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.

**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 

**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.

**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:** Located 1½ miles south of the village of Pago Pago. An excellent exposure of a relatively young flow of basalt inter-beded with layers of tuff. The site also illustrates erosion by wave action, and is covered with dense tropical vegetation.

**Fogama’a Crater**

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 Fogama’a Pass. It is not recommended to hike without a guide.

**Rainmaker Mountain**

Rainmaker Mountain is easily viewed from the west side of Pago Pago Harbor. For a closer view, drive to Ata’i Pass from the village of Asia on the west side of Pago Pago Harbor.

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