

Tahiti la Ora Beach Resort's luxury revamp

The 12 luxury overwater bungalows have reopened at Tahiti la Ora Beach Resort after a multi-million dollar revamp. The makeover is described by the renowned Sofitel group as a "refined and understated sense of modern luxury, with a signature touch of French decadence". Guests can enjoy the champagne provided on arrival while admiring tropical fish through their glass panel of the bungalow's floor. Each bungalow is equipped with a king-size bed, a sofa bed and can accommodate two adults and one child under 12 years of age. Most importantly, each one features a private terrace to take in the breathtaking Tahiti sunsets. General Manager Mr Didier Lamoot says the bungalows will "appeal to travellers seeking authentic Tahitian luxury experiences". Located on the west coast of Tahiti Island, Tahiti la Ora Beach Resort by Sofitel, sits on the edge of the only white sand beach on the island with views to Moorea Island.



Discover Peak Tahiti

Tahiti Nui Helicopters (THN) is offering a scenic tour with a birds eye view of some of Tahiti's most dramatic landscapes including its highest peak, The Orohena Mountains. The 'Very Heart' tour takes guests over the blue lagoon of Punaauia to the entrance of the Punaruu Valley. Here it flies over the famous orange trees plateau and the island's own caldera, a large cauldron-like hollow that formed following a volcanic eruption.

At Papenoo, the largest valley on the island guests will view the Maroto relay where the rivers and vertiginous waterfalls are a sight to be seen. The dazzling descent toward Aorai then offers exceptional panoramic views of the ocean. On the trip home, the helicopter follows the waterfalls of the Pirae Valley, to its landing point in the town of Papeete. This is one of three scenic flights offered by THN. For a further afield flight, guests can take the 'Moz from Tahiti' tour to the island of Moorea where they'll discover the famous pierced mountain, the pineapple plantations of Opunohu Bay and Mount Rotui.



A trio of adventures

Moana Adventure's offers three exciting encounters in one tour, in the Shark & Ray Coral Garden Snorkel Safari. The 2.5 hour boat tour begins in the knee high crystal clear waters of Bora Bora lagoon where guests can meet, then swim with the famously gentle and elegant stingrays. Then, for the adrenaline fuelled part, the tour heads further out in the lagoon for a swim with sharks, guided by local operators who promise that swimming near these feared creatures will forever change your view of them.

However, if that's a step too far, the sharks can be viewed from the comfort of the boat. The final leg of the tour happens in the shallow waters of Toopua where guests can snorkel among the abundant underwater wildlife of the coral gardens, with hundreds of tropical fish and colourful coral. Heading ashore with three adventures ticked off the bucket list, one could comfortably put their feet up for the rest of the trip. The Shark & Ray Coral Garden Snorkel Safari departs Monday to Saturday at 9am and 1pm.



Air Tahiti Nui helps Kiwis take flight

New Zealanders can now holiday in Tahiti for less, with the release of a new lower fare. Air Tahiti Nui is offering fares as low as \$771 return (incl taxes) from Auckland to Papeete. It's a price airline General Manager Daniel Eggenberger says quashes the idea that Tahiti is an unattainable holiday option. He says the new fare option, alongside the boom of the global AirBnB market means people can experience cost-effective travel without holidaying like a backpacker. The airline offers five services a week between Auckland and Papeete and Eggenberger says this combination of cost and accessibility will help visitor numbers climb.

"Tahiti has earned its place as a highly aspirational destination and is very much a bucket list holiday for many the world over. However, Tahiti and her beautiful islands also offer a wide range of affordable options for visitors. Kiwis may be surprised to learn that they could enjoy a holiday with a pool and ocean views from as little as NZ\$100 per night."

With over 300 independently owned apartments and guest house properties on Tahiti's mainland and islands, Eggenberger says Kiwis can live like a local, buying local produce from markets and enjoying Tahiti's vibrant food scene which includes 'Roulottes' (food trucks) and many local café and restaurant dining options.



Immerse yourself in Tahitian culture

The Arioi Cultural Centre began as a non-profit organisation providing access to extracurricular activities and educational support for children from Papara. It's now fast becoming a 'must-do' for tourists wanting to learn about Tahitian arts and culture. From Tahitian dance to polyphonic singing and traditional ukulele percussions, visitors can discover Polynesian arts and traditions during a two hour Arioi Experience. This includes a traditional welcoming ceremony, two cultural workshops (such as tapa, braiding, dance, percussion, or sculpture) and a taste of Polynesian culinary delights. Ten percent of the fee is donated to an association that supports access to cultural activities by disadvantaged children.



A home away from home

There is a new way to experience Tahiti, with the freedom, privacy and comfort of a home rental. Tahiti Homes is a trail blazing holiday-home management company offering a wide range of villas, houses and apartments in Tahiti, Moorea, Bora Bora and other islands of French Polynesia. Most properties have a private pool and/or a semi-private beach and some are fully staffed. Homes range from studios to 12-room villas to private islands and can cater for honeymooners, families, weddings or small group retreats. The service can be a budget friendly way to accommodate large groups, and the local company offers a tailored service that goes well beyond a key handover. That service can include booking activities, pampering sessions, in home dinners and transport. Head to Tahiti Homes website to surf the abundance of options on offer.

Captain Taina's Glass Bottom Boat

A trip to a tropical island isn't complete until you've explored the Pacific Ocean's underwater wonderland. Captain Taina's glass bottom boat tours give guests the opportunity to experience the beauty of Moorea, with either three-hour or full-day tours.

The popular full day tour includes three snorkeling/freediving stops, where guests will be rewarded with an exceptional encounter with stingrays, sharks and turtles as well as the underwater sculptures by Tihoti Guy, free-diving on a coral garden and the potential to see the rare and endangered hawksbill turtle. This is followed by a delicious seafood lunch on a private natural motu (island) where you can spend time relaxing, swimming or exploring the island paradise. Private tours are available by request.



Major makeover for Hilton Moorea spa

Maybe it's because of the French influence. Maybe it's the inspiration of the natural surroundings. Regardless of the reason, Tahiti is home to some of the South Pacific's finest spas. Hilton Moorea Lagoon Resort and Spa is one such example. Whether you are there to relax, energise or heal your mind, all treatments and rituals lead to a state of blissful peace and wellness.

Recently the spa also underwent a full redesign, with guests enjoying an 'enlightened' area made of natural materials and fresh tropical vibes. Simply put yourself in the hands of these renowned Polynesian therapists and you will drift away happily ever after.



Dream Yacht Charter

Want a holiday with a difference? Dream Yacht Charters has more than 20 catamarans and monohulls available to charter in Tahiti. Jump on board and experience the abundant marine life and emerald volcanic peaks from your own floating hotel. Guests can either charter their own boat (bareboating), book a ship with an experienced crew, or rent a cabin.

For experienced sailors, bareboating provides the utmost in freedom and privacy to visit and stay at the places you choose, and experience a live-aboard lifestyle. A crewed boat allows you to sit back and relax with a professional captain to navigate your customised itinerary, and a personal chef to create delicious meals. Or book a cabin, and have all the perks of a cruise ship - your own room with a personal bathroom, cooked meals and stops at beautiful destinations - without the crowds. Sail around the ancient volcanic remains and atolls while spotting turtles, dolphins, unspoiled coral and shoals of colourful fish.



From Disneyland to Tahiti

The Manava Suite Resort Tahiti has appointed Anne Roubinet as its Assistant General Manager. Anne started her career in operations, with six years at the Disneyland Group in Paris, followed by a stint as Head Housekeeper at Meridien Ile des Pins in New Caledonia. In 2017 Anne came to Tahiti as a specialised trainer in the hotel industry. Her skills and expertise allowed her to actively contribute to the success of Manava and accompany Anne Stahlke-Cintio in the management of the hotel.

Following the opening of its second restaurant, the resort has grown its restaurant team with Arnaud Diverchy appointed Food and Beverage Manager. Arnaud has worked in Cannes, Tahiti, Bora Bora and Noumea, where he spent seven years at the Chateau Royal Beach Resort & Spa.

He will supervise all personnel working in food and beverage at Manava which includes two bars, banquets and room service. He will be supported by a team of new staff, including Restaurants' Manager, Jean-Michel David, Chef, Heiva Agnieray and Bar Chef Mr Simon Lanviani. All have a wealth of international experience.



Tahitian treasure

It's hard sometimes to find that very special souvenir on a trip away but in Tahiti it's easy. Tahitian or Black Pearls are considered to be among the finest gems in the world and Robert Wan Pearl Museum is the place to experience them. Robert Wan was a pioneer in the pearl industry and his museum houses the largest Tahitian pearl in the world.

Learn about the cultural importance of pearls through exhibits and storytelling and discover the science behind them and their place in nature. Pearls and souvenirs can be purchased from the gift store or from one of the stalls along the waterfront opposite the museum. Located in the historic centre of Papeete, right next to the Cathédrale de l'Immaculée Conception. It's easily accessible by public transport.

French flair comes to Four Seasons Resort in Bora Bora

Eric Desbordes kicked off his career at the Four Seasons Hotel in Paris under three Michelin star chefs. Now, after years of international experience and awards, Eric Desbordes has returned to the Four Seasons family, as the executive chef at Four Seasons Bora Bora Resort. A native of Thiais, a commune in the southern suburbs of Paris, Desbordes draws on the cooking he grew up with, for inspiration.

Not his first foray into Island life - the father of one previously worked at the famed Eden Rock Hotel in St. Barths. Outside the kitchen, Desbordes enjoys motorcycles, jet skiing, squash, cinema, travel, music and spending precious time with his wife Eloise and daughter Leeah. Maria Jagla, General Manager of Four Seasons, Bora Bora, says Chef Desbordes is a welcome addition to the lauded resort. "He brings an incredible profile of experience and talent to us, which will surely delight our guests as we continue moving the dining experience forward".

Four Seasons Resort Bora Bora is currently offering the 'Experience More' package, which includes a \$2000(EUR) resort credit, to be used on shopping, dining, spa and activities. The Resort is also offering Night Free packages, which include accommodation in an overwater bungalow suite or beachfront villa estate and daily breakfast buffet.



TAHITI MOOREA BORA BORA TAHA'A NUKUTEPIPI EASTER ISLAND