

Makatea Island, Tuamotu Archipelago, French Polynesia

The ghost island of French Polynesia. A raised coral atoll 80 metres above sea level, haunted by a phosphate-mining past and fringed by sheer cliffs — nothing else in the Pacific looks like this.

-  Tender / Zodiac landing
-  Typical call: 5–7 hrs
-  XPF (cash only — no ATMs)
-  French / Tahitian
-  Rugged terrain — sturdy shoes essential

MY DAY IN PORT

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

GETTING ASHORE

Docking: Anchor offshore; Zodiac/tender to Temoa slipway — can be cancelled in heavy swells

Best For: Geology, history, caving, birdwatching, rock climbing

Walk to centre: Village is atop the plateau — 1.5 km steep road from the landing, best done by 4WD shuttle

Don't Miss: Hina freshwater cave swim and the phosphate-era ghost-town ruins

 Getting around:

TOP THINGS TO DO

- Hina Freshwater Cave Swim** — A dramatic limestone grotto featuring giant stalactites and a crystal-clear underground freshwater pool where you can...
- Phosphate Ghost Town Walk** — Explore the jungle-swallowed ruins of Makatea's 1917–1966 phosphate boom: rusted locomotives, railway tracks, abandoned...
- Via Ferrata Cliff Climb** — Scale the vertical limestone cliffs on a bolted via-ferrata route with fixed steel cables and ladders.
- Coconut Crab Safari** — Join locals in the jagged coral forest to find Kaveu — the giant coconut crab.
- Endemic Bird Spotting** — Makatea is home to species found nowhere else on earth, including the Makatea fruit dove and the Tuamotu reed warbler.

BEST WALKS

- Temoa Landing to Belvédère Viewpoint** 1.5 km uphill | 45–60 min | Strenuous — From the Temoa slipway, follow the dirt road up the cliff face to the plateau.
- Vaitepaua Ghost Town Loop** 1 km loop | 30–45 min | Easy — Once on the plateau, wander the old mining settlement at Vaitepaua.

WEATHER · DAYLIGHT · MONEY

 CLIMATE (AVG °F · RAINY DAYS)				 DAYLIGHT &  MONEY	
Mon	High	Low	Rain	Apr 6:01AM–5:44PM · Jun 6:18AM–5:29PM · Aug 6:10AM–5:44PM · Sep 5:47AM–5:48PM · Oct 5:25AM–5:52PM	
Apr	82°	79°	22d		
Jun	80°	78°	16d		
Aug	78°	76°	14d		
Sep	78°	76°	13d		
Oct	79°	77°	17d		

KNOW BEFORE YOU GO

- No sandals or flip-flops. Makatea's surface is razor-sharp fossilised coral. Wear closed-toe hiking shoes — this is non-negotiable.