

FRENCH POLYNESIA / THE SOCIETY ISLANDS

BORA BORA

YOUR MINI TRAVEL GUIDE

The lagoon, the local side of the island, and how to enjoy it without the luxury-resort price tag.

BY @ja_n_ka



01 / PLAN YOUR TRIP

THE PRACTICAL PART

Before you go

A few little things that make a big difference once you arrive.

01

GETTING THERE

Fly from Tahiti (Papeete) in about **50 minutes**. The airport is on a motu, so the final leg is by boat.

Airline shuttle boats reach **Vaitape** in about 15 min. Confirm your hotel pick-up details.

02

GETTING AROUND

Rent a **scooter** if you are comfortable riding one, or choose a car or bicycle for the main island.

Staying on a separate motu? Boat transfers can add cost and limit flexibility. Check before booking.

03 / WHEN TO GO

May to October is generally the drier season. **November to April** is warmer and more humid, with a greater chance of rain. Tropical weather can still surprise you any time of year.

04 / WHERE TO STAY

You do **not** need an overwater bungalow. Look at smaller hotels and local guesthouses on the main island. Compare the total price, including meals and any boat transfers.

MY PERSONAL SHORTLIST

Do not miss these

The experiences I would happily repeat on Bora Bora.



01

THE LAGOON TOUR

My number-one splurge. Cruise the lagoon, snorkel coral gardens and look for reef sharks and stingrays. Choose an operator that does not feed or touch wildlife.



02

MATIRA BEACH

A gorgeous public beach that is completely free. Clear water, soft sand and one of my favourite places to do absolutely nothing.



03

SEE THE MAIN ISLAND

Rent a scooter or car, take the coastal road and stop whenever the views look too good to pass. Leave time for a local lunch.



04

SLOW DOWN & SNORKEL

Pack a mask, take a proper beach afternoon and enjoy the water when conditions are safe. You do not need a packed itinerary here.

MY TAKE: Save on the hotel. Splurge on the lagoon.

Make it your own

Spend less on the things that do not matter to you. Keep room in the budget for the experiences that do.

SAVE ON

Main-island guesthouses

Local eateries & food trucks

Free afternoons at Matira

Shared tours over private ones

Avoid surprise boat transfers

WORTH THE SPLURGE

A good lagoon tour

Quality time on the water

An extra night, if possible

The activities that matter most to *you*

YOUR EASY 3-DAY STARTER PLAN

DAY 01	Arrive, check in, then head to Matira Beach for a swim and sunset.
DAY 02	Lagoon tour: boat views, coral gardens and marine life. Be flexible with weather.
DAY 03	Explore the main island by scooter or car, take your time and eat local.

Have a fourth day? Keep it relaxed or use it as a weather buffer if your boat excursion needs to move.