



Cruising Guide

Leeward islands
in French Polynesia

Maeva! Welcome aboard



The Moorings Tahiti
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The Moorings®
The Best Sailing Vacations In The World!

Summary

Maeva
Welcome aboard

We are delighted that you are planning to join us for a cruise through the beautiful îles Sous-le-Vent, or the Leeward Islands.

The following information will answer many of the questions you might have about the area you are going to visit. If you have additional questions, please don't hesitate to call or write to us. We will be happy to help you.

We wish you a very nice cruise.

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Airline *baggage*

Please limit yourself to two bags per person with a total maximum weight of 40 pounds. Two small carry-on bags, which will fit under the airline seat may be taken, but the total weight of all bags must not exceed 40 pounds. If you are over the limit you may have to pay excess baggage charges in Los Angeles and on the small carrier serving Raiatea. This excess luggage charge is very expensive.

All bags should be locked, even duffel bags. Airline regulations state that all bags must bear address labels on them. It also could be wise to put your address and home phone number inside each bag. Extra baggage may be stored at our marina office while you are on charter. Valuables, including all jewelry, should be left at home. If you do bring valuables with you, they can be stored at the Marina office or taken on charter, **but do so at your own risk.**

Communication

Mobile phone : the GSM network is covering the Leeward Islands, we'll provide on board one phone with prepaid units, you'll pay for what you've used at the reception on your return.

Internet : you can use internet from the base either with your laptop or at the desk, the e-mail address if you want to receive message during your cruise is '**customerservice@moorings.pf**'. You can also get access by wifi from some places, for ore information on this service, please check this website: www.iaoranet.pf et www.hotspot-wdg.com.

Useful Informations

Pack a carry-on bag with essentials things you will need for two days. Airlines occasionally misplace luggage, delivering it a couple of days later. The Moorings will trace it for you and send it to wherever you may be at the time.

Banks - Opening hours

Bank of Tahiti	8h00 - 12h00 & 13h00 - 15h45
Bank of Polynesia	7h45 - 15h45 (vendredi 14h45)
Socredo Bank	7h30 - 11h30 & 13h30 - 16h00

Church

Protestant Church	Sunday	10h00 - 11h00
Catholic Church	Saturday	18h00 - 19h00
	Sunday	8h00 - 9h00

The island people are quite modest and dress up when going to church. Ladies wear dresses, and gentlemen wear long pants and nice shirt.

Currency

Tahitian money is called the CFP (Central Pacific Franc). Bring travelers checks as you will get a better rate at the local banks. The exchange rate is fixed with euro : 1 euro = 119 XPF. Credit cards are widely accepted except by small businesses and restaurants. You'll find an ATM machine on each islands.

Urgency phone numbers

MOORINGS			
777 003			
GENDARMERIE			
<i>Raiatea</i>	<i>Bora Bora</i>	<i>Huahine</i>	<i>Taha'a</i>
60 03 05	60 59 05	60 62 05	60 81 05
HÔPITAL			
<i>Raiatea</i>	<i>Bora Bora</i>	<i>Huahine</i>	<i>Taha'a</i>
600 800	67 70 77	68 82 48	65 63 31

Arrival at *Raiatea*

Please let us know your arrival time at the airport, so we'll organize a transfer to the base. In case your plane is delayed please call us at 66 35 93.

If you stay in a hotel the night prior to departure day, our transfer will come to pick you up at 8h30.

Transfer fees are payable directly to the driver.

Fishing gear

Fishing gear is not provided in the yacht inventory but the Moorings boutique has some offshore equipped rods for rent, or you can buy fishing gear at Uturoa.

Post office

Post office hours are from 07h30 to 15h00 weekdays and from 8h00 to 10h00 on Saturday morning.



Medical

At Raiatea there are five private doctors, and one hospital. In Huahine there is a clinic. There is a pharmacy on each Island.

Hospitals are open 24 hours a day. Clinic hours are from 07h30 to 15h30 during the week.

Be sure to bring any necessary prescription drugs with you.

It would also be wise to bring a spare pair of prescription eyeglasses with you.

Provisioning

Provisioning is possible in the supermarket of Raiatea, Huahine and Bora-Bora, but we recommend ordering provisioning from Moorings to avoid losing time.

All provisions ordered in advance will be put on board the day you arrive. The items left over at the end of your cruise cannot be refunded.

If you need to re-provision, please order during the week as it is difficult to find fresh produce on the weekend. Give The Moorings' marina a call at least one day before you intend to pick up your supplies so that all will be prepared on your arrival at the marina. The liquor and beverages put on board may differ a bit from your pre-ordered list. You will be given the on-board list and cost and adjustment will be made before you depart on your charter.

Kayaks

A limited number of kayaks are available for rent at our marina. We suggest you reserve them in advance through our booking office at the time your charter arrangements are made.

Foul weather gear - *mask* and *snorkel*

Two sets of weather gear are provided on board the yacht. You may bring your own if you wish.

Standard masks, fins and snorkels are provided on all Moorings yachts. If you have special ones, you may prefer to bring them with you.

Skipper Notices – Snorkeling Safety:

As a company, The Moorings is very focused on safety requirements out on the water and that everything possible be done to protect our customers and visitors from accident.

Safety requires cooperation and participation from everyone, with this in mind The Moorings would like to draw special attention to our “Safety Snorkeling Practices”.

As skippers and first mates you will be given a thorough safety briefing concerning safe snorkeling practice during your charter. We would like to ask you as designated skipper, to provide the same safety briefing to your crew. As skipper, you and your first mate will be advised of the following:

- We advise against snorkeling alone, but rather to snorkel together and **stay as a group**.
- One member of your group should attach, to themselves, the diver down fly and **float safety gear** that is supplied onboard the yacht. This equipment will be shown to you during the yacht orientation.
- We stress the importance of **being vigilant and aware** of your surroundings as well as other boat operators in the area where you are snorkeling.
- Please ensure the skipper or a member of your crew know if any crew members are going snorkeling and their intended location.
- Try to get a time frame on how long the snorkel trip is going to last.
- We advise our guests to stay close to the shore or in the designated snorkeling areas.
- Please **be warned against snorkeling near or in designated navigational channels** used by any type of vessel.
- We advise you **to wear a bright colored t-shirt** when snorkeling to help protect yourself from sunburn and also to help you to be spotted in the water more easily.
- Snorkeling **to check the anchor** has set: ensure the diver down flag is displayed on the yacht when a crewmember is snorkeling to check the anchor. The crew checking the anchor should have the diver **down fly and float flag attached to them**; in addition a look-out should be placed on the foredeck of the yacht.
- Should any of your safety snorkel equipment be missing or not in good condition, it is important to advise The Moorings’ base staff **prior to departure**.



Dinghies

When sailing with a catamaran, the dinghy should always be set up on the davits during navigation, even in the lagoon. For monohulls, the dinghy should stay behind the boat at 2-3 meters.

As skipper, you and your 1st mate should be advised of the following:

- **Check there is enough fuel** in the outboard tank to complete the intended dinghy journey.
- Check that **the oars/paddles are in the dinghy** and secured.
- Ensure **the dinghy anchor** is onboard and operational.
- Ensure someone onboard your yacht always knows **where the dinghy is intending to go**.
- If you are departing on a snorkeling trip, you are required to take the diver down equipment with you. This is a mesh bag with a diver down flag and diver-fly and float safety equipment.

You will be supplied with a **360-degree all round white portable light**, we strongly recommend that this light be used on ALL dinghy journeys during the hours of darkness or on such occasions that visibility is greatly reduced.

It will be your responsibility to ensure this safety equipment is in the canister and operational prior to your departure from the dock. Should you encounter any problems with any of the safety equipment, this should be reported to The Moorings base staff prior to departure.

- We also advise that you take the supplied life jackets or PFDs with you in your dinghy.
- Check to make sure the outboard motor is securely fastened to the transom of your dinghy and **ensure you fuel tank caps are closed correctly** and do not leak fuel
- We advise guests **against smoking in the dinghy**.



Scuba *diving*

Those wishing to scuba dive should bring their certification card. Some scuba diving companies provide a beginners' course. You will find scuba diving companies on Raiatea, Tahaa, Bora Bora and Huahine. Some will allow you to rent the equipment if you have the proper certification and plan to dive with two or more people.

Check at the Moorings' office and we can help you to plan your dives.

Service Calls

Our marina office is open every day from 7.30 am to 5.00 pm. Should you have any problems or need information or a weather forecast, call us on the phone: Moorings base **66 35 93**.

Reconfirmation of *return flights*

We will reconfirm your onward flight bookings. Before you sail please present your tickets at the Customer Service counter along with any specific details.

Please call on the phone the day before your departure to confirm your flight times the next day. This is most important as local departure times may change. You may have to reschedule your time of arrival back at the marina to accommodate such schedule changes.

Weather forecast

There are two main seasons during the year, and the equivalent to fall and spring between them. The rainy season is wet and hot (85 – 95 F), and runs from November to April.

The dry season, which is the 'winter', is cooler (78 – 85 F) and more windy. It runs from May to September. 'Fall' is April & May and 'Spring' is September & October. These are probably the best months to come sailing.

The Leeward Islands enjoy a prevailing easterly wind of 15 to 20 knots, sometimes increasing to 25 knots, which may cause the sea to become choppy with a swell of 3 to 5 feet.

The Leeward Islands are considered north of the hurricane belt. However, occasionally, the area can be affected by tropical depressions or hurricanes.

In winter, particularly during the months of July and August, southeast winds of 25 to 35 knots called **Mara'amu** could occur, with ocean swells up to 10 to 12 feet possible. These swells can last as long as three days.

The sky is clear, the weather is fresh (85 F during the day and 68 F at night). In these conditions we strongly recommend that you do not anchor leeward of any high island (especially Raiatea). The winds can be double the strength than those experienced on the open water.

From the south of Raiatea to the north of Tahaa, the passages are exposed to the large swell. Anchoring becomes uncomfortable close to passes.

Anchoring

It's forbidden to sail at night.

Don't wait too late in the afternoon before choosing an anchorage. It is recommended to anchor in less than 30' of water or to take a mooring (especially with winds more than 20knts) as there are many places where this is possible.

You may have to anchor in 80 to 90 feet of water. This is only possible with good weather conditions; choose a protected place with enough swinging room.

VHF

The VHF is an instrument to communicate from boat to boat and coastal station to boat. Its normal use is for the security and the service of boats at sea. All other use is strictly forbidden.

The VHF is not a confidential means of communication. All the messages can be received by any station.

The Moorings monitor VHF channel 68. From boat to boat, it is better to choose another channel (i.e. Ch. 69, 71, 72).

The VHF's range is about 25 nautical miles unless restricted by mountains: it means one can't expect to reach a boat or the base while on the other side of the island.

In many locations you will not reach the Moorings base because of mountains barrier.





Inter island passages

For your own safety please observe the following simple rules:

- 1) **Do not leave an island to make an inter-island passage later than 9 am.** Going downwind, Raiatea to Bora Bora or Huahine to Raiatea, in any condition, it should not take more than six hours to make the passage. Things are quite different against the wind like from Bora Bora to Raiatea or Raiatea to Huahine where it could take the entire day with rough conditions, especially when the **Mara'am** is blowing (strong South East wind). Arrival time at the pass entrance should be no later than 1530, allowing plenty of time to enter the pass or standoff while poor conditions clear.
- 2) **Do not try a direct passage from Bora Bora to Huahine or the reverse.** The required sailing time is too long for daylight hours. Make the passage with an overnight stop in one of the bays on Tahaa, or Raiatea. Please take note that you may NOT sail between the hours of sunset and sunrise. The anchor should be down at least one hour before sundown.

GPS

The GPS is a help for navigation between the islands and must never be used to navigate inside the lagoons as the maps are not accurate enough.

Tides & *currents*

The tidal range is less than one foot and can generally be counted as non-existent.

Currents inside the barrier reef cannot be generalized. They can, however, be strong, particularly close to passes and in the passes. Big swells fill the lagoon and give strong currents in the passes.

Care should be taken when swimming and snorkeling around passes. One should swim in these areas only when the tide is entering the pass, which is daily at 0600 and 1230. Elsewhere, swimming and snorkeling are perfectly safe during daylight hours. Ocean currents should not affect inter-island passage making, but take into account that a set to the NW of 10 to 20 miles per day may exist.

Safety equipment & *emergencies*

Safety equipment on board the yacht includes a VHF radio, a small emergency inflatable life raft, flare kits, life jackets, a first aid kit and a dinghy.

In case of problems or emergency, contact: The Moorings or the local gendarmerie - local boats - the village.

Water

Water tanks can be filled at The Moorings' marina, as well as at the islands of Bora Bora and Huahine. The water is generally pure and potable, but we can't guarantee perfect quality for the water taken from the different islands, especially during the rainy season.

Fish & underwater hazards

Without a local opinion, eating any of the reef fish (those fish caught in the lagoons or on the reef) is not advised as they may be **poisonous**. Most fish sold in the markets are deep sea fish: Bonito, Tuna, Dorado, or local 'Mahi Mahi' and are all good eating. You may even catch some good sea fish while making inter-island passages.

Lobster is expensive but crabs are a little more reasonable. Fresh-water shrimp is sometimes available in the local markets.

Swimming

We recommend that:

- 1) You do not swim at night.
- 2) You do not wear bright jewelry when swimming or snorkeling.
- 3) You do not swim where fish have just been cleaned or scraps have been disposed in the water.
- 4) You should always be aware of the currents in the area where you are swimming.

No problems related to sharks. However, we suggest that you avoid swimming where the water is not clear and in open water. When snorkeling, avoid contact with sea urchins, as their long black spines can inflict a painful wound. Fire coral should not be touched. It may be recognized by its relatively smooth surface (a velvet type of surface) and fawn color. When reef walking, wear some foot protection against razor-sharp coral, shells and stone fish which lurks in the sand and gravel. The stone fish is normally about 10 inches long, rests on the bottom, looks like a rock and has a venomous spine. Stone fish are very poisonous, but are fortunately not very common.

Our environmental protection policy

The Leeward Islands of Tahiti take a very special place in our world that is continuously changing. The waters around the island are clear and pollution is minimal. Many of the natives use the ocean as their main source of food.

It is therefore very important that all visitors cruising the Tahitian Islands do as much as possible to respect and protect the undersea environment so that the future of Tahiti remains healthy.

If all yachts follow the simple rules listed below, we will help to preserve this South Pacific Paradise.

- a) Whenever possible anchor in sand. Make sure when the yacht swings that the chain has sufficient room to clear coral heads. Coral takes many years to grow and supports the delicate marine ecological balance. It only takes seconds to destroy this balance.
- b) Do not take any live coral or shells. Cleaned shells are available in many villages in gift shops.
- c) Never throw garbage or trash overboard. There are garbage disposal bins at the Moorings' marina, at the main dock in Vaitape in Bora Bora, the main dock in fare, Huahine, and the main dock in Uturoa.



Description of *beacons*

International markers

U.S citizens must remember that when returning to an island, the red marker will be to port. It is not 'red right returning'!

Beacons and buoys are used to mark entrance into passes and to ports and some large bays. **Port-hand on entering: red cylinder.**
Starboard-hand on entering: green cone.

Inner passage markers

Red cylindrical top mark-on a red or black beacon.

Used on the shore side to mark the fringe reef. May also be used on coral heads and patches which are isolated from the fringe reef. It should always be left on the shore side.

Green conical top mark – On a black or green beacon. Used on the inner edge of a barrier reef or close to it. Should always be left to the barrier reef or seaward-side.

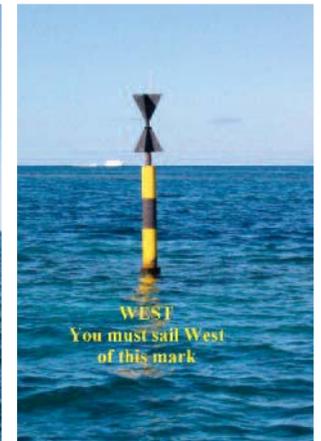
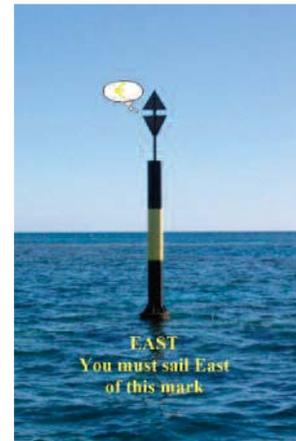
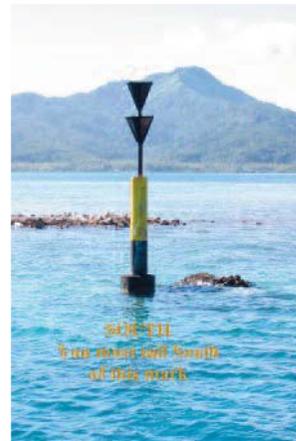
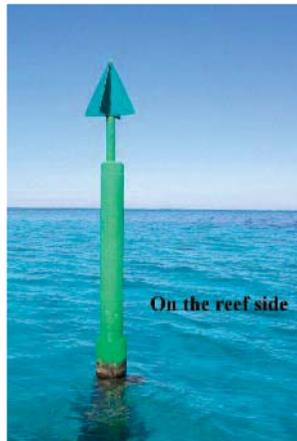
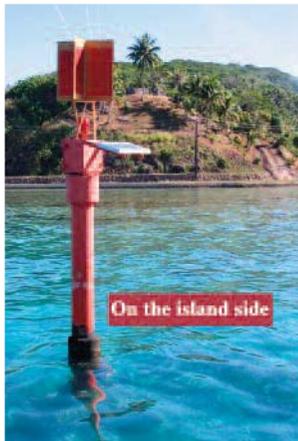
Note: watch for the colors of the markers, as they sometimes come in different shapes and sizes! **It's the color that is important.**

Coral heads and patches of coral are sometimes marked with only a black stake or a mound of coral piled on top. As the water is very clear and visibility excellent you won't have any problems seeing these.

Cardinal marks

They indicate navigable waters to the named side of the marks. The body is yellow and black and the top mark two black cones.

- **North** cardinal beacon: two cones superimposed points up.
- **South** cardinal beacon: two cones superimposed points down.
- **East** cardinal beacon: two reverse cones by the base.
- **West** cardinal beacon: two reverse cones by the points.



Passes

Currents

Invariably there is a set outwards through the barrier reef passes, often quite strong and continuous. Bear this in mind when navigating in the vicinity of a pass and when entering or leaving a pass. Do not attempt to go out through or even into a pass with the dinghy.

Also be very careful when using the dinghy inside the lagoon and crossing near the pass. Waves and currents can be dangerous. In all cases, be mindful of currents when swimming and snorkeling, particularly in the vicinity of the passes.

Entering and leaving passes

Always stay well out from barrier reef before attempting to enter a pass. Turn in on the bearing of the pass only after having positively identified it.

On leaving a pass, always continue out on the same bearing for at least one mile to get well clear of the barrier reef (and possible side or cross currents) before setting the next course.

Generally there is confused water off the barrier reef due to reflected wave action. The long ocean swells also begin to build up as they approach the reef edge. Do not cut corners in order to make an oblique approach or departure from a pass entrance.

Entrance and exit through passes should be made using the engine. Always bear in mind the possibility of an unscheduled engine failure during the transit of pass. Take note of currents, wind direction and strength before transiting a pass.

Be prepared to use the anchor or jib in an emergency. Always have the mainsail up.

If there is a heavy squall or poor visibility in the area of the pass you intend to transit, stand off until the squall passes and then enter. It is best to use this technique rather than push through a bad squall, unless it is absolutely necessary due to a time factor, etc.



Always arrive off the pass you plan to enter **no later than 3.30 pm** to allow for circumstances as described above. Do not enter or leave a pass during darkness. Allow time to have the anchor set at the night anchorage at least one hour before sunset. Don't forget that you must always give way to any kind of motorboats, especially inter-island freighters.

Passes Which May Be Used

The information given in this section is for quick reference. For full description see the pertinent section under the numbers given. Magnetic bearings have been rounded to the nearest figure.

Raiatea

PASSE TEAVAPITI - (R8)	GPS Waypoint Between Red and Green Buoys	S 16° 44 . 563	W 151 25 . 182
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The main all weather entrance and exit on the east coast for the port of Uturoa. Leading marks on 257 magnetic. When clearing the pass inside the barrier reef, leading marks to approach the port are to the north on 303 magnetic.			
PASSE IRIHU - (R12)	GPS waypoint Center of the entrance	S 16 47 . 186	W 151 22 . 874
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Usually an all weather pass. It is sometimes hard to see from the ocean when returning from Huahine. If you can't identify it use R 9. Approach on a bearing of 205 magnetic.			
PASSE PUNAEROA - (R6)			
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Well marked. To be used only when there is no swell running, as it sometimes closes out.			
PASSE TETUATIARE - (R4)			
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Enter and exit in good conditions only for access to local bay areas. Approaches are on 073 magnetic.			
PASSE RAUTOANUI - (R2)	GPS Waypoint Center of the entrance	S 16 45 . 506	W 151 30 , 438
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The second all weather pass of importance on Raiatea for western approaches. Leading marks on 072 magnetic.			

Taha'a

PASSE PAPA'I - (T14)	GPS Center of the entrance	S 16 40 , 289	W 151 32 , 394
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• West coast of Taha'a. One of the main passes for both Taha'a and Raiatea and may be used in most weather conditions. In strong southwest to south winds, this pass can build up heavy-to-breaking swells across the entrance (in these conditions use Pass Rautoanui (R 2). Leading marks are on 005 magnetic.			
PASSE TOAHOTU - (T4)	GPS waypoint Center of the entrance	S 16 39 , 038	W 151 25 , 268
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• East coast of Taha'a. Can only be used in good weather. The approach is made on 281 magnetic.			

Bora Bora

PASSE TEAVANUI	GPS waypoint Center of the entrance	S 16 29 , 498	W 151 47 , 063
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The only pass through the reef and generally all weather. However, in strong westerlies the swells will break on the bar across the entrance, though these conditions are rare. The approach is on 090 magnetic.			

Huahine

PASSE AVAMO'A - (H14)	Waypoint Center of the entrance	S 16 42 , 491	W 151 02 , 850
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Main pass for Fare on the NW coast. Leading marks on 114 magnetic.			
PASSE AVAPEHI - (H15)	Waypoint Center of the entrance	S 16 43 , 509	W 151 03 , 215
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Second pass for Fare. Leading marks on 090 magnetic.			
PASSE FAREREA - (H12)			
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• A fair weather pass only on the east coast. This should not be attempted during strong easterlies. Approach on 251 magnetic.			

The Moorings itineraries

The Society Islands [Les îles de la Société]

Les îles de la Société stretch 400 nautical miles in a WNW direction. They are essentially composed of volcanic islands with high conspicuous mountains.

They are divided into two groups, known as Iles du Vent (Windward Islands) and Iles Sous-le-Vent (Leeward Islands). Iles du Vent are composed of Tahiti, Moorea, Tetiaroa and Maiao.

The Leeward Island [Les îles Sous-le-Vent]

The Leeward Islands group mainly consist of five volcanic islands: Huahine, Raiatea, Tahaa, Bora Bora and Maupiti. These islands consist of high mountains surrounded by coral barrier reefs which offer safe anchorages.

Tupai, Mopelia, Manuae and Motu One are atolls scattered over 100 miles to the west of the archipelago.



Itinerary - *7 days*

Day 1 - Departure : Raiatea to Tahaa - 10 NM

Welcome to the base in Marina Apooiti. After the chart briefing and orientation, sail to the east side of Tahaa. Anchor at one of the nicest spots North of the Mahea *motu*. Nice snorkeling near the beach. For dinner reach the restaurant Hibiscus for a Polynesian evening with local music and dance.

Day 2 - Taha'a

Sail to North of Tahaa, anchor at the *motu* TauTau, and enjoy the spectacular coral garden.

Day 3 - Taha'a to Bora Bora - 22 NM

from the Tahaa Papai pass to the Bora Bora Teavanui pass. 4-5H passage downwind.

Anchor at *Motu* Topua, swimming and snorkeling then take a mooring at the *Bloody Mary* restaurant.

Day 4 - Bora Bora [Lagoon exploration]

Nice day sail to the East side of the lagoon.

Discover the traditional lagoonarium where you could swim with turtles, friendly rays, sharks and different kind of coral fish.

Day 5 - Bora Bora [Island Exploration]

Sail to Bora Bora Yacht Club and visit the village or explore the inside of Bora Bora

Day 6 - Bora Bora to Taha'a - 22 NM

Start early in the morning to sail back to Tahaa, anchor at Hurepiti bay.

Day 7 - Taha'a - Raiatea

Vanilla Tour. After breakfast, join Alain and Christina Plantier for the *Vanilla Tour excursion*, a great botanical tour in 4X4 car.

Sail to Miri-Miri anchorage in the afternoon, and enjoy the sunset view.

Day 8 - Raiatea

Return to the Moorings base before 10:00 am.



Itinerary - *10 days*

Day 1 - Departure : Raiatea to Tahaa - 10 NM

Welcome to the base in Marina Apooiti. After the chart briefing and orientation, sail to the east side of Tahaa. Anchor at one of the nicest spot North of the Mahea *motu*. Nice snorkeling near the barrier reef or near the Tohaotu pass. Dinner aboard.

Day 2 - Taha'a

Sail to North of Tahaa, anchor at the *motu* TauTau, and enjoy the spectacular coral garden.

Day 3 - Taha'a to Bora Bora - 22 NM

from the Tahaa Papai pass to the Bora Bora Teavanui pass. 4-5H passage downwind.

Anchor at *Motu* Topua, swimming and snorkeling then take a mooring at the *Bloody Mary* restaurant.

Day 4 - Bora Bora [Lagoon exploration]

Nice day sail to the East side of the lagoon.

Discover the traditional lagoonarium where you could swim with turtles, friendly rays, sharks and different kind of coral fish.

Day 5 - Bora Bora to Taha'a - 22 NM

Start early in the morning to sail back to Tahaa, anchor at Hurepiti bay.

Day 6 - Taha'a

After breakfast, join Alain and Christina Plantier for the *Vanilla Tour excursion*, a great botanical tour in 4X4 car (Phone: (689) 65.62.46). Sail to Raiatea, anchor at "Te Ava Piti" pass, enjoy the snorkeling near the *motu*.

Day 7 - Raiatea to Huahine - 25 NM

4-5 hours passage to "Ava Moa" pass. Visit Fare, a nice typical Polynesian village with some boutiques and small restaurants.

Day 8 - Huahine

Fare to Baie d'Avea: sail all along the Huahine lagoon. The anchorage in this bay is very well protected. Sandy grounds, and large sandy beach with restaurants on sea side. Explore the South of Huahine. Dinghy and snorkeling on the reef barrier or dive with the Dive shop at the resort on the beach.

Day 9 - Huahine to Raiatea - 25 NM

Fast passage downwind to Raiatea. Enter the Irihu Pass R12. Overnight in the Faaroa bay on one of the Sunsail mooring.

Day 10 - Raiatea to Taha'a

Take the kayaks or dinghy rowing in the mangrove river, the only river trip in Polynesia. Visit the the botanical garden at the end of the river. Sail around Raiatea to swim at *motu* MiriMiri, the best place to enjoy the sunset.

Day 11 - Raiatea

Return to the Moorings base before 10:00 am.

Itinerary *14 days*

Day 1 - Departure : Raiatea to Tahaa - 10 NM

Welcome to the base in Marina Apooiti. After the chart briefing and orientation, sail to the east side of Tahaa. Anchor at one of the nicest spot North of the Mahea *motu*. Dinner aboard.

Day 2 - Taha'a

Sail to North of Tahaa, anchor at the *motu* TauTau, and enjoy the spectacular coral garden.

Day 3 - Taha'a to Bora Bora - 22 NM

from the Tahaa Papai pass to the Bora Bora Teavanui pass. 4-5H passage downwind. Anchor at *Motu* Topua, swimming and snorkeling then take a mooring at the *Bloody Mary* restaurant.

Day 4 - Bora Bora [Lagoon exploration]

Nice day sail to the East side of the lagoon.

Discover the traditional lagoonarium where you could swim with turtles, friendly rays, sharks and different kind of coral fish.

Day 5 - Bora Bora to Maupiti - 27 NM

Check the weather conditions before heading to Maupiti for a 5 hours passage, after entering the pass sail to the Village for a night anchorage.

Day 6 - Maupiti

Visit Maupiti, circle the island riding a bicycle, and climb the small pick to discover the beautiful view.

Day 7 - Maupiti to Bora Bora - 27 NM

start early for this long tacking passage, anchor near the pass on arrival or pick up a Moorings buoy at *Bora-Bora Yacht Club*.

Day 8 - Bora Bora to Taha'a - 22 NM

Start early in the morning to sail back to Tahaa, anchor at Hurepiti bay.

Day 9 - Taha'a to Raiatea

After breakfast, join Alain and Christina Plantier for the *Vanilla Tour excursion*, a great botanical tour in 4X4 car. Sail to Raiatea, anchor at "Te Ava Piti" pass, enjoy the snorkeling near the *motu*.

Day 10 - Raiatea to Huahine - 25 NM

4-5 hours passage to "Ava Moa" pass. Visit Fare, a nice typical Polynesian village with some boutiques and small restaurants.

Day 11 - Huahine

Fare to Baie d'Avea: sail all along the Huahine lagoon. The anchorage in this bay is very well protected. Explore the South of Huahine.

Day 12 - Huahine to Raiatea - 25 NM

Fast passage downwind to Raiatea. Enter the Irihu Pass R12. Overnight in the Faaroa bay on one of the Sunsail mooring.

Day 13 - Raiatea to Taha'a

Take the kayaks or dinghy rowing in the mangrove river. Sail to Southern tip of Raiatea, visit the Polynesian temple "Marae" on your way to anchorage "NaoNao".

Day 14 - Raiatea

Sail to West coast of Raiatea, anchor at *motu* MiriMiri, go snorkeling and enjoy the sunset.

15^{EME} jour - Retour

Return to the Moorings base before 10:00 am.

Raiatea

Raiatea and Tahaa are enclosed within the same barrier reef. Raiatea, situated about 20 miles west of Huahine, is 12 miles north to south, and up to 10 miles wide in places. Uturoa, at the northeast extremity of Raiatea, is the main town and the only important harbour.

Raiatea rises to a height of 1,033 metres (3300 ft.) at Mt Toomaru near the center of the island. A range of mountains extends north and south from this height. Mt Tapioi is above the town of Uturoa in the north of the island.

While it is the largest of the Leeward Islands, Raiatea is not part of most tourists' itineraries. However, for the local Tahitians, it is second in importance only to Tahiti itself. During ancient times Raiatea was known as the Sacred Island. Raiatea was the center of culture, religion and heraldry for the enormous triangle of Polynesian influence that extended from Hawaii to New Zealand to Samoa and the Societies.

Today, Raiatea (12,000 inhabitants in 2002) is the location of the French and Tahitian administration for the Leeward Islands. There is a large, modern hospital, a municipal court, and a high school and vocational training center that have facilities for students who live on the outer islands.

R1) Marina *Apootti* - The Moorings' Base

To assist you in entering the marina we will send a pilot to you. Please call us VHF 68 at least 5 minutes before you arrive.

The office is open every day 07:30 – 17:00.



The boutique offers you a large choice in T-shirts, caps, shirts, postcards, stamps, charts and internet access.

At the *Mana Shop* you will find many local art and crafts, paintings and hand-painted clothes.

Two restaurants are open for all meals, on Fridays, there's is Polynesian dance show at *Te Hoa Yacht Club*.

From the *Hemisphere Sub*, a scuba-diving club, you can explore Tahaa and Raiatea's lagoon (VHF channel 68).

Showers and toilets are also available near the marina office.

Outside the marina, you have mooring buoys available for the night.

(R20) - Marina Uturoa

One nautical mile NE of the Marina Apootti, there is passe Tearearahi between the south cardinal beacon of the G.B.C and the north cardinal beacon of the reef extending north of the airport. Marina Uturoa is one nautical mile ESE of passe Tearearahi and close to the town and its shops.





Uturoa

From the Marina Apoití, you can reach the center of Uturoa in an hour if walking or in 10 min by car.

Normal shops and bank hours are from 07:30 to 11:30 and 14:00 to 17:00 on weekdays. Shops are open from 07:00 to 11:30 on Saturday. All offices are closed on the weekend whereas one supermarket is open on Saturday from 7 to 18 and from 06 to 11 on Sunday. There are 3 supermarkets, 3 banks, a post office and several curios and boutiques.

The large dock is only for the inter-island freighters. **Do not come alongside.** The small wharf, next to the fuel station is available. Do not come alongside if the wind comes east - this could cause the boat to hit the wharf. Uturoa (5,000 inhabitants in 2002) is the administrative center for the entire Leeward Islands and the capital of the island of Raiatea. There are many good local restaurants there, which offer a menu from steak and pommes frites (fried potatoes) to traditional Chinese chow mein. Don't forget the "poisson cru", the delectable local dish of marinated raw fish.

Church

Church services are held in town each Sunday. The two main denominations are Protestant (services at 10:00) and Catholic (mass at 08:00). As on all Polynesian islands, the choral singing during the services is a joy to hear and the harmony is very beautiful. Other denominations and churches are in town, including Mormons and Seventh-day Adventists.

Post Office

Take the main street and walk north. About 200 yards beyond the last of shops on the left is the post office, which provides all normal postal and telegraph services. Public coin-box or pay phones and overseas phone services are located there. Hours are from 07:30 to 15:00 week-days and 08:00 to 10:00 on Saturdays.

Hospital

The main hospital for all the iles sous le vent is just opposite the post office. Phone 600 800.

Police

The *gendarmerie* is located about fifty yards beyond the post office on the left. Phone 600 305.

Southeast from Uturoa

The inner passage is well marked with the standard markers. (See general navigation notes and advice). Follow the charts and the passage markers. Do not rely solely on the markers. Identify each one in its position on the chart. With care, you should experience no real problems.

(R7) - Baie de Tepua

This is the first bay south of Uturoa with an anchorage in the southernmost part, just in front of Passe Teavapiti. Anchoring could be dangerous when the swell enters the pass. It is better to take one of the mooring buoys in front of the *Hotel Hawaiki Nui*, when weather conditions are correct (less than 15knots of wind, not protected from the *Ma'aramu*). Here you will find a small dock for dinghies.

(R8) - Passe *Teavapiti*

This is the main all-weather entrance and exit pass on the east coast for the port of Uturoa. There are two floating buoys at the entrance outside of the reef, a green conical buoy on starboard and a red cylindrical buoy on port. Located north of *Motu Taoru*, this main shipping pass to Uturoa has good leading mark on 258 magnetic. The smaller pass to the south of *Motu Taoru* should not be used, as it is quite narrow and has strong currents.

(R9) - Motu Taoru

A pleasant anchorage can be found on the western side of Motu Taoru. This is one of the few shallow anchorages in the whole area. You can dinghy to the southern side for some good snorkeling. From baie Tepua (R 7), the channel tends towards the landside. Leave the shoal Toamarama, marked by a west cardinal beacon, to seaward.

There is a red cylindrical beacon just off Pte Utufara.

North of the red beacon and south of Puaa reef there is a shoal marked by a green conical beacon. Keep close to the red coastal beacon at Pte Utufara to clear these dangerous shoals.

(R12) - Passe Irihu ou Maire

On Raiatea's east coast, south of Uturoa by 14 miles, Passe Irihu leads directly to baie faaroa. When departing to or arriving from Huahine use this pass through the barrier reef. It is marked on the north side by *Motu Tipaemu* and on the south by *Motu irihu*. This pass is safe in most weather conditions and should pose no problem. The usual port and starboard markers are used. This pass is sometimes hard to locate from the sea as there are no leading markers. Approach on 205 magnetic. (If you can't find it, use Passe Teavapiti (R 8) to the north).

Watch for the exposed shoal Nahu Rui, between *Motu Irihu* and the southern point of baie Faaroa. It is marked with a west cardinal beacon. Stay to the land side of it when sailing south of Baie Faaroa.

(R13) - Baie de *Faaroa*

This deep, long fjord is very beautiful with spectacular mountains on both sides and a view down the valley of Mt Tefaatuaiti, the highest point in "Iles Sous-le-Vent". The water is clear of dangers to the natural end where the river Aopomau flows into the bay. You can use a mooring buoy for the night, .

It is easy to discern the shallows where the outflow of the river joins the bay.

From here one can make the only river trip in French Polynesia. You can dinghy to the shallows at the entrance of the river. It is quite shallow and strewn with waterlogged tree trunks and other natural debris. So it is wise not to use the out board engine.

Once through this tangle, the slow running river narrows and deepens to over 4 feet. With care you can use your dinghy outboard to motor about a mile and a half up the river. Watch for sunken logs. At the end turn the engine off and drift or row back with the current. The peace and quiet of the natural tropical jungle is delightful, with only bird songs to accompany you. Because of the unspoiled beauty, one feels like talking in whispers so as not to intrude upon the beauty of the surroundings. Above the trees, catch glimpses of the magnificent, towering rock wall of Mt Tefatuaiti, soaring to a height of 3,400 ft.

The length of the trip depends on the overgrowth and the amount of debris in the river. The land and plantations on either side of the river are private, so don't help yourselves to any fruits without first asking permission from the nearest house.



Passe Teavapiti & Motu Taoru

Baie de Faaroa



South towards baie d'Opoa

There is no safe anchorage in Baie Faarepaiti or in Baie Faareparahi. There passages northeast of the two bays above are dotted with five coral banks, but the passage to follow is marked. Keep the red beacons on the land side of you and green on the ocean side when making your passage. On Pte Tehotuimatai, there is cylindrical beacon, and on the reef Teautavaha, a green conical beacon.

(R14) - Baie de Opoa

Entrance to this bay from the north is made by passing between Pte Tehotuimatai and the reef Teautavaha. The reef is marked by a green conical beacon. There is an 18-foot shoal in this pass, and due south of the reef beacon, a coral patch marked with a red cylindrical beacon. It's difficult to anchor because of deep water, but you can use the small dock for the time of your visit. You shouldn't stay at the dock overnight.

The bay and the village of Opoa are the grounds of the most sacred of ancient religious sites on Raiatea. On shore you will find the *Marae* Taputapuatea. Walk out to Pte Atiapiti to find various *marae* and stone sites.

It is from this area and from the bay of Faaroa that the ancient Polynesians made many epic voyages, including those led by King Turi of Faaroa. These voyages established the race of Maoris in New Zealand.

(R15) - Passe *Te Ava Mo'a* Te Ava Moa, the Sacred Pass

This pass should only be used when leaving for Huahine. Do not attempt to enter from the ocean as there are strong currents in the vicinity of the pass. It is also hard to identify from the sea.

(R19) - Baie de Tuatau

Baie Tuatau has Haio on its eastern side. Ile Haio is marked by a red cylindrical beacon and a south cardinal beacon on its southern reef. On the western side of the bay, Pte Tuanai is marked by a red cylindrical beacon.

(R18) - Motu Nao Nao

It is possible to anchor for the day over the top the barrier reef just west of the western tip of the motu. Sand grounds are between 6 to 10 feet. Cross the sand shoal, taking care of the coral heads on your right, anchor just in front of the beach. If you want to stay here for the night, you should put another anchor. If the wind is too strong, do not leave the yacht unattended at this anchorage. Good snorkeling and swimming may be found off the south-western end of the island. There is a small beach on the island itself. *Motu* Nao Nao is privately owned, so please ask for authorization for going ashore. Beware of the reef off western point of the *motu*.

(R17) - Passe Nao Nao

This pass is quite narrow and with southerly ocean swells it can be dangerous. There is shoal across the narrows which causes it to break easily. **Do not use this pass.** You may motor-sail around the southern end of Raiatea in clear sunny weather, to the south-western Passe Punaeroa. The passage is only marked on the shore side by red cylindrical beacons. After passing Pte Pautu, marked with a red beacon, be careful of the reef extending south of Pte Ratia, also marked with a red beacon. Have a lookout on the bow in this area.

(R6) - Passe *Punaeroa*

This pass is well marked with the red-port and green-starboard beacon. There is a little island just to the north inside the pass. Passe Punaeroa should be used only in calm weather, when there is no southwest swell running.



Baie de Opoa

Passe Te Ava Mo'a



Motu Nao Nao

(R4) - Passe Tetuatiare

This pass is well indicated by two islands of Motu Horea on the north and Motu Tiano (formerly owned by the famous American singer Diana Ross) on the south. Approach the pass on 73 magnetic. Anchoring this site is not easy as gusty wind comes from the mountain. This is a daytime anchorage only for those that already know the site.

(R2) - Passe *Rautoanui*

This is the second most important all-weather pass to Raiatea for western approaches.

The bearing for the two leading marks for this pass is 71 magnetic. As with all passes, stay at least one mile off until the pass is correctly identified. The chart indicates a bearing on the radio mast on Mt Tapioi, just above the town of Uturoa. This bearing is 50 magnetic and will lead towards the mouth of the pass from your position out to sea. Pick up the bearing of the leading marks on nearing the entrance.

Ilot Tahunaoe

The eastern side of Tahunaoe is marked by an east cardinal beacon. It is impossible to reach by sailboat.

(R3) - Baie de *Vaoaara*

South of passe Rautoanui, the passage leads to baie Vaoaara, formed by an arm of reef on its northern side. The reef is marked by a red beacon. Care should be taken to stay well away from the reef on the bay's southern side, because the red beacon is not on the tip of the reef but a little further south.

It is possible to visit the second pearl farm after the entrance of the pass, *Anapa Pearls* that settled two buoys at the disposal of the visitors (telephone number is 607 707). The passage continues south to Tevaitoa village.

Beyond this point, although one may see passage markers, there are no navigable passages for yachts, only small boat channels.

Do not go south of Baie Vaoaara.





Grand Banc Central



Grand Banc Central or G.B.C.

Uturoa Airport restriction area:

South of the GBC, each side of the airport, the sailing vessels must clear out of the restriction area, to not disturb the flights traffic. The marks are yellow with an X on it.

Lying midway between the island of Raiatea and Tahaa and inside the common barrier-reef is a large reef known as the Grand Banc Central (G.B.C.). The G.B.C. can be sailed around completely and is marked with the International Cardinal System. We will go into a detailed explanation of the G.B.C. during the chart briefing. You may also refer to the section on cardinal beacons.

Looking at the large chart of Tahaa you will see the G.B.C. in the middle of the lagoon between Tahaa and Raiatea.

North, and slightly east of the G.B.C., is a shallow area also marked with the Cardinal System. It is unnamed but is due south of the village Vaitoare on the southern coast of Tahaa. This area can also be sailed around completely.

NOTES: When proceeding north in the western passage, the position of Pointe du Lotus on the inner edge of the barrier reef is very deceptive. It protrudes inward into the northern part of this area, further than is often anticipated.

When approaching from the south, after passing the northern end of the Toatautu reef, continue to hold a heading towards Pte Toamaru on Tahaa (which is easily identified). This course will keep you clear of Lotus Point until you identify the green marker on the point of this reef.

It is best to continue towards this same point (Pte Toamaru) when approaching from the northwest along the inner passage off the coast of Tahaa coming from the Passe Papai area. Taking this course, one will avoid turning south too soon at Pte du Lotus.

Taha'a



Tahaa is nearly round and rises to a height of 590m (1800 ft.) at Mt Ohiri. There are several fjord-like inlets. The island is encircled by one continuous road approximately 40 miles long, with small villages almost every two miles. Some of the larger villages have small stores. There are a number of islets on the barrier reef on the north side. Many of them are wooded and can be explored. When anchoring over the top of the barrier reef, make sure the swinging room is not interrupted by odd coral heads and that the anchor is secure and away from the drop-offs on the inner passage side. It is best to anchor here in bright weather with high sun to allow good underwater visibility.

As with all other island, night anchoring in Tahaa in settled weather should present no problems. If the weather does freshen, choose a protected anchorage in the lee of the island. When the south-easterly Maraamu is blowing, usually in July and August, be careful when anchoring windward of the exposed coasts and alongside the inner edge of the reef in the passage.

(T1) - *Baie* d'Apu

A rather open bay, Baie Apu provides a good overnight anchorage when the wind is not from the south.

(T2) - (T3) - Baie de Haamene

On the southern point of Baie Haamene is a reef with Motu Motea at the eastern end. You will see a red cylindrical marker there. Directly east on the lagoon shelf is a north cardinal marker used when entering and exiting the pass Toahotu (T4).

On Pte Para, the northern side of Baie Haamene is a green conical beacon as well as an east cardinal marker. Haamene bay is marked with red beacons on the port side of the bay and green beacons on the starboard side of the bay.

This bay is the longest fjord on the island. A low valley cuts through the island at the head of the bay and allows easterly to southeasterly winds, if fresh to strong, to funnel down the bay with quite some force.

For those wishing to stretch their legs, there is a beautiful walk from the head of Baie Haamene to the head of Baie Hurepiti over Mt Taira, which divides the island.

In front of *Restaurant Hibiscus* (T2), VHF Ch. 68, there are several mooring buoys to which you can tie. From there you can book an Island tour in four wheels drive, and visit the Turtle Fondation. From At the head of the bay (T3), you can anchor in 30 to 50 feet of water in front of the village. Anchor just north or east of the small island on the reef. The reef is marked with black beacons. You can tie your dinghy at the small dock for inter islands boats, and visit the village with its small shop, post office and pharmacy. The restaurant *Taha'a Maitai* situated on the dock offer a good cuisine local and international.



(T4) - Passe Toahotu

Enter on 281 magnetic on Pte Pataaia. The pass is well marked by the island on either side as well as the usual port and starboard entrance beacons. Use this pass as an exit from the island when making a passage to Huahine. We suggest this pass be used only in very calm weather when returning from the east. It is better to use the main pass of Teavapiti of Raiatea, as it has leading markers. Passe Toahotu doesn't have leading markers and can come near to breaking if there are strong south easterlies.

(T5) - Motu *Mahaea*

From the North of this motu to the *motu* Atara you could find some nice anchorages. Anchor in 10 to 15 ft. of water and keep an eye on the coral heads when approaching and departing. The mooring area goes from *Motu Mahaea* to *Motu Atara*; beware of the un-marked coral heads if you leave the main channel. Proceed slowly with great care.

Do not anchor near the pass in case of swell. The motus are private so do not expect to visit them without authorisation. the *motu* "Atger" south of the pass has a small sea park with rays, turtles, fish. There are some tahitian meals organized. There is a dinghy dock but no anchorage allowed in the south of the pass.

Baie de Faaaha

There are number of pearl farms in this bay (orange buoys same as mooring buoys). Do not anchor in this bay and we suggest you to contact by VHF 8 *Motu Pearl Farm* that will put at your disposal a buoy for the night.

(T6) - Motu Atara et Mahavana

These two islands have beaches on their inner sides. There is an area within 600 yards of the island on top of the barrier reef suitable for day anchoring in 30 feet of water. Dinghy over to the *motu*. Stay clear of any odd coral heads on the reef top when anchoring. The *Motu* is private and the owners do not want visitors. Take care when making your approach, after passing the coral heads, anchor in the sandy ground between 6 to 10 feet.

(T7) - Motu Tuuahine

On this *motu*, renamed *Vahine Island*, is a resort with bar, restaurant and bungalows. Do not anchor there, and ask for a mooring at the "Vahine Island" on channel 68.

Do not stay there for the night, especially when south east wind makes it uncomfortable and even dangerous.

Motu *Rauoro*

Motu Rauoro is beautiful. Juliano, the manager of the resort "La Pirogue" will assist you if you need. Do not anchor there. They have some mooring buoys available for yachts; just call him on VHF 68. The restaurant on the motu is excellent and Juliano will extend a friendly welcome.

Tahaa North coast

No night anchorages are to be found along the northern coast of Tahaa. There are a few day anchorages along the coast, or you may carefully select anchorages on the barrier reef from which to dinghy to the many motus spread along the northern edge of the reef. Note that some of the *motus* are private, so please respect the word 'tapu' or 'tabu' if displayed. Ask permission before exploring the *motu*.

There is a lot of coral to the north of Tahaa, between Pte Puna-pae and the *motus*. An easy channel has been marked close to the lagoon shelf. You will see the first red beacon on reef Moora which you will keep to the land side. Just West are two more red markers, and on the ocean side there is a green reef marker. Be sure that this marker is to seaward of you.

Head for the green marker on reef Faremao, keeping it to seaward also. South of reef Faremao, you will see a red marker and a south cardinal beacon.

(T8) - *Patio*

To the west of the passage area, there is a jetty for Tahaa's main village, Patio. Anchoring at this site at night is not recommended. Avoid the reefs which lie to the southwest.

Patio has a small dispensary, a gendarmerie, some shops and a telephone booth.

Pte Tupenu

Keep clear of the eastern side of this point, as there is a 6-foot shoal head 100 yards off the point. It is clearly marked with two red beacons.

(T10) - Baie de Vaiorea

A red beacon marks the north point as well as the south point of this bay.

(T11) - Motu *Tautau*

There is a nice anchorage south of this motu, 200 meters from the bungalows in 8-12 feet of water. Do not anchor east of the motu because of the cables. The *motu* is private and here is the nicest hotel of Polynesia: Le *Tahaa Private Island*.

Moorings clients can go to the restaurant if reservations are made in advance. If you want to have lunch or dinner, call them in advance or ask the Moorings base to make reservations. The coral river lies north of the Tahaa resort between the *motus*. The area between the *motu* and the coral barrier is also very nice.

(T12) - Baie de Tapuamu

The southern point of the bay is marked with a north cardinal beacon as well as red beacon. There is now a large concrete dock in Baie Tapuamu as well as several warehouses. It is reserved for the inter-island freighters which sometimes arrive by night. It's possible to anchor in 20 meters .

Chez Louise: small traditional restaurant located south to Utuona. Two buoys and a dock for the dinghies are available.

(T13) - Baie de *Hurepiti*

There are numerous coral shoals along the northern side of this bay. Favor the south side, which is clear of danger. Follow quite close the south coast and the different small wharves to avoid the northern coral patches.

The northern side of Hurepiti Bay is marked by a white beacon and two range markers. There are a large white beacon and two range markers. These are large white boards, one being mounted on the fringe reef and the other on the hill above. Pte Tiamana, the southern side of the bay, is marked with a west cardinal beacon. The bay is very beautiful. The ocean swells entering through the Passe Papai and the depth of the bay do not allow for it to be used as an anchorage.

Do not try to anchor but tie up to one of the mooring buoys of *Vanilla Tours* and *Sophie Boutique*. These buoys are private and re-

served for Vanilla tour customers, you must ask if available on VHF 9. You can get water from *Sophie Boutique's* dock and your welcome to use the barbecue facilities ashore.

If you are interested in a botanical sightseeing drive, join the *Vanilla Tour*. You can contact Alain and Christina by VHF 9 or directly at home near their small wharf. They will show you their vanilla plantation and then take you on a spectacular drive up over Tahaa, describing all the vegetation and flowers along the way. You will stop at an agricultural experimentation station, where you will be shown the intricate process of pollinating and drying vanilla as well as the new techniques being applied to agriculture in French Polynesia.

(T14) - Passe *Papai*

North of Baie Hurepiti, the red roof of the church of Tiva is remarkable and can be seen from far at sea when coming from Bora Bora. Note: Passe Papai is one nautical mile south of this church. Known locally as Tiva Pass, it is one of the main passes for the central area of Tahaa and Raiatea and may be used in most weather conditions. However, with strong south to west prevailing winds, this pass can build up heavy-to-breaking swells across the entrance. In such conditions, use Passe Rautoanui on Raiatea to the south.

This is one of the main shipping passes for vessels leaving for the north to Bora Bora. To enter, follow the leading markers on a bearing of 005 magnetic. Stay well off the barrier reef until the leading marks are lined up on the bearing, and then head in. If leaving by this pass, head well out and westward to clear the "hump" of the barrier reef to the north before setting a course for Bora-Bora. The pass is marked by the usual red cylindrical beacon to port and the green conical beacon to starboard when entering. There is east cardinal beacon on the north reef inside the pass. Whether entering or leaving, stay well in the middle of the pass before turning, clear off the coral shelf on either side of the channel, due to possible currents in the area.

As with all passes, respect the bearing and the leading marks to enter and exit, and don't forget to give the priority to any ferry or inter-island freighter. The passage southeast from the pass, towards the G.B.C. area and Uturoa, is well marked with beacons and buoys. We suggest keeping well towards Pte Toamaru on the east side of Baie Apu before heading south through the G.B.C. area. Do not misjudge the extent to which Pte du Lotus, on the inner edge of the barrier reef, extends eastwards.



Bora Bora

About 12 nautical miles NW of Tahaa (22 miles from Passe Papai to Passe Teavanui), Bora Bora is composed of a main island rising at Mt Otemanu to a height of 2,362 ft. and a small island, Topua, enclosed by the same barrier reef. This barrier reef is covered with island (motus), except on the south and southwest side.

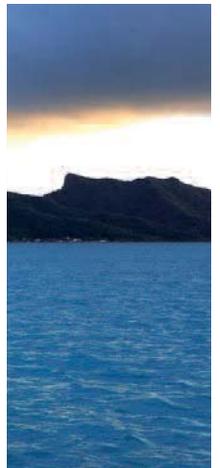
Motu Topua

Motu Topua is part of the ancient volcano of Bora Bora. The crater was situated between Topua and bay formed from Pte Pahua to Pte Raititi.

Passe Teavanui

When approaching Bora Bora, stay well south and west of the barrier reefs. Large Pacific Ocean swells are present virtually all the time. This wave action can send the yacht in towards the reef without being aware of it.

Approaching from Raiatea, Pte Tetutiroa at the southwest corner of Bora Bora is very deceptive and extends farther to the southwest than would seem apparent. There is a lighthouse on the point which is very visible from the ocean. As with all the passes, stay well out to sea until the pass has correctly been identified, then make an approach. The pass is normally marked with a red-port floating buoy and a green-starboard one. There is another red-port beacon on the reef just south of *Motu Ahuna*. An approach should be made on 113 magnetic on the two lights in front of Vaitape.



(B2) - *Vaitape*

There is a great deal of traffic by official boats and small crafts in this area. No yacht facilities, nor docking here.

You may day anchor just to the south of the dock in approximately 85 feet of water.

Don't tie up your dinghy to the dock as it is reserved for the airport ferry boats. There is a garbage disposal on the wharf.

Vaitape is the main town of Bora Bora and a pleasant little village. The gendarmerie, post office and public phone service are at the head of the wharf. To visit the main shops and other services, turn left when leaving the wharf. Banks, boutiques, car rental, as well as some local restaurants are close by. The dispensary is in the village on the seaward side of the main street. Outboard dinghy fuel is available through the local gas stations.

Remember to ask for a 2% mix.

There are one or two walking paths on the island. One of these will lead to the old World War II cannon sites. To find the path, start just across the road in front of (B 3).

From the village of Faanui, a path crosses the lower part of the island to the east side at Yairou in the districts of Anau. On the north side of this bay along the coast, you'll find remains of three interesting maraes, as well as more cannon sites on the hill above the point.

Church services on Sundays

Protestant: in Vaitape at 10:00

Catholic : in Vaitape at 08:00

(B3) - Village de Vaitape

Four hundred yards north of the quay, the fringe reef recedes towards the shore to form a bay. Anchor in 48 feet of water in daytime only as this anchorage is close to the reef.

(B1) - *Bora Bora Yacht Club*

The *Bora Bora Yacht Club* (VHF 16) has become a haven for all wandering yachtsmen who brave the South Pacific. As such, it has become world famous as the stopping place to collect mail, to inquire about friends who have come before, and to leave messages for those who will come after.

Water is possibly available at mooring buoy just off the club. Make arrangements at the club first. The restaurant and bar are not open at the moment as some work is being done on the equipments, but you can use the mooring buoys.

Baie de Povai

This bay is not a recommended for night anchorage. Be careful of the reef in the eastern part of the bay and of the coral patches in the south.

In this bay there are many shops and curios, as well as the *Bloody Mary* Restaurant at the south point of the bay. If you intend to have dinner at *Bloody Mary's*, you need to make a reservation in advance, and you can use their mooring buoys, and fill in your water tanks for free (ask for the key at the bar).

(B4) - North of P^{te} *Raititi*

The north of the reef is marked with an east cardinal marker. You can anchor just west of the beacon. It is a nice place for swimming and snorkeling. Follow the coast and dinghy to the beaches of Pte Matira. Just after Pte Raititi, you will find a scuba diving club. There are several large hotels in this area.

(B5) - (B6) - Topua Iti

Avoid anchoring in this site. The proximity of the Hilton hotel makes the former mooring area uncomfortable because of the passage of the hotel boats.

(B8) - (B9) - *Topua*

There are beaches to be enjoyed along the western shore of Topua and snorkeling off the coast and on the barrier reef shelf. **(B 8) and (B 9) are day anchorages only.**

(B10)

This is a good night anchorage. Care should be taken not to anchor too close to the coral heads, as the wind may swing you into them, which will cause damage to your rudder.

When swimming around the boat, beware of the boats that belong to the hotel.

NOTE: Proceed at the slowest possible speed. A general rule, the area around Topua should only be navigated in fine weather when reefs are easily visible.

(B11) - Motu *Tapu*

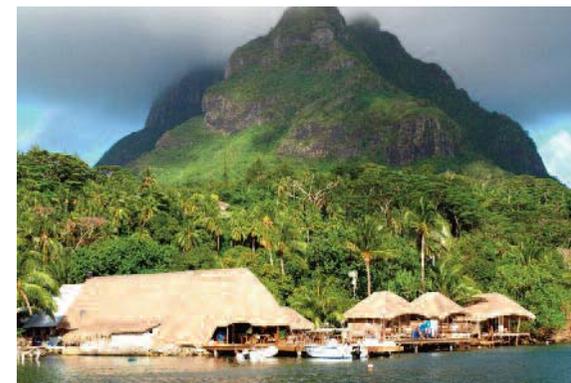
Anchor between 6 to 10 feet for the day to the east of the Motu. This area is not a shelter for eastern wind. There is good snorkeling in this area and off Motu Tapu.

This island is private, and you will not be allowed access to it.



Passe Te Ava Nui

Bora Bora Yacht Club



Motu Topua

Motu Topua et Motu Tapu (the small)



Bora Bora Pearl Beach Resort & Spa



Pointe Vaitoto, Motu Temahu to Motu Tofari



(B12) - *Teveiroa*

Good mooring for catamarans; the entrance for this mooring area is at the east of the south Pte of the *Motu*; sandy grounds between 6 to 8 feet, watch out for the sand shoal on port side. This is a good shelter for North/Northwest wind but not for wind coming from the East.

There is a good coral garden extending from the southern tip of Teveiroa. Take care and use lookout in this area with the outboard prop in mind. The island of Teveiroa is private and should not be visited, with the exception of the *Bora Bora Pearl Beach Resort & Spa* hotel structures.

(B13) - Quai de *Taanui*

This wharf is reserved for inter-island freighters which come alongside by night as well as by day. **Do not berth here.**

(B15)

Beware of the Communication cables between the land and the Airport on the *Motu*.

Note that the dock marked on the chart at the southern end of the channel to the airport is also private.

(B16) - (B17) - Pass to the East lagoon

This area on north-eastern side of Bora Bora is one of the most spectacularly beautiful sites that you will find in the islands. It is also a popular spot for windsurfing.

At Pte Tahī, go through the narrows between the red cylindrical beacon and the green conical one. Then head to the south cardinal beacon which marks the pass, being careful of the coral heads. Leave them to the north of you.

Proceed with caution at low speed, using a lookout on the bow. Observe the depth sounder until it indicates 15 to 20 feet of water. Then change course to approximately ESE and stay 200 yards off the *motu*.

Keep an eye out for the northern most coral head of the coral area named Mahuao Faaō, which is marked with a north cardinal beacon to be kept to the Southside of you.

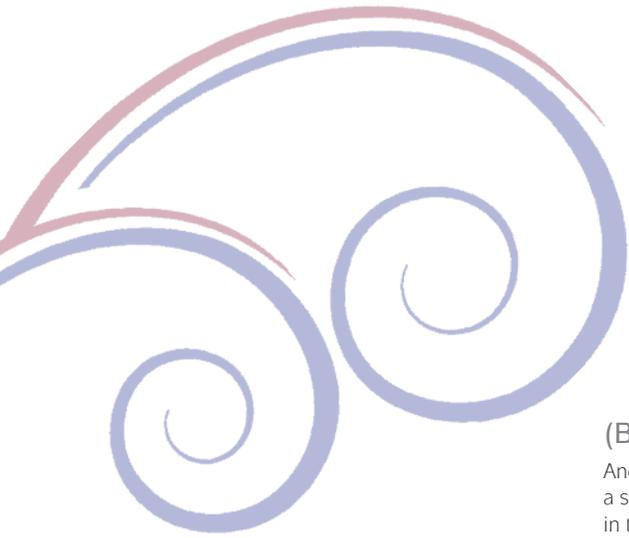
(B18) - Motu *Temahu*

The anchorage may be used for day and night stops except in poor or very windy conditions. In this case, the whole area east of Pte Tahī should be avoided.

Motu Tofari

This is also a good night anchorage with a little more protection from the *motu* in easterly winds. There is a fine view of Mt Ote-manu to the west.

From both (B 18) and (B 19), dinghy trips may be made to the inlets in the *motus* and across the *motus* to do some beachcombing on the outside shores. Good snorkeling along these shores; but be careful of inshore currents.



(B20) - Motu *Tape*

Anchor a little north of the motu in 10 to 15 feet of water with a sandy bottom. The Lagoonarium is located here. You can swim in the midst of fish, rays and sharks without any danger. The best time to go is in the morning. Please note that it is closed on Saturdays.

This is a good day or night anchorage in 10 feet of water with a sandy bottom.

Note that some *motus* are private. **Respect the Tabu signs.**

After *Motu Tape*, head south staying in 10 feet of water. Arriving at the southern end of the central reef, sail in 25 to 30 feet of water (in the dark blue water) to avoid coral heads. Use a lookout on the bow.

(B22) - (B23) - Mouillages

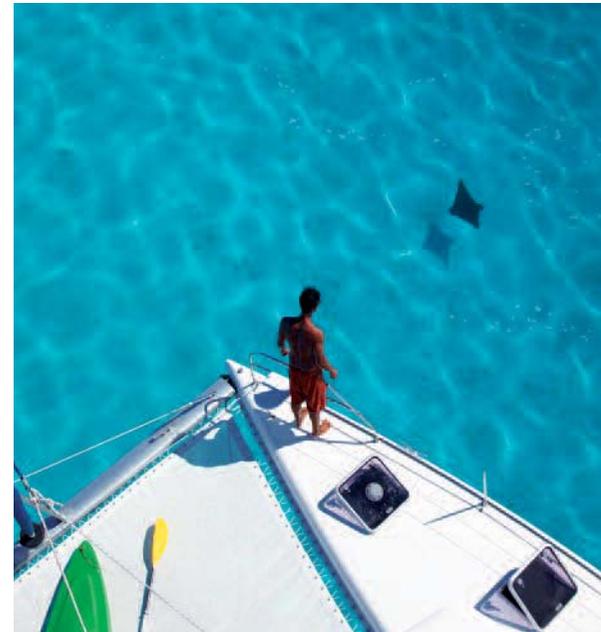
Between *Motu Piti Aau* and *Taurere*, you will find some good overnight anchorages in 10 to 20 feet of water with a sandy bottom. From here, dinghy around Pte Faaroone and anchor south of the motu in sand. Close by is a beautiful coral garden and excellent snorkeling. Note that the current is quite strong due to the swell on the barrier reef. Be careful when swimming and snorkeling in this area. Refer to General Information (swimming).

To return from this area, follow the navigation instructions in reverse. If the weather is poor with squalls and heavy overcast and if winds are strong from the north or east do not enter this area. If already there and a change for the worse is coming, depart as soon as possible.

Bora Bora to Huahine

This passage should be made in two sections.

Leave Bora Bora at 10:00 for Raiatea and anchor there overnight. The following morning leave for Huahine planning to arrive no later than 15:00 hrs.





Located about 20 nautical miles east of Raiatea, Huahine is divided in two by a narrow channel, Passe Honoava, which separates the two mountains enclosed within the encircling barrier reef. A road bridge connects the two parts. Huahine Nui in the north has elevation of 2,000 ft. (669m) at Mt Turi, and Huahine Iiti in the south is 1,400 ft. (462m) at Mt Puhueri.

Coprah and vanilla are the primary crops of the island. On the docks at Fare, awaiting shipment to Papeete, you will see and smell the sacks of cop rah. Huahine is also noted for its watermelons, and many are exported to Papeete. You can buy them at the local shops and markets in season.

There are many *marae*, religious sites used in ancient religious ceremonies, around the island. From Baie Avea, walk along the road for about a mile to the east side of Pte Tiva to find the well preserved marae of Annie. Walk or cycle out from Fare heading north for approximately two miles towards the village of Maeva along Lake Maeva. There is a whole series of ancient religious stone grouping and marae on the edge of the lake.

(H14) - Passe *Aramoa*

This is the main pass for Fare on the west coast of Huahine. The pass is well marked with the usual red and green beacons and with an east cardinal beacon on the south reef. Bearing on 113 magnetic towards the two leading, arks at Pte Matapiri.

Stay well out until the pass has been positively identified and the leading marks lined up. See inset detail on the French chart.

Huahine

(H15) - Passe Avapehi

This is the second pass for Fare.

The reef on the south side is marked with three green conical beacons and the reef on the north side with a south cardinal beacon (inside the lagoon). Leading markers on 89 magnetic, two white beacons at Pte Papatea.

(H1) – Hotel La Pita (ex. Bali Hai)

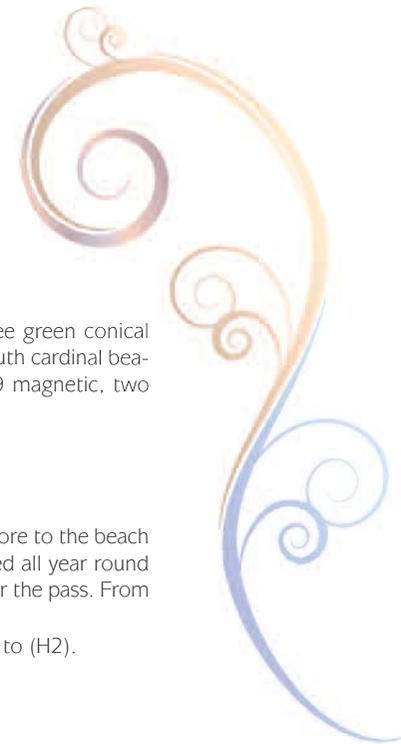
This is a good anchorage and you can dinghy ashore to the beach of the Bali Hai Hotel. This anchorage can be used all year round except when westerly winds cause a swell to enter the pass. From here you can visit the main village, Fare.

If there are too many boats in (H1), you can go to (H2).

Fare

This is the main village and administrative center for Huahine. The village is a pleasant and unspoiled water front center with some interesting local general stores, the small Hotel Huahine and other local eating houses. There are one or two car rental services.

Fresh water is available from faucets southeast of the main commercial town dock. Ask for the key at the scuba diving club on the dock itself. The quality of the water is usually good but if there has been heavy rain, the water may become misted and gray in the faucets on Huahine. Check the water before starting to fill your tanks. It should not be used if it is cloudy.





Aerial view of Huahine

Moorings in (H9)



The Te Tiare Beach Resort Hotel

Remember that most island shops and facilities close for lunch between 11:30 to 14:00.

Banks may be found on the waterfront near the shops. The post office is located at the end of the village on the way to the airport. The inter-island freighters attract what seems to be the entire population of the island when they dock. Barbecues are erected on the dock and food wagons appear. You can sample good, reasonable food while watching the freighters being loaded with the island's produce. On the wharf you will find a scuba diving club. Horseback riding excursions are also available at the Petite ferme located between Fare and the airport. Telephone 68 82 98.

(H2) - North of P^{te} *Ofaïoro*

In a north-westerly, this anchorage offers some protection from sea swells coming through Passe Avamoa, but it is not protected from any strong winds. There is a shelf on which to anchor in approximately 15 to 25 feet of water. Do not anchor too far out into the pass which connects the two passes of Avamoa and Ava-pehi, as this channel is sometimes used at night by the large inter-island boats. You will see an east cardinal beacon on the northeast corner of the reef, and a south cardinal beacon at the south east point of that reef.

Baie Haavai

A red cylindrical marker is at the southern point of baie Haavai. Avoid this anchorage due to depth and little swinging room.

Inner passage to H10

(H 3) On the barrier reef side of the pass is a good day anchorage from which to dinghy to the outer reef to explore its underwater life. This passage is well marked all the way south to Baie Avea.

(H6) - (H7) *Port Bourayne*

The views from Port Bourayne are truly magnificent and should not be missed. It is a peaceful haven, totally away from it all and isolated from the barrier reef's roar. On passing through the narrow entrance, one is transported, as if by magic, from the tropics to the heart of a beautiful Scottish loch. Enter and depart from Port Bourayne through its north pass, leaving Motu Vaiorea to the south. The pass is well marked with red cylindrical beacons on the reefs, a south cardinal beacon on the north side of the pass and a north cardinal beacon on Motu Vaiorea.

Anchoring in the port is a matter of choice, as the bottom is all mud, 70 to 90 feet deep.

(H10) - Baie de *Avea*

The passage south to this bay should be navigated with care. Follow the markers, with red cylindrical beacons to the shore side of you.

At the entrance of the bay, the area is shallow with coral heads. Post a lookout on the bow and proceed slowly until clear of the point. Once past the point which marks the start of Baie Avea, there is plenty of water with an average depth throughout 30 to 40 feet. The bay is well protected except during strong southerly and westerly winds. A pleasant anchorage is in the east end of the bay. Dinghy to Pte Tiva to enjoy the white sand beaches or the reef for good snorkeling.

On the eastern side of the bay is a charming hotel and restaurant, the *Relais Mahana*, with a good dinghy dock. From here, you may rent a car and tour the island. You can also anchor at the entrance of the bay just in front of the *pension Mauari* which restaurant is one of the best of the island. From here, you can benefit from many activities: kite surf, wake board, rent a scooter or a bike.

At the east end of Baie Avea, the inner passage comes to an abrupt end and the barrier reef meets the island at Pte Tiva.

Passe Araara

This pass is dangerous due to shallow depth and swells. It should never be used, including by dinghy.

Passe Tiare

On the east coast, this pass is also dangerous and should not be used.

(H12) - Passe Farerea

Sail south or north around Huahine to the east side. Either route is fine.

The westerly and south-westerly projections of the barrier reef, opposite Mt Faaua and Pte Tiva, project further out to sea than may be apparent when sailing in these areas. Stay well out of these two points. They are deceptive.

If taking the southerly route, leave early in the day as the direct sailing distance is over 18 nautical miles. Whether taking the northerly or southerly route, make the Passe Farerea entrance no later than 1500h.

Stay well out to sea before heading for the pass. Closer in, the waters can be very choppy because of the wave action created because of the barrier reef. Turn for the pass from at least one mile out from the barrier reef. This will make for the shortest time in the choppy waters and aid in making a good entrance into the pass. The entrance is made on a magnetic bearing of 250 on the two black and white beacons at the bottom of the remarkable cliff. See the inset on the bottom of the French chart for large scale details and the position of the remarkable cliff. Take note of the positions of the beacons to pass through the narrowest part. Study the chart and the large scale insert well in advance to making the entrance and there should be no difficulties. Don't enter this pass if there has been a period of strong easterlies; deep ocean swells would come from the east. The entrance into Passe Farerea can be dangerous.

Upon leaving, it is a good idea to continue directly from the pass for up to a mile before turning along the coast.

Baie de Maroe

There are few red and green beacons to mark each side of the bay. Everywhere the depth is more than 90 feet so it is better to avoid anchoring here.

(H11) - Baie de Apoomati

After Passe Farerea, marked with two red beacons in the south, make a route ESE. The north point of Baie Rate is marked with a north cardinal beacon, and its southern point with a red beacon. The inner passage is narrow. Keep an eye on the depth sounder and proceed slowly.

The only safe anchorage in this area is in Baie Apoomati or a little further south, opposite Baie Haamiti, leeward of *Motu Muri*. Don't take the yacht further south along *Motu Muri Mahora*. There are dangerous coral heads that come right to the surface. It is, however, a good area to dinghy to. There is good snorkeling on the shoals between *Motu Muri* and the main island. At the end of *Motu Tarohu*, there is a nice beach.

NOTE: There are various dwellings on *Motu Muri Mahora*. Please respect their property and privacy if landing on the *Motu*.



Tahiti Pearl Regatta



L'équipe de la base The Moorings pendant la Tahiti Pearl Regatta

Since the beginning in 2003, The Moorings is a partner of the **Tahiti Pearl Regatta**, the largest festive sailing race in the Polynesian Pacific. It takes place every year, during the "Ascension" weekend, on five days, and alternate lagoon and offshore race between the Leeward islands (Bora Bora, Huahine, Raiatea and Tahaa).

Each evening is an opportunity for a memorable night, with Polynesian shows, various entertainment, meals or bands that take you to the end of the night in a typical atmosphere of Tahiti and its islands, whose festive tradition is a mainstay of its "art de vivre".

If you need an excuse to decide to sail to Tahiti, you found it! Specialist or owner, experienced or beginner, or just looking for a festive discovered in an enchanting setting, you find your happiness with the Tahiti Pearl Regatta.

Every year international sailors and navigators come and come again, more and more, to share with local people this extraordinary experience, become a reference among the great festive regattas around the world.

For more details on the next edition, please visit the website of the regatta Tahiti Pearl Regatta:

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