***Samoa Surf***

Samoa receives south swell all year round from both Antarctic ground swells from New Zealand and locally generated tropical activity. These swells come from deep in the ocean and pound Samoa’s coral reefs, often creating steep takeoffs and hollow tubes. Generally, Samoa is recommended for intermediate to advanced surfers due to its powerful, heavy surf and sharp, shallow reefs.

The main island of Upolu is a swell magnet with surf on the south, east and north coasts. From late March to November, huge swells created by lows from Antarctica pound the south coast. From December to February, northern swells also travel from Hawaii to hit the north coast. The south coast of Upolu boasts some superb surf spots such as Coconuts, Devil's Island, Siumu, Village Lefts and Resorts. Near Salani Village, you’ll find Salani Right, and the long, fast-breaking barrels of Salani Left. Boulders is only surfed at low tide, but this left hand point break can handle swells up to 8ft. Good offshore surfing alternatives are The Island, with its powerful left break that reels off over a beautiful reef, and Rusty's, a hollow right hand reef break which ends in a deep channel.

On the north shore of Upolu, experienced surfers can check out Dragons Breath for one of the best set ups on the island. Just 10 minutes out from Apia, this powerful right hander has huge open barrels that can compete with the world’s best. The right hand breaks of Pudding Rock and the nearby Waterfalls offer a short but fun ride, or try the series of breaks at Tiavea and Fagaloa Bays for some great tubes and drops.

* **Salani Right -** This wave will barrel at any size and has multiple takeoff spots; the right is a shorter wave that can either barrel from start to finish or be a combination of open face sections and barrels. The wave gets longer with a SW swell, and shorter with a SE swell. There is a large, clearly defined channel and current to carry you back out to the lineup.

Salani Right can be surfed on lower tides depending on the size and swell direction.

**Salani Left -** Salani Left is a long, fast breaking full barrel ride over coral reef/flat rock that gets faster, and slower as you go down the line. This wave is typically surfed from 2-10ft faces. The wave does not end very close to the channel, so on bigger days getting back out can be a little tricky. Best at medium tide with SE swell.

* **The Island -** About 2 Kms offshore, this island has a powerful left that reels off over a beautiful coral reef. Accessed only around high tide and best on the medium to bigger swells, this spot is a great alternative when the trade winds are onshore at Salani’s, as it’ll be offshore at The Island.
* **Rusty's -**A newer spot, this right hand break is situated 2kms offshore on the outer reef. It iis longer than Salani Right but just as hollow - also ending in a deep channel, with a current to take you back out to the lineup.
* **Boulders –** Boulders is a 10 min paddle out from a black sand beach. One of Samoa’s best known big wave spots, Boulders is able to handle the largest of swells and still not close out. As the name suggests this wave breaks over large boulders on the outside point and a combo of rock and mushroom-head coral reef on the inside. This left hand point breaks off a lava cliff starting with a relatively easy drop followed by a steep wall section, then barrels off down the line, often spitting as it ends - sometimes 150m away. Boulders is also a great option if the SE winds are blowing as it is well protected and remains glassy or light offshore. Best at low tide, the bigger the swell, the more tide the wave can handle.
* **Tiavea -**A large bay located on the NE coast containing 4 separate waves; a big wave right hander off one end, a fast shallow left off the other side, and a nice river mouth in the middle. The river mouth is a left and right breaking over cobblestone and flat reef bottom. Tiavea Bay is an excellent option during the north swell season if the south coast is not showing enough activity, or sometimes during the south swell months if the south coast breaks are heavier then you may desire.
* **Polsalles** - Located 25mins by boat from Coconuts resort on the South Shore. Picks up the most swell out of any of the breaks on this side of the island due to its shape and depth of the reef. Breaks similar to Teahupoo anything over 6ft and is one of the funnest left handers in Samoa.
* **Waterfalls -** Is located on the North Side of the island which is about a 40min - 1hr drive from Apia, the capital. A steep takeoff but if made one of the best barrels you will ever experience extremely hollow at 3ft and you can drive a bus through it at 6ft. Make sure you have a back up board in the car and a camera! This wave is very popular with Body Boarders!
* **Dragonsbreath** - Also located on the North Side of the Island. If you can surf big backdoor Pipe in Hawaii you will love this wave! for chargers only but it can be extremely fun at 4-5ft!

There are also several other breaks available than can be accessed on rare occasions due to their distant location and reputation of being fickle. Some of these breaks are accessed by boat only, others by overland transfers. The key is to listen to your surf guides when they are explaining the conditions and what to expect at each location. If there is something special happening they will let you know all about it.

**Note-** most breaks in Samoa are well offshore, plagued with strong currents and tides and are therefore difficult to access. It is also important to note that surfing is not allowed on Sunday at most of the breaks. There are some breaks you can surf on Sunday, such as Boulders or some islands off the east coast.