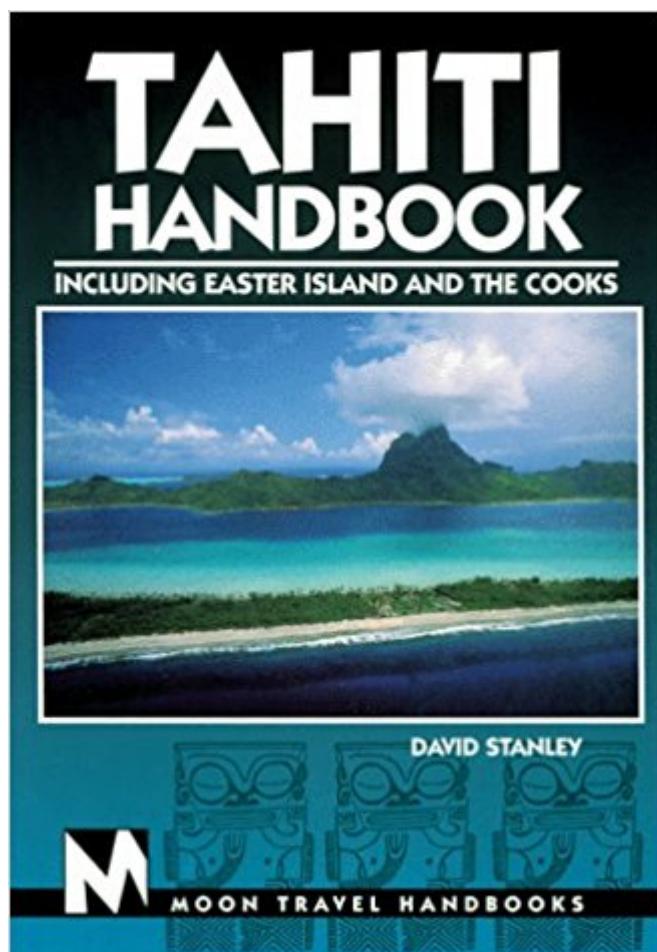


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# Tahiti Handbook Including Easter Island And The Cooks



## Synopsis

A fourth edition of the guide to the region. Dining, recreational activities and accommodation are all covered, and a selection of maps is included.

## Book Information

Paperback: 380 pages

Publisher: Moon Travel Handbooks; 4th edition (June 1999)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1566911400

ISBN-13: 978-1566911405

Product Dimensions: 7.3 x 5.2 x 0.9 inches

Shipping Weight: 12.8 ounces

Average Customer Review: 3.4 out of 5 stars 19 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #4,242,528 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #44 in Books > Travel > Australia & South Pacific > Tahiti #2011 in Books > Travel > Australia & South Pacific > General #2162 in Books > Travel > Caribbean > General

## Customer Reviews

David Stanley has spent much of the past three decades on the road. He has crossed six continents overland and visited 181 of the 193 United Nations member countries. His travel guidebooks to the South Pacific, Micronesia, Alaska, Eastern Europe, and Cuba opened those areas to budget travellers for the first time.

I purchased this book because of the description and several favorable reviews. I had hoped it would be an excellent resource for my first trip to Tahiti and the other Society Islands. This book was a very poor choice. This book provides a wealth of historical information about the islands, but all of the practical information is weak. If this is the "2000" edition of the book, why does it list a hotel that closed in 1998 (The Bali Hai on Huahine)? What good is trail information that tells me I can get halfway up a mountain (with detailed directions), but after that point I'll need to hire a guide? Buy this book (or consult an encyclopedia) if you want to learn the history of the islands, but if you're looking for practical information on exploring and adventuring I am certain there must be better options out there. All in all, a huge disappointment. Not worth the space it took up in my suitcase.

High prices in Tahiti and the other islands of "French Polynesia" forced me to choose other

destinations in the South Pacific so far. Reading Stanley's book, however, I found out that even in these islands there must be good and inexpensive places to stay. As a user of other books by David Stanley I do not fear to rely on his findings. Stanley's remarks are based on personal experiences as a traveller rather than on deals with tourist agencies, hotels, and so on. Besides, his personal involvement with and love for the people in the Pacific favors his book to similar publications by other authors. You do not need to agree with all his political and other statements, but I personally appreciate that Stanley does not present only the sunny sides of life in the area. He also dares to point at the darker sides as well. This enables me to arrive in a country with a more balanced view of it and its society, rather than only the perspectives given in the more general tourist brochures and travel books.

After three islands & two trips to Tahiti, I can say: 'Don't leave home without this guidebook!' When David Stanley publishes a 5th edition, we will buy that one for our next trip. I've read other guidebooks (LONELY PLANETS) and found not only mistakes on their maps, but their reviews on accomodations to be lacking. If you're not looking to stay just within the confines of a luxe resort (he reviews those too), but want unbiased reviews (he travels incognito) of mid-priced, upscale & budget accomodations, no one is more reliable. He includes prices for rooms, restaurants, reviews hikes, dive operators, beaches, car rentals. We have found his advice to be reliable. I would never have gotten some of the bargain, or had some of the adventures, if not for this guidebook. I also bought the LONELY PLANETS guide on Roratonga & the Cooks, and Stanley's 100+ pages on the Cooks in TAHITI are far superior to the LP's guide. Not only are his maps & hikes more accurate, but his writings on the more remote islands of the Cooks are far more detailed. Stanley listens to his readers; feedback I wrote to him on a first Tahiti trip, appeared in this latest edition. Save yourself disappointment, don't rely only on a travel agent's advice, read this book and you will be able to get the most out of your visit to this magical country. Be sure to buy the most recent edition.

This is the only book you need for a trip to Tahiti, catering to luxury travelers right on down to backpackers. The author separates the Polynesian island chains into different sections, giving complete coverage to history, accomodations, food (including cooking local cuisine), getting there, getting around and more for each island. The maps are simply spectacular, starting with the entire region (including air travel routes) all the way down to individual island and primary city maps. In fact, individual maps even have exact, pinpointed hotel and attraction locations, an extremely useful reference during your actual trip. The Tahiti handbook also contains useful background on this

region. Topics include the coral reefs of the Pacific, typhoons, Tahiti's climate, plants, animals and local customs. Show me another guidebook that has such unique content like Polynesian dance diagrams or instructions how to buy a black pearl. The book concludes with a complete bibliography, related Internet web pages and some useful direct email addresses of contacts in the region. Overall, I highly recommend this guide book to anyone planning a trip to Tahiti/French Polynesia, Easter Island or the Cook Islands.

David Stanley has covered the Pacific Islands for a long time with his various guidebooks. He continues doing an incredible job with his latest Tahiti Handbook. This is a very comprehensive, readable and accurate guidebook on travel through Tahiti and the islands of French Polynesia plus the Cook Islands and Easter Island. This book covers a huge chunk of Polynesia and it does it well. The 140 pages of intro material, important background and travel info is very useful. First-time South Pacific visitors intending stops in Tahiti, the Cooks and/or Easter Island will find this book essential. It's well-organized, easy-to-read, has great maps and interesting historic and contemporary photos. Knowing a bit about the complexities and problems associated with travel between and among these far-flung islands, I think the indepth coverage says much about Stanley's journalistic skills and diligence in collecting information and presenting it in a practical, useful manner. He covers just about everything necessary to know about travel through Tahiti and related island groups, the Cook Islands and Easter Island. There is a very useful resources listings as well with website/internet sources, bibliography, glossary, an Islands at a Glance vital stats table, accommodation and subject indexes, etc. You won't need any other book to travel easily, comfortably and intelligently through these islands.

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