

THE ISLANDS of
TAHITI

SOCIETY ISLANDS | TUAMOTU ISLANDS | GAMBIER ISLANDS | MARQUESAS ISLANDS | AUSTRAL ISLANDS

Vacation Guide



Just 8 hours from L.A.





kirklandphotos.com

Just eight hours from Los Angeles but seemingly a world away. Closer than you think and easier to travel to than you might imagine. As far south of the equator as Hawaii is north, Tahiti is halfway between California and Australia, in the same time zone as Hawaii, and on the same side of the International Date Line as North America.

Welcome!

Maeva!

Tahiti. The word evokes visions of an island paradise. With 118 islands boasting high, rugged mountain peaks, coral reefs, turquoise-blue lagoons, white sand, palm-fringed beaches, and luxuriously intimate resorts, each island paradise has something for everyone.

www.TahitiTourism.com

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Tahitian Culture & History

Culture

The Tahitians of the modern era have inherited a rich culture from their Maohi ancestors. Oral history recounts the adventures of gods and warriors in colorful legends where javelin throwing was the sport of the gods, surf riding was favored by the kings, and strong men competed in canoe races and stone lifting as a show of pure strength.

Heiva I Tahiti

The greatest Polynesian cultural event in the world. This celebration of ancient traditions and competition has been the most important event in Tahiti for over 125 years. Visitors are encouraged to join in the celebrations from late June to late July every year and discover daily and nightly events and displays. Tahitians gather in Papeete from many of the islands to exhibit crafts, compete in traditional sporting, dance, and musical events.

Tattoo

The word *tatau* originated in Tahiti. The legend of Tohu, the god of tattoo, describes painting all the oceans' fish in colors and patterns. In Polynesian culture, tattoos have long been considered signs of beauty, and in earlier times were an important part of the culture in signaling the end of adolescence.



Traditional Tattoo: Lam Ngyuen

Handcrafts

The skills of the ancestors' artistry are kept sacred and passed on by both the "mamas" — guardians of tradition and matriarchs of Tahitian society — and by the skilled craftsmen. Items include: weaving, quilting, wooden and stone sculptures and bowls, drums, *tapa*, carvings, and hand-dyed *pareu*.

Marae

The open-air sanctuaries called *marae* were the center of power in ancient Polynesia. These stone religious sites, akin to temples, hosted the important events of the times such as the worship of the gods, peace treaties, celebrations of war, and the launch of voyages to colonize distant lands.



Proud Tahitian people: Ty Sawyer

Music and Dance

The beauty of today's Tahitian dance testifies to its resilience in Polynesian culture. In ancient times, dances were linked with all aspects of life. One would dance to welcome a visitor, to pray, to challenge an enemy, and to seduce a mate. Today's dance is still powerful, colorful, and sensual while accompanied by the harmonic voices of the Tahitians, thunderous traditional drums, and conch shells. Modern Tahitian music is surprisingly diverse with a blending of Polynesian rhythm and Western melody and is easily found for download on the Internet.

Flowers

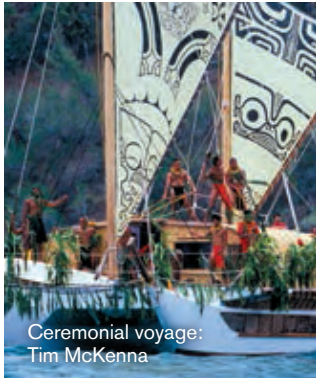
Tropical flowers seem to be everywhere on the islands, particularly in the hair of Tahitians. The famous Tiare Tahiti flower is used in *leis* for greeting arriving visitors and returning family. Tradition holds that, if taken, women and men wear a flower behind the left ear.



Flower adorned children: Danee Hazama

History

Around 4000 BC, a great migration began from Southeast Asia across open ocean to settle the Pacific Islands. Many researchers conclude that Tonga and Samoa were settled around 1300 BC and from here, colonization voyages were launched to the Marquesas Islands in about 200 BC. Over the next several centuries, great migrations to colonize all the Tahitian islands and, ultimately, nearly the entire South Pacific took place. This area is now called the “Polynesian Triangle” and includes Hawaii to the north, Easter Island to the southeast, and New Zealand to the southwest. As a result of these migrations, the native Tahitians, Hawaiians and the Maoris of New Zealand all originate from common ancestors and speak a similar language collectively known as Maohi.



The era of European exploration began in the 1500s when “ships without outriggers” began to arrive. In 1521, Magellan spotted the atoll of Pukapuka in what is now the Tuamotu Atolls and, in 1595, the Spanish explorer Mendaña visited Fatu Hiva Island in the Marquesas. More than 170 years later, Captain Samuel Wallis, aboard the English frigate

HMS *Dolphin*, was the first to visit the island of Tahiti during his journey to discover *terra australis incognita*-a mythical landmass below the equator thought to balance the northern hemisphere. Wallis named Tahiti “King George III Island” and claimed it for England. Soon after and unaware of Wallis' arrival, French navigator Louis-Antoine de Bougainville, landed on the opposite side of Tahiti and claimed it for the King of France. European fascination with the islands grew as news spread of both the mutiny of Captain William Bligh's crew aboard the HMS *Bounty*, and the tales told of the beauty and grace of the Tahitian people. Western knowledge and fascination of Tahiti and the South Pacific continued to expand with the illustrations of Tahitian flora and fauna and the first map of the islands of the Pacific that Captain James Cook brought back. In the 1800s, the arrival of whalers, British missionaries, and French military expeditions forever changed the way of life on Tahiti, while also serving to provoke a French-British rivalry for control of the islands.

The Pomare Dynasty ruled Tahiti until 1880 when King Pomare V was persuaded to cede Tahiti and most of its dependencies to France. By 1958, all the islands of Tahiti were reconstituted as the Overseas French territory called French Polynesia. In 2004, French Polynesia became an Overseas Country within the French Republic with self-governing powers and a mission to provide for her people through commerce and investment.

The Birth of the Overwater Bungalow

The signature overwater bungalow, first invented in the Islands of Tahiti and now the quintessential icon of paradise, recently celebrated 45 years of welcoming guests. For travelers looking for the perfect South Pacific escape, staying in an overwater bungalow is a “can't miss experience.” From direct access from a private deck into the world-renowned Tahitian lagoons or lounging on the



balcony of a thatched-roof hideaway with all the amenities and service of a first class hotel room, the overwater bungalow is the symbol of the ultimate private getaway.

The overwater bungalow was first conceived and built by three American hotel owners known as “The Bali Hai Boys.” They took the traditional local Polynesian grass huts and set them on concrete stilts over the water's edge. Today, most resorts on all the frequently visited islands throughout Tahiti feature luxurious bungalows, suites and villas perched over calm and mesmerizing lagoons.

Canoes

Aboard massive, double-hulled outrigger canoes called *tipairua*, Polynesians navigated the vast ocean by stars, winds, and currents and created new civilizations in their wake. Today, the canoe continues to play an important role in everyday Tahitian life and is honored in colorful races and festivals. Centuries before Europeans concluded that the Earth was round, Polynesians had mastered the Pacific.



Tipairua and Va'a Motu Canoes

The Mutiny that Brought Hollywood to Tahiti

Although the HMS *Bounty* was just one of many ships sailing the South Pacific in the 18th century, her mutinous voyage helped make Otaheite (or Tahiti, as it is called now) the world's most infamous paradise. The drama and beauty of the islands and her people were showcased in the 1932 book *Mutiny on the Bounty* and the movie adaptations of 1933, 1935 (Best Picture), 1962 (Best Picture nominee), and 1984.



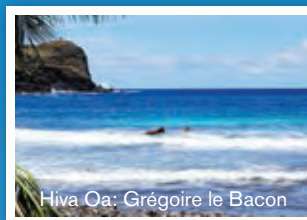
Fast Facts

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- This map illustrates the French Polynesia archipelago, divided into five main groups of islands:
- Society Archipelago:** Includes islands like Tahiti, Moorea, Raiatea, Bora Bora, Huahine, and others.
 - Leeward Islands:** Includes islands like Bora Bora, Raiatea, and Moorea.
 - Windward Islands:** Includes islands like Raiatea, Moorea, and Tahiti.
 - Austral Archipelago:** Includes islands like Rimatara, Rurutu, Tubuai, and Raiavavae.
 - Tuamotu Archipelago:** Includes islands like Fakarua, Nukunono, and others.
- Two inset photos are included:
- A photo of Bora Bora, showing its iconic turquoise lagoon and white sand beaches.
 - A photo of a tropical landscape with green hills and a blue sky.



Marquesas Archipelago

Hatutaa
Elao
Moto One
Hatu Ihi
Nuka Hiva
Ua Huka
Fatu Huku
Ua Pou
Hiva Oa
Tahuata
Motane
Fatu Hiva



Hiva Oa: Grégoire le Bacon



ipelago

Pukapuka
Tatakoto
Pukarua
Reao
Akiaki
(Vahitahi)
Tavake
Tavana
Pinaki
Vanavana
Tureia
Moruroa
Fangataufa
Maria (est)
Morane
Mangareva (Rikitea)
Taravai
Akamaru
Temoe
Manutea (sud)
Matureivaoa
Tenarunga
Vahanga
Tenararo

Gambier Archipelago



Rangiroa: Philippe Bacchet



Mangareva: Jeff Banhamza

Destination Weddings & Honeymoons

Once a Dream. Now a Reality.

Weddings

Make your wedding as romantic as your honeymoon. By French Polynesian law, American and Canadian citizens can be legally wed throughout all of the Islands of Tahiti. What better place to start a new life than in the most romantic place on earth!

Unique Civil Wedding Ceremony

Each island features unique venues for small or large ceremonies. Wedding planners offer many creative options at resorts, beaches, private islands, chapels, and churches. A network of service providers handles every detail for couples by themselves or couples traveling with a large entourage of family and friends.

Traditional Tahitian Wedding Ceremony

Adorned in flower crowns and *leis*, wearing traditional white *pareu* or *sarongs*, couples feel like royalty in ceremonies that can include musicians, dancers, and a flower bedecked outrigger canoe. Ceremonies include a priest who will bestow couples with their new Tahitian names and wrap them in a *tifafai* or Tahitian quilt. A beautiful wedding dinner or feast for the couple and guests can be served beach side or even on a private *motu*.

Honeymoons

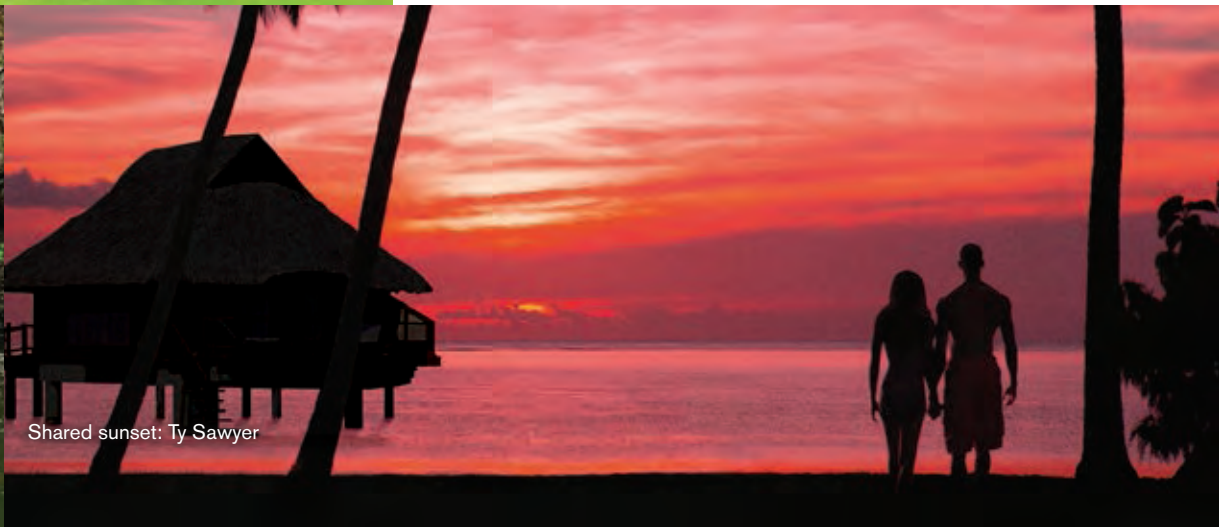
Famously known as one of the world's leading dream honeymoon destinations, here, couples are far away from everything, except each other. The seclusion and beauty of each island and the dramatic bungalows on the beach and over the water seem to embrace each couple with a passionate ambience. Honeymooners can choose from dozens of water activities and island exploration, shopping for pearls, picnics on a private island, fine dining, and Polynesian spa treatments.



Walking down the aisle in Bora Bora: Ty Sawyer



Ty Sawyer



Shared sunset: Ty Sawyer

Resorts and Hotels Featuring Customized Wedding Services, Chapels and Packages Include:

Tahiti

InterContinental Tahiti Resort
Le Méridien Tahiti
Manava Suite Resort Tahiti
Radisson Plaza Resort Tahiti

Moorea

Hilton Moorea Lagoon Resort and Spa
InterContinental Moorea Resort and Spa
Legends Resort Moorea
Moorea Pearl Resort & Spa
Sofitel Moorea la Ora Beach Resort

Bora Bora

Bora Bora Pearl Beach Resort & Spa
Four Seasons Resort Bora Bora
Hilton Bora Bora Nui Resort & Spa
InterContinental Bora Bora Resort & Thalasso Spa
Le Méridien Bora Bora
Maitai Polynesia Bora Bora
Sofitel Bora Bora Marara Beach Resort
Sofitel Bora Bora Private Island
St. Regis Bora Bora Resort

Huahine

Te Tiare Beach Resort
Maitai Lapita Village
Relais Mahana

Taha'a

Le Taha'a Island Resort & Spa, Relais & Chateaux
Vahine Island Private Resort

Tuamotu Atolls

Hotel Kia Ora Resort and Spa (Rangiroa)
Kia Ora Sauvage (Rangiroa)
Motu Teta (Rangiroa)
Ninamu Resort (Tikehau)
Tikehau Pearl Beach Resort

Cruise

Paul Gauguin Cruises

Expert event and travel planning can be arranged by a Certified Tahiti Specialist® who specializes in destination weddings. For complete information on details, requirements, documents and frequently asked questions, visit www.TahitiTourism.com/weddings.



Ty Sawyer



Wedding Chapel Bora Bora



Secluded beaches and private islands: Ty Sawyer

Tahitian Wellness & Spas

Spas Designed by Mother Nature

All the natural ingredients for the world's perfect spa are here: Soothing lagoon waters; a rich botanical environment, air scented of vanilla and *tiare* flowers; tranquility of the quiet islands, and the scenic wonders that surround each of these world famous spas. Some call it a "spa within a spa" experience, found nowhere else on earth. Each of the spas is uniquely situated, within private gardens, in thatched-roof open-air bungalows on the beach, in overwater bungalows with tropical fish parading below, or atop hills overlooking the lagoons.

Featuring the bounty of oils, flowers, and plants found only in Tahiti, each spa has a full menu of treatments for women, men, and couples including:

- **Fresh-Flower Bath for Two**
- **Body Wrap in Fresh Banana Tree Leaves**
- **Body Scrub with Sand and Rice, Grated Coconuts or Sea Salt**
- **Body Wash with Vanilla**
- **Mask with Fresh Fruit and Plants**
- **Flower Remedies and Aromatherapy**
- **Aromaspa Body Treatments**
- **Thalassotherapy and Reflexology**
- **Deep Ocean Water Treatments**
- **Heated-Stone Massage**
- **Rain Showers and River Baths**
- **Full Beauty Care and Facials**



InterContinental Resort & Thalasso Spa: Tim McKenna



Manea Spa



Couple massage: Hélène Spa



Flower bath

Traditional and Luxurious Polynesian Spas

Spa treatments can be arranged in advance at any of these spas by your Preferred Travel Professional or through the resorts or cruise ships directly. For an up-to-date list and more information, please visit www.TahitiTourism.com.

Tahiti

Hotel Tahiti Nui, Dhana Spa

InterContinental Tahiti Resort, Deep Nature Spa by Algotharm

Manava Suite Resort Tahiti, Manea Spa

Radisson Plaza Resort Tahiti, Le Spa

Bora Bora

Bora Bora Pearl Beach Resort & Spa, Manea Spa

Four Seasons Resort Bora Bora, The Spa

Hilton Bora Bora Nui Resort & Spa, Hina Spa

InterContinental Bora Bora Resort & Thalasso Spa,

Deep Ocean Spa by Algotharm

Sofitel Bora Bora Marara Beach Resort, Le Spa

Sofitel Bora Bora Private Island

St. Regis Bora Bora Resort, Miri Miri Spa by Clarins

Moorea

Hilton Moorea Lagoon Resort and Spa, Moorea Lagoon Spa

InterContinental Moorea Resort and Spa, Hélène Spa

Legends Resort Moorea, Legends Beauty

Moorea Pearl Resort & Spa, Manea Spa

Sofitel Moorea la Ora Beach Resort, Le Spa

Huahine

Te Tiare Beach Resort, Manea Spa

Taha'a

Le Taha'a Island Resort & Spa, Relais & Chateaux,

Le Spa by Le Taha'a

Tuamotu Atolls

Hotel Kia Ora Resort and Spa (Rangiroa)

Tikehau Pearl Beach Resort, Manea Spa

Cruise

Paul Gauguin Cruises, Deep Ocean Spa by Algotharm



Le Spa



Miri Miri Spa by Clarins at the St. Regis Bora Bora Resort: Danee Hazama

Diving, Snorkeling & Watersports

Dramatic views continue under the sea and lagoons as beginning and advanced divers and snorkelers are amazed by the density of large marine life. Regular encounters include: gigantic manta rays gliding just a few feet below the surface; reef sharks “showing off”; dolphins dancing along the surf; the graceful Napoleon wrasse floating among the coral; infinite schools of marine life riding the current through the reef passes; and humpback whales in their annual parade.

Watersports Highlights

This is a water playground for all ages! Activities to choose from include independent or guided options for powerboating; sailing; sunset cruising; outrigger canoeing; kayaking; jetskiing; surfing; windsurfing; parasailing; kitesurfing, stand-up paddle boarding; glass-bottom boat tours; sport fishing; helmet diving; and more. You can also learn to dive, sail, paddle an outrigger, or surf at schools and camps.



Coral gardens



Self-guided snorkeling: Ty Sawyer



Your friends await in shallow, clear waters: Ty Sawyer



Gentle giants – Manta Rays of Bora Bora: Philippe Bacchet

Island Dive Site Highlights

There are dozens of unique dive sites around each island and atoll and expert certified dive operators will take care of all the details. Dives and activities can be arranged in advance by your Preferred Travel Professional or through your resort or cruise ship. For more information, visit www.TahitiTourism.com and www.TahitiTourism.com/diving.

Tahiti

Diving on the island of Tahiti is perfect for both beginning and advanced divers. Sites include shallow waters; oceanic drop-offs; sunken vessels; walls of bright coral; and schools of smaller species.

The Aquarium

Lagoon dive 10–40 ft.

The Wrecks

Lagoon wreck dive 20–70 ft.

St. Etienne Drop– Off

Ocean dive 30–150 ft.

Fresh Water Springs

Ocean dive 20–90 ft.

Tetopa Grotto

Ocean cavern dive 10–30 ft.

Lagoon Hole

Lagoon dive 30–90 ft.

Moorea

Underwater landscapes here include an infinite range of canyons, chasms, and promontories plus a broad shallow lagoon for snorkeling near the resorts. Fish feeding is common and schools of marine life surround and embrace divers and snorkelers.

The Aquarium

Lagoon coral garden dive 10–40 ft.

Stingray World

Lagoon dive 30–60 ft.

Taotoi

Ocean dive 30–70 ft.

Tiki

Ocean dive 30–70 ft.

Canyons Of Opunohu

Ocean canyon dive 30–70 ft.

Rose Garden

Ocean dive 70–140 ft.

Bora Bora

Diving here is on many divers' "must do" list because of the density of large marine life. It is common to be joined by legions of gigantic manta rays gliding gracefully closeby while schools of black-tip reef sharks parade through the sunlit waters.

Aito

Ocean drift dive 3–60 ft.

Anau

Lagoon manta ray dive 15–100 ft.

Tapu

Ocean shark dive 30–120 ft.

Toopua/Toopua Iti

Lagoon dive 15–100 ft.

Teavanui Pass

Pass dive 15–130 ft.

Tupitipiti

Ocean drop-off dive 20–150 ft.

Huahine

Underwater landscapes feature a mildly sloping reef with many dive sites and excellent snorkeling. Fish are dense including stingrays, unicornfish, butterflyfish, wrasse, travallies, gray reef sharks, eagle rays, pufferfish, moorish idols, and moray eels.

Fa'a Miti

Ocean dive 20–90 ft.

The Aquarium

Lagoon dive 10–60 ft.

Fitii Pass, Avapeihi Pass

Pass dive 10–100 ft.

Parea Slope

Lagoon dive 30–60 ft.

Raiatea

A favorite of all divers, the lagoon of Raiatea & Taha'a features sea mounts, caverns, famous wrecks, drop-offs, and coral gardens where there are eels, gray sharks, and huge Napoleon wrasses.

Nordby

Lagoon wreck dive 25–80 ft.

Miri Miri, aka The Roses

Ocean dive 40–140 ft.

Miri Miri Pass

Drift dive 0–100 ft.

Teavapiti Pass

Pass dive 0–80 ft.

Fakarava

The lagoon is the second largest of the Atolls where divers encounter Napoleon wrasse, seapikes, damselfish, bigeyes, marbled groupers, manta rays, and sharks.

Tumakohua Pass

Pass dive 40–140 ft.

Garuae Pass

Pass dive 40–140 ft.

Sharks Hole

Lagoon dive 60 ft.

Manihi

This crystal clear lagoon, once filled with mother-of-pearl, is now home to many dive sites around the passes with marbled groupers and many large and small species.

Tumakohua Pass

Pass dive 40–140 ft.

The Circus

Lagoon dive 50–80 ft.

The Crack, aka The Break

Ocean dive 20–100 ft.

Rangiroa

Rangiroa is a natural aquarium with infinite clear water and a mecca for divers. Here, to "shoot the pass" is to experience "the world's greatest adrenaline rush!" Divers and snorkelers are carried in a rush of water between the ocean and lagoon surrounded by seemingly millions of fish.

Avatoru Pass

Pass dive 50–70 ft.

Tiputa Pass

Pass dive 40–150 ft.

The Aquarium

Lagoon dive 10–30 ft.

The Wind Turbine

Ocean Dive 60 ft.

The Blue

Ocean Dive 60 ft.

Giant Wrasse Shelf

Pass Dive 60 ft.

Tikehau

The marine life is so dense in here that Jacques Cousteau declared it to have the highest concentration of fish among the Tuamotu Atolls.

Tuheia Pass

Pass Dive 25–75 ft.

The Shark Hole

Ocean dive 25–175 ft.

Mamaa Amphitheater

Ocean Dive 20–90 ft.

Marquesas

The plankton-rich waters attract unique species such as melon-headed whales and scalloped hammerheads along with other large animals such as manta rays.

Hammerhead Sentinel

Ocean dive 30–120 ft.

The Pygmy Orcas

Ocean dive/snorkel 0–30 ft.

Dulcinea

Ocean cave dive 30–60 ft.

Ekamako

Ocean cave dive 20–40ft

Rurutu

Divers and snorkelers experience close encounters with the migrating humpback whale from July to October while they are reproducing, calving and nursing.

Unique Accommodations

As unique as the islands themselves, smaller accommodations dot each of the islands in tucked away places surrounded by the warmth of their local owners. These smaller lodgings, family hotels, and guest rooms, referred to as “pensions,” range widely in presentation and appearance yet all offer simplicity, authenticity, and a deeply experiential means of connecting to the lives of the Tahitians. Properties usually offer from one to twelve rooms or bungalows on the beaches, in the mountains

or valleys, or within a village neighborhood and can range from rooms in a family home to an all-inclusive small resort on a private islet or *motu*.

Over 200 of these smaller lodging and family hotels now welcome couples, families, or traveling groups from around the world. Many of these guests might consider themselves as adventuresome, independent, or seasoned travelers, or as a repeat visitor to Tahiti.



Vanira Lodge, Tahiti Iti: Jalil Sekkaki



Vanira Lodge, Tahiti Iti: Jalil Sekkaki



Ninamu Resort, Tikehau



Motu Aito Paradise, Fakarava: Vincent Audet



Motu Teta, Rangiroa: Ty Sawyer

Categories and Descriptions

Pensions

Similar to Small Hotels, Lodges, Bed & Breakfast Inns

Range of homes, separate houses or bungalows off a family home, small lodges with multiple rooms, thatched-hut bungalows, etc. Usually with some meals and optional activities, often with owners and family.

Guest Rooms

Family homes offering rooms, often with shared facilities and usually living with the family as their guest. Share meals with family members who may also offer guided tours or provide information on independent activities.

Private Islands

Small properties that can also be considered to be small resorts with beach and overwater bungalows, sometimes with dedicated staff, all-inclusive water and land activities, and meals.

Unique accommodations, transportation and transfers should be arranged in advance by your Preferred Travel Professional or for listings and information on all unique lodging options on each island visit www.Tahiti-Pensions.com.



Ninamu Resort, Tikehau

TAHITI



Tahiti, the largest island in French Polynesia, towering over the ocean like a proud and royal Queen, is appropriately crowned by a circle of majestic peaks. The mountainous interior is adorned with deep valleys, clear streams, and high waterfalls, all bathed in the green iridescence of Mother Nature's light. The coastal lands, edged with a rugged coastline, are home to fields of tropical flowers and most of the island's population. Papeete, meaning "water basket," was once a gathering place where Tahitians came to fill their calabashes with fresh water. Now, Papeete, the invigorating capital city and gateway of the country boasts world-class resorts, spas, fine dining and unique restaurants, nightclubs, vibrant markets, museums, pearl shops, and boutiques.





Tahiti-Nui Mare'are'a

Polynesian songs and legends have bestowed this famous South Pacific island many names such as 'Great Tahiti Of The Golden Haze,' 'Mounting Place Of The Sun,' 'Land of the Double Rainbows,' and 'The Gathering Place.' Legends describe Tahiti-Nui and Tahiti-Iti as a great fish that swam away from the sacred waters of Havai'i, now known as the lagoon shared by Raiatea and Taha'a.

Tahiti... Just the word...

**The world's definition
of paradise.**



Powerful Tahitian dance: Tatiana Salmon



Water playground: Danee Hazama

Family Time on Tahiti

Tahiti offers a world of adventure for families and for children of all ages! Whether here for a day or a week, the urban and island environment provides a unique blend of accommodations and activities for families including:

- **Large Resort Swimming Pools** — some with waterfalls and sand bottoms.
- **White-Sand and Black-Sand Beaches** with calm and shallow snorkeling.
- **Family-Sized 4x4 Excursion Vehicles** for half- and full-day expeditions into the lush interior exploration with a picnic under a waterfall.
- **Guided Hiking and Boating Excursions** with a naturalist who provides a close up study of the bird, plant, and marine life.
- **Tour the Museums** and points of interest around the island with exhibits about geology, art, history, and exploration.
- **Regular Performances** of music, sport, and dance featuring local children.
- **Nightly Outings** to the waterfront where the roulottes offer a fun way to enjoy food and dessert along with local families and their children.

A Playground of Nature

"Tahiti is an extraordinary work of creation – a steeped gem of wondrous green."

These words from the 1920 *National Geographic* Magazine helped open the eyes of the world to the beauty of the island of Tahiti. Eighty-seven years later, the island of Tahiti is still a rich oasis of nature in the South Pacific. Within the hidden interior is an unspoiled land of towering waterfalls, rushing rivers, deep flower-filled valleys, and colossal peaks rising more than one mile high.

Tahiti: One Island, Infinite Possibilities

Excitement: Shop along the waterfront and visit Papeete's Public Market.

Exploration: Venture to the island's unspoiled interior or explore the beautiful coastline by 4x4 excursion, guided nature hikes, escorted tour, or rental car.

Discovery: Explore the lagoon waters by diving, snorkeling, sailing, deep-sea fishing, or on a guided catamaran tour.

Relaxation: Unwind at one of the many beachside resorts featuring luxurious spas.

Enjoyment: Be dazzled at one of the resorts' spectacular shows or indulge in one of the many culinary treats Papeete has to offer, such as the waterfront roulettes in Vai'ete Square.

Vacation Guide 2013/2014

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Maururu to our photographers: Ty Sawyer, Philippe Bacchet, Linny Morris, Jad Davenport, Grégoire le Bacon, Jeff Banhamza and Ronni Flannery. Also to Vincent Audet, Florian Charrear, Danee Hazama, David Kirkland, Tim McKenna, Lam Ngyuen, Tatiana Salmon, Raymond Sahuquet, Jahl Sekkaki.

www.TahitiTourism.com



THE ISLAND OF TAHITI



LE MERIDIEN BORA BORA LE MERIDIEN TAHITI



PARADISE HAS AN ADDRESS...

LE MERIDIEN TAHITI
S17° 38' W149° 36'
www.lemeridientahiti.com

LE MERIDIEN BORA BORA
S16° 29' W151° 42'
www.lemeridien-borabora.com

Informations & Reservations :
T: +689 47 07 29 or rez@lemeridien-tahiti.pf

Le MERIDIEN



Reenactment of 1700 era ship Matavai Bay

History on Display

The Museum of Tahiti & Her Islands

is considered to be one of the best and most beautiful museums in the South Pacific. Polynesian history is carefully recorded and presented. Highlights include rare collections of art carvings and historical artifacts. European arrival is also presented and put into context.

Nine miles Southwest of Papeete, adjacent to Le Méridien Tahiti.

The James Norman Hall Home

celebrates one of Tahiti's most famous resident authors. Hall co-authored *Mutiny on the Bounty* and wrote many other fables of the South Seas. The home is carefully maintained, as it was when Hall lived in Tahiti from 1920 to 1951. Visitors enjoy seeing his original writing desk, art collection, and library with over 3,000 books. Guests are invited to the garden tearoom where refreshments are available under the shade of a giant mango tree.

Three miles East of Papeete in Arue, near the Radisson Plaza Resort Tahiti.

The Gauguin Museum is dedicated to Paul Gauguin's life during his years on Tahiti and in the Marquesas. The museum sits within the beautiful Harrison Smith Botanical Gardens. **Thirty-two miles from Papeete in Papeari.**

The Robert Wan Pearl Museum is the only museum in the world devoted entirely to Tahitian Cultured Pearls. The unique presentations describe and demonstrate the history and practice of cultivating pearls. **Boulevard Pomare near Downtown Papeete in the Paofai Temple.**



Le Méridien Tahiti

Radisson Plaza Resort Tahiti

Manava Suite Resort Tahiti

TAHITI RESORTS & HOTELS

	ACTIVITIES DESK	AIR CONDITIONING	HAIR DRYER	IN-ROOM SAFE	MINI BAR	RESTAURANT(S)	ROOM SERVICE	SWIMMING POOL	TEA/COFFEE MAKER	TELEVISION	LAGOON-VIEW ROOMS	BEACH BUNGALOWS	GARDEN BUNGALOWS	OVERWATER BUNGALOWS	SUITES	SPA	GYM	INTERNET/WIFI
RESORTS																		
InterContinental Tahiti Resort	•	•	•	•	•	2	•	•	•	•	•			•	•	•	•	•
Le Méridien Tahiti	•	•	•	•	•	2	•	•	•	•	•			•	•			
Manava Suite Resort Tahiti	•	•	•	•	•	1	•	•	•	•	•				•	•	•	•
Radisson Plaza Resort Tahiti	•	•	•	•	•	1	•	•	•	•	•				•	•	•	
HOTELS																		
Hotel Tahiti Nui	•	•	•	•	•	1	•	•	•	•	•				•	•	•	•
Le Royal Tahitian	•	•	•			1		•	•	•	•							
Tiare Tahiti	•	•	•			1				•	•							



Le Marché in Papeete: Ty Sawyer



"Mamas" are guardians of tradition and matriarchs of society: Tatiana Salmon

Restaurants

Supplied by a daily bounty of fresh fish and fruits, Tahiti is replete with many fine restaurants in and around Papeete. Several resorts regularly host Tahitian feasts with spectacular music and dance shows. These events can be reserved in advance by your Preferred Travel Professional or at your resort upon arrival.

Resort Restaurants Include:

The elegant **Le Lotus** at InterContinental Tahiti Resort; **Le Velvet** at Hotel Tahiti Nui; **Le Carré** at Le Méridien Tahiti; **Hiti Mahana** at Radisson Plaza Resort Tahiti; and **Vaitohi** at Manava Suite Resort Tahiti.

Sampling of Popular Local Restaurants

Casa Bianca a charming marina side Italian bistro; **Lou Pescadou** for Italian pizzas and pasta; the **Mango Cafe** specializes in Polynesian-French fusion offered in a chic, art nouveau atmosphere. **Auberge Du Pacifique** alongside the lagoon. Other popular choices among locals and visitors alike include: **Jimmy's, Saigonnaise, Coco's, Lion D'or, Vaitiare, Morrison's Cafe, Moana Iti, Le Cigalon, L'O à La Bouche, L'Apizzeria, La Romana, Pink Coconut, Blue Banana,** and **Le Belvédère** with views over Papeete.

Papeete Dining Highlight

Enjoy a unique and informal dinner or a memorable post-dinner dessert at **Vai'ete Square**. Here, dozens of colorful food trucks, called **roulottes**, host a variety of island cuisine and desserts. The boardwalk atmosphere is an informal and lively setting not to be missed.



The lively *roulottes* along the harbor in downtown Papeete: Ty Sawyer

Shopping at the Public Market

Discover the heart of Papeete — the bustling public market founded more than 170 years ago—called **Le Marché**. Shop from hundreds of stands filled with Tahitian-made crafts, oils, vanilla, fruits, and flowers. The perfect place to find everything imaginable from all the islands. Open everyday except holidays, the market is especially colorful and lively on Sunday mornings when locals stock up for a day of family gatherings.

Located two blocks from the waterfront and easily reached by taxi from any resort.

Circle – Island Tour

A favorite among visitors for over 100 years! The route takes in more than 71 miles of dramatic coastline scenery with wave-pounded cliffs, peaceful beaches, and brightly colored churches. Popular stops include many overlooks, waterfalls, and ancient sites. An extended tour takes you to the peninsula of Tahiti Iti. **Tours can be reserved by your Preferred Travel Professional or by your resort or cruise ship.**

The Monoï Road

Tahiti is the worldwide source of *monoï* oil, the famous beauty and skin oil used in cosmetics, creams, and lotions. Visitors can now experience all facets of the *monoï* oil industry with a newly organized collective of experiences concentrated along the circle-island road. Choose from any of the 22 botanic workshops, coconut groves, Tiare Tahiti flower growers, traditional and modern manufacturers, and spas that specialize in using *monoï* oil in their treatments. **Information and maps can be provided by your Preferred Travel Professional or by your resort or cruise ship.**

Diving

The island of Tahiti is perfect for both beginning and advanced divers. Highlights include shallow and warm waters, oceanic drop-offs, sunken ships and planes, bright coral walls, and schools of smaller species. **Dive shops are located in most of the resorts. Information can be provided by your Preferred Travel Professional or by your resort or cruise ship.**

Golfing

The island of Tahiti features the 6,900 yard long Olivier Bréaud International Course and is part of the Australian PGA circuit.

Getting Around

Because of its large size and population, the island of Tahiti has many transportation options. Upon arrival, transport from Faa'a International Airport to your hotel or cruise ship is quick and should be arranged in advance by your Preferred Travel Professional or by your hotel or cruise ship. Connecting flights to other islands on Air Tahiti leave from Faa'a Airport. Passenger ferries to Moorea depart from the waterfront in downtown Papeete.

To get around Papeete and the surrounding towns, the public transit system offers large white RTC motor coaches. Taxi service is also available from your hotel and is best arranged by your hotel concierge. Once in downtown Papeete, the waterfront, restaurants, and shopping are within walking distance. Escorted circle-island bus or 4x4 tours are the ideal way to explore the points of interest around Tahiti's coast and within the interior valleys. Car rentals are also available from the airport and your hotel. Other methods of exploring the island include motorboat and yacht charters, outrigger canoe tours of Matavai Bay, and helicopter tours — all of which can be arranged in advance or at the activity desk of your resort or cruise ship.



Exploring the island's vast interior; here at Vaipahi Gardens: Ty Sawyer

Four Days on Tahiti

Many visitors are discovering that the island of Tahiti is more than an overnight stop and are extending their stay to enjoy the variety of excursions, shopping, fine dining, breathtaking natural beauty, and nighttime fun. Here is a sample itinerary:

Day 1: Discover the Real Papeete

- Shopping at *Le Marché* and the colorful boutiques all along the waterfront.
- Walking tour of Old Papeete.
- Pearl shopping and a visit to the Pearl Museum.
- Visit art galleries and exhibits.
- Hear joyous singing at a church.
- Enjoy dinner at the *roulottes* in the waterfront area of Vai'ete Square.

Day 2: Take a Road Trip in Paradise

- Circle the island by bus or car.
- Follow The Monoï Road.
- Picnic on a black-sand beach.
- Explore high waterfalls by helicopter.
- Tour the museums around the island.
- Take a safari by 4x4 deep into the valleys.
- Hike with a guide up Aorai Mountain.
- Dine at one of the resort restaurants.

Day 3: Day Trip to Moorea

- Take a fast catamaran from Tahiti to Moorea.
- Jump in a 4x4 and explore the interior.
- Enjoy a tasting at a fruit juice factory.
- Shop for crafts made in Moorea.
- Return to dine at one of the locals' favorites around Papeete or at one of the beautiful world-class restaurants in the resorts.

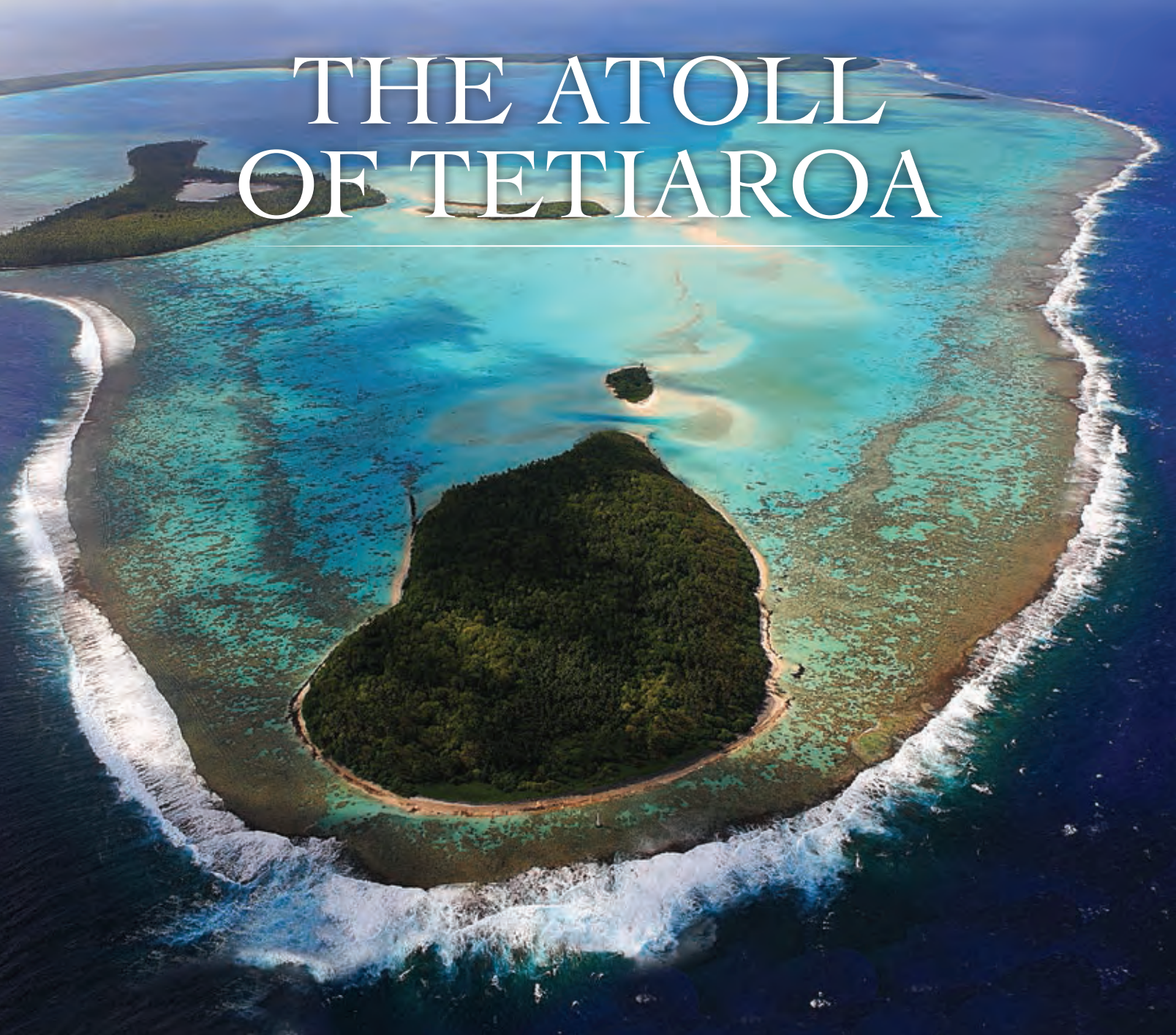
Day 4: Water World

- Snorkel in the clear waters around the resorts or in Matavai Bay.
- Hire a dive master to learn to dive or to explore the sunken vessels and coral walls.
- Canoe or kayak in the lagoon.
- Fish the deep sea for marlin.
- Charter a sailing catamaran.
- Windsurf, stand-up paddle, waterski, or jetski.
- Swim in the famous grotto.

Activities on the Island of Tahiti



THE ATOLL OF TETIAROA



A Royal Escape

Historically, a private getaway reserved for Tahitian royalty, this 4.5 mile wide atoll comprised of 13 motu (small coral islands), is now accessible by private charter from Papeete or Moorea. In addition to its former designation as a royal vacation spot, it was also once used by the King to hide treasures during times of trouble.

A haven for birds, sea turtles and all kinds of marine life, Tetiaroa is treasured among Tahitians who know it as a sacred place. This virtually uninhabited atoll charms with its coconut-dotted white sand beaches and crystalline lagoon. It's not surprising that Marlon Brando fell under its spell when shooting *Mutiny on the Bounty* in 1960, and later went on to become its owner.

Among the islets, Tahuna Iti, the birds' island, is a national reserve for sea birds, frigates, sterns, phaetons (straw tails), brown gannets and other petrels.



MOOREA



Just a 10-minute flight from the island of Tahiti or a 30-minute ride on a high-speed catamaran, Moorea soars magically out of the ocean in an explosion of green velvet. What you would imagine a South Seas island to be, Moorea's wide, bright-blue lagoon surrounds the island's vertical mountains where poetic threads of waterfalls tumble down fern-softened cliffs. Peaceful meadows flanked by pinnacles of emerald green will fill your senses and renew your belief in the majesty of nature. Pastel-painted houses, surrounded by gardens of hibiscus and birds of paradise, circle the island in a fantasy of happy, yet simple villages.

A favorite among repeat visitors
who all agree: the beauty of Moorea
is unforgettable.





Aimeo I Te Rara Varu

This, the island's poetic name, comes from its eight majestic mountain ridges; however, the name was later changed to Moorea—meaning “yellow lizard”—following a dream by a high priest. Polynesian legend describes the panorama of volcanic ridges as the second dorsal fin of the fish that became the island of Tahiti. These pinnacles later became one of the inspirations for the mythical “Bali Hai” that was based on James Michener's book, *Tales of the South Pacific*.



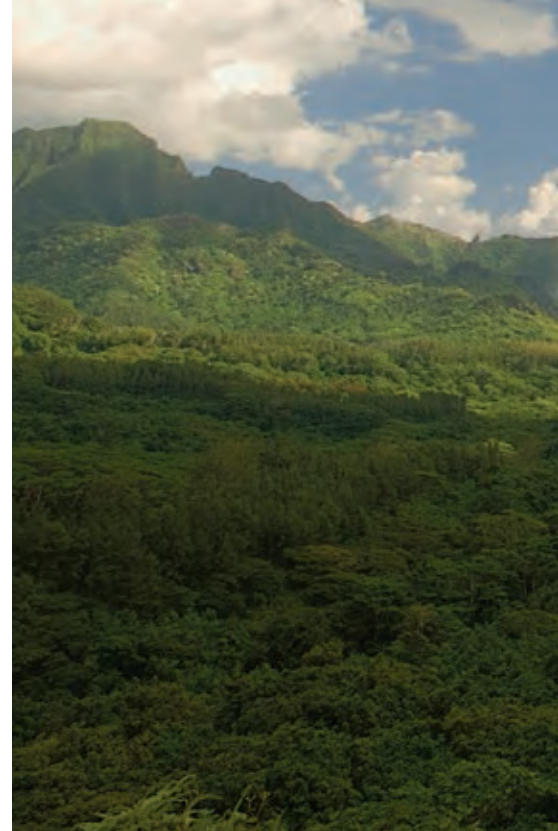
Colorful pareu: Jad Davenport



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Moorea: Adventure and Paradise Await

Excitement: Explore Moorea's liquid playground of warm lagoon waters by snorkeling, jetskiing, diving, or kayaking.

Exploration: Journey to the historic sites hidden under a canopy of lush forest or visit one of the many shops featuring famous "Made in Moorea" products.

Discovery: Stroll along the peaceful circle-island road dotted with fruit-tasting stops, pineapple fields, quiet beaches, and unique shopping experiences.

Relaxation: Sunbathe in the peaceful setting of world-class resorts and unwind in their Polynesian spas.

Enjoyment: Tee off at the Jack Nicklaus designed championship golf course or enjoy fine-dining at one of the many restaurants at the resorts or around the island.

LEGENDS RESORT® MOOREA

OPENING IN 2013 ON MATIRA, BORA BORA

LEGENDS RESORT® BORA BORA

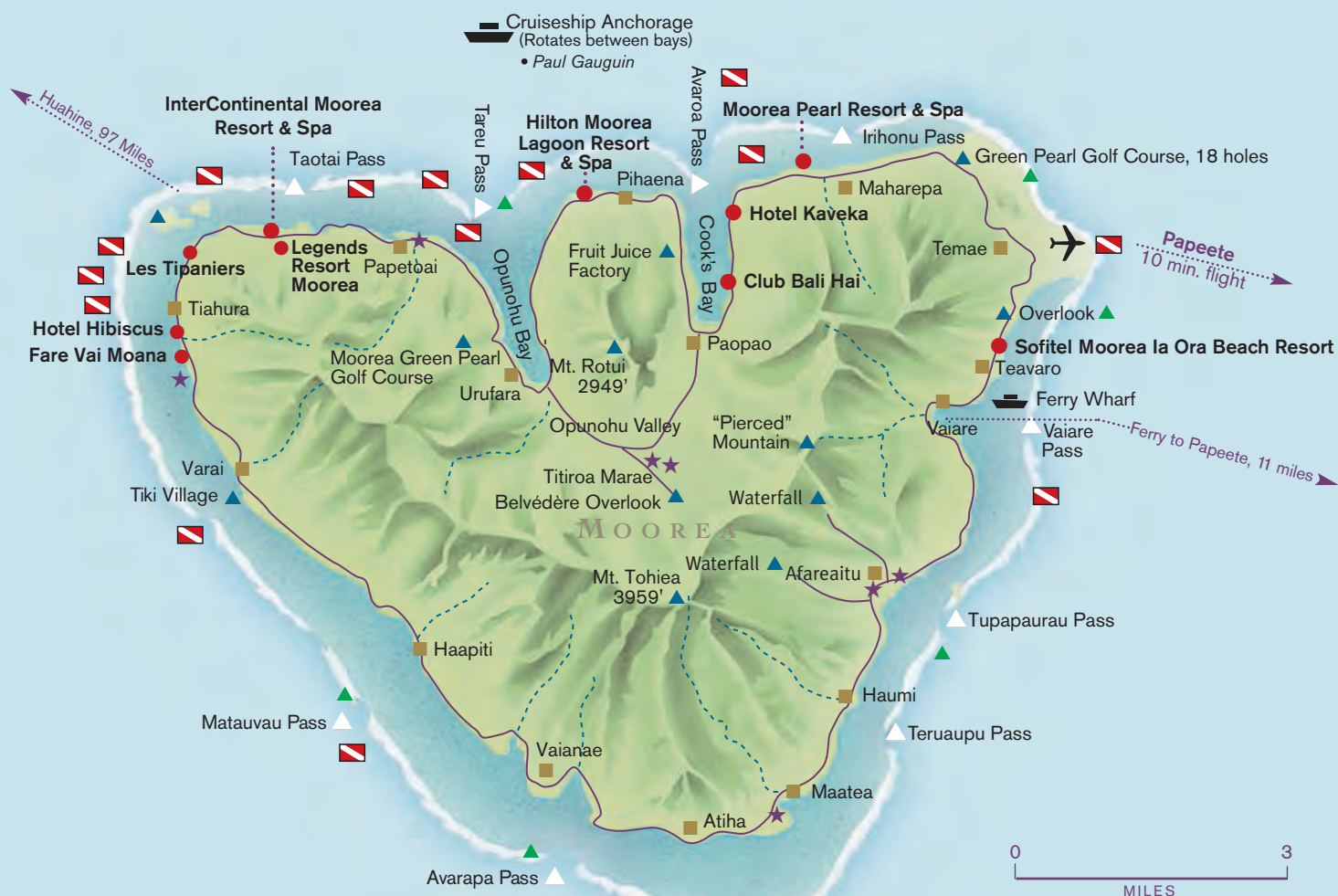
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THE ISLAND OF MOOREA





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Snorkeling at the Hilton Moorea Lagoon Resort & Spa: Ty Sawyer

Snorkeling Heaven

Because of the lack of strong currents and the abundant marine life, the shallow waters around Moorea are ideal for year-round snorkeling. All ages can enjoy dozens of perfect snorkeling spots close to the resorts and around the island. Local guides will take you to snorkel among schools of gentle rays.

Fire Dance

The excitement of outdoor Polynesian shows heats up the night all around Moorea with a ballet of dancing flames. These beachside performances of grace, bravery, and mystery were first performed in Samoa and later perfected by the Tahitians.

Diving

The drama of Moorea's landscape continues below the sea with an infinite range of canyons, chasms, and promontories. Fish feeding is common here and divers are often surrounded by schools of small and large marine life.

Dive along the shores of Cook's Bay.
Visit www.TahitiTourism.com/diving for links to operators and dive site information.

Athletic Events

Moorea's shaded circle-island road, clear waters and ample lodging create the perfect destination for athletes from around the world. Events include outrigger canoe races, triathlons, golf tournaments, and running races of 5k, 10k, half-marathon, and marathon distances.

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18-hole Jack Nicklaus designed Moorea Green Pearl Golf Course: Michel Largeron



4x4 off road island adventure: Ty Sawyer

Golfing

Moorea is home to a beautiful 18-hole championship course designed by Jack Nicklaus. Named for the emerald green fairways, the Moorea Green Pearl Golf Course is built into the lush valleys and hillsides with overlooks of the ocean and beaches.

Plantations

The fertile valleys are home to plantations of sugarcane and pineapple. Considered by many to be the sweetest tasting pineapple on earth, Moorea's harvest can be enjoyed at village stores, roadside stands, or the tasting counter of the delightful fruit juice factory.

Swimming with the Dolphins

On Moorea, adults can swim side by side with dolphins, while children wade in the waters with them. For an educational excursion, expert guides lead dolphin and whale-watching boat tours into the ocean to observe them in their native habitat as well.



Swim with the dolphins at the InterContinental Moorea Resort & Spa: Ty Sawyer

Restaurants

Besides its natural beauty, Moorea is blessed with many excellent restaurants, each in unique settings alongside the lagoon. The resorts offer a romantic open-air ambience while serving the best of French, Italian, Chinese, and Tahitian cuisines.

Resort and Hotel Restaurants Include:

Gourmet restaurants at the resorts include **Le Matiehani** at Moorea Pearl Resort & Spa; **Arii Vahine** at Hilton Moorea Lagoon Resort & Spa; **Fare Nui** at InterContinental Moorea Resort & Spa; **K** at Sofitel Moorea la Ora Beach Resort; **Lagoon Cafe** at Legends Resort Moorea or their fine dining restaurant, **La Villa des Sens**; Other restaurants include the beachfront setting favored by locals at **Les Tipaniers**.

Popular Local Restaurants Around Cook's Bay Include:

Le Pêcheur, **Te Honu Iti**, **Le Cocotier** and **Mayflower** for French cuisine; and **Mahogany** for Cantonese. On the island's west side, try **La Plantation** for romantic settings and **Tiki Village** for an authentic Tahitian feast. And don't miss the grill at **Painapo Beach** and other roadside snack shops, fun stops during a circle-island tour.

Mountain Exploration

The majestic mountains are fully accessible to everyone. By air, helicopter tours fly into canyons and along ridgetops. By road, a 4x4 ventures past plantations, across streams, into deep valleys, and up to waterfalls. By foot, guided hikes of all levels follow winding rainforest trails and up to high mountain overlooks.



Steepled gems of green: Philippe Bacchet



Ty Sawyer



Pick out your own Tahitian Cultured Pearls



Meet new friends in the lagoon



Jump in from your own private balcony

Four Days on Moorea

The perfect vacation island. Period. With so much variety, Moorea has a great reputation for luring repeat visitors and is a favorite for couples, families, and groups. Here is a sample of four days filled with the most popular activities:

Day 1: Getting Your Feet Wet

- Discover the wide, calm lagoon by outrigger canoe, glass-bottom boat, parasail, windsurf, kayak, or jetski.
- Jump in and go below the surface with one of the many dive masters or with an underwater dive helmet.
- Meet the underworld up close during ray feeding excursions.
- Pick from hundreds of snorkeling spots along the beaches or out around a *motu*.
- Have room service delivered to your overwater bungalow via outrigger canoe.

Day 2: Jump in for Adventure

- Take a safari by 4x4 along hidden roads into the valleys and up to waterfalls.
- Rent a car or take an escorted tour and circle the island, stopping off at fruit stands and villages along the way.
- Hire a guide for walking explorations of the interior and over mountain passes.
- Take off in a helicopter and skim along the water and dance over the peaks.

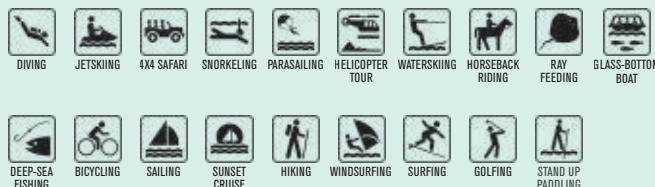
Day 3: No Malls Here

- Shop at the many small boutiques and unique shopping areas.
- Look for art and handcrafts at small art galleries and artisan workshops where you'll find treasures made only in Moorea.
- End your shopping spree with rejuvenating treatments at one of the world-renowned spas.

Day 4: The End of a Perfect Stay on Moorea

- Charter a yacht or catamaran for the day, complete with captain and crew.
- End the day with a choice of one of dozens of restaurants featuring a rich variety of cuisines.
- Experience one of the many Polynesian shows and see the beachside performances of the dramatic Fire Dance.

Activities on the Island of Moorea





Fire Dance at Tiki Village: Ty Sawyer



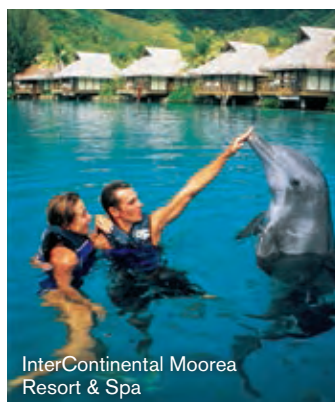
Explore Moorea's hidden roads and valleys: Ty Sawyer

Getting Around

Because of the close proximity to Tahiti, Moorea is quick and easy to reach. Moorea's airport is served by Air Tahiti with 10-minute flights from Faa'a Airport departing several times a day.

Air Tahiti also has regular flights between Moorea and Huahine, Raiatea, and Bora Bora. Passenger ferries operate up to eight times daily between Moorea and the waterfront in downtown Papeete. Transportation from the airport or ferry dock to the hotels should be arranged in advance by your Preferred Travel Company or by your hotel, and taxi service is available.

The circle-island and interior roads are best discovered through hired excursions or by renting a car, while motorboat and outrigger canoe rentals are enjoyable ways to explore the lagoon and surrounding motu. Yachts can be chartered with or without captain and crew, and helicopters are available for island tours or for transportation to and from Papeete, all of which can be arranged in advance or at the activity desk of your resort or cruise ship.



InterContinental Moorea Resort & Spa



Hilton Moorea Lagoon Resort & Spa



Sofitel Moorea la Ora Beach Resort

MOOREA RESORTS & HOTELS

RESORTS

	ACTIVITIES DESK	AIR CONDITIONING	HAIR DRYER	IN-ROOM SAFE	MINI BAR	RESTAURANT(S)	ROOM SERVICE	SWIMMING POOL	TEA/COFFEE MAKER	TELEVISION	BEACH BUNGALOWS	GARDEN BUNGALOWS	OVERWATER BUNGALOWS	SPA	GYM	INTERNET/WIFI
Hilton Moorea Lagoon Resort & Spa	•	•	•	•	•	2	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
InterContinental Moorea Resort & Spa	•	•	•	•	•	2	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Legends Resort Moorea	•	•	•	•	•	2	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Moorea Pearl Resort & Spa	•	•	•	•	•	2	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Sofitel Moorea la Ora Beach Resort	•	•	•	•	•	2	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•

HOTELS

	ACTIVITIES DESK	AIR CONDITIONING	HAIR DRYER	IN-ROOM SAFE	MINI BAR	RESTAURANT(S)	ROOM SERVICE	SWIMMING POOL	TEA/COFFEE MAKER	TELEVISION	BEACH BUNGALOWS	GARDEN BUNGALOWS	OVERWATER BUNGALOWS	SPA	GYM	INTERNET/WIFI
Club Bali Hai	•	•	•	•	•	1	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Fare Vai Moana	•	•	•	•	•	1	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Hotel Hibiscus	•	•	•	•	•	1	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Hotel Kaveka	•	•	•	•	•	1	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Les Tipaniers	•	•	•	•	•	2	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•

BORA BORA



Bora Bora

Under a one-hour flight from the islands of Tahiti or Moorea, the island of Bora Bora, with a lagoon resembling an artist's palette of bright blues and greens, is love at first sight. Romantics from around the world have laid claim to this island where the castle-like Mount Otemanu pierces the sky. Lush tropical slopes and valleys blossom with hibiscus, while palm-covered *motu* circle the illuminated lagoon like a delicate necklace. Perfect white-sand beaches give way to emerald waters where colored fish animate the coral gardens as they greet the giant manta rays. This could easily be described as the center of the romantic universe, where luxury resorts and spas dot the island with overwater bungalows, thatched-roof villas, and fabled ambience.



Simply said, Bora Bora is the most beautiful island in the world.



Pora Pora

The ancient name, meaning “first born,” came from legends describing this as the first island to rise when Taaroa, the supreme god, fished it out of the waters after the mythical creation of Hawai’i, now known as Raiatea.

Although the letter “B” does not exist in the Tahitian language, when Captain Cook first heard the name he mistook the softened sound of the Tahitian “P” for “B” and called the island Bolabola.



Amazingly deep orange sunset glows seem to provide an exclamation point at the end of each day.

*A jewel so precious,
IT'S SET IN A ring of coral.*



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Bora Bora



Le Meridien Bora Bora

Having a Blast on Bora Bora

**By Bill Goodwin, Author,
15-Time Visitor**

The young couple was having a blast on Bora Bora. They were staying in a romantic, thatched-roof overwater bungalow built over the reef. They had stepped from their own *lanai* into one of the world's most picturesque lagoons, watched sharks being fed within a few feet of their snorkeling masks, bumped high into the mountains in a 4x4, shopped for black pearls, and dined on fine French fare.

They were curious. "You travel all over the world and stay in wonderful resorts," she said as we sipped cold Hinano beers, "but where do you like to go on vacation?"

Without blinking, I replied "here."

I've been returning since 1977, yet I still have to be careful when driving here, for the islands are so gorgeous that I can barely keep my eyes on the road.

And I'm not alone.

Like the newlyweds I met, everyone who's active enjoys snorkeling or diving on Bora Bora and the dolphins on Moorea — or drifting through the reef passes in the Tuamotu Atolls.

And no one forgets Papeete's market or a meal at *les roulottes*, which turn the waterfront into a carnival after dark.

So look for me when you get to the islands. I'll be here having another blast.

*The perfect place for
the perfect love...*



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www.spmhotels.com



Circling the island atop the calm lagoon is a highlight for every visitor: Ty Sawyer

Bora Bora: Paradise Perfected

Excitement: Navigate the lagoon by outrigger canoe, powerboat, jet ski, or stand-up paddle board or simply catch a dramatic sunset aboard a catamaran.

Exploration: Be captivated by the panoramic mountain overlooks found by hiking or 4x4 guided excursions.

Discovery: Explore the seemingly neon-lit turquoise lagoon waters with endless days of snorkeling and diving.

Relaxation: Immerse yourself in the natural ambience of the legendary resorts with Polynesian spas, gourmet restaurants, overwater bungalows, villas, and suites.

Enjoyment: Discover the island's unique shopping experience, including local and international art, Tahitian Cultured pearls, perfumes, monoi oil, and precious wood handcrafts.

THE ISLAND OF BORA BORA



KEY TO ISLAND MAPS: ● Major Hotels and Resorts ■ Villages ▲ Points of Interest ★ Historical Sites 🚩 Dive Sites

BORA BORA IS MAGNIFIQUE



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Sofitel Bora Bora Private Island is located on a charming islet. This Boutique Hotel offers the ultimate in luxury: pure seclusion. Celebrate your love, pamper yourself at the new holistic spa, admire a panoramic sunset, delight in a romantic dinner on the beach under the stars. Embrace exotic romance entwined with chic French elegance!

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Four Seasons Resort Bora Bora

Breakfast Delivered by Outrigger Canoe

Start each day with an unforgettable breakfast brought to the private balcony of your overwater bungalow or villa by an outrigger canoe. Often bedecked in flowers, the canoe carries Polynesian staff serving fresh fruits, pastries, and juices, while the surrounding waters begin welcoming the rising South Pacific sun.

Lagoon Exploration

There are so many activities in the world's most famous lagoon that some visitors never leave the water! The shallow and crystal clear waters allow for snorkeling from your bungalow or off beaches anywhere around the island. Another way to see the vivid coral and schools of tropical fish is on a glassbottom boat. For a faster pace, explore the entire lagoon by rented motorboat or jetski where you and a guide can skim around the island, hopping off at beaches or a tiny *motu* along the way for a picnic.

Made in French Polynesia

Bora Bora is the perfect island to shop for locally made products at shops and galleries in the resorts, villages, and artisan studios dotting the island.

Pareu: Happily-colored, hand-dyed cloth (akin to Polynesian sarong).

Monoï oils: Natural skin products created with the blending of coconut oils with macerated *tiare* flowers and other botanical essences.

Handcrafts & Art: Intricate carvings, woven baskets, *tapa* cloth, and original art.

InterContinental Bora Bora Resort & Thalasso Spa

Getting Around

Bora Bora is served by Air Tahiti with frequent 45-minute flights from Papeete, or from Moorea, and daily 20-minute flights from Huahine and Raiatea. Air Tahiti also has regular flights to the Tuamotu Atolls and connecting flights to the Marquesas. The airport, built on a beautiful *motu*, is accessible only by a short ferry ride from the port village of Vaitape. Resort transport is either by private motorboat from the airport operated by most of the luxury resorts or by shuttle from

Vaitape. Also, helicopter transfer is available from select hotels and the Bora Bora airport for reserved guests of Le Taha'a Island Resort & Spa. Transport to your resort should be arranged in advance by your Preferred Travel Company or resort. Bora Bora has a few taxis and operates the public transit system, *Le Truck*. In the evenings, some restaurants provide car and boat transportation to and from your resort. The roads can be explored through hired excursion or rental car while the lagoon can be navigated by motorboat and outrigger canoe. Helicopters can also be hired for island tours.

Restaurants

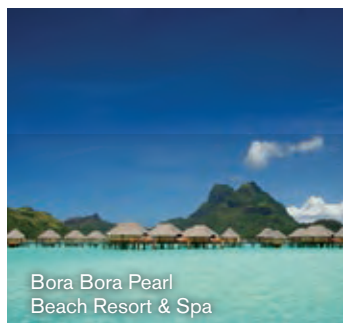
The resort and island restaurants on Bora Bora, with their world-class dining, sunset views, and after-dinner Polynesian shows, are as famous as the island itself.

Resort and Hotel Restaurants Include:

The panoramic **Iriatai** at Hilton Bora Bora Nui Resort & Spa; **Lagoon by Jean-Georges** at St. Regis Bora Bora Resort; **Noa Noa** at InterContinental Bora Bora Le Moana Resort; **Le Tipanie** at Le Meridien Bora Bora; **Tevairoa** at Bora Bora Pearl Beach Resort & Spa; **Reef** at InterContinental Bora Bora Resort and Thalasso Spa; **Haere Mai** at Le Maitai Polynesia; **Latitude 16°** at Sofitel Bora Bora Marara Beach Resort; **Ambrosia Restaurant** at Bora Bora Pearl Beach Resort & Spa and **Arii Moana** at Four Seasons Resort Bora Bora.

Other Enjoyable Restaurants Include:

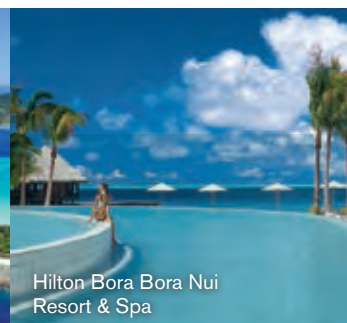
The famous **Bloody Mary's**, where the sand floor and charbroiled seafood offer a fun evening for visitors and celebrities alike. Others include: The intimate **Villa Mahana** specializing in world-class Mediterranean cuisine, **La Bounty** serving up the island's best pizza, and **Fare Manuia** for local cuisine. **Mai Kai** featuring international, French & Polynesian cuisine and **Le St James** for French cuisine made with local ingredients.



Bora Bora Pearl Beach Resort & Spa



InterContinental Bora Bora Resort & Thalasso Spa



Hilton Bora Bora Nui Resort & Spa

BORA BORA RESORTS & HOTELS

RESORTS

	ACTIVITIES DESK	AIR CONDITIONING	HAIR DRYER	IN-ROOM SAFE	MINI BAR	RESTAURANT(S)	ROOM SERVICE	SWIMMING POOL	TEA/COFFEE MAKER	TELEVISION	BEACH BUNGALOWS	GARDEN/HILLSIDE BUNGALOWS	OVERWATER BUNGALOWS	SUITES	SPA	INTERNET/WIFI
Bora Bora Pearl Beach Resort & Spa	•	•	•	•	•	3	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Four Seasons Resort Bora Bora	•	•	•	•	•	4	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Hilton Bora Bora Nui Resort & Spa	•	•	•	•	•	2	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
InterContinental Bora Bora Le Moana Resort	•	•	•	•	•	2	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
InterContinental Bora Bora Resort & Thalasso Spa	•	•	•	•	•	2	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Le Méridien Bora Bora	•	•	•	•	•	2	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Maitai Polynesia Bora Bora	•	•	•	•	•	2	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Sofitel Bora Bora Marara Beach Resort	•	•	•	•	•	1	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Sofitel Bora Bora Private Island	•	•	•	•	•	1	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
St. Regis Bora Bora Resort	•	•	•	•	•	2	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•

HOTELS

Bora Bora Eden Beach Hotel	•				•	•	1	•	•	•	•	•				
Hotel Matira	•						1	•	•	•	•	•				

Five Days on Bora Bora

This is the world's most famous playground and the perfect place to do everything or nothing at all. To help plan your time, here is a sample of activities:

Day 1: Circle the Island by Water

- Jump on jetskis or waterskis and scoot along the smooth lagoon for an exhilarating ride.
- Charter a powerboat and enjoy stops for snorkeling or a beach picnic.
- Step foot on a powered canoe and tour the lagoonarium, play with rays, and discover dozens of snorkeling spots.
- Take sail in a catamaran for a sunset cruise accompanied by local musicians and dancers.
- End your day at one of the five-star resort restaurants.

Day 2: Circle the Island by Air

- Climb onboard a helicopter for a breathtaking ride high above this neon-colored world.
- Strap into a parasail for one or two and glide effortlessly above the lagoon or try kitesurfing.
- Celebrate your adventures at one of the famous local restaurants, such as Bloody Mary's.

Day 3: Explore the Underwater World

- Spend a day or more accompanied by manta rays, eels, and schools of fish. Expert divers love the variety and proximity of the multiple dive sites. Beginning divers love the calm clear lagoon and can enroll in certification courses or take a shorter "resort" course.

Day 4: Circle the Island on Land

- 4x4 safari on hidden roads up to overlooks and historical sites.
- Rent a car, a two person "fun car" or a bicycle for a ride along the flat roads.
- Narrated coach tour with stops at beaches and fruit stands along the way.

Day 5: Shop and Beach Hop

- Discover the dozens of shopping areas for art, handicrafts, pearls, and fragrant Tahitian oils.
- Visit the artisan galleries and pick up your own Bora Bora original.
- Spend the afternoon enjoying famous Matira Beach or the secluded beaches on one of the many islets surrounding Bora Bora.

These and many other activities can be reserved in advance by your Preferred Travel Professional or at the activities desk of your resort or cruise ship.

Activities on the Island of Bora Bora



Bora Bora Diving

Because of the abundance of large marine life, diving within the waters of the most beautiful lagoon in the world is on many divers' "must do" lists. During the dives, it is common to be joined by legions of gigantic manta rays gliding gracefully within arm's reach while schools of reef sharks parade through the sunlit waters.

Some of the World-Famous Dive Sites Around Bora Bora are:

Anau Lagoon dive 15-100 ft. Known as "Manta Ray Channel" or "Manta Ballroom" for its regular encounters with these gentle giants.

Tapu Ocean dive 30-100 ft. A classic shark dive also joined by giant wrasse, jack fish, and eel.

Muri Muri Ocean dive 60-120 ft. Rich marine life welcomes divers; such as reef sharks, turtles, and dolphins. Also called the "White Valley."

Teavanui Pass Pass dive 15-130 ft. The entrance to the lagoon is framed with purple coral walls, sharks, eels, and giant wrasses.

Toopui/Toopua Iti Lagoon dive 15-100 ft. Coral walls with giant clams, swim throughs, and eagle rays.

Tupitipiti Ocean dive 20-150 ft. A steep drop-off with walls of blue and red coral plus orange and green sponges, caves, tunnels, corridors, and dramatic swim throughs.



The dive sites are for both beginning and expert divers



Share the lagoon with graceful rays: Ty Sawyer

Ray Feeding

Ray feeding is one of the most fun and popular adventures in the islands. Your guide sweeps you away from your resort or cruise ship on a motorized outrigger canoe to a shallow part of Bora Bora's turquoise-blue lagoon. There, you get out of the boat with your guide, and he begins feeding anywhere from ten to twenty graceful, friendly rays that have appeared. These beautiful, affectionate creatures brush up against you and the group as they glide through the lagoon.

4 x 4 Excursions

Even though Bora Bora is small, the adventures along the interior roads are huge. These overgrown forest roads wind high above the lagoon to panoramic stops that can only be described as breathtaking. The island's role during World War II is expertly told as you visit large U.S. Naval guns left behind in 1945.

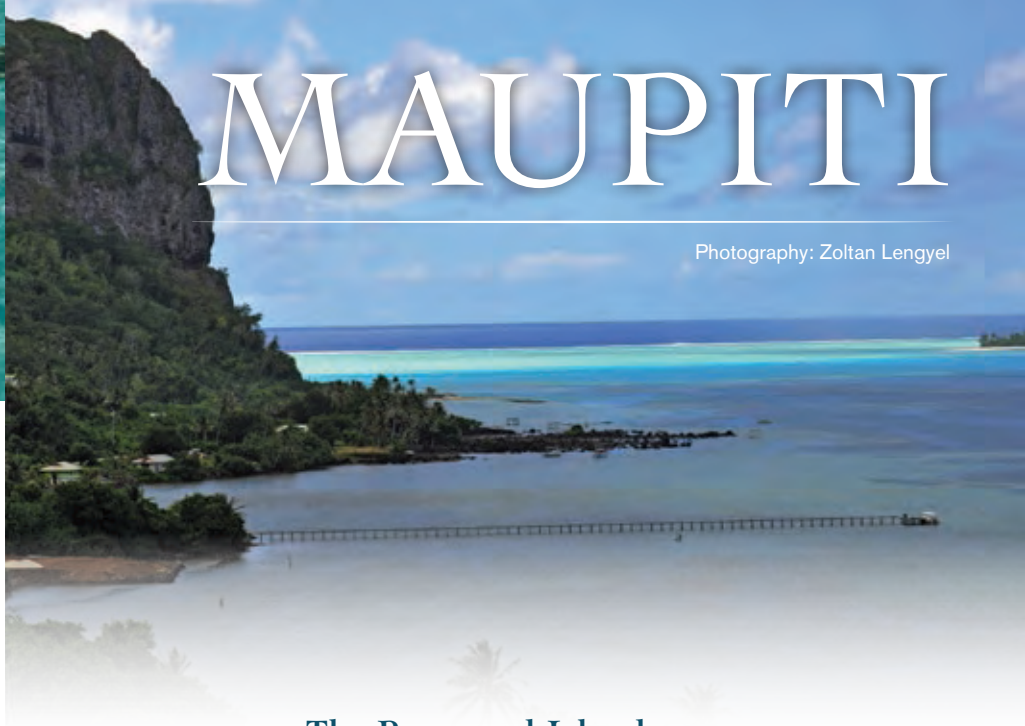
Sailing

Bora Bora's lagoon is a very popular anchorage for both round-the-world cruises and avid vacation sailors. If chartering your own sailboat in Raiatea, Tahiti, or Moorea, the deep, wide pass and calm lagoon is a natural stop. You can also rent a Hobie Cat in Bora Bora or take a half-day or sunset cruise around the lagoon on a giant catamaran, complete with Tahitian music.



MAUPITI

Photography: Zoltan Lengyel



The Preserved Island

About 25 miles from Bora Bora, Maupiti is a small, isolated island in the Society archipelago. This sleepy community offers serenity and warm, island hospitality that many island-hoppers seek, combined with unprecedented natural beauty. Here, majestic cliffs soar high above a crystal jade lagoon.

Visitors in search of authenticity will enjoy leaving behind the resort scene for Maupiti's handful of family-run Guest Houses and pensions, the only accommodations on the island. Explorers will want to visit the caves of Vai'ea as well as Maupiti's motu Pae'ao, which holds an archeological site that dates from the 9th century, one of Polynesia's most ancient.

Maupiti is home to several species of marine-life: hammerhead sharks, leopard manta rays, butterflyfish and parrotfish.

THE ISLAND OF MAUPITI



HUAHINE

The southern shore of Huahine Iti: Philippe Bacchet



About forty minutes by plane from the island of Tahiti, Huahine, with its lush forests, untamed landscape, and quaint villages, is one of Tahiti's best-kept secrets. A deep, crystal-clear lagoon surrounds the two islands while magnificent bays and white-sand beaches add drama and solitude to their virtues. Relatively unchanged by the modern world, Huahine offers the slower and tranquil pace of old Polynesia. With only eight small villages scattered across the island, the few residents welcome visitors with great kindness. Not surprisingly, this fertile world offers a rich soil providing the local farmers a bountiful harvest of vanilla, melons, and bananas.

**The spell cast by Huahine
will last a lifetime.**





Welcome, *Maeva*, to a resort accessible only by boat:
Huahine Te Tia Beach Resort



Circle island tour by jetski with Huahine Nautique



Ancient traditions displayed at Fare Potee in the village of Maeva

*Mythology provides two powerful legends
for the creation of the two islands
of Huahine: either the god Hiro cut
the island in half with his canoe or a spear
thrown in a contest among gods pierced
Moorea's Mt. Mouaputa and then sailed
100 miles where it split Huahine in two!*



Ancient *marae* overlooking Huahine's turquoise bay

An Open Air Museum

Although "crowded" seldom comes to mind in describing the Islands of Tahiti, the word perfectly describes the density of Huahine's historical sites. In fact, the famous archaeological site near the village of Maeva has the largest concentration of pre-European *marae* (stone temples) in Polynesia. Now, almost fully restored, over 200 archeological stone structures have survived centuries of natural destruction. These structures lie within yards of one another along the shore of Lake Fauna Nui and on the sacred and scenic Matairea Hill and include *marae* of island chieftains, dwellings, horticultural developments, and religious and ceremonial monuments.

Here, overlooking the ancient stone fish traps and the ocean beyond, visitors follow a footpath among royal *marae* and immense fortification walls as well as stone foundations for homes of island chiefs and priests. Other important historic finds have shown that Huahine has the oldest recorded date of human occupation among the Society Islands. Discoveries at the recently uncovered sites date from A.D. 850 to 1200 and include workshops for the construction of canoes and assembly of fish hooks. These legends of Huahine can come to life with one of the famous local expert guides who will share ancient tales and stories about their unique island life.



The lush jungle-like interior near Maroe Bay



HOTELS

MAITAI

SHARING ISLAND WARMTH



MAITAI POLYNESIA BORA BORA

MAITAI RANGIROA

MAITAI LAPITA VILLAGE HUAHINE

Reservation : booking@hotelmaitai.com

www.hotelmaitai.com





Overwater reception at the
Huahine Te Tiare Beach Resort

Restaurants

The beautiful *Ari'i* at the Te Tiare Beach Resort is one of the best in the South Pacific and features continental cuisine with an island flair. Other restaurants include the *Te Nahe* at Relais Mahana with the charming local atmosphere of the isolated southern island and dinner looking out over the Pacific at the Maitai Lapita Village Huahine. Small restaurants favored by locals can be found along the waterfront in Fare and in Parea. A few food trucks and snack shops in Fare offer an informal South Seas ambience for informal evenings and picnics.

Getting Around

Huahine is served by Air Tahiti with frequent 40-minute flights from Papeete, daily flights from Moorea, and 25-minute flights from both Raiatea and Bora Bora. A ferry service also connects Huahine with Bora Bora, Raiatea, and Papeete but runs infrequently. Transport from the airport must be arranged by your Preferred Travel Professional or with your resort or hotel. Taxi service is available, and the public transit system, *Le Truck*, has routes from the outlying villages to Fare. Roads can be explored by excursion or by renting a car or bicycle. Motorboats and sailboats can be rented with or without a guide.

Activities on the Island of Huahine



Huahine Te Tiare Beach Resort



HUAHINE RESORTS & HOTELS

	ACTIVITIES DESK	AIR CONDITIONING	HAIR DRYER	IN-ROOM SAFE	MINI BAR	RESTAURANT(S)	ROOM SERVICE	SWIMMING POOL	TEA/COFFEE MAKER	TELEVISION	BEACH BUNGALOWS	GARDEN BUNGALOWS	OVERWATER BUNGALOWS	INTERNET/WIFI
RESORTS														
Huahine Te Tiare Beach Resort	•	•	•	•	•	1	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Maitai Lapita Village Huahine	•	•	•	•	•	1		•	•	•		•	•	•
HOTELS														
Relais Mahana	•		•		•	1	•				•	•		•

No Parking Tickets Here

There is no need for a parking lot at the Huahine Te Tiare Beach Resort, because you can only reach the resort by water. Arriving guests are transferred from the airport to the dock in the village of Fare for a short boat ride through the lagoon to the resort.



The Hawaiki Nui Va'a
—The Super Bowl of canoe races



Lilies at the Maitai Lapita Village Huahine



Horseback riding at dusk near Lake Fauna Nui

Huahine

Huahine: Lose Yourself in the Unspoiled Paradise

Excitement: Catch a wave with an expert, local surfer.

Exploration: Be amazed by restored ancient royal sites by taking an archaeological tour by foot, bus or horseback.

Discovery: Explore the underwater world by diving the less discovered sites and reef passes or stay above the water and be enchanted by vanilla farms and charming villages.

Relaxation: Unwind in the serene setting of a private and beautiful resort.

Enjoyment: Take advantage of the clear lagoon waters by snorkeling, boating, deep-sea fishing and jetskiing.

Circle Island Tour

The quiet roads and waters around Huahine are perfect for leisurely exploration. By boat, outrigger, or jetski, the lagoon and bays greet you as you glide over the bright waters with stops anywhere along the way for snorkeling. By car or bus tour, the scenic roads wind through verdant forests and up to breathtaking vistas. It's easy to fill the day with visits to the villages, walks among the historical sites, a stop to feed the gentle, blue-eyed sacred eels, and stops at scenic beaches, vanilla farms, and fruit stands.

Hawaiki Nui Va'a

Huahine hosts the start of what is best described as the "Super Bowl" of canoe races. The Hawaiki Nui Va'a is the world's largest and longest international open-ocean outrigger canoe race and covers a grueling 77 miles between Huahine and Bora Bora. The start and finish are celebrated with a grand festival of Tahitian food and music.

Jet Skiing

Huahine's lagoon is famous for exploration by jetski. The shallow waters, large secluded bays, and quiet shores give couples and small groups the feeling of true freedom and adventure. There are several companies that offer full- and half-day programs that circle both islands. Guided tours are complete with frequent stops to picnic on your own private beaches and islands.

Horseback Riding

Discover Huahine's backcountry on horseback ride with La Petite Ferme. Guided riding treks take you along the beach, make an exhilarating crossing of Lake Fauna Nui, ride past lakeside *marae*, ancient fish traps, and up Matairea Hill through archaeological sites.

THE ISLAND OF HUAHINE



KEY TO ISLAND MAPS: ● Major Hotels and Resorts ■ Villages ▲ Points of Interest
★ Historical Sites 🚩 Dive Sites ▲ Surfing Sites (Advanced Surfers)



TAHA'A & RAIATEA

Rooms with a view seem to float atop the lagoon of Taha'a while the horizon graces the profile of Bora Bora.
Le Taha'a Resort & Spa: Philippe Bacchet

The islands of Taha'a and Raiatea are encircled by the same reef and share the same immense lagoon. From the island of Tahiti, it is a 35-minute flight to the airport on Raiatea with connecting service to Taha'a on a 30-minute boat ride across the lagoon.

The Vanilla Island

With a Leisurely Rhythm of Life Unique in the World

Taha'a, with its vanilla-scented air, offers a glimpse of the traditional, tranquil life of the Tahitians. The flower-shaped island's simple beauty is charmed by soft mountain shapes and surrounded by tiny *motu* with bright, white-sand beaches. Local farmers grow vanilla and copra in the fertile valleys.

The Sacred Island

Where Legends Began and Dreams are Fulfilled

Raiatea, meaning "faraway heaven" and "sky with soft light," was first named Hava'i as it's considered the homeland of the ancient Polynesians. Recognized as the most sacred island in the region, the green-carpeted mountains showcase the celebrated Mt. Temehani.





Opoa Beach Hotel



Vahine Island Private Island Resort



Raiatea Lodge

*Upon Mt. Temehani in Raiatea lives the
Tiare Apetahi, a flower so rare it can be
grown no place else on earth.
Each dawn the petals open with a slight
crackling sound. Legends describe this as
the sound of the broken heart of a
common woman who was not allowed to
marry the son of a Tahitian king.*



Charter a yacht and explore the lagoons

Sailing Capital of the South Pacific

The waters within the lagoons and around the Islands of Tahiti are among the greatest in the world for sailing because of the temperate climate, steady trade winds, proximity of the islands, central South Pacific location, and abundance of dramatic anchorages.

Among all of the islands, Raiatea and Taha'a are a favorite for sailors. Larry Shames, novelist and sailor described these fabled isles in an article that appeared in *Islands* magazine entitled *Blue Water Days*:

"There I was, with my wife, hoisting sail in the lagoon of Raiatea. The water beneath us glinted turquoise: every change of depth shot back a different shade of blue or green. This was her first trip here. Like everyone else, she'd had her own fantasies about the place. 'Is this what you pictured?' She pondered a moment, 'I didn't really have a picture, I had a feeling...and this is it.'

We sailed to Taha'a, which may be thought of as a paradise that has decided to sleep in. Known for its vanilla, Taha'a exuded a gorgeous and narcotic vanilla smell that seemed to blanket the whole lagoon."

Several charter companies are located on Raiatea and throughout the islands. For more information, visit www.TahitiTourism.com.



Taha'a, The Vanilla Island with Raiatea in the background

*Delicately authentic,
exquisitely romantic,
heavenly secluded...*



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Romantic dinner at Ohiri
Le Taha'a Island Resort & Spa

Restaurants

Here, the open-air ambiances of the resort restaurants match the relaxed feelings of the islands while capturing the magical tastes of the local and French cuisines. On Taha'a, the **Ohiri** at Le Taha'a Island Resort & Spa features fine dining and rich culinary choices created by a renowned chef while the Vahine Island restaurant and bar feature an intimate open-air design. On Raiatea, the restaurant at the Raiatea Hawaiki Nui is known for seafood specialties and the Raiatea Lodge Hotel for gourmet fare, while the other hotel restaurants offer simple, yet elegant atmospheres. Around the islands, many local restaurants in Uturoa and at the marinas feature French, Asian, Italian and local cuisine while the nightly gathering of food trucks on the waterfront are a treat for every visitor.

Activities on the Islands of Taha'a & Raiatea



Le Taha'a Island Resort & Spa



TAHA'A & RAIATEA RESORTS & HOTELS

RESORTS/HOTELS	ACTIVITIES DESK	AIR CONDITIONING	HAIR DRYER	IN-ROOM SAFE	MINI BAR	RESTAURANT(S)	ROOM SERVICE	SWIMMING POOL	TEA/COFFEE MAKER	TELEVISION	BEACH BUNGALOWS	GARDEN BUNGALOWS	OVERWATER BUNGALOWS	SUITES	SPA	INTERNET/WIFI
Le Taha'a Island Resort & Spa	•	•	•	•	•	3	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Vahine Island Private Island Resort	•	•	•	•	•	1	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Opoa Beach Hotel	•	•	•	•	•	1	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Raiatea Hawaiki Nui Hotel	•	•	•	•	•	1	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Raiatea Lodge Hotel	•	•	•	•	•	1	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•

Getting Around

Raiatea is served by Air Tahiti with frequent 45-minute flights from Papeete and Moorea, and with several daily 20-minute flights from Huahine and Bora Bora. Taha'a is served only by water taxi from Raiatea's airport and guests of the Le Taha'a Island Resort & Spa can also arrange for a helicopter transfer from Bora Bora. Transport from the airport to the hotels should be arranged by your Preferred Travel Professional or by your hotel. Both Raiatea and Taha'a have a few taxis, and Raiatea operates the public transit system, **Le Truck**, with daily routes from outlying villages to the main towns on each island. The circle-island and interior roads are best explored through hired excursion or by renting a car. To explore the lagoon or the private motu surrounding the islands, choose among motorboat, sailboat, or outrigger canoe rentals. Yachts ranging from 36 to 51 feet can also be chartered, with or without captain and crew.

Taha'a: Relaxation Rediscovered

Exploration: Visit tiny villages and bask in simple island living along the shores.

Discovery: Venture to family-owned pearl farms and vanilla plantations.

Relaxation: Unwind at the luxurious and private resorts.

Enjoyment: Indulge in the serenity of a day on your own tiny private island.

Raiatea: The Land of Legendary Possibilities

Exploration: Journey to the ancient and sacred complex of Taputapuatea or canoe down the Faaroa River.

Discovery: Hike and explore the sacred Mt. Temehani Plateau.

Relaxation: Charter a yacht and escape to some of the most sought-after sailing waters in the world.

Enjoyment: Discover the wonder that awaits in the clear lagoon waters with day- or night-time dives.

THE ISLANDS OF TAHA'A & RAIATEA



Taha'a & Raiatea



Marae Exploration

The most sacred, best-preserved and most famous historical site in all of Polynesia is Raiatea's Taputapuatea. Now considered a national monument, this immense archaeological area is easily explored by foot and includes dozens of marae and shrines.

Vanilla Plantations

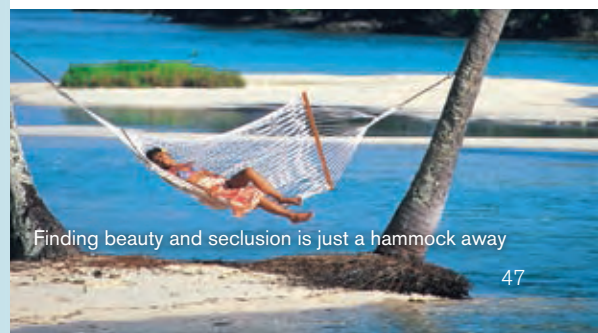
The scented air of Taha'a comes from the fragrance of vanilla pods curing in the sun. Over 80% of Tahiti's harvest of this world-famous spice is grown here. Tours include strolling among the rows of climbing orchids and a demonstration of the pollination and curing process.

Island Tours

Both Raiatea and Taha'a are enjoyable islands to explore. By car or bus tour, drive along the quiet circle-island roads and stop at the villages and peaceful shores. By boat, cruise within deep bays dotted with pearl farms or come ashore on a tiny *motu*. By foot, follow a guide along ancient footpaths high into the mountains.

River Trip

Winding through a lush rain forest, the Faaroa River is the only navigable river in Tahiti and can be enjoyed by a chartered river cruise. These historic waters launched migratory journeys to faraway islands we now call Hawaii and New Zealand.



TUAMOTU ATOLLS



Tahiti's Strand of Pearls

Only around an hour flight from Tahiti or Bora Bora, the view of these atolls from the air appear as if hundreds of pearls were gracefully tossed upon the ocean. Each atoll is a delicate band of palm-laden coral beaches and *motu* surrounding a lagoon with water so clear, it seems infinite. Only a few feet in elevation, these seemingly lost atolls are dotted with tiny villages where simple Polynesian life welcomes romantics and divers alike.

True oceanic wonders of the world,
where excitement and simplicity share the
same breath.

Tikehau

Rangiroa

Ahe

Manihi

Fakarava

Formerly Poumotu, then mispronounced as Paumotu, the 78 atolls are the largest chain of coral atolls in the world. Here, where the resourceful Paumotu live in harmony with the ocean, it can be more important to own a good canoe than a house.



Secluded private islet in the Tuamotu Atolls

Some of the Tuamotu Atolls are so remote, I'll see them again only if I'm on a sailboat bound for nowhere. Still, I'd return in a minute. My husband and I stopped on one such atoll. We snorkeled and picnicked on a sliver of beach rimmed by a forest of palms. A local fellow rowed over to our beach with a cache of black pearls. For less than we sometimes pay for dinner, we pocketed a luminescent pearl that now dangles from my bracelet, a constant reminder of our languid day.

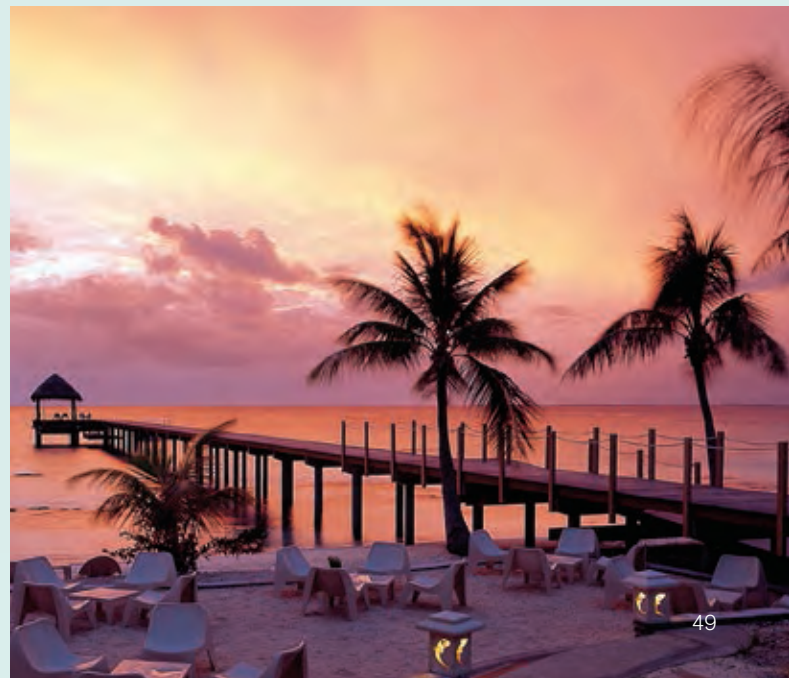
Above all, the atolls are end-of-the-rainbow isles where everything is all sea and sky. And always summer."

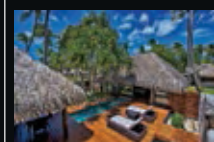
Off the Map in the Atolls

**Excerpts from an article by Susan Kaye,
author of more than 60 magazine features
about Tahiti**

"The coral atolls rise no more than a few feet above the soothing slurp of the waves. Many atolls are uninhabited; on others are the tin-roofed homes of fishermen and pearl farmers; and a few have intimate lodgings that are a perfect match with the striking beachscapes.

This is my idea of paradise. Placid waters in a palette of blue. All the jewel-bright fish of the sea just beyond my snorkel mask. Heavenly fares and congenial restaurants where menus are flush with seafood from the lagoon.





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Activities in the Tuamotu Atolls



DIVING



JETSKIING



RAY FEEDING



SNORKELING



GLASS-BOTTOM BOAT



DEEP-SEA FISHING



SAILING



SUNSET CRUISE



SURFING

TUAMOTU ATOLLS RESORTS & HOTELS

RESORTS & HOTELS

	ACTIVITIES DESK	AIR CONDITIONING	HAIR DRYER	IN-ROOM SAFE	MINI BAR	RESTAURANT(S)	ROOM SERVICE	SWIMMING POOL	TEA/COFFEE MAKER	TELEVISION	BEACH BUNGALOWS	GARDEN BUNGALOWS	OVERWATER BUNGALOWS	INTERNET/WIFI
Hotel Kia Ora Resort & Spa	•	•	•	•	•	2	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Maitai Rangiroa	•	•	•	•	•	1	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Motu Teta	•	•	•	•	•	1	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Tikehau Pearl Beach Resort	•	•	•	•	•	1	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•

HIDEAWAY RESORTS

	ACTIVITIES DESK	AIR CONDITIONING	HAIR DRYER	IN-ROOM SAFE	MINI BAR	RESTAURANT(S)	ROOM SERVICE	SWIMMING POOL	TEA/COFFEE MAKER	TELEVISION	BEACH BUNGALOWS	GARDEN BUNGALOWS	OVERWATER BUNGALOWS	INTERNET/WIFI
Kia Ora Sauvage	•	•	•	•	•	1	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Ninamu Resort	•	•	•	•	•	1	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•

Four Days in the Atolls

Here is a Sample of Four Days of Activities Enjoyed by Visitors:

Day 1: Explore the Underwater World

- Spend the day with a dive master.
- "Shoot the Pass" and drift dive alongside hundreds of sea creatures.
- Dive deep along the dropoffs and among hammerhead, wrasse, and rays.
- End your day watching the sunset at your resort.

Day 2: Become Robinson Crusoe for the Day

- Explore the lagoon for hours of snorkeling and relaxing.
- Discover the hundreds of deserted isles for the perfect picnic spot.
- Take a tour of a pearl farm.

Day 3: Take a (Very Short) Road Trip

- Explore the islands by bike or foot.
- Walk among the quaint villages.
- Shop for local made crafts.
- Discover Rangiroa's unique winery and vineyards for wine tasting.
- Dine at one of the local restaurants and enjoy the "catch of the day."

Day 4: Renew Your Romance Every Day

Few places on earth could be this romantic and most resorts have programs designed exclusively for couples which can include:

- Catered gourmet picnics and dinners including music on your own private isle.
- Private sail boat charters for day-long or sunset sails.
- Starlight dinners on the beach.
- Wedding and vow-renewal ceremonies complete with music and a feast.



Snorkeling the crystal clear lagoon

www.TahitiTourism.com

Diving in the Atolls

To “shoot the pass” is to experience what many have called “the world’s greatest adrenaline rush!” Divers, snorkelers, and even those aboard a glass-bottom boat are carried in a rush of water between the ocean and lagoon surrounded by seemingly millions of fish. Outside the reef is a breathtaking array of large species along the walls of the drop-offs, including squadrons of eagle rays and schools of sharks and tuna.

Some Popular Dive Sites Include:

Rangiroa

Avatoru Pass: Pass dive 50-70 ft.

Tiputa Pass: Pass dive 40-150 ft.

Aquarium: Lagoon dive 10-30 ft.

Tikehau

The Pass: Ocean dive 60 ft.

Canyons: Ocean dive 40 ft.

Shark Hole: Ocean dive 130 ft.

Fakarava

Tumakohua Pass: Pass dive 40-140 ft.

Garuae Pass: Pass dive 40-140 ft.

Central Park: Ocean dive 10-30 ft.

Manihi

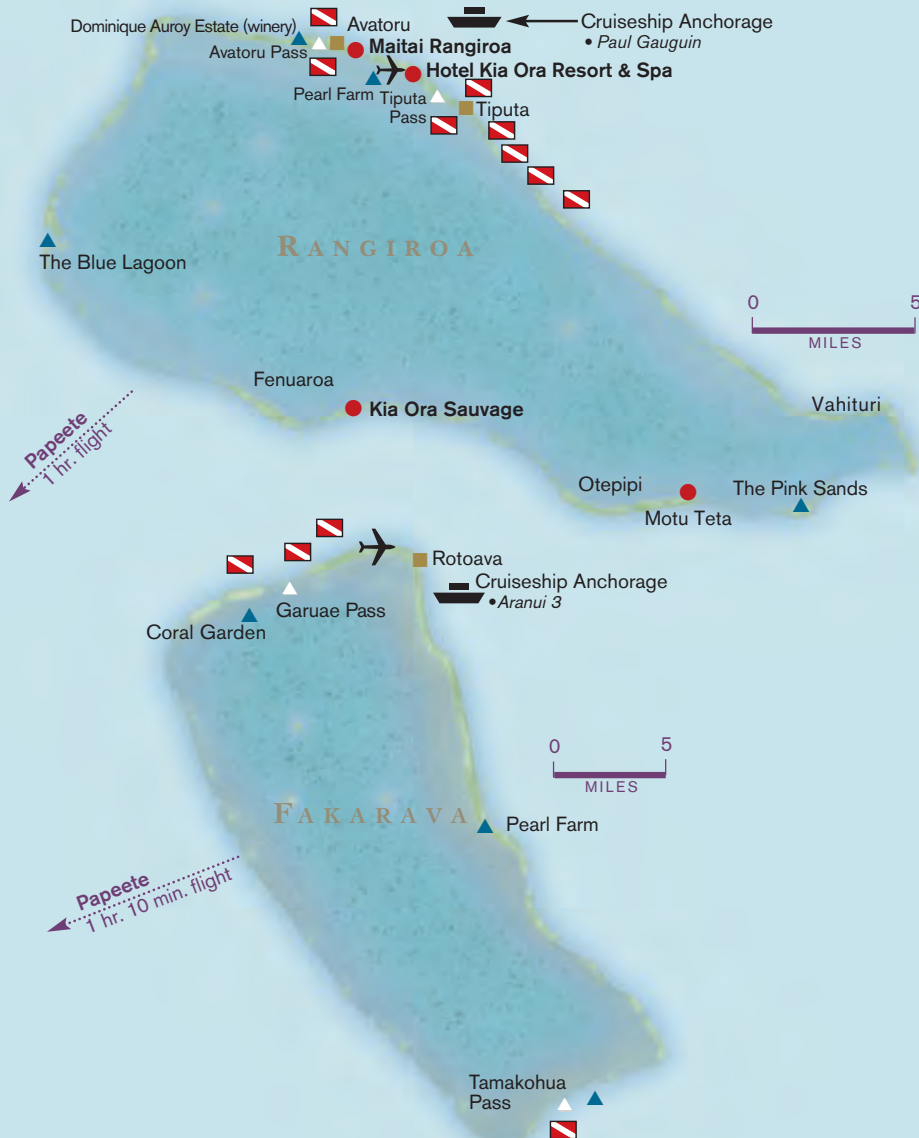
Tairapa Pass: Pass dive 20-70 ft.

The Break: Ocean dive 30-80 ft.

The Circus: Lagoon dive 50-80 ft.

Dive operators are located near the resorts and primary villages on each atoll.

THE ATOLLS OF RANGIROA & FAKARAVA



KEY TO ISLAND MAPS: ● Major Hotels and Resorts ■ Villages ▲ Points of Interest
 🚩 Dive Sites

Rangiroa & Fakarava

Sunset across the world's second largest lagoon

Rangiroa

Rangiroa is simply beyond imagination with an endless horizon above the world's second largest atoll. Surrounding one of the world's greatest dive destinations, 240 islets lay upon the ocean for more than 110 miles completely encircling an infinitely deep lagoon.

The beautiful oasis of land making up the most populated part of Rangiroa is surrounded by two legendary bodies of water, Moana-tea (Peaceful Ocean) and Moana-uri (Wild Ocean). Here, the main villages of Avatoru and Tiputa offer the visitor a unique look at the South Pacific. Along the few roads that exist, coral churches, craft centers, local restaurants, and tiny shops provide enjoyable experiences to complement the many activities in the lagoon. Visitors can also enjoy wine tasting at the Dominique Auroy Estate nestled within a coconut grove and producing three grape varieties.

Fakarava

Fakarava is an untouched world where life along the shores is equally unique with quaint villages, old coral churches, and welcoming people.

Fakarava was once the ancient capital of the region and the site of the first Catholic mission in the atolls, which was built from coral in the 1870s. The lagoon is the second largest in French Polynesia after Rangiroa and is rich with life below and above the surface. So pure is the environment here that Fakarava and five surrounding atolls are one of the protected areas in the world network of UNESCO Biosphere Reserves. As a reserve, local communities are actively involved in governance, management, research, education, training and monitoring which promotes both socio-economic development and biodiversity conservation.



Restaurants

The secluded atmosphere of these pristine isles seems to add a dash of romance into every entrée. The resort restaurants offer lagoon-side dining with local fish and traditional, French, and international recipes. These include: **Blue Lagoon** at Le Maitai Rangiroa; **Te Tai Roa** at Hotel Kia Ora; and **Poreho** at Tikehau Pearl Beach Resort. At the Kia Ora Resort & Spa, meals can be served on the beach with fish caught just outside your bungalow. Simple local restaurants are found in Avatoru on Rangiroa and the main villages on each atoll.

Getting Around

Rangiroa, Manihi, Tikehau, Fakarava and Ahe are served by Air Tahiti with direct flights from Papeete seven days a week and with flights from Bora Bora on select days. In addition, Manihi, Tikehau, Fakarava, and many other atolls have connecting flights through Rangiroa. The flight times from Papeete are about 55 minutes to Tikehau, 1 hour 15 minutes to Manihi, 1 hour to Rangiroa, and 1 hour 10 minutes to Fakarava. The flight times from Bora Bora are about 1 hour 10 minutes to Tikehau and Rangiroa, 2 hours 15 minutes to Manihi with one-stop service, and 2 hours 30 minutes to Fakarava with one-stop service. Transport to and from the airport should be arranged by your Preferred Travel Professional or by your hotel.

With only a few miles of road on each atoll, there is little need for public transportation and walking is enjoyable. For venturing around the most populated parts of the atolls, open-air cars and bicycles can be rented. For exploring the lagoon and surrounding motu, motorboat, canoe, and sailboat rentals are available.



The Peaceful Island

Between Rangiroa and Manihi, located in the northern Tuamotu Archipelago, lies Ahe, an almost entirely enclosed coral atoll. The 70-meter deep lagoon opens up to the ocean at only one pass, Tiareroa.

Because of its limited accessibility, Ahe has remained relatively unpopulated, with only 561 inhabitants. Here, wildlife abounds, and all around the atoll live diverse species of sharks, rays, turtles, napoleon fish, groupers and barracudas. Over 68 pearl farms are scattered across the lagoon of Ahe, and Ahe's farms produce some of the most exceptional pearls in Tahiti, and they are open for guided visits and demonstrations.

There are no resorts on Ahe – lodging is available at a few family-run Guest Houses, and the atoll is accessible by small inner-island flights and private boat charter.

The Purest Gem on Earth is Born Here!

Tahiti is the Best Place on Earth to Shop for Tahitian Cultured Pearls

Perfection bestows perfection. The warm lagoon waters of the islands and atolls are Mother Nature's choice for the cultivation of her pure living gem: the Tahitian Cultured Pearl.

With this first-hand expertise and infinite selection of dozens of major pearl retailers on all the islands, visitors quickly discover that this is the best place in the world to learn about and shop for pearls.

Previously known as "Black Pearls," Tahitian Cultured Pearls range widely in pricing, size, shape, and colors. Travelers are encouraged to visit several merchants during their vacation to learn about judging quality and style which will help them determine their preference and to buy from reliable stores and pearl farms.



One of countless motu: Philippe Bacchet

Tikehau

Tikehau, a graceful oval crown of white and pink-sand beaches, can only be described as a picture perfect postcard. Considered one of the most beautiful atolls in the South Pacific, the friendly people invite you to explore their tranquil world.

In Tikehau, fish seem to outnumber people one-billion to one. In fact the density of the fish in the lagoon is so high that Jacques Cousteau's research group declared it to contain the highest concentration of fish among any other Tuamotu Atoll.

Fishing is among the primary industries here for the 500 residents. Families share fish parks (underwater fenced areas) where they trap parrotfish and other lagoon species as a primary source of food and income. Visitors enjoy endless hours of exploring the perfection of the lagoon through snorkeling, diving, and boating and exploring the village of Tuherahera.

Manihi

Manihi conjures up castaway dreams of a tropical isle. Far from the modern world, the crystal-clear lagoon was once filled with mother-of-pearl and is the site of Tahiti's first black pearl farm.

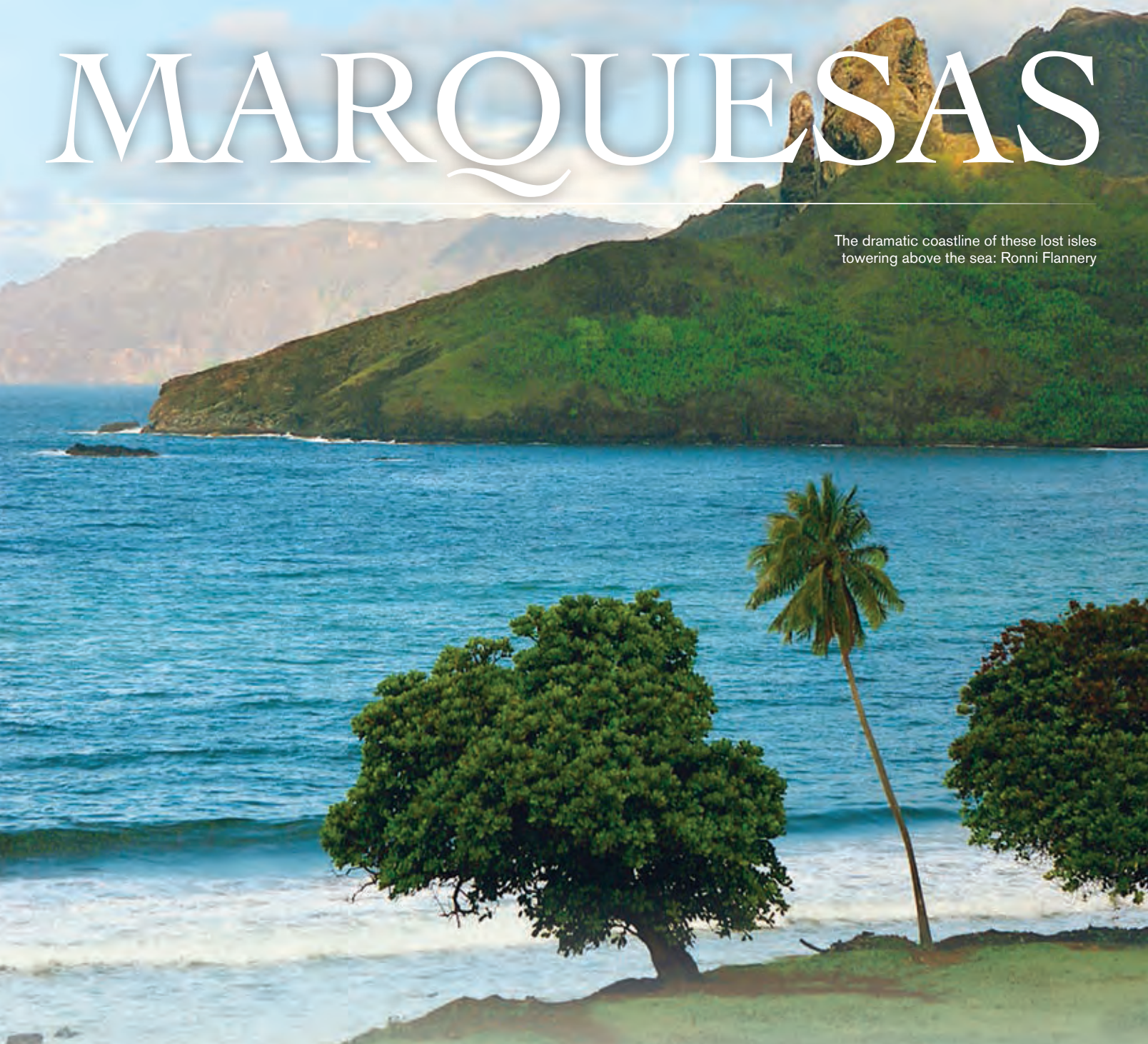
Travelers enjoy pearl farm visits and exploring the lagoon and the main village of Turipaoa. There are few cars here so walking around the town square and along the coral paths is as peaceful and romantic as the lagoon itself.

THE ATOLLS OF TIKEHAU & MANIHI



MARQUESAS

The dramatic coastline of these lost isles
towering above the sea: Ronni Flannery



Just over a three hour flight from Papeete, the Marquesas are seemingly lost at the end of the earth. Even now, some of the islands are virtually untouched since the era of European exploration. Known as Henua Enana (“Land of Men”), the isolation of the Marquesas has created a race of strong and talented people of immense pride and a fascinating culture. The Marquesan language is unique to Tahiti, as the lilting dialect is traced directly to the ancient Polynesian tongue of Maohi. Natural wonders abound as 1000-foot waterfalls cascade down volcanic cliffs, and towering mountains disappear into the clouds.

This world belongs to the past
where the spirits of the ancient
Maohi still live.



Nuku Hiva



Hiva Oa



Hello! Welcome! Mave Mai



Road signs: Jad Davenport



Ancient sites around here

*In 1888, Robert Louis Stevenson
was astounded by the Marquesas:
“I have watched the morning break in
many quarters of the world;
the dawn that I saw with most emotion
shown upon the Bay of Anaho”...
On Nuku Hiva.*

Archaeological Discovery

Hidden within the theatre of mountains of the Marquesas is a mother lode of ancient sacred sites called *meae*, in Marquesan, including ceremonial complexes, stone temples, and large *tiki* statues.

On Nuku Hiva, Taipivai Valley and Hatiheu are home to petroglyphs, ruins, and ancient religious sites.

On Hiva Oa, an ancient complex has been restored in Taaoa Valley offering a revealing look at the fierce and proud Marquesan heritage.

Wood and Stone Carving

World famous for intricate wood and stone carvings, Marquesans apply ancestral designs seen nowhere else on earth. Carved from precious native woods and stone, Marquesan bowls, plates, and statues are highly prized. These treasures can often be bought directly from the artisans in their studios.

Authors and Artists

The remote Marquesas became a household name in Europe and America with the arrival of notable writers and painters of their time.

Herman Melville, author of *Moby Dick*, jumped his whaling ship off Nuku Hiva in 1842 and wrote *Typee* about his adventures in the cannibal valleys.

Robert Louis Stevenson spent six months here in 1888 later writing *In the South Seas* about his voyages across the South Pacific.

Jack London, author of the epic *Treasure Island*, sailed to Nuku Hiva in 1907 and wrote the popular adventure book, *South Sea Tales*.

Jacques Brel, the popular Belgian poet of song, composed his last works on Hiva Oa.

Paul Gauguin brought the beauty of Tahiti to the world with earth-hued portraits now considered priceless. He first moved to the island of Tahiti and lived his last years on Hiva Oa “to give new life to my imagination.”



A tribute at Paul Gauguin's grave site : Raymond Sahuquet



Traditional Tahitian Dance: Ty Sawyer

Activities on the Marquesas Islands

- DIVING
- DEEP-SEA FISHING
- 4X4 SAFARI
- HORSEBACK RIDING
- SAILING
- HELICOPTER TOUR
- HIKING



MARQUESAS LODGES

	ACTIVITIES DESK	AIR CONDITIONING	HAIR DRYER	IN-ROOM SAFE	MINI BAR	RESTAURANT(S)	ROOM SERVICE	SWIMMING POOL	TEA/COFFEE MAKER	TELEVISION	BAY-VIEW FAMILY SUITES	MTN-VIEW BUNGALOWS	BAY-VIEW BUNGALOWS	INTERNET/WIFI
Hiva Oa Hanakee Lodge	•	•	•	•	•	1		•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Nuku Hiva Keikahanui Lodge	•	•	•	•	•	1		•	•	•			•	•

Restaurants

The best dining is found at the restaurants at the Nuku Hiva Keikahanui Lodge and the Hiva Oa Hanakee Lodge. These restaurants feature creative French dishes influenced by Marquesan fare. An impressive international wine list complements the ambience and views overlooking the mountains and bays. Traditional Marquesan cuisine can also be enjoyed on Nuku Hiva in Taiohae and Hatiheu and on Hiva Oa in Atuona.

Getting Around

Getting to and around the Marquesas is a unique experience in itself. Air Tahiti provides non-stop service from Papeete to Nuku Hiva with a 3 hour 15 minute flight seven days a week and to Hiva Oa with a 3 hour 15 minute flight five days a week. Continuing flights connect Nuku Hiva to Hiva Oa with several weekly 35-minute flights. Several inter-island vessels are in operation.

Always an adventure, travel to and from the airport should be arranged by your Preferred Travel Professional or by your hotel. Depending on road conditions and your choice, airport transfers can either be by boat, 4X4, truck or horseback. Travel around the islands requires planning as well. Although 4x4 rental vehicles are available, it is advisable to hire a guide to negotiate the steep, rugged, and unfamiliar roads occasionally used by herds of wild horses. Around the islands, motorboat rentals offer an enjoyable way to explore the dramatic bays and shoreline.



Marquesas: Experience the Adventure

Excitement: Venture into the tropical forests by horseback.

Exploration: Journey to the high mountains, remote beaches, hidden waterfalls, and jungle-like forests by a 4x4 safari truck.

Discovery: Explore the archaeological sites of stone tiki, ancient dwellings, and petroglyphs.

Relaxation: Lounge in the peaceful ambience or indulge the delicious cuisine of the simple, yet elegant lodges set within the hillsides overlooking the bays.

Enjoyment: Shop for carvings, tapa cloth, and sculptures in tiny studios and craft centers.



Dramatic anchorage

Nuku Hiva

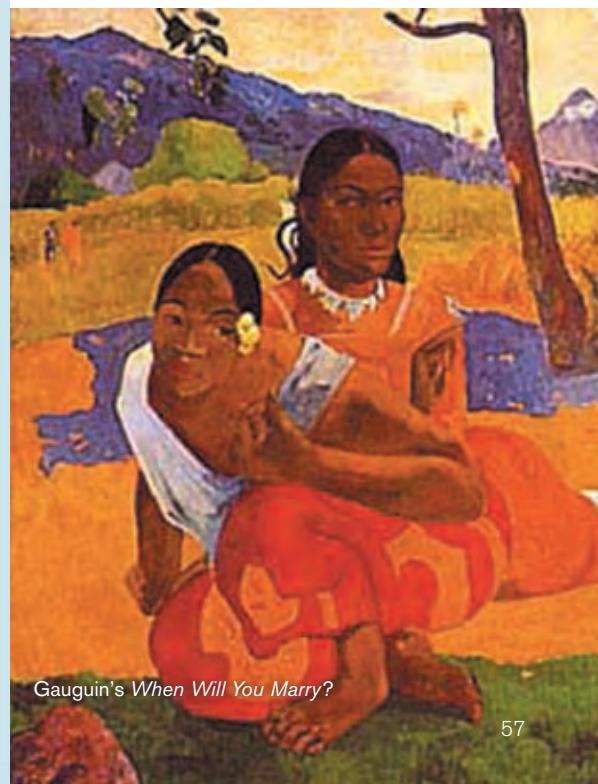
This mountainous land is the largest island in the Marquesas. It is known for towering spire-like peaks, secluded, lush valleys, ancient sites, fjord-like bays, and waterfalls so high that most of the falling water evaporates as it descends.

Hiva Oa

Known by many as "Paul Gauguin's Island," this majestic and historic island is known for wild and untamed landscape; giant stone *tiki*; endless and unearthly vistas; and as the final resting place of master poet Jacques Brel and famed artist Paul Gauguin.



KEY TO ISLAND MAPS: ● Major Hotels and Resorts ■ Villages ▲ Points of Interest
★ Historical Sites 🚩 Dive Sites



Gauguin's *When Will You Marry?*

AUSTRAL ISLANDS & GAMBIER ISLANDS



Far beyond the distant horizon of the South Pacific are wild and rugged lands still virtually undiscovered by North Americans. The Austral Islands and the Gambier Islands, two distinctly different archipelagoes, are the last of the islands to be inhabited in French Polynesia. On the island of Rurutu in the Australs, humpback whales can outnumber people. The remoteness of both island groups has fostered a world with ancient history and traditions unique among the Tahitian isles. For the adventurous traveler, sailor, or diver seeking a true 'off the beaten path' experience, these lost worlds await.

**Beyond the horizon,
beyond your imagination.**



Rurutu



Tubuai



Raivavae



Mangareva



Raivavae's Turquoise Lagoon: Linny Morris



The beautiful bay of Mangareva



Enjoy an afternoon on secluded *Motu Piscine* (Swimming Pool Islet) on the island of Raivavae: Linny Morris

THE ISLANDS OF RURUTU, TUBUAI & RAIVAVAE



THE ISLAND OF MANGAREVA



KEY TO ISLAND MAPS: ● Major Hotels and Resorts ■ Villages ▲ Points of Interest ★ Historical Sites 🚢 Dive Sites ▼ Whale Watching Site

Lodging

Family-run Guest Houses provide most of the lodging for the islands and offer modest rooms in the heart of the main villages. In comparison, the population of each of these islands is about the same as a small rural farm town in North America, so lodging options are limited, but genuine and local. Mangareva has three Guests Houses, Rurutu has a small Hotel Lodge with lovely bungalows, four Guests Houses and a Bed & Breakfast, Tubuai has three Guest Houses, and Raivavae has four Guests Houses. Bring local currency and keep in mind that many of the Guest Houses, restaurants, shops, and tour guides do not accept credit cards.

Restaurants

The restaurants are as simple as the islands with a range from snack stands for picnics to comfortable dining with traditional local, French, and Asian cuisine. Most of the hotels and larger Guests Houses offer dining while local restaurants are found in Rikitea on Mangareva, Moerai on Rurutu, Matura and Taahuaia on Tubuai, and on Raivavae.

Getting Around

Mangareva: Air Tahiti provides non-stop and one-stop service from Papeete to the Gambier Islands two days a week with about a 4 hour 30 minute flight. Like Bora Bora, the airport is on a surrounding *motu*. Each flight is met by boats for the 30-minute transfer across the lagoon to the town of Rikitea. An inter-island vessel offers monthly voyages, however it is seldom used by visitors.

Austral Islands: Air Tahiti provides non-stop and one-stop service from Papeete to Rurutu four days a week, Tubuai five days a week, and Raivavae 3 days a week. Non-stop flight time is 1 hour 30 minutes to Rurutu, 1 hour 45 minutes to Tubuai, and 1 hour 55 minutes to Raivavae. Air Tahiti provides connecting service from Rurutu to Tubuai two days a week and further service from each island to Raivavae one day a week. Inter-island vessels offer in-frequent voyages, however they are seldom used by visitors.

Travel to and from the airport should be arranged in advance by your Preferred Travel Professional or by your Guest House. Car rentals are available in Rikitea on Mangareva and Moerai on Rurutu. However the islands are small and few visitors rent a car to get around and instead tour by circle-island excursions, local guides, or by foot, boat or bicycle.

www.TahitiTourism.com



The Austral Islands are known for their local fruits and vegetables and friendly locals: Linny Morris



Hand crafted ukelele from the Austral Islands: Linny Morris



Panoramic view of Raivavae's lagoon from the top of Mt. Hiro: Linny Morris

Austral & Gambier Islands

Austral Islands

One and a half hours from the island of Tahiti are the high volcanic islands of the Australs. The southernmost islands of French Polynesia are both mysterious and beautiful and are known for their traditional arts and culture, whale watching, and sheer remoteness. The main islands that offer small hotels and family pensions are Rurutu, Tubuai, and Raivavae. All are reached by direct air service.

Rurutu

Towering out of the ocean are the steep coral cliffs of Rurutu, a raised coral atoll, riddled with both caves and legends. The colorful coral block homes dot the three main villages where few changes have been seen in the last century. Exploring the mountains, sea cliff caves, and the many ancient *marae* religious sites are the most popular activities on land. The arrivals of the migratory ack whales are the highlight of the ocean activities. Between July and October, visitors can snorkel and dive among the pods of these marine giants who stop in these waters to reproduce within sight of the beaches.

Tubuai

This gently shaped oval, Tubuai is a land rich in soil and panoramic overlooks. The large agricultural plateaus grow traditionally farmed fruits and taro, potatoes, and coffee sent to the markets of Papeete. The circle-island road offers access to the island beaches and network of hiking, biking, and 4x4 trails and the newly reconstructed Fort George, originally built over 200 years ago by the mutineers of the HMS *Bounty*.

Raivavae

This tiny remote oasis is truly a paradise of nature. Many visitors feel that this island is reminiscent of a smaller, untouched Bora Bora. The high mountainous island hosts a lush mountain rain forest while countless sea birds nest among the dozens of tiny *motu*, most of which are uninhabited. Hikes can be arranged to the top of Mt. Hiro, 1300 feet above the small village of Anatonu, offering gorgeous views of Raivavae's turquoise lagoon. Prepared travelers who visit here know that this is one of the few tourism destinations left on earth that still do not accept credit cards.

Gambier Islands

Mangareva

Over one thousand miles southeast of Tahiti are the Gambier Islands with mountainous Mangareva standing over the surrounding islands and the luminous lagoon like a great cathedral in a small village. Once the center for Catholicism in Polynesia and a bustling seaport during the missionary era, Mangareva and the waters around the Gambier Islands are now an important supply source for the Tahitian Cultured Pearl industry. Besides the pearl farms and tour of the island by road or boat, visitors can also explore the surprising number of surviving churches, convents, watchtowers, and schools from the 1800s. Some structures are still in use such as St. Michel of Rikitea Church where the altar is inlaid with iridescent mother-of-pearl shell.

Polynesian mythology declares that Mangareva was lifted up from the ocean floor by the demi-god Maui and there tied the sun with tresses of hair.

The Treasures of the Lost Isles

Excitement: Snorkel or dive among pods of humpback whales.

Exploration: Journey to the mountains, cliffs, caves, religious sites, and uninhabited motu by foot, boat, kayak, car, 4x4, bike or horseback.

Discovery: Meet the friendly, yet somewhat shy residents who still consider visitors a curiosity.

Relaxation: Discover the serenity of these less populated islands, small villages, and private beaches.

Enjoyment: Shop for pearls and traditional weavings directly with the farmers and artisans.

Cruising and Yacht Charter

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Pink Sands, Tikehau: Dream Yacht Charter



Taha'a: Paul Gauguin Cruises

Cruising is reinvented in Tahitian waters where we embark on a voyage to explore these romantic and unspoiled South Pacific isles. Here, the ports-of-call are uncrowded and charming, the ships are smaller and luxurious, the neon-blue waters within the lagoons are calm, and the ocean journey between the islands is short. On these voyages, each island becomes your home for the day with an unending variety of water and land activities to enjoy.

Water Activities

Floating atop the lagoon playgrounds around most of the islands, each ship offers activities for all ages and abilities. Each island anchorage offers a new range of activities including jetskiing, windsurfing, waterskiing, parasailing, canoeing, diving, shark feeding, stand-up paddle boarding and snorkeling. Hop on a glassbottom boat, charter your own catamaran or powerboat, or anchor on your own private island for the day.

Land Activities

Surrounded by lush green peaks, land activities offer exploration deep into each island. Your days can be spent by 4x4 safari to dramatic overlooks and into the rich forests, circle-island trips along the coast and inner island roads stopping off at fruit-tasting shops and historic sites, independent trips for shopping or walking through the villages and among artisan studios, or guided hiking trips into the mountains for an overview of the land and ocean.

DISCOVER FRENCH POLYNESIA!

LET YOUR IMAGINATION TAKE YOU WHEREVER YOU WANT TO GO... ONBOARD *ULTIMATE LADY*.

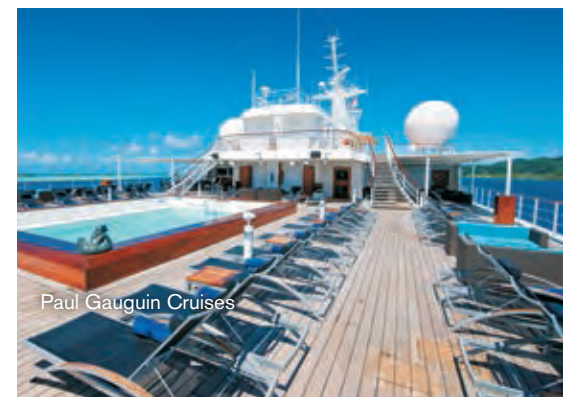


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Types of Yacht Experiences

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Crewed sailing catamarans or monohulls sailing multiple islands with flexible itineraries.

Private Motor Yacht Charter

Crewed motorized yachts sailing multiple islands with flexible itineraries.

Sail Cruising Cabins

Private cabins aboard a sailing catamaran or motorized yacht with fixed itinerary, on an all-inclusive package to multiple islands.

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Captain of your own catamaran or monohull.



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Paul Gauvin
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www.pgcruiises.com

Checklist for Perfect Sailing:

- Trade winds are predictable and weak to moderate most of the year.
- Inter-island sailing is short and voyages can include multiple islands and atolls.
- Virtually every island and atoll has an 80°F neon-blue lagoon.
- Lagoons are calm and protected with many anchorages.
- Passes are wide, have weaker currents, and feature beacon systems.
- Supplies are easily found at island markets, marinas, shops, and food stands of fisherman and farmers.
- Safety is a part of the island's ocean culture with a permanent VHF maritime radio channel, daily meteorological reports, emergency services and medical evacuations.
- Choices among many expert charter companies.

For more information and a complete list of company and charter options, visit www.TahitiTourism.com.



Relaxing in the Society Islands: Tahiti Yacht Charter

Planning Your Dream Vacation

Cruise Ships and Yacht Charters



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Paul Gauguin Cruises

www.pgcruises.com

800-848-6172

The deluxe 332-guest m/s *Paul Gauguin* is the most luxurious ship ever to sail the Islands of Tahiti on a year-round basis. Uniquely designed to navigate the shallow lagoons of Tahiti, this ship offers six-star service, gourmet restaurants, a full spa, and spacious staterooms (70% with private balconies). Itineraries include frequent 7-night cruises between Tahiti, Moorea, Bora Bora, and Taha'a while 10-night cruises add the Tuamotu Atolls, 11-night cruises add the Cook Islands or Australs, and 14-night cruises add the Marquesas.



Adventure Cruise Vessel

Aranui

www.aranui.com

800-972-7268

Adventure cruising in comfort with the *Aranui 3*, a mixed passenger/cargo vessel offering 14-day voyages from Papeete to nine destinations in the Marquesas and Tuamotu Atolls. Featuring comfortable accommodations for up to 200 passengers including air-conditioned suites and deluxe cabins. Relax by the pool or sunbathing deck between explorations of the remote and dramatic islands. The 17 village ports-of-call provide passengers the experience of discovering lands and people lost to the modern world.



Catamarans & Charters

Dream Yacht Charter

www.dreamyachtcharter.com

866-469-0912

Catamarans-Monohulls, 41'-59', 8-10 passengers. Boards in multiple islands, main base is located in Raiatea.

Tahiti Yacht Charter

www.tahitiyachtcharter.com

011 (689) 66-28-80

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Catamarans, Monohull Sailing Yachts, Motor Yachts

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www.tahiti-haumana-charter.com

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www.sunsail.com

800-230-7401

Catamarans, 38' to 44', Monohulls, 34' to 44', 2-12 passengers. Skippered and non-skippered for experienced sailors. Boards in Raiatea.

Sailing Huahine Voile

www.tahitisailingcharter.com

011 (689) 68-72-49

Monohull, *Eden Martin* 50', up to 6 passengers. Crewed, boards in Huahine.

Ultimate Lady

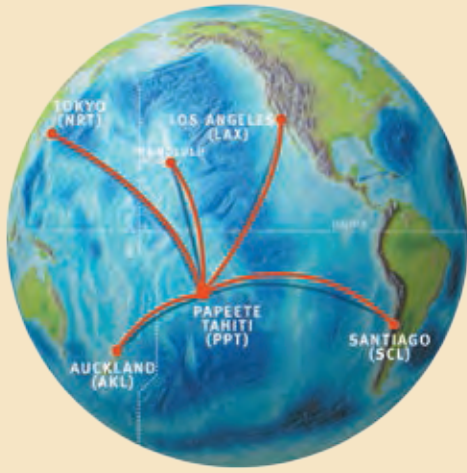
www.pacificavenues.com

011 (689) 70-90-22

Purpose built luxurious sport yacht. 90' in length and 33' beam. 32 knot top speed and unmatched cruising economy with 5500 nm range. Based in Marina Taina-Papeete, Tahiti.



Ultimate Lady Cruises – Moorea



Getting to Tahiti — Nonstops from (LAX) and (HNL)

Flights Depart Daily from Los Angeles and Weekly from Honolulu

All flights arrive at Faa'a Int'l. Airport (PPT), located near the city of Papeete on the island of Tahiti. The airport is close and convenient to all the major hotels and resorts on the island of Tahiti. The airport also serves the domestic airline, Air Tahiti, for further service to the other islands and atolls. For schedules and information, check with the airlines, your Preferred Travel Professional, or visit www.TahitiTourism.com.

We recommend visitors plan international air, inter-island transportation, and airport transfers in advance with your Preferred Travel Professional.

Airline Service From North America



From Los Angeles

Air Tahiti Nui

www.airtahitiniui.com
877-824-4846

Air Tahiti Nui is the international airline of Tahiti and offers daily nonstop flights from Los Angeles (LAX) to Tahiti (PPT). The fleet of Airbus 340-300 aircraft features traditional Tahitian hospitality and ambiance with Poerava Business Class, and Moana Economy Class.



From Los Angeles

Air France

www.airfrance.com/us
800-237-2747

Air France offers 3 weekly nonstop flights from Los Angeles (LAX) to Tahiti (PPT). Two classes of service; L'Espace Affaires (Business Class) and Tempo (Economy Class) are featured on the Boeing 777-200 aircraft.



From Honolulu

Hawaiian Airlines

www.hawaiianairlines.com
800-367-5320

Hawaiian Airlines offers weekly nonstop flights from Honolulu (HNL) to Tahiti (PPT) featuring Boeing 767 aircraft.

Inter-Island Transportation

Air Tahiti

www.airtahiti.aero
Tel: 011(689) 86-42-42
Fax: 011(689) 86-40-69

Air Tahiti is the major inter-island airline and serves 47 islands with a fleet of newer, twin-engine, jet-prop ATR72-500, ATR42-500 and Twin Otter aircraft. Flights depart Tahiti Faa'a Airport PPT with frequent daily service between the most visited islands and atolls.

Aremiti

www.aremiti.pf
Tahiti-Moorea-Tahiti ferries:
Aremiti 5: Rapid Catamaran, 30 min. crossing

Aremiti Ferry: Catamaran, 1 hr. crossing.

Terevau

www.facebook.com/Terevau
Tahiti-Moorea-Tahiti ferries:
Rapid catamaran, 30 min. crossing

Tahiti Helicopters

www.tahiti-helicopters.com
Tel: 011 (689) 50-40-75
Fax: (689) 50-40-76



Inter-island charter flights can also be arranged through your Preferred Travel Professional.

Preparing for Your Vacation

Entry Requirements

Every visitor from North America must have:

1. A passport valid for three months beyond the date of return. First and last names on passport, air reservations and tickets must match exactly. Absolutely no nicknames are acceptable.

2. A return airline ticket to their resident country or to at least two more continuing destinations.

3. Sufficient funds to cover their planned stay.

For stays of up to 90 days, there are no visa requirements for citizens of North America. A foreigner with a residence card for the U.S. and citizens of other countries should consult the French Consulate. Entry requirements can change without notice. Check with your travel specialist before departure.

For local assistance: U.S. Consular Agent in Tahiti:

Tel: (689) 42 65 35, Fax: (689) 50 80 96

Email: usconsul@mail.pf

Customs Regulations

All items brought in by travelers for their personal use are duty-free, provided they are non-prohibited items and are re-exported out of French Polynesia within six months. All telecommunications and radio equipment require an import license, and certain types of animal life and flora are protected by customs regulations. Strictly prohibited imports include live animals, all plant material, flowers, fruits, and cultured pearls of non-French Polynesian origin. Naturally, any weapons, ammunition, and narcotics are prohibited outright.

Health Certification

No shots or certifications are required for entry from North America.

Entry from an infected area of the world as defined by the World Health Organization requires certificates of inoculations.

A detailed up-to-date list of requirements can be found at: www.TahitiTourism.com.

What is Tahiti?

Tahiti refers to the entire destination of the 118 islands and atolls, officially known as French Polynesia.

Where is Tahiti and how long does it take to get there?

The islands are located equidistant south of the equator as Hawaii is north, in the same time zone as Hawaii, and halfway between California and Australia. Papeete's Faa'a Airport is under 8 hours flight time from Los Angeles.

What is the time difference?

The islands are only two hours behind Pacific Standard Time and in the same time zone as Hawaii. For example, when it is noon in Tahiti, it is the same day and only 2pm in Los Angeles and 5pm in New York. During Daylight-Saving Time (March to November) Tahiti is three hours behind.

How do I exchange money, find ATMs, use credit cards?

The local currency is the Pacific franc XPF. For exchange and cash advances, visitors can go to their hotel or cruise ship, Los Angeles LAX airport, Faa'a Airport or banks throughout the islands. ATMs are located on the major islands. Major credit cards are accepted in most hotels, shops, and restaurants on the major islands but may not always be accepted at markets, smaller shops and the less visited islands.

Is English spoken?

French and Tahitian are the official languages, while English is widely spoken and understood in tourist areas.

Will my cell phone work? How do I make calls?

For mobile phones, check with your provider before departing to make sure your phone has international calling activated and to check the rates that you will be charged. You may research carrier coverage at the local carriers website here:

http://www.vini.pf/index.php?id=welcomed_to_vini_en

Direct dialing for local and international telephone calls is available from hotels and most public phone booths. Phone cards are popular with tourists and can be easily purchased at hotels, shops, post offices, and stands.

How do I get online?

Most resorts and hotels provide computers with internet access in their business centers or lobby with many providing WIFI access in common areas. Additionally, several resorts are now offering in-room high-speed DSL and/or WIFI. Internet Cafes are located on the major islands.

What about tipping?

Tipping is not customary or expected in Tahitian culture. However, tipping is always welcome for exemplary service.

What are the seasons and climate?

Cooled by the gentle breezes of the South Pacific, the climate is ideal. Being tropical but moderate, the climate features sunny, pleasant days and an average yearly temperature of 80°F. Summer is from November through April, when the climate is slightly warmer and more humid. Winter is from May through October, when the climate is slightly cooler and dryer.

What should I wear?

Pack loose-fitting, natural fabrics. Casual shirts and walking shorts provide the most comfort during the day. For dinner, casual slacks and sport shirts are the best choice for men; cool sundresses are most appropriate for women.

What are the essentials to bring?

Sunscreen, brimmed hats, sunglasses, swimsuits, reef-walking shoes, mosquito repellent, prescription medicine and your camera.

What about medical and health concerns?

Before you leave, be aware of what your insurance covers for international travel. Tahitian hospitals and clinics provide a good standard of health care. Tahiti has very few pest or insect problems and is free from malaria, snakes, poisonous spiders, and dangerous animals. Visitors are advised to still apply mosquito repellent and wear footwear when walking in and around the water and be cautious of overexposure to the tropical sun.

Is the water safe to drink?

Bottled water is recommended and available in hotels, resorts, restaurants, and shops.

What is the voltage?

Hotels use either 110 or 220 volts. Converter/adapters are sometimes required for appliances and computers.

Do rooms have air conditioners?

Most do, particularly on the major islands. Other rooms are cooled by ceiling fans that draw in the fresh ocean breezes.

Do I bargain when shopping?

Bargaining and haggling over prices in Tahiti is not customary; the price marked is normally the price paid.

What about shopping and souvenirs?

Among Tahiti's most popular products are Tahitian Cultured Pearls, coconut and *tiare* soaps, *monoï* oil, vanilla beans, shell *leis*, wood carvings, woven hats and baskets, and colorful handmade *pareu* fabric worn by the island natives.

How do we get around?

The most inexpensive form of transportation are public buses. Taxis can be hired within the primary towns, at most hotels, airports, and ferry terminals. Cars can also be rented from the airports on the primary islands although many visitors find them unnecessary.

Can I learn to dive in Tahiti?

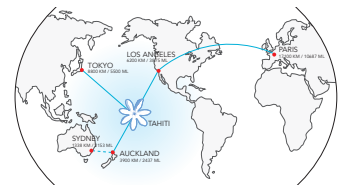
If you have at least one week, you can enroll in a complete certification course or take a shorter "resort" course at many of the resorts. If you are already a PADI, NAUI, or SSI member, your certification will be recognized. A detailed list of requirements can be found at www.TahitiTourism.com.

TAHITI LOS ANGELES PARIS TOKYO AUCKLAND SYDNEY



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There's a point during a vacation when you realize things are unlike anything else you've ever experienced. For many, it happens the moment they step on board Air Tahiti Nui. On our award-winning, daily nonstops from Los Angeles to Paris and Tahiti, with connections to Auckland and Sydney, passengers enjoy French-inspired cuisine and are cared for by a cabin crew that is as captivating as the islands they call home.



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Phone: (310) 414-8484 • Fax: (310) 414-8490

E-mail: info@TahitiTourism.com

For special offers, detailed planning information, and links to preferred travel companies, visit:

www.TahitiTourism.com

The Official Website of Tahiti Tourisme North America