

# ***J.K.HOLIDAYS***

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## TAHITI

*Experience another world... Experience Luxury...*

### Introduction

**Tahiti covers over two million square miles of the South Pacific Ocean and is comprised of 118 islands spread over five great archipelagos.**

Many islands are crowned with jagged peaks while others appear to barely float above the breaking waves. Spread over an area as large as Western Europe, the total land mass of all the islands adds up to an area only slightly larger than the tiny state of Rhode Island. The three archipelagos most sought by visitors are the Society Islands, comprised of Tahiti, Moorea, Bora Bora, Huahine, Raiatea and Taha'a; The Tuamotu Atolls or "Tahiti's Strand of Pearls", include the atolls of Rangiroa, Manihi, Tikehau, and Fakarava; and the Marquesas, or "The Mysterious Islands." The two other archipelagos, the Austral Islands and the Gambier Islands, lie to the south and the southeast, respectively, of the Society Islands. While very few travelers venture to these remote islands, those that do are not disappointed by the pristine environment.



## **What makes Tahiti so unique for visitors?**

### **People**

Embrace the warmth of your Polynesian hosts whose love for their islands is seen through music, dance, and flowers.

### **Overwater Bungalows**

Enjoy the drama and comfort of the world's perfect hotel room while sleeping above soothing lagoon waters.

### **Cruising**

Voyage within the legendary South Pacific aboard luxurious cruise ships, super yachts, or passenger freighter that travel between Tahiti's most beautiful islands.

### **Polynesian Spas**

Experience true relaxation and rejuvenation at one of the many luxurious Polynesian spas while nurtured by the tropical ambience.

### **Snorkeling & Diving**

Share the warm, crystal-clear lagoons and swift ocean passes with schools of impossibly-colored fish, docile sharks, and giant manta rays.



### **Romance**

Celebrate a new romance or a special anniversary in the most romantic spot on earth.

## **Honeymoons**

Discover how the seclusion and setting of these islands create one of the world's most desirable honeymoon destinations.

**If you were here you'd be you again...**

### **Maeva! Welcome!**

Tahiti - Moorea - Bora Bora - island names that evoke a wonderful state of mind, seducing honeymooners, romantics, adventurers, and vacationers looking for escape. Here, around these South Seas isles, a romantic sunset sea sends giant curls of turquoise breaking onto the colorful reefs that protect the tranquil lagoons of warm, bright-emerald waters and white coral-sand beaches.

### **Closer Than You Think**

Easier to travel to than you might imagine, Tahiti's Faa'a Airport is under 8 hours by air from Los Angeles LAX airport, with daily nonstop flights and starting in the summer of 2005 - 3 non-stop flights a week from New York's JFK airport. As far south of the equator as Hawaii is north, Tahiti is halfway between California and Australia, on the same side of the International Date Line as North America, and in the same time zone as Hawaii - (only three hours behind California April-October and two hours behind California November-March).

### **Where is Tahiti ?**

French Polynesia more commonly known as "Tahiti" is located in the South Pacific approximately 8 hours by plane from the city of Los Angeles. Tahiti primarily consists of five main island groups:

#### **Society Islands**

- Tahiti
- Moorea
- Bora Bora
- Raiatea & Taha'a

### **Tuamotu Islands**

- [Rangiroa](#)
- [Manihi](#)
- [Tikehau](#)
- [Fakarava](#)

### **The Marquesas Islands**

### **The Gambier Islands**

### **The Austral Islands**

Tahiti Experiences

**Experiences unique to Tahiti and perfected in Tahiti:**

Overwater Bungalows

Island Tours

Snorkeling & Diving

Shark Feeding

Tahitian Cultured Pearls

Polynesian Spas

Unique Cruise Ships

Tahitian Wedding Ceremony

Motu Picnic

### **Overwater Bungalows**

Unlike any other hotel room you've stayed in before, these traditional thatched-roof bungalows are perched above the turquoise lagoon waters. In many of the rooms, tropical fish swim below as you look through the glass floor or coffee table. With all the amenities of a first-class hotel room, here on your private balcony surrounded only by water and sky, you can enjoy both breakfast (often delivered by canoe) and the sunset (seemingly delivered by the heavens). Photo: Bora Bora sunset as seen from the InterContinental Le Moana Resort Bora Bora.



### **InterContinental Bora Bora Resort & Thalasso Spa- Overwater Bugalows**

#### **Island Tours**

There is no better way to gain a sense of everyday Tahitian life and experience the culture of French Polynesia, than passing through the small villages on a circle-island tour. As nearly every island has a coastal road following the lagoon shores, you can either drive around the island by rental car or take a guided bus tour. Explore the island interiors on a 4x4 safari, guided nature hike, or horseback ride. Skim across the lagoons on a motorized canoe, sailboat, or powerboat. For dramatic views above the islands, take a helicopter tour.

#### **Snorkeling & Diving**

World-class snorkeling and diving in Tahiti is one of the South Pacific's best-kept secrets. Both experienced and beginner divers and snorkelers are amazed by how clear the waters are and how close they can swim to the marine life, such as the gigantic manta rays.



With hundreds of dive sites throughout the islands, divers can choose from the amazing drift dives, oceanic drop-offs, sunken ships, and lagoon dives with infinite marine life.

### **Shark Feeding**

This excursion is one of the most thrilling and popular and can be enjoyed on most of the main islands. After a short trip into the lagoon by powered outrigger canoe or powerboat, you'll float or stand in four to seven feet of clear water behind a secure rope as the docile sharks are hand-fed by an experienced guide. Even non-swimmers can enjoy this exciting scene from the boat.

### **Tahitian Cultured Pearls**

The world-renowned iridescent luster of Mother Nature's most perfect gem can only be created in Tahiti warm lagoon waters. Commonly known around the world as Black Pearls, each Tahitian Cultured Pearl ranges in size and shape and the colors range from the darkest black to shimmering shades of green, blue, bronze, aubergine, or even pink. Tour a pearl farm on Manihi, Rangiroa, Raiatea, Huahine, Taha'a, Tikehau, and Fakarava or visit one of the many pearl shops.

### **Polynesian Spas**

Tahiti is now a world-class spa destination with many of the resorts offering new luxurious spas. Surrounded by a backdrop of natural beauty and floral fragrances, there is no better setting for relaxation. Enjoy fresh-flower baths, herbal rain showers, or even a body wrap in banana tree leaves at H el ene Spa as shown in the photo. You can also rejuvenate your romance at the spas aboard the cruise ships including the Parisian-influenced private Spa Villa for two on the m/s Paul Gauguin.

### **Unique Cruise Ships**

A wide variety of cruise products set sail in these romantic isles. Each week, luxurious cruise ships offer first-class meals and balcony cabins, Tahitian-owned "super yachts" sail deep within the smooth-water lagoons, a



passenger freighter voyages between 17 ports, sailing catamarans offer small groups or families a vacation at sea, and barefoot cruising creates an environment for the independent and adventurous. Something for everyone on cruises found nowhere else on earth.

### **Tahitian Wedding Ceremony**

A traditional Tahitian wedding is a meaningful yet legally non-binding ceremony for couples wishing to wed or renew their vows. Couples are bedecked in bright pareu, flowers, and shells. The groom is brought to the beach side location in a canoe while the bride is carried on a rattan throne. Music and dancers enhance the ceremony while a Tahitian priest performs the rites and gives the couple their Tahitian name.

### **Motu Picnic**

Enjoy a private or group picnic on your own motu (tiny islets in the lagoon.) Your resort or cruise ship can provide an unforgettable experience where gourmet meals are prepared and enjoyed on a table set either under a coconut tree or in the warm, shallow waters along the beach as shown here with Bora Bora Cruises



## **Honeymoons & Romance in Tahiti**

**The center of the universe for romance.**

There is no better place to celebrate your new life together or to celebrate a milestone of your relationship. Tahiti, officially known as French Polynesia, is comprised of 118 romantic islands and atolls. Each of the many islands of Tahiti is a tiny paradise. Some isles are crowned with jagged peaks soaring magically out of the ocean in an explosion of green velvet while others appear as if gracefully tossed upon the ocean - barely floating above the breaking waves

## Tahiti Resorts & Hotels

Unlike any other properties in the world, the resorts of Tahiti offer the perfect combination of experiences, service, dramatic views, cuisine, ambience, and accommodations. Lodging types range from rooms and suites with ocean views to thatched roof bungalows on stilts perched above the water with glass floors and a private deck with a ladder to the water.

*Come experience accommodations beyond the ordinary!*



**St. Regis Bora Bora Resort**







**Le Meridien Bora Bora**



**Hilton Bora Bora Nui Resort & Spa**



**Intercontinental Moorea**



**Hilton Moorea Lagoon Resort & Spa**

## Bora Bora, The Romantic Island

Under a one hour flight from the island of Tahiti or Moorea, the island of Bora Bora, with a lagoon resembling an artist's palette of blues and greens, is love at first sight. Romantics from around the world have laid claim to this island where the castle-like Mount Otemanu pierces the sky. Lush tropical slopes and valleys blossom with hibiscus, while palm-covered motu circle the illuminated lagoon like a delicate necklace.

Perfect white-sand beaches give way to emerald waters where colored fish animate the coral gardens as they greet the giant manta rays. This could be easily be described as the center of the romantic universe, where luxury resorts and spas dot the island with overwater bungalows, thatched roof villas, and fabled ambience.

Simply said, Bora Bora is the most beautiful island in the world. Pora Pora - the ancient name, meaning "first born," came from legends describing this as the first island to rise when Taaroa, the supreme god, fished it out of the waters after the mythical creation of Havai'i, now known as Raiatea. Although the first letter "B" does not exist in the Tahitian language, when Captain Cook first heard the name he mistook the softened sound of the Tahitian "P" for "B" and called the island Bola Bola.

### **Romance on Bora Bora**

Truly, the most romantic island in the world. From the dramatic scenery to the privacy and amenities of the overwater bungalows, everything in Bora Bora equals a 10 on the romance scale. Resorts have been welcoming couples for over 40 years and their special amenities have been fine tuned to perfection. From sunrise to sunset, each resort has designed their own blend of unique romantic experiences for their guests to choose from.

### **For The Visitor, The Majesty of Bora Bora offers:**

Enchantment from the neon-lit turquoise lagoon waters with unending days of exploration through snorkeling and diving.

Excitement above the lagoon by outrigger canoe, Boston Whaler, wave runner, jet ski, and dramatic sunset cruises aboard a catamaran sailboat.

Exploration of the panoramic overlooks found by hike or 4x4 accompanied by entertaining local guides.

Discovery of the world-renowned shopping for local and international original art, Tahitian pearls, perfumes and oils, and precious wood handcrafts.

## **MOOREA**

### **The Magical Island**

A few minutes from the island of Tahiti by plane, and only thirty minutes by high-speed catamaran, Moorea soars magically out of the ocean in an explosion of green velvet - what you would imagine a South Seas island to be.

A wide, shallow lagoon surrounds the island's vertical mountains where poetic threads of waterfalls tumble down fern-softened cliffs. Peaceful meadows flanked by pinnacles of green will fill your senses and renew your belief in the majesty of nature. Pastel-painted houses surrounded by gardens of hibiscus and birds of paradise, circle the island in a fantasy of happy, yet simple villages.

A favorite among repeat visitors who all agree: the beauty of Moorea is unforgettable...

Aimeo I Te Rara Varu

This, the island's poetic name, comes from the eight majestic mountain ridges; however, the name was later changed to Moorea-meaning "Yellow lizard"- following a dream by a high priest. Polynesian legend describes the panorama of volcanic ridges as the second dorsal fin of the fish that became the island of Tahiti. These pinnacles later inspired the mythical "Bali Hai" that was based on James Michener's book, Tales of the South Pacific.

## Raiatea & Taha'a

### Raiatea - The Sacred Island

Raiatea, meaning "faraway heaven" and "sky with soft light", was first named Havai'i after the homeland of the ancient Polynesians and is the most sacred island in the South Pacific. This, the second largest Tahitian isle, was the center of religion and culture over 1000 years ago and still lends enchantment to ancient legends told to this day. The green-carpeted mountains include the celebrated Mt. Temehani, a sort of Polynesian Mt. Olympus.

**Where legends began and dreams are fulfilled.**

### Taha'a - The Vanilla Island

Taha'a, with the rich aroma of vanilla lingering heavily in the air, offers a glimpse of the traditional, tranquil life of the Tahitians. The flower-shaped island's simple beauty is charmed by soft mountain shapes and surrounded by tiny motu with bright sand beaches. In the fertile valleys cutting within the island, local farmers grow watermelon, vanilla, and copra.

**With a heart-beat rhythm of life unique in the world.**

#### Tiare Apetahi Flower

Upon Mt. Temehani on Raiatea lives the Tiare Apetahi, a flower so rare it can be grown no place else on earth. Each dawn the petals open with a slight crackling sound. Legends describe this as the sound of the broken heart of a common woman who was not allowed to marry the son of the Tahitian king.

