

Tahiti 2011!



Our resort!

Hello Tahiti Travelers!



ITINERARY

Saturday, 10/1: We will arrive in Tahiti at 3:50 a.m. We will make our way over to the airport cafeteria and wait until 6:30 a.m. when we will be taken to the ferry. Our high speed ferry will depart at 7:30 a.m. and in 35 minutes we will be in Moorea. There are several currency exchanges booths at the airport. Once you receive your luggage, just exit baggage claim on your own and use the time while we are waiting to exchange some money. I would recommend getting \$400 (for Moorea only, \$600 if you are extending to Bora Bora). Once we land in Moorea we will have a bus waiting for us to take us to the Pearl Resort. Since we are arriving before check-in time I would not expect them to have all of our rooms ready so be prepared to get into your bathing suit and to head to the pool. You can also rent a bike or take a walk. I would recommend heading to the right when you exit our lobby where there are many shops and a grocery store so you can pick up some supplies for the week. The hotel does not like us bringing in outside liquor so try to be discrete as you walk past reception. Feel free to empty out your mini bar.

4:00 p.m.: Divers will go to bungalow 301 to meet with Lino and Solange and get signed up for the dives.

6:00 P.M. They do have a happy hour at our pool bar but I don't remember what time it goes until. Meet at the pool bar to continue to get acquainted, to talk about our plans tomorrow and to group together for dinner. Most of the time we will be walking to a local restaurant for dinner since dining at our resort is very expensive.

Sunday, 10/2:

7:45 a.m. Check in for the diving at our resort.

10:00 a.m. We will also organize a snorkel tour right out in front of our resort. Make use of their kayaks, snorkel, relax you're in paradise!

6:00 p.m. Meet at pool bar for info, drinks and dinner plans.

Monday, 10/3:

9:00 a.m. Meet at our hotel dock for the pick-up by boat for our Motu Snorkel Picnic. Bring towel, sunscreen, sandals. If everyone signs up for this it will be an exclusive tour! **This is the tour that we snorkeled with the whales last time!**

6:00 p.m. Meet at pool bar for info, drinks and dinner plans.

Tuesday, 10/4

7:45 a.m. Check in for the diving at our resort.

1:15 p.m. Dolphin Experience reservation: We have a reservation set up today at the Hotel Intercontinental for the petting of the dolphins. This is the "Meet with the Dolphin" program. 6 people maximum. If you are signing up you will need to fill out their form and fax it to them.

1:15 p.m. is our check-in time. NOTE: If we have more than 6 people who want to do this we will make a 2nd reservation.

2:15 p.m. This is our reservation for the Apnea program where you can swim with the dolphins. A second reservation for the Dolphin experience to swim with the dolphins. 4 persons max. NOTE: If we have more than 4 people who want to do this we will make a 2nd reservation.

3:15 p.m. This will be our 2nd reservation for the "Meet with the Dolphin" program.

3:45 p.m. This will be our 2nd reservation for the Apnea program.

Wednesday, 10/5

8:15: Meet in lobby if you're signed up for the 4x4 tour.

6:00 p.m. Meet at the pool bar for drinks and dinner plans

Thursday, 10/6

7:45 a.m. Divers meet for morning dive

10:00 a.m. This is another good day for optional tours. See more info below. Good day for the horseback ride!

Friday, 10/7

10:00 a.m. I will head up a motor scooter day. Also a good day for optional tours. See more info below.

4:30 p.m. Meet in lobby for our departure for the Black Pearl Gem Company education/ shopping/ party and the Tiki Village show.

Saturday, 10/8

We are returning to Papeete, Tahiti on the 3:45 ferry. We will leave our hotel at 2:30 p.m. Please be checked out and have your luggage in the lobby by 2:15 p.m. When we arrive in Papeete our group will split up with the people who are going back to the US, who will be transported to the hotel and the people who are going on to Bora Bora who will be transported to the airport for our 5:15 p.m. flight.

6:00 p.m. Meet at the pool bar (or sooner) to toast a great vacation. Note, on Saturdays the shops are closed in the afternoons so it doesn't make too much sense to taxi there to shop.

Sunday, 10/9

4:45 a.m. For those going back to the US we will be picked up at our hotel at 5:00 a.m. to make sure we're at the airport 2 hours prior to our 7:30 a.m. flight. Please have your luggage down in the lobby by 4:45 a.m. and check-out the night before.

TOURS!

See attached form to check off the tours you are interested in. Pre-paying for our tours is the only way to block enough space for our group and make sure we can be accommodated.

Besides the following tours, when we see you we will talk about other things to do on Moorea including renting mopeds, which is really fun, horseback riding, going to [Tiki Village](#) in the evening for their cultural show featuring amazing fire dancing, going out on a [dolphins and whale eco tour](#) with Dr. Michael Poole, shopping for black pearls or just snorkeling right out in

front of our resort. The following are the main tours that we will need advanced payment to determine how many will be coming. All of our tours are discounted for our group, some as much as 25%! Please fill out the attached form and either fax it back or reply via email with instructions to charge your credit card or mail in with your check.

MOOREA TOURS

LIKI TIKI SNORKEL PICNIC WITH STING RAY & SHARK FEEDING, MONDAY - \$75 (reg \$90). This is definitely a "must do" tour and I'm saving this for our last full day so the people coming in for the last 2 days can join us too. I hope we get everyone on this because it'll be a wonderful time that you will always remember. Tour on the lagoon with shark and ray feeding. We'll visit a beautiful "motu" (coral islet) that is such a lovely place, you will not want to leave. Enjoy beer, mai-tais, sodas and Tahitian buffet (fish, chicken, delicious!) in the peace of warm crystal waters and white sands. This is the tour that we swam with the whales. We may or may not get that lucky again but either way it's a must do tour.

[Website](#) click on "photos" at the bottom too!

4x4 INNER ISLAND SAFARI, Wednesday - \$45. This is another must do. Check out the interior of the island and enjoy great views and exciting off-roading. Here is a great description of what we will see: The first leg of the tour takes you up to an overlook point on the rim of the crater of the ancient volcano which created Moorea. From here you can see the many colors of the island (one of the best photo opportunities), the heart of the crater, as well as the coral reef surrounding Moorea. The next part of your journey will take you into Moorea's interior where you will visit a pineapple plantation, a vanilla plantation and a large plantation where a variety of tropical flowers and fruits are grown, such as Birds of Paradise, Porcelain flowers, Jojoba, Heliconia, Chinese grapefruit trees and Papaya trees. Further on up the valley, you'll see and learn a bit of the history of the "Marae", ancient Tahitian stone archeological sites. The road ends at the "Belvedere" scenic lookout, which offers fantastic views of both Cook's and Opunohu bays. While in the valley, the tour stops at the Opunohu School of Agriculture for tasting of fresh fruit juices and jams. Toilets are on site. Afterwards, during a visit to the Fruit Juice Factory, you can taste liqueurs and juices made from Moorea's tropical fruits. Alcohol content of the liqueurs is 10 - 40%.

TIKI VILLAGE SHOW - \$90

We have been offered a 25% discount on the Tiki show. We'll go in for the dinner and show on Wednesday. It will be a fantastic evening that I'm sure you will all love. Cost is \$90 (reg. \$112). The dinner is very nice and the show is awesome with lots of fire dancing. It's tribal and very cool. <http://www.tikivillage.fr/en/spectacle.html> We'll be leaving early to take advantage of the free transportation offer (reg. \$15) and some pre-dinner drinks at the Black Pearl Gem company.

SCUBA DIVING:

We will be using the dive shop right on our property. Please let us know if you're a diver so we can give them a rough head count. They will be offering us a discount depending on how many divers we have. Their website gives their rates with a one-tank dive going for 58 eur (about \$85). We will receive a 20% discount. You can sign up for this when you get there. <http://www.mooreabluediving.com/>

DOLPHIN EXPERIENCE

We have reservations for the Dolphin Experience program for Tuesday. You can do a short program with 15 minutes in the water with the dolphins or 30 minutes with the dolphins. There



are two parts: one educational and one interactive with 30 minutes of education and 30 minutes in the water with the dolphin. For both, trainers will tell you all you've ever wanted to know about Atlantic bottlenose dolphins: anatomy, behaviour, and habits. Their impressive jumps and flips are fascinating to observe. Dolphins are great acrobats and water ballet dancers. These mischievous and teasing mammals like to play tricks on their visitors... but all is soon forgotten... time for a (wet) kiss! This dolphin encounter combines elements of hands-on contact, education, fun, laughter and adventure.

We've been given a 20% discount on their programs. The apnea is the only program where you can swim with the dolphins in groups of just 4 people. Cost is normally 25.000 CFP (about \$310) so our cost is \$248. Yes, it is very expensive. Their other program is 30 minutes with 15 minutes of education and 15

minutes with the dolphins (petting, no swimming) that would be \$146 with our discount.

If you'd like to do either of these tours please use this email to contact Sylvie at the Moorea Dolphin Center: sbrasseur@mooreadolphincenter.com Let her know you are with Singles in Paradise, which program you would like to sign up for and she will give you the time. She will then send you a link to make payment.

For each program, pictures are taken by a photographer at an extra cost. [Website](#)

OTHER SUGGESTIONS FOR YOUR FREE DAYS

We will have information on a few other tours offered on Moorea and Bora Bora when we see you, and our hotel has a tour sign up desk that can help you sign up for other optional tours such as Jet ski rentals.

BLACK PEARL SHOPPING. Tahiti is famous for their black pearls. Since so many people in the groups I have taken have purchased them we have made special arrangements with a couple of different retailers to offer special discounts to our group at retailers who are reputable. Just down the street from us we will be getting special pricing at Ann Simon. They have received very good recommendations from Frommers, Trip Advisor and other guide books. They offer excellent quality and specialize in color and work exclusively with gold settings. They also have quite a few unique designs and will supply transportation. Check out their website: <http://www.annsimonblackpearl.com/>

- **Visit the sting rays again!** If you rent a scooter or car you can get yourself down to the coastline where the motus are (see map and location of the islands). Rent a boat from Hotel Les Tipaniers. They will give you a map on how to find the stingrays. It's fun to have them all to yourself! [Click here for website and map](#) You may also be able to swim to the motus from here if you are a strong swimmer and the tide is low.
- **Take an "intro" dive.** Ready for your first scuba diving experience? Our dive shop will take you down for a one-on-one experience you will never forget. Cost is 7500 (about \$82). Sign up when you get there. They depart every day at noon.

- **Rent a canoe and paddle to the motus:** Go to Moorea Beach Club (on west side close to Club Med) and rent a outrigger canoe (about \$10) to paddle to the 2 uninhabited islands just off shore.
- **Rent a scooter and stop at hotels:** Do a complete circle island tour! Visit the Sheraton, Moorea Beachcomber, Sofitel, go to distillery and to Belledere Lookout! We will have info for you on a group rate at one of the local scooter and car rental facilities.
- **Do a guided ATV tour!** There's a company there that does a nice ATV tour that sounds adventurous. They offer a 2 hours Discovery tour for 14000 francs per bike (for 1 or 2 persons); or 4 hours Raid adventure tour: 19000 francs per bike (for 1 or 2 persons).
- **Take a horseback ride:** We will have info for you on horseback riding that you can sign up for. They can take 7 people and have an 8:15 and 1:45 p.m. pick up times. Cost is 6000 francs (about \$65).
- **Do a Catajet runner tour!** These strange crossbreed of a watercraft seat 2 people side by side for a 2 hour tour that looks like a great time.

HOTEL INFO:

Pearl Resorts, Moorea. <http://www.spmhotels.com/resort/moorea> Check out the virtual tour of our resort and the photos! What a great place! Our hotel does have

110 in the bathroom

MOOREA PEARL RESORT: 011-689 55 17 50.

Our last night on Tahiti:

MANAVA SUITE RESORT TAHITI:
011-689- 47 31 00

USD	XPF	USD	XPF	USD	XPF
	1 = 81.83	10 = 818.33		100 = 8183	
	2 = 163.67	15 = 1227.50		200 = 16367	
	3 = 245.50	20 = 1636.66		300 = 24550	
	4 = 327.33	25 = 2045.83		400 = 32733	
	5 = 409.17	30 = 2455.00		500 = 40917	
	6 = 491.00	35 = 2864.16		600 = 49100	
	7 = 572.83	40 = 3273.33		700 = 57283	
	8 = 654.67	45 = 3682.49		800 = 65467	
	9 = 736.50	50 = 4091.66		900 = 73650	
		60 = 4909.99			Interbank rate
		70 = 5728.33			US Dollar (USD)
		80 = 6546.66			CFP Franc (XPF)
		90 = 7364.99			August 5, 2011

OANDA.com
FX Cheat Sheet for Travelers
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WHAT TO BRING:

PASSPORT!!

Please pack light with just one bag. This airline's baggage restriction is one 44 lb bag and 1 small carry-on. If you are over in weight, it's not a huge fee, just \$2.38 per kilo to/from Papeete to Bora Bora. You don't need to bring a lot of clothes on this trip.

- ATM card (works best for accessing cash) Be sure your code is only 4 digits long.
- Bring your frequent flyer card (or number) and ask for your miles upon check-in
- I like to have cash as well. I would recommend \$300-500.
- Comfortable shoes
- Bathing suit
- Camera
- Chargers for digital camera
- Travel alarm clock
- Suntan lotion
- A hat
- Medications

- Sunburn creams or remedies
- An adventurous spirit
- Earplugs (don't ask)
- Snorkel and mask (nice to have your own that you know fits).

OTHER THINGS TO BRING:

- A currency converter 220 to 110 if you want to plug something in.
- Snacks: crackers, snack mix, etc. I like to travel with some of the sealed tuna packages that do not require refrigeration. Just get yourself a baguette, some mayo and voila! Lunch!
- Hard alcohol that you can mix some fruit drinks with.

GENERAL INFO:

- There is a 2 hr time difference between Tahiti and us (i.e. noon in Moorea is 2 p.m. California)
- The water is safe to drink .
- English is spoken in the hotels and most of the natives speak it as well.
- The weather should be great for us. It will be a bit humid. Shorts, bathing suit and sarongs are acceptable around the hotels, pools and beaches. Although in the restaurants it seems they prefer shirts and slacks or nice shorts for the men and the women resort wear and dresses.
- Everybody takes credit cards and you will probably get the best rate on your purchases. If you want to see what the current exchange rate is, you can go to www.oanda.com and go to "convert". The money in Tahiti is CFP (Central Pacific Franc). There are plenty of banks and exchange places to change money once we're there. Please be prepared to use cash at our group dinners.
- For the most part, there is no tipping in Tahiti. Feel free to leave something small.

MORE INFO:

Nice pdf download with great info on tours and general info on Moorea: http://www.tahiti-tourisme.pf/downloads/6/tp_moorea_eng.pdf

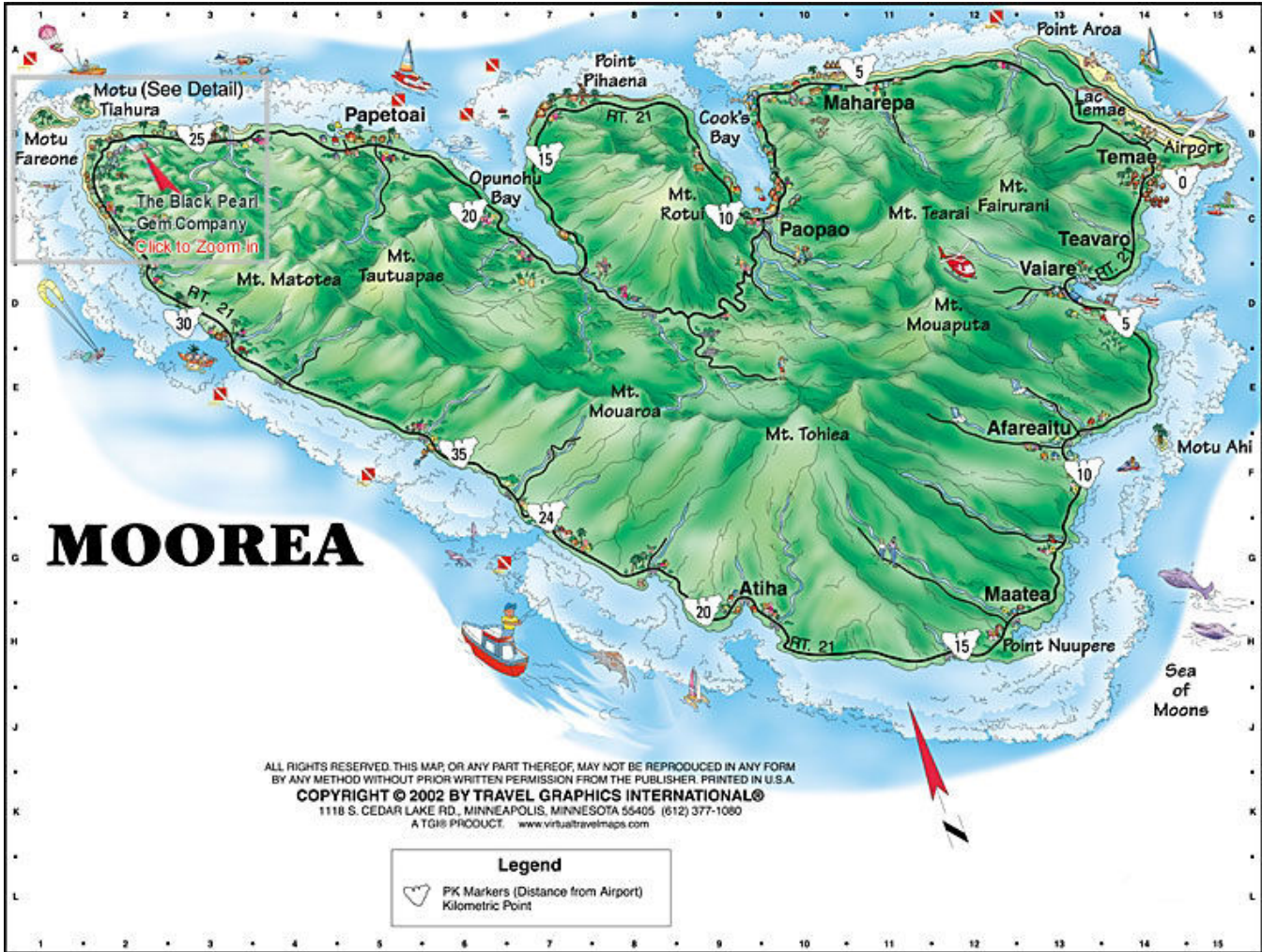
Here is a web site that you may want to visit to get pumped up - www.gomoorea.com
And <http://www.mooreaisland.com/tosee/sights.html>

Restaurant Link:

http://www.clubbalihai.com/blue_pineapple_in_cooks_bay_moorea.html

Thank you for taking this vacation with us. Call or email with any questions you may have. We're looking forward to making this the best vacation you've ever had.

Sincerely,



Here's a nice map of Moorea. The Pearl Resort is on top, #5. Meaning 5 kilometers from the airport which is "0" in the town of Maharepa. The harbor where the ferry comes in is #5 on the right side of map – 5 kilometers the other side of airport.

Here's a close up view of the motu's (small islands)

