

2003

PROPOSED ITINERARY  
FIELD BIOLOGY L303  
Ecology Laboratory L474

" I looked up and I saw the outline of the island. And I knew right away that there was the place I 'd been looking for all of my life. " – W.Somerset Maugham

TAHITI EXPLORATIONS: THE UNPARALLELED NATURE DESTINATION

- " Coral Reefs
- " Fabulous Wildlife
- " Tropical Forests
- " World renowned Atolls and Marine Life
- " Botanical Gardens and Bird Watching

TYPICAL DAILY ITINERARY. WE ARE STILL WORKING TO PUT TOGETHER THE FINAL ITINERARY.

APRIL 30 May 1 DAY 1  
MEET AT STANDIFORD FIELD, LOUISVILLE, KY LEAVE 3:45 PM

DEPART FOR LOS ANGELES  
CHECK IN WITH FRENCH AIR OR SIMILAR CARRIER FOR TAHITI LEAVE 11 PM  
ARRIVE TAHITI 7 AM TAHITI TIME, CLEAR CUSTOMS AND

PROCEED TO HOTEL FOR ORIENTATION.

" MORNING--SNORKEL AND SCUBA DIVE AN APPROPRIATE CORAL REEF LAGOON HABITAT  
DEVELOP MARINE SPECIES LIST

" AFTERNOON--BEACH WALK

INVESTIGATION OF SHORE LIFE: PLANTS, BIRDS AND OTHER ANIMALS

" EVENING--DISCUSS FINDINGS FOR DAY AND UPDATE FIELD NOTEBOOKS

" EVENING ACTIVITY--GENERAL ORIENTATION, BEGIN FIELD NOTEBOOKS

GENERAL BEACHCOMBING AND BIRDING ARE ALWAYS AVAILABLE.

Tahiti is the largest of the 118 islands and atolls that make up French Polynesia. The 402 sq. miles of Tahiti's surface area consists of mountain peaks reaching over 7,353 ft into a lei of wispy clouds. The deep green valleys are covered with rainforests and soft ferns, with waterfalls cascading into cool rivers and streams leading to flat coastal land, with fields of taro and flowers. Around Tahiti-Nui (big Tahiti), a 71 mile road winds between the mountains and the sea. And on the peninsula of Tahiti-Iti (little Tahiti) the road continues down each coast for 12 miles. An interior road leads past dairy farms and citrus groves to a panoramic view on the Plateau of Taravao -- the isthmus that connects the two islands.

The Central Market (Marché Central) is located 1 block behind the waterfront. You will see traditional Tahitian crafts, flowers, and fruits, identify fish, etc.

The waterfront is attractive, with a tree-lined promenade along a marina with an international yachting community. International cargo freighters, copra ships, luxury liners and sailing yachts share the harbor.

May 2--DAY 2

" MORNING--Interior Island Safari. VISIT ISLAND INTERIOR AND EXTINCT VOLCANIC MOUNTAINS. DR. MASON WILL COVER GEOLOGY AT THAT TIME.

" AFTERNOON--VISIT THE HARRISON SMITH BOTANICAL GARDENS FOR INTENSIVE STUDY OF TROPICAL PLANTS FROM AROUND THE WORLD.

" GO TO THE GAUGIN MUSEUM WHERE WE'LL SEE DISPLAYS OF SOME OF THE ARTIST'S PAINTINGS

" EVENING--COMPLETE FIELD NOTEBOOKS, TURN IN AND THEN FREE TIME TO EXPLORE THE ISLAND.

May 3--DAY 3

" MORNING--

" AFTERNOON--TRAVEL TO MOOREA AND CHECK INTO HOTEL

Less than 10 minutes away from Tahiti by air (every 1/2 hour, about US\$ 34 one way) or less than one hour by ferry are the deep, spectacular bays and white sand beaches of Moorea. The craggy volcanic peaks, reflected in the tranquil waters of Cook's Bay and Oponohu Bay, rise like a shark's from the island's basaltic base. The lush mountain slopes are covered with rain forest or pineapple plantations, and white sand beaches border crystalline lagoons.

Upon your arrival at the ferry terminal or at the small airport we can rent a car or a scooter, or take the local public transport, the "truck" to take you to your destination (most hotels have pick-up).

Only 40 miles around on a well-paved road along the shore, this dramatic and lush island can easily be circled by car, scooter or on bicycle for the more physically inclined. You can also enjoy horseback riding along the beach or the interior, hikes to hidden waterfalls or visit the Belvedere's very spectacular scenic viewpoint

May 4--DAY 4

" MORNING--SHARK AND RAY FEEDING

" AFTERNOON--Land Rover Safari

We will savor the serenity of Moorea's majestic mountains. Visit vanilla, grapefruit and pineapple plantations, and ancient sacrificial sites accessible only to 4-wheel drive vehicles.

VISIT ROTO NUI (Belvedere) is a scenic viewpoint with panoramic view of Cook's and Oponohu baysTiki Village

" EVENING--Travel back in time to Polynesia of yesteryear in this authentically recreated village.

Participate in island life... see the making of hei (crowns of flowers), tattooing, carving, and pareo painting. On Tuesday, Friday and Saturday evenings celebrate the tama'ara'á -- a feast of island foods, accompanied by a spectacular Polynesian dance show of traditional songs and dances. Dinner and Revue

THE REMAINDER OF THE ITINERARY WILL BE VERY SIMILAR

May 11--Day 11

FINAL EXAM AND TURN IN NOTEBOOKS

Departure for Mainland to Return to Indiana

INSTRUCTORS Indiana University SE: Dr. C. BAKER, Dr. G. MASON, D. TAYLOR, J. NORMAN

STUDENTS: 15 + or - one or two students