



# la Orana i Maeva!



## Tahaa

Information for yachties





# Summary

⛵ General information

⛵ Practical advice & recommendations

⛵ Navigating and anchoring in Tahaa

# General information



## Stay alert

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

Passes are wide and wind is consistent in Tahaa, 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**

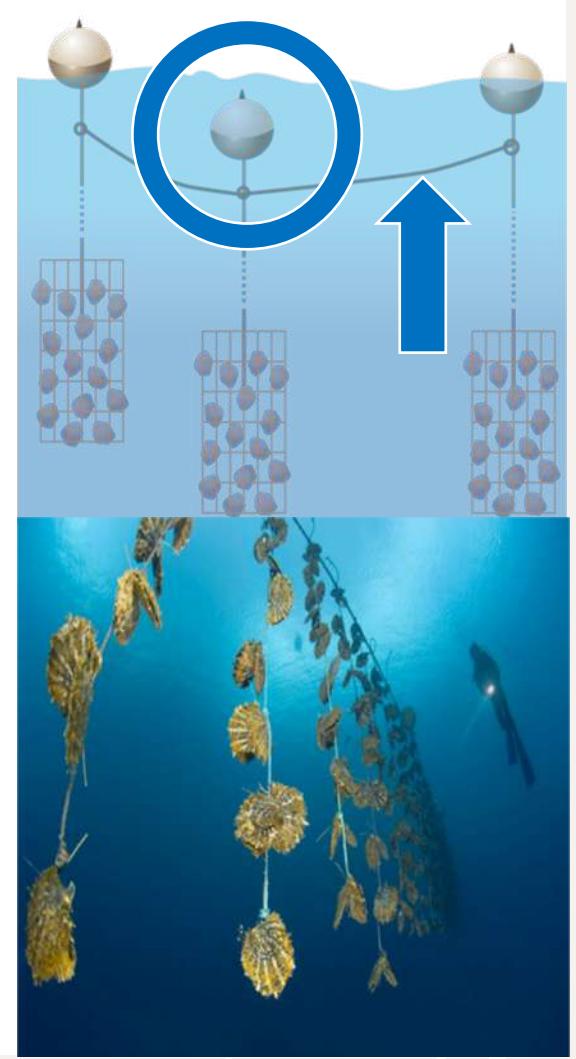
# Safe sailing

- ⛵ 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

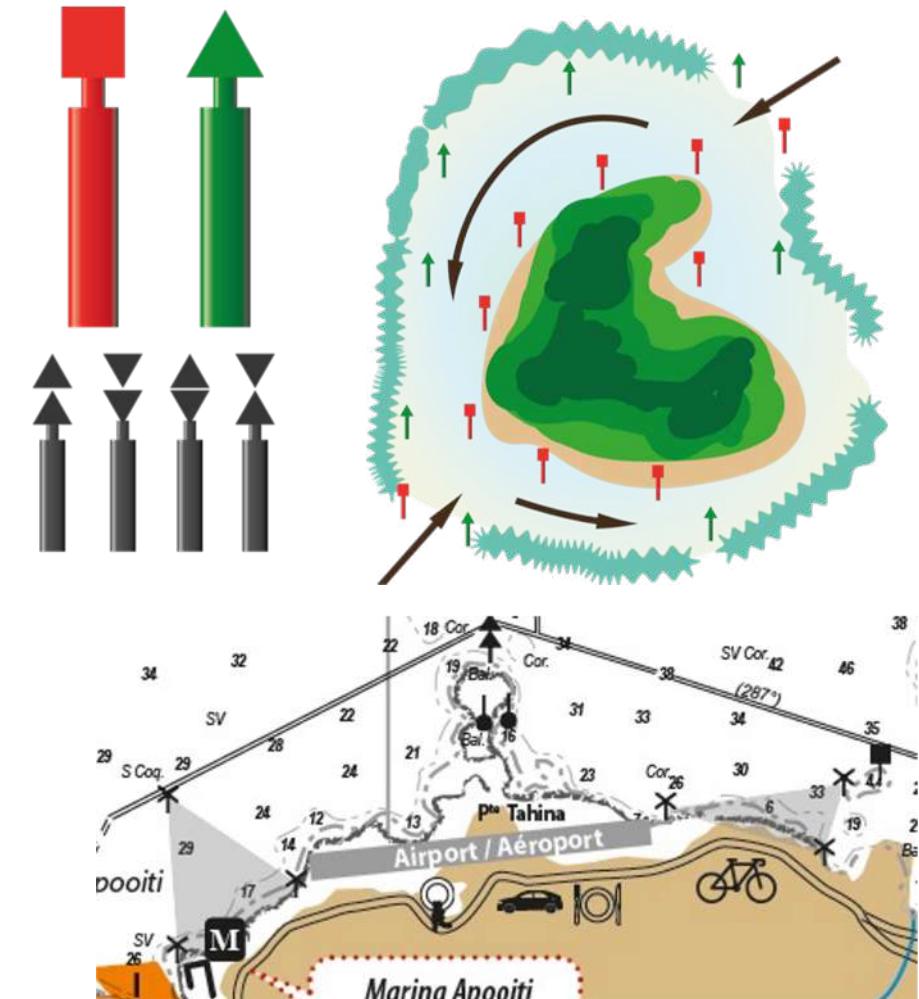
In the Leeward Islands, a green starboard/red port marker (international system) is located at the entrance of the pass.

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.

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



# Regulation

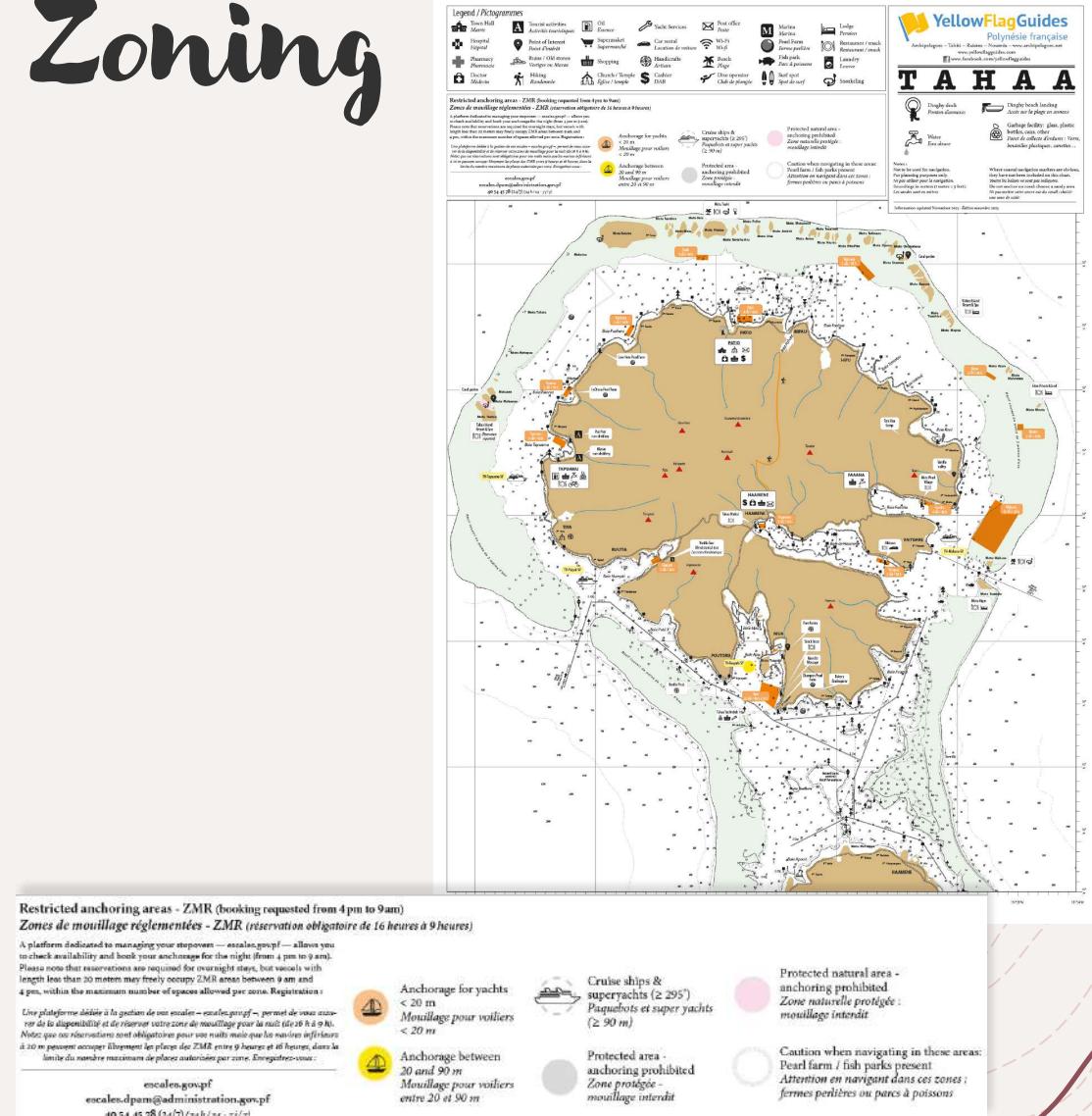
Visiting these islands is a privilege. Many resident sailboats inhabit these waters, as well as registered charter boats or those passing through. There are numerous providers of lagoon activities, transport shuttles, and family or professional fishermen.

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



# Pre-book your overnight anchorage

A platform dedicated to manage your stopovers, [escales.gov.pf](http://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.



The portal for your maritime procedures in French Polynesia

How to make your maritime stopover procedures?

Before your crossing to French Polynesia

Register + Declare your vessel + Reserve an anchorage



## Practical tips & guidelines



## Responsible cruisers

Your behaviour is important.

The welcome given to cruisers in the islands, atolls, and motus depends on your ability to adapt and respect the 5,000 inhabitants 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 Tapuamu**.
- **Do not collect live shellfish**



# Tahaa, the Vanilla Island

Tahaa is the only island in the Leewards that can be circumnavigated within the lagoon, protected from the swell.

This guide offers **14 anchorage** suggestions from **East to West** specifically for sailboats and charter boats.

# Bay of Haamene

## Vaiapua Area

Quota : 2 yachts

Duration : 48 h max.

This bay is one of the deepest in the Leeward Islands.

At the entrance to the bay, in the Vaiapua area, [Hibiscus Restaurant](#) welcomes you. There is a bar and a pool table, and car rental is available. Two private moorings and a dock provide access.

- Ph. 87 79 28 81

Near the restaurant is a small grocery store.



Pontoon of  
Hibiscus restaurant

# Bay of Haamene

Quota: 2 yachts

Duration: 24 h max.

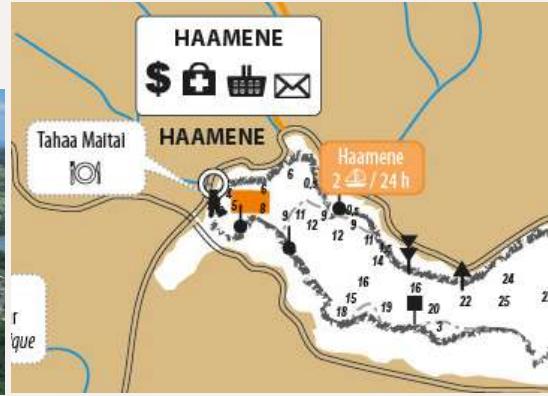
At the deep end of the bay, 2 mooring buoys allow access to the pretty village of **Haamene**. The muddy bottom anchorage is well sheltered from prevailing winds.

- Doctors and pharmacy
- Grocery stores
- Post office
- Bank, ATM
- Small library, schools and college
- Car and electric bike rental
- Restaurants

## The cross-island hike:

This is an old 4WD trail that connects Haamene to the village of Patio via the Vaiatea mountain pass.

Duration: approximately 3 hours.



## Ph. 40 65 70 85

- Pier in front of the restaurant
- Be careful not to interfere with the Raiatea/Tahaa maritime ferry traffic also using this pier.
- One of Tahaa's best restaurants: Bruno, who loves sailing, will delight you with his vanilla-based menu.
- Restaurant Tahaa Maitai

# Motu Mahaea

Quota: 40 yachts  
+ 1 superyacht area

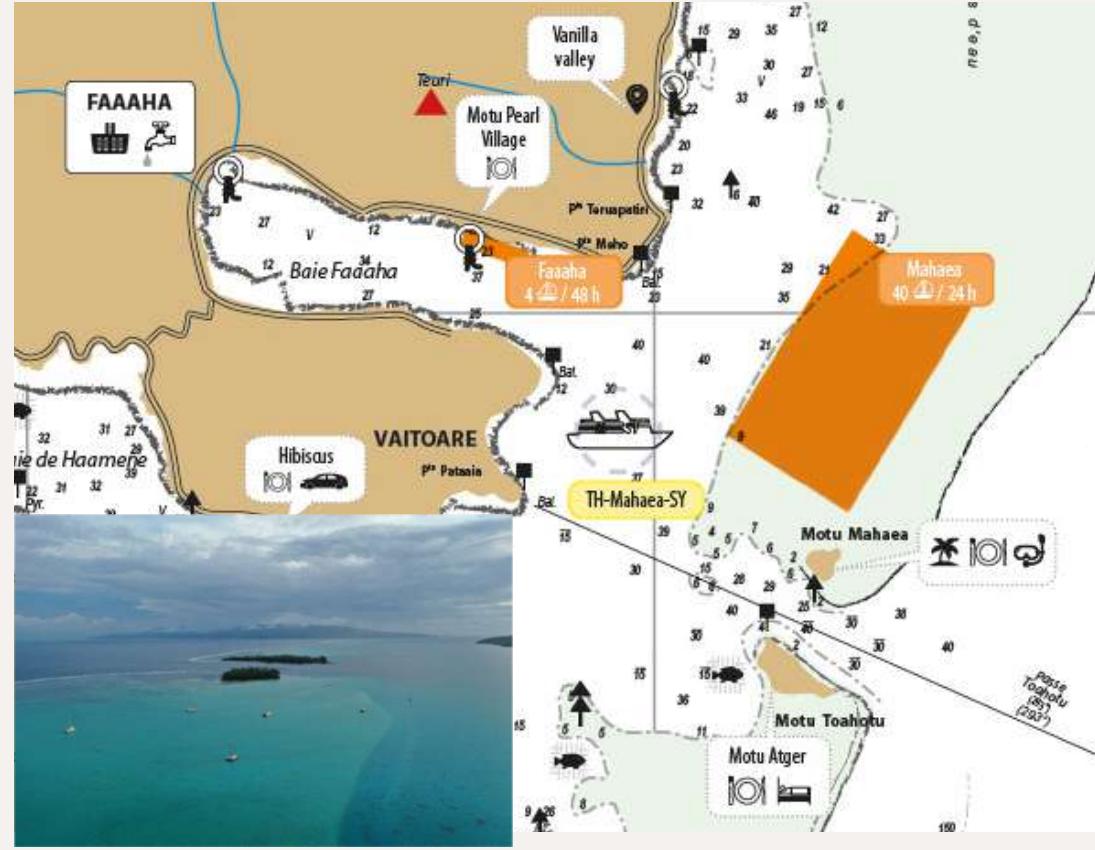
Duration : 24h max, renewable 1 time

Large anchoring area over sand bottom.  
Very good holding, but exposed to easterly winds.

Nice snorkeling in the pass (incoming current) and around the motu.

Access to **motu Mahaea**, maintained by Éric and Poerani - deck chair rental, toilets and bar. Lunch and evening events available – Ph. 87 28 64 37

On the other side of the pass, at **motu Atger**, Théodore and his family welcome you to their snack bar and organise Polynesian meals on Sundays – Ph. 87 28 26 81



# Faaaha

## Quota: 4 yachts

 Duration: 48 h max.

## At the entrance of the bay

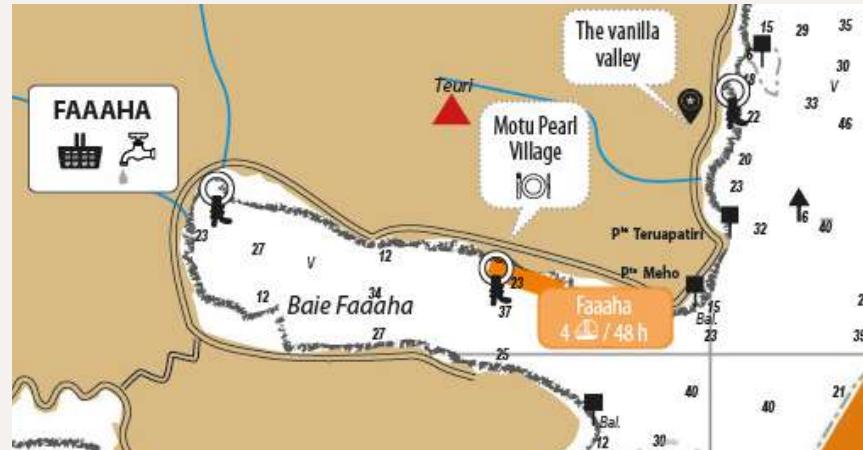
Shore access via the Motu Pearl Village dock at the entrance of the bay. Matai and his family welcome you to their pearl farm and restaurant.  
– Ph. 40 65 66 25

Walk to visit **Vanilla Valley** or sail outside the bay to their pontoon – Ph. 40 65 74 89

## At the deep end of the bay

The village of **Faaaha**, with its small marina (for dinghies only), offers a typically Polynesian atmosphere.

In the village, there is a woodcarver, a small grocery, and a food truck.



## Vanilla valley dock



## Motu pearl village

# Motu Moute

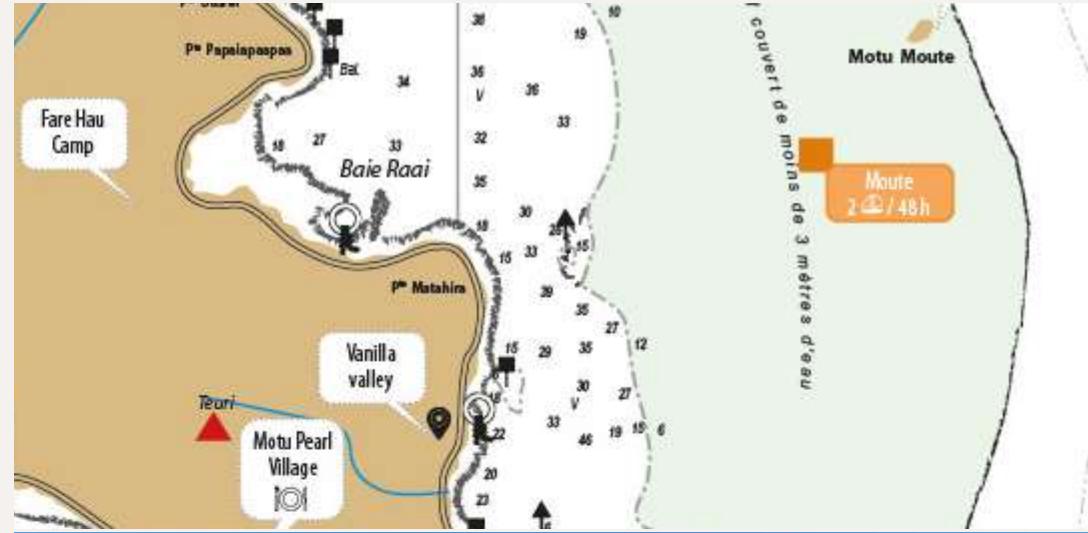
Quota: 2 yachts

Duration: 48 h max.

Sand bottom in less than 3m, no markers.  
Proceed with caution and good visibility.

Eden Private Island Hotel is located on **Motu Moute**. Access to this motu is restricted; and the two moorings belong to the hotel and are reserved for its customers. Restaurant for lunch and dinner by reservation only - Ph. 87 27 56 00

When anchoring in the authorized area, please respect the tranquility of the surroundings on behalf of the hotel guests.



# Motu Atara

Quota: 2 yachts

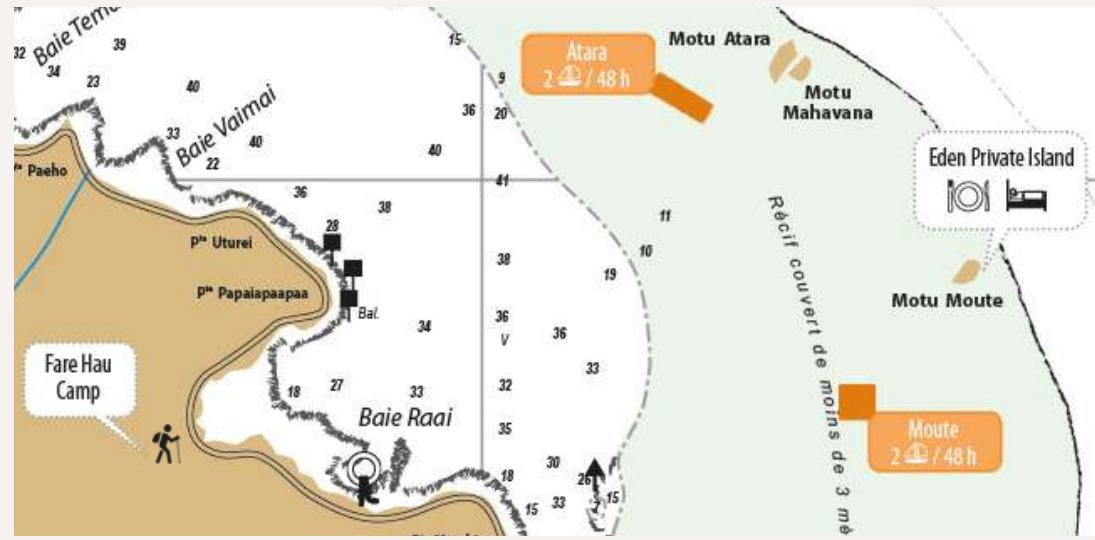
Duration: 48 h max.

Motu Atara is a private motu: shore landing is not permitted. But the snorkeling in this area is superb.

When the swell is down, you can swim to the coral reef.

From this anchorage area, you can go with a good dinghy to the small marina in the bay of [Raai](#). From there, walk to the [Fare Hau Camp](#) - Lunch (reservation required) or smoothie tasting - Ph. 87 72 39 31

A hike of an hour and a half to the top of the mountain provides a view of the bays of [Haamene](#) and [Faaaha](#).



# Tetimaru

Quota: 3 yachts

Duration: 48 h max.

Beautiful anchorage over a sand bottom (2 to 10m), facing a string of islets (motus). Sometimes exposed to winds.

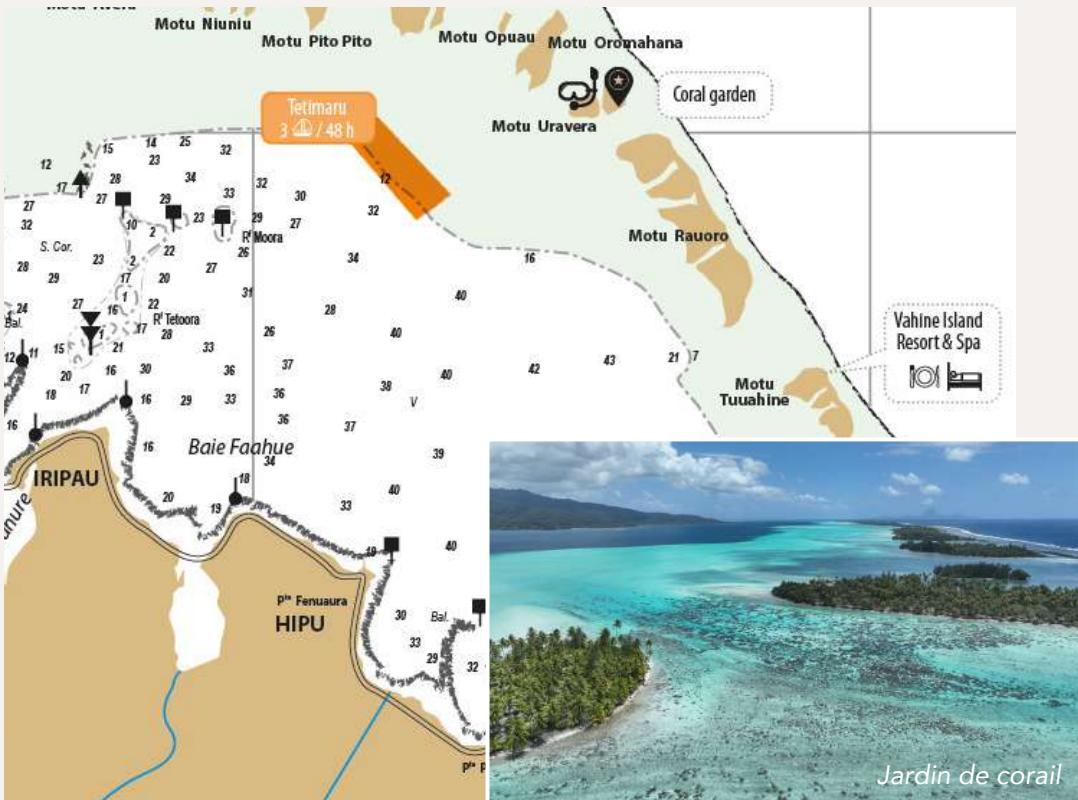
Nearby:

The **coral garden** is located in the *hoa* (inlet) of the motu Oromahana. Homai is available to be your guide - Ph. 89 52 14 55

**If you go on your own:**

- Avoid fins that can damage corals.
- No sunscreen
- You can dinghy to the edge of the reef, but leave someone in the tender to supervise the swim: the current can be strong.
- The surrounding motus are private: you can only walk the shoreline.

The **Vahine Island Hotel** offers day pass access including lunch. With reservation - Ph. 40 65 67 38



# Patio, capital of Tahaa

Quota: 4 yachts

Duration: 48 h max.

Patio is the main village and the capital of Tahaa.

Each November, Patio hosts a leg of the famous Hawaiki Nui Va'a race (outrigger canoe race).

A little marina provides easy access to the village:

- Medical centre, pharmacy
- Grocery store
- Snack bars, pizzeria, crêperie
- Table football
- Bank and post office
- Car and scooter rental
- Dance classes...

Ph. 87 78 69 89

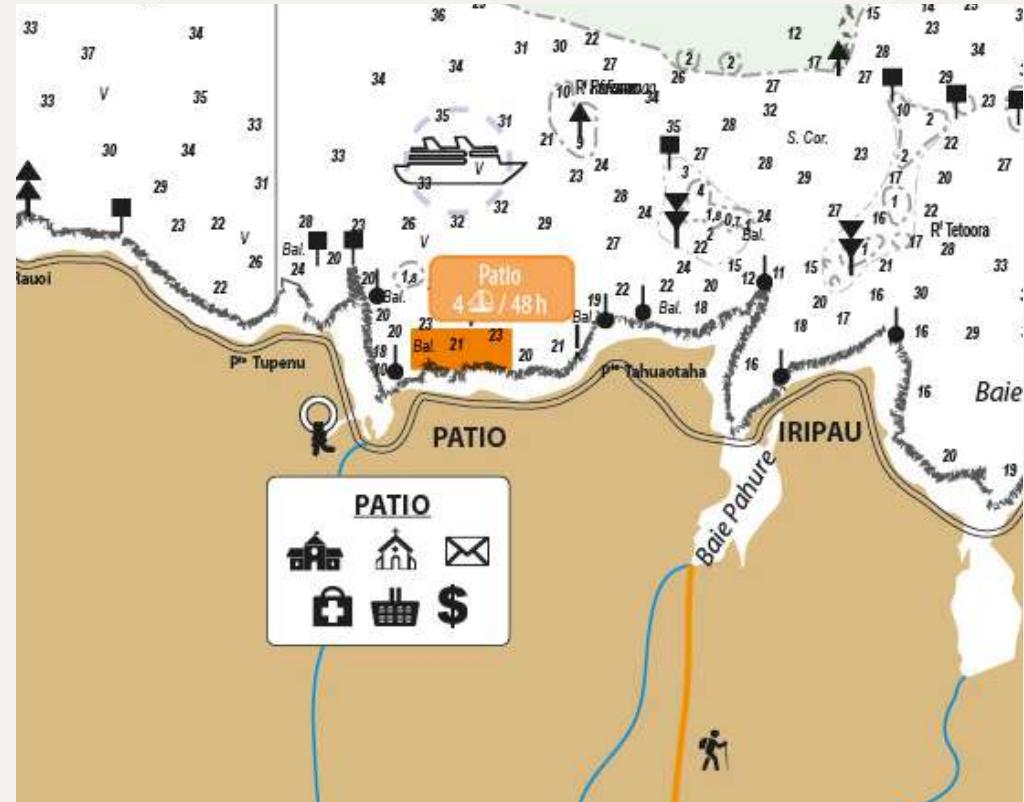
Scooter rental

 Tahaa Vroum

Ph. 87 31 73 26

Interesting menu, great view

 Restaurant Chez Parrain



# Tuahi Area

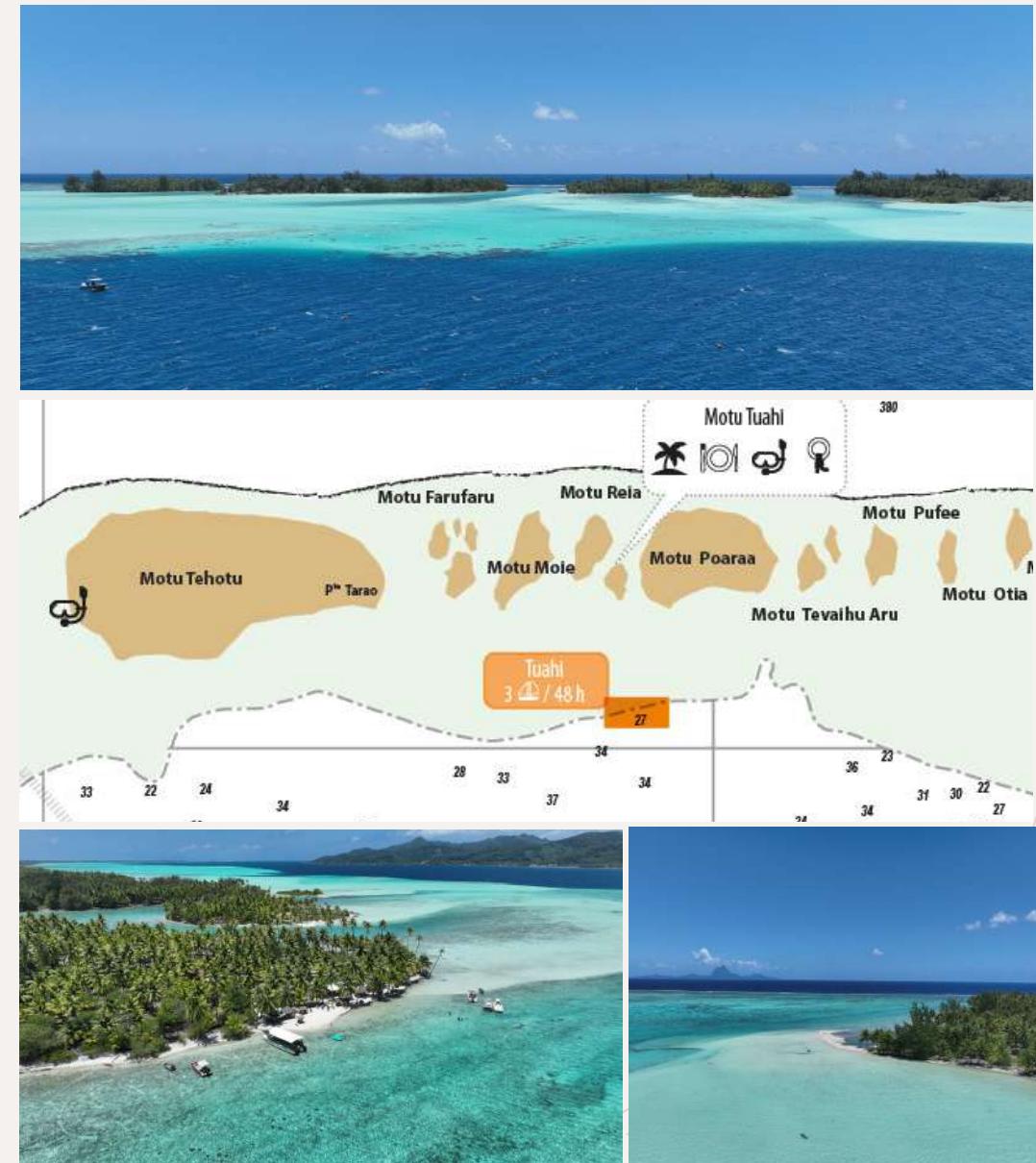
- Quota: 3 yachts
- Duration: 48 h max.

Anchor just off the edge of the dropoff in about 8-10m over sand. This anchorage is best in a breeze from NW through NE. When the DPAM mooring buoys become available, book a mooring on [escales.gov.pf](http://escales.gov.pf)

Two mooring buoys are owned by the snack located on Motu **Tuahi**. Day use only, at your own risk.

From the anchorage, dinghy to Motu **Tuahi**: a motu with a beautiful beach, deck chairs, and great snorkeling. A day package includes a big Tahitian meal. They also offer shuttles from Patio pier. You are permitted to bring your own cooler with drinks – Ph. 87 75 04 76 – FB: Motu Tuahi Tahaa.

A little further away by dinghy, you will find a beautiful snorkeling spot and a white sand beach located at the southwest tip of **motu Tehotu**.  
A taste of the Tuamotu Islands in Tahaa.

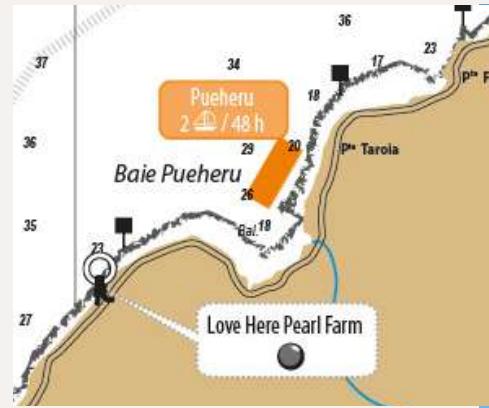


## Bay of Pueheru

- Quota: 2 yachts
- Duration: 48 h max.

This anchorage provides access to [Love Here Pearl Farm](#). DPAM will soon be installing mooring buoys in this area which you can reserve at [www.escales.gov.pf](http://www.escales.gov.pf).

The farm also has two mooring buoys located close to the channel just in front of the farm. Their use is entirely at your own risk.



# Tapuamu

Quota: 6 yachts + 1 superyacht area

Duration: 48 h max.

**Pari Pari rum distillery** at the north end of the bay has a dock; visit their rum and tapas bar in an outrigger canoe.

Dinghy to the village in the South and dock in the little marina:

- **Manao rum** distillery
- **Electric bike** rental - FB: Enjoy Cycling Tahaa
- **Fuel station** accessible by dinghy - bring your own jerry can - Small food store, some snacks

**Rubbish bins on the quay** — this is the **only available trash disposal** for sailors on Tahaa.

Opposite this bay, accessible by dinghy: **motu Tautau** and its luxury hotel **Le Tahaa**: spa, restaurant, bar. By reservation only – Ph. 40 60 84 00

Great snorkeling between motu Tautau and motu Maharare, site of the Coral Garden. Leave your dinghy on the beach of the small motu Maharare, then walk almost to the end of the motu. From here, jump into the hoa (inlet) above the coral garden and let the current float you back to your dinghy.

**No fins**, wear only booties to avoid damaging the coral.

## Guidelines



# Hurepiti

Quota: 3 yachts

Duration: 48 h max

Hurepiti Bay is well protected from prevailing winds, but no public access to shore.

**Caution:** The anchorage area is close to the reef flat; be careful if you anchor there while waiting for the DPAM mooring buoys to be installed.

The shape of this bay causes noise to echo. Please do not leave your engine or generator running at night, and respect the peace and quiet of the area so as not to disturb the local residents.

Three moorings at the end of the bay belong to [Vanilla Tour](#), which offers a great 4WD tour of the island.

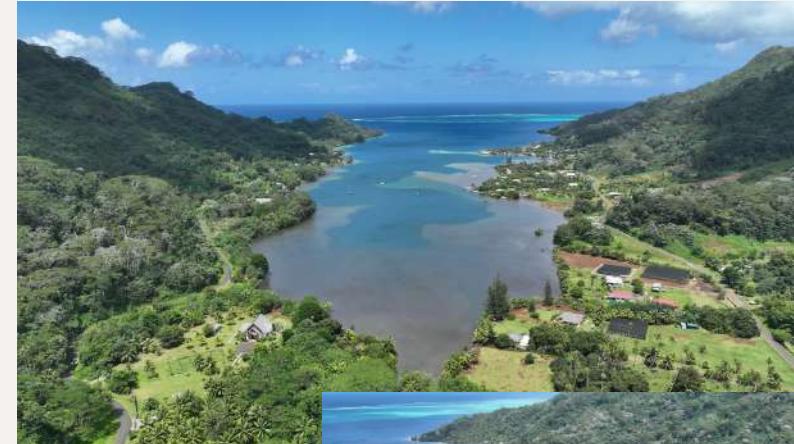
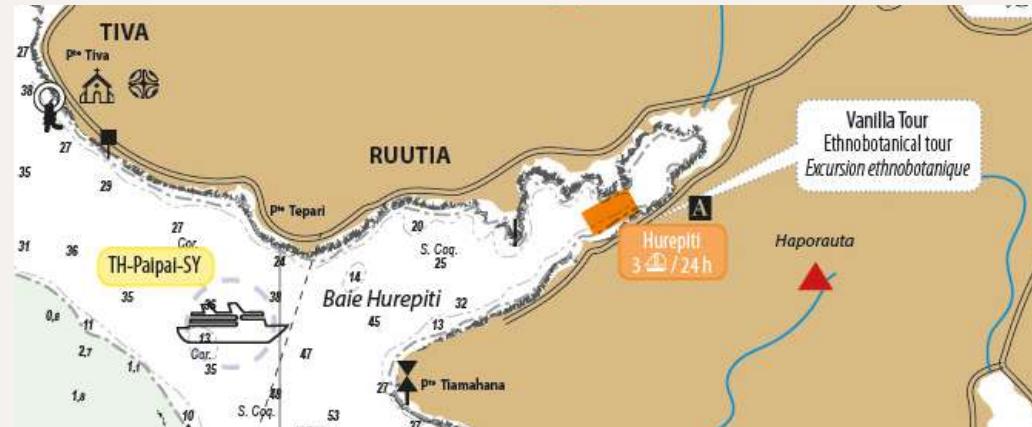
Access to the Vanilla Tour dock is for customers only.

Noe Plantier offers a beautiful botanical tour of Tahaa.

- Ph. 87 35 86 39 - French, English, and Italian spoken

On Sunday, walk to the village of Tiva to attend the church services. The fervour of the hymns, the colourful dresses of the ladies and the heady scent of the flower necklaces and crowns provide a memorable experience.

Discover



# Apu

Quota: 20 yachts + 1 superyacht area

Duration: 48 h to 30 days

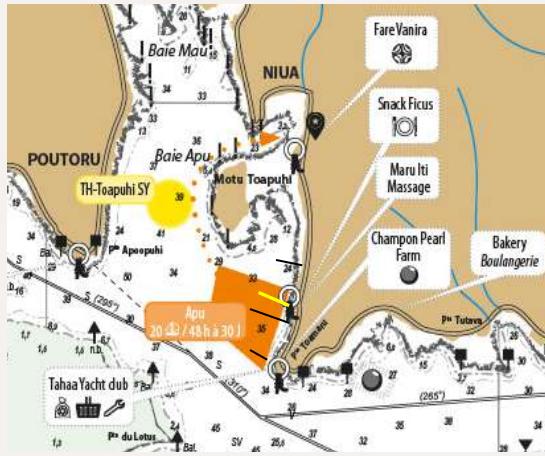
Shore access via the second large pier, furthest inland from the mouth of the bay, belonging to [Champon pearl farm](#).

From here, walk along the picturesque little road to visit the beautiful pearl farm. Information about grafting and pearl harvesting -

- French and English spoken - By reservation - Ph. 40 65 66 26

## Also worth discovering :

- [Bakery nearby](#) - open only early in the morning (6 am to 8 am)
- [Maru Iti Massage](#): Massage, taurumi, energy, or traditional Chinese massage. By appointment only - Ph. 87 203 725 (leave a message) - FB: maru iti massage.
- [Tahaa Yacht Club](#) opened recently and offers a wide range of services for sailors – Ph. 87 27 53 57
  - Access dock
  - Showers, toilets, waste collection
  - Sail loft and mechanics
  - Poultry, vegetable gardens, beehives
  - Fruit & vegetables available for pre-order
- [Ficus restaurant](#), open on certain evenings only - Ph. 87 30 20 66
- [Fare Vanira](#): Visit a vanilla plantation. Honey and handicrafts for sale. Dock accessible by dinghy **around the islet**  
- Ph. 87 75 74 73 - FB: fare vanira.
- On the other side of the bay: [Poutoru](#) pier. [Maupiti Express](#) shuttle to Raiatea.
- [Vanilla Prod Shop](#): crafts and vanilla.





# The sister islands



## From Tahaa to Raiatea

Tahaa and Raiatea share the same lagoon: discover Raiatea, the Sacred 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



Continue discovering the Leewards

## 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 Huahine and Raiatea for cruisers from the Tourism Department's website: [www.service-public.pf/sdt/plaisance-responsable](http://www.service-public.pf/sdt/plaisance-responsable)

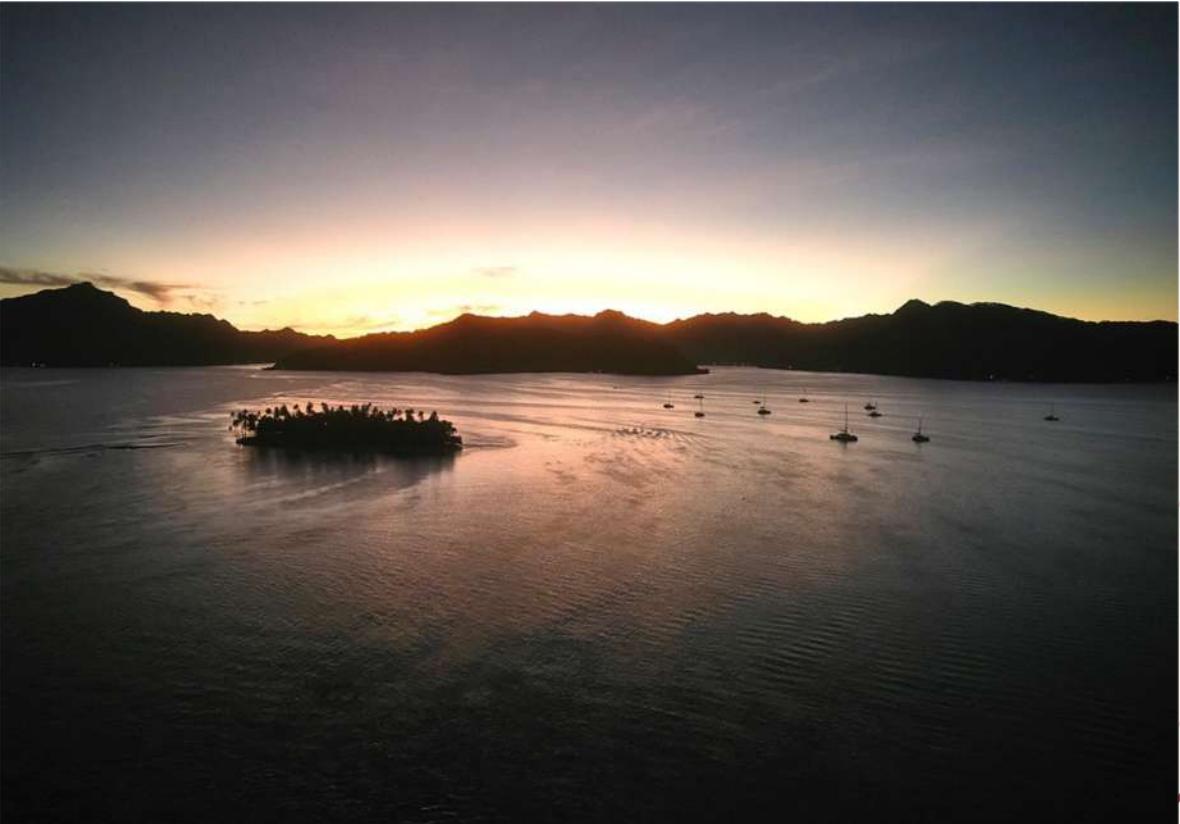
We wish you

A nice stopover in Tahaa



Thanks to:

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



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