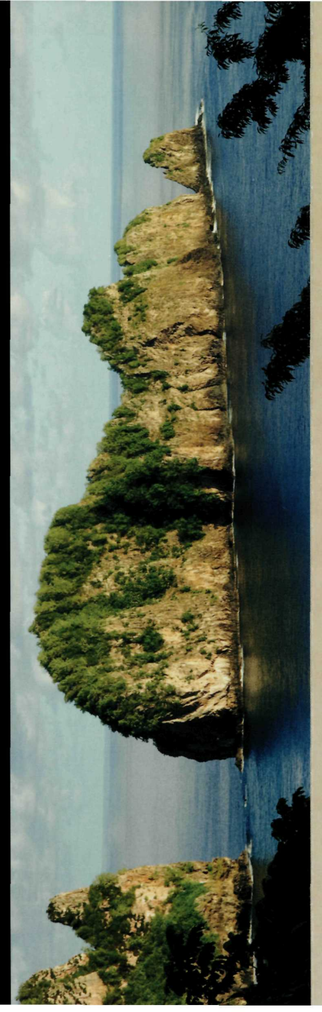
American Samoa

National Natural Landmarks

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

American Samoa
National Natural Landmarks



O le polokalama o le National Natural Landmarks (NNL) sa faavaeina e faamalosia ai ma lagolago i taumafaiga e faasao nofoaga e taua i le siosiomaga ma le tala faasolo pito o se atunuu, ma faalauteleina ai le iloa ma le malamalama o tagata i le taua o nei foi nofoaga. E fitu NNL iinei i Amerika Samoa sa mafai ona faatulagaina i le 1972.

O National Natural Landmarks e filifiliina ona o le tulaga aulelei o le nofoaga, tele o lona taua, ma e iai lona aoga i suesuega faaleaoga ma faasaienisi. O NNLs e aofia ai nofoaga lautele ma fanua faasaina e eseese foi lona faaaogaina.

The National Natural Landmarks (NNL) Program was established to encourage and support the voluntary conservation of sites that illustrate the nation's geological and biological history, and to strengthen the public's appreciation of America's natural heritage. Here in American Samoa, seven NNLs were designated in 1972.

National Natural Landmarks are selected for their outstanding condition, illustrative value, rarity, diversity, or value to science and education. NNLs include public and private lands with a wide variety of uses.

National Natural Landmarks Program
360-854-7203
steve_gibbons@nps.gov
www.nature.nps.gov/nnl/

Cape Taputapu

Cape Taputapu offers the best illustration in American Samoa of wave action on older massive volcanic activity which created Tutuila Island.

Directions: Drive the coast road west to the village of ʻĀmanave. Park off the road just before the road makes a sharp right turn uphill. The cape is about a mile walk along the shoreline. Only hike at low tide.

Matafao Peak

Rainmaker Mountain

As complementary National Natural Landmarks, located on opposite sides of Pago Pago Harbor, Matafao Peak and Rainmaker Mountain are two of five great masses of volcanic rocks extruded as molten magma during major episodes of volcanism which created Tutuila Island. Matafao Peak is the highest mountain on the island.

Directions: Located 1½ miles south of the village of Pago Pago. There is a rough trail to the peak that starts off the road near Fagasā Pass. It is not recommended to hike without a guide.

Directions: Rainmaker Mountain is easily viewed from the west side of Pago Pago Harbor. For a closer view, drive to Āfono Pass from the village of Aūa on the east side of Pago Pago Harbor.

ʻAunuʻu Island

An excellent exposure of a relatively young flow of basalt inter-bedded with layers of tuff. The site also illustrates erosion by wave action, and is covered with dense tropical vegetation.

Directions: Drive the coast east to the village of ʻAuʻasi and take the ʻAunuʻu Island ferry. The one mile trip to the island costs one dollar per person. The ferry may stop running mid-day, so make sure you know when your captain will return.

Fogama'a Crater

Fogama'a Crater is one of the very few illustrations of the most recent volcanism in American Samoa and contains clues to the sequence of volcanic eruptions in this portion of the South Pacific region.

Note: Temporarily closed. Contact the national park at 684-633-7082 for more information.

Le'ala Shoreline

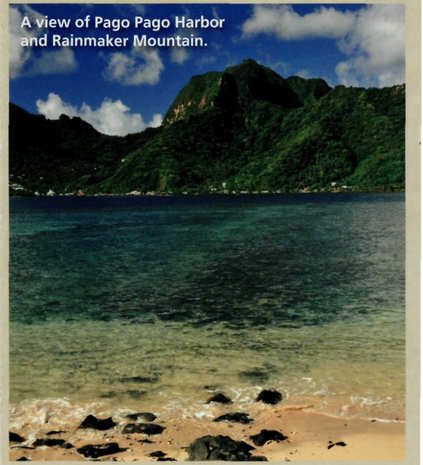
An excellent exposure of a relatively young flow of basalt inter-bedded with layers of tuff. The site also illustrates erosion by wave action, and is covered with dense tropical vegetation.

Directions: Drive west on Route 001 and take the first left turn onto Taputima Road, just past the Leone Village welcome sign.

Vai'ava Strait

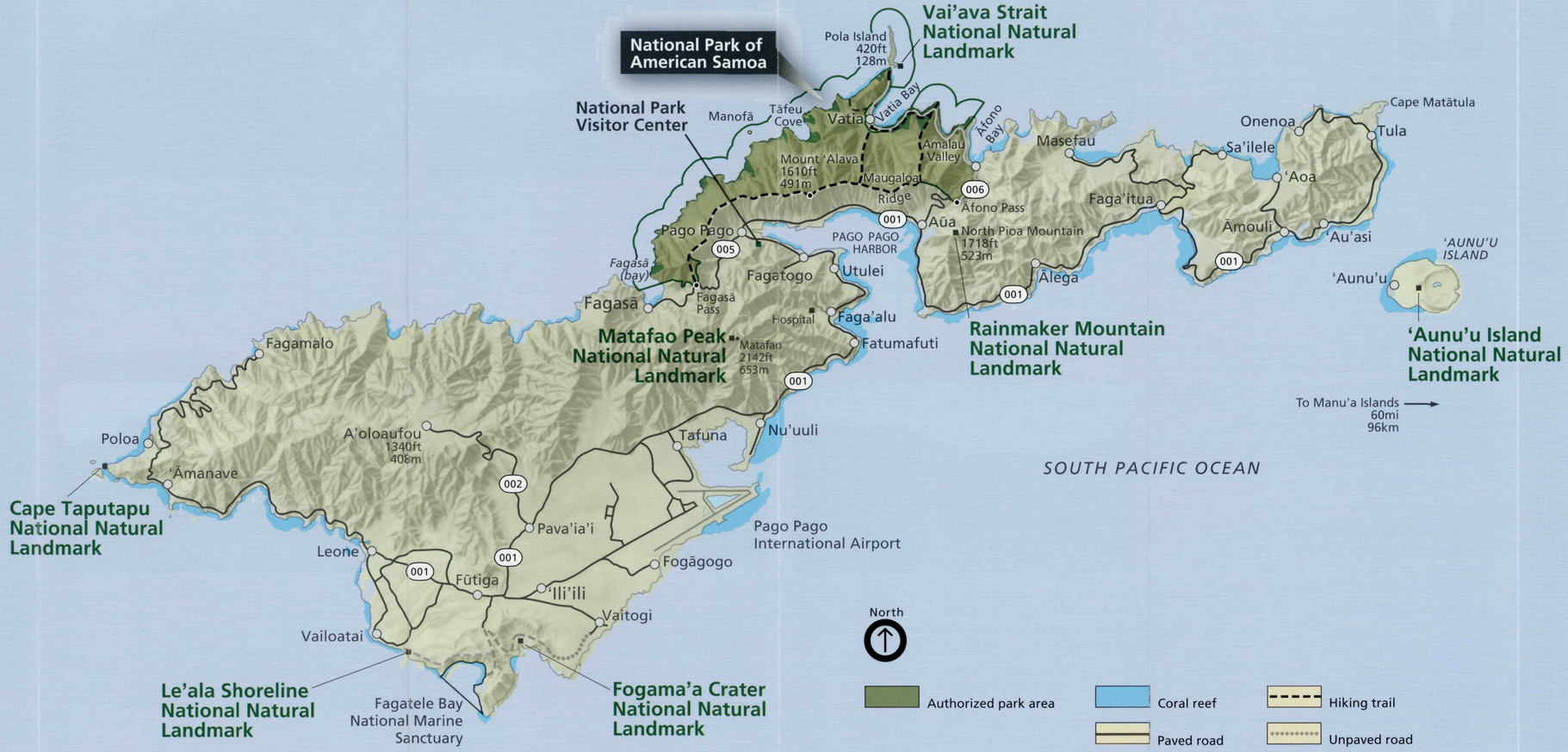
Vai'ava Strait is a classic illustration of steep cliffs and erosion-resistant outliers formed by wave action on a volcanic land mass.

Directions: It is located on the north-central coast of Tutuila Island, adjacent to the village of Vatia. The best place to view the landmark is from the national park fale pulloff on the road to Vatia, 4.1 miles past the village of Aūa.



A view of Pago Pago Harbor and Rainmaker Mountain.

American Samoa: National Natural Landmarks Map



www.nature.nps.gov/nnl/

Printed on recycled paper with soy-based ink

09/12