

# the crew

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

## REPORT





# *The best of* **Tahiti**

Known as “The Queen of the Pacific”, Tahiti is the largest and most populated of the 118 islands and atolls that comprise French Polynesia. Shaped like a figure of eight, the volcanic island is divided into Tahiti Nui (Big Tahiti) and a smaller peninsula called Tahiti Iti (Little Tahiti). The scenery on the island is dramatic, with lush green peaks reaching more than 2,225m and cascading waterfalls and jungle providing a contrast to the black and white sand beaches and turquoise lagoons of the island's perimeter. The interior of Tahiti Nui is virtually uninhabited whilst Tahiti Iti has remained isolated with the southeastern half only accessible by boat. November to April is the wet season and temperatures range from an average low of 21°C to a high of 31°C, making for a pleasant tropical climate. French and Tahitian are the main languages of the island and Papeete is the capital. We found out more from the locals and visitors who have fallen in love with this island paradise.

**Bora Bora**

**Mahina**



© GIE TAHITI TOURISME – Philippe Bacchet

**Is there any produce made locally in the region you would recommend, and where can you buy it?**

The Tahitian pearl is what you want to buy; a cultured gem made from a local breed of large oysters. Colours are mostly deep and vary from green to grey with blue, purple or gold nuances. Crew like to buy direct from pearl farms in the Tuamotu atolls and some leeward islands. However, great quality pearls can be found at good price in Tahiti, either loose or mounted. Prices have dropped tremendously in the last few years so it is a good time to buy. Crew should preferably buy from shops rather than street sellers who may offer very poor quality pearls that will fade away rapidly. Larger shops offer x-ray-guaranteed pearls, which are the most secure buys. **Etienne Boutin, Tahiti Ocean**

Marinated Tahitian-style tuna to eat in any restaurant or a tattoo to bring back.

**Cristelle Holler, Tahiti Private Expeditions**

**Where do you go to escape from it all in Tahiti and the surrounding region?**

Try camping on one of the **Tuamotu archipelago/islands**; no roads, no shops, no electricity, just the lapping sea and sunshine. **Sarah Meek, The Crew Report**

**Moorea Island** is only a 30-minute ferry trip away from Tahiti and has colours like those that you would see in an advert. **EB**

I go to the hidden paradises such as the **Tuamotus**, the **Marquesas** or the **Austral Islands**. **Rolfi Chang, Tahiti Tourisme**

**Are there any areas that are best avoided at night or if you are on your own?**

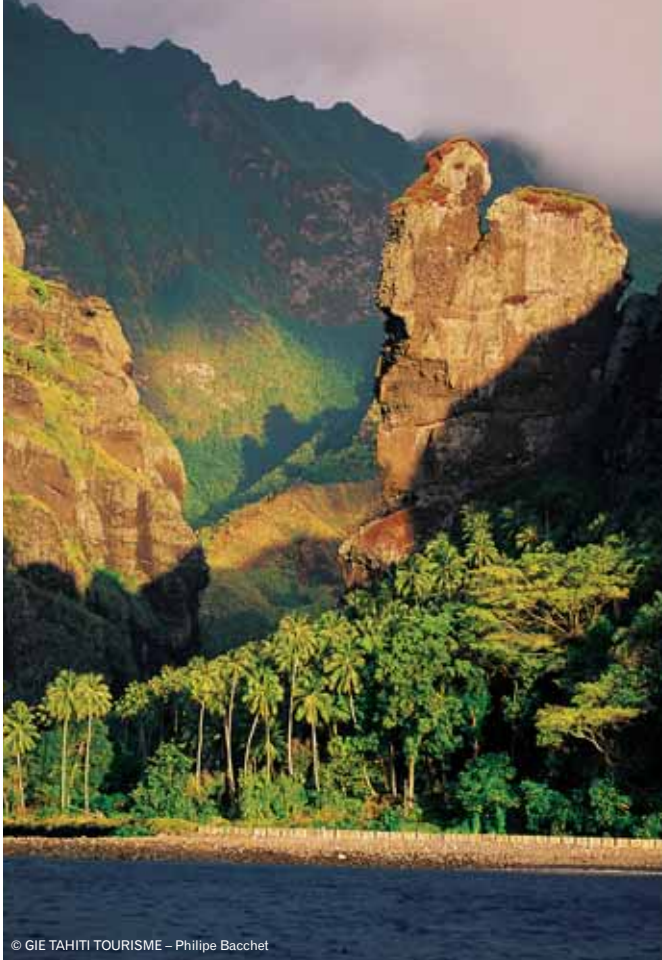
As in every city, it is better to avoid walking alone in certain streets of Papeete at night. **RC**

**Tiarefi**



© GIE TAHITI TOURISME – Philippe Bacchet

**Bay of Virgins, Fatu Iva, Marquesas Islands**



© GIE TAHITI TOURISME – Philippe Bacchet

**What is the one thing that people visiting Tahiti simply have to do/visit?**

My favourite would have to be **Stingray City** in the lagoon of Moorea. Just stop the tender and the stingrays come gliding towards the boat. Stand in the water and feel them swim right by you. If you are lucky some blacktip sharks will come by too. **SM**  
Go into the centre of the island, via the Papenoo River road, to a small hotel isolated inside dramatic mountain slopes. It is a great place if you like to hike and the scenery is simply amazing. **EB**

**Where is the best place in Tahiti to enjoy a bit of local flavour/hospitality and why?**

**Moorea** has everything: charming local restaurants, great shoreside activities and excellent underwater worlds. It is also easy to access for crew when the boat is berthed on Tahiti Island. You can easily get around the island by tender or scooter. **SM**  
The **Tiki Village** (+689 550250), a traditional Polynesian village, is a great sample of Tahitian culture. **CH**  
There is a big gap between the modern and lively **Papeete City** area, concentrating two-thirds of the population, and the rest of the French Polynesian islands, which are very quiet and preserved. In Tahiti, the local flavour is a trendy, urban way of life with a mixture of French and Hawaiian influences. I recommend **Marina Taina** and the roulotte in **Papeete Port**, a concentration of small vans converted into shacks offering all sorts of food, crêpes, pizza, Chinese and French food, and located on the main quay of the port where cruise ships and large yachts moor. **EB**

**Where is the best anchorage or beach in the region?**

**Cook's Bay** is a great anchorage in the shelter of the peaks of Moorea. From here there is easy access by tender to great dives sites, **Stingray City**, surf breaks on the reef and there are some great eateries ashore. **SM**

The nicest anchorage in all our islands is **Opunohu Bay** in Moorea. The nicest beach is possibly **Matira Beach** in Bora Bora, but many others can compete. **EB**

In Tahiti, **Marina Taina** or downtown **Papeete**. In the other islands, try anywhere in the lagoons. **CH**

**What is the most popular place for people to go for nightlife, both for owners and crew?**

There are a few nightclubs in downtown Papeete: **Paradise Night** (+689 427305), **Metropolis**, **3 Brasseurs** (+689 412224), **Mana Rock Café** (+689 483636), **Dao** (+689 820808) and **Piano Bar** (+689 428824). Nice places to hang out and have dinner and drinks for crew are **The Pink Coconut** (+689 412223) and **Blue Banana** (+689 412224), both in Punaauia. **RC**

Several restaurants have live music around Papeete city on weekends, such as **The Pink Coconut** (as before), **3 Brasseurs** (as before) or **Casa Bianca** (+689 439135). **Morrison's Café** (+689 439135) will appeal to people looking for live rock music. **EB**

**Nuku Hiva**



© GIE TAHITI TOURISME – T Zysman



**How would you sum up Tahiti in five words?**

A friendly, exotic and peaceful tropical paradise  
**SM**

**Are there any good cafes or internet cafes in town you would recommend?**

In Papeete, **Mana Rock Café**, Rue des Ecoles (as before) – an easy stroll from the downtown dock. **SM**

The Vaima Centre, in the heart of Papeete and just across the yacht quay, offers several bars and internet access on the first floor. **EB**

**Can you recommend any good places to stay in town, both for lower budgets and for splashing the cash?**

**Manava Suite Resort Tahiti** (+689 508445) is excellent with a range of rooms. The larger suites are perfect for self-catering and rooms on the waterfront face a divine infinity pool and sunset over Moorea. The location is great for getting to and from Marina Tahina either by tender or vehicle. The over-water bungalows at the **Moorea Pearl Resort and Spa** (+689 511750) are a good way to splash the cash. It is not too big and maintains a lovely local feel. The bungalows sit over the lagoon and snorkelling near the accommodation is very pleasant, as is the sound of waves on the reef. **SM**

In town, I would recommend the new **Tahiti Nui Hotel**, which has reasonable prices and good location. **The Airport Lodge** (+689 822368) is also good for lower budgets. **EB**

In the islands outside of Tahiti, family pensions are usually very friendly and affordable. **CH**

**Useful numbers:**

- International code for Tahiti:** +689
- Ambulance:** 15
- Local Police:** 17
- Papeete Port Authority:** +689 505454
- Local Taxi:** +689 771369

**With thanks to:**

**Tahiti Ocean**  
[www.tahiti-ocean.com](http://www.tahiti-ocean.com)

**Tahiti Private Expeditions**  
[www.tahiti-private-expeditions.com](http://www.tahiti-private-expeditions.com)

**Tahiti Tourisme**  
[www.tahiti-tourism.com](http://www.tahiti-tourism.com)