

Experience the magic of Heiva

# HEIVA I BORA BORA 2026

From to June 24th to August 2nd  
2026

Produced and offered by :  
<https://loveborabora.com>





Photo : Caroline Tongourian

## *Heiva in Bora Bora*

The Heiva is an annual cultural event in Polynesia. The Bora Bora Heiva is unique in having a sandy stage. It's a real opportunity to share and celebrate. Everyone who participates in the Heiva, whatever their role, shows immense dedication to perpetuating this tradition handed down by their ancestors. From generation to generation, the Heiva takes place and Bora Bora comes alive throughout the month of July. The island's different groups - Hitia, Faanui, Tiipoto, Anau, Nunue and Amanahune - celebrate their culture with song and dance. The Bora Bora Heiva is also an opportunity to discover other cultural activities such as the fruit carrier race, the weaving competition and the flower float competition.



Photo : Caroline Tongourian

## History of the Heiva

The first Tiurai (meaning July) took place in Tahiti on 14 July 1881, then for the first time in Bora Bora after the Second World War. Originally, the inhabitants of Bora Bora travelled with their Raatira (chief) to Vaitape for all the festivities. They slept in the Tu Vavau square or at their family's home. The Tiurai was renamed the Heiva in 1985, in reference to Madeleine Moua's Heiva group, which laid the foundations of ori tahiti (Tahitian dance).



Photo : Caroline Tongourian



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## What is the Himene ?

Himene are traditional songs. At the Bora Bora Heiva, all the groups compete in the himene category. There are four compulsory songs:

- Hīmene Tārava: 8 different voices\*. The members of the group stand in a semi-circle.
- Hīmene RŪ'au: 8 different voices\*, the members of the group sit in a semi-circle and sway from right to left with their finger resting on their cheek.
- 'Ūtē Paripari or the Ūtē Arearea (your choice): 2 voices. Two people sing and converse on the chosen theme (paripari) or on a humorous theme (arearea).
- Himene Popaa

*\*subject to change depending on the jury*



Photo : Caroline Tongourian

The songs are composed by the groups around a theme but must follow very precise rules. They are all sung in the Tahitian language.

In addition to the 4 compulsory songs, there are other songs accompanied by aparima mama, a traditional dance (men can also take part).

# What is the Otea?

The *otea* is composed around a theme read out at the start of the show in French, English and Tahitian.

Groups must perform the following five categories:

- **Ote'a:** the dances are performed on traditional percussion (*tō'ere*, *fa'atete*, *tari parau*, *'Ihara*, *pahu*, ...).
- **Aparima:** the dances are sung and the gestures represent the words. The theme is represented.
- **Pā'ō'ā:** The dancers sit in a circle or semi-circle and clap rhythmically on their thighs. In turn, dancers stand up and dance in duets or solo.
- **Hivināu:** The dancers turn in concentric circles.
- **Orero:** One person narrates the theme in *reo tahiti* (Tahitian language).



The final costume can be made out of dried plants, shells or feathers and must be in keeping with the theme. The plant costume is made by the dancers before the show from fresh plants.





## The box office

The ticket office is located next to Radio Bora Bora.

It is also possible to buy tickets on the evening of the show. Tickets cost 2,000 xpf for bleachers and 1,000 xpf for red chairs.

## To eat

The "baraques", Fare Tiurai, are specially built for the Heiva. They are open for lunch and dinner.

Don't hesitate to make a reservation if you're a large group or want to dine before the show. You'll also find several snacks near the games.

And don't forget that the food trucks will remain open but will be moved during the Heiva.

## Entertainment

There are plenty of games for all ages  
Everything is on offer to ensure you have a  
great time.

The Stardium is Heiva's nightclub. It stays  
open until 3am at weekends.

Anei, a "baraque" offering musical  
entertainment, also closes late on  
weekends.





Photo : Caroline Tongourian

*Find out more about the Heiva i Bora Bora*

If you would like to find out more about the Heiva i Bora Bora, please visit:

[loveborabora.com/heivaiborabora/](http://loveborabora.com/heivaiborabora/)

And don't forget to follow the official Facebook page: [Heiva i Bora Bora](#) for all the latest news and updates.

Fire  
departm  
en

Games and snacks

Games and snacks

Day time  
ticket  
office

Restr  
oom

Tu Vavau  
Square



Evening  
ticket  
office

Anei  Le  Tropicana

Restr  
oom

Car Park



Port of Vaitape

Bora  Healthy

Raihiti 

Matahina 

Chez  
Papa 

Stardium



Virassamy 



# Heiva traditional events planning 2026

## Anau

Otea : 06/26 - 07/07

Himene: 06/27 - 07/08

## Faanui

Otea : 07/01 - 07/10

Himene : 07/03 - 07/11

## Tiipoto

Otea : 06/27 - 07/08

Himene : 06/30- 07/09

## Hitia

Otea : 07/03 - 07/11

Himene : 07/04- 07/13

## Nunue

Otea :06/30 - 07/09

Himene : 07/01 - 07/10

## Amanahune

Otea : 07/04 - 07/13

Himene : 06/26 - 07/07

# Organise your stay in Bora Bora during the Heiva, 2026

## Where to stay ?

### Hotels

Le Bora Bora

Book

Intercontinental Le Moana

Book

Royal Bora Bora

Book

### Guesthouses

Village Temanuatua

Book

Bora Bora Holidays

Book

Rohotu Fare

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# Book your activities

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