

Ahoy Puddle Jumpers,

Please read these urgent messages.

Do Not Stop at Fatu Hiva Before Clearing:

Although it is widely known that yachts arriving in the Marquesas must clear in at Hiva Oa or Nuku Hiva before visiting Fatu Hiva, some cruisers are ignoring that rule and stopping at Fatu Hiva first.

We received a report this year that one boat was fined 700 euros for doing this. A couple of years ago, the fine was \$2000 USD per person. So it is wise to observe the rules, especially since it's not that far to backtrack to Fatu Hiva after clearing at Hiva Oa.

Serious Consequences for Over-Staying Visas:

We have had reports from our associates in Tahiti that some Puddle Jumpers have gotten into serious trouble because they over-stayed their visas, probably due to confusion about the rules.

So let us clarify: If you have a non-EU passport and did not arrange for a Long Stay Visa, you will be given a 90-day visa upon arrival. According to Tehani Valenta of the Tahiti Crew yacht agency, that gives you 90 days within the six month period that begins on your day of arrival (i.e. January 1 - June 30.)

You can leave FP and return during that six-month period, but the original beginning and end date still applies. For example, you cannot simply fly to another nation, then fly back and get restart the 90-day clock. It doesn't work that way in French Polynesia.

One foreign boat owner stayed beyond his 90 days and now faces the possibility of a huge fine and possibly time in jail! So please don't overstay your visa.

Also, if you are using an agent, you need to let him or her know if you have immigration problems, if crew is changing, etc. Otherwise, both you and the yacht agent could get into trouble. Tehani writes: "Immigration and regulations in Tahiti are very strict. That's why we are here for you, to help out and make everything work correctly. So please tell the fleet to report all immigration issues to the agent, if they are not sure, just ask us."

— PPJ event staff

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