

Tahiti (French Polynesia) 2013



We arrived Thursday and I just wanted you to know how much we like this place: Moorea Pearl Resort. We transferred from the airport to Moorea by ferry and met some Brits on board. We became friends with our new travel buddies.



The hotel did very well to get us to our rooms before 10 am, an early check-in. The room is over the Pacific Ocean accessed by a boardwalk. You can see a few fish through the glass floor under the coffee table. The balcony is toward the sea where you see the waves breaking in the distance, the water skiers ride by and the kayakers tooling along. It is just as you'd expect on "The Bachelor." It was splendid. The staff were very helpful.



A few minutes walk to the right of the hotel is a shopping plaza with a supermarket. We bought a bottle of wine and considered buying lunch supplies. There is a small refrigerator in the room. Instead we decided to rent scooters and drive around the island the next day so we'd be away for lunch. We saw a nice snack place where the local workers flocked so we bought "crispy shrimp" and fries. The food was good. Crispy shrimp are just our fried shrimp. Fries are standard fare in French dining. We took in the shopping sights on the way back but reserved our purchases as we were going exploring the next day.

We sat on our balcony and relaxed, watching the sea activities and then picked up snorkel gear (included) to swim but instead took a nap and then sat at the pool.



The pool is well engineered to look like it is part of the ocean with no visible far edge. Actually its edge is the skimmer which pours over a board walk set about 3 inches lower so it is not visible. The near edge is gently sloped to look like a beach so you appear to have the beach perspective with the ocean beyond. It was lovely.

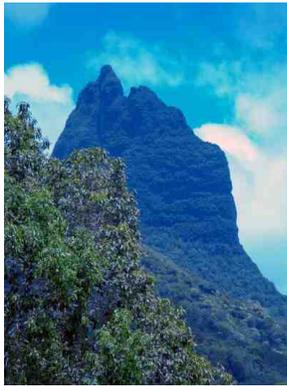


Dinner at the hotel was good. I ate thazard fish, a thick white fish that was served as a steak with seaweed. Try it, if you didn't know it was weed you'd think it was french.

More later, time for breakfast now.



We rented scooters from the lessor across the street and set out to the east. The center of the island is a mountain, largely uninhabited because there is no road. As we were following a truck, he turned into a private development on the mountain and we followed him through the gated entry.



We rode our scooters to the top of the mountain where the water tank was and took this photo of the surrounding sea. After a bit of water we headed back down and continued our circumference of the island



tour. A bit later we came to this interesting view of the mountain and this church with contiguous



graveyard established in 1906. We ate lunch at a local establishment and bought some fabric to cover my legs as they were getting burned from the sun exposure.



We brought back some bread from lunch and as I snorkeled, Judy dropped the bread crumbs so there were many fish to see. It was just like swimming in an aquarium, there is a small reef dropping off at our bungalow.



That evening, we met our new friends from England for dinner. We enjoyed talking about the places we visited. Monica had lived in London in Russell Square and was familiar with the hotel in which we stayed,

The Presidential. We liked it because it was central in London and near the subway but not in the center of downtown where the prices are so high.

Saturday we spent the day on our balcony and in our room as we had gotten a bit too much sun yesterday. That evening there was a dinner banquet featuring native dancing.



The next morning, our last, I took the kayak out to sea. The island is surrounded by a barrier reef and the waves break far out. I paddled out to see the waves break. There is no land but the reef is at or near the surface there, hence the waves.

We packed our bags and headed back to the mainland, the island of Tahiti for our last night in paradise.

A wonderful, relaxing transition to New Zealand.