



Dream Tahitian weddings become a reality

Tahiti and Her Islands allows tourists to marry in paradise for the first time

Renowned as one of the world's most romantic honeymoon destinations, Tahiti and Her Islands has now passed a law enabling non-Tahitians to marry in the destination for the very first time.

Until now, foreign visitors were unable to legally marry in Tahiti and Her Islands unless they had been resident for at least a month prior to the ceremony. Now, instead of being resident on the islands, the new law states that the couple must file their intention to marry with the mayor of the closest Tahitian town at least one month before the wedding. The couple must also inform their country's consulate in Tahiti of their marriage and ensure that there is a qualified interpreter present during the ceremony.

Couples can now enjoy the ultimate in romance - a traditional Tahitian wedding on the beach. To the backdrop of an ancient stone altar, fringed with palm trees, the bride is massaged using exotically scented tiare flower oils whilst the groom is painted with temporary Tahitian tattoos. The happy couple then exchange brightly coloured garlands of tropical flowers in the presence of a master of ceremonies, who bestows new Tahitian names upon them.

Many of Tahiti's luxury hotels have their own stunning chapels, several of which have been renovated in anticipation of the new marriage laws. Couples can take traditional Tahitian vows in one of these chapels, and honeymooners might choose to have their own romantic Tahitian blessing. Amongst these is the Intercontinental Resort Bora Bora's over-water wedding chapel, which is a world first. The chapel overlooks Bora Bora's turquoise lagoon and has unforgettable views of Mount Otemanu.

For more information on Tahiti & Her Islands visit www.tahiti-tourisme.co.uk

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Notes to editors:

Tahiti and her 118 islands are scattered over five archipelagos in the South Pacific. There is something for everyone, whether you want to relax on the beach, snorkel in the turquoise lagoons, try out some of the world's best scuba diving, go hiking in the mountains, or search for the perfect black pearl.