

Ahoy PPJers,

It is a cruel irony that while some crews now underway to the islands are experiencing stellar sailing conditions out in the watery wilderness of the Pacific, an increase in COVID-19 cases on Tahiti has caused French Polynesian authorities to implement drastic policies toward both land-based and maritime visitors. And most other island nations in the region have closed their doors to visitors also until the COVID threat subsides.

We expect the release of a detailed official policy statement tomorrow which will hopefully clarify whether individual cruisers such as you can clear in at the Marquesas (our hope), or must go directly to Tahiti. (The ARC Rally was required to do this, but it is a formal rally where all 30+ boats travel as a group. ARC boats will be moored and their crews will be 'repatriated' by air to their home countries.)

Those of you now en route should be clear that no interisland cruising will be allowed for the foreseeable future. Also, you may only be allowed a 'pit stop' to refuel and reprovision before moving on, or chose to leave your boat moored and fly home. Again, tomorrow we hope to have details on your options after arrival.

If you are in a 'holding pattern' in Las Perlas, Banderas Bay or elsewhere, we strongly encourage you NOT to make the crossing this year, at least for the next few months. Sadly, if you do, it will not be the cruising experience that you have been dreaming about.

Sorry, I don't have better news to share. Details to follow, as soon as I have them.

-- Andy

Andy Turpin  
Director, Pacific Puddle Jump