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Tahitian Guesthouses Fact Sheet

What is a Tahitian Guesthouse?

Tahitian Guesthouses, also referred to locally as *pensions* (pronounced pone-see-owns), are typically family-operated lodgings in *The Islands of Tahiti*. There are many different types of Tahitian Guesthouses, from dormitory-style lodging to those featuring individual bungalows and villas, and they are available in a wide range of prices. Most feature communal areas for reception, dining, and relaxation. These accommodations allow for unique immersion into Polynesian life, with locals sharing the renowned warm Tahitian hospitality with all their guests.

Best Ways of Finding Guesthouses:

- Tahiti Tourisme showcases a number of unique packages created by and booked through Tour Operators at <https://tahititourisme.com/en-us/vacation-packages/tahiti-guesthouse-vacation-deals/>
- Air Tahiti Nui provides a curated list of their suggested guesthouses to visit at www.airtahitinui.com/us-en/tahitian-bb-experience-les-pensions
- Tahiti Tourisme’s website offers a comprehensive listing of Tahitian Guesthouses and their contact information at <https://tahititourisme.com/en-us/island/places-to-stay/>

Why Are Tahitian Guesthouses a Hidden Gem?

Tahitian Guesthouses are hidden gems as they provide a unique opportunity for visitors to immerse themselves in the Polynesian way of life. Guesthouse owners, and Tahitians as a group, are incredibly passionate and proud of their country and lifestyle. While experiences vary from property to property, some owners or on-site managers interact with guests, sitting down to meals or even escorting or acting as a guide on a local excursion, such as pearl diving, snorkeling, hiking and other island experiences in a personal setting that is different from a traditional hotel. Tahitian Guesthouses are much smaller than a hotel, often with only four or five bungalows on site, creating a secluded space to truly disconnect and unwind. The shared experiences, meals and relationships between guests and owners can leave travelers feeling like they are part of an extended family and privy to insider knowledge of the destination.

“Tahitians are renowned for their warm hospitality and *pensions*, otherwise known as Tahitian Guesthouses, that offer visitors a unique opportunity to immerse themselves into a more authentic way of traveling, a more personalized experience and to build long lasting connections with our people and our islands. The diverse range of Tahitian Guesthouses throughout our islands affords travelers a dynamic array of experiences. Through these intimate stays, travelers will grow closer to the Tahitian way of life, learn about the islands and their history, savor home-cooked food, revel in activities unique to each location, and much more,” says Gina Bunton, Chief Operations Officer, Tahiti Tourisme.

Sample Guesthouses:

- *The Vanira Lodge (Tahiti)* – “At the end of the world,” one and a half hours from Tahiti International Airport, lies the village of Teahupoo, made famous by its legendary wave which annually brings together the world’s best surfers. The lodge, which consists of unique bungalows built into the cliffside and on stilts delivering an unbelievable, treehouse-like environment, is situated near lush hills, forests and caves. From these lofty vantage points, guests can also view dolphins and whales when in season. WiFi access available throughout the property on a complimentary basis.
- *Green Lodge (Moorea)* – Proprietors Isabelle and Jean-Luc will welcome you to this charming accommodation, along with their furry friends (two dogs and a cat). Set on a beach, serene bungalows offer a stunning, quiet and friendly atmosphere walking distance from the golf course, ferries and airport. Rooms are fully equipped with fans, air conditioning, satellite tv/DVD, refrigerator, iron/ironing board, water kettle and lounge chairs.
- *Fare Maeva (Huahine)* – A mere five minutes by bike from the main village of Fare, this guesthouse is located on a major northwest-facing beach where guests can enjoy magnificent sunsets. Guests are also able to see dolphins and whales in season (from July to October). The Guesthouse has a restaurant, bar and pool space facing the sea. The restaurant features local cuisine for breakfast and dinner, and a happy hour takes place every Friday from 6:30 pm to 7:30 pm with musical entertainment.
- *Villa Ixora (Raiatea)* - Managed by Laure and Terence, former managers of a high-end boutique hotel on Taha’a, they have taken over this modest Guesthouse and fully renovated it in a contemporary, cozy style. Features four warm, well-appointed mid-range bungalows, with three garden units and one lagoon unit, located 10 minutes from the airport, and just five minutes from Uturoa pier. Villa Ixora offers gourmet French cuisine in a lovely setting of a covered patio overlooking the swimming pool. The restaurant is also open to outside customers.
- *Fare Pea Iti (Taha’a)* - Romance is unquestionably on the daily agenda at Fare Pea Iti. This boutique property is a rare gem hidden from the world, with five villas available, all of which face the crystal blue lagoon of the island of Taha'a. It feels more like a private home than a hotel as you’re likely to only see other guests at the beachfront pool and each morning breakfast is served on your private ocean view terrace. Get away from it all and experience a truly intimate Polynesian journey.
- *Rohutu Fare Lodge (Bora Bora)* – Offering a quiet and intimate stay, this Tahitian Guesthouse has only three units and is nestled mountainside in a lush botanical garden. Each bungalow is beautifully decorated with carved wood and marble decorations. Rohutu also offers beautiful views of the lagoon and the majestic Mount Otemanu.
- *Le Kuriri (Maupiti)* - Located on the reef side of a *motu* (islet), close to the main pass of the main island, and a short boat ride from the village, Le Kuriri benefits from an ongoing breeze blowing from the ocean along with an outstanding view of the whales passing by from the months of August to November. The property features bungalows made from indigenous materials (bamboo, coconut palm for roofs). A mandatory half-board includes Continental breakfast and dinner. WiFi is available in the lounge area.

- *Tokerau Village (Fakarava)* – Designed by mother and daughter team, Flora and Gahina, this family-owned guesthouse has a lush garden, a breath-taking white sand beach, complemented by turquoise-blue waters as far as the eyes can see. Flora also cooks delicious local comfort food for guests.
- *Les Relais de Josephine (Rangiroa)* – Les Relais de Josephine is situated in a peaceful and wooded setting, on the banks of Tiputa Pass, where guests can view dolphins at play from a spacious outdoor deck. Recently renovated, the seven colonial style bungalows are comfortable and equipped with quality furnishings. A major draw of this property is undoubtedly its excellent cuisine, recognized throughout the island – meals are for guests only. WiFi available for purchase.
- *Ninamu Resort (Tikehau)* – Located on a private *motu* (islet) and nestled between the lagoon and the ocean, nautical devotees including surfers, divers and fishermen, will find real pleasure in spending time at Ninamu. Property-owner and Billabong Surf Pro team member, Chris O’Callaghan and his wife Greta and his team are available to guide guests to the best parts of the Tikehau Lagoon. The facility also largely runs on solar energy. Meals are cooked by a Parisian chef.
- *Vaitumu Village Lodge (Rurutu)* – This is a corner of paradise on the mythical island of Rurutu. Located a few minutes from the airport on a preserved site, this Tahitian Guesthouse provides an unforgettable experience with its idyllic setting ideal to recharge your internal battery. A large swimming pool, spacious dining room, a bar and a beautiful terrace are at your disposal with a corner near the fire for beautiful evening sunsets morphing into the star-filled sky. The lodge is bordered by a long peaceful white sandy beach and offers viewing of the parade of whales which come to rest in the surroundings of Rurutu.
- *Chez Bianca et Benoit (Mangareva)* - Located on the verdant heights of Rikitea village, with magnificent views of the lagoon, this property offers bedrooms with bathrooms, as well as four bungalows, each also equipped with private bathroom set in a flowery garden. Each accommodation has a private terrace, fans, additional cots on request and WiFi. Meals are served at a large common table in the *fare tamara'a* (dining room). Located near cultural sites such as vestiges, or the cathedral Saint Michel, one can spend an authentic stay in a friendly atmosphere.
- *Le Relais Moehau (Hiva Oa)* - Located at the entrance of the village, walking distance from the tombs of Jacques Brel and Paul Gauguin, as well as the museum. where a breathtaking view of the bay and the Hanakee rock awaits. Each of the eight rooms are equipped with private bathroom, a desk, a television, and ceiling fans. Guests can enjoy a beautiful large terrace, as well as a restaurant featuring international cuisine blending Marquesan, Polynesian, French, and Italian influences, including pizza from a wood-fired oven.

These featured Tahitian Guesthouses offer individual rooms or stand-alone bungalows with value-add amenities. Typically, a two-night minimum stay is required. To peruse accommodations and Tahitian Guesthouse packages, 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, visit www.tahititourisme.com or call (310) 414-8484.

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