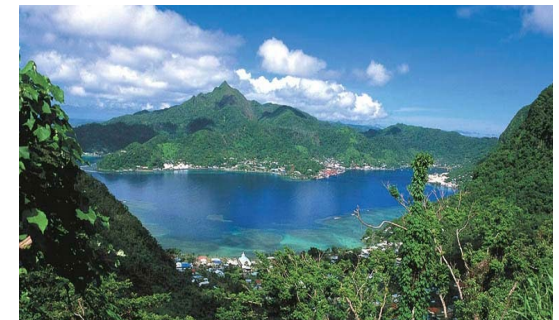


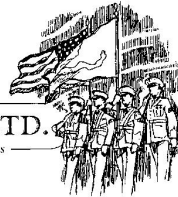
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American Military Defenses of American Samoa 2024



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 CST #2075156-50 IATA #05-911791



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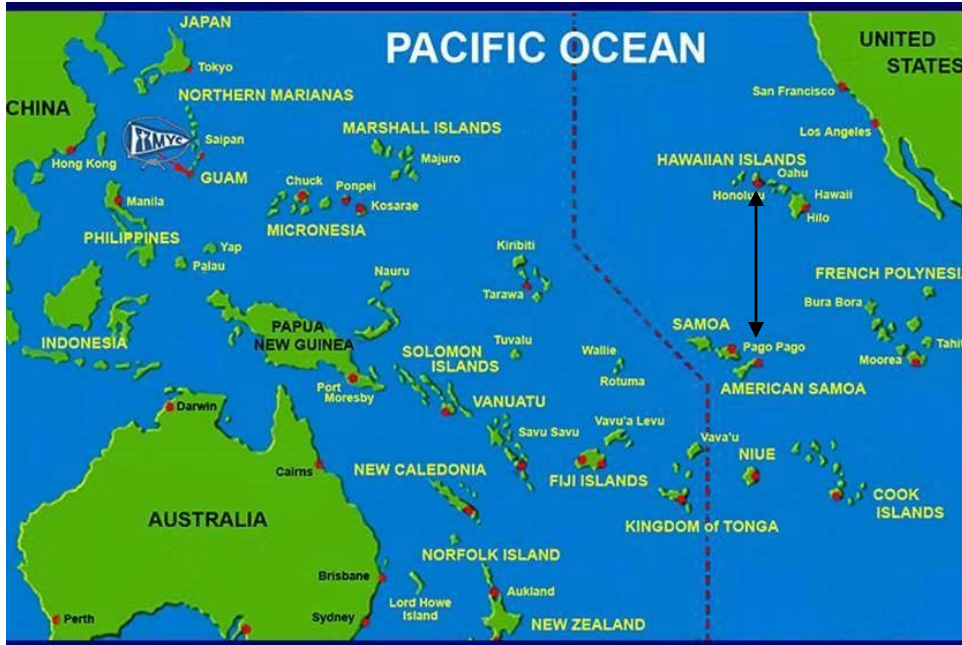
October 24 to 29, 2024
 Escorted by Glen Williford



HAWAIIAN
 AIRLINES.

CST #2075156-50 IATA #05-911791
Revised/Printed March 6, 2024 – subject to change/updates
Call toll free 1-800-842-4504 or
Email: valortours@yahoo.com

America's Oldest and Most Experienced Military History Tour Operator



Pinterest

One of the finest in the South Pacific, Pago Pago Harbor was used as a refueling station for French, British, German, and American vessels during the 19th century. Following the Tripartite Convention, which partitioned the Samoan islands between America and Germany in 1899, the existing coaling station was converted into an American naval base. Then during the turmoil of WWII, Pago Pago was awash with military vessels. Pearl Harbor highlighted the South Pacific's vulnerability to Japanese aggression, and soon after American Marines descended on Tutuila. It became a major base, a training ground of sorts, through which 20,000 Marines passed before going on, acclimatized and battle ready, to meet the Japanese elsewhere in the Pacific. On January 11, 1942, a Japanese submarine fired shells at the American naval station from the north of the island, over the mountainous spine, managing little damage other than destroying a shop owned by one of the few residents of Japanese descent.

American Idyll - Air New Zealand Kia Ora Magazine, April 2013
By James Borrowdale

APPLICATION FORM

American Samoa tour

October 24 to 29, 2024

Mail to Valor Tours, Ltd., 10 Liberty Ship Way, Sausalito, CA 94965

Questions? Call toll free to 1-800-842-4504

Name _____

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____ Phone _____

Email (If any) _____

Enclosed is my/our check for the deposit in the amount of \$ _____
(\$600 per person), or please charge my credit card

Expiration _____ (sec code) _____

I/we wish to reserve ___ spaces on a ___ twin share basis (two persons to a hotel room), or ___ Single basis (I am traveling alone and do not wish to share) on...

Reason for taking tour (WWII Veteran, family member, history buff, etc.) _____

Special need (handicaps, dietary needs, etc.) _____

I/we require assistance with airfare from _____
to Honolulu. (Valor Tours, Ltd. will check on best fares/schedules and let you know what is available.)

I have read and understand the terms set forth in this announcement.

Signature _____ Date _____

Additional needs:

Reservations & Cancellations

A reservation can only be held with a deposit of \$600 per person and on a first come-first served basis. Please fill out, sign and return the application form with your check or credit card number. Final payment is due 90 days prior to tour departure. A reminder with newsletter will be sent to all participants on deposit. Changes to your reservations within 30 days of departure may result in administrative fees and/or penalties. Reservation deadline is 30 days prior to tour departure – subject to space availability. Late bookings can be accepted provided space is available and full payment is received immediately. Cost is based on a minimum of 10 passengers traveling together with a maximum of 20 passengers. Unused components of the tour are non-refundable. Tour itinerary and costs subject to change. We do not recommend participation by children under the age of 12 years. Handicapped facilities do not exist in American Samoa. One must be able to walk, climb on and off buses and get through airport terminals on own. There are some short hikes. Refunds by check can take up to 30 days and refunds to credit card can take up to 60 days. Cancellations up to 90 days prior to departure fully refundable. Cancellations received between 90 and 30 days prior to departure subject to \$1000 cancellation fee. Cancellations received within 30 days of departure non-refundable.

Travel Insurance

To ensure worry free travel, Valor Tours will provide information on travel insurance; both travel emergency and cancellation coverage. This coverage is provided by TRAVELEX Insurance Services. A description of insurance coverage will be sent to each participant upon receipt of his/her application and deposit. Coverage includes sickness and accident medical expense; accidental death and dismemberment; medical evacuation and repatriation; baggage and personal effects loss or delay; emergency assistance services worldwide; cancellation/trip interruption. We strongly recommend travel/cancellation insurance protection.

Health & Travel documents

All passengers must be in possession of a passport valid at least six months beyond date of travel. No visas or inoculations are required. Final travel documents including airline tickets, ID badge, baggage tags, list of passengers and final instructions will be sent Priority Mail about two weeks prior to tour departure.

Disabilities

Any personal disability requiring special attention should be reported to Valor Tours at the time of reservation. Valor Tours will make reasonable attempts to accommodate the special needs of disabled tour participants, but is not responsible for any denial of services by carriers, hotels, restaurants and other independent suppliers. Motor coach companies and other carrier employees may not physically lift participants or assist them on or off conveyances. A qualified companion must accompany persons requiring such assistance. Be advised that foreign countries do not have the disabled and handicapped laws that Americans enjoy here at home and our coaches do not have lifts. Passengers should be somewhat mobile.

Itinerary - subject to change

Thursday October 24

4:40pm Depart Honolulu via Hawaiian Airlines

9:20pm Arrive Pago Pago, American Samoa. Meet with lei and transferred to the Tradewinds Hotel.

Friday October 25 (B, L)

Breakfast and welcome orientation briefing at Tradewinds Hotel.

Tour Air Traffic Control Tower, Tafuna Airfield; Frank Shimasaki Store; Historic Aerial Tramway to P3 Orion crash memorial, eTV Project (1962) “The bold experiment”; Pago Pago Harbor WWII heritage trail hike to multiple WWII sites and *Blunt’s Point. After lunch at DDW Beach Café, WWII Nurses Quarters Navy Bldg 133.

Saturday October 26 (B, L)

After breakfast, full day tour to Shoreline Defensive Fortifications; Malota to Masefau Defensive Fortification tour (20+ pill box sites); National Park of American Samoa is included; Leone Airfield built during the war, has the distinction of being the least used airfield and where Ed McMahan was stationed. *Breakers Point Naval Guns & Ammunition Bunker.

Sunday October 27 (B, L)

After breakfast, proceed to Traditional ground oven demonstration. Continue on Malota to Masefau Defensive Fortification tour (20+ pill box sites); Lunch with hosts Michael & Paula (ground oven traditional foods); Visit the Faga’alu WWII Communications Bunker.

Monday October 28 (B, L)

After breakfast, proceed to Jean P. Hayden Museum; Private tour of Governor’s mansion, originally named Building No. 1, *Naval Station Tutuila. Visit with American Samoa Historical Preservation Officer. Hotel rooms kept for late check out. Transfer to airport.

11:20pm Depart Pago Pago via Hawaiian Airlines

Tuesday October 29

5:55am Arrive Honolulu. Tours ends.

**Indicates a National Register of Historic Places*

“On my trip to Samoa, I found much in the way of WWII fortifications and gun emplacements left over from WWII. I also found the Samoans very genuine, friendly, traditional, and rich in history, culture, family and religion. It’s an area that is not overrun by tourists and is mostly visited by day trippers off cruise ships.” Karla, 2018



Tradewinds Hotel, Pago Pago, American Samoa



The Blunts Point Battery, also known as Blunts Point Naval Gun or Matautu Ridge Gun Site, is a gun battery on Matautu Ridge near Pago Pago, on American Samoa. It was part of the fortification of the Samoa Islands which took place after the attack on Pearl Harbor, and is a rare example of a WWII Pacific coastal gun which remains in relatively pristine condition. Declared a National Historic landmark in 1987.

A US passport valid six months beyond date of travel is required to visit American Samoa; US currency is used for money and no electrical converters necessary



Glen Williford at Blunts Point 6-inch gun, American Samoa. Taken during Glen's sight inspection visit to Pago Pago in February 2023.

Glen Williford of the Coastal Defense Study Group, author of his most recent book, AMERICAN BREECHLOADING MOBILE ARTILLERY 1875-1953, "Racing the Sunrise: Reinforcing America's Pacific Outposts, 1941-1942" and "Defenses of Pearl Harbor and Oahu 1907-50". Glen has led tours to the Philippines, Guam and the Marianas, Guadalcanal, Hawaii, and Peleliu.

Tour Cost

\$3450.00 twin share – \$500 single

Includes 5 nights at the Tradewinds Hotel, Pago Pago; round trip airport/hotel transfers; breakfast daily; lunch daily; *economy class air fare from Honolulu to Pago Pago, round trip on Hawaiian Airlines; services of Glen Williford as tour leader; touring as indicated in itinerary; entrance fees.

Does not include air fare from continental US to Honolulu.

*to upgrade to business class on Hawaiian Airlines, additional cost would be \$635.00 round trip per person as of Feb. 7, 2024. Subject to change.