

## FIVE WAYS TO EXPLORE FRENCH POLYNESIA

Island hoppers will find lots to do. By **Vawn Himmelsbach**



VAWN HIMMELSBACH

### Get way off the beaten path:

If you Google "Fakarava," you'll see a pencil line in the ocean. Technically, Fakarava is a U-shaped atoll, only 200 to 400 metres wide, encircling a lagoon with 72 motus (islets). Life moves at a slower pace — everyone knows each other.



SOFITEL MOOREA

### Splash out for a night:

Taking the 40-minute ferry ride from Papeete to Moorea, it's hard not to feel a sense of awe as the island comes into view, with its lush, jagged mountains shrouded in mist, towering over turquoise lagoons fringed by coral reefs.



CORALLINA TOURS

### Swim with a humpback whale:

Forget whale-watching from a boat with binoculars. In Moorea, you can jump in the water and swim with them.



ALLY CARLSON

### Have tuna tartare on a motu:

Yellowfin tuna is served everywhere (as tartare, poke, carpaccio and sashimi), and it's about as fresh as it gets.



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### Visit a UNESCO World Heritage site:

On the island of Raiatea you'll find Marae Taputapuataea, the largest outdoor marae (temple) in French Polynesia — and a newly named UNESCO World Heritage site.

Vawn Himmelsbach was hosted by Tahiti Tourisme, which didn't review or approve this story.

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