

Tahiti Flotilla!

07 - 14 October 2023

Overview

To truly experience the awesomeness of The Islands of Tahiti, nothing beats the approach from the sea. Feel the transition from the deep, untamed royal blues and the rolling waves of the Pacific to the welcoming hues of a quiet, hushed lagoon. Follow the trail of flower-scented air that announces the land long before you see it. Then, watch these magical islands rise, enchanted, from the horizon. Pause to recognize the moment when you realize you're not dreaming – these are The Islands of Tahiti.

Emergencies and Safety

If there is an emergency and you need to be contacted while on the boat, this is the contact information to provide. Please only have families use this in a REAL emergency, as contacting us will be very labor intensive once we are on the move. Cell phone coverage is lost for about 4 hours every day in between islands. However, there is good cell coverage on the islands and there is ample opportunity to use wifi at many restaurants along the way in order to let the world know how we are doing.

Emergency Contact Info:

NAUTILUS SAILING

800-680-7902

info@nautilussailing.com

*Note that on the weekends we are not in the office, but are still periodically checking emails and phone messages for emergencies

Following Our Adventure

If family and friends wish to follow our trip, they can track our trip via Garmin InReach. This is a fantastic adventurer's device that transmits a satellite signal of our exact location. InReach then plots a "track" of our progress on a chart. People can toggle between a chart of where we are and satellite imagery of the area. Friends and family often get jealous when they toggle to the Satellite view and see the places where you are anchored!

Here is the link to paste into browsers and the password is "sailing":

[Nautilus Sailing InReach](#)

Travel to Tahiti

One of the beauties of sailing in French Polynesia is that it is so removed from our traditional locales! Fly into the Faa'a International Airport (PPT) in Papeete a day or two before the flotilla begins. Our flotilla begins on the island of Raiatea, another plane ride away! Use [Air Tahiti](#) to purchase a ticket from PPT to Raiatea (RFP). Depending on the route that is flown, you may get a short stopover on Bora Bora!

Money

French Polynesia uses the French Polynesian Franc (XPF). Credit cards are accepted in most locations, though it is handy to keep some cash on hand. ATMs can be found in the PPT airport and in Uturoa town on Raiatea.

Saturday Arrival and Schedule

We like to recommend arriving a day or two early as French Polynesia is so far from the United States. There's lots to see and do on island; it's also helpful to adjust to the time difference.

All of the boats for the flotilla are not being returned until Saturday morning from the previous week's charters, so the local crew will be busy cleaning them. Please don't plan on boarding the boat until 5 pm. Your flotilla lead from Nautilus will be on site beginning around 3 pm, so stop by to say hi!

Marina Info

[Dream Yacht Raiatea](#)

[Marina Uturoa](#)

7HF3+R72 Uturoa, French Polynesia

Weather

Before you pack, we recommend you check the weather for the week ahead. This is the end of the winter season (we're south of the equator!) in French Polynesia, so the sailing is expected to be great. Daily temperatures are fairly stable in the upper 70s; nights at lower 70s.

Great weather resources to learn about local climate:

[Weather.com](#)

[Wunderground.com](#)

[Meteoblue.com](#)

Diving

There may be a chance to go scuba diving! If you are a certified diver and would like to get in a couple of dives, let us know ASAP and we can start the diving conversation.

TRAVEL INSURANCE

We cannot stress this enough. PLEASE buy travel insurance! We all do our absolute best to control all the variables we can, but ultimately, things beyond our control can happen. Travel insurance is a small investment and will give you HUGE peace of mind. With COVID and all that is happening, make sure you read the fine print of your policy. Some policies now offer “Cancel for Any Reason”, which allows up to an 80% refund of all your money. If for some reason you have to cancel your trip (for example: due to illness or emergency), this would protect your investment.

By no means a comprehensive list, these are a few companies we recommend checking for travel insurance:

1. <https://www.worldnomads.com/usa/>
2. <https://www.squaremouth.com>
3. <https://www.travelinsure.com>
4. <https://www.travelguard.com>

Island Information

Raiatea

The entrance to all the beauty of the Society Leeward Islands! Lots to do on this gem - you can stay busy, or relax all day long. For the adventurous: hire a local guide and hike to the Three Waterfalls for an intimate nature experience. SCUBA is also available from a couple of dive lockers. There is a road that wraps around the entire island, so you can rent a car or scooters to drive around. Stop at the vanilla plantations along the way. Relaxing more your style? Rent a room or buy a day pass at the Raiatea Lodge Hotel for a truly catered relaxing experience!

Taha'a

Probably one of the best, unknown islands of the chain! Stop by La vallée de la Vanille for an in-depth tour of a working vanilla farm. Brian loves to chat about the process and to share his knowledge. Visit an oyster farm too! The artisans that farm and harvest the (in)famous black pearls of French Polynesia also love to show how they sustainably cultivate the prized gem. Remember to bring home some pearl jewelry for your loved ones! And, of course, stop by the best snorkeling in French Polynesia at the coral garden river! Hike (haha, a few hundred feet in flip flops on the beach) up towards the coral reef and ride the currents between the motus like a slalom witnessing some of the best coral growth and reef fishes in the world!



Huahine

Another gem of the Societies! We love to arrange a private tour of the island that stops by a vanilla farm and an oyster farm! You'll see some of the jungle from the back of a truck and get a true local experience. Perhaps the best part is that it concludes with a class on how to make a bunch of different local dishes! If you'd like to do more exploring on your own, you can rent a car and spend the day exploring the island yourself, stopping by beaches for a swim and cafes for a snack. SCUBA is also available on Huahine, so let us know if you'd like to have us help arrange.

Recommended Packing List

Please pack all items in soft sided, collapsible luggage (like duffel bags or backpacks). Wheeled luggage is very convenient for most traveling, however is a real nuisance on a boat as there is no place to store such a bulky item.

Everyone will have shelves and a closet in their cabin, so as soon as you arrive you can unpack all your belongings.

- Board shorts/bathing suits
- Shorts
- T-shirts
- Lightweight long sleeve shirt for sun protection
- Lightweight pair long pants
- Jacket (for occasional rain showers and to use as a wind breaker)
- Fleece or sweatshirt and extra layers (as evenings on deck can be cool)
- Hat (large brimmed protects ears)
- Sandals/ flip flops
- Boat shoes (we usually go barefoot but it is nice to have shoes for cooler evenings and for passages)
- Boxers/underwear
- Toiletries
- Suntan lotion
- Aloe/after sun
- Bug spray
- Cameras (digital or video)
- Identification: As this is an international trip, please carry your passport.
- Airplane tickets and printed itinerary
- Headlamp with red LED bulb.. Something like this:
https://www.amazon.com/Ultra-Bright-CREE-LED-Headlamp/dp/B019MK6DX6/ref=sr_1_3?ie=UTF8&qid=1510731707&sr=8-3&keywords=headlamp+with+red+light
- Ear plugs, if you are a light sleeper (there are lots of sounds on a boat!)
- Sailing gloves
- Water bottle
- Snacks: granola bars, trail mix, nuts, chocolate, candy, etc...
- Scopolamine patches if prone to seasickness.
- 2 towels per person are provided