



Home | Magazine | People | Culture | Art | Inked Spots | Shop Inked | Contest | Links | Studio Owners | Subscribe | Contact Us

Inked Magazine » Articles » Seven Wonders

Login or Create a New Account



Seven Wonders

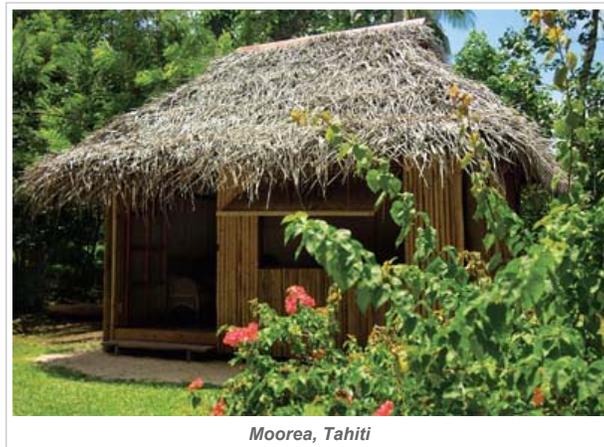
Plan a summer trip to get tattooed with our roundup of adventures. By: Nikki Sonesen // Melissa Pearce // Jason Buhrmester



Moorea, Tahiti

INK: James Samuela's Moorea Tattoo, mooreatattoo.com

Tahitians didn't just help invent the tattoo, they also invented the word. The traditional Tahitian tattoo is created using a comb with three to 20 needles carved from shell, bone, or shark's teeth that is tapped with a wooden stick to drive the needle and the ink into the skin. The sound created by the process ("tat tat") inspired the Tahitian word tautau. James Samuela is one of the few remaining tattooists still practicing traditional Tahitian methods. At his shop on the island of Moorea, a seven-minute flight or 30-minute ferry ride from Tahiti, Samuela fabricates his own instruments from a tree branch, fiber string, and wild boar tusks acquired from a local hunter. Although he was born in Tahiti, Samuela studied art in Paris before returning to his homeland to learn Polynesian tattoo methods. "The most important point is that I learned the basics from them, like symbolism and the ancestral traditional technique," says Samuela. "However, the way I tattoo today is the result of developing my own technique. The technique I developed to carve the tools allows me to be more creative in my work. I think I've created a better and sharper tool." And once Samuela is finished pounding in your ink, he'll even give you the handmade comb as a souvenir.



Moorea, Tahiti

STAY: Te Nunoa Bungalow, \$250 per night, mooreabungalow.com

Tattoo Travel Tip No. 109: Try to stay near the shop you're visiting. That way, you won't wind up lost in a back alley and miss your appointment while searching for someone who speaks enough English to give you directions. Tattooist James Samuela and his wife, a Tahitian travel agent, opened Te Nunoa, a private rental bungalow located next to their Moorea Tattoo shop on the island of Moorea. The bungalow includes private access to the beach, a barbecue, kayaks, and bicycles. Visit Samuela for some fresh ink and you'll only be a few steps from a hot shower and some painkillers when he's finished.

SEE: Marine Life Tour, \$50 to \$300, truetahitivacation.com

The waters around Moorea are loaded with marine life, including several species of shark, and the island is considered the best in French Polynesia for whale watching. Several companies offer boat trips for about \$50 that will let you observe sharks, stingrays, and even whales (during humpback whale season from July to October). If you want to get closer, sign up for a snorkeling excursion where you'll feed stingrays (\$75) or visit the Moorea Dolphin Center and swim with dolphins (about \$300). Don't like water? Register for an ATV ride around Opunohu Bay and up to Belvedere Lookout, a peak offering a 360-degree view of the island.

DRINK: Tahitian Feast at the Tiki Village, about \$130 per person, truetahitivacation.com

Playing with rum, fire, and knives usually ends in a trip to the emergency room, but Tahitians are pros at mixing all three. The Tiki Village on Moorea is a recreation of a thatched-roof Polynesian village built on the edge of the Lagoon of Haapiti. The Village plays

YOUR DAILY DOSE

INKED GIRLS
FREEBIES
EVENTS
NEWS

Email:

REGISTER

Inked
CULTURE. STYLE. ART.

A SOURCE BOOK
TATTOO HISTORY
STEVE GILBERT

BOOKS

Premium tattoo
aftercare lotion



WWW.AFTERINKED.COM

host to nightly Tahitian feasts, complete with performers who carve Tiki idols, make leis, and demonstrate traditional Polynesian dances and music. Fish, chicken, and pork are cooked in an underground oven while you down rum punch and prepare for the finale—a performance by Tahitian fire and knife dancers.

Cairo, Egypt

INK: Street Tattooers of the Cairo Souk

When it comes to tattooing, Egyptians are the true old-school. Wall paintings in tombs and temples suggest that tattooing there dates back to 2000 B.C., and Egyptologists have discovered female mummies adorned with blue-black markings. Street tattooists in the souks (street bazaars) of Cairo date back to 1800 A.D., and many of the stalls there today have been in the same place for centuries. These tattooists line the streets with design sheets and prices laid out on carpets, which also serve as their workspace. Designs are mostly Christian, including the Coptic cross and images of Mary, Christ, the crucifix, and various saints—each for a few dinars. Tattoos are crude at best, applied in the same manner they have been over the last three centuries (a single needle dipped into a mixture of Indian ink is tapped into the skin), and there are no safeguards against blood disease. That's not your only risk. The souks are dangerous places, for locals and foreigners alike. Learn to say "La" ("No" in Arabic), be firm with the locals, and remember: No street vendor or bathroom attendant will ever have change. Keep in mind that in the Arab world there is a potential fee for everything. Even taking pictures of a quiet street will lead to palms held out for money. And remember what mom always said: Don't go with anyone you don't know, don't take items from strangers, and stay off the camels (their owners charge one fee to get on and a significantly larger one to get off).



Cairo, Egypt

STAY: Mövenpick Resort, \$200 per night, moevenpick-hotels.com

A mile from the Great Pyramids and Sphinx at Giza, the Mövenpick Resort at the Cairo Pyramids will quickly become your sanctuary after a day in the chaotic streets of Cairo. The unique layout features a bungalow village buried amongst lush gardens, providing an oasis of calm where you can relax by the pool, hit the sauna, and play tennis or racquetball. Throw yourself into a long day of sightseeing in the frenzied streets then enjoy dinner at the garden restaurant or rooftop bar with a full view of the pyramids laid out in front of you.

SEE: Nile Cruise

Cairo is crowded with cool and creepy things to see including pyramids, tombs, and temples. To cover as many as possible, take one of the many Nile cruises. Available in a range of 7- to 14-day adventures, cruises are allinclusive, with adequate sleeping quarters, meals, translators, guides, and ground transportation to each site. Begin in Cairo, where a private car will escort you to the incredible Cairo Museum and the Great Pyramids at Giza, and then board the boat where you will travel by night and sightsee by day. Stops include the temples of Ramses II at Abu Simbel, the Temple of Horus at Edfu, the temples at Karnak and Luxor, and the Valley of the Kings, where 500 years of rulers are buried.

Nightlife: Sound and Light Show at the Giza Plateau Pyramids, \$8

Cairo is one destination where you'll want to save your drinking for the hotel bar and instead put your evening to good use by taking in the Sound and Light Show at the Giza Plateau Pyramids. The hour-long show plays three times a night in multiple languages and tells the history of ancient Egypt through the use of floodlights, lasers, and special effects set to a booming soundtrack. It sounds hokey, but there is something eerie about sitting in the moonlight near these monuments and listening to their story. Bring a sweater or blanket since the desert cools off at night.

Melbourne, Australia

INK: Moving Pictures Studios Australia's tattoo history is traced through the life story of 65-year-old Bev Nicholas. In the '60s, a 19-year-old Nicholas (then Robinson) received four tattoos in a single night and toured the country as "Cindy Ray," a pinup girl and sideshow attraction billed as "the classy lassie with the tattooed chassis." Later, she married and stumbled into tattooing. "I really didn't have any choice," she remembers. "My ex-husband had a tattoo shop on the waterfront and he got into a fight one night. He broke his hand and said, 'Well, you can tattoo.' It's quite ironic, really." She has been tattooing for 46 years and owned Melbourne's Moving Pictures Studios for 38. Over the years, Lyle Tuttle, Ed Hardy, and Ms. Mikki have all made the pilgrimage to see their friend. Kenny McPharlane, who bought the studio from Nicholas three years ago, decided to show his admiration for her with a large mural depicting her modeling days. Its artist, Mark Walsh, is now an apprentice, joining tattooist Adam Tibbitts. Nicholas, an animal lover, is passionate about tigers: "Every time somebody comes in and says they want a tiger, I run out and get the folder of them!" Nicholas is the first to tell you she doesn't act her age, and at the party for her induction into Lyle Tuttle's Tattoo Art Museum's Tattoo Hall of Fame, at the St. Louis Old School Tattoo Expo 2006, Nicholas was dared to ride down a five-story slide. "They said I wasn't game enough to do it, but I went off like a rocket in my ball gown," she laughs.



Melbourne, Australia

STAY: Jasper Hotel, \$170, jasperhotel.com.au

Flopping on friends' couches and floors is easy on the finances, but sometimes traveling in style is worth it, especially when you can afford it. Melbourne's Jasper Hotel is an affordable boutique hotel within walking distance of the city's best sites, such as the Queen Victoria Market, the largest open-air market in the southern hemisphere, and the National Gallery of Victoria. The Jasper is all about atmosphere; the corridor on each floor is saturated in a different color, while the rooms are done in relaxing neutral tones. Plus, the hotel's Jasper Kitchen serves better food than you'll find in your friends' fridges.

SEE: Old Melbourne Gaol, \$16, oldmelbournegaol.com.au

Victoria's oldest surviving prison was built between 1841 and 1864, closed in 1929, and now stands as one of Australia's most haunted sites and the scene of 136 hangings, including the country's most infamous outlaw, the bushranger Ned Kelly. Try the Crime

If you
don't
register,
you
can't
VOTE!

ROCK
THE
VOTE

Register to Vote
at rockthevote.com

and Justice Experience where you'll be arrested in a police station, put on trial, and walked down the road to the gallows. Later, view the hangman's box, and don't miss the death masks, which are used to predict criminal behavior based on the study of phrenology. Think you're tough? Test your constitution on an eerie candlelit night tour.

DRINK: Madame Brussels, madamebrussels.com

Madame Brussels is named after one of Melbourne's original and best-known brothel owners, a former sweetheart of the Duke of Edinburgh who opened her first brothel in 1879 at the age of 28. Now a bar, Madame Brussels gives off a wacky British vibe, including lawn tennis and fruit punch among the fake indoor grass, little pathways, and a hedged bar. Hit the Grotto, a room just beyond the garden gate that boasts more than 20 of the world's finest rums. Host Miss Pearls oversees regular events including barbecues and garden parties, an Alice in Wonderland bash, and useful workshops, such as "How Not to Drink Wine Like a Wanker."

« Previous Page

Page 2 of 3

Next Page »



To leave a comment, you must first login.

User name:

Password:

[Lost Password? Click Here](#)