

# Calendar of events 2006

The most famous of all cultural festivals is undoubtedly the "Heiva i Tahiti", a big traditional celebration. It runs for a month and includes the National Holiday of 14 July. Events over this period are sumptuous and are characterized by heated contests between the best artistic groups with singing, dancing and their costumes, not to mention the sports contest of canoe racing, javelin throwing, copra preparation, stone lifting and weaving etc... The heart of the people is also to be found in the "Crafts Heiva" that runs concurrently with these events with exhibitions and demonstrations of all forms of craftwork from the five island groups together.



The rest of the year is studded with various cultural events organized by the very dynamic crafts, horticultural and cultural clubs. Sports play a growing role with unsurpassed international fame in surfing and canoe racing in particular.

## January

### NEW YEAR'S CELEBRATION THROUGH ALL THE ISLANDS.

#### KAINA TOUR

(7th January) A big party day out by "truck" around the island of Tahiti, with stops for swimming, relaxing and discovering different tourist attractions along the way. Upon arrival at Tautira, a Tahitian meal will be awaiting the happy travellers. The King and Queen of the Kaina Tour will also be elected from amongst the group.

#### INTERNATIONAL OCEANIAN DOCUMENTARY FILM FESTIVAL OF TAHITI - FIFO TAHITI 3RD EDITION

(25th - 28th January) At the Cultural Center, Tahiti.

#### CHINESE NEW YEAR

(29th January - 28th February)

The French Polynesian Chinese community celebrates the New Year on the date given by the Chinese horoscope for the year. The program of festivities begins with the official opening ceremony at the Papeete Town Hall and is followed by a grand ball during which the public watch the various shows prepared for the occasion. A cultural day is also organized where you discover all the magic of Chinese folk culture (song and dance, martial and culinary arts). To wind it all up, there is a lantern march through the city streets.

## February

#### TAHITI - MOOREA MARATHON 18TH EDITION

(11th February) Experts consider this marathon, which is held on the island of Moorea as one of the finest in the world with over 635 entrants from many nationalities. First Aid, refreshment and sponge stations located every 2,5 km

and Tahitian music will be provided along the route and at the finish line. One full week of entertainment - arts and crafts, cultural activities, traditional sports- will enable the runners to relax and enjoy the magnificent setting.

#### JET PACIFIC WORLD CUP

Off shore race between Tahiti and Moorea.  
tahitijetclub\_nospam@yahoo.fr / www.tahitijetclub.pf

#### MOOREA INTERNATIONAL TRIATHLON

(25th February) Sport tournament on Moorea Island (2 km swimming, 90 km cycling and 21 km running).

## March

#### TAHITIAN INTERNATIONAL BILLFISH TOURNAMENT

(First week of March)

This competition is no mere fishing trip. It is actually a real challenge of man versus the swordfish and other denizens of the deep sea. Fishing is based on IGFA rules which help to protect deep-sea marine life. The victors of this competition will be rewarded with great trophies and bonus cash prizes.  
raiateabillfish@mail.pf

#### THE COMING OF THE GOSPEL

(5th March)

A commemorative celebration of the arrival in Tahiti of the first Protestant missionaries. This year marks the 209th anniversary of the coming of the Gospel.

#### MARQUESAS MINI FESTIVAL - MATAVA'A I TI O TE HENUA ENANA

(6th - 8th March)

On the island of Tahuata.

#### TAHITI PEARL REGATTA

(9th - 12th March)

International regatta in the Leeward Islands.  
Departing point: Raiatea, Utoroa.  
www.tahitipearlregatta.org.pf / organisation@tahitipearlregatta.org.pf

## April

#### THE HERITAGE DAYS

Open days for all the organizations relying on the Ministry of Culture (Academy, Museums, Cultural House, ...).

#### BILLABONG PRO

(27th April - 19th May)

An international competition amongst the world's best surfers at Teahupoo, Tahiti.

## May

#### RAID MOOREA 3RD EDITION

(13th May)

Individual or team races on Moorea.  
3 disciplines: Kayak (5 km), mountainbike (20 km) and running in the mountains (10 km).

#### THE "ME" CEREMONY

This is the Evangelical Church's charity event where fundraising is done in each parish throughout the whole of French Polynesia. The money raised not only finances the running of the Evangelical Church but is also given as aid to the disadvantaged.

At the end of the ceremony, a huge meal is prepared by the church members themselves as a thank- you for everyone's generosity.

#### COMMEMORATION OF THE ARRIVAL OF THE "BOUNTY"

(10th - 12th May)

Historic reenactment of the arrival of the first Europeans on the island of Tubuai (Austral Archipelago) through books, photos and the film

"The Bounty". Local dish tasting, expositions and artisan contests will be proposed during these three days.

## June

#### INTERNATIONAL GOLF OPEN

At Atimaono on the Olivier Bréaud golf course in Mataiea, Tahiti.

#### HEIVA I TAHITI

(22nd June - 22nd July) The largest gathering of choral and dance groups in Tahiti and her Islands takes place at To'ata Square in Papeete.

#### HEIVA OF THE ARTISANS

(Mid-June to mid-July) A big crafts exhibition based around the theme of Polynesian legends that brings together all the artists from the four corners of French Polynesia. These men and women of amazing manual dexterity display their works of art for your viewing and tasting pleasure. In doing so, they stimulate future generations to take an active interest in developing these skills. A fine cultural mix revealing both the identity of the whole nation and their pride in it.

## September

#### TAHITI NUI CUP

(2nd - 13th September) The Leeward Islands Regatta is interspersed with cultural events and recreation time for the contestants on Raiatea, Tahaa and Bora Bora, www.tahitiniucup.com.

#### TAAPUNA MASTER

(7th - 10th or 14th - 17th or 21st - 24th September)  
4 days surf competition on Tahiti (Punaauia).

#### RAID PAINAPO 5TH EDITION

(23th September) Three-people-teams competition on Moorea.

#### TAAPUNA PRO/AM 4TH EDITION

(27th September) Tahiti and her Islands.

#### WORLD TOURISM DAY

(27th September) Tahiti and her Islands.

## October

#### HAWAIKI NUI VA'A

In the Leeward Islands. Va'a (canoe racing) is the classic, traditional sport. Over 100 canoes will race between the islands of Huahine, Raiatea and Bora Bora. Finishing point at Matira Point (Bora Bora).  
ftvaa@ifrance.com / www.hawaihinuivaava.pf

#### ROTUI'S TOUR 5TH EDITION

(28th October) Foot race around the Rotui's mount (Moorea) of 15 km.

## December

#### ROTUI GREEN TRIATHLON 4TH EDITION

(2nd December)

On Moorea, trials organized in 3 disciplines: swimming (400 m), cycling (8 km) and running (4 km).

#### CHRISTMAS AND ST SYLVESTER CELEBRATIONS

Throughout Tahiti and her Islands.

For more information on the following sporting events on Moorea (Tahiti - Moorea Marathon, Tahiti Nui Triathlon, Raid Moorea, Raid Painapo, Rotui's Tour and Rotui Green Triathlon), please contact:  
moorea@sjs.pf / www.sjs.pf  
For surf events (Festival de Tahiti Body Boarding et la Billabong Pro): fedesurf@mail.pf / www.surf.pf  
For others events: com@heivanui.pf

