# **Tahiti 2013!**





Our resort!

#### **Hello Tahiti Travelers!**

I hope you're excited about our upcoming trip. It's really going to be a wonderful vacation. This letter should give you all the information you need. I may also have a final update for you before our departure.

#### **OUR FLIGHTS:**

Flight: Air France 10 Departure: Los Angeles 10OCT/1155P Arrival: Papeete 11OCT/510A

Flight: Air France 20 Departure: Papeete 20OCT/750A Arrival: Los Angeles 20OCT/650P

We are on **Air France** which is out of **terminal 2 (not Tom Bradley).** We are departing on **Thursday, October 10th at 11:55 p.m.** Meet Ed Reder at the ticket counter starting at 9 p.m. I will be emailing you an e-ticket # but you will only need your passport to check in. Please arrive no later than 9:30 p.m. **DON'T FORGET YOUR PASSPORT!!** If you have an emergency my cell # is 800.954.5453 (not to tell me you're running a little late).

#### **LUGGAGE ALLOWANCE:**

Up to 2 bags no more than 50 lbs each. Carry on. 1 piece plus 1 personal item. 45 inch combined length. No more than 22 lbs.

## ITINERARY

**Friday, 10/11:** We will arrive in Tahiti at 5:00 a.m. We will be greeted and then taken to the ferry. Our high speed ferry will depart at 6:30 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, Once we arrive in Moorea we will have a bus waiting for us to take us to the Pearl Resort. Look for me when exiting the ferry to direct you to the bus. 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. Look at the itinerary and decide when you want your dives to be.

**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 get acquainted and talk about our plans tomorrow. We will also discuss plans for dinner. Most of the time we will be walking to a local restaurant for dinner since dining at our resort is very expensive.

#### Saturday, 10/12

**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 in 2009!** 

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

#### Sunday, 10/13

**7:45 a.m.** Check in for the scuba diving at our resort. You can also consider an "intro dive" if you have never tried it before.

**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, 10/14:

**8:45 a.m.** Snorkeling with the whales! If you are signed up for this tour, come to the dock for our pick up.

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

## **Tuesday, 10/15**

10:00 a.m.

If you are an experienced scooter rider we will make plans to rent scooters today and take a tour around the island. If you've never rode a scooter before I do not recommend this activity.

**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. 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.

**5:45 p.m.** Tiki Village Dinner & Show. I bring groups here every time. It's a more authentic Tahitian dance show and setting that you will find at the hotels. See description below. Meet in the lobby for our ride down.

#### Wednesday, 10/16

**12:30 p.m.:** 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, 10/17

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!

**4:00 p.m.** Come to our dock for the sunset cruise!

#### Friday, 10/18

**11:15 a.m.** We will load up our bus and head out to catch our ferry back to Tahiti. We will be met by our representatives and bus to our hotel. You may want to take a taxi into town to do some shopping or just enjoy the nice facilities of our hotel.

**2:00 p.m.** Come to the lobby if you'd like to taxi into town for some shopping. They have a large 4-story open-air building that offers good prices on souvenirs. We can split the cost of the taxi's.

**6:00 p.m.** Meet in at the pool bar to discuss dinner plans.

#### Saturday, 10/19

**9:00 a.m.** If you are signed up for the half day Tropical Treasures of Tahiti tour or the 4x4 tour come to the lobby to depart.

**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.

#### Sunday, 10/20

**4:45 a.m.** 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 scooters, which is really fun, horseback riding, going to <u>Tiki Village</u> in the evening for their cultural show featuring amazing fire dancing, 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 - \$65 (reg \$90).** This is definitely a "must do" tour and I'm making this our first days tour to start things off with a bang. 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 in 2007. 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!

## SNORKEL WITH THE WHALES - \$95

Here's an experience you will not likely have a chance to do anywhere else in the world. So far Tahiti has not made it illegal to snorkel with the whales. We were very lucky on our 2009 trip and the whales were just there as part of our Liki Tiki Snorkel Picnic, but we really can't count on that happening again. So in 2011 we found a company that specializes in finding the whales and getting you in the water with them. We did it and it was amazing. We will get picked up in powerboats at our dock. Make sure to bring an underwater camera! I'll be video

taping too. There is no guarantee we will find the whales. You might want to take something for motion sickness as we will be going outside of the reef.

**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.

#### TIKI VILLAGE SHOW - \$95

We have been offered a 25% discount on the Tiki Village Dinner & Show. We'll go in for the dinner and show on Tuesday. It will be a fantastic evening that I'm sure you will all love. Cost is \$95 (reg. \$117) with transportation. 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/accueil.html

#### **SCUBA DIVING:**

We will be using the dive shop right on our property. Because we don't have enough divers they will not be offering us a group rate. You can sign up for several dives to bring the cost down however. I would recommend the shark feed dive. You' You can sign up for this when you get there. <a href="http://www.mooreabluediving.com/">http://www.mooreabluediving.com/</a>



#### **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 26.000 CFP (about \$290) so our cost is \$232. 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 \$140 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: <a href="mailto:sbrasseur@mooreadolphincenter.com">sbrasseur@mooreadolphincenter.com</a> 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

Does not include transportation.

#### **SUNSET CRUISE - \$30**

We did this last year and it was SO much fun. The same guys that run the Motu Snorkel Picnic will be picking us up on our dock for this 2-hour cruise. Cost includes cruising inside the barrier reef, beer, rum punch and some musicians.



## **ON TAHITI**

## **HIGHLIGHTS OF PARADISE TOUR - \$45**

Air-conditioned motor coaches await your morning introduction to Tahiti's bountiful attractions. After passing through downtown Papeete and Pirae, we arrive at the district of Arue where on the roadside is "James Norman Hall Home". This memorial museum is the exact replica of the original elegant green colonial home of this famous writer. Most known for the "Mutiny on the Bounty" trilogy and other known novels that were transformed into Hollywood movies. You will be guided through his beloved office and library with his original wooden desk & typewriter and over 3000 books containing seven generations of American literature. His precious gramophone, antique furniture, nostalgic family photos, favorite paintings and personal effects that decorate this charming house will bring you back to the romantic days.

From here we continue up to Tahara'a "One Tree Hill" overlooking Matavai Bay – where many of the original European explorers anchored (Capt. Wallis who discovered Tahiti by accident in 1767, Captain James Cook 1769 & Capt. Bligh in 1788).

From here we continue to the famous & historical "Venus Point" – the actual landing spot of all the original explorers including the first Protestant missionaries (18) in 1797. Its name was given to it by Captain Cook for his study and readings of the "transit of Venus" in 1769. Its monumental 110 foot tall white light house built in 1867 is still operational up to this day. The architect who designed it was Robert Louis Stevenson's father. When R.L Stevenson visited Tahiti in 1788 – he got to visit the lighthouse that he had witnessed his father drawing in his office in 1766. Also within the grounds underneath a breadfruit tree lays a monument for Captain Bligh. Further down from here is the awesome black sand beach that is recognized as the local's most popular beach on weekends and holidays.

After continuing along the scenic east coastal road, we witness Tahiti's famous Papenoo surfing beaches where Capt. Cook first witnessed Tahitians surfing in 1769. Before long we reach the spectacular blowhole of Arahoho. This natural phenomenon will amaze you with its power and finesse with the wave action.

A short distance from here is a rare view of the interior of Faarumai Valley to visit one of the most photographed and spectacular waterfalls on the island.

On the return route we stop to visit the tomb of the last king of Tahiti – Pomare IV. He was known for his short rule before his controversial decision to give up his right to sovereignty to France in 1880. The tomb was actually is constructed out of coral slabs

and lava rocks in a tower-like shape that was supposed to resemble a Grecian urn. This sacred site was also once a large sacrificial "marae" before the Protestant missionaries had it destroyed in the early 1800's to erect the first Protestant church on Tahiti out of breadfruit tree stumps & coconut leaves for the thatched roof. Today the site stands a modern day church of the village of Arue. Price includes admission to the James Norman museum.

#### PAPENOO VALLEY & WATERFALL BY 4X4 - \$60

In a four-wheel drive vehicle with an English speaking driver/guide, you shall visit the scenic east coast of Tahiti and the famous Papenoo Valley.

Our first stop is at One Tree Hill with a fabulous view of Matavai Bay where the island was first discovered by the original English explorers in 1767. After a short coastal drive, we turn inland at the mouth of Papenoo river where we begin our accent up the largest valley on the island. The view of the surrounding mountain sides carved by centuries of erosion covered with rich thick multi-green rain forest will awe you. Enjoy the adventurous drive of crossing rivers with many photo stops of the numerous waterfalls. A refreshing swim stop is allowed in one of the natural pools of the river to cool off. Our last stop enroot is a panoramic view point where your guide will serve some refreshments of juices.

From here we trace our way back down the valley with a photo stop at the famous surfing beaches and black sand of Papenoo before returning your hotel.

Duration: Approx 3.5 hrs

## OTHER SUGGESTIONS FOR YOUR FREE DAYS

We will have information on a few other tours offered on Moorea 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 the top and most respected pearl shop. Just down the street from us in the shopping center we will be getting special pricing at <u>Tahia Pearls</u>. They have received very good recommendations from Frommers, Trip Advisor and other guide books. They also have quite a few unique designs. If you'd like a better selection they will arrange transporation to their location in Haapiti which is located near the old Club Med. This is a nice area to take in lunch and walk along the beach as well so it's not a bad deal to get them to take you down there, spend time in that area and then take you back when you're done.

- ➤ 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 the old 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. Experienced riders only!
- > **Do a guided ATV tour!** There's a company there that does a nice ATV tour that sounds adventurous. Our activities desk can sign you up for this.
- ➤ **Take a horseback ride:** Our activities desk can also sign you up for this. They can take 7 people and have an 8:15 and 1:45 p.m. pick up times. Our special discount price is 5500 xpf = about \$61.

Our hotel does have an activity desk where they can also sign you up for waterskiing, Jet-skiing, an ATV quad tour and more. We are getting the following rates: ATV QUAD

Special rate: 19 000 CFP/ quad Normal rate: 21 000 CFP Minimum of 2 guads per tour.

## **JET SKI**

Special rate: 19 500 CFP / jet ski Normal rate: 24 000 CFP

Minimum of 2 jet skis per tour.

## **HOTEL INFO:**

**Pearl Resorts, Moorea**. <a href="http://www.spmhotels.com/resort/moorea">http://www.spmhotels.com/resort/moorea</a> 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.

## Tahiti:

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

Currency converter. Cut out and put in your wallet

cy converter. Cut out and put in your wallet										
CFP Franc (XPF) to US Dollar (USD) \$ XPF		USD		XPF		USD		XPF		USD
10	=	0.11		100	=	1.10		1000	=	11
20	=	0.22		150	=	1.66		2000	=	22
30	=	0.33		200	=	2.21		3000	=	33
40	=	0.44		250	=	2.76		4000	=	44
50	=	0.55		300	=	3.31		5000	=	55
60	=	0.66		350	=	3.86		6000	=	66
70	=	0.77		400	=	4.42		7000	=	77
80	=	0.88		450	=	4.97		8000	=	88
90	=	0.99		500	=	5.52		9000	=	99
				550	=	6.07		10000	=	110
				600	=	6.62		50000	=	552
				650	=	7.18				
				700	=	7.73				
				750	=	8.28				
				800	=	8.83				
				850	=	9.39				
				900	=	9.94				
				950	=	10.49				

## WHAT TO BRING:

#### PASSPORT!!

Please pack light with just one bag. 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.
- Dive card if you're a certified diver
- 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 other than the bathroom. Or just an adapter if your electronics will accept 220 (It will say on the device 110-220).
- 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. You can pick it up at the LAX duty free store. Liquor can be very expensive in the markets.

## **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:**

PDF Directory and general info on Moorea: http://www.alhull.com/tahiti/tourinfo/Moorea tours.pdf

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

#### **Restaurant Link:**

http://www.clubbalihai.com/blue pineapple in cooks bay moorea.html

## A word about group travel:

After many years of travel with groups we decided to add this part to our trip letters to help condition people to traveling with groups, which may help to ensure that everyone has a great time and make the trip as pleasant as possible for everyone.

We make every attempt to ensure that our trips runs smoothly, but should a situation come up that you are not 100% pleased with <u>please keep a pleasant attitude and make an effort to adjust and be flexible.</u>

- Bring cash to group dinners and don't forget to add 25% to cover tax & tip. Credit cards make it rough on our servers. Don't expect everyone's meals to arrive together. That only happens in America.
- Don't be late for our tours and connections. Be considerate. Please <u>bring a watch</u> as some of our tour stops will have certain set times where we will ask people to be back on board the bus. If you have to leave the group to go to the bathroom or something, be sure you let someone know where you're going and not to leave without you.
- Don't wait until we are loading the bus to decide you need food, drink, or a bathroom.
- Know the name and general location of your hotel in case you are separated from the group.
- Count on us to make announcements. We WILL keep you informed of where and when you need to be somewhere. Much better than everyone asking us the same question as you can imagine. Make an effort to know the itinerary and to be somewhat self-sufficient. As much as I would like to have all the answers, I will not have all the answers on the small stuff such as whether a meal is provided on board our flights, how long each flight is, etc. If these things are important to you please feel free to do your research on the websites we've provided.
- If you're sick, please be courteous and don't contaminate the rest of the people in the group. Keep a bit of a distance and don't shake hands or pass your camera to anyone to take your photo. Let people know you're sick. Bring and take your vitamins as a precaution even if you're not sick.
- Be considerate of your roommate. If you're getting home late, or waking up early, please be quiet.
- Tips are customary on tours and practically expected by the young people who run them. If you've had a good time on a tour, please be generous with a tip. This includes our bus drivers.

• Please do not "collect" email addresses. If you'd like to stay in touch with the friends you've made on this trip feel free to ask them for their email or call them and ask them for it since you have everyone's phone #. However please do not pass around a sign-up sheet to collect everyone's email address. Not only do some people feel uncomfortable about giving out their email address to everyone but we also feel uncomfortable about having the potential of all of the email addresses of our travelers getting into the wrong hands and being contacted by someone with one click. Once you've posted your photos to your favorite photo sharing site send us the link and we will in turn send that link out to the rest of the group. You can also use our Facebook Sicily discussion page to post photos and stay in touch after the trip.

## **ED'S TRAVEL TIPS:**

**Make cheap phone calls with your smart phone.** If you have a smart phone, get the Skype app. Create an account the put some money on account. While within WiFi range you will be able to use your Skype account to make a phone call for .2 cents per minute since the phone won't know you're calling from Tahiti. You could be anywhere. It's been working great for me!

**Download "What's App"** for your smart phone to stay in touch with everyone on the trip and your family back home with free texting, photos and video with WiFi.

**Get a "data plan" for your smart phone.** If you expect to get emails or surf the internet on our smart phone it's best to get a data plan in advance. ATT charges \$30 for 150 mgbts for example and this is plenty for someone that doesn't get a lot of long emails. I use it. Careful though about "roaming charges". This will apply for any time your phone rings even if you don't answer it. Best bet is to turn your phone off until you're ready to use it and then turn it right off again.

**Texting is cheaper than emailing**. If you're not going to get a data plan then tell your family to text you. Typically it's .50 cents to send a short text (they can break it down to several texts if it's long) and free (or included in your plan) to receive a text. You can also ask your carrier about a texting plan.

Bring cash and then an ATM card. I never trade my cash for other currencies until I get to that country since it's just not a good deal otherwise typically. I went online recently to see what other travelers were saying about this and one guy said, "it's like getting oranges before you go to Florida". I liked that one. ATM's are really the best deal nowadays, although the transaction will cost you a few dollars. You can check with your bank as there are some that waive the transaction fee like Fidelity and maybe Chase. Otherwise, just trade in your cash at a bank or currency exchange when we get in.

I do not build in tips for our guides and bus drivers. Bring along some small bills. As a rule \$1 for a bus driver for a half-day trip, like a transfer or \$2 for a full day is good. For guides, \$3-5 per day. For our porters, it's also nice to provide a tip if they help with the luggage.

**Use Red Bull to help fight fatigue** and jet lag on our first day. I typically don't get a full night's sleep on a plane, so when arriving to a country the morning I might find a Red Bull where it can keep me going that whole day. I wonder if their marketing division will ever promote this.

**Download some apps for your smart phone.** For most cities there are apps that will be helpful to locate different places of interest including restaurants. They are typically just a buck or two and can be very enjoyable. So do a search on our cities to check.

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,

Ed Reder www.singlesinparadise.com (800) 954-5453

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.

