

## Obtaining a French Polynesian Long Stay (V50)

Updated 3-2024

<https://www.jacarandajourney.com/other-good-stuff>

This document is for those folks who wish to stay in French Polynesia (FP) longer than 90-days and are required to obtain a long stay(LS) visa / carte de sejour(cds). EU citizens are exempt from a long stay visa (it is not required).

**Note:** 7-6-23 If you are **Swiss, Icelandic, Norwegian or from Liechtenstein** you now need to apply for a FP LS visa.

Checking your visa requirements here>

[https://france-visas.gouv.fr/web/france-visas/assistant-visa?fbclid=IwAR2q2wln3jsAR87wX1tmJ51YJPdvZd4ArvX8u7QU-Ds5CzRYTIIIEAE6lpM#/#/](https://france-visas.gouv.fr/web/france-visas/assistant-visa?fbclid=IwAR2q2wln3jsAR87wX1tmJ51YJPdvZd4ArvX8u7QU-Ds5CzRYTIIIEAE6lpM#/)

**Please read thru the entire document including additional sections of notes**

### **Long Stay Visa Document Consists of 6 parts**

1. Apply for a long stay visa outside of French Polynesia at a French consulate.
  - a. General requirements applicable to all country's submittal process
  - b. Unique country by country information for applying. Often requirements are different per country. Included are specific country notes.
  - c. Health Insurance.
  - d. Additional notes and tips.
  - e. Explanation of required dates on the application.
2. Check in process when you arrive in FP.
3. Apply for a carte de sejour (cds) once you arrive in French Polynesia. *Do you need it?*
4. Translation Requirements
5. Renewing your carte de sejour.
6. Contact Information.

### **Part 1 Applying for FP LS Visa**

\*\*\* Please remember the consulates and outsourcing companies are not used to dealing with LS visas for FP (except for Panama). Expect questions that do not pertain to cruising, such as proof of accommodation, etc. and general confusion. Consulates rely on mainland France LS visa policy hence requiring specific information not necessarily used by the High Commission / Haute Commissariat (HC) office in Papeete.

**Note:** If your spouse has an EU passport (and is not French) and you are able to show a legal (ORIGINAL) marriage certificate. You can apply for a cds once you arrive in French Polynesia. You and your children are eligible for a cds based off your spouse's EU passport. You do not need to begin the process outside of FP. Note if you are French and your spouse is not French then your spouse cannot apply for a cds upon arrival. You will have to apply for a LS visa outside of FP.

**Constant Change seems to be the norm.** This causes frustration and confusion from year to year. Hence why there are so many changes to this document. A few years ago all visas were issued for 3 months requiring cruisers to arrive and submit a carte de sejour to obtain a 1 year residence. Now many French embassies are issuing a 1 year visa.

**If you are a member of family** of a national of the EU, European Economic Area you may apply for a residence authorization with the administration of the High Commission of the French Republic in French Polynesia **within three months of your arrival at the latest (or before your short-term visa expires)**

### **French Polynesia Haute Commissariat website regarding LS Visas (English)**

<http://www.polynesie-francaise.pref.gouv.fr/Demarches-administratives/Etrangers/Demarches-en-Anglais-English/Conditions-for-the-entry-of-foreigners-in-French-Polynesia/Document-checklist-for-long-stays-in-French-Polynesia-more-than-3-months>

### **Details & Requirements for a French LS visa**

You will need to fill out the form for VLS-TS (Not VLST) This is for a visitor non work visa.

[https://france-visas.gouv.fr/en\\_US/web/france-visas/your-arrival-in-france](https://france-visas.gouv.fr/en_US/web/france-visas/your-arrival-in-france)

It appears that each French embassy or consulate has their own flavor of what is required and how long it takes to obtain a long stay visa for French Polynesia. US, Canada & Australia are now using VFS Global outsourcing company to submit LS visa applications. UK is using VTS outsourcing company. Some consulates require a police report, others do not require a police report. Some consulates require a health Insurance plan that meets mainland France health insurance policy where other consulates are accepting policies like DAN (Divers Alert Network).

### **Times to Process Visas**

- Panama 3-4 weeks to process (2-23).
- USA 6-9 weeks to process (2-23).
- Chile 5 weeks to process (2-19).
- Ecuador 5 weeks to process (3-23)
- Mexico 6 weeks to process (2-24)
- Canada 4-7 weeks to process (10-22)

**You cannot apply for a LS visa more than 90 days before the entry date (start date) of the visa. Cruisers have had their applications canceled and had to begin process all over again. Count back from your intended arrival date before applying**

### **Part #1a Requirements that Apply to LS Visa Application**

The following is “general” requirements when applying for a FP LS visa. This can vary by country of application.

1. Submit your application at the consulate/embassy/visa facility within 90 days of your intended arrival in French Polynesia. Note intended start date(arrival date) is the most important.
2. Completed application. One per person. Signed and dated
3. Copy of Passport - picture / id page of passport (some countries require every page to be copied). Must be valid 3 months beyond visa end date.
4. Passport must have a minimum of 2 blank pages
5. 1 Passport photos color (EU dimensions) See “Important Notes” below
6. Health insurance coverage for the entire visa length (see 1c health insurance)
7. Copy Vessel Documentation
8. Copy of at least 3 months of bank records or Investment accounts showing your name and fund balance
9. Letter from employer or proof of business ownership. If retired pension certificate
10. Letter stating you will not work in French Polynesia for the duration of the visa.
11. Proof of accommodation. A letter stating you are onboard your vessel. Use the following “Marina Papeete, Papeete, Tahiti, French Polynesia (reservations not accepted)”. Copy of vessel navigation.
12. Marriage Certificate if applicable. Bring original and make copies.
13. Income Rules (Taken from the detailed article by France-Insider 10-22)
  - a. Income rules are more broadly a “test of resources” as savings are taken into account when necessary
  - b. Income requirement rules are for both VLS-T and VLS-TS visas.
  - c. Since autumn of 2022 the broad test of resources is about 1340 euros per person per month
  - d. This income must be “stable et reguliere”.
  - e. If unable to meet the minimum income requirements you may use a mix of capital and income to satisfy the “test of resources” needed for the full period of the visa.
  - f. This is a broad rule that carries the caveat that the “project” of the applicants will be considered on its merit. If you own your own property with no mortgage this can be taken into account.

## Part #1b Country By Country Application Notes

### USA

French Visa Website:

<https://france-visas.gouv.fr/en/web/france-visas/ma-demande-en-ligne>

Visa submittal info: [https://france-visas.gouv.fr/en\\_US/web/us](https://france-visas.gouv.fr/en_US/web/us)

Location of the VFS Visa centers in US:

<https://france-visas.gouv.fr/web/us/a-qui-sadresser>

Beginning in 2023 FP LS visas being issued are for 12 months not the 90 days as in the past. This removes the 90 window of when you have to arrive. In addition, you do not need to apply for a cds until 1-2 months before the visa expires.

Washington DC is the clearing house for ALL USA FP submittals. It goes from the VFS Global regional office to DC French Embassy to VFS Washington DC then being sent back to you via courier. Just because VFS might clear your paperwork its going to be reviewed again by the French Embassy in DC.

You will submit your passport to VFS.

You will be required to give up your passport during the entire process. A second passport can be applied for but could take some time so plan accordingly. See LS notes section.

3-23 Courier service is mandatory for passport return. Or if in USA you can supply a prepaid envelope from UPS at time of appointment

01-2023 **Warning** be sure that you're NOT submitting your application via VFS greater than 90 days before arrival date. Folks have had their application rejected from the French embassy in Washington. They submitted 3 days before the start of the 3 month window. Sadly, they had to start over and lost the application and VFS fee. Traveling to LA from Mexico.

2022-2023 An excellent step by step document on applying for a LS visa in the USA. Some things are no longer correct: costs, timing of appointments, etc. Screen shot by screen shot on how to apply and fill out application.

<https://happilyevertravels.com/long-stay-visa-france-vfs/>

### 9-2019 US Insurance Update

Recently a family from California who submitted their paperwork to VFS Global received a rejection notice from the French Consulate in Washington, DC. The reason

was their health insurance did not meet the requirements of the French Consulate in Washington, DC.

**See Section 1c Health Insurance.**

Please let me know what insurance you used to satisfy the US French LS requirements.

**Check list from the French Visa website (04-2023)**

Forms

Signed and dated application form

Receipt France-Visa

Pre-Requisites

Travel document, issued less than 10 years ago, containing at least 2 blank pages, with a validity of at least 3 months longer than the date you to leave the Schengen area or, in the case of a long stay, at least 3 months beyond expiration date of visa.

Be sure to transmit(scan) all PAGES of your travel document containing visa, entry and exit stamps or any other inscription

ID photograph

If not a US citizen, please provide proof of legal status (green card. Etc)

Purpose of Stay

Letter from employer or proof of business ownership. If retired pension certificate

Promise not to exercise any professional activity in France

Travel Health Insurance

Travel Health Insurance certificate issued by an insurance company(covering any possible costs for medical repatriation, and emergency and/or hospital treatment, for a minimum amount of 30K euros valid in France for the whole stay. A copy of your American health certificate in not accepted

Accommodation

Proof of accommodation in France, property title deed, tenancy agreement or other supporting document. Or proof that accommodation will be provided by a person residing in France, or if not, a document explaining the accommodation arrangements in France. We used the ships registry, ownership papers and a letter explaining it was our place of residence

Funds

Proof of resources. Pension certificate or at least 3 months of bank statements

Applicable Visa Fees

03-2023 VFS Charge \$33.54 Passport Courier Fee \$38.50 for VFS costs Check the fees section on their website.

**Applying with Children see section 1d**

Be sure to read the section “Important Notes for Applying for a LS Visa”

----- **End USA** -----

## CANADA

Must apply on line at: [www.france-visas.gouv.fr/web/ca](http://www.france-visas.gouv.fr/web/ca) - an English language option is available.

**Note:** Beginning in 2022 visas issued in USA and Canada are being returned with 12 months on the visa versus 90 days. The 3 month window to arrive is no longer pertinent. A Big plus with no need for a cds or trying to get there within a specific time

10-2021 SV Marco

LS Visa application from Vancouver, BC . We wanted to have everything ready before applying in person. As it was, we still didn't quite have everything, but had a 2-hour break between interviews and were able to get copies of what was needed in time for the last interview. Our agent was very patient and helpful.

Here's what we brought as part of our visa application package to send to the consulate in Montreal.

Original passports.

Printed copies of all completed and signed Long Stay Visa Applications.

Color copies of all of our passports, marriage certificate, kids' birth certificates.

2 passport photos each.

Proof of accommodation: We provided a copy of our notarized Canadian boat registration, the signed purchase agreement showing the purchase happened in Tahiti, a copy of an email from our boat watcher (Adrian, who is fantastic by the way) just stating the condition of the boat with photos. The address we used was Taina Marina. Each applicant submitted copies.

Proof of socio-economic status: since we are both self-employed we submitted letters written by ourselves stating our positions within our own companies. Pretty informal. We also submitted corporate bank statements with our company names on them as well as the list of shareholders within the company. We also submitted tax return details showing proof of income. Both Corporate and Personal. Perhaps overkill but we wanted to show we were financially independent and our agent said the more we had to show the better. Of course part of this was including a notarized letter stating we wouldn't work, as well as our itinerary. Included with this was a Certificate of Identity for Filip and myself - the notary we used suggested this was required.

Proof of Income: We provided 3 most recent months of personal and business bank statements.

### **See Section 1c Health Insurance.**

Medical Insurance: We provided copies of a recommended Schengen medical insurance provider for all 5 of us for the duration of our stay in FP. (IMG Patriot Policy)

If you scroll down to "for travel outside the US" you'll see Patriot International which is our policy provider. We paid \$1700 USD for all 5 of us for 9 months. We chose it because it fully meets Schengen requirements, has COVID coverage and was competitively priced.

My advice is to have copies of everything for EACH applicant as they process everyone separately, including small children. It's a lot of copies!

### **Applying with Children See Part 1d**

We interviewed at VFS Global in Vancouver on October 25th and our passport/visas were delivered to our home in Victoria on Dec 1st. Each passport cost app \$39 to have it delivered.

03-2020 SV Lucky Dog

LS Visa Application from Vancouver BC (March 2020). Wanted to pass along the experience of my husband and I today. In addition to the paperwork that is listed in the application print off, they wanted these documents/changes: 1) Letter under oath stating you won't seek employment -- Should be notarized. I tried to get an answer about this before going about whether or not it should be notarized before we go or if you swear under oath and sign while there. I didn't get an answer, so did not have it notarized. So the folks at VFS made note of that on our application. We will see if that matters;

2) they want copies of ALL pages of the passports with stamps on them (didn't have, so they made it for \$1/page);

3) I am in private practice. For my employment proof they asked for a business license (I don't have one). So they had me write a letter about how my office address is still active while I am gone and I wrote that I have appointments scheduled for December 2020 and January 2021, so definitely plan on leaving by November 30th;

4) My husband is retired, so they wanted either a notarized statement from someone saying that they can vouch for him coming back or copy of our property tax documentation for our place in Vancouver. We did not have either with us, so they made him promise to have the property tax document available if needed;

5) for my husband they wanted financial proof either through our checking account in Canada or his RRSP documents. He had provided a statement from a US bank -- and that does not work for coming from Canada. Fortunately he was able to use my copies of our Canadian joint bank statement.

6) They asked for the address of where we will drop anchor. I had given them the

information for where we will check in for Nuku Hiva. She then asked about our address for our boat when we anchor in Nuku Hiva. I explained to her that we will drop our anchor in the water -- no specific address -- (they had our sail plan) and she seemed okay with that. I had made a copy of our boat's documents and put "Accommodations" across the top. That seemed to make them happy too.

Bottom line, it was frustrating to not be able to get clear answers prior to going -- all the VFS folks could tell me is that they couldn't tell me anything about my specific questions -- only the French government could (and their site referred me to VFS....so....) But it wasn't the VFS people's fault working there, so I stayed pleasant throughout and they seemed like they were doing their best to help. Oddly enough, both my Chinese and Russian visas were a smoother process when actually submitting documents than this one. Here's hoping for the best!

Be sure to read the section "Important Notes for Applying for a LS Visa"

----- **End Canada** -----

## **ECUADOR**

3-2023 Just received a note that folks were able to keep their passport when apply in Quito by stating they needed them for further travel while the visa was being processed.

01-15 SV Jacaranda

Linda applied in Ecuador (2015) and supplied the following:

Copy of Passport

Visa application in English

Cover letter stating why she wanted a 1-year visa. Supplied in both English and French.

6 months of bank statements printed off her online account

DAN medical insurance card (see Insurance Notes)

Jacaranda vessel documentation

Letter stating she would not seek employment

Letter from me stating she is onboard Jacaranda (Different last names)

2 Passport photos (US size was acceptable)

Boat card

Note: (2-2023) Recent reports from cruisers that applied at the French Embassy in Quito, Ecuador say they were allowed to keep their passports. They told the embassy they needed the passport for additional travel. They had to return to the French embassy to have their visas attached into their passports when it was ready

There was no interview just a French embassy employee checking off the items they required.

Be sure to read the section "Important Notes for Applying for a LS Visa"

----- **End Ecuador** -----



## **PANAMA**

3-2023 You need to apply online and at the end of the process you'll be able to book an appointment. Then you take your printed application and ALL your paperwork to the appointment. Keep checking for appointments every day until you find one. Beware they book up weeks out during the height of the cruising season. Online submittal form received a reply within 24 hours.

**Note:** Beginning in 2024 FP LS visas being issued are for 12 months not the 90 days as in the past. This removes the 90 window of when you have to arrive. In addition, you do not need to apply for a cds in FP until 1-2 months before the visa expires.

**You do not need to surrender your passport when applying in Panama** but it does require 2 trips to the embassy. One to submit and the second to pick up your visa

[https://pa.ambafrance.org/Contactarnos?fbclid=IwAR2\\_Q56389RNjd-IBenLK02ex3Mdc2IbcBN9ovkalWG7IOHM6CBRgH3OjaY](https://pa.ambafrance.org/Contactarnos?fbclid=IwAR2_Q56389RNjd-IBenLK02ex3Mdc2IbcBN9ovkalWG7IOHM6CBRgH3OjaY)

Additional point of contact at embassy:

Sarah KASCHUBAT

[sarah.kaschubat@diplomatie.gouv.fr](mailto:sarah.kaschubat@diplomatie.gouv.fr)

Agent consulaire – Agente consular

Ambassade de France au Panama - Embajada de Francia en Panamá

Plaza de Francia, Las Bovedas, SAN FELIPE, PANAMA

(+507) 211 6200

**POC:** [consulat.panama-amba@diplomatie.gouv.fr](mailto:consulat.panama-amba@diplomatie.gouv.fr)

**03-2023** Recent reports state that this information is still accurate

### **Applying with Children See Part 1d**

**02-2021** Recently reported on FP FB Page

We just got ours in Panama City. We didn't have to provide a character reference. Boat insurance not required. Health Insurance required. We had to prove we were allowed to homeschool the kids. Required proof of financial support

**11-2019** SV Cream Puff

We had our appointment at the French Embassy here in Panama yesterday. Everything went smoothly. I wanted to send you a note to let you know all the great information on your blog was essential and on the mark. Here are a few additional notes:

Rather than just putting 'Retired' as employment the lady wanted me to add a few words about what we did before retirement. This only need to be a couple words. I just wrote 'Business Owner' and the type of business and that sufficed.

Visitors are asked to leave everything except the paperwork they need and wallet in a locker inside the security office. They give you the key.

There is only one person at the Embassy who is charged with doing all the visas for FP. Have everything ready to go and separated out because she will want to take the paperwork to her office to review before taking each applicant to her office. She will then take one person at a time into her office. She will ask any questions she might have about the paperwork and verify fingerprints electronically. She will then explain the process and will send an email when the visa approval arrives from FP. She said it normally takes 4 weeks but can be shorter and usually not more than 6 weeks.

I did some research and found that Mailboxes Etc, all of the Arrocha Pharmacies and Postnet will do passport photos. All three are chains and have multiple locations throughout Panama. We did ours at Arrocha. We each had 8 photos for under \$3.00US. *See our warning on photos in Important Notes*

01-2020 SV Cream Puff (follow up)

We sent you an update of the visa process but then I forgot to update you on the back end. In Panama it took 4 weeks for our visa to be processed and then 24 hours for the stamp of the passport. We were told that the visa process can take about 4-6 weeks during January and February when they are busier.

For the passport stamp; we dropped off our passports in the morning and were notified by email the next day to pick them up again. You do not need an appointment to drop off or pick up the passport but need to do it between 8:30am – 11:30am. You need a copy of the receipt showing you paid for the visa and a copy of the email requesting you pick up the passports and visa. Picking up the visa and passports took only about 10 minutes. I hope this helps other folks in Panama.

We were told that the process can take about 1-2 weeks longer during January and February when they are busier.

----- End Comments by SV Cream Puff -----

12-2017 from SV Airborne

Filled out application form for each person. (see link above)

A passport sized photo for each person (they say 5cm X 5cm)... Copies are not accepted.

Original passports... Less than 10 years old, valid for at least 3 months after the visa expires, and has 2 blank pages left.

Bring photo copies of all pages in the passport with stamps on them, along with the main page with your picture and other info. **MUST BE READABLE**

Proof of means of support. We provided 6 months of bank statements. They would like to see monthly balance, your address, and name (we just had name and balances)

Proof of employment in your country with occupation and earnings (sabbatical, leave, retirement, etc) (Jacaranda – We just said retired and that was sufficient)

Copy of your boat registration, and crew member list. They also wanted an itinerary, but I said we were not sure yet.

Letter promising not to seek employment. They had form letters that we filled out.

Proof of medical coverage. We used our DAN “Preferred Family Plan” insurance policy (Guardian level). We submitted a scanned copy of the DAN insurance card and that has worked for most boats applying outside US. They want the policy timeframe to match the time you intend to stay in French Polynesia. DAN was not allowing renewals if you have more than 6 months left on your current plan.

See Part #1c Medical Insurance Notes–

Copy of your marriage certificate or government doc such as a tax form that shows your relationship.

A letter stating why you need an LSV. They had a form letter for this.

They will have a form letter for you to keep your passport while they are processing your application. You will need to go back to the Embassy once you are approved so they can stamp your passport. And this is the pre-arrival process. The other process takes place once you get to the Marquesas.

Note that the date of arrival that you put on your application is important as they can not issue the approval more than 90 days before your expected arrival in the Marquesas. So for us, we had March 30 as our arrival date, but since that was more than 90 days from our submission date of Dec 14, we had to change it to March 14.

Approvals take from 3-4 weeks, and can take up to 6 weeks in some cases.

You can only apply in Panama if you have been out of your home country for at least 3 months.

Cost was \$115 USD each (99€)

NOTES: you need to book separate appointments at the Embassy for each person online. But when you get there they will take you through together.

From Shelter Bay There is no parking at the embassy, so take a cab. It cost us \$330 and we tipped the driver \$120 as we would have never gotten our photos done without him

driving us all over Panama City and being our translator. It was a 12 hour day from the time he picked us up till he dropped us off back at the boat.

3-23 When visa is ready French Consulate has been emailing people asking about start date. This is the time if you need more time to depart to change your start date

Be sure to read the section “Important Notes for Applying for a LS Visa”

----- End Panama -----

## CHILE

2-2019 Information submitted by Christine Mitchell on SV Sugar Shack  
[www.svSugarShack.com](http://www.svSugarShack.com)

### USEFUL LINKS FOR FP APPLICATIONS SUBMITTED IN CHILE:

- Long-Stay Visa Information:
  - General Info: <https://france-visas.gouv.fr/web/france-visas/visa-de-long-sejour>
  - On the right-hand side of web page is a “Useful Links” box, “Forms”, go to “Long-Stay” and click “FR” under “OFII certification application” to download OFII form.
  - French Embassy in Chile:  
Link: <https://cl.ambafrance.org/Demander-un-visa-pour-la-France-au-Chili>
    - French Ambassador in Chile – Sandrine +56 22 470 80 00
  - Email: [visas.santiago-amba@diplomatie.gouv.fr](mailto:visas.santiago-amba@diplomatie.gouv.fr)
  - Web address: <https://France-visas.gouv.fr>
    - French Virtual Assistant Link: <https://france-visas.gouv.fr/web/cl>
      - <https://france-visas.gouv.fr/web/france-visas/ai-je-besoin-d-un-visa>
      - Use this link after your interview to track the progress of your submission
  - Applying Online:
    - <https://france-visas.gouv.fr/web/france-visas/ma-demande-en-ligne>
  - Complete the [OFII Certification Form](#) (it is in French, use Google Translate). Only complete the top portion.
  - Make an Appointment, What to Bring, Hours, Closings, Vital Info:
    - <https://france-visas.gouv.fr/web/cl/a-qui-sadresser>
  - Follow the Status of your Visa:

<https://pastel.diplomatie.gouv.fr/VisaNET-Consultation-Internet/html/frameset/frameset.html?lcid=265>

- Papeete Haute Commisionaires Office
  - Spelna Dexter [etrangers@polynesie-francaise.pref.gouv.fr](mailto:etrangers@polynesie-francaise.pref.gouv.fr)
  - Mareva Beaugrard [marevabeaugrard@polynesie-francaise.pref.gouv.fr](mailto:marevabeaugrard@polynesie-francaise.pref.gouv.fr).

#### **PROCESS:**

- Make sure you have all the documentation (see “day of appointment” “what to bring”)
- 1<sup>st</sup> Complete [Application](#) AND [OFII form](#).
  - Application Form Link: <https://france-visas.gouv.fr/web/france-visas/ma-demande-en-ligne>
  - OFII Form Link: [https://france-visas.gouv.fr/documents/66002/17040881/Formulaire\\_de\\_demande\\_d\\_attestation\\_OFII.pdf/3b788735-7085-bf21-0e28-5b4ce322d990](https://france-visas.gouv.fr/documents/66002/17040881/Formulaire_de_demande_d_attestation_OFII.pdf/3b788735-7085-bf21-0e28-5b4ce322d990)
- 2<sup>nd</sup> [make an appointment](#)
  - Appointment Link: <https://pastel.diplomatie.gouv.fr/rdvinternet/html-4.00.03/frameset/frameset.html?lcid=1&sgid=265&suid=1>
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Appear at scheduled appointment with all necessary documentation in order.
- 4<sup>th</sup> Appear back at consulate to retrieve passport and visa (or visa if you kept passport).

#### **APPOINTMENT:**

- Must make an appointment for each person (Family of 4 requires 4 appointments. You can email and ask to have all show up on 1<sup>st</sup> appointment)
- [Make or change appointment](#)
  - Link: <https://pastel.diplomatie.gouv.fr/rdvinternet/html-4.00.03/frameset/frameset.html?lcid=1&sgid=265&suid=1>
- Address in Santiago: Obispo Donoso 8, Providencia, Santiago, Republic of Chile
- Click [Map](#) for location
  - Map Link: <https://www.google.com/maps/place/Obispo+Donoso+8,+Providencia,+Regi%C3%B3n+Metropolitana,+Chili/@-33.4358165,-70.6295821,238m/data=!3m2!1e3!4b1!4m5!3m4!1s0x9662c58412fbc86d:0x181eded2f3212443!8m2!3d-33.4358176!4d-70.6290349?shorturl=1>
- Phone: +56 (2) 24 70 80 00 Fax: +56 (2) 24 70 80 53
- Email: [visas.santiago-amba@diplomatie.gouv.fr](mailto:visas.santiago-amba@diplomatie.gouv.fr)
- Hours:
  - Standard hours Monday-Friday 0830 – 1700
  - Application submission hours Monday-Friday 0900-1200
  - Passport Collection (no appointment) Mon, Tues, Thurs, Fri 12:30-13:00
  - Visa Collection may require a 2<sup>nd</sup> appointment which are available 0830-1700

- Scheduling an Appointment
  - The online appointment application can be finicky. Be sure you allow pop-ups on your browser. They have pop-up messages when they are “at capacity.”
  - At first we received “no available date”. A pop-up read: “We are at capacity.” The calendar was blank with no dates or times listed.
  - However, check back daily. Random dates appear as cancellations are processed.
  - Schedule the first available appointment. If it is several weeks out, like ours were, just keep checking back for an earlier appointment.
  - They often have cancellations, so it is very easy to get an earlier appointment. Just be persistent and keep checking.
  - Once we scheduled our appointment, we kept checking for an earlier appointment. We were checking available dates, not using our reference number.
    - When a free appointment opened, we closed the window.
    - Opened a new window, signed in using the reference number “SLC20...” appointment number and then clicked “change appointment.”
    - This is scary as it will cancel your existing appointment first before showing you the available dates/times again.
    - Which is why it is best to be sure there is an open date before cancellation.
  - We were able to reschedule one of our appointments, but not both. My appointment was 11 January and my husband’s appointment was 4 February. We hoped we could submit both applications at the same time. We got lucky, and the person accepted both of our submissions on one appointment, but that was because we had all our documents in order and he was able to quickly assess and process everything.

**DAY OF APPOINTMENT:**

- Dress appropriately.
- Bring: Receipt of appointment!!!
- Bring 99 euros or 60,000 pesos (we paid in pesos). Verify the conversion of euros to pesos at the time of your appointment. The cost is 99 euros.
- WHAT TO BRING: All originals (use blue ink for signatures) in this order:
  - Receipt of Appointment
  - Visa [Application form](#), entered online and printed, dated and signed
    - Application Form Link: <https://france-visas.gouv.fr/web/france-visas/ma-demande-en-ligne>
  - [OFII form](#) (for which the upper part is filled by the applicant (except nationalities governed by a bilateral agreement)
    - OFII Form Link: [https://france-visas.gouv.fr/documents/66002/17040881/Formulaire\\_de\\_demande](https://france-visas.gouv.fr/documents/66002/17040881/Formulaire_de_demande)



### Process Details:

- Can submit application in English, Spanish, or French
- Interviewer only spoke French and Spanish. No English
- Communicated with French Ambassador, Sandrine in Chile who is very friendly, speaks English, and responsive.
- Proof of No Criminal Records: Ambassador said a simple background check (with full name, address, and name of service) will be fine.
  - The boat “*Quasar*” used an official FBI Background check and had to convince local police to do fingerprints.
- We were allowed to keep our passports, but we provided full color copies of our entire passport (identity page and each stamped page, in order of the passport).
  - You could leave your passport and have them shipped back to you via Chilexpress (very safe and pick up from local distributor) or you can take with you, but then you must return to consulate in person again.
- We continually checked the [visa assistant link](#) using our SCL code.
  - Visa Assistant Link: <https://pastel.diplomatie.gouv.fr/VisaNET-Consultation-Internet/html/frameset/frameset.html?lclid=265>
- In addition, we started to email, [visas.santiago-amba@diplomatie.gouv.fr](mailto:visas.santiago-amba@diplomatie.gouv.fr) to check the status. We asked them to email us as soon as the visas were ready, but we still emailed them at the 3, 4, and 5-week mark.
- Five weeks after our interview, we received an email that stated our visas were ready. They asked us to make another appointment to have our visas printed and inserted into our passports. We were able to [make an appointment](#) easily within a few days.
  - Make Appointment Link: <https://pastel.diplomatie.gouv.fr/rdvinternet/html-4.00.03/frameset/frameset.html?lclid=1&sgid=265&suid=1>
- At our 2<sup>nd</sup> appointment, we brought all paperwork, but they only needed our passports.
- We had them change our arrival date into French Polynesia from 15 March to 15 April due to the delay in receiving our visas. It was no problem.
- The appointment took less than 10 minutes for both of us.

### TIMELINE Example:

- January 11, 2019 – Visa application submission and Interview, Santiago Chile
- February 18, 2019 – Visa in Hand
- April 15, 2019 – Start date of visa
- July 14, 2019 – CD paperwork must be submitted before this date.
  - Ideally it should be submitted at least 30-days prior to the end of your 90-day visa
  - 90-day tourist visa expires
- April 14, 2020 CDS expires

### CD's (carte de sejour) with Tahiti Crew



- Once you [sign up with Tahiti Crew](#), they make it easy for you. They are readily available, quick to respond, easy to work with, and very patient.
  - Tahiti Crew Website: [www.tahiticrew.com](http://www.tahiticrew.com)
- To sign up, you need to send the following (Tahiti Crew provides the first 3 forms)
  - Mand (Mandate)
  - Terms and Conditions for the Boat
  - YachtMasters Form
  - Crew List
  - Boat Registration
  - Health Insurance Proof of Coverage
  - Copies of Passport (identity Page)
- Once your forms are received, they send you an invoice and an email to pay their fees.
- Once you've paid, they send you a welcome email with a list of requirements for your CDs and a few more forms. Required information (Tahiti Crew provides the application)
  - Application (2 originals per person)
  - (2) passport photos 3x5 x 4x5
  - (2) photo copies of Passport (identity page) and date of entry into FP stamp
  - (2) copies of boat registration (per person)
  - Attestation
  - Health Insurance Proof of Coverage
  - Proof of financial resources, last 3 months (bank, investment, paycheck stub)
  - Pledge not to carry out any professional activity in FP
  - Proof of current residence permit (Boat registration)
  - 1 Fiscal stamp of 9.000 xpf
    - If you are married, you only need 1 stamp, but you have to show proof of marriage (marriage license)
  - Copy of your zarpe with stamp from gendarmerie (email this to them as soon as you get it from the gendarmerie).
- You can bring all of your paperwork directly to Haut Commissaire in Nuku Hiva or you can send them via Air Tahiti to Tahiti Crew to submit on your behalf.

#### **ANTICIPATED ARRIVAL INTO FP – Sugar Shack**

- Arrive at the Gambiers, receive our custom entry form and entry stamp.
- No Bond will be due.
- Email copy of custom entry form, with stamp, to Tahiti Crew.
- Collect all documentation and send to Tahiti Crew via Air Tahiti
  - Go to Gambier airport, Air Tahiti desk and tell them you want to send an envelope to Tahiti Crew (they do this frequently and often speak English)
  - Address envelope to Tehani, Tahiti Crew, +689 87 23 55 41

- We opted to have Tahiti Crew send in our paperwork so we could take our time and enjoy Gambiers and Tuamotus (we did not want to rush to Marquesas).
- Since Tahiti Crew will submit our paperwork, we have to appear in person to pick it up.

Be sure to read section “Important Notes for Applying for a LS Visa”

----- End Chile -----

## **MEXICO**

3-2024 There are major changes coming soon regarding submitting requests for visas in Mexico. Be sure to check SV Migrations write up to the most current details

Note: Must read a very detailed write up by SV Migration on how to apply in Mexico

<https://migrations.brucebalan.com/for-sailors/#FPLSV>

Be sure to read section “Important Notes for Applying for a LS Visa”

----- End Mexico -----

## **Important Notes for Applying for a LS Visa**

### **Part #1c Health Insurance Notes**

- DAN Insurance (Diver Alert Network) – This policy is an insurance light version. DAN is not really a true insurance policy. It changes every year. Do not think that the DAN policy will cover you the same as a international health insurance policy. Not acceptable for those submitting from the US or Canada. We used DAN when applying from Ecuador 10 years ago and the policy itself has changed over the years. If you can’t afford international health insurance and not submitting from USA or Canada and want to apply for a FP LS visa then try submitting DAN. But be sure to read the fine print if you think you may make a claim
- 2-2020 article on Medical Insurance:  
<https://www.schengenvisainfo.com/news/new-schengen-visa-code-highlights-importance-of-travel-insurance/>
- IMG has an international policy (Patriot). Policy is issued immediately with ID cards that can be printed out. They also have downloadable, customized “VISA Letter” that can be printed out and attached with your submission to the Consulate de France. Everything can be accomplished by email.
- 01-2024 in the 2023 no one that I know submitting applications from US were rejected for not having zero deductible. My wife Linda submitted an application for a LS visa in 2023 and had a 2500 deductible. It was accepted.

- We have used and recommend Roger Anthony as an insurance agent. Roger is excellent and can help you obtain IMG insurance that will meet French insurance requirements.

Roger Anthony  
 Calling from U.S./Canada  
 Toll Free 1-800-608-5743  
 Calling from Mexico  
 Toll Free 01-800-681-6730  
 Mexico Cell +52-624-129-2179  
 WhatsApp +52-624-129-2179  
 Email: [roger@landsendinsurance.com](mailto:roger@landsendinsurance.com)

- 11-2021 SV Tengah - Applying from US I didn't risk it with the insurance and got the zero deductible Diplomat International Long Term, which covers Covid and has a sizable MedEvac benefit.  
<https://globalunderwriters.com/product/diplomat-long-term/>
- 2-2024 A cruiser used Atlas Insurance  
<https://quote.hccmis.com/AtlasTravel/Home?language=en-US&fbclid=IwAR16soBYNSPskyG-aZXSMnA-mayrXLIjHKYC0eHGJYXkYc4jlgqQP1k77mk>
- 01-2021 SV Moondance Through Azimuth Risk Solutions we carry the Meridian Essential United Health Care policy. Important to note is that it's not a zero deductible plan and VFS didn't even ask us for that. We would highly recommend the insurance broker, Cecille Brechin reachable at 630-499-9915 or [5starww@iwic.net](mailto:5starww@iwic.net). She has been so responsive & thought outside the box to keep us insured on short term trip plans while waiting out COVID in the U.S. outside our policy limitations.
- 10-2019 SV Pazzo reported buying IMG Patriot Insurance for app \$1500 each and received a letter from IMG which satisfied the French consulate in NYC.
- 9-2019 US Insurance Update V25  
 Recently a family from California who submitted their paperwork to VFS Global received a rejection notice from the French Consulate in Washington, DC. The reason was their health insurance did not meet the requirements of the French Consulate in Washington, DC.

From the French Consulate in Washington DC regarding Health Insurance

- Proof of medical insurance, which must state **SPECIFICALLY** the following :
- It is valid in **France/French Polynesia** or **worldwide**

- Covers **medical expenses**
- Covers **emergency medical repatriation**
- Minimum coverage amount of **\$35,000** for medical expenses and emergency medical repatriation.
- Mentions **precise dates of coverage**, and covers your **WHOLE stay in France/ FP**

**Note: 4-23 US Consulates are NOT requiring zero deductible**

- DAN (Diver Area Network) is acceptable in French Polynesia either for renewal or applying outside the US/ Canada. For those folks that are not from North America and Australia, NZ, etc. then DAN international will work just fine. We used DAN “Preferred Plan” with auto renewal.
- 04-2023 Reports state that DAN insurance is being accepted in Mexico & Panama. Also accepting international insurance with a deduction.
- Your health insurance MUST be valid for the entire year you require the visa.
- Recently visas have been issued for less than 1 year and expired when the health insurance expired. Linda’s DAN coverage expired mid visa so she extended her DAN 7 months before it expired. On renewing her cds she screen printed the DAN Auto renewal page that showed she had checked auto renewal. Others have been issued a 1 year cds if insurance expires mid visa. Luck of the draw!
- Screen print the page of your online insurance account that shows “Auto Renewal” box has been checked.

### **Part 1d Additional Notes**

- Dates on the FP LS Application are in European format DD/MM/YYYY
- Some applications have a box for length of visa. Be sure to check the box for **1-2 years** NOT 6 months to 1 year!!
- IF you are issued a 6 month visa you will not need to apply for a cds upon arrival. If you have requested "Dispense temporaire de carte de sejour" which means that you had only requested a 6 months visa and before the expiry of the 6 months visa you will be out of FP. But you can apply for a cds once you arrive with minimum paperwork.
- Children under 18 years of age are automatically given a 5 year visa upon approval.

- Applying with Children From the application  
*The required info on the minors application supporting document checklist requests "Certificate of pre-enrollment in a French school or if homeschooled, written agreement from the Town Hall and proof of parental authority in the event of separation or divorce of the parents, or written agreement of the parent having parental authority to the stay of the child in France"*

Homeschooling is not banned in France but parents need to get approval from their school district (describe educational program and educator's qualifications) and give reasons for applying (nomadic life is acceptable).

3-2023 Reports for home schoolers rejection of education plan the family went to the local school superintendent and requested a letter.

12-2023 Another suggestion that worked was including Print-outs of programs/curriculum we planned to use for the kids (essentially just showing their username or logon page) and a letter describing our academic and professional qualifications. The couple got approved with all of that, but aren't exactly sure what they were asking for or which of the information we provided did the trick

- For those applying outside of USA, Canada, NZ or Australia....use your expected date of arrival in FP as your arrival (start) date. This is critical that you arrive within 90 days of the date you enter on your application. Your visa will be valid for 90 days from the time of your start date. See section 1e.
- Passport are kept by all consulates except Panama, Ecuador & Chile. In Ecuador explain you will be doing international travel.
- French embassies require an appointment for each individual applying for a LS visa. In one case a family of 4 required 4 appointments. Be sure to ask if that can be consolidated into 1 appointment since much of the paperwork is identical (bank records etc)
- Some French embassies require a marriage certificate when applying as a couple or family. You will need your marriage certificate when applying for a cds.
- Address in FP to use: Under the application question "What will be your address in France" we put Vessel Jacaranda (USCG #####) French Polynesia. This question is for land based folks and the Haute Commissariat office is fine with our answer. Some consulates balk at the above so using "Marina Papeete, Papeete, Tahiti, FP No reservations accepted" has also worked.
- You do not need to show vessel insurance records during application or during check in to FP. But vessel insurance is required before entering a marina.

- French Consulate in DC are requiring information for those traveling with minors regarding schooling plan. “ Home school, sample daily curriculum”
- Retired Spouse: If you are a husband and wife and one spouse is retired with no certifiable pension you will need a letter from the employed spouse indicating they are financially agreeing to sponsor the retired spouse while in FP.
- Passport Return: If you are not having the passports returned to yourself you have to authorize (via letter) someone else to pick them up or sign for them.
- Photos are important. A couple of boats have had appointments rejected because of incorrect photos. <https://www.schengenvisainfo.com/photo-requirements/>

### **Part 1e Explanation of the Visa Dates on the application**

Note that the date of arrival that you put on your application is important as they cannot begin the visa process more than 90 days before your expected arrival in FP.

#### **DEFINITION / EXAMPLE OF VISA DATES.**

**Application date:** Date you submitted the visa at a French consul.

**Issue Date:** Date the visa was approved .

**Start/Arrival Date:** (Also known as Date of Intended arrival). Date the visa starts - This is the date you intend to arrive in FP. From this date you have 90 days to arrive and begin your carte de sejour process.

**Expiration Date:** Date the 90 day arrival window is up. You must have arrived and submitted the paperwork in FP for your cds by this time.

Example:

Jan 1 Visa application submitted to consulate for visa to begin April 1.

Feb 1 Visa issued and ready to pick up at consulate. (4 week processing time)

April 1 Visa start date – you have 90 days from this date to arrive in FP

July 1 Visa expiration date – you should have arrived in FP and submitted your cds

Based on above example you would have 5 months to arrive in FP if you departed Feb 1.

**Review the visa dates upon receipt.** The “From Date” on the visa should match your requested start date. The “Until Date” is date the visa ends 90 days later.

Check your Visa dates

Again if you have a 1 year visa arrival window is not important.

## **Part 2 – Upon Arrival in French Polynesia**

### **Upon arrival & check-in into the Marquesas (Nuku Hiva)**

**Ports of entry(3-23):** Marquesas (Hiva Oa, Ua Pou, Nuka Hiva), Tuamotus (Rangiroa), Gambier (Riketea), Australs (Raivavae), Rurutu, Tubuai, Tahiti, Moorea, Huahine, Raiatea, Bora Bora.

- There are no customs or immigration officials in the Marquesas or Gambier - the gendarmerie fills both of these roles.
- See online checkin document below

All crew must be present in person with their passports regardless of nationality. Zarpe

- Passport and Ships papers are all that is needed
- No one comes onboard to do any inspection.
- An interesting item on the form besides the usual is an inventory of how much alcohol (liquor/wine) you have on board. You may want to do an alcohol inventory before checking in so you have that in hand while at the gendarmerie's office. List all spirits, beer and wine as if you get boarded by the French Navy later and they want to do an inspection.....
- There appears to be no quota for alcohol coming in by yacht as its considered ships stores but do report the amount accurately. At the very least I have not heard of any issues since we arrived. If you get boarded and the police find more than you reported it may be a problem. This happened when I was in FP in 1993.

### **Arrive in the Mangareva, Gambiers,**

- Check in with local Grendarme
- Receive custom entry form and entry stamp.
- No Bond will be due.
- Contact Tahiti Crew to have them submit your carte de sejour as there is no HC office in Gambiers
- Email copy of custom entry form, with stamp, to Tahiti Crew.
- Collect all documentation and send to Tahiti Crew via Air Tahiti
  - Go to Gambier airport, Air Tahiti desk and tell them you want to send an envelope to Tahiti Crew (they do this frequently and often speak English)
  - Address envelope to Tehani, Tahiti Crew, +689 87 23 55 41
- We opted to have Tahiti Crew send in our paperwork so we could take our time and enjoy Gambiers and Tuamotus (we did not want to rush to Marquesas).
- Since Tahiti Crew will submit our paperwork, we have to appear in person to pick it up. Picking up months later is acceptable.

### **Check in Document**

If you are checking in at Nuku Hiva you should fill in the attached document.

- Create a logon

- Go to the online form [Sign-in · demarches-simplifiees.fr](http://Sign-in · demarches-simplifiees.fr)
- Present your documents to the Federal Police and tell them you have the form completed.
- Especially important if you have crew being added or signed off in FP

### **Bond or No Bond??? THAT is the question**

2-24 According to the Nuku Hiva agent if you have a FP LS visa in your passport you do not need to show a repatriation Guarantee. But in the past they have asked for one to be provided. Just be ready to purchase one if the Federal Police ask you upon checkin. .

No bond required if checking into FP in the Gambiers

The shifting FP political landscape has resulted in the most changes to this document. At this point in time(02-24), no bond is being required *(05-19 a policy decision has been made by the Maritime Border Police Director that a repatriation guarantee (vos garanties de rapatriement) is required for any holder of a LS visa upon entering via Hiva Oa or Nuku Hiva).* Gambiers no repatriation guarantee required at this time. This ruling has changed often and without notice so be aware this is not etched in stone.

Like many things, officialdom's interpretation of the law is often the issue. Such is the case with repatriation requirements. Over the past few years depending on where you check in it's either bond or no bond. Confusing? Reminds us of Mexico where each port captain interpreted the law differently.

One of two options will work for repatriation(bond)

1. Prepay an agent to guarantee a bond for you and your crew. For a fee agents will guarantee your bond and satisfy FP policy. But you will need to show health insurance if an agent is going to bond you.

Agents that guarantees bond ---

Tehani at TahitiCrew - [tehani@tahiticrew.com](mailto:tehani@tahiticrew.com)

Kevin at Yacht Services Nuku Hiva [ysnukuhiva@outlook.com](mailto:ysnukuhiva@outlook.com)

Laurent at Polynesian Yacht Services [polynesia.yacht.services@gmail.com](mailto:polynesia.yacht.services@gmail.com)

2. Buying a one way refundable airline ticket out of French Polynesia. You can do this upon arrival but make sure its refundable and how long you have to cash it in. There is a write up on this subject in Noonsite by Storm Bay that you might find helpful. You need to show the gendarmerie proof of a ticket.

Some other options that people have mentioned they used. We are only reporting what some people have done --- Use at your own risk!



Expedia - Expedia. You can cancel within 24 hours , no loss of \$\$\$ . Print the receipt and you're good to go.

Best Onward Ticket. Create a ticket (\$17) to satisfy immigration requirements around the world <https://bestonwardticket.com/>

It was reported (1-2020) that Delta allows a 24 hr period of full refund when tickets are purchased.

Others have shown the gendarme a screen shot on their smart phone of the purchased ticket

**2-2024 According to the agent in Nuka Hiva the bank is no longer accepting a monetary bond**

If you use Tahiti Crew for a bond guarantee they will also email you a duty free fuel certificate once you clear in. The duty free certificate will save you approximately 30-40% on diesel. Her service includes the local agent meeting you and helping you thru the check in process. Plus this fee also includes helping with the check out for you as well. Contact info at bottom of document. You will need to show proof of health insurance

The duty free certificate is free in Papeete from the customs office. Or you can obtain it from Yacht Services Nuku Hiva (2-24 1700xpf about \$170 US dollars).

All ports of entry have ATM machines.

### **Part 3– Carte de Sejour(cds)**

**Note: Keep all your paperwork from initial LS visa submittal as you will need this to apply for a cds**

#### **How to determine if you need a cds**

If your visa attached to your passport has a visa period of 1 year then you do not need to apply for a cds upon arrival. You only need to check in and your good to go. If you want to stay longer than the visa expiration date then you will need to apply for a cds 1-2 months before expiration.

If your visa is only valid for 3 months you will need to apply for a cds upon arrival.

The Long Stay Visa in your passport only starts the process. If dates on the LS visa are for a period 3 month then when you check into FP and submit your paperwork for the cds.

#### **Visa date showing 1 year.**

Beginning in 2022 visas issued from many countries are being issued with a 1 year visa versus 90 days.

### **Visa date showing 3 months**

If you have a 3 month visa upon arrival you will either need to visit the **Haute Commissariat office in Nuku Hiva, Tahiti or Raiatea** to submit additional information so Papeete can start to process your cds. In addition you can have an agent submit the information for you. (See next paragraph) The cds is what you will need to have in hand to be legally in French Polynesia for more than 90 days.

If checking into Gambiers then use an agent to submit cds for you.

### **08-23 New rules are in effect for all applicants for a cds.**

- First time applicants will need to submit a copy of your birth certificate.
- Paperwork submitted must now be translated into French by approved translator. (ships registration, birth certificates, marriage licenses, proof of medical, proof of funds, request letter). See Part 5 Translation.
- Attestation de l'hebergeant (residence certificate) which can be obtained at the Mayor's office for free

Since Jan 2016 the Haute Commissariat office is now requiring all individuals applying for a cds to appear at the Haute Commissariat office in person either when submitting the paperwork or when you pick it up. The agent(Tahiti Crew) can submit the paperwork for you or pick it up on your behalf but NOT do both. You must appear in person at least once at the Haute Commissariat office – submitting the paperwork or picking it up.

### CDS paperwork requirements

- Copy of your check in paperwork
- Application for the cds obtained at the Haute Commissariat office
- Copy of your passport showing the page with the arrival stamp from the gendarme.
- Copy of your passport with the page showing the visa (obtained at the French embassy)
- Copy of your passport with the page showing your photo and information
- Two (2) passport sized photos
- Formulaire du Yachtmaster (available at Haute Commissariat office)
- Mandate (available at Haute Commissariat office)
- Health insurance (Part #1c Medical Insurance Notes)
- Yachtmasters form (available at haute commissionaires office)
- Birth Certificate (first time applicants of cds)
- **Translated copies of all paperwork into French by an approved French translator.** (see “Part Translation” )
- Attestation de l'hebergeant (residence certificate) which can be obtained at the Mayor's office for free
- Mouvement des Membres D'Equipage (available at haute commissionaires office)

- New 2017 – I was informed that starting mid 2017 the Haute Commissariat office will now require a copy of all the paperwork you submitted to the French Consulate to obtain your LS visa. Be sure to save it and bring it with you.

### **Important Notes regarding cds**

1. HC in Papeete mentioned to not wait till the end of your LS visa to submit your paperwork for your cds.
2. Tahiti Crew can act on your behalf in either submitting your paperwork or picking up your cds. We used them before the rules changed(2015) when submitting the paperwork and they picked up Linda's cds when she renewed in 2016. We can highly recommend them! Contact info at the bottom. There are other agents that can help with the LS visa listed in the bottom of this document.
3. Once your paperwork is submitted for your cds you should receive an email from the haute commissionnaires office in Papeete upon receipt stating that they have 180 days to complete/ issue your cds. The title of the document from the HC office "Recepisse de Demande de Carte de Sejour" It may take a few weeks for this email to be sent to you. As long as you have the email from the hc office that will suffice for any inspections by gendarmarie's. Don't lose this email/ paper from the hc office as you will need it when picking up your cds.

If you have NOT received an email from the hc office "Recepisse de Demande de Carte de Sejour" suggest you contact the hc office in Papeete and ask them to send it to you.

4. If you are married and both applying together then you will only need to supply to the HC office with one 9000f stamp which is required at the time of picking up the completed cds. Stamps can be purchased at the post office. If you are not married and filing with your partner then you will each have to purchase a 9000f stamp
5. **WARNING**: If you need to depart (flying home) from FP when your cds is in process you must have the letter from the hc office titled *Recepisse de Demande de Carte de Sejour*. Else you may have issues trying to re-enter FP especially if you are now beyond your initial 90 days
6. The cds processing can take between 2 weeks and 5 months so be sure to plan accordingly.
7. Translation of each document requires a stamp on the document. See translation section below.

**Possible Options for Processing your Paperwork** *(You do NOT need an agent to submit the paperwork. Its very easy to do at the HC office)*

1. Stop in Nuku Hiva at the Haute Commissariat office to have your cds process started and then have the completed cds sent back to you in the haute commissionaires office in Taiohae, Nuku Hiva or Raiatea. Can take up to 180 days.
2. Stop in Nuku Hiva at the Haute Commissariat office to have your cds process started and then have the completed cds picked up by the agent (Tahiti Crew) in Tahiti and sent to you at an island of your choice. Or you can pick it up at Tahiti Crews office when you arrive in Tahiti. Be sure to ask for a scanned copy of the CDS from Tahiti Crew to be emailed to you. For Linda's renewal we had the Tahiti Crew in Papeete pickup Linda's cds and hold it for us to pickup at a later date. Tahiti Crew scanned the cds sent us a email attachment.
3. Check into Hiva Oa and have the paperwork sent to the agent in Tahiti to be submitted to the Haute Commissariat office on your behalf and then you will need to pick it up at a haute commissaries office at one of the three above mentioned locations. (V15) It is recommended to send your documents via Air Tahiti rather than normal FP postal system. We had good friends who used the postal system and all their paperwork never arrived. They had to start over again including buying 9000F stamps and it was a huge hassle. You can arrange for the shipment of your documents to Papeete at the Air Tahiti office in Autona, Hiva Oa. Tahiti Crew will pick it up in Papeete. Contact Tahiti Crew for a list of required documents. There is an additional charge from Tahiti crew for this service
4. Stop in Nuku Hiva at the Haute Commissariat office to have your cds process started and then have the completed paperwork held at the haute commissionaires office in Papeete and you pick it up when you arrive there. HC office should send you an email informing you the completed cds is ready to pick up which you can show to any government official asking to see it.
5. If checking into the Gambiers use Tahiti Crew agent to submit application for cds.

**Part 4– Translation for Carte de Sejour(cds)**

Beginning in 2023 documents were required to be translated before a cds could be submitted. According to the hc office an official stamp needs to be placed on each

document after translation. This increased the cost of the process by upwards of \$400 depending on who you use for translation and the number of people applying

1-2024 From the HC office in Nuku Hiva the following documents are required to be translated. This could change at any time and I will attempt to update this list as needed

Documents required translation

1. Vessel documentation.
2. Birth certificate.
3. Marriage certificate.
4. Health insurance.
5. Financial statements.
6. Letter stating you will not work

See Section 6 Contacts for list of translators

## **Part 5 Renewal of Carte de Sejour French Polynesia**

Renewing your carte de sejour should be almost identical (less documents) to what you submitted to the Haute Commissariat office when you first arrived and requested your cds. Easily completed in 10 minutes at hc office in Papeete.

When to renew: No more than 2 months before expiration.

Application locations: Haute Commissariat office in Nuku Hiva, Tahiti or Raiatea

In addition, you can have an agent submit the information for you. But you will need to pick it up – **Specify HC location of pickup.** As stated earlier in this document you will need to submit the paperwork or pick it up if using an agent.

[http://www.polynesie-francaise.pref.gouv.fr/content/download/47802/288261/file/Nomenclature%20carte%20de%20séjour%20VISITEUR%202020-09-2021.doc?fbclid=IwAR3UQwR\\_P3TRQel1QeQKd8\\_VpQxqYoLXZvOkZEE3YMtaozwZLXLdeT-n8I](http://www.polynesie-francaise.pref.gouv.fr/content/download/47802/288261/file/Nomenclature%20carte%20de%20séjour%20VISITEUR%202020-09-2021.doc?fbclid=IwAR3UQwR_P3TRQel1QeQKd8_VpQxqYoLXZvOkZEE3YMtaozwZLXLdeT-n8I)

Following must be translated to French.

See Part 5 Contacts for approved translator.

- Vessel Documentation or registration
- Health Insurance
- Birth Certificate
- Marriage Certificate
- Financial Records

- Letter stating you will not work in FP

## LIST OF DOCUMENTS TO BE PROVIDED

For the issue of a temporary residence permit bearing the mention "Visitor"

The foreigner must bring the originals, accompanied by a copy, of the following documents (NB: the supporting documents must be accompanied, if necessary, by their translation into French by a translator interpreter approved by a court of appeal):

### First application and renewal – Common documents

- a) The residence permit application form duly completed and signed;
- b) Valid long-stay visa;
- c) Proof of nationality:  
Passport (pages relating to civil status, validity dates, entry stamps and visas);
- d) Copy of the valid double-sided residence card (only for renewal);
- e) Proof of address dated less than 6 months:
  - electricity bill (or gas, water, landline telephone, internet access); or: rental lease of less than 6 months or rent receipt (if tenant);
  - if hotel accommodation: certificate from the hotelier and invoice for the last month;
  - in the event of accommodation with a private individual: certificate of reception stamped by the town hall of the municipality of residence of the host and proof of the identity of the person who is hosting you with a most recent EDT or OPT invoice
  - if you are the owner: copy of the deed of ownership
  - if you are staying on board a pleasure boat: certificate of registration of the vessel and possibly, passport copy of the owner of the vessel;
- f) Three recent identity photographs (format 35 mm x 45 mm – standard ISO/IEC 19794 – 5: 2005) (no copy);
- g) Sworn statement, handwritten, not to exercise any professional activity in French Polynesia.
- h) Proof of sufficient means of existence (bank certificates, pension certificate for retirees, etc.)
- i) Proof of his social and medical cover in French Polynesia (Photocopy of the CPS card or certificate of social security rights or international health insurance - valid for the entire stay);
- j) Proof of payment of the tourist tax. 9000f stamp from Post office.
- k) All documents not in French must be translated by official translator. (see “Part 4 Translation” & Part 6 for contact info)
- l) Attestation de l'hebergeant (residence certificate) which can be obtained at the Mayor's office for free
- m) Mouvement des Membres D'Equipage (available at haute commissionaires office)
- n) Possible need to supply birth certificate

### **Important Notes regarding renewal of cds**

1. Once your paperwork is submitted for your cds you should receive an email from the haute commissaires office in Papeete upon receipt stating that they have 180 days to complete/ issue your cds. Title of document “Recepisse De Demande De Renouvellement De Carte De Sejour” It may take a few weeks(possibly more) for this email to be sent to you. Don't worry as long as you have the email letter from the hc office that will suffice for any inspections by gendarmerie's. Don't lose this email/ paper from the hc office as you will need it when picking up your cds. Check your spam folder.
2. You can submit the paperwork in one hc office and request to have it picked up in one of the other 2 hc offices. Especially important to inform Tahiti Crew if they are submitting your paperwork in Papeete and you want to pick it up in Raiatea.
3. If you are married and both applying together then you will only need to supply to the HC office one 9000f stamp which is required at the time of picking up the completed cds. Stamps can be purchased at the post office. If you are not married and filing with your partner then you will each have to purchase a 9000f stamp. Note some OPT do not have the 9000f stamp you should buy at main OPT in Papeete, Raiatea or Nuku Hiva
4. Time to process is anywhere from 2 weeks to 5 months

## **Part 6 Contact Information**

### **Agent Contact Information**

Tehani at Tahiti Crew <http://tahiticrew.com> - [yachts@tahiticrew.com](mailto:yachts@tahiticrew.com)

Kevin at Yacht Services Nuku Hiva [ysnukuhiva@outlook.com](mailto:ysnukuhiva@outlook.com)

Laurent at Polynesia Yacht Services: [polynesia.yacht.services@gmail.com](mailto:polynesia.yacht.services@gmail.com)

### **Contact Info HC Office Papeete**

Haute Commissariat de la Republique en Polynesie Francaise

(689) 404-686-03

[etrangers@polynesie-francaise.pref.gouv.fr](mailto:etrangers@polynesie-francaise.pref.gouv.fr)

### **Translation Services (Notes supplied by cruisers)**

**Elodie Menou Mével**

BP 380761 Punavai

98718 Punaauia - Tahiti

(+689) 87 79 37 11 (GMT-10)

[mevel.elodie@gmail.com](mailto:mevel.elodie@gmail.com)

Reply from my enquiry 1-24 (Chuck)

- The easiest way is to send me a good quality scan of the documents you need to translate.

- I will send you back a (free) quotation with the final price and delivery date.
- You'll be able to pick up the original sworn translations at my place (Punaauia, Pk 16,3 seaside). I can also send a copy by email or the originals by post. In that case, just let me know
- Élodie was easy to work with and fast to respond
- Recommended by Tahiti Crew
- Reported by cruisers – Very fast response.

### François Saiz

francois.saiz@mail.pf

87 35 07 47

- He was quick, efficient, meet us near our location. When he translated our marriage certificate, he produced an almost exact copy.
- Replied within hours to my enquiry (Chuck)

### Service de la Traduction et de l'Interprétariat

Bâtiment de la Culture - Face au CESEC

BP 20 714 - 98713 Papeete - TAHITI

Tél : +689 40 43 21 40 – [secretariat.sti@administration.gov.pf](mailto:secretariat.sti@administration.gov.pf)

- State Translation Team consisting of approved translators. They are friendly, efficient and an all round great source size knowledge. Much more affordable
- You submit your documents thru the website (link below)
- You can submit via the website or in person at the office.
- Used them for driving licenses, proof of residency, work contracts, all regarding French legalities (bureaucracy) . It is a public service to fulfill the need for documents translations for the general public.

Turama Demande de Traduction

[https://www.mes-demarches.gov.pf/commencer/sti-turama-traduction-huri-parau?fbclid=IwAR3QEWv4EqpfIRWc24D4W4RdQGaSLnDJT7sf3lAcKZesG\\_d9n\\_P41a8d7j0](https://www.mes-demarches.gov.pf/commencer/sti-turama-traduction-huri-parau?fbclid=IwAR3QEWv4EqpfIRWc24D4W4RdQGaSLnDJT7sf3lAcKZesG_d9n_P41a8d7j0)

- Create a login
- Relatively straight forward process, you can attach necessary docs to the end of the form you have to fill out They then respond to your request and then send you a link to pay for it (you have 72 hrs to use the link) and afterward we received the translations the following day.
- Please do not wait until the last minute to submit your request
- Pricing is by page for some translations or by word count
- Several weeks is not unexpected. If your request is urgent, please let us know, we will let you know what the current wait time is. If it's long, we will email you a list of private translators you can reach out to instead



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Hope this helps folks coming down next season.

**Have you found this document helped you?** Drop us a note to let us know.

If you find other requirements that are not listed please let us know and we will update this document. – Thanks

Safe sailing

Chuck Houlihan / Linda Edeiken  
Ex SV Jacaranda now Barge Gulliver  
chuckhoulihan @ gmail (dot) com  
[www.jacarandajourney.com](http://www.jacarandajourney.com)