands became Western Samoa, and they were controlled by Germany until 1914 when that control passed to New Zealand. New Zealand then administered Western Samoa until it gained its independence in 1962.

In 1997, Western Samoa's name changed to the Independent State of Samoa. Today, however, the nation is known as Samoa throughout most of the world.

In 2011 the country moved west of the International Date Line by skipping December 30 and moving from 21 hours behind Australia, to be 3 hours ahead. This was to boost its economy with its major trading partners of Australia and New Zealand.

## Cultural

People still live with a strong focus on Fa'a Samoa (the Samoan way), which centres on family, respect of elders, and being of service to others. This way of life that stretches back about 3000 years, and is still

reflected in most aspects of Samoan culture and society today. The three structural elements of Fa'a Samoa are matai (chiefs), aiga (extended family), and the church.

As a result of this, rather than functioning in a nuclear way where individuals/small groups largely fend for themselves, life in Samoa is all about being part of a larger community that looks after each other. Samoan values and this communal way of thinking means people are friendly and welcoming.

Tatau or tattoo is an incredibly spiritual practice for Samoan men that originated over 2000 years ago. The tradition is referred to as the Pe'a where intricate patterns are tattooed onto the body from the waist down to the knees. It is often seen as a rite of passage for men and a mark of spiritual maturity.

## AMS Projects in Samoa – St Joseph's College, Alafua

St Joseph's College is a Marist School of 450 students and 22 teachers. The school was established in 1950 and the current classrooms were built in 1998.

The school has been unable to adequately maintain many of the school buildings over the past decades and as a result require ongoing maintenance.

There is a need for a large overhaul of facilities at St Joseph's. This includes the repainting and renovation of two classrooms wings, the administration block, traditional fale and the school hall. It also encompasses electrical requiring and upgrading of the entire school, computer lab upgrade and gym improvements.

## Further reading/resources:

CIA World Fact Book ([www.cia.gov/the-world-factbook/](http://www.cia.gov/the-world-factbook/))

SBS Cultural Atlas ([www.culturalatlas.sbs.com.au](http://www.culturalatlas.sbs.com.au))