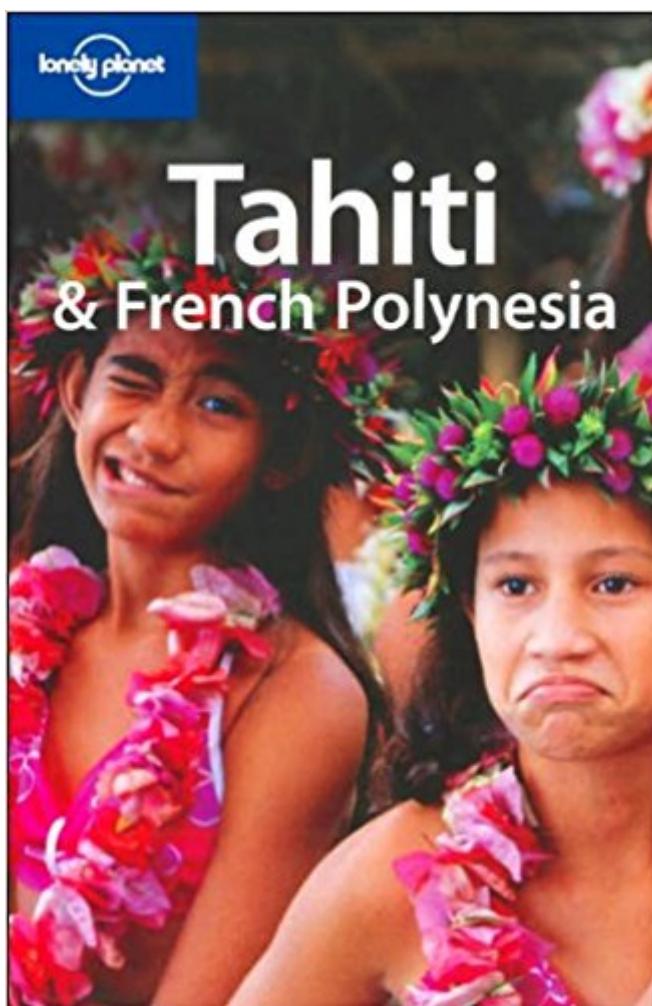


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# **Lonely Planet Tahiti & French Polynesia (Country Guide)**



## Synopsis

Bonjour and welcome to Tahiti! On your left you'll find great French cooking and fresh seafood; on your right there are ancient Polynesian ruins and brilliant Tahitian dancing. Just offshore there are islands with golden beaches, world-class diving plus endless opportunities to just kick back and relax. We love Tahiti, and know these islands like our own backyard, so let us show you around. Before You Book, read what our authors thought about your resort à "get the honest scoop. Relax beachside with us and read up on Tahitian history, culture and mythology, then let us spin you inspiring tales of the mysterious outer islands. Save a few bucks here and there à "from planning your trip, to booking accommodation, we'll show you how to make sure your trip costs don't blow out of control. Trust Us à " We've dived the dives and walked the walks, we've visited every resort, hostel and cafe between the remote Tuamotus and the backstreets of Papeete. We know what we're talking about!

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

From Antarctica to Zimbabwe, if you're going there, chances are Lonely Planet has been there first. With a pithy and matter-of-fact writing style, these guides are guaranteed to calm the nerves of first-time world travelers, while still listing off-the-beaten-path finds sure to thrill even the most jaded globetrotters. Lonely Planet has been perfecting its guidebooks for nearly 30 years and as a result, has the experience and know-how similar to an older sibling's "been there" advice. The original backpacker's bible, the LP series has recently widened its reach. While still giving insights for the

low-budget traveler, the books now list a wide range of accommodations and itineraries for those with less time than money. If the magical islands of French Polynesia are on your itinerary, here is the perfect traveling companion. Its 29 maps highlight 4WD vehicle tracks, walking routes, and dive sites. The guide features a thorough history section, food section, accommodations for any budget, and useful Tahitian and French language sections. This book also includes all the archipelagos: the Societies, Tuamotus, Marquesas, Australs, and Gambiers--with extensive information in inter-island travel. The authors have personally tested all of the dive sites. --Kathryn True --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

â |Lonely Planet, the intrepid traveler's bible...' --Los Angeles Times, April 2005

Having just returned from a 3 week tour of Tahiti and the Tuamotu's, I found this guide book invaluable. Even on the remote atolls, the information was current and detailed, and as comprehensive as I would need or want (digging even deeper is up to you). Its an absolute must for any traveler, whether new to French Polynesia or a seasoned veteran, its chock full of valuable history, facts, trivia, opinions, myths, and data to make your trip that much more informed, aware, and ultimately more enjoyable. Being a "demi" myself (tahitian mother and american father), I have travelled to french polynesia many times throughout my life, but I had never yet visited the tuamotus, where my grandmother is from. I found this guide book to be an amazing asset in the expansive archipelago. I will purchase future updated editions as they become available. Excellent and highly recommended.

My husband and I vacationed in Tahiti (specifically Mo'orea and Bora Bora in January 2012). This is the most recent Lonely Planet Tahiti & French Polynesia version available. I enjoy lonely planet guide books to travel since they give info on how to get around without spending a bundle and places the locals enjoy. Overall, I feel this book was spot on for us. A few complaints are: some of the restaurants in Bora Bora had already gone out of business by the time we got there. I do wish they would also include information about local markets and more detailed instructions on how to get to certain places rather than, "ask a local".

mostly was very helpful on a trip to the Marquesas and Australs, with several layovers on Tahiti.

Love this Tahiti book!

Lonely Planet guides have been my guide of choice for some time but this one was not up to snuff. It just wasn't detailed enough. Two areas that bothered me was nothing about the weather and I could not find the specific snorkeling information I wanted and that was one of the prime reasons for going to Tahiti and purchasing the book. A general warning - the dollar will now only get you 75 polynesian francs instead of the 100 when the book was written. Not Lonely Planet's fault - the dollar has just sunk but what used to be expensive can now be almost ridiculous in price!

I was expecting more from lonely planet but aside from the maps, the book is obsolete. It also reads like a text book, no passion, no flavor, very boring. The sections on each area are not very big at all.

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I've used many Lonely Planet (LP) guides and found this one to be lacking their usual detail. I got the sense much hotel information was pilfered from Web surfing the basic info, rather than first-person investigation. While still a good book to take, next time (and there will be a next time because Tahiti is wonderful) I'll be sure take another guide along with it, and to thoroughly read actual travelers' online reviews. I'll also know the questions I need to ask before booking. My sense was that the reviewers weren't seeing things through the fresh-eyes of a first time traveler. The details, such as directions accommodation features were often lacking. One thing I've always liked about LP is that they will list small locally owned budget places - that are occasionally hidden gems - whereas many other guides only list "approved" chain-type accommodations. However, in this book key information about lodging was missing. For example, it's very uncommon to find window screens in Polynesia despite a lot of mosquitoes, yet it is not standard for the book to say if there are screens or mosquito netting at each location (sometimes there are neither). Screens would be a big selling point for me. In Lonely Planet's India guide - which I was quite happy with - they deliberately note whether hotels have air-conditioning or not; in this guide this rather important information (for the tropics) is randomly added. Sometimes we'd get there and they'd have AC and sometimes they wouldn't. A more specific example is a pension primarily described as "friendly" - which it was in spades - with no mention that there's one bathroom shared with 8 people and that doesn't have hot water. With what prices are in Tahiti, poor information is very costly. One "resort" (our over-water bungalow splurge) was merely described as "competitive with other luxury resorts." Come to find out it had bedbugs and no air-conditioning. If level of detail can be evidenced by pages numbers, note that LP's Hawaii guide (five main islands) is 615 pages, while their Tahiti guide (50+

islands/atolls, with ten commonly traveled) is a only 287 pages.

This new edition of LP's Tahiti and French Polynesia guide was invaluable on my recent trip. The details of the out of the way islands like Maupiti are wonderful, the writing is funny but clear and informative. It had details of local places and special spots that were not in the old one. I read up on the writers and one of them is an American woman who lives there, I could really tell that she understood the perspective of a tourist. I carried this book in my purse for the two and a half weeks I just spent there and referred to it often. Especially for the directions, cultural details and local customs that I needed. I felt like I had a local friend as my guide. I also find it comforting that they take no freebies from the hotels. We stayed in small pensions and loved it, no one has screens in Tahiti it seems, but the guide did mention electric mosquito devices which was helpful, it also gave food details on the half-board places, and on the whole seemed accurate and well researched. The enthusiasm of the writing is infectious and I totally fell in love with Tahiti and the other islands we visited, I felt like I really got to know it better than I would have alone because of this book.

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