



**SEE** YOU THERE

January 2023

### Welcome to 2023!

I had the incredible privilege to be invited on a FAM by one of my best partners to the French Polynesian Islands. I had been to Bora Bora back in 2017 (funnily enough, my trip was booked through them too of course!) but this was before my advisor days so returning and being able to visit a vast selection of hotels, get behind the scenes and enjoy additional activities was fantastic!

This destination is truly unique and I can honestly say, there is nowhere else you can experience the mix of culture and natural beauty with a French sophistication like Tahiti.



I visited several hotels throughout the islands and I will start with Tahiti, the InterContinental Tahiti Resort & Spa which has superb views of Tahiti's sister island, Moorea. The sunset views from the property was absolutely stunning!!! No filters needed as you will see in the photos. We dined at Le Lotus for lunch which is an intimate overwater restaurant with fantastic food and cocktails. Probably the best bread I have had in a long time paired with vanilla infused oil and vanilla salt was the perfect Tahitian touch! Another hotel that is a nice option is the Hilton that we also got to experience.

The island of Tahiti has quite a lot to offer whether you stay a few nights or have longer layovers. We explored a portion of the island and looked at waterfalls, a black sand beach loved by locals, the blowhole and some villages. They have markets for local shopping as well as some really good dining options. I was surprised at how many well-known and designer stores there were... it felt like a bit of Paris in Tahiti. Pearls are huge in Tahiti and you will find many stores in each town as well as many resorts.

Next up, Moorea which offers a very different feel to Tahiti and I am going to focus on land activities. One of the highlights in Moorea was a food tour we did that was not only educational but also delicious. It was a behind the scenes experience to get to know where and what the locals eat. This foodie adventure tour took us off the beaten path of Moorea to experience island flavors from local vendors, cafes and restaurants that highlight the best of French Polynesian cuisine. The food in Tahiti consists of three cultures: Tahitian, Chinese and French and on this tour we discovered hidden culinary gems from all three of these backgrounds. I tried things I had never heard of and it was so tasty. We started with fruit at our first stop through to beverages and mini meals, sprinkled with



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# French Polynesian Islands



We moved on to possibly the most well known area of Tahiti, Bora Bora featuring the spectacular Mount Otemanu! Lots of wonderful property options here. Four Seasons is amazing as well as the St Regis which is where "Couples Retreat" was filmed. If you haven't seen this movie, I highly suggest you do to catch a glimpse of the magic Bora Bora has to offer. Other great accomodation options are Le Bora Bora and the Conrad.

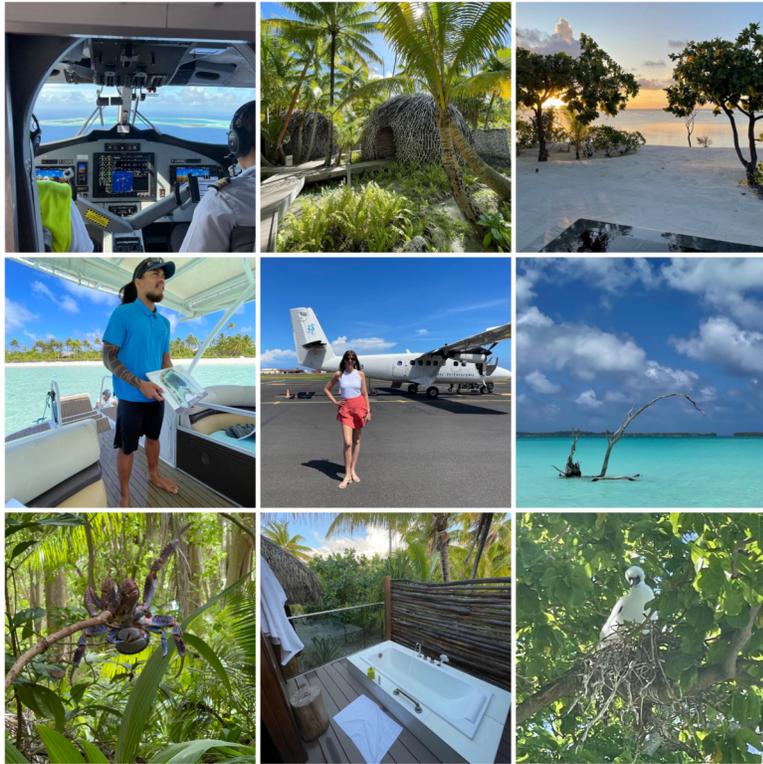


## Villa Heaven

As soon as we stopped for photos, our wonderful guide would pop out with some kind of treat as we admired the beauty Moorea offers. It was at this point I was reminded yet again how important it is to have local insider knowledge that only our excellent partners have.

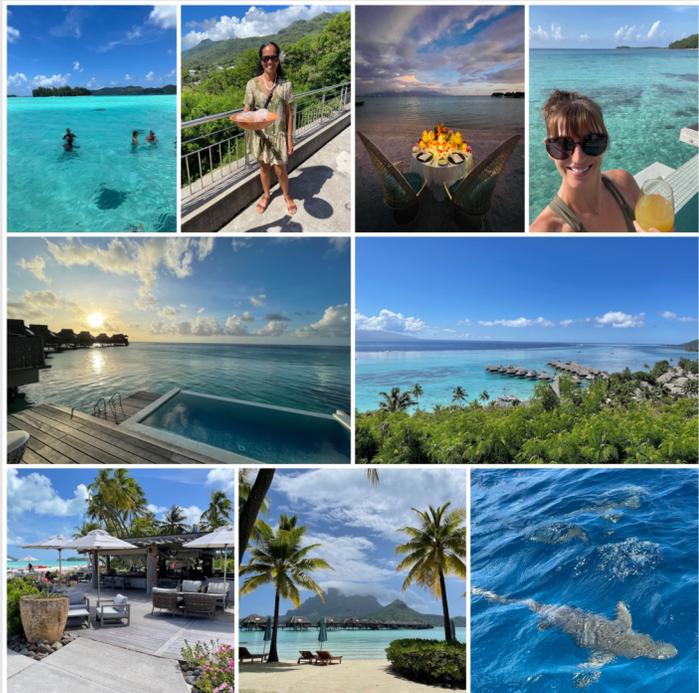
We flew to Tetiaroa for a stay at the amazing Brando property. Pristine and untouched, Tetiaroa is renowned for its beauty surrounded by a protective coral reef with no opening to the sea.

Tetiaroa's lagoons are warmer than any other place in French Polynesia and serve as a natural aquarium that encompasses some of the richest marine habitats in the world. I am a bit of a tech geek and really appreciate sustainability so this really fascinates me - All villas are self-sustaining with renewable sources of non-fossil fuel energy. It is hard to describe the experience here but secluded luxury is the closest description I have. The feeling and atmosphere here is something quite different. We did a private excursion (most activities are included in the rate) to an island to explore rare birds and see amazingly colorful crabs. We stopped at the famous spot where all the celebs and Instagram photos are taken, known as the Queens Bath. The sand is pinkish white and the royals used this sand to exfoliate their



There are many 'must do' activities in Bora Bora regardless of which hotel you end up at. I have done lots of snorkeling, scuba diving, ATV and jet skiing to name a few activities but another popular option is a day trip by boat to see the stingrays, sharks and enjoy a motu lunch on a private island.

This is particularly special as the guides are so fantastic, casually playing music along the way and telling you about the areas you visit and the wildlife. The lunch is served on tables in the water with fish swimming beneath you. Definitely something memorable you will be talking about for a long time to come!



This is a dream destination that needs to be enjoyed a few times to be able to soak in all of the goodness it has to offer.



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