

TAHITI TRAVEL TIPS

The following is a list of useful information about travel to Tahiti. If you have any specific questions concerning your airline reservations or our itinerary, please contact BenchMark Travel Services at (978) 792-5150 or toll-free at (866) 535-8600 from the USA and Canada, between 9:00AM and 5:00PM Eastern Time, Monday through Friday. You may also contact us via e-mail at tut@benchmarkincentives.com or by fax at (978) 834-6082.

TRAVEL DATES

If you're flying with the group from Los Angeles (LAX), you will depart on Air France for Papeete, Tahiti (PPT) at 11:55PM on Friday, April 5, 2024 and arrive on Saturday, April 6th, at 5:20AM. Your flight back to Los Angeles departs Papeete, Tahiti at 7:30AM on Saturday, April 13th, and arrives back in Los Angeles at 6:35PM on April 13th.

Please Note: BenchMark Travel Services will send final travel documents, approximately two (2) weeks prior to your departure date.

TRAVEL INSURANCE

BenchMark Travel Services strongly recommends the purchase of travel insurance* before any TUT trip! Travel insurance offers travelers coverage for unforeseen problems, from a cancelled flight to a serious illness—or in rare cases, even an act of terrorism or the financial default of a travel supplier. If you miss a travel connection, even for reasons beyond your control, you are NOT necessarily protected from financial loss unless you have travel insurance. For example, if you encounter mechanical problems, flight delays, or inclement weather that causes you to miss connections, the airline carrier might re-book you, although in many cases (such as bad weather) it is NOT guaranteed (in which case you may either have to purchase an entirely new round-trip ticket or forego the entire prepaid trip without any reimbursement). Travel insurance can cover new flights or provide trip cancellation coverage (for a covered loss), as well as emergency medical expenses and medical transportation. Travel insurance also provides 24 hour "911" emergency travel service, in case a traveler has to change a flight or a hotel room, in addition to assistance with emergency cash transfers, lost baggage, and pre-trip consultation services (travel advisories, passport requirements, inoculation information, etc.).

HOW TO PURCHASE TRAVEL INSURANCE: You can obtain travel insurance from AIG International.* To view the various policies offered, log onto www.travelguard.com. You will have two options to purchase travel insurance: 1. US and Canadian residents may call Travel Guard directly at 1-800-826-1300. 2. Visit Travel Guard's website at www.TravelGuard.com to process the insurance yourself. In this case you will be asked for a travel agent code, please give Travel Guard the code 22735731 as this code will identify your booking with BenchMark Travel Services. Please be sure to read all policy information thoroughly and note that if you have a pre-existing condition you must apply for the insurance within 14 days of the trip deposit date.

*Please note that Travel Guard insurance is only available to U.S. and Canadian residents at this time. If you live elsewhere, please check for such coverage within your home country from independent providers.

PASSPORTS

ALL travelers must carry a passport, valid for at least six (6) months after your intended return date (October 13, 2024) to your home country. Two pages must be available for the entry stamp. If you hold a passport with an expiration date less than six (6) months after your return date, you must renew your passport prior to departure.

If you are not a U.S. Citizen, your National Consulate or Embassy can answer any questions you may have regarding the individual travel documents required. You can find a worldwide index of Embassies via the web at:

www.embassyworld.org.

PLEASE NOTE: IF YOU WILL BE EXTENDING YOUR TRIP TO ANOTHER COUNTRY, YOU SHOULD CHECK WITH THE CONSULATE OF THAT COUNTRY TO ESTABLISH IF A VISA OR ANY ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTATION WILL BE REQUIRED.

Keep your passport in your carry-on bag with your airline ticket and/or e-ticket receipt. We also recommend packing a photocopy of the picture and signature pages of your passport in your checked luggage. If your passport does get lost while you are in Tahiti, it is a lot easier to get an emergency replacement if you have the photocopies.

HEALTH PRECAUTIONS

ALL TRAVELERS should make sure that your standard adult immunizations and 'boosters' are up to date. Additional vaccines are not necessary for travel to Tahiti, unless you are traveling from certain countries that require proof of vaccination against certain diseases.

COVID-19

The CDC suggests that you do not travel until you are fully vaccinated. International travel poses additional risks, and even fully vaccinated travelers might be at increased risk for getting and possibly spreading some COVID-19 variants. If you have symptoms delay travel and stay home to protect yourself and others from COVID-19.

In the United States it is now optional to wear a mask over your nose and mouth at most transportation hubs such as airports, on planes, and other forms of public transportation. Currently wearing a mask on *The Paul Gauguin* will be at your discretion.

For more information regarding travel during COVID-19, please visit the websites for the CDC and World Health Organization.

Drinking Water

When traveling to a different ecological environment, the local water can sometimes adversely affect people. Drinking purified bottled water is recommended and available everywhere on the ship. *The Paul Gauguin* uses purified water to clean and cook their food and make ice for their ice machines.

Note: We recommend that people with sensitive stomachs use bottled water to brush their teeth.

WEATHER & WHAT TO PACK

April is considered the "Season of Plenty," when the vegetation in French Polynesia is particularly luxuriant and the tropical fruits are ripe. On average, temperatures will range between 72° and 89° Fahrenheit (22° and 31° Celsius), and the water temperature is around 77° to 82° Fahrenheit (25° to 28° Celsius) this time of year. Pleasant indeed! Please keep in mind that occasional rain showers can happen as Tahiti is a tropical location.

Resort casual or elegant resort-wear is appropriate dress for all evenings aboard *The Paul Gauguin*. Resort casual consists of a dress, skirt, or slacks with a blouse or sweater for the ladies, and slacks with collared shirts for gentlemen. No ties are required at any time.

Please note that casual wear, such as shorts, t-shirts, casual jeans (frayed and/or with holes), baseball caps, flip-flops, and Crocs are not considered appropriate after 6:00 p.m. in all restaurants and lounges. Bathrobes and bathing suits are not appropriate in the ship's restaurants and lounges. Shirts and shoes are required in all public areas at all times, except on the pool deck. During the day, comfortable shorts, bathing suits, aqua shoes, sandals and flip flops are the norm!

Some essentials we suggest:

- Walking shoes, sneakers, flip flops, and water shoes
- Light rain jacket and a hat
- Lightweight shorts and casual lightweight pants (Note dress is casual on board the *Paul Gauguin*, however shorts are not allowed at dinner)
- Swimsuit (maybe two!)
- Personal medications and prescription eyeglasses
- Small backpack

- Binoculars
- Sunglasses and sunscreen
- Calculator or currency converter – if you have a smart phone, there's an app for that
- Camera with charger or extra batteries
- Travel insurance certificate, if you've purchased insurance (highly recommended)
- Passport and money
- A copy of the picture page of your passport – keep separate from your passport
- Electric converter.

Electronics

Tahiti has 220 volts, AC of 50 Hertz (North America operates at 110-120 volt and the electricity is generated at 60 Hertz). On board *The Paul Gauguin* both 220 and 110 plugs are available. If you need an adapter/converter, please bring your own with you.

Important: If your home supply is 110 volts and your electrical equipment does not have a 110/220 or 110/240 switch on it, you will need to get a voltage converter to step the Tahitian 220 volts down to 110 volts. Electronics you should check are your phone charger, camera chargers, electric toothbrush, traveling clothes irons, hair curlers, shavers, hair dryers, laptop chargers etc. many of these devices are "dual" voltage meaning they operate either at 110v or 220/240v. There should be a label on the appliance advising that it is capable of dual voltage, (if not or in doubt don't use it).

Valuables

Remember, the airlines and cruise ship will not take responsibility for lost or stolen valuables. We suggest that you pack them in your carry-on bag and store them in your stateroom's safe. While touring or shopping leave your passport and the bulk of your money in the safe. Take with you only the money you intend to spend.

Luggage

Luggage Tags

Prior to leaving home, please attach one of the 2024 TAHITIAN WOW TOUR luggage tags (which you will receive in the pre-trip mailing) to each piece of checked luggage. These tags identify you as Tut Adventurer to the Travel Staff at the Fa'a'a International Airport, the Te Moana Tahiti Resort, and at the ship's terminal. We recommend you also place identification inside each piece of luggage, in the event exterior tags are lost during handling.

Checked Bags

The Transportation Security Administration (TSA) has strict luggage regulations. Included in the group airfare is 1 piece of checked luggage that should not exceed a combined size (length + width + height) of 62 inches and must not weigh more than 50 pounds. If you exceed the weight limit or luggage allowance, you may be charged an additional fee by the airline.

Please Note: Most airlines now charge for each piece of checked luggage. Please check your airline's website for luggage fees.

Carry-on Bags

Passengers with more than one carry-on, plus a personal item will be required to check any additional luggage. Be sure to pack the essentials in your carry-on bag, such as your airline tickets, passport, a light change of clothing, any valuables, medications, toiletries, and perhaps a book or a snack.

Although regulations have recently changed, the TSA still requires that sharp objects be placed in your checked luggage. It's not just the obvious items, but includes such innocuous items as razors for shaving, nail files, Swiss army knives, and corkscrews. Lighters and matches, or any type of scissors (e.g., from a sewing kit or first aid kit) should also be packed in your checked luggage.

Lost Luggage

In the event that one of your bags goes astray, you'll want to file a Baggage Claim Report before passing through

customs at the Fa'a'a International Airport. Also, be sure to inform a member of the TUT Travel Staff so that they can work with the airlines to recover your lost luggage as quickly as possible.

AIRPORT CHECK IN

To avoid delays it is important that you arrive at the airport three (3) hours prior to your international flight's departure time. Flight schedules change constantly, which means that you should confirm your flight's status 24 hours in advance and again prior to departing for the airport.

We highly recommend downloading the app of the airline you will be flying, as you will receive live updates regarding changes in the schedule. You may also check in for your flight(s) via the airline's app or online within 24 hours of your flight's departure time.

If checking in at a kiosk, you will need to scan your passport then type in either your record locator, name, or final destination in order to pull up your record. You may also print your bag tags at the kiosk, then drop your bags off with the airline representative at the counter.

If checking in with an airline representative at the ticket counter, you will be asked to present your passport.

PLEASE NOTE: THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION REQUIRES AIRLINES TO SOLICIT EMERGENCY CONTACT INFORMATION FOR U.S. PASSENGERS TRAVELING INTERNATIONALLY. PLEASE BE PREPARED TO GIVE AN EMERGENCY CONTACT NAME AND TELEPHONE NUMBER UPON CHECK IN.

AIRPORT SECURITY

The TSA has strict security screening procedures for ALL domestic and international flights originating in the United States. As of this writing, passengers will only be permitted to carry travel-size toiletries (three-ounces or less) in a clear plastic, one quart-size, zip-top bag. However, you will be asked to place the plastic bag separately on the X-ray conveyor belt.

PLEASE NOTE: A FEW EXCEPTIONS TO THIS RULE APPLY AND INCLUDE DIABETIC GLUCOSE MEDICATIONS SUCH AS INSULIN, BABY FORMULA, AND PRESCRIPTION LIQUID MEDICATIONS LABELED WITH A NAME THAT MATCHES THE PASSENGER'S TICKET. THESE ITEMS MUST BE DECLARED TO THE TRANSPORTATION SECURITY OFFICERS AT THE SECURITY CHECKPOINT. BEVERAGES AND OTHER ITEMS PURCHASED IN THE SECURE BORDING AREA MAY BE BROUGHT ONTO THE AIRCRAFT.

To minimize any delays at the screening checkpoint we strongly suggest that you pack the following items in the luggage you plan to check on the plane: all creams, lotions and ointments, suntan lotions, moisturizers, bug sprays, gel deodorants, gel-cap pills, hair styling gels, hair sprays of all kinds including aerosol, liquid hair products, lip gels, glosses or liquids, liquid foundations, make up removers or facial cleansers, mascara, mouthwash, nail polish, perfumes or colognes, liquid sanitizers, liquid soaps, bubble bath and toothpaste.

Also, passengers may be asked to remove their shoes so that they may be x-rayed with their carry-on bags. Laptop computers, cellular phones, iPads, tablets, Kindles and other portable electronic devices must still be screened at the security checkpoint as well but will be allowed on board the aircraft.

PLEASE NOTE: IF YOU ARE FLYING FROM EUROPE OR ANY COUNTRY OTHER THAN THE UNITED STATES, LOCAL POLICIES REGARDING CARRY-ON LUGGAGE WILL APPLY. PLEASE CHECK WITH YOUR AIRLINE FOR ADDITIONAL DETAILS.

Once again, security measures may change between now and the time we depart for Tahiti, so we suggest that you visit the TSA website prior to our 2024 TAHITIAN WOW TOUR trip for the most up-to-date travel information:

<https://www.tsa.gov/travel>.

EMERGENCY TRAVEL INFORMATION

BenchMark Travel Services can be reached from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Eastern Time, Monday through Friday at 866-535-8600 toll-free from the U.S. and Canada, or 978-792-5150.

If BenchMark Travel Services booked your airline reservations and you have a travel day emergency, which occurs after hours or on a weekend, please call our 24-hour emergency hot-line at 800-860-9558 from the U.S. and Canada; or from any other country call 001-303-801-2163. You will need to mention code AT9C.

Please Note: If you have an emergency while in Tahiti, our TUT Travel Staff will be on-site with you throughout the trip to offer assistance.

THE LANGUAGE

French is the official language in Tahiti but the locals also speak Tahitian. English is widely spoken and understood in most hotels, restaurants and shops. Still, learning a little Tahitian is always encouraged and appreciated. Below are some commonly used words and phrases. There are only thirteen letters in the Tahitian alphabet, including vowels a (*ah*) as in spa, e (*ay*) as in hey, i (*ee*) as in ski, o (*oh*) as in low, and u (*oo*) as in due; and consonants f, h, m, n, p, r, t and v, which are pronounced the same in English.

hello: ia orana (yo-rah-nah)

goodbye: nana (nah-nah)

welcome: maeva (mah-ay-vah)

thank you: mauruuru (mah-roo-roo)

cheers: manuia (mah-new-yah)

let's go: ua reva (oo-ah ree-vah)

SHOPPING IN TAHITI

There are no shopping malls or large department stores in Tahiti, only small local boutiques and street vendors. The island of Tahiti offers the greatest selection. The best place to start is the local marketplace, Le Marché, open daily from 5:00AM to 6:00PM. There's also Le Centre Vaima in downtown Papeete, and the adjacent Musée de la Perle, which tells the history of Tahitian pearls and explains their cultivation process.

Popular purchases include black pearls, vanilla beans, scented oils and soaps, woven hats and bags, woodcarvings, *tifaifai* quilts, and the colorful *pareo* (sarong). Please note that bargaining over prices is not customary in Tahiti and can likely be perceived as rude.

CUSTOMS

Upon Departing for Tahiti

If you have just bought a new and expensive digital camera, camcorder, watch, laptop computer or similar item, it will be worth your while to stop at the Customs Office at your international departure airport and register these items. It usually does not take much time and will save you from the possibility of delays and/or having to pay duty on these items on the return home.

Returning from Tahiti

U.S. Citizens will clear customs upon their first arrival into the United States. Per the norm, you will need to declare everything that you may have bought in Tahiti or did not take with you when you left your home country. Of course,

how much you will be permitted to bring home under “duty free” status varies by country and is often determined by the length of your trip. For those traveling from outside of the United States, it is wise to confirm details with the Customs personnel at your departure airport or contact your local Consulate prior to your departure.

Each U.S. citizen may bring back \$800.00 USD worth of “duty free” items (a maximum of \$1,600.00 USD per household) as long as they are in your possession or brought back as accompanied baggage. Duty will be waived on items that you mail home to yourself, if the value is \$200.00 USD or less. Antiques that are at least 100 years old and fine art are considered “duty free.”

Citizens who individually declare between \$800.00 USD and \$1,000.00 USD will be charged a duty on the amount over \$800 USD (up to \$1,000.00 USD) by Customs officials at the first point of entry, so remember to keep your receipts handy. The \$800.00 USD “duty free” exemption may include 200 cigarettes (1 carton) or 100 cigars and, if you are over the age of 21, one (1) liter (33.8 ounces) of an alcoholic beverage (beer, wine, liquor, etc.).

Value Added Tax

Value-added tax (VAT) is a consumption tax on goods and services that is levied at each stage of the supply chain where value is added, from initial production to the point of sale. The amount of VAT the user pays is based on the cost of the product minus any costs of materials in the product that have already been taxed at a previous stage.

Tahiti has a Value Added Tax (VAT), which applies to services, restaurants, hotels, and most merchandise. Visitors must pay the 6%-13% VAT on services, but if you are not a resident of the European Union, you can claim a refund of the VAT you paid on purchases in Tahiti which you are taking back to your country (look for the “Tax Free Shopping” signs).

To obtain your refund, keep the receipts for all eligible purchases and present them to the VAT representative at the refund booth in the airport in Papeete. In order to process your claim, you will need to show your passport, international boarding pass, the retailer’s tax invoice, and the goods you purchased. The VAT will be refunded by check or show up as a credit on your credit card statement.

Please Note: If you are qualified to obtain a VAT refund, you should keep the receipts for all of your purchases made. You will need them in the event that a Customs official questions you about an item’s retail value.

MONEY MATTERS

Currency

The *Paul Gauguin* is a cashless society while on board so everything can be charged to your stateroom. The currency used in French Polynesia is the French Pacific Franc, abbreviated XPF or CFP. Denominations are available in 1/2/5/10/20/50 and 100 coins, and 500/1,000/5,000 and 10,000 bills. The exchange rate with the Euro is a fixed flat rate (1 Euro (€) = 119.33 Pacific Franc), but it fluctuates against the U.S. dollar (USD). As of June 21, 1 USD = 0.0091 Pacific Francs.

If you would like to check the current international rates of exchange, visit the XE website: www.xe.com. Or download the XE Currency App (<http://www.xe.com/apps/>) so you can calculate currencies on-the-go!

The bank and ATM at Faa'a International Airport are open to exchange money upon arrival. The international banks in Papeete include Banque de Polynésie (www.sg-bdp.pf), Banque Socredo (www.socredo.pf) and Banque de Tahiti (www.banque-tahiti.pf). Te Moana Tahiti Resort will also be able to exchange currency, but it will most likely be at a higher exchange rate. Banks are always closed on Sunday with limited hours on Saturday. Since credit cards are often accepted in the tourist areas, it is not necessary to exchange large amounts.

Please Note: Before you depart for Tahiti, be sure to call your bank and/or credit card issuer(s) to alert them that you will be traveling to Tahiti and plan to use your card(s) while traveling.

Credit Cards

Visa and MasterCard, and to a lesser degree American Express, are accepted throughout Tahiti. Please note that not all

places accept debit cards. Some of the smaller establishments do not accept American Express or any credit cards, so it is always good to ask if you do not see a sign in the window or at a register.

When you receive your monthly credit card statement it will show the converted costs and will reflect the rate of exchange at the time of your purchase. Please be aware that in most cases, an extra fee for converting from foreign currency will be added to your credit card.

PLEASE NOTE: IT IS A GOOD IDEA TO MAKE SURE YOU UNDERSTAND HOW TO TAKE CASH ADVANCES OUT ON YOUR CREDIT CARD PRIOR TO YOUR DEPARTURE.

Tipping

It is not customary to tip in Tahiti. All Gratuities on board *The Paul Gauguin* are included! If you want to tip someone while out on a local excursion and are in doubt about how much, think 10%. Your American TUT Travel Staff will not expect or accept any tips. All tips are at your discretion!

COMMUNICATION

In April, Tahiti will be 6 hours behind Eastern Time. If it's 1:00 PM on April 6 in Tahiti, it is:

- 7:00 PM on April 6 in New York
- 6:00 PM on April 6 in Chicago
- 5:00 PM on April 6 in Colorado
- 4:00 PM on April 6 in California
-

If your home city is not listed above, you can find current local time and time zone information at <http://www.timeanddate.com>.

Phones

Paul Gauguin Cruises has an advanced cellular network installed onboard our ship, allowing guests to place and receive calls using their personal mobile phones when the ship is in international waters. For questions about services or about pricing and billing, guests should contact their mobile phone provider's customer service department prior to sailing. Mobile phones must be able to roam internationally, and their provider must have a roaming agreement with Maritime Communications Partner AS (MCP). Data roaming charges may apply.

If family and friends need to contact you in case of emergency during the program you can also be contacted on board. The person who is trying to get in touch with you may dial *The Paul Gauguin* directly from the U.S. Simply dial the international access code from the USA (011), plus the appropriate Ocean Region Code, then the ship's phone number as desired.

Ocean Region Codes: 872 – Pacific Ocean

Telephone Numbers: 011-872-331-165-211

Each suite/stateroom contains a direct dial telephone. Calling from ship to shore, access is possible from any public or suite phone. Direct-dial satellite calls can be made from suites/staterooms and will be charged to guests' onboard account. Charges for maritime satellite communications are significantly more than those of land systems.

APP Alternative

An inexpensive alternative to staying in touch with your mobile phone is by using WhatsApp. This is a smartphone app that allows fast, simple, secure messaging and calling; available on phones all over the world. Voice and video calls made through this app use your phone's internet connection, instead of your plan's voice minutes, so you don't have to worry about expensive calling charges.

INTERNET

Internet access is complimentary throughout the ship for all guests. The onboard Internet Café is open 24 hours a day

and features private terminals where guests have the ability to surf the web, chat online, and access private web-based email accounts. Internet access is also facilitated by our ship-wide WiFi network. Guests may use personal laptops, iPhones®, and all other WiFi-equipped devices while on board.

MORE QUESTIONS?

If you have any questions prior to traveling, please contact BenchMark Travel Services at the numbers below. We expect that questions will arise during your stay in Tahiti and on board the *Paul Gauguin*; therefore, the TUT Travel Staff will be readily available at the Hospitality Desk, located in a convenient area on board the ship. If you need assistance, feel free to stop by the Hospitality Desk any day during the trip.

Additionally, this excellent website gives great information on Tahiti.

<http://www.tahiti.com>

BenchMark Travel Services

21 Water Street, Suite 304 • Amesbury, MA 01913 • Tel: 978-792-5150 • Fax: 978-834-6082

Toll Free: 866-535-8600 • tut@benchmarkincentives.com