

ROAD SCHOLAR

Adventures in Lifelong Learning

Voyage through French Polynesia: The Islands of Tahiti, Marquesas and Tuamotu

Second Packet

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INSTITUTE

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Table of Contents

WELCOME	1
TAHITI INTRODUCTION	3
TAHITI PROFILE	4
GEOGRAPHY	4
PEOPLE	4
ECONOMY	4
HISTORY	4
GOVERNMENT	6
POLITICAL SITUATION	7
RECENT NEWS	8
BUSINESS HOURS	8
ELECTRICITY	8
TIME ZONE(S)	8
CURRENCY	8
MARQUESAS INTRODUCTION	9
MARQUESAS PROFILE	12
GEOGRAPHY	12
PEOPLE	12
ECONOMY	12
HISTORY	13
POLITICAL CONDITIONS	13
RECENT NEWS	13
BUSINESS HOURS	13
ELECTRICITY	14
TIME ZONE(S)	14
TUAMOTU INTRODUCTION	15
THE TUAMOTU ARCHIPELAGO PROFILE	18
GEOGRAPHY	18
PEOPLE	18
ECONOMY	18
HISTORY	18
BUSINESS HOURS	19
ELECTRICITY	19
TIME ZONE(S)	19
PACKING GUIDELINES	20
GENERAL ADVICE	20
CLOTHING AND PACKING SUGGESTIONS	21
” EVERYONE	21
MEDICATIONS	23
SECURITY TIPS	23
TEMPERATURES BY MONTH (°F)	24
WEATHER	24
GENERAL INFORMATION	25
ROAD SCHOLAR POLICIE, PROCEDURES & ADVICE	25

ALL-INCLUSIVE PROGRAM COST	25
A ROAD SCHOLAR GLOSSARY	25
CARRYING YOUR BAGGAGE.....	26
CURRENCY AND EXCHANGE	26
DESIGNATED TRANSFERS.....	26
EVALUATION PROCEDURES.....	27
INSURANCE.....	27
NO SMOKING POLICY	28
SEAT ROTATION	28
SOME ADVICE ABOUT SHOPPING	28
TIPPING	28

ROAD SCHOLAR

Dear Road Scholar,

We hope you are as excited as we are to be only months away from your Road Scholar program. Today's mailing is your second packet of preparatory materials designed to briefly profile the country you will be visiting. We have provided basic information on the history of the country, currency/exchange information, and some helpful packing tips. Remember, any additional preparations you make for this great journey can only enhance your experience, broaden your knowledge base and inevitably contribute to everyone's learning adventure. **You will receive one final packet of information 4 - 6 weeks prior to your arrival.** If you have not returned to our office yet the required forms that were included with your welcome materials, we recommend that you do so at your earliest convenience. Thank you.

Your choice in destinations is excellent; the islands of the Marquesas are rich in histories and cultures. The lush landscapes and breathtaking ocean scenes are sure to make a lasting impression.

Thank you in advance for allowing us to encourage your journey of lifelong learning.

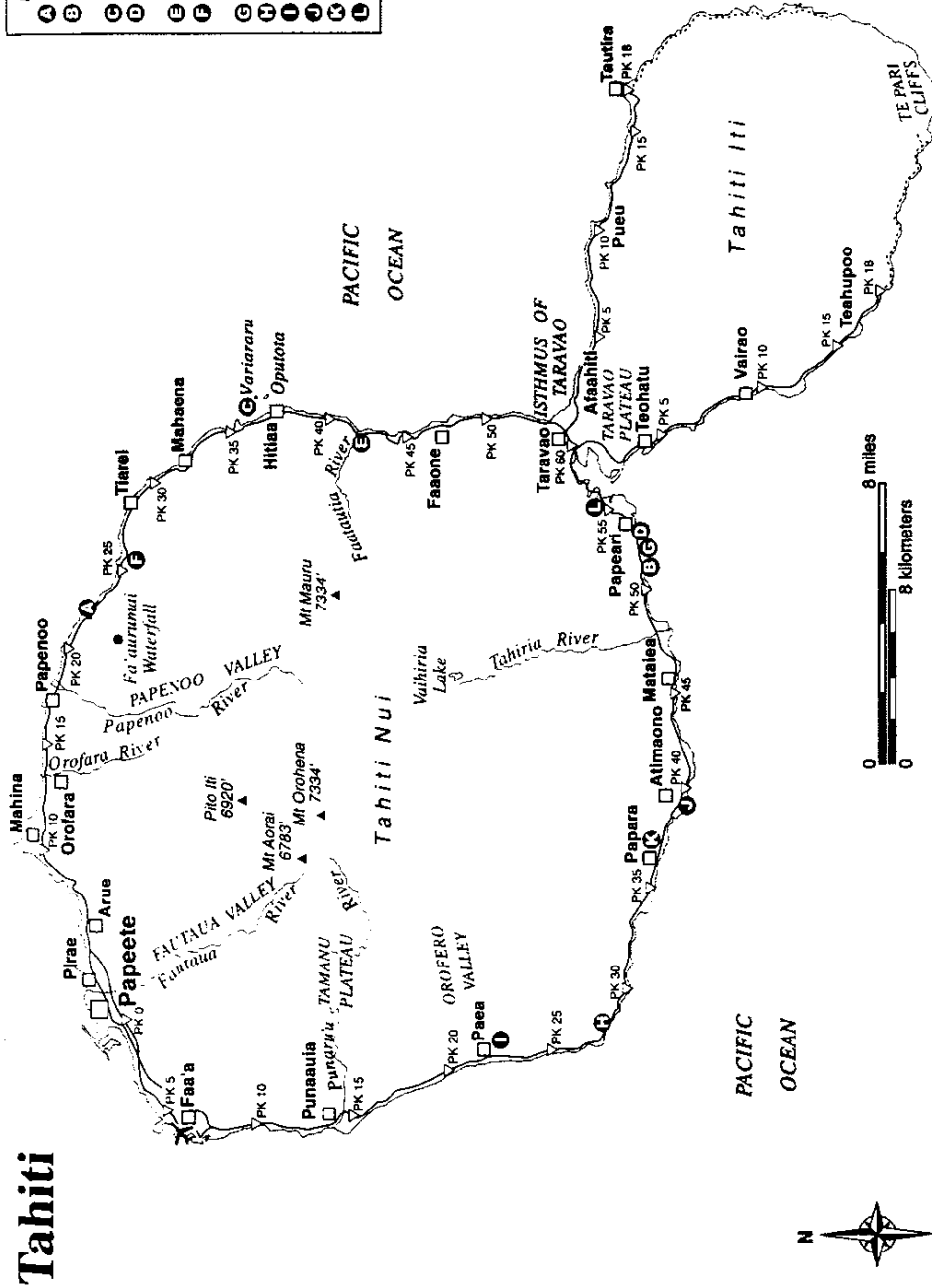
Mauru`uru and koutau (thank you!)



Andrew A. Lockwood
PII Road Scholar Director

TAHITI INTRODUCTION

- POINTS OF INTEREST
- A Arahoho Blowhole
 - B Botanical Gardens of Papeari
 - C Bougainville's Anchorage
 - D Debarakation Point of Ancient Tahitians
 - E Fa'atafia River Bridge
 - F Gardens and Copra Plantation
 - G Gauguin Museum
 - H Marae Fern Groto
 - I Marae Araturahu
 - J Marae Mahaiatea
 - K Musée des Coquillages
 - L Robert Keable's Home



TAHITI PROFILE

GEOGRAPHY

French Polynesia comprises 118 islands divided into five archipelagos: the Society Islands, the Tuamotu Islands, the Gambier Islands, the Marquesas Islands and the Austral Islands.

The archipelago of the Society Islands is further divided into: Windward Islands (Tahiti, Moorea) and Leeward Islands (Huahine, Raiatea, Tahaa, Bora Bora, Maupiti). All those islands are mountainous with coastal plains, surrounded by coral reefs and lagoons. Tahiti, the largest of the Windward group, is dominated by Mount Orohena at 7337ft and Mount Aorai at 6786ft. It contains the capital and only city of French Polynesia, Papeete. This is one of the reasons that people sometimes refer to “Tahiti” as the group of islands, instead of one island in the group, when they actually mean “French Polynesia”.

PEOPLE

Of approximately 291,000 (2010 est.) residents of French Polynesia, most of whom are French citizens, full-blooded Polynesians account for roughly 65% of the population. Another 20% are a mix of Polynesian/European and Polynesian/Asian. European French number 10% of the population. The full Chinese represent almost 5%. The population grows at an estimated rate of 1.32 % annually.

ECONOMY

After the establishment of the CEP (Center of Experimentation of the Pacific) in 1963, the standard of living in French Polynesia increased considerably. As a result, many Polynesians abandoned traditional activities and decided to emigrate to the capital of Tahiti. Even though the standard of living in Polynesia is elevated (due mainly to France’s monetary input), the economy is extremely reliant on imports. The main trading partners are: France (about 40% of imports and about 25% of exports), the USA, Japan, Australia and New Zealand. French Polynesia exports mostly pearls (about 50% of exports), vanilla, fruits, flowers, monoi, fish, copra oil, and *noni*. But the exports only represent 15% of the imports (mostly equipment and food). Unemployment affects about 11.8% of the active population, especially unqualified young people. In remote islands and some atolls, this is not really a problem; however, in Tahiti, it has created some social concerns. At the cessation of CEP activities in 1996, and as an attempt to aid the economy, France signed the Progress Pact with the Territory. This pact was designed to compensate the loss of financial resources and assist in areas like education and tourism. Transfers to the Territory has been about US\$ 150 Million per year.

HISTORY

The Society Islands were inhabited as early as the first half century after Christ by Polynesian navigators who settled them. These migrations were not believed to be random voyages but planned migrations with the intent purpose of colonization. This fact is evidenced by the cargo of plants and animals carried with them to enable their perpetuation of subsistence living.

By the early nineteenth century, traders and whalers arrived in French Polynesia, bringing with them the usual disease and depravity problems. In 1797, the HMS Duff sailed into Matavai Bay with 18 raw recruits from the London Missionary Society. They were the first Protestant missionaries to leave England for a foreign country. Permission from a chief, who named himself Pomare, to settle in the area. While Pomare welcomed the missionaries, he would not be converted. He traded with them and became powerful through his use of European tools,

firearms, and mercenaries. The other chiefs became jealous and mistrustful of the preferential treatment that Pomare received. Pomare's claim to leadership, supported by the Europeans, led to great tensions.

Pomare died in 1803, and his son, Pomare II, was left to deal with the unrest. Realizing how important the influence of the British missionaries and traders would be to him, he asked to be baptized in 1812. This outward sign demonstrated that he was ready to abandon his traditional gods. His followers on Moorea became nominal Christians. In 1815, Pomare II, with the help of his European friends, regained control in Tahiti and was named king.

Upon Pomare II's death in 1821 at age 40, the crown passed to Pomare's infant son, who died while still young. Pomare's daughter, Aimata, became Queen Pomare IV, at age 14. She was a remarkable woman who was to rule Tahiti, Moorea, and part of the Austral and Tuamotu group for 50 stormy years until her death in 1877. Many called her "a barefoot Queen Victoria." During Queen Pomare's reign, the French, having seen how well the Englishmen had done with their converts and crops, tried to establish a Catholic church on the island. However, George Pritchard, a British businessman and cleric, advised Queen Pomare not to allow this to happen. She henceforth expelled the Roman Catholic missionary priests in 1836.

The French did not appreciate the Queen's Protestant religious zeal and when Pritchard was named the English consul the following year, it added fuel to their fire. The English established a protectorate over Tahiti and Moorea in 1842, annexing the islands in 1843. The French did not approve of an English protectorate nor did they appreciate the way their Roman Catholic missionaries had been treated. In 1842, a French naval vessel under the command of Admiral Dupetit-Thouars arrived in Tahiti. He and the French Consul organized the leading pro-French chiefs into signing a demand for French protection. Threats by French warships and a lack of response to her requests for protection, eventually persuaded Queen Pomare to sign an agreement which would allow Roman Catholic missionaries to spread Catholicism in the islands. The French established their rights in 1844 and simultaneously expelled George Pritchard.

Queen Pomare IV died in 1877, a broken woman. Within three years of her death came the change in Tahitian status from French protectorate, to French colony. It was the Queen's son, Pomare V, who signed Tahiti and her dependent islands which he controlled over to the French in 1880.

In 1957, when French Oceania underwent a name change to French Polynesia, more power was vested in local government and the road to political autonomy began. In 1959, General DeGaulle decided to give the Polynesians the right to choose whether they wished to stay in the French Commonwealth. A referendum was held and 65% of the electorate voted in favor of the referendum.

One of the reasons Tahiti remained under French Control was the economic advantage they received. In the 1960's, after Algeria became independent, the French decided to move their Sahara nuclear testing facilities to the Tuamotu. In 1966, on Moruroa, 850 miles from Tahiti, the first nuclear test took place.

Today, French Polynesia remains a territory of France. However, the new government is preparing towards independence but this will not happen before 15/20 years. The country has to be first prepared economically for this move.

GOVERNMENT

French Polynesia has been an overseas territory of France since 1946. In 1984, the socialist government and French President, Francois Mitterand, together with the most important local political party set up the present territorial government. However, the constitution of the Republic of France remained the supreme law of the land. There is now a Polynesian Constitution, which was last amended in 2004.

1. France is represented by the High Commissioner of the Republic. The High Commissioner, assisted by a secretary general of his choice, still retains control over justice, defense, law and order, money, the police and civil service, secondary and tertiary education, and the municipal councils. One senator, two elected deputies, and one social and economic counselor represent French Polynesia in Paris.
2. The head of Government is the President of the Territorial Government of French Polynesia . The president is the keystone of the executive body that, under any circumstances, represents the Territory. He appoints the Ministers and the Vice-President. He decides on their portfolios and their attributions, he also summons, presides and sets the agenda for the Council of Ministers. The President of the Government must be elected by the Assembly of French Polynesia with an absolute majority. His term of office is of five years as is the one of the councilors of the Assembly of French Polynesia.
3. Ministers represent the second part of the Government. Together, with the President of the Government, they are compelled to put decisions into application in a collegial manner, which pertains to the executive competence.
4. The Assembly of French Polynesia is the third institution of the Territory. It is a deliberating body, with normative functions and executive control. Every 5 years, each island group elects its members, by universal suffrage at age 18, to the 57 member unicameral Assembly. 48 seats are allocated to the Society Islands and 9 are divided between the islands of the rest of the territory. Since the territorial elections of March 6th, 2001, the parity bill now binds that the number of women matches the number of men. The Assembly now controls, and has to pay for, health and social services, public works, primary education, and sports. The French Government is the only entity that can dissolve the Assembly.
5. The Economic Social and Cultural Council (C.E.S.C.) is the fourth institution of French Polynesia. The Council is made of 51 members divided up into three sectors: salaried employees (17 seats); employers & self-employed persons(17 seats); and the collective life sector (17 seats), that is agricultural activities, breeding, fishing and traditional craft industry, associations and groups with an economic, family, scientific, cultural, educative and sports nature. Members are appointed by their respective groups for a four-year term.

The C.E.S.C. is an advisory group which can be consulted by the Government of French Polynesia or by the Assembly of French Polynesia regarding projects and bills called "country bills" that have an economic or social nature.

6. The High Council of French Polynesia was established on February, 27th 2004. Although it is not presented officially as one of the Institutions of French Polynesia, the High Council can be considered as such. The High Council shows its competences within the institutions of French Polynesia. First, it is a consultative organization which advises the President of French Polynesia and the government on legal matters. Besides, the President of French Polynesia can refer to the High Council to prepare and draft legal texts (bills, deliberations or rules and regulations). The High Council also helps the President of French Polynesia if he experiences any difficulty in administrative tasks. One of the main missions of the High Council is also to give its opinion, from a legal standpoint, on projects submitted to its judgment. So, government bills are automatically passed on to the High Council before they get adopted by the Council of Ministers or before they appear on the Assembly's agenda.

French Polynesia has been divided into 48 communes each with its own elected mayor and Municipal Council.

POLITICAL SITUATION

In 1998, President Gaston Flosse's new request to evolve the statute from that of an overseas territory to that of an overseas country was supported by the French President, Jacques Chirac. This effort successfully concluded on January 24th, 2000, when the French Congress voted on Title 14 in the French Constitution, which deals with French Polynesia.

That means that the Assembly of French Polynesia now adopts "laws" in the most important areas, and not just "resolutions", or administrative acts. This major modification infers a great change. Unlike overseas territories that can only benefit from a principle of "free administration of territorial communities", the Overseas Countries make use of the principle of "free government", better known as "self-government" in English judicial systems.

This revision of the Constitution also enlarges the field of responsibilities of French Polynesia, which can negotiate international agreements with foreign states, in matters relevant to its responsibility. It also may become a member of international organizations and have representation in foreign states.

This new overseas country's personality is demonstrated by a dual status for those born in French Polynesia and those who have lived here for a number of years — both have a French Polynesian citizenship and have the French nationality.

Finally, the State France has "head of state" responsibilities; in other words, the most important responsibilities — defense, justice, law and order, worldwide international responsibility and the currency. All other responsibilities are those of French Polynesia, or can be transferred to it.
(extracts from: www.presidence.pf)


RECENT NEWS

For recent news and political developments in this area which are often changing, please visit www.pacificmagazine.net or www.tahitipresse.pf

BUSINESS HOURS

Monday through Friday, some small restaurants and snack bars as well as the Papeete Municipal Market, le Marché, open around 5:00 am. The post office, government offices, banks, airline offices, travel agencies and stores open between 7:30 am to 8:00 am. Many of the shops and offices still close for lunch from about 12:00 pm to 2:00 pm, while others are now remaining open through the lunch period. With the exception of restaurants and sidewalk cafes and bars, most of Papeete shuts down by 6:00 pm. The suburban shopping centers remain open until 7:00 pm or 8:00 pm. Most businesses close at noon on Saturdays and are closed all day Sundays and holidays.

ELECTRICITY

If you are charging a video camera battery, the current is 240V, 50Hz AC and the adapter looks like this: . (round with 3 holes, 2 above, 1 underneath). All electrical equipment will need the adapter and a built-in voltage regulator or a transformer.

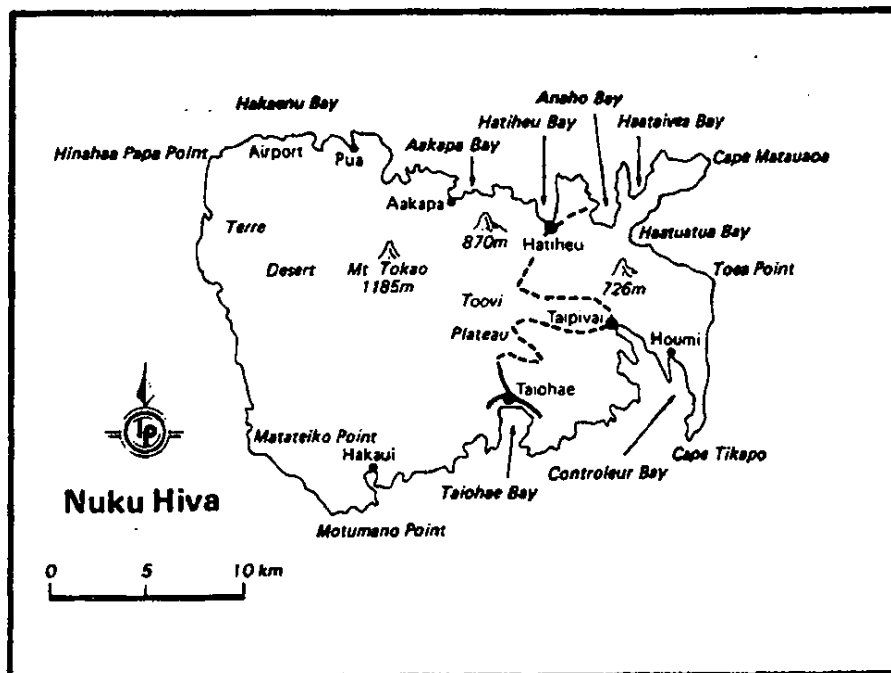
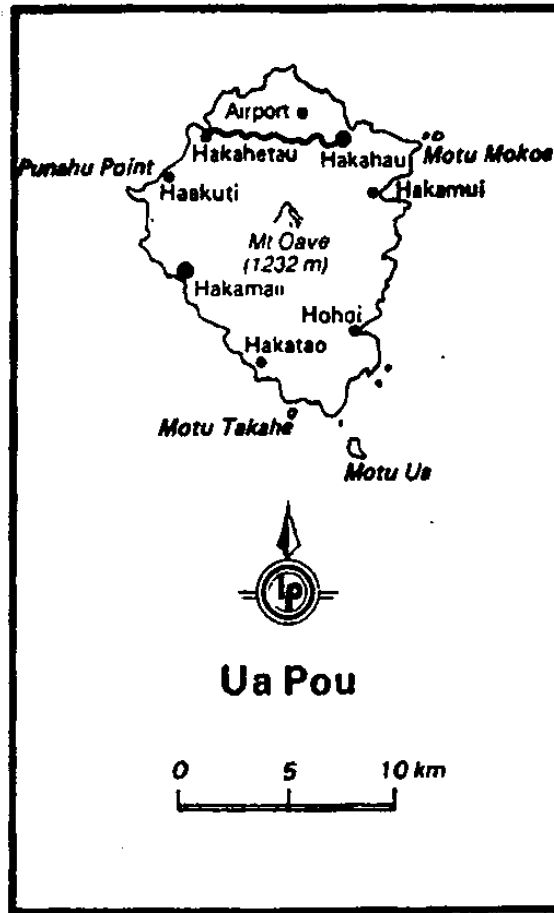
TIME ZONE(S)

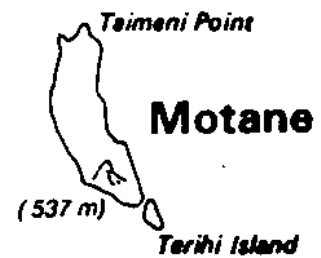
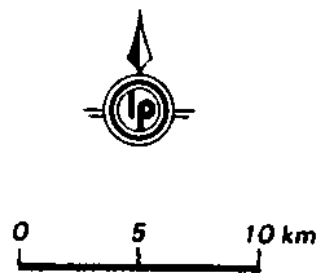
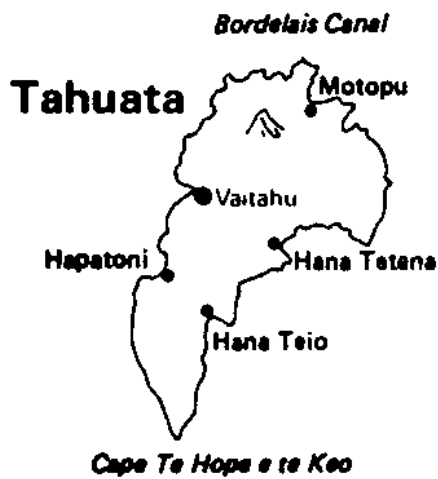
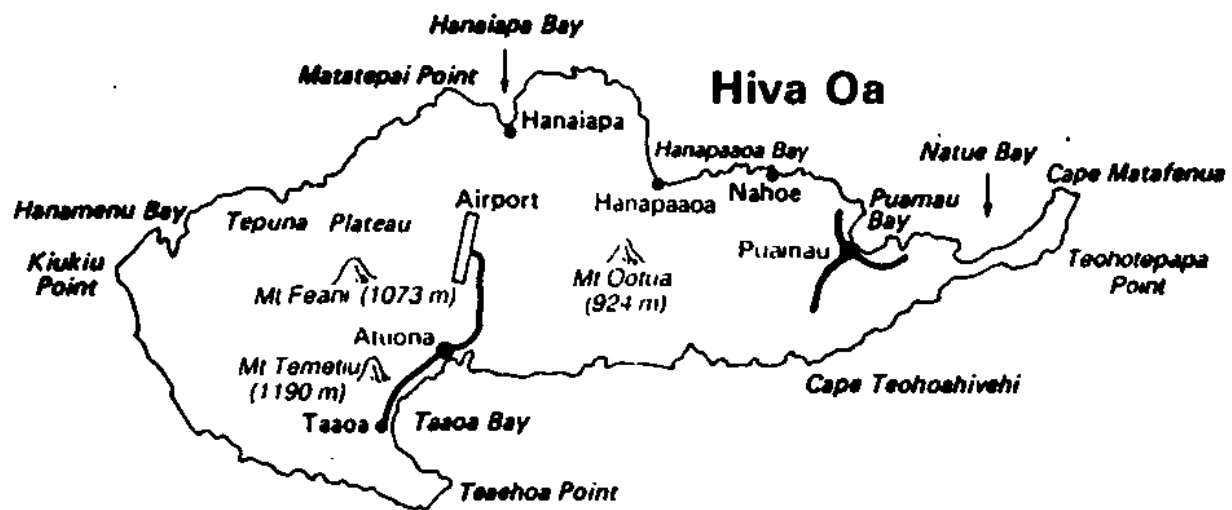
The Society Islands are east of the International Date Line and ten hours behind Greenwich Mean Time. Therefore, the time and day in the Society Islands are the same as in Hawai`i (2-3 hours behind California and the west coast, depending on the time of year and daylight savings variations).

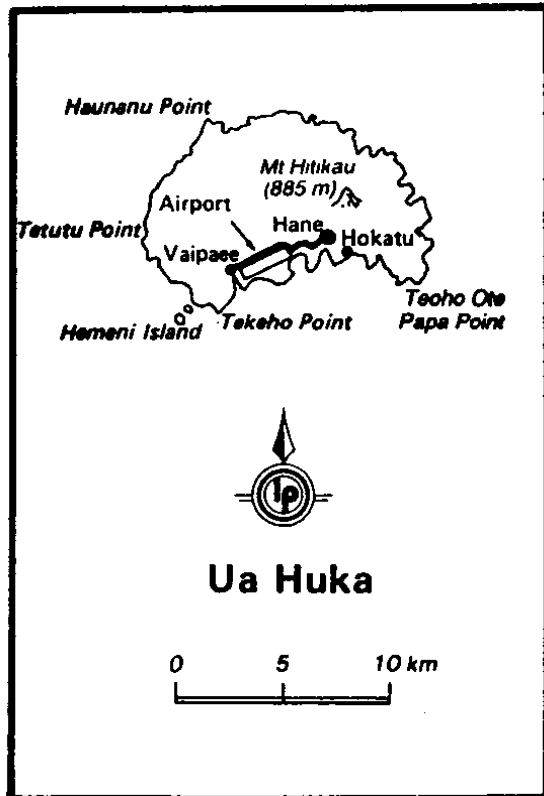
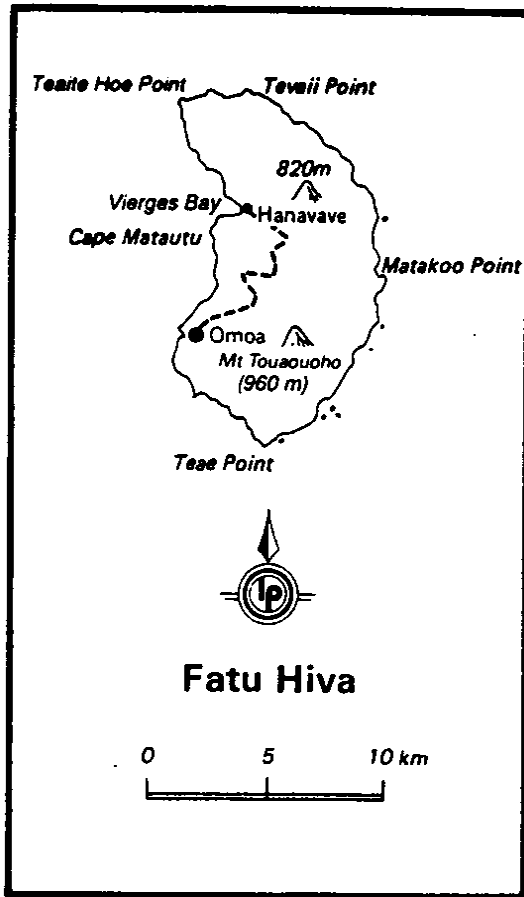
CURRENCY

The Pacific French Franc (known as CPF or XPF) is the currency in French Polynesia. There are banks at the International airport in Tahiti and on many islands. The Papeete Airport bank is open for all incoming flights, even in the middle of the night. ATM machines are on Tahiti and Moorea. Hotels exchange money but the rate isn't as good as at the bank. USD dollars are accepted at most restaurants, hotels, and larger shops. A higher rate of exchange is given for travelers cheques than for cash. If you are going to use your credit cards you should notify the credit card company that you will be out of the country. If they see unusual activity on your card and can't get a hold of you by telephone they may freeze your card. Also, some credit card companies charge a fee to convert foreign charges. Be sure to ask if this is the case on your particular card. One final note: keep a copy of your credit card number, phone number for the company, and a copy of your passport in a separate place in your luggage. This could save you hours of frustration if they are lost or stolen.

MARQUESAS INTRODUCTION







MARQUESAS PROFILE

GEOGRAPHY

The fourteen rugged and isolated volcanic islands of the Marquesan Archipelago, called Te Henua Enata, “the land of men” by the northern Marquesans and Te Henua Enana by the southern group are situated in the heart of French Polynesia, near the equator, approximately 810 miles North-East of Papeete, Tahiti. They are the farthest north of the high islands of the South Pacific, on the same latitude as the Solomon Islands. Their total land area, almost 502 square miles, is roughly equivalent to the total land areas of Tahiti and Moorea combined. The 14 islands are separated in 2 groups: the North Marquesas and the South Marquesas. Among the North Marquesas Islands, those inhabited are: Nuku Hiva, the administrative and economic center of the archipelago, Ua Pou, and Ua Huka. The islands of Hatu Iti, Eiao, Hatutaa and Motu One are uninhabited. Among the South Marquesas Islands, those inhabited are: Hiva Oa, Tahuata, and Fatu Hiva. The islands of Mohotani, Fatu Huku, Terihi and Motu Nao are deserted. Reefs don’t form due to the cold south equatorial current. The absence of protective reefs has prevented the creation of coastal plains, so no roads go around any of the islands. The high central ridges split by narrow fertile valleys and cascading waterfalls are lush with tropical flowers and fruits.

PEOPLE

Before western contact, ancient valley people of the Marquesas, isolated from their neighbors by sharp mountain ridges and treacherous seas, developed insular societies, jealous and warlike. The people of the Marquesas had their own unique culture and spoke a distinct Polynesian language that was all but incomprehensible to the Tahitians, with whom their links were tenuous. The Marquesans were the only Polynesian society that practiced institutionalized polyandry, in which women had more than one husband.

Today’s populations follow to a lesser degree the ethnic breakdowns of “French Polynesia”-- full-blooded Polynesians account for over half of the populations. The remainder is an ethnic mix of Polynesian/Asian/European of varying percentages, with a small percentage being of full Chinese lineage. Of the approximately 291,000 residents of French Polynesia, the inhabitants of the Marquesas Islands represent 3.7%.

ECONOMY

The Marquesas Islands today are quite modern, with electricity, international communication services, a television station, airports on the islands of Nuku Hiva, Hiva Oa, Ua Pou and Ua Huka, and efficient boat docks in the larger villages for the supply ships that provide regular service from Tahiti.

Farming and fishing are carried out on a family scale. The villagers live mostly from the land and sea, earning money to purchase supplies through copra production. The picking of the *noni* or the *Morinda Citrifolia*, a potato-like fruit that grows on a tall bush, generates a recent addition to the cash economy. For centuries, the *noni* fruit has been used by native Polynesians for vitality and to ease pain and illness. Most of these shipments are earmarked for US ports. While encouraging the exploration of this potential export the government tries to discourage the islanders from completely abandoning their subsidized copra plantations.

HISTORY

Approximately around the birth of Christ, ancient Polynesian navigators set out from both Tonga and Samoa to travel east on voyages of discovery. These voyages ultimately led them to the islands of French Polynesia where they stopped and established a new home.

In 1595, the Spanish explorer Alvaro de Mendana was the first European to discover the Southern islands. He named them after his benefactor, the Spanish viceroy Marqués Don Garcia Hurtado de Mendoza. Drawing near the coast, one of the four ships, San Jeronimo, was approached by a fleet of outrigger canoes crewed by 400 men who were described as robust, light-skinned with blue tattoos, and wearing their hair long and loose. The natives were allowed to board the ship, but when they became more curious and bold, Mendana ordered a gun fired and they jumped overboard. Feeling that they should protect themselves, although they were not being attacked, Mendana's men began shooting the islanders on sight and in one case, hanging three bodies in their shore camp on Tahuta as a warning.

After another 200 years of isolation, Captain Cook reached these shores in 1774. He noted that the Marquesan chiefdoms were distinguished by their monumental architecture, elaborate art, and a religious system in which important ceremonies demanded human sacrifice.

European contact was the beginning of the end for the Marquesan people. Foreign diseases, black birders practicing the slave trade, cotton planters looking for land to fulfill American needs during the Civil War, the introduction of opium by the Chinese plantation workers, and the introduction of firearms into tribal warfare contributed to a rapid breakdown of traditional culture and a major population decline that would eventually kill off 95 percent of the population.

Between 1774 and 1926, credible estimates indicate the population slumped from 90,000 to under 2,000. In 1842, French Naval officers established a protectorate status over the Marquesas Archipelago. The Marquesas Islands are today a part of French Polynesia. The number of residents currently hovers around 8,800.

POLITICAL CONDITIONS

In recent times, the Marquesas have discussed becoming independent from Tahiti. They resent what they regard as the relative neglect of their islands and people. However, they remain strongly pro-French, in part to help insure a continuing flow of French funding for their services and infrastructure. As a side note, the same number of Marquesans lives in Tahiti as in the Marquesas itself.


RECENT NEWS

Visit www.pacificmagazine.net for recent news and developments in this area.

BUSINESS HOURS

Banque Socredo is open Monday through Friday 7:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. You can exchange currency and make credit card withdrawals here. The post office, government offices, airline offices, and stores open between 7:30 a.m. to 8:00 a.m. All shops and offices still close for lunch from about 12:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m.

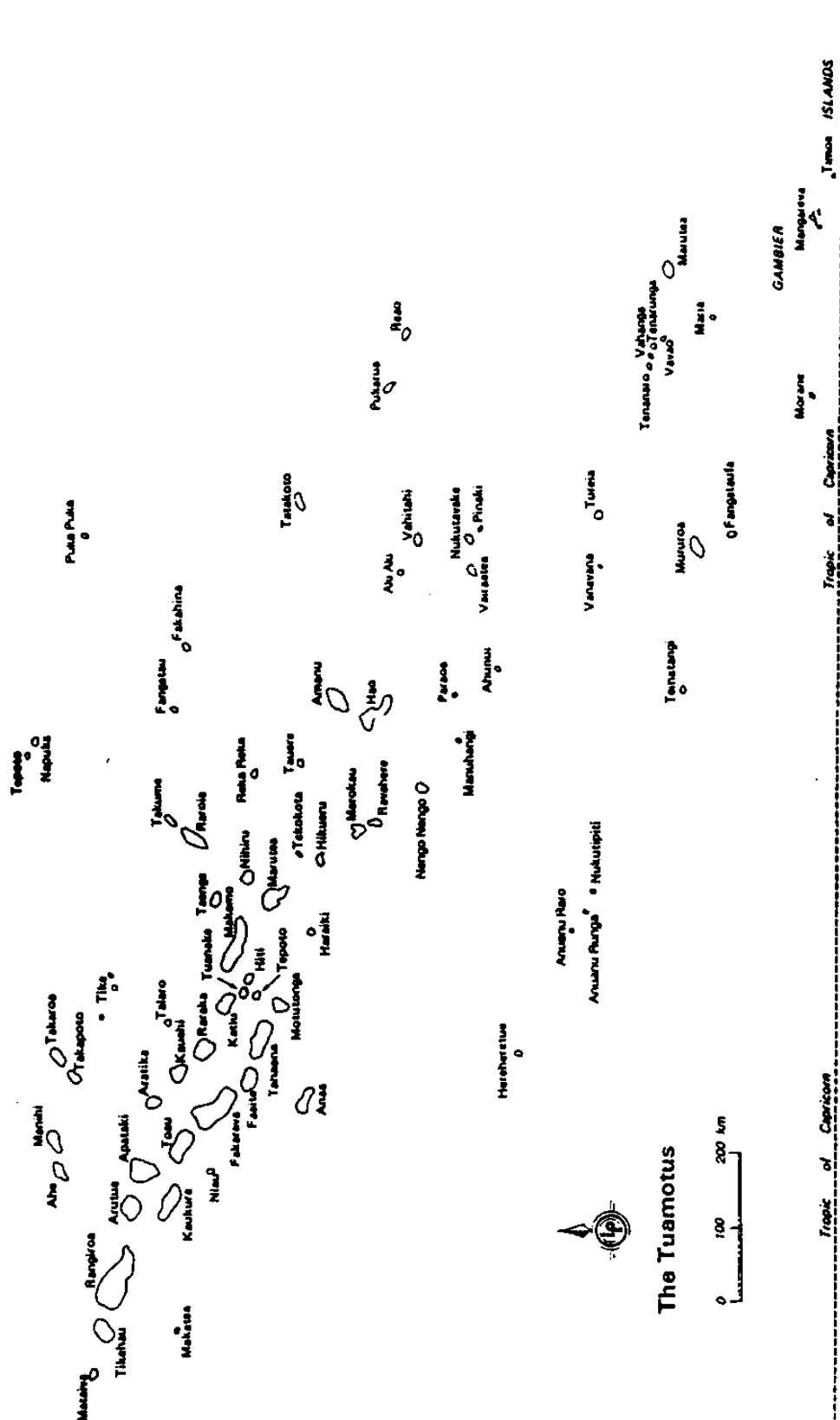
ELECTRICITY

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TIME ZONE(S)

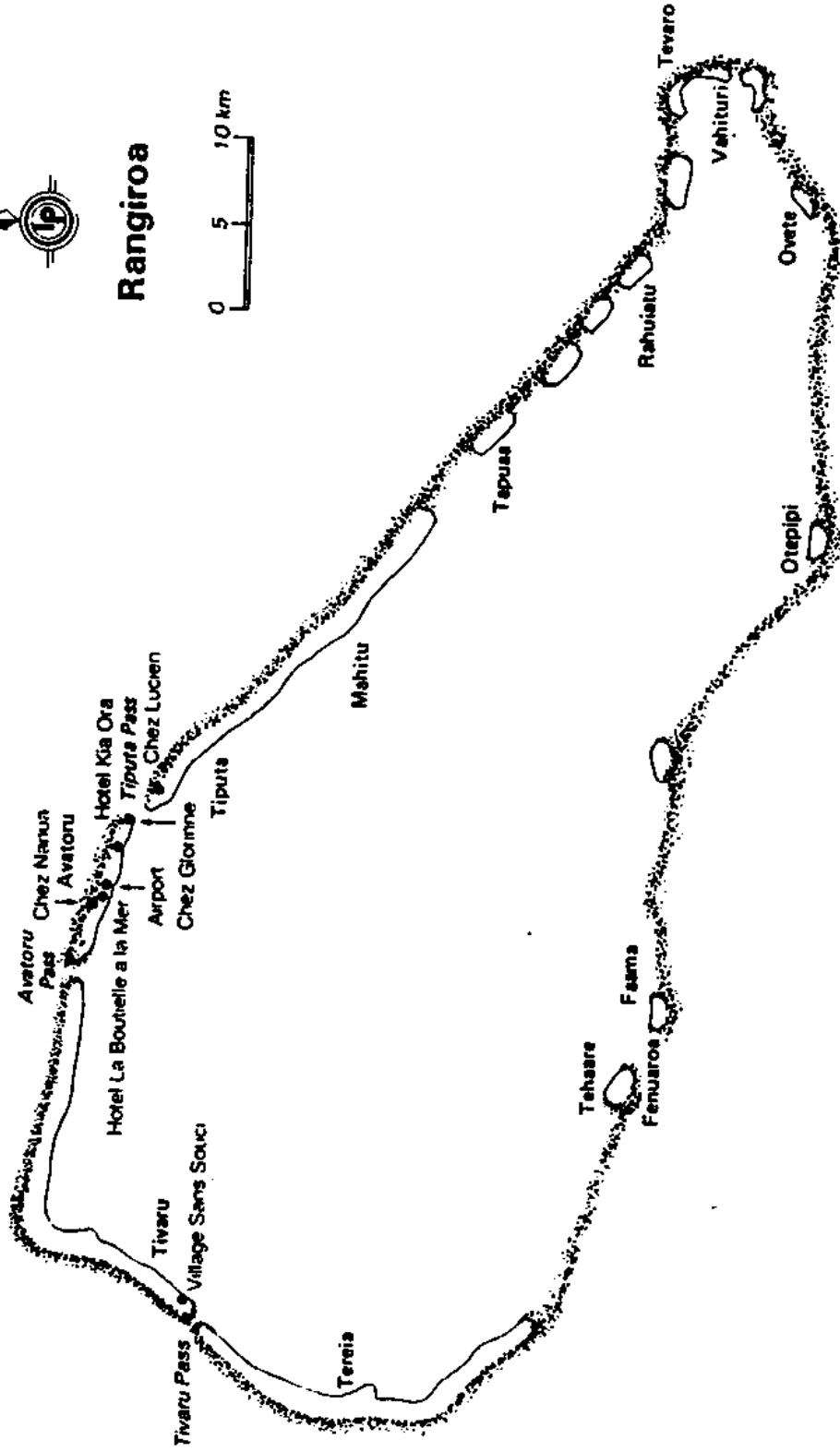
The Marquesas Islands are east of the International Date Line and nine and a half hours behind Greenwich Mean Time. Therefore, the time and day in the Marquesas Islands are 30 minutes ahead of Tahiti and Hawai`i.

TUAMOTU INTRODUCTION





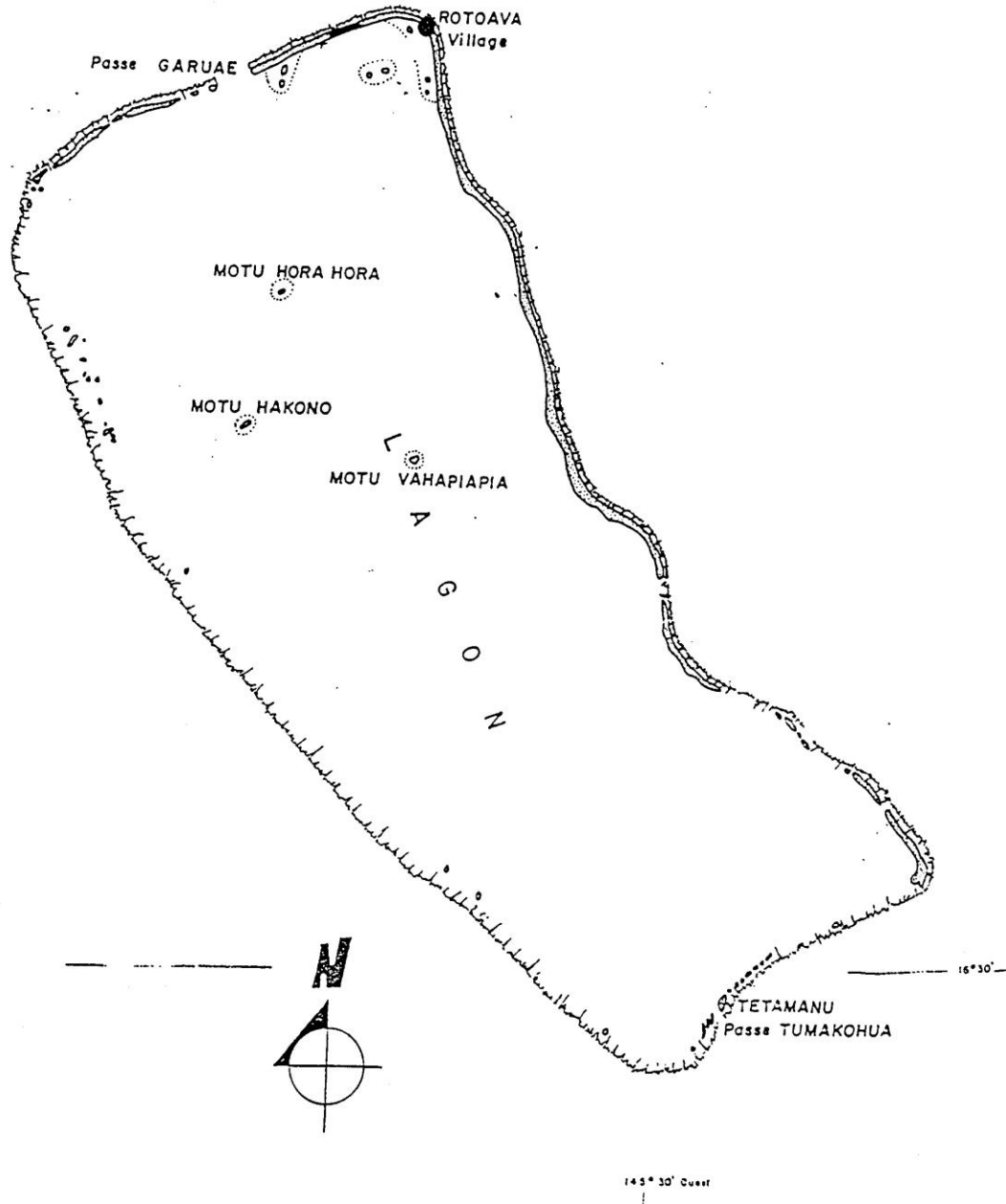
Rangiroa



FAIKARAVA



ARCHIPEL DES TUAMOTU



THE TUAMOTU ARCHIPELAGO PROFILE

GEOGRAPHY

Far to the North/East and South/East of Tahiti, in the central part of the South Pacific Ocean, are the Tuamotu Islands, part of French Polynesia. The archipelago encompasses 75 atolls; one raised coral atoll (Makatea), and innumerable coral reefs, roughly dispersed northwest/southeast as a double chain for over 900 miles. The Tuamotu are the largest group of coral atolls in the world and lay scattered across an area of ocean approximately 375 miles wide and 900 miles in length. They are located between 186 and 933 miles from Papeete, Tahiti. Of the 75 atolls, only 45 are inhabited housing around 15,846 people. Part of the reason for this is the lack of entrances through the reef to the lagoons. The total land area of the Tuamotu is only 280 square miles, while the reefs of the atolls contain approximately 2,320 square miles of sheltered lagoon waters. To sailors, the Tuamotu are known as “The Dangerous Archipelago” or “The Labyrinth,” because of their variable currents, sudden storms, poor navigational charts and the wrecks that litter their reefs.

PEOPLE

A total of around 15,846 people live on the 45 inhabited islands.

ECONOMY

The main economic activity, black pearl “farming,” is carried out in the lagoons of the Tuamotu. Today cultured pearl farms operate on Aratika, Hikueru, Katiu, Kaukura, Manhi, Raroia, South Marutea, Takapoto, Takaroa, Takume, and Taenga. Cultured black pearls from the Tuamotu and Gambier are world famous. The pearl industry has reversed the depopulation of the atolls and spread prosperity through this remote region. Also contributing to the economic growth is the presence of tourism.

HISTORY

Polynesian settlement of the Tuamotu was later than in other island groups, which gave rise to the theory that the political refugees of the various wars in the Marquesas and Society Islands fled to this region around 1000 A.D. These people had a very rigorous existence, living only on the abundant seafood, pandanus nuts and coconuts. The inhabitants of the atolls frequently warred among themselves or against those of a Society island. Even King Pomare II, with the help of the missionaries and European firearms, was unable to conquer the group.

Magellan’s sighting of Pukapuka on the northeast fringe of the Tuamotu in 1521 made it the first South Pacific Island ever to be seen by European eyes. Other famous explorers who passed through the Tuamotu include Quiro’s (1606), Schouten and Le Maire (1616), Roggeveen (1722), Byron (1765), Wallis (1767), Bougainville (1768), Cook (1769), Bligh (1792), Kotzebue (1816), and Bellingshausen (1820), yet it was not until 1835 that all the islands had been “discovered.” Fourteen European expeditions passed the Tuamotu between 1606 and 1816, but only 8 bothered to go ashore. On August 7, 1947, Thor Heyerdahl ran his “Kon Tiki” raft aground on Raroia Atoll, thus ending his 101-day, 4,350-mile voyage to prove that Peruvian Indians could have done the same thing.

After Tahiti came under French “protection” in 1842 the Tuamotu remained independent. It was not until the protectorate became a French Colony in 1880 that the fiercely independent people of the Tuamotu gradually submitted to French rule. In 1850 the first Christian missionaries


arrived and by 1870 they established the first coconut plantations. Without sufficient fertile land for other agriculture, they also organized these resourceful people to make free dives, of 100 feet or more, to collect oyster shells. The shells were highly prized in Europe for buttons, which allowed the Paumotu to have a product other than copra to barter for goods with.

On Makatea, in 1910, the first economic activity of importance was created when the phosphate mine was opened. By 1960, with the supply of phosphate exhausted, France's Center for Nuclear Experiments in the Pacific was set up on Mururoa, Hao, and Fangataufa. The testing at these sites was stopped in 1996. In the early seventies, cultured pearl farms began to produce the black pearl, which has since become a symbol for French Polynesia. With the development of pearl farming came airstrips for light planes which, in turn, helped open up the market for the fresh fish, and encouraged the first attempts at organized tourism.

BUSINESS HOURS

The post office, government offices, banks, airline offices, travel agencies and stores open between 7:30 a.m. to 8:00 a.m. Many of the shops and offices still close for lunch from about 12:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. Some islands have banks that choose alternating days for early closure: one bank will close for the day at 12:00 p.m. while another bank on the island will close early on the opposite day. With the exception of restaurants and sidewalk cafes and bars, most of the Tuamotu' shut down by 5:00 pm. Most businesses close at noon on Saturdays and are closed all day Sundays and holidays.

ELECTRICITY

If you are charging a video camera battery, the current is 240V, 50Hz AC and the adapter looks like this: . (round with 3 holes, 2 above, 1 central underneath). All electrical equipment will need the adapter and a built-in voltage regulator or a transformer.

TIME ZONE(S)

The Tuamotu Islands are east of the International Date Line and ten hours behind Greenwich Mean Time. Therefore, the time and day in the Tuamotu Islands are the same as in Tahiti and Hawai'i.

PACKING GUIDELINES

GENERAL ADVICE

The most important advice anyone can give you about packing is to travel light! Airlines now have strict rules on the amount, weight, and size of both carry-on and checked baggage. Plus, less luggage means shorter waits for baggage claim, less to carry around, and easier Customs inspections.

Before you pack, check the condition of your luggage. Airlines can refuse to accept fragile or damaged pieces. If you have to purchase new bags, choose luggage that is lightweight, roomy and easy to carry, yet durable enough to withstand rough treatment. Choose material that will not sag or rip as it moves along the conveyor.

Please limit your luggage to one suitcase and a small backpack to use as a carry-on bag. Most of the carry-on baggage restrictions do not apply to purses, coats, camera equipment, or briefcases.

Baggage restrictions may vary from flight to flight depending on the design and passenger load of each plane, but a good rule of thumb is a total of two bags per person (one check-in luggage and one carry-on). The flight attendant has the final say as to whether your bags can be taken on board as carry-on luggage or whether the baggage must be checked as cargo. These rules have been made with your safety and comfort in mind. Check with the airline or your travel coordinator for detailed information on baggage regulations and fees.

Your carry-on must have a secure closure for theft prevention and not be an open bag. We recommend a backpack, rather than a shoulder bag, so that your hands are free during field trips. While traveling, your carry-on should be used for medicine, a change of clothing, basic toiletries, a jacket, camera equipment, film, reading material, and a folding umbrella. On field trips, you will use your backpack for rain gear, a water bottle, camera equipment and snacks. The generous amount of rain in some areas is what makes them so green and appealing, but it also means that you should never be too far from your poncho or small, easily carried, collapsible umbrella. A light poncho, rather than a raincoat, is the recommended wet weather garment. It will cover you and your backpack in a heavy downpour, and will drape to your feet like a tent, when seated. It will also allow for better air circulation in warm and humid weather.

Choosing a wardrobe of basics will help you deal with space limitations. Select clothes that will coordinate around one or two colors.

Prepare a kit of miniature toiletries in small plastic bottles to save space and weight. Don't fill bottles to the top if you are flying because the pressure may cause the contents to expand. These should all be packed in a heavy plastic bag in case of leakage. If you are bringing these in your carry-on baggage, please remember the 3 oz limit in a clear quart-size bag. Visit www.tsa.gov for more information.

When deciding what to take with you, anticipate articles that you may want to purchase at your destination. And, always include a collapsible nylon tote bag that will fit easily into your luggage to accommodate new purchases and other articles that seem to expand upon repacking. Pack tightly. Packing loosely wastes precious space and causes clothes to wrinkle.

Shoes should be packed in shoe mittens or an old pair of socks to protect other clothes from being soiled. You may also want to stuff your shoes with underwear and socks so that they won't be crushed during your flight.

Dresses, shirts and blouses can be packed in plastic dry cleaner bags to limit wrinkling. Roll pajamas, nightgowns, sweaters and other casual wear to fit into small spaces where possible, but don't cram your suitcase full. If you have to force your luggage to close, remove a few items to prevent broken hinges or zippers along the way.

Always carry your travel documents, medication, jewelry, traveler's checks, keys and other valuables in your hand luggage. Items such as these should NEVER be packed in luggage that you plan to check.

CLOTHING AND PACKING SUGGESTIONS

The following list should be used as a guide. Dress on board the Aranui and throughout French Polynesia is informal. A secret to lightweight packing is to take tops (shirts, blouses) and bottoms (skirts, shorts, slacks), which can be combined and layered. Whites tend to get soiled and black is hot, so consider other colors. You will have no problem getting your clothes laundered during this program. We recommend cotton or poly/cotton clothing for breathability. Wash and wear (quick drying) fabric is easier to care for. Old socks and trousers or jeans that you do not mind discarding, if necessary, after the trip are recommended for rainy days. **You must have hiking boots or walking shoes with good, deep treads for safety. Sneakers with fairly smooth soles will not do! We do not want any accidents.** You will need shoes that you do not mind getting wet. Plastic sandals, worn by the Aranui sailors, both men and women, are sold on board. They work well on the slippery days, but we do not guarantee that they will have all sizes available. They are easily rinsed off and dried by the next time you need them. Remember, you will be carrying your own luggage at times so pack light! *"WHEN IN DOUBT, LEAVE IT OUT!..."*

"Everyone

- passport
- medical insurance card
- prescription medicines
- Imodium AD or other anti-diarrhea pills
- Sunscreen (minimum SPF 30)
- sun hat or visor
- sun glasses
- sea-sickness preventatives (e.g. meclazine, patch, wristbands, and ginger candy)
- 1 lightweight sweater or long-sleeved shirt (for cold airports)
- 1 lightweight rainproof windbreaker
- 1 pair of reef or old canvas shoes (to wear in the ocean)
- Ziploc bags to protect your camera and film from the humidity, and currency in your money belt from humidity and sweat
- 1 pair sandals or rubber slippers
- snorkel, mask, and fins* (optional)**
- 1 pair good, comfortable, covered walking shoes suitable for rain or mud and short hikes
- folding umbrella and/or rain poncho
- small flashlight, extra batteries
- Handi-wipes (disposable towelettes) and/or anti-bacterial gel
- Reusable water bottle****
- underwear and socks (nylons are too hot)
- handkerchief or towel to wipe perspiration
- sleepwear
- mosquito repellent
- lotion for sunburn
- swim suit
- beach towel

**** We recommend that you bring along a small water bottle that you can refill throughout the program. (You will appreciate having this during field trips.)** It is very important that you consume enough water daily. It is very easy to get dehydrated in tropical climates and we recommend drinking at least 1 ½ your usual daily water consumption.

Men

- 2 lightweight trousers and/or jeans
- 2-3 walking or bermuda shorts (no gym shorts)
- 2-3 aloha or collared sport shirts (for hotels, nice restaurants and villages)
- t-shirts or golf shirts (for beach days and to wear while snorkeling)

Women

- 1-2 dresses - loose fitting cotton, calf length*
- 4-6 cotton blouses or t-shirts
- 1-2 cotton skirts or pareo* (length of colorful cloth worn as a dress or skirt by ladies/men in the Pacific)
- 1-2 cotton slacks
- 2-3 bermuda shorts
- 1 t-shirt to wear while snorkeling to prevent sunburn

***Previous participants have suggested that they prefer to have an outfit that is slightly nicer than their daily wear on excursions and fieldtrips for special evenings or church visits (optional) however there is no need for fancy or formal clothing.*

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Optional

- washcloth
- travel alarm clock
- camera, lots of film, and extra battery
- binoculars
- small first aid kit (including insect repellent, Band-Aids, antibiotic ointment, etc., over-the-counter remedies in original containers only)
- small notebook and pen
- small sewing kit
- plastic bags (one for wet items, one for dirty laundry)
- combination passport/money pouch, (and 2 extra passport photos & photocopy of the front page of your passport)
- snorkel & mask, if you own them (fins are heavy & generally not worth bringing.)
- soft foam ear plugs
- hand-held fan
- English/French Dictionary

Bring your **Passport and Medical Insurance Card**: make two 8 1/2 X 11 **photocopies of your passport picture/information pages**. Put one copy in your suitcase, and **send one to us with the enclosed Health and Information sheets**. A lost or stolen passport is trouble!

Parents in the Pacific, like parents throughout the world, don't want their children to beg. Candy, balloons, manufactured toys, etc. are foreign to many of these children. Their pleasures are usually simpler, handmade, and within their parents' means. Likewise, gifts and other monetary

contributions given to individuals can sometimes create an unnecessary sense of obligation and are not encouraged. In an effort to preserve their local culture and traditions, we ask that you kindly adhere to this request.

MEDICATIONS

Pack a supply of all medications you take regularly. Make sure your supply will be sufficient to last the entire trip, including any unexpected delays. It is recommended to bring along copies of your prescription and, if you have an unusual prescription, carry a letter from your physician explaining your need for the drug. As an extra precaution, carry the generic names of your medications with you because pharmaceutical companies overseas may use different names from those used in the United States

Medications available by prescription or over-the-counter sale in many countries do not necessarily meet the standards for safety, quality and consistency found at home, and familiar brands may not be available. Thus, the safest course of action is to pack plenty of what you are likely to need.

To prevent problems if your luggage is lost or misrouted, keep medications in their original containers and pack them in carry-on luggage.

SECURITY TIPS

Use a luggage strap to avoid accidental openings due to rough handling or cabin pressure and carry the keys in your hand luggage. Remove old claim checks to avoid confusing baggage handlers about your destination.

Identify your luggage both inside and outside with your name, address and telephone number and make sure the outside tag is securely fastened to your luggage. This will help if your luggage is lost or stolen and will save time when you are picking up your bags at the claim area.

The Transportation Security Administration has recommendations for types of locks to secure your luggage. For more information please visit their website at:
www.tsa.gov/travelers/airtravel/assistant/locks.shtm

A copy of your itinerary with your address and your destination should be included in your luggage in the event you and your bags get temporarily separated. This information will help minimize any delay in retrieving lost luggage.

Check your luggage early to ensure that your bags not only make your originating flight but your connecting flight (if you have one) as well.

Report lost or damaged luggage immediately before you leave the airport. Make sure you have a complete list of the contents of your bags as well as a detailed description of the luggage in question.

TEMPERATURES BY MONTH (°F)

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
French Polynesia	80	80	80	80	80	78	78	76	78	78	79	79

** Please note that occasional high humidity can increase the overall temperature.*

WEATHER

Sitting below the equator, French Polynesia's seasons are reversed from that of North America. Its tropical climate has two distinct seasons, the wet season between November and April, with high humidity, and the dry season between May and October with less rain, drier air and cooler temperatures.

GENERAL INFORMATION

ROAD SCHOLAR POLICIE, PROCEDURES & ADVICE

ALL-INCLUSIVE PROGRAM COST

The full Road Scholar program package, with airfare arranged by Road Scholar's designated Travel Coordinator, includes the following:

- round-trip international airfare from/to designated U.S. departure cities (when you purchase the program with airfare arranged by Road Scholar's designated Travel Coordinator);
- instruction by expert lecturers, many affiliated with leading educational institutions;
- educational field trips, often involving special access not generally available to tourists;
- excursions to places of interest;
- cultural events and a variety of other enrichment activities;
- room and board (any meals excluded from the program cost are noted in the catalog);
- group transportation during the program;
- a Group Leader to accompany you through the program;
- modest gratuities for program-related staff;
- the Road Scholar "Travel Assistance & Insurance Plan".

Airport departure taxes and visa fees may also be included in the cost of many programs. There are exceptions where it is more efficient for participants to handle these particulars themselves. You will be advised if/when such taxes and fees are to be billed and how payment should be made.

A ROAD SCHOLAR GLOSSARY

Road Scholar combines learning with travel in special ways. We hope this brief glossary of terms will be helpful in understanding Road Scholar's distinctiveness and how we differ from commercial enterprises and other non-profit organizations.

- **Program:** The Road Scholar experience consisting of instruction, field trips, excursions, and enrichment activities as well as included meals, accommodations, and internal transfers. We refer to Road Scholar experiences as "programs" rather than "trips" because the focus is on learning while exploring, not simply sightseeing.
- **Instruction:** May be referred to as lectures, classes, presentations. Instruction consists of sessions in which faculty (professors, teachers, lecturers, specialists, local experts) address the entire Road Scholar group. Sessions may be indoors or out, may be given as background or on-site during field trips, and are typically interactive with time for questions and answers.
- **Field trips:** Group outings in which faculty (or official guides where required by local laws) interpret/explain/illustrate connections between lecture topics and related sites in the field.
- **Excursions:** Group outings to places/sites representing interesting aspects of local history, culture, people, etc. Excursions are considered broadly educational and need not be directly related to lecture topics. They are for general interest and a well-rounded experience.

- **Enrichment activities:** Organized group activities that enrich the program through experiencing enjoyable aspects of the locale, people, and culture. Enrichment activities may include cultural events such as music, dance, theater; folklore presentations; folk dancing/singing; storytelling; recreation; viewing and discussing films/videos; participating in games typical of the country and/or locale; meeting and interacting with local residents. Enrichment activities vary greatly from program to program depending on local resources.

CARRYING YOUR BAGGAGE

Wherever possible, porter service is included in your program cost. However, this may vary from program to program and even from site to site depending on local circumstances, e.g., porters may not be available in some areas; in certain situations the cost could be prohibitively expensive; some motor coaches and other transport have space for only one bag per person. For these reasons, Road Scholar urges you not to bring more baggage than you are capable of carrying comfortably by yourself if needed. The Program Coordinator and/or Travel Coordinator will advise you of any specific baggage limitations or restrictions. We want you to enjoy yourself as much as possible – not be exhausted from carrying heavy bags.

CURRENCY AND EXCHANGE

We recommend that you obtain some local currency before departing and have it with you for any immediate needs upon arrival. Rates and fees vary greatly, but please be aware that purchasing currency from a bank is normally less expensive than from an exchange bureau. To identify banks and other business in your area that sell foreign currency, search the telephone “yellow pages” and/or the Internet under “currency exchange.” If your local bank does not sell foreign currency, there are agencies that sell currency via the Internet. International airports also have currency exchange bureaus. Always compare rates and service charges before buying.

Do not carry large amounts of cash. Other options are traveler’s checks, credits cards, and ATM (bank) cards for obtaining local currency. Depending on arrival times and days, and the program schedule, it may be a day or two before you can get to a bank. Traveler’s checks usually provide the most security but may not be the most convenient. Major credit cards are widely accepted in most major cities, but fees and service charges vary from company to company. Please check with your credit card company if they charge a fee for exchange. The same is true of ATM cards. If you take your ATM card with you, be sure you have a personal identification number (PIN) designed to work overseas. According to many reports, ATMs offer the best exchange rates but service charges may be added. The program staff on site will give you the information they have during orientation, but the best advice is “know before you go.”

Before leaving home, consult a “currency converter” that can tell you the rates of exchange between the U.S. dollar and local currencies around the world. Search the Internet for “currency converters” to find numerous helpful sites. Many major metropolitan newspapers also publish such information.

DESIGNATED TRANSFERS

Airport transfers – from the arrival airport to the first program site at the beginning of the program, and from the final program site to the departure airport at the conclusion of the program – are included in your cost if you purchased the standard Road Scholar program with international flights arranged by our designated Travel Coordinator.

EVALUATION PROCEDURES

Program evaluation is an integral element of our work. To assist in this process, you will have an opportunity to rate various aspects of your experience at each study site. On-site evaluation forms are important to indicate positive aspects of your experience as well as any problems or concerns. They should be completed and left with the Group Leader prior to departure so that s/he can deal with them right away. The Program Coordinator receives and reviews site evaluation forms. After the program, you will receive an evaluation form in the mail from Road Scholar headquarters to rate the program overall. Post-program evaluation forms should be returned directly to Road Scholar.

EXPENSES ABROAD

All of your Road Scholar program components are included in the program cost, but you should have sufficient funds available for any purchases you wish to make and for unforeseen events such as accidents or illness, losing luggage or personal effects, etc. As explained elsewhere, the Road Scholar *Travel Assistance and Insurance Plan* operates on a reimbursement basis for covered expenses. Neither the Group Leader nor other program staff is authorized to make cash outlays to participants. In the event of a mishap such as losing luggage or important personal effects, or your needing to pay for a doctor's visit, you will need access to local currency.

To summarize: while all of your Road Scholar program components are included in your program cost, it is your responsibility to pay for all other expenses you may incur during your time abroad. For the most comfortable and enjoyable experience, please plan accordingly.

INSURANCE

The "Welcome to International Road Scholar" brochure included with your enrollment notice explains that your program cost includes the Road Scholar "Travel Assistance and Insurance Plan." The primary purpose of this plan is to provide 24-hour assistance for emergencies. In addition, the plan provides insurance coverage in the event of accidental death or dismemberment. The plan also provides limited, supplemental, medical and baggage insurance. Please read the brochure carefully to understand the scope and limitations of coverage.

Please review your personal insurance policies and this emergency assistance plan to determine whether, together, they provide adequate coverage for your individual needs. Please be aware that the Medicare/Medicaid program does not provide payment for medical services outside the United States.

The Road Scholar "Travel Assistance & Insurance Plan" applies for the program dates published in the catalog or subsequent notices. Independent travel (before, during, or after the published program dates) is not covered by this plan.

Road Scholar also provides an opportunity to purchase optional "Trip Cancellation, Interruption & Travel Delay Insurance"; please note that the "Travel Assistance Plan" does not include trip interruption or cancellation protection. Road Scholar cannot issue refunds to participants for program days missed due to accidents, injuries, illnesses, or other emergencies. Should you have questions about this or other financial matters, please contact Road Scholar directly.

NO SMOKING POLICY

The great majority of participants are non-smokers. Some never smoked at all and many have stopped smoking because of the health hazards involved. Others have respiratory problems made worse by second-hand smoke. While we cannot regulate the habits of residents of other countries, we try to minimize the effects of smoking during Road Scholar programs. We try to insure that smokers and non-smokers are not assigned as roommates; if there is no other option than to assign a non-smoker and smoker as roommates, the smoker is asked to refrain from smoking in the room. Where available, we try to utilize non-smoking areas in restaurants, lounges, etc. For the benefit of everyone, smoking is prohibited in classrooms and other enclosed areas as well as on motor coaches or other conveyances used for group travel and transfers. Group leaders, drivers, and other staff are expected to observe non-smoking areas established during the program.

SEAT ROTATION

We ask that participants rotate seating during transportation for field trips, excursions, and transfers throughout the program.

SOME ADVICE ABOUT SHOPPING

No matter where you are in the world, shopping is an optional free-time activity and not part of the Road Scholar program. For participants who wish to buy souvenirs, handicrafts, or expensive items such as cameras, jewelry, paintings, perfume, rugs, etc., we offer the following advice for your benefit and greater enjoyment of the program.

- Neither the Group Leader nor other Road Scholar program staffs are permitted to lead shopping expeditions. If you have a particular request, a member of the staff may be able to suggest known shops or vendors, but this should never be taken as encouragement to make purchases or endorsement of the value, quality, or authenticity of particular items.
- Neither Road Scholar nor the Program Coordinator organization has partnerships or other relationships with vendors of any kind. We do not request, receive or accept commissions from vendors, nor do we act as guarantors, agents, or expeditors for merchandise to be shipped later. Please do not ask the Group Leader or other staff to assist you in this regard.
- When and if you visit local factories, galleries, handicraft shops, or other establishments as part of the program it is for the educational value involved. You are always free to make – or not make – purchases as you like. Road Scholar groups should never be subjected to a high-pressure “sales pitch” so if you encounter such a situation, please notify Road Scholar.
- If you wish to buy souvenirs or other items, always compare prices first. No one associated with the Road Scholar program can ever guarantee you will get the “best” price.
- In some places, antiques or artifacts of cultural value may not be taken out of the country without inspection by local authorities and payment of substantial export duties. It is possible that such antiques or artifacts could even be confiscated at pre-departure customs inspection. Buy only from reputable, licensed dealers and never on the “black market.”
- Most of all, if you choose to purchase art, handicrafts, or other items, we hope it will be as reminders of a wonderful experience with another country and its people.

TIPPING

Road Scholar recognizes that some participants might like to reward individuals who have provided outstanding service during the program. This is not necessary, as modest gratuities are included in the program cost. If you wish to reward someone for the service they have provided,

please do so on a private, individual basis and refrain from “passing the hat” or requesting contributions for a group collection as the practice makes many people uncomfortable. Group Leaders and other program staff are instructed not to request tips for themselves and/or take up collections for other staff, the driver, etc. Please do not ask them to do so. Participating institutions are prohibited from soliciting gifts or donations from their Road Scholar students. If you experience breaches of this policy, please notify Road Scholar headquarters. Outside of scheduled program activities, tipping should be guided by local customs. The custom in the South Pacific is generally no tipping. Hotels may have a Christmas box in which to place leftover change which will be divided among the staff at Christmas. Your Group Leader can further advise you on local practices.