

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

ILES SOUS-LE-VENT - LEEWARD ISLANDS



[www.tahiti-tourisme.pf](http://www.tahiti-tourisme.pf)

 *Tahiti*  
TOURISME

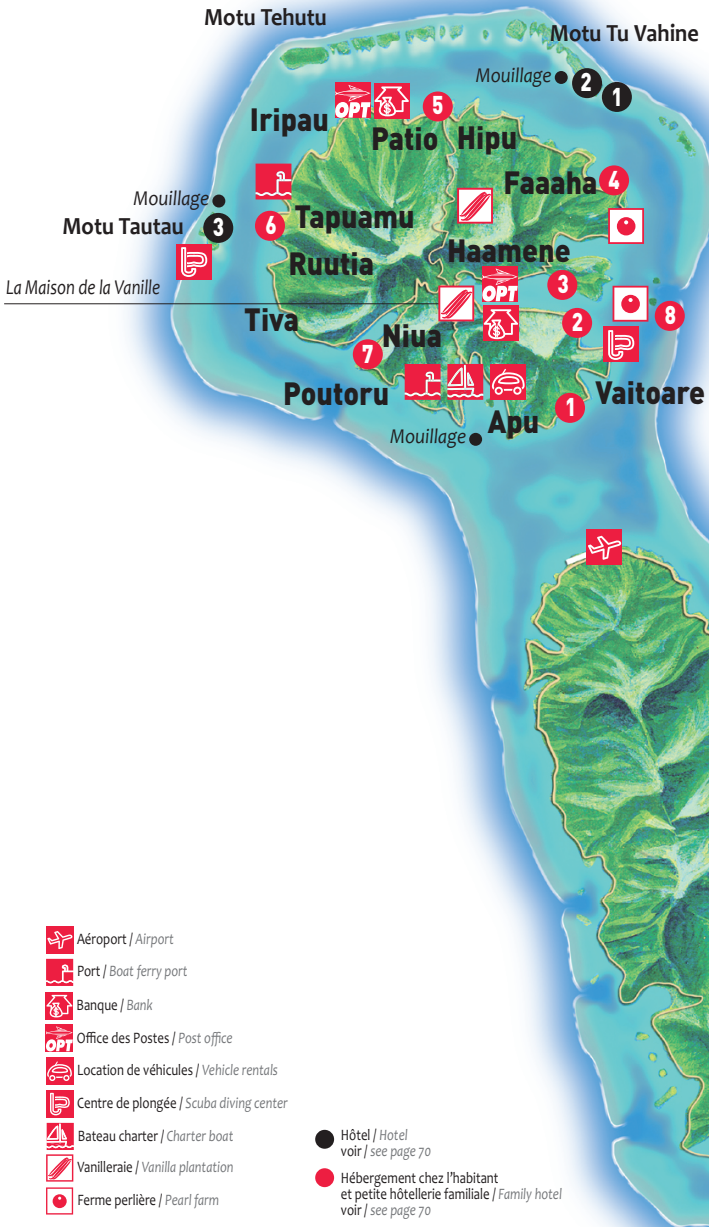


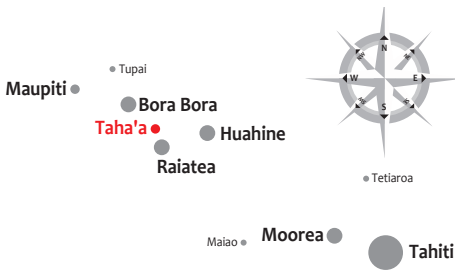
## Mānava, welcome to Taha'a

Ra'iatea's little sister with whom she shares the same lagoon, Taha'a is a jewel of serenity. Also called the "Vanilla Island" for the quantity and quality of its plantations from which emanate a delicious and bewitching perfume, Taha'a looks like a huge colorful garden! It was once called Ūpōrū, a name that is reminiscent of the island of Upolu in Samoa, and from where some of the great migrations began. The history of Taha'a is inseparable from that of Hiro, the legendary hero of many exploits: you will see his traces around the island on the picturesque and mysterious sites.

The first missionaries arrived in Taha'a in 1822, which came under French rule a few years later, at the same time as Ra'iatea.

Just under 5,000 people live on this island that has kept the traditional rhythm of Polynesia of yesteryear: cultivation of vanilla, pearl farming, copra, fishing and also tourism form the balance of life in Taha'a. As there is no airport, several boats provide 20-minute service from Ra'iatea.





# Taha'a





# What to see

on the island of Taha'a?

## Ha'amene

From the mountain pass of **Vaito'eto'e**, which rises to 1,312 ft., the view is breathtaking: you can see the entire length of **Ha'amene** bay and in the background is the silhouette of Ra'iatea. You can get to this panoramic viewpoint by "la route traversière", a 4.3 mile cross-island road that connects Ha'amene with **Pâtio**, the two main villages of Taha'a. Also in the Bay of Ha'amene, you can visit the **Hibiscus foundation**, which has been dedicated for almost 20 years to saving the endangered **sea turtles** that are often trapped in fishing nets. Here they are treated, tagged and released. Every morning you can attend the turtle feedings. Hundreds of turtles have been rescued by the foundation, which is far from trivial when we know they are endangered.

Several **pearl farms** are operating in the waters of Taha'a (at Ha'amene, Fa'a'aha and Pâtio). Visit them to learn more about the secrets of the Tahitian cultured pearl, or to buy the jewel of your dreams.

And to take stock of the work required to create the famous Tahitian vanilla, stop at a vanilla producer's outlet (in Ha'amene, and Fa'a'aha and Poutoru). They will explain how this black gold is grown.

The motu that surround Taha'a's main island like a necklace are enchanting: a trip to one of these small islets is essential! **Motu Tautau, Eha, Maharare**, here and there; the sand and the water are pristine and the coral gardens are incredibly rich. You will swim in a magical setting along with Napoleons, clownfish, butterflyfish, and barracuda, and you will see large moray eels lurking in their holes!

From the unforgettable view of Bora Bora, just a few miles distant, to the deeply indented bays of competing shades of blue, throughout your stay in Taha'a you will enjoy the pleasant calmness that prevails in the villages of fragrant flowers.

## Zoom sur la vanille

Partout où vous vous promènerez sur l'île, vous serez envahi par le doux parfum sucré et tiède de la vanille qui émane des plantations, particulièrement nombreuses sur Taha'a. Il faut dire que sa réputation est internationale et la demande, très importante. Aux quatre coins du monde, les plus grands restaurateurs raffolent de la vanille de Taha'a pour sa texture généreuse et son arôme si riche. Mais la cultiver est une affaire très délicate, avec une fécondation de la fleur toujours réalisée à la main en période de floraison (de juillet à octobre). Neuf mois plus tard, les gousses sont mises à sécher et à bronzer pendant 5 mois ; elles sont ensuite triées, calibrées et emballées pour être commercialisées. Baignée de soleil et d'amour, voilà pourquoi la vanille de Taha'a est si unique !

## Zoom on vanilla

Everywhere you walk on the island, you will be overwhelmed by the sweet, warm scent of vanilla emanating from Taha'a's numerous vanilla plantations. It must be said that the vanilla of Taha'a has an international reputation and is in great demand. The greatest restaurateurs throughout the world are fond of Taha'a vanilla for its generous texture and very rich flavor. But the cultivation is a delicate process, with the fertilization of the vanilla orchid still being done by hand during the flowering season (July-October). Nine months later the pods are dried in the sun for five months and are then sorted, graded and packed for marketing. Sunbaths and love—that is why Taha'a's vanilla is so unique!



## Les activités Activities

Vous ferez une cure de fruits (mangues, papayes, fruits de la passion, caramboles, etc.) qui poussent à Taha'a en abondance, mais aussi de vanille, que l'on utilise à peu près dans tout : boissons (le café vanillé est un must !), sucré ou salé, la petite orchidée sait relever tous les mets avec subtilité. Excursions à pieds, à vélo ou en 4x4 sur les traces des secrets de Hiro, rencontre avec les artisans, les perliculteurs et les vanilliculteurs, ils seront tous ravis de partager avec vous leur mode de vie. Le sublime lagon de Taha'a abrite un chapelet de motu, ornés de jardins de corail qui invitent à la plongée et à la détente. Tour de l'île en pirogue, pique-nique sur les motu, découverte des raies et des requins, mais aussi très souvent des dauphins : sous l'eau, c'est un véritable aquarium naturel qui s'ouvrira à vous.

*You can do a healthy cleansing with fruits (mangoes, papayas, passion fruit, carambola, etc.), that grow in abundance in Taha'a, as well as vanilla, which is used in almost everything: drinks (vanilla coffee is a must!), sweet or savory, the vanilla bean adds its subtle flavor to all the dishes. Excursions by foot, bike or 4WD lead you in the footsteps and secrets of Hiro. You will meet artisans and pearl and vanilla farmers who will be delighted to share their way of life with you. The impressive lagoon of Taha'a hosts a string of motu islets, adorned with coral gardens that invite snorkeling and relaxation. Island tours by canoe, picnics on the motu, discovery of rays and sharks, and very often dolphins, the lagoon is a natural aquarium that awaits you.*

### **Plonger à Taha'a**

Paradis sur terre mais aussi immergé, à Taha'a on goûte à la vie en bleu pour rencontrer des massifs coralliens hauts en couleur et découvrir l'abondance de la vie sous-marine. Il sera difficile de choisir parmi le lot de sites variés et féériques (tombants, dérivantes, lagon, etc.), à moins d'opter pour une plongée tout à fait unique au « Trou de la pieuvre ». La plongée s'effectue sous

le récif corallien et il s'agit d'une véritable immersion spéléo ! La mâchoire de stalactites vous accueille dès l'entrée de la grotte à 24 mètres, et la descente se poursuit dans une ambiance très particulière jusqu'à 57 mètres...

### Diving in Taha'a

Heaven on earth but also underwater! In Taha'a you taste life in blue to encounter colorful coral reefs and to explore the abundance of marine life. It will be difficult to choose among the varied and enchanting sites (drop-offs, drift dives, lagoon diving, etc.), unless you opt for a unique dive to the "Hole of the octopus". This dive takes place on the coral reef and it is a veritable spelunking immersion ! Jaws of stalactites welcome you at the entrance to the cave at a depth of 79 ft., and the descent continues in a very special atmosphere down to 187 ft.

## ACTIVITÉS TERRESTRES / LAND ACTIVITIES

### Circuits éco-touristiques / Eco-tourism tours

#### VANILLA TOURS

Haamene

Tel. : (689) 65.62.46

### Safari 4x4 / 4WD safari

#### DAVE'S TOURS

Haamene

Tel. : (689) 65.62.42

GSM : (689) 77.18.91

#### POERANI SAFARI

Haamene

Tel. : (689) 65.64.20

GSM : (689) 78.80.25

#### TAHAA TOURS EXCURSIONS

Baie de Haamene

Tel. : (689) 65.62.18

GSM : (689) 79.27.56

#### VAIPOE TOURS

Baie de Haamene

Tel. : (689) 65.60.83

GSM : (689) 79.26.01

#### VANILLA TOURS

Haamene

Tel. : (689) 65.62.46

## ACTIVITÉS NAUTIQUES / NAUTICAL ACTIVITIES

### Centres de plongée sous-marine / Scuba diving centers

#### BUGGY DIVE

Baie de Apu, Poutoru

Tel. : (689) 65.69.33

GSM : (689) 33.67.02

#### TAHAA DIVING

Tapuamu

Hôtel Le Taha'a Island Resort  
& Spa - Relais & Châteaux

Tel. : (689) 65.78.37

GSM : (689) 24.80.69

### Circuits éco-touristiques / Eco-tourism tours

#### FONDATION HIBISCUS POUR LA PROTECTION DES TORTUES MARINES

Baie de Haamene, C/o l'Hibiscus-Tahaa

Tel. : (689) 65.61.06 / GSM : (689) 79.28.81

## **Excursions en semi-submersible**

### *Semi-submersible excursions*

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#### **TAHAA MARINE**

Hôtel Le Taha'a Island Resort & Spa - Relais & Châteaux

Tel. : (689) 65.64.00 / GSM : (689) 79.63.81

## **Excursions privées / Private excursions**

#### **TERAINUI TOURS**

Haamene

Tel. : (689) 65.61.06 / GSM : (689) 28.64.37

## **Excursions sur le lagon & dans les passes**

### *Nautical lagoon & coral reef pass excursions*

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#### **MATA TOURS TAHAA**

Tapuamu

Tel. : (689) 66.17.44

GSM : (689) 74.11.43

#### **TERAINUI TOURS**

Haamene

Tel. : (689) 65.61.06

GSM : (689) 28.64.37

#### **MOOREA MAHANA TOURS**

Tel. : (689) 56.20.44

GSM : (689) 79.66.77

#### **VAIPOE TOURS**

Baie de Haamene

Tel. : (689) 65.60.83

GSM : (689) 79.26.01

#### **TAHAA DISCOVERY**

Haamene

Tel. : (689) 65.66.67

GSM : (689) 79.28.92

#### **WEST COAST CHARTERS**

Baie de Faataoto, Vaitoare

Tel. : (689) 65.75.39

GSM : (689) 79.28.78

#### **TAHAA TOURS EXCURSIONS**

Baie de Haamene

Tel. : (689) 65.62.18

GSM : (689) 79.27.56

## **Jet Ski / Jet-Ski**

#### **MAHANA WAVE RUNNER**

Hôtel Le Taha'a Island Resort

& Spa - Relais & Châteaux

Tel. : (689) 56.20.44

GSM : (689) 79.66.77

#### **POERANI JET TOURS**

Baie de Haamene

Tel. : (689) 65.64.20

GSM : (689) 78.80.25

## **Marinas / Marinas**

#### **HIBISCUS YACHT CLUB**

Baie de Haamene, C/o

l'Hibiscus - Tahaa

Tel. : (689) 65.61.06

GSM : (689) 79.28.81

#### **TARAVANA YACHT CLUB**

Pointe Toamaro (Niua)

Tel. : (689) 65.61.01

GSM : (689) 28.08.08

## **Pêche sportive en haute mer / Deep-sea sport fishing**

#### **TERAINUI TOURS**

Haamene

Tel. : (689) 65.61.06 / GSM : (689) 28.64.37

## **Centre de relaxation et Spa / Relaxation center and Spa**

#### **LE SPA BY TAHAA**

Hôtel Le Taha'a Island Resort & Spa - Relais & Châteaux

Tel. : (689) 60.84.00





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## RESTAURANTS / RESTAURANTS



### Cuisine française & internationale French & international cuisine

#### MOTU PEARL SNACK

Faaha Teuri, Haamene  
Tel. : (689) 65.66.67  
GSM : (689) 79.28.93

#### RESTAURANT HIBISCUS

Baie de Haamene,  
C/o l'Hibiscus-Tahaa  
Tel. : (689) 65.61.06  
GSM : (689) 79.28.81

#### TAHA'A MAITAI

Haamene  
Tel. : (689) 65.70.85

## Shopping

## Shopping

Les magasins sont généralement ouverts du lundi au vendredi du 8h à 17h, le samedi de 8h à 12h.

Shops are generally open Monday to Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., and on Saturday from 8 a.m. to 12 p.m.

#### A Ha'amene, Tapu'amu, Poutoru, Pâtio et Tivā

Centres artisanaux (coquillages, bijoux, sculptures, etc.)

#### Ha'amene, Tapu'amu, Poutoru, Pâtio and Tivā

Craft centers (shells, jewelry, sculpture, etc.)

#### Supérettes à Pâtio et Ha'amene

#### Convenience stores in Pâtio and Ha'amene

#### Fermes perlières et vanilleraies autour de l'île

#### Pearl farms and vanilla plantations around the island

### Que ramener de Taha'a ?

De la vanille, des perles, de l'artisanat local, du café vanille.

### What to Bring Back from Taha'a?

Vanilla, pearls, local handicrafts, vanilla coffee

## POERANI LOCATION

Haamene

Tel. : (689) 65.64.20

GSM : (689) 78.80.25

## TAHAA LOCATION VOITURES

Faaaha

Tel. : (689) 65.66.75

GSM : (689) 72.07.71

## **Transporteur touristique terrestre** *Tourist land carrier*

### MME HIRI TEIHOTAATA

Tel. : (689) 65.60.91 / GSM : (689) 34.64.78

## **Taxis / Taxis**

### MOTU PEARL TAXI

Tel. : (689) 65.66.67 / GSM : (689) 79.28.93

## **Bureaux de postes / Post offices**

### AGENCE OPT DE HAAMENE

Tel. : (689) 65.60.11

### AGENCE OPT DE PATIO

Tel. : (689) 65.64.10

## **Les banques / Banks**

### BANQUE DE TAHITI

Mairie de Haamene

Tel. : (689) 65.63.14

### BANQUE SOCREDO

Patio

Tel. : (689) 47.00.00

## **Police et gendarmerie / Police**

### BRIGADE TERRITORIALE DE TAHAA

PK 0,3 Patio

Tel. : (689) 60.81.05

## LES NUMEROS D'URGENCE / IN CASE OF EMERGENCY

Voir / See page 41

## LES NUMEROS UTILES / USEFUL NUMBERS

Voir / See page 41

## **Santé et urgence / Health and emergencies**

### CENTRE MEDICAL DE PATIO

Patio

Tel. : (689) 65.63.31

