



We are supposed to arrive around 11:00 AM. We've signed up for a boat tour signed up in the morning and then in the afternoon an open-air ride to see the villages and beach views.

The sky looks overcast and not too promising. We began the process of debarkation by heading down to the Star Theater in the lower front bottom of the boat. The place is packed as everyone is there waiting for their turn to be called to get on the tenders to take them to various tours. We are reminded numerous times to please not bring food or live plants to shore to protect their fragile ecological environment,





JANUARY 21 - MOOREA

We Arrived in Moorea early morning. Quite a beautiful sight with the tall jagged mountain tops. We didn't have a tour until about 3:00 this afternoon so had a couple of hours. It was still raining cats and dogs. We took the orange pill boat to see what was ashore. Were greeted by more Polynesian ukulele singers and more dogs. There was lots of artisan stands selling similar things as the last stop.



There was a tall six side church with beautiful stained glass windows. It was Sunday and we could hear the service going on and occasionally a singing chorus.

TROPICAL PARADISE

Finally we were able to walk around a little as the rain took a break. I was so struck by the tropical landscape and the many beautiful flowers and hibiscus growing wild. It was like they say, a "tropical paradise". Fruit trees are everywhere loaded with yet un-ripe bananas, papaya, mangos and other fruits we did not recognize.

Dogs are roaming freely everywhere and surviving on the occasional free handout. They follow you hoping you have something to share. They look like variations on pit bull breeds but friendly, non threatening. One sad female, that had some disease in her eyes. She came wandering up to us with such a sad look. Looks like she has had one litter



right after another and the male dogs were following her around. Too bad the don't neuter her. Poor thing.

We headed back to the boat for lunch as there was no place on shore.

Back into the orange pill again and to shore. It's sprinkling a bit. This time we are more prepared in case it downpours. Viking decided to hand out these useless pink plastic rain covers. They were useless, like Saran wrap and pink of all colors. If you looked at them sideways they ripped. We immediately took them off and tossed them.

We found our guide. He was a tall Scottish guy. He said he dad moved here years ago and married a Polynesian so he was raised here. Said he left for awhile but came back to paradise. His side kick guide was definitely a Polynesian. He had quite the personality. He wore a waist wrap and a grass wreath for a head dress. He was a funny guy. He made me a bird out of a palm leaf. It was beautiful.

TOUTED AS A "SAFARI TOUR"

The tour was in the back of a pick up truck. It had two benches on each side of the bed and a vinyl roof supported by a welded metal frame. Since it had been pouring, water had collected in large pools in the vinyl. We did not know that so when we took off

Larry a good bath. We all screamed and laughed and then we went over a bump and another pool of water got the rest of us. We laughed.



FILMING OF SOUTH PACIFIC

Our first stop was to see a spot on the inner harbor. It was where they filmed South Pacific. Then we headed inland. The scenery was spectacular, lush and tropical.

We visited a pineapple plantation and could see the little pineapples not yet mature enough to pick. They also have large strange shaped avocados still not ripe. Again more dogs arrived. These were owned by the plantation owner and had dog tags. Our guide had saved some



food for them from his lunch and shared it.

EEL FILLED RIVER

We continued on through the plantations and back to the main road where we turned into another forested area. We came to a small river. We all got out. The guide got a can of mackerel and put some in the water. The smell draws the eels from down river. Soon they were swimming towards us. They were very large about 4 feet long. The guide said they were blind, don't bite and just go by smell. He would grab them and lift them. Again another example of the people interacting with their native animals in such a kind way.







LOOKOUT POINT

Our last stop was high on the mountain at the Belvedere lookout. There was a little family selling taro chips. We bought some and they were delicious. Our Scottish guide grabbed one of the many chickens that like the dogs all run free around the island. He put its head under its wing and it hypnotizes the chicken. It will lie there motionless for hours.

Since it was Sunday, no stores were open as the people on the island are all very religious and only go to church on Sunday. Our guide took us to a little shop that opened up just for us. I found a shirt for Larry.

It was a fun day and such a beautiful island and people. We will remember this places fondly and hope some day to come back.

We left port during dinner and headed to Tahiti. It's a short 2 hour trip. by the time we finished dinner we were arriving at port. What a contrast to the last two stops. Lots of city lights and cars traveling on the shoreline road.

NEXT STOP - TAHITI

