

Bora Bora, Society Islands, French Polynesia

Ringed by one of the world's most spectacular lagoons and crowned by the volcanic spire of Mount Otemanu, Bora Bora is French Polynesia at its most cinematic. Tender ashore to Vaitape and choose between glass-clear snorkeling, island-circling adventures, and WWII relics hiding in the jungle.

- Tender port — anchor in Pofai Bay
- Typical call: 7–9 hrs
- CFP Franc (XPF); USD widely accepted
- French & Tahitian; English common in tourist areas

MY DAY IN PORT

Ship/Date: _____	Arrive: _____	All aboard: _____
Excursion: _____	Notes: _____	

GETTING ASHORE

- Docking:** Tender to Quai de Vaitape (5–10 min ride)
- Best For:** Lagoon snorkeling, stingray encounters, 4x4 island tours
- Walk to center:** Vaitape village is at the pier; Matira Beach is ~8 km south
- Don't Miss:** Lagoon snorkel with stingrays and sharks, WWII U.S. naval cannons

Getting around: Taxi ~1,500–2,500 CFP (~\$14–24 USD) per trip · Rideshare not available

TOP THINGS TO DO

- Lagoon Snorkel with Stingrays & Reef Sharks** — The signature Bora Bora experience: wade and snorkel in a shallow sandbar with friendly stingrays, then snorkel a coral garden teeming with reef...
- 4x4 Circle Island Safari** — Rattle through the jungle in an open 4x4, stopping at WWII U.S.
- Matira Beach Afternoon** — Bora Bora's only public beach stretches 1.5 km of powdery white sand with calm, shallow turquoise water.
- Jet Ski Lagoon Tour** — Zip across the lagoon on your own jet ski, looping the island and taking in unobstructed views of Mount Otemanu from the water.
- Bloody Mary's Lunch Stop** — One of French Polynesia's most famous restaurants, Bloody Mary's has a sand floor, a thatched roof, and a celebrity wall of past diners.

BEST WALKS

- Vaitape Village Wander** 1–2 km · Flat · 30–45 min — From the tender dock, explore Vaitape's main street: local supermarkets, souvenir shops, a church, and the harbor.
- Matira Beach Shore Walk** ~3 km round-trip · Flat · 1–1.5 hrs — Take a taxi to the north end of Matira Beach and walk south along the shore.
- Vaitape Village Stroll** ~1 km · 30 min · easy — From the tender quay, walk along the waterfront past local shops, the covered market, and the Bank of Tahiti.

WEATHER · DAYLIGHT · MONEY

CLIMATE (AVG °F · RAINY DAYS)

	Mon	High	Low	Rain
Apr		82°	79°	21d
Jun		80°	78°	16d
Aug		79°	76°	13d
Sep		79°	76°	14d
Oct		79°	77°	18d

DAYLIGHT & MONEY

Apr 6:15AM–5:57PM · Jun 6:33AM–5:41PM · Aug 6:24AM–5:58PM · Sep 6:02AM–6:02PM · Oct 5:38AM–6:06PM

CFP Franc (XPF); USD widely accepted

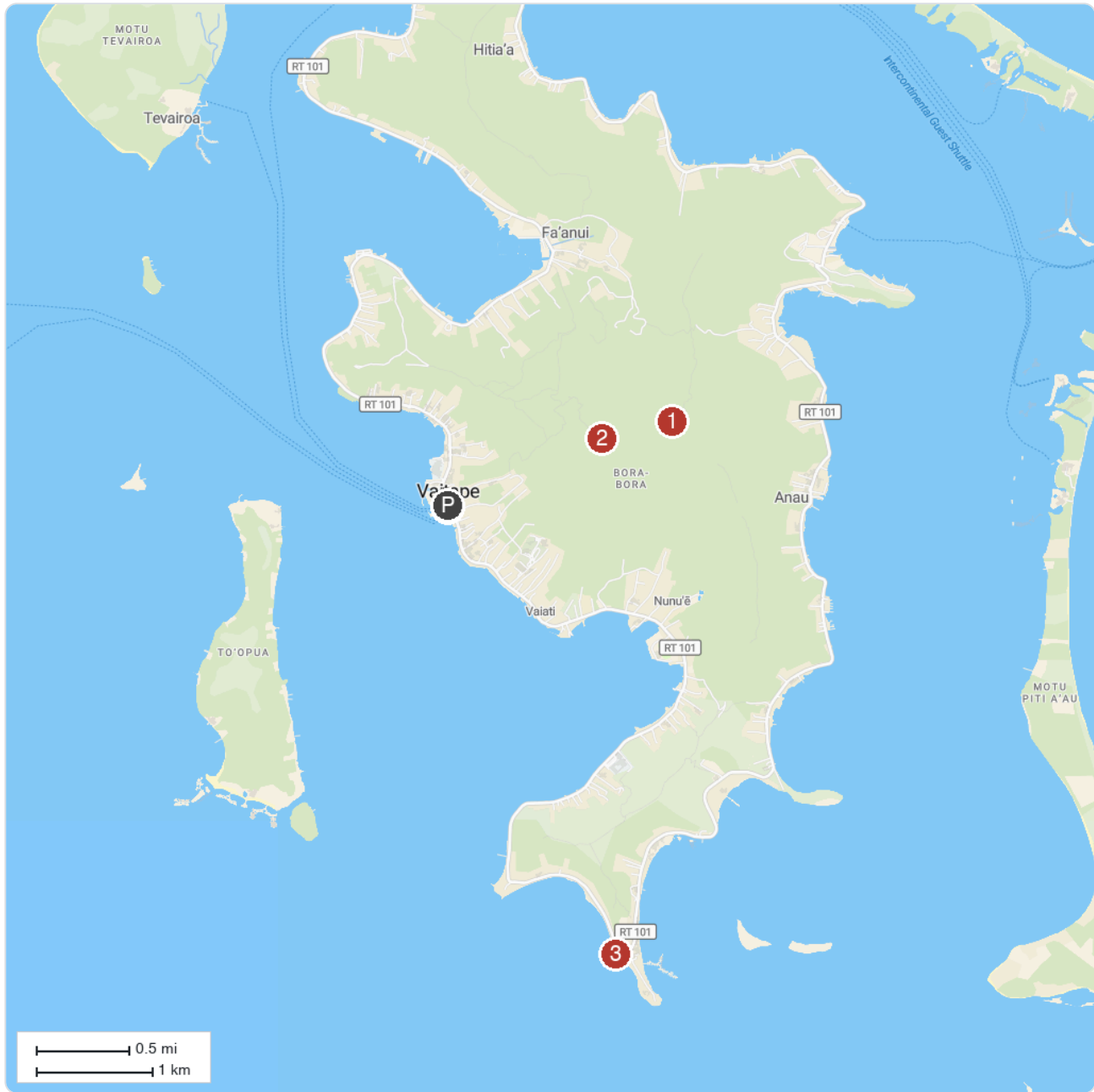
KNOW BEFORE YOU GO

- Carry XPF and USD. The ATM at Vaitape Wharf dispenses CFP francs. Most tourist spots accept USD, but local markets and small vendors prefer local currency.
- Book your lagoon tour independently at the dock — operators greet tenders and offer the same stingray/snorkel trips as cruise lines for significantly less. Confirm the return time fits your last tender.
- Rent a bike for the circle-island road — it's 32 km, mostly flat, and rewarding. Electric bikes are available from Vaitape if the heat is a concern. Allow 3–4 hours with stops.
- Get a tender ticket early. On large-ship days the tender queue can be slow. Collect your ticket at the ship's designated time; missing the last tender means missing the ship.
- Matira Beach is public and free. Don't pay for a resort day pass just to access a beach — Matira Point is a public beach with the same water quality and no entry fee.
- Pack reef-safe sunscreen. French Polynesia bans oxybenzone-based sunscreens to protect the coral. Bring your own reef-safe SPF — it can be hard to find locally and expensive at resorts.

Bora Bora, Society Islands, French Polynesia — Port Map

cruiseports.org

Red = walkable sights · Amber = excursions farther out · P = cruise terminal. Numbers match the order you'd typically visit.



1 Mount Otemanu Bora Bora's iconic extinct volcanic peak rising over the lagoon, visible from nearly every point on the island.

3 Matira Beach A white-sand public beach on the island's southern point, considered one of French Polynesia's finest.

P Cruise port / terminal

2 Mount Pahia Bora Bora's second-highest peak, offering panoramic views over the surrounding barrier reef.

4 Vaitape Bora Bora's main village and tender landing point, with shops, a market, and a small church.