

Fakarava, Tuamotu Archipelago, French Polynesia

The second-largest atoll in French Polynesia and a UNESCO Biosphere Reserve, Fakarava offers an impossibly blue lagoon, world-famous shark dives, and a sleepy village that feels like the end of the earth.

Tender (no pier)

Typical call: 6–8 hrs

French Pacific Franc (XPF) — bring cash

French & Tahitian

UNESCO Biosphere Reserve

MY DAY IN PORT

Ship/Date: _____ Arrive: _____ All aboard: _____

Excursion: _____ Notes: _____

GETTING ASHORE

Docking: Tender to Rotoava village pier

Best For: Scuba diving, snorkeling, beaches, lagoon tours

Don't Miss: Garuae Pass drift dive or Lagon Bleu excursion

Watch Out: One ATM — often empty. Bring XPF cash from Tahiti.

Getting around: Rideshare not available

TOP THINGS TO DO

- Garuae Pass Drift Dive** — The widest pass in French Polynesia offers exhilarating drift diving through walls of grey reef sharks, barracuda, eagle rays, and manta rays.
 - Lagon Bleu (Blue Lagoon) Boat Tour** — A lagoon-within-a-lagoon surrounded by white-sand motus.
 - Coral Garden Snorkel Tour** — A calm, guided snorkel inside the lagoon away from the strong pass currents — ideal for non-divers and families.
- Black Pearl Farm Tour** — Visit a working Tahitian black pearl farm and learn how pearls are grafted and harvested.
 - PK 9 Beach by Bike** — Cycle 9 km along the flat lagoon road to a picture-perfect white-sand beach with turquoise water and leaning palms.

BEST WALKS

- Rotoava Village to Topaka Lighthouse** 3.5 km one-way · ~45 min walk or 15 min bike · Easy flat road — Follow the main lagoon road north from the pier through the quiet village, past the coral-stone church, to the striking pyramid-shaped coral lighthouse.
- Rotoava Pier to PK 9 Beach** 9 km one-way · E-bike 30 min · Flat dirt road — The island's signature ride: north along the lagoon on a flat track through coconut palms to one of the most beautiful deserted beaches in French Polynesia.

WEATHER · DAYLIGHT · MONEY

CLIMATE (AVG °F · RAINY DAYS)

	Mon	High	Low	Rain
Apr	82°	79°	18d	
Jun	80°	78°	16d	
Aug	79°	76°	11d	
Sep	79°	76°	13d	
Oct	79°	77°	14d	

DAYLIGHT & MONEY

Apr 5:50AM–5:33PM · Jun 6:08AM–5:18PM · Aug 5:59AM–5:34PM · Sep 5:37AM–5:37PM · Oct 5:14AM–5:41PM

KNOW BEFORE YOU GO

- Bring XPF cash from Tahiti. Fakarava has one ATM in Rotoava and it is frequently out of cash. Most small vendors, bike rentals, and food stalls do not accept credit cards.
- No-nos (sandflies) are brutal. These tiny biting insects are nearly invisible but leave itchy welts. Apply DEET-based repellent or buy Monoï oil with citronella at the pier market.
- Book dive tours before boarding your ship. Fakarava dive operators (Topdive, O2 Fakarava) fill up fast, especially for Garuae Pass. Pre-book months in advance for peak season.
- Reef-safe sunscreen only. As a UNESCO Biosphere Reserve, Fakarava enforces environmental rules. Standard chemical sunscreens can harm coral — mineral-based sunscreen is required in the water.
- Rent a bike or e-bike the moment you land. Inventory at the pier is limited. An e-bike is worth the extra cost given the heat — PK 9 Beach is a must but 9 km each way.
- No facilities at PK 9 Beach. There are no toilets, no shade structures, and no vendors. Bring a full water bottle, snacks, and sunscreen. The reward is worth the prep.

Fakarava, Tuamotu Archipelago, French Polynesia — Port Map

cruiseports.org

Red = walkable sights · Amber = excursions farther out · P = cruise terminal. Numbers match the order you'd typically visit.



P Cruise port / terminal