

## NUKU HIVA, FRENCH POLYNESIA

Nuku Hiva is the largest of the Marquesas Islands on the northeast of French Polynesia. This mountainous island is known for its dense forests and beautiful beaches. The town of Taiohae is the capital of the Marquesas and over half the Nuku Hiva population lives here

### KEY INFO

**Currency:** CFP (1 USD = 0.0091 CFP)

**Population:** 2,951 (304,000 FP)

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

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

**Time Zone:** GMT-9:30

**ID Requirements:** Photo ID


**Languages:** French, Tahitian

**Drive on the:** Right

**Pharmacy:** Pharmacie de Nuku Hiva, 3VRV+R84 

**Protection:** Bug Spray & SPF 30+

**Wi-Fi:** Snack bars on the pier

**Post Office:** -8.914990, -140.093258 

### PORT LOCATION


Cruise ships anchor about 1.2 nautical miles from Taiohae Quai. The tender ride takes 10-12 minutes. Taiohae has a tidal range of 1m, and this means that there can at times be a large step on/off the tender.

**Getting Around:** There is no public transport from Taiohae to other parts of the island. There are some taxis, and private tour operators. Hiking and horse riding are excellent ways to see the island. Car and e-bike rentals are available in the town.

**Taxis:** There are a few private taxis in Taiohae

**Tourist Bus:** There is no Hop-On Hop-Off bus in Nuku Hiva

**Port Facilities:** None

**Port Address:** 3WP3+6PC, Bay, French Polynesia 


### BEACHES IN NUKU HIVA

The town of Taiohae has mainly black sand beaches, and swimming is often unsafe due to the presence of sharks. Seek guidance from locals as to whether swimming conditions are safe at any beach.

**Taiohae Beach:** Black sand beach in the bay, to the left of the Quai.

**Plage de Kuvea:** Just past the Tiki Tuhiva statue (next to the Quai) is Taiohae's only white sand beach. Swimmable if the seas are calm.


### TOURIST INFORMATION

The Tourist Information office is open Monday to Saturday, close to the Quai with access to local guides and other information. 7:30a-3:30p (Mon-Sat) |  | 3WP4+C29, Nuku Hiva 

For more: <https://cruisepg.com/taiohae-nuku-hiva-marquesas-islands/>

 card payment accepted

 cash payment accepted


 link to map

## TAIOHAE HIGHLIGHTS

**Herman Melville Statue:** See the wooden statue of author Herman Melville, who wrote two novels (Typee and Omoo) inspired by his time in the Taipivai Valley, held captive by a cannibal tribe.

**Notre-Dame-des-Isles-Marquises:** The main cathedral has stone and wood carvings from each of the six inhabited islands on the archipelago.

**Pae Pae Piki Vehine:** Built for the 1989 Marquesas Festival, this traditional meeting platform is the location of several contemporary sculptures.

**Tiki Tuhiva:** In local tradition, man was created by Tiki (a god) sleeping with a pile of sand. This 12m Tiki has a hole in her belly button where notes can be inserted. Behind, she's joined by an 8m tall warrior. 



**Musée Enana:** Small museum with an interesting collection of artifacts on the west of the bay.  
Hours unknown | Free (donations accepted)

**Souvenir Shopping:** Head to **Fare Artisanal**, which is next to the tourist information center. You'll find handmade jewelry, crafted from seeds, and plenty of woodcarvings.

**Head out on a hike:** The easiest hike to access from Taiohae Town is **The Sentinel** (3.2km return, starts at trailhead above the quay). This relatively easy hike follows the bay to the east and reaches a pebble beach. For a longer hike, head to **Bay Colette** (7km return), which starts behind Le Nuku Hiva hotel.

## EAT & DRINK

**Snack du Petit Quai:** Fresh fish and local meat stews are on the menu at this waterfront café. 5a-9p | 

**Chez Jacqueline:** Slightly north of town, on the road into the valley, this family restaurant serves up local fast food (think fresh seafood and fries). 11:30a-1:30p, 6p-9p (Tue-Fri), 6p-9p (Sat) |  |  | 