

French Polynesia Voted as Friendliest Country

VOCABULARY WORDS

1. Territory (Noun) /'tɛrɪˌtɔːri:/ an area that is controlled by a particular country, group, etc.
Example: Mariana Islands is one of the U.S. territories along with Guam and Puerto Rico.
2. Destination (Noun) /ˌdɛstəˈneɪʃən/ a place where a person or thing is going or being sent
Example: Please tell me where your destination is so that I can come with you.
3. Honeymoon (Noun) /'hʌnɪmuːn/ a vacation taken by a couple after their wedding
Example: The newlyweds will spend their honeymoon in Europe.
4. Open-hearted (Adjective) /ˌəʊpən ˈhɑːrtɪd/ freely expressing or showing one's kind feelings
Example: She was loved by everyone for being very open-hearted.
5. Attitude (Noun) /'ætɪˌtuːd/ a person's thoughts or feelings about someone or something
Example: She has a very positive attitude and is easy to get along with.



It's a long trip to the friendliest place on Earth, but it may be worth it. Condé Nast Traveler says French Polynesia, in the South Pacific Ocean, has been voted the world's friendliest country in the magazine's 35th Readers' Choice Awards. French Polynesia is one of France's overseas territories, with islands spread over a huge area of ocean. Australia is around 6,000 kilometers to the west and Chile is about 7,500 kilometers to the east.

Condé Nast called it "a year-round destination," and it was top of their list for friendliness — that is, "home to the friendliest people." French Polynesia is known for its white-sand beaches and hotels that sit on top of the water, and it is a popular place for honeymoons. Tahiti and Bora Bora are the most visited islands — of which there are about 120.

Second on the list of friendly places was Colombia. The "open-hearted culture" can be felt on arrival in the South American country, according to Condé Nast. New Zealand was third, which Condé Nast said is known for its people's "positive attitude towards life." Also in the top 10 — as voted for by the public — were Thailand, Costa Rica, Botswana, Peru, Belize, Sri Lanka and the Philippines.

There were no European countries in the top 10, but Ireland was chosen as Europe's friendliest. San Miguel de Allende in Mexico was named the world's friendliest city — and also its best. Condé Nast said hundreds of thousands of people took part in the survey between April and June 2022, which also asked about things like the best hotels, train journeys and airports.

DISCUSSION

1. What are your thoughts on French Polynesia being voted the friendliest country?
2. What are the friendliest places you've been to?
3. Have you been to any of the countries in the top ten? Which of them would you like to visit?
4. Do you find it surprising that no European country made the top ten?
5. How friendly do you imagine foreigners find your country?