

GUIDE DU VISITEUR TAHITI - MOOREA VISITOR'S GUIDE

LES ÎLES DE LA SOCIÉTÉ - SOCIETY ISLANDS



www.tahiti-tourisme.pf

Tahiti
TOURISME



© L'Pequie-BIP

Mānava, welcome to Mo'orea

The charming island Mo'orea has a special feel to it that is reminiscent of Tahiti of the old days. Even though it is situated close to the capital and is easily reached with daily ferry and airplane service, it has the atmosphere of a remote, isolated island that has conserved its authenticity and calm. The population here is much smaller than in Tahiti (a little more than 16 000 people live in Mo'orea) and the island is comparatively less developed than its sister-island. Mo'orea is a true haven of peace where the opportunities for outdoors activities are seemingly endless. Scuba diving is of course magic here, but the opportunities for hiking—by foot or on horseback— or sightseeing with a car are great as well. Winding mountain trails and roads lead to lookout spots with extraordinary panoramic views. A tour around the island will reveal breathtakingly beautiful scenery, such as views of the island's famous and stunning twin bays. The island is also known for its environmentally conscious measures, and is home to a number of eco-enthusiasts who run places like the Dolphin Center, the sea-turtle clinic, and the research centers that are affiliated to the CNRS ("Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique"). Mo'orea is also home and inspirational refuge to numerous artists, and as a result you can find lots of art galleries and associations, and workshop ateliers here.

The lush nature around the island is interrupted here and there by stylish restaurants, gorgeous beaches, great surf spots and small shopping centers where you can find an abundance of souvenirs. Various activities are possible on the dreamy motu (small islands) that adorn the lagoon, as rays feeding. For those seeking a more luxurious vacation, Mo'orea boasts numerous 5-star hotels where you can take pleasure in watching traditional Polynesian dance shows, or sip down a fancy cocktail during happy hour! Nature and culture, and tradition and modernity blend together in harmony on this undeniably exceptional island.

Mo'orea





Maupiti ●

● Tupai

● Bora Bora

● Tahaa

● Huahine

● Raiatea

● Tetiaroa

Maiao ● **Moorea** ●

● Tahiti

The legend

of Mou'a Puta,
Mo'orea's pierced mountain

Pa'i— who was the son of a *tuia* (someone who has been sacrificed at the *marae*)— was adopted by the gods as soon as he was born. He grew up in a gourd in the world called *Te-pō**, and later his foster parents sent him to live in lush valley. The child was locked up in a house, and forbidden to touch the animals and fruits in the surrounding fields because he was merely a mortal and wasn't worthy of the gods' sacred food. The gods warned Pa'i that if he tried to get out of the house he would immediately be killed by a monster, and if he touched the fruits, he would die. Nevertheless, as Pa'i grew more and more hungry, he was driven to disobey the gods. When Pa'i saw that nothing happened he became angry with the gods because they had lied to him. In revenge he ate all the fruits, and then all the pigs and birds. Finally one day he had eaten everything in the supreme god Ta'aroa's garden. When the gods saw how Pa'i had destroyed the valley, they told him about his true origins. Pa'i wanted to meet his mother who was still alive and well, hiding in the Tautira district of the human world called *Te-ao*.

To save his mother who had been persecuted by warriors of the *ari'i* (chief) Ta'ihia, Pa'i went to fight the warriors. He made himself a bow and arrows and challenged nine great warriors, all by himself. Ta'aroa had given Pa'i divine strength, making him a humble and gifted warrior, and Pa'i managed to eliminate the warriors without getting as much as a scratch himself. The King and his people celebrated Pa'i's feat, honoring him like a victorious warrior. However, one thing remained to be done to regain peace: Pa'i had to get rid of two horrible ogresses from Tautira. The ogres lived in a cave covered by a huge *pūrau* (tree), and Pa'i killed them both and uprooted the trees, bringing them with him to plant them closer to the ocean. Using the wood from one of the trees, Pa'i made himself a spear, and attached an arm bone from each ogress on either end. With his new spear and with the protection of the gods, Pa'i helped the *ari'i* Ta'ihia to conquer the neighboring tribes. But Pa'i's biggest victory was when he stopped the great navigator, and legendary hero and god of transformation Hiro, in his attempt to steal the peninsula between 'Ōpūnohu and Paopao, at 'Aimeho (Mo'orea) and bring it to Rai'ātea. The peninsula had almost been torn from the island when Pa'i, who was in Punuaauia at the time, was warned. He hurried up to the point at Tata'a, and threw his spear through the air. It hit directly in the summit of the mountain that Hiro was trying to steal, making a big hole, and ever since that day the mountain has carried the name *Mou'a puta* ("The Pierced Mountain"). The spear flew over Mo'orea



© I. Ozam

with such force that the earth shook, waking up everyone on the island, and the roosters began singing thinking it was morning. It is said that ever since that night the roosters in Mo'orea sing all night long to make sure that no one comes to try to steal their mountain again.

Source : adaptation of a version of the works by Teuira Henry, *Tahiti aux temps anciens*, Publication de la Société des Océanistes

* Pô : The world of the gods and of the origins, as opposed to ao, the world of humans and of light.



What to see

on the island of Mo'orea?

It is 62km/38.5mi around the island of Moorea. The “Points Kilométriques,” or PK (“kilometer point”) system that goes in both directions, has its starting point at the airport and meets up at PK 35. Every kilometer on the road that circles the island you will see a marker with the PK number, telling you how far from the airport you are.

Tema'e : From PK 0 to PK 3 you will find Tema'e. The airport is also located here. The locals called the area “le motu” because of its **beautiful public white sandy beach**, its crystal clear waters and the lovely views of Tahiti. Make sure you take the time to stop at the **Toatea lookout point** at PK 1 where you have great views of the reef, the turquoise lagoon, the Nuarei bay, the ocean and the island of Tahiti. Not far from there you find the **Moorea Green Pearl Golf Course** at PK 1 with a great and technical 18-hole course situated amidst lakes and coconut trees with view of the ocean on one side and the lush tropical mountains on the other.



© C. Le Bacon

PK : Points kilométriques

Le tour de Mo'orea fait environ 60 km. Les points kilométriques débutent au niveau de l'aérodrome dans les deux sens et se rejoignent au PK 35



© L. Ozam



© I. Ozan

The Paopao Bay or Cook's Bay :

When Cook reached Moorea on his third voyage, this bay—which was originally called Paopao—was renamed after him. A spectacular scenery awaits you as the intense colors of the lagoon stand up against

the majestic mountain peaks that tower over the bay. From the top of the Belvédère you can admire both Cook's bay its twin, the 'Ōpūnohu bay that lies right next to it.

'Ōpūnohu Bay (PK 14-18). Here you find the entry to the road that takes you up to **The Belvédère Lookout**, which has great views of the Paopao and 'Ōpūnohu (Cook's) bays, and the eight mountain ridges that run across the island. Catch a view of **Three Coconuts Pass** which can be reached by an excellent hike that passes by a beautiful river, and through lush, tropical nature with ferns and pandanus, a mape (Tahitian Chestnut) and bamboo forest. **The 'Ōpūnohu Valley** is literally brimming with archeological and legendary sites (with marae, archery platforms and various other ancient structures that were used for daily life, cultural practices and meetings). Make sure you stop by the **Agricultural School** to grab some of their delicious fruit jams and the refreshing fruit juices. The gigantic pineapple plantation at the bottom of Mount Rotui supplies the **Moorea Fruits Juice Company** (PK 12,5). You can visit their little store where locally made products are sold (juices, brandy, liquors, and jams, dried fruits and delicatessen) on Mondays through Fridays from 8:30 am to 4:30 pm (and until 12:30 pm on Saturdays). Whether you prefer to go by foot or on horseback, 'Ōpūnohu has a network of hiking trails which can take you up to see the crater from various angles.



© I. Ozan

Papetō'ai : Long ago this was home to the royal family, and Queen Aimata Pomare IV was born here. **French Polynesia's first Protestant Church**, which was constructed in 1813 using local raw materials, still stands here. At the entry of 'Ōpūnohu Bay (PK 14), the **Tahiamano Beach** gives you magnificent views of the island's mountain peaks. At **The Dolphin Center** at the Intercontinental hotel (PK 24) you can swim with and learn about dolphins. This is a great opportunity for the entire family (minimum 3 years of age for children) and dolphin-lovers to discover the dolphins in an ecologically sound and pedagogical setting. Not far from here lies the **Moorea Turtle Clinic**, which was set up in 2004 in order to protect sick or hurt marine turtles. The turtles are released back into the natural habitat as soon as they have healed up...



© T. Sawyer



© R. Pocklington

Ha'apiti: Once in Ha'apiti you can visit the **Sainte Famille Church** (Church of the Holy Family) at PK 23, which was built in 1897 by the Catholic mission. This replica of the twin-towered Saint Michel Cathedral in the Gambier Island, stands out against the luxurious green hillsides making for a beautiful sight. A trip to **The Tiki Village** at PK 31 is a must. Here you can learn about Polynesian culture and find sculptors, tattoo artists, a replica of a pearl farm

and more. Various Polynesian-themed events and demonstrations are on the program. If you are in a romantic mood, a traditional Tahitian wedding ceremony can be organized. You can rent a boat or go on an excursion to visit the **Stingray feeding zone**, right across the lagoon from the **Tipanier Beach** (PK 26). Getting up close and personal with—and even petting—the rays, is an unforgettable experience!

Zoom on the Humpback Whales

Humpback whales come to French Polynesia every year to mate and give birth. Whale watching excursions are available, and sometimes you can even swim with the whales (with an experienced guide). It is a unique experience and is possible from July to November in Tahiti, Mo'orea and Rurutu (Austral Islands). In order to ensure the whales' peaceful evolution, strict rules concerning whale watching apply to amateurs and scientists alike.



© L. Pozzoli

'Afareaitū : A place worth seeing in the area, is the **majestic waterfall**, more than 80 m/262 ft tall, which can be reached by going upriver in the **'Afareaitū Valley**.

© R. Sahuquet



Vai'are : The daily ferries and catamarans between Mo'orea and Tahiti dock at the Vai'are harbor. Here you can buy various fruits and sweets. The bay is also the departure point of two great hiking trails. One runs up to the **Mou'a puta, or "Pierced Mountain"** which you can spot as you cross the ocean coming from Tahiti, and the other trail goes up to **Mount Rotui** at an altitude of 900m/2953 ft. A indescribably beautiful view awaits he or she who has the stamina to hike for four challenging hours to the top.

Zoom on the Mo'orea marathon

Numerous sports events are organized on Mo'orea. One of the most famous events is the Mo'orea marathon and half marathon which was first established in the 1980s, and has been held annually in February ever since. The uniqueness of the environment appeals to participants from all over who come to run in the tropical climate surrounded by luxurious vegetation on one side and the lagoon's endless tones of blue on the other. At the end point runners are welcomed by the sound of Polynesian drums and charming hostesses.



© Christian Durocher - ATP



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Les activités Activities

Du snorkelling à la randonnée en passant par la plongée ou le golf, de balades à cheval aux virées en kayak en passant par le surf ou le kite, Mo'orea est un réservoir d'activités !

L'île est un véritable éden tropical, et ce de ses récifs à ses sommets. Nager dans l'eau tiède et turquoise du lagon, caresser les raies pastenagues dans leur environnement ou observer les requins, les dauphins et les baleines, prendre une dose d'adrénaline en jet-ski ou en parapente ascensionnel, partir à la conquête des montagnes, qui offrent des paysages incroyables dans lesquels la végétation lumineuse fusionne avec les bleus de la mer, découvrir les vestiges archéologiques et légendaires, témoins d'un passé épique et glorieux... Safari 4X4, vélo, cheval, quad, tennis, il y en a pour tous les goûts.

From snorkeling to trail hiking passing through scuba diving or golf, and on to horse-riding, kayaking excursions, surfing and kiteboarding, Moorea offers a myriad of activities! From the reefs to the mountaintops, the island is a true and tropical Eden. No matter what you choose to do here, you are in for a treat: swimming in the lukewarm

and turquoise lagoon, petting stingrays in their natural habitat, swimming with sharks, dolphins and whales, getting a dose of adrenalin on a jet-ski or parasailing, mountain climbing or hiking through incredible tropical landscapes where the lush green vegetation blends with the various blue tones of the sea, exploring archeological and legendary sites which tell the story of an epic and glorious past, 4X4 safaris, biking, horse-riding, quad, tennis... you name it!

Plonger à Mo'orea

L'île de Mo'orea est connue pour la richesse de sa faune et de sa flore sous-marine. Requins gris, citrons, à ailerons noirs, murènes, raies léopard et poissons multicolores offrent un véritable festival de vie et de couleurs au plongeur. A l'extérieur du lagon, les tombants et les failles le long du récif forment des paysages spectaculaires. L'île est notamment renommée pour le « shark feeding », à l'extérieur du lagon.

Les centres d'activités sont nombreux sur l'île, pour la plupart installés au sein des hôtels. Les professionnels ne manqueront pas de vous emmener à la passe de 'Ōpūnohu, qui présente l'un des paysages les plus variés avec des successions de canyons, grottes, tombants et surplombs. Les poissons peu farouches se prêtent aux objectifs des photographes, et en contrebas se devine un jardin de roses de corail à la beauté paisible.

Les baleines font également escale à proximité de Mo'orea lors de leurs périodes annuelles pour s'y reproduire et mettre bas. Certains circuits spécialisés proposent de plonger avec elles en respectant cependant une réglementation très stricte.

Scuba diving in Mo'orea

Mo'orea is famous for its rich underwater fauna and flora. Grey sharks, lemon sharks, black-tip reef sharks, moray eels, leopard rays and multicolored fish make for a feast for scuba divers' eyes. Outside the reef you can dive by spectacular underwater landscapes with sharp drop-offs and faults, or if you want, you can participate in one of the shark feedings that the island is known for. Mo'orea has a number of activity and dive centers, most of which are to be found at the hotels. Experienced guides can take you to the 'Ōpūnohu pass which offers magnificent views of underwater canyons, caves, cliffs and overhangs. The fish are surprisingly social and willingly pose for pictures. Below, a stunning coral rose garden adds to the peaceful ambience. During their annual journey, the humpback whales stop by Mo'orea to mate and give birth, and certain dive excursions have the option of swimming with the whales... of course while fully respecting the strict rules that apply to whale watching.

ACTIVITÉS TERRESTRES / LAND ACTIVITIES

Activités équestres / Horseback riding

RANCH OPUNOHU VALLEY

PK 2,5 Taravao, Tahiti iti

Tel. : (689) 56.28.55 / GSM : (689) 78.42.47



© Sofitel Moorea Beach Resort

RESTAURANTS / RESTAURANTS

Cuisine asiatique / Asian cuisine

CHEZ JEAN-PIERRE

PK 9 Paopao, côté mer

Tel. : (689) 56.18.51

PK ZÉRO

PK 27,3 Haapiti

Tel. : (689) 56.55.46

GSM : (689) 28.06.70

Cuisine française & internationale French & international cuisine

COCO D'ISLE

PK 27,5 Haapiti

Tel. : (689) 56.59.07

FARE HANA

PK 24,5 Tiahura, Hôtel

InterContinental Moorea

Resort and Spa

Tel. : (689) 55.19.00

FARE NUI

PK 24,5 Tiahura, Hôtel

InterContinental Moorea

Resort and Spa

Tel. : (689) 55.19.00

FARE VAI MOANA

Hauru, Haapiti

Tel. : (689) 56.17.14

HOTEL RESTAURANT LES

TIPANIERS

PK 28 Haapiti, bord de mer

Tel. : (689) 56.12.67

KAVEKA

Paopao, baie de Cook

Tel. : (689) 56.50.50

GSM : (689) 77.03.27

LA PLANTATION

PK 27,5 Haapiti

Tel. : (689) 56.45.10

L'ANANAS BLEU

Baie de Cook, Paopao

Tel. : (689) 56.12.06

GSM : (689) 78.70.86

LE COCOTIER

PK 5 Maharepa

Tel. : (689) 56.12.10

LE MARTINEZ

PK 8,8 Paopao

Tel. : (689) 56.17.71

LE PAPAYER

PK 31, Haapiti, côté mer

Tel. : (689) 55.02.50

GSM : (689) 73.32.33

LE RESTAURANT "K"

PK 1 Teavaro, Hôtel Sofitel

Moorea la Ora Beach Resort

Tel. : (689) 55.12.25

LE SUD

PK 6, Maharepa, côté mer

Tel. : (689) 56.42.95

GSM : (689) 72.93.05

LE SUNSET

C/o Hôtel Hibiscus

Tel. : (689) 56.26.00

L'IGUANE

PK 27 Haapiti, centre Le Petit Village
Tel. : (689) 56.17.16

MAHANAI

PK 5 Maharepa, Hôtel Moorea Pearl Resort & Spa
Tel. : (689) 55.17.69

MAHOGANY

PK 5 Maharepa
Tel. : (689) 56.39.73

MATIEHANI GOURMET

PK 5 Maharepa, Hôtel Moorea Pearl Resort & Spa
Tel. : (689) 55.17.69

MAYFLOWER

PK 27 Haapiti
Tel. : (689) 56.53.59
GSM : (689) 21.13.03

MOTU MOEA "TAMURE BEACH"

Motu Moea
Tel. : (689) 56.55.46
GSM : (689) 28.06.70

PAINAPO BEACH

PK 33 Haapiti
Tel. : (689) 55.07.90
GSM : (689) 23.40.91

PURE

PK 1 Teavaro, Hôtel Sofitel Moorea la Ora Beach Resort
Tel. : (689) 55.12.25

RESTAURANT AITO

PK 13 Pihaena
Tel. : (689) 56.45.52
GSM : (689) 23.27.63

RESTAURANT ARII VAHINE

Hôtel Hilton Moorea Lagoon Resort & Spa
Tel. : (689) 55.10.46

RESTAURANT JARDIN

PK 28 Haapiti, Hôtel Les Tipaniers
Tel. : (689) 56.12.67

RESTAURANT MIKI MIKI

C/o Moorea Green Pearl Golf Course Polynesia, Temae
Tel. : (689) 56.26.70

ROTUI GRILL & BAR

Hôtel Hilton Moorea Lagoon Resort & Spa
Tel. : (689) 55.10.29

TE HONU ITI

Paopao
Tel. : (689) 56.19.84
GSM : (689) 79.29.98

VILLA DES SENS

PK 24,8 Tiahura, Hôtel Legends Resort
Tel. : (689) 55.15.14

 Cuisine italienne / Italian cuisine

ALLO PIZZA

PK 7,8 Paopao, face à la gendarmerie
Tel. : (689) 56.18.22
GSM : (689) 77.34.12

PIZZERIA LE MOTU

PK 27,5 Haapiti
Tel. : (689) 56.16.70

PIZZA DANIEL

PK 34 Haapiti
Tel. : (689) 56.39.95

 Cuisine traditionnelle / Local cuisine

CHEZ VINA

PK 25 Haapiti
Tel. : (689) 56.13.17

RESTAURANT RUDY'S

Maharepa
Tel. : (689) 56.58.00
GSM : (689) 70.47.47

IRENE RESTAURANT

PK 26 Haapiti, côté montagne
Tel. : (689) 56.15.93
GSM : (689) 74.87.11



Shopping

Most stores are open Mondays through Fridays from 8 am to 5 pm, and Saturdays from 8 am to noon.

“Le Petit Village” in Ha’apiti PK 26,5

Across from where the Club Med used to be you’ll find a little shopping mall that has everything you need for your stay in Mo’orea: jewelry stores, a kiosk, banks, arts and crafts, car rentals and more.

Maharepa Shopping Center PK 5

Here you’ll find a pastry shop, a laundromat, a bookstore and a couple of other shops (selling clothes, jewelry and more).

The little mall at Tumai PK 3

Not far from the golf course at Tema’e you’ll find a couple of stores selling pearls, arts and crafts and more.

Art Galleries

Mo’orea boasts a number of art galleries with gorgeous paintings and sculptures in various styles. You will no doubt be seduced by the traditional or modern Polynesian and European art inspired by this island paradise.



© Tikivillage

Grocery stores, snack bars and a variety of other shops can be found all around the island.

What to bring back from Mo’orea?

Jewelry made with pearls or other precious materials (bone, wood, mother-of-pearl, sea shells etc.), hand-painted sarongs, a modern-style tapa, a tattoo, a painting, a sculpture, jams and jellies, fruit liquor...



© Manutea Tahiti



© C. Le Bacon

Police et gendarmerie / Police

BRIGADE TERRITORIALE DE MOOREA

PK 7,800 Paopao, Immeuble Faratea
Tel. : (689) 55.25.05

LES NUMEROS D'URGENCE / IN CASE OF EMERGENCY

Voir / See page 81

LES NUMEROS UTILES / USEFUL NUMBERS

Voir / See page 81

Santé et urgence / Health and emergencies

DISPENSARE DE HAAPITI

Haapiti
Tel. : (689) 56.21.85

DISPENSARE DE MAIAO

Mairie de Maiao
Tel. : (689) 56.02.50

DISPENSARE DE PAPETOAI

Papetoai
Tel. : (689) 56.14.78

HOPITAL DE AFAREAITU

Afareaitu
Tel. : Standard - **Switchboard**
(689) 55.22.22
Urgences - **Emergency** (689)
56.24.24

Les cyber-espaces / Web access

L'IGUANE

PK 27 Haapiti, centre Le Petit
Village
Tel. : (689) 56.17.16

TIKINET

Centre Le Petit Village, Haapiti
Tel. : (689) 56.22.00
GSM : (689) 75.82.86

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