

Ua Huka, Marquesas, French Polynesia

Fewer than 700 people, more wild horses than humans, and archaeological sites that rival anything in Polynesia — Ua Huka rewards those willing to go off the beaten path.

-  Tender port (no cruise pier)
-  Typical call: 6-8 hrs
-  XPF (French Pacific Franc) — no ATMs for foreign cards
-  Marquesan & French
-  Island of Wild Horses

MY DAY IN PORT

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

GETTING ASHORE

Docking: Tender only — ships anchor in Vaipae Bay; 10–20 min tender ride to village quay

Best For: Marquesan culture, ancient archaeology, woodcarving, birdwatching, wild horse spotting

Walk to center: Vaipae village is steps from the landing quay; other villages require a 4x4 (no public transport)

Don't Miss: Papuakeikaha Arboretum (200+ citrus varieties), Hokatu woodcarvers, Hane Sea Museum

 Getting around:  **Rideshare**  not available

TOP THINGS TO DO

- Papuakeikaha Arboretum** — A 25-hectare botanical garden holding over 200 citrus varieties — the world's largest such collection — plus endemic...
- Hokatu Woodcarvers Village** — Hokatu is the woodcarving capital of the Marquesas.
- Ancient Tiki & Archaeology Circuit** — Ua Huka is an open-air museum.
- Wild Horse Country** — Wild horses outnumber humans on Ua Huka.
- Village Museums Circuit** — Vaipae holds the Archaeological Museum (tikis, tools, jewelry).

BEST WALKS

- Vaipae Village Stroll**  30-45 min · Easy · From tender quay — From the landing quay, walk through Vaipae village past colorful houses, small craft stalls, and the local mairie (town hall).
- Invisible Bay Overlook**  45 min · Moderate uphill · Short 4x4 + walk — A short 4x4 ride up from the village leads to a spectacular viewpoint high above Vaipae Bay — look down into the narrow...

KNOW BEFORE YOU GO

- Cash is king. There are no ATMs that accept foreign cards on Ua Huka. Bring XPF (French Pacific Francs) from Papeete or your ship's cash advance before arriving — credit cards are...
- Beware the no-nos. Tiny biting sandflies (no-nos) are aggressive on Ua Huka. Wear long pants and long sleeves, and apply DEET-heavy insect repellent before going ashore. Their...
- No 4x4, no island. There is no public transport and no car rental. If your cruise line hasn't pre-arranged 4x4 tours, negotiate with a local driver-guide at the quay immediately...