

e-TAHITI travel

TRAVEL AGENCY IN TAHITI SINCE 2002



*French Polynesia
Practical guide*

2023 - 2024



Islands of Tahiti

Summary



Prepare for your trip

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Your Polynesian agency

Created in 2002, e-TAHITI travel is a true pioneer of the Polynesian online tourism. 9 months in the making before the launch of this great adventure: Travel license in the pocket, development of a brand-new web site, operating software and new partnerships with local suppliers...this was the journey of a lifetime for its founders.

Over the years, e-TAHITI travel developed its team and offerings with dynamism and innovation thanks to its alignment with the most advanced technologies: new website, new logo, new operating system, and an extended team to support travelers around the world.

Looking forward to designing exclusive and unique voyages...

Mareva ALINE-BOESTCH
General Manager

More info



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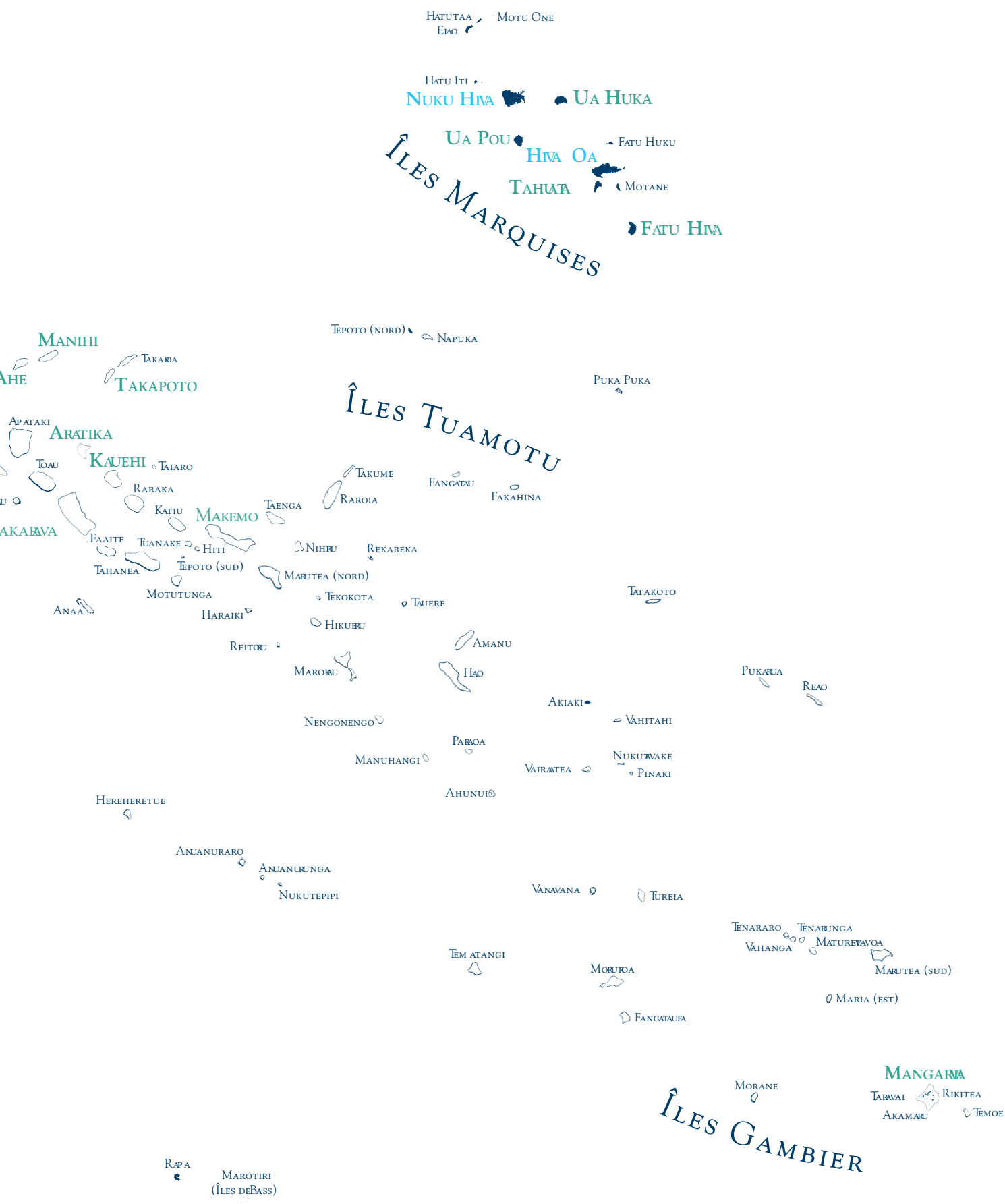
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TRAVEL

Prepare for your trip



- Hôtellerie internationale et petite hôtellerie familiale
- Petite hôtellerie familiale uniquement



Luggage policy & airlines



Air Tahiti

Maximum standard weight per passenger (child under 12 or adult): 23 kilos (default allowance unless a higher fare was purchased).

Air Tahiti Nui



Cabin baggage:

Adult and Child seated in Moana Economy or Moana Premium:
1 piece of 22 lbs / 10 Kg + 1 personal item* of 7 lbs / 3 Kg
Adult and Child seated in Poerava Business: 1 piece of 26.5 lbs / 12 Kg
+ 1 personal item* of 7 lbs / 3 Kg

Checked baggage:

Adult and Child seated in Moana Economy: 1 Piece × 23 Kg / 50 lbs
Adult and Child seated in Moana Premium: 2 Pieces × 23 Kg / 50 lbs
Adult and Child seated in Poerava Business: 3 Pieces × 32 Kg / 70 lbs

French Bee



Cabin baggage:

12kg max

Maximum dimensions: Length < 55 cm - Width < 40 cm - Height < 20 cm

Accessory: 4kg max

Not cumulative with the weight of the carry-on bag. It must fit under your seat

The maximum dimensions of the accessory are : Length < 40 cm - Width < 30 cm - Height < 15 cm

Examples of accessories: handbag, laptop bag, camera bag

Checked baggage:

Checked baggage allowances applicable to an adult or a child between 2 and 12 years old:

The allowance depends on your fare:

- SMART fare: 1 baggage item - max 23 kg
- PREMIUM fare: 2 pieces of luggage - max 23 kg each



Upon arrival

After collecting your luggage and going through customs controls, our partner Tahiti Best Transport will greet you with your name displayed on a welcome sign.

Your travel roadbook will be sent to you by email before your departure. Among the documents, you will find your itinerary with transfer times, your electronic tickets for inter-island flights, and our emergency phone number available 24/7 (phone & what's app).

As a general rule, please note hotel rooms are available on the day of your arrival between 2:00 and 3:00 pm. Check-out time is usually between 10:00 and 11:00 am. We remain at your disposal for further information.



Stay connected

Upon arrival, we will give you a mobile wifi router offering unlimited connection up to 5 devices; this service is offered by e-TAHITI travel. Inside your bag you will find the connection instructions as well as the procedure to return the router at the end of your vacation.



Change

The local currency is the Pacific Franc: CFP or XPF. The CFP/EURO exchange rate is fixed: 1 € = 119.33CFP. At the airport, you will find an office and exchange machines. Some banks also accept currency exchange at their counters. Visa, Mastercard and American Express credit cards are accepted in most shops, restaurants and hotels. ATMs accept all cards (except American Express which is only accepted in some ATMs in Tahiti). We advise you to have about \$300 in local currency when traveling to the outer islands as some (like Maupiti) do not have any ATM.



Time difference

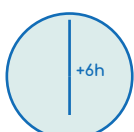
French Polynesia is at GMT -10.
When it is noon in Papeete, it is:



Papeete



Los Angeles



New York



Paris



Tokyo



Auckland



Taxes & tipping

A tourist development and service tax between 70 and 200 CFP per day will be charged directly on site by hotels and guesthouses. Tipping is not mandatory in French Polynesia and is at the client's discretion.

Visas & immigration



Other information



Voltage

The electric current is 220 Volts (60 Hertz). The electrical outlets are identical to those in Metropolitan France.



Road info

We drive on the right-hand side of the road. Traffic rules are the same as in France.



Water

Tap water is safe to drink in Papeete and in Bora Bora.



Climate

In hot periods, the temperature varies between 27 and 30°C. In cooler periods (July and August), it varies between 25 and 28°C, and can drop below 20°C at night.



Vaccination

Vaccination is not mandatory to enter French Polynesia (see specific rules for COVID depending on your transit country if any). Please note that a yellow fever vaccination certificate is mandatory for all travelers coming from infected areas.



Post offices

Post offices offer the same services as in Europe. Mail takes between 8 to 15 days to arrive in Europe, and 5 to 8 days for the United States. Post offices are generally open Monday to Friday from 7 a.m. to 3 p.m.





Telecommunications



TAHITI WIFI network



Phone

The country code is +689 + 8 digits. To call outside French Polynesia, dial 00 + your country code. For cell phones, the system used is GSM. The main islands are covered by the network and you can get a temporary subscription for the duration of your stay (prepaid card system) in a post office or in a specialized Vini or Vodafone store. You can also check out the websites of www.vini.pf or www.vodafone.com, the local operators, for information on roaming (partnership between international operators). Remember to disable your cellular data (roaming) on your phone if not used.

Internet

The 2 Internet suppliers here are Vini and Vodafone. You will find Internet cafes in many islands and most hotels and guesthouses also offer Internet service (with or without a fee). e-TAHITI Travel offers to all its clients a «Connectivity Pack» in partnership with Tahiti Wifi allowing you to stay connected during your stay. Do not hesitate to ask your travel consultant for more information. Please note that remote archipelagos such as the Tuamotu, the Austral, the Gambiers or the Marquesas have very unstable network coverage making the connection difficult, weak or non-existent depending on your location on the island.

Before departure...



Souvenirs

To bring back souvenirs or gifts for your loved ones, the best address is the market Papeete. On the first floor, several islands and archipelagos are represented. You will find, among others, stands from the Marquesas Islands with the most beautiful sculptures, or from the Austral Islands, with the most beautiful basketry. Before your purchase, we advise you to check with the seller if your item must go through the phytosanitary department before your departure. Usually, stores in the city center are open weekdays from 8am to 5pm and Saturdays from 8am to noon. You will also find in the islands artisanal stands in the city center or along the road, as well as pearl farms.



Polynesian flavors

Don't leave without tasting the local specialties such as raw fish in coconut milk, sashimi, Mahi Mahi (grilled snapper) or Meka (swordfish) with vanilla sauce... Do not hesitate to taste lagoon fishes which have a very light and pleasant white flesh, as well as the fresh seasonal locals fruits which are a real delight: banana, mango, pineapple, papaya with lemon, rambutans...

We also advise you to dine at the roulottes on Vaïete Square in Papeete or near your hotel. From 6pm, you will find a multitude of cuisines (Tahitian, Chinese, European). Don't forget to have some change because credit cards are not accepted.

Our best addresses by *Selection*

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Where to eat



Tahiti

- The « roulottes » (Vaïete square in Papeete) – Food trucks are very popular in Tahiti. Emblematic of the Pacific Islands, a warm and typically local place to enjoy a wide variety of cuisines: French, Chinese, Italian and Polynesian cuisine
- Restaurant Le Lotus (Intercontinental Tahiti Resort) - over the water (French & Polynesian refined cuisine)
- Restaurant Le Blue Banana (Punaauia) - by the lagoon (French and Polynesian cuisine)
- Restaurant Hei (Papeete) - refined French and Polynesian cuisine
- Restaurant L'Instant Présent (Punaauia Marina) - French and Polynesian cuisine
- Restaurant Tahiti La Plage (Punaauia) - on the beach (French and Polynesian cuisine).
- Restaurant La Plage de Maui (Toahotu – Presqu'île) - on the beach (French and Marquesan cuisine)
- Restaurant Maru Maru (city-center Papeete) – French and Polynesian cuisine
- Restaurant Meherio (Papeete) - by the sea European & Polynesian cuisine



Moorea

- Restaurant Le lézard jaune - Polynesian cuisine
- Snack Mahana - seafood & fish - closed on Saturday and Sunday
- Restaurant Coco d'Isle - Polynesian cuisine
- Restaurant Green Pearl - International cuisine (by the Golf course)
- Restaurant A l'heure du Sud - French & Polynesian cuisine
- Restaurant Te Honu Iti - French cuisine & seafood
- Fare Maheata - Local & international cuisine (by the lagoon and weather permitting they offer tables feet in the lagoon)
- Toahere Beach House snack (ponton)

Bora Bora



- Restaurant Bloody Mary's - seafood
- The lucky house Fare Manuia - Italian & French cuisine
- Bora Bora Yacht club - French & Polynesian cuisine
- Bora Bora Beach club - European and Polynesian cuisine

Souvenirs

Tattoo shops*

Tahiti

- Mana'o Tattoo Studio
- Burns Tattoo Shop
 - Tattoo by Patu
 - Aukara Tattoo

Moorea

- Hao' Mana Tatau

*By appointment only.



The Tahitian black pearl

In store:

- Tahiti Pearl Market Tahiti (Papeete, Le Tahiti by Pearl Resort)
- Tahiti Pearl Market Bora Bora (Vaitape)
- Tahiti Pearl Market Taha'a (Le Tahaa Island Resort & Spa by Pearl Resorts)

In pearl farms:

- Taha'a
- Huahine
- Fakarava
- Rangiroa



Shopping in Papeete

- Papeete market (handicraft, black pearls, clothing, local cosmetics...)
- Motu Tane shop - downtown Papeete (Polynesian men's shirts)
- Hinano store Tahiti Flagship - downtown Papeete (Polynesian clothing & surfware for the whole family)
- Reva Créations store (Polynesian clothing for babies and kids)

Getting married in French Polynesia





What are the requirements to get legally married in the islands of TAHITI?

To help you prepare for the big day French Polynesia has passed several new laws making it easier for foreign nationals to marry or elope in this dreamy location.

In order to have an island wedding in The Islands of Tahiti both parties must be at least 18 years of age to be married. The law requires that neither party can currently be married nor can they be directly related. Each spouse should be physically present for the marriage and must exchange vows in front of a witness who is 18 years or older.

It's important to note that all wedding and elopement ceremonies are performed in French. If the couple isn't fluent in French, they can choose an interpreter to be present to translate all questions in the ceremony. Once all the rules have been followed the couple can choose which city they wish to be married in and submit two sets of dates. Note that in French Polynesia you can't get married or elope on a Sunday or a national holiday.

Please find the documents complete list on the following QR Code:



How to speak Tahitian





Parau Tahiti 'Oe ? Do you speak Tahitian?

Some words are now part of the population's daily conversation, and several expressions are now very common such as aita 'e pe'ape'a, which means "everything is ok". The word popo'a is very common and means «foreigner». If French is the official language, why not learning a few Tahitian words?

Nānā Good bye

Goodbye is said: Nānā!
(until we meet again)

'Ia Ora Na Greeting People

To say hello: 'Ia ora na! In response: 'E aha tō 'oe huru? means How are you? You can answer: Maita'i (Good!), Maita'i roa (Very good!) or Maita'i rī'i (Not bad).

E ! 'E'ita ! Yes or No

A definite yes is said: 'E!; maybe is said: 'A! A firm no with no possibility of change is said 'E'ita! A normal and neutral no is said: 'Aita !

Māuruuru Thank you

Thank you is said Māuruuru. To say «no thanks»: 'aita māuruuru and «thank you very much» is said Māuruuru roa!

Special characteristics Glotal stop

The glotal stop is very common in Tahitian. It is a consonant like the others with the difference that it is written with an apostrophe instead of letters. It is pronounced by stressing the syllable that follows.

a, e, i, o, u

Some vowels also have their own accents (ā, ē, ī, ō and ū). The way you pronounce is subtle and depending on your pronunciation, the meaning can completely change to the delight of Polynesians.

h

It is pronounced by emphasizing the syllable that follows. Also be careful to know when to use an «h» and when not. «h» or not.

Below is a Mini Lexicon of Tahitian expressions

English	Tahitien
Welcome	Manava, Maeva
Cheers!	Manuia !
Wife	Vahine
Husband	Tane
Handsome / Beautiful	Nehenehe
Island	Motu
Flower	Tiare
Ocean	Moana
Food	Ma'a
Ancient religious site	Marae
Song	Himene
Traditional dance	'Ori
Traditional Polynesian canoe	Va'a
Carved statue	Tiki
Great	Nui
Small	Iti
Land, island	Fenua

More expressions





Sustainable commitments



Our CSR values and commitments

«The environment, our priority»

French Polynesia is synonymous with paradise for all. e-TAHITI travel, as a local travel agency, is concerned about the richness of its environment. In order to limit its impact and in a concern of preservation, e-TAHITI travel implements various measures within its organization, namely:

- Recycling
- Travel management (minimizing the impact of our local and international trips)
- Installation of a water fountain and use of water bottles to limit the use of plastic
- Limiting printing
- Use of digital technologies
- Energy saving

Also aware of the traveler's impact on the local environment, e-TAHITI travel offers an eco-responsible chart to convey good practices prior to arrival.

We use tote bags or natural travel pouches as a welcome gift to our customers, so they can be used during their stay but also at home after the trip.

The Polynesian culture is very present within e-TAHITI travel, with for example the respect of the Mahana Pae (flowered dress-code every Friday)



The actions

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To educate the youngest



Partnership with Oceania

Since 2020, our travel agency is in partnership with the NGO OCEANIA, www.asso-oceania.com, based in Moorea which works for the protection of cetaceans in Polynesian waters.

What is OCEANIA?

OCEANIA is an association of Law 1901 based on the island of Moorea in French Polynesia.

The association was founded in 2017 and has the objective of ensuring the future of cetaceans in French Polynesia, thanks to studies conducted throughout the year allowing to offer conservation measures.

The agency allows travelers to participate actively in this preservation through an eco-participation included in each trip and entirely transferred to Oceania annually and contributes to the deployment of their main projects «Vigie Sanctuaire» and «Fa'a'ora».



Vigie Sanctuaire

Launched in 2018, the objective is to monitor cetacean populations in the Polynesian sanctuary, and more specifically the humpback whale. Observations are carried out on board the ferries that make the daily crossings between Tahiti and Moorea.

This is the first study program to improve knowledge of the risk of collision in French Polynesia and allows to acquire a better understanding of collision situations between these vessels and large cetaceans to better anticipate and avoid them.

374
monitoring days

64 605
kilometers
travelled

1 663
observations on
study area

374
evasive
maneuvers

Traveler's ethical chart

French Polynesia is synonymous with paradise for all. e-TAHITI travel, a travel agency based in Tahiti, is concerned about its environment and in order to preserve its Fenua (land), here are some good practices:



Before the trip

e-TAHITI is committed to selecting professionals who are involved in responsible tourism: guides, tour operators, accommodation partners and restaurants.

Be curious about authentic accommodation, such as Tahitian guesthouses, which offer a typical local structure with a proximity to the population.

Take only the essentials with you. Save some space in your suitcase to bring back locally made souvenirs (pareo, necklace, monoi).

Choose light clothing.

Don't forget your sunglasses.

Favor ecological products, like «ecofriendly» sun cream.».

Prefer fabric bags to plastic bags and bring your water bottle.



During the trip

Polynesians are on first-name terms and greet each other, it is a philosophy anchored in the Polynesian culture.

Here are some words in Tahitian, to greet «IAORANA» ([IA] [O] [RA] [NA]) and to thank «MAURU'URU» ([MA] [OU] [ROU]).

Do not hesitate to take photos but take the time to ask for permission, before taking a picture a person.

Take advantage of this opportunity to establish a dialogue.

Do not step on corals and plants in order not to damage them.

Ask the locals for information before picking a plant or a flower.

Sort your waste (green bin: recyclable waste/ grey bin : non-recyclable waste).

Respect the posted rules in order to preserve the balance of the place.

Consume locally, prefer, for example coconut water instead of sweetened drinks, taro or uru chips to the usual potato chips you find at home.



«The islands of TAHITI will remain in your hearts... Be prepared to think about it for the rest of your life!»

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