

Facts about Polynesia and its geography

Polynesia is a “French overseas country” in the heart of the South Pacific and made up of over 118 islands.

Some are volcanic islands:

The Society Islands including Tahiti, Moorea, Maiao, Tetiaroa, Mehetia, the Windward Islands, Huahine, Raiatea, Tahaa, Bora Bora, Maupiti and Tupai.

The Marquesas Islands: Nuku Hiva, Hiva Oa, Ua Pou, Ua Huka, Tahuata and Fatu Hiva, are hilly volcanic islands. The largest island is Nuku Hiva.

Others are coral islands:

The Tuamotus: Rangiroa, Tikehau, Manihi, Fakarava (classified by UNESCO as a biosphere), the Gambier Islands (administratively part of the Tuamotus) and the Tubuai Islands (also known as the Austral Islands).

The islands' landscapes vary depending on the archipelago: Tahiti is the largest island and is mountainous with deep valleys and lush flora.

Moorea has two beautiful bays: Cook's Bay and Opunohu Bay. Bora Bora is on a volcano that is 3 or 4 million years old and surrounded by a lagoon.

Huahine's two volcanic islands (Huahine Nui and Huahine Iti) are connected by a bridge.

Raiatea-Tahaa is the second largest island in Polynesia.

Rangiroa is the world's largest atoll.

Each island is special in its own unique way:

Tahiti: Just its name is enough to send you into a daydream

Moorea: The magical island

Bora Bora: The Pearl of the Pacific

Taha'a: The vanilla island

Huahine: The Garden of Eden

Raiatea: The sacred island

Tikehau: The island of pink sandy beaches

Manihi: The pearl island

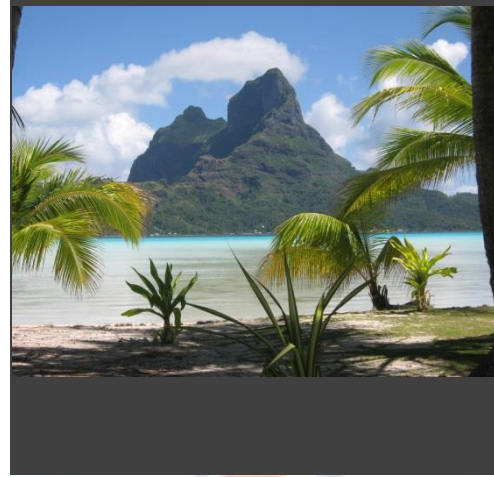
Tetiaroa: The bird island

Fakarava: Between sea and sky

Hiva Oa: Gauguin's island

Nuku Hiva: The mystical island

Rurutu: The whale island



Climate :

In Polynesia it's always summer. It has a pleasant tropical climate cooled by the trade winds of the Pacific. Depending on the season, the average temperature is between 25°C and 30°C (80-90 degrees Fahrenheit). Visitors from the northern hemisphere love it here! The lagoon is perfect for bathing in as its average temperature is between 25°C and 28°C. Expect hot and humid weather between November and March with frequent rainfall in November and December. This rainfall could be described as heavy showers but they rarely last longer than 20 or 30 minutes. The driest and coolest season (the minimum temperature being 22°C) is between April and October.

Currency :

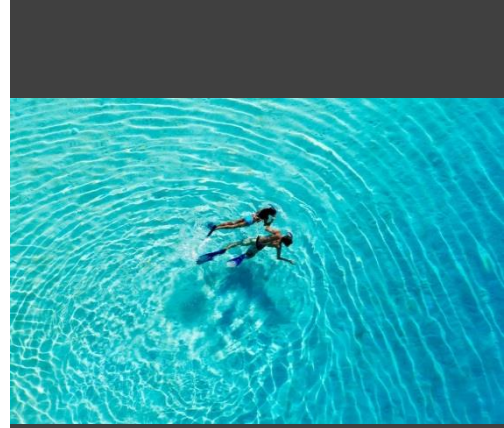
It is the Pacific Franc (XPF), which has a stable exchange rate with the euro : 1€=119,33 XPF

Time difference with France :

Tahiti is 10 hours behind GMT, this is 12 hours summertime or 11 hours wintertime difference with France

The airlines :

- Air France : from Paris via Los Angeles -22 hours flight (2H00 stop over in à Los Angeles and change of aircraft)
- Air Tahiti Nui : from Paris via Los Angeles 21 hours flight (1H30 stop over in Los Angeles) -Air Tahiti Nui fly also to Auckland and Tokyo
- Air Calin : New Caledonia
- Air New Zealand : Auckland
- Hawaiian airlines : Honolulu
- Lan airlines : Easter Island Santiago
- Air Tahiti : Rarotonga



BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF TOURIST ISLANDS

The Society Islands high volcanic islands

TAHITI-The Queen Island

Tahiti is the beating heart of French Polynesia.

It is both the gate to the country with Tahiti-Faa'a airport and the administrative center of Papeete, the capital and economic lung of the country with its harbor, its businesses and shops.

Downtown, Papeete's market is a must-see for anyone visiting the capital island.

It features a wide range of the archipelago's production, from local fish to a rich selection of handicrafts.

Yet Tahiti is so much more than Papeete: majestic valleys falling into the arms of the lagoon, rich, restored archeological sites, the Aorai and Orohena, two sharppeaked volcanic mountains. It also is a big island with an infinite choice of activities. The city offers many diversions and some of the great hotels organize magnificent traditional dance shows that should not be missed.

Tahiti Iti, the peninsula, holds some of the most beautiful hiking trails in Polynesia; particularly the hike to the Te Pari, a splendid and totally untouched site, and of course Teahupoo, one of the best surf spots in the world.

Other Polynesian names: Otahiti.

Name given by discoverers: New Cythere (Bougainville).

Location: Society Archipelago.

Surface: 651 square miles.

Highest peak: Orohena (6790 feet).

Population: + 180 000.

Agriculture: coconuts, bananas, "taro", breadfruit...

Hotel capacity: 1200 units.

Moorea -The Magic Island

A few minutes' flight from Tahiti, or just 30 minutes on the ferry, Moorea the "sister island" is a luxuriant garden set on a perfect lagoon.

Chosen by many painters, artists and writers, its sweetness, its preserved environment and its specific charm immediately enchant travelers. Two extraordinary bays, Cook's Bay and Opunohu Bay slash into the island, the lush green heights in striking contrast to the clear blue of the lagoon.



On its white sand beaches, tucked away in flowered gardens or perched on the lagoon, the bungalows of the many hotels and family pensions are the best way to taste the quiet life in Moorea. The island's crystal-clear lagoon is the stage of many activities: water ski, Jet-Ski or parasailing... and unexpected encounters such as sting rays and whales... a moment of rare emotion. Other Polynesian names: Eimeo, Fee.

Name given by discoverers: York.

Location: 12 miles from Tahiti.

Surface: 80 square miles.

Highest peak: Mount Tohiea (3657 feet).

Population: + 16500

Agriculture: Copra, Pineapple (fruit juice factory).

Hotel capacity: 855 units.

Huahine-The Garden of Eden

Huahine is certainly the most sensual of the islands.

Only just a 30-minute flight from Tahiti, it is a genuine, preserved haven to the visitor looking for tranquility.

A white sand beach, desert coral islets on the luminous blue lagoon and lush hills, the island epitomises Polynesian beauty.

To discover Huahine is to give in to her charm of archaeological wealth, slow rhythm and multiple secrets.

Other Polynesian name: Matairea.

Name given by discoverers: Hermosa.

Location: 110 miles northwest of Tahiti, 25 miles E.N.E of Raiatea.

Surface: 47 sq miles.

Highest peak: Turi (2027 feet).

Population: + 6000

Agriculture: copra, taro, bananas, melons.

Hotel capacity: 164 units.

Raiatea -The Sacred Island

40 minutes on a direct flight from Tahiti-Faa'a, Raiatea was the first island settled by Polynesians and the starting point of the great migrations to the Polynesian Triangle.

Known in legends as Hawaiki, Raiatea remains to this day the cradle of Polynesian culture.

This island is Polynesia's second economic center and an important nautical base hosting many sailboats and charter companies. It also is the only island in Polynesia with a navigable river: Faaroa River.



Raiatea kept many traces from its past as a great spiritual center, among which the Taputapuātea Marae, the largest in Polynesia. Today it has become a place of pilgrimage for Maoris and Hawaiians.

Another characteristics of Raiatea: the Mount Temehani is the only place in the world where a special flower, Tiare Apetahi, grows; the island shares its transparent lagoon with its neighbour and sister island, Tahaa.

Other Polynesian names: Hava'i, Hawaiki Nui.

Name given by discoverers: Ila Princesa.

Location: 120 miles northwest of Tahiti in the middle of a triangle composed of the Hawaiian islands to the north, Easter Island to the east and New Zealand to the west.

Surface Area: 238 square miles.

Highest peak: Mount Tefatoaiti (1017 feet).

Population: + 12000.

Agriculture: aquaculture, copra, vanilla, pineapples.

Hotel capacity: 150 units.

Tahaa -The Vanilla Island

Just a few minutes away from Raiatea's airport by shuttle boat, Tahaa "The vanilla island" has retained the seductiveness of old-time Polynesia.

The island is one giant colored and fragrant garden of which vanilla, the precious orchid, is the ruling princess.

Tahaa produces more than 80% of the famous Tahitian vanilla, the favorite variety of true connoisseurs.

Tahaa's vast lagoon is dotted with many "motu", sandy islets on which to play Robinson Crusoe between dives.

Prestigious hotel of exclusive luxury has chosen some of these isolated "motu", perfect settings to fully taste the perfect calm of this authentic island.

Other Polynesian name: Uporu.

Location: 143 miles west of Tahiti.

Surface: 55 square miles.

Highest peak: Mount Ohiri (1811 feet).

Population: + 5000

Agriculture: vanilla, pearls, coprah, noni.

Hotel capacity: 102 units.



Bora Bora -The Pearl of the Pacific

270 kilometers northwest of Tahiti, the pearl of the Pacific, Bora Bora, undoubtedly has the world's most beautiful lagoon. And the lagoon is what you first see when touching down on the airport “motu”.

A lagoon with some of the best dives in the world, in clear and warm waters where multi-colored fish play at brushing against over-curious visitors.

Bora Bora is a gem set against the jewellery-box blue of the Pacific, a romantic island where each hotel has created a private paradise for honeymooners who will enjoy the quiet and the privacy of luxurious bungalows over the turquoise lagoon.

Waiting for the sun to set behind the glowing Otemanu's peak is an unforgettable spectacle.

Others Polynesians names: Pora Pora, Vavau.

Name given by discoverers: San Pedro.

Location: 175 miles N.W of Tahiti.

Surface: 47 sq miles.

Highest peak: Otemanu (2027 feet).

Population: + 9000

Agriculture: copra, bananas, melons.

Hotel capacity: 1009 units.

The Tuamotu group is a collection of low islands or atolls

Rangiroa -The Infinite Lagoon

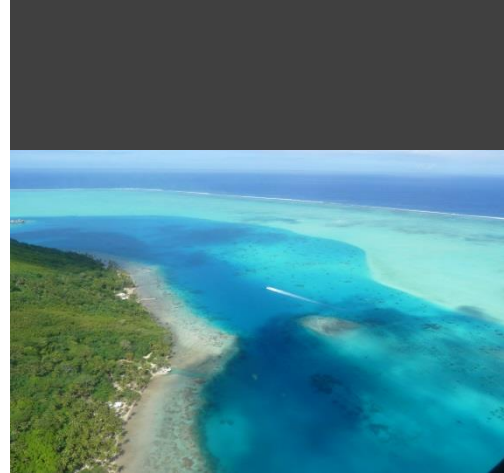
Slightly over an hour away from Tahiti on flights that run daily, Rangiroa is a gigantic atoll, the largest in Polynesia, so large it could contain the whole island of Tahiti.

A genuine natural aquarium, rated by Commandant Cousteau as the most beautiful and richest lagoon in the world, Rangiroa has become a mecca of the world's scuba divers. The Tiputa pass is a must-see, offering an incredible panorama of marine life and particularly the famous shark “wall”, a group of up to 300 sharks of various species. Diver or not, the atoll is a sweet paradise for anyone, where several excursions will lead to pink sands, hidden “motu” and the blue lagoon, a heavenly and isolated place.

Rangiroa, on its narrow strip of land, offers visitors different possibilities according to the wishes and budget of each, from hotels to family hotels or cruises to enjoy the pleasures of life on the water.

Other Polynesian name: Rairo'a.

Name given by discoverers: Flies' Island, Bonne Espérance, Deans, Nairsa, Vliegen.



Location: 219 miles northeast of Tahiti.
Surface: 7900 Ha of land on 415 groups of “motu” (islets).
Population: + 2500
Specificity: largest atoll in Polynesia, and one of the largest in the Pacific Ocean, grapes growing on coral in the middle of a coconut tree plantation in front of a tropical lagoon.
Hotel capacity: 151 units.

Tikehau-The Pink Sands Island

300 kilometres northeast of Tahiti and a few kilometres from Rangiroa, Tikehau, with its nearly perfect circular blue lagoon and its pink sand beaches, looks like a gigantic natural swimming pool. In these waters, that are among the richest in fish on the planet, the most surprising species congregate to give visitors a show like no other.
Come back up for air, and the spectacle is just as rich: many bird species live on this little strip of sand. This is the place to live the Polynesian life and enjoy its particular beat.

Location: 340 km north of Tahiti and 15 km from Rangiroa.
Surface: 461 km² (lagoon).
Population: + 500.
Ressources: copra.
Hotel capacity: 60 units.

Fakarava-Between Sea and Sky

450 kilometres from Papeete, Fakarava is the second largest atoll of Polynesia.
Like her big sister Rangiroa, this island is famous for its exceptional dive sites, especially the north pass that is, at 800 meters, the widest in Polynesia.
A biosphere reserve of UNESCO, Fakarava draws most of its income from pearl farming. To protect the island's untouched environment, the only hotel was built respecting its surroundings, on both land and sea, by refraining from erecting over-water bungalows.

Other Polynesian name: Havai'i or Havaiki, Farea.
Name given by discoverers: Wittgenstein.
Location: 450 km northeast of Tahiti.
Surface: 1121 km² (lagoon).
Population: + 797.
Resources: copra, mother of pearl, pearls.
Hotel capacity: 81 units.



Marquesas Islands -The Land of Men

Hiva Oa -Paul Gauguin's Island

“In those islands of pure solitude, I have found a sort of peace” wrote Jacques Brel who spent his last years in Atuona on Hiva Oa. Lying nude beside the ocean, “the garden of the Marquesas” has no reef and offers her fertile coastlines to the deep currents of an unleashed sea in which one can neither see the bottom, nor colored shades, nor coral. It is into this dark expanse that the sharp cliffs which decorate the impressive mountains of Hiva Oa plunge.

High on the hills, among the clouds, sits the small airport of Hiva Oa. This wrinkled land, whose virginal beauty remains untouched by the 20th century, tells the long and captivating story of the Marquesas which can be discovered while strolling among papaya and banana trees and into the secret valleys. In Puamau Valley, the biggest “ūki” in Polynesia was found, strange statues surrounded by pebbles which speak the language of ancient times.

From the valley of Taaoa to Hanauī, Hanapeteo and Hanatekua, thousands of cult sites, “Meae”, spring up from lava stones.

Paul Gauguin's island has retained her savage characteristics and the tranquil rhythm of tradition and seduced the painter who came to spend the rest of his life in the capital. Walk in his footsteps, visiting the museum where some copies of his paintings remain as well as the “Maison du Joui” (the house of pleasures) where he lived; but also experience the hospitality of the Marquesan people who welcome you with a thundering “kaoha Nui” (hello).

Name given by discoverers: La Dominica.

Location: approximately 1500 km to the northeast Tahiti.

Territory: 320 km².

Highest peak: Mount Temetiu (1276 m).

Number of inhabitants: + 2000

Resources: fruits.

Hotel capacity: 34 units.



Tekura Tahiti Travel marketing and booking teams have been providing professional tourism service and expertise to French Polynesia since 1994.

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You can be safe in the knowledge that we ensure, every aspect of the holiday is fun, interesting, relaxing and unforgettable.

Tekura Tahiti Travel team has the expertise to give you the best advices for the organization of your incentive groups

Organising a trip to French Polynesia requires local knowledge: our islands are all very different and there are lots of things to do and trails to go on.

Our travel agents are always here to help you choose which products suit your clients' best need : diving, cruises, private boat trips, excursions, **VIP** services, domestic or private flights, luxury or authentic accommodation.

There's something for everybody in Polynesia whatever your budget is.

Our efficient and prompt service guarantees you an answer to your questions within 24 hours (working days).

Our guides give all our passengers an authentic Polynesian welcome upon arrival.

We provide our own vehicles to transport clients to their hotels or to their connections onto other islands.

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Prepare a trip to French Polynesia is very special as each island is different with their own specificities, this is why, we have to work on “ a la carte” programs to suit each specific request and budget.

You are looking for conference rooms, restaurants, shopping, gifts ideas, golf, excursions, cruises, contact us, you will get answers to your questions.

Your partner in French Polynesia, Tekura Tahiti Travel, follows you step by step to ensure that your dream holiday in Polynesia comes true.

Please contact us to receive your B2B code access

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