

XPFR

Presents

Society Islands



General view of the Tahiti-Faa'a (NTAA) airport

Credits

Although this large-scale scenery (14 islands and 9 airports) was created with the help of the entire XPFR staff, the following members are to be thanked for most of the work:

- "beber" for his huge work on correcting and adapting the photoreal textures
- "goda" for creating most of the buildings
- "fasm" for constructing most ships and 3D people
- "Brother" & "Jean" for miscellaneous objects contributing to the overall atmosphere
- "Daniel_L" for the roads
- "madine" for his custom mesh covering the area of Moorea, Tahiti and Mehetia, based on data from "Viewfinder Panorama"(topography) and SWBD NASA (coastline).
- "Joloize" for coordinating the project and implementing realistic vegetation.

XPFR would also like to thank:

- "Google Maps" for the raw satellite views.
- "Laminar Research" for the X-Plane flight simulator
- "Marginal", "Mario Cavicchi" & "y-man" pour their irreplaceable tools !

Installation

--- This scenery will not run on X-Plane versions prior to 9.2 ---

Once the download is complete and the archive unzipped, open the resulting folder named "Societe" and move all three folders "NT_Societe1", "NT_Societe2", "NT_Societe3" to your Custom Scenery folder.

Misc. Documents:

- This "ReadMe.pdf" document and the french one "LisezMoi.pdf".
- The "SIA Charts" folder: Charts for all the included airports (updated Dec. 15th 2010), available on the French SIA site.
- the "Societe.jpg" file: A general map of the area locating the airports and the showing distances between various locations.

Notes & recommendations

Rendering:

To fully enjoy this scenery we recommend that you push the rendering settings in X-Plane to the limits of what your computer can deliver.

More specifically:

- "Texture Resolution" on "extreme"
- "use pixel sharers" activated
- "water reflection level" on "complete"
- "number of roads" on "Totally insane"
- "airport detail" on "Totally insane"
- "forest density" on "filled in" or higher.
- "Compress textures to save VRAM" unchecked
- "runway follows terrain contour" checked (except if you intend to use the Tetiaroa airfield).

Airfields, Seaplane bases and drop-zones:

All airfields/airports in this scenery have been created with attention to detail, using official documents and charts, and are therefore completely in conformity with their real-life counterparts.

The small airfield of Motu Mao located on the south shore of Raiatea (NNAO) has been abandoned but we have chosen to rehabilitate it.

For your convenience we have chosen to add a number of heliports/drop-zones to the existing airports.

We have also chosen to add a Seaplane base to most airports (except NMAO) using fictional ICAO codes. These ICAO codes use the same code as the airport they're located next to, replacing the third digit of the code by the letter "S". For example, the Seaplane base on Tahiti (NTAA) uses the ICAO code NTSA, the seaplane base of Bora-Bora (NTTB) uses the code NTSB, etc. ...

Generally speaking, the Seaplane lane uses the same orientation as the airport's runway and is located very close to the actual airport.

Known issues and updates:

Although particular care has been taken in the process of recreating the typical vegetation of these islands, close-up views of certain forest areas reveal aspects that can still be optimised. Also, the runway at Tetiaroa remains unusable with the "runway follows terrain contours" option checked (on). This is due to X-Plane's somewhat chaotic mesh in this area. A tool currently under development should allow us to correct these types of defects in a near future. Other optimisation works and arrangements are currently being made.

The aforementioned points will lead us to provide a number of updates to this project within the coming months.

Infrastructure

All airports and airfields have been recreated as closely as possible to their real-life counterparts using all available documentation and photographic material we could lay our hands on. Nonetheless, it is possible that some errors have been made and we'd be delighted to correct them if they are pointed out. Some areas have been given particular care and attention to detail:

- The "Pointe Venus" and its functioning lighthouse (located 7nm/060° from RW 04 at NTAA).
- The hotels on Bora-Bora (Bungalows on piling linked by pontoons), located mainly on the eastern shore of the island.
- Other locations (port of Papeete, bungalows-hotels on Moorea, hotel complex on Tetiaroa, some villages and ports of other islands etc. ...) will receive more attention to detail in the coming updates.

Anomalies

Some little bugger (we're still looking for the culprit) has been scattering incongruous and oddly placed objects along the scenery.

Dozens of these objects have been spotted and deleted in the meantime but there is a high probability that you'll stumble on one or the other odd encounters (like this poor Tahitian woman wearing a red pareo, standing on top of a rock lost somewhere in the middle of an unidentified lagoon and that we still haven't been able to find and save despite our on-going efforts to spot her).

Please report all odd findings as precisely as possible to the "very serious" (ahem...) XPFR team!

Society Islands

French Polynesia is composed of 5 archipelagos (Society, Tuamotu, Gambier, Australes and Marquises) counting 118 islands amongst which 67 are inhabited.

The Society Islands constitute the archipelago bearing the highest population density with 220.000 inhabitants. James Cook discovered the Archipelago in 1769 and named it after the Royal Society of London, which had financed the expedition,

All of these islands are volcanic islands. The epicentre responsible for the birth of these islands is located on the southeast of the archipelago where you'll find the youngest islands. The plate on which these islands rest tends to move northwest and it's on the north-western end of the archipelago that you'll find the oldest islands.

As time goes by, these volcanic islands progressively sink into the ocean, a motion that is only compensated by the coral reefs, progressively giving birth to an atoll by forming a coral belt around the volcanic cone. As one heads northwest, these atolls seem to progressively see their volcanic cones disappear into the ocean.

On the contrary, when heading southwest, you'll see that the coral reefs are less developed due to the young age of the islands.

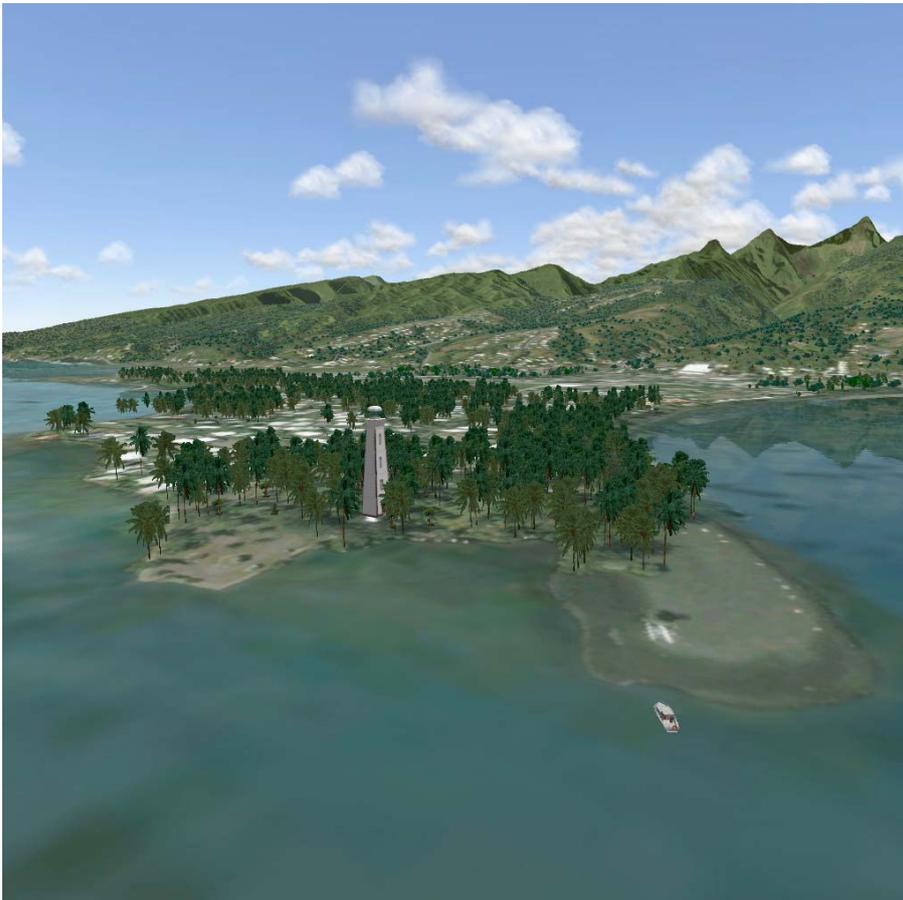
The only volcano showing any activity nowadays is the one located on Mehetia, the youngest island of the archipelago, rising 435 meters (1427ft) above the sea. Its last underwater eruption happened in 1981. Mehetia is currently uninhabited and is privately owned.

Tahiti

Tahiti is the largest and most populated Island of French Polynesia with its 180.000 inhabitants. The first Tahitians arrived on the island around the 4th century.

Its climate is humid and tropical with temperatures raging from 25°C to 29°C depending on the season. Located on an amphidromic point, the island sees only little tide, with a maximum amplitude of 40cm, the only negative point being that the island is not immune to cyclones.

Tourism represents the largest part of the economic activity of the island. Tahiti is the central hub for most tourists visiting French Polynesia (be it only for transit to other islands) and therefore sees around 180.000 tourists each year.



The "Pointe Venus" (image on the right) owes its name to James Cook, who ordered the construction of an observatory destined to observe the trajectory of the planet Venus in 1770. The 25m lighthouse was built in 1867 and was further elevated by 7m in 1963 giving it its actual height of 32m. Fitted with additional lenses it is also used for aerial navigation. Tahiti is divided in two parts, each centred on a dead volcano. The north-western part "Tahiti-Nui" (the "large Tahiti") is separated from the south-eastern part of the island called "Tahiti-Iti" (the "small Tahiti") or Taiarapu Peninsula by the Taravao Isthmus.

Mount Orohena, highest point of the island is located near the centre of Tahiti-Nui and rises up to 2241m (7352ft).

Bora-Bora



Second most important island of the archipelago by its touristic activity is Bora-Bora with its 20.000 yearly visitors. Bora-Bora is an island circled by a vast lagoon that is itself circled by a coral reef bearing only one passage (the Teavanui pass) on the western side of the island. During WWII, the American forces built the first airfield in French Polynesia which is still located on the same spot today.

The island's highest point is Mount Otemaru rising at 727m (2385ft).

The island bears the nickname "The Pearl of the Pacific", but its Tahitian nickname is even more flattering: "Mai te pora", meaning "created by the gods".

Moorea



Its general shape, the shape of a heart, makes it the island of lovers. Separated from Tahiti by a very deep channel 17km wide, the island bases most of its economy on tourism and the cultivation of pineapple. Its population counts around 16.000 inhabitants and Moorea is the third most visited island in the archipelago. The highest point of the island, located on the south-western side of the island is Mount Tohiea (1207m / 3960ft), but the really particular feature of the island is Mount Mouaputa which bears a hole at its top. Legend has it that Pai (mythical hero figure of Tahiti) dug that hole in the mountain by throwing his spear at Hiro (god of the thieves) while he was attempting to steal Mount Ratu.

Tahaa & Raiatea



Both islands share the same lagoon. Tahaa (in the foreground, Raiatea in the background) is the smallest of both islands and located on the northern side of the lagoon. Its highest point is Mount Ohiri (590m / 1936ft) and it is inhabited by about 5000 people. Raiatea, the largest of both islands counts 12.000 inhabitants. Raiatea is called the sacred island due to its importance in local traditional culture that usually depicts it as the cradle of the Polynesian people. Mount Tefatua culminates at 1017m (3337ft).

The Tiare Apetahi flower (a hand-shaped variety) is only to be found on Raiatea's high plateau of the Temehani mount - all attempts to grow the plant elsewhere on the

island or on other islands have failed. One of the numerous legends surrounding this flower says that Apetahi committed suicide by cutting off her own hand when discovering that her husband was cheating on her. Another legend tells us that Apetahi fell and cut off her hand on a rock while her husband was at sea, and that the only thing he could find on the location of the accident was this flower and its unforgettable smell.

Maupiti

Small island counting 1200 inhabitants and where 90% of the houses were destroyed by the cyclone Osea in 1997.

Tourism is just starting to develop on this still pristine island.

Mount Nuupure, highest point of the island, culminates at 380m (1247ft).

Tetiaroa

This private atoll, formerly owned by Marlon Brando, is under reconstruction since 2008, under the supervision of promoter Richard Bailey. The goal is to build a prestigious hotel complex but the project is being slowed down due to controversy around the project's impact on the fragile ecosystem of the atoll.

Its private airstrip requires special authorisation to land.

The atoll culminates at only 17m (56ft).