



The view of the main island from the airport is truly breathtaking, and as you travel across the spectacular lagoon you will soon understand why it is the main area of attraction for most visitors. The lagoon is 3 times the size of the land mass and offers an amazing range of hues of blue and turquoise as you navigate its crystal waters.

To the southeast of the island is the **Coral Garden**, a natural underwater park where all types of fish and corals are found. Off the **Point Matira** there is an area where **the huge and graceful manta rays congregate** for your viewing pleasure. There are other types of ray such as the beautiful spotted ray and the friendly gray ray which love to be petted during the "ray feeding" excursions. At the entrance of the pass, the "**White valley**" teems with **gray sharks and barracudas** in a never ending ballet.

The lagoon offers a multitude of activities and excursions, one of the most popular being the Shark feeding where from chest-deep water you watch local divers feed 4' to 5' reef sharks by hand. It's a lot of fun and totally safe. The same routine is done with a large group of friendly gray rays.

You can also take a circle-the-lagoon excursion with motu picnic, visit the Lagoonarium near Le Meridien Hotel and take a 4x4 excursion to the panoramic view points and the US cannons.

The **main hotels on the island proper** are the Hotel Bora Bora, the Moana Beach Parkroyal, the Sofitel Marara and the Le Maitai.

In the recent years, **5 hotels** have established themselves **on the motus around the lagoon**. They are the Bora Bora Lagoon Resort, the Le Meridien, the Pearl Beach and recently the Sofitel Motu. They are very comparable in terms of quality, amenities and view, and the main differences are in their location or level of intimacy.

Otherwise, tourist facilities are not too numerous, and understated enough so as not to alter the landscape's beauty.

**ROUND THE ISLAND TOUR BY TAXI**

JACQUES ISNARD - Vaitape: Tel. 67. 72. 25

**CAR RENTALS**

EUROPCAR BORA BORA - Vaitape

Tel. 67.70.03/67.70.15/Fax.67.79. 95

FREDO RENT-A-CAR - Vaitape

Tel. 67. 70. 31 / Fax. 67. 62. 07

LOCATION MATAURA - Tipoto: Tel. 67.73. 16

FARE PITI LOCATIONS - Fare Piti: Tel. 67. 71. 58

**SIGHTSEEING TOURS**

BORA BORA TOURS - Tel. 67. 70. 31/ Fax. 67. 62. 07

OTEMANU TOURS - Vaitape: Tel. / Fax. 67. 70. 49

MAIRE TOURS - Anau: Tel. 67. 71. 32

**Mountain Safari Excursions**

BORA BORA JEEP SAFARITel. 67.70.34/Fax. 67.61.73

TUPUNA 4x4 EXPEDITIONS - Vaitape: Tel. / Fax. 67. 75. 06

**YACHT CHARTERS**

ARCHIPELS CROISIERES - Tel. 56. 36. 39, Fax. 56. 35. 87

STARDUST MARINE - Tel. 66. 23. 18 /66. 23. 19

THE MOORINGS - Tel. 66. 35. 93/66. 26. 26/ Fax. 66. 20. 94

LES CROISIERES DANAE - Tel. 66. 12. 50 /Fax. 66. 39. 37

TAHITI YACHT CHARTER

Res. Tahiti - Tel. 45. 04. 00 /66. 28. 86 Fax. 42.76.00/66.28.85

COUP DE COEUR YACHT CHARTER - Vaitape

Tel. by marine radio (dial 3698)

**DEEP SEA FISHING**

JESSIE L. - tipofu

Tel. 67. 70. 59 /67. 75. 22 /67. 74. 04 /Fax. 67. 70. 59

LADY C - tilpofu - Tel. 67. 72. 12

MOKALEL - HoteI Bora Bora

Tel. 60.44.60 /67.74.93 /Fax. 60.44.66

**MISC. WATER ACTIVITIES**

SCUBA DIVING CENTER

CALYPSO CLUB - HoteI Bora Bora Beach Club

Tel. 67. 77. 85 1 Fax. 67. 63. 33

BORA BORA DIVING CENTER- Matira: Tel. 67. 71. 84/67.74. 83

**UNDER-WATER CAMERA RENTAL**

BORA BORA CAMERA RENTAL- Matira

Tel 67. 76. 63 I Fax. 67. 79. 50

**MOTOR BOAT RENTAL**

MOANA ADVENTURE TOURS - Matira

Tel. 67.61.41/Fax. 67.61.26

RENE ET MAGY LOCATIONS - HoteI Beach Club Bora Bora

Tel. 67. 70. 61/Fax. 67. 61. 01

**JET SKI /WAVE RUNNER RENTAL**

HEREMITI JET TOURS - Pointe Matira - TeI. / Fax. 67. 77. 70

MIKI MIKI JET TOURS - Matira - Tel. 67. 76. 44

MATIRA JET TOURS - Matira - Tel. /Fax. 67. 62. 73

**PARASAILING**

BORA BORA PARASAIL - Hotel Beach Club Bora Bora

Tel. 67. 70. 34 / Fax. 67.61. 73

**RESTAURANTS IN HOTELS**

OTEMANU - Hotel Bora Bora Lagoon Resort - Tel. 60.40.00  
MATIRA TERRACE - Hotel Bora Bora - Tel. 60.44.60  
LA PEROUSE - Hotel Sofitel Marara - Tel. 67. 70. 46  
TOOPITI - Hotel Beach Club Bora Bora - Tel. 67.71.16  
VINIVINI - Hotel Moana Beach Parkroyal Bora Bora - Tel. 60.49.00  
MATIRA restaurant - Hotel Matira - Tel. 67.70.51  
L' ESPADON - Hotel Revatua Club Noa Noa - Tel. 67.71.67  
CLUB MEDITERRANEE - Tel. 60.46.04  
TOP DIVE Resort - Tel. 60.50.50

**RESTAURANTS OUTSIDE HOTELS**

BAMBOU HOUSE - Baie de Pofai - Tel. 67.76.24  
BLOODY MARYS - Baie de Pofai - Tel. 67. 72. 86  
LA BOUNTY - Matira - Tel. 67. 70. 43  
YACHT CLUB DE BORA BORA -Tel. 67.70.69 /67 71.50  
TE MANUATA - Matira - Tel. 67. 75. 61  
BLUE LAGOON - Vaitape - Tel. 67.65.64  
BRASSERIE MANUIA - Vaitape - Tel. 67.567.43  
MAHANA VIEW - Matira - 67.61.63  
LE COCOTIER - Vaitape - 67.74.18

**SNACKS**

BEN'S SNACK - Matira  
BORA BORA BURGERS - Vaitape  
CHEZ MICHEL - Vaitape  
CHEZ PAULINE- Pointe Matira  
MATIRA - Matira  
HINANO - tipoto

**ART GALLERIES /BOUTIQUES**

ALAIN ET LINDA - Baie de Pofai - Tel. 67. 70. 32  
NAEA STUDIO - Faanui - Te. 67.71.17  
ROSINE TEMAURI MASSON - Matira - Tel. 67.72.04  
PATINE - Nunue - Tel. 67. 74. 09  
OPECK BLACK PEARL - 67. 61. 62  
SIBANI PERLES BORA BORA - Vaitape -Tel. 67.75.75  
BORA - Vaitape - Tel. 67. 79. 72  
MATIRA PEARL FASHION - Pointe Matira - Tel. 67. 79. 14  
MOANA ART - Matira - Tel. 67. 70. 33  
BORA BORA BIJOU - Vaitape - Tel. 67. 74. 34  
GAUGUIN - Amanahune - Tel. 67. 76. 67  
HONEYMOON - Baledé Pofai -Te. 67. 78.19  
MARTINE CREATIONS - Matira - Tel. 67. 70. 69  
MOANA ART - Matira - Tel. 67. 70. 33  
MATIRA PEARLS AND FASHION - Matira - Tel. 67. 79. 14  
BORA BORA CAMERA SHOP - Amanahune: Tel. 67. 76. 63  
HIBISCUS - Anau - Tel. 67. 72. 43  
PALME D' OR - Vaitape - Tel. 67. 78. 77  
PLANETE SURF - Vaitape - Tel. 67. 71. 35  
TAMARIL SHOP - Vaitape - Tel. 67. 75. 00  
PACIFIQUE-SUD - Vaitape - Tel. 67. 77. 00  
LA BOUTIQUE - Matira - Tel. 67. 70. 43

**BANKS**

BANQUE DE POLYNESIE - Vaitape - Tel. 67. 70. 71  
BANQUE SOCREDO - Vaitape - Tel. 67. 71. 11  
BANQUE WESTPAC - Vaitape - Tel. 67. 70. 72

## **TOURS AND ACTIVITIES ON BORA BORA**

BORA BORA OPTIONAL EXCURSIONS Bora Bora Jeep Safari- \$55

Bora Bora Shark Feeding- \$55 Bora Bora Circle Island Tour- \$30

Bora Bora Helicopter Tour (15 min.)- \$ 125

Bora Bora has a host of tours and activities including outrigger speed canoe excursions, scuba diving, picnics on a motu, catamaran cruising, and barbecue parties. The lagoon's countless species of tropical fish, brilliant coral gardens, and crystal-clear waters make for some of the most beautiful undersea views in the world. For an exhilarating expedition, you can even swim with and watch local divers feed the small, non-dangerous lagoon sharks. Off-road excursions, bicycling, and hiking into this wild beauty will reveal incredible panoramas and valleys. Other activities include island tours, glass bottom boats, guided reef walking excursions, motu picnics, sunset cruises, scuba diving, and just lazing at the lagoon edge watching the sun sink below the ocean in the west. Deep sea fishing off the sheltered waters of Bora Bora usually brings record catches of marlin, yellowfin, tuna, sailfish, wahoo and mahi mahi.

You can find blissful solitude on Bora Bora's white sand beaches, but to leave civilization one more step behind, take a boat ride to one of the many sandy motus that dot the coral reef.

## **TOURS**

Drive tours of Bora Bora come highly recommended, especially for World War II buffs, who will marvel at the old ammo dumps, defense gun emplacements and radar stations around the island. Among the other sights passengers can expect during their four-wheel-drive expeditions include ancient Polynesian temples, Quonset huts, luxury hotels, volcanos and estates. Choose between two- or three-hour tours.

### **BORA BORA TOURS**

Mr. Alfredo DOOM

Tel. (689) 67. 70. 31 / Fax. (689) 67. 62. 07

Guided circle island tour by "Le Truck" with stops at the main points of interest (2 hours excursion);

Private circle island tour by mini-bus (2 hours excursion); Daily transfers from Bora Bora hotel (departure at 9:00am and 3:15pm, return at 10:00am and 4:00pm), Club Méditerranée (departure at 9:30am and 2:00pm, return at 11:00am and 3:30pm) and Vaitape area centre provided.

### **OTEMANU TOURS**

Mr. Paul DESMET

Tel./Fax. (689) 67. 70. 49

Guided circle island tour by "Le Truck" with stop at the main points of interest (2 hours excursion); Private circle island tour by mini-bus (2 hours excursion); Daily transfers provided at Air Tahiti's arrival flight to resort hotels and private lodgings located between Vaitape quay and Club Méditerranée.

**Maiere Tours:** Anau - (689) 67.71.32

## **SAFARI 4X4 EXCURSIONS**

**Bora Bora Jeep Safari:** Vaitape - (689) 67.70.34

The tour follows wild tracks only accessible with a 4 wd vehicle. The main objective of the tour is the breathtaking view of the island and its colorful lagoon. The trip also includes a full circle island tour with stops at the

ancient Polynesian temples, tropical plantations, the U.S. NAVY barracks.

**Tupuna 4WD Expeditions:** Vaitape - (689) 67.75.06

Mr. Dany LEVERD

Mountain guided circle island tour (3 hours excursion) with a stop at the island's main points of interest. Discover Bora Bora's tropical fauna and enjoy splendid panoramic view. Visit historic sites and learn the Polynesian traditional life. Departure at 8:30am and 1:30pm, return at 1:30pm and 4:30pm.

### **SCOOTER/BIKE RENTAL**

A bicycle is ideal for shopping or sightseeing around Bora Bora. It's well worth the renting a bike for your own personal round-the-island jaunt.

**Europcar:** Vaitape - (689) 67.70.15

Mini-Moke Jeeps and minivans available 24 hours a day seven days a week.

**Fredo Rent-a-Car:** Vaitape - (689) 67.70.31

**Location Mautara:** Tipoto - (689) 67.70.03

### **HIKING EXCURSIONS**

In Bora Bora, the locals kindly advise visitors to "take a hike"! Our guided walking tours allow you to roam a "motu" islet, explore the oceanside reef, take in majestic views of Raiatea and Tahaa Islands, and enjoy breathtaking vistas of the lagoons encircling the main island. Half-day and full-day excursions are available. Unlike some larger islands, which require several days to tour, Bora Bora can be traversed well within a day. This makes the island a good choice for such land activities as biking, hiking and horseback riding.

Hikers in Bora Bora can choose between simple scenic routes, or more challenging guided climbs up the peaks of Mt. Pahia. On the trek from Nunue to Anau hikers can see the Television Transmission Tower, catch a panoramic view of Motu Pitiaau islet, and glimpse neighboring Raiatea and Tahaa. Hikers who opt to climb Mt. Pahia will be rewarded for their stamina with a sprawling, peak-top view of the island. Bring good shoes, a day's supply of water and a conquering attitude.

### **BORA BORA TREKKING**

Mr. Christian FAYE

Tel. (689) 67. 72. 81 / Fax. (689) 67. 62. 59

Champagne party with a discovery of majestic island peaks such as mounts Uhe, Pahia and Otemanu. A helicopter is responsible for pick-up of all participants from reglementated zones on island summits. Bora Bora insures the smooth running of activities as well as guidance to all participants along the equipped and maintained paths.

### **MONT PAHIA EXCURSIONS**

Mr. Paul DEMEST

Tel./Fax. (689) 67. 70. 49

Departure from downtown Vaitape with guide (3 hours walk) till Pahia Point. Outstanding view of the lagoon and of islets "motu" encircling the main island and the neighboring islands of Tupai, Maupiti and Tahaa. Return by same circuit. Picnic not included.

### **Guided Walking Tours**

Chez Ato: (689) 67.77.27

### **HORSEBACK RIDING**

Ride fine New Zealand-bred horses along the white sand islets of Bora Bora. Some ranches on the island offer moonlight rides on request.

#### **REVA REVA RANCH**

Motu Piti A' au

Mr. Olivier RINGEARD

Tel. (689) 67. 63. 63 / Fax. (689) 60. 44. 61

Guided rides on "motu" islet along its white sand beach. Discover the oceanside reef and majestic view of Raiatea and Tahaa Islands. 7 New Zealand breed-horses. English and western saddles. Maximum 5 riders. 4 daily rides (departure at 8:00am-10:30am-2:00pm-4:00pm; eturn at 9:30am-11:30am-3:00pm-5:30pm) Moonlight rides upon request (departure at 8:00pm, return at 10:00pm) Free transportation from resort hotels or private lodgings.

### **BOATING**

Set sail for neighboring islands, or simply circle Bora Bora. Whatever you choose, sailing in Bora Bora is an enchanting experience. Most of the cruise companies on the island can arrange day trips on request, and are similarly amenable to extended charters. Hop aboard a catamaran or motorized canoe and enjoy shark feeding, snorkeling, reef walking or beachcombing.

#### **BOAT RENTAL**

**Yacht Club De Bora Bora:** Vaitape - (689) 67.70.69

**Moana Adventure Tours:** Matira - (689) 67.61.41

**Rene Rent-A-Boat:** Matira - (689) 67.60.61

#### **YACHT CHARTERS:**

**Archipels Croisieres:** Vaitape - (689) 56.36.39

**Maraamu II-IV:** Vaitape - (689) 67.72.37

#### **CATAMARAN CHARTERS:**

**Taaroa III:** Matira - (689) 67.61.55

**Taravana:** Matira - (689) 67.77.79

#### **WAVE RUNNER RENTAL**

##### **MATIRA JET TOURS**

Matira Point

Mr. Herald MONTARON

Tel./Fax. (689) 67. 62 .73

Skiing inside lagoon (for 30 mn. / for 1 hour);

Circle island tour inside lagoon (departure at 9:00am, return at 12:00noon.);

Stop at "motu" Toopua, explanatory legend of Hiro's bell, gray ray feeding, taste tropical fruits and coconut water, snorkel to garden coral, fish feeding.

##### **HEREMITI JET TOURS**

Vaitape

Mr. Patrick BONNO

Tel./Fax. (689) 67. 77. 70

Guided circle island tour (1 hour excursion); Guided circle island tour, with stop at "motu" islets. Snorkeling equipment available and drinks included(2 hours excursion).

##### **MIKI MIKI JET TOURS**

Matira Point

Mr. Karl CHANG

Tel (689) 67. 76. 44

Guided circle island excursion with stop at "motu" islets 1 1/2 hourexursion

Guided circle island excursion with stop at lagoonarium. 2 hours excursion

### **DEEP SEA FISHING**

The best sportsfishing in Bora Bora can be enjoyed just outside the island's reef. Here, fishers can hook blue marlin, mahimahi, sailfish, wahoo and yellowfish. The island is served by a number of charter boats agencies, which offer friendly, knowledgeable service.

**Moana Adventure Tours:** Matira - (689) 67.61.41

**Te Aratai II:** Bay de Pofai - (689) 67.71.96

#### **JESSIE L**

Tiipoto

Mr. Alain LOUSSAN

Tel. (689) 67. 70. 59 / 67. 75. 22 / 67. 74. 04

Fax. (689) 67. 70. 59

Half-day cruise, with drinks included;

Full day cruise, with picnic and drinks included;

Inter-island charters on request.

#### **LADY C**

Mr. Steve ELLACOTT

Tel.(689) 67. 72. 12

Half-day cruise, with drinks included;

Full-day cruise, with picnic and drinks included;

Maupiti Island cruises upon request.

#### **MOKALEI**

Mr. Kirk PEARSON

Bora Bora hotel

Tel. (689) 60. 44. 60 / 67. 74. 93 / Fax. (689) 60. 44.66

6 hour cruise, with drinks included

Windward Island cruises upon request.

### **PARASAILING**

#### **BORA BORA PARASAIL**

Between Beach Club Bora Bora and Sofitel Marara hotels

Mr. Claude RAVATel (689) 67. 70. 34

**Matira** - (689) 67.71.16

### **LAGOON EXCURSIONS**

Bora Bora's lagoon tour packages are loaded with activities. Enjoy sightseeing, swimming, snorkeling, fish-feeding and reef walking. Many excursions include picnic lunch. Half-day and full-day tours are available. Transportation options include glass-bottom boat, outrigger canoe.

**Matira Tours:** (689) 67.70.97

**Mahana View:** (689) 67.76.23

**Bora Bora Mers Et Loisirs:** (689) 43.97.99

#### **Yacht Club of Bora Bora**

Mr. James BARBADJAN

Tel.(689) 67. 70. 69 / Fax. (689) 60. 44. 66 46 ft. racing catamaran

Sunset cruises (departure at 4:30pm, return at 6:30pm);

Full-day excursion in the lagoon, picnic included (departure at 9:30am, return at 3:00pm);

Half-day excursion in lagoon, drinks included;

Leeward Island cruises organized for several days upon request.

**TAAROA III**

Mr. Jean-Claude RAMBERT

Beach Club Bora Bora hotel

Tel./Fax. (689) 67. 61 . 55

Formula 40 ft. racing catamaran.

Daily excursions suggested:

Lagoon excursion, diving safari, "motu" exploration, reef walking (departure at 9:00am, return at 12:00 noon);

Half-day private tours on request (4 hours excursion); Sunset cruises (departure at 5:30pm, return at 7:00pm).

**TARAVANA**

Bora Bora Hotel

Mr. Richard POSTMA

Tel./Fax: (689) 67. 77. 79/60. 44. 05

50 ft. professional sport fishing boat Maximum capacity: 38 people inside lagoon, 8 people in deep ocean. Sunset cruises (departure at 4:30pm, return at 6:30pm);

Full-day excursion in the lagoon, picnic included (departure at 9:30am, return at 3:30pm);

Half-day private excursion around the lagoon, Picnic at choice;

Deep sea fishing cruises getting off the island for half-day;

Full-day cruise to Tupai Island;

Leeward Island cruises organized for several days upon request.

**BORA BORA POE ITI TOURS**

Matira

Mr. Michael HENRY

Tel. (689) 67. 64. 04 / Fax. (689) 67. 64. 44

Snorkel in garden coral, swim and feed sharks, visit "motu", walk on reefs, collect shells, meet while swimming with gray rays. Return to land and discover "marae" Vavau and remains of the American Army occupation during the second world war, picnic privately on "motu" and dive with giant mussels.

Half-day excursion (departure at 9:00am, return at 12:30pm);

Full-day excursion (departure at 9:00am, return at 5:00pm).

**BORA BORA EXOTIC LAGOONARIUM**

Mrs. Teura TEHEIURA/ Mrs. Claudine TEHEIURA

Tel. (689) 67. 71. 34 / Fax. (689) 67. 60. 29

Visit marine life paradise offering adventure and memorable holidays out of the ordinary. Stop at lagoonarium, rays feeding, visit "motu", reef walking.

Guided island tour till the lagoonarium, visit turtles, sharks and rays, tropical fishes, giant mussels, sea lobsters. Picnic upon request.

Half-day excursion (departure at 9:15am, return at 12:45pm.);

Full-day excursion, with picnic included (departure at 9:15am, return at 5:00pm.)

**TEREMOANA TOURS**

Matira Point

Mr. Noel LEVERD

Tel. (689) 67. 71. 38 / Fax. (689) 67. 74. 27

Full-day excursion with lunch included (departure at 9:30am, return at 4:30pm). Island tour by outrigger canoe, visit to coral garden and rays, shark feeding, snorkeling and lunch composed of local fruits on a "motu" islet.

### **MOANA ADVENTURE TOURS**

Pofai Bay

Mr. Franck SACHSSE

Tel. (689) 67. 61. 41 / Fax. (689) 67. 61 . 26

Glass bottom boat excursion (departure at 10:30am, return at 11:45am);

Barrier reef excursion (departure at 8:30 am, return at 9:45am);

Shark feeding, snorkeling (departure at 1:15pm, return at 3:15pm);

Barbecue-picnic or lunch on request, ballet with rays excursion, snorkeling on coral garden, ray feeding (departure at 9:45am, return 3:30pm);

Ordinary picnic or private lunch on "motu" upon request (departure at 10:00am, return at 3:30pm);

Private lagoon excursion around island, with lunch in supplement (departure at 1:30pm, return at 3:30pm);

### **SHARK BOY OF BORA BORA**

Mr. Evan TEMARII

Tel./Fax. (689) 67. 78. 59

Half-day excursion (departure at 9:15am, return at 12:30pm);

Full-day excursion (departure at 9:30am, return at 4:30pm).

Circle island tour by outrigger, shark feeding, snorkeling on garden coral, reef walking, ray feeding. Stop to "motu" and enjoy exotic fruit tasting and coconut water. Transfers on "motu" upon request.

### **RAANUI TOURS**

Mrs. Arieta ONEE

Tel. (689) 67. 61. 79

Half-day excursion (departure at 9:00am, return at 12:30pm) Shark feeding, snorkeling on garden coral, reef walking, fish feeding, stop on "motu" Toopua and exotic fruit tasting

### **SHARK FEEDING**

This is an amazing adventure that you will never forget and one excursion you should not miss during your stay on

Bora Bora. Just about every hotel and cruise ship offers these tours. Join the **daily feeding frenzy on the island's west coast** where Hotel Bora Bora (689-60-44-11) and Sofitel Marara (689-67-70-46) arrange for you to join in this pleasantly alarming activity. The three hour excursions cost about \$50 per person and leave daily in the morning from Hotel Sofitel Marara and every other day in the afternoon from Hotel Bora Bora.

### **SCUBA DIVING**

Bora Bora's lagoon is home to the large manta ray, which makes this area popular among divers. Indeed, many of the island's most popular diving sites are named after the creatures, including Manta Bay, Manta's Reef, Manta Ray Channel and Manta Ray Pit. Mantas aren't the only sealife on Bora Bora. Divers can also see Moray eels, turtles, barracudas and grey sharks. Inexperienced divers can contact either the Bora Bora Diving Center or the Calypso Club for instruction.

**Bora Bora Diving Center:** Matira - (689) 67.71.84

**Calypso Club:** Tipoto - (689) 67.77.85

Drift Dives, feedings, CMAS & PADI certified, all equipment provided free, Initiation dive, Japanese instructor available.

## AERIAL TOURS

"Flightseeing" excursions over Bora Bora are possible via **Heli Inter-Polynesie and Heli-Pacific**. Passengers fly to the top of Mt. Pahia, and have the option of hiking back down on foot or returning by chopper. The air service also charters flights to other islands.

## MOTU PICNIC

Imagine spending the day on your very own island. The resort hotels in Bora Bora can arrange to take you and a loved one to a private motu (islet) for a secluded picnic. This is a true Tahitian experience that is not to be missed. French Polynesia is known the world over as an aquatic Neverland, but the waters around Bora Bora are exceptional even by Tahitian standards. Bora Bora's translucent lagoon and beaches are so calm and pristine, they have been compared to well-maintained pools. Indeed, most of the hotels on the island don't even feature swimming pools. To have them would simply be redundant. Such conditions make for a superb water sport environment. Bora Bora's iridescent waters are alive with tropical fish and undersea plant life, and its easily-accessed lagoon is ideal for novice scuba divers and snorkelers.

## SNORKELING

Many of Bora Bora's hotels and pensions offer snorkeling as part of their excursion programs. *Located the south tip of Motu Roa, Coral Garden is considered to be one of the best snorkeling sites on the island.* The waters around Hotel Bora Bora veritably abound with fish, but visitors are advised to ask permission before snorkeling.

## NIGHTLIFE

When night falls on Bora Bora, the city slows to a quiet crawl. But the island is so beautiful that even a mundane activity like walking takes on wondrous new resonance. Take a night stroll along one of white-sand beaches, or relax over drinks at a beachfront resort. Though the island offers relatively little in the way of wild revelry, nightowls do have a few options here.

Take in the nightly variety show at the **Club Med** resort, or boogie at **Le Recif, the island's only disco and after-hours club.**

**Bloody Mary's:** Few watering holes are so mythic that they merit inclusion on a list of historic sites, but this bar/restaurant is an exception. Bloody Mary's is a Bora Bora institution, thanks to the many international celebrities who have passed through her doors. The restaurant's more famous patrons are listed on a prominent sign inside the bar. Reservations are strongly recommended.

## SITES OF INTEREST

### *Marae Aehua-Tai*

Resembling a wall of black slab tombstones, Marae Aehua-Tai is one of several ancient Polynesian temples on Bora Bora. From the stone site visitors are afforded an excellent view across the lagoon.

### *Marae Marotetini*

Restored in 1968, this landmark was once the most important Polynesian temple on Bora Bora. According to the old religion, the "marae" stones here are associated with Mt. Otemenu. Nearby are a pair of tombs built for the Bora Bora royal family during the 19th century.

### *Marae Taharuu*

One of the more curious ancient "marae" stones in all French Polynesia, Marae Taharuu is a tall, thumb-shaped obelisk that juts from the earth. This vantage point also yields one of the finest views in Bora Bora.

### *Matira Point*

A popular attraction with both locals and tourists, Matira Point is a pin-shaped parcel of land that is home to one of Bora Bora's finest public beaches. The Point is named after the 490-ton British ship, Mathilda, which wrecked in 1792. "Matira" is the Tahitian pronunciation of Mathilda.

### *Mount Pahia*

This majestic volcanic peak is greatly admired for its imposing beauty. Depending on the weather and the time of day, visitors can see brilliant contrasts in light and color between the great peak and the ever-changing lagoon that surrounds it.

### *Mount Otemanu*

Situated on the island's east coast, Mount Otemanu is the highest point on Bora Bora. Made of ominous black rock, this ramrod-straight peak dwarfs nearly everything on the island.

### *Marine Museum*

Nautical enthusiasts are encouraged to visit this popular maritime museum. Among the exhibits on display are a Mark II coastal defense gun and remnants of various vehicles and old vessels.

### *World War II Relics*

In the wake of the 1942 Japanese raid on Pearl Harbor, Bora Bora was selected as a refueling base. Some remnants of the American military presence can still be observed on the island. On an elevation at Matira Point, visitors can see a World War II coastal defense gun installment. An even more impressive defense gun emplacement can be viewed at Tuivahora Point. On the very tip of Anau Village you will find a boat pier and seaplane ramp. Still in use today, the pier's sloping concrete ramp was used as a seaplane base. Another kilometer up the road is an old vatlike structure which was initially built to accommodate submarines.

## **TAXIS, PERSONAL & PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION**

Though Bora Bora may seem remote and secluded the island is, in fact, easily accessed and very easy to negotiate. For the convenience of our visitors, Bora Bora offers a variety of transportation options, from public transit buses, taxis and inter-island boats, to rental cars, bikes and scooters.

### **Aircraft & Helicopter**

There are Air Tahiti flights to Bora Bora from Papeete four to six times daily, and once daily from Moorea. Flight duration is approximately 50 minutes. Air Tahiti also offers connections to Raiatea, Huahine, Manihi, Maupiti and Rangiroa. Air Moorea, an affiliate of Air Tahiti, operates flights on request throughout French Polynesia. Charter service is also available on Wan Air.

### **Le Truck**

These Tahitian public transit buses charge a small fee to transport passengers to their destination on the island. The buses operate between the quays of Vaitape and each district.

### **Mini-Bus**

Transportation from the airport to the island's hotels and private residences are provided by mini-buses, at a charge.

### **Taxi**

General taxi service is available in Bora Bora. All the hotels provide some form of airport transport service.

### **Ferry**

Cruises to neighboring Papeete via inter-island vessel are available. The voyage takes a half a day.

## Some comments from REN passengers:

Bora Bora

Tender port, here Ren anchors inside the reef and stays anchored until they leave the following evening. Therefore tenders ran from 8:00am to 10:00pm each day into the main town of Vaitape.

We rented a car on Bora Bora, a cabriolet (8700 CFP per day including insurance and gas at Europcar) which is a two seater with no doors, all open on the sides, a removable canvas top, two gears reverse and forward, and a top speed of about 28 mph. This is similar but not the same as the fun car. The fun car was all open, had three sometimes four wheels, and looked like a bubble. Ours looked a little more comfortable to ride in. Be prepared to get very wet if it rains! There are also inormal cars for rent for less money, go figure! Europcar's office is right across the street from the dock. It's only 17 miles all the way around the island. We stopped at several beaches to swim. Matira beach is best, down at the south end of the island (this is where the Ren shuttle and other shuttles at the dock take you). Had a very good lunch at the Moana Beachcomber Parkroyal about 5000 CFP for two. There are lots of snack bars along the road. Top Dive is another good place to have lunch. We stopped there for drinks, have a nice terrace on the ocean. Heard from friends that the food was good. This is a resort catering to mostly divers just outside of Vaitape. You can see it from the dock. Top Dive was also the same operation that Ren used for their dive excursions.

There were tour operators again at the dock in Vaitape. Among the offerings were motu snorkeling, waverunner rentals, etc. There was a guy there with a small motor boat for charter to take you snorkeling. The boat looked like it could hold up to six passengers. **Can rent Waverunners from TopDive ñ Local guide was iOcean.î** **What really drives the experience home is the incredible number of shades of blue and green of the water. Buy a water-resistant throw-away to take photos. New Yamaha 700cc 3-passenger waverunners (one each). iFollow the leader.î** **You go round the island. Stop at a Motu, 3 miles in length, occupied by a banana and coconut plantation. Total time ñ about 2 hours. Booked on the ship, \$180 US per waverunner. Booked through TopDive, \$130. One hour tours also available.**

when you get to Bora Bora, find out for me if the catamaran, Taaroa (pronounced Tah-ah-roh-ah, Tahitian is like Hawaiian you pronounce all the vowels) is back in operation. We chartered with them. The Taaroa is a 40 ft racing catamaran owned by guy named Pascal, the only yellow catamaran on Bora Bora. We went all around the island inside the lagoon. If you like to sail, it is a blast! I have heard that they're back in operation but nothing concrete so I left them out of my tour report. You can also go day sailing or on sunset sails with them, you don't have to charter. We had 10 people, so it worked out for us. Check at the dock, I'm sure someone there will know, it's a small island.

**On Bora Bora, take a shuttle at the dock to Matira beach for \$3.00 per person, one way. There are some snack bars and restaurants on the beach.**

**Motu Tapu BBQ & Polynesian Show not worth the \$90pp price. Would have substituted the waverunners. 2 can use one waverunner or you can have your own. Also the helicopter over the island -- \$129 ñ was continually raved about.** Do the excursions even tho they can be expensive as it gives the trip the additional color and information to make it terrific.

**Bora Bora - Mike & Janet Weese ñ who sailed on 4/26/00 w/ group of 6 Spectacular. Can line up most tours on the dock. Maeva Marrant - Sort of a go between for most things. She lined up wave-runners for 2 hours for 13,000 francs (\$101 US - REN charges \$99.95 for 1 hour! with Miki Miki tours.) Tel 67-76-44 Maeva or Karl (Keepie was our guide). Maeva Marrant also has snorkeling tours and e-mail! She also lined us up a sunset catamaran cruise- only 12 people with Taaroa Company \$3700 francs (\$30 US)**

**We booked one excursion through REN and that was the helicopter in Bora Bora. Spectacular! Our last day in Bora Bora we hired Olivier HUC right on the dock for a private boat tour (4 to 6 people) \$50 per person or 5500 francs = \$44. His Tel is 79-22-79 or 67-67-01. It was great, can't say enough ñ really spectacular. He even prepared us a treat and swam with us around Manta Rays (12 foot spans!) Nice snorkeling and great surprises!**