

INFORMATION ABOUT VISITING RAIVAVAE:

The only flights are 3 times per week from Tahiti on Air Tahiti, Monday, Wednesday & Friday <http://www.airtahiti.com/>

There are 5 pay phones on the island, one in each village. Phone cards are available for purchase from the one post office Rairua. The village phone numbers are listed in the phone book, along with all the other phone numbers of the people of Raivavae. There are less than 200 phones listed on Raivavae and less than 50 different names listed, as many of the islanders are related, they are constantly referring to my cousin or uncle etc. Cell phones work in certain locations so long as you have service with the company in Tahiti. You need to be a French citizen or have a French friend arrange for you to have a cell phone to use. Phone cards and cell phones are at the post office. As both the phone company and the postal service is one government run company. We purchased 4 hours of cell time for 5000 cfp or approx \$60. The phone cards are 11,500 cfp for approx 15 minutes of time to call the USA. The phone card was the best bet as it had the best reception, the cell phones were difficult to use and had poor reception.

Village phones #	(689) country code
Anatou	88.30.00
Rairua Mahanatoa	88.30.01
Rairua	88.30.02
Raivavae Airport	88.30.04
Vaiuru	88.30.05

Accommodations

There are 6 guest houses (pensions) on Raivavae, some with as little as 2 rooms and the largest with 6 rooms. As there are no restaurants on Raivavae, all meals are provided by the pension and prices reflect 2 or 3 meals per day. One may purchase groceries at the local store at inflated prices and prepare lunch themselves in the communal kitchen. Fixing oneself lunch in this manner saves some money as the pensions offer either 2 meals (breakfast and dinner) or 3 meals (breakfast, lunch, dinner) per day with prices varying accordingly. No guest houses take credit cards, as there are no banks on Raivavae, but accept cash only in French Polynesian Francs. You may make an arrangement to transfer funds directly to their bank prior to arrival as deposits are required. Most of the guest houses can arrange hikes up to Mt. Hiro and day or overnight trips out to the Motus. I have not quoted any prices as they all charge in French Polynesian Francs or Euros and there is a lot of flexibility in the exchange rate. If you use approx. \$150-\$200 per day per couple to estimate for pension complete (all three meals) I think it will be fairly accurate.

Pension Ataha is operated by Terani and Odile Tamaititahio
phone & fax (689)95.43.69 GSM(689)20.96.38
They speak primarily French but Odile speaks a bit of English

Located in Vaiuru, near the airport, they have 4 rooms, 2 more under construction, new, clean, lots of tile most with private bath. Odile is an excellent cook. They also rent a house which we rented for a month while we were there and cooked our own food. The water system is a bit funky and showers are limited, can't wash clothes unless by hand, but its fairly clean. Odiles' father lives in back and he provided bananas and limes whenever we needed them. We saved all our food waste for his pig and goat. There is only the road between us and the lagoon. So we had an ocean view!!! They have a rustic camping cabin on a Motu that can be rented as well.

Pension Linda Nelson is operated by Reuben and Henrietta Paaeho,
Pension Chez Linda Nelson (689) 88.30.81

They are both local islanders speak French and very good English as they both attended college in Fiji. They are very kind, generous and accommodating. Their large home is located in Rairua near the airport with an ocean view. It has a spacious, nicely decorated common room for dining and hanging out, wit a ping pong table, various games, an adjacent TV room, 4 small bedrooms with 2 shared baths and one bungalow with private bath. They also have a large separate bungalow that could accommodate up to 6, with its own kitchen, private bath, spacious living room area and 2 bedrooms. The grounds are nicely landscaped. Everything is colorful, very clean and tidy. They also offer some locally made goods for sale. Henrietta is a superb cook; she can fix French as well as the local cuisine. We had the good fortune to be invited on 3 occasions for dinner and it was delightful each time. The poison cru (fish marinated wit onions in coconut milk and lime juice) was excellent!! They can arrange for excursions to the Motu, circle island tours, hikes and visits to the Marae (archaeological sites), as well. Bicycles and kayaks snorkeling and fishing

Pension Moana is operated by Haamooura Teehu, Mahanatoa
phone (689)95.42.66 fax (689)95.44.31

Haamooura is lovely, friendly woman; but only speaks French. She has a house near her own with 3 rooms and a communal kitchen. Located in the village of Mahanatoa near the church. Moana means beach and this Pension is adjacent to the loveliest beach on Raivavae. It is perfect for swimming and snorkeling. The rooms are spartan but clean. The best part is the church nearby is very active. We observed some activity there each Saturday, the making of Popoi the traditional way, using stone tools that you would expect to see in a museum, the use of an earth oven to cook a pig and the processing of juice from a cooked tuber of the Ti plant. The church members are very friendly and found our curiosity humorous. The school is across the street from the church and it is always fun to watch the kids at play and going to and from school.

Pension Tama Inn is operated by Emmy White located in Anatonu
phone/fax (689)95.42.52

Emmy is from Raivavae and her American husband Denny both speak English and French. They also operate the store in Anatonu across the road from their 3 beachfront bungalows. Each bungalow has a thatched roof and has a very native feel, it can accommodate a couple and each has a private bath. Each bungalow is located just steps from a narrow beach and they are fairly close together but still private and landscaped

with lots of flowers. They also have 2 rooms in another house nearby. They also have a camping cabin on a Motu and take guests there for day or overnight excursions.

Pension Guillaume (Nuruata) is operated by Guillaume and Haraura, located near the north end of the airport. 954-283, The woman that I spoke with only spoke French. This is a lovely newer Spanish style house, very clean, only 4 years old, newer furnishings, set back off the road so it's a bit quieter. There are accommodations for 12 max but only 2 bathrooms. They offer the entire house with or without meals. They have bikes available for the guests. There is a lovely balcony and outdoor seating areas, there are essentially 2 kitchens one on each floor. The house can be rented by the room, by the floor or by the entire house.

Hararua Mahaa phone/fax 95.42.83

No meals

Pension Rau'uru

Edmond Flores phone/fax

689 95.42.88