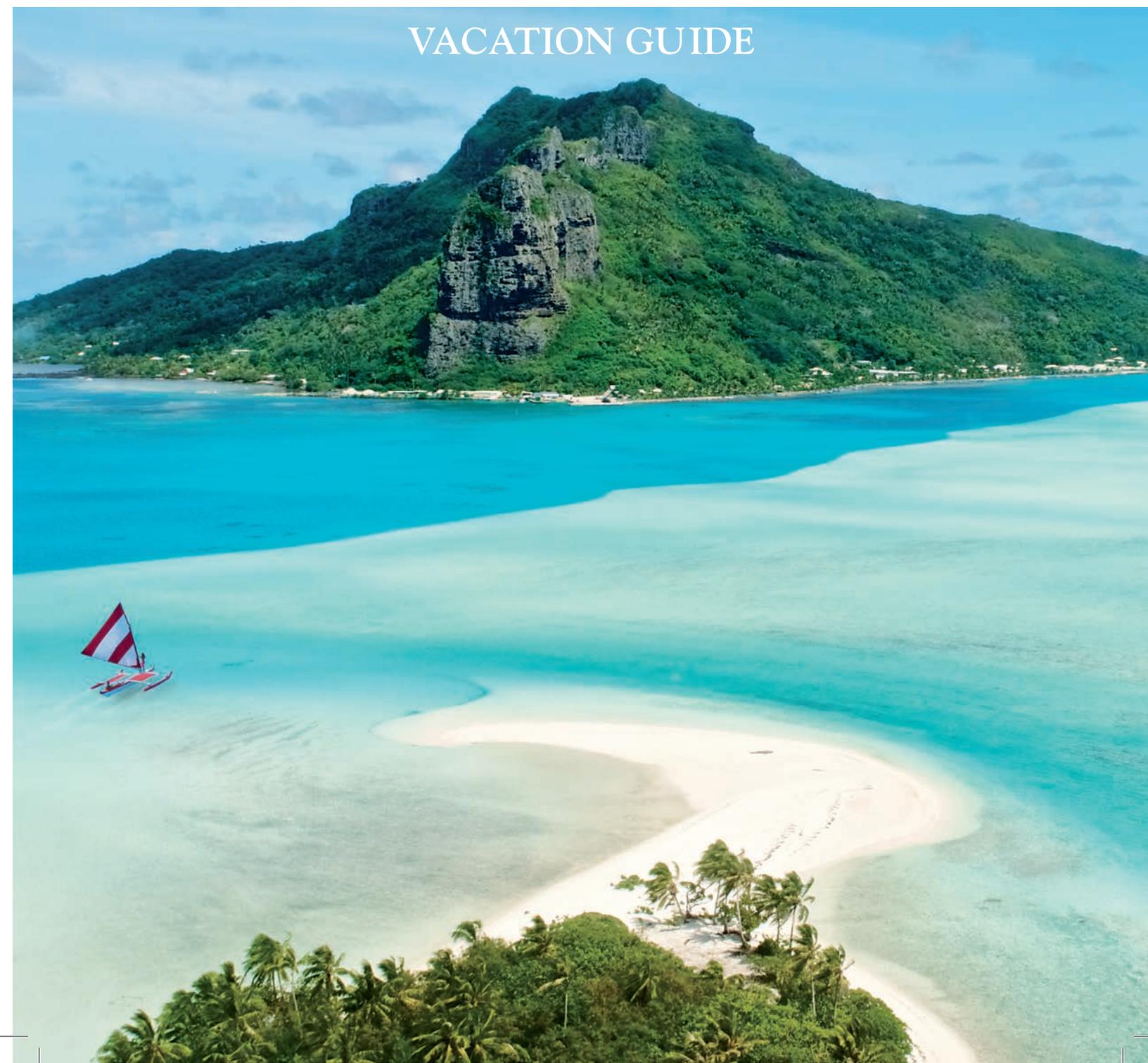


THE ISLANDS of
TAHITI

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

VACATION GUIDE





LA PERFECTION
By TAHITI PEARL MARKET

TAHITI PEARL MARKET

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The Most Beautiful Pearls in the World

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The *Islands of Tahiti* are the center of the romantic universe. A place where every person that has ever experienced the Mana, the spirit, of the islands, will tell you is where you find, *la vie heureuse*, the happy life. It's closer than you think and easier to travel to than you might imagine.

Welcome!

'Ia ora na e manava!

Tahiti. The word evokes visions of an island paradise, exotic days, romantic nights and South Sea adventure. *The Islands of Tahiti* exude a power of life that makes every experience in these islands unforgettable. The Tahitians call this power, Mana. And, you will feel it ripple up your spine the moment you step off the plane, and it will fill your soul, you will taste it and smell it in the air. Once you've experienced *The Islands of Tahiti*, it will flow through your veins forever. 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.Tahiti-Tourisme.org

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The Islands of Tahiti
on or offline!

Activities Find fun activities to enjoy by land, sea or air, plus tours, spas and cultural attractions

Eat Discover our numerous restaurants, cafes, snack-bars and food trucks

Sleep Locate accommodations to suit your own style of travel

Itinerary Create a personalized itinerary on one or multiple islands

Download it today!






www.Tahiti-Tourisme.org

THE ISLANDS of
TAHITI
Official Guide

Explore “The Islands of Tahiti”

This official travel guide published by *Tahiti Tourisme* has over 2,600 local addresses and contact details to help guide and inform you wherever you may go.

COMPLETELY FREE AND ACCESSIBLE WITHOUT AN INTERNET CONNECTION.

Special Features:

- Find sightseeing points of interest, activities, tours, restaurants, spas, shops, museums, lodging in family hotels or resorts, and more.
- Each entry in the guide includes a description, full contact details, etc.
- Thanks to onboard navigation and augmented reality, view everything around you including distances and info details.
- Locate yourself on the interactive map and find your way anytime thanks to the app’s navigation features.
- Customize your own itineraries on one or several islands.
- Make the most of tips and advice from local Polynesians who will guide you around their islands.

- Give your opinion and share your Polynesian adventure with your friends.
- Take part in the guide by sharing your photos and comments.

All maps and information are available with no internet connection and fully functional offline. The application will find your location thanks to your smartphone or tablet’s integrated navigation system.

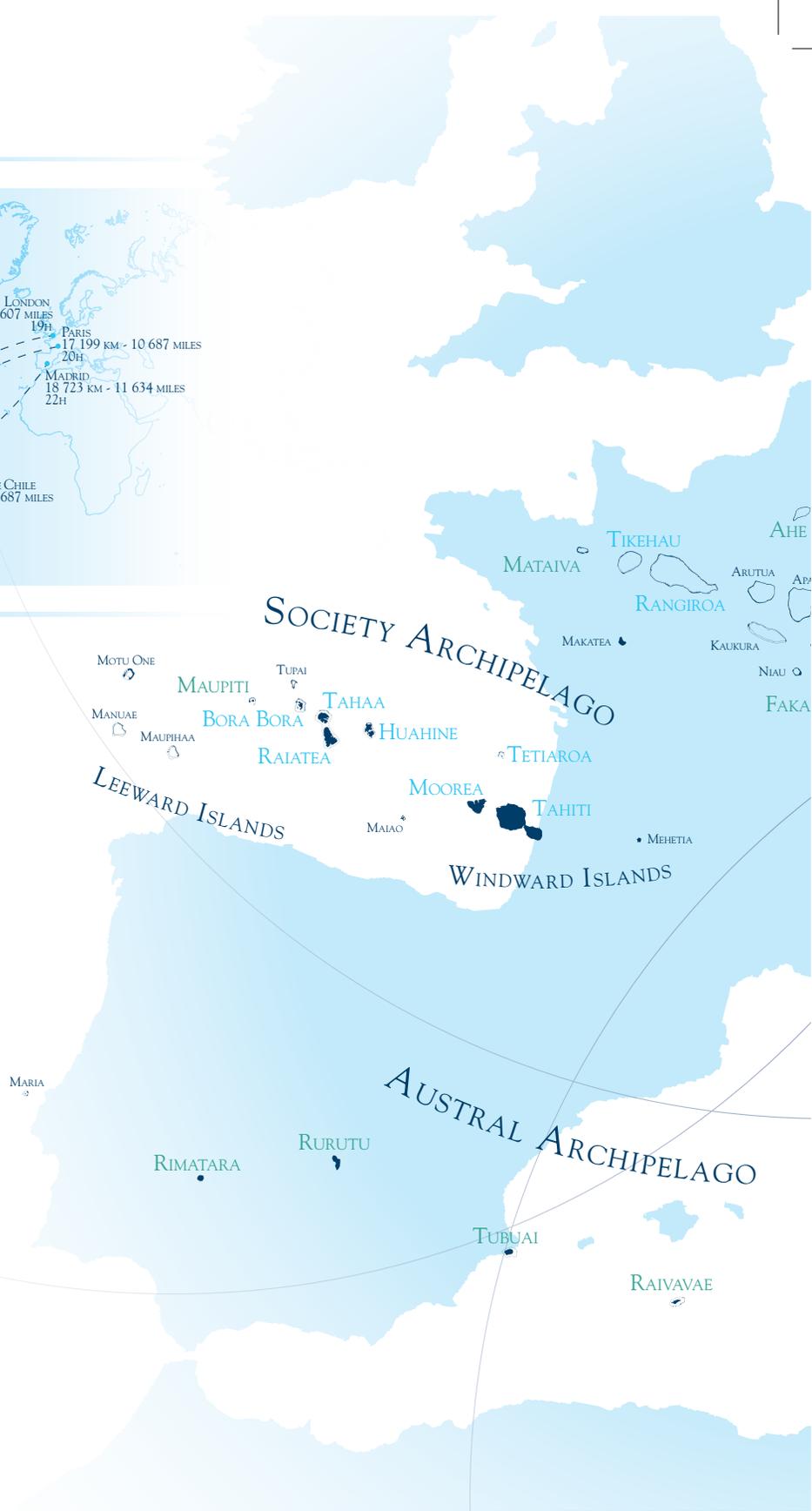
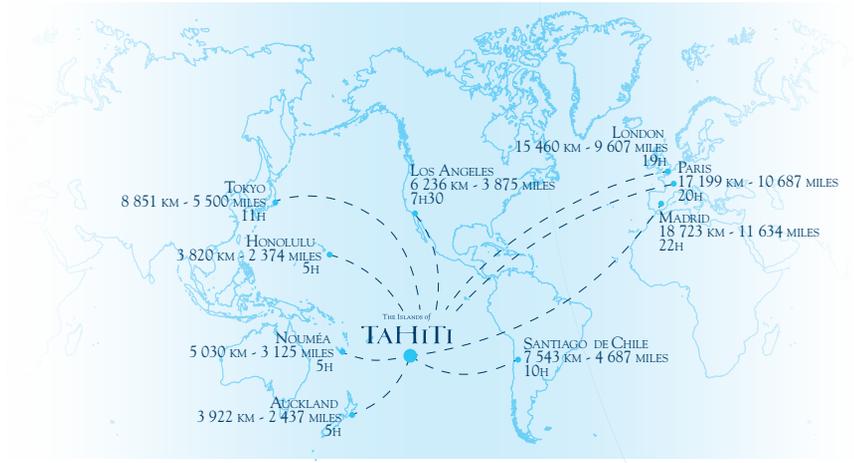
If you are not online, every item you would like to share will be saved (comments, photos, postcards), and it will be sent as soon as you are online again.

The Islands of Tahiti app comes fully loaded in four languages, including English, French, Japanese and Chinese.

About *Tahiti Tourisme*:

Tahiti Tourisme is the DMO (Destination Marketing Organization) for the country of French Polynesia, more commonly known as *The Islands of Tahiti*. *Tahiti Tourisme* oversees all marketing, advertising, public relations, promotions, events and travel trade programs globally. With the primary mission of increasing visitor arrivals to *The Islands of Tahiti*, this economic interest group is composed of a local team working with 14 representative offices worldwide to reach 18 international markets. To learn more, see www.Tahiti-Tourisme.org





- Hotels and Guesthouses
- Only Guesthouses



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Tahitian Culture & History

The Power of Mana

Tahitians today have inherited a rich, expressive culture from their *ma'ohi* ancestors. From the *ma'ohi*, came the pulse of Tahitian life, a world where the lives of gods, warriors and men crossed in colorful legends. Where the music and dance and art rose from the wonder of everyday life in the islands and on the sea. Where javelin throwing began as the sport of the gods, kings favored surf riding, and men competed in canoe races and stone lifting as a show of pure strength.

Mana

Strength, power, influence, supremacy, greatness, sovereignty, omnipotence, prestige, control, genius, quality, attribute, prerogative, authority, superiority, nobility, stature, presence, elegance, beauty, impressiveness... etc.

All these concepts, notions, words define the Mana in a precise situation, a particular context, from a specific point of view. This mythical and essential concept, a fundamental truth, tangible and intangible at the same time, sensitive but often unfathomable, expressive although imperceptible, revealing but enigmatic, so natural but also mysterious and esoteric...

The Mana lives, animates, raises up, ennobles, and transcends every thing, every being, every element in every dimension; it can also annihilate, ruin and destroy until the last vital vibration...

The Mana is seducing, enchanting, glamorous, penetrating, fascinating... The Mana is frightening, dangerous, consuming, lethal, macabre...

It is the root of the duality of life and death.

It is the essence of the universal power, the heart of the Polynesian universe, the beings bringing it to life, the elements shaping it, the existential, cultural and spiritual values which created the Polynesian/*Ma'ohi* who glorifies this universe.

The Mana is purity (**ma**); it arises from the life, humility, respect, dignity, love, sharing, beauty, goodness and peace of the beings and things that merge harmoniously in this *ma'ohi* universe.

The Mana is wisdom (**na/na'a**); it emanates from the empirical, technical and ancestral knowledge, from the common sense arising out of the inalienable link between man and his environment, from the faith in the divine, the state of grace that every thing and every being can reach through a spiritual, cultural and profane quest for the universal Mana, the promise to be reborn wiser, purer and more powerful...

Be pure, be wise and the Mana will live in you!

Tattoo

The body of history. The word *tatau* originated in *The Islands of Tahiti*, and the symbols have meaning and the meaning tells the story, the important moments, of each Tahitian's personal history. And, in each line traced on the human body, the *ma'ohi* of the past is connected to the Mana of the present and future. The presence of Tohu, the god of tatau, who painted all the oceans' fish in their colors and patterns, gives each tatau an essence of meaning and life. A link between heaven and earth. In Polynesia, tattoos are also signs of beauty, and in earlier times were an important part of life as they signalled the end of adolescence.

Polynesia Tatau Tattoo: This annual international and cultural event is the official tattoo festival in French Polynesia, which is organized by tattoo artists, for tattoo artists and for the public at large. The event promotes, protects and adds value to Polynesian tattoo.

The Art of Tapu (the Sacred)

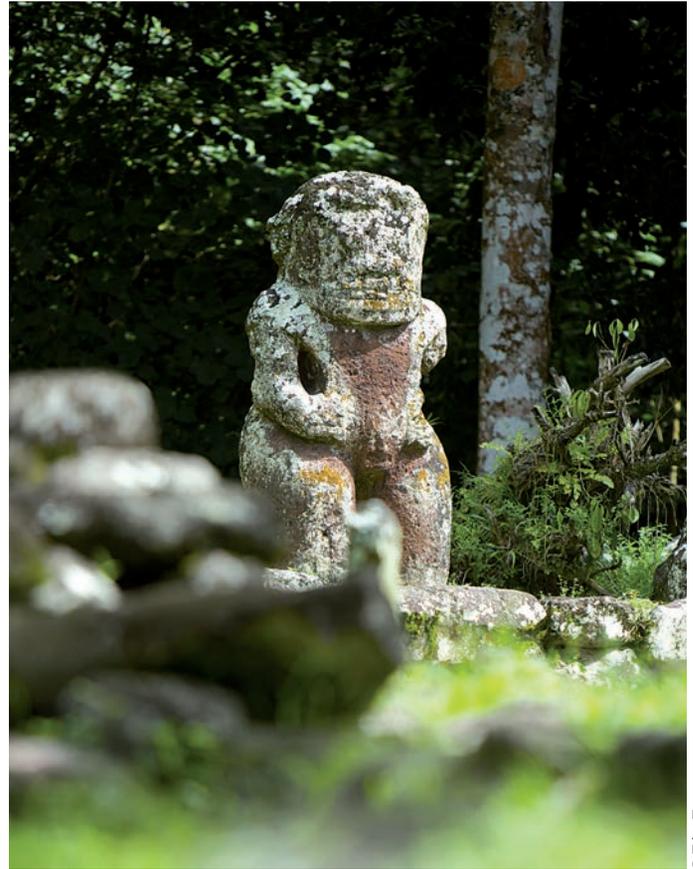
In Tahiti, where the sacred and beautiful exist as perfect handmaidens, artists have always sought to capture and express moments that define the inspiring spirit of Mana which overflows from their world. The guardians (the "mama") of these ancestral skills keep sacred and pass on the art of weaving, quilting, wood and stone carving, drum making, *tapa*, and hand-dyed *pareu*. In these items you will find the history of these islands.

Marae

Every *marae* in *The Islands of Tahiti* is connected. Open-air sacred sites, called *marae*, were the center of power in ancient Polynesia. Made of stone and akin to temples, they 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. You'll find hundreds of *marae* throughout *The Islands of Tahiti*, and each *marae* was begun with a stone from another *marae*, so all of these sites are connected by the spirit and invisible lines that connect the stones upon which they are constructed.

Music and Dance

When the missionaries came to Tahiti, they tried to suppress the powerful, life-affirming and sensual sounds and movements that embody the music and dance of Tahiti. In the dance and rhythms, Tahitians give voice to their Mana, allowing it to rise from the sea, descend from the hills, and emanate from the soul of every man and woman that falls under its mesmerizing spell. Today's Tahitian dance and music celebrates the resilience of Polynesian culture to overcome and maintain their sacred expressions of life. In ancient times, and even today, dances were linked with all aspects of life. One would dance to welcome a visitor, to pray, to challenge an enemy, or to seduce a mate.



© Tahiti Tourisme



© Tahiti Tourisme

Today's dance remains a powerful, potent symbol, especially when accompanied by the harmonic voices of the Tahitians, the thunder of traditional drums, and plaintive song of conch shells.

Heiva i Tahiti: To truly experience the local and intimate and wonderfully authentic side of Tahitian culture, to feel the spirit of the people and to see *The Islands of Tahiti* come together in one voice, you should plan a visit during the Heiva. Heiva is one of the greatest Polynesian cultural events in the world. A celebration of ancient traditions and competition, it has been the most important event in Tahiti for more than 125 years. Visitors are encouraged to join in the celebrations, to immerse themselves in the spirit of this world, from late June to late July every year, and to discover, from the daily and nightly events, what it means to be Tahitian. The best gifts are memories, and participating in Heiva will forever weave your story into the Mana of this land. Tahitians gather in Papeete from many of the islands to showcase crafts, compete in traditional sporting, dance, and musical events.

Flowers

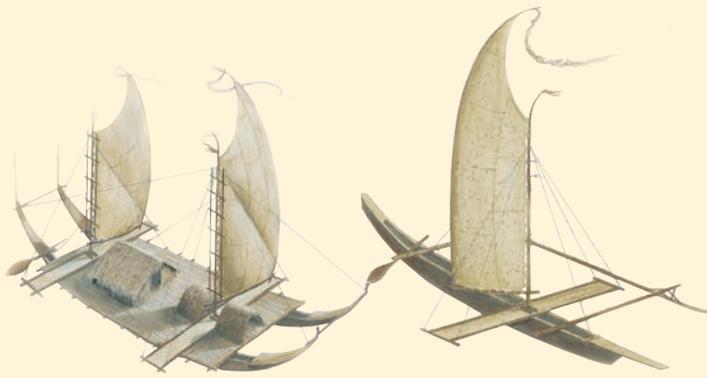
Tropical flowers seem to be everywhere on the islands, particularly in the hair of Tahitians. The famous *tiare* Tahiti flower is used in leis to welcome travelers and returning family. Tradition holds that, if taken, women and men wear a flower behind the left ear.



© Tahiti Tourisme



© Tahiti Tourisme



History

Around 4000 BC, a great migration began from Southeast Asia across open ocean to settle the Pacific Islands. From this migration, Tonga and Samoa were settled around 1300 BC. They launched colonization voyages to the Marquesas Islands around 200 BC. During the next several centuries, the Tahitian islands were colonized and, ultimately, nearly the entire South Pacific. This area, termed the “Polynesian Triangle,” 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 known as *ma’ohi*.

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 peaked 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. Fascination with 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 overwater bungalow. This vision of romance was invented in *The Islands of Tahiti* 50-years ago, and has become the quintessential symbol of this South Pacific paradise, and of mutiny inspiring experiences. Staying in an overwater bungalow is a “can’t miss experience.” You get direct access to the renowned Tahitian blue lagoons from a private deck and all the amenities and service of a first class hotel room. The overwater bungalow is the embodiment 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 throughout *The Islands of 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 vast blue expanse of the Pacific.

Hawaiki Nui Va’a: It 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.

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.



© Bettmann/CORBIS



Getting married in *The Islands of Tahiti*

To say “yes” in paradise is a unique experience that will make the most beautiful day of your life into an even more special memory.

To help you prepare for the big day, French Polynesia has made some new laws that make it easier for foreign nationals to get married in this dream location.

TO LEGALLY GET MARRIED IN FRENCH POLYNESIA YOU MUST RESPECT A FEW SIMPLE RULES OF THE FRENCH CIVIL CODE

- Both spouses must be at least 18 years of age, can neither currently be married nor directly of the same family.
- The both intended spouses should be physically present for the marriage and exchange their vows in front of a witness aged 18 years or older.

In the case where the couple doesn't speak French well and there's a concern that they won't understand enough of the proceedings, a sworn in interpreter chosen by the couple to be, can translate all of the formalities and questions from French.

It's also advisable to not be a French National or reside in a French territory. If all the rules are respected, the future husband and wife can choose which commune they wish to be married in and submit two sets of dates. Note that in French Polynesia you can't get married on a Sunday or a national holiday.

IN ORDER FOR THE MARRIAGE TO BE LEGAL THE NUPTIAL COUPLE MUST EACH HAVE THE FOLLOWING LEGAL DOCUMENTS

- A form of ID and their birth certificates dated no more than six months prior to the date of the wedding accompanied by an “apostille” (or internationally accepted legal document) with a certified French translation for both documents. If the birth

certificates do not specify, a certificate of custom, non-married status or capacity to be married must be supplied attesting that the spouses to be are not already married. If necessary, death certificates or divorce documents translated into French must be presented as well as proof of residence and a certificate of a legal announcement with non-opposition (concerns only countries where announcement publications are required by law).

- The future spouses or their wedding planner will also need to write a letter to the mayor of the commune they wish to be married in and fill out and send the “Foreign Weddings in French Polynesia” document.

All of these documents must be sent to the mayor’s office of your chosen commune at least 45 days before the wedding date and the mayor’s office will confirm the time and date of the ceremony.

Once all the administrative details are taken care of, the mayor’s office will declare the wedding by putting an announcement on their bulletin board.

The day of the wedding the marrying couple, witnesses and guests must be at the mayor’s office at the scheduled time for the ceremony. According to public law, the doors must remain open during the ceremony. At the end of the ceremony, the mayor will give the new married couple official documents that certify the union.

After this, it’s up to the husband and wife to bring the French documents to their own country of residence and legalize the wedding under those laws.

TO COMPLETE THIS SPECIAL DAY YOU CAN CHOOSE TO HAVE AN UNFORGETTABLE TRADITIONAL POLYNESIAN CEREMONY

This unique cultural experience will turn your wedding into the romantic, authentic and magic day you’ve been hoping for.

You’ll find details of the steps necessary for foreigners to get married in French Polynesia at www.Tahiti-Tourisme.org as well as a list of people and agencies that can help you with the event. These agencies can also help organize a civil ceremony and a traditional Polynesian ceremony.



© Tahiti Tourisme

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

Tahiti

- Hotel Tahiti Nui
- InterContinental Tahiti Resort & Spa
- Manava Suite Resort Tahiti
- Le Méridien Tahiti
- Royal Tahitien
- Tahiti Pearl Beach Resort

Tetiaroa

- The Brando

Moorea

- Hilton Moorea Lagoon Resort & Spa
- Manava Beach Resort & Spa Moorea
- InterContinental Moorea Resort & Spa
- Sofitel Moorea la Ora Beach Resort

Huahine

- Maitai Laipita Village Huahine
- Relais Mahana
- Royal Huahine

Taha’a

- Le Taha’a Island Resort & Spa
- Vahine Island Private Resort

Bora Bora

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

Rangiroa

- Hotel Kia Ora Resort & Spa
- Le Sauvage Private Island
- Motu Teta
- Hotel Maitai Rangiroa

Tikehau

- Tikehau Pearl Beach Resort
- Ninamu Resort

Hiva Oa

- Hiva Oa Hanakee Pearl Lodge

Cruise

- M/S Paul Gauguin

Expert event and travel planning can be arranged by a Preferred Travel Professional who specializes in destination weddings. For complete information on details, requirements, documents and frequently asked questions, visit www.Tahiti-Tourisme.org.



© Mamanua Beach Resort Moorea



© Mamanua Beach Resort Moorea

Tahitian Wellness & Spas

Spa Within A Spa

With soothing lagoon waters, a rich botanical environment, air scented of vanilla and *tiare* flowers and the blissful tranquility of each island, *The Islands of Tahiti* offer a “spa within a spa” experience, found nowhere else on earth. Each spa is a unique haven — private gardens, thatched-roof open-air bungalows on the beach, overwater bungalows with tropical fish parading below, or atop hills overlooking the lagoons.

Featuring the bounty of oils, flowers, and plants found only in *The Islands of 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

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.Tahiti-Tourisme.org.

Resorts and Hotels Featuring Customized Spa Services:

Tahiti

- Hotel Tahiti Nui, Dhana Spa
- InterContinental Tahiti Resort & Spa, Deep Nature Spa by Algotharm
- Manava Suite Resort Tahiti, Manea Spa
- Le Méridien Tahiti
- Tahiti Pearl Beach Resort, TĀVAI Spa By Pearl Resorts

Tetiaroa

- The Brando, Deep Nature Spa by Algotharm

Moorea

- Hilton Moorea Lagoon Resort & Spa, Moorea Lagoon Spa
- Manava Beach Resort & Spa Moorea, TĀVAI Spa By Pearl Resorts
- InterContinental Moorea Resort & Spa, Hélène Spa
- Sofitel Moorea Ia Ora Beach Resort, Le Spa

Huahine

- Royal Huahine

Taha'a

- Le Taha'a Island Resort & Spa, TĀVAI Spa By Pearl Resorts

Bora Bora

- Le Méridien Bora Bora
- InterContinental Bora Bora Resort & Thalasso Spa, Deep - Ocean Spa by Algotharm
- Bora Bora Pearl Beach Resort & Spa, TĀVAI Spa By Pearl Resorts
- Conrad Bora Bora Nu, Hina Spa
- Four Seasons Resort, The Spa
- The St. Regis Bora Bora Resort, Miri Miri Spa by Clarins
- Sofitel Bora Bora Marara Beach Resort, Le Spa
- Sofitel Bora Bora Private Island

Rangiroa

- Hotel Kia Ora Resort & Spa

Tikehau

- Tikehau Pearl Beach Resort, Manea Spa

Cruise

- M/S Paul Gauguin, Deep Ocean Spa by Algotharm
- Aranui 5





LAGON DE L'EMOTION



The florescent colors and the incredible clarity of the lagoon fittingly make up the name "Rangiroa Blue". Spend an unforgettable time enjoying the extreme marine life that visitors around the world come to see.



Hotel Kia Ora Resort & Spa
Rangiroa, French Polynesia
<http://www.hotelkiaora.com>

Diving, Snorkeling & Watersports

On the bodies of Tahitians, symbolic manta ray, shark, whale and sea turtle tattoos tell the story of a people defined by the sea. Divers come from around the world to experience these sacred sea creatures, which, in *The Islands of Tahiti*, hold a place of reverence among the gods. So the sea around these islands is both figuratively and literally a clear blue heaven on earth. The warm waters that surround *The Islands of Tahiti* teem with life from flirty clownfish to ever-present sharks to awe-inspiring humpback whales, which arrive between July and November. The heavens await.

A World of Water

The ocean represents the complete lifecycle to the Tahitians, and they have a masterful, reverential and respectful relationship with it. Traditional outrigger canoes, surfing and sailing are part of everyday life. Of course, travelers can also experience sunset cruising, kayaking, jetskiing, and more. The sea, the rainforest and heaven are the realms of the gods in the Tahitian spiritual worlds.

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.Tahiti-Tourisme.org.



© Vincent Truchet - Top Dive



© www.gregcoetr.com



© Vincent Truchet - Top Dive

Tahiti

The main island of Tahiti has a diverse selection of dive sites, perfect for both beginning and advanced divers. Sites include: bright coral gardens; dramatic oceanic drop-offs; photogenic sunken vessels (including a Catalina PBY floatplane); walls festooned with vivid corals; and every site has schooling tropicals and a lively community of macro life to encounter.

The Aquarium

Lagoon dive 10-40 ft., 3-12 m.

The Wrecks

Lagoon wreck dive 20-70 ft., 6-21 m.

Papa Whisky

Ocean dive 30-150 ft., 9-46 m.

St. Etienne Drop - Off

Ocean dive 30-150 ft., 9-46 m.

Fresh Water Springs

Ocean dive 20-90 ft., 6-27 m.

Tetopa Grotto

Ocean cavern dive 10-30 ft., 3-9 m.

The Marado

Ocean dive 60-140 ft., 18-43 m.

Lagoon Hole

Lagoon dive 30-90 ft., 9-27 m.



© www.greglecoeur.com

Tetiaroa

Tetiaroa atoll presents a breathtaking turquoise blue lagoon where the lucky few divers that have a chance to experience these waters will encounter a wonderful variety of marine life in pristine coral habitats. It's also a big animal hub and chances are you may encounter white tip sharks, gray sharks, spotted eagle rays, turtles, dogtooth tuna and more, often on the same dive.

The Canyons

Ocean dive 65 ft., 20 m.

Eden Park

Ocean dive 50-65 ft., 15-20 m.

The Circus

Ocean dive 50 ft., 15 m.

Aquarium

Lagoon dive 10 ft., 3 m.

The Pinnacles

Lagoon dive 26 ft., 8 m.



© www.greglecoeur.com

Moorea

The underwater seascapes reflect the mesmerizing landscapes above the water. Canyons, chasms, and promontories descend from a broad shallow lagoon perfect for snorkeling. Fish feeding is common off Moorea and schools of marine life typically surround and greet divers and snorkelers, so close encounters are nearly guaranteed. Don't forget your camera.

The Aquarium

Lagoon coral garden dive 10-40 ft., 3-12 m.

Stingray World

Lagoon dive 30-60 ft., 9-18 m.

Taotoi

Ocean dive 30-70 ft., 9-21 m.

Tiki

Ocean dive 30-70 ft., 9-21 m.

Canyons of Opunohu

Ocean canyon dive 30-70 ft., 9-21 m.

Rose Garden

Ocean dive 70-140 ft., 21-43 m.



© www.greglecoeur.com

Bora Bora

Come for the honeymoon, stay for the diving. Bora Bora is a necessary "must do" destination for divers, because of the multiple opportunities and sites to encounter large marine life. From elegant manta rays gliding gracefully by in the lagoon to lemon sharks patrolling the outer reef, the big guys like these sensual, sunlit waters even more than the lovers gazing at them from their overwater bungalows.

Aito

Ocean drift dive 3-60 ft., 1-18 m.

Anau

Lagoon manta ray dive 15-100 ft., 5-30 m.

Tapu

Ocean shark dive 30-120 ft., 9-37 m.

Toopua/Toopua Iti

Lagoon dive 15-100 ft., 5-30 m.

Muri Muri

Ocean dive 60-120 ft., 18-37 m.

Teavanui Pass

Pass dive 15-130 ft., 5-40 m.

Tupitipiti

Ocean drop-off dive 20-150 ft., 6-46 m.



Huahine

The sites around the passes of Huahine's lagoon are this island's hot spots. Fish in these areas are dense and include stingrays, unicornfish, butterflyfish, wrasse, travallies, gray reef sharks, eagle rays, pufferfish, moorish idols, and moray eels. There are numerous cleaning stations for lengthy encounters, especially with the normally skittish eagle rays. With a mildly sloping reef, the island has an abundance of excellent snorkeling.

Fa'a Miti

Ocean dive 20-90 ft., 6-27 m.

The Aquarium

Lagoon dive 10-60 ft., 3-18 m.

Fitii Pass, Avapeihi Pass

Pass dive 10-100 ft., 3-30 m.

The Yellow Valley

Ocean dive 20-110 ft., 6-27 m.

Parea Pass

Pass dive 75 ft., 23 m.

Parea Slope

Lagoon dive 30-60 ft., 9-18 m.

Raiatea & Taha'a

A favorite (and still kind of a secret) of savvy divers, the lagoon of Raiatea & Taha'a features sea mounts, caverns, famous wrecks, drop-offs, and coral gardens where encounters with eels, gray sharks, and huge Napoleon wrasses highlight the dives off these twin islands.

Nordby

Lagoon wreck dive 25-80 ft., 8-24 m.

Miri Miri, aka The Roses

Ocean cave dive 40-140 ft., 12-43 m.

Ceran Pass

Pass/lagoon dive 0-130 ft., 0-40 m.

Miri Miri Pass

Drift dive 0-100 ft., 0-30 m.

Teavapiti Pass

Pass dive 0-80 ft., 0-24 m.

Fakarava

The Fakarava lagoon is the second largest of the Tuamotu atolls. And, like all atolls, the electrifying pass diving lures divers from around the globe for encounters with Napoleon wrasse, barracuda, damselfish, bigeyes, marbled groupers, manta rays, and, of course, the kings of the pass — sharks, which typically gather in large schools.

Tumakohua Pass

Pass dive 40-140 ft., 12-43 m.

Garuae Pass

Pass dive 40-140 ft., 12-43 m.

Sharks Hole

Lagoon dive 60 ft., 18 m.

Manihi

This crystal clear lagoon, once just enjoyed by pearl farmers, is now being explored and is home to numerous must-see dive sites, especially around the passes where many large and small species gather in a thrilling parade of marine life.

Tairapa Pass

Pass dive 20-70 ft., 6-21 m.

The Circus

Lagoon dive 50-80 ft., 15-24 m.

The Drop-Off

Ocean dive 15-120 ft., 5-37 m.

The Crack, aka The Break

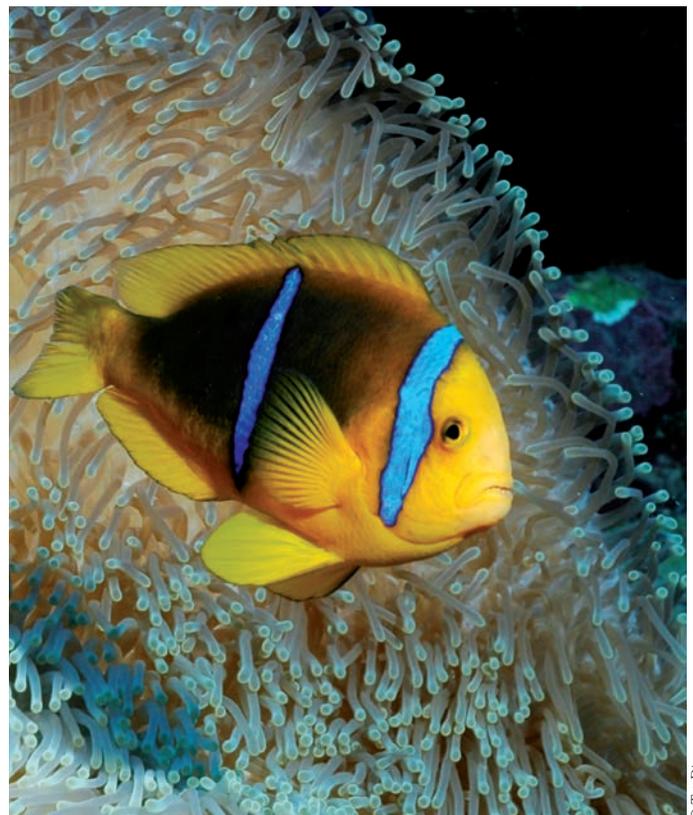
Ocean dive 20-100 ft., 6-30 m.

West Cape, aka West Point

Ocean dive 20-180 ft., 6-55 m.

The Crossing

Ocean dive 20-120 ft., 6-37 m.



© Top Dive



© www.geglocear.com

Rangiroa

Say the name, Rangiroa, and divers around the world light up, either with the epic memories of the diving, or the jealous longing to experience the diving here for themselves. In Rangi, as it's called, to "shoot the pass" is to experience what has been called "the world's greatest adrenaline rush!" On the incoming tide, divers are carried in a current of water past walls of sharks, friendly dolphins, tornadoes of jacks and into a sparkling lagoon where scores of fish greet them in celebration of their thrill ride.

- | | |
|--|--|
| Avatoru Pass
Pass dive 50-70 ft., 15-21 m. | The Wind Turbine
Ocean dive 60 ft., 18 m. |
| Tiputa Pass – Sharks Cave, The Valley, Hammerhead Plateau
Pass dive 40-150 ft., 12-46 m. | The Blue
Ocean dive 60 ft., 18 m. |
| The Aquarium
Lagoon dive 10-30 ft., 3-9 m. | Giant Wrasse Shelf
Pass dive 60 ft., 18 m. |

Tikehau

Jacques Cousteau declared Tikehau to have the highest concentration of marine life in the Tuamotu atolls. Sea turtles and black tip reef sharks are abundant, the drop-offs swirl with marine life and, even the waters beneath your overwater bungalow ripple with the endless movement of marine life.

- | | |
|---|--|
| Tuheiva Pass
Pass Dive 25-75 ft., 8-23 m. | The Shark Hole
Ocean dive 25-175 ft., 8-53 m. |
| Puafa
Ocean dive 10-50 ft., 3-15 m. | The Bell
Ocean dive 30-120 ft., 9-37 m. |
| Teonai
Ocean dive 15-75 ft., 5-23 m. | Mamaa Amphitheater
Ocean Dive 20-90 ft., 6-27 m. |

Marquesas

The plankton-rich waters off these high-spired, almost primal looking islands attract some of the most unique species you'll encounter in *The Islands of Tahiti*. Frequently seen are melon-headed whales and scalloped hammerheads along with other large animals such as manta rays, and there are caverns filled, wingtip to wingtip with stingrays. Wild and woolly, just like the islands.

- | | |
|---|---|
| The Hammerhead Sentinel
Ocean cave dive 30-120 ft., 9-37 m. | Dulcinea
Ocean cave dive 30-60 ft., 9-18 m. |
| The Pygmy Orcas
Ocean cave dive/snorkel 0-30 ft., 0-9 m. | Ekamako
Ocean cave dive 20-40 ft., 6-12 m. |

Rurutu

Perhaps the world's best place to encounter humpback whales and their calves. Divers and snorkelers experience lengthy and up-close encounters with these majestic mammals from July to October while they are in the warm, protected confines of the lagoon to reproduce, give birth and nurse.



© www.geglocear.com

Hiking

For hikers of all levels, *The Islands of Tahiti* offer innumerable hiking possibilities among diverse landscapes:

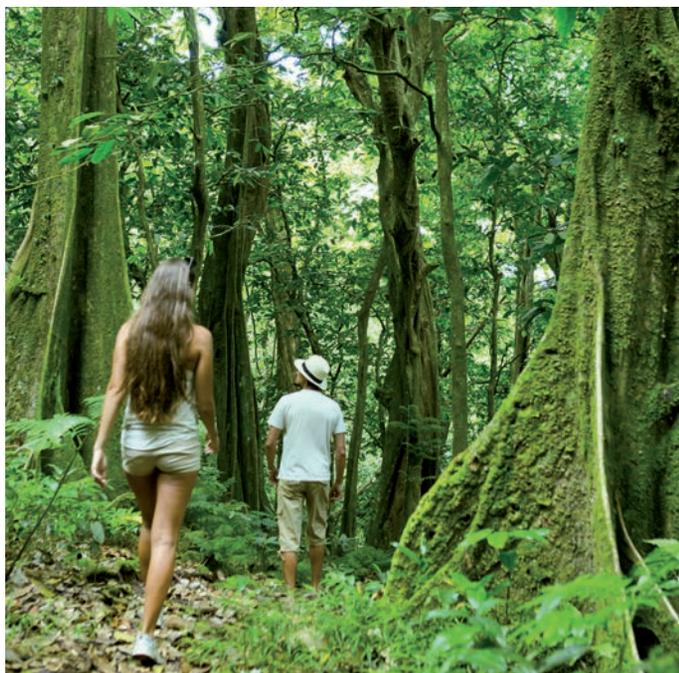
- Valleys, cut by refreshing rivers and draped with superb waterfalls where paths wind through luxuriant tropical vegetation.
- Vertiginous crests leading to summits attaining heights of more than 6,500 feet (Aorai, Orohena, Mou'a Puta, Mount Rotui).
- Seashore paths bordering remote creeks overshadowed by towering cliffs (Te Pari cliffs).
- From the family walk to the athletic hike, the routes will satisfy everyone's expectations.

Depending on the nature of the terrain, hiking in *The Islands of Tahiti* can be very challenging, including:

- river crossings,
- pathways which are slippery at times and/or carpeted with roots,
- particularly crumbly volcanic rocks.

Even if certain hikes seem easy, it is always recommended (even vital) to hire the services of a licensed professional guide (BPA) which guarantees that security regulations will be respected and that the guide will be familiar with the terrain as well as the fauna, flora and Polynesian culture.

The guide will also know how to advise visitors about the choice of an itinerary as well as the necessary equipment adequate for the different excursions.



© Tahiti Tourisme

Some examples of hikes on Tahiti and Moorea

On Tahiti, more than thirty routes have been registered and more than a dozen on Moorea, certain ones being circuits for speed races, mountain races, treks.

On Tahiti, Papenoo Valley offers innumerable hiking possibilities.

Here the professionals play a very important role; their knowledge of the often unknown sites being a real plus.

Simple and short hikes

The entrance is generally easy with wide and sufficiently developed paths.

Tahiti

- Mount Marau: accessible by car for beautiful walks to the summit (vertiginous crests, a nice hike for experienced walkers).
- The Belvedere: panoramic viewpoint of the peninsula (Tahiti Iti).
- The three waterfalls.
- The Spring Gardens of Vaipahi and its crestline path.

Moorea

- Afareaitu waterfalls.
- The "Pathway of the ancestors" which joins up with "the pineapple road".
- The pedagogical circuits of the Opunohu Agricultural College.
- The three coconut trees pass from the Belvedere.
- The winding paths in the Opunohu Valley.

More difficult hikes

Due to the nature of the terrain or the unevenness, which requires good physical condition, services of a professional guide are highly recommended.

Tahiti

- The Fautau waterfall.
- The crossing of the peninsula (Tahiti Iti) either by the interior or by the cliffs of Te Pari, requires a minimum of two days of hiking.
- The ascent of Mount Aorai (2,066 meters - 6,778 feet): requires two days.
- The Faraura waterfalls, a very aquatic and athletic hike.
- The Diadem Pass.

Moorea

- The ascent of Mount Rotui (900 meters - 2,953 feet): crestline.
- The ascent of the pierced mountain Mou'a Puta (830 meters - 2,723 feet).
- The ascent of Mount Tohica.
- The crossing of the island East-South Vaiare-Vaianae (Haapiti).



© Tahiti Tourisme

Your authentic vacation in *The Islands of Tahiti*



Experience the vast diversity of activities to be discovered throughout *The Islands of Tahiti*...
Book your stay in a Guesthouse and make your vacation truly one to remember...



Visit www.Ia-Ora.com to find the Guesthouse perfect for you!

The Guesthouse Experience

As unique as the islands themselves, local accommodations dot each of the islands and you'll be welcomed into the daily fabric of life in *The Islands of Tahiti*. These smaller lodgings, family hotels, and guesthouses, offer an 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 and can range from rooms in a family home to an all-inclusive private home on a family island or *motu*. You will also find very unique culinary experiences at Tahiti's guesthouses, most often with a "farm to table" approach of locally sourced ingredients and traditional recipes.

Nearly 300 of these smaller lodging and family hotels welcome adventuresome, independent, or seasoned travelers looking to feel, rather than just see, the true heartbeat of Tahiti.



Categories and Descriptions

Guesthouses

Similar to Small Hotels, Lodges, Bed & Breakfast Inns

Range of stays: separate houses or bungalows, 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 to experience local gems or provide information on independent activities.

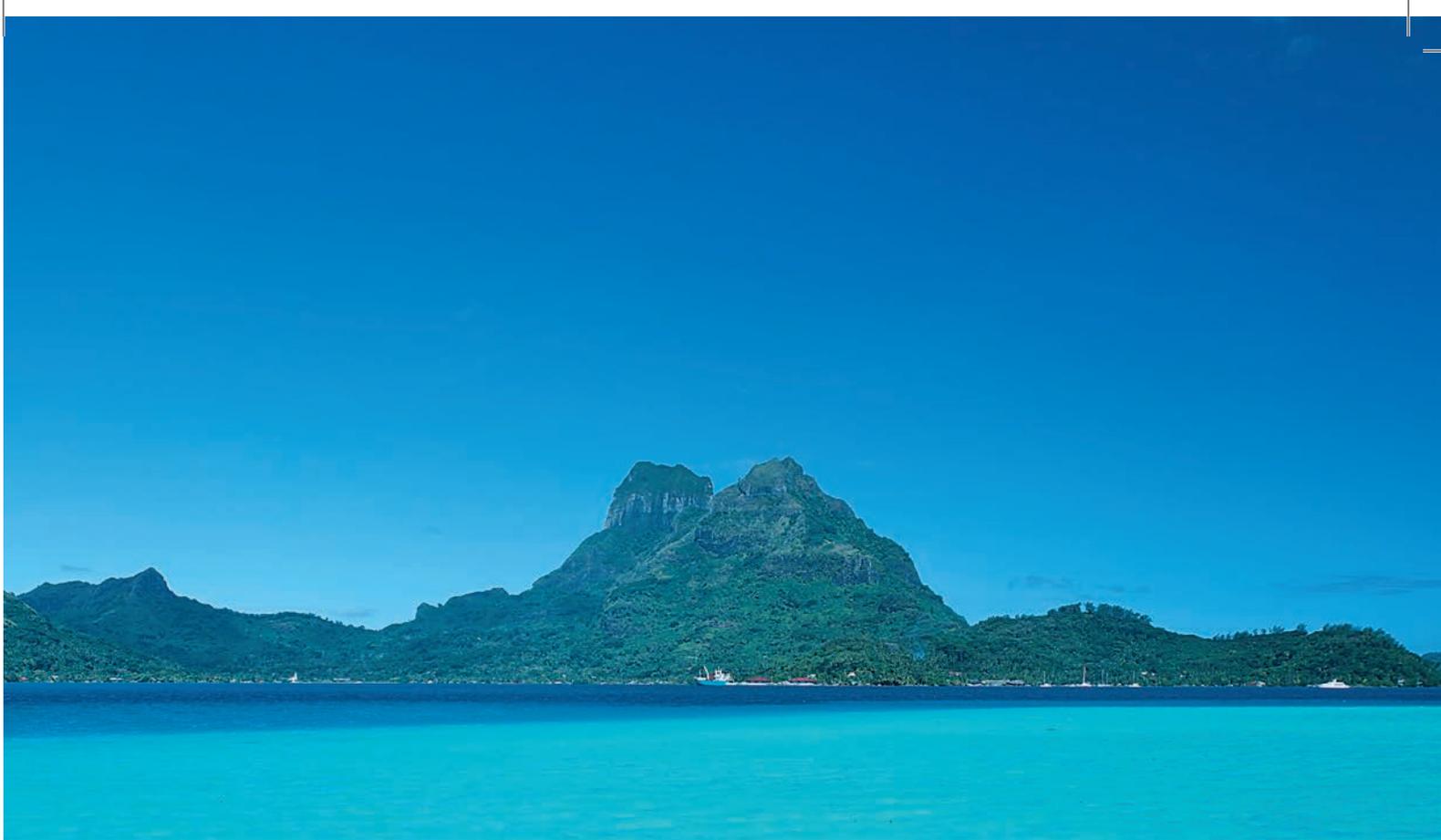
Unique accommodations, transportation and transfers should be arranged in advance by your Preferred Travel Professional or for listings and information on all unique lodging options on each island visit www.ia-ora.com.



VACATION RENTALS

From cozy cottages to luxurious villas, vacation rentals offer another accommodation category option with great variety found throughout the islands. Professional agencies specializing in local vacation rentals are available to assist you with finding just the right accommodations to suit your vacation style and budget.

To find local agencies specializing in vacation rentals, download our application "*The Islands of Tahiti, Official Guide*".



SOCIETY ISLANDS

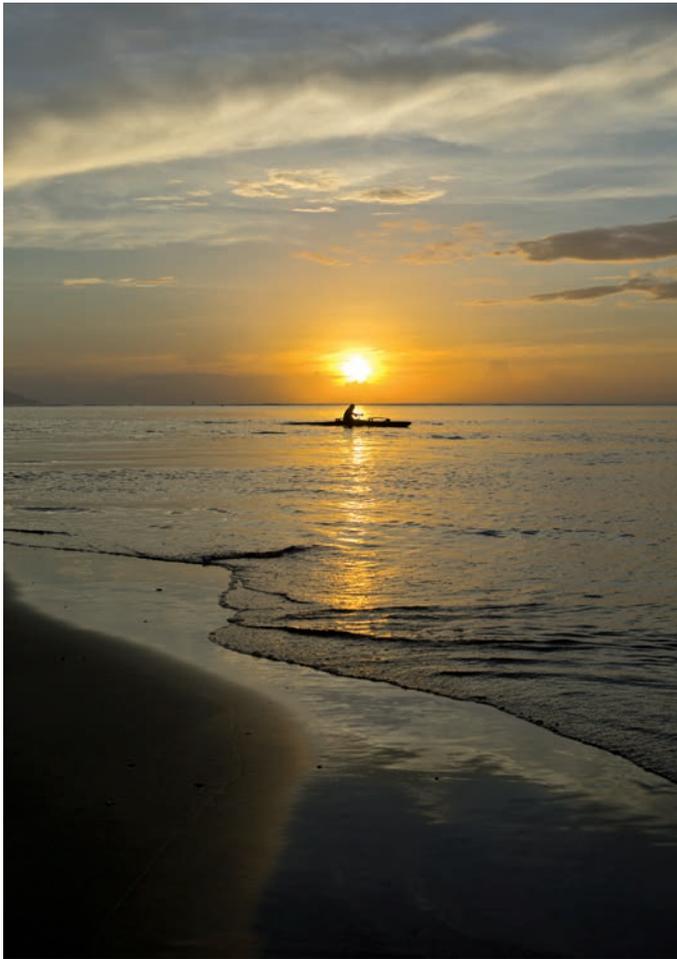




© Tahiti Tourisme

MAP OF SOCIETY ISLANDS





© Tahiti Tourisme

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. Ninety-seven years later, this description has remained unchanged. 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 roulottes in Vaiete Square.

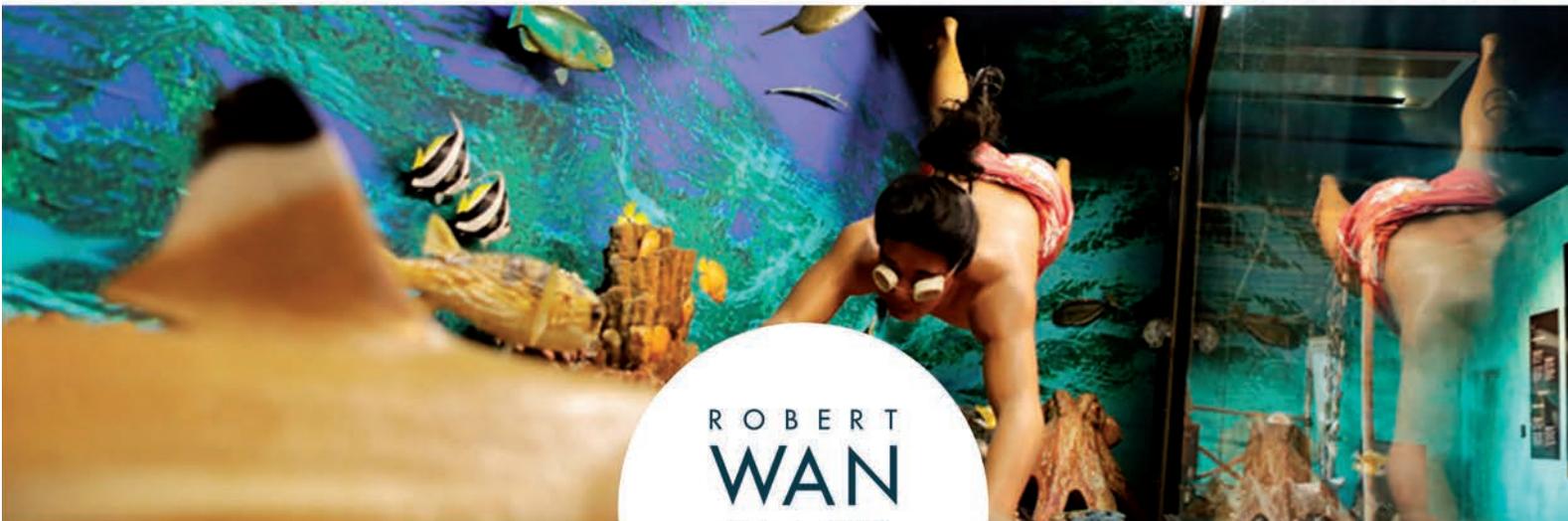
TAHITI

Crowned by a circle of majestic peaks, Tahiti, the largest island in French Polynesia, towers over the ocean like a proud and royal Queen. The mountainous interior is adorned with mystical valleys, clear streams, and high waterfalls. Most of the island’s population resides near the shore, leaving the interior of the island feeling almost untouched and ancient, despite such proximity to the bustling capital of Papeete. Papeete, meaning “water basket,” was once a gathering place where Tahitians came to fill their calabashes with fresh water. Now, Papeete, the touchstone of this island nation, boasts world-class resorts, spas, fine dining and unique restaurants, nightclubs, vibrant markets, museums, pearl shops, and boutiques.

Tahiti... Just the word...
The world’s definition of paradise.



T H E P E A R L M U S E U M



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History on Display

The Museum of Tahiti and the 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 Tahiti Pearl Beach Resort.

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. Visiting the museum, visitors dive into the Tahitian Pearl Universe and get immersed in the heart of the Tuamotu Gambier pearl farms. A team of advisers is there to guide visitors during their visit and assist them during the choice of a precious souvenir. The entrance is free and shuttles are made available on demand. The Pearl being one of the main symbols of French Polynesia, visiting its museum and discovering all its secrets is an important step to share the Polynesian culture and its savoir-faire... **Boulevard Pomare near Downtown Papeete and the Paofai Temple.**

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 Tahiti Pearl Beach Resort; 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. *Auberge Du Pacifique* alongside the lagoon. Other popular choices among locals and visitors alike include: *Café Maeva*, *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 *Ô Belvédère* with views over Papeete. To visit all restaurants, download our application « *The Islands of Tahiti, Official Guide* ».

Papeete Dining Highlight

Enjoy a unique and informal dinner or a memorable post-dinner dessert at *Vaiete 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.

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.**



© Tahiti Tourisme

0 8 KM
0 5 MILES



KEY TO ISLAND MAPS:

- Major Hotels and Resorts
- Guesthouses
- Towns
- ▲ Points of Interest
- ★ Historical Sites
- ▢ Dive Sites
- ▲ Surfing Sites
- Monoï Road

Navigation time to Moorea : 40 min

Flight time from Tahiti to :

- Tetiaroa : 15 min
- Moorea : 15 min
- Huahine : 40 min
- Raiatea : 45 min
- Bora Bora : 50 min
- Maupiti : 55 min
- Rangiroa : 1 h
- Tikehau : 55 min
- Manihi : 1 h 15 min
- Fakarava : 1 h 10 min
- Mangareva : 4 h 25 min
- Nuku Hiva : 3 h 45 min
- Hiva Oa : 3 h 45 min
- Rurutu : 1 h 30 min
- Tubuai : 1 h 40 min
- Raivavae : 1 h 50 min



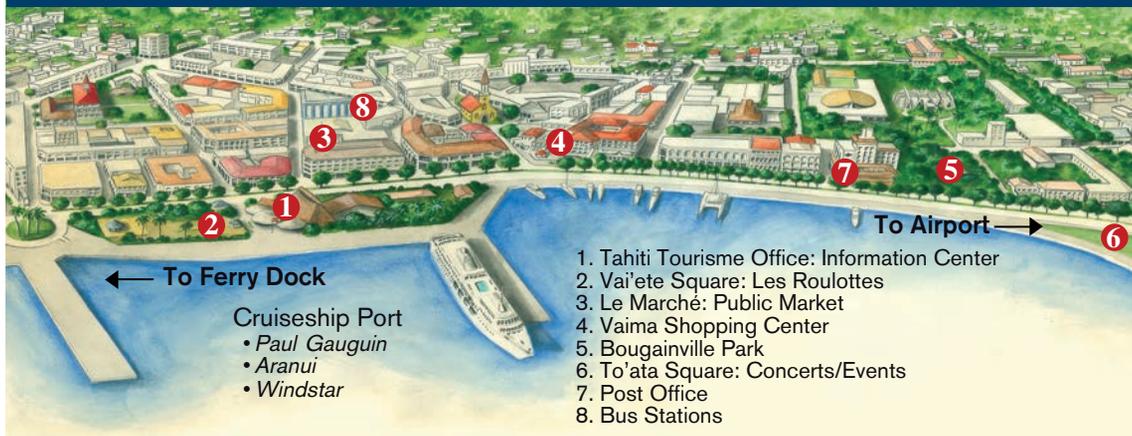
- 1 HOTEL TAHITI NUI
- 1 TIARE TAHITI NOA NOA
- 1 HOTEL SARAH NUI
- 2 TAHITI AIRPORT MOTEL
- 2 INTERCONTINENTAL TAHITI RESORT & SPA
- 3 MANAVA SUITE RESORT TAHITI
- 4 LE MÉRIDIEN TAHITI
- 5 ROYAL TAHITIEN
- 6 TAHITI PEARL BEACH RESORT
- 7 TIKI HOTEL

- 5 FARE MARAE TAATA
- 5 OTAHA LODGE
- 5 TAAROA LODGE
- 5 LE RELAIS FENUA
- 5 PENSION TE MITI
- 6 HITI MOANA VILLA
- 6 HIRIATA FARE D'HÔTES
- 6 TAHARU'U SURF LODGE
- 7 VILLA MITIRAPA
- 8 PENSION REVA TEAHUPOO
- 8 VANIRA LODGE
- 8 LA VAGUE BLEUE TAUHANIHANI VILLAGE LODGE
- 8 PENSION ORLANDA
- 8 CHAYAN

- 1 AHITEA LODGE
- 1 PENSION PUEA
- 1 FARE D'HÔTES TUTEAU
- 1 TEAMO GUEST-HOUSE
- 2 FARE SUISSE
- 3 PENSION DAMYR
- 3 PENSION FIFI
- 3 FARE HAU
- 3 HEITIARE INN
- 4 PENSION DE LA PLAGE
- 4 TAHITI LODGE
- 4 TE NAHE TOE TOE - CHEZ ARMELLE

- 9 BONJOUR LODGE PARADISE
- 10 A PUEU VILLAGE
- 11 FARE MAITHE
- 11 CHEZ FLOTHIA
- 11 PUNATEA VILLAGE
- 11 OMATI LODGE
- 12 FARE AREAREA
- 13 RELAIS DE LA MAROTO
- 14 TAHITI HOLIDAY LODGE
- 15 MOTU MARTIN
- 16 MAEVA LODGE

DOWNTOWN PAPEETE – WATERFRONT



← To Ferry Dock

To Airport →

Cruiseship Port
• Paul Gauguin
• Aranui
• Windstar

- 1. Tahiti Tourisme Office: Information Center
- 2. Vai'ete Square: Les Roulottes
- 3. Le Marché: Public Market
- 4. Vaima Shopping Center
- 5. Bougainville Park
- 6. To'ata Square: Concerts/Events
- 7. Post Office
- 8. Bus Stations

Circle – Island Tour

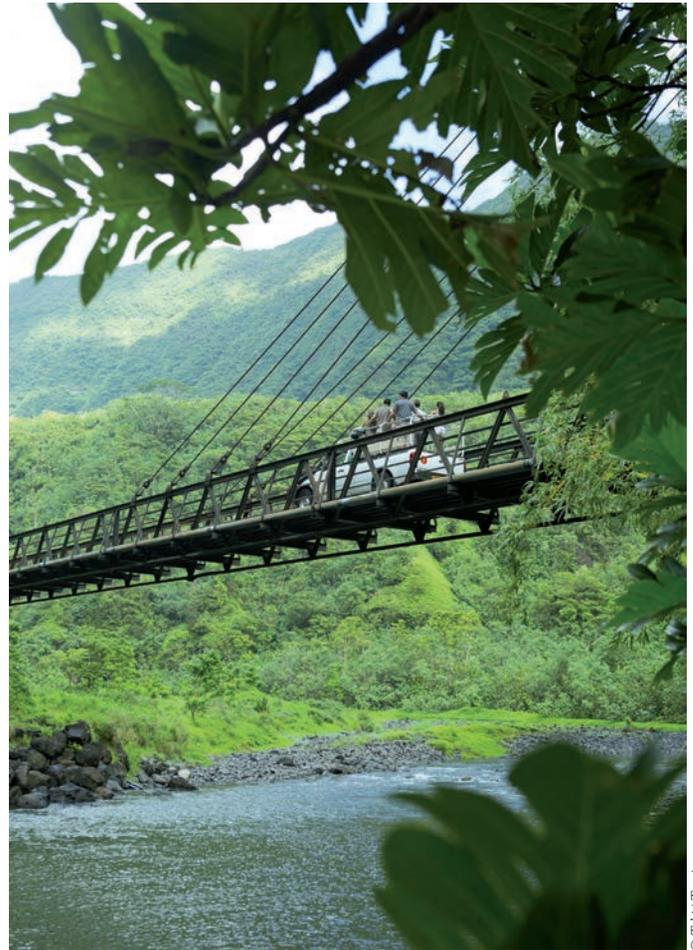
The route explores 71 miles of dramatic coastline scenery with wave-pounded cliffs, peaceful beaches, and brightly colored churches. Along the way, you'll encounter overlooks, waterfalls, and ancient historical sites. An extended tour takes you to the peninsula of Tahiti Iti. *Tours can be reserved by your Preferred Travel Professional or by your resort or cruise ship.*

The Monoï Road

Tahiti is the global 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

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. *Information can be provided by your Preferred Travel Professional or by your resort or cruise ship.*



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manava
SOLE RESORT TAHITI

CONTEMPORARY DESIGN

with Polynesian accented decor

Réservations : ☎ : +689 40 50 84 45 - @ : res@spmhotels.pf

Managed by **South Pacific Management**
Pacific's Hidden Paradise

www.spmhotels.com

The advertisement features two main images: on the left, a modern hotel lobby with contemporary furniture and a sign for 'manava SOLE RESORT TAHITI'; on the right, an outdoor swimming pool with a thatched-roof hut and a modern building in the background. The text is overlaid on these images, providing contact information and branding for South Pacific Management.



© Tahiti Tourisme

Golfing

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, 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.



© Tahiti Tourisme

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.
- Walking at Paofai's garden and at the Marina of Papeete.
- Pearl shopping and a visit to the Pearl Museum.
- Visit art galleries and exhibits.
- Hear joyous singing at a church on Sunday.
- Enjoy dinner at the roulottes in the waterfront area of Vaiete Square.

Day 2: Take a Road Trip in Paradise

- Circle the island by bus or car.
- Follow The Monoï Road.
- Picnic on a black or white 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.
- 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.



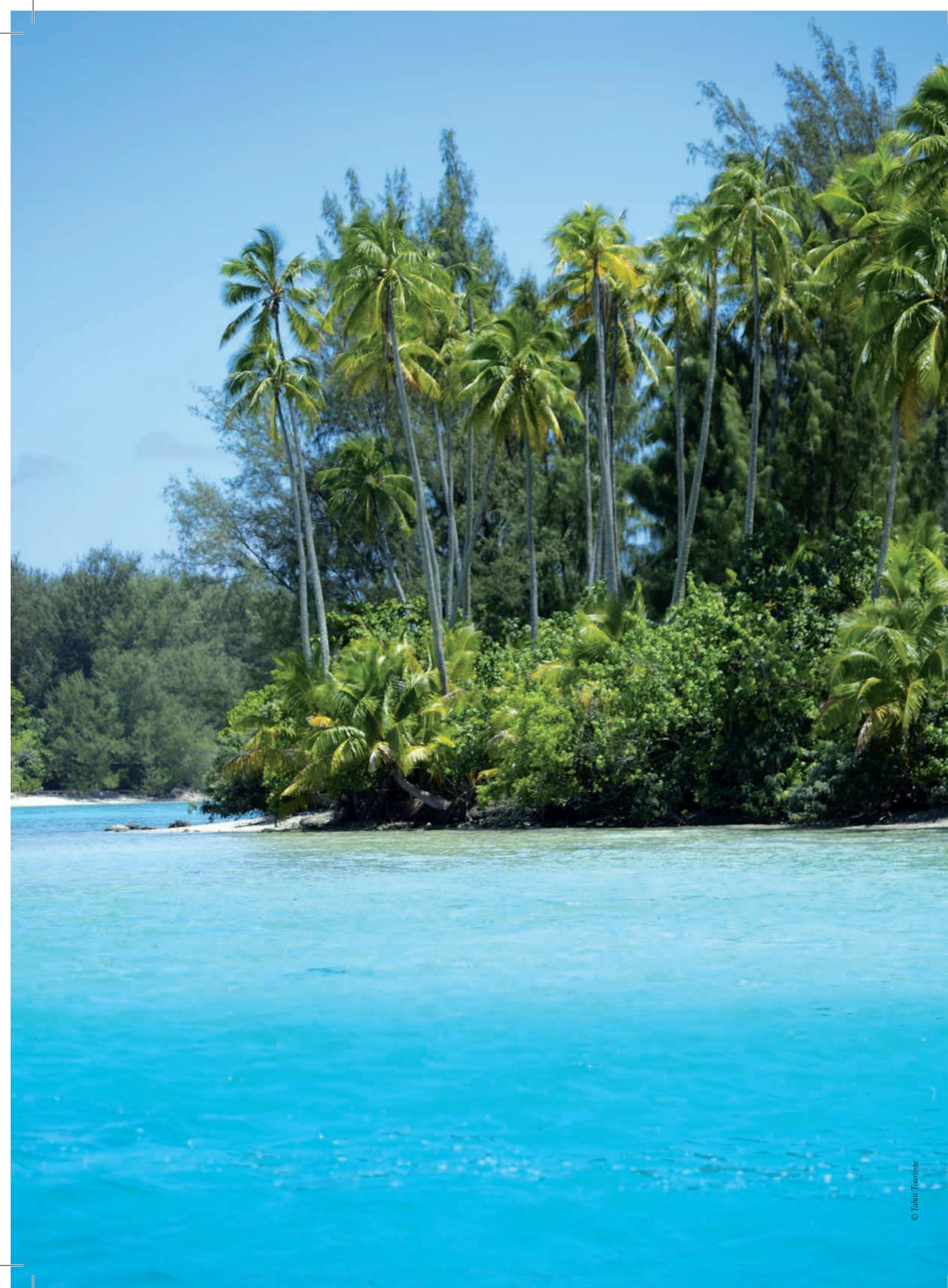
© tim-mckenzie.com

TETIAROA

Some places you feel. They cast their spell on you immediately. This is Tetiaroa. A haven for birds, sea turtles and all kinds of marine life, Tetiaroa is treasured among Tahitians who know it as a sacred place. So sacred, that at one time the coconut-dotted white sand beaches and crystalline lagoon of this uninhabited atoll was an exclusive getaway for Tahitian royalty. It's not surprising that actor Marlon Brando fell under its spell during the filming of *Mutiny on the Bounty* in 1960, and later went on to become its owner. Now you can follow in the wake of kings and Hollywood royalty with a quick 15-minute private charter from Tahiti or Moorea.

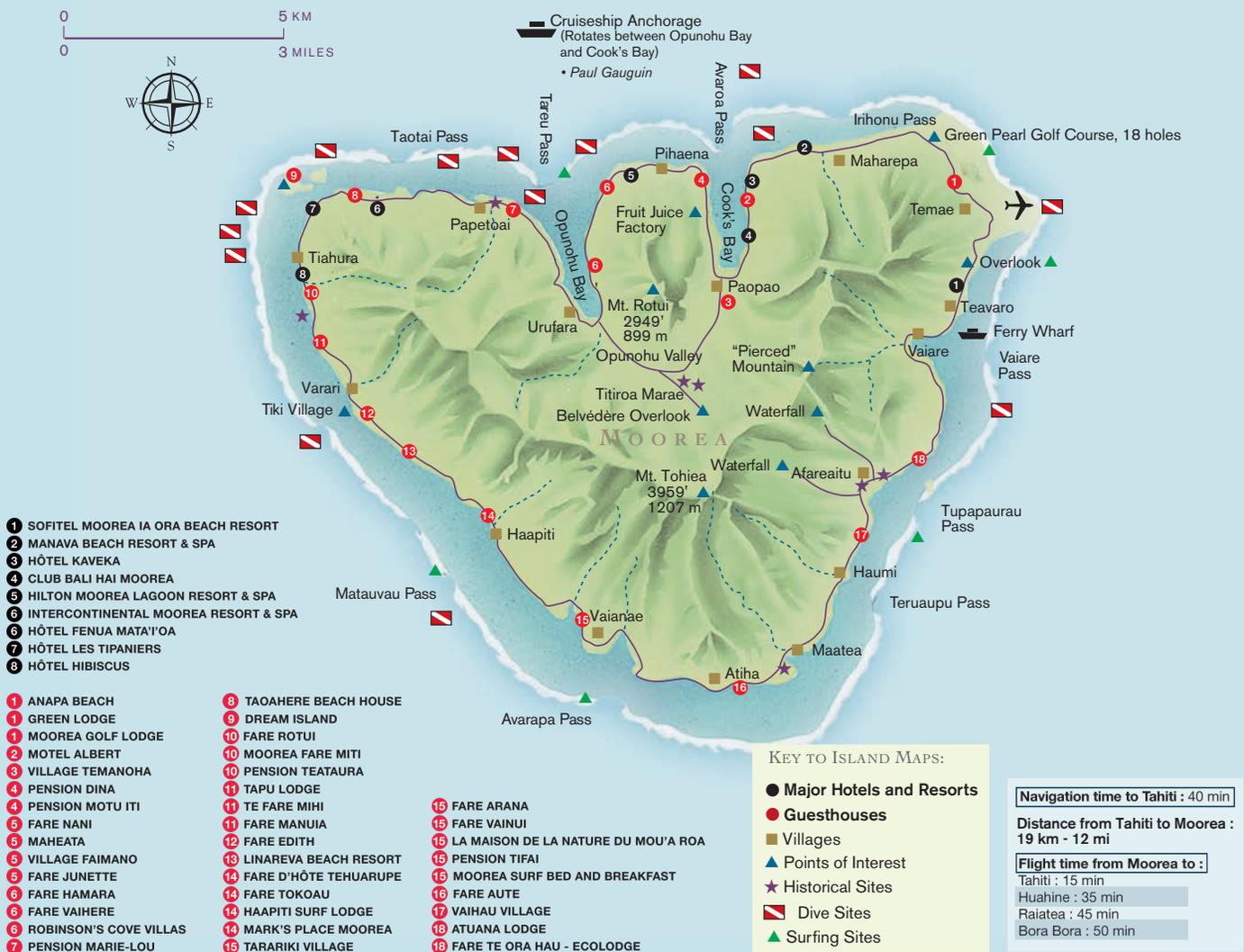
Among the islets, Tahuna Iti, the Birds' Island, is a national reserve for sea birds, frigates, terns, phaetons (straw tails), brown gannets and other petrels.





MOOREA

Moorea rises magically out of the ocean like a cathedral. High, sharp, inspiring green spires, crowned by clouds. Poetic threads of waterfalls tumble down fern-softened cliffs. Peaceful meadows flanked by pinnacles of emerald green will renew your belief in the majesty of nature, and Moorea's bright blue lagoon will bring to life the South Seas idyll of your dreams. Pastel-painted houses, surrounded by gardens of hibiscus and birds of paradise, circle the island in a necklace of happy, simple villages that will elevate your senses and remind you that life is about life. *La vie heureuse*, as they say in Tahiti, a happy life. The beauty of Moorea is unforgettable.



The Yellow Lizard of Bali Hai

There are many majestic names that come to mind viewing Moorea's eight breathtaking mountain ridges. These pinnacles were the inspiration for the mythical "Bali Hai" from James Michener's book, *Tales of the South Pacific*. Polynesian legend describes the panorama of volcanic ridges as the second dorsal fin of the fish that became the island of Tahiti. However, the name, Moorea, meaning "yellow lizard", came in a dream of a high priest, and one doesn't argue with a high priest or a prophetic dream.

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.



© Tahiti Tourisme



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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 even 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.

The Monoï Road

Monoï oil, made of refined coconut oil and usually blended with *tiare* flowers, is used to soften and moisturize the skin, as perfume and massage oil. It's like a sensual, silky kiss for the skin, with an aroma that arouses the senses. An essence of Tahiti that you can take home. Experience the process of making this wonder oil from its agricultural beginnings to the spas on The Monoï Road that wraps around this magical island.

Diving

The drama of Moorea's landscape continues below the sea with an infinite range of canyons, chasms, plateaus 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.Tahiti-Tourisme.org for links to operators and dive site information.

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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.

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.



© Tahiti Tourisme

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 Manava Beach Resort & Spa Moorea; *Arii Vahine* at Hilton Moorea Lagoon Resort & Spa; *Fare Nui* at InterContinental Moorea Resort & Spa; *K* at Sofitel Moorea Ia Ora Beach Resort; Other restaurants include the beachfront setting favored by locals at *Les Tipaniers*.

Popular Local Restaurants 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. Other popular choices among locals alike include: *Moorea Beach Cafe*, *Holy Steak House*, *Rudy's*, *Golden Lake*, *Fare La Canadienne*.

To visit all restaurants, download our application « *The Islands of Tahiti, Official Guide* ».

Mountain Exploration

The rugged interior and 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 up to high mountain overlooks.

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 15-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.

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, kitesurf, 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.
- Visit the lagoonarium
- 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.
- Follow The Monoï Road.
- 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.





HUAHINE

Huahine casts a spell over you from the moment you arrive. Only a 40-minute flight from the island of Tahiti, the enchanted Huahine, with its lush forests, untamed landscape, and quaint villages, is one of Tahiti's best-kept secrets, a place where you can live like a local. A deep, crystal-clear lagoon surrounds the two islands that comprise Huahine, while magnificent bays and white-sand beaches add drama and solitude to the experience. 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.



Stone Temple Mecca

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 sites near the village of Maeva include the largest concentration of pre-European *marae* (stone temples) in Polynesia. There are more than 200 archeological stone structures, which have survived for centuries. These structures lie within yards of one another along the shore of Lake Fauna Nui and overlooking the lake on the sacred and scenic Matairea Hill. These include *marae* of island chieftains, dwellings, horticultural developments, and religious and ceremonial monuments.

Travelers can follow a footpath through the rainforest to explore 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. This history comes to life in the stories local guides will share — ancient tales passed along generation to generation, and tales of daily life on this sacred island.

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. Moua Puta and then sailed 100 miles (61 kilometers) where it split Huahine in two!

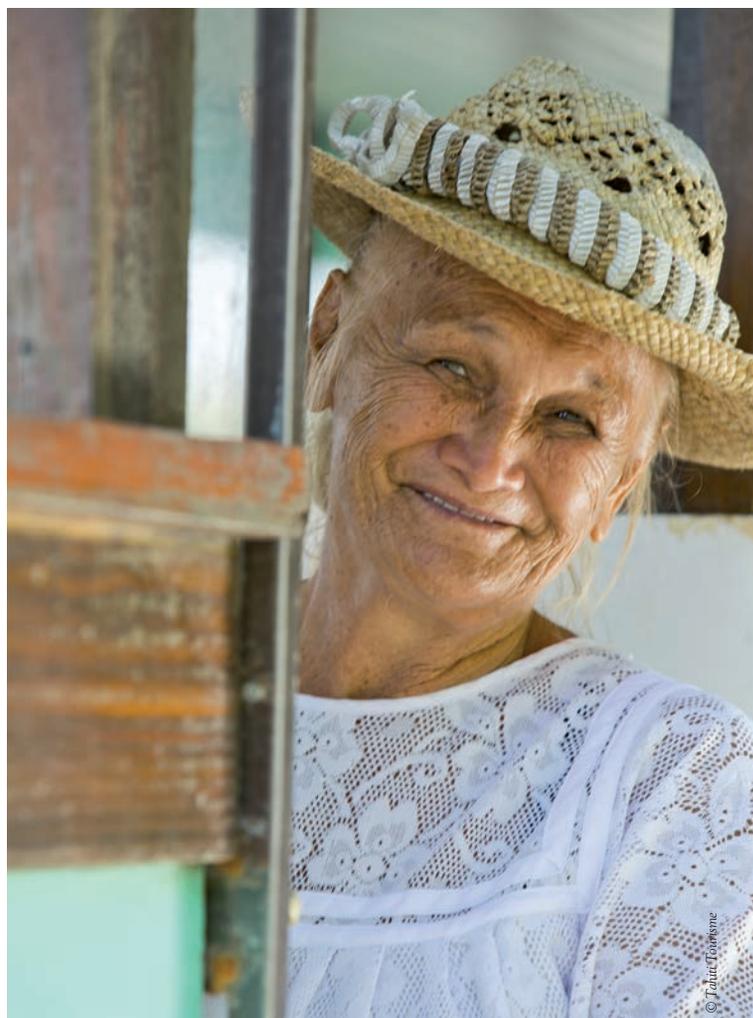
Restaurants

The beautiful Ari’i at the Royal Huahine 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.

To visit all restaurants, download our application « *The Islands of Tahiti, Official Guide* ».

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. 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.





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No Parking Tickets Here

There is no need for a parking lot at the Royal Huahine, 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.

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.

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.



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RAIATEA & TAHA'A

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 45-minute flight to the airport on Raiatea with connecting service to Taha'a on a 30-minute boat ride across the lagoon.



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The Sacred Island

Where Legends Began and Dreams are Fulfilled

The heartbeat of *The Islands of Tahiti* emanates from a special place in Raiatea, the sacred Taputapuātea *marae*. The expansion of Polynesians throughout the Pacific began on Raiatea from this precise site. After blessing, sacred ceremonies and celebrations, outriggers with original settlers ventured north to Hawaii and west to New Zealand. Raiatea, meaning “faraway heaven” and “sky with soft light,” was first named Havai’i as is considered the homeland of the ancient Polynesians. Recognized as the most sacred island in the region, the green-carpeted mountains rise to the cloud-capped peak of the celebrated Mt. Temehani.

Raiatea: The Land of Legendary Possibilities

Exploration: Journey to the ancient and sacred complex of Taputapuātea 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 Vanilla Island

With a Leisurely Rhythm of Life Unique in the World

Life slows on Taha’a. This quiet island will sweep you away into the traditional, tranquil life of the Tahitians. The flower-shaped island’s simple beauty comes in soft mountains, surrounded by tiny motu with bright, white-sand beaches. Vanilla-scented air wafts on breezes that flow down the hillsides from numerous vanilla farms, and these soft aromas ride the ocean breezes announcing the soul of the island long before you even see it on the horizon.

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.





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Sailing Capital of the South Pacific

The lives of Tahitians are intertwined with water. They have long mastered the invisible highways that criss-cross the Pacific. The waters 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, 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 titled **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.Tahiti-Tourisme.org.

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.

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



© Tahiti Tourisme

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.

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 Lodge Hotel is known for gourmet fare. 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.

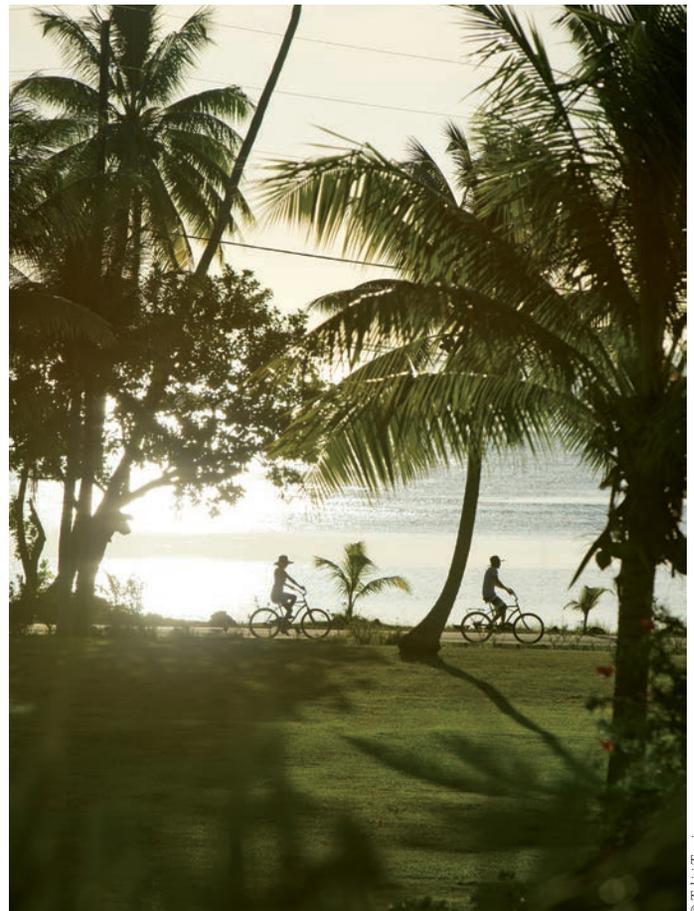
To visit all restaurants, download our application « *The Islands of Tahiti, Official Guide* ».

Getting Around

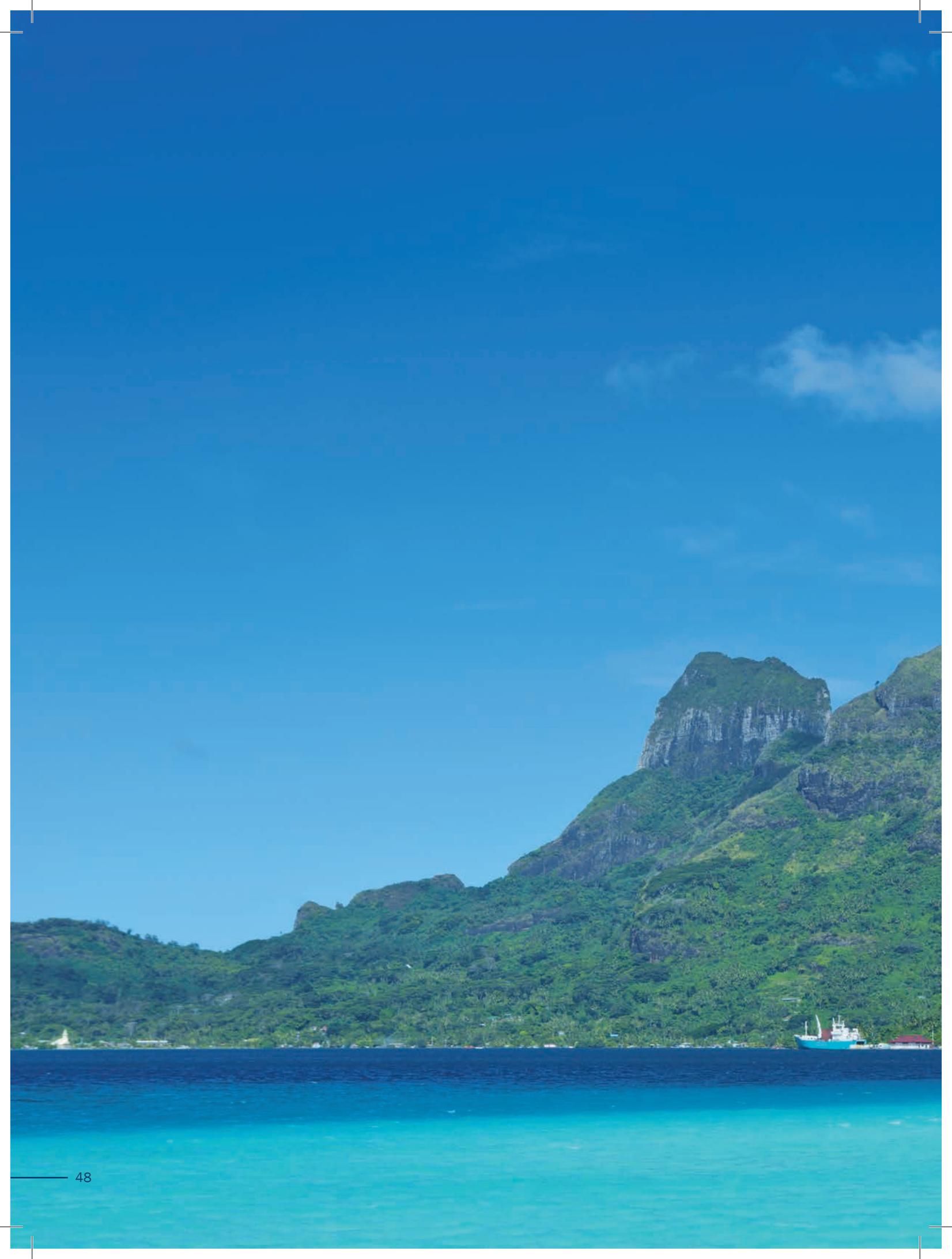
Raiatea is served by Air Tahiti with frequent 45-minute flights from Papeete and Moorea, and with several daily 20-minute flights from Huahine and Bora Bora. Taha'a is served only by water taxi from Raiatea's airport and guests of the Le Taha'a Island Resort & Spa can also arrange for a helicopter transfer 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 (11 to 16 meters) can also be chartered, with or without captain and crew.



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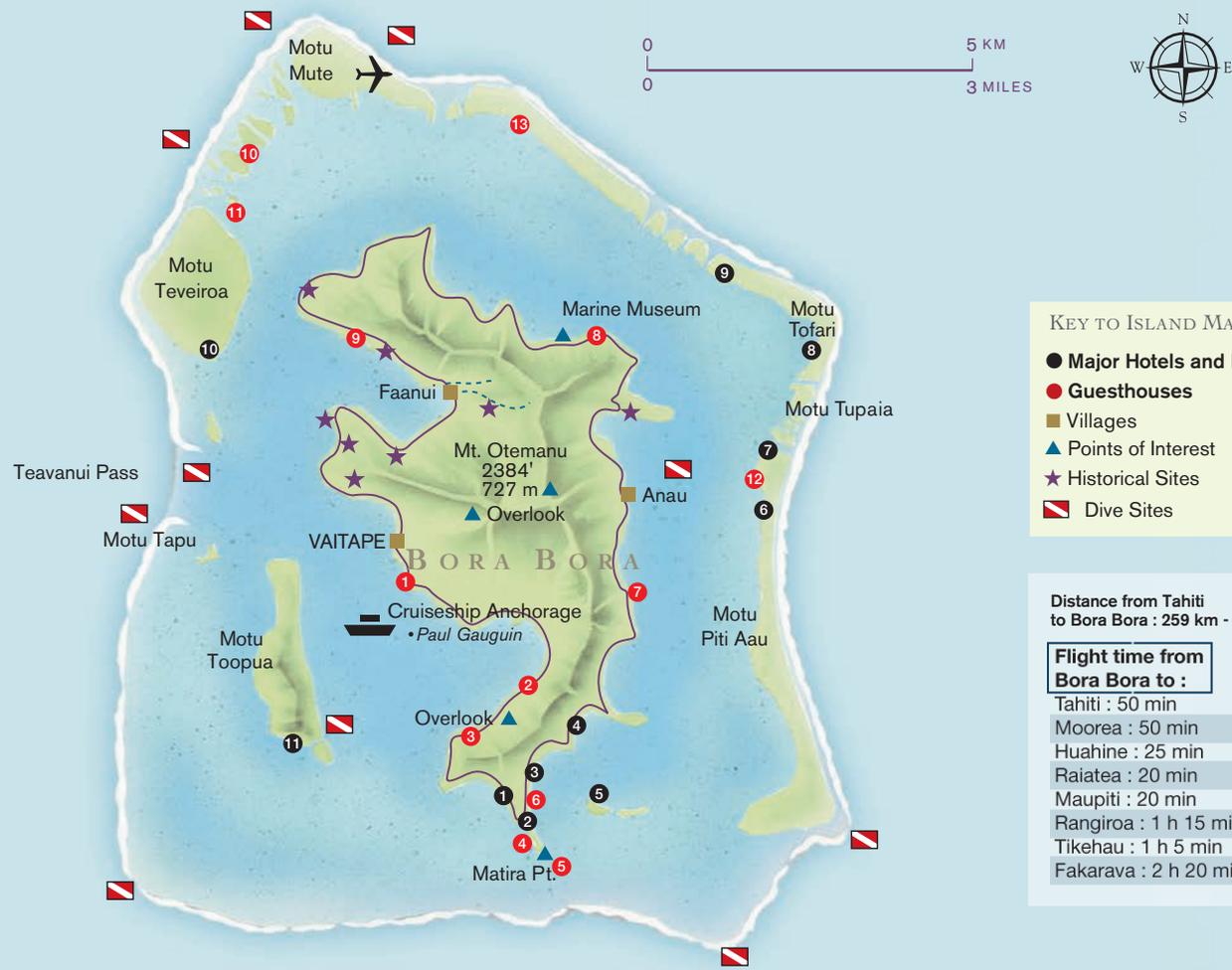


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BORA BORA

Romance. It rises from the deep velvet blues of the deep water up through the softer hues of the lagoon and into the air that surrounds Bora Bora. Its touch on the sea breeze tingles the skin. And its power fills each beat of the heart. A brief 50-minute flight from the islands of Tahiti or Moorea, 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 celebrate this island where the lush tropical slopes and valleys of Mount Otomanu blossom with hibiscus, while palm-covered motu circle the illuminated lagoon like a delicate necklace. Perfect white-sand beaches give way to azure waters where tropical-colored fish animate the coral gardens and giant manta rays glide leisurely past. This could easily be defined as the center of the romantic universe, where luxury resorts and spas dot the island with overwater bungalows, thatched-roof villas, and a fabled ambience. Simply said, Bora Bora is the most beautiful island in the world.



- KEY TO ISLAND MAPS:
- Major Hotels and Resorts
 - Guesthouses
 - Villages
 - ▲ Points of Interest
 - ★ Historical Sites
 - 🚤 Dive Sites

Distance from Tahiti to Bora Bora : 259 km - 161 mi

Flight time from Bora Bora to :

- Tahiti : 50 min
- Moorea : 50 min
- Huahine : 25 min
- Raiatea : 20 min
- Maupiti : 20 min
- Rangiroa : 1 h 15 min
- Tikehau : 1 h 5 min
- Fakarava : 2 h 20 min

- | | | |
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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 HÔTEL MATIRA 2 INTERCONTINENTAL BORA BORA LE MOANA RESORT 3 LE MAITAI POLYNESIA BORA BORA 4 SOFITEL BORA BORA MARARA BEACH RESORT 5 SOFITEL BORA BORA MARARA PRIVATE ISLAND 6 INTERCONTINENTAL BORA BORA RESORT & THALASSO SPA 7 LE MÉRIDIEN BORA BORA 8 THE ST. REGIS BORA BORA RESORT 9 FOUR SEASONS RESORT BORA BORA 10 BORA BORA PEARL BEACH RESORT & SPA 11 CONRAD BORA BORA NUI RESORT & SPA | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 BORA BORA PENSION NONI 1 LADYBORABORA 2 ROHOTU FARE LODGE 3 CHEZ ROSINA 4 CHEZ NONO 5 PENSION ROBERT ET TINA 7 BORA BORA ECO LODGE - ANAU 7 CHEZ HENRIETTE 8 BORA VAITE LODGE | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9 BORA BORA FISHING PARADISE LODGE 10 PENSION BLUE HEAVEN ISLAND 10 BORABUNGALOVE 11 BORA BORA ECO LODGE - MOTU 11 SUNSET HILL LODGE 12 PENSION BORA LAGOONARIUM 13 ALICE ET RAPHAËL BORA BORA |
|--|---|--|



Pora Pora... Bolabola... Bora Bora

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 Havai’i, now known as Raiatea.

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, which evolved into Bora Bora.

Bora Bora: Paradise Perfected

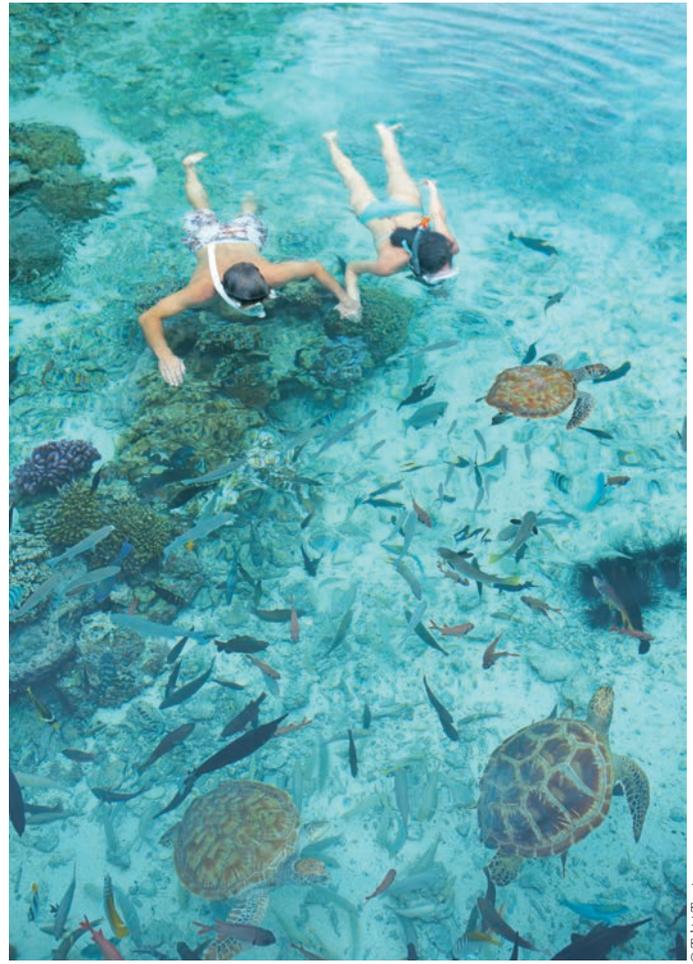
Excitement: Navigate the lagoon by outrigger canoe, powerboat, jetski, or stand-up paddle board or simply catch a dramatic sunset aboard a catamaran.

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.



© Tahiti Tourisme

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.



© Tahiti Tourisme



ST REGIS
BORA BORA

Paradise Perfected

Inspired by the Polynesian art, the 90 Villas at The St. Regis Bora Bora Resort are gracefully designed to embrace indulgent island living while providing the inviting comforts of a luxurious home away from home with the biggest overwater Villas of the South Pacific or the intimate Villas on the beach.

The St. Regis Bora Bora Resort
Motu Ome'e, Bora Bora, French Polynesia
t. +689 40 60 78 88 stregis.com/borabora



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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.

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 Conrad Bora Bora Nui; **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.

To visit all restaurants, download our application « **The Islands of Tahiti, Official Guide** ».

Getting Around

Bora Bora is served by Air Tahiti with frequent 50-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.

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.

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.



© Tahiti Tourisme

Three 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.
- Rent a car, a two person "fun car" or a bicycle for a ride along the flat roads.
- Celebrate your adventures at one of the famous local restaurants.

Day 3: Circle the Island on Land, Shop and Beach Hop

- 4x4 safari on hidden roads up to overlooks and historical sites.
- 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.

MAUPITI

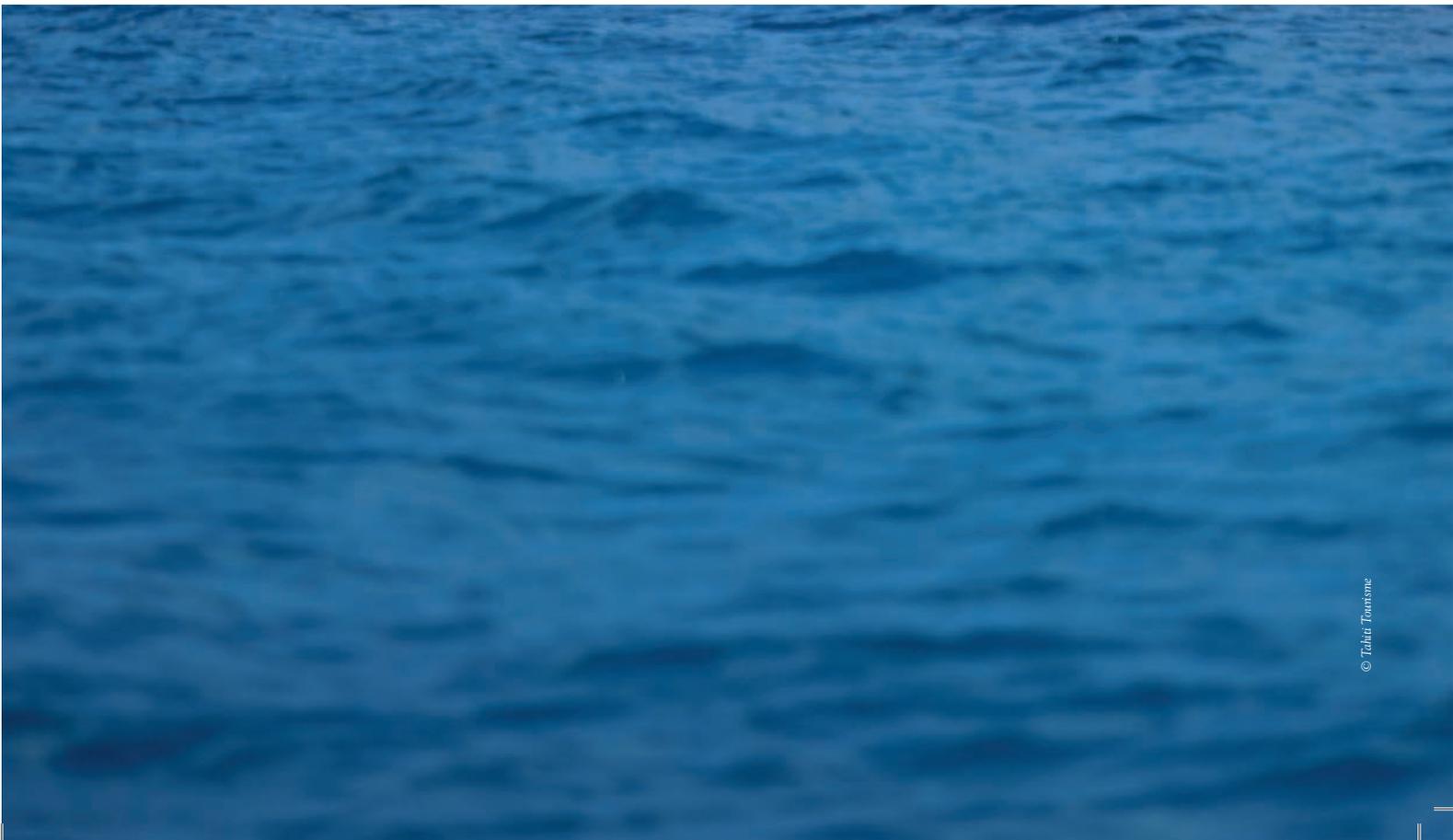
There are places in *The Islands of Tahiti* where you can indulge in 5-star, brand name resorts, and there are places where you can immerse yourself into the ebb and flow of daily life, experiencing this island nation like a local. If you're looking for a place where the brand names are sand, sea, sun, time and tide, then Maupiti will wrap you in her arms and indulge you like a member of the family. Visitors in search of authenticity will enjoy Maupiti's handful of family-run Guesthouses, 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. Only 25 miles (40 kilometers) from sybaratic pleasures of Bora Bora, Maupiti is a small, isolated island in the Society archipelago. This sleepy community offers serenity and warm, island hospitality that many island-aficionados seek, combined with unprecedented natural beauty. Maupiti is the Tahiti known to the first sailors that encountered this fabled realm.



© tim-mckenna.com



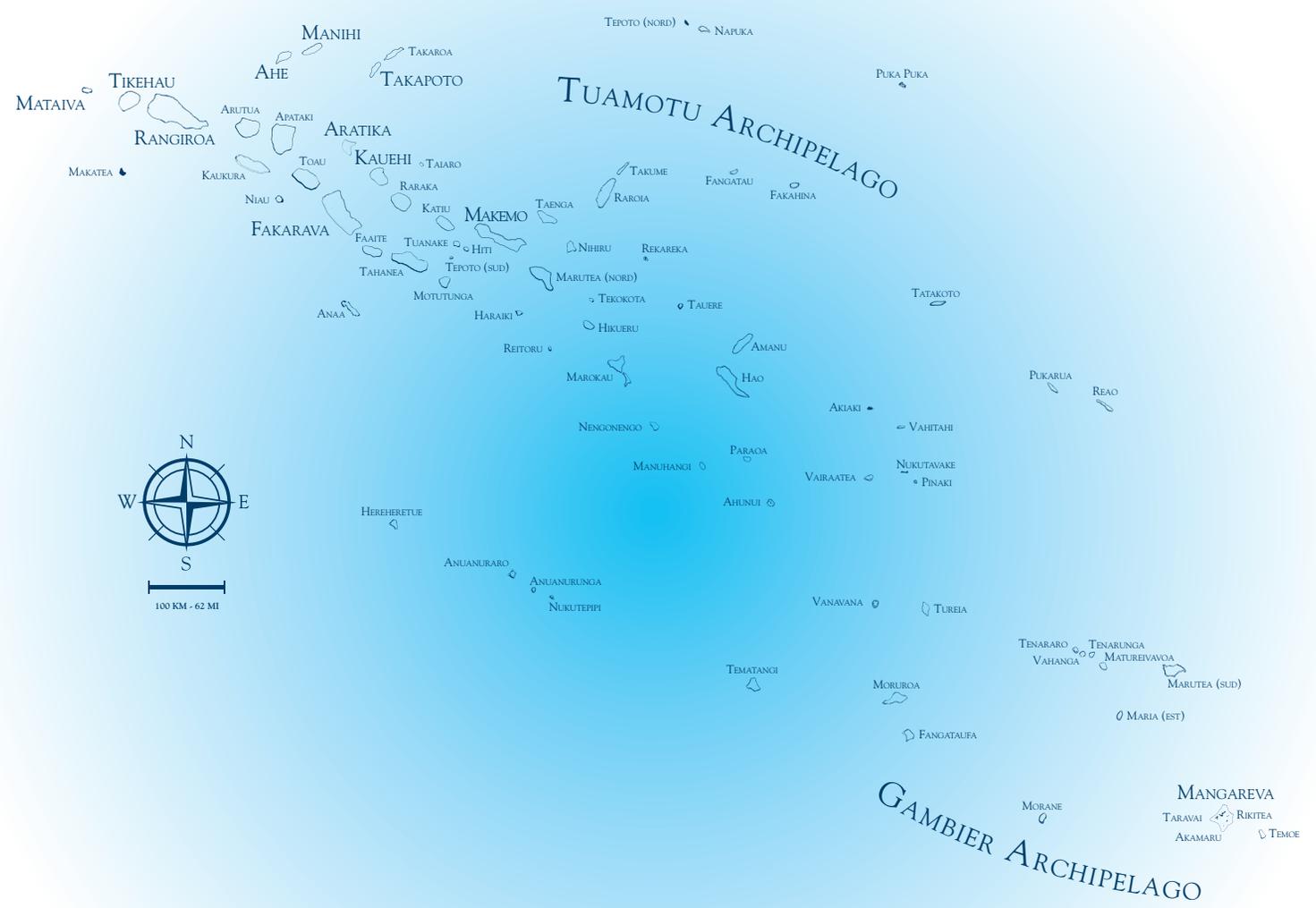
TUAMOTU-GAMBIER ISLANDS





© Tahiti Tourisme

MAP OF TUAMOTU-GAMBIER ISLANDS

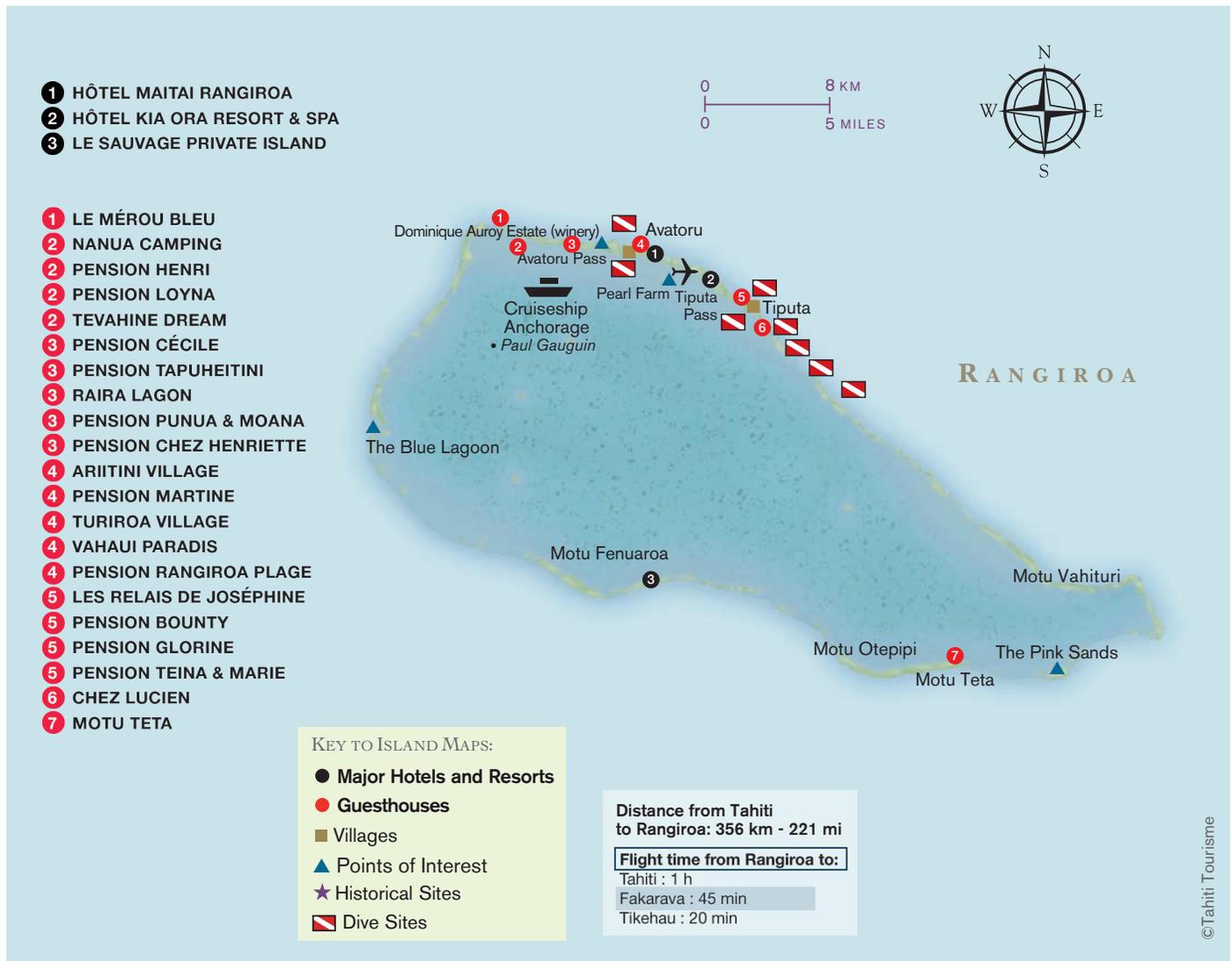


TUAMOTU ATOLLS

Oceanic wonders of the world, where excitement and simplicity share the same breath. Only an hour flight from Tahiti or Bora Bora, the view of these atolls from the air resemble pearl necklaces gracefully tossed upon the ocean. Each atoll is a delicate band of palm-laden coral beaches and *motu* (islets) surrounding a lagoon with water so clear there is little definition between the water and the air. Only a few feet above sea level, these remote, time lost atolls are dotted with tiny villages where uncomplicated Polynesian life welcomes romantics, adventurers and divers alike.

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





RANGIROA

Surrounding one of the world's greatest dive destinations, 240 islets string together in the ocean for more than 110 miles (177 kilometers) completely encircling a deep lagoon. Rangiroa is simply beyond imagination, the world's second largest atoll, a place where land and sea form an unexpected truce.

The beautiful loop of islands is surrounded by different kinds of ocean, Moana-tea (Peaceful Ocean), which defines the lagoon, and Moana-uri (Wild Ocean), where whales, mantas, dolphins and sharks parade among the lucky few that come to experience their world. On land, the main villages of Avatoru and Tiputa offer the visitor a unique look at the South Pacific. Along the few roads

that exist, you'll encounter coral churches, craft centers, local restaurants and boulangerie, and tiny shops. Visitors can also enjoy wine tasting at the Dominique Auroy Estate nestled within a coconut grove, which produces three grape varieties, and black pearl farms, which dot the lagoon.

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 as a rush of water pours from the ocean to the lagoon on an incoming tide. Outside the reef is a breathtaking array of large species, including squadrons of eagle rays, inquisitive dolphins and schools of sharks and tuna.





© Tahiti Tourisme

TIKEHAU

Days evolve quietly on Tikehau. From the sky, this graceful atoll, a 55-minute flight from the kinetic bustle of Papeete in Tahiti, looks like a crown of white and pink-sand beaches shimmering around a lagoon almost too breathtaking to be true. Only about 500 Tahitians call this tranquil world home, generations of fishermen whose lives revolve around the sea. And, it's a life of both peace and plenty.

In contrast to the serenity and untroubled pace of life above the water, underwater life flows in battalions. The density of the fish in the lagoon caused Jacques Cousteau to declare it to contain the highest concentration of fish among any other Tuamotu Atoll.

Local families share fish parks (underwater fenced areas) where they trap lagoon species as a primary source of food and income. Travelers can enjoy endless leisurely hours of snorkeling, diving, and kayaking and exploring the village of Tuherahera.

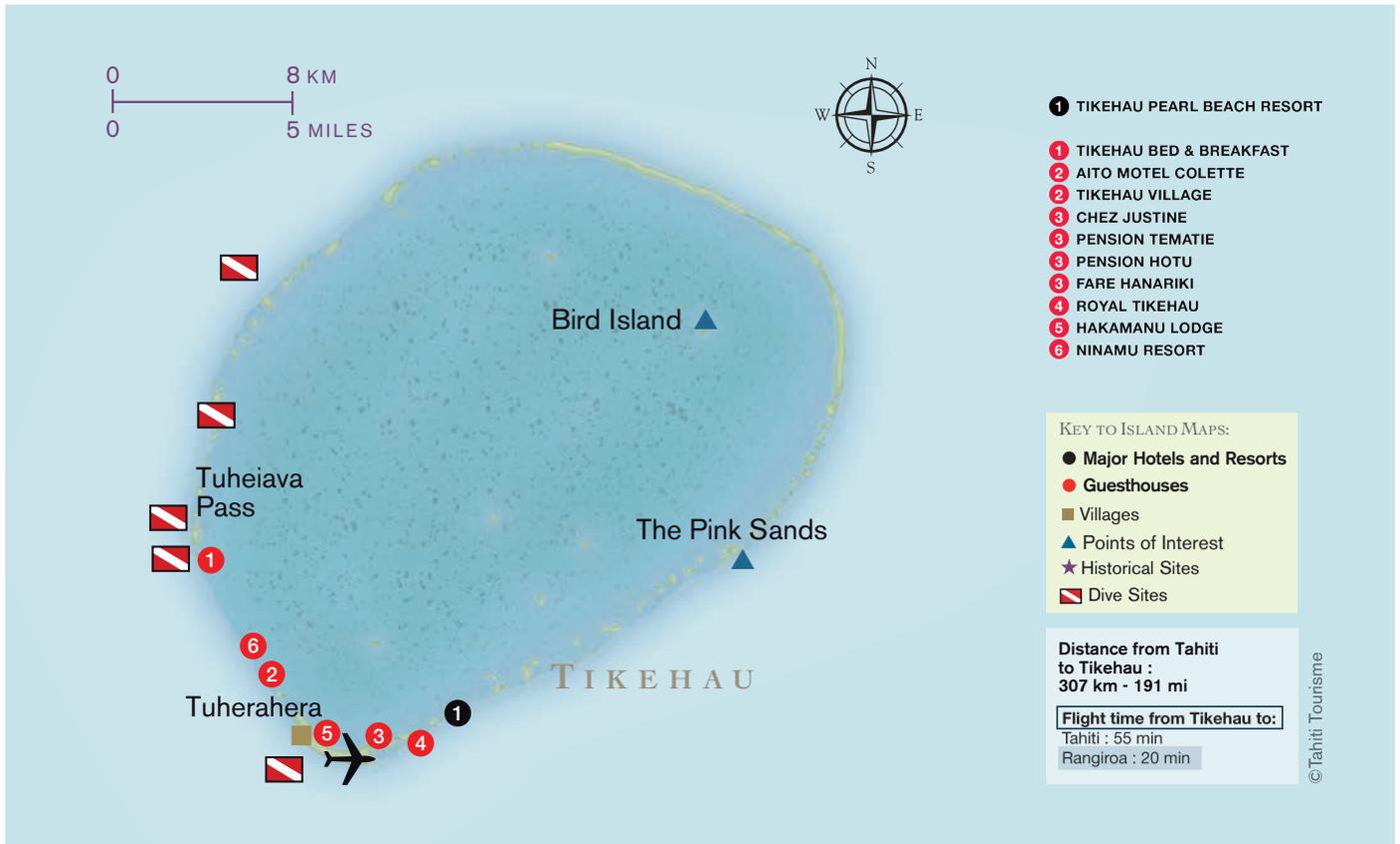

TIKEHAU PEARL BEACH RESORT

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FAKARAVA

One hardly notices the small, lovely islets that form a ring around the lagoon of Fakarava, the second largest atoll in French Polynesia. The lagoon draws your attention, its beauty pulls at you like a magnet. There is a purity in the lagoon, and in the quiet elegance of the marine life that plays out their lives in the shallows near shore, as if each time you glance at it you're seeing and feeling it for the first time. Here the world seems unblemished. Life in the small villages, with their bougainvillea lined roads, bright coral churches, quaint homes, boulangerie, snacks and restaurants seems to hover above the clear waters that surround this UNESCO Biosphere Reserve.

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. But, the environment remains so pure that travelers come to these islands just to immerse themselves in the rich rush of life in the waters, and to find peace along its palm shaded shore.

Restaurants

The secluded atmosphere of these pristine isles adds 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.

To visit all restaurants, download our application « *The Islands of Tahiti, Official Guide* ».

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 Purest Gem on Earth is Born Here!

The Islands of Tahiti are 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. Tahitian Cultured Pearls range widely in pricing, size, shape, and colors. Travelers are encouraged to visit several merchants during their vacation to learn about quality and style, which will help them determine their preference and to buy from reliable stores and pearl farms.



PEARL
HAVAIKI

FAKARAVA

La plus grande passe de Polynésie classée réserve biosphère par l'Unesco, pour des plongées frissonnantes à grand spectacle.

HAVAIKI LODGE

Tél. 40 93 40 15

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En 1989 Havaiki native de l'île et Joachim fils du sculpteur français y entreprennent la première ferme perlière. Les perles montées en créations uniques remportent différents prix dans les salons mondiaux de la bijouterie. On peut aussi plonger et récolter sa perle. avec une explication et une dégustation des plus originales et authentiques.

In 1989, Joachim son of a french sculptor and Havaiki native of Fakarava built the first pearl farm on the atoll. The unique creations made with pearls won many prizes in the world of jewelry. At Pearl Havaiki you can also dive to collect your pearl followed by an explanation of pearl culturing and finish with a very authentic tasting.



L'HAVAIKI LODGE et son âme paumotu c'est aussi le mariage entre tradition et art moderne . Sculptures d'avant garde pour rêver par delà l'horizon avec DiDariel.

With its paumotu soul, Havaiki Lodge is also the marriage of tradition and modern art. Avant garde sculptures will make you dream beyond the horizon.



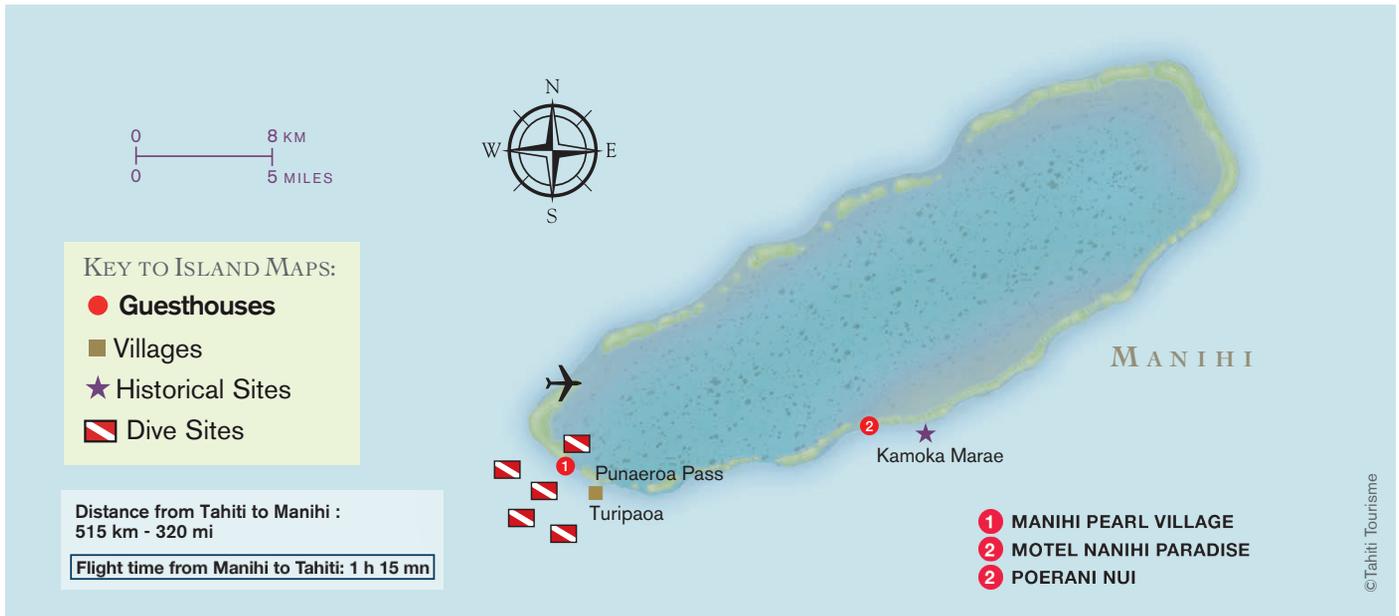
photos : ©www.jugirardot.com

Le Me'ko Bar sert le soir sur réservation un menu proposant la «Marguerite de Kororis» ou encore la «Spirale de Mahi Mahi à la Mousseline de Langouste».

For dinner at The Meko Bar you can enjoy the «Kororis Daisy» or the «Mahi Mahi Spiral with Spiny Lobster Mousseline» (reservation required).

Le snack du Requin Dormeur où sont servies des spécialités de poissons, vous accueille tous les midis les pieds dans l'eau. The Snack du Requin Dormeur is open every day for lunch with many fish specialties to be eaten feet in the lagoon.





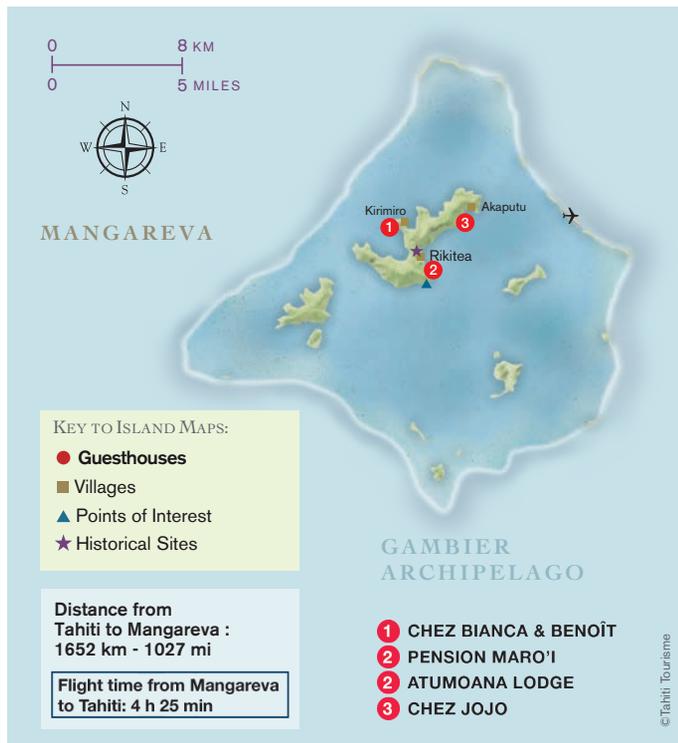
MANIHI & AHE

Manihi conjures up castaway dreams, as if you arrive through a time portal to an impossible tropical fantasy. Far from the modern world, the Mana spirit of Manihi thrives around the crystal-clear lagoon that is the site of Tahiti's first black pearl farm.

Days here sway between the sublime art of doing nothing, romantic indulgence and slipping into the silky waters where parades of tropical marine life share the reef with elegant manta rays. Wander through the main village of Turipaoa and discover friendly locals living a traditional Polynesian lifestyle. Even among Tahiti's almost endless plenty, Manihi has that aura of magic and wonder that will haunt your dreams.

Between Rangiroa and Manihi, located in the northern Tuamotu Archipelago, lies Ahe, an almost entirely enclosed coral atoll. The 70-meter (230-foot) 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 *The Islands of Tahiti*, and they are open for guided visits and demonstrations. There are no resorts on Ahe – lodging is available at a few family-run Guesthouses, and the atoll is accessible by small inner-island flights and private boat charter.



MANGAREVA

More than 1000 miles (1600 kilometers) southeast of Tahiti are the remote Gambier Islands. Polynesian mythology says Mangareva was lifted from the ocean floor by the demi-god Maui. The mountains of Mangareva rise over the surrounding islands and the luminous lagoon like a great cathedral. Although once the center for Catholicism in Polynesia, the people of Mangareva have returned to a more traditional Polynesian lifestyle and the island has become an important supply source for the Tahitian Cultured Pearl industry. Besides the pearl farms and tours of the island by road or boat, travelers 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.

Lodging

Mangareva has four Guesthouses. Family-run Guesthouses provide most of the lodging for the islands and offer modest rooms in the heart of the main villages. Bring local currency and keep in mind that many of the Guesthouses, restaurants, shops, and tour guides do not accept credit cards.

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 25 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.

Travel to and from the airport should be arranged in advance by your Preferred Travel Professional or by your Guesthouse. Car rentals are available in Rikitea on Mangareva. 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.

Three Days in the atolls

Here is a Sample of Three 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.
- Take a tour of a pearl farm.
- End your day watching the sunset at your resort.

Day 2: Become Robinson Crusoe for the Day

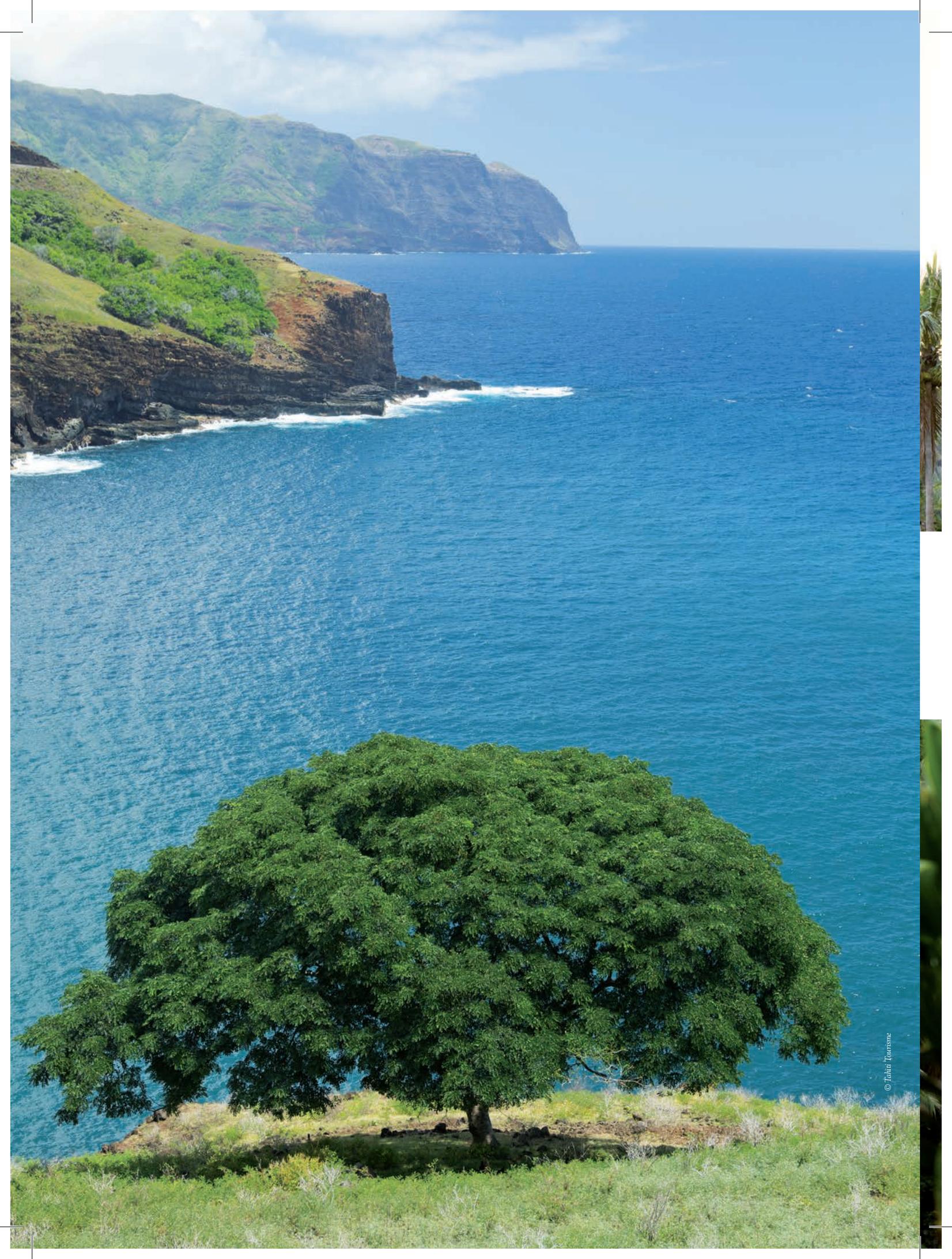
- Explore the lagoon for hours of snorkeling and relaxing.
- Discover the hundreds of deserted isles for the perfect picnic spot.
- Discover Rangiroa’s unique winery and vineyards for wine tasting.

Day 3: Special Romance

Renew Your Romance Every Day

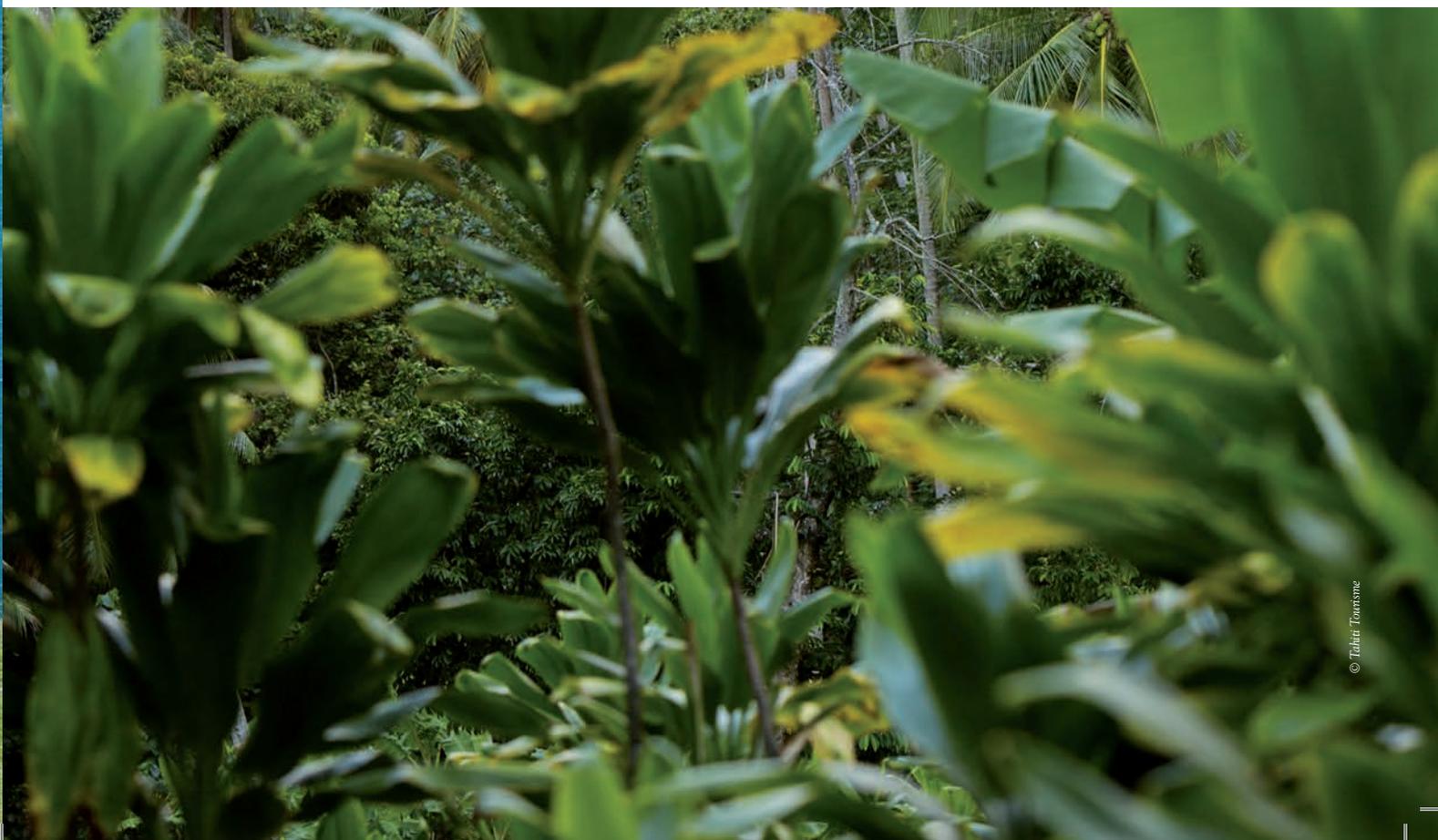
Few places on earth could be this romantic and most resorts have programs designed exclusively for couples which can include:

- 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.





MARQUESAS ISLANDS





© Tahiti Tourisme

MAP OF MARQUESAS ISLANDS



MARQUESAS ISLANDS

A 3-hour 45-minute flight from Papeete, the Marquesas feel fierce and untamed, seemingly lost at the end of the earth. This world belongs to the past where the spirits of the ancient *ma'ohi* still live. The islands rise in sharp pinnacles almost in defiance of the Pacific Ocean. Even now, some of the islands remain 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 people of immense pride and a fascinating culture. The Marquesan language is unique to *The Islands of Tahiti*. The lilting dialect reflects the ancient Polynesian tongue of *ma'ohi*, the original island settlers. Natural wonders abound as 1,000-foot (305-meter) waterfalls cascade down volcanic cliffs, and towering mountains disappear into the clouds.

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.



NUKU HIVA

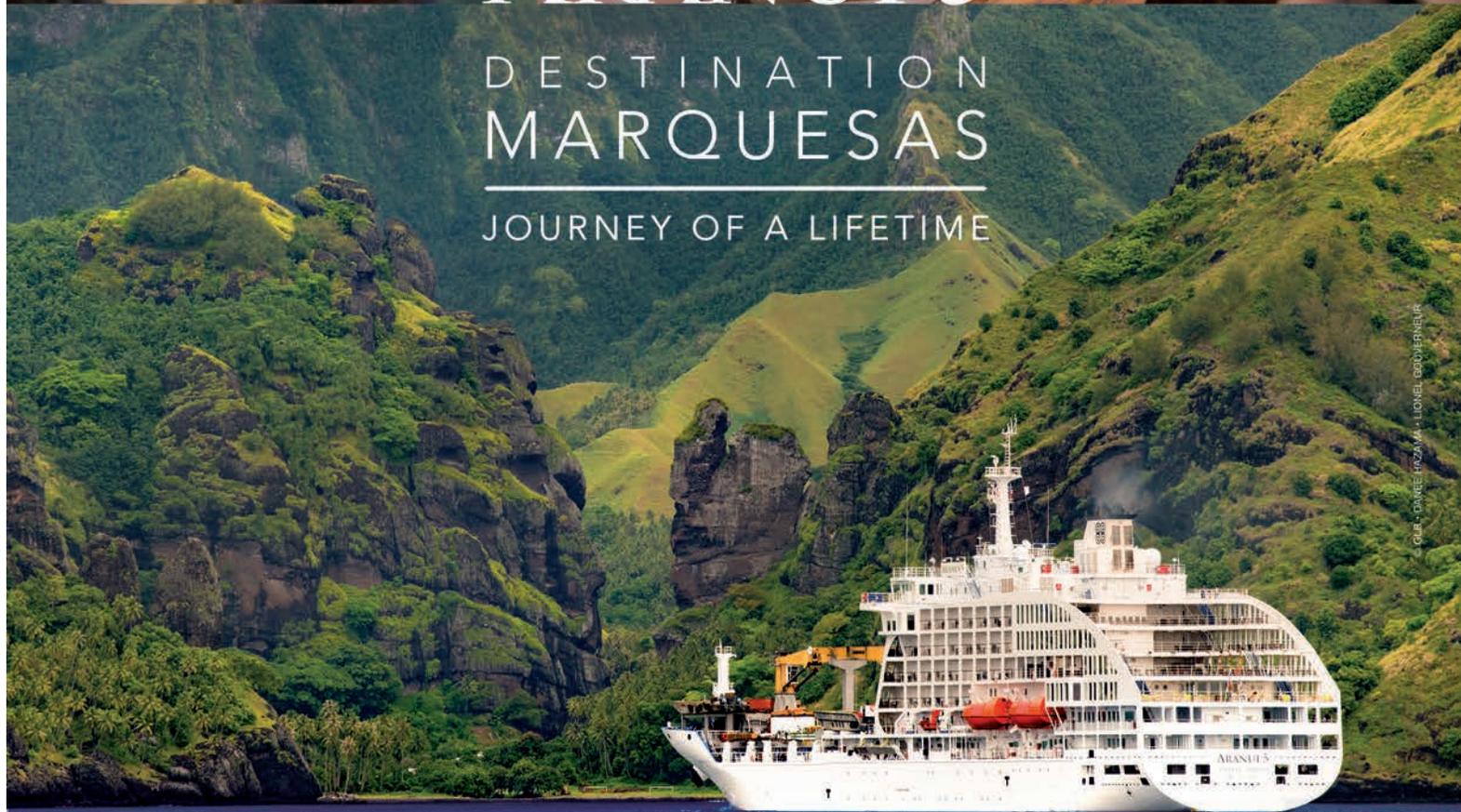
The largest island in the Marquesas, Nuku Hiva exists between the past and the present. The primal landscape stands defiantly above the sea, between fear and awe. Its towering spire-like peaks, secluded, lush valleys, ancient sites, fjord-like bays, and waterfalls so high that most of the falling water evaporates as it descends, challenges your senses as much as it ignites your imagination. The woodcarving on this island is as renowned as the horsemanship. The fierceness of the warriors, as much as the loyalty. You'll find stone carvings in a style that exists in no other region of the world, and massive ancient sites. The island seems like the perfect place to abandon the world and exist among the land and the gods.



ARANUI 5

DESTINATION MARQUESAS

JOURNEY OF A LIFETIME



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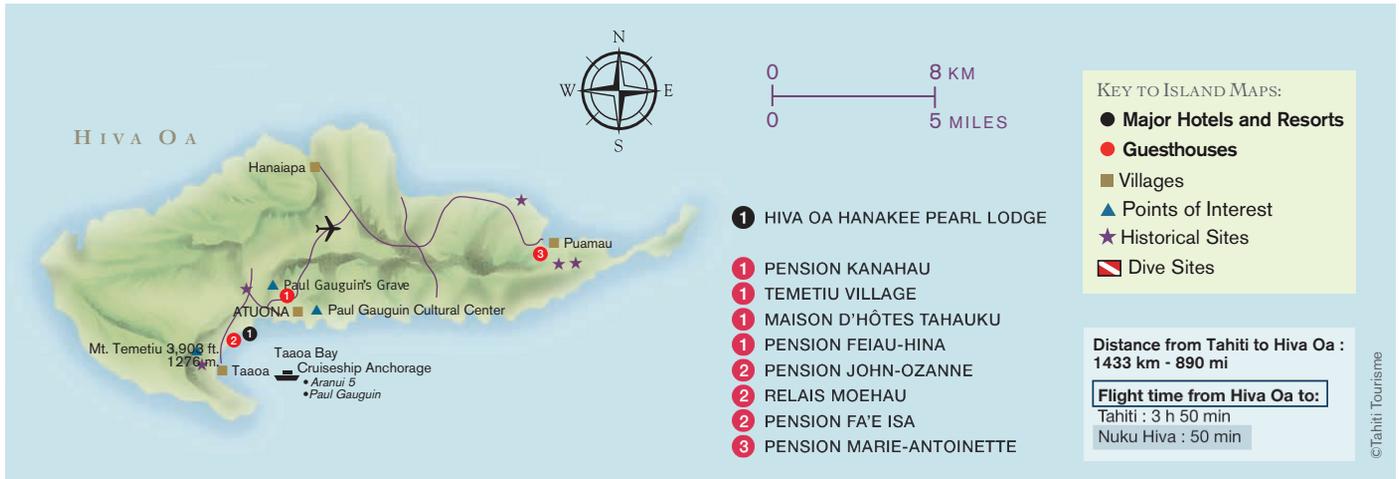


ADVENTURE CRUISES IN FRENCH POLYNESIA

FAKARAVA NUKU HIVA UA POU HIVA OA FATU HIVA TAHUATA UA HUKA RANGIROA BORA BORA

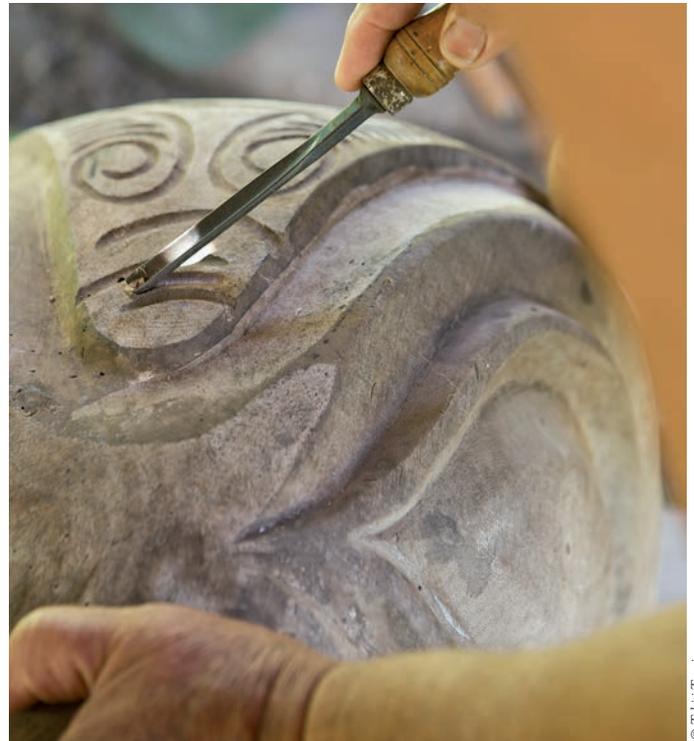
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HIVA OA

Known by many as “Paul Gauguin’s Island,” this majestic and historic island is known for wild and untamed landscapes, carved giant stone tiki, and unearthly vistas, which provided the inspiration for the primal and colorful visions of artist Paul Gauguin and the passionate words of poet Jacques Brel, both of whom chose Hiva Oa as their final resting place. Wood and stone carving defines the modern expression, which reflect the ancient stories told in the petroglyphs, tapas and tiki found in an abundance of ancient sites sprinkled throughout the island. Hiva Oa is a place where the ancestry of *The Islands of Tahiti* lives and breathes the air of modern life.



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.

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 acquired 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."

Restaurants

International dining is found at the restaurants at the Nuku Hiva Keikahanui Pearl Lodge and the Hiva Oa Hanakee Pearl 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.

To visit all restaurants, download our application « *The Islands of Tahiti, Official Guide* ».

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 45-minute flight seven days a week and to Hiva Oa with a 3-hour 50-minute flight five days a week. Continuing flights connect Nuku Hiva to Hiva Oa with several weekly 50-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.



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AUSTRAL ISLANDS





© Tahiti Tourisme

MAP OF AUSTRAL ISLANDS

MARIA
☼

RIMATARA
●

RURUTU
●

AUSTRAL ARCHIPELAGO

TUBUAI
●

RAIVAVAE
●



RAPA
●

MAROTIRI
(ÎLES DE BASS)
☼

AUSTRAL ISLANDS

Far beyond the distant horizon of the South Pacific are wild and rugged lands still virtually undiscovered by travelers. A 1.5 hour flight south of the main island of Tahiti are Polynesian islands so seldom visited that even intrepid travelers have never heard of them. If you're looking for a true escape from the world, and some impressive bragging rights, then pull out your globe and find the Australs Islands.

On the island of Rurutu in the Australs, humpback whales can outnumber people. From July to November the shallow offshore waters here become a nursery for newborn calves. Being in the water, looking into the sentient eye of a whale, will impact you forever, and elevate your soul. The remoteness of the Australs has fostered a world with traditions unique among *The Islands of Tahiti*. Truly a place beyond the horizon, beyond your imagination. The main islands of Rurutu, Tubuai, and Raivavae have Guesthouses.

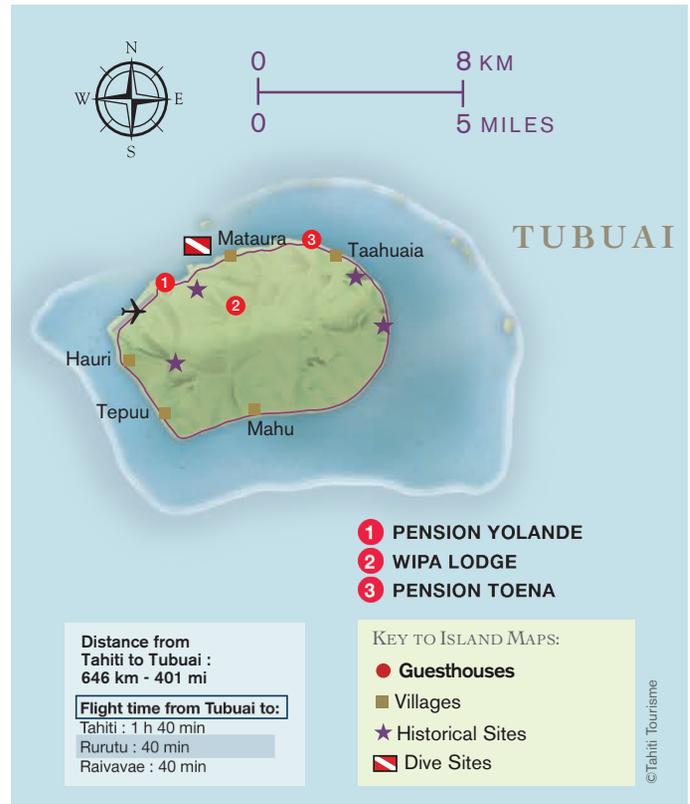
RURUTU

Towering out of the ocean are the steep coral cliffs of Rurutu, a coral island, riddled with both caves and legends. Inhabitants once lived in the extensive cave system and grottoes. The colorful coral block homes dot the three main villages where few changes have been seen since the arrival of missionaries 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 arrival of the migratory humpback whales put all eyes to the water. Between July and November, travelers can snorkel and dive among these breathtaking marine mammals who migrate in these waters to reproduce. You'll find them within sight of the beaches, in clear water. An experience of a lifetime in a unforgettable place.



TUBUAI

A place of plenty, only an hour and forty minute flight south of Tahiti, the rich volcanic soil of Tubuai has become the breadbasket of *The Islands of Tahiti*. Here, traditionally farmed fruits and taro, potatoes, and coffee fills the markets of Papeete, on the main island. But, the sapphire lagoon and inspiring Mount Taita, will feed your adventurous soul. People here live quiet lives deeply connected to their world, and they will welcome you as family. 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*.



© Tahiti Tourisme



© Tahiti Tourisme

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.

RAIVAVAE

The people of Raivavae live through their hearts, and in harmony with the land and sea. Their spirit has evolved from the world in which they live. A world overwhelmed with beauty — a stunning lagoon, palm tree shaded silky white sands along the shore, flower scented air, lush, rainforest landscapes, fertile soil — a genuine paradise of nature. There are no hotels, only Guesthouses and local homestays. Sea birds nest among the dozens of tiny *motu*, most of which are uninhabited. Hikes can be arranged to the top of Mt. Hiro, 1,300 feet (396 meters) above the small village of Anatonu, offering gorgeous views of Raivavae’s turquoise lagoon. This is also one of the few destinations left on earth that don’t accept credit cards.

Lodging

Family-run Guesthouses 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. Rurutu has five Guesthouses, Tubuai has three Guesthouses, and Raivavae has six Guesthouses. Bring local currency and keep in mind that many of the Guesthouses, restaurants, shops, and tour guides do not accept credit cards.

Restaurants

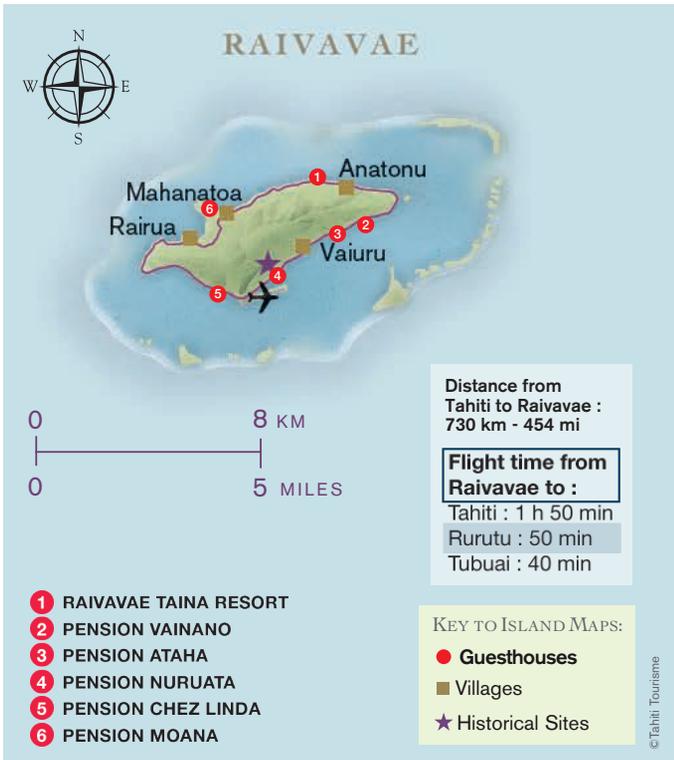
The restaurants are as simple as the islands with a range from snack stands for picnics to comfortable dining with traditional local, French, and Asian cuisine. Most of the larger Guesthouses offer dining while local restaurants are found in Moerai on Rurutu, Mataura and Taahuaia on Tubuai, and on Raivavae.

To visit all restaurants, download our application « *The Islands of Tahiti, Official Guide* ».

Getting Around

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 three days a week. Non-stop flight time is 1 hour 30 minutes to Rurutu, 1 hour 40 minutes to Tubuai, and 1 hour 50 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 infrequent 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 Guesthouse. Car rentals are available in 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.



CRUISING AND YACHT CHARTER

Intimate Yet Luxurious. Uncrowded Yet Dramatic.

To truly experience the awe of *The Islands of Tahiti*, approach them from the sea. Feel the transition from the deep, untamed royal blues and rolling waves of the Pacific to the welcoming hues of a quiet, hushed lagoon. Follow the trail of flower scented air that announces the land long before you see, then watch these magical islands rise, enchanted, from the horizon. Pause to sense the moment when dream becomes awake within the dream. And notice the first caress of romance as it enfolds you in its grip. Cruising becomes discovering in Tahitian waters where you can embark on a voyage to explore these mystical 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 stopover will become your next favorite idyll and unforgettable memory.

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, 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.

Sailing Perfected Here

The greatest sailors in the history of the world first sailed here. Now it's your turn. Follow the ancient Polynesian canoes and European tall ships and chart your own epic South Seas voyage to discover these fabled isles aboard your own yacht.



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Types of Yacht Experiences

Private Sailing Charter

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.

Bareboat Sailing Charter

Captain of your own catamaran or monohull.



© Tahiti Tourisme

Checklist for the Perfect Sailing Experience:

- 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 (27°C) 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 islands' 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.Tahiti-Tourisme.org



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Cruise Ships and Yacht Charters

M/S Paul Gauguin
www.pgcruises.com

Windstar Cruises
www.windstarcruises.com

Island Escape Cruises
www.islandescapecruises.com

Aranui 5
www.aranui.com

Dream Yacht Charter
www.dreamyachtcharter.com

Tahiti Yacht Charter
www.tahitiyachtcharter.com

Charter Operations Only

The Moorings
www.moorings.com

Sunsail Yacht Charters
www.sunsail.com

Sailing Huahine Voile
www.tahitisailingcharter.com

Ultimate Lady
www.pacificavenues.com

Getting to Tahiti

All flights arrive at Faa'a International Airport (PPT), located near the city of Papeete on the main island of Tahiti. The airport is close and convenient to all the major hotels and resorts on 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.Tahiti-Tourisme.org. We recommend visitors plan international air, inter-island transportation, and airport transfers in advance with your Preferred Travel Professional.

Inter-Island Transportation



Air Tahiti

www.airtahiti.aero

Air Tahiti is the major inter-island airline has a fleet of 9 ATR aircraft, two 19-seat Twin-Otters and three 8-seat Beechcrafts.

Air Archipels

www.air-archipels.com

Air archipels has a fleet of 3 Beechcrafts and 2 Twin-Otters.

Air Gekko

www.airgekko.com

Air archipels has a fleet of a Cessna Citation CJ 2+ and a Beech King Air 200.

SARL POL'AIR

www.compagniepolair.com

Charter flights with a 19-seat Beech 1900 D. This is a versatile and high-performance aircraft with a large cargo capacity.

Tahiti Helicopters

www.tahiti-helicopters.com

Tahiti Air Charter

www.tahiti-air-charter.net

Tahiti Air Charter has a fleet of a Cessna Caravan 208 (8 seats) and a Cessna 206 (5 seats).



Aremiti

www.aremiti.pf

Aremiti 5 : Rapid catamaran, 30 min. crossing

Aremiti Ferry 2 : Catamaran, 40 min. crossing

Terevau

www.facebook.com/Terevau

Rapid catamaran, 30 min. crossing



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International Airline Companies



Air France

www.airfrance.pf

Air New-Zealand

www.airnewzealand.pf

Air Tahiti Nui

www.airtahitinui.com

Aircalin

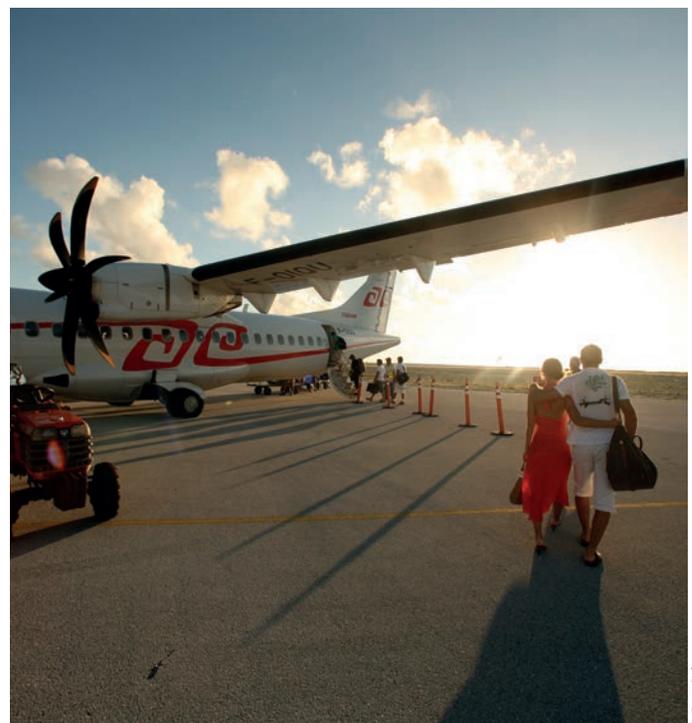
www.aircalin.com

Hawaiian Airlines

www.hawaiianair.com

Latam Airlines Group

www.latam.com



© Greg Lebacoz

PREPARING FOR YOUR VACATION

Entry Requirements

Any foreign visitor coming to French Polynesia must hold a valid passport. For more informations : <http://www.polynesie-francaise.pref.gouv.fr/Vos-demarches/ETRANGERS/English>

1. Stays less or equal to three months (for leisure purposes).

All foreigners are requested to hold a visa to enter French Polynesia, except some citizens. Additionally, special exemptions may be granted to holders of a diplomatic or governmental and biometrical passport of certain countries. Regarding short stay visas, visitors must hold a return flight ticket.

2. Stays exceeding three months

Should a foreigner wish to stay longer than a period of three months in French Polynesia, the latter should apply for a long stay visa.

The only exception will be for EU nationals, the European Economic Area, Switzerland, Monaco and San Marino.

3. Visa requirements

Prior to their arrival in French Polynesia, applicants must contact the Prefecture of their place of residence (if in France) or the nearest embassy or consulate of their place of residence.

Any visa requirements fall within the competence of these authorities. Please check the relevant websites to ask for an appointment and obtain the list of required documents to attach to your long stay visa request in French Polynesia.

For any additional information in relation to foreigners' entry and stay in French Polynesia, please contact the "Direction de la Réglementation et du Contrôle de la Légalité (DRCL)" by email: etrangers@polynesie-francaise.pref.gouv.fr

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.Tahiti-Tourisme.org

What are *The Islands of Tahiti*?

The Islands of Tahiti consist of 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 of Tahiti are 10 hours behind GMT. This is a 12 hours summertime or 11 hours wintertime difference from Paris, 2 hours difference from the United States Pacific Coast, 6 hours difference from Santiago, 19 hours from Tokyo and the Australian eastern seaboard and a 22 hours difference from New Zealand.

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, 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/> 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, many 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 (27°C). 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.Tahiti-Tourisme.org.

GLOSSARY

Welcome

Hello

Goodbye

Thank you

Thank you very much

Yes

No

Cheers!

Well

How do you do?

I'm fine

No problem, it's ok

Flower, national symbol of Tahiti

Islet

Dinner's ready!

Maeva, manava

'Ia ora na

Nana

Mauruuru

Mauruuru roa

'E (without speaking)

fast double raising eyebrows

'Aita

Manuia !

Maita'i

E aha te huru ?, maita'i ?

Maita'i roa

'Aita pe'ape'a

Tiare Tahiti

Motu

Tama'a

Food

Traditional Polynesian food

Traditional Polynesian oven

Local stewed fruits

Ancient place of worship

Song

Traditionnal dance

Polynesian guitar

Drum

Polynesian percussion instrument

Couple dance

Traditionnal canoe

Sculpted statue

Traditionnal patchwork bedcover

Man, husband

Woman, wife

Ma'a

Ma'a Tahiti

Ahima'a

Po'e

Marae

Himene

'Ori

'Ukulele

Pahu

To'ere

Tamure

Va'a

Tiki

Tifaifai

Tane

Vahine

TAHITI LOS ANGELES PARIS TOKYO AUCKLAND SYDNEY



Maeva

Bienvenue - Welcome



Air Tahiti Nui, le lien qui unit la Polynésie au monde

Voyager à bord de notre compagnie, c'est faire un premier pas vers la beauté de Tahiti et ses îles, ses couleurs, ses senteurs et son accueil légendaire. Au départ de Paris, Los Angeles, Tokyo et Auckland, nos équipages, plusieurs fois primés parmi les meilleurs du monde, ont à cœur de faire de votre voyage un moment inoubliable. Nos cabines équipées de systèmes de divertissement de nouvelle génération font de votre voyage un véritable moment de détente et de plaisir.

Air Tahiti Nui, connecting French Polynesia to the world

Take the first step to immersing yourself in the beauty of Tahiti and her islands - its colors, fragrances and legendary hospitality - aboard Air Tahiti Nui. From Paris, Los Angeles, Tokyo and Auckland, our crew, rated among the best in the world, aim to make your trip unforgettable. Our cabins, fitted with latest-generation entertainment systems, will make your flight one of genuine relaxation and pleasure.

www.airtahitinui.com

AirTahitiNui
TO TATOU MANUREVA



LOST

FOUND



There are many sides to *The Islands of Tahiti*. Yet they are all connected by *Mana*. *Mana* is a life force and spirit that surrounds us. You can see it. Touch it. Taste it. Feel it. And from the moment you arrive, you will understand why we say our islands are **EMBRACED** by *MANA*



To discover *Mana* for yourself, visit Tahiti-Tourisme.org

