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What's New and Hot in *The Islands of Tahiti*

The Islands of Tahiti are welcoming an array of exciting hotel and resort openings, renovations, brand new airlines and annual events, among many other exciting news fit to print. The following is a snapshot of what's new and what's hot in one of the world's most alluring destinations.

New hotel openings and renovations:

- [InterContinental Bora Bora Resort & Thalasso Spa](#) has recently added the **Brando Suites Bora Bora**, which are four, two-bedroom overwater suites with private infinity pools
- **Royal Bora Bora Hotel** – Royal Bora Bora is a new hotel that is scheduled to open in July 2018. Travelers can plan their visit now as the property is offering special rates to celebrate its opening. A special combo is available that includes 30% off on accommodations if travelers stay with Royal Bora Bora in addition to any one of Royal Bora Bora's sister resorts such as Royal Huahine or Royal Tahitien, for a minimum of two nights each from April 1st, 2018 to March 31st, 2019
- [The St. Regis Bora Bora Resort](#) has opened their newest restaurant on property, BAM BOO, one of several culinary destinations on site. The restaurant revitalizes the resort's Asian dining experience with the introduction of wok and teppanyaki options alongside guests' longtime sushi favorites. Reimagined by Parisian designer Marc Hertrich, the renovated open kitchen faces a fully refurbished dining room in a subtly modern theme that places the emphasis on the delectable flavors and textures to be discovered on the plate. BAM BOO's head chef, Yacine Gorine worked at Yazhou in Beyrouth, an Asian restaurant owned by the Michelin-starred Pourcel brothers prior to joining The St. Regis Bora Bora Resort a year and a half ago

New aviation routes and products:

- [United Airlines](#) began non-stop year-round service to Papeete, Tahiti on October 30, 2018 from San Francisco.
- [Air Tahiti Nui](#), which provides non-stop service from Los Angeles to Tahiti in just 8 hours, debuted a new Boeing 787-9 Long Haul Fleet that will be introduced in 2018. Air Tahiti Nui is replacing its entire Long Haul Fleet with four new Boeing 787-9 aircrafts to coincide with the company's 20th anniversary celebrations.
- French low-cost carrier [French bee](#) added non stop flights from San Francisco to Papeete in May 2018

Cruise news:

- A new **International Cruise Terminal** is scheduled to open in 2020 in downtown Papeete. Financed by the Port of Papeete, the new cruise terminal will have the capacity to accommodate up to three ships simultaneously and 2,000 turnaround passengers. The terminal will also feature amenities such as an aerial walk, luggage room, complimentary WiFi, check-in counters, waiting room, duty free, snack bar, café and reservations facilities

Notable annual events:

- 2018 milestone celebration of Captain Louis Antoine de Bougainville's arrival in *The Islands of Tahiti* - Bougainville reached Tahiti on the east coast (Hitia'a) and it was thought that he was the first European to arrive in *The Islands of Tahiti*. Bougainville named the destination, "The New Cythera."
- 2019 milestone celebration to mark Captain James Cook's 250th anniversary arrival in Tahiti; events and celebrations to be announced
- Each year, *The Islands of Tahiti* is home to dynamic annual events where a multitude of islands celebrate life, tradition and culture bringing travelers from across the world. Here is a snapshot of notable events taking place in 2018:
 - **Tahiti Pearl Regatta** (TPR) – May 7 to 12, 2018 – Celebrate the 15th annual Tahiti Pearl Regatta, the largest sailing competition in the South Pacific, which is open to all types of sailing boats: (single hulled, catamaran, trimaran, sailing canoe, private sailboat, charter sailboat, boats stopping over during a transpacific voyage, race followers and racers), with no size restrictions.
 - **Heiva i Tahiti** – Heiva i Tahiti, one of the most important cultural events in *The Islands of Tahiti*, has been a yearly highlight for more than 125 years. Usually taking place in July, visitors will enjoy a vibrant display of cultural shows, dances as well as view one of the most contested competitions in the world.
 - **Billabong Pro Tahiti** – August 10 to 21, 2018 – Billabong Pro Tahiti has now become the 7th stage of the qualifying world series in Teahupoo. It is one of the most sought after stages of the championship, with powerful and dangerous waves that break on the shallow reef below sea level. The world's best surfers favor Teahupoo for its natural unique wave. Taxi boats are available for rental for those interested in following the event.

Travelers seeking a full list of 2018 events and to stay informed of news regarding destination, please visit www.tahititourisme.com.

About Tahiti Tourisme United States

Tahiti Tourisme United States (TTUS) is the Destination Marketing Organization (DMO) for the country of French Polynesia, more commonly known as *The Islands of Tahiti*. As the DMO for *The Islands of Tahiti*, TTUS liaises with airline, cruise line, hotel, resort, tour operator, travel advisor and consortia partners to develop product, launch marketing initiatives, and generate robust tourism trade within French Polynesia.

About *The Islands of Tahiti*

Located in the South Pacific, *The Islands of Tahiti* are just eight hours by air from California. Surrounded by pristine, crystal clear blue waters, the 118 islands and atolls offer natural beauty, authentic island culture, and unique French Polynesian style. *The Islands of Tahiti* are world-renowned for their white-sand beaches, stunning turquoise lagoons and varied landscapes ranging from coral atolls to volcanic mountain peaks. Each island offers a variety of accommodation experiences from luxurious resorts with overwater villas, to family guesthouses, to sailing via private charter or scheduled cruise. Privacy comes

naturally in *The Islands of Tahiti* and offers visitors the space to relax and reconnect and to be *Embraced By Mana*. *Mana* is the life force and spirit that connects all things in *The Islands of Tahiti*. Tahiti is halfway between California and Australia, on the same side of the International Date Line as North America and in the same time zone as Hawaii. For further information, www.tahititourisme.com or call (310) 414-8484.

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