



Comprised of **Huahine Nui (big Huahine)** and **Huahine-Iti (little Huahine)**, the two islands are joined by a narrow isthmus and are enclosed within a protective necklace of coral. Huahine is covered with lush dense rainforests and huge trees growing on the slopes of a very varied and dramatic geography. Offshore motu islets lie inside the barrier reef, providing sheltered gardens for Huahine's watermelon and cantaloupe industry. A very scenic road, mostly non-paved, winds through green canopies and beautiful vistas for 32 km (20 miles) around the two islands, passing through small villages where a total of 4,480 inhabitants live in colorful, modest homes. The lagoon, bordered by white sand beaches, is rich with sea life, and Maeva Village is a wealth of archaeological sites that go back to a 1000 years. The (only) little town of Fare slumbers under the shade of almond and acacia trees, and awakens with expectations for the frequent arrivals of the inter-island ferries from Papeete. Then truckloads of copra, pigs, taro, bananas and melons are brought to the quay for market day. People from all over the island mingle with arriving passengers and a few curious tourists, all enjoying the bustling activity and wandering in and out of the various quaint shops along Fare's waterfront. Then the ships blast their farewell and head out the pass, the last "le truck" leaves town, headed for the villages once again. And life on this peaceful island resumes its normal pace.

There are only 3 "real" **hotels in Huahine**.

The newest and best is the **Te Tiare**, a 5 star resort accessible from the lagoon only. Offers spacious overwater and beach bungalows, and an overwater restaurant/bar. Excellent reviews.

**The Sofitel Heiva** is in a lovely and secluded area on the lagoon. Beautiful Polynesian decor but the resort needs a little upgrading.

**The Relais Mahana** is located on a pristine beach in a more remote part of the island. Not deluxe, but very well run by a French family. A good value. Huahine is one of our favorite islands and well worth the visit if you are looking for beauty and a little more seclusion. There are some wonderful excursions as well.

As befits its laid-back atmosphere, **night life** on Huahine is easy and relaxed. Visitors can rub shoulders with the locals during happy hour at the beachfront hotels, while the Huahine Village resort features a string band performing Polynesian kaina music.

#### **RESTAURANTS IN HOTELS**

HUAHINE~BEACH CLUB - Tel. 68. 81. 46

RELAIS MAHANA - Tel. 68. 81. 54

SOFITEL HEIVA - Tel. 68. 86. 86

#### **RESTAURANTS OUTSIDE HOTELS**

CHEZ ENITE - Fare - Tel. 68. 82. 37

LES TIPANIERES - Fare - Tel. 68. 80. 52

TE MANU - Fare - Tel. 68. 86. 61

ORLO - Fare - Tel. 68. 83. 03

#### **SNACKS**

PUUA'IVA'I - Fare

TE MARARA - Fare

VAKALELE - Aeroport de Fare

#### **ART GALLERIES/BOUQUETS**

TE NIU TAU' E boutique - Fare - Tel. 68. 85. 55

PUVA' I VA' I galerie - Fare

TE MANA galerie - Aeroport de Fare - Tel. 68. 81. 58

BLANCHE BELLAIS boutique - Maeva - Tel. 68. 83. 97

DENISE boutique - Fare - Tel. 68. 81. 97

TAMARI'I URA centre artisanal - Maeva - Tel. 68. eo. 78

JOJO STUDIO PHOTO - Fare - Tel. 68. 89. 16

#### **BANKS**

BANOUE SOCREDO - Fare - Tel. 68. 82. 71

BANQUE DE TAHITI - -Fare - Tel. 68. 82. 46

BANOUE WESTPAC - Fare - Tel. 68. 82. 31

Comprised of two islands joined by a small bridge, Huahine boasts watermelon and cantaloupe gardens on its offshore islets, and bustling Chinese shops along its waterfront. Since Huahine is relatively secluded and undeveloped, the island makes for a particularly fascinating tour site. Huahine has several safari excursions, as well as catamaran, outrigger and motorboat tours. Most tours can be arranged by hotels

***The two finest excursions offered on this island are the circle-island tour by 4-wheel drive and horse-back riding.*** Hotels and cruise ships can usually arrange any of the available excursions.

HUAHINE ~Circle Island Tour- \$45 ~4X4 Jeep Safari Excursion- \$45 ~Half Day Outrigger Cruise- \$45

#### **Drive Tours**

Discover Huahine's magnificent mountains, historic sites, churches, temples and valleys by taking a Land Rover tour. These half-day excursions allows visitors to learn much about this unspoiled island paradise. Some tour services offer "personalized" excursions upon request. Plan your own "circle island," private guide or sunset tour.

#### **ISLAND TOURS**

ENITE EXCURSIONS - Fare - Tel./ Fax. 68. 82. 37

LOVINA EXCURSIONS - Fare - Tel. 68. 88. 06 /Fax. 68. 82. 64

FELIX TOURS - Fare - Tel. 68. 89. / 61 68. 86. 21

#### **LAGOON EXCURSIONS**

### **LAGOON EXCURSIONS**

Reserve a spot on one of Huahine's lagoon excursions, and discover the splendor of the island's turquoise lagoon, teeming with manta rays. Full-day excursions are available via catamaran, outrigger or motorboat.

MATAL' REA EXCURSIONS - Maeva

Tel. 68. 89. 16 / 68. 86. 21

MOANA TROPICALE EXCURSIONS - Fare

Tel. 68. 87. 05 /Fax 68. 88. 10

VAIPUA CRUISES - Fare - Tel. 68. 86. 42 /Fax. 68. 84. 22

### **JET SKI /WAVE RUNNER RENTAL**

TITIRAINA JET TOURS - Fare - Tel. 68. 89. 13

### **BOAT TOURS**

Take a day-long boat cruise around Huahine. Many seven-hour excursions include picnic lunches, with stops for swimming, snorkeling, shell gathering and fish observation.

#### **Sailboat**

Sailing charters are not available on Huahine, but renting a boat from neighboring islands such as Raiatea is well worth the effort. Visitors looking for an alternative to private sailing can sign up for a cruise around Huahine.

#### **YACHT CHARTERS**

ARCHIPELS CROISIERES - Fare

Tel. 56. 36. 39 / Fax. 56. 35. 87

MARAAMU II - Vaitape, Bora Bora- Tel. 67. 72. 37

#### **Motorboat**

For those who find sailing a bit too subdued, Huahine Lagoon has three 13-foot boats equipped with 6 horsepower engines. No boat permit is requested, and snorkeling equipment is provided.

### **FISHING**

#### **Deep Sea Fishing**

Explore Huahine's undersea realm with a deep sea fishing excursion. Skipper and picnic are included in the deal. Deep sea "safaris" are arranged by request.

#### **Fishing**

Huahine's bountiful waters are home to a bevy of fish, including mahimahi, marlin and tuna. Fishing enthusiasts can charter a boat and snag their own aquatic treasures.

### **SCUBA DIVING**

With its remarkable underwater sites, Huahine is considered to be the most beautiful and most authentic of the Leeward Islands. Don your scuba gear and enter a sub-sea world of eels, rays, tunas, jack-fishes and neon-colored tropical fish.

#### **SCUBA DIVING CENTERS**

PACIFIC BLUE ADVENTURE - Fare Tel. 68. 87. 21 /Fax. 68. 80. 71

### **SNORKELING**

Huahine is still fairly unknown as a dive destination, so the waters are not overrun by humans. Sealife life is abundant and includes larger fish, in addition to standard reef fish. Enjoy snorkeling at Motu Papiti or Sofitel Beach.

### **SURFING**

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Huahine's righteous waves and consistent breaks are the most popular in all of French Polynesia. So it comes as no surprise that the island is the **surfing mecca of the Society Islands**. The Fare area of Huahine is especially popular with surfers, thanks largely to its accessibility. Fitii and Parea are also excellent sites.

### **BIKING**

With its open roads and manageable, courteous traffic, Huahine is a particularly safe place for cyclists. Rent a bike from any of the reputed rental agencies like Europcar and Pacificar, and pedal your way to ecstasy. Some hotels also offer bikes.

### **HIKING**

There's something about Huahine that brings out the vagabond in visitors, so stock up your backpack and hit the island's many winding trails. Climb the steep paths up Matairea Hill, examine the ancient "marae" stones of Marae Manunu, or take in the panoramic view at Moua Tapu Trail. Huahine's many archeological relics and natural wonders will keep even the most experienced hiker occupied for days.

### **HORSEBACK RIDING**

Hitch up one of the Marquesian horses at La Petite Ferme in Fare Quay, and embark on an excursion deep inside Huahine's picturesque interior. The horses here are trained in the western style, and will accomodate both beginners and experienced riders. In fact, the horses are safe for children over the age of 8. Guides speak French, English, German and Spanish. Choose between full-day and 2-day excursions. Among the sites along the La Petit Ferme tour are Lake Fauna, beach and coconut groves, vanilla plantation and mountains. There's even a 3-day circle island tour, with meals included.  
**LA PETITE FERME - Fare - Tel. 68. 82. 98**

### **PERSONAL TRANSPORTATION,**

All aboard! Traveling within and around Huahine is more convenient than ever, thanks to the island's safe, efficient and varied modes of transport. Take in the island by aircraft, boat, car, jeep, motor scooter or bike. Huahine offers a variety of public and personal transportation choices to coincide with every schedule.

#### **Taxi**

Need to grab a cab? Call *Pension Enite* or *Lovina Excursions*, Huahine's foremost carrier, and enjoy quick, safe rides to your favorite destinations.

#### **Aircraft & Helicopter**

Huahine is served by Air Tahiti/Air Moorea, which offers scheduled service and charter flights to surrounding isles. There are air connections from Huahine to Bora Bora, Moorea, Raiatea and Tahiti.

#### **Le Truck & Minibus**

Le Truck, the public transit system of Tahiti and Her Islands, provides 24-hour transport service for the visitors and locals of Huahine. Transport from the airport to hotels or private lodgings is provided by minibus for a charge.

### **CAR, JEEP, SCOOTER RENTALS**

Rent a car or cycle, and tool about Huahine like one of the locals. The island is vast and scenic, so it can behoove visitors to rent a vehicle. Huahine has several rental car agencies including *Avis Fare Nui*, *Europcar*, *Pacificar* and *Tropic 2000*. In addition to auto rentals. *Europcar rents jeeps and motor scooters*.

**CAR RENTALS** also Scooters / Bikes

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KAKE RENT-A-CAR - Fare - Tel. 68. 82. 59

PACIFICAR HUAHINE - Fare - Tel. 68. 81. 81

There's something about Huahine's wide-open terrain and rugged hills that Indeed, some have compared the island to an outdoor museum, citing Huahine's fascinating combination of archeological sites and geological splendor. The citizens of Huahine take pride in their Polynesian ancestry and heritage, and their self-esteem is reflected in the island's landmarks. Huahine has an abundance of well-preserved historical structures. The island is especially known for its many "marae" - imposing lithic stones sculpted long ago by the island natives in honor of the gods.

*Fare Pote'E*

Currently under restoration, this vintage meetinghouse located along a coastal road in Maeva is being transformed into a small museum and cultural center. The area is home to several 16th-century lakeside "marae" - ancient stone structures. Walk further along the coastal road and you'll witness a group of stones in a "V" formation inside the lagoon. These rocks are actually old fish traps.

*Marae Anini*

This 19th-century archeological site on Huahine Iti was once a place of worship of the dieties Oro and Hiro. It is rumored to have been a sacrificial shrine.

*Marae Manunu*

Home to one of Huahine's most renowned "marae" monoliths, Marae Manunu is one of the island's most magnificent sites. The sacred stone, which was reconditioned by American archeologist Kenneth Emory in 1933, possesses a curious rectangular shape and is approximately 100 feet long.

*Matairea-Rahi*

One of the most sacred and important structures in Huahine, Matairea-Rahi features the foundations priest's homes, as well as a massive fortification wall built to protects the hilltop sanctuary against sea raiders.

*Maeva*

Formerly the royal headquarters of Huahine, Maeva is now best known for its many marae stones and archeological artifacts, which can be observed all about the area (within a five kilometer stretch, visitors can see 16 restored marae stones). These lithic stones rise from the ground like some Polynesian version of England's Stonehenge.