

TAHITI INDEPENDENT TOURS & NUMBERS

TOURIST OFFICE

Fare Manihi, Pomare Blvd. (waterfront)

Tel: 50. 57. 00 / Fax: 43. 66. 19

Main Points of Interest

MARCHÉ CENTRAL - Central Market

CATHEDRALE NOTRE-DAME -Papeete

TEMPLE PAOFAI -Papeete

SAINT-ETIENNE CHURCH- Unaauia

SAINT-MICHEL CHURCH- Papara

BOTANICAL GARDEN - Motu ovini

HARRISSON SMITH GARDEN - Papeari

VALLEE DE LA FAUTAUA - Papeete

POINTE VENUS - Mahina

LAGOONARIUM - Punaauia

CAR RENTALS

HERTZ RENT-A-CAR - TeI. 42.04.71/ Fax. 42.48 62

AVIS POLYNESIE - Tel. 42. 96. 49/ Fax. 41. 08. 47

PACIFICAR - Tel. 41. 93. 93/Fax. 42. 19. 11

ROBERT RENT-A-CAR -TeI. 42. 97. 20/ Fax. 42.63.00

EUROPCAR INTER-RENT -Tel. 45.24.24/Fax. 41.93. 41

SIGHTSEEING TOURS

SAFARI LOISIRS - Tel. 43.97.99 I Fax. 57.90.30

SAFARI TAHITI EXPEDITION -Tel. 42.14.15

ADVENTURE EAGLE TOURS - Tel. 41. 37. 63

TAHITI ATA MOU' A - Tel. 41. 99. 00

NAVE NAVE ADVENTURE TOURS- Tel/Fax 43.43.30

TEFAARAHI ADVENTURE TOURS Te I. 56.41.24 - Fax 56.31.91

ART GALLERIES

WINKLER - Rue Jeanne d' Arc PPT - Tel. 42. 81. 77

REVA REVA - Rue Lagarde PPT- Tel. 43. 32. 67

ETIENNE SIQUIN - Avenue du Pnnce Hinoi PPT

Tel. 42.09.81

NOA NOA - Boulevard Pomare PPT Tel. 42.73.47

MATAMUA - Boulevard Pomare PPT

TeI.41 .34.95

LES TROPIQUES - Rue Cook PPT Tel. 41.05.00

OVIRI - Mairie de Punaauia - Tel. 45.04.04

O TAHITI NUL - Punaauia - Tel. 58.40.99

TIAMA' O - Papara - TeI. 57. 34. 82

HALVERSEN - Taravao - Te I. 57.72.56

HIKING EXCURSIONS

PRESQU' ILE LOISIRS - Tel. 57. 00. 57

LE CIRCUIT VERT - Tel. 57. 22. 67

TAHITI SPECIAL EXCURSIONS

Tel. I Fax. 43. 72. 01

TE ROO NUL O TE PARI HONOURA

Tel. 42. 80. 19 I 57. 19. 56

TE FETIA O TE MAU MATO Tel. 42. 84. 82

HORSE BACK RIDING

CLUB EQUESTRE OF TAHITI - Hippodrome de Pirae Tel. 42.70. 41

L' EPERON DE PIRAE - Hippodrome de Pirae Tel. 42. 79. 87/Fax. 45. 14. 51

PONEY CLUB DE TAHITI - Hippodrome de Pirae Tel. 43. 49.29

RANCH LE CENTAURE - Papeari - Tel. 57.70.77

PARA SAILING

AIR EVASION - Tel. 58. 22. 88 I Fax. 43. 72. 01

SAFARI TAHITI PARAPENTE - Te. 58.26.12/ Fax. 58. 26. 12

MOUNTAIN SAFARI EXCURSIONS

SAFARI LOISIRS - Tel. 43.97.99 I Fax. 57.90.30

SAFARI TAHITI EXPEDITION -Tel. 42.14.15 (*recommended by many former Ren cruisers*)

ADVENTURE EAGLE TOURS - Tel. 41. 37. 63

TAHITI ATA MOU' A - Tel. 41. 99. 00
NAVE NAVE ADVENTURE TOURS- Te~V Fax 43.43.30
TEFAARAHI ADVENTURE TOURS Te I. 56.41.24 - Fax 56.31.91

YACHT CHARTERS

TAHITI YACHT CHARTER - Boulevard Pomare PPT
Tel. 45. 04. 00 / Fax. 42. 76. 00
DUFOUR TAHITI NPM YACHT CHARTER
Boulevard Pomare PPT - Tel. 43. 39. 79 / Fax. 43. 39. 78
JET FRANCE - Boulevard Poamre PPT Tel. 56. 25. 62
ENJOY - Hotel Tahiti Beachcomber Parkroyal
Tel. 86. 51. 10/ 45. 59. 37/ Fax. 42. 18. 88
RAG DOLL - Mers et Loisirs Papeete - Te I. 53.43.83/42.69.63

Charter Cruises

AREMITI I - Mers et Loisirs PPT - TeI. 42.88.88/ Fax 45.27.58
POT TERE I - Boulevard Pomare PPT - Tel. 77.77.70 Fax.43.66.05

Marinas

MARINA TAINA - Tel. 41. 02. 25 1 Fax. 45. 27. 58
MARINA DU COMPTOIR MARINE Fare Ute
Tel. 42. 80. 27/ Fax. 42. 24. 41
DEEP SEA FISHING
NAPUKA - Marina Taina Punaauia
Tel. 42.18.34/ 41.02.27 / Fax. 45.27.58
MISS HINANO - Marina Taina Punaauia
Tel. 41 02 25/ 42. 67. 52/ Fax. 45. 27. 58
ROSTER - Marina Fare Ute
Tel. 41. 02. 54/ 43. 05. 78/ Fax. 45. 27. 58
TEA NUL - Baie de Cook Moorea
Tel. 42. 75. 42/ 56. 15. 08/ Fax. 45. 27. 58
TEHITIRERE - Arue
Tel. 42.04.15 / Fax. 45.25.58 / 43.59.21
TEVAITE - Marina Taina Punaauia
Tel. 42. 58. 23 / Fax. 45. 27. 58
LELANA III - Tel. 41.02.25 Fax 45.27.58
HAKA NUL - Marina Taina Punaauia
Tel. 41. 02. 25 / Fax. 45. 27. 58
TEANUATA - Punaauia - Tel. 41.02.25 /Fax. 45.27.58
RAIHAUTUA - Boulevard Pomare PPT
Tel. 41.02.25/Fax. 45.27.58
HOREA - Marina Taina Punaauia
Tel. 41.02.25 / Fax 45.27.58
TAHITIAN INTERNATIONAL BILLFISH TOURNMENT
Tel. 43.19.00 / Fax. 43.28.45

MISC. WATER ACTIVITIES

SCUBA DIVING CENTER

YACHT CLUB DIVING CENTER
Yacht Club d' Arue Tel. 42. 23. 55 Fax. 42. 37. 07
TAHITI AQUATIC MAEVA
Hotel Sotitel Maeva Beach - Tel. / Fax. 41. 08. 54
TAHITI PLONGEE - P.K. 7,500 - Punaauia
Tel. 41. 00. 62/ 43. 62. 51/ Fax. 42. 26. 06
TAHITI CHARTER ISLAND
Hotel Tahiti Tel. 45.28.12/45.07.75 - Fax 45.28.12
TAHITI AQUATIC BEACHCOMBER
Hotel Tahiti Beachcomber Parkroyal -Tel. 86.51.10 Ext. 5610
Fax. 86.51.30
COWAN PLONGEE - Arue
Tel. 46.32.78/ 43.08.15 / Fax. 42.14.09
TA' ITUA PLONGEE - Taravao - Tel. 57. 77. 93 / 57. 77. 98
Misc. Nautical Activities
SURFING SCHOOL - Papeete Phone / Fax: 41 91 37
YACHT CLUB D' ARUE - Arue
Tel. 42.78.03 / Fax. 42.37.07

HOTEL TAHITI BEACHCOMBER PARKROYAL - Punaauia -

Tel. 86. 51. 10/Fax. 86.51.30

HOTEL SOFITEL MAEVA BEACH - Punaauia

Tel. 42. 80. 42/ Fax. 41. 08. 54

WATER SKI CLUB DE TAHITI Punaauia

Tel. 42. 10. 38

TAHITI TOURS AND ACTIVITIES

From the beaches and low-land plantations to volcanic peaks and rain forests, Tahiti has a magnificent variety of landscapes and vistas to enjoy. There's plenty to do on Tahiti- On land, you can explore untouched valleys, take a breathtaking helicopter ride to Mount Aorai, four-wheel through mountain streams, relax at an outdoor cafe, or play a round of golf on a beautiful, 72-par, 18-hole course that gives you a challenging game and incredible views of Tahiti and its outer reef. In the ocean, you can try your hand at big game fishing, water skiing, scuba diving, sailing and wind surfing and much more. There are challenging and unusual trekking tours into the interior valleys, and up the mountains, or you can walk across the island and investigate old lava tubes, burial caves and hidden grottoes. Experience the thrill of the interior of the island on an all day 4-wheel drive excursion fording numerous rivers and streams climbing high into the mountains

To see the sights that have made this island a legend, try a tour to Matavai Bay, Cook's Monument at Point Venus, the Gauguin Museum, the Museum of Tahiti and Her Islands or the fascinating Lagoonarium. Probably one of the most usual tours on the island of Tahiti is a two day trek into the island's interior. On your hike you'll pass through lushly foliated valleys, swim in mountain pools and spend the evening in the small and exclusive Relais de la Maroto which is noted for their extensive collection of wines. The Relais was originally built to comfortably house the engineers that built the hydro-electric system for the island and is now a delightful place to visit. A circle island tour and a 4-wheel drive excursion into the interior are excellent ways to see the island.

THE MARKET

The market, **Marché du Papeete**, is a colorful and vibrant place. The market is an airy two-story structure with fruit, vegetables, meat and fish downstairs, and clothes and arts & crafts upstairs. The market covers a whole city block just back from the waterfront and is **open daily (except Sundays)** from 5 A.M. to 6 P.M. This is the perfect place for photographs. There are displays of lovely floral arrangements of orchids and anthuriums, marigolds and daisies, red ginger and jasmine, shell necklaces, woven pandanus hats, pareus, tikis, coconuts, pineapples, starfruit, mangoes, and cassava root. A good lunch can be had upstairs in the Market- nice food with a local band

PAPEETE AT NIGHT

When the sun sets in Tahiti, the island comes alive with revelers. Indeed, Tahiti is considered to be one of the most vibrant ports in the South Pacific. Dancing, dining, gambling and romance are nightly parts of the Tahiti experience.

The sidewalk bars are usually very active, even during the week, and nightclubs swing into action where the sounds of disco and jazz compete with the pulsating rhythm of the 'tamure', Tahiti's tantalizing national dance. Interesting places to drink and people watch at the same time include: **Le Chaplin's**, with music and video clips, and more than 50 cocktails and **Le Retro**, a Parisian style cafe in the Vaima Center. **Le Tamure Hut in the Hotel Royal Papeete**, is one of the city's most popular "in" spots, open Wednesday through Saturday nights, with dancing to old and new Tahitian tunes played by a live band. **Le New Orleans**, behind the cathedral, plays jazz.

Clubs

Toss off your inhibitions - and your shoes - and dance the night away at one of Tahiti's many clubs. Clubs provide an excellent opportunity for visitors to mingle with the locals. Some of Tahiti's clubs boast a ballroom ambiance, while others jump to the driving rhythms of disco beat or rock 'n' roll. *More curious visitors will want to check out the clubs on the northern end of Boulevard Pomare, where sailors, writers, transvestites and other thrill-seekers gather for a good time.*

Local Bars

Tahiti's local bars possess an almost mythic quality. Packed with revelers, these no-nonsense, smoke-filled nightspots present a great opportunity for visitors to mix with the locals.

Outdoor Cafes & Bars

Romance awaits those who visit the open-air cafes and bars that dot Tahiti's waterfront. From its swank coffeehouses to its modest yet lively saloons, Tahiti's outdoor scene veritably crackles with action.

Casinos

Get lucky at one of the three hotel casinos in Tahiti. **The Pacifica, Prince Hinoi and Royal Papeete hotels** now offer private, 24-hour gambling casinos. Spin the roulette wheel, or try your hand at blackjack, mahjong or poker.

CATHEDRALS

Notre-Dame Cathedral Of Papeete
Notre-Dame Place, Papeete
Saint-Etienne Church Of Punaauia
P.K. 12,100 Punaauia, On Seaside
Saint-Michel Church Of Papara
P.K. 35,600, Papara, On Seaside

Helicopter

Aerial tours offer captivating views of Tahiti's azure waters, majestic hills and fertile plant life. A 40-minute Heli Pacific flight takes visitors to such sights as the lagoon and coral reef, Papeete and its suburbs, international class hotels and the historic Matavai Bay. Heading inland, the pilot points out the famous crown mountain, "Le Diademe." The 50-minute tour takes in the sights around Papeete, Venus Point, Matavai bay, Papenoo valley, Vaihiria Lake, the Oliver Breaud golf course and the Maraa grottoes.

Drive Tours

Travelers wishing to venture off the well-beaten coastal path can enjoy an inland drive tour. The tours, which are usually done via four-wheel, all-terrain vehicle, offer spectacular close-up views of Tahiti's beaches, lagoons, mountains, rainforests and waterfalls. Some drive tours include meals and guided hikes, while others let visitors select the landmarks they wish to see. All in all, drive tours are a unique way to discover Tahiti.

Boat Tours

What better way to enjoy the crystalline waters of Tahiti than with a boat tour? Charter a trip around Tahiti, or sail to Moorea, Tetiaroa, or any of the other surrounding isles in this South Pacific paradise.

Though Tahiti is best known for its tropical lore, deep blue waters and laid-back philosophy, the island offers just as much in the way of inland activity.

Golf

Golf enthusiasts will surely want to take in a game at the Oliver Breaud International Golf Course, which is Tahiti's only golfing green. Located at Atimaono in the Papara district, this 6944-yard, par 72 course features two man-made lakes and sprawling fairways. Formerly a cotton plantation, the course was recently renovated and now includes a new clubhouse, driving range, pool, restaurant, pro shop and tennis courts.

Hiking

Adventurous travelers will love the exciting guided tours that lead them on explorations of the rugged interior. Stops can include spectacular waterfalls and natural pools (some in which you can swim), mountain peaks with panoramic views, archeological sites (ancient temples, or "marae"), grottos and lava tubes: underground burrows with meandering streams running through them.

Horseback Riding

For the horse enthusiast Tahiti has a number of first-class riding stables. Experienced riders can saddle-up the island's New Zealand and Marquesan horses, while private lessons are available for the beginner. Rides in the mountains are often accompanied by picnic lunches.

Tennis

Raise a racket at any of the numerous tennis courts around Tahiti. Many of the island's hotels and private clubs have courts, while more informal courts can be found further inland.

Diving, fishing, sailing, surfing - Tahiti is a dream come true for water sports enthusiasts. Marvel at the island's dazzling array of aquatic life from a glass-bottom boat (Tahiti's waters are alive with eels, rays, sharks, and exotic fish). Feed fish by hand, or take underwater photography lessons. The possibilities are as numerous as Tahiti's waters are blue.

DIVING IN TAHITI

Divers of all stripes will appreciate Tahiti's many diving sites, which give visitors the opportunity to glimpse sunken planes, wrecks, exotic fish and sharks. Some sites even offer night diving. Tahiti offers some of the best scuba diving conditions for easy diving, either for the beginner, the rusty diver or for lessons. Tahiti has fine visibility and some interesting or unusual dive sites with a myriad of colorful reef fish, but it does not have the abundance of large marine life found in some of the outer islands.

Dive Sites

The Tahiti Wall and Shark Cave offer a combined series of dive sites on the outer reef where a vertical drop-off starting from a plateau at 15 feet goes deep into blue depth. Harmless white-tip sharks are fed by hand along with friendly moray eels. **The Vavi Area** is located on the ocean side of the coral reef and is characterized by a succession of drop-offs. It is one of the richest sites in Tahiti with its multi-colored sea fans, Gorgonias and Alcyonaceans, and is a real paradise for photographers. **Underwater Fresh Water Springs** is a unique site characterized by an underwater pinnacle some 100 yards off the outer reef, with fresh water flowing through the adjacent coral at a depth of about 25 feet. The mixture of fresh and sea water distort the vision, something like surface heat rising from the pavement on a hot day. The Springs also attract an abundance of sea life

Fishing

The waters outside the barrier reef are home to a eye-popping assortment of fish - marlins, mahimahi, yellowfin tuna and others. Some vessels cater to deep-sea anglers.

Surfing

The surf is always up in Tahiti. Surfing is especially good in winter, when the swells break strong along the reefs, resulting in high, "tubular" waves. Both the northern and southern coasts of Tahiti offer good surfing.

Sailing

For a truly unforgettable Tahitian vacation, try renting a fully-provisioned boat for several days or weeks. Rentals include bareboats, catamarans or yachts. For those visitors who can't steer a vessel, skippers are available to help make your sailing experience even more memorable. You can even rent hosts and cooks.

Snorkeling

Snorkeling conditions are excellent in Tahiti. Fish are abundant, and the waters are flat-calm.

With its remarkable combination of natural wonders and man-made landmarks, Tahiti is a sightseer's paradise. The island brims with must-see landmarks.

MARAE ARAHURAHU, PAEA

Situated in a lush valley surrounded by cliffs, this pyramid-shrine, topped with a wooden platform where human and animal offerings were once left for the gods, has been completely reconstructed by Dr. Sinoto of the Bishop Museum. It is now used as a stage for re-enacting ancient rituals.

Harrison W. Smith Botanical Garden

Teeming with footpaths where visitors can view its acres of well-cultivated plants, the Botanical Gardens of Papeari feature bamboo, bananas, palms, hibiscus and mapes (an indigenous chestnut tree). The Gardens are a testament to the work of American botanist Harrison Smith, who moved to Tahiti in 1919 to set up the vast garden on his 137-hectare Motu Ovini estate.

Bougainville Park

Relax in the shade of the massive banyan tree at Tahiti's Bougainville Park. Named in honor of the french explorer and navigator, Louis Antoine de Bougainville (1729-1811), this scenic park is lined with concrete benches where visitors can relax in the shade of a huge banyan tree.

Cathedral of Notre Dame of Papeete

Located in the center of Papeete, the majestic Cathedral of Notre Dame is one of Tahiti's most awe-inspiring structures. The exterior's modest grey facade is offset by a red-tiled spire. Indoors, the church features gorgeous original stained glass dating back to 1875.

Vaihiria River & Vaihiria Lake

Tahiti's only real lake, Vaihiria is a vast reservoir for rain and the river water that plunges down the outer wall of the Papenoo crater. Surrounded by luxuriant, green mountains, the Vaihiria Lake area is popular for its large eels and nearby banana plantations.

Maraa Fern Grotto

These fern-covered caverns have become a must-see destination for Tahiti visitors. The site actually features three grottos - yawning holes in the cliff with shallow pools of water inside. The lush, emerald vegetation hangs over Paroa Grotto ("great wall") like so many stalactites. The grotto gives the optical illusion of being smaller than it actually is.

Paul Gauguin's Home & Mataiea Village

Painter Paul Gauguin (1848 -1903) is world renowned for his earth-hued portraits of Tahiti and its natives. Located in Punaauia, just south of Papeete, visit the home where the famed painter created some his most famous masterpieces. Art lovers will also want to visit the hut at Mataiea Village, where Gauguin created more masterworks.

Vaima Center

With its heavy concentration of businesses and services, Vaima Center is one of the main nerve centers of Tahiti. Situated directly across the waterfront, this four-level, block-square shopping center has everything from airline bureaus, banks and boutiques, to book stores, travel agencies and restaurants.

MUSEUMS

Museum Of Tahiti And Her Islands

Musée de Tahiti et ses Isles

Polynesian history, culture, environment, ethnology. A visit to Tahiti would be incomplete without a stop to the Musee' de Tahiti, which has been judged one of the finest and most modern museums in the South Pacific. Founded in 1978, the museum features a broad range of exhibits on Tahitian culture, history and geology. Visit the Exhibition Building and enjoy the museum's superlative collection of paintings, prints and sculptures. PK 15 7, Pointe des Pecheurs, Punaauia Tel. (689) 58.34.76/Fax. (689) 58.43.00 9 30 A.M.-5 30 P.M. Closed Monday

Paul Gauguin Museum

Original works and reproductions from the late French artist. Dedicated to the work of Paul Gauguin, the Gauguin Museum is situated in a contemporary, Japanese-style building just opposite the Botanical Gardens of Papeari. The facility features exhibits and memorabilia from the late painter himself, including sketches, documents (mostly in facsimile), block prints, reproductions and a handful of original creations.

PK 51,200 Papeari Tel. (689) 57.10.58/Fax (689) 57 10 42 9 A.M.-5 P.M. Admission fee. Open daily.

Seashell Museum (Musee du Coquillage)

Shells and fish from Polynesian lagoons. Both collectors and the curious will enjoy a visit to this unique museum housed inside a handsome, white colonial-style building. The museum also features a gift shop which sells quality crafts, including woven baskets, hats, and hand-made purses. P K 36, Papara, Tahiti

Tel. (689) 57.45.22/Fax. (689) 57 37.78 8 A.M.-5 P.M. (9 A.M. - 5 P.M. Saturdays and Sundays) open daily. Admission fee.

Tahiti Pearl Center

Blvd Pomare next to Protestant Temple

Tel (689) 43.85.58/Fax (689) 43 49 01

Open Monday to Friday 8 00 A.M - 12 00 Noon 2 00 P.M - 5 30 P.M

Saturday 9 00 A M - 12 00 Noon

Sunday 2 00 P.M. - 5 30 P.M.

Closed Saturday afternoon Free admission

Video films, displays and miniature pearl farm to present the history, culture and qualities of the famous black pearl.

TAXIS, PERSONAL TRANSPORTATION, CAR RENTALS

Getting around Tahiti is simple, fast and fun. The island offers a variety of public and personal transportation choices to fit every schedule.

Le Truck

Climb aboard "Le Truck," and leave the driving to Tahiti's safe and efficient public bus operators. Destinations are posted atop each bus, which always commence and end their round trips at the public market. Though authorized stops are indicated by a blue sign with an illustration of "Le Truck," drivers usually can be flagged down just about anywhere. Please note: "Le Truck" does not offer tours around the island of Tahiti.

Taxis

Taxicabs provide quick and easy transport around Tahiti for visitors. Look for an emblem of a blossom atop the cab, which indicates that the driver speaks some english. Through rates vary slightly, fares are displayed on computerized meters inside the cab.

Personalized Transportation

For travelers wishing to embark on their own solo excursions, Tahiti is served by a number of world-renowned rental car agencies including Avis, Hertz and others. Rentals include everything from 4x4 vehicles, A/C Volkswagens, Fords, Hyundais, minivans, Peugots, Renaults and Suzukis, to deluxe Mercedes.

RENS TAHITI EXCURSIONS

Tahiti Circle Island

Tour Number: TAH-01A

Tour Length: **4 Hours**

Tour Price: **\$49.99**

Tahiti's incredible sights include **Point Venus**, where Captain Cook first landed, and explosive jets of water at the **Arahoho "Blowhole."** Cross a narrow isthmus guarded by the stone walls of Fort Taravao, and revel in the cascading streams of **Vaipahi Waterfall**. Know that you're really in paradise at **Maraa Grotto** where a ceiling of ferns surround a cool, **romantic cave formed by the sea.**

Tahiti

Morning or Sunset Lagoon Sail

Tour Number: TAH-03A

Tour Length: **1.5 Hours**

Tour Price: **\$59.99**

A luxury catamaran sails through the lagoon along Tahiti's west coast where famed landmarks and stunning mountains and valleys await your pleasure. Listen to Polynesian music and sip refreshments as you sail. You can opt for a **morning or sunset cruise.**

Tahiti

Polynesian Heritage

Tour Number: TAH-02A

Tour Length: **4 Hours**

Tour Price: **\$49.99**

Explore the **Paul Gauguin Museum**, where replicas of the artist's sculptures, wood carvings and engravings are on display. See the **Marae of Arahurahu**, an ancient temple that has been beautifully restored. Embrace Tahiti's geographical wonders and island culture at the **Museum of Tahiti** and Her Islands.

Tahiti 4x4 Safari

Tour Number: TAH-04A

Tour Length: 6 Hours

Tour Price: \$89.99

Put on your Indiana Jones hat as a 4-wheel-drive vehicle takes you to exciting river crossings, towering mountains covered with lush vegetation and cascading waterfalls. Enjoy the spectacular views as you lunch at the delightful Relais de la Maroto restaurant. Visit a sacred marae temple, and stop for a swim in lovely, natural pools (when rainfall permits).

Grands Ballets de Tahiti

Tour Number: TAH-06A

Tour Length: 1.5 Hours

Tour Price: \$49.99

The Grands Ballets de Tahiti is an award-winning show and one of Tahiti's premier attractions. Cast members will personally escort you to Morrison's Cafe where the show takes place. Receive a tiare flower greeting and a refreshing drink, then sit back and enjoy a spectacular show featuring authentic dances and songs performed by French Polynesia's finest dancers and musicians dressed in colorful costumes.

Tahiti by Helicopter

Tour Number: TAH-07A

Tour Length: 1 Hour (15 minute flight tour)

Tour Price: \$149.99

Get a bird's-eye view of the city of Papeete, the harbor and Point Venus. Leave civilization behind and descend into Papenoo Valley to see the crater of an ancient volcano, the summit of Mount Orohena and the virgin valley of Orofero.

NON REN EXCURSIONS

Circle Island Tour

Take in all of Tahiti's must sees, from the Arahoho blow hole to Faaruumai waterfalls, the Gauguin Museum, and the Botanical Gardens. Walk on the black sand beach at Point Venus where Discoverers Wallis, Cook, and the Bounty crew first came ashore, and be charmed by Tahitian homes, gaily painted in all the colors of the rainbow. **Full day, with lunch - \$93 per person.**

Rental Car

Rent a car and follow the fortunes of the road which winds around Tahiti Nui (big Tahiti) and the peninsula of Tahiti Iti (little Tahiti). Spectacular vistas, pearl and ebony beaches, fascinating historic sites, colorful gardens and glimpses of traditional village life await you. (International driver's license not required).

Daily rate - from \$90 per car.

Interior Island Safari

Get a closer look at Tahiti's interior, a land of unbounded natural beauty where almost-vertical vegetable plantations edge their way into bamboo and fern forests, and waterfalls cascade into hidden pools watched over by stone-faced tiki.

Full day - \$86 per person

Golf

Tee off on Tahiti's 18-hole international championship course, unique in French Polynesia. Located about 45 minutes from Papeete, this par-72 course, designed by Robert Baldock, a California golf course architect, measures 6550 yards and affords unparalleled island and reef views ... keeping your eye on the ball won't be easy! **18 Holes Green Fee - \$50 per person. Clubs rental available.**

Comments from former Ren Cruisers about Tahiti:

....Pick up a copy of the **Tahiti Beach Press** on board the ship in the library or at the tourist office in Papeete. It contains listings of all special events at the hotels including luau's. I think they call these "tamaara" in Tahiti.....

.....We heard very mixed reviews about Tahiti, particularly its excursions. We were contemplating taking the ferry to Moorea on the back end of the trip, but opted for a half-day 4 X 4 excursion into interior. I was disappointed. Due to rain, the driver back-tracked taking us past Tahiti's garbage dump twice. Then we spent about 45 minutes in traffic on a main road, taking an alternate route. We heard about the vegetation, which we had heard on just about every other island tour and saw two waterfalls, but only from a distance. I understand there is a great waterfall with a pool that you can swim in, right off the main road. Some people chose to hire a driver (expensive unless you can share the cost), or rent a car and see the few things on the island worth seeing (blow hole, fern grotto, waterfall). In retrospect, I think we should have done that or, as another alternative just planted ourselves at the Sheraton hotel (that Ren takes all disembarking guests to) to relax by their beautiful, pool and jacuzzi. They have music and dancing in the evening, starting just at dusk. It was a wonderful place to decompress after the hectic island schedule we kept. I looked at the ferry schedule for Tahiti-Moorea and it doesn't seem to give you a lot of time to spend, plus you'll have to arrange for tours or transportation once you are on Moorea. I would only chance that on a full day in Tahiti, not on a day you need to be back to the ship at a certain time. Have fun!.....

...booked a wonderful and expensive (worth every cent!) 6-hour 4x4 excursion into the interior of Tahiti...a great experience and produced a lot of pictures right away. Lunch midway through...at a mountaintop restaurant that looked like a Tibetan monastery, inaccessible by anything but 4x4 or helicopter...For this trip you need mosquito repellent, despite jeans and two layers of igoopi we still got bitten, although less than ever before. The scenery, the little rivers, the waterfalls were gorgeous...In the jungle we ran across a contingent of Tahitian soldiers in full camouflage. They looked fierce! Had cleared from a rain the night we arrived.....

.....The following sunny day we and another couple rented a driver (guide), ROBERT, at dockside with a Mercedes who took us on an around the island tour (Tahiti-nui) at our pace (about 4 hours). The four of us were able to ask many questions and be a continuing part of our tour (too many people on the ship tour bus). He charged \$150 (would have been \$200 for two couples with the ship tour) and we were taken right up to the magnificent waterfall (the ship tour wasn't). The east side of Tahiti-nui was more beautiful than I had expected. We saw the one time residence of James Michener, went by the one-time leper colony, At the end, Robert even stopped at a huge supermarket and we bought French wine (I advise bring California), and as we approached the ship it poured, but cleared as we were boarding. Wonderful! We sailed for Moorea at 11pm.....

....Take the Le Truck (public transport) on Tahiti. Make sure to ask the driver when the last Le Truck back to town is. Some friends used the Le Truck to see the island and had a great time. They aid everyone was very helpful in making sure they got on the right Le Truck and back to town....

....Walk through the Municipal Market in Papeete. The vendors will not bother you or try to give you a hard sell. Also, there is no concept of bargaining.....

.....We tried to do an initial island (Circle Tour) at the beginning of each island. They are bus or Le Truck. Avg time is 2.5 to 4 hrs, avg price is \$40/person. *Dave who works around the excursion helped us the 1st night with the tours he thought were really neat and advised us to always sign up for the first tour each morning.* We did. The island trip first gives you a feel of what it is all about. The Papeete one is a long tour -- \$50pp, Polynesian Heritage, museums etc. (4 hrs \$60pp). Walk around the downtown area; also consider the 4x4s (need a good back and lots of luck!).*They are limited.....*

.....In Papeete, a local woman at the Tourist office (at the dock) told us where SHE would go for fantastic dining: a French restaurant within walking distance of the ship, LiOlivier. About 3 blocks up Rue du Paul Gaugin. It was OUTSTANDING. Everything is a bit pricey in French Polynesia but this food was well worth it (skip Bloody Maryis, spend your money at places like this ñ great, great food).....

Papeete (from Mike & Janet Weese ñ who sailed on 4/26/00)

Tahiti Safari Expedition - Patrice Bordes is the owner. Tel 42-14-15. An 8 1/2 hour over the top of Tahiti by 4X4 with waterfalls, fauna, flora and lakes. Ask for Eric to drive you. \$45 per person! (Lunch was \$10 extra). Not for the elderly!