

WELCOME TO
Tahiti

Don't just sail,
 **Sunsail**



Share your Sunsail experience

We love to see what you've been up to on your holiday.
Share your photos on Facebook, Instagram and LinkedIn making sure to tag us.



@SUNSAILUK



@SUNSAILHOLIDAYS



@SUNSAILUK



“

On behalf of the Sunsail team, I would like to welcome you to French Polynesia. Experience warm, gentle trade winds, set against the backdrop of the mesmerising turquoise sea.

ALEXANDRE RICHARDOT
Base Manager

This eGuide was made by Sunsail Co. and is meant to be used for informational purposes only as well as to give you general information and general understanding of the region. By using this eGuide you understand that some changes in information are possible and that this eGuide is no substitute for a full Chart and Area Briefing or official charts issued by the government

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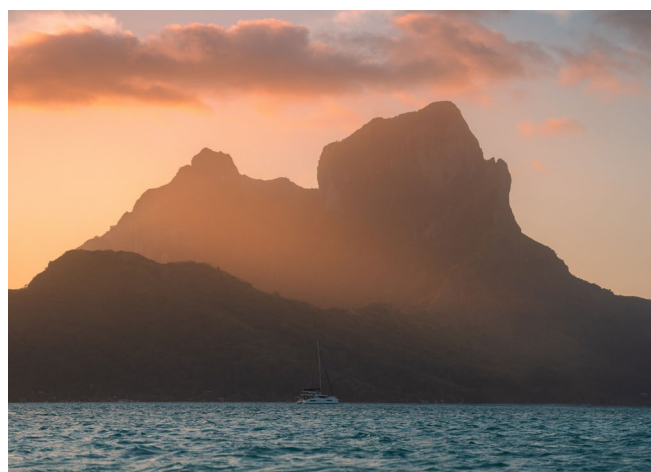
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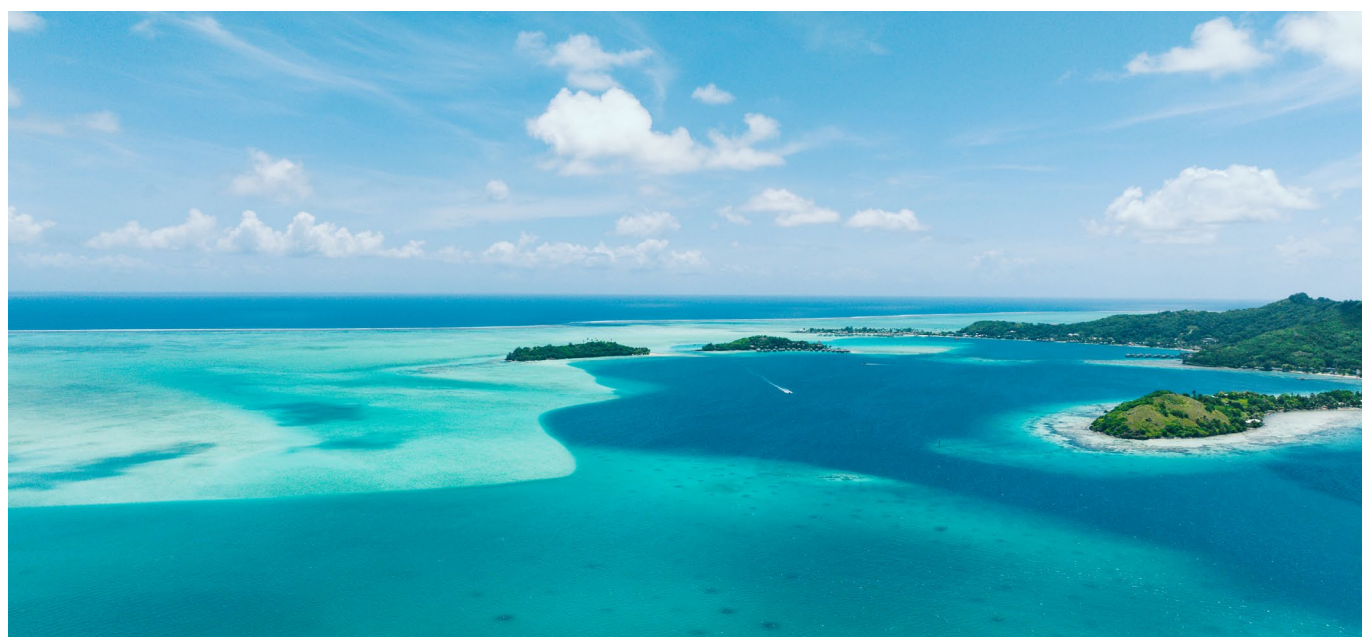
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Sunsail Raiatea

Raiatea, nicknamed "The Sacred Island" and once at the heart of ancient Polynesia. The Sunsail base is at Marina Apooiti, 2km from the town of Uturoa. The base is located in the middle of the Leeward Islands, the North-western group of French Polynesia, and is located just 2 minutes from the airport.

BASE FACILITIES

- Shower facilities
- Briefing room
- Restaurant
- Dive centre
- Internet
- Water
- Fuel
- Weather forecast

LOCAL FACILITIES

The Leeward Islands have many activities to offer such as scuba diving, snorkelling, islands tours in 4-wheel drives, deep sea fishing, visits to vanilla plantations, black pearl farms, maraes (holy places), horseback riding and trekking.

For more useful information on the local area, view our ['Useful Information'](#) section.



Reception Opening Hours

Monday - Sunday: 7:30am to 5pm

Team Contact Numbers

Customer Support +689 40 600 485

Base Manager +689 87 21 10 73

alexandre.richardot@thlmarine.com
Alexandre Richardot

VHF ch 10 (no VHF license needed).

Please take note this is short range ONLY, if you don't get a response because of the distance, call the Customer Service Number. **For emergencies use ch 16.**

Base Address

Marina Apooiti
Uturoa Raiatea, French Polynesia

Time Difference

UTC/GMT -10 hours





Upon Arrival

AIRPORT ARRIVAL

Most clients land around 8:00am and fly out again around 5:50pm, during base opening hours. For any questions regarding transfers and facilities upon arrival or departure please get reach out to our customer service sunsail.tahiti@thlmarine.com.

After a stop in the airport of Papeete, Tahiti, you will take a plane with a local company on to Raiatea. Facilities at Papeete, Tahiti, include several gift and pearl boutiques, a flower shop, car rental, restaurants, internet points, duty free shop, money exchange and a bank.

AIRPORT TRANSFERS

You can pre-book a minivan or taxi from North Uturoa Airport to the Marina. Alternatively take a taxi to the base a journey of approximately five minutes.

The transfer time from Raiatea / Uturoa Airport to the base is approximately 5 minutes and the costs are around:

- CFP 2000 per person (one way). Payment is due to the driver locally upon arrival.

CAR RENTAL

Raiatea Location+689 40 66 34 06

LOCAL TAXES AND CHARGES

Please note you will be subject to local taxes and charges within Tahiti, payable locally. At your time of booking, these costs are 400 CPF per person for guests aged 12 and over.

WHAT TO DO WHILST WAITING FOR YOUR YACHT

- Provisioning
- Have lunch in one of our local restaurants

CHECK IN AT OUR RECEPTION

When you arrive at the marina, please go to the Sunsail reception where our team will help to check you in.

Please ensure you have the following items ready:

- Passport or identity card
- Mobile phone number
- Credit card for payment of your yacht's security deposit
- Original skipper's qualification or licence, if not uploaded to your [MyAccount](#)

Please ensure all pre-travel tasks have been completed prior to your arrival to avoid any delays.

OUT OF HOURS ARRIVAL

If you arrive after office hours, a sign will be left at the gate with security, on the office door, and also on the yacht with the client's name and booking number. If possible, a short boat briefing will be arranged for overnight. A full boat briefing will be given the following day.

EMBARKATION TIME

Your boarding time is at 12pm. We thank you for your patience and understanding whilst waiting to board your yacht. Please ensure you have left your mobile phone number with our reception team who will contact you as soon as your yacht is ready.

EMBARKATION TIME

Boarding is **12pm** and disembarkation is **12pm**.

LUGGAGE STORAGE

There is a locker room at the base where you can leave unneeded luggage for the duration of your charter.



Briefings

CHART BRIEFING

- Enjoy more time on the water by watching the required chart briefing prior to your arrival from the comfort of your home. Feel free to share the links with your fellow crew and start to build your perfect week.
- Find your chart briefing video [here](#).
- After viewing this, take note of any outstanding questions and discuss these with our teams upon arrival at our base.
- Our Customer Service team are happy to answer all questions, please ensure that your main crew members attend the chart briefing. The times of briefings will differ dependant on your arrival time and briefer availability.

BOAT BAG

At the chart briefing, each captain is given a yacht bag, which contains the yacht documents, the crew list and the last customs clearance form, as well as the skipper's notice information, and a telephone to use while here.

HEALTH AND SAFETY BRIEFING

We take the safety of all our customers very seriously. Please ensure you and each of your crew watch our health and safety video [here](#) prior to your arrival. This will ensure you are all set for a fun and safe week on the water.

YACHT BRIEFING

Once you have boarded your yacht, a customer service agent will go through all the technical aspects of the yacht and safety equipment. Please note that the skipper and first mate should both be present for this briefing. For those arriving outside of reception hours, your yacht briefing will be delivered the following morning.



CHARTER WITH SKIPPER

The skipper's time is booked from 12:00 to 12:00 for early boarding starts. If your boarding is at 18:00, you will meet your skipper at 8:00 the following day, unless specifically requested.

The skipper is responsible for the safety of the yacht at all times. The skipper is not permitted to dive with you, nor leave the vessel overnight, and must have their own cabin. The skipper must conduct a safety brief with you before leaving the dock regardless of the duration of their contract with you.

If you hired a skipper for less than the full duration of your charter, he/she is still required to give you a thorough briefing on all aspects of the yacht and dinghy in addition to assisting you with planning an itinerary for the trip and advising you how to contact the base, the return to base procedures and the emergency assistance procedures. It is suggested that you view the chart briefing online that will be supplemented by the skipper during his/her time with you on the yacht. It is also suggested that you make it clear what exactly you want to cover: anchoring, docking, etc.

The skipper will be required to give you as much information as you require concerning the yacht and its systems, sailing skills, and navigation in general. For one-day check out skippers, it is the client's responsibility to get the skipper back to the base. If you prefer not to come back to the base you must pay for his/her expenses (ferry, taxi, etc.) to get him/her back to the base.

The skipper will be required to give you as much information as you require concerning the yacht and its systems, sailing skills, and navigation in general. For one-day check out skippers, it is the client's responsibility to get the skipper back to the base. If you prefer not to come back to the base you must pay for his/her expenses (ferry, taxi, etc.) to get him/her back to the base.

A gratuity is expected and is typically given to the skipper at the end of the charter. The amount is entirely at your discretion.

SAILING LICENCE

Although no sailing licences are required for cruising in French Polynesia, you will need to fill out our online [sailing CV](#) to confirm that you have the required experience to skipper a yacht in French Polynesia.

Please note: you are required to receive a [LEVEL 3 rating](#) on your resume to charter in this destination. If you have a sailing certificate, we strongly recommend that you take this on charter with you.



Optional Extras

PROVISIONING

- You can pre-order your food and drink provisions in advance of your arrival. Please ask our reception team upon your arrival if there is something you have forgotten.
- Please visit our online store [here](#). Please note provisioning orders must be submitted 6 days prior to your arrival.
- Your confirmed order will be delivered to your boat on the day of your boarding.
- If you miss the cutoff date or forget to add an item to your order, there are plenty of local stores available.

Please see the [useful information section](#) of the guide for further details.

YACHT DAMAGE WAIVER

Our [Yacht Damage Waiver](#) can be added to your charter account any time prior to you leaving the marina. The pre-paid, daily amount reduces your liability in the case of damage caused to the yacht or the loss of equipment on board.

A security **deposit is required for all charters**. The amount will vary based on the size and type of yacht being chartered, please consult our terms and conditions for further information [HERE](#). A pre-authorisation will be taken against a credit card and will be released when the yacht is returned to base without damage.

FUEL

Fuel is not included on bareboat charters. Your yacht will be delivered with a full tank of fuel. At the end of your charter, simply return your yacht with a full tank or pay for the fuel used at the local marina price. Please refer to your destination-specific refuelling instructions for details.

Exceptions: Fuel is included for crewed charters/floatilla charters.

WI-FI

- Wi-Fi is available at the base in the office area
- **Wi-fi also available as an optional extra onboard payable on check-in.** We recommend clients request the Wi-Fi box in advance to ensure availability at check-in. - please contact our Pre Travel team.

Be sure to share your videos and pictures whilst out on the water and don't forget to tag us! Our social media handles can be found on [page 2](#).

FISHING GEAR

Trolling rods (with reel) can be added to your charter for 100\$ per charter. Lures are available in some shops and gas stations in town. We have a very limited supply of fishing rods; we therefore encourage encouraged to pre-pay this option - please reach out to our Pre-Travel team.

If you would like to go for some serious fishing whilst out in French Polynesia, we recommend you bring your own or rent from a local. You also have the option to go on a professional fishing tour for the day.





Optional Extras

Enjoy a carefree holiday on the water.



You can pre-order our optional extra's in advance of your arrival in Tahiti. Please ask our reception team upon your arrival if there is something you have forgotten.

STAND UP PADDLE BOARDS (SUPs)

SUPs are light and easy to manoeuvre which makes them a great option when exploring the coastlines and heading to the beach from your yacht.

KAYAKS

Our one and two person kayaks provide the freedom to explore our bays and beaches plus can be great fun. Ensure you are wearing your life vests and see our swim safe policy on [page 17](#) for further guidance.

SAFETY NETTING

For those travelling with children, we do suggest adding safety netting to your yacht. This is a chargeable extra and must be organised in advance of your arrival to the base.



On Board Your Yacht

ELECTRICITY

- The standard voltage on all our yachts is 12 volts and you will find plenty of USB sockets throughout the yacht.
- Throughout the yacht you can also find plenty of 220V AC outlets, standard European-style outlets. To use them, your yacht either needs to be connected to shore power, or be equipped with an inverter, or have the generator running. Most of our catamarans have a generator and inverter, however, be mindful that it depends on the model you booked.
- We recommend packing an adaptor or two if you plan to bring local appliances.

BBQ/ GRILL

- All yachts are equipped with a barbecue; currently only charcoal BBQs.
- If you require charcoal and fire starters, you are welcome to purchase additional supplies at the store.
- While in use, please move your dinghy to the bow and have a bucket of water handy. The base does not provide extra charcoal nor lighter fluid. If there are any leftovers from the previous charter, these will be offered to guests free of charge. Otherwise, guests will have to purchase the items themselves.
- Please do not dispose of charcoal or any other items in the ocean and use in the marina is strictly prohibited, so please be mindful.

COOLER BOXES

Cooler boxes are available at the base on a first come first served basis at no additional charge. Please return them clean and undamaged otherwise you will be charged for replacement. Only one per boat.

MUSIC

All Sunsail yacht stereos can be paired to your device via Bluetooth.

ICE

Ice is available in the base; each boat gets 2 bags of complimentary ice.

WATER MAKER

If your yacht is fitted with a water maker, please note you should use this as directed in your briefing, and never **in less than 10-feet of water or when anchored in a bay with muddy waters**. The water maker is not considered essential equipment and is not covered under the [Sunsail 4-hour commitment](#). If your water maker isn't working, there are locations within your cruising grounds where you can purchase water.

Before Leaving The Base

- Please ensure you have all the kitchen equipment and bedding you require. Extra bedding and some cooking utensils are available upon request.
- Check out fins from boxes on the dock. We have a range of sizes available, however these are limited, so we request that you take only what you will use. Take note that we are no longer providing snorkelling masks or snorkels.
- Check your safety equipment with your boat briefer. We have a limited supply of children's life jackets (ages 4+ only). If you have your own children's life jacket, we encourage you to bring it along.
- Make sure the fuel/water tanks are full
- Make sure you have your yacht papers bag with the last customs clearance
- If you have included or added Wi-Fi, please ensure you have the router on board.
- Make sure you are provisioned
- Make sure you have enough cash



Whilst Out On The Water

EMERGENCY CONTACT INFORMATION

We always recommend calling the base first in case of any incidents. However, there are a couple of contacts we would like our guests to keep handy:

- **Customer Service:**
(7:30am – 5pm) | (689) 40 600 485
- **Chase Call Desk:**
(7.30am-5pm) | (689) 40 600 485, Sunsail office
- **Emergency number:**
(5pm-7.30am) | +689 87 21 10 73
Alexandre Richardot / *Base Manager*
- **VHF 10:** Base contact
(Must be in line of sight of the base)
- **VHF 16:** JRCC - Joint Rescue Coordination Centre
(emergency only) or dial 16 on your local phone.

In the event of an incident (alone or with a third party) you will be required to fill out an incident report form and sent it to base office within 24hrs.



ACCIDENTS AND COLLISIONS

While out sailing things can happen where an accident or collision with another vessel occurs. If you are unfortunate enough to be involved in one, please contact the base manager immediately.

Please follow the check list below on what needs to be completed no matter how big or small the accident or collision with another vessel is:

- Check all persons are safe and no injuries.
- Make sure the vessel is in a safe area and no further injuries or damage can occur.
- Return back to dockage/anchorage, even if it looks like no damage is visible.
- Skipper of both vessels need to exchange contact details for later reference.
- Photograph the damaged area if damage has been induced.
- Please note that not returning to the scene of a collision or accident does make the situation a little more complicated.

An incident report form is provided in the boat's paperwork. Please ensure you fill it out clearly, simply, and with only factual information.

MAINTAIN A LOOKOUT

All Sunsail yachts are equipped with an autopilot. Make sure one person is always maintaining a lookout, especially if the auto pilot is on. This person should be close to the helm and should watch for other vessel, debris, fish pots, land or other navigational hazards.

Make sure your lookout knows how to disengage the autopilot and brief him / her on what to watch out for. Breaking water or patches of light-coloured water and brown areas may indicate shallow water or rocks. Seeing one fish pot usually means that there will be others.

Always keep a good lookout and beware of small floating markers. Do not pass between the two close together, as they are probably connected with a line. Frequently, the second marker is half submerged or invisible. If you catch one in the propeller, try to remark it before you cut it loose, this is someone's living.

ACCIDENTAL GROUNDING

If you should accidentally run aground the most important thing is to get off again as soon as possible – for those purposes, please call the coast guard immediately followed by the base supervisor and we will provide you with immediate assistance.

Grounding is not a pleasant experience so try to make sure it does not happen to you.

SECURITY

The entire marina is under 24/7 security.

Whilst out on charter please ensure you take the appropriate precautions as advised by the base to lock valuables when leaving the yacht.

NIGHT SAILING

Night Sailing is not permitted; you must be moored at least one hour before sunset at all our locations.

It is **strictly forbidden** to sail alone; we require two persons minimum on board.

DINGHY SAFETY

We are counting on our guests to be mindful around their dinghy. Ensure you are towing and/or stowing this correctly whilst out on the water. Hoist the dinghy on the davit when not in use and secure it to prevent any swinging/rubbing when sailing. Please ensure you take proper precautions when operating the dinghy and have the kill cord always attached to your person whilst underway.

A flashlight must be used at night while underway.

Additionally, please ensure your dinghy is secure when docked. Please secure the dinghy by using a stern anchor while docked to avoid it going underneath the dock.

WATER AND GARBAGE

- **Water** can be purchased at most of the islands you will be sailing to. We cover this topic in the chart briefing, or you can find more information in the Destinations section of this guide.
- **Garbage** management has become challenging in the Leeward Islands, as there is no garbage disposal dedicated to sailboats on these islands: you will have to store your garbage on board and drop it off at the base. Ensure you have separated general rubbish and recycling items. Please respect consciously the instructions on how to sort out recycling items and note recycling bins only take loose items.
- **Please note:** all organic items must be thrown overboard during navigation. There should be no organics at all or food leftovers in your general trash bag. Never give your garbage to local sailors, you should dispose of it directly in garbage points along the coast or simply at the base.

MOORING FEES

All moorings in the area belong either to restaurants, Pearl farms, charter companies or similar and are usually for their clients. As a guest you may use them free of charge otherwise call the owner to ask for permission. In most places you will anchor, except in Bora Bora where anchoring is prohibited and you have to pay 4000 XPF per night to private company BBMS whom owns all of the mooring buoys in Bora Bora.

This price includes your night in Bora Bora's lagoon regardless of the spot you're going to. It is mandatory to call or text BBMS prior to your arrival (when leaving Tahaa or Raiatea) and pay for the nights you intend to stay as soon as you get in the lagoon. The dock master will meet you at arrival or soon after, and give you an invoice (CC welcome). There are 4 mooring balls areas in the lagoon of Bora Bora and you are free to use any ball without prior reservation after paying the mooring fee to BBMS.

MOORING TIPS

Preparing Your Boat:

- Prepare two stern lines (back lines; one on each side). Ensure these are attached on the outside to the stern cleats with a bowline, these can then be passed directly to marina staff (or your lead crew) without getting tangled
- Move your dinghy to the bow and securely tie to the pulpit: ensuring both cleats remain free for your lazy line
- Secure fenders to the guard wire, spread evenly on each side of the yacht. The forward fender should not be more than about 1 metre in front of the shrouds. Ensure the top of each fender is at deck level

Preparing Your Crew

- Have at least 1 crew member ready to throw the windward stern line to the harbour staff. The windward line is the line on the side that the wind is blowing from. Always ensure your windward line is given first
- Have a crew member with a boat hook at the stern of the yacht ready to take the lazyline from the harbour staff. They will then walk with this, passing it "hand over hand" to the bow of the boat, pull in the slack and fix to the bow cleat
- Be sure to pull in the slack from the concrete block, not from the quay and to drop all excess rope back into the water, not onto the deck

Take Note

- All of our yachts will experience some "prop kick/walk". This means that as you engage reverse gear, the stern of the yacht will kick one way or the other before you start to move backwards and gain steerage.
- Unless the wind is strong it is recommended to berth as slowly as possible. This will allow you to maintain control of the yacht.
- Give yourself plenty of space to get used to handling your yacht and take your time.



4 Hour Commitment

We maintain our fleet to the highest standards so you can make the most of your time on the water. However, if you have a breakdown or technical problems, please contact your base team so we can support you. For essential equipment we provide a 4-Hour Commitment. This means we will attend to the yacht within four working hours of you notifying us of the breakdown of any essential equipment (judged by the opening hours of the base reception). We are able to support you with the breakdown of unessential equipment too however this may not be attended to within 4 hours of us being notified.

ESSENTIAL EQUIPMENT INCLUDES

- Engine
- Transmission
- Windlass
- Sails
- Standing and Running Rigging
- Battery and Alternator

UNESSENTIAL EQUIPMENT INCLUDES

- Cellular phones
- VHF
- Refrigeration
- Air conditioning
- Water maker
- CD player
- Marine toilets
- Water pump
- Dinghy and outboard
- Depth and speed instruments

Note: Breakdowns occurred outside the defined sailing area and hours (8am-5pm), problems due to user negligence, bad weather or force majeure are not covered. Get the full policy details by clicking [HERE](#).



Boat Papers & Procedures

PROCEDURES

- Your boat papers are an identification file for your yacht; they contain all of the documents required for you to charter one of our yachts. Legally these documents **MUST** be on board your yacht at all times whilst cruising.
- We suggest keeping your boat papers in the chart table and remove them only when asked.
- When you arrive at a marina or town quay, the marina staff or harbour master will collect your papers from you. Before you depart you must collect your boat papers and pay the mooring fee for your berth. Please take care of these papers and make sure to never leave any harbour without them. The coastguard police do occasionally carry out random checks, if you are stopped and do not have your boat papers you will be fined, and your boat could be impounded.
- Boat papers will not be taken from your boat in case you are spending a night on a mooring buoy or under anchorage. A staff member will come to your boat to charge the mooring fee instead. You should always request identification before paying any fees
- If you have any problems with the documents and the Port Authorities do not return the boat papers to you, you must contact Sunsail reception or the base manager directly.



COASTGUARD

During your time on the water, you may be stopped by the coastguard who may carry out some routine checks. Do not be alarmed this is a standard process. The coast guard will likely check your crew list to ensure this is accurate, the registration documents of the yacht, your tourist status and you may need to display your sailing qualification/licence if this is a requirement for your destination. You may be fined if there are passengers onboard the yacht that are not listed on the crew list or if you cannot provide the relevant paperwork.



Your Safety

STAY SAFE AND HEALTHY ABROAD

Please locate your safety card when you get onboard and ensure that all crew read it before leaving the marina. If you cannot find it, then please contact reception who can provide a replacement. Although you will have watched the online [Charter Safety Briefing](#) before leaving home, we recommend that you rewatch the video before leaving the dock. This can be done on your own devices using the QR code. We care a lot about your personal safety, so please read more about these topics in the safety card:

- Accident & Illness
- Be Aware & Safe
- Swimming & Beach Safety
- Alcohol & Drugs



SWIM SAFE

Swimming is often a fun and important part of a vacation. However local rules, flag systems, currents and where swimming may be permitted, can be different and vary from country to country. We strongly recommend that you and all your crew read through our 'swim safe' information online before you travel. Unfortunately even the strongest of swimmers can get into difficulties. The information on our website covers children, your surroundings, looking out for others, and not overestimating your own ability. Snorkel vests, life jackets (please see [page 11](#) for advise on what is available) and diver down flags are all available on board.



Our Yachts



Community and Environment



Engagement and Education



Action on Waste



Net Zero: Our Carbon Reduction Commitment

Sustainability

As passionate sailors, we want to look after the beautiful destinations that our customers visit. Being conscious of the impact we can have on local communities; the ocean and wildlife is key to ensuring we protect them for future generations to enjoy. Here are a few of our top tips on how to minimise your footprint when out on the water that collectively makes a big difference:

- Sails up, sail green! Minimise the motor.
- Anchor with care.
- Give sea life space and do not attempt to touch marine life.
- Take only pictures.
- Leave only footprints.
- Throw nothing overboard.
- Turn electricity off.
- Use air-conditioning only when needed.
- Recycle and reuse where possible.
- Bring refillable water bottles.
- Say NO to plastic bags and bring a reusable bag.
- Minimise your plastic.
- Collect litter when possible.
- Buy local.
- Use eco-friendly and fair trade products.
- Use facilities on land.
- Shower quickly and ashore where possible.



Find out more

OUR
 OCEAN
PROMISE



Return to Base

Disembarkation Time

Please ensure you fully vacate your yacht by **12pm**.

RETURN PROCEDURE

When you return to the marina, let us know on VHF channel 10 or by telephone and we will send you a pilot. Prepare the mooring lines and fenders. The office is open daily from 07:30 - 17:00. However, the technicians/pilots are on break from 11:30 am. to 12:30 pm, please organize your arrival accordingly.

Please ensure:

- Please empty all holding tanks and bilges at least 3-5 NM from shore before returning to the base.
- Please contact the office or the base supervisor when you leave your last anchorage with an estimated time of arrival back to base.
- Prepare your lines and fenders.
- Follow the refuelling guidance provided
- One of our staff will meet you with a dinghy outside the marina to bring the boat in and dock.

RE-FUELLING

Fuel is not included on bareboat charters. (Exceptions: Fuel is included for crewed charters/ flotilla charters.)

Your yacht will be delivered with a full tank of fuel and should be returned with a full tank at the end of your charter. If the yacht is not returned full, fuel used will be charged at the local marina price.

Refuelling arrangements vary by destination. In some locations, you will refuel before returning to base, while in others our team will assist with refuelling and returning the yacht to her berth.

Full details will be provided during your yacht briefing.

In Tahiti:

- Simply refuel before making your way back to base. Our team will be there to welcome you on arrival and will take care of returning the yacht to her berth.
- Contact the base when leaving your final anchorage and advise your estimated arrival time.
- In all cases, guests should refuel at the fuel station before returning to the marina.



Before You Leave Your Yacht

Before disembarkation, you will be met with a debriefer. It is done to let us know if you have encountered any problems with the boat or broken anything during the trip, so we can rectify any problems for the next charter.

Please ensure:

- Allow 15-20 minutes for an on-board debrief with our technician to record any maintenance issues experienced during your charter. This enables us to keep our boats in the best condition and ensures the boat will be ready for the next customer.
- Navigational instruments have been covered and sailing bag has been closed
- Your boat papers are returned to one of our Customer Service Team/ to Reception.
- Charts, keys and guidebook have been left in the chart table
- All rubbish has been removed and disposed of in marina bins.
- All cupboards and refrigerator have been emptied of food
- All provisioning has been placed on the gallery top or saloon table for removal.
- Dishes have been washed and stowed.
- All sheets and towels placed in the pillowcases and left on the bed.
- Snorkelling fins to be rinsed and placed back into the cockpit locker
- Children's Life jackets (if applicable) have been returned.
- All personal possessions have been removed; please check thoroughly as items are often left onboard
- All hatches are closed.
- Your transfer has been arranged with our Customer Service Team.

Please complete your online survey once the email from Sunsail arrives.



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Weather

PREVAILING WINDS

There are two main seasons during the year:

- The Rainy season from November to April: humid & hot (29-35 degrees Celsius)
- The Dry season ("winter") from May to October: cooler and windier (26-29 degrees Celsius)

The Leeward Islands benefit from an easterly trade wind of 10-15 knots, sometimes reaching 20 knots, with rough seas and a swell from 3-5 feet (1-1.5 metres).

During the dry season, mainly in July and August southeast winds of 25-30 knots called Mara'amu could occur with ocean swells up to 10-12 feet (2.5-3 metres). These swells can last up to 3 days. During the Mara'amu, it is strongly advised not to anchor on the leeward side of the high islands (due to accelerations of winds).

From the south of Raiatea to the north of Taha'a, the passes are exposed to strong swells which makes nearby anchorages unpleasant or even dangerous.

For any questions regarding the weather, contact the base.

WEATHER FORECASTS

The base provides daily, a weather forecast for the next 7 days. There will be a copy in the boat bag. Reports can also be obtained by contacting the base. We strongly advise to use at least 2 different sources for weather predictions, and update daily. Additionally, you can also check it here:

You can also find weather forecasts:

Internet windguru.cz or windy.com

VHF Radio **The Raiatea Base**

VHF ch 10

Emergencies / JRCC - VHF ch 16

TIDES/ TIDAL STREAMS

The tidal range is less than 1 foot = 30cm and can generally be counted as non-existent. Low tide is around 6 am/ 6 pm, high tide is around noon/ midnight.

Currents inside the barrier reef cannot be generalised. However, it can be strong, particularly close to passes and inside reefs, due to swell. So, take care when swimming and snorkelling around passes.

Elsewhere, swimming and snorkelling are perfectly safe during daylight hours.

Ocean currents should not affect inter-island passages.

INTER-ISLAND AND INNER LAGOON NAVIGATION

- Do not leave one island for another after 10am. Trips sailing with the wind (Raiatea/Bora-Bora or Huahine/ Raiatea) do not take more than 4-5 hours. On the other hand, passages sailed against the wind can be much longer and even last a whole day in the event of Mara'amu (the strong wind from the Southeast).
- Arrival at the entrance of a pass must not be later than 3.30pm. So, think about leaving early!
- Do not go directly from Bora Bora to Huahine or vice versa. These crossings are too long to be done in one day. Plan an overnight stop in Taha'a or Raiatea.
- While navigating lagoons, pay particular attention to the underwater relief. There are some coral heads and patches of coral which are NOT mentioned on the GPS and can cause serious damage to the boat. It is therefore advisable to appoint a member of the crew to stand at the front of the boat and carefully monitor the surroundings.

NOTE: GPS is only an aid to navigation; the skipper must remain at the helm at all times, and under no circumstances can GPS be held responsible for grounding, collision or tailgating.

ENTRANCE AND EXITS OF PASSES

A **pass** is the navigable channel through the coral reef that allows boats to enter or exit the lagoon formed by the island's fringing or barrier reef.

- Before entering a pass, always keep a safe distance from the coral reef.
- Allow time to clearly identify the pass.
- Do not change course to enter the pass until you have clearly identified it.
- When leaving a pass, do not take your final course until you have moved at least one mile from the barrier. The waters often swirl near the barrier due to the return swell.
- In conclusion, to approach or leave the entrance to a pass, never cut flush with the reef.
- Entering and exiting passes should always be done **under power**, but keep in mind the possibility of unexpected engine failure, so always have the mainsail hoisted.
- Take good note of the currents, and the direction and the strength of the wind before committing yourself.
- Be prepared to use the anchor or jib in case of an emergency.
- In the event of a squall or poor visibility near the pass, stay far enough away and wait for the squall to end before entering / exiting the pass.
- **Always arrive at the pass before 3.30pm**

ANCHORING

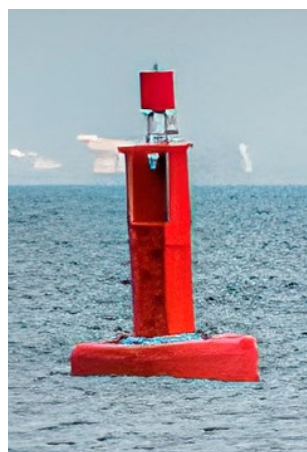
- **It is forbidden to sail and take a pass at night.** Don't wait too late in the afternoon before choosing an anchorage.
- It is recommended to **anchor in less than 30 feet** (10 meters) of water or to take a mooring (especially with winds greater than 20 knots).
- **Watch out for grounding!** Please put out enough chain (minimum 5 times the water depth, depending on weather conditions).
- The most beautiful areas are often poorly mapped; **always keep a lookout at the bow** when arriving at an anchorage.
- Drop anchor in the sand. When the yacht swings around the anchor, leave enough space so the chain does not touch the corals. Coral takes years to form and plays a critical role in marine ecology. It only takes a few seconds to damage it.
- Many areas are protected; be sure to anchor **only in authorized zones**.

BEACONS AND CARDINALS

- U.S. citizens must remember that when returning to an island, the red marker will be to port. It is not "red right returning"!
- Beacons and buoys are used to mark entrance into passes, ports, and some large bays. When entering a pass, keep the green buoy on starboard and the red one on port side.

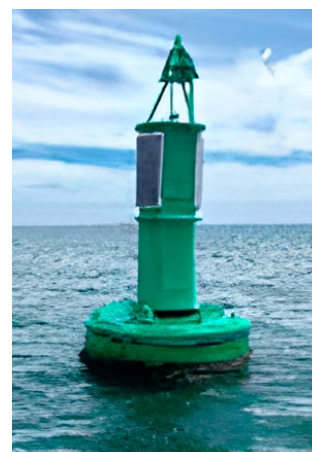
INNER PASSAGE MARKERS

You will see a lot of markers inside lagoons; you must navigate between the red and green ones—not too close and not too far. Channels are wide enough and obvious.



Red square marker

- Inside the lagoon, it shows land-side dangers. Never go island side of the red mark.



Green triangle marker

- In the lagoon, it shows reef-side dangers. Never go ocean side of a green mark.



CARDINAL MARKS

They indicate navigable waters to the named side of the marks. The body is yellow and black, and the top mark consists of two black cones.

- **North cardinal beacon:** Two cones superimposed, points up. Go north of the beacon.
- **South cardinal beacon:** Two cones superimposed, points down. Go south of the beacon.
- **East cardinal beacon:** Two reverse cones by the base. Go east of the beacon.
- **West cardinal beacon:** Two reverse cones by the points. Go west of the beacon.

Coral heads and patches of coral are sometimes marked with only a black stake or a mound of coral piled on top. As the water is very clear and visibility excellent, you won't have any problems seeing these.

LAGOON BEACONS AND NAVIGATION

Inside the lagoons, you must always remain vigilant and navigate well in the middle of the red and green beacons. As a reminder, the cylindrical red beacons are always on the island side, and the green conical beacons are always on the seaside.



- Do not go too close to the buoys; these are often placed on large coral heads.
- Always pay attention to the colour of the water. This allows you to quickly estimate the water depth, and you should always favour passages in deeper water. Many coral "potatoes" may not be listed in navigation charts.
 - Dark blue = 20 meters and more (65 feet and more)
 - Turquoise blue = 3 to 5 meters (10 to 16 feet)
 - Light blue = less than 3 meters (less than 10 feet)
 - Green = from 1 to 0 meters (less than 3 feet)

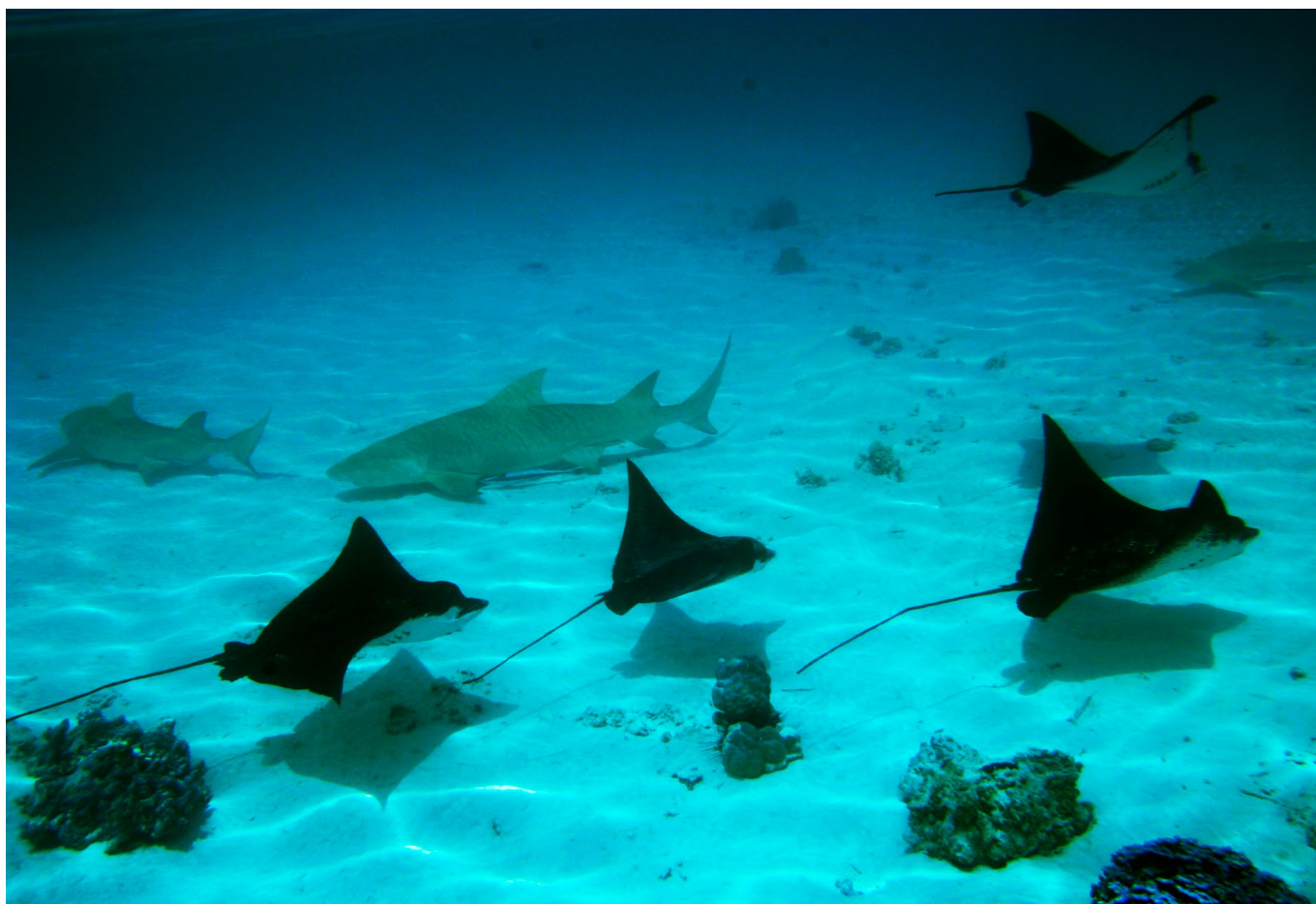


Marine Life

Marine life is fragile, and we encourage you to be aware about preserving coral and marine life in general. That means being extremely careful regarding dropping off anchor on sandy bottom only, avoiding your anchor and chain to touch any coral heads. As well as your behaviour during snorkelling, please make sure to never stand up on coral nor grab it or touch it (it kills polliques), also never dive down on wild animals such as rays and sharks as it tends to split the group apart and scares them away. Please observe wild animals respectfully from the surface.

FISHES AND UNDERWATER DANGERS

- Do not eat lagoon fish; they can be affected by ciguatera. Prefer deep-sea fish: bonito, tuna, sea bream or mahi mahi are all edible.
- Avoid touching the long black spines of sea urchins, which cause painful wounds.
- Do not touch fire coral either; it can be recognised by its relatively smooth surface and tawny colour.
- If you go to the reef, wear reef shoes to protect your feet from coral, shells, and poisonous stonefish lurking in the sand and gravel.
- Do not walk on the coral to avoid injury and especially to avoid damaging it.



Other Useful Information

MEDICAL

In Raiatea, there are five private doctors, a hospital and a medical care centre (dispensaire). The hospital is open 24/7.

There is a medical centre and a pharmacy on each island: Taha'a, Huahine and Bora Bora.

Hospitals and Medical Centres:

Raiatea	40 600 800
Bora Bora	40 677 077
Huahine	40 688 248
Taha'a	40 656 331
Maupiti	40 678 018

The opening hours of the dispensaries in the islands are from 7:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. on weekdays.

Pharmacies:

Raiatea: Uturoa (main town).....	40 66 34 44
Tahaa: Haamene.....	40 60 86 08
Bora Bora: Vaitape.....	87 30 81 91
Huahine: Fare	0 60 61 41

CURRENCY AND CREDIT CARDS

The Pacific Franc (XCP / CFP) is the common money in French Polynesia.

US Dollars are mostly accepted throughout the Leeward Islands, but Euros less so.

Visa and MasterCard are accepted in most of the larger restaurants, supermarkets, Pearl Farms and vanilla plantations. Casual places on the beach and small grocery stores will take cash only.

Tipping is cash only, welcome in both local currency or USD.

LANGUAGE

The official languages of the French Polynesia are Tahitian and French. English is spoken in the tourist areas.

CUSTOMS & IMMIGRATION

On arrival, you will be required to show your passport, completed Immigration card (distributed on the aircraft) and your return ticket. Going through Immigration, Customs and Baggage Collection can take up to an hour.

Duty free allowances are similar to those in the EU. Airlines will assume no liability for perishable articles, e.g. food, which may also be confiscated by Customs.

No Airport Departure Tax or Taxes/Customs charges apply.

FRENCH POLYNESIAN CITY TAX

A City Tax is charged for all non-resident guests aged 12 and over.

The fee of 400 XPF per person is payable at reception on check-in.

ATM

ATMs are located in town on each island. On Raiatea you need to go over to Uturoa (none nearby base), Vaitape in Bora Bora, Patio or Haamene in Tahaa, Fare in Huahine. We recommend withdrawing enough cash prior to your departure.

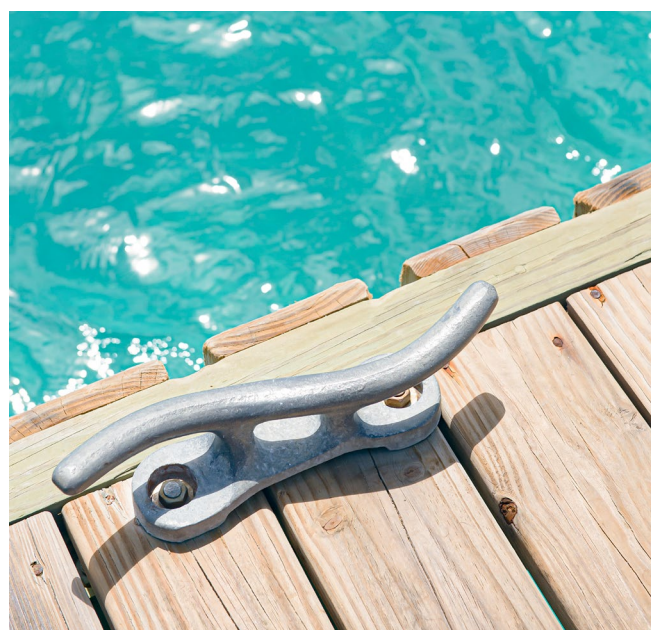
GROCERIES

We strongly suggest using our online provisioning service as getting to and from the store can result in additional charges for a taxi ride back to base. However, stocking up on-site is possible:

- **There is a central supermarket** - Carrefour Market, they offer delivery and ride back to the marina
- Super U and a small Leogite are located in downtown Uturoa
- LS Proxi is just outside town
- You'll find most essential produce, local fish, great quality meat from New Zealand, wonderful fruits and vegetables. Markets are open 7 days a week with limited hours on Sunday. Monday through Saturday 7:30 a.m. to 6pm and Sunday 6am to 11:30am/1pm. Buying alcohol could be restricted on weekends and public holiday.

DRONES

The use of flying drones may be restricted in some areas. For current drone regulations in this destination, please visit www.seac.pf/aeronefs-telepilotes/





Activities

RESTAURANTS

Raiatea

- **La voile d'Or:** the restaurant you can find at Apooiti Marina, close by the base 40 66 12 97
- **Le Napoli:** Good pizzas and Italian-European cuisine, 5 mins drive from the base 40 66 10 77
- **Villa Ixora:** best table on Raiatea with a subtle blend of French cuisine and local Polynesian products – 15mins taxi ride from the base on the East Coast 40 66 33 00
- **Fish and Blue:** Beautiful restaurant on a white sand beach, great decoration and amazing sunset view, located on West coast, 10 mins taxi ride from the base 40 66 49 25
- **Opoa Beach Hôtel & restaurant :** beautiful restaurant with a beach, great original local cuisine. Possible to anchor in front of restaurant South of motu Oatara, easy access to Dinghy dock 40 60 05 10
- **Fare VAI Nui Hôtel & restaurant:** fine dinner - dinghy access from Toamaro anchorage 40 66 30 96 / 87 77 03 64

Tahaa

- **Motu Pearl Village:** Located in Faaaha Bay, a charming family-run beachfront venue open only on Friday nights. Local buffet-style cuisine and a traditional Polynesian show with dances and fire dance. 8,000 XPF per person including meal and show. Mooring buoys available in front. 40 65 66 25 / 87 34 07 97 / 87 31 91 42
- **The Ficus:** Small local venue in Apu Bay, dinghy accessible. Dinner can be organised for groups of more than 6 guests. Please call Maria at least one day in advance. 87 29 61 80

Bora Bora

- **Bora Bora Yacht Club:** Nice restaurant overwater, dinghy dock, close by mooring area. Souvenir shop available 40 67 60 47
- **The St James:** fine dinner and pastries, happy hour and tapas, great cocktails. Dinghy dock, accessible from Yacht Club mooring area (10mins ride) 40 67 64 62
- **Le Gecko:** Beautiful place by the bay with a swimming pool and great food. Dinghy accessible from Yacht Club mooring area. 87 32 08 60
- **Arii Motu Grill:** Family place on the beach on Motu Piti Aau, facing South mooring area. Call them one day before to organise lunch or dinner, they cook on demand. You can also have drinks at sunset time on their paradise-like beach 87 73 51 79

Huahine

- **Le Metis:** in town in Fare, best cuisine you can find in Huahine 87 34 11 76
- **Huahine Yacht Club:** in Fare, dinghy dock available 40 68 89 01
- **Le Mahana:** Hôtel and restaurant in Avea Bay, mooring buoys in the bay, dinghy dock available 40 60 60 40

RESTAURANTS AND TIPPING

Tipping is standard and expected in all restaurants and bars and for other services undertaken during your holiday. The rule of thumb is generally 10-15 percent of the amount charged. Some establishments automatically add this onto the bill.





WATER SPORTS

Canoeing - Hawaiki Nui Vaa' is the biggest local canoe race with around 100 canoes participating each year. It is a 3-day race held each year around the end of October and a nice typical event to see. A lot of sailing boats follow this race each year.

DIVING AND SNORKELLING

Diving is possible whilst visiting French Polynesia, however this should be organised with a local dive centre.

- **In Bora Bora:**
Eleuthera Bora Bora Diving Center
www.boradiving.com
Tel: 87 77 67 46
- **Hiro Dive Bora Bora**
www.hirodiveborabora.com
hirodiveborabora@gmail.com
Tel : 87 77 81 32
- **In Raiatea:**
Hemisphere Sub | Tel : 40 66 12 49
www.hemispheresub.com
- **In Huahine:**
Mahana Dive Club | Tel : 87 73 07 17
www.mahanadive.com
- **In Maupiti:**
Maupiti Diving Centre | Tel : 87 35 71 58
www.maupitidiving.com



Diving is popular but you should be aware that the only decompression facility is in Papeete and that in the event of an accident it might take some time to reach there.

Diving is not permitted directly from our yachts under any circumstances. Diving must only take place through reputable, certified dive operators using their own boats and equipment.

We have a range of fins available in various different sizes. We do have limited children's sizes therefore we recommend bringing your own to avoid disappointment. Please note that we do not provide snorkelling masks or snorkels onboard.

When snorkelling, the diving flag and buoy should be deployed and visible to all passing nearby.

Swim vests should be worn at all times whilst snorkelling

One person should remain out of the water, keeping watch of the others in the water.

FISHING

Some of the lagoon fishes can be affected by ciguatera disease, so it's better not to eat them.

Offshore fish such as bonito, tuna, and mahi mahi are edible. Crabs and lobsters are rare but taste very good.



TRIPS AND EXCURSIONS

- **Raiatea:**
 - **Trucky Tour**, 87 78 23 36 guided tours around Raiatea and visit of historical sites
 - **Raiatea Quad:**
87 79 27 66, raiateaquad@gmail.com
Guided ATV tour around Raiatea Island with Céline
 - **Raiatea Jet:** 7 27 17 00
Jet ski tour, departure from Uturoa
- **Tahaa:**
 - **Mana'o Rhum** distillery in Tapuamu Bay (close to gas station) offers free visit and a great selection of rum and Gin from their production, as well as a fine wine selection that you can purchase.
 - **Pari Pari Rhum distillery:** in Tapuamu bay North side
- **Beach: you can enjoy drinks on the beach at:**
 - **Opoa Beach**, Fish and Blue (Raiatea)
 - **Motu Pearl Village** (Tahaa)
 - **Arii Motu Grill** (Bora Bora)
Vanilla Tour 4x4: 87 35 86 39
Botanical tour around the Vanilla island (Tahaa), possible to leave the boat on their private mooring buoy in Hurepiti bay. The guide, Noah, can also pick you up from a different location, as Apu Bay.
 - **Enjoy Cycling Tahaa:** 87 36 11 32
E-bike rental in Tapuamu bay, close to Mana'o rhum distillery
- **Huahine:**
 - **Green Tours Huahine:** 89 72 78 44
Educative and interesting guided tour around Huahine with Romain, on land or with a speed boat, shared car or private tour.
 - **Europcar:** 40 68 82 59 or contact online europcarhuahine.com
Car rental in Avea Bay, accessible from Le Mahana hotel (just across the road), leave dinghy at dinghy dock of le Mahana, mooring buoys available in Avea Bay.
- **Bora Bora:**
 - **Bora Bora Activities Centre:**
87 75 54 58, contact@atvjetskiadventures.com
Offers ATV tours, Jet ski tours, snorkelling and motu excursions, taxi boat
 - **Natura Discovery:** 87 25 72 00 – 4x4 guided tour around Bora Bora
 - Avis Car Rental in Vaitape, main dock.
- **Maupiti:**
 - **Bike rental:** 87 71 83 52

HOTELS

- **Raiatea**
 - Raiatea Lodge
 - Villa Ixora
 - Opoa Beach
 - Villa Tonoï
- **Tahaa**
 - Le Tahaa by Pearl
 - Vahine Island
 - Eden private island
- **Bora**
 - Conrad Bora Bora
 - Le Bora Bora By Pearl
 - Maitai Bora Bora
 - Intercontinental Le Moana
 - Intercontinental Thalasso
 - Westin Bora Bora
 - St Regis Bora Bora
 - Four Season Bora Bora
- **Huahine**
 - Hôtel Lapita Fare
 - Hôtel Le Mahana



Sailing Area Restrictions

This information will be provided in the chart briefing, however for passages to the islands of Raiatea, Bora Bora, Huahine and Tahaa the base may ask you to sign a waiver confirming your experience in making such long passages. **Passing to the south of Raiatea (Passe Nao Nao) is prohibited.**

French Polynesia prohibits anchoring inside Bora Bora Island. Only moorings balls and docking is allowed. This information is covered in the chart briefing.

Red and Amber Zones

These are a part of the region where guests need to pay special attention, and/or may need to avoid the areas altogether.

You will have signed the Yacht Acceptance form inside the check-in check-out booklet after your yacht briefing stating you understand these zones and their dangers.

RED ZONES

Guests are **not permitted** to sail within these areas. **Any damages incurred** in these areas will be **considered negligence**.

Red zones to lookout for:

• Raiatea

- 1 From Tehurui Bay to Vaoaara Bay, west coast of Raiatea:** the area is too shallow for sail boats, never go further North than Vaiaau anchorage, or further South than Anapa Pearl Farm. You must exit the lagoon from pass Toamaro and enter back at pass Rautoanui to go from South to North of Raiatea.
- 2 TE AVA MO'A pass, and NAO NAO pass** are prohibited, only ok for small embarkations and speed boats.

• Tahaa

- 3 North channel of Tahaa:** do not follow the South cardinal markers; the passage is shallow and dangerous. It is safer to stay in the normal channel between red and green beacons.

AMBER ZONES

Guests need to **pay special attention** in these areas. Proceed with **extreme caution** and follow directions provided within your chart briefing video.

Extreme caution in the following areas:

• Raiatea

- 1 Southeast of Raiatea,** channel is narrow and the 3rd red beacon after Te Ava Mo'a pass is missing.
- 2 Channel between Motu Nao Nao and pass Punaeroa:** no green markers, only reds – pay special attention to depth and keep reasonable distance from beacons as the reef can still be shallow close to marker.
- 3 Pearl Farms buoys: East Coast, from Teavapiti Pass to Te Ava Mo'a,** pearl farms have their buoys in areas between green markers and reef. Stay in the main channel, closer to mainland.

• Tahaa

- 4 Northwest lagoon of Tahaa:** pearl farm buoys in deep channel on reef side, stay closer to mainland from North of the island up to Vaiorea Bay.
- 5 Paipai Pass:** special attention required when going out direction Bora Bora and going in from Bora Bora – red and green beacons are located inside of the pass, no markers for the entrance. Reef on the side of the red beacon remains shallow further than the breaking waves line. Make sure not to turn too soon on both directions.



Red zones to lookout for:

• Bora Bora

- 4 The southern part of Bora Bora, Matira is not accessible for sailboats as marked on the chart.
- 5 The marked channel to the northeast between Te Nanamu and Tiaona is prohibited.



Extreme caution in the following areas:

• Bora Bora

- 6 Toopua mooring area: coral heads inside of the mooring area can be too shallow. Reduce your speed and pay attention to all coral surroundings around mooring buoys field.
- 7 East side of Bora Bora lagoon: navigation in channel between Taimoo South cardinal and red markers, and South mooring area require special attention. Follow thoroughly boat's briefer explanations and always use this channel with good visibility, preferably between 10am and 2pm when the sun is higher.

• Maupiti

- 8 The entire accessible area of Maupiti is considered as an amber zone. Going to Maupiti is only possible with great weather conditions and with special authorization from base manager. Requires a solid experience as the pass could easily become dangerous and inner lagoon is shallow with lots of random coral heads.

Red zones to lookout for:**• Huahine**

- 6** **The North** and Southeast coast are NOT accessible for our catamarans and monohulls
- 7** Passage through ARAARA and TIARE is prohibited. To reach the east side of Huahine, you must use Farerea Pass.
- 8** East side Lagoon from Motu Tarohu to Araara Pass is strictly prohibited.

Extreme caution in the following areas:**• Huahine**

- 9** **Passage between Hana Iti and Avea Bay** require more attention. Do not follow cardinal markers North and West as they are here just for access to Haapu Bay, not to be considered for main channel.



Itineraries & Destinations



1-WEEK ROUTE

- Day 1Welcome to Base, Apu Bay
- Day 2Motu Mahaea (Tahaa)
- Day 3Circum navigate Tahaa
- Day 4Bora Bora Yacht Club
- Day 5South of Bora Bora: Swimming Pool
- Day 6Toopua
- Day 7Sail Back to Tahaa & Raiatea
- Day 8Back to Base – Apooiti Marina Raiatea

Highlights:

- Classic Bora Bora + Tahaa essentials
- Easy lagoon sailing, short distances
- Coral-garden snorkelling
- Iconic “Swimming Pool” anchorage
- Perfect for relaxed, scenic cruising





MAUPITI



BORA BORA

10-DAY ROUTE

- Day 1.....Motu Mahaea, Tahaa
- Day 2.....Sail to Huahine, Hana Iti Beach
- Day 3.....Avea Bay, Huahine
- Day 4.....Stop at Fare & Sail Back to Raiatea
- Day 5.....Faaroa River & Sailing South Of Raiatea to Vaiaau
- Day 6.....Sail to Bora Bora, Yacht Club
- Day 7.....South East of Bora Bora, Swimming Pool
- Day 8.....Toopua, Bora Bora
- Day 9.....Sail Back to Tahaa
- Day 10.....Apu Bay, Tahaa
- Day 11.....Back to Apooiti Base – Raiatea

Highlights

- Adds Huahine's wild, authentic vibe
- Mix of rivers, lagoons, and reef anchorages
- More culture + village stops
- Longer inter-island passages
- Slower, more immersive exploration

Motu Tautau

TAHAA

RAITEA

VAIAAU

FAAROA RIVER

TOOPUA

HAHAIONE

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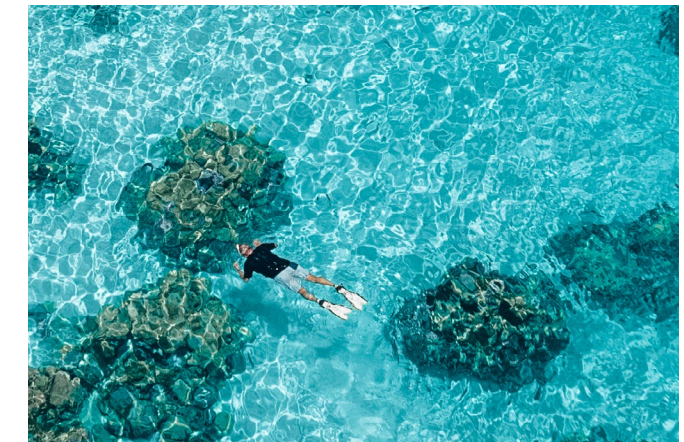
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Distances have been adjusted for illustrative purposes.



Cruising Areas

A sailing itinerary around the Leeward Islands typically includes easy passages within the protected waters behind the beautiful coral reefs that encircle the islands, allowing for relaxed sailing in one of the most exotic cruising grounds in the world. The sailing region is divided into six areas, enabling you to see the time it will take under normal conditions to reach those cruising areas from the base on Raiatea. Choose to follow one of our recommended itineraries or choose where you want to head to and the places you want to visit in each cruising ground.

The information provided is a guide only and does not replace navigational charts and pilot books.

Please note: some areas are labelled with map codes. The first letter indicates the region or island (for example, T for Taha'a), and the number identifies the specific area within that region (e.g., T1–T10 are in Taha'a, R1–R13 are in Raiatea).

Navigational charts referencing these regional map codes are provided to guests at the base. Using this eGuide in conjunction with the charts will make planning your sailing route easier and more efficient.

Cruising Area 1 Raiatea (R)

- Apooiti Marina - Base Raiatea (R1)
- Pass Rautoanui (R2)
- Vaoaara Bay (R3)
- Toamaro Pass (R4)
- Toamaro Anchorage (R5)
- Pass Punaeroa (R6)
- Tuatau Bay (R7)
- Pass Nao Nao and Surroundings (R8)
- Pass Te Ava Mo'a – The Sacred Pass (R9)
- Pass Iriru Ou Maire (R10)
- Faaroa Bay (R11)
- Pass Teavapiti (R12)
- Marina Uturoa – Town Centre Uturoa (R13)

Cruising Area 2 Grand Banc Central (G)

- Uturoa Airport Restriction Area

Cruising Area 3

Taha'a (T)

- Apu Bay (T1)
- Haamene Bay
- Motu Mahaea (T2)
- Faaaha Bay (T3)
- Motu Tuahi (Motu Reia)
- Tahaa's North Coast
- Pass Toahotu
- Patio (T5)
- Pueheru Bay – Love Here Pearl Farm (T6)
- Vaiorea Bay - Iaorana Pearl Farm (T7)
- Tapuamu Bay (T8)
- Motu Tautau (T9)
- Baie De Hurepiti
- Pass Paipai (T10)

Cruising Area 4

Bora Bora (B)

- Pass Teavanui (B1)
- Bora Bora Yacht Club (B2)
- Vaitape (B3)
- Povai Bay (B4)
- Toopua (B5)
- Motu Piti Aau (B7)
- Passage to the East Lagoon (B7) from the North

Cruising Area 5

Huahine (H)

- Pass Avamoa (H1)
- Pass Avapehi (H2)
- Fare (H3)
- Motu Vaiorea (H6) and Hana Iti Beach (H4)
- Avea Bay (H7)
- Inner Passage to Avea Bay (H7)
- Pass Araara
- Pass Farerea (F8)
- Baie De Maroe
- Pass Tiare
- Murimahora Motu (Motu Muri) (H9)

Cruising Area 6 Maupiti (M)

- First Anchorage (M1)
- Gas Station (M2)
- Town Achorage (M3)



Distances have been adjusted for illustrative purposes.



Destination Highlights

PASSES

Most French Polynesian islands are encircled by a fringing or barrier reef, which forms a protected lagoon inside. A pass is the navigable channel through that reef that allows boats to enter or exit the lagoon.

Raiatea

Pass (Ref)	GPS Waypoint (Centre/Buoys)	Location / Notes	Approach / Guides
Teavapiti (R12)	S 16°44.563' W 151°25.182'	Main entrance/exit east of Uturoa. Usable in all weather.	Guide marks 258° M
Irihu (R10)	S 16°47.186' W 151°22.874'	Practicable all weather. Can be difficult to see from the ocean when returning from Huahine. If not visible, use R8.	Approach 205° M
Punaeroa (R6)	-	Southwest coast of Raiatea. Clearly indicated. Use only when there is no swell.	-
Toamaro (R4)	-	Enter and exit in good conditions only. Access to surrounding bays.	Approach 073° M
Rautoanui (R2)	S 16°45.50' W 151°30.438'	Second main pass. Practicable all weather when arriving from the west.	Guide marks 072° M

Taha'a

Pass (Ref)	GPS Waypoint (Centre/Buoys)	Location / Notes	Approach / Guides
Papai (T10)	S 16°40.28' W 151°32.394'	West coast. One of the main passes of Taha'a & Raiatea. In strong S-SW winds, heavy swell or breaking waves may occur. If unsafe, use Rautoanui (R2).	Guide marks 005° M
Toahotu (T4)	S 16°39.038' W 151°25.268'	East coast. To be used only in good weather.	Approach 281° M

Bora Bora

Pass (Ref)	GPS Waypoint (Centre/Buoys)	Location / Notes	Approach / Guides
Teavanui (B1)	S 16°29.498' W 151°47.063'	Only reef pass generally passable in all weather. In strong westerlies, swell may break on the bar (rare).	Approach 090° M

Huahine

Pass (Ref)	GPS Waypoint (Centre/Buoys)	Location / Notes	Approach / Guides
Avamoa (H1)	S 16°42.491' W 151°02.850'	Main Fare pass on the northwest coast.	Guide mark 113° M
Avapehi (H2)	S 16°43.509' W 151°03.215'	Second Fare pass.	Guide mark 089° M
Farerea (H8)	-	East coast. Good weather only. Not to be attempted in strong easterlies.	-

Cruising Area 1

Raiatea (R)

Raiatea is the most populated island in the Leeward Islands, with around 12,000 inhabitants. Its lagoon, shared with sister island Taha'a, provides calm and protected sailing almost all the way around, except for a short section on the west coast where the channel becomes too shallow, requiring yachts to exit through a pass and re-enter farther along. The north of the island is the busiest area, home to Uturoa, the main town, and the airport, with our charter base located just five minutes away by car.

As you sail south, the island becomes wonderfully untouched, offering dramatic mountains, cascading waterfalls, and quiet anchorages set in turquoise water. The highlight of this coastline is Faaroa Bay, a deep fjord-like inlet with a river bordered by lush tropical forest, providing one of the most memorable dinghy excursions in French Polynesia. Raiatea is also the best island for provisioning, with three supermarkets and a variety of shops and restaurants in Uturoa. Keep in mind that shore access is not always possible from anchorage; if you plan to explore inland, it may be easier to do so from the base using a taxi, and our team will happily advise you based on your interests.

Raiatea offers a variety of facilities for visitors, including three supermarkets in Uturoa, shops selling water sports equipment, a bakery, restaurants, snacks, and options for car and bike rental. On land, you can explore the island's cultural and natural attractions, such as the marae - ancient sacred sites protected by UNESCO - with guided tours available from the base. The botanical garden can also be reached by dinghy from the Faaroa anchorage. For hiking enthusiasts, guided walks are possible, though most trails cross private property, so a local guide is required. From the boat, visitors can enjoy swimming and snorkelling in most anchorages, as well as kayaking or exploring the Faaroa River by dinghy, offering a peaceful and scenic adventure.

APOOITI MARINA - BASE RAIATEA (R1)

At Apooiti Marina you will find a small boutique, the restaurant La Voile d'Or (+689 40 66 12 97), and the dive centre Hemisphère Sub (+689 40 66 12 49). Showers and toilets are available at the harbour master's office, ask for the key on arrival. Outside the marina, three mooring buoys can be used overnight. Taxis can take you to any restaurant on Raiatea, although many establishments close on Sunday and Monday evenings. Please note lots of them are closed on Sunday and Monday nights.

Facilities & Services	Comments	Facilities & Services	Comments
Customs & Clearance	✗	Garbage	✓ Please follow strict recycling instructions
Mooring (Buoy / Anchor / Marina)	✓ Marina + mooring buoys	Refuel	✓
Mooring Fee	✗	WiFi	✓ Wi-Fi at the office + box rental at base
Dinghy Dock	✓	Restaurants & Bars	✓ By taxi
Provisioning	✓ Taxi to town	Shops	✓ Taxi to town
Water Refill & Ice	✓	ATM	✓ In town
Electricity	✓	Laundry	✓ pick up & delivery service available
Showers / Toilets	✓	Activities/Things to do	✓

PASS RAUTOANUI (R2)

This is the second most important all-weather pass into Raiatea from the west. The leading-mark bearing for the pass is 071° magnetic. As with all passes, remain at least one mile offshore until the entrance is clearly identified. Charts also provide a bearing on the radio mast atop Mt Tapioi above Uturoa (050° magnetic), which helps locate the approach from open sea. Motu Tahunaoe on the eastern side is marked by an east-cardinal beacon, and the motu itself is inaccessible by sailboat.

VAOAARA BAY (R3)

South of Pase Rautoanui, the passage leads to Vaoaara bay, formed by an arm of reef on its northern side. The reef is marked by a red beacon. Care should be taken to stay well away from the reef on the bay's southern side, because the red beacon is not on the tip of the reef but a little further south.

It is possible to visit the pearl farm after the entrance of the pass, Anapa Pearls that settled one buoy at the disposal of the visitors (phone number is 87 707 607): very pretty snorkeling around pearl shells and beautiful workshop in turquoise water. You need to book the visit (about \$50/pers) to be allowed to pick up the buoy here.

Always arrive to this area at best visibility (10am-2pm) as this mooring buoy is close to coral heads.

Beyond this point, although one may see passage markers, there are no navigable passages for yachts, only small boat channels. Do not go south of Baie Vaoaara.

Facilities & Services	Comments	Facilities & Services	Comments
Customs & Clearance	✗	Garbage	✗
Mooring (Buoy / Anchor / Marina)	✓ Private mooring	Refuel	✗
Mooring Fee	✓ With paid pearl farm visit	WiFi	✗
Dinghy Dock	✓ at the Pearl Farm	Restaurants & Bars	✗
Provisioning	✗	Shops	✓ Purchase black pearl jewels
Water Refill & Ice	✗	ATM	✗
Electricity	✗	Laundry	✗
Showers / Toilets	✗	Activities/Things to do	✓ Snorkelling and pearl farm tour

TOAMARO PASS (R4)

This entrance is well marked and straightforward in calm weather, but it should not be used when strong ocean swell is running.

TOAMARO ANCHORAGE (R5)

Stay not only South but also West of the South cardinal marker, cruise along Motu Toamaro to reach its North side. There is a coral head marked only with a black stick marker, make sure to arrive to this spot with good visibility and stay between coral head and reef side, in the deep blue channel. Keep going North of the motu until you reach a large sand patch 8-12 ft deep where it is safe to anchor for day and night. Even if this is a safe anchorage, on the Leeward side of the island gusty winds could come from the mountain side, so make sure you anchor in an area that is clear from coral and put on enough chain.

Restaurant Fare VAI Nui is close to the anchorage in Tehurui Bay. Better to dinghy over before sunset as you need visibility to access their pontoon. (See satellite view)

Facilities & Services	Comments	Facilities & Services	Comments
Customs & Clearance	✗	Garbage	✗
Mooring (Buoy / Anchor / Marina)	✓	Refuel	✗
Mooring Fee	✗	WiFi	✗
Dinghy Dock	✓ At restaurant FareVai upon booking	Restaurants & Bars	✓
Provisioning	✗	Shops	✗
Water Refill & Ice	✗	ATM	✗
Electricity	✗	Laundry	✗
Showers / Toilets	✗	Activities/Things to do	✓

PASS PUNAEROA (R6)

This pass is marked with standard red-port and green-starboard beacons, with a small islet located immediately inside to the north. Use Pass Punaeroa only in calm weather and avoid it during any southwest swell.

TUATAU BAY (R7)

This bay offers one mooring buoy or the option to anchor in around 50 ft, sheltered by Motu Haio. Your briefer will explain how to reach excellent snorkelling sites around Motu Nao Nao. Note that Motu Nao Nao is private and landing is not permitted.

Facilities & Services	Comments	Facilities & Services	Comments
Customs & Clearance	✗	Garbage	✗
Mooring (Buoy / Anchor / Marina)	✓ Free mooring buoy	Refuel	✗
Mooring Fee	✗	WiFi	✗
Dinghy Dock	✓ Small harbour ashore	Restaurants & Bars	✗
Provisioning	✗	Shops	✗
Water Refill & Ice	✗	ATM	✗
Electricity	✗	Laundry	✗
Showers / Toilets	✗	Activities/Things to do	✓ Snorkelling at reef

PASS NAO NAO AND SURROUNDINGS (R8)

This narrow pass is unsafe in southerly swell, with a shoal that breaks easily; do not use it. In clear weather, you may motor-sail around Raiatea's southern end toward the southwest pass Punaeroa. The shoreline is marked with red cylindrical beacons. After rounding Pointe Pautu, watch for the reef extending south of Pointe Ratia, also beacon-marked. Maintain a bow lookout at all times in this area.

PASS TE AVA MO'A – THE SACRED PASS (R9)

Use this pass only when departing for Huahine. Do not attempt to enter from the ocean, as currents are strong and the pass is hard to identify from seaward. South of Motu Oatara, the channel is marked only with red beacons; take particular care near Tamapua Point, where the northern red beacon is missing. The Opoa Beach Hotel lies south of Motu Oatara, and you may anchor on the sandbar in front of it and use their dinghy dock. Tel: +689 40 60 05 10. Great snorkelling on the reef side South of Motu Oatara if low swells (good weather conditions only). Be aware Motu Oatara is protected for birds' reproduction; you are not allowed to visit the island.

PASS IRIRU OU MAIRE (R10)

Located four miles south of Uturoa on the east coast, Pass Iriu leads directly to Faaroa Bay and is the recommended pass when arriving from or departing to Huahine. It is marked by Motu Tipaemau to the north and Motu Iriu to the south and is generally safe in most weather. The approach is on 205° magnetic; however, the pass may be difficult to locate due to the lack of leading marks. Watch carefully for the exposed shoal Nahu Rui, marked by a west-cardinal beacon—stay on the landward side when south of Faaroa Bay. Numerous pearl-farm buoys lie between the barrier reef and green markers; remain in the main inner channel to avoid them. Great snorkelling on the reef side South of Motu Oatara if low swells (good weather conditions only). Be aware Motu Oatara is protected for birds' reproduction; you are not allowed to visit the island.

FAAROA BAY (R11)

This deep, long fjord is very beautiful with spectacular mountains on both sides and a view down the valley of Mt Tefaatuaiti, the highest point in the leeward islands. Water is clear of dangers to the natural end where the river Aopomau flows into the bay. Mid distance of the bay Sunsail owns 2 mooring buoys that you can use for the night, or it is also possible to anchor at the bottom of the bay closer to the river entrance. Drop off anchor where depth is about 40 ft. Do not go much further as it becomes very shallow after this anchorage area and entrance of the river can be accessible only with the dinghy or Kayak/SUP.

From here you can make the only river trip in all French Polynesia. You can dinghy to entrance of the river. It is quite shallow and strewn with waterlogged tree trunks and other natural debris. So, it is wise not to use outboard engine or lift it up and move slowly.

Once through this tangle, the slow running river narrows and deepens to over 1.5m. Use your dinghy outboard carefully to motor about a mile and a half up the river. At the end turn engine off and drift or row back with current. Peaceful and quietness of the natural tropical jungle is delightful with only bird songs to accompany you.

Above trees catch glimpses of the magnificent, towering rock wall of Mt Tefatuaiti, soaring to a height of 1100m.

You can also tie your dinghy to a concrete dock and visit the botanical garden, nice walk in a peaceful public park.

Length of the trip depends on the overgrowth and the amount of debris in the river. Lands and plantations on either side of the river are private, so don't help yourselves to any fruit without first asking permission from the nearest house.

Facilities & Services	Comments	Facilities & Services	Comments
Customs & Clearance	✗	Garbage	✗
Mooring (Buoy / Anchor / Marina)	✓	Refuel	✗
Mooring Fee	✗	WiFi	✗
Dinghy Dock	✓	Restaurants & Bars	✗
Provisioning	✗	Shops	✗
Water Refill & Ice	✗	ATM	✗
Electricity	✗	Laundry	✗
Showers / Toilets	✗	Activities/Things to do	✓ Botanical Garden visit, kayaking the river, exploring



PASS TEAVAPITI (R12)

This is the main all-weather entrance and exit for Uturoa on the east coast. Two floating buoys -green conical (starboard) and red cylindrical (port) - mark the outer reef entrance. Located north of Motu Taoru, the pass has good leading marks on a 258° magnetic line. Do not use the smaller pass south of Motu Taoru, which is narrow and subject to strong currents.

MARINA UTUROA – TOWN CENTRE UTUROA (R13)

Uturoa is the principal town of the Leeward Islands and features a small marina, several supermarkets, three banks, a marketplace with local crafts and ATMs, and various shops. It lies about 30 minutes by boat or a 10-minute drive from Apooiti Marina. The large commercial dock is reserved for inter-island freighters—do not come alongside. The small wharf next to fuel station is available on day time free of charge, overnight is not allowed. Watch out for strong Eastern winds, it will push the boat on the dock and make it complicated to take off.

The inner passage is well marked with the standard markers. (See general navigation notes and advice).

Follow charts and passage markers. Do not rely only on markers. Identify each one in its position on the chart. Pay attention and you should haven't any problems.

The east coast of Raiatea has several bays, most of them are deep, strewn with dangers and have no protection against the wind, except for the bay of Faaroa

Facilities & Services	Comments	Facilities & Services	Comments
Customs & Clearance	✗	Garbage	✗ No public garbage disposal in town (only available at The Moorings base)
Mooring (Buoy / Anchor / Marina)	✓ Docking on wharf close to Shell Gas Station - no anchorage around town	Refuel	✓
Mooring Fee	✗	WiFi	✓ Some shops share their WiFi but could be very slow
Dinghy Dock	✓	Restaurants & Bars	✓
Provisioning	✓ 3 supermarkets and many shops	Shops	✓
Water Refill & Ice	✓ Both possible at the Shell Gas Station	ATM	✓
Electricity	✗	Laundry	✗
Showers / Toilets	✗	Activities/Things to do	✓ Shopping, going on a land tour



Cruising Area 2

Grand Banc Central (G)

Grand Banc Central is a broad, shallow plateau located within the Raiatea–Taha'a lagoon, known for its clear turquoise waters, soft sandy bottom, and calm conditions ideal for snorkelling, swimming, and leisurely boating. The protected shallows make it perfect for paddleboarding, family anchoring, and exploring the lagoon's widest open spaces. Its location between Raiatea and Taha'a offers easy access to both islands while providing a serene environment away from the busier areas of the lagoon. The Grand Banc Central is also an excellent spot to observe local marine life in a safe, sheltered setting.

UTUROA AIRPORT RESTRICTION AREA

South of the Grand Banc Central, yellow marks with an X indicate the restricted area near Raiatea Airport. Boats must avoid this zone to prevent interference with air traffic. The Grand Banc Central itself lies midway between Raiatea and Taha'a, inside the common barrier reef, and is fully navigable, with the International Cardinal System marking its shallows. Detailed guidance will be provided during the chart briefing, and the cardinal beacons section offers additional reference for navigation.

To the north and slightly east of the Grand Banc Central is another shallow area, also marked with the cardinal system. This unnamed zone lies south of the village of Vaitoare on Taha'a's southern coast and can also be safely sailed around.

When approaching the area from the west via the inner passage, Pointe du Lotus on the inner edge of the barrier reef can be misleading as it juts inward further than expected. From the south, after passing the northern end of the Toatautu reef, boats should maintain a heading toward Pointe Toamaru on Taha'a, which is easy to identify. This route keeps vessels clear of Lotus Point until the green marker on the reef is visible. Approaching from the northwest along Taha'a's coast, near Passe Paipai, following the same course avoids turning south too early at Pointe du Lotus.



Cruising Area 3

Taha'a (T)

Tahaa lies within the same lagoon as Raiatea, and its navigable channels allow you to sail around the island as well as between Raiatea and Tahaa. The island is ringed by numerous motus, many of the most picturesque in French Polynesia, offering shallow anchorages and stunning bays such as Apu Bay. Home to about 5,000 inhabitants, Tahaa has a slow-paced, relaxed lifestyle. When the south-easterly wind, called Mara'amu, blows, usually in July and August, be careful when anchoring to the wind from exposed coasts and always plan on a back up night anchorage.

APU BAY (T1)

A rather open bay, Baie Apu provides a good overnight anchorage when the wind is not from the south or West. No anchoring due to depth, pick up a mooring buoy: these belong to the Champon Pearl farm that you can visit for free Tel: 40 65 66 26 - Please make sure to go see the Pearl Farm if you're using one of their moorings, as they provide it free of charges. You can also visit the Fare Vanira, further North inside of the bay: either walk for 30min from Pearl Farm or dinghy over, carefully contouring the motu on its western side: gap between main island and the motu is so shallow you can't cross even with a kayak. There is a dinghy dock on the other side of the motu, and across the road you will find the Vanilla plantation where they give you free tour of their place with explanations on the process in both English and French. They sell their own vanilla, which is good organic quality, as beans, powder, extract. Snorkelling the reef around the motu can also be pretty nice when the visibility is good enough.

Facilities & Services	Comments	Facilities & Services	Comments
Customs & Clearance	✗	Garbage	✗
Mooring (Buoy / Anchor / Marina)	✓ Private mooring from Champon Pearl Farm	Refuel	✗
Mooring Fee	✗ Free of charge but authorisation needed from Champon	WiFi	✗
Dinghy Dock	✓ At Pearl Farm or near Fare Vanira	Restaurants & Bars	✗
Provisioning	✗	Shops	✓ Shop for black pearls or fresh vanilla
Water Refill & Ice	✗	ATM	✗
Electricity	✗	Laundry	✗
Showers / Toilets	✗	Activities/Things to do	✓ Vanilla and pearl tours, snorkelling, water activities



HAAMENE BAY

On the southern point of Baie Haamene is a reef with red cylindrical marker there. Directly east on the lagoon shelf is a north cardinal marker used when entering and exiting the pass Toahotu . On Pte Para, the northern side of Haamene Bay is a green conical beacon as well as an east cardinal marker. Haamene bay is marked with red beacons on the port side of the bay and green beacons on the starboard side. This bay is the longest fjord on the island. A low valley cuts through the island at the head of the bay and allows easterly to southeasterly winds, if fresh to strong, to funnel down the bay with quite some force. There is a beautiful walk from the head of Baie Haamene to the head of Baie Hurepiti over Mt Taira, which divides the island. In front of Restaurant Hibiscus, there are 2 mooring buoys to which you can tie if you have a dinner reservation. Phone number is 40 65 61 06. Possibility to book an Island tour in four wheels drive.

At the bottom of the bay, you can tie up your dinghy at the small floating dock and visit the village with its small shop, post office and pharmacy. The restaurant Taha'a Maitai located on the dock offers a good cuisine local and international for lunch time. 40 65 70 85

Facilities & Services	Comments	Facilities & Services	Comments
Customs & Clearance	✗	Garbage	✗
Mooring (Buoy / Anchor / Marina)	✓ Private mooring from Hibiscus - upon booking	Refuel	✗
Mooring Fee	✗ Free of charge but authorisation needed from Hibiscus	WiFi	✗
Dinghy Dock	✓ Both at Hibiscus and Tahaa Maitai	Restaurants & Bars	✓
Provisioning	✗	Shops	✓ Small village, few shops and a pharmacy - some take cash only
Water Refill & Ice	✗	ATM	✗
Electricity	✗	Laundry	✗
Showers / Toilets	✗	Activities/Things to do	✓

MOTU MAHAEA (T2)

From the North of this motu you can find some nice anchorages. Anchor in 10 to 15 ft. (3-4 meters) of water and keep an eye on the coral heads when approaching and departing. Make sure to access the anchoring area further North of the motu as the sand bar is too shallow around Motu Mahaea and further. Do not anchor too close to the pass. This anchorage in shallow water is ideal in most weather conditions and offers you a great show in the nighttime when sting rays and blacktip reef sharks come to swim around the boat. Snorkelling on reef side North of the motu is pretty nice, when swell hits you need to do it as a drift snorkelling, getting in closer to the reef and toe your dinghy while drifting with the current towards the anchorage area. The motu is private but if there is no private event going on you can pay a fee of 1000cfp/person, stay and relax on sandy beach coves, enjoy coconut trees and swim in clear and shallow waters. The motu "Atger" south of the pass has a small sea park with rays, turtles, fish. There are some Tahitian meals organized on reservation only, tel: 87 28 26 81. There is a dinghy dock, but no anchorage allowed in the south of the pass.

Facilities & Services	Comments	Facilities & Services	Comments
Customs & Clearance	✗	Garbage	✗
Mooring (Buoy / Anchor / Marina)	✓	Refuel	✗
Mooring Fee	✗ Free anchoring	WiFi	✗
Dinghy Dock	✓ On private motu Mahaea or at Pension Motu Atger	Restaurants & Bars	✗
Provisioning	✗	Shops	✗
Water Refill & Ice	✗	ATM	✗
Electricity	✗	Laundry	✗
Showers / Toilets	✗	Activities/Things to do	✓

FAAAHA BAY (T3)

Moorings available from the Motu Pearl Village if you have a dinner reservation: they open every Wednesday and Friday for local food great Buffet and Tahitian dance show. Do not anchor in this bay. From here in the daytime, you can also visit the Vanilla Valley: 40 65 74 89 with Brian and Moeata. They live north of Faaaha bay, you can walk from Motu Pearl Village or dinghy over if you're anchored at Motu Mahaea (not recommended if strong Eastern winds).

Facilities & Services	Comments	Facilities & Services	Comments
Customs & Clearance	✗	Garbage	✗
Mooring (Buoy / Anchor / Marina)	✓ Free mooring buoy from Motu Pearl Village	Refuel	✗
Mooring Fee	✗ Free of charge but authorisation needed from Motu Pearl Village	WiFi	✗
Dinghy Dock	✓ Motu Pearl Village, large wooden dock	Restaurants & Bars	✓ Only on Wed & Fri nights. Tahitian Show & great quality buffet 7500xpf/person
Provisioning	✗	Shops	✗
Water Refill & Ice	✗	ATM	✗
Electricity	✗	Laundry	✗
Showers / Toilets	✗	Activities/Things to do	✓ Pearl farm visit

MOTU TUAHI (MOTU REIA)

This paradise like island on North of Tahaa is occupied by a local family hosting traditional Tahitian buffet for lunch time, welcoming you from 10am to 3pm. You are free to walk around the island, swim in shallow turquoise waters surroundings and snorkel in the channel. Water shoes welcome if you're adventurous. Food is served on a buffet around 11.30/Noon. You can have a casual lunch for 3000xpf/pers with delicious local products prepared with love and care the Polynesian way. They sell water and beer, but you are welcome to bring your own drinks if you'd rather drink wine. They own 2 mooring buoys and allow you to stay on daytime, though this area is exposed to most dominant winds - it is not permitted to stay overnight. To book lunch at Motu Tuahi : 87 75 04 76

Facilities & Services	Comments	Facilities & Services	Comments
Customs & Clearance	✗	Garbage	✗
Mooring (Buoy / Anchor / Marina)	✓ Free mooring buoy from Motu Tuahi	Refuel	✗
Mooring Fee	✗ Free of charge but authorisation needed from Motu Tuahi	WiFi	✗
Dinghy Dock	✗ Anchor your dinghy close to the beach	Restaurants & Bars	✓ Lunch time only
Provisioning	✗	Shops	✗
Water Refill & Ice	✗	ATM	✗
Electricity	✗	Laundry	✗
Showers / Toilets	✗	Activities/Things to do	✓

TAHAA'S NORTH COAST

No anchorages along the northern coast of Tahaa. There is a lot of corals to the north of Tahaa, between Pte Punapae and the motus. An easy channel has been marked close to the lagoon shelf. You will see the first red beacon on reef Moora which you will keep to the land side. Just West are two more red markers, and on the ocean side there is a green reef marker. Be sure that this marker is to seaward of you. Head for the green marker on reef Faremao, keeping it to seaward also. South of reef Faremao, you will see a red marker and a south cardinal beacon. Make sure to always follow the markers, as even if the deep waters are wide enough on Northwest, they are mostly occupied with buoys from Pearl farms. Make sure to spot this amber zone and keep clear of this area.

PASS TOAHOTU (T4)

Pass Toahotu, entering on a 281 magnetic bearing at Pointe Pataaia, is well marked by port and starboard entrance beacons. This pass is commonly used for departures toward Huahine but lacks leading markers. It provides a straightforward exit from the island when navigated carefully, with moderate weather conditions recommended for safe passage.

PATIO (T5)

To the west of the passage area, there is a jetty for Tahaa's main village, Patio. Anchoring at this site at night is not recommended, it's pretty deep around 20m. Avoid the reefs which lie to the southwest. Patio has a small medical centre, a police station and some shops.

Facilities & Services	Comments	Facilities & Services	Comments
Customs & Clearance	✗	Garbage	✗
Mooring (Buoy / Anchor / Marina)	✓ Anchoring here is permitted but not recommended: very deep with lots of coral	Refuel	✗
Mooring Fee	✗	WiFi	✗
Dinghy Dock	✓ Not ideal	Restaurants & Bars	✗
Provisioning	✓ Small supermarket CHU	Shops	✓
Water Refill & Ice	✗	ATM	✓ Banque Socredo ATM close to supermarket
Electricity	✗	Laundry	✗
Showers / Toilets	✗	Activities/Things to do	✗

PUEHERU BAY – LOVE HERE PEARL FARM (T6)

Love Here Pearl Farm offers two moorings for visitors to tie up and enjoy a guided tour of the farm. The bay is exposed to wind, so overnight stays on the moorings are not advised. This site is ideal for daytime exploration of Tahaa's pearl industry in a quiet and scenic location.

Facilities & Services	Comments	Facilities & Services	Comments
Customs & Clearance	✗	Garbage	✗
Mooring (Buoy / Anchor / Marina)	✓ 2 private mooring buoys from Love Here Pearl Farm, no anchoring	Refuel	✗
Mooring Fee	✗ Free of charge but authorisation needed from Love Here Pearl Farm – mooring buoys are dedicated to customers	WiFi	✗
Dinghy Dock	✓ at pearl farm	Restaurants & Bars	✗
Provisioning	✗	Shops	✓ Pearl farm boutique
Water Refill & Ice	✗	ATM	✗
Electricity	✗	Laundry	✗
Showers / Toilets	✗	Activities/Things to do	✗ Pearl farm visit

VAIOREA BAY - IAORANA PEARL FARM (T7)

A red beacon marks the north point as well as the south point of this bay. Iaorana Pearl Farm is located in this bay and gives you free visit of their place showing you the process of making black pearls. They own 5 mooring buoys (private for their customers) Great view of Bora Bora and very well sheltered bay from strong eastern winds. Small grocery store Magasin Nohotua also on North side of Vaiorea with concrete dinghy dock at the back.

Facilities & Services	Comments	Facilities & Services	Comments
Customs & Clearance	✗	Garbage	✗
(Buoy / Anchor / Marina)	✓ 5 private mooring buoys at Laorana Pearl Farm. No anchoring	Refuel	✗
Mooring Fee	✗ Free of charge, authorisation needed from Iaorana Pearl Farm - mooring buoys are dedicated to customers	WiFi	✗
Dinghy Dock	✓ At the pearl farm & grocery store	Restaurants & Bars	✗
Provisioning	✓ Some goods available at Magasin Nohotua	Shops	✓ Pearl farm boutique
Water Refill & Ice	✗	ATM	✗
Electricity	✗	Laundry	✗
Showers / Toilets	✗	Activities/Things to do	✓ Pearl farm visit, kayaking along the shore - manta rays often seen in the area

TAPUAMU BAY (T8)

The southern point of the bay is marked with a north cardinal beacon as well as red beacon. There is a large concrete dock in Tapuamu Bay as well as several warehouses. It is reserved for the inter-island freighters which sometimes arrive by night. It's possible to anchor in 20 meters if weather is ok (stay far from the shore and follow carefully your briefers advice), or to pick up the one mooring buoy if available (Possibly charged 1500XPF/night if you get the visit from local administration). Inside the Southern part of the bay there is a small harbor with a gas station, a small grocery store as well as the Mana'o Rum distillery giving you free visit of their place. They make great quality Agricole rum as well as a local Gin and sell a small selection of spirits, wine and different local beers from artisanal breweries. On the other side of the bay is the other distillery, called Pari Pari offering also free visit - making top quality white & amber rum as well as cold press local oils from coconut and Tamanu. They also own the overwater Tapas & cocktail bar called Fare Miti (open from 11am to 9pm).

Facilities & Services	Comments	Facilities & Services	Comments
Customs & Clearance	✗	Garbage	✗
Mooring (Buoy / Anchor / Marina)	✓ 1 mooring buoy close to Pari Pari distillery, or anchor in 20m if calm weather conditions	Refuel	✓ At Tapuamu Gas Station - fill your dinghy gas tank (don't forget to ask for 2% mix)
Mooring Fee	✓ 500xpf charged by Tapuamu mayor's office, but rarely collected	WiFi	✗
Dinghy Dock	✓ At Tapuamu Gas Station dock or Fare Miti pontoon	Restaurants & Bars	✓ Floating Bar Fare Miti 11am-9pm
Provisioning	✓ Grocery store Magasin Enota Teroro close to Mana'o Rum distillery	Shops	✓ 2 Rhum distilleries, 1 grocery store
Water Refill & Ice	✗	ATM	✗
Electricity	✗	Laundry	✗
Showers / Toilets	✗	Activities/Things to do	✓ Visiting rum distilleries, shopping for spirits, walking around Tapuamu village

MOTU TAUTAU (T9)

There is no authorized anchorage close to this motu: be aware anchoring here is strictly forbidden. Great drift snorkelling between public motu Maharare et motu Tautau - make sure to organize one of your crew members staying on board standby while you go ashore, as there is no possible anchorage nearby.

The motu is private and here is one of the nicest hotels of Polynesia: Le Tahaa by Pearl Resorts. Lunch or dinner at the hotel is only possible during low season, you need to book in advance and arrange a transfer from Tapuamu Bay.

Facilities & Services	Comments	Facilities & Services	Comments
Customs & Clearance	✗	Garbage	✗
Mooring (Buoy / Anchor / Marina)	✗	Refuel	✗
Mooring Fee	✗	WiFi	✗
Dinghy Dock	✗	Restaurants & Bars	✓ Enjoy a meal at Le Tahaa - only in low season
Provisioning	✗	Shops	✗
Water Refill & Ice	✗	ATM	✗
Electricity	✗	Laundry	✗
Showers / Toilets	✗	Activities/Things to do	✓ Drift snorkelling departing from Motu Maharare

BAIE DE HUREPITI

There are numerous coral shoals along the northern side of this bay. Favor the south side, which is clear of danger. Follow quite close the south coast and the different small wharves to avoid the northern coral patches. The bay is very beautiful. The ocean swells entering through the Pass Papai and the depth of the bay do not allow for it to be used as an anchorage. Do not try to anchor but tie up to the mooring buoy of Vanilla Tours if you want to visit Tahaa by inside and discover the beautiful botany: vanilla, bamboo etc.

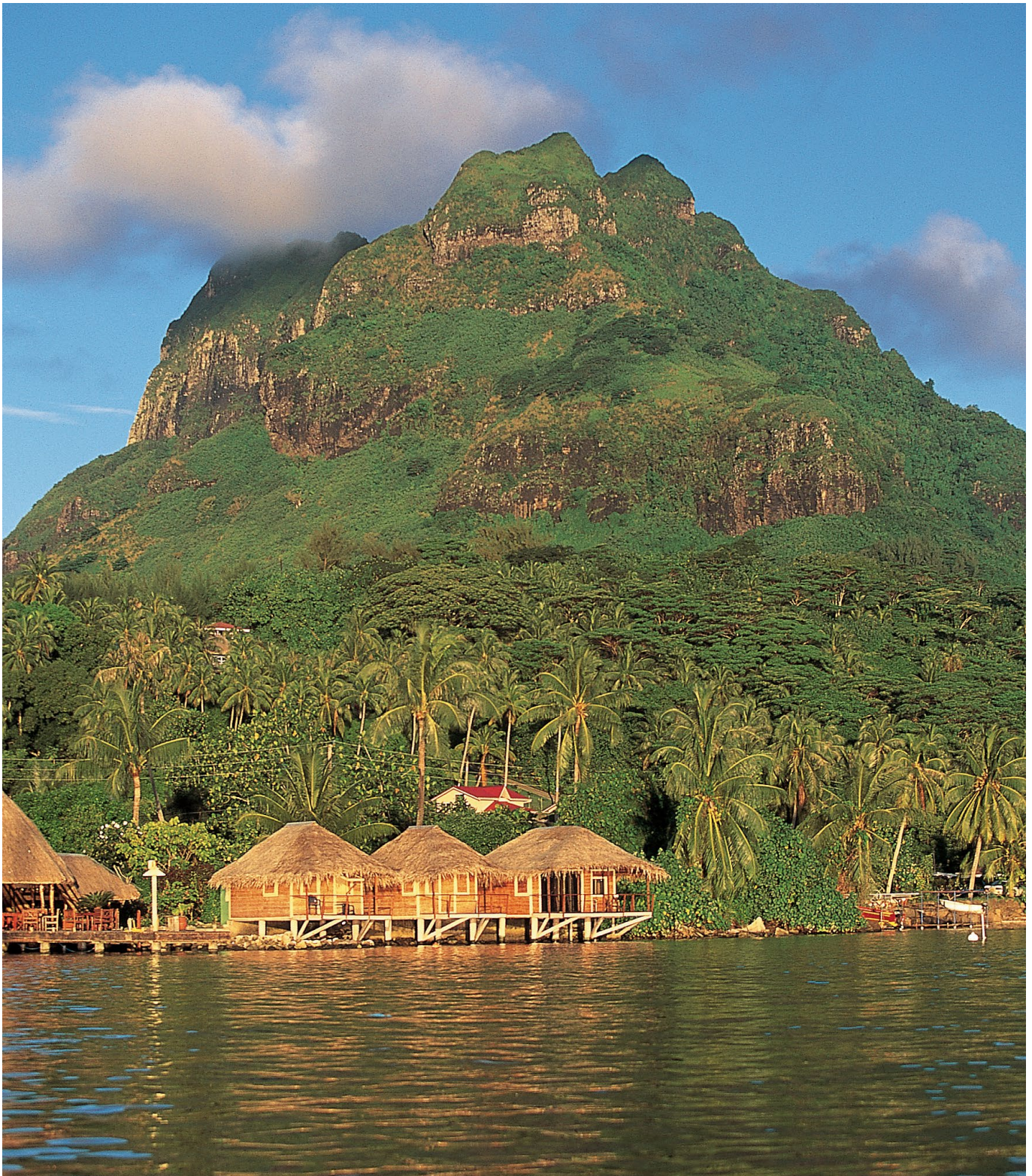
This buoy is private and reserved for Vanilla Tour customers, daytime only. If you are interested in a botanical sightseeing drive, contact Noë by VHF 9 or phone 40 65 62 46. They will show you their vanilla plantation and then take you on a spectacular drive up over Tahaa, describing all the vegetation and flowers along the way.

Facilities & Services	Comments	Facilities & Services	Comments
Customs & Clearance	✗	Garbage	✗
Mooring (Buoy / Anchor / Marina)	✓ Private mooring buoy for Vanilla Tour customers only - day visit only	Refuel	✗
Mooring Fee	✗	WiFi	✗
Dinghy Dock	✗	Restaurants & Bars	✗
Provisioning	✗	Shops	✗
Water Refill & Ice	✗	ATM	✗
Electricity	✗	Laundry	✗
Showers / Toilets	✗	Activities/Things to do	✓ Vanilla Tour: Botanical island tour with Noë

PASS PAIPAI (T10)

North of Hurepiti Bay, the red roof of the church of Tiva is remarkable and can be seen from far at sea when coming from Bora Bora. Note: Passe Papai is one nautical mile south of this church. Known locally as Tiva Pass, it is one of the main passes for the central area of Tahaa and Raiatea and may be used in most weather conditions. However, with strong south to west prevailing winds, this pass can build up heavy-to-breaking swells across the entrance. In such conditions, use Pass Rautoanui (northwest of Raiatea).

This is one of the main shipping passes for vessels leaving for the north to Bora Bora. To enter, follow the leading markers on a bearing of 005 magnetic. Whether entering or leaving, stay well in the middle of the pass before turning, clear off the coral shelf on either side of the channel, as the markers are located very much inside of the pass and there is no marker to show you how far the reef continues.



Cruising Area 4

Bora Bora (B)

About 22 miles from Pass Papai to Pass Teavanui, Bora Bora is composed of a main island rising at Mt Otemanu to a height of 2,362 ft. and a small island, Toopua, enclosed by the same barrier reef. Motu Toopua is part of the ancient volcano of Bora Bora. The crater was situated between Toopua and bay formed from Pte Pahua to Pte Raititi. The barrier reef is covered with motus, (small islands) except on the south and southwest side. Current regulation in Bora Bora: Lagoon is protected so it is strictly forbidden to anchor anywhere except in the one authorized area of Taimoo. It is also mandatory to inform BBMS (Bora Bora Mooring Services) prior to your arrival. Bora Bora Moorings Services (BBMS): 89 44 08 88 or VHF 9 is the company managing all mooring buoys in Bora Bora's lagoon, price is 4000 xpf/night and they're happy to take credit card. BBMS employee goes everyday around the island with a speed boat and meets you at your arrival in the lagoon: let him know how many nights you intend to stay, pay for it and you're free to use any of their balls in each one of the 4 mooring areas. Please note It is also mandatory to close the holding tanks inside the lagoon and to release them when you are offshore.

PASS TEAVANUI (B1)

When approaching Bora Bora, stay well south and west of the barrier reefs. Large Pacific Ocean swells are present virtually all the time. This wave action can send the yacht in towards the reef without being aware of it. Approaching from Raiatea, Pte Teturiroa at the southwest corner of Bora Bora is very deceptive and extends farther to the southwest than would seem apparent. There is a lighthouse on the point which is very visible from the ocean. As with all the passes, stay well out to sea until the pass has correctly been identified, then make an approach. Around a half mile from the pass be careful of the fishing buoys drifting along the West reef. The pass is normally marked with a red-port floating buoy and a green-starboard one. There is another red-port beacon on the reef just south of Motu Ahuna. An approach should be made on 113 magnetic on the two lights in front of Vaitape.

BORA BORA YACHT CLUB (B2)

The Yacht Club mooring field is the easiest first stop when arriving in Bora Bora, located just 10 minutes from the pass in deep waters with no coral hazards. The area provides convenient access to town, nearby gas refills, and dinghy docking. Bora Bora Yacht Club offers meals, drinks, and Happy Hour from 5:30 pm. Nearby, the St James restaurant also has a dinghy dock for dining. This mooring area is recommended if visibility is poor upon arrival, offering a safe and sheltered initial stop.

Facilities & Services	Comments	Facilities & Services	Comments
Customs & Clearance	✗	Garbage	✗
Mooring (Buoy / Anchor / Marina)	✓ Mooring buoys avail	Refuel	✓ Dinghy access to Total Marine Gas Station & ice supply
Mooring Fee	✓ Currently 4000XPF/night collected by BBMS	WiFi	✓
Dinghy Dock	✓ At the Bora Bora Yacht Club restaurant	Restaurants & Bars	✓ Bora Bora Yacht Club, St James
Provisioning	✓	Shops	✓ Shop at the Yacht Club for clothes and souvenirs
Water Refill & Ice	✗ No water refill here but ice available at gas station	ATM	✗
Electricity	✗	Laundry	✗
Showers / Toilets	✗	Activities/Things to do	✓ Start island excursions from here, safe dinghy dock at the Yacht club to leave for the day



VAITAPE (B3)

Vaitape is the main town of Bora Bora and experiences heavy traffic from official and private boats. Access to town is easiest by leaving your boat at the Yacht Club and taking a taxi, or by dinghy in calm conditions. Short-term docking (max 1hr) is permitted on the south side of the harbour to refill water tanks. The water point is marked with zebras and requires a magnetic card purchased from BBMS (1000 XPF refundable deposit, plus 3000 XPF for 500ltrs of water); your own hose must be used. At the head of the wharf are the gendarmerie (law enforcement), post office, public phone service and an ATM. Shops, banks, boutiques, car rentals, restaurants and the medical centre are nearby. Outboard dinghy fuel is available at local gas stations (request a 2% mix). Walking paths lead to World War II cannon sites and ancient maraes around the bay.

Facilities & Services	Comments	Facilities & Services	Comments
Customs & Clearance	✗	Garbage	✗
Mooring (Buoy / Anchor / Marina)	✓	Refuel	✓ Gas station in front of Chin Lee supermarket - walkable distance from the dock
Mooring Fee	✗	WiFi	✓ WiFi available at the Aloe Café
Dinghy Dock	✓	Restaurants & Bars	✓ Within walking distance to restaurants in town
Provisioning	✓	Shops	✓ Souvenirs shops, art gallery, clothing, black pearl shops
Water Refill & Ice	✓ Water at Vaitape dock: purchase a magnetic card from BBMS / Ice at supermarket	ATM	✓ Near the dock, closer to main street
Electricity	✗	Laundry	✗
Showers / Toilets	✗	Activities/Things to do	✓ Exploring, shopping

POVAI BAY (B4)

The bay could be gusty when strong Eastern winds. Be careful of the reef in the Eastern part of the bay and of the coral patches in the south. This bay is rather famous for hosting the very first restaurant of Bora Bora, called the Bloody Mary's. It used to be an iconic place with sandy floor, wooden stools and a wall of fame at the entrance with the name of all celebrities who visited them since the opening. In 2023 they closed the place to build bigger, turning the famous restaurant into a 4-star hotel with overwater bungalows and large restaurant on a pontoon. Grand opening is planned sometime in year 2026. Meanwhile from Poovai bay you can dinghy around the point to reach public beach of Matira.

Facilities & Services	Comments	Facilities & Services	Comments
Customs & Clearance	✗	Garbage	✗
Mooring (Buoy / Anchor / Marina)	✓ BBMS mooring buoys	Refuel	✗
Mooring Fee	✓ Currently 4000XPF/night collected by BBMS	WiFi	✗
Dinghy Dock	✗ Only private properties ashore in this area	Restaurants & Bars	✗
Provisioning	✗	Shops	✗
Water Refill & Ice	✗	ATM	✗
Electricity	✗	Laundry	✗
Showers / Toilets	✗	Activities/Things to do	✓

TOOPUA (B5)

There is a large field of mooring buoys on the west side of motu Toopua. It is important to strictly follow the main channel and stick to the middle, never try to take a shortcut even if you see other boats doing so: local skippers know narrow passages, but they are dangerous and difficult to spot. You also need to be extra careful when entering the mooring field as there is some shallow coral right inside of the mooring area. NOTE: Proceed at the slowest possible speed. The area around Toopua should only be navigated in fine weather when reefs are easily visible. Careful of gusts coming above the Toopua hill. When swimming around the boat, beware of the shuttle boats going fast in the channel close to the mooring area.

Motu Tapu is private and local people live on the island of Toopua - so please respect private properties and do not try to go ashore in this area. The Conrad hotel close by could offer possibility for dinner sometimes upon booking. Snorkelling the area is fun, though make sure to be visible and carry the safety diving buoy with you as Toopua area is pretty busy with power boats. You can take your dinghy to explore reef side and see all the sting rays, eagle rays and blacktip reef sharks swimming in the shallow.

Facilities & Services	Comments	Facilities & Services	Comments
Customs & Clearance	✗	Garbage	✗
Mooring (Buoy / Anchor / Marina)	✓ BBMS mooring buoys	Refuel	✗
Mooring Fee	✓ Currently 4000XPF/night collected by BBMS	WiFi	✗
Dinghy Dock	✗	Restaurants & Bars	✗
Provisioning	✗	Shops	✗
Water Refill & Ice	✗	ATM	✗
Electricity	✗	Laundry	✗
Showers / Toilets	✗	Activities/Things to do	✓



MOTU PITI AAU (B7)

The mooring field between Motu Piti Aau and Taurere is a popular stop, offering many mooring buoys in a large area known as the "Swimming Pool." Depths range from 3 to 7 metres over a sandy bottom. The area can be windy enough for windsurfing or wing foiling, while remaining well sheltered from waves.

As many sites are accessible by dinghy, we strongly recommend arriving with a full dinghy fuel tank and planning ahead.

Excellent snorkelling is available nearby. Around Pointe Fareone, drift silently through the channel to spot eagle rays gliding in 15 feet of clear water. A coral garden and good reef snorkelling are close by, though currents can be strong depending on swell and weather. Always check the current before entering the water.

More snorkelling can be found south of Motu Piti Uu Uta, with dinghy buoys available.

Don't miss a visit to Arii Motu Grill, easy to identify by the flags and beach loungers. The sandbar is very shallow on approach, and at low tide you may need to walk to the beach (water shoes recommended). Drinks and a daily menu are available, with lunch or dinner best arranged one day in advance. Guests are welcome to relax on the beautiful beach.

A walk along the reef side offers spectacular ocean views and leads, after about 20 minutes, to a natural seawater swimming pool protected from the waves.

Facilities & Services	Comments	Facilities & Services	Comments
Customs & Clearance	✗	Garbage	✗
Mooring (Buoy / Anchor / Marina)	✓	Refuel	✗
Mooring Fee	✓	WiFi	✗
Dinghy Dock	✗	Restaurants & Bars	✓
Provisioning	✗	Shops	✗
Water Refill & Ice	✗	ATM	✗
Electricity	✗	Laundry	✗
Showers / Toilets	✗	Activities/Things to do	✓

PASSAGE TO THE EAST LAGOON (B7) FROM THE NORTH

Access to Bora Bora's East Lagoon requires careful navigation and strict adherence to daylight and visibility conditions. This passage should only be attempted between 10:00 and 14:00, when the sun is high and coral heads are clearly visible. Proceed at low speed, post a dedicated lookout on the bow, and follow the route indicated on the Sunsail chart and your base briefer's instructions at all times.

From north Bora Bora at Point Tahi, enter the narrows between the red cylindrical beacon and the green conical beacon. Continue toward the south cardinal beacon, passing carefully between the south cardinal and the red beacon, watching closely for isolated coral heads.

Once clear, alter course to approximately ESE, maintaining a distance of about 200 yards off the motu. Keep a sharp lookout for the northernmost coral head in this area, which is marked by a north cardinal beacon and must be passed with the beacon to your south.

Avoid the Red Zone in the narrow channel north of Tianoa Point. Follow the shallow turquoise-water channel running alongside the four hotels, keeping close to the overwater bungalows for the final two resorts (Westin and InterContinental). After passing the last overwater villa, carefully identify the dangerous coral head, then exit the shallow area with an approximately 90-degree turn into deeper water.

Once in deep water, remain clear of hazards, follow the recommended track on the Sunsail chart, and continue toward the Motu Piti Aau (B7) mooring field, a sheltered and scenic anchorage in the East Lagoon.

Cruising Area 5

Huahine (H)

The passage from Bora Bora to Huahine is usually done in two stages: leave Bora Bora around 10:00 to reach Raiatea and anchor overnight, then continue the next morning to Huahine, aiming to arrive no later than 15:00. Anchoring in Huahine is strictly regulated and only allowed in designated areas.

Huahine lies about 25 nautical miles east of Raiatea and is divided by Pass Honoava into Huahine Nui in the north (Mt Turi, 2,000 ft / 669 m) and Huahine Iti in the south (Mt Puhueri, 1,400 ft / 462 m). Coprah and vanilla are the main crops, with watermelons also grown for export. The island is rich in maraes and religious sites, including Anini near Avea Bay and a series along Lake Maeva. Driving around the island is recommended to explore these cultural sites. Walk or cycle out from Fare heading north for approximately two miles towards the village of Maeva along Lake Maeva. There is a whole series of ancient religious stones grouping and marae on the edge of the lake.

PASS AVAMOA (H1)

The main pass to Fare on the west coast, well-marked with red and green beacons and an east cardinal beacon on the south reef. Approach on a 113 magnetic bearing to line up the two leading marks at Pte Matapiri. Stay well out until aligned.

PASS AVAPEHI (H2)

The second pass for Fare. The south reef has three green conical beacons; the north reef has a south cardinal beacon inside the lagoon. Leading markers are on 89 magnetic, with two white beacons at Pte Papatea.

FARE (H3)

Fare anchorage between 2 passes in a north-westerly is the only authorised of this area (anchoring on the North side close to the beach is prohibited) : this anchorage offers some protection from sea swells coming through Pass Avamoa, but it is not protected from any strong winds and gusty most of the time. Do not stay overnight as the bottom there is poor quality for anchorage, flat rocks with little sand - very slippery and unsafe. There is a shelf on which to anchor in approximately 4-5 meters of water. Do not anchor too far out into the pass which connects the two passes of Avamoa and Avapehi, as this channel is sometimes used at night by the large inter-island boats. You will see an east cardinal beacon on the northeast corner of the reef, and a south cardinal beacon at the southeast point of that reef. Use this anchorage preferably if you need provisioning (super U Fare is a nice supermarket) - if you don't have to, you can skip and go straight South towards Hanaiti.

Facilities & Services	Comments	Facilities & Services	Comments
Customs & Clearance	✗	Garbage	✓
Mooring (Buoy / Anchor / Marina)	✓ Free anchoring between the two passes - poor quality anchorage - NO overnight	Refuel	✓ Station Total Fare
Mooring Fee	✗	WiFi	✗
Dinghy Dock	✓	Restaurants & Bars	✗ Huahine Yacht Club, Metis (highly recommended)
Provisioning	✓ Super U Fare Nui supermarket	Shops	✓
Water Refill & Ice	✗	ATM	✓
Electricity	✗	Laundry	✗
Showers / Toilets	✗	Activities/Things to do	✓ Shopping, exploring

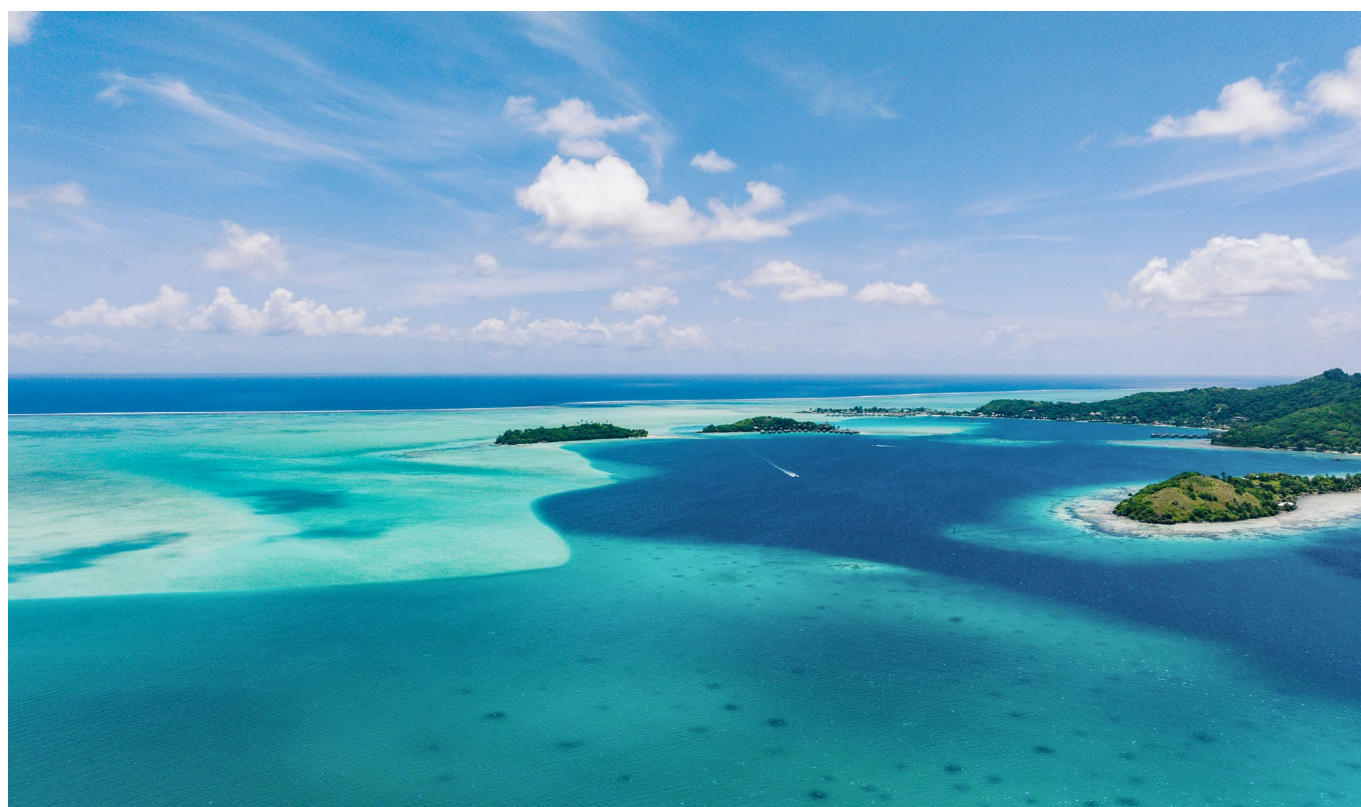
MOTU VAIOREA (H6) AND HANA ITI BEACH (H4)

The views from Port Bourayne are truly magnificent and should not be missed. It is a peaceful heaven, totally away from it all and isolated from the barrier reef's roar. On passing through the narrow entrance, you are transported, as if by magic, from the tropics to the heart of a beautiful Scottish loch. Enter and depart from Port Bourayne through its north pass, leaving Motu Vaiorea to the south. The pass is well marked with red cylindrical beacons on the reefs, a south cardinal beacon on the north side of the pass and a North cardinal beacon on Motu Vaiorea. Anchoring in the port is not possible, as the bottom is all mud, 70 to 90 feet deep (23-30m). Anchoring is possible on turquoise sandbar from front of Motu Vaiorea to Southern side of the green marker, in shallow water or Southwest of the green marker in 5-6 meters on a sandy patch. It is also possible to pick up a mooring ball for free in front of the white sand beach. Cell phone service is poor in the area and gets worse as you get closer to mainland.

Hana Iti beach: H4: 3 mooring buoys in front of a nice tiny beach under the Teapaa Mt. Overnight is possible. You can go by dinghy to the beach and hike around, or chill on this Instagramable white sand beach. Snorkeling is great on the east side of motu Vaiorea where you can find several dinghy moorings buoys. If you are a good swimmer and feel tempted to swim from boat to beach or snorkelling area, please make sure one of your crew is following with the dinghy and carry the safety floating device with you : the main channel is used by all power boats, from tourists to fishermen

(H5) On the reef side you can anchor between green marker and shallow turquoise water, make sure to drop off anchor on sandy area clear of coral heads.

Facilities & Services	Comments	Facilities & Services	Comments
Customs & Clearance	✗	Garbage	✗
Mooring (Buoy / Anchor / Marina)	✓	Refuel	✗
Mooring Fee	✗ <small>Free anchoring in a large shallow portion (refer to chart briefing) or 3 free mooring buoys in front of Hana Iti beach</small>	WiFi	✗
Dinghy Dock	✗	Restaurants & Bars	✗
Provisioning	✗	Shops	✗
Water Refill & Ice	✗	ATM	✗
Electricity	✗	Laundry	✗
Showers / Toilets	✗	Activities/Things to do	✓ <small>Snorkelling South Motu Vaiorea, swimming, water activities</small>



AVEA BAY (H7)

The approach to this bay from the north should be navigated with care. Follow the marked channel, keeping the red cylindrical beacons on the shore side. Refer to "INNER PASSAGE TO AVEA BAY (H7)" for guidance. At the bay entrance, the water is shallow with coral heads; post a lookout on the bow and proceed slowly until clear of the point.

Once past the point marking the entrance to Avea Bay, depths increase to an average of 10–12 metres throughout. The bay is well protected, except during strong southerly or westerly winds. A pleasant mooring area is located at the eastern end of the bay, with numerous free mooring buoys available.

From the mooring field, dinghy to Pointe Tiva to enjoy white sand beaches or reef snorkelling. Be mindful of the current, especially when swell is running, as the south coast can be dangerous in strong swell conditions.

On the eastern side of the bay is Le Mahana Hotel, which has a dinghy pontoon. From here, you can rent a car to explore the island or enjoy a meal at the restaurant – 40 60 60 40

We recommend organising land-based activities from this mooring area rather than from Fare village. The mooring buoys are safe, the bay is well protected, and Le Mahana's private dinghy dock provides a secure place to leave your dinghy for the day. Local guides are happy to collect guests from this location, and Europcar car rental is conveniently located across the road from the hotel.

Facilities & Services	Comments	Facilities & Services	Comments
Customs & Clearance	✗	Garbage	✗
Mooring (Buoy / Anchor / Marina)	✓ Free mooring buoys	Refuel	✗
Mooring Fee	✗	WiFi	✗
Dinghy Dock	✓ At Le Mahana Hotel	Restaurants & Bars	✓ Restaurant Le Mahana, Vairai Sunset Grill further South down Avea beach
Provisioning	✗	Shops	✗
Water Refill & Ice	✗	ATM	✗
Electricity	✗	Laundry	✗
Showers / Toilets	✗	Activities/Things to do	✓ Any land tour, car rental, walk and marae (sacred archaeological sites) exploration

INNER PASSAGE TO AVEA BAY (H7)

When navigating the inside passage, must respect the markings carefully: Cardinal markers nearby Haapu bay are here to mark entrance of the bay, if you're going South just disregard these and follow line to next red marker. The last green marker before Avea Bay is missing so make sure you stay clear and stick to the middle of the channel as shown on GPS. As for all shallow lagoons area, it is highly recommended to navigate at best visibility times, from 10am to 2pm.

PASS ARAARA

This pass is dangerous due to shallow depth and swells. It should never be used, even by dinghy.

PASS FAREREA (H8)

Approach Pass Farerea from either the north or south around Huahine. The barrier reef off Mt Faaua and Pte Tiva extends farther offshore than it appears—stay well clear of both points.

If coming from the south, depart early (over 18 NM sailing). Plan to reach the pass no later than 15:00 and remain well offshore before turning in.

Enter on a 250° magnetic bearing, lining up the two black-and-white beacons at the base of the prominent cliff. The entrance is narrow—study charts and large-scale inset carefully before arrival.

Do not enter after strong easterlies, as ocean swell can make the pass dangerous. When exiting, continue straight for up to 1 mile before turning along the coast.

BAIE DE MAROE

There are few red and green beacons to mark each side of the bay. Everywhere the depth is more than 30 meters - anchorage is not possible here

PASS TIARE

On the northeast coast, this pass is also dangerous and should not be used.

MURIMAHORA MOTU (MOTU MURI) (H9)

After Pass Farerea, marked with two red beacons in the south, make a route ESE. The north point of Rate Bay is marked with a north cardinal beacon, and its southern point with a red beacon. The inner passage is narrow. Keep an eye on the depth sounder and proceed slowly. The only safe anchorage in this area is in leeward side of Motu Muri. Don't take the yacht further south along Motu Muri Mahora. There are dangerous coral heads that come right to the surface. It is, however, a good area to dinghy to. There is good snorkeling on the shoals between Motu Muri and the main island. At the end of Motu Tarohu, there is a nice beach.

NOTE: There are various dwellings on Motu Muri Mahora. Please respect their property and privacy if landing on the Motu.

Facilities & Services	Comments	Facilities & Services	Comments
Customs & Clearance	✗	Garbage	✗
Mooring (Buoy / Anchor / Marina)	✓ Free anchorage - make sure to drop off anchor on sand	Refuel	✗
Mooring Fee	✗	WiFi	✗
Dinghy Dock	✗	Restaurants & Bars	✗
Provisioning	✗	Shops	✗
Water Refill & Ice	✗	ATM	✗
Electricity	✗	Laundry	✗
Showers / Toilets	✗	Activities/Things to do	✓ Snorkelling, manta rays, bicycle, hiking, exploring



Cruising Area 6

Maupiti (M)

Located 28 NM from Bora Bora, the Maupiti Pass is renowned for being very narrow and shallow and effectively closed when the southerly swell exceeds 1.5 metres. Before planning a visit to this exceptional island - often nicknamed "Little Bora Bora" - you must obtain authorisation from the Sunsail base.

Trips to Maupiti can only be planned day by day, as they depend on the most up-to-date weather forecast. Conditions must allow not only safe entry into the lagoon but also ensure that exit will remain possible 2-3 days later.

On arrival at the pass, you must line up two beacons for the entrance, then align a second pair of beacons to follow the main channel. A special Maupiti briefing is mandatory for skippers intending to go. Please follow your briefer's instructions carefully.

FIRST ANCHORAGE (M1)

Anchor carefully, this is a protected manta ray zone.

GAS STATION (M2)

A small marina with fuel is available **by dinghy only**.

TOWN ANCHORAGE (M3)

Anchor in front of the town, staying clear of the main channel main channel (see map), with dinghy access via a dedicated dock. From here, you can rent bikes to circumnavigate the 10 km island, hike to the top of the mountain for panoramic views, snorkel along the sandbank near the town in the morning where manta rays may be present or explore the outer reef for clear water and abundant small fish. Always plan to leave Maupiti early in the morning due to potential pass conditions.

Facilities & Services	Comments	Facilities & Services	Comments
Customs & Clearance	✗	Garbage	✗
Mooring (Buoy / Anchor / Marina)	✓ Free anchoring where allowed (see on chart: M1 & M3)	Refuel	✗
Mooring Fee	✗	WiFi	✗
Dinghy Dock	✓ Town, and at gas station (M2)	Restaurants & Bars	✓ Just few family places, upon booking
Provisioning	✗	Shops	✓
Water Refill & Ice	✗	ATM	✗
Electricity	✗	Laundry	✗
Showers / Toilets	✗	Activities/Things to do	✓





See you soon!

WE LOOK FORWARD TO YOUR VISIT.

We want you to have the best experience when you charter with us. That is why we include more as standard than any other charter company.

For help planning your charter, email us at sales@thlmarine.com

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