

Tuamotu Islands, French Polynesia

The world's largest atoll archipelago delivers pure Robinson Crusoe escapism — coral passes alive with sharks and rays, pink-sand motus, and pearl farms so remote that cruise ships are often the only way in.

 Tender (all atolls — no piers)  Typical call: 7-9 hrs  CFP Franc (XPF) — cash only  French & Tahitian

MY DAY IN PORT

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

GETTING ASHORE

Docking: Tender only at all atolls; ships anchor inside lagoon

Walk to village: 5-10 min from tender pier — villages are tiny and flat

Best For: Diving, snorkeling, pearl farms, utter remoteness

Don't Miss: Dolphin watching at Tiputa Pass, Blue Lagoon (Rangiroa)

 Getting around:  **Taxi**  ~650–1,500 CFP (– USD) short trips ·  **Rideshare**  not available

TOP THINGS TO DO

- **Tiputa Pass Drift Dive (Rangiroa)** — The world-famous pass dive whisks you through a current teeming with hundreds of grey reef sharks, hammerheads, and manta rays.
- **Blue Lagoon Boat Excursion (Rangiroa)** — A 1-hour boat ride to a lagoon inside the lagoon — a turquoise pool ringed by white motus and frequented by baby blacktip reef sharks you can wade...
- **Fakarava Drift Snorkel (Garuae Pass)** — Jump from a boat at the ocean entrance to the widest pass in French Polynesia and float effortlessly through a living tunnel of sharks, turtles, and...
- **Tahitian Black Pearl Farm Tour** — Watch the delicate grafting process at a family-run pearl farm in Rangiroa or Manihi — the birthplace of the cultured Tahitian pearl industry.
- **Pink Sand Beaches (Fakarava Sables Roses)** — The pink-hued beaches at Fakarava's southern tip glow at sunrise.

BEST WALKS

- **Avatoru Village to Tiputa Pass Lookout (Rangiroa)** 1.5 km · 15-20 min · Flat paved road — Walk the coastal road from Avatoru Pier past local homes, pearl shops, and the blue lagoon.
- **Rotoava Village Stroll (Fakarava)** 1-3 km · 20-40 min · Flat — Follow the single paved road from the Rotoava wharf past the seashell-chandelier church and on to the 1957 coral-stone Topaka Lighthouse — a charming, unhurried walk...

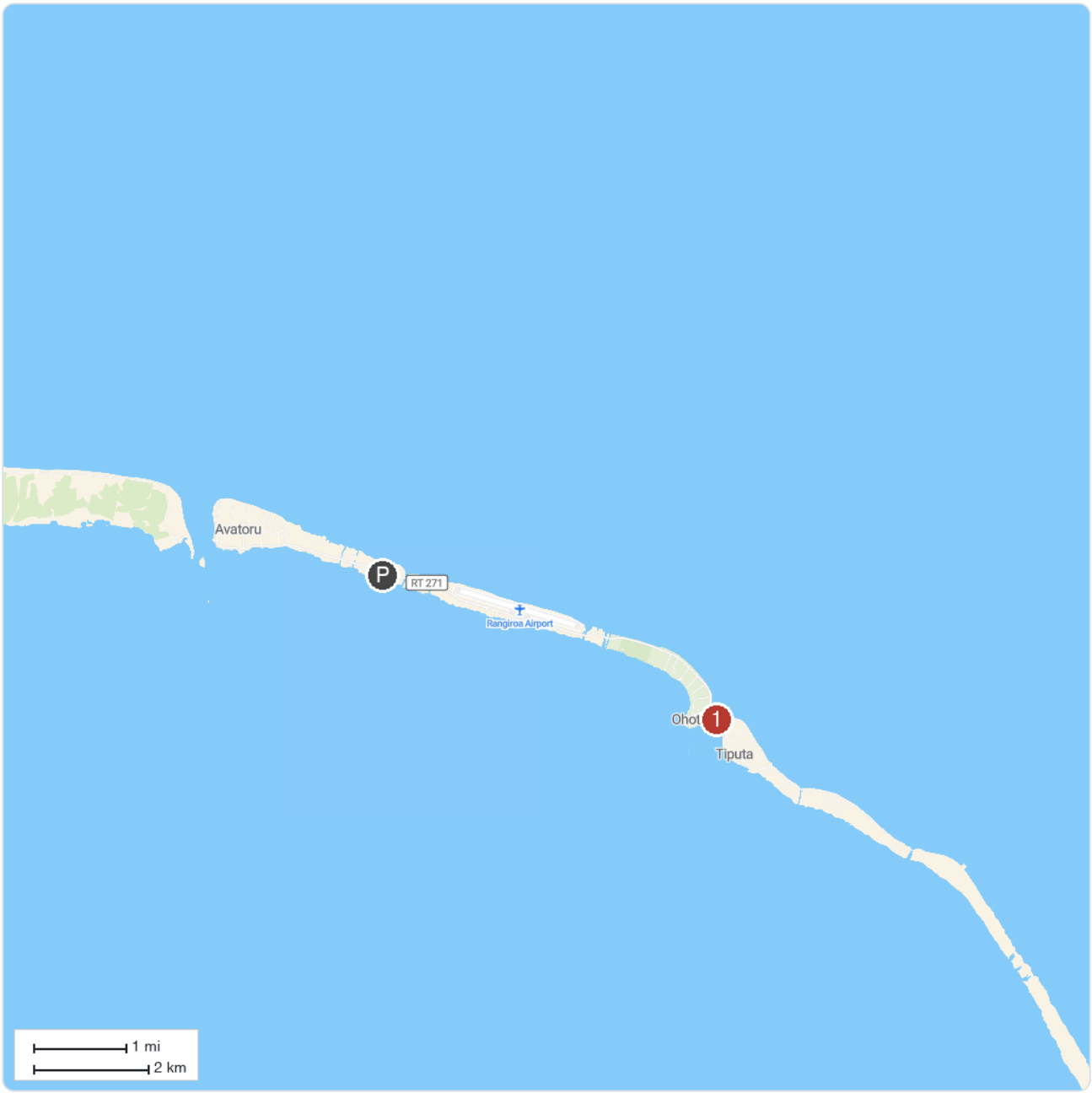
KNOW BEFORE YOU GO

- Get cash in Papeete. ATMs in Rangiroa and Fakarava run out on cruise days. Tikehau and Manihi have no ATMs at all. XPF is the only accepted currency at most vendors.
- Nonos (sand flies) are brutal. Apply heavy DEET repellent before going ashore — their bites itch for days. Avoid sitting directly on the sand and cover up at dawn and dusk.
- Wear water shoes. Beaches are crushed coral, not soft sand. The shallows can hide stonefish and sharp reef — flip-flops aren't adequate.
- Never swim the passes alone. Tidal currents hit 8 knots and can carry you out to open ocean in minutes. Always use a licensed local guide or boat for any pass snorkeling or diving.
- Sunday means closed. If the call is on Sunday, nearly every shop and snack bar shuts for church. Book a ship excursion or the Blue Lagoon tour in advance.
- Eat poisson cru. Raw tuna in lime and coconut milk is the dish of French Polynesia — and nowhere is the fish fresher than here. Find it at roulottes (food trucks) near any tender pier.

Tuamotu Islands, French Polynesia — Port Map

cruiseports.org

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



1 **Tiputa Pass** Rangiroa's main ocean pass, a renowned drift-snorkel and dive site where strong currents draw in dolphins and reef sharks.

P **Cruise port / terminal**