

Polynesia

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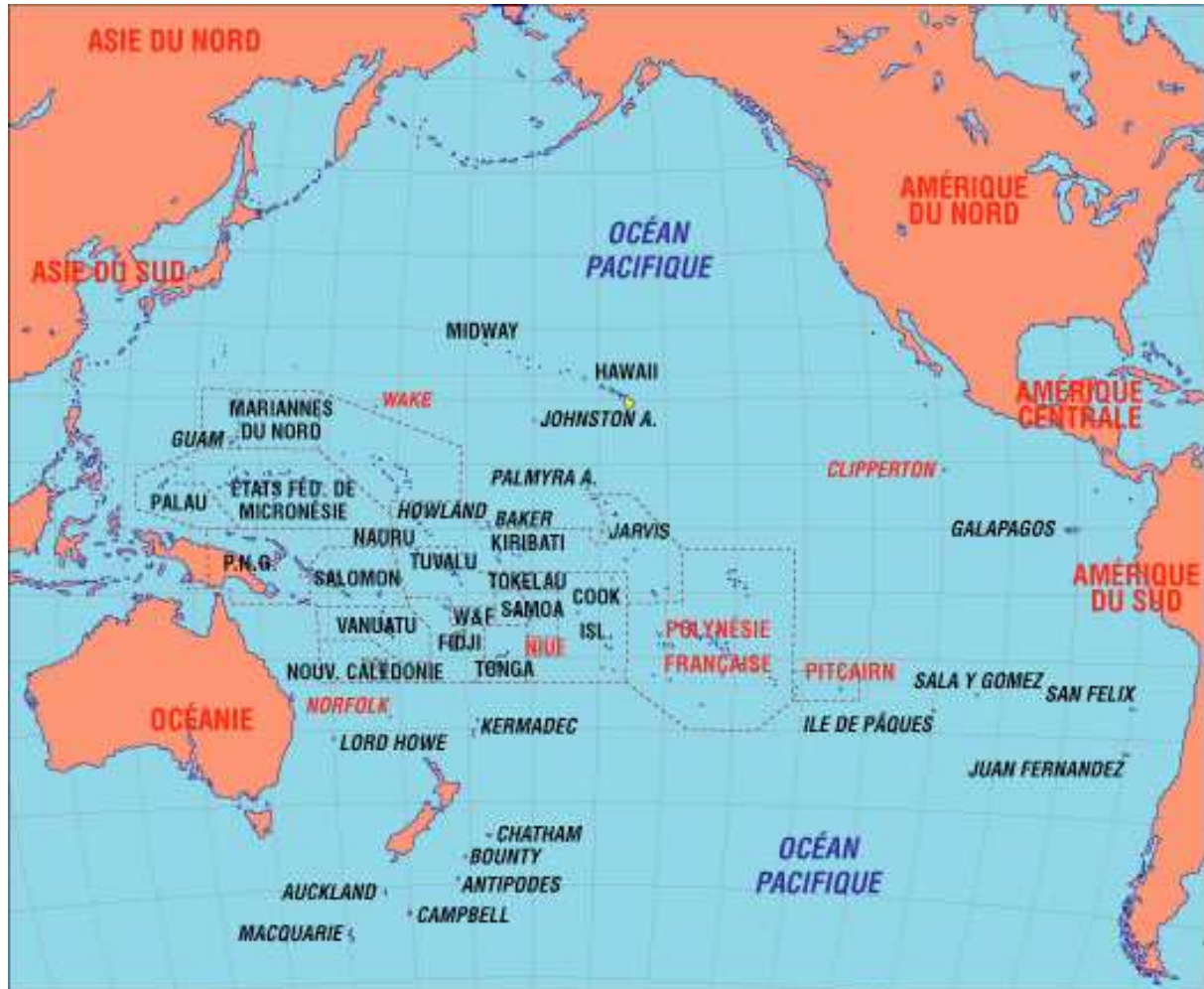
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Polynesia Location Map



Presentation of Polynesia

Tahiti and its islands are located in the South Pacific, 17,000 km from Europe. The 118 islands that constitute the territory are both volcanic and coralline, covering an emerged surface of 4.200 km² scattered on a 2 500 000 km² surface area as large as Europe. This territory is composed of five archipelagos: **Windward Islands - Leeward Islands - Tuamotu - Marqueses - Austral**

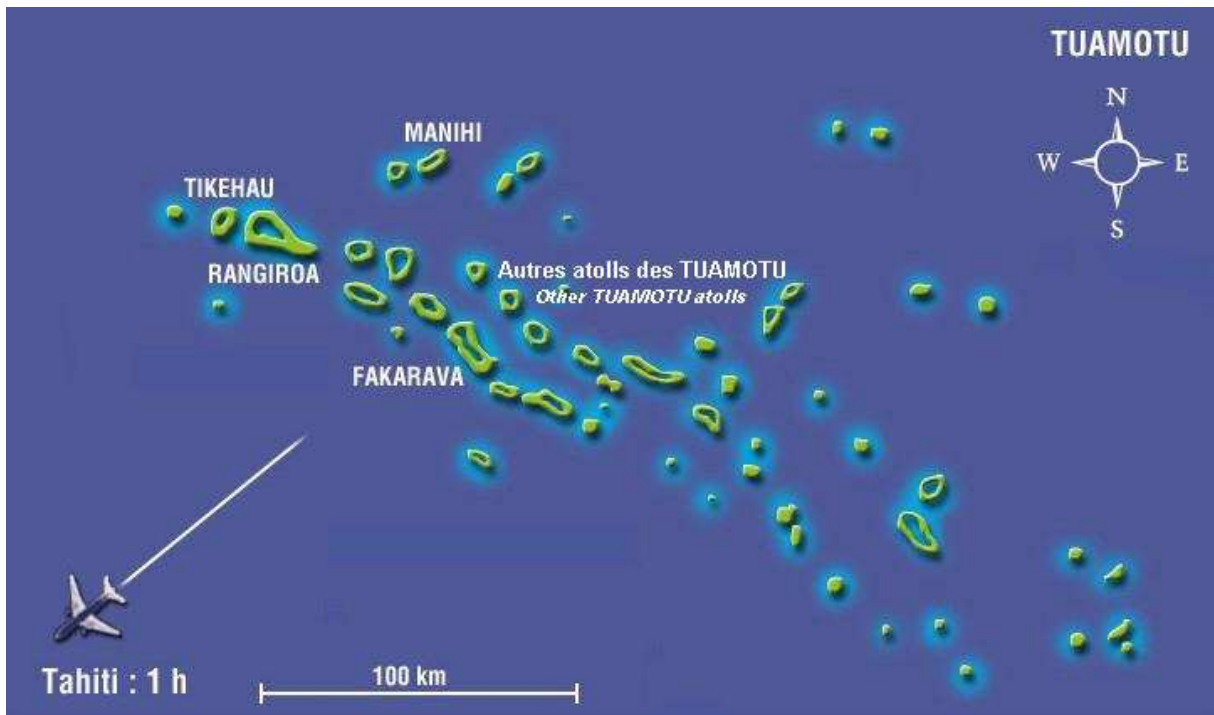
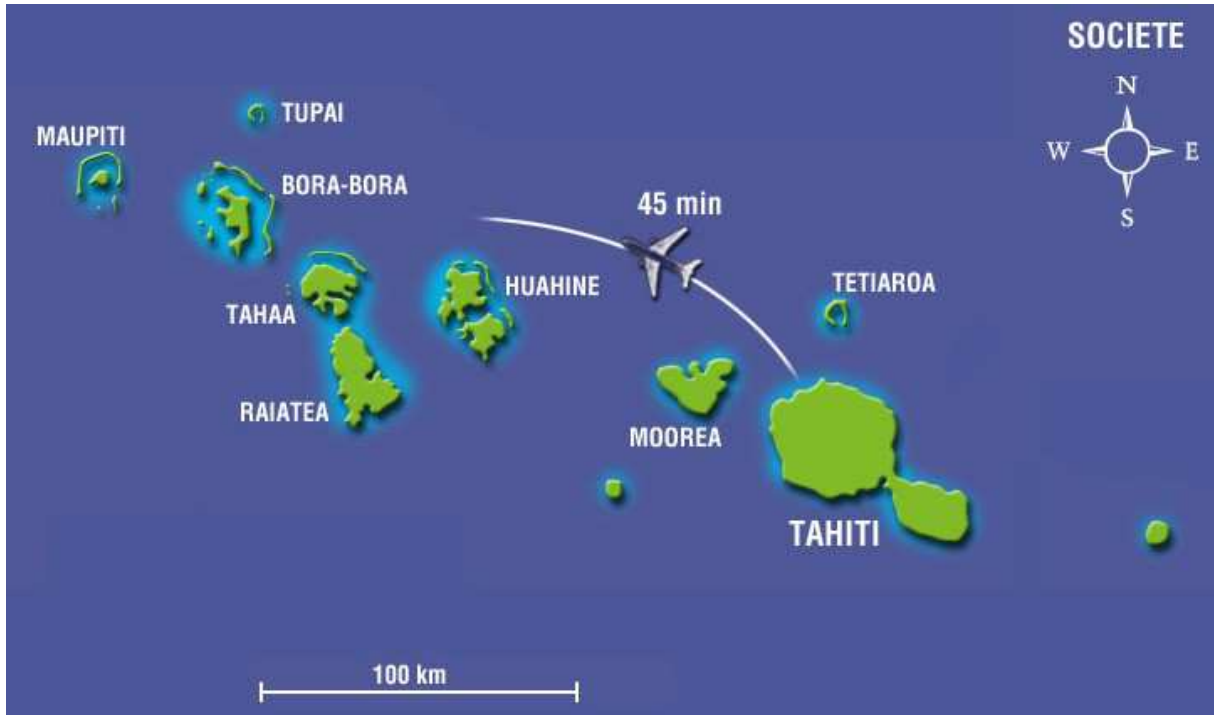
Archipelago of Société, is composed of Windward Islands (Tahiti, Moorea et Tetiaroa) & Leeward Islands (Raiatea, Tahaa, Huahine, Bora Bora & Maupiti)

Windward Islands:

Tahiti, with its Orohena summit 2 241 m high, is a "high" island. Papeete is located there; it's the administrative and commercial centre of French Polynesia. This island is the most populated of the territory and has an international airport. Moorea, the sister island, is on the other rim of the channel. It is famous for its easy way of life and its succulent pineapples. There are many luxury hotels and charming family lodges welcoming tourists. Obviously, the beauty of these sites, white sandy beaches and its undersea, are making it a privileged destination.

Leeward Islands:

In Polynesian mythology, they are considered as the original country, location of mythic homeland (Havai'i corresponding to Raiatea) origins of gods and traditions. Bora-Bora is the political centre and Maupiti is the reference for all vestiges from the past.



Leewards Islands sailing area limits

Authorized sailing area is located within 16° and 18° latitude south and within 149° et 152.30° longitude West. Any request for Tuamotu must be previously approved by Dream Yacht charter.



Raiatea is the cradle of Polynesia. This island holds archeological treasures (marae), witnesses of rich history and culture, still well alive. A stopover in the renowned pirogue race « Hawaiki nui va'a », **Raiatea** "the sacred island », is although a thrill for divers and trekkers. **Raiatea** has been the religious center of Polynesia: the numerous legends still running through the island create a magic atmosphere. Not to be missed is the marae of Taputapuatea. **Raiatea** is also a paradise for sailors thanks to the beauty of its bays, the magic of its incredibly turquoise lagoon and the comfort of the marina.

Ashore, visitors can not only discover « the sacred island » destiny but also enjoy the pleasures of hiking. One of the "musts" is Mont Temehani, 772 m high. From the crater of Faaroa (the only navigable river in Polynesia) through its numerous rainfalls, many treks will lead you throughout the majestic mountains of the island.

In Opoa valley, you will be able to visit one of the biggest vanilla plantations in Polynesia.

Tahaa belongs to the same lagoon as Raiatea and, thanks to a relative seclusion, has been able to preserve former Polynesian authenticity. **Tahaa** is an enchanting paradise, lying in an emerald lagoon, circled by « motus » - islets with magnificent white sands. The island is a former volcano dominated by Mont Ohiri (598 m) where the panorama is outstanding. **Tahaa** is also known for its picturesque archeological sites. The "vanilla island", thus nicknamed because of its numerous vanilla plantations, is permeated by the exhilarating fragrance that perfumes the coast and as well as the remote villages.



Dream Yacht Charter Raiatea « Polynesia »

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Raiatea
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Raiatea Overview

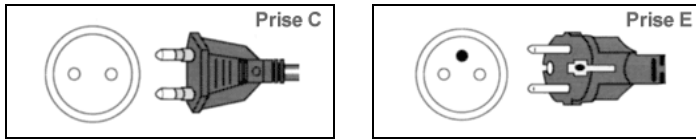
- **Raiatea key points**
 - ❖ Many flights to reach the destination from)
 - ❖ Many unspoiled natural spots
 - ❖ Cultural richness
 - ❖ “Short” sailing steps
 - ❖ Combinable land and sailing staying
 - ❖ Amazing endemic flora
 - ❖ Fabulous snorkelling spots

| <i>Polynesia</i> | <i>Raiatea</i> | <i>“close interesting destinations”</i> |
|------------------------------------|---|--|
| Outstanding territory to discover | Very exotic destination – great change of scene | All Leeward Islands |
| Many cultural and sport activities | Nice resorts | All Leeward Islands |
| Natural parks | Various landscapes – crystal waters – sandy beaches | Marquesas - Tuamotus - |

GENERAL INFORMATION

- **Time difference**
GMT - 10 hours
- **Base**
The Dream Yacht Base is located in *Uturoa* about 10 minutes from Raiatea airport. Harbour is accessible at all states of the tide. (Water and electricity are available on the berths)
- **Sailing experience Level**
Sailing conditions needs sailors "to be cautious" because of pass currents, reefs, GPS maps are too indefinite. Obviously, it's also depending on weather conditions. Most of moorings are safe.
- **Yachts**
Dream Yachts have a range of yachts available for charter, monohulls and catamarans either bareboat or cabin/crewed boats.
- **Turnaround days**
Embarkation and disembarkation are possible any day.
 - ✓ Embarkation is at 12:30 PM
 - ✓ Disembarkation is at 9:00 AM
- **Base opening hours**
Base is opened from 9:00 AM to 6:00 PM - 7 days a week.
- **Fuel and consumables**
All our yachts are delivered to you with full tanks of fuel (yacht & dinghy), full tank of water, 1 bottle of cooking gas in duty + 1 spare bottle. Staff can take care of refilling water and diesel tanks and will charge the costs to customer.
- **Options**

| | |
|--|--|
| <p><i>Included in charter fee</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ First & last night at the D.Y.C pontoon ◆ Autopilot ◆ GPS ◆ CD-player & cockpit speakers ◆ Dinghy & outboard engine ◆ 2 sets of linen, towels, beach towels per person/week ◆ Snorkelling gear ◆ Dream Yacht Charter Guarantee ◆ Final cleaning | <p><i>Available for extra fee</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Skipper ◆ Steward / cook ◆ Guide ◆ Kayak ◆ Fishing rod ◆ Security insurance ◆ Transfers |
|--|--|
- **Cruising Limits**
Sailing area includes the Society islands : Raiatea, Bora Bora Huahine and Tahaa. Special permission must be asked for sailing the Tuamotu where navigation could be hazardous. Many different one ways possible.
- **Transfers and Airports**
Main airport of Society Islands is Papeete but there's an Airport in Raiatea. There are flights from Europe and North America. Most of the flights have at least 1 stop. Upon arrival customers can be transferred by Taxi or mini bus (10 mn between airport & base.) (Transfer rates are mentioned in DYC price list).
There are no departure taxes.
- **Shore facilities**
DYC base is located in Utuora, nearby Raiatea. There are restaurants and nice hotels not too far from the base which can be combined for land staying. The following facilities are available at the base: Telephone, fax and e-mail available within next weeks. (Water - Fuel - Showers and Toilets).
- **Electricity**
Voltage is 220V - 50Hz (and the plug type are C,E)



- **Telephone**

Area code:

- From Europe to Polynesia for a home telephone: 00 689 + correspondent N°
- From Europe to Polynesia for a Cellular phone: 00 689 + correspondent N°
- From Polynesia to France 00 33 + correspondent N° (without "0" after 33)

- **Attraction and activities**

- ✓ Raiatea market : local fruits and vegetable and upstair's handicraft
- ✓ Pearl farms: many farms can be visited and one can buy pearl directly at the producer.
- ✓ Local dance shows: a couple of resorts offer dance shows Hawaiki Nui Raiatea, Hibiscus in Tahaa.
- ✓ Taputapuatea marae south of Raiatea: beautiful historical and religious Maori sanctuary, could be reach by road or with the yacht, possible docking in good weather conditions
- ✓ Coral rivers : shallow water passages between the motus in Tahaa and Bora Bora where snorkelling is awesome.

- **Provisioning**

We recommend at least to provision with basic products because there are not too many places for supplies in this area; so it's easier to make it before departure as most of meals will be taken on board even though crew can go ashore for dinners. A provision list is available on DYC web site.

- **Currency**

Local currency is Pacific Franc (XPF) (1 euro is roughly 119,3317 XPF or 1 US dollar is about 89,4535 XPF) - Credit cards are accepted in the shops / There are cash dispensers – Euros are accepted.

- **Passport and Visas**

Only a valid passport is compulsory for European (for staying not exceeding 3 months on spot) and North American citizens (for staying not exceeding 1 month on spot). (For other countries check on the following link: <http://www.thetahititraveler.com/touristinfo/visasreq.asp>)

- **Health**

No vaccines compulsory.

If you are under treatment:

- Bring along with you the necessary pills or drugs quantity.
- Keep your vital pills or drugs with you in your hand luggage (in case of luggage losses).
- Plan a mosquito repellent and a first aid kit.

Even if you can easily stand the sun, it's much harder on a boat than on the land because of reverberation. Smooth breeze, avoid feeling the heat and you get sun burnt before noticing it. One recommends having a "wind resistant" cap and sun glasses (tied) with cord, sweat shirt or long sleeves t-shirt and trouser. A good solar cream is necessary at least for first days.

- **Advice**

Take only soft bags - No suite case (rigid suite cases are too cumbersome on a boat).

- **Diving**

Diving can be arranged locally upon request.

- **Charts and pilot books**

There are several pilot books:

Guide de navigation et de tourisme de la Polynésie Française Patrick Bonnette - Emmanuel Deschamps (also available in English: **Guide to navigation and tourism in French Polynesia** – same authors)

Charlie's charts - la Polynésie – Charles f. Woods

- **Polynesia Climate and Weather Conditions**

There are two main seasons during the year, and the equivalent to fall and spring between them.

R The rainy season is wet and hot (85 – 95 F), and runs from November to April.

R 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 *Iles Sous le Vent* 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 Maraamu 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 and even dangerous close to passes. Everyday on VHF channel 26 or 27 at 1100 and 0840, the weather forecast is given by Mahina Radio from Tahiti for the different areas of French Polynesia. RFO radio also broadcasts a weather report on FM band 94 MHz, at 0600, 0800, 1200 and 1700.

Recommendations for Society Islands

NAVIGATION

The weather and conditions are nice all over the year: Trade winds E-SE 10 to 20 knots average.

With numerous isolated dangers and not all areas well surveyed, pay attention to the navigation especially where the info on charts and buoyage are poor. The Gps and chart plotters must be considered as a support, the electronic charts are not as accurate as the nautical charts so you should refer to the paper nautical charts and not rely only on the GPS, especially when in shallow waters or when close to dangers.

Night sailing is prohibited in the Society islands lagoons. Night sailing outside the lagoon is possible, talk with the base manager before.

Plan your sailing trip to reach your night anchorage after 10AM and before 3 PM especially around coral grounds. Insure to not sail too late while the visibility is poor.

Buoyage: The buoyage exists only around the channels. These channels are marked like in Europe, red on port and green on starboard when entering harbors, with few cardinal marks where necessary.

CHARTERER'S RESPONSIBILITY

Dream yacht charter shall not be held responsible for any loss or damage to persons, property or to the yacht. The charterer is responsible for every damage, loss or theft that may happen during the charter. Any damage to the boat is covered by your deposit.

Choice of anchorage:

Dream Yacht Charter provides you during the briefing with accurate information on anchorages but the choice of the anchorage (location, picking up a mooring buoy) and the checking of its reliability are on the skipper's responsibility;

COMMUNICATIONS

The VHF is used down here only for weather forecast or for emergency.

Communications with the shore and the Dream Yacht Charter bases only with cell phones.

There are some places where a Internet wifi connection is available (many of the main anchorages in Bora Bora Raiatea and Tahaa)



ITINERARIES

- Suggested itineraries

| 1 Week cruise – Raiatea - Raiatea | | |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------------|---------------|
| Day | Destination | Distance (NM) |
| 1 | Raiatea to Tahaa | 10 |
| 2 | Tahaa to Bora – Bora | 22 |
| 3 | Bora-Bora – Bora – Bora (exploration) | 8 |
| 4 | Bora-Bora to Raiatea | 22 |
| 5 | Anapa Pearl farm to The Hurepiti Bay | 10 |
| 6 | Vanilla Tour - Tahaa | |
| 7 | Tahaa - Raiatea | 10 |

| 10 days Cruise – Raiatea - Raiatea | | |
|------------------------------------|----------------------------------|---------------|
| Day | Destination | Distance (NM) |
| 1 | Raiatea to Tahaa | 10 |
| 2 | Tahaa to Bora-Bora to Motu Topua | 22 |
| 3 | Explore Bora-Bora | 8 |
| 4 | Bora-Bora Snorkelling | |
| 5 | Bora-Bora to Raiatea | 22 |
| 6 | Raiatea to Tahaa | 10 |
| 7 | Tahaa to Huahine | 25 |
| 8 | Fare to Baie d’Avea | 7 |
| 9 | Huahine to Raiatea | 23 |
| 10 | Raiatea to Tahaa | 10 |

| 14 days Cruise – Raiatea - Raiatea | | |
|------------------------------------|--|---------------|
| Day | Destination | Distance (NM) |
| 1 | Raiatea to Tahaa | 10 |
| 2 | Tahaa to Huahine | 25 |
| 3 | Fare to Baie Dave | 7 |
| 4 | Huahine to Raiatea | 23 |
| 5 | Marae Taputapuatea visit | |
| 6 | Marae Taputapuatea to Bora Bora | 26 |
| 7 | Lagoonarium & Coral garden | |
| 8 | Day sail to Tupai and back t | 30 |
| 9 | Bora - Bora to Maupiti | 28 |
| 10 | Discover Maupiti | |
| 11 | Maupiti to Bora Bora | 28 |
| 12 | Bora Bora to Tahaa | 21 |
| 13 | Vanilla Island tour with Alain Plantier & motu Tau Tau | |
| 14 | Motu Tau Tau & diner at the Taravana Yacht Club | |
| 15 | Morning disembarkation in Raiatea | 5 |