

The Beyond Borders Collective

TRAVEL BREAKS BARRIERS AND BRINGS US TOGETHER

Moorea & Bora Bora, French Polynesia

10 Day itinerary (July)

Summary Information

Transportation	
International Airline	AirTahiti Nui (Arrival), United (Return)
International Airport	Papeete International Airport (PPT)
Domestic Airline	AirTahiti Nui
Transportation	All ferry, airline and bus transfers throughout our stay were coordinated by Pacific for Less. However, they can be booked independently. The names of the respective local operators are listed.

Accommodations	
Mo'orea	<u>Sofitel Kia Ora Moorea</u> BP 28 Teavaro 98728 Moorea, French Polynesia <u>Hilton Moorea Lagoon Resort and Spa</u> Moorea-Maiao, French Polynesia *NOTE: The Hilton is where we originally planned to stay, but had to change due hotels due to travel changes. However, Rachel has stayed here so this property is vetted by us. Based on our discussions, I would recommend it over the Sofitel.
Bora Bora	<u>The St. Regis Bora Bora Resort</u> Motu Ome'e BP 506 Bora Bora, French Polynesia 98730

International Travel & COVID-19 (as of July 2021)

- Travelers must be fully vaccinated or quarantine for 14 days upon arrival
- A negative PCR (non-rapid) test required 72 hours prior to departure, testing upon arrival (at PPT) and testing prior to return to US (at PPT)
- File documentation with the French Polynesia government, swearing to abide by COVID rules. Instructions to this will be provide by airline or Pacific for Less (or any other travel agent).

Important Information Regarding this Itinerary

- We booked through a travel company named Pacific for Less. They are an expert in French Polynesia specifically, which is why I choose them. This is not sponsored! I just had a positive experience and wanted to share.

Detailed Itinerary

Day 1: Travel Day		
Day 2: Moorea		
Morning		
Arrival	Greeted by Pacific for Less/ Marama Tours	Greeted by PFL's local tour operator, Marama Tours, welcomed with a lei and escorted to a bus to transport us to the ferry terminal.
Transportation	Terevau Catamaran Ferry -- Transport from Tahiti to Moorea.	A quick 35 min ride – enjoy the beautiful scenery along the way. Flying is also an option. PFL organized our tickets, but if you organize this yourself, here is the ferry schedule: https://www.terevau.pf/en/schedules/
Check-in	Sofitel Moorea	Bus transfer from the ferry terminal to the Sofitel took about 10 mins. We were the first stop!
Afternoon		
Lunch	Pure Restaurant	
Activity	Lounging by the pool	Towels available at the pool.
Evening		
Cocktails	Happy Hour	Enjoy discounted cocktails and snacks at the Vue pool bar every evening, starting at 5PM.
Dinner	Pure Restaurant	Due to COVID, this was the only dining option available at the time we went.
Day 3: Moorea		
Morning		
Breakfast	Pure Restaurant	Breakfast buffet is served every morning.
Activity	Snorkeling	There is a large coral garden on the Sofitel property. Walk towards the public beach from the Sofitel beach and get in the water shortly before reaching the public beach (you'll see others doing this). The current will just glide you over the coral garden! Equipment is included in the stay, but you can also bring your own. Other water activities are also available, such as kayaking and scuba diving .
Afternoon		
Lunch/Snack	Room Service	
Activity	Swimming	There is great swimming and snorkeling right off the property.
Evening		
Cocktails	Happy Hour	Vue pool bar.
Dinner	Rudy's PK 6,9 Coastal Road French Polynesia, 98728	Most hotels, including Hilton and Sofitel, will arrange for round-trip transport to Rudy's (as well as other

		popular restaurants) for set dining times. Try the parrot fish – it is what they are known for!
Day 4: Moorea		
Morning		
Breakfast	Pure Restaurant	
Activity	<u>ATV Moorea Tours</u> 3.5 hour ATV Adventure Tour	Pickup at 7:45 AM, return at 1:30PM We opted for the longer tour that included Magic Mountain and I HIGHLY recommend it for the panoramic views. Bring sunglasses, cash, a water bottle and of course your camera/ GoPro.
Afternoon		
Activity	<u>Moorea Roadster</u> – manual Buggy Cruiser - 4hr rental	The vehicle is dropped off at the hotel. Both automatic and manual options are available. Rental can be arranged directly through Moorea Roadster or the hotel concierge. 4hrs was enough time to get lunch and drive around the entire island while making multiple (quick) stops along the way. Tip: If heading north from the Sofitel, there is a pull-off to your right, shortly after leaving the hotel, where you can get panoramic views of the resort. We were also told whales can be spotted from up here!
Lunch/Snack	<u>Moorea Beach Café</u> PK 6 Cote Mer Maharepa, 98728 FP	Cute waterside café. The owner is an expat who moved to Moorea for the island life.
Evening		
Dinner	Pure Restaurant	
Day 5: Moorea/ Bora Bora		
Morning		
Breakfast	Pure Restaurant	
Afternoon		
Transportation	Air Tahiti (Moorea to Bora Bora)	Quick 50 min flight. Tip: Sit on the left side of the plane (when boarding from back) to get views of the passing islands. Tip 2: Baggage allowance is strictly enforced, so plan accordingly.

Arrival/ Check-in	St. Regis	Each resort on Bora Bora has their own boat to receive passengers from the airport. Be prepared to witness the coolest airport pick-up – ever!
Activity	Bike the property	After getting settled, hop on your personal bikes (yours for the duration of the stay) and explore the property to get the lay of the land.
Lunch	Ta Pahu	The watermelon quinoa bowl was amazing!
Evening		
Dinner	Lagoon by Jean George	By far the best restaurant on the property – eat here as much as possible, If you want to go off property, try Villa Mahana . Be sure to book well in advance as it books up fast.

Day 6: Bora Bora

Morning		
Breakfast	Te Pahu (breakfast buffet)	Tip: Call the butler service when they open at 6AM to have coffee and tea brought to your room. This service is complimentary with your bungalow. We enjoyed coffee on the balcony every morning prior to heading to breakfast.
Activity	Raanui Tours Half- day Shared Sting Ray & Shark Tour Multiple tour options are available – with and without lunch included.	Pickup 8:30AM – 1:30PM return. Bring sunscreen, camera & water shoes if you have them. The ocean bottom is very rocky in parts.
Afternoon		
Lunch/Snack	Room Service	
Activity	Lounging in room	Take advantage of the beautiful overwater villa.
Evening		
Activity	Sunset cocktails at Lagoon Restaurant Bar	Wonderful cocktails with the BEST sunset view.
Dinner	Bamboo Restaurant	NOTE: Not all restaurants are in-service nightly, be sure to check the days of operating when booking.

Day 7: Bora Bora

Morning		
Breakfast	Canoe Breakfast	This Is not included in the stay and the same food is provided at the breakfast buffet, but I have no regrets! It was \$120 US/pp. Breakfast is brought to your overwater bungalow on a canoe. The

		staff allows you to get in and take a quick spin/ get photos.
Afternoon		
Activity	Swim in the Lagoonarium	Rent equipment by the beach and bike over to the Lagoonarium, St. Regis' private lagoon where you can snorkel. Feedings 3x a week.
Evening		
Dinner	India Night	Check the schedule, they have two special nights – Polynesia Night and Indian Night. They have a chef from India and the food was delicious!
Day 8: Bora Bora		
Morning		
Breakfast	At hotel	
Afternoon		
Activity	<u>Polynesian Couples Massage at Spa</u>	Make reservations upon arrival or before, if possible. We also just made an afternoon of it and hung out in the Spa area – it is stunning!
Evening		
Pre-dinner drinks	HH bar	Catch the beautiful sunset with a cocktail in hand. Reservations not required.
Dinner	Far Niente	Italian restaurant on property.
Day 9: Bora Bora		
Morning		
Breakfast	At hotel	
Activity	Beach	
Afternoon		
Lunch/ Snack	At hotel	Ordered lunch to the beach.
Activity	<u>Matira Jet Tours</u> 3hr tour	Jet skied around the island, stopping to enjoy some fresh fruit in the lagoon, along the way.
Evening		
Dinner	Lagoon	5 Course Tasting with Wine Pairing. If you book through PFL, this is a exclusive included in your package. It is valued at \$600.
Day 10: Bora Bora		
Morning		
Breakfast	At hotel	
Afternoon		
Lunch/ Snack	At hotel	Ordered to beach
Activity	Beach	Enjoyed our last few hours on the beach before heading to pack,

		shower and get ready to leave paradise.
Evening		
Check-out		Don't forget to leave a tip for your Butler. The tip should reflect how often their services were utilized.
Dinner	Order to go	Dining options at the airport are limited currently, due to COVID. We ordered some sandwiches to go.

Travel Tip #1: Get a package that includes breakfast and dinner.

It is no secret that French Polynesia is expensive, but there are many hotel packages that "include" multi-course meal options. We opted for all breakfast and dinners (3 course) to be included and found the math to work out in our favor. With breakfast buffet being substantial, we typically did not eat a full meal for lunch and instead shared a snack by the pool or beach. This is especially true for Bora Bora where you will likely be limited to the dining options available at your hotel. The island also has limited options and trust me, you won't want to leave the property!

Travel Tip #2: Buy alcohol at duty-free or bring your own.

If food is expensive, alcohol is twice as expensive (\$30 for a glass of wine, expensive). We picked up a couple of bottles of liquor in Moorea and it saved us a lot of \$\$\$\$. As an extra tip, bring a good water bottle (Yeti) that you can premix a cocktail in to enjoy by the pool or at the beach.

Travel Tip #3: Bring water shoes

This wasn't something that crossed my radar while doing research but depending on the amount of water activities you plan on doing, you'll be thankful you have these. The ocean bottom is quite rocky in parts.

Travel Tip #4: Bring a portable speaker

We were so glad we had our SONOS speaker with use at the beach, by the pool and in our bungalow.

Travel Tip #5: Choose Bora Bora

If you only have time to visit one island – choose Bora Bora. While both islands are extraordinary, the remote nature and unnaturally clear waters of Bora Bora make it the clear winner for me.