

Fact Sheet



French Polynesia

Passports

You must be in possession of a valid passport to travel internationally. Instructions on how to obtain a US passport and an application form can be found on the web at:

www.travel.state.gov/passport.

You may also contact your local post office and they will advise you of the nearest passport issuing office. Your passport must be valid for at least three months after your scheduled date of return home.

Visas – French Polynesia

For US and Canadian citizens, no visa is required for stays of up to one month. For longer stays please contact the French Embassy in Washington, D.C. Tel: 202 944 6000 Fax: 202 944 6212

Money

Currency is Pacific Franc denominations:

Coins	Notes
1 Franc	500 Franc
2 Franc	1,000 Franc
5 Franc	5,000 Franc
10 Franc	10,000 Franc
20 Franc	
50 Franc	
100 Franc	

There are several international banks in Tahiti, including a bank at the Tahiti-Faaa International airport, and branch offices in many of the resort islands of French Polynesia. The larger hotels will also exchange various currencies for XPF. Major credit cards are accepted in most hotels, restaurants, boutiques and other tourist establishments.

Weather

The climate on the island of Tahiti is considered tropical and can be divided into two basic seasons: the wet season and the dry season. The wet season is between the months of November to April, receiving approximately $\frac{3}{4}$ of the annual rainfall during these months. The humidity during this time can be quite high and cloud cover is common. Temperatures will range from 80 - 86°F. The dry season is May through October. This is the Polynesian winter. Temperatures generally range from between 75- 82°F and rain is rare. Day to night temperature fluctuations are minimal.

You may get a 10-day forecast for any city at the following website: www.weather.com and click on the World tab.

Language

The official languages of French Polynesia are French and Tahitian. Because of the way the Tahitian language is pronounced, it is generally easier for Americans to pronounce Tahitian words than it is for them to pronounce words in French. Unlike French or English, there are no confusing rules about how words are pronounced. In Tahitian, each letter has a certain sound and that sound remains the same. Some words you might hear:

Tahitian	American
la Orana (yo-rah-nah)	Hello
Nana (nah-nah)	Goodbye

Telecommunication

Fortunately, making telephone calls on Tahiti's Islands is pretty easy and inexpensive! Dispersed in good numbers throughout the islands at hotels, businesses and along roadsides are phone booths utilizing a "card system". Just insert your card into the slot, and you can easily call island to island for local rates (inexpensive). For the best rate, purchase a phone card from the post office.

Public Transportation

Le Truck is Tahiti's public bus service. The destination is posted on top of each Le Truck, which always begins and ends its round trips at the public market in the center of Papeete. They operate during the daylight hours, with night transportation provided only to the West Coast hotels, as far as Hotel Maeva Beach (last run depends on what's happening in town). Authorized stops along the road are indicated by a blue sign with a drawing of Le Truck. Just wave to the driver to stop. Pay the Driver on the right side of the cab when you get off.

Customs/Duty Free

In addition to personal effects, the following items are allowed duty free: 200 cigarettes, 100 cigarillos or 50 cigars, 250 grams of smoking tobacco, 50 grams of perfume, 25 litres of lotion, 500 grams of coffee, 100 grams of tea, and 2 litres of spirits. Visitors under 17 years of age are not allowed to import tobacco and spirits.

Departure Tax

There is no departure tax from French Polynesia.