

**Tahiti Escapes Travel**  
**A Division of McCoy Custom Travel & Cruise**  
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**<http://www.visit-tahiti.com> <http://www.mccoctravel.com>**

***Ia Orana!***

Thank you for allowing us to assist you in planning your holiday to Tahiti and the South Pacific. It is our pleasure to work with you. Here is a little information about Tahiti and French Polynesia that we think you will find useful and interesting:

- \* **HAVE YOU PURCHASED TRAVEL INSURANCE TO PROTECT YOUR TRAVEL INVESTMENT?**
- \* **ALWAYS REVIEW** all documents **immediately** to make sure they are correct.
- **IS YOUR PASSPORT CURRENT AND VALID FOR AT LEAST 6 MONTHS AFTER YOUR DATES OF TRAVEL?**
- No visas are required for Tahiti for **US CITIZENS** unless stay is longer than 30 days. **You will need a Visa for Australia.**
- \* Make sure the names we have for you are your legal names as they appear on your passport. **NOTIFY US IMMEDIATELY IF THEY ARE NOT!** We suggest making two photo copies of all passports, tickets, and travel documents. When you travel, keep one copy at home with someone you can contact in time of need for this valuable information, and keep one with you in a safe and different place than the originals.
- If you will be enjoying certified diving once you reach your destination, make sure you bring your Dive Card and Log Book with you.
- Frequent flier numbers: **ALWAYS** make sure you bring your frequent flyer numbers with you and **reconfirm** they are in the record when you check in for your initial flights. We want you to earn those free miles so please pay attention to this.
- **\*DUE TO THE AIRLINES MAKING NUMEROUS SCHEDULE CHANGES,** Always Reconfirm All Flights, Seat Assignments, Frequent Flyer Number, Luggage Allowance And Weight Restrictions, 24-48 Hours Prior To Your Departure. You will find a list of airlines with their reservation numbers in our password protected Client Only website: [www.mccoysesapes.com/client/](http://www.mccoysesapes.com/client/). Your user name is "travel" and the password is "info". In this site you can also preview some of the important information we will be sending you. Just follow the links to your destination.

**SOME USEFUL INFO ABOUT TAHITI AND HER ISLANDS**

The Tahitian Islands are located just 7 1/2 hours from Los Angeles, halfway between California and Australia. The Tahitian Islands, or French Polynesia consists of 118 islands and atolls made up of five archipelagoes: the Society Islands, Austral Islands, Marquesas Islands, Tuamotu atolls and The Mangareva Islands. Tahiti is the largest island in French Polynesia. Its capital city is Papeete.

A tropical climate:

The French Polynesian islands enjoy a tropical climate; the maximum number of hours of sunshine is close to 3000 per year in the Tuamotu! The temperature, which is always pleasant, is cooled by the trade winds of the Pacific that blow throughout the year. The average ambient temperature is 27° C, and the waters of the lagoons are a fairly constant 26° C. There are two seasons of note: a hot season which goes from November to March, and a cooler season from April to October.

Language:

French and Tahitian are the two official languages. **English is also widely spoken**, particularly in tourist areas.

Entry requirements:

***A valid passport is required for entry for all but French Citizens. It should be valid for at least 6 months after your date of travel.***

French nationals (citizens) only require a National Identity Card for a stay in Polynesia. However, they are strongly advised to be in possession of a passport valid for six months longer than their return date, in case of any extended or unforeseen stopover in the United States.

The nationals of Belgium, Luxemburg, Monaco and Switzerland may visit without a visa for up to three months, as may nationals of the European Union as well as nationals of Andorra, the Vatican, Cyprus, Iceland, Liechtenstein, Malta, Norway, St Martin and Australia.

Canadian nationals are entitled to one month without a visa. Nationals of Argentina, Bermuda, Brunei, South Korea, Croatia, Hungary, Japan, Malaysia, Mexico, New Zealand, Poland, the Czech Republic, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, **USA**, Uruguay, Bolivia, Chile, Costa Rica, Equator, Estonia, Guatemala, Honduras, Latvia, Lithuania, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay and Salvador may also stay for **up to one month without a visa**.

Nationals from all other countries require a visa, which may be obtained from the French Embassy or French Consulate in the country of residence. The visa must be endorsed: "Valid for French Polynesia".

Except for the nationals from the European Union and foreigners holding a residency card of 10 years in France, all foreigners coming to French Polynesia must possess a return ticket, or must pay a refundable repatriation bond upon their arrival.

For more visa info: [www.France-Consulate.org](http://www.France-Consulate.org) French Consulate)

### **Faa'a International Airport**

The Faa'a international airport, built on the lagoon is some 5 km west of Papeete near the major hotels. The domestic terminal for Air Tahiti is right alongside it. The domestic terminal for Air Moorea is 300m further on.

The airport provides a lot of other functions and related services. Apart from the airline check-in counter there is an information counter, vehicle rental offices and shops. Other services are available: post and telephones, ATM, foreign exchange agency (open weekdays from 7:45 am to 3:30 pm and one hour before international departures), and a postal service (open weekdays from 6 am to 10 am and 6 pm to 10 pm; Saturdays; Sundays and holidays from 6 am to 10 am), and there are also taxi companies. On the ground floor there is a snack bar with a restaurant above it called The Windrose (La rose des vents). Nearby, in a special Tahitian style house, craftspeople sell flower leis and shell necklaces. Passengers arriving on international flights must collect their baggage; go through Customs and then re check-in at the domestic flight counters some 50 m to the right of the International Arrivals area.

### Customs Declaration:

All non-prohibited items brought in must be declared, and the duties and taxes must be paid at the customs office. Please check with your consulate if you plan to bring in goods that exceed your own personal use.

Travelers less than 17 years of age are not entitled to duty-free tobacco or alcohol

Prohibited imports include: live animals\*, flowers and fruits (unless specially authorized), copies and pearls originally grown in Polynesia.

All telecommunications and radio equipment requires an import license issued by the Postal and Telecommunications Division Tel. (689) 53. 22. 44 Fax. (689) 53. 28. 01. or contact the Office of the High Commissioner for French Polynesia, Postal and Telecommunications Division: Tel.(689) 54 27 15 Fax.(689) 46. 86. 33 ou 42 27 85.

Some further information can be found on the Internet at the following address: [www.finances.gouv.fr/douanes](http://www.finances.gouv.fr/douanes).

\*For further information contact the Department of Agriculture, BP 100, Papeete, and Tahiti; or at Tahiti-Faaa Airport (tel. (689) 82 49 99 from 7 am to 11 am and from 1 pm to 4 pm.)

Naturally the following are also prohibited: weapons, munitions and narcotics.

### Survey Forms:

A compulsory survey form is handed out on the plane by cabin crew. Travel agents may also obtain these forms from the "Service du Tourisme" B.P. 4527 B.P. 4527 PAPEETE - TAHITI ([www.service-du-tourisme.pf](http://www.service-du-tourisme.pf)). Passengers of all nationalities are required to fill out these forms and hand them to ground staff on arrival.

### Health:

**No vaccinations are required for entry**, *except for visitors arriving from an infected area* (please contact your doctor or airline company). French Polynesia enjoys a high standard of health, with excellent medical and dental services, pharmacies, private clinics and a large government hospital in Tahiti, which is open 24 hours. The outer islands have hospitals or dispensaries, and a few private practitioners.

There are no snakes, poisonous spiders or fearsome animals in these islands. Hotels and dispensaries on each tourist island and atoll keep first aid supplies on hand to treat coral cuts, sunburn and the extremely rare case of poisoning, when the

barefoot swimmer steps on the toxic spines of the stonefish. All the islands maintain hygienic controls to combat potential epidemics of tropical diseases, such as the dengue fever. Please take precaution and do not overexpose your body to the tropical sun. Tennis shoes or plastic sandals are recommended when walking on the reefs and in the lagoons of Polynesia. Tap water in the hotels and restaurants is safe to drink. Local mineral waters and all sorts of French mineral waters are available.

#### \$Currency\$

The currency used in French Polynesia is the French Pacific franc, or CFP. Though exchange rates vary, there are approximately 125 CFP to the U.S. dollar. Notes come in denominations of 500, 1000, 5000 and 10,000, and coins in denominations of 1, 2, 5, 10, 20, 50 and 100.

A privately operated foreign exchange office is located on the Papeete waterfront next to the harbor and in back of the port immigration office and the Socredo Bank. It is open Monday through Saturday from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. It is open Sundays and public holidays from 7:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. additionally, there is a currency exchange stand at Faaa International Airport in Tahiti that is open for all arriving passenger flights. All currency with a legal exchange rate may be exchanged. The exchange rates used are the same as those used by the banks in Papeete.

Travelers' checks are easily cashed at banks and hotels. Visitors are advised to carry both traveler's checks and credit cards to make their trip more convenient. All banks charge a 350 to 400 CFP (U.S. \$3.50 to \$4.00) commission on a travelers' check transaction, particularly if you are changing from one currency to another.

Visa credit cards are accepted (banks will give you a cash advance), as are American Express. MasterCard is accepted in some areas. On many of the smaller islands, credit cards are not accepted. Though ATMs are a growing presence in Tahiti, there is no guarantee yours will work there. In addition, some of the outer islands may not have banking facilities.

An 8 percent tax is added to the cost of a room in the hotels of French Polynesia. This tax does not apply to the pensions and family lodgings. There are no sales taxes and no airport taxes, although there are V.A.T. and Soujourn taxes that vary from a set amount (50-150 F.CPF) to a small percentage. These taxes generally are applied only to hotels and cruises.

A typical dinner for one person in Tahiti ranges from 1.000 CFP (approximately U.S. \$10) or less to 3.000 CFP (approximately U.S. \$30) and up--not including alcoholic beverages. Tipping is not customary and is contrary to the culture in Tahiti and Her Islands.

#### Electricity:

Most of the hotels use 110 or 220 volts, a.c. 60 cycles. Power outlets for all shavers and other appliances are a convenience provided in most hotels. Converters/adaptor for other appliances is usually available upon request.

#### Maruru Roa!

Management and Staff  
Tahiti Escapes Travel  
McCoy Custom Travel