

BORA BORA, FRENCH POLYNESIA

One of the most beautiful (and expensive) resort islands in the world. The strikingly blue sea laps silky soft sand beaches and the foot of towering mountains resplendent in green. It's little wonder this 30.5km² volcanic island is a top honeymoon destination

KEY INFO

Currency: CFP (1 USD = 0.0091 CFP)

Population: 13,007 (17,064 Cook Islands)

Emergency #: 15 (medical), 17 (police), 18 (fire)

Drinking water: Tap water is **not** drinkable

Time Zone: GMT-10

ID Requirements: Photo ID


Languages: French, Tahitian

Drive on the: Right

Pharmacy: Pharmacie Lafayette, Main St, Vaitape 

Protection: Bug Spray & SPF 30+

Wi-Fi: Not commonly available (Rent a [Tahiti Wi-Fi Box](#))

Post Office: F6VX+3G5, Vaitape 

PORT LOCATION

Ships anchor in the lagoon between Motu Toopua and the main island. Tender boats shuttle guests to the pier at Vaitape (where half the island's population lives)


Getting Around: Public transport isn't much of a thing on Bora Bora - *le Truck* operates an unreliable service, generally around school hours. Instead, stay local or engage the services of a private taxi driver to get around the island. Car, bike, and scooter rental is also available. There may be a shuttle bus to Matira Beach.

 www.avis-borabora.com for car, moped and bike rentals in Vaitape

Taxis: Taxis and water taxis can get you anywhere, but are expensive (from 1500 CFP for a 5-min drive)

Tourist Bus: There is no Hop-On Hop-Off Bus in Bora Bora

Port Facilities: Tourist Information

Port Address: F6VW+4R, Bora-Bora, French Polynesia 

BEACHES IN BORA BORA

Bora Bora is well-known for its luxury beach resorts, complete with floating bungalows with direct access to the sea. Some resorts sell day passes for cruise ship visitors. Otherwise, head to **Matira Beach** at the southern tip of the island for a beautiful day on the sand and in the sea (7km | 9-min drive)

Resorts with private beaches include: **Four Seasons Resort Bora Bora** and **InterContinental Bora Bora** (both on the islet to the east of Bora Bora, called **Motu Piti A'au**).

On the main island, **Bora Bora Lagoon Resort** (4.3km | 6-min drive) is south of Vaitape, roughly halfway to Matira Beach.

SNORKEL & DIVE SPOTS IN BORA BORA

Anau: On the eastside of the island, this district is known for its fantastic manta ray dive spots, with plenty of rays to watch in less than 20m of water for ideal viewing conditions. 13-min drive | 6.3km

Toopua: An easy walk just out of Vaitape gets you to this coral garden known for its clownfish and anemones. 5-min walk, 1-min drive | 450m

If a full dive isn't for you, but you're looking for something a little more than snorkeling, **Aqua Safari** offers an underwater walking tour. Fed fresh air from a boat above and weighed down with weights, you'll walk the bed of the lagoon at a depth of about 4m.

OTHER IDEAS IN BORA BORA

Marae Fare-Opu: Most of the traditional Polynesian temples (Marae) were destroyed by British missionaries in the 1870s. This one, in Faanui Bay (to the north of the island) is a rare surviving example. 9a-4p | \$ unknown | [Location Link](#)

Naval Museum Bora Bora: A small private museum, with a collection of 40 model ships, including a scale replica of HMS Bounty and several traditional va'a (Polynesian canoes). North-west coast of island. 9a-6p (Mon-Sat) | Free | G7H3+VQM, Bora-Bora, French Polynesia

Art Galleries: Vaitape is the place for (expensive) souvenir shopping and there are some lovely local galleries to explore, including **Art Gallery & Studio - Alain Despert** (north of Vaitape), **Masson Art Gallery** (Faanui Valley), **Garrick Yrondi Studio & Gallery** (Povai) and **Bora Bora Original** (Vaitape town).

Mountain Hikes: As a volcanic island, Bora Bora isn't just about the sea - there are some invigorating mountain hikes too. **Mt Ohue** rises to 619m, and Bora Bora's other dominant peak is **Mt Pahia** at 661m. Allow around 6-hours roundtrip for either hike. If an easier hike is your preference, take the 2.4km **Farepiti Cannons hike**, with wonderful lagoon views and several WWII cannons still in situ.

Shopping: One of the most popular gift shops in Vaitape is **Marché de l'artisanat**, where local traders sell locally made goods. Alternatives include **Teavanui Shop** ([📍](#)) and the **Tahiti Pearl Market** ([📍](#)).

WHERE TO EAT

Food is expensive in Bora Bora (like everything else)... but you 'gotta eat!

Restaurant Saint James: You'll find this stylish waterfront restaurant at the shopping center in Vaitape. 6:30a-11p | F6XX+V2 Bora-Bora, French Polynesia
[📍 www.saintjamesborabora.com](http://www.saintjamesborabora.com)

La Villa Mahana: South of Vaitape in the village of Povai, this Mediterranean-Polynesian fusion kitchen has a southern French vibe. 6a-10p | F7G7+5Q Bora-Bora, French Polynesia
[📍 www.villamahana.com](http://www.villamahana.com)

Aloe Café: A casual town-center eatery in Vaitape, and one of the rare spots for free Wi-Fi in town. 6a-6p (Mon-Fri), 6a-5p (Sat) | F6WX+34 Bora-Bora, French Polynesia