

FAKARAVA, FRENCH POLYNESIA

Almost 500km east-northeast of Tahiti, Fakarava is one of the most beautiful places in French Polynesia. A beach-lover's paradise and a diver's dream. The atoll is the 2nd largest in the country with a spectacular lagoon and a couple of small villages to visit ashore

KEY INFO

Currency: CFP (1 USD = 0.0091 CFP)

Population: 837 (304,000 FP)

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: Dispensaire de Fakarava, 97763 Rt Principal 

Protection: Bug Spray & SPF 30+

Wi-Fi: Hotel accommodation (but unreliable)

Post Office: OPT, W9VJ+W35, Rotoava 

PORT LOCATION

Cruise ships anchor just less than 1 nautical mile from shore, and tender into the small settlement of Rotoava at the northern end of the atoll. The tender ride takes less than 10-minutes.

Getting Around: This is a wonderful atoll, the vast majority of which is totally unruined by human development. The nearby village of Rotoava can be explored on foot. In order to get further afield, *Le Truck* is the only form of public transport. There is no official bike or scooter rental company on the atoll, though some accommodation providers offer rental services.

Taxis: There are no taxis on Fakarava

Tourist Bus: There is no Hop-On Hop-Off bus in Fakarava

Port Facilities: None

Port Address: Rotoava Pier, 53MPW9VH+FP (16°03'22.6"S 145°37'14.5"W) 

BEACHES IN FAKARAVA

It's not an exaggeration to say that Fakarava is a beach.

The main beach, however, is at the arching tip of the northern stretch of the atoll, called **PK9-Beach**. Between this beach and the airport is the **Garuae Pass** – this 800m-wide pass is the largest in French Polynesia and is one of the most thrilling dive spots in the South Pacific.


Otherwise at the southern reaches of the atoll (near the historic village of **Tetamanu**), **Les Sables Roses** is a gorgeous stretch of pink sand and **Tumakohua Pass** offers great snorkeling.

At the south-east corner of the atoll is an incredible double-sided beach called **Hirifa** (with the ocean on one side and the lagoon on the other).


For more: <https://www.unusualtraveler.com/fakarava-french-polynesias-unknown-paradise/>

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 cash payment accepted



 link to map


WHAT'S IN ROTOAVA


Tumoana Markets: The main supermarket (one of just three shops in the village) is right by the main dock, where ships tender into. 7:30a-12p, 3p-5p (Mon-Sat) | At pier 


Heipoe Black Pearl: Jewelry shop specializing in French Polynesia's famous black pearls – most of which are farmed in the Tuamotu Archipelago. Hours unknown | 2-minute walk from pier (170m) 

Temple of LDS Church: This temple faces directly out to the lagoon, just south of the main dock. 9a-6p |  | 4-minute walk from pier (300m) 

Catholic Church of Saint Jean de la Croix: On the same waterfront road as the LDS Temple, the Catholic church is a little further south, and backs onto the village cemetery. 5:30a-7p (Mon-Fri), 4p-7p (Sat), 8a-10a (Sun) |  | 10-minute walk from pier (750m) 

Hirinaki Lounge: A waterside lunch option with shaded outdoor seating. Generally reviewed more favorably for its drinks than its food. 11a-2p (Mon), 11a-2p, 5:30p-9p (Thu-Sat), 5:30p-9p (Sun) | 1-minute walk from pier (140m) 

Rotoava Grill: Head south of the dock and along the waterfront, pass the LDS Temple and you'll find this outdoor grill. 11:30a-2p (Wed), 11:30a-2p, 5:30p-8:30p (Fri-Sat), 5:30p-8:30p (Sun) | 1-minute walk from pier (500m) 

Topaka Lighthouse: North of the village, on the outer edge of the atoll stands this square pyramid lighthouse. 24 hours | Free | 40-minute walk from pier (2.8km) 

WHAT'S IN TETAMANU

Tetamanu used to be the main settlement on the atoll, but now it's very sparsely populated. Of interest is the **Catholic Church built from coral**, which was consecrated in 1874.