

# Diving Travel Tips in Tahiti & her islands

## WHEN is the best diving?

Diving is available, fun & consistent all year round in Tahiti & her islands !

The water is **warm** (26°C = 79°F to 29°C = 84°F) and thanks to the **amazing visibility** (from 30m to 40m, ie 70ft up to 140ft), the diving is beautiful everyday of the year, from January to December.



## WHERE is the best diving?

There are **lots of incredible diving spots** all around Tahiti & her islands. High quality diving centres are found on more than 12 islands today, almost on all archipelagos; 2 live aboards are now also available in the Tuamotu Archipelago.

On all "diving islands", divers may choose among 3 different areas of exploration:

- **the lagoon** which offers clear & warm waters & a shallow environment with high concentrations of colourful fish...
- **the oceanic drop off**, made of large & bright coral compositions facing deep blue waters... where large predators & schools of fish can be observed....
- **the passes**, where large varieties of big animals play in a very dynamic environment. Please note that drift diving may be restricted to certain daylight hours & current, as well as advanced divers.

## WHAT can be expected?

A large number of species can be observed all year long around most of the islands... Among them : **numerous species of shells & nudibranchs, turtles, sharks, jack fish, sting rays, eagle rays,**



**barracudas, eels, Napoleon wrasses, dolphins, tunas, schools of snappers, etc...**

On a seasonal basis, some species can be encountered:

**Hammerhead sharks**: from November to April in the Tuamotu

**Manta rays**: from June to November (depending on the islands)

**Humpback whales**: from July to October (in the Australes & the Society archipelago)

**Grouper mating season**: from May to June in the Tuamotu



You may also find **amazing wreck diving, mud walls, caves, coral tunnels...** for the pleasure of all...

Note : Because sharks are not as aggressive in Tahiti & her islands as other parts of the world, divers may enjoy getting close to a large number of species (lemon, grey, reef, black tip, white tip, hammerheads sharks can easily be observed...!!)

Note for the Environment: Coral & sea shells are living animals, please help Tahiti & her islands protect their environment: "do not purposely displace, disturb or bring to the surface any living creature".



## What are the diving FACILITIES?

The dive centers offer a **great variety of diving spots, service & reliable equipment.**

Most of them are based on site international hotels.

They all **speaking French & English, some even speak Italian, Spanish & Japanese.**

They generally **propose 2 to 4 dives a day**, according to their facilities.

## **PRICE & EQUIPMENT**

In French Polynesia, the **diving price generally includes the guide, the boat transfer to the dive site as well as high quality equipment** (tank, weight, weight belt, BCD, regulators with gauges, mask, snorkel, fins). Dive computers are usually available to rent.

Regarding the suits, light wetsuits or skin suits are sufficient for thermo protection, they are usually provided by the dive operators.

## **AIRLINE**

With the domestic airline, **a special luggage allowance of 25 kg** (instead of 20 kg) is offered to the divers who are flying on Air Tahiti within the 7 days after their international arrival.

In order to benefit from this special offer, divers must :

- Show upon Air Tahiti flight check-in their international diving card.
- Show as well their international flight tickets.

## **What is the diving LEVEL?**

Most of the dives in Tahiti & her islands are **classified Open Water / Advanced Open Water.**

Note that it all happens within 5 to 25 m (30 – 80 ft) below the surface, for the enjoyment of everyone!

However, extreme diving is available (caves, coral tunnel, intense drift diving) for the more qualified divers.



## **Is diving SAFE in Tahiti & her islands?**

Tahiti & her islands is a **very SAFE** diving destination. Our **warm waters**, the **great visibility**, the **low current**, together with the **high quality guiding service**, offer **easy & comfortable diving opportunities.**



Moreover, Tahiti has a **multi person decompression chamber available at the hospital** (ruled & certified with French standards), and for all emergencies a security network has been set, in conjunction with Air Tahiti & local Helicopter companies.

#### PERSONAL SECURITY

Each diver should know & control his personal limits. However, as a general rule, please note that no diving is allowed within the 12 to 24 hours prior to a domestic or international flight.

#### What are the REQUIREMENTS?

Divers may bring their **diving logbook & diving card** (or a copy of their qualification: CMAS Level 1 or PADI Open Water diver at least) to enjoy an exploration dive. In all other cases, an initiation dive (within 5 m below the surface) shall be suggested.

A **valid medical certificate is always good** & helpful.

Regarding specific diving insurance:

Please check with DAN (Divers Alert Network) or specific travel insurance companies to ensure full coverage before diving.

#### Is it better to PRE-BOOK the diving?

We shall always recommend to prebook at least part of the diving to ensure availability, especially in the remote islands where diving facilities may be limited.

#### What about local certification lessons?

If the divers have at least one week, they can enrol in a complete resort certification course or training during their vacation. If they are already CMAS (World Underwater Federation), FFESSM (French Underwater Federation), PADI (Professional Association of Diving Instructors), NAUI or SSI member, their certification is recognized.

Any dive course or training shall be organized and paid on spot at the dive center.

Now, let's go diving !....