

# Pacific Romance

YOUR GUIDE TO WEDDINGS, HONEYMOONS  
AND ROMANCE IN THE PACIFIC ISLANDS



**SAMOA**

# Seduced by Samoa

Two islands form Samoa, a relaxing South Pacific nation beaming with culture and people as vibrant and relaxed as the land itself. Upolu is the main island, home to the capital city of Apia, which hosts an array of pristine natural gems, such as To Sua Ocean Trench, and beautiful south coast beaches aligned with secluded coves and romantic resorts. Only an hour boat ride away is Savai'i, the largest of the two islands, steeped in traditional Samoan culture. Although less developed, Savai'i offers a serene atmosphere – somehow even more relaxed than its neighbour – and a truly romantic escape location. There are also many adventures to be had for couples seeking a change of pace; from lava fields to blow holes. Savai'i is certainly worth the short trip.



## Tying the knot

Marriages in Samoa are legally recognised internationally. To be married in Samoa, couples will need to apply for a marriage licence with the Ministry of Justice in Apia, at least 14 days prior to your wedding day – but no more than three months in advance.

What you will need: a copy of both partners' passports and birth certificates; death certificates (of past spouses) or Decree Absolute (if divorced); and a Certificate of No Impediment to Marriage (from your country).

Samoa is layered with natural beauty. Alluring white sand beaches and secluded coves surround the two islands; Islands dotted with spectacular volcanic peaks overlooking valleys of flourishing greenery out toward an endless blue. And between the coconut palms and tropical flowers are villages, exotic wildlife, and waterfalls and rivers that flow together seamlessly – as does romance and Samoa. No wonder “Beautiful Samoa” is the term used by Samoa Tourism to entice travellers. Its picturesque landscape and laid-back vibes provide the idyllic getaway for couples in love.

## NATURAL BEAUTY

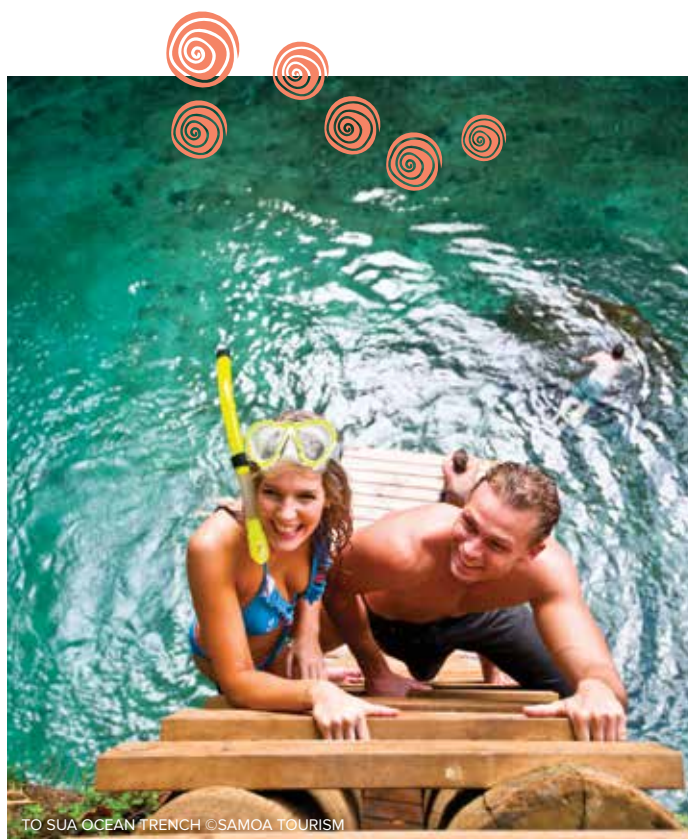
### Upolu

There is something special about the water in Samoa; and not just the water that goes into its famous beer. To Sua Ocean Trench, for instance, which is iconic for a good reason. Found on Upolu’s south coast, this massive swimming hole sits below beautifully maintained tropical gardens. To get there, one must descend a long ladder. But take your time and there’s nothing to fear. The alluring turquoise water awaits below. It’s well-worth the excursion to be able to float on your back and look up at the wonders above and the lava tube cave connected below.

The beaches of Upolu are among the finest in the South Pacific. Salt white sand, clear blue skies and the warm sea – what’s not to love? Head down to the south coast to Tafa Tafa Beach, where beach huts and coconut palm trees align the sand and vibrant coral and marine life lies beneath the water. Down for some snorkelling or scuba diving? Then Lefaga Beach (Return to Paradise) is a must with its astoundingly blue lagoons. Or venture across the island to the south-east tip where Lalomanu Beach resides. Ranked the number one beach in Samoa, Lalomanu is the ultimate relaxation destination; a paradise filled with natural beauty. Its long stretch of paper white sand, abundance of tropical marine life, and a small cluster of beach fales, makes this one for the bucket list.

There is something undeniably romantic about relaxing on secluded white sand coves with a drink in hand, your partner beside you, and the crystal blue ocean shimmering in front of your eyes, as a gentle breeze rustles the leaves of palm trees. However, Upolu’s south coast has plenty to visit, if you care to explore.

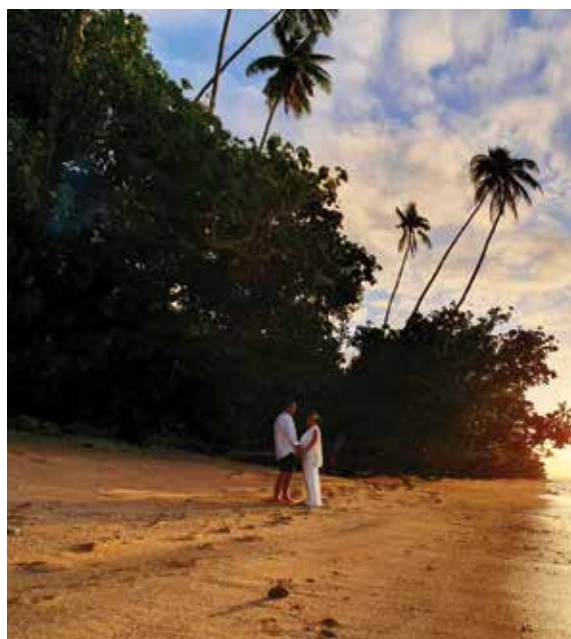
You can of course rent a vehicle to explore the island’s many natural treasures. However, while driving can cover a lot of ground in a short amount of time, you risk missing out on some truly magical experiences.



TO SUA OCEAN TRENCH ©SAMOA TOURISM



FUIPIPIA WATERFALL EAST UPOLU ©SAMOA TOURISM



  
**SALETOGA SANDS**  
RESORT & SPA

**Saletoga Sands Resorts** is a quality four star resort offering exceptional value and personalised weddings, nestled within its own private bay on the South Coast of Upolu in Samoa.

P: +685 41212  
E: [reservations@saletogasands.com](mailto:reservations@saletogasands.com)  
[www.saletogasands.com](http://www.saletogasands.com)



SINALEI REEF RESORT AND SPA



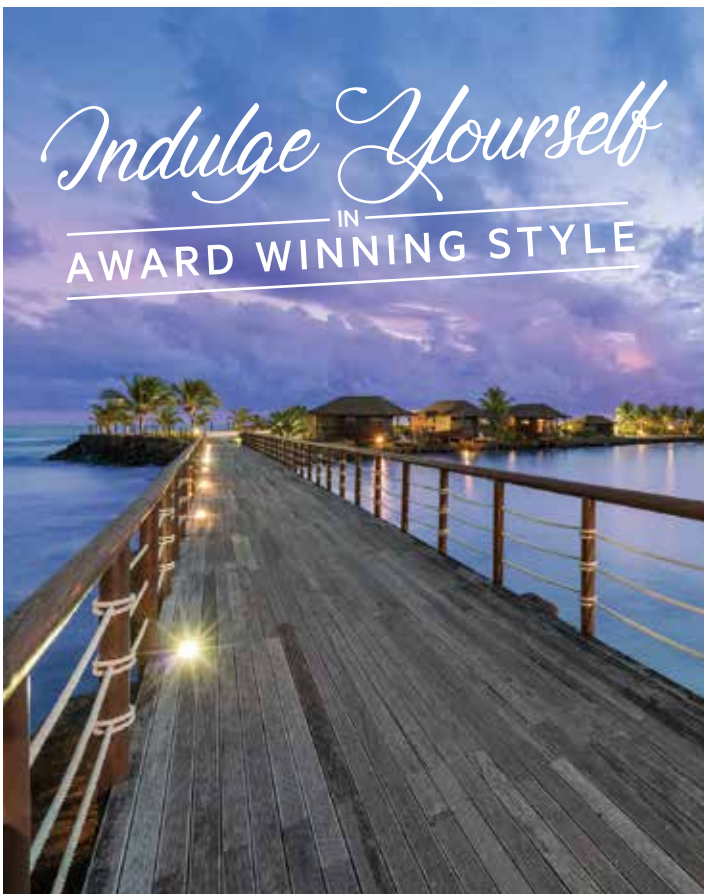
SAVALALO FLEA MARKET, APIA ©SAMOA TOURISM

So, perhaps you may like to do some cycling? Taking it slow, exploring the land, absorbing the sights, scents, sounds and tastes that Samoa has on display. There are many off-road tracks which lead through lush rainforests to rivers and waterfalls. Ride along the main roads, however, and you will come across several family-owned market stalls selling delicious fruits and treats of the island. If biking gets a little too hot and sticky, then lap up some thirst-quenching coconut water, and dive into one of the local swimming spots to cool off.

If water adventures are what you seek, Manoa Tours have got you covered. They offer surf lessons and surf tours to famous surfing spots around the island. They also offer turtle tours, which involves cruising

around the lagoons by boat and checking out Samoa's turtles and other marine life in their natural environment. A rare experience not to be forgotten.

As the heat of the day begins to subside, Samoa's capital city, Apia, is worth checking out. Get lost in the delicious food of the Maketi Fou (food market) on Fugalei Street, tasting succulent exotic fruits such as pawpaw or treating yourself to sweet ladyfinger bananas. If you want to seek out souvenirs, then a 10-minute walk away is the flea market, featuring warrior weaponry, lava lavas, jewellery, and authentic Samoan instruments and music. For early risers, the Apia fish market opens at 6am and is full of treats from the ocean.



*Indulge Yourself*  
IN  
**AWARD WINNING STYLE**



'Aga Reef Resort  
LALOMANU • SAMOA

- Secluded beachfront*
- ★
- Stunning ocean views*
- ★
- Spacious & stylish accommodation*
- ★
- Superb snorkelling directly in front*
- ★
- Fabulous food & menu selection*
- ★
- Popular tourist attractions nearby*
- ★
- Multi Award Winning Resort*



AUSTRALASIA'S BEST RELAXATION RETREAT



AUSTRALASIA'S BEST RELAXATION RETREAT



AUSTRALASIA'S BEST RELAXATION RETREAT



Main South Coast Road, Lalomanu, Upolu | P: +685 47800 | E: office@agareefresort.com | www.agareefresort.com

## Savai'i

Often labelled 'The Real Samoa', Savai'i is a rarity in this fast-paced, modern world due to its peaceful, mild-mannered, traditional way of life, and untarnished scenery. It is a place to slow down, unwind and really experience the simple pleasures of life. Who knew somewhere could be more laid-back than Upolu? This is where the beauty lies in Savai'i and its locals. It is thus a wasted opportunity not to make the trip across from the main island, when complete and utter serenity is only an hour boat ride away.

The inter-island ferry will take you from Mulifanua Wharf, only 10 minutes from Faeolo International Airport, across to Salelologa. As the main town of Savai'i, Salelologa is the best place to gather up supplies and rent a vehicle.

The Canopy Walkway is considered a must-do for explorers of Savai'i. Walk among the tree tops of Falealupo Rainforest Reserve through a walkway 40 metres above the ground and across a 30 metre gap between two trees. Up there, you're completely immersed in nothing but silence and birdsong.

For the more adventurous and active couples, Tafua Peninsula Rainforest Preserve has hiking trails that lead you deep through forestry and over lava-caked terrain to sea caves, cliffs and blowholes. One trail in particular takes you to Tafua Savai'i Crater, an almost Triassic world of sorts, densely packed with vegetation and echoing calls of distant wildlife. The view at the top of the crater is magnificent, so be sure to bring your binoculars to locate tropical birds, flying foxes and coastal villages.

Savai'i has some spectacular waterfalls. Afu Aau Falls is once such example and can easily be accessed via your vehicle, however it is highly recommended that you park up and enjoy the 10 minute walk through rainforest to the pool and waterfall. It is a sight to behold and a fantastic place to have a relaxing swim.

Savai'i is the in-love nature lover's paradise and its beautiful beaches live up to this. The most notable beaches can be found between Siufaga and Pu'apu'a, which are perfect for swimming, snorkelling, kayaking and romantic walks along the white sand. Every day on Savai'i is a new experience to be cherished. A true Samoan experience.



SWIMMING WITH TURTLES, SAVAI'I © SAMOA TOURISM



FALEALUPO CANOPY WALK SAVAI'I © SAMOA TOURISM



RETURN TO PARADISE RESORT



## PLACES TO STAY

### Return to Paradise Resort

Return to Paradise Resort is renowned for its secluded location and laid-back vibe. Residing on Return to Paradise Beach – which got its name after starring in the 1953 Gary Cooper film – this resort is the perfect getaway for couples seeking refuge from the stressful nine to five. A village, about a kilometre away, is the only nearby mark of civilisation.

Indeed, its tranquil and picturesque setting – submerged in clear blue skies, a translucent ocean, and beautifully maintained gardens – paints an accurate portrait of paradise. It is thus a paradise many long to return to, and a spectacular location for a wedding, honeymoon, or anniversary – or perhaps to pop the question?

There are three wedding packages couples can choose from, in which the resort's facilities can cater for up to 450 guests. Couples can however opt for a bespoke wedding experience. Whatever your fancy, the resort's wedding planner is there to discuss the options and help turn your dreams of a paradise wedding into reality.

### Saletoga Sands Resort & Spa

Owned and managed by Kiwi couple Gavin and Lou Brightwell, Saletoga Sands Resort & Spa has earned its reputation for friendly, first-class service and outstanding wedding packages. The couple built this stunning beachfront resort in 2014, atop pristine white sand surrounded by vibrant greenery and flowers. Relax on the beach or your villa's deck and marvel at the vast beauty of the Pacific Ocean. Swim over to the pool bar and treat yourself to a cocktail. Everything you need to enjoy your stay is just a few steps away.

With four wedding packages and a range of extras available – from island drums with fire dancers to a serenading string band – the resort's dedicated wedding coordinator can help you cater for up to 20 guests. At Saletoga Sands couples can have the personal wedding they desire.



RETURN TO PARADISE RESORT



SALETOGA SANDS RESORT & SPA



*Nestled in a private, secluded bay, this intimate, luxurious resort caters exclusively for adults. An oasis of tranquillity perfect for a truly relaxing holiday, honeymoon or romantic escape.*



[bookings@seabreezeresortsamoa.com](mailto:bookings@seabreezeresortsamoa.com) | [seabreezesamoa.com](http://seabreezesamoa.com)

SEABREEZE IS THE ONLY RESORT IN SAMOA THAT IS EXCLUSIVELY FOR ADULTS





SEABREEZE RESORT © WWW.SINCERELYALEXIARAE.COM

### Seabreeze Resort

The award-winning Seabreeze Resort is in a secluded bay, exclusive to adults, perfect for an intimate holiday, honeymoon or wedding. Choose from a variety of villas submerged in palm trees overlooking the ocean. Or, if you want complete privacy and uninterrupted views of this little pocket of paradise, the Honeymoon Point Villa is for you. This villa features a gated courtyard, leading to a private plunge pool and garden, where you can close your eyes and absorb the warmth of the sun and the sound of breaking waves.

The restaurant, running along the beachfront, matches this level of comfort, and the food is top quality. It is of no surprise then that many couples have their weddings at Seabreeze Resort; the private beach being the most popular spot for an intimate ceremony.

### Sinalei Reef Resort and Spa

Located in the centre of Upolu’s south coast, is the luxurious Sinalei Reef Resort and Spa. This four-star resort is set amongst 14 hectares of lush Samoan forestry, tropical gardens, a nine-hole golf course, and a lagoon beach – making it the ultimate adults-only retreat.

Sinalei’s wedding and honeymoon packages do not disappoint. There are various options to choose from. For instance, married couples might want to treat themselves to the Lagoon Lovers Honeymoon Package, which features an in-room champagne breakfast, a private candlelight setting, and a 1-hour couple’s massage.

Sinalei is truly an oasis to immerse yourself in. From spa relaxation and fine cuisine – supplied by local farmers and fishers – to diving and surfing, this resort caters to every holiday mood.

### Le Vasa Resort

Conveniently located near Faleolo International Airport and Muilfanua Wharf – which connects the island of Upolu and Savai’i – Le Vasa Resort prides itself on providing a real, unique Samoan holiday experience. Unwind with a cocktail from the Ugly Mermaid bar, immersing yourself in the peaceful ocean views and tranquil vibes. Fancy some South Pacific cuisine? Head over to Cocolin’s by the Sea, the resort’s traditional Samoan-style oceanfront restaurant. For couples looking for adventure, Le Vasa offers an array of traditional local activities such as snorkelling, water sports and private sunset cruises.

Le Vasa has a Create Your own Wedding Dream package, catering to a wide range of couples. For instance, you could be married on a floating stage, private island or in front of the Malietoa Monument, with a warrior escort or canoe entrance, and a DJ or live band playing tunes. Honeymooners can also enjoy one of three packages.

### Coconuts Beach Club Resort and Spa

This Upolu south coast retreat boasts an idyllic spot and stunning vistas. Stay in beach fales where the creamy white sand is your doorstep. But if you feel like treating yourself to more of a luxury experience, then the Royal Beach Villas are sure to satisfy. However, Coconuts Beach Club Resort and Spa is home to Samoa’s only over-the-water fales. What could be more romantic than being surrounded by crystal blue ocean and golden sunsets? This stunning setting is thus perfect for a wedding or honeymoon, which the resort has many options available for. The Samoan Experience, for instance, is a premium option that is a truly unique and traditional Samoan ceremony for the bride and groom to become fully immersed in. An unforgettable experience.





# SHERATON

Samoa Beach Resort



Sheraton Samoa Beach Resort  
Entrance Road, Mulifanua, Samoa  
Ph. +685 84 45611  
Fax. +685 45626  
E: [Reservations.SamoaResort@sheraton.com](mailto:Reservations.SamoaResort@sheraton.com)

MARRIOTT  
**BONVOY**



AGA REEF RESORT

There is a magical place in the heart of the South Pacific . . . called Samoa.

**NEW SPA OPEN NOW!**

[www.CBCSamoa.com](http://www.CBCSamoa.com)



### Le Lagato Resort and Spa

On the Samoan island of Savai'i resides Le Lagato Resort and Spa, a stunning boutique resort surrounded by coconut palms and the vast blue. A ferry ride from Upolu, followed by a coastal drive, will get you there within two hours. The flawless backdrop of a burning sunset illuminating Le Lagato's lagoon, alone, makes it worth the journey. Essentially the perfect place for couples to say, "I do", which is of course why wedding and honeymoon packages are available. However, this resort has plenty more to offer. Sunset spas, an infinity pool, and kayaking and paddle boarding, just to name a few. Le Lagato is intended for those who want to experience bliss in Savai'i.

### Aga Reef Resort

On the southern coast of Upolu near Lalomanu, home to Samoa's finest beach, is Aga Reef Resort. Here is a great spot to enjoy a relaxing holiday. The setting is immensely beautiful. Fales align the bottom of steep cliffs covered in tropical jungle, the decks facing out to the crisp blue ocean. A great place to tie the knot.

Couples can choose from three packages. Each one is similarly priced and offers a different location: beach, pool, or the resort's very own island. So, it all comes down to a matter of taste, which is why the packages include a range of different features and ceremony necessities. For instance, a floral arch, wedding cake, flower leis, formalities and more.

### Sheraton Samoa Beach Resort

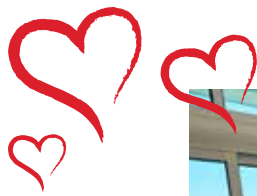
Only a five-minute drive from the international airport and located on the western coast beside a secluded white sand beach, Sheraton Samoa Beach Resort is a convenient place to spend your tropical holiday without sacrificing the romance. There is plenty to do at Sheraton; such as tennis, golf, kayaking and spa treatments. The spa treatments are a highlight of the resort, especially the Fa'a Samoa Traditional Massage and their famous Talofa Temptation Treatment.

This stunning beach resort offers various wedding packages for couples wanting to celebrate their love under the stars, or even the rising sun, with a backdrop of the white sandy beach, tropical gardens, poolside, or Lagoon Bay – there are plenty of options and customisable features to create your dream wedding. 🌸



# Taumeasina Island Resort

## *Escape to paradise*



Experience true 4.5 star quality at Taumeasina Island Resort – Samoa. Indulge in fabulous food, luxurious spa treatments and great service all in a pristine island location.

Surrounded by a beautiful blue lagoon and framed by emerald green mountains, Taumeasina offers the perfect setting for a tropical honeymoon, romantic escape or your dream island wedding. Share your special day with family and friends or marry in an intimate ceremony with just the two of you. The island offers a number of spectacular venues where you can exchange vows surrounded by a sparkling lagoon, white sand beach and lush tropical gardens.

We have our very own private wedding pavilion with spectacular ocean views which is perfect for your ceremony and wedding reception. We also have plenty of outdoor space for designer marquees and an indoor ballroom for larger functions. Our professional team including your own wedding coordinator will tend to every detail to make your destination wedding in Samoa the most seamless and unforgettable day surpassing your expectations. We invite you to be inspired by our bespoke wedding packages designed with love.

[www.taumeasinainislandresortsamoa.com](http://www.taumeasinainislandresortsamoa.com)





**TAUMEASINA ISLAND**  
RESORT - SAMOA

## Samoa's Premier Island Resort








Experience a romantic tropical escape at Taumeasina Island Resort. Offering deluxe island hotel and villa accommodation, 4 star facilities and services along with world class dining, it's everything and more for your special day or treasured honeymoon.

P: +685 61000 E: [info@taumeasinainislandresortsamoa.com](mailto:info@taumeasinainislandresortsamoa.com) [www.taumeasinainislandresortsamoa.com](http://www.taumeasinainislandresortsamoa.com)



# Alofa, Samoa

Imagine yourself surrounded by natural wonders and colourful wildlife. Where an exotic meal dances off your tastebuds and an adventure awaits around every corner.

We're warriors at heart, our rich history and culture will give you a glimpse into our way of life - Fa'a Samoa. That's why the minute you arrive in Samoa you'll be embraced by a warm friendly welcome. There really is no place quite like Beautiful Samoa.

## *Love, Samoa*

In response to the measles epidemic, travellers can be assured it is safe to visit Samoa provided you vaccinated at least two weeks before travel. If uncertain of your immunisation status, seek the advice of your healthcare provider before departing.

*Beautiful*  
**SAMOA**

*Find Beautiful*  
**WWW.SAMOA.TRAVEL**

## Kate Swan and Perry Young

Sinalei Reef Resort and Spa, Samoa

### What inspired you to have a Pacific island wedding?

We had a holiday booked for a few months. Then we decided we should just get married while we were away to make things low key and relaxed!

### What made you pick Samoa?

Word of mouth was the main reason. We'd never been to Samoa before, but had heard great things from friends and family.

### What stood out about Sinalei Reef Resort and Spa?

Again, it was recommended to us by a family member who'd stayed there before. I also scanned Sinalei's Instagram page and thought the photos and venue looked stunning!

### How many guests did you have?

We went for a small intimate wedding of 10 guests.

### What did you love most about getting married in the islands?

The setting was spectacular and the atmosphere was relaxed. Friends and family were able to get a holiday at the same time. Galen, the resort's wedding planner, was an angel. The staff were friendly and very professional.

### What were some of the advantages of getting married in the islands?

The best aspect was getting on the plane in Auckland and knowing all our wedding plans had been taken care of. It was our time to relax and enjoy the lead-up to our wedding day with our friends and family. The main advantage was our island wedding became a five-day event, rather than just an afternoon and an evening. We spent time with all our guests, creating amazing memories and sharing many fun times.

### What did your guests love most about your wedding?

Relaxed atmosphere, beautiful setting, romantic and intimate.



### What were some special touches you'd only get in the islands?

The tropical beach setting (friends and family actually went for a swim between the ceremony and dinner/drinks). Plus everyone got to enjoy a real island holiday at the same time.

### Last word...

This was an experience Perry and I will never forget. We absolutely loved our stay at Sinalei. The staff were so accommodating, really going above and beyond with all the extra touches e.g. decorating our beach front villa for the wedding, singing us a farewell song and playing us a wedding dance song on our last night at the resort. We couldn't have asked for more.



# — PHOTOGRAPHERS — SNAPSHOT

## Portraits of love

**Alexia Rae**

### How long have you been a wedding photographer?

I've worked in the wedding photography industry for the past seven years, but established my own business 'Sincerely, Alexia Rae' two years ago.

### What made you specialise in wedding photography?

I'm a hopeless romantic! Love is the most wonderful, vulnerable, and timeless expression and I think marriage is a very powerful and humble portrayal of that. My job is literally witnessing two people make a sacred covenant and that's so special to me. I have been blessed with the most amazing clients and I might start the day feeling like a stranger but often leave feeling like family.

### What questions should a couple ask their photographer?

In my experience, it's usually the other way around. If you love the work that your chosen photographer provides, make sure they are asking you questions about your personality and your story. It's a wedding photographer's job to capture you in your element – so find someone you connect with.

### Can you provide any tips to help them prepare for the shoot?

Your wedding clothes are key. Take into consideration the climate of your destination and dress in a manner that will provide ultimate comfort! Also prepare the outfit that makes you feel and look your best – for example, if you don't like the way your arms look in photos, choose an outfit with sleeves. That way you'll be relaxed, happier and enjoying the moment.



### How do you get everyone to relax for the candid shots?

This is a funny one! I act like a goof and mimic the poses or expressions I want from my clients. We usually end up laughing and everyone just feels super relaxed!

### Have you had any unusual requests for locations or scenarios?

I got to shoot an elopement in the rain once! It was pretty amazing because the forecast for several weeks was rain and my couple had such a wild love for one another and the water (they are avid paddlers), it all just worked out perfectly!

### What is your typical turnaround time?

I send my clients their wedding album on their one month wedding anniversary!

[www.sincerelyalexia Rae.com](http://www.sincerelyalexia Rae.com)



## A true Polynesian experience

### Mel Toailoa

General Manager Return To Paradise Resort

#### How many weddings does the resort organise each month?

On average we would host, one wedding per month, but that can go up to 2 or 3 weddings a month.

#### What lead-time do you require to plan a wedding?

A lead time of one year is ideal, but we've had requests to plan weddings within 5-6 months from the wedding date. When you have a shorter lead time and are planning weddings that are already booked, it can get frantic! But we take it all on board, put our processes in place and make sure each wedding goes without a hitch. The goal, as always, is to make sure everyone is having a wonderful time, and the couple enjoys their special day.

#### What are some of the unique things you offer?

We offer wedding packages that suit a couple's budget. But, what set us apart from the other resorts is the personalised, can-do attitude of our team. We give our brides and grooms an unparalleled Polynesian experience found nowhere else, and we do not apologise for our absolute attention to detail. Our team's number one priority is making people happy day-in day-out. We ensure that every couple that chooses our resort enjoys a memorable wedding experience. Not only for them, but for their entire wedding group as well. That's what makes our resort unique.

#### What else do couples love about your resort?

The culture. We're 100% Samoan owned. And we treat every guest as part of the family. Couples that choose our resort can soak up the rich Samoan history and way of life. Plus guests enjoy easy access to some of the island's most popular tourist attractions and long stretches of unspoilt beaches.

#### What is the most satisfying part of hosting weddings?

Planning the wedding and also seeing everything come together on the wedding day. From the very beginning of the wedding planning process, to when the bride and groom say their vows, we just love being there for the journey! It's such a spine-tingling event filled with happiness and love. The most rewarding part is when we see the bride walk down the aisle and see the sheer joy on her face.

#### Top 3 things a planner needs to find out from a couple?

1. The wedding date is the obvious place to start!
2. Number of guests.
3. Wedding package they've chosen – this is important as it guides the planning phase.

#### What are some ways you personalise a wedding?

We like to add unique touches to each wedding. For example, if a couple has a favourite colour, we can add that to their wedding theme. We also maintain close contact throughout. Many emails are exchanged, plus we schedule calls with couples to make sure we're on top of things. And to reassure the couple that their wedding plans are in place.

#### Best advice you could give a couple?

Just remember that it's your wedding day and you're marrying the love of your life. That's all that matters. It's also why having a wedding planner relieves a lot of that stress. Leave all the stress to the wedding planner.





# We'll Take Care Of Everything



Located just 20 minutes from the international airport on its own private beach facing stunning sunsets and stunning beachfront chapel.

All inclusive wedding packages from \$6,500NZD (30 people).

LIMITED DATES AVAILABLE.

[weddings@returntoparadiseresort.com](mailto:weddings@returntoparadiseresort.com)

Ph: +685 35055 | TOLL FREE AUS: 1800 751 724

NZ: 0800 424 325



**Return to Paradise**

**RESORT AND SPA**

Lefaga, Samoa

[www.returntoparadiseresort.com](http://www.returntoparadiseresort.com)