

# The Marquesas Compendium

## A Compilation of Guidebook References and Cruising Reports



*Figure 1 Bay of Virgins photo by Dave McCampbell of Soggy Paws*

**IMPORTANT:** USE ALL INFORMATION IN THIS DOCUMENT AT YOUR OWN RISK!!

Rev 2024.4 – Nov 15, 2024

**Please send us updates to this guide!**

Keep the Marquesas Compendium alive by being a contributor. We are especially looking for information on places where we have no cruiser information and new information on existing content. It's easy to participate and will help many other cruisers for years to come.

Email Soggy Paws at sherry –at- svsgogypaws –dot- com.

You can also contact us on Sailmail at WDI5677

The current home (and the most up to date) version of this official document is

<http://svsgogypaws.com/files/#frpoly>

If you found this compendium posted elsewhere, it might not be the most current version. Please check the above site for the most up to date copy and remember, it will always be free!

## Revision Log

Many thanks to all who have contributed over the years!!

Rev	Date	Info Source	What
2024.4	November 15, 2024	Lucky Dog & Others	Minor updates in various places. A few more notes on new online clearance process. A report on Eiao.
2024.3	June 23, 2024	Migration	Edit and clean up plus misc. updates
2024.2	June 14, 2024	Blown Away, Kiskadee	Dentist in Nuku Hiva, New clearance procedures
2024.1	Jan 7, 2024	Soggy Paws	Removed misplaced paragraph
2023.2	Aug 10, 2023	Nutmeg	Fatu Hiva activities
2023.1	February 11, 2023	Migration	Updates from cruising thru Marquesas in early 2023
2022.7	December 17, 2022	Migration	Updates from cruising thru Marquesas in 2022
2022.6	December 11, 2022	Villa Veritas, Mabel Rose	Updates from cruising thru Marquesas in 2022
2022.5	September 7, 2022	Spirit of Argo	Importing pets update, water in Hakahau Bay, Ua Pou
2022.4	July 19, 2022	Sierra Wind, Deinemeid, Jamala	Importing a dog into Fr Poly in the Marquesas, various other updates.
2022.3	June 16, 2022	Rhapsody, Sparklemuffin	Daniel's Bay update, Ua Pou Hakahetau update. Taiohae trash/water access fee.
2022.2	May 31, 2022	Flite Deck	Update on Manta Rays in Hanamoenoa Bay
2022.1	February 15, 2022	Askari	New Magasin (Hamani) in Tahuata
2021.5	Nov 20, 2021	Sugar Shack	Added info about Nuku Tai Nui Marine
2021.4	July 23, 2021	Sugar Shack	Air Tahiti "Seniors" discount
2021.3	12 April 2021	Sugar Shack	Various updates and improvements
2021.2	February 1, 2021	Trance	A few updates from 2021 visit
2021.1	January 16, 2021	Sugar Shack	Update on first 50 pages, links, visas, shipping, etc...
2020.1	June 12, 2020	Sugar Shack	Reorganization of compendium and updates from Sugar Shack
2019.3	July 22, 2019	Jacaranda and Soggy Paws	Ciguatera Warnings for Marquesas. A few weather link updates.
2019.2	June 15, 2019	Taitonga	A few more updates
2019.1	June 6, 2019	Chugach Taitonga	Various updates from April 2019 visit Various updates from December 2018 visit
2018.6	December 3, 2018	Consensus	Minor updates from 2017 Visit
2018.5	October 20, 2018	Moon Rebel, Jacaranda	Updates on Hanavave, Atuona, Tahuata, Ua Huka.
...	...	Many Cruisers	Many Updates from many people!
	July 4, 2010	Soggy Paws	Initial Version

**I would like to extend a Huge Thanks to  
 Christine Mitchell of s/v Sugar Shack for  
 updating this Compendium  
 and  
 Chuck Hoolihan of s/v Jacaranda for his unfailing  
 dedication to cruisers' information in French Polynesia**

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# 1 Introduction

This guide originally started out as a way for Soggy Paws and a few friends to organize notes and various internet sources on the Tuamotus. Later, it became a way for us to pass on what we've learned to other cruisers. When we got to other archipelagos, we added a compendium for them as well. We have since created over 45 compendiums all the way across the Pacific and in to SE Asia. Plus, we've received updates from cruisers since 2011 (please send us yours!).

This is not intended to replace the guidebooks or charts, but to supplement out-of-date guides with recent cruiser first-hand reports, and fill in information on places that the guides don't cover.

We are indebted to all the cruisers who have sent in updates!

## 1.1 Organization of the Guide

We have somewhat arbitrarily chosen to organize this information from North to South. This is pretty much how those coming from Panama or Galapagos will encounter them.

This guide is NOT intended to replace commercially-available guidebooks (see the section on Printed Sources for recommendations), but to supplement those guidebooks with first-hand accounts from other cruisers.

## 1.2 Clearance and Visa Guidelines

The official Govt of France website: <http://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/coming-to-france/getting-a-visa/>

**May 2024 Clearance Update:** Here is our experience of checking in into French Polynesia at Mangareva, Gambier. I believe this will apply across all check-in points.

We are both Dutch (EU) and our crew is English. A fellow sailor arriving in the same week is an US citizen.

We all opted for all paperwork done at arrival. We all opted for a 90 days stay.

So all paperwork is now done online (before leaving your prior port) starting at:

<https://www.demarches-simplifiees.fr/commencer/declaration-unique-plaisance-polynesie-francaise>

The captain of the boat first creates a login to FrenchConnect and need to fill in all details of ship, Captain, the owner, crew and custom items (weapons, alcohol etc). The device used to do this should have usable scans of the following documents,

- All passports,
- Ship's Papers,
- Zarpe
- Flight Tickets (if crew are departing on arrival)

Once created, this dossier is valid for all of the FP and totally electronic. No need to refile, posted etc. Keep your dossier number at hand. So this is a huge improvement on the old procedure with multiple forms and agencies.

We went ashore and the Gendarmerie is the only place we needed to visit. We were asked (as EU citizens) if we would like a entry stamp. (which we did for Fiji purposes). UK and US are always stamped. We did not have to mail any forms to Papeete, and it is no longer required to go to Papeete to do a formal check-in.

– sy Kiskadee

**April 2024:** Here is the link to the site we used to create an account and then fill in the form for our arrival:

[https://www.demarches-simplifiees.fr/users/sign\\_in](https://www.demarches-simplifiees.fr/users/sign_in)

We received a "dossier number" which was used by the gendarmerie in Hiva Oa to clear us in, as well as the Customs office in Papeete to issue our duty free fuel certificate.

To clear out, you fill out another form online, then go to the Gendarmerie and give them your "file number." They will send your file to Tahiti and will ask you to come back in a day or two so they can stamp your passports and hand you your outbound clearance papers.

### **1.2.1 Entry Procedures for EU Citizens**

See the Govt of France website

### **1.2.2 Entry Procedures for Non-EU Citizens**

**Obtain the most current information on Long-Stay Visas and 90-Day Visas:**

- Long-Stay Visas: <https://www.jacarandajourney.com/fplongstayvisa>
- 90-Day Visa for French Polynesia: <https://www.jacarandajourney.com/fp90dayvisa>
- and at the Govt of France website

### **1.2.3 The French Polynesia Bond (Repatriation Guarantee)**

**Obtain the most current information on the French Polynesia Bond, Long-Stay Visas and 90-Day Visas:**

- Long-Stay Visas: <https://www.jacarandajourney.com/fplongstayvisa>
  - The French Polynesia Bond information can be found under Long-Stay Visas
- 90-Day Visa for French Polynesia: <https://www.jacarandajourney.com/fp90dayvisa>

### **1.2.4 Long Stay Visa**

Non-EU Citizens require a long-stay visa or Carte de Sejour (CD) in order to stay in French Polynesia longer than 90-days. Download the most current information on long-stay visas:

- Long-Stay Visas: <https://www.jacarandajourney.com/fplongstayvisa>
- 90-Day Visa for French Polynesia: <https://www.jacarandajourney.com/fp90dayvisa>
- The official Govt of France website: <http://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/coming-to-france/getting-a-visa/>

There is a separate website for each French embassy/consulate. There is no French embassy/consulate in Hawaii, there are ones in LA, San Francisco, Miami, Washington DC, Boston, Atlanta etc.

- A full list of French Embassies in the U.S.: <http://www.mfe.org/index.php/Annuaire/Ambassades-et-consulats-francais-a-l-etranger> (look in the list for Etats Unis for all USA offices)
- Mexico: <http://www.consulfrance-mexico.org/>
- Panama: <http://ambafrance-pa.org/>
- Ecuador: <http://www.ambafrance-ec.org/>
- Chile: <https://cl.ambafrance.org/Visa-Comment-demander-un-visa-pour-la-France>
- Another site is <https://France-visas.gouv.fr>

**Renewing LS Visa (Carte de Sejour):** You can renew your LS Visa once a year. Paperwork cannot be submitted to the Haute Commissionnaire until two months prior to your expiry date. For example: if your expiry date is 11 April, you cannot submit your renewal paperwork until February 11 (2 months prior). You submit virtually the same paperwork (application, attestation, 3-months financials, proof of health coverage, copies of passport, boat paperwork, CDs, etc...) and you can use an agent for a smoother process. Everyone applying must present themselves to the Haute Commissionnaire at least one time per year.

### **1.2.5 Do I Need an Agent?**

Technically, no, you do not need an agent to check in and out of French Polynesia. However, having an agent *may* facilitate some things. An agent will provide or help you obtain:



- Bond guarantee
- Activating a long stay visa (renewal of long-stay visa / carte de sejour)
- Duty Free Fuel certificate
- Paperwork for duty free liquor (obtained in Tahiti on checkout from Tahiti)
- Receiving packages/mail in Tahiti before you arrive there

The [Pacific Puddle Jump Rally](#) negotiates a 'group rate' with Tahiti Crew to handle the bond issue and provide the duty-free fuel paperwork.

That said, with the new online system, it is very easy to check in/out on your own.

<https://www.demarches-simplifiees.fr/commencer/declaration-unique-plaisance-polynesie-francaise>

#### **1.2.5.1 Agents**

- **Tahiti Crew** +689 87 23 55 41, [www.tahiticrew.com](http://www.tahiticrew.com), [info@tahiticrew.com](mailto:info@tahiticrew.com), or [yachts@tahiticrew.com](mailto:yachts@tahiticrew.com). Located in Marina Taina, Papeete, Tahiti. [Services and Fees](#)
- **Nuku Hiva Yacht Services** Kevin +689 87 226 872, [www.YachtServicesNukuHiva.com](http://www.YachtServicesNukuHiva.com) or [ysnukuhiva@outlook.com](mailto:ysnukuhiva@outlook.com), Located in Nuku Hiva, Marquesas.
- **Hiva Oa Yacht Services**, Sandra, +689 87 232 247, [hivaoayachtservices@gmail.com](mailto:hivaoayachtservices@gmail.com). Located in Hiva Oa, Marquesas.

#### **1.2.6 Clearing Out of French Polynesia**

**Noonsite – Last Updated April 2015, verified in 2020:** Best to check in with your agent or the marina office (either Marina Papeete or Marina Taina) to confirm these rules have not changed, especially if you are leaving French Polynesia to another country.

**Departure Clearance in Papeete:** This is compulsory when you plan to sail more than 50 miles away from Tahiti. The normal clearing procedure in Papeete starts 3 days before your intended departure.

Three days before departure from Tahiti send an e-mail to the harbormaster (capitainerie) with your boat name, captain's name and destination (for example Cook Islands via the Leeward Islands or Tonga). They will request you complete an "Inner Polynesian Islands Clearance Request"

[trafficmaritime@portppt.pf](mailto:trafficmaritime@portppt.pf)

copy to: [sp@portppt.pf](mailto:sp@portppt.pf) and [marinadepapeete@portppt.pf](mailto:marinadepapeete@portppt.pf) (if you are staying at Marina Papeete)

**If you plan to depart Tahiti and sail to a foreign country via other FP Islands**, the harbormaster will prepare your inner Polynesian Islands departure clearance in Tahiti and e-mail it to you. You must however go and meet the Gendarmes in the last FP island touched to do the official final exit from FP. The local Gendarme will give you 24 hours to leave once clearance has been granted.

**If you plan to depart Tahiti and sail direct to a foreign country**, the harbormaster will send your clearance to the Immigration authorities. The day before departure go to Customs to complete exit formalities with them and then visit Immigration at the airport to pick up your exit clearance. You now have until midnight to depart. With this paper you can get duty free fuel, only on the day of departure.

If you had to pay a bond on entry (non-EU citizens only), ensure that your papers specify which island you will be departing from in order that arrangements can be made to retrieve your bond.

#### **Departure Clearance from other FP Islands**

Visit the Gendarmes at the clearance port you are departing from at least a day before departure and complete a Customs declaration form (ticking it for EXIT). This will then need to be mailed by post to the Customs main office in Papeete. Sometimes the Gendarmes will do this on your behalf, however it is your responsibility to ensure the form gets mailed to Papeete. The Gendarmes will also stamp your passports. They will then give you 24 hours to depart.

**May 2024: Update:** You first have to fill out an online out clearance form BEFORE going to the gendarmes. <https://www.demarches-simplifiees.fr/commencer/declaration-unique-plaisance-polynesie-francaise>

Once you submit the form online, you will immediately receive by email a confirmation number that must be given to the gendarmes along with your passports. Once those steps are completed, the gendarmes will send you by email your out clearance (“permission de sortie”). By the time we went to see the gendarmes and got back on our boat, we had received the clearance email. – Toucan

### **1.2.7 Vessels Length of Stay**

Vessels are allowed to stay in French Polynesia for up to two (2) years. After, two years, you will be required to import your boat or leave French Polynesia.

### **1.2.8 Custom Patrols**

French Polynesia Customs Web (French): <http://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/coming-to-france/getting-a-visa/>

During “crossing season” there may be a Customs boat wandering around in the arrival ports. They have copies of the customs declarations that are filed when you arrive, and are spot-checking to make sure everyone is being honest with their customs declarations. They are also making sure people are checking in before cruising the islands.

### **1.2.9 Arriving and Departing Crew**

Air Tahiti [www.airtahiti.pf](http://www.airtahiti.pf) and [www.airmoana.pf](http://www.airmoana.pf) offer domestic flights to nearly all the islands of French Polynesia. Charter flights such as Air Archipel are available on request. Helicopters are one other option. If your friends (or you) want to see more of French Polynesia, be sure to have them check out Air Tahiti’s multi-island Air Pass. [www.airtahiti.pf/tarifs-pass](http://www.airtahiti.pf/tarifs-pass)

If you have crew who entered with you in the Marquesas, but who will leave the boat before you arrive in Papeete, you should ask officials (your agent, if you have one), what you need to do to sign the crew member off your boat, and properly set their immigration status.

Crew trying to fly out from the Tuamotus, through Papeete, were severely hassled at the Papeete airport because the proper leaving formalities had not been complied with.

Likewise, if you have crew flying in to meet you someplace in French Polynesia, who plan to leave French Poly on your boat, you will need to inquire what THEY will need to do get in the country. (see bond discussion above—this will apply to them as well, if they don’t buy a round trip ticket).

### **1.2.10 Bringing Animals In**

**SV Spirit of Argo – Sep 2022:** Unfortunately, there is no longer a vet in the Marquesas (Nuku Hiva) to complete the importation of pets into French Polynesia. Ludovic has left to take a position in New Caledonia.

The Society Islands (Papeete) have veterinary practices to extract the blood required to complete rabies and Leishmaniasis tests for biosecurity to clear your pet from on-board quarantine.

There is no longer a 3 month quarantine period in French Polynesia. As soon as the blood tests come back negative, and your pet clears a visual check by biosecurity, you will be issued an importation certificate and the pet is free to come ashore.

**SV Deinemeid - June 2022:** We started our current journey in the Netherlands, passing through Europe to the Canary Islands, from where we sailed directly to St. Vincent and the Grenadines, as Cape Verde is considered by many countries to be a rabies-infected country, which would have made entry to St. Vincent impossible.

After visiting the French islands and Dominica, we sailed to Panama, crossed the canal and sailed directly to Nuku Hiva. On this trip we met many people with dogs, but almost none of them sail to French Polynesia. Even

in Panama, most of the boats with dogs send their pets by plane to friends or relatives, because they consider it too difficult to import the dog to French Polynesia.

Since last year, however, importing a dog into French Polynesia has become much easier, as the health inspection of the dog can now be done in Nuku Hiva and not only in Tahiti, as before. There is still a lot of paperwork and work to do well in advance.

In my experience, it is quite difficult to find out this information. Even the famous blogs written by salty sailors with a dog on board usually don't mention the formalities concerning their dog, even though all the other minor details are described in detail. So I decided to write my own experience in the hope that it will help other pet owners who wish to sail in French Polynesia with their dog.

Of course, all regulations are subject to change and, as with any country you wish to visit with a pet, it is always wise to check the current regulations by emailing the relevant authorities at least a few months before you leave. I will put a list of current email addresses below this writing.

Since we decided to travel with our dog, we have always given him all the vaccinations that may be required by a country. He has a European pet passport, in which the vet has noted all treatments and checks, and he has a microchip. The microchip number must be included on all documents required for entry into French Polynesia.

The biggest fear in most countries with strict rules is that a dog infected with rabies will enter their territory. This is no different in French Polynesia. Therefore, rabies vaccines must be in order (i.e. valid for the six months prior to arrival in French Polynesia) and an anti-rabies titration test must be performed in an approved laboratory. The results of this test cannot be less than 3 months old and not more than 1 year old at the arrival in French Polynesia. The dog must therefore be at least 10 months old to theoretically meet the criteria. We had this test done in the Canary Islands, which caused us some hassle because of the customs requirements for shipping animal products. Perhaps it would have been easier on the European mainland or the French West Indies.

We were told the dog was not allowed to disembark in Panama, but on arrival in Nuku Hiva it turned out that this wasn't necessary after all, as long as the dog is properly vaccinated (rabies at least 6 months before arrival in French Polynesia).

In Panama we had a vet carry out the health check required for the health certificate as well as a Leishmania test and internal and external anti-parasite treatment. An additional dose of antiparasitic treatment was kept on board and administered by the veterinarian in Nuku Hiva.

All documents (animal passport, animal identification number, vaccination records, rabies test results, results of the Leishmania and health certificate) as well as an import application form (form 211 A) and the Panama zarpe were then sent by email to the bio-security officer in Nuku Hiva.

Communicating with this officer before departure made things much easier on arrival, as he already knew that all our papers were in order. Also, if anything is not in order, he can tell you and you can fix the problem before departure.

On arrival, we emailed the bio-security officer to arrange an inspection appointment, which was arranged for the following morning. In the meantime, the dog had to stay on board. We picked up the bio-security officer and the local vet at the dock and took them to our boat. There they inspected our dog thoroughly, mainly looking for nerve problems that could indicate rabies. They also took his temperature and examined him for eye, coat, skin or belly problems (a general examination). If the crossing was prolonged, he could also be tested for Leishmania, which requires the dog's blood to be taken on the boat.

The veterinarian then declared our dog healthy and the bio-security officer immediately gave us the document authorizing him to land in the whole of French Polynesia. We were allowed to disembark with the dog from that moment on. The fee was 4500 francs.

I was quite nervous when I arrived, but in the end everything went very well. I think that if you take things seriously and plan well in advance, it is quite possible to respect the strict (understandable) rules. In summary, I think a good plan to import your dog to French Polynesia would be the following:

- Have your dog chipped and have a passport with all its vaccinations, treatments and controls.
- Find out the exact rules in time (<https://www.service-public.pf/biosecurite/import/import-animaux-vivants/chiens-et-chats/>).
- Make sure your vaccinations and tests (including rabies) are done in the right time.
- Make sure your pet has a valid rabies vaccination of more than 6 months upon arrival in French Polynesia.
- Send all documents and your expected arrival date by email to the local bio-security officer.

In conclusion, I would like to make a comment on the following: I have read that some people take risks and do not register their dogs to avoid costs and hassle. Unfortunately, dogs have been killed because of this. This is not a punishment, but dogs are killed to be sent to the laboratory for examination on rabies. In addition to this, a fine of over 450,000 francs can be imposed and even jail time can be sentenced. People who love their dogs and respect a country and its people will therefore make the effort to comply with these demanding but achievable rules.

#### **E-mail addresses :**

Biosecurity Nuku Hiva: [yann.teikiteetini@biosecurite.gov.pf](mailto:yann.teikiteetini@biosecurite.gov.pf)

General biosafety of FPs: [animal.impex@biosecurite.gov.pf](mailto:animal.impex@biosecurite.gov.pf)

Veterinarian Nuku Hiva: [ludovic.verfaille@mail.pf](mailto:ludovic.verfaille@mail.pf)

At the time I sent my email, gov.pf email addresses were not able to receive messages larger than 5 MB. I sent the documents in several emails to solve this problem. Everyone wrote in very good English (to my non-native standard). If you don't get a response after a few days, something has probably gone wrong and you should try again.

### **1.3 Maneuvering and Anchoring in the Marquesas**

#### **1.3.1 Official French Polynesia Tide Tables**

SHOM (Service Hydrographique et Oceanographique de la Marine) is the official site for tides in French Polynesia. Go to [maree.shom.fr](http://maree.shom.fr). In the Marquesas, tides are provided for Taiohae, Nuku Hiva and (surprisingly) Eiao.

#### **1.3.2 Marine Protected Areas Guide**

Marine Protected Areas Guide:

<http://www.ressources-marines.gov.pf/cdi/depliants-livrets-guides/>

If you can't find it there, the most recent version can be found here:

<https://svsoggypaws.com/files/#frpoly>

Look for "Marine Protected Areas in French Polynesia"

**August 2018:** Since we transited through French Polynesia in 2010/2011, the government has made many changes to anchoring areas. The latest copy of the Marine Protected Areas, and the regulations surrounding them, are published in a guide downloadable from the internet. Sorry, I could not find an English version. Time to start practicing your French! – Soggy Paws

#### **1.3.3 Anchoring in Coral**

**Please float your chain when anchoring near coral. Remember, we are guests visiting this country, islands, atolls, and backyards of the lovely locals. We must take responsibility to protect the lagoons.**

Often lagoons are not clear and many times you are anchoring without knowing if there is coral on the bottom. Jacaranda has found the use of a fish finder to locate clear spots on the bottom invaluable in murky situations. We have a cheap one with the transducer stuck to the inside of the hull with silicon.

Each year sail boats cruising in French Polynesia get into trouble at anchor: They get trapped on lee shores after a shift in the wind direction and/or foul their anchor and/or chain in coral. The results are stressful maneuvers to get the anchor back up, bent bow rollers, and ruined or even ripped out windlass. Of course, the fragile coral structures get badly damaged with each of these messed up maneuvers as well.

It is **easy to avoid damage** to the coral and your boat if you:

- Anchor in conditions with **good visibility** (don't drop your anchor blindly)
- Try to find a **big, sandy spot** to drop your hook
- Anchor in **shallow** water...
  - ...where you can see the bottom clearly
  - ...usually fewer coral heads grow on sandy shelves, and
  - ...you only need a short chain.
- **Float the chain** so that the boat can swing around in shifting winds without getting the chain caught in coral heads
- Keep an eye on the **weather forecast** and move to a safe anchorage before the wind shifts

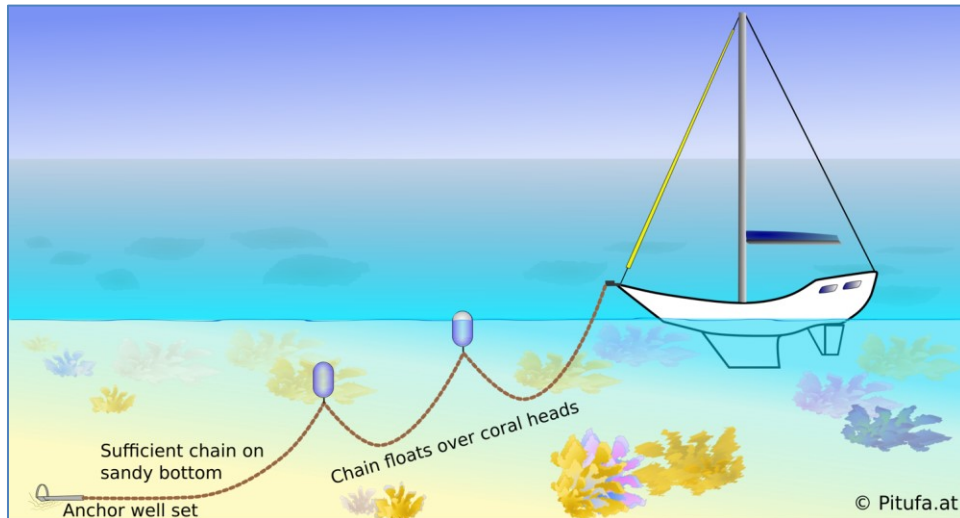
There are many ways to float your chain. Some people set their chain first, then pull back on it to ensure it is set properly. Once set, they will slowly pull up the chain to install the floats and then pull back again. Or...

**Floating the chain is a simple procedure.** You just need:

- (3) or more medium-sized fenders or buoys
  - (3) or more carabiners that fit into your chain
1. Drop the anchor in the middle of the biggest sandy spot you can find,
  2. Pay out chain while reversing gently,
  3. Look around at the surrounding coral heads and estimate your swinging radius,
  4. Hook in the first fender/buoy before the chain could touch any of the coral heads,
  5. Pay out some more chain and set the anchor gently pulling in reverse,
  6. If the scope is still not sufficient, additional floats can be added followed by more chain.

#### **The General Rule:**

The first float should be inserted at 1.5 to 2 times the depth. If you drop the hook in 5 meters, put the first float on at 10 meters. Then add another float every 7-15 meters. If you have small floats/fenders, then add them every 7-10 meters. If you have a larger float/fender, then add them every 12-15 meters. The goal is to keep the chain off the surrounding coral heads.



For more information, visit [www.pitufa.at](http://www.pitufa.at).

If your chain does get wrapped...

If you are in a storm situation, it is critical to maintain some free chain. Boats have successfully weathered bad storm situations by going to a really long really strong snubber and/or letting out more chain as their chain gets wrapped (having a spare buoy rigged for this would make a lot of sense).

ALWAYS USE A SNUBBER. If a squall surprises you and your chain gets caught on coral, you can break your bow roller or pull your windlass out of the deck. Make sure your snubber is strong, stretchy and of adequate length.

In some deep anchorages inside the lagoon, it can be difficult to see the bottom snorkeling, and therefore difficult to see what's going on when your chain seems stuck. It is USUALLY possible to unstuck your chain without diving on it—patience and calm weather are helpful. A snorkeler in the water can be helpful. But this is a time where having a dive tank can be a big help.

**Another very useful resources about Floating Your Chain can be found here:**

<https://www.jacarandajourney.com/floatingyourchain>

**Not anchoring in coral...** After spending several seasons in the French Polynesia, we found that if you can make your way to the windward side of the island or atoll, there are usually spots where the sand has been pushed over the coral reef in big storms, and they make good sandy anchor spots in shallower water with only scattered heads.

### **1.3.4 Using Out-Island Moorings**

As of Jan. 2020, there are no out-island moorings in the Marquesas. However, if you would like to read about proper usage of these moorings please review either the Society Compendium and/or the Tuamotus Compendium for more information.

### **1.3.5 Navigation in Areas with Coral**

**June 2022:** We have left a full set of MBTiles charts for OpenCPN on a “loaner” hard drive with Kevin of Nuku Hiva Yacht Services. Borrow the drive, treat it carefully, and copy the charts off to your own hard drive, promptly returning the drive to Kevin. – Migration

**May 2018:** Though we found both the CMAP (CM93 v2) and Garmin charts to be fairly accurate in French Polynesia (not so everywhere, however), your ability to explore coral-laced atolls is greatly enhanced by acquiring high-resolution satellite images.

There are a number of sources of satellite charting/imagery for French Polynesia.

### 1.3.5.1 KAPS and mbtiles (used by charting programs like OpenCPN)

[Migration's Charts](#) All Pacific Island groups, New Zealand, Australia, Mexico, Central America, Taiwan, Japan, Caribbean

[Zen Again's Charts](#) Pacific Ocean, SE Asia, Crossing to S Africa, S Atlantic, Brazil

[Soggy Paws' Charts](#) Pacific Ocean, SE Asia, Red Sea

[Jacaranda's Charts](#) French Polynesia

[Valhalla's Charts](#) SE Asia and Western Pacific

[Ocelot's Charts](#) SE Asia, Western Pacific, and Indian Ocean

**Make Your Own:** You can make your own, look for the Sat2Chart program here:

<http://gdayii.ca/downloads/>

While there, also download SAS.Planet. The settings in this version have been set to make it easy to use with Sat2Chart.

There is a Facebook Group called GE2Kap that provides support for Sat2Chart (formerly GE2KAP) and SAS.Planet. And sv Ocelot has a very good page on their website with instructions and hints on making charts.

OpenCPN is a free fully functional navigation program, downloadable from <http://opencpn.org> It runs on Windows 7-11, many flavors of Linux and Raspberry Pi, and Apple Macs (but not iDevices).

### 1.3.5.2 iDevices

OpenCPN doesn't run on iPads and iPhones due to their proprietary architecture/non-open source attitude. You can use MBtiles (from sources above, with the Maps Plus app available for iOS).

Here are some other satellite navigation options for iDevices.

**Ovital Maps** used to be the most-recommended for iPads/iPhones, but the Apple Store gutted this program in about 2019. If you have it, and have maps you want to keep, don't hook your iPad up to the internet, or your maps will go away!

The latest recommended choice is **Guru Maps**.

<https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.bodunov.galileo>

You get one free week and then can buy the Pro version for \$10 per year. Cheaper to start with the free version than buy the Pro outright, but I heard that maps downloaded for the free version have to be re-downloaded for the Pro version. You can add map types from here: <https://ms.gurumaps.app/>

Also **Zulu Offshore**: <https://apps.apple.com/id/app/zulu-offshore/id1522412216>

### 1.3.5.3 Android

The most-recommended solution is OpenCPN. Do NOT download the free version. It is not the official version and will not work. The official version costs only US\$10.

Other options:

**All in One Offline Maps:**

<https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=net.psyberia.offlinemaps>

**Guru Maps.**

<https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.bodunov.galileo>

You get one free week and then can buy the Pro version for \$10 per year. Cheaper to start with the free version than buy the Pro outright, but I heard that maps downloaded for the free version have to be re-downloaded for the Pro version. You can add map types from here: <https://ms.gurumaps.app/>

**Alpine Quest:** <https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=psyberia.alpinequest.full>

Plus I believe that **Zulu Offshore** also is available for Android.

#### **1.3.5.4 Windows**

OpenCPN, of course (with added maps). <http://opencpn.org> The benefit of OpenCPN is the widely available whole worldwide CMAP chart set. Can download free from Valhalla's site (see chart source links above).

SAS Planet: <http://sasgis.org> is an alternative for Windows users. But SAS is NOT a navigation program. OpenCPN is.

#### **1.4 Weather**

Thanks to the efforts of Dave Vogel on s/v Perigee, the weather section has been completely updated and made its own Compendium, reducing the amount of redundant information we have to keep up to date.

Please download the full document here: <http://svsoggypaws.com/files/#frpoly>

#### **1.5 A Route through the Marquesas**

This is one boat's view of how to see all of the Marquesas, from a document I downloaded, I think, from the Pacific Puddle Jump email group, so I assume it was meant to be shared. Thanks to s/v Kavenga.

The route you take through the Marquesas once you get there depends on your objectives, priorities and schedule. If the Marquesas are primarily just a waypoint en route to somewhere else, or if your schedule only allows for a week in the Marquesas, that will dictate a different route than if the Marquesas is a key destination for you, and you have two weeks or more to explore them.

The chartlet below assumes the latter, that you have the desire and the time to try to see all of the Marquesas (if not, skip to the end). The basic assumption is that cruising boats prefer to sail off wind rather than upwind whenever possible.

The route that follows is not the one we took but is the one we wished we had taken after learning the local wind and weather patterns.



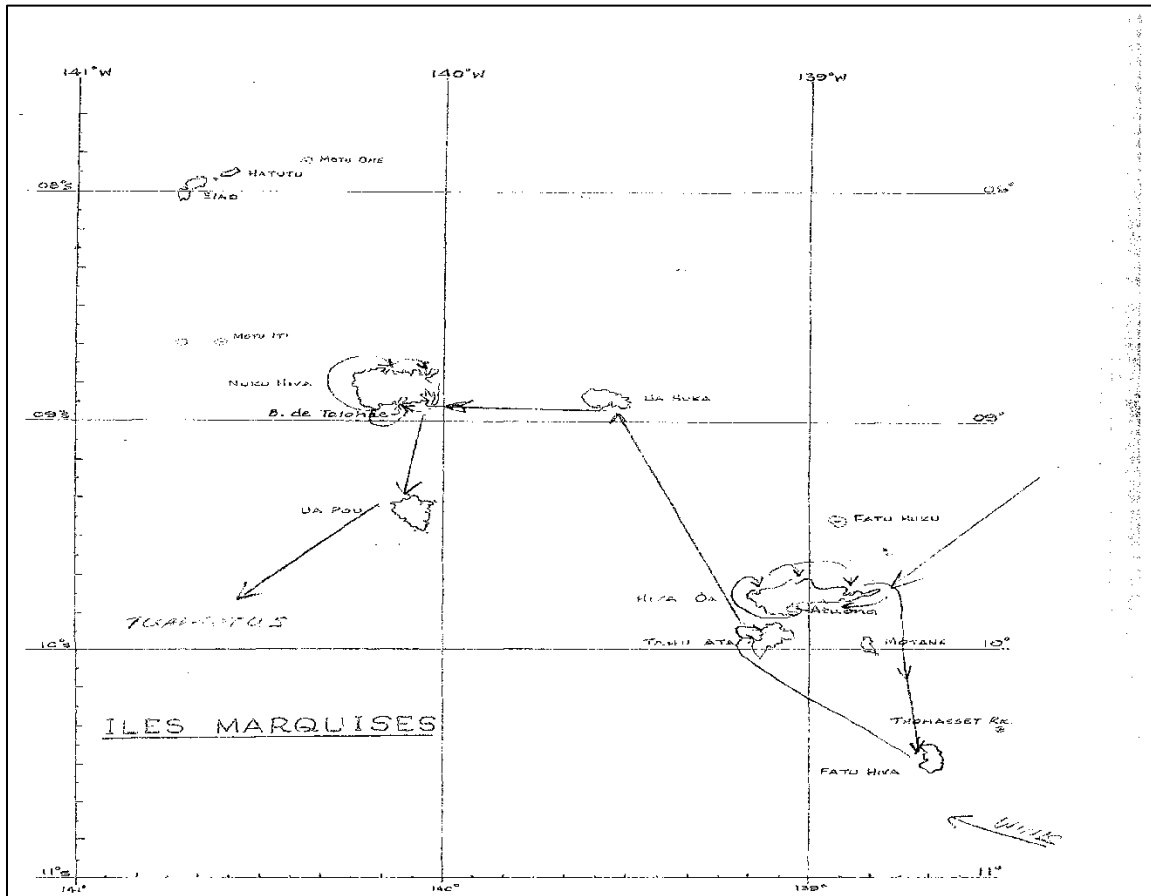


Figure 2 - Kavenga's Suggested Route through the Marquesas

The route we took, suggests making your initial landfall at **Hiva Oa** for the following reasons:

- 1) it is the most windward island with a Gendarmerie where you can legally check into French Polynesia,
- 2) it has stores, supplies and services that you may need after your three-week passage.

Your first stop, after rounding the eastern cape, Matafenua, will be the village of **Atuona** and Taahuku Bay. The bay is quite small for the amount of traffic it gets from cruisers and copra ships. The swells from the SE quadrant refract off the cliffs on the northwest side of the bay and come into the anchorage. It can be so tight in here, especially with the Puddle Jumpers all converging at about the same time that everyone anchors with bow and stern anchors to make room, AND to keep their bows pointed into the swells. If a storm should crank up in the Southern Ocean and the winds start to come from that direction, be ready to leave Taahuku on short notice, particularly if you happen to be in the row of anchored boats furthest back. If you get caught, you could suddenly find yourself in breaking surf.

Atuona will feel like heaven after several weeks at sea and it is a beautiful place. However, we advise getting your business taken care of as quickly as possible and then moving on.

After leaving Atuona continue on circumnavigating Hiva Oa, first with a stop at **Hana Menu**. This is a must stop for a dip in the "Hollywood Pool" with its gushing freshwater spring and surrounding tropical flowers; and for the hike through the ruins of the ancient village and up to the high and dry plateau, where you may be treated to the sight of a herd of "wild" horses.

There are three more bays on the north side of Hiva Oa to choose from before heading off to the next island, Fatu Hiva. By coming to the north side of Hiva Oa, you have a better chance of laying Fatu Hiva in one tack. We had to tack our way there from the southern end of Tahuaata.

There are two primary anchorages at Fatu Hiva, the most popular being **Hana Vave** or Bay of Virgins or Bay of Penises. This anchorage has probably been on the cover of more sailing magazines than any other. It is truly beautiful, although it can be a trifle roly at times.

When you're ready to leave Fatu Hiva, the fun begins because it should be a sleigh ride from then on. Head for the southern end of **Tahuata** and check out the various anchorages on its leeward side. Our favorite is the northernmost, **Hana Moe Noa**. It is one of the few bays in the Marquesas with white sand beaches and nice snorkeling.

Resume your sleigh ride from Tahuata to **Ua Huku**. We missed this island because we hadn't figured out this route—we went to Ua Pou first instead. Because the anchorages on Ua Huku are exposed to the south, they can be rough or even untenable at times.

Your next downwind landfall will be **Nuku Hiva**. There are many ways you could do it and here is just one. Start with the closest bay to Ua Huku, which is **Controller's Bay**, Nuku Hiva. Hike up the valley to see the Tikis and maraes (temple platforms).

Continue on a counterclockwise circumnavigation with a stop at our favorite anchorage in the Marquesas, **Anaho**. Most anchorages in the Marquesas are exposed to swell to one degree or another. Anaho is one of the few that has 360-degree protection. And it has, to the best of our knowledge, the longest, white sandy beach in the Marquesas, and is just a flat-out beautiful place. You can easily hike to the bays on either side of Anaho. We would give this anchorage more time than any other in the Marquesas.

Continue on around Nuku Hiva to **Hakatea Bay**, better known to cruisers as **Daniel's Bay**. This is an absolutely stunning bay that offers great protection, beautiful views, and a wonderful waterfall hike.

Conclude your tour of Nuku Hiva with a stop at **Taiohae Bay**, with probably the largest concentration of people and activity in the Marquesas. We made this our last stop in the Marquesas thinking it would have the best provisioning. This is another south facing anchorage, and the swell can get pretty impressive at times.

**If we were doing it over again**, and assuming conditions had not changed to a large degree, we would make Ua Pou our last stop in the Marquesas. Ua Pou is the departure point closest to our next destination, the Tuamotu Archipelago.

That concludes the route for those that have the time and choose to devote it to seeing all of the Marquesas. Aside from not having the chance to visit Ua Huku, there is not one island in the Marquesas that we would have skipped based on the knowledge we gained, the sights we saw and the experiences we had.

Nevertheless, there are many who probably cannot for one reason or another, afford to allocate three to four weeks of their cruise for the complete tour, especially in light of the recent difficulties in getting visa extensions, which were not a problem when we were there.

**For those of you in a hurry**, we would recommend making landfall at Taiohae Bay on Nuku Hiva, spending two to five days at Anaho, and then heading to Hakahau on Ua Pou to provision and clear out for the Tuamotus or Tahiti. -- Kavenga's

### **1.5.1 Where to be in French Polynesia and When (Pitufa)**

Depending on the seasons you might want to follow these ideas to see most of Polynesia:

<http://www.pitufa.at/cruising-french-polynesia-the-best-times-to-visit-the-different-archipelagos/>

## **1.6 Yachtsmen Services**

### **1.6.1 Cooking Gas (Propane and Butane)**

**Cost:** The cost of propane/butane is a set price, by the government in FP. Deposit on the bottle is 3000F Cost of the gas is 3200F.

A rule change in 2023 meant that many stores will not 'loan' you a bottle if you don't have one to trade in. However, smaller stores at smaller islands often will ignore this rule and let you take a bottle if you promise to return it the same or next day. PLEASE return it. Some stores stopped loaning bottles because they were not returned.

See individual island section for specifics on cooking gas options in those areas. We were told that just about every magasin will sell gas bottles, but only those confirmed by cruisers are listed below.

The [Tahiti Cruiser's Guide](#) has a current list of suppliers that fill non-French tanks, see the "propane" section.

Download "[The 30-minute Cooking Gas Fill in French Polynesia](#)" (Migration) and "[Refilling Your Propane Tanks in French Polynesia](#)" (Jacaranda) as they are very helpful instructional documents, with photos, on how to fill your American propane tanks in French Polynesia. Fill your tanks 100% full every time using these methods.

You must obtain a fitting for **your non-FP** tank before arriving in FP; the fitting either male or female that connects to your tank. They are not available here. Another cruiser may be able to loan a fitting to you but it is best to bring one. You will need to purchase a fitting for a French Polynesian tank when you arrive in FP. Check out the hardware stores and ask other cruisers.

**Feb 2021:** We have read numerous reports about the difficulties in filling gas bottles in all of the compendiums. So, if you plan to spend extended periods of time in the south pacific, we recommend that you carry your own equipment to gravity fill your tanks from a local bottle. We use the GasBoat 4018 Go-anywhere Adaptor Kit from [www.whayward.com](http://www.whayward.com), which provides connectivity to any gas bottle worldwide. It's not cheap to buy but will save you lots of money in the long term. We pay a deposit for a local gas bottle which we keep for 24 hours to gravity fill our bottles and then return. – Ari B

### 1.6.2 Fuel (Diesel and Gasoline)

Remember when inquiring about diesel and gasoline that diesel called 'gazoil' in French and gasoline is called 'essence' (eh sans). Make sure you know what you are asking for!!

See individual island section for specifics on fuel options in those areas.

The [Tahiti Cruiser's Guide](#) has a current list of suppliers that honor the duty-free fuel certificates, see "Diesel/Gas" section.

#### Fuel Suppliers:

The following islands offer fuel (diesel and gasoline). Smaller islands provide fuel from the supply ship when they arrive. Please note that not all of these locations will honor the duty-free fuel certificate.

Nuku Hiva: Taiohae Bay Fuel Station	Hiva Oa Atuona Bay	Ua Pou Hakahau Bay Magasins
----------------------------------------	-----------------------	--------------------------------

**Nuku Hiva Taiohae Bay - Fuel Dock:** The dock is concrete and the bay is roly. The dock does have large black, rubber fenders, but they will leave marks on your boat if they make contact. It is recommended to medmor to the dock when bringing the big boat.

**Jerry Cans:** The easiest method is to use jerry cans to refuel your boat. Bring your dinghy to the north end of the dock (by the ladder) during high tide. You will have to carry your jerry cans to the fuel station and back (100-150').

Nuku Hiva Yacht Services will loan you up to 10 twenty-liter jerry cans at no cost. Or you can engage their services to deliver fuel to your boat for a fee. In addition, NHYS will handle the duty-free paperwork.

**Important:** It is not unusual for fuel sources (along with all the other resources cruisers need on arrival) to become scarce when the Puddle Jumpers all arrive at once. If having more fuel is critical to you, and you don't have time to wait for the next supply ship, make obtaining fuel a first priority on arrival--don't wait until you

are ready to leave to take care of it. We know of boats who got delayed for a couple of weeks when the fuel supply ran out in Nuku Hiva as cruisers were taking off for the Tuamotus.

### **1.6.3 Duty Free Fuel**

Duty free fuel is available to foreign boats in French Polynesia. There is a form to apply for Duty Free fuel and the form must be processed in Papeete. If you are in Papeete you can get this certificate quickly and for free. However, if you are not in Papeete, having an agent who can do the paperwork for you while you are still in the Marquesas, means that you can buy duty-free fuel while still in the French Polynesia before arriving in Tahiti. Most agents' clearance packages include a duty free fuel certificate. The certificate is good for 6-months. You can renew it within 2 weeks of your expiry date.

The [Tahiti Cruiser's Guide](#) has a current list of suppliers that honor the duty-free fuel certificate as well as the lat/long location of the government office where to get your certificate in Tahiti.

In May 2024, duty free diesel was 130 xpf/liter. Normal price was 155 xpf/liter.

Calculate how much fuel you will be using and how much you will save. Many boats use very little fuel because the sailing is so good in French Polynesia. The agent cost makes getting a duty-free certificate less valuable and you may go to a lot of trouble and save very little.

### **1.6.4 Trash and Recycling**

Most islands will have proper trash receptacles that you can utilize. However, there are small villages that cannot handle the trash from yachts. Please be respectful of these beautiful places. Try to wait to dispose of your trash properly at the larger islands/villages. Keep your recycling for Nuku Hiva where they have the proper recycling bins. **DO NOT BURN YOUR TRASH ON ANY BEACH.**

There is a monthly fee in Taiohae for trash/recycling and water. The fees are 750 XPF/month for trash and recycling, and 750 XPF/month for water. Fees are paid at the mayor's office. There are two signs (one in French, one English) at Yacht Services describing the fees. The fee is nominal, and it helps the community continue providing these services to cruisers.

**Burning Trash:** Do not burn your trash.

**Recycling:** Nuku Hiva, has large recycling centers. Please be sure to separate your trash from plastic (clear and colored bottles), glass, and cans. It appears that the Marquesas do not recycle cardboard or paper.

### **1.6.5 Water**

See individual island section for specifics on water options in those areas.

There is usually a water spigot near the dinghy dock in every bay with a dock. But the water is not always drinkable—ask the locals before you put it in your tank. The water at Taiohae is considered 'non-potable'. You can fill jugs in Daniels Bay, 5 miles west of Taiohae or in Controllers Bay, 5 miles east of Taiohae Bay.

There are a number of safe fill stations in Taiohae Bay that locals use to gather drinking water, but they are NOT close to the dinghy dock.

**June 2022:** There is a 750 XPF/month fee for water in Taiohae. Fees are paid at the mayor's office. There are two signs (one in French, one English) at Yacht Services describing the fees. The fee is nominal, and it helps this small island continue providing these services to cruisers. – Sparklemuffin

## 1.7 General Services

### 1.7.1 Airlines

#### 1.7.1.1 Air Tahiti

Nuku Hiva, Hiva Oa, and Ua Pou have offices for Air Tahiti. Hours vary so it is best to contact them prior to showing up in person. Visit the website [www.airtahiti.pf](http://www.airtahiti.pf).

**Nuku Hiva:** +689 40 910 225. Hours Mon-Fri 0800-1200. Mon, Wed, Fri 1330-1630. Marie-Helen will assist with reservation via central hotline (pay later online or in office) +689 40 86 42 42 (press 2 for English) [www.airtahiti.pf](http://www.airtahiti.pf). Office is located on main road. Turn left out of dock and it will be on right side (before the bank). – Sugar Shack

**Hiva Oa:** +689 40 910 225 or +689 40 917 1110, [www.airtahiti.pf](http://www.airtahiti.pf). Hours; Mon-Tues & Thurs: 0800-1200, Wed & Fri: 0800-1200 & 1330-1630. Located on the main road, next to the bank, on left side. Sign is painted on a rock and hard to see around the plants.

**Ua Pou:** +689 40 86 42 42 or +40 910 225. Hours: Tues. & Fri: 1500-1700. Main street, 2<sup>nd</sup> left, on right, by post and Le Mairie.

Air Tahiti's main office is located on Rue Edouard Ahnne, Papeete, Tahiti.

+689 40 47 44 00. <http://airtahiti.com>. Hours: Mon-Fri: 0800-1700 and Sat 0800-1100.

From Marina Papeete, turn left on main road, turn right at Rue du 22 September 1914 (street by Papeete Market) and Air Tahiti will be on the corner of Rue du 22 September 1914 and Rue du Pere Collette.

**Discount Card:** If you are a resident and/or have a long stay visa (carte de sejour) and are over the age of 60 years old, you are eligible for a Carte Marama which will give you up to 50% off all Air Tahiti flights (inter-island flights, not Air Tahiti Nui international flights). You must be a resident (holder of carte de sejour), be over 60 years of age. Bring your passport (not a driver's license), an extra passport size photo, local phone number, local address (we used Marina Papeete). Go upstairs, fill out the Carte Marama form, pay 2500xpf and you will walk out with the card that can be used immediately. Discount only applies to card holder. – Sugar Shack

#### 1.7.1.2 Air Moana

Air Moana is a relatively new offering in French Polynesia.

<https://www.airmoana.com/>

Currently flying to/from Tahiti, Moorea, Bora Bora, Raiatea, Rangiroa, Nuku Hiva, and Hiva Oa.

Don't forget to compare Air Tahiti schedule and prices with Air Moana.

### 1.7.2 Banks / ATMs (Money)

The normal currency in the Marquesas is the French Polynesia Franc, abbreviated CFP or XPF. In May 2024, the exchange rate was 110 CFP/XPF per 1 US dollar. It has been reported that the post office will give a 100/1 exchange, so 500-CFP is \$5.00 USD.

The major islands in the Marquesas have banks. You can try to exchange money at the Post Offices in the smaller islands. Very few local businesses will accept USD -- and the exchange rate may be arbitrary. The [Tahiti Cruiser's Guide](#) may have a more extensive list of banks.

See section on individual islands for banks and ATMs.

Banque Socredo can be found at  
Taiohae, Nuku Hiva; Atuona, Hiva Oa; and Hakahau, Ua Pou

#### General Information on Money

If you are interested in **opening a French Polynesia OPT bank account**, be sure to download “Opening a Bank Account in French Polynesia” from Jacaranda at <https://www.jacarandajourney.com/openingabankaccount>. If you have an OPT account you can withdrawal and transfer money to people and vendors with ease.

Most magasins (markets) in the larger towns and villages will accept credit cards with a minimum purchase. The artisan market and the supply ship accept local currency only (no credit cards).

As of May 2024, diesel was 155 XPF/liter (130 XPF/liter duty-free). Approximately US\$4.50/gallon). Gasoline is 155 XPF/liter. A beer in a store is around 300 xpf each. A typical meal ashore runs from \$11 to \$35. It's can be pricey (but most meals are huge).

**April 2019:** Fatu Hiva, we were able to change Euros into XPF at Omoa grocery, at a poor rate though. I think they also change USD. – Chugach

### **1.7.3 Marine Supplies (Boat Parts)**

There are two chandleries in the Marquesas, Nuku Hiva and Hiva Oa.

#### **Nuku Tai Nui Marine**

Tel +689 87 30 99 12

[www.maintenancemarquises.com](http://www.maintenancemarquises.com)

Cécile Hémé: Directrice magasin

[cecile.heme@maintenancemarquises.com](mailto:cecile.heme@maintenancemarquises.com)

Situated on the same road as the bank and behind the library.

BP 161 98 742 Taiohae Nuku Hiva Marques Nord

#### **Maintenance Marques Services**

Tél: +689 87 739 045 (GMT -0930)

Tél: +689 87 209 949 (GMT -0930)

[direction@maintenancemarquises.com](mailto:direction@maintenancemarquises.com)

Located at the carenage (boatyard)

[www.maintenancemarquises.com](http://www.maintenancemarquises.com)

Several islands have small hardware stores that may carry a few boat parts for the local pangas. Critical items can be shipped in from Tahiti. Locations below can assist you with shipments.

[Tahiti Cruiser's Guide](#) lists what is available throughout all of French Polynesia, and has information about shipping in what you can't find in Tahiti. Download and save.

### **Boat Part Suppliers / Marine**

The following services are available to help you locate, purchase, and ship marine supplies:

- Nuku Hiva Yacht Services, Nuku Hiva, Taiohae Bay
- Hiva Oa Yacht Services, Hiva Oa
- Hiva Oa, [Maintenance Marques Service](#). +689 87 73 90 45,

### **1.7.4 Importing Parts Duty-Free – Yacht in Transit**

For updates on this topic try the [Tahiti Cruiser's Guide](#).

Download "Shipping and Transporting items into French Polynesia". Latest information on process.

<https://www.jacarandajourney.com/shippingitems>.

The basic rules for bringing in goods from outside of French Polynesia is as follows:

If you order & ship without using "Yacht in Transit" you can bring in goods less than 20,000xpf without any tax. For shipments like these, do not label the goods Yacht in Transit.

From values 20.000xpf to 50.000xpf the tax is 20% for EU / 30% rest of the world. You are taxed accordingly based on the total amount.

Goods valued over 50.000xpf, you must go thru custom broker, and the tax is around 45% of value.

If you order & ship as a "Yacht in Transit" you are required to use a Customs Broker at the cost of approximately 15,000xpf. You will not be required to pay duty (tax).

Total amount includes cost of item + shipping + tax.

The French Polynesia Customs FAQ's at this line: this is in French but translates well with Google Translate:

<http://www.polynesie-francaise.pref.gouv.fr/Douanes/Section-Particuliers/Questions-frequentes>

**March 2017:** The vendors in Pape'ete are very familiar with shipping parts all over French Polynesia. You can order the part and have it on the next ship. Shipping parts to the islands is very cheap. We had a solar panel shipped from Papeete to Marquesas and it cost < 1000f. – Jacaranda

**March 2017:** Many items are now available in Papeete, and the online guide was designed as a reference to finding items or services. Replacement of broken parts for a foreign yacht is duty free but two customs applications are required--one when the item arrives, and another when the yacht leaves FP. This "duty free" exemption does not apply to any new item on your vessel--only replacement parts, therefore you need to be ready to prove "replacement" when you leave FP (although I doubt this is rigorously enforced).

We have heard of a vessel having to physically destroy their old sails in front of a customs agent before getting their new sails duty-free. The double customs applications also doubles the charges of the customs brokerage. Mary Ann II was charged 6,000xpf times two for an 800 USA dollar order.

You are allowed to receive goods valued up to \$300 duty free without requiring an application to customs (this figure includes shipping cost.)

Yachts in 2017 have received parcels in this manner at Marina Papeete and at Marina Taina. Shipping via the mail system from the UK takes approximately 5 weeks. DHL, UPS and Fedex will quote the time frames. We have found Parcel Monkey in the UK very reasonable. – Mary Ann II

### **1.7.5 Shipping Items In or Out**

**Jan. 2020** – Jacaranda has compiled a lot of useful information on shipping and transporting items into French Polynesia. Visit <https://www.jacarandajourney.com/shippingitems>.

Express Shipping OUT of French Polynesia:

- DHL Express: 83 73 72
- UPS: 54 57 27
- FedEx Global Air: 45 36 45

#### **Island Cargo Support Corporate Office**

12900 Simms Ave, Hawthorne, CA 90250, USA

888.500.2541 Toll free USA

310.693.8348

310.684.3831 Fax

[lax@icargosupport.com](mailto:lax@icargosupport.com)

Katherine Warth – [Katherine.warth@icargosupport.com](mailto:Katherine.warth@icargosupport.com)

#### **Island Cargo Freight Terminal**

12900 Simms Ave, Hawthorne, CA 90250

888.500.2541 Toll Free

[team@icargosupport.com](mailto:team@icargosupport.com)

## **ECU Worldwide**

Address: ECU LAX  
c/o STG Logistics  
2201 E. Carson Street  
Carson, CA 90810  
Contact: Risa Katoa

[katrinajones@ecuworldwide.us](mailto:katrinajones@ecuworldwide.us)  
[gcabrera@ecuworldwide.us](mailto:gcabrera@ecuworldwide.us)

**Jan 2021:** I have had *terrible* customer service from ECU and Risa. Repeated phone calls have gone unanswered along with emails. – Jacaranda

Some other people have seen a lack of response with ECU Worldwide prior to Risa Katoa joining the team.

Hazardous materials are limited on the ship. If you are shipping something that is considered hazardous it may get bumped to another ship due to the limitation. There is a hazard fee associated with hazardous items. Be sure to read the section on what is required by the shipped when sending hazardous materials. Details can be found <https://www.jacarandajourney.com/shippingitems>.

## **Gondrand** (Shipping Agent)

+689 40 54 31 54 – <https://www.gondrand.fr>, or [compta.1ppt@gondrand.pf](mailto:compta.1ppt@gondrand.pf)

Contact: Heiarii-Vahine Rehia - [Logistics.1ppt@gondrand.pf](mailto:Logistics.1ppt@gondrand.pf) or James at [logistics.2ppt@gondrand.pf](mailto:logistics.2ppt@gondrand.pf).

You need to provide passport, ship documentation, and check in documentation. Email all invoices of what is arriving and the Bill of Lading (that you receive from ECU). Gondrand is less responsive, but they are on top of it all and will get in touch when they need to.

**Cost:** Depends on the cost of the shipment. They requested cash for payment (only). One cruiser reported their entire flat of goods cost 35000xpf for all associated fees on one shipment.

Customs: It can take between 1-14 days to clear packages in and out of customs.

## **DGX Shipping Company** (Dependable Global Express)

***DGX is no longer servicing French Polynesia (as of Feb. 2021).***

<https://www.dgxglobal.com> or [intlrates@dgxglobal.com](mailto:intlrates@dgxglobal.com)

+1 888.488.4888 or +1 310.669.8888

Reyna Tausinga contact for coordinator – [reyna.tausinga@dgxglobal.com](mailto:reyna.tausinga@dgxglobal.com)

**Cost:** \$172 per cubic meter. Weight does not matter at all – price based on cubic meter.

Select the date of your shipment based on the ship's schedule. Departs about every 2 weeks.

Reyna is very responsive and will facilitate and coordinate the shipping address and consolidation.

### **1.7.6 Shipping Items Between Islands**

There are several ways you can ship packages to and from the Marquesas. You can use an agent such as Kevin at Nuku Hiva Yacht Services or Sandra and Hiva Oa Yacht Services. Or you can place them on the supply boat or you can send them on Air Tahiti.

**Air Tahiti:** Go to the Air Tahiti office located in Nuku Hiva or Hiva Oa with your sealed package. They will put your package on the next flight. You have to make arrangements for someone to pickup your package in Tahiti (usually the recipient). The price will be depending on the weight and size of the parcel.

**Supply Ship:** The supply ships will usually accept packages to/from Tahiti. Each ship sets up a small booth (where you pay for your fuel, propane, etc...). The booth attendant will weigh your package, set the price, and take your package for the ship to bring to Tahiti. This process takes longer to arrive to Tahiti but it is less expensive.



Picking up packages sent from other islands to the Marquesas via the supply ship is rather easy. At the booth there will be two trays filled with documents. Find your shipping invoice. This document will tell you in which container your parcel is located. Then you wait until that container is unloaded. The workers will call out your name as the parcel is unloaded. Frozen goods are unloaded last.

**2022:** You can download a document listing all supply ships, which islands they visit, and the frequency of visits at <https://www.service-public.pf/dpam/frequence-de-dessertes-et-coordonnees-des-armateurs/> in the section « Fréquences des dessertes maritimes ». – Migration

**2021:** The vendors in Papeete are very familiar with shipping parts all over French Polynesia. You can order the part and have it on the next ship. Shipping parts to the islands is very cheap. We had a solar panel shipped from Papeete to Marquesas and it cost < 1000f. – Jacaranda

### **Using an Agent**

You can have Gondrand assist you with inter-island shipping and/or have items shipped directly to them to forward to you at an outer island. They will do the customs (pay upfront), hold your package if necessary, then forward it to you.

**Gondrand** (Shipping Agent)

+689 40 54 31 54 – <https://www.gondrand.fr>, or [compta.1ppt@gondrand.pf](mailto:compta.1ppt@gondrand.pf)

Contact: James at [logistics.2ppt@gondrand.pf](mailto:logistics.2ppt@gondrand.pf)

### **Caddy Express**

James - +689 89 65 69 03 (WhatsApp and phone) can collect packages or shop for you in Papeete, Tahiti and then forward your items to you in the outer island. He speaks English and is reasonably priced.

**2021:** The vendors in Papeete are very familiar with shipping parts all over French Polynesia. You can order the part and have it on the next ship. Shipping parts to the islands is very cheap. We had a solar panel shipped from Papeete to Marquesas and it cost < 1000f. – Jacaranda

### **1.7.7 Flying Stuff in on Air Tahiti**

**May 2024:** If you are a diver, show your dive card and you will get an extra 5kg free when flying on Air Tahiti.

**Jan. 2020:** If you have large or excess luggage and are flying from Tahiti to another FP island, you can check your luggage with Air Tahiti. However, if they say it is over the weight limit or excess bag limit, don't worry because you can check it as freight for cheap. Just past the McDonalds at the Tahiti airport is Air Tahiti Freight. They will put your luggage on the same flight or next flight and fly it to your destination. – Sugar Shack

**April 2019:** We were concerned because we had 80 pounds of luggage over what we initially paid for on our flight from Tahiti to Raiatea. Air Tahiti was very accommodating. We were allowed to check it with our flight and just had to pay an extra \$56. – Cool Change

### **1.7.8 Concierge Services (Delivery from Tahiti to outer Islands)**

There are several concierge services that can pick up marine parts, fresh goods, and other supplies in Tahiti and either ship or fly your supplies to you in the outer islands. It could cost you less and include higher quality, and more diverse options. You can also contact a few of the local shops in Papeete and have them deliver/ship items to you in the outer islands. If you are looking for staples, it is less expensive to buy those in the outer islands. Staples would include subsidized items and simple imported goods like flour, sugar, rice, beans, etc...

**Placing an order with a coursier (personal shopper):** Organize your shopping list by shop. For example, a list for Carrefour, a list for Papeete Market, a list for a marine store. Contact your coursier of choice, organize payment (usually by bank transfer), and await your delivery by supply ship or air freight.

### **1.7.9 Coursier (Personal Shoppers)**

All coursiers will send your goods to you anywhere in French Polynesia via cargo (much less expensive) or by Air Tahiti freight (\$\$ per kilo and only to islands/atolls with an airport). Refrigerator and freezer freight is normally available with all options (unless it is broken).

**Juliette** can be reached at [rairoajuju@yahoo.fr](mailto:rairoajuju@yahoo.fr). She charges 2000xpf (\$20 USD) per shopping mission (per shop you ask her to go to) plus freight costs. It is less expensive per shop if you have her go to multiple stores. She will even go to the Papeete market early Sunday morning to buy local organic veggies and put it in refrigerated freight on a cargo ship Monday morning.

**Est. Informatique** lists their products at [www.est-info.pf](http://www.est-info.pf). You have to arrange for payment and schedule according to the supply ship.

**HM Coursier** +689 46 82 82 and [hmcourseier@gmail.com](mailto:hmcourseier@gmail.com). Very professional, organized and responsive. Usually the same price as Juliette.

**Caddy Xpress** +689 89 65 69 03 (Signal/WhatsApp) ask for Thomas. Will assist with shopping and shipping/collecting packages and transport to outer islands. He is reasonable with his prices and is very helpful, fast in responses, has Revolut (easy to pay) and speaks English.

### **1.7.10 Stores that Deliver to Cargo Ships**

There are a number of businesses Tahiti supply products, food, items to individuals in the outer islands. See the "[Tahiti Cruisers Guide](#)" under Food Distributor / Buyer.

Both of these stores will send your goods to you anywhere in French Polynesia via cargo (much less expensive) or by Air Tahiti freight (\$\$ per kilo and only to islands/atolls with an airport). Refrigerator and freezer freight normally available with all options (unless it is broken).

**Polynesia Trading** +689 40 45 62 63 or [polynesiatrading@loana@gmail.com](mailto:polynesiatrading@loana@gmail.com). They speak English and have a Facebook page (@Polynesia Trading). Their FB page has photos of their inventory and prices (like online shopping). This is a big box store like "Costco" but with no membership and a smaller variety. They are very responsive during business hours. They can deliver to the cargo ship and will charge freight charges.

**Maxi Tahiti** can be reached at [maxitahiti@mail.pf](mailto:maxitahiti@mail.pf) or on their Facebook page which is @Maxi Tahiti. They offer similar products and pricing as Polynesia Trading as they are a big box store as well.

### **1.7.11 Online Delivery Service**

**Sipac:** +689 87 72 80 70 and +689 40 54 05 50. Website: [www.sipac.pf](http://www.sipac.pf) or email [ressourceshumaines@sipac.pf](mailto:ressourceshumaines@sipac.pf). Boat schedule: [www.sipac.pf/horaires-des-bateaux](http://www.sipac.pf/horaires-des-bateaux). This is an online delivery service where you select your items, pay by credit card, and have it all delivered to you in the outer islands. They sell, food, fruits, vegetables, liquor, wine, personal hygiene, etc...Their website lists items alphabetical and not by category so you do have to hunt and peck to find your items. See supply ships (below) to coordinate with their schedule.

**April 2024:** We used Sipac via supply ship to Fakarava and it was fine although the vegetables were not in good shape as it takes a long time from the time they are purchased until you receive them. We used La Cave de Tahiti for wine. That did save us some money, but frankly, we'd rather support the local businesses. – Migration

**Feb 2021:** We ordered a delivery online via [www.sipac.pf](http://www.sipac.pf). The actual process of ordering was quite difficult not because of the website which is very good, but due to poor wifi. Make sure you have a good connection when you proceed to the payment page because if it fails you will lose your basket and have to start again. You will receive email confirmation of your order and when the ship arrives you can collect the paperwork from a tray next to the mobile ship office and this will indicate which containers your goods are in. When the container is opened, they will call out names for each package. This can take quite a long time especially if you order frozen goods which gets opened last. The quality and pricing of the goods including fruit and vegetables was very good. Several cruisers ordered from Sipac and all of us received our orders as expected. –Ari B

**Jan. 2021:** Online shopping for the outer islands and archipelagos in French Polynesia [www.sipac.pf](http://www.sipac.pf). Our experience of this online shopping business, who are based in Tahiti, was relatively straightforward. They sell a range of products including, fruit and veg, refrigerated and frozen goods, household cleaning products plus your usual tins, packets and dried foods. We saw wine and rum but no beer.

The site is in French. We found it fairly logical to navigate with a little bit of translation help from Google. Create an account first. The site details which boats are delivering to which islands. Pick your boat and the site will tell you the last date and time for online orders to ensure your 'shopping' gets picked and packed for the boat. The freight cost is based on the volume of the goods you buy.

When shopping you can come off the site and go back in another day and your chosen items should stay in the virtual basket. We did have a glitch paying but that was due to a very thin data connection in Gambier, not Sipac's fault. Our card payment timed out which meant our shopping basket disappeared into the ether and we had to start again. We spoke to a very helpful Sipac chap in Tahiti who spoke English who helped us sort this out. Other cruisers we know using the site didn't have this problem, a frustration of thin comms. After paying we received an emailed receipt with confirmation of our order. Today our shopping arrived on the Taporo 8. Our chilled goods and fruit and veggies came out of refrigerated containers, and were in good shape. General goods were in a regular container and all fine too. – Grace of Longstone

### **1.7.12 Supply Ship Schedules**

For the latest information and contact details visit DPAM at

<https://www.service-public.pf/dpam/departs-des-navires-de-tahiti-vers-les-archipels-v3/>

It is sometimes a good idea to know when the supply ship arrives so you can take advantage of buying diesel, gasoline, cheaper beer by the case, flour, rice, and fresh produce.

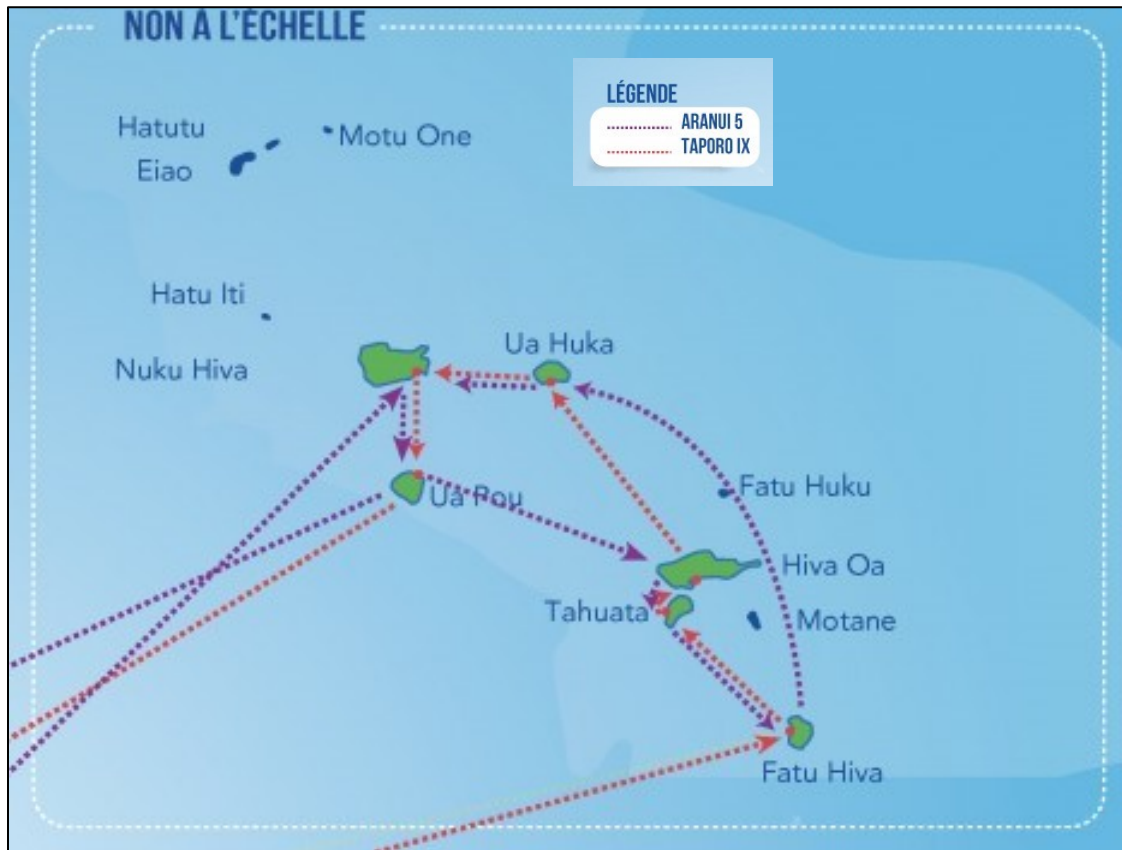
When they have stock, you can purchase diesel, gasoline, flour and rice directly from the ships. Keep in mind, they don't always have stock (especially when they stop at other islands prior to arriving in the Marquesas). Diesel and gasoline should be pre-ordered.

**MV Aranui 5:** +689 40 50 89 60

Timetable - leaving/arriving Tahiti: <https://aranui.com/en/sailing-schedule>

**MV Taporo 9** - Tel: +689 40 63 93 or +689 40 42 63 93 Email is [taporo@mail.pf](mailto:taporo@mail.pf)

The Port of Papeete has a schedule of departures for all ships, including the Taporo. You can find the next few Taporo departures on this link: [Search Papeete Port Info for Taporo](#)



**Taitonga – January 2019:** For some harbours it might be good to know when they arrive and will use the harbour-basin for manoevers, e.g. in Hiva Oa. It is also good to know when to shop as they are replenished and ready to sell the next day.

### **1.7.13 Yacht in Transit - Spare Parts**

**March 2021:** Tahiti Cruiser's Guide: This information resource for the cruising community covers all of French Polynesia. Lots of info about what's available in Tahiti, and how to ship stuff in if what you need is not available. <http://www.tahiticruisersguide.com> – Soggy Paws

**March 2021** – Very useful information on shipping and transporting items into French Polynesia has been compiled and posted at <https://www.jacarandajourney.com/shippingitems>. – Jacaranda

Noonsite also has a section on Fr Poly Customs [www.noonsite.com/place/french-polynesia/view/customs/](http://www.noonsite.com/place/french-polynesia/view/customs/)

### **1.7.14 Medical & Prescriptions**

See individual islands for medical facilities and physicians.

The [Tahiti Cruisers Guide](#) has a detailed list of physicians, specialists, and hospitals in Papeete and other locations in the outer islands.

#### **Obtaining Medicine and Prescription Drugs**

**2017:** Patrick Ly (pharmaciedetiarei@mail.pf +689 87 79 16 93) runs his own pharmacy in northern Tahiti, but is available to all of French Polynesia via email, text, phone, and Skype. He speaks English well and is willing to ship medications anywhere in FP. He understands cruisers' needs to order large volumes and is very helpful in finding alternatives. If he can't provide a specific solution, he will say so. – Kandu

### **1.7.15 Provisions (Groceries)**

See individual islands section for specifics on magasins, markets, and fresh produce options in those areas. Most islands with villages will have some type of magasin.

The Marquesas has pretty good growing weather, and the French know how to eat, so veggies and tropical fruits are in pretty good supply at some islands. But the supply of everything gets kind of "thin" when all the boats arrive in the Marquesas.

There are good stores at Atuona (Hiva Oa), Taiohae (Nuka Hiva), and Hakahau (Ua Pou). All are better after the Ara Nui has been there. The Ara Nui 3 is a combination cruise ship and freighter, and visits the islands about every 3 weeks.

There is one small store in Hanavave and 2 in Omoa (Fatu Hiva), which had staples, and frozen meat. You will need Polynesian Francs.

Make sure you leave the Marquesas with a good supply of fruit and veggies. The Tuamotus, being low atolls, don't grow much, so veggies are hard to come by. See the Tuamotus Compendium for info on where you'll find groceries. Also, bring a lot of pamplemousse (50 or more if possible) as they make great gifts in the Tuamotus.

There are a number of items that are "red tagged" which means they are subsidized by the government. They are usually "staples" and are offered at a significant discount - so keep an eye out for them and save!

**Staples**...flour, milk, eggs, butter, rice, canned food, etc are available in almost magasin. But veggies get very difficult to find, especially if the supply ship hasn't been in recently. Locals grow fresh fruit and vegetables and will usually sell them to you with a smile. If you see fresh veggies, buy them immediately--they may not be there when you're ready to re-provision.

**Meats:** are located in large, top-loading white freezers. Don't be shy to dig through the freezer to find what you want. Also ask—many smaller stores have more stuff out back, or in their house. Much of the meat when frozen is hard to determine what it is, so don't be bashful—ask.

**Chicken:** Frozen chicken, mostly leg quarters, but sometimes even boneless skinless breasts—easy to find. Chicken pieces (chunks) and legs are usually in stock. They also sell large boxes with 15kilos of chicken legs for around 3000xpf (\$30) which can be shared with your friends or you can purchase a smaller box.

**Beef:** The beef we found was hard to identify and sometimes only suitable for stew meat. It is also often packaged in larger packages than a normal cruiser would want to deal with.

**Lamb:** We found nice lamb from NZ, but often the lamb is packaged as a large leg, costing around \$30 USD.

Again, the best time to shop is immediately after the supply boat comes in. Usually the stores will close for a few hours while they restock. As soon as they open, the good stuff is gone in a few hours.

**Fruit & Veg:** Many locals grow fruit including papayas, mangos, pamplemousse, avocado, lychee, peppers, bananas, melons, pumpkins, limes, oranges). Do not pick fruit from the trees or take it off the ground without asking permission first. Every tree belongs to someone.

Though there is a great deal of goods from overseas available, it is always better to purchase locally-sourced products. For example, pork from a pig fed on coconut is a better option than chicken flown from a factory farm in the USA. Look for “Made in Fenua” for products from French Polynesia.

### **1.7.16 Trading**

**Jan. 2020:** PLEASE think twice about trading booze and gun shells with the local population. Many people ask for alcohol in the islands but there is a VERY high rate of domestic abuse in all of French Polynesia. By trading or giving alcohol you could possibly be adding to the problem. In addition, the cops may not react well, either they want some too or they don't want you trading it into their village.

Good items are snorkel gear, women's cosmetics, fishing equipment, good quality backpacks, toys, school supplies, even gasoline.

It's best to just take what you have to trade with and see what they will give. They aren't trying to steal from you, but they aren't going to give their stuff away either. We always give some little thing in exchange for fruit too. We've never paid cash for pamplemousse, limes, or bananas. – Jacaranda

### **1.7.17 Translation Services**

Sabine Wissert translates French, English, and German. +689 87 32 55 47 and [sabinewissert@yahoo.fr](mailto:sabinewissert@yahoo.fr) or view her website [www.ca-papeete.justice.fr](http://www.ca-papeete.justice.fr) (page 33 and 35). She is a freelance translator and has been providing certified translations to French authorities and public administrations (legal documents, carte de jure, long-stay visas, residency permits, contracts, etc...). Contact her for a quote.

## **1.8 Communications**

### **1.8.1 VHF Channels**

With the advent of Starlink and 4G coverage, many cruisers no longer use their VHF radio. This has become a safety problem as no one is listening if someone has a problem (anchor dragging, person overboard, adrift dinghy, etc.). Please monitor the VHF. Many cruisers listen to 72 and 16 and use 72 as a HAILING-channel amongst CRUISERS. However, this might change by location and season so ask around.

**General VHF Advice that applies to all areas:** Make sure your radio is set to International Frequencies, not US/CANADA. Be aware that on high power, a good VHF will transmit 25 miles line of sight. So, if you are only doing within-anchorage communications, switch to low power. On the flip side, if you are trying to call across island, or to the next island, use high power, and turn your squelch down. Make sure you are aware which channels are automatic low power (ie 17, 67 on some radios), and stay away from the low-power channels for long distance conversations.

Though widely spaced in channel number, channels 16, 68, and 18 are very close to each other in frequency. Most VHF antennas are 'tuned' for channel 16, so long distance communications will work best on 16, 18 or 68.

Conversely, in a crowded anchorage, transmission on high power on channel 18 or 68 may 'bleed' over to channel 16 (and almost any other channel, if you're close enough). You don't need high power to talk to the boat next to you, so turn your radio to Low Power!!

Also be aware that some channels that Americans use frequently are 'duplex' channels in International mode. So, for example, you may have trouble communicating with a European boat, or an American boat whose radio is in International mode, on Channel 18. (see any VHF guide for the full list of international and US channels and frequencies, but any US channel designated 'a', like 18a, 22a, etc will cause trouble with VHF's in international mode).

Make sure you ask in each port what the local channels are--both so you know how to reach someone ashore and so you know not to use those channels for your off-channel conversations.

#### **Jan. 2019 – VHF Channels. – Taitonga**

SAR: 06, 10, 11,  
Port: 12  
Ship-Ship: 08, 72, 77

#### **1.8.2 SSB Nets**

**Poly Mag Net** (formerly known as the Polynesian Magellan Net):

***As of June 2024, the Poly Mag net has been suspended for lack of participation. If there is interest in participation, it may start up again.***

Found at 8.173USB. There are two scheduled net times. The morning net is at 1800Z and the evening net is 04:00Z. For reference, 1800Z is 08:00 Tahiti, 0830 Marquesas, 0800 Tuamotus, and 0900 Gambier. And 04:00Z is 6:00pm Tahiti, 6:30pm Marquesas, 6:00pm Tuamotus, and 7:00pm Gambier.

They track vessels underway, monitor anchorage and weather conditions, and help cruisers stay connected. It is a great way to track your passage and have assistance when needed.

During off season (Nov-March), the morning net is only for emergency traffic and vessels underway. This is a great opportunity to provide your lat/long, sea and wind conditions, and other vital information during your passage. There may be times when the morning net may be suspended until season. However, the evening net occurs daily throughout the year and is open vessels underway and general check ins.

**Pacific Seafarer's Net:** If you're a ham, for longer passages, we always checked in with the Pacific Seafarer's Net. This is also a good frequency to have saved in case of emergency—the Hams on the PacSea net will move heaven and earth to help any boat with a true emergency—ham operator or not. Even when there is no net going on this frequency, there are often hams monitoring the frequency for emergency traffic.

The Pacsea net operates on 14,300Khz USB at 0300 UTC. They start with a 'warmup session' at 0300, where you can call in and chat, and maybe hook up with someone who will make a phone call to the US for you. The "Roll Call" (boats who have checked in regularly and indicated they are underway) starts at 0310 UTC, and when they finish (30-60 minutes later), they call for boats getting ready to go on passage to get on the Roll Call list for tomorrow's net.

It's always a good idea to listen up on a structured net for a day or so to get the rhythm of the net, before calling in. You can call in for a radio check during the warmup period, or just after the formal net ends. There are usually people on the net who will do a "phone patch" for you—just ask.

**Pacific Maritime Radio (formerly Northland Maritime Radio)** offers a tracking check in service for vessels underway (fee required). PMR is located in the Bay of Islands, New Zealand. Peter recently installed a new large antenna and has been able to work boats throughout most of the South and Central Pacific and as far as Alaska from New Zealand. Learn more and contact Peter Mott at <http://pmr.nz>

### 1.8.3 Telephones & Cell Phones

See individual islands for internet access. Most post offices will sell sim cards. The French Poly Country-Code is: +689

Also, see Wifi / Internet as most resources for wifi / internet include calling.

Vini - <https://www.vini.pf/mobile/international/international-visitors>

Vini sim cards can be purchased for data only or voice and Data. Vini sim cards and top up cards can be purchased at the post office and some magasins.

**May 2024:** If you plan on staying a while in French Polynesia, purchase a post-paid plan (*forfait*). For 4900 XPF per month, you can get unlimited calling and SMS in FP, 60GB data, and 6 hours of international calling each month. We were told the best place to set this up is at the post office in Atuona, Hiva Oa. Use billing address *Poste Restante, Atuona, Bateau <boat name>, 98741 Atuona*. You will have to pay 2 months in advance. You will be able to pay your later bills online. When you go online, don't forget to sign up for Vini URA points. You get points every time you pay your bill and can use those points for extra data. Remember that the password for the SIM is 0000. 4G speeds are quite good. Some areas still only have Edge connections.

**Jan. 2021:** GoogleFi works in most places Vini works. Vini tended to work in most anchorages. – Sugar Shack

**Jan. 2019:** The cellphone reception between the islands can go as far as 10nm+ (e.g. between Ua Pou / Nuku-Hiva). When a cruise ship has arrived, the network seems to get an overload-breakdown. It is possible to change the language to english (if you find someone who understands how. – Taitonga

**2019 verified (May 2017) - VINI Internet/data sim** As reported, the sim cards do sell out - so don't delay in sourcing one if you want one! - They sold out same day I picked up my card - I just made it!

You must take your id to the post office to purchase SIM cards. (they will ask for your Passport, but I forgot mine and was able to use driver's license).

Top up cards may not be available in all denominations - so again buy when you see them!

If your device takes a smaller SIM than the one provided- ask at post office for them to cut it down to size (they have a special tool).

Default password for SIM is 0000 (does not seem to be in documentation - you will have 3 attempts to get this correct)

I inserted data SIM in my unlocked iPhone 4S and did not need to change any settings go get internet on my phone. Connection was often 'E' Edge - not even 2G - so be warned!

Personal Hotspot - Inserting SIM into my iPhone - 'personal hotspot' feature was initially disabled (removed from iPhone menu structure - presumably blocked by VINI but I really wanted it so I could get the internet from my laptop too... I managed to get it working on my iphone - but not 100% sure what did it... but here is what I did:

- I went into settings -> cellular ->cellular data options -> cellular data network -> scroll down and in PERSONAL HOTSPOT section set APN to "internet" and no username or password - then restarted iPhone...(not sure if that was necessary!)
- From 'settings -> Cellular' menu - there should now be a 'Personal Hotspot' option - turn that on

Then the 'Personal Hotspot' option should be available in the main settings menu

Works best (most useful) when connected via USB to laptop (rather than wifi mode)

I also managed to get an old MIFI device (from the UK!) working - but only on 2G and painfully slow - such that most web pages simply would not load... so I gave up with that and stuck with the iPhone hotspot.

When first installed you need to recharge at least once in 30 days to keep the card active. After that the card can remain dormant for up to 3+ months before it gets deactivated.



Due to limited data on SIM (500Mb) and top-ups (100-400Mb), and low speed. I recommend keeping your device phone in airplane mode to be sure to only use data when really needed it (when you can simply turn off airplane mode).

With VINI SIM in - Text the message 'CONSO' to #7100 - and sometime later (maybe up to 20 minutes) you will get a reply text with your balance and end date. – Begonia

#### **1.8.4 Wifi / Internet Access**

See individual island section for specifics on internet options in those areas. See the Telephones and Cell Phones section for updated information on Vini Cell Data and GoogleFi.

Wifi is also available in some locations, and wifi access is purchased using Vini pre-paid cards.

**Vini Wifi Network** - <http://www.vinipot.pf/index.php?lang=english>

For Internet options via Cellphone see: [www.tahiticruisersguide.com](http://www.tahiticruisersguide.com) and

<https://www.vini.pf/mobile/international/international-visitors>

### **1.9 Getting Visitors In and Out**

All flights into French Polynesia go through Tahiti first, and then to airports in the major centers in the other archipelagos.

If you arrive with crew onboard your vessel, you MUST sign them off the crew list via Immigration before they leave the boat. Likewise, crew coming onboard via air and leaving via boat should be signed onto your crew list. Ask your agent or the Immigration office in your arrival port for current procedures.

**May 2024:** If your visitors are divers, have them show their dive card when they check in with Air Tahiti for interisland flights. You get extra kilograms for dive gear. – Migration

**Jan. 2020:** Nuku Hiva airport is on the North side of the island where there are no anchorages. Most people anchor in Taiohae Bay and have their guests take a taxi for an average price of \$30/pp. Using NHYS it is \$40 but a guarantee they will show up. – Sugar Shack

**Dec. 2018 - Interisland-Ferry: Hiva-Oa, Tahuata, Fatu-Hiva:** "Te Ata O Hiva" - red motorboat for 40 pax. Does regular round trips Hiva-Oa => Tahuata => Fatu-Hiva => Tahuata => Hiva-Oa on Monday, Wednesday (not to Fatu Hiva), Friday; starts 06:00 returns 17:30, e.g. one-way 2500XPF to Tahuata, 4000 to Fatu-Hiva, carries freight as well (2018) Bruno 87 718 548, 40 927 307. – Taitonga

**2018:** Flights from the Marquesas to Papeete have a baggage restriction but if you are connecting to an international flight you will be given an extra baggage allowance. First book your international flight (checking first that the Air Tahiti flight is available) then take your booking info to the Air Tahiti office (Nuka Hiva, Hiva Oa, Ua Pou) and show them the international flight info. They will then issue you a Air Tahiti ticket that reflects international connection and additional baggage allowance.

When coming into the country and then connecting to the Marquesas, we have placed our extra bags on the ship Taparo and had them shipped into Hiva Oa. It was cheap. If you do not want to do this yourself then using Tahiti Crew as an agent they can facilitate this for you for a small fee. – Jacaranda

#### **1.10 Diving**

See each individual island for more information on diving in those areas. There are dive companies in Nuku Hiva and Hiva Oa.

#### **1.11 Haulout, Storage, and Repair Facilities**

See individual islands for additional information on marinas and haulout facilities.

**Jan. 2020:** Hiva Oa has a haul out facility called Maintenance Marqueses Service. +689 87 73 90 45 Fax: +689 40 92 75 05, [www.maintenancemarqueses.com](http://www.maintenancemarqueses.com). They can haul monohulls and multihulls. But they can only haul during high tide and are often booked. So, plan in advance if you want to do work here. – Sugar Shack

### **1.11.1 Liability Insurance for Haul out**

Most haul out facilities, marinas, yards will require liability insurance. If you need liability insurance to be hauled out, we heard that Poe-Ma Insurances is decent. +689 40 50 26 50, Fax: +689 40 45 00 97, [infor@poema.pf](mailto:infor@poema.pf), Located at Marina Fare Ute, B.P. 4 652 – 98713 Papeete, Tahiti. Boat insurance broker working with all marine insurance companies. Offices also in New Caledonia, France, and La Reunion.

**2020:** We approached Poe-Ma Insurance to obtain liability insurance for marina stays and they refused us as a U.S. vessel. We went to the main office in Papeete. – Jacanda

### **1.11.2 Surveyors**

See [Tahiti Cruisers Guide](#) for a list of available surveyors. They are all located in the Societies, but are willing to travel to the outer islands.

**Sept. 2020:** Christophe Citeau +689 87 79 63 81 [chrisciteau@mail.pf](mailto:chrisciteau@mail.pf) is a marine surveyor based out of Taha'a. He is not NAMS or SAMS certified. However, our insurance company approved his services after reviewing one of his surveys on a similar catamaran. We were scheduled for a haul out at Raiatea Carenage and Chris provided to be very responsive. He came out to the boat twice to do the out of water evaluation and the in-water evaluation.

The out of water evaluation took all of 6 minutes (if that). Now granted our boat is in good condition, but the timing was a little surprising. He looked at the hulls for structural damage, tapped around, evaluated our props, rudders, dagger boards, through hulls, and anchor.

The in-water survey took 3.5 hours. I had sent him a detailed list of all of our equipment on board (make, model, manufacturer, year, location) prior to his arrival which I am sure made his job a lot easier. We created this 2 years ago after our lightning strike. For our 2001 Catana 471 he charged us 73150xpf.

The report was fine, but I found him to be unyielding and unreasonable when it came to a few items. We disagreed with the value of our boat and he would not change his mind. Even after I showed him a few other similar boats and our last survey. Had he remained a little flexible I would highly recommend him, but he would not listen to reason or logic so I must say be careful. – Sugar Shack

## **1.12 Festivals**

**May 2024:** The Matava'a festival is one of the best reasons to be in the Marquesas! Don't miss it. December 2025 will be the 'small' Matava'a in Ua Huna. Hiva Oa will host the big festival in December 2027. - Migration

**Jan 2020:** To add to Jacaranda's post. We attended the 11<sup>th</sup> annual Marquesan Arts Festival in Ua Pou and it was an incredible experience. It was not like other festivals where there are competitions and sporting events. Instead it is about passing down the stories and heritage to the young and keeping their culture alive. They do this through song and dance; wood, stone, and bone carvings and tattooing (traditional and modern). Days are filled with educational conferences, dance/song events, demonstrations, and showcases of talent. It was truly amazing. I would highly recommend you attend a future festival if given the chance.

The Marquesas hold a smaller cultural festival every two years. – Sugar Shack

**March 2016 - Marquesan Festival of the Arts "Matava'a":** This 10th Marquesan Arts Festival was the most amazing cultural event in all our years of travel. It occurs every four years and it is not for tourists and outsiders but for the Marquesans themselves to reclaim and revitalize the culture of their ancestors which almost went extinct when the French colonized them and forbade anything related to their indigenous traditions in 1815.

All six populated islands send delegations of dancers and drummers to perform for their brothers and add to the knowledge of what was lost....and to transmit this culture to the children and future generations. It is an honor and privilege to be here to see them renew themselves as a rare exotic bird coming back from the brink of extinction, like watching the phoenix rise from the ashes right before our eyes. One day there was a free lunch for everyone - cooked in the traditional pit-in-the-ground oven. We had to bring "natural" plates to get served so I learned how to plait coconut fronds to make a bowl. We have seen most of the Marquesan friends we made on the other islands which was really fun.

Here is a short video trailer about the Festival which I hope you can watch -

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?time\\_continue=5&v=QQ0h0WYIR-Y](https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=5&v=QQ0h0WYIR-Y). We know many of the people who are in the trailer - like Robert - the guy on the horse in the stream - he works in the gas station. It will be a while before I can edit and post my own photos on jacarandajourney.com - I took too many!

The major festival is held once every 4 years and the next one will be in Ua Pou in Dec 2019. All the Marquesas islands, Rapa Nui, Mangareva, Rapa Nui along with 2-3 Marquesan dance troupes from Tahiti will be participating. The islands start practicing 6 months before the festival and if you are lucky to be here during that time each evening you will hear drums and singing in villages all over the Marquesas.

The minor festival (Only Marquesas) is held every two years and the next one will be in Tahuata in 2017. – Jacaranda

### **1.13 Eating the Fish (Ciguatera!)**

A comprehensive look at ciguatera can be downloaded from Jacaranda (Look for "You Gonna Eat That Fish?" Info about Ciguatera):

<https://www.jacarandajourney.com/ciguatera>

Learn about Fishing in French Polynesia: [Fishing in French Polynesia: \(jacarandajourney.com\)](https://www.jacarandajourney.com/fishing)

**May 2024:** We got ciguatera from a blue trevally in Tahuata in 2009 and thus are very careful. You will hear all sides from cruisers and locals alike as to the safety of one fish or another. We know cruisers who eat a lot of reef fish and have been fine... but we also know some who have contracted ciguatera. So assess your level of risk before you eat a fish. – Migration

**July 2019:** The incidence of Ciguatera in the Marquesas has risen recently, with several cruising boats reporting getting sick from eating fish in 2019. – Jacaranda

**Jan. 2019: Wikipedia:** Ciguatera fish poisoning, also known simply as ciguatera, is a foodborne illness caused by eating reef fish whose flesh is contaminated with certain toxins. Ciguatera Fish Poisoning commonly occurs in tropical and subtropical areas, particularly in the Pacific Ocean, the Indian Ocean, and the Caribbean Sea.

Symptoms may include diarrhea, vomiting, numbness, itchiness, sensitivity to hot and cold, dizziness, and weakness. The onset of symptoms varies with the amount of toxin eaten from half an hour to up to two days. The diarrhea may last for up to four days.

Some symptoms typically remain for a few weeks to months. Heart difficulties such as slow heart rate and low blood pressure may also occur.

The specific toxins involved are ciguatoxin and maitotoxin. They are originally made by a small marine organism, *Gambierdiscus toxicus*, that grows on and around coral reefs in tropical and subtropical waters. These are eaten by herbivorous fish which in turn are eaten by larger carnivorous fish. The toxins become more concentrated as they move up the food chain.

Any reef fish can cause ciguatera poisoning, but species such as barracuda, grouper, red snapper, moray eel, amberjack, parrotfish, hogfish, sturgeonfish, kingfish, coral trout, and sea bass are the most commonly affected. Ciguatoxins are concentrated in the fish liver, intestines, heads, and roe. The toxins do not affect the taste, texture, or odour of the fish and cannot be destroyed by cooking, smoking, freezing, salting or any other

method of food preparation. Outbreaks can occur seasonally or sporadically, particularly after storms. Not all fish of a given species or from a given area will be toxic.

**Preventive efforts** include not eating reef fish, not eating high-risk fish such as barracuda, and not eating fish liver, roe, or fish heads. Ciguatoxin has no taste or smell, and cannot be destroyed by conventional cooking. There is no specific treatment for ciguatera fish poisoning once it occurs. Mannitol may be considered, but the evidence supporting its use is not very strong. Gabapentin or amitriptyline may be used to treat some of the symptoms.

The US Centers for Disease Control estimates that around 50,000 cases occur a year. Other estimates vary up to 500,000 cases per year. It is the most frequent seafood poisoning. It occurs most commonly in the Pacific Ocean, Indian Ocean, and the Caribbean Sea between the latitudes of 35°N and 35°S. The risk of the condition appears to be increasing due to coral reef deterioration and increasing trade in seafood. The risk of death from poisoning is less than 1 in 1,000. Descriptions of the condition date back to at least 1511. The current name came into use in 1787.

**2010:** I personally know someone who got a severe case of Ciguatera in the Bahamas—3 boats shared the same large yellowtail snapper at a potluck. By morning, they were all very sick, and were so sick they could not operate their boats, and some required immediate hospitalization. They called the Bahamas Air Sea Rescue for help, and a couple of people from each boat were so sick that they were airlifted off for immediate hospitalization. They spent at least a month recovering, and even a year later reported lingering symptoms. As the toxin is cumulative, they can never eat another fish.

In the Tuamotus, locals told us “bring us the fish and tell us exactly where you caught it, and we will tell you if you can eat it.” However, locals do get ciguatera too! – Soggy Paws

## **1.14 Manta Ray Reporting**

There are plenty of mantas in French Polynesia and researchers working with the Manta Trust (<https://www.mantatrust.org>) would appreciate your help identifying them. If you are in any of the other island groups of French Polynesia, you can participate, too. To learn how to ID mantas, and to submit your photos, just visit <https://www.mantatrust.org/idthemanta>. Mantas are curious, beautiful, smart, and endangered, so anything you can do to help is appreciated.

## **1.15 Cruising Information Sources**

### **1.15.1 Tahiti Cruisers Guide Online**

[Tahiti Cruisers Guide Online](#). This is a Cruising Guide for all of French Polynesia (not just Tahiti). Started by Chuck on Jacaranda and Julien Desmont a local French sailor living in Papeete. Julien Desmont built the website and is hosting it as well. Can be downloaded as a pdf, in case you need to try to arrange parts or repairs before you get there (without internet access). If you find a service/store that is not listed please send updates.

### **1.15.2 Facebook Groups**

Some groups on Facebook for information on French Polynesia are:

**French Poly Cruisers** [facebook.com/groups/FrenchPolyCruisers/](https://www.facebook.com/groups/FrenchPolyCruisers/)

**Puces Nautiques** [facebook.com/groups/tahitisswapmeet/](https://www.facebook.com/groups/tahitisswapmeet/) (buy, sell, trade in French Polynesia)

**Pacific Puddle Jump** [facebook.com/groups/pacificpuddlejumps/](https://www.facebook.com/groups/pacificpuddlejumps/) (This group takes its name from the long-established Pacific Puddle Jump rally ([www.pacificpuddlejumps.com](http://www.pacificpuddlejumps.com)), but the two entities are not affiliated with each other.

**Pacific Voyagers** <https://www.facebook.com/groups/pacvoy>

*Remember that sharing information on FB groups means that the entire cruising community does not benefit from the information you share. Supporting this compendium, email groups (see below), and Noonsite is the best way to make sure what you share is available to ALL cruisers.*

### **AVP (Sailing Association of French Polynesia)**

<https://voiliers.asso.pf/>

<https://www.helloasso.com/associations/association-des-voiliers-en-polynesie>

AVP is the Sailing Association of French Polynesia. This is a non-profit organization dedicated to assisting cruisers in French Polynesia. For a minimal fee (\$18/year) you can support them financially as they fight our cruising rights: anchorages, safer moorings, and a more positive cruising experience for you.

If you need translation, go to <http://voiliers.asso.pf>, click on tab “Devenir member” on top right, then click on “creer un compte” fill in your email, your identifier, password, name, boat name, and click “sourmettre”. To pay go to “Payer son adhesion” click adhesion 2020, (about \$18 USD) then “etape suivante.”

### **1.15.3 Pacific Puddle Jump Email Group**

<https://groups.io/g/PacificPuddleJump>

This group is where the people gathering in South and Central America meet to share information about crossing the big puddle. Fortunately, many previous years’ jumpers come back and share their information with the newbies. An excellent source of information.

You must be a member to read or post anything on this site, but if you are getting ready for a Pacific crossing, it is well worth a few minutes to sign up for Groups.io and then join this group. Be sure to explore the Files and Links pages, there is lots more information there.

(This group takes its name from the long-established Pacific Puddle Jump rally [[pacificpuddlejump.com](http://pacificpuddlejump.com)], but the two entities are not affiliated with each other.)

### **1.15.4 Noonsite**

<http://www.noonsite.com>

Originally started by Jimmy Cornell, this site is a great repository of information for all those out-of-the-way places. Made possible by YOUR contributions.

### **1.15.5 Seven Seas Cruising Association**

<http://www.ssca.org>

The SSCA is a world-wide organization for cruisers whose primary function is to exchange information about cruising destinations. They have a monthly publication that is mostly letters from cruisers about the areas they are cruising. They also have a good website and a well-attended bulletin board. Membership is reasonable, and the monthly publication is available electronically every month.

Back articles/letters have recently been organized on a “Destinations” page on the website on a regional/location basis, so it is now much easier to browse what’s on offer for a given area.

### **1.15.6 Stopover Handbook for French Polynesia**

Download the latest guide here: <https://en.pf.yellowflagguides.com/>

Lots of very useful information for all the island groups.

If not found there, sv Soggy Paws has saved a copy. <https://svsoggypaws.com/files/index.htm#frpoly>

### **1.15.7 Sea Seek**

<http://sea-seek.com/index.php?geo=1480>

A French-maintained site that covers French Polynesia. They have assembled a pretty good harbor by harbor group of information (using Google Earth and Maxsea Chartlets). But it is mostly in French. It is possible to use Google or Babelfish Translate functions.

### **1.15.8 Cruiser Reports**

We are indebted to the people and organizations below for documenting their experiences and sharing them with us. We can't do this alone and rely on cruisers sharing updated information. So, please be sure to document and email us your notes.

A few details about the boats are included, where we know them, so you can assess what 'a foot under the keel' means, for example. Every section is a mix of several sources.

**2022 Contributors:** Askari, Flite Deck, Rhapsody, Sparklemuffin, Deinemeid, Sierra Wind, Jamala

**Jacaranda (2016-2021):** Jacaranda with Chuck and Linda aboard spent a year in the Marquesas before moving on to do the Tuamotus slowly in 2016, and from 2016-2021, they cruised all over French Polynesia. They have been sending us reports to add to the Compendia, and also posting more information and details on their website: <http://jacarandajourney.com> and the Tahiti Cruisers Guide.

**Migration (2009, 2022-2024):** Bruce and Alene on Migration sailed in French Polynesia in 2008-09 and then again from 2022-24. Migration is a 46' Cross trimaran that draws 4' 8". <https://svMigration.com>.

**Sugar Shack (2019-2021):** Matt and Christine on Sugar Shack arrived in Gambier in early 2019 and have been sailing French Polynesia a year and a half. Sugar Shack is a Catana 471 catamaran: 47' long, 26' wide, 1' draft. They've sailed from Turkey to the Caribbean, through the Panama Canal, to Costa Rica, Galapagos, Chile, Easter Island, and French Polynesia. Sugar Shack has passed through the Tuamotus three different times. <http://www.svsugarshack.com>

**Trance (Dec 2020 - Jan 2021):** s/v TRANCE visited the Marquesas and anchored in

Nuku-Hiva: Taiohae Bay, Hooumi Bay, Anaho Hay, Hakaehu Bay, Haapopu Bay, Daniel's Bay

Ua-Pou: Hakahau Bay, Hakahetau Bay, Hakatao Bay.

Additional details at: <http://SailingTrance.com>

**Ari B (2019-2021):** Alex and Carla arrived in the Marquesas in early 2019 and have spent the last two years cruising in French Polynesia (Marquesas, Tuamotus, Societies, and Gambier) Ari B is a Trintella 45, a heavy displacement blue water sloop, designed by Van der Stadt and built in the Netherlands. Alex (Australian) and Carla (English) left the UK on Ari B in 2014, crossing the Atlantic via Cape Verde to the Caribbean where they sailed extensively from Tobago and Columbia in the south to Cuba in the North. Follow their adventures on [www.sy-arib.com](http://www.sy-arib.com).

**Chugach (2019):** Olivier Fourment (French) sailed on a Ovni 495 Chugach from Chile (Valdivia) to Marquesas, stopping at Robinson Crusoe, Rapa Nui, Pitcairn and les Gambier. My anchoring coordinates are anchor position, not boat position which of course varies around the anchor position. Even though my draft when keel up is only 1m, I tend to anchor as deep as necessary to get sand and avoid coral reefs and rocks. Pictures and details of my trip are available [www.chugach-sailing.com](http://www.chugach-sailing.com).

**SY Taitonga (2018):** Dagmar and Christian from Germany arrived in the Marquesas from Bahia de Caraquez, Ecuador at the end of November, after nearly 34 days, with an Ovni395 (variable draft (add ca. 60cm to their depth soundings)). They have the rough idea of staying in French Polynesia until ca. 2020.

<https://www.taitonga.net>

Taitonga also recommended this source: SY Tuvalu 2016 has good infos (in german:-) on the anchorages:

<http://tuvalubarcelona.es/>

**Moon Rebel (2018):** Having made good use of the Soggy Paws pdf. Whilst passing through the Marquesa Islands in July to September 2018, it seems only fair that we contribute something from what we've learnt aboard Moon Rebel a British flagged, 35'/11m sloop with a 6'/1.80m draft

**Kokopeli (2018):** Brian and Mizzy crossed to the Marquesas from Ecuador in June, and spent July and August poking around.

**Begonia (2017):** Maryanne and Kyle arrived in the Marquesas in May 2017 on s/v Begonia, a Lagoon catamaran (approx. 40 ft). They are experienced cruisers having owned 3 other boats and done a lot of traveling by boat and land. <http://sv-footprint.blogspot.com> (Their previous boat was named Footprint).

**Spunky (2017):** Robert and Aneke arrived in March in the Marquesas with our sailing yacht Spunky, a 43 foot Morgan. They are taking a short sabbatical from working life, and plan to island-hop to Australia and sell the boat and go back to work in the Netherlands in late 2017.

**Kandu (2015-2016):** Eric and Leslie and their two sons, Bryce (14) and Trent (12), arrived in the Marquesas aboard Kandu in late June of 2015, intending to stay only a few weeks (<http://RigneysKandu.com> or <http://Facebook.com/rigneyskandu> ). Instead, we became certified residents of Taiohae, Nuku Hiva so our sons could attend the local college (secondary school), the first Americans to do so.

**Irie (2013):** Mark and Liesbet, have lived, worked and cruised on our 35' catamaran Irie (draft 3.5 feet) for six years and are new to the Pacific. Follow our adventures on [www.itsirie.com](http://www.itsirie.com)

**Cynergy (2013):** Cynergy is Lagoon 440 catamaran. <http://sailcynergy.com> "We first sailed our Moody 46 monohull from Lake Michigan out the St Lawrence to the Caribbean, then the Med, for a couple years, and back to the Caribbean. Sold the Moody and got a Lagoon 440 cat. Sailed from BVI to Bahamas, back to PR, then Colombia, Panama, and now Pacific. John has over 50,000 nm ocean time and is a Master Captain. We are John and Cyndi Martin."

**Soggy Paws (2010):** - Soggy Paws was in Gambier for the month of April, 2010, and then spent May – August in the Tuamotus, and late August and September in the Marquesas. They left Anaho Bay on the north coast of Nuku Hiva, for Hawaii in late September. Then they returned for another 3 months in Tuamotus and Societies in 2011. Soggy Paws is a CSY 44, a 44 foot monohull with a 5.5' draft. <http://svsoggyaws.blogspot.com>

**Nakia (2009, 2010):** Nakia is a Hans Christain 33, drawing about 6 feet. They first visited the Marquesas in summer 2009, spent the winter in Hawaii, and came back to Marquesas in the spring of 2010. They also revisited the Marquesas in 2013. <http://svnakia.blogspot.com>

## **1.16 Printed and eBook Sources**

We are consciously NOT duplicating any printed, copyrighted information here. It takes a lot of effort AND money to publish a cruising guide, and we firmly believe that if it is still in print, you should BUY it, not steal it (in electronic form).

We cross referenced which guide covers which island, since none of them cover all the islands.

Download some of the "out-of-print" cruising guides from Jacaranda.

<http://www.jacarandajourney.com/other-good-stuff>. He had the Guide to Navigation on his website, but removed it when he learned it was sold to another publisher.

### **1.16.1 Marquesan Phrasebook**

*Marquesan for All* is a Marquesan/English/French phrasebook available on Amazon. Emily C. Donaldson (<https://www.ecdonaldson.com>) lived in the Marquesas and created the first phrasebook published in since the 1800s. Super useful for anyone visiting the Marquesas.

[Marquesan for All](#) (is also available as an e-book from Amazon).

### **1.16.2 French for Cruisers**

[French for Cruisers](#), Kathy Parsons, 2004

This is a fantastic French phrasebook, created by a cruiser for cruisers. Don't leave the U.S. without it, as it is not available once you get to French Polynesia.

For anyone going to a French-speaking cruising ground, French for Cruisers is invaluable. Slightly larger than a 'pocket guide', it is a great reference for French terms for cruising things... like engine repair, dockage, etc. It has pictures of common boat repair items that you can point to to describe what you are looking for.

### **1.16.3 Top French Polynesia Printed Resources**

1. [Tahiti Cruisers Guide Online](#). Cruising Guide for all of French Polynesia –Started by Chuck on Jacaranda and Julien Desmont a local French sailor living in Papeete. Can be downloaded as a pdf, in case you need to try to arrange parts or repairs before you get there (without internet access). If you find a service or store that is not listed please send in an update.
2. [Charlie's Charts of Polynesia](#): Charles and Margo Wood (with updates by Jo Russell and Holly Scott), 8th ed 2011 Holly Scott has taken over the helm at Charlie's Charts and has been updating these age-old cruising guides.
3. [South Pacific Anchorages](#), Warwick Clay, 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition, 2001, pages 22-33. Covers mostly the islands in the NW section, but does cover briefly a few of the atolls in the SE section (Fangataufa, Mururoa, Tatakoto, Amanu, Hao, Nengonengo)
4. [Guide to Navigation and Tourism in French Polynesia](#), Patrick Bonnette & Emmanuel Deschamps, 2001 This book provides the best coverage for some atolls, but is out of print and is becoming quite expensive to purchase if you can find it (in the \$200 range on Amazon).
5. [The Pacific Crossing Guide](#), published by the Royal Cruising Club Pilotage Foundation in association with the Ocean Cruising Club. Originally edited by Michael Pocock, and Revised by Ros Hogbin. We have the 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition published in 2003. Amazon has a version dated 2013.
6. [Landfalls of Paradise](#), Earl Hinz, 5th Edition, 2006, University of Hawaii Press. Referring to the 1999 edition...Coverage of the Tuamotus is limited, see pgs 80-89. Only specifically covers Gambier and Rangiroa, but good coverage of background information about the Tuamotus.
7. [Pacific Crossing Notes](#), Nadine Slavinski, 2015, Rolling Hitch Press
8. [Cruising Guide to the Leeward Islands of Tahiti](#) – The Moorings This book is the handbook that the charter company, The Moorings, provides to its charterers. We bought our copy from Bluewater Books in Ft. Lauderdale. Ours looks like it was done in about 2006. It is only 32 pages, but has probably everything you'd need to know about the easy anchorages and passes in the Leewards. It's no longer easily downloadable from the Moorings site without registering with them. But I stashed a 2015 copy here: <http://svsoggypaws.com/files/Moorings-LeewardIslandsGuide.pdf>
9. [Dream Yacht Charters Guide to the Leeward Islands](#). Previously downloaded from Dream Yacht Charters site.

### **1.16.4 Diving Guides**

1. [The French Polynesia Diving Guide](#), Kurt Amsler, Abbeville Press (undated). This is a pretty coffee-table type book. It only covers 3 of the Tuamotus (Rangiroa, Tikehau, and Manihi), but has some stunning pictures, and has a pretty good color section on 'The Fish of French Polynesia'. It also covers the Marquesas (Nuku Hiva) and The Society Islands. Available from Amazon.com.
2. The [Diving in Tahiti, A Diver's Guide to French Polynesia](#), Thierry Ziesman covers diving in Rangiroa and Manihi, plus other sites in French Polynesia. This is less of a coffee-table book, and a more practical guide to how to find dive sites on your own. We had an electronic copy from another cruiser, and I have never been able to find this in print or online. It's now posted on the [Soggy Paws French Poly files page](#).



### **1.16.5 Books on Underwater Life**

1. [Reef Fish Identification](#) by Gerald Allen, Roger Steene, Paul Humann, Ned DeLoach 2015.  
Or can purchase a download version from [New World Publications, Inc.](#) Jacksonville, Florida
2. [Simon & Schuster's Guide to Shells](#) by Bruno Sabelli. Published by Simon & Schuster.  
Very comprehensive guide to shells with more than 1230 illustrations

## **2 Inter-Island Passage Reports**

Always be careful when rounding the north and south points of islands as you can experience gusts 3 times the average wind speed from unexpected directions.

### **2.1 Ua Pou – Nuku Hiva – Hiva Oa – Tahuata – Fatu Hiva**

**Dec. 2019:** Not the “ideal” route, but we had a plan. We wanted to be in Ua Pou for the Marquesas festival which only occurs every 3 years. They put strict restrictions on anchoring around the small island so we wanted to get there early to get a spot. We arrived 3 weeks before the festival, secured a spot in the very tiny anchorage allotted to cruisers (only 10 sail boats allowed and it was in the entry where it was super roly). But we were able to enjoy the festival. The town is lovely, the provisioning is pretty darn good, there is wifi and a bakery. As soon as it was over, we headed to Nuku Hiva.

Nuku Hiva (Taiohai Bay) is great for provisioning, hiking, internetting, fruit gathering, people watching). The bay is huge, easy to navigate at night, and decent muddy holding. However, there is some weird chemical reaction in the water that creates a horrible grime on your anchor, chain, bridle, waterline, and bottom. Daniel's Bay is truly spectacular with its sweeping mountainsides, waterfall hike, and quaint “village.” Controller's Bay was lovely, good holding and fun hikes. We went around to Anaho bay and found it to be “pretty” but it we did not see what others saw in this bay. Maybe we didn't give it enough of a chance.

After Nuku Hiva we headed to Hiva Oa. At Atuona Bay we hiked a few times to the main village for provisions, but we did not stay long. We did not like the anchorage as it was small, crowded, and restricting. Next, we headed to Tahuata.

We love, love, love Tahuata! Each bay is unique and stunning. We should have spent the majority of our time here and Fatu Hiva as these are the two best islands in all of the Marquesas. Pretty beaches, good holding, fun foraging, awesome walks/hikes. We anchored at Baie Anse, Baie Vaitahu, Baie Hanatefau, Baie Hapatoni.

After our amazing stay at Tahuata, just when we thought it could not get any better, we arrived at Hanavavae (Baie of Virgins and/or Baie of Penises) in Fatu Hiva. Now this is an picturesque anchorage! It is stunning to see the beautiful rocky structures that soar into the sky. The holding was challenging and the bay can be roly though. But there are great hikes, super nice people, and a small village. From Fatu Hiva we headed back to Gambier. – Sugar Shack

### **2.2 Nuku Hiva to Hiva Oa**

**Jan. 2019:** We left Nuku-Hiva, Daniels Bay at 09:00, and crossed the Bordelais-Channel shortly after sunset to arrive in Atuona around 08:30

Weather Forecast: meteo.pf: valid until sat evening east 11/16KT, sea moderate.

Sunny Friday, becoming cloudy end of day with of passages showers. Saturday, sky cloudy to very cloudy with of showers and related squalls sometimes stormy. Wind from sector east moderated with of tips at/in 50 km/hr. no swell meaningful friday. arrival saturday a swell long from north-west D'1 meter.

GFS-Gribs showed 12-15kn 85\* to 95\*, going up towards the weekend.

What we got: wind 95-130\* (mostly 110\*), 5-17kn (mostly 14kn), short waves 1,5-2m 90\* at the beginning, later 1m 60\* with a low long northerly cross-swell, nasty current around 1kn+? setting west. We were not at all able to sail 130\* to Hiva-Oa, had to motorsail. Half moon was good to see 2 squalls (around 25kn) with too

little rain for the radar. Not many clouds until the morning. Wind, waves and current changed 10-15nm off Hiva-Oa, much more clouds with rain in lee of the islands.

Bordelais-Channel was ok with 15-22kn, gusts 30, directly on the nose, short waves 1-2,5m (higher closer to Atuona).

11-13nm from Ua Pou and 17nm from Nuku Hiva we were able to download weather/emails via our Vini cellphone. – Taitonga

### **2.3 Tahuata to Hiva Oa**

**Oct. 2018:** The wind funnels through the Bordelais Channel and the waves are steep.

We were told to cross early morning, before 07:00, and hug the coast of Tahuata and then cross to Hiva-Oa.

Our weather forecast was E12-14, seas moderate; we got in lee of Tahuata less than 5kn northerly, at 07:00 in the channel E10-15, 1m short waves, current 0.4kn setting E, 1h before high-tide.

We did traverse diagonally and would next time hug one of the shores first (a local motor yacht crossed directly to Hiva-Oa and then went very near the shore to round the cape)

We had a fishing line out and the medium squid-lure was missing afterwards - the 0.8mm steel leader broke in the middle. – Taitonga

### **2.4 Tahuata to Atuona**

**May 2024:** Wait for a day when the wind is not too strong. Leave when the sun rises if you don't want to bash up the channel. – Migration

### **2.5 Tahuata to Nuku Hiva**

**Dec. 2018:** We left Tahuata, Hanatefau around 16:00, gusts in mid 20's 120 degrees changing within 5 seconds- gusts normalized at the Bordelais-Channel; the wind did spread out and followed the W-coast of the islands. Miserable lumpy, bumpy complete dark night, squalls, rain, waves coming into the cockpit, slow despite halfwind (current?), wind around 20kn, arrived next morning in Taiohae. – Taitonga

### **2.6 Hiva Oa to Tahuata**

**Dec. 2018:** We crossed diagonally around 09:30 and had a quick look in the possible anchorages on our way towards Hapatoni. We had a fishing line out. The small octopus-lure on 1mm monofil was missing afterwards. French Weather forecast was E17/21kn, gusts 30, seas moderate; Grib (GFS): E 15-17, gusts 19.

We got: (maximum gusts in kn!):

3-5 all directions - Hiva-Oa, Tahuaka

8 ENE - Cap Teaehoa

10-15 E - in the channel

15-20 ESE - Pointe Matatehoke

20-25 E - Hanamoenoa (two boats anchored)

25 ESE - Ivaiva Iti

35 ESE - Vaitehu (one boat anchored)

45 ESE- Bay between Vaitehu and Hanatefau

20 W (!) - Hanatefau (two boats anchored)

At the beginning 1m short waves, in the middle of the channel long waves 1,5+m from E, (no current this time) in lee of Tahuata, no waves but little whitecaps with sometimes spray in the air from the gusts. – Taitonga

## 2.7 Hiva Oa to Fatu Hiva

**Summer 2018:** We picked a weather window where the wind wasn't at all from the south, and were able to sail all the way, on a close reach. – Kokpeli

## 2.8 Fatu Hiva to Nuku Hiva

**Summer 2018:** We did this as an overnight passage, leaving mid-afternoon. Ran into a big wind shadow behind Hiva Oa, but otherwise fine, an easy run under the genoa and arrived in the morning. – Kokpeli

# 3 Eiao

*Exploring the Marquesas Islands* says: 60 miles north of Nuka Hiva lies the rugged crescent-shaped island of Eiao (Ay-ee-ow). This island is not the dream destination for all cruisers. If, however, you enjoy lonely windswept, desolate nature preserves, Eiao is a paradise.

**Boundless – Fall 2024:** We sailed from Haahopu Bay on Nuku Hiva; the first four miles were pretty quiet, and then the wind picked up and we had a great reach all the way to the SW point of the island. There we struck sail and motored through a few minutes of light SW before seeing some quite strong N'ly gusts just as we approached and entered Vaituha Bay. The seas were quite flat as much as 15 miles from Nuku Hiva before they rose to usual open ocean conditions.

Inside Vaituha Bay we saw SE about 15. We dropped anchor in about 42' of water, so that the boat lay at **7°59.556' S, 140°42.662' W**, somewhat to seaward of a quite substantial fisherman's shack onshore. We had first anchored several boat lengths further out, but the bottom was quite rocky, so we tried moving in to that location where we found sand. 58 miles sailed from HaaHopu.

It was a good anchorage. Despite the recent very dry weather there was still a small stream running through the center of the beach and washing sand into the bay as seen on satellite imagery. We mostly had a fairly steady SE breeze, and very little swell or chop found its way in. There were two mantas roaming the bay, they came and checked us out a couple of times.

We landed with our paddle boards near low tide and explored the beach and the large fisherman's shack on the North shore, which has some interesting graffiti and a kitchen! Didn't look like anybody had been there recently, and the water hose which ran from the beach area was dry. We did not try to climb up from the shack or the beach. There were no obvious trails, and bushwhacking up the rocky dry stream bed at the North end of the beach looked doable, but more challenging than we wanted.

Vaituha is a wild and beautiful place, the dark-ish sand beach is quite deep and flat. There are few palm trees, and while we heard some roosters we didn't hear or see any goats. It was a bit stark, and felt very remote!

We stayed three nights and saw no other boats.

**Going back to Nuku Hiva:** We left at first light and found high waves and wind coming around the SW corner of Eiao which saw us close hauled with double reefed main and full jib. Conditions gradually moderated and by half way to Nuku Hiva we had full main.

The seas laid down completely as we got within about 20 miles, though the wind rose enough to require one reef. About three miles off the coast of Nuku Hiva, we suddenly saw light SW and struck sail. As we continued SE we had gradually strengthening "Noserlies" rising to 20 knots and backing to stay on the bow as we motored the last 90 minutes into Daniel's Bay where we anchored about 1630 for 72 miles sailed, all on one port tack close hauled.

We really appreciated being on our own in such a pristine and untouched place. Though it didn't attract us enough to want to stay longer, we're very glad we visited.

## 4 Nuku Hiva (Airport, Customs)

### 4.1 Services

Almost all the “services” on Nuku Hiva are in Taiohae Baie.

#### 4.1.1 Yachtsmen Services

##### 4.1.1.1 Cooking Gas (Propane and Butane)

**May 2024:** Starting in 2022, fewer magasins allowed the sale of cooking gas if you didn't have a bottle to trade in. Smaller magasins, or those in smaller villages, would often overlook this new rule if you promised to bring the bottle back within 24 hours. Current price is 3200 xpf for a 13kg bottle.

– Migration

**Feb. 2020:** Can be purchased from Total Fuel station or at Nuka Hiva Yacht Services (@ 4500f for 20lbs). If you have an American tank, use Nuku Hiva Yacht Services. If you have a French tank that can be exchanged, go direct to Total Fuel station as it is cheaper. – Sugar Shack

**Jan 2019:** Exchange bottles at the fuel station, (13kg refill 2899xpf, deposit 3000xpf in 2019) or use Nuku-Hiva-Yacht-Services. – Taitonga

##### 4.1.1.2 Fuel (Diesel and Gasoline)

Total gas station. Monitor VHF 14 or +689 40 92 06 18. Mon-Fri 0700-1200 & 1400-1700. Sat. 0700-1200. Accept duty free certificate, very friendly and nice.

**Mar 2022:** We borrowed Kevin's diesel cans, 18 of them, and he drove us to the petrol station and back. We did it this way because we'd heard the stories about how rough it was to take your boat to the dock and fill up. However, my husband went with another Amel owner who took his boat to fill up and he said it was really easy. They dropped anchor, reversed to the quay, threw one stern line to someone on the quay and that was it! The man on the quay then threw a line to them in order to get the fuel hose to the boat. Apparently very easy and no drama. (*Ed note: A lot will depend on what the wind and swell and tide are doing!*)

**Feb. 2020:** Big boats have to stern tie (med-moor) to the concrete dock. However, the swell and tide make it very difficult. During the three months that we were in and out of this bay, we only saw 2 boats try to do this. The one sailboat took well over 3-hours to try to secure itself to the dock. The other boat was a 50-meter power boat.

Most cruisers just bring their dinghy to the dock during high tide. On the left side of the fuel dock is a ladder where you can tie your dinghy. You do have to carry the jerry cans to the station to fill as the diesel pump at dock is too powerful for small cans. But it is a short distance away.

Make sure to bring a copy of your boat paperwork, clearance form, and passport in order to purchase fuel. You can save about 40% if you received your duty-free certificate.

You can borrow up to 10-jerry cans from Nuka Hiva Yacht Services (for free). NHYS will also deliver full jerry cans directly to your boat (for a fee). – Sugar Shack

**Jan 2019:** At the Total fuel station at the cruise-dock; tel. +689 40 920 618 mon-sat 07:00-12:00, mon-fri 14-17:00. You can park the dinghy at a ladder (NW-Corner of the dock), go up straight ca. 4m (on top is a handle to make it easier). I lowered my jerry cans down into the dinghy with a rope. With some swell I would not do it. Depending on the tide the dinghy might get trapped under the dock. – Taitonga

##### 4.1.1.3 Trash and Recycling

**June 2022:** The mayor of Taiohae is now requiring visiting boats to pay monthly for trash/recycling and water. The fees are 750 XPF/month for trash and recycling, and 750 XPF/month for water. Fees are paid at the

mayor's office. There are two signs (one in French, one English) at Yacht Services describing the fees. The fee is nominal, and it helps this small island continue providing these services to cruisers. – Sparklemuffin

**Mar 2022:** Proof that you've paid your trash fee at the Mairie will give you 10% discount at the chandlery. - Jamala

**Feb. 2020:** Recycling is easy in Nuku Hiva so be sure to separate out glass, clear plastic, colored plastic, and aluminium/cans from your trash.

Large trash bins are located between the main dock and street. From the dock, turn left and go up towards the street. On right is a nice fenced in area with large trash bins. DO NOT leave batteries, oil, or recycling here. There are also trash cans at the recycling area and along the shore.

Recycling Bins: From dock go toward main street, turn left. On right side is a large parking lot. To the left of the parking lot is the green recycling center. The stand-alone container is for glass (to the left of the other bins). They separate out clear plastic, colored plastic and aluminum cans. Oil is poured into the large black stand-alone bin to the right of the recycling center. – Sugar Shack

#### **4.1.1.4 Water**

**June 2022:** The mayor of Taiohae is now requiring visiting boats to pay monthly for trash/recycling and water. The fees are 750 XPF/month for trash and recycling, and 750 XPF/month for water. Fees are paid at the mayor's office. There are two signs (one in French, one English) at Yacht Services describing the fees. The fee is nominal, and it helps this small island continue providing these services to cruisers. – Sparklemuffin

**Feb. 2020:** Kevin from Nuku Hiva Yacht Services said that the water in this bay is **not** potable. He recommends filling up in Daniel's Bay or Controller's Bay. – Sugar Shack

**Jan 2019: Water:** NO DRINKING WATER! FILTERED water is available at two stations in town for free. (Do not do your laundry there!) – Taitonga

**Aug. 2018:** General opinion amongst the cruising fleet was that the water available at the taps on the quay was 'not potable' though I noticed that both the long-term/semi-permanent yachts filled their jerry jugs there and the locals appeared happy enough to drink from them too, so we used it to fill our tanks without any ill effects and it tasted fine too; no guarantees, so try it and make your own decision. – Moon Rebel

#### **4.1.1.5 Nuku Hiva Yacht Services**

VHF 72, Tel: +689 40 920 750, Kevin +689 87 226 872 (English), Annabella +689 87 794 830  
[Ysnukuhiva@gmail.com](mailto:Ysnukuhiva@gmail.com), [www.YachtServicesNukuHiva.com](http://www.YachtServicesNukuHiva.com), Contact on VHF 72.

M-F 0800-1400 Sat and holidays closed. Located on main dock with yellow awning and pop up tent out front. Kevin and Annabela Ellis are the owners of Yacht Services Nuku-Hiva.

These are the services they offer:

- Formalities (in / inter-island / out)
- Duty Free Fuel Certificate
- Bond Letter (medical insurance required)
- Hull Cleaning
- Mechanic – (inboard / outboard)
- Sail Repair (sail loft above office)
- Taxi Service for Shopping, Airport, Sightseeing
- Internet & Document Printing
- Island Cruising Information & Route Planning
- Telephone / Fax
- Tahiti Crew representative
- Local cruising station host for SSCA and OCC

- Spectra Dealer
- Book swap

Mailing Address:

Yacht Services Nuku-Hiva  
 BP 301  
 Taiohae, Nuku-Hiva 98742  
 French Polynesia

**May 2022:** Kevin has a lending copy of all OpenCPN MBTile Pacific Charts from TheChartLocker.com. This includes satellite and maritime charts for use with OpenCPN for all of French Polynesia.

**Mar. 2022:** We arrived in the bay March 22nd and as we had paid Tahiti Crew to help with our DPAM entry request (no longer required as at May 9th), Kevin at yacht Services Nuku Hiva went to the Gendarmerie with us on the 23rd as he acts as the local agent for Tahiti Crew. You can also hire his services directly. He needed to call them first to check they were clearing in boats, it would seem that some days they say “ not today, come back tomorrow” . The process with Kevin took about 10 mins of filling in paperwork before hand and then the same in the gendarmerie.

A big thank you to Kevin for helping us avoid disaster by sorting out our arrival date issue, he really helped us by speaking to Tahiti Crew when they said that we were not allowed to arrive earlier than we said we would.

Yacht Services Nuku Hiva also provide a laundry service, generally if you drop it off early in the morning then you can get it back the next day. – Jamala

**Jan 2021:** YSNH was very helpful! We used them for Check-in to French Polynesia, Bond Letter, Duty Free Fuel Permit, Courtesy Flag, Hull Cleaning, Excursion, WiFi, Laundry, Purchased Custom Shirts and good general advice. - Trance

**Feb. 2020:** Kevin and Annabella are amazing! We used the for several projects and were very pleased with the work, their professionalism and their friendly attitude.

Sailwork: Kevin was out of town when we first arrived, but he still managed to arrange to have his helper (local cruiser) help us sew up our leading edge on our jib. We used Kevin’s sail loft (above his office) and professional sewing machine.

Fuel: Kevin let us borrow 10-jerry cans (at no cost) several times to fill our boat.

Boat parts: We had to replace our martingale (seagull striker) while here. We tried to go through Mat Rigging in Papeete, but it was a disaster and we had to get a refund. Kevin helped to facilitate the refund even though he was not involved with the original order. He then helped us work with a vendor in the U.S. who not only had the parts in stock, but swaged the parts and had them in FedEx within 2 days of the order.

Shipping: Kevin facilitated the shipping of our martingale from the U.S. to Nuku Hiva.

Wealth of Information: Kevin has been here for a long time and knows just about everything from the supply ship schedule, to which pop-ups to eat at, to sight-seeing.

Wifi / Internet was available daily for 600xpf/day. You can also negotiate a monthly deal with him if you know you will be in the anchorage for awile. Strong, reliable service.

Trinkets and Clothing: Annabella hand-crafts beautiful shirts, pants, wraps and more. – Sugar Shack

**Jan 2019: Nuku-Hiva-Yacht-Services** - Wi-Fi, laundry, care-taking of anchored boats, rental-cars, check-in, duty-free-fuel-formalities, sail-repair, shipping stuff which can not be done here to Tahiti, sell icecream !, etc.; Kevin +689 87 226 872 (english), Annabella +689 87 794 830 (makes nice fabrics!), VHF 72; mon-fri 08:30-11:00, 12:30-15:30, tel 40 920 750, www.YachtServicesNukuHiva.com, ysnukuhiva@gmail.com, nice and helpful service! – Taitonga

**Aug. 2018:** Most items have been already covered by others, but I'd like to give a plug for Kevin @ Nuku Hiva Yacht Services, he ultimately couldn't get the parts to fix our fridge, but he certainly tried hard and didn't charge us for his efforts; a great source of local knowledge with premises right on the quay. – Moon Rebel

**Summer 2018:** Kevin and Annabella of Yacht Service Huku Hiva handled assembling and submitting our paperwork for long-stay visa in French Poly. No problem, no charge (yet). It should take 6 to 8 weeks to get it in here. We're also working to get stuff shipped in to us here, including boat parts, flat mail, and toys. Kevin is good for all of this, has a cheat sheet on how to get it sent to his address here. In addition to his own operation, he's the local rep for Tahiti Crew, and the local cruising station host for SSCA. I think also for OCC.

With Fed Ex or DHL intl. economy, it's 2 to 3 weeks to get here. Costs are at least a couple hundred USD, each package. Fed Ex, for example, has its own customs agent to bless the shipment and ease it out of customs, but there are costs associated with this. But it does work!

Kevin is also a Spectra dealer; Annabella does nice work with fabric design. – Kokpeli

**March 2017:** Kevin, at Nuku Hiva yacht services, sells Polynesian Courtesy flags for reasonable prices (I think we paid 2.000 FP, but not sure). – Spunky

#### **4.1.2 General Services**

##### **4.1.2.1 Air Tahiti**

**Feb. 2020:** +689 40 910 225. Hours Mon-Fri 0800-1200. Mon, Wed, Fri 1330-1630. Marie-Helen will assist with reservation via central hotline (pay later online or in office) +689 40 86 42 42 (press 2 for English) [www.airtahiti.pf](http://www.airtahiti.pf). Office is located on main road. Turn left out of dock and it will be on right side (before the bank). – Sugar Shack

**Jan 2019:** Air Tahiti office mon-fri 08:00-12:00, mon-wed-fri 13:30-16:30, tel.+689 4091 0225, Marie-Helene; you can do a reservation via a central hotline as well (and pay later online or in an office): 40 864 242 (press 2 for english!), [www.airtahiti.pf](http://www.airtahiti.pf). – Taitonga

##### **4.1.2.2 Bank/ATMs**

**Feb. 2020:** Bankque Socredo hours Mon-Thur. 0800-1200 & 1330-1600. Fri. 0800-1200 & 1330-1500. Bank with an ATM (24/7). From dock, turn left and bank will be on right hand side. The ATM at the post office is no longer functioning.

They cannot do bank to bank transfer unless you have an account with them (which they would not let me create one). I was trying to pay a vendor in Papeete and ended up sending cash with another cruiser who flew to Tahiti. NHYS can do a bank transfer for 10%. – Sugar Shack

##### **4.1.2.3 Gendarmerie**

**Feb. 2020:** +689 40 920 305. Hours: Mon-Sat: 0700-1200 & 1400-1700. Although we found their hours vary. They are located across from the post office and hospital. Do not go to the Gendarme across from Artisan market as that is the prison. – Sugar Shack

**Jan 2019:** Gendarmerie: +689 40 920 305. – Taitonga

##### **4.1.2.4 Chandlery**

**Nov. 2021:** A new chandlery has opened in Taiohae Bay, Nuku Hiva called Nuku Tai Nui Marine.  
-- Spirit of Argo

Nuku Tai Nui Marine

Tel +689 87 30 99 12

[www.maintenancemarquises.com](http://www.maintenancemarquises.com)

Cécile Hémé: Directrice magasin

[cecile.heme@maintenancemarquises.com](mailto:cecile.heme@maintenancemarquises.com)

Situated on the same road as the bank and behind the library.

BP 161 98 742 Taiohae Nuku Hiva Marquises Nord

#### 4.1.2.5 *Hardware Stores*

**Feb. 2020:** We found two hardware stores and a magasin with some hardware items. – Sugar Shack

- **Hardware store Bigot:** +689 40 92 03 34 Hours: Mon-Fri 0730-1200 & 1300-1600. From quay, turn left onto main road. Turn right after Magasin Kamake and continue up the hill. Past the bus depot and recycling bins. Turn left at bridge, cross over bridge and store will be in front of you. Some hardware, home goods.
- **Naha Quincaillerie:** [nahaquincaillerie@gmail.com](mailto:nahaquincaillerie@gmail.com). Hours: Mon-Fri: 0700-1200 & 1230-1600. Sat: 0700-1200. Location: Turn right out of dock area, past post office and hospital, take left at “Y” heading up hill. At top of hill turn right. Just past the power plant is a driveway on right with steep decline, go down and the hardware store will be at the end of the road on the right (no sign). Small, but well stocked hardware store with tools, paint supplies, gardening (seeds, pots), some line, etc....
- **Magasin Larson:** In the back of the store are a few hardware-type items. See provisions for contact and hours.

**Jan 2019: Hardware Store:** Bigot, tel.+689 4092 0434, carries building-supplies, a bit boat- and fishingstuff, Makita-tools and a bit of everything as well has a clothing, shoe and toy section (No store in Taiohae carried manual fly-flaps (only electric ones). Turn right before Larson and walk uphill ca. 500m until the busstation/recyclingcollection, turn left and proceed for ca. 80m. Little stores/workshops with hardware on the road to the cruise-terminal (dito most magasins carry a bit). – Taitonga

#### 4.1.2.6 *Laundry*

**March 2024:** We found the prices that Kapa Services charged were more expensive than the flyer they had posted at the Artisanat. – Migration

**May 2022:** Kapa Services near the marine shop was slightly cheaper and quicker than at Yacht Services and our clothes smelled better. – Sierra Wind

**Feb. 2020:** Services offered by Nuka Hiva Yacht Services for 1500f per load (wash, dry, fold). 1000f for wash only and 2000f for hot water. Laundry takes 36-48 hours.

Kapa Services - Laverie Laundry +689 87 70 01 52. Hours: Mon-Fri: 0730-1600. Sat: 0700-1200. Located in small building of former school behind the bank and library. Wash 800, Wash/Dry 1000, Wash/Dry/Fold 1200, delivery 250, recovery 250 (all xpf) – Sugar Shack

**Jan 2019: Laundry:** Nuku-Hiva-Yacht-Services: off-season 1000XPF wash, dry, fold a load, (imho good quality).

Kapa: 600xpf (wash) to 1000xpf (wdf) (can collect and deliver for 300xpf, you can leave it with Celestine at the market) tel. 87 349 189 – Taitonga

**May 2017:** Laundry service from Kevin/Anabella at Yacht Services - CPF1200 per load (not by Kg) gives wash dry and fold. Drying is dependent on weather! Next building down (also in harbor area) offered at \$1000CPF per load (Wash/Dry/Fold) - but we didn't try this. – Begonia

#### 4.1.2.7 *Le Mairie*

Pay your trash fee at the Mairie

**Feb. 2020:** +40 910 360. Le Mairie is located on the main road, right hand side (across from Artisan Market). – Sugar Shack



#### **4.1.2.8 Library**

**Feb. 2020:** The library is located in one of the buildings of the small school (behind the bank). Read books, use the internet and enjoy a cup of coffee. Membership is 1000gaz per year. – Sugar Shack

#### **4.1.2.9 Mechanic (Auto)**

**Feb. 2020:** We found two auto-mechanic locations but did not use either of them. – Sugar Shack

- Eurl Kea’Kamani. +689 87 39 32 34 [keakamani@mail.pf](mailto:keakamani@mail.pf). Location: Turn right out of dock area, past post office and hospital, take left at “Y” heading up hill. At top of hill turn right. Just past the power plant is a driveway on right with steep decline, go down and mechanic will be on left.
- Garage Hakapehi + 920 489 or +920 496. Next to Eurl Kea’Kamani. Auto mechanic and accessories.

#### **4.1.2.10 Marine Services / Boat Parts**

**Feb. 2020:** NHYS helped us repair our leading edge of our jib. The sail loft is clean and large enough to do any sail repair.

Wood Shop: Menuiserie. Tel. 22 68 72. Hours: Tues-Fri: 0730-1100 & 1330-1500. Location: Turn right out of dock area, past post office and hospital, take left at “Y” heading up hill. At top of hill turn right. Just past the power plant is a driveway on right with steep decline, go down and wood shop at the end of the road. Fabrication, renovations and repairs. – Sugar Shack

**Jan 2019:** Canvas work and tender construction, Pierre, SY Tivano lives in a house on the hills, tel. +689 87 32 47 29 (also bookable through NHYS). – Taitonga

Bottom-Cleaning: Pierre (SY Tivano) lives in Nuku-Hiva, 35USD/h (calculate 3h), tel. +689 87 324 729, as well bookable via Nuku-Hiva-Yacht-Service, Pierre is manufacturing glasfiber dinghys as well.

Welding/Metal and Woodwork: Workshops on the road to the cruiseship-terminal. – Taitonga

#### **4.1.2.11 Medical**

**June 2024:** If you need a dentist in the Nuku Hiva, this is your only choice!! Dr. Puech is from Talousse, France and practiced there for many years and then in New Caledonia. We were shocked at how nice his dental clinic was given how remote it is. It is the bottom floor of his house. My husband had a cracked molar and part of it broke off. Dr P drilled with no novacaine because he said not worth 5 hours numb mouth for 30 seconds. I think maybe it’s hard to get novacaine in Nuku Hiva? My husband was a bit traumatized, but handled it well. Dr. P expertly drilled out the old filling with minimal pain. He tried 3x to get a repair to the tooth and couldn’t get it. I think it’s in a tough spot in the back and not enough surface to hold the repair. He was very upset with himself. He refilled the cavity and stopped. He does not take credit card and I was not sure I had enough cash so he told me it was \$65 or 7000XPF. Phew. I had enough money and thankfully because it was a good 15 minute walk down to the main road. After it was all over, he was very upset with himself that he did not make the situation any better and he refused to take our money. He handed it back. We insisted but he would not accept.

To find his clinic, pass Magasin Celine on your right, walk over the bridge and make a right. Then, ask anyone for directions. They all know him. I have also put a map and detailed instructions in No Foreignland.

– sv Blown Away

**Feb. 2020:** There is a decent size hospital with several physicians. +689 40 920 200 or Emergencies: +689 40 910 216. Turn right on to main road, past Poste office, on right. Several nurses are also available during emergency situations: Laurent Barucchi +689 87 291 586; Thierry Courtade +689 87 311 316; Marie France Malatesta +689 87 307 995; Fred Arnaud +689 87 224 235.

Dentist: Pierre Puech +689 40 920 418.

Pharmacy: +689 40 910 090 [pharmacie.nukuhiva@mail.pf](mailto:pharmacie.nukuhiva@mail.pf). Hours: Mon-Fri 0730-1200 & 1430-1700. Sat. 090-1100. Take left on main road, then turn right on 3<sup>rd</sup> street (just past cathedral). Then make first left and pharmacy will be on your right. It is up a steep hill. – Sugar Shack

#### **4.1.2.12 Net: Taiohae Bay Net**

**Apr. 2024:** For years there was a very useful and active VHF net hosted by Kevin of Yacht Services. However, since 2023, due to yachties no longer participating, the net has been suspended. It could be resurrected at any time by any yacht or with a request to Kevin. This is exemplary of the unfortunate trend of yachties no longer monitoring their VHF and relying on social media for information. PLEASE KEEP YOUR VHF ON! It is the lifeline of the cruising community and the quickest way to summon help (or provide aid), but it only works if we all participate.

#### **4.1.2.13 Passports & Visas**

**Feb. 2020:** Subdivision Administration des iles Marquesas. Hours: Mon-Thurs: 0800-1130 & 1400-1530. Raimano Lucas speaks pretty good English and works with Papeete to facilitate passports/visas. From dock, turn right, 2 story building on left just before OPT. Office is located on the first floor on the side. – Sugar Shack

#### **4.1.2.14 Post Office**

**Feb. 2020:** +689 40 920 340. Hours: Mon-Fri: 0730-1130 & 1230-1530. Fri closes 1430. Located on main street, turn right from dinghy dock, on right. ATM does not work. They sell sim cards & top up. – Sugar Shack

#### **4.1.2.15 Salon**

**Feb. 2020:** Esthetique Kumuhei is located near Le Maire (right side). +87 723 728. – Sugar Shack

#### **4.1.2.16 Tattoo Artist**

**Feb. 2020:** +689 87 70 78 74 or [T.huukena@gmail.com](mailto:T.huukena@gmail.com), Teiki wrote the two books on Marquesan tattoos and is the producer of an educational documentary. He is located off the main road, just past the recycling bins in a white building. Cost is \$50/hr for drawing or tattooing. He is lovely, gentle and very talented – Sugar Shack.

**Summer 2018:** Teiki has opened up a tattoo studio ("Patiki") that's first rate. It's across from the crafts market. He's really very artistic, authentically Marquesan, and skillful. Each is a one-off piece of art. – Kokpeli

#### **4.1.2.17 Tourist Office**

+689 40 920 825. Hours: 8:00-11:00 and 1230-1530. , [www.nukuhiva.org](http://www.nukuhiva.org) , [comitedutourisme.nukuhiva@gmail.com](mailto:comitedutourisme.nukuhiva@gmail.com). Located near dock across from artisan market. Collette can arrange for tours, taxis, rental cars, and more. Just ask. She is a wealth of information.

#### **4.1.2.18 Transportation**

**Feb. 2020:** Car Rental Services:

- Tourist office, Collette, [comitedutourisme.nukuhiva@gmail.com](mailto:comitedutourisme.nukuhiva@gmail.com)
- Tony Loc Locations and Taxi. +690 40 92 03 30 or +689 87 78 5 41. [pensionmoananui@mail.pf](mailto:pensionmoananui@mail.pf). Located next to Moana Nui pension and pizzeria

Taxis and Airport Transfers

- Nuku Hiva Yacht Services \$40/pp each way, [ysnukuhiva@gmail.com](mailto:ysnukuhiva@gmail.com)
- Toursit Office, Collette, [comitedutourisme.nukuhiva@gmail.com](mailto:comitedutourisme.nukuhiva@gmail.com)
- Kuanui 87 79 37 47
- Otto Justin 87 72 02 65
- Dupont Odile 87 73 26 73

- Hokaupoko Leonard +87 74 47 60
- Jusqu'a 87 71 74 96 (will do excursions as well)

Please note that NHYS and the Tourist center add a small fee to help arrange services for you. – Sugar Shack

**Jan 2019: Rental Cars:** Pension Moana Nui: e.g. Suzuki Jimmy 4x4 for 10000xpf/d (2019) – Taitonga

#### **4.1.2.19 Wifi / Internet**

Taiohae has excellent 4G. Data-only SIM cards available from NHYS. Full plans available at the post office.

**Feb. 2020:** There are several places that offer wifi. See Below. – Sugar Shack

- The most convenient is NHYS with a solid, reliable, decent connection for 600 xpf/day. You might be able to negotiate a monthly deal if you pay in advance.
- Snack Vaeaki (to the right of NHYS) offers wifi as well with purchase of food/beverage. The best connection is in front of the kitchen.
- Snack Tematapua (located behind the produce market and across from artisan market) offers wifi with purchase.
- The Keikahanui Pearl Lodge (west side of bay) offers really good internet that can reach the anchorage. Must purchase food/beverage (and can use the pool during the day).
- Snack Joseph is located off main road, past bank and Moana Nui
- Library has internet once you become a member. See above
- Vini and GoogleFi also worked well.

**Jan 2019: Internet:** Wi-Fi at the dock-restaurant Snack Vaeaki (support them for that by buying drinks or food!) - the password is displayed on the ordering-table; as well Nuku-Hiva-Yacht-Services and several places in town, e.g. the library (yearly membership 1000XPF, closed during holidays, but mostly they leave the Wifi on)

SSB: sometimes ok(ish) for checking into the Polynesian-Magellan-Net

Iridium-Access: good, despite the mountains. – Taitonga

#### **4.1.2.20 Veterinarian**

**Jan 2019: Vet:** Ludovic 87 343 136. – Taitonga

#### **4.1.2.21 Shopping in Taiohae Bae**

**Feb. 2020:** There are lovely shops where you can buy clothing and Marquesan trinkets. – Sugar Shack

- **Artisan Market** buildings just off the dock. Selling jewelry, shells, wood artifacts. Closes at 1500.
- **Nuka Hiva Press** (school supplies, paper goods) Mon-Fri 0800-1130 & 1300-1630. Sat. 0800-1130.
- **Boutique Chez Nadja** (clothes, toys) By Nuka Hiva Press. Mon-Fri: 0800-1130 & 1300-1630. Sat. 0800-1130
- **Boutique** (clothing, Marquesan trinkets) located on the dock between NHYS and the snack.
- **Nuku Hiva Yacht Services:** Anabelle makes beautiful designs on clothing (shirts, skirts, and more) and they sell Marquesan books and other small trinkets in their office.

#### **4.1.2.22 Ukulele Lessons**

Kaha is an excellent teacher and will meet you at the quay for your lesson. Very reasonable prices and fun. 87 79 67 30 – Migration

#### **4.1.3 Provisions**

**Magasin Kamake** +689 40 920 322. Hours: Mon-Sat 0530-11300 & 1400-1830. Sun 0530-1100. (blue/white awning) from dinghy dock, turn left and it will be first market on your right.

- **Feb. 2020:** Moderately stocked market. However, they have fresh baguettes and pastries in the morning. Locals will sell fresh produce or sandwiches out front. – Sugar Shack
- **Jan. 2019:** Kamake, they bake their own bread (good!), No bread on Sundays. Bread might be sold out after 09:00; you can prepay for tomorrow and collect the reserved bread at your desired time. The bread is carried mostly in plasticbags - for the crispyness it is much better to carry it in a self-made cotton sack (more ecofriendly as well). – Taitonga

**Magasin Larsons / Super U** +689 40 920 331. Mon-Sat. 07:30-11:30, 14:30-18:30, Sun. 0700-1200. (red awning) past Magain Kamake on the right-side corner. It is the biggest and best stocked market. Some home goods and hardware supplies. Some organic and gluten free items.

- **May 2024:** Excellent selection. Super friendly staff. Has fresh milk from Tahiti when Aranui arrives.
- **Feb. 2020:** Great selection and variety of food. Fresh baguettes and a small hardware/fishing section in the back. – Sugar Shack

**Magasin Celine** +689 40 92 01 60 Mon-Sat 0600-1230 & 1400-1930. Sun 0900-1230 & 1630-1900. Go past Magasin Larson about ¼ mile. On the right side.

- **Mar 2024:** One can often find fresh veggies here when other places don't have any. – Migration
- **May 2022:** Magasin Celine was a farther walk but worth a visit and had slightly less expensive prices compared to the other – Sierra Wind
- **Feb. 2020:** Celine sells organic lettuce and has a large variety of produce. They also sell hydroponic lettuce. Produce is delivered (from the farms) Mondays & Thursday. – Sugar Shack

**Magasin Hoata** +689 40 920 021 Hours: Mon-Sat 0600-1900. Sun: 0600-1200. Following instructions to Pharmacy, continue uphill past pharmacy about ¼ mile. Magasin is on left.

- **Mar 2024:** Very nice people. They have fresh milk from Tahiti when the Aranui arrives. – Migration
- **Feb. 2020:** Well stocked market, great liquor and wine selection. They sell beer by the case and will often offer you a discount or bottle of rum if you make a large purchase. They will pick you up and drop you off at the dock so you don't have to make the long walk (must make \$100 purchase). We have not been too impressed with their fresh selection, but everything else is great. – Sugar Shack

**Tanino Mai** Mon-Fri 0700-1700. A small new store that sells bulk food items and some natural products: salt, flour, pasta, nuts, chocolate, tea, etc. It is behind the bank, next to the chandlery. They also have a small snack for take out. – Migration

**Magasin Putoka** 40 92 03 32 Up the street from the bank. On left side. Worth checking out if you are looking for something specific that you haven't found elsewhere.

**Veggie Market:** Hours Mon-Fri: 0630-1500 Sat 0400-1000. Earlier the better for the best variety of produce.

- **Mar 2024:** Two sections on either side of the café next to the Artisanat. Fantastic jams in the back left corner of the section closest to the main road. – Migration

**Fresh fish** from the fisherman at the dock. One never knows when the boats will come in. Mostly early in the morning (dawn) but you might find them at 10AM or 4PM as well. Sometimes they'll sell a part of a fish; sometimes you must buy the whole fish. 500XPF / kg for fresh tuna. Lots of other types of fish depending which boat and what they caught. Don't wait for them to serve you--just ask. Some of the fishermen have a bit of an attitude... Don't let that put you off. Bring in your own plastic container to avoid dealing with slimy plastic

bags. They will often let you leave your purchase in their ice chest while you do your other shopping. – Migration

**Fresh Organic Eggs** available at Boutique Chez Nadja. Often sells out but you can order in advance. Expensive.

#### **4.1.3.1 Provision Cruiser Report**

**Feb 2023:** There is another small magasin besides those listed above on the north side of town. If you land your dinghy on the West beach, it's a short walk to the green building. It always looks closed, but try the door. – Migration

**May 2022:** Magasin Celine was a farther walk but worth a visit and had slightly less expensive prices compared to the other markets. If you find baguettes or eggs at any of the markets, buy them while you can because they sell out quickly. Eggs can be very hard to find and may only be available once a week! Run errands early in the morning, everything seems to close at lunch or before 2:00PM – Sierra Wind

**Aug. 2010:** Taiohae is a great place for provisioning--significantly better than anything we saw in the Tuamotus or Gambier. There is a daily fruit and veggie market right next to the dinghy dock, so fresh stuff is easy. Most of this produce is grown on the island and so isn't too outrageous in price. We were able to eventually find lettuce, tomatoes, green peppers, cucumbers, avocados, green beans, and of course the standby's: potatoes, onions, cabbage and carrots. Still no brocolli or celery, but at least some green stuff. And all the tropical fruits plus some apples. We stocked up for 6 weeks worth of groceries--that should get us to Hawaii.

Mostly we needed meats and snack food (cookies, crackers and chips). The meat selection was quite good--boneless, skinless chicken breasts, chicken leg quarters, whole chickens, pork chops, ground beef, lamb chops (and other cuts) even bacon!!

We stopped at the fish market by the dinghy dock and bought a few kilos of fresh yellow-fin tuna and wahoo (nicely priced at \$5/kilo uncleaned with the head removed, and you can buy half of a fish). – Soggy Paws

#### **4.1.4 Restaurants**

**Snack Vaeaki** tel. +689 40 920 551. Mon-Sun 0630-1500. Offers wifi and decent meals for 1000f. On main dock to the right of NHYS. Does not sell liquor/beer. Hosts music/ukelee lessons on Sundays at 1600.

- **Feb. 2020:** Really nice people who run this snack. Typical local cuisine and super tasty lemonade. They sell baguettes and fresh fruit. Wifi for customers. On Sundays they offer free Ukelele lessons and an array of music. – Sugar Shack
- **Jan 2019:** Snack Vaeaki - they have Wi-Fi! 7 days a week from 06:30 to 15:00, main courses around 1000XPF, tel. +689 40 920 551
- **Summer 2018:** Good food at easy prices, sometimes entertainment, and a chance to meet locals. The Snack by the dingy dock has usable wifi, and good coffee and food. – Kokpeli

**Snack Tematapuaua** +689 40 92 06 43 or +689 87 75 72 26. Located behind produce market, wifi and beer.

- **Feb. 2020:** Typical cuisine, but be careful with the paninis as they used old meat in two sandwiches. Wifi offered to customers. – Sugar Shack

**Keikahanui Pearl Lodge**, turn left from main road, walk past cathedral and continue following the edge of the bay. A sidewalk will appear on the right side. Lodge sign on right, turn right. Then take first left onto dirt road. Nice restaurant, refreshing negative edge (small) pool and wifi. The pool is only available until 1600 and then it is guests only. They have half price Hinano, Heineken and cocktails on Friday nights from 1800-2000.

- **Feb. 2020:** We splurged on two lunches here. Really great food and tasty cocktails. You can use the pool and wifi before 1600, then the pool is for guests only. – Sugar Shack
- **Feb. 2011:** If you have a special occasion to spend big bucks on, the Pearl Resort serves excellent French cuisine and drinks are half price (which brings them down to Hawaii tropical drink prices, \$6-8)

on Fridays after 6 or 7. The bar at the resort is all that remains of Rose and Frank Corser's original establishment. – Moondance

- **Aug. 2010:** Very nice restaurant up by the hotel on the west side of the anchorage with a bar that serves happy hour drinks overlooking their infinity pool and the anchorage. Dinners \$20 – Soggy Paws

**Boulangerie Snack Joseph** (pink building) +689 40 920 431 or +689 87 74 49 09 Usually open early mornings and when cruise ships are visiting. Very tasty food.

**Pizzeria:** Moana Nui +689 40 920 330. Located past Magasin Kamake. Pizza was “less than average” & pricey.

**Pension Moana Nui** +689 40 920 330, [pensionmoananui@mail.pf](mailto:pensionmoananui@mail.pf) ; expensive: breakfast: 9900xpf/n + tax (2019).

- **Jan 2019:** Restaurant that serves breakfast. – Taitonga

## **4.2 The South Coast of Nuku Hiva**

### **4.2.1 Taiohae Baie (Main Village)**

Baie De Taiohae, the main port for the Marquesas, offers the most services and provisioning in the Marquesas (see above).

**CAUTION:** There is something in the water in Taiohae baie that eats away at anchor chains (stainless and galvanized) and anchors when boats are left for more than 30 days.

We have 100 meters of 10mm stainless steel chain and found that we had to pressure wash our chain after each stay in Taiohae baie. Several friends with galvanized chain found their chains destroyed after leaving them for more than 30-days in this anchorage. Be warned.

**June 2022:** There is a required fee for trash/recycling and water. The fees are 750 XPF/month for trash and recycling, and 750 XPF/month for water. Fees are paid at the mayor's office. There are two signs (one in French, one English) at Yacht Services describing the fees. The fee is nominal, and it helps this small island continue providing these services to cruisers. – Sparklemuffin

**May 2022:** There is a test of the tsunami warning siren at noon on the 1st of each month. – Migration

#### **4.2.1.1 Anchorages and Moorings**

There is a defined **No-Anchoring-Zone** in the northern part of the bay (Cruise ship dock +300m to shore) at: 140°05.91W / 8°54.74S to 140°05.89W / 8°55.31S to 140°05.74W / 8°55.33S (stated in order 1084/CM from 04.08.2016). You can get penalties for anchoring there.

**Dec 2023:** There were 160 boats anchored for the Matava'a festival. Really wasn't a problem. Though Taiohae is a great town, be aware that something in the water destroys the galvanizing on your chain. The fouling of the chain and hull is also some of the worst we've found. Limit your time if you care about your chain. If you anchor bow and stern to keep from turning sideways to the swell, anchor close to the beach and not in the middle of the fleet. – Migration

**May 2020:** There were over 80 boats anchored in Taiohae Baie during quarantine. Not ideal, but doable. They were crowded but many, if not most, had bow and stern anchors out. – Sugar Shack

**Feb. 2020:** Taiohae Baie is a nice wide bay, easily navigable. We came in at night on our first visit after coming direct from Makemo. We stayed here several times. Here are our multiple anchor points:

- **08°55.183S / 140°06.209W** Muddy seabed made for a good hook in 12 meters.
- **08°56.1103S / 140°06.2006W** Dropped in 9 meters. We anchored further away from shore and other boats as we did lots of 360's.
- **08°56.0177S / 140°06.3431W** in 11 meters, good muddy holding, on west side of baie near resort.

Note the no-anchoring zone as described above. The Gendarmerie will ask you to leave if you anchor in the no-anchoring zone. We stayed between 1-3 weeks each time and every time we had fouled (dirty, grimy) chain, bridle, and anchor. We had to use the pressure washer to clean each off before bringing them on board. It was really, really disgusting. – Sugar Shack

#### **Dinghy Dock Etiquette:**

- Do not tie your dinghy painter to the ladder
- Do not raise your outboard
- Do not use the moorings to stern tie your dingy
- Slow down and don't create a wake at the finger pier (wakes toss the local fishing boat bows into the wall)

There are several places to leave your dinghy; some are better than others.

- Quay
  - There are two ladders here. One has lost the top rung which makes it hard to use. The locals allow us to use this area – please be respectful.
  - Both ladders and dock have sharp shells which cut easily into your skin and pontoons.
- Do not tie your dinghy around the corner from the fish cleaning station on the wall with the steps leading toward the ramp. This is reserved for fishing boats and local boats.
- You can pull your dinghy up on the beach, but watch for the swell, sharks, and jellyfish. Typically, the sharks won't bother you as they are too busy with the chum by the dock.

*IMPORTANT: Be very careful where you leave your dinghy to ensure your outboard does not get caught on the lines of the moored local boats. The swell can be powerful and outboards have been ripped off the transoms of dinghies.*

What's in the water? Not sure what is in the water, but every time we anchored here (over 6-8 times) we grew a science experiment. Yes, we need a bottom job, but after a week, we would need to clean the waterline, bridle, and anything else within the water's reach. Get ready, it's fun! – Sugar Shack

**Jan 2019: 08°55,070S / 140°05,595W**, in 17m with 70m chain. Good holding in grey mud with coral sand for the Bügel. Nearer ashore it is less deep, but maybe a bit more reflecting swell.

60 boats in the U-shaped anchorage and still plenty of room. Rolly. Nice scenery but not spectacular.

The Cargo/Cruise ships do park at a massive concrete-dock on the North side of the bay. Cruise ships might also anchor in the bay and ferry passengers ashore.

Navigation lights: Navigation lights were working. The town has a lot of streetlights as well. (I would dare to anchor in this bay at night!)

Water-visibility: ~4-5m in dark water, (after heavy rain 20cm).

Fouling: After 3 weeks our alu-bottom (with nearly no antifouling left) was very badly covered with weeds, sponges and barnacles (like a living 3cm thick carpet) but relatively easy to scrape; it took almost an hour to clean the weedy anchor chain.

Wind and weather: The weather forecast (outside) was at the beginning ENE-E 17-21kn, gusts 30, sea moderate E 1,5m. What we got: All directions, only a few gusts, often NW 10-15kn.

(The breaking waves at the bay-entrance (Sentinelle de l'Ouest) can be used as a sea condition indicator)

Swell/Rolly: Quite some boat movements (3 to 4 out of 5 on the Dagmar-Scale). The tide often pushed us to 90 deg to the swell. When a bigger southerly-swell is coming in, I do not want to be here!!! (Some cruisers reported that sometimes it is not possible to go ashore). There is some current in the bay and the boats sometimes are stern to stern.

Local traffic: occasionally fishermen and supply ships as well cruise ships (then it gets busy with their tenders)!

#### 4.2.1.2 Activities

##### Diving

**Mar. 2023:** There is a dive outfit on the right just as you leave the petite quay.

##### Dance Classes

**Feb. 2020:** Fabiene teaches dance class. You can find her at the community center or ask NHYS to contact her. Some cruisers attend the local dance classes and swing their hips and meet locals! – Sugar Shack

##### Tours

**Feb. 2020:** There are lots of companies that give tours of the island. We did not take a tour, but several other cruisers enjoyed them. – Sugar Shack

- NHYS can arrange a tour or take you on the tour of the island. VHF 72, Tel: +689 40 920 750, [Ysnukuhiva@gmail.com](mailto:Ysnukuhiva@gmail.com)
- Tourist Office, Collette can arrange a tour of the island. +689 40 920 825, Hours Mon-Fri 0800-1100 & 1230-1530 [comitedutourisme.nukahiva@gmail.com](mailto:comitedutourisme.nukahiva@gmail.com). Just tell her what you are interested in doing/seeing and she will schedule it for you. All day tour, up to 8 people, \$65/ea, lunch not included.
- Richard Temarama Deane offers 4x4 tours with 10 years experience. +689 87 28 08 36 or +689 87 74 86 78 or [temarama.tour@hotmail.fr](mailto:temarama.tour@hotmail.fr). [www.temarama.com](http://www.temarama.com). Temarama Tour includes historical, botanical, cultural, archeological in 4x4 excursion. Richard Temarama Deane has license of security, professional hiking, first aid kit and mobile phone for your safety.
- Jocelyne Henua Enana Tours +689 87 74 42 23 [jocelyne@mail.pf](mailto:jocelyne@mail.pf)
- Kimi Randonnee +689 87 75 39 69 [kimi.rando@hotmail.fr](mailto:kimi.rando@hotmail.fr)

Things to do and or see on your own:

- Visit Hatiheu Baie and visit the archeological site of Hikokua and amuihei and Tahakia.
- Hakatea religious site on north coast
- Rose Carver's Museum, this was never opened when we went by, but its supposed to be nice

##### Hiking / Walks

**Feb. 2020:** We took full advantage of the mountans in Nuku Hiva, after spending several months in the Tuamotus where there is nowhere to hike. Here are our favorite hikes: -- Sugar Shack

- **Colette Baie** is a nice easy hike, 75 min one way. Main road, turn left, past cemetery. Turn right at Pearl Resort and continue up hill. At top of hill, at the "Y" turn right. Then turn right at the Colette Baie sign and large rock with "Colette Baie." Uphill on left. At next "Y" stay straight and follow the sign. At the top of the hill is a 3-way intersection. Take the middle road. It may have a "locked gate" but it is fake locked and easily opened. Follow road to Colette Baie, nice black sand beach.
- **Gazebo / Palapa / hike** (see it at SE corner of bay). Turn right from dock, past hospital, then turn right at the top of the hill. Keep left, at the "Y" take left (don't go downhill), at the 3-way intersection, take middle road which turns into dirt road. See tourist/info sign to visit gazebo, lookout, and beach.
- **Waterfall hike** (see it north of anchorage). Left at main road, right at Magasin Celine (opposite Mare/Tiki site). Up the hill until you get to the "Y" then turn right and continue up. Next "Y" take the dirt road to the right. At the 3<sup>rd</sup> "Y" take the road to the right going downhill. Keep right and continue past the water treatment plant, cross the stream. It says "private" but the gate was down and we proceeded onward. Follow the large metal pipe (on left) to the base of the waterfall. Note: There is NO swimming at the waterfall which is small but pretty. It is their water source.
- **Koeva (Marquesan site)** 45-minute walk (one way). Turn right at Magasin Larson. Walk up hill about 20-25 min. turn right at the metal power poll and recycling plant (surrounded by green fence) which is just before the road makes a hard-left turn (8.90.234S / 140.10.113W). At the large banyan tree, turn



left (4-way intersection), then make your next right (might be a chain blocking vehicles up). Be sure to explore all around as there are many hidden huts, tikis and statues.

**Jan 2019:** Walks: There is an ancient Marquesan site (Koeva) you can walk to, about 45 minutes, uphill, one way. Follow the Road from Magazin Larson up the hill. Just before the sharp hairpin turn to the left is a fenced in yard – turn right (large power pole), At the Banyan tree turn left; next, turn right. The Koeva site has lush green grass and is well manicured, with some tiki's. – Taitonga

**Aug. 2018:** We took a couple of great walks from the village, both an easy 2-3 hour return even on a daily training regime of twenty cigarettes and a six pack:

Waterfall, visible to the north of the anchorage: Walk to the western end of the town until you reach the Marae/Tiki site and as you cross the bridge, take the road to your right, there are several turnings to the left along here but ignore them all keeping alongside, but not crossing the river – there's a bridge over it to the cathedral, that's worth visiting too – and going gently uphill. After perhaps a mile the concrete road turns left and climbs steeply, ignore this turning and continue north along the gravel track directly ahead of you. We never reached the end of it, but after perhaps another mile there's a gravel track bearing off the right and going downhill, you can see the waterfall in that direction. Take that right fork and it brings you to/through the water collection/treatment plant; cross the stream there and follow a rugged path beside the raised steel water-pipe and after perhaps ¼ mile you'll reach the foot of the waterfall; don't swim in it as the water collection point's directly below the waterfall.

Palapa/Pergola visible on the skyline towards the SE corner of the bay: Surprisingly gentle climb up what looks a very big hill, but there's little shade, so take ample water: Follow the road east/south out of the town passing the hospital and going generally uphill, until after perhaps a mile the road turns right/west and descends to the Grand Quay, at this corner follow the smaller concrete road that continues on ahead of you; a few hundred yards further it turns to gravel and after a couple of hundred more it stops completely with an obvious gravel footpath continuing ahead of you, simply follow it. The footpath's easy going – I was told that the residents of the local prison built/maintain the path? - with bridges across all the streams and steps cut/built at any steeper sections, the path wends its way around the hills, before climbing to the top via a series of gentle zig-zags, with only the last couple of hundred metres being rocky/rugged. Fantastic views across the bay, along the south coast and Oa Pou on a clear day. – Moon Rebel

#### **4.2.1.3 Cruiser Reports**

**April 2019 – Leaving the Boat for An Extended Time:** A number of boats have left their boats under the watchful eye of Kevin at Nuka Hiva Yacht Services. We have received reports from 4 boats that left their boats for extended periods of time (> 6 months) on anchor that have returned to find their anchor chain reduced in size. Since the bottom is all mud at first, I assumed that there is some electrolysis in the harbor. But I think that it might be the makeup of the bottom substrate that affects the chain.

4 boats I spoke with had to replace their chains when they arrived in Papeete.

My suggestion is, if you want to leave the boat for a long period of time (5-6 months), then order a length of chain from Tahiti and have it sent up by ship. This will save your good anchor chain from being eaten up. There are NO galvanizing services in FP. – Jacaranda

**Jan 2019:** We watched some Manta Rays (I snorkled with them), and I was watched cleaning the hull by a hammerhead shark.

Church service: Cathedral Notre Dame des Iles Marquises: sun 08:00+17:00, sat 06:00, weekdays 17:30; Mormon Chapel and Jehovas. – Taitonga

#### **4.2.2 Baie Hakahaa “Controlleur’s Bay”**

This bay is just east of Taiohae. There are 3 finger bays or lobes inside Controlleur Bay, and it is possible to anchor in each of them.

- The westernmost, Hakapaa has a hike to a waterfall.
- The middle lobe, Hakahaa has a town, Taipivai.
- The easternmost, Baie Hooumi

#### 4.2.2.1 Anchorages and Moorings

##### 4.2.2.1.1 Hakapaa (westernmost lobe)

**Oct. 2015: 08°53.7047S / 140°03.1397W** sand bottom. Dropped in 30' and when stretched back towards the reef and beach it was 21' at LW. Suggest to come in at LW with good light as the reefs will be visible. Water was not clear when we were here. Surprisingly more settled than the larger north bay of Hakapaa. – Jacaranda

##### 4.2.2.1.2 Baie Hakahaa- Taipavai (center lobe)

**August 2022:** Contrary to prior reports, we had real trouble setting an anchor or landing in Baie Hakahaa. We tried anchoring in 20' near the head of the bay, at latitude 8 52.812s. We could not get either our Spade or fortress to set - even though the anchors were coming up with sandy mud on them. The mud may just be too soft. We did get the Spade anchor to set further out in the bay where the water was clearer and the bottom appeared to be sand. We also were unable to land on the beach or enter the river due to large breaking waves at high tide - there was a southerly swell even though the wind was light. – Mabel Rose

*Ed note: August is southern winter, and hence likely way more southern swell that time of year.*

**Dec. 2019: 08°52.9211 / 140°02.7402W** dropped in 8.5 meters of sand. It was a lovely bay, a lot more comfortable than Taiohae bay, and fewer boats. – Sugar Shack

**Oct. 2015:** We only anchored here for one night before moving back to Hooumi Bay and did not go ashore. Wanted to mention that a French couple working and living in Taiohae mentioned that when it's a bit lumpy they beach their dinghy on a small sandy beach near 08°52.9740S / 08°52.9740S and walk into the village along a small trail. Especially at low tide it may be difficult to get the dink up into the river. – Jacaranda

**May 2013: 8°52.702S / 140°02.973W** in good holding mud in 15 ft. Almost no coral to get tangled around. Plenty of room here, usually only a few boats but could easily take 30. Center bay, Baie Hakahaa. Great anchorage, easy to approach at night or bad weather, protected from all but strong southerlies (rare). Navionics and C-Map very accurate (current version as of Nov 2012). Mouth at 8.54.62S / 140.1.909W. At high tide if no sig. surge one can take dingy up the river to the town quay. If not anchor with stern anchor off dingy to rock on the left side (river is on right side). – Cynergy

##### 4.2.2.1.3 Hooumi Baie (easternmost lobe)

**Jan 2021** - Behind the pavilion is a faucet with free drinkable spring water. – Trance

**Aug. 2018** – We never went ashore to the beach, but it proved a very flat, well sheltered anchorage through a couple of rough days, even with the wind & seas coming from well south of east; a great spot for a mast climb/rig check with less swell & more comfortable than even Hanamoenoa on Tahuata. – Moon Rebel

**Oct. 2015 - 08 53.5346S / 140 01.5769W** 13'at low water. Mostly sand and mud. There are a few rocks scattered around the bottom. Even though the wind is ESE or SE you may find yourself pointing north or south. A very comfortable and pleasant place to spend a few days.

Beware of the rocks when making a beach landing. There are numerous visible rocks to the left of the beach when approaching from the anchorage but it is those that are just about OB depth that you can not see which may ruin your day. After bumping one of these submerged rocks at low tide with our dinghy wheels we started using the large covered shed as a guide and pulling the dink up more in the center and in line with this structure. – Jacaranda

#### **4.2.2.2 Yachtsmen Services (Taipivai)**

##### **4.2.2.2.1 Cooking Gas (Propane and Butane)**

**Dec. 2019:** We found three magasins that all appeared to sell cooking gas, but unfortunately, only one had hours and contact information. They are all on the same street. – Sugar Shack

- Magasin Kahei +689 40 920 634. Hours: Mon-Sat: 0600-1200 &1400-1800. Sun: 0700-1100. Location: Main road, just past marae, cross bridge on right, turn right and magasin on left.
- Magasin Vainui is just past Magasin Kahei
- Another store in between, but has no name or hours listed and was closed when we walked by.

##### **4.2.2.2.2 Water**

**Mar 2023:** Two potable water taps just up from the beach in Ho'oumi. – Migration

**Dec. 2019:** Kevin from NHYS advised us that the water here is potable. – Sugar Shack

**May 2017:** Taipivai Village has drinking water - we were advised (by local driving government van and in government uniform, and several other locals), that the water at the two beach taps is potable here. It certainly looked perfectly clear (even after heavy rain), and we had no ill effects from it.

There is one tap within the large open building (where locals wash their cars) to the left end of the beach - beach dingy to far left of beach (concrete ramp is very steep, broken up at bottom, and does not connect with water at low tide).

There is another tap just on a concrete stand under a tree - to the rear side of the right hand (West) end of the beach (hug the the far right edge of bay from some distance out to enter river, and only after you have passed the beach can you swing to the left and beach dinghy at the back of the beach - you will see locals boats here stored under covered structures)

In BOTH cases, you will need to walk the jugs a short way to the tap (and a short length of hose with a screw on tap fitting would be useful so jugs can be filled while set on the ground).

Note: A little further along the river (way before town), there is a rickety wooden dock to the right with a tap and shower - but this is a private home - and we didn't see anyone to ask. If available, at high water that would enable you to fill jugs left in the dinghy and not have to take them ashore. Perhaps a small gift would make that tap available if owners are present? – Begonia

#### **4.2.2.3 General Services (Taipivai)**

##### **4.2.2.3.1 Post Office**

**Dec. 2019:** Hours: Mon-Tues, Thur-Fri: 0700-1100. Wed.: 0700-0900. From dinghy landing, take concrete road inland, first right cross the bridge, then turn right down the smaller road. Post is on the left. – Sugar Shack

**May 2017:** There is a post office in town (limited opening hours). – Begonia

##### **4.2.2.3.2 Taxi**

**Mar 2024:** Taxi service available from Ho'oumi to Taiohae or beyond. Gabriela Taxi Service: 87 75 41 86. (Gabriela is Lisette & Hervé's daughter (see Activities below)). – Migration

##### **4.2.2.4 Provisions**

**Dec. 2019:** We found three magasins all on the same street. They were all fairly small. Unfortunately, only one had hours and contact information. – Sugar Shack

- Magasin Kahei +689 40 920 634. Hours: Mon-Sat: 0600-1200 &1400-1800. Sun: 0700-1100. Location: Main road, just past marae, cross bridge on right, turn right and magasin on left.
- Magasin Vainui is just past Magasin Kahei

- Another store in between, but has no name or hours listed and was closed when we walked by.

#### 4.2.2.5 *Activities*

**Mar 2023:** In Ho'oumi, Lisette & Hervé offer excellent kaikai (meals) for 2-30 people. Reserve at least 24 hours in advance via phone - 87 31 87 86 - or walk to their house up the main road about half a kilometer from the beach. Look for a large house on the right with a tree swing in the front yard. Best to go in person if you don't speak French. Wonderful people to get to know. - Migration

**May 2013:** Hiking great. One very wonderful waterfall about 2-hour hike. Stay on west side of river and follow road. It will split once about 45 minutes in, just stay straight/right (don't take driveway to left). "road" hard to see sometimes but overall easy. – Cynergy

#### 4.2.2.6 *Cruiser Reports*

**Oct. 2015:** Hooumi Bay: This small bay is the easternmost lobe of Controller Bay. The beach is a favorite of the locals and you may find folks having a BBQ on the weekend. There are no stores in this tiny village just a few houses. There is good potable water (spigots) located on the beach next to the small roofed structure to the east of the little river. The walk up thru the valley on the paved road is lovely.

Hakapaa West Lobe: We heard that the shelling was suppose to be good here so came in with a light ESE breeze and anchored close to the beach. There are reefs that run off the shore both to the east and western sides of this tiny bay. Surprisingly it was calm at anchor with little roll. Being far enough into the bay we could not see the open ocean. But it may not be that way if a large swell is running

Hakahaa Taipavai Center Lobe: Taipavai village is worth a visit which we had done previously in a car exploration of the island). Wanted to mention that a French couple working and living in Taiohae mentioned that when it's a bit lumpy they beach their dinghy on a small sandy beach near 08 52.9740S 08 52.9740S and walk into the village along a small trail. Especially at low tide it may be difficult to get the dink up into the river. – Jacaranda

#### 4.2.3 *Baie Hakatea "Daniel's Bay"*

Daniels Bay, is a one-hour sail to the west of Taiohae. It has a narrow entrance, but quite deep. The CMap charts are very accurate here. This is a nice rest from roly Taiohae. It's pretty exciting going OUT of the bay—straight into the wind and swell (when the wind and swell are SE).

##### 4.2.3.1 *Anchorage and Moorings*

**Dec. 2019:** **08°56.7102S / 140°09.847W.** Anchored in 9 meters muddy bottom, good holding. On our return visit, we anchored at **08.56.72S / 140.09.873W** 2<sup>nd</sup> anchorage in 9 meters of mud/sand, good holding. Dinghy landing is on the beach with either a stern anchor or pull it up on shore and tie to a tree. Our dinghy has a long transom and outboard so we could not take her up the river. – Sugar Shack

**Dec. 2018:** **08°56,657'S / 140°09,826'W,** in 7m with 35m chain. Good holding in mud for the Bügel-main anchor. Nearer ashore it is less deep, but maybe a bit more Nonos? There is some current in the bay and the boats sometimes were stern to stern.

Water-visibility: 2m in dark green water.

Wind and weather: The weather forecast (outside) was east 11/16KT locally 17/21KT, gusts 25/30KT, sea moderate, 1,5 meters to 2 meters. What we got: All directions, mostly ENE and SW (alternating in seconds), a few gusts in the upper 20ties.

Swell/Rolly: Some boat movements (2-3 out of 5 on the Dagmar-Scale), the swell is reflected by the mountain.

Dinghy landing: Left side of the beach with acces to a footpath to Hakau. If you approach the beach you will pass an outstanding tree ~20m from shore - that is where the trail starts. Good shoes might be useful. If you go

to the hamlet be prepared to cross a stream; water can be up to the hip. It was reported that it is possible at high tide to take your dinghy into the stream (drag the dinghy a bit over the sandbank). – Taitonga

#### **4.2.3.2 Yacht Services**

##### **4.2.3.2.1 Water**

**Jan. 2020:** Our friend's watermaker went out while here and they needed to get water from shore. It is easiest if you wait until high tide and take your dinghy up the river. This way you don't have to carry jugs over the sand dune to the shore. The water spigot is just in front of the shack (that looks like a bar) by a bush and runs freely and fast. Please don't be wasteful. Kevin from NHYS said this is good drinking water. – Sugar Shack

**Oct. 2015:** Since Survivor Marquesas did its thing here the water hose to the buoy is no longer available. There is a tap with potable water just next to the small shack near the beach. Be sure to ask Michael the caretaker of the property for permission before filling up your jugs! – Jacaranda

#### **4.2.3.3 Provisions**

**Mar 2024:** Unfortunately, the wonderful Charlotte passed away in 2023. Maurice and Charlotte really exemplified the spirit of Daniel's and never charged for fruit or herbs. She will be missed. You can still buy fruit from Kua and Teiki who are happy to sell it. – Migration

**June 2022:** We were gifted fruit on the way back from the waterfall hike, saying it was included in the fee. – Sierra Wind

**Jan. 2020:** Kua and Teiki have a large produce farm can sell avocados, mangos, pumplemouse, pineapple, bananas, ginger, and more (when in season). Located at the house just before the phone booth on the left. Also, the house where you purchase tickets to hike to waterfall will sell (or most likely give) produce with purchase of tickets. – Sugar Shack

**Dec. 2018:** Kua (speaks english) +Taiki in the hamlet can sell you fresh produce and can serve you a meal (1000xpf p.p.). They can be reached on VHF-Net: Channel 72, 08:00 from Taiohae - the signal is not great but works. – Taitonga

#### **4.2.3.4 Restaurants**

**June 2022:** We enjoyed a meal with Kua and Teiki and want to add that they are very accommodating for vegetarians and vegan preferences. We were able to take the dinghy on the left lobe of the bay, went up the right hand side by the creek and pulled the dinghy up the beach. We went at low tide and had no problems. Coming back out the tide was coming in and there were some small waves to crash through, but it was totally doable if you want to avoid the path over the hump, or just want to get closer to the fruits that you will be given and don't want to carry them as far. - Rhapsody

**Dec. 2019:** We ate with Teiki and Kua several times. Located on main road, just before the phone booth on the left. They offer tasty meals including chicken, pork, steak, lobster and fish that are accompanied with a fresh salad and bread fruit fries. Try their lime/lemon water as it is wonderful. All meals are 1000xpf except lobster was 2000xpf. They also sell avocados, pumplemouse, limes, mangos, ginger, pineapples and more. Sometimes they will sell their produce in Taiohae bay on Friday's (red panga with yellow rail). The setting is lovely in the center of their garden (but beware of the flies). Worth the stop! -- Sugar Shack

#### **4.2.3.5 Activities**

##### **Hike to Waterfall**

**Mar 2024:** Super awesome hike. Don't forget to pay your fee for the trail maintenance. Ask a villager where to pay. Hike is about 2-3 hours each way depending on your speed and how much rain there's been. Do not go when it is raining hard or you can be trapped by rising rivers (there are several river crossings). Take bug repellent; plenty of mosquitos and no-nos. When you reach the waterfall, make sure you swim across the pond

(or hike around) and go under or over the boulders where the water comes out. Then you will be in a beautiful pool surrounded by huge cliffs and you can swim to the waterfall. Don't miss this part... it's magic! Beware of falling rocks. – Migration

**Jan 2021:** Pick up some walking sticks, which will make the hike easier. Cross the last stream by using tree branches as a bridge. – Trance

**Jan. 2020:** Nature walk and hike to waterfall. We were here during the dry season so it was really a “nada fall” but the hike was so lovely we did it three times! Please remember to pay the 1000xpf/pp (kids are 500, but they waived the fee for our two kids). The house to pay is on the main road, past the phone booth, on the left. They will provide a receipt and will most likely offer you produce (mangos or avocados). The walk is extremely beautiful and very easy with little incline. It is a well-marked path that took us about 1.5 hours one way. You will cross the river a few times and it is easiest to just walk through rather than trying to balance on the slippery rocks. At the old village take the path to the right to continue to the waterfalls. Follow the painted white arrows on rocks and the cute rock formations until you arrive to the base of the falls. Bring bug spray as there were lots of bugs.

**Snorkeling:** On the eastern side of the anchorage (right side as you come in through the gap) there are tons of fish waiting to greet you. We had about 2 meters of visibility and swam with a wide variety of sea creatures and even saw a beautiful octopus. – Sugar Shack

#### **4.2.3.6 Cruiser Reports**

**Jan. 2020:** This is by far our favorite bay in Nuku Hiva. The golden plants sparkle against the dark hillside creating a magical atmosphere. The waters are calm and clean, the mantas roam around your boat and the snorkeling was lovely. Plus, the little village (10-15 people) and main road is absolutely one of the most unique and beautiful places we have seen. And the lovely people who live here make it a fantastic stop. – Sugar Shack

**Dec. 2018:** Nice scenery, a high mountain wall on the west side, beautiful, peaceful and birds are singing. We shared the east-anchorage with 4 other boats and 2 mooring-buoys which are close to shore and are used by the residents of the lonely house above the beach (we had a nice contact with the lady). No cell phone or internet. Flying objects: Ashore: Some mosquitos and nonos; on the boat: many, many flies. – Taitonga

### **4.3 The West Coast**

Not many people visit the west coast of Nuku Hiva. It is dry and desert-like, not well charted, and not mentioned much in the guidebooks. So, if you are looking for (a) un-rolly, uncrowded anchorages, (b) dry weather or (c) clear water, head for the west coast of Nuka Hiva.

By mid-morning on the west coast, even when the tradewinds are blowing pretty well out of the east, you will find a westerly breeze!

#### **4.3.1 Haahopu**

Baie Haahopu is just mentioned in the Russell guidebook, *Exploring the Marquesas*, and there is a little more in *Charlie's Charts*. *Charlie's* says “Anchorage in good holding sand can be taken inside the entrance of the bay where there is protection from easterly winds”.

This used to be how passengers got from Taiohae to the airport on the NW corner (by boat to Haahopu and then bus to the airport), but I'm not sure it's much used today—the road to the airport has been improved and most people drive these days.

##### **4.3.1.1 Anchorages and Moorings:**

**Oct. 2015:** We approached this bay from the north and wanted to mention a reef NW from the rock off of Motu Tauakakivi. At least we thought it was a reef. Depending on what scale you are zoomed in at (OpenCPN CM93) it looks like a quilting error but in reality, is a reef. We passed over the outer edge of the reef and the depth sounder jumped from 100' to < 20' in 1 boat length. 08 49.1982S 140 15.0815W appeared to be the

western edge of the reef. Did not show on our C-Map or Navionics charts. Do exercise caution when transiting this area. When we got into internet range, we did look closer at this spot using GE and think it's a shallow spot and not a reef that extends off the island. Also, the rock awash 90m NW off of Motu Tauakakivi may not be visible depending on tide and swell. The rock is marked on the chart.

We also experienced a couple of hours of westerly breeze late morning the first day but it quickly went around to the ESE by noon and calmed down in late afternoon. The second day light and variable outside was 20kts E with a 2m swell. We anchored about 90m further into the bay than SP did in 17' LW. There was some swell entering the bay but not uncomfortable. Snorkeling the anchor, we found sand patches interspersed with rocks. There are a few moorings close to the concrete wharf that fisherman use to moor their tinnies. These moorings do not affect the anchorage as they are close to the wharf. – Jacaranda

**Sept. 2010: 08-49.5S / 140-14.94W** good holding in sand. We could easily see the bottom in 25' in Haahopu. We found another cruising boat there when we arrived, and we anchored just inside of him. There are some coral heads around, but lots of sand, so try to pick a spot in sand.

We spent a lovely night in this bay with one other boat (and room for at least 2 more without crowding). It was the first good night's sleep we had in weeks—no rolling and no gusty winds. – Soggy Paws

#### **4.3.1.2 Cruiser Reports**

**Oct. 2015:** After spending a few days in this bay, we wonder how one would get to the airport. We have only seen a couple cars stopping and those were mainly fisherman going out fishing. There is a tree near the beach where some were picnicking and swimming for a few hours. Also, a couple trucks dropping off fuel tanks and gathering construction sand off the beach. Just after I wrote this the Taporo supply ship came in to offload aviation fuel and there were a number of trucks and people on the wharf. But if you have a flight to catch best spend the \$\$ and take a taxi from the big city. – Jacaranda

**Sept. 2010:** From here it is possible to dinghy a crewmember into a cement dock and (hopefully) hitch a ride to the airport (but we didn't do this, so don't know the logistics). Most people opt to taxi over from Taiohae. Clear enough water for bottom scrubbing and/or snorkeling. The onshore (westerly) breeze we had in the afternoon died in the early evening and changed to a light easterly. – Soggy Paws

#### **4.3.2 Marquisienne (Anse Eua)**

##### **4.3.2.1 Anchorages and Moorings**

**Mar 2024: 08° 54.879' S / 140° 13.411' W** 29' Mud. Good holding. Excellent bay to spend some time alone. Diurnal breeze. Fairly clear water although the silty brown water from the stream spreads into the bay and recedes with the tide. – Migration

**Oct. 2015: 08 54.877S / 140 13.387W.** Sand or gravel bottom. Good holding and no grumbling from the anchor chain. The bay provides good protection (open to the W) and when we first came in the wind was E out of the valley and after the rain stopped and the breeze swung around to the W. Very little swell in the bay when we arrived but a bit of lump coming in during the night. Forecast 16-18 ESE gusts to 30. We never saw anything over 15 knots.

To get here, we took the long jaunt (5 miles) down from Haahopu this morning in the rain. Thinking this side of the island which is brown may green up in a couple days. We briefly looked at the other anchorage options that SP's mentioned but there was some swell activity from the SSW so we carried on. As we approached the entrance to Bay Marquisienne we could see a brown water patch spreading out into the bay from a little stream in the ENE corner which become a swollen brown river from the heavy rain in the valley. – Jacaranda

##### **4.3.2.2 Cruiser Reports**

**Oct. 2015:** Its much greener here in the valley and beautiful with the late afternoon sun lighting up the green hills. A nice spot to stop and a good alternative to Daniels bay for those heading further west. – Jacaranda

**2010:** Baie Marquisienne, in the SW corner of Nuka Hiva a few miles from Daniel's Bay, is not mentioned in any guidebook we have. But it was first visited by our friend on s/v Shapirit in late August 2010. He was leaving from Daniels for the Tuamotus, and was looking for a calm clear anchorage in which to make water. He only stayed there a few hours, but said that it was both calmer and clearer than Daniel's Bay, and it would be an OK overnight anchorage. There is no chart detail or any guidebook reference that we've seen for this bay, so you are likely to find it empty.

We passed by it on our way around to Anaho, and checked it out ourselves a week or so later. It was calmer than either Taiohae or Daniels, nice and clear. There is room for 1-2 boats to anchor in 35'. – Soggy Paws

### **4.3.3 West Coast Overview of Anchorages**

**Sept. 2010:** From the main town of Taiohae, on the south coast, to Anaho Bay, on the NE corner, it is clearly best to go 'eastabout' to get to Anaho Bay... shorter and less windward work. But leaving from Daniel's Bay, on the SW corner, the choice was not so clear. It was slightly shorter to go eastabout, but with an ESE wind, it should be much calmer going westabout.

After flip-flopping several times, we finally decided to go around the west coast. It would give us smoother water (for awhile), a chance to see part of the coast that most people don't go, and a chance to make water with our engine-driven watermaker. (It's a little dicey making water in the anchorages due to the amount of particulate in the water).

We also opted to break the trip into two parts, stopping overnight at what's known as the 'airport anchorage'-- Baie Haahopu at the NW corner of Nuku Hiva.

Exploring the west coast--motorsailing slowly north and ducking into every little bay we saw to check it out--was fun. We hadn't done that type of gunkholing in awhile. Though the guidebooks only mention one or two anchorages on the west coast, we found a total of 7 bays 'possible', with reasonable protection and anchorable depths. As follows, N to S:

- Baie Marquisienne
- Anse Haatapuna
- Anse Tataia
- Anse Tapueahu
- Anse Haatuatua
- the unnamed bay just N of Pt Matatekouehi
- Baie Haahopu

A couple of these had signs of habitation--one house and a small skiff. But most were completely deserted. Some had rocky beaches, but as we got further north, more of them had sand beaches. Baie Haahopu had a pretty sand beach, but an ugly concrete dock and a building (uninhabited).

Once we got around Cap Motumano, the waves started settling down, and after rounding Pt Matateiko, it was flat calm for the rest of the way.

The west coast of Nuku Hiva is arid and dry, so with little runoff, the diving ought to be clearer.

The winds were kind of weird on the west coast in the afternoon--we had a good 12-15 knots blowing from the WEST (against the trades). Obviously a 'sea breeze'. It died down at night and switch to the east.

We spent a nice overnight at Haahopu. The next morning, we left early to head east along the north coast of Nuku Hiva. – Soggy Paws

## **4.4 The North Coast**

The primary cruising anchorage on the north coast is Anaho Bay, toward the eastern end of the north coast. But there are several other bays on the north coast where the adventurous cruiser can find isolation and good anchoring conditions.



#### 4.4.1 Anaho Bay

##### 4.4.1.1 Anchorages and Moorings

**Anchoring restrictions in Anaho Bay.** A lot of cruisers prefer to anchor in the no-anchor zone as it is more protected, but please *do not anchor* in this area where coral is growing. There is a sign posted (on the bath house) that requests all boats anchor south of the river entrance, in sand, deeper than 35' of water. Note: water *deeper* than 35' even when south of the river (see hash marks on chart). Make sure your chain will not drag over the coral no matter where you anchor. The coral reef, unique to Marquesas suffers from global warming and they are trying to preserve it.



#### **4.4.1.2 Yachtsmen Services**

##### 4.4.1.2.1 Water

**Dec 2023:** Make sure you ask the locals about water quality before using. – Migration

**Aug. 2018:** Sweetest water we've had since the Caribbean from the standpipe beside the green roofed, red building 50m east of the dinghy landing – it's a spotlessly clean public toilet and shower. – Moon Rebel

**Oct – 2015:** Speaking with a young man whose family has had a home here for many years there are two sources of water coming into the residents of the bay. Depending on the location of the house in the bay there is treated water that is piped in from a reservoir and the other is from an underground spring. Both are potable and we tested the water from one of the spigots on the beach with our PPM meter and it registered 90ppm. The water located close to the beach is spring fed water source. – Jacaranda

##### 4.4.1.3 Provisions

**Mar 2022:** We hiked over to Haataivea Bay and bought salad from the men who have a fruit and vegetable farm, very inexpensive, a 1/4 of what you would pay on Taiohae Bay. Took about an hour to walk there and an hour back. - Jamala

**Jan 2021:** Walk-up over the hill. Be sure to ask for watermelon! – Trance

**Aug. 2015:** Veggies: There is a veggie farm that will pick fresh produce for you. Melons, lettuce, cucumbers, tomatoes, egg plant etc. If you park the dinghy on the beach to the east of the main reef/beach and walk east on the trail you will come to the man's small farm. You can also leave the dink on the beach near the anchorage and walk down. The farmer also brings produce weekly by horse to Hatiheu. – Jacaranda

##### 4.4.1.4 Restaurants

**Mar 2022:** We hiked over to Hatiheu and had lunch at Yvonne's restaurant. Expensive place to eat but it attracts the tourists. When the Aranui comes in, they make a traditional meal where they bake the pig in the ground pit.

We also ate lunch one day at the beach restaurant/hotel in Anaho. Apparently only one dish is available but it was absolutely fantastic food, also pricey but worth it. – Jamala

**Dec. 2019:** Kaniho. There is now a pension and restaurant in Anaho Bay. It is called Kaniho and is open daily for lunch and dinner but a reservation is required. They have a lovely seating area inside and outside under a tree by the beach. Lunch is around 1500 xpf. – Sugar Shack

##### 4.4.1.5 Activities

**Dec. 2019:** There are several walks/hikes you can do from Anaho Bay. See below – Sugar Shack

- Walk over the hill to Haatuatua where there is a lovely village and 2G wifi. Easy walk/hike to a beautiful beach. About 5 miles round trip but a very gentle walk. Once you land your dinghy on the beach, turn left and either walk along the shoreline or go inland a little to the trail. Follow the trail across the short rocky area, then up over the small hill all the way to the beach. Several vistas offering great photo opportunities.
- Walk to farmer, Gilbert who sells his produce. In route to the pretty beach on east coast, Bay Haatuatua
- Walk to Hatiheu (this is a rolly bay and not comfortable anchorage). On the north coast are stunning From Anaho you can walk to a farmer nearby, Gilbert, who sells his produce. The yachties there will tell you how to get there. It is en route to the beautiful wild beach on the east coast, Bay Haatuatua. Two small shops. Smaller owned by Louise who drives to town regularly and will allow you to ride with her. No English.
- Hike to small village AAKapa which is spectacular.

**Aug. 2018:** Really good snorkelling in the SW corner – SE is OK too, though perhaps not worth the dinghy ride if you're not already there. — Moon Rebel

**Summer 2018:** We snorkeled north of the dingy channel from the beach, north of the "usual" anchorage. Immediately saw two stone fish in shallow water. Also, a fair number of small fish, nice coral, lots of top shells, etc. But this anchorage put us very much on a lee shore with the prevailing east winds, too near the reef for my comfort. – Kokopeli

#### **4.4.1.6 Cruiser Reports**

**April 2019: CIGUATERA WARNING!** Ciguatera is extremely prevalent in both Hatiheu and Anaho. Even shellfish is subject to it. According to Yvonne in Hatiheu, the only risk-free sea water animal is octopus. – Chugach

**Aug. 2018 – Ciguatera Warning:** Whilst we were there another yacht's crew came down with ciguatera poisoning after spearing & eating a fish from the SE reef – it really didn't look like a lot of fun! Whilst seeking assistance from the locals they reported that ciguatera is a risk/problem throughout the Marquesas, but the very worst place for toxicity throughout all of the islands is within Anaho Bay; they advised that you don't eat any fish, even pelagic, caught within the bay.

No sign of any veggie sellers or restaurants. — Moon Rebel

**Summer 2018:** We moved around to Anaho Bay, when a heavy south swell was forecast. Certainly, it is a beautiful bay. The volcanic fins are spectacular, goats on the cliff faces fun. No cellular wifi signal. White sand, clearer water to clean the bottom. Ours certainly needed it, after sitting in Taiohae for a month (waiting for parts and then repairs). We found it very peaceful here.

So, we explored a bit, and moved over to the small cove at the southeast corner of the bay. Much less coral, much less fetch, some wind protection, and apparently good holding. – Kokopeli

#### **4.4.2 Hatiheu**

This is a big bay where cruise ships stop. Have good open buffets on cruise ship days. Lots of tiki and Tahitian dwellings. Archeological museum, Madonna de Hatiheu. Stunning bay, very pretty.

##### **4.4.2.1 Anchorages and Moorings**

**April 2019: 8°49.4531' S / 140°04.9723' W**, drop in 14 m. We liked this bay better than Baie Anaho (crowded with yachts, murky water, the coral reef is nearly dead), and found the bad comments on swell and difficulty of disembarking for Hatiheu somehow exaggerated.

To disembark with the dinghy at the little jetty, you need a bow / stern arrangement to avoid damaging the dinghy against the wall. But do not use a grapnel (it is deep and rocky), tie instead to one of the fishermen buoys a 30 m line from the stern of the dinghy and tie the bow to the jetty with appropriate length to avoid touching it. – Chugach

##### **4.4.2.2 Provisions**

**April 2019:** There are 2 grocery stores. -- Chugach

##### **4.4.2.3 Restaurants**

**Dec 2023:** Chez Yvonne is an excellent restaurant. Yvonne was a mainstay of the community and instrumental in keeping resorts out of Hatiheu and Anaho. Sadly, she passed away in 2023. – Migration

**April 2019:** Restaurant Yvonne is very good. – Chugach

**Sept. 2010:** Chez Yvonne on the water (we had called ahead on the cell phone for reservations, but may not be necessary). It was a yummy big lunch--most of their meals were in the \$2000 CFP range (a little over \$20).

Between the 5 of us we had curried goat, curried shrimp, poisson cru, and goat in coconut milk. It was all good, and large portions. Even Dave was stuffed when we finished. – Soggy Paws

#### **4.4.2.4 Activities**

**Dec 2023:** Definitely walk to the archaeological site inland from the village. Well-worth it. – Migration

**April 2019:** Museum: Restaurant Yvonne should have key to museum which contains some interesting pieces. The 2 pae-pae which are at a 20mn walking distance from the village are well maintained and have some very nice tikis. – Chugach

#### **4.4.2.5 Cruiser Reports**

**Dec 2023:** You will read all kinds of reports about the conditions in Hatiheu. From “Horrible!” to “Fantastic”. The conditions change. Sometimes great, sometimes not so great. Most people are only there a few days and their experience is limited to those few days. So check it out for yourself. Getting ashore can definitely be a challenge when the swell is up, but not problem at other times. – Migration

**April 2019:** The scenery in Baie Hatiheu is outstanding with the peaks in the West. The village is clean, people are very friendly.

CIGUATERA WARNING! In both Hatiheu and Anaho, ciguatera is extremely prevalent. Even shellfish is subject to it. According to Yvonne, the only risk-free sea water animal is octopus. -- Chugach

#### **4.4.3 Hakaehu / Puua**

*Exploring the Marquesas* gives this a mention as a good anchorage.

##### **4.4.3.1 Anchorages and Moorings**

**April 2019:** **8°47.2476' S / 140°10.7308' W**, drop in 12m, sand. Nice corals on the W side. Dinghy disembarking difficult, we swam ashore from dinghy (cf Hikeu in Ua Pou). – Chugach

**Oct. 2015:** **08 47.298S / 140 10.698W** 30' sand bottom with excellent holding. Some roll with about 15 knots coming down the island with a 1.5m confused cross swell. A stern hook would make the anchorage more comfortable when the wind died off in the evening and the boat swung beam on to the swell. But we spent our time on a single hook and it was fine.

The wind direction is usually from the east but will swirl around. It is very dry and brown here and warmer than Bay Anaho since the winds gather the heat off the island. We did not notice any no no's on the beach and could have anchored in closer. – Jacaranda

##### **4.4.3.2 Cruiser Reports**

**Oct. 2015:** We anchored here in 1993 and met a young couple trying to make a go of raising pigs and farming copra. Now that couple is living in Taiohae but the property (800 hectares) is being run by his brother Germain and son Alfred.

In ancient times, the Pua valley used to have a large population and there are many paepaes still visible along with parts of the royal road. Germain's great great grandmother was at one time the Queen of the Marqueses, she also lived in Hapatoni, Tauata. Now there are a large number of fruit trees (including a lime grove), horses and cows grazing under the coconut palms and a small stream meanders thru the valley. Only 5 houses are inhabited in the valley, many of them by Germain's family members. There is a road that links the valley with other villages.

The hills are all dry vegetation (it's the dry side) but the valley and mountains inland are stunning in late afternoon when there are no clouds on the mountains. Not as spectacular as Fatu Hiva but lovely none the less. – Jacaranda

#### **4.4.4 Bay Moutee**

**Oct. 2015:** We explored this bay after seeing it on Google Earth but did not anchor. The entrance starts out at 70' sand and continues with sand all the way to the beach. Further in the bottom gradually shallows to where we turned out at 08 47.477S 140 11.665W at a depth of 20' LW. The water was clear and we could have easily gone in another 70-100m and anchored 100m off the beach. There was some swell entering but with a stern hook would have been very comfortable. In settled weather it looked like a decent anchorage. No buildings visible ashore. Wind outside was 15 knots a 1.5m swell. – Jacaranda

#### **4.4.5 North Coast Overview**

**Sept 2010:** With the wind south of east, we had hoped to find some lee heading east along the north coast by staying close in along the coast. We did, but it wasn't as much lee as we had hoped. It was really wild going around the NW corner--big steep waves, lots of wind, and a couple of knots of current against us. But that didn't last long (the current died and the waves lengthened). We short tacked along the coast, staying in as close as we dared to get a little shelter behind small headlands.

The general wind and wave conditions were 16-18 kts ESE, and a 2-meter SE swell, but we found that both the wind and waves curved around the coast and were 'noselies' no matter where we were. It was generally better than going the same distance on the south coast, but there were still big waves and big wind. But it was possible to tack into several of the bays and make some eastward progress in calmer conditions.

It took us about 4 hours to go the 12 miles to Anaho Bay, but we did duck in and explore 2 bays on the way.

Baie Hakaehu, where the town of Pua is, and Baie Hatiheu, where the town of Hatiheu is, are both possible anchorages, but not nearly as nice as Anaho. There are other possible anchorages, I think, along the N coast that we didn't explore--we just got tired of bashing to windward and wanted to get it over with. – Soggy Paws

#### **4.5 Nuka Hiva in Five Days (One Cruiser's Advice)**

**August 2022:** We sailed from Ua Pou to Controlleurs Bay, then went counterclockwise around the island - I would strongly recommend this, as it avoids any long beats against the wind. We were able to sail, without using the motor except for harbor entrances/setting the anchor, all the way around to Taioha'e. We went from Controlleurs around the east side to Anaho on a one tack close reach. We stayed two nights in Anaho, then sailed from Anaho downwind all the way to the northwest corner, then picked up a light sea breeze along the west side, then had a two hour double reefed beat from Pointe Matateiko to Daniel's Bay. The next day we had a two hour, out and back beat to Taioha'e early in the morning. – Mabel Rose

**Jan 2017:** This writeup compiled by s/v Kandu gives a fairly comprehensive look at the highlights of Nuku Hiva for cruisers who only have a few days to spend before rushing onward.

Leslie with our two sons, Bryce (14) and Trent (12), and I arrived aboard Kandu in late June of 2015, intending to stay only a few weeks ([RigneysKandu.com](http://RigneysKandu.com) or [Facebook.com/rigneyskandu](https://www.facebook.com/rigneyskandu)). Instead, we became certified residents of Taiohae, Nuku Hiva so our sons could attend the local college (secondary school), the first Americans to do so. Having been here ten months, we've developed some favorites about what to see and do on Nuku Hiva.

With so many wonders throughout the Marquesas archipelago, it may be helpful to provide cruisers a Nuku Hivan short-list of things to do, in order of priority, were one to only have 1-5 days to spend. This is not meant as a boat owner's description of all available services, but as a cruiser's tourist guide for getting the most out of Nuku Hiva in the shortest time period. If you want additional details of surrounding the sites, Rose Corsair sells a guidebook at her shop on the west side of the bay. Wearing bug spray and a good pair of hiking sandals you can soak in mud, seawater, and streams, plus carrying a roll of toilet paper in a Ziplock, make for a more comfortable Nuku Hiva experience. Of course, spending more time at any one of these locations is preferable, but if you just don't have the time, here are our recommendations:

#### 4.5.1 **1st Day, Taiohae, from east to west**

*(Ed Note: there is useful info here but some was outdated. We attempted to remove inaccurate data or information that is no longer useful.)*

Petit Quai (dinghy dock, in order of appearance):

- <Ed Note: information about Taiohae available in the sections above>
- Cafe
- Boutique selling nice shirts, skirts, caps, and Hinano stickers.
- Dive store, filling tanks and taking you out, but no classes.
- Yacht Services Nuku Hiva, Kevin can help you check in and/or with boat problems (the American way). He sells Marquesan courtesy flags, souvenirs, and houses one of the island's premiere tattoo artists: Moana. Laundry and WiFi are just some of the services he offers.
- Trash cans
- Fresh fruits and vegetable stand, daily 6a-3p except Sundays.
- Chez Celina, in the market place at the end of the quay, serves local dishes, (\$6-\$10), cold beer, and Wi-Fi with a purchase. Serves standard Marquesan fare as well as Marquesan dishes with international spiced variations
- Communal artisan center.
- Tourist office, with maps and information about the Marquesas. Speak English. Can set you up with tours. Avg tour cost \$65 pp plus lunch
- Magasin Kamake and Magasin Larsson
- Taiohae has 5 general stores and 2 hardware stores. Larssons, next to Kamake sells higher-end items like curries, coconut oil, etc. The store furthest away, past the pharmacy, is open 7 days a week. The one behind the bank, across from the stadium field, is open during lunch, M-Sa.

Kou'eva

- Inland ceremonial grounds, restored for traditional cultural festivals.
- Turn right up the center street, between Magasin Kamake and Magasin Larsson
- Walk about a mile up, super small sign on the right side of street marks right turn toward Taiohae's reconstructed ceremonial grounds. It's further than you think and not evident which way to turn . . . ask.
- Walking back to the seafront. As you descend, Chez Bigo hardware store is to your right, just before the bus stop, across the small bridge. They serve cold drinks and packaged snacks like candy bars.
- Moana Nui Restaurant, Pension, and Car Rental
- More European than Marquesan menu (\$12-\$30). Great steak. Serves French-style pizza, beer and wine and mixed drinks.
- More expensive than Petit Quai "Snack" cafes, less expensive than Pearl Lodge.

Cathedral Taiohae

- Ask permission to enter building. Strict protocols.
- Rose Corsair, on the westside of the bay, sells a guidebook for Nuku Hiva that includes descriptions of elements within the cathedral.
- Beautiful woodcarvings inside and out.
- Sunday mass begins with meditative chants at 7a, reg. mass at 8a, ends 9-9:30a
- Look for the Marquesan version of the Christian cross (previously Marquesan symbol for southern cross, I think). Butted together, the Marquesan cross looks like a pattern of men.

Tohua Temehea

- Seaside ceremonial grounds, built for traditional cultural festivals since 1989.
- Read the informational sign on-site (in French and English) for details

## Melville Monument

- Tucked in on the shore side, neighboring the western cemetery.
- Wonderfully carved tree stump with weathered roof top and missing elements, shows the path he hiked out of Taiohae and over to Taipi Vai
- This is where Melville reportedly jumped ship and headed for the hills.

## Pearl Lodge

- Nuku Hiva's gorgeous (expensive) bar, restaurant (\$18-\$40), hotel (\$225/night). Very nice!
- Beautiful view of Taiohae Bay.
- Friday evening Happy Hour, half off beautiful \$14 cocktails (or as I see it, two for the price of one!)

## Swimming

- Remember in the Marquesas, beach equals no-no's. They breed in the sand between fresh and seawater. Usually, the whiter the sand, it seems, the greater the no-no's.
- Kouvea beach to the east, in front of the French Administrator's residence
- Beach to the west, in front of Rose's place, but more no-no's than Kouvea
- Colette's Bay, see "Hikes" below.
- Sharks?
  - Cleaning boat bottoms and swimming in the bay have not been a problem for us or anyone else. Locals say sharks are a problem, but Kevin from NHYS and the Fire Dept. haven't heard of an incident. Kevin says he is never concerned about jumping in to the bay to fix a boat.
  - Not advisable to swim near the Petit Quai as sharks feed on fishermen's scraps. That said, many cruisers have dived here for lost items without incident.

## Hikes (Randonee, in French)

- Moderate, but sometimes steep. Bring water and toilette paper.
- Between 1.5 and 2 hours R/T at steady pace.
- Leave early in the morning, before it gets hot, before 7 am is best.
- Sentinal/East bay mouth, take upper road above fuel station to maintained dirt path. Ask any locals how to get to the start.
- Taiohae overview vista, walk up the center road, as done for Kou'eva, until you get to the top for a stunning view (hitch hike if you don't want to walk).
- Colette's Bay, over the ridge on the other side of the bay's west side, . . . path starts above Rose's motel. Turn right above the motel, then another immediate right, walking down and curving left. Stay on main dirt road until you reach top of saddle/ridge. Turn left, opening and closing the barbed-wire gate. (If you turn right, you're on your way to Hakau Bay, a much further hike, so ask in advance where the paths turn). Colette's Bay is where Survivor Marquesas filmed their challenges. Great swimming beach. Remember, beach equals no-no's.

### **4.5.2 2nd Day, Car Tour**

Hire a guide for a driving tour (\$50-\$120pp). Richard, Jocylene, and Kevin speak English. Ask Tourism Henri, Rose, or Kevin to help you find a guide. Or go solo, diesel 4x4 rental is about \$120/day plus fuel.

- Taipi Vai, Tohua ceremonial grounds (toilets often available) w/modern stone tiki
- Hoomi, see church and visit with Pena, a sculptor (toilets available in Hoomi)
- Hatiheu
  - Road from Taipi Vai to Hatiheu and beyond becomes rough dirt, requiring 4x4.
  - Once arrived, visit the archeological ceremonial grounds, see petroglyphs
  - Check out the Marquesan history exposition. Great history of Anaho too.
  - Virgin Mary statue atop pinnacle southwest side of bay.

- Chez Yvonne's for lunch (toilets available). Feed baguette piece to the fresh water eels adjacent her restaurant.
- Aakapa vista point, beautiful Attitoka mountain ridge. From Hatiheu to Aakapa and especially beyond, requires 4x4 driving skill. If it were raining, I'd pass on going to Aakapa and/or beyond.
- Some drive from there (Aakapa) directly to the airport, but told it can scratch cars.
- Drive across central plateau toward airport (or from airport, depending on how you drove there). This area is called 'Too Vii' or as some call it, mini-New Zealand, with its fresh air and pines.
  - Stop at vista points at the top of the mountain ridge, including Nuku Hiva's Grand Canyon.

#### **4.5.3 3rd Day, Hakatea Bay and Hakau Valley**

- Buy fresh baguettes to give to locals as gifts the same day you buy it.
- Leave Taiohae, sail west to Hakatea and anchor on the eastern bay ("Daniel's" Bay, where Survivor was shot. Daniel passed away a few years ago) (1-1.5 hr motorsail). Careful, lots of no-no's, some even fly to the anchored boat.
- Walk west along bay's north shore to Hakau Bay.
- Wade through river to other side (good place to run your dinghy to give it a fresh water internal rinse)
- Along the way, make lunch reservations for your return trip (4 hrs R/T) with one of the valley families. Teiki and Kua, as you enter the village, are favorites, but all meals from any family here are great. \$10pp.
- Walk to one of the world's most breathtaking waterfalls, following a not so carefully marked path. Walking through the stream is sometimes safer than negotiating slippery rocks and tree trunks over the stream. After three trips prior, we went with a guide, Thierry, and saw three times as much, and more safely.
- **WARNING:** Rocks can fall from atop, esp. open field close to falls. Move quickly and quietly when adjacent cliffs. Don't attempt this hike if raining, or rain predicted. Swimming to fall's base places you in danger of falling rock. Fresh water eels live in pond and in stream. Not harmful, but they nip.
- Wear bug repellent and re-apply after swimming in waterfall pond.

#### **4.5.4 4th Day, Anaho Bay**

- Sail to Anaho, on the northeast corner of Nuku Hiva. About a 6 hour motor-sail. Careful the rock on the SE corner of the island, off Controller Bay and Tikapo pt.
- One of the most scenic and protected bays in the Marquesas. It's where Marquesans go to vacation. Can't help but sing the Bali Hai song from the musical South Pacific.
- To protect the coral, anchor south of the coral carved dinghy path.
- Good snorkeling, safe (no sharks, sometimes jellyfish), clear, often times manta rays. Don't eat any fish caught there. (Ciguatera).
- Fresh spring water available on the beach for drinking and bathing.
- Careful, no-no's on the beach and more so to the east.
- Good surfing and a plantation on the beach over the small hill to the east, but be warned—mega no-no's on this beach, so run to the surf.
- Many artisans live in this bay, including a well-known Marquesan tattoo artist, Moana, when he's not in Taiohae.
- Another Moana, Moana Sr., owns the neighboring fruit and vegetable farm and has re-opened a small pension that serves meals. This makes two pensions that sometime serve meals, but difficult to count on. Usually about \$10 a large plate of local fare.
- Nice hike up and over western ridge to Hatiheu and back (2.5 hr R/T), start early as it gets hot. Easier coming back than going. Some say they walk it in half the time.



#### 4.5.5 5th Day, Controller's Bay (Taipi Vai) or Hanapani

Northern Swell = Controller's Bay's Bays to the southeast of Nuku Hiva

- Sail south along the east coast, sharp turn around the SE corner of Nuku Hiva (careful, there's still that killer rock off the point to worry about)
- Hoomi to the east, Hakapuvai to the west, Taipi Vai in between.
- Coral surrounds these bays, so anchor down the middle of each bay.
- West side bay only good if no swell.
- Hakapuvai & Hakapaa (anchoring), the other Survivor beach.
  - We anchor in Hakapaa, the bay to starboard, more easterly, where there are pigs roaming the beach and a pretty waterfall (easy, short hike) in the back, to the west (left when facing inland from your cockpit).
  - Hakapuvai, to the west, has a beach of shells.
  - Snorkeling over coral in both bays.
  - Occasionally no-no's can reach the boat.

Southern Swell = Hanapani Bay to the northwest of Nuku Hiva

- Haven't been here yet, but told that . . . .
- When the swell allows, for those who prefer remote white-sand beaches and clear water without other boats nearby, this is the place for you. Just west of Aakapa. Aakapa is not good for anchoring. Pua, to further west than Hanapani, is quiet as well, but a landscape just a tad less "magnifique."

## 5 Ua Huna / Ua Huka

**NOTE THAT AS OF DECEMBER 2023 THE ISLAND OF UA HUKA IS NOW REFERRED TO AS UA HUNA (USING THE SOUTHERN MARQUESAN DIALECT).**

### 5.1 Fishing Regulations

As of 2020, the area on the south coast of Ua Huna from Motu Papa eastward to the western shore of Hane Bay is a "fishing prohibited" area.

Likewise, the two small islands on the SW corner of Ua Huna, are also "fishing prohibited".

All fishing is prohibited regardless of gear or technique. 179,000 XFP fine if you are caught fishing in one of these areas.

Questions?

[comitetourismeuahuka@marquises.pf](mailto:comitetourismeuahuka@marquises.pf)

### 5.2 Vaipae Bay



### 5.2.1 Anchorages and Moorings

**Feb 2024: 08° 56.422' S / 139° 34.372' W**, 18' fair holding in mud. Note that there are now several moorings for small local boats further in. Be aware of these when anchoring. Some boats do anchor among them but watch your swing. – Migration

**April 2019: 08°56.4018' S / 139°34.399' W**, in 4m, mud. We stayed in Vaipae for 2 nights with moderate E wind. Almost no swell, but we were fairly deep in the bay, and the further in you are, the least swell (with the conditions we encountered). We surveyed the surroundings with our portable sounder in the dinghy, and found 4 m up to the cliffs on both sides of the bay at the level of our mooring. Easy disembarking with the dinghy. – Chugach

**Aug. 2018: 08°56.360'S / 139° 34.434'W** in 3.6m/12'+tide to the west of the small fishing boat moorings using a single anchor – little roll or swell. The holding was excellent in thick/stiff mud and whilst the wind was invariably blowing from seaward/a lee shore, as with the seas it didn't appear to 'blow home' so we never felt threatened or concerned; there's space for perhaps 3-4 boats single anchored, more if you're shallow drafted. We arrived after 18 hours of winds <10 knots and the entrance was still 'a bit lumpy'. The following day when it was blowing 14-16 knots from just south of east, we twice saw yachts approach, prepare/start to enter and then turn away and depart. It seemed rather odd until we left in similar conditions and discovered that whilst it remained fine inside, the entrance was dog-rough--if we'd arrived to find it like that, we too would've no doubt gone elsewhere; so, do not be deterred!

I wouldn't advocate visiting in heavy weather, particularly if big seas are running from well south of east, but the entrance/whole bay is deceiving. With steep 1.8m/6' seas at the entrance, these were down to 0.6m/2' waves halfway into the bay and by the time you reached the point where the bay narrows/kinks slightly west, I doubt they were more than .10m/4" high – It looks to be a straight run in, so where they go or what happens to them? I've no idea, but the entrance is no indicator of conditions inside the anchorage itself.

The concrete dock and boat ramp seemed to be a bit rough and busy, so we landed our dinghy on the beach just after high tide, if the tide's rising then you'd do better to take it up into the river (NE corner) and land near/beyond the bridge as the tide comes right to the sea wall. In either case, row or at least take some oars for the last bit as it's very shallow from quite a long way out. – Moon Rebel

**Oct 2015: 08°56.42'S / 139°34.34'W**. Our second anchorage where we had good holding. Our friends on Maluhia (cat) anchored at **08°56.41'S / 139°34.37'W** (resting position between bow & stern anchors) about 50m further out from our initial anchored spot and had no trouble with slipping. Anchoring a second time in about 22' both hooks stuck immediately and held us firm the rest of our stay. The bottom appeared to be soft sand and mud. But it was considerably rougher in the second location than our first location, further in the bay, which did not hold.

We spent 4 nights in Vaipae and found the anchorage roly with a swell always coming in. Windy during the day with onshore breezes being sucked into the bay as the land heated up. Wind outside was supposed to be E to ENE. Swell was large 2+m from the N with an easterly swell too.

Covered in Charlie's Charts, Joe Russell Guide to the Marquesas and the newer guidebook Guide to Navigation and Tourism in French Polynesia.

Entrance waypoint: 08°56'57S / 139°34'23W

Anchorage: Coming into the bay we noticed how much calmer it was the further in the bay we went (but calm is relative here). Outside wind was forecast to be E 10 and we saw gusts of 18+ while at anchor in this bay.

At first, we anchored just in front of the moored fishing boats closer to the east side but after very slowly dragging our 22lb Danforth stern hook twice (once with 250' of scope in 15' of water) we then switched to a Fortress 37 (set on the mud setting) on a crazy long scope and slowly dragged 2X over the course of the night. At 4am with an offshore rain squall we had a local small fishing boat drag down on us dragging his 50' of chain

plus 50' of 1' rode and anchor. Haha what next.... Just before daylight the bow anchor slipped about 30' in another squall so as soon as it was light, we moved 100m further out of the bay. (see above waypoints).

We think the reason this inner anchorage is so slippery are two-fold. A river flows into this area bringing run off, and the recent tsunami a month earlier may have really churned up the bottom.

There is a bollard on either side of the narrow fjord-like bay where the supply ships tie up. Be sure to ask when the supply ships come in as you may have to move depending on your location.

Dinghy: We were fortunate that Maluhia offered us rides back and forth (leaving our dink on deck) and we dragged their dink (with wheels) up the launch ramp each time we went ashore. The other option is to use a stern hook and anchor the dinghy off the quay but the swells do sweep in there and the dink would be beam on to the afternoon sea breeze. The beach and small river mouth would completely disappear at high tide.

There is some small boat traffic especially at night as the fishing boats return with their catch, so be sure to have an anchor light on. – Jacaranda

## **5.2.2 Yachtsmen Services**

### **5.2.2.1 Trash and Recycling**

#### **5.2.2.2 Water**

**Aug. 2018:** Water taps at the south end of the dock, but we never tried/tasted the water. – Moon Rebel

**Oct 2015:** There is a water spigot with hose on the quay. Locals said it was not potable. – Jacaranda

## **5.2.3 General Services**

### **5.2.3.1 Post Office**

**Aug. 2018:** Post office available. – Moon Rebel

### **5.2.4 Provisions**

**Feb 2024:** Magasin Brown Areni: tel 40 926 023

**Aug. 2018:** The village is a mile's very pleasant and relatively flat walk up the valley, we found three grocery stores there and as ever, the furthest away, at the north end of the village seemed to be the best stocked and had a small automotive/hardware department too; it definitely had the coldest beer! Bread's available at all three available, but as ever, you'll need to pre-order or get there early if you want any. – Moon Rebel

**Oct. 2015:** We found 3 stores with ok provisioning. The bakery is the red house on the right further up the road and you may have to order bread a day in advance (baguettes, demi-baguettes, and large loaves). The second day we went in they had plenty on the shelves. – Jacaranda

### **5.2.5 Restaurants**

**Oct 2015:** There is a large community building near the beach across the river and next to the soccer fields that has lunch available on Saturday and possibly Sundays. For \$1000 CFP we received a huge dish of chow mein and chicken. Easily enough for 2 people. Many of the locals were there playing bingo. So, if you are feeling lucky.... – Jacaranda

### **5.2.6 Activities**

**Feb 2024:** The Ua Huna Museum is excellent. Now located near the airport and is closer to Hane than to Vaipaee. Make sure it is open before going. See Cruisers Reports below. – Migration

**April 2019:** We visited Hane and Hokatu from Vaipae with the services of Toa and son Arii from Pension Mana Tupuna, and highly recommend them as guides. They are also good carvers. – Chugach

**Oct. 2015:** Pension Alexis where the owner's daughter-in-law offered to give us a tour (\$120 for 4 hours). We were able to see the interior of the island plus visited the villages of Hane and Hokatu. There were 4 of us so the cost was \$30 each. – Jacaranda

### **5.2.7 Cruiser Reports**

**January 2023:** The museum is a “don’t miss” on Ua Huna. It is a long walk from Vaipae but you may be able to hitchhike. In Vaipae, call or visit the Mairie (Mayor’s office) first to make sure the museum is open. The Mairie is on the way out of town on the left side of the road just before the post office. Mairie phone # 40 91 60 26. Mairie hours: 0630 to 1430 except Friday til 1330. Make it a day outing and stop at the Subdivision Agricole Ua Huka (old name on sign) on the way to the museum. The workers there will give you a tour and you can taste lots of delicious varieties of mango. Then continue on to the museum.

There are also horseback tours available out of Vaipae. Very nice ride to the top of the island. – Migration

**May 2022:** Note that when the supply ship is in, they tie lines across the whole entrance, so you can't get in or out. We hitch-hiked all over the island from here. A guy picked us up, headed east, and unlocked the museum (most of the way to Hane); he told us to lock the doors after us when we left. – Villa Veritas

**April 2019:** This is the island the least visited by yachts, but in our opinion not to be missed. The very friendly population makes a living on copra, fishing and carving. There are not enough fishermen on Ua Pou and Nuku Hiva, and fishermen sell their catch to these 2 islands. We stayed 5 days.

The church with very nice locally made wood sculptures deserves a visit. At the interesting arboretum we provisioned for free a lot of fruits. Next to the airport (located mid distance between Vaipae and Hane, which in total is 14 km), there is a small “mall” created from scratch in 2013 for the Marqueses festival then held in Ua Huka. It hosts a small centre artisanal where carver Pava from Vaipae exhibits and sells; The best museum we have seen in the Marqueses (to the level of Quai Branly’s in Paris, we have not visited Papeete’s yet) not to be missed; A carving school.

From Hane after a 20 mn walk you reach the site that hosts the oldest tikis in Marquesas (400 BC). The bay from Hane is a possible anchorage. It is wider than Vaipae’s, and, according to the locals, less subject to swell bouncing back and forth against the shores than Vaipae. But disembarking with the dinghy is not a slam dunk. There is a centre artisanal and “sea” museum in Hane, but we did not visit them. – Chugach

**Aug. 2018:** The museum and woodcarving workshop beneath the post office have both closed and we were told 'moved to Hokato' at the east end of the island; whilst we didn't particularly look, we didn't see any other carving workshops, or signs to such either, perhaps they've all gone east?

THE CHURCH is on the left-hand side as you're approaching the village and it alone makes a stop at Vaipae worthwhile: Your typical colonial/tropical simple church, with a small tower/spire and a red wiggly-tin roof, but the decoration – Wow! The main entrance doors are flanked by two life-sized wooden 'saints' – one looks a bit like Desperate Dan? - and a couple more inside, along with carved wooden wall plaques, fonts, pulpits, chairs etc. I'm not big on churches, but even I made a second visit on our way back to the anchorage. Don't miss the giant pestle – open the door at the bottom to reveal an intricately carved nativity scene inside.

The Taporo supply ship arrived whilst we were there (that's why the quay was so busy!) but it anchored way out at the entrance and the delivery barges motored in/out down the east side of the bay through the moorings, so no disturbance. – Moondance

**Oct 2015:** As the guidebooks state, the small village of 150 people is about a mile up the road from the anchorage.

The church is small but beautiful. Many hand carved wooden sculptures done by a local artist and his family. The Sunday service with the choir was very enjoyable and we highly recommend it. Church service starts at 8am. Even if you can't make a Sunday service be sure to go into the church to look at the carvings.

We wanted to see the botanical gardens (the best chance to see the rare lorikeet which we did; you can also pick some citrus fruit) and other parts of the island and stopped into the Pension Alexis.

We had been wanting to visit Ua Huka earlier in the season but the winds were not favorable (from the southerly quadrant) and we had heard stories of other cruisers who had been there when the anchorages were untenable or shore access difficult or impossible, so we waited for a northerly forecast later on in the season.

We departed Anaho (10-15) at the end of Oct. in light NE breeze which went around to the E as we closed the island finally settling into ESE as we got within a mile of the anchorage. 3 swells were evident on our trip over (NW, S and SW). – Jacaranda

## **5.3 Haavei**

### **5.3.1 Anchorages and Moorings**

**April 2019:** 8°56.6468' S / 139°35.7324' W in 11m, sand (no rock as written elsewhere). We were in Vaipae Bay and the wind moved to stronger ESE/SE so we left Vaipae to go to Havei bay where we stayed 3 nights, waiting for the wind to move back E to sail to Hiva Oa. It was a bit roly, but the 2 islands in the South reduce the swell impact. – Chugach

**Oct 2015:** 08-56'58S / 139-35'72W. Depth 23'. Located on the SW corner of Ua Huka this small bay with a sandy beach is mentioned in Charlie's Charts.

Bottom: Linda dove on the anchor and reported sandy spots interspersed with sand covering rockpan. Be sure you back down hard on your anchor. The wind seems to wrap around and come straight into the beach during the day but when we were there it shifted to offshore at night. Another cruiser reported strong 35kt gusts while they were anchored here.

There was a swell coming into the anchorage which made it roly. When the wind died, we lay beam on. A flopper stopper would be helpful. – Jacaranda

### **5.3.2 Cruiser Reports**

**Feb 2024:** Easy anchoring. Sometimes roly. Excellent snorkeling when the water is clear. And very good snorkeling out by the 2 islands. Often mantas in the area. Nice walk over the hill to Vaipae. Be careful of surf when landing dinghy. – Migration

**April 2019:** Ashore (disembarking difficult, Tikeu/ Ua Pou style), there are a few houses that are not permanently used. On the first day when the swell was still minimum, we tried Baie Matau, but it was already too roly. With NE conditions it must be great. Stunning view of Ua Pou at sunset (if clouds allow). – Chugach

**Oct 2015:** Linda snorkeled the east wall with Kim from Maluhia and reported murky, surgy, poor conditions. There are 2 islands (Hemeni and Teuaua) 6-mile SSE of the anchorage called "Bird Islands" that are home to tens of thousands of sea birds (terns). Early morning and late evening the skies are full of birds circling these islands. The next day when departing we sailed very close to the two islands to look at the birds. When rounding the corner of the smaller awash rocks at the western end of these islands we encountered 25-30 manta rays feeding on the surface. We did not go ashore to explore the valley and left the next morning for Bay Vaipae. – Jacaranda

## **5.4 Hane Bay**

### **5.4.1 Anchorages and Moorings**

**June 2022:** We found Hane comfortable for anchoring, but enough swell came in that we couldn't safely land the dinghy. We were surprised, because structurally it looked like we should have been protected from the easterly prevailing wind/waves. – Villa Veritas

**July 2007:** The buoy at the mouth of the bay does not light up at night. Our anchor wouldn't take a good bite into the bottom, so Sten set the chart plotter's anchor alarm function before bedding down in the cockpit to

keep anchor watch. This morning, still not comfortable with our anchor set, with a heavy swell rolling into the bay, we left right after breakfast. We checked the other harbors on Ua Huka, but the swell was slamming into both of them, so we decided to continue onto Nuka Hiva. – Mata'irea

#### **5.4.2 Cruiser Reports**

**Aug. 2018:** We didn't actually go there, but whilst at the Marie in Viapae we saw Architects drawings on display which detailed a new dock with a partial breakwater at its end that's proposed, or perhaps already in-build for the NW corner of Hane Bay. When or even if it's going to happen, I've no idea, but I suspect it'll be better than what Ua Huka's currently got for unloading supplies and Aranui passengers and may explain why the museum/carvers of Vaipae seem to have moved to that end of the island. – Moon Rebel

**Oct 2015:** We anchored in Vaipae Bay and took a land tour to visit Hane Bay. It has a small museum with some old canoes and a craft store. – Jacaranda

### **5.5 Hokatu**

#### **5.5.1 Cruiser Reports**

**April 2019:** We visited Hokatu by land from Vaipae. The Hokatu mooring is to be used only in calm weather. The local centre artisanal is the best we have seen in the Marquesas, a true cavern of Ali Baba. – Chugach

**Oct 2015:** We thought we might move over to Hokatu from Vaipae after viewing it on GE. But after seeing it from our land tour and speaking with a few locals we decided to give it a miss. One of the women from Hokatu said she only remembered 1 boat ever stopping there about 10 years ago. It is small, rough and the bottom appeared (from the hill above) to be sand and much rock. It looked like it might be difficult to get a shore in a dinghy.

There is a nice artisan shop and a small museum that has photos and plaster casts of local petroglyphs. – Jacaranda

## **6 Ua Pou**

### **6.1 Ua Pou's East Side**

#### **6.1.1 Hakahau Bay (09-21S / 140-03W)**

##### **6.1.1.1 Anchorages and Moorings**

**May 2022:** The anchorage is a tight space and stern anchoring likely necessary; we saw many sailboats come in and leave because there wasn't enough room, so if coming here, make sure you have time to get to an alternate anchorage safely.

No one seemed to know the supply ship schedule so stay clear of the dock area. One boat stern tied to the dock assuming the supply ship wouldn't come on Easter Sunday but they were wrong.

Good dinghy dock, probably the best in the Marquesas. The dock also has fresh water, unsure if potable but suitable for laundry. Kids seem to use the dock as a playground, be careful leaving anything valuable in your dinghy. – Sierra Wind

**Dec. 2019: 9°22.513'S / 140°02.888'W.** Anchored in 6.5 meters of sand with stern anchor. We anchored during the large Marquesan festival and had to be within a specific approved anchorage area in this bay. Of course, the approved anchorage was not in the protected area behind the break wall which made it a roly and uncomfortable 3.5 weeks waiting for the Marquesan festival. We would have preferred to be protected by the break wall, but that was not an option for us. During the festival, they had two cruise ships (tied to the dock), 12 boats in the "approved anchorage" and the beach area blocked for the va'a races.

**Dinghy Landing:** You can bring your dinghy up on the beach or tie it to the quay. There are several spots, but the safest is on the dock side that is perpendicular to the main break wall. The dock side that is parallel is used for the local boats and they prefer you not tie up there and get in their way. Some people tied their dingies to the corner where they could bow and stern tie. – Sugar Shack

**Aug. 2018:** The bay provides good holding in 4m/15' and generally gets NE winds irrespective of the wind direction outside; whenever the winds were stronger, they also became gusty within the anchorage. Strangely, once you went ashore and got 100m back from the sea front there was usually barely a breath of wind, irrespective of the winds out in the anchorage.

Try to get a spot to the east of the breakwater's end and deploy a second/stern anchor to point your bow into the seas/swell, there's probably space in the area between the quay/local moorings and the breakwater-end for a half dozen boats to twin-anchor. If the anchorage is busy and you have to anchor further to the west, then beware of a drainage outfall/ruined quay, which runs out at right-angles from the beach-breakwater just to the east of the single storey, green roofed building on the seafront right in the middle of the bay; I've no idea how far below the surface it is, but it extends a good 50m from shore and is clearly visible from the overlook at the crucifix..

Dinghy landing is either on the beach, or in a very well sheltered corner at the east end of the quay on its north side – few barnacles and no lip to float underneath, avoid the ladders on the main quay's south side, it's nearer to the anchorage, but has both. – Moon Rebel

**Aug. 2015: 09° 21.518S / 140° 02.798W**, 3m at low water. Where the boat rests at anchor (bow & stern) not where we dropped the hook. Excellent holding in sand bottom. If you anchor any closer to the dock than this you will have to move when the Arauni comes in! There are a couple red mooring balls that some small local boats use and that pushes everyone further into the harbor away from the main wharf.

The harbor could be entered at night as the end of the jetty has a red light visible to seaward. There is room to come around the breakwater and anchor on a single hook for the night. Then sort out a bow and stern anchor spot in daylight. End of Jetty is 09° 21.426'S 140° 02.843'W Turning waypoint 100m off end of jetty 09° 21.437'S 140° 02.895'W Both waypoints confirmed via Google earth and our track line using OpenCPN. – Jaccaranda

### **6.1.1.2 Yachtsmen Services**

#### 6.1.1.2.1 Cooking Gas (Propane and Butane)

**Dec. 2019:** Cooking gas can be bought at Magasin Marielle and Magasin Juliette. (see provisions for hours/contact). – Sugar Shack

#### 6.1.1.2.2 Fuel (Diesel and Gasolone)

**May 2022:** Diesel was available in drums but gasoline could be sold by the liter, neither can be purchased on Sundays. – Sierra Wind

**Dec. 2019:** Magasin Marielle and Magasin Juliette sell small quantities of diesel (no gasoline) (see provisions for hours/contact). – Sugar Shack

#### 6.1.1.2.3 Trash and Recycling

**Dec. 2019:** There is a large green trash bin by the dock. Please do not put glass or aluminium in the trash as they recycle these items. Glass and aluminum recycle bins located around town. One off main road, just as it dead ends to 2<sup>nd</sup> street by co-op and on left before church), another recycle bin is next to Magasin Juliette, and another is just past the elementary school on the 1<sup>st</sup> street. – Sugar Shack

#### 6.1.1.2.4 Water

**Sep 2022:** There are three water sources around the shore of Hakahau Bay. The supply dock (faucet), the canoe club (shower) and the far end of the bowling area. The water at the bowling club is favoured for showers by the local fisherman in the morning, as the water comes out solar heated from a roof top storage container. These three water sources are NOT potable. They come direct from the valley river.

Potable (drinking) water is available from a faucet outside the Cultural Centre. This water is filtered, tested and treated as required. Any local will be happy to direct you, the water is available to all free of charge and you are guaranteed to be offered a lift the short distance to the shore. – Spirit of Argo

**Jan 2021:** There is a water hose at the west end of the beach beyond the bocce ball court. This water tested 10ppm. The locals were seen driving there and filling large jugs. – Trance

**Aug. 2018:** There're water taps here too and as in Nuku Hiva several people advised that the water wasn't potable, but having seen the locals drink it – and feed it to their kids – we decided it couldn't be too bad and used it ourselves without any ill effects. There are public taps located near the Library/Craft-market area just west of the post office, this is 'officially' designated as potable, but it's a long way to haul it and it didn't taste any better/different to us. – Moon Rebel

### **6.1.1.3 General Services**

#### 6.1.1.3.1 Air Tahiti

**Dec. 2019:** +689 40 86 42 42 or +40 910 225. Hours: Tues. & Fri: 1500-1700. Main street, 2<sup>nd</sup> left, on right, by post and Le Mairie. – Sugar Shack

#### 6.1.1.3.2 Bank / ATMs

**Dec. 2019:** Banque Socredo. Hours: Mon-Thurs. 0800-12n & 1330-1600. Fri: 0800-12n & 1330-1500. Main street, 2<sup>nd</sup> left, on right, near poste and Le Mairie). There is an outside ATM. – Sugar Shack

#### 6.1.1.3.3 Gendarmerie

Main street, 2<sup>nd</sup> left, past post office, on left.

#### 6.1.1.3.4 Laundry

**Dec. 2019:** Boulangerie does laundry +689 87 314 729 and so does Alexandrine 5kg for 1000xpf – Sugar Shack

#### 6.1.1.3.5 Library

**Dec. 2019:** Main street, 2<sup>nd</sup> left, then first right, and is on the left past the Le Mairie. The library offers books, jewelry, postcards and wifi. Internet access is “free” with purchase of 500xpf or more. It will usually last about a month. Each device will receive a password entered by librarian. – Sugar Shack

#### 6.1.1.3.6 Le Mairie

Main street, 2<sup>nd</sup> left, first right, and on your left by post.

#### 6.1.1.3.7 Mechanics

**Dec. 2019:** We found several mechanic shops but did not use them. See below. – Sugar Shack

- Mechanic shop: Location: main street, 2<sup>nd</sup> left, on right side before church.
- Mechanic shop: Location: main street, 2<sup>nd</sup> left, 1<sup>st</sup> right, past post, bank, before road turns.
- Mechanic shop/boat repair: Location: main street, 2<sup>nd</sup> left, 1<sup>st</sup> right, past post, bank, road bears left, on right side where a magasin used to be located.

**Aug. 2015:** AC, Refrigeration & general car repairs: Claude, is an ex-baker, is the local repair guy. – Jacaranda



#### 6.1.1.3.8 Post Office

Main street, 2<sup>nd</sup> left, first right, and on your left.

#### 6.1.1.3.9 Transportation

**Dec. 2019:** We only saw a few approved taxis (with the VMT sticker) but everyone was offering rides during the festival.

Bike rentals (E-Bikes) Teheikuakakkaa +689 87 30 76 28

Car Rentals - Boulangerie / Café. (main street, 1<sup>st</sup> left, on left). +689 40 92 52 57. Hours: Mon-Sat. 0500-1500. Sun. 0500-0800. – Sugar Shack

#### 6.1.1.3.10 Wifi / Internet

**June 2022:** Vini cell service is decent at the anchorage – Rhapsody

**May 2022:** Snack Vehine had the best WiFi we found in all of French Polynesia! We heard from other cruisers that the main town now has Vini 4g cell coverage. – Sierra Wind

**Dec. 2019:** There are three places that offer internet. See below – Sugar Shack

- Boulangerie Snack Hiamoekuha (bakery/café). +689 40 92 52 57. (main street, 1<sup>st</sup> left, on left). Hours: Mon-Sat. 0500-1500. Sun. 0500-0800. Really good internet for customers.
- Biblioteque “Library” offers internet with purchase of 500xpf or more. Hours: Mon-Fri: 0730-1600 (wifi is on until 1700). Location: main street, 2<sup>nd</sup> left, 1<sup>st</sup> right, past post and bank, on left.
- Snack Vehine Hou +689 40 925 063. (main street, 1<sup>st</sup> left, past bakery, on left).

**Aug. 2018:** The Library is the place for **internet**, you need to spend FPF500 on the stationary supplies which they sell after which they'll give you a wifi code to use, I've no idea how long it's good for, but we're into the third week with ours. The Library was open (as best we recall) from 09:00-11:30 & 15:00-16:00 Monday to Friday; you can pick up the signal from outside (take mossie spray) and it transmits during lunchtime and often into the early evening, but shuts down at weekends and during the night. We could 'see' a Vinispot signal from the anchorage using a small booster antenna, but couldn't get a connection to it from either there or right beside the post office antenna? – Moon Rebel

#### 6.1.1.4 Provisions

**January 2023:** There is a new baker in Ua Pou. Sebastien & Rebecca live on the west side but come to sell bread at Hakahau every Saturday around 0730. They stay until the bread is gone. They will deliver to Hakahetau early in the morning on their way to Hakahau if you call in advance and place an order. They have several different kinds of bread: whole wheat, baguettes, sesame bread, etc. Sebastien speaks good English. +689 87 73 29 52 or *Akatoa* on Facebook. – Migration

**Boulangerie / Café.** +689 40 92 52 57. Hours: Mon-Sat. 0500-1500. Sun. 0500-0800. Main street, 1<sup>st</sup> left, on left. Pre-order bread and baked goods.

- **Jan 2021:** Has a clean restroom around the back. – Trance
- **Dec. 2019:** Sells baguettes, sandwiches, pre-packaged lunches, pastries, and some produce. Really good internet, best on the island, for customers. – Sugar Shack
- **Aug. 2018:** Walking into town from the quay/beach, if you take the first turning to the left (between the school and the football field) and walk perhaps 300m there's a cafe/boulangerie on the left, it even has fresh baguettes on Sunday, if you're there before 08:00. – Moon Rebel

**Magasin Marielle** +689 40 925 231 Hours: Mon-Sat: 0500-1900. Sun: 0500-0700, 0900-1100, 1600-1830. Main street, 2<sup>nd</sup> left, after church. Sells propane. Largest market on island.

- **Dec. 2019:** Definitely the largest and well stocked market on the island. They have a variety of home goods, hardware, and food. – Sugar Shack
- **Aug. 2018:** The biggest grocery store (Maricel's) on the left, just after the church; Maricels does not close at lunchtime and opens on Sundays too. – Moon Rebel

**Magasin Tevaea** +689 40 925 630 Main street, 1<sup>st</sup> left, past bakery, on right.

- **Dec. 2019:** This is a well-stocked store with friendly staff. They often had cases of beer when others were sold out. – Sugar Shack
- **Aug. 2018:** Continue for another 2-300m and there's a reasonable grocery store with some hardware too on the right-hand side of the same road. – Moon Rebel

**Magasin Juliette.** Hours: Mon-Fri: 0700-12n & 1400-1700. Sat. 0700-12n & 1430-1700. Located behind Snack Juliette (main street, 2<sup>nd</sup> left, before church, left side). Sells propane and diesel.

**Magasin** Hours: Mon-Sat. 0500-1900. Sun 0500-0700, 0900-1100, 1600-1830. Main street, 2<sup>nd</sup> left, after Magasin Marielle

- **Aug. 2018:** If you continue for another 2-300m there's a third on the right-hand side of the road, the furthest from the dinghy dock, but stocks the coldest beer! There were very occasionally fresh fruit & veggies being sold in the area of the post office and also near the craft market but we felt the quality and choice was much poorer than we'd found in Nuku Hiva. – Moon Rebel

**Magasin Aline** +92 52 03. Main street, 2<sup>nd</sup> left, past church and sport center, on left.

**Magasin:** Hours: Mon-Sat. 0500-12n & 1400-1830, Sun: 0500-0700 and 0900-1100. Main street, 2<sup>nd</sup> left, 1<sup>st</sup> right past post/bank, on left.

### Provisioning Cruiser Reports

**Dec. 2019:** We agree with Moon Rebel on their comparison of Nuku Hiva and Ua Pou on provisions. It was not "terrible" here, but there is far more fresh produce (fruit and veg) in Nuku Hiva. There is also a larger variety of meats and frozen goods in Nuku Hiva. – Sugar Shack

**Aug. 2018:** Ever since we've been in the Marquesas, we have had other Cruisers advise that Ua Pou's better than Nuku Hiva for provisioning before heading on to the Tuamotus, we disagree; it's OK here but we thought choice, quality and availability, particularly for fresh produce were far better in Nuku Hiva. – Moon Rebel

#### 6.1.1.5 Restaurants

**December 2022:** There is a fairly new snack in town that we highly recommend. Snack Te Manuhiki is owned by Raissa and her husband Harold. They are super nice and make the best breadfruit fries we've had. It's a 10-minute walk up the main road past the church, clinic and sports field (not the one near the beach). It's a yellow house on the left just after you cross the tiny bridge. Magasin Aline is ahead and to the right. The ambiance in the garden is delightful. – Migration

**Dec. 2019:** Lots of great places to eat here! See below. – Sugar Shack

**Co-Op** (near the library) serves lunch daily and for 700xpf with an 'all you can eat' buffet. Come early as they do run out! Elizabeth is the cook and she is Henri's sister from the dock eatery at Nuku Hiva. She will also get fresh produce.

**Boulangerie Snack Hiamoekuha** (bakery/café). +689 40 92 52 57. Hours: Mon-Sat. 0500-1500. Sun. 0500-0800. Main street, 1<sup>st</sup> left, on left. Café offers a variety of options at reasonable prices. Really good internet for customers. They do frown upon guests "camping" out on their tables. Has a clean restroom around the back.

**Pizza Ato** +689 87 26 32 74 or +689 87 72 63 33. Hours: Mon-Sat 11-1300 and 1800-2100. Main street, 1<sup>st</sup> left, past bakery, on left. Pizza to go, no place to sit **Jan 2021:** Pizza is good... to go or eat in. To the right is an associated bar with tables you can dine. Clean restroom. WiFi available free. – Trance

**Snack Vehine Hou** +689 40 925 063. Main street, 1<sup>st</sup> left, past bakery, on left. They offer wifi and a comfortable place to enjoy a meal.

**Te O'a Pohue o Ua Pou snack** (next to library) offers buffet 650cpf and sells some produce.

**Snack Juliette** (there is a **big** Hinano sign). +689 40 925 391. Main street, 2<sup>nd</sup> left, on left, before church. We heard this snack was closed, but may reopen.

**Pension Pukuéé:** Jerome (French army veteran married to a Marquesian) now is a restaurant.

**Other: Jan 2021:** There are a couple of "Temporary Food Trucks" in town, one to the west of the beach across the street (next to the school's cafeteria). Outdoor seating. Sushi is good. - Trance

#### 6.1.1.6 Shops

**Dec. 2019:** Lots of lovely little shops to purchase Marquesan trinkets. See below. – Sugar Shack

- **Artisan Market.** Location: main road, 2<sup>nd</sup> left, 1<sup>st</sup> right, past post and bank, on left side.
- **Bibliothèque** "Library" books, cards, jewelry, office supplies. Hours: Mon-Fri: 0730-1600 (wifi is on until 1700). Location: main street, 2<sup>nd</sup> left, 1<sup>st</sup> right, past post and bank, on left side.
- **Planete Tuako** +689 87 34 80 44 or +689 40 925 056, [planetetuako@gmail.com](mailto:planetetuako@gmail.com). (main street, 2<sup>nd</sup> left, on left). Hours: Mon-Fri: 0830-12 and sometimes in the afternoon. Sporting goods and clothing
- **Tehina Boutique** +689 40 925 525 or +689 87 32 02 74. (main street, 1<sup>st</sup> left, past the bakery), clothing, flip flops, toys

#### 6.1.1.7 Activities

**Dec. 2019:** There is a canoe/outrigger school located on the beach if you want to take lessons. There is lots of exploring around this village.

Tours: Pierre (aka Peter) at La Merie is a wonderful island guide and will take you walking or for a trip in his car. About \$100 plus petrol for a day trip. He is VERY intelligent and informative and speaks English well. His cousin, Meitae (not 100% sure of her name) who also works at La Merrie, is lovely too and speaks English well.

Hike to Hakahetau: This is a 4.5-5-hour hike one way. It is mostly shaded by the trees, but should be started as early as possible. We found GPS coordinates on Wiki Loc which were mostly accurate. They can be downloaded on to Maps.me or Garmen or other devices. The one spot where we got lost (and another group we heard of) was about an hour into the hike, there are 3 roads to choose from. One goes up (which we took and it was wrong), one looks like it goes to a house (down) and one in the middle which goes above the house and below the upper road. Take the middle one toward the right. You can arrange for a taxi or panga back. We did the walk over, then to Manfred (chocolate guy), the waterfall, and town and it was 11 miles-one way.

Hike to Cross: We did the hike to the cross that Moon Rebel mentioned, but we took a different path back over the ridge. From dock, take very first road to left (toward pension), follow well marked, fairly easy trail to cross (about 20 min). You can go back the way you came or continue on the path that will lead you across the mountain ridges (up and down and more of a proper hike). The path is pretty clear albeit narrow. Before you reach the large rock peak and while you are in a valley you will see the path splits or "Y" and you will want to take the path down, toward the right to make your way back to the village. The path will drop you behind the village. Over all hike is about 3-3.5 miles and took about 1-1.5 hours. – Sugar Shack

**Aug. 2018:** Walking: The road footpath up to the crucifix on the east side of the bay isn't as far/high as it looks, an easy 30-minute walk will get you there and the views are great. We never managed to find a footpath which reached the rock pinnacles and none of the locals we enquired of could direct us to one either. The road south past the church/sportsground, then turning SW through Hitika is a nice walk, but won't get you there, similarly taking the road west towards the airport and then walking along the ridge offers great views, but doesn't get

you there either. We later walked up the road/track heading S/SW from the west end of town, this goes far further than indicated on Maps.me or Google, eventually finishing in a banana plantation with fantastic views over the bay (allow two hours up and one back) and I estimate – the cloud would come down, so couldn't see – that we were perhaps 1km short and 2-300m below the pinnacles; no track, but if you backtrack 200m from the overlook, there's a stream-gorge that looks a safer bush-whack and would probably get you there in another half hour. – Moon Rebel

**Aug. 2015: Island Tours:** There is a small Pension on the hill 100m walk above the harbor run by a French man named Jerome. We took a tour with him yesterday and found it very good and can recommend him. He charges by the car so the more people you have with you the less it costs individually. – Jacaranda

### **6.1.1.8 Cruiser Reports**

**Dec 2022:** There is usually a dance performance at the area next to the Mairie when the Aranui is visiting. – Migration

**June 2022:** About half the boats were stern anchored when we were there; it's necessary if you're behind the breakwater because boats group tightly. The whole anchorage is better protected than it looks on the map. – Villa Veritas

**April 2019:** There is a centre artisanal near the mairie exhibiting and selling carvers work. Of course, wood and bone carving, but also stone carving in “pierre fleurie” which is unique to Ua Pau. – Chugach

**Aug. 2018:** If you spot all the rock pinnacles cloud-free, then take a photograph immediately, it could be quite a while before you see them all again! – Moon Rebel

## **6.2 Ua Pou's West Side**

**April 2019:** There is swell in most bays, including the main villages of Hakahau and Hakahetau. At Hakamarii and Hakaotu we anchored but could not land with the dinghy. The least roilly anchorages were in Baie Hikeu (unsurveyed) and Baie Hakaotu. – Chugach

### **6.2.1 Hakahetau (09-215)**

#### **6.2.1.1 Anchorages and Moorings**

**Mar 2024:** Lots of room in this bay. Conditions change a great deal with only a small difference in swell direction. If it gets too roilly, try Vaiheu just a few miles to the south. – Migration

**June 2022:** The anchorage was a little roilly, but room for plenty of boats. - Rhapsody

**Dec. 2019:** We did not anchor here, but we did do a drive by to see how protected it was from weather. The second approved anchorage for the festival was here and we decided to just brave it at the Hakahau anchorage. Both anchorages were exposed, but the Hakahau anchorage was at least within walking distance to the festivities. We did visit the Hakahetau anchorage at the peak of festival activity and there were well over 30 boats anchored here. – Sugar Shack

#### **6.2.1.2 Provisions**

**Feb 2023:** A small store up the road from the quay and across the river. Also, see information about bread delivery from Sebastien and Rebecca under Hakahau Provisions – Migration

#### **6.2.1.3 Wifi & Internet**

**Mar 2024:** Good Vini 4G service.

**June 2022:** Cell service is very spotty, but it does exist. Sometimes messages come in easily, sometimes it take hours to load, if it is going to load at all. – Rhapsody

#### **6.2.1.4 Dinghy Dock**

**Mar 2024:** Be extremely careful when walking off the quay. There is a section that is often wet from the waves is very slippery. The locals will warn you if they are around. – Migration

**June 2022:** You can tie off at the concrete pier, there is a long ladder on the side. Be careful of the local boats here, they all have stern lines tied out to the buoys. Make sure you go around all of the lines before cutting in towards the ladder. – Rhapsody

**May 2022:** Dinghy dock was very surgy; we stern anchored the dinghy each time. A lot of children around the dock during the day. The dock also has fresh water, unsure if potable but suitable for laundry. – Sierra Wind

#### **6.2.1.5 Trash & Recycling**

**June 2022:** There is garbage and recycling behind the yellow building near the concrete quay. – Rhapsody

#### **6.2.1.6 Restaurants**

**Mar. 2022:** There's a restaurant in the town, not open all the time. They have WiFi but our friends told us it was very slow. - Jamala

**April 2019:** In Hakahetau, Ti'Piero is a very good restaurant, with wifi. You need to book/give notice in advance. – Chugach

#### **6.2.1.7 Activities**

**Jan 2023:** Manfred ("The Chocolate Guy") and Therese live in the valley above Hakahetau. Easy and beautiful hike on a dirt road. You can also drive all the way there. Truly excellent chocolate for 500 xpf per bar. Many flavors with products they grow locally. From the quay, walk straight up the road, turn left just before the bridge leading to the magasin. After 50 meters, when the road hits the mountain, turn right. About 2 miles up the road. Lots of signs. Bring your swimming gear and be sure to visit the beautiful waterfall (cascade) on the way back (there's a sign). – Migration

**June 2022:** We found nice snorkeling/freediving in the eastern part of the bay. Clear water, lots of small to medium sized very colorful fish. The waterfall and a visit to Couleur Cacao can be done as separate trips, or combined as a single outing.

– Rhapsody

**Jan 2021:** Couleur Cacao is indeed worth the hike. From the dock walk straight up the road, At the Post Office turn Left, after about 150 yards, turn right onto a dirt road. proceed about 2 miles. - Trance

### **6.2.2 Vaiehu (09-23S)**

#### **6.2.2.1 Anchorages and Moorings**

**Mar 2024:** 09° 23.185' S / 140° 07.701' W. 50', fair holding. We love this anchorage. Beautiful with great snorkeling and diving to the west, sea caves to the east are fun to snorkel in. Difficult to get ashore, but it can be done. We dropped people off on the rocks then zoomed in through the gap in the rocks with only one in the dink and all other hands ready to haul the boat up on the beach. A very nice and helpful local family comes and camps here to fish. Nice hiking in the surrounding area and you can walk up to the road. We had a rental car (from the Hakehau boulangerie) delivered to us here. Often very calm here when Hakahetau is roly. – Migration

**May 2022:** Were not impressed with location or depth profile for anchoring. Did not stay. – Sierra Wind

**Dec. 2019:** 9°23.224S / 140°07.740W. Anchored in 16 meters of water. We had an east swell and avoided Hakahau and Hakahetau. It was a lovely, peaceful, calm anchorage. We stayed here for a week enjoying the beautiful bay.

Dinghy landing was fun during high and low tide. The swell breaks pretty hard near shore and there are lots of rocks. We decided to paddle board in rather than risk the dinghy. Even with paddle boards we had to navigate the swell and rocks. – Sugar Shack

**2009: 09°23.212S / 140°07.696W.** Our first night there was perfect but then a larger than normal swell rolled in from somewhere out in the ocean and we lost both water clarity and peace. Without being able to swim or go ashore there wasn't much to do but read, cook, and make a weather cloth. – Nakia

#### **6.2.2.2 Provisions**

**Dec. 2019:** Walk over to next bay Haakuti. On your immediate left is the largest of two magasins. Further down the street is a much smaller magasin that is not well stocked but does have propane tanks. – Sugar Shack

#### **6.2.2.3 Activities**

**Dec. 2019:** Hike to the white cross at top of hill. Paddle board or take your chance with the dinghy (watch for low tide as there are lots of rocks). Land at the shore below and to the left of the house. Once onshore, there is a path up to the little house, keep following the path. It will veer left to go to an animal pen, but stay straight to go to cross. The path is very overgrown and there are plants with stickers. Continue until the path ends at fence. Left of gate is loop to open gate which keeps animals out. Close the gate after you. Continue up. You will see a house on your right. Follow the garden fence to the left until you pick up the path again. You will pass through another gate before you get to the cross. There is a lookout point, the cross and a monument.

Hike to Village in Haakuti. Follow directions to the cross until you get to the house on the right. At the house you will see a dirt road on your left. Follow to the village in Haakuti. Main road veers left (right by large church and cemetery). Two magasins and lots of friendly people. – Sugar Shack

### **6.2.3 Hakaotu (09-24S)**

#### **6.2.3.1 Anchorages and Moorings**

**Dec 2022: 09° 23.841' S / 140° 07.693' W** 42' good holding. Pretty spot. – Migration

**April 2019: 9°23.841' S / 140°07.699' W**, in 12m, sand. Go ashore with dinghy on the south side of the bay. There is a friendly couple ashore (Jacky and Muriel). – Chugach

### **6.2.4 Baie Hikeu (09-26S)**

#### **6.2.4.1 Anchorages and Moorings**

**April 2019: 9°26.1282'S / 140°05.8594'W**, in 13.5 m, sand. Hikeu was the least rolly of the Oa Puo anchorages. Pebbles on the beach, dinghy landing difficult if ever possible, we swam ashore after anchoring the dinghy 50 m from the beach. – Chugach

## **7 Hiva Oa (Airport & Customs)**

### **7.1 Baie Tahauku - Atuona**

Baie Tahauku is the main anchorage at Hiva Oa, at the town Atuona. It's nice, but is not as nice as the others.

#### **7.1.1 Anchorages and Moorings**

**May 2022 – Dinghy Dock:** Make sure you watch tides and secure/stern anchor dinghy appropriately so that your tender doesn't drift under the dock and get pinned. We saw this happen multiple times and were only there for one week! – Sierra Wind

**Jan. 2020: 09°48.218S / 139°01.912W.** There were no supply ships scheduled so we anchored in the middle, which is not advised without checking on the supply ship schedule. There are yellow markings on the rocks (west side of bay) and a yellow marker (east side of the bay) creating an invisible line which you are supposed to anchor behind. Not the most comfortable anchorage as it is roly.

Baie Tahauku has poor holding. Strongly recommend a stern tie. Watch out for the buried pip under water (see Navionics). When winds come out of the south leave the anchorage, as the swell is horrible.

**Dinghy Landing.** There are several places you can tie up your dinghy, but they all require a stern anchor. There are two ladders on the concrete dock, a small wooden dock near Mobile Fuel Station, and an easier loading area near the ferry dock. If you tie up near the ferry dock make sure your dinghy is not in the way of the Ferries. – Sugar Shack

**Jan. 2019: 09°48.1555'S /139°01.8601'W.** Mud with stones and coral-debris - good for the Bügel main anchor facing towards the sea - only 3,5m depth, but we had 35m chain out to fit into our desired spot; ok for the 2 stern-anchors (in approx. 3m water depth, with approx 30m rope): good for the Fortress, but the tripline caught itself in a coral debris; the Danforth failed in the first setting. We buoyed all our anchors and prepared the anchors during anchoring in the harbour basin (I would not dare to anchor in the crowd at night, but a quick stop in the harbour-basin until daylight would be ok for me). At our spot, I would not dare to anchor nearer the shore.

At the end of the bay you need at least one stern anchor, better 2. Please help new arrivals with setting their stern-anchors!

11 boats in the anchorage, not much space, but ok. Wind came from all directions. Test all your anchors! One boat dragged. It took us 90minutes to get all anchors up and be ready for the sea again. (When southerly-swell is coming in, I do not want to be here!!!)

On another visit, (Update 15.04.2019): 18 boats in the designated anchor-area, 8 in the harbourbasin, 8 outside of the breakwater, roly)

Behind the breakwater, on the north-side, they have med-style moorings with stern-buoys mainly for the local motorboats, we saw there a big sailboat cruiser as well.

The cargo ships (e.g. Aranui) throw their anchor in the middle of the basin to park at a massive concrete-dock behind the breakwater on the South [propwash seemed to be ok]. Their needed turning-space is marked by a big yellow buoy on the east and a pole as well as a sign on the shore on the west, also 2 poles in the middle of the bay, building a line. (Update 25.01: the poles are removed and dredging is still in progress; Update 15.04 Dredging seems to be finished).

It seems to be much colder here at night than elsewhere, maybe because of the freshwater-stream?

Semaphore Atuona was not answering at 08:00 and 09:00 on our arrival Monday (neither on 16 nor on VHF12); later we got contact.

Water-visibility: Approx 1m in brown water with dark bottom, rain changed visibility to nearly 0.

Fouling: For only 6 days: Quite some fast growth, green stuff and barnacles.

Wind and weather: The weather forecast (outside) was NE-E 17-21kn, gusts 30, sea moderate E 1,5m.

What we got: everything (the wind direction can change 180deg in seconds), mostly N-NNW-NE offshore 5-15kn.

Swell/Rolly: Slight boat movements (1-2 out of 5 on the Dagmar-Scale) [In April it sometimes looked very uncomfortable from the boatyard]

Local traffic: Outrigger-pirogues (up to 6 people) and small motorcrafts who sometimes are rushing through the boats anchored outside of the breakwater.

Dinghy landing: No dedicated dinghy dock (it was removed in 01/2019). We parked at the concrete breakwater near the ramp, some use the ramp of the canoclub or the rocks nearby. – Taitonga

**Sept. 2018:** We just revisited the bay, and found that they're dredging in the inner harbor. Mostly in the area where the freighter turns around, anchoring for others is restricted to the far north end of the bay, or outside the breakwater. This restriction is posted to continue until the end of this year (2018).

They've been working on a concrete wharf of some sort along the inside of the breakwater. And some repairs and improvement to the breakwater itself. It now looks pretty clear that what they're putting in is a new wharf, set up to med-moor a dozen or so boats. There's a very nice curving wharf, separated from the breakwater. It has many closely spaced stainless steel bollards. Smallish. And now many mooring style floats, about 50-60 feet off the wharf. Maybe it will be for local fishermen, but there aren't that many of 'em. Maybe yachts? We'll see. – Kokopeli

**July 2018:** WARNING, POSSIBLE TEMPORARY SPACE RESTRICTION: When we visited in July 2018 there were notices posted stating that due to dredging works programmed for mid-July to late-December, the anchorage would be restricted to the area north of the dinghy dock and presumably you'll need to get your anchor & chain behind that line too? The area's predominantly shallow and I'd estimate that no more than half a dozen yachts will be able to squeeze in there, of which there seems to be four or five semi-permanent yachts already. Works hadn't begun when we left on 1st August, so it's reasonable to assume that the works and these restrictions will continue at least into the early months **2019. Update:** as of mid-September, the works are underway and restrictions in place.

Even with 'normal' restrictions in place you'll be twin anchored inside and be wary of the Aranui's arrival if anchored close to the dock (the red supply ship invariably seems to be a lot more careful and courteous?) Whilst we were sat comfortably 'behind the line' our anchor wasn't and the Aranui first tripped that when dropping their own, before 'blasting' us sideways a few seconds later with their powerful bow thruster as they docked; no gel-coat was lost, so just an interesting experience.

**Summer 2018:** At first, we were anchored out beyond the breakwater. This was OK, but rolly. Inside was crowded, and we would have needed to put down a stern anchor. The bottom is foul, we were told, with the wreckage of gabions previously used for breakwater. On a previous visit we'd fouled an anchor on something that sure felt like that. Also, the freighter comes once a week, and you have to keep the dock area clear. From outside, we could just pick up the Hiva Oa Yacht Service (HOYS) wifi signal.

Space opened up inside the breakwater, so we came in and put down two anchors. We stayed clear of where the old gabions are. We would have been in trouble with the freighter but we knew we would be gone by the time they came back. – Kokopeli

**April 2016:** Tahauku harbor is VERY small and presents tight anchoring especially when the new Arinui 5 comes in. When the supply ships are not due to arrive, then you can anchor on a single hook (short scoped) near the main wharf or further back on 2 hooks. Further back in the harbor requires a bow and stern anchor.

There are two supply vessels that stop in the harbor of Tahauku--The Taporo and the Arinui 5. The Arinui 5 is new and larger than the older Arinui 3 and the Taporo, requiring a wider turning radius inside the harbor. Hence more room for the Arinui is needed which means less room for the yachts at anchor

#### Yachts with a Single Anchor Out

When either supply ship is due then boats single anchored will be required to move out of the harbor. The Arinui 5 arrives on schedule and arrival time (approx every 3 weeks) is announced a day before on channel 16. But the Taporo is called the "ghost ship" by the locals because it arrives with no certain fixed schedule more of an approximate date. Usually it is announced the day before or the day the Taporo arrives on VHF 16.

#### Yachts with Bow and Stern Anchors Out

The Taporo Line: The <old> line that boats are required to anchor behind (towards the head of the bay) when the supply ship is in port is valid only for the Taporo.



On the west side of the anchorage on the rocks is a large yellow slash. This slash marks the west side of the imaginary line. On the east side of the harbor just at the N end of the concrete wharf is a large staff with a cross on top. By drawing a line between these two points and anchoring behind it will suffice for the Taporo.

The Arinui Line: Using the yellow slash on the rocks on the west side as one point. The second mark on the east side of the anchorage further N (than the Taporo staff with cross) is a light post next to the concrete dinghy dock. It is now painted with two orange stripes. By drawing a line between these two points and anchoring behind it will suffice for the Arinui 5.

So, in summary, if you know the ship schedule you can anchor accordingly but if the schedule is unknown best to try and anchor behind the Arinui 5 line. This way you will be set no matter what ship arrives.

Call Semaphore Atuona channel 16 for further info on arrival and departure. – Jacaranda

**DINGHY LANDING:** Be very careful of tying your dinghy to the concrete landing near the shower. We saw a number of dinghies get damaged by getting sucked under the concrete dock at low tide. The surge in the harbor can be difficult when trying to get off and on at the concrete dock. We usually just pulled the dink up on the gravel launch ramp. Be sure to leave room for the locals launching their canoes here. Dinghy wheels are very helpful here.

### **Anchoring**

Our suggestion is to BOUY both bow and stern anchors and if you have a “rock” setting on your anchor (Manson Supreme) use it here. Over the course of the year we have spent a couple months anchored in Atuona and have seen a number of boats struggle with getting anchors snagged. – Jacaranda

**April 2013: 09-48.149S / 139-01.863.** This is the first place to land for most west bound boats (I like Nuka Hiva better for first landfall however). Crowded, can be very crowded. Some boats use stern anchor, some do not, so the place is crazy.

To enter at night:

- wpt 1: 09-49.658S / 139-01.473W
- wpt 2: 09-48.514S / 139-02.035W (entrance)
- wpt 3: 09-48.288S / 139-01.979W. You can anchor here before going into the crowd at night. About 35-40ft good holding mud

Once in here everything becomes pretty clear – Cynergy

## **7.1.2 Yachtsmen Services**

### **7.1.2.1 Cooking Gas (Propane and Butane)**

**Dec. 2020:** The Mobile Gas Station and Marine Maintenance Marquesas sell cooking gas. – Sugar Shack

**Aug. 2015:** Cooking gas and outboard gas: If you need it and they have it buy it!! Both times we were here they sold out of cooking gas in 48 hours and regular gas in less than 5 days. It was a 3 week wait for the supply ship to return. We tried to buy a FP gas fitting in Hiva Oa but all we found was a combo regulator fitting. Some folks bought it and then sawed off the fitting. We had a friend buy one in Nuka Hiva and bring it down for us. Price of gas bottle was 3000CPF and 3000CPF deposit (about \$30 - \$30US). There is no one filling cooking gas bottles in Hiva Oa so you have to do it yourself. – Jacaranda

### **7.1.2.2 Fuel (Diesel and Gasoline)**

**Jan. 2020:** There is a Mobile Fuel station here. However, since there is no real dinghy dock it becomes challenging to get full jerry cans to and from the dinghy, but it is doable. There is a small, wooden, dinghy dock. If you leave your dinghy here, use a stern anchor. You can fill jerry cans at this station. The fuel station accepts duty-free certificates and they have a small market. Hiva Oa Yacht Services can assist you with fuel if you do not wish to use jerry cans. [hivaoayachtservices@gmail.com](mailto:hivaoayachtservices@gmail.com), Sandra speaks english: +689 87 232 247, VHF 12/16. – Sugar Shack

**May 2016:** Fuel Atuona: There is a service station located next to the main wharf. Jerry cans can be filled at the station. Fuel is not available from the wharf. They will accept your "Duty Free Fuel" certificate. It is helpful to make a copy for them, as they will need a copy for their records. Also be sure to tell the bowser (attendant) that you are buying duty free fuel before he starts pumping. They accept credit cards. – Jacaranda

### **7.1.2.3 Trash and Recycling**

**Jan. 2020:** Trash disposal was located behind the Mobile Gas station. – Sugar Shack

**Jan. 2019:** Trash-Disposal: Available behind the public shower (near the restaurant) as well near the gas station. – Taitonga

**May 2016:** There are trash bins located across from the shower near the dinghy dock. We have been asked not to use the bin at the service station as that is for the station's use. – Jacaranda

### **7.1.2.4 Water**

**Jan. 2019:** Available at the shower and near the ramp. – Taitonga

**July 2018:** There's potable drinking water freely available on the dinghy dock – the timber dock's been extended with plastic floats, so no need to stern-anchor, but it's a bit unstable underfoot. – Moon Rebel

**May 2017:** Our Agent and locals said that none of the water available near the anchorage was potable - so we didn't risk it! This differs from report below about water good at wooden dinghy dock. It rains regularly so a water catchment system is a good idea! – Begonia

### **7.1.3 Hiva Oa Yacht Services**

Sandra, +689 87 232 247, [hivaoayachtservices@gmail.com](mailto:hivaoayachtservices@gmail.com), Sandra speaks english: VHF 12/16. Services offered include:

- Clearance into FP
- Long stay Visa and carte de Sejure renewal
- Wifi
- Laundry
- Car Rental and taxi service
- Duty Free Fuel Certificate
- Shipping and receiving

**Jan. 2019:** Hiva-Oa-Yacht-Services - Wi-Fi, laundry, car rentals, taxi service, check-in, duty-free-fuel-formalities, shipping/receiving, etc.; Past the haul out yard, up the hill at the semaphore is their trailer – Taitonga

**Sept. 2018:** Yacht Service Hiva Oa is headquartered on the bluff beyond the haulout yard. There's a container converted to an office, and some covered picnic benches. Wifi signal is strong there, and there's a nice view and breeze.

We did the check-in with Sandra from HOYS, she was just fine. Easy check in, no charge. – Kokopeli

### **7.1.4 Marine Maintenance Marquesas – Haul Out**

<http://www.maintenancemarquises.com>, Vincent +689 87 739 045 (speaks english), Maria +689 87 251 649.

**Sep 2024:** SV Lucky Dog, after the full detachment and loss of a rudder, worked closely with MMS--and in particular, Tehau--with the welding, building, fibreglassing, and installation of a new rudder. Tehau is a skilled welder and builder, working with us throughout the process. However, MMS did lack the ability to source the stainless steel we needed, thus we eventually had to order from USA ourselves. (Built and installed in 2023; successfully back in the water 2024 after we obtained LSV.) – Lucky Dog

**Sept. 2019:** There's a marine yard now in Tahauku, very friendly. They're hauling boats using a trailer, and doing repairs. Unfortunately, no wifi signal in the inner harbor. – Kokopeli

**Jan. 2019:** In high demand during the cyclone-season - only one space was left in December 2018. In business since 2016, currently they are building a big house + office (when finished the toilet and shower situation is hopefully better, now very basic in one shed only (shower and WC) - bring your own torch and toilet paper. They have Wi-Fi, electricity, water; no washing-machine. They can fill cooking gas tanks (500XPF/kg) and offer mechanical repairs etc. (sail repairs planned for mid 2019); storage of goodies or medicines in their fridge for your return is possible (If you leave cheese or goodies in their fridge make sure to pack it like a treasure and mark it very clearly, so it is not eaten by accident!).

It is very sheltered located in what looks like an old quarry - not much breeze. The ground is mud, gravel and grass. A lot of insects running and flying around - you might want to cover everything which connects the boat with the ground with grease and cover holes into the boat (e.g. with sponges) and have poison traps inside. Some cruisers sprayed boric acid around their boat. We found insects nesting in little holes on our return.

Protect your electricity-cable from rain with e.g. plastic-bag to prevent the main-breaker to switch off.

The yard is locked with a combination-padlock at night (you might take the first line as a reference, not the middle one, while inserting the numbers).

The ramp for the hydraulic-trailer is at the beginning of the breakwater, just in the corner, they do the haul-out at high-water. The trailer-pads protected our through-hulls nicely. Only an 8m rope attached to our bow was required. The hydraulictrailer-driver did a good job! :-). The boat will stay horizontal during haul-out.

To maybe push the stern into the right direction we had another cruiser with a dinghy on stand by as well some long aft lines ready.

If you haul-out friday-noon, you most likely stay on the trailer until monday before they park you (quite close to neighbours). Make sure they park you leveled out (with the bow higher than the stern so the rain can drain out) and not too close to structures so you can work on the boat easily.

We returned after 2,5 months, the boat was in a good condition with no mold or mildew.

Day-light in mid-April from 05:30 (shortly before the SMA (adapted military service) is doing their Haka across the bay) to 18:00. The weather was mixed with rain, lots of clouds and sun (not enough sun to not use the yard-electricity). Mosquitos (all types) around, nearly no Nonos ... Visitors at night: a cat and some roaches (hopefully they stayed outside our cockpit-mosquitonet ...). – Taitonga

### **7.1.5 General Services**

#### **7.1.5.1 Flights**

Air Tahiti and Air Moana both fly to Hiva Oa. Air Tahiti: +689 40 910 225 or +689 40 917 1110, [www.airtahiti.pf](http://www.airtahiti.pf). Hours; Mon-Tues & Thurs: 0800-1200, Wed & Fri: 0800-1200 & 1330-1630. Located on the main road, next to the bank, on left side. Sign is painted on a rock and hard to see around the plants.

#### **7.1.5.2 Airport**

**Jan. 2019:** Airport Paul Gaugin has a small restaurant and run-down restrooms, they charged us for every kg overweight 8USD to Tahiti and might put the hand luggage on the scale as well; taxis should be prebooked, calculate for a taxi ride to the airport ca. 15-20 min. – Taitonga

Airport: There is an airport on Hiva Oa which has flights 4 times a week to/from Tahiti. Flight duration is 3h 45m. Air Tahiti is the carrier, their office is located at the western end of Atuona, near the bank. Open M-F 0800-1200 & 1330-1630.

#### **7.1.5.3 Bank / ATM**

Banque Socredo and ATM (24/7). Hours: Mon-Thurs: 0800-1200 & 1330-1600. Fri: 0800-1200 & 1330-1500. Located on main road, past Gendarmarie, on left side

#### **7.1.5.4 Formalities / Gendarmerie**

**Jan. 2019:** Gendarmerie (for Check-in): +689 40 917 105. mon-sat: 07-12:00, 14-17:00, sun 9-12:00, 15-17:00. Police: tel. 40 927 045. – Taitonga

**July 2018:** Check-in at the Gendarmerie was quick, easy – one form to fill in/twenty minutes – and friendly, but only open 08:00 – 11:30 Monday to Friday. – Moon Rebel

**Aug. 2015:** When checking in the Gendarmerie requires >>ALL<< crew to go to the office. Its a very easy process and usually only takes a few minutes. They do not care about crew list, zarpe and all the other items Central and South America countries require. They will provide you a form to fill out and need only the ships papers and passports. – Jacaranda

#### **7.1.5.5 Hardware Store**

Shop Gaugin - Hardware store. +689 40 917 080. Hours: Mon-Fri: 07:00-11:30; 14:00-17:00 Sat 08:00-11:00.

**Dec. 2019:** Decent stock of fishing gear, hardware, home goods, clothing and a small magasin. Decent stock of fishing gear, hardware, home goods, clothing and a small magasin. – Sugar Shack

**Jan. 2019:** Has even some metric stainless-steel screws! – Taitonga

#### **7.1.5.6 Laundry**

**Jan. 2019:** Laundry: Hiva-Oa-Yacht-Services, Sandra, 400XPF/kg (did a good job for us!) (according to tourist info the only possibility in town) – Taitonga

**May 2017:** Due to a public holiday, the Cybercafe was not open, so despite the warnings in the compendium we elected to use Sandra for laundry (charged by the KG so avoid wet towels!) We had about 2 medium loads and the price was \$3010 - i.e. about the same 1500 per load as you quoted, but Sandra collects and drops off at the gas station area. – Begonia

**May 2016:** There are 3 people that do laundry in Atuona and I am sure there are more.

- **John Ozone** - +689-872-307-40. He will come down and pick it up, wash then return it to the dinghy dock. We have used his services a number of times and had some issues with laundry getting mixed up with others, clothes smelling of smoke, etc.
- **Sandra (Hiva Oa Yact Services)** she will also pick up and deliver. Have not used her. At last check she is the most expensive. We have seen her delivering laundry to other businesses in town.
- **Eliana Internet Cafe** - Located in town across from the second store. Linda has used this laundry services 7-8 times and always had excellent results. You need to bring the laundry into the shop. When ready for pickup Linda would always do a big shop and use their taxi service to bring the laundry and groceries back to the boat. 1 load of laundry (wash, dry and folded) 1500f and the taxi service to the wharf is 300f per person. They will also come to pick you up at the wharf and bring you into town 300f pp. Very nice folks! – Jacaranda

#### **7.1.5.7 Le Mairie**

Le Mairie (mayor) +689 87 30 16 46 Located on main road, left side with Pharmacie.

#### **7.1.5.8 Marine Services / Boat Parts**

##### **7.1.5.8.1 Refrigeration**

**Jan. 2019:** Valentin Oberlin +689 87 78 87 81 – Taitonga

##### **7.1.5.8.2 Welder**

**Jan. 2019:** Welding/Metalwork and Woodwork: on the way to town, 200m after you go onto the street from the shortcut on the right is the Artisan-school Hiva-Oa CJA. – Taitonga

**July 2018:** Willy at the boatyard proved to be a top-notch welder and reasonably priced on the job he did for us. – Moon Rebel

#### **7.1.5.9 Pharmacie**

Tel. +689 40 91 71 65, Mon-Fri 08:15-12:00, 14:30-17:00, Thurs. afternoon closed, Sat. 09:00-11:00. Located on main road, left side with Le Mairie

#### **7.1.5.10 Post Office**

OPT: Hours: Mon-Thurs: 0700-1200 & 1230-1500. Fri: 0700-1200 & 1230-1400. Located on main road, left side, yellow building.

#### **7.1.5.11 Salon**

**Dec. 2019:** This is a popular place to get glamified. Lots of salons / beauty parlors. – Sugar Shack

- Vero Coiffure +689 40 927 230. Located near Le Mairie and Pharmacie
- Lumivers De La Beaute +689 87 25 82 71. Located off main street, big brown sign on white fence
- Beauty School offers discounts on beauty treatments including nails, hair, massage. Location: From dinghy dock, head toward town, will be on corner before you turn left to village.

#### **7.1.5.12 Tattoo Artist**

**Dec. 2019:** Pifa O'Connor +689 87 72 76 33 [pifaexcursion@gmail.com](mailto:pifaexcursion@gmail.com). He does tours of Hiva Oa and Tahuata. He speaks English and is a very jovial guy.

Gallery and Tattoo Parlo Hours Mon-Sun: 0700-1900. Located off main street, turn right at administration building, on left, green building – Sugar Shack

#### **7.1.5.13 Tourist Office**

**Jan. 2019:** In the harbour +689 87 246 477, 8:00-12:00 (I only saw it open once, so you might want to call ...) in town +689 40 927 893 (08-11:30, 14-17:00). No english and not very helpful to us. -- Taitonga

#### **7.1.5.14 Transportation**

**Feb 2024:** Atuona Rent A Car. Good price: 6000 CFP / day 87 72 17 17. Delivered car to the quay. – Migration

**Jan. 2020:** We had a guest arrive at the airport and there were no taxi cabs. Lucky for him he caught a ride with the postal person (\$15). Make sure you have arrangements made head of time. Hiva Oa Yacht Services can arrange for a cab and rent you a car.

Car Rental at Gallery and Tattoo Parlor: Hours Mon-Sun: 0700-1900. Located off main street, turn right at administration building, on left, green building – Sugar Shack

**Jan. 2019:** Car Rental: (Calculate around 10000XPF for 1-day incl. insurance; they bring the car to the harbour; returns on Saturday and Sunday get a fuel charged by km, due to the closed gas station [make sure the amount is plausible!])

- Car, e-bike, bicycle rental: +689 87 311 106, or +689 87 214 693
- Car rental +689 53 78 89 Kahau
- Car rental +689 87 72 17 17 Numa (we booked via Sandra HOYS a Suzuki Vitara 4x4 in good condition, good for 2 (very small for 4), no map but a spare tire and a jack:-)

#### **Taxis:**

- Taxi Manavahai-Nui in Hiva-Oa, Clark Germaine, +689 87 274 154: Airport-Atuona 1500CFP p.p.; Tahauku (anchorage) – Atuona 300CFP p.p.
- Taxi Peterano Frida +689 87 707 202

- Taxi Touaitahuata Jeanne +689 87 771 963

Hitchhiking to / from town usually worked for us; between 12:00 and 14:00 as well Sat afternoon (and maybe Sunday?) or after 17:30 not so easy. – Taitonga

**July 2018:** The gas station and Sandra who's the Tahiti Yacht Services representative (plus others no doubt) rent 4-wheel drives for \$100/day, try to get a 4-door Toyota rather than one of the little Suzukis, though it seems you're always promised a Toyota, but often it's a two-door Suzuki that's delivered. – Moon Rebel

#### **7.1.5.15 Veterinarian**

**Jan. 2019:** Vet, Pet-doctor: +689 87 701 415, [juliettefoxbravo@hotmail.com](mailto:juliettefoxbravo@hotmail.com) – Taitonga

#### **7.1.5.16 Wifi / Internet**

**Jan. 2020:** We found several places that offer wifi access at varying degrees. See below. – Sugar Shack

- Hiva Oa Yacht Services (\$5/day) offer wifi at decent speeds with a beautiful view.
- Boatyard offers wifi which reaches the anchorage
- Atuona Games and Café. Hours: Mon-Fri: 0900-1700. Offers wifi for customers and has several games for kids to play (teenager kids).
- Relais Moehau. Hours: Mon-Sun: 0630-0830, 1100-1400, 1800-2100. Location: Main road, just around the big bend and before the village, on right sight. Wifi for customers \$10 per day.

**Jan. 2019:** Wi-Fi at the restaurant + at the haul-out + in town. Manaspot 24h flat rate period starts at 10:00, Vini-cell-coverage – Yes. SSB: sometimes ok(ish) for checking into the Polynesian-Magellan-Net (a lot of static here). Iridium-Access: ok. – Taitonga

#### **7.1.6 Provisions**

##### **Fuel Station Mini Market**

+ 689 40 927 185. Open 07:00 to 17:00, Saturdays until 12:00, sun closed.

- **Jan. 2020:** The mini market at the fuel station is a remarkably well stocked market with bread, frozen and canned goods. They had some produce, but it was limited (could have been awhile since the supply ship). They do sell fresh baguettes in the morning. – Sugar Shack
- **Jan. 2019:** At the fuel-station/minimart (good selection!); they take credit cards; fresh baguettes in the early morning, you can order/reserve some for the next day (or get some in town). They have some fresh vegetables: cucumbers, tomatoes, lettuce... as well a lot of frozen stuff. Imho the best baguette in town. Fresh Tuna 1kg/900XPF. No alcohol. Prices seem to be better than in town. Nice service (speaks a bit english). – Taitonga
- **Aug. 2015:** There is a very nice well-stocked small shop on the wharf next to the petrol station. They have fresh bread every morning (usually sold out by 11am). The prices on goods are almost identical to the shops in town. – Jacaranda

##### **Magasins in Atoua**

**Magasin Gaubil:** Tel. +689 40 927 557, Hours: Mon-Fri: 0730-1130 & 1430-1700. Sat: 0800-1130. Sun: 0900-1200. Location on main street across from Le Mairie.

- **May 2022:** Magasin Gaubil has the largest selection of groceries and will give you a ride back to the anchorage, free of charge if you buy enough stuff. – Sierra Wind
- **Dec. 2020:** Friendly staff, well stocked produce, frozen and canned goods. Supply of clothing and some hardware. Will drive you back to ferry dock with big purchase. – Sugar Shack
- **Jan. 2019:** They have bread Sunday morning as well, and sell fresh fish in the cooler. – Taionga

**Boulangerie Shan** - Mon to sat 05:00 to 12:00, sun 05:00 to 07:00. Bakery as well grocery towards end of town (turn right before getting to the Air Tahiti office 200m ). Excellent beignets.

**Magasin Naiki** - +689 40 927 348, tel. +689 40 927 557, Hours: Mon-Fri: 07:30-12:00, 14:30-18:00, sat 07:30 to 12:00, sun 08:30 to 11:00. Location: Main road, at bank make a right, on left side at turn in the road.

- **Dec. 2019:** Well stocked market with produce, liquor, bread, frozen and canned goods. Will drive you back to dock with big purchase. – Sugar Shack
- **Jan. 2019:** The last store going out of town - we found here the best variety of fresh veggies and outdated cookies, quite some other outdated things as well) – Taitonga

#### **7.1.6.1 Provision Cruiser Reports**

**May 2022:** DO NOT bother going in to town between 11:30AM and 3:00PM, everything closes! – Sierra Wind

**Dec. 2019:** If you walk into town to shop at one of the magasins, ask if they will give you a ride back with your purchase. Most will, but ask first. – Sugar Shack

**July 2018:** Shopping/services in Atoua are much as already described by others, prices seemed fairly consistent and we felt the store at the far end of the village (turn right, just before the tikis) to be the best stocked. – Moon Rebel

#### **7.1.7 Restaurants**

**Heremoana** (at the harbor) - Tuesday-Sunday 07:30 to 14:00, 18:00 to 21:00. Monday closed.

- **Jan. 2019:** Stationary roulotte-food-truck with seats under tents with Wi-Fi, big portions (one plate enough for 2 normal persons, e.g. tuna with Roquefort-sauce and fries for 1200XPF, Cola 1,5l 800XPF (Cola is already 500CFP in a store!)) - they have Wi-Fi! Service mostly slow, tables could be cleaner, food-quality differs: Once our fries arrived more cold than hot, they offered to heat them up in the microwave. – Taitonga

#### **Relais Moehau**

tel.: +689 40 927 269; <http://www.relaismoehau.pf>; hours: 06:30-08:30, 11:00-14:00, 18:00-21:00; Location: Main road, just around the big bend and before the village, on right sight. is supposed to be one of the best eateries in town.

- **Jan. 2019:** (In town) - regular menu, at night also wood fired pizza (pizza starting 1500, meat from 2000, desserts around 1000). 3 minutes before entering town on the right-hand side views over the ocean. They offered to fetch us in their car after doing a reservation for 4. they are a small hotel as well and some speak English – Taitonga

**Atoua Games and Café** Hours: Mon-Fri: 0900-1700. Snack café with limited seating.

**Make Make** - Internet-Cafe (07:30-13:30), Sandwich place

- **Dec. 2019:** Make Make is now closed. – Sugar Shack

**BBQ:** Mostly every Wednesday, 18:00-21:00, BBQ organized by the Semaphore (up the hill) - drinks for sale, entry 200xpf, you bring your own food for the grill.

#### **Restaurant Cruiser Report**

Food trucks could be in town in the morning, 1 near the post, 1 behind the bank (we found one opposite the hardware store with veggies, fruits and eggs (you might want to bring your own case) – Taitonga

**Sept. 2018:** The best place to eat is at the community center, right on the beach. Local people, local food, good prices. – Kokpeli

#### **7.1.8 Activities**

##### **Diving**

**Jan. 2019** +689 87 241 995, or +689 40 927 905. [www.marquisesdiving.com](http://www.marquisesdiving.com), [marquisesdiving@gmail.com](mailto:marquisesdiving@gmail.com). Can pick you up for a dive in Tahuata as well.

Semaphore: This is a local lifesaving-group, which is not supported by the government, they have a small open fast motorboat in the boatyard ready to be launched in an emergency. They listen to VHF 16, but normally only if a volunteer is available (not 24/7)! Walk 100m uphill from the breakwater towards the sea. Ask Sandra for details and maybe how to support them! – Taitonga

### **Guided Tours**

**June 2016:** There are 3 folks that offer guided driving tours of Hiva Oa. – Jacaranda

- **John Ozone**, +689 872-307-40 - who used to live in Hanamenu Bay. He has a 4x4 and his trip to Pau Mau (a ¼ day tour) includes lunch. We also used him for a trip to the Tohua Taaoa. This is a beautiful site 6 miles from Atuona. John's wife also does laundry as well. He will pick up at the dinghy dock in the morning and return the next day. In addition, John usually has fruit for sale.
- **Sandra (Hiva Oa yacht Services)** She does not do the tour herself but uses another individual. We know of a number of people that have used her tour.
- **Pierrot (Peter) Taputea**, +689 873-276-16. Peter has been working as a guide for years and was part of a number of archaeology research projects on the island. Peter speaks excellent English, very proud of his Marquesan heritage and happy to share local customs and information. He rates very high marks amongst the cruisers we have spoken with that have used him.

### **7.1.9 Cruiser Reports**

**August 2022:** We circled the island clockwise. We learned fast that it is best to make eastbound hops along the north side early in the morning before the tradewind gusts really kick in! – Mabel Rose

**Dec. 2019:** The shortcut mentioned by Taitonga is great, except if you are dragging a cart or carrying anything as you do have to cross over the beach, over a river, and up a goat trail. But it does save 20-30 minutes into town. We were able to hitch hike into town once and a magasin gave us a ride back to the dock another time.

Visit to the Gauguin and Brel grave sites in the local cemetery. And for 600 CFP per person you can visit the Gauguin exhibit at the Cultural Center (plus another 500 CFP to see the Brel exhibit) in town. – Sugar Shack

**Jan. 2019: Shortcut to Town.** Sand with rocks - this is the shortcut if you walk into town, which will cut off 10-15 minutes (normal walk-time: ~30min), but you have to cross a little stream - either you jump or get wet feet (or both :-)) or balance over stones: Walk from the harbour on the road and take the dirt road down to the beach. Cross the little stream to the other side. There is a little steep path going directly left up the hill (if wet and slippery walk NW on even ground until you meet the paved road again). Nonos at the beach!

B+B/Pension/Hotel: Pension Kanahau, [Tania.Tania@life.fr](mailto:Tania.Tania@life.fr), +689 87 701 626 (also on Facebook) (can organize tours, too) (e.g. 12000XPF for a double with breakfast)

We took a roadtrip across the island to Historic Site in Puamau "Me'ae lipona". Calculate for the trip ~100km and 2-2.5h driving time each way with some stops, Nice scenery!

Directions: Take the road to the airport and then turn right at the roundabout and follow the "street"; mostly dirtroad with "some" potholes and the last bit is singletrack with interesting views down hill (We would not like to do the trip after or during heavy rain). The site itself is ok, but imho not great.

The cementery in Atuona - very different grave-styles – Taitonga

**July 2018:** We drove to the archaeological site at Puamao at the NE corner of the island, reputed to be the best in French Polynesia and all felt that it was OK but not unmissable/earth shattering – though the drive stunning offered views. Be sure to get a confident driver, the road's steep/twisty, mostly unsurfaced and with some precipitous edges; it's only 20-25 miles, but allow 1.5 2 hours each way. – Moon Rebel



## **7.2 Motu Anakee**

### **7.2.1 Anchorages and Moorings**

Do not anchor close to the motu as there is live coral that you may not see. Stay in 10m or more to avoid.

**March 2016: 09 48.7892 S / 139 02.5684 W**, in 45' Sand with some rocks. Anchoring closer to the Motu will put you in mostly rock. This motu is located just a few minutes to the west of Atuona. Most of the time the E and SE swell rolls right in making it very rough. We got chased out of Hapatoni, Tahuata with 2-meter NW swell with a S swell thrown in as well. We anchored here in the summer when the swell was from the NW and found it pleasant. Clear water and a group of Manta Rays.

We sat out a westerly blow with gusts to 40. Lots of rain and we counted 7 waterfalls in the hills. But we did find the bay very gusty and bullets would come roaring thru the calm. If we had to do it over again, we would move over off the beach by the soccer field.

## **7.3 Hiva Oa North Coast**

### **7.3.1 Hanamenu**

#### **7.3.1.1 Anchorages and Moorings**

**April 2019: 9°35.7607' S / 139°08.4185' W**, in 14m, sand. We found this bay to be roly, very murky water. Difficult dinghy landing at the beach (Ua Pou/ Tikeu style). Two friendly couples live ashore on copra. There is a stream with a nice pool. Supposedly drinkable water but we did not try. – Chugach

### **7.3.2 Hanaiapa**

#### **7.3.2.1 Anchorages and Moorings**

**June 2022:** This is a very pretty little village and it gives fairly easy access to Atuona if you don't want to deal with the anchoring situation there. Anchoring is easy. You may have to anchor your dinghy off the tiny quay due to swell. No magasin here, but there is a woman who sells ice cream. Chez Marie is on the left side just before the big tree at the crossroads – about a ¼ mile up from the beach on the main road. There is an interesting hike on the trail that leads to Hanatekuua to the east. Very popular surf spot in the summer months.

To get to Atuona, there is a free bus every Thursday (we think). It leaves early and comes back around noon. Ask some locals. We rented a car as we wanted to do some touring around:

Utua Rent A Car -- Fred & Mairie

87 72 62 79

87 34 13 62

All day 0700-1800: 8000 xpf (you refill tank)

Half day 0700 to 1200 or 1300 to 1800: 4000 xpf (you refill tank)

All Weekend from Friday 0700 to Sunday 2000: 25000 xpf (includes gasoline)

– Migration

**Aug. 2015:** The Joe Russell guide book covers this bay. We anchored in 40-45' of water opposite the small concrete dock. Outside it was very windy with a 2-3-meter swell sweeping down the island and we thought there is no way this will be a calm anchorage. Surprised when we came in and found a very comfortable anchorage with very little swell reaching inside. Staying out in deeper water will put you in sand versus rock bottom. Anchor opposite the concrete quay or further out. – Jacaranda

### **7.3.2.2 Yachtsmen Services**

#### 7.3.2.2.1 Water

**Aug. 2015:** There is a fresh water shower and a long hose on the quay. You can fill your water jugs from the dinghy using the supplied hose. Use a stern anchor when tying your dinghy up at the concrete quay. On the dock with a shower. NOT potable – Jacaranda

### **7.3.2.3 Cruiser Reports**

**Aug. 2015:** There is no store or fresh bread here. William is a very friendly local who has a yacht book and asks folks from Yachts to stop by and sign it. Bring a boat card and or photo. Just walk thru town and look for the sign that says Haniaipa Yacht club (*Ed note: William probably is not there any longer.*) The village is small and has a road that goes to Atuona. We have friends who stopped here early in the season and got a ride into Atuona to check-in and do some shopping. Just ask any of the friendly locals who might be driving into town. Having a calm anchorage and an abundance of fresh water on the dock makes for a good stop. – Jacaranda

### **7.3.3 Hanatekuua**

#### **7.3.3.1 Anchorages and Moorings**

**June 2022:** Nice bay just to the east of Hanaiapa. Good snorkeling around the point to the east. We anchored at 09° 42.105' S / 138° 59.657' W. 30' in sand patches found among coral. – Migration

### **7.3.4 Puamau**

#### **7.3.4.1 Anchorages and Moorings**

**August 2022:** We anchored at 09°45.800'S 138°52.673'W in sand, 34 ft depth. We had no trouble setting the anchor and the roll was no worse than other bays on Hiva Oa, even though a strong easterly tradewind was blowing. We had no trouble landing and launching our kayaks at the concrete wharf at mid and high tide, though low tide would be impossible. – Mabel Rose

**June 2022:** We dropped the anchor at 09°45.822' S / 138°52.750' W in muddy sand. It was fine but we are a trimaran. A monohull would want a stern anchor. We tried in Anse Atohu to the N of the quay but could not find good holding. We took the dinghy to the quay, got off at the steps, and towed the dink to the rock beach. We timed the waves to get it high onto the beach and then dragged it higher out of the surf. Worked pretty well.

The archeological site now costs 500 xpf. Pay at the Snack at the crossroads in town. Ask anyone.

Restaurant Marie-Antoinette, which is on the way to the site, is really excellent. Highly recommended. In the morning, ask someone in town to call and make a reservation for lunch. Then go to the site and stop for lunch on your way back. - Migration

**April 2019:** We found Paumau to be roly, with difficult dinghy landing at the little jetty, we only succeeded at high water. Unless it is very calm weather it is probably unwise to keep the dinghy ashore (in case conditions change and putting it back in the water proves impossible). – Chugach

**May 2017:** Wind was from ENE and the anchorage is quite exposed and very roly, and landing difficult in heavy surf (not recommended - given the risk it may be best to simply take a tour from Atuona). We chose a rough swim rather than attempt to take the dinghy ashore. – Begonia

#### **7.3.4.2 Provisions**

**April 2019:** There is a grocery store at the village. – Chugach

### 7.3.4.3 Restaurants

**Feb 2024:** Restaurant Marie-Antoinette is on the way to the archaeological site. One of the best restaurants in the Marquesas in our opinion. Make reservations if possible. Ask a local for the number or have them call for you. – Migration

**April 2019:** Snack Therese, good little restaurant with advanced notice. Accepts payment for entrance fee to Me'ae Lipona historic site. – Taitonga

### 7.3.4.4 Activities

**April 2019:** Historic Site "Me'ae lipona" in Puamau - nice, but not great nor big, an english explanation chart at the entrance. Pay 300XPF p.p. at Snack Therese (we asked if we can harvest some fruits as well and were given instructions to a specific Pampelmousse-tree). – Taitonga

**May 2017:** The road up to the Tiki site is about 1.5km (up hill). Take the road to right of (currently overgrown) soccer pitch on seafront (with back to bay Left to Right - you will see the Church then the soccer pitch then the single lane road we used up). – Begonia

### 7.3.4.5 Cruiser Reports

**Feb 2024:** Road is now paved all the way. – Migration

**April 2019: (we visited by car):** A little remote hamlet - the scenic road from Atuona is in ok-ish condition (mostly dirtroad). Public showers at the beach and a church. – Taitonga

## 8 Tahuata

The island of Tahuata is a wonderful island and it is only 10 miles from the anchorage at Hiva Oa with several good anchorages to choose from.

### 8.1 Vaitehu (village)

#### 8.1.1 Anchorages and Moorings

**Dec. 2019:** 09°56.219'S / 139°06.647'W in 7 meters. There were 5 other boats already anchored here and none had stern anchors. With the big gusts (20-25kts) blowing through it made everyone swing all over the place. Being a small anchorage with mediocre holding it is advised to use a stern anchor.

**Dinghy Dock** can be precarious. There is a large swell and tide changes. The ferries and supply ships come and use the same dock and have priority. It appears that the ferries do not care if the dinghies are in the way. They will just come in and use your dinghy as a convenient fender. You want to part your dinghy as close to the rocks (far right) as possible. You can use the mooring as a stern tie or try to use a stern anchor. I say "try" because there is lots of rock over there and it might get stuck. Everyone used the same mooring for a stern anchor while we were here. There is a ladder on the side facing the rocks. – Sugar Shack

**Dec. 2018:** Dinghy landing – Jetty: At the N-side of the shore with concrete steps (+ a ladder at the E-corner), used for loading passengers and freight; completely exposed; we had a bit less than 1m swell coming into the bay and were dropped off by another cruiser - the dinghy took some damage.

Dinghy Landing – River Mouth: 15m wide; sand with some stones before a low bridge; there was no water in the stream. Good timing for the waves and maybe dinghy wheels could be helpful for landing in a swell. This is the bathing place and playground for the local kids, so please take care! (You might find some sandy little footmarks in your dinghy after you return. There is a rough ramp for the local fishing-pangas going into the rivermouth on the N-part. At low tide many stones, so it might be a good idea to land only at half tide or higher, and on a rising tide. – Taitonga

**Aug. 2018:** Stern anchor the dinghy at the inshore end of the dock and held well off it; if the Aranui should arrive just get off it completely, their boatmen seemed to consider anything else moored on there as a handy fender. – Moon Rebel

**Feb 2016:** Do be very careful when landing with your dinghy to make sure you leave room for the local boats to offload passengers. A dinghy stern anchor is must because of the surge.

But it's extremely dangerous now with all the exposed rebar and rough concrete. Especially if there is any kind of a swell, be very careful. During a very large SW swell we ended up anchoring and going down to the south side where we dropped people off on the rocks and I swam out and anchored the dink.

In addition, this bay gets extreme blasts of wind (bullets) coming down the valley. It is not uncommon to get 40+ knots here where in Hana Moe Noa it is maybe only 15-18kts. Keep this in mind when you are anchoring in Vaitehu. – Jacaranda

### **8.1.2 Yachtsmen Services**

#### **8.1.2.1 Cooking Gas (Propane and Butane)**

**Dec. 2019:** Sarl Raihauti Magasin +689 40 929 019 sells cooking gas. – Sugar Shack

#### **8.1.2.2 Trash and Recycling**

**Dec. 2019:** There are personal trash cans for homes and businesses, but not really for cruisers. Try to dump your trash at an island with larger disposal facilities. – Sugar Shack

**Feb 2016:** Trash receptacles near the Protestant church about 100 meters from the quay. – Jacaranda

#### **8.1.2.3 Water**

**Feb 2016:** Potable water: There is a spigot on the dock. – Jacaranda

**2009:** Getting Fresh Water: In Vaitehu we put 38 gallons of water into our tank, and loaded another 25 in jugs. We did it by taking a long hose to the quay from the dinghy. John stayed in the dinghy with the filter end of the hose filling the jugs, and I manned the water faucet and tried to hold the dinghy off the rough concrete wall with a stern line. There was a little surge but we managed to get that chore done without incident. – Naki

### **8.1.3 General Services**

#### **8.1.3.1 Medical**

Hospital: +689 40 929 227, +689 87 79 10 90, +689 40 42 01 01. Hours: Mon-Fri: 0730-1200 & 1330-1530. Located at the end of the main road, past the large church.

- **Dec. 2018:** Infirmary: Last house at the southern end of the seaside-road (maybe "only" a nurse and visiting doctors?) – Taitonga

#### **8.1.3.2 Le Mairie**

Located off the main road, before the large church on the left.

#### **8.1.3.3 Post Office**

Hours: Mon-Thurs: 0730-1130, Fri: 0730-11. Located at the end of the main road, past the large church and before the medical facility.

- **Dec. 2018:** We were able to buy SIM-cards as well recharge cards at the post office. – Taitonga

#### **8.1.3.4 Wifi / Internet**

**Dec. 2019:** We found two places that offered wifi, but the best was Chez Jimmy. – Sugar Shack

- Chez Jimmy offers free wifi to customers and \$5/per device for non-customers. It is a pretty decent connection. Food is typical Polynesian/Marquesan and runs about \$17-20 per plate. Jimmy is super friendly and very nice.
- Snack Heitiare Joseph offers wifi but was often closed when we were there.

**Aug. 2018:** A slow but seemingly solid Vinispot internet signal could be picked-up close to the post office and having once got onto it there, we could subsequently get it to connect via a small booster antenna on the boat; even better, but perhaps temporary, it was open/free.

The bar/restaurant opposite the grocery store also had wifi, though when we enquired (the Aranui was in that day, so that might've made a difference?) they wanted \$9 for a beer, plus another \$5 to use the internet; we declined that kind offer. – Moon Rebel

#### **8.1.4 Provisions**

**Magasin Hamani.** +689 40 92 90 04

Location: on the hill close to the generator. Hours: Mon-Sat: 0730-1900, Sun: 0800-1300.

- **Mar 2022:** There is a new shop, half way up the hill on the way to Hapatoni, it did have some salad things that weren't available in the shop in town. Worth the walk up the hill! - Jamala
- **Jan. 2022:** We received a very warm welcome from Tata. They have a great selection of products and vegetables — Askari

**Magasin Sarl Raihauti** +689 40 929 019.

Location: dinghy dock to main road (left by Jimmy's), on right side. Sells Baguettes Mon-Wed-Sat only. Order in advance.

- **Dec. 2019:** Small selection of frozen, canned, and general supplies. Had little to no produce when we visited (over holidays probably due to no supply ship) – Sugar Shack
- **Dec. 2018:** They only bake baguettes Monday, Wednesday and Saturday. You might want to reserve your baguette in advance. Had a little of nearly everything, we found cucumbers, potatoes, carrots (old), (onions got just delivered outside). – Taitonga

On the street towards south to Hapatoni, approximately 200m from the shore, uphill, there is Manu's plant-nursery: possibility maybe for vegetables, bananas, or ginger. – Taitonga

Teiki is the islands beekeeper and sells local honey. – Taitonga

#### **8.1.5 Restaurants**

**May 2022:** There is a new Snack that has opened on the front and serves (instant) coffee and canned drinks along with homemade cakes and pies. Run by a lovely lady called Adrienne. - Jamala

**Dec. 2019:** There are a few locals who will host pre-arranged dinners, but we simply enjoyed Chez Jimmy so much we kept going there. – Sugar Shack

**Chez Jimmy.** Hours: flexible and open almost every day 0800-2000. It is a lovely place to spend the afternoon. It offers a beautiful covered patio with a sand floor. Strong, reliable wifi, good food, cold beer, and lovely atmosphere!

**Snack Heitiare Joseph.** Located across the street from Jimmy's. The sign says they have wifi, but they were not open when we visited.

Behind Chez Jimmy is a "house" that sells "Baraque" snack, simple meal, will also sell produce (bring next day).

### 8.1.6 Activities

**Dec. 2019:** Hike: We hiked to the cross which was a pretty easy hike (45-60 round trip). Follow the main road, at the "Y" stay left, cross will be on your left as you near the point (or entrance to the bay).

Museum Te Ana Peua is small, but lovely. Located near Le Mairie, just before the large church. – Sugar Shack

**Aug. 2018:** The road/rack north of the village, up to the big cruxifix/shrine and beyond was a very pleasant walk and offered great views over the bay and across to Hiva Oa.

If you wish to walk the other way, down to the archaeological site in the southern part of the bay, it's a long/steep hike via the road; however, if you walk the seafront road to the southern end of the village, turn left and after perhaps 50-70m on your right hand side (before you reach the first house) you'll see a tiny dirt path – a few concrete steps can be seen further up it – climbing the hill, this meets the road and will save you half the altitude and 2/3 of the distance. The museum was good and well worth the 300FPF; ask in the tourist office opposite for the key. – Moon Rebel

### 8.1.7 Cruiser Reports

**May 2022:** The dock was very surgy and almost dangerous to use, recommend stern anchoring your dinghy. This is a gusty anchorage and the wind strengthens as it funnels through the valley, 20 knots on the outside but gusting to 30 knots in the bay. Mediocre holding and saw other boat re-anchor several times. – Sierra Wind

**April 2019:** Only one carver left in Vaitehu (way up in the hills), most of them are now in Hapatoni where they set up an exhibition place (centre artisanal). – Chugach

**Dec. 2018:** We were anchored in Hanatefau and dinghied here, which took about 20 wet minutes (softbottom dinghy with 8hp).

The weather forecast (outside) was: Grib: E 15kn, gusts 18kn; Meteo France E 11/16kn, gusts 25kn.

We got: The wind both ways directly on the nose, gusts 20-30kn (the general wind/clouds changed von ENE at noon to E later; quite gusty (offshore) in the big bay [Friends reported: good holding, gusts going offshore up to 50+kn].

Nice church to visit. The Aranui arrived around 14:00 and some carvers displayed their goods.

Beach: no, big black rocks, except at the river mouth. – Taitonga

**Feb 2016:** After visiting each of the inhabited islands we are convinced that Tahuata has **the best bone carvers** in the Marquesas. Try to be in Vaitehu when the Aranui-5 arrives and the artists from Vaitehu and Hapatoni will have their art displayed. The prices are NOT cheap but the workmanship is unique and very high quality. Waiting till you get to Tahiti to buy some Marquesan carvings will cost you much more. Twice a year these artisans travel to Papeete to show their work at the Marquesan art festival. But hopefully they will be on island when you arrive. – Jacaranda

**July 2015:** 3-4 times a year the villages of Tahuata get together in one village for a church council and general festival. If you can find out when this is taking place and what village is hosting it, it is well worth it. We were invited to Hapatoni during this small festival and had a wonderful time playing petanque (bochi ball) and visiting with the locals. – Jacaranda

**2010:** We chose the inlet to the north of the main harbor and had it all to ourselves. White sand beach, 20-foot sand anchorage. Great stop, but nothing ashore, just palm trees where we anchored. Great snorkeling (even saw a black tip shark). A nice little village with a couple small groceries. A good tattoo artist lives here as well as an excellent bone carver.

If you're here when the Aranui (the supply/cruise ship) comes in, make sure to go to church with the passengers. The Marquesans put on extra singers for the Aranui and it's pretty cool. The first magasin sells baguettes but get there early (like before 8 AM), or reserve in advance. – Soggy Paws

## 8.2 Hapatoni/ Hanatefau

### 8.2.1 Anchorages and Moorings

**May 2022:** There is space for a few boats in sand in the north part of the Hapatoni anchorage, though several others came and anchored in coral south of us. – Villa Veritas

**June 2019:** We returned to this anchorage in May 2019 for 5 weeks: The strongest gusts (~30+kn with around 18-20kn easterly weather forecast) were still mostly onshore, but northerly as well, southerly stronger wind as well, once even directly down the mountain (during easterly gusts, the boats in the northern Hapatoni anchorage (up to 4-5) had completely different wind). Usually it was 5-10 kn from all directions (less than in 2018). Up to 12 boats in Hanatefau - some faced stern to stern due to the current and weird winds, some were too near each other, but still 50cm apart. The peak of the mountain is rarely without clouds, so you will not get much solar energy.

Swell/Rolly: We had a day of high but long swells from the south.

Dinghy landing: Easy, in the protected dinghy-harbour. There is a boat-ramp on the east side which even bigger local boats use, and this is the playground for the kids! We used a stern-anchor and stayed near the western corner, so visiting ferry boats had the chance to go to the quay as well. – Taitonga

**April 2019:** To visit Hapatoni, it is better to anchor in Baie Hanatefau and use the dink to cover the .5 nm to Hapatoni. Look for the resident dolphin pod in Hanatefau.

Hapatoni has a good landing place (protected quay) for the dink. You need to drop the grapnel a few meters from the quay and adjust line length to ensure the swell does not push the dink against the quay. – Chugach

**Dec. 2018: 09°57,73S; /139°07,14W.** Anchored on 12.5m (high tide) with 60m chain on sand. Holding: Good at our spot in sand. 2-5 other boats in the anchorage. Closer to shore as well more south are some rocks and boulders! The anchoring plateau drops very fast after 15m depth!

We arrived with no wind and were not sure in which direction to dig in the anchor, so we decided to get protection from gusts down the mountains (wrong!!!). There is a current in the bay.

Swell/Rolly: Slight boat movements (1 to 2 out of 5 on the Dagmar-Scale). In June 2019, we had a day of high but long swells from the south.

Water visibility: ~12m+ in clear water (we saw our anchor from the dinghy).

Wind and weather: The weather forecast (outside) - Grib: 12-19kn ENE; Meteo France 19/21kn, gusts 30kn. The top of the mountains were slightly covered with clouds which the easterly pushed to the west.

What we got: Winds onshore! Back-circulating eddies from the normal easterlies, from NW, W and SW with ugly gusts up to 30+kn! Gusts mostly around 30 seconds; “only” wind – no wind waves! It seems nearly nothing of the easterlies comes down the mountain. Mostly our bow pointed towards the sea! Some short rain showers.

Dinghy landing: bare rocks - landing imho not possible. Though some anchored their dinghy in calm conditions and swam ashore.

Navigation lights: a green pole with a green light on top (we saw it working only once...) on the breakwater at the dinghy-harbour in Hapatoni, motion-operated light in the harbour, only a very few lights ashore, no working streetlights.

The Bay of Hapatoni and Hanatefau are separated by a rock ridge, on top of it (maybe at 80m height) is a cross and a shrine which is illuminated at night and might be used as an “idea”.

Occasionally boats actually anchor off Hapatoni. Holding is reported by locals to be dead coral in front of the harbour, in the northern part (away from the harbour) up to 5 boats were anchored. Looking down from the cross it looks like there are sand patches there. – Taitonga

**July 2015:** Be sure to leave lots of room between your neighbors, as the currents can be strong in here and we have been surprised by how close we got to boats we thought we were anchored with plenty of distance. With little wind boats seem to lay in different directions with the current.

We have snorkeled most of the anchorage (in May vis was 80') and found that if you anchor *40' or deeper you will be away from any rocks/rubble on the bottom*. Anchored up in the corner provided the best protection from any wind gusts. – Jacaranda

**2010:** Anchor at Hanatefau in 50 ft, clear sand. There's no landing here, but you can dinghy .5-.75 nm South to Hapatoni where you can land in the harbor. Excellent carvers here. – Soggy Paws

## **8.2.2 Yachtsmen Services**

### **8.2.2.1 Trash and Recycling**

**June 2019:** There is no trash or recycling at this bay. Locals have to take their trash to Vaitehu or Hiva-Oa, ***If you find a trashcan, do not use it.*** – Taitonga

### **8.2.2.2 Water**

**July 2015:** They have a concrete boat basin now with a safe and easy way to tie your dinghy up and obtain water on the dock. – Jacaranda

## **8.2.3 General Services**

### **8.2.3.1 Wifi / Internet**

**June 2019:** Sometimes cell phone reception, depending on the anchor spot and where you are hanging based on the changing winds.

Iridium-Access: not good, one side is blocked by the steep mountains

SSB: Good enough (mostly) for checking into the Polynesian-Magellan-Net – Taitonga

## **8.2.4 Provisions**

**May 2022:** The town has a good dock but there are no services or groceries, only a craft market. We heard from other cruisers that the locals may be willing to trade produce for other goods. – Sierra Wind

## **8.2.5 Activities**

**Feb 2024:** An incredibly welcoming village. Many locals offer *kaikai* (meals). Lindia & Piu provide excellent dinners and lunches at their home and they are very fun people. Walking from the quay, their house is the white house to the left of the palm tree as you join the main road. 87 22 45 88

Highly recommend. Bring containers for leftovers as there is always a lot of food. BYOB.

*Bonitier* (tourist day boats) come from Hiva Oa most days. The locals usually set up their crafts in the artisanat for display. When the larger cruise ships stop, they put on a bigger show.

Good walking with excellent views on the roads in either direction from town. – Migration

**May 2022:** The point in the middle of the bay has great snorkeling when visibility is good, we saw 2-3 manta rays regularly. – Sierra Wind

**June 2019: Things to see:** The street along the shore as well as the ceremony-plateaus between the maree and the church are ancient remains (bigger than in Hiva-Oa, Puamau but without Tikis).

There are petroglyphs walking towards Vaitehu after the bay of Hanatefau, where the concrete street goes up the mountain. There is a little sign approximately 1.5-2m height on the right, where you go approximately 50m into the woods (bring bug spray!).



Walking: There is a dog who chewed on some cruisers in the last house towards Vaitehu (near the cross). If you dare to walk from the northern Hapatoni-anchorage through private land you might want to know that, and avoid. Staying on the road towards Vaitehu should be ok. – Taitonga

### **8.2.6 Cruiser Reports**

**May 2022:** The dolphin pod is very much still in residence. Diving was good just north of Matatau where there's a pillar, visible in the satellite imagery. Cruisers almost outnumbered locals at the Sunday church service, and were quickly adopted, shown around, given fruit, and funneled into the artisan market. - Villa Veritas

**Dec. 2019:** Our friends on Break Away gave us this update on Hapatoni. Small village and really nice hikes/walks on shore. A very nice settlement ashore with kind people especially Tahina and her neighbor, Kalino. You must look them up. They both speak some English. You can do your email for free at Tahina's and more than likely she will make a feast for you to enjoy. She is very hospitable and a great cook. She would never allow us to pay her, so, Yves and I walked into town and picked up some groceries for ourselves and her (another grueling, but beautiful hike, with fortunately a lift by car upon our return). You can also dingy into town from Hapatoni.

Kalino is a good carver and a big personality. He'll take you fishing or walking over to the other side of the island or the petroglyphs, if you wish. He will do so just for the pleasure of it. He did our laundry for us in his machine at 1000fcp a load, dried in his yard. Go to mass, they sing like angels, especially Kalino!

This bay regularly has a pod of Spinner dolphins who spend the morning feeding and frolicking around the boat. – Sugar Shack

**June 2019:** Stunning steep high mountain, lush green, great scenery. A coconut plantation, with a single hut, on shore, nice sunset views over the open Pacific (Hapatoni-Village is south in the adjacent bay (~.7nm). We anchored in Hanatefau and dinghied to Hapatoni. ~100-150 inhabitants. Nice little village with a lot of harmony. Person to address for infos in the hamlet is Tehina (very nice lady, speaks english).

Wildlife: In December two pods of dolphins. In May nearly every morning dolphins (up to 50-60) with some little ones who were trained spinning in the air and splashing around by their parents, sometimes rays; beginning of June the number of dolphins went down, mid June rarely dolphins).

Local traffic: Not much traffic from/towards Vaitehu, one Wednesday night, the Taporo (a big freighter) anchored in front of Hapatoni (arrived at night, left before sunrise). The Aranui may send one of its tenders from Vaitehu. A regular speedboat visits and operates as a ferry to Hiva-Oa.

Church service: 08:00 Sundays in Marquesan language. Incredibly good singers, awesome!!! They take the ceremony seriously, but the kids can behave like kids. You might want to dress "appropriate" (no spaghetti-top or hot-pants, cargo shorts for men and flip-flops are ok). Weekdays at 17:00 they have shorter services.

Carvers (specialty bonecarvings): Ask around, <https://hapatonisculptures.wordpress.com/>

Fish: ask Tea (Robert) (40 929 096), first house coming from the harbour going straight, you can order for a specific date and the night before he will try to catch Sushi for you.

Dancing: If occasionally a little cruise ship arrives, like the Orion from National Geographic, they do great performances. – Taitonga

## **8.3 Ivaiva Nui / Ivaiva Iti**

### **8.3.1 Anchorages and Moorings**

**June 2016: 09 54.7S / 139 06.4W** - Sand bottom 25'. This is a small bay .3m south of Hanamoenoa. Lovely anchorage if you do not want the crowd of Hanamoenoa. Room for 2-3 boats with lots of space. You can certainly move further into the bay if you wish. – Jacaranda

**2009: 09-54.752S / 139-06.476W.** We sailed over to Ivaiva Iti anchorage on Tahuata, arriving just at sunset. This is a pretty little anchorage with a private home and neat farm above the sandy beach. It doesn't get much protection from the swell though, which has been higher than when we first arrived, so yesterday we sailed back to our favorite Tahuata anchorage at Hanatefau. – Nakia

### **8.3.2 Cruiser Reports**

## **8.4 Hanamoenoa**

White sand beach, clear water, nice sunset views over the open Pacific. Fruit on shore, but ask permission first. No services, just a copra drying shed on shore.

### **8.4.1 Anchorages and Moorings**

**Dec. 2019:** We visited this bay several times. Each of our anchor points are listed below. – Sugar Shack

- **09°54.465S / 139°06/225W**, 7 meters, sandy bottom. We anchored here after a day trip to Omoa, middle of bay and nice breeze
- **09°54.465S / 139°06.258W** 7 meters, sandy bottom. This was our 2<sup>nd</sup> anchoring spot had us over sand and in perfect location for breeze and swing.
- **09°54.4809S / 139°06.2708W** 8 meters, muddy bottom, but with scope, the chain rubbed some coral, so try to anchor closer to beach and not here.

**June 2016: 09 53.9632 S / 139 06.0052 W.** Sand and scattered rock 25'. Here is another anchorage .5 miles north of Hanamoenoa. I failed to find out the local name for this anchorage which is big enough for 1-2 boats. – Jacaranda

### **8.4.2 Cruiser Reports**

**May 2022:** This used to be known as Stephen's Bay but Stephen passed away last year, the structure of his home is still there. There are lots of ants on this beach. We didn't feel comfortable taking the dinghy over due to the steep sand and swell on the beach so we anchored in 7 metres near the shore and swam over. Some other cruisers took their dinghy's on the beach, it's easier to get it back off the sand if your outboard is not too heavy. – Jamala

**May 2022:** We spent several days here in late May 2022. This is a beautiful anchorage, but most notable were the pods of manta rays. We snorkeled with them one day--they swam all around us for 45 minutes. Then at night they were attracted to our blue transom lights so we told all the other boats and 12 of us swam with them for 30-40 mins. The dive lights some people had attracted more rays, maybe 15. It was beautiful, no one bothered them and they weren't scared of us. Highly recommend! – Flite Deck

**Dec. 2019:** This is a spectacular bay which is pristine and quiet. We snorkeled the northern side by the coast and found it to be unremarkable. – Sugar Shack

**Aug. 2015:** I visited here 25 years ago and it is still just as wonderful. Our favorite anchorage in the Southern Islands.

**Aug. 2010:** We sailed from the Bay of Virgins on the island of Fatu Hiva to Baie Hanamoenoa on the island of Tahuata. This had been our friends on s/v Nakia's favorite anchorage in all of the Marquesas. We were ready to get out of the gusty Bay of Virgins and into someplace a little calmer.

We had quite a rousing sail with winds 18-20 on our starboard quarter. The seas were still pretty big, so we were surfing and slewing around a lot. We saw 8.5 knots on the GPS on one really nice wave. We were really happy to see that Hanamoenoa was as nice as Nakia had promised. Beautiful white sand beach, no town

ashore, very little swell, and non-gusty winds. The bay also looks directly west, so it's a great place to watch the sun set.

We were so happy to be in a nice calm pretty anchorage, that we really just goofed off for 2 days. We did a little bit of maintenance, and we snorkeled over to the rocks and little reef on the north side of the bay, but mainly we just hung out on the boat. I snorkeled around quite a bit looking among the rocks for cowrie shells, but the surge was really bad, the water clarity so-so, and there were spiny sea urchins around. And then I remembered that we had bought some nice cleaned cowries in the Bay of Virgins for only \$1 apiece. For that price, it isn't worth it to go through all the effort to clean a live animal from a shell.

While we were in Hanamoenoa, the cruise ship/freighter, Ara Nui III, was visiting Tahuata. They came late in the day, probably from Hiva Oa, only 10 miles away, and anchored right off our pretty bay. The next morning early, the Ara Nui picked up anchor and headed south, probably to the tiny village of Hapatoni, which we visited a couple of days later. They were back again in the evening, and again anchored in the same spot off Hanamoenoa. Must be a good anchoring spot!! Fortunately, they anchored far enough offshore that it didn't crowd us at all. – Soggy Paws

## **8.5 Hanameneni Bay**

### **8.5.1 Anchorages and Moorings**

**Mar 2016: 09 53.586 S / 139 04.931 W** in 27' sand. Located on the north coast, this small bay is a short jump from Atuona. If the weather conditions are right, it is a pleasant stop and the beach is a favorite of locals during the weekend. There is a big circle of sand which we were lucky enough to find.

Beware if you anchor further west than this you may lay in rubble with some rocky/coral heads. Best to dive your anchor to make sure you won't snag a bommie. – Jacaranda

## **9 Mohotani**

Mohotani is a small island located between Tahautu and Fatu Hiva. It is mostly unsurveyed on the CM93 charts.

### **9.1 Anchorages and Moorings**

**Feb 2023 (& 2009):** We've anchored in Baie de Puiono twice. Challenging both times. After visiting, we were told that the island is off limits but were unable to confirm. – Migration

**April 2019: 9°57'2049 S / 138°50'1878 W**, 20 m, sand. This is slightly NNW of the purple anchor that shows on the CM93 charts. This purple anchor is in 17 m of water, but in rocks. NW of our anchor position, there is more sand but the depths drop quickly. When backing after anchoring (to the SW, towards pointe Putoo), after 50 m we reach some rocks/coral. We buoyed our chain with 2 fenders, Tuamotu style, to be able to let 100 m out in total. There is a very nice sand patch closer to the shore in 9m of water, but in our opinion way too close to the shore.

This island is only inhabited by sheep. We spent 24 h in Baie de Puiono, without going ashore. Here we found interesting snorkeling (big fishes, including sharks). – Chugach

## **10 Fatu Hiva**

Fatu Hiva is the southernmost island of the Marquesas. Approximately 700 people live on the island. This island is NOT an official port of entry. Check in first at Atuona, as stopping at Fatu Hiva first is illegal.

The island doesn't get many tourists, so cruising boats are most welcome. We bring items to trade for crafts, such as tikis or tapa cloth, which is produced by pounding the bark of mulberry, breadfruit and banyan trees. Tapa used to be made throughout Polynesia, but Fatu Hiva is the only place in French Polynesia where it is still being made.

## **10.1 Hanavave / Bay of Virgins / Bay of Penises**

The bay of many names. The first and most important thing we can share is that Fatu Hiva should be an absolute MUST STOP for all cruisers visiting the Marquesas. The anchorage is so beautiful it immediately made it into our top three anchorages of all time. The island itself is beautiful as you approach, but the rock structures around town are mind-boggling. This bay used to be called Baie de Penises until the missionaries renamed it to Baie de Vierges (Bay of Virgins).

### **10.1.1 Anchorages and Moorings**

**Nov 2023:** Though you may want to anchor in the shallower water toward the head of the bay, the sand ends at about 138° 40.047' W. East of that is rock and rubble and terrible holding (except for one sand patch that usually has a boat anchored already). This bay is incredibly gusty so it's better to anchor in more than 40' with plenty of scope. We were here for the Matava'a in Dec 2022 with too many boats (more than 20). It was a bit of a disaster with boats dragging nearly every night and some collisions, the culprit almost always being too short scope. It deepens very quickly (>80') so have adequate chain and rode. You can often find slightly shallower spots on the north and south edges of the anchorage.

**Dec. 2019: 10°27.892S / 138°40.094W** dropped in 10m of mud with solid hold. But we swung around too close to another boat so we re-anchored at **10°27.856S / 138°40.079W** in 10m in mud with a solid hold. In between the two good sticks, we tried to go closer to shore in the "sandy area" but we could not get our spade anchor to stick. Another boat tried 6x with their Rocna anchor, no stick.

**10°27.88S / 138°30.08W**, we came back after a day trip to Omoa and anchored in the center of the bay in 10 meters of mud. It took a bit to stick and dragged as we backed down at 2400rpm, but eventually stuck good. – Sugar Shack

**April 2019:** In Hanavave, to be sure to avoid any rock it is better to drop the anchor in more than 40'. Sand, good holding. Lots of manta rays when we were there. Hanavave has good landing places (protected quay) for the dinghy. You need to drop the grapnel a few meters from the quay and adjust line length to ensure the swell does not push and damage the dink against the quay. – Chugach

**Nov. 2018: 10 27.874 S / 138 40.048W.** At high tide on 10m with 60m. Holding was good at our spot (another vessel had difficulties with digging the anchor in while testing it full power in reverse (imho very good to test it very hard). 5 boats in the anchorage, nobody dragged.

No navigation aids, only a few street lights ashore. I would not recommend arriving here without local knowledge at night.

Dinghy landing: In the protected dinghy-harbour on the north side of the beach, we used a stern anchor, there is a boat ramp. – Taitonga

**Summer 2018:** We found the holding in the anchorage good and that's probably general throughout the bay – there was one night of 35-40 knot squalls rattling through, during which only one of fourteen yachts dragged; the bay and valley behind do seem to be a channel for wind/squalls, so dig in well and get plenty of chain out. Despite hearing comments to the contrary there's lots of space - the most (on the squalliest night!) was fourteen yachts whilst we were there and there was ample space for everyone. We also felt that where we anchored, close to the northern cliffs suffered rather less from the squalls than those anchored in the centre & south of the bay, but that's just an opinion. Good days and bad for the swell working in, but you can be fairly sure there'll always be some. – Moon Rebel

## **10.1.2 Yachtsmen Services**

### **10.1.2.1 Cooking Gas**

**July 2022:** The magasin in Hanavave made it clear that they would not sell cooking gas to yachts. However, we did get a cooking gas bottle in Omoa. – Migration

**Dec. 2019:** Magasin Kamuk Kebu sells cooking gas. – Sugar Shack

### **10.1.2.2 Trash and Recycling**

**Trash-Disposal:** Not available. **Do not leave your trash here.**

### **10.1.2.3 Water**

**Nov. 2018:** A faucet at the harbour can be used for free, a hose (with a filter) can be connected, small particles in the water. – Taitonga

**Summer 2018:** Clean/potable water is feely available from a tap on the dock beside the boat ramp; the swell works into/around there too, so stern anchor your dinghy on the rougher days, or as we did, take a stern line to one of the local boat mooring-floats; be wary of the long spider-web of lines from these when entering/leaving in the dink. – Moon Rebel

**Aug. 2015:** There is excellent potable water available next to the boat ramp. Bring a long hose if you do not want to carry jugs. – Jacaranda

## **10.1.3 General Services**

### **10.1.3.1 Le Mairie**

The Mayor: Tel: +689 40 46 59 60. [secretariatC10@solidarite.gov.pf](mailto:secretariatC10@solidarite.gov.pf). Hours: Mon-Thurs: 0730-1530. Fri: 730-1430. Location: Take main road, turn right at the bridge and follow road toward the left. Le Mairie located on left next to post office.

### **10.1.3.2 Post Office**

Hours: Mon, Tues, Thurs, Fri: 0700-1100. Wed: 0700-0900. Location Take main road, turn right at the bridge and follow road toward the left. Post office is on left next to Le Mairie.

### **10.1.3.3 Transportation**

**Dec 2022:** Water taxi and car taxi servies to Omoa are offered by many locals for exorbitant prices. It is very easy to take your dinghy to Omoa – during the Matava’a festival we did it every day and night with a non-planing dinghy. – Migration

**Nov. 2018:** Services: “Taua (Christian)” offered Taxi-Service with his launch to Omoa, restaurant service and a carved Stone-Tiki (turn right after the school, first (yellow) house on the left). – Taitonga

### **10.1.3.4 Wifi / Internet**

**Nov. 2018:** “Hotspot Vini”, with 1-2/4 bars on the boat, but we were not able to log-in, neither to buy a SIM-card, neither to pay via credit card for the Manaspot hotspot.

Iridium Access: Bad, it takes longer and the connection broke down often - the bay is surrounded by 3 steep mountainsides

SSB: Good for checking into the Polynesian-Magellan-Net. – Taitonga

#### 10.1.4 Provisions

**Magasin Moota** owned by Daniella. Hours: Mon-Thurs: 0745-1100 & 1430-1630, Sat: 0800-1300. Location: straight from the jetty, cross the bridge (on right), turn left (7min walk).

- **Dec. 2019:** Very small magasin, but lovely people. They will also sell you tapa and produce from their garden. – Sugar Shack
- **Nov. 2018:** Shopping: Little magasin, but has quite a lot to buy but not everything in stock. Tomatoes seem to be imported and only sometimes available – only garlic and onions were in stock (the supply ship was awaited in 5 days). Prices imho are not unreasonable (if you e.g. compare an organic egg sold in Frankfurt, NY or Seattle with one here => Fatu Hiva it is more or less even). – Taitonga

**Summer 2018:** There's a small grocery store, though we never used it, on the right, not far before you reach Poyet's house; we were told (didn't check) that you needed XPFs for purchases and there's no bank in the village. – Moon Rebel

#### 10.1.5 Restaurants

**Nov 2023:** Many locals offer dinners to the yachties. It's a competitive business here. Shop around and ask other cruisers about their experience before deciding. Usually BYOB. – Migration

**Nov. 2018:** Rosa (lovely elderly lady) offers dining for 2000 XPF/p.p. She is willing to take Euros, but no USD. Go towards the post, first house right after the bridge. – Taitonga

**Summer 2018:** Poyet's dinner Thursday evening he, or his wife at least, were cooking/serving a Cruiser's Dinner of traditional Fatu Hivan food @ 2000FPF/\$25 each – BYO beer or wine – at their house. The meal was OK. – Moon Rebel

**Summer 2018:** The next day, a cruiser brought around a local man, Poya, in the cruiser's dinghy. They explained that he was the local security agent, and was hosting a dinner the next night at his house. It would cost \$20, maybe \$25 per person, BYOB. We said yes. About 20 cruisers showed up, it was very well done. His back porch and yard were set up to host this kind of thing. – Kokpeli

#### 10.1.6 Activities

**July 2023: Omoa Tour** - We were anchored in Hanavave (Bay of Virgins) and wanted to see the rest of the island and Omua, but didn't want to move the boat from such a beautiful, comfortable anchorage. We inquired at the La Mairie for a tour. The lady there called around and arranged with Lucien for a 4 wheel drive open back truck for the next day. Truck was very comfortable. Cost was 15000 XPF for 4 people. The roads are not for the faint hearted but spectacular views. Once in Omoa, we went to Solang's house who had beautiful tapas. All different sizes made from banyan, mulberry and breadfruit bark. We then had lunch at a restaurant with no name, located 2 doors up from the small magazine. The only offering was coconut rice with fresh sashimi tuna and a sweet sauce. Absolutely delicious. The entire trip was worth the cost.

**Carvings, etc.** Just up from the Le Mairie on the left is an enclosed garden with vanilla plants. Right next to that is the house of Henri and Ann, who make carvings, some jewelry from different bones, and some small statues of wood and stone. No signage is outside but they quickly bring out the merchandise once you say hi. They speak enough English to converse if you don't know French. And, of course, give you some pamplemousse, sweet potato and limes as you leave. – Nutmeg

**August 2022:** Waterfall Hike - The directions given are a little unclear - we took the first dirt track on the left after the last bridge and got almost hopelessly lost. The correct dirt track is well out of town and comes AFTER the road to Omoa makes a steep hairpin climb. Most important - the dirt track to the waterfall has a very clear carved sign pointing to VAIEENUIE (the name of the waterfall) to the left and OMOA on the main road, to the right.

**May 2022:** The Waterfall Hike now has a big, hand-painted sign, which makes finding the waterfall easier. Just continue along the main road until you see the sign, then take the left. Bring bug spray.

We checked in at Hiva Oa, and wished we'd stopped here first. – Villa Veritas

**Summer 2018:** Poyet also organises island tours by 4-wheel drive @\$150 for the half-day trip (max four people).

The walk to the waterfall was worth the effort, though it'll take you closer to an hour than the half-hour we'd heard suggested and particularly after rain it is rugged and very slippery underfoot for the last 1/3 mile. – Moon Rebel

**Summer 2018:** We dove the wall to the south of the bay. No way to anchor the dingies, so some people stayed in 'em. Visibility seemed good. The largest shark I saw was 2.5 ft., and we saw very large, fat green morays. We went down to a little more than 100', there was bottom at that point where we were, I think other places may go down farther. – Kokopeli

### **10.1.7 Cruiser Reports**

**Nov. 2018:** Dramatic, stunning scenery, great light, nice sunset views over the open Pacific. Barter: Nobody wanted money – it seems they partly depend on goods brought in by cruisers. Some people offered fruits for exchange (they seem not to grow vegetables), they asked us for e.g. fishing-line, very big twin hooks for tuna, lures, rope, batteries, beer, Coca-Cola, perfume, leggings, shoes and again shoes, t-shirts/blouses, sunglasses.

Local traffic: Little open aluminium Pangas day and night. Wake no problem. They are hard to spot in 1m swells, but give a good radar-echo (a bigger cabin cruiser had a much weaker signal!); Nearly every day a bigger boat arrived for delivering or collecting people, staying outside of the harbour for ca. 30 min.

Beach: Big black rocks, not really a beach, kids use the boat ramp for swimming.

Flying objects on the boat: Many, many flies and sometimes a lonely big yellow wasp like creature, no mosquitos (they will find you ashore).

Wind and weather: The weather forecast (outside) was E 12-14kn. But what we actually had--This bay has its own weather. Easterly winds funnels from the mountains out of the bay, sometimes ground wind at night 18-22kn, gusts 30kn; daytime seems to be calmer (sometimes nearly no wind), still with vicious gusts; sun, clouds, rain can change within 15 minutes; The top of the mountains are normally covered in clouds.

After leaving Fatu Hiva we experienced within 2nm of the islands alternating winds between 06-26kn with wind shift up to 70deg (and ugly rain). – Taitonga

**Summer 2018:** If you happen to be there mid-July (Bastille Day weekend) there was a very impressive Marquesan Dance competition being held on the soccer field; though I think there might well be a dance competition on every island over that weekend. – Moon Rebel

**Summer 2018:** One night when we were there, we attended a dance held by the community. Three troupes of dancers, also singing and drumming. Great costumes, made locally from real plants and flowers. First rate dancing, singing and drumming. Probably had 150 participant performers, from the small community there. We also walked to the waterfall, well worth the hike. We felt the carving here was better than what we saw at other islands. – Kokopeli

**Aug. 2015:** There is much written about this fantastic anchorage. We want to add a couple items.

If you arrive close to the July festivities the village practices dancing & drumming each evening near the wharf and also under the covered building near the soccer field. Hearing the drums start as it gets dark is a unique experience. We went ashore each evening to watch the practice.

Friends on the cat Space had one of their crew members (Jeremy) travel to Omoa to have a tattoo done by a man name Teddi. Teddi did the most incredible tattoo covering Jeremy's entire right leg, ankle to hip. Everyone that has seen it was blown away. Jeremy traveled back and forth from Hanavave to Omoa on the local water taxi which departs at 6am returning at dusk.

If you are interested in visiting Omoa and don't want to take your boat there this is an alternative. Or take the water taxi there in the morning and walk back. – Jacaranda

## 10.2 Omoa

### 10.2.1 Anchorages and Moorings

**January 2023:** This anchorage is fine in the correct conditions. It is often roly so is a bit difficult in a monohull. We have anchored here multiple times and 20 boats were here for 5 days or more during the 2022 Matava'a festival. There is excellent holding in various parts of the bay. Be aware of the local small boat moorings.

Landing at the quay is easy in smaller swells but be careful if the swell is up, as they can wash your dinghy right up onto the quay. Be VERY careful walking on the wet areas near the boat ramp... super slippery.

Omoa is a delightful village with very nice people. It is also an easy 3-mile dinghy ride from Hanavave.

– Migration

**Dec. 2019:** **10°30.711S / 138°41.282W** anchored in 10 meters of mud. We were able to stick the hook on the first try and backed down on it with 2400 rpm. We were only doing a short day stop, but we stuck well. We had heard that this is not a good anchorage, not really good holding, but that is not what we experienced. So, we ended up staying for a few days and really enjoyed ourselves.

Dinghy dock is cement and did not require a stern anchor while we were here, but we tossed one out to keep our dinghy off the dock. – Sugar Shack

**2003:** We visited with friends on another boat on a day-trip. Etienne set the anchor in sand in nine meters of water. What wind there was came from the west into the bay and pushed the boat back into the swell rolling to the beach instead of holding it out more offshore. But after making sure the boat wasn't going to go anywhere, we took the dinghy to the brand-new concrete landing behind a new breakwater at the opposite side of the bay from the old landing where the swell breaks on the steps. Then it was into town for a walk around. – Tackless II

### 10.2.2 General Services

#### 10.2.2.1 Le Mairie

#### 10.2.2.2 Medical

+689 87 79 74 74 or 92 80 36. Hours: Mon-Fri: 0730-1200. Location: From dock, turn right at the twin tikis (2<sup>nd</sup> road), on left hand side across from church.

#### 10.2.2.3 Post Office

Hours: Mon, Tues, Thurs, Fri: 0700-1100. Wed: 0700-0900. Location: From dock, turn right at the twin tikis (2<sup>nd</sup> road), then take the 2<sup>nd</sup> right, on left (yellow building), in front of Le Mairie.

#### 10.2.2.4 Provisions

**January 2023:** There are now two magasins. Both are much better stocked than Hanavave. One of them sells cooking gas. There is a boulangerie on the right just a bit past Magasin Kamuk Kebu. Go early if you want bread. Some days they make loaf bread (pain de mie) as well as pastries.

Tekaoiti Vanira (Maurice and Henriette) is on the main road just under the big spire on the right. They grow and sell fresh lettuce, cucumbers, and bok choy. Easy to find as they have many vanilla plants under a black sunshade in the front yard.

– Migration

**Magasin Kamuk Kebu.** Hours: Mon-Fri: 0700-1200 & 14-1630. Sat.: 0730-1230. Sun: 0800-1130. Location: From dock, turn right at the twin tikis (2<sup>nd</sup> road), on right hand side, green building.

**Dec. 2019:** Lightly stocked store, no produce, little frozen (the low supply could be due to holidays as we were here over the New Year). – Sugar Shack



### **10.2.3 Restaurants**

**Dec. 2019:** Pension Fatu Hiva that has a snack, but they weren't open when we visited. – Sugar Shack

### **10.2.4 Activities**

**Dec. 2019:** Grelet Musee, Omoa has a small museum run by Albertine. Location: From the dock, turn right at the twin tikis. Take 2<sup>nd</sup> right at sign (small arrow with Musee) and past the post office. It was closed when we stopped by and we could not find Albertine after asking at the post office and magasin. We found her house but she was not home (turn right at twin tikis, her house is past museum, on left with two large red hedges). Typically, the museum is open when a supply ship or AraNui stop by (or when you can find Albertine). – Sugar Shack

**2003:** On our way back to the boat Chantal hunted down the woman with the key to the museum so we could see their collection of wood carvings. I think I understood that the really valuable things are kept elsewhere but we saw some lovely pieces.– Tackless II

### **10.2.5 Cruiser Reports**

**2003:** It had been a long day by now but as we were almost back to the wharf, we heard a hammering sound and Chantal went to investigate with us tagging along behind her. At the back of a house a woman was beating bark to make tapa cloth. She had some already out drying and she brought out finished pieces. Starting at 5,000 CFP (\$50) and more they were too expensive for us, and besides we didn't have any local currency yet. But Chantal found one she liked enough to buy, and we appreciated having the opportunity to see the work in progress. We arrived back in Hanavave in time for a sunset swim, exhausted but happy to have been able to see the much larger village at Omoa. – Tackless II

## **11 Moving on to the Tuamotus, Societies, or Gambier Archipelagos?**

Download our Tuamotus, Societies, and Gambier/Austral Compendia here:

<http://svsoggypaws.com/files/index.htm#frpoly>