

GUIDE DU VISITEUR HUAHINE - RAIATEA TAHA'A - BORA BORA - MAUPITI VISITOR'S GUIDE

ILES SOUS-LE-VENT - LEEWARD ISLANDS

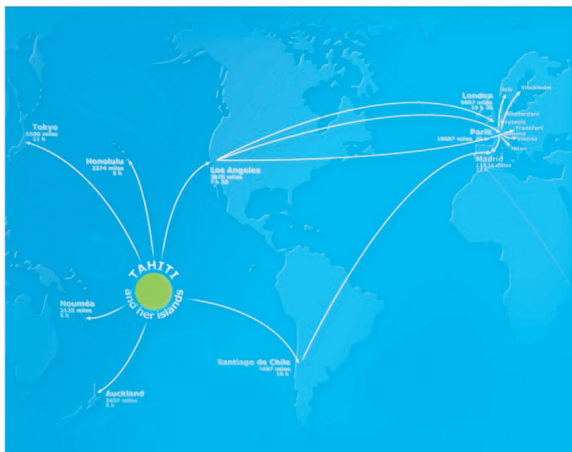


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 *Tahiti*
TOURISME

Tahiti

TOURISME



ahiti et ses îles

HITI AND HER ISLANDS





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Presentation of the Leeward Islands

The Leeward Islands, called Raromāta'i, includes five varied high islands: Huahine, much valued for its relaxed and authentic atmosphere; Raiatea, the "sacred island", a legendary site with the most important marae; Taha'a, a veritable tropical garden; Bora Bora and its famous lagoon; and Maupiti, the most remote of the islands, small and less developed, but just as marvelous. Like all of Polynesia these islands offer a tropical climate that is normally divided into two seasons: hot and humid from November to March and cool and dry from April to October. Tourism, arts and crafts, agriculture, copra and fishing accent the daily rhythm of these islands that are well connected by airplane service. Cargo boats and passenger ships provide regular service from Papeetē.

Throughout the year the Raromāta'i islands welcome prestigious events that entertain the visitors as well as the inhabitants. The Tahiti Pearl Regatta in May is an international gathering for those who enjoy yachting, with legs of the race being held in the open ocean and inside the lagoons. A village specially built for this occasion is set up in 'Uturoa (Raiatea) to receive the participants and to provide a place for the numerous festivities held during the Tahiti Pearl Regatta (sports initiations, activities, special evenings, etc.). In July the Polynesian culture is highlighted with the Heiva i Porapora, an annual contest of songs and dances with competitions of groups from Bora Bora and all the islands in the Leeward Islands archipelago. This most authentic cultural festival is punctuated by demonstrations of traditional sports and arts and crafts exhibits. The Hawaiki Nui Va'a, one of the most famous outrigger canoe races in the world, is held each November between Huahine, Raiatea, Taha'a and Bora Bora. 4 islands connected in 3 legs covering a course of 80 mi., around 80 teams and 1,000 paddlers, the Hawaiki Nui Va'a is a moment apart in the world of Polynesian sport, which mobilizes the people on all the islands of French Polynesia. The final arrival at Mātira Point in Bora Bora is unforgettable.



> RECETTE

Terrine de bananes à la vanille de Taha'a,
simple et délicieuse

Ingrédients pour 6 personnes :

Quelques bananes bien
mûres
3 gousses de vanille de
Taha'a
120 g de cassonade

- Epluchez les bananes, roulez-les dans la cassonade.

- Posez-les sur une plaque puis rôtissez-les au four 10 min.
- Superposez-les entières dans un plat à terrine et saupoudrez-les de graines de vanille.
- Réservez au frigo pendant 12 heures. Servez démoulé accompagné de sorbet à la vanille.

> RECIPE

Banana Terrine with vanilla from Taha'a – simple and delicious

Ingredients for 6 people

A few ripe bananas
3 vanilla beans from Taha'a
1/2 oz. of brown sugar

- Peel the bananas and roll in the brown sugar.
- Place on a heat-proof plate and bake in an oven for 10 minutes.

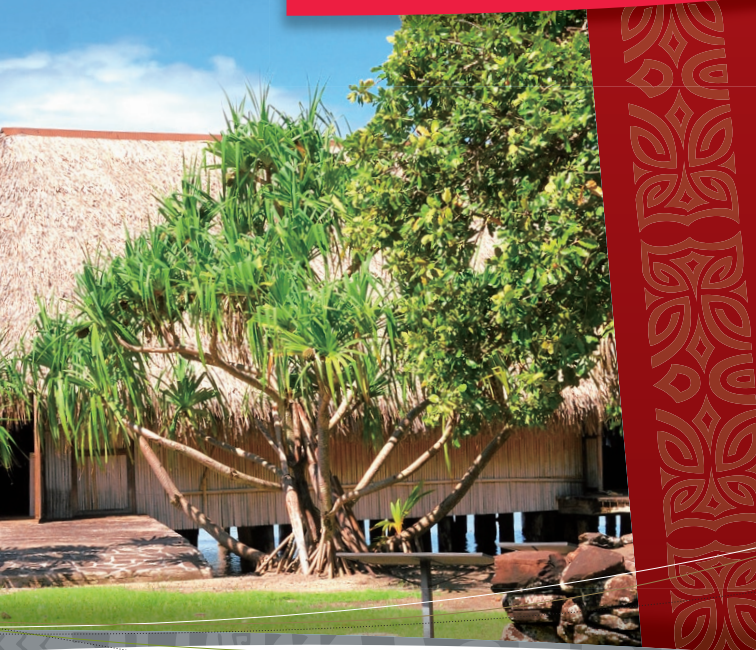
- Transfer cooked bananas to an earthenware terrine and sprinkle with the grains of vanilla.
- Chill in the refrigerator for 12 hours. Take out of the mould and serve with vanilla sorbet.



Zoom

Discovery: Heritage of the past

The evangelization of Polynesia at the end of the 18th century obscured the memory of the ancient religion, and with it was forgotten most of the sites and objects of the associated practices. Since the 1960s numerous campaigns of archaeological excavations have been carried out in the four corners of the Polynesian islands. In the archipelago of the Raromāta'i, as elsewhere, these researches have resulted in discoveries that bring back the past of the sacred sites such as the marae, as well as petroglyphs and sculptures: the ti'i, deified ancestors, the puna, magical stones of abundance, etc. Huahine, Ra'iatea and Maupiti have numerous impressive vestiges, that you will have the privilege of discovering in the heart of the lush vegetation. You can even feel the power and the prestige that emanate from the imposing marae and the stone fish traps of Maeva in Huahine, the major site of Taputapuātea in 'Ōpoa (Raiatea), and sense the secrets of the petroglyphs of Maupiti.



Mānava, welcome to Huahine















At 110 mi. northwest of Tahiti, welcome to Huahine: the island that “engenders women”. When viewed from the beach of Fare, the island’s main village, the form of the mountain resembles the contours of a pregnant reclining woman. You can distinguish the shape of her hair, her head, nose, mouth and stomach. Lying over the lagoon, she seems to be watching over the inhabitants of Huahine, which was populated around the year 850. The archaeological excavations that were carried out in the 1960s revealed many relics and showed that the pre-European settlements were among the oldest of the Society Islands. The first European to step ashore in Huahine was Captain Cook in 1769. Whereas the rest of the archipelago became a French colony in 1880, Huahine resisted, remaining independent until 1888.

With a surface of approximately 29 sq. mi. Huahine is composed of two volcanic islands: Huahine Nui in the north and Huahine Iti in the south, connected by a bridge above the lagoon. The culminating point, in the north of the island, is Mount Turi, 2,194 ft. in height. Approximately 6,000 inhabitants live on this luxuriant island, whose principal district is Fare, in the northwest.

There are direct flights daily from Tahiti (30 min.)

Huahine



-  Aéroport / Airport
-  Port / Boat ferry port
-  Site historique / Historical site
-  Information / Information
-  Centre commercial / Commercial center
-  Banque / Bank
-  Office des Postes / Post office
-  Location de véhicules / Vehicle rentals
-  Site touristique / Site of interest
-  Centre de plongée / Scuba diving center
-  Bateau charter / Charter boat
-  Equitation / Horseback riding
-  Site de surf / Surf site
-  Ferme perlière / Pearl farm

-  Hôtel / Hotel voir / see page 38
-  Hébergement chez l'habitant et petite hôtellerie familiale / Family hotel voir / see page 38





Le **marae** côtier de Anini (signalé) mérite une halte. Dédié au dieu 'Oro, il est imposant avec ses gros blocs de corail qui s'élèvent vers le ciel tels des messagers divins.

Fiti'i et Ha'apū

Ces deux districts sont d'importantes **zones agricoles** où l'on cultive ananas, melons, pastèques...

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What to see

on the island of Huahine?

Fare

In the small lively **village of Fare** you will find the banks, post office, roulottes, cybercafés, agencies for rental cars and bicycles, dive centers, restaurants, stores and arts and crafts shops.

Every morning you will be able to observe the local life while meeting farmers and fishermen who come to sell their products in the village center.

When the cargo boats dock at the quay in Fare, the effervescence is tangible and contrasts with the usual peace that reigns here. Boat day is a merry spectacle not to be missed.

At the exit of the town, a small path leads to **a beautiful sand beach** of white sand and turquoise water. Resident families go there after school and work to swim and play.

Maeva

The former seat of power of the grand chiefs and the spiritual capital of the island, time stands still in **Maeva**, a village spread along the banks of the **salt-water lake, Fa'una Nui**, a picturesque site with its fishermen's houses built on stilts. The **stone fish traps** inherited from their ancestors are still used, thanks to an infallible technique: pushed by the tide, the fish are swept inside a stone trap in the shape of a funnel, before being imprisoned in a wooden trap. The major part of **the big marae** of the island are around Lake Fa'una Nui, and have been restored.

Today the marae are important places of pilgrimage for visitors in search of different sensations. Considered at the time as true palaces presented to the Gods, these marae help us to understand the complexity and the wisdom of the mā'ohi religion. To learn the history of the island, a stop at the **fare pōte'e** of Maeva is essential: this small ecomuseum presents



© L. Lam Ngoyien



various pre-European objects that were found during archaeological excavations. Parts of outrigger canoes, oars, blades of adzes, pendants of fish teeth, pounders (penu), and tattooing combs are exhibited in the museum.

To benefit from a refreshing and entertaining pause, take your mask and snorkel for a dip in the **coral garden** (beside the beach of the old Sofitel hotel): an aquatic show of multicolored fish awaits you there. Watch out for the current.

Fa'ie

The **sacred blue-eyed eels** (puhi tari'a) of Fa'ie are a source of enjoyment for Huahine's children as well as visitors! They are rather tame and live among the underwater roots of the māpē (chestnut) trees of a small brook (after the small bridge): you cannot miss seeing them as they are huge.

For a panoramic view of the beautiful bays and Huahine Iti, go up the cross island road (la route traversière) to the **Belvédère** viewpoint: the ascent is steep but the landscape is worth the detour.

Maro'ē

On the left is the longest bridge of French Polynesia, 394 ft., which connects the two islands of Huahine, crossing the deep, wild **bay of Maro'ē**. On the right-hand side lies the **bay of Bourayne**, with the motu Vai'ore'a. According to the legend, the semigod **Hiro** split the island in two while passing through in his outrigger canoe. You can see the marks of his paddle on the black rock, as well as the imprint of his finger and his sex...

Parea

Wide stretches of magnificent beaches beckon on the other side of the bridge in Huahine Iti, the small island. **The village of Parea** in the south is famous for the natural luxury that the Polynesian environment offers with its languorous shores, the turquoise palette of its lagoons and the hospitality of the inhabitants... To be convinced that paradise exists, it is enough to enjoy a fresh fruit cocktail and lobsters at sunset in one of the restaurants bordering **Ave'a Bay**. **The coastal marae of Anini** (look for the sign) is worth visiting. Dedicated to the god `Oro, it is imposing with its large blocks of coral rising toward the sky like divine messengers.

Fit'i and Ha'apū

These two districts are important **agricultural zones** where pineapple, cantaloupe and watermelon are cultivated.



Les activités Activities

Avec des plages exceptionnelles, des fonds sous-marins de toute beauté, le lagon de Huahine est une activité en soit. En snorkelling ou en plongée, découvrez l'extraordinaire diversité tant en coraux qu'en poissons multicolores. Il n'est pas nécessaire de nager bien loin pour se retrouver cerné de poissons papillons, perroquets, requins et raies, dans une eau d'une clarté fabuleuse. Les amateurs de surf seront comblés à Parea et Fare (spots de récifs), et les kite-surfeurs trouveront leur bonheur venté au sud de l'île. Croisières à voile autour de l'île, bateau à fond de verre et jet-ski complètent le tableau des activités nautiques. Quant aux plus terriens, ils pourront apprécier la diversité de la nature lors d'une promenade à cheval ou à VTT. Randonnées et safaris 4X4 sont aussi régulièrement organisés.

With its outstanding beaches and beautiful underwater scenery, the lagoon of Huahine is an activity in itself. Whether snorkeling or diving, you will discover an extraordinary diversity of coral as well as multicolored fish. It is not necessary to swim very far to find yourself encircled by butterflyfish, parrotfish, sharks and rays, in water that is fabulously clear. Surfers will be delighted with the "reef spots" in Parea and Fare, and kite-surfers will find their happiness on the windy south side of the island. Windsurfing around the island, glass bottom boat rides and jet-ski excursions complete the choices of nautical activities. On land you will appreciate the diversity of nature while riding a horse or all-terrain bike. Excursions and 4WD safaris are also organized.

ACTIVITÉS NAUTIQUES / NAUTICAL ACTIVITIES

Centres de plongée sous-marine / Scuba diving centers

HEREMITI DIVE

Parea
Tel. : (689) 68.86.49
GSM : (689) 27.90.57

PACIFIC BLUE ADVENTURE

Quai de Fare
GSM : (689) 71.96.55

MAHANA DIVE

Fare, à l'embarcadère des navettes du Te Tiare
GSM : (689) 73.07.17

Excursions sur le lagon & dans les passes Nautical lagoon & coral reef pass excursions

HUAHINE NAUTIQUE

Fare
Tel. : (689) 68.83.15
GSM : (689) 78.59.05

SAILING HUAHINE VOILE

Route de Fitii, Fare
Tel. : (689) 68.72.49
GSM : (689) 23.23.79

POETAINA CRUISES

PK 1 Fare
Tel. : (689) 60.60.06
GSM : (689) 78.86.39

Jet Ski / Jet-Ski

HUAHINE NAUTIQUE

Fare
Tel. : (689) 68.83.15 / GSM : (689) 78.59.05

Centre de relaxation et Spa / Relaxation center and Spa

MANEA SPA

Hôtel Huahine Te Tiare Beach Resort
Tel. : (689) 60.60.50

POEVAI SPA

Hôtel Relais Mahana
Tel. : (689) 60.60.40

DIVERTISSEMENTS / ENTERTAINMENT

Galerie d'art & atelier / Art gallery and workshop

GALERIE 'UMATATEA

Motu Maeva, face à l'ancien Camping Vana'a
Tel. : (689) 68.70.79 / GSM : (689) 27.27.17

RESTAURANTS / RESTAURANTS

Cuisine française & internationale French & international cuisine

CHEZ TARA

Parea
Tel. : (689) 68.78.45
GSM : (689) 72.98.76

LE RESTAURANT DU RELAIS MAHANA

Parea, baie d'Avea
Tel. : (689) 60.60.40

LE MAHI MAHI

Quai de Fare
Tel. : (689) 68.70.55

RESTAURANT ENITE

C/o Pension Enite, Fare
Tel. : (689) 68.82.37
GSM : (689) 73.05.07



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RESTAURANT LES DAUPHINS

Fare, près de la Poste
Tel. : (689) 68.89.01

RESTAURANT MAUARI

Baie de Avea, Parea, Huahine Iti
Tel. : (689) 68.86.49

Cuisine italienne / Italian cuisine

HAAMENE PIZZA

Haamene
Tel. : (689) 68.71.70

Cuisine traditionnelle / Local cuisine

NEW TE MARARA

Fare
Tel. : (689) 68.70.81
GSM : (689) 78.59.05

RESTAURANT TEHINA

PK 3 Fare, côté mer
Tel. : (689) 68.75.53
GSM : (689) 72.27.85

Shopping

The stores are generally open Monday to Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., and on Saturdays from 8 a.m. to 12 p.m.

Fare

Super Fare Nui: supermarket (open Monday to Thursday from 5:45 a.m. to 6:45 p.m., on Friday and Saturday from 5:45 a.m. to 7 p.m. and on Sunday from 5:45 a.m. to 12 p.m.).

Rima'i Te Niu Tau'e Artisanal Center: potteries, jewelry, pareos.

Various souvenir shops (craft industry of local art)

Village of Maeva

Galerie `Umatatea: paintings

Fa'ie

Huahine Pearl Farm & Pottery: artisanal pottery with Polynesian accents, Tahitian cultured pearls directly from the pearl farm. Free boat shuttle every day from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Around the island: vanilla farms and mini-markets



What to bring back from Huahine?

Vanilla, pottery, pareos, pearls, arts and crafts.

