

Ua Pou, Marquesas Islands, French Polynesia

Ua Pou's jagged basalt spires pierce the clouds like a Gothic cathedral, rising above a wild, culturally rich island where stone-carvers still shape the rare flower stone found almost nowhere else on Earth.

 Tender port (anchor in bay)  Typical call: 6–8 hrs  CFP Franc (XPF)  French & Marquesan

MY DAY IN PORT

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

GETTING ASHORE

Docking: Tender to Hakahau wharf — ships anchor in the bay

Best For: Marquesan crafts, flower stones, volcanic scenery, culture

Walk to center: ~5 min flat walk from tender pier to Hakahau village

Don't Miss: The carved pulpit in St. Etienne Church and artisan stalls at the pier

 Getting around:  Taxi  ~1,500–3,000 XPF

TOP THINGS TO DO

- **Hakahau Village & Artisan Market** — Wander the village, browse world-class Marquesan wood and stone carvings, and visit the St.
- **4x4 Safari to Hohoi Valley & Flower Stone Beach** — Ride through rugged mountain terrain to Hohoi beach on the island's eastern side, where rare phonolite flower stones — found almost nowhere else on...
- **Hike to the Cross Viewpoint** — A steep 20–30-minute hike from the village reaches a white cross on the hill overlooking Hakahau Bay, with panoramic views of the harbor and the...
- **Tohua Mauia Ceremonial Site** — Ua Pou's largest archaeological site, set above the valley of Hohoi on the island's eastern side and extensively restored for the 2019 Marquesas Arts...
- **Anahoa Beach Walk** — A coastal walk of about 15–20 minutes east of the village reaches Anahoa, Ua Pou's most photogenic golden-sand beach.

BEST WALKS

- **Tender Pier to St. Etienne Church & Artisan Market** ~400 m · 5 min · Flat · Free — Flat paved walk from the tender dock through the village waterfront to the artisan stalls and the St.
- **Village to Cross Viewpoint** ~1 km · 20–30 min · Steep · Free — From the village center, follow the trail uphill to the white cross on the ridge for sweeping views over Hakahau Bay, the anchorage, and the dramatic basalt peaks.
- **Village to Anahoa Beach** ~1.5 km · 15–20 min · Easy–moderate · Free — Walk east along the coast road and over a low headland to reach Anahoa, the island's most scenic beach.

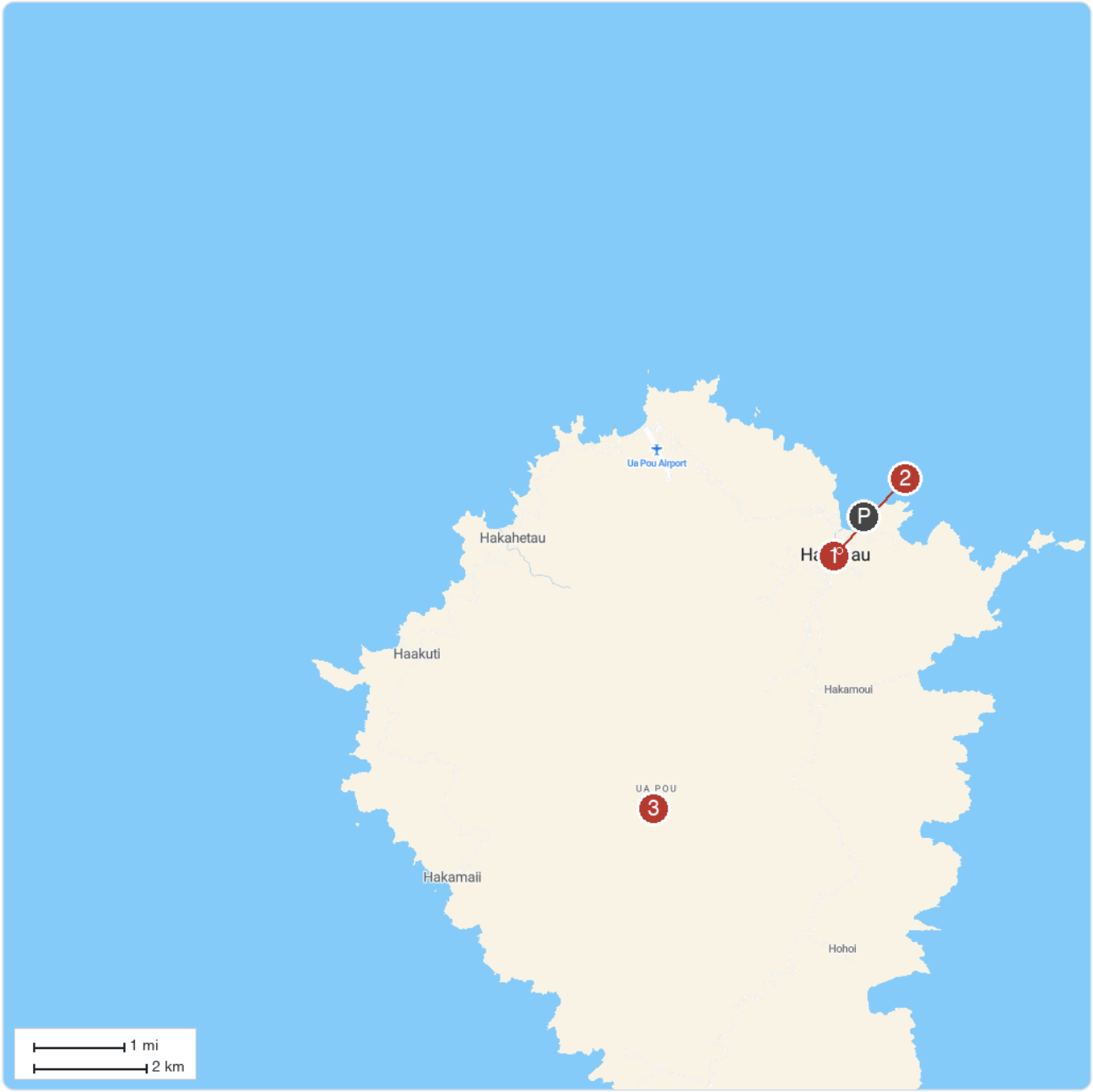
KNOW BEFORE YOU GO

- No-nos are your biggest enemy. Tiny black sandflies bite relentlessly and itch for weeks. Apply DEET repellent or monoi oil with citronella before you step off the tender — don't wait until you're ashore.
- Bring cash in XPF. The Banque de Tahiti ATM in Hakahau often runs dry or rejects foreign cards on busy cruise days. Euros or USD are occasionally accepted by artisans, but local currency is strongly preferred.
- Tender conditions can change fast. Hakahau Bay is generally sheltered, but swells can delay tenders. Keep an eye on ship announcements and leave yourself buffer time before all-aboard.
- Sunday visit? The village is quieter but the artisan market and church open specifically for the ship. Attending the Sunday service for the powerful Marquesan singing is unforgettable.
- Buy a flower stone directly from carvers. The phonolite pierre fleurie is unique to this island — a genuinely rare souvenir. Prices are better at village workshops than at pier stalls.
- Wear closed-toe shoes. Volcanic terrain is uneven and can be muddy. Flip-flops are fine for the flat village walk, but anything beyond the pier area benefits from proper footwear.

Ua Pou, Marquesas 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

Church of Saint Etienne

1981 stone church in Hakahau known for a pulpit carved from a single tree trunk shaped like a canoe prow.
- 2

Hakahau Beach

Crescent-shaped black volcanic sand beach and social hub of the village, one of the island's few calm swimming spots.
- 3

Ua Pou Basalt Pinnacles

Dramatic volcanic phonolite spires rising nearly 4,000 feet, giving Ua Pou its 'Cathedral Island' nickname.
- P

Cruise port / terminal