



SAMOA'S 2016 SPORTING CHALLENGES

In addition to its white sandy beaches, colourful coral reefs and clear blue skies, Samoa has a full calendar of new and annual events for visitors in 2016 to encourage more travellers to help celebrate Samoa's first Visit Samoa Year 2016. The sporting theme is strong in 2016 with the inaugural [Savaii Games](#), the [Five Island Swim](#), the [Stand Up Paddling Super Regatta](#) and the [Samoa Swim Series](#).

2016 will see the inaugural [Savaii Games](#) with events on the 7th, 9th and 16th of April. The three events include the Upolu – Savaii Swim on 7 April 2016, a 22.3 km swim between Samoa's two main islands. On April 9 the one day 180km Around Savaii Bike Challenge will take place, a challenge not for the faint hearted and the first Savaii Marathon will be held on 16 April 2015 - a 42km marathon from the Lava Fields to Salelologa.

The [Five Islands Swim](#) held 11 – 14 May 2016 is a series of five challenging open water swims in four days, the total distance of the swims is 24km. The competitors will swim to five of Samoa's different islands – Manono, Fanuatapu, Namu'a, Nu'usafe'e and Matautu Island, swimming over coral reefs and amongst spectacular fish in water temperatures of between 23 and 25 degrees Celsius.

The [Stand Up Paddling Super Regatta](#) takes place over seven nights from 20 August 2016 in three stunning locations around Upolu. The three locations include Lalomanu, Apia and Manono.

[Samoa Swim Series](#) will take place from 4 August 2016, giving swimmers of all ages the chance to compete in a variety of open-water races. The race distances vary between 500m and 10km for different age groups with prizes for the winners and medals for all finishers.

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February 2016

Notes to editors:

Samoa: The Treasured Islands of the South Pacific

Beautiful Samoa - The Treasured Islands of the South Pacific - are the true heart of Polynesia. Ten islands of stunning wild beauty, Samoa - or Independent Samoa as it is now known so as to avoid confusion with American Samoa, is paradise waiting to be explored. From powder-soft beaches to warm tropical seas and colourful coral reefs alive with marine life, its rugged, lush interiors reveal endless wildlife, waterfalls and hiking trails.

Images available upon request.