

# The Societies Compendium

A Compilation of Guidebook References and Cruising Reports



**Rev 2024.6 – Sep 23, 2024**

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

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

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<http://svsoggy-paws.com/files/#frpoly>

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## Revision Log

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

Rev	Date	Notes
2024.6	23-Sep-2024	More updates from sv Roam, on Raiatea and Tahaa
2024.5	01-Sep-2024	Major updates from sv Roam on Bora Bora anchorage and mooring situation. Update on the ATM at Maupiti
2024.4	02-Aug-2024	Corrected phone number for Marina Taina Fuel Dock
2024.3	14-Jun-2024	More Raiatea and Taha'a Updates, clearance out of Bora Bora by s/v Toucan, clearance in from sy Kiskadee
2024.2	22-Apr-2024	Raiatea (Faaroa) Update by s/v Toucan
2024.1	28-Jan-2024	Maupiti coral head warning
2023.4	05-Oct-2023	Update on Mopelia/Maupihaa by s/v Mandolyn
2023.2	13-Sep-2023	Updates on medical services in Tahiti, and a few others from s/v Nutmeg. Fuel and Moorings updates in Bora Bora.
2023.2	23-June-2023	Mooring field update NE of Marina Utarua, Raiatea, update on Mopelia, updates on Bora Bora and Taha'a, email address for Immigration in Papeete. Minor comments on provisioning in Papeete.
2023.1	11 Apr 2023	New OPT in Maupiti, and ATM details
2022.8	11 Dec 2022	Stainless steel welding possible in Bora Bora, an ATM in Maupiti
2022.7	07 Sep 2022	Additional stores/provisioning near Marina Papeete
2022.6	13 Aug 2022	Update contact info/pricing for Clean Express Bora Bora
2022.5	2 Jun 2022	Fix broken reference to Marina Taina Fuel Dock
2022.4	31 May 2022	A new Post Office and ATM in Raiatea
2022.3	17 May 2022	No trash permitted ashore in Raiatea
2022.2	07 May 2022	A few updates on Raiatea and Bora Bora
2022.1	15 Feb 2022	New access fee at Tahiti Nautic Marina in Port Phaeton
2021.6	26 Dec 2021	Laundry service in Bora Bora
2021.5	04 Dec 2021	Updates on: Mo'orea, Huahine, and Raiatea. Updates in Tahiti: Yamaha mechanic, Carrefour customer card, and surveyor contact information from Sugar Shack
2021.4	29 August 2021	Info on anchoring cautions and restrictions in Raiatea from Jaraman. Updates on Moorea from Sugar Shack and Major Tom.
2021.3	23 Jul 2021	"Seniors" discount on Air Tahiti
2021.2	15 Apr 2021	Updates on Raiatea from Trance. Updates from Ari B, and Grace of Longstone
2021.1	04 Jan 2020	Updates from Chugach on Mopelia
2020.4	16 Dec 2020	Updates from Sugar Shack on Mo'orea
2020.3	08 Nov 2020	Updates from Uproar on Mopelia
2020.2	07 Nov 2020	Updates from Sugar Shack, Maple, and Baloo
2020.1	22 Feb 2020	Reorganization of compendium and updates from Sugar Shack
2019.3	28 Jul 2019	Updates from Sugar Shack and Cool Change
2019.2	06 Jun 2019	Many updates from Moon Rebel, Bora Bora mooring update from Nehenehe and Nor'easter. Tahiti updates from Nehenehe
2019.1	21 Feb 2019	Ciguatera warning. Lungta update on leaving your boat a Baie Phaeton
...		Many updates from many cruisers!
A	05 April 2011	First Version

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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!).

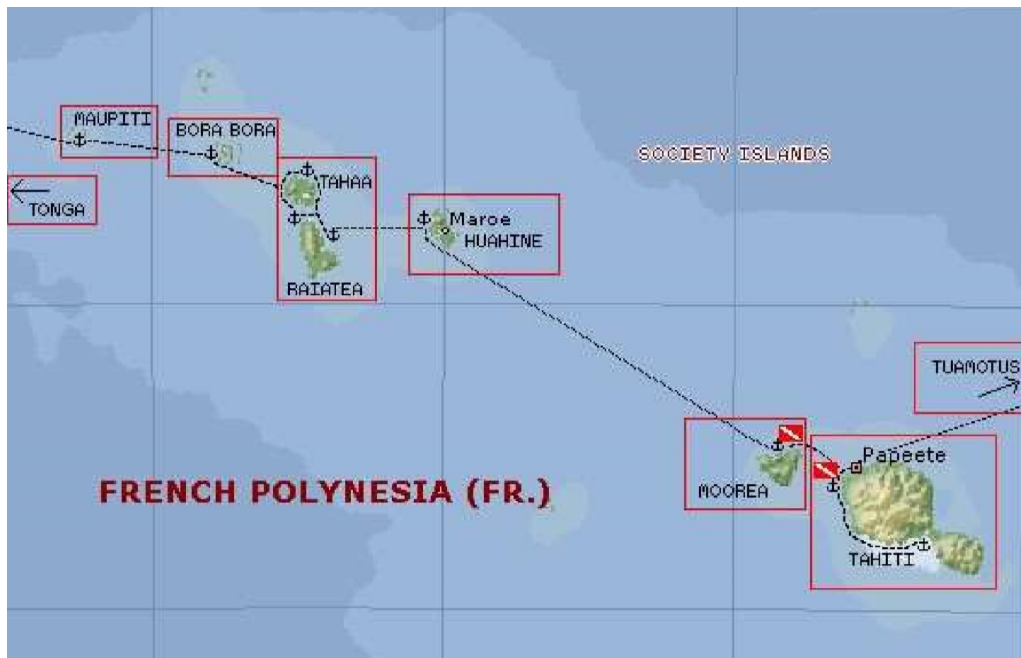
This is not intended to replace the guidebooks or charts, but to supplement out-of-date guides with recent cruiser first-hand reports, and fill in information on places that the guides don't cover.

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

## 1.1 Organization of the Guide

East to West. We have organized the information for this compendium from East to West as this is typically the most popular route travelled by cruiser.

## 1.2 Overview of the Society Islands



This picture shamelessly lifted from The Hacking Family (s/v Ocelot) website.  
To see the original (and be able to click their links): [www.hackingfamily.com](http://www.hackingfamily.com)

## 1.3 Clearance and Visa Guidelines

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

Most boats clear in to French Polynesia in Tahiti, Marquesas and Gambier.

**Note: clearance and visa issuance regulations change regularly due to electronic modernization. Visit French Polynesia government websites or the site above for up to date guidance and information.**

**May 2024 Clearance Update:** Here is our experience of checking in into French Polynesia at Mangareva, Gambier in May 2024. I believe this new electronic process 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 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)

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. – sy Kiskadee

### **1.3.1 Entry Procedures for EU Citizens**

If you are a British citizen, and you arrive after 31 December 2020, then you will be required to obtain a consular visa OUTSIDE of French Polynesia BEFORE your arrival. This is similar to other long stay visa holders. Once you obtain the consular visa (outside of French Polynesia), then arrive in French Polynesia, then you will be required to apply for your carte de sejour on your arrival.

### **1.3.2 Entry Procedures for non-EU Citizens**

2023 Update: The email address for Immigration in Papeete has changed.

The following addresses are valid and can be used to send F09.01 to upon arrival:

[dtpn987-stpaf-usg@interieur.gouv.fr](mailto:dtpn987-stpaf-usg@interieur.gouv.fr)

[dtpn987-stpaf-poste@interieur.gouv.fr](mailto:dtpn987-stpaf-poste@interieur.gouv.fr)

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

- Long-Stay Visas for French Polynesia: <https://www.jacarandajourney.com/fplongstayvisa>
- 90-Day Visa for French Polynesia: <https://www.jacarandajourney.com/fp90dayvisa>

**The data in the above links is constantly updated to provide you with the most current and vital information. The information in this compendium was only left in as an “example.”**

Most “first world” nationalities are granted a “Visa on Arrival” good for 90 days. Applying for a 90-day visa is not required and does not help with the bond or your check-in process. There is no way to extend this “visa on arrival”. If you wish to stay longer than 90 days in French Polynesia, you must apply for a “Long Stay Visa” (see above link for current visa procedures) **PRIOR** to arrival in French Polynesia.

Note that if you are American or Canadian, and your **90-day visa is running out**, whatever you do, get cleared out of Tahiti before your visa expires.

**NO VISA EXTENSION IS POSSIBLE IN PAPEETE.** Except under exceptional circumstances... medical issues, severe boat issues, etc., **you cannot get a visa extension on the spot in Papeete.** Getting a little extra time for a legitimate reason is possible, but those situations take a lot of paperwork (not covered in normal agent fees).

Your visa normally starts when you clear in to your first port Marquesas (Nuku Hiva, Hiva Oa, or Ua Pou), Gambier (Mangareva), Australs (Rurutu, Tubuai, and Raivavae), or Tuamotus (Rangiroa). But sometimes that isn't the exact date, so check your passports.

Flying out and flying back in before the end of your allotted 90 days does NOT ‘reset’ the visa. It merely stops the clock. Your 90-day clock stops (if not used up) and then restarts when you re-enter. You get 90 days every 180 days. The 180-day clock keeps running even if you are not in French Polynesia. At the end of the 180 days you are eligible for another short-term visa (90 days).

The only other way to legally stay longer is to apply for a Long Stay Visa at a French Embassy/Consulate **before** you start your journey toward French Polynesia. Panama is the quickest and easiest embassy to obtain your LS visa. You need to make 2 trips in person to the same French Consulate with your passports, about 1-3

months apart (depending on the country you submit your application), and have a lot of other paperwork done. You may also obtain your LS visa in Mexico, Chile, United States, and Canada.

### **1.3.3 Long Stay Visa (Carte de Sejour)**

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 data in the above links is constantly updated to provide you with the most current and vital information. The information in this compendium was only left in as an “example.”**

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 embassies in Los Angeles, 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/Demander-un-visa-pour-la-France-au-Chili> another site is <https://France-visas.gouv.fr>

**2020 verified (2010):** Another cruiser mentioned that as long as you have been out of your home country for 6 months, you can apply in whatever country you happen to be in. Below, Jacaranda recounts doing it in Ecuador. I have also heard (a few years ago) that the consulate in San Francisco is the WORST. – Soggy Paws

### **1.3.4 Renewing Your Long Stay Visa (Carte de Sejour)**

**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 12 February (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.

**Nov. 2021:** Each year, during our renewal time, we have been in the Gambier with limited internet service. So, we engaged Tahiti Crew prior to leaving Tahiti. We left them the original application, attestation, copies of our passports, proof of health coverage, and CD's. Two months prior we submitted our financials and they submitted our complete package to the Haute Commissionnaire. They notified us when they were ready, picked them up and held them for us until we returned to Tahiti. They would have shipped them to Gambier, but we did not see the need for the expense. – Sugar Shack.

**April 2019 – Renewing Cartes de Sejour (long stay visa):** We had Tahiti Crew handling our Long Stay Visa (Cartes de Sejour) renewal, and we had moved on to Raiatea (as planned and as previously communicated to Tahiti Crew) when Tahiti Crew informed us that we needed to make an in-person visit to the HC office in Papeete to complete the visa renewal. After some investigation on our part, it turned out that they were misinformed (thankfully we didn't have to sail or fly back to Papeete!), and we were able to make our appearance at the HC office in Raiatea instead of Pape'ete. – Cool Change

### **1.3.5 The French Polynesia Bond**

**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>

**The data in the above links is constantly updated to provide you with the most current and vital information. The information in this compendium was only left in as an “example.”**

**Sept. 2018:** This write up explains the types of bonds and what 90 days really means, etc. Hoping that helps clarify some of the questions that folks have on the general 90-day visa.

French Polynesia requires all non-EU visitors to either prove that they have a paid way out of the country, or pay a bond on arriving in French Polynesia. This bond basically is the guarantee that the French government doesn't have to pay to fly indigent people home. There are 3 ways to satisfy this requirement:

1. Show an airplane ticket out of French Polynesia
2. Pay the bond (roughly the equivalent of an airplane ticket out of the country)
3. Arrange with an agent to “guarantee” you. Essentially the agent guarantees that THEY will pay to fly you out of the country, and so you pay for an insurance policy with the agent.

The bond is refundable when you leave, with time and paperwork. The agent “guarantee” fee is not.

Even if you have obtained a long stay visa, you must pay a bond. – Jacaranda

### **1.3.6 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 greatly facilitates everything. 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 group](#) negotiates a ‘group rate’ with Tahiti Crew to handle the bond issue and provide the duty-free fuel paperwork.

#### **1.3.6.1 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@hotmail.com](mailto:YSNukuHiva@hotmail.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.

**April 2019:** Our first arrival to FP was in the Gambier (from Chile). We hired Tahiti Crew to help facilitate and complete our long-stay visa and fuel certificate. Tahiti Crew provided all of the paperwork, guidance on how to complete it, what to provide and how to get it delivered to Tahiti expediently. Using Tahiti Crew allowed us to enjoy the Gambier and Tuamotus because we did not have to rush off to Tahiti to process the second stage of our LS visa process. All of our LS visa paperwork had to be hand delivered to the Haute Commissionnaire (HC) in Papeete, which was difficult to do from Gambier. Tahiti Crew was very responsive, friendly, and willing to help us with anything. They speak the local language (French and Tahitian), have relationships with the officials in Tahiti, and they have the expertise to assist you with anything you may require during your stay. It was well worth the money to engage them.

If you are arriving into the Gambier, it would be wise to engage Tahiti Yacht Services as they can are located in Papeete where the Haute Commissionnaires office is located. Nuku Hiva Yacht Services and Hiva Oa Yacht

Services would have to send documents by freight. In addition to visa assistance, they helped us with our duty-free certificate, shipping items to Tahiti, payment to local vendors (while we were away), money exchange, local marine vendors and more. They made the entire process seamless and easy. – Sugar Shack

### **1.3.7 Clearing in to Papeete**

**May 2024 Clearance Update:** Here is our experience of checking in into French Polynesia at Mangareva, Gambier. I believe this new electronic process 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 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)

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. – sy Kiskadee

**2017:** Marina Papeete has published a document on clearance procedures. A downloadable PDF format, here: <http://svsogypaws.com/files/ENTRANCE-DEPARTURE from TAHITI and MOOREA.pdf>.

Most boats should have already done a preliminary clearance in one of the ports in the Marquesas, Tuamotus, or Gambier. But **ALL boats must complete their clearance upon arrival in Papeete**. You must clear in and out of Tahiti (when you arrive and depart). Most boats do not do this if they are only going to Mo'orea, but if you are leaving for another archipelago, you really need to clear out.

You are actually not formally cleared in until you get to Papeete. If you have crew coming to, or leaving from, your boat before you arrive in Papeete, be sure to inquire about formalities on check-in.

### **1.3.8 Clearing Out of French Polynesia from Papeete**

**Noonsite – April 2015, verified in 2021:** 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" also known as the AON (Avis D'Operation Nautique) also called "Notice of Nautical Operation." The fillable pdf form can be found here: <https://portdepapeete.pf/fr/documents-utiles/formulaires>.

Send email to [trafficmaritime@portppt.pf](mailto:trafficmaritime@portppt.pf) and 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.

**2017:** Marina Papeete has published a document on clearance procedures. A downloadable PDF format, here: <http://svsogypaws.com/files/ENTRANCE-DEPARTURE from TAHITI and MOOREA.pdf>. – Mary Ann II

### **1.3.9 Clearing out of French Polynesia from Bora Bora or Raiatea**

#### **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.

**Sep 2024:** Update your online form with your checkout date and information. Take the document number and your passport to the gendarme. They request permission from Tahiti to clear you. Once they get permission, go back and get your passports stamped. You'll receive the zarpe via email. The processing time typically takes from one to three days depending on which day you visit the gendarme and request the clearance. – Roam

**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

**Sept. 2020:** As of September, the Gendarmerie were not allowing any vessels to clear out of any port other than Tahiti (including Bora Bora or Raiatea). This is a change made due to the COVID pandemic. If you plan to head west, be sure to check with local authorities, prior to leaving Tahiti, to see what is allowed at the time of your departure. – Sugar Shack

Bora Bora is normally the cruiser's last stop in the Societies before heading west. So normal checkout is in Bora Bora. It is also possible to clear out at Uturoa on Raiatea, if you don't plan to stop in Bora Bora.

The clearance process to depart French Polynesia from Bora Bora or Raiatea will take 3-5 business days as they ship original paperwork back to Tahiti.

**June 2017:** We went to the gendarme as someone told us they would need some days. The gendarme gave us about 5 forms to fill (some same but different), and 2-3 of those should be emailed (by making a photo) to Papeete the day before you plan to leave. At the day you want to leave, you come with all crew and passports and filled forms to the gendarme and they will give you your international clearance (permis de sortie)

That is how it should work, but in our case Papeete had not handled our email (yet), so Bora Bora had to ask Papeete to do so (I presume searching our file in Papeete), which caused some delay. You also receive (as with arrival) a copy of the declarations of customs file. You need to send this by post to Papeete (so you have to go to the post office to buy a stamp, or buy a postcard with stamp at a souvenir shop). Anyway, as an email address was indicated, I just sent a photo/scan by mail to this address. – Spunky

### **1.3.10 U.S. Consulate**

The U.S. Consulate is Christopher Kozely and he can be reached at +689 40 42 65 35, or in case of emergency +689 89 70 01 60 and by email [usconsul@mail.pf](mailto:usconsul@mail.pf). He is located in Punaauia which is about 15-20 min from



downtown Marina Taina by taxi (3000xpf for 2ppl). This is next to the large Super U, in shopping strip, on 2<sup>nd</sup> floor. Hours: Tuesday 1000-1200, only by appointment.

**Oct. 2020:** Matt's passport was due to expire in 8 months and we needed to renew it prior to submitting our CD renewal application (long-stay visa). We thought it would be a tedious process and were pleasantly surprised to discover it was not. Matt's passport was still valid, less than 16 years old, and in good condition (all requirements). We completed the DS-82 form (visit [this website for details](#)) and brought it along with his passport to Christopher. We took the required photo (store just below Christopher's office) and included that in our packet for him.

He reviewed everything to make sure it was in good order. We paid by credit card (yeah). The good news is that the process will only take 2 months (from start to finish). The current process in the U.S. is up to 8 months for passport renewals (COVID delays). The other good news is that we did not have to turn over Matt's passport. He made a copy, verified it, and sent the copy with the application. So, we have the original in hand.

Christopher sends the documents to Fiji who scans and emails them to Washington (usually takes 3 weeks). Then Washington prints the passports and sends them back to Fiji. Then Fiji waits until they have a certain number of passports before sending the pack back to Christopher (usually another 4-5 weeks). All in all, the entire process should take less than 2 months.

We then return with our original passport. Christopher will cancel it, scan and send it to Washington. He will then give us the original cancelled passport and our new passport.

Christopher did not charge us for his services. We only paid the \$110.00 for the passport processing (standard fee). He will send our passport to Gambier via Air Tahiti for 700xpf.

Last year we had him notarize several documents for us as well. He is a super nice guy, and very professional.  
– Sugar Shack

### **1.3.11 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.

A vessel may stay up to three (3) years, if the vessel arrived into French Polynesia prior to the new law in 2020 being enacted. In other words, the vessel would be grandfathered in.

### **1.3.12 Customs Patrols**

French Polynesia Customs Website (in French):

<http://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/coming-to-france/getting-a-visa/>

During "crossing season" there is normally 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.

## **1.4 Getting Visitors In and Out**

### **1.4.1 Paperwork Required for flying crew in and out**

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 2023:** We had a European crew member disembarking at Papeete. We went to Immigration to have the crew list changed, before he left on the plane back home, but Immigration said it wasn't necessary. We can have the crew list changed whenever and wherever we check out, we just have to go to the Gendarmerie.

We also have an Australian crew member embarking at Papeete. We asked Immigration if we have to visit Immigration on Papeete to have the crew list changed or if we could go to another island and have him embarking the boat there. The latter is not a problem according to Papeete. As long as the new Crewmember has an (open) return ticket or paid the bond, he can embark the boat on any island where there is a Gendarmerie. – Four Birds

#### **1.4.2 Getting Around French Polynesia**

Air Tahiti [www.airtahiti.aero](http://www.airtahiti.aero) offers domestic inter island flights in French Polynesia, and Air Moorea [www.airmoorea.com](http://www.airmoorea.com) makes the short hop to Moorea several times daily. Charters 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.com/articles.php?id=69](http://www.airtahiti.com/articles.php?id=69)

There is also a ferry from Papeete to Moorea. That distance is only about 10-15 miles, and it is possible to back-track to Tahiti yourself by boat, or ferry over to meet them.

There is also a new, fast ferry between Tahiti, Mo'orea, Raiatea, and Huahine called Terevau. [www.terevau.pf/en/home](http://www.terevau.pf/en/home). Rates are less expensive than flying, but cancellations can happen due to weather.

#### **1.4.3 Where to have them meet you**

Tahiti is easiest and cheapest for people to fly in/out. There are several places to anchor or you can meet them in one of the several available marinas/yards. From here your guest can take a shuttle to another island or a ferry to Mo'orea.

Raiatea is another good place to have friends fly into. The entire Raiatea/Tahaa lagoon is available for cruising, plus good hiking and sightseeing opportunities. Plenty to keep visitors busy for 2 weeks. And, if the weather is nice, you can even get over to Huahine and/or Bora Bora (a day sail in either direction).

Many people want to come visit you in Bora Bora, just because of the name value. That's OK, too, though in a 2 week visit you might run out of things to do, staying just inside the lagoon in Bora Bora. One option for someone wanting to come for a longer visit, is to have them fly into Raiatea and out of Bora Bora. There is one day sail in the open ocean, but otherwise the rest of the time you have sailing in the protected lagoons.

**2018:** Another option is Mo'orea. They can transfer from the airport to the ferry terminal by taxi and catch the ferry over to Mo'orea. You can meet them at the ferry terminal or have them take a taxi or bus to your location. This worked really well when our kids joined us for 2 weeks. – Jacaranda

#### **1.5 Maneuvering and Anchoring in the Societies**

We'll assume that by the time you get to the Societies, you have already cruised the Marquesas and Tuamotus, so we won't hash over all the same information here (see those Compendiums for details).

Please send us updated information, if you have anything that is specific to the Societies, or different from what we found in the Marquesas and the Tuamotus.

**Nov 2019:** Due to the huge increase of yachts in French Polynesia, the marine authorities have started to impose new anchoring restrictions, even to the point of clearing anchorages (November 2019). See this [Noonsite info](#), but the best source will be the French Polynesia marine resources website (link below).

##### **1.5.1 Marine Protected Areas**

Marine Protected Areas Guide:

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

If you can't find it there, the 2021 version can be found here:

[http://svsogypaws.com/files/Marine\\_Protected\\_Areas\\_FrenchPoly\\_Mar\\_2021.pdf](http://svsogypaws.com/files/Marine_Protected_Areas_FrenchPoly_Mar_2021.pdf)

**Aug. 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

### **1.5.2 Anchoring in Coral**

Please remember, we are guests visiting this country, islands, and backyards of the lovely locals. We must take responsibility to protect the lagoons.

**Oct. 2020:** Many new anchoring restrictions are being put in place within the Society Islands. Please be aware of what those restrictions are to ensure you are in compliance. Tahiti and Mo'orea are currently establishing new anchoring rules that seem to change quickly. Bora Bora now requires you to stay on their new moorings marked BBMS where you will have to pay a fee. \$30 per night (or \$300/month). The owner is very reasonable and friendly. – Sugar Shack

Anchoring Conditions in the Societies (from Soggy Paws):

In most of the anchorages in the French Polynesia, your anchoring conditions may be one of the following:

- (1) Solid coral bottom
- (2) Sand with a lot of coral heads
- (3) Sand with a few coral heads (rare)

The water depth is usually 35-50 feet, and the coral heads are 4-5' off the bottom, and scattered on the bottom at about every 6-10 feet or so, with sand in between. This is a perfect setup to badly wrap your chain, damaging the coral and endangering your boat.

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. Another way is listed below.

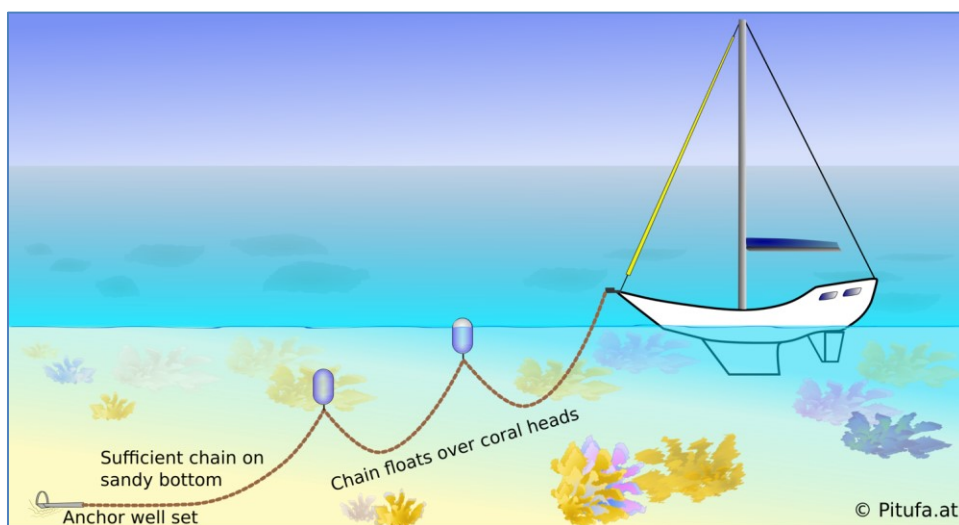
**Floating the chain is a simple procedure.** You just need:

- (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 double 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).

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 resource 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.

**1.5.3 Using Out-Island Moorings**

**Nov. 2021:** Many new anchoring restrictions are being put in place within the Society Islands. Please be aware of what those restrictions are to ensure you are in compliance. Tahiti and Mo'orea are currently establishing new anchoring rules that seem to change quickly. Bora Bora now requires you to stay on their new moorings marked BBMS where you will have to pay a fee. \$30 per night (or \$300/month). – Sugar Shack

**Sep 2018:** Another word of caution on using moorings that are in various locations in the Societies, Raiatea, Tahaa, Huahine. If the moorings are not private, use at your own risk. These moorings have >>>NOT<< been maintained since they were installed, and a number of boats have broken free of their moorings. If you still want to take the risk, best to dive on the mooring and check it out - making sure the shackle is seized (one boat came adrift not having the shackle seized), and that the chain has not worn thin at the bottom.

The number of moorings are being reduced as they fail or loops are chafed through, they're NOT being replaced.

It is very surprising that these moorings are used by all the charter companies and there is NO warning to their clients. We know since we chartered for 2 weeks 6 months ago and I specifically asked about this issue. "Itapa'apa'a" (No worries in Tahitian). We've tried to find out who is responsible for maintenance but no luck.

- Huahine - Most if not all moorings are public
- Tahaa - There are some private moorings in Baie Apu, Baie Hannamene, Baie Hurepiti - The rest are public use.
- Raiatea - There are private moorings near the boat yards and town, and the rest are public use. – Jacaranda

**2017:** The FP government put down new heavy-duty moorings in Raiatea, Tahaa, Bora Bora and Huahine. These are very well done and appear strong. But we have constantly seen these mooring ruined by yachties who do NOT have a clue about how to tie up to a single point mooring. We are in a set of 5 moorings in Huahine. I went around yesterday via dink before they were taken and 2 of them are in terrible shape being almost sawed thru by folks that just don't get it. I looked this morning and everyone but us is running a line thru the mooring from port to stbd that will not only destroy the mooring but chafe their line as well.

#### **How to Properly Tie up to a Mooring (or, don't wreck the mooring, please!):**

First, never ever assume that a mooring is good without inspecting it. Boats are wrecked every year while crossing the Pacific due to trusting a mooring.

A mooring that is not properly inspected and revamped every 6 months can be very dangerous for your boat. Few of the moorings you will find in the South Pacific are inspected and revamped every 6 months. So, inspect it yourself! Some things to look for:

- Inspect the loop for signs of chafe. Inspect the length of line to make sure that the line is of appropriate strength for your boat, and that the line, the chain, the shackles, and the mooring are of appropriate strength/size for your boat.
- Inspect the chain, especially if the chain hangs in the sand. As the mooring ball "dances", the chain rubs in the sand, resulting in very thin links.
- Inspect the connection to whatever is on the bottom... some are chain wrapped around a massive (dead) coral head. Some are concrete blocks with re-bar loops cast into the concrete (these can go bad) and some are sand screws (that can unscrew from the bottom).
- If you have a concrete block on the bottom, know the dimensions of that concrete block, and remember that concrete is half as heavy in water as it is in air (so a 500 lb block is only 250 lbs underwater). Do not assume that the islander who set up that mooring understands just how big a concrete block is required to properly moor a 45 ft cruising boat in a 35-knot squall.

#### **Proper Way to Connect to a Mooring**

The proper way to connect to a single-loop mooring is to run two lines, one from each bow cleat. Each line should go from the cleat, through the loop, and back to the same cleat. This provides redundancy, and eliminates the "sawing" problem.

Some moorings are short; if under full load the line goes into the water steeper than 33 degrees (1 down for 2 forward), extend it with your own lines. A near vertical mooring will rip off, even with a small boat. Don't blame the mooring when that happens.

The fundamental problem is that every time someone drops an anchor in those areas, a few years of coral growth gets destroyed; so, advising cruisers not to use moorings will quickly ruin those wonderful places.

#### **DANGER Using a Single Line to a Mooring:**

DO NOT run a single line from one bow cleat to another, through the mooring loop. This is a recipe for disaster! As your boat swings back and forth, this will saw on the loop, severely damaging it. In strong gusty wind, you can saw through a 1-inch 3-strand line in a couple of hours. We pulled one boat off the rocks, and heard of another boat whose boat was a total loss due to sawing through the loop. Even in light winds, you are damaging the loop (not being a good neighbor). Don't be lazy! – Jacaranda

#### **1.5.4 Navigating in Areas with Coral**

**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.

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

[Migration's Charts](#) Pacific Mexico, French Poly, Pitcairn Island, Easter Island mbtiles 2020

[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>

There is a Facebook Group called GE2Kap that provides support for Sat2Chart (formerly GE2KAP).

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).

##### **1.5.4.2 iDevices**

OpenCPN doesn't run on iPads and iPhones due to their proprietary architecture/non-open source attitude. Here are some 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>

##### **1.5.4.3 Android**

The most-recommended solution (besides OpenCPN on Android) is **All in One Offline Maps**:

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

Another often 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/>

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

#### 1.5.4.4 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 a good alternative for Windows users. But SAS is NOT a navigation program. OpenCPN is.

### 1.6 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>

### 1.7 Yachtsmen Services

#### 1.7.1 Cooking Gas (Propane/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 2900F.

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.

Gaz de Tahiti +689 50 84 00 or [gaz@tahitigaz.pf](mailto:gaz@tahitigaz.pf). You can drop off your bottle at any Mobile gas station (see below in Tahiti). Depository dates Monday, Wednesday, Friday. You pick up your gas bottle 2 days after your deposit at the same location.

- Mobile Punaauia – Marina Taina +689 42 16 71
- Mobile Arue – Face au restaurant le Dahila +689 42 16 71
- Mobile Papeete – Fare Ute +689 43 84 28

The [Tahiti Cruising Guide](#) has a current list of suppliers that fill non-French tanks, see the “propane” section.

#### Cooking Gas Suppliers

Tahiti, Marina Taina, Fuel Dock	Tahiti, Point Venus, Mobil & Shell	Mo'orea Cooks Bay Fuel Dock	Huahine Fare Total Gas	Raiatea Uturoa Total & Shell stations	Raiatea Carenage Boat Yard
Raiatea Mobile Fuel	Bora Bora Vaitape				

#### Refilling Your Propane Tanks in French Polynesia

Download “**Refilling Your Propane Tanks in French Polynesia**” as it is a very helpful instructional document, with photos, on how to fill your propane tanks in French Polynesia. You will be able to fill your tanks 100% full every time using this method. Visit <https://www.jacarandajourney.com/refillingpropane>.

**Feb. 2021:** We have read numerous reports about the difficulties in filling gas bottles in all of the compendiums. So, a general comment, 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

**Sept. 2019:** You can get American tanks filled in Tahiti, Fakarava, and Nuku Hiva. However, if your tank is older than 10 years, they may not fill it, even if it has been recently recertified. Of course, this could be an uncommon situation. We tried to fill our tanks at the Mobile gas station near Marina Taina and McDonalds but they took more than a week and we ended up getting it back empty. – Sugar Shack

**Jan. 2019:** Adjacent to the Taina Marina (in Papeete) supermarket is a petrol station which will refill US and Camping-Gas propane bottles too (24 hour turn around) but at \$60 for a US 20lb bottle, I can’t recommend them unless you’re desperate – even in the Marquesas it was only \$45 for a fill!

The local 13kg/30lb bottles are \$28, with a refundable deposit of \$30 on the bottle, so just buy a hose barb for those local bottles which will cost you \$5-6 in any hardware store, a length of hose, drill-out the one way valve in an old US regulator and decant them yourself. – Moon Rebel

**Sep 2018:** The Raiatea Carenage boatyard also fills propane tanks but it is very expensive. Best to make up your own hose and do it yourself. We have had our propane tanks (35 years old) filled in Papeete and no questions about certification or inspection dates. Cost of doing it yourself is about 2900F – Jacaranda

**March 2017:** In Papeete you can purchase Propane or Butane. Propane comes in Green bottles. This assumes you’re refilling yourself. At the Yacht Club there is bottled gas at the petrol station on the General de Gaulle highway just east of the club.

In Fare Utu at the Mobile Station near Ace hardware (Moana), (40 43 84 28) they will arrange refilling your bottles (US or Camping Gas) at the Gas plant nearby. The price is maybe 50% higher than self-filling but certainly more convenient. If you happen to be at the Marina Papeete they have four carts available for the short walk. Turn over time is usually a couple of days.

If you are at or near Marina Taina then take you bottles to the Mobil fuel station Taina +40-45-54-80. Drop off Mon/Wed/Friday wait 2 days and then pick up. Our US bottles are 30 years old and no questions about being certified, etc. – Mary Ann II

### **1.7.2 Fuel (Diesel/Gasoline)**

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

See individual island section for specifics on diesel and gasoline options in those areas.

The [Tahiti Cruising Guide](#) has a current list of suppliers that honor duty-free certificates; see the “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.

None of the inland fuel stations recognize the duty-free paperwork. So be sure to ask before pumping. To the best of our knowledge, diesel and gasoline are available at the following places (not all recognize the duty-free certificate):

Locations are also noted on the map in the Yachtsman’s Guide in Tahaa, and Bora Bora.



Tahiti Marina Taina Fuel Dock	Tahiti Tahiti Yacht Club Fuel Dock in Arue, Shell Gas	Tahiti Hitia'a next to small dock	Tahiti Taravao In town 1km from Faratea docks	Tahiti Mataiea nearby Tehoro dock	Taha'a Onshore
Mo'orea Cooks Bay – Mobile Gas, Duty-Free Cert only with cash	Mo'orea Vaiare – Mobile Gas, next to market	Huahine Fare Onshore, Duty- Free accepted	Raiatea Uturoa 2-Gas Stations Fuel Docks (Mobile & Shell)	Maupiti Cash only, no duty-free	Bora Bora Vaitape Onshore

Supply ship will sometimes sell 200-liter drums, but will not always honor the duty-free certificate.

Some of the supply ships sell diesel by the liter directly from the ship. Usually by placing a hose over the side on the dock and pumping diesel into your jugs. You would need to prepay with the ships dock master. Same guy you pre-pay for veggies and other supplies.

Gasoline - From the supply ships only is available by 200-liter drums

### 1.7.2.1 Duty Free Fuel Certificate

Duty free fuel is available to foreign boats in French Polynesia.

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 get your certificate in Tahiti.

**Sept. 2020:** If you are a foreign yacht you can get a paper that entitles you to buy fuel duty free throughout the islands at specific marine locations.

**Obtaining a Duty-Free Certificate:** It's easy to obtain a duty-free certificate. You can either pay Tahiti Crew \$60 to do it for you or you can do it yourself in Tahiti for free. (A duty-free fuel certificate is usually included as part of agents' normal clearance packages).

The Douanes office is located in downtown Papeete (by the commercial docks). Location on Chenel de Motu Uta. Go to "Francisation et Hypotheques" office (follow the signs). Bring original and a copy of your boat paperwork and passport. You complete a form and they will issue you the certificate which is good for 6-months. Typically, you cannot renew your certificate until it expires or is very close to expiring. – Sugar Shack

### 1.7.3 Trash and Recycling

Most islands will have proper trash receptacles that you can utilize. However, there are a few islands that are uninhabited or do not have a proper trash disposal system. Please be respectful of these beautiful places. Try to wait to dispose of your trash properly.

**Burning Trash:** It is preferred that you do not burn your trash. However, if you must because there are no receptacles, then please return after the fire is out to remove any noncombustible articles or do not burn them in the first place. Remember these islands, motus, and islets are owned by someone. This is someone's backyard and should be left the way you found it.

Most of the larger islands have some sort of recycling. Please be sure to separate your trash from plastic (clear and colored bottles), glass, and aluminum. Other than Tahiti, most outer islands do not recycle cardboard, paper, or plastic.

**May 2022:** Raiatea no longer has public trash cans. Cruisers are NOT allowed to dispose of garbage anywhere on the island. All large garbage dumpsters are under lock and key. There are very small trash cans in some public areas for a cup or can, but not a bag.

Cruisers are required to pay a 9000f fee near PK 14 (Tumaraa) to be allowed to deposit garbage. This will allow you to deposit your garbage in this area only. If you are caught doing a "wild deposit" it will lead to a 4000f fine.

All garbage must be separated. The garbage bags cannot have plastic, glass, aluminum, cans, electronics, batteries. If it does, a fine will be issued. All recycling must be put in recycling bins.

This is rather unfortunate and makes it difficult for all cruisers. AVP (the French Polynesia Sailing Association) is looking for solutions.

#### **1.7.4 Water**

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

Soggy Paws gathered this list of where fresh water might be obtained ashore in the Societies.

- Marina Taina, Papeete
- Marina Papeete has potable water on the docks
- Tahiti Yacht Club has potable water spigot, accessible by dinghy, or raft up from a dock with big boat.
- Mo'orea has a fresh water spring tape between Cooks Bay and Vaiare Bay. Otherwise the water in Mo'orea is not portable.
- There is NO water at the fuel dock in Cooks Bay, Mo'orea
- Huahine, Main quai in Fare. Check with Dive Shop to obtain the key. They do charge a fee for water.
- Raiatea. The visitor's dock at Marina Apooiti
- Raiatea. The fuel station dock in Uturoa
- Taha'a, Hurepiti Baie: The Vanilla Tours dock
- Tahaa. Taravana Yacht Club
- Bora Bora. Bora Bora Yacht Club
- Bora Bora. Bloody Mary's

### **1.8 General Services**

#### **1.8.1 Air Tahiti**

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

+689 40 47 44 00. [www.airtahiti.com](http://www.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.

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.

#### **1.8.2 Bank / ATMs (Money)**

The normal currency in the Societies is the French Polynesia Franc, usually abbreviated CFP or XPF. In Nov. 2021, the exchange rate was 97 CFP/XPF per 1 US dollar (in Dec. 2020 it was 102/xpf to 1 US dollar). The post office will give a 100/1 exchange, so a 500-CFP is about \$5.00 USD.

The major islands in the Societies (Tahiti, Mo'orea, Huahine, Taha'a, Raiatea, and Bora Bora) have banks. You can try to exchange money at the Post Offices in the outer islands. Like most places, some local businesses will accept USD, but the exchange rate may be arbitrary. Very few places accept credit cards.

See section on individual atolls for banks and ATMs.

Tahiti: Marina Taina Carrefour-ATM Mobile Gas ATM	Tahiti: Papeete Many banks and ATMs located downtown	Mo'orea Cooks Bay Maharepa	Mo'orea Cooks Bay Le Petite Village	Huahine Fare Banque de Tahiti	Raiatea Uturoa Three Banks & ATMs
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### 1.8.2.1 Opening a Local Bank Account

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>.

### 1.8.3 Donations

Inevitably, we have items that can't be sold but are still useful. If you have clothing, food, household items that can be reused, please donate them to the local charity that disperses them to needy families.

Le Pere Christophe looks after the homeless, and provides food, clothing, and shelter. You can drop off items to him or Corinne Mc Kittrick.

Corine can be reached at [makanalani56@yahoo.fr](mailto:makanalani56@yahoo.fr) or +689 87 75 91 56. You can drop off your clean, gently used items at Place Notre Dame (downtown Papeete across from the cathedral) or with Tehani at Tahiti Crew (Marina Taina).

Red Cross (Croix Rouge). There is a Red Cross location at Av du Marechal Foch across from Vodafone and near the bus stop in downtown Papeete. Franco in the office runs a program for at-risk kids.

### 1.8.4 Marine Supplies (Boat Parts)

See individual island section for specifics on marine and hardware stores in those areas.

[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 use while offline.

There are several pretty well-stocked marine stores in Tahiti (Papeete). However, once you are out of Tahiti, there is almost nothing to be found.

### 1.8.5 Marine Services & Laborers

#### 1.8.5.1 Fire Extinguisher

Incendie Moz Services – Christophe Collard +689 87 32 01 01, [christophe.collard@mail.pf](mailto:christophe.collard@mail.pf).

**Oct. 2020:** Several of our fire extinguishers needed to be replaced. Ocean 2000 had two 1kg extinguishers for 5800xpf each, which we bought. However, we needed two more. We contacted Christophe and were very pleased with his service. He was very responsive (French only) and offered 1kg extinguishers for 4800xpf. He met us at Marina Papeete with two new extinguishers and their certificates. In addition, he took our old extinguishers. Very nice, professional and willing to deliver to Marina Taina, Marina Papeete, Vaiare Bay, Cooks Bay and Opunohu Bay. – I'd highly recommend calling him first! – Sugar Shack

#### 1.8.5.2 Guardanage (Care takers or Boat Watchers)

Refer to the Tahiti Guide under “Boat Watchers” for additional guardanage recommendations on Mo'orea, Raiatea, Port Phateon.

**Adrian Pataki** +689 87 28 60 83 or [svattila@gmail.com](mailto:svattila@gmail.com). He is a diesel mechanic and a great guardian. He will send weekly reports with photos.

### **1.8.5.3 Laborer**

John Claude +689 87 30 63 91 is a very dedicated and hard worker. He will do wash, wax, polish, stain, sand and pretty much anything you ask him to do. His daily rate is 1200xpf and he is worth every penny! -- Liward

### **1.8.5.4 Refrigeration**

Mike Campbell +689 89 64 32 60 and [mikecamalila@gmail.com](mailto:mikecamalila@gmail.com). He is on a 54' Irwin called "Alila." He handles refrigeration and air conditioning repair, maintenance, and installation.

**July 2020:** Mike helped us diagnose our refrigeration problem and added Freon. He has a great sense of humor and is very knowledgeable and professional. – Sugar Shack

**Jan. 2019:** Refrigeration Repairs (Papeete): Michael's Chandlery was well stocked with the standard Isotherm/Danfoss spare parts at surprisingly reasonable prices and provided that he's not moved on, Mike aboard the British flagged yacht 'Alila' is a top-notch and well equipped refrigeration engineer; 5-star pricing, but he provides a 5\* service to justify it. – Moon Rebel

### **1.8.5.5 CO2 Cylinder Refills**

Gaspac +689 40 54 11 54. Hours: Mon-Fri: 0700-1200 & 1300-1600. Located Route de Tipaerui, Papeete 98714. They will refill your CO2 cylinders for sparkling water, soda, or beer kegs. Call beforehand to ensure they can fill your cylinder on the day you want to visit. They don't fill every type of gas/cylinder every day. They do rent cylinder tanks, but they do not sell new ones. The rental is a little inconvenient as you have to pay every year and you cannot take the tank with you when you leave Tahiti. They will also sell dry ice.

**Oct. 2020:** Gaspac Tahiti tested the bottle prior to filling (to give it a certificate) which cost 7000xpf, and then the actual CO2 cost 2000xpf for a 5lb American bottle. Gaspac had the adapter to refill the bottle. – Hoodoo

### **1.8.5.6 Yamaha Tahiti Repair and Maintenance**

Yamaha Tahiti / Comptoir Polynésien +689 40 50 57 50

[contact@comptoirpolynesien.pf](mailto:contact@comptoirpolynesien.pf)

Facebook: Comptoir Polynésien – Yamaha Tahiti

Jerome on WhatsApp +689 89 54 82 92

**Nov. 2021:** Our Enduro 25hp outboard stopped shifting in reverse. Matt diagnosed the problem which was a lost, broken or damaged cotter pin on the shifting mechanism. Unfortunately, you had to completely take off the entire motor/power head to get to this part.

We stopped by the Yamaha Repair location (next to NautiSport and just down the road from the Yamaha dealership) and spoke to Jerome (he speaks English). They said it would take a long while to get the parts (due to COVID), so we ordered them and had them brought in with a guest. Jerome picked up our outboard from Marina Taina (in front of the Fluid Dive center), had it repaired and returned to us within 2 days. In addition, they replaced our spark plugs and changed the oil.

The labor was a little more than we anticipated and the pickup/delivery was 7000xpf. We could have dinghied from Marina Taina to their shop, but then would have had no way to get it to their shop on land.

Overall, very pleased with their service, turnaround, and work. Super friendly, easy to work with, and they do what they say they are going to do! – Sugar Shack

### **1.8.6 Importing Parts Duty-Free**

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

**Note: Shipping items in/out of French Polynesia has become very challenging with the onset of the COVID Pandemic. Be sure to check with Tahiti Crew or Jacaranda's document for latest information.**

Download "Shipping and Transporting items into French Polynesia". Latest information on the shipping process. <https://www.jacarandajourney.com/shippingitems>.

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

If you order and 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:** 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

### **1.8.7 Shipping Items In or Out**

**Note: Shipping items in/out of French Polynesia has become very challenging with the onset of the COVID Pandemic. Be sure to check with Tahiti Crew or Jacaranda's document for latest information.**

Download "Shipping and Transporting items into French Polynesia". Latest information on the shipping process. <https://www.jacarandajourney.com/shippingitems>.

Express Shipping OUT of French Polynesia (services and phone numbers):

- DHL Express: +689 40 83 73 72
- UPS: +689 40 54 57 27
- FedEx Global Air: +689 40 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: Heiarri-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.

**Oct. 2020:** David Lorusso toll free +1.833.222.1923 or U.S. phone +1.704.264.1234 email

[david.lo@dglworldwide.com](mailto:david.lo@dglworldwide.com). . If you need something shipped in from the U.S., I highly recommend using David at DGL Worldwide. David got our package to Tahiti in about 10 days (during COVID) and kept us posted the whole time. – Mojo

**Sept. 2020:** While in Raiatea, we needed to purchase Sea Hawk Island 44 to redo our bottom paint. The yard was charging double the price of Ocean 2000. We purchased the paint directly from Ocean 2000 and they put it on the next ship (2 days) at a cost of 2500xpf. Super reasonable and easy process. – Sugar Shack

**2018: Tahiti Ocean:** +689 77 01 12 - <http://www.tahiti-ocean.com/> or Tehau (Tehaurai Archer) -

[yacht4@mail.pf](mailto:yacht4@mail.pf) While Tahiti Ocean offers services to luxury yachts visiting French Polynesia, they are also an excellent resource for blue water sailors in need of cleaning products, small hardware (which they have in their inventory) and misc. services. They are located in the Marina Taina however will make deliveries to the Leeward Islands either by ferry or plane. When Russ and I were in Moorea, we broke our Shurhold boat hook. I called Tahiti Ocean and not only did they have the hook in stock, they got it onto the afternoon ferry, had someone in Moorea pick it up at the ferry dock, and delivered it to the dinghy dock in Cook's Bay, all in the same day. We were wowed by that experience. About a week later, our engine fan started showing serious

signs of fatigue so we called Tahiti Ocean and while they did not have the part in stock, they were able to find it in Papeete and again, sent it over on the ferry and had it delivered to Cook's Bay the next day. We worked directly with Tehau who speaks excellent English and is very professional and pleasant to work with.

**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

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

**Nov. 2021:** If you have large luggage or excess luggage and are flying from Tahiti to another FP island, you can try to 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 through Air Tahiti Freight. At the PPT airport, just past McDonalds is Air Tahiti Freight. They will put your luggage on the same flight or next flight and fly it to your destination for much less than excess baggage. – 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 didn't need to take it to Air Tahiti Cargo as I feared, risking the possibility of it not arriving on our flight with us. Instead, we were allowed to check it with our flight and just had to pay an extra \$56. – Cool Change

### **1.8.9 Yacht in Transit – Spare Parts**

Tahiti Cruiser's Guide: This information resource for the cruising community now 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>

**Oct. 2020** – "Shipping and transporting items into French Polynesia" Very useful document to download. <https://www.jacarandajourney.com/shippingitems>. Includes current and up to date information. – Jacaranda

**Sept. 2013:** Spare parts and equipment required to repair a vessel under the temporary admission status ("admission temporaire"), may be imported and cleared through customs without paying customs dues. However, since mid-July 2013, these goods must also be declared for export when you check out of French Polynesie.

Yachts owners/skippers can import/export goods by themselves, however there is a lot of paperwork involved and the process can be "tricky." Assistance of a yacht agent can be very helpful (which also includes extra services like collecting the shipment at the port/airport and arranging final delivery to the yacht). If the total of the shipment is over 350 Euros you are now required to have an agent under the new law.

Fees involved for bringing in spare parts are those charged by the customs broker (for the 2 Customs declarations/paperwork for "temporary admission" and "final exportation") and NOT for Customs duties. These fees depend on the shipment's CIF value (goods value + insurance+ freight). On average, fees invoiced by the customs broker for each declaration are between 10 and 25.000 Cfp depending on the CIF value (1 Euro = 119,33 Cfp, 1 USD is currently approx. 87 Cfp). DHL can be both your shipper and agent. – Noonsite

### **1.8.10 Rigging**

There are several sail repair facilities in Tahiti. Check out the [Tahiti Cruiser's Guide](#) for more info.

#### **Fenua Rigging**

- +689 87 25 90 57
- Email: [fenua.rigging@gmail.com](mailto:fenua.rigging@gmail.com)
- Emilien and Emile are nice guys, speak English.
- Rigging and hardware. Recommended by Liward.

**Nov. 2021:** I just had Fenua Rigging out to do a rig inspection on my boat. The two men came by dinghy to the airport anchorage, were on time, and did a safety inspection before they started the rig inspection. It was the most thorough rig inspection I've had done. Emilian Barre is the rigger (he formerly worked as a rigger in Martinique); he does not speak much English. Emile le Masson assists; he speaks some English but takes the time to make sure he understands what is wanted. Emile wrote the survey report which was very clear as it included pictures of items needing attention. Based on the thoroughness of this inspection and the timeliness of the survey report and multiple quotes I requested, I am moving forward with Fenua for the extensive re-rig of my boat. (Review of re-rig work at later time.) I definitely recommend Fenua for a thorough rig inspection prior to moving West – Auntie

### **Mat Rigging**

- John Morvan
- +689 87 72 05 02
- [matriggingservices@gmail.com](mailto:matriggingservices@gmail.com)

**Jan. 2020: Rigging: Mat Rigging**, new owner, John Morvan +689 87 72 05 02 [matriggingservices@gmail.com](mailto:matriggingservices@gmail.com). Our martingale (seagull striker) had 4 of the 19 strands broken. Thank goodness we caught it before any major damage was done to our rig or mast. We noticed the damage while we were in Nuku Hiva where there are no rigging services available. So, we contacted Mat Rigging and Sailtech in Papeete to get quotes. Sailtech was really hard to reach and they just stopped responding before telling us if they could help us. Mat Rigging was incredibly responsive (via email), spoke English, and eager to please. John Morvan just purchased the business from Mateo 30 days prior to our communication.

We sent many communications (text and email) with the 3 boat part numbers including photos of the boat part numbers. John said he had all the parts in stock, confirmed at the time of signing on to the job, and confirmed after receiving cash payment. The day he was supposed to put the martingale on a flight he called to say that he did not have one of the parts (he had a left-hand thread vs a right-hand thread). He could order it or upsell us a toggle. Basically, he did not read the prior information, just said he had the parts in stock, took the money and then was trying to upsell us parts we did not need. Frustrating. He was very nice and tried very hard, but delayed us 10 days. We ordered all the parts from the U.S. and received a full refund from Mat Rigging. – Sugar Shack

### **1.8.11 Sail Repair**

#### **Tahiti Sails**

- +689 87 33 73 33 Guillaume [g.jestin@gmail.com](mailto:g.jestin@gmail.com) (Marina Papeete)
- +689 87 33 74 33 Sebastien (Marina Taina)
- [www.tahitisails.com/en](http://www.tahitisails.com/en)
- Note: Both fluent in English, professional, communicative, reasonably priced and do good sail work.

#### **Yacht Services, Nuku Hiva**

- Tel 689 91 01 50
- Email: [yachtservicesnukuhiva@yahoo.com](mailto:yachtservicesnukuhiva@yahoo.com)
- Note: Good repair service, but no new sail material available.

#### **Api Yachting**

- Tel 689 42 18 10
- Email: [apiyachting@mail.pf](mailto:apiyachting@mail.pf)
- Note: Be very careful, little attention to detail. In our case very poor service.

#### **Voilerie Sellerie Aveia**

- Ent. Faux Regine



- Raiatea
- Tel 689 66 14 04
- Email: Reginenina@yahoo.fr
- Note: Excellent service, highly recommended.

**Oct. 2020: Sail Repair:** Our main sail needed to be repaired and re-stitched. It is made of double layer Dacron and weighs in at almost 300lbs. We decided to hire Tahiti Sails to help us with the repairs as we did not think our little Baby Lock sewing machine could handle the material. Guillaume (Marina Papeete) +689 87 33 73 33 (g.jestin@gmail.com). Guillaume usually picks up and drops off on Tuesdays and Thursday in Marina Papeete. We showed him the work that needed to be done which was mostly re-stitching and creating new covers for the head, clew, tack, and baton pockets. He said it could be done in a week at a cost of 40000/50000xpf (about 5/6 hours of work). He picked up the sail on Friday, had a quote to us on Tuesday, and the sail back by Thursday. At the shop, he tested all the thread to ensure it would not fail, added new tail tails, covered a few weak spots we did not notice and completed all of our original requested work. He was very professional, did what he said he was going to do and stayed in communication with us throughout the process. In the end the cost was 35595xpf. We are very pleased and highly recommend Tahiti Sails. – Sugar Shack

**July 2019:** We had **Oceans Sails** (Michel Pegart Maitre Voilier) do repair work on our sail bag and he did not do a good job. After visiting his sail loft and speaking to him about types of threads used and process, we felt confident he'd do good work. We asked him to quote the repairs on our sail bag (strengthen and reinforce) and small spinnaker (blew out clew). The sail bag was the priority as we had a backup spinnaker.

With the sail bag we asked him to patch the small holes, reinforce all stitching, reinforce the batten sleeves, re-attach our name flap which came off, and generally reinforce everything. He said it would be "no problem, easy job, and could be done in a few weeks at very little money." Several weeks later, my husband went to pick it up and paid \$600 (more than a little money to us, but our bad for not getting an exact quote first).

When my husband went to install the sail bag, he noticed several areas had the new stitching already coming out (Michel failed to lock stitch the beginning and ends). In addition, in several places the stitching was crooked when it should have been straight. Unfortunately, we had guests coming and needed the sail bag up. So, my husband finished with the install before we had to leave. Very poor craftsmanship and work.

In addition, with the spinnaker he said it would cost well over \$1,000 to repair or he would have to cut it down and charge a little less. This is an 18-year-old spinnaker so it was not worth the cost to repair. We took it back.

We were very disappointed in the work from Ocean Sails. We had higher expectations since he had several good reviews, the loft was professional and he "said all the right things." – Sugar Shack

**April 2019: Tahiti Sails.** We worked with Guillaume Jestin g.jestin@gmail.com. We have a DP Hydranet mainsail which is a difficult fabric to resew. We had him raise the clew, move the tack back, and repair significant damage to all seven full batten pockets. His knowledge, workmanship, and skill level were exceptionally high. I rate the business as excellent. He showed up exactly on time and completed the work. He replied to our emails very quickly and he is fluent in English. I am highly impressed given that he was under the added strain of having an entire ARC fleet in town clamoring for his attention. He worked over a holiday to complete the work at the promised time. I would rate their business a 10 out of 10. – Nehenehe

**March 2017:** The Tahiti Cruiser's Guide lists three additional sail makers as of 2017: Tahiti Sails, Sail Tech and Nautilus Sails. Under Rigging you will find API Rigging, Mat Rigging and Sail Tech. Several of the chandeliers also sell blocks and other rigging part including Oceans2000 and Tahiti Yacht Accessorie Marina Taina. – Mary Ann II

**2014:** Getting parts of the rig replaced by **API Yachting** (Papeete) was also a special adventure. Instead of the promised three weeks it took three months in the end to get all parts delivered (we did the replacing and tuning ourselves).

The rigger didn't respond to e-mails or phone calls (especially nice after receiving a 60 % deposit) and wasn't a pleasure to deal with in general. He was very expensive, did not quite deliver what we asked for, but at least the quality of the wires, terminals, toggles and turnbuckles seems okay.

Fortunately, there's now new competition in town: Matthieu (a fellow cruiser we've known since Gambier) is setting up a shop and will soon start work (contact him in Taina)! – Pitufa

**2011:** This short article is to advise other cruisers sailing in French Polynesia to be careful when deciding where to have sail repairs undertaken.

Pipistrelle is a 48ft Wauquiez. We left the UK in 2008, and had new sacrificial strips added to the genoa and staysail in St Lucia in 2009. On leaving Panama in 2011, all the sails which were new in 2006 looked in good shape for the Pacific crossing. By the time we reached the Marquesas the stitching on the sacrificial strips was coming undone, not an uncommon problem. They were repaired expertly in Taiohae Bay, Nuku Hiva by a cruiser who has a sail loft there.

We then sailed through the Tuamotus to Tahiti, and by that time had two tears in the main, one by the luff where one panel had given out at the first reefing point, and the second further along the 1st reef, which we had repaired ourselves on passage but required professional sail repair..

This sail and also the genoa were collected from Marina Taina by **API Yachting**, which is run by an American, Christophe. His sail loft is in Papeete, and we had provided details of our requirements both by email and by telephone in advance of collection. The repairs were completed and Christophe assured us he had thoroughly checked the sails. According to him, the main in particular "had a lot of beef left in it", an expression to indicate we would have no problem reaching New Zealand, and probably Australia.

Having got the sails back on board, we were dismayed to find that although Christophe had charged for two repairs to the main, only the luff had been done. So, the sail was duly collected again and repaired.

We then sailed direct from Papeete to Huahine, an overnight passage, and as so often happens in these islands, the whole time one is trying to sail slowly to avoid arriving before daybreak. We had two reefs in the main. As daylight broke, we could not believe that the main now had another large tear by the luff below the second reefing point.

At **Apoiti Marina in Raiatea** we discovered Voilerie Sellerie Aveia, a sail loft run by a charming French lady, Regine. The day after we had left the main with her for inspection, she had it laid out on the sail loft floor to show us the many areas of the sail where UV had damage had taken its toll, making repairs essential. Her charges were good value; her work exceptionally professional and thorough. Regine had not just stitched around the patches as was the case at Api Yachting, she had sewn down the length of the repair following the seams to match the stress in the sail. She also took the time to show us her repair work. The majority of her business comes from the two charter companies, and as she pointed out, sometimes she has to turn work away from private yacht owners because she is so busy with the charter fleets. – Pippstrelle

### ***1.8.12 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.

#### ***1.8.12.1 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 they are broken).

**Juliette** can be reached at [rairoaju@yahoo.fr](mailto:rairoaju@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 [hmccoursier@gmail.com](mailto:hmccoursier@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.

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

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

With any of these options, they will send your goods to you anywhere in FP via cargo (much less expensive) or Air Tahiti (\$\$ per kg). 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.

### **1.8.13 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.

**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, which is 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.

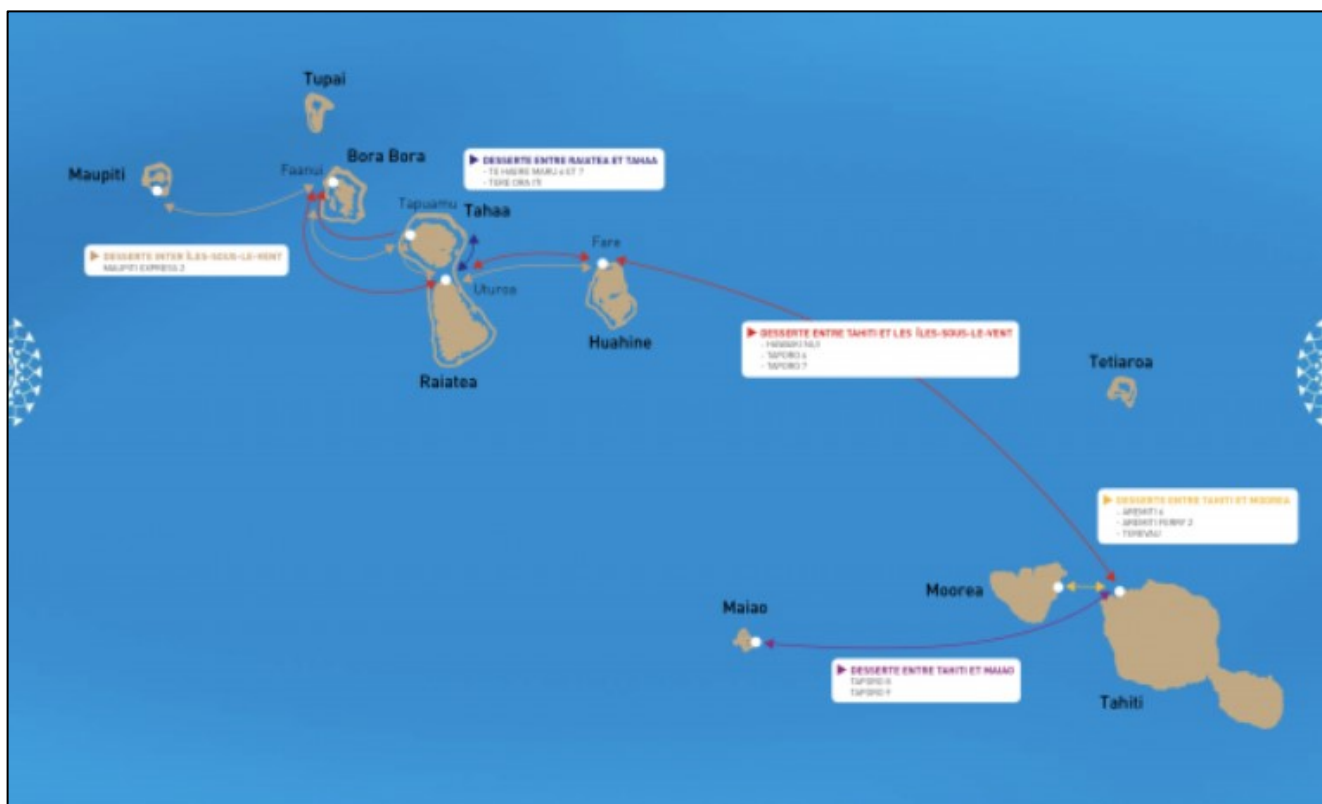
When shopping you can come off the site and go back in another day and your chosen items should stay in the virtual basket. We did have a glitch paying but that was due to a very thin data connection in Gambier, not Sipac’s fault. Our card payment timed out which meant our shopping basket disappeared 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 poor internet. 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

### 1.8.14 Supply Ship Schedules

When you are at the outer islands it is always helpful to know which supplies ships visit and when. This website will list the supply ships that visit each island along with their contact information and a map of their routes.

<https://www.service-public.pf/dpam/transport-inter-insulaire/les-avis-de-depart-des-navires-de-commerce-en-partance-de-tahiti-vers-les-archipels-3-2/>

- **Taporo 7** +689 40 42 63 93 or email [taporo@mail.pf](mailto:taporo@mail.pf)
- **Hawaiki Nui** +689 40 54 99 54 or email [contact@SNP.pf](mailto:contact@SNP.pf)
- **Taporo 6** +689 40 41 26 35 or email [taporo@mail.pf](mailto:taporo@mail.pf)
- **Apetahi Express** +689 40 50 57 57



### 1.8.15 Medical & Prescriptions

See individual island sections for more details on medical facilities, doctors, and pharmacies.

The [www.tahiticruisersguide.com](http://www.tahiticruisersguide.com) has a detailed list of physicians, specialists, and hospitals in Papeete and other islands.

**2017:** I wanted to offer a pharmacist for all of French Polynesia. Patrick Ly ([pharmaciedetiarei@mail.pf](mailto: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

### **1.8.16 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 [www.tahiticruisersguide.com](http://www.tahiticruisersguide.com) lists 10 different options in the Tahiti area for groceries. The three main anchorages/moorings/marinas around Papeete all have a major Grocery Markets within a 15-minute walk.

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!

**Nov. 2021:** Apply for a Carrefour loyalty card and receive discounts on products and cash back on future purchases. It is easy and free to apply. – Sugar Shack

**2011:** Papeete has an excellent selection of groceries—pretty much anything you might desire. Prices are more reasonable than in the outer islands—only slightly higher than US prices. – Soggy Paws

There are also good grocery stores available in...

- Mo'orea: A big Super Champion store in Vaiare, near the ferry dock;
- Fare, Huahine;
- Uturoa, Raiatea

### **1.8.17 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 gendarmerie (cops) may not react well, either they want some too or they don't want you trading it into their village.

Good items to trade are fishing equipment, school supplies, snorkel gear, women's cosmetics, good quality backpacks, toys, hygiene items (shampoo, nail polish remover, and toothpaste).

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. – Jacaranda

### **1.8.18 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 sejour, long-stay visas, residency permits, contracts, etc....). Contact her for a quote.

### **1.8.19 Transportation**

**May 2022:** The Apetahi Express ferry goes between Tahiti, Bora Bora, Raiatea, Taha'a, Huahine. Reserve online at check schedules at [www.apetahixpress.pf](http://www.apetahixpress.pf). They offer senior discounts (60+ years) and resident discounts (show CD). Typical one-way ticket is 7700f (\$77). Discounts available at the ticket offices (not online). Ferries run from Tahiti westward (Huahine, Raiatea, Taha'a, Bora Bora) on Sun., Wed., Fri. and the return trip back to Tahiti on Mon., Thurs., Sat. – Sugar Shack

**Oct. 2020:** Tere Tahiti (bus system) created an app (android and apple) where you can track the buses (live) to see where they are located and when they will arrive. You can follow the journey of over 200 buses through

geolocation. You will see a network map, line sheets, bus routes, bus times at selected stops, tickets and pricing. By early Jan.2021 the website will allow users to purchase bus tickets ahead of time. – Sugar Shack

### **1.8.20 Trash and Recycling**

See individual islands for specific trash and recycling bins.

Marina Taina (Tahiti) has specific bins for disposal of batteries, flares, and used oil.

**Fenua Ma** +689 40 54 34 50 and [accueil@fenuama.pf](mailto:accueil@fenuama.pf). Tahiti. Hours: Mon-Thurs: 0730-1530 and Fri: 0730-1430. This company recycles used oils, unused, expired prescriptions, electronics, batteries, bulbs and lights, flares. You can drop off at their facility or call them for a pick up (for a fee). They have locations all over Tahiti – visit this site to determine the closest facility near you.

(<https://www.fenuama.pf/pav?fbclid=IwAR1xQDoaGXswdXl0XygEaGyMtNvWLzaYU9jbpSpxon0zWbPs1SscHUO3jDg>)

## **1.9 Communications**

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

### **1.9.1 VHF**

**General VHF Advice that applies to all areas:** Be aware that on high power, a good VHF will transmit 25 miles. 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, low squelch. Make sure you are aware which channels are automatic low power (i.e. 17), 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 18 or 68. Conversely, in a crowded anchorage, transmission on high power on channel 18 or 68 may ‘bleed’ over to 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!

Be aware that some channels that Americans use frequently are ‘duplex’ channels in International mode. 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).

In Moorea/Papeete, Channels 12 and 14 are used for Port Operations—stay off those channels unless you are contacting those entities.

In Raiatea, several frequencies are monitored by locals, so stay away from those channels. We have heard regular local traffic on 67 and 10 (Sunsail)

Mahaina Radio uses Channels 26 and 27.

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

SAR: 06, 10, 11,

Port: 12

Ship-Ship: 08, 72, 77

### **1.9.2 SSB Nets**

**Poly Mag Net** (formerly known as the Polynesian Magellan Net): Found at 8.173USB. There are two scheduled net times. The morning net is at 1800Z (08:00 Tahiti time, 0830 Marquesas time, 0800 Tuamotus time) and the evening net is 04:00Z (1800 Tahiti, 1830 Marquesas, 1800 Tuamotus). This is an excellent way to track your passage while underway, stay connected with cruisers, and learn about weather and anchorages in other islands, atolls, and archipelagos

During off season, the morning net is only for emergency traffic and vessels underway. 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 to general check ins. – Jacaranda and Sugar Shack

**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 14,300 KHz 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.

**Northland Radio** offers a tracking check in service for vessels underway (fee required). Northland Radio 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 <https://northlandmaritimeradio.nz/products/passage-tracking>. Contact [peter@northlandradio.nz](mailto:peter@northlandradio.nz).

#### **1.9.2.1 Local VHF Nets**

**Tahiti / Mo'orea:** There is a VHF net in Tahiti which can be heard in Mo'orea (at times). It is on channel 68 and is usually at 0730 or 0800. The net controller will announce the net 5-10 minutes before the start on VHF 72. This net provides information on events, activities, buy, sell, trade, new arrivals and departures, news, updates, weather, trivia, and more.

#### **1.9.3 Telephones and Cell Phones**

See individual islands for internet access. The French Poly Country Code is: +689. Most post offices will sell sim cards and most atolls have pay phone booths in the main villages.

Also, see [Wifi / Internet](#) Section as most resources for wifi / internet include calling.

Vini - <http://www.vinispot.pf/index.php?lang=english>

Vini sim cards can be used for both internet and calling. Vini sim cards and top up cards can be purchased at the post office. Be aware: data seems to burn through quickly with the bad connections and some data has "disappeared" off of cards.

**2021 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 (not in any documentation - you will have 3 attempts to get this correct)

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.

I inserted data SIM in my unlocked iPhone 4S and did not need to change any settings to 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 by doing:

- 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).

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

**Sept. 2020:** We purchase the pre-paid Vini SIM card for 1000xpf and then buy top up cards when it needs to be reloaded. They usually last a month and allow for local phone calls and WhatsApp messages. We do not use it for other data as you will go through it too fast. It is super easy to top up (post office, magasins offer top up cards for 1000 xpf) and works well when you are near most main villages. We also have a Vini router for internet use and can utilize Skype and WhatsApp for international calls.

You can also purchase a post-paid SIM Card with 4G that offers 2 GB of data plus voice and SMS for 1000xpf. However, you have to jump through some hoops to get the account set up. – Sugar Shack

**2018:** Thanks to Mark on Starlet for letting me know that Vini is now able to run both data and voice thru the same sim card. This is a recent event (2018) so no need to buy two sim cards. BUT data is very expensive using this method. Best to sign up for a plan if possible.

I checked in the Vini office (3-20-18) in Papeete and was assured that sim cards purchased in Marquesas can now be used for both data and voice. – Jacaranda

**March 2017:** There are now two providers in the Societies with Vodafone and Vini. If you plan to stay in French Polynesia more than 6 months a mobile phone VV contract may be worth considering as they start at 920xpf a month for a minimum of one year. Currently that is approx. 84 US a year. But this gives you access to 3G internet at fairly reasonable prices. Again, see the internet section of the Tahiti Cruiser's Guide for more details. – Mary Ann II

**2010:** The cellular operator in French Polynesia is called 'Vini'. Cell phone coverage in the Societies is pretty good. If you have a compatible phone, you have two options:

(a) Buy a French Polynesia 'Vini' prepaid sim card in Tahiti at the main post office, or the airport, in Papeete, and sometimes at the Carrefour grocery stores.

(b) Use your home country sim card (with international roaming enabled)

Buying the local sim will give you a local phone number (handy for local communications), and cheaper communications.

When buying the sim card, I would also recommend that you stock up on pre-payment cards, as you might not find them in every town. – Soggy Paws



#### **1.9.4 Wifi / Internet Access**

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

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

**Reminder:** Internet access in French Polynesia is via satellite and is REALLY SLOW. Do your fellow cruisers a favor and turn off ALL automatic downloads (Windows Updates, podcast downloads, etc.). Limit your Skype calls and turn off the video. Then we can all get our email, and be able to access important website information!!

**Oct. 2020:** Vini is able to run both data and voice. However, data is very expensive and slow. We found that where our Vini sim card worked so did our GoogleFi leading us to believe that GoogleFi was using Vini services. Both were 2G and very slow, but it was access (in the Tuamotus and Gambier). Service was much better in the Society Islands.

If you stay in one of the Tahiti marinas, ask them to write a letter for you stating you are staying in the marina (“similar to a residence letter”). Take that letter to Vini and ask for an annual plan to receive the local rates which are a significant discount. We paid the year up front so we did not have to bother finding a Vini store each month to make a payment. We paid a flat fee for the contract and small box (around \$60-80 USD) and then \$50/mo for 30 gigs. They had several monthly plans at varied prices. We opted for the most access because we can be internet hungry that way. – Sugar Shack

#### **Vini Wifi Network**

Buy a Vini Wi-Fi prepaid card at any post office Vini store or many small magazines. Cost is not by the megabyte but by the hour and bandwidth can be very narrow. Cost is \$5 per hour for one hour and drop to around a dollar an hour for 100 hours.

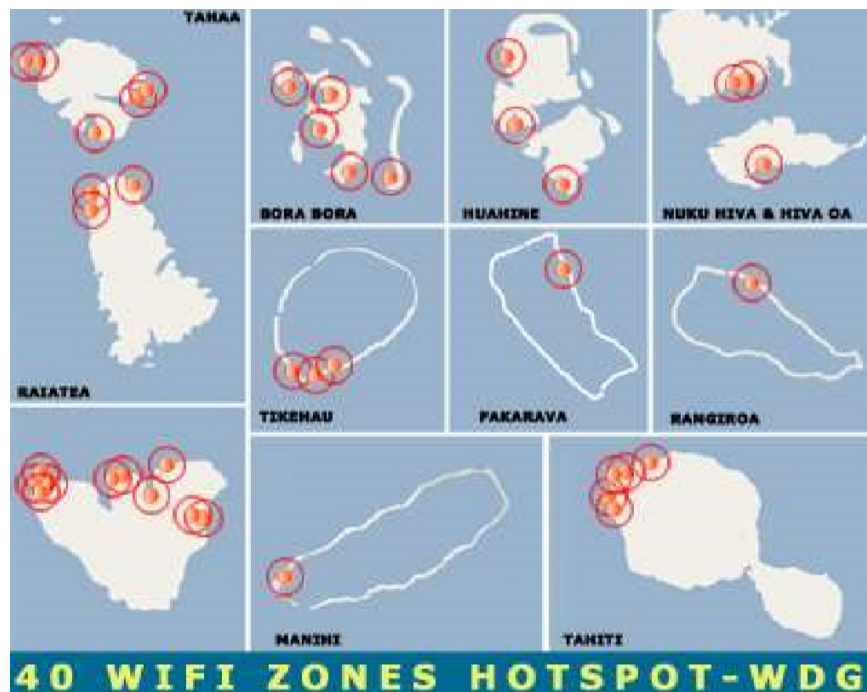
Nearly everyone who has used the hourly Wi-Fi system has seen glitches where chunks of time vanish from their account. In fact, from about May 2016 to October 2016 a one-hour Vini WIFI card never expired (those were the days!). In Papeete there are easily accessible Vini shops with English speaking staff, here buying the 100-hour cards is a safer bet as they have been able to re-credit user’s accounts.

#### **VINI 3G Internet**

If you plan to be in FP for more than nine months then there are two options for 3G internet access either with your smart phone, 3g capable tablet or with a Vini 3g router. This is rather complicated to get as it requires letters from a marina to the Vini Company to set up. Again, a detailed account is available at the online Tahiti Cruiser’s Guide.

Internet access is possible at all the major harbors; here is where we know there is access.

Hotspot WDG ([www.hotspot-wdg.com](http://www.hotspot-wdg.com)) shows locations in all of the Society Islands. Again, you can sign up online with a credit card, wherever you find a hotspot.



In some locations you might find a computer you can use (I don't know if it costs to use it) at the post office. But if you really want internet access, bring your own laptop with a good wifi card.

Be forewarned that ALL internet in French Polynesia is slow. Add 20 cruising yachts that haven't had internet in a month, and the slow internet gets slower. Be kind to your neighbors and turn off Windows Updates, and automatic download of large Podcasts while you are slow/remote internet connections. It is also a good idea to pre-download anything you MIGHT need to your computer ahead of time (programs and web pages we have recommended in this Compendium, for example!!)

### 1.9.5 News

Here are some sources of news that we used to keep abreast of what was happening in the world.

#### 1.9.5.1 English Language Voice News

After a lot of research on the internet before we left Central America, but I found that what worked best was to dial around on the 9 MHz band at the time of day I wanted to listen to news (morning and evening are the best times for propagation).

We found the BBC on 9695 am at 1600-1700 UTC (mornings) and 12095 USB at 0100UTC (afternoons).

#### Radio NZ

9.580 AM FP time  
 11.725 PM FP Time  
 15.720 PM FP time

30-minute BBC broadcast at 16:00-16:30 Tahiti local time on Radio NZ

#### Radio Australia

15.240 PM FP Time  
 17.840 PM FP Time

Voice of America does claim to broadcast to French Polynesia, but all the broadcasts are in the middle of the night in French Poly. 1230-1300 UTC on 9600 and 1400-1430 UTC on 9830.

**Sept. 2018:** We have not found any BBC news via SSB or anything besides radio New Zealand (11.725) 18:00 local. Radio NZ gives very little or nothing of international news but does cover NZ. Frequencies we have listened to for radio NZ are 7.425, 11.725, 15.720 check around 1700Z-1900Z

We use an app called SWBC Sked that covers the whole world but appears that the frequency list has not been updated since we downloaded it 3 years ago. Soggy Paws is right-SW broadcasts are being phased out – Jacaranda

**2011:** As the internet proliferates, English-language voice broadcasts seem to be dwindling. Many of the broadcasts you can find these days by dialing around are either religious-oriented or anti-American oriented (so listen carefully!).

### **1.9.5.2 News via Email**

**2018:** We use the NPR (US National Public Radio) news feed when away from internet. It gives a headline with a short 2-3 line of data. <http://www.npr.org/sections/news/>. – Jacaranda

**2011:** I don't know of any news service that formulates a customizable daily news email for yachts at sea (if you do, please email me, see email address at front of this guide).

But we had success, using Sailmail, in subscribing to a 'daily news email' from Reuters. We set it up so it went to a shore email address, and then we used Sailmail's Shadowmail feature to retrieve the daily emails when we felt we needed news, and had good enough propagation, to retrieve the email, stripped of all the graphics and stuff.

The daily 'US News', coming in through Sailmail, was only 7Kb. It contains the 'top 10' headlines, with a one sentence summary of each. Check out what Reuters offers at <http://links.reuters.com>. – Soggy Paws

## **1.10 Diving**

See each individual island for more information on diving in those areas.

If you do NOT have a compressor aboard, have your dive tanks inspected and pressure tested before you leave for French Polynesia. Getting fills at any commercial dive operation can be difficult if your inspections are not in date. Just about any dive shop can do the annual visual inspection, but the every-5-year hydrostatic test takes special equipment. Even in the U.S. the dive shops usually send the tanks out for the hydro. It is likely that the only hydro testing you will find in French Poly will be in Tahiti.

Unlike the Tuamotus, the Societies have a lot of dive operations, so finding a dive boat to supply equipment and take you on a dive is not difficult at all.

There are two guide books that we know of for diving in French Polynesia:

- 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.
- Diving in Tahiti, A Diver's Guide to French Polynesia, Thierry Ziesman covers diving in the Society Islands pretty well.

## **1.11 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.

**Nov. 2021:** We discovered several surveyors in Tahiti. Be sure to talk to each of them to determine who will be best suited for your needs.

- Vincent GOYAT  
+689 87 204 708. Mobile/WhatsApp and email [vincent.goyat@mail.pf](mailto:vincent.goyat@mail.pf)

**Sept. 2021:** Vincent carried out a survey on behalf of the purchaser of our boat. We spent six hours with him as he surveyed the boat and did a sea trial. He was experienced, a great communicator and very thorough. I would definitely use him again". – Due South

- Nicolas GRUET  
+689 87 70 89 39 and email [ng@bluecompositestahiti.com](mailto:ng@bluecompositestahiti.com)

**Sept. 2021:** Used by Raiatea Yacht Brokerage. Not as thorough you would want for new boat purchase, but might be fine for insurance survey. – Bella

- Phillipe PRESLE  
[tme.tahiti@gmail.com](mailto:tme.tahiti@gmail.com)
- Christophe CITEAU  
+689 87 79 63 81 WhatsApp and email [chrisciteau@mail.pf](mailto:chrisciteau@mail.pf)  
Rate 70150xpf  
Two trips (out of water and in water evaluations)

**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. 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 Haul Out, Storage, and Repair Facilities***

There are 4 haulout/storage facilities in the Societies. See below for contact information and services.

- Techni-Marine (Papeete)
- Tahiti Nautic Center in Port Phaeton at the south end of the main island of Tahiti
- Raiatea Carenage
- CNI Raiatea

In addition to these, there is a haulout/storage facility available in Apataki in the Tuamotus. (See the Tuamotus Compendium for info) and Nuka Hiva yacht Services in the Marquesas.

There is also dockage available at Marina Taina and Marina Papeete (see that section for more details).

Tahiti Nautic, Raiatea Carenage, and CNI are covered with contact information and cruiser reports in their respective sections in this guide (see the table of contents).

**July 2024:** By July both CNI and RCS had no more storage slots available for cyclone season. RCS's first available haulout for short term boat work was January 2025. They book up early. —Roam

Download the useful document on "[Leaving Your Boat in French Polynesia.](#)"

### **1.12.1 Techni-Marine in Papeete**

+ 689 40 43 02 22, [technimarine@mail.pf](mailto:technimarine@mail.pf), and [www.technimarine.pf](http://www.technimarine.pf) They have three travel lifts, the largest is 300-tons. Can accommodate monohulls and multihulls. Secure facility, fresh water, electricity (220/240volt), toilets, showers, parking, free wifi, and freezer. Close to Papeava and Papeete Fishing Port.

**July 2019:** Patrice, the marine surveyor recommends this yard over other haul out facilities for our 47' Catamaran. We were provided a quote for a 4-hour haul and hang (survey) of 81,723 xpf. We did not use or stay at this facility. – Sugar Shack

**May 2019:** We worked with Teama at Technimarine. We had our waterline raised, light sanding with new bottom paint, and struts painted with LP paint. This is a difficult review to write because everyone at Technimarine worked hard to complete the work nearly on time; including a full day over the weekend which is highly unusual to have done by this yard.

While I truly liked Teama as a person VERY much, he proved to be completely inept at his job as project manager, (he is new to his job). I would strongly recommend that you work with someone else.

The long story is the following.... Teama did not track well with any of the project details, he either forgot things or got things mixed up. He said that supplies were ordered but they had not been, he said the exact same bottom paint had been found and seemed to say that it had arrived on site, it had not. When I stopped by a week before the start of work... he said he had still forgotten to order the supplies! He then scrambled to try and find bottom paint, eventually found some, when it arrived it was not a paint we could use. Then just before work started.... he still had forgotten the epoxy primer.... This process went on, and on....

They failed to haul the boat on time, they delayed three times, one of which was with 30 minutes notice and we were already underway in the pass when Teama called to cancel. When we finally arrived for the haul out we had to motor up and drift back down the river for three hours while we waited. After we discovered the incorrect bottom paint, it was forced on me to make four trips and ten hours' time trying to personally return the bottom paint to their supplier.

There are a lot more aspects to our difficulties at Technimarine than I wish to bore you with. In short it seemed that everyone else there was competent at their jobs and worked overtime to make up for Teama's numerous mistakes. All the other employees were efficient and made the effort to make us satisfied. While they easily could have been much better; I must rate this business a 5 out of 10. – Nehenehe

**March 2017:** Mary Ann II has gone to Technimarine on three occasions and each time found the manager friendly, helpful and in fact he made several calls for us inquiring about availability of parts. The haulout quote was 1,227xpf per foot which included power wash (that's less than we paid for any of our last three haulouts in Grenada, Antigua or Panama.)

You can do any work yourself. They have stainless welding equipment on site and spray painting can be arranged at 6,000xpf per hour. The cost may be higher if the larger travel lift is required? They currently have a 70-ton lift and a 300-ton lift. The lay days were more expensive than usual but mostly due to a 2619xpf to the Port Authority. – Mary Ann II

**2014:** We cannot recommend the haul-out facilities at **Technimarine** in Papeete. It's expensive, the personnel were unfriendly to rude and Pitufa still bears the rust marks from the sanding of rusty fishing vessels in this boat yard. The only advantage of Technimarine is the vicinity of chandleries and hardware stores. On our second haulout we used Raiatea Carenage. – Pitufa

### **1.12.2 Tahiti Nautic in Port Phaeton, Tahiti**

+689 40 54 76 16, <https://www.nautisport.pf/index.php/marinas/marina-taravao>  
[marcusgrandus@hotmail.fr](mailto:marcusgrandus@hotmail.fr). There is a small marina here, but most of the boats are anchored in this big bay as it has a thick mud bottom. It appears to be a good hurricane hole as well!

At least one boat we know was hauled and stored at Tahiti Nautic in Port Phaeton. See the Port Phaeton section for more details.

**March 2022** - As of 1 March 2022, the marina will be charging 6000xpf per month to boats anchored out to use their facilities. As a reminder, this is private property. Facilities include, but are not limited to: dinghy landing, car/scooter parking, trash, showers, electricity, etc.

**Feb. 2019:** We wanted to leave our boat under the care of Pakakota Yacht Services in Fakarava, but unfortunately for us Mathieu only provides that service during the "high" season. During the cyclone season (November-March), he instead works on other projects around his own property. He told us that he found that watching after boats took most of his time and interfered with his ability to get those other projects done.

Mathieu suggested that we contact a friend of his in Tahiti who has started watching boats in Baie Phaeton. We did, and found Marc to be responsible and competent. He is looking after more than 20 boats now! He gave us periodic email updates. He speaks English well, and has a long history with boats. He and his daughter make a good team!

There is a small marina here, but most of the boats are anchored in this big bay with a thick mud bottom. It appears to be a good hurricane hole as well! – Lungta

### **1.12.3 Raiatea Carenage**

+ 689 40 60 05 45, VHF 68, [raiateacarenage@mail.pf](mailto:raiateacarenage@mail.pf), [www.raiateacarenage.com](http://www.raiateacarenage.com). Hours: Mon-Thur: 0730-1200 and 1300-1630. Fri: 0730-1200 & 1300-1530.

They have a 50-ton travel lift, 50-ton travel trailer, and railway platform. They can lift monohulls and multihulls (cats and trimarans) and general facilities. Dominique is the manager and fiberglass expert and is fluent in English.

Raiatea Carenage has (3) different ways to haul boats out.

- 1) **Platform** (for catamarans and trimarans): The water will become shallow as you approach the yard (platform) but the shallowest depth we saw was 3-4 meters. The workers will be in the water as you approach. It is a little nerve racking as you don't want to run them over, but they know what they are doing and they will guide your boat to the appropriate place. They will secure 6 lines from your boat to the platform. Then they will place wood blocks under your bulk heads that sit on the platform. Once the boat is secure, they will slowly begin lifting you out of the water. The boat remains on the platform while work is performed.
- 2) **50-ton Travel lift:** to the left of the platform is a waterway used for the travel lift. It is advised to ask ahead of time if your boat needs to enter bow or stern. We watched some boats go bow in first. They then had to remove their forward stay / roller fuller. Workers will also be in the water to adjust the lift straps to ensure they are positioned properly. Once out of the water, the boats were blocked.
- 3) **50-ton Travel trailer:** to the left of the travel lift water way is another, wider water way. It can be tricky maneuvering your boat in this waterway. The workers will be in the water at the entrance of the waterway to help guide the boat to the travel trailer and avoid the rocks. Workers will also be on land to receive lines to help guide the boat. Lines will be placed on the boat to secure it, and then blocks will be placed on bulk heads. Once the boat is secure, they will pull the boat out. The boat remains on the trailer while work is performed.

**Sept. 2020:** We needed fiberglass work, a wash/wax, bottom job, and out of water survey. Because of Raiatea Carenage's stellar reputation for fiberglass work we decided to haul out with them. They were very responsive and communicative when scheduling our haul out, getting a quote, and ordering paint. However, we discovered their pricing for Sea Hawk Island 44 was 25% more than the price of Ocean 2000 (which was 50% more than the price of the States). Dominique had no problem with us ordering the paint direct from Ocean 2000 and helped facilitate the delivery to the yard.

The service was amazing. Dominique is fair and professional. He is a true leader and inspires his workers to go above and beyond. It was truly amazing to watch this team work together, support one another, and get the work done. They hustled from 0730 to 1700. It was wonderful to witness and be a part of!

The team works well together to ensure each boat is safe and well cared for. Each worker has a great love of boats and it shows in their work. They take great pride in making their customers happy.

Bathrooms are a little small with one head and one shower, but they worked.

Water and electricity were about 2000xpf for the stay.

Wifi was really expensive so we just continued to use our Vini hot spot. (Raiatea Carenage wifi rates: 1 hour = 500xpf, 3 hours=1000xpf, 10 hours= 3500xpf (as of 9/2020).

Pricing for our Catana 471 was for hauled out, on the hard for 4 days, and pressure washed for 67351xpf. Fiberglass work was 5000xpf/hour. Wash/Wax entire boat 97920xpf; water and electricity 1943xpf.

Platform Haul Out: We arrived at 0730, waited 45 minutes for the workers to get the platform ready and were hauled out and secured by 1000. They secured 6 lines (2 stern, 2 bow, one bow to the center platform and one stern to the center platform). Then they added the wood blocks under the bulk head of each hull.

The team worked hard to please us with each project. Matt and I are a bit particular so we had them stepping out of the box a few times. But they accomplished everything with a smile!

I would highly recommend Raiatea Carenage! Hard workers who have the expertise to do the job right and efficiently. There were no hidden costs and we found Dominique to be fair in his pricing.

The closest magasin and restaurant is a mile away (just past Marina Apooiti). There is a lady who comes to Raiatea Carenage, Mon-Fri. between 1030-1100 to sell lunches, fruit, and lemonade. – Sugar Shack

**July 2019:** This was Patrice's (marine surveyor) second recommendation for haul out facility. We were provided a quote for a haul and hang (survey) for our 47' catamaran of 93,561 xpf. Quote includes 2 days before and 2 days after on a mooring. – Sugar Shack

**2014:** Raiatea Carenage was much cheaper than Techni-Marine in Papeete, and the haul out was easy to organize with the flexible office people.

Having said that, there's also downsides: the area gets swampy in rains (be careful with mosquitoes, we caught dengue fever there), the narrow approach next to iron rails in the water's not exactly easy and the yard features the smelliest toilet we've ever encountered. – Pitufa

#### **1.12.4 CNI (Chantier Naval des Iles) Boatyard - Raiatea**

+689 40 66 10 10, Fax: +689 40 66 49 87, [cni@mail.pf](mailto:cni@mail.pf), [www.cnislv.com](http://www.cnislv.com) Hours: Mon-Thurs: 0730-1200 & 1300-1630. Fri: 0730-1200 & 1300-1530.

CNI has a fairly new travel lift (2019) that is incredibly sophisticated. It is a hydraulic trailer with many attachments to safely and securely haul out monohulls and catamarans. The lift is controlled by a remote and is constantly tweaked to ensure a safe haul out.

**Sept.2020:** Our boat was not hauled out here, but we watched the team haul out and splash several boats. It was incredibly impressive to watch the trailer and the team that operated it. They were professional and very diligent with each boat. – Sugar Shack

**May 2019:** We used the Chantier Naval des Isles yard on a friend's recommendation, rather than the Raiatea Carenage one next door and we're more than happy to pass on that recommendation. I understand that the two yards are similarly priced and that the facilities (basic but reasonably clean) are similar too. Chantier des Isles lifts out using a trailer which whilst not being as hi-tech as those hydraulic trailers we've previously used, is more than adequate for the job and the guys who get you in/out certainly seem to know what they're doing. The biggest down side of their lift-out trailer is that you seem finish well off the ground once chocked-up in the

yard – particularly so with catamarans – so almost every boat-job needs to be done off a ladder or hop-ups & scaffold boards (the yard has plenty of both).

2019 price for our 35' yacht was US\$550 for a lift in/out & 4 days ashore, plus a further \$48 for each additional day, this price also included a night either end of your stay in their small marina. No charge for water but I think the electric's (not sure, as we didn't need it) charged extra.

Besides French, the yard guys all have a little English and Karin who runs the Chantier Naval des Isles' office also speaks English and German fluently. – Moon Rebel

**2011:** I just wanted to recommend a place to repair your boat or antifoul it. We emailed Chantier Naval des Isles in Raiatea and got an email back with all the information. We wanted to antifoul our Delphia 40 and do it ourselves. We made an appointment 2 weeks in advance, arrived the day before and got a free mooring. The next day at high tide (we draw 2.25 meters) the boat was put on a cradle and pulled out of the water. W

After 2 days they put the boat back in the water. The cost was a bargain when you look at what you pay in Sydney, Australia or even the US. The travel lift cost in Cartagena, Colombia was about the same. We stayed a few days in their little marina to fix a few problems and the staff there couldn't have been more helpful. They helped me fix the problems, import spares, etc. at no or very little cost.

For us it was the best place ever to fix our yacht and a bargain to boot! You can leave your boat in storage there as well; the security has improved and the owner lives there. -- Unknown Boat – Noonsite

### **1.12.5 Accommodations near CNI & Raiatea Carenage**

**Nov.2021:** Three places are close to CNI & Raiatea Carenage (if you do not wish to live aboard on the hard).

**Sunset Beach Motel** +689 40 66 33 47, [sunsetbeach@mail.pf](mailto:sunsetbeach@mail.pf), [www.sunset-raiatea.pf](http://www.sunset-raiatea.pf). It has 6 beach bungalows and 1 garden villa. Rates start at 12000-15000xpf/night. – Sugar Shack

**Orion Voilerie** +689 87 70 99 01 or [orion.raiatea@gmail.com](mailto:orion.raiatea@gmail.com). Offers a few bungalows for 12000xpf per night. Conveniently located right outside the main entrance to Raiatea Carenage. The bungalows have small kitchenettes, but there is no restaurant service.

**3-room Bungalow:** +689 87 27 10 00 and +689 87 20 12 01. Ask for Kalei and Mau. It is a 10-minute walk from the yards and is about \$100/night. Beautiful little property with a pool and dock and they also offer rental car services.

**2019:** We stayed at the **Sunset Beach Motel** while we were recommissioning our boat at the Carenage. We love that place. For just over \$100/night, you get a huge bungalow that sleeps five, with a large deck overlooking the lagoon and the sunset. There is no air conditioning but the fans are helpful. It is a family run operation. They will pick you up for free from the airport and take you to the grocery store if they are going that way anyway. They offer free fruit from their plantation, and Wi-Fi at the office. Cell reception is adequate.

Best of all, you can walk or dinghy from your bungalow to the Carenage. Book early and for as many nights as you need - last minute extensions are usually not available because they operate at nearly full capacity all the time. The only drawback is that you are not on your boat on the water, you are on land, in a beautiful, rich, green coconut plantation, and the bugs can be bitey. – Cool Change

### **1.12.6 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. – Jacaranda



### **1.13 Ciguatera**

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

<http://www.jacarandajourney.com/other-good-stuff>

**From Wikipedia – January 2019:** 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 odor 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.

### **1.14 Manta Ray Reporting**

Citizen science Manta Ray reporting will show you how to identify and photograph manta rays and then submit the data to French Polynesia Manta Research. Visit: <https://www.jacarandajourney.com/citizenscience>

### **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. If you find a service/store that is not listed please send updates.

### **1.15.2 Facebook Groups**

The primary groups on Facebook for information on French Polynesia are:

**French Poly Cruisers Facebook Group** <http://facebook.com/frenchpolynesiacruziers> 3600+ members

The French Polynesia Cruiser Facebook group offers a great way to stay up to date on news and related information. Join the group for free, contribute updates, and stay in the loop. If the above link does not work, search for “French Polynesia Cruisers” in groups on Facebook.

**Puces Nautiques** is a buy, sell, trade Facebook Group in French Polynesia. They have a group for Tahiti and another group for Raiatea.

**Pacific Puddle Jump** <https://web.facebook.com/groups/1102530253191598/> 630 members

**Pacific Voyagers 2020** <https://web.facebook.com/groups/PPJ2020fleet/> 903 members

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

<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 (\$22/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.”

They have a Facebook page too: <https://www.facebook.com/DesVoiliers/>

### **1.15.4 Buy, Sell, Trade Online**

A very useful Facebook group called [Puces Nautiques Tahiti](#) allows cruisers to buy, sell, trade marine parts and more line. Your post will need to be approved by the administrator, but that’s done within 24-48 hours. There are two groups. One for Tahiti and one for Raiatea.

### **1.15.5 Pacific Puddle Jump 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. A good source of information, but not very organized, and it can be full of bloat from people who ask the same questions without doing any research of their own.

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 sign up for this group. Be sure to explore the Files and Links pages, there is lots more information there.

### **1.15.6 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.

### **1.15.7 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. Indexed back issues are also available electronically.

### **1.15.8 Stopover Handbook for French Polynesia**

**June 2020:** The old 40-page color brochure created by the French Polynesia Tourism Bureau and the Port de Papeete doesn't seem to still around.

Instead, you can download the Stopover Handbook for French Polynesia from this site:

<https://en.pf.yellowflagguides.com/>

Note: If you can't find it on this website, the latest version I have found will be posted here:

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

### **1.15.9 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.

### **1.15.10 Dream Yacht Charter (DYC) 2011**

I found the Dream Yacht Charter 'guidebook' [online as a PDF file](#). It has notes and useful information for their charterers. I have included a few notes and anchorages from this guide.

### **1.15.11 Cruising Report Contributors**

We are indebted to the people and organizations that have documented their experiences and shared 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 at - svsoaggyaws -dot- com. Every section is a mix of several sources:

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.

**Roam (2024):** Jim and Pam have been sailing since they were kids. Roam is their 6th boat and their first catamaran, a Catana 472 (14.3m x 7m x 1.3m). This is their second cruise. They first cruised Mexico back in the mid 90s (and Ha Ha #2). They have always wanted to sail the South Pacific and are thrilled to be here. They enjoyed a 16 day passage from Banderas Bay in late March 2024. They are on long stay visas and after a break during November and December will head back east in January 2025 to enjoy French Polynesia all over again. Next April or May it is on to the Cooks, Tonga, and Fiji. <http://sailroam.com>

#### **Rhapsody (2023):**

**Sugar Shack (2019-2022):** Matt and Christine on Sugar Shack arrived in Gambier in April 2019 and have been sailing French Polynesia for almost 3 years. Having enjoyed the Marquesas, Tuamotus, Gambier, and the Societies. Sugar Shack is a 47' Catana catamaran: 47' long, 26' wide, 1' draft. <http://www.svsugarshack.com> Sugar Shack was instrumental in the reorganization of the French Polynesia Compendiums and updating them in 2019-2021. In addition, Sugar Shack founded the French Poly Cruisers Facebook Group and was a Poly Mag Net controller for 2 years.

**Ari B (2019-2021):** Ari B is a Trintella 45. Length 45', draft 2.2m, width 4m. Alex (Austrian) 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. They arrived in the Marquesas in early 2019 and have spent the last two years cruising in French Polynesia (Marquesas, Tuamotus, Societies, and Gambier). Follow their adventures on [www.sy-arib.com](http://www.sy-arib.com)."

**Auntie (2015, 2020-2021):** Eve began sailing Auntie single handed in French Polynesia when she arrived in June of 2015. Auntie is a deep draft (8-1/2 ft) 53 ft monohull built by Southern Ocean Shipyards in 1970. In 2015 Auntie spent 3 months in the Societies and then continued on a circumnavigation. Auntie crossed her path in Nuku Hiva, Marquesas 6 years later in 2020, and since then Eve has been enjoying the Marquesas, Gambier, Societies, and in the 2021 season plans to head to the Tuamotus.

**Baloo (2020-2021):** Baloo is a Valiant 40. Bob and Anne Boeck arrived in French Polynesia in 2020 and have been enjoying the Marquesas, Tuamotus and Societies.

**Due South (2020-2021):** Due South is a 50' Beneteau Oceanis boat that has been cruising with its family for several years in French Polynesia. It is 49'6" (15.10m) length, 4.49m beam and 2.1m draft. Due South has cruised through Gambier, Tuamotus, and the Societies.

**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 the Societies in 2017 and 2018. 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 also contributing to the Tahiti Cruiser's Guide online.

**Hoodoo (2020-2021):** Yanell and Missy are onboard Hoodoo a 38' Lagoon. Arriving in Gambier in 2020, they sailed through the Tuamotus to the Societies.

**Chugach (2019-2020):** French-flagged Chugach is an OVNI 495 captained by Olivier Fourment. <http://www.chugach-sailing.com/>

**Nehenehe (2019):** Farrier F-39 Trimaran "Nehenehe" LOA 47', Beam 26', Draft 20" min Max 7'. John, Melanie, and Courtney are on a ten-year trip around the world out of Vancouver BC, Canada. We have been in French Polynesia for a year and a half.

**Moon Rebel (2019):** Bob and Lesley SV Moon Rebel, in the Societies from Dec 2019 through June 2019.

**Enavigo (2018):** Steve Maine and Jody Windmiller

**Begonia (2017):** Maryanne and Kyle arrived in the Marquesas in May 2017 and went through the Societies in June 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. Their current blog: <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.

**Mary Anne II (2016-2017):** John & Julia Freeland

**New Morning (2011 & 2012)** - New Morning is a 54' monohull drawing 7.5'. Somewhat on the 'Soggy Paws plan' (long stay visa, multiple visits), Russ & Fay cruised through the Societies in July-October 2011, then left their boat for the winter in Raiatea, intending to return in April 2012. <http://www.newmorning.info>

**Sete Mares (2011)** - Sete Mares is a 60' catamaran. John and Marie-Andrea cruised through French Polynesia in 2011. <http://www.sailblogs.com/member/andreatsea/>

**YOLO (2011)** - "YOLO" (You Only Live Once) is a 42 foot PDQ catamaran owned by Karen and Jason Trautz. During their three months in French Polynesia they divided their time equally between the Marquesas, Tuamotu, and Society islands. <http://yolotrautz.blogspot.com> **Periclees (2011)** - Angus and Rolande on Periclees passed through the Societies in June/July 2011. <http://www.sailblogs.com/member/periclees/>

**Soggy Paws (2010 & 2011)** - Soggy Paws spent 2010 in the Tuamotus and Marquesas, wintered in Hawaii, and came back to French Polynesia, revisiting the Tuamotus in May and the Societies in June-Aug of 2011. Soggy Paws is a CSY 44, a 44-foot monohull with a 5.5' draft. Soggy Paws' blog: <http://svsoggypaws.blogspot.com>

**Slip Away (2010-2011)** - Jan and Rich on Slip Away arrived in French Polynesia late in 2010. They left their boat at Tahiti Nautic Center on Tahiti for 6 months and returned in January 2011. They had a 6-month visa in hand on their return, and spent a leisurely 4 months in the Societies. Slip Away's website is <http://Slip Away.net/>

**Nakia (2010)** - Nakia is a Hans Christian 33, drawing about 6 feet. They were in the Marquesas in 2009 and in the Tuamotus and Societies in 2010. Nakia's blog is here: <http://svnakia.blogspot.com>

**Visions of Johanna (2010)** - Bill of Visions of Johanna and Soggy Paws worked together to create the first version of the Tuamotus Compendium, from our collected notes, in early 2010. Visions is a 62' custom racer/cruiser with a 8 knot average cruising speed and a 6'8" draft. Visions' blog is here: <http://vofj.blogspot.com>

### **1.16 Printed 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).

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.

The Yachtsman's Guide, put out by the port of Papeete as a guide to visiting yachts (and available free in printed form, while supplies last), is very good for up to date information, contact information, etc. It's nice to have the printed version, but download the PDF just in case you can't get a printed copy.

#### **1.16.1 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.

#### **1.16.2 Top French Polynesia Printed Resources**

1. [Tahiti Cruisers Guide Online](#). Cruising Guide for Papeete –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 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), 7th ed 2011. Holly Scott has taken over the helm at Charlie's Charts and has been updating these age-old cruising guides.
3. [The Pacific Crossing Guide, NEW EDITION 2023!](#) published by the Royal Cruising Club Pilotage Foundation in association with the Ocean Cruising Club.
4. [South Pacific Anchorages](#), Warwick Clay, 2nd 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)
5. [Guide to Navigation and Tourism in French Polynesia](#), Patrick Bonnette & Emmanuel Deschamps, 2001 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). If you see it at a cruiser flea market, buy it.

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. [Yachtsmen's Guide to French Polynesia 2011 \(PDF\)](#). This 40-page PDF is downloadable from French Polynesia Tourism Bureau (French & English). (Note, it can be hard to find, and may disappear off their website from time to time, so I have put the latest copy of the English version on my website at <http://svsoggypaws.com/files/#pacific> ) It includes a lot of useful information about all of French Polynesia—clearance information, etc. It includes a nice 2-page map of FP, and shows where fuel is available. Also has advertisement from marine-related businesses that can be useful. However, coverage in the Tuamotus is limited to Manihi, Fakarava, Rangiroa, and Tikehau (all in the NW).
9. [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.
10. [Dream Yacht Charters Guide to the Leeward Islands](#). Downloaded from Dream Yacht Charters site. Copy posted here:
11. **The French Polynesia Dive Guide.** [The French Polynesia Dive 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.
12. **Diving in Tahiti Guide.** The Diving in Tahiti, A Diver's Guide to French Polynesia, Thierry Ziesman covers diving in the Society Islands pretty well. 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 online.
13. **Cruising Guide to Tahiti and the French Society Islands – Marcia Davock.** [Available from Amazon](#). This was last published in 1985 and is currently out of print but can be found [digitally](#). It is a very thorough coverage of the available anchorages in the Societies, with good sketch charts, and, as they say "Rocks don't move." It is, of course, very out of date with regards to the procedures and services ashore.

## 2 Passage Reports

### 2.1 Tuamotus to Papeete

#### 2.1.1 Tahanea to Papeete

**June 2020:** Sugar Shack was anchored in the SE corner of Tahanea which is about 10nm from the pass. The first part of our journey was a beautiful sunrise sail with the jib across the lagoon. We were not in a big hurry as slack tide was at 0830 (the best time to exit the pass). We managed to arrive to the pass around 0745 and it looked manageable. So, we ventured on. We had the fishing poles out and the jib flying as we exited. With a 2kt outgoing current we made it out with no issues, always a relief.

After we went through the pass, we changed out the sails and raised the parasail. Our first day was incredible. We had perfect winds at 15-18kts from the east. A 2-meter following sea that pushed us along toward our destination. Average speed 7kts.

Our second day had us flying our parasail again but in lighter conditions. We were losing the wind as it slowly came down to 10-12kts from the east. It was really fun to watch the apparent wind and our boat speed. As we surfed down a wave, our boat speed would exceed our wind speed.

Tahiti welcomed us with a fresh wash of the boat. It is always a good way to end a passage with a fresh rinse of the boat. We entered north pass just around 1000. All in all, a splendid passage. – Sugar Shack

### **2.1.2 *Apataki to Papeete***

**July 2010:** We left from Apataki for a two-night sail to Papeete; it was a rolly downwind sail with a wicked half hour squall the first night. The wind gusted to 45 knots and it poured rain. We left Apataki with two reefs in the main and only a little jib because we knew we were likely to go through some heavy rain clouds. John hand steered through two more squalls that night but nothing as bad as the first one. Fortunately, there were only a couple of light showers during my watches, and nothing requiring hand steering.

We arrived after sunrise on Friday as planned and called Port Control for permission to enter the busy harbor. We stood off for a few minutes to let one of the Moorea ferries go ahead of us. We then turned left into the harbor only to be met by a wall of canoes in the distance. As part of the Heiva festivities in July canoe races were being held last weekend and Friday was a practice day. At first, we tried to stay to the left side of the harbor, but after the canoes started it was apparent that was the favored side, and we dodged right to stay out of their way. After they had passed, we needed to go left again to get around and behind the buoyed start line, and into the ferry terminal and yacht quay area to our right – Nakia

## **2.2 *Tahiti to Tuamotus***

### **2.2.1 *Strategy***

The basic strategy for doing this trip, unless you just like to beat your brains out against the trade winds, is to wait for a frontal passage and motor sail to whatever Tuamotus destination you can reach in the window you have. In advance of most fronts, there is a near-calm period where the wind backs from E – NE – N – NW – W – S and then usually fills in from the SE. Sometimes the 'fills in from the SE' part is accompanied by 25+ kts and sometimes with squalls.

So, if you are wind-averse, go as soon as the wind gets light and motor. If you like the wind, wait for the SE winds and make a tack up to Rangiroa or somewhere.

### **2.2.2 *Tahiti to the Marquesas via the Tuamotus***

**Nov. 2019:** We left Tahiti in mid-November and headed to Tetiaroa where we picked up a mooring for a few nights. Then we did an overnight sail to Makatea arriving in the morning (grabbed another mooring for a few nights). Then we sailed to Rangiroa where we enjoyed Heiva before continuing Tikehau then Makemo. Then we went north to the Marquesas. The trip from Makemo to Nuku Hiva was wretched, straight upwind, horrible seas, and a truly uncomfortable passage. – Sugar Shack

**Feb-Mar 2009:** We left Tahiti in late February. It was still cyclone season so we carefully watched the weather for any signs of tropical storm formation to the west. It was good to be at sea again—the blue horizon in every direction. But the winds were contrary and we were making slow progress. Now that we had our long-stay visas, we had plenty of time and didn't need to rush (most non-EU cruisers get only 3 months). So why spend days sailing but not getting very far? I'd gotten a bad rope burn on my hand so we decided to take it easy and stop in the Tuamotus. We'd have preferred to be farther east—away from potential cyclones—but we would just keep a close eye on the tropical storm forecast.

February is the transition time between summer and winter. That means unsettled weather. Rain showers and squalls rolled through daily. The showers are very confined—usually not more than a mile or so wide. The squalls can be much bigger. They pass quickly but dump an enormous amount of rain in a very short time. Sometimes they are accompanied by violent winds and thunder and lightning. One night we sailed through a

terrific squall as we passed close between two atolls. Thunder and lightning were everywhere and, at times, the driving rain brought visibility to almost zero. We were grateful for GPS and radar.

We headed for beautiful Anse Amyot on Toau. After 10 days at Toau, we decided to sail for the Marquesas again. We wanted to visit those islands before the crowds of boats arrived from Panama, the Galápagos, and Mexico in April, May and June. Unfortunately, Poseidon didn't think it was time for our voyage. After three days we still had 350 miles to go and the wind was blowing directly from the northeast... and strengthening. Our foredeck hatch was leaking (we would later discover a cracked weld in the frame). We had a ½ knot current against us and were making about 50 miles a day toward our goal. Another week of this didn't sound fun. We spun the wheel—well, the dial on the autopilot—and headed back to the Tuamotus.

(They went to Katiu and then to Makemo, where they finally got favorable winds to the Marquesas.)

Since the Marquesas were both north and east of our position, going either direction would help us when we again tried to sail there. Makemo is due east of Katiu and, having one of the larger villages in the Tuamotus and good provisioning, made a logical next stop.

At Makemo, we'd been watching the weather carefully and the forecast called for a week of light winds. The Marquesas would still be upwind, but we like sailing to weather in light air. We sealed the leaking forward hatch with duct tape and set off.

It was a quiet and calm six-day sail. Occasionally frustrating as the wind often blew directly from the direction we wanted to go, or it didn't blow at all. We made a brief detour to the remote atolls of Takapoto (Tepoto) and Nepuka, but without passes and with very steep coral shelves, the anchoring was too dicey for us. These are known as the Îles Disappointment—they were for us, as well as for some of the locals who gathered on the wharf waiting for us to come ashore. (Note: the website says 'Takapoto' in one place and Tepoto in another. Looking at the island locations and their probable route, I think he meant Tepoto). – Migration

## 3 Tahiti

### Guidebooks

- Davock – Pg 64-146
- Bonnette – Pg 179-216

### 3.1 Passes

There are many, many passes around Tahiti Nui and Tahiti Iti. The only passes listed below are those that had information written about them. We did not include the passes that had no useful data.

- **Passe Papeete** (closest to Marina Papeete) Call port control VHF 12 before entering.
- **Passe de Taapuna** (closest to Marina Taiana)
- **Passe de Maraa** is a narrow pass but well-marked. The swell is often strong on the bordering reefs.
- **Passe Teputa** is always navigable but not really well marked. (Port Phaeton)
- **Passe Hotu Matuu** is a large deep pass. It is not lit at night.
- **Passe Puotoe** is very shallow and dangerous. Not recommended for navigation
- **Passe Vaiau** is mostly navigable.
- **Passe Havae** is narrow but deep and is usually navigable in all weather conditions.
- **Passe Tapuaeraha** is 500 meters wide and 35 meters deep. It is accessible by day and night, in all kinds of weather, and is one of the best passes on the island.
- **Passe Taharua** is deep and mostly navigable. Watch out for the reef (marked on port side of pass).
- **Passe de Papenoo** deep pass and practicable when the reef breaks.
- **Passe Faaurumai** deep pass and practicable when the reef breaks.
- **Passe Onohehe** deep pass and practicable when the reef breaks.
- **Passe Mahaena** deep pass and practicable when the reef breaks.



### **3.1.1 Passes and Formalities**

**June 2019:** We usually use Passe Papeete, near Marina Papeete, which is wide and well-marked, each time we approach Tahiti. Our destination is usually the Marina Taina anchorage which means we have to clear the air strip twice. We call port control on VHF 12 just before entering the pass. They instructed us to call again just before entering the airstrip path (there is a yellow sign to your right where you are to wait until cleared). Once cleared we proceeded forward and called again before crossing the other end of the air strip. A few times we were asked to wait for an incoming our outgoing plane, but it never lasted more than 10 minutes. Port Control is very friendly, easy to communicate with, and professional. – Sugar Shack

**Sept. 2018:** If entering the main Passe de Papeete you must call port Control on VHF channel 12 (Not 16) and ask permission to enter and exit this pass. They will tell you to wait if there is a ship entering or exiting the harbor. Also be aware that there are 2 ferries that make multiple runs each day to/from Moorea. They both travel at about 30+knts. – Jacaranda

**July 2018:** The north pass is the large shipping pass. It's very easy, large and straight forward to go in/out of. The southern pass to enter into Marina Taina was our worst pass in French Polynesia! Don't underestimate this pass because the other pass was easy! Definitely time this pass right with the tide and winds. We were surfing a 72' Oyster down breaking waves inside the pass! – Consensus

### **3.1.2 Transitioning from Downtown area to Taina Marina**

**Nov. 2021 verified (Sept. 2018):** You MUST call Port control on VHF channel 12 to ask permission to cross the airport runway at BOTH ENDS (that is 2 calls to port control). Be sure to have your VHF on!! At least 1-2 times a week we hear port control calling yachts moving along this track with NO answer. They've had to hold planes from taking off and landing because some poor fool didn't have his VHF and didn't know he needed to call.

Having your AIS on and transmitting also helps port control in the airport crossing. – Jacaranda

## **3.2 Haul Facility - Tahiti: Technimarine**

+689 40 43 02 22 [www.technimarine.pf](http://www.technimarine.pf). Hours: Mon-Thur: 0730-1130 & 1230-1530. Fri: 0730-1130 & 1230-1430. See cruiser reports below for additional information.

### **3.2.1 Cruiser Reports on Technimarine**

**Oct. 2021:** We hauled our 14m catamaran at Technimarine for 5 days in October 2021 and were impressed with the experience. The haulout – on their big 300T travel lift - was professional and relaxed. They had 4 people to take lines and 2 in the water checking where the straps should be. After the wash we had them give the antifoul a light sand and then we were able to do all the work ourselves.

The afternoon before splash day they picked us up in the lift and one of the workers gave the pad areas a light sand before we put antifoul on those patches.

I think their hourly rate is expensive but we got a quote for the sanding job which we thought was fair and did not need to hire any equipment as we were sitting on our keels. Technimarine is a working yard with fishing boats as well as yachts and also construction of new boats. It is a very noisy place during the working day, but easy walking distance to the stores on Fare Ute. Sin Tung Hing delivered the antifoul paint the day we hauled.

We have heard it can be very windy there but we were extremely lucky with the weather. All in all, a good experience and we would haul there again. – Sea Rose

**June 2021:** We hauled out at Technimarine in June 2021 to antifoul and again in September 2021 for a hull survey. We found the staff at Technimarine excellent to deal with. They assisted us into the travel lift and around the yard with great care. We completed all the work on the boat ourselves. They did some stainless

welding at a much cheaper price than elsewhere locally. The bathroom/shower facilities were a bit average. They also insisted on us using their scaffolding for working up high. – Due South

**May 2019:** We worked Technimarine. We had our waterline raised, light sanding with new bottom paint, and struts painted with LP paint. This is a difficult review to write because everyone at Technimarine worked hard to complete the work nearly on time; including a full day over the weekend which is highly unusual to have done by this yard.

While I truly liked Teama as a person VERY much, he proved to be completely inept at his job as project manager, (he is new to his job). I would strongly recommend that you work with someone else.

The long story is the following.... Teama did not track well with any of the project details; he either forgot things or got things mixed up. He said that supplies were ordered but they had not been, he said the exact same bottom paint had been found and seemed to say that it had arrived on site, it had not. When I stopped by a week before the start of work... he said he had still forgotten to order the supplies! He then scrambled to try and find bottom paint, eventually found some, when it arrived it was not a paint we could use. Then just before work started, he still had forgotten the epoxy primer.... This process went on, and on....

They failed to haul the boat on time, they delayed three times, one of which was with 30 minutes notice and we were already underway in the pass when Teama called to cancel. When we finally arrived for the haul out we had to motor up and drift back down the river for three hours while we waited. After we discovered the incorrect bottom paint, it was forced on me to make four trips and ten hours' time trying to personally return the bottom paint to their supplier.

There are a lot more aspects to our difficulties at Technimarine than I wish to bore you with. In short it seemed that everyone else there was competent at their jobs and worked overtime to make up for Teama's numerous mistakes. All the other employees were efficient and made the effort to make us satisfied. While they easily could have been much better; I must rate this business a 5 out of 10. – Nehenehe

**March 2017:** Mary Ann II has gone to Technimarine on three occasions and each time found the manager friendly, helpful and in fact he made several calls for us inquiring about availability of parts. The haul out quote was 1,227xpf per foot which included power wash (that's less than we paid for any of our last three haul outs in Grenada, Antigua or Panama.)

You can do any work yourself. They have stainless welding equipment on site and spray painting can be arranged at 6,000xpf per hour. The cost may be higher if the larger travel lift is required? They currently have a 70-ton lift and a 300-ton lift. The lay days were more expensive than usual but mostly due to a 2619xpf to the Port Authority. – Mary Ann II

**2014:** We cannot recommend the haul-out facilities at Technimarine in Papeete. It's expensive, the personnel were unfriendly to rude and Pitufa still bears the rust marks from the sanding of rusty fishing vessels in this boat yard. The only advantage of Technimarine is the vicinity of chandleries and hardware stores. On our second haul out, we used Raiatea Carenage. – Pitufa

### **3.3 Marina Papeete**

+689 40 47 48 54 and +689 40 89 47 48 54

[marinadepapeete.com](http://marinadepapeete.com), [marinadepapeete@portppt.pf](mailto:marinadepapeete@portppt.pf),

VHF9.

Hours: Mon-Fri: 0900-1200 & 1300-1500. Sat-Sun: 1000-1200 & 1300-1500.

Ken is the manager of the marina and is super nice and friendly. Coordinates 17 32.25S / 149 34.15W

#### **3.3.1 Cruiser Reports on Marina Papeete**

**April 2021:** The construction is complete. There's a new Marina office complex with a lounge, well maintained restrooms and showers. No reservations, first-come-first serve basis for the slips. Although, you can call

ahead to see if berths are available. Find an empty berth, and then go to the office to register. Daily, weekly, and monthly rates are available.

The new marina office is by the semicircular docks. You can park at the semicircular dock or continue on to the marina's main slip area. Security people are ever present. The waterfront is full of activity...restaurants, parks, playgrounds. Across the street is the city with everything that goes along with the city. If you dock bow-in, you may want to consider just one bow line straight ahead (like an anchor, you can move the dock cleats) rather than get jerked back and forth by two bow lines. Leave the dock lines a little loose. Free good internet is available at the new Tahiti Tourism office and the same password works in the restaurant area of the Ferry Terminal. – Trance

**Oct. 2020:** We had a berth here for about 10 days and loved it. We were on a finger pier off the floating docks. The staff is really nice and friendly. Because construction was still ongoing, they offered low season rates (about 2600xpf/night for our Catana 471). There were no bathroom or laundry facilities, but you are in the middle of downtown with easy access to everything! They should be opening a new captain's lounge, bathrooms, laundry, wifi, and marina office by the end of the year. There is a gate around the marina but many people prop the gate open which means anyone can walk in. But we did not experience or have any security issues or concerns. – Sugar Shack

**May 2019:** We were here for two weeks. We have an over 26-foot-wide trimaran that is usually hard to find a space for at any other marina. We were easily accommodated here. They have numerous multi-hull width slips. The staff is fantastic, they were unreal... We love them.

Unfortunately, the marina is currently under major construction that will last at least another six months. They had very little in the way of facilities because everything is torn up or fenced off for construction. There was NO Internet; the air-conditioned lounge does not exist, one small washing machine (1,000 francs) that 55 boats were lined up to use (two machines were broken the entire time we were there), one dryer.

The docks are very high quality. The marina is less than 60 feet from the downtown activity and was a lot of fun to be in. However, I found it slightly awkward that there is a 300-foot walk outside the marina - along the main boulevard in town - to reach the showers and bathrooms.

We saw no evidence of theft while we were there but just previously, our liveaboard neighbor had parts on his bike stolen while locked up at the bicycle parking area just inside the locked entry gate. The old night time guards were all fired and they recently have a new guard agency that is doing a much better job.

We really enjoyed ourselves here and highly recommend them, especially once the construction is completed. (We are glad that Marina Taina would not accommodate trimarans). It looks like things will be amazing after construction is finished. I would currently rate them a 7 out of 10. – Nehenehe

**July 2017:** Both marinas are about the same distance from the airport. Not very close! 20-30-minute drive. The marina in town (Marina Papeete) is well set up but is busy and chaotically run. No one answers the VHF at the marina and we were told to find our own berth and come tell him what it was! You are very close to food truck nightly market, fresh veg market (\$\$\$ but finally nice fresh veg!), bakery, flower and crafts market, restaurants, grocery stores, internet, and nice park, walking path, kids' playground when you are based at this marina though. Be careful with water and electric at this marina. It is done by a card system and it is easy to leave your credit accidentally (or use someone else's!) on the pontoon system you were using. – Consensus

**March 2017:** This is a professionally run marina with friendly staff, (hot) showers, two washing machines, but also a lady that picks up laundry (2000 for washing and drying per load). And a bicycle that can be borrowed. At the boulevard, clean docks and potable water.

Security on site and locked gates. The marina only exists 2 years now, so also electricity and water are modern systems. They take care of the clearance to the port captain. Fair use internet most times available (included) (unless someone decides to download movies...). Internet is still expensive here, also for locals. Champion supermarket at walking distance with fresh baguettes. The marina is recommended. – Spunky

**March 2017:** The Papeete Marina is a modern marina with floating docks with finger piers, which is very affordable in the summer months 1st November to 31st March.

As of March 2017, the cost for a 10-meter vessel (they use your registered length so bowsprits don't count) is \$81 a week. A 12-meter boat is 9763xpf. Winter rates 1 April to 1 Nov are 2.4 times higher (10-meter boat \$195 a week.) Slips in the winter are not always available. The electric and water are metered with modern prepaid card (240 volt only.) In the heart of the city it has security and of course hot showers and laundry. Best of all in the summer months an air-conditioned lounge with free Wifi. Staff are very friendly and helpful.

In a strong westerly, the swell through the marina requires vigilance with fenders and dock lines. In an El Nino year one would need to have a well-considered backup plan to stay here during the FP summer.

Some pluses include the food trucks a very short stroll away and Monday night half priced beer at the microbrewery. Champion supermarket is a 10-minute walk and there are English movies on Thursday night. The Quai de Yachts used by cruisers no longer exists. – Mary Ann II

### **3.3.2 Yachtsman Services**

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

**April 2021:** Dropped off an empty USA propane tank early Monday at the Mobil Gas Station northeast Marina Papeete. Returned Tuesday 10:00 am and the tank was ready. I presume it's now filled with butane and hope it all works well. – Trance

**June 2020:** Most fuel stations will refill cooking gas bottles if they are up to date and in good condition. See "Cooking Gas" section above for more details. – Sugar Shack

**Nov. 2021 Verified (June 2010):** Tahiti Gas will NOT fill bottles that have not been inspected (and had the date stamped into it) in the last 10 years. All of mine are older, so I could not buy gas here. (Note, later other cruisers said they had no problems) – Fellow Traveler

#### **3.3.2.2 Fuel (Diesel and Gasoline)**

There is a fuel dock at Taina Marina. See section [Fuel in Marina Taina](#)

**June 2023: Dinghy to Customs:** If you have to go to customs to get your diesel tax exemption, you can go with your dinghy direct to the custom building. They have a jetty right behind. The procedure is very easy, takes 10 minutes and the friendly lady speaks English. – Freeirie

**Nov. 2021: Duty Free Certificates** can be obtained without an agent. Simply walk to their office with your boat paperwork, fill out a form and receive your certificate, for free. The Douanes office is located by the docks in Papeete and can be found on Maps.me. Douanes located on Chenel de Motu Uta (motu by NautiSport). Go to "Francisation et Hypotheques" office (follow the signs). They will be very happy if you bring a photo copy of your boat paperwork and passport (so they don't have to use their old copier). We were told the only islands that accept the duty-free certificate for diesel are: Tahiti, Moorea, Raiatea, Bora Bora, Rangiroa, Huahine, and Nuku Hiva. – Sugar Shack

### **3.3.3 General Services**

See cruiser reports for additional services.

**Cruising Guide for French Polynesia** - <http://www.tahiticruisersguide.com/> Download this extremely useful and informative guide and use it while you are offline. Offers data on services, companies, and shops all over French Polynesia, not just Tahiti.

### 3.3.3.1 Auto Parts:

**Sept. 2019:** Av. De Tipaeru'i has several auto parts stores, mechanics, bearings, stainless steel, and other tool-type resources. From Marina Taiana, turn left on to take Route 5; turn right at Total station onto Avenue de Tipaerui. – Sugar Shack.

**Feb. 2019:** At the intersection of Bambridge and Clemenceau is an auto-parts shop. – Lungta

### 3.3.3.2 Bank / ATMs

Several banks and ATMs are located downtown Papeete and near large grocery stores.

### 3.3.3.3 Hardware Supplies

**Ace Sing Tung Hing** has several locations downtown Papeete. Each location sells different and unique products so be sure to visit them all to find what you are looking for. Location is around Fare Ute and Voie L. [www.ace-sintunghing.com](http://www.ace-sintunghing.com)

- Ace Sing Tung Hing Do it Yourself (Building Materials) +689 40 50 85 00. Hours: Mon-Fri: 0700-1600, Sat: 0730-1600
- Ace Sing Tung Hing Hardware +689 40 54 43 00 Hours: Mon-Fri: 0700-1600, Sat: 0730-1600

**Mr. Bricolodge** +689 40 50 65 50. Hours: Mon-Sat: 0730-1730. This is a well-stocked hardware store located near Polynesian Trading. Located off Route 1. By dinghy: Just past Intercontinental hotel are 2 docks. Large one has gate that is open most days and closest to store. Mr. Bricolodge has home goods, garden supplies (and seeds), and general hardware.

**Hyper Bricolodge:** +689 40 50 50 60 Hours: Mon-Sat: 0700-1730, Sun: 0800-1300. From Marina Papeete, turn left, then turn right on Avenue du Prince Hinoi (at Bora Bora Restaurant) and it will be on right. – Sugar Shack

### 3.3.3.4 Marine Supplies & Boat Parts

**Ocean 2000.** +689 40 83 83 93. [oc2jeune@mail.pf](mailto:oc2jeune@mail.pf) Avenue du Chef Vaira'atoa. Hrs: Mon-Fri: 0730-1130 & 1300-1630. Sat. 0800-1100. Located off Avenue du Chef Vaira'atoa. Ken is the manager and speaks English

- **Sept. 2020:** We needed to order and ship bottom paint to Raiatea. We contacted Ocean 2000 and found them to be very responsive, and professional. The cost of the paint was significantly cheaper than the price at the yard. They then shipped it to the yard for only 2500xpf next day. Very pleased with the overall experience. – Sugar Shack
- **June 2019:** We found this marine store to be well stocked with a good variety of marine supplies. Fishing supplies, bottom paint, stainless, lines, fenders, glues, hull cleaner, etc.... Staff was helpful and willing to order parts not in stock. The location is tricky to find, but we found them using maps.me. Be sure to ask the staff if you cannot find something as they have stock in the back. There are a few plumbing stores close to Ocean 2000. – Sugar Shack
- **May 2019:** Very well stocked, helpful owner with a wife that is less so. Very good English is spoken. It seems like they had the most varied selection of general chandlery items of all four marine stores that I went to. Note that they have a 24-hour return policy that if exceeded becomes difficult to use; they tried to deduct 50% of the cost after 24 hours. Apparently.... It is all in French at the bottom of their invoice. I would rate this store an 8 out of 10. – Nehenehe

**Sin Tung Hing Marine** +689 40 54 94 53 [www.sthmarine.com](http://www.sthmarine.com) Hours: Mon-Fri: 0800-1700. Sat: 0800-1200. Located off Rue Alfred Poro'i (Papeete). Marine for general supplies. They have a downtown store and a satellite store at Marina Taina.

- **June 2019:** The employees are extremely helpful in this well stocked marine store. The downtown store is far bigger than the satellite store, but they can transport items between each store. We

purchased lots of items from here, but the coolest was the spear gun which they assembled for us. Be sure to ask them for any product you can't find as they may have it in the back. – Sugar Shack

- **2011:** A great enthusiastic and English-speaking contact is Sebastian, who is at Taina Mondays and Tuesdays, otherwise he is downtown. Sebastian's cell is 73 72 96. Items can be brought to Satellite from downtown. Location is in Vaininiore, just across the canal (Riviere Papeava) from Fare Ute on the waterfront. – Visions of Johanna

**TahitiSport (NautiSport):** +689 40 50 59 59 [www.nautisport.pf](http://www.nautisport.pf). Hours: Mon-Fri: 0745-1200 & 130-1615. Sat: 0800-1200. Located off Pont de Motu Uta (Papeete).

- **June 2023:** We have tried to contact them for three weeks, but their contact details have changed. The card I was given has the following contact information: Cell: +689 87 73 53 84 Office: +689 40 53 30 70. [dirtsav@nautisport.pf](mailto:dirsav@nautisport.pf) - Four Birds  
*Editors Note: From Malaysia, I could not bring up the nautisport.pf website. But I found them on Facebook with recent posts, and the original contact numbers above:*  
<https://www.facebook.com/nautisport.SATahitisports/> So I have left it there in case this was a temporary communications problem. In 2024, I confirmed the Tahiti branch of Nautisport still has the original 5959 number listed first above.
- **Oct. 2020:** They have two locations about 1 block apart from each other. They sell loads of snorkel gear, free diving flippers, spear guns, water toys, and marine supplies. Helpful staff. – Sugar Shack
- **May 2019:** Good store but for the size... they don't carry much marine chandlery as Ocean 2000. Great SCUBA selection and service. Almost no English spoken here. Rated 8 out of 10. Take the bus (130xp's from the bus stop opposite Carrefour, just past the walk over bridge). Get off opposite the tourist board on the boulevard in the town and then walk straight down the boulevard, crossing one roundabout and at the next roundabout you will see NautiSport to the left. A word of warning, if you need to order any parts, they order them from France and they take ages. – Nehenehe

#### VPB

- Very close to Nautisport. Well stocked with all kinds of screws, bolts and nuts as well as all kind of tools and fastening and mounting parts. All in Inox or galvanised. – Freeirie

**Yung Tung** +689 40 50 89 89. Hours: Mon-Fri: 0700-1600. Sat: 0800-1130. Located on Voie O around the corner from Kim Fah.

- **2011:** They have an excellent supply of batteries, and some electrical parts. We bought a battery duty free. A great contact is Isabel who speaks English and was very helpful. – Visions of Johanna

**July 2017:** In the industrial center of town on the east side near the shipping port we found nice mechanic shops, hardware stores, marine stores, and machine shops with high quality supplies in stainless!

We drove the dinghy inside the port, under the bridge, and left it at a fishing boat dock (with the lock!) and asked the fisherman if he could keep an eye on it for us. Shops aren't too far from here. We had a pump rewound at a mechanic's shop for a price that wasn't too astronomical for French Polynesia. It helps if you speak some French though! –Consensus

**Tahiti Ocean.** +689 77 01 12 - [yacht4@mail.pf](mailto:yacht4@mail.pf), <http://www.tahiti-ocean.com/>. Hours: Mon-Fri: 0800-1700 & Sat: 0800-1200.

- **2011:** While Tahiti Ocean offers services to luxury yachts visiting French Polynesia, they are also an excellent resource for blue water sailors in need of cleaning products, small hardware (which they have in their inventory) and misc. services. They are located in the Marina Taina; however, they will make deliveries to the Leeward Islands either by ferry or plane. When Russ and I were in Moorea, we broke our Shurhold boat hook. I called Tahiti Ocean and not only did they have the hook in stock, they got it onto the afternoon ferry, had someone in Moorea pick it up at the ferry dock, and delivered it to the dinghy dock in Cook's Bay, all in the same day. We were wowed by that experience. About a week later, our engine fan started showing serious signs of fatigue so we called Tahiti Ocean and while they

did not have the part in stock, they were able to find it in Papeete and again, sent it over on the ferry and had it delivered to Cook's Bay the next day. We worked directly with Tehau who speaks excellent English and is very professional and pleasant to work with. – New Morning

**Roulement de Tahiti** +689 40 81 00 81. Hours: Mon-Fri: 0730-1500. Located on Av. De Tipaeru'i. From Marina Taiana, take Route 5; turn right at Total station onto Avenue de Tipaerui. Go about ½ mile on right. From Marina Papeete, turn right on Ave du Prince Hinoi, cut over to Avenue du Commandant Destremau, turn left on Av De Tipaeru'i, go ½ mile up the street, on the right side.

- **Oct. 2020:** Bearings! Bearings! Bearings! We've visited the bearing shop several times and have found them to be extremely knowledgeable, courteous, and friendly. They have a huge selection of parts. Simply bring the part number or the item you need to purchase and they will have it. – Sugar Shack

**Mahana Ora Api** +689 87 71 27 74 and +689 87 73 27 63, [mahana-api@sintunghing.pf](mailto:mahana-api@sintunghing.pf), [www.mahanaora-api.pf](http://www.mahanaora-api.pf), also on [Facebook](#). A solar energy company affiliated with Sing Tung Hing.

- April 2021: We upgraded our solar panels. Purchased two YL320D-30D (320 watts) panels for 19 500 xpf. Free delivery to Papeete Marina from Mahana Ora on the corner near the Ace Hardware. – Trance

**ABC Diffusion (3D Printing Service)** +689 40 45 29 29 [fpiombino@abcdiffusion.com](mailto:fpiombino@abcdiffusion.com) An office machinery company. Located close to the Paofai Champion supermarket.

- June 2024: Good service. I got the plastic belt for Simrad radar made in a day. - Victoria

### 3.3.3.5 Medical Center & Pharmacy

Download the [tahiticruiserguide.com](http://tahiticruiserguide.com) for a complete list of physicians and specialists in Papeete.

**Pharmacist:** Patrick Ly +689 87 79 16 93 [pharmaciedetiarei@mail.pf](mailto:pharmaciedetiarei@mail.pf). He 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. He also works with a physician in downtown Papeete who can receive your medications and administer them at a low cost (shots). Patrick can send the medications to the physician where you can pick them up (closer to downtown Papeete) you don't have to go all the way to Patrick.

**May 2023:** I had a medical emergency. First, I went to a clinic with a doctor who speaks English.

DR. DAVID PREVOST - I was able to make an appointment online for a Saturday morning. Nice, clean and efficient clinic. He prescribed antibiotics. And he responded on the weekend to my email when I had questions.

Online booking: <https://doctofenua.com/doctors;doctor=5fc90f4df1dda7004fb47143>

GP Dr David Prevost  
55, rue des Poilus Tahitiens  
+689 40 53 30 10

**Hospital - Papeete - Ta'aone Hospital** (Centre Hospitalier du Taaone). CHPF

By the next day, it was obvious the infection was not going to get better with just antibiotics. So I went to the hospital emergency room. While the wait was quite long, the staff were very kind. And once I saw a doctor everything went very smoothly with tests and consultations with multiple doctors. Had to have minor surgery to clean it out but all is good now. The hospital was great, all doctors spoke English. Most Nurses and orderlies did not speak English but I got by. And they had an English speaking Administrative guy who is in charge of all tourist hospital stays who checked on me in my room and then on my check out to make sure I understood the charges.

- s/v Nutmeg

**Sept.2020:** We needed to see a general practice physician, gynecologist, dentist, and dermatologist while in Tahiti. Here is who we saw below. – Sugar Shack

Clinic Paofai Hours: Mon-Wed & Fri: 0730-1730. Thurs: 0730-1230, Sat: 0700-1100.

**General Practitioner** Dr. Prevost +689 40 53 30 10 [mgpaofaimail.pf](mailto:mgpaofaimail.pf) located at 55 rue des Poilus Tahitiens. Multi-lingual, walk-in service available, excellent, and highly recommended.

He is lovely, speaks English, and will do any type of lab work, review the results (which come back in French), and assist with prescriptions. A general exam was 6000xpf + labs. I really liked Dr. Prevost and found him to be responsive, professional and easy.

**Gynecologist:** Dr. Violaine Bertrand-DINH-GIA. +689 40 46 18 13, +689 40 42 57 99. [secretairebertrand@gmail.com](mailto:secretairebertrand@gmail.com). Located 1 block from Paofai Clinic. Between Paofao parking lot and Rue Cook. On Blvd. de la Reine Pomare. (Between the Galerie des Tropiques and the podologue office.) She did a full breast exam, pelvic exam, ultrasound, Pap smear for 9000xpf + labs. She is very pleasant and professional. Speaks English. When you enter her office, go to the receptionist furthest from the door as the other person is for a different doctor.

**Dentist** Dr. Maxence SAND +689 40 42 02 05, [drsandmaxence@gmail.com](mailto:drsandmaxence@gmail.com). Located downtown Cabinet Dentaire, 16 rue Edouard Ahne. We sent an email on a Saturday during a holiday weekend and received a response the next day for an appointment 2 days later. Dr. Sand spoke English, was efficient, and thorough. Matt had a tooth extracted and a cavity filled for less than \$200 (which would have cost well over \$1000 in the states). We would recommend Dr. Sand!!!

**Dentist** Dr. Gerard Cheong +689 43 88 93. He is not gentle by any means. I needed a cleaning and for 6000xpf it was hardly a cleaning. My husband needed a crown and he said it was painful. He too received a crappy cleaning. His cost 12000xpf. Would not recommend him.

**Dermatologist** Dr. Fennira +689 40 46 18 43 located in Paofai clinic downtown Papeete. She works on Tuesdays. She is very thorough, kind, and speaks English. My visit which included an exam and about 12 spots being frozen cost about \$65. I would recommend her!!!

**Nov. 2021: Dental Surgeon:** Dr. Anne-Laure Levaudi +689 40 43 47 29. [secretariat.levaudi@gmail.com](mailto:secretariat.levaudi@gmail.com) / [dr.levaido@gmail.com](mailto:dr.levaido@gmail.com). Location near downtown cathedral 9 Place Notre Dame. I had two problem crowns replaced with all Zirconium crowns, two large cavities under the crowns filled, and a root canal. She seemed very professional and conscientious about the work. She speaks adequate English for basic communications, and her assistant speak a little better English. For more complicated discussions we used a translator on her computer since she wanted to be sure I was completely clear on the issues. I am happy with the results and would recommend her to others. – Cheyenne

**Oct. 2019 - Dentist:** Docteur Daniel Carnio, Chirurgien-Dentiste, Diplome de la faculté de Nancy, Immeuble Air Tahiti, Faa'a B.P. 61763, Tel. 4082 2228 (recommendation from Dentist Dr. Guirado, André; Ua Pou, Marquesas). -- Taitonga

### **3.3.3.6 Miscellaneous Stores and Shops**

**Sept. 2020:** We were on the hunt for a volleyball net and volleyball to bring back with us to Gambier. We found two stores really close to each other.

**Intersport:** +689 42 04 93 Hours: Mon-Fri: 0800-1700, Sat: 0800-1700. Sells sporting goods.

**Olympians Sport:** +689 40 54 88 44. Hours: Mon-Fri: 0800-1700. Sat: 0800-1300. Great selection, good prices and friendly staff. We found our goods!

**Bean Bag Refill (Polystyrene beads):** Tiki Meubles Discount. +689 40 83 05 85. Hours: Mon-Fri: 0830-1700, Sat: 0830-1300. Location: Industrial area on Av. De Tipareu'i. Cost for a 200L bag (which filled 2 of our bean bags) is 11500xpf. They will delivery to Marina Taina for 2000xpf. – Sugar Shack

**Oct. 2020: Fabric Stores:** There are many fabric stores around downtown Papeete near the market. You can easily find elegant material to make your own pareo or use for boat projects. – Sugar Shack



**Feb. 2019: Fabric Store:** At the intersection of Bambridge and Clemenceau is a nice fabric shop called Aarii which sells fabric with beautiful Polynesian prints and clothing made from that fabric. – Lungta

### **3.3.3.7 Post Office**

**Sept. 2019:** +689 40 41 42 42. Hours: Mon-Fri: 0730-1700, Sat: 0730-1100. The main post office is located downtown Papeete (across from the government buildings). Go to the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor of the big yellow building and go to the kiosk to get a number for your particular service. – Sugar Shack

### **3.3.3.8 Plumbing Supplies**

**Sept. 2019:** We were in need of many different plumbing supplies. We found several stores listed below. – Sugar Shack

- Le Plomberie has 3 well-stocked stores.
  - Le Plomberie in Papeete, near Ocean 2000
  - Plomberie de Faa'a located off Route 1 (bigger with more supplies)
  - Le Plomberie in Point Venus. Main road from Pt Venus to intersection (where Super U and Champion are located). Turn left and walk over bridge. Le Plomberie will be on the right side
- Le Plomberie (Papeete) informed us of another plumbing supply about 300 meters from their downtown store. We didn't go, but heard it was decent.
- Plumbing store near Polynesia Trading Route 1. (see Provisioning for Polynesian Trading location)

### **3.3.3.9 Transportation**

More detailed information about the bus system and other transportation options in Tahiti is included in a separate section: "[Getting around Tahiti on Land](#)".

**Verified Nov.2021 (Sept. 2019):** Public bus operates between 0800 and 1700 and costs 200 xpf per person. (Bus #2). Pick up is across the street from the entrance of Marina Taina and drop off downtown Papeete. Pick up downtown is next to large fresh market, in front of Vodaphone and Banque de Tahiti (blue roof building). Avenue du Marechal Foch. This is a different place than where they drop you off. The bus stop at Marina Taina: Exit main gate, go up and over bridge to be picked up. If you have a fold up bike, you can bring on the bus. There is also a bike lane, but it can be dangerous. Be sure to lock your bike and take your seat. – Sugar Shack

### **3.3.3.10 Wifi / Internet**

**April 2021:** Free, good internet is available at the new Tahiti Tourism office. The password also works in the restaurant in the Ferry Terminal. – Trance

**Sept. 2019:** Vini is able to run both data and voice. We found that where our Vini sim card worked so did our GoogleFi.

Vini's annual plan offers a large discount. If you stay in one of the marinas, ask them to write a letter for you stating you are staying in the marina ("similar to a residence letter"). Take that letter to Vini and ask for an annual plan to receive significant discount. We paid the year up front so we did not have to bother finding a Vini store each month to make a payment. We paid a flat fee for the contract and small box (around \$60 USD) and then \$50/mo for 30 gigs. They had several monthly plans including 2, 4, 6, and 10 gigs at varied prices. Coverage will work throughout French Polynesia. You can increase your plan, but you have to be on a plan for 3 months before decreasing.

Wifi hotspots:

- Business Center: Across the street from Marina Papeete is a business center. Cross the street, take the escalator up (next to Le Retro restaurant), go toward the back. The business center offers hourly rates for high speed internet. You can buy 4 hours and use an hour one day and come back the next to use

the same code. However, you can only use one code per device. Super nice people, comfortable setting and fast wifi.

- Le Retro provides wifi to customers
- Paachou restaurant offers wifi to customers

Tahiti crew rents a wifi router that works in Tahiti & Mo'orea. [tehani@tahiticrew.com](mailto:tehani@tahiticrew.com). We have several friends who have used this and they have said the connection is strong and reliable all-around. – Sugar Shack

**Jan. 2019:** There were both Vinispot and WDG internet signals at \$5/hour which could be picked-up out in the anchorage, alternatively a 15 minute walk south from the marina got you to the Mairie (local government office) and there was a free, steady but consistent wifi signal available in the lobby/gardens area there Mon-Fri during working hours. – Moon Rebel

**May 2019:** Tahiti WIFI (Cell Data System Rental): We found them at the airport next to the rental car area; they rent routers on their system for a standard cost of 13000 francs for 45 days with 10GB of data at up to 4G speed. They have worked anywhere that we can pick up a cell phone signal. They handle 5 devices at a time and can be topped off on line if you need more data at a discounted price (if you negotiate with the 'boss').

The internet speed is fantastic and I highly recommend them. You seem to be forced into returning the router at the airport but I suppose this could also be negotiable? I would rate them a 10 out of 10. – Nehenehe

### **3.3.4 Provisions**

You can literally find ANYTHING, groceries-wise, in Papeete, if you are willing to pay for it. The supermarkets are to die for, after months of out-island cruising. – Soggy Paws

#### **3.3.4.1 Grocery Stores and Markets**

**Tahiti Food Mart** in Puna'auia about 6 km from Papeete. Similar to Maxi but far better stocked and better prices than Maxi.

Close to Tahiti Food Mart is the Rum shop, from that I can confirm the 10 l. container for 16000 XPF.

Better than the other Tahiti Rhum brands, Okay for your sundowner, but we don't drink it pur.

For general food shopping we found "Easy Market" and "Super U" better than Carrefour. – Freeirie

**Champion** +689 40 54 29 25. Hours: Mon-Sat: 0600-1900. Sun: 0600-1200. Walking distance from Marina Papeete. Exit marina, turn right on main road. Make a left (any time before Robert Wan Pearl Museum), then make next Right on Rue du General de Gaulle. It will be on the right.

- **June 2010:** Champion is a decent market located downtown. – Visions of Johanna
- **March 2017:** Champion supermarket has fresh baguettes. – Spunky

**Marche Municipal** located downtown. Large two-story building between Rue du 22 Septembre 1914 and Rue Francois Cardella. Best to visit in the mornings for the largest selection of fresh produce (veggies and fruits).

The Papeete downtown market (Marche Municipal) was in full swing early Sunday morning (they start at 0400, we went at 0700) when the streets surrounding the market building were full of vendors with tables full of fruits and vegetables. You will find a more limited selection indoors during the rest of the week when the outside area is devoted to pareos.

Don't miss the upstairs area where you'll see carvings from places like Fatu Hiva and Tahuata for exorbitant prices (and wish you'd bought more while you were in the Marquesas)!

You will also find jewelry stores that will let you sort through and purchase "discarded" pearls. You can search through boxes of \$1, \$2, \$3, \$5, \$8, \$10 pearls and higher.

**June 2020:** I love this place! You can get fresh produce, fresh flowers, sandwiches, lunch, trinkets, and dollar pearls! All under one roof. Prices are negotiable, people are friendly. – Sugar Shack

**Happy Markets** have several locations off of Route 1 and are nice “high end” markets that offer gluten free and other specialty items. They do have a nice produce selection, but they tend to be pricier.

**Disfruits Pacific Tahiti** +689.40 80 02 70. [commande@disfruitspacific.pf](mailto:commande@disfruitspacific.pf), [www.disfruitspacific.pitaya.in](http://www.disfruitspacific.pitaya.in) (near the airport) Good fresh fruit and produce selection at reasonable prices.

– Sugar Shack

### **3.3.4.2 Bulk & Big Box Stores**

**Polynesian Trading:** +689 40 45 62 63. Hours: Mon-Fri: 0800-1700, Sat: 0800-1200. Located on Route 1. Is a big box store that sells Kirkland brands (American). You can access by dinghy (about 10-min from Intercontinental Hotel Resort) or by bus. There are 2 dinghy docks. Large one has gate that is open most days and closest to store. Smaller Fish store dock is short walk. – Sept. 2019. Sugar Shack

**Maxi** +689 40 43 04 50 Hours: Mon-Fri 0730-1730, Sat: 0730-1600. From marina, turn left on main road. At round-about, turn right and go 2 blocks, then turn left. Maxi’s will be on the right. This is probably one of the best bulk item stores and they have the best variety and selection. Buy large quantities of paper products, spices, snacks, condiments, home goods, and more. Don’t forget to visit the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor for home goods.

**Cash Club** +689 89 29 09 84 Hours: Mon-Sat: 0800-1800, Sun: 0800-1200. Located off Route 1. You can buy items in bulk and they sell American brands.

**Eco Vac:** +689 87 73 13 67. Hours: Mon-Fri: 0830-1230 & 1330-1730. Sat: 0830-1230. Sells lots of products in bulk, including an assortment of flours, nuts, granola, dried fruit, cooking oils, cleaning products. Bring your own jars or find a few random ones left by other shoppers. They do have small paper bags for 25xpf. They are very close to the Clinique Mamao, near the intersection of Bambridge and Clemenceau.

**Wing Chong** +689.40 54 35 43. Hours: Mon-Fri: 0700-1130 & 1230-1600. Located near Ace Hardware. [www.facebook.com/wingchongtahiti](http://www.facebook.com/wingchongtahiti). – Get many items in bulk including huge bags of flour (25kilo), canned goods, some meats, crackers, tinned butter

**Essor Import** +689.40 42 57 26 +689.40 54 12 54. [www.essorimports.com](http://www.essorimports.com). Hours: Mon-Fri: 0730-11 & 1300-1600; Sat: 0800-1100. Located near Ace Hardware. Specializes in the import and distribution of frozen and chilled meats, seafood, and dairy.

**Sarl SIPAC** +689 40 54 05 50. [www.sipac.pf](http://www.sipac.pf) (delivery) order online. Hours: Mon-Fri: 0800-1730. They accept debit and credit cards only. It’s a 20-minute bus ride from Papeete to the warehouse in Mahina. However, you can compile a shopping list online and pay and wait for delivery. They sell everything from fresh, frozen, canned, toiletries

**SIPAC Express** +689 40 57 06 75. [www.sipac.pf](http://www.sipac.pf). Hours: Mon-Fri: 0630-1730; Sat: 0630-1130. Bulk buying a little higher end stuff and selection than Wing Chong

### **3.3.4.3 Duty Free Liquor**

**Kim Fa** Tel: +689 40 54 56 00. [contact@kimfa-tahiti.com](mailto:contact@kimfa-tahiti.com) Hours: Mon-Thur: 0700-1100 & 1330-1630. Fri: 0700-1100 & 1330-1600. Sat. 0700-1100. Located on Fare Ute. [www.kimfa-tahiti.com](http://www.kimfa-tahiti.com).

**Nov. 2021:** If you are like us and like your rum, then we have a solution for you. There are two places that will sell you rum in a 10L drum. Please note that the drums are the same color, size and shape. However, the stickers are different and the rum inside is different! – Sugar Shack

- **Tahitian Import Export (also known as Ariki Noa Noa).** Location is in the industrial area of Punaruu (near the U.S. Consulate) and about 5.3 miles east Marina Taina. Take Rt 9, exit round about near Hyper Brico), cross under the highway. Ariki Noa Noa is behind the Banco Socredo. They sell 10L drums of a tasty local rum (not a rhum) for 16000F/drum. It has the same blue drum as the one listed below, but the stickers are different!!!! They only accept cash, but you can get some at the Banco Socredo just down the street. This is great mixing rum, not sipping rum.

- Across the parking lot of the Carrefour (Punaauia/Marina Taina) there is a juice stand (I think it is called **Chez David**). You can pre-order Tamure Rhum and they will have it for you 24-72 hours later for pick up. The drum costs 500xpf. They offer white rum 38 proof for 18000F/drum, 47 proof for 22000F/drum and brown rum 38 proof for 18000F/drum or 45 proof 20000F/drum. This is NOT our favorite rum; it has a harsh taste and can burn going down. It is a true "rum" and barely tolerable for mixing rum in our humble opinion.

**Verified 2021 (Sept. 2019):** You can stop by Kim Fa to look at their pricing list and pick up the duty-free liquor form needed to place your order. You do have to clear out of Papeete and bring all of your exit paperwork to Kim Fa in order to place and pay for your order. They will deliver your liquor to you the day you are scheduled to depart. They have a very limited beer selection (Heineken and Corona) and limited liquor selection, but a decent wine selection at reduced prices. – Sugar Shack

**June 2010:** Now here is the best kept secret in Papeete. You can buy duty free alcohol! Yes, we all know you can buy duty free fuel, but no one mentions the booze. When you clear in at customs and get your duty-free fuel supply form, also get a duty-free alcohol form.

Here's how it works. When you clear out (which you can do from Papeete and list all the islands you intend to visit before leaving Polynesia and the date you intend to leave) you then take all of your paperwork, including your clearing in docs and duty free booze supply paper, down to Kim Fa. It's the same directions as for NautiSport, but at the second roundabout turn right (you'll see Intersport on your left-hand side) cross the road and take the first left (there is a baby shop on the corner). You will think you have gone down the wrong street, but keep walking until you see the green wagons of the Heineken depot and the Kim Fa shop is at the end of the depot. There you can buy wines at prices from \$3.30 upwards, liqueurs, Brandy, Cognac, Armagnac, Whiskey etc. etc. They also sell 5litre mini kegs of Heineken and bottles. The prices are a fraction of what you would pay retail.

You must give them at least 24 hours' notice before you are due to leave. So, you go and select your goods and pay for them. They will take a copy of all your documents and passports and you will pay. You tell them when you are leaving Papeete and they will deliver to your boat the day of departure. The alcohol is bonded, which means technically you can't drink it until you leave French Polynesia. Customs regularly board boats, so drink it at your peril.

If you can't make it during opening hours if you call and ask to speak to Jo Ann or Laurent, they will make an appointment for you to shop while the shop is closed. – Beaujolais

**June 2010:** We also found Kim Fa, a downtown duty-free wine/ Heineken /alcoholic beverage supplier 1/2 way to Sin Tung Hing (located on Rue des Remparts, 1.5 blocks north of Avenue Pomare). Least expensive wine bottle would cost 1400 francs retail, but 460 xpf duty free. They wish you to buy 2-3 days before your departure, and will deliver to town quay. You must then leave FP, or "lock" the beverages. – Visions of Johanna

### 3.3.5 Restaurants

#### Marina Papeete

**Nov. 2021:** Lots of places to eat downtown. The list below is what we found and tried. – Sugar Shack

- **Food trucks** and pop up eateries downtown. From the marina, turn left on the main road. The first area of food trucks will be on your left. They usually open around 6:00pm
- **Marche Municipal** has several places that sell sandwiches, chicken, and chow mein. (Main market downtown).
- **Le Retro** +689 40 42 86 83. Hours: Mon-Sun: 0900-2400. Located across the street from the Marina Papeete gate. They offer breakfast, lunch and dinner along with your wifi. A lovely outdoor patio too.
- **Bora Bora Restaurant** +689 40 67 60 47 Hours: Mon-Sun: 1000-2200. Turn left onto main road, cross the street and it will be on the corner about ¼ mile down. They offer tasty, large, lunch specials.

- **Les 3 Brasseurs** +689 40 50 60 25. Hours: Mon-Fri" 0900-1300. Sat-Sun: 0900-1300. Located on main road before the ferry dock. Pizza specials on Monday night.
- **Tahiti Poke Bar:** Super great poke, or veggie or smoothie bowls for about 1200-1400xpf and good portions. Located Upstairs near Internet café (at Take escalator up near le Retro).

**March 2017:** Some pluses include the food trucks a very short stroll away and Monday night half priced beer at the microbrewery. – Mary Ann II

### 3.3.6 Activities

#### 3.3.6.1 Tours

**Sept. 2021:** Surf School – Roman or Romaine (not sure of the spelling) +689 89 33 82 09. They provide all the gear, clothing, boards, and safety equipment. They will take you out for 4-hour lessons over multiple days (depending on what you want). Super nice guy. – Sugar Shack and Due South.

#### Tour Guides

**Nov. 2021:** Corine has lived in Tahiti all her life and is historian on Polynesian culture and myths. She speaks excellent English and is a fabulous tour guide. [makanalani56@yahoo.fr](mailto:makanalani56@yahoo.fr) or +689 87 75 91 56. – Sugar Shack

**May 2019: Natura Expeditions:** We did a fantastic trip that combines jungle hiking, river trekking, and a caving exploration of the lava tubes on Tahiti. I can't say enough good things about our guide Arnaud. The trip was probably the highlight of our time in Tahiti and if you like this sort of thing a possible must do.

His business is hard to find, but here is his Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/Natura.Exploration/>.

Email: [natura.exploration987@gmail.com](mailto:natura.exploration987@gmail.com)

We left at 7am and returned around 4pm, for beginners who are semi-adventurous and not afraid of looking over the edge of a small waterfall and using the assistance of a hand-rope to descend. I had been a river guide for 12 years and taught some rope climbing skills as a guide and appreciate Arnaud's skill and character with respect to the leadership he showed with our group of eight armatures/beginners. Try and do this trip if you have the time. – Nehenehe

**Sept. 2018: Tahitian Guide Corine Mc Kittrick** PHD Polynesian Languages & Civilization. +689 87-75-91-56 or [makanalani56@yahoo.fr](mailto:makanalani56@yahoo.fr) Excellent island tour. Transportation provided. Fluent in English can highly recommend her – Jacaranda

**July 2011 – Tahiti VIP Tours** +689 79-75-65 or [tahiti1viptours@yahoo.com](mailto:tahiti1viptours@yahoo.com). Dave Ellard, American Guide. In Tahiti, we highly recommend Dave for a land tour of the island. He offers full day, half day and custom tours. He is American, spent a good number of years in Hawaii and came to Tahiti where he met the love of this life and remained here. In addition to English, he speaks fluent French and Tahitian. For 1/2 day, Russ and I paid 4500PF / person. – Consensus

#### Self-Tours

**Sept. 2019:** We rented a car (EcoCar) and found several wonderful places to visit. There is only one road that goes around Tahiti Nui and another "main" road for Tahiti Iti.

- **Natural Grottos:** Super beautiful and serene. Head away from the airport, pass through several small towns. When you start to see the coast or ocean on your right, look for the first grotto (left).
- **Teahupoo** (famous surf break) offers a lovely beach and a few snacks on the beach for lunch.
- **Tres Cascades:** Past the airport, through a tunnel, turn right at sign. Beautiful, tall, cascading waterfalls. Super easy hike and well worth the visit.
- **Faarumi Waterfalls,** a quick 20-minute trek on a well-marked path through dense forest to three separate cascades.
- **Blow Hole** across the street from the Tres Cascades.

- **Point Venus** Cook's observatory with an impressive lighthouse and many other historical markers and artifacts, plus an artisan market and a few eateries.
- **Snorkeling and Diving** (between Marina Papeete and Marina Taina, close to Intercontinental hotel)
  - Just north of the last green/red buoys is a great snorkel with a sunken Cessna and two boats. You can easily find it by locating all the tour boats near the moorings. Depth 25-30'
  - North of the airport runway is a 60' dive with a sunken large plane that you can swim in
- **Musée Gauguin** and though they don't have any original Gauguins, the grounds were pretty and the displays interesting. There are several maraes (sacred sites) marked along the way.
- **Musée de Tahiti et des Îles**, an impressive collection of geological, historical and cultural displays of the French Polynesian islands.

It is worth the price of the rental to do a little sightseeing and provisioning in 24hr rental period. – Sugar Shack

**July 2017 – Self Tour:** We did rent a car at the airport but weren't too impressed with driving around Tahiti and down to the famous surf break Teahupoo. Lots of roads were 4WD only, and we weren't able to explore much inland. We found that most tourists don't leave their all-inclusive resort while in Tahiti. – Consensus

**June 2011 – Self Tour:** We "did" the west coast of Tahiti Nui and Tahiti Iti in one day, and the east coast another, and tried to drive over the top on the last day (but the road is closed), so you can't go all the way over and back down. At about \$200 per couple, total including gas, we felt it was a worthwhile expenditure, especially since we were time-limited. – Soggy Paws

### **Bus System**

See section 3.1.5.9 Transportation, for additional information on the bus system.

**Dinghy to Papeete:** The trip in your fast dinks, from the anchorage via the airport channel into downtown Pape'ete takes about 15 mins and is another option to consider. The pontoon gates use magnetic keys so, if docking the dink there, some gate rattling will be needed after you do your shopping. The rest of the harbor area near the Yacht Quay in downtown Pape'ete is commercial and the Dockmaster didn't advise tying up to the bulkhead area by the park (tempting theft, which otherwise we'd seen no evidence of) ...so the pontoons may be your best bet. Alternatively, following the same directions as fetching propane but continuing under the bridge and bending right around the marine businesses and fishing boats on the right, you'll arrive at a small sailing/rowing club dock, and landing the dink there is accepted by the locals. (BTW that puts you right at the NautiSport Chandlery, so you're back to that 'quadrant area' of many marine vendors.

### **Walking Around Papeete**

**June 2020:** You can get everywhere on foot from Marina Papeete. The Champion (to the right), the hardware stores, Ocean 2000, Sing Tung Hing Marine, official offices are all downtown. Streets are clean, people are nice and it is a great excuse to stretch your legs and get some exercise. – Sugar Shack

**March 2017:** Walking in Papeete from the Papeete Marina to Fare Ute is 14 minutes at a steady pace. Ocean 2000 is twenty minutes as is Hyper Bricolage. It's similar from the bus stops if you're coming from the outlying areas. Champion is about 10 minutes from Marina Papeete. Mary Ann II uses MAPS.ME on our smart phone so you don't need an internet connection once it's downloaded. – Mary Ann II

### **3.3.7 Pearls and Pearl Jewelry**

**Oct.2021:** There are many, many beautiful jewelry stores that sell pearls all over downtown Papeete. Many of them "upscale and high end." However, if you are looking to buy loose pearls and make your own jewelry you can go to some of these places.

#### **Loose Pearls**

Inside the Papeete market, on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor, in the corner overlooking the flowers and tourist knick-knacks is a jewelry store. This is a rather nice store to buy pre-made jewelry. In addition, they sell loose pearls. You can

look at a variety of pearls in different values (tub of \$1 pearls or \$10 pearls). They will also drill your pearl for \$.50.

If your back is to the water and you are facing the Papeete market, on the left corner is a Chinese store that sells a little bit of everything! Including gift boxes, clothes, sewing items and loose pearls. They too have a variety of pearls in different denominations that you can sift through. They will drill your pearls for \$.50-\$1.00 depending on how many you buy. They sell a small variety of jewelry making items too (earrings, clasps, etc....)

### **Jewelry Making Supplies**

**T & M Creations:** +689 40 45 43 00. Hours: Mon-Fri: 0830-1530. Located: 46 Rue Paul Gaugin (across from Mairie main gates). Website. ([www.big-ce.pf/partenaires/tm-creations](http://www.big-ce.pf/partenaires/tm-creations)) One block over and one block past the Papeete Market. Big blue awning. Super amazing store that sells everything you need to make your own pearl jewelry. They sell gold, sterling silver, stainless steel, leather, and silk strands to make necklaces and bracelets. Also, clasps, earring backings and more. They will sell it to you or make it for you at very, very reasonable prices. The only thing I found to be a bit pricey is the drilling of the pearl which is \$.50 each. They do not sell loose pearls. They will however, create jewelry for you if you bring in the pearls, select your chain, clasp and fittings. Super nice, very helpful, and cheap! – Sugar Shack

### **3.3.8 Cruiser Reports**

General orientation of the waterfront section of Pape'ete.

Let's assume you are berthed at the Yacht Quay in downtown Pape'ete. (BTW being at the Quay makes all the downtown resources so much more available than being out at the anchorage & taking the bus in, though that is an option).

The main drag along the waterfront is Blvd. Pomare and, to reach many of the vendors of interest, you'll want to turn left when exiting your pontoon and walk along that Blvd. You can clear in here if not using an agent, and also register for the berth space you got on a 'first come/first served' basis at the Yacht Quay.

**Blvd. Pomare:** Tourist shops, bars, shops are on the other side of the Blvd, and also many ATMs, but you're staying on the waterfront side. After perhaps 1 KM, you reach a Roundabout (Sports shop across it and on the right). Just keep bearing left past the roundabout and, about the time the road forces you to begin bending right again, you'll see a most welcome Ace Hardware. Very big, tool repair center, orderly and helpful.

Arriving at the **Ace Hardware store**, and keeping it on your left as though you are passing it, you have:

-- Ahead of you, a **NautiSport shop** that sells PWC's and such, but a second NautiSport Chandlery just a bit further on. (Expensive but helpful folks; inventory was disappointing.)

-- to your right, down a street perpendicular to the street you are on, is another Ace Hardware store - just as nice - and that is their 'home improvement' center, except that they have all kinds of plumbing stuff, fasteners and such.

-- the above two reference points - from ahead of you to your right side - form a quadrant of industrial shops that are, in a few blocks, closed off by a fetid canal that keeps you from walking further than you need to. Inside that quadrant you'll find **Yung Tung's electrical parts** shop (modern, well stocked), the Heineken (how do you spell that...?) distributor, the "Chinese Chandler", the 'inox fastener' (very good stainless) shop, and more. It's all within a few blocks N/S and E/W.

**Finding Repair Parts**, etc: I remember a comment made by a cruiser in the 80's to the effect that 'Pape'ete has everything; the trick is finding it'. That's still true to an extent but the Era of Big Box Stores has made the task easier here, as elsewhere. Another example (along with the Ace Hardware stores) is Hyper Brico, a DIY store the size (and selection) of any Home Depot you've been in. (We found a spare computer keyboard there, to give you a feel for the breadth of products). You find it by - again - walking along Blvd. Pomare but turning right at one of THE main inland roads, Avenue du Prince Hinoi. (That last 'i' has 2 dots over it). Ah...but this segues to a comment about street signs: there really aren't many. And the ones remaining from a former era are often

broken. This is where the tourist map is helpful. Also, look for a large green traffic sign that directs traffic to Avenue Hinoi. The Hyper Brico is perhaps 6 blocks up that street on the right...but the efficient air conditioning rewards your arrival and the vivid yellow color of the (big) building makes it hard to miss.

### **3.4 Marina Taina**

+689 40 41 02 25 and +689 40 78 92 46

[www.marina-taina.com](http://www.marina-taina.com), [marinataina@mail.pf](mailto:marinataina@mail.pf)

VHF 9

Hours: Mon-Sun: 0800-1200, 1300-1700

#### **3.4.1 Passes and Formalities**

See section 3.1.1 Passes and Formalities for Papeete, Marina.

#### **3.4.2 Anchorages and Moorings**

##### **3.4.2.1 Marina Taina**

**Be aware** that rules on anchoring around Marina Taina are changing rapidly. Tahiti is trying to create new regulations limiting or prohibiting anchoring around Marina Taina. It is best to check with the marina, Tahiti Crew, port authority, JRCC, or inquire at the French Poly Cruisers Facebook Group.

**Nov. 2021 & July 2020: 17 34.31S / 149.37.39W** anchored in 2.5 meters of sandy water but amongst the derelict boats. We've also anchored at **17°34.388S/149°37.386W** in 2.8 meters of sandy water. We entered through the north Marina Papeete pass, crossed the airport runway (2x) and dropped the hook on a windy day. There were lots of rumors around anchoring prohibitions in Tahiti. However, several friends were anchored in this area when we arrived, so we took our chances. We were told that pleasure vessels could anchor here until the mooring fields were established. This is directly across from the over the water huts of the Intercontinental hotel. – Sugar Shack

**June 2019:** We anchored several times across from the Intercontinental Hotel and Resort (huts over the water) in 2 meters of water (we are a catamaran with a 1.2-meter draft). It is a pretty, sandy ridge. Every time we anchored here (at least 6 times, we always had really good holding in the sandy bottom far away from bommies. We were able to weather out many storms with winds blowing in the 30's. It was a bit of a drive in the dinghy to the dinghy dock, but it was worth the beautiful view and waters.

**Dinghy Landing:** There are several acceptable places to land your dinghy, but these are the most convenient.

- As you pass the marina (on left), past the large boat dock, there is a dinghy dock. Be sure to lock your dinghy, fuel tank, and outboard. This puts you closer to Casa Bianca and the marina exit.
- Inside marina by marina office. There are two spaces inside the marina, just below the marina office, but the marina typically likes to reserve this area for cruisers who are renting moorings or slips.

Catamaran Corner which is in front of the park/beach and close to the Intercontinental Hotel has a very large pipe underground. We heard a catamaran pulled up this pipe with their anchor and it is now arched and can be seen from the surface on a clear, calm day. Be very careful.

Marina Taina has over 150 moorings which all require a reservation prior to using. They are often booked so call them as far in advance as possible for a slip or mooring. – Sugar Shack

**Jan/Feb. 2019:** We anchored in various spots just north of the marina, to the east of the marked channel, pretty much always around 16-18m/50-60' but seemed always to get good holding and despite feeling open/exposed, we sat out some rough weather here and only ever saw one boat drag its anchor – a couple more broke their moorings though too.



The boats in this area are a mixture, some moored, some anchored on assorted rode lengths and all subject to odd movements due to the combination of wind and tide, so be sure to allow plenty of space on your neighbors. – Moon Rebel

**July 2017:** Both marinas are about the same distance from the airport. Not very close! 20-30-minute drive. We picked up guests in and out of Tahiti, and also anchored off Marina Taina in amongst the mooring field during strong winds. We had good holding in sand there with 30 knots of wind at anchor. You can anchor or pay for a mooring, but it is very expensive to stay in the marina. On the weekend we took the dinghy to the sandbar near the pass entrance where all the local power boats anchor up and party in the shallows. Was quite fun to be part of the local scene. – Consensus

**March 2017:** As of 2017 for us pedestrian class yachts under 60 feet the high season (1st March to 30th Sept) rate in the marina is \$1.00 per foot per day and one half that in the low season. Mooring are \$1.84 per foot per month year-round for monohulls and \$2.76 for multihulls. Better protection than Marina Papeete in a north-westerly.

In the low season leaving your yacht for the "cyclone" season in the Marina generally requires a reservation by June/July. The manager noted that during the only cyclone to ever come close to Tahiti, the marina lost two cleats with little damage to boats. Beware that agents have been known to claim that only they can secure a reservation, which the manager insisted is not true. The area does not usually require dehumidifier in the rainy season generally.

Many yachts anchor across from the mooring field and use the dingy dock to come ashore. – Mary Ann II

#### **3.4.2.2 Airport or Coral Gardens Anchorage**

**Jan/Feb. 2019: 17.33.40S / 149.37.44W.** A couple of miles north of Marina Taina, is a really nice anchorage (no services) just across from the airport runway- you need to call Papeete Port Control on VHF for permission to cross the flight path) anywhere. Just chose a depth you're comfortable with. Few and easily seen bommies, superb holding and great snorkeling, to north south and west; you can dinghy from here to either Taina or Papeete town (we managed both with just a 3.5 HP outboard), but they can be a slow/wet ride when the breeze picks up in the afternoon. – Moon Rebel

#### **3.4.2.3 Parc Vairai**

**June 2023:** Arriving in Papeete in June, it was quite hard to find a spot. Marina Papeete and Marina Taina were both full. In front of Marina Taina there are all mooring buoys which are under contract, so you can't pick them up nor go at anchor over there.

We didn't want to drop anchor at the anchorage near the airport, because we found it too far away from a dingy dock.

In the end we found an anchorage in front of Parc Vairai (Punaauia) and dropped anchor at **17°34.654' S / 149° 37.209' W**. You can leave your dingy at the dingy dock of Marina Taina or leave it at the beach of the Parc. The Carrefour is a 5 minute walk from the parc. The parc closes at midnight but there is 24/7 security so you can always get back to your dingy, also if you arrive after 6 pm. On the left side of the Parc entrance there is a bus stop from which buses go to the airport or the city center. The airport is a half hour walk from the Parc. – Four Birds

#### **3.4.3 Yachtsman Services**

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

**Sept. 2019:** Mobile Gas Station (to the right of Marina Taina) proved to be disappointing for us. We were told that tanks were picked up/dropped off on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday. We tried to fill our tanks there, but they took more than a week and then they ended up being returned to us empty. We were more than frustrated. However, several other boaters had no problems. Cost 4500xpf for 20lbs. – Sugar Shack

**Jan. 2019:** Adjacent to the Taina Marina supermarket is a petrol station which will refill US and Camping-Gas propane bottles too (24 hours turn around) but at \$60 for a US 20lb bottle, I can't recommend them unless you're desperate – even in the Marquesas it was only \$45 for a fill! The local 13kg/30lb bottles are \$28, with a refundable deposit of \$30 on the bottle, so just buy a hose barb for those local bottles which will cost you \$5-6 in any hardware store, a length of hose, drill-out the one way valve in an old US regulator and decant them yourself. – Moon Rebel

### **3.4.3.2 Fuel (Diesel and Gasoline)**

**Verified Nov. 2021 (June 2019):** Total Gas at Marina Taina fuel dock monitors VHF channel 09. +689 40 43 36 06. Mon-Fri 0630-1200 & 1300–1600, Sat-Sun: 0630-1600. The fuel dock is easily accessible with the big boat and dinghy. They accept the duty-free certificate, credit cards, and are very friendly. It was very easy to navigate to and from the fuel dock. In addition, their Volvic flavored waters are the cheapest in town. They do not accept duty free certificate on the weekends or holidays.

**Duty Free Certificates** can be obtained without an agent. Hours: Mon-Thurs: 0730-1530, Fri: 0730-1430. Simply walk to their office with your boat paperwork, fill out a form and receive your certificate, for free. They are located by the docks in Papeete and can be found on Maps.me. Douanes located on Chenel de Motu Uta (motu by NautiSport). Go to "Francisation et Hypotheques" office (follow the signs). They will be very happy if you bring a photo copy of your boat paperwork and passport (so they don't have to copy it).

The duty-free certificate is good for 6-months and cannot be renewed until it expires. The duty-free certificate only applies to diesel (doesn't apply to gasoline). However, the discount for diesel is substantial, 40% off.

We were told the only islands that accept the duty-free certificate for diesel are: Tahiti, Moorea, Raiatea, Bora Bora, Rangiroa, Nuku Hiva, and Huahine will offer duty free fuel at Fare gas station.

Tahiti Crew will help you obtain a new duty-free certificate or a renewal certificate for \$60. – Sugar Shack

### **3.4.3.3 Trash and Recycling**

**Sept. 2019:** Marina Taina is huge on recycling and they offer a lot of great resources for cruisers to recycle items. Trash can be dumped in the solid black trash bins. Recycling goes in the large green bins. They ask that only clean recycling items go in the recycling bins.

- Glass in large green/white bins.
- Cans, plastic, and cardboard can be disposed of in the solid green bin.
- Flares: There is a small red bin to place expired flares (near Tahiti Crew)
- Batteries (small): Marina Taina has a small yellow bin for expired batteries (near Tahiti Crew)
- Batteries (large): For full size batteries (boat, car, and engine) recycle them at the Mobile Gas Station (they have a large yellow bin). Exit Marina Taina; turn right, on your right.

If you are uncertain as to what items go where, please ask the marina office. Do not mix plastics with cans or glass as someone from the marina has to sort it out. There are cameras near the recycling so please do your part and recycle items properly. And please do not dispose of recycling items in the trash bins. – Sugar Shack

### **3.4.3.4 Water**

**Sept. 2019:** There is a water spigot near the Pink Coconut pier that has potable water for free. – Sugar Shack

**Feb. 2019:** Dinghy landing is at the marina and there's free water at the north-end dinghy dock at least, probably elsewhere too. – Moon Rebel

## **3.4.4 General Services**

**Cruising Guide for Papeete & all French Polynesia - <http://www.tahiticruisersguide.com/>**

You will find vendors, services, and companies located throughout French Polynesia. Of course, the majority of them are located in Papeete. If you find a service or store that is not listed please send in an update.

See cruiser reports for additional services.

#### **3.4.4.1 Banks / ATMs**

- ATM located inside Carrefour (Taina Marina)
- ATM by gas station and McDonalds (Taina Marina, exit and turn right)

#### **3.4.4.2 Laundry**

**July 2019:** Marina Taina (24/7) has self-serve laundry facilities. Purchase tokens from the marina office (it's a bit pricey 750-900F per wash and another 800-900 for dry). There were several washers and dryers available. We heard from other cruisers that the washers are good, but it is not worth the cost to use the dryers. – Sugar Shack

#### **3.4.4.3 Marina Taina**

+689 40 41 02 25. Hours: Mon-Sun: 0800-1200 & 1300-1700. The marina office is located on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor of the two-story building adjacent to the parking lot and the inside dinghy dock. From Pink Coconut, walk toward the parking lot and you will see the 2-story roundish building on your right.

**Sept. 2019:** The marina is nice and has several laundry machines, dry cleaners, recycling, trash, chandleries, restaurants/bars, Tahiti Crew Agency, dive operations, and is walking distance to a huge Carrefour (market), Mobile Gas Station, and internet spots. – Sugar Shack

**Feb. 2019:** A small book-swap library in the laundry room. – Moon Rebel

**March 2017:** Marina Taina is a modern well-equipped marina, 5 miles out of town to the east of Papeete past the Airport. It is close to a large Carrefour and has both laundry and showers. Tahiti Yacht Accessorie (known generally as Michel's) is in the compound. The complex has friendly staff, diesel (duty free) dockside. Water available for those on paid moorings. – Beaujolais

#### **3.4.4.4 Marine Supplies and Boat Parts**

**Sin Tung Hing Marine** +689 40 54 94 53 or +689 40 82 78 00. Satellite store located in marina. The main store is located off Rue Alfred Poro'i (Papeete). Marine for general supplies. A great enthusiastic and English-speaking contact is Sebastian, who is at Taina Mondays and Tuesdays, otherwise he is downtown. Sebastian's cell is 73 72 96. Items can be brought to Satellite from downtown. Location is in Vaininiore, just across the canal (Riviere Papeava) from Fare Ute on the waterfront.

**Tahiti Yacht Accessories (Marina Taina Chandlery)** +689 87 74 10 02 or [tyaccessoire@yahoo.fr](mailto:tyaccessoire@yahoo.fr) - Michele Baltzer. Hours: Mon-Sun: 0800-1200 & 1300-1700. Located behind Casa Bianca and across from Tahiti Crew.

- **May 2019:** Excellent and highly knowledgeable business. Kind, helpful, and generous. Extremely well stocked for the size business. More parts for high performance boats than anywhere else. Excellent selection of cordage for our boat. I am left with the impression that the owner would sell the shirt off his back to help you out. I would rate them a 10 out of 10. – Nehenehe
- **Feb. 2019:** The small Chandlery was surprisingly well stocked and VERY helpful. – Moon Rebel
- **Jan. 2019:** Michael's Chandlery was well stocked with the standard Isotherm/Danfoss spare parts at surprisingly reasonable prices and provided that he's not moved on.

#### **3.4.4.5 Medical**

Use the [Tahiti Cruisers Guide](#) for a comprehensive list of physicians, dentists and medical facilities in Papeete.

**Pharmacy: 2019 verified (June 2010):** If you need to renew any vaccinations, then you simply go to the pharmacy in the Carrefour shopping mall (turn left out of the marina and walk for 10 mins, you can't miss it)

tell them which vaccination you need (there is one assistant who speaks excellent English) pay for it, then pop next door to the doctors and ask if he would inject it. Our Typhoid Vaccines cost 3000Xpf's (about \$30) each and he doctor injected both of us for 1000 xpf. Both pharmacy and doctor are open until 8pm.

**Pharmacist:** Patrick Ly ([pharmaciedetiarei@mail.pf](mailto: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.

**Dentist: Jan.2019:** Immediately across the road from the Marina Taina supermarket is a dentist – he speaks a little English, but proved very good and reasonably priced. – Moon Rebel

#### **3.4.4.6 Miscellaneous Stores and Shops**

Various shops can be found at the Carrefour near Taina Marina including pharmacy, physician, Vini, clothing, flowers, restaurants, and more.

#### **3.4.4.7 Refrigeration Repairs**

**June 2020:** Mike Campbell +689 89 64 32 60 and [mikecamalila@gmail.com](mailto:mikecamalila@gmail.com). He is on a 54' Irwin called "Alila." He handles refrigeration and air conditioning repair, maintenance, and installation. We used him to check our refrigerator and refill Freon. He is super friendly, funny, and professional. – Sugar Shack

**2019:** Mike aboard the British flagged yacht 'Alila' is a top-notch and well-equipped refrigeration engineer; 5-star pricing, but he provides a 5\* service to justify it. – Moon Rebel

#### **3.4.4.8 Transportation**

More detailed information about the bus system and other transportation options in Tahiti is included in a separate section: "[Getting around Tahiti on Land](#)".

**Sept. 2019:** Public bus operates between 0800 and 1700 and costs 2 xpf per person. (Usually Bus #2 takes you to and from downtown and Marina Taina). Pick up is in front of Marina Taina and drop off downtown Papeete. The bus stop at Marina Taina: Exit main gate, turn left, go up and over pedestrian bridge, turn left again and wait by the wall to be picked up. Pick up downtown is in front of Vodaphone and Banque de Tahiti (blue roof building). Avenue du Marechal Foch. This is a different place than where they drop you off. If you have a fold up bike, you can bring on the bus. There is also a bike lane, but it can be dangerous. Be sure to lock your bike and take your seat. – Sugar Shack

**March 2017:** The bus stand for Marina Taina from Papeete is a block south east of the main market (Marche). If your French is poor just say Marina Taina to the bus driver and he will tell you yea or nay. The cost in 2016 was 320xpf one-way. The bus drops you just in front of the Marina. Coming back just cross at the pedestrian crossing and look for the bus stop sign. – Mary Ann II

#### **3.4.4.9 Wifi / Internet**

**Sept. 2019:** Vini is able to run both data and voice. However, data is very expensive and slow. We found that where our Vini sim card worked so did our GoogleFi.

If you stay in one of the marinas, ask them to write a letter for you stating you are staying in the marina ("similar to a residence letter"). Take that letter to Vini and ask for an annual plan to receive significant discount. We paid the year up front so we did not have to bother finding a Vini store each month to make a payment. We paid a flat fee for the contract and small box (around \$60-80 USD) and then \$50/mo for 30 gigs. They had several monthly plans including varying gig plans at cheaper prices.

Here are some wifi hotspots:

- Government Building offers free wifi access during business hours (Mon-Fri: 0800-1700). Route 1. Exit Marina Taina, turn right, walk about ½ mile. At roundabout, building across street with flags.

- Marina Taina offers wifi if you are staying in the marina.
- Restaurants at Marina Taina:
  - Casa Bianca has wifi for customers, which get bogged down during happy hour.
  - Pink Coconut has good wifi for customers. They're lenient with cruisers, buy a drink, coffee and surf away.
- Le Jardin Café by Carrefour offers good internet for customers

Tahiti crew rents a wifi router that works really well in Tahiti & Moorea. [tehani@tahiticrew.com](mailto:tehani@tahiticrew.com). – Sugar Shack

**May 2019:** Tahiti WIFI (Cell Data System Rental): We found them at the airport next to the rental car area; they rent routers on their system for a standard cost of 13000 francs for 45 days with 10GB of data at up to 4G speed. They have worked anywhere that we can pick up a cell phone signal. They handle 5 devices at a time and can be topped off later on line if you need more data at a discounted price (if you negotiate with the 'boss'). The internet speed is fantastic and I highly recommend them. You seem to be forced into returning the router at the airport but I suppose this could also be negotiable? I rate them a 10 out of 10. – Nehenehe

**Jan. 2019:** There were both Vinispot and WDG internet signals at \$5/hour which could be picked-up out in the anchorage, alternatively a 15 minute walk south from the marina got you to the Mairie (local government office) and there was a free, steady but consistent wifi signal available in the lobby/gardens area there Mon-Fri during working hours. – Moon Rebel

### 3.4.5 Provisions

**Carrefour Super Market:** +689 40 46 08 08. Hours: Mon-Sun: 0800-2000. Turn left out of Marina Taina and walk 10-minutes along the highway.

- **Nov. 2021:** Apply for a Carrefour loyalty card and receive discounts on products and cash back on future purchases. It is easy and free to apply. As of this season, the best time for meats is Friday afternoon after they restock. – Sugar Shack
- **Sept. 2020:** This store has it all. The sell lots of bulk items (from the U.S.), great selection of produce, baked goods, meats, cheeses, wines, liquor, food, home goods, and electronics/computers. There is one store about .9 miles from Marina Taina and there is another one on Route 5 (main road) that is not as "picked over". It is on the bus route about 3 miles from the marina. – Sugar Shack
- **June 2010:** Carrefour's is awesome. Excellent cheese, meats, and produce at USA prices or better for most. – Visions of Johanna

**Marina Supermarket:** +689 40 42 99 02. Hours: 24 hours. Turn right out of Marina Taina, just past McDonalds. Open 24 hours and surprisingly well stocked. Not much more expensive than Carrefour.

**Veggie Stands:** Turn left out of Taina Marina, on the highway before Carrefour. Slightly more expensive than Carrefour. A second one is on the corner of the main highway just as you turn left into Carrefour parking lot. – Sugar Shack

### Provision Cruiser Reports

**Jan. 2017:** Turn left out of the Taina Marina and there's a big Carrefour supermarket and a variety of other stores/cafes about ten minutes' walk along the highway, there's a reasonable fruit stand about half way there and several somewhat more expensive ones just beside the supermarket too.

Alternatively turn right leaving the marina and there's the small 'Marina Supermarket' along with a McDonald's burger bar perhaps five minutes' walk to the south. The marina-supermarket's surprisingly well stocked, not significantly more expensive than the Carrefour and open 24/7. – Moon Rebel

### 3.4.6 Restaurants

**Sept. 2019:** Inside the Marina Taina grounds are several restaurants. – Sugar Shack

- Casa Bianca +689 40 43 91 35. Hours: Mon-Sun: 1000-2400. Known for its happy hours (beer on special) and wifi (which gets bogged down with users).
- Pink Coconut +689 40 41 22 23. This is a little more expensive, but has strong internet and happy hour cocktail specials
- L' Instant +689 40 57 00 08. Hours: Sun-Mon, Wed-Thur: 1100-1800. Fri-Sat: 1100-2330. This is expensive and has no wifi.
- Food trucks – turn right out of marina, past the government building, on your right. About 2-2.5 miles. You get a variety of trucks, site under the stars and enjoy a reasonably priced meal.

**March 2017:** The Pink Coconut and the Dingy Bar are in the compound to libations. – Mary Ann II

### **3.4.7 Activities**

See section 3.1.8.1 Tours, for more information

## **3.5 Tahiti Yacht Club**

+689 40 42 78 03. VHF 06, [yctahiti@mail.pf](mailto:yctahiti@mail.pf). Hours: Mon-Fri: 0800-1200 & 1300-1700. Sat: 0900-1200.

### **3.5.1 Passes**

**June 2010:** The waypoint for the start of the buoyed channel is 17 30.352 S, 149 31.383 W. Reach the manager, Michel Anton on VHF 06. He will also give you a key to the showers if you ask.

Now - the first buoy is a white 5-gallon drum of some sort, after that on the left, from memory, is a blue bottle (Bluebottle!!), and then on the right another bottle sort of dark color and I think one more. Move thru these toward the shore on approximately 180 true bearing. As you face the buoyed channel you see a low red roofed church, to the right is a pointy church. The confusing thing is that the red and green marker posts may appear to be reversed. They are near to the low church, and stand at 90 degrees to the shore.

So after you come through the pass, keeping off from the breakers on the right, you turn a sharp right turn and pass thru the (tall posts) markers, then the red and green make sense, red on the port side - green on the starboard (opposite to American!) the channel is safe after the reef - it's marked by pairs of posts. So you come past the reef and turn right, running parallel to the shore. Up ahead you'll see a bunch of yachts on moorings and on the left more tied up to slips.

We are very insecure about entering passes, but we came in about 4.30pm last Saturday and it was ok for us. We are 46 ft, and were charged 900 CFP/day (2 persons) + 200 CFP for an extra person, for a mooring.

2 hazards - there is supposed to be a bommie near the stone wall/long low thatched roof with canoes, which is right in front of the slips; and there is a sunk yacht, mast visible, between that wall and the slips. The dinghy dock/fuel, water dock is between two rows of slips. Dinghy dock is free. – Bluebottle

### **3.5.2 Anchorages and Moorings**

**March 2017:** The anchorage around Tahiti Yacht club is just west of Point Venus and is generally in the twenty-meter range. Their moorings are rarely available and cost is high. The club charges 1500xpf a week for the dinghy dock and access to their hot water showers. They also have good clothes washing facilities. You can occasionally get an end tie for a day or two on one of their docks. Staff was very friendly and helpful in finding resources. – Mary Ann II

### **3.5.3 Yachtsmen Services**

#### **3.5.3.1 Fuel (Diesel and Gasoline)**

**March 2017:** The Tahiti Yacht Club dock sells duty free fuel but it is not recommended for yachts over forty feet or for long keeled boats unless you find a very quiet spell, due to restricted maneuvering room. You can

take diesel but not water there but the maneuvering room is very tight (wouldn't recommend for a full keel boat for sure.) – Mary Ann II

### **3.5.4 General Services**

#### **3.5.4.1 Transportation**

More detailed information about the bus system and other transportation options in Tahiti is included in a separate section: "[Getting around Tahiti on Land](#)".

**Oct. 2020:** Tere Tahiti (bus system) created an app (android and apple) where you can track the buses (live) to see where they are located and when they will arrive. You can follow the journey of over 200 buses through geolocation. You will see a network map, line sheets, bus routes, bus times at selected stops, tickets and pricing. By early Jan.2021 the website will allow users to purchase bus tickets ahead of time. – Sugar Shack

**March 2017: Bus.** If you are staying near Tahiti Yacht Club in Arue, buses run from very early until at least 6 pm. Walk across the big sports field to Ave General de Gaulle then a few hundred meters east, stand on the sidewalk in front of the funeral home/marble counter tops shop. Wave at any bus you see as they approach. They tend to run about every 20-30 minutes. The cost in Dec 2016 was 200xpf one-way and 360xpf return. The smaller buses go by the nearby Carrefour but this can't be a 15-minute walk. The big buses stop in the same bus stand as the bus to Faa and Marina Taina. The small buses stop next to the town hall, the Marie.

#### **3.5.4.2 Wifi / Internet**

**March 2017:** Wifi is available from adjacent cafe from the WDG pay-as-you-go cards. – Mary Ann II

#### **3.5.4.3 Provisions**

**March 2017:** Carrefour is close and several food trucks come every night. – Mary Ann II

### **3.6 Point Venus**

#### **3.6.1 Anchorages and Moorings**

**June 2023:** We arrived in the dark at the anchorage of Point Venus (with good moonlight though) which was quite easy because the lighthouse is very well visible (fl1/white/every 10s). We dropped anchor at S17' 30" 265 / W 140' 30" 064 in 12 m. It was a perfect spot for an overnight anchorage. – Four Birds

**June 2019:** We arrived to Tahiti at night, much to our dismay. After a 4.5-day passage from Hao we were tired and just wanted to anchor. Typically, we will not enter an anchorage at night unless we have been there before and have tracks. However, we were assured by many knowledgeable cruisers that this bay is wide, safe to enter, and well charted. We came in with no moon, found 2 other boats anchored, dropped the hook in 9 meters. The next morning, we snorkeled and found our anchor buried nicely in sand. This bay is wide, well-marked and accurately charted. We enjoyed several weeks in the bay which is lovely, peaceful. Lots to see and do here including an artisan market, small eatery, historical sites, and lighthouse. We visited this bay multiple times over the summer and always found it to be a peaceful, beautiful anchorage. – Sugar Shack

**Jan/Feb. 2019: 17 29.96S / 149 29.8W** We found good holding in clean sand (and needed it!) contrary to some preceding Soggy Paws reports, both we and everyone else we spoke to who stopped there found the anchorage roly and uncomfortable, even in light weather, when we got a series of night-time squalls, it was positively evil. If you really want to visit (not much to see anyway) then either hire a car/scooter or take a bus from Papeete and walk the ¾ mile from the main road/bus stop. – Moon Rebel

### **3.6.2 Yachtsmen Services**

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

**Sept. 2019:** There are two fuel stations that sell cooking gas. Take the road away from the beach, up to the main road and you will come across a Mobile and Shell Station. – Sugar Shack.

#### **3.6.2.2 Fuel (Diesel and Gasoline)**

**Sept. 2019:** There are two fuel stations: Mobile and Shell. Take the road away from the beach up to the main road and you will come across a Mobile and Shell Station. I do not know if they accept the duty-free certificate for diesel. – Sugar Shack.

### **3.6.3 General Services**

#### **3.6.3.1 Post Office**

**Sept. 2019:** Post office is located on the main road on the right-hand side. Before the markets. – Sugar Shack

#### **3.6.3.2 Plumbing**

**Sept. 2019:** There is a Le Plomberie (plumbing store). Take the main road away from the bay. At the intersection (where Super U and Champion are located), turn left and walk over the bridge. Store will be on the right-hand side. – Sugar Shack

#### **3.6.3.3 Provisions**

Super U and Champion are located across the street from each other. Take the main road away from the bay and pass the post office. At the intersection you will find both stores.

**Super U** +689 40 48 10 13. Hours: Mon-Sat: 0630-1930. Sun: 0600-1200. They have a large market with a good fresh produce selection. In the same area are several other stores including Vini and Vodaphone.

**Champion** has a decent selection but is not as large or “clean” as the Super U. But they do offer a few different items so it might be best to shop both stores to find what you need.

### **3.6.4 Activities**

**Sept. 2019:** Snorkeling: There is a really cool underwater educational area with signs marking each station telling you about the fish and corals. It is located right off Point Tefauroa. From the main anchorage, take your dinghy outside the white market, and then hug the black/yellow markers. You will see a small opening for the dinghy dock to go ashore, past that. Then continue toward the small motu until you see the signs above water.

On shore there is lots to see. A beautiful, towering lighthouse with a great history, artisan market, life size whale made of aluminum cans, and a dozen historical markers with signage in English/French. – Sugar Shack

## **3.7 Port Phaeton, Tahiti Nautic Center, and Taravao**

### **Guidebooks:**

- Davock – Pg 106

#### **3.7.1 Passes**

**Dec. 2018:** We departed Phaeton via Passe Teputa without difficulty, though in heavy weather – particularly southerly or westerly – or in darkness, I’d go the extra couple of miles south to Passe Tapuaeraha and use that. – Moon Rebel

**June 2011:** After the Tuamotu Atolls we aimed for Port Phaeton which is on the south side of the isthmus joining Tahiti Nui to Tahiti Iti. Never having been through a reef surrounding an island before, we choose Pass



Tapuaeraha which can accommodate an air craft carrier or cruise ship. The water in the pass was flat but, on both sides, huge waves were breaking with a thick fine mist rising above them like smoke. The pass is well marked with buoys and a range light.

We followed the marks down the channel towards Port Phaeton noticing our electronic charts are off and shifted about a hundred meters to the south. The channel narrows at Pt Riri where the channel markers are red marking the shore and green marking the reef. There is an abandoned yacht basin at that point which later we explored by land. It looked perfectly serviceable with bollards on a concrete wall to tie to, good quality fresh water, and about three meters depth in the basin. It might be risky leaving your boat unattended there, though.

We had no trouble following the channel to the upper reaches of Port Phaeton where we anchored in twenty-four feet in sand and mud. We never felt the boat move from any waves for the eleven days we were there. The anchorage is surrounded by verdant hills and is well-protected from all directions. There is a small marina holding twenty boats, a dinghy dock, a covered breezeway, no laundry facilities, hot showers, friendly people, a repair shop and a road behind where you can pick up a bus to Papeete. – Periclees

### **3.7.2 Anchorages and Moorings**

**Feb. 2022:** As of 1 March 2022, the Tahiti Nautic Marina will be charging 6000xpf per month to use their facilities. As a reminder, this is private property. Facilities include, but are not limited to: dinghy landing, car/scooter parking, trash, showers, electricity, etc.

There are other public locations where you can land your dinghy free of charge.

If you pay the 6000xpf fee you may land your dinghy, park a vehicle, use shower, electricity and trash (except there is no dumping of oil or batteries). All communal places must be kept clean and the tables in the hall may be used with prior approval.

**Oct. 2020: 17 44.002S / 149 19.690W.** We anchored in 12 meters of mud and had no problem getting the anchor to set. Backed down hard on the anchor and put out approximately 70 meters of chain. Port Phaeton would be an excellent hurricane hole if it weren't for the number of abandoned boats with marginal ground tackle. – Baloo

**Feb. 2019:** We wanted to leave our boat for a few weeks under the care of Pakakota Yacht Services in Fakarava, but unfortunately for us, Mathieu only provides that service during the "high" season. During the cyclone season (November-March), he instead works on other projects around his own property. He told us that he found that watching after boats took most of his time and interfered with his ability to get those other projects done.

Mathieu suggested that we contact a friend of his in Tahiti who has started watching boats in Baie Phaeton. We did, and found Marc to be responsible and competent. He is looking after more than 20 boats now! He gave us periodic email updates. He speaks English well, and has a long history with boats. He and his daughter make a good team! His email address is: [marcusgrandus@hotmail.fr](mailto:marcusgrandus@hotmail.fr)

There is a small marina here, but most of the boats are anchored put in this big bay with a thick mud bottom. It appears to be a good hurricane hole as well! – Lungta

**Dec. 2018: 17-43.80S / 149-19.52W** we anchored in 7m/23' the bottom was heavy mud and holding bullet-proof. Once again, we found both CM93 and Navionics charts to be accurate for the passage inside the reef with hazards all well-marked and depths generally more than charted. There are lots of moorings outside the Phaeton marina/boatyard, but also ample anchoring space.

**Dinghy Dock:** Getting ashore you can go to the marina on the north side of the bay, alternatively (and better?) take your dink into the NE corner of the bay and just around the corner to port, you'll find a small boat ramp beside the Boule Club. Land it there and try to sit it on one of the old tires in the shallows as it's a bit rocky when the tide ebbs.

We did visit the marina/boatyard one day, just for a look around: It appeared 'basic but OK' – we've certainly hauled out in worse! – But in early December, it was hot, humid and well stocked with mosquitoes. We've often heard that 'Phaeton's much wetter than Taina' and that's probably true, the high humidity here might cause problems with long-term lay-ups, but should some serious weather arrive it certainly feels better sheltered spot to be anchored or moored here rather than up at Taina. That said, I also suspect that if/when Tahiti should ever get a direct cyclone hit, there's a strong possibility that the center will track straight through here; it's the low spot between the two halves of Tahiti. – Moon Rebel

### **3.7.3 Yachtsmen Services**

#### **3.7.3.1 Fuel**

**Oct. 2020:** Shell station +689 40 57 50 10. Hours: Mon-Fri: 0400-2100. Sat-Sun: 0500-2100. Located off RT 1. Further east is a **Total Gas Station** +689 40 54 82 00. Hours: Mon-Sat: 0500-2000. Sun: 0600-1900. – Baloo

#### **3.7.3.2 Water**

**Dec. 2018:** There are potable water taps right beside the boat ramp and a ¼ mile walk around the 'bouledrome' and along the gravel track will bring you out to the main road. – Moon Rebel

**Feb. 2011:** The dock water is not potable, and it turned brown-ish after heavy rains. We could use it for cleaning, but we obviously did not put it in our tanks. – Slip Away

### **3.7.4 Tahiti Nautic Center**

<http://www.nautisport.pf/index.php/marinas/marina-taravao>

The marina manager is Yvan Allano, tel +689 40 74 85 60, email [tnc@mail.pf](mailto:tnc@mail.pf)

**Feb 2022:** As of 1 March 2022, the Tahiti Nautic Marina will be charging 6000xpf to use their facilities. As a reminder, this is private property. Facilities include, but are not limited to: dinghy landing, car/scooter parking, trash, showers, electricity, etc.

**June 2011:** There is a small marina holding twenty boats, a dinghy dock, a covered breezeway, no laundry facilities, hot showers, friendly people, a repair shop and a road behind where you can pick up a bus to Papeete. – Periclees

**April 2011:** After 8 months on the hard, we were happy to see that Yvan, the manager at Tahiti Nautic Center Marina, took good care of her. It helped that we had left on board an air conditioner/dehumidifier turned on 24/7 which Yvan checked every month to make sure it was running. – Dream Caper

**Feb. 2011:** Tahiti Nautic Center (TNC) marina facilities are pretty basic, but they do have restrooms (bring your own TP) with hot showers, and 220 electricity and water on the dock. In addition to the marina, boatyard and boat builders, there are also a sailing school and a scuba shop (Tahiti Iiti Diving) located on the premises.

We left Slip Away at TNC in Port du Phaeton for 4 1/2 months (mid-September 2010 to February 1, 2011). Port du Phaeton is located on the southwest side of the isthmus that connects Tahiti Nui and Tahiti Iiti. It is the best hurricane hole on Tahiti. Slip Away stayed in the water at the TNC Marina, but they also have a boatyard and can haul out boats and store them on the hard. The anchorage in Port du Phaeton is spacious, well-protected and has good mud holding. We anchored in about 30 feet. There is usually a good breeze in the anchorage during the day, but it is normally very calm at night.

There are a couple of rivers feeding this bay, so visibility isn't terrific, but it was fine for a swim or cleaning the bottom. In the marina, the mosquitoes were bad in the evening, but we rarely had them at the boat at anchor. On a couple of very calm evenings, we had a few, but they went away when we burned a mosquito coil. It rains quite a bit more here than in Papeete.

Yvan kept an eye on Slip Away while we were gone, and the boat fared well in our absence. It rains a lot in Port du Phaeton, so we had some green slime to clean up on the decks and some mildew on the inside, but overall, it wasn't too bad.

Upon our return to TNC February 1, we had a significant repair job to do. Our aluminum bowsprit was bent, and our staysail deck connection pulled out of the fiberglass after bashing through some waves entering Fakarava atoll.

We were very fortunate in that just next to the TNC is a NautiSport boat building operation, and they build aluminum boats. They straightened the bowsprit and welded some reinforcement and other minor items on it. It wasn't cheap, but it wasn't outrageous, and they did an excellent job. Yvan from TNC helped us install a backing plate for the staysail attachment, repaired and painted the fiberglass, and also painted the bowsprit before we reinstalled it. Yvan also did an excellent job and we felt his charges were very reasonable.

By the time we left the TNC marina, Slip Away had been there for 6 months without an interim bottom cleaning. Again, the bottom growth wasn't too bad. The prop was encrusted in barnacles, and there were a few on the bottom, but it was mostly brown/green slime. Our bottom paint (one-year-old Hempel) did a good job. We were able to motor out of the marina with no problems and clean the prop and bottom in the bay where the water was a bit clearer. All but the random barnacles just wiped off. – Slip Away

### **3.7.5 General Services**

#### **3.7.5.1 Bank / ATM**

**Oct. 2020:** Banco Socredo has two locations. One is near Carrefour +689 40 47 00 00. The other is further east on RT 1 across from the Shell station. – Baloo

#### **3.7.5.2 Hardware Supplies**

**Dec. 2018:** Taravao has an Ace Hardware store, which once again, proved to be far bigger and better stocked than any we found in Papeete. – Moon Rebel

**Feb. 2011:** There is a good ACE Hardware store in Taravao (a smallish selection of stainless fasteners, bedding compound and marine stuff. – Slip Away

#### **3.7.5.3 Laundry**

**Oct. 2020:** There is a self-serve laundromat next to Carrefour on the same side of the street (next to a snack and insurance office). They have five washer machines and four dryers, all in good repair and clean. There is an attendant on duty. 11kg front loader was 1300xpf to wash. The dryers are gas and fast at an additional charge. – Baloo

**Feb. 2011:** There is a "Blanchisserie" in Taravao, and they would do 10 kilos of laundry for 2500 francs - wash, dry and iron. To find it, one needs to turn on to the road to Teahupoo, and then it's on the first road on the left (there's a sign at the intersection). We did not use their services. – Slip Away

#### **3.7.5.4 Marine Supplies**

**Feb. 2011:** Next to TNC is a NautiSport boat building operation and they build aluminum boats. They have some supplies – Slip Away

#### **3.7.5.5 Medical**

##### **3.7.5.5.1 Laboratory**

**Oct. 2020:** Laboratoire D'Analyses Ses Medicales / Laboratoire Tauhere +689 40 50 39 95. Hours: Mon-Fri: 0630-1430. Sat: 0700-1100. Located in the Commercial Center on RT 4 (the road to Teapoo). Easy walk

about 1km. We were able to order blood tests without a doctor's order and get the results emailed to us. English speaking and very helpful people. – Baloo

#### 3.7.5.5.2 Pharmacy

**Oct. 2020:** Pharmacie Tairapu +689 40 54 74 42. Hours: Mon-Fri: 0730-1830, Sat: 0730-1630, Sun: 0830-1100. Located on the south side of the main road, (Rte.1), about 100 meters west of the turn-off to Super U (Rte.3). We brought in our empty prescription bottles and were able to get refills. The pharmacy has a good supply of naturopathic remedies as well as anything else you might need. Several English speakers on staff. – Baloo

**Feb. 2019:** Arnaud, the proprietor of Pharmacie Tairapu, speaks English and is very helpful. Pharmacie Tairapu is located in a small strip plaza on the main road between the small Champion store and the Ace Hardware. We found prices on blood pressure and cholesterol medications to be about the same as Panama. – Slip Away

#### 3.7.5.5.3 Dentist

**Oct. 2020: Oral Surgeon/Dentist:** Dr. Justine Fabre. +689 40 57 99 08. Located in the Centre Taimoe Bldg. 2<sup>nd</sup> floor across from the Super U on RT 3. The main number for Centre Taimoe is +689 87 79 48 24. She cleaned and x-rayed our teeth – 15000 FRS each. Bob had one tooth pulled. She also does implants. Cost for an implant from start to finish is 205,000 FRS. She speaks English. Very happy with her work. In the same office are an orthodontist, another dentist, and a dermatologist. All our appointments were for 9:30 Tuesday, first come, first serve. – Baloo

**Dec. 2018:** A good dentist who speaks English is located almost directly across the road from the Super-U. – Moon Rebel

**Feb. 2011:** Yvan at TNC recommended the dentist Dr. Arnaud Delphin, who is located in a small plaza to the right of the Hyper Champion. We had our teeth cleaned for 8040 francs each. Dr. Delphin does not speak much English. – Slip Away

#### 3.7.5.5.4 General Practitioner/Family Practice Physician

**Oct. 2020:** Dr. Lafitte. +689 40 57 21 88. A group of physicians has offices next to the pharmacy. Dr. Lafitte administered a vaccination we'd purchased at the pharmacy. (Measles) Walk-in. – Baloo

#### 3.7.5.5.5 Dermatologist

**Oct. 2020:** Dr. Julien Levang. +689 87 29 08 20. Located in the Centre Taimoe Bldg. 2<sup>nd</sup> floor across from the Super U on RT 3. The main number for Centre Taimoe is +689 87 79 48 24. He performed a thorough, full body skin cancer check on both of us. Speaks some English. Very happy with his work. Located in the Taimoe building across from Super U in the dentist suite, second floor. All our appointments were for 9:30 Tuesday, first come, first serve. – Baloo

#### 3.7.5.5.6 Gynecologist

**Oct. 2020:** Dr. Laurent Bonnamy +689 40 47 99 47. Located in the Commercial Center on RT 4 (the road to Teapoo). Easy walk about 1km. – Baloo

**Feb. 2011:** There is also an excellent gynecologist/obstetrician in Taravao - Dr. Laurent Bonnamy - tel 57 99 57. His office is located on the second floor of the "Shop Tahiti" small shopping complex located a kilometer or two down the road to Teahupoo (on the right-hand side). He speaks excellent English. – Slip Away

#### 3.7.5.5.7 Optometrist

**Oct. 2020:** Dr. Laurent Grillot. +689 87 32 26 09. Located in the Centre Taimoe Bldg. 2<sup>nd</sup> floor across from the Super U on RT 3. The main number for Centre Taimoe is +689 87 79 48 24. Offices located at the opposite end

of the dentist suite. “Maladies et Chirurgies des Yeux” (Diseases and eye surgeries). We had basic eye exams. Very up-to-date equipment and a busy office. Speaks very little English. He has several offices in Tahiti. All our appointments were for 9:30 Tuesday, first come, first serve. – Baloo

### **3.7.5.6 Miscellaneous Stores and Shops**

**2011:** Taravao has a couple of clothing and fabric stores. – Slip Away

### **3.7.5.7 Post Office**

**Oct. 2020:** +689 40 41 76 00. Hours: Mon-Fri: 0800-1600. The post office is located across from the Super U off Route 3. If you want to receive mail at this local post office (next to Super U) you address it with “Your name” then Poste Restante, then 98719 Taravao Tahiti. – Baloo

### **3.7.5.8 Transportation**

More detailed information about the bus system and other transportation options in Tahiti is included in a separate section: “[Getting around Tahiti on Land](#)”.

**Oct.2020: Bus:** The Bus schedule is posted at the Super U. It starts at Super U and drops off at downtown Papeete. The L30 goes west side and the L31 takes the east side. The max fare should be 400xpf. The bus stop is on the road in front of the snack next to Carrefour. – Baloo

**Dec. 2018:** There are public buses from Taravao to Papeete, we never tried them but were advised that: They were most frequent in the morning, stopped around 17:30/18:00 and ‘don’t leave it too late to return, as if the last bus is full, you’ll have to get a \$50 taxi’. – Moon Rebel

**June 2011:** The buses have no schedule and we found them to be unreliable. The best time to catch one was between seven and nine in the morning. They do not run after 5pm or on weekends. We rented a 4x4 jeep from the Avis dealer in Taravao for 19,800 pf for 2 days. We did a lot of exploring, found lots of beautiful anchorages behind the reefs, and did some bicycling and lots of walking. Some roads have bicycle paths. – Periclees

### **3.7.5.9 Wifi / Internet**

**Feb. 2011:** The sailing school broadcasts the laoranet wifi signal, so it's a good strong signal (although occasionally unreliable) in the marina. – Slip Away

### **3.7.6 Provisions**

**Oct. 2020:** Carrefour +689 40 54 39 00 or carrefour.pf. Hours: Mon-Sat: 0800-2000. Sun: 0700-1300. Located off of Route 1 (main road).

Super U +689 40 54 05 40. Hours: Mon-Sat: 0600-1900. Sun: 0600-1230. Located off RT 3. – Baloo

**Feb. 2019:** Directly across the road is a huge Carrefour Supermarket, much better stocked and far cheaper than the ones you’ll find at Marina Taina/Papeete and with good, free wifi available at the tables in the entrance lobby; why did we ever leave?

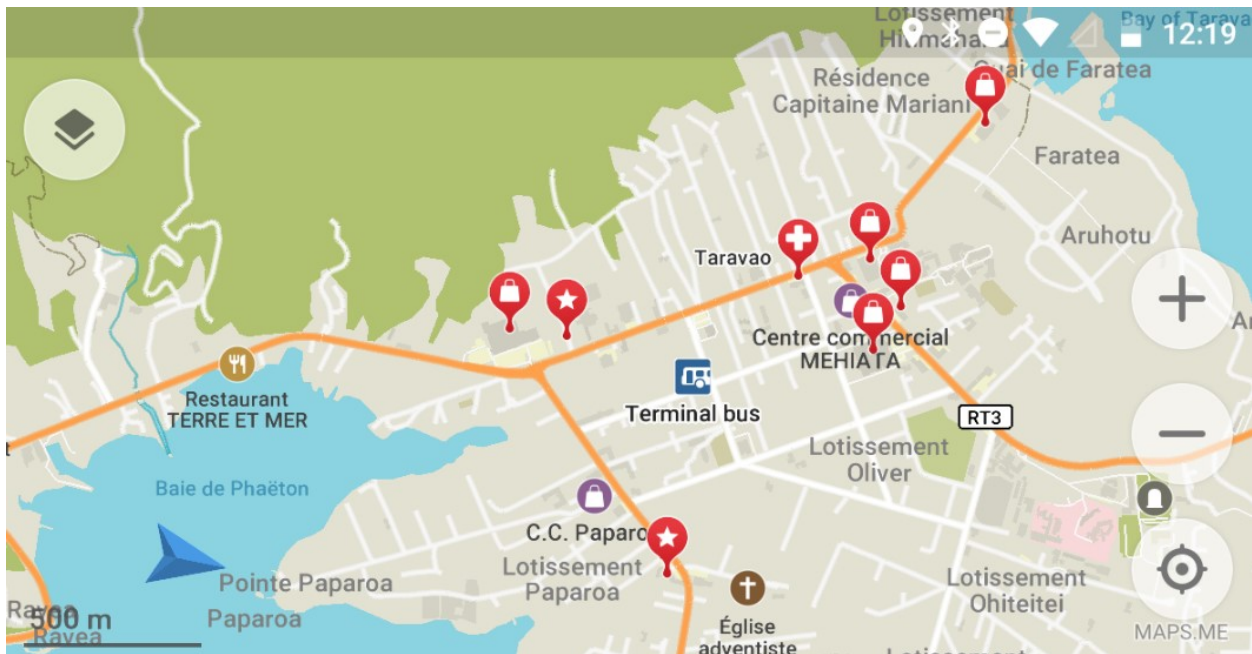
A further twenty minutes’ walk to the east (past a McDonald’s for those who’ve been too long without their burger-fix) and you’ll reach the town of Taravao. Turn right just before the church and you’ll soon reach both a Champion and a huge Super-U grocery store. – Moon Rebel

**June 2011:** There are at least three good sized markets with prices sometimes better than Papeete. – Periclees

**April 2011:** Taravao has three well stocked grocery stores - a Hyper Champion, a Champion and another - as well as several smaller magasins and an organic vegetable stand. Prices on some items in Taravao were slightly cheaper than in Papeete (a case of beer in returnable bottles went on sale a few times for 3095 francs), but a few items were more expensive. – Slip Away

### 3.7.7 Cruiser Reports

**Feb. 2021:** We found several medical services and facilities in Port Phaeton that handled our medical issues very well. Everything was centrally located and close to the anchorage. – Baloo



**Feb. 2011:** The small town of Taravao is about a 20-minute walk from the TNC marina, but one can get closer by taking the dinghy up near the head of the bay and tying it to some trees. That puts you close to the intersection of the turn-off to Teahupoo, and the center of town is about 5-minute walk from there. In general, we found the people in Taravao to be very friendly and helpful toward us. Taravao is not a tourist town, so we were an anomaly. After a couple of times in the stores, the clerks all recognized us, and they always smiled and were very pleasant. – Slip Away

## 3.8 Teahupoo / Havae Pass – SW Coast Tahiti

### 3.8.1 Passes

**Dec. 2018:** Having arrived at the south end of Tahiti (bound for Port Phaeton) we came in here to find an anchorage before dark. It looked hairy on approach, but once we actually reached the leading line, the entry opened-up and was safe/simple enough and unlike the Tuamotu reef passes, neither this nor any other pass we've used through the Society Islands is significantly different, whatever the tide state.

Having since seen photos and videos of the 'Teahupoo Wave' in its pomp, I'd be rather wary of using it in strong winds from the west and never in the dark. The CM93 and Navionics charts were accurate for both the entrance and passage north through/behind the reef to Phaeton, though both were sketchy with regards to depth information for the first mile or so north from Havae Pass/Bay.

It's actually well-marked and we never saw less than 7m/25' in those 'vague' areas. Our only problem having arrived very late in the afternoon was in trying to interpret the marker posts guiding you through the channel around Maeretauro Reef, just off Teahupoo village whilst looking into the setting sun. – Moon Rebel

### **3.8.2 Anchorages and Mooring**

**Dec. 2018:** **17-51.21S /149-15.60W** in 15m of water immediately to the east of the reef, finding good holding in mud, and well sheltered other than a lot of small boat traffic passing until it got dark – to be fair, we were smack in the middle of the navigable channel. – Moon Rebel

### **3.8.3 Provisions**

**Dec. 2018:** There's a small but well stocked grocery store on the main road close to the marina – a veritable cornucopia after months in the Marquesas and Tuamotus! – Which was open on Sunday morning and had really old beer. – Moon Rebel

### **3.8.4 Activities**

**Sept. 2019:** If you are a surfer, then this is your happy place. We rented a car and came here for the World Surfing Competition which was nothing short of spectacular. We paddle boarded out to the safety line and watched as dozens of world-class surfers attacked the killer and monstrous waves. There is a large fake wave that you can pose in front of and several snack stands along the shore. I am not sure if the snack stands are always here or just here for the festivities, but they were reasonably priced. – Sugar Shack

**Dec. 2018:** A very pleasant thirty-minute walk to the south takes you back to the bay where the entry pass is and home of the 'World Famous Teahupoo Wave'; it was 2' high the days we were there, but the U-tube videos suggest it gets more exciting. – Moon Rebel

## **3.9 Uritutua**

### **3.9.1 Passes**

**Dec. 2018:** Coming north from Teahupoo inside the reef we found both CM93 and Navionics charts to be accurate, the hazards are well marked and depths generally more than charted. – Moon Rebel

### **3.9.2 Anchorages and Moorings**

**Dec. 2018:** **17-48.48S / 149-17.642W.** Good holding in 18m/60' in what felt like heavy mud; light weather the night we stayed, but it seems to be a popular spot with empty/laid-up yachts, so I presume it's well sheltered and secure? It's also only about 1 mile south of the Tapuaeraha Pass, in reasonable conditions and with care, both the pass and the route from it to here should be negotiable in the dark. – Moon Rebel

## **3.10 Getting Around Tahiti on Land**

### **3.10.1 Car Rentals**

**April 2023:** We rented a car at "Tahiti Rent" for 3000xpf/day. It was cheap, friendly and uncomplicated, so we recommend this car rental.

If you have to stock up your board provisions, like we had after one year enjoying the Marquesas and Tuamotus, it makes sense renting a car and buying provisions in bulk.

We saved a good piece of money and enjoyed driving around Tahiti. – Freeirie

**Sept. 2019:** The airport has several car rentals places. We found that you can get a cheaper rate online than going blindly into the airport looking for a car. Usually you can rent a car for \$30 (U.S.) per day with limited miles (.59 xpf per kilometer) which is cheaper than paying for unlimited miles. The island is just not that big to warrant unlimited miles. We rented from Paea Auto center +689 40 82 33 33. However, we later heard Eco-car has cheaper rates +689 40 54 29 09. – Sugar Shack

**Jan/Feb. 2019:** By far the best priced car hire was through Eco-car at the airport, but be sure to pay for 'unlimited mileage' and take out their full cover daily insurance, if you don't it seems to be the rule rather than

the exception that they manage to discover some minute but expensive damage upon your return. – Moon Rebel

**2017:** We got online and looked at car rentals to self-tour Tahiti (and get a passenger to the airport, do some boat part shopping, etc.). It seemed like the rental car agencies were asking for \$120/day! So, when our buddy boat was online and saw a deal for \$35/day, we jumped on it. Turns out that he didn't pay close attention to the fine print...

As part of the rental, we arranged for them to pick us up at Tahiti Yacht Club. When we went to do the paperwork for the rental (downtown) we found that great deal did not include mileage, and it was going to cost us (after conversion from CFP and kilometers) 70 cents a mile!! Plus, our normal car insurance does not cover international rentals. So sure enough, by the time we rented the car, we paid \$120 per day.

However, we managed to fit 5 people (tightly) in our micro-car, and get Infini's son and gear to the airport at midnight, did a half day of running around for boat parts, hit the Roulottes downtown 2 nights in a row, did a huge shopping at the Carrefour and, still drove every road on Tahiti. – Soggy Paws

### **3.10.2 Taxis**

There is a taxi stand across the street from Marina Papeete. Exit the main gate, turn left, cross the street and it is on the corner with a small thatched hut. Or you can call Taxi Aeroport: +689 40 80 60 66. Average cost 1000xpf per person and 135xpf per kilometer during the hours of 0800-1800. Rates go up during off hours.

### **3.10.3 Buses**

**Oct. 2020:** Tere Tahiti (bus system) created an app (android and apple) where you can track the buses (live) to see where they are located and when they will arrive. You can follow the journey of over 200 buses through geolocation. You will see a network map, line sheets, bus routes, and bus times at selected stops, tickets and pricing. Users should also be able to purchase bus tickets ahead of time. – Sugar Shack

**September 2020:** First a couple of points to remember:

- Route 02 comprises of a Northbound Bus called "02-CLG ARUE" which goes north from Outumaoro to College Arue. (CLG = College). This is the bus to catch at Marina Taina Northbound to Papeete.
- The Southbound Bus is called "02-OUTUMAORO" bus and departs College Arue to Outumaoro. People ask; where is Outumaoro? The Outumaoro Shell gas station is almost directly across from the Carrefour near Marina Taina. That Bus stop is adjacent to the Shell. If you are in town, go to the bus stop most convenient, probably beside Vodafone, BUT you can catch it anywhere north of there too...Hyper Bricko etc., hospital and so on and ride right on through to Taina.
- In the accompanying GoogleEarth MAP, the GREEN route is BOTH North and South Bound portions, the YELLOW is Northbound Only and the RED is Southbound. The Northbound section in town goes right by the Papeete Marina so you can jump on right there and go to Bricko, the Hospital, Hyper U or??? Southbound goes through one of the main bus stops downtown. I only noted a FEW of the actual stops on the Maps. In reality, you can get on and off almost anywhere.



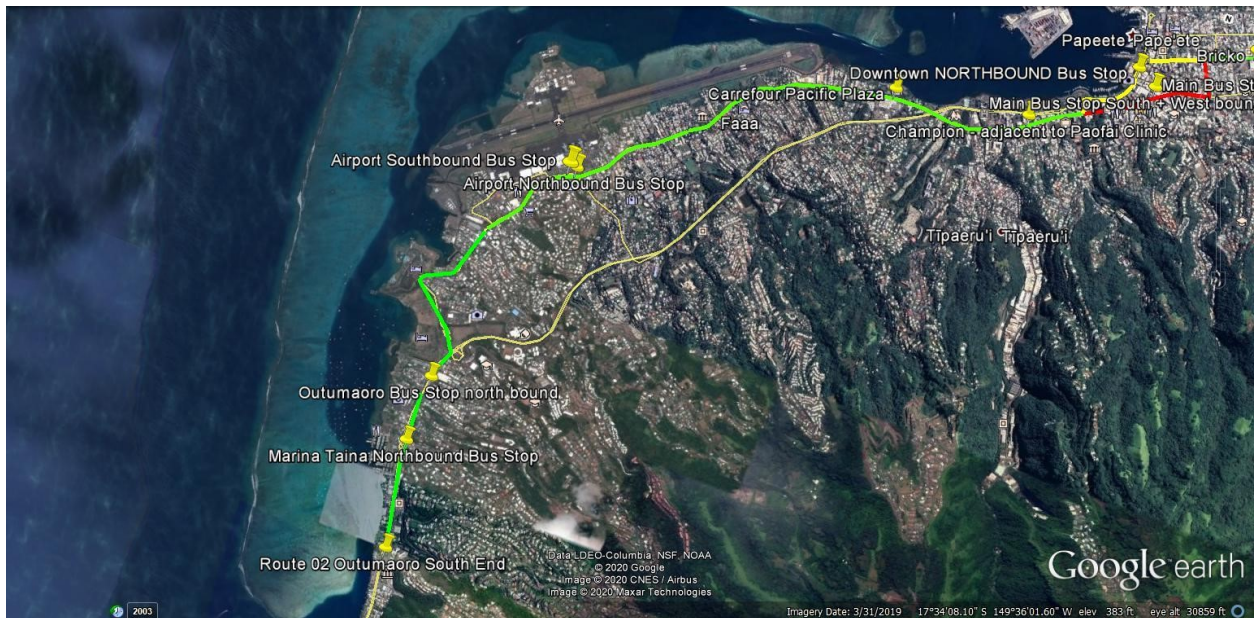


Figure 3-1 Northbound from Marina Taina

- Be aware--the drivers don't always change their signage on the front of the busses when they hit the Round-About at the end of their route. So, if you see an "02-Outumaoro" bus heading northbound, don't panic, it is going to College Arue; get on.
- The SOUTH end of the "route" is technically at Outumaoro but the bus has to continue south to the "Round-About" south of Taina, there is NO problem continuing on to Taina or all the way to the Round About, everyone does. BUT be aware, IF you ask the 02-Outumaoro bus driver at the downtown bus station which bus to take to Taina, they "may" direct you to the old Orange non-air-conditioned bus. (Nothing wrong taking the Orange (Punaauia) bus to Taina, BUT if you get on that bus Northbound at Taina and want to go to the Hospital, Bricko or further than downtown, you are out of luck; it is ONLY going into town). I just board the Outumaoro bus in town and say nothing.



Figure 3-2 Downtown to College Arue

- **IMPORTANT:** There is a PK marker between Taina and Outumaoro Shell. (Actually, the overhead foot bridge at Taina is the cut-off point) That is in fact, the divide between the "Urban" bus zone and the

“Punaauia” zone. If you get on at Taina we all usually pay the 200 XPF one-way or 340 return (the Urban zone price). BUT, technically, it should be; 250 XPF or 425 XPF return as you are actually catching the bus in Punaauia! I have only ever once paid the higher price and usually you pay the lesser fee even if they give you change.

- If you are getting on at Taina and ask for a “Return ticket” they will usually charge you the “Urban Zone” price, BUT will not “print” out the return ticket until they pull into the next bus stop at Outumaoro Shell. The ticket “Gizmo” is GPS enabled so IF they were to print it immediately, they would have to charge you the higher rate that “Gizmo” calculates. They will tell you to go have a seat and then call you back once they have printed it at the next stop, saving you a few coins.
- On the Northbound (CLG-Aure) bus, almost everyone gets off downtown across from the Tourist Office not far from the Marina. Again, don’t panic if you are now alone on the bus! Don’t be surprised if the driver asks you where you are going. He just wants to make sure YOU know!
- The Government just took delivery of about 70 new coaches; some are even 100% Electric. There are stops all along the route including the airport. If you are at Taina and want to go to Ocean 2000, the bus will take you within a block of there, just get off before Bricko.

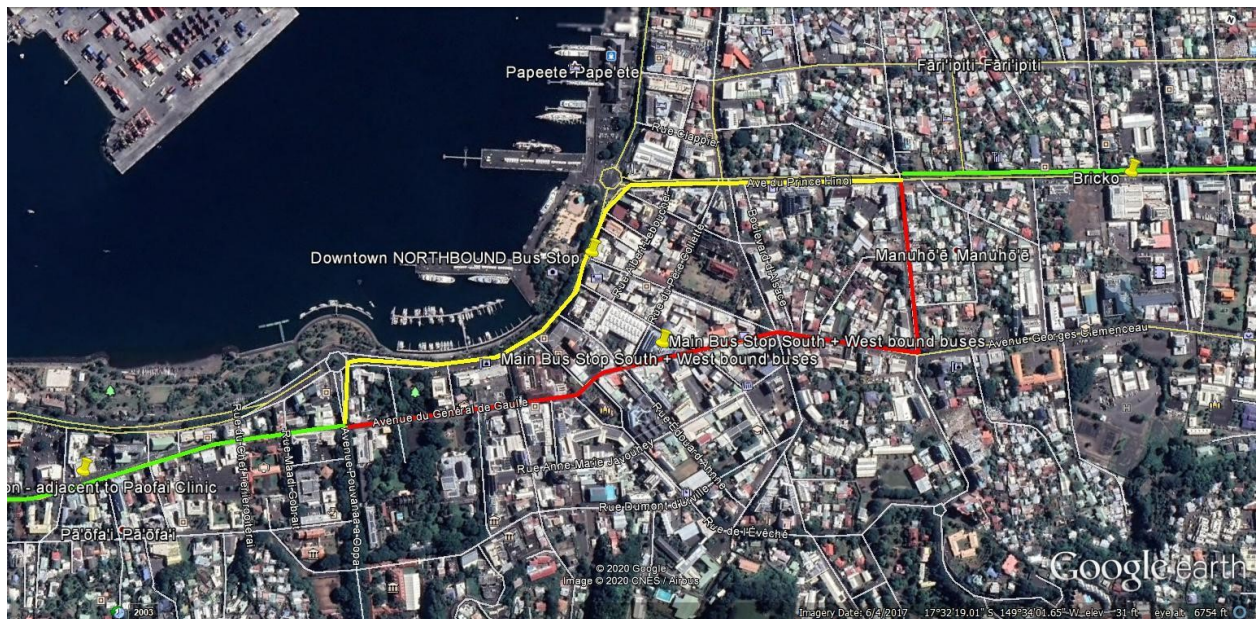


Figure 3-3 Downtown Close-Up

SCHEDULE: IF you can call it that. I needed to travel by bus across town almost daily for 2 months. I found it quite regular. Looking at the schedule, note the “Start Times” and “Frequencies”. For example: the Northbound Bus (L2 OUTUMAORO-COLLEGE ARUE) starts in the Mornings at 0400 and runs every 30 minutes until 0600 when the frequency increases to every 20 minutes. Then at 0800 frequency decreases to every :40 minutes until 15:00 when it picks up again. LAST bus into town Northbound departs at 18:20. Southbound is similar.

HOLIDAYS: The bus does NOT operate on Sundays or Public Holidays.

SUMMARY of new happenings: New Orange colored signs have been posted at most stops detailing the “Line Number(s)” associated with that particular Stop as well as the NAME of the stop! New shelters have been built in many locations including at Marina Taina both North and Southbound. And recently completed: a NEW Bus website; <http://www.teretahiti.pf/>. There is also an app for Android and iPhones, search for **teretahiti** on your favorite app store.

They do have a Facebook page as well: <https://www.facebook.com/teretahitiofficiel/>

There are quite a few other bus routes in Papeete but I am not familiar with them. Perhaps someone can add their experiences.

AND ONE LAST THING! Be friendly and cheerful! I always make a point of saying Maruru or wave a thanks to the Driver when getting off. And if you end up like me having to take the bus for an extended period, they get to know you. And if you are on the bus and an elderly person gets on, GIVE UP YOUR SEAT! You would be amazed at the positive looks and smiles you get from everyone else on board. THAT goes a LONG WAY for us cruisers! – HEDONISM

## 4 Teitiaroa (Marlon Brando Island)

Teitiaroa is 30 miles from Tahiti

### 4.1 Anchorages and Moorings

#### Motu Rimatuu

**Sept.2019:** We had heard Teitiaroa was a beautiful, albeit small island with no anchorages and only a few moorings that belong to charter companies. However, we were determined to visit this small piece of paradise so close to Tahiti. It was also a perfect jump off point for Makatea, in the Tuamotus where we were headed next. We arrived just before noon and found 5 moorings. Two different charter boats were on the outer moorings closest to the entrance. Five moorings: two of the moorings are very close to one another. Another two are very close to the reef. The fifth is the furthest from the entrance and others and is the one we selected to use. Note: it is not advisable to stay here with winds blowing from the south or west as your boat will be too close to the pounding reef.

We were told that if a charter company wants / needs the mooring we would have to leave and we were ok with that. Some have said that the charter boats will allow you to tie up to them after they are secured to a mooring. We did not have to do this, luckily.

We sat back and watched the circus arrive. It appears that each mooring is tied to a specific charter company. The charter company "Moorings" takes the mooring ball to the right (far east). The charter company "Poe" takes the next ball (west of the Moorings ball). And the charter company "Tahiti Tours" takes the ball west of Poe. Nobody took the 4<sup>th</sup> ball while we were here.

The oddest thing happened while we were here. One Moorings boat and one Tahiti Tours boat came in and took their respective moorings. A 48' Poe catamaran came in and took its ball. Then another Poe cat came in and tied off to the first one's stern. Then a 3<sup>rd</sup> came in and tied off to the 2<sup>nd</sup> one's stern. Then a 4<sup>th</sup> large, 55+ catamaran came in and made the other 4 move so it could tie off to the mooring directly. Once it did, the other 3 tied themselves back off to each other. And if you can believe this, two more catamarans came in and tied off to each other's stern. So, there were 6 catamarans tied to one mooring.

There is a big surge that breaks about 30 meters from the moorings which can make this spot really rolly (we are a 47' cat), but it is so pretty and worth it for a night or two.

On our way to Makatea, we motored around the Brando resort (south west side) to see if we could find an entrance to the lagoon. To our surprise we found a nice, somewhat shallow area (15-18 meters) that we might have made a decent anchorage. We were anxious to get to the Tuamotus, so we did not stop. – Sugar Shack

**July 2011:** We arrived at the south end of the atoll to find three catamarans moored off the motu Rimatuu. There are two very large moorings that could take a vessel of virtually any size and one small mooring that a 45-foot catamaran was attached to. We spoke to one of the boats and discovered they were day charters out of Papeete. They arrive about 10:00AM and depart at 3:00PM. So, we figured we would be

able to attach to one of the moorings for the night. The captain of the charter boat warned us, however, that if the winds came around to the south it could become dangerous as you would have your back to reef, which is relatively close to the moorings. The winds were ESE at 10-15 knots when we were there and presented no problem. However, there was a relatively large ground swell that rolled through. Being a large catamaran, it presented no difficulty for us, but it might not be acceptable to mono-hull sailors who prefer calm anchorages. Since the moorings were being occupied for a bit we decided to investigate if there were any places to drop anchor. On our charts there was noted nearby a bank with soundings on one chart of 20 meters and on another of 6 meters. We motored over the area, but found no such depth. There may well be a pinnacle somewhere in the area, but we had no soundings at all, which means the water must have been over 100 meters deep. This was the case in the entire bay except right at the reef edge, which because of the breaking swell you would not want to attempt to anchor next to. – Sete Mares

## **4.2 Activities**

### **Snorkeling**

**Sept. 2019:** We snorkeled on our mooring, right by the reef and enjoyed a large variety of fish and pretty hard coral. It is a little nerve racking as there was a lot of swell, but the wild life loved it. – Sugar Shack

**July 2011:** We decided to do a bit of snorkeling along the edge of the reef. It was very good indeed, quite reminiscent of snorkeling in the Tuamotus. Diving would be excellent as well. The reef edge is a virtual wall of coral that drops to 80 feet or more, and then quickly drops to oblivion. The coral along the face of the reef is in excellent condition and fish are abundant. I would highly recommend it. – Sete Mares

### **4.3 Cruiser Reports**

**Sept. 2019:** This is an extremely beautiful, peaceful and isolated island. However, there is a huge surge that breaks 25-30 meters from the moorings which makes it a roly anchorage. We are a 47' catamaran and it was a little uncomfortable.

There is no pass into the lagoon. We searched and searched and could not find an entrance. So, we observed the charter captains as they shuttled their guests ashore. They only took 2 passengers per trip so they made a LOT of trips. Each captain masterfully timed the waves and surge to bring their dingy over the reef. It was frightening and exciting. We were not brave enough to risk our dinghy and did not want to bother the busy captains with an extra trip for us.

The Marlon Brando resort on Motu Onetahi. It is very exclusive and we were told we would not have permission to enter the facilities. However, as we left the island, we did see a momma and baby whale which was spectacular. We later found out that whales' love visiting here between July-November. – Sugar Shack

**July 2011:** Tetiaroa being only 30 miles from Tahiti and nearly on the route from Rangiroa in the Tuamotus to Tahiti it is a tempting place to visit. Previously owned by Marlon Brando as a private island it has gone through a few transitions in recent years. When the trade winds are blowing from the east the wind angle out and back is favorable for a quick trip each way.

We noted there were people walking the beach from the charter boats and assumed there must be a way to get ashore. We then watched as they were picked up by dingy to be taken back aboard their boats. Frightening is the word for it. There is no break in the reef. With each swell the edge of the reef appears above the water by a foot or two, and then is covered over as the swell breaks over it. The dingy driver literally times it to pass over the reef and through the crest of the wave as it passes over the edge of the reef to a calm area inside. Any mistiming and he would crash hard on the coral. He obviously was quite experienced at it as he made about six trips without a mishap.

When the charter boats departed, we attached ourselves to one of the large moorings. We took our dingy and ran for a mile in each direction to find a break in the reef to allow us to cross into the lagoon. We found none.

We enjoyed a peaceful private night on the mooring with a beautiful moon reflecting off the lagoon. The next morning a charter catamaran arrived about 10:00AM. So, to be polite we dropped the mooring and left.

We did enjoy our overnight visit to Tetiaroa. But it is a bit rolly and wouldn't be for everybody. – Sete Mares

## 5 Mo'orea

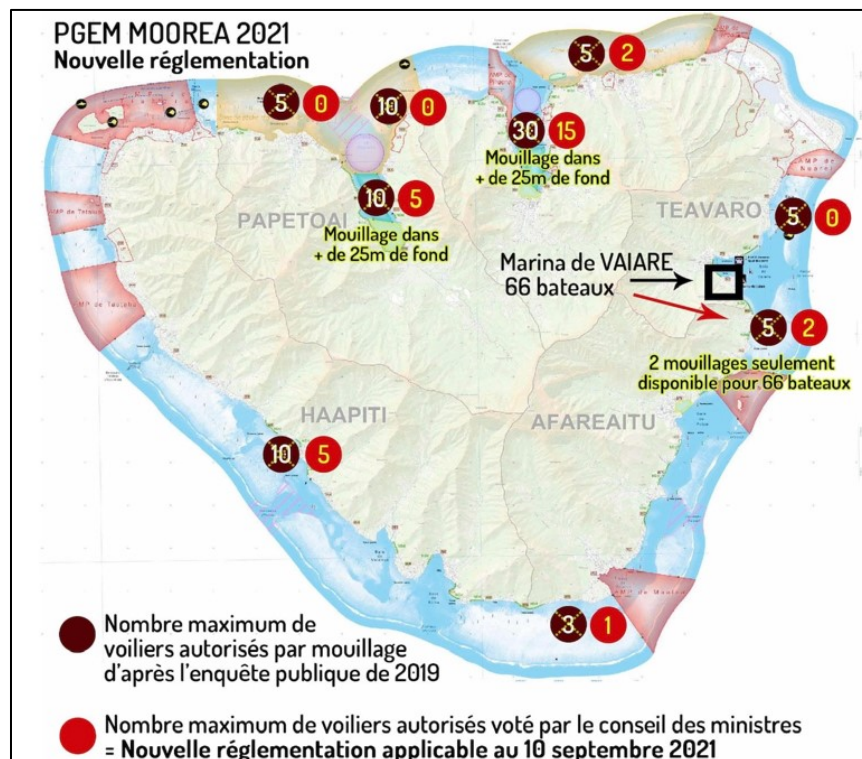
Anchorage and passes are listed counter clockwise (north, west, south, east). A lot of anchoring restrictions have been put in place in Mo'orea. Check in with JRCC, Tahiti Crew, or the French Poly Cruisers Facebook group to see where you can anchor and for how long.

### 5.1 Anchoring Restrictions

Mo'orea anchoring is regulated by PGEM and the rules are enforced by Police Municipale. As of September 2021, PGEM has instituted very strict anchoring/mooring regulations in and around Mo'orea. If you are found to be in breach of their rules they can and will fine you so be aware.

Anchoring in the red areas of the map below is strictly prohibited. The restrictions include:

- The red circles indicate the ONLY anchoring/mooring areas around Mo'orea.
- Inside the red circle is the number of boats that are allowed to anchor/moor in that designated area.
- For example, in Cooks Bay, only 15 boats are allowed to anchor in the head of the bay in 25m depth. Only 2 boats are allowed to anchor at the beach (in front of the public park) at Cooks Bay.
- The areas in red are strictly prohibited anchorages as they are protected sites (for example, to the right of the red circle with the #1).
- For more information visit [AVP Polynesian Sailboat Association](http://www.avp-polynesiansailboatassociation.com).



### 5.2 Passes

Mo'orea has 9 passes but only a few are recommended for navigation.

- Passe Avaroa – Cooks Bay is a deep, well-marked bay.
- Passe Tareu – Opunohu Bay is a deep, well-marked bay.

- Passe Taota – strictly not advisable, even in fair weather.
- Passe Avamotu – strictly not advisable, even in fair weather.
- Passe Matauvau is 13-15 meters deep and about 100 meters wide. Not advisable when there is a south-westerly swell. The anchorage depth is said to be 3-4 meters.
- Passe Avarapa is 3.5-4 meters deep with breaking waves. Not advisable.
- Passe Teruapu – is deep and predictable. It is not marked well and the buoys there are not lit.
- Passe Tupapaurau– is 4 meters deep and is not marked well. Has husky rollers from south, south-west.
- Passe Vaiare – This is a terminal port for ferries and supply ships. It can be rolly but is easily accessible.

### 5.3 Cooks Bay

#### 5.3.1 Anchorages and Moorings

**July 2019:** We entered Cooks Bay at the start of a maramu (strong southerly winds that occur in the winter in this region). It was raining and we had winds of 20+kts. Cooks Bay is deep and protected. We anchored on a sandy bottom in 20 meters of water with good holding. From Cook’s Bay you can walk to the village of Paopoa. Park dinghy by the hotel, turn left to get to Paopoa. – Sugar Shack

**May 2019: Dinghy Landing:** There is a fuel dock on the west side of Cook’s Bay or land at the head of the bay for the Super-U store in Paopoa – be wary of the small dock in Paopoa is ramshackle and unforgiving to inflatables, in any wind or seas land on the small mud beach, it’ll be a wet landing/departure, but better than a punctured tube. – Moon Rebel

**Feb.2019: 17.28.93S / 149.48.80W.** 11m/35’ over sand, holding felt (never tested) good. We spent just the one night here – it was handy for the supermarket/internet café/hardware & other stores in Maharepa, but we thought comfort/protection at anchor was much inferior to Opunohu Bay.

**2017:** The anchorage at the eastern entrance of Cook’s would best be called Maharepa Anchorage as it is near that village.

#### MAHAREPA ANCHORAGE



The Maharepa anchorage is along a 3 to 4-meter-deep sandy shelf which drops off steeply to 20+ meters in the channel (white dots and red marker on satellite photo.). Holding is good in sand with only small bommies. Snorkeling on the reef is lovely. Dingy landing (1) is best found by following a narrow passage to the dock at the Moorea Beach Club then turn west about 40 meters to the beach. (2) is the route to the village.

Head of Cook’s Bay is good holding in soft mud which shelves gently. At the village of Paopao – Mary Ann II

**Sept. 2011: 17 29 94S / 149 49 21W** Depth 80'. If you have enough chain and rode, don't be shy about anchoring deep into Cooks Bay. You'll be rewarded with a very scenic anchorage. We anchored in 80' and let out 250' chain. It is a mud bottom (have a bucket on the foredeck when pulling anchor) with excellent holding. We were in Cook's Bay twice, each time about 5 days and on a couple days, we experienced katabatic winds that gusted to 30 knots. The bay was so well protected that we never saw more than 1 foot of chop. We had no concerns about dragging our Rochna anchor. – New Morning

### **5.3.2 Yachtsmen Services**

#### **5.3.2.1 Fuel (Diesel and Gasoline)**

**July 2019:** The Mobile Gas Station has a dock but it looked really shallow when we came by in the dinghy and we did not feel comfortable bringing our boat with a 1.5 -meter draft in for fueling. You can bring in jerry cans, walk across the street to the main station and fill up there. They accept the duty-free certificate. – Sugar Shack

**Aug. 2018:** The pump at the Cooks Bay Mobile Station has been repaired and now able to pump diesel direct from the end of the dock. If you want duty free fuel, they require cash payment. – Jacaranda

**July 2017:** Next to the Bali Hai there is a Mobil station with a small dock. There is a new pump on the end of the dock which pumps either gasoline or diesel. The dock end has cleats on either side and usually it is flat calm. Plenty of water off the end of the dock for sailboats to come in and fuel. They can process duty free. You can fill jerry jugs as well.

In our opinion it is so much easier to obtain fuel here in Mo'orea than in Marina Taina, in Tahiti. No boat traffic, current, etc. to deal with plus you can also come by dinghy and fill jugs.

Correction to New Mornings report about this gas dock. It is >>NOT<< a public dock but owned by the folks that own the Mobil station. – Jacaranda

**March 2017:** The petrol station (with a pump on the dock for dinghies). – Spunky

**2017:** The Mobil station sells duty free diesel at the dock which reportedly has 4-meters depth. —Mary Ann II

### **5.3.3 General Services**

#### **5.3.3.1 Banks / ATMs**

There are 2-3 banks in the town of Maharepa and the town east of Cooks Bay, at least one of them should have a working ATM. There is also an ATM at La Petite Village at the end of the bus trip on the NW corner of Moorea, but the machine was out of order when we were there.

**2017:** The small village (2) has two banks. – Mary Ann II

#### **5.3.3.2 Marine/Hardware Stores**

**Nov. 2020:** Mo'orea Marine Center Hours: Mon-Sat: 0830-1200 & 1300-1630.

Location: From Super U, turn left (if back facing Super U), it will be on the left. General hardware and a small selection of marine products. They are helpful and will help you procure your item from Tahiti if they don't have it in stock. – Sugar Shack

**2017: Polymat.** +689 40 55 05 50. Hours: Mon-Fri: 0700-1730. Sat: 0800-1600. Polymat is a well-stocked hardware / builder's supply. – Mary Ann II

#### **5.3.3.3 Laundry**

**2017:** There is laundry which does wash/dry/fold (2017 price 1500xpf for 5kg load). – Mary Ann II

#### **5.3.3.4 Medical**

**2017:** West of the dinghy beach, near there is a medical complex with GP and Pharmacy. – Mary Ann II

### **5.3.3.5 Post Office**

**2017:** The small village has a post office. – Mary Ann II

### **5.3.3.6 Transportation**

**Sept. 2021:** eBike Moorea: +689 89 35 56 36 (tel or text) [ebikemoorea@gmail.com](mailto:ebikemoorea@gmail.com). Open daily 0800-1800. Jesse and Audrey speak English and will deliver and pick up their eBike to you. 6000xpf for 8 hours/full day. The bikes were in decent shape and they provide helmets and a map. We rode around the entire island with these e-assist bikes and returned them with well over 60% battery life. Perhaps we should have used the “assist” more often (as we wouldn’t have been so exhausted). But super fun adventure. – Sugar Shack

**2017:** About 1-km east of the village, Albert’s rents cars, scooters and books tours. Mary Ann II

### **5.3.3.7 Wifi / Internet**

**2017:** Caramelina’s Cafe has free wifi. There’s also an internet cafe, CyberMoorea. – Mary Ann II

### **5.3.4 Provisions**

There are two decent-sized grocery stores at the head of Cook’s Bay and another in the town east of Cooks Bay. There is a nice fruit/veggie stand on the road between Cooks Bay and the town of Maharepa

**Sept. 2021: Stand de Legume Teavaro** will deliver fresh vegetables to you on Tuesdays and Fridays. +689 76 27 51 63. Hours: Mon-Fri: 0900-1700. Facebook & Messenger. You can order a 1000xpf or 2000xpf basket of fresh vegetables or you can order exactly what you want. They delivered fresh lettuce, bok choy, tomatoes, cucumbers, cilantro, bananas, and onions. In addition, they have fresh tofu, honey, and coconut milk. – Hannah

**Verified 2021 (July 2017):** There are a few choices in Cooks Bay. – Jacaranda

1. **Super U** at the head of the bay. +689 40 56 10 28. Hours: Mon-Sat: 0600-1900. Sun: 0530-1130. There is a small dock next door owned by the folks who run the snack shop. We asked permission to tie up there and they said no problem.
2. **Mobil Station** next to the Bali Hai - Fresh bread, fruit, eggs, beer, soda, milk, and lots of other items. Newly expanded and modern looking.
3. Chinese store to the N of the Bali Hai (turn left from Bali Hai) about 1/4 mile.

**March 2017:** The petrol station market sells baguettes in the morning. – Spunky

**Sept. 2011: Patisserie SyLesie** 56-34-99 or 77-93-17. Look for the Hot Pink sign. Nice selection of pastries and desserts, and you can place orders by calling ahead. The almond croissants are out of this world. An easy 10-minute walk to the Patisserie from either dinghy dock. There are few grocery stores as well. 1) In the town of Paopao @ SE corner of the bay - a well-stocked Super Marché but they only take cash. Use the Mobile station dock for this store (1) in the town of Maharepa. Use the NE dinghy dock to walk to Maharepa. Between the dinghy dock and Maharepa, a local woman has a very nice veggie and fruit stand. – New Morning

### **5.3.5 Restaurants**

**July 2019:** Allo Pizza: +689 40 56 18 22. Hours: Mon-Sun: 1100-1400 & 1700-2030. Excellent pizza place walking distance from the Mobile gas station. From Mobile Gas Station, turn left, walk about ½ mile down the road on the right-hand side. Free internet, great pizza and cold beer. – Sugar Shack

**Aug. 2018:** Aimeo Lodge (Previously Club Bali Hai) - Has been taken over by the original owners with much less services than before (Similar to Air B&B). The deck restaurant is still open for breakfast and lunch - No dinners. Employees are still as friendly as before. – Jacaranda



**July 2017:** We were able to use the dock and pick up wifi on the boat from the Bali Hai hotel. We not able to use their pool, but they had a nice bar with good cocktails and burgers for lunch. Good but very expensive dinners can be had at Moorea Beach Club or Mahogany. Both will send a van to pick you up from the Bali Hai hotel entrance. – Consensus

**March 2017:** If you anchor in the bay, at the end of the bay, there is a little dock, and Snack Rotui, open during lunch times, with coffee, patisserie, French fries and Poisson cru. – Spunky

**June 2011:** Exiting Hotel Kaveka, we turned right and walked about a mile to **Allo Pizza**, the best pizza place in all of Polynesia. Sit outside at the counter and chat with Sommers, who will take your order and quickly turn out from the wood-fired oven (imported from L.A.!) a perfectly cooked thin crust pie. Don't pass up on the chocolate pot du crème, also hand-made by Sommers. Deliciousness has its price, as usual in FP; two pizzas, two soft drinks, and one pot du crème came to about 5000 CFP.

We ate breakfast at **Carameline**, which we found underwhelming after the rave reviews we'd read. While the croissants and pan chocolate were good, the service was indifferent and prices high, especially for the "petit déjeuner américain". – Soggy Paws

### 5.3.6 Activities

#### Tours:

**July 2019:** There are lots of tours around Mo'orea, but here are few that we tried and or heard recommendations from other cruisers. – Sugar Shack

- **Safari Mario Tours** +689 87 217 436. Tour will take you through pineapple plantations, around the island, up Belvedere Mountain and Magic Mountain. \$60/pp 4-hour tour, very well done. Very informative and fun tour that takes you through the pineapple plantations (with details on growth process), up Belvedere Mountain, up Magic Mountain, and to a Vanilla Plantation.
- **Dolphin and Whale Watching Expeditions with** Dr. Michael Poole. Email: [dww@mail.pf](mailto:dww@mail.pf) or [drmichaelpoole@hotmail.com](mailto:drmichaelpoole@hotmail.com) and he is on Facebook "Dr. Michael Poole Expeditions. Jam packed with information, their migration, mating, singing, and more.
- **Moorea Blue Water** Whale tour with Patea +689 87 78 93 73 and +689 87 70 90 10. Email: [mooreabluewater@gmail.com](mailto:mooreabluewater@gmail.com) and [www.mooreabluewater.com](http://www.mooreabluewater.com). This is a wonderful tour on a comfortable boat with lots of dry storage, seating and bars to hold. Patea knows exactly where the whales are, is super respectful of these giants, and provides a fantastic tour.
- **Dolphin and Whale Spirit Adventures** +689 87 36 59 91. The boat is large and can hold up to 15 guests. Everything will get wet. Did not find the experience as favorable as the one we had with Moorea Blue Water tours.
- **Mo'orea Photo Safari** +689 87 73 65 40 or [eloysservices@gmail.com](mailto:eloysservices@gmail.com) (\$50/pp) visit pineapple plantations, Belvedere Mountain, Tropical Gardens, Distillery, Cooks Bay, Opunohu Bay, Marae (not to Magic Mountain)

**2017:** Just west of the dinghy beach you'll find Mario's Tours, excellent 4x4 tour of Moorea. – Mary Ann II

**July 2011:** This is also where an Albert's Tours location is (across from the Bali Hai), where you can rent a car or book a tour. However, you can also dinghy to Cooks from Opunohu, make your arrangements, and then have them pick you up at Opunohu. – Soggy Paws

#### Hiking:

**July 2019:** There is a nice hike up to the pineapple plantations which was lovely. Leave your dinghy at the end of the bay by the snack (near Super U). Turn left towards Super U, then turn right at the "T" intersection (the street that dead ends into Super U) and follow the road to the pineapple plantations that dot the hillsides. There are plenty of places to hike, but the ones we visited are listed below. – Sugar Shack

- Belvedere Lookout hike can be accessed from Opunohu Bay
- Magic Mountain (two paths, take path on right as it is shorter and a bit easier)
- Waterfalls: (from hospital go 100 meters to blue house, turn to go down road about 30 minutes)
- Pineapple plantations (super easy walk on paved roads through plantations)

**Sept. 2011:** Just west of the bridge in Paopao is a road that takes you up past pineapple plantations. It is the shortcut to the Opunohu valley and ultimately leads you to the Belvedere viewpoint (we opted to hike there from Opunohu Bay). We would walk up and down this road to get exercise. Take your camera, the scenery is beautiful. – New Morning

### **Snorkeling and Diving**

**Sept. 2011:** Decent snorkeling all along the barrier reef. We only explored west of the Avaroa pass. The coral here is not in good shape due to a cyclone however it is making a comeback but it will take many years before it's interesting again. However, there are a lot of fish and on a calm day when the water is clear, it's beautiful. Try different areas along the barrier reef to get a variety of experiences, some better than others. We found good snorkeling close to the mooring balls immediately west of the pass.

There are several **dive shops** in Moorea. I dove with Moorea Fun Dives. They do not believe in feeding the sharks or fish, unlike other operators. Russ dropped me off at the University of California Biological Research Station located on the west side of the bay near Avaroa Pass. If you speak with the researchers there, you can probably leave your dinghy. The owner of Moorea Fun Dives picked me up from the research station and drove me to their dive shop on the NW side of the island. Bathy's Top Dive will pick up from the Club Bali Hai or Hotel Kaveka. Lemon Shark Valley was particularly impressive. Not so much for the fish but for the large pelagics. – New Morning

### **Biking**

**Sept. 2021:** E-Bike Rentals +689 89 35 56 36. Open daily 0800-1800. Deliver and pickup bikes to you. 6000xpf for 8 hours/full day. – Sugar Shack

**Sept. 2011:** Kaveka Bike Rental - phone: 56-50-50 1000 cost - pf for 4 hours and Jeff's Mt Bikes will deliver to Bali Hai phone - 70-96-95 cost - 1000 pf for 4 hours. – New Morning

#### **5.3.6.1 Cruiser Reports**

**March 2017 - Finding refuge during a blow:** Mary Ann II has been on the north side of Moorea in three episodes of the squeeze zone when a southern high pressure markedly accelerates the trade winds up to 25 to thirty knots. We would not have chosen to stay in the Vaiare Anchorages in those situations.

The northern anchorages in Moorea would all appear to be reasonably protected in a south easterly. However, our experience suggests for the most comfort and safety go to the head of Cook's or Opunohu. The anchorages east or west of the entrances get very strong katabatic winds pushing you toward the barrier reef. This is also borne out by the 1km resolution GRIB file from Predict Wind.

**2017:** The small village (2 in the above photo) has numerous pearl and gift shops. – Mary Ann II

**July 2011:** We never actually anchored in Cooks Bay, but had friends who did, and we bicycled around one day from Opunohu. According to Two Amigos, the best thing about Cooks Bay is the (currently free) internet from the Bali Hai hotel. There is also a decent grocery store, and several 'snack's for eating out at cheaper prices. It is also closer to walking or dinghy distance of the town of Maharepa, just east of Cooks Bay, where there is a bank with an ATM and some other services (Post Office, restaurants, etc.). – Soggy Paws

## 5.4 Opunohu Bay

**Danger: 2018:** I want to add another word of warning about theft. There have been reports of dinghy engines and dinghies stolen off the beach at night in Opunohu Bay and also a locked outboard stolen off a dinghy in the small boat harbor of Papetoai near the Tiki anchorage (West side of Opunohu Bay. Please take the time to lock your OB, dinghy and boat when leaving it. At least it presents another obstacle for the thieves to deal with. – Jacaranda

**Theft: 2018:** We beached our dinghy in Robinson's Cove for a day hike up to Belvedere. It is a small beach right by the busy road, but screened off from sight. We locked our dinghy to a tree, locked the fuel tank to the engine lock and took the fuel hose with us. We left at 9:45 and returned at 3pm to find that someone had stolen our fuel out of the tank (which had just been filled up in Tahiti!). We are so disappointed and angry; it is a sad indictment of a beautiful island. Please post a notice on your website to warn others. – Enavigo

### 5.4.1 Anchorages and Moorings

**August 2021: 17°28.860S / 149°48.818W** dropped the hook in 2.4m of water with good sand holding. This area is known as the "Tiki anchorage" as it is directly across from the underwater Tiki garden. Nice spot with enough room for 5/6 boats. It can be very bumpy as many boats swing by along the channel to and from stingray city. So, there is a lot of traffic with jet skis, boats, kayaks, etc.... -- Sugar Shack

**Nov. 2020: 17 29.493S / 149 51.169W:** Dropped the hook in 3 meters of sandy water along the channel. We've been here with 7/8 boats and up to 20 with plenty of swing room.

**17 29.247S / 149 52.747W** in 3 meters of sandy water are the "Tiki Anchorage." Super pretty, shallow and good holding. Only drawback is the tour boats pass by pretty fast and can cause a ruckus. – Sugar Shack

**July 2019:** We entered the channel and turned right. We dropped the hook in a small, shallow spot good for about 6-8 boats. It had a sandy bottom with good holding in about 3-4 meters water. – Sugar Shack

**March 2019:** We anchored in several spots in and around the bay. – Moon Rebel

**17-30.83S / 149-51.07W** deep in the bay's SE corner, good holding in thick mud and 6m/20' depth; the holding was excellent and needed to be, as we came into here from the outer/reef anchorage when strong ENE were forecast – a bad decision! The winds channeled/accelerated into the bay and we got much bigger seas and stronger winds than the yachts that stayed out on the reef. On the upside it was handy for going ashore on the muddy beach at the bay's head, where you land just across the road from the shrimp farm (fresh prawns @ \$28/kilo).

**17-29.28S / 149-52.75W: behind the reef at the west side of the bay's entrance** in 6M/sand and good holding; the channel to reach here's much easier than it looks on the charts, being deep and well-marked; we found here better protected by the reef, better snorkeling and weaker tidal currents running through than in the more popular reef anchorage on the eastern side of Opunohu Bay. There's room for perhaps five or six yachts and it's an easy/sheltered dinghy trip through to the 'stingray city' a further mile to the west. A similar 5-10-minute dinghy ride will take you around the inshore reef (in either direction, it's isolated) to Papetoai where there's a sheltered small boat harbor to dock and reasonable provisioning. We didn't get either a WDG or Vinispot wifi signal here. Through the day you'll get some wash from the tripper-boats going to/from stingray city (worst on cruise-ship days), but undisturbed at night. Friends stayed here and sat out a 30-40 knot NW blow and from conversations after, it was clear that they had a better time of it than idiots like us who'd gone around to Vaiare for 'better shelter/protection'

**17-29.50S / 149-51.14W behind the reef at the east side of the entrance to the bay.** 12M/sand, good holding but strong tides running through; there's shallower depths (but stronger tides) if you move further in, but here gave us the best connection to the WDG-wifi signal. This seems to be the main/favored anchorage and invariably has lots of boats there, many of them long-term/permanent, so be careful as some are swinging to very long rodes.

**Dinghy Landing: March 2019:** Be careful landing dinghies on the beach as you need to weave through lots of bommies and in many places there's a rock-strip right at the beach-line. This is also one of the few and a very popular public-beach, so particularly in the early evening and at weekends, don't mess the beach-users around. There are several previous posts noting difficulties and restrictions in beaching dinghies here, but speaking to the locals it seems there's no problem provided that the yachties show due consideration for the other beach users. – Moon Rebel

**March 2017:** There are three anchorages: (1) the eastern entrance of the bay – Ta'ahiamanu; the head of the bay; and behind the reef west of Papetoai.

#### TA'AHIAMANU ANCHORAGE



**Ta'ahiamanu Anchorage** is just inside the reef on the east side of Opunohu Bay. The Anchorage is in 2.5 to 4-meter depths on a sandy shelf just out of the small channel (the numerous white dots are anchored yachts). Snorkeling on the reef is very nice. Up to twenty boats can comfortably be anchored here. The easiest dingy landing is the area marked (1) along the main road near the small stone pier. You can also pick through the reef to the small beach park marked (3). Across from the park the new parking lot has dumpsters and new public toilets. There are fresh water showers at the beach park.

**Head of Opunohu Bay.** Fine mud bottom shelves slowly as you head north with excellent holding. Certainly, one of the most visually spectacular anchorages in the world (opinion of this circumnavigator). The best dingy landing is directly across from the road which ascends up the Opunohu Valley. Fresh shrimp can be purchased from the Shrimp farm on Wednesdays. Walking up the valley is lovely and there is horse riding and zip lining available about thirty-minute walk up.

**PAPETOAI Anchorage.** Anchoring near the village is now discouraged. Yachts anchor further east which allows access by dingy to the ray/shark feeding area and snorkeling on the underwater tikis. On the Satellite shot the red and black markers are approximate and the anchorage is in yellow. The circle marked (1) is a smaller magazine but with generous stock of baguettes. The circle 2 is the Post Office. The LMS church is interesting. Follow the markers west in your dingy to "Sting Ray City" for an unusual experience of string rays climbing up you back (not joking.)



Papetoai Anchorage

**Sept. 2011: 17-30.73 S / 149-51.2 W** Depth: 70 feet. Like Cook's Bay, if you have enough chain and rode, don't be shy about anchoring deep into Opunohu Bay. Most boats anchor just east of the pass. While you are closer to snorkeling anchoring just east of the pass, the view is not as stunning. We anchored within the bay in 70' and let out 250' chain. Mud bottom and excellent holding. Here we experienced 2 days of squall filled weather with 25+ knot winds. The bay is not as well protected as Cook's so there can be swell and chop but nothing bad enough to discourage us from staying. We had no concerns about dragging the anchor. There is less development around the perimeter of the bay and the scenery offers a "Fatu Hiva on steroids" wow factor. We were the only boat in this bay for most of our 7 days. – New Morning

**July 2011: 17°30.86' S / 149°51.15' W.** After a few days in Cook's Bay, we headed out and around to Opunohu Bay. The anchorage at the northeast end of the bay being quite crowded, we elected to head deep into Opunohu. We anchored in 40' of mud, good holding, in Robinson Cove, about 500 yards from the head of the bay. As it turned out, we had the bay entirely to ourselves for three days. The first night we had winds of nearly 40 kts from the south, but the Rocna held with no problems and no fetch and plenty of swing room meant that we slept quite well. No wifi was available in Robinson Cove.

**July 2010: 17-29.346S / 149-51.082W.** We anchored in 12' of water next to the coral extending out from the reef inside the pass. In most of these bays you can also anchor at the head of the bay where the water is much deeper and you are more shaded by the high mountains. If we were to do it again, we would anchor closer to the beach side because all the tour/dive boats speed between Nakia and the reef on their way back and forth between Cook's Bay and our pass and beyond. – Nakia

#### **5.4.2 General Services**

##### **5.4.2.1 Laundry**

**March 2017:** Lilikoi's (2) a small cafe / restaurant does laundry. – Mary Ann II

##### **5.4.2.2 Post Office**

**March 2017:** The post office is most easily reached by the PAPERTOAI Anchorage. – New Morning

### **5.4.2.3 Refrigeration Repairs**

**2011:** If you find yourself in Moorea and needing refrigeration repair, we can recommend David at Moorea Menager Depannage, cell 72 33 82, tel/fax 56 38 73. He re-charged our freezer for us while we were anchored in Opunohu Bay. He works in shorts and flip flops, and had no problem with the dinghy launch and landing from the beach. (He met us at the public park/beach near Point Vaipahu.) Very nice guy, quite dependable and he did a good job. He speaks only a little English, so it's helpful if you can speak a little French. – Slip Away

### **5.4.2.4 Trash and Recycling**

**March 2017:** Across from the park the new parking lot has dumpsters and new public toilets. There are fresh water showers at the beach park. – Mary Ann II

### **5.4.2.5 Wifi**

**March 2017:** Lilikoi's (2) a small cafe / restaurant which has wifi. – Mary Ann II

## **5.4.3 Transportation**

### **5.4.3.1 Car Rentals**

**July 2017:** You can rent a car or motorbike across the street from Bali Hai at Albert Tours for \$50 a day. It's worth it to take the short trip around the island and to stop at the Belevdere viewpoint in the middle of the two valleys at the agricultural school. Great homemade ice cream here too! – Consensus

### **5.4.3.2 Scooter Rentals**

**March 2019:** We had a hire-scooter delivered to here (Rent A Bike phone: +689 87-711-109) \$50 for the day, only 50cc. – Moon Rebel

**March 2017:** Lilikoi's a small cafe / restaurant and will rent scooters. – Mary Ann II

### **5.4.3.3 Bikes**

**Sept. 2021:** eBike Moorea: +689 89 35 56 36 (tel or text) [ebikemoorea@gmail.com](mailto:ebikemoorea@gmail.com). Open daily 0800-1800. Jesse and Audrey speak English and will deliver and pick up their eBike to you. 6000xpf for 8 hours/full day. The bikes were in decent shape and they provide helmets and a map. We rode around the entire island with these e-assist bikes and returned them with well over 60% battery life. Perhaps we should have used the "assist" more often (as we wouldn't have been so exhausted). But super fun adventure. – Sugar Shack

## **5.4.4 Provisions**

There is a tiny grocery store at the west end of the beach at Opunohu, where fresh baguettes can be had early in the morning, and basic supplies. If you want to guarantee your baguettes, stop in the afternoon before and order and pre-pay. The shrimp farm down by the head of Opunohu Bay (on the road to the Belvedere from Opunohu) sells fresh shrimp only on Weds between 10am and 2pm. (1000 CFP/kilo for medium shrimp).

**Sept. 2021: Stand de Legume Teavaro** will deliver fresh vegetables to you on Tuesdays and Fridays. +689 76 27 51 63. Hours: Mon-Fri: 0900-1700. Facebook & Messenger. You can order a 1000xpf or 2000xpf basket of fresh vegetables or you can order exactly what you want. They delivered fresh lettuce, bok choy, tomatoes, cucumbers, cilantro, bananas, and onions. In addition, they have fresh tofu, honey, and coconut milk. – Hannah

**Papetoi:** There are 2-3 small grocery stores in Papetoi, just west of Opunohu (where the octagonal church is).

**March 2019:** SE Corner of the bay. Walk west around the bay for a good mile/2km and there's a small but surprisingly well stocked magasin (open Sunday) continue on for another mil/2km and you'll reach Papetoi with two more magasins and a selection of fruit & veggie stands along the road heading west out of the village,

between them you'll find most provisions. If you walk east from the beach after perhaps a mile you'll reach another isolated veggie stand, definitely the best choice/quality and the cheapest too. – Moon Rebel

**Aug. 2012: Shrimp Farm:** At the inner end of Opunohu Bay there is a shrimp farm where on Wednesdays from 1000-1400 they sell their shrimp to the public. It's several green buildings on the left side of the road that leads up to the Belvedere; essentially on the NE corner of that intersection. Walk to the last building and you'll see an open room with some large stainless tables where you will be warmly greeted.

They charge 2,500XFP / kg and the shrimp are packed to order in a plastic bag with crushed ice to get them back your boat. The shrimp are very tasty, sweet like lobster rather than bland like most store-bought shrimp. We like them sautéed in olive oil and garlic served over tagliatelle with a nice chardonnay (OK, the nice chardonnay is wishful thinking!). – New Morning

#### **5.4.4.1 Restaurants**

**Oct. 2021:** Sea Snack & Sun +689 87 35 33 89. This is a great roulette across from the public beach/park. You can call ahead and place your order. Cash only. They have a great menu of tacos and kebabs that are made with homemade tortillas and bread! Tasty and worth the stop. – Sugar Shack

**March 2017:** Northeast of the anchorage you find Lilikoi's a small cafe / restaurant which has wifi, does laundry, rents scooters and will even food shop for you. About a fifteen-minute walk from the anchorage is the Moorea Tropical Gardens, lovely spot for a lunch, ice cream or fresh squeezed juice. – Mary Ann II

#### **5.4.5 Activities**

**Nov. 2020:** In addition to Sting Ray City (see July 2019 post) you can snorkel around 7 ancient tikis buried in 2-3 meters of water. 17 29.281S / 149 52.779W approximately. Super cool sculptures. Also be sure to check out the "Aquarium" located across the channel between several markers. There are 3-4 moorings in this area. Swim toward the pass (away from the Tiki anchorage) to see the coral and fish. – Sugar Shack

#### **Sting Ray City**

**July 2019:** Sting Ray City (Opunohu Bay) super cool to swim with sting rays and black tip sharks. Take dinghy west and hug the right side of the black/white markers. Do not go on the left side of the markers as you will hit the reef. Past the resort and Taoti Pass and just before Motu Irioa. Near a green buoy. Swim in 2.5 meters of water with sting rays and black tip sharks. Best time early morning before the tours. Mo'orea provides many amazing snorkeling spots, but don't miss the ones below. – Sugar Shack

- The Nursery (east side of Opunohu Bay)
- East of Opunohu Bay before public beach and at the pass (turtles and rays)
- Underwater sculpture garden west of Opunohu Bay
- Tropical Gardens east of Opunohu Bay
- Opunohu Pass (east of buoys) see turtles and stingrays

See photo of map to sting ray city under anchorages, March 2017 from Nakia for a visual.

**Sept. 2011:** Swimming - the water was murky in the anchorage from run off from the surrounding hills so we decided to get our swimming in when we snorkeled in the barrier reef.

Snorkeling: Don't miss Sting Ray City. From Opunohu Bay, travel west and the site is west of the Taotoi Pass on the barrier reef side. When you see several moorings balls, you are there. If you end up at the Motu Irioa, you have gone too far.

Scuba Diving: We didn't go on any dives from here but it's easier to dive from here than Cooks Bay, both from your dinghy and with a dive company. You'll see the dive boats inside and outside the lagoon. – New Morning

#### **Hiking**

**March 2019:** Walk west along the bay. The 'Cook Monument' is also along this road – hard to spot, it's on the shore-side of the road, perhaps 50m away in long grass, tucked away behind a couple of shipping containers. Reasonable snorkeling out on the reef and the shoal just inshore of the anchoring waypoint, but beware the strong tides. – Moon Rebel

**March 2017:** The walking tracks to Belvedere are clearly indicated (you can also follow the road). I would not recommend walking in the woods when it has just rained, it will be muddy and slippery. – Spunky

**Sept. 2011:** Belvedere Point. Dinghy to the end of the Bay and either tie off on a mooring or beach land the dinghy. Beautiful hike about 5km each way. Take water, it can be a hot hike depending on what time of the day you go. Early morning is best for photos. – New Morning

#### **5.4.6 Cruiser Reports**

**March 2019:** We had a hire-scooter delivered to here (Rent A Bike phone: +689 87-711-109) \$50 for the day, only 50cc but it happily hauled us both around the island and up to Belvedere, there are no really steep hills, though if you walk to Belvedere it feels like it – hot and humid too, if you're doing that/any walk, be sure to set off early. Halfway up the Belvedere road (before it gets steeper, so a pleasant walk) is the Agricultural College – the coconut ice cream is every bit as good as you've heard, walk/scooter a further mile on the left and there are some impressive (and a little different) Maraes to be seen too. The walk around from Opunohu to Cook's Bay via the 'Pineapple Road' is worth the effort, probably 10-12M all the way, but you can take a bus/hitch-hike along the coast road (4 miles?) stretch.

There is a moderately sized Super-U Supermarket and veggie stands in Paopao at the head of Cook's Bay and a bigger/better Champion store around in Vaiare and an Independent supermarket and other stores & veggie stands in Maharepa. Paopao and Maharepa are dinghy-able on a nice day, or you can hitch-hike, hire a scooter or catch the bus to any of them, the bus fare whether you're just travelling the 4 miles into Paopao or all the way Vaiare is still \$3 each way. – Moon Rebel

**March 2017:** Ta'ahiamanu Anchorage. Across from the park the new parking lot has dumpsters and new public toilets. There are fresh water showers at the beach park. The small shop at the south west end of the park (5) has baguettes most days. Northeast of the anchorage you find Lilikoi's (2) a small cafe / restaurant which has wifi, does laundry, rents scooters and will even food shop for you. About a fifteen-minute walk from the anchorage is the Moorea Tropical Gardens, lovely spot for a lunch, ice cream or fresh squeezed juice.

Head of Opunohu Bay. Fresh shrimp can be purchased from the Shrimp farm on Wednesdays. Walking up the valley is lovely and there is horse riding and zip lining available about thirty-minute walk up. There a small magazine about mid-way up the west side of the bay. – Spunky

**2011:** We flagged down the bus in front of the Magasin (store) at the SW end of the Opunohu Beach, headed from La Petite Village toward the Ferry Terminal (i.e. clockwise around the island), at about 0940. The bus stopped briefly at the Ferry Terminal at about 1005, and departed on schedule at 1010 to continue on around the island in the same direction (but you should ask the bus driver).

We arrived at La Petite Village (on the NW corner of the island near the big hotel), about 1050. We thought the driver then said in French, '10 minutes' for the next bus, but later realized that there is no bus scheduled to depart from La Petite Village until 1330, according to the schedule. So we are not sure what the '10 minutes' referred to. We did not notice another bus, but we were also not paying a lot of attention.

This stop is within cruiser walking distance of the major hotel and restaurant facilities located out on the NW corner of Moorea. If you are trying to get to a particular place, ask the bus driver and he will most likely let you off where you want to stop, including the surfer town of Haapiti. There was a tourist map of Moorea also on the wall behind the bus driver, and at least our driver spoke reasonable English.

There are 2 restaurants, a small grocery store, and a couple of shops at La Petite Village on the NW corner, and several high-end pearl places a short walk down the road. At least one of the two restaurants offered sandwiches in the 500-700 CFP range. You could also buy some lunch items from the grocery store.



We opted to walk about a half mile on down the road to the small restaurant called Tiahura (aka Chez Irene), where someone else had previously told us they'd had a good meal. Irene speaks good English and had a variety of local meals on a lunch menu (but nothing under about 1000 CFP). She gave us a free welcoming punch with alcohol in it, and then served a great local meal. Ours was Curried Chicken and Poisson Cru with rice. Irene will also come to pick up yachties from the Opunohu Bay area (and maybe Cooks area too). Call 56-52-33 to arrange transport. The brochure says they have local music and dancing there on Fridays after 2pm (and maybe other days, ask on the phone).

The cost of our days outing was 600 CFP apiece for bus fare and \$1000-\$2000 for lunch from Irene, but which included a free ride back in her car (make sure you confirm this up front). We felt that this was a good way to see the rest of Moorea at a time when the weather was not very good for going out and exploring by boat.

Once you know the bus schedule, you can also combine a hike across the island with a bus ride back, as long as you get finished and out on the road to catch the bus on the last trip back (1530). Or bus to the other side of the island and hike back. – Soggy Paws

## **5.5 Marina Papetoai**

### **5.5.1 Anchorages and Moorings**

**Nov. 2020:** We did not find a place to anchor the “big boat”, but there are many places to lock and leave the dinghy inside the marina. This is where cruise ships and tour companies dock to load/unload passengers so be respectful of where you leave your dinghy.” – Sugar Shack

### **5.5.2 Yachtsmen Services**

#### **5.5.2.1 Cooking Gas**

**Nov. 2020:** Two of the three magasins sell cooking gas (see provisions below) – Sugar Shack

### **5.5.3 General Services**

#### **5.5.3.1 Medical**

**Nov. 2020:** Dispensaire de Papetoai +689 40 56 14 78. Located: From marina, head toward main road, on left (before main road). – Sugar Shack

#### **5.5.3.2 Mairie**

**Nov. 2020:** Le Mairie +689 40 56 56 06. Located just before main road on left (past dispensaire. – Sugar Shack

#### **5.5.3.3 Post Office**

**Nov 2020:** OPT Hours: +689 40 56 27 00 Mon-Fri: 0730-1200 & 1330-1600. Sat: 0730-0900. From marina, turn left on main road, immediately on the left. – Sugar Shack

### **5.5.4 Provisions**

**Sept. 2021: Stand de Legume Teavaro** will deliver fresh vegetables to you on Tuesdays and Fridays. +689 76 27 51 63. Hours: Mon-Fri: 0900-1700. Facebook & Messenger. You can order a 1000xpf or 2000xpf basket of fresh vegetables or you can order exactly what you want. They delivered fresh lettuce, bok choy, tomatoes, cucumbers, cilantro, bananas, and onions. In addition, they have fresh tofu, honey, and coconut milk. – Hannah

**Nov 2020:** There are two magasins and lots of fruit/vegetable stands near the marina.

- Magasin Ami Rene +689 40 56 12 58 or +689 40 56 12 56. Hours: Mon-Sat: 0530-1230 & 1430-1815. Sun: 0530-1200. Located: From marina, turn right on main road, on the left side of street.

- Magasin with red “Coca Cola” awning. From the marina, turn left on main road, on the left (just past OPT). Decent market stocked with meats and some veg.
- A fresh fruit and vegetable area has been designated on the street where 2/4 stands are located. From the marina, turn left on main road and walk .6 miles. They will be on the right. If you continue down the road you will find a few other stands as well.
- Many locals sell their fresh fruit/vegetables on the street in front of their house. They will have them in bunches with signs. – Sugar Shack

### 5.5.5 Restaurants

**Nov. 2020:** We found a few places to eat out. Our favorite by far is Snack Mahana! – Sugar Shack

- Snack Mahana +689 40 56 41 70. Hours: Tues: Sat: 1100-1500. Located: From marina, turn left on main road, walk past the veggie area. About .8 miles from marina. Many cruisers stated this is the best place to eat in Mo’orea. Try the Mahi!
- Moz Pizza +689 89 42 30 00. Hours: Mon.-Sun: 0930-1330 & 1630-2130. From marina, turn right onto main road and walk about .5 miles it will be on the right.
- Snack Manea +689 40 56 16 96. Located right by the main road behind the defunct magasin.
- Chez Tamahau +689 87 79 85 08 or +689 40 56 55 80. From marina, turn right onto main road. There is a sign indicating where you turn left. (Before Snack Mahana).

### 5.5.6 Activities

**Sept. 2021:** E-Bike Rentals +689 89 35 56 36. Open daily 0800-1800. Deliver and pickup bikes to you. 6000xpf for 8 hours/full day. – Sugar Shack

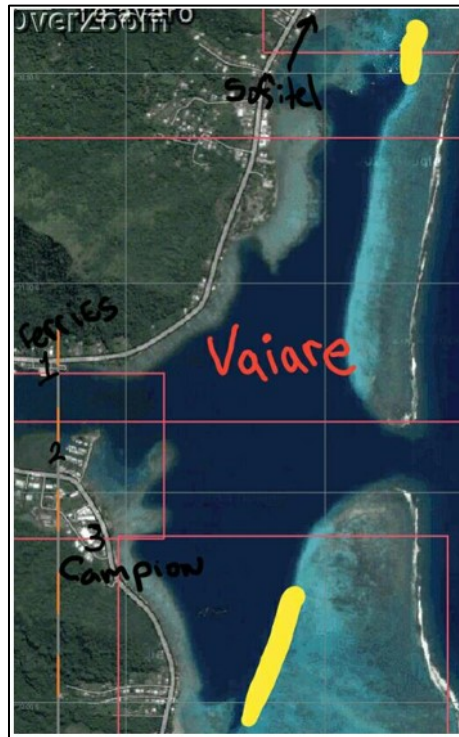
**Nov. 2020:** Electric Motors – Scooter Rentals. +689 87 72 93 44. Hours: Mon-Sun: 0800-1700. Call ahead as the open hours don’t always reflect when they are open.

**Espace Lousirs Kultur “ELK”** +689 89 42 06 00. Hours: Tues-Sat: 1000-1530. Ask for “Ro’o” he speaks excellent English. This is a cultural center where they teach weaving, carving, dancing, singing, uke lessons, drumming lessons and more. Wonderful, free tour where you will learn how they are trying to preserve their culture.

**Kealoha Pearls** Hours: Mon-Fri: 0900-1700. Sells jewelry and artisans products. – Sugar Shack

## 5.6 Vaiare

Vaiare is the ‘town’ where the Papeete ferries dock. There is a big pass leading in, and from there you can go north or south inside the reef. There is a marina with a slipway there at Vaiare, but it is full of local boats.



### 5.6.1 Anchorages and Moorings

Yellow marks on above map indicate anchoring areas.

#### 5.6.1.1 South Vaiare Anchorage (flats)

**Sept. 2021: 17°32.150S / 149°46.234W** anchored in 2 meters of water just in front of the small channel. Beautiful sandy spot with no bommies and a beautiful view. – Sugar Shack

**March 2019: 17-31.89S / 149-46.17W:** There always seemed to be yachts anchored here. When we tried here we found the water shallowed very quickly from 30m/100'+ to >2.4m/8' sand shelf (OK for cats/shallow-draft?) had strong through currents with the tide and lots of trash floating through on the tides too; it was just out and out uncomfortable. – Moon Rebel

**March 2017:** This is a more popular spot with room for at least 15 boats, yellow strip south of pass.

Exercise caution going to and from the bay as the ferries to Tahiti move at speed with powerful wakes. We've dinghied to the small shore just east of the ferry dock or to the northwest corner of the inner bay. We tied up the dingy at marina (2) to go shopping at Champion (3) just down from the Marina; this is the best stocked grocery on Moorea. See map left. – Mary Ann II

#### 5.6.1.2 North Vaiare Anchorage (Sofitel)

**August 2021: 17°30.470S / 149°45.805W** Dropped in 3 meters of beautiful sandy water. There are three (3) moorings in this anchorage and room for at least 4/5 other boats.

Dinghy Dock: We did not find an official place to leave the dinghy so we ended up leaving it at the marina and walking across their property to go to the market and the pizza place. – Sugar Shack

**March 2019: 17-30.45S / 149-45.79W:** We came here from Oponohu to find better shelter from forecast 30-40 knot NW/WNW winds and it proved a bad decision! There are two or three free moorings which I'm told are in 'reasonable' order (all in use when we arrived) beyond which you're anchoring on a 3m/10' sand shelf, strewn with loose coral rubble. We found decent holding, but only on the third attempt, having picked-up a loose dead-coral 'rock' in the anchor flukes on our first two attempts. In 'normal' conditions I'm sure you'll be

fine, but do snorkel over the anchor to be sure you are cleanly dug-in. Once the strong winds arrived, they were accelerated and very gusty due to the island's topography, at times 'bending' around from the north so there was much yawing to the anchor and yachts swinging wildly differently. Three yachts dragged (including ours) and one broke a mooring, though our having dragged was user-error, rather than a reflection on the anchor/holding: Our deck-stowed dinghy flipped-up and 'sailed' us off the anchor. – Moon Rebel

**March 2017:** We would not choose to stay in the Vaiare Anchorages in strong SE winds.

Vaiare North Also called the Sofitel Anchorage the yellow strip is good holding in 3 to 6 meters or deeper further back. (See chartlet, left) Catamarans have gone up the channel just southeast of the Sofitel but they appear to be bold and have local knowledge. Local Tahiti sailboats often come here Fridays to Sundays to this anchorage. Further up from the hotel is a nice public beach. – Mary Ann II

## **5.6.2 Yachtsmen Services**

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

**Sept. 2021:** Mobil Gas station has many propane/butane bottles. Located near the Champion. We did not need to exchange or refill so I cannot say more than they had a lot available.

Bayside Moorea Market also has propane bottles.

Moorea Gaz +689 87 73 81 42 will pick up tanks, transport to Tahiti to fill and return them Tuesdays for a small fee. – Sugar Shack

### **5.6.2.2 Fuel (Diesel and Gasoline)**

**Sept. 2021:** There are two fuel service stations on either side of the bay: Shell and Mobil. – Sugar Shack

**Shell Vaiare Station** +689 40 55 02 02. Shell is open every day from 0600-1830. Located near the ferry dock.

**Mobil Gas Station** +689 40 82 84 56 is open every day. Sun-Mon: 0600-2000, Tues-Sat: 0600-2130. Located just past the Champion. Sells cooking gas, fresh fruits and vegetables.

### **5.6.2.3 Trash and Recycling**

**Sept. 2021:** It was really difficult to find a place to dump trash. The Vaiare Marina has several trash bins, but we did not feel comfortable asking to use them. We ended up finding a large trash bin in the center of an empty field next to the Mobil Gas station. We used this several times. Then one time a person from Mobil came over and said that it was their trash – so I am thinking it is not a public bin.

Recycling: There are glass recycling containers across the street from Champion (on the water side of the main street). They are large white and green containers. – Sugar Shack

### **5.6.2.4 Water**

**Sept. 2021:** There are fresh water spigots free of charge. Take the road behind Bayside Market and follow it about ¼ mile. On the right will be a large field and in front of the field is the water station. – Sugar Shack

## **5.6.3 General Services**

### **5.6.3.1 Bank / ATM**

**Sept. 2021:** We found two ATMs in Vaiare. One is located near the Champion (on left hand-side, outside the store). There is a Banque Socredo ATM located across the street from the ferry dock as well. – Sugar Shack

### **5.6.3.2 Hardware Store**

**Sept. 2021:** There is a small hardware / home goods store (with no name) +689 40 56 43 89. Hours: Mon-Fri: 0800-1200

**March 2017:** A small hardware is on shore. – Mary Ann II

### **5.6.3.3 Medical**

**Sept. 2021:** Cabinet Medical +689 40 56 47 47. This is a small medical clinic located across the street from the ferry dock. It was closed while we were anchored in Vaiare (for a month during confinement). – Sugar Shack

### **5.6.3.4 NautiSport**

**Sept. 2021:** NautiSport has a large location right next to the Champion. +689 40 56 20 20.

[Sup.moorea@nautisport.pf](mailto:Sup.moorea@nautisport.pf). Hours: Mon: 1200-1800, Tues-Sat: 0700-1800, Sun: 0800-1200. This is a really well stocked store with very friendly staff. We were pleasantly surprised by the large variety of products ranging from fishing, to water sports, to Volvo parts. – Sugar Shack

### **5.6.3.5 Post Office (OPT)**

**Sept. 2021:** There is not an actual post office located in Vaiare bay, but there is a post box where you can drop items for mailing. Located near the Mobil Station (to the left by the propane bottles), which is next to Champion. – Sugar Shack

### **5.6.3.6 Plumbing**

**Sept. 2021:** Le Plomberie +689 40 56 44 00. [polyplast@polyplast.pf](mailto:polyplast@polyplast.pf). Hours: Mon-Thurs: 0700-1600. Fri: 0700-1500. Sat: 0800-1130. – Sugar Shack

### **5.6.3.7 Transportation**

**Sept. 2021:** We found a few car rentals and an e-bike rental in Vaiare Bay.

Avis Rental Car +690 40 54 10 10 or +689 40 56 32 68. Hours: Daily 0700-1700. Located near the ferry dock. During off season their hours change so check signage on door.

Eurocar +689 40 56 28 64. [moorea@eurocar.pf](mailto:moorea@eurocar.pf). Open daily 0800-1700.

E-Bike Rentals +689 89 35 56 36. Open daily 0800-1800. [ebikemoorea@gmail.com](mailto:ebikemoorea@gmail.com). Jesse and Audrey speak English and will deliver and pick up the eBike to you. 6000xpf for 8 hours/full day.

Seb Racing Moorea +689 87 25 11 78. Rents scooters and motors. Located near the Champion. – Sugar Shack

**March 2017:** There is an Avis Car rental located here. – Mary Ann II

### **5.6.3.8 Wifi / Internet**

**Sept. 2021:** There is a Vodaphone office located across from the ferry dock. We were able to get Vini clearly from both the South and North anchorages. We also were able to use the Sofitel wifi when we ordered food and drinks at the bar. – Sugar Shack

**March 2019:** If you take the dinghy to the holiday resort just to the north, they'll sell you a cold beer and depending who's on duty, will give you their internet code too. – Moon Rebel

**March 2017:** If you dingy to the Sofitel you can use their wifi at the bar. – Mary Ann II

#### 5.6.4 Provisions

The **Super Champion** +689 40 56 18 89. Hours: Mon-Sat: 0700-1915, Sun: 0600-1215. It is the biggest grocery store on Moorea, and is on the main road on the south side of the bay that the ferry terminal is located. You can bus to the ferry terminal from anywhere on the island (see the write-up on taking the bus), but it will cost you a minimum of \$6 pp and a 20-minute walk to do so from Opunohu/Cooks.

This is a well-stocked market, decent size, good selection of fruits and vegetables and frozen meats.

There is a **Bayside Mo'orea Market** +689 40 56 47 48. Hours: Open 7 days a week 0500-1300 & 1400-1900. Located in the middle of the bay between the ferry dock and the marina. This is a much smaller store than the Champion, but it is still a well-stocked store with a good variety of products, baked goods, frozen meats, fruits and vegetables.

**ICE:** Vente de Glace en Cube et en Paillette. +689 40 56 22 56. Located in between the ferry dock and Champion. – Sugar Shack

**Fruit and Vegetable Stands:** There are several fruit and veg stands that set up between Bayside Moorea Market and Champion on the main road. On any given day during the week we would see 3-6 stands selling local fruits and vegetables.

**Sept. 2021: Stand de Legume Teavaro** will deliver fresh vegetables to you on Tuesdays and Fridays. +689 76 27 51 63. Hours: Mon-Fri: 0900-1700. Facebook & Messenger. You can order a 1000xpf or 2000xpf basket of fresh vegetables or you can order exactly what you want. They delivered fresh lettuce, bok choy, tomatoes, cucumbers, cilantro, bananas, and onions. In addition, they have fresh tofu, honey, and coconut milk. – Hannah

#### 5.6.5 Restaurant

**Sept.2021:** We visited a few eateries that I would recommend:

**Sofitel Resort:** The hotel does welcome cruisers to dine at either of their restaurants. They have two nice dinghy docks that you can use. They do ask that you only stay on the restaurant premises. Only guests are allowed to be on the beach and the rest of the resort property. The food is very good, but expensive. They do have a happy hour from 1730-1830.

**Restaurant Tahitien Vaiare Pizza** +689 40 56 34 04 and +689 87 72 00 71. Located 5min north of the marina. Hours: Daily from 1100-1400 and 1700-2100. Their specialty is pizza, but they also offer hamburgers, crepes, fish, poison cru, and more. Super tasty, fun atmosphere, and good service.

**Maeva Pizza Shack:** +689 40 20 52 81. Located between the ferry dock and Vaiare Pizza.

**Roulettes are near the marina. Patisserie Jolie** +689 87 21 82 66. Hours: open daily. [www.patisserie-jolie.com](http://www.patisserie-jolie.com). There are several others, but they come and go and change out frequently. – Sugar Shack

**March 2019:** If you take the dinghy to the Sofitel resort just to the north, they'll sell you a cold beer and depending who's on duty, will give you their internet code too. – Moon Rebel

**2017:** The café near the ferry terminal is pleasant with music some afternoons. There is also a pizza restaurant around the inner bay. – Mary Ann II

#### 5.6.6 Activities

**Sept. 2021:** We enjoyed many great snorkeling adventures on the reef behind the south anchorage. It is teeming with lots of fish and pretty coral. We swam with turtles near the black/white marker too. During whale season we were entertained by many humpback whales and dolphins right outside the pass.

Many people recommended Dolphin and Whale Spirit Adventure Tours. +689 87 36 59 91. I also reached them on Facebook messenger and they were super responsive and flexible.

Watersport Rentals Moorea Watersport +689 40 26 29 03. They rent flyboards, jet skis, and hover boards.

Hike to Taraieie Ridge. Take the road behind the Bayside market and up about 3 miles. The path starts out on a cement road, then changes to a nice manicured dirt road, then to a small path covered in leaves and tree roots. It gets slippery after a good rain, but the view is pretty. – Sugar Shack

**March 2017:** Vaiare North has fine snorkeling. – Mary Ann II

## **5.7 Haapiti (SW Coast)**

### **5.7.1 Anchorages and Moorings**

**July 2011: 17-34.43 S / 149-52-13 W.** This is a sand bank that looks very shallow, and is only marked as 1 meter on the chart. However, there is a good-sized area of good sand, clear of coral heads, that was 7-9' deep. We nosed in carefully in good light, dropped the hook, and mostly hung out in the deeper water. We snorkeled the area to make sure we had enough depth for swinging room for our 5.5' draft.

In fairly settled weather, we went west and then south from Opunohu to the town of Haapiti and the Matauvau pass. The swell at the time was only about 1.5 meters. The pass was easy, even though there were a number of surfers on the break on the south side of the pass. There were 3 boats anchored right off the range at about 17-34.08 S / 149-52.43 W—these looked like surfers trying to anchor as close to the pass and the surf, and there was a little roll in that spot.

In light winds, this was a BEAUTIFUL anchorage, and the 3 boats anchored nearby left late in the afternoon, so we were all alone in an anchorage for the first time since arriving in French Polynesia.

However, we hadn't paid attention to the swell forecast, which rose rapidly overnight (though the wind did not). This was from strong weather very far south of Moorea. By morning, the pass was looking pretty dangerous, and by afternoon it was pretty much closed. By then, the swell height (in the GRIB file) was 4 meters. We were forced to stay another day until the swell moderated to about 3.3 meters.

We left with a swell height of 3.3 meters, at high tide (mid-day), in 15 knots of SE wind. It was a little dicey, but not dangerous. From our anchor spot, the pass looked closed even when the pass really was open. We had to dinghy over to get on the line of the range, before we could clearly see that there were no breakers in the middle of the pass.

Our surfer friends on Java said they spent 3 weeks there earlier in the year, and never saw the pass closed, so we might have ventured there in the rare time of the year when the SW swell was really big. – Soggy Paws

### **5.7.2 Yachtsmen Services**

#### **5.7.2.1 Cooking Gas**

**Sept. 2021:** Magasin Yilian +689 40 56 57 55 is a standard "magasin" with a small assortment of a little bit of everything. They also sell propane/butane. – Sugar Shack

#### **5.7.3 Provisions**

**Sept. 2021:** Magasin Yilian +689 40 56 57 55 is a standard "magasin" with a small assortment of a little bit of everything. They also sell propane/butane. – Sugar Shack

**June 2021:** Within walking distance there are two magasins, one in Haapiti and one in Vaiana. Both with ordinary supplies. There is also a pizza place close by, still untested. - Major Tom

#### **5.7.4 Restaurants**

**Sept. 2021:** Family Pizza +689 89 68 48 25 and +689 87 25 44 54. Offers family size meals for reasonable prices. – Sugar Shack

### 5.7.5 Activities

**Sept. 2021:** Kayak and Paddle Rentals +698 87 72 62 22. – Sugar Shack

**April 2021:** In Haapiti you can do the following:

Hang around at the pass with the other surfers waiting for the perfect wave. Especially on the weekends.

Take a hike through a pretty landscape. Put your dinghy inside the old quay and follow the main road towards the village Vaiana. Turn left at the school and follow the winding road along the stream. You will see birds, flowers, farmers and a nice view. If you have a map you can follow the path down to the other side of Moorea, but that's a long walk.

Snorkel the reef and find Nemo. The corals are healthy and there are lots of fish, but not the big ones. Scattered in the sand you can find corals with anemones and almost always some shy clown fishes.

## 5.8 Transportation around Mo'orea

### 5.8.1 Taxi Service

Several taxis will hang out around the ferry dock as the ferries come and go.

- Sophie +689 87 36 95 91 Speaks English
- Phillipe +689 87 37 54 49 Speaks English
- Ghislaine +689 87 72 84 87 Speaks English
- Tahiti Rent +689 87 22 04 94 +689 87 22 52 19

### 5.8.2 E-Bikes and Scooters

See each individual bays (above) for e-bike and scooter rentals.

### 5.8.3 Ferries (Vaiare Baie)

There are two ferry companies that service Mo'orea. Usually, the one-way trip takes about 30-40 minutes. Round trip is slightly cheaper than 1 way. Double check all times before planning your trip. If you are waiting at the ferry landing in Papeete there is an excellent restaurant upstairs. Great poison cru!

- **Terevau** is painted red with Vodaphone on the side. It has a bar, but no wifi. This ferry is a few minutes faster and slightly cheaper. Cost: Adults 1160F, Residents 1000F, Seniors 950F. Departure from Mo'orea: 05:55, 07:25, 09:00, 12:15, 14:45, 16:40 Departure from Papeete: 06:40, 08:10, 11:30, 14:00, 15:55, 17:25 Download App Terevau
- **Aremeti** has two boats with a bar and free wifi. Costs: Adults 1500f, Senior 950F one way. Tell them you are a resident (if you have a carte de sejour) and get a small discount off your tickets.
  - You can purchase tickets online ([www.aremiti.pf](http://www.aremiti.pf)) and you can purchase packs to save money. Tickets are good for any date or time on either Aremeti ferry (#2 of #6). They have a Facebook page which they update regularly - [www.facebook.com/aremititahiti](https://www.facebook.com/aremititahiti)
  - Aremeti II: Departure from Mo'orea (M-W 07:45), (Thurs-Fri 08:30) (M-W 11:00), (Thurs 12:30), (Thurs-Fri 14:45) (Thurs 15:00), (Fri 16:15) Departure from Papeete M-W 06:00, (M-W 09:00), (Thurs-Fri 08:30), (Wed 11:00), (M-W 12:45),(Thurs 13:45), (Fri 15:00, 17:45)
  - Aremeti V: Departure from Mo'orea (M-F 05:20), (M-F 06:50), (Tues 14:45) (M-Thurs 16:45) Departure from Papeete (M-F 06:05), (Tues 09:00), (M-Thur 16:00, 17:30) (Fri 16:15)

### 5.8.4 Bus System

**Sept. 2018:** The bus service on Mo'orea is very unpredictable but usually there is a bus that feeds each departing Aremeti ferry arriving at the ferry terminal in Vaiare about 15 minutes before departure. They also wait to pick up incoming passengers. We have taken the ferry 5-6 times and one time the bus never came. If it



is critical that you catch a certain ferry then best to take a taxi. The locals all shake their heads and say there is no schedule and it's a hit or miss.

There is a bus that meets each arriving Aremeti ferry. One bus traveled clockwise and the other travels counter clock wise. Be sure to ask the driver if it's the correct bus you are getting on. You can then ask the driver to drop you in Cooks, Opunohu Bay, or Haapiti. Current Bus fare: 300f. – Jacaranda

**2011:** We think we have finally figured out the bus system in Moorea. The bus does circle the entire island, but it will cost you a total of 900 CFP to do so (3 bus segments). The bus runs more frequently in the morning and the afternoon, with a gap in service at mid-day, and stops completely at 6pm. There are two schedules listed... departures from the Ferry Terminal, and departure from Haapiti / La Petite Village (NW island).

The two bus routes run from the Ferry Terminal on the east side of the island around to the NW corner of the island (to La Petite Village). One goes clockwise and one goes counter-clockwise. This schedule is accurate for most weekdays. They add at least one bus route in the middle of the afternoon on Friday and Saturday.

Departing from the Ferry Terminal, headed both ways around the island toward La Petite Village:

0645 0815 1010 1245 1645 1800

Departing from La Petite Village, headed both ways around the island, for the Ferry Terminal

0400 0530 0700 0930 1330 1530

The actual schedule was posted behind the driver on the bus. The bus costs 300 CFP per segment. To go all the way around the island from Opunohu/Cooks takes 3 segments and takes about 90 minutes. – Soggy Paws

## 6 Huahine

Huahine (pronounced “who-a-hee-knee”) has two islands (Huahine Nui and Huahine Iti) surrounded by one beautiful lagoon. This is called Watermelon Island. Be sure to lock your dinghy to the dock and your outboard and gas can to the dinghy. As thefts have occurred in the main town of Fare every season.

**SECURITY ALERT:** Please know that several cruising boats have been broken into while left unlocked and unattended. In August 2020, 4 boats were robbed while moored at Fare village. At least one had all doors and windows closed, but one window was not latched/locked completely and the thieves broke in. Do not provide an opportunity for thieves and lock all windows and doors when you leave your boat.

### 6.1 Passes

There are five passes in Huahine, but most cruisers use the two passes located on the northwest side of Huahine Nui: Passe Avamoia and Passe Avapehi.

- **Passe Avamoia:** 200 meters wide and 10 meters deep. Practicable at all times. Northwest side of the island. Closest to the Fare village.
- **Passe Avapehi:** – 200 meters wide and 10 meters deep. Always accessible even in the worst conditions. 1 mile south of Passe Avamoia
- **Passe Araara:** on the south side by Pointe Tiva, south end of Huahine Iti. It is a narrow pass at 100 meters and shallow at 3.4-3.5 meters. The slightest swell from the south to south-east breaks with an enormous force, rendering the pass very dangerous. The pass is not marked and is not recommended.
- **Passe Farerea:** is very deep, 35 meters. It is recommended to stay to the right side of the pass on entering as the left side can be cluttered with buoys and fishing nets. The pass is easily agitated by strong easterly winds.
- **Passe Tiare:** is deep and strong north-east winds can cause confused seas at the entrance.

**June 2020:** We usually enter and exit out of the Passe Avapehi as it is wide, clearly charted and well-marked. Once we enter, we turn left (toward port) and follow the channel to the “flats” which is a shallow area for

anchoring. It is easier to get to the flats from the Passe Avamoa but I've seen several boats get there from Passe Avapehi as well. – Sugar Shack

## **6.2 Fare**

**Aug 2021 - Security Alert:** There has recently been hostile reactions to cruisers in Huahine. I have not heard of any cut lines, but there has been theft on boats near the moorings (near shore) and there have been attacks. This has been noted to be a group of young locals. The authorities are not doing anything about it. – Sugar Shack

### **6.2.1 Anchorages and Moorings**

**Dinghy Dock** is located close to the mooring / anchorage near Passe Avapehi and in front of the Huahine Yacht Club. It is free to tie your dinghy here, but it is highly recommended that you lock your outboard and gas tank to your dinghy and lock your dinghy to the dock.

**August 2020: 16 43S / 151 02W** dropped in 2.5 meters of sandy water with a few scattered bommies. We have also anchored at **16 43.211S / 151 02.403W** in 3 meters. This area is known as the “flats” and is less than .5 miles from Fare village. It is located between the two passes. There are a few moorings in this area that are well maintained when we visited. We moved to one of the moorings once it was available and were very pleased with its state. Anchoring is easy and is in good holding in sand. Plus, it is further away from shore which makes stealing opportunities rare. – Sugar Shack

**July 2019:** We anchored in what is called the flats on a nice sandy bottom of about 6 meters. It is conveniently located near both passes, a quick dinghy ride to shore and far enough away from the other cruising boats. The holding is very good and you get great sea life visit at night. – Sugar Shack

**April 2019:** We weren't able to stay long on Huahine – a pity; it was a nice and friendly island. We came in via the north entrance Avapehi and there are 5 or 6 mooring buoys to port as you approach the town, these are in good order and free to use; if full there's space for another three or four yachts to anchor there too, though don't get too close as boats move differently in the strong tides. – Moon Rebel

**July 2011: 16 42.78S / 151 02.37W.** We found good holding in about 30-35 feet of water. When we first arrived at Fare, we anchored just to the left of the Avamoa pass. There were a few coral heads, but they presented no problems for us. This is a fine anchorage when the swell is down. If there's a large southwest swell, this becomes a very rolly anchorage. We spent our first couple of days here very comfortably.

**16 43.080S / 151 02.264W.** We found a nice sandy patch to drop our anchor, and there was no swell here. However, this wasn't such a great spot either. The large swell generated a very strong current flowing from south to north, and the boat pointed into the current. The wind was blowing from the east (so on our beam), and it came over the mountain in big gusts (often at about 30 knots). This would heel us over quite a bit and sometimes send us sailing forward and backward and occasionally turning us in circles. As the winds sent us sailing around, our anchor chain got tangled in some coral heads ahead of us. After a couple of days of this, Slip Away was lying over top of her anchor, and our chain was snaked around several coral heads off our bow - worse than any wrap we experienced in the Tuamotus! Rich spent about 30 minutes in the water with a scuba tank and got us mostly untangled, and then we used the engine to back us out of the most severe wrap.

I'm not sure of the best anchoring spot in Fare when there are high winds and big swell. I would probably go someplace else. There are better options further south. Boats anchor all along the barrier reef from Fare to Avea Bay. – Slip Away

**July 2011: 16-43.222S / 151-02.378W.** We left Moorea before sunset last Tuesday and had to motor until 8 PM when the wind finally filled in for a fast sail to Huahine. The island was in sight before dawn and we entered Passe Avapehi without any problems. There were 10 boats anchored off of Fare, the largest city on Huahine, so we decided to drop the hook in shallow water halfway to the village at the Fare Surfer Anchorage.

It turned out that this was where all the surfer cruising boats were anchored for easy access out of either pass (Avapehi or Avamoia) depending on what the surf was doing each day.

**16-42.756S / 151-02.346W.** Later we moved and anchored off Fare Village. – Nakia

## **6.2.2 Yachtsmen Services**

### **6.2.2.1 Cooking Gas**

**July 2019:** Both Total and Mobile gas stations sell cooking gas (see Fuel for hours & location). – Sugar Shack

### **6.2.2.2 Fuel (diesel and gasoline)**

**Sept. 2020:** There are two fuel stations in Fare. Both sell diesel, gasoline, propane, and have small magazines with drinks, snacks, and oil. – Sugar Shack

**Total gas station.** +689 40 68 55. Hours: Mon-Fri: 0530-1730. Sat-Sun: 0530-1200. Located on the main road just past the Super U. From Dinghy dock, turn right, pass the Super U and it will be on the left side.

**Mobile gas station.** Hours: Mon-Fri: 0600-1700. Sat-Sun: 0600-1200. Located on 2<sup>nd</sup> street next to Avis. From Dinghy dock, turn left next to Yacht Club, make right on 2<sup>nd</sup> street, Mobile will be on the left.

### **6.2.2.3 Trash and Recycling**

There are several trash bins around the main town of Fare. Next to the commercial dock, next to the food trucks (main street right past Super U), next to the Super U (alley).

Recycling bins are available for glass, cans, aluminum, and plastic.

- From dinghy dock, turn left and you will find green bins along the beach front.
- From dinghy dock, turn right, past Super U and just before the food trucks. Turn left near the public bathrooms, past the bathrooms on the left. There are also recycling bins on the side of the Super U.
- Near the OPT / Post office are additional bins

### **6.2.2.4 Water**

**April 2019:** The Yacht club will let you fill jerry jugs at the dinghy dock (no idea on the price). Alternatively, you can go alongside the commercial dock and replenish water tanks there at \$10/boat, regardless of amount. – Moon Rebel

**2011:** Fresh water is available from faucets southeast of the main commercial town dock. Ask for the key at the scuba diving club on the dock itself. There are usually some fishing boats moored stern-to. Anchor close in to that area and take a line back to one of the bollards on the wharf at that point. Take care not to run aground with the rudder. The quality of the water is usually good. (Note: we saw boats alongside, in the mornings)

The Sunsail Charter Guide says this about water: Never pull up to the dock without first asking permission. Call Martine and Claude by phone: 68 72 49 and they will tell you when to tie up to the dock and fill up water tanks. You will be charged 1000 xpf. -- DYC

## **6.2.3 General Services**

### **6.2.3.1 Air Tahiti**

**Sept. 2020:** Air Tahiti Office Hours Mon-Fri: 0730-1130 & 1330-1630. Sat. 0800-1130. Sometimes they have reduced hours (low season) where they close at 1500 and are closed on Saturdays. Located on main street next to Super U. Take a number before going inside. – Sugar Shack

### **6.2.3.2 Bank / ATM**

**Sept. 2020:** There are two banks with ATMS in the main town of fare. – Sugar Shack

**Banque de Tahiti** Hours: Mon-Fri: 0800-1200 & 1300-1600. Located on the main road just past the Super U.

**Banco Socredo:** Hours: Mon-Fri: 0730-1130 & 1300-1530. Located on 2<sup>nd</sup> street. From dinghy dock, turn left around yacht club (go straight; do not turn right on to the main street). At next street, make a right and it will be on the left. There are two ATMs available 24/7.

#### 6.2.3.3 *Business Center*

**Sept.2020:** Sarl Ao Api L' informatique a Huahine +689 40 68 70 99, [aoapi.huahine@gmail.com](mailto:aoapi.huahine@gmail.com). Offers copy and fax services, plus they sell some office supplies. Located next to Air Tahiti on main road. Information and multimedia. – Sugar Shack

#### 6.2.3.4 *Gendarmerie*

**Sept.2020:** Hours: Mon-Fri: 0700-1200 & 1400-1700. Sat: 0800-1200 & 1400-1700. Sun: 0900-1200 & 1500-1700. Location: Main road, past Super U, make 1<sup>st</sup> right, cross the bridge, on the right. – Sugar Shack

#### 6.2.3.5 *Hardware Store*

**Sept. 2020:** Huahine Import. +689 40 68 70 92, [Huahine\\_import@mail.pf](mailto:Huahine_import@mail.pf). Hours: Mon-Fri: 0700-1130 & 1300-1630. Sat: 0700-1130. Located on 2<sup>nd</sup> street. Turn left onto 2<sup>nd</sup> street past the pharmacy and before Eurocar. This is a pretty decent hardware store with a variety of products and house hold items. – Sugar Shack

#### 6.2.3.6 *Laundry*

**Café Guynette** offers laundry service. Located right on to main street (from dinghy dock), on your left-hand side with red awning.

**Huahine Lagoon** (Jon Luc) will do laundry along with rentals of boats, paddle boards, surf boards, and bikes. +689 87 25 75 28. Located behind yacht club. Hours vary.

#### 6.2.3.7 *Medical & Health*

**Sept. 2020:** There is a local medical center and a well-stocked pharmacy. – Sugar Shack

**Centre Medical** Dr. Nataly Banff. +689 40 68 81 81, or +689 40 68 82 20, or emergency +689 40 68 81 81. Hours: Mon: 0700-1200 & 1400-1700. Tues: 0700-1200. Wed: 0700-1200 & 1400-1700. Thurs: Closed. Fri: 0700-1200 & 1400-1700. Located on main road next to Super U. This is a private facility open to the public (it is more expensive than the public facility across from the gendarmerie.

**Public Medical Center:** +689 40 68 82 48, This medical facility is public and is less expensive than the private one in town. This is where we dropped off our COVID tests across the street from the Gendarmerie.

**Kinesithérapeute Osteopathe** Jean-Michael Mendoza +689 87 28 65 13. Located on 2<sup>nd</sup> street.

**Dentist:** Cabinet Dentaire +689 40 68 88 00. Hours: Mon, Tues, Thurs: 0730-1200 & 1300-1730. Wed & Fri: 0730-1200

**Massage Therapist:** Eva Beaute Huahine Esthetique et Massage. +689 87 71 49 19. Hours: Mon-Fri: 0830-1700 or by appointment

**Gym Tohora:** +689 87 77 34 39 or +689 40 68 83 51. Hours: Mon-Fri: 0800-1130 & 1430-1900. Sat: 0800-1100. Really nice, clean, and well stocked equipment. Right main road. At dead end turn right. On left.

**Pharmacy:** +689 40 60 61 41. Hours: Mon-Fri: 0730-1200 & 1430-1700; Sat. 0800-1200; Sun. 1000-1100. There is a well-stocked pharmacy with very helpful staff. From the yacht club, take main road left until it dead ends into another street, turn left again. Pharmacy will be on the left (there are signs to follow).

**July 2017:** A local doctor removed stitches and it was a good experience. – Consensus

### **6.2.3.8 Post Office**

**July 2019:** Hours: Mon-Thurs: 0715-1515, Fri: 0715-1415. The post office is located on the same street as the pharmacy. From the yacht club, take main road left until it dead ends into another street, turn left again. Follow the signs to the pharmacy. Post will be on the right. – Sugar Shack

### **6.2.3.9 Tourist Center for Huahine**

The Tourist center is open Mon-Fri: 0800-1200. +689 8730 52 18. From dinghy dock, turn left after Yacht Club, go straight (don't turn right on main road). Past artisan market (corner round building) and it's on the right.

### **6.2.3.10 Transportation**

**July 2019:** There are several places that will rent you a car for a ½ day, full day, or more. – Sugar Shack.

- **Avis** ask for MJ +689 40 68 73 34 or MJ's cell +689 87 36 74 69. Hours: Mon-Fri: 0730-1200 & 1500-1730. They are located behind the Total fuel station on the 2<sup>nd</sup> road from the lagoon. Cost is about 6500F/8 hours. MJ speaks great English and is very friendly. Book in advance
- **Eurocar** +689 87 40 68 82 59. Hours: Mon-Tues, Thurs-Fri: 0730-1200 & 1300-1600. Wed., Sat, Sun: 0730-1200. Rents cars, scooters, ATVs, bikes. Located across the street from Izzy's past the pharmacy and post office.
- **Boutique Joly** rents cars and bikes. Hours: Mon-Fri: 0700-1200. Located in blue building on main road before Super U
- **Isabelle Locations** +689 87 34 83 21 or +689 87 78 81 93 or +689 40 68 76 86. Hours: Mon-Fri: 0730-1730, Sat-Sun: 0730-1200. Located on the main road before Super U. Cars (5000-6000F/4 hrs.; 6000F-7000F/8hr, 7000F-8000F/24h). Scooters (3500F/4hrs, 4000F/8hrs, 5000/24h). They rent bikes too.

Bicycles and Other Transport

- **E-Bike** (Marara Ship Electric Bike Shop) +689 87 29 90 69 or [ebikehuahine@gmail.com](mailto:ebikehuahine@gmail.com). Hours: Mon-Fri: 0800-1200. He will open in the afternoon and on Saturdays if he has customers (prearranged). Main road, past Super U on left side. Bike rental is 5000xpf per day (0800-1730). You need a valid ID to rent a bike. One e-bike can take you around both Huahine Nui and Huahine Iti. Super friendly owner, speaks some English, rents trailers for kids, will deliver to hotels and will do tours. 55 kilometers around both islands and bikes will go up to 100 kilometers.
- **Huahine Lagoon** (Jon Luc) rents boats, paddle boards, surf boards, and bikes. +689 87 25 75 28. Located behind yacht club. Hours vary. He also will do laundry.
- Main road, before Super U, blue building has two shops that rent bikes (no name on shops, but staff are super friendly, bikes are in good condition and locks are included)

**April 2019:** Just before the Super U (on main road) is a small office doing reasonably priced car and scooter (\$35/day – 125cc) hire, but if you want one, book it immediately as the chances of your wandering in and hiring one for 'right now' are slim; the island was definitely worth the scooter ride around, even on a day of heavy rain showers. – Moon Rebel

### **6.2.3.11 Wifi / Internet / Phone**

**Sept. 2020:** The Vodaphone store hours: Mon-Fri: 0830-1700. Located next to the Super U on the main road. The post office offers Vini service. Mon: 1200-1500, Wed: 0715-1500, Fri: 0715-1100. See post office section for details.

Several options for internet. Our Vini and GoogleFi worked really well in and around the Fare area.

Izzy's Hamburger's and More has the best internet on the island. Purchase a meal or beer or beverage and she will be more than happy to share the password. If you are just internetting and enjoying a beverage do not go during lunch time and take up a table.

The internet at the Yacht club was down every time we visited over a 3-month period.

Chez Guynette +689 40 68 83 75. Hours: Mon-Tues-Thurs-Fri 0700-1400. Located on the main road (before Super U) on the left side. They serve breakfast & lunch and offer internet to their customers. – Sugar Shack.

**April 2019:** The Yacht Club also sells WDG-internet cards – got a good signal with our small booster on the moorings. – Moon Rebel

**July 2017:** We were able to pay for wifi at the yacht club. – Consensus

#### **6.2.4 Provisions**

**Sept. 2020:** There is a huge grocery store, Super U, and several options for fresh produce.

**Produce Stands:** Hours: Mon-Fri: 0600-1000. Fresh produce stands are located right outside the Super U (under the same awning just past the entrance). Across the street is a small shack that also sells produce, honey and a few other random items. Sunday mornings (early like 0600-0800) they have a great produce variety outside the store.

**Cooperative Huahine Rava'ai:** Hours: Mon-Sat: 0800-1200. They sell crushed ice (edible), bait, and fishing lures. Located near Marina Apooiti.

**Super U:** Hours: Mon-Sat: 0545-1900. Sun: 0530-1200. This is a really large, well-stocked Super U. From dinghy dock, take main road to the right and it will be on your left-hand side. It is a really large market so be sure to explore all isles. – Sugar Shack

**April 2019:** There's a reasonable Super-U supermarket just 200m east of the dinghy dock and several people selling fresh fish and fruit/veggies in the same area. – Moon Rebel

**July 2017:** There is a decent supermarket in the small-town area here, with frozen meats and some fresh vegetables. In the morning there were vendors selling fresh fruits, veg, and fish outside of the supermarket near the pier, but \$\$\$\$. – Consensus

**July 2011:** Fare has an excellent supermarket - an outstanding selection of lots of items and prices not so different from Papeete. Also, each morning, several vendors set up stands and sell fruits and veggies on the street in front of the supermarket. – Slip Away

#### **6.2.5 Restaurants**

**July 2019:** There are lots of great places to heat in Fare! Here are few we enjoyed. – Sugar Shack

- **Izzy's Burgers and More.** +689 40 68 79 65. Hours: Mon-Fri: 1000-1500, Sat: 0700-1500. Is a great hamburger place. Location just past the pharmacy and poste. She offers amazing and reasonably priced food including turkey, veggie, and fish burgers, pasta, cous cous, and more. Plus, if you get a loyalty card, every 10th burger is free. Added bonus she has super-fast wifi available for customers. On Saturday mornings she offers breakfast too!
- **The Huahine yacht club:** Daily Hours: 0700-2100. Offers happy hour (punch, Mai tai and beers ½ price) 1700-1800 Monday-Friday.
- **Café Guynette** +689 40 68 83 75 Mon-Tues-Thurs-Fri 0700-1400. Open for breakfast and lunch only and they offer internet and reasonably priced food.
- **Les Dauphins** +689 40 68 89 01. Located on the same street as pharmacy and poste.
- **Roulotte Oaoa** +689 87 34 60 30. Hours: 0800-1400 and 1800-2100.
- **Motel Vanille Huahine Restaurant** +689 40 68 71 77. Right on main road until it dead ends, then right past Gendarmerie.
- **Snack** main road, on left just before food trucks offers cocktails for 500xpf and a large menu
- **Snack Mihi Taua** +689 87 24 26 84. Hours: Wed-Sun. Right on main road, right at dead end, on right.
- **Food Trucks** are located past the Super U and are usually open from 1130-1300.

**July 2017:** The Yacht Club had a great happy hour with live band from 5:30 to 6:30. – Consensus

**July 2011:** We ate out a few times in Fare - lunch at the Yacht club, lunch at Pension Guynette which advertises daily specials on a chalk board in front of their dining area, and breakfast at Mahi Mahi (past the supermarket). Prices were moderate - not cheap, but not terribly expensive - and the food was good at all of them. There are also several Roulottes serving food on the street. – Slip Away

### 6.2.6 Shops

Huahine Shop +689 40 68 82 36. Hours: Mon-Fri: 0800-1130 & 1400-1630. Sat. 0800-1130. They sell household items, some hardware, clothing, electronics and Vini. Located on main road before Super U.

Pacific Art +689 40 68 70 09. Hours are sporadic. They sell tourist info, artisan crafts, and clothing. Located behind Yacht Club.

Rima'a te Niu Taue Hours: Mon-Fri: 0800-1200. Located on main road. They sell artisan crafts.

Le Mahi Mahi Hours: Mon-Fri: 0800-1300. Located on main road past Super U. They sell clothing, home goods, bikes, beauty products, tourist items.

Top News Hours: Mon-Fri: 0800-1630. Located on main road. They sell clothing, home goods, and tourist items.

### 6.2.7 Activities

**Oct. 2020:** There are lots of fun things to do on Huahine. You can rent a car, ride a bike, or go for a really long walk to see these fun sites.

- **Sacred Eels** (feed them sardines) in the river by the village Faie
- **Fare Pote'e Museum** (historical site & lots of Mare). 200F/pp, main road, past airport, on left in Maeva. Across from the museum is a great hike to a large mare.
- **Distillery Huahine Passion** – Hours: Mon-Fri: 0930-1200 & 1400-1630. Great rum tastings for free. Right on main street, at dead end turn right, it will be on the right. They have a generous pour!
- **Shell Expo:** Frank +689 87 23 03 23 or [motutresor@mail.pf](mailto:motutresor@mail.pf). Hours: Mon-Fri: 0830-1740. From dinghy dock, turn left, then turn left on first street, past pharmacy and post office. Continue down the road and just before the airport turn off is a sign for "Expo due Coquillage" turn left and it will be on the right. Amazing collection of shells. Free, but donations and or purchase of his beautiful pearl jewelry is appreciated. Tour is about 45 minutes and can be done in English.
- Huahine Lagoon fun for a dinghy or outrigger tour
- **Shopping:** Several stores that sell local wares (tikis, wood carving, jewelry, and clothing) in the downtown.
- **Poe Island Tours** +689 87 28 92 13 offers a tour around the island in a nice open-air truck.
- **Diving: Mahana Dive** +689 87 73 07 17 or [www.mahanadive.com](http://www.mahanadive.com). Right main street, at dead end, turn right, on right side.]
- **Tattoo and Artisan Shop:** +689 87 28 66 16 located next to distillery.
- **Huahine Nautique - Boat Tour around both islands** +689 40 68 83 15 or [www.huahine-nautique.com](http://www.huahine-nautique.com). Will take you on all day tour around both islands stopping at pearl farm, 2-snorkel spots, lunch & more.

### Hiking

**July 2020:** We had guests visiting and had made arrangements to rent bikes. However, they did not have enough bikes for us when we showed up. Instead, we decided to walk to the Fare Museum which ended up being 4.5 miles one way. Super easy walk along the street that was only marginally shaded. But you do get to walk along the beautiful lagoon and see the hillside.

By Fare Pote'e Museum, turn by rock wall and hike to largest Mare near banyan tree, continue to the left and hike to the top of the mountain with a beautiful view. – Sugar Shack

**July 2011:** In Fare we walked 7 km to the village of Maeva where there are several marae (historic) sites. There's a big reconstructed one right off the side of the road which received all of the tourist attention. But we followed a hiking trail through the woods to see several more, which we had all to ourselves except for a few locals doing maintenance work at one. It was a beautiful walk and it felt great to get off the road for a while. But we were dead tired by the time we finished the trail so we hitched a ride back to Fare with a Marquesan woman and her 10-month-old baby. She's married to a New Zealander and they've done quite a bit of travel themselves. – Nakia

### **Snorkeling**

**Oct. 2020:** There is a local, yellow, catamaran float anchored by the reef (between the passes and across from the flats). You can tie your dinghy to this float and snorkel. There are lots of reef fish, huge puffer fish and coral heads to explore. We enjoyed the east side. – Sugar Shack

### **Bicycling**

**July 2020:** We had guests visiting and were able to secure enough bikes for all 6 of us with a different outfit (the place by the yacht club in the red building). 1000xpf per half day. We rode all the way to Faie to see the sacred blue eye eels and then took the pearl tour out to the lake and then rode back to town. A nice and easy 16-mile bike ride. The bikes were marginal at best. Several did not have breaks, but they rolled. – Sugar Shack

**July 2011:** We rented bicycles from a shop near the supermarket for a day (500 XPF for a half day, 1000 XPF for a whole day). We intended to just visit the marae near Maeva, but ended up riding all the way out to Faie and back. At the marae site, there was a nice hike up into the jungle to visit some other marae structures. If you go out to Faie, be sure not to miss the blue-eyed eels - since we didn't plan to go that far, we didn't read up on Faie before heading out, and we missed that. Also, if you get an early enough start, you can hike (or if you're really ambitious you can ride your bike) up the hill to the Belvedere (2 km, 15% grade). We didn't get an early enough start to do that. You might want to take a lock for the bikes, or just find a place to hide them if you hike up the hill. We did find some good ice cream in Faie. – Slip Away

**June 2011:** *Note: Periclees had their own bicycles, but you can rent bikes at the little shop next to the dinghy dock in Fare.* Finding a new place to bicycle is always a treat. Huahine is a magic place for getting around by bicycle. We have made three trips in the last three days.

The first was a circumnavigation of Huahine Nui. Huahine is about eight by five nautical miles. It seems the road circling the island has been newly paved and is smooth as silk. With the exception of the hill that goes over the center of the island, the roads are very flat as they follow the old coral shelf around the edge of the island.

We rode north through the town of Fare after landing our dinghy in **Haavai Bay**. A cruise ship, the Paul Gaugain, was anchored in the bay making the place look very busy by ferrying in hundreds of tourists.

We got to a tiny village of Faie where the blue-eyed eels live. We forgot to look for them the first time because we saw a sign saying for the next two kilometers there was an uphill grade of fifteen percent. I explained to Rolande saying if we got to the top, we would be close to heaven at that rate. It was too steep for me to peddle and about half way up I realized we would only climb about three hundred meters or around a thousand feet.

At the top Rolande told me the guide book says we should walk our bicycles down because it was too steep and in the past a tourist had died. I followed her as she mounted her bicycle and disappeared around a corner. With trepidation I slowly made my way down the incredibly steep hill with both my brakes on. In the back of my mind I tried to remember when I had last serviced Roland's brakes. When I went around corners, I searched the shoulder for evidence of an out of control bicycle. With relief I found her listening, at the bottom of the hill, to a tour guide explaining the benefits of the taro plant. Intrepid Rolande! -- Periclees



## **Horse Back Riding**

**2011:** Horseback riding excursions are also available at the Petite Ferme located between Fare and the airport. Telephone 68 82 98. – DYC

### **6.2.8 Cruiser Reports**

**July 2011:** We scrambled to launch the dinghy when we heard drums on shore after the anchor was set. We arrived in town just in time to catch a parade of local dancers as part of the Bastille Day festivities. Each group performed a short piece in the town square before standing aside for the next group in line on the road. Three songs were played for the raising of the French, French Polynesian, and Tahitian (or Society Islands) flags and of course we only recognized the Marseilles (if that's how you spell the name of the French national anthem...). When the speeches started, we hit the grocery store which was packed with people. We were surprised to find it open on a holiday, and it closed very shortly after our visit. – Nakia

## **6.3 Bourayne Bay (Between Huahine Nui & Huahine Iti)**

### **6.3.1 Anchorages and Moorings**

**July 2011: 16 46.80S / 151 01.80W.** We anchored outside Bourayne Bay. The anchorage had a lot of coral, but our anchor chain managed not to get tangled in it. There was very little current here, and the winds were significantly lighter than they were in Fare. – Slip Away

### **6.3.2 Activities**

**July 2011:** Bourayne Bay. We snorkeled around the motu at the entrance to Bourayne Bay and saw lots of shrimp gobies in the sand. The corals and other fish life were pretty good too. We heard there is a good hiking trail to the top of the hill just in front of this anchorage, but we did not get to that because we were only there for an afternoon and continued down to Avea Bay the next day. We took the dinghy into Bourayne Bay, and the bay was very pretty. There are some shallow spots inside the bay, so if you take the big boat inside, keep a good lookout. There is laoranet Spot Wifi inside the bay. This is an area where we would have liked to have spent more time. – Slip Away

## **6.4 Point Teapaa (Huahine Iti)**

### **6.4.1 Anchorages and Moorings**

**August 2020: 16 46.962S / 151 01.684W** grabbed a mooring which was situated in 20 meters of water. Tested mooring at 2400rpm and dove on it. It appears to be maintained well at this time. Really pretty spot with a view of the white sandy beach. – Sugar Shack

**July 2019:** Point Teapaa is a beautiful anchorage. We dropped the hook in 6 meters of water in sand. Most boats anchor closer to the beach, but we anchored on the opposite side by the reef where we would not feel crowded. The beach, just off of Motu Vaiorea, is beautiful and has a guardian who greets you with a smile. Perfect place to hang out in the shallow water with a cold beverage. – Sugar Shack

## **6.5 Baie Haapu**

### **6.5.1 Anchorages and Moorings**

**Sept. 2020:** There is a really nice floating dinghy dock that is easy to tie up to on the north west side of the bay. We did not bring our big boat here, but we did take the dinghy from Avea bay. – Sugar Shack

**July 2011: Baie Haapu 16-47.487S / 151-00.387W.** After Fare we moved south to Baie Haapu but it was windy so I didn't feel like getting off the boat. John went in for a walk and reported nothing much going on in the very small village there, although we heard drums for a little while just before sunset. – Nakia

## **6.5.2 Provisioning**

**Sept. 2020:** We found two magasins here. One faced the lagoon (no name) but sold propane and beer. The hours were listed as Mon-Sat: 0800-1800. The other magasin was on the main street and is called Magasin Vai Pii Hia. Their hours are "Mon-Fri: 0800-1600 and Sun: 0615-0800 (closed Sat.). Both are small. – Sugar Shack

## **6.6 Avea Bay**

### **6.6.1 Anchorages and Moorings**

**Sept. 2020: 16° 48.733S / 151° 59.559W.** Dropped the hook in 10 meters of water just before the sandy shelf. This is a huge bay and easily and comfortably fits 20-25 boats without feeling crowded. There are a few moorings here as well, but we are not certain who and when they are maintained.

**Dinghy Dock:** There is a nice dinghy dock in front of La Mahana Resort. – Sugar Shack

**July 2011: 16 48.75S / 150 59.45W** - good holding in sand and no coral heads. We spent 6 days in Avea Bay, and it was great. – Slip Away

**July 2011: 16-48.712S / 150-59.475W.** After Teapaa we moved to **Baie Avea** at the southernmost end of Huahine. This is as far as you can take a big boat on the western side of the island because the lagoon is choked with coral at the southern point. – Nakia

### **6.6.2 General Services**

#### **6.6.2.1 Transportation**

**Sept. 2020:** Eurocar +689 40 68 82 59 is located across the street from La Mahana. The rent cars, quads, scooters, and bikes. See "Fare" for additional car rental services. – Sugar Shack

#### **6.6.2.2 Wifi / Internet**

**Sept. 2020:** Vini and GoogleFi worked in the bay. – Sugar Shack

**July 2011:** There is wifi in the bay - laora Spot and Hotspot. – Slip Away

### **6.6.3 Provisions**

**Sept. 2020:** Magasin Chez Hine +689 40 68 77 65. Hours: Mon-Thurs: 0530-1200 & 1400-1800. Fri-Sat: 0530-1800. Sun: 0500-0800. It's a small magasin. It does sell cold beverages, bread, and the basics. – Sugar Shack

### **6.6.4 Restaurants**

**Sept. 2020:** La Mahana Resort offers lunch 1130-1400, snacks 1400-1800, dinner 1800-2000 with reservations. Happy hour offers discounted cocktails from 1730-1830. We enjoyed a lovely dinner here right after happy hour of course. They had 4/5 cocktails at half price. The food was tasty, the presentation lovely and the service wonderful. If you are going to splurge then this is a good place to do it.

Snack Avea Parea +689 87 68 76 94. We passed by this snack, but it wasn't open. – Sugar Shack

### **6.6.5 Activities**

#### **Hiking**

**Sept. 2020:** The Marae Anini is about a mile from the dinghy dock. You can walk along the beach or the road. From dinghy dock, turn right, just as you round the tip of the island, you'll see signs for "Marae Anini" which is situated right on the coast overlooking the baie between Huahine Iti and Motu Araara. – Sugar Shack

**July 2011:** The hike that Nakia recommends (trail starts across from the Marae site) is excellent. We did it twice. However, we could not find where the trail "looped back to Parea." It just kind of petered out, and we

hiked out the same way we hiked in. Another couple on another day also looked for the trail to Parea, and they could not find it either. – Slip Away

**July 2011:** We were able to get off the boat for a walk on Sunday. We visited a small marae around the point and walked through the village of Parea before returning to a trail head across the street from the entrance to the marae. The trail climbed up a pine covered ridge for great views of Baie Parea and Baie Avea, but it looped back to Parea so we turned around at the top of the ridge and went back down the way we had come. -- Nakia

### **Snorkeling**

**July 2011:** I snorkeled the coral heads along the beach in Avea Bay, and there was good fish life, but visibility was not very good. In settled weather, we dinghied around to the Araara Pass and snorkeled inside Parea Bay across from the motu. Visibility was excellent, and the snorkeling was very good. There are probably some other good snorkeling spots down there that we didn't find. – Slip Away

**July 2011:** We snorkeled inside Passe Araara where the current was strong but I got to see 2 anemones each with a pair of colorful anemonefishes (not actual clown fish like Nemo though!). Then we tried the east side of Motu Araara where I was amazed by the number of sea urchins. John went to the reef and said it was live coral all the way there instead of having a big dead ditch inside the reef like we saw at Fare. – Nakia

### **Boat Tours**

**Sept. 2020:** Temaphil will offer boat excursions and water taxi service. +689 87 23 53 82. – Sugar Shack

### **6.6.6 Cruiser Reports**

**Sept. 2020:** There were two locations that sold pareos. L'Atelier Pareo and Madison du Pareo. Both are located down the road from La Mahana (turn right on road). – Sugar Shack

## **6.7 Motu Murimahora (East side)**

### **6.7.1 Anchorages and Moorings**

**June 2010: 16 45.86S / 150 57.56W.** Gorgeous anchorage, 17-foot deep. Broad, plateau of sand. An absolute favorite spot (and a great cruising experience) was at the Motu Murimahora anchorage on the east side of the island. We entered Pass Farerea, immediately turning south towards Bai Apoomati and Motu Murimahora.

Following a line of island side marks south, we snuck into a narrow-channeled harbor on this quiet side of the island. As you approach the middle point of the motu, the line of marks on your right-side ends but continues with marks a bit farther down on the (left) motu side. Between the sets of marks. – Visions of Johanna

### **6.7.2 Provisions**

**June 2010:** We made a shore excursion as we heard there were fruits/veggies for sale. Immediately south of a prominent and fancy "plantation" belonging to the family that owns the large grocery in Fare, we met 2 families and were given cantaloupes, papayas, string beans, bok choy, and fresh herbs; neither family would take money. Pascal is the husband residing in the second house, along with spouse and many children. They hardly accepted the gifts we returned with later that day. The children took chocolates however, and we also gave some veggie seeds to help their burgeoning vegetable growing business, starting soil, a pair of extra reef flip-flops, and 2 Nat'l Geo mags for the children learning English. Our friends Steve and Trish brought some pens and pencils, sunglasses, and a Frisbee for the kids. As a final thank you, we took the children "tubing" the next morning before we left. What a hoot! – Visions of Johanna

### **6.7.3 Activities**

**June 2010:** We had a nice drift snorkel, driving the dink about a mile south then drifting back to the boats over some decent coral with TONS of reef fish. The water was the most incredible color of turquoise as it was a

white sand bottom and very clear water. The people on the motu were very kind and even more generous. – Visions of Johanna

## 7 Raiatea

The passes below are listed counter clockwise (North, West, South, East)

### 7.1 Passes

**Sep 2024:** Adding to Toucan's May 2024 remarks about calling the airport control tower for clearance through Restricted Zone B: we called and they asked us to wait for two arriving flights to land before proceeding through the zone. They seemed to appreciate the call. So it's a real thing.

The DPAM rules and charts for mooring and anchoring in Raiatea and Tahaa, dated October 2023 may be of interest: <https://www.service-public.pf/dpam/2024/02/29/19197/> Of course, it is all in French – Roam

**May 2024: Important:** If your vessel's air draft is more than 20 meters, you MUST request authorization from airport control tower 5-10 minutes prior to crossing the extended runway centreline (restricted zone B) to the east or to the west of the airport. The phone number is 689 40 60 04 90. – Toucan

There are (8) passes in Raiatea:

**Pass Teavapiti** (east) 16° 44.589S / 151° 25.178W. This pass is the most practicable for getting to Uturoa from the East. This pass is easily identifiable (when coming from Huahine) by spotting Mount Tapioi (295 meters high) with several television antennas. Take the northern channel (north of Ile Taoru). The channel on the left (south) is deeper but it is not marked.

**Pass Iriru or Maire** (east) 16° 47.246S / 151° 22.862W. Located 3 miles south of the Teavamoa passe. There are two motus that border the pass (Motu Tipaemau and Motu Iriru). This pass is a little wider than Teavamoa and deeper at 32-62 meters.

**Pass Teavamoa** (east) 16° 49.797S / 151° 20.574W. It is an easy pass, wide and well-marked. The pass is about 20-30 meters deep (which is at 233). This is an easy passe, well-marked and about 30 meters deep down the center. Also known as the "sacred pass" which gives access to the Grand Marae Taputapuatea.

**Pass Nao Nao** (south) 16° 55.094S / 151° 24.984W. This is a shallow pass (6 meters) and is oriented south-east north west. It can become agitated by winds from the south with breaking seas if a southerly ocean swell is running. The outflow of the current can be rather strong (3-4 kts).

- **Oct.2020:** We exited this pass early (0730) when the winds were low. We had been watching the pass for several days and it looked impassable more times than not. However, when we left it was fine with .5kt outgoing current and a little chop. As we exited, we were in 18 meters, then it dropped to 12 meters, and right at the entrance we hit 6 meters. We did stay right in the center. – Sugar Shack.

**Pass Punaeroa** (west) 16° 53.851S / 151° 29.532W. This pass is 8 meters deep. Enter with caution when there is a swell from the south or west.

**Pass Toamaro** (west) 16° 51.190S / 151° 29.785W. A wide and fairly deep pass (20 meters). It is safe and easy to access except during strong swells from the west. Easily to spot with Mount Toamaro on the north coast.

**Pass Tetuatiare or Tiano** (west) 16° 49.555S / 151° 29.682W. This is a deep but narrow pass.

**Pass Rautoanui** (west) 16° 45.491S / 151° 30.359W. All weather pass, in the lee of the island. It is deep at 30 meters and wide.

## 7.2 Marina Uturoa - Main Village (North)

### 7.2.1 Anchorages and Moorings

**August 2024:** The mooring field north of Motu Aito is referred to as Motu Aito Nord on the DPAM chartlet. The mooring field south of Motu Aito is “Motu Aito Sud” on the chartlet. The south mooring field is occupied by moorings owned by Dream Yacht Charters. We stayed both at anchor and on a mooring in [Motu Aito Nord](#). We didn't try any of the Dream Yacht Charter moorings in Motu Aito Sud as we were told DYC would chase you off of them.

**May 2023** - The mooring field to the Northeast of Uturoa is managed now by Del, the Capatinerie of Marina Uturoa. The buoys are maintained, and are very cheap. 1425 xpf (14 bucks) allows you to use the ball for up to ONE MONTH. You can come and go during your month. Take any free buoy upon return. It's not reserved for you, but you don't pay again. The fee is the same for a day, but then you can stay up to a month. And notably, paying for a mooring allows you to bring your garbage into the bins in marina Uturoa.

For us it is worth paying the fee just for the garbage disposal. They don't come out often to collect the fee, but they are available in the office upstairs in the Marina Uturoa. Anchoring is not permitted in the area of the moorings. – Catamaran Water Dogs

**August 2020: 16° 43.28S / 151° 26.466W** this is mooring location for Dream Yacht Charters. There are 8 moorings, but one of them is missing its painters. The charter company will allow you to pick up one of their mooring balls for a measly 6-pack of beer (or \$25/night at the office). This mooring field is located across from Uturoa and near a small, beautiful motu called Motu Aito. They do not always come out to collect for payment as it is on a random cycle. – Sugar Shack

**July 2019:** There are several “Dream Yacht Charter” moorings just outside Uturoa. If they are available, you can take one for a few nights. They will ask you to either pay \$25 or provide a 6-pack of beer. We stayed in the one closest to Uturoa and it held our 47' catamaran during pretty strong winds. Each time we stayed here (3 in total), we inspected the moorings and they were well maintained. – Sugar Shack

**July 2011:** The problem with Uturoa is that it is deep as heck around town, so it is difficult to find a good spot to hang out near town. Here is a summary of the locations you can either anchor, dock, or pick up a mooring ball near the north end of Raiatea, close to Uturoa, starting from the closest to town. – Soggy Paws

Location	Dist from Uturoa	Approx Lat/Long	Cost
Uturoa Town Quay	0 meters	16-43.75S / 151-26.60W	Free
Off Sand Shelf	.4 nm	16-43.44S / 151-26.34W	Free
Off Marina Uturoa	.4 nm	16-43.36S / 151-26.67W	Free
Mooring Marina Uturoa	.4 nm	16-43.40S / 151-26.83W	~\$25/night
Marina Uturoa	.4 nm	16-43.48S / 151-26.79W	??
Behind the Reef, N	1.1nm N	16-42.62S / 151-26.73W	Free
Behind Ile Taoru	1.4nm SE	16-44.68S / 151-25.52W	Free

**Uturoa Town Quay** - Though free and usually open, the town quay has three distinct disadvantages--you are sideways to the prevailing wind, and could have a hard time getting off the dock in any wind. Second, the wave slap at the quay is loud. Third, you are right in town, accessible to anyone who walks by. If you do want to go alongside, the two BEST spots at the quay is inside the outer spur at the north end (because the wind is then blowing you OFF), at the large angled concrete dock that encloses the ferry dock area. This is concrete (bad), but angled enough towards the east that getting off the dock in the prevailing ESE wind is easier.

**Marina Uturoa** - It might be possible to get a night's dockage here. No one we know did, so I don't know much about it--availability or cost or who to contact. But this is the Dream Yacht Charter base, so start there.

**Off Marina Uturoa** - This is also pretty close to town. There is a shallower water area (easily seen on the chart) off Marina Uturoa, that we have seen boats anchored in. There are two problems with this area, one is that it has coral in it, and a friend misjudged where he put his anchor, and ended up with his anchor stuck on coral well below snorkeling depth. Second, there is (most of the time) a reversing NW-SE current in the channel. When the current is against the wind, this can make boats anchored close together dance around in unpleasant ways. One other friend anchored here, had to move in the middle of the night when the current changed and his boat came too close to another. – Soggy Paws

### **7.2.1.1 North of Motu Aito (near Uturoa)**

**August 2024:** The mooring field north of Motu Aito is referred to as Motu Aito Nord on the DPAM chartlet. The mooring field south of Motu Aito is “Motu Aito Sud” on the chartlet. The south mooring field is occupied by moorings owned by Dream Yacht Charters. We stayed both at anchor and on a mooring in Motu Aito Nord. We didn't try any of the Dream Yacht Charter moorings in Motu Aito Sud as we were told NYC would chase you off of them.

Take any open mooring in Motu Aito Nord you find. Go in and pay when you can. If the moorings are full, anchor in the sand area to the north of the mooring field. Don't anchor among the moorings. These seem quite secure. We spent several days in a strong 25 - 30 knot easterly on them (before we got tired of it and went to Taha'a).

We entered the Motu Aito Nord mooring field and anchorage from the channel to the north. We entered via the deeper water by following the the chart, satellite photos and water color and then followed the markers. Entrance at **16°41.3'S 151°26.97'W**.

Mooring fee is now 2,119 XFP for a night or for a month (or anything in between). Includes trash disposal at the main trash facility in Uturoa, just south of the town quay along the waterfront. You must have your mooring receipt with you to show the security guard at the trash facility. Separate your trash and recycling (they check). The Uturoa Marina manager administers these moorings. [marinadeuturoa@portpvt.pf](mailto:marinadeuturoa@portpvt.pf) +689.89.78.18.07. Email him your passport, ship's documentation, insurance certificate.

You can tie up your dingy at either end of the guest dock inside the outer marina bay. Marina manager recommended we lock our dingy. We also left our rental car parked in the marina parking lot for several nights with no issues.

You can tie your dingy up inside the outer wall of the town quay. We locked ours on the advice of other cruisers. This dock is convenient to the grocery stores, Nautisport, and several eateries.

The small boat channel to and from the anchorage runs along the east side of Motu Aito. It's a wet ride in a strong easterly.

Good snorkeling on the reef to the east, a short dingy ride from the boat. – Roam

**May 2024:** From Taha'a South, we crossed over to the East of Raiatea and entered the “swimming pool” via the channel located at 16-41.0S - 151-26.83W. We used one of the mooring balls that seemed in good condition. The location is very convenient to get into town by dinghy. Although the passage to dinghy to town is narrow, we saw a few catamarans go through it. Make sure you hug the channel markers. Great location for wind sports. – Toucan

**Sept. 2020:** **16°42.827S / 151°26.419W** we dropped in 1.5 meters of sandy water, no bommies. Coming from llot Moute (La Pirog API) heading south, we turned toward port at 16°40.982S / 151°27.041W to take the “boat” channel closer to the reef. The shallowest water we saw was 3 meters in the channel. The shelf shallows rather quickly from 3 meters to 1.5.

Be careful! We had to help a small monohull off the coral heads. They were coming from the north heading south toward Uturoa. It took 5 dinghies (2 with 25hp, 1 with 15hp. 2 small outboards) to get them off the rock and safely out the small channel. We took our dink through several times to find the best way from our above noted anchorage to the Dream Yacht Charter mooring area. Some places were about 1.5 meters (coral head to

surface) and others were right at the surface. We made it through safely with our 1.5m draft, but it was a nail biter for me. – Sugar Shack

**May 2019: 15-44.16S / 151-29.30W.** If the moorings are full or you don't want to use them, we found decent anchorage in about 14m/45' depths, holding seemed good and no problems recovering the anchor, but there was definitely the sound of a few rocks being down there. The charts show a shallower (7m/25') area just WNW of our anchoring position, we found that to be more like 9m/30' deep and it had a lot of rocks and bommies on it; we spent one night there, but it was noisy and the chain snagged during the night, though we got it up without too much drama the following morning. That anchorage area (and the outer moorings too) are very tide-riven, so you'll generally find yourself sitting across or even stern to the wind. There are more moorings off the charter-yacht base's marina further to the east, which are very handy for the airport but friends report they were charged \$25/night to use one. – Moon Rebel

**May 2019:** Behind the Reef, N - We saw two boats, a large catamaran and a smaller monohull anchored in this area for a week. This would be a good anchorage, not too far from town, in which to spend some time. But you have to figure out how to get in. One way in is next to Motu Aito (across the channel from Marina Uturoa). If you watch, you will see power boats running this channel back and forth from Tahaa to Uturoa. The chart says it is only 1 meter in the pass, but it looked deeper to me. We never explored it though.

There is a second entrance that looked deeper, located near 16-41.0 S / 151-26.83W (about 3 miles N of town), but you'd need to explore this in good light and good weather. – Moon Rebel

**July 2011:** Off the Sand Shelf - This is close to town, but still isn't perfect. Basically, you slowly approach the sand shelf off town (anywhere between the two green markers), heave your anchor up on the shelf, and back down. Up on the flat part of the sand, the depth is about 6-7 feet deep, so a 6-7-foot draft boat can easily put the bow up on the shelf to set the anchor, and this is the best option. If you don't get your anchor on the flat part of the sand, it will be at a 30-degree incline, and much more likely to drag off. Once placed, back down hard to make sure it is set, and visually check your anchor, to make sure it is buried in the sand, on the shelf. Set your anchor alarm to wake you up if you drag off.

You don't want to drag off the shelf, because then you'll completely break free, as the water depth drops quickly off to over 100'. There is current in the deep water that runs north and south, setting you some of the time sideways to the wind. It feels precarious but is the best 'close to town' option besides being on the Quay. Obviously, this wouldn't be good in any winds other than 'mostly east'.

There were 7 boats anchored in this area in July 2011 for some of the Heiva festival in town, in 20-25 knots of wind, and Soggy Paws spent 3 nights anchored there in 15-20 knots of wind. With a good wifi antenna, both Ioraspot and WDG Hotspot can be picked up from this anchorage. – Soggy Paws

**July 2011: 16°43.40S / 151°26.38W.** In settled weather, we found a good anchorage along the barrier reef across from the town of Uturoa. We dropped the anchor in about 15-20 feet of water and then settled back over the deeper water. From that anchorage, we could dinghy to the town wharf. – Slip Away

## **7.2.2 Yachtsmen Services**

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

**July 2019:** Both the Shell and Total fuel stations sell cooking gas. (See Fuel section for hours) – Sugar Shack

**May 2019:** The fuel/propane station (Total) adjacent to these moorings; we've only been there in the dinghy, but I've seen several 2m+ draft yachts go alongside, so there should be no depth issues. – Moon Rebel

### **7.2.2.2 Fuel (Diesel and Gasoline)**

There is a Total Fuel Station and a Shell Fuel Station within a half mile of each other.

**Total Fuel Station:** +689 40 66 31 24. Hours: Mon-Fri: 0700-1500; Sat-Sun: 0700-1200.

**Shell Fuel Station:** Hours: Mon-Fri: 0800-1600. Closed weekends. Charge 2500xpf to use duty free certificate

**Sept. 2020:** The Total Fuel station is always friendly and willing to help with docking, fuel, and provisions. There is no additional charge for using the duty-free certificate and we paid by credit card. We heard from 3 different cruisers that the Shell station was very rude, not willing to take credit cards and charging 2500xpf to use the duty-free fuel certificate. – Sugar Shack

### **7.2.2.3 Trash**

**Aug 2024:** Pay for a mooring and get access to the town trash facility. It's the only option we found in and around Uturoa for trash. – Roam

**May 2023:** Not being able to dispose of garbage on Raiatea is a huge issue. I am not sure what the people who living aboard on the north shore do with their garbage. There are not even containers for recycling. We saw a couple cruisers sneak some bags on a corner of a road which is not good. And fruit and vegetable scraps thrown overboard which is also not good for the shore line. I understand that all locals have to pay for their garbage but it is surprising no one is coming up with a proper solution. We would have been happy to pay for a place to drop a bag of garbage. – Nutmeg

**May 2022:** Raiatea no longer has public trash cans. Cruisers are NOT allowed to dispose of garbage anywhere on the island. All large garbage dumpsters are under lock and key. There are very small trash cans in some public areas for a cup or can, but not a bag.

Cruisers are required to pay a 9000f fee near PK 14 (Tumaraa) to be allowed to deposit garbage. This will allow you to deposit your garbage in this area only. If you are caught doing a "wild deposit" it will lead to a 4000f fine.

All garbage must be separated. The garbage bags cannot have plastic, glass, aluminum, cans, electronics, batteries. If it does, a fine will be issued. All recycling must be put in recycling bins.

This is rather unfortunate and makes it difficult for all cruisers. AVP (the French Polynesia Sailing Association) is looking for solutions. – Sugar Shack

### **7.2.3 General Services**

#### **7.2.3.1 Bank / ATM**

**June 2022:** An additional ATM can be found at the new OPT (which had not opened as of 6/22). Located across from the Hospital and 1 block before the Gendarmerie.

**August 2020:** There are 3 banks with ATMS all located on the 2<sup>ND</sup> street parallel to the wharf. From the dinghy dock/basin, turn left on main street, then turn right, make immediate left on the 2<sup>nd</sup> street. – Sugar Shack

- Banque de Tahiti (ATM) Hours: Mon-Fri: 0800-1200 & 1300-1600.
- Banque de Socredo (ATM) Hours: Mon-Fri: 0730-1130 & 1300-1530.
- Banque De Polynesie Hours: Mon-Thurs: 0745-1200 & 1245-1600. Fri: 0745-1200 & 1245-1500.

**May 2019:** At least two banks with ATMs. – Moon Rebel

#### **7.2.3.2 Computer / Electronics / Telephones**

**Sept. 2020:** There are two phone stores located on the 2<sup>nd</sup> street (turn left).

- Tahiti Phone: Hours: Mon-Fri: 0800-1200 & 1300-1600. Sat: 0800-1200
- Raiatea Immobilier: +689 87 29 08 05

**May 2019:** A mile's walk to the west of the marina (just before you reach the airport) is computer & electronics store. – Moon Rebel



### 7.2.3.3 Gendarmerie

**June 2022:** Gendarmerie. +689 40 60 03 05. Hours: Mon-Sat: 0700-1200 & 1400-1700; Sun: 0900-1200 & 1500-1700.

### 7.2.3.4 Hardware Store

**May 2019:** A very good and larger than it looks hardware store almost next door to Legotite. – Moon Rebel

### 7.2.3.5 Marine Supplies / Boat Parts

**August 2020:** NautiSport +689 40 66 35 83. [nsr@nautisport.pf](mailto:nsr@nautisport.pf). Hours: Mon-Fri: 0745-1200 & 1300-1600. Sat: 0745-1030. It is located on the 2<sup>nd</sup> street parallel to the wharf. Turn left from the dock, then right turn and immediate left. NautiSport is located in a blue building across from a vacant lot. This is actually a well-stocked store with just as much product as the Tahiti store. – Sugar Shack

**June 2019:** Richard Neufeld is a Motorola trained radio technician, marine electrician, font of general knowledge and good guy. [Richard\\_neufeld@yahoo.com](mailto:Richard_neufeld@yahoo.com). See section 7.2.2.1 for more details. – Sugar Shack

**May 2019:** A mile's walk to the west of the marina (just before you reach the airport) is another retail and industrial area: Socimat gave us what we felt was a very good price for Hempel Globic antifoul paint, we also used a good, but rather expensive stainless steel welder there called Alunox who is located immediately behind Socimat. – Moon Rebel

### 7.2.3.6 Medical

**May 2022:** Optician, Mata Ora +689 40 66 16 19 and +689 87 29 43 06 [optique.mataroa@gmail.com](mailto:optique.mataroa@gmail.com). BP 861 Uturoa. Located opposite Super U. She speaks a little English, uses WhatsApp and email and will deliver glasses to CNI/Raiatea Carenage if needed. – Hannah

**August 2020:** Several medical professionals have set up offices outside the clinic. – Sugar Shack

- Taote Cabinet Medical +689 40 66 33 66. Located 2<sup>nd</sup> street
- Osteopathes, D.O. Fanny Roux +689 87 317 684 or +689 40 66 46 66, located 2<sup>nd</sup> street
- Osteopathes, D.O. Benjamin Avella +689 87 269 264 or +689 40 66 46 66, located 2<sup>nd</sup> street
- Cardiologie, Dr. Frank Erdiman +689 40 66 47 04, located 2<sup>nd</sup> street
- Hospital and lab are located on the 2<sup>nd</sup> street and to the right of the wharf
- Pharmacy is located just west of the airport.

**May 2019:** Like a previous contributor, I too had a problem wart sorted out here, surprisingly little English was spoken by the hospital staff but we got by and whilst the hospital looked a bit tired/scruffy, the service provided was excellent, the waiting times reasonable and provided at an unbelievable cost: <\$40 for the initial consultation, then the minor-op two weeks later cost <\$60, with a free check on the wound a couple of days later at which I was deemed good to go (dissolvable stitches), with the proviso that I should call in at Bora B's health clinic if you're at all concerned. – Moon Rebel

**Sept. 2010:** I just wanted to let you know that I had to go to the hospital in Raiatea and had emergency surgery the following day to fix a gynecological problem. Without going into details, all is well. It was a long surgery and took a long time for me to get out of the general anesthesia - so it was a hard time for Larry, but a happy ending.

The miracle is that a French surgeon, also a professor of gynecology and apparently well known in France for just this type of surgery arrived just a week before to go sailing in French Polynesia with his wife and he was volunteering at the hospital and he performed the surgery. I am so VERY grateful. I'll need a few more weeks for recovery because of all the blood loss, but we still plan to head to New Zealand this year. – Miss Kathleen

### **7.2.3.7 OPT (Post Office)**

**June 2022:** OPT (Post Office): +689 40 66 35 50. Hours: Mon-Thurs: 0710-3:10; Fri. 0710-1410; Sat. 08-1000. Location is in transition. Current location is near the main dock, to the left in the large U-shape building, 2nd floor (across from the market). New location (which was not open yet) is closer to the gendarmerie.

### **7.2.3.8 Print, Copy, Photo**

**April 2022:** Photo Gauguin +689 40 66 20 30. BP 871 Uturoa, Raiatea. Just south of the Marche. Hours: Mon-Fri: 0730-1130 and 1330-1700. They make copies, print photos, do passport or CD photos. – Hannah

### **7.2.3.9 Laundry**

**Aug 2024:** +689 87 70 99 01 [laverie.orion@mail.pf](mailto:laverie.orion@mail.pf) Used them twice. Drop off and pickup at either the marina or the town quay. – Roam

### **7.2.3.10 Transportation**

**August 2020:** We found a few taxi companies and a scooter rental place. – Sugar Shack

- Taxi Service: Taxi Warren, Jr. +689 87 72 30 52 or +689 40 66 15 99
- Taxi: +689 40 79 22 04
- Raiatea Location Car & Scooter Rental +689 40 66 34 06
- Renault Rent: +689 40 66 34 35
- Raiatea Rent Car: +689 40 66 35 35

**May 2019:** A mile's walk to the west of the marina (just before you reach the airport) are several rental car and scooter hire operations. One at the western end of the development the others further west on either side of the airport– sorry, we didn't use them so no info. – Moon Rebel

**2011:** We wanted to take a day to see the rest of Raiatea that we couldn't see from the boat. We opted to rent two scooters from the Eurocar/Avis car rental place (see their ad in the Raiatea tourist pamphlet). We made a reservation and they picked us up at 8am at the Shell station. Though we wanted a 24-hour rental, the guy renting didn't want us leaving the scooters on the street overnight in Uturoa, so we returned them just before he closed at 6pm. The cost was about \$72 per scooter for the day. – Soggy Paws

### **7.2.3.11 Yoga & Massage**

Ar Ha Yoga and Massage +689 87 27 79 59. Located on 2<sup>nd</sup> street, (turn left) above EDT on 2<sup>nd</sup> floor.

### **7.2.3.12 Wifi / Internet**

**May 2019:** Internet is via the WDG cards (\$5/hr) but at least the signal's better than usual, with our smaller booster antenna, it could be picked-up well out on the moorings/anchorage outside the marina too. If you're staying longer or needing more internet, the adjacent Raiatea Carenage's wifi is the same \$5/hour, \$20/4hrs or \$35/10 hrs, but in addition they also offer 1 month, unlimited internet for \$50; this had an equally good, stable and fast(ish) connection, so we could sit at anchor and 'catch-up' on things in the real world. – Moon Rebel

## **7.2.4 Provisions**

There are several magasins (markets) in Uturoa.

**Fresh Market** in the town park (across from Super U and Champion) in the mornings.

- **August 2020:** Lots of great fresh produce available in the moorings. Many different stalls/tables offering local and imported produce for reasonable prices. Upstairs is the artisan market where the locals sell wonderful carvings, pareos, and more. – Sugar Shack

**Super U Hours:** Mon-Sat: 0630-1830, Sun: 0530-1130. Located behind Champion

- **August 2020:** We found the Super U to have the greatest selection. Some of the prices were lower and some higher than Champion. But if you want a one stop shop, this is the place. – Sugar Shack

**Champion** located on main road across from wharf. Hours: Mon-Sat: 0600-1900, Sun: 0600-1300

- **August 2020:** This is the easiest store to find because it is right on the wharf. Consequently, it's often picked through and doesn't have a good variety of products. But decent store. – Sugar Shack

**Leogite** (Chinese market) +689 40 66 35 33 or [leogite@mail.pf](mailto:leogite@mail.pf)

- **August 2020:** This store was not "maintained" very well. We found it to be a bit dirty, dust on products and old produce. But it appears to be less expensive and it does have a few items the other two markets didn't stock. – Sugar Shack

**Magasin Gaby** located on 2<sup>nd</sup> street, parallel to wharf

- **August 2020:** This magasin is very small and seems to be more like a "stop and go." – Sugar Shack

**May 2019:** By far the best provisioning since Tahiti with Champion, Liaut (small Super-U) and an independent Legotite (our favorite) supermarkets all within 100m of the town center's. – Moon Rebel

### 7.2.5 Restaurants

There are several places to enjoy a good bite of local food.

**Aug 2024:** We enjoyed eating at:

**Oikos.** Food truck right on the water. Very nice setting. Unique bowls, salads and pastas. Friendly service. English and French +689 87 22 00 70

**AK Pizza.** Food truck just off the public waterfront pavilion near Nautisport. You can order before you leave the boat. +689 87 72 80 16

**Restaurant Bar Maraamu.** Right next to the town quay on the southeast corner of the shopping complex. Chinese along with typical FP menu. Always busy.

**Villa Ixora Restaurant.** Part of the hotel. East of town across from the pass. Taxi or rental car or scooter to get there. Very good. Friendly, attentive service. Reservations. +689 40663300

- Roam

**Patisserie Bon'Apetahi** located main street, left from wharf. Hours: Mon-Fri: 0630-1600, Sat: 0630-1200.

**Jade Garden** +689 40 66 34 40 Hours: Wed-Fri: 1030-1300 & 1800-2030, Sat: 1800-2030

**Snack Hai Ling** is located next to Jade Garden between 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> streets

**La Raie Gate** restaurant and café located on 1<sup>st</sup> street, left of wharf

**May 2019:** Near, the boatyard, just west of the airport, is a small restaurant/café (open for weekday lunches only) about 5 minutes' walk east of the boatyards. – Moon Rebel

### 7.2.6 Shopping

Aug 2024: **Tico Pearls**, Raiatea. In the shopping complex at the town quay. Unique pearl jewelry. We bought a number of gifts here. – Roam

**Aug.2020:** We found several stores offering a wide variety of products. – Sugar Shack

**Cameras and Photo:** Photo Gauguin +689 40 66 20 30

**Electronics** – Espace Com +689 40 60 25 25, [boutique@its.pf](mailto:boutique@its.pf). Hours: Mon-Fri: 0800-1200 & 1330-1600, Sat: 0800-1130. Located on corner off First Street.

**Hardware Store:** Silloux located on 2<sup>nd</sup> street parallel to wharf. Hours: Mon-Fri 0730-1130 & 1300-1630, Sat.: 0700-1100

**Home Goods** – Raromatia Sweetie +689 40 66 45 46 Hours: Mon-Fri: 0900-1700, Sat: 0800-1200 (at Garae Maritime Uturoa)

**Library and Home Goods:** Librairie D'Uturoa. Hours: Mon-Fri: 0700-1130 & 1300-1700, Sat: 0700-1130. Located on 2<sup>nd</sup> street parallel to wharf

**Sewing Machine** – Agence Immobiliere Sogimmo Polynesie. Hours: Mon-Fri: 0730-1130 & 1330-1630, Sat. 0800-1130

**Sporting Goods Shop** – Hawaii Sport located near wharf at Garae Maritime Uturoa. Hours: Mon-Fri: 0900-1400. This is a well-stocked store with all sorts of sporting goods, clothing, shoes, socks, and more!

### 7.2.7 Activities

#### Hiking

**July 2020:** We had the pleasure of hiking to the top of Tapioi Hill several times in the past. However, when we went in July it was closed. Several locals tried to tell us it was closed but we had to see for ourselves. At the cattle guard was a huge sign saying “prive” and a new fence was up prohibiting entrance. So sad as this was a moderate hike with a beautiful view. This land is private and there was an accident on the trail a month prior so the owners decided to close it to the public – what a shame. – Sugar Shack

**July 2011:** We really enjoyed the hike up to Tapioi Hill, the peak topped by big antennas behind Uturoa. It's an easy to moderate hike - took us about 1 1/2 hours to hike up the hill. From town, walk north along the inside road (not the one along the water that goes to the Total Station). Walk past the Post office on the left, and then turn left on the road just before the Gendarmerie. Cross over the cattle grid where you will see a sign that indicates hikers are welcome but cars are not. From there, keep going up the hill. On a clear day, the views are spectacular - you can see Raiatea, Tahaa, Bora Bora & Huahine. We did the hike twice. – Slip Away

#### Touring by Car or Scooter

**2011:** We rented two scooters from the Eurocar/Avis car rental place (see ad in Raiatea tourist pamphlet). Because we wanted to circumnavigate the island, they loaned us an empty 2-liter jug that would fit in the compartment under the seat, to make sure we had enough fuel to go all the way around. This we filled in Uturoa as we left town headed south down the east coast.

We had enough time and fuel to pretty much see everything we wanted to see in one day. We took several side excursions...one up the road to the '3 waterfalls' (partly dirt road). We parked the scooters hiked in to the first waterfall for half an hour before turning back. We took another diversion a long way up a major side road into the center of the island (paved road next to a store, midway down the east side of the island). The pavement petered out but we kept going on fairly decent dirt road into a little-visited valley that was an ancient volcanic caldera. We left the scooters at a house near a stream (where the stream crossed the road), and hiked another hour round trip up the dirt road.

We backtracked out to the main road again, and next stopped at the Marae Taputapuatea, where we had a picnic lunch and looked around. Though interesting and historic, you can see everything there is to see there in about a half an hour. There are small restaurants on the roadside at Taputapuatea, and a bathroom.

Then we backtracked to the point in the main road where the road crosses to the south part of Raiatea (the 'round the island' road was damaged by a mudslide on the SE side, and was impassable). We took a few more side trips, and stopped at 2 more smaller marae, before returning back to the north coast.

This was a really fun way to sightsee, and we plan to investigate scooter rentals in the future. However, if you want to see it all in more comfort and slightly cheaper, a small car rental for two couples would be a good option too. I think it was 5000 CFP for each scooter and you could rent a car for 8000. – Soggy Paws

### **Water Sports**

Kite and Wing Spirit — wing foiling, kite surfing lessons. Located in the Uturoa Marina parking area. Marie Dubois is a great coach. +689.40663300 —Roam

### **7.2.8 Cruiser Reports**

**Sept.2020:** Raiatea is a great place to have guests fly in. It is a short dinghy ride from Marina Apooiti (or Raiatea Carenage), super nice dinghy dock right at the airport (for easy luggage and passenger loading). There is a small channel perfect for dinghies and small boats. Be courteous when tying your dingy to the dock and don't take up space for the resort boats picking up guests. There is a little eatery next door where you can enjoy a cold beverage waiting for your flight or guest. – Sugar Shack

**June 2015: Theft: Reported.** I want to report three cases of boats being boarded in the last two weeks in Uturoa on the town public dock. We are still cruising here and want to make sure fellow cruisers are aware of petty crime here.

The first incident happened two weeks ago to a friend's boat tied up close to the Shell Gas Station. His boat along with three others were boarded at night and various items were stolen. All three boats were unlocked. The perpetrator was maced and fled leaving various items behind.

We pulled back into the public dock today to re-provision and met two Australian boats that were boarded last night with a Laptop stolen with forceful entry and the perpetrator being chased off a second boat when the owner was awoken.

Local recommendations are NOT to tie up here over night but anchor off the town or pick up a mooring ball over night. Our suggestion is to go to Taha'a and pick up a mooring ball by the old yacht club and spend the night there. – Noonsite

**July 2011:** A couple of times in the evening, we dinghied from this anchorage to the town wharf and then walked to the Heiva tent to watch traditional dancing shows. The Heiva tent is a big white structure on a point of land just past (North of) the Total Station. There was no charge for any of the shows, and they were excellent entertainment. There are also a number of traditional fare buildings constructed near the tent, and they house small restaurants, festival rides and other entertainment. We do not recommend tying up your dinghy at the Municipal Marina (by the Total Station), which is closer to the Heiva tent, because one cruiser had his gas tank stolen there. -- Slip Away

### **7.3 Airport (North)**

Point Vaihi has a small channel for dinghies and small vessels to access passengers going to and from the airport. Do not exceed 5kts in the channel and respect the dock leaving plenty of space for others.

#### **7.3.1 General Services**

##### **7.3.1.1 Transportation**

**Sept. 2020:** The car rental facilities listed below can be found at the airport. – Sugar Shack

Renault Rent: +689 40 66 34 35

Raiatea Rent Car: +689 40 66 35 35

Raiatea Location: +689 40 66 34 06. They rent cars and scooters.

### **7.3.2 Restaurants**

**Sept. 2020:** There is a Snack at the airport called Snack Aerogare. +689 87 74 51 51. It is pricey, but ok food and friendly service. – Sugar Shack

### **7.4 Marina Apooiti**

The Marina Apooiti office is located to the left of the main dinghy dock. +689 87 66 12 20 or +689 87 34 90 79 or email Nathalie [nath@iaoranayachtservices.com](mailto:nath@iaoranayachtservices.com). Hours: Mon-Fri: 08300-1200 & 1400-1700. Sat.: 0900-1100. Closed on Sundays.

Iaorana Yacht Services <http://iaoranayachtservices.com/> is a new venture that provides a multitude of services for the cruiser out of Marina Apooiti. Including yacht agent services, boat watching, laundry, provisioning, etc. Check out their website for details.

#### **7.4.1 Anchorages and Moorings**

**June 2019:** This is a large bay with a marina and several charter companies. There is lots of room for anchoring. There is one magasin and one restaurant (expensive). – Sugar Shack

**2017:** We anchored outside of the mooring field at the shipyard and used the dinghy dock at the Apooiti marina. – Consensus

#### **7.4.2 General Services**

Marina Apooiti has several services available including:

- Hemisphere Sub (diving)
- Publicite Jean-Luc (advertising signs)
- Raiatea Yacht Club
- Sailing School

#### **7.4.3 Boat Watch Services**

- Aeration
- Watermaker (run or storage)
- Engine/group run
- Lines/fender control
- Battery control

##### **7.4.3.1 Diving Facilities**

Hemisphere Sub +689 40 66 12 49 or +689 40 72 19 52. Located next to the main dinghy dock on right.

##### **7.4.3.2 Hardware Store**

**2017:** A good hardware store is located just past the airport. – Consensus

##### **7.4.3.3 Laundry**

**Sept. 2020:** Laverie / Laundry services are available. +689 87 70 99 01 or [orion.raiatea@gmail.com](mailto:orion.raiatea@gmail.com). Hours: Mon-Sat: 0730-1700. Call for special requests or times. Wash, dry, fold 550f/kg. Wash and dry 500f/kg. Wash only 450f/kg, dry only 50f/kg. – Sugar Shack

#### **7.4.3.4 Raiatea Yacht Club**

The Raiatea Yacht club is located to the left of the main dinghy dock. +689 40 66 42 20 or +689 87 79 39 03 or [rycvoile@gmail.com](mailto:rycvoile@gmail.com). They have lessons with optimist, Hobie Cat 16' and Lasers.

#### **7.4.3.5 Sail Repair**

**May 2022:** Voilerie Aveia located at Apooiti Marina. +689 40 66 14 04. Regine Faux - [Regineaveia@yahoo.fr](mailto:Regineaveia@yahoo.fr) . [www.voilerie-aveia-raiatea.com](http://www.voilerie-aveia-raiatea.com) . Hours: Mon-Fri: 07:30 - 11:30

Regine is located in Apooiti Marina and primarily works for the charter companies. But in her spare time she will do canvas work for cruisers. She speaks English.

4-2022: Our large 200/sq.m spinnaker blew out during a bad gust. She was really bad with a tear all the way across the center and down the side seam. Plus she had several weak spots. We took our sail to Regine who laid it all out on her large floor while examining the amount of work. She asked if we wanted to color match the sail and we said no as it is a 20+ year old sail and the colors are all faded. We just wanted it to work and did not care if it was pretty.

She said it would take 4/5 days and would cost \$800 plus material. We were heading to the states and told her we did not need it for 2 weeks. But she called us 5 days later stating it was done and the cost was \$850. When we picked it up she laid it all out again and showed us her work. The next day we flew the spinnaker and we were super happy with the repairs. The shape remained the same, the weak spots patched and the tears all repaired. I would highly recommend Regine! She was polite, professional, on time and reasonably priced!!

**Artimon Voilerie** located in Raiatea Carenage. Pierre speaks some French. +689 87 34 93 98.  
[Pierre.artimon@gmail.com](mailto:Pierre.artimon@gmail.com). -- Sugar Shack

#### **7.4.3.6 Sailing School "Bateau Ecole"**

The boat school is located near the restaurant La Voile d' Or. +689 87 78 38 07 or +689 40 66 39 37.  
[claudine.danae@mail.pf](mailto:claudine.danae@mail.pf) or [danaeIV@hotmail.fr](mailto:danaeIV@hotmail.fr).

#### **7.4.3.7 Signs (advertising)**

Publicite Jean-Luc Enseignes Publicitaires +689 40 66 28 36.

#### **7.4.3.8 Wifi / Internet**

**Sept. 2020:** Our Vini and GoogleFi worked out in the anchorage. – Sugar Shack

**2017:** We could pick up WDG wifi on the boat from this anchorage. – Consensus

#### **7.4.3.9 Workout – Pilates**

Planning Sophie Pilates Raiatea. +689 87 72 11 29 or [sophiepilatesraiatea@gmail.com](mailto:sophiepilatesraiatea@gmail.com) or on Facebook at Sophie Pilates. She offers a special: 10 classes or 1 class at 1500xpf. Call/email for schedule. – Sugar Shack

#### **7.4.4 Provisions**

**Sept. 2020:** Magasin Julien +689 40 66 12 93. Hours: Mon-Fri: 0530-1200 & 1430-1430, Sat: 0530-0900. This is a small magasin, but they do sell fresh baguettes, baked goods, and sandwiches. – Sugar Shack

#### **7.4.5 Restaurants**

**Sept. 2020:** La Voile d' Or +689 40 66 12 97. Hours: Mon, Wed-Sun 07300-2000. Closed Tuesdays. It is the only restaurant near Marina Apooiti, CNI & Raiatea Carenage. This is a lovely location with lounge chairs, tables, and covered area. It is very pricey and caters to the charter clientele, did not have cold beer (lukewarm) and service was not worth mentioning. – Sugar Shack

**2017:** Had dinner at la Ora restaurant and the Raiatea Lodge and both were good and expensive. We shopped at two supermarkets in town. The town is more of a charter boat port and not a town. – Consensus

#### **7.4.6 Cruiser Reports**

**Sept. 2020:** Anapaperles is a Pearl Discovery Farm Museum and Boutique near the marina. +689 87 70 76 07. Hours: Mon-Sat: 0900-1700. However, they were closed during our stay – not sure if it was due to COVID or something else. – Sugar Shack

**2017:** We rented a car and took a whirlwind island tour. -- Consensus

#### **7.5 Raiatea Carenage (North West)**

+689 60 05 45, VHF 68, [RaiateaCarenage@mail.pf](mailto:RaiateaCarenage@mail.pf) or [www.Raiatea.com/carenage](http://www.Raiatea.com/carenage)

Hours: Mon-Thurs: 0730-1200 & 1300-1630. Fri: 0730-1200 & 1300-1530.

See section 1.13.3 for more details on Raiatea Carenage.

##### **7.5.1 Anchorages and Moorings**

**Sept. 2020: 16°43.828S / 151°29.057W** this area is a mooring field with lots of moorings. Several were outfitted for catamarans with two floating painters. We pulled down at 2400rpm and didn't budge. We used the mooring for the day as we needed Dominique from the yard to come evaluate some fiberglass work. It does appear as if several local boats utilize these moorings and there are a few marked "prive." If you find a mooring with phone number, try calling it to see if you can "rent" their mooring.

There is a new, nice dinghy dock at Raiatea Carenage, and another dock at CNI.

**16°44.145S / 151°29.351W** we found a shelf at 12 meters on a different visit. It took two tries to stick the hook, but once we did it stuck well. There is another shelf at 8-9 meters in this area as well. – Sugar Shack

**July 2011:** Though we only spent one night in the Carenage area, here's a summary of what we know.

There are moorings directly off the Carenage, which is on the NW corner of Raiatea. Look for the boats on the hard. Some are private moorings, and I believe there are two different entities renting moorings. When we went through the mooring field, we saw several that looked rentable, but we couldn't raise anyone on the radio to ask about it. Later we were told to just pick one up and come in to the Carenage. Don't pick up a mooring that says 'Prive' (private). The moorings in this area seem to be in the 1000 CFP range, and generally stay pretty full. There is a decent dinghy dock at the Carenage, but you can't get out through the Carenage when the Carenage is closed (evenings and weekends). Boats on Carenage moorings seemed to use the Marina Apooiti dinghy dock when the Carenage was closed.

There are also moorings available ¼ mile east from the Carenage, at Marina Apooiti (apoo - eetee). We picked up one of these moorings and went in to pay and were shocked to find that they charged 2500 CFP per night--the same charge as being in the marina! This mooring field looked better maintained, always had available moorings, was slightly more sheltered, and had a dinghy dock that was always open. It is also slightly closer to the airport and town, and within walking distance of a moderately sized grocery store (not the one nearly across the street, but one further down on the left). The marina has luxurious looking showers but we were dismayed to find no hot water.

There are a few places to anchor in the Carenage area--the best-looking spot was a little SW of the Carenage mooring field. We saw other boats anchored on the shelf west of the Carenage. The further to the south you get, the better protection you have in strong easterlies. – Soggy Paws



## **7.5.2 Yachtsman Services**

### **7.5.2.1 Trash & recycling**

There are several large trash bins in the yard for garbage. The recycling bins are located on the street at the entrance to the yard. You can recycle glass, plastic, cans, and aluminum. The polite thing is to ask permission to dump your trash if you are not a yard customer.

### **7.5.2.2 Water**

The water from the hose is potable and can be used to fill up your tanks and jerry cans. The spigot is just beside the bathrooms on the outside. Many boats in the anchorage and mooring field came here to fill up their jugs. We checked the PSI for kicks and found it to be below 200. Be sure to ask permission before filling.

## **7.5.3 General Services**

### **7.5.3.1 Raiatea Carenage Services**

**May 2023:** We needed a 2 day haulout to have some rudder bushings changed. Everyone at the Carenage was very professional and did good, quick work. The only problem is our beam is 26.5 beam and it was a narrow couple inches clearance on each side to get up their little channel to the trailer platform they use for lifting monohulls. So it was a bit tight for us. - Nutmeg

**Haul Out Equipment:** Nov. 2021: They have a 50-ton travel lift, a 50-ton trailer travel platform to haul monohulls and catamarans. See section 1.13.3 for more information on Raiatea Carenage

- Chandlery on premises
- Fiberglass Repair
- Antifouling paint
- Mechanical work
- Refrigeration work
- Electrical work
- Aluminum, Steel, and stainless work
- Will fill U.S. gas cylinders
- Material, spares
- Woodwork, machine shop, welding
- Sail repairs

### **7.5.3.2 Electrical Work**

**Nov. 2021:** Raiatea Carenage has a qualified, friendly electrician. In addition, Richard Neufeld is still offering services as mentioned below. – Sugar Shack

**Aug. 2013:** Richard Neufeld, 73-15-79, [richard\\_neufeld@yahoo.com](mailto:richard_neufeld@yahoo.com). An American was walking around the Papeete Quai in June 2011 handing out his business card, saying that he was based in Raiatea and could do repair, service, and installation of electrical and electronic equipment (including fixing alternators, starters, etc.). His card says 'Navigation and Communications'. He is registered electrician in Raiatea. He also said he has a workshop with a lathe and other mechanical type repair equipment. He would also be a good guy to contact for recommendations on other boat repair services.

We were very pleased to work with marine electrician **Richard Neufeld**. Richard is originally from Ontario but has spent the past three decades in the Caribbean and South Pacific working on boats and electrical systems. He is licensed for work on Raiatea and has a long-term visa while he works towards citizenship here. He lives on a catamaran he sailed to Raiatea years ago and has an American wife. He fixes inverters, alternators, regulators, autopilots, radios, SSB's, etc. and has a work place ashore with mill and lathe. He has some spare

autopilots and other parts. He works on engines and generators as well. His work was fast and very reasonably priced. He does some work for local charter companies and some by referral from Papeete.

He checked brushes and other things on my nine-year old Raymarine linear drive autopilot, repaired an engine tachometer sensor and did a variety of other mostly electrical repairs and checks. He even helped us with laundry and grocery shopping. He uses Skype and can receive and send Skype voicemails. – Pua'ena

### **7.5.3.3 Marine Supplies**

The Raiatea Carenage and Raiatea Marine (same company) have small marine stores that sell basic supplies, pumps, paint, cleaning items, and other marine parts. The hours and contact info are the same for the yard.

**Raiatea Marine** +689 40 60 00 45 [www.raiateamarine.com](http://www.raiateamarine.com) and [raiatea.marine@mail.pf](mailto:raiatea.marine@mail.pf).

### **7.5.3.4 Medical Pharmacy**

The Raiatea pharmacy on the other side of the bay. +689 40 66 34. Exit Raiatea Carenage, turn right and follow the road around the bay.

### **7.5.3.5 Sail Loft**

Artimon Voilerie Sail Service +689 87 34 93 98. [www.artimon-raiatea.com](http://www.artimon-raiatea.com)

### **7.5.3.6 Wifi / Internet**

**Sept. 2020:** Raiatea Carenage offers internet to their customers, but it is expensive. 1 hour = 500xpf, 3 hours=1000xpf, 10 hours = 3500xpf. – Sugar Shack

### **7.5.4 Provisioning**

**Sept. 2020:** Magasin Julien +689 40 66 12 93. Hours: Mon-Fri: 0530-1200 & 1430-1430, Sat: 0530-0900. This is the closest magasin is just past Marina Apooiti (about 1 mile west of the yard). This is a small magasin, but they do sell fresh baguettes, baked goods, and sandwiches.

On Monday mornings we found a few people selling fresh produce out on the street. – Sugar Shack

### **7.5.5 Restaurants**

**Sept. 2020:** A snack lady comes to the yard Mon-Fri between 1030-1100 with meals for 500xpf, great fresh lemonade 150xpf, fresh fruit 200xpf and you can order salads or specialty meals ahead of time. She is lovely and the food is tasty with a great variety of choices.

Pizza sold out of a car port. Exit Raiatea Carenage, turn left and the 4<sup>th</sup> or 5<sup>th</sup> house on the left will have a sign out when they are open. They offer pizza by the slice for about 500xpf.

Snack Mimosa +689 87 28 03 96. Hours: Mon-Fri: 1130-1330 & 1800-2100. Sat: 1800-2100. They were closed while we were at the yard.

Roulotte Mac Delice +689 87 22 82 89. Hours: Tues-Sun: 1800-2100 (closed Mon)

Marina Apooiti has a restaurant which is pricey and provides “so so” meals. It is 1 mile north. – Sugar Shack

### **7.5.6 Accommodations**

See section 1.13.5 for more details on accommodations near Raiatea Carenage and CNI.

There are several places you can stay at while you are working on your boat (if you do not wish to live aboard on the hard).

**Orion Voilerie** +689 87 70 99 01 or [orion.raiatea@gmail.com](mailto:orion.raiatea@gmail.com). Offers a few bungalows for 12000xpf per night. Conveniently located right outside the main entrance to Raiatea Carenage. The bungalows have small kitchenettes, but there is no restaurant service. They do have a small pool which is enjoyable.

**Sunset Beach Motel** +689 40 66 33 47, [sunsetbeach@mail.pf](mailto:sunsetbeach@mail.pf), [www.sunset-raiatea.pf](http://www.sunset-raiatea.pf). It has 6 beach bungalows and 1 garden villa. Rates start at 12000-15000xpf/night

3 Bedroom Bungalow +689 87 27 10 00 and +689 87 20 12 01. Kalei and Manu. From RYC, turn right and it is two blocks down. A 10-minute walk from Raiatea Carenage. \$100/day as of Oct. 20021. Small pool and dock and they offer a rental car. – Sugar Shack

### **7.5.7 Cruiser Reports**

**July 2024:** By July both CNI and RCS had no more storage slots available for cyclone season. RCS's first available haulout for short term boat work was January 2025. They book up early. —Roam

**Sept. 2020:** See full details in section 1.13.3. We needed some fiberglass work, a bottom job, wash/wax, and out of water survey done. We selected Raiatea Carenage because of their stellar reputation doing fiberglass work. Dominique, owner, was very amicable, professional, and responsive to emails. He did a brief evaluation of the fiberglass work prior to haul out to determine if he could get the work done in the allotted time.

The crew at Raiatea Carenage is extremely hard working! The yard was very busy, but we never felt neglected. We were extremely pleased with the service, care, and work performed at Raiatea Carenage. We would recommend this yard to anyone and everyone! See our detailed write up under 1.13.3. – Sugar Shack

## **7.6 Chantier Naval des Isles (CNI) – (North West)**

+689 40 66 10 10, Fax: +689 40 66 49 87, [cni@mail.pf](mailto:cni@mail.pf), [www.cnislv.com](http://www.cnislv.com) Hours: Mon-Thurs: 0730-1200 & 1300-1630. Fri: 0730-1200 & 1300-1530.

### **7.6.1 Anchorages and Moorings**

See [1.13 Haul Out Facilities](#) for more information on CNI

**May 2019:** We never discovered who owns and maintains the dozen moorings just outside the marina entrance. A couple were marked with a boat-name and 'private', but were still seemingly used by anyone and everyone. At least two or three more were marked 'CNI' – presumably Chantier Naval's? – but nobody appeared to be charging for their use, then again, they didn't look to be particularly well/recently maintained either; we spent a few nights on various buoys, but I'm not sure I'd like to trust to them in a serious blow. The majority seemed to be occupied by permanent residents, but the three or four (including the ones marked 'private') near the boatyard entrance seemed to be used by anyone, though if a genuine boatyard customer needed one ahead/after a haul-out, then they would ask the interloper to move. – Moon Rebel

### **7.6.2 General Services**

#### **7.6.2.1 CNI Services**

CNI can haul out boats up to 20 tons and 7.2 ft draft with all rigging in place. They use a cradle system for both monohulls and catamarans. They perform the following services:

- Osmosis treatment and all work on fiberglass
- Polyester and epoxy specialist
- Antifouling, cleaning and painting of the hull
- Welding on steel, stainless, and aluminum
- Repair and service of diesel and gasoline engines
- Marine and spare parts
- Sail repair
- Woodwork and carpentry
- Plastimo life raft station
- 110v or 220v power

### 7.6.2.2 *Sail Loft*

Artimon Voilerie Sail Service +689 87 34 93 98. [www.artimon-raiatea.com](http://www.artimon-raiatea.com). Same one as Raiatea Carenage.

## 7.7 *Pont Tenape / Baie Faafau (West)*

Near Baie Faafau and across from Raiatea Lodge.

### 7.7.1 *Anchorage and Moorings*

**Sept. 2020: 16°44.869S / 151° 20.671W** We dropped the hook in 3 meters of sand with scattered bommies. We stuck good and had no issues with the bommies even after letting scope out. – Sugar Shack

**Aug. 2010: 16-44.681S /151-29.662W.** Near Faafau, not really in baie Faafau. Opposite Pte Tenape near Baie Faafau: We made an unplanned stop here on our way to Tahaa—due to rain and bad conditions. We nosed along the edge of the sand on the reef side until we found a spot with few coral heads, and dropped anchor in 40' of water on the sandy slope. We figured the anchor couldn't drag uphill and so we didn't mind ending up on top of the sandy shelf with 9-12' under our keel. – Naki

### 7.7.2 *Restaurants*

**Sept. 2020:** We called and made reservations at Raiatea Lodge +689 40 66 20 00 (Cecile is the manager). We enjoyed a lovely meal, with great service. It was a bit pricey, but very tasty!

Fish & Blue +689 40 66 49 25. Hours: Wed-Sun: 1130-2100 (closed Mon-Tues). We did not eat here, but heard it was good. – Sugar Shack

## 7.8 *Baie Pufau (West)*

### 7.8.1 *Anchorage and Moorings*

WARNING – IT IS NOT RECOMMENDED TO ANCHOR IN THIS BAY!

**August 2021: DO NOT Anchor here.** Despite the fact that there are NO anchoring restrictions, no fees due, and no legal reason why cruisers should not anchor there. However, the locals in this bay make it clearly known that they do not want boats in their bay. We don't know if it is a group of locals or one local in particular but they have made it clearly known that they don't want cruisers in this bay. There have been several break-ins, thefts, and lots of harassment. See Jaraman's personal account below. – Sugar Shack

**August 2021:** We have been in FR POLYNESIA for over two years and have had a wonderful time with little negative interactions with the people. Like all cruisers we spend money in the local economy; many thousands over two plus years. We are long term live aboard cruisers who always respect local rules and customs.

Today we anchored in a bay on the west of Raiatea in order to visit a local restaurant for lunch. There were no moorings so we anchored in deep water well clear of the reef. When we returned about two and a half hours later, one of our lines had been cut. It was part of the apparatus to lift the dinghy.

A local boat came up and a young man told us it was a private bay and we could not anchor. He denied any knowledge of the cut line.

It left a very bad taste in our mouths after a very nice, very expensive meal at a restaurant where we were one of only two tables occupied for lunch. There were at least 5 local people employed there.

A simple courteous warning would have had us move on. Damaging our boat is a low, cowardly act.

I reported this vandalism at the Gendarmerie Nationale in Uturoa, who told me there was a fee to anchor and it was a private bay. They directed me to DPAM (to pay the fee?). At DPAM a very nice lady said there was no fee but we can only anchor for 2 nights anywhere in the lagoon. She said the Baie Pufau is not private but is a very bad place! - Jaraman

## **7.9 Be Ereea (West)**

At the Passe Tetuatiare, to the south

### **7.9.1 Anchorages and Moorings**

**July 2010: 16-50.014S / 151-29.105W.** In the process of dropping our anchor we went aground on a raised area of the sandy bottom. But some reverse thrust broke us loose and John reset the anchor in a better position. We are anchored in even shallower water here than we were at Nao Nao and the depth sounder alarm went off while we were watching a movie. We sort of ignored it until finally we both looked up at the unmistakable feel of the keel bumping the bottom. John let me finish the movie while he went out into the windy night to set a kedge anchor off the bow to keep us off the shallow spot. It wasn't a very peaceful night as we were hit by big gusts of wind in between the lulls, but we didn't hit bottom again. – Nakia

### **7.9.2 Provisions**

**July 2010:** We managed to stock up on eggs and baguettes at the little store in Baie Ereea before we left. We took the dinghy over to a ramp-like opening in the wall at the covered football (soccer) court and it was easy enough for John to land me while he waited in the dinghy. I walked to the road, took a right and the store was only a block away on the left. They apparently have two baguette deliveries so if you don't feel like getting up at 0600, you can go in at 2:30 PM for fresh bread. – Nakia

### **7.9.3 Cruiser Report**

**July 2010:** With high winds in the forecast for the next few days we thought it would be prudent to find a less exposed anchorage than Nao Nao to wait out the fronts. We called our friends on Gloria Maris to see if they were still where we'd left them and they gave thumbs up to an anchorage inside Passe Tetuatiare back up the west side of the island. So, we had a great downwind sail and even sailed out of Passe Punaeroa.

Kim warned us that someone in a skiff might come out to chase us off from anchoring so we weren't surprised when we were met by first a woman in a skiff from Ile Tiano, followed shortly after by a man in a bright purple boat from Baie Ereea. They were very worried that we might drop our anchor over cables carrying electricity and water out to the privately owned motu. They wanted us to anchor in deep water NE of the northern motu (Ile Horea), but we explained that the other two boats were our friends and we wanted to go talk to them. When we got to very shallow water south of Gloria Maris we asked Gaston (the man; both the locals were wearing Motu Tiano "staff" shirts) if this spot would be okay with him, and he was fine with it. We assume they never dreamed we'd come so far into the shallows of the small boat channel, far from where the cables are laid. We think they were also worried about how many more boats might be coming in after us! – Nakia

## **7.10 Toamaro / Terhuriui Bay (West)**

### **7.10.1 Anchorages and Moorings**

**April 2024: 16-50.701'S / 151-29.159'W** Great alternative to Nao Nao island. Plenty of room. Peaceful. Great sandy bottom. Loved it! There is one mooring ball and we anchored next to it. The motu is deserted, though it looks like someone might have lived there once. Snorkelling is best between the motu and the mooring ball.

**16°47.60'S / 151°29.98'W** - Located South of the Pufau pass. We used one of the 2 mooring balls by the **Anapa Pearl House** and stayed there for 2 days. The mooring balls are available to everyone, you don't have to go to the pearl farm or take one of their tours in order to use them. The snorkelling is amazing. Quite some fetch with strong easterly winds, which made for an uncomfortable night. Most of the time very cloudy compared to other parts of the island. – Toucan

**June 2019:** We anchored on the east side of the channel in 10 meters of water with a sandy bottom. It was really lovely and breezy. We only stayed for one night, but found it to be a pretty place to visit. – Sugar Shack

**July 2011: Avoid SW Corner.** We have generally had good success using the Guide to Navigation and Tourism in French Polynesia, which is now out of print. However, the Toamaro Islet anchorage on the southwest corner of Raiatea we found to be incorrect. They describe it as an 'excellent anchorage'.

We did select a spot to drop our 30-kilo Bruce anchor that was free from coral in about four meters of water. I paid out about twenty meters of chain, backed down at about three-quarters throttle for a solid four minutes, making sure we had a good set as we always do. My daughter, Corie, snorkeled over the anchor and reported that it was well-set. The wind was fairly light out of the east at about ten knots but the current was strong enough from the west that Rutea's bow was pointed that direction despite the wind. As the wind increased to fifteen to eighteen knots, Rutea's attitude didn't change. Since we hadn't moved since we dropped anchor in the early afternoon, I went to bed confident that we were secure for the night. At about 0100 hours, I woke and was watching the depth read out that we have in our cabin (which reports depth of water under the keel): eight feet, nine feet (okay with me), twelve feet (huh?), eighty feet! Yes, the sand shelf drops off that fast.

I can't remember the last time we had our anchor drag - it's been years - but we got ourselves organized quickly and proceeded to re-anchor in the pitch-black morning without incident. We maintained an anchor watch until dawn when we pulled up our anchor and left through the Toamaro Pass. In retrospect, I don't know what I'd do differently nor can I understand why our anchor didn't hold but I think it's safe to say that it had something to do with the unusually strong current.

I would recommend that cruisers avoid using this as an overnight anchorage.

*Note: This incident occurred during a period of relatively light wind, but very high swell, which seems to cause 'high current' in many reef anchorages around the Societies. Soggy Paws experienced the same 'wow, where did this current come from?' in a different place on the same night. – Rutea*

### **7.10.2 Restaurants**

**Sep 2024: Fare Vai Nui Restaurant.** The food here was very good, and the number of items offered was better than most places we have been- the entrees included steak, chicken, lamb, seafood and even frog legs! They are open to the public, and it is easily accessible via their dinghy dock. Approach the dinghy dock between the posts, not around them, to avoid the coral reefs. The service was exceptionally accommodating and friendly and their ability to handle a crowd spontaneously was amazing (we called with 1/2 hour notice and they were able to accommodate our group of 8 with no problem.) Their homemade desserts were especially good, including profiteroles, chocolate mousse, and creme brûlée. Highly recommended! +689 40 66 30 96 <https://www.farevainui.com/restaurant-raiatea.html> —Roam

### **7.10.3 Cruiser Reports**

**September 2024** The northern end of this anchorage may be better than the southern end where we were (less windy -- or maybe wishful thinking on my part). Great holding in 16' of water over sand.

A 20 knot easterly often gave us 34 knot gusts through the gap in the mountains. It was a windy stay. Snorkeling off the boat. Wonderful restaurant ashore--worth staying here for that alone. —Roam

## **7.11 Motu Nao Nao (South)**

### **7.11.1 Anchorages and Moorings**

**April 2024: 16-55.063'S / 151.26.203'W** - Absolutely our favourite anchorage in Raiatea so far. It is a gigantic swimming pool with no bommies. Peaceful. No traffic. Excellent holding. Plenty of room. - Toucan

**June 2019:** This anchorage offers nice sandy bottom with good holding. It is gorgeous and near Motu Nao Noa and pass. — Sugar Shack

**June 2018:** The anchorage that Yolo mentions, on the north side of the island at the west end, appears to be no longer an option. We have repeatedly heard of numerous boats being chased off this anchorage. Friends

reported a few weeks ago that a woman came out and said there was a cable running to the main island in this location. There is a buoy with a cross on top that signifies a cable crossing. Not sure if they just don't want yachts to anchor there or there is an actual cable.

Also, be very careful Yolo's 4<sup>th</sup> location, as we saw depths between 6 1/2 - 7 feet in this area. It may have silted up since Yolo published this report. I would sound this area with a dinghy first.

Just across the bay from motu Nao Nao is bay Tuatua and there are 4 mooring balls available for cruisers. It's an easy dinghy ride to Motu Nao Noa if you want to snorkel. – Jacaranda

**July 2011:** During our visit to the southern tip of Raiatea we observed Passe Nao Nao. Ten knot winds from the east and less than two-meter swells from the south made the Nao Nao Passe an easy entrance to navigate. You can anchor off Isle Nao Nao, a small private motu at the southern end of Raiatea, in one of four locations. Each location can accommodate 1-2 yachts maximum at a time, unless you are chartering a yacht. Then you apparently can raft up as many boats as you like; fenders appear to be optional for some charters! We've even seen several charter boats rafted together while under way in some lagoons in these islands. – Yolo

**See warnings above from Jacaranda (June 2018) before using these anchorages.**

- **16° 54.858 S / 151° 25.535 W.** Several boats can anchor 22', sandy bottom, just north of Nao Nao. There are old broken-down fish pens nearby, yet protection from a strong southern blow is good.
- **16° 55.048 S / 151° 25.773 W.** On the north side of the island at the west end is another anchorage site with protection from southern winds.
- **16° 55.133 S / 151° 25.905 W.** A small basin, usually filled with charter boats, is located at the west end of Nao Nao. We dropped the hook in 10 feet of water on pure sand. This location gives you good protection from SE, E, and NE winds. The snorkeling near this location was good, but not great like some places in the Tuamotu's. The entrance to this location is narrow and we have observed yachts anchoring in the entrance, thus blocking other yachts into the basin or requiring very tight navigation.
- **16° 55.029 S / 151° 26.052 W.** The 4th location is northwest of the island on the sand shelf off the channel. We anchored on a sandy bottom in 9 feet of water at this location which can be used in settled weather.

### **7.11.2 Activities**

#### **Snorkeling**

**Oct.2020:** Near **16°54.998S / 151°25.768W** is a spot with lots of coral heads, reef fish, and great snorkeling. The fish are very friendly and curious making this a great experience. – Sugar Shack

**July 2010:** We just finished one of our best snorkels of the trip. Certainly, the best since "The Aquarium" in Tahanea, and possibly better than that. Along the south-western edge of the island is a nice sandy beach with a deep trench and decent coral wall down to about 50 feet. It would make a decent dive, or a nice snorkel for a decent free diver.

We then walked east along the south shore of the island to drift west along the coral heads. The coral started good and just got better, becoming more dense, healthier, and bigger as we went. I had to finish the snorkel because I was somewhat cold, quite pruny, and rather tired from 2+ hours of time in the water, but I want to go back tomorrow with charged batteries in the camera. I saw some of the deepest red anemones yet, with some sizable clownfish (think Nemo), lots of colorful damsels, some cool rockfish, and lots more. Mostly smaller reef fish, but some larger reef fish as well, and the most varied coral species we have seen in the Pacific. It made for a great day, and this after several other good ones. – Visions of Johanna

### **7.11.3 Cruiser Reports**

**September 2024** It was too breezy for us in a 20 knot easterly, so we took the mooring in the bay across the lagoon. There was one boat anchored here on the sand shelf (west of the restricted zone) for several days. **016° 55.056' S / 151° 26.131' W** —Roam

**July 2010:** We had everything from gusty to light sailing breezes as we exited Passe Rautoanui on the NW side of Raiatea and reentered the lagoon at Passe Punaeroa on the SW end of Raiatea. From there we motored upwind through the moderately challenging channel where the coral extended out from both sides in some places. The wind was up to 20-25 by now, but there was an oasis of calm in the lee of Nao Nao on the SW tip (the guidebooks more conservatively recommend the northern side in deeper water).

The motu is private so we couldn't go ashore but there was some nice snorkeling and a very protected anchorage if you don't mind having only a couple of feet under your keel. Having gotten there first, our friends on s/v Quixotic had the best protection from the motu. – Nakia

## **7.12 Ile Haio (South)**

**Sep 2024:** DPAM chartlet refers to this as “Tuatau Bay Moorings” – Roam

### **7.12.1 Anchorages and Moorings**

**Sep 2024 Fetuna Town Quay:** A new town quay has been constructed in the bay. It features tap-to-pay power and water on the outer finger. There is space to tie up your dingy. There was one lonely sailboat moored inside the quay. I believe the old dingy dock has been replaced by this new town quay. It's quite impressive. There isn't much ashore here. — Roam

**Sep 2024:** Beautiful, calm, quiet spot in a 20 knot easterly. Only one mooring remains. We made no attempt to inspect or test the mooring (just a visual on the surface). Not much ashore here. After a quick look around in the dinghy we wouldn't anchor here. It's very deep with a steep shelf up against Motu Haio. What bottom we could see looked rocky. YMMV. — Roam

**Oct. 2021: 16°54.335S / 151°25.672W.** There are still 4 moorings in this anchorage. The first two have short lines, so we had to pick the mooring loop from the stern. It is over 2 meters from our water line to the deck and I couldn't pull the mooring loop up to the cleat. So, we grabbed it with a spare line from the stern and walked it forward. Super pretty anchorage, nice breeze, calm and protected. – Sugar Shack

**Sept. 2020: 16°54.352S / 151°25.675W** there are 4 moorings. The water is 30 meters deep in this area but it is a really nice, beautiful, protected bay. We saw 30-35kts of easterly winds coming from Huahine and once tucked into this bay it was calm and quiet. One mooring has a short painter, but the others are fine and held us and our friends really well during a strong blow.

**Dinghy Dock:** There is a nice, long dinghy dock on the northwest side of the bay. There is a mooring and a stick that you need to go around as it gets shallow. – Sugar Shack

### **7.12.2 Yachtsmen Services**

#### **7.12.2.1 Trash and Recycling**

**Sep 2024:** Large recycling facility. It was locked. We couldn't figure out how to get access. —Roam

**Sept. 2020:** We did not see any trash disposal bins. However, we did see three recycling stations for glass, aluminum, cans, and plastic. From the dinghy dock, turn left and it will be on the left just past the snack. Continue down the same main road, there will be another recycling station just by the school. If you turn right from the dinghy dock and walk about ½ mile there is another recycling center. – Sugar Shack

#### **7.12.3 Provisions**

**Sep 2024:** Magasin Mou Kan Ste is still open but has to be the saddest magasin we have seen yet. If you are out of chips and soda you've found your place. But not much else. Nearly empty.

Did not see any sign for Magasin Ari. —Roam



**Sept. 2020:** Magasin Mou Kan Ste +689 40 66 35 12. Hours: Mon-Sat: 06-1130 & 1330-1630. Sun: 0530-0800 & 1400-1700. From dinghy dock, turn left and it will be on the right-hand side (1/4-1/2 mile). Really nice, decently stocked market.

There is another magasin called Magasin Ari +689 87 66 30 52 located across the street from Magasin Mou Kan but it was never open when we walked by. – Sugar Shack

#### **7.12.4 Restaurants**

**Sep 2024:** Roulette Matatini was not open when we were here. We didn't find any other restaurants within walking distance of the town quay. — Roam

**Sept. 2020:** Roulotte Matatini (out of someone's house) that has a rather large menu. +689 87 30 71 29. Hours: Fri-Mon 1800-2100. From dinghy dock, turn left, on right-hand side. Signage out front. – Sugar Shack

#### **7.12.5 Activities**

**Oct.2020:** We took our dinghy over to the Nao Nao snorkel area - near **16°54.998S / 151°25.768W** is a spot with lots of coral heads, reef fish, and great snorkeling. The fish are very friendly and curious making this a great experience. – Sugar Shack

#### **7.12.6 Cruiser Reports**

**Sept. 2020:** We had to escape from Huahine during a strange weather system. The winds had been gusting 30-35kts for several days and it was getting old. So, we decided to head to the southern tip of Raiatea to hide. This stunning bay is very protected and very lovely. You are surrounded by palm trees and lush greenery. A lot of people refer to this anchorage/mooring area as "Nao Nao", but it is actually Ile Haio. – Sugar Shack

### **7.13 Baie Opoa (East)**

#### **7.13.1 Anchorages and Moorings**

**June 2019:** Opoa Bay has good holding in 9-12 meters of water. It also provides easy access to Taputapuatea (archeological marae site). – Sugar Shack

**May 2019:** **16-49.9S / 151-22.0W** in 13m/45' in the center of the bay, protected behind the very shallow and obvious shoal marked by a red post – room for 3 or 4 boats. – Moon Rebel

**July 2010:** **16-50.105S / 151-22.080W**. From Hotopuu we sailed to Baie Opoa to visit Marae Taputapuatea, one of the most important of the traditional temples in French Polynesia. – Nakia

#### **7.13.2 Restaurants**

**May 2019:** We had a celebratory birthday lunch for a friend at the Hotel Atiapiti. After a round of rum punches, we ordered lobster for Kim, Poisson cru for Don, crab salad with lots of leafy green lettuce for me, and chicken in soy/cola sauce for John. We shamelessly topped it all off with two pieces of coconut cake topped with coconut ice cream and garnished with star fruit and tea roses for dessert. It was a lovely meal but we have to chuckle when we realize that we are so well trained to French Polynesia prices by now that we think nothing of taking the equivalent of \$90 to shore - and hoping it will be enough to pay for lunch. – Nakia

#### **7.13.3 Cruiser Reports**

**May 2019:** Marae Taputapuatea is definitely one of the biggest and best preserved or at least restored, that we've seen and well worth a visit; it's located at the SE corner of Raiatea, at the tip of the peninsula separating Opoa and Hotopuu Bays. – Moon Rebel

**July 2010:** We had a lovely ending to the day when the canoe replica we'd seen in Huahine sailed through the pass blowing their conch shell to announce their arrival. I convinced John to blow his horn in reply, and a small group of people gathered on shore to welcome them. – Nakia

## **RAIATEA - EAST**

### **7.14 Point Tampapua (East)**

#### **7.14.1 Anchorages and Moorings**

**July 2011: 16°51.893 S / 151°20.994 W.** Basically in the middle of nowhere. After leaving the channel we eased over the sand shelf about a hundred feet, dropped the anchor in 11 feet of water, on pure white sand, and then played our anchor chain. Welcome to paradise...break out the rum...no street traffic, boat traffic, dogs, chickens, construction equipment, jet skis, etc. – Yolo

### **7.15 Hotopuu Bay (East)**

#### **7.15.1 Anchorages and Moorings**

**Sep 2024:** We spent two nights on the outer-most of the three moorings. A fourth mooring with a large yellow buoy is prominently marked "PRIVATE." Other than a quick visual inspection, we didn't test these moorings. Ours seemed fine. In addition to the one we took, one was open and the other occupied by a catamaran that was otherwise unattended during our stay and looked like it had been that way for a while.

The bay gets a fetch of wind waves from an easterly. Enough to put a damper on paddle boarding. But not enough to make it uncomfortable aboard.

It is a very convenient stop for visiting the Taputaputea Marea, the hike up the mountain, as well as to eat at the hotel next door to it. All recommended. —Roam

**May 2019: 16-50.56S / 151-21.7W.** Better yet, though probably only space for one or two was on the north side of Hotopuu Bay. The charts show this as being only 2' deep, but we dropped anchor in about 7m/25' and sat in 12m/40' with 35m/100' of chain and ample swinging room in all directions. You're below the big cliff face and the reefs at the bay's entrance provide good protection there, which proved handy in 20-25 knot overnight squalls. You can land a dingy – take oars, it's too shallow for even the outboard – on the north shore of the bay (100m away) from where it's an easy ten-minute walk to the Marae. So, no shops/services in Hotopuu Bay and one closed (permanently?) snack bar near the church in Opoa. – Moon Rebel

**July 2011: 16°49.765 S / 151°21.227 W.** Just north of Passe Teavamoa, across the channel from marae Taputapuatea in 12 feet of water, sandy bottom. – Yolo

**July 2010: 16-50.715S / 151-22.052W.** Our first anchorage. – Nakia

#### **7.15.2 Restaurants**

**Sep 2024: Pirogue Royale** (Atiapiti Hotel) This is one of the most friendly and welcoming restaurants we have been to in French Polynesia. The dock in front of the restaurant is available to cruisers, and we were told the approach from the adjacent anchorage is through the middle of the 4 "sticks" marked in the reef, due to the surrounding shallow coral gardens. The food was very fresh, and quite tasty. After lunch, the owner even took time to show us the way to the 1.5 mile viewpoint hike overlooking the Marae and the reef. We will definitely return! —Roam

### **7.15.3 Cruiser Reports**

**Sep 2024:** We used this mooring to visit the Pirogue Royale restaurant for lunch. They let us use their shuttle dock so that we could hike the overlook and visit the marae after lunch. We returned via the beach back to the hotel. This was a great stop. – Roam

**Feb. 2021:** There are three free moorings. On shore there is a fabulous organic farm “LTB Fenua” producing pure coconut oil. – Pascal Lutz

**July 2011: 16°49.765 S / 151°21.227 W.** The marae is very large and has extensive signage explaining the historical and religious details of the site in English. We were lucky, and visited the site during a governmental holiday and were treated to local festivities. – Yolo

### **7.16 Isle Oatara**

#### **7.16.1 Anchorages and Moorings**

**May 2019:** (1.5 mile east of Hotopuu Bay): We’d had anchoring here ‘highly recommended’ by friends, but arrived to find the sand bank only 2.4m\8’ deep wherever we nosed onto it; too shallow for comfort with our 6’ draft, but OK for catamarans and others with a foot less than ours. We could’ve anchored just off the sand bank, but it shelved steeply and we were quickly back in 30m/100’. – Moon Rebel

### **7.17 Faaroa - Apoomau River (East)**

#### **7.17.1 Anchorages and Moorings**

**Sep 2024:** Two moorings on the northeast side of the bay. One is an orange pearl float and the other is a black pearl float (not surprisingly is difficult to see). We stayed for one night on the orange pearl buoy mooring. Good access to the river for the trip to the botanical gardens and Andre’s organic garden. We did not dive on or otherwise inspect these moorings except visually on the surface. —Roam

**April 2024: 16-49.01S / 151-24.97W** Previous comments regarding bottom and anchoring are still accurate. Make sure your anchor is well set. A catamaran dragged anchor at least 50 metres on our first night in the bay, and it was not excessively windy.

The visit to the botanical garden was enjoyable. Across from it, on the other side of the river, Taeuro (who also goes by the nickname of “Andre”) gave us a tour of his fruit and vegetable garden. He gave us a bag full of fresh produce and herbs (rambutan, passion fruits, Goyava, papaya, bananas, grapefruits, coconuts, taro, mint, basil and vanilla). Extremely kind, generous and knowledgeable. He enjoys meeting people and sharing his knowledge. He does not sell but accepts tips. No need to call ahead. Just pop by. Caution: it is extremely shallow on Andre’s side of the river. It is preferable to row. – Toucan

**May 2019: 16-49.12S / 151-24.91W** in 14m/45’ on 40m/130’ chain. We just anchored for the duration of our visit rather than overnighing as having looked from the anchorage at Ile Iriru, the valley appeared to be a favored track for any squalls blowing across this end of Raiatea. That said, I doubt you’d come to any harm as the holding appeared to be very solid in what’s charted as ‘mud’. Once settled I’d estimate that the ‘shallow’ water was a further 50-60m/150-200’ astern of us; there were a couple of grubby-looking mooring buoys in the vicinity, but nobody – including a couple of skippered charter catamarans, who ought to know – was picking them up. – Moon Rebel

**July 2011: 16.48.807 S / 151.24.806 W.** Mooring ball at this location. Taking one is reported as a common practice. Baie Faaroa is a very deep and long bay on the east side of Raiatea. At the head of the bay there are several rivers which reach into the long fertile valley. We motored our dinghy up the river. There are about ten mooring balls with no painters in this location. We heard that the moorings were provided by the Moorings charter company. – Yolo

## **7.17.2 Cruiser Reports**

**Sep 2024:** Spent one night on one of two remaining moorings in the bay. Anchoring in the mud at the head of the bay would have been an option. Took the dingy (slowly) up the river. Visited the botanical gardens (bring a picnic) and Andre's organic orchard/garden. Nice afternoon. About half way up the river some ladies have a fruit stand and we stopped and bought bananas from them. This was our last stop in Raiatea before heading out the pass to Huahine. – Roam

**May 2019:** The dinghy ride into/up the river proved straightforward and was definitely worth doing – reminded us of the east-coast of South America's rivers just in miniature. I would say that we got (as the guides suggest) about 1.5 miles upriver, though there were several spots earlier that it looked like it was going to be blocked - it appears somebody cuts back the more intrusive tree branches/logs from time to time. The river's width often went from 30/40m, to 10m then once again opened up around the next corner; keep persevering, you will eventually reach/pass an obvious and fairly new concrete dock on your starboard side at which point the water appeared to shallow, but with care you could get a further 1/4 mile before finally reaching impassable foliage. Try to row/drift back downstream, lots of birdlife appears and it's much pleasanter in silence. – Moon Rebel

**July 2011:** When you approach the head of the bay by dinghy you will see two rivers, one in the center of the valley and one to the right/starb'd side of the valley. The waters on the right side of the valley are very shallow and can only be explored in a very shallow draft vessel without a motor. To explore the valley with a motorized dingy, proceed between the vertical sticks at the head of the bay into the river on the left side (middle) of the bay. Keep the drift wood, limbs, and tree trunks in the delta of the river to your starb'd side while heading up river. In general, motor in the center of the river when it is a straight section and navigate the outer edge area on the turns. During the dry season you can see the bottom of the river in the shallow spots. We motored several miles up the river until it suddenly shallowed at a home where rocks were placed across the river as stepping stones.

When you are motoring up the river you will most likely be greeted by James. He speaks at least three languages and gives tours of the botanical garden which is unmarked and located on the right side of the river. You will see a large meter high silver/white pole near the river bank, an old concrete and dirt wall/wharf, or a short water channel cut in the mud bank for boats on your right. This is where James' free tours start. If James is not giving a tour he is usually floating in his kayak near this location. We spoke with James, who works for tips, and he certainly appeared to know the flora and fauna. Sampling the numerous fruits of the valley are included in his tour.

If you proceed about a hundred meters up the river, it will take a sharp turn to the left. On your left you will see many banana and coconut trees, and a valley farm. The farmer, Taeuro, was working his field while we motored by and we got a tour of his acreage. By the end of the tour we were loaded up with huge squash, papaya, a hand of bananas, coconuts, and taro, all for a fraction of the cost of local markets. – Yolo

## **7.18 Ile Iriru (East)**

### **7.18.1 Anchorages and Moorings**

**May 2019: 16-47.99S / 151-22.90W.** We found good holding and few bommies on the marked shoal just south of the islet. Dropped the hook in 7m/25' and dropped back into 12m/40', ample swinging room with 35m/120' chain; squalls to 25 knots and no problems. – Moon Rebel

## **7.19 Ile Tipaemau (East)**

### **7.19.1 Anchorages and Moorings**

**July 2019:** This is a very secluded anchorage. We did not see any other boats while we were here for several days. It is near the pearl shack "Perles d'O" – Sugar Shack.

## **7.20 Vairahi (East)**

### **7.20.1 Anchorages and Moorings**

**June 2019:** There are mooring balls and anchoring in 10-20 meters of water. Be careful as it shallows up near palm tree lined beaches. – Sugar Shack.

**16-46.554S / 151-25.174W.** This anchorage is not recommended except in very good conditions. It offers protection from the south & east winds. The northern mouth & southern point of Baie Vairahi are marked with a black stake and there is a red cylindrical beacon just off Point Utufara. North of the red balise and south of Puaa reef is a shoal marked by a green conical beacon. Keep close to the red balise at Point Utufara to clear the dangerous shoals. – Dream Yacht Charter Guide

### **7.20.2 Activities**

**June 2019:** Hike: Tres Cascades can be accessed from Vairahi Bay. Past pink pearl farm, follow signs to Tres Cascades Hotel/Restaurant. Easy hike 1.5 hours up with two rappels. – Sugar Shack

## **7.21 Ile Taoru (East)**

### **7.21.1 Anchorages and Moorings**

**May 2019: 16-44.83S / 151-25.56W.** 12m/40' over what sounds like rocks and coral rubble, a bit of chain-noise, but the anchor dug/held immediately and came up without problem too. As I swam along the shore, I was dissuaded from sitting on one of the tiny strips of sand by two big black barking dogs that came out to greet me. The motu is the private reserve of Pension Manava, but even in so remote and uninhabited a place we woke to roosters crowing. We only found one live coral head complete with three big anemones, anemonefish and lionfish close to shore and it was too rough to snorkel either side of the pass (the motu sits in the middle of the pass). Plus, the mosquitoes ensured we wouldn't spend another night there.

**16-44.75S / 151-25.55W.** On our second visit we anchored 150m further north, off the islets NW corner. We found clean sand in 8.5m/30' depth – definitely the better spot. We never saw anyone on the island on either visit, though there were definitely a couple of unfriendly dogs that we saw chase-off a couple of kayakers and later two swimmers who tried to land; the dogs didn't seem to mind getting wet in their pursuit, so don't venture too close. – Moon Rebel

## **8 Taha'a**

Moorings are available in several of the bays and are locally owned. Inquire about availability.

Several villages have small stores, but most of the locals do their shopping in Uturoa, Raiatea. In general it's probably best to stock up on groceries before coming over to Taha'a. Basic things, such as eggs, can be difficult to find in the small stores here.

French Polynesians consider the sand found in and around Taha'a to be sacred. You may see sand mining during your stay. This company is collecting sands for graves.

The DPAM rules and charts for mooring and anchoring in Raiatea and Tahaa, dated October 2023 may be of interest: <https://www.service-public.pf/dpam/2024/02/29/19197/> Of course, it is all in French – Roam

### **8.1 Passes**

There are two passes in Taha'a.

**Passé Toahotu (east) 16°38.986S / 151°25.316W.** This pass is 30 meters deep and 200 meters wide. It is safe and easily passible.

**Passé Paipai** (west) 16°40.073S / 151°32.396W. It is 250 meters wide and 36 meters deep. This is one of the best passes in the Raiatea-Taha'a lagoon and is used by the supply ships, cruiser liners and cargo ships. This positions you close to the Coral Gardens (snorkeling).

## **South Coast of Taha'a**

### **8.2 Baie Apu – Taravana Yacht Club (South)**

#### **8.2.1 Anchorages and Moorings**

**Aug 2024:** We spent two nights on a Champon Pearl Farm mooring. You can spend one night on their mooring if you visit the pearl farm which we did. It was among the better pearl processing presentations we've heard (I feel like I could do that job now) and they have a jewelry showroom with very personal service. They have a very nice dingy dock inside the bay that we used. The second afternoon a boat came by to let us know they would need their mooring the next day. That worked for us as we were headed out any way. No charge for either night. Seems like their one-night policy might flexible depending on the amount of visitors they have. We didn't dive or otherwise test our mooring but it looked to be in good condition and we were there in breezy conditions (easterlies in the mid 20s). - Roam

**May 2024:** Champion Pearl Farm has installed about 12-15 moorings. While we were there for 4 days, nobody has come by to ask for money. Apu Bay is quite well sheltered from the prevailing winds and waves. We parked our dinghy at the Ficus restaurant, which is closed during the day. – Toucan

**Oct. 2021:** There were 25 moorings in the SE corner of the bay managed by the Tahiti pearl farm, Dream yacht Charters, and a few private. If you take a "Tahiti Pearl Farm or Champon Pearl" yellow moorings, they ask that you come by the pearl farm for a look at their wares as a courtesy for the mooring. A local told us that you can utilize the moorings for a day or two but if the owners come you may have to vacate. Toward shore, some moorings are made for catamarans with two painters. There are several docks, but most are private. We ended up using the most inward dock with a sign and little map to town. – Sugar Shack

**May 2019:** Lots of moorings in the SE corner of the bay – no idea whose – mostly occupied by what appear to be long-term, laid-up boats. There's plenty of space to anchor, but it's 30m/100'+ deep and when we ventured further north to check out the area SE of the small islet (Toapuhi?) which is charted as slightly shallower, we found depths going rapidly from 26m/90' to <2m/6' in short order. Possibly somewhere in the head of the bay, or it's a mooring, or choice of a deep or no swinging room anchorage. – Moon Rebel

#### **8.2.2 Yachtsmen Services**

**August 2024: Leonardo Canvas Repair:** Leonardo, an Italian sailor, runs a canvas repair shop right next to the Champon dingy dock. His boat is on a mooring in the bay. He stopped by our boat to pick up our repair work. One of our cockpit rain curtains was torn and one of our bean bag chairs was leaking. He repaired both and brought them back to us later that afternoon. Very nice repair work. Great guy with some good local insights. He would also be good to talk to about finding a private mooring if you are looking for one. WhatsApp: +39 340 759 8682 – Roam

#### **8.2.3 Provisions & Restaurants**

**August 2024:** We tried to make reservations to eat at Le Ficus, but they need a minimum group size to host dinner. That minimum size is not two. They took our info in case they had more parties interested. We never heard back from them so we presume they never had enough interest while we were there. —Roam

**May 2024:** There are no stores, but there is a guy that sells basic groceries out of his white panel van. He comes by most mornings. – Toucan

**May 2023:** Restaurant Le Ficus was amazing. We just happened upon it by using their dock to walk to Champion Pearl Farm. They already had scheduled to have the traditional Polynesian 'hime'a' that night. So happy to experience it. Such a proud, friendly family sharing their heritage. From what I understood, they need

18 person minimum with a pre-arranged reservation to have the traditional, in the ground meal. Since it was already planned for others, we were able to add on our group of 9. Cost was 8000 XPC for adults, 5000 for children. Not cheap but we thought was worth it. Great pre-explanation of the cooking process, great food (came with rum punch and 2 bottles wine), great buffet food with variety. Then music and dancing entertainment, including fire dancing. If smaller group then it sounds like the food and service is very good, just not in the ground cooking and no entertainment. As mentioned, we made reservation in person or here is their phone number. - **Nutmeg**

**Restaurant Le Ficus +689 87 34 98 38.**

**Oct. 2021:** We did not find the small magasin, but we did find a few eateries.

Restaurant Le Ficus +689 87 34 98 38. Serves dinners, drinks and offers live entertainment (music and dancing). They have a small dock for lagoon access. Call for reservations as the charter boats often book in advance.

Boutique Phil O offers crepes, croque, monsieur, and ice cream. – Sugar Shack

### **8.2.4 Activities**

**May 2024:** There is a vanilla farm about 1 km North that does free tours. Champion Pearl Farm also does tours.

You can catch a taxi boat from the Quai Vaitoare in Taha'a to go to Raiatea. The main ferry terminal is about 2 km East from Apu Bay. We were told that a taxi boat leaves about every 30 minutes and they run from 7 am to 5 pm except on holidays. – Toucan

**Sept. 2020:** +689 40 65 66 26 or +689 87 78 33 58. [champonb@mail.pf](mailto:champonb@mail.pf) or [www.TahitiPearlOnline.com](http://www.TahitiPearlOnline.com). Hours: Mon-Sun: 0800-1600. Champon Pearl Farm is a family run business that has been around for 20 years. They produce 20,000 pearls a year, offer a free pearl farm tour and have some of the prettiest pearl jewelry I've seen. They have increased their prices since the last time I visited, so even though it is gorgeous jewelry, you will pay a steep price! -- Sugar Shack

## **8.3 Coral Gardens – Tautau (West)**

### **8.3.1 Anchorages and Moorings**

**August 2024:** We anchored over the shallow shelf in 6-7' of water south of the resort and south of the restricted anchoring zone (see charts). We were there for several days with easterlies in the 15 - 25 knot range. It gets a little bouncy but tolerable. We let the anchor hang over the shelf in deeper water and drifted back over the shallow shelf. Clear water. Easy access to the coral gardens. Enjoyed cocktails and food at the floating tapas bar, Fare Miti, inside the northeast corner of Tapuamu Bay—1.25 nm dingy ride. The Pearl Resort wasn't allowing outside visitors during their high season. – Roam

**April 2024:** We anchored to the right of the resort in 2.5m of sandy bottom. Great holding. We had easterly gusts of 25 knots. The anchorage is beautiful but rolls when the wind comes up. There is quite a bit of fetch and can be uncomfortable at times. Snorkelling in the coral garden is the thing to do here, but we recommend bringing beach shoes and going early, before 9am when it starts to get crowded with boat tours. – Toucan

**August 2020:** **16°37.0175'S / 151°33.7237'W** Dropped in 2.2 meters of perfect sandy water with great holding. Isolated from the crowds at the coral gardens and yet perfectly set for a short ride to one of the best snorkeling places in French Polynesia. There can be a little fetch on occasion, but it is not bad and usually doesn't last too long. – Sugar Shack

**July 2019:** This anchorage is next to the Taha'a Pearl Resort. We anchored to the left of the resort (further away from the coral gardens and other boats) on the shelf in 2 meters of water. It was sandy and can be tricky to get solid holding. Be sure to go a full boat length over the shelf before dropping the hook as the wind shifts and you don't want to drag your anchor off the shelf. The anchorage right in front of the coral gardens gets

very crowded with charter boats. – Sugar Shack

**May 2019: 16-36.18'S / 151-33.42'W.** We anchored in 8m/27' just off the shallow sand shelf. A few rocks and bommies around – there looked to be fewer further south but the holding was good. Through the night the wind turned well north of east, so by morning we were hanging off the shallows in a F4 and a hefty chop coming down the bay, no problems, but uncomfortable and disconcerting, we lifted anchor and went in search of better shelter on the Tahaa shore. – Moon Rebel

**April 2019: 16-36.967'S / 151-33.735'W.** There are sandbars to both the north and south of the coral garden where you can anchor. We preferred the south side (more room), and anchored in 8 feet of water. No bommies, good holding. There was a bit of a fetch at both anchorages, so we hobby-horsed in 15-20 knot winds, but it was not uncomfortable and we held securely. Great view of Bora Bora's silhouette and sunset.

Love Here Pearl Farm folks are very hospitable and not pushy. It is a nice place to dinghy to. They advertise two moorings for sailboats but there is only one mooring, and it may not be suitable for larger boats. The dock outside is reserved for the power boats who bring customers; sailboats are turned away. Be aware of the large pearl farm with dozens of floats between the Love Here Pearl Farm and the Coral Garden. Don't meander too far away from shore on that stretch. The floats may be hard to see at night. They are in the reef side of the lagoon, but in deep water. – Cool Change

### **8.3.2 General Services**

#### **8.3.2.1 Wifi / Internet**

**Nov. 2021:** I understand that the Taha'a Pearl Resort is no longer providing wifi access, even to cruisers who are customers. – Sugar Shack

**July 2019:** We stopped in to the Taha'a Pearl Resort for a drink and got the wifi password. It reaches the anchorage and is a strong, solid signal. – Sugar Shack

### **8.3.3 Activities**

#### **Snorkeling**

**August 2024:** We dinghied to the north side of the coral garden channel and anchored it in ankle deep water and walked ashore onto the island (Motu Maharere) and walked the path to the west end of the coral garden. Then waded in and dove into the east flowing current. A really amazing drift snorkel. No fins needed. Walk out the other end and do it again. There were guests of the resort and a tour boat or two but the crowd seemed manageable. You could go early in the day and probably have it to yourself. —Roam

**August 2023: Re: our April 2023 report below.** It was a much different experience when we returned to the Coral Gardens from our December – April trips. Many more charter boats making the anchorage a) more crowded b) more active because of the constant turnover. Most of the charters are not staying overnight and are only here for a few hours. The Coral Gardens themselves are also different, much lower water level and more plants. There was almost no current which made maneuvering and back tracking much easier, but the thrill of riding the current through was not there. We still enjoyed seeing the fish and are glad we returned.

**April 2023:** Take your dinghy to the Motu just north of the Le Taha'a Island Resort. It's easy to see where the other boats and dinghies are going. Tying up to shore, we found using a stern anchor helpful in the shallows. High tide (or just before) seemed to be the best time for us. Follow the easy to find path on along the south side of the Motu out near the end of the motu, you will want some water shoes for this. There are several spots to enter the "river" We like going as far toward the ocean as we can. The first time you run the river you might want to just take the left hand channel. This is what most of the commercial tours do. This will give you a feeling of the speed of the current and the depth of the water over the coral heads. This channel is definitely the easiest, but also has the most broken coral due to the number of inexperienced snorkelers that pass through here.



On subsequent runs you can experiment with going further to the right and picking different paths to wind through. These runs have better coral and better fish. We have seen Titan triggerfish, Rays and even a small shark along with the myriad of smaller fish. Toward the end of the run head more toward the center and look for the anemones with the small spotted dascyllis fish and clownfish (think Nemo!) if you are lucky.

Take your time, plan on numerous runs, something different each time. At the top of the run take note of where the water is, pick out a rock to watch, then you can tell on the next run if the water is higher or lower, which might influence your choice of paths floating down. – Rhapsody

**June 2019:** **June 2019:** The Coral Gardens is one of our very favorite places to snorkel. Take your dinghy past La Taha'a resort (Motu Tautau) and up to the floats where you can tie it off. Wade in the water to shore (on right, Motu Mahararae). Once on Motu Mahararae, walk toward the ocean. There is a nice path where you can walk into the Coral Gardens without damaging coral. Most likely there will be a strong current ripping through here that will allow you to do a fun drift snorkel while enjoying the colorful fish and corals. We did this dozens of times over the course of several months. Only once did we have a calm day where we could swim up and down the river with no current. Bring water shoes as the beach walk can be hard on your feet. Don't forget your camera as there is lots to capture here. – Sugar Shack

**April 2019:** The Coral Garden: we love this place. It may be inaptly named, because the coral is not in great shape, but the abundance of fish is overwhelming. It really is like swimming in a fish tank. We do it over and over again. This year, oddly, it seemed deeper than last year, which was nice. – Cool Change

**2012:** The big attraction is the "coral river" across the lagoon between the large motu to the south and the small motu to the north at about 16-36.33N / 151-33.85W. Leave the dinghy anchored on the spit to the N (frequented by friendly locals on the weekends) and either a) walk west on the north motu (follow the trail) almost to the ocean, then wade into the "river" and you'll find a channel in which you can drift east back to your dinghy, or b) swim west from your anchored dinghy. The water gets churned up a bit when the tour boats are there, too many people walking through the area. Seems like they come in the morning, Fay's preferred time was roughly 12-2. – New Morning

### **8.3.4 Cruiser Reports**

**August 2024:** We enjoyed a few days here despite the brisk easterly. The Pearl Resort said they don't entertain outside guests during their high season (and I guess August is part of their high season)—only guests of the resort. —Roam

**June 2019:** Swing in to the Taha'a Pearl Resort for lunch, dinner, or drinks. They are very friendly and willing to share their facilities for a fee. Lunch is very good, well presented, but extremely expensive. – Sugar Shack

## **8.4 Baie Tapuamu (West)**

This is the main port of Tahaa where the supply ships load/unload cargo. But you wouldn't know it by the sleepy little village. Behind the ship quay there is an enclosed small boat basin, a gas station, and a small store with groceries, fresh baguettes, and sundries.

### **8.4.1 Anchorages and Moorings**

**Aug 2024:** We could only find two moorings and they were taken the entire time we were there so we anchored out on the shelf near the Pearl Resort. Three other boats had found a shallow shelf against the east end of the bay. It looked like a lot of work and a potential for a fouled anchor so we didn't try. Another boat was anchored behind (west) of the two moorings on the north bank of the bay.

The pizza place was closed. The floating Tapas bar, Fare Miti, on the northeast corner was great. The food was a notch above the typical snack shack. Friendly, attentive service. We met several sailors there having drinks and food. Fun time. The night run back out to the shelf anchorage was not too terrifying. —Roam

**April 2024** - There are 2 or 3 mooring balls in the bay. We used one of them. The mooring was free and in good condition. We saw a few boats that were able to anchor between the mooring balls and the “floating bar”. We experienced gusts of 25-30 knots but no fetch. Very comfortable. At Tapu’amu there is a gas station at the marina where you can leave your dinghy, a small store, rum tasting and a small boat bar built out over the water. Garbage disposal was free. – Toucan

**Sept. 2020: 16°36.890S / 151°32.773W** there are (3) moorings in this bay located in 30+ meters of water. We were charged 1500xpf for the night. We were provided a receipt and he was very nice saying that he does not check in daily. This baie is directly across the channel from the coral gardens. – Sugar Shack

**May 2019:** Is directly across from the Coral Gardens and two previous posts suggest there’s anchorage on the bay’s north side, though one suggests 70’ and the other 20’? Whoever managed the latter’s a braver man than me: We found that depths everywhere went rapidly from >20m to <2m so no swinging room in less than 70’; no idea what the bottom’s like, we gave up and went elsewhere.

We tried on the shoal a mile or so south of Tapuamu (NW of the red post near Baie Utuone, but found little swinging room and lots of rocks on the bottom. – Moon Rebel

**2012: 16-36.90S / 151-32.75W.** This bay is a great anchorage. We're in about 80' of water, good holding, just west of a large moored derelict yacht. We stay on the north side to avoid the ships which come in and out of the dock, much more frequently than we would have thought (and late night!). There is a ferry landing behind the dock, not obvious from this perspective. Boats come in and "disappear" behind the dock. – New Morning

**2012:** You can anchor in the south or north east of this motu. The north side is really only suitable for day anchoring whilst the south could be used for overnight in good conditions. Follow the inner edge of the reef until around 150 - 200m from the last bungalows, then enter on the shelf slowly and drop the anchor in 2 - 3m of sandy ground which offers good holding. – DYC

## **8.4.2 Yachtsmen Services**

### **8.4.2.1 Fuel (Diesel and Gasoline)**

**August 2020:** The Total Fuel Station in Tapuamu +689 40 65 75 24 and [www.total.pf](http://www.total.pf). Hours Mon-Fri: 0700-1200 & 1330-1700, Sat: 0700-1200, Sun: 0800-1000. They have a small market. The basin entrance is narrow and shallow. Too difficult for our catamaran to enter. But it is easily accessible by dinghy. – Sugar Shack

## **8.4.3 General Services**

### **8.4.3.1 Medical**

**Dentist. Oct. 2019:** Docteur Daniel Carnio, Chirugien-Dentiste, Diplome de la faculté de Nancy, Immeuble Air Tahiti, Faa'a B.P. 61763, Tel. +689 40 82 22 28 (recommendation from Dentist Dr. Guirado, André; Ua Pou, Marquesas). – Taitonga

### **8.4.3.2 Veterinary Services**

**Veterinary Services** Doctor Fabien Lecomte +689 87 28 81 44

## **8.4.4 Provisions**

**April 2024:** We bought some fresh produce from a lady selling from a stall by the road (avocados, grapefruits, limes, papaya, etc). There was a shortage of eggs on the island, so it is a good idea to stock up prior to coming. – Toucan

**Sept. 2020:** There is a market at the Total fuel station (see fuel for location and hours) and another slightly bigger magasin across the street.

The magasin offers fresh baked baguettes and croissants. Hours: Mon-Sat: 0600-1200 & 1400-1800. Sun: 0600-1200 & 1630-1730. They have some produce but it is limited and just “ok.” – Sugar Shack

**2017:** There was a big Chinese supermarket in the town of Patio, but it didn’t have fresh veg. – Consensus

### **8.4.5 Activities**

**April 2024:** We rented an electric scooter for 5000xpf for the day to drive around the island. A young guy named Mike runs Taha’a Eco Tours and he delivered the scooter to us at the public marina by the gas station in Tapu’amu. – Toucan

**Electric Bikes:** Mana’o Tahiti (the rhumerie) rents electric bikes. +689 87 36 11 32 Hours: Mon-Sat: 0900-1700. They have (4) e-bikes available but can procure more for larger groups with prior reservations. E-bikes rent for 4500xpf for the day or 3500xpf for 4 hours. They are really nice, relatively new bikes that come with locks and helmets. You can almost ride around the entire island 65 kilometers. – Sugar Shack

#### **Distillery and Rhumerie:**

**Sept. 2020:** There is a distillery (where they process the rum locally) and a rhumerie (where they harvest and process but do not ferment or bottle on island) located in the Tapuamu Bae.

[Pari Pari Taha’a Rhum Distillery](#). +689 40 65 61 74 Hours: Mon-Fri from 0900-1700. Located on the northern side of the baie and has a new dock where you can tie up your dinghy. They give free tours where they showcase their rum, vanilla, spices, and oils that lasts about 40-45 minutes. They do offer rum tastings.

The Rhumerie called “[Mana’o Tahiti](#)” where you can sample and enjoy local rum, wine, and craft beer located right behind the Total Gas Station. +689 40 65 66 11 Hours: Mon-Sat: 0900-1700. They are super nice, offer free wine, rum, and sugar cane tasting along with a brief tour on how they make their organic wines, rums and craft beer. They also offer free wifi and rent electric bikes. – Sugar Shack

**2017:** We were able to take a tour to the vanilla plantation/house of Teva and Linda. They had pearls, jewelry, and vanilla in all variations available at a shop at their home. It was a great tour of the island and really interesting to learn about the vanilla making process! Makes you understand why it is so expensive to buy back home! – Consensus

## **8.5 Baie Vaioarea (West)**

**April 2024:** Immediately to the North of Tapu’amu is Baie Vaioarea, easily reachable by dinghy from Tapuamu. The **Iorana Pearl Farm** has installed several free moorings in the bay and they offer free tours of the pearl farm. The tour is quite interesting and there is no pressure to buy. There is also a small grocery store (magasin Notohua) and a bank with ATMs in Vaioarea, immediately north of the pearl farm. – Toucan

## **8.6 Hurepiti (West)**

### **8.6.1 Anchorages and Moorings**

**July 2019:** Favor the right side of bay as you enter and go down the bay’s coast. We failed to reserve a mooring ball when we made our tour reservations with Noah. When we arrived all four of the moorings were taken. We anchored in front of the moorings in 18 meters of water. Noah did not like where we were anchored as he felt it was too dangerous for the boat, especially if we had a wind shift, but it was good holding. Albeit close to the reef.

There are 4 moorings toward the end of the bay. Two belong to Vanilla Tours Taha’a. If you take a tour with them you get a free mooring the day before, day of, and day after the tour. You must notify them ahead of time and make a reservation. Prior to tying up to the buoys call Sophie on 65 62 56 or Alain Plantier on VHF 9 or phone 65 62 46 and ask permission. – Sugar Shack

**May 2019: 16-38.777S / 16-31.50W.** We found good anchorage on the north side of the bay, dropped 35m/120' in 12m/40' depths, then dropped back into 18m/60', there was a little scraping/graunching on the rocks as we backed down, but no noises thereafter and the anchor came up easily/cleanly the following morning; we had squalls to 25+ knots too, so no complaints about the holding either. Never ventured ashore, so don't know what if anything's there. There are several buoys owned/maintained/rented by an Island Tour firm on the south side of the bay – these buoys are 'free' if at least four of you sign-up for the \$60 half-day tour. – Moon Rebel

**2012:** This is a lovely bay with excellent shelter in all but westerly winds. There are numerous coral shoals along the northern side of this bay and as the water is not too clear, it's difficult to see the coral patches. Favor the south side which is clear of danger until the middle of the bay. Anchor in 20m of good holding grounds. There are 2 moorings available for Sophie Boutique clients and 2 for Vanilla Tour clients. Prior to tying up to the buoys call Sophie on 65 62 56 or Alain Plantier on VHF 9 or phone 65 62 46 and ask permission. – DYC

**July 2011: 16-38.652 S / 151-31.069 W.** There is small sand spit with 11 feet of water. This small location has a reef to the north of it and 60+ feet of water on the other three sides. It is common for strong winds to sweep down the valley/bay and we sustained 32 knot winds with no problem at this anchorage. We anchored in Hurepiti Bay which is very long and provides good protection from all directions except the west. This bay is also a great jumping off point for Bora Bora since the western pass through the reef, Passe Paipai, is at the mouth of the bay. We like to anchor in water less than 30', just in case we have to free dive on our anchor.

At the head of Hurepiti Bay you will see a 30-foot day sailing catamaran. This catamaran is owned by Alain Plantier and is on a mooring. There are also several other moorings near his catamaran. Alain and Cristina would appreciate your business if you use one of their moorings. The water in this area is about 60 feet deep.

**16-38.6 S / 151-31.3 W.** According to Alain, another anchorage in shallow water. He also noted that all the deep anchorages in Hurepiti Bay were good holding in mud and/or sand. – Yolo

## **8.6.2 General Services**

### **8.6.2.1.1 Wifi / Internet**

**July 2019:** When you book a tour with Vanilla Tours Taha'a, you get access to their dock and really good wifi. You can access their internet from the anchorage as well. – Sugar Shack

## **8.6.3 Activities**

### **Tours**

**Aug 2024:** We called to book a tour with Noah but he needs a minimum of four. We could never round up another couple to go during the time we were there so we skipped the tour and his moorings. Maybe next time. —Roam

**July 2019:** We took a Vanilla Tour in Hurepiti with [Vanilla Tours Taha'a](#) (+689 87 35 86 39, tel & WhatsApp) with Noah, Christina and Alain. It is excellent tour of the island, 2-vanilla plantations, distillery, and more! He explains the history and culture of the island and stops to show you some cool things with plants and flowers. \$60/pp for half day and \$90/pp full day. If you take a tour with him you can use their mooring balls at no cost and use their internet at their dock. – Sugar Shack

**2012:** This is an Ethno botanical excursion by 4WD given by Alain & Cristina Plantier. Should you wish to do the tour, you will need to book in advance and the tour is for a minimum of 4 people. The tour includes a walk through their beautifully kept garden with the vanilla plantation under the shade of tropical trees. The whole process of vanilla is explained and you will appreciate the price of vanilla after this! The second part of the tour takes you in the 4WD to a view point overlooking the stunning bays. Alain will also explain the traditional uses of native plants found in the area. Alain Plantier on VHF 9 or phone 65 62 46. – DYC

#### **8.6.4 Cruiser Reports**

**2012:** Sophie Boutique: Sophie's dock is marked with 2 flags and you will be welcomed to her boutique which offers a selection of lovely gifts and jewelry. Sophie also offers ice, water on the dock, bicycle rental and there is access to the road if you want to have a walk around. – DYC

#### **North Coast of Taha'a**

### **8.7 Baie Pueheru (North)**

#### **8.7.1 Anchorages and Moorings**

**Aug. 2010: 16-35.220S / 151-31.605W.** We had originally planned to anchor at the main town of Patio at the north end of Tahaa, but the wind had cranked up and we back-tracked a little to Baie Pueheru for much better protection. – Nakia

#### **8.7.2 Cruiser Report**

**Aug. 2010:** Kim and I went ashore in the afternoon and ended up walking to the store at Murifenua without realizing that it was the same place John had gone for propane. The Chinese woman said they had lived there for 20 years and their children also had houses in the village. It is a very nice store but their baguettes come from an in-house bakery and are probably the toughest we've had even when fresh.

The next morning the four of us walked about four kilometers to Patio where there is a post office, a computer store, several small restaurants, and at least two stores. We were excited to find that the second store had nice big loaves of French bread. They were really nothing more than an overgrown baguette, but they were nice and crusty on the outside and wonderfully soft on the inside. And when you see nothing but baguettes for months on end any variation in the form is a novelty. – Nakia

### **8.8 Puheru (North)**

#### **8.8.1 Anchorages and Moorings**

**2008: 16-35.261S / 151-31.598W.** Baie Puheru on the NW of Tahaa offered a tranquil anchorage when strong SE winds came in, the further out you were the more bullets you got. Right in the bay the coral shelf drops off to 40 feet and there is a mud bottom almost immediately. We anchored close off the remains of the old jetty in 43ft and did not venture ashore although it looked possible. – Mr. John

### **8.9 Ile Tehotu**

**Oct. 2021: 16°34.192S / 151°32/237W** Dropped in 2 meters of water just before the ridge. Super pretty spot with lots of sting rays and a nice sandy bottom.

**16°34.087S / 151°32.169W** our friends dropped here and found a sandy spot with good holding. – Sugar Shack

#### **East Cost of Taha'a**

### **8.10 Motu Mahaea (East)**

#### **8.10.1 Anchorages and Moorings**

**May 2019:** Definitely our favorite spot around Tahaa we anchored perhaps 5-600m NNW of the Motu in around 7m of water, pick your spot, there's room for everyone; there are a few bommies but they're easily seen and the worst avoided, many of the catamarans went substantially further east fully onto the sand shelf – it was around 2.2m/7-8' in the couple of spots that we tried to nose on. If like us you do draw 1.8m/6'+, then

give yourself room to turn 360\* and remain clear of the shelf, the wind switched to the west on several nights whilst we were there. No services or internet. – Moon rebel

## **8.11 Ile Toahotu (East)**

### **8.11.1 Anchorages and Moorings**

**May 2019: 16-39.25S / 151-25.9W.** to the SW of this motu at the south side of the pass. Depths/conditions appear similar to those north of Manaea, but we didn't stay long enough to confirm as a pirogue arrived to chase us off before the anchor had even set. This we were advised was an area 'reserved for fishing' and a 'no anchoring zone' according to the eager citizen in his pirogue. When out of interest I enquired at the Uturoa Gendarmerie, my suspicion that the 'fishing area' guardian just didn't want any yacht's spoiling the view from 'his' island was confirmed. There's similar good anchoring area a further SW still –near the west cardinal mark – though I've no idea if this too falls within the 'reserved for fishing/no anchoring zone'; what the heck, it's not worth arguing over. – Moon Rebel

## **8.12 Ile Mahaea (near Toahotu) (East)**

### **8.12.1 Anchorages and Moorings**

**Oct. 2021: 16°38.373S / 151°25.634W** dropped in 1.8 meters of soft sand. Our friends with a deeper draft anchored behind us in 4 meters but had to set twice to get good holding. Nice spot, breezy, but can have a bit of fetch/swell at times. – Sugar Shack

**July 2019:** We entered the pass and turned right to find an anchoring spot. Pretty anchorage with a good, sandy bottom. – Sugar Shack

**2011: 16°38'.480S / 151°25'.575W.** This anchorage is pretty and offers good holding in 2m of water.

### **8.12.2 Activities**

**2011:** The motus are private but snorkeling on the reef and the crystal-clear water makes this place paradise with a wow factor! Keep a good anchoring distance from the motu as the area has lots of coral heads. – DYC

## **8.13 Haamene Bay (East)**

### **8.13.1 Anchorages and Moorings**

**Apr 2022:** The Hibiscus pension and restaurant is now run by a new family since sept. 2021. They have checked and renovated 3 buoys, the place is now much nicer than in the time of the old Leo who did not maintain it. New outside furniture, wifi available. The food is excellent but at this time the choice is limited to the pension menu, fish or meat, at 4000 xpf. They also charge 2000 xpf for the mooring. - Ribl An Dour

**July 2019:** We picked up a mooring in front of the Hibiscus restaurant. The restaurant is located on the north side of the bay, about a third of the way in. "Hibiscus" is painted onto the roof, facing the water, so you'll know it when you see it. – Sugar Shack

**July 2011:** Though there were plenty of (free, we think) moorings available in front of the Hibiscus Hotel and Restaurant as we came in the bay, we went further in to the small town at the head of the bay. We anchored in 25' feet mud—it took us two tries to get our anchor to set well in the mud. This was a very light wind period and we only had a gentle breeze inside the bay, but the night was cool due to the cool air coming down from the mountains. – Soggy Paws

## **8.13.2 General Services**

### **8.13.2.1 Wifi / Internet**

**July 2011:** In the morning we took advantage of the Manaspot signal in the harbor to use up some of our leftover Mana minutes. The signal was tenuous where we were anchored—it would be a little better anchored more to the SW toward the complex of light-yellow buildings in town. You could also take your laptop ashore near the OPT building if you don't have a high-powered wifi setup on the boat.

We left our dinghy ashore in front of the (closed) restaurant Tahaa Mai Tai in the SW corner of the bay. They had a nice wooden dock. It looks like the town is getting ready to put in a floating dock in front of the municipal area, too, which would make it more convenient. – Soggy Paws

### **8.13.3 Restaurant**

**July 2019:** Hibiscus restaurant. The restaurant is located on the north side of the bay, about a third of the way in. "Hibiscus" is painted onto the roof, facing the water, so you'll know it when you see it. Happy hour was 5 – 7 Friday-Sunday. Big beer 250F and cocktails half price. Had a good dinner, somewhat expensive but you can perhaps allow some for the overnight use of the mooring. Great service. – Sugar Shack

**July 2011:** Hibiscus Hotel offers dinners nightly, and a brochure says Polynesian music and dancing on Tuesday nights. They have VHF 68 painted on their roof, so you may be able to reach them on Ch 68 to make reservations for dinner or a mooring and ask about the dancing. – Soggy Paws

### **8.13.4 Activities**

**July 2011:** We walked up the road and followed the road sign to Tiva, to get to the crest of the hill where you have a view of both Hurepiti Bay and Haamene Bay—a pleasant walk on a paved road.

We actually did a hike from Hurepiti Bay on the west coast, by first walking over to Haamene, but it would be much better to actually start from Haamene.

A 3<sup>rd</sup> hike - is the Lonely Planet hike to Patio. Start hike (approx.) Belvedere 16-37.44S / 151-29.27W The start of the hike is in the town just to the north of the Pharmacy. It is a jeep track--and the only one that looked likely. What stopped us the first time was the wire fence across the road and the Property Prive sign. We actually had to go through 2 fences at the start, and then this road goes all the way to Patio on the north coast, via the interior. About an hour's walk on not-too-difficult of grade and you arrive at the scenic overlook that looks out over Tahaa's entire SE coast.

As we were resting and enjoying the view, Alain Plantier of Vanilla Tours came by with guests in a jeep. In talking with him, he told us of a side trail that is very interesting that goes out along the ridge to the east. To find the start of the trail, continue down the jeep track 100 meters, and there is a small footpath off to the right (East). Follow that footpath which climbs up along the ridge, for about an hour. At one peak (see GPS list below), on the ridge, there is a trail going down to the left. Take this trail to hike back down into the valley and rejoin the jeep trail to Patio (about another hour). Alain said that if you continue on the first trail, you would eventually end up down on the coast in the bay one or two bays north of Haamene.

We never did get to Patio, because by the time we rejoined the jeep trail it was getting late enough in the day that we figured we'd best head back (we still had to walk all the way back to Hurepiti from Haamene). We ended up walking 13 miles in 9 hours, according to the GPS, by the time we got back to Hurepiti. Going from Haamene, it would only have been about 9 miles. Going just up to the lookout and back down the jeep trail the way we came is only about a 2 hr round trip hike, and not too strenuous.

Friends on Don Quixote stopped at the Hibiscus Hotel on the moorings for a couple of hours to see their **turtle sanctuary**, and then went out for a swim and overnight anchorage at Ile Mahaea. – Soggy Paws

### **8.13.5 Cruiser Reports**

**June 2017:** From Haamene Bay it is just a short walk up the hill to the vanilla plantation "Vallee de la Vanille". From Tahaa Maitai take the road to the left and go at a T-crossing (before you cross the water) to the right. Follow the road (uphill) until you see the plantation sign at the left-hand side of the road. The owner gives a short explanation (in French) and shows his plantation. You can buy packets of 50 gram vanilla. Besides the nice Tahaa Maitai restaurant, there is also a nice lunch/ snack bistro near the restaurant, on the other side of the road; local officials come here for lunch. – Spunky

**May 2017: Theft/Boarding:** We anchored at Hameene Bay (Taha'a) at the end near the moorings. Went both around the same time (18.45) with our dinghies to the Tahaa Maitai restaurant. When we arrived at the restaurant, which is only 300 meters from the anchorage, the manager asked if we had locked our boat, which we did. (As it would not be the first-time boats are entered).

When we returned to our boats (21.00), passports, money and phones were stolen from the catamaran. Apparently, the thieves keep an eye on people/dinghies leaving and we think, but that is a presumption, that they just swim to the boats. I am not sure if they had all hatches closed. – Spunky

## **8.14 Islet Tuuahine – Vahine Island (East)**

### **8.14.1 Anchorages and Moorings**

**Julye 2019:** This is a pretty spot, but it can be exposed to weather. Sandy bottom, 8 meters of water. Go here in good sun and watch out for coral heads. – Sugar Shack

### **8.14.2 Cruiser Reports**

**July 2019:** Tuuahine private island with small hotel (Hotel Vahine) with open wifi. Once anchored enjoy some super-fast internet with a consistent connection. – Sugar Shack

## **8.15 Ilot Moute – La Pirogue (East)**

### **8.15.1 Anchorages and Moorings**

**Sept. 2020: 16°36.548S / 151°24.996W** we dropped the hook in 4 meters of crystal clear, blue water on a nice sandy bottom. We also anchored at **16°36.589S / 151°25.020W** (4 meters). There are now three moorings here. One belongs to the owner of the resort. We did not use them or snorkel on them as there is plenty of room for anchoring and the holding is good. Our friends on a 50' St. Francis took a mooring and had no issues. Be sure to approach the anchorage at an angle, coming south of Motu Matahira. You do not want directly approach as it shallows up quickly before you arrive to the anchorage. – Sugar Shack

**July 2019:** This is a fabulous spot to anchor. Great holding, sandy bottom with 9 meters of water. We made a diagonal approach to the anchorage as it shallowed up in several places to be sure to go during good sun. There is a deep-water path on the south side from channel to hotel. (Shallowest at 5.9 meters). – Sugar Shack

**April 2019:** There are mooring balls near the Pirogue API motu. On the motu is excellent restaurant run by Frank and Cecile. Call for reservations or to ask to use the moorings: +689 87 27 56 00. – Cool Change

### **8.15.2 Cruiser Reports**

**July 2019: La Pirogue Hotel** +689 87 27 56 00. Ilot Moute is a very small island with a hotel, La Pirogue (4 bungalows, restaurant, and bar) run by Oliver. Enjoy the restaurant, with a reservation. Super pretty beach area with clear shallow water to lounge in with a drink. Good snorkeling off the island by the reef. – Sugar Shack



## 9 Bora Bora

You cannot circumnavigate around the island. You can go from Bloody Mary's, to the North part of the island (by the airport) and then over to the east side of the island. But the south side is not navigable.

### 9.1 Passes

There is only one pass into the Bora Bora lagoon.

**Passé Teavanui** (west) 16°29.528S / 151°46.959W. Situated in the lee of the island. Entrance can be delicate if there are strong westerly winds or swell from the west. This can happen between December – March. The coral bar of the pass between the two buoys is 10 meters deep.

### 9.2 Anchoring and Mooring in Bora Bora

Official government document that sets forth the rules designating the anchorages and mooring fields: <https://voiliers.asso.pf/wp-content/uploads/2018/12/Arr%C3%AAt%C3%A9-n%C2%B0-2442-CM-du-22-11-2018.pdf>

Helpful summary of the rules (in English) and a map by the ASSOCIATION DES VOILIERS EN POLYNESIE : <https://voiliers.asso.pf/2018/12/10/bora-bora-anchoring-regulation/>

**Aug 2024:** Bora Bora is nearly exclusively moorings. The two anchoring locations are limited to a total of 36 hours. There is a chart (attached) that shows the mooring fields and anchoring locations (green blocks, blue blocks).

Contact Heimana (Vaima) at Bora Bora Mooring Services (BMS) prior to your arrival (day before/morning of). What's app: +689 89 44 0888 or VHF 9. He will let you know where there are open moorings. In theory you get fined if you show up without notifying BMS before you enter the lagoon. We didn't talk to anyone who was fined and our sense is they are not strict about enforcing that rule.

Once in the lagoon, take any open mooring in any area. He will come alongside in his center console RIB and do the paperwork and take the 4,000 XFP payment per night. You can pay for as many nights as you want. There are no quantity discounts.

The mooring fee also includes trash collection twice per week (Heimana stops by your boat). Separate the recycling into a separate bag. Nice guy with some good local insights. Sometimes he stays for coffee.

There are 4 mooring fields located around the island. The fifth one near the town quay is no longer in operation. According to BMS, the locals kept cutting the mooring lines so they gave up on replacing them.

Except for the mooring field in front of the Bora Bora Yacht Club, you can stay as long as you like (as long as you pay). The moorings in front of the Yacht Club are limited to two nights consecutively. There seemed to be a bit of flexibility on this based on what we saw.

We didn't make any attempt to inspect or test any of our moorings. We were in breezy conditions for half of our stay here (mid 20s). We didn't directly hear of any issues with the strength and integrity of the moorings. On the surface ours all looked fine.

There are two anchoring locations. These have a maximum of 36 hours total.

Many of these changes are recent. There is quite a bit of out-dated information out there. This causes some interesting confusion. One resulted in BMS calling in the local Gendarme who arrived by boat to explain to a charter skipper that the moorings were indeed private and he had to pay for his stay. This seemed to resolve things without further escalation. You can understand why some skippers might be skeptical and think they are being scammed out of another mooring fee. – SV Roam

See mooring areas on the graphic below:

**Red areas** 1-6: Anchoring is strictly prohibited. These areas include "Faanui, Motu Tehotu, St. Regis / Four Seasons / Le Meridien, Taahana, Povai, and Vaitape



Green Areas are mooring on a buoy only.

Light Blue Areas (Taimoo & Faanui) are designated free zones for boats 10-20 meters

Dark Blue Areas (between zone 5 & 6) is designated for yachts more than 90 meters with a turning radius of 150m or more.

Orange Areas (A-I) are designated areas for yachts 20-90 meters with a turning radius of 150m

Light Purple (near zone 5) is a passenger ship clearance area only

**May 2023:** The mooring balls are 4000 xpf a night, no weekly or monthly discounts. The Bora Bora mooring service boat will come find you (Mon-Sat) to collect and they do take credit cards. They will collect garbage every other day and this is included in your mooring fee. While we were there (May) there were always plenty of balls, with the exception of the World Arc coming through, and they reserved all the balls at the Yacht Club. The first mooring

field, on your right as you enter from the pass has beautiful clear water but be careful, some of the mooring balls are too close to the bommies and recently one boat went aground on one of them. Nice snorkeling around the bommies. – Rhapsody

**Oct. 2020:** There are approved anchorages in Bora Bora, but for the most part you will be required to take a mooring ball. If there are no moorings available and you are in an approved anchorage, you may drop the hook (see map two small blue areas by Faanui and Taimoo).

The moorings are managed by Bora Bora Mooring Services (BBMS). These moorings were new as of 2019 and are maintained. The BBMS moorings are white and labeled “BBMS.” Do not take any other mooring as BBMS only maintains the moorings marked BBMS.

The folks from BBMS will come by in a white, center console dinghy. They will take a photo of your boat and will provide a receipt for your mooring fee. The price includes trash pickup. They can be reached on VHF 9. Contact at [info@boraboramarina.com](mailto:info@boraboramarina.com) or +689 89 44 08 88.

You can pay for a week or a month and move around anchorages. If you pay for a month, but leave after 2 weeks, and then return a month later, you can continue to use the unused two weeks already paid for. Just communicate with BBMS as they are very fair.

Water is available at the public dock in Vaitape by the ferries. There are machines that you need a card to use. Francis at BBMS sells the cards. Minimum cost is 3000 for a card with 1000 refunded when you return the card (they have a problem with theft). That leaves 2000 francs for water at roughly 3 cents a liter.

The red areas on the map below indicate PROHIBITED areas where you are not allowed to anchor. The purple circles are the “approved” anchorages where you are required to pick up a mooring.

I would not use any other mooring other than BBMS. A month before we arrived a large catamaran tied to Bora Bora Yacht Club (BBYC) broke free and crashed into the resort. – Sugar Shack

The map below is recent as of August 2020 and outlines the restricted areas as follows:

**Red areas** 1-6: Anchoring is strictly prohibited. These areas include “Faanui, Motu Tehotu, St. Regis / Four Seasons / Le Meridien, Taahana, Povai, and Vaitape

**Green Areas** are mooring on a buoy only.

**Light Blue Areas** (Taimoo & Faanui) are designated free zones for boats 10-20 meters

**Dark Blue Areas** (between zone 5 & 6) is designated for yachts more than 90 meters with a turning radius of 150m or more.

**Orange Areas** (A-I) are designated areas for yachts 20-90 meters with a turning radius of 150m

**Light Purple** (near zone 5) is a passenger ship clearance area only

**May 2019:** Bora Bora moorings situation changed as of May 1, 2019. From what I understood from the owner of the BBYC, all of the moorings on the island are now run by one company.

Francis is the only guy, so don't pay anyone else. He comes in a nice 20 or so foot white center console inflatable. Mooring fees are as follows: 3000 a day, 5000 for 3 nights, 10000 a week. However, if you jump between mooring areas it is fine. Just keep your receipt. He picks up trash for free (or included rather).

They are sick of people anchoring on coral so the company Bora Bora Moorings Services is installing more and maintaining all the moorings on the island.

They have installed new moorings all over the island. They are the purple diamonds. The ones off Bloody Mary's are not installed yet, but they will be putting in 20 there soon. There also are prohibited anchor zones in red on the map. – Nor'easter

## **West Side of Bora Bora**

### **9.3 Vaitape (Main Village) (West)**

#### **9.3.1 Anchorages and Moorings**

**May 2023:** Many cruisers take their dinghies from one of the mooring fields. There is a dinghy dock inside the area where the ferry stops. You can take your big boat to the outside of the dock and leave it there for up to 2 hours, no charge. We had no issues with depth with our 2.2 meter keel. – Rhapsody

**July 2017:** Town dock, south outer wall. The airport ferries (free with your flight ticket) tie on the inner walls - so makes for a great pickup/drop off station. Other supply ships dock at the outer west wall. We asked at the tourist info and were advised that you can tie up here for free - but don't stay “too long - no more than one night”. That may change in the future since there are pedestals for water and electricity (Not yet functional).

Note that occasional passing wakes can turn this wall into quite the adventure - so be sure to use spring lines and supplement with your own fenders (the wall has large black rubber roller fenders). – Begonia

**July 2012:** **16-30.06S / 151.45.19W.** This is where Vaughn and Sharon (Reality) like to anchor and it's a shorter dinghy trip to the town dock / Heiva. – New Morning

### **9.3.2 Formalities**

**Nov. 2020:** A few cruisers have been able to clear out of Raiatea and Bora Bora without returning to Tahiti to do the exit paperwork. The did mark on their exit paperwork, when they left Tahiti that they would be traveling to other Society Islands before leaving the country and that their plan was to depart from Bora Bora. So, they alerted the Tahiti officials prior to departing Tahiti. I'd check with Tahiti officials prior to departure to ensure a safe and easy check out from Bora Bora. – Sugar Shack

**Sept. 2020:** Prior to COVID, you could clear out of French Polynesia from Bora Bora. Then once you got to Bora Bora you could clear out of French Polynesia from Bora Bora. However, this has all changed with COVID and now everyone is required to clear out of French Polynesia from Tahiti (no clearances allowed from Raiatea or Bora Bora). Hopefully, it will revert back to the old way, pre-COVID, in the near future. – Sugar Shack

**June 2017:** We went to the gendarme and they gave us about 5 forms to fill and 2-3 of those should be emailed (by making a photo) to Papeete the day before you plan to leave. At the day you want to leave, you come with all crew and passports and filled forms to the gendarme and they will give you your international clearance (permis de sortie).

However, Papeete had not handled our email (yet), so Bora Bora had to asked them to search our file in Papeete), which caused some delay. You also receive (as with arrival) a copy of the declarations of customs file, that you need to send by post to Papeete (so you have to go to the post office to buy a stamp (or buy a postcard with stamp at a souvenir shops). just sent a photo/scan by mail to this address. – Spunky

### **9.3.3 Yachtsmen Services**

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

**August 2020:** Mobile Gas Station is located on the main street. Turn left from the dock and it is on the left-hand side. They sell cooking gas. – Sugar Shack

#### **9.3.3.2 Fuel (Diesel and Gasoline)**

**Sep 2023: Fuel in Vaitape: Total has an excellent deep dock you can come up alongside. The existing reference in the guide is to the Mobil station which does not have a dock, and to Shell which doesn't exist**

**Aug. 2018:** It was pretty straightforward to refuel with duty free diesel at the Shell gas station. – Consensus

#### **9.3.3.3 Trash and Recycling**

**Oct. 2020:** Since you are paying for a mooring, call BBMS VHF 9 for free trash pick-up. – Sugar Shack

**July 2012:** BBYC will allow you to unload trash. – New Morning

**May 2019:** Water is available at the public dock in Vaitape by the ferries. There are machines that you need a card to use. Francis at BBMS (the moorings guy) sells the cards. Minimum cost is 3000 for a card with 1000 refunded when you return the card (they have a problem with theft). That leaves 2000 francs for water at roughly 3 cents a liter. – Nor'easter

#### **9.3.3.4 Boat Repairs**

**September 2022:** Taxi Motu is a small boat repair shop that was able to arrange for rewelding a stainless steel gooseneck fitting for me. The first worker shook his head, but the second worker told me to speak to "le chef" after lunch, and the boss was very helpful and got the piece welded in 48 hours at a reasonable price. They are

located on the east side of the road as you head north from the dock, well before you reach the Super U. – Mabel Rose

### **9.3.4 General Services**

#### **9.3.4.1 Air Tahiti**

The Air Tahiti office is located on the main dock next to the Avis Rental Car and across from Le Mairie. Hours: Mon-Fri: 0730-1130 & 1300-1530.

#### **9.3.4.2 Bank / ATM**

Banque de Polynesie located at the corner of the main street and main dock (on right). Hours: Mon-Thurs: 0745-1145 & 1245-1615, Fri: 0745-1145 & 1245-1515

#### **9.3.4.3 Beauty Salons – Hair Stylist**

**August 2020:** Bora Bora Beauty located in the Shopping Center Le Pahia Le Pahia (main dock, turn left, on left hand side). Hours: Mon-Fri: 0900-1200 & 1300-1600.

There is also Bora Hair and Nails Designs in Vaitape +689 40 67 68 79. – Sugar Shack

#### **9.3.4.4 Electronics**

**August 2020:** Sony Car Audio +689 40 60 59 35 Located in Shopping Center Le Pahia Le Pahia (left from main dock on left side. Hours: Mon-Fri: 0800-1500, Sat: 0800-1200. Right next door to Sony Car Audio is another store called Michael Multimedia +689 40 60 59 35. Hours: Mon-Fri: 0800-1700, Sat: 0800-1200. – Sugar Shack

#### **9.3.4.5 Gendarmerie**

Gendarmerie is located on the main street (turn left from main dock and it's on the right). +689 40 60 59 05. Hours: Mon-Sat: 0700-1200 & 1400-1700

#### **9.3.4.6 Laundry**

**Dec 2021 (Updated Aug 2022):** Another laundry option in Bora Bora is Clean Express Bora Bora. Located in the area of Amanahune, contact number is 689 89 70 71 13. (Vini/Viber/WhatsApp). Open 7 days. 800 xpf/kilo for wash-dry-fold with free pickup/delivery to/from your boat. Laundry detergent is provided by the service. Contact Julie via cell or [alisonjulie29@gmail.com](mailto:alisonjulie29@gmail.com).

**Nov. 2020:** Mimi does laundry and will meet your dinghy wherever you like for an additional 500 xpf charge, each way. The clothes came back meticulously clean and folded. 87 76 31 26. – Uproar

**July 2019:** Bora Bora Laverie, Mimi +689 87 76 31 26 or [boraboralaverie@gmail.com](mailto:boraboralaverie@gmail.com) (3000 xpf wash, dry, fold)

#### **9.3.4.7 Le Mairie**

Maire de Bora Bora +689 40 60 58 00 located on main dock right hand side. Hours: Mon-Thurs: 0730-1200 & 1230-1600. Fri: 0730-1200 & 1230-1500.

#### **9.3.4.8 Marine Supplies / Boat Parts**

**November 2020:** Arthur Demachy who lives aboard One Life has a canvas shop on land.

[Sellerie\\_voilerie@arthurdemachy.com](mailto:Sellerie_voilerie@arthurdemachy.com) , 87 23 94 01. The chaps he made for his own dinghy are the best we have ever seen. – s/v Uproar

**August 2020:** Marine Services / Ships Chandler is located on main road Route de Ceinture across the street from Super U. From main dock, turn left on main road, walk about 2 miles, on left side. They sell some marine supplies, fishing gear, and water toys. – Sugar Shack

#### **9.3.4.9 Medical**

Centre Medical et Dentaire +689 40 67 70 77 (from main dock, turn right on main street toward Anau)

Dentist Office: "Cabinet Dentaire +689 40 67 70 55 Hours: Mon-Fri: 0730-1800, Sat: 0730-1200

#### **9.3.4.10 Tourist Office**

**Aug. 2020:** The Comite Du Tourisme +689 40 67 76 36. They offer free wifi for 30 minutes. The connection is weak and inconsistent. Located on the corner of the main dock. – Sugar Shack

#### **9.3.4.11 Transportation**

**Aug. 2020:** There are two rental car places in the main town. Avis Rental Car (across from the Tourist office on the main dock) rents cars, bikes, ATVs, scooters and mini mokes. +689 40 67 70 15 [www.avis-borabora.com](http://www.avis-borabora.com). Hours: Mon-Sun: 0800-1700. There is also a Eurocar that rents cars, mini mokes, and scooters. – Sugar Shack

#### **9.3.4.12 Wifi / Internet**

**Aug.2020:** The tourist office is a hot spot and offers 30 min of free wifi, but it is very, very slow. – Sugar Shack

### **9.3.5 Provisions**

**Super U:** +689 40 60 50 30. Hours: Mon-Sat: 0530-1800. It is located furthest away but it is the larger of the two stores. From main dock, turn left, walk about 1 mile on the right-hand side.

- **August 2020:** Even though it is a "Super U" they offer limited variety of products. It is the larger of the two stores, but still is not that large. I would strongly recommend provisioning prior to coming to Bora Bora and rely on this market for only essentials. – Sugar Shack

**Chin Lee** +689 40 67 73 86. Hours: Mon-Sat: 0500-2000. Location: left on main street, on right hand side.

- **August 2020:** This market is more conveniently located but is rather small. Good for a quick snack or cold beverage. – Sugar Shack

**May 2023:** It is a short walk from the town dock to the Chin Lee market, the better of the two stores. Super U is a little further down the road and has more of a hot, un-air-conditioned warehouse feeling. Along the way to Chin Lee are numerous market stands. We found the prices to be quite high here, but every one on the stands threw in extra produce as a "gift". – Rhapsody

**July 2019:** We were really surprised by the smallish grocery stores in Bora Bora. Clearly this is an island where people eat within the resort compounds. The markets were small and had limited variety of everything. I would not count on this as a great provisioning stock before crossing the South Pacific. The market in Huahine was much larger and a better variety selection. – Sugar Shack

**June 2017:** Both supermarkets are ok, but oldish and they sell less luxury/upmarket/ French products than I had expected (esp. compared to Papeete and SuperU at Moorea). – Spunky

**July 2012:** The largest store (aka the Chinese grocery store) are adjacent the large city dock at 16-30.39S / 151-45.16W. – New Morning

### 9.3.6 Restaurants

#### Bora Bora Yacht Club:

- **Aug 2024:** Friendly staff. A notch above the typical FP restaurant experience. Wonderfully close to your boat on the nearby mooring. Walkable from the town quay if you parked your dingy there. They have a Polynesian music/dance performance twice a week that includes a set menu dinner. There is no dinghy fee if you are paying for a mooring. If you are not paying for a mooring, there is a \$30 dinghy fee that includes trash, and that is credited to your dinner bill if you dine at BBYC. – Roam

#### Bora Bora Beach Club (sister location of the Yacht Club).

- **Aug 2024:** A notch above the typical FP eating experience. Friendly staff. Reachable by dingy from the Toopua and Bloody Mary mooring fields. Can be a wet ride out there in a brisk easterly. Going back at night is a bit sketch but doable with a good spotlight (and a chart app on your phone). – Roam

#### Intercontinental Hotel Restaurant/Bar: Call for permission: +689 40 604 900.

- **Aug 2024:** They were happy to have us for lunch. May not actually need permission and could show up, but it's far enough away that it's worth calling. Nice when the cook needs a day off and you want something other than the typical "poisson cru-cheeseburger-fishburger" menu. Reachable by dinghy from the Taurere mooring field. Go around (to the south) of the two small motus. It's deep enough for the dingy. Beach or anchor your dingy on the right (north) side of the hotel shuttle boat dock. The dock master will show you. In settled conditions you could make the run back at night.

#### Aloe Café (breakfast, lunch, snack, wifi). +689 40 67 78 88. Hours: Mon-Fri: 0730-1030 & 1130-1630. Located in the Shopping Center Le Pahia Le Pahia (left on main street, on left side) – Roam

- **August 2020:** We have eaten here a few times and the service has ranged from pleasant to horrible. The food is ok albeit a little pricey. It is situated in the back of a parking lot with no view and little breeze, but it will do in a pinch when you just want someone to cook and serve you. – Sugar Shack

#### Snack Chez Roti +689 87 72 49 12 Located across the street from Shopping Center Le Pahia. Patisserie, Cases-croute, Sandwiches.

### 9.3.7 Activities

#### 9.3.7.1 Walk up Mount Pahia

**March 2022:** To confirm other's previous reports, this is a strenuous walk because of its unforgiving steepness, rewarded with immensely fine views from the top. We walked up from the town of Vaitape and descended to Fa'anui then walked about 5km anti-clockwise back to town on the road. There's lots of traffic on the road so hitching would be very possible.

The walk starts in town on the road to the RHS of Hine Pearls / Eurocar. This turns from a prepared surface into a rougher track. It takes a left turn before you may accidentally end up walking across someone's property. We missed this turn and had to turn back.

The ropes in situ on the steeper sections were in okay condition other than one which we retied. We used Maps Me to help confirm where the path split for our descent. Our chosen way down was well marked with red / white tape.

We took 2L of water each and drank it all. A cold beer back at the boat is well earned after this walk. – Grace of Longstone

**July 2019:** Hike to Mount Pahia (one of the tallest mountains in Bora Bora). It is a strenuous hike and will take you 3 hours up and 2.5 hours back (minimum). There are dozens of rappelling spots (up and down) so where good hiking shoes. Arduous and challenging hike but the reward of the view is worth it. Total round trip took

almost 5 hours. Do not do it if it rained within 48 hours. Start at the Eurocar and follow the road up. The path is pretty clear. We hitch hiked back as we were spent and we are in pretty good shape.

The Valley of Kings trail is supposed to be really good too, but we did not do it. – Sugar Shack

**June 2017:** Climbing the mountain is really steep! Some parts you climb with hand and feet. Take good shoes!

We would suggest walking only to the first viewpoint, a big tree and a green plastic flag, with a view to Tapu motu and the moorings. The next viewpoint is almost at the top, and sometimes the clouds obscure the view. Ginger plants are growing in the wild under the trees.

To go to the start of the walk, continue from the moorings past the church with the red roof until you see after some pearl shops, and a car rental at your left-hand site, and take to road besides, up the mountain. After some time, you see a white house on the left, turn left on the path before this house. Follow the path and at a kind of four-way intersection, go right, this is the trail. We found quite some marks on trees to indicate the path. – Spunky

**May 2019:** There is a great hike, although fairly difficult, right by the ferry dock in Vaitape. It has ropes for steep bits, and there is a sign that says they recommend a guide, but I and the other sailors I met had no trouble without one. It's best to do when it's relatively dry, and will take between 5 and 6 hours. The views from the top are spectacular.

Start at the church with the red roof and steeple by the gendarmerie. Go south along the road and turn into the paved road next to the car rental. There is a sign in French that says something about a hike and guides are highly encouraged, but you will only see it if you approach from the other direction. Go up that road, and it will turn into a dirt road. You will walk down this for a while, go until you see the end. There is a T with a white house on the left. Turn left on the path (more like an overgrown dirt road) just in front of this house. This path soon turns right towards the mountain. It soon comes to what looks like a four-way intersection and you start to get into forest. Go right and it is a nice trail marked with red ribbon, stacked stones, and duct tape. Some points are a little hard to follow, but if you look for the next marker you shouldn't have much trouble. It takes you to the top with views of the famous two peaks, and a nearly 360 view of the island. WEAR GOOD SHOES AND BRING LOTS OF WATER. – Nor'easter

### **9.3.7.2 Cave walk on Otemanu**

**March 2022:** A 2.5 to 4 hour round trip, depending on how fit you are. And how long you spend taking photos.

Read about the history of this place before setting out. Another strenuous walk offering great views over the east side of Bora Bora. The last few hundred meters to the cave entrance are all protected with hand line ropes. Once there, the terrain inside the cave is angled loose dusty earth so not totally straightforward for moving around.

We took our dinghy into the dredged channel close to the start of the walk on the east side of the island. South of Pte Tuiahora. There were half a dozen local boats here. We asked at the closest house if it was okay to leave the dinghy and the family were welcoming and said no problem, all good.

Walk to the main road. If I recall correctly, right for a short distance along the road then first left will get you to the uphill start. When this side road ends, a path continues directly uphill. At a junction maybe 50m ahead, in sight of the last house, take the left fork. A bundle of pearl farm floats hung in a tree provided a marker the day we walked. The path is a little indistinct and tricky to find here, trending up and leaving a big stand of bamboo on your right into the woods. Once into the woods you'll find the path well defined.

Enjoy the exercise. You'll burn a few calories. Buy an ice cream from the aforementioned family house before getting back in your dinghy. – Grace of Longstone



### **9.3.7.3 Snorkeling and Diving**

**Aug 2024:** There are coral gardens and a stingray gathering on the south side of Motu Fareone. The stingrays are off Pointe Tepuhoro. The coral garden is a bit further east down the beach. Both easily reached by dingy from the Taurere mooring field.

Stingrays are plentiful in the sand flats of the Taurere mooring field. You'll see them while paddelboarding across the shallows in good light.

There is a designated anchoring location marked on the chart on the northeast side. This is a good spot to anchor for a few hours and dingy to the manta ray cleaning station off Pointe Tuiahora. Whether the manta rays are getting cleaned there or not when you show up is up to the manta rays. – Roam

**July 2019:** We found some amazing snorkel spots as listed out below. – Sugar Shack

- Sting Ray City near Motu Toopua where you can swim in 2 meters of water filled with sting rays and black tip sharks. Not many people knew about this outside of the cruisers (as it is near the anchorage).
- Shark Cove just outside and south of the Passe Teavanui. Swim in 10-12 meters of clear water with lemon and black tip sharks. This is a poplar stop for charter companies. You can go when they are not there, but you will find a limited number of sharks. If you go while a tour is there you'll see more.
- Aquarium just off the Sofitel Motu by Pt Matira. Great snorkeling and super friendly fish.

**Aug. 2018:** The coral wasn't too healthy after snorkeling south of the pass, we saw a few sharks. – Consensus

**June 2017:** The coral is growing again; we found some nice coral. Between Fitiupoint and Le Meridien Bora Bora, you can see manta rays in the morning (the manta cleaning station) and the coral is nice, but not many fish. Look for the little mooring balls or dive boats. Near motu Piti Uu Uta clear water and many fishes. – Spunky

### **9.3.7.4 Lagoonarium**

**July 2019:** The Lagoonarium was extremely disappointing. We went by in the dinghy to see if we wanted to pay \$32 pp. The sea life is all in underwater cages. You can swim with fish, sharks, stingrays but they are all in caged areas. – Sugar Shack

**June 2011:** We took our kayak to the motu where the Lagoonarium is located. It looked like fish trap fenced areas, very shallow. They wanted to charge us \$35 per person but tried to push the full package which includes lunch. It didn't look worth the price. – Dream Caper

### **9.3.7.5 Bike Riding**

**July 2012:** BBYC will loan bikes if you eat or have drinks there. Very cruiser friendly. – New Morning

**June 2011:** There are regular bicycles for hire in many places. We found electric assist bikes for \$50 per day behind the Intercontinental at Matira which we almost rented but decided not to after we had walked many miles on the roads and guessed that we wouldn't see much more different. – Dream Caper

**July 2010:** The one fun thing we did on our full day in Bora was get out our bikes and do an around the island tour with Steve and Trish from Curious. It was a great ride (about 20 miles-our rendition of the Tour) and I was pleased that the only thing that hurt was my bumbum (an Emma term) and my neck. Guess my quads have kept in shape from all the snorkeling! Had a relaxed lunch overlooking the water before heading back to the boats. – Visions of Johanna

### **9.3.7.6 Shopping**

**August 2020** There is a lovely artisan market called Bora Bora I Te Fenua Tahi Artisanal" located just right off the main dock on the right-hand side near the public bathrooms. Hours: Vary based on activity but usually 0900-1530. There are lots of tourist shops, pearl shops, jewelry museums on the main road. – Sugar Shack

**July 2019:** There are several trinket and pearl shops located on the main road near the dock. – Sugar Shack

### 9.3.8 Cruiser Reports

**July 2019:** I must admit we were totally jaded the first time we came to Bora Bora. We were disappointed in the large number of tourists, traffic, and activities that come with it all. However, the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> time we went we stayed off the beaten path, anchored in quieter anchorages, talked to the locals and found the great snorkel spots and hiking trails. We fell in love with the island. Still not my favorite island, but it is no longer my least favorite either. – Sugar Shack

**Aug. 2018:** We were excited to finally be in Bora Bora, the “Holy Grail” of French Polynesia. It wasn’t what everyone thinks it is. Again, like Tahiti, tourists arrive and don’t leave their resort until they go to the airport again. The resorts have taken over the motus, you can’t even go and relax on a beach, they are all resort beaches! As a town it is not that impressive. We saw a local dance practice just up the road from here on a church basketball court one night. – Consensus

**July 2011:** In the month of July, on Thursday and Friday at 8:00 PM a native dance show is completed at the outdoor arena north of the quay. You will be charged 1,150 CFP if you want a seat in the grand stands, or you can watch for free from the side of the stage. Additional shows are given when cruise lines are in port. – Yolo

**2011: Theft** *The following was posted on the PPJ Yahoo Group in early 2011, sorry I did not record who posted it.* I'm sure many of you have heard that 7 dinghies were stolen in Moorea over Easter weekend. It seems that desperation and crime is on the rise here. We lost our dinghy in Bora Bora last Tuesday evening around 8pm, while we were awake and in the cabin. We use a large carabiner to the toe-rail and have done so for many years without incident. We noticed at about 8:30 (only 1/2 hour after we attached it) that it was gone. We immediately searched, the wind was very light and the tide was rising so the current was weak.

The motor has 3M reflective tape on it so even at a mile away it should light up with a high powered flash light. After 2 hours of searching we could not find it. We searched most of the next day and reported it missing to the Gendarmerie.

We also were told by the Moorings had a dinghy motor stolen while a hired captain and the charter guests were on board, also shortly after sunset in the southern part of the lagoon in Bora Bora, not far from where we were anchored.

They also said that last Sunday a 40' catamaran was taken from the charter base at night time from Tahiti Yacht Charters, and is still missing. This apparently is a first for such a grand theft. – Reported on PPJ

## 9.4 Fare Piti Moorings (aka Bora Bora Yacht Club)

BBYC monitors VHF 69. +689 67 60 47 or +689 28 94 50. [boraborayc@mail.pf](mailto:boraborayc@mail.pf)

### 9.4.1 Anchorages and Moorings

**Aug 2024:** The Yacht Club no longer has its own moorings. All of the moorings here are now administered by BMS (Bora Bora Mooring Services) and covered by the same fee. Your mooring fee allows you to stay at any mooring in any mooring field and move amongst them at will. The only exception is the Yacht Club mooring field where you can only stay two consecutive nights. There does seem to be some flexibility from what we saw.

We used their dingy dock each day we were there. We ate at the club both days as well. It’s a good place to tie up if you are walking into town.

The club still offers a dingy dock fee for non-mooring users that covers the use of showers, wifi, and trash. Most visitors won’t need this.

These moorings turnover frequently. If it is full when you arrive, hang out or check back. The two-night maximum keeps things moving.

**July 2017:** Not so much a yacht club as a restaurant with mooring service. Laundry service possible (washed, line dried and folded), water (Water filling is relatively expensive, but has easy access since you and tie your

boat to the restaurant dock for filling water tanks directly). Spectacular property with plenty of photo ops and places to sit in the water. – Begonia

**July 2012:** 16-29.37S / 151-45.65W. Less fetch so much smoother water, perhaps slightly fewer wakes. It is possible to dinghy to town from BBYC. – New Morning

## **9.4.2 Yachtsmen Services**

### **9.4.2.1 Water**

**March 2022:** We had a problem with our watermaker in Bora Bora so bought some water from the yacht club. It is possible to take your big boat alongside, checking appropriate times beforehand so as not go interrupt the view for customers. We chose to do a few runs in the dinghy with jerrycans back and forward. Staff were very helpful. Phone or call by in person to arrange. – Grace of Longstone

### **9.4.3 Restaurants**

**March 2022:** We treated ourselves to drinks out at Bora Bora Yacht Club after a long walk one day and ended up spontaneously staying for dinner. This was a treat and we had a fine evening, seated on the dock. The restaurant was busy and the staff were efficient and cheery. We paid around \$130 which included cocktails and drinks. We shared a starter and had main courses of beef and lamb. Food was well cooked, nicely presented and tasted great. – Grace of Longstone

**May 2019:** Bora Bora yacht club still is good and has an amazing burger. Bloody Mary's happy hour is still 400 francs for two beers and buy one get one for cocktails. The food was pretty mediocre for lunch. – Nor'easter

**Oct. 2011:** The dining is more casual and the fare more basic. We had burgers for lunch and enjoyed the setting. I couldn't find a phone number for the BBYC, and their former web site directed me to the Mai Kai. They did have a sign that said they monitored VHF 69, but I did not get any response. None the less they are definitely open for business and there were half a dozen boats on the moorings. – New Morning.

## **9.5 Mai Kai Marina (Closed?)**

### **9.5.1 Anchorages and Moorings**

**Aug 2024:** We could find no trace of this place. Google shows it permanently closed. Certainly no moorings there. – Roam

**Oct. 2011:** 16-30.0S / 151-45.4W. West of the fuel doc. Jessica and Tieva who formerly managed the Bora Bora Yacht Club have opened the **Mai Kai Marina** adjacent to Bathy's Dive 16-30.0S 151-45.4W. They have about 8 moorings with plans for more.

**Location:** To get to Mai Kai Marina and Yacht Club enter the main channel (Passe Teavanui) through the Bora Bora reef and head to the main village Vaitape. The new club is one of the first things you will pass on your left. The MKMAYC complex is right next to the mooring field and is a very convenient location when compared to the Bora Bora Yacht Club which charges about \$12 USD per mooring per night. – Yolo

## **9.6 Povai Moorings (aka Bloody Marys)**

**Aug 2024:** Bloody Marys is no longer operating. It is currently a large construction zone (building a resort with over-water bungalows). Dingy dock was inaccessible. It may open again in the future. – Roam

### **9.6.1 Anchorages & Moorings**

**Aug 2024:** The moorings here are part of the BMS mooring program. Bloody Marys is no longer in operation and the dingy dock is inaccessible. It's a construction zone. They are building a resort with over-water bungalows. As such there isn't much going on in this area. It was our least favorite mooring field. The easterly wind funnels through the gap in the mountains and wraps around the island. That slews the boats around

randomly—quite abruptly in the gusts. But if the other areas are full, this is a good alternative. And, you are on a mooring and won't have to unwind your anchor after a long stay.

You can make the run to the town quay from here. There is a long fetch and in an easterly it can be a wet ride back to the boat. Hugging the shoreline seems to help.

Not all the moorings in the area are BMS moorings. The ones close to shore are private. Don't be surprised if you get chased off one by a local boat. Heimana from BMS will point out all of the eligible moorings when he shows up.

## **9.6.2 Yachtsmen Services**

### **9.6.2.1 Water**

No dingy dock or water due to the construction zone.

## **9.6.3 General Services**

**Aug 2024:** Bloody Marys is currently not operating. It is a construction zone. Not much going on in this area and no good place to land a dingy that we could find. – Roam

## **9.6.4 Restaurants**

You can reach the Bora Bora Beach Club (sister location to the yacht club) via dingy around Pointe Raititi to the south. It can be a wet ride out there in a strong easterly. The run back at night is a bit sketch but doable with a good spotlight. Anchor your dingy off the restaurant in ankle deep water.

You can reach the town quay via dingy with access to the restaurants and food trucks in that area. It can be a wet ride back to the boat in a strong easterly given the long fetch across the lagoon.

Bloody Marys is no longer operating due to construction. – Roam

## **9.6.5 Activities**

**June 2023 – Diving:** We dove the pass at Bloody Marys ourselves. The day we dove it the current was quite strong but we were rewarded with a school of approximately 50 eagle rays, a "fever of rays". Apparently this is common here. We held on to the sandy bottom and watched as they swam around us. – Rhapsody

## **9.7 Motu Fareone Moorings (aka Taurere)**

### **9.7.1 Anchorages and Moorings**

**Aug 2024: 16-31.89 S / 151-42.36 W** This is now a large mooring field. No anchoring. It was our favorite--calm and peaceful. The charter boats seem to clear out on Friday and it is comparatively empty on the weekends. Always seemed to be available moorings when we were here. Moorings here, as they are everywhere in Bora Bora, are administered by BMS. Your mooring fee entitles you to these and all moorings on the island.

See our notes above about the restaurant at the Intercontinental Hotel and the stingray gathering spot and coral gardens. Both are close to this mooring field. – Roam

## **9.8 Free Anchorages**

There are two free anchorages with a limit of 36 hours total stay after which you must move to a paid BMS mooring.

### **9.8.1 Faanui Anchorage**

**151-45.165 W / 16-28.899 S** (see chart) just north of the Fare Piti Moorings across the bay from the cargo dock. – Roam

### **9.8.2 Hitiaa Anchorage**

**151-44.355 W 16-28.266 S** (see chart) on the northeast side of the island in Hitiaa Bay between Point Taihi and Point Outuorau. – Roam

### **9.9 Other Former Anchoring Areas**

Past versions of the Compendium have mentioned these places that are no longer permitted anchoring areas and there are no moorings.

- Motu Tupe (East)
- Four Season's (East)
- SE Anchorage (See Motu Taurere)
- Airport Anchorage

**Sept. 2020:** The airport anchorage is now a "no anchoring zone." Matt hovered in the big boat while I took our guests by dinghy to the airport. It's a shame you can't anchor here anymore as it was really pretty and convenient. See map above to find the closest anchoring spot, which is not very close at all. – Sugar Shack

### **9.10 Diving in Bora Boara**

**June 2023:** There are dive balls outside the main pass for you to use, the dive operators are very friendly. We didn't dive at this spot but we were told that it was nice, but nothing special.

We did dive the pass at Bloody Mary's. There are quite a few dive balls on the Bloody Mary's side of the pass. The day we dove it the current was quite strong but we were rewarded with a school of approximately 50 eagle rays, a "fever of rays". Apparently this is common here. We held on to the sandy bottom and watched as they swam around us.

**East Side by Point Tuiahora:** This is where the Mantas are. We did not dive here as we did not figure out how to do it until we had left the area. It is a very long dinghy ride from the mooring field, and although there are dive balls here they are not for the big boat.

Apparently what you can do is anchor the big boat by the resort hotel. We were told that you can anchor anywhere during the day, but not over night. Then take the dinghy to the east side of the pass. We were told there was both good snorkeling, easy beginning diving and more advanced diving all in the same area. Also the dive operators do the diving in the morning, with no one going in the afternoon in order to allow the mantas some time without being bothered. – Rhapsody

## **10 Maupiti**

### **10.1 Pass**

**Passé Onoiau** (south) 16°29.255S / 151°14.821W. There is one pass into Maupiti. This is a shallow (4 meters due to presence of coral heads) and narrow pass.

[Maupiti Pass video](#) and waypoints created by Two Drifters. Excellent video to watch if you plan on visiting this island.

**August 2020:** From Bora Bora we had a COG of 270T for the 27nm passage. We had virtually no wind (2-3kts from the East) and less than .05-meter swell from the East. We entered the pass at around 1200 with 1kt outgoing current. I must admit it looked freaky and frightening when approaching, but once you line up the first two red/white markers and head for the center of the pass it was easy for us. We were told that you should not attempt the pass when winds are above 20kts or the swell is above 1.5 meters, or if the wind/swell is coming from the south. Lucky for us we had perfect conditions. – Sugar Shack

**June 2020:** The pass was as advertised below and in other sources. The hype is worse than reality. – Maple

**Dream Yacht Charter Notes:** The passage from Bora Bora is approx. 25nm. There is only one pass on Maupiti which is very narrow and exposed to the prevailing southerly swells, making it impracticable as soon as the breeze reaches more than 20kn and the swell more than 1.5m.

If you intend on visiting Maupiti, it is recommended that you contact Camille from the Pension Kuriri Village which is located near the pass. Camille is an experienced sailor and will let you know what the conditions are like at the pass. Ph: +689 40 67 82 23 or 74 54 54. There is also Alain on 70 13 69.

You will need to set out no later than 7am so you can return to Bora Bora before nightfall if you are unable to enter the pass. If the weather is too rough, then consider the day trip on the ferry from Bora Bora.

**Sunsail Charter Notes:** During certain times of the year, the only pass into the lagoon of Maupiti is completely inaccessible, especially when the swell comes from the south. Even without this swell, the current is very strong causing waves which hide the dog-legged channel. Strongly not recommended if the south or south west swell is higher than 1.5 meters.

The pass in Maupiti should be attempted in the morning by aligning with the center of the pass from about 3/10 of mile out. It is very important to stay away from the reef, because sometimes the waves come in strong from afar.

**OUR ADVICE:** Stop at Bora Bora's Yacht Club and call Richard of Maupiti phone: 67 80 62, cellphone: 73 55 62 or Alain of Maupiti Village pension: 70 13 69 and ask how the pass looks like. You can tell him when you will be there, and hire him as your guide to enter the pass and for an excursion within the lagoon and around this tiny island. On the same motu, but ocean side you'll find the guest house Kuriri Village, tel 745454. They can also give you information concerning the condition of the pass.

**July 2011:** Our plan was to stop at Maupiti first for a few days after we left Bora Bora however, we decided not to go through the pass. We sailed back & forth in front of the pass for about 45 min examining it.

The pass is on the south side of the island so it is open to swells. From our stand point it appeared as though the breaking waves swept at least halfway across the pass.

A local power boat gunned it through the pass and it looked like that the wave swallowed him, so we chickened out. We spoke with boaters who had entered the pass and said that it appears that the waves break through the pass but in fact they don't. You have to get closer to see this, so perhaps we could have managed the pass. We'll never know! The gibs at the time we were there showed a 2.3m swell. – Sara Jean II

## **10.2 Anchorages and Moorings**

**Dinghy Dock: 16°26.830S / 152°14.875W.** There is a town dock behind Le Maire/Poste/Fire hall. There are shallow coral shelves as you approach the dock. Best is to stay just N of the small rebar markers placed by the locals as you head W into the dock. The dock is exposed to the prevailing E wind so a stern anchor is needed in stronger weather. Locals do use the dock so be considerate in where and how you tie up. – Maple

### **10.2.1 Near the Pass:**

**August 2020: 16°28.370S / 152°15.209W** we picked up one of the available moorings which was in 9-meters of water surrounded by scattered bommies. After swimming on the mooring, we discovered it to be two sand screws chained together leading to rode – all of which appeared to be in good condition. The mooring held us securely during a thunder/lightning storm and proved to be reliable while we were on it.

**16°28.493S / 152°15.030W** we dropped the hook in 7 meters of sandy water (on a separate occasion). Once we let the scope out we were close to the shallows, but we only have a 1 meter draft. This positioned us close to the pass for an early morning departure and offered a little protection from easterly winds. – Sugar Shack

**June 2020: 16°28.50S / 152°15.08W.** We anchored in 7-8M on sand with some low patches of coral. There is a shallow shelf here that runs about 1.7M deep so could be good for very shallow draft vessels. This is the area just west of the north tip of Motu Pitiahe which is the motu on your Port side as you enter the pass. The charts

show 5 moorings in this area. There may be 1 or 2 still floating and the rest are on the bottom. Use at your own risk. – Maple

**Aug. 2018:** We anchored out near the motu on the north side of the pass amongst the bommies but were ok. We cleared out of French Polynesia in Bora Bora but still made a few stops before going to the Cook Islands. Cruisers think this spot is a no go as the pass sounds treacherous but if you have the right conditions go for it! Don't miss this spot! We had light west winds and no swell when we were entering the pass. But make sure you go with enough light. – Consensus

### **10.2.2 Village Anchorage**

You can navigate on the inside of the channel from the pass to the village pier. Anchor in sandy grounds on the right of the channel at 200m in the E dock Pauma in 5 - 6m. – Dream Yacht Charter notes

**January 2024:** Take care navigating in Maupiti. On our way back from the village anchorage we were trying to do our best with 2 persons on the lookout for coral heads, and we were following charts (current C-Map on the chartplotter, and latest OpenCPN o-charts on the laptop) and despite of all of this precautions we hit a coral head with our keel. We draw 7ft 2inch, and we were motoring at barely 2knts, so there was not much damage (only some scratches on the keel bulb).

The exact coordinate of the coral head we have hit based on our chartplotter track and confirmed later with laptop track were 16° 27.1995' S, 152° 14.8595' W. *Ed Note: This coral head is very visible on a satellite chart.*

**August 2020: 16°26.707S / 152°14.558W and 16°26.762S / 152°14.573W.** Anchored in 3-4 meters of sandy water with no bommies. Protected by Motu Tuanai in most conditions, close to the dinghy dock and town. Large anchorage can easily house 20-25 boats with enough swinging room for everyone. – Sugar Shack

**June 2020: 16°26.73S / 152°14.50W.** We anchored in 4-5M on sand. The water clarity is not great but the bottom appears to be soft sand, almost mud. This is just SW of the large sandbar that stretches from the S tip of Motu Tuanai. This area is off the charts but was good holding and shelter for SE wind. We sat out a maramu in relative comfort here. Access to the village is easy from this anchorage. – Maple

## **10.3 Yachtsmen Services**

### **10.3.1 Cooking Gas (Propane/Butane)**

The Mobile Gas station sells cooking gas. (See Fuel below)

### **10.3.2 Fuel (Diesel and Gasoline)**

**Sept. 2020: Fuel dock: 16°27.394S / 153°15.078W.** +689 40 67 83 46. Hours: Mon-Fri: 0730-1200. The entrance to the basin where the Mobile Gas station is located is not very large or deep making it difficult for a sailboat to get in. But you can take your dinghy in and refuel jerry cans easily. Many local fishermen and pangas squeeze inside the basin so be sure to be respectful when tying up your dinghy. You can also walk from the dinghy dock, albeit a long walk carrying jerry cans. No duty free and cash only. When the supply ship comes in the basin becomes a mad house with pangas wanting to refuel. – Sugar Shack

### **10.3.3 Trash and Recycling**

**Sept. 2020:** There are several recycling receptacles around the island and located on the main road. They recycle glass, aluminum, and plastic. Next to most recycling receptacles are trash cans. The most convenient recycling bins are the receptacles near the dinghy dock next to Le Maire and the post office. – Sugar Shack

### **10.3.4 Water**

**Sept. 2020:** There are several water stations located on the main street. They are small white stations with blue trim and a solar panel on the roof. We found two stations when we turned right (near the Heiva field)

and two stations when we turned left (near the pink school). All on the main road. They appear to have a “card slot” but we did not need one when we filled our drinking mugs. – Sugar Shack

## **10.4 General Services**

### **10.4.1 Air Tahiti**

Air Tahiti office is located next to Le Mairie (near the dinghy dock). +689 40 60 15 04 and +689 40 86 42 42, [reservations@airtahiti.pf](mailto:reservations@airtahiti.pf), [www.airtahiti.pf](http://www.airtahiti.pf). Their hours vary widely. Locals said it is open, when it is open.

### **10.4.2 Banks / ATMs**

**July 2024:** A couple of days ago we withdrew cash from the new OPT ATM using two different USA bank debit cards. However, while we were in Maupiti for about 2 weeks, there was a period of about 6 days where the ATM was out of service. When it came back up we could use our USA debit cards again with no problem – Fundango

**April 2023:** To elaborate about the new ATM in Maupiti, in fact there is a brand new post office building. It is south of the old one but not far. It is an OPT office and has an OPT ATM. But, you need to have a local (OPT or ??) bank account to use it. We do, and our OPT bank card worked just fine. You can also go into any OPT office and withdraw funds (anywhere meaning in all of FP) with you card or proper ID from your OPT account.

Your bank card from ??? will not work. (I tried mine from Canada and a USA one as well)

They do not accept other client cards and do not offer exchange services, at least in Maupiti.

- Hedonism

**Oct 2022:** We have recently arrived in Maupiti and found there is an ATM here outside the Post Office! - Womble

**June 2020:** There are no banks or ATMs. Credit cards are not accepted. Take cash and more than you think you will need as you will most likely stay longer than planned, either because of this island’s beauty or because of weather making it hard to leave. – Maple

### **10.4.3 Le Maire**

Le Maire is located in front of the dingy dock, to the right post office. Hours: Mon-Fri: 0730-1500.

### **10.4.4 Medical**

**Aug. 2020:** There is an Infirmierie de Maupiti located to the right of the dinghy dock and on the right. They are building a new facility right next door. It looks like the new medical facility will be at least another year (2021) before it is complete.

Massage Therapist: Maupiti Massage services +689 87 36 94 94. Location, turn right from dinghy dock, on left there is street sign). – Sugar Shack

### **10.4.5 Post Office**

**April 2023:** There is a brand new post office building in Maupiti. It is south of the old one but not far. It is an OPT office and has an OPT ATM. But, you need to have a local (OPT or ??) bank account to use it. They do not accept other client cards and do not offer exchange services, at least in Maupiti. – Hedonism

**Pre-2023:** The post office (yellow building) is located in front of the dinghy dock and next to Le Maire. Hours: Mon, Tues, Fri: 0730-1200; Wed-Thurs: 0730-1200 & 1300-1500. You need to obtain a number and wait with the crowds before getting your business done. Mondays and Fridays tend to be very busy!



#### **10.4.6 Tire Reproduction “Reparation Pneus”**

Tire repairs for cars, scooters, and bikes. +689 87 76 28 37. Location left from main dock on left hand side (before commercial dock).

#### **10.4.7 Transportation**

**Air Tahiti** flies into Maupiti three times a week (Friday, Sunday, and Tuesday) landing on Motu Tuani (the long motu on the northeastern side of the central island). Pensions will pick up their guests and sometimes Air Tahiti will have a “launch” to take passengers to Vaiea.

**Maupiti Express:** Ferry from Bora Bora to Maupiti. +689 40 67 66 69 [maupitiexpress@mail.pf](mailto:maupitiexpress@mail.pf). Is currently not in service (could be COVID) [www.maupitiexpress.com](http://www.maupitiexpress.com). It used to depart Bora Bora Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday at 0830 and arriving Maupiti about 1015. And it used to leave Maupiti at 1600 and arriving Bora Bora around 1730. Fares are about 3000xpf one way, 4000xpf round trip.

#### **Bike Rentals:**

**Aug. 2020:** Left from dinghy dock, on right hand side. Hours: Mon-Sun: 0700-1600. You can rent bikes for 1000XPF each from Gabby (French only) or his son Sammy (English/French). Sammy can be reached on VHF 16 sometimes. The bikes are in reasonable condition, but the brakes were a little “soft.” – Sugar Shack

**June 2020: 16° 27.02S / 152° 14.59W** The road around the island is flat most of the way with one hill at the SW corner (20% incline/decline). They do not want you to ride up or down the hill so if you go that way, dismount and walk the bike. The bikes are in reasonably good repair but I would not trust the brakes on the hill as it is quite steep - follow their advice and walk. – Maple

#### **10.4.8 Wifi / Internet**

**August 2020:** We were getting 4G internet access from Vini out by the pass and by the village. The Le Mairie offers free wifi during the week from 0700-1900. There is no wifi on the weekends or evenings. – Sugar Shack

### **10.5 Provisions**

**Aug. 2020: Fresh Produce:** Fresh vegetables are available Monday and Friday from 0900-1100 at the small covered market just behind the Poste. Salad, cabbage, cucumbers, green peppers, aubergine, tomatoes are usually available, all locally grown. Sometimes, one of the vendors will have eggs. You can order produce on Mondays and pick up on Friday (or order Friday for Monday)

Standard items most cruisers use and may struggle to find include onions, potatoes, garlic, and eggs. Stock up on all these in order to save yourself running around.

Most magasins do not have bread or eggs. At the magasins you might be able to find onions or potatoes but they are rare and there are not many other fresh items in the stores, just typical shelf stable foods. – Maple

**The following magasins can be found when you turn right from the dinghy dock:**

**Magasin Homai** - 16°26.431S / 152°14.51W. This is the first magasin and will be on your right. +689 40 67 83 15. Hours: Mon-Sat: 0800-1800. The magasin is counter service and only offers drinks. Beer, wine, hard alcohol, soda, and juice are all available. Bottled beer can be purchased only if you are returning empty bottles.

**Magasin Koki**- 16°26.40S / 152°14.51W. This is the next magasin on the left side of the street. +689 87 71 03 33. Hours: Mon-Sun: 0800-1200 & 1600-1900. The magasin is counter service with a red awning and offers standard goods. This was the only shop where we could find emmental cheese. This was also where we did have success finding eggs a couple of times. The owner is Mark and he speaks a little English.

**Magasin Virau** - 16°26.39S / 152°14.51W. +689 40 67 82 26. Hours: Mon-Fri: 0730-1100. This is the next shop on your left. The magasin is self-service and offers standard goods.

**Magasin Tamure** - 16°26.30S / 152°14.53W. Hours: Mon, Tues, Thur, Fri: 0800-1200 & 1600-1800. Wed & Sat: 0800-1800. This is next on your right. The magasin is counter service and has standard goods available. Some

are displayed, but they have additional stock in the back so if you don't see what you want, ask and they may have it hidden away.

**Eggs** - 16°26.28S / 152°14.54W. Just a bit further along on your left is a house that sells eggs. They have a short but steep drive just off the road and a counter with pricing for eggs. Ask - if they don't have any eggs, they'll suggest you stop by á demain (tomorrow) but chances are they won't have any then either. They are located just before the new medical facility. Dinghy dock, turn right on main street, on left side.

Sometimes one of the vendors at fresh market will sell eggs (on Mondays and Fridays behind the post)

**Fish:** One of the locals sells fish in front of their house when they catch an abundance. They have a sign and rack by the street. From Dinghy dock, turn right, past the magasins, house is yellow and on the left.

### **Magasins located south of the dinghy dock (turn left onto main road)**

**Magasin & Bakery** - 16°27.07S / 152°15.00W. This is a larger store that offers counter service. They are also the only bakery we could find. Fresh bread is available M-W-F at 0730-1200, T-TH 07300-0900 and Sunday 0530-0700. Locals line up for opening to get bread and it is a bit of a rumble seeing 20-30 people pile into a small store to grab up their baguettes. There are lots of baguettes to go around so if you want to avoid the rush, show up around 7:45 after the locals have moved on. Sundays they sell Danishes and croissants but you have to pre-order.

**Ice:** The cooperative sells ice from the ice machine. Hours: Mon-Sat: 0700-1100 & 1500-1800, Sun: 0600-0930. From dinghy dock, turn left, on the left near the wharf. Green building.

## **10.6 Restaurants**

**August 2020:** We found a few eateries on the main road (see below). – Sugar Shack

**Tarona** – Restaurant / Bar +689 40 67 82 46. Hours: Mon-Fri: 1100-1330. Right from dinghy dock on right hand side. The sign in front of the restaurant is very old and faded, but the restaurant itself is lovely. Situated right on the water, you enjoy a cool breeze and mantas swimming by while you relish their tasty food. They provide very “healthy” portions, reasonably priced beer, and friendly service. Everything we had was delicious and we ate here 6/7 times during our stay.

**Snack Nehenehe:** +689 87 73 46 18 or +689 87 33 99 75. Hours: Mon-Fri: 1100-1300 (they varied). Turn right from dinghy dock, on left hand side. Only open when they want to open which was often, but infrequent.

**Taps Pizza** +689 40 67 82 78. Hours: Thurs-Sun: 1800-2000. Turn left from dinghy dock, on right hand side next to Pension Taputea

**Chez Mimi** (located near Terei'a Beach and Pension Espace Beach). +689 40 67 83 37. Hours: Mon-Sun: 1100-1500 (closed when ship comes in). You can access them on foot or by bike. It is about 3.5 miles from the dinghy dock or 3 miles from the commercial dock (Mobile Fuel station). The food was just “ok” but the setting is spectacular and beautiful. She offers quick service with a smile.

### **10.6.1 Restaurants on Motu Tiapaa**

This is the motu to the left of the channel as you are exiting the pass.

**August 2020:** There are sever pensions on this motu. Two of them offer lunch services if you make reservations in advanced. They are on the pacific side of the motu.

**Maupiti Village** +689 40 67 80 08 and their [Facebook page](#). They take lunch reservations and are noted to offer very good food. They are on the lagoon side of the motu.

**Pension Papa Hani** we could not find a phone number for them. However, we stopped by, they said we could make reservations for another day. They were super helpful and the place was lovely.

**Le Kuriri** is a [pension](#) that may take reservations for lunch and/or dinner. +689 40 67 82 23 or +689 87 74 54 54 and email [kurii@mail.pf](mailto:kurii@mail.pf).

## 10.7 Activities

### Tours & Fishing

**August 2020:** [Sammy Maupiti Tours](#) (English speaking) tours of the island or lagoon. +689 40 67 80 30 or +689 76 99 28. He will give you a tour of the island or the lagoon with or without lunch. He is super nice, friendly and easy going. You can sometimes reach him on VHF 16 or at the bike rental place.

[Marlin Star Fishing](#) Excursions with Nounou is amazing! +689 87 77 03 81 or +1 949 246 7145 or you can reach him by email at [info@marlinstar.com](mailto:info@marlinstar.com). He will take you out for the day in his super-fast, 35' boat with a turbo diesel engine (top speed 40kts). Cost was around 5000xpf per person and you can buy the fish he catches at a reasonable price. We went out about 18-20nm toward Bora Bora. They troll with their two large rod and reels (130) for marlin, tuna, and wahoo. They use a harpoon for Mahi. Don't miss this experience to see a local fisherman hook a Mahi Mahi and troll for marlin/swordfish! – Sugar Shack

### Hiking and Walking

**Sept. 2020:** Hike Maupiti – walk across lagoon – Hike Motu Auirā. Make an all-day adventure out of this 10-mile excursion. We parked at the dinghy dock, turned left, walked around the bottom part on Maupiti, up over the mountain (on the road) to Snack and Pension Espace Beach (near Chez Mimi). This is about 3.5 miles.

At the pension you will see a sandy spit that sticks out. Start from there and cross the lagoon. We looked up low tide for Bora for good crossing. Yet we arrived at high tide (maybe due to the full moon). The water came up to about our chest (I'm 5'2") and had a 1-1.5 kt current. Even with the water aerobic conditions, we still crossed it in 30 minutes, albeit a little tired. Shoot to make landfall to the left of the boat lifts. Do not go ashore near the house with the retaining wall (they have guard dogs).

We walked around the bottom part of Motu Auirā which was a lovely walk. Using maps.me, we walked around the bulb part of the motu and then crossed over the center of the island following a nice trail (car tracks) that led us to our starting point. We crossed back over the lagoon, had a cold beer at Chez Mimi, then headed back around the island to complete the circumnavigation of Maupiti. Great walk that took us about 5 hours including several photo opportunities and the beer stop.

**Hike Around the Island:** You can easily hike around the entire island which is about 8 miles. Turn right or left and follow the road all the way around, up and over the hill and back to the village. Very lovely!

**Hiking Mount Teurafaatui** (372m). Evidently there are several hikes to the top of different mountain peaks. We found the first one off the main road. Turn right from the dinghy dock, past Tarona (restaurant) and on the left will be stone steps leading up. This trail is steep, but shaded and can be slippery if it had just rained. There is another trail further down the road (about .05 miles past the stairs) below the large cliff, turn the corner and you will see a cave and a tree. The tree has the white/red/white marker painted on it. This trail is not as steep, is dry and very well marked.

The trail that starts at the steps is marked by 3 lines (red, black yellow). We made it to the top climbing up with a few ropes and lots of muddy areas. It is shaded which is great, but it also means the trail can be slippery with recent rains. It is a steep incline as you go straight up (nothing gentle about this ascension). On the way down, we took a different route which was marked white, red, white and was much easier, drier and had no ropes. It dropped us off on the main street about ½ mile from the original steps. There is a big cave and a tree marked with the white, red, white to indicate the start of the trail. – Sugar Shack

**June 2020: 16 26.38S 152 14.51W.** There is a fantastic hike to the top of the island. There is a trail marked on maps.me that may be accurate but we found the trailhead at the waypoint above. This is a side road that leads up past some homes to a cell tower. At the cell tower you turn left and follow a service road to another cell tower where you proceed along a hiking path up the mountain. Best done after a few dry days as it can get muddy. Start in the morning and wear good shoes, the hike is about 2 hours with some sections requiring the use of ropes to help up steep rock faces. The view is incredible and well worth the effort. The perimeter of the island has a road running along it. It is approximately 8KM all the way around and makes a lovely walk, not too strenuous with just one hill. – Maple

## Snorkeling and Diving

Please be respectful of the regulations surrounding the manta rays, which are a protected species. Maupiti Diving works closely with the [Manta Trust](#) which outlines how to swim, snorkel, and dive with Manta Rays. These rules sound “standard” but you’d be surprised at what stupid things we saw visitors do.

- Do not take your dinghy over the cleaning station. Do not pick up/drop off passengers in the manta area as the outboards will scare the mantas and you could injure a swimmer.
- Enter the water quietly and calmly, no closer than 10 meters.
- Keep your fins below the water’s surface. Splashing and noise scare the mantas away.
- Please do not free dive at or near the manta ray cleaning station.
- Do not approach the mantas closer than 3 meters. Remain still and let the manta come to you.
- Approach the manta from their side, giving them a clear path ahead.
- Do not chase after the manta. You will not catch them and you will scare them away.
- Do not touch a manta ray, you will ruin the encounter and may receive a fine.
- If you encounter the manta at a cleaning station, remain on the side of the station. Do not swim onto or touch the cleaning station.
- Divers should remain low and close to the seabed, but do not to damage the coral or reef below you.
- If a manta swims towards you, do not block their path. Stay low and stay where you are.
- For a brief video and more information on protecting the mantas, visit, [swimmingwithmantas.org](http://swimmingwithmantas.org).

Maupiti Diving is a dive club who works for the leisure, discovery, and protection of underwater biodiversity.

There is one dive club on Maupiti called [Maupiti Diving](#) (it is a club). +689 40 67 82 80, maupitidiving.com or [info@maupitidiving.com](mailto:info@maupitidiving.com). Yannick and Nelly run dive tours and are instrumental in the protection and preservation of the manta rays. They do dive tours around the island and will help with refilling dive tanks.

**Sept. 2020:** We had the immense pleasure of swimming with the manta rays several times. However, the more the tourists agitated the mantas the fewer showed up. There were days when there were no mantas. Hopefully, future visitors will be kinder to the mantas so that others can enjoy this spectacular experience. Here are some other good snorkel spots (from other cruisers). Watch the weather as the experience can be less than pleasant if there is a strong current and murky waters – which happens more often than not.

16° 27.413S / 152° 14.16W somewhere around here, we did not have our GPS, is a small black mooring that you can tie your dinghy to. It is about 1-2 meters with lots of coral heads and tiny fish. Fun place to explore.

Next to Point Farapa’ia between the reef and motu is supposed to be good snorkeling and pretty coral. We did not get a chance to snorkel this area.

False Pass: Between Motu Tuanai and Motu Paeao is a false pass with larger fish and pretty coral heads.

Next to Point Tereia Varua is an area for good snorkeling.

Lots of sting rays, spotted rays, and manta rays. Interesting enough, we didn’t see any sharks! – Sugar Shack

**June 2020:** 16° 28.38S / 152° 14.93W There is a famous manta feeding station in Maupiti. It is nothing short of magical. The mantas hang around a large bommie that is at the approximate waypoint above. DO NOT ANCHOR AT THE WAYPOINT. The mantas come daily between 9:00AM and 11:00 AM. At times there may be only one but we saw 9 on one day. Usually there are 4-5 hanging around. If you take your dinghy, anchor it 10-15M away from the waypoint to the SW or tie it to the nearby red channel marker. The mantas tolerate snorkelers but do not like to be chased or have you free dive down to get a look at them. Stay at the surface and enjoy the show. The mantas also tolerate scuba divers well. If you dive, take lots of weights and settle in on the bottom 3-5M SW of the rock. The mantas will swim past overhead and be right in front of you as they wait to be cleaned. Visibility can range from crystal clear to murky if it’s not good, come back another day. There can be a strong current flowing to the SE (towards the pass) so be aware and cautious. – Maple

**Aug. 2012:** There are lots of manta rays here in the shallows. There was little life on the reef here. We didn’t make it into town to do the hike here either, but heard it was great. – Consensus

## **Bike Rentals, Kayaks, Pangas**

**Aug.2020:** You can rent a crystal kayak (fully transparent). +689 40 67 81 43. Located just past the Palace by the Sea (turn right from dinghy dock, walk about 1 mile, on left hand side. Sign is out front). 30 minutes is 3500xpf and 60 minutes is 5000xpf. They will also rent a small panga with outboard for 4500xpf for 30 minutes or 6000xpf for an hour. – Sugar Shack

**June 2020:** 16° 27.02S / 152° 14.59W. You can rent bikes for 1000XPF/day from Gabby and Sammu. Hours: Mon-Sun: 0700-1600. They are located to the left of the dinghy dock and on your right-hand side. They have a large open space in front of their house where they rent lots of bikes to ride around the island. The road is flat most of the way with one small hill at the SW corner. They do not want you to ride up or down the hill so if you go that way, dismount and push the bike. The bikes are in reasonably good repair but I would not trust the brakes on the hill as it is quite steep - follow their advice and walk. – Maple

## **Things to See**

**Aug.2020: Palace of the Sea - [Le Palais de la Mer](#).** Location: Turn right from dinghy dock, walk 1 mile, on right side. (Approx. 16° 43.571S / 152° 25.191W) +689 87 21 74 40. Reservations required. Hours: Fri-Sun: 0900-1100 and 1500-1800. 2000xpf for adults and 1000xpf for kids. This is a cultural experience! You will receive a hand-woven hat, shells, a tour of the sea palace, free coconut Champaign, and hours of entertainment. He only speaks French. – Sugar Shack

## **Artisan Markets**

**Aug.2020:** We found several homes that sold jewelry, necklaces, shells, and wind chimes. Most were open when the residents were home (you can't miss them from the street). There is one to the left of the dinghy dock, on the right-hand side (past the bike rental place). Vaitia Artisan is located just past the Palace by the Sea (turn right from dinghy dock, on the left side). Be warned that prices are expensive! – Sugar Shack

## **10.8 Cruiser Reports**

**June 2020:** Beach: On the motus. Also, on the SW corner of the island where there is a lovely beach at the end of the road. From this beach you can walk through waist deep shallows to Motu Auira. – Maple

**Dream Yacht Charter Notes:** Vaiea: The village runs from north to south of the main island to the east at the foot of the cliff of Mount Tiriano. Vaiea comprises the majority of inhabitants of Maupiti. It consists of houses along the beltway, a small church, town hall, post office, police station and a restaurant. The village is spread over a mile along the narrow coastal strip.

# **11 Mopelia (aka Maupihaa)**

**Overview – September 2020:** Mopelia is an atoll that is owned by the government of the Leeward Islands, administered from Maupiti. All residents are homesteaders. They do not own the land but have homesteader agreements with the government that allows them to live there and harvest copra.

They are given free passage to Mopelia on a cargo boat about once/year when the copra is ready to be shipped to Tahiti. They require 14.5 tons of copra before the cargo boat will come.

As of September, 2020, there were 20 people living on Mopelia. As this atoll is so remote, residents rely on cruisers for transportation from Maupiti and for transportation of supplies. They greatly appreciate this help and treat cruisers exceptionally well.

The pass into the lagoon is on the NW side of the atoll. It is not advisable to attempt the pass with strong, northerly component wind. There is generally an outgoing current which can be strong. The entrance is also narrow but not a problem for cruising boats. Red and green marks on the chart are not in place. There are two white marks at the narrowest point in the pass. They are clearly visible from outside. Follow your chart to be clear of the surf on the reef and just head for the entrance. Then look for orange pearl buoy floats in a cluster.

There may be one or two sets. If two sets, go between. We encountered only one set but it was clear that the south side of the floats was deep water. We saw a minimum of 15 feet (4.5 meters) throughout the pass. Current was about 1.5 to 2.5 knots. Lowest current should be around noon.

The motu on the east side of the lagoon is populated all along its 8 km length. The two main anchorages are on the north side where there are two, major homesteads, Norma (local mayor) and Harry, and Marcello and Adrienne. They are the two prominent families and have extended family on the motu. This anchorage is very good in any wind direction containing a northerly component. Navigation inside the lagoon is mostly deep with the usual bommies. Not hard to navigate.

The south end of the motu is a fine anchorage in winds with a southerly component. There are homesteads on the south end, mostly younger couples or singles.

Please ask in Maupiti if there are supplies that are needed in Mopelia. Ask at the government office near the dinghy dock as well as the vegetable market. Mention to anyone around that you are heading to Mopelia, if you are willing to take cargo. And be ready with a decision if you are willing to transport people or not.

Even if no one has cargo for you to bring (you just didn't ask enough people), supplies they will mostly want are: baguettes, frozen chicken or beef, cake or brownie mixes, limes or lime juice, jam, peanut butter, condiments and mayonnaise. For fixing boats, they can use strong boat caulk (5200), stainless steel screws, hose clamps, fiberglass and resin. They will also appreciate outboard motor gas and oil. XL or XXL clothing, fabric, reading glasses and French magazines are also appreciated. Be aware that there are some alcohol problems so don't bring alcohol as gifts.

Manta Rays swim around the anchorages on occasion, right at the surface. There are numerous coconut crabs and the locals will prepare them for you. Walks along the road (built for abandoned Meteo station) are quite enjoyable and you will want to stop and talk to everyone you meet. Look for ballast stones along the southern end of the motu, beach. These are from an ancient, Spanish ship wreck.

Water is not often clear in the anchorages for snorkeling due to little incoming flow in the lee of the motu. Reefs to the north and south ends of the motu are fine snorkeling. But the best snorkeling is outside the pass on the south side of the reef. Attempt this in calm weather and enjoy the wreckage of the Seadler, WWI German ghost ship, in 4 meters of water. Fish and coral are exceptional outside the reef as well.

Please also spread your gifts around among the homesteads. You will be overwhelmed by the generosity and friendliness of these people, a truly remarkable cruising experience. – s/v Uproar

## **11.1 Pass**

**July 2023:** We did a one night sail from Raiatea to Maupihaa, arriving around noon. The pass into Maupihaa is narrow and quite intimidating, but it's straight and has good depth the whole way. The current is always outgoing and mostly dependent on how much water is being pushed into the lagoon by the swell. The forecast swell at the time we arrived was southerly 2.3m at 9s and we saw approximately 3 knots of current against us, friends who arrived a few days later with a bigger swell saw over 4 knots. – Mandolyn

**May 2023:** We went into Maupihaa a week ago. Frankly, paradise. But with a scary entrance. Only moderate swell/wind, the outgoing current was in excess of 5kts and caused overfalls several hundred meters out to sea. Channel is clear, very narrow. About 3-4m clearance either side of our 7.5m wide cat. Shallow channel but ok for most boats. Once inside the lagoon is pretty clear of obstructions. – TiAma (15m Catamaran)

**September 2020:** The entrance of the pass is well signaled by 2 white posts.

On our Navionics chart 34XG\_N+ last updated in June 2019, the entrance of the pass is no longer offset by 200m S as mentioned in previous 2010/2011 reports. - Chugach

**Aug. 2018:** There is a very narrow pass to get through here and current rips out the pass, so time it right. No problem with the depth in the pass. There were no breaking waves as we had light wind, but I wouldn't want

to attempt this one in any side swell or unfavorable winds. The current wasn't a problem when we went through. Maupihaa is another secret spot not to be missed! -- Consensus

**July 2011: 16 46.896 S / 153 58.659W.** Pass entrance. We continued onto Mopelia, an overnight sail away. We arrived in the morning with good overhead sunlight for the pass and crossing the lagoon. The pass at Mopelia is on the northwest side of the island.

It is actually a little south of where shown on our Navionics chart by a few hundred yards. Our track through the pass goes over the reef - as shown on the chart plotter. Charlie's Charts describes this pass as one of the trickiest in French Polynesia because it is very narrow with a strong current. "A reliable engine and a good set of nerves is necessary". This is a very good description of the pass and was scarier than any pass we encountered in the Tuamotus.

The pass is only about 60' wide (about 30' deep) so you feel like you can reach out and touch the reef on either side. Once you start you are committed. It is simply too narrow with too much current to turn around. You can see it's sharply defined edges. Because it is narrow, the current is strong. It is always ebbing. Charlie's says it can get up to 6 knots of current but we had 3.5 kt against us entering the lagoon. Our 55 Yanmar engine was moving the boat at 7.5 kts and our speed over ground was about 4 kts.

There are white markers on either side of the pass so when you get close enough you can see the pass clearly. The water is quite turbulent with lots of eddies but no breaking waves. Winds were moderate from the east at the time. After you get through the pass there is an area of coral heads which were about 20' under the water so a bow lookout is helpful. We stayed a little to the right of the pass as we crossed this section.

Our exit from the lagoon through the pass was uneventful but FAST! This time of course the current was with us, again about 3 - 4 kts so we rocketed through. With our fast speed of 9-10 kts, it seemed easier than entering the pass, perhaps because it was over more quickly! – Sara Jean II

**Aug. 2010:** Mopelia is located approximately 135 nm WSW of Bora Bora. A true atoll, Mopelia has an extremely NARROW entry, but one that is protected as it lies on the NW corner. There is almost always an out flowing current of 3+kt; the water is roiled in the pass and just outside, but standing waves over 1 foot rarely will form.

Of note, there is a chart offset of approximately 220 yards, with the chart shifted to the north. In other words, the pass as seen on the chart will be north of your entry point by this amount – your boat will lie 220 yards south of the charted pass as you enter. Our waypoints were as follows:

- Approach – 16 46.868S / 153 58.735W
- Approach - 16 46.913S / 153 58.678W
- Pass Outer Entry Point - 16 46.953S / 153 58.627W
- Inner Pass Exit - 16 47.155S / 153 58.381W
- Inner Pass Approach - 16 47.317S / 153 58.242W

– Visions of Johanna

**2010:** Electronic charts (Navionics, Maxsea/CMap) put the island around 200 meters too far north. The only time you do not want to try to enter Mopelia is in a westerly wind. The pass current is 2-6 knots, and you will want to enter between 10am and 2pm for good light. There are standing waves of only 1-2 feet when entering in normal easterlies, even at the strongest current.

The pass motu that is easily seen on approach is to the south of the entrance when approaching from the north.

There are only two black/white 4" diameter poles sticking up about 4-5 feet high, newly painted and obvious when you are close.

The key with Mopelia is that it looks very narrow for a long way on the chart. It isn't. It is narrow at the entrance, but then fans out. The charts make it look like you will see rocks or land to your left and right. NOT

THE CASE. You will see a long narrow dry reef to the right, but not the left. The left side is shallow, but harder to see. It is best to have some higher sun if possible. We saw 15 boats go in/out and no one had a problem. The pass is narrow, but only at the outer entrance...60-70 feet wide, but easy to see all dangers which is the fact that it's 1 foot deep on each side at the entrance. The current is always OUTGOING. Can be 4-5 knots. The entrance is 45 feet deep. (Minimum depth in the channel on the way in was 14-16 feet. Most of the channel was around 25')

Once inside, FAVOR the right. Think of a fan out that is 25 degrees wide. Stay to the right. The land and bottom are visible on your right. The left side is very shallow but quite wide as it FANS out.

Once you are about 100 yds in past the poles, you've done it, it's really quite straight forward. The only problem is, there are no aids once inside. The lagoon has bommies but they are deep out in the middle, one reef is marked, you'll see it heading to the south motu where Calami and Sophie live. There is no village on the north as the guide books say. WATCH OUT FOR THE ABANDONED PEARL OYSTER BUOYS in the lagoon. Some are a few feet deep too! – Beachhouse

## **11.2 Anchorages and Moorings**

**July 2023:** The two main anchorages are at the north and south ends of the large eastern motu. Both were spacious with good holding in sand. The northern one had more scattered coral. We floated our chain in both and had no issues. There were a few old pearl farm buoys just below the surface as we approached the southern anchorage, so a good lookout is advisable.

**People:** There were about eight people on Maupihaa when we were there, living along the length of the motu. They are all processing copra for shipment to Tahiti and they need 40 tons before a ship will come to collect it, so it's several years between ships. They do go back to Maupiti on occasion, but they also really appreciate any supplies that cruisers can bring.

Harry and Norma at the northern anchorage are extremely welcoming to cruisers and in appreciation for the supplies we brought prepared us a wonderful dinner. They were excited to get rice and flour (self-rising), concentrated juice syrup, curry powder, butter, a few cake mixes, any fresh fruit or vegetables, extra gasoline, and French action movies. They also wanted cruisers to know that if anyone can stop at Maupiti before Maupihaa, the families of the people on Maupihaa would be very grateful to be able to send some supplies. If you are able to do this, please contact the mayor at Maupiti to make arrangements. – Mandolyn

**May 2023:** The "village" on the charts is just one house. There's another two houses much further away. But the entire population (6, of whom only 4 were actually there at the time) are from the same family.

They were very happy to have visitors, suggest bringing some gifts (bottle of Coke was very appreciated, plus some foodstuffs). Got a couple huge coconut crabs, delicious... Water was crystalline, coral when snorkeling was great. A different world, highly recommend, especially if en route from Bora Bora to the Cooks - **TiAma**

**Aug. 2018:** We motored into the lagoon dodging coral heads that looked very shallow but were not too shallow in the end. We anchored on the north eastern side of the lagoon without much protection from the wind chop in the lagoon. We were ok here in 12 knots of wind at anchor. Very shallow bommies here! We couldn't get too close to the shore. – Consensus

**July 2011: 16-49.576 S / 153-55.633 W.** It is a big anchorage. There are many pearl farm floats here that need to be avoided as well as some coral heads. There is sand for anchoring between the coral with good holding in 30 - 40 ft. We crossed the lagoon to the south end of the motu to anchor. There is some protection there against easterly winds. A bow lookout is necessary to watch for abandoned pearl farm floats. Be careful as some are submerged. It is best to cross the lagoon with the sun overhead for good visibility. There is a lovely anchorage in front of Hina's home with a long white sandy beach. Her neighbor's power boat is anchored in front of her house so this helps to identify the anchorage. – Sara Jean II

**Aug. 2010: 16 49.683S / 153 65.63W** at SE anchorage area and **16 47.05S / 153 56.66W** at East Anchorage.



The SE anchorage is near the inhabited area of the atoll, and provides slightly more protection in winds from the south to east. The eastern anchorage provides better protection from the east to north, and access to the pass for diving. Neither anchorage area would be enjoyable in westerlies. – Visions of Johanna

### **11.3 Activities**

#### **Snorkeling**

**Aug. 2018:** There are lots of black tip sharks everywhere but they don't mess with you. You can swim off of the beach here. We were told about wrecks outside of the pass here, but could never find them. We drifted the pass several times holding onto the dinghy and saw so many huge fish and sharks! Grey sharks, large napoleon wrasse, large schools of jacks, snappers, and several manta rays. The atoll was very full of life in and out of the lagoon. The corals weren't too healthy inside the lagoon.

Keep an eye out for humpback whales swimming outside of the atoll as you pass by it. – Consensus

**July 2011:** There is a wreck called the Sea Adler that you can snorkel. It is reportedly just outside the pass to the southwest. Some of the cruisers dinghied across the lagoon one day to the pass but we do not have a big dinghy or engine and did not want to use the gas so elected not to go. We had heard of a boat that anchored their big boat outside the pass to snorkel on the Sea Adler and we intended to do this however the location of the anchorage (50' depths) appeared too close to the breaking waves on the reef for our liking so we did not stop when enroute to Palmerston. – Sara Jean II

**Aug. 2010:** The diving just outside the pass is exceptional, the best we had done in the Societies. The snorkeling is good too, although you have to consider snorkeling outside the pass with surge and swells, or just inside the pass with considerable current.

In light easterlies it is reported that one can anchor just inside the pass by the western motus south of the entry, but winds did not cooperate during our stay. We moved to the eastern anchorage and took the dinghy 1.65 nm across the lagoon to dive. There is quite a bit of current in the pass and a 15 HP or greater engine is best for this as you traverse the pass, and then return to the anchorage against the east wind.

There is a buoy just outside the pass on the south side which marks the anchor chain of "The Seeadler" shipwreck, and one can tie the dinghy to it for a dive along the wall to the south of the pass. You can begin your dive by dropping 30 feet to the bottom in nice coral, and then proceed a short distance west to the wall. We dove to 70-90 feet and (turned left) swam south against a very light counter current along a beautiful 70-degree wall. Coral was great, fish were large and abundant. We turned around at a ravine about 20 – 25 minutes into the dive (~1800 psi), ascended to 30-40 feet, and drifted back with the current. The dive then continues past the buoy to the edge of the pass, where you hang out and watch the fish and their antics. It was stupendous.

Another time we brought a heavier anchor (mother ship stern anchor) and did a similar dive along the north wall. Also, excellent, but perhaps the coral was not quite as healthy and the North wall of the pass has more current and less visibility. – Visions of Johanna

**Aug. 2010:** Diving: We dove on the outside of the pass snorkeling on the wreck. Parts of the Seeadler are in 10-15 feet of water IMMEDIATELY to the south of the pass on the outside. The wreck on your charts shown north of the pass is not there. You won't see any remnant of it. If you want to see what you can dive or snorkel at either location, see our website at: [www.svbeachhouse.com](http://www.svbeachhouse.com) – Beachhouse

### **11.4 Cruiser Reports**

**Aug. 2018:** Very much worth the stop if you have time and can get here. Google says this island is uninhabited but it is very much not so! See Marcelo on the shore once you have anchored. He lives here with his wife and two daughters. We were given coconuts and they just wanted to talk to us, practice their English, and tell us about their coconut plantation. They don't get too many cruisers there every year. There are 24 people living on the island now, but they are all extended family. – Consensus

**July 2011:** There are 3 people currently living on the island. Hina used to be a pearl farmer but she has not done this for about 10 years. She found it too labor intensive. She is now a copra farmer. Monique lives down the road and Frankie lives at the other end of the motu. There is a road all the way to Frankie's place from Hina's house - about 5-6 km. We walked along it one day. The sandy beach is also great for beach walking - one of the best we've seen in French Polynesia. The water is clean and good for swimming. We kayaked as well. There were 7 boats when we were there in July 2011. A potluck party was organized on shore outdoors at Hina's home for Bastille Day. There were boats from Switzerland, Germany, France, USA and Canada and Hina & Frankie from Mopelia. It was a fun party complete with barbecued coconut crabs from the island. Those crabs are HUGE and very tasty! – Sara Jean II

**Aug. 2010:** Charts show a village in the NE corner as well as several buoys and marks around the pass, but the village is no longer there and reportedly it was destroyed by a typhoon sometime in the 1990's. You will now find the ruins of several homes and remnants of a pier. The 3 families that inhabit the island in 2010 all live in the SE corner. A large family headed by Calami and Sophie inhabit the "middle" homestead, including Calami's son, daughter-in-law, and several grandchildren. There are two other small families living there as well but we did not meet them. – Visions of Johanna

## 12 Moving on to Another French Poly Island Group?

Download our Marquesas, Tuamotus, Societies, and Gambier/Austral Compendia here:

<http://svsoggypaws.com/files/index.htm#frpoly>

## 13 Beyond French Polynesia

See our other guides entitled 'Cooks and Samoas Compendium'.

There are two general routes from French Poly through to Tonga. One is a northern route that stops in one or both of the Samoas before (usually) hooking south to clear in at Neiafu, Tonga.

The other is a more southerly route through the Cooks, with some boats jumping off directly to NZ from the Cooks, and others clearing in either at Neiafu or Tongatapu.

The small island country of Niue is a fun stop, but is usually a bit trying—you use up your weather window getting there, and then sometimes find crap/untenable weather on arrival. We visited Niue from Tonga, by waiting for a low coming by to the south of us, using the westerly winds to sail to Niue, and taking advantage of a week of easterlies to enjoy the only harbor on Niue (on the west side of the island).

If you are American (with ties to US shopping), you can receive US mail easily in American Samoa.

All that, and more, in the Cooks and Samoas Compendium (which also includes Niue).

And beyond the Cooks and Samoas and Niue are Tonga and Fiji. From Fiji we went north, exploring a few island countries between Fiji and the Marshall Islands, then we went west through the Marshall Islands, Micronesia and Palau to the Philippines. We've now (in 2020) been cruising around SE Asia, visiting Malaysia, Singapore, Eastern Indonesia, and the Philippines. In 2019, we made a trip backwards from the Philippines to visit Papua New Guinea and the Solomon Islands. We have created a compendium for every visit. Some are better than others—ones where we had time to thoroughly explore and where others fed us information.

Hopefully in 2021, we will cruise westward through Indonesia to Singapore and Malaysia... and in 2022 or 2023, we'll cruise across the Indian Ocean and up the Red Sea to the Mediterranean.

**Note:** The French Weather Terms appendix has been moved to the French Poly Weather Compendium