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The First Lady Welcomes Azamara Onward Cruise Ship to American Samoa.



The Azamara Onward cruise ship made its inaugural call to Pago Pago Harbor on January 28, 2025, marking its maiden voyage to our territory. In keeping with tradition, First Lady Lois Phillips-Pula formally welcomed the Azamara Onward on behalf of the Honorable Governor Pulaali'i Nikolao Pula, Lieutenant Governor Pulumataala Ae Ae Jr., and the people of American Samoa. A ceremonial plaque exchange was held to commemorate the occasion, honoring the ship's captain, management, and crew.

The ship's name, Azamara, blends "az" (blue) and "mar" (sea) from Romance languages, symbolizing endless horizons and tranquil waters. Inspired by Acamar, the star once considered

the southernmost bright star visible from Greece, Azamara embodies a spirit of exploration and discovery, making our islands a fitting destination for its journey.

The Executive Director of the American Samoa Visitors Bureau, Ms. Taimalelagi Minnie Tuia, along with her dedicated staff, decorated the wharf in preparation for this special occasion, creating a festive atmosphere for both visitors and locals. The Nu'uuli Methodist Youth welcomed guests with traditional cultural performances on the dock, offering an authentic showcase of Samoan heritage. Local vendors were also present to display and sell handcrafted goods, while tour operators provided guided experiences to enhance visitors' experience.

The arrival of Azamara Onward marks the first cruise ship to visit American Samoa in 2025, with six more scheduled to arrive in the first half of the year.

For more information about upcoming cruise ship arrivals, please contact the American Samoa Visitors Bureau at (684) 633-9805 or email info@americansamoa.travel.

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