

la Orana i Maeva !



# Moorea

Information for yachties





# Contents

- General Information
- Practical Advice & Recommendations
- Sailing & **Anchorage**s in Moorea
- Continuing on to the other Society Islands

# Aimeho of the Eight Rays

Moorea was once known as Eimeo, which translates to “yellow lizard” in Tahitian. When ashore, you’ll likely spot the island’s namesake—the endemic *margouillat* gecko—with its distinctive colors of fluorescent green tinged with yellow.

But the island carries another ancient name: Aimeho, which means “to eat while hiding.”

The island’s full name was “*Aimeho i te rārā varu*”, or Aimeho of the Eight Rays, representing the eight tentacles of the octopus.

This name honors a legendary octopus from Papetoai whose body defines the very landscape. Its head rests atop Mount Rotui, while its eight tentacles stretch outward to form the island’s eight dramatic mountain ridges. Because the mouth of an octopus is hidden beneath its body, it eats in secret—giving “Aimeho” its mysterious meaning.

Although highly touristed, the sculpted beauty of Moorea is immediately striking thanks to its two large, very deep bays—Opunohu and Cook—flanked by magnificent mountains such as Mount Rotui. It is also an agricultural island, renowned for its unique, deliciously sweet pineapples.



# The Sea of Moons

The name of the channel between Moorea and Tahiti, given by the ancients, is Mer de Marama, a name linked to that of the island's great ruling family.

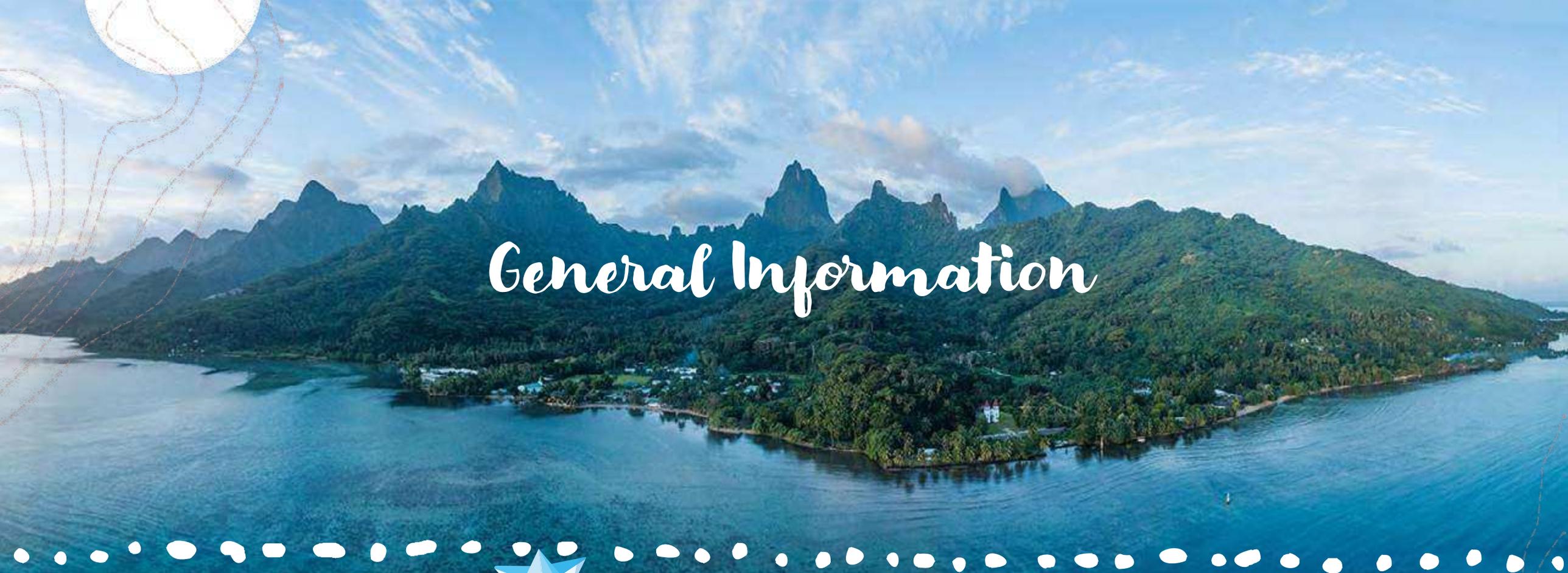
Marama means "moon," hence the former common designation, "Sea of Moons."

This channel is affected by the crossing swells from east and south, often resulting in choppy waters. It is heavily trafficked by the shuttles operating the Papeete–Moorea route: they must always be given priority.

If you make a stop in Moorea, you must request entry and exit authorization from the Papeete Autonomous Port Authority Harbourmaster:  
[trafficmaritime@portppt.pf](mailto:trafficmaritime@portppt.pf)

 **Reminder**





# General Information



## Moorea, the Sister Island

So nicknamed due to its short distance from Tahiti — only 10 nautical miles — Moorea and its 17,500 inhabitants welcome you and invite you to discover the second most populated and one of the most visited islands in Polynesia.

# Tourism Comittee

Tourism Committee  
Located on the **Paopao quay**, north of Cook's Bay.  
Open from 7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday to Friday.

The Tourism Committee can **help you with information and bookings for available activities**:  
Phone: 40 56 50 55 – 88 88 87 67  
comitetourismemoorea2017@gmail.com

You can leave your dinghy at this marina for the day, except on days when a cruise ship is docked or scheduled: the marina docks are then reserved exclusively for activity providers' boats and cruise ship shuttles. Docking your dinghy on days when it is allowed is subject to a fee, payable directly to the Tourism Committee.

On the quay, you will also find a charming craft hut.

A household trash disposal service is also available: ask the Tourism Committee for details.



On the circular road around Moorea (same as in Tahiti), the "PK" markers (Kilometer Points) serve as reference points. PK 0 is at the airport road. If you go via the north, the markers show Haapiti at PK 35. From the south, Haapiti is at PK 24!

★ Good to Know

# Activities

## Suggestions

- Island tour with stops at the **lookout point** and legendary **Cook** and **Opunohu bays**: archaeological sites, pineapple plantations, breathtaking viewpoints...
- Visit to the **Fare Natura** eco-museum
- **Tiki Village** in **Haapiti**: beautiful Polynesian evenings and cultural workshops during the day – [www.tikivillage.pf](http://www.tikivillage.pf)
- Numerous well-marked hiking trails
- **Diving** year-round and operators for whale watching between July and October
- **Tamaeva Cultural Center** in **Papetoai**, offering various workshops: weaving, cooking, dance...
- Moorea **Green Pearl Golf Course** between **Temae** and **Maharepa**
- **Relaxation centers and spas** at hotels
- Coral planting with the **Coral Gardeners**
- Polynesian **water massage** – FB: Moanava Massage Aquatique
- The **Ranch** in **Opunohu** for beach or mountain horseback rides
- **Tiki Parc** and its treetop adventure courses
- The **agricultural high school**, famous for its jam, with a hiking circuit



*Mount Rotui and the two bays, Opunohu and Cook, seen from the Lookout*



*Treetop adventure at Tiki Parc*



*Small blacktip sharks and stingrays in Moorea's lagoon*



*Evening show at Tiki Village*

# Water & Waste Management

Moorea is committed to welcoming you while making every effort to preserve its lagoon. The municipality provides household waste collection and several drinking water stations.

## Fees

Pay the water and waste fees at the nearest town hall upon arrival or on.

- [www.commune-moorea.net/vie-municipale/payer-mes-factures](http://www.commune-moorea.net/vie-municipale/payer-mes-factures)

## Daily rate:

Under 20 m: 1,000 CFP • Over 20 m: 1,500 CFP

Phone: 40 550 478 – [regie@commune-moorea.pf](mailto:regie@commune-moorea.pf)

## Where to dispose of your trash?

After paying the fee at the Moorea municipality:

- Paopao Fishing Boat Marina
- Haapiti Quay

Private providers also accept trash:

- Opunohu Marina: 500 CFP per bag
- Cook's Bay Dock: check with the Tourism Committee

**Important:** In all Moorea bays, you must use your grey and black water tanks and go at least 3 nautical miles offshore before pumping out.



A [nautical patrol](#) is present for lagoon safety and monitoring:

Phone: 87 704 657

Email: [brigade.nautique@commune-moorea.pf](mailto:brigade.nautique@commune-moorea.pf)

The [Maritime Authority](#) ensures coordination of maritime activities and enforcement of the PGEM (Marine Spatial Management Plan):

Phone: 40 550 476

# Regulations

Remember: Visiting Moorea by yacht is a privilege. The island hosts numerous resident, visiting, and charter boats, as well as many lagoon activity providers, transport shuttles, and family or professional fishermen.

Given the level of maritime traffic and activity, the effort to protect sensitive areas defined by the PGEM, and respect for local residents, **regulated anchorage zones (ZMR)** have been established by the Polynesian Directorate of Maritime Affairs (DPAM) in collaboration with the Moorea municipality. These zones **set limits on the number of vessels and the duration of stay per area.**

Until secure mooring buoys are installed in 2026, you must anchor in these designated zones.

Reservation of your spot is mandatory. [escales.gov.pf](https://escales.gov.pf).

The Moorea **nautical patrol** officers regularly monitor the lagoon. Their mission is to raise awareness about respecting these quota and duration rules and to better track usage. Please give them a warm and cooperative welcome if they approach you.

# Zoning

**Legend / Pictogrammes**

Tourist Hall Mairie	Marina	Tourist activities Activités touristiques	Supermarket Supermarché	Oil filler Remplissage	Hiking Randonnée	Surf spot Spot de surf	Scuba rental Location de matériel	Hospital Hôpital
Tourism Board Comité de tourisme	Customs Douane	Bar / Club Bar / Club	Shopping Magasin	Beach Plage	Swimming Nage	Beach Plage	Car / quad rental Location de voiture / quad	Pharmacy Pharmacie
Police / Check in Gendarmerie / Formalités d'entrée	Post office Bureau de poste	Cultural place, Museum Espace culturel, Musée	Handicrafts Artisan	Laundry Lavoir	Dive operator Club de plongée	Restaurant / snack Restaurant / snack	Ebike rental Location de vélo	Doctor Médecin
	Point of Interest Point d'intérêt	Church / Temple Église / temple		Golf	Dive operator / buoy Bouée club de plongée			

**MOOREA**

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

- Anchor for yachts < 20 m  
Mouillage pour voiliers < 20 m
- Anchor between 20 and 90 m  
Mouillage pour voiliers entre 20 et 90 m
- Cruise ships & superyachts (≥ 295')  
Paquebots et super yachts (≥ 90 m)
- Shoal  
Platier
- Protected Marine Area  
AMP - Aire marine protégée
- Rest area for whales  
Zone de repos des cétacés

# Reserve Your Anchorage

A dedicated platform for managing your stopovers – [escales.gov.pf](https://escales.gov.pf) – allows you to check availability and reserve your anchorage zone for the night (from 4:00 p.m. to 9:00 a.m.):

-  Register on [escales.gov.pf](https://escales.gov.pf) – this is the simplest 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 online service, currently in a pilot phase on the islands of Fakarava, Raiatea, Tahaa, Huahine, Moorea, and Tairapu Ouest (Tahiti), is currently free. However, anchoring fees will apply starting in 2026.

Please note that reservations are mandatory for overnight stays (from 4:00 p.m. to 9:00 a.m.). Vessels under 20 m may freely use ZMR spots between 9:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m., within the maximum number of vessels allowed per zone.





# Practical Advice



## Responsible Cruising

To ensure a warm welcome, cruisers should focus on **adapting** to local customs and showing genuine respect for the community.

# Ideal Conditions in the Windward Islands

- The Windward Islands (IDV) are located on a South Pacific amphidromic point, and are therefore not affected by the lunar tide, only by the solar tide. Also, currents in the passes are weaker.
- High tide occurs year-round at noon and midnight; low tide at 6:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m.
- Tidal range is only 20 to 30 cm.
- Wind: East trade winds (SE in austral winter, NE in austral summer).
- The lagoon is protected from swells by the coral reef.
- Anchorages on the leeward side of the island are well protected, but watch out for Venturi effects.



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

# Aids to Navigation

In the Windward Islands , a green-starboard / red-port marker system (international standard) is used at the entrance of passes. Inside the lagoon, the **markers are different**: **green on the reef side** and **red on the land side**.

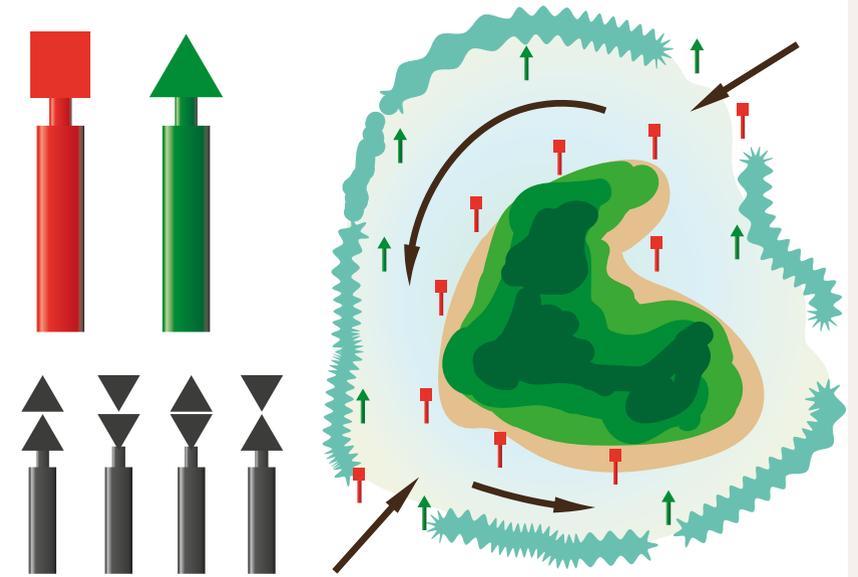
Isolated hazards are marked with cardinal buoys.

Of the 12 passes around Moorea, only **eight are easily navigable** for access to the lagoon.

The main passes have range markers to help maintain course and enter safely.

Navigation at night is not recommended, as not all markers are lighted.

In Moorea's **shallow channels**, accessible only by dinghy, follow the black-and-white stakes: keep them on the landward side.



# The PGEM: Protecting the Lagoon

The **Marine Spatial Management Plan (PGEM)** of Moorea was established to regulate the sustainable use of marine resources and preserve the marine ecosystem. Initially created in 2004, it was revised and approved in 2021 following consultations with various stakeholders.

## Objectives and Regulations

- **Resource protection:** The PGEM establishes marine protected areas to limit fishing and preserve habitats.
- **Activity regulation:** Anchoring, for example, is regulated with a maximum duration of 48 hours to prevent damage to the seabed.
- **Management zones:** Divided into several zones (fringing reef, barrier reef, outer slope), the PGEM clearly defines which activities are allowed in each area.

The **Marine Spatial Management Committee (CGEM)** plays a crucial role, bringing together representatives from the municipality, maritime authorities, fishermen, and environmental associations. This committee aims to ensure balanced management between human development and resource conservation.

For More Information:  
[pgem.org](http://pgem.org) – [www.commune-moorea.net/pgem-et-cgem](http://www.commune-moorea.net/pgem-et-cgem)



Identifying PGEM Buoys

# Safe Lagoon Practices

**Reminder:** When snorkeling, make sure to **use a surface marker** to remain clearly visible to watercraft and others.

If you wish to surf in the passes, ensure you have the consent and goodwill of local surfers.

Keep in mind that Moorea is a very popular tourist island, and traffic from activity boats, fishing boats, jet skis, shuttles, and cruise ships is heavy, especially around Cook and Opunohu bays.

**Vigilance is essential** when snorkeling or swimming in the area.

**Open water swimming buoys help swimmers stay visible** and provide a safety flotation device in case of distress, fatigue, or an emergency situation.

A whistle is also recommended to alert others and summon assistance.

✦ Recommendations



# Respect

- **Regulated anchorage zones**  
– please follow the quotas and time limits.
- **No nudity**  
– not at anchor, on land, or even during deck showers!
- **No illegal AirBnB/charter**  
on visiting sailboats.
- **Do not feed the fish**  
(sharks, rays, moray eels...).
- **Respect the designated PGEM zones**  
(fishing, water activities, wildlife protection...).
- **Respect the residents' tranquility**  
– no noise disturbances.

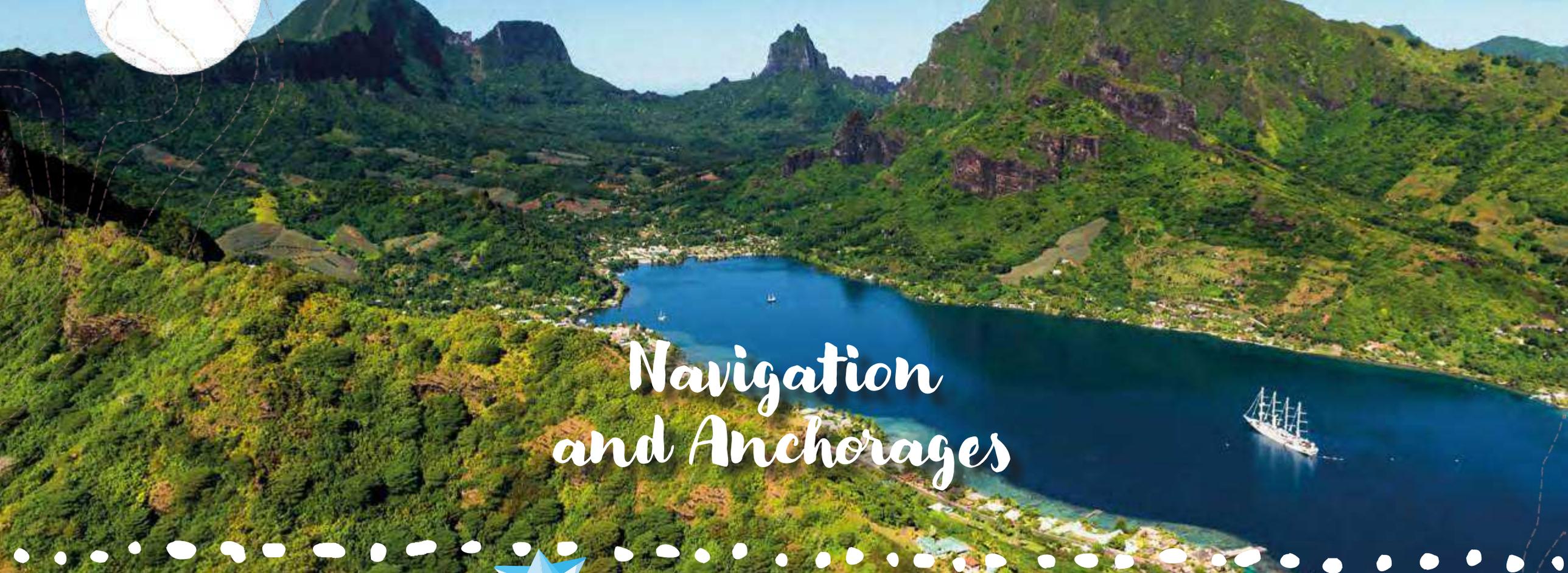
# Safe Snorkeling

- **Avoid using fins** in shallow areas to prevent damage to the coral.
- Given the heavy traffic in the lagoon, **make yourself visible with a surface marker or flag.**



# Protect

- **In the lagoons, no pollution:**  
avoid disposing of waste, liquids, grey water, sunscreen, etc.
- **No organic waste,**  
which often ends up on beaches and near homes.
- **Always use holding tanks and grey water containers.**  
Go at least 3 nautical miles outside the pass to empty them.
- **No illegal disposal of household waste on land.**  
Leave your garbage at designated collection points shown on the map.
- **No underwater lighting at night,**  
to avoid disturbing marine life (regulatory prohibition).
- **Do not collect live shells.**



# Navigation and Anchorages



## Moorea

An invitation to explore Moorea's lagoon from east to west via the 8 designated anchorages available to you.

# Patae, in Vai'are Bay

- ✈ Quota : 2 vessels
- ✈ Duration: 48 hours

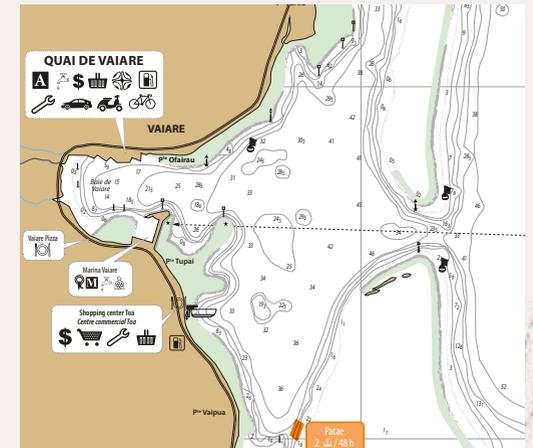
Enter the bay through the Vaiarea pass:  
 Pass entrance buoys (lighted at night).  
 Align with the two range markers on shore.  
 Depth: 23 m.  
 Give priority to ferries. Carefully navigate around the shoal  
 before heading to the ZMR.

Anchor on a beautiful sandbank with excellent snorkeling  
 areas.

Nearby: **Motu Ahi**, the **Vai'are commercial area**, and a bit  
 further, the village of **Afareitu**.

**Shore access** via the marina or the small beach next to the  
 marina (no aids to navigation from the ZMR — approach with  
 good visibility).

The **Heiva festival** huts are set up here, where traditional  
 Polynesian festivities for the month of July, or *Tuirai*,  
 take place.



- Water and garbage disposal are available
  - Dinghy dock
  - Several spaces available for visiting boats
- Information:  
 – 87 08 61 28  
 – officemarinavaiare@gmail.com



✈ **Vaiare Marina**

# Amenities & General Services in

## In front of the anchorage:

- Fuel station (jerrycan service)
- In the Pacific shopping center:
- Champion Supermarket, well stocked, with ATM
- Nautisport marine supply store
- Avis car rental
- Several snack bars and food trucks
- **Vaiare Pizza**: Friday evening open mic nights, where all are welcome to bring an instrument and join the musicians, or sing on stage
- La Cimmérienne forge / cutlery shop

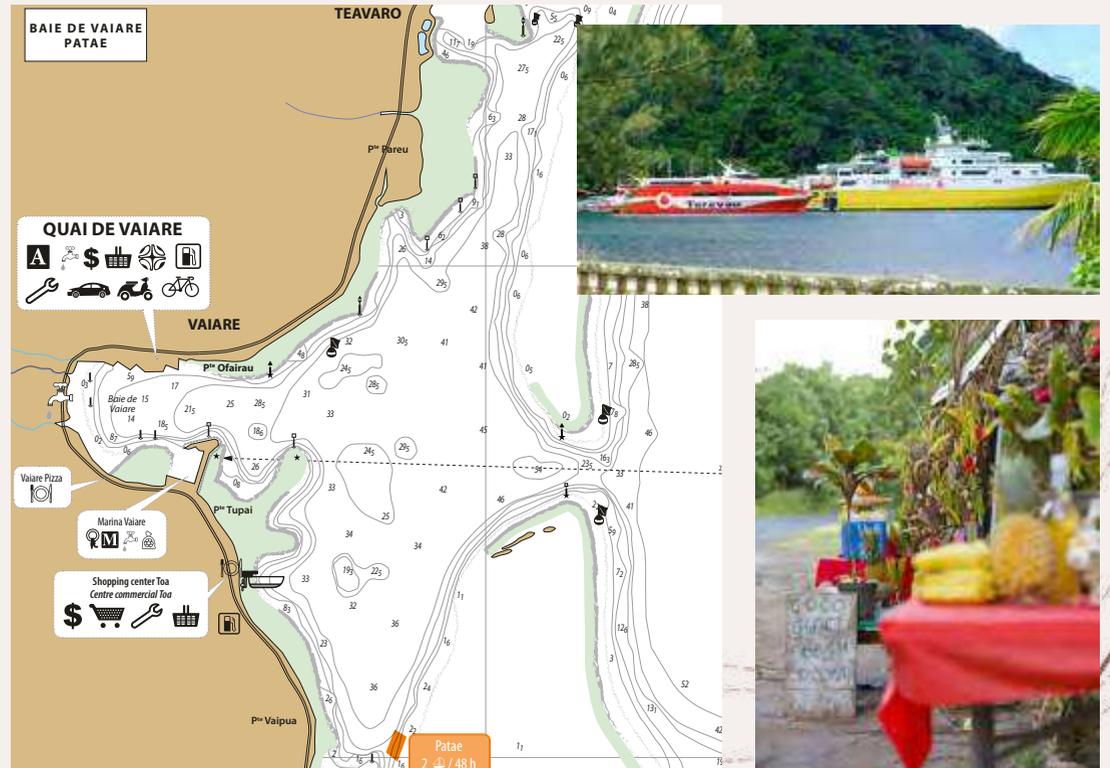
## Nearby, across the bay from the ferry dock:

- Fuel station (jerrycan service)
- Car and scooter rentals
- Hardware and plumbing store
- Convenience store and supermarket
- ATM and bank
- Snack bars

Roadside stands in this bay sell fruit and beautiful flower crowns.

Public drinking water: follow the path behind the **Bayside Moorea Market** convenience store.

Hiking: walk up to **Paruai Marae** (about 1 hour).



## North: Nuarei Bay and Temae Beach

Accessible with a good dinghy, but be careful when crossing the pass due to traffic.

- The beach has some amenities (beach volleyball and showers) and is very popular and lively on weekends.
- Nice drift snorkeling in the small channel.
- Pleasant hiking trail starting from the post office center on the ring road.
- Sofitel Hotel with bar, restaurant, and spa:
  - Access via the pier, happy hour, dinner, and Polynesian show on Saturday evenings – reservation required.
  - Day pass available with access to pool, beach, and meals.

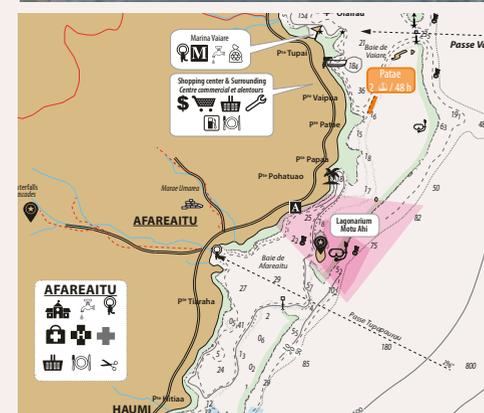
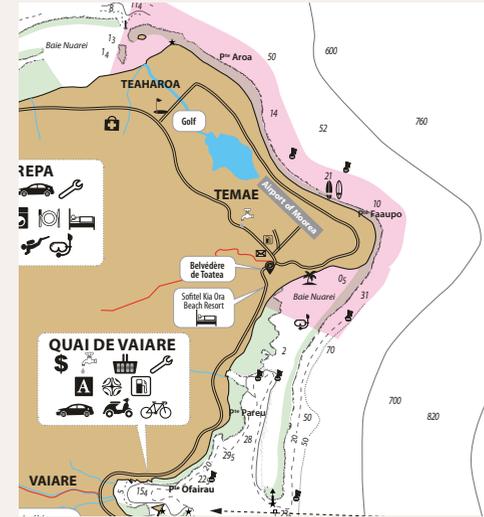
## South: Afareitu Village

This area is also accessible by dinghy from the ZMR, following the black-and-white stakes marking the channel between the ZMR and the village.

Small access pier at the river mouth – be careful not to block municipal boats docked there.

- Hospital, pharmacy, and medical center
- Town hall
- Snack bars

Hiking: trails to the **Vaioro waterfalls** or **Afareitu waterfalls**, with swimming pools and blue-eyed eels. Pay 100 CFP to Fly, the landowner, for permission to cross his property.



Motu Ai

# Maatea

- Quota: 1 vessel
- Duration: 48 hours

Access via the **Teruaupu pass** (only one port-side entrance buoy).

Anchor on a sandy bottom, 3 to 5 m deep.

Adjacent PGEM zone designated for sustainable and fair fishing – please respect the rules (see **PGEM**).

## Shore Access

By dinghy to the small Maatea pier: easy access from the ZMR, following the red buoy and northern cardinal mark.

## In Maatea Village:

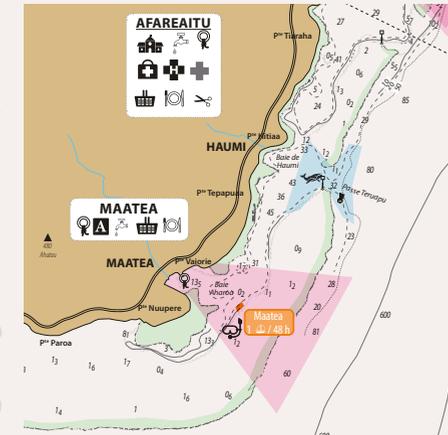
- **At the pier:** drinking water available
- **Arii Restaurant** – Phone: 40 56 39 98
- **Alam** grocery store – well stocked, with a bakery.
- On Sundays in front of the store: fruit, vegetables, and typical Sunday treats in Moorea: *pua rôti*, *firi firi* (fried dough), and *maa Tahiti*!
- **Sunny Park** – indoor playground for children 1–11 years old  
FB: Sunnypark



Firi firi: fried doughnuts



Pua rôti: marinated roasted pig



# Vaianae & Opaura

- Quota: 2 vessels each
- Duration: 48 hours each

Access to the three ZMRs in this area (including the Haapiti Pier ZMR) via **Matauvau Pass** – no access via Avarapa or Avamotu passes.

No aids to navigation in the pass, but range markers on shore (or aim for the *Sainte Famille* Church, a prominent landmark).

Then follow the markers to the three ZMRs. Anchor on a sandy bottom, 5 to 10 m deep.

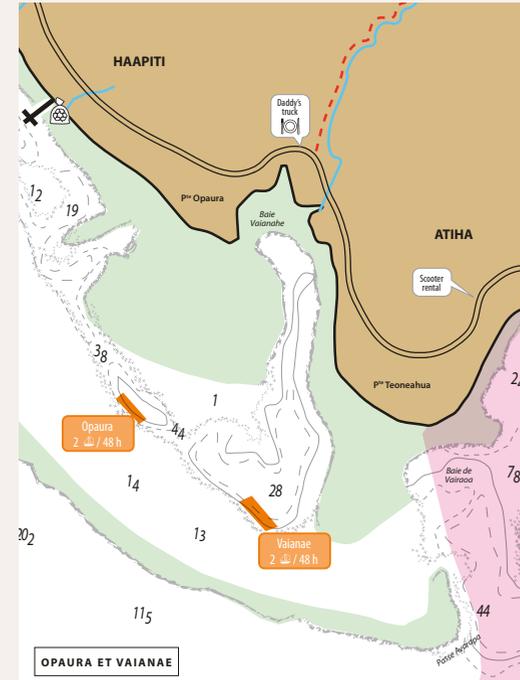
Shore access via dinghy at **Haapiti pier**.

## Amenities

- Snack bar **Autea**, a few km away (Vairapa Bay)
- Grocery store in **Vaianae**

## Discoveries & Activities

- Surfing spot in **Avarapa Pass**: only for very experienced surfers. Be sure to ask permission from local residents before joining in.
- Easy 30-minute hike to a waterfall behind **Vaianae** village.
- Several beautiful snorkeling spots nearby with many anemones and clownfish.



From these anchorages, you can explore on foot or by bike along the road to Haapiti and northern Moorea – the road is flat and easy.

Along the way, in Varari village, you will find:

- Lolo the **tattoo artist**
- **Tiki Village**
- Public freshwater access point
- And a little further, **Les Sorbets de Moorea**: ice cream shop

➤ **Heading North...**

# Haapiti Pier

- ✈ Quota: 5 vessels
- ✈ Duration: 48 hours

Anchor on a sandbar just beyond the reef shelf of the pass. Well protected from N to SE winds, but exposed from S to NW.

Small pier for dinghy access to **Haapiti** village. Outdoor shower available on the pier.

## Amenities & Services

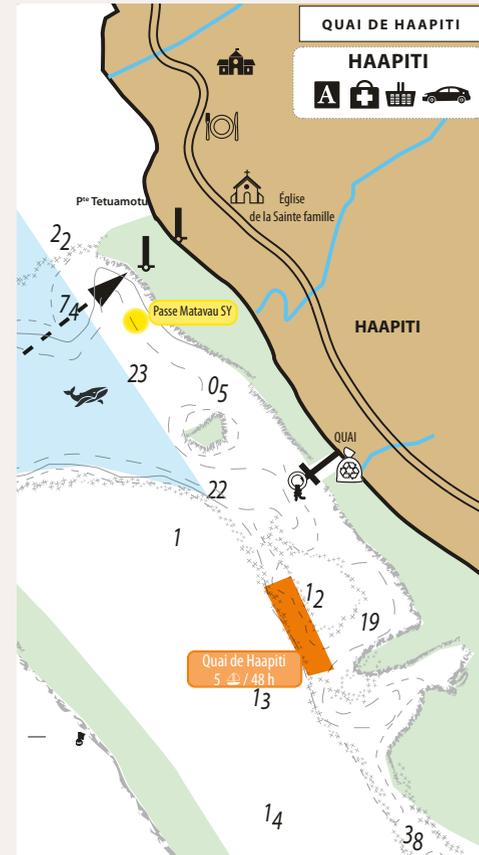
- JP car rental – 89 65 26 72
- Small grocery store
- Family Pizza Restaurant

## To See

Sainte Famille Church with its outdoor sanctuary.

## Activities

- **Haapiti Pass:** surf spot for experienced surfers only.
- Several beautiful snorkeling spots near the area, from the drop-off to the reef. No close access to shore, but you can go to Haapiti Pier.



This area is a resting place for spinner dolphins.

**Do not disturb them:  
no generators at night;  
no underwater lighting.**



✈ Be Aware

# Opunohu Bay

Access: via **Tareu Pass**, with entrance buoy and range marker.  
No ZMR for sailboats under 20 m, but a few spots are available in the small marina of the **Moorea Yacht Club** at the head of the bay.  
Superyacht area for vessels 20 to 90 m in the middle of the bay.

## At the head of the bay:

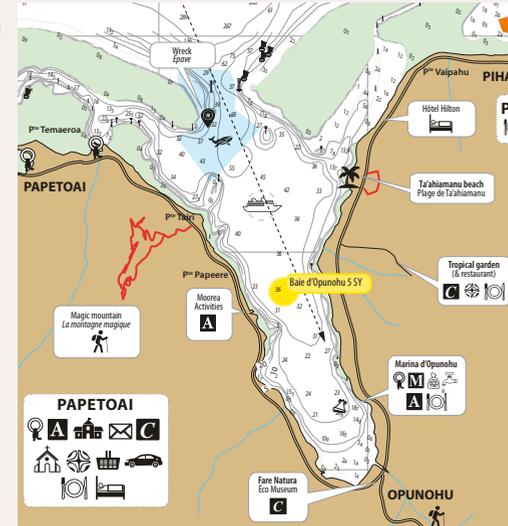
- **Fare Natura**: eco-museum dedicated to corals
- **Tiki Park**: zipline
- **Cacao & Coffee Farm Tour**
- **Agricultural high school** with shop selling jam, fresh juice, ice cream, and smoothies
- Hiking trails to marae and **viewpoints**
- With a good dinghy or a water activity provider (contacts available on the Tourism Committee website), head to the west entrance of the bay where numerous activities are available.

## To the west of the pass

- The **Tikis of Tihoti**
- Snorkeling on the shipwreck in the pass
- Areas where stingrays and sharks congregate  
**Reminder**: shark feeding is prohibited
- Kitesurfing area
- Many restaurants and shops in the village of **Papetoai**
- **Coco Beach** snack bar on **motu Tiahura**

## To the east of the pass

- The **beautiful public beach of Taiamanu**, very popular on weekends
- A landscaped and equipped fitness trail starting just behind the beach parking lot – duration: 20 minutes to 1 hour
- Snack bars



# Moorea Marina, Opunohu Bay

Managers Pierre and Sophie welcome you.  
Office open from Tuesday to Saturday.

**For visiting boats:** 3 berths alongside (water, 220V) and 3 moorings – advance reservations taken.  
Secure access dock for dinghies; ask for an access card for the gate at night, between 6:00 p.m. and 8:00 a.m.

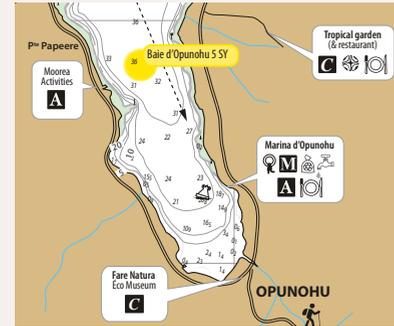
## Services offered

- Sale of fruit and vegetable baskets from the valley, in support of the [Tahitian Historical Society](#) association.
- Laundry: 1,500 CFP per machine
- Household waste: 500 CFP per bag
- Recycling (including glass) and used motor oil collection.

87 07 07 68 – FB: Moorea Marina

## The Tamahau Restaurant

Located within the marina – open 7 days a week.  
Dance show and fire dance on Friday evenings, and starting in April, also Saturday evenings.  
Appetising menu, very beautiful setting.  
87 32 61 45 – FB: Tamahau Opunohu's Bay



The Tahitian Historical Society was founded in 1926 by Medford Kellum when he came to Polynesia aboard the sailing vessel Kaimiloa, as part of a scientific expedition organized by the Bishop Museum of Hawaii. Having fallen in love with Moorea, the shipowner acquired the Opunohu Valley and entrusted it to his son, who transformed it into a vast agricultural estate

and undertook the first archaeological excavations. The association quickly developed a range of social initiatives for the benefit of the people of Moorea. In particular, it offers activities that foster social cohesion, training in organic farming, academic support, and the promotion of sustainable tourism.

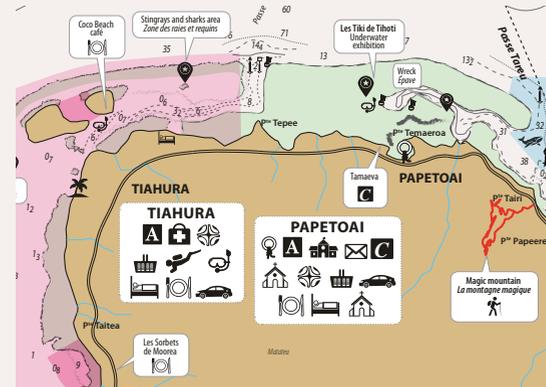
 Tahitian Historical Society

# An underwater art exhibit in the lagoon!

Submerged tikis and volcanic stone sculptures standing between 1.5 and 2 meters tall have been placed in the clear, shallow waters near Papetoai.

Artist Tihoti Guy created this lagoon exhibition of six tikis in 1998 as a tribute to Polynesian ancestors who cast all their beliefs into the sea over the previous two centuries.

Hiring a lagoon activity provider (several are available to help locate the exhibit and guide you) is recommended, but the site is also accessible on your own (by kayak, paddleboard, or dinghy).



Provides shore access by dinghy to the village of Papetoai and its many shops, except on cruise ship stopover days.

 Papetoai Dock

# Vaipahu

- ✈ Quota: 2 vessels
- ✈ Duration: 48 hours

Access via the **Avaroa pass**. Note: the first port-entry buoy is missing.

The anchorage is located between the two large bays of Opunohu and Cook, over a beautiful, sandy bottom with good holding.

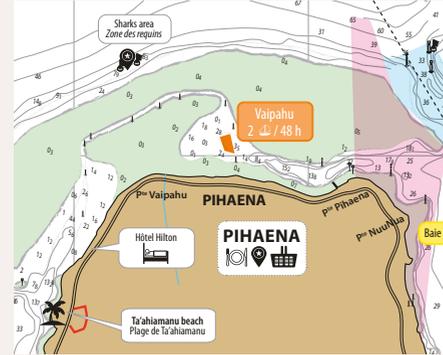
Well protected except in northerly winds.

Be aware that this area is close to a very busy channel; take care when swimming around the boat.

Shore access on the small beach next to a jetty. Unfortunately, dinghy and outboard motor thefts are quite common, so lock your tender & motor.

## Amenities & Services

- **Blanc des Îles** Laundromat nearby
- **Hilton Hotel**: Day Pass including lunch and beach/pool access for 18,000 CFP per person. Evening shows on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Saturdays – 10,800 CFP including dinner – reservation required. Do not leave your dinghy on their beach – Phone: 40 55 11 11
- Snack **Aoy Thai Food**: open Wednesday to Saturday – Phone: 87 28 77 63



- Visit the Rotui local fruit juice factory and Manutea rum distillery
- Le Maa dans le Bocal: organic food, bulk sales – bring your own containers
- Access to the Magic Mountain hiking trail (trailhead PK21). Private property: pay a small access fee at the Fare Tutava shop

✈ In the village of Pihanea

# Paopao South

- Quota: 20 vessels + 1 superyacht
- Duration: 7 days max.

This area is expected to be very popular with vessels visiting Moorea due to facilities for recreational boating currently being developed at **Paopao quay**.

Well protected except in northerly winds, but be aware of the Venturi effect from descending mountain winds.

While permanent moorings are being installed, anchor in 15–20 m of water. Be sure to use adequate scope.

Shore access via the small **Paopao fishing boat marina**. An area is designated for dinghies on the outer section.

## Amenities & Services at the Fishing Boat Quay

- Waste collection
- Drinking water
- Fresh produce and fish market under construction: expected to open in 2026



# Amenities & services

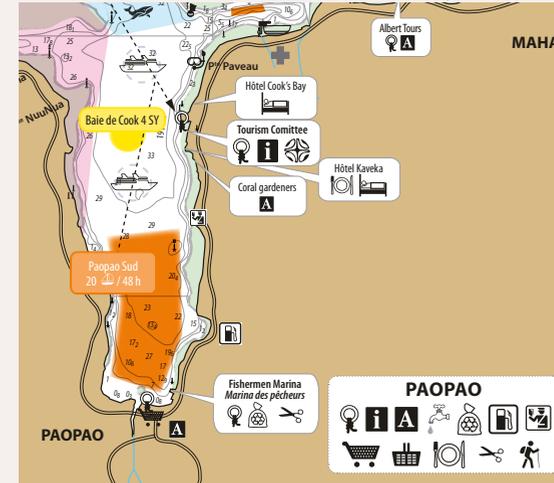
## At Cook's Bay dock, in the northeast of the bay:

- The **Tourism Committee**, open Monday to Saturday
- **Craft fare** (artisan shop)
- Small boat basin: tie your dinghy to the quay with an anchor out astern (med moor). Dinghy tie-up is only allowed if no cruise ship is present. Docking fee: 1,000 CFP to be paid at the Tourism Committee office
- Household waste disposal
- Access to **Cook's Bay Hotel**: day pass 10,000 CFP – evening shows on Tuesdays

## In the southeast part of the bay:

- Just south of the dock, the **Kaveka Hotel** with its excellent restaurant
- The offices of the **Coral Gardeners**: an association dedicated to coral restoration with coral tree nurseries. Participatory workshops and explanations are offered. Plant coral with them – several packages available: [www.coralgardeners.org](http://www.coralgardeners.org)
- The **gendarmerie**, to complete entry or exit formalities for Polynesia

# Cook's Bay



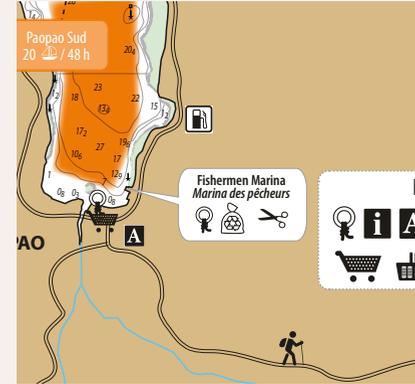
# Amenities & services Cook's Bay

## At the head of the bay:

- The **service station** has a small pier with a fuel pump at the end, allowing you to fill your jerrycans by dinghy, as Moorea's fishermen do
- The **Super U supermarket**, with a dinghy dock. Small household battery disposal available
- Several snack bars
- **Food and Cook Lab**: Polynesian cooking classes on Pineapple Road, 15 minutes' walk – phone: 87 21 46 00 – Facebook – website

## Activities:

- Judo school
- Access to the **viewpoint** and the cross-island hiking trail leading to **Vaiare**



Supermarket access dock



Fuel pump at the end of the pier



# Mou'a Puta, the Pierced Mountain

Legend has it that one night, Hiro and his gang of thieves from Raiatea came to *Aimeo i te rara varu* (Moorea) to steal **Mount Rotui** (the "mountain that sends souls to the heavens"). Using long vines attached to the top of the mountain, they began to pull and managed to detach a portion of the island, as evidenced by Moorea's two bays. Seeing the land slowly breaking away, they thought they would soon succeed in their theft.

However, the famous warrior Pai, awakened by his adoptive parents who witnessed the scene, went to the **sacred hill of Tataa** (in Punaauia, Tahiti) to get the best view of Moorea. He threw his combat spear, carved from purau (*Hibiscus tiliaceus*), with such force that it pierced the mountain, creating a large hole. The vibrations of the impact woke the island's roosters, which began to crow. Believing that dawn was near, the thieves fled.

The name of this sacred mountain, **Mou'a Tapu**, was later transformed by European storytellers into "Pierced Mountain": **Mou'a Puta**.

Today, the Pierced Mountain is accessible via a hike of a few hours. However, it is strongly recommended to go with a professional guide.



Photo Tahiti Héritage

# Maharepa

- Quota: 2 vessels
- Duration: 48 hours

The anchorage is well protected from swell. Anchor in 3–5 m of water over a sandy bottom. A PGEM protected zone is nearby, marked by yellow buoys. Access to the lively commercial village of Maharepa.

## Shore access

- Land your dinghy on the small beach in front of the pharmacy, but watch out for coral – go only when visibility is good
- The floating dock of **Moorea Beach Café**: for customers only
- Albert Tour** quay and **Moorea Maitai** seaside restaurant

## In the village of Maharepa

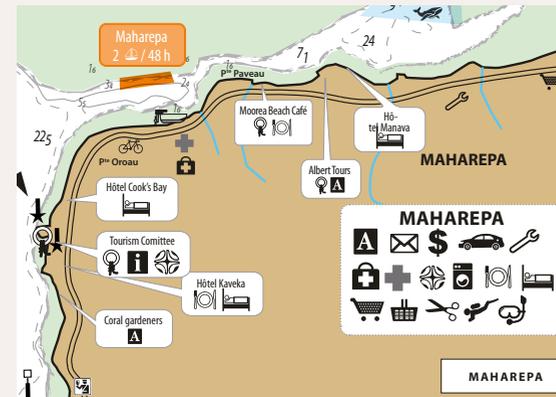
- Pharmacy, general medical practitioners and specialists
- Banks, ATMs, post office
- Laundromat – WhatsApp: +689 87 70 64 65
- AH5 Sailing**: sailmaker (just before Polymat), small repairs only. Donate your old sails to be recycled into stylish bags.
- Polymat** store: construction and DIY supplies
- Bakery/pastry shop, wine shop, supermarket
- Several restaurants and snack bars
- Manava Beach Resort**: day pass with access to bar, lunch service, kayak and paddleboard use, pool, and towels



Moorea Beach Café



Pharmacy



Albert Tour

# Tahiti Moorea Sailing

Held annually over four days, the **Tahiti Moorea Sailing Rendezvous** offers bluewater sailors a warm Polynesian welcome to celebrate their successful ocean crossing.

It is also an opportunity to meet **nautical professionals** from **Tonga, Fiji, Vanuatu, and New Zealand**, who can help you prepare for your next stops further west.

## Program for the 4 days:

- Welcome sailors in **Papeete**
- Inaugural cocktail at Papeete Marina
- Sailing rally from **Papeete** (Tahiti) to **Opunohu Bay**
- Festivities in **Opunohu Bay**:
  - Outrigger canoe races
  - Introduction to traditional sports
  - Polynesian dance performances
  - Skippers' briefing on the **Leeward Islands, Tonga, Fiji, NZ, Vanuatu**
  - Opportunity to host local residents on board
  - Optional Polynesian feast and much more!

Information and registration:

[www.tahiti-moorea-sailing-rdv.com](http://www.tahiti-moorea-sailing-rdv.com)



# Tohora : The Whale

Polynesia is a sanctuary dedicated to the protection and conservation of marine mammals.

Humpback whales travel great distances between Antarctica and tropical regions. From July to the end of October, they arrive in Polynesia and spread around the islands. Every year, many choose Moorea as their seasonal home.

During the austral winter, the water temperature ranges from 21 to 27°C, ideal for newborn calves. Mothers also look for safe areas with few predators, so they stay close to reefs, in protected bays, and sometimes even inside the lagoons. It is therefore very important not to disturb them and to follow strict rules when in the vicinity of whales.

In Moorea, whales can often be seen near the passes and occasionally in the lagoon, but please be aware that approaching whales in lagoons, passes, and bays is prohibited: it is only permitted in open water.



Marine mammals (such as whales) are protected under Polynesia's environmental code. To avoid stressing them or modifying their behavior, approaching whales with your vessel or tender is prohibited. You must stay at least 300 meters away.

To observe the whales up close, **you must go through an authorized tour operator.**

# Hiking in Moorea

Whether you are an adrenaline seeker or just enjoy a leisurely walk, Moorea offers plenty of hiking trails, ranging from easy to very difficult.

Here is a brief list of the most well-known trails:

- Two trailheads in **Afareaitu**
- The Magic Mountain in **Papetoai**
- The Cross-Island Trail: 8 km, private land
- The **Temae** Ridge Hike
- From the **Belvedere**, three trails on public land:
  - **E'a Mata Ara** public trail: 1 km, about 40 minutes, no guide required
  - **Col des 3 Pinus** public trail: 3 km, about 2 hours, guide recommended
  - **Col des 3 Coconuts** public trail: 6.5 km, about 4 hours, guide recommended



# We wish you a wonderful stopover in Moorea



## Acknowledgements:

- Tahiti Tourisme
- Moorea Tourism Committee
- Moorea PGEM Committee
- The municipal offices of Moorea
- Polynesian Maritime Affairs Directorate
- Moorea tourism operators



© Tourism Service / Archipelagoes SARL • 2026

