

# Fakarava

## QUICK FACTS

**Population:** 806 (2012)

**Language:** French, Paumotu

**Currency:** XPF

**Scheduled Docking Location:**

Anchored, tender to the pier in the village of Rotoava.

**Shopping:** Local vendors are set up on the pier upon the ship's arrival.

**Banks / ATMs:**

There is no bank on Fakarava, but there is also an ATM just outside the post office.

**Internet/Wi-Fi:** Internet is available at the tourism office.

**Post Office:** The Rotoava post office is located just up the road from the pier. Open Mon-Fri 7:30am to 11:30am.

**Airport Transportation:** The airport is located at the north end of the island; daily flights to Papeete are available.

**Taxis:** 1 available at the pier, Fakarava Yacht Services +689 87 75 34 84.

**Bicycling:** Rental available on the pier, Fakarava Yacht Services +689 87 75 34 84.

**Port Agent Contact:**

City Hall: +689 (40) 93-40-40

**Ship Emergency Numbers:**

001 954 885 5780

001 954 885 5776

*In case of any emergency while ashore, please contact the above numbers.*

## POINTS OF INTEREST

### UNESCO Biosphere Reserve

The Tuamotus are a unique string of coral ringlets that form protective circles around interior lagoons, allowing for the proliferation of rare species of both plant and marine life. Their ecosystems are so pristine that UNESCO designated the atoll of Fakarava a Biosphere Reserve. Snorkel or drift-dive the Garuae Pass to see some of the world's most beautiful coral formations. Snorkeling and diving excursions are available from *The Gauguin*.

### Rotoava

One of the liveliest towns in the Tuamotus, Rotoava, on the northern coast of Fakarava, is also home to most of this atoll's population. You can easily explore it on foot or by bicycle. Here, you'll find two churches, a few shops, the town hall, and the village school.

### Phare de Topaka

Just outside of town, on a spit of land jutting into the ocean, stands this unique stone lighthouse, shaped like a pyramid. Although no longer operational, it is distinctive as one of the oldest lighthouses in French Polynesia. The lighthouse lies on a dirt track reached from PK3.1 off the road to the airport.

### "Rue Flosse"

Nicknamed for former French Polynesian President Gaston Flosse, this 18-mile stretch of roadway parallels the coast and passes some beautiful beaches. Rent a bicycle and go exploring!

### Tetamanu

Located at the southern tip of the atoll, Tetamanu, now a tiny village, was once the capital of the Tuamotus. Built in 1874, the remarkable Catholic church here is the oldest in the archipelago and was built by European missionaries entirely of coral. Tetamanu is also the gateway to Fakarava's other iconic pass, Tumakohua Pass. The south pass is accessible only by boat.

### St. John of the Cross Catholic Church

Located off the main road 1km south of the wharf, this lovely white-washed church is worth pulling your bicycle over to check out. It's roof and shutters are painted a vivid red and if you peek inside you'll see a lovely lagoon-blue vaulted ceiling adorned with coral and shells. Not the oldest church on Fakarava (the oldest is in the village of Tetamanu) its cheerful interior is full of music and locals on Sunday mornings.

**Coastal Road "Rue Flosse"**  
 The coastal road is measured in *pointe kilometrique* markers, referred to as PKs. PK 0 starts in Rotoava and markers go in both clockwise and counterclockwise directions.

**Paved or Unpaved Road**

**Pier**

**Points of Interest**

- Temehani Grill**  
 Pier; Beef and grilled fish dishes, and hamburgers  
 Hours: 10:30am-1pm,  
 Tuesday through Saturday
- Rotoava Grill**  
 PK 0.5; Beef and grilled fish dishes, and hamburgers  
 Hours: 11:00am-2pm,  
 Wednesday through Saturday
- Snack Koro Kori**  
 PK 4.5; Beef and grilled fish dishes, and hamburgers  
 Hours: 11:00am-1pm,  
 Daily
- Havaiki Pearl Lodge**  
 PK 2; Grilled fish and burgers  
 Hours: 11:30am-2pm
- Faka Délices**  
 PK 1; Desserts  
 Hours: (unconfirmed)  
 Daily 7:30a-5pm; closes at noon on Sunday
- Snack Elda**  
 PK4.1; Simple seafood and meat dishes;  
 Hours: (unconfirmed)  
 Daily 11:30am-1pm

