

# SPAS & TREATMENTS

FIND YOUR BLISS IN BORA BORA.

**B**ora Bora may be the honeymoon escape and celebrity hideaway *de rigueur* but this French Polynesian island is coming into its own as a booming spa destination. The vibrant tropical colors, gentle flower scents and the ocean sounds just scream spa time! The sensual experience is heightened by the island's storied landscapes: turquoise-colored lagoons, pearly-white sand beaches, a string of coral islets known as *motus* and the Mount Otemanu volcano dramatically rising on the main isle.

The tradition of healing and well-being isn't new on this South Seas isle. To restore the mind-body balance, generations of Pacific islanders have been using native medicinal plants like noni, coconut, tamanu nut and vanilla as well as sea elements like black sand and Mother of Pearl. Today, the resorts on Bora Bora and its *motus* offer spas where the Ma'ohi (Polynesian) know-how and indigenous ingredients are paired with cutting-edge spa techniques and state-of-the-art facilities. This unique fusion is worth traveling thousands of miles to experience — trust us, we just did! The treats at journey's end were bespoke treatments in dazzling locales with exotic local products. Not to mention the over-water lodging in bungalows hovering on stilts above the Pacific — the emblem of this exclusive getaway.

While all spas provide treatments such as Pacific seaweed body wraps, fresh flower baths and hydrating black pearl facials, each has a set of signature therapies and a unique sense of place. A real standout is *taurumi*, traditional massage said to be the sacred expression of Polynesian bodywork. It's practiced with broad forearm strokes using liberal amounts of *monoï*, scented coconut oil; try the Tiare flower version.

## BORA BORA LAGOON RESORT & SPA

At Bora Bora Lagoon Resort & Spa, an Orient Express property on Toopua islet just off Bora Bora, Maru Spa is a verdant haven with treetop treatment rooms coiled in the heart of two giant banyan trees. The signature 80-minute Ma'ohi *taurumi* massage to the sound of rustling leaves gets you close to heaven. Stock up on the Maru Spa products, made on the islands with fresh flowers, fruit sugars, sands and precious stones. We highly recommend the pineapple exfoliating scrub and the noni body mousse. [BoraBoraLagoon.com](http://BoraBoraLagoon.com)

## MANEA SPA

The Manea Spa at Bora Bora Pearl Beach Resort, member of The Leading Small Hotels of the World, is an intimate retreat with tropical foliage, timber-paneled treatment rooms and décor accents of coconut, bamboo and lava stones. The all-Tahitian staff of therapists performs miracles of traditional bodywork. Don't miss the four-hand massage and the *Avae Taurumi*, during which the therapist massages you with bare feet using a specially designed wooden contraption. We loved their open-air Vichy showers and the work of resident tattoo artist Jean-Yves "Matatiki" Tamarii.

Known as the set for the recently released Hollywood comedy *Couples Retreat*, St. Regis Bora Bora ([StarwoodHotels.com](http://StarwoodHotels.com)) showcases the 13,000-square-



Bora Bora



Manea Spa Vichy Shower



Manea Spa

Deep Ocean Spa photographed by DANAE HAZAMA. Four Seasons Spa photographed by BARBARA KRAFT.

foot Miri Miri Spa, an ultra-stylish islet sanctuary for premier pampering, as you'd expect of the renowned brand. Lounge in the lagoon-side relaxation areas, enjoy an open-air massage in a cabana or get a rejuvenating facial in one of seven gorgeous treatment rooms. Their signature *taurumi*, which kicks off with a coffee balm and volcanic sand foot scrub, fuses Balinese, Polynesian and Ayurvedic elements. [PearlResorts.com](http://PearlResorts.com)

## DEEP OCEAN SPA

At the largest spa in the South Pacific, the Deep Ocean Spa at InterContinental Bora Bora Resort & Thalasso Spa, remineralizing seawater is drawn from Pacific depths of more than 3,000 feet. Signature treatments combine hydrotherapy and algotherapy with high-quality marine products by Algotharm. Don't miss the *Algospa* delight — a body scrub, body shaping and seaweed wrap, followed by floating in deep sea water. The equally amazing Bora Bora Deep Blue Massage is performed in an overwater spa suite with a glass-bottom floor. The spa's 13,200 square feet feature stunning relaxation areas and varied facilities. [BoraBoraSpa.Interconti.com](http://BoraBoraSpa.Interconti.com)

## SPA AT FOUR SEASONS RESORT

Nestled between a pretty lagoon and the pristine ocean, The Spa at Four Seasons Resort Bora Bora is a sandalwood- and frangipani-scented oasis with cathedral-like interiors of hardwood textures and alfresco walkways over tree plantations. Sample the two-hour *Kahaia Haven* ritual — a skin-smoothing body scrub with black pearl powder and vanilla; *ofai*, a Pacific hot stone massage; and a holistic mini-facial rich in antioxidant plant extracts. Check out the aroma steam room, the sensory experience shower and yoga classes. [FourSeasons.com/borabora](http://FourSeasons.com/borabora) **ANJA MUTIC**



Bora Bora



Deep Ocean Spa



Four Seasons Spa



Four Seasons Spa