

The Marquesas Compendium

A Compilation of Guidebook References and Cruising Reports



Figure 1 Bay of Virgins photo by Dave McCampbell of Soggy Paws

IMPORTANT: USE ALL INFORMATION IN THIS DOCUMENT AT YOUR OWN RISK!!

Rev 2024.1– Jan 7, 2024

Please send us updates to this guide!

Keep the Marquesas Compendium alive by being a contributor. We are especially looking for information on places where we have no cruiser information and new information on existing content. It's easy to participate and will help many other cruisers for years to come.

Email Soggy Paws at sherry –at- svsgogypaws –dot- com.

You can also contact us on Sailmail at WDI5677

The current home (and the most up to date) version of this official document is

<http://svsgogypaws.com/files/#frpoly>

If you found this compendium posted elsewhere, it might not be the most current version. Please check the above site for the most up to date copy and remember, it will always be free!

Revision Log

Many thanks to all who have contributed over the years!!

Rev	Date	Info Source	What
2024.1	Jan 7, 2024		Removed misplaced paragraph
2023.2	Aug 10, 2023	Nutmeg	Fatu Hiva activities
2023.1	February 11, 2023	Migration	Updates from cruising thru Marquesas in early 2023
2022.7	December 17, 2022	Migration	Updates from cruising thru Marquesas in 2022
2022.6	December 11, 2022	Villa Veritas, Mabel Rose	Updates from cruising thru Marquesas in 2022
2022.5	September 7, 2022	Spirit of Argo	Importing Pets Update, Water in Hakahau Bay, Ua Pou
2022.4	July 19, 2022	Sierra Wind, Deinemeid, Jamala	Importing a dog into Fr Poly in the Marquesas, various other updates.
2022.3	June 16, 2022	Rhapsody, Sparklemuffin	Daniel's Bay update, Ua Pou Hakahetau update. Taiohae trash/water access fee.
2022.2	May 31, 2022	Flite Deck	Update on Manta Rays in Hanamoenoa Bay
2022.1	February 15, 2022	Askari	New Magasin (Hamani) in Tahuata
2021.5	Nov 20, 2021	Sugar Shack	Added info about Nuku Tai Nui Marine
2021.4	July 23, 2021	Sugar Shack	Air Tahiti "Seniors" discount
2021.3	12 April 2021	Sugar Shack	Various updates and improvements
2021.2	February 1, 2021	Trance	A few updates from 2021 visit
2021.1	January 16, 2021	Sugar Shack	Update on first 50 pages, links, visas, shipping, etc...
2020.1	June 12, 2020	Sugar Shack	Reorganization of compendium and updates from Sugar Shack
2019.3	July 22, 2019	Jacaranda and Soggy Paws	Ciguatera Warnings for Marquesas. A few weather link updates.
2019.2	June 15, 2019	Taitonga	A few more updates
2019.1	June 6, 2019	Chugach Taitonga	Various updates from April 2019 visit Various updates from December 2018 visit
2018.6	December 3, 2018	Consensus	Minor updates from 2017 Visit
2018.5	October 20, 2018	Moon Rebel, Jacaranda	Updates on Hanavave, Atuona, Tahuata, Ua Huka.
2018.4	September 20, 2018	Kokopeli, Jacaranda	Update on dredging and wharf construction in Baie Tahauku (Atuona). Links to Jacaranda's detailed notes on weather and visas.
2018.3	August 28, 2018	Kokopeli	Various updates on anchorages in the Marquesas.
...	...	Many Cruisers	Many Updates from many people!
	July 4, 2010	Soggy Paws	Initial Version

**I would like to extend a Huge Thanks to
 Christine Mitchell of s/v Sugar Shack for
 updating this Compendium
 and
 Chuck Hoolihan of s/v Jacaranda for his unfailing
 dedication to cruisers' information in French Polynesia**

Table of Contents

1	INTRODUCTION.....	7
1.1	ORGANIZATION OF THE GUIDE.....	7
1.2	CLEARANCE AND VISA GUIDELINES.....	7
1.2.1	<i>Entry Procedures for EU Citizens.....</i>	7
1.2.2	<i>Entry Procedures for Non-EU Citizens.....</i>	7
1.2.3	<i>The French Polynesia Bond (Repatriation Guarantee).....</i>	8
1.2.4	<i>Long Stay Visa.....</i>	9
1.2.5	<i>Do I Need an Agent?.....</i>	9
1.2.6	<i>Clearing Out of French Polynesia.....</i>	10
1.2.7	<i>Vessels Length of Stay.....</i>	10
1.2.8	<i>Custom Patrols.....</i>	10
1.2.9	<i>Arriving and Departing Crew.....</i>	11
1.2.10	<i>Bringing Animals In.....</i>	11
1.3	MANUEVERING AND ANCHORING IN THE MARQUESAS.....	13
1.3.1	<i>Offical French Polynesia Tide Tables.....</i>	13
1.3.2	<i>Marine Protected Areas Guide.....</i>	13
1.3.3	<i>Anchoring in Coral.....</i>	13
1.3.4	<i>Using Out-Island Moorings.....</i>	15
1.3.5	<i>Navigation in Areas with Coral.....</i>	15
1.4	WEATHER.....	17
1.5	A ROUTE THROUGH THE MARQUESAS.....	17
1.5.1	<i>Where to be in French Polynesia and When (Pitufa).....</i>	19
1.6	YACHTSMEN SERVICES.....	19
1.6.1	<i>Cooking Gas (Propane and Butane).....</i>	19
1.6.2	<i>Fuel (Diesel and Gasoline).....</i>	19
1.6.3	<i>Duty Free Fuel.....</i>	20
1.6.4	<i>Trash and Recycling.....</i>	20
1.6.5	<i>Water.....</i>	21
1.7	GENERAL SERVICES.....	21
1.7.1	<i>Air Tahiti.....</i>	21
1.7.2	<i>Banks / ATMs (Money).....</i>	21
1.7.3	<i>Marine Supplies (Boat Parts).....</i>	22
1.7.4	<i>Importing Parts Duty-Free – Yacht in Transit.....</i>	22
1.7.5	<i>Shipping Items In or Out.....</i>	23
1.7.6	<i>Shipping Items Between Islands.....</i>	24
1.7.7	<i>Flying Stuff in on Air Tahiti.....</i>	25
1.7.8	<i>Concierge Services (Delivery from Tahiti to outer Islands).....</i>	25
1.7.9	<i>Cousier (Personal Shoppers).....</i>	25
1.7.10	<i>Stores that Deliver to Cargo Ships.....</i>	26
1.7.11	<i>Online Delivery Service.....</i>	26
1.7.12	<i>Supply Ship Schedules.....</i>	27
1.7.13	<i>Yacht in Transit - Spare Parts.....</i>	28
1.7.14	<i>Medical & Prescriptions.....</i>	29
1.7.15	<i>Provisions (Groceries).....</i>	29
1.7.16	<i>Trading.....</i>	30
1.7.17	<i>Translation Services.....</i>	30
1.8	COMMUNICATIONS.....	30
1.8.1	<i>VHF Channels.....</i>	30
1.8.2	<i>SSB Nets.....</i>	30
1.8.3	<i>Telephones & Cell Phones.....</i>	31

1.8.4	Wifi / Internet Access.....	33
1.8.5	News.....	33
1.9	GETTING VISITORS IN AND OUT	34
1.10	DIVING	35
1.11	HAULOUT, STORAGE, AND REPAIR FACILITIES	35
1.11.1	Liability Insurance for Haul out	35
1.11.2	Surveyors.....	36
1.12	FESTIVALS.....	36
1.13	EATING THE FISH (CIGUATERA!).....	37
1.14	MANTA RAY REPORTING	38
1.15	CRUISING INFORMATION SOURCES	38
1.15.1	Tahiti Cruisers Guide Online	38
1.15.2	Facebook Groups.....	38
1.15.3	AVP (Sailing Association of French Polynesia).....	38
1.15.4	Pacific Puddle Jump Group.....	39
1.15.5	Noonsite	39
1.15.6	Seven Seas Cruising Association.....	39
1.15.7	Stopover Handbook for French Polynesia	39
1.15.8	Sea Seek	39
1.15.9	Cruiser Reports.....	40
1.16	PRINTED SOURCES	41
1.16.1	French for Cruisers.....	41
1.16.2	Top French Polynesia Printed Resources	41
1.16.3	Diving Guides.....	42
1.16.4	Books on Underwater Life	42
2	INTER-ISLAND PASSAGE REPORTS.....	43
2.1	UA POU – NUKU HIVA – HIVA OA – TAHUATA – FATU HIVA	43
2.2	NUKU HIVA TO HIVA OA	43
2.3	TAHUATA TO HIVA OA	44
2.4	TAHUATA TO NUKU HIVA	44
2.5	HIVA OA TO TAHUATA	44
2.6	HIVA OA TO FATU HIVA	44
2.7	FATU HIVA TO NUKU HIVA	44
3	EIAO.....	44
4	NUKU HIVA (AIRPORT, CUSTOMS)	45
4.1	SERVICES.....	45
4.1.1	Yachtsmen Services.....	45
4.1.2	General Services	48
4.1.3	Provisions.....	53
4.1.4	Restaurants.....	54
4.2	THE SOUTH COAST OF NUKU HIVA.....	55
4.2.1	Taiohae Baie (Main Village).....	55
4.2.2	Baie Hakahaa “Controlleur’s Bay”	59
4.2.3	Baie Hakatea “Daniel’s Bay”	62
4.3	THE WEST COAST	65
4.3.1	Haahopu	65
4.3.2	Marquisienne (Anse Eua).....	66
4.3.3	West Coast Overview of Anchorages.....	67
4.4	THE NORTH COAST	67
4.4.1	Anaho Bay.....	67
4.4.2	Hatiheu	71
4.4.3	Hakaehu / Puua.....	72

4.4.4	<i>Bay Moutee</i>	72
4.4.5	<i>North Coast Overview</i>	72
4.5	NUKA HIVA IN FIVE DAYS (ONE CRUISER'S ADVICE)	73
4.5.1	<i>1st Day, Taiohae, from east to west</i>	73
4.5.2	<i>2nd Day, Car Tour</i>	76
4.5.3	<i>3rd Day, Hakatea Bay and Hakau Valley</i>	76
4.5.4	<i>4th Day, Anaho Bay</i>	77
4.5.5	<i>5th Day, Controller's Bay (Taipi Vai) or Hanapani</i>	77
5	UA HUKA	78
5.1	VAIPAEE BAY	78
5.1.1	<i>Anchorage and Moorings</i>	78
5.1.2	<i>Yachtsmen Services</i>	79
5.1.3	<i>General Services</i>	79
5.1.4	<i>Provisions</i>	79
5.1.5	<i>Restaurants</i>	79
5.1.6	<i>Activities</i>	79
5.1.7	<i>Cruiser Reports</i>	80
5.2	HAAVEI	81
5.2.1	<i>Anchorage and Moorings</i>	81
5.2.2	<i>Cruiser Reports</i>	81
5.3	HANE BAY	81
5.3.1	<i>Anchorage and Moorings</i>	81
5.3.2	<i>Cruiser Reports</i>	81
5.4	HOKATU.....	82
5.4.1	<i>Cruiser Reports</i>	82
6	UA POU	82
6.1	UA POU'S EAST SIDE	82
6.1.1	<i>Hakahau Bay (09-21S / 140-03W)</i>	82
6.2	UA POU'S WEST SIDE	88
6.2.1	<i>Hakahetau (09-21S)</i>	88
6.2.2	<i>Vaiehu (09-23S)</i>	89
6.2.3	<i>Hakaotu (09-24S)</i>	90
6.2.4	<i>Baie Hikeu (09-26S)</i>	90
7	HIVA OA (AIRPORT & CUSTOMS)	90
7.1	BAIE TAHAKU - ATUONA	90
7.1.1	<i>Anchorage and Moorings</i>	90
7.1.2	<i>Yachtsmen Services</i>	94
7.1.3	<i>Hiva Oa Yacht Services</i>	95
7.1.4	<i>Marine Maintenance Marquesas – Haul Out</i>	95
7.1.5	<i>General Services</i>	96
7.1.6	<i>Provisions</i>	99
7.1.7	<i>Restaurants</i>	100
7.1.8	<i>Activities</i>	101
7.1.9	<i>Cruiser Reports</i>	101
7.2	MOTU ANAKEE	102
7.2.1	<i>Anchorage and Moorings</i>	102
7.3	HIVA OA NORTH COAST.....	102
7.3.1	<i>Hanamenu</i>	102
7.3.2	<i>Hanaiaapa</i>	102
7.3.3	<i>Hanatekuua</i>	103
7.3.4	<i>Puamau</i>	103

8	TAHUATA	104
8.1	VAITEHU (VILLAGE)	104
8.1.1	<i>Anchorage and Moorings</i>	104
8.1.2	<i>Yachtsmen Services</i>	105
8.1.3	<i>General Services</i>	105
8.1.4	<i>Provisions</i>	106
8.1.5	<i>Restaurants</i>	107
8.1.6	<i>Activities</i>	107
8.1.7	<i>Cruiser Reports</i>	107
8.2	HAPATONI/ HANATEFAU	108
8.2.1	<i>Anchorage and Moorings</i>	108
8.2.2	<i>Yachtsmen Services</i>	110
8.2.3	<i>General Services</i>	110
8.2.4	<i>Provisions</i>	110
8.2.5	<i>Activities</i>	110
8.2.6	<i>Cruiser Reports</i>	110
8.3	IVAIVA NUI / IVAIVA ITI.....	111
8.3.1	<i>Anchorage and Moorings</i>	111
8.3.2	<i>Cruiser Reports</i>	112
8.4	HANAMOENOA.....	112
8.4.1	<i>Anchorage and Moorings</i>	112
8.4.2	<i>Cruiser Reports</i>	112
8.5	HANAMENENI BAY	113
8.5.1	<i>Anchorage and Moorings</i>	113
9	MAHOTANI	113
9.1	ANCHORAGES AND MOORINGS.....	114
10	FATU HIVA	114
10.1	HANAVAVE / BAY OF VIRGINS / BAY OF PENISES	114
10.1.1	<i>Anchorage and Moorings</i>	114
10.1.2	<i>Yachtsmen Services</i>	115
10.1.3	<i>General Services</i>	115
10.1.4	<i>Provisions</i>	116
10.1.5	<i>Restaurants</i>	116
10.1.6	<i>Activities</i>	117
10.1.7	<i>Cruiser Reports</i>	117
10.2	OMOA.....	119
10.2.1	<i>Anchorage and Moorings</i>	119
10.2.2	<i>General Services</i>	119
10.2.3	<i>Restaurants</i>	120
10.2.4	<i>Activities</i>	120
10.2.5	<i>Cruiser Reports</i>	120
11	MOVING ON TO THE TUAMOTUS, SOCIETIES, OR GAMBIER ARCHIPELAGOS?	120

1 Introduction

This guide originally started out as a way for Soggy Paws and a few friends to organize notes and various internet sources on the Tuamotus. Later, it became a way for us to pass on what we've learned to other cruisers. When we got to other archipelagos, we added a compendium for them as well. We have since created over 45 compendiums all the way across the Pacific and in to SE Asia. Plus, we've received updates from cruisers since 2011 (please send us yours!).

This is not intended to replace the guidebooks or charts, but to supplement out-of-date guides with recent cruiser first-hand reports, and fill in information on places that the guides don't cover.

We are indebted to all the cruisers who have sent in updates!

1.1 Organization of the Guide

We have somewhat arbitrarily chosen to organize this information from North to South. This is pretty much how those coming from Panama or Galapagos will encounter them.

This guide is NOT intended to replace commercially-available guidebooks (see the section on Printed Sources for recommendations), but to supplement those guidebooks with first-hand accounts from other cruisers.

1.2 Clearance and Visa Guidelines

The official Govt of France website: <http://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/coming-to-france/getting-a-visa/>

1.2.1 Entry Procedures for EU Citizens

As of Dec. 2020: If you are British Citizen, and you have entered French Polynesia on or before 31 December 2020, then you can apply for a carte de sejour between 01 January 2021 and 01 July 2021. The carte de sejour cannot be applied for before or after these dates.

If you are a British citizen, and you arrive after 31 December 2020, then you will be required to obtain a consular visa OUTSIDE of French Polynesia BEFORE your arrival. This is similar to other long stay visa holders. Once you obtain the consular visa (outside of French Polynesia), then arrive in French Polynesia, then you will be required to apply for your carte de sejour on your arrival.

1.2.2 Entry Procedures for Non-EU Citizens

Obtain the most current information on Long-Stay Visas and 90-Day Visas:

- Long-Stay Visas: <https://www.jacarandajourney.com/fplongstayvisa>
- 90-Day Visa for French Polynesia: <https://www.jacarandajourney.com/fp90dayvisa>

The data in the above links is constantly updated to provide you with the most current and vital information. The information in this compendium was only left in as an "example."

Most "first world" nationalities are granted a "Visa On Arrival" good for 90 days. Applying for a 90-day visa is not required and does not help with the bond or your check-in process. There is no way to extend this "visa on arrival". If you wish to stay longer than 90 days in French Polynesia, you must apply for a "Long Stay Visa" (see above link for current visa procedures) PRIOR to arrival in French Polynesia. Some countries (ie Thailand) require a visa ahead of time.

Note that if you are American or Canadian, and your **90-day visa is running out**, whatever you do, get cleared out of Tahiti before your visa expires.

NO VISA EXTENSION IS POSSIBLE IN PAPEETE. Except under exceptional circumstances... medical issues, severe boat issues, etc., **you cannot get a visa extension on the spot in Papeete.** Getting a little extra time for a legitimate reason is possible, but those situations take a lot of paperwork (not covered in normal agent fees).

Your visa normally starts when you clear in to your first port Marquesas (Nuku Hiva, Hiva Oa, or Ua Pou), Gambier (Mangareva), Australs (Rurutu, Tubuai, and Raivavae), or Tuamotus (Rangiroa). But sometimes that isn't the exact date, so check your passports.

Flying out and flying back in before the end of your allotted 90 days does NOT 'reset' the visa. It merely stops the clock. Your 90-day clock stops (if not used up) and then restarts when you re-enter. You get 90 days every 180 days. The 180-day clock keeps running even if you are not in French Polynesia. At the end of the 180 days you are eligible for another short-term visa (90 days).

The only other way to legally stay longer is to apply for a Long Stay Visa at a French Embassy/Consulate ***before*** you start your journey toward French Polynesia. Panama is the quickest and easiest embassy to obtain your LS visa. You need to make 2 trips in person to the same French Consulate with your passports, about 1-3 months apart (depending on the country you submit your application), and have a lot of other paperwork done. You may also obtain your LS visa in Mexico, Chile, United States, and Canada.

Renewing LS Visa (Carte de Sejour): You can renew your LS Visa once a year. Paperwork cannot be submitted to the Haute Commissionnaire until two months prior to your expiry date. For example: if your expiry date is 11 April, you cannot submit your renewal paperwork until February 11 (2 months prior). You submit virtually the same paperwork (application, attestation, 3-months financials, proof of health coverage, copies of passport, boat paperwork, CDs, etc...) and you can use an agent for a smoother process. Everyone applying must present themselves to the Haute Commissionnaire at least one time per year.

April 2019 – Renewing Cartes de Sejour (long stay visa): We had Tahiti Crew handling our Long Stay Visa (Cartes de Sejour) renewal, and we had moved on to Raiatea (as planned and as previously communicated to Tahiti Crew) when Tahiti Crew informed us that we needed to make an in-person visit to the HC office in Papeete to complete the visa renewal. After some investigation on our part, it turned out that they were misinformed (thankfully we didn't have to sail or fly back to Papeete!), and we were able to make our appearance at the HC office in Raiatea instead of Pape'ete. – Cool Change

1.2.3 The French Polynesia Bond (Repatriation Guarantee)

Obtain the most current information on the French Polynesia Bond, Long-Stay Visas and 90-Day Visas:

- Long-Stay Visas: <https://www.jacarandajourney.com/fplongstayvisa>
 - The French Polynesia Bond information can be found under Long-Stay Visas
- 90-Day Visa for French Polynesia: <https://www.jacarandajourney.com/fp90dayvisa>

The data in the above links is constantly updated to provide you with the most current and vital information. The information in this compendium was only left in as an "example."

Sept. 2018: This write up explains the types of bonds and what 90 days really means, etc. Hoping that helps clarify some of the question's folks have on the general 90-day visa.

French Polynesia requires all non-EU visitors to either prove that they have a paid way out of the country, or pay a bond on arriving in French Polynesia. This bond basically is the guarantee that the French government doesn't have to pay to fly indigent people home. There are 3 ways to satisfy this requirement:

1. Show an airplane ticket out of the country
2. Pay the bond (roughly the equivalent of an airplane ticket out of the country)
3. Arrange with an agent to "guarantee" you. Essentially the agent guarantees that THEY will pay to fly you out of the country, and so you pay for an insurance policy with the agent.

The bond is refundable when you leave, with time and paperwork. The agent "guarantee" fee is not.

You must pay a bond even if you have obtained a long stay visa.

1.2.4 Long Stay Visa

Non-EU Citizens require a long-stay visa or Carte de Sejure (CD) in order to stay in French Polynesia longer than 90-days. Download the most current information on long-stay visas:

- Long-Stay Visas: <https://www.jacarandajourney.com/fplongstayvisa>
- 90-Day Visa for French Polynesia: <https://www.jacarandajourney.com/fp90dayvisa>

The data in the above links is constantly updated to provide you with the most current and vital information. The information in this compendium was only left in as an “example.”

The official Govt of France website: <http://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/coming-to-france/getting-a-visa/>

There is a separate website for each French embassy/consulate. There is no French embassy/consulate in Hawaii, there are ones in LA, San Francisco, Miami, Washington DC, Boston, Atlanta etc.

- A full list of French Embassies in the U.S.: <http://www.mfe.org/index.php/Annuaire/Ambassades-et-consulats-francais-a-l-etranger> (look in the list for Etats Unis for all USA offices)
- Mexico: <http://www.consulfrance-mexico.org/>
- Panama: <http://ambafrance-pa.org/>
- Ecuador: <http://www.ambafrance-ec.org/>
- Chile: <https://cl.ambafrance.org/Demander-un-visa-pour-la-France-au-Chili> another site is <https://France-visas.gouv.fr>

2020 verified (2010): Another cruiser mentioned that as long as you have been out of your home country for 6 months, you can apply in whatever country you happen to be in. Below, Jacaranda recounts doing it in Ecuador. I have also heard (a few years ago) that the consulate in San Francisco is the WORST. – Soggy Paws

1.2.5 Do I Need an Agent?

Technically, no, you do not need an agent to check in and out of French Polynesia. However, having an agent greatly facilitates everything. An agent will provide or help you obtain:

- Bond guarantee
- Activating a long stay visa (renewal of long-stay visa / carte de sejure)
- Duty Free Fuel certificate
- Paperwork for duty free liquor (obtained in Tahiti on checkout from Tahiti)
- Receiving packages/mail in Tahiti before you arrive there

The [Pacific Puddle Jump group](#) negotiates a ‘group rate’ with Tahiti Crew to handle the bond issue and provide the duty-free fuel paperwork.

1.2.5.1 Agents

- **Tahiti Crew** +689 87 23 55 41, www.tahiticrew.com, info@tahiticrew.com, or yachts@tahiticrew.com. Located in Marina Taina, Papeete, Tahiti. [Services and Fees](#)
- **Nuku Hiva Yacht Services** Kevin +689 87 226 872, www.YachtServicesNukuHiva.com or YSNukuHiva@hotmail.com, Located in Nuku Hiva, Marquesas.
- **Hiva Oa Yacht Services**, Sandra, +689 87 232 247, hivaoayachtservices@gmail.com. Located in Hiva Oa, Marquesas.

April 2019: Our first arrival to FP was in the Gambier (from Chile). We hired Tahiti Crew to help facilitate and complete our long-stay visa and fuel certificate. Tahiti Crew provided all of the paperwork, guidance on how to complete it, what to provide and how to get it delivered to Tahiti expediently. Using Tahiti Crew allowed us to enjoy the Gambier and Tuamotus because we did not have to rush off to Tahiti to process the second stage of our LS visa process. All of our LS visa paperwork had to be hand delivered to the Haute Commissionaire (HC) in Papeete, which was difficult to do from Gambier. Tahiti Crew was very responsive, friendly, and willing to

help us with anything. They speak the local language (French and Tahitian), have relationships with the officials in Tahiti, and they have the expertise to assist you with anything you may require during your stay. It was well worth the money to engage them.

If you are arriving into the Marquesas, it would be wise to engage Tahiti Yacht Services as they are located in Papeete where the Haute Commissionaires office is located. Nuku Hiva Yacht Services and Hiva Oa Yacht Services would have to send documents by freight. In addition to visa assistance, they helped us with our duty-free certificate, shipping items to Tahiti, payment to local vendors (while we were away), money exchange, local marine vendors and more. They made the entire process seamless and easy. – Sugar Shack

1.2.6 Clearing Out of French Polynesia

Noonsite – Last Updated April 2015, verified in 2020: Best to check in with your agent or the marina office (either Marina Papeete or Marina Taina) to confirm these rules have not changed, especially if you are leaving French Polynesia to another country.

Departure Clearance in Papeete: This is compulsory when you plan to sail more than 50 miles away from Tahiti. The normal clearing procedure in Papeete starts 3 days before your intended departure.

Three days before departure from Tahiti send an e-mail to the harbormaster (capitainerie) with your boat name, captain's name and destination (for example Cook Islands via the Leeward Islands or Tonga). They will request you complete an “Inner Polynesian Islands Clearance Request”

trafficmaritime@portppt.pf

copy to: sp@portppt.pf and marinadepapeete@portppt.pf (if you are staying at Marina Papeete)

If you plan to depart Tahiti and sail to a foreign country via other FP Islands, the harbormaster will prepare your inner Polynesian Islands departure clearance in Tahiti and e-mail it to you. You must however go and meet the Gendarmes in the last FP island touched to do the official final exit from FP. The local Gendarme will give you 24 hours to leave once clearance has been granted.

If you plan to depart Tahiti and sail direct to a foreign country, the harbormaster will send your clearance to the Immigration authorities. The day before departure go to Customs to complete exit formalities with them and then visit Immigration at the airport to pick up your exit clearance. You now have until midnight to depart. With this paper you can get duty free fuel, only on the day of departure.

If you had to pay a bond on entry (non-EU citizens only), ensure that your papers specify which island you will be departing from in order that arrangements can be made to retrieve your bond.

Departure Clearance from other FP Islands

Visit the Gendarmes at the clearance port you are departing from at least a day before departure and complete a Customs declaration form (ticking it for EXIT). This will then need to be mailed by post to the Customs main office in Papeete. Sometimes the Gendarmes will do this on your behalf, however it is your responsibility to ensure the form gets mailed to Papeete. The Gendarmes will also stamp your passports. They will then give you 24 hours to depart.

1.2.7 Vessels Length of Stay

Vessels are allowed to stay in French Polynesia for up to two (2) years. After, two years, you will be required to import your boat or leave French Polynesia.

A vessel may stay up to three (3) years, if the vessel arrived into FP prior to the new law in 2020 being enacted. In other words, it would be grandfathered in.

1.2.8 Custom Patrols

French Polynesia Customs Web (French): <http://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/coming-to-france/getting-a-visa/>

During “crossing season” there is normally a Customs boat wandering around in the arrival ports. They have copies of the customs declarations that are filed when you arrive, and are spot-checking to make sure everyone is being honest with their customs declarations. They are also making sure people are checking in before cruising the islands.

1.2.9 Arriving and Departing Crew

Air Tahiti www.airtahiti.aero offers domestic flights to other destinations in French Polynesia. Charters flights such as Air Archipel are available on request. Helicopters are one other option.

If your friends (or you) want to see more of French Polynesia, be sure to have them check out Air Tahiti’s multi-island Air Pass. www.airtahiti.com/articles.php?id=69

If you have crew who entered with you in the Marquesas, but who will leave the boat before you arrive in Papeete, you should ask officials (your agent, if you have one), what you need to do to sign the crew member off your boat, and properly set their immigration status.

Crew trying to fly out from the Tuamotus, through Papeete, were severely hassled at the Papeete airport because the proper leaving formalities had not been complied with.

Likewise, if you have crew flying in to meet you someplace in French Polynesia, who plan to leave French Poly on your boat, you will need to inquire what THEY will need to do get in the country. (see bond discussion above—this will apply to them as well, if they don’t buy a round trip ticket).

1.2.10 Bringing Animals In

SV Spirit of Argo – Sep 2022: Unfortunately, there is no longer a vet in the Marquesas (Nuku Hiva) to complete the importation of pets into French Polynesia. Ludovic has left to take a position in New Caledonia.

The Society Islands (Papeete) have veterinary practices to extract the blood required to complete rabies and Leishmaniasis tests for biosecurity to clear your pet from on-board quarantine.

There is no longer a 3 month quarantine period in French Polynesia. As soon as the blood tests come back negative, and your pet clears a visual check by biosecurity, you will be issued an importation certificate and the pet is free to come ashore.

SV Deinemeid - June 2022: We started our current journey in the Netherlands, passing through Europe to the Canary Islands, from where we sailed directly to St. Vincent and the Grenadines, as Cape Verde is considered by many countries to be a rabies-infected country, which would have made entry to St. Vincent impossible.

After visiting the French islands and Dominica, we sailed to Panama, crossed the canal and sailed directly to Nuku Hiva. On this trip we met many people with dogs, but almost none of them sail to French Polynesia. Even in Panama, most of the boats with dogs send their pets by plane to friends or relatives, because they consider it too difficult to import the dog to French Polynesia.

Since last year, however, importing a dog into French Polynesia has become much easier, as the health inspection of the dog can now be done in Nuku Hiva and not only in Tahiti, as before. There is still a lot of paperwork and work to do well in advance.

In my experience, it is quite difficult to find out this information. Even the famous blogs written by salty sailors with a dog on board usually don't mention the formalities concerning their dog, even though all the other minor details are described in detail. So I decided to write my own experience in the hope that it will help other pet owners who wish to sail in French Polynesia with their dog.

Of course, all regulations are subject to change and, as with any country you wish to visit with a pet, it is always wise to check the current regulations by emailing the relevant authorities at least a few months before you leave. I will put a list of current email addresses below this writing.

Since we decided to travel with our dog, we have always given him all the vaccinations that may be required by a country. He has a European pet passport, in which the vet has noted all treatments and checks, and he has a microchip. The microchip number must be included on all documents required for entry into French Polynesia. The biggest fear in most countries with strict rules is that a dog infected with rabies will enter their territory. This is no different in French Polynesia. Therefore rabies vaccines must be in order (i.e. valid for the six months prior to arrival in French Polynesia) and an anti-rabies titration test must be performed in an approved laboratory. The results of this test cannot be less than 3 months old and not more than 1 year old at the arrival in French Polynesia. The dog must therefore be at least 10 months old to theoretically meet the criteria. We had this test done in the Canary Islands, which caused us some hassle because of the customs requirements for shipping animal products. Perhaps it would have been easier on the European mainland or the French West Indies.

We were told the dog was not allowed to disembark in Panama, but on arrival in Nuku Hiva it turned out that this wasn't necessary after all, as long as the dog is properly vaccinated (rabies at least 6 months before arrival in French Polynesia).

In Panama we had a vet carry out the health check required for the health certificate as well as a Leishmania test and internal and external anti-parasite treatment. An additional dose of antiparasitic treatment was kept on board and administered by the veterinarian in Nuku Hiva.

All documents (animal passport, animal identification number, vaccination records, rabies test results, results of the Leishmania and health certificate) as well as an import application form (form 211 A) and the Panama zarpe were then sent by email to the bio-security officer in Nuku Hiva.

Communicating with this officer before departure made things much easier on arrival, as he already knew that all our papers were in order. Also, if anything is not in order, he can tell you and you can fix the problem before departure.

On arrival, we emailed the bio-security officer to arrange an inspection appointment, which was arranged for the following morning. In the meantime, the dog had to stay on board. We picked up the bio-security officer and the local vet at the dock and took them to our boat. There they inspected our dog thoroughly, mainly looking for nerve problems that could indicate rabies. They also took his temperature and examined him for eye, coat, skin or belly problems (a general examination). If the crossing was prolonged, he could also be tested for Leishmania, which requires the dog's blood to be taken on the boat.

The veterinarian then declared our dog healthy and the bio-security officer immediately gave us the document authorizing him to land in the whole of French Polynesia. We were allowed to disembark with the dog from that moment on. The fee was 4500 francs.

I was quite nervous when I arrived, but in the end everything went very well. I think that if you take things seriously and plan well in advance, it is quite possible to respect the strict (understandable) rules. In summary, I think a good plan to import your dog to French Polynesia would be the following:

- Have your dog chipped and have a passport with all its vaccinations, treatments and controls.
- Find out the exact rules in time (<https://www.service-public.pf/biosecurite/import/import-animaux-vivants/chiens-et-chats/>).
- Make sure your vaccinations and tests (including rabies) are done in the right time.
- Make sure your pet has a valid rabies vaccination of more than 6 months upon arrival in French Polynesia.
- Send all documents and your expected arrival date by email to the local bio-security officer.

In conclusion, I would like to make a comment on the following: I have read that some people take risks and do not register their dogs to avoid costs and hassle. Unfortunately, dogs have been killed because of this. This is not a punishment, but dogs are killed to be sent to the laboratory for examination on rabies. In addition to this, a fine of over 450,000 francs can be imposed and even jail time can be sentenced. People who love their

dogs and respect a country and its people will therefore make the effort to comply with these demanding but achievable rules.

E-mail addresses :

Biosecurity Nuku Hiva: yann.teikiteetini@biosecurite.gov.pf

General biosafety of FPs: animal.impex@biosecurite.gov.pf

Veterinarian Nuku Hiva: ludovic.verfaille@mail.pf

At the time I sent my email, gov.pf email addresses were not able to receive messages larger than 5 MB. I sent the documents in several emails to solve this problem. Everyone wrote in very good English (to my non-native standard). If you don't get a response after a few days, something has probably gone wrong and you should try again.

1.3 Maneuvering and Anchoring in the Marquesas

1.3.1 Official French Polynesia Tide Tables

There is a French site that has tidal information for the North Pass at Fakarava and a few other sites in the Tuamotus (in French) www.SHOM.fr (direct link to tidal page is below). However, they do not account for the 'wind/wave factor' in their tide tables either.

http://www.shom.fr/ann_marees/cgi-bin/predit_ext/choixp?opt=&zone=8&port=0&date=&heure=&portsel=map

From Slipaway: SHOM stands for "Service Hydrographique et Oceanographique de la Marine." We referenced it for tides at Makemo, Tahanea and both north and south passes of Fakarava. It did not have tide info for Manihi, but we got information on that atoll from Xavier (xavier.michel@mail.pf). The SHOM website is in French, but here are some directions for using it:

- On the SHOM home page, click on "Predictions de Marees"
- On the next page, click on "Listes alphabetiques" and then "Acces au predictions"
- On the map page, click on "Zone 8"
- On the next page, choose your location and then click on "Annuaire des marees (hauteur d'eau).
- In the "Nombre de jours" space, fill in the number of days for which you want tide info, and then click on "Calculer"
- When on the final page, if you want to choose another atoll, click on "Choisir un Autre Port"

1.3.2 Marine Protected Areas Guide

Marine Protected Areas Guide:

<http://www.ressources-marines.gov.pf/cdi/depliants-livrets-guides/>

If you can't find it there, the most recent version can be found here:

http://svsoggypaws.com/files/Marine_Protected_Areas_FrenchPoly_Oct_2020.pdf

August 2018: Since we transited through French Polynesia in 2010/2011, the government has made many changes to anchoring areas. The latest copy of the Marine Protected Areas, and the regulations surrounding them, are published in a guide downloadable from the internet. Sorry, I could not find an English version. Time to start practicing your French! – Soggy Paws

1.3.3 Anchoring in Coral

Please float your chain when anchoring near coral. Remember, we are guests visiting this country, islands, atolls, and backyards of the lovely locals. We must take responsibility to protect the lagoons.

Often lagoons are not clear and many times you are anchoring without knowing if there is coral on the bottom. Jacaranda has found the use of a fish finder to locate clear spots on the bottom invaluable in murky situations. We have a cheap one with the transducer stuck to the inside of the hull with silicon.

Each year sail boats cruising in French Polynesia get into trouble at anchor: They get trapped on lee shores after a shift in the wind direction and/or foul their anchor and/or chain in coral. The results are stressful maneuvers to get the anchor back up, bent bow rollers, and ruined or even ripped out windlass. Of course, the fragile coral structures get badly damaged with each of these messed up maneuvers as well.

It is **easy to avoid damage** to the coral and your boat if you:

- Anchor in conditions with **good visibility** (don't drop your anchor blindly)
- Try to find a **big, sandy spot** to drop your hook
- Anchor in **shallow** water...
 - ...where you can see the bottom clearly
 - ...usually fewer coral heads grow on sandy shelves, and
 - ...you only need a short chain.
- **Float the chain** so that the boat can swing around in shifting winds without getting the chain caught in coral heads
- Keep an eye on the **weather forecast** and move to a safe anchorage before the wind shifts

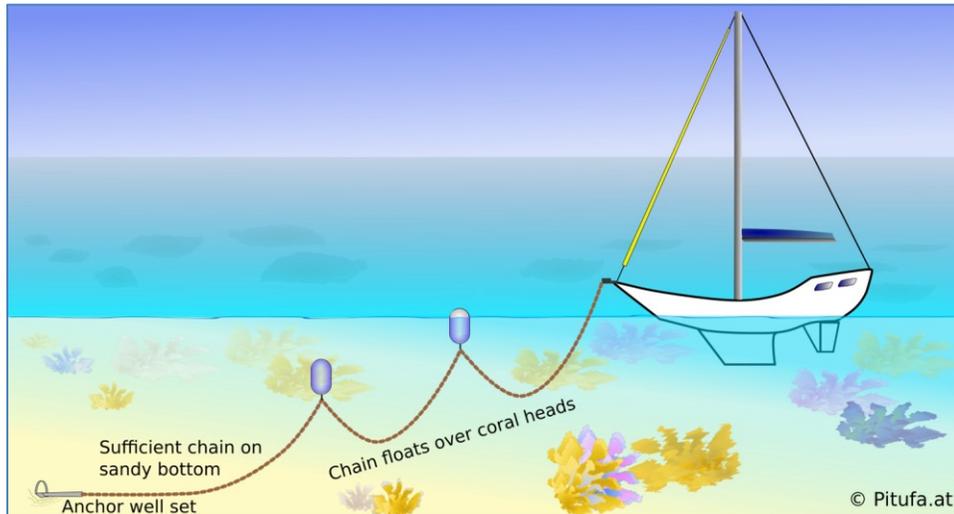
There are many ways to float your chain. Some people set their chain first, then pull back on it to ensure it is set properly. Once set, they will slowly pull up the chain to install the floats and then pull back again. Or...

Floating the chain is a simple procedure. You just need:

- (3) or more medium-sized fenders or buoys
 - (3) or more carabiners that fit into your chain
1. Drop the anchor in the middle of the biggest sandy spot you can find,
 2. Pay out chain while reversing gently,
 3. Look around at the surrounding coral heads and estimate your swinging radius,
 4. Hook in the first fender/buoy before the chain could touch any of the coral heads,
 5. Pay out some more chain and set the anchor gently pulling in reverse,
 6. If the scope is still not sufficient, additional floats can be added followed by more chain.

The General Rule:

The first float should be inserted at double the depth. If you drop the hook in 5 meters, put the first float on at 10 meters. Then add another float every 7-15 meters. If you have small floats/fenders, then add them every 7-10 meters. If you have a larger float/fender, then add them every 12-15 meters. The goal is to keep the chain off the surrounding coral heads.



For more information, visit www.pitufa.at.

If your chain does get wrapped...

If you are in a storm situation, it is critical to maintain some free chain. Boats have successfully weathered bad storm situations by going to a really long really strong snubber and/or letting out more chain as their chain gets wrapped (having a spare buoy rigged for this would make a lot of sense).

In some deep anchorages inside the lagoon, it can be difficult to see the bottom snorkeling, and therefore difficult to see what's going on when your chain seems stuck. It is USUALLY possible to unstuck your chain without diving on it—patience and calm weather are helpful. A snorkeler in the water can be helpful. But this is a time where having a dive tank can be a big help.

Another very useful resources about Floating Your Chain can be found here:

<https://www.jacarandajourney.com/floatingyourchain>

Not anchoring in coral... After spending several seasons in the French Polynesia, we found that if you can make your way to the windward side of the island or atoll, there are usually spots where the sand has been pushed over the coral reef in big storms, and they make good sandy anchor spots in shallower water with only scattered heads.

1.3.4 Using Out-Island Moorings

As of Jan. 2020, there are no out-island moorings in the Marquesas. However, if you would like to read about proper usage of these moorings please review either the Society Compendium and/or the Tuamotus Compendium for more information.

1.3.5 Navigation in Areas with Coral

June 2022: We have left a full set of mbtiles charts for OpenCPN on a “loaner” hard drive with Kevin of Nuku Hiva Yacht Services. Borrow the drive, treat it carefully, and copy the charts off to your own hard drive, promptly returning the drive to Kevin. – Migration

May 2018: Though we found both the CMAP (CM93 v2) and Garmin charts to be fairly accurate in French Polynesia (not so everywhere, however), your ability to explore coral-laced atolls is greatly enhanced by acquiring high-resolution satellite images.

There are a number of sources of satellite charting/imagery for French Polynesia.

1.3.5.1 KAPS and mbtiles (used by charting programs like OpenCPN)

[Migration's Charts](#) Pacific Mexico, French Poly, Pitcairn Island, Easter Island mbtiles 2020

Zen Again's Charts	Pacific Ocean, SE Asia, Crossing to S Africa, S Atlantic, Brazil
Soggy Paws' Charts	Pacific Ocean, SE Asia, Red Sea
Jacaranda's Charts	French Polynesia
Valhalla's Charts	SE Asia and Western Pacific
Ocelot's Charts	SE Asia, Western Pacific, and Indian Ocean

Make Your Own: You can make your own, look for the Sat2Chart program here:

<http://gdayii.ca/downloads/>

While there, also download SAS.Planet. The settings in this version have been set to make it easy to use with Sat2Chart.

There is a Facebook Group called GE2Kap that provides support for Sat2Chart (formerly GE2KAP) and SAS.Planet. And sv Ocelot has a page on their website with instructions and hints on making charts.

OpenCPN is a free fully functional navigation program, downloadable from <http://opencpn.org> It runs on Windows 7-11, many flavors of Linux and Raspberry Pi, and Apple Macs (but not iDevices).

1.3.5.2 *iDevices*

OpenCPN doesn't run on iPads and iPhones due to their proprietary architecture/non-open source attitude. Here are some satellite navigation options for iDevices.

Ovital Maps used to be the most-recommended for iPads/iPhones, but the Apple Store gutted this program in about 2019. If you have it, and have maps you want to keep, don't hook your iPad up to the internet, or your maps will go away!

The latest recommended choice is **Guru Maps**.

<https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.bodunov.galileo>

You get one free week and then can buy the Pro version for \$10 per year. Cheaper to start with the free version than buy the Pro outright, but I heard that maps downloaded for the free version have to be re-downloaded for the Pro version. You can add map types from here: <https://ms.gurumaps.app/>

Also **Zulu Offshore**: <https://apps.apple.com/id/app/zulu-offshore/id1522412216>

1.3.5.3 *Android*

The most-recommended solution (besides OpenCPN on Android) is **All in One Offline Maps**:

<https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=net.psyberia.offlinemaps>

Another often recommended choice is **Guru Maps**.

<https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.bodunov.galileo>

You get one free week and then can buy the Pro version for \$10 per year. Cheaper to start with the free version than buy the Pro outright, but I heard that maps downloaded for the free version have to be re-downloaded for the Pro version. You can add map types from here: <https://ms.gurumaps.app/>

And a third is **Alpine Quest**: <https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=psyberia.alpinequest.full>

Plus I believe that **Zulu Offshore** also is available for Android.

1.3.5.4 *Windows*

OpenCPN, of course (with added maps). <http://opencpn.org> The benefit of OpenCPN is the widely available whole worldwide CMAP chart set. Can download free from Valhalla's site (see chart source links above).

SAS Planet: <http://sasgis.org> is a good alternative for Windows users. But SAS is NOT a navigation program. OpenCPN is.

1.4 Weather

Thanks to the efforts of Dave Vogel on s/v Perigee, the weather section has been completely updated and made its own Compendium, reducing the amount of redundant information we have to keep up to date.

Please download the full document here: <http://svsoggypaws.com/files/#frpoly>

1.5 A Route through the Marquesas

This is one boat's view of how to see all of the Marquesas, from a document I downloaded, I think, from the Pacific Puddle Jump Yahoo group, so I assume it was meant to be shared. Thanks to s/v Kavenga.

The route you take through the Marquesas once you get there depends on your objectives, priorities and schedule. If the Marquesas are primarily just a waypoint en route to somewhere else, or if your schedule only allows for a week in the Marquesas, that will dictate a different route than if the Marquesas is a key destination for you, and you have two weeks or more to explore them.

The chartlet below assumes the latter, that you have the desire and the time to try to see all of the Marquesas (if not, skip to the end). The basic assumption is that cruising boats prefer to sail off wind rather than up wind whenever possible.

The route that follows is not the one we took but is the one we wished we had taken after learning the local wind and weather patterns.

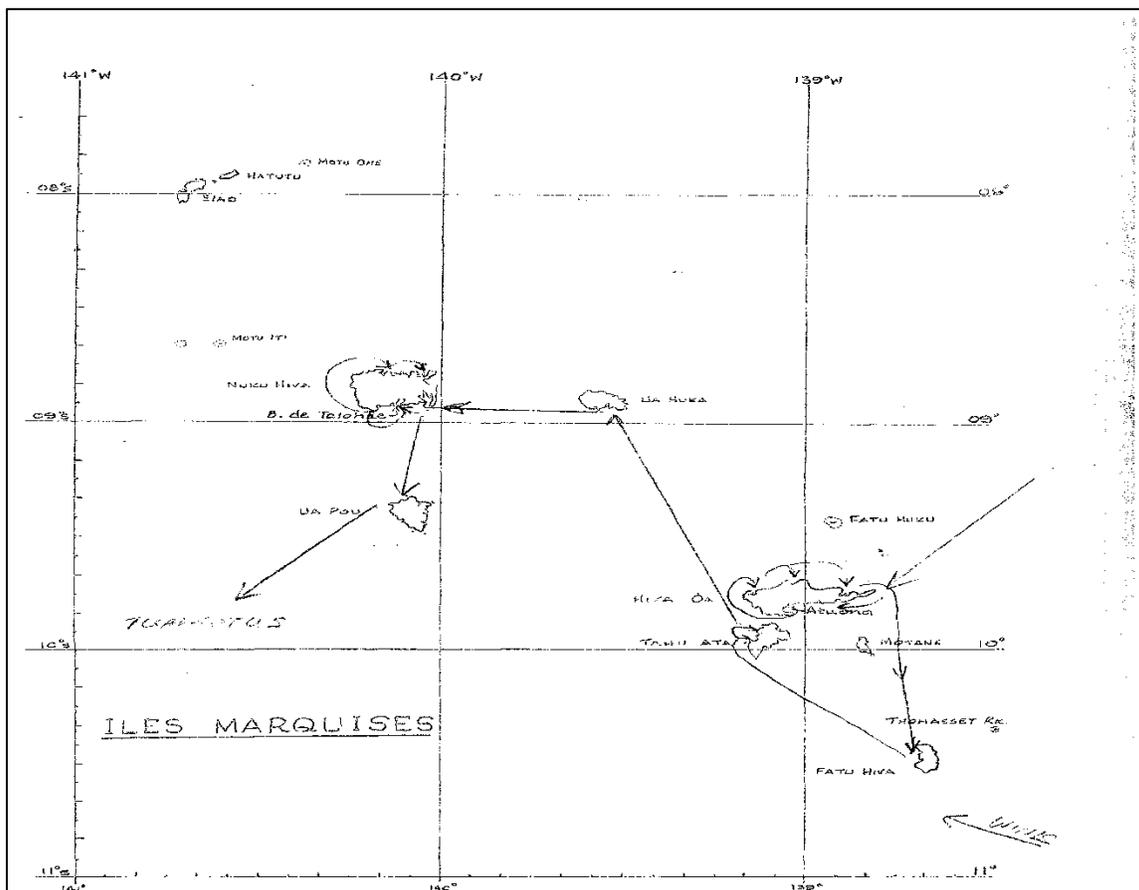


Figure 2 - Kavenga's Suggested Route through the Marquesas

The route we took, suggests making your initial landfall at **Hiva Oa** for the following reasons:

- 1) it is the most windward island with a Gendarmerie where you can legally check into French Polynesia,
- 2) it has stores, supplies and services that you may need after your three-week passage.

Your first stop, after rounding the eastern cape, Matafenua, will be the village of **Atuona** and Taahuku Bay. The bay is quite small for the amount of traffic it gets from cruisers and copra ships. The swells from the SE quadrant refract off the cliffs on the northwest side of the bay and come into the anchorage. It can be so tight in here, especially with the Puddle Jumpers all converging at about the same time that everyone anchors with bow and stern anchors to make room, AND to keep their bows pointed into the swells. If a storm should crank up in the Southern Ocean and the winds start to come from that direction, be ready to leave Taahuku on short notice, particularly if you happen to be in the row of anchored boats furthest back. If you get caught, you could suddenly find yourself in breaking surf.

Atuona will feel like heaven after several weeks at sea and it is a beautiful place. However, we advise getting your business taken care of as quickly as possible and then moving on.

After leaving Atuona continue on circumnavigating Hiva Oa, first with a stop at **Hana Menu**. This is a must stop for a dip in the “Hollywood Pool” with its gushing freshwater spring and surrounding tropical flowers; and for the hike through the ruins of the ancient village and up to the high and dry plateau, where you may be treated to the sight of a herd of “wild” horses.

There are three more bays on the north side of Hiva Oa to choose from before heading off to the next island, Fatu Hiva. By coming to the north side of Hiva Oa, you have a better chance of laying Fatu Hiva in one tack. We had to tack our way there from the southern end of Tahuata.

There are two primary anchorages at Fatu Hiva, the most popular being **Hana Vave** or Bay of Virgins or Bay of Penises. This anchorage has probably been on the cover of more sailing magazines than any other. It is truly beautiful, although it can be a trifle rolly at times.

When you’re ready to leave Fatu Hiva, the fun begins because it should be a sleigh ride from then on. Head for the southern end of **Tahuata** and check out the various anchorages on its leeward side. Our favorite is the northernmost, **Hana Moe Noa**. It is one of the few bays in the Marquesas with white sand beaches and nice snorkeling.

Resume your sleigh ride from Tahuata to **Ua Huku**. We missed this island because we hadn’t figured out this route—we went to Ua Pou first instead. Because the anchorages on Ua Huku are exposed to the south, they can be rough or even untenable at times.

Your next downwind landfall will be **Nuku Hiva**. There are many ways you could do it and here is just one. Start with the closest bay to Ua Huku, which is **Controller’s Bay**, Nuku Hiva. Hike up the valley to see the Tikis and maraes (temple platforms).

Continue on a counterclockwise circumnavigation with a stop at our favorite anchorage in the Marquesas, **Anaho**. Most anchorages in the Marquesas are exposed to swell to one degree or another. Anaho is one of the few that has 360-degree protection. And it has, to the best of our knowledge, the longest, white sandy beach in the Marquesas, and is just a flat-out beautiful place. You can easily hike to the bays on either side of Anaho. We would give this anchorage more time than any other in the Marquesas.

Continue on around Nuku Hiva to **Hakatea Bay**, better known to cruisers as **Daniel’s Bay**. This is an absolutely stunning bay that offers great protection, beautiful views, and a wonderful waterfall hike.

Conclude your tour of Nuku Hiva with a stop at **Taiohae Bay**, with probably the largest concentration of people and activity in the Marquesas. We made this our last stop in the Marquesas thinking it would have the best provisioning. This is another south facing anchorage, and the swell can get pretty impressive at times.

If we were doing it over again, and assuming conditions had not changed to a large degree, we would make Ua Pou our last stop in the Marquesas. Ua Pou is the departure point closest to our next destination, the Tuamotu Archipelago.

That concludes the route for those that have the time and choose to devote it to seeing all of the Marquesas. Aside from not having the chance to visit Ua Huku, there is not one island in the Marquesas that we would have skipped based on the knowledge we gained, the sights we saw and the experiences we had.

Nevertheless, there are many who probably cannot for one reason or another, afford to allocate three to four weeks of their cruise for the complete tour, especially in light of the recent difficulties in getting visa extensions, which were not a problem when we were there.

For those of you in a hurry, we would recommend making landfall at Taiohae Bay on Nuku Hiva, spending two to five days at Anaho, and then heading to Hakahau on Ua Pou to provision and clear out for the Tuamotus or Tahiti. -- Kavenga's

1.5.1 *Where to be in French Polynesia and When (Pitufa)*

Depending on the seasons you might want to follow these ideas to see most of Polynesia:

<http://www.pitufa.at/cruising-french-polynesia-the-best-times-to-visit-the-different-archipelagos/>

1.6 *Yachtsmen Services*

1.6.1 *Cooking Gas (Propane and Butane)*

Cost: The cost of propane/butane is a set price, by the government in FP. Deposit on the bottle is 3000F Cost of the gas is 2900F.

See individual island section for specifics on cooking gas options in those areas. We were told that just about every magasin will sell gas bottles, but only those confirmed by cruisers are listed below.

The [Tahiti Cruiser's Guide](#) has a current list of suppliers that fill non-French tanks, see the "propane" section.

Download "[The 30-minute Cooking Gas Fill in French Polynesia](#)" (Migration) and "[Refilling Your Propane Tanks in French Polynesia](#)" (Jacaranda) as they are very helpful instructional documents, with photos, on how to fill your American propane tanks in French Polynesia. Fill your tanks 100% full every time using these methods.

Cooking Gas Suppliers

Nuku Hiva: Taiohae Bay	Hiva Oa: Atuona Bay	Tahuata: Vaitehu Bay	Ua Pou: Hakahau Bay
Nuku Hiva: Nuku Hiva Yacht Services			
Nuku Hiva: Hakahaa "Controller's Bay"			

You must obtain a fitting for your tank before arriving in FP. The fitting either male or female that connects to your tank. They are not available here. Another cruiser may be able to loan a fitting to you but it is best to bring one.

Feb 2021: We have read numerous reports about the difficulties in filling gas bottles in all of the compendiums. So, if you plan to spend extended periods of time in the south pacific, we recommend that you carry your own equipment to gravity fill your tanks from a local bottle. We use the GasBoat 4018 Go-anywhere Adaptor Kit from www.whayward.com, which provides connectivity to any gas bottle worldwide. It's not cheap to buy but will save you lots of money in the long term. We pay a deposit for a local gas bottle which we keep for 24 hours to gravity fill our bottles and then return. – Ari B

1.6.2 *Fuel (Diesel and Gasoline)*

Remember when inquiring about diesel and gasoline that diesel, in French, is called 'gazoil' and gasoline is called 'essence' (eh sans). Make sure you know what you are asking for!!

See individual island section for specifics on fuel options in those areas.

The [Tahiti Cruiser's Guide](#) has a current list of suppliers that honor the duty-free fuel certificates, see "Diesel/Gas" section.

Fuel Suppliers:

The following islands offer fuel (diesel and gasoline). Smaller islands provide fuel from the supply ship when they arrive. Please note that not all of these locations will honor the duty-free fuel certificate.

Nuku Hiva: Taiohae Bay Fuel Station	Hiva Oa Atuona Bay	Ua Pou Hakahau Bay Magasins
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Nuku Hiva Taiohae Bay - Fuel Dock: The dock is concrete and the bay is rocky. The dock does have large black, rubber fenders, but they will leave marks on your boat if they make contact. It is recommended to medmor to the dock when bringing the big boat.

Jerry Cans: The easiest method is to use jerry cans to refuel your boat. Bring your dinghy to the north end of the dock (by the ladder) during high tide. You will have to carry your jerry cans to the fuel station and back (100-150').

Nuku Hiva Yacht Services will loan you up to 10 twenty-liter jerry cans at no cost. Or you can engage their services to delivery fuel to your boat for a fee. In addition, NHYS will handle the duty-free paperwork.

Important: It is not unusual for fuel sources (along with all the other resources cruisers need on arrival) to become scarce when the Puddle Jumpers all arrive at once. If having more fuel is critical to you, and you don't have time to wait for the next supply ship, make obtaining fuel a first priority on arrival--don't wait until you are ready to leave to take care of it. We know of boats who got delayed for a couple of weeks when the fuel supply ran out in Nuku Hiva as cruisers were taking off for the Tuamotus.

1.6.3 Duty Free Fuel

Duty free fuel is available to foreign boats in French Polynesia. There is a form to apply for Duty Free fuel and the form must be processed in Papeete. Having an agent who can do the paperwork for you while you are still in the Marquesas, means that you can buy duty-free fuel while still in the French Polynesia before arriving in Tahiti. Most agents' clearance packages include a duty free fuel certificate. The certificate is good for 6-months. You can renew it within 2 weeks of your expiry date.

The [Tahiti Cruiser's Guide](#) has a current list of suppliers that honor the duty-free fuel certificate as well as the lat/long location of the government office where get your certificate in Tahiti.

1.6.4 Trash and Recycling

Most islands will have proper trash receptacles that you can utilize. However, there are a few islands that are uninhabited or do not have a proper trash disposal system. Please be respectful of these beautiful places. Try to wait to dispose of your trash properly.

June 2022: The mayor of Taiohae is now requiring visiting boats to pay monthly for trash/recycling and water. The fees are 750 XPF/month for trash and recycling, and 750 XPF/month for water. Fees are paid at the mayor's office. There are two signs (one in French, one English) at Yacht Services describing the fees.

The fee is nominal, and it helps this small island continue providing these services to cruisers. – Sparklemuffin

Burning Trash: If you are going to burn your trash on uninhabited islands please return after the fire is out to remove any noncombustible articles or do not burn them in the first place. Remember these islands, motus, and islets are owned by someone and you are burning your garbage in someone's back yard. This is someone's backyard and should be left the way you found it.

Recycling: Nuku Hiva, Hiva Oa, Ua Pou all have large recycling centers. Please be sure to separate your trash from plastic (clear and colored bottles), glass, and cans. It appears that the Marquesas do not recycle cardboard or paper.

April 2019: Garbage and recycling were only found in Hiva Oa, Nuku Hiva and Ua Pou. – Chugach

1.6.5 Water

See individual island section for specifics on water options in those areas.

There is usually a water spigot near the dinghy dock in every bay with a dock. But the water is not always drinkable—ask the locals before you put it in your tank. The water at Taiohae is considered ‘non-potable’. You can fill jugs in Daniels Bay, 5 miles west of Taiohae or in Controllers Bay, 5 miles east of Taiohae Bay.

There are a number of safe fill stations in Taiohae Bay that locals use to gather drinking water, but they are NOT close to the dinghy dock.

June 2022: The mayor of Taiohae is now requiring visiting boats to pay monthly for trash/recycling and water. The fees are 750 XPF/month for trash and recycling, and 750 XPF/month for water. Fees are paid at the mayor’s office. There are two signs (one in French, one English) at Yacht Services describing the fees.

The fee is nominal, and it helps this small island continue providing these services to cruisers. – Sparklemuffin

1.7 General Services

1.7.1 Air Tahiti

Nuku Hiva, Hiva Oa, and Ua Pou have offices for Air Tahiti. Hours vary so it is best to contact them prior to showing up in person. Visit the website www.airtahiti.pf.

Nuku Hiva: +689 40 910 225. Hours Mon-Fri 0800-1200. Mon, Wed, Fri 1330-1630. Marie-Helen will assist with reservation via central hotline (pay later online or in office) +689 40 86 42 42 (press 2 for English) www.airtahiti.pf. Office is located on main road. Turn left out of dock and it will be on right side (before the bank). – Sugar Shack

Hiva Oa: +689 40 910 225 or +689 40 917 1110, www.airtahiti.pf. Hours; Mon-Tues & Thurs: 0800-1200, Wed & Fri: 0800-1200 & 1330-1630. Located on the main road, next to the bank, on left side. Sign is painted on a rock and hard to see around the plants.

Ua Pou: +689 40 86 42 42 or +40 910 225. Hours: Tues. & Fri: 1500-1700. Main street, 2nd left, on right, by post and Le Mairie.

Air Tahiti's main office is located on Rue Edouard Ahnne, Papeete, Tahiti.

+689 40 47 44 00. <http://airtahiti.com>. Hours: Mon-Fri: 0800-1700 and Sat 0800-1100.

From Marina Papeete, turn left on main road, turn right at Rue du 22 September 1914 (street by Papeete Market) and Air Tahiti will be on the corner of Rue du 22 September 1914 and Rue du Pere Collette.

If you are a resident and/or have a long stay visa (carte de sejour) and are over the age of 60 years old, you are eligible for a Carte Marama which will give you up to 50% off all Air Tahiti flights (inter-island flights, not Air Tahiti Nui international flights). You must be a resident (holder of carte de sejour), be over 60 years of age. Bring your passport (not a driver's license), an extra passport size photo, local phone number, local address (we used Marina Papeete). Go upstairs, fill out the Carte Marama form, pay 2500xpf and you will walk out with the card that can be used immediately. Discount only applies to card holder. – Sugar Shack

1.7.2 Banks / ATMs (Money)

The normal currency in the Marquesas is the French Polynesia Franc, usually abbreviated CFP or XPF. In June 2020, the exchange rate was 87 CFP/XPF per 1 US dollar. However, the post office will give a 100/1 exchange, so a 500-CFP is about \$5.00 USD.

The major islands in the Marquesas have banks. You can try to exchange money at the Post Offices in the smaller islands. Like most places, some local businesses will accept USD, but the exchange rate may be arbitrary. The [Tahiti Cruiser's Guide](#) may have a more extensive list of banks.

See section on individual atolls for banks and ATMs.

Nuku Hiva Taiohae Bay Banco Socredo	Hiva Oa Atuona Bay Bank / ATM	Ua Pou Hakahau Bay
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General Information on Money

If you are interested in **opening a French Polynesia OPT bank account**, be sure to download “Opening a Bank Account in French Polynesia” from Jacaranda at <https://www.jacarandajourney.com/openingabankaccount>. If you have an OPT account you can withdrawal and transfer money to people and vendors with ease.

Some magasins (markets) will accept credit cards with a minimum purchase. The artisan market and the supply ship accept local currency only (no credit cards).

Remember that diesel is about \$5.50/gallon and gasoline \$6.00/gallon. A beer in a store is around \$3 EACH. A typical meal ashore runs from \$11 to \$35. It’s pricey.

April 2019: There are now ATMs in Hiva Oa and Nuku Hiva and Ua Pou in Hakahau. In Fatu Hiva, we were able to change Euros into XPF at Omoa grocery, at a poor rate though. I think they also change USD. – Chugach

2018: I advise leaving the Marquesas with plenty of CFP. Everything in the Tuamotus are for cash and more expensive than almost anywhere in the world. Eating out, pearls and souvenirs, diesel and gasoline, fruits and veggies, diving. – Jacacrand

1.7.3 Marine Supplies (Boat Parts)

There is one chandlery in the Marquesas, Nuku Hiva, Taiohae Bay. It is located in Nuku Hiva.

Nuku Tai Nui Marine

Tel +689 87 30 99 12

www.maintenancemarquises.com

Cécile Hémé: Directrice magasin

cecile.heme@maintenancemarquises.com

Situated on the same road as the bank and behind the library.

BP 161 98 742 Taiohae Nuku Hiva Marques Nord

Several islands have small hardware stores that may carry a few boat parts for the local pangas. Critical items can be shipped in from Tahiti. Locations below can assist you with shipments.

[Tahiti Cruiser’s Guide](#) lists what is available throughout all of French Polynesia, and has information about shipping in what you can’t find in Tahiti. Download and save.

Boat Part Suppliers / Marine

The following services are available to help you locate, purchase, and ship marine supplies:

- Nuku Hiva Yacht Services, Nuku Hiva, Taiohae Bay
- Hiva Oa Yacht Services, Hiva Oa
- Hiva Oa, [Maintenance Marques Service](#). +689 87 73 90 45,

1.7.4 Importing Parts Duty-Free – Yacht in Transit

For updates on this topic try the [Tahiti Cruiser’s Guide](#).

Download “Shipping and Transporting items into French Polynesia”. Latest information on process.

<https://www.jacarandajourney.com/shippingitems>.

The basic rules for bringing in goods from outside of French Polynesia is as follows:

If you order & ship without using “Yacht in Transit” you can bring in goods less than 20,000xpf without any tax. For shipments like these, do not label the goods Yacht in Transit.

From values 20.000xpf to 50.000xpf the tax is 20% for EU / 30% rest of the world. You are taxed accordingly based on the total amount.

Goods valued over 50.000xpf, you must go thru custom broker, and the tax is around 45% of value.

If you order & ship as a “Yacht in Transit” you are required to use a CB at the cost of approximately 15,000xpf. You will not be required to pay duty (tax).

Total amount includes cost of item + shipping + tax.

The French Polynesia Customs FAQ’s at this line: this is in French but translates well with Google Translate:

<http://www.polynesie-francaise.pref.gouv.fr/Douanes/Section-Particuliers/Questions-frequentes>

March 2017: The vendors in Pape’ete are very familiar with shipping parts all over French Polynesia. You can order the part and have it on the next ship. Shipping parts to the islands is very cheap. We had a solar panel shipped from Papeete to Marquesas and it cost < 1000f. – Jacaranda

March 2017: Many items are now available in Papeete, and the online guide was designed as a reference to finding items or services. Replacement of broken parts for a foreign yacht is duty free but two customs applications are required--one when the item arrives, and another when the yacht leaves FP. This “duty free” exemption does not apply to any new item on your vessel--only replacement parts, therefore you need to be ready to prove “replacement” when you leave FP (although I doubt this is rigorously enforced).

We have heard of a vessel having to physically destroy their old sails in front of a customs agent before getting their new sails duty-free. The double customs applications also doubles the charges of the customs brokerage. Mary Ann II was charged 6,000xpf times two for an 800 USA dollar order.

You are allowed to receive goods valued up to \$300 duty free without requiring an application to customs (this figure includes shipping cost.)

Yachts in 2017 have received parcels in this manner at Marina Papeete and at Marina Taina. Shipping via the mail system from the UK takes approximately 5 weeks. DHL, UPS and Fedex will quote the time frames. We have found Parcel Monkey in the UK very reasonable. – Mary Ann II

1.7.5 Shipping Items In or Out

Jan. 2020 – Jacaranda has compiled a lot of useful information on shipping and transporting items into French Polynesia. Visit <https://www.jacarandajourney.com/shippingitems>.

Express Shipping OUT of French Polynesia:

- DHL Express: 83 73 72
- UPS: 54 57 27
- FedEx Global Air: 45 36 45

Island Cargo Support Corporate Office

12900 Simms Ave, Hawthorne, CA 90250, USA

888.500.2541 Toll free USA

310.693.8348

310.684.3831 Fax

jax@icargosupport.com

Katherine Warth – Katherine.warth@icargosupport.com

Island Cargo Freight Terminal

12900 Simms Ave, Hawthorne, CA 90250

888.500.2541 Toll Free

team@icargosupport.com

ECU Worldwide

Address: ECU LAX

c/o STG Logistics

2201 E. Carson Street

Carson, CA 90810

Contact: Risa Katoa

katrinajones@ecuworldwide.us
gcabrera@ecuworldwide.us

Jan 2021: I have had *terrible* customer service from ECU and Risa. Repeated phone calls have gone unanswered along with emails. – Jacaranda

Some other people have seen a lack of response with ECU Worldwide prior to Risa Katoa joining the team.

Hazardous materials are limited on the ship. If you are shipping something that is considered hazardous it may get bumped to another ship due to the limitation. There is a hazard fee associated with hazardous items. Be sure to read the section on what is required by the shipped when sending hazardous materials. Details can be found <https://www.jacarandajourney.com/shippingitems>.

Gondrand (Shipping Agent)

+689 40 54 31 54 – <https://www.gondrand.fr>, or compta.1ppt@gondrand.pf

Contact: Heiarii-Vahine Rehia - Logistics.1ppt@gondrand.pf or James at logistics.2ppt@gondrand.pf.

You need to provide passport, ship documentation, and check in documentation. Email all invoices of what is arriving and the Bill of Lading (that you receive from ECU). Gondrand is less responsive, but they are on top of it all and will get in touch when they need to.

Cost: Depends on the cost of the shipment. They requested cash for payment (only). One cruiser reported their entire flat of goods cost 35000xpf for all associated fees on one shipment.

Customs: It can take between 1-14 days to clear packages in and out of customs.

DGX Shipping Company (Dependable Global Express)

DGX is no longer servicing French Polynesia (as of Feb. 2021).

<https://www.dgxglobal.com> or intlrates@dgxglobal.com

+1 888.488.4888 or +1 310.669.8888

Reyna Tausinga contact for coordinator – reyna.tausinga@dgxglobal.com

Cost: \$172 per cubic meter. Weight does not matter at all – price based on cubic meter.

Select the date of your shipment based on the ship's schedule. Departs about every 2 weeks.

Reyna is very responsive and will facilitate and coordinate the shipping address and consolidation.

1.7.6 Shipping Items Between Islands

There are several ways you can ship packages to and from the Marquesas. You can use an agent such as Kevin at Nuku Hiva Yacht Services or Sandra and Hiva Oa Yacht Services. Or you can place them on the supply boat or you can send them on Air Tahiti.

Air Tahiti: Go to the Air Tahiti office located in Nuku Hiva or Hiva Oa with your sealed package. They will put your package on the next flight. You have to make arrangements for someone to pickup your package in Tahiti (usually the recipient). The price will be depending on the weight and size of the parcel.

Supply Ship: The supply ships will usually accept packages to/from Tahiti. Each ship sets up a small booth (where you pay for your fuel, propane, etc...). The booth attendant will weigh your package, set the price, and take your package for the ship to bring to Tahiti. This process takes longer to arrive to Tahiti but it is less expensive.

Picking up packages sent from other islands to the Marquesas via the supply ship is rather easy. At the booth there will be two trays filled with documents. Find your shipping invoice. This document will tell you which container your parcel is located. Then you wait until that container is unloaded. The workers will call out your name as the parcel is unloaded. Frozen goods are unloaded last.

2022: You can download a document listing all supply ships, which islands they visit, and the frequency of visits at <https://www.service-public.pf/dpam/frequence-de-dessertes-et-coordonnees-des-armateurs/> in the section « Fréquences des dessertes maritimes ». – Migration

2021: The vendors in Papeete are very familiar with shipping parts all over French Polynesia. You can order the part and have it on the next ship. Shipping parts to the islands is very cheap. We had a solar panel shipped from Papeete to Marquesas and it cost < 1000f. – Jacaranda

Using an Agent

You can have Gondrand assist you with inter-island shipping and/or have items shipped directly to them to forward to you at an outer island. They will do the customs (pay upfront), hold your package if necessary, then forward it to you.

Gondrand (Shipping Agent)

+689 40 54 31 54 – <https://www.gondrand.fr>, or compta.1ppt@gondrand.pf

Contact: James at logistics.2ppt@gondrand.pf

Caddy Express

James - +689 89 65 69 03 (WhatsApp and phone) can collect packages or shop for you in Papeete, Tahiti and then forward your items to you in the outer island. He speaks English and is reasonably priced.

2021: The vendors in Papeete are very familiar with shipping parts all over French Polynesia. You can order the part and have it on the next ship. Shipping parts to the islands is very cheap. We had a solar panel shipped from Papeete to Marquesas and it cost < 1000f. – Jacaranda

1.7.7 Flying Stuff in on Air Tahiti

Jan. 2020: If you have large or excess luggage and are flying from Tahiti to another FP island, you can check your luggage with Air Tahiti. However, if they say it is over the weight limit or excess bag limit, don't worry because you can check it as freight for cheap. Just past the McDonalds at the Tahiti airport is Air Tahiti Freight. They will put your luggage on the same flight or next flight and fly it to your destination. – Sugar Shack

April 2019: We were concerned because we had 80 pounds of luggage over what we initially paid for on our flight from Tahiti to Raiatea. Air Tahiti was very accommodating. We were allowed to check it with our flight and just had to pay an extra \$56. – Cool Change

1.7.8 Concierge Services (Delivery from Tahiti to outer Islands)

There are several concierge services that can pick up marine parts, fresh goods, and other supplies in Tahiti and either ship or fly your supplies to you in the outer islands. It could cost you less and include higher quality, and more diverse options. You can also contact a few of the local shops in Papeete and have them deliver/ship items to you in the outer islands. If you are looking for staples, it is less expensive to buy those in the outer islands. Staples would include subsidized items and simple imported goods like flour, sugar, rice, beans, etc...

Placing an order with a coursier (personal shopper): Organize your shopping list by shop. For example, a list for Carrefour, a list for Papeete Market, a list for a marine store. Contact your coursier of choice, organize payment (usually by bank transfer), and await your delivery by supply ship or air freight.

1.7.9 Coursier (Personal Shoppers)

All coursiers will send your goods to you anywhere in French Polynesia via cargo (much less expensive) or by Air Tahiti freight (\$\$ per kilo and only to islands/atolls with an airport). Refrigerator and freezer freight is normally available with all options (unless it is broken).

Juliette can be reached at rairoajuju@yahoo.fr. She charges 2000xpf (\$20 USD) per shopping mission (per shop you ask her to go to) plus freight costs. It is less expensive per shop if you have her go to multiple stores. She will even go to the Papeete market early Sunday morning to buy local organic veggies and put it in refrigerated freight on a cargo ship Monday morning.

Est. Informatique lists their products at www.est-info.pf. You have to arrange for payment and schedule according to the supply ship.

HM Coursier +689 46 82 82 and hmcoursier@gmail.com. Very professional, organized and responsive. Usually the same price as Juliette.

Caddy Xpress +689 89 65 69 03 (Signal/WhatsApp) ask for Thomas. Will assist with shopping and shipping/collecting packages and transport to outer islands. He is reasonable with his prices and is very helpful, fast in responses, has Revolut (easy to pay) and speaks English.

1.7.10 Stores that Deliver to Cargo Ships

There are a number of businesses Tahiti supply products, food, items to individuals in the outer islands. See the "[Tahiti Cruisers Guide](#)" under Food Distributor / Buyer.

Both of these stores will send your goods to you anywhere in French Polynesia via cargo (much less expensive) or by Air Tahiti freight (\$\$ per kilo and only to islands/atolls with an airport). Refrigerator and freezer freight normally available with all options (unless it is broken).

With any of these options, they will send your goods to you anywhere in FP via cargo (much less expensive) or Air Tahiti (\$\$ per kg). Refrigerator and freezer freight normally available with all options (unless it is broken)

Polynesia Trading +689 40 45 62 63 or polynesiatrading@loana@gmail.com. They speak English and have a Facebook page (@Polynesia Trading). Their FB page has photos of their inventory and prices (like online shopping). This is a big box store like "Costco" but with no membership and a smaller variety. They are very responsive during business hours. They can deliver to the cargo ship and will charge freight charges.

Maxi Tahiti can be reached at maxitahiti@mail.pf or on their Facebook page which is @Maxi Tahiti. They offer similar products and pricing as Polynesia Trading as they are a big box store as well.

1.7.11 Online Delivery Service

Sipac: +689 87 72 80 70 and +689 40 54 05 50. Website: www.sipac.pf or email ressourceshumaines@sipac.pf. Boat schedule: www.sipac.pf/horaires-des-bateaux. This is an online delivery service where you select your items, pay by credit card, and have it all delivered to you in the outer islands. They sell, food, fruits, vegetables, liquor, wine, personal hygiene, etc...Their website lists items alphabetical and not by category so you do have to hunt and peck to find your items. See supply ships (below) to coordinate with their schedule.

Feb 2021: We ordered a delivery online via www.sipac.pf. The actual process of ordering was quite difficult not because of the website which is very good, but due to poor wifi. Make sure you have a good connection when you proceed to the payment page because if it fails you will lose your basket and have to start again. You will receive email confirmation of your order and when the ship arrives you can collect the paperwork from a tray next to the mobile ship office and this will indicate which containers your goods are in. When the container is opened, they will call out names for each package. This can take quite a long time especially if you order frozen goods which gets opened last. The quality and pricing of the goods including fruit and vegetables was very good. Several cruisers ordered from Sipac and all of us received our orders as expected. –Ari B

Jan. 2021: Online shopping for the outer islands and archipelagos in French Polynesia www.sipac.pf. Our experience of this online shopping business, who are based in Tahiti, was relatively straightforward. They sell a range of products including, fruit and veg, refrigerated and frozen goods, household cleaning products plus your usual tins, packets and dried foods. We saw wine and rum but no beer.

The site is in French. We found it fairly logical to navigate with a little bit of translation help from Google. Create an account first. The site details which boats are delivering to which islands. Pick your boat and the site will tell you the last date and time for online orders to ensure your 'shopping' gets picked and packed for the boat. The freight cost is based on the volume of the goods you buy.

When shopping you can come off the site and go back in another day and your chosen items should stay in the virtual basket. We did have a glitch paying but that was due to a very thin data connection in Gambier, not Sipac's fault. Our card payment timed out which meant our shopping basket disappeared into the ether and we had to start again. We spoke to a very helpful Sipac chap in Tahiti who spoke English who helped us sort

this out. Other cruisers we know using the site didn't have this problem, a frustration of thin comms. After paying we received an emailed receipt with confirmation of our order. Today our shopping arrived on the Taporo 8. Our chilled goods and fruit and veggies came out of refrigerated containers, and were in good shape. General goods were in a regular container and all fine too. – Grace of Longstone

1.7.12 Supply Ship Schedules

For the latest information and contact details visit DPAM at <https://www.service-public.pf/dpam/transport-inter-insulaire/les-avis-de-depart-des-navires-de-commerce-en-partance-de-tahiti-vers-les-archipels-3-2/>

It is always a good idea to know when the supply ship arrives so you can take advantage of buying diesel, gasoline, cheaper beer by the case, flour, rice, and fresh produce.

When they have stock, you can purchase diesel, gasoline, flour and rice directly from the ships. Keep in mind, they don't always have stock (especially when they stop at other islands prior to arriving in the Marquesas). Diesel and gasoline should be pre-ordered.

MV Aranui 5: +689 40 50 89 60

Timetable - leaving/arriving Tahiti: <https://aranui.com/schedule-2019/>

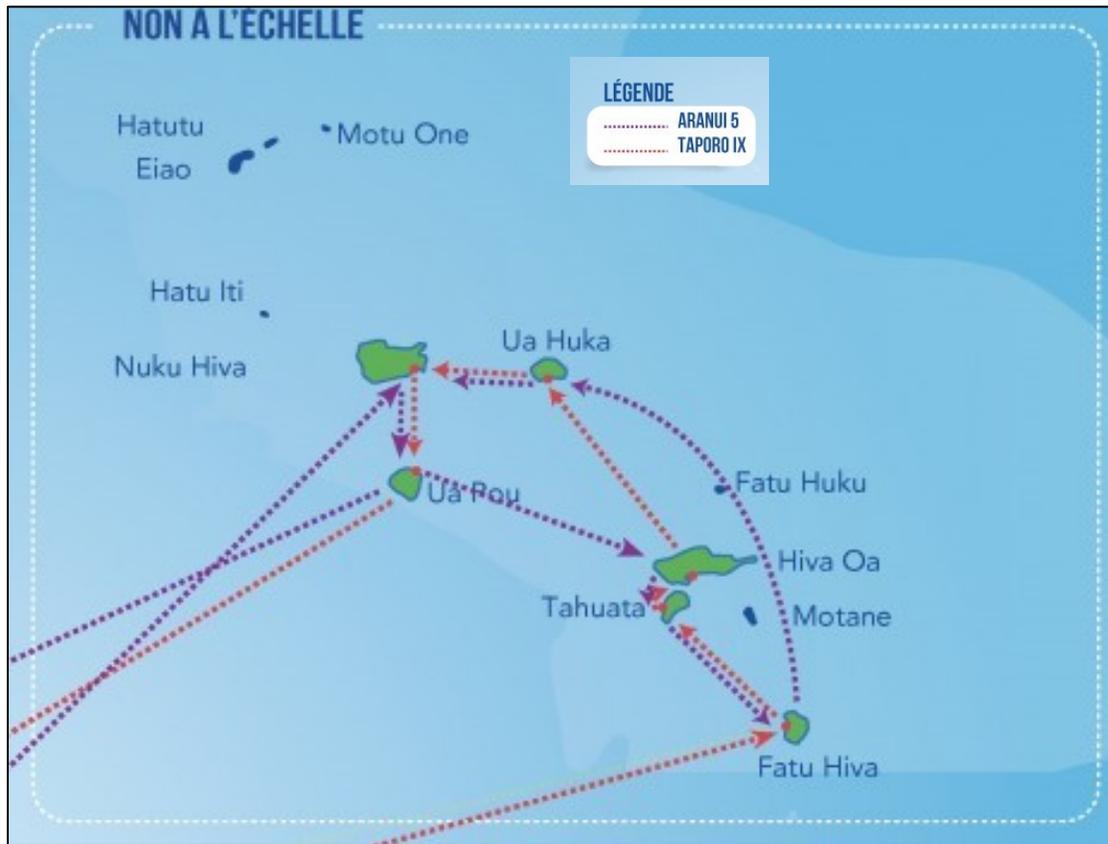
Itinerary - when on which island: <https://aranui.com/itinerary-dashboard-2019/>

MV Taporo 9 - Tel: +689 40 63 93 or +689 40 42 63 93 Email is taporo@mail.pf

The Port of Papeete has a schedule of departures for all ships, including the Taporo. You can find the next few Taporo departures on this link: [Search Papeete Port Info for Taporo](#)

There are also Cruise ships (2000+ persons), stopping in Taiohae, Nuku Hiva for some hours.





Taitonga – January 2019: For some harbours it might be good to know when they arrive and will use the harbour-basin for manoevers, e.g. in Hiva Oa. It is also good to know when to shop as they are replenished and ready to sell the next day. Also, when a cruise ship is in port, the phone network usually suffers.

1.7.13 Yacht in Transit - Spare Parts

March 2021: Tahiti Cruiser's Guide: This information resource for the cruising community covers all of French Polynesia. Lots of info about what's available in Tahiti, and how to ship stuff in if what you need is not available. <http://www.tahiticruisersguide.com> – Soggy Paws

March 2021 – Very useful information on shipping and transporting items into French Polynesia has been compiled and posted at <https://www.jacarandajourney.com/shippingitems>. – Jacaranda

Sept. 2013: Spare parts/equipment required to repair a vessel under the temporary admission status ("admission temporaire"), may be imported and cleared through customs without paying customs dues. However, since July 2013, these goods must be declared for export when you check out of French Polynesia.

Yachts owners/skippers can import/export goods by themselves, however there is a lot of paperwork involved and the process can be "tricky". Assistance of a yacht agent can be very helpful (which also includes extra services like collecting the shipment at the port/airport and arranging final delivery to the yacht). If the total of the shipment is over 350 Euros you are now required to have an agent under the new law.

Fees involved for bringing in spare parts are those charged by the customs broker (for the 2 Customs declarations / paperwork for "temporary admission" and then "final exportation) and NOT for Customs duties. These fees depend on the shipment's CIF value (goods value + insurance+ freight). On average, fees invoiced by the customs broker for each declaration are between 10 and 25.000 CFP/XPF depending on the CIF value (1 Euros = 119,33 CFP/XPF, 1 USD is currently 100 CFP/XPF). DHL can be both your shipper and agent. – Noonsite

1.7.14 Medical & Prescriptions

See individual islands for medical facilities and physicians.

The [Tahiti Cruisers Guide](#) has a detailed list of physicians, specialists, and hospitals in Papeete and other locations in the outer islands.

Obtaining Medicine and Prescription Drugs

2017: Patrick Ly (pharmaciedetiarei@mail.pf +689 87 79 16 93) runs his own pharmacy in northern Tahiti, but is available to all of French Polynesia via email, text, phone, and Skype. He speaks English well and is willing to ship medications anywhere in FP. He understands cruisers' needs to order large volumes and is very helpful in finding alternatives. If he can't provide a specific solution, he will say so. – Kandu

1.7.15 Provisions (Groceries)

See individual islands section for specifics on magasins, markets, and fresh produce options in those areas. Most islands with villages will have some type of magasin.

The Marquesas has pretty good growing weather, and the French know how to eat, so veggies and tropical fruits are in pretty good supply. But the supply of everything gets kind of "thin" when all the boats arrive in the Marquesas.

There are good stores at Atuona (Hiva Oa), Taiohae (Nuka Hiva), and Hakahau (Ua Pou). All are better after the Ara Nui has been there. The Ara Nui 3 is a combination cruise ship and freighter, and visits the islands about every 3 weeks.

There was a small store in Hanavave (Fatu Hiva), which had staples, and frozen meat. Though the shelves and freezer were pretty empty until the Ara Nui 3 got there. You will need Polynesian Francs, though.

Make sure you leave the Marquesas with a good supply. The Tuamotus, being low atolls, don't grow much, so veggies are hard to come by. See the Tuamotus Compendium for info on where you'll find groceries.

There are a number of items that are "red tagged" which means they are subsidized by the government. They are usually "staples" and are offered at a significant discount - so keep an eye out for them and save!

Staples...flour, milk, eggs, butter, rice, canned food, etc are available in almost magasin. But veggies get very difficult to find, especially if the supply ship hasn't been in recently. Locals grow fresh fruit and vegetables and will usually sell them to you with a smile. If you see fresh veggies, buy them immediately--they may not be there when you're ready to re-provision.

Meats: are located in large, top-loading white freezers. Don't be shy to dig through the freezer to find what you want. Also ask—many smaller stores have more stuff out back, or in their house. Much of the meat when frozen is hard to determine what it is, so don't be bashful—ask.

Chicken: Frozen chicken, mostly leg quarters, but sometimes even boneless skinless breasts—easy to find. Chicken pieces (chunks) and legs are usually in stock. They also sell large boxes with 15kilos of chicken legs for around 3000xpf (\$30) which can be shared with your friends or you can purchase a smaller box.

Beef: The beef we found was hard to identify and sometimes only suitable for stew meat. It is also often packaged in larger packages than a normal cruiser would want to deal with.

Lamb: We found nice lamb from NZ, but often the lamb is packaged as a large leg, costing around \$30 USD. Again, the best time to shop is immediately after the supply boat comes in. Usually the stores will close for a few hours while they restock. As soon as they open, the good stuff is gone in a few hours.

Fruit & Veg: Many locals grow fruit including papayas, mangos, pamplemousse, avocado, lychee, peppers, bananas, melons, pumpkins, limes, oranges). Do not pick fruit from the trees or take it off the ground without asking permission first. Every tree belongs to someone.

1.7.16 Trading

Jan. 2020: PLEASE think twice about trading booze and gun shells with the local population. Many people ask for alcohol in the islands but there is a VERY high rate of domestic abuse in all of French Polynesia. By trading or giving alcohol you could possibly be adding to the problem. In addition, the cops may not react well, either they want some too or they don't want you trading it into their village.

Good items are snorkel gear, women's cosmetics, fishing equipment, good quality backpacks, toys, school supplies, even gasoline.

It's best to just take what you have to trade with and see what they will give. They aren't trying to steal from you, but they aren't going to give their stuff away either. We always give some little thing in exchange for fruit too. We've never paid cash for pamplemousse, limes, or bananas. – Jacaranda

1.7.17 Translation Services

Sabine Wissert translates French, English, and German. +689 87 32 55 47 and sabinewissert@yahoo.fr or view her website www.ca-papeete.justice.fr (page 33 and 35). She is a freelance translator and has been providing certified translations to French authorities and public administrations (legal documents, carte de jure, long-stay visas, residency permits, contracts, etc...). Contact her for a quote.

1.8 Communications

1.8.1 VHF Channels

Many cruisers tend to listen to 72 and 16 and use 72 as a HAILING-channel amongst CRUISERS.

General VHF Advice that applies to all areas: Be aware that on high power, a good VHF will transmit 25 miles line of sight. So, if you are only doing within-anchorage communications, switch to low power. On the flip side, if you are trying to call across island, or to the next island, use high power, and turn your squelch down. Make sure you are aware which channels are automatic low power (ie 17, 67 on some radios), and stay away from the low-power channels for long distance conversations.

Though widely spaced in channel number, channels 16, 68, and 18 are very close to each other in frequency. Most VHF antennas are 'tuned' for channel 16, so long distance communications will work best on 16, 18 or 68. Conversely, in a crowded anchorage, transmission on high power on channel 18 or 68 may 'bleed' over to channel 16 (and almost any other channel, if you're close enough). You don't need high power to talk to the boat next to you, so turn your radio to Low Power!!

Also be aware that some channels that Americans use frequently are 'duplex' channels in International mode. So, for example, you may have trouble communicating with a European boat, or an American boat whose radio is in International mode, on Channel 18. (see any VHF guide for the full list of international and US channels and frequencies, but any US channel designated 'a', like 18a, 22a, etc will cause trouble with VHF's in international mode).

Make sure you ask in each port what the local channels are--both so you know how to reach someone ashore and so you know not to use those channels for your off-channel conversations.

Jan. 2019 – VHF Channels. – Taitonga

SAR: 06, 10, 11,
Port: 12
Ship-Ship: 08, 72, 77

1.8.2 SSB Nets

Poly Mag Net (formerly known as the Polynesian Magellan Net): Found at 8.173USB. There are two scheduled net times. The morning net is at 1800Z and the evening net is 04:00Z. For reference, 1800Z is 08:00 Tahiti,

0830 Marquesas, 0800 Tuamotus, and 0900 Gambier. And 04:00Z is 6:00pm Tahiti, 6:30pm Marquesas, 6:00pm Tuamotus, and 7:00pm Gambier.

They track vessels underway, monitor anchorage and weather conditions, and help cruisers stay connected. It is a great way to track your passage and have assistance when needed.

During off season (Nov-March), the morning net is only for emergency traffic and vessels underway. This is a great opportunity to provide your lat/long, sea and wind conditions, and other vital information during your passage. There may be times when the morning net may be suspended until season. However, the evening net occurs daily throughout the year and is open vessels underway and general check ins.

Pacific Seafarer's Net: If you're a ham, for longer passages, we always checked in with the Pacific Seafarer's Net. This is also a good frequency to have saved in case of emergency—the Hams on the PacSea net will move heaven and earth to help any boat with a true emergency—ham operator or not. Even when there is no net going on this frequency, there are often hams monitoring the frequency for emergency traffic.

The Pacsea net operates on 14,300Khz USB at 0300 UTC. They start with a 'warmup session' at 0300, where you can call in and chat, and maybe hook up with someone who will make a phone call to the US for you. The "Roll Call" (boats who have checked in regularly and indicated they are underway) starts at 0310 UTC, and when they finish (30-60 minutes later), they call for boats getting ready to go on passage to get on the Roll Call list for tomorrow's net.

It's always a good idea to listen up on a structured net for a day or so to get the rhythm of the net, before calling in. You can call in for a radio check during the warmup period, or just after the formal net ends. There are usually people on the net who will do a "phone patch" for you—just ask.

Pacific Maritime Radio (formerly Northland Maritime Radio) offers a tracking check in service for vessels underway (fee required). PMR is located in the Bay of Islands, New Zealand. Peter recently installed a new large antenna and has been able to work boats throughout most of the South and Central Pacific and as far as Alaska from New Zealand. Learn more and contact Peter Mott at <http://pmr.nz>

1.8.3 Telephones & Cell Phones

See individual islands for internet access. Most post offices will sell sim cards and most atolls have pay phone booths in the main villages. The French Poly Country-Code is: +689

Also, see Wifi / Internet as most resources for wifi / internet include calling.

Vini - <https://www.vini.pf/mobile/international/international-visitors>

Vini sim cards can be used for both internet and calling. However, data seems to burn through quickly with the bad connections and some data has "disappeared" off of cards. Vini sim cards and top up cards can be purchased at the post office.

Jan. 2021: GoogleFi works in most places Vini works. Vini tended to work in most anchorages. – Sugar Shack

Jan. 2019: The cellphone reception between the islands can go as far as 10nm+ (e.g. between Ua Pou / Nuku-Hiva). When a cruise ship has arrived, the network seems to get an overload-breakdown. It is possible to change the language to english (if you find someone who understands how. – Taitonga

2019 verified (May 2017) - VINI Intenet/data sim As reported, the sim cards do sell out - so don't delay in sourcing one if you want one! - They sold out same day I picked up my card - I just made it!

You must take your id to the post office to purchase SIM cards. (they will ask for your Passport, but I forgot mine and was able to use driver's license).

Top up cards may not be available in all denominations - so again buy when you see them!

If your device takes a smaller SIM than the one provided- ask at post office for them to cut it down to size (they have a special tool).

Default password for SIM is 0000 (does not seem to be in documentation - you will have 3 attempts to get this correct)

I inserted data SIM in my unlocked iPhone 4S and did not need to change any settings go get internet on my phone. Connection was often 'E' Edge - not even 2G - so be warned!

Personal Hotspot - Inserting SIM into my iPhone - 'personal hotspot' feature was initially disabled (removed from iPhone menu structure - presumably blocked by VINI but I really wanted it so I could get the internet from my laptop too... I managed to get it working on my iPhone - but not 100% sure what did it... but here is what I did:

- I went into settings -> cellular ->cellular data options -> cellular data network -> scroll down and in PERSONAL HOTSPOT section set APN to "internet" and no username or password - then restarted iPhone...(not sure if that was necessary!)
- From 'settings -> Cellular' menu - there should now be a 'Personal Hotspot' option - turn that on

Then the 'Personal Hotspot' option should be available in the main settings menu

Works best (most useful) when connected via USB to laptop (rather than wifi mode)

I also managed to get an old MIFI device (from the UK!) working - but only on 2G and painfully slow - such that most web pages simply would not load... so I gave up with that and stuck with the iPhone hotspot.

When first installed you need to recharge at least once in 30 days to keep the card active. After that the card can remain dormant for up to 3+ months before it gets deactivated.

Due to limited data on SIM (500Mb) and top-ups (100-400Mb), and low speed. I recommend keeping your device phone in airplane mode to be sure to only use data when really needed it (when you can simply turn off airplane mode).

With VINI SIM in - Text the message 'CONSO' to #7100 - and sometime later (maybe up to 20 minutes) you will get a reply text with your balance and end date. – Begonia

2016 verified (2010 / 2011) You must have a cell phone that can operate on the European frequencies (or a tri or quad band phone). Can be purchased locally but pricey. We use a cheap BLU all band cell phone we bought for \$17 on Amazon when we were in the US figuring if we had it stolen it would be no big loss. Still working 4 years later. It has a dual sim card setup that makes it easy to switch between countries or charge our USB dongle SIM card.

We did not find a town that did not have telephone access. Even tiny towns had at least one phone booth at the Post Office/Mairie (Town Hall).

Now days (2016) almost everyone uses cell phones and there are towers spread thru out the Marquesas. We have been able to get cell access in some very rural areas. Buy telephone minutes as prepaid cards in the post office or many of the small shops and you can call world-wide. Prepaid cards start at 500F and up. We have given our family our FP cell phone number and they call us on our cell via Skype. Incoming calls are free in FP.

The cellular operator in French Polynesia is called 'Vini'. Voice SIM cards are available in most of the main post offices in Hiva Oa, Ua Pou, Nuka Hiva, etc. Data SIM cards are more difficult and occasionally are available in Nuka Hiva but we ended up having a fellow cruiser buy one in Tahiti and bring it to the Marquesas. Was NOT available in Hiva Oa the past 9 months but ask at the post office.

The Marquesas area does not have 3G, only 2G, and hence the data transfer is "extremely slow".

Places we KNOW had cell phone access in the Marquesas:

Fatu Hiva, both Omoa and Hana Vave;
Hiva Oa, in Atuona;
Tahuata in the 2 bays with towns

Ua Pou, in Hakahau
Nuku Hiva: Taiohae, Haaupu

1.8.4 Wifi / Internet Access

See individual island section for specifics on internet options in those areas. See the Telephones and Cell Phones section for updated information on Vini Cell Data and GoogleFi.

Wifi is also available in some locations, and wifi access is purchased using Vini pre-paid cards.

Vini Wifi Network - <http://www.vinispot.pf/index.php?lang=english>

Reminder: Internet access in parts French Polynesia is via satellite and is REALLY SLOW. Do your fellow cruisers a favor and turn off ALL automatic downloads (Windows Updates, podcast downloads, etc). Limit your Skype calls and turn off the video. Then we can all get our email, and be able to access important website information!!

For Internet options via Cellphone see: www.tahiticruisersguide.com and <https://www.vini.pf/mobile/international/international-visitors>

VINI 3G & 4G Internet

If you plan to be in FP for more than nine months then there are two options for 3G internet access either with your smart phone, 3g capable tablet or with a Vini 3g router. This is rather complicated to get as it requires letters from a marina to the Vini company to set up. Again, a detailed account is available at the online Tahiti Cruiser's Guide.

March 2022: There are now Vini 4G sim cards for sale in the major towns in the Marquesas (and I suspect other islands too). – Soggy Paws

Sept. 2019: Vini is able to run both data and voice. However, data is very expensive and slow. We found that where our Vini sim card worked so did our GoogleFi leading us to believe that GoogleFi was using Vini services. Both were 2G and very slow, but it was access. – Sugar Shack

April 2019: At the end 2018 the islands are starting to get connected via a fiber optic cable with the world, so speed should go up (someday, at least in the major places ... :-)

In Papeete we downloaded 1GB in 20 minutes, in Hiva-Oa 5MB in 20 minutes)

VINI-SIM-cards can be purchased at the Post-Office (bring your passport!) for ca. 1000CFP (with some credit on it), as well recharge-scratch-cards with 500 or 1000 XPF, it might be possible to recharge via internet as well.

If you text "conso" to 7100 you get an SMS in return with your credit amount and left period to use it.

With a cell phone SIM you can do data as well. (e.g. using mobileVOIP on an android phone gives you more calling minutes.

Aug 2018: Internet in French Poly is slow and limited. Particularly the cellular network is still 2g. Using our Fi Phones, we can just barely send and receive e-mails, no surfing the web, etc. But change is coming! We are told that a new undersea cable is being run from Papeete, and will bring these islands up to a much higher standard. The cable has already made it as far as the Tuamotus. We also saw a poster up on a bulletin board here announcing this. It showed a diagrammatic chart, showing both undersea cables between bigger islands, and microwave links to smaller ones. We cruisers seem to like our wifi, and the locals will also get addicted quite quickly, I expect. Another one of those mixed blessings, I expect. – Kokpeli

1.8.5 News

Here are some sources of news that we used to keep abreast of what was happening in the world.

1.8.5.1 English Language Voice News

After a lot of research on the internet before we left Central America, but I found that what worked best was to dial around on the 9Mhz band at the time of day I wanted to listen to news (morning and evening are the best times for propagation).

We found the BBC on 9695 am at 1600-1700 UTC (mornings) and 12095 usb at 0100UTC (afternoons).

Radio NZ

9.580 AM FP time

11.725 PM FP Time

15.720 PM FP time

30-minute BBC broadcast at 16:00-16:30 Tahiti local time on Radio NZ

Radio Australia

15.240 PM FP Time

17.840 PM FP Time

Voice of America does claim to broadcast to French Polynesia, but all the broadcasts are in the middle of the night in French Poly. 1230-1300 UTC on 9600 and 1400-1430 UTC on 9830. Soggy Paws

Sept. 2018: We have not found any BBC news via SSB or anything besides radio New Zealand (11.725) 18:00 local. Radio NZ gives very little or nothing of international news but does cover NZ. Frequencies we have listened to for radio NZ are 7.425, 11.725, 15.720 check around 1700Z-1900Z

We use an app called SWBC Sked that covers the whole world but appears that the freq list has not been updated since we downloaded it 3 years ago. Soggy Paws is right SW broadcasts are being phased out – Jacaranda

2011: As the internet proliferates, English-language voice broadcasts seem to be dwindling. Many of the broadcasts you can find these days by dialing around are either religious-oriented, or anti-American oriented (so listen carefully!).

1.8.5.2 News via Email

2018: We use the NPR (US National Public Radio) news feed when away from internet. It gives a headline with a short 2-3 line of data. There is some text that you have to ignore but does give you a basic summary of US News. You can receive this via Saildocs--send an email to query@saildocs.com with this in the body:

send <http://www.npr.org/sections/news/> – Jacaranda

2011: We had success, using Sailmail, in subscribing to a 'daily news email' from Reuters. We set it up so it went to a shore email address, and then we used Sailmail's Shadowmail feature to retrieve the daily emails when we needed news, and had good enough propagation, to retrieve the email, stripped of all the graphics and stuff.

The daily 'US News', coming in through Sailmail, was only 7Kb. It contains the 'top 10' headlines, with a one sentence summary of each. Check out Reuters <http://links.reuters.com>. – Soggy Paws

1.9 Getting Visitors In and Out

All flights into French Polynesia go through Tahiti first, and then to airports in the major centers in the other archipelagos.

If you arrive with crew onboard your vessel, you MUST sign them off the crew list via Immigration before they leave the boat. Likewise, crew coming onboard via air and leaving via boat should be signed onto your crew list. Ask your agent or the Immigration office in your arrival port for current procedures.

Jan. 2020: Nuku Hiva airport is on the North side of the island where there are no anchorages. Most people anchor in Taiohae Bay and have their guests take a taxi for an average price of \$30/pp. Using NHYS it is \$40 but a guarantee they will show up. – Sugar Shack

Dec. 2018 - Interisland-Ferry: Hiva-Oa, Tahuata, Fatu-Hiva: "Te Ata O Hiva" - red motorboat for 40 pax. Does regular round trips Hiva-Oa => Tahuata => Fatu-Hiva => Tahuata => Hiva-Oa on Monday, Wednesday (not to Fatu Hiva), Friday; starts 06:00 returns 17:30, e.g. one-way 2500XPF to Tahuata, 4000 to Fatu-Hiva, carries freight as well (2018) Bruno 87 718 548, 40 927 307. – Taitonga

2018: Flights from the Marquesas to Papeete have a baggage restriction but if you are connecting to an international flight you will be given an extra baggage allowance. First book your international flight (checking first that the Air Tahiti flight is available) then take your booking info to the Air Tahiti office (Nuka Hiva, Hiva Oa, Ua Pou) and show them the international flight info. They will then issue you a Air Tahiti ticket that reflects international connection and additional baggage allowance.

When coming into the country and then connecting to the Marquesas, we have placed our extra bags on the ship Taparo and had them shipped into Hiva Oa. It was cheap. If you do not want to do this yourself then using Tahiti Crew as an agent they can facilitate this for you for a small fee. – Jacaranda

1.10 Diving

See each individual island for more information on diving in those areas.

Jan. 2020: Nuku Hiva, Taiohae Bay has a dive shop located to the right of Nuku Hiva Yacht Services. There is no sign, but a dive sticker is on the door. I believe his hours are the same as the trinket shop to his right, but to be honest it seemed he worked when he wanted to. He did fill our tanks for about 1000xpf and he turned them around in 6 hours. – Sugar Shack

2011: There is a dive shop on the harbor near Yacht Services in Taiohae. We did not talk to them. But most bays in the Marquesas are not that clear due to run-off. Some people have talked about diving from Anaho—in the outer part of the bay where the water is clearer. The western side of Nuka Hiva is very dry, and looked like the water was much clearer in general than the rest of Nuka Hiva. – Soggy Paws

1.11 Haulout, Storage, and Repair Facilities

See individual islands for additional information on marinas and haulout facilities.

Jan. 2020: Hiva Oa has a haul out facility called Maintenance Marquises Service. +689 87 73 90 45 Fax: +689 40 92 75 05, www.maintenancemarquises.com. They can haul monohulls and multihulls. But they can only haul during high tide and are often booked. So, plan in advance if you want to do work here. – Sugar Shack

May 2016: There is a newly opened yard and haul out facility in Atuona, Hiva Oa. The owner, a Frenchman, purchased a state-of-the-art hydraulic trailer that from what I heard is similar to that used in Apataki.

The yard is newly opened and there are no facilities yet (bathroom, showers, etc.) At this time all paint, parts, etc must be ordered from Tahiti and delivered by either ship (paint) or plane.

We have spoken to a few of the boats that are now back in the water and all were pleased. Note: In helping a Cat haulout I'd recommend having a friend in a dinghy in the water to watch where the aft pads are aligned.

Haulout is available in the Tuamotus, in Apataki, and in the Socieites, in Tahiti, and in Raitea. – Jacaranda

1.11.1 Liability Insurance for Haul out

Most haul out facilities, marinas, yards will require liability insurance. If you need liability insurance to be hauled out, we heard that Poe-Ma Insurances is decent. +689 40 50 26 50, Fax: +689 40 45 00 97, infor@poema.pf, Located at Marina Fare Ute, B.P. 4 652 – 98713 Papeete, Tahiti. Boat insurance broker working with all marine insurance companies. Offices also in New Caledonia, France, and La Reunion.

2020: We approached Poe-Ma Insurance to obtain liability insurance for marina stays and they refused us as a U.S. vessel. We went to the main office in Papeete. – Jacanda

1.11.2 Surveyors

See [Tahiti Cruisers Guide](#) for a list of available surveyors. They are all located in the Societies, but are willing to travel to the outer islands.

Jan. 2021: Patrice Beuscher has retired and is no longer offering survey services.

Sept. 2020: Christophe Citeau +689 87 79 63 81 chrisciteau@mail.pf is a marine surveyor based out of Taha'a. He is not NAMs or SAMS certified. However, our insurance company approved his services after reviewing one of his surveys on a similar catamaran. We were scheduled for a haul out at Raiatea Carenage and Chris provided to be very responsive. He came out to the boat twice to do the out of water evaluation and the in-water evaluation.

The out of water evaluation took all of 6 minutes (if that). Now granted our boat is in good condition, but the timing was a little surprising. He looked at the hulls for structural damage, tapped around, evaluated our props, rudders, dagger boards, through hulls, and anchor.

The in-water survey took 3.5 hours. I had sent him a detailed list of all of our equipment on board (make, model, manufacturer, year, location) prior to his arrival which I am sure made his job a lot easier. We created this 2 years ago after our lightning strike. For our 2001 Catana 471 he charged us 73150xpf.

The report was fine, but I found him to be unyielding and unreasonable when it came to a few items. We disagreed with the value of our boat and he would not change his mind. Even after I showed him a few other similar boats and our last survey. Had he remained a little flexible I would highly recommend him, but he would not listen to reason or logic so I must say be careful. – Sugar Shack

Nov. 2019: (*information obsolete as of Jan 2021*) Patrice Beuscher (+689 87 32 55 cabinet.maritime.beuscher@gmail.com). He lives in Papeete but will travel to other islands to survey boats. He is a Lloyd's agent, marine surveyor, Cook Island and Flag State Surveyor and has been assuming surveys in FP for 9 years working with insurers all over the world. IMIS approves him. He speaks English, but has had issues with "translation" with a few boats.

His recommendations for boat yards are listed in priority order: Technimarine Shipyard (Papeete, Tahiti), then Raiatea Carenage Shipyard (Uturoaa, Raiatea, Society), third choice is Hiva Oa.

One boat reported that he is just an "ok" surveyor, report of "tick boxes" some contradicted other boxes. Did not complete or correct report. We reached out to him for a possible survey which we ended up not having to do. We found him "fairly" responsive and willing to provide information such as boat yards. – Sugar Shack

1.12 Festivals

Jan. 2020: To add to Jacaranda's post. We attended the 11th annual Marquesan Arts Festival in Ua Pou and it was an incredible experience. It was not like other festivals where there are competitions and sporting events. Instead it is about passing down the stories and heritage to the young and keeping their culture alive. They do this through song and dance; wood, stone, and bone carvings and tattooing (traditional and modern). Days are filled with educational conferences, dance/song events, demonstrations, and showcases of talent. It was truly amazing. I would highly recommend you attend a future festival if given the chance.

The Marquesas hold a smaller cultural festival every two years. – Sugar Shack

March 2016 - Marquesan Festival of the Arts "Matava'a": This 10th Marquesan Arts Festival was the most amazing cultural event in all our years of travel. It occurs every four years and it is not for tourists and outsiders but for the Marquesans themselves to reclaim and revitalize the culture of their ancestors which almost went extinct when the French colonized them and forbade anything related to their indigenous traditions in 1815.

All six populated islands send delegations of dancers and drummers to perform for their brothers and add to the knowledge of what was lost....and to transmit this culture to the children and future generations. It is an honor and privilege to be here to see them renew themselves as a rare exotic bird coming back from the brink of extinction, like watching the phoenix rise from the ashes right before our eyes. One day there was a free lunch for everyone - cooked in the traditional pit-in-the-ground oven. We had to bring "natural" plates to get served so I learned how to plait coconut fronds to make a bowl. We have seen most of the Marquesan friends we made on the other islands which was really fun.

Here is a short video trailer about the Festival which I hope you can watch -

https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=5&v=QQ0h0WYIR-Y. We know many of the people who are in the trailer - like Robert - the guy on the horse in the stream - he works in the gas station. It will be a while before I can edit and post my own photos on jacarandajourney.com - I took too many!

The major festival is held once every 4 years and the next one will be in Ua Pou in Dec 2019. All the Marquesas islands, Rapa Nui, Mangareva, Rapa Nui along with 2-3 Marquesan dance troupes from Tahiti will be participating. The islands start practicing 6 months before the festival and if you are lucky to be here during that time each evening you will hear drums and singing in villages all over the Marquesas.

The minor festival (Only Marquesas) is held every two years and the next one will be in Tahuata in 2017. – Jacaranda

1.13 Eating the Fish (Ciguatera!)

A comprehensive look at ciguatera can be downloaded from Jacaranda (Look for "You Gonna Eat That Fish?" Info about Ciguatera):

<https://www.jacarandajourney.com/ciguatera>

Learn about Fishing in French Polynesia: [Fishing in French Polynesia: \(jacarandajourney.com\)](https://www.jacarandajourney.com/fishing)

July 2019: The incidence of Ciguatera in the Marquesas has risen recently, with several cruising boats reporting getting sick from eating fish in 2019. – Jacaranda

Jan. 2019: Wikipedia: Ciguatera fish poisoning, also known simply as ciguatera, is a foodborne illness caused by eating reef fish whose flesh is contaminated with certain toxins. Ciguatera Fish Poisoning commonly occurs in tropical and subtropical areas, particularly in the Pacific Ocean, the Indian Ocean, and the Caribbean Sea.

Symptoms may include diarrhea, vomiting, numbness, itchiness, sensitivity to hot and cold, dizziness, and weakness. The onset of symptoms varies with the amount of toxin eaten from half an hour to up to two days. The diarrhea may last for up to four days.

Some symptoms typically remain for a few weeks to months. Heart difficulties such as slow heart rate and low blood pressure may also occur.

The specific toxins involved are ciguatoxin and maitotoxin. They are originally made by a small marine organism, *Gambierdiscus toxicus*, that grows on and around coral reefs in tropical and subtropical waters. These are eaten by herbivorous fish which in turn are eaten by larger carnivorous fish. The toxins become more concentrated as they move up the food chain.

Any reef fish can cause ciguatera poisoning, but species such as barracuda, grouper, red snapper, moray eel, amberjack, parrotfish, hogfish, sturgeonfish, kingfish, coral trout, and sea bass are the most commonly affected. Ciguatoxins are concentrated in the fish liver, intestines, heads, and roe. The toxins do not affect the taste, texture, or odour of the fish and cannot be destroyed by cooking, smoking, freezing, salting or any other method of food preparation. Outbreaks can occur seasonally or sporadically, particularly after storms. Not all fish of a given species or from a given area will be toxic.

Preventive efforts include not eating reef fish, not eating high-risk fish such as barracuda, and not eating fish liver, roe, or fish heads. Ciguatoxin has no taste or smell, and cannot be destroyed by conventional cooking. There is no specific treatment for ciguatera fish poisoning once it occurs. Mannitol may be considered, but the

evidence supporting its use is not very strong. Gabapentin or amitriptyline may be used to treat some of the symptoms.

The US Centers for Disease Control estimates that around 50,000 cases occur a year. Other estimates vary up to 500,000 cases per year. It is the most frequent seafood poisoning. It occurs most commonly in the Pacific Ocean, Indian Ocean, and the Caribbean Sea between the latitudes of 35°N and 35°S. The risk of the condition appears to be increasing due to coral reef deterioration and increasing trade in seafood. The risk of death from poisoning is less than 1 in 1,000. Descriptions of the condition date back to at least 1511. The current name came into use in 1787.

2010: I personally know someone who got a severe case of Ciguatera in the Bahamas—3 boats shared the same large yellowtail snapper at a potluck. By morning, they were all very sick, and were so sick they could not operate their boats, and some required immediate hospitalization. They called the Bahamas Air Sea Rescue for help, and a couple of people from each boat were so sick that they were airlifted off for immediate hospitalization. They spent at least a month recovering, and even a year later reported lingering symptoms. As the toxin is cumulative, they can never eat another fish.

In the Tuamotus, locals told us “bring us the fish and tell us exactly where you caught it, and we will tell you if you can eat it.” However, locals do get ciguatera too! – Soggy Paws

1.14 Manta Ray Reporting

Citizen science Manta Ray reporting will show you how to identify and photograph manta rays and then submit the information to French Polynesia Manta Research in Mo’orea. Visit: <https://www.jacarandajourney.com/citizenscience>.

1.15 Cruising Information Sources

1.15.1 Tahiti Cruisers Guide Online

[Tahiti Cruisers Guide Online](#). This is a Cruising Guide for all of French Polynesia (not just Tahiti). Started by Chuck on Jacaranda and Julien Desmont a local French sailor living in Papeete. Julien Desmont built the website and is hosting it as well. Can be downloaded as a pdf, in case you need to try to arrange parts or repairs before you get there (without internet access). If you find a service/store that is not listed please send updates.

1.15.2 Facebook Groups

The primary groups on Facebook for information on French Polynesia are:

French Poly Cruisers <http://facebook.com/frenchpolynesiacruziers> 2000 members

A French Polynesia Cruiser Facebook group offers a great way to stay up to date on news and related information. Join the group for free, contribute updates, and stay in the loop. If the above link does not work, search for “French Polynesia Cruisers” in groups on Facebook.

Puces Nautiques is a buy, sell, trade Facebook Group in French Polynesia.

Pacific Puddle Jump <https://web.facebook.com/groups/1102530253191598/> 630 members

Pacific Voyagers 2020 <https://web.facebook.com/groups/PPJ2020fleet/> 903 members

1.15.3 AVP (Sailing Association of French Polynesia)

<https://www.helloasso.com/associations/association-des-voiliers-en-polynesie>

AVP is the Sailing Association of French Polynesia. This is a non-profit organization dedicated to assisting cruisers in French Polynesia. For a minimal fee (\$18/year) you can support them financially as they fight our cruising rights: anchorages, safer moorings, and a more positive cruising experience for you.

If you need translation, go to <http://voiliers.asso.pf>, click on tab “Devenir member” on top right, then click on “creer un compte” fill in your email, your identifier, password, name, boat name, and click “sourmettre”. To pay go to “Payer son adhesion” click adhesion 2020, (about \$18 USD) then “etape suivante.”

They have a Facebook page too: <https://www.facebook.com/DesVoiliers/>

1.15.4 Pacific Puddle Jump Group

<https://groups.io/g/PacificPuddleJump>

This group is where the people gathering in South and Central America meet to share information about crossing the big puddle. Fortunately, many previous years’ jumpers come back and share their information with the newbies. A good source of information, but not very organized, and full of bloat from people who ask the same questions over and over again, without doing any research of their own. This group recently moved to Groups IO. Older information previously found on Yahoo will not be updated, so please visit the Groups IO for new information. (as of Nov. 2019)

You must be a member to read or post anything on this site, but if you are getting ready for a Pacific crossing, it is well worth a few minutes to sign up for Groups IO and then sign up for this group. Be sure to explore the Files and Links pages, there is lots more information there.

1.15.5 Noonsite

<http://www.noonsite.com>

Originally started by Jimmy Cornell, this site is a great repository of information for all those out-of-the-way places. Made possible by YOUR contributions.

1.15.6 Seven Seas Cruising Association

<http://www.ssca.org>

The SSCA is a world-wide organization for cruisers whose primary function is to exchange information about cruising destinations. They have a monthly publication that is mostly letters from cruisers about the areas they are cruising. They also have a good website and a well-attended bulletin board. Membership is reasonable, and the monthly publication is available electronically every month.

Back articles/letters have recently been organized on a “Destinations” page on the website on a regional/location basis, so it is now much easier to browse what’s on offer for a given area.

1.15.7 Stopover Handbook for French Polynesia

June 2020: The old 40-page color brochure created by the French Polynesia Tourism Bureau and the Port de Papeete doesn’t seem to still around.

Instead, you can download the Stopover Handbook for French Polynesia from this site:

<https://en.pf.yellowflagguides.com/>

Note: If you can't find it on this website, the latest version I have found will be posted here:

<http://svsoggypaws.com/files/#frpoly>

1.15.8 Sea Seek

<http://sea-seek.com/index.php?geo=1480>

A French-maintained site that covers French Polynesia. They have assembled a pretty good harbor by harbor group of information (using Google Earth and Maxsea Chartlets). But it is mostly in French. It is possible to use Google or BabelFish Translate functions.

1.15.9 Cruiser Reports

We are indebted to the people and organizations below for documenting their experiences and sharing them with us. We can't do this alone and rely on cruisers sharing updated information. So, please be sure to document and email us your notes.

A few details about the boats are included, where we know them, so you can assess what 'a foot under the keel' means, for example. Every section is a mix of several sources.

2022 Contributors: Askari, Flite Deck, Rhapsody, Sparklemuffin, Deinemeid, Sierra Wind, Jamala

Jacaranda (2016-2021): Jacaranda with Chuck and Linda aboard spent a year in the Marquesas before moving on to do the Tuamotus slowly in 2016, and from 2016-2021, they cruised all over French Polynesia. They have been sending us reports to add to the Compendia, and also posting more information and details on their website: <http://jacarandajourney.com> and the Tahiti Cruisers Guide.

Sugar Shack (2019-2021): Matt and Christine on Sugar Shack arrived in Gambier in early 2019 and have been sailing French Polynesia a year and a half. Sugar Shack is a Catana 471 catamaran: 47' long, 26' wide, 1' draft. They've sailed from Turkey to the Caribbean, through the Panama Canal, to Costa Rica, Galapagos, Chile, Easter Island, and French Polynesia. Sugar Shack has passed through the Tuamotus three different times. <http://www.svsugarshack.com>

Trance (Dec 2020 - Jan 2021): s/v TRANCE visited the Marquesas and anchored in

Nuku-Hiva: Taiohae Bay, Hooumi Bay, Anaho Hay, Hakaehu Bay, Haapou Bay, Daniel's Bay

Ua-Pou: Hakahau Bay, Hakahetau Bay, Hakatao Bay.

Additional details at: <http://SailingTrance.com>

Ari B (2019-2021): Alex and Carla arrived in the Marquesas in early 2019 and have spent the last two years cruising in French Polynesia (Marquesas, Tuamotus, Societies, and Gambier) Ari B is a Trintella 45, a heavy displacement blue water sloop, designed by Van der Stadt and built in the Netherlands. Alex (Australian) and Carla (English) left the UK on Ari B in 2014, crossing the Atlantic via Cape Verde to the Caribbean where they sailed extensively from Tobago and Columbia in the south to Cuba in the North. Follow their adventures on www.sy-arib.com.

Chugach (2019): Olivier Fourment (French) sailed on a Ovni 495 Chugach from Chile (Valdivia) to Marquesas, stopping at Robinson Crusoe, Rapa Nui, Pitcairn and les Gambier. My anchoring coordinates are anchor position, not boat position which of course varies around the anchor position. Even though my draft when keel up is only 1m, I tend to anchor as deep as necessary to get sand and avoid coral reefs and rocks. Pictures and details of my trip are available www.chugach-sailing.com.

SY Taitonga (2018): Dagmar and Christian from Germany arrived in the Marquesas from Bahia de Caraquez, Ecuador at the end of November, after nearly 34 days, with an Ovni395 (variable draft (add ca. 60cm to their depth soundings)). They have the rough idea of staying in French Polynesia until ca. 2020. <https://www.taitonga.net>

Taitonga also recommended this source: SY Tuvalu 2016 has good infos (in german:-) on the anchorages: <http://tuvalubarcelona.es/>

Moon Rebel (2018): Having made good use of the Soggy Paws pdf. Whilst passing through the Marquesa Islands in July to September 2018, it seems only fair that we contribute something from what we've learnt aboard Moon Rebel a British flagged, 35'/11m sloop with a 6'/1.80m draft

Kokopeli (2018): Brian and Mizzy crossed to the Marquesas from Ecuador in June, and spent July and August poking around.

Begonia (2017): Maryanne and Kyle arrived in the Marquesas in May 2017 on s/v Begonia, a Lagoon catamaran (approx. 40 ft). They are experienced cruisers having owned 3 other boats and done a lot of traveling by boat and land. <http://sv-footprint.blogspot.com> (Their previous boat was named Footprint).

Spunky (2017): Robert and Aneke arrived in March in the Marquesas with our sailing yacht Spunky, a 43 foot Morgan. They are taking a short sabbatical from working life, and plan to island-hop to Australia and sell the boat and go back to work in the Netherlands in late 2017.

Kandu (2015-2016): Eric and Leslie and their two sons, Bryce (14) and Trent (12), arrived in the Marquesas aboard Kandu in late June of 2015, intending to stay only a few weeks (<http://RigneysKandu.com> or <http://Facebook.com/rigneyskandu>). Instead, we became certified residents of Taiohae, Nuku Hiva so our sons could attend the local college (secondary school), the first Americans to do so.

Irie (2013): Mark and Liesbet, have lived, worked and cruised on our 35' catamaran Irie (draft 3.5 feet) for six years and are new to the Pacific. Follow our adventures on www.itsirie.com

Cynergy (2013): Cynergy is Lagoon 440 catamaran. <http://sailcynergy.com> "We first sailed our Moody 46 monohull from Lake Michigan out the St Lawrence to the Caribbean, then the Med, for a couple years, and back to the Caribbean. Sold the Moody and got a Lagoon 440 cat. Sailed from BVI to Bahamas, back to PR, then Colombia, Panama, and now Pacific. John has over 50,000 nm ocean time and is a Master Captain. We are John and Cyndi Martin."

Soggy Paws (2010): - Soggy Paws was in Gambier for the month of April, 2010, and then spent May – August in the Tuamotus, and late August and September in the Marquesas. They left Anaho Bay on the north coast of Nuku Hiva, for Hawaii in late September. Then they returned for another 3 months in Tuamotus and Societies in 2011. Soggy Paws is a CSY 44, a 44 foot monohull with a 5.5' draft. <http://svsoggypaws.blogspot.com>

Nakia (2009, 2010): Nakia is a Hans Christain 33, drawing about 6 feet. They first visited the Marquesas in summer 2009, spent the winter in Hawaii, and came back to Marquesas in the spring of 2010. They also revisited the Marquesas in 2013. <http://svnakia.blogspot.com>

1.16 Printed Sources

We are consciously NOT duplicating any printed, copyrighted information here. It takes a lot of effort AND money to publish a cruising guide, and we firmly believe that if it is still in print, you should BUY it, not steal it (in electronic form).

We cross referenced which guide covers which island, since none of them cover all the islands.

Download some of the “out-of-print” cruising guides from Jacaranda.

<http://www.jacarandajourney.com/other-good-stuff>. He had the Guide to Navigation on his website, but removed it when he learned it was sold to another publisher.

1.16.1 French for Cruisers

[French for Cruisers](#), Kathy Parsons, 2004

This is a fantastic French phrasebook, created by a cruiser for cruisers. Don't leave the U.S. without it, as it is not available once you get to French Polynesia.

For anyone going to a French-speaking cruising ground, French for Cruisers is invaluable. Slightly larger than a ‘pocket guide’, it is a great reference for French terms for cruising things... like engine repair, dockage, etc.

1.16.2 Top French Polynesia Printed Resources

1. [Tahiti Cruisers Guide Online](#). Cruising Guide for all of French Polynesia –Started by Chuck on Jacaranda and Julien Desmont a local French sailor living in Papeete. Can be downloaded as a pdf, in case you need to try to arrange parts or repairs before you get there (without internet access). If you find a service or store that is not listed please send in an update.
2. [Charlie's Charts of Polynesia](#): Charles and Margo Wood (with updates by Jo Russell and Holly Scott), 7th ed 2011 Holly Scott has taken over the helm at Charlie's Charts and has been updating these age-old cruising guides.

3. [South Pacific Anchorages](#), Warwick Clay, 2nd Edition, 2001, pages 22-33. Covers mostly the islands in the NW section, but does cover briefly a few of the atolls in the SE section (Fangataufa, Mururoa, Tatakoto, Amanu, Hao, Nengonengo)
4. [Guide to Navigation and Tourism in French Polynesia](#), Patrick Bonnette & Emmanuel Deschamps, 2001 This book provides the best coverage for some atolls, but is out of print and is becoming quite expensive to purchase if you can find it (in the \$200 range on Amazon).
5. [The Pacific Crossing Guide](#), published by the Royal Cruising Club Pilotage Foundation in association with the Ocean Cruising Club. Originally edited by Michael Pocock, and Revised by Ros Hogbin. We have the 2nd Edition published in 2003. Amazon has a version dated 2013.
6. [Landfalls of Paradise](#), Earl Hinz, 5th Edition, 2006, University of Hawaii Press. Referring to the 1999 edition...Coverage of the Tuamotus is limited, see pgs 80-89. Only specifically covers Gambier and Rangiroa, but good coverage of background information about the Tuamotus.
7. [Pacific Crossing Notes](#), Nadine Slavinski, 2015, Rolling Hitch Press
8. [Yachtsmen's Guide to French Polynesia 2011](#) (PDF). This is a 40-page PDF file downloadable from the French Polynesia Tourism Bureau (French & English). (Note, it can be hard to find, and may disappear off their website from time to time, so a copy may be found on the [Soggy Paws website](#).)
9. [Cruising Guide to the Leeward Islands of Tahiti](#) – The Moorings This book is the handbook that the charter company, The Moorings, provides to its charterers. We bought our copy from Bluewater Books in Ft. Lauderdale. Ours looks like it was done in about 2006. It is only 32 pages, but has probably everything you'd need to know about the easy anchorages and passes in the Leewards. It's no longer easily downloadable from the Moorings site without registering with them. But I stashed a 2015 copy here: <http://svsoggypaws.com/files/Moorings-LeewardIslandsGuide.pdf>
10. [Dream Yacht Charters Guide to the Leeward Islands](#). Previously downloaded from Dream Yacht Charters site.

1.16.3 Diving Guides

1. [The French Polynesia Diving Guide](#), Kurt Amsler, Abbeville Press (undated). This is a pretty coffee-table type book. It only covers 3 of the Tuamotus (Rangiroa, Tikehau, and Manihi), but has some stunning pictures, and has a pretty good color section on 'The Fish of French Polynesia'. It also covers the Marquesas (Nuku Hiva) and The Society Islands. Available from Amazon.com.
2. The [Diving in Tahiti, A Diver's Guide to French Polynesia](#), Thierry Ziesman covers diving in Rangiroa and Manihi, plus other sites in French Polynesia. This is less of a coffee-table book, and a more practical guide to how to find dive sites on your own. We had an electronic copy from another cruiser, and I have never been able to find this in print or online. It's now posted on the [Soggy Paws French Poly files page](#).

1.16.4 Books on Underwater Life

1. [Reef Fish Identification](#) by Gerald Allen, Roger Steene, Paul Humann, Ned DeLoach 2015. Or can purchase a download version from [New World Publications, Inc.](#) Jacksonville, Florida
2. [Simon & Schuster's Guide to Shells](#) by Bruno Sabelli. Published by Simon & Schuster. Very comprehensive guide to shells with more than 1230 illustrations

2 Inter-Island Passage Reports

2.1 *Ua Pou – Nuku Hiva – Hiva Oa – Tahuata – Fatu Hiva*

Dec. 2019: Not the “ideal” route, but we had a plan. We wanted to be in Ua Pou for the Marquesas festival which only occurs every 3 years. They put strict restrictions on anchoring around the small island so we wanted to get there early to get a spot. We arrived 3 weeks before the festival, secured a spot in the very tiny anchorage allotted to cruisers (only 10 sail boats allowed and it was in the entry where it was super rolly). But we were able to enjoy the festival. The town is lovely, the provisioning is pretty darn good, there is wifi and a bakery. As soon as it was over, we headed to Nuku Hiva.

Nuku Hiva (Taiohai Bay) is great for provisioning, hiking, internetting, fruit gathering, people watching). The bay is huge, easy to navigate at night, and decent muddy holding. However, there is some weird chemical reaction in the water that creates a horrible grime on your anchor, chain, bridle, waterline, and bottom. Daniel’s Bay is truly spectacular with its sweeping mountainsides, waterfall hike, and quaint “village.” Controller’s Bay was lovely, good holding and fun hikes. We went around to Anaho bay and found it to be “pretty” but it we did not see what others saw in this bay. Maybe we didn’t give it enough of a chance.

After Nuku Hiva we headed to Hiva Oa. At Atuona Bay we hiked a few times to the main village for provisions, but we did not stay long. We did not like the anchorage as it was small, crowded, and restricting. Next, we headed to Tahuata.

We love, love, love Tahuata! Each bay is unique and stunning. We should have spent the majority of our time here and Fatu Hiva as these are the two best islands in all of the Marquesas. Pretty beaches, good holding, fun foraging, awesome walks/hikes. We anchored at Baie Anse, Baie Vaitahu, Baie Hanatefau, Baie Hapatoni.

After our amazing stay at Tahuata, just when we thought it could not get any better, we arrived at Hanavavae (Baie of Virgins and/or Baie of Penises) in Fatu Hiva. Now this is an picturesque anchorage! It is stunning to see the beautiful rocky structures that soar into the sky. The holding was challenging and the bay can be rolly though. But there are great hikes, super nice people, and a small village. From Fatu Hiva we headed back to Gambier. – Sugar Shack

2.2 *Nuku Hiva to Hiva Oa*

Jan. 2019: We left Nuku-Hiva, Daniels Bay at 09:00, and crossed the Bordelais-Channel shortly after sunset to arrive in Atuona around 08:30

Weather Forecast: meteo.pf: valid until sat evening east 11/16KT, sea moderate.

Sunny Friday, becoming cloudy end of day with of passages showers. Saturday, sky cloudy to very cloudy with of showers and related squalls sometimes stormy. Wind from sector east moderated with of tips at/in 50 km/hr. no swell meaningful friday. arrival saturday a swell long from north-west D'1 meter.

GFS-Gribs showed 12-15kn 85* to 95*, going up towards the weekend.

What we got: wind 95-130* (mostly 110*), 5-17kn (mostly 14kn), short waves 1,5-2m 90* at the beginning, later 1m 60* with a low long northerly cross-swell, nasty current around 1kn+? setting west. We were not at all able to sail 130* to Hiva-Oa, had to motorsail. Half moon was good to see 2 squalls (around 25kn) with too little rain for the radar. Not many clouds until the morning. Wind, waves and current changed 10-15nm off Hiva-Oa, much more clouds with rain in lee of the islands.

Bordelais-Channel was ok with 15-22kn, gusts 30, directly on the nose, short waves 1-2,5m (higher closer to Atuona).

11-13nm from Ua Pou and 17nm from Nuku Hiva we were able to download weather/emails via our Vini cellphone. – Taitonga

2.3 Tahuata to Hiva Oa

Oct. 2018: The wind funnels through the Bordelais Channel and the waves are steep.

We were told to cross early morning, before 07:00, and hug the coast of Tahuata and then cross to Hiva-Oa.

Our weather forecast was E12-14, seas moderate; we got in lee of Tahuata less than 5kn northerly, at 07:00 in the channel E10-15, 1m short waves, current 0.4kn setting E, 1h before high-tide.

We did traverse diagonally and would next time hug one of the shores first (a local motor yacht crossed directly to Hiva-Oa and then went very near the shore to round the cape)

We had a fishing line out and the medium squid-lure was missing afterwards - the 0.8mm steel leader broke in the middle. – Taitonga

2.4 Tahuata to Nuku Hiva

Dec. 2018: We left Tahuata, Hanatefau around 16:00, gusts in mid 20's 120 degrees changing within 5 seconds- gusts normalized at the Bordelais-Channel; the wind did spread out and followed the W-coast of the islands. Miserable lumpy, bumpy complete dark night, squalls, rain, waves coming into the cockpit, slow despite halfwind (current?), wind around 20kn, arrived next morning in Taiohae. – Taitonga

2.5 Hiva Oa to Tahuata

Dec. 2018: We crossed diagonally around 09:30 and had a quick look in the possible anchorages on our way towards Hapatoni. We had a fishing line out. The small octopus-lure on 1mm monofil was missing afterwards. French Weather forecast was E17/21kn, gusts 30, seas moderate; Grib (GFS): E 15-17, gusts 19.

We got: (maximum gusts in kn!):

3-5 all directions - Hiva-Oa, Tahuaka

8 ENE - Cap Teaehoa

10-15 E - in the channel

15-20 ESE - Pointe Matatehoke

20-25 E - Hanamoenoa (two boats anchored)

25 ESE - Ivaiva Iti

35 ESE - Vaitehu (one boat anchored)

45 ESE- Bay between Vaitehu and Hanatefau

20 W (!) - Hanatefau (two boats anchored)

At the beginning 1m short waves, in the middle of the channel long waves 1,5+m from E, (no current this time) in lee of Tahuata, no waves but little whitecaps with sometimes spray in the air from the gusts. – Taitonga

2.6 Hiva Oa to Fatu Hiva

Summer 2018: We picked a weather window where the wind wasn't at all from the south, and were able to sail all the way, on a close reach. – Kokpeli

2.7 Fatu Hiva to Nuku Hiva

Summer 2018: We did this as an overnight passage, leaving mid-afternoon. Ran into a big wind shadow behind Hiva Oa, but otherwise fine, an easy run under the genoa and arrived in the morning. – Kokpeli

3 Eiao

Exploring the Marquesas Islands says: 60 miles north of Nuka Hiva lies the rugged crescent-shaped island of Eiao (Ay-ee-ow). This island is not the dream destination for all cruisers. If, however, you enjoy lonely windswept, desolate nature preserves, Eiao is a paradise.

4 Nuku Hiva (Airport, Customs)

4.1 Services

Almost all the “services” on Nuku Hiva are in Taiohae Baie.

4.1.1 Yachtsmen Services

4.1.1.1 Cooking Gas (Propane and Butane)

Feb. 2020: Can be purchased from Total Fuel station or at Nuka Hiva Yacht Services (@ 4500f for 20lbs). If you have an American tank, use Nuku Hiva Yacht Services. If you have a French tank that can be exchanged, go direct to Total Fuel station as it is cheaper. – Sugar Shack

Jan 2019: Exchange bottles at the fuel station, (13kg refill 2899xpf, deposit 3000xpf in 2019) or use Nuku-Hiva-Yacht-Services. – Taitonga

4.1.1.2 Fuel (Diesel and Gasoline)

Total gas station. Monitor VHF 14 or +689 40 92 06 18. Mon-Fri 0700-1200 & 1400-1700. Sat. 0700-1200. Accept duty free certificate, very friendly and nice.

Mar 2022: We borrowed Kevin’s diesel cans, 18 of them, and he drove us to the petrol station and back. We did it this way because we’d heard the stories about how rough it was to take your boat to the dock and fill up. However, my husband went with another Amel owner who took his boat to fill up and he said it was really easy. They dropped anchor, reversed to the quay, threw one stern line to someone on the quay and that was it! The man on the quay then threw a line to them in order to get the fuel hose to the boat. Apparently very easy and no drama. *(Ed note: A lot will depend on what the wind and swell and tide are doing!)*

Feb. 2020: Big boats have to stern tie (med-moor) to the concrete dock. However, the swell and tide make it very difficult. During the three months that we were in and out of this bay, we only saw 2 boats try to do this. The one sailboat took well over 3-hours to try to secure itself to the dock. The other boat was a 50-meter power boat.

Most cruisers just bring their dinghy to the dock during high tide. On the left side of the fuel dock is a ladder where you can tie your dinghy. You do have to carry the jerry cans to the station to fill as the diesel pump at dock is too powerful for small cans. But it is a short distance away.

Make sure to bring a copy of your boat paperwork, clearance form, and passport in order to purchase fuel. You can save about 40% if you received your duty-free certificate.

You can borrow up to 10-jerry cans from Nuka Hiva Yacht Services (for free). NHYS will also deliver full jerry cans directly to your boat (for a fee). – Sugar Shack

Jan 2019: At the Total fuel station at the cruise-dock; tel. +689 40 920 618 mon-sat 07:00-12:00, mon-fri 14-17:00. You can park the dinghy at a ladder (NW-Corner of the dock), go up straight ca. 4m (on top is a handle to make it easier). I lowered my jerry cans down into the dinghy with a rope. With some swell I would not do it. Depending on the tide the dinghy might get trapped under the dock. – Taitonga

May 2013: Easy, just med-moor to fuel dock. They have diesel and gas. If you have an agent, they will have given you a duty-free doc. You need a copy of that, your boat doc (copy) and passport copy. – Cynergy

2010: There is no marina, but you can pull up to the city pier to get fuel and water with a Med Moor (although apparently quite sketchy with a swell). The anchorage is huge and open with depths around 30 feet in sand. – Soggy Paws

4.1.1.3 Trash and Recycling

June 2022: The mayor of Taiohae is now requiring visiting boats to pay monthly for trash/recycling and water. The fees are 750 XPF/month for trash and recycling, and 750 XPF/month for water. Fees are paid at the mayor's office. There are two signs (one in French, one English) at Yacht Services describing the fees.

The fee is nominal, and it helps this small island continue providing these services to cruisers. – Sparklemuffin

Mar 2022: They are still recycling glass, cans, tins, plastic, batteries and old oil. So remember to separate your rubbish on passage. Proof that you've paid your fee at thé Mairie will give you 10% discount at the chandlery. - Jamala

Feb. 2020: Recycling is easy in Nuku Hiva so be sure to separate out glass, clear plastic, colored plastic, and aluminium/cans from your trash.

Large trash bins are located between the main dock and street. From the dock, turn left and go up towards the street. On right is a nice fenced in area with large trash bins. DO NOT leave batteries, oil, or recycling here. There are also trash cans at the recycling area and along the shore.

Recycling Bins: From dock go toward main street, turn left. On right side is a large parking lot. To the left of the parking lot is the green recycling center. The stand-alone container is for glass (to the left of the other bins). They separate out clear plastic, colored plastic and aluminum cans. Oil is poured into the large black stand-alone bin to the right of the recycling center. – Sugar Shack

Jan 2019: Please help to recycle: here they separate the trash and treat it as a resource for recycling. The containers are ~50m from the Tourist Info towards the carpark: aluminium, cans, glass, opaque plastic, clear plastic, batteries (only 50m detour from going into town). There are additional big containers at the exit of the harbour for the rest of your trash. – Taitonga

4.1.1.4 Water

June 2022: The mayor of Taiohae is now requiring visiting boats to pay monthly for trash/recycling and water. The fees are 750 XPF/month for trash and recycling, and 750 XPF/month for water. Fees are paid at the mayor's office. There are two signs (one in French, one English) at Yacht Services describing the fees.

The fee is nominal, and it helps this small island continue providing these services to cruisers. – Sparklemuffin

Feb. 2020: Kevin from Nuku Hiva Yacht Services said that the water in this bay is not potable. He recommends filling up in Daniel's Bay or Controller's Bay. – Sugar Shack

Jan 2019: Water: NO DRINKING WATER! FILTERED water is available at two stations in town for free. (Do not do your laundry there!) – Taitonga

Aug. 2018: General opinion amongst the cruising fleet was that the water available at the taps on the quay was 'not potable' though I noticed that both the long-term/semi-permanent yachts filled their jerry jugs there and the locals appeared happy enough to drink from them too, so we used it to fill our tanks without any ill effects and it tasted fine too; no guarantees, so try it and make your own decision. – Moon Rebel

4.1.1.5 Nuku Hiva Yacht Services

VHF 72, Tel: +689 40 920 750, Kevin +689 87 226 872 (English), Annabella +689 87 794 830

YSNukuHiva@hotmail.com, www.YachtServicesNukuHiva.com, Mon-Fri 08:30-11:00, 12:30-15:30 Located on main dock with yellow awning and pop up tent out front.

Kevin and Annabela Ellis owners of Yacht Services Nuku-Hiva as of 2013. They have been working hard to re-establish YSNH as a resource for visiting yachtsmen.

In association with Polynesia Yacht Services these are the services the offer cruisers:

- Formalities (in / inter-island / out)
- Duty Free Fuel Certificate

- Bond Letter (medical insurance required)
- Coordinate Shipyard Services, (Leeward Islands)
- Hull Cleaning
- Mechanic – (inboard / outboard)
- Sail Repair (sail loft above office)
- Taxi Service for Shopping, Airport, Sightseeing
- Excursions: Hiking, Diving, Fishing, Boat tours, Quad tours, etc.
- Car Rental & Self Guided Tour Information
- Internet & Computer Access & Document Printing
- Island Cruising Information & Route Planning
- Onward Hotel & Marina Reservations
- Telephone / Fax
- Tahiti Crew representative
- Local cruising station host for SSCA and OCC
- Spectra Dealer
- Book swap

Contact Info: VHF 72, Telephone / Fax: +689 40 920 750, YSNukuHiva@hotmail.com

Mailing Address:

Yacht Services Nuku-Hiva
BP 301
Taiohae, Nuku-Hiva 98742
French Polynesia

May 2022: Kevin has a lending copy of all OpenCPN MBTile Pacific Charts from TheChartLocker.com. This includes satellite and maritime charts for use with OpenCPN for all of French Polynesia.

Mar. 2022: We arrived in the bay March 22nd and as we had paid Tahiti Crew to help with our DPAM entry request (no longer required as at May 9th), Kevin at yacht Services Nuku Hiva went to the Gendarmerie with us on the 23rd as he acts as the local agent for Tahiti Crew. You can also hire his services directly. He needed to call them first to check they were clearing in boats, it would seem that some days they say “ not today, come back tomorrow” . The process with Kevin took about 10 mins of filling in paperwork before hand and then the same in the gendarmerie.

A big thank you to Kevin for helping us avoid disaster by sorting out our arrival date issue, he really helped us by speaking to Tahiti Crew when they said that we were not allowed to arrive earlier than we said we would.

Yacht Services Nuku Hiva also provide a laundry service, generally if you drop it off early in the morning then you can get it back the next day. – Jamala

Jan 2021: YSNH was very helpful! We used them for Check-in to French Polynesia, Bond Letter, Duty Free Fuel Permit, Courtesy Flag, Hull Cleaning, Excursion, WiFi, Laundry, Purchased Custom Shirts and good general advice. - Trance

Feb. 2020: Kevin and Annabella are amazing! We used them for several projects and were very pleased with the work, their professionalism and their friendly attitude.

Sailwork: Kevin was out of town when we first arrived, but he still managed to arrange to have his helper (local cruiser) help us sew up our leading edge on our jib. We used Kevin’s sail loft (above his office) and professional sewing machine.

Fuel: Kevin let us borrow 10-jerry cans (at no cost) several times to fill our boat.

Boat parts: We had to replace our martingale (seagull striker) while here. We tried to go through Mat Rigging in Papeete, but it was a disaster and we had to get a refund. Kevin helped to facilitate the refund even though

he was not involved with the original order. He then helped us work with a vendor in the U.S. who not only had the parts in stock, but swaged the parts and had them in FedEx within 2 days of the order.

Shipping: Kevin facilitated the shipping of our martingale from the U.S. to Nuku Hiva.

Wealth of Information: Kevin has been here for a long time and knows just about everything from the supply ship schedule, to which pop-ups to eat at, to sight-seeing.

Wifi / Internet was available daily for 600xpf/day. You can also negotiate a monthly deal with him if you know you will be in the anchorage for awhile. Strong, reliable service.

Trinkets and Clothing: Annabella hand-crafts beautiful shirts, pants, wraps and more. – Sugar Shack

Jan 2019: Nuku-Hiva-Yacht-Services - Wi-Fi, laundry, care-taking of anchored boats, rental-cars, check-in, duty-free-fuel-formalities, sail-repair, shipping stuff which can not be done here to Tahiti, sell icecream !, etc.; Kevin +689 87 226 872 (english), Annabella +689 87 794 830 (makes nice fabrics!), VHF 72; mon-fri 08:30-11:00, 12:30-15:30, tel 40 920 750, www.YachtServicesNukuHiva.com, ysnukuhiva@hotmail.com, nice and helpful service! – Taitonga

Aug. 2018: Most items have been already covered by others, but I'd like to give a plug for Kevin @ Nuku Hiva Yacht Services, he ultimately couldn't get the parts to fix our fridge, but he certainly tried hard and didn't charge us for his efforts; a great source of local knowledge with premises right on the quay. – Moon Rebel

Summer 2018: Kevin and Annabella of Yacht Service Huku Hiva handled assembling and submitting our paperwork for long-stay visa in French Poly. No problem, no charge (yet). It should take 6 to 8 weeks to get it in here. We're also working to get stuff shipped in to us here, including boat parts, flat mail, and toys. Kevin is good for all of this, has a cheat sheet on how to get it sent to his address here. In addition to his own operation, he's the local rep for Tahiti Crew, and the local cruising station host for SSCA. I think also for OCC.

With Fed Ex or DHL intl. economy, it's 2 to 3 weeks to get here. Costs are at least a couple hundred USD, each package. Fed Ex, for example, has its own customs agent to bless the shipment and ease it out of customs, but there are costs associated with this. But it does work!

Kevin is also a Spectra dealer; Annabella does nice work with fabric design. – Kokpeli

May 2017: Yacht Services also have a book swap at the back of their office on the Quai. – Begonia

March 2017: Kevin, at Nuku Hiva yacht services, sells Polynesian Courtesy flags for reasonable prices (I think we paid 2.000 FP, but not sure). – Spunky

May 2013: Kevin at Yacht Services is from Ca, so speaks english. He can offer basic boat services like diesel, refrigeration (to a basic degree), sail repair, and will take care of your boat if you have to fly out. Not many parts however. – Cynergy

4.1.2 General Services

4.1.2.1 Air Tahiti

Feb. 2020: +689 40 910 225. Hours Mon-Fri 0800-1200. Mon, Wed, Fri 1330-1630. Marie-Helen will assist with reservation via central hotline (pay later online or in office) +689 40 86 42 42 (press 2 for English) www.airtahiti.pf. Office is located on main road. Turn left out of dock and it will be on right side (before the bank). – Sugar Shack

Jan 2019: Air Tahiti office mon-fri 08:00-12:00, mon-wed-fri 13:30-16:30, tel.+689 4091 0225, Marie-Helene; you can do a reservation via a central hotline as well (and pay later online or in an office): 40 864 242 (press 2 for english!), www.airtahiti.pf. – Taitonga

4.1.2.2 *Bank/ATMs*

Feb. 2020: Bankque Socredo hours Mon-Thur. 0800-1200 & 1330-1600. Fri. 0800-1200 & 1330-1500. Bank with an ATM (24/7). From dock, turn left and bank will be on right hand side. The ATM at the post office is no longer functioning.

They cannot do bank to bank transfer unless you have an account with them (which they would not let me create one). I was trying to pay a vendor in Papeete and ended up sending cash with another cruiser who flew to Tahiti. NHYS can do a bank transfer for 10%. – Sugar Shack

Jan 2019: Bank with ATM (max 100000 XPF (never saw a bigger max!) – Taitonga

4.1.2.3 *Gendarmerie*

Feb. 2020: +689 40 920 305. Hours: Mon-Sat: 0700-1200 & 1400-1700. Although we found their hours vary. They are located across from the post office and hospital. Do not go to the Gendarme across from Artisan market as that is the prison. Requests that you check in upon entry into the Marquesas, even if you came from another FP archipelago. – Sugar Shack

Jan 2019: Gendarmerie: +689 40 920 305. – Taitonga

4.1.2.4 *Chandlery*

Nov. 2021: A new chandlery has opened in Taiohae Bay, Nuku Hiva called Nuku Tai Nui Marine. -- Spirit of Argo

Nuku Tai Nui Marine

Tel +689 87 30 99 12

www.maintenancemarquises.com

Cécile Hémé: Directrice magasin

cecile.heme@maintenancemarquises.com

Situated on the same road as the bank and behind the library.

BP 161 98 742 Taiohae Nuku Hiva Marqueses Nord

4.1.2.5 *Hardware Stores*

Feb. 2020: We found two hardware stores and a magasin with some hardware items. – Sugar Shack

- **Hardware store Bigot:** +689 40 92 04 34 Hours: Mon-Fri 0730-1200 & 1300-1600. Turn left onto main road. Turn right after Magasin Kamake and continue up the hill. Past the bus depot and recycling bins. Turn left at bridge, cross over bridge and store will be in front of you. Some hardware, home goods.
- **Naha Quincaillerie:** nahaquincaillerie@gmail.com. Hours: Mon-Fri: 0700-1200 & 1230-1600. Sat: 0700-1200. Location: Turn right out of dock area, past post office and hospital, take left at “Y” heading up hill. At top of hill turn right. Just past the power plant is a driveway on right with steep decline, go down and the hardware store will be at the end of the road on the right (no sign). Small, but well stocked hardware store with tools, paint supplies, gardening (seeds, pots), some line, etc....
- **Magasin Larson:** In the back of the store are a few hardware type items can be found here. See provisions for contact and hours.

Jan 2019: Hardware Store: Bigot, tel.+689 4092 0434, carries building-supplies, a bit boat- and fishingstuff, Makita-tools and a bit of everything as well has a clothing, shoe and toy section (No store in Taiohae carried manual fly-flaps (only electric ones). Turn right before Larson and walk uphill ca. 500m until the busstation/recyclingcollection, turn left and proceed for ca. 80m. Little stores/workshops with hardware on the road to the cruise-terminal (dito most magasins carry a bit). – Taitonga

4.1.2.6 *Laundry*

May 2022: Kapa Services near the marine shop was slightly cheaper and quicker than at Yacht Services and our clothes smelled better. – Sierra Wind

Feb. 2020: Services offered by Nuka Hiva Yacht Services for 1500f per load (wash, dry, fold). 1000f for wash only and 2000f for hot water. Laundry takes 36-48 hours.

Kapa Services - Laverie Laundry +689 87 70 01 52. Hours: Mon-Fri: 0730-1600. Sat: 0700-1200. Located in small building of former school behind the bank and library. Wash 800, Wash/Dry 1000, Wash/Dry/Fold 1200, delivery 250, recovery 250 (all xpf) – Sugar Shack

Jan 2019: Laundry: Nuku-Hiva-Yacht-Services: off-season 1000XPF wash, dry, fold a load, (imho good quality).

Kapa: 600xpf (wash) to 1000xpf (wdf) (can collect and deliver for 300xpf, you can leave it with Celestine at the market) tel. 87 349 189 – Taitonga

May 2017: Laundry service from Kevin/Anabella at Yacht Services - CPF1200 per load (not by Kg) gives wash dry and fold. Drying is dependent on weather! Next building down (also in harbor area) offered at \$1000CPF per load (Wash/Dry/Fold) - but we didn't try this. – Begonia

4.1.2.7 Le Mairie

Feb. 2020: +40 910 360. Le Mairie is located on the main road, right hand side (across from Artisan Market). – Sugar Shack

4.1.2.8 Library

Feb. 2020: The library is located in one of the buildings of the small school (behind the bank). Read books, use the internet and enjoy a cup of coffee. Membership is 1000xpf per year. – Sugar Shack

4.1.2.9 Mechanic (Auto)

Feb. 2020: We found two auto-mechanic locations but did not use either of them. – Sugar Shack

- Eurl Kea’Kamani. +689 87 39 32 34 keakamani@mail.pf. Location: Turn right out of dock area, past post office and hospital, take left at “Y” heading up hill. At top of hill turn right. Just past the power plant is a driveway on right with steep decline, go down and mechanic will be on left.
- **Garage Hakapehi** + 920 489 or +920 496. Next to Eurl Kea’Kamani. Auto mechanic and accessories.

4.1.2.10 Marine Services / Boat Parts

Feb. 2020: NHYS helped us repair our leading edge of our jib. The sail loft is clean and large enough to do any sail repair.

Wood Shop: Menuiserie. Tel. 22 68 72. Hours: Tues-Fri: 0730-1100 & 1330-1500. Location: Turn right out of dock area, past post office and hospital, take left at “Y” heading up hill. At top of hill turn right. Just past the power plant is a driveway on right with steep decline, go down and wood shop at the end of the road. Fabrication, renovations and repairs. – Sugar Shack

Jan 2019: Canvas work and tender construction, Pierre, SY Tivano lives in a house on the hills, tel. +689 87 32 47 29 (also bookable through NHYS). – Taitonga

Bottom-Cleaning: Pierre (SY Tivano) lives in Nuku-Hiva, 35USD/h (calculate 3h), tel. +689 87 324 729, as well bookable via Nuku-Hiva-Yacht-Service, Pierre is manufacturing glasfiber dinghys as well.

Welding/Metal and Woodwork: Workshops on the road to the cruiseship-terminal. – Taitonga

4.1.2.11 Medical

Feb. 2020: There is a decent size hospital with several physicians. +689 40 920 200 or Emergencies: +689 40 910 216. Turn right on to main road, past Poste office, on right. Several nurses are also available during emergency situations: Laurent Barucchi +689 87 291 586; Thierry Courtade +689 87 311 316; Marie France Malatesta +689 87 307 995; Fred Arnaud +689 87 224 235.

Dentist: Pierre Puech +689 40 920 418.

Pharmacy: +689 40 910 090 pharmacie.nukuhiva@mail.pf. Hours: Mon-Fri 0730-1200 & 1430-1700. Sat. 090-1100. Take left on main road, then turn right on 3rd street (just past cathedral). Then make first left and pharmacy will be on your right. It is up a steep hill. – Sugar Shack

4.1.2.12 Net: Taiohae Bay Net

Mar. 2022: The radio net is now done only on Monday, Wednesday and Friday at 7.30am and is hosted by either Kevin or April and Cain on sailing yacht Spirit of Argo. Usually aired on channel 68. - Jamala

Jan 2021: Channel 72 is monitored by most in the bay, the Taiohae Bay Net is currently on Channel 68. – Trance

Feb. 2020: Channel 72, 08:00. The Taiohae net is a super useful benefit and it is up to us to keep it alive. Volunteer to run the net (a script can be provided by Kevin, NHYS for guidance). – Sugar Shack

Jan 2019: Channel 72, 08:00. For and from cruisers: If you do not hear a net controller, you are very welcome to do the net yourself! Most cruisers use 72 as a hailing-channel. – Taitonga

4.1.2.13 Passports & Visas

Feb. 2020: Subdivision Administration des îles Marquises. Hours: Mon-Thurs: 0800-1130 & 1400-1530. Raimano Lucas speaks pretty good English and works with Papeete to facilitate passports/visas. From dock, turn right, 2 story building on left just before OPT. Office is located on the first floor on the side. – Sugar Shack

4.1.2.14 Post Office

Feb. 2020: +689 40 920 340. Hours: Mon-Fri: 0730-1130 & 1230-1530. Fri closes 1430. Located on main street, turn right from dinghy dock, on right. ATM does not work. They sell sim cards & top up. – Sugar Shack

Jan 2019: Hours: Mon-Fri: 07:30-11:30,12:30-15:30 (Fri14:30) outside-ATM (not working) – Taitonga

4.1.2.15 Salon

Feb. 2020: Esthetique Kumuhei is located near Le Maire (right side). +87 723 728. – Sugar Shack

4.1.2.16 Tattoo Artist

Feb. 2020: +689 87 70 78 74 or T.huukena@gmail.com, Teiki wrote the two books on Marquesan tattoos and is the producer of an educational documentary. He is located off the main road, just past the recycling bins in a white building. Cost is \$50/hr for drawing or tattooing. He is lovely, gentle and very talented – Sugar Shack.

Summer 2018: Teiki has opened up a tattoo studio ("Patiki") that's first rate. It's across from the crafts market. He's really very artistic, authentically Marquesan, and skillful. Each is a one-off piece of art. – Kokpeli

4.1.2.17 Tourist Office

+689 40 920 825. Hours: 8:00-11:00 and 1230-1530. , www.nukuhiva.org , comitedutourisme.nukuhiva@gmail.com. Located near dock across from artisan market.

Feb. 2020: Collette can arrange for tours, taxis, rental cars, and more. Just ask. She is a wealth of information. She has bathrooms (100xpf), and usually sells vanilla beans. – Sugar Shack.

Jan 2019: near the dock, ask Colette (She sells fresh produce as well.) Pick up a map of Taiohae in the Tourist Office, it has all the important things marked on it. – Taitonga

4.1.2.18 Transportation

Feb. 2020: Car Rental Services:

- Nuka Hiva Yacht Services rents cars. ysnukuhiva@hotmail.com
- Tourist office, Collette, comitedutourisme.nukuhiva@gmail.com

- Tony Loc Locations and Taxi. +690 40 92 03 30 or +689 87 78 5 41.
pensionmoananui@mail.pf. Located next to Moana Nui pension and pizzeria

Taxis and Airport Transfers

- Nuku Hiva Yacht Services \$40/pp each way, ysnukuhiva@hotmail.com
- Toursit Office, Collette, comitedutourisme.nukuhiva@gmail.com
- Otto Justin +87 72 02 65
- Dupont Odile +87 73 26 73
- Hokaupoko Leonard +87 74 47 60
- Jusqu'a +689 87 71 74 96 (will do excursions as well)

Please note that NHYS and the Tourist center add a small fee to help arrange services for you. – Sugar Shack

Jan 2019: Rental Cars: Pension Moana Nui: e.g. Suzuki Jimmy 4x4 for 10000xpf/d (2019) – Taitonga

4.1.2.19 Wifi / Internet

Mar 2022: Taiohae now has 4G ! We bought SIM cards for internet only from Kevin, the post office also sells them. You can get sims that have cellular, texts and data, also from the post office. - Jamala

Feb. 2020: There are several places that offer wifi. See Below. – Sugar Shack

- The most convenient is NHYS with a solid, reliable, decent connection for 600 xpf/day. You might be able to negotiate a monthly deal if you pay in advance.
- Snack Vaeaki (to the right of NHYS) offers wifi as well with purchase of food/beverage. The best connection is in front of the kitchen.
- Snack Tematapuaua (located behind the produce market and across from artisan market) offers wifi with purchase.
- The Keikahanui Pearl Lodge (west side of bay) offers really good internet that can reach the anchorage. Must purchase food/beverage (and can use the pool during the day).
- Snack Joseph is located off main road, past bank and Moana Nui
- Library has internet once you become a member. See above
- Vini and GoogleFi also worked well.

Jan 2019: Internet: Wi-Fi at the dock-restaurant Snack Vaeaki (support them for that by buying drinks or food!) - the password is displayed on the ordering-table; as well Nuku-Hiva-Yacht-Services and several places in town, e.g. the library (yearly membership 1000XPF, closed during holidays, but mostly they leave the Wifi on)

Vini-cell-coverage - Internet worked on the boat for emails (in the morning) [it was possible to receive and send emails 8nm out of Taiohae!].

Vinispot for WiFi in the bay available to log in.

SSB: sometimes ok(ish) for checking into the Polynesian-Magellan-Net

Iridium-Access: good, despite the mountains. – Taitonga

Aug. 2018: The Vinnispot internet service worked out on the boat (small booster) but for the most part we got our internet from Henri's Vaeaki Cafe, on the quay for the price of a coffee. – Moon Rebel

4.1.2.20 Veterinarian

Jan 2019: Vet: Ludovic 87 343 136. – Taitonga

4.1.2.21 Shopping in Taiohae Bae

Feb. 2020: There are lovely shops where you can buy clothing and Marquesan trinkets. – Sugar Shack

- **Artisan Market** buildings just off the dock. Selling jewelry, shells, wood artifacts. Closes at 1500.

- **Nuka Hiva Press** (school supplies, paper goods) Mon-Fri 0800-1130 & 1300-1630. Sat. 0800-1130.
- **Boutique Chez Nadja** (clothes, toys) By Nuka Hiva Press. Mon-Fri: 0800-1130 & 1300-1630. Sat. 0800-1130
- **Boutique** (clothing, Marquesan trinkets) located on the dock between NHYS and the snack.
- **Nuku Hiva Yacht Services:** Anabelle makes beautiful designs on clothing (shirts, skirts, and more) and they sell Marquesan books and other small trinkets in their office.

4.1.3 Provisions

Magasin Kamake +689 40 920 322. Hours: Mon-Sat 0530-11300 & 1400-1830. Sun 0530-1100. (blue/white awning) from dinghy dock, turn left and it will be first market on your right.

- **Feb. 2020:** Moderately stocked market. However, they have fresh baguettes and pastries in the morning. Locals will sell fresh produce or sandwiches out front. – Sugar Shack
- **Jan. 2019:** Kamake, they bake their own bread (good!), No bread on Sundays. Bread might be sold out after 09:00; you can prepay for tomorrow and collect the reserved bread at your desired time. The bread is carried mostly in plasticbags - for the crispyness it is much better to carry it in a self-made cotton sack (more ecofriendly as well). – Taitonga
- **Fall 2011:** Oh, and the chocolate beignets at Magasin Kamake are yummy, as are the little tortes/tarts in the veggie market. Not cheap, but a nice treat. Don't bother trekking to the actual bakery unless you're up super early. They send baguettes to Magasin Larson but Kamake has their own bakery so they rarely run out of fresh baguettes. – Moondance

Magasin Larsons +689 40 920 331. Mon-Sat. 07:30-11:30, 14:30-18:30, Sun. 0700-1200. (red awning) past Magasin Kamake on the right-side corner. It is the biggest and best stocked market. Some home goods and hardware supplies. Veggies and fruit sold outside in mornings. Some organic and gluten free items.

- **Feb. 2020:** Great selection and variety of food. Fresh baguettes and a small hardware/fishing section in the back. – Sugar Shack
- **Jan. 2019:** Larson, organic and specialities, and some fishing equipment. – Taitonga

Magasin Celine +689 40 92 01 60 Mon-Sat 0600-1230 & 1400-1930. Sun 0900-1230 & 1630-1900. Turn left on main road, will be on right hand side about 3 streets down, just past cathedral

- **May 2022:** Magasin Celine was a farther walk but worth a visit and had slightly less expensive prices compared to the other – Sierra Wind
- **Feb. 2020:** Celine sells organic lettuce and will has a larg variety of produce. They also sell hydroponic lettuce. Produce is delivered (from the farms) Mondays & Thursday. – Sugar Shack
- **Aug. 2018:** As ever with the Marquesas, our preferred grocery store (the coldest beer) was the furthest from the dinghy dock; Celine's at the far west end of the town. – Moon Rebel
- **Summer 2018:** Magasin Celine has an outdoor restaurant in front of their store a few nights a week at this point, good food, good fun, good value. – Kokpeli

Magasine Hoata +689 40 920 021 Hours: Mon-Sat 0600-1900. Sun: 0600-1200. Following instructions to Pharmacy, continue uphill past pharmacy about ¼ mile. Magasin is on left.

- **Feb. 2020:** Well stocked market, great liquor and wine selection. They sell beer by the case and will often offer you a discount or bottle of rum if you make a large purchase. They will pick you up and drop you off at the dock so you don't have to make the long walk (must make \$100 purchase). We have not been too impressed with their fresh selection, but everything else is great. – Sugar Shack

Veggie Market: Hours Mon-Fri: 0630-1500 Sat 0400-1000. Earlier the better for the best variety of produce. Many vendors set up in the buildings just off the dock (by the main road).

- **Jan 2019:** Fresh-Produce-Market with ~10 tables next to the harbour, mon-fri: 06:30 to 15:00, sat: 04:00 to 10:00; Wed and Sat seem to be the best days. – Taitonga

Fish Market: Tel. +689 87 28 93 19. Hours: Mon-Fri: 0630-1300. Sat. 0630-0900. Poissonnerie is located on the right side of the dock.

Fresh fish from the fisherman at the dock. Timing was all over the place, but we've heard 0530-6030.

- **Jan. 2019:** Fresh-fish direct from the fishermen (they do not talk a lot) at the harbour between ~5:30 to 06:30, kg/500xpf in 2019, you might have to buy the whole fish or half (share-options on the VHF-net:-) – Taitonga

4.1.3.1 Provision Cruiser Report

Feb 2023: There are 2 other magasins in Taiohae besides those listed above. One not too far up the road from the bank and the other on the west side of the bay past the bridge. --Migration

May 2022: Magasin Celine was a farther walk but worth a visit and had slightly less expensive prices compared to the other markets. If you find baguettes or eggs at any of the markets, buy them while you can because they sell out quickly. Eggs can be very hard to find and may only be available once a week!

For produce, be wary of worms! Of all the produce we got on Nuku Hiva, regardless of supplier, about a third of the avocados, bananas, and mangos had worms in them.

Run errands early in the morning, everything seems to close at lunch or before 2:00PM – Sierra Wind

Aug. 2010: Taiohae is a great place for provisioning--significantly better than anything we saw in the Tuamotus or Gambier. There is a daily fruit and veggie market right next to the dinghy dock, so fresh stuff is easy. Most of this produce is grown on the island and so isn't too outrageous in price. We were able to eventually find lettuce, tomatoes, green peppers, cucumbers, avocados, green beans, and of course the standby's: potatoes, onions, cabbage and carrots. Still no brocolli or celery, but at least some green stuff. And all the tropical fruits plus some apples. We stocked up for 6 weeks worth of groceries--that should get us to Hawaii. We never did make the 4am Saturday veggie market, though.

Mostly we needed meats and snack food (cookies, crackers and chips). The meat selection was quite good--boneless, skinless chicken breasts, chicken leg quarters, whole chickens, pork chops, ground beef, lamb chops (and other cuts) even bacon!!

We stopped at the fish market by the dinghy dock and bought a few kilos of fresh yellow-fin tuna and wahoo (nicely priced at \$5/kilo uncleaned with the head removed, and you can buy half of a fish). – Soggy Paws

4.1.4 Restaurants

Snack Vaeaki tel. +689 40 920 551. Mon-Sun 0630-1500. Offers wifi and decent meals for 1000f. On main dock to the right of NHYS. Does not sell liquor/beer. Hosts music/ukelee lessons on Sundays at 1600.

- **Feb. 2020:** Really nice people who run this snack. Typical local cuisine and super tasty lemonade. They sell baguettes and fresh fruit. Wifi for customers. On Sundays they offer free Ukelele lessons and an array of music. – Sugar Shack
- **Jan 2019:** Snack Vaeaki - they have Wi-Fi! 7 days a week from 06:30 to 15:00, main courses around 1000XPF, tel. +689 40 920 551
- **Summer 2018:** Good food at easy prices, sometimes entertainment, and a chance to meet locals. The Snack by the dingy dock has usable wifi, and good coffee and food. – Kokpeli

Snack Tematapuaua +689 40 92 06 43 or +689 87 75 72 26. Located behind produce market, wifi and beer.

- **Feb. 2020:** Typical cuisine, but be careful with the paninis as they used old meat in two sandwiches. Wifi offered to customers. – Sugar Shack

Keikahanui Pearl Lodge, turn left from main road, walk past cathedral and continue following the edge of the bay. A sidewalk will appear on the right side. Lodge sign on right, turn right. Then take first left onto dirt road.

Nice restaurant, refreshing negative edge (small) pool and wifi. The pool is only available until 1600 and then it is guests only. They have half price Hinano, Heineken and cocktails on Friday nights from 1800-2000.

- **Feb. 2020:** We splurged on two lunches here. Really great food and tasty cocktails. You can use the pool and wifi before 1600, then the pool is for guests only. – Sugar Shack
- **Feb. 2011:** If you have a special occasion to spend big bucks on, the Pearl Resort serves excellent French cuisine and drinks are half price (which brings them down to Hawaii tropical drink prices, \$6-8) on Fridays after 6 or 7. The bar at the resort is all that remains of Rose and Frank Corser's original establishment. – Moondance
- **Aug. 2010:** Very nice restaurant up by the hotel on the west side of the anchorage with a bar that serves happy hour drinks over looking their infinity pool and the anchorage. Dinners \$20 – Soggy Paws

Boulangerie Snack Joseph (pink building) +689 40 920 431 or +689 87 74 49 09 Usually open early mornings and when cruise ships are visiting. Very tasty food.

Pizzeria: Moana Nui +689 40 920 330. Located past Magasin Kamake. Pizza was “less than average” & pricey.

Pension Moana Nui +689 40 920 330, pensionmoananui@mail.pf, : expensive: breakfast: 9900xpf/n + tax (2019).

- **Jan 2019:** Restaurant that serves breakfast. – Taitonga

4.2 The South Coast of Nuku Hiva

4.2.1 Taiohae Baie (Main Village)

Baie De Taiohae, the main port for the Marquesas, offers the most services and provisioning in the Marquesas.

CAUTION: There is something in the water in Taiohae baie that eats away at anchor chains (stainless and galvanized) and anchors when boats are left for more than 30 days.

We have 100 meters of 10mm stainless steel chain and found that we had to pressure wash our chain after each stay in Taiohae baie. Several friends with galvanized chain found their chains destroyed after leaving them for more than 30-days in this anchorage. Be warned.

June 2022: The mayor of Taiohae is now requiring visiting boats to pay monthly for trash/recycling and water. The fees are 750 XPF/month for trash and recycling, and 750 XPF/month for water. Fees are paid at the mayor's office. There are two signs (one in French, one English) at Yacht Services describing the fees.

The fee is nominal, and it helps this small island continue providing these services to cruisers. – Sparklemuffin

May 2022: There is a test of the tsunami warning siren on the 1st of each month. – Migration

4.2.1.1 Anchorages and Moorings

There is a defined **No-Anchoring-Zone** in the northern part of the bay (Cruiseship dock+300m to shore) is a: 140°05,91W/008°54,74S to 140°05,89W/008°55,31S to 140°05,74W/008°55,33S (stated in order 1084/CM from 04.08.2016, you can get penalties).

May 2020: There were over 80 boats anchored in Taiohae Baie during quarantine. Not ideal, but doable. They were crowded but many, if not most, had bow and stern anchors out. – Sugar Shack

Feb. 2020: Taiohae Baie is a nice wide bay, easily navigable. We came in at night on our first visit after coming direct from Makemo. We stayed here several times, here are our multiple anchor points:

- **08°55.183S / 140°06.209W** Muddy seabed made for a good hook in 12 meters.
- **08°56.1103S / 140°06.2006W** Dropped in 9 meters. We anchored further away from shore and other boats as we did lots of 360's.
- **08°56.0177S / 140°06.3431W** in 11 meters, good muddy holding, on west side of baie near resort.

Note the no-anchoring zone as described above. The Gendarmerie will ask you to leave if you anchor in the no-anchoring zone. We stayed between 1-3 weeks each time and every time we had fouled (dirty, grimy) chain, bridle, and anchor. We had to use the pressure washer to clean each off before bringing them on board. It was really, really disgusting. – Sugar Shack

Dinghy Dock Etiquette:

- Do not tie your dinghy painter to the ladder
- Do not raise your outboard
- Do not use the moorings to stern tie your dingy
- Slow down to 5kt once at the finger pier (wakes toss the local fishing boat bows into the wall)

There are several places to leave your dinghy, some are better than others.

- Dock (parallel to the beach where fisherman clean fish)
 - There are two ladders here. One has lost the top ring which makes it hard to use. The locals allow us to use this area, please be respectful
 - Both the ladders and the dock have sharp shells which cut easily into your skin and pontoons.
- Do not tie your dinghy around the corner from the fish cleaning station on the wall with the steps leading toward the ramp. This is reserved for fishing boats and local boats.
- Beach. You can pull your dinghy up on the beach, but watch for the swell, sharks, and jelly fish. Typically, the sharks won't bother you as they are too busy with the chum by the dock.

IMPORTANT: Be very careful where you leave your dinghy to ensure your outboard does not get caught on the lines of the moored local boats. The swell can be powerful and outboards have been ripped off the transoms of dinghies.

What's in the water? Not sure what is in the water, but every time we anchored here (over 6-8 times) we grew a science experiment. Yes, we need a bottom job, but after a week, we would need to clean the waterline, bridle, and anything else within the water's reach. Get ready, it's fun! – Sugar Shack

Jan 2019: 08°55,070S / 140°05,595W, in 17m with 70m chain. Good holding in grey mud with coral sand for the Bügel. Nearer ashore it is less deep, but maybe a bit more reflecting swell.

60 boats in the U-shaped anchorage and still plenty of room. Rolly. Nice scenery but not spectacular.

The Cargo/Cruise ships do park at a massive concrete-dock on the North side of the bay. Cruise ships might also anchor in the bay and ferry passengers ashore.

Navigation lights: Navigation lights were working. The town has a lot of streetlights as well. (I would dare to anchor in this bay at night!)

Water-visibility: ~4-5m in dark water, (after heavy rain 20cm).

Fouling: After 3 weeks our alu-bottom (with nearly no antifouling left) was very badly covered with weeds, sponges and barnacles (like a living 3cm thick carpet) but relatively easy to scrape; it took almost an hour to clean the weedy anchor chain.

Wind and weather: The weather forecast (outside) was at the beginning ENE-E 17-21kn, gusts 30, sea moderate E 1,5m. What we got: All directions, only a few gusts, often NW 10-15kn.

(The breaking waves at the bay-entrance (Sentinelle de l'Ouest) can be used as a sea condition indicator)

Swell/Rolly: Quite some boat movements (3 to 4 out of 5 on the Dagmar-Scale). The tide often pushed us to 90 deg to the swell. When a bigger southerly-swell is coming in, I do not want to be here!!! (Some cruisers reported that sometimes it is not possible to go ashore). There is some current in the bay and the boats sometimes are stern to stern.

Local traffic: occasionally fishermen and supply ships as well cruise ships (then it gets busy with their tenders)!

Dinghy landing: L-shaped harbour in the NE corner. In front as well behind the breakwater, they have med-style moorings with stern-buoys for the local motorboats. When you go in, do not cut corners and look out for

the lines between the buoys and dock. Some mooring-buoys are placed outside the harbour as well (You can offer a ride to the drivers, because they do not want to swim (because of the sharks => fish-cleaning-area).

There are two ladders up the concrete dock on the left-hand side of the steep ramp in the corner. The first ladder is harder to climb (top handle missing) and normally has fewer dinghys. There are horizontal ropes to tie the dinghy to, so the ladder stays clear from the dinghyropes, if your painter is too short your dinghy might be pulled upon another one by the tides. It can be cramped. The locals share these ladders as a courtesy!

Around the corner towards the beach is another option to tie up your dinghy at a concrete wall on the N-side going towards the beach (not so crowded), closer to the beach is better (stern-anchor maybe usefull). There are two lower sections in the concrete to climb out. Do not use the first 15 m from the corner (with the first climb-out), because these are used by the locals to board their vessels with passengers and the cruise ship tenders (as well here are the fish-cleaning-tables and the walls are more covered with sharp shells :-).

Some dinghys use fenders to protect against the sharp shells on the wall or land on beach directly. – Taitonga

Aug. 2018: There are several signs posted advising that the eastern 1/3 of the bay's a 'No Anchoring' zone, though provided that you stayed well clear of the Grande Quay where the supply/cruise ships dock, no one seemed to bother. The holding was excellent, but give yourself and everyone else plenty of room if you're single anchored as in light winds it comes from all directions and the yachts circle. Even with the winds/seas outside coming from slightly north of east, we still rolled a little and when they got well south of east, we deployed a stern anchor which helped (a bit anyway). There are loads of space, so dig in one and see how you feel after the first night. – Moon Rebel

May 2013: 8-54.877S / 140-05.902 in 35ft of good holding mud. Places to anchor will be obvious, this is a no-brainer (my kind of place). This is a great first landfall as one can come into the anchorage easily in the night or bad weather. This large bay can hold over 50 boats and there is always room, unlike Hiva Oa. Only weather could be the rare S-SW to make the anchorage uncomfortable, but not unsafe. – Cynergy

Fall 2011: When we first anchored in Baie De Taiohae it was settled, so we only used our main anchor. The next morning the swell came in and we deployed a stern anchor and that made the anchorage very comfortable. We spent 18 days there recuperating and getting some minor projects done. – Moondance

4.2.1.2 Activities

Diving

Feb. 2020: Diving Office located next door to the Nuku-Hiva-Yacht-Services. There is no sign, but there is a dive sticker on the door. Office hours are supposed to match the boutique next door, but often don't. Kevin might be able to help you track them down. They do fill dive tanks.

We snorkeled on the reef in front of the beach/resort area and found there to be a decent selection of fish and coral (we saw an octopuss). It was a bit murky, but shallow so you can see all the sea life. We also snorkeled the little inlet just past the green marker (past and below the gazebo). In the corner are some schools of fish and ok sea life. The has coral is interesting formations as it tries to hide the fish. – Sugar Shack

Dance Classes

Feb. 2020: Fabiene teaches dance class. You can find her at the community center or ask NHYS to contact her. Some cruisers attend the local dance classes and swing their hips and meet locals! – Sugar Shack

Tours

Feb. 2020: There are lots of companies that give tours of the island. We did not take a tour, but several other cruisers enjoyed them. – Sugar Shack

- NHYS can arrange a tour or take you on the tour of the island. VHF 72, Tel: +689 40 920 750, YSNukuHiva@hotmail.com

- Tourist Office, Collette can arrange a tour of the island. +689 40 920 825, Hours Mon-Fri 0800-1100 & 1230-1530 comitedutourisme.nukahiva@gmail.com. Just tell her what you are interested in doing/seeing and she will schedule it for you. All day tour, up to 8 people, \$65/ea, lunch not included.
- Richard Temarama Deane offers 4x4 tours with 10 years experience. +689 87 28 08 36 or +689 87 74 86 78 or temarama.tour@hotmail.fr. www.temarama.com. Temarama Tour includes historical, botanical, cultural, archeological in 4x4 excursion. Richard Temarama Deane has license of security, professional hiking, first aid kit and mobile phone for your safety.
- Jocelyne Henua Enana Tours +689 87 74 42 23 jocelyne@mail.pf
- Kimi Randonnee +689 87 75 39 69 kimi.rando@hotmail.fr

Things to do and or see on your own:

- Visit Hatiheu Baie and visit the archeological site of Hikokua and amuihei and Tahakia.
- Hakatea religious site on north coast
- Rose Carver's Museum, this was never opened when we went by, but its supposed to be nice

Hiking / Walks

Feb. 2020: We took full advantage of the mountans in Nuku Hiva, after spending several months in the Tuamotus where there is nowhere to hike. Here are our favorite hikes: -- Sugar Shack

- **Colette Baie** is a nice easy hike, 75 min one way. Main road, turn left, past cemetery. Turn right at Pearl Resort and continue up hill. At top of hill, at the "Y" turn right. Then turn right at the Colette Baie sign and large rock with "Colette Baie." Uphill on left. At next "Y" stay straight and follow the sign. At the top of the hill is a 3-way intersection. Take the middle road. It may have a "locked gate" but it is fake locked and easily opened. Follow road to Colette Baie, nice black sand beach.
- **Gazebo / Palapa / hike** (see it at SE corner of bay). Turn right from dock, past hospital, then turn right at the top of the hill. Keep left, at the "Y" take left (don't go downhill), at the 3-way intersection, take middle road which turns into dirt road. See tourist/info sign to visit gazebo, lookout, and beach.
- **Waterfall hike** (see it north of anchorage). Left at main road, right at Magasin Celine (opposite Mare/Tiki site). Up the hill until you get to the "Y" then turn right and continue up. Next "Y" take the dirt road to the right. At the 3rd "Y" take the road to the right going downhill. Keep right and continue past the water treatment plant, cross the stream. It says "private" but the gate was down and we proceeded onward. Follow the large metal pipe (on left) to the base of the waterfall. Note: There is NO swimming at the waterfall which is small but pretty. It is their water source.
- **Koeva (Marquesan site)** 45-minute walk (one way). Turn right at Magasin Larson. Walk up hill about 20-25 min. turn right at the metal power poll and recycling plant (surrounded by green fence) which is just before the road makes a hard-left turn (8.90.234S / 140.10.113W). At the large banyan tree, turn left (4-way intersection), then make your next right (might be a chain blocking vehicles up). Be sure to explore all around as there are many hidden huts, tikis and statues.

Jan 2019: Walks: There is an ancient Marquesan site (Koeva) you can walk to, about 45 minutes, uphill, one way. Follow the Road from Magasin Larson up the hill. Just before the sharp hairpin turn to the left is a fenced in yard – turn right (large power pole), At the Banyan tree turn left; next, turn right. The Koeva site has lush green grass and is well manicured, with some tiki's. – Taitonga

Aug. 2018: We took a couple of great walks from the village, both an easy 2-3 hour return even on a daily training regime of twenty cigarettes and a six pack:

Waterfall, visible to the north of the anchorage: Walk to the western end of the town until you reach the Marae/Tiki site and as you cross the bridge, take the road to your right, there are several turnings to the left along here but ignore them all keeping alongside, but not crossing the river – there's a bridge over it to the cathedral, that's worth visiting too – and going gently uphill. After perhaps a mile the concrete road turns left and climbs steeply, ignore this turning and continue north along the gravel track directly ahead of you. We

never reached the end of it, but after perhaps another mile there's a gravel track bearing off the right and going downhill, you can see the waterfall in that direction. Take that right fork and it brings you to/through the water collection/treatment plant; cross the stream there and follow a rugged path beside the raised steel water-pipe and after perhaps ¼ mile you'll reach the foot of the waterfall; don't swim in it as the water collection point's directly below the waterfall.

Palapa/Pergola visible on the skyline towards the SE corner of the bay: Surprisingly gentle climb up what looks a very big hill, but there's little shade, so take ample water: Follow the road east/south out of the town passing the hospital and going generally uphill, until after perhaps a mile the road turns right/west and descends to the Grand Quay, at this corner follow the smaller concrete road that continues on ahead of you; a few hundred yards further it turns to gravel and after a couple of hundred more it stops completely with an obvious gravel footpath continuing ahead of you, simply follow it. The footpath's easy going – I was told that the residents of the local prison built/maintain the path? - with bridges across all the streams and steps cut/built at any steeper sections, the path wends its way around the hills, before climbing to the top via a series of gentle zig-zags, with only the last couple of hundred metres being rocky/rugged. Fantastic views across the bay, along the south coast and Oa Pou on a clear day. – Moon Rebel

Summer 2018: Richard runs a tour operation, he's very knowledgeable about what he's showing us. Rose Carver's museum is still in operation. – Kokpeli

Cynergy - May 2013: Rent a 4-wheel drive from Kevin and spend a day driving to the airport and some other villages. Breath-talking – Cynergy

4.2.1.3 Cruiser Reports

April 2019 – Leaving the Boat for An Extended Time: A number of boats have left their boats under the watchful eye of Kevin at Nuka Hiva Yacht Services. We have received reports from 4 boats that left their boats for extended periods of time (> 6 months) on anchor that have returned to find their anchor chain reduced in size. Since the bottom is all mud at first, I assumed that there is some electrolysis in the harbor. But I think that it might be the makeup of the bottom substrate that affects the chain.

4 boats I spoke with had to replace their chains when they arrived in Papeete.

My suggestion is, if you want to leave the boat for a long period of time (5-6 months), then order a length of chain from Tahiti and have it sent up by ship. This will save your good anchor chain from being eaten up. There are NO galvanizing services in FP. – Jacaranda

Jan 2019: We watched some Manta Rays (I snorkled with them), and I was watched cleaning the hull by a hammerhead shark.

Church service: Cathedral Notre Dame des Iles Marquises: sun 08:00+17:00, sat 06:00, weekdays 17:30; Mormon Chapel and Jehovas. – Taitonga

Summer 2018: Wonderful fresh-caught tuna on the dock, very affordable. – Kokpeli

4.2.2 Baie Hakahaa “Controlleur’s Bay”

This bay is just east of Taiohae. There are 3 finger bays or lobes inside Controlleur Bay, and it is possible to anchor in each of them.

- The westernmost, Hakapaa has a hike to a waterfall.
- The middle lobe, Hakahaa has a town, Taipivai.
- The easternmost, Baie Houmi

4.2.2.1 Anchorages and Moorings

4.2.2.1.1 Hakapaa (westernmost lobe)

Oct. 2015: 08°53.7047S / 140°03.1397W sand bottom. Dropped in 30' and when stretched back towards the reef and beach it was 21' at LW. Suggest to come in at LW with good light as the reefs will be visible. Water was not clear when we were here. Surprisingly more settled than the larger north bay of Hakapaa. – Jacaranda

4.2.2.1.2 Baie Hakahaa- Taipavai (center lobe)

August 2022: Contrary to prior reports, we had real trouble setting an anchor or landing in Baie Hakahaa. We tried anchoring in 20' near the head of the bay, at latitude 8 52.812s. We could not get either our Spade or fortress to set - even though the anchors were coming up with sandy mud on them. The mud may just be too soft. We did get the Spade anchor to set further out in the bay where the water was clearer and the bottom appeared to be sand. We also were unable to land on the beach or enter the river due to large breaking waves at high tide - there was a southerly swell even though the wind was light. – Mabel Rose

Ed note: August is southern winter, and hence likely way more southern swell that time of year.

Dec. 2019: 08°52.9211 / 140°02.7402W dropped in 8.5 meters of sand. It was a lovely bay, a lot more comfortable than Taiohae bay, and fewer boats. – Sugar Shack

Oct. 2015: We only anchored here for one night before moving back to Hooumi Bay and did not go ashore. Wanted to mention that a French couple working and living in Taiohae mentioned that when it's a bit lumpy they beach their dinghy on a small sandy beach near 08°52.9740S / 08°52.9740S and walk into the village along a small trail. Especially at low tide it may be difficult to get the dink up into the river. – Jacaranda

May 2013: 8°52.702S / 140°02.973W in good holding mud in 15 ft. Almost no coral to get tangled around. Plenty of room here, usually only a few boats but could easily take 30. Center bay, Baie Hakahaa. Great anchorage, easy to approach at night or bad weather, protected from all but strong southerlies (rare). Navionics and C-Map very accurate (current version as of Nov 2012). Mouth at 8.54.62S / 140.1.909W. At high tide if no sig. surge one can take dingy up the river to the town quay. If not anchor with stern anchor off dingy to rock on the left side (river is on right side). – Cynergy

4.2.2.1.3 Hooumi Baie (easternmost lobe)

Jan 2021 - Behind the pavilion is a faucet with free drinkable spring water. – Trance

Aug. 2018 – We never went ashore to the beach, but it proved a very flat, well sheltered anchorage through a couple of rough days, even with the wind & seas coming from well south of east; a great spot for a mast climb/rig check with less swell & more comfortable than even Hanamoenoa on Tahuata. – Moon Rebel

Oct. 2015 - 08 53.5346S / 140 01.5769W 13'at low water. Mostly sand and mud. There are a few rocks scattered around the bottom. Even though the wind is ESE or SE you may find yourself pointing north or south. A very comfortable and pleasant place to spend a few days.

Beware of the rocks when making a beach landing. There are numerous visible rocks to the left of the beach when approaching from the anchorage but it is those that are just about OB depth that you can not see which may ruin your day. After bumping one of these submerged rocks at low tide with our dinghy wheels we started using the large covered shed as a guide and pulling the dink up more in the center and in line with this structure. – Jacaranda

4.2.2.2 Yachtsmen Services (Taipivai)

4.2.2.2.1 Cooking Gas (Propane and Butane)

Dec. 2019: We found three magasins that all appeared to sell cooking gas, but unfortunately, only one had hours and contact information. They are all on the same street. – Sugar Shack

- Magasin Kahei +689 40 920 634. Hours: Mon-Sat: 0600-1200 & 1400-1800. Sun: 0700-1100. Location: Main road, just past marae, cross bridge on right, turn right and magasin on left.
- Magasin Vainui is just past Magasin Kahei

- Another store in between, but has no name or hours listed and was closed when we walked by.

4.2.2.2.2 Water

Dec. 2019: Kevin from NHYS advised us that the water here is potable. – Sugar Shack

May 2017: Taipivai Village has drinking water - we were advised (by local driving government van and in government uniform, and several other locals), that the water at the two beach taps is potable here. It certainly looked perfectly clear (even after heavy rain), and we had no ill effects from it.

There is one tap within the large open building (where locals wash their cars) to the left end of the beach - beach dingy to far left of beach (concrete ramp is very steep, broken up at bottom, and does not connect with water at low tide).

There is another tap just on a concrete stand under a tree - to the rear side of the right hand (West) end of the beach (hug the the far right edge of bay from some distance out to enter river, and only after you have passed the beach can you swing to the left and beach dinghy at the back of the beach - you will see locals boats here stored under covered structures)

In BOTH cases, you will need to walk the jugs a short way to the tap (and a short length of hose with a screw on tap fitting would be useful so jugs can be filled while set on the ground).

Note: A little further along the river (way before town), there is a rickety wooden dock to the right with a tap and shower - but this is a private home - and we didn't see anyone to ask. If available, at high water that would enable you to fill jugs left in the dinghy and not have to take them ashore. Perhaps a small gift would make that tap available if owners are present? – Begonia

Oct. 2015: Hooumi. There is good potable water (spigots) located on the beach next to the small roofed structure to the east of the little river. – Jacaranda

4.2.2.3 General Services (Taipivai)

4.2.2.3.1 Post Office

Dec. 2019: Hours: Mon-Tues, Thur-Fri: 0700-1100. Wed.: 0700-0900. From dinghy landing, take concrete road inland, first right cross the bridge, then turn right down the smaller road. Post is on the left. – Sugar Shack

May 2017: There is a post office in town (limited opening hours). – Begonia

4.2.2.3.2 Wifi / Internet

May 2017: One of the magasins offered WIFI if you have your own computer/device (but there is no sign on the door, and I can't recall which one it was - one of the smaller ones). – Begonia

4.2.2.4 Provisions

Tanino Mai – Mon-Fri 0700-1700. A small new store that sells bulk food items and some natural products: salt, flour, pasta, nuts, chocolate, tea, etc. It is behind the bank, next to the chandlery. They also have a small snack for take out. --Migration

Dec. 2019: We found three magasins all on the same street. They were all fairly small. Unfortunately, only one had hours and contact information. – Sugar Shack

- Magasin Kahei +689 40 920 634. Hours: Mon-Sat: 0600-1200 &1400-1800. Sun: 0700-1100. Location: Main road, just past marae, cross bridge on right, turn right and magasin on left.
- Magasin Vainui is just past Magasin Kahei
- Another store in between, but has no name or hours listed and was closed when we walked by.

May 2017: There are several grocery stores in town. Worth visiting all for best selection/variety. – Begonia

4.2.2.5 Activities

May 2013: Hiking great. One very wonderful waterfall about 2-hour hike. Stay on west side of river and follow road. It will split once about 45 minutes in, just stay straight/right (don't take driveway to left). "road" hard to see sometimes but overall easy. – Cynergy

4.2.2.6 Cruiser Reports

Oct. 2015: Hooumi Bay: This small bay is the easternmost lobe of Controller Bay. The beach is a favorite of the locals and you may find folks having a BBQ on the weekend. There are no stores in this tiny village just a few houses. There is good potable water (spigots) located on the beach next to the small roofed structure to the east of the little river. The walk up thru the valley on the paved road is lovely.

Hakapaa West Lobe: We heard that the shelling was suppose to be good here so came in with a light ESE breeze and anchored close to the beach. There are reefs that run off the shore both to the east and western sides of this tiny bay. Surprisingly it was calm at anchor with little roll. Being far enough into the bay we could not see the open ocean. But it may not be that way if a large swell is running

Hakahaa Taipavai Center Lobe: Taipavai village is worth a visit which we had done previously in a car exploration of the island). Wanted to mention that a French couple working and living in Taiohae mentioned that when it's a bit lumpy they beach their dinghy on a small sandy beach near 08 52.9740S 08 52.9740S and walk into the village along a small trail. Especially at low tide it may be difficult to get the dink up into the river. – Jacaranda

May 2013: Town of Taipivai is wonderful, nice grocery as well. No restaurants however. – Cynergy

4.2.3 Baie Hakatea "Daniel's Bay"

Daniels Bay, is a one-hour sail to the west of Taiohae. It has a narrow entrance, but quite deep. The CMap charts are very accurate here. This is a nice rest from roly Taiohae. It's pretty exciting going OUT of the bay—straight into the wind and swell (when the wind and swell are SE).

4.2.3.1 Anchorages and Moorings

Dec. 2019: **08°56.7102S / 140°09.847W.** Anchored in 9 meters muddy bottom, good holding. On our return visit, we anchored at **08.56.72S / 140.09.873W** 2nd anchorage in 9 meters of mud/sand, good holding. Dinghy landing is on the beach with either a stern anchor or pull it up on shore and tie to a tree. Our dinghy has a long transom and outboard so we could not take her up the river. – Sugar Shack

Dec. 2018: **08°56,657'S / 140°09,826'W,** in 7m with 35m chain. Good holding in mud for the Bügel-mainanchor. Nearer ashore it is less deep, but maybe a bit more Nonos? There is some current in the bay and the boats sometimes were stern to stern.

Water-visibility: 2m in dark green water.

Wind and weather: The weather forecast (outside) was east 11/16KT locally 17/21KT, gusts 25/30KT, sea moderate, 1,5 meters to 2 meters. What we got: All directions, mostly ENE and SW (alternating in seconds), a few gusts in the upper 20ties.

Swell/Rolly: Some boat movements (2-3 out of 5 on the Dagmar-Scale), the swell is reflected by the mountain.

Dinghy landing: Left side of the beach with acces to a footpath to Hakauai. If you approach the beach you will pass an outstanding tree ~20m from shore - that is where the trail starts. Good shoes might be useful. If you go to the hamlet be prepared to cross a stream; water can be up to the hip. It was reported that it is possible at high tide to take your dinghy into the stream (drag the dinghy a bit over the sandbank). – Taitonga

4.2.3.2 Yacht Services

4.2.3.2.1 Water

Jan. 2020: Our friend's watermaker went out while here and they needed to get water from shore. It is easiest if you wait until high tide and take your dinghy up the river. This way you don't have to carry jugs over the sand dune to the shore. The water spigot is just in front of the shack (that looks like a bar) by a bush and runs freely and fast. Please don't be wasteful. Kevin from NHYS said this is good drinking water. – Sugar Shack

Oct. 2015: Since Survivor Marquesas did its thing here the water hose to the buoy is no longer available. There is a tap with potable water just next to the small shack near the beach. Be sure to ask Michael the caretaker of the property for permission before filling up your jugs! – Jacaranda

4.2.3.3 Provisions

June 2022: We were gifted fruit on the way back from the waterfall hike, saying it was included in the fee. – Sierra Wind

Jan. 2020: Kua and Teiki have a large produce farm can sell avocados, mangos, pumplemouse, pineapple, bananas, ginger, and more (when in season). Located at the house just before the phone booth on the left. Also, the house where you purchase tickets to hike to waterfall will sell (or most likely give) produce with purchase of tickets. – Sugar Shack

Dec. 2018: Kua (speaks english) +Taiki in the hamlet can sell you fresh produce and can serve you a meal (1000xpf p.p.). They can be reached on VHF-Net: Channel 72, 08:00 from Taiohae - the signal is not great but works. – Taitonga

4.2.3.4 Restaurants

Jan 2023: Charlotte & Maurice and family live in the first house on the left as you walk from the beach. This is where you pay your fee to the commune for the use of the trail to the cascade (1000 xpf p.p.). Charlotte is Daniel's granddaughter and is definitely following his tradition of welcoming cruisers. Charlotte and Maurice are truly delightful and will often offer fruit. They also provide an excellent lunch for 1000 xpf per person. – Migration

June 2022: We enjoyed a meal with Kua and Teiki and want to add that they are very accommodating for vegetarians and vegan preferences. We were able to take the dinghy on the left lobe of the bay, went up the right hand side by the creek and pulled the dinghy up the beach. We went at low tide and had no problems. Coming back out the tide was coming in and there were some small waves to crash through, but it was totally doable if you want to avoid the path over the hump, or just want to get closer to the fruits that you will be given and don't want to carry them as far. - Rhapsody

Dec. 2019: We ate with Teiki and Kua several times. Located on main road, just before the phone booth on the left. They offer tasty meals including chicken, pork, steak, lobster and fish that are accompanied with a fresh salad and bread fruit fries. Try their lime/lemon water as it is wonderful. All meals are 1000xpf except lobster was 2000xpf. They also sell avocados, pumplemouse, limes, mangos, ginger, pineapples and more. Sometimes they will sell their produce in Taiohae bay on Friday's (red panga with yellow rail). The setting is lovely in the center of their garden (but beware of the flies). Worth the stop! -- Sugar Shack

Oct. 2015: Most of the area is farmed by a couple, Teiki and Kua, who will cook you an excellent meal for 1000cfp per person. They are located just to the left of the phone booth where you would turn right to the waterfall. We met them the day before and arranged to have a meal at their house on the walk back from the waterfall. It was an excellent couple of hours visiting with them and the food was very good. – Jacaranda

4.2.3.5 Activities

Hike to Waterfall

June 2022:

Jan 2021: Pick up some walking sticks, which will make the hike easier. Cross the last stream by using tree branches as a bridge. – Trance

Jan. 2020: Nature walk and hike to waterfall. We were here during the dry season so it was really a “nada fall” but the hike was so lovely we did it three times! Please remember to pay the 1000xpf/pp (kids are 500, but they waived the fee for our two kids). The house to pay is on the main road, past the phone booth, on the left. They will provide a receipt and will most likely offer you produce (mangos or avocados). The walk is extremely beautiful and very easy with little incline. It is a well-marked path that took us about 1.5 hours one way. You will cross the river a few times and it is easiest to just walk through rather than trying to balance on the slippery rocks. At the old village take the path to the right to continue to the waterfalls. Follow the painted white arrows on rocks and the cute rock formations until you arrive to the base of the falls. Bring bug spray as there were lots of bugs.

Snorkeling: On the eastern side of the anchorage (right side as you come in through the gap) there are tons of fish waiting to greet you. We had about 2 meters of visibility and swam with a wide variety of sea creatures and even saw a beautiful octopuss. – Sugar Shack

May 2017: Charlies Chart (at least the 5th version) indicates this waterfall is the 3rd biggest in the world. This is not correct, but it is the biggest in the whole of the French Polynesian Islands, and at the base is surrounded by tall, almost vertical rock faces on 3 sides - very dramatic.

As of 2017 there is now an entry fee to support the community and offset the maintenance (\$1000 CPF charge per adult and \$500 CPF per child). Please don't let that put you off going. The route of the hike to the waterfall is owned/managed by the local community - they maintain trails and give advice on weather, water conditions, etc (Paul seems to have the full-time job of welcoming visitors, sharing information, and collecting the fee. He has worked in Bora Bora and elsewhere and speaks good English). All the families living in the village are associated with the same ancient family.

The hike for us was after 5 months of regular rain and a couple of days of heavy rain and the water at the crossings was quite high and fast up to the top of my thigh - i'm 5'2". If you suspect you may be hiking in similar conditions be sure to take hiking poles (or grab a sturdy stick to use) for the crossings and general slippery surfaces. With a little encouragement from my husband Kyle, I forded the last crossing (after the "danger, do not proceed" type of sign), and we were rewarded with the most amazing views just 10 minutes further along when we finally entered the canyon. Well worth it.

5 hours is a reasonable time to allow for the hike (to get up, down and enjoy the views)

Just before you cross the river to enter dramatic upper canyon - there is a pool (quite muddy when we were there) where an eel is said to live. We were told (by villagers) that you can take bread to entice it to feed and are likely to get a good picture opportunity - but the eel had other ideas the day we visited.

Down in the valley there are plenty of opportunities to buy/trade for fruit and one family also growing vegetables (we purchased some string beans for dinner, along with cucumber, a fresh pineapple and the usual fruits) - as others have said there are also several homes that will feed you a very generous meal - well appreciated after a long hike. – Begonia

Oct. 2015: The walk to the waterfall took about 2+ hours each way. Heading out of Hakauai you cross the river 3 times and then turn up the small stream for the falls. Between the second and third river crossing there is an excellent viewpoint of the falls (one of the few) where you can see about 60- 70% of the falls. At the base of the falls the waterfall is not visible unless you climb over some very large slippery boulders and swim thru the muddy pool. The hike was very muddy, slippery and buggy but very little elevation. – Jacaranda

4.2.3.6 Cruiser Reports

Jan. 2020: This is by far our favorite bay in Nuku Hiva. The golden plants sparkle against the dark hillside creating a magical atmosphere. The waters are calm and clean, the mantas roam around your boat and the snorkeling was lovely. Plus, the little village (10-15 people) and main road is absolutely one of the most unique and beautiful places we have seen. And the lovely people who live here make it a fantastic stop. – Sugar Shack

Dec. 2018: Nice scenery, a high mountain wall on the west side, beautiful, peaceful and birds are singing. We shared the east-anchorage with 4 other boats and 2 mooring-buoys which are close to shore and are used by the residents of the lonely house above the beach (we had a nice contact with the lady). No cell phone or internet. Flying objects: Ashore: Some mosquitos and nonos; on the boat: many, many flies. – Taitonga

Oct. 2015: This bay has been discussed at length in this guide and other guide books as well. The village of Hakauai that you walk thru to the waterfall has 6-7 people living there. – Jacaranda

2010: Daniel is no longer in Daniel's Bay. There are still structures there, and sometimes people are there, but there is no one in permanent residence. The floating water hose is no longer there either.

However, over in the small village, there are several families, and that is where the path begins to go see the waterfall. While we were there, we engaged with the locals and got them to make a dinner for a couple of boats, and guided us on a spearfishing expedition, took us goat hunting, and guided us to the waterfall.

To get to the village, you can beach your dinghy on the beach at Daniel's Bay, and take the path that starts on the left end of the beach, around to the village, and turn left after you cross over the bridge, rather than right to go to the waterfall. Or you can, at high tide, go in the little stream in your dinghy, take the first left into the pond, and go all the way in. There is nearly always some wave action at the mouth of the stream, and a sandbar. Hug the rock wall to the right on approach to stay out of the waves, wait for a lull and go for it, but be ready to kick the outboard up and jump out and drag your dinghy in if you hit bottom.

At low tide, you can still get in, but it's definitely necessary to get out and walk your dinghy up what's left of the channel. WXTide32's tide for Taiohae seems to be accurate. – Soggy Paws

4.3 The West Coast

Not many people visit the west coast of Nuku Hiva. It is dry and desert-like, not well charted, and not mentioned much in the guidebooks. So, if you are looking for (a) un-rolly, uncrowded anchorages, (b) dry weather or (c) clear water, head for the west coast of Nuka Hiva.

By mid-morning on the west coast, even when the tradewinds are blowing pretty well out of the east, you will find a westerly breeze!

4.3.1 Haahopu

Baie Haahopu is just mentioned in the Russell guidebook, *Exploring the Marquesas*, and there is a little more in *Charlie's Charts*. *Charlie's* says "Anchorage in good holding sand can be taken inside the entrance of the bay where there is protection from easterly winds".

This used to be how passengers got from Taiohae to the airport on the NW corner (by boat to Haahopu and then bus to the airport), but I'm not sure it's much used today—the road to the airport has been improved and most people drive these days.

4.3.1.1 Anchorages and Moorings:

Oct. 2015: We approached this bay from the north and wanted to mention a reef NW from the rock off of Motu Tauakakivi. At least we thought it was a reef. Depending on what scale you are zoomed in at (OpenCPN CM93) it looks like a quilting error but in reality, is a reef. We passed over the outer edge of the reef and the depth sounder jumped from 100' to < 20' in 1 boat length. 08 49.1982S 140 15.0815W appeared to be the western edge of the reef. Did not show on our C-Map or Navionics charts. Do exercise caution when transiting this area. When we got into internet range, we did look closer at this spot using GE and think it's a shallow spot and not a reef that extends off the island. Also, the rock awash 90m NW off of Motu Tauakakivi may not be visible depending on tide and swell. The rock is marked on the chart.

We also experienced a couple of hours of westerly breeze late morning the first day but it quickly went around to the ESE by noon and calmed down in late afternoon. The second day light and variable outside was 20kts E with a 2m swell. We anchored about 90m further into the bay than SP did in 17' LW. There was some swell

entering the bay but not uncomfortable. Snorkeling the anchor, we found sand patches interspersed with rocks. There are a few moorings close to the concrete wharf that fisherman use to moor their tinnies. These moorings do not affect the anchorage as they are close to the wharf. – Jacaranda

Sept. 2010: 08-49.5S / 140-14.94W good holding in sand. We could easily see the bottom in 25' in Haahopu. We found another cruising boat there when we arrived, and we anchored just inside of him. There are some coral heads around, but lots of sand, so try to pick a spot in sand.

We spent a lovely night in this bay with one other boat (and room for at least 2 more without crowding). It was the first good night's sleep we had in weeks—no rolling and no gusty winds. – Soggy Paws

4.3.1.2 Cruiser Reports

Oct. 2015: After spending a few days in this bay, we wonder how one would get to the airport. We have only seen a couple cars stopping and those were mainly fisherman going out fishing. There is a tree near the beach where some were picnicking and swimming for a few hours. Also, a couple trucks dropping off fuel tanks and gathering construction sand off the beach. Just after I wrote this the Taporo supply ship came in to offload aviation fuel and there were a number of trucks and people on the wharf. But if you have a flight to catch best spend the \$\$ and take a taxi from the big city. – Jacaranda

Sept. 2010: From here it is possible to dinghy a crewmember into a cement dock and (hopefully) hitch a ride to the airport (but we didn't do this, so don't know the logistics). Most people opt to taxi over from Taiohae. Clear enough water for bottom scrubbing and/or snorkeling. The onshore (westerly) breeze we had in the afternoon died in the early evening and changed to a light easterly. – Soggy Paws

4.3.2 Marquisienne (Anse Eua)

4.3.2.1 Anchorages and Moorings

Oct. 2015: 08 54.877S / 140 13.387W. Sand or gravel bottom. Good holding and no grumbling from the anchor chain. The bay provides good protection (open to the W) and when we first came in the wind was E out of the valley and after the rain stopped and the breeze swung around to the W. Very little swell in the bay when we arrived but a bit of lump coming in during the night. Forecast 16-18 ESE gusts to 30. We never saw anything over 15 knots.

To get here, we took the long jaunt (5 miles) down from Haahopu this morning in the rain. Thinking this side of the island which is brown may green up in a couple days. We briefly looked at the other anchorage options that SP's mentioned but there was some swell activity from the SSW so we carried on. As we approached the entrance to Bay Marquisienne we could see a brown water patch spreading out into the bay from a little stream in the ENE corner which become a swollen brown river from the heavy rain in the valley. – Jacaranda

4.3.2.2 Cruiser Reports

Oct. 2015: Its much greener here in the valley and beautiful with the late afternoon sun lighting up the green hills. A nice spot to stop and a good alternative to Daniels bay for those heading further west. – Jacaranda

2010: Baie Marquisienne, in the SW corner of Nuka Hlva a few miles from Daniel's Bay, is not mentioned in any guidebook we have. But it was first visited by our friend on s/v Shapirit in late August 2010. He was leaving from Daniels for the Tuamotus, and was looking for a calm clear anchorage in which to make water. He only stayed there a few hours, but said that it was both calmer and clearer than Daniel's Bay, and it would be an OK overnight anchorage. There is no chart detail or any guidebook reference that we've seen for this bay, so you are likely to find it empty.

We passed by it on our way around to Anaho, and checked it out ourselves a week or so later. It was calmer than either Taiohae or Daniels, nice and clear. There is room for 1-2 boats to anchor in 35'. – Soggy Paws

4.3.3 West Coast Overview of Anchorages

Sept. 2010: From the main town of Taiohae, on the south coast, to Anaho Bay, on the NE corner, it is clearly best to go 'eastabout' to get to Anaho Bay... shorter and less windward work. But leaving from Daniel's Bay, on the SW corner, the choice was not so clear. It was slightly shorter to go eastabout, but with an ESE wind, it should be much calmer going westabout.

After flip-flopping several times, we finally decided to go around the west coast. It would give us smoother water (for awhile), a chance to see part of the coast that most people don't go, and a chance to make water with our engine-driven watermaker. (It's a little dicey making water in the anchorages due to the amount of particulate in the water).

We also opted to break the trip into two parts, stopping overnight at what's known as the 'airport anchorage'-- Baie Haahopu at the NW corner of Nuku Hiva.

Exploring the west coast--motorsailing slowly north and ducking into every little bay we saw to check it out--was fun. We hadn't done that type of gunkholing in awhile. Though the guidebooks only mention one or two anchorages on the west coast, we found a total of 7 bays 'possible', with reasonable protection and anchorable depths. As follows, N to S:

- Baie Marquisienne
- Anse Haatapuna
- Anse Tataia
- Anse Tapueahu
- Anse Haatuatua
- the unnamed bay just N of Pt Matatekouehi
- Baie Haahopu

A couple of these had signs of habitation--one house and a small skiff. But most were completely deserted. Some had rocky beaches, but as we got further north, more of them had sand beaches. Baie Haahopu had a pretty sand beach, but an ugly concrete dock and a building (uninhabited).

Once we got around Cap Motumano, the waves started settling down, and after rounding Pt Matateiko, it was flat calm for the rest of the way.

The west coast of Nuku Hiva is arid and dry, so with little runoff, the diving ought to be clearer.

The winds were kind of weird on the west coast in the afternoon--we had a good 12-15 knots blowing from the WEST (against the trades). Obviously a 'sea breeze'. It died down at night and switch to the east.

We spent a nice overnight at Haahopu. The next morning, we left early to head east along the north coast of Nuku Hiva. – Soggy Paws

4.4 The North Coast

The primary cruising anchorage on the north coast is Anaho Bay, toward the eastern end of the north coast. But there are several other bays on the north coast where the adventurous cruiser can find isolation and good anchoring conditions.

4.4.1 Anaho Bay

4.4.1.1 Anchorages and Moorings

Anchoring restrictions in Anaho Bay. A lot of cruisers prefer to anchor in the no-anchor zone as it is more protected, but please do not anchor in this area where coral is growing. There is a sign posted (on the bath house) that requests all cruisers/boaters to anchor south of the pass, in sand, deeper than 35' of water. The coral reef, unique to Marquesas suffers from global warming and they are trying to preserve it.



Dec. 2019: 08°49.461S / 140°03.760W dropped in 11 meters, good holding, sandy bottom. – Sugar Shack

Aug. 2018: We initially anchored deep in the SW corner, but when stronger E/SE winds and heavy squalls blew in (they seem to accelerate through/over the saddle in the SE corner of the bay) we had the reef disconcertingly close to leeward, so moved over into the SW corner: Good holding in there too in 11m/36' on clean sand and no noticeable swell. The wind dropped again, so we moved back. – Moon Rebel

Summer 2018: 08-49.6 S / 140-03.4 W in 30', again a beautiful spot. It also looks easier to get onto the beach at this end. – Kokpeli

Aug. 2015: 08°49.260S / 140°03.852. We anchored close to Nakia's waypoint and in the morning were told to move as it was a protected area (WTF). The guy in the small power boat coming from shore wanted us to move further south up the beach beyond the buoyed reef entrance. So, we anchored between Soggy Paws' waypoint and Nakia's in about 40-45'.

It appears that the family that we knew from 25 years ago is no longer there and it is now a camp for the young folks of Nuku Hiva. There was a group of young people there for a week while we were anchored in the bay. – Jacaranda

Sept. 2010: 08°49.35'S / 140°03.89'W. We arrived in Anaho Bay, on the NE corner of Nuku Hiva, the northeastern-most of the inhabited islands in French Polynesia, about a week ago. It is the best anchorage we've been in so far in all of the Marquesas (except maybe Hanamoenoë in Tahuata).

This time of year, there is a large SE swell that makes all the anchorages on the south coast of Nuku Hiva really uncomfortable. Anaho Bay, on the north coast, is flat calm and beautiful, and the wind blows from a constant direction at a reasonable speed. – Soggy Paws

4.4.1.2 Yachtsmen Services

4.4.1.2.1 Water

Aug. 2018: Sweetest water we've had since the Caribbean from the standpipe beside the green roofed, red building 50m east of the dinghy landing – it's a spotlessly clean public toilet and shower. – Moon Rebel

Oct – 2015: Speaking with a young man whose family has had a home here for many years there are two sources of water coming into the residents of the bay. Depending on the location of the house in the bay there is treated water that is piped in from a reservoir and the other is from an underground spring. Both are potable and we tested the water from one of the spigots on the beach with our PPM meter and it registered 90ppm. The water located close to the beach is spring fed water source. – Jacaranda

4.4.1.3 Provisions

Mar 2022: We hiked over to Haataivea Bay and bought salad from the men who have a fruit and vegetable farm, very inexpensive, a 1/4 of what you would pay on Taiohae Bay. Took about an hour to walk there and an hour back. - Jamala

Jan 2021: Walk-up over the hill. Be sure to ask for watermelon! – Trance

Aug. 2015: Veggies: There is a veggie farm that will pick fresh produce for you. Melons, lettuce, cucumbers, tomatoes, egg plant etc. If you park the dinghy on the beach to the east of the main reef/beach and walk east on the trail you will come to the man's small farm. You can also leave the dink on the beach near the anchorage and walk down. The farmer also brings produce weekly by horse to Hatiheu. – Jacaranda

4.4.1.4 Restaurants

Mar 2022: We hiked over to Hatiheu and had lunch at Yvonne's restaurant. Expensive place to eat but it attracts the tourists. When the Aranui comes in, they make a traditional meal where they bake the pig in the ground pit.

We also ate lunch one day at the beach restaurant/hotel in Anaho. Apparently only one dish is available but it was absolutely fantastic food, also pricey but worth it. – Jamala

Dec. 2019: Kaniho. There is now a pension and restaurant in Anaho Bay. It is called Kaniho and is open daily for lunch and dinner but a reservation is required. They have a lovely seating area inside and outside under a tree by the beach. Lunch is around 1500 xpf. – Sugar Shack

Oct – 2015: When we returned a couple months later a family (tattoo artist Moana & Family) have relocated from Taiohae and opened a small pension and restaurant in the NW corner of the bay. A group of yachties had dinner there and we can highly recommend it. You need to contact them in advance if you want them to prepare a meal for you. As we all know these types of places come and go with regularity. – Jacaranda

4.4.1.5 Activities

Dec. 2019: There are several walks/hiks you can do from Anaho Bay. See below – Sugar Shack

- Walk over the hill to Haatuatua where there is a lovely village and 2G wifi. Easy walk/hike to a beautiful beach. About 5 miles round trip but a very gentle walk. Once you land your dinghy on the beach, turn left and either walk along the shoreline or go inland a little to the trail. Follow the trail across the short rocky area, then up over the small hill all the way to the beach. Several vistas offering great photo opportunities.
- Walk to farmer, Gilbert who sells his produce. In route to the pretty beach on east coast, Bay Haatuatua
- Walk to Hatiheu (this is a rolly bay and not comfortable anchorage). On the north coast are stunning From Anaho you can walk to a farmer nearby, Gilbert, who sells his produce. The yachties there will tell you how to get there. It is en route to the beautiful wild beach on the east coast, Bay Haatuatua. Two small shops. Smaller owned by Louise who drives to town regularly and will allow you to ride with her. No English.
- Hike to small village AAkapa which is spectacular.

Aug. 2018: Really good snorkelling in the SW corner – SE is OK too, though perhaps not worth the dinghy ride if you're not already there. — Moon Rebel

Summer 2018: We snorkeled north of the dingy channel from the beach, north of the "usual" anchorage. Immediately saw two stone fish in shallow water. Also, a fair number of small fish, nice coral, lots of top shells, etc. But this anchorage put us very much on a lee shore with the prevailing east winds, too near the reef for my comfort. – Kokopeli

Oct – 2015: Tattoo Artist: When we returned a couple months later a family (tattoo artist Moana & Family) have relocated from Taiohae and opened a small pension and restaurant in the NW corner of the bay. A group of yachties had dinner there and we highly recommend it. You need to contact them in advance if you want them to prepare a meal for you. As we all know these types of places come and go with regularity. – Jacaranda

4.4.1.6 Cruiser Reports

April 2019: CIGUATERA WARNING! On both Hatiheu and Anaho, ciguatera is extremely prevalent in both bays. Even shellfish is subject to it. According to Yvonne in Hatiheu, the only risk-free sea water animal is octopus. – Chugach

Aug. 2018 – Ciguatera Warning: Whilst we were there another yacht's crew came down with ciguatera poisoning after spearing & eating a fish from the SE reef – it really didn't look like a lot of fun! Whilst seeking assistance from the locals they reported that ciguatera is a risk/problem throughout the Marquesas, but the very worst place for toxicity throughout all of the islands is within Anaho Bay; they advised that you don't eat any fish, even pelagic, caught within the bay.

No sign of any veggie sellers or restaurants. — Moon Rebel

Summer 2018: We moved around to Anaho Bay, when a heavy south swell was forecast. Certainly, it is a beautiful bay. The volcanic fins are spectacular, goats on the cliff faces fun. No cellular wifi signal. White sand, clearer water to clean the bottom. Ours certainly needed it, after sitting in Taiohae for a month (waiting for parts and then repairs). We found it very peaceful here.

So, we explored a bit, and moved over to the small cove at the southeast corner of the bay. Much less coral, much less fetch, some wind protection, and apparently good holding. – Kokopeli

Sept. 2010: It is a large bay with a series of pretty beaches interspersed with coconut-dotted rocky points. As everywhere on Nuku Hiva, there are signs here of a large population in the past. There are walls and tumbled-down rock structures buried all over in the foliage--all that remain of the 10's of thousands of Polynesians who lived here when the Europeans first made landfall.

There are only a few families living here now, but they keep the grounds pretty well-tended. There are the usual large coconut plantation areas, which they tend by piling all the fronds and husks into piles and burning. The coconuts get piled up and left to dry, then they are opened, and the meat extracted for 'copra'. This is eventually shipped to Tahiti and becomes coconut oil and other byproducts.

They also have the typical Marquesan gardens filled with fruit-bearing plants. We have been able to trade a few things for all the fruit we needed--especially bananas, mangoes, and limes. We got rid of the last of our trade goods and a pack of old cigarettes for a huge stalk of bananas and some mangoes.

We were also able to trade for some **pearls**. There was a French sailboat anchored here who had spent 18 months in French Polynesia. He's a diver and spent a season helping a pearl farmer in the Tuamotus, and he was paid in pearls. So, he came to us offering to trade some pearls for any leftover wine and other food we could spare. So, we had a nice happy hour session with us and Infini and this boat, trading for pearls and going over all his favorite dive spots in the Tuamotus.

We all came away from the trading session happy--we got a few 'quality' pearls, a few 'B' grade pearls, and a handfull of less than perfect pearls, but ones which family and friends will enjoy having as a small memento of our travels (we hope). – Soggy Paws

Sept. 2010: We have done 2 of the possible **hikes** in this beautiful setting. There is a lot more hiking to be done, but we're ready to head north to Hawaii soon. One beautiful afternoon, we hiked east over the low peninsula to the windward beach. We were warned that the beach would be buggy with no-no's (tiny biting flies much worse than mosquitos), so we went in socks and long pants and long-sleeved shirt. But it was pretty windy and I think that much coverup was overkill on that day--it was really hot hiking in all that clothing on a sunny day out of the wind!!

We found a pretty beach, some semi-wild horses, some possible remains of an old habitation and not much else. We never did find the little farm back in the trees where friends had gotten fruit.

We also hiked over to the town of Hatiheu, to the west. This was a little harder hike--up over a pretty high hill and down into the next bay. But it was mostly wooded and we picked an overcast day, so it wasn't too hot. The whole trail was lined with old mango trees. But some of the mangoes we collected on the ground--even ripe ones--tasted very very tart--almost like a lemon--certainly not like any mango we ever tasted. In Hatiheu, we visited the grocery store where an ice-cold Tahitian beer was waiting for us. And also, of course, onions, cucumbers, potatoes, chips, and frozen baguettes. We ate lunch at Chez Yvonne. – Soggy Paws

4.4.2 Hatiheu

This is a big bay where cruise ships stop. Have good open buffets on cruise ship days. Lots of tiki and Tahitian dwellings. Archeological museum, Madonna de Hatiheu. Stunning bay, very pretty.

4.4.2.1 Anchorages and Moorings

April 2019: 8°49.4531' S / 140°04.9723' W, drop in 14 m. We liked this bay better than Baie Anaho (crowded with yachts, murky water, the coral reef is nearly dead), and found the bad comments on swell and difficulty of disembarking for Hatiheu somehow exaggerated.

To disembark with the dinghy at the little jetty, you need a bow / stern arrangement to avoid damaging the dinghy against the wall. But do not use a grapnel (it is deep and rocky), tie instead to one of the fishermen buoys a 30 m line from the stern of the dinghy and tie the bow to the jetty with appropriate length to avoid touching it. – Chugach

4.4.2.2 Provisions

April 2019: There are 2 grocery stores. -- Chugach

4.4.2.3 Restaurants

April 2019: Restaurant Yvonne is very good. – Chugach

Sept. 2010: Chez Yvonne on the water (we had called ahead on the cell phone for reservations, but may not be necessary). It was a yummy big lunch--most of their meals were in the \$2000 CFP range (a little over \$20). Between the 5 of us we had curried goat, curried shrimp, poisson cru, and goat in coconut milk. It was all good, and large portions. Even Dave was stuffed when we finished. – Soggy Paws

4.4.2.4 Activities

April 2019: Museum: Restaurant Yvonne should have key to museum which contains some interesting pieces. The 2 pae-pae which are at a 20mn walking distance from the village are well maintained and have some very nice tikis. – Chugach

4.4.2.5 Cruiser Reports

April 2019: The scenery in Baie Hatiheu is outstanding with the peaks in the West. The village is clean, people are very friendly.

CIGUATERA WARNING! On both Hatiheu and Anaho, ciguatera is extremely prevalent in both bays. Even shellfish is subject to it. According to Yvonne, the only risk-free sea water animal is octopus. -- Chugach

Sep 2010: Hatiheu is just west of Anaho Bay. It is reported to be a roly anchorage. Most cruisers hike over the hill from Anaho. I think Nakia made a day trip here once to visit the store. Hatiheu is a pretty little town anchored by a fairly large, fairly new catholic church. The caretaker of the church let us in for a quick look--it is only 5 years old, so pretty modern in design--'airy' is the best word to describe it. Probably built on the ancient foundations of a Marquesan marae (sp?) platform. – Soggy Paws

4.4.3 Hakaehu / Puua

Exploring the Marquesas gives this a mention as a good anchorage.

4.4.3.1 Anchorages and Moorings

April 2019: 8°47.2476' S / 140°10.7308' W, drop in 12m, sand. Nice corals on the W side. Dinghy disembarking difficult, we swam ashore from dinghy (cf Hikeu in Ua Pou). – Chugach

Oct. 2015: 08 47.298S / 140 10.698W 30' sand bottom with excellent holding. Some roll with about 15 knots coming down the island with a 1.5m confused cross swell. A stern hook would make the anchorage more comfortable when the wind died off in the evening and the boat swung beam on to the swell. But we spent our time on a single hook and it was fine.

The wind direction is usually from the east but will swirl around. It is very dry and brown here and warmer than Bay Anaho since the winds gather the heat off the island. We did not notice any no no's on the beach and could have anchored in closer. – Jacaranda

4.4.3.2 Cruiser Reports

Oct. 2015: We anchored here in 1993 and met a young couple trying to make a go of raising pigs and farming copra. Now that couple is living in Taiohae but the property (800 hectares) is being run by his brother Germain and son Alfred.

In ancient times, the Pua valley used to have a large population and there are many paepaes still visible along with parts of the royal road. Germain's great great grandmother was at one time the Queen of the Marqueses, she also lived in Hapatoni, Tauata. Now there are a large number of fruit trees (including a lime grove), horses and cows grazing under the coconut palms and a small stream meanders thru the valley. Only 5 houses are inhabited in the valley, many of them by Germain's family members. There is a road that links the valley with other villages.

The hills are all dry vegetation (it's the dry side) but the valley and mountains inland are stunning in late afternoon when there are no clouds on the mountains. Not as spectacular as Fatu Hiva but lovely none the less. – Jacaranda

4.4.4 Bay Moutee

Oct. 2015: We explored this bay after seeing it on Google Earth but did not anchor. The entrance starts out at 70' sand and continues with sand all the way to the beach. Further in the bottom gradually shallows to where we turned out at 08 47.477S 140 11.665W at a depth of 20' LW. The water was clear and we could have easily gone in another 70-100m and anchored 100m off the beach. There was some swell entering but with a stern hook would have been very comfortable. In settled weather it looked like a decent anchorage. No buildings visible ashore. Wind outside was 15 knots a 1.5m swell. – Jacaranda

4.4.5 North Coast Overview

Sept 2010: With the wind south of east, we had hoped to find some lee heading east along the north coast by staying close in along the coast. We did, but it wasn't as much lee as we had hoped. It was really wild going around the NW corner--big steep waves, lots of wind, and a couple of knots of current against us. But that didn't last long (the current died and the waves lengthened). We short tacked along the coast, staying in as close as we dared to get a little shelter behind small headlands.

The general wind and wave conditions were 16-18 kts ESE, and a 2-meter SE swell, but we found that both the wind and waves curved around the coast and were 'noselies' no matter where we were. It was generally better than going the same distance on the south coast, but there were still big waves and big wind. But it was possible to tack into several of the bays and make some eastward progress in calmer conditions.

It took us about 4 hours to go the 12 miles to Anaho Bay, but we did duck in and explore 2 bays on the way.

Baie Hakaehu, where the town of Pua is, and Baie Hatiheu, where the town of Hatiheu is, are both possible anchorages, but not nearly as nice as Anaho. There are other possible anchorages, I think, along the N coast that we didn't explore--we just got tired of bashing to windward and wanted to get it over with. – Soggy Paws

4.5 Nuka Hiva in Five Days (One Cruiser's Advice)

August 2022: We sailed from Oa Pou to Controlleurs Bay, then went counterclockwise around the island - I would strongly recommend this, as it avoids any long beats against the wind. We were able to sail, without using the motor except for harbor entrances/setting the anchor, all the way around to Taioha'e. We went from Controlleurs around the east side to Anaho on a one tack close reach. We stayed two nights in Anaho, then sailed from Anaho downwind all the way to the northwest corner, then picked up a light sea breeze along the west side, then had a two hour double reefed beat from Pointe Matateiko to Daniel's Bay. The next day we had a two hour, out and back beat to Taioha'e early in the morning. – Mabel Rose

Jan 2017: This writeup compiled by s/v Kandu gives a fairly comprehensive look at the highlights of Nuku Hiva for cruisers who only have a few days to spend before rushing onward.

Leslie with our two sons, Bryce (14) and Trent (12), and I arrived aboard Kandu in late June of 2015, intending to stay only a few weeks (RigneysKandu.com or Facebook.com/rigneyskandu). Instead, we became certified residents of Taiohae, Nuku Hiva so our sons could attend the local college (secondary school), the first Americans to do so. Having been here ten months, we've developed some favorites about what to see and do on Nuku Hiva.

With so many wonders throughout the Marquesas archipelago, it may be helpful to provide cruisers a Nuku Hivan short-list of things to do, in order of priority, were one to only have 1-5 days to spend. This is not meant as a boat owner's description of all available services, but as a cruiser's tourist guide for getting the most out of Nuku Hiva in the shortest time period. If you want additional details of surrounding the sites, Rose Corsair sells a guidebook at her shop on the west side of the bay. Wearing bug spray and a good pair of hiking sandals you can soak in mud, seawater, and streams, plus carrying a roll of toilet paper in a Ziplock, make for a more comfortable Nuku Hiva experience. Of course, spending more time at any one of these locations is preferable, but if you just don't have the time, here are our recommendations:

4.5.1 1st Day, Taiohae, from east to west

Petit Quai (dinghy dock, pronounced "per-TEET KAY", in order of appearance:

- Chez Henri (Henry speaks English and can help solve most any problem the Marquesan way) (meals \$8-\$10): Internet WiFi with food purchase, mostly Marquesan menu, including the classic Marquesan poisson cru (lime-marinated fresh fish in fresh squeezed coconut milk), fresh squeezed fruit juices or citronade (lime-ade), and bananas you pull off one of the bunches hanging along the tent's edge to eat with your meal (just as Californians eat tortilla chips with Mexican food). For dessert: gateau beurre (butter cake), ice cream, or firi-firi (French Polynesian donut). No alcohol served (BYOB from Kamake, see below).
- Boutique selling nice shirts, skirts, caps, and Hinano stickers.
- Dive store, filling tanks and taking you out, but no classes.
- Yacht Services Nuku Hiva, Kevin can help you check in and/or with boat problems (the American way). He sells Marquesan courtesy flags, souvenirs, and houses one of the island's premiere tattoo artists: Moana. YSNH can also set you up with one of their many island tours. Laundry and WiFi are just some of the services he offers.
- Trash and oil dump
- Fresh fruits and vegetable stand, daily 6a-3p except Sundays. (4 a.m. Saturday if you want tomatoes!!!)

- Chez Celina, in the market place at the end of the quay, serves local dishes, (\$6-\$10), cold beer, and Wi-Fi with a purchase. Serves standard Marquesan fare as well as Marquesan dishes with international spiced variations
- Quay restrooms are now pay (\$1, or free when you eat at Celina's), but not yet well maintained. We "lobbied" to improve this circumstance, asking that they have toilet seats, doors, toilette paper, soap and drying towels. Would also like to see the showers working too. There's a place to hand wash clothes behind the building near the toilets. During rains, the non-potable water is brown with sediment and stains clothes. Currently no potable tap water in Taiohae, except one of the three free filtered water stations. None close to quai.
- Communal artisan center, more active when a cruise ship passes through. If you see something you like, buy it. It might not be there tomorrow. When larger cruise ships pull into port, Ua Pou arrives to sell inexpensive black pearls.
- Tourist office, with maps and information about the Marquesas. Speak English. Can set you up with tours: Richard Dean and Jocylene speak English. Avg tour cost \$65 pp plus lunch. Tourist office has the best public restrooms on Nuku Hiva!!!!
- Saturday morning flea market (marche de puce), 5-6:30a, fresh seafood and prepared foods. Tuna, wahoo, etc. \$5/kilo. Live lobster, \$15/kilo (out of season Feb-April).
- Magasin Kamake and Magasin Larsson
- Taiohae has 5 general stores and 2 hardware stores. Larssons, next to Kamake sells higher-end items like curries, coconut oil, etc. The store furthest away, past the pharmacy, is open 7 days a week. The one behind the bank, across from the stadium field, is open during lunch, M-Sa.
- Cold anything, including soft drinks, beer (\$2.50-\$3/can), wine, chocolate, meats, cheese, and ice cream
- Fresh baked baguette bread (\$0.70) and pastries daily except Sundays and holidays. Kamake open 5:30-11:30a M-Sa, 2-6:30p M-F, Larsson's opens later.
- Fresh vegetables and inexpensive casse-croute (sandwiches) sold in front of Kamake until 11:30a
- These stores offer free truck rides to the Petit Quai if you have a heavy or large purchase, but you have to ask.

Kou'eva

- Inland ceremonial grounds, restored for traditional cultural festivals.
- Turn right up the center street, between Magasin Kamake and Magasin Larsson
- Walk about a mile up, super small sign on the right side of street marks right turn toward Taiohae's reconstructed ceremonial grounds. It's further than you think and not evident which way to turn . . . ask.
- Walking back to the seafront. As you descend, Chez Bigo hardware store is to your right, just before the bus stop, across the small bridge. They serve cold drinks and packaged snacks like candy bars.
- Moana Nui Restaurant, Pension, and Car Rental
- More European than Marquesan menu (\$12-\$30). Great steak. Serves French-style pizza, beer and wine and mixed drinks.
- More expensive than Petit Quai "Snack" cafes, less expensive than Pearl Lodge.

Cathedral Taiohae

- Ask permission to enter building. Strict protocols.
- Rose Corsair, on the westside of the bay, sells a guidebook for Nuku Hiva that includes descriptions of elements within the cathedral.
- Beautiful woodcarvings inside and out.
- Sunday mass begins with meditative chants at 7a, reg. mass at 8a, ends 9-9:30a

- Look for the Marquesan version of the Christian cross (previously Marquesan symbol for southern cross, I think). Butted together, the Marquesan cross looks like a pattern of men.

Tohua Temehea

- Seaside ceremonial grounds, built for traditional cultural festivals since 1989.
- Read the informational sign on-site (in French and English) for details

Melville Monument

- Tucked in on the shore side, neighboring the western cemetery.
- Wonderfully carved tree stump with weathered roof top and missing elements, shows the path he hiked out of Taiohae and over to Taiipi Vai
- This is where Melville reportedly jumped ship and headed for the hills.

Joel's Bella Pizza

- Great pizza, (\$12.50-\$18; \$3 delivery to Petit Quai), a less expensive alternative to Moana Nui Restaurant's pizza. The "Indian" and "Petit Quai" are our favorites.
- Better than the pizza are the desserts, tiramisu and cheesecake (\$4, large slices)

Restaurant and Marquesas Museum at Chez Rose's (American cruiser, arrived in 1972, moved here in 1977.)

- Far west side of bay. Never know when it's open. Knock. Great exhibit.
- Sells a great Nuku Hiva guidebook in multiple languages.
- Restaurant serves an excellent hamburger.
- A more casual Friday night happy hour than Pearl Lodge, Kevin sometimes sets up a taxi from his YSNH shop to transport cruisers to and fro.
- Free WiFi, password free (some anchor their boats at this side of the bay to closer to her wifi).

Pearl Lodge

- Nuku Hiva's gorgeous (expensive) bar, restaurant (\$18-\$40), hotel (\$225/night). Very nice!
- Beautiful view of Taiohae Bay.
- Friday evening Happy Hour, half off beautiful \$14 cocktails (or as I see it, two for the price of one!)

Swimming

- Remember in the Marquesas, beach equals no-no's. They breed in the sand between fresh and seawater. Usually, the whiter the sand, it seems, the greater the no-no's.
- Kouvea beach to the east, in front of the French Administrator's residence
- Beach to the west, in front of Rose's place, but more no-no's than Kouvea
- Colette's Bay, see "Hikes" below.
- Sharks?
 - Cleaning boat bottoms and swimming in the bay have not been a problem for us or anyone else. Locals say sharks are a problem, but Kevin from NHYS and the Fire Dept. haven't heard of an incident. Kevin says he is never concerned about jumping in to the bay to fix a boat.
 - Not advisable to swim near the Petit Quai as sharks feed on fishermen's scraps. That said, many cruisers have dived here for lost items without incident.

Hikes (Randonee, in French)

- Moderate, but sometimes steep. Bring water and toilette paper.
- Between 1.5 and 2 hours R/T at steady pace.
- Leave early in the morning, before it gets hot, before 7 am is best.
- Sentinal/East bay mouth, take upper road above fuel station to maintained dirt path. Ask any locals how to get to the start.

- Taiohae overview vista, walk up the center road, as done for Kou'eva, until you get to the top for a stunning view (hitch hike if you don't want to walk).
- Colette's Bay, over the ridge on the other side of the bay's west side, . . . path starts above Rose's motel. Turn right above the motel, then another immediate right, walking down and curving left. Stay on main dirt road until you reach top of saddle/ridge. Turn left, opening and closing the barbed-wire gate. (If you turn right, you're on your way to Hakau Bay, a much further hike, so ask in advance where the paths turn). Colette's Bay is where Survivor Marquesas filmed their challenges. Great swimming beach. Remember, beach equals no-no's.

4.5.2 2nd Day, Car Tour

Hire a guide for a driving tour (\$50-\$120pp). Richard, Jocylene, and Kevin speak English. Ask Tourism Henri, Rose, or Kevin to help you find a guide. Or go solo, diesel 4x4 rental is about \$120/day plus fuel.

- Taipi Vai, Tohua ceremonial grounds (toilets often available) w/modern stone tiki
- Hoomi, see church and visit with Pena, a sculptor (toilets available in Hoomi)
- Hatiheu
 - Road from Taipi Vai to Hatiheu and beyond becomes rough dirt, requiring 4x4.
 - Once arrived, visit the archeological ceremonial grounds, see petroglyphs
 - Check out the Marquesan history exposition. Great history of Anaho too.
 - Virgin Mary statue atop pinnacle southwest side of bay.
 - Chez Yvonne's for lunch (toilets available). Feed baguette piece to the fresh water eels adjacent her restaurant.
- Aakapa vista point, beautiful Attitoka mountain ridge. From Hatiheu to Aakapa and especially beyond, requires 4x4 driving skill. If it were raining, I'd pass on going to Aakapa and/or beyond.
- Some drive from there (Aakapa) directly to the airport, but told it can scratch cars.
- Drive across central plateau toward airport (or from airport, depending on how you drove there). This area is called 'Too Vii' or as some call it, mini-New Zealand, with its fresh air and pines.
 - Stop at vista points at the top of the mountain ridge, including Nuku Hiva's Grand Canyon.

4.5.3 3rd Day, Hakatea Bay and Hakau Valley

- Buy fresh baguettes to give to locals as gifts the same day you buy it.
- Leave Taiohae, sail west to Hakatea and anchor on the eastern bay ("Daniel's" Bay, where Survivor was shot. Daniel passed away a few years ago) (1-1.5 hr motorsail). Careful, lots of no-no's, some even fly to the anchored boat.
- Walk west along bay's north shore to Hakau Bay.
- Wade through river to other side (good place to run your dinghy to give it a fresh water internal rinse)
- Along the way, make lunch reservations for your return trip (4 hrs R/T) with one of the valley families. Teiki and Kua, as you enter the village, are favorites, but all meals from any family here are great. \$10pp.
- Walk to one of the world's most breathtaking waterfalls, following a not so carefully marked path. Walking through the stream is sometimes safer than negotiating slippery rocks and tree trunks over the stream. After three trips prior, we went with a guide, Thierry, and saw three times as much, and more safely.
- **WARNING:** Rocks can fall from atop, esp. open field close to falls. Move quickly and quietly when adjacent cliffs. Don't attempt this hike if raining, or rain predicted. Swimming to fall's base places you in danger of falling rock. Fresh water eels live in pond and in stream. Not harmful, but they nip.
- Wear bug repellent and re-apply after swimming in waterfall pond.

4.5.4 4th Day, Anaho Bay

- Sail to Anaho, on the northeast corner of Nuku Hiva. About a 6 hour motor-sail. Careful the rock on the SE corner of the island, off Controller Bay and Tikapo pt.
- One of the most scenic and protected bays in the Marquesas. It's where Marquesans go to vacation. Can't help but sing the Bali Hai song from the musical South Pacific.
- To protect the coral, anchor south of the coral carved dinghy path.
- Good snorkeling, safe (no sharks, sometimes jellyfish), clear, often times manta rays. Don't eat any fish caught there. (Ciguatera).
- Fresh spring water available on the beach for drinking and bathing.
- Careful, no-no's on the beach and more so to the east.
- Good surfing and a plantation on the beach over the small hill to the east, but be warned—mega no-no's on this beach, so run to the surf.
- Many artisans live in this bay, including a well-known Marquesan tattoo artist, Moana, when he's not in Taiohae.
- Another Moana, Moana Sr., owns the neighboring fruit and vegetable farm and has re-opened a small pension that serves meals. This makes two pensions that sometime serve meals, but difficult to count on. Usually about \$10 a large plate of local fare.
- Nice hike up and over western ridge to Hatiheu and back (2.5 hr R/T), start early as it gets hot. Easier coming back than going. Some say they walk it in half the time.

4.5.5 5th Day, Controller's Bay (Taipi Vai) or Hanapani

Northern Swell = Controller's Bay's Bays to the southeast of Nuku Hiva

- Sail south along the east coast, sharp turn around the SE corner of Nuku Hiva (careful, there's still that killer rock off the point to worry about)
- Hoomi to the east, Hakapuvai to the west, Taipi Vai in between.
- Coral surrounds these bays, so anchor down the middle of each bay.
- West side bay only good if no swell.
- Hakapuvai & Hakapaa (anchoring), the other Survivor beach.
 - We anchor in Hakapaa, the bay to starboard, more easterly, where there are pigs roaming the beach and a pretty waterfall (easy, short hike) in the back, to the west (left when facing inland from your cockpit).
 - Hakapuvai, to the west, has a beach of shells.
 - Snorkeling over coral in both bays.
 - Occasionally no-no's can reach the boat.

Southern Swell = Hanapani Bay to the northwest of Nuku Hiva

- Haven't been here yet, but told that . . .
- When the swell allows, for those who prefer remote white-sand beaches and clear water without other boats nearby, this is the place for you. Just west of Aakapa. Aakapa is not good for anchoring. Pua, to further west than Hanapani, is quiet as well, but a landscape just a tad less "magnifique."

5 Ua Huka

5.1 Vaipae Bay

5.1.1 Anchorages and Moorings

April 2019: 8°56.4018' S / 139°34.3990' W, in 4m, mud. We stayed in Vaipae for 2 nights with moderate E wind. Almost no swell, but we were fairly deep in the bay, and the further in you are, the least swell (with the conditions we encountered). We surveyed the surroundings with our portable sounder in the dinghy, and found 4 m up to the cliffs on both sides of the bay at the level of our mooring. Easy disembarking with the dinghy. – Chugach

Aug. 2018: 08-56.360S / 139-34.434W in 3.6m/12'+tide to the west of the small fishing boat moorings using a single anchor – little roll or swell. The holding was excellent in thick/stiff mud and whilst the wind was invariably blowing from seaward/a lee shore, as with the seas it didn't appear to 'blow home' so we never felt threatened or concerned; there's space for perhaps 3-4 boats single anchored, more if you're shallow drafted.

We arrived after 18 hours of winds <10 knots and the entrance was still 'a bit lumpy'. The following day when it was blowing 14-16 knots from just south of east, we twice saw yachts approach, prepare/start to enter and then turn away and depart. It seemed rather odd until we left in similar conditions and discovered that whilst it remained fine inside, the entrance was dog-rough--if we'd arrived to find it like that, we too would've no doubt gone elsewhere; so, do not be deterred!

I wouldn't advocate visiting in heavy weather, particularly if big seas are running from well south of east, but the entrance/whole bay is deceiving. With steep 1.8m/6' seas at the entrance, these were down to 0.6m/2' waves halfway into the bay and by the time you reached the point where the bay narrows/kinks slightly west, I doubt they were more than .10m/4" high – It looks to be a straight run in, so where they go or what happens to them? I've no idea, but the entrance is no indicator of conditions inside the anchorage itself.

The concrete dock and boat ramp seemed to be a bit rough and busy, so we landed our dinghy on the beach just after high tide, if the tide's rising then you'd do better to take it up into the river (NE corner) and land near/beyond the bridge as the tide comes right to the sea wall. In either case, row or at least take some oars for the last bit as it's very shallow from quite a long way out. – Moon Rebel

Oct 2015: 08°56'42S / 139°34'34W. Our second anchorage where we had good holding. Our friends on Maluhia (cat) anchored at **08°56'41S / 139°34'37W** (resting position between bow & stern anchors) about 50m further out from our initial anchored spot and had no trouble with slipping. Anchoring a second time in about 22' both hooks stuck immediately and held us firm the rest of our stay. The bottom appeared to be soft sand and mud. But it was considerably rougher in the second location than our first location, further in the bay, which did not hold.

We spent 4 nights in Vaipae and found the anchorage roily with a swell always coming in. Windy during the day with onshore breezes being sucked into the bay as the land heated up. Wind outside was supposed to be E to ENE. Swell was large 2+m from the N with an easterly swell too.

Covered in Charlie's Charts, Joe Russell Guide to the Marquesas and the newer guidebook Guide to Navigation and Tourism in French Polynesia.

Entrance waypoint: 08°56'57S / 139°34'23W

Anchorage: Coming into the bay we noticed how much calmer it was the further in the bay we went (but calm is relative here). Outside wind was forecast to be E 10 and we saw gusts of 18+ while at anchor in this bay.

At first, we anchored just in front of the moored fishing boats closer to the east side but after very slowly dragging our 22lb Danforth stern hook twice (once with 250' of scope in 15' of water) we then switched to a Fortress 37 (set on the mud setting) on a crazy long scope and slowly dragged 2X over the course of the night. At 4am with an offshore rain squall we had a local small fishing boat drag down on us dragging his 50' of chain

plus 50' of 1' rode and anchor. Haha what next.... Just before daylight the bow anchor slipped about 30' in another squall so as soon as it was light, we moved 100m further out of the bay. (see above waypoints).

We think the reason this inner anchorage is so slippery are two-fold. A river flows into this area bringing run off, and the recent tsunami a month earlier may have really churned up the bottom.

There is a bollard on either side of the narrow fjord-like bay where the supply ships tie up. Be sure to ask when the supply ships come in as you may have to move depending on your location.

Dinghy: We were fortunate that Maluhia offered us rides back and forth (leaving our dink on deck) and we dragged their dink (with wheels) up the launch ramp each time we went ashore. The other option is to use a stern hook and anchor the dinghy off the quay but the swells do sweep in there and the dink would be beam on to the afternoon sea breeze. The beach and small river mouth would completely disappear at high tide.

There is some small boat traffic especially at night as the fishing boats return with their catch, so be sure to have an anchor light on. – Jacaranda

5.1.2 Yachtsmen Services

5.1.2.1 Trash and Recycling

Aug. 2018: I didn't notice any trash bins, but again we weren't really looking for/expecting any. – Moon Rebel

5.1.2.2 Water

Aug. 2018: Water taps at the south end of the dock, but we never tried/tasted the water. – Moon Rebel

Oct 2015: There is a water spigot with hose on the quay. Locals said it was not potable. – Jacaranda

5.1.3 General Services

5.1.3.1 Post Office

Aug. 2018: Post office available. – Moon Rebel

5.1.4 Provisions

Aug. 2018: The village is a mile's very pleasant and relatively flat walk up the valley, we found three grocery stores there and as ever, the furthest away, at the north end of the village seemed to be the best stocked and had a small automotive/hardware department too; it definitely had the coldest beer! Bread's available at all three available, but as ever, you'll need to pre-order or get there early if you want any. – Moon Rebel

Oct. 2015: We found 3 stores with ok provisioning. The bakery is the red house on the right further up the road and you may have to order bread a day in advance (baguettes, demi-baguettes, and large loaves). The second day we went in they had plenty on the shelves. – Jacaranda

5.1.5 Restaurants

Oct 2015: There is a large community building near the beach across the river and next to the soccer fields that has lunch available on Saturday and possibly Sundays. For \$1000 CFP we received a huge dish of chow mein and chicken. Easily enough for 2 people. Many of the locals were there playing bingo. So, if you are feeling lucky.... – Jacaranda

5.1.6 Activities

April 2019: We visited Hane and Hokatu from Vaipee with the services of Toa and son Arii from Pension Mana Tupuna, and highly recommend them as guides. They are also good carvers. – Chugach

Oct. 2015: Pension Alexis where the owner's daughter-in-law offered to give us a tour (\$120 for 4 hours). We were able to see the interior of the island plus visited the villages of Hane and Hokatu. There were 4 of us so the cost was \$30 each. – Jacaranda

5.1.7 Cruiser Reports

January 2023: The museum is now located near the airport and is closer to Hane than to Vaipae. – Migration

May 2022: Note that when the supply ship is in, they tie lines across the whole entrance, so you can't get in or out. We hitch-hiked all over the island from here. A guy picked us up, headed east, and unlocked the museum (most of the way to Hane); he told us to lock the doors after us when we left. – Villa Veritas

April 2019: This is the island the least visited by yachts, but in our opinion not to be missed. The very friendly population makes a living on copra, fishing and carving. There are not enough fishermen on Ua Pou and Nuku Hiva, and fishermen sell their catch to these 2 islands. We stayed 5 days.

The church with very nice locally made wood sculptures deserves a visit. At the interesting arboretum we provisioned for free a lot of fruits. Next to the airport (located mid distance between Vaipae and Hane, which in total is 14 km), there is a small "mall" created from scratch in 2013 for the Marqueses festival then held in Ua Huka. It hosts a small centre artisanal where carver Pava from Vaipae exhibits and sells; The best museum we have seen in the Marqueses (to the level of Quai Branly's in Paris, we have not visited Papeete's yet) not to be missed; A carving school.

From Hane after a 20 mn walk you reach the site that hosts the oldest tikis in Marquesas (400 BC). The bay from Hane is a possible anchorage. It is wider than Vaipae's, and, according to the locals, less subject to swell bouncing back and forth against the shores than Vaipae. But disembarking with the dinghy is not a slam dunk. There is a centre artisanal and "sea" museum in Hane, but we did not visit them. – Chugach

Aug. 2018: The museum and woodcarving workshop beneath the post office have both closed and we were told 'moved to Hokato' at the east end of the island; whilst we didn't particularly look, we didn't see any other carving workshops, or signs to such either, perhaps they've all gone east?

THE CHURCH is on the left-hand side as you're approaching the village and it alone makes a stop at Vaipae worthwhile: Your typical colonial/tropical simple church, with a small tower/spire and a red wiggly-tin roof, but the decoration – Wow! The main entrance doors are flanked by two life-sized wooden 'saints' – one looks a bit like Desperate Dan? - and a couple more inside, along with carved wooden wall plaques, fonts, pulpits, chairs etc. I'm not big on churches, but even I made a second visit on our way back to the anchorage. Don't miss the giant pestle – open the door at the bottom to reveal an intricately carved nativity scene inside.

The Taporo supply ship arrived whilst we were there (that's why the quay was so busy!) but it anchored way out at the entrance and the delivery barges motored in/out down the east side of the bay through the moorings, so no disturbance. – Moondance

Oct 2015: As the guidebooks state, the small village of 150 people is about a mile up the road from the anchorage.

The church is small but beautiful. Many hand carved wooden sculptures done by a local artist and his family. The Sunday service with the choir was very enjoyable and we highly recommend it. Church service starts at 8am. Even if you can't make a Sunday service be sure to go into the church to look at the carvings.

We wanted to see the botanical gardens (the best chance to see the rare lorikeet which we did; you can also pick some citrus fruit) and other parts of the island and stopped into the Pension Alexis.

We had been wanting to visit Ua Huka earlier in the season but the winds were not favorable (from the southerly quadrant) and we had heard stories of other cruisers who had been there when the anchorages were untenable or shore access difficult or impossible, so we waited for a northerly forecast later on in the season.

We departed Anaho (10-15) at the end of Oct. in light NE breeze which went around to the E as we closed the island finally settling into ESE as we got within a mile of the anchorage. 3 swells were evident on our trip over (NW, S and SW). – Jacaranda

5.2 Haavei

5.2.1 Anchorages and Moorings

April 2019: 8°56.6468' S / 139°35.7324' W in 11m, sand (no rock as written elsewhere). We were in Vaipae Bay and the wind moved to stronger ESE/SE so we left Vaipae to go to Havei bay where we stayed 3 nights, waiting for the wind to move back E to sail to Hiva Oa. It was a bit roly, but the 2 islands in the South reduce the swell impact. – Chugach

Oct 2015: 08-56'58S / 139-35'72W. Depth 23'. Located on the SW corner of Ua Huka this small bay with a sandy beach is mentioned in Charlie's Charts.

Bottom: Linda dove on the anchor and reported sandy spots interspersed with sand covering rockpan. Be sure you back down hard on your anchor. The wind seems to wrap around and come straight into the beach during the day but when we were there it shifted to offshore at night. Another cruiser reported strong 35kt gusts while they were anchored here.

There was a swell coming into the anchorage which made it roly. When the wind died, we lay beam on. A flopper stopper would be helpful. – Jacaranda

5.2.2 Cruiser Reports

April 2019: Ashore (disembarking difficult, Tikeu/ Ua Pou style), there are a few houses that are not permanently used. On the first day when the swell was still minimum, we tried Baie Matau, but it was already too roly. With NE conditions it must be great. Stunning view of Ua Pou at sunset (if clouds allow). – Chugach

Oct 2015: Linda snorkeled the east wall with Kim from Maluhia and reported murky, surgy, poor conditions.

There are 2 islands (Hemeni and Teuaua) 6-mile SSE of the anchorage called "Bird Islands" that are home to tens of thousands of sea birds (terns). Early morning and late evening the skies are full of birds circling these islands. The next day when departing we sailed very close to the two islands to look at the birds. When rounding the corner of the smaller awash rocks at the western end of these islands we encountered 25-30 manta rays feeding on the surface. We did not go ashore to explore the valley and left the next morning for Bay Vaipae. – Jacaranda

5.3 Hane Bay

5.3.1 Anchorages and Moorings

June 2022: We found Hane comfortable for anchoring, but enough swell came in that we couldn't safely land the dinghy. We were surprised, because structurally it looked like we should have been protected from the easterly prevailing wind/waves. – Villa Veritas

July 2007: The buoy at the mouth of the bay does not light up at night. Our anchor wouldn't take a good bite into the bottom, so Sten set the chart plotter's anchor alarm function before bedding down in the cockpit to keep anchor watch. This morning, still not comfortable with our anchor set, with a heavy swell rolling into the bay, we left right after breakfast. We checked the other harbors on Ua Huka, but the swell was slamming into both of them, so we decided to continue onto Nuka Hiva. – Mata'irea

5.3.2 Cruiser Reports

Aug. 2018: We didn't actually go there, but whilst at the Marie in Viapae we saw Architects drawings on display which detailed a new dock with a partial breakwater at its end that's proposed, or perhaps already in-build for the NW corner of Hane Bay. When or even if it's going to happen, I've no idea, but I suspect it'll be

better than what Ua Huka's currently got for unloading supplies and Aranui passengers and may explain why the museum/carvers of Vaipae seem to have moved to that end of the island. – Moon Rebel

Oct 2015: We anchored in Vaipae Bay and took a land tour to visit Hane Bay. It has a small museum with some old canoes and a craft store. – Jacaranda

5.4 Hokatu

5.4.1 Cruiser Reports

April 2019: We visited Hokatu by land from Vaipae. The Hokatu mooring is to be used only in calm weather. The local centre artisanal is the best we have seen in the Marquesas, a true cavern of Ali Baba. – Chugach

Oct 2015: We thought we might move over to Hokatu from Vaipae after viewing it on GE. But after seeing it from our land tour and speaking with a few locals we decided to give it a miss. One of the women from Hokatu said she only remembered 1 boat ever stopping there about 10 years ago. It is small, rough and the bottom appeared (from the hill above) to be sand and much rock. It looked like it might be difficult to get a shore in a dinghy.

There is a nice artisan shop and a small museum that has photos and plaster casts of local petroglyphs. – Jacaranda

6 Ua Pou

6.1 Ua Pou's East Side

6.1.1 Hakahau Bay (09-21S / 140-03W)

6.1.1.1 Anchorages and Moorings

May 2022: The anchorage is a tight space and stern anchoring likely necessary; we saw many sailboats come in and leave because there wasn't enough room, so if coming here, make sure you have time to get to an alternate anchorage safely.

No one seemed to know the supply ship schedule so stay clear of the dock area. One boat stern tied to the dock assuming the supply ship wouldn't come on Easter Sunday but they were wrong.

Good dinghy dock, probably the best in the Marquesas. The dock also has fresh water, unsure if potable but suitable for laundry. Kids seem to use the dock as a playground, be careful leaving anything valuable in your dinghy. – Sierra Wind

Dec. 2019: 9°22 513S / 140°02.888W. Anchored in 6.5 meters of sand with stern anchor. We anchored during the large Marquesan festival and had to be within a specific approved anchorage area in this bay. Of course, the approved anchorage was not in the protected area behind the break wall which made it a roly and uncomfortable 3.5 weeks waiting for the Marquesan festival. We would have preferred to be protected by the break wall, but that was not an option for us. During the festival, they had two cruise ships (tied to the dock), 12 boats in the "approved anchorage" and the beach area blocked for the va'a races.

Dinghy Landing: You can bring your dinghy up on the beach or tie it to the quay. There are several spots, but the safest is on the dock side that is perpendicular to the main break wall. The dock side that is parallel is used for the local boats and they prefer you not tie up there and get in their way. Some people tied their dingies to the corner where they could bow and stern tie. – Sugar Shack

Aug. 2018: The bay provides good holding in 4m/15' and generally gets NE winds irrespective of the wind direction outside; whenever the winds were stronger, they also became gusty within the anchorage. Strangely,

once you went ashore and got 100m back from the sea front there was usually barely a breath of wind, irrespective of the winds out in the anchorage.

Try to get a spot to the east of the breakwater's end and deploy a second/stern anchor to point your bow into the seas/swell, there's probably space in the area between the quay/local moorings and the breakwater-end for a half dozen boats to twin-anchor. If the anchorage is busy and you have to anchor further to the west, then beware of a drainage outfall/ruined quay, which runs out at right-angles from the beach-breakwater just to the east of the single storey, green roofed building on the seafront right in the middle of the bay; I've no idea how far below the surface it is, but it extends a good 50m from shore and is clearly visible from the overlook at the crucifix..

Dinghy landing is either on the beach, or in a very well sheltered corner at the east end of the quay on its north side – few barnacles and no lip to float underneath, avoid the ladders on the main quay's south side, it's nearer to the anchorage, but has both. – Moon Rebel

Aug. 2015: 09 21.518S / 140 02.798W, 3m at low water. Where the boat rests at anchor (bow & stern) not where we dropped the hook. Excellent holding in sand bottom. If you anchor any closer to the dock than this you will have to move when the Arauni comes in! There are a couple red mooring balls that some small local boats use and that pushes everyone further into the harbor away from the main wharf.

Dinghy Landing: They are building a new wharf off the breakwater for the supply ships and hence the previous dinghy tie up spot is covered with huge pipes and not accessible. There is a set of steps in the little harbor that you could use with a stern hook but we chose to take the dinghy ashore in front of the canoe club. We felt that we might be in the way of the local boats tied to the steps. It's an easy row to the beach of maybe 50m.

The harbor could be entered at night as the end of the jetty has a red light visible to seaward. There is room to come around the breakwater and anchor on a single hook for the night. Then sort out a bow and stern anchor spot in daylight. End of Jetty is 09 21.426S 140 02.843W Turning waypoint 100m off end of jetty 09 21.437S 140 02.895W Both waypoints confirmed via Google earth and our track line using OpenCPN. – Jaccaranda

6.1.1.2 Yachtsmen Services

6.1.1.2.1 Cooking Gas (Propane and Butane)

Dec. 2019: Cooking gas can be bought at Magasin Marielle and Magasin Juliette. (see provisions for hours/contact). – Sugar Shack

6.1.1.2.2 Fuel (Diesel and Gasolone)

May 2022: Diesel was available in drums but gasoline could be sold by the liter, neither can be purchased on Sundays. – Sierra Wind

Dec. 2019: Magasin Marielle and Magasin Juliette sell small quantities of diesel (no gasoline) (see provisions for hours/contact). – Sugar Shack

6.1.1.2.3 Trash and Recycling

Dec. 2019: There is a large green trash bin by the dock. Please do not put glass or aluminium in the trash as they recycle these items. Glass and aluminum recycle bins located around town. One off main road, just as it dead ends to 2nd street by co-op and on left before church), another recycle bin is next to Magasin Juliette, and another is just past the elementary school on the 1st street. – Sugar Shack

6.1.1.2.4 Water

Sep 2022: There are three water sources around the shore of Hakahau Bay. The supply dock (faucet), the canoe club (shower) and the far end of the bowling area. The water at the bowling club is favoured for showers by the local fisherman in the morning, as the water comes out solar heated from a roof top storage container. These three water sources are NOT potable. They come direct from the valley river.

Potable (drinking) water is available from a faucet outside the Cultural Centre. This water is filtered, tested and treated as required. Any local will be happy to direct you, the water is available to all free of charge and you are guaranteed to be offered a lift the short distance to the shore. – Spirit of Argo

Jan 2021: There is a water hose at the west end of the beach beyond the bocce ball court. This water tested 10ppm. The locals were seen driving there and filling large jugs. – Trance

Aug. 2018: There're water taps here too and as in Nuku Hiva several people advised that the water wasn't potable, but having seen the locals drink it – and feed it to their kids – we decided it couldn't be too bad and used it ourselves without any ill effects. There are public taps located near the Library/Craft-market area just west of the post office, this is 'officially' designated as potable, but it's a long way to haul it and it didn't taste any better/different to us. – Moon Rebel

6.1.1.3 General Services

6.1.1.3.1 Air Tahiti

Dec. 2019: +689 40 86 42 42 or +40 910 225. Hours: Tues. & Fri: 1500-1700. Main street, 2nd left, on right, by post and Le Mairie. – Sugar Shack

6.1.1.3.2 Bank / ATMs

Dec. 2019: Banque Socredo. Hours: Mon-Thurs. 0800-12n & 1330-1600. Fri: 0800-12n & 1330-1500. Main street, 2nd left, on right, near poste and Le Mairie). There is an outside ATM. – Sugar Shack

6.1.1.3.3 Gendarmerie

Main street, 2nd left, past post office, on left.

6.1.1.3.4 Laundry

Dec. 2019: Boulangerie does laundry +689 87 314 729 and so does Alexandrine 5kg for 1000xpf – Sugar Shack

6.1.1.3.5 Library

Dec. 2019: Main street, 2nd left, then first right, and is on the left past the Le Mairie. The library offers books, jewelry, postcards and wifi. Internet access is “free” with purchase of 500xpf or more. It will usually last about a month. Each device will receive a password entered by librarian. – Sugar Shack

6.1.1.3.6 Le Mairie

Main street, 2nd left, first right, and on your left by post.

6.1.1.3.7 Mechanics

Dec. 2019: We found several mechanic shops but did not use them. See below. – Sugar Shack

- Mechanic shop: Location: main street, 2nd left, on right side before church.
- Mechanic shop: Location: main street, 2nd left, 1st right, past post, bank, before road turns.
- Mechanic shop/boat repair: Location: main street, 2nd left, 1st right, past post, bank, road bears left, on right side where a magasin used to be located.

Aug. 2015: AC, Refrigeration & general car repairs: Claude, is an ex-baker, is the local repair guy. – Jaccaranda

6.1.1.3.8 Post Office

Main street, 2nd left, first right, and on your left.

6.1.1.3.9 Transportation

Dec. 2019: We only saw a few approved taxis (with the VMT sticker) but everyone was offering rides during the festival.

Bike rentals (E-Bikes) Teheikuakakkaa +689 87 30 76 28

Car Rentals - Boulangerie / Café. (main street, 1st left, on left). +689 40 92 52 57. Hours: Mon-Sat. 0500-1500. Sun. 0500-0800. – Sugar Shack

6.1.1.3.10 Wifi / Internet

June 2022: Vini cell service is decent at the anchorage – Rhapsody

May 2022: Snack Vehine had the best WiFi we found in all of French Polynesia! We heard from other cruisers that the main town now has Vini 4g cell coverage. – Sierra Wind

Dec. 2019: There are three places that offer internet. See below – Sugar Shack

- Boulangerie Snack Hiamoekuha (bakery/café). +689 40 92 52 57. (main street, 1st left, on left). Hours: Mon-Sat. 0500-1500. Sun. 0500-0800. Really good internet for customers.
- Biblioteque “Library” offers internet with purchase of 500xpf or more. Hours: Mon-Fri: 0730-1600 (wifi is on until 1700). Location: main street, 2nd left, 1st right, past post and bank, on left.
- Snack Vehine Hou +689 40 925 063. (main street, 1st left, past bakery, on left).

Aug. 2018: The Library is the place for **internet**, you need to spend FPF500 on the stationary supplies which they sell after which they'll give you a wifi code to use, I've no idea how long it's good for, but we're into the third week with ours. The Library was open (as best we recall) from 09:00-11:30 & 15:00-16:00 Monday to Friday; you can pick up the signal from outside (take mossie spray) and it transmits during lunchtime and often into the early evening, but shuts down at weekends and during the night. We could 'see' a Vinnispot signal from the anchorage using a small booster antenna, but couldn't get a connection to it from either there or right beside the post office antenna? – Moon Rebel

6.1.1.4 Provisions

January 2023: There is a new baker in Ua Pou. Sebastien & Rebecca live on the west side but come to sell bread at Hakahau every Saturday around 0730. They stay until the bread is gone. They will deliver to Hakahetau early in the morning on their way to Hakahau if you call in advance and place an order. They have several different kinds of bread: whole wheat, baguettes, sesame bread, etc. Sebastien speaks good English. +689 87 73 29 52 or Akatoa on Facebook. – Migration

Boulangerie / Café. +689 40 92 52 57. Hours: Mon-Sat. 0500-1500. Sun. 0500-0800. Main street, 1st left, on left. Pre-order bread and baked goods.

- **Jan 2021:** Has a clean restroom around the back. – Trance
- **Dec. 2019:** Sells baguettes, sandwiches, pre-packaged lunches, pastries, and some produce. Really good internet, best on the island, for customers. – Sugar Shack
- **Aug. 2018:** Walking into town from the quay/beach, if you take the first turning to the left (between the school and the football field) and walk perhaps 300m there's a cafe/boulangerie on the left, it even has fresh baguettes on Sunday, if you're there before 08:00. – Moon Rebel

Magasin Marielle +689 40 925 231 Hours: Mon-Sat: 0500-1900. Sun: 0500-0700, 0900-1100, 1600-1830. Main street, 2nd left, after church. Sells propane. Largest market on island.

- **Dec. 2019:** Definitely the largest and well stocked market on the island. They have a variety of home goods, hardware, and food. – Sugar Shack
- **Aug. 2018:** The biggest grocery store (Maricel's) on the left, just after the church; Maricels does not close at lunchtime and opens on Sundays too. – Moon Rebel

Magasin Tevaea +689 40 925 630 Main street, 1st left, past bakery, on right.

- **Dec. 2019:** This is a well stocked store with friendly staff. They often had cases of beer when others were sold out. – Sugar Shack
- **Aug. 2018:** Continue for another 2-300m and there's a reasonable grocery store with some hardware too on the right-hand side of the same road. – Moon Rebel

Magasin Juliette. Hours: Mon-Fri: 0700-12n & 1400-1700. Sat. 0700-12n & 1430-1700. Located behind Snack Juliette (main street, 2nd left, before church, left side). Sells propane and diesel.

Magasin (main street, 2nd left, before church, on left, behind Hinano Snack)

- **Aug. 2018:** If you take the second turning left (after the soccer field) and walk perhaps ½ mile up there, you'll find a grocery/hardware store on the left just before the church. – Moon Rebel

Magasin Hours: Mon-Sat. 0500-1900. Sun 0500-0700, 0900-1100, 1600-1830. Main street, 2nd left, after Magasin Marielle

- **Aug. 2018:** If you continue for another 2-300m there's a third on the right-hand side of the road, the furthest from the dinghy dock, but stocks the coldest beer! There were very occasionally fresh fruit & veggies being sold in the area of the post office and also near the craft market but we felt the quality and choice was much poorer than we'd found in Nuku Hiva. – Moon Rebel

Magasin Aline +92 52 03. Main street, 2nd left, past church and sport center, on left.

Magasin: Hours: Mon-Sat. 0500-12n & 1400-1830, Sun: 0500-0700 and 0900-1100. Main street, 2nd left, 1st right past post/bank, on left.

Provisioning Cruiser Reports

Dec. 2019: We agree with Moon Rebel on their comparison of Nuku Hiva and Ua Pou on provisions. It was not “terrible” here, but there is far more fresh produce (fruit and veg) in Nuku Hiva. There is also a larger variety of meats and frozen goods in Nuku Hiva. – Sugar Shack

Aug. 2018: Ever since we've been in the Marquesas, we have had other Cruisers advise that Ua Pou's better than Nuku Hiva for provisioning before heading on to the Tuamotus, we disagree; it's OK here but we thought choice, quality and availability, particularly for fresh produce were far better in Nuku Hiva. – Moon Rebel

Aug. 2015: Provisioning is excellent and even better than Autouna. The store just beyond the church on the left as you walk towards the soccer field is very well stocked. There is a bakery selling bread and crosaints. Also, just up the street from the bakery is a frenchman named Claude who also makes loaves of bread that are double baked. They are thick crust and last much longer than the baguettes. From the bakery walk up the street away from the water maybe 100yds on the same side of the street. You will see a house with a bunch of machinery under a covered roof. Looks like a mechanics shop from the road. – Jaccaranda

6.1.1.5 Restaurants

December 2022: There is a fairly new snack in town that we highly recommend. Snack Te Manuhiki is owned by Raissa and her husband Harold. They are super nice and make the best breadfruit fries we've had. It's a 10-minute walk up the main road past the church, clinic and sports field (not the one near the beach). It's a yellow house on the left just after you cross the tiny bridge. Magasin Aline is ahead and to the right. The ambiance in the garden is delightful. – Migration

Dec. 2019: Lots of great places to eat here! See below. – Sugar Shack

Co-Op (near the library) serves lunch daily and for 700xpf with an 'all you can eat' buffet. Come early as they do run out! Elizabeth is the cook and she is Henri's sister from the dock eatery at Nuku Hiva. She will also get fresh produce.

Boulangerie Snack Hiamoekuha (bakery/café). +689 40 92 52 57. Hours: Mon-Sat. 0500-1500. Sun. 0500-0800. Main street, 1st left, on left. Café offers a variety of options at reasonable prices. Really good internet

for customers. They do frown upon guests “camping” out on their tables. Has a clean restroom around the back.

Pizza Ato +689 87 26 32 74 or +689 87 72 63 33. Hours: Mon-Sat 11-1300 and 1800-2100. Main street, 1st left, past bakery, on left. Pizza to go, no place to sit **Jan 2021:** Pizza is good... to go or eat in. To the right is an associated bar with tables you can dine. Clean restroom. WiFi available free. – Trance

Snack Vehine Hou +689 40 925 063. Main street, 1st left, past bakery, on left. They offer wifi and a comfortable place to enjoy a meal.

Te O’a Pohue o Ua Pou snack (next to library) offers buffet 650cpf and sells some produce.

Snack Juliette (there is a **big** Hinano sign). +689 40 925 391. Main street, 2nd left, on left, before church. We heard this snack was closed, but may reopen.

Pension Pukué: Jerome (French army veteran married to a Marquesian) now is a restaurant.

Other: Jan 2021: There are a couple of "Temporary Food Trucks" in town, one to the west of the beach across the street (next to the school's cafeteria). Outdoor seating. Sushi is good. - Trance

6.1.1.6 Shops

Dec. 2019: Lots of lovely little shops to purchase Marquesan trinkets. See below. – Sugar Shack

- **Artisan Market.** Location: main road, 2nd left, 1st right, past post and bank, on left side.
- **Biblioteque** “Library” books, cards, jewelry, office supplies. Hours: Mon-Fri: 0730-1600 (wifi is on until 1700). Location: main street, 2nd left, 1st right, past post and bank, on left side.
- **Planete Tuako** +689 87 34 80 44 or +689 40 925 056, planetetuako@gmail.com. (main street, 2nd left, on left). Hours: Mon-Fri: 0830-12 and sometimes in the afternoon. Sporting goods and clothing
- **Tehina Boutique** +689 40 925 525 or +689 87 32 02 74. (main street, 1st left, past the bakery), clothing, flip flops, toys

6.1.1.7 Activities

Dec. 2019: There is a canoe/outrigger school located on the beach if you want to take lessons. There is lots of exploring around this village.

Tours: Pierre (aka Peter) at La Merie is a wonderful island guide and will take you walking or for a trip in his car. About \$100 plus petrol for a day trip. He is VERY intelligent and informative and speaks English well. His cousin, Meitae (not 100% sure of her name) who also works at La Merrie, is lovely too and speaks English well.

Hike to Hakahetau: This is a 4.5-5-hour hike one way. It is mostly shaded by the trees, but should be started as early as possible. We found GPS coordinates on Wiki Loc which were mostly accurate. They can be downloaded on to Maps.me or Garmen or other devices. The one spot where we got lost (and another group we heard of) was about an hour into the hike, there are 3 roads to choose from. One goes up (which we took and it was wrong), one looks like it goes to a house (down) and one in the middle which goes above the house and below the upper road. Take the middle one toward the right. You can arrange for a taxi or panga back. We did the walk over, then to Manfred (chocolate guy), the waterfall, and town and it was 11 miles-one way.

Hike to Cross: We did the hike to the cross that Moon Rebel mentioned, but we took a different path back over the ridge. From dock, take very first road to left (toward pension), follow well marked, fairly easy trail to cross (about 20 min). You can go back the way you came or continue on the path that will lead you across the mountain ridges (up and down and more of a proper hike). The path is pretty clear albeit narrow. Before you reach the large rock peak and while you are in a valley you will see the path splits or “Y” and you will want to take the path down, toward the right to make your way back to the village. The path will drop you behind the village. Over all hike is about 3-3.5 miles and took about 1-1.5 hours. – Sugar Shack

Aug. 2018: Walking: The road footpath up to the crucifix on the east side of the bay isn't as far/high as it looks, an easy 30-minute walk will get you there and the views are great. We never managed to find a footpath which

reached the rock pinnacles and none of the locals we enquired of could direct us to one either. The road south past the church/sportsground, then turning SW through Hitika is a nice walk, but won't get you there, similarly taking the road west towards the airport and then walking along the ridge offers great views, but doesn't get you there either. We later walked up the road/track heading S/SW from the west end of town, this goes far further than indicated on Maps.me or Google, eventually finishing in a banana plantation with fantastic views over the bay (allow two hours up and one back) and I estimate – the cloud would come down, so couldn't see – that we were perhaps 1km short and 2-300m below the pinnacles; no track, but if you backtrack 200m from the overlook, there's a stream-gorge that looks a safer bush-whack and would probably get you there in another half hour. – Moon Rebel

Aug. 2015: Island Tours: There is a small Pension on the hill 100m walk above the harbor run by a French man named Jerome. We took a tour with him yesterday and found it very good and can recommend him. He charges by the car so the more people you have with you the less it costs individually. – Jaccaranda

6.1.1.8 Cruiser Reports

June 2022: About half the boats were stern anchored when we were there; it's necessary if you're behind the breakwater because boats group tightly. The whole anchorage is better protected than it looks on the map. – Villa Veritas

April 2019: There is a centre artisanal near the mairie exhibiting and selling carvers work. Of course, wood and bone carving, but also stone carving in “pierre fleurie” which is unique to Ua Pau. – Chugach

Aug. 2018: If you spot all the rock pinnacles cloud-free, then take a photograph immediately, it could be quite a while before you see them all again! – Moon Rebel

6.2 Ua Pou's West Side

April 2019: There is swell in most bays, including the main villages of Hakahau and Hakahetau. At Hakamii and Hakaotu we anchored but could not land with the dinghy. The least roilly anchorages were in Baie Hikeu (unsurveyed) and Baie Hakaotu. – Chugach

6.2.1 Hakahetau (09-21S)

6.2.1.1 Anchorages and Moorings

June 2022: The anchorage was a little roilly, but room for plenty of boats. - Rhapsody

Dec. 2019: We did not anchor here, but we did do a drive by to see how protected it was from weather. The second approved anchorage for the festival was here and we decided to just brave it at the Hakahau anchorage. Both anchorages were exposed, but the Hakahau anchorage was at least within walking distance to the festivities. We did visit the Hakahetau anchorage at the peak of festival activity and there were well over 30 boats anchored here. – Sugar Shack

6.2.1.2 Provisions

Feb 2023: See information about bread delivery from Sebastien and Rebecca under [Hakahau Provisions](#) – Migration

6.2.1.3 Wifi & Internet

June 2022: Cell service is very spotty, but it does exist. Sometimes messages come in easily, sometimes it take hours to load, if it is going to load at all. – Rhapsody

6.2.1.4 Dinghy Dock

June 2022: You can tie off at the concrete pier, there is a long ladder on the side. Be careful of the local boats here, they all have stern lines tied out to the buoys. Make sure you go around all of the lines before cutting in towards the ladder. – Rhapsody

May 2022: Dinghy dock was very surgy; we stern anchored the dinghy each time. A lot of children around the dock during the day. The dock also has fresh water, unsure if potable but suitable for laundry. – Sierra Wind

6.2.1.5 Trash & Recycling

June 2022: There is garbage and recycling behind the yellow building near the concrete quay. – Rhapsody

6.2.1.6 Restaurants

Mar. 2022: There's a restaurant in the town, not open all the time. They have WiFi but our friends told us it was very slow. - Jamala

April 2019: In Hakahetau, Ti'Piero is a very good restaurant, with wifi. You need to book/give notice in advance. – Chugach

6.2.1.7 Activities

Jan 2023: Manfred ("The Chocolate Guy") and Therese live in the valley above Hakahetau. Easy and beautiful hike on a dirt road. You can also drive all the way there. Truly excellent chocolate for 500 xpf per bar. Many flavors with products they grow locally. From the quay, walk straight up the road, turn left just before the bridge leading to the magasin. After 50 meters, when the road hits the mountain, turn right. About 2 miles up the road. Lots of signs. Be sure to visit the beautiful cascade on the way back (there's a sign). – **Migration**

June 2022: We found nice snorkeling/freediving in the eastern part of the bay. Clear water, lots of small to medium sized very colorful fish.

The waterfall and a visit to Couleur Cacao can be done as separate trips, or combined as a single outing. – Rhapsody

Jan 2021: Couleur Cacao is indeed worth the hike. From the dock walk straight up the road, At the Post Office turn Left, after about 150 yards, turn right onto a dirt road. proceed about 2 miles. - Trance

Dec. 2019: Couleu`r Cacao – Manfred the "chocolate guy" +689 87 24 19 10 or +689 40 57 07 8 or contact @couleurcacao.com and his website is www.couleurcacao.com. He sells 75-80% cacao, organic, dark chocolate from his house at \$5 per bar (as of 12/19) lots of different flavors. – Sugar Shack

April 2019: One mile above the village, German Polynesian veteran (26 years in Polynesia) Manfred is making outstanding black chocolate. Definitely worth the walk (partly common to the waterfall). – Chugach

6.2.2 Vaiehu (09-23S)

6.2.2.1 Anchorages and Moorings

May 2022: Were not impressed with location or depth profile for anchoring. Did not stay. – Sierra Wind

Dec. 2019: 9°23.224S / 140°07.740W. Anchored in 16 meters of water. We had an east swell and avoided Hakahau and Hakahetau. It was a lovely, peaceful, calm anchorage. We stayed here for a week enjoying the beautiful bay.

Dinghy landing was fun during high and low tide. The swell breaks pretty hard near shore and there are lots of rocks. We decided to paddle board in rather than risk the dinghy. Even with paddle boards we had to navigate the swell and rocks. – Sugar Shack

2009: 09°23.212S / 140°07.696W. Our first night there was perfect but then a larger than normal swell rolled in from somewhere out in the ocean and we lost both water clarity and peace. Without being able to swim or go ashore there wasn't much to do but read, cook, and make a weather cloth. – Nakia

6.2.2.2 Provisions

Dec. 2019: Walk over to next bay Haakuti. On your immediate left is the largest of two magasins. Further down the street is a much smaller magasin that is not well stocked but does have propane tanks. – Sugar Shack

6.2.2.3 Activities

Dec. 2019: Hike to the white cross at top of hill. Paddle board or take your chance with the dinghy (watch for low tide as there are lots of rocks). Land at the shore below and to the left of the house. Once onshore, there is a path up to the little house, keep following the path. It will veer left to go to an animal pen, but stay straight to go to cross. The path is very overgrown and there are plants with stickers. Continue until the path ends at fence. Left of gate is loop to open gate which keeps animals out. Close the gate after you. Continue up. You will see a house on your right. Follow the garden fence to the left until you pick up the path again. You will pass through another gate before you get to the cross. There is a lookout point, the cross and a monument.

Hike to Village in Haakuti. Follow directions to the cross until you get to the house on the right. At the house you will see a dirt road on your left. Follow to the village in Haakuti. Main road veers left (right by large church and cemetery). Two magasins and lots of friendly people. – Sugar Shack

6.2.3 Hakaotu (09-24S)

6.2.3.1 Anchorages and Moorings

Dec 2022: 09° 23.841' S / 140° 07.693' W 42' good holding. Pretty spot. – Migration

April 2019: 9°23.841' S / 140°07.699' W, in 12m, sand. Go ashore with dinghy on the south side of the bay. There is a friendly couple ashore (Jacky and Muriel). – Chugach

6.2.4 Baie Hikeu (09-26S)

6.2.4.1 Anchorages and Moorings

April 2019: 9°26.1282'S / 140°05.8594'W, in 13.5 m, sand. Hikeu was the least rolly of the Oa Puo anchorages. Pebbles on the beach, dinghy landing difficult if ever possible, we swam ashore after anchoring the dinghy 50 m from the beach. – Chugach

7 Hiva Oa (Airport & Customs)

7.1 Baie Tahauku - Atuona

Baie Tahauku is the main anchorage at Hiva Oa, at the town Atuona. It's nice, but is not as nice as the others.

7.1.1 Anchorages and Moorings

May 2022 – Dinghy Dock: Make sure you watch tides and secure/stern anchor dinghy appropriately so that your tender doesn't drift under the dock and get pinned. We saw this happen multiple times and were only there for one week! – Sierra Wind

Jan. 2020: 09°48.218S / 139°01.912W. There were no supply ships scheduled so we anchored in the middle, which is not advised without checking on the supply ship schedule. There are yellow markings on the rocks (west side of bay) and a yellow marker (east side of the bay) creating an invisible line which you are supposed to anchor behind. Not the most comfortable anchorage as it is rolly.

Baie Tahauku has poor holding. Strongly recommend a stern tie. Watch out for the buried pip under water (see Navionics). When winds come out of the south leave the anchorage, as the swell is horrible.

Dinghy Landing. There are several places you can tie up your dinghy, but they all require a stern anchor. There are two ladders on the concrete dock, a small wooden dock near Mobile Fuel Station, and an easier loading area near the ferry dock. If you tie up near the ferry dock make sure your dinghy is not in the way of the Ferries. – Sugar Shack

Jan. 2019: 09°48.1555'S /139°01.8601'W. Mud with stones and coral-debris - good for the Bügel main anchor facing towards the sea - only 3,5m depth, but we had 35m chain out to fit into our desired spot; ok for the 2 stern-anchors (in approx. 3m water depth, with approx 30m rope): good for the Fortress, but the tripline caught itself in a coral debris; the Danforth failed in the first setting. We buoyed all our anchors and prepared the anchors during anchoring in the harbour basin (I would not dare to anchor in the crowd at night, but a quick stop in the harbour-basin until daylight would be ok for me). At our spot, I would not dare to anchor nearer the shore.

At the end of the bay you need at least one stern anchor, better 2. Please help new arrivals with setting their stern-anchors!

11 boats in the anchorage, not much space, but ok. Wind came from all directions. Test all your anchors! One boat dragged. It took us 90minutes to get all anchors up and be ready for the sea again. (When southerly-swell is coming in, I do not want to be here!!!)

On another visit, (Update 15.04.2019): 18 boats in the designated anchor-area, 8 in the harbourbasin, 8 outside of the breakwater, roly)

Behind the breakwater, on the north-side, they have med-style moorings with stern-buoys mainly for the local motorboats, we saw there a big sailboat cruiser as well.

The cargo ships (e.g. Aranui) throw their anchor in the middle of the basin to park at a massive concrete-dock behind the breakwater on the South [propwash seemed to be ok]. Their needed turning-space is marked by a big yellow buoy on the east and a pole as well as a sign on the shore on the west, also 2 poles in the middle of the bay, building a line. (Update 25.01: the poles are removed and dredging is still in progress; Update 15.04 Dredging seems to be finished).

It seems to be much colder here at night than elsewhere, maybe because of the freshwater-stream?

Semaphore Atuona was not answering at 08:00 and 09:00 on our arrival Monday (neither on 16 nor on VHF12); later we got contact.

Water-visibility: Approx 1m in brown water with dark bottom, rain changed visibility to nearly 0.

Fouling: For only 6 days: Quite some fast growth, green stuff and barnacles.

Wind and weather: The weather forecast (outside) was NE-E 17-21kn, gusts 30, sea moderate E 1,5m.

What we got: everything (the wind direction can change 180deg in seconds), mostly N-NNW-NE offshore 5-15kn.

Swell/Rolly: Slight boat movements (1-2 out of 5 on the Dagmar-Scale) [In April it sometimes looked very uncomfortable from the boatyard]

Local traffic: Outrigger-pirogues (up to 6 people) and small motorcrafts who sometimes are rushing through the boats anchored outside of the breakwater.

Dinghy landing: No dedicated dinghy dock (it was removed in 01/2019). We parked at the concrete breakwater near the ramp, some use the ramp of the canoclub or the rocks nearby. – Taitonga

Sept. 2018: We just revisited the bay, and found that they're dredging in the inner harbor. Mostly in the area where the freighter turns around, anchoring for others is restricted to the far north end of the bay, or outside the breakwater. This restriction is posted to continue until the end of this year (2018).

They've been working on a concrete wharf of some sort along the inside of the breakwater. And some repairs and improvement to the breakwater itself. It now looks pretty clear that what they're putting in is a new wharf, set up to med-moor a dozen or so boats. There's a very nice curving wharf, separated from the breakwater. It has many closely spaced stainless steel bollards. Smallish. And now many mooring style floats, about 50-60 feet off the wharf. Maybe it will be for local fishermen, but there aren't that many of 'em. Maybe yachts? We'll see. – Kokpeli

July 2018: WARNING, POSSIBLE TEMPORARY SPACE RESTRICTION: When we visited in July 2018 there were notices posted stating that due to dredging works programmed for mid-July to late-December, the anchorage would be restricted to the area north of the dinghy dock and presumably you'll need to get your anchor & chain behind that line too? The area's predominantly shallow and I'd estimate that no more than half a dozen yachts will be able to squeeze in there, of which there seems to be four or five semi-permanent yachts already. Works hadn't begun when we left on 1st August, so it's reasonable to assume that the works and these restrictions will continue at least into the early months **2019. Update:** as of mid-September, the works are underway and restrictions in place.

Even with 'normal' restrictions in place you'll be twin anchored inside and be wary of the Aranui's arrival if anchored close to the dock (the red supply ship invariably seems to be a lot more careful and courteous?) Whilst we were sat comfortably 'behind the line' our anchor wasn't and the Aranui first tripped that when dropping their own, before 'blasting' us sideways a few seconds later with their powerful bow thruster as they docked; no gel-coat was lost, so just an interesting experience.

Summer 2018: At first, we were anchored out beyond the breakwater. This was OK, but roly. Inside was crowded, and we would have needed to put down a stern anchor. The bottom is foul, we were told, with the wreckage of gabions previously used for breakwater. On a previous visit we'd fouled an anchor on something that sure felt like that. Also, the freighter comes once a week, and you have to keep the dock area clear. From outside, we could just pick up the Hiva Oa Yacht Service (HOYS) wifi signal.

Space opened up inside the breakwater, so we came in and put down two anchors. We stayed clear of where the old gabions are. We would have been in trouble with the freighter but we knew we would be gone by the time they came back. – Kokopeli

June 2017: Atuona was a horrible roly anchorage inside the basin and also outside the basin. We could only fit on the outside of the basin and it was very roly and offered little protection. Spend as little time here with Customs and stocking up on basic food supplies. (72 ft Oyster with Deep Draft). – Consensus

March 2017: Always put stern anchor at the dinghy dock, as dinghies can drift under the concrete blocks (at low tide). – Spunky

April 2016: Tahauku harbor is VERY small and presents tight anchoring especially when the new Arinui 5 comes in. When the supply ships are not due to arrive, then you can anchor on a single hook (short scoped) near the main wharf or further back on 2 hooks. Further back in the harbor requires a bow and stern anchor.

There are two supply vessels that stop in the harbor of Tahauku--The Taporu and the Arinui 5. The Arinui 5 is new and larger than the older Arinui 3 and the Taporu, requiring a wider turning radius inside the harbor. Hence more room for the Arinui is needed which means less room for the yachts at anchor

Yachts with a Single Anchor Out

When either supply ship is due then boats single anchored will be required to move out of the harbor. The Arinui 5 arrives on schedule and arrival time (approx every 3 weeks) is announced a day before on channel 16. But the Taporu is called the "ghost ship" by the locals because it arrives with no certain fixed schedule more of an approximate date. Usually it is announced the day before or the day the Taporu arrives on VHF 16.

Yachts with Bow and Stern Anchors Out

The Taporu Line: The <old> line that boats are required to anchor behind (towards the head of the bay) when the supply ship is in port is valid only for the Taporu.

On the west side of the anchorage on the rocks is a large yellow slash. This slash marks the west side of the imaginary line. On the east side of the harbor just at the N end of the concrete wharf is a large staff with a cross on top. By drawing a line between these two points and anchoring behind it will suffice for the Taporo.

The Arinui Line: Using the yellow slash on the rocks on the west side as one point. The second mark on the east side of the anchorage further N (than the Taporo staff with cross) is a light post next to the concrete dinghy dock. It is now painted with two orange stripes. By drawing a line between these two points and anchoring behind it will suffice for the Arinui 5.

So, in summary, if you know the ship schedule you can anchor accordingly but if the schedule is unknown best to try and anchor behind the Arinui 5 line. This way you will be set no matter what ship arrives.

Call Semaphore Atuona channel 16 for further info on arrival and departure. – Jacaranda

Aug. 2015: Waypoint off the end of the jetty **09 48.300S / 139 01.955W**

Most boats use a stern anchor but there were boats anchored on a single hook up near the entrance of the bay closer to the wharf. They would move when the supply ship came in and then re-anchor when the ship docked. The local notices go out on VHF 16 regarding ship movement. If you do come in at night, I recommend anchoring on a single hook up closer to the wharf and sort out a spot the next morning when it gets light.

DINGHY LANDING: Be very careful of tying your dinghy to the concrete landing near the shower. We saw a number of dinghies get damaged by getting sucked under the concrete dock at low tide. The surge in the harbor can be difficult when trying to get off and on at the concrete dock. We usually just pulled the dink up on the gravel launch ramp. Be sure to leave room for the locals launching their canoes here. Dinghy wheels are very helpful here.

Anchoring

The comments about bottom conditions by Irie (below) are valid. Now after the tsunami that came thru the Marquesas in 2015 those metal rock-filled grids on the bottom probably moved. Its a crap shoot if you will hook this underwater stuff. Our suggestion is to BOUY both bow and stern anchors and if you have a "rock" setting on your anchor (Manson Supreme) use it here. Over the course of the year we have spent a couple months anchored in Atuona and have seen a number of boats struggle with getting anchors snagged. – Jacaranda

Sept. 2013 - Anchoring: A quick observation in Atuona: We are in Hiva Oa at the moment and cruisers should be aware of the "treacherous" anchoring in the main anchorage near Atuona. Big metal grids - used to prevent erosion in the past - have slid into the bay and are fouling anchors left and right. The east part of the bay is reported to be the worst, but we have seen anchors snatched and ropes chafed in other parts as well. The closer to the main dock, the better it seems, but beware of the arrival of the Aranui cargo ship. – Irie

April 2013: 09-48.149S / 139-01.863. This is the first place to land for most west bound boats (I like Nuka Hiva better for first landfall however). Crowded, can be very crowded. Some boats use stern anchor, some do not, so the place is crazy.

To enter at night:

- wpt 1: 09-49.658S / 139-01.473W
- wpt 2: 09-48.514S / 139-02.035W (entrance)
- wpt 3: 09-48.288S / 139-01.979W. You can anchor here before going into the crowd at night. About 35-40ft good holding mud

Once in here everything becomes pretty clear. If you have an agent (worth it) clearing is a breeze with one stop. All onboard must go in. – Cynergy

7.1.2 Yachtsmen Services

7.1.2.1 Cooking Gas (Propane and Butane)

May 2022:

Dec. 2020: The Mobile Gas Station and Marine Maintenance Marquesas sell cooking gas. – Sugar Shack

Jan. 2019: Cooking-gas: Cylinders at the fuel station (Adapter for gravity-fills n.a.). – Taitonga

Aug. 2015: Cooking gas and outboard gas: If you need it and they have it buy it!! Both times we were here they sold out of cooking gas in 48 hours and regular gas in less than 5 days. It was a 3 week wait for the supply ship to return.

We tried to buy a FP gas fitting in Hiva Oa but all we found was a combo regulator fitting. Some folks bought it and then sawed off the fitting. We had a friend buy one in Nuka Hiva and bring it down for us. Price of gas bottle was 3000CPF and 3000CPF deposit (about \$30 - \$30US). There is no one filling cooking gas bottles in Hiva Oa so you have to do it yourself. – Jacaranda

7.1.2.2 Fuel (Diesel and Gasoline)

Jan. 2020: There is a Mobile Fuel station here. However, since there is no real dinghy dock it becomes challenging to get full jerry cans to and from the dinghy, but it is doable. There is a small, wooden, dinghy dock. If you leave your dinghy here, use a stern anchor. You can fill jerry cans at this station. The fuel station accepts duty-free certificates and they have a small market. Hiva Oa Yacht Services can assist you with fuel if you do not wish to use jerry cans. hivaoayachtservices@gmail.com, Sandra speaks english: +689 87 232 247, VHF 12/16. – Sugar Shack

Jan. 2019: Diesel/Gasoline: at the fuel station in the harbour, with jerry cans: diesel 142XPF/L, gasoline 140XPF/L in 2018, they accept the dutyfree-document, which you can get in Papeete; details see Grocery/Shopping (we were warned that they might have some water in the fuel). – Taitonga

July 2018: If you need diesel/petrol, then there's a small 'short stay' wooden dinghy dock just north of the gas station that's a shorter carry with your jerry jugs. – Moon Rebel

March 2017: The petrol station sells delicious fresh tuna. – Begonia

May 2016: Fuel Atuona: There is a service station located next to the main wharf. Jerry cans can be filled at the station. Fuel is not available from the wharf. They will accept your "Duty Free Fuel" certificate. It is helpful to make a copy for them, as they will need a copy for their records. Also be sure to tell the bowser (attendant) that you are buying duty free fuel before he starts pumping. They accept credit cards. – Jacaranda

7.1.2.3 Trash and Recycling

Jan. 2020: Trash disposal was located behind the Mobile Gas station. – Sugar Shack

Jan. 2019: Trash-Disposal: Available behind the public shower (near the restaurant) as well near the gas station. – Taitonga

May 2016: There are trash bins located across from the shower near the dinghy dock. We have been asked not to use the bin at the service station as that is for the station's use. – Jacaranda

7.1.2.4 Water

Jan. 2019: Available at the shower and near the ramp. – Taitonga

July 2018: There's potable drinking water freely available on the dinghy dock – the timber dock's been extended with plastic floats, so no need to stern-anchor, but it's a bit unstable underfoot. – Moon Rebel

May 2017: Our Agent and locals said that none of the water available near the anchorage was potable - so we didn't risk it! This differs from report below about water good at wooden dinghy dock. It rains regularly so a water catchment system is a good idea! – Begonia

7.1.3 *Hiva Oa Yacht Services*

Sandra, +689 87 232 247, hivaoayachtservices@gmail.com, Sandra speaks english: VHF 12/16. Services offered include:

- Clearance into FP
- Long stay Visa and carte de Sejure renewal
- Wifi
- Laundry
- Car Rental and taxi service
- Duty Free Fuel Certificate
- Shipping and receiving

Jan. 2019: Hiva-Oa-Yacht-Services - Wi-Fi, laundry, car rentals, taxi service, check-in, duty-free-fuel-formalities, shipping/receiving, etc.; Past the haul out yard, up the hill at the semaphore is their trailer – Taitonga

Sept. 2018: Yacht Service Hiva Oa is headquartered on the bluff beyond the haulout yard. There's a container converted to an office, and some covered picnic benches. Wifi signal is strong there, and there's a nice view and breeze.

We did the check-in with Sandra from HOYS, she was just fine. Easy check in, no charge. – Kokopeli

7.1.4 *Marine Maintenance Marquesas – Haul Out*

<http://www.maintenancemarquises.com>, Vincent +689 87 739 045 (speaks english), Maria +689 87 251 649.

Sept. 2019: There's a marine yard now in Tahauku, very friendly. They're hauling boats using a trailer, and doing repairs. Unfortunately, no wifi signal in the inner harbor. – Kokopeli

Jan. 2019: In high demand during the cyclone-season - only one space was left in December 2018. In business since 2016, currently they are building a big house + office (when finished the toilet and shower situation is hopefully better, now very basic in one shed only (shower and WC) - bring your own torch and toilet paper. They have Wi-Fi, electricity, water; no washing-machine. They can fill cooking gas tanks (500XPF/kg) and offer mechanical repairs etc. (sail repairs planned for mid 2019); storage of goodies or medicines in their fridge for your return is possible (If you leave cheese or goodies in their fridge make sure to pack it like a treasure and mark it very clearly, so it is not eaten by accident!).

It is very sheltered located in what looks like an old quarry - not much breeze. The ground is mud, gravel and grass. A lot of insects running and flying around - you might want to cover everything which connects the boat with the ground with grease and cover holes into the boat (e.g. with sponges) and have poison traps inside. Some cruisers sprayed boric acid around their boat. We found insects nesting in little holes on our return.

Protect your electricity-cable from rain with e.g. plastic-bag to prevent the main-breaker to switch off.

The yard is locked with a combination-padlock at night (you might take the first line as a reference, not the middle one, while inserting the numbers).

The ramp for the hydraulic-trailer is at the beginning of the breakwater, just in the corner, they do the haul-out at high-water. The trailer-pads protected our through-hulls nicely. Only an 8m rope attached to our bow was required. The hydraulic-trailer-driver did a good job! :-). The boat will stay horizontal during haul-out.

To maybe push the stern into the right direction we had another cruiser with a dinghy on stand by as well some long aft lines ready.

If you haul-out friday-noon, you most likely stay on the trailer until monday before they park you (quite close to neighbours). Make sure they park you leveled out (with the bow higher than the stern so the rain can drain out) and not too close to structures so you can work on the boat easily.

We returned after 2,5 months, the boat was in a good condition with no mold or mildew.

Day-light in mid-April from 05:30 (shortly before the SMA (adapted military service) is doing their Haka across the bay) to 18:00. The weather was mixed with rain, lots of clouds and sun (not enough sun to not use the yard-electricity). Mosquitos (all types) around, nearly no Nonos ... Visitors at night: a cat and some roaches (hopefully they stayed outside our cockpit-mosquitonet ...). – Taitonga

March 2017: There is a new **haul out** here. Monohulls and catamarans are taken ashore with a tractor system (no crane). Storage and repair but no chandlery available on this island. – Spunky

7.1.5 General Services

7.1.5.1 Air Tahiti

+689 40 910 225 or +689 40 917 1110, www.airtahiti.pf. Hours; Mon-Tues & Thurs: 0800-1200, Wed & Fri: 0800-1200 & 1330-1630. Located on the main road, next to the bank, on left side. Sign is painted on a rock and hard to see around the plants.

Jan. 2019: Air Tahiti office mon-fri tel. +689 40 917 110; you can book via a central hotline as well: 40 864 242 (press 2 for english!), www.airtahiti.pf – Taitonga

7.1.5.2 Airport

Jan. 2019: Airport Paul Gaugin has a small restaurant and run-down restrooms, they charged us for every kg overweight 8USD to Tahiti and might put the hand luggage on the scale as well; taxis should be prebooked, calculate for a taxi ride to the airport ca. 15-20 min. – Taitonga

Airport: There is an airport on Hiva Oa which has flights 4 times a week to/from Tahiti. Flight duration is 3h 45m. Air Tahiti is the carrier, their office is located at the western end of Atuona, near the bank. Open M-F 0800-1200 & 1330-1630.

7.1.5.3 Bank / ATM

Banque Socredo and ATM (24/7). Hours: Mon-Thurs: 0800-1200 & 1330-1600. Fri: 0800-1200 & 1330-1500. Located on main road, past Gendarmarie, on left side

Jan. 2019: Bank with ATM; Post with outside-ATM (max 25000CFP) – Taitonga

7.1.5.4 Formalities / Gendarmerie

Jan. 2019: Gendarmerie (for Check-in): +689 40 917 105. mon-sat: 07-12:00, 14-17:00, sun 9-12:00, 15-17:00. Police: tel. 40 927 045. – Taitonga

July 2018: Check-in at the Gendarmerie was quick, easy – one form to fill in/twenty minutes – and friendly, but only open 08:00 – 11:30 Monday to Friday. – Moon Rebel

June 2017: Clearance and bond for U.S. passport holder was very straight forward and easy to do between the bank and the police station in the town. – Consensus

Aug. 2015: When checking in the Gendarmarie requires >>ALL<< crew to go to the office. Its a very easy process and usually only takes a few minutes. They do not care about crew list, zarpe and all the other items Central and South America countries require. They will provide you a form to fill out and need only the ships papers and passports. – Jacaranda

7.1.5.5 Hardware Store

Shop Gaugin - Hardware store. +689 40 917 080. Hours: Mon-Fri: 07:00-11:30; 14:00-17:00 Sat 08:00-11:00.

Dec. 2019: Decent stock of fishing gear, hardware, home goods, clothing and a small magasin. Decent stock of fishing gear, hardware, home goods, clothing and a small magasin. – Sugar Shack

Jan. 2019: Has even some metric stainless-steel screws! – Taitonga

7.1.5.6 Laundry

Jan. 2019: Laundry: Hiva-Oa-Yacht-Services, Sandra, 400XPF/kg (did a good job for us!) (according to tourist info the only possibility in town) – Taitonga

May 2017: Due to a public holiday, the Cyber cafe was not open, so despite the warnings in the compendium we elected to use Sandra for laundry (charged by the KG so avoid wet towels!) We had about 2 medium loads and the price was \$3010 - i.e. about the same 1500 per load as you quoted, but Sandra collects and drops off at the gas station area. – Begonia

May 2016: There are 3 people that do laundry in Atuona and I am sure there are more.

- **John Ozone** - +689-872-307-40. He will come down and pick it up, wash then return it to the dinghy dock. We have used his services a number of times and had some issues with laundry getting mixed up with others, clothes smelling of smoke, etc.
- **Sandra (Hiva Oa Yact Services)** she will also pick up and deliver. Have not used her. At last check she is the most expensive. We have seen her delivering laundry to other businesses in town.
- **Eliana Internet Cafe** - Located in town across from the second store. Linda has used this laundry services 7-8 times and always had excellent results. You need to bring the laundry into the shop. When ready for pickup Linda would always do a big shop and use their taxi service to bring the laundry and groceries back to the boat. 1 load of laundry (wash, dry and folded) 1500f and the taxi service to the wharf is 300f per person. They will also come to pick you up at the wharf and bring you into town 300f pp. Very nice folks! – Jacaranda

April 2013: Laundry was really expensive. 2 large loads ended up costing about \$70usd. – Cynergy

7.1.5.7 Le Mairie

Le Mairie (mayor) +689 87 30 16 46 Located on main road, left side with Pharmacie.

7.1.5.8 Marine Services / Boat Parts

7.1.5.8.1 Refrigeration

Jan. 2019: Valentin Oberlin +689 87 78 87 81 – Taitonga

7.1.5.8.2 Welder

Jan. 2019: Welding/Metalwork and Woodwork: on the way to town, 200m after you go onto the street from the shortcut on the right is the Artisan-school Hiva-Oa CJA. – Taitonga

July 2018: Willy at the boatyard proved to be a top-notch welder and reasonably priced on the job he did for us. – Moon Rebel

7.1.5.9 Pharmacie

The pharmacy: Tel. +689 40 91 71 65, Mon-Fri 08:15-12:00, 14:30-17:00, Thurs. afternoon closed, Sat. 09:00-11:00. Located on main road, left side with Le Mairie

7.1.5.10 Post Offie

OPT: Hours: Mon-Thurs: 0700-1200 & 1230-1500. Fri: 0700-1200 & 1230-1400. Located on main road, left side, yellow building.

7.1.5.11 Salon

Dec. 2019: This is a popular place to get glamified. Lots of salons / beauty parlors. – Sugar Shack

- Vero Coiffure +689 40 927 230. Located near Le Mairie and Pharmacie
- Lumivers De La Beaute +689 87 25 82 71. Located off main street, big brown sign on white fence

- Beauty School offers discounts on beauty treatments including nails, hair, massage. Location: From dinghy dock, head toward town, will be on corner before you turn left to village.

Jan. 2019: Hairdresser/Coiffeur: +689 40 927 230 – Taitonga

7.1.5.12 Tattoo Artist

Dec. 2019: Pifa O'Connor +689 87 72 76 33 pifaexcursion@gmail.com. He does tours of Hiva Oa and Tahuata. He speaks English and is a very jovial guy.

Gallery and Tattoo Parlo Hours Mon-Sun: 0700-1900. Located off main street, turn right at administration building, on left, green building – Sugar Shack

7.1.5.13 Tourist Office

Jan. 2019: In the harbour +689 87 246 477, 8:00-12:00 (I only saw it open once, so you might want to call ...) in town +689 40 927 893 (08-11:30, 14-17:00). No english and not very helpful to us. -- Taitonga

7.1.5.14 Transportation

Jan. 2020: We had a guest arrive at the airport and there were no taxi cabs. Lucky for him he caught a ride with the postal person (\$15). Make sure you have arrangements made head of time. Hiva Oa Yacht Services can arrange for a cab and rent you a car.

Car Rental at Gallery and Tattoo Parlor: Hours Mon-Sun: 0700-1900. Located off main street, turn right at administration building, on left, green building – Sugar Shack

Jan. 2019: Car Rental: (Calculate around 10000XPF for 1-day incl. insurance; they bring the car to the harbour; returns on Saturday and Sunday get a fuel charged by km, due to the closed gas station [make sure the amount is plausible!])

- Car, e-bike, bicycle rental: +689 87 311 106, or +689 87 214 693
- Car rental +689 53 78 89 Kahau
- Car rental +689 87 72 17 17 Numa (we booked via Sandra HOYS a Suzuki Vitara 4x4 in good condition, good for 2 (very small for 4), no map but a spare tire and a jack:-)

Taxis:

- Taxi Manavahai-Nui in Hiva-Oa, Clark Germaine, +689 87 274 154: Airport-Atuona 1500CFP p.p.; Tahauku (anchorage) – Atuona 300CFP p.p.
- Taxi Peterano Frida +689 87 707 202
- Taxi Touaitahuata Jeanne +689 87 771 963

Hitchhiking to / from town usually worked for us; between 12:00 and 14:00 as well Sat afternoon (and maybe Sunday?) or after 17:30 not so easy. – Taitonga

July 2018: The gas station and Sandra who's the Tahiti Yacht Services representative (plus others no doubt) rent 4-wheel drives for \$100/day, try to get a 4-door Toyota rather than one of the little Suzukis, though it seems you're always promised a Toyota, but often it's a two-door Suzuki that's delivered. – Moon Rebel

7.1.5.15 Veterinarian

Jan. 2019: Vet, Pet-doctor: +689 87 701 415, juliettefoxbravo@hotmail.com – Taitonga

7.1.5.16 Wifi / Internet

Jan. 2020: We found several places that offer wifi access at varying degrees. See below. – Sugar Shack

- Hiva Oa Yacht Services (\$5/day) offer wifi at decent speeds with a beautiful view.
- Boatyard offers wifi which reaches the anchorage

- Atuona Games and Café. Hours: Mon-Fri: 0900-1700. Offers wifi for customers and has several games for kids to play (teenager kids).
- Relais Moehau. Hours: Mon-Sun: 0630-0830, 1100-1400, 1800-2100. Location: Main road, just around the big bend and before the village, on right sight. Wifi for customers \$10 per day.

Jan. 2019: Wi-Fi at the restaurant + at the haul-out + in town. Manaspot 24h flat rate period starts at 10:00, Vini-cell-coverage – Yes. SSB: sometimes ok(ish) for checking into the Polynesian-Magellan-Net (a lot of static here). Iridium-Access: ok. – Taitonga

July 2018: Sandra has a \$5/day internet/wifi service too – you'll generally find her around the dinghy dock at about 10:00 – that seems to reach those yachts with booster antennas anchored outside the breakwater, but not those behind it, from there you'll need to walk south, up the hill and past the boatyard to Sandra's 'Semaphore Station' premises to get a signal; I've no idea how good it is, on the one day we tried it wasn't working, but to be fair, neither was the \$5/hour Vinni hotspot service and Sandra immediately refunded us. We found that with a small booster-antenna the Vinni signal would reach to the boat when anchored behind the breakwater. – Moon Rebel

7.1.6 Provisions

Fuel Station Mini Market

+ 689 40 927 185. Open 07:00 to 17:00, Saturdays until 12:00, sun closed.

- **Jan. 2020:** The mini market at the fuel station is a remarkably well stocked market with bread, frozen and canned goods. They had some produce, but it was limited (could have been awhile since the supply ship). They do sell fresh baguettes in the morning. – Sugar Shack
- **July 2018:** There's a small but remarkably well stocked grocery store at the fuel station, selling baguettes in the morning and its prices are only a few cents more than the bigger stores over in the town. – Moon Rebel
- **Jan. 2019:** At the fuel-station/minimart (good selection!); they take credit cards; fresh baguettes in the early morning, you can order/reserve some for the next day (or get some in town). They have some fresh vegetables: cucumbers, tomatoes, lettuce... as well a lot of frozen stuff. Imho the best baguette in town. Fresh Tuna 1kg/900XPF. No alcohol. Prices seem to be better than in town. Nice service (speaks a bit english). – Taitonga
- **Aug. 2015:** There is a very nice well-stocked small shop on the wharf next to the petrol station. They have fresh bread every morning (usually sold out by 11am). The prices on goods are almost identical to the shops in town. – Jacaranda

Magasins in Atouna

Magasin Gaubil: Tel. +689 40 927 557, Hours: Mon-Fri: 0730-1130 & 1430-1700. Sat: 0800-1130. Sun: 0900-1200. Location on main street across from Le Mairie.

- **May 2022:** Magasin Gaubil has the largest selection of groceries and will give you a ride back to the anchorage, free of charge if you buy enough stuff. – Sierra Wind
- **Dec. 2020:** Friendly staff, well stocked produce, frozen and canned goods. Supply of clothing and some hardware. Will drive you back to ferry dock with big purchase. – Sugar Shack
- **Jan. 2019:** They have bread Sunday morning as well, and sell fresh fish in the cooler. – Taionga

Boulangerie Shan - Mon to sat 05:00 to 12:00, sun 05:00 to 07:00. Bakery as well grocery towards end of town (turn right before getting to the Air Tahiti office 200m)

Magasin Naiki - +689 40 927 348, tel. +689 40 927 557, Hours: Mon-Fri: 07:30-12:00, 14:30-18:00, sat 07:30 to 12:00, sun 08:30 to 11:00. Location: Main road, at bank make a right, on left side at turn in the road.

- **Dec. 2019:** Well stocked market with produce, liquor, bread, frozen and canned goods. Will drive you back to dock with big purchase. – Sugar Shack

- **Jan. 2019:** The last store going out of town - we found here the best variety of fresh veggies and outdated cookies, quite some other outdated things as well) – Taitonga

7.1.6.1 Provision Cruiser Reports

May 2022: DO NOT bother going in to town between 11:30AM and 3:00PM, everything closes! – Sierra Wind

Dec. 2019: If you walk into town to shop at one of the magasins, ask if they will give you a ride back with your purchase. Most will, but ask first. – Sugar Shack

Jan. 2019: Most magasin opening-hours: 08:00 to 12:00 and 14:00 to 17:00 (+/- ca. 30 min!). Red-price-tags mean that these articles are subsidized!

Stocks seem to be low 1 week before the next supply-ship ... Vegetables are not easy to obtain. Best selection 1-2 days after the supply ship arrived, but still new stuff unpacked after 4 days (some goodies disappeared after a couple of hours). Better not to compare prices with Panama or Ecuador, they are comparable with Deli's in San Francisco or Paris - We were happy to be able to buy things.

Monday and Thursday Bernard +689 87 720 532 (speaks english) comes to the anchorage around 11:00 and sells veggies and fruits from his plantation, they offer selfmade bread, pizza and nice quiche as well; you can order before via telephone/SMS via his wife Anna: +689 87 280 789, anna.loridan@hotmail.fr. Fish might be sold in a cool storage on the right handside after passing the Gendarmerie – Taitonga

Sept. 2018: Provisioning in town was good, but expensive. \$20.00 six pack is the reality. – Kokpeli

July 2018: Shopping/services in Atouna are much as already described by others, prices seemed fairly consistent and we felt the store at the far end of the village (turn right, just before the tikis) to be the best stocked. – Moon Rebel

June 2017: Basic food supplies (few expensive fresh veg: potatoes, apples, bok choy). Chinese supermarket and hardware store in the town are ok for supplies. – Consensus

Aug. 2015 We were very surprised to see the selection of food in the supermarket since we were there in the 90's. We found it very well stocked much better than the Galapagos. All the wonderful French food is simply terrific. Of course, the prices reflect that as well. – Jacaranda

7.1.7 Restaurants

Heremoana (at the harbor) - Tuesday-Sunday 07:30 to 14:00, 18:00 to 21:00. Monday closed.

- **Jan. 2019:** Stationary roulotte-food-truck with seats under tents with Wi-Fi, big portions (one plate enough for 2 normal persons, e.g. tuna with Roquefort-sauce and fries for 1200XPF, Cola 1,5l 800XPF (Cola is already 500CFP in a store!)) - they have Wi-Fi! Service mostly slow, tables could be cleaner, food-quality differs: Once our fries arrived more cold than hot, they offered to heat them up in the microwave. – Taitonga

Relais Moehau

tel.: +689 40 927 269; <http://www.relaismoehau.pf>; hours: 06:30-08:30, 11:00-14:00, 18:00-21:00; Location: Main road, just around the big bend and before the village, on right sight. is supposed to be one of the best eateries in town.

- **Jan. 2019:** (In town) - regular menu, at night also wood fired pizza (pizza starting 1500, meat from 2000, desserts around 1000). 3 minutes before entering town on the right-hand side views over the ocean. They offered to fetch us in their car after doing a reservation for 4. they are a small hotel as well and some speak English – Taitonga

Atuona Games and Café Hours: Mon-Fri: 0900-1700. Snack café with limited seating.

Make Make - Internet-Cafe (07:30-13:30), Sandwich place

- **Dec. 2019:** Make Make is now closed. – Sugar Shack

BBQ: Mostly every Wednesday, 18:00-21:00, BBQ organized by the Semaphore (up the hill) - drinks for sale, entry 200xpf, you bring your own food for the grill.

Restaurant Cruiser Report

Food trucks could be in town in the morning, 1 near the post, 1 behind the bank (we found one opposite the hardware store with veggies, fruits and eggs (you might want to bring your own case) – Taitonga

Sept. 2018: The best place to eat is at the community center, right on the beach. Local people, local food, good prices. – Kokpeli

7.1.8 Activities

Diving

Jan. 2019 +689 87 241 995, or +689 40 927 905. www.marquisesdiving.com, marquisesdiving@gmail.com. Can pick you up for a dive in Tahuata as well.

Semaphore: This is a local lifesafeing-group, which is not supported by the government, they have a small open fast motorboat in the boatyard ready to be launched in an emergency. They listen to VHF 16, but normally only if a volunteer is available (not 24/7)! Walk 100m uphill from the breakwater towards the sea. Ask Sandra for details and maybe how to support them! – Taitonga

Guided Tours

June 2016: There are 3 folks that offer guided driving tours of Hiva Oa. – Jacaranda

- **John Ozone**, +689 872-307-40 - who used to live in Hanamenu Bay. He has a 4x4 and his trip to Pau Mau (a $\frac{3}{4}$ day tour) includes lunch. We also used him for a trip to the Tohua Taaoa. This is a beautiful site 6 miles from Atuona. John's wife also does laundry as well. He will pick up at the dinghy dock in the morning and return the next day. In addition, John usually has fruit for sale.
- Sandra (**Hiva Oa yacht Services**) She does not do the tour herself but uses another individual. We know of a number of people that have used her tour.
- **Pierrot (Peter) Taputea**, +689 873-276-16. Peter has been working as a guide for years and was part of a number of archaeology research projects on the island. Peter speaks excellent English, very proud of his Marquesan heritage and happy to share local customs and information. He rates very high marks amongst the cruisers we have spoken with that have used him.

7.1.9 Cruiser Reports

August 2022: We circled the island clockwise. We learned fast that it is best to make eastbound hops along the north side early in the morning before the tradewind gusts really kick in! – Mabel Rose

Dec. 2019: The shortcut mentioned by Taitonga is great, except if you are dragging a cart or carrying anything as you do have to cross over the beach, over a river, and up a goat trail. But it does save 20-30 minutes into town. We were able to hitch hike into town once and a magasin gave us a ride back to the dock another time.

Visit to the Gauguin and Brel grave sites in the local cemetery. And for 600 CFP per person you can visit the Gauguin exhibit at the Cultural Center (plus another 500 CFP to see the Brel exhibit) in town. – Sugar Shack

Jan. 2019: Shortcut to Town. Sand with rocks - this is the shortcut if you walk into town, which will cut off 10-15 minutes (normal walk-time: ~30min), but you have to cross a little stream - either you jump or get wet feet (or both :-)) or balance over stones: Walk from the harbour on the road and take the dirt road down to the beach. Cross the little stream to the other side. There is a little steep path going directly left up the hill (if wet and slippery walk NW on even ground until you meet the paved road again). Nonos at the beach!

B+B/Pension/Hotel: Pension Kanahau, Tania.Tania@life.fr, +689 87 701 626 (also on Facebook) (can organize tours, too) (e.g. 12000XPF for a double with breakfast)

We took a roadtrip across the island to Historic Site in Puamau "Me'ae lipona". Calculate for the trip ~100km and 2-2.5h driving time each way with some stops, Nice scenery!

Directions: Take the road to the airport and then turn right at the roundabout and follow the "street"; mostly dirtroad with "some" potholes and the last bit is singletrack with interesting views down hill (We would not like to do the trip after or during heavy rain). The site itself is ok, but imho not great.

The cementery in Atuona - very different grave-styles – Taitonga

Summer 2018: There's a marine yard now in Tahauku, very friendly. They're hauling boats with trailer, doing repairs. Unfortunately, no wifi signal in the inner harbor. We walked to town several times, not bad. The best place to eat is at the community center, on the beach. Local people, local food, good prices. – Kokpoeli

July 2018: We drove to the archaeological site at Puamao at the NE corner of the island, reputed to be the best in French Polynesia and all felt that it was OK but not unmissable/earth shattering – though the drive stunning offered views. Be sure to get a confident driver, the road's steep/twisty, mostly unsurfaced and with some precipitous edges; it's only 20-25 miles, but allow 1.5 2 hours each way. – Moon Rebel

7.2 Motu Anakee

7.2.1 Anchorages and Moorings

March 2016: 09 48.7892 S / 139 02.5684 W, in 45' Sand with some rocks. Anchoring closer to the Motu will put you in mostly rock. This motu is located just a few minutes to the west of Atuona. Most of the time the E and SE swell rolls right in making it very rough. We got chased out of Hapatoni, Tahuata with 2-meter NW swell with a S swell thrown in as well. We anchored here in the summer when the swell was from the NW and found it pleasant. Clear water and a group of Manta Rays.

We sat out a westerly blow with gusts to 40. Lots of rain and we counted 7 waterfalls in the hills. But we did find the bay very gusty and bullets would come roaring thru the calm. If we had to do it over again, we would move over off the beach by the soccer field.

09 48.412 / S 139 02.232 W Anchoring in 20' sand close to, will result in much fewer swirling winds.

We took the dinghy to Motu Anakee from the harbor to swim and snorkel with the manta rays. – Jacaranda

7.3 Hiva Oa North Coast

7.3.1 Hanamenu

7.3.1.1 Anchorages and Moorings

April 2019: 9°35.7607' S /139°08.4185' W, in 14m, sand. We found this bay to be roly, very murky water. Difficult dinghy landing at the beach (Ua Pou/ Tikeu style). Two friendly couples live ashore on copra. There is a stream with a nice pool. Supposedly drinkable water but we did not try. – Chugach

7.3.2 Hanaiapa

7.3.2.1 Anchorages and Moorings

June 2022: This is a very pretty little village and it gives fairly easy access to Atuona if you don't want to deal with the anchoring situation there. Anchoring is easy. You may have to anchor your dinghy off the tiny quay due to swell. No magasin here, but there is a woman who sells ice cream. Chez Marie is on the left side just before the big tree at the crossroads – about a ¼ mile up from the beach on the main road. There is an interesting hike on the trail that leads to Hanatekuua to the east.

To get to Atuona, there is a free bus every Thursday (we think). It leaves early and comes back around noon. Ask some locals. We rented a car as we wanted to do some touring around:

Utua Rent A Car -- Fred & Mairie

87 72 62 79

87 34 13 62

All day 0700-1800: 8000 xpf (you refill tank)

Half day 0700 to 1200 or 1300 to 1800: 4000 xpf (you refill tank)

All Weekend from Friday 0700 to Sunday 2000: 25000 xpf (includes gasoline)

– Migration

Aug. 2015: The Joe Russell guide book covers this bay. We anchored in 40-45' of water opposite the small concrete dock. Outside it was very windy with a 2-3-meter swell sweeping down the island and we thought there is no way this will be a calm anchorage. Surprised when we came in and found a very comfortable anchorage with very little swell reaching inside. Staying out in deeper water will put you in sand versus rock bottom. Anchor opposite the concrete quay or further out. – Jacaranda

7.3.2.2 Yachtsmen Services

7.3.2.2.1 Water

Aug. 2015: There is a fresh water shower and a long hose on the quay. You can fill your water jugs from the dinghy using the supplied hose. Use a stern anchor when tying your dinghy up at the concrete quay. On the dock with a shower. NOT potable – Jacaranda

7.3.2.3 Cruiser Reports

Aug. 2015: There is no store or fresh bread here. William is a very friendly local who has a yacht book and asks folks from Yachts to stop by and sign it. Bring a boat card and or photo. Just walk thru town and look for the sign that says Haniaipa Yacht club.

The village is small and has a road that goes to Atuona. We have friends who stopped here early in the season and got a ride into Atuona to check-in and do some shopping. Just ask any of the friendly locals who might be driving into town. Having a calm anchorage and an abundance of fresh water on the dock makes for a good stop. – Jacaranda

7.3.3 Hanatekuua

7.3.3.1 Anchorages and Moorings

June 2022: Nice bay just to the east of Haniaipa. Good snorkeling around the point to the east. We anchored at 09° 42.105' S / 138° 59.657' W. 30' in sand patches found among coral. – Migration

7.3.4 Puamau

7.3.4.1 Anchorages and Moorings

August 2022: We anchored at 09°45.800'S 138°52.673'W in sand, 34 ft depth. We had no trouble setting the anchor and the roll was no worse than other bays on Hiva Oa, even though a strong easterly tradewind was blowing. We had no trouble landing and launching our kayaks at the concrete wharf at mid and high tide, though low tide would be impossible. – Mabel Rose

June 2022: We dropped the anchor at 09°45.822' S / 138°52.750' W in muddy sand. It was fine but we are a trimaran. A monohull would want a stern anchor. We tried in Anse Atohu to the N of the quay but could not find good holding.

We took the dinghy to the quay, got off at the steps, and towed the dink to the rock beach. We timed the waves to get it high onto the beach and then dragged it higher out of the surf. Worked pretty well.

The archeological site now costs 500 xpf. Pay at the Snack at the crossroads in town. Ask anyone.

Restaurant Marie-Antoinette, which is on the way to the site, is really excellent. Highly recommended. In the morning, ask someone in town to call and make a reservation for lunch. Then go to the site and stop for lunch on your way back. - Migration

April 2019: We found Paumau to be roly, with difficult dinghy landing at the little jetty, we only succeeded at high water. Unless it is very calm weather it is probably unwise to keep the dinghy ashore (in case conditions change and putting it back in the water proves impossible). – Chugach

May 2017: Wind was from ENE and the anchorage is quite exposed and very roly, and landing difficult in heavy surf (not recommended - given the risk it may be best to simply take a tour from Atuona). We chose a rough swim rather than attempt to take the dinghy ashore. – Begonia

7.3.4.2 Provisions

April 2019: There is a grocery store at the village. – Chugach

May 2017: Basic store where you can buy some pastries along with limited groceries. – Begonia

7.3.4.3 Restaurants

April 2019 Snack Therese, good little restaurant with advanced notice. Accepts payment for entrance fee to Me'ae Lipona historic site. – Taitonga

7.3.4.4 Activities

April 2019: A nice tiki site with a 30 mn walk and a small fee payable at the local restaurant (or 5 mn hitch-hiking). - Chugach

April 2019: Historic Site "Me'ae lipona" in Puamau - nice, but not great nor big, an english explanation chart at the entrance. Pay 300XPF p.p. at Snack Therese (we asked if we can harvest some fruits as well and were given instructions to a specific Pampelmousse-tree). – Taitonga

May 2017: The road up to the Tiki site is about 1.5km (up hill). Take the road to right of (currently overgrown) soccer pitch on seafront (with back to bay Left to Right - you will see the Church then the soccer pitch then the single lane road we used up). – Begonia

7.3.4.5 Cruiser Reports

April 2019 (we visited by car): A little remote hamlet - the scenic road from Atuona is in ok-ish condition (mostly dirtroad). Public showers at the beach and a church. – Taitonga

8 Tahuata

The island of Tahuata is a wonderful island and it is only 10 miles from the anchorage at Hiva Oa (a good day sail to the Bay Hanamoenoa), which has four finger inlets that you can pick to anchor in.

8.1 Vaitehu (village)

8.1.1 Anchorages and Moorings

Dec. 2019: 09°56.219S / 139°06.647W in 7 meters. There were 5 other boats already anchored here and none had stern anchors. With the big gusts (20-25kts) blowing through it made everyone swing all over the place. Being a small anchorage with mediocre holding it is advised to use a stern anchor.

Dinghy Dock can be precarious. There is a large swell and tide changes. The ferries and supply ships come and use the same dock and have priority. It appears that the ferries do not care if the dinghies are in the way. They will just come in and use your dingy as a convenient fender. You want to part your dinghy as close to the rocks (far right) as possible. You can use the mooring as a stern tie or try to use a stern anchor. I say "try"

because there is lots of rock over there and it might get stuck. Everyone used the same mooring for a stern anchor while we were here. There is a ladder on the side facing the rocks. – Sugar Shack

Dec. 2018: Dinghy landing – Jetty: At the N-side of the shore with concrete steps (+ a ladder at the E-corner), used for loading passengers and freight; completely exposed; we had a bit less than 1m swell coming into the bay and were dropped off by another cruiser - the dinghy took some damage.

Dinghy Landing – River Mouth: 15m wide; sand with some stones before a low bridge; there was no water in the stream. Good timing for the waves and maybe dinghywheels could be helpful for landing in a swell. This is the bathing place and playground for the local kids, so please take care! (You might find some sandy little footmarks in your dinghy after you return. There is a rough ramp for the local fishing-pangas going into the rivermouth on the N-part. At low tide many stones, so it might be a good idea to land only at half tide or higher, and on a rising tide. – Taitonga

Aug. 2018: Stern anchor the dinghy at the inshore end of the dock and held well off it; if the Aranui should arrive just get off it completely, their boatmen seemed to consider anything else moored on there as a handy fender. – Moon Rebel

Feb 2016: A new quay is under construction but was halted just as they started due to engineering issues. Do be very careful when landing with your dinghy to make sure you leave room for the local boats to offload passengers. A dinghy stern anchor is must because of the surge.

But it's extremely dangerous now with all the exposed rebar and rough concrete. Especially if there is any kind of a swell, be very careful. During a very large SW swell we ended up anchoring and going down to the south side where we dropped people off on the rocks and I swam out and anchored the dink.

In addition, this bay gets extreme blasts of wind (bullets) coming down the valley. It is not uncommon to get 40+ knots here where in Hana Moe Noa it is maybe only 15-18kts. Keep this in mind when you are anchoring in Vaitehu. – Jacaranda

8.1.2 Yachtsmen Services

8.1.2.1 Cooking Gas (Propane and Butane)

Dec. 2019: Sarl Raihauti Magasin +689 40 929 019 sells cooking gas. – Sugar Shack

8.1.2.2 Trash and Recycling

Dec. 2019: There are personal trash cans for homes and businesses, but not really for cruisers. Try to dump your trash at an island with larger disposal facilities. – Sugar Shack

Feb 2016: Trash receptacles near the Protestant church about 100 meters from the quay. – Jacaranda

8.1.2.3 Water

Feb 2016: Potable water: There is a spigot on the dock. – Jacaranda

2009: Getting Fresh Water: In Vaitehu we put 38 gallons of water into our tank, and loaded another 25 in jugs. We did it by taking a long hose to the quay from the dinghy. John stayed in the dinghy with the filter end of the hose filling the jugs, and I manned the water faucet and tried to hold the dinghy off the rough concrete wall with a stern line. There was a little surge but we managed to get that chore done without incident. – Naki

8.1.3 General Services

8.1.3.1 Medical

Hospital: +689 40 929 227, +689 87 79 10 90, +689 40 42 01 01. Hours: Mon-Fri: 0730-1200 & 1330-1530. Located at the end of the main road, past the large church.

- **Dec. 2018:** Infirmary: Last house at the southern end of the seaside-road (maybe "only" a nurse and visiting doctors?) – Taitonga

8.1.3.2 *Le Mairie*

Located off the main road, before the large church on the left.

8.1.3.3 *Post Office*

Hours: Mon-Thurs: 0730-1130, Fri: 0730-11. Located at the end of the main road, past the large church and before the medical facility.

- **Dec. 2018:** We were able to buy SIM-cards as well recharge cards at the post office. – Taitonga

8.1.3.4 *Wifi / Internet*

Dec. 2019: We found two places that offered wifi, but the best was Chez Jimmy. – Sugar Shack

- Chez Jimmy offers free wifi to customers and \$5/per device for non-customers. It is a pretty decent connection. Food is typical Polynesian/Marquesan and runs about \$17-20 per plate. Jimmy is super friendly and very nice.
- Snack Heietiare Joseph offers wifi but was often closed when we were there.

Aug. 2018: A slow but seemingly solid Vinnispot internet signal could be picked-up close to the post office and having once got onto it there, we could subsequently get it to connect via a small booster antenna on the boat; even better, but perhaps temporary, it was open/free.

The bar/restaurant opposite the grocery store also had wifi, though when we enquired (the Aranui was in that day, so that might've made a difference?) they wanted \$9 for a beer, plus another \$5 to use the internet; we declined that kind offer. – Moon Rebel

8.1.4 *Provisions*

MAGASIN Hamani. +689 40 92 90 04

Location: on the hill close to the generator. Hours: Mon-Sat: 0730-1900, Sun: 0800-1300.

- **Mar 2022:** There is a new shop, half way up the hill on the way to Hapatoni, it did have some salad things that weren't available in the shop in town. Worth the walk up the hill! - Jamala
- **Jan. 2022:** We received a very warm welcome from Tata. They have a great selection of products and vegetables — Askari

Sarl Raihauti Magasin +689 40 929 019.

Location: dinghy dock to main road (left by Jimmy's), on right side. Sells Baguettes Mon-Wed-Sat only. Order in advance.

- **Dec. 2019:** Small selection of frozen, canned, and general supplies. Had little to no produce when we visited (over holidays probably due to no supply ship) – Sugar Shack
- **April 2019:** There is a grocery store in Vaitehu. – Chugach
- **Dec. 2018:** The shop partly stocked up, but it seems much better to shop the day after they had time to fill up the shelves. Baguettes: in the magasin (sold out 13:00). They only bake Monday, Wednesday and Saturday. You might want to reserve your baguette in advance. Had a little of nearly everything, we found cucumbers, potatoes, carrots (old), (onions got just delivered outside). – Taitonga

On the street towards south to Hapatoni, approximately 200m from the shore, uphill, there is Manu's plant-nursery: possibility maybe for vegetables, bananas, or ginger. – Taitonga

Teiki is the islands beekeeper and sells local honey. – Taitonga

8.1.5 Restaurants

May 2022: There is a new Snack that has opened on the front and serves (instant) coffee and canned drinks along with homemade cakes and pies. Run by a lovely lady called Adrienne. - Jamala

Dec. 2019: There are a few locals who will host pre-arranged dinners, but we simply enjoyed Chez Jimmy so much we kept going there. But here are a few other places – Sugar Shack

Chez Jimmy. Hours: flexible and open almost every day 0800-2000. It is a lovely place to spend the afternoon. It offers a beautiful covered patio with a sand floor. Strong, reliable wifi, good food, cold beer, and lovely atmosphere!

Snack Heitiare Joseph. Located across the street from Jimmy's. The sign says they have wifi, but they were not open when we visited.

Behind Chez Jimmy is a "house" that sells "Baraque" snack, simple meal, will also sell produce (bring next day).

8.1.6 Activities

Dec. 2019: Hike: We hiked to the cross which was a pretty easy hike (45-60 round trip). Follow the main road, at the "Y" stay left, cross will be on your left as you near the point (or entrance to the bay).

Museum Te Ana Peua is small, but lovely. Located near Le Mairie, just before the large church. – Sugar Shack

Aug. 2018: The road/rack north of the village, up to the big cruxifix/shrine and beyond was a very pleasant walk and offered great views over the bay and across to Hiva Oa.

If you wish to walk the other way, down to the archaeological site in the southern part of the bay, it's a long/steep hike via the road; however, if you walk the seafront road to the southern end of the village, turn left and after perhaps 50-70m on your right hand side (before you reach the first house) you'll see a tiny dirt path – a few concrete steps can be seen further up it – climbing the hill, this meets the road and will save you half the altitude and 2/3 of the distance.

The museum was good and well worth the 300FPF; ask in the tourist office opposite for the key. – Moon Rebel

8.1.7 Cruiser Reports

May 2022: The dock was very surgy and almost dangerous to use, recommend stern anchoring your dinghy. This is a gusty anchorage and the wind strengthens as it funnels through the valley, 20 knots on the outside but gusting to 30 knots in the bay. Mediocre holding and saw other boat re-anchor several times. – Sierra Wind

April 2019: Only one carver left in Vaitehu (way up in the hills), most of them are now in Hapatoni where they set up an exhibition place (centre artisanal). – Chugach

Dec. 2018: We were anchored in Hanatefau and dinghyed here, which took about 20 wet minutes (softbottom dinghy with 8hp).

The weather forecast (outside) was: Grib: E 15kn, gusts 18kn; Meteo France E 11/16kn, gusts 25kn.

We got: The wind both ways directly on the nose, gusts 20-30kn (the general wind/clouds changed von ENE at noon to E later; quite gusty (offshore) in the big bay [Friends reported: good holding, gusts going offshore up to 50+kn].

Nice church to visit. The Aranui arrived around 14:00 and some carvers displayed their goods.

Beach: no, big black rocks, except the at the river mouth. – Taitonga

Feb 2016: After visiting each of the inhabited islands we are convinced that Tahuata has the **best bone carvers** in the Marquesas. Try to be in Vaitehu when the Aranui-5 arrives and the artists from Vaitehu and Hapatoni will have their art displayed. The prices are NOT cheap but the workmanship is unique and very high quality. Waiting till you get to Tahiti to buy some Marquesan carvings will cost you much more. Twice a year these artisans travel to Papeete to show their work at the Marquesan art festival. But hopefully they will be on island when you arrive. – Jacaranda

July 2015: 3-4 times a year the villages of Tahuata get together in one village for a church council and general festival. If you can find out when this is taking place and what village is hosting it, it is well worth it. We were invited to Hapatoni during this small festival and had a wonderful time playing petanque (bochi ball) and visiting with the locals. – Jacaranda

2010: We chose the inlet to the north of the main harbor and had it all to ourselves. White sand beach, 20-foot sand anchorage. Great stop, but nothing ashore, just palm trees where we anchored. Great snorkeling (even saw a black tip shark). A nice little village with a couple small groceries. A good tattoo artist lives here as well as an excellent bone carver.

If you're here when the Aranui (the supply/cruise ship) comes in, make sure to go to church with the passengers. The Marquesans put on extra singers for the Aranui and it's pretty cool. The first magazin sells baguettes but get there early (like before 8 AM), or reserve in advance. – Soggy Paws

2010: We spent over three weeks in Tahuata last year and left to make sure we could visit Ua Pou. We should have skipped Ua Pou and stayed at Tahuata. – *Nakia*

2010: So far, my favourite island in the Marquesas group has been Tahuata. It's a small island just south of Hiva Oa and it has everything going for it - beautiful anchorages, nice people and clear water.

Over the past 12 days we have spent 5 nights in different anchorages on Tahuata, using it as a stop off point between Hiva Oa and Fatu Hiva. Each anchorage has been a little different - two of them postcard perfect. Hanamoenoa and one not charted - with white sandy beaches, palm trees and water so clear you can see the bottom in 25 feet of water and no one around but a few other yachts

Motopu and Hanatefau - were more rugged, with villages built into the side of the mountain. We went and visited one of the local villages in Hanatefau and were mobbed by a bunch of cheeky local kids, life is good for them they were playing on the beach and handing us mangos they had picked from the trees. The amount of tropical fruit here is astounding, trees everywhere groaning with mangos, pawpaws, coconuts, bananas and Jeff's new favourite - pamplemousse.

The locals love to trade here, rather than buying and selling. Last night as we were spending our last night in Tahuata watching the sun go down and enjoying a cold beer we waved to a passing outrigger canoe with three locals in it. They still use the outrigger canoes and they move, they are sleek and fast, this one especially fast since it had an outboard motor. They came over for a chat and wanted to know if we would like some fresh lobster, they were on their way out to do some lobster collecting - yes please you don't have to ask us twice! They came back around 1am and delivered 5 medium sizes lobsters. They were doing a roaring trade having supplied 3 other boats in our anchorage and about 10 in the next anchorage along. We are looking forward to enjoying fresh lobster tonight with George and Jane from Venture, we are sailing around Hiva Oa to meet them as I type this. – Nemesis

8.2 Hapatoni/ Hanatefau

8.2.1 Anchorages and Moorings

May 2022: There is space for a few boats in sand in the north part of the Hapatoni anchorage, though several others came and anchored in coral south of us. – Villa Veritas

June 2019: We returned to this anchorage in May 2019 for 5 weeks: The strongest gusts (~30+kn with around 18-20kn easterly weather forecast) were still mostly onshore, but northerly as well, southerly stronger wind as well, once even directly down the mountain (during easterly gusts, the boats in the northern Hapatoni anchorage (up to 4-5) had completely different wind). Usually it was 5-10 kn from all directions (less than in 2018). Up to 12 boats in Hanatefau - some faced stern to stern due to the current and weird winds, some were too near each other, but still 50cm apart. The peak of the mountain is rarely without clouds, so you will not get much solar energy.

Swell/Rolly: We had a day of high but long swells from the south.

Dinghy landing: Easy, in the protected dinghy-harbour. There is a boat-ramp on the east side which even bigger local boats use, and this is the playground for the kids! We used a stern-anchor and stayed near the western corner, so visiting ferry boats had the chance to go to the quay as well. – Taitonga

April 2019: To visit Hapatoni, it is better to anchor in Baie Hanatefau and use the dink to cover the .5 nm to Hapatoni. Look for the resident dolphin pod in Hanatefau.

Hapatoni has a good landing place (protected quay) for the dink. You need to drop the grapnel a few meters from the quay and adjust line length to ensure the swell does not push the dink against the quay. – Chugach

Dec. 2018: 09°57,73S; /139°07,14W. Anchored on 12.5m (high tide) with 60m chain on sand. Holding: Good at our spot in sand. 2-5 other boats in the anchorage. Closer to shore as well more south are some rocks and boulders! The anchoring plateau drops very fast after 15m depth!

We arrived with no wind and were not sure in which direction to dig in the anchor, so we decided to get protection from gusts down the mountains (wrong!!!). There is a current in the bay.

Swell/Rolly: Slight boat movements (1 to 2 out of 5 on the Dagmar-Scale). In June 2019, we had a day of high but long swells from the south.

Water visibility: ~12m+ in clear water (we saw our anchor from the dinghy).

Wind and weather: The weather forecast (outside) - Grib: 12-19kn ENE; Meteo France 19/21kn, gusts 30kn. The top of the mountains were slightly covered with clouds which the easterly pushed to the west.

What we got: Winds onshore! Back-circulating eddies from the normal easterlies, from NW, W and SW with ugly gusts up to 30+kn! Gusts mostly around 30 seconds; “only” wind – no wind waves! It seems nearly nothing of the easterlies comes down the mountain. Mostly our bow pointed towards the sea! Some short rain showers.

Dinghy landing: bare rocks - landing imho not possible. Though some anchored their dinghy in calm conditions and swam ashore.

Navigation lights: a green pole with a green light on top (we saw it working only once...) on the breakwater at the dinghy-harbour in Hapatoni, motion-operated light in the harbour, only a very few lights ashore, no working streetlights.

The Bay of Hapatoni and Hanatefau are separated by a rock ridge, on top of it (maybe at 80m height) is a cross and a shrine which is illuminated at night and might be used as an “idea”.

Occasionally boats actually anchor off Hapatoni. Holding is reported by locals to be dead coral in front of the harbour, in the northern part (away from the harbour) up to 5 boats were anchored. Looking down from the cross it looks like there are sand patches there. – Taitonga

July 2015: Nakia’s anchor position (below the cliffs on the N side of the bay) was surprising calm with no wind gusts yet in Vaitehu the bullets were roaring down at 40+ knots. We hardly moved from our initial anchor spot and occasionally we could feel a light zephyr that would turn the boat one way or another.

Be sure to leave lots of room between your neighbors, as the currents can be strong in here and we have been surprised by how close we got to boats we thought we were anchored with plenty of distance. With little wind boats seem to lay in different directions with the current.

We have snorkeled most of the anchorage (in May vis was 80') and found that if you anchor 40' or deeper you will be away from any rocks/rubble on the bottom. Anchored up in the corner provided the best protection from any wind gusts. – Jacaranda

2010: Anchor at Hanatefau in 50 ft, clear sand. There's no landing here, but you can dinghy .5-.75 nm South to Hapatoni where you can land in the harbor. Excellent carvers here. – Soggy Paws

2009: 09-57.744S / 139-07.110W. Anchoring position. – Nakia

8.2.2 Yachtsmen Services

8.2.2.1 Trash and Recycling

June 2019: There is no trash or recycling at this bay. Locals have to take their trash to Vaitehu or Hiva-Oa (if you find a trashcan, do not use it. The locals have to separate the trash and take it to Vaitehu). – Taitonga

8.2.2.2 Water

July 2015: They have a concrete boat basin now with a safe and easy way to tie your dinghy up and obtain water on the dock. – Jacaranda

8.2.3 General Services

8.2.3.1 Wifi / Internet

June 2019: Sometimes cell phone reception, depending on the anchor spot and where you are hanging based on the changing winds.

Iridium-Access: not good, one side is blocked by the steep mountains

SSB: Good enough (mostly) for checking into the Polynesian-Magellan-Net – Taitonga

8.2.4 Provisions

May 2022: The town has a good dock but there are no services or groceries, only a small craft market. We heard from other cruisers that the locals may be willing to trade produce for other goods. – Sierra Wind

8.2.5 Activities

May 2022: The point in the middle of the bay has great snorkeling when visibility is good, we saw 2-3 manta rays regularly. – Sierra Wind

June 2019: Things to see: The street along the shore as well as the ceremony-plateaus between the maree and the church are ancient remains (bigger than in Hiva-Oa, Puamau but without Tikis).

There are petroglyphs walking towards Vaitehu after the bay of Hanatefau, where the concrete street goes up the mountain. There is a little sign approximately 1.5-2m height on the right, where you go approximately 50m into the woods (bring bug spray!).

Walking: There is a dog who chewed on some cruisers in the last house towards Vaitehu (near the cross). If you dare to walk from the northern Hapatoni-anchorage through private land you might want to know that, and avoid. Staying on the road towards Vaitehu should be ok. – Taitonga

8.2.6 Cruiser Reports

May 2022: The dolphin pod is very much still in residence. Diving was good just north of Matatau where there's a pillar, visible in the satellite imagery.

Cruisers almost outnumbered locals at the Sunday church service, and were quickly adopted, shown around, given fruit, and funneled into the artisan market. - Villa Veritas

Dec. 2019: Our friends on Break Away gave us this update on Hapatoni. Small village and really nice hikes/walks on shore. A very nice settlement ashore with kind people ESPECIALLY Tahina and her neighbor, Kalino. You must look them up. They both speak some English. You can do your email for free at Tahina's and more than likely she will make a feast for you to enjoy. She is very hospitable and a great cook. She would never allow us to pay her, so, Yves and I walked into town and picked up some groceries for ourselves and her (another grueling, but beautiful hike, with fortunately a lift by car upon our return). You can also dingy into town from Hapatoni.

Kalino is a good carver and a big personality. He'll take you fishing or walking over to the other side of the island or the petroglyphs, if you wish. He will do so just for the pleasure of it. He did our laundry for us in his machine at 1000fcp a load, dried in his yard. Go to mass, they sing like angels, especially Kalino!

This bay regularly has a pod of Spinner dolphins who spend the morning feeding and frolicking around the boat. – Sugar Shack

June 2019: Stunning steep high mountain, lush green, great scenery. A coconut plantation, with a single hut, on shore, nice sunset views over the open Pacific (Hapatoni-Village is south in the adjacent bay (~.7nm). We anchored in Hanatefau and dinghied to Hapatoni. ~100-150 inhabitants. Nice little village with a lot of harmony. Person to address for infos in the hamlet is Tehina (very nice lady, speaks english).

Wildlife: In December two pods of dolphins. In May nearly every morning dolphins (up to 50-60) with some little ones who were trained spinning in the air and splashing around by their parents, sometimes rays; beginning of June the number of dolphins went down, mid June rarely dolphins).

Local traffic: Not much traffic from/towards Vaitehu, one Wednesday night, the Taporo (a big freighter) anchored in front of Hapatoni (arrived at night, left before sunrise). The Aranui may send one of its tenders from Vaitehu. A regular speedboat visits and operates as a ferry to Hiva-Oa.

Church service: 08:00 Sundays in Marquesan language. Incredibly good singers, awesome!!! They take the ceremony seriously, but the kids can behave like kids. You might want to dress "appropriate" (no spaghetti-top or hot-pants, cargo shorts for men and flip-flops are ok). Weekdays at 17:00 they have shorter services.

Carvers (specialty bonecarvings): Ask around, <https://hapatonisculptures.wordpress.com/>

Fish: ask Tea (Robert) (40 929 096), first house coming from the harbour going straight, you can order for a specific date and the night before he will try to catch Sushi for you.

Dancing: If occasionally a little cruise ship arrives, like the Orion from National Geographic, they do great performances. – Taitonga

April 2019: Most of the carvers are now in Hapatoni where they set up an exhibition place (centre artisanal). The "federator" name is Kalino. – Chugach

July 2015: There is a waterfall on the cliffs very close to where we anchored. We could hear it but could not see it because of the dense vegetation. One morning we had a pod of 20 dolphins swimming around the boat for more than an hour.

Big improvement over years past where we had to anchor the dink and swim in. There is a number of excellent wood & bone carvers in this Village. – Jacaranda

Aug. 2010: Our final day in Tahuata, we motored about 7 miles south from Hanamoenoa (no wind at all in the lee of the island) to the tiny village of Hapatoni, where our friends on Nakia had told us there were some great wood carvers, and a pretty little town.

We spent a nice day walking around Hapatoni... stopping to see the wood carvers in their building by the water, strolling down the ancient 'boulevard' shaded by giant trees (from pre-European times), and hiking up to the cross on the hill overlooking our anchorage. We got a stunning picture of our boat anchored in the bay below. – Soggy Paws

8.3 Ivaiva Nui / Ivaiva Iti

8.3.1 Anchorages and Moorings

June 2016: 09 54.7S / 139 06.4W - Sand bottom 25'. This is a small bay .3m south of Hanamoenoa. Lovely anchorage if you do not want the crowd of Hanamoenoa. Room for 2-3 boats with lots of space. The man that lives in this cove is Patrick. You can certainly move further into the bay if you wish. – Jacaranda

2009: 09-54.752S / 139-06.476W. We sailed over to Ivaiva Iti anchorage on Tahuata, arriving just at sunset. This is a pretty little anchorage with a private home and neat farm above the sandy beach. It doesn't get much

protection from the swell though, which has been higher than when we first arrived, so yesterday we sailed back to our favorite Tahuata anchorage at Hana Tefau. – Nakia

8.3.2 Cruiser Reports

June 2022: Great holding in sand, plenty of room for more boats but they're all one bay over so it's private. Dog will bark at you from shore, but the draw is the manta rays. Our buddy boat has blue underwater lights, which seemed to attract them. We night-dove off the back of their boat, sat in the sand, and had five mantas circle around us until we got cold. Glorious! Snorkeling the point to the south is OK.

8.4 Hanamoenoa

White sand beach, clear water, nice sunset views over the open Pacific. Fruit on shore, but ask permission first. No services, just a copra drying shed on shore.

8.4.1 Anchorages and Moorings

Dec. 2019: We visited this bay several times. Each of our anchor points are listed below. – Sugar Shack

- **09°54.465S / 139°06/225W**, 7 meters, sandy bottom. We anchored here after a day trip to Omoa, middle of bay and nice breeze
- **09°54.465S / 139°06.258W** 7 meters, sandy bottom. This was our 2nd anchoring spot had us over sand and in perfect location for breeze and swing.
- **09°54.4809S / 139°06.2708W** 8 meters, muddy bottom, but with scope, the chain rubbed some coral, so try to anchor closer to beach and not here.

June 2016: **09 53.9632 S / 139 06.0052 W**. Sand and scattered rock 25'. Here is another anchorage .5 miles north of Hanamoenoa. I failed to find out the local name for this anchorage which is big enough for 1-2 boats. – Jacaranda

July 2009 - 09-54.478S / 139-06.252W. – Nakia

8.4.2 Cruiser Reports

May 2022: This used to be known as Stephens bay but Stephen passed away last year, the structure of his home is still there. There are lots of ants on this beach. We didn't feel comfortable taking the dinghy over due to the steep sand and swell on the beach so we anchored in 7 metres near the shore and swam over. Some other cruisers took their dinghy's on the beach, it's easier to get it back off the sand if your outboard is not too heavy. – Jamala

May 2022: We spent several days here in late May 2022. This is a beautiful anchorage, but most notable were the pods of manta rays. We snorkeled with them one day--they swam all around us for 45 minutes. Then at night they were attracted to our blue transom lights so we told all the other boats and 12 of us swam with them for 30-40 mins. The dive lights some people had attracted more rays, maybe 15. It was beautiful, no one bothered them and they weren't scared of us. Highly recommend! – Flite Deck

Dec. 2019: There is only one inhabitant, Stephen. He can be very nice and hospitable but is very particular about visitors on the beach. If you visit the beach, stay on the beach and do not go beyond the tree lines without his permission (that is his property). And do not take anything off the beach (shells, coconuts, etc...). He has been hurt by many cruisers who have stolen from him which makes him very testy and nervous around other cruisers. If he approaches you, you will enjoy the company of a very intelligent man who speaks 5 languages!

This is a spectacular bay which is pristine and quiet. We snorkeled the northern side by the coast and found it to be unremarkable. – Sugar Shack

Aug. 2015: I visited here 25 years ago and it is still just as wonderful. Our favorite anchorage in the Southern Islands.

There are two guys living in this bay now. One of them, Steven, lives to the north side of the beach and is very friendly. The man living on the south side is not as friendly.

Steven is asking people to not just wander up in his yard and pick fruit!! He found a yachtie the other day carrying a huge bag of fruit off his property without his permission and was very angry. He has even found yachties going into his house uninvited while he was working in his garden.

So, if you want to go for a walk stay on the beach or ask permission to go inland. BTW his grandfather is the owner of the property – Jacaranda

Aug. 2010: We sailed from the Bay of Virgins on the island of Fatu Hiva to Baie Hanamoenoa on the island of Tahuata. This had been our friends on s/v Naki's favorite anchorage in all of the Marquesas. We were ready to get out of the gusty Bay of Virgins and into someplace a little calmer.

We had quite a rousing sail with winds 18-20 on our starboard quarter. The seas were still pretty big, so we were surfing and slewing around a lot. We saw 8.5 knots on the GPS on one really nice wave. We were really happy to see that Hanamoenoa was as nice as Naki had promised. Beautiful white sand beach, no town ashore, very little swell, and non-gusty winds. The bay also looks directly west, so it's a great place to watch the sun set.

We were so happy to be in a nice calm pretty anchorage, that we really just goofed off for 2 days. We did a little bit of maintenance, and we snorkeled over to the rocks and little reef on the north side of the bay, but mainly we just hung out on the boat. I snorkeled around quite a bit looking among the rocks for cowrie shells, but the surge was really bad, the water clarity so-so, and there were spiny sea urchins around. And then I remembered that we had bought some nice cleaned cowries in the Bay of Virgins for only \$1 apiece. For that price, it isn't worth it to go through all the effort to clean a live animal from a shell.

While we were in Hanamoenoa, the cruise ship/freighter, Ara Nui III, was visiting Tahuata. They came late in the day, probably from Hiva Oa, only 10 miles away, and anchored right off our pretty bay. The next morning early, the Ara Nui picked up anchor and headed south, probably to the tiny village of Hapatoni, which we visited a couple of days later. They were back again in the evening, and again anchored in the same spot off Hanamoenoa. Must be a good anchoring spot!! Fortunately, they anchored far enough offshore that it didn't crowd us at all. – Soggy Paws

8.5 Hanameneni Bay

8.5.1 Anchorages and Moorings

Mar 2016: 09 53.586 S / 139 04.931 W in 27' sand. Located on the north coast, this small bay is a short jump from Atuona. If the weather conditions are right it is a pleasant stop and the beach is a favorite of locals during the weekend. There is a big circle of sand which we were lucky enough to find.

Beware if you anchor further west than this you may lay in rubble with some rocky/coral heads. Best to dive your anchor to make sure you won't snag a bommie. – Jacaranda

9 Mahotani

Mahotani is a small island located between Tahautu and Fatu Hiva. It is mostly unsurveyed on the CM93 charts.

9.1 Anchorages and Moorings

April 2019: 9°57'2049 S / 138°50'1878 W, 20 m, sand. This is slightly NNW of the purple anchor that shows on the CM93 charts. This purple anchor is in 17 m of water, but in rocks. NW of our anchor position, there is more sand but the depths drop quickly. When backing after anchoring (to the SW, towards pointe Putoo), after 50 m we reach some rocks/coral. We buoyed our chain with 2 fenders, Tuamotu style, to be able to let 100 m out in total. There is a very nice sand patch closer to the shore in 9m of water, but in our opinion way too close to the shore.

This island is only inhabited by sheep. We spent 24 h in Baie de Puioono, without going ashore. Here we found interesting snorkeling (big fishes, including sharks). – Chugach

10 Fatu Hiva

Fatu Hiva is the southernmost island of the Marquesas. Approximately 700 people live on the island. This island is NOT an official port of entry. Check in first at Atuona, as stopping at Fatu Hiva first is illegal.

The island doesn't get many tourists, so cruising boats are most welcome. We bring items to trade for crafts, such as tikis or tapa cloth, which is produced by pounding the bark of mulberry, breadfruit and banyan trees. Tapa used to be made throughout Polynesia, but Fatu Hiva is the only place in French Polynesia where it is still being made.

10.1 Hanavave / Bay of Virgins / Bay of Penises

The bay of many names. The first and most important thing we can share is that Fatu Hiva should be an absolute MUST STOP for all cruisers visiting the Marquesas. The anchorage is so beautiful it immediately made it into our top three anchorages of all time. The island itself is beautiful as you approach, but the rock structures around town are mind-boggling. This bay used to be called Baie de Penises until the missionaries renamed it to Baie de Vierges (Bay of Virgins).

10.1.1 Anchorages and Moorings

Dec. 2019: 10°27.892S / 138°40.094W dropped in 10m of mud with solid hold. But we swung around too close to another boat so we re-anchored at **10°27.856S / 138°40.079W** in 10m in mud with a solid hold. In between the two good sticks, we tried to go closer to shore in the “sandy area” but we could not get our spade anchor to stick. Another boat tried 6x with their rockna anchor, no stick.

10°27.88S / 138°30.08W, we came back after a day trip to Omoa and anchored in the center of the bay in 10 meters of mud. It took a bit to stick and dragged as we backed down at 2400rpm, but eventually stuck good. – Sugar Shack

April 2019: In Hananave, to be sure to avoid any rock it is better to drop the yacht anchor in more than 40'. Sand, good holding. Lots of manta rays when we were there.

Hananave has good landing places (protected quay) for the dinghy. You need to drop the grapnel a few meters from the quay and adjust line length to ensure the swell does not push and damage the dink against the quay. – Chugach

Nov. 2018: 10 27.874 S / 138 40.048W. At high tide on 10m with 60m. Holding was good at our spot (another vessel had difficulties with digging the anchor in while testing it full power in reverse (imho very good to test it very hard). 5 boats in the anchorage, nobody dragged.

No navigation aids, only a few street lights ashore. I would not recommend arriving here without local knowledge at night.

Swell/Rolly: Slight boat movements (1-2 out of 5 on the Dagmar-Scale). Water visibility: ~5-8m in clear water with dark bottom, visibility changes with the rains.

Dinghy landing: In the protected dinghy-harbour on the north side of the beach, we used a stern anchor, there is a boat ramp. – Taitonga

Summer 2018: We found the holding in the anchorage good and that's probably general throughout the bay – there was one night of 35-40 knot squalls rattling through, during which only one of fourteen yachts dragged; the bay and valley behind do seem to be a channel for wind/squalls, so dig in well and get plenty of chain out. Despite hearing comments to the contrary there's lots of space - the most (on the squalliest night!) was fourteen yachts whilst we were there and there was ample space for everyone. We also felt that where we anchored, close to the northern cliffs suffered rather less from the squalls than those anchored in the centre & south of the bay, but that's just an opinion. Good days and bad for the swell working in, but you can be fairly sure there'll always be some. – Moon Rebel

Summer 2018: The anchorage is surprisingly deep. There's a shallower bench close in, then a drop-off to the deeper part. If you slide off the edge, guaranteed you'll then drag. Holding is OK. The wind howls through here, very regularly. But this anchorage is spectacularly beautiful. – Kokpeli

March 2017: Bay des Vierges, Penisbay, anchorage is beautiful, but the anchorage is on a stone plateau, with not much holding. Let out a lot of anchor chain, as strong falling winds can blow from the valley. – Spunky

Aug. 2010: 10-27.909S / 138-40.042W, in 25', with (it seems) good holding. But no matter how calm it is here when you arrive, you MUST make sure your anchor is well set, as accelerated gusts funnel through the valley and into the anchorage. Though the wind 'outside' was only 20-25 knots, we clocked gusts as high as 60 knots in the anchorage at Hanavave! – Soggy Paws

10.1.2 Yachtsmen Services

10.1.2.1 Cooking Gas

July 2022: The magasin in Hanavave made it clear that they would not sell cooking gas to yachts. However, we did get a cooking gas bottle in Omoa. – Migration

Dec. 2019: Magasin Kamuk Kebu sells cooking gas. – Sugar Shack

10.1.2.2 Trash and Recycling

Trash-Disposal: Not available. Please do not burden the locals with your garbage.

10.1.2.3 Water

Nov. 2018: A faucet at the harbour can be used for free, a hose (with a filter) can be connected, small particles in the water. – Taitonga

Summer 2018: Clean/potable water is freely available from a tap on the dock beside the boat ramp; the swell works into/around there too, so stern anchor your dinghy on the rougher days, or as we did, take a stern line to one of the local boat mooring-floats; be wary of the long spider-web of lines from these when entering/leaving in the dink. – Moon Rebel

Aug. 2015: There is excellent potable water available next to the boat ramp. Bring a long hose if you do not want to carry jugs. – Jacaranda

10.1.3 General Services

10.1.3.1 Le Mairie

The Mayor: Tel: +689 40 46 59 60. secretariatC10@solidarite.gov.pf. Hours: Mon-Thurs: 0730-1530. Fri: 730-1430. Location: Take main road, turn right at the bridge and follow road toward the left. Le Mairie located on left next to post office.

10.1.3.2 Post Office

Hours: Mon, Tues, Thurs, Fri: 0700-1100. Wed: 0700-0900. Location Take main road, turn right at the bridge and follow road toward the left. Post office is on left next to Le Mairie.

- **Nov. 2018:** supposed to have the “fastest” internet and may sell Vini-SIM-Cards (besides the Town-Office – straight from the jetty, cross the bridge (on right), turn left (7min walk) – Taitonga

10.1.3.3 Transportation

Nov. 2018: Services: “Taua (Christian)” offered Taxi-Service with his launch to Omau, restaurant service and a carved Stone-Tiki (turn right after the school, first (yellow) house on the left). – Taitonga

10.1.3.4 Wifi / Internet

Nov. 2018: “Hotspot Vini”, with 1-2/4 bars on the boat, but we were not able to log-in, neither to buy a SIM-card, neither to pay via credit card for the Manaspot hotspot.

Iridium Access: Bad, it takes longer and the connection broke down often - the bay is surrounded by 3 steep mountainsides

SSB: Good for checking into the Polynesian-Magellan-Net. – Taitonga

Aug. 2015: This is the best place we have found internet in the Marquesas. Look for internet connection Manaspot, and you can sign up online with a credit card. Internet overall in FP is very poor but you can get email. – Jacaranda

10.1.4 Provisions

Magasin Moota owned by Daniella. Hours: Mon-Thurs: 0745-1100 & 1430-1630, Sat: 0800-1300. Location: straight from the jetty, cross the bridge (on right), turn left (7min walk).

- **Dec. 2019:** Very small magasin, but lovely people. They will also sell you tapa and produce from their garden. – Sugar Shack
- **Nov. 2018:** Shopping: Little magasin, but has quite a lot to buy but not everything in stock. Tomatoes seem to be imported and only sometimes available – only garlic and onions were in stock (the supply ship was awaited in 5 days). Prices imho are not unreasonable (if you e.g. compare an organic egg sold in Frankfurt, NY or Seattle with one here => Fatu Hiva it is more or less even). – Taitonga

Summer 2018: There's a small grocery store, though we never used it, on the right, not far before you reach Poyet's house; we were told (didn't check) that you needed XPFs for purchases and there's no bank in the village. – Moon Rebel

10.1.5 Restaurants

Nov. 2018: Rosa (lovely elderly lady) offers dining for 2000 XPF/p.p. She is willing to take Euros, but no USD. Go towards the post, first house right after the bridge. – Taitonga

Summer 2018: Poyet's dinner Thursday evening he, or his wife at least, were cooking/serving a Cruiser's Dinner of traditional Fatu Hivan food @ 2000FPF/\$25 each – BYO beer or wine – at their house. The meal was OK. – Moon Rebel

Summer 2018: The next day, a cruiser brought around a local man, Poya, in the cruiser's dingy. They explained that he was the local security agent, and was hosting a dinner the next night at his house. It would cost \$20, maybe \$25 per person, BYOB. We said yes. About 20 cruisers showed up, it was very well done. His back porch and yard were set up to host this kind of thing. – Kokpeli

10.1.6 Activities

July 2023: Omoa Tour - We were anchored in Hanavave (Bay of Virgins) and wanted to see the rest of the island and Omua, but didn't want to move the boat from such a beautiful, comfortable anchorage. We inquired at the La Mairie for a tour. The lady there called around and arranged with Lucien for a 4 wheel drive open back truck for the next day. Truck was very comfortable. Cost was 15000 XPF for 4 people. The roads are not for the faint hearted but spectacular views. Once in Omua, we went to Solang's house who had beautiful tapas. All different sizes made from banyan, mulberry and breadfruit bark. We then had lunch at a restaurant with no name, located 2 doors up from the small magazine. The only offering was coconut rice with fresh sashimi tuna and a sweet sauce. Absolutely delicious. The entire trip was worth the cost.

Carvings, etc. Just up from the Le Mairie on the left is an enclosed garden with vanilla plants. Right next to that is the house of Henri and Ann, who make carvings, some jewelry from different bones, and some small statues of wood and stone. No signage is outside but they quickly bring out the merchandise once you say hi. They speak enough English to converse if you don't know French. And, of course, give you some pamplemousse, sweet potato and limes as you leave. – Nutmeg

August 2022: Waterfall Hike - The directions given are a little unclear - we took the first dirt track on the left after the last bridge and got almost hopelessly lost. The correct dirt track is well out of town and comes AFTER the road to Omoa makes a steep hairpin climb. Most important - the dirt track to the waterfall has a very clear carved sign pointing to VAIEENUIE (the name of the waterfall) to the left and OMOA on the main road, to the right.

May 2022: The Waterfall Hike now has a big, hand-painted sign, which makes finding the waterfall easier. Just continue along the main road until you see the sign, then take the left. Bring bug spray.

We checked in at Hiva Oa, and wished we'd stopped here first. – Villa Veritas

Dec. 2019: Hike: Waterfall hike is about 1.7 miles (one-way) takes about 45-60 minutes (easy to moderate). Take main road out of town, cross the river. The road will curve right as a dirt road appears on the left. Take the dirt road on the left. The dirt road will dead end with a river to the right and an uphill path to the left. Take the path to the left and follow the rock pile formations which lead the way to the waterfall. We arrived in December and it was more of a trickle falls, but the path was dry and easy to navigate. The pool was cool and refreshing. I'm sure during rainy season is it gorgeous.

Snorkel: by the edges of the bay to see pretty formations, some coral and little to medium size fish. – Sugar Shack

Summer 2018: Poyet also organises island tours by 4-wheel drive @\$150 for the half-day trip (max four people).

The walk to the waterfall was worth the effort, though it'll take you closer to an hour than the half-hour we'd heard suggested and particularly after rain it is rugged and very slippery underfoot for the last 1/3 mile. – Moon Rebel

Summer 2018: We dove the wall to the south of the bay. No way to anchor the dingies, so some people stayed in 'em. Visibility seemed good. The largest shark I saw was 2.5 ft., and we saw very large, fat green morays. We went down to a little more than 100', there was bottom at that point where we were, I think other places may go down farther. – Kokopeli

10.1.7 Cruiser Reports

Dec. 2019: Be sure to seek out Poya the "security guy" who will also do tours and serves you dinner if pre-arranged. He is very friendly and a wealth of knowledge. – Sugar Shack

Nov. 2018: Dramatic, stunning scenery, great light, nice sunset views over the open Pacific. Barter: Nobody wanted money – it seems they partly depend on goods brought in by cruisers. Some people offered fruits for

exchange (they seem not to grow vegetables), they asked us for e.g. fishing-line, very big twin hooks for tuna, lures, rope, batteries, beer, Coca-Cola, perfume, leggings, shoes and again shoes, t-shirts/blouses, sunglasses.

Local traffic: Little open aluminium Pangas day and night. Wake no problem. They are hard to spot in 1m swells, but give a good radar-echo (a bigger cabin cruiser had a much weaker signal!); Nearly every day a bigger boat arrived for delivering or collecting people, staying outside of the harbour for ca. 30 min.

Beach: Big black rocks, not really a beach, kids use the boat ramp for swimming.

Flying objects on the boat: Many, many flies and sometimes a lonely big yellow wasp like creature, no mosquitos (they will find you ashore).

Wind and weather: The weather forecast (outside) was E 12-14kn. But what we actually had--This bay has its own weather. Easterly winds funnels from the mountains out of the bay, sometimes ground wind at night 18-22kn, gusts 30kn; daytime seems to be calmer (sometimes nearly no wind), still with vicious gusts; sun, clouds, rain can change within 15 minutes; The top of the mountains are normally covered in clouds.

After leaving Fatu Hiva we experienced within 2nm of the islands alternating winds between 06-26kn with wind shift up to 70deg (and ugly rain). – Taitonga

Summer 2018: There isn't a Gendarme on the island any more. We found Poyet(?) it seemed to be pronounced 'Poy-A' who's the island's 'Security man'; walk up the road heading directly back from the dinghy-dock and his house is on the left after about 500m, ask anyone you see, they'll point you the way to go. Poyet didn't want to see any paperwork, nor indeed note anything down, but my understanding is that you need to let him know you're there and he will give you the current information.

If you happen to be there mid-July (Bastille Day weekend) there was a very impressive Marquesan Dance competition being held on the soccer field; though I think there might well be a dance competition on every island over that weekend. – Moon Rebel

Summer 2018: One night when we were there, we attended a dance held by the community. Three troupes of dancers, also singing and drumming. Great costumes, made locally from real plants and flowers. First rate dancing, singing and drumming. Probably had 150 participant performers, from the small community there. We also walked to the waterfall, well worth the hike. We felt the carving here was better than what we saw at other islands. – Kokopeli

Aug. 2015: There is much written about this fantastic anchorage. We want to add a couple items.

If you arrive close to the July festivities the village practices dancing & drumming each evening near the wharf and also under the covered building near the soccer field. Hearing the drums start as it gets dark is a unique experience. We went ashore each evening to watch the practice.

Also, there is a small boat basin built since we were here last that offers excellent protection but we recommend using a small stern hook to keep your dink away from the wall.

Friends on the cat Space had one of their crew members (Jeremy) travel to Omoa to have a tattoo done by a man name Teddi. Teddi did the most incredible tattoo covering Jeremy's entire right leg, ankle to hip. Everyone that has seen it was blown away. Jeremy traveled back and forth from Hanavave to Omoa on the local water taxi which departs at 6am returning at dusk.

If you are interested in visiting Omoa and don't want to take your boat there this is an alternative. Or take the water taxi there in the morning and walk back. – Jacaranda

Unknown boater: There is an amazing waterfall you can hike to with a nice cool pool to swim in below the falls (but bring bug spray). Don't expect much for services though, there is only one shop and a telephone booth, and that's about all. We had dinner at Katty's house one night for 1,700 CFP (about \$17 dollars each) and that was also an experience, but more for the environment and not the food. Fresh bread is delivered to the town by truck from another village, so you will be lucky if you catch them. Tikis and Tapa cloth all seems to be sold at Tahiti cruise ship prices as this is where they ship the items they make (the prices were outrageous).

Lastly, the wind does shift around in the anchorage, so give yourself plenty of room and make sure your anchor is hooked. It's sand in the deeper sections of 40 feet+, and big rocks when you get closer to shore in the 30 foot section (we wrapped our chain on a rock and nearly hit another boat when the wind shifted and another boat dragged their anchor and drifted out to sea before realizing anything had happened).

There is no internet anywhere on the island of Fatu Hiva.

10.2 Omoa

10.2.1 Anchorages and Moorings

January 2023: This anchorage is fine in the correct conditions. It is often roly so is a bit difficult in a monohull. We have anchored here multiple times and 20 boats were here for 5 days or more during the 2022 Matava'a festival. There is excellent holding in various parts of the bay. Be aware of the local small boat moorings. Landing at the quay is easy in smaller swells but be careful if the swell is up, as they can wash your dinghy right up onto the quay. Be VERY careful walking on the wet areas near the boat ramp... super slippery.

Omoa is a delightful village with very nice people. It is also a very easy 3-mile dinghy ride from Hanavave.
– Migration

Dec. 2019: **10°30.711S / 138°41.282W** anchored in 10 meters of mud. We were able to stick the hook on the first try and backed down on it with 2400 rpm. We were only doing a short day stop, but we stuck well. We had heard that this is not a good anchorage, not really good holding, but that is not what we experienced. So, we ended up staying for a few days and really enjoyed ourselves.

Dinghy dock is cement and did not require a stern anchor while we were here, but we tossed one out to keep our dinghy off the dock. – Sugar Shack

2003: We visited with friends on another boat on a day-trip. Etienne set the anchor in sand in nine meters of water. What wind there was came from the west into the bay and pushed the boat back into the swell rolling to the beach instead of holding it out more offshore. But after making sure the boat wasn't going to go anywhere, we took the dinghy to the brand-new concrete landing behind a new breakwater at the opposite side of the bay from the old landing where the swell breaks on the steps. Then it was into town for a walk around. – Tackless II

10.2.2 General Services

10.2.2.1 Le Mairie

+689 40 46 59 60. secretariatC10@solidarite.gov.pf. Hours: Mon-Thurs: 0730-1530. Fri: 0730-1430. From dock, turn right at the twin tikis (2nd road), then make the 2nd right. Le Mairie is behind the post office (yellow building).

10.2.2.2 Medical

+689 87 79 74 74 or 92 80 36. Hours: Mon-Fri: 0730-1200. Location: From dock, turn right at the twin tikis (2nd road), on left hand side across from church.

10.2.2.3 Post Office

Hours: Mon, Tues, Thurs, Fri: 0700-1100. Wed: 0700-0900. Location: From dock, turn right at the twin tikis (2nd road), then take the 2nd right, on left (yellow building), in front of Le Mairie.

10.2.2.4 Provisions

January 2023: There are now two magasins. Both are much better stocked than Hanavave. One of them sells cooking gas.

There is a boulangerie on the right just a bit past Magasin Kamuk Kebu. Go early if you want bread. Some days they make loaf bread (pain de mie) as well as pastries.

Maurice (Tekaoiti Vanira) is on the main road on the right just under the big spire on the right. He grows and sells fresh lettuce and bok choy. His house is easy to find as he has many vanilla plants in front of his house.

--Migration

Magasin Kamuk Kebu. Hours: Mon-Fri: 0700-1200 & 14-1630. Sat.: 0730-1230. Sun: 0800-1130. Location: From dock, turn right at the twin tikis (2nd road), on right hand side, green building.

Dec. 2019: Lightly stocked store, no produce, little frozen (the low supply could be due to holidays as we were here over the New Year). – Sugar Shack

10.2.3 Restaurants

Dec. 2019: Pension Fatu Hiva that has a snack, but they were'nt open when we visited. – Sugar Shack

2003: Chantal and Etienne had heard of a restaurant in town so we went off in search of Pension Chez Lionel all the while stopping to chat with the locals. Lionel wasn't set up to serve food without prior arrangements but he sat us down with a bottle of water and had a long chat with Chantal. – Tackless II

10.2.4 Activities

Dec. 2019: Grelet Musee, Omoa has a small museum run by Albertine. Location: From the dock, turn right at the twin tikis. Take 2nd right at sign (small arrow with Musee) and past the post office. It was closed when we stopped by and we could not find Albertine after asking at the post office and magasin. We found her house but she was not home (turn right at twin tikis, her house is past museum, on left with two large red hedges). Typically, the museum is open when a supply ship or AraNui stop by (or when you can find Albertine). – Sugar Shack

2003: On our way back to the boat Chantal hunted down the woman with the key to the museum so we could see their collection of wood carvings. I think I understood that the really valuable things are kept elsewhere but we saw some lovely pieces. People were working on the big grassy area between the museum and the bay preparing for a festival in December. – Tackless II

10.2.5 Cruiser Reports

2003: It had been a long day by now but as we were almost back to the wharf, we heard a hammering sound and Chantal went to investigate with us tagging along behind her. At the back of a house a woman was beating bark to make tapa cloth. She had some already out drying and she brought out finished pieces. Starting at 5,000 CFP (\$50) and more they were too expensive for us, and besides we didn't have any local currency yet. But Chantal found one she liked enough to buy, and we appreciated having the opportunity to see the work in progress. We arrived back in Hana Vave in time for a sunset swim, exhausted but happy to have been able to see the much larger village at Omoa. – Tackless II

11 Moving on to the Tuamotus, Societies, or Gambier Archipelagos?

Download our Tuamotus, Societies, and Gambier/Austral Compendia here:

<http://svsoggypaws.com/files/index.htm#frpoly>