



# la Orana i Maeva!



## Raiatea

Information for yachties





# Summary

- ⛵ General information
- ⛵ Practical advice & recommendations
- ⛵ Navigating and anchoring in Raiatea



# General information



## Stay alert

Be aware of navigation markers in the lagoons of the Leeward Islands.

Passes are wide and wind is consistent, but wind can be affected by the geography of the island.

There is considerable maritime activity and traffic.

# Perfect conditions

The Leeward Islands are located on an amphidromic point, not subject to the lunar tide, only solar.

High tide all year round at midday and midnight;  
Low tide at 6 am and 6 pm.

Tide differential of only 20 to 30 cm.

- ❖ No lunar tidal range; amphidromic point in the South Pacific meaning lower current in the passes.
- ❖ Easterly trade winds (oriented SE in winter and NE in austral summer).
- ❖ Sailing in the lagoon protected from the swell by the coral reef.
- ❖ Well-protected anchorages on the lee side of the island.



Weather forecast available at [www.meteo.pf](http://www.meteo.pf)  
Also announced on **VHF 16** (Society Islands),  
then broadcast on **VHF 13** at 06:30, 12:00,  
16:00, & 20:00. In French.

**HF 8803 kHz:** 07:30, 12:30, 16:30, 20:30

**JRCC** (Joint Rescue Coordination Center)  
24/7 free phone number: **dial 16** on your  
mobile phone, or call on **VHF 16**.  
**HF 8291 kHz**

 **Weather and Safety**

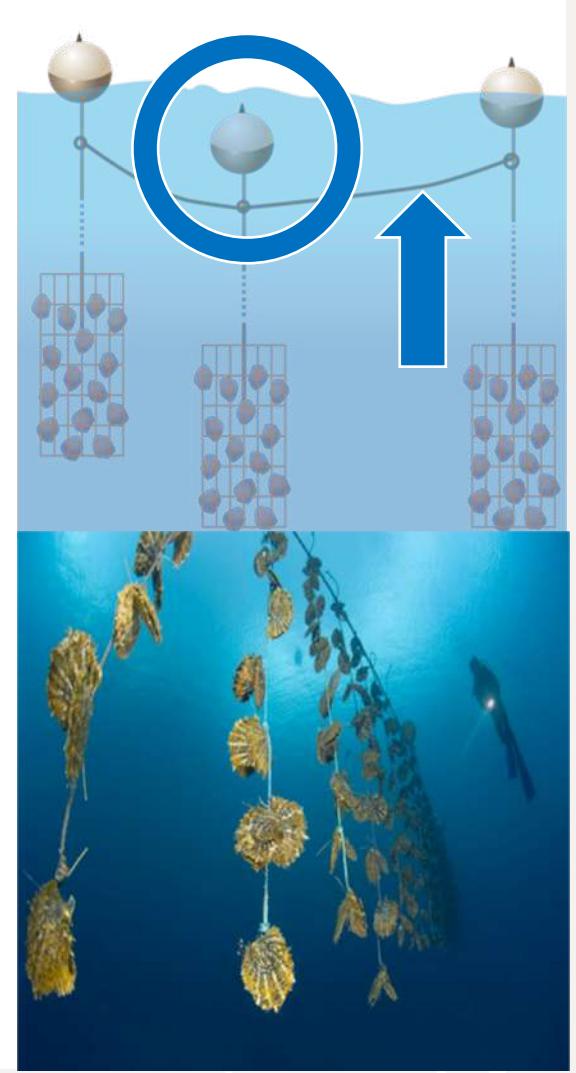
# Safe sailing

- ⛵ There are many users of the lagoon: maritime shuttles, activity providers, fishermen, inhabitants, yachtsmen...  
Sail carefully
- ⛵ In the lagoon, follow the markers and channels.
- ⛵ For visibility, navigate with the sun at its zenith or behind you.

**Watch out for pearl farms,  
even when sailing in the  
channels.**

The buoys on the zones support **submerged lines** to which pearl oysters are attached.

- Guidelines



# Safe sailing

Reminder: When snorkeling, remember to **trail a buoy** in order to remain visible.

If you wish to surf in the passes, make sure you have the agreement and goodwill of local surfers.

**Trailing a buoy when swimming or snorkeling heightens awareness** of your presence in the water, and offers a safety device in case of faintness, fatigue, or drowning. Include a whistle to assist with getting emergency assistance.

☞ **Guidelines**



# Specific markings for the Leeward Islands

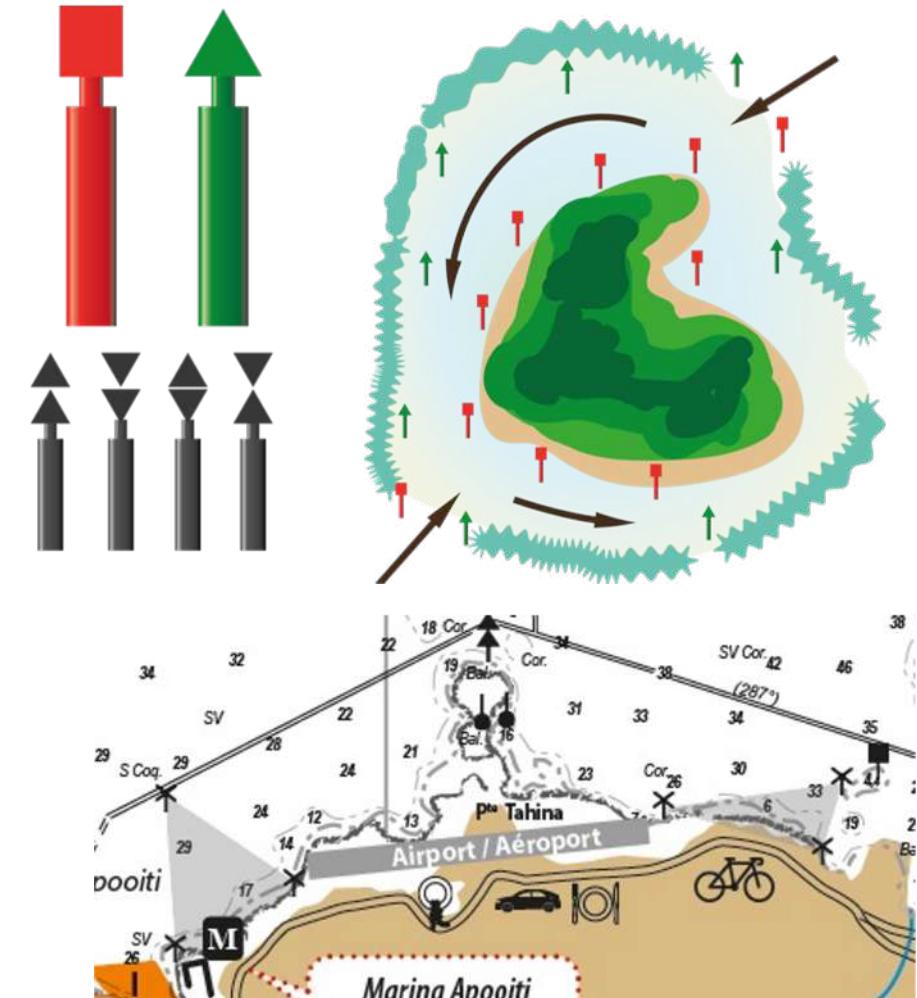
In the Leeward Islands, a green starboard/red port marker (international system) is located at the entrance of the pass.

The markings are **different in the lagoon:**  
**green on the reef side** and **red ashore**.

**Isolated dangers** are identified by **cardinal markers**. Raiatea and Tahaa's navigable passes are all wide. The main ones have range markers.

**Near Raiatea Airport**, comply with the markers and the restricted area.

Sailing at night within the lagoon is not recommended as some of the beacons do not have lights.



# Regulation

Visiting these islands is a privilege. Many resident sailboats inhabit these waters, as well as registered charter boats or those passing through. There are numerous providers of lagoon activities, transport shuttles, and family or professional fishermen.

In consideration of the movement and activity of maritime traffic, the protection of **sensitive areas**, and **respect for resident populations**, **regulated anchoring areas** (ZMRs) have been established. The **Polynesian Maritime Affairs Directorate** (DPAM) has imposed a limit on the number of vessels and **length of stay** per area.

**Anchoring information for these areas is provided for guidance only, pending the installation of permanent mooring facilities in 2026.**

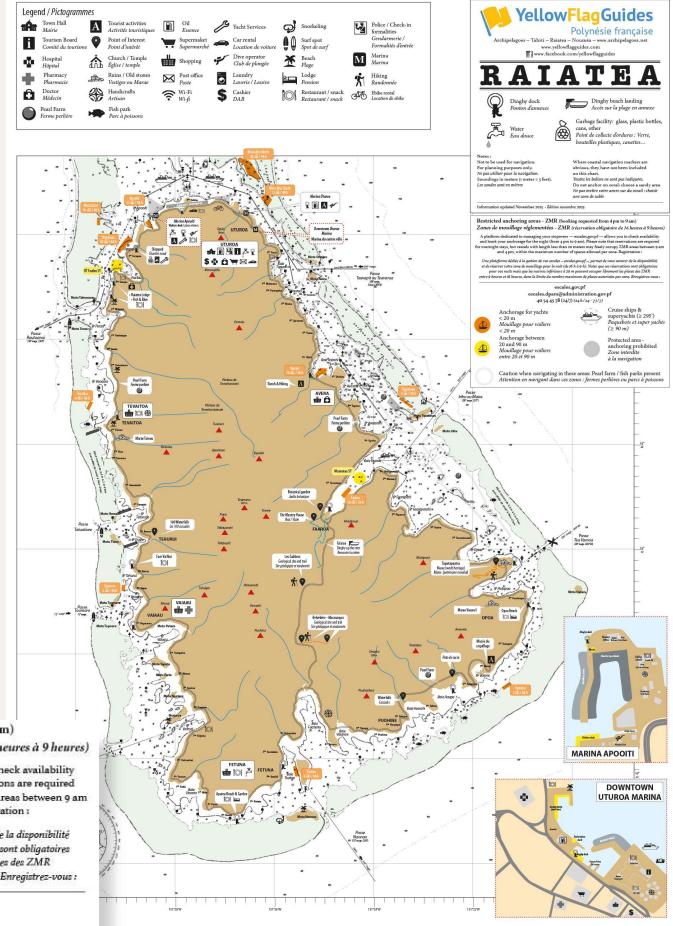
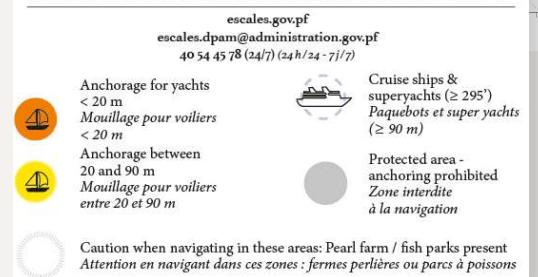
DPAM ambassadors have been appointed for these zones. Their function is to raise awareness of these quota and duration rules and to better quantify usage. Please give them a warm welcome if they visit your vessel.

# Zoning

**Restricted anchoring areas - ZMR (booking requested from 4 pm to 9 am)**  
**Zones de mouillage réglementées - ZMR (réservation obligatoire de 16 heures à 9 heures)**

A platform dedicated to managing your stopovers — [escales.gov.pf](http://escales.gov.pf) — allows you to check availability and book your anchorage for the night (from 4 pm to 9 am). Please note that reservations are required for overnight stays, but vessels with length less than 20 meters may freely occupy ZMR areas between 9 am and 4 pm, within the maximum number of spaces allowed per zone. Registration :

Une plateforme dédiée à la gestion de vos escales – [escales.gov.pf](http://escales.gov.pf) –, permet de vous assurer de la disponibilité et de réserver votre zone de mouillage pour la nuit (de 6 h à 9 h). Notez que ces réservations sont obligatoires pour vos nuits mais que les navires inférieurs à 20 m peuvent occuper librement les places des ZMR entre 9 heures et 16 heures, dans la limite du nombre maximum de places autorisées par zone. Enregistrez-vous :



# Pre-book your overnight anchorage

A platform dedicated to manage your stopovers, [www.escales.gov.pf](http://www.escales.gov.pf), allows you to check availability and book your anchorage area for the night (from 4 pm to 9 am):

- ❖ Register at: [escales.gov.pf](http://escales.gov.pf) (the easiest and fastest way)
- ❖ Or send an email to: [escales.dpam@administration.gov.pf](mailto:escales.dpam@administration.gov.pf)
- ❖ Or contact DPAM at 40 54 45 78 (24/7)

This teleservice is in a pilot phase on the islands of Fakarava, Raiatea, Tahaa, Huahine, Moorea and Taiarapu Ouest (Tahiti), and is free of charge, but fees will be charged in 2026.

Please note that reservations are required for **overnight stays** (from 4 p.m. to 9 a.m.), but vessels under 20 meters in length may freely occupy ZMR spaces **between 9 am and 4 pm**, within the maximum number of spaces allowed per zone.



**ESCALESGOV.PF**  
FRENCH POLYNESIA GOVERNMENT

The screenshot displays the official website for maritime procedures in French Polynesia. The top navigation bar includes links for 'Home', 'Schedule', 'Reservations', and 'Have a question?'. The main header features the logo of the French Polynesia Government and the text 'The portal for your maritime procedures in French Polynesia'. Below this, there are two buttons: 'Consult the booking schedule' and 'Make your reservation'. The central content area is titled 'How to make your maritime stopover procedures?' and includes links for 'Arrival procedures', 'Reservation procedures', and 'Output procedures'. A section titled 'Before your crossing to French Polynesia' shows three steps: 'Register', 'Declare your vessel', and 'Reserve an anchorage'. The bottom part of the screenshot shows a map of French Polynesia with various anchorage zones marked.



# Practical tips & guidelines

## Responsible cruisers

Your behaviour is important.

The welcome given to cruisers in the islands, atolls, and motu depends on our **ability to adapt** and **respect** the people living there.

# We must respect

- Regulated **anchorage areas**, quotas and durations
- **No nudity at anchor**, ashore, or even while showering on deck!
- **No illegal AirBnB/chartering** on visiting yachts
- **No underwater lights** at night, so as not to disturb the underwater fauna/wildlife and no strobes on deck or masthead.
- **Peace & quiet for residents** - no noise disturbances

## Safe Snorkeling

- **Refrain for using fins** in shallow areas to avoid damaging the coral.
- Due to heavy traffic in the lagoon, **use a buoy or flag** to indicate your presence at the surface.



# We must protect

- ❖ **No pollution in the lagoons:** rubbish, liquid waste, grey water, sunscreen, etc.
- ❖ **No organic waste:** it will end up on shore and near houses.
- ❖ **Use holding and grey water tanks.** Discharge of grey and black water 3 NM offshore.
- ❖ **No unauthorised dumping** of household waste on shore. The only waste facility is located **in Uturaerae**.
- ❖ **Do not collect live shellfish**

# Raiatea's Tourism Committee



Ph. 40 600 777

raiatea-  
info@tahititourisme.org

[www.tahititourisme.pf](http://www.tahititourisme.pf)

- Tahiti Tourisme's office  
in Uturoa

Located in the main hall of the ferry terminal in Uturoa, the tourist office is open Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday from 8:00 am to 4:00 pm.

Run by the Tahiti Tourisme team, the Tourism Committee provides information about **activities available on both islands** such as 4WD drive tours, bike and car rental, guided tours, etc. A visit to their office **is recommended** for assistance in finding the ideal activity to discover the islands and enjoy your stay to the fullest.

Visit Tahiti Tourism's website for other available activities.

# Cultural heritage

**Taputapuātea** is the largest marae (stone temple) in the entire Polynesian triangle. It is the historic cradle of the Polynesian people and holds deep meaning to their faith and living spirit (mana). It is located in the commune of Avera. Listed as a World Heritage Site (UNESCO) in July 2017, Taputapuātea is an exceptional testimony to Polynesian society, cultural values, and history. It stretches from the pass to the top of the mountain.

Video in English

[www.youtube.com/watch?v=wXbJXHR8-3g](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wXbJXHR8-3g)

Information desk, toilets, audio guides, and signs on site.

More information in English and French at  
[patrimoine.pf/en/taputapuatea](http://patrimoine.pf/en/taputapuatea)

Visiting this sacred site with a guide is recommended. Your guide will pick you up at Faaora's anchorage, as there is no anchorage near the site.

Enjoy a nice hike nearby with a beautiful viewpoint.

**No anchorage area near or in front of this site.**

Do not touch or move the stones. Do not walk on the stone platforms. Do not leave any rubbish behind.

- Respect this sacred site



# General amenities & services in the village of Uturoa

- Tourism Board information desk
- Gendarmerie (entry and exit formalities)
- Hospital
- Several pharmacies around the island: in Uturoa, Avera, and Tenape
- Supermarkets & small stores
- Banks and ATMs
- Post office
- Airport: Air Tahiti and Air Moana agencies

## The market:

Fish, fruit, vegetables, and handicraft items



# Yacht services

- **Two fuel stations** with dock access:
  - [Shell](#) in Uturoa's town center marina: Ph. 40 66 32 32 32
  - [Total](#) at Uturoa's marina: Ph. 40 66 31 24
- **Haulout & maintenance** at Uturaerae with 2 shipyards and a wintering area
- Ship chandlers, sailmakers, and several repair shops
- Laundry facilities
- Visiting sailboat berths at Apooiti's Marina
- 12 anchorages on Raiatea and 14 on Tahaa especially for cruising vessels



# Yacht services

For shipbuilding and repairs in the Leeward Islands,  
Uturaerae offers **2 shipyards**:

Ph. 40 600 545  
**VHF 68**  
[rcs@raiatea-carenage.com](mailto:rcs@raiatea-carenage.com)

 **Raiatea Carenage**

Ph. 40 66 10 10  
Facebook  
[contact@cnislv.com](mailto:contact@cnislv.com)

 **CNI Shipyard**

## Raiatea Carenage

Haul and launch, boat storage, repairs, chandlery...



## Chantier naval des îles

Haul and launch, boat storage & maintenance, repairs...



# Waste management in Raiatea

Currently, no waste receptacles are provided by local authorities; the only waste collection is [Uturaerae Marina](#), at CNI - Shipyard of the islands - during their opening hours:

- Clear plastic rubbish bags
- 4 types of household waste to separate: plastic, cans, glass, rinsed tins
- Bags must not contain food
- A fee of 250 Fcp per bag is payable directly to CNI. Bulky waste is priced by weight.

CNI also accepts waste oils (250 Fcp/litre) and batteries (60 Fcp/Kg).



Thanks to CNI for setting up this service. Please be sure to respect their instructions so this service will be maintained.

- Acknowledgements



## Sailing and anchorages

# Raiatea, named "the sacred island"

Raiatea shares the same lagoon as Tahaa, and is located 20NM from Bora Bora and Huahine. The 12,000 inhabitants of Raiatea welcome you. Please treat them with respect.

You are invited to discover the lagoon **from east to west**. Information for **12 different anchorages** is provided.

Two anchorages  
near the village of Uturoa

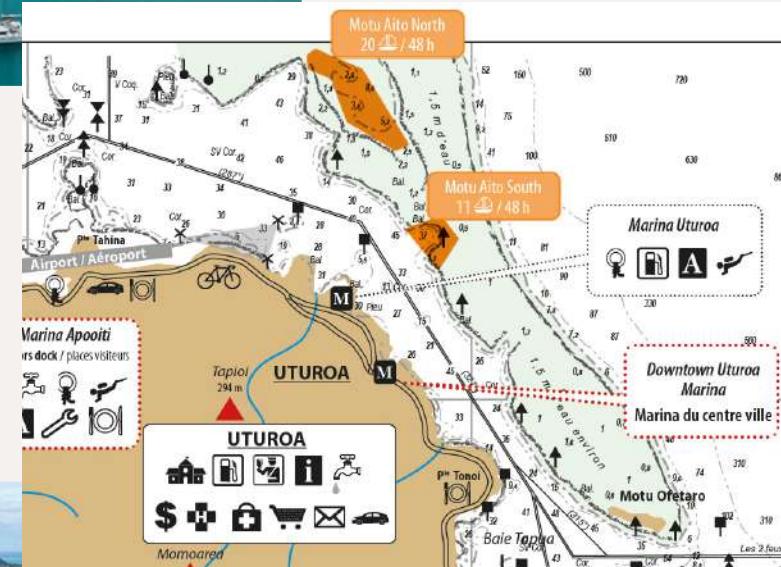
## Motu Aito North

- Quota: 20 yachts
- Duration: 48 h max.

- Anchor on a nice sand shelf.



Motu Aito Nord



## Motu Aito South

- Quota: 11 yachts
- Duration: 48 h max.

- Access to the village of Uturoa by dinghy.



Motu Aito Sud

# Uturoa's marina

**Access** (500 m from the town centre),  
only by dinghy.

**In the marina:** dinghy dock.

Please note that **the marina's gate closes**  
from 6:00 pm to 6:30 am  
Pedestrian access only at night.

- Nautical charter base: [Dream Yacht Charter](#)
- Water sports providers:  
kayaking, kite surfing, diving...
- Marine fuel station [Total](#) at the entrance  
of the marina. Depth: 5.7m  
– Ph. 40 66 70 70



Tel. 40 66 12 49  
87 72 19 52  
Dive operator

 Te Mara Nui Plongée



Tel. 87 79 26 27  
Kayak, Kite surf...

 Raiatea Activities



# Downtown Uturoa marina

A few berths are available for short stays at the village dock (avoid obstructing access to the petrol station), or along the main quay outside (avoid obstructing ferries & local traffic).

[Contact the harbour office to check availability.](#)

**Marine fuel station:** Alongside the quay.

Depth: 7m. Open Monday to Friday all day; mornings only on weekends.

Ph. 40 60 26 09  
40 66 31 52



Harbourmaster's office





**Uturoa**, the administrative capital of the Leeward Islands, has a large number of shops, medical centres and services of all kinds, including chandleries.

**Discover :** The market with its bustling atmosphere. Enjoy a delicious cake at Bakery 'Bon-apetahi'. Visit the handicraft stalls at the ferry terminal or on the upper level of the market. There is a small skatepark opposite the hospital. Visit the village churches... Tour the island via rental car or electric bike.



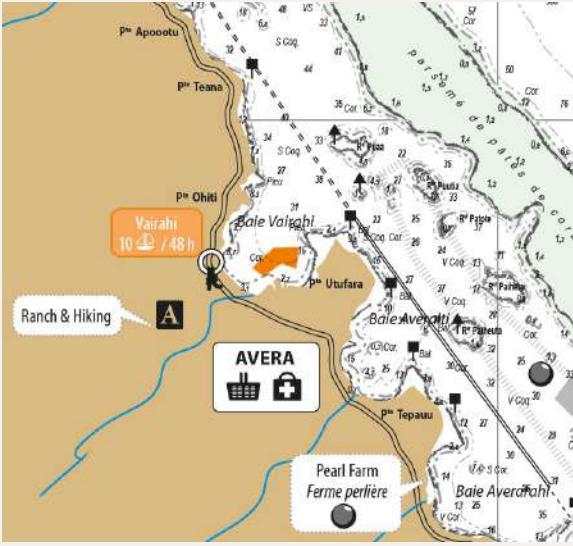
- **La Raie Gate** – Uturoa's pier- lunch and dinner – Ph. 40 66 22 39
- **Snack Maaramu** - maritime terminal, - Chinese cuisine - lunch
- **Several foodtrucks**
- **Snack Tonoi** - PK 1 East coast, seaside restaurant - seafood menu – Ph. 40 66 32 56
- **Villa Ixora** - PK 2.7 East side - fine cuisine – by reservation only – Ph. 40 66 33 00

 **Great local restaurants**

# The bay of Vairahi

- Quota: 10 yachts
- Duration: 48 h max.

- This bay is well sheltered from SE winds and provides access to the village of [Avera](#) and its small shops.
- Shore access via the floating dock in the fishing boat marina.
- Discover:** Hike to the 3 waterfalls. Easy two-hour hike. Please contact a local Raiatea guide to accompany you:
  - [Temehani Rando](#) (Kiam)  
Ph. 87 27 23 00 - [kiam.marti@gmail.com](mailto:kiam.marti@gmail.com)
  - [Raiatea Hiking](#) (Thierry)  
Ph. 87 77 91 23 - [raiatearando@mail.pf](mailto:raiatearando@mail.pf)
- A ranch with horseback riding. Also has an educational farm for the little ones. [Cadichon Vallée](#) – Ph. 87 22 21 65
- Paddleboard and holopuni (sailing canoe) for hire – Ph. 87 37 25 85 - [contact@paddlesports.fr](mailto:contact@paddlesports.fr)
- Two pearl farms to visit: [Vairua Perles](#) and [Perle d'O](#)



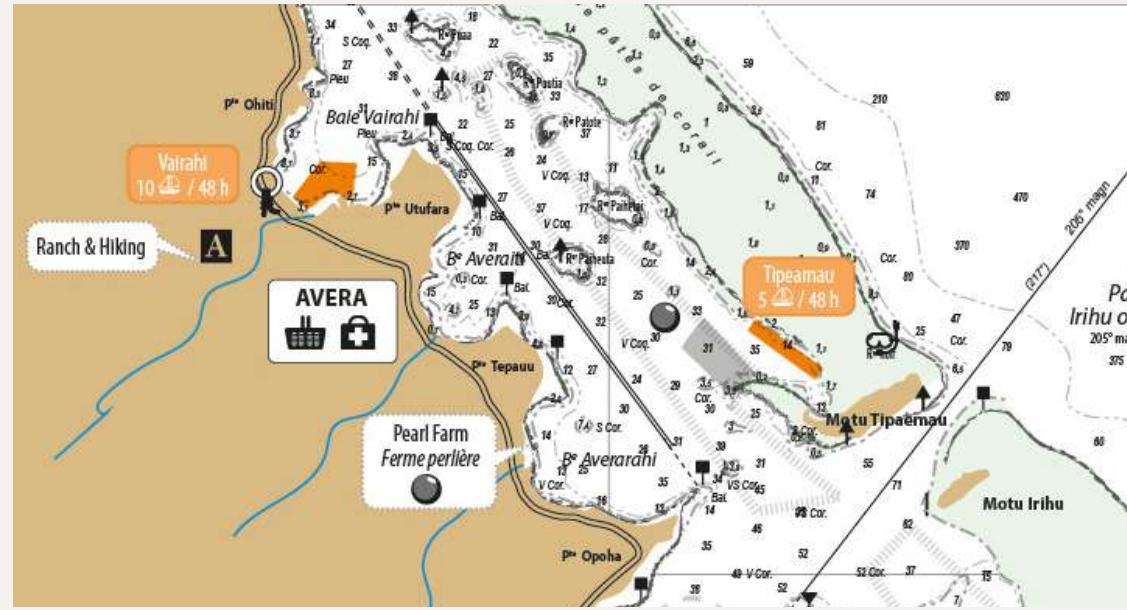
# Motu Tipeamau

Quota: 5 yachts

Duration: 48 h max.

A beautiful anchorage in turquoise water with a view of sunrise over Huahine.

- Be aware of the pearl farm buoys as you enter this anchorage.
- The islet (motu) is private, but walking along the seafront is permitted. The motu on the other side of the pass is public - festive atmosphere on weekends.
- Beautiful snorkeling out to the reef.
- Surf spot in the pass depending on the swell.



# The bay of Faaroa

Quota: 10 yachts + 1 superyacht area

Duration: 48 h max.

- Well-protected bay in NE winds.
- Faaroa is Raiatea's breadbasket - the river feeds many plantations.
- Take a trip up **the river** by dinghy or paddleboard to immerse yourself in the serenity of the river. Listen to the birds, swim in the fresh water, and visit the **botanical garden**.
- Dinghy to the floating dock at the end of the bay. Walking distance to the village of **Faaroa** or walk further to the **Gabbros** geological site.
- Visit **The Mystery House**: for children & adults - optical illusions defying the laws of gravity.  
Ph. 87 74 33 12 / 87 02 05 06  
Languages spoken: French, English, Spanish, German
- Book a guided tour to discover the Polynesian sacred site of **Taputapuatea**.



# Fareatai

## The great south of Raiatea

- Quota: 5 yachts
- Duration: 48 h max.

- An anchorage on the edge of cobalt and turquoise waters.
- Shore access to [Ra'iatea Pearl farm](#) (sale of keshi and mabe). Two moorings belonging to the farm are available for sailboats < 20 m. Call for permission to use, or use their dinghy dock. Ph. 87 35 32 95 – 87 70 01 16  
– FB: teraifrogier
- Visit the [Shell Museum](#). Call in advance  
– Ph. 40 60 04 70
- A little further north, 2 private moorings in front of the [Opoa Beach Hotel](#). Or access to the dock by dinghy from the Fareatai anchorage. Lunch, dinner and bar – Ph. 40 60 05 10



# Tuatau, Fetuna & Naonao motu

Quota: 4 yachts

Duration: 48 h max.

A dock in front of the village provides dinghy access, or use the quay for short stays.

Pleasant fishing and farming village atmosphere. Small grocery.

- The coral shelf in front of the village of **Fetuna** has a deep hole in the middle. It is filled with fish and popular with local fishermen!
- Head out by dinghy to **motu Naonao** for a nice snorkeling spot. This private motu hosts a luxury touristic accommodation: please respect the tranquility of the area.
- A little further north: **Apatoa Hotel & Restaurant**. Access via dinghy dock  
Reservations: Ph. 87 29 65 50



Pier of Fetuna

The hole of Fetuna

# Toamaro



Quota: 3 yachts



 Duration: 48 h max.

Access via the [Toamaro pass](#).

A great anchorage in turquoise water with a view of the sunset over Bora Bora.

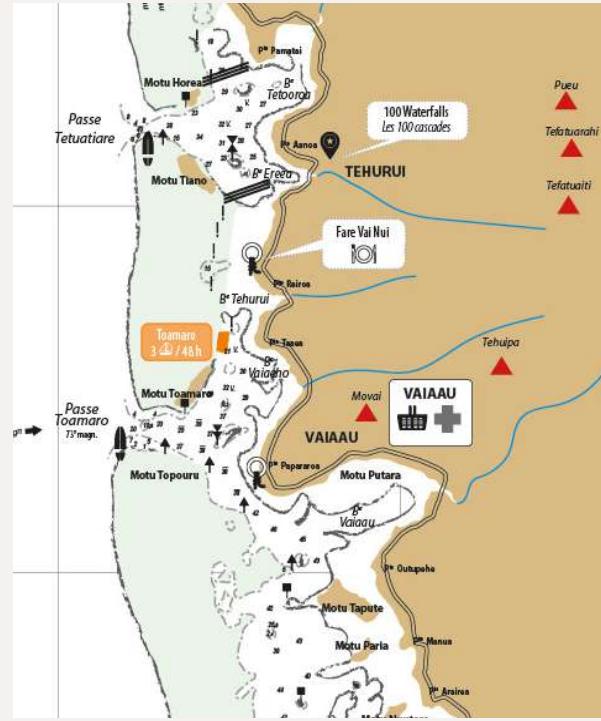
Enjoy snorkelling in the lagoon or surfing in one of the two passes, [Tetuatiare](#) and [Toamaro](#).

When it is rainy, dozens of waterfalls appear on the mountainside.

Shore access via the dock at [Fare Vai Nui](#) restaurant.  
One of the best restaurants in Raiatea. Swimming pool,  
lunch and dinner Wednesday to Sunday –  
Ph. 87 77 03 64 / 40 66 30 96 - [www.farevainui.com](http://www.farevainui.com)

The village of **Vaiaau** is within walking distance.

- Pharmacy and dispensary
- Small grocery
- Vanilla plantations selling vanilla beans
- Seaside snack bar **Chez Tea** – Ph. 87 32 49 06



## Fare Vai Nui restaurant



# Tevaitoa

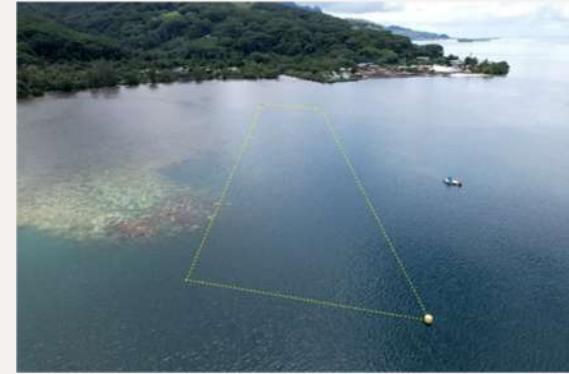
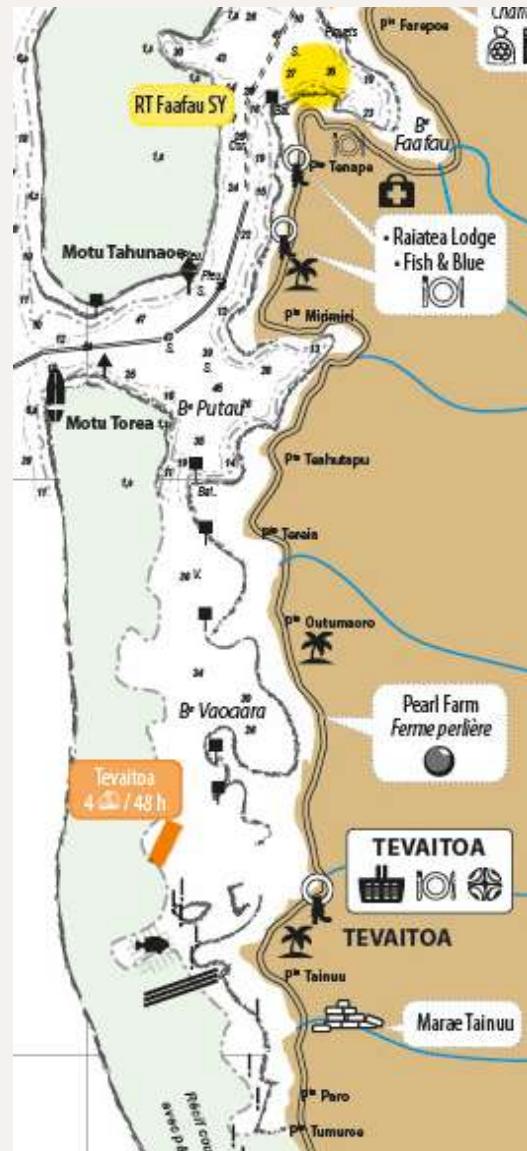
- Quota: 4 yachts
- Duration: 48 h max.

The pleasant and lively village of **Tevaitoa** warmly welcomes visitors. Cultural and sporting events are regularly organised.

- Public beach (with shower)
- Small marina for easy dinghy landing
- Supermarket
- Handicraft stalls

In front of the village:

- Unusual: an experimental floating solar farm
- A **protected area** for giant mussels



# "Uturaerae" area

## Uturaerae

### Facilities ashore



Quota: 30 yachts  
+ 1 superyacht area



Duration: 7 to 30 days

Enter through the Rautoanui pass; wide and navigable in all conditions.

#### Access from Uturaerae's marina

Uturaerae's marina is the [boat repair area](#) of the Leeward islands. There are 2 boatyards with dry docks, and several technical service and repair providers.

The docks, rubbish containers and sanitary facilities are exclusively for boat repair or customers utilizing the technical services. Kindly note that the marina gates close at 6pm.

[CNI shipyard](#) offers the only household waste collection, plus oil, batteries, etc. but only during their opening hours. Sort your trash. Fees to be paid before disposal.

#### Shore access south of the marina

Via the small dock at the sports field behind the marina.

Provides access to [Orion Yacht service](#): sailmaker, boat repairs, laundry, shop, boat sitting. – Ph. 87 70 99 01.

There are buses in Raiatea, but it is easy to hitchhike to Uturoa.



Access dock



- **Sailmaker Artimon** – Ph. 87 34 93 98
- **Marinalu** (aluminum repairs) - Ph. 40 66 25 04
- **CNI (Chantier naval des îles) : Haulout, refit and repairs**  
- Ph. 40 66 10 10 – [cnislv.com](http://cnislv.com)
- **Raiatea Careenage : Haulout, refit and repairs, sailmaking, shipchandler** – Ph. 40 66 38 00 – [raiateacarenage.com](http://raiateacarenage.com)



Contacts at Uturaerae's marina

# Near "Uturaerae" area

Walk or dinghy from this area to:

- **Fish & Blue** restaurant and bar:  
Tapas, and frequently live music on weekends.  
Reservations recommended - Ph. 40 66 49 25
- **Raiatea Lodge** – Hotel and restaurant,  
with reservation – Dinghy dock available  
– Ph. 40 66 20 00
- A pharmacy in **Faafau Bay**
- Snack **Mac Délice Food**  
- within walking distance



## Zone « Apooiti »

### Motutiaiai Reef-side anchorage

- Quota: 10 yachts
- Duration: 48 h max.

Anchored on a beautiful sand shelf, enjoy the view of Bora Bora and Tahaa.

### Apooiti The marina – VHF 12

Visitor's dock in the marina and a few berths on the dock in front of the marina.

Contact the marina manager in advance on VHF Ch. 12 for authorisation.





**Apooiti**

- Shore access via Apooiti Marina.
- Contact the marina manager in advance.
- Visitor's dock, plus 4 berths for sailing boats for a stay of 2-3 days maximum.
- Dinghy dock
- A few moorings in front of the marina with prior arrangement from the marina manager.

**Marina contacts**  
Ph. 40 66 12 20  
VHF 12 & 16  
From Monday to Friday

- Apooiti Marina

# Marina Apooiti

**Garbage collection:** For marina customers only

Pay the fee at the harbourmaster's office

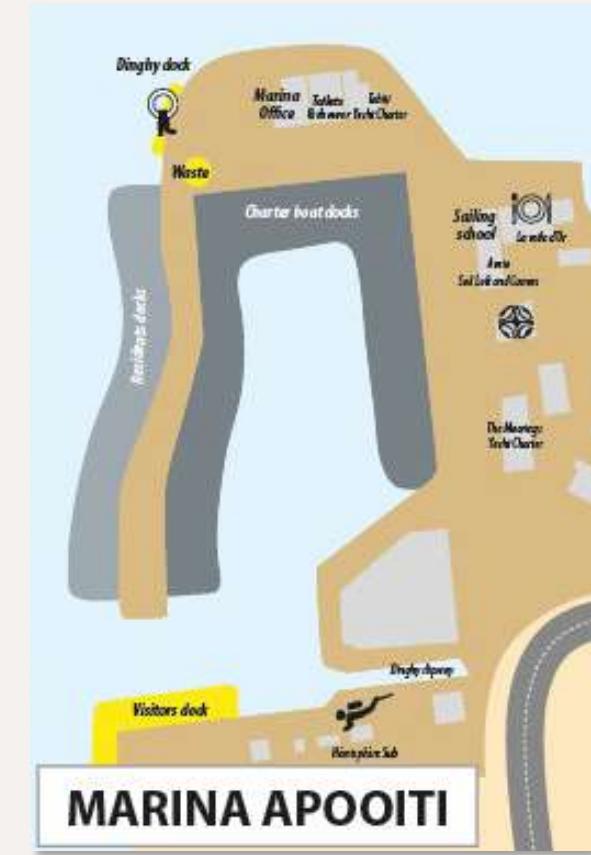
- Sort your rubbish
- Use clear plastic trash bags

## Services

- Sailmaker, repairs and canvas
- Sailing school and a dive operator
- Restaurant
- Souvenir and craft shop
- Grocery shop outside the marina

Within walking distance from the marina

- Supermarket
- Car rental agency
- Airport



- **La Voile d'Or** : Restaurant – Ph. 40 66 12 97
- **Voilerie Aveia** : Sailmaker, repairs & canvas work – Ph. 40 66 14 04
- **Hémisphère Sub** : Dive operator - Ph. 87 72 19 52
- **Sailing school / Yacht Club of Raiatea. Hobie Cat 16 rental -**  
Hervé - Ph. 87 79 39 03

- **Marina Apooiti contacts**

# Raiatea Airport

Caution! When sailing north of Raiatea, do not enter the restricted landing strip area.

The airport of Raiatea is also accessible by dinghy.

## At the Airport

- Good restaurant open for lunch
- Car rental
- Air Tahiti and Air Moana agencies
- Freight desk

To explore the island at your own pace, hire an electric bike. A great way to discover Raiatea.  
Ph. 87 739 779

- Esland bike





# The sister islands



## From Raiatea to Tahaa

Raiatea and Tahaa share the same lagoon: discover Tahaa, the Vanilla Island, where other beautiful anchorages and natural wonders are hidden.

Sail east or west across the large central bank separating the two islands.

[Follow the navigation markers](#)

# SOCIETY Archipelago



## Bora Bora & Huahine

20 NM from Raiatea, head west to discover Bora Bora, the pearl of the Pacific,  
or eastwards to the wild island of Huahine.

Download the information briefings and the charts of Tahaa and Huahine for cruisers from  
the Tourism Department's website: [www.service-public.pf/sdt/plaisance-responsable](http://www.service-public.pf/sdt/plaisance-responsable)

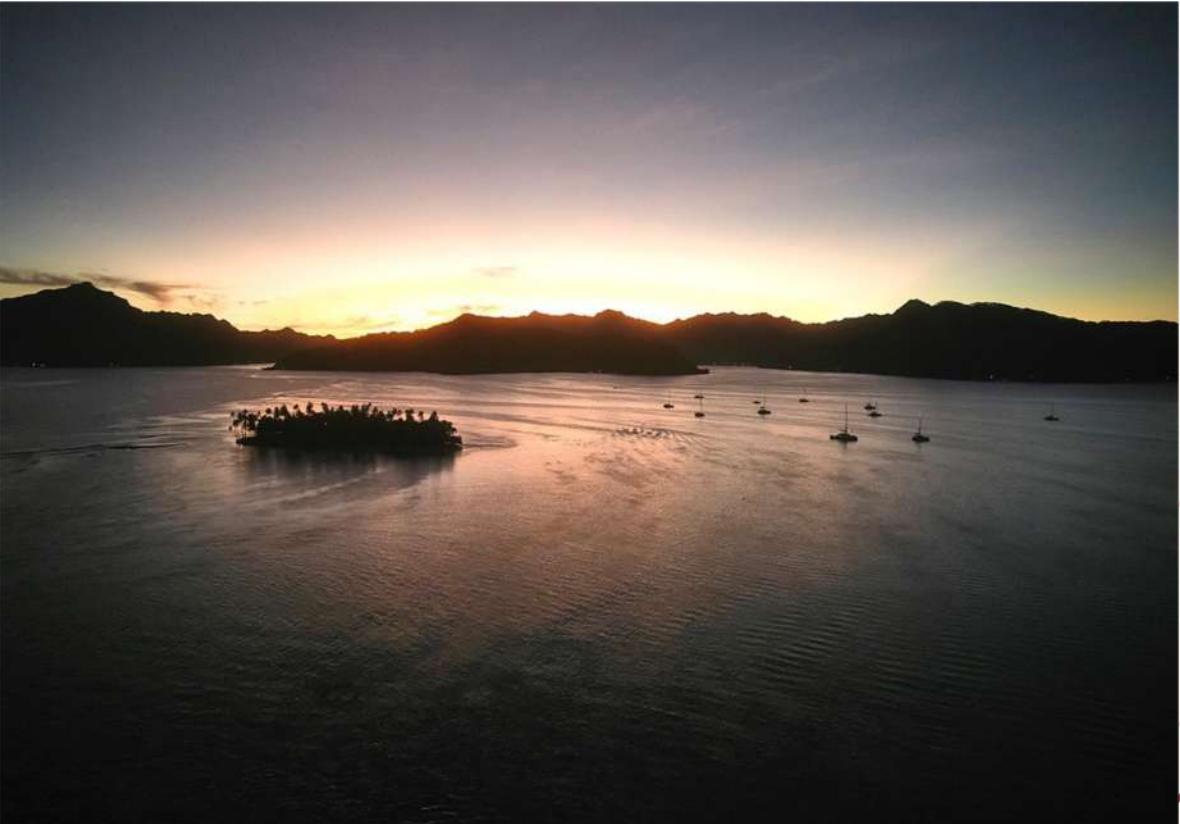
We wish you

# A nice stopover in Raiatea



Thanks to:

- Tahiti Tourisme
- The communes of Raiatea
- The Polynesian Maritime Affairs Department
- The tourism stakeholders of Raiatea



© Service du tourisme / Archipelagoes SARL • 2025