



Cruising guide

Leeward Islands
French Polynesia

Maeva ! Welcome onboard



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Luggage on plane

You are limited 20kg for international , 1 per person. Otherwise you have to pay a tax, it can be expensive.

Don't forget to write name, adress and phone number on them.

You will find a locker room at the base to leave large bags or suitcases during your cruise.

There also is a safety box in the office to leave values.

Communications

Mobile phone : mobile network is called Vini in French Polynesia. You can use your own mobile phone if you have international extension prior departure from your country.

Otherwise Raiatea-Tahiti base can provide one with prepaid cards: at the end of you cruise you just pay what you use.

Internet : you will find a wifi access at the base. Otherwise you can use: customerservice@moorings.pf or sunsail.tahiti@mail.pf for communication.

Internet access is available on each island in yacht clubs.

You can buy internet credit with www.hotspot-wdg.com.

Useful informations

Banks opening hours

Banque de Tahiti	8h00 - 12h00 & 13h00 - 15h45
Banque de Polynésie	7h45 - 12h00 & 13h00 - 15h45
Socredo	7h30 - 11h30 & 13h30 - 16h00

Churches

Protestant Church	Sunday	10h00 - 11h00
Catholic Church	Saturday	18h00 - 19h00
	Sunday	8h00 - 9h00

Money

Tahitian money is the CFP (Pacific Franc).

Change with euro : 1 euro =119,33 CFP. Credit cards are accepted everywhere except in small shops or local markets. You will find ATM machines on each island.

Emergency numbers

RAIATEA-TAHITI BASE			
00689 87 777 003			
POLICE STATION			
Raiatea	Bora Bora	Huahine	Taha'a
40 600 305—	40 605 905—	40 606 205—	40 608 105
HOSPITAL			
Raiatea	Bora Bora	Huahine	Taha'a
40 600 800—	40 677 077—	40 688 248—	40 656 331

Arrival in *Raiatea*

At airport a transfer can be organised by Raiatea-Tahiti base to the marina, when you communicate arrival info.

If you are in a hotel we also can organise a transfer to marina.

Let us know if there is any delay with Air Tahiti calling 40 66 35 93 or 40 600 485.

Transfer fees are not included you may pay on spot.

Fishing gear

You can rent fish poles on request if available.

Otherwise you can buy lines, leurres... in Uturoa the main village of Raiatea.



Post office

Post office is open from 7:30 to 15:00 during the week and from 7:30 to 9:30 on Saturday.

Health

You will find at least 5 doctors and 1 hospital in Raiatea.

There are medical centers in Huahine, Bora Bora and Tahaa, as well as drugstores.

Don't forget to bring your own medicine.

No requested vaccine in French Polynesia.

Provisioning

Provisioning is possible on each island, but you will find the largest choice in Raiatea. There are supermarkets in Huahine and Bora Bora.

We recommend you to do your provisioning online.

It will be delivered on your boat on the morning of your departure.

There is no refund for unused food or drink.

Items and prices can vary depending of local market. Adjustments will be done before leaving marina dock.

Kayaks

Single, double kayak and paddle board can be provided on request; it's recommend to reserve in advance.

Snorkeling

Masks, fins and snorkels are provided on yachts, you can choose your size. If you have special one you may prefer to bring your own.

Skipper Notices – Snorkeling Safety:

Our company is very focused on safety requirements on the water and on protection to our customers and visitors from accident.

Please draw special attention to our “Safety Snorkeling Practices” :

- Better to snorkel together and stay as a group than alone.
- One crew member should attach to himself the diving flag which is supplied onboard. (equipment shown during the boat check)
- Be vigilant and aware of your surroundings in the area
- Inform skipper or a member of your crew when you go snorkeling, your intended location and the approximative duration
- Stay close in designated snorkeling areas. Be warned against snorkeling near or in designated navigational channels
- Wear a bright colored t-shirt to help protect yourself from sunburn and also to be spotted in water more easily.
- When a crew member is snorkeling to check anchor place a look-out on foredeck of the yacht.
- Prior to departure should any of your safety snorkel equipment be missing or not in good condition, advise base staff.



Dinghies

When sailing with a catamaran, dinghy should always be set up on davits during navigation, even in lagoon. For monohulls, dinghy should stay behind the boat at 2-3 meters.

- Check there is enough fuel in outboard tank to complete intended dinghy journey.
- Check that oars are in the dinghy and secured.
- Ensure dinghy anchor is onboard and operational.
- Ensure someone onboard your yacht always knows where dinghy is intending to go.
- For a snorkeling trip, take diver down equipment with you. We strongly recommend to use a flashlight on all dinghy trips during hours of darkness and at night.

It will be your responsibility to ensure this safety equipment is in the boat and operational prior to your departure from the base. Report to base staff if you have any problems with any of safety equipment.

We also advised that you take supplied life jackets or PFDs with you in your dinghy. Make sure outboard motor is securely fastened to transom of your dinghy and ensure you fuel tank caps are closed correctly and do not leak.

We advise guests against smoking in the dinghy.

Scuba *diving*

If you wish to scuba dive bring your certification card. Some scuba diving companies provide a « baptême » for beginners. You will find scuba diving centers on each island. Ask at the Raiatea-Tahiti office if you need help you to plan your dives.

Service Calls

Our marina office is open every day from 7.30 to 17:00. Should you have any problems or need information or a weather forecast, call us on phone: 40 66 35 93 or 40 600 485.

Paper works before departure

Before you leave the base for your cruise, we will ask you to present at the customer Service counter : your passeports for copies, a credit card informations for the deposit and your return domestic flight ticket to organize your airport transfer on the last day.

Weather forecast

There are two main seasons during the year, and equivalent to fall and spring inbetween. Rainy season is humid and hot (32°C-90°F approx) and runs from November to end of March.

The dry season which is 'winter' is cooler (26°C-80°F approx) and more windy. It runs from April to October.

Leeward Islands enjoy a prevailing easterly wind of 15 to 20 knots, sometimes increasing to 25 knots which may cause sea to become choppy with a swell of 3 to 5 feet -1.5 to 2 meters.

Leeward Islands are considered north of the hurricane belt.

However occasionally area can be affected by tropical depressions or hurricanes.

In winter, particularly during the months of July and August, southeast winds of 25 to 35 knots called Mara'amu could occur with ocean swells up to 10 to 12 feet - 2.5 to 3 meters possible. These swell can last as long as three days.

Sky is clear, weather is cool (85°F-29°C) during the day and (68°F - 20°C at night). In these conditions we strongly recommend you do not anchor leeward of any high island (especially Raiatea) because of acceleration of winds.

From south of Raiatea to north of Tahaa, passages are exposed to a large swell. Anchoring becomes uncomfortable close to passes.

Anchoring

It's forbidden to sail and take a pass at night.

Don't wait too late in afternoon before choosing an anchorage.

It is recommended to anchor in less than 30 feet-10meters of water or to take a mooring (especially with winds more than 20knts).

You may have to anchor in 80 to 90 feet-26 to 30 meters of water only with good weather conditions; choose a protected place with enough swinging room. Don't do it at night.

VHF

Normal use of VHF is for security and service of boats at sea.

All other use is strictly forbidden.

Raiatea-Tahiti base is on channel 10.

Emergency channel is 16.

From boat to boat, it is better to choose another channel (Ch. 69, 71, 72). VHF range is about 25 nautical miles unless restricted by mountains: in many locations you will not reach the base because of mountains barrier.

Therefore we provide you a local cell phone before departure. You pay only credit you have used at the end of your cruise.

Inter island passages

For your own safety please observe the following simple rules:
Do not leave an island to make an inter-island passage later than 9:00

Going downwind, Raiatea to Bora Bora or Huahine to Raiatea in any condition, takes around 4 hours from pass to pass.

It is quite different against wind, Bora Bora to Raiatea or Raiatea to Huahine could take 6 hours with rough conditions, especially when the Mara'amu blows (strong South East wind).

Arrival time at pass entrance should be no later than 15:30.

Do not try a direct passage from Bora Bora to Huahine or reverse. The sailing time is too long for daylight hours.

Make the passage with an overnight stop in Tahaa or Raiatea .

Please take note that you may NOT sail between hours of sunset and sunrise. Anchor should be down at least one hour before sundown.

GPS

GPS is mainly a help for navigation between islands and must never be used to navigate inside lagoons as the maps are not accurate enough.

Tides & *currents*

Tidal range is less than 1 foot = 30cm and can generally be counted as non-existent.

Low tide is around 6:00 and 18:00, high tide is at noon and midnight.

Currents inside the barrier reef cannot be generalized. However they can be strong particularly close to passes and inside reef due to the swell. So take care when swimming and snorkeling around passes.

Elsewhere swimming and snorkeling are perfectly safe during daylight hours.

Ocean currents should not really affect inter-island passages.

Safety equipment & emergencies

Safety equipment on board yacht includes a VHF radio, an emergency inflatable life raft, flare kits, life jackets, a first aid kit and a dinghy.

In case of problems or emergency, contact: Raiatea-Tahiti base or the local gendarmerie.

Water

Water tanks can be filled at the marina (for free) as well as on the islands of Bora Bora and Huahine (fees).

Water is generally pure and potable, but we can't guarantee perfect quality for water taken from different islands, especially during rainy season.

Fish & underwater hazards

Eating any of the reef fish is not advised as they may be poisonous (ciguatera).

Most fishes sold in markets are deep sea fishes: Bonito, Tuna, Dorado, or local 'Mahi Mahi' are all good eating.

You may even catch some good sea fishes while making inter-island passages.

Lobster is rare and expensive.

Fresh-water shrimp could sometimes be found in local markets.

Swimming

Better not to swim at night and always be aware of currents in the area you are swimming.

No problems related to sharks. However we suggest you to avoid swimming in open water.

When snorkeling be careful with:

- sea urchins, as their long black spines can inflict a painful wound.

- fire coral should not be touched. It may be recognized by its relatively smooth surface (a velvet type of surface) and fawn color.

When reef walking, wear some foot protection against razor-sharp coral, shells and stone fish which lurks in sand and gravel.

Our environment

The Leeward Islands of Tahiti take a very special place in our world that is continuously changing. Waters around islands are clear and pollution is minimal. Many of the natives use the ocean as their main source of food.

Therefore it is very important that all visitors cruising the Tahitian Islands do as much as possible to respect and protect undersea environment so that the future of Tahiti remains healthy.

If all yachts follow simple rules listed below, we will help to preserve this South Pacific Paradise.

a) Always anchor in sand. Make sure when yacht swings that chain has sufficient room to clear coral heads. Coral takes many years to grow and supports delicate marine ecological balance. It only takes seconds to destroy this balance.

b) Do not take any live coral or shells. Cleaned shells are available in many villages in gift shops.

c) Never throw garbage or trash overboard. There are garbage disposal bins at the Apooiti marina, at the BB Yacht Club in Bora Bora, the main dock in Huahine.

Description of *beacons*

International markers

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

Inner passage markers

You will see a lot of markers inside lagoons, you have to navigate between red and green ones not too close not too far, channels are wide enough and obvious.

Red square marker

In lagoon it shows land side dangers.

Green triangle marker

In lagoon it shows reef side dangers.

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

Cardinal marks

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

- North cardinal beacon: two cones superimposed points up
- South cardinal beacon: two cones superimposed points down
- East cardinal beacon: two reverse cones by the base.
- West cardinal beacon: two reverse cones by the points.



Passes

Currents

Invariably there is a set outwards through the barrier reef passes, often quite strong and continuous. Keep this in mind when navigating in the vicinity of a pass and when entering or leaving a pass.

Do not attempt to go out through or even into a pass with the dinghy. Also be very careful when using the dinghy inside the lagoon and crossing near the pass. Waves and currents can be dangerous.

Entering and leaving passes

Always stay well out from barrier reef before attempting to enter a pass. Turn in on the bearing of the pass only after having positively identified it.

On leaving a pass, always continue out on the same bearing for at least one mile to get well clear of the barrier reef (and possible side or cross currents) before setting the next course.

Generally there is confused water off the barrier reef due to reflected wave action. The long ocean swells also begin to build up as they approach the reef edge. Do not cut corners in order to make an oblique approach or departure from a pass entrance

Entrance and exit through passes should be made using the engine.

Take note of currents, wind direction and strength before transiting a pass.

Keep in mind the possibility of an unscheduled engine failure during the transit of pass so always have the mainsail up.

Be prepared to use the anchor or jib in an emergency.

If there is a heavy squall or poor visibility in the area of the pass you stand off until squall passes and then enter. It is better than push through a bad squall, unless it is absolutely necessary due to a time factor, etc.



Always arrive off the pass you plan to enter no later than 15:30 to allow for circumstances as described above. Do not enter or leave a pass during darkness. Allow time to join your night anchorage place at least one hour before sunset.

Don't forget that you must always give way to any kind of motorboats, especially inter-island freighters.

Passes Which May Be Used

The informations given in this section is for quick reference.

For full description see the pertinent section under the numbers given. Magnetic bearings have been rounded to the nearest figure.

Raiatea

PASS TEAVAPITI - (R8)	GPS Waypoint Between Red and Green Buoys	S 16° 44 . 563	W 151 25 . 182
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The main all weather entrance and exit on east coast for the port of Uturoa. Leading marks on 257 magnetic. 			
When clearing pass inside the barrier reef, leading marks to approach the port are to the north on 303 magnetic.			
PASS IRIHU - (R12)	GPS waypoint Center of the entrance	S 16 47 . 186	W 151 22 . 874
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Usually an all weather pass. It is sometimes hard to see from ocean when returning from Huahine. 			
If you can't identify it use R 9. Approach on a bearing of 205 magnetic.			
PASS PUNAEROA - (R6)			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Well marked. To be used only when there is no swell running, as it sometimes closes out. 			
PASS TETUATIARE - (R4)			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enter and exit in good conditions only for access to local bay areas. Approach is on 073 magnetic. 			
PASS RAUTOANUI - (R2)	GPS Waypoint Center of the entrance	S 16 45 . 506	W 151 30 , 438
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The second all weather pass of importance on Raiatea for western approaches. Leading marks on 072 magnetic. 			

Taha'a

PASS PAPAI - (T14)	GPS Center of the entrance	S 16 40 , 289	W 151 32 , 394
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • West coast of Tahaa. One of the main passes for both Tahaa and Raiatea and may be used in most weather conditions. 			
In strong southwest to south winds, this pass can build up heavy-to-breaking swells across the entrance (in these conditions use Pass Rautoanui (R 2). Leading marks are on 005 magnetic.			
PASS TOAHOTU - (T4)	GPS waypoint Center of the entrance	S 16 39 , 038	W 151 25 , 268
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • East coast of Tahaa. Can only be used in good weather. Approach is made on 281 magnetic. 			

Bora-Bora

PASSE TEAVANUI	GPS waypoint Center of the entrance	S 16 29 , 498	W 151 47 , 063
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The only pass through the reef and generally all weather. However, in strong westerlies swell will break on the bar across the entrance, though these conditions are rare. Approach is on 090 magnetic. 			

Huahine

PASS AVAMOA - (H14)	Waypoint Center of the entrance	S 16 42 , 491	W 151 02 , 850
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Main pass for Fare on the NW coast. Leading marks on 114 magnetic. 			
PASS AVAPEHI - (H15)	Waypoint Center of the entrance	S 16 43 , 509	W 151 03 , 215
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Second pass for Fare. Leading marks on 090 magnetic 			
PASS FAREREA - (H12)			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A fair weather pass only on the east coast. This should not be attempted during strong easterlies. Approach on 251 magnetic. 			

The Moorings itineraries

The Society Islands [Les îles de la Société]

The Society Islands stretch 400 nautical miles in a WNW direction. They are essentially composed of volcanic islands with high conspicuous mountains.

They are divided into two groups, known as Iles du Vent (Windward Islands) and Iles Sous-le-Vent (Leeward Islands). Iles du Vent are composed of Tahiti, Moorea, Tetiaroa and Maiao.

The Leeward Island [Les îles Sous-le-Vent]

The Leeward Islands group mainly consist of five volcanic islands: Huahine, Raiatea, Tahaa, Bora Bora and Maupiti. These islands consist of high mountains surrounded by coral barrier reefs which offer safe anchorages.

Tupai, Mopelia, Manuae and Motu One are atolls scattered over 100 miles to west of the archipelago.



Itinerary - 7 days

Day 1 - Departure : Raiatea to Tahaa - 10 NM

Welcome to the base in Marina Apooiti. After chart and boat briefings, sail to the east side of Tahaa. Anchor at one of the nicest spots north of the Mahea *motu*. Nice snorkeling near the beach. Dinner aboard or reach the restaurant Hibiscus

Day 2 - Taha'a

Sail to North of Tahaa, anchor at the *motu* Tautau and enjoy spectacular coral garden.

Day 3 - Taha'a to Bora Bora - 22 NM

From Papai pass to Bora Bora Teavanui pass. 3-4 hours passage downwind.

Anchor at *Motu* Toopua, swimming and snorkeling then take a mooring at *Bloody Mary* restaurant.

Day 4 - Bora Bora– lagoon exploration

Nice day sail to East side of the lagoon.

Discover traditional lagoonarium where you could swim with turtles, friendly rays, sharks and different kind of coral fishes.

Day 5 - Bora Bora-island exploration

Sail to Bora Bora Yacht Club or Maikai restaurant and visit the village.

Day 6 - Bora Bora to Taha'a - 22 NM

Sail back to Tahaa, pick up a mooring buoy at Apu Bay (Ficus restaurant: show on Tuesday evening)

Day 7 - Taha'a – Raiatea

After breakfast, possibility to visit a pearl farm.

Sail to Miri-Miri anchorage in the afternoon, and enjoy the sunset view.

Day 8 - Raiatea

Return to base .

Itinerary - 10 days

Day 1 - Departure : Raiatea to Tahaa - 10 NM

Welcome to the base in Marina Apooiti. After chart and boat briefings, sail to the east side of Tahaa. Anchor at Mahea *motu*.

Day 2 - Taha'a

Sail to North of Tahaa, anchor at the *motu* TauTau and enjoy spectacular coral garden.

Day 3 - Taha'a to Bora Bora - 22 NM

From Papai pass to Bora Bora Teavanui pass. 3-4 hours passage downwind.

Anchor at *Motu* Topua, swimming and snorkeling then take a mooring at *Bloody Mary* restaurant o BBYC.

Day 4 - Bora Bora-lagoon exploration

Nice day sail to East side of the lagoon. Discover the traditional lagoonarium.

Day 5 - Bora Bora to Taha'a - 22 NM

Sail back to Tahaa, pick up a mooring buoy at Apu Bay (Ficus restaurant)

Day 6 - Taha'a

After breakfast, possibility to visit a pearl farm in Apu Bay.

Sail to Raiatea, anchor at “Te Ava Piti” pass, snorkeling

Day 7 - Raiatea to Huahine - 25 NM

5-6 hours passage against prevailing wind to “Ava Moa” pass. Visit Fare, a nice typical Polynesian village with some boutiques and snacks.

Day 8 - Huahine

Fare to Avea Bay: sail all along Huahine lagoon. Anchorage in this bay is very well protected. Sandy grounds and large sandy beaches with restaurants on sea side. Explore South of Huahine. Dinghy and snorkeling on the reef barrier

Day 9 - Huahine to Raiatea - 25 NM

Fast passage downwind to Raiatea. Enter Irihu Pass.

Overnight in Faaroa bay on one mooring bowl.

Day 10 - Raiatea to Taha'a

Take kayaks or dinghy rowing in mangrove river, the only river trip in Polynesia. Sail around Raiatea to swim at *motu* MiriMiri, the best place to enjoy sunset.

Day 11 - Raiatea

Return to base.

Itinerary 14 days

Day 1 - Departure : Raiatea to Tahaa - 10 NM

Welcome to the base in Marina Apooiti. After chart and boat briefings, sail to east side of Tahaa. Anchor at Mahea *motu*.

Day 2 - Taha'a

Sail to North of Tahaa, anchor at *motu* Tautau and enjoy the spectacular coral garden.

Day 3 - Taha'a to Bora Bora - 22 NM

From Papai pass to Bora Bora Teavanui pass. 3-4 hours passage downwind.

Anchor at *Motu* Topua, swimming and snorkeling then take a mooring at *Bloody Mary* ot BBYC.

Day 4 - Bora Bora-lagoon exploration

Nice day sail to east side of the lagoon.

Discover the traditional lagoonarium

Day 5 - Bora Bora to Maupiti - 28 NM

Check weather conditions especially swell condition before heading to Maupiti for a 5 hours crossing. Sail to village for anchorage.

Day 6 - Maupiti

Visit Maupiti, circle island riding a bicycle and climb the small pick to discover beautiful view.

Day 7 - Maupiti to Bora Bora - 28 NM

Start early for this long tacking passage, anchor near the pass or pick up a moorings buoy at *Bora-Bora Yacht Club*.

Day 8 - Bora Bora to Taha'a - 22 NM

Start early in the morning to sail back to Tahaa, anchor at Hurepiti bay.

Day 9 - Taha'a to Raiatea

After breakfast, you can contact Alain Plantier for the *Vanilla Tour excursion*, a great botanical tour in 4X4 car.

Sail to Raiatea, anchor at “Te Ava Piti” pass, enjoy snorkeling near the *motu*.

Day 10 - Raiatea to Huahine - 25 NM

4-5 hours passage to “Ava Moa” pass. Visit Fare, a nice typical Polynesian village with some boutiques and snacks

Day 11 - Huahine

Fare to Avea Bay: sail all along the Huahine lagoon. Anchorage in this bay is very well protected. Explore South of Huahine.

Day 12 - Huahine to Raiatea - 25 NM

Fast passage downwind to Raiatea. Enter Irihu Pass.

Overnight in Faaroa bay on one of the mooring bowls.

Day 13 - Raiatea to Taha'a

Take kayaks or dinghy rowing in the mangrove river. Sail to Southern tip of Raiatea, visit the Polynesian temple “*Marae*” on your way to anchorage Naonao.

Day 14 - Raiatea

Sail to West coast of Raiatea, anchor at *motu* MiriMiri, go snorkeling and enjoy sunset.

Day 15 - Return

Return to the base.

Raiatea

Raiatea, 12 000 inhabitants, the largest island in the leeward group, is located 220km northwest of Tahiti. Raiatea and Tahaa, surrounded by one of the biggest lagoons in Polynesia are an ideal spot for nautical and underwater activities.

Raiatea rises to a height of 1,033 metres (3300 ft.) at Mt Toomaru near the center of the island. A range of mountains extends north and south from this height. Mt Tapioi is above town of Uturoa in north of the island. While it is the largest of the Leeward Islands, Raiatea is not part of most tourists' itineraries. However, for local polynesians, it is second in importance only to Tahiti itself. During ancient times Raiatea was known as the sacred Island. Raiatea was the center of culture, religion and heraldry for the enormous triangle of Polynesian influence that extended from Hawaii to New Zealand to Samoa and the Societies.

Today Raiatea is the location of the french and polynesian administration for Leeward Islands. There is a large, modern hospital, a municipal court, and a high school and vocational training center that have facilities for students who live on the outer islands.

(R1) - Marina *Apoiti*—The Raiatea-Tahiti base

When you are back to marina, we send a pilot to dock the boat for you.

Please call us on VHF 10 at least 15 minutes before you arrive.

The office is open every day 07:30 - 17:00

(lunch time for the pilots/ technicians 11:30 - 12:30).



Boutique offers a large choice of T-shirts, caps, shirts, postcards, stamps, charts and internet access.

At the « Mana shop » you will find many local art and crafts, paintings and hand-painted clothes.

One restaurant « La voile d'or » is open for polynesian and european meals.

With the « *Hemisphere Sub* » scuba-diving club, you can explore Tahaa and Raiatea's lagoon. Phone: 40 66 12 49.

Showers and toilets available near marina office (ask for keys at the Raiatea-Tahiti office).

Outside marina, 6 mooring bowls are available for the night.

(R20) - Marina Uturoa

UTUROA: capital city of the Leeward Islands is the lively harbor with a market place, supermarkets, cargo, shops, drugstore...



Uturoa

From Marina Apooiti, you can reach the center of Uturoa in half an hour by boat or 10 minutes by taxi.

There are 3 supermarkets, 3 banks, a post office and several curios and boutiques. Normal shops and bank hours are from 07:30 to 11:30 and 14:00 to 17:00 during week. All offices are closed on Saturday and Sunday, supermarkets are open on Saturday from 7:00 to 18:00 and only one from 06:00 to 11:00 on Sunday.

The large dock is only for the inter-island freighters. **Do not come alongside.**

The small wharf next to fuel station is available. But avoid to come there if a strong east wind blowing: it will push the boat on the dock.

Uturoa is the administrative center for the entire Leeward Islands and the capital of the island of Raiatea.

There are few local restaurants which offer a menu from steak and pommes frites (fried potatoes) to traditional Chinese chow mein.

Don't forget the "poisson cru", the delectable local dish of marinated raw fish.

Church

Church services are held in town each Sunday. The two main denominations are protestant and catholic. As on all Polynesian islands, the choral singing during the services is a joy to hear and the harmony is very beautiful.

Other denominations and churches are in town, including mormons and seventh-day adventists.

Post Office

Take the main street and walk north. About 200 meters beyond the last shops on left is the post office, which provides all normal postal and telegraph services. Public phones and overseas phone services are located there. Hours are from 07:30 to 15:00 during week and 08:00 to 10:00 on Saturday.

Hospital

The main hospital for Leeward Islands is just opposite side of post office. Phone 40 600 800.

Police

The *gendarmerie* is located about 50 meters beyond the post office on left. Phone 40 600 305.

Southeast from Uturoa

The inner passage is well marked with the standard markers. (See general navigation notes and advices). Follow charts and passage markers. Do not rely only on markers. Identify each one in its position on the chart. Just pay attention and you should haven't any problems.

(R7) - Tepua bay

This is the first bay south of Uturoa, just in front of pass Teavapiti. Anchoring could be dangerous when swell enters the pass.

(R8) - Pass *Teavapiti*

This is the main all-weather entrance and exit pass on the east coast for the port of Uturoa. There are two floating buoys at the entrance outside of reef, a green conical buoy on starboard and a red cylindrical buoy on port. Located north of *Motu* Taoru, this main shipping pass to Uturoa has good leading mark on 258 magnetic. The smaller pass to south of *Motu* Taoru should not be used, as it is quite narrow and has strong currents.

(R9) - Motu Taoru

A pleasant anchorage on western side of Motu Taoru. This is one of the few shallow anchorages in the whole area. You can dinghy to southern side; From Tepua bay (R 7) channel tends towards the landside. Leave the shoal Toamarama marked by a west cardinal beacon to seaward.

There is a red cylindrical beacon just off pointe Utufara. North of the red beacon and south of Puaa reef there is a shoal marked by a green conical beacon. Keep close to the red coastal beacon at pointe Utufara to clear these dangerous shoals.



Passe Teavapiti & Motu Taoru

Baie de Faaroa



(R12) - Pass Irihu or Maire

On east coast of Raiatea, south of Uturoa by 14 miles, pass Irihu leads directly to Faaroa bay. When departing to or arriving from Huahine use this pass. It is marked on the north side by *motu* Tipaemau and on the south by *motu* Irihu.

This pass is safe in most weather conditions. The usual port and starboard markers are used. This pass could be hard to locate from sea as there are no leading markers. Approach on 205 magnetic. (If you can't find it, use Pass Teavapiti (R 8) to the north).

Watch for the exposed shoal Nahu Rui, between *motu* Irihu and the southern point of Faaroa bay. It is marked with a west cardinal beacon. Stay to land side of it when sailing south of Faaroa bay.

(R13) - *Faaroa* bay

This deep, long fjord is very beautiful with spectacular mountains on both sides and a view down the valley of Mt Tefatuaiti, the highest point in "Iles Sous-le-Vent". Water is clear of dangers to the natural end where the river Aopomau flows into the bay. You can use a mooring buoy for the night.

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

Once through this tangle, the slow running river narrows and deepens to over 1.5m. Use your dinghy outboard carefully to motor about a mile and a half up the river. At the end turn engine off and drift or row back with current. Peaceful and quietness of the natural tropical jungle is delightful with only bird songs to accompany you. Above trees catch glimpses of the magnificent, towering rock wall of Mt Tefatuaiti, soaring to a height of 1 100m.

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

(R14) - Opoa bay

Entrance to this bay from the north is made by passing between pointe Tehotuimatai and reef Teautavaha. The reef is marked by a green conical beacon. There is an 18-foot shoal in this pass and due south of the reef beacon, a coral patch marked with a red cylindrical beacon. It's difficult to anchor because of deep water, but possibility to use a mooring bowl of the territory and the small dinghy dock for the time of your visit

The bay and the village of Opoa are the grounds of the most sacred of ancient religious sites on Raiatea. On shore you will find the *Marae* Taputapuatea. Walk out to pointe Atiapiti to find various *marae* and stone sites.

It is from this area and from the bay of Faaroa that the ancient Polynesians made many epic voyages, including those led by King Turi of Faaroa. These voyages established the race of Maoris in New Zealand.

(R15) - Pass *Te Ava Mo'a*

Te Ava Moa, the Sacred Pass

This pass should only be used when leaving for Huahine. Do not attempt to enter from ocean as there are strong currents in the vicinity of the pass. It is also hard to identify from sea.

(R19) - Tuatau bay

Tuatau bay has Haio on its eastern side. Ile Haio is marked by a red cylindrical beacon and a south cardinal beacon on its southern reef. On the western side of the bay, pointe Tuanai is marked by a red cylindrical beacon. You can spend the night on one of the moorings.

(R18) - Motu Nao Nao

It is possible to anchor for the day just west of the western tip of the motu. Sand grounds are between 6 to 10 feet. Cross the sand shoal, taking care of the coral heads on your right, anchor just in front of the beach. If you want to stay here for the night, be sure wind blows east. If wind is too strong, do not leave the yacht unattended at this anchorage. Good snorkeling and swimming may be found off the south-western end of the island. There is a small beach on the island itself. *Motu Nao Nao* is privately owned, so please ask for authorization for going ashore. Beware of the reef off western point of the *motu*.

(R17) - Pass Nao Nao

This pass is quite narrow and with southerly ocean swell it can be dangerous. There is shoal across the narrows which causes it to break easily. **Do not use this pass.** You may motor-sail around the southern end of Raiatea in clear sunny weather, to the southwestern pass Punaeroa. The passage is only marked on shore side by red cylindrical beacons. After passing pointe Pautu, marked with a red beacon, be careful of reef extending south of pointe Ratia, also marked with a red beacon. Have a lookout on the bow in this area.

(R6) - Pass *Punaeroa*

This pass is well marked with the red-port and green-starboard beacon. There is a little island just to the north inside the pass. Pass Punaeroa should be used only in calm weather, when there is no southwest swell running.



Opoa bay

Pass Te Ava Mo'a



Motu Nao Nao

(R4) - Pass Tetuatiare

This pass is well indicated by two islands of Motu Horea on the north and Motu Tiano (formerly owned by the famous American singer Diana Ross) on the south. Approach the pass on 73 magnetic.

Anchoring this site is not easy as a gusty wind comes from the mountain. This is a daytime anchorage only for those that already know the site.

(R2) - Pass *Rautoanui*

This is the second most important all-weather pass to Raiatea for western approaches.

The bearing for the two leading marks for this pass is 71 magnetic. As with all passes, stay at least one mile off until the pass is correctly identified. The chart indicates a bearing on the radio mast on Mt Tapioi, just above the town of Uturoa. This bearing is 50 magnetic and will lead towards the mouth of the pass from your position out to sea. Pick up the bearing of the leading marks on nearing the entrance.

Motu Tahunaoe

The eastern side of Tahunaoe is marked by an east cardinal beacon. It is impossible to reach by sailboat.

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

It is possible to visit the pearl farm after the entrance of the pass, *Anapa Pearls* that settled two buoys at the disposal of the visitors (phone number is 87 707 607): very pretty snorkeling around pearl shells and beautiful work shop in turquoise water.

Beyond this point, although one may see passage markers, there are no navigable passages for yachts, only small boat channels.

Do not go south of Baie Vaoaara.





Grand Banc Central



Grand Banc Central or G.B.C.

Uturoa Airport restriction area:

South of the GBC yellow marks with an X indicate the restriction area on each side of Raiatea airport. Boats must clear out to not disturb the flights traffic.

Lying midway between the island of Raiatea and Tahaa and inside the common barrier-reef is a large reef known as the Grand Banc Central (G.B.C.). The G.B.C. can be sailed around completely and is marked with the International Cardinal System. We will go into a detailed explanation of the G.B.C. during the chart briefing. You may also refer to the section on cardinal beacons.

Looking at the large chart of Tahaa you will see the G.B.C. in the middle of the lagoon between Tahaa and Raiatea. North, and slightly east of the G.B.C., is a shallow area also marked with the Cardinal System. It is unnamed but is due south of the village Vaitoare on the southern coast of Tahaa. This area can also be sailed around completely.

NOTES: When proceeding north in the western passage, the position of Pointe du Lotus on the inner edge of the barrier reef is very deceptive. It protrudes inward into the northern part of this area, further than is often anticipated.

When approaching from the south, after passing the northern end of the Toatautu reef, continue to hold a heading towards Pte Toamaru on Tahaa (which is easily identified). This course will keep you clear of Lotus Point until you identify the green marker on the point of this reef.

It is better to continue towards this same point (Pte Toamaru) when approaching from the northwest along the inner passage off the coast of Tahaa coming from the Passe Papai area. Taking this course you will avoid turning south too soon at Pte du Lotus.

Taha'a



Tahaa is nearly round and rises to a height of 590m (1800 ft.) at Mt Ohiri. There are several fjord-like inlets. The island is encircled by one continuous road approximately 40 miles long, with small villages almost every two miles. Some of the larger villages have small stores. There are a number of islets on the barrier reef on the north side. Many of them are wooded and can be explored.

When anchoring over the top of the barrier reef, make sure the swinging room is not interrupted by odd coral heads and that the anchor is secure and away from the drop-offs on the inner passage side. It is better to anchor here in bright weather with high sun to allow good underwater visibility.

As with all other islands, night anchoring in Tahaa in settled weather should present no problems. If the weather does freshen, choose a protected anchorage in the lee of the island. When the south-easterly Maraamu is blowing, usually in July and August, be careful when anchoring windward of the exposed coasts and alongside the inner edge of the reef in the passage.

(T1) - *Baie* d'Apu

A rather open bay, Baie Apu provides a good overnight anchorage when the wind is not from the south. There are many moorings to pick up : the Ficus restaurant (typical polynesian food and show) call 87 34 98 38 and Champon pearl farm (free visit and possibility to buy black pearls) will welcome you, call on 40 65 66 26.



(T2) - (T3) - Baie de Haamene

On the southern point of Baie Haamene is a reef with red cylindrical marker there. Directly east on the lagoon shelf is a north cardinal marker used when entering and exiting the pass Toahotu (T4).

On Pte Para, the northern side of Baie Haamene is a green conical beacon as well as an east cardinal marker. Haamene bay is marked with red beacons on the port side of the bay and green beacons on the starboard side.

This bay is the longest fjord on the island. A low valley cuts through the island at the head of the bay and allows easterly to southeasterly winds, if fresh to strong, to funnel down the bay with quite some force.

There is a beautiful walk from the head of Baie Haamene to the head of Baie Hurepiti over Mt Taira, which divides the island.

In front of *Restaurant Hibiscus* (T2), there are several mooring buoys to which you can tie . Phone number is 40 65 61 06. Possibility to book an Island tour in four wheels drive. At the head of the bay (T3), you can anchor in 5-6 meters of water in front of the village. Anchor just north or east of the small island on the reef. The reef is marked with black beacons. There are a few moorings you can also use (fee/night is 1500cfp)

You can tie up your dinghy at the small floating dock and visit the village with its small shop, post office and pharmacy. The restaurant *Taha'a Maitai* located on the dock offers a good cuisine local and international: 40 65 70 85



(T4) - Passe Toahotu

Enter on 281 magnetic on Pte Pataaia. The pass is well marked by the island on either side as well as the usual port and starboard entrance beacons. Use this pass as an exit from the island when making a passage to Huahine. Passe Toahotu doesn't have leading markers.

(T5) - Motu *Mahaea*

From the North of this motu you can find some nice anchorages. Anchor in 10 to 15 ft. (3-4 meters) of water and keep an eye on the coral heads when approaching and departing. Do not anchor too near of the pass. The motus are private but if you pay a fee of 500cfp/pers you can stay and relax on sandy beach coves, enjoy coconut trees and swim in clear and shallow waters. The *motu* "Atger" south of the pass has a small sea park with rays, turtles, fish. There are some tahitian meals organized on reservation only. There is a dinghy dock but no anchorage allowed in the south of the pass.

Baie de Faaaha

Do not anchor in this bay. If you wish to visit a vanilla farm contact Brian and Moeata at the Vanilla Valley: 40 65 74 89. They live north of Faaaha bay you can reach the place with dinghy from motu Mahaea anchorage.

(T6) - Motu Atara et Mahavana

Anchorage is nice and quiet. The *Motu* is private and the owners do not want visitors.

Take care when making your approach, after passing the coral heads, anchor in the sandy ground between 2 and 3 meters.

(T7) - Motu Tuuahine

On this *motu*, renamed *Vahine Island*, is a resort with bar, restaurant and bungalows. You can anchor there or take the mooring at the "Vahine Island".

You can get lunch (always reserve at 40 65 67 38) there but they don't accept external customers for dinner.

Tahaa North coast

No night anchorages along the northern coast of Tahaa. There are a few day anchorages along the coast, or you may carefully select anchorages on the barrier reef from which to dinghy to the many motus spread along the northern edge of the reef. Note that some of the *motus* are private, so please respect the word 'tapu' or 'tabu' if displayed. Ask permission before exploring the *motu*.

There is a lot of corals to the north of Tahaa, between Pte Punapae and the *motus*. An easy channel has been marked close to the lagoon shelf. You will see the first red beacon on reef Moora which you will keep to the land side. Just West are two more red markers, and on the ocean side there is a green reef marker. Be sure that this marker is to seaward of you.

Head for the green marker on reef Faremao, keeping it to seaward also. South of reef Faremao, you will see a red marker and a south cardinal beacon.

(T8) - *Patio*

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

Pte Tupenu

Keep clear of the eastern side of this point, as there is a 2m shoal head 50 meters off the point. It is clearly marked with two red beacons.

(T10) - Baie de Vaioarea

A red beacon marks the north point as well as the south point of this bay. Nothing specific in this bay.

(T11) - Motu *Tautau*

There is a nice anchorage south of this motu, 200 meters from the bungalows in 4-6 meters of water. Do not anchor east of the motu because of access to resort poontoon for shuttles. The *motu* is private and here is the nicest hotel of Polynesia: *Le Tahaa Private Island*. If you want to have lunch or dinner, call them in advance to reserve.

There is one of the best snorkeling spot in the channel between the two *motus* : walk along the motu Maharare, go in the water and let you push by the current in a wonderful natural aquarium.

(T12) - Baie de Tapuamu

The southern point of the bay is marked with a north cardinal beacon as well as red beacon. There is now a large concrete dock in Tapuamu Bay as well as several warehouses. It is reserved for the inter-island freighters which sometimes arrive by night. It's possible to anchor in 20 meters . Inside there is a small harbor with a gas station and possibility to get water. Be careful at the narrow entrance!

New mooring bouyees in this bay (1500cfp/night) and possibility to discover the rum factory, the only local one made with Tahaa sugar canes. Phone: 40 65 61 74.

(T13) - Baie de *Hurepiti*

There are numerous coral shoals along the northern side of this bay. Favor the south side, which is clear of danger. Follow quite close the south coast and the different small wharves to avoid the northern coral patches.

The bay is very beautiful. The ocean swells entering through the Pass Papai and the depth of the bay do not allow for it to be used as an anchorage.

Do not try to anchor but tie up to the mooring buoy of *Vanilla Tours* if you want to visit Tahaa by inside and discover the beautiful botany: vanilla, bamboo...

This buoy is private and reserved for Vanilla tour customers.

If you are interested in a botanical sightseeing drive, join the *Vanilla Tour* by contacting Alain and Christina by VHF 9 or phone 40 65 62 46 directly at home near their small wharf. They will show you their vanilla plantation and then take you on a spectacular drive up over Tahaa, describing all the vegetation and flowers along the way.

(T14) - *Passe Papai*

North of Hurepiti Bay, the red roof of the church of Tiva is remarkable and can be seen from far at sea when coming from Bora Bora. Note: Passe Papai is one nautical mile south of this church. Known locally as Tiva Pass, it is one of the main passes for the central area of Tahaa and Raiatea and may be used in most weather conditions. However, with strong south to west prevailing winds, this pass can build up heavy-to-breaking swells across the entrance. In such conditions, use Pass Rautoanui on Raiatea to the south. This is one of the main shipping passes for vessels leaving for the north to Bora Bora. To enter, follow the leading markers on a bearing of 005 magnetic. Whether entering or leaving, stay well in the middle of the pass before turning, clear off the coral shelf on either side of the channel, due to possible currents in the area. As with all passes, respect the bearing and the leading marks to enter and exit.



Bora Bora

About 22 miles from Passe Papai to Passe Teavanui, Bora Bora is composed of a main island rising at Mt Otemanu to a height of 2,362 ft. and a small island, Toopua, enclosed by the same barrier reef. This barrier reef is covered with island except on the south and southwest side.

Motu Toopua

Motu Toopua is part of the ancient volcano of Bora Bora. The crater was situated between Toopua and bay formed from Pte Pahua to Pte Raititi.

Passe Teavanui

When approaching Bora Bora, stay well south and west of the barrier reefs. Large Pacific Ocean swells are present virtually all the time. This wave action can send the yacht in towards the reef without being aware of it.

Approaching from Raiatea, Pte Teturiroa at the southwest corner of Bora Bora is very deceptive and extends farther to the southwest than would seem apparent. There is a lighthouse on the point which is very visible from the ocean. As with all the passes, stay well out to sea until the pass has correctly been identified, then make an approach. The pass is normally marked with a redport floating buoy and a green-starboard one. There is another red-port beacon on the reef just south of *Motu* Ahuna. An approach should be made on 113 magnetic on the two lights in front of Vaitape.



(B2) *Vaitape*

There is a great deal of traffic by official boats and small crafts in this area.

You can tie up to the south side of the dock or pick up a mooring in one of the yacht clubs and go to town with a taxi.

The gendarmerie, post office and public phone service are at the head of the wharf. To visit the main shops and other services, turn left when leaving the wharf. Banks, boutiques, car rental, as well as some local restaurants are close by. The dispensary is in the village on the seaward side of the main street. Outboard dinghy fuel is available through the local gas stations.

Remember to ask for a 2% mix.

There are one or two walking paths on the island. One of these will lead to the old World War II cannon sites. To find the path, start just across the road in front of (B 3). From the village of Faanui, a path crosses the lower part of the island to the east side at Yairou in the districts of Anau. On the north side of this bay along the coast, you'll find remains of three interesting maraes, as well as more cannon sites on the hill above the point.

Church services on Sundays

Protestant: in Vaitape at 10:00

Catholic : in Vaitape at 08:00

(B3) - Maikai Yacht Club

This very nice establishment can provide a lot of facilities for cruising boats: moorings, wifi, bar restaurant, large patio, water. Phone: 40 603 800.

(B1) - *Bora Bora Yacht Club*

The *Bora Bora Yacht Club* (40 67 60 47) has become a heaven for all wandering yachtsmen who brave the South Pacific. Water is possibly available at the dock alongside (keep in mind that it is quite expensive as fresh water is precious on this small island). Bar, restaurant and facilities for boats available.

Baie de Povai

This bay is not recommended for night anchorage. Be careful of the reef in the eastern part of the bay and of the coral patches in the south.

In this bay there are many shops and curios, as well as the *Bloody Mary* Restaurant at the south point of the bay. If you intend to have dinner at *Bloody Mary's*, you need to make a reservation in advance, and you can use their mooring buoys, and fill in your water tanks (ask for the key at the bar): 40 67 72 86

(B4) - North of Pte *Rahititi*

The north of the reef is marked with an east cardinal marker. You can anchor just west of the beacon. It is a nice place for swimming and snorkeling. Follow the coast and dinghy to the beaches of Pte Matira.

(B5) - (B6) - Topua Iti

You can anchor close to the Hilton hotel and discover by snorkeling the « eagle rays valley » in the south of Toopua islet.

(B8) - (B9) - *Toopua*

There are beaches to be enjoyed along the western shore of Toopua and snorkeling off the coast and on the barrier reef.

(B 8) and (B 9) are anchorages in sandy bottoms. Careful of gusts coming above the Toopua hill.

(B10)

This is a good night anchorage. Care should be taken not to anchor too close to the coral heads, as the wind may swing you into them, which will cause damage to your rudder.

When swimming around the boat, beware of the boats that belong to the hotel.

NOTE: Proceed at the slowest possible speed. The area around Toopua should only be navigated in fine weather when reefs are easily visible.

(B11) - Motu *Tapu*

Anchor between 3-4 meters for the day to the east of the Motu.

This area is not sheltered for eastern wind. There is good snorkeling in this area and off Motu Tapu.



Passe Te Ava Nui

Bora Bora Yacht Club



Motu Tapu

Motu Topua et Motu Tapu (the small)



Bora Bora Pearl Beach Resort & Spa



Pointe Vaitoto, Motu Temahu to Motu Tofari



(B12) - *Teveiroa*

Only day anchorage.

The island of Teveiroa is private and should not be visited, with the exception of the *Bora Bora Pearl Beach Resort & Spa* hotel structures where you can get meals or enjoy facilities of the resort.

(B13) - Quai de *Faanui*

This wharf is reserved for inter-island freighters which come alongside by night as well as by day. Do not berth here.

(B15)

Beware of the Communication cables between the land and the Airport on the *Motu*.

Note that the dock marked on the chart at the southern end of the channel to the airport is also private.

(B16) - (B17) - Pass to the East lagoon

This area on north-eastern side of Bora Bora is one of the most spectacular beautiful sites that you will find in the islands. It is also a popular spot for windsurfing.

At Pte Tahi, go through the narrows between the red cylindrical beacon and the green conical one. Then head to the south cardinal beacon and pass between south cardinal and red beacon, being careful of the coral heads.

Proceed with caution at low speed, using a lookout on the bow. Then change course to approximately ESE and stay 200 yards off the *motu*.

Keep an eye out for the northern most coral head of the coral area which is marked with a north cardinal beacon to be kept to the Southside of you.

(B18) - Motu *Temahu*

The anchorage may be used for day and night stops except in poor or very windy conditions. In this case, the whole area east of Pte Tahi should be avoided.

Motu Tofari

This is also a good night anchorage with a little more protection from the *motu* in easterly winds. There is a fine view of Mt Otemanu to the west.

Dinghy trips may be made to the inlets in the *motus* and across the *motus* to do some beachcombing on the outside shores. Good snorkeling along these shores; but be careful of inshore currents.

(B20) - Motu *Tupe*

Anchor a little north of the motu in 10 to 15 feet of water with a sandy bottom. The Lagoonarium is located here (paying entrance). You can swim in the middle of fishes, rays and sharks without any danger. Closed on Saturday. This is a good day or night anchorage in 10 feet of water with a sandy bottom.

Most of *motus* are private. Respect the Tabu signs.

After *Motu Tupe*, head south staying in 10 feet of water along hotel's overwater bungalows. Arriving at the southern end of the central reef, sail in 25 to 30 feet of water (in the dark blue water) to avoid coral heads. Use a lookout on the bow.

(B22) - (B23) - Anchorages

Between *Motu Piti Aau* and *Taurere*, you will find some good overnight anchorages in 5 to 7 meters of water with a sandy bottom.

Use your dinghy around Pte Faaroone and anchor dinghy south of the motu in sand. Close by is a beautiful coral garden and great snorkeling. Note that the current is quite strong due to the swell on the barrier reef. Be careful when swimming and snorkeling in this area. .

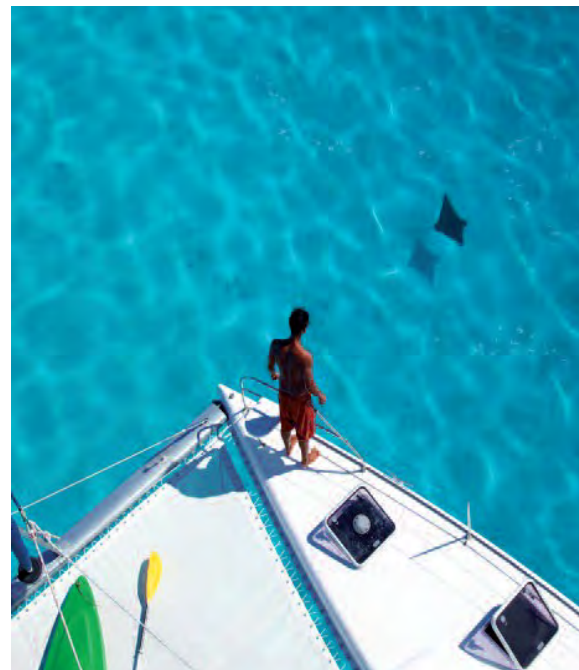
Other good snorkeling in this area : on the south of *Motu Piti uu Uta* (Sofitel Motu) approachable by dinghy too.

Bora Bora to Huahine

This passage should be made in two sections.

Leave Bora Bora at 10:00 for Raiatea and anchor there to overnight.

The following morning leave for Huahine planning to arrive no later than 15:00 hrs.





Huahine

Located about 25 nautical miles east of Raiatea, Huahine is divided in two by a narrow channel, Pass Honoava, which separates the two mountains enclosed within the encircling barrier reef.

A road bridge connects the two parts. Huahine Nui in the north has elevation of 2,000 ft. (669m) at Mt Turi, and Huahine Iti in the south is 1,400 ft. (462m) at Mt Puhueri. Coprah and vanilla are the primary crops of the island. On the docks at Fare, awaiting shipment to Papeete, you will see and smell the sacks of coprah. Huahine is also noted for its watermelons, and many are exported to Papeete. You can buy them at the local shops and markets in season.

There are many *marae*, religious sites around the island. From Avea bay, walk along the road for about a mile to the east side of Pte Tiva to find the well preserved marae of Annie.

Walk or cycle out from Fare heading north for approximately two miles towards the village of Maeva along Lake Maeva. There is a whole series of ancient religious stones grouping and marae on the edge of the lake.

(H14) - Pass *Avamoa*

This is the main pass for Fare on the west coast of Huahine. The pass is well marked with the usual red and green beacons and with an east cardinal beacon on the south reef. Bearing on 113 magnetic towards the two leading marks at Pte Matapiri.

Stay well out until the the leading marks lined up.

(H15) - Pass Avapehi

This is the second pass for Fare.

The reef on the south side is marked with three green conical beacons and the reef on the north side with a south cardinal beacon (inside the lagoon). Leading markers on 89 magnetic, two white beacons at Pte Papatea.

(H1) – Hotel Maitai La Pita Village (ex. Bali Hai)

Anchorage recommended: but not a good holding especially with west winds.

Better choose (H2) in front of the reef: quiet and shallow, 2mn with dinghy from Fare dock.

You have the option to pick up one bouyee for 1500cfp/night in H1 or H2. Easy access to Fare village with dinghy (2 to 5mn)

Fare

This is the main village and administrative center for Huahine. The village is a pleasant and unspoiled water front center with some interesting local general stores, front restaurants, car rental services, street markets, bank, post office.

Fresh water is available at the dive center on the main dock. Ask prior docking the boat.



Aerial view of Huahine

Anchorage in (H9)



The Te Tiare Hotel

Banks may be found on the waterfront near the shops. The post office is located at the end of the village on the way to the airport.

Horseback riding excursions are also available at the Petite ferme located between Fare and the airport. Telephone 40 68 82 98.

(H2) - Anchorage between the 2 passes

In a north-westerly, this anchorage offers some protection from sea swells coming through Pass Avamoa, but it is not protected from any strong winds. There is a shelf on which to anchor in approximately 4-5 meters of water. Do not anchor too far out into the pass which connects the two passes of Avamoa and Avapehi, as this channel is sometimes used at night by the large inter-island boats.

You will see an east cardinal beacon on the northeast corner of the reef, and a south cardinal beacon at the south east point of that reef.

Inner passage to H10

(H 3-H4) On the barrier reef side of the pass are good day anchorages from which to dinghy to the outer reef to explore its underwater life.

(H 5) Another good day anchorage in front of the The Tiare hotel (restaurant possible with reservation); This passage is well marked all the way south to Avea bay.

(H6) - (H7) *Port Bourayne*

The views from Port Bourayne are truly magnificent and should not be missed. It is a peaceful heaven, totally away from it all and isolated from the barrier reef's roar. On passing through the narrow entrance, you are transported, as if by magic, from the tropics to the heart of a beautiful Scottish loch. Enter and depart from Port Bourayne through its north pass, leaving Motu Vaiorea to the south. The pass is well marked with red cylindrical beacons on the reefs, a south cardinal beacon on the north side of the pass and a north cardinal beacon on Motu Vaiorea.

Anchoring in the port is not recommended, as the bottom is all mud, 70 to 90 feet deep (23-30m)

Catamarans can anchor on H7 in shallow water. Monohulls can anchor south of the green marker in 5-6 meters of sandy patch or pick up a mooring in front of the white sandy beach.

(H10) - Baie de *Avea*

The passage south to this bay should be navigated with care. Follow the markers, with red cylindrical beacons to the shore side of you.

At the entrance of the bay, the area is shallow with coral heads. Post a lookout on the bow and proceed slowly until clear of the point. Once past the point which marks the start of Avea bay, there is plenty of water with an average depth throughout 10-12 meters. The bay is well protected except during strong southerly and westerly winds. A pleasant anchorage is in the east end of the bay. Dinghy to Pte Tiva to enjoy the white sand beaches or the reef for good snorkeling.

On the eastern side of the bay is a charming hotel and restaurant, the *Relais Mahana* (lunch/dinner) with a good dinghy dock.

From here, you may rent a car and tour the island.

You can enjoy a « tahitian oven » with local food cooked underground, only on sundays and on reservation at the pension « chez Tara »: phone 40 68 78 45.

At the east end of Avea bay, the inner passage comes to an abrupt end and the barrier reef meets the island at Pte Tiva.

Pass Araara

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

Pass Tiare

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

(H12) - Pass Farerea

Sail south or north around Huahine to the east side.

The westerly and south-westerly projections of the barrier reef, opposite Mt Faaua and Pte Tiva, project further out to sea than may be apparent when sailing in these areas. Stay well out of these two points.

If taking the southerly route, leave early in the day as the direct sailing distance is over 18 nautical miles. Whether taking the northerly or southerly route, make the Pass Farerea entrance no later than 15:00.

Stay well out to sea before heading for the pass.

The entrance is made on a magnetic bearing of 250 on the two black and white beacons at the bottom of the remarkable cliff. See the inset on the bottom of the French chart for large scale details and the position of the remarkable cliff. Take note of the positions of the beacons to pass through the narrowest part. Study the chart and the large scale insert well in advance to enter and there should be no difficulties.

Don't enter this pass if there has been a period of strong easterlies; deep ocean swells would come from the east.

The entrance into Pass Farerea can be dangerous.

Upon leaving, it is a good idea to continue directly from the pass for up to a mile before turning along the coast.

Maroe bay

There are few red and green beacons to mark each side of the bay. Everywhere the depth is more than 30 meters so avoid anchoring here.

(H11) - Apoomati bay

After Pass Farerea, marked with two red beacons in the south, make a route ESE. The north point of Rate bay is marked with a north cardinal beacon, and its southern point with a red beacon. The inner passage is narrow. Keep an eye on the depth sounder and proceed slowly.

The only safe anchorage in this area is in Apoomati bay or a little further south, opposite Haamiti bay, leeward of *Motu* Muri. Don't take the yacht further south along *Motu* Muri Mahora. There are dangerous coral heads that come right to the surface. It is, however, a good area to dinghy to. There is good snorkeling on the shoals between *Motu* Muri and the main island. At the end of *Motu* Tarohu, there is a nice beach.

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