

Tahuata Island, Marquesas, French Polynesia

The Marquesas' smallest inhabited island keeps things beautifully simple: no ATMs, no taxis, no crowds — just two villages, world-class bone carvers, a 19th-century royal road, and some of French Polynesia's most unspoiled bays.

Tender (no pier)

Typical call: 4–8 hrs

CFP Franc — cash only, no ATMs

French & Marquesan

Remote / expedition port

MY DAY IN PORT

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

Excursion: _____ Notes: _____

GETTING ASHORE

Docking: Tender only — ships anchor off Vaitahu or Hapatoni

Best For: Authentic Marquesan culture, bone carvings, quiet beaches

Walk to Center: Step off tender directly into the village

Don't Miss: The Royal Road at Hapatoni & local artisan carvers

Getting around: Rideshare not available

TOP THINGS TO DO

- Vaitahu Village & Craft Pavilion** — Walk through the main village to the carved-wood Catholic church, small archaeological museum (key from the town hall)...
- Royal Road Walk at Hapatoni** — Stroll the 19th-century raised stone walkway shaded by ancient tamanu trees along Hapatoni's coastline.
- Hanamoenoa Bay Snorkel & Swim** — A short boat ride from Vaitahu brings you to one of French Polynesia's most spectacular bays — multi-hued turquoise...
- Dolphin & Manta Spotting** — The channel between Hiva Oa and Tahuata is rich with marine life.
- Monoi Oil & Traditional Craft Workshop** — Tahuata is renowned for its fragrant Monoi oil — tiare flowers macerated in coconut oil.

BEST WALKS

- Vaitahu Village Loop** ~1 km · 30–45 min · Easy — From the tender landing at the quay, walk up to the Catholic church with its intricate wood carvings, then to the archaeological...
- Hapatoni Royal Road** ~1.5 km · 30–40 min · Easy — From the Hapatoni shore landing, follow the ancient tamanu-tree-lined Royal Road along the coast.

WEATHER · DAYLIGHT · MONEY

CLIMATE (AVG °F · RAINY DAYS)

	Mon	High	Low	Rain
Apr		89°	76°	1d
Jun		85°	74°	1d
Aug		84°	73°	1d
Sep		86°	73°	1d
Oct		87°	73°	1d

DAYLIGHT & MONEY

Apr 5:50AM–5:42PM · Jun 6:00AM–5:33PM · Aug 5:57AM–5:44PM · Sep 5:40AM–5:42PM · Oct 5:22AM–5:41PM

KNOW BEFORE YOU GO

- Cash is essential. There are no ATMs and no card readers on Tahuata. Bring CFP Francs (XPF) — exchange at Papeete or Hiva Oa before arriving. Some carvers accept USD/EUR but...