

# The Getaway Plan

New Yorkers' escape fantasies made real.

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Hotel Vahine Island.

(Photo: Courtesy of Hotel Vahine Island)



(Photo: Hannah Whitaker/New York Magazine)

## The Escapee

*Suzanne Cohen, 33, unemployed, with 7-month-old Marc*

"I've been unemployed since last March—I used to work in an asset-backed-securities department. The layoff was a complete shock: I was five months pregnant and it was the first round of layoffs. Now everyone's getting laid off. But I have to say, it's been fantastic staying home every day with Marc. My husband and I could still use an escape from this economic gloom. I know absolutely nothing about Tahiti—except that their bug season is in

November—but the simplicity and beauty of the island attract me."

## The Escape: Tahiti

There's no better cure for economic gloom than **Tahiti**. Bad news is, there's no budget way to get there. Save some money by booking one of **Tahiti Nui Travel's** air-hotel combos, all of which depart from Los Angeles. **Bora Bora's** a classic beach-stay, but for something even less developed, try a barefoot retreat on the private island of **Vahine** at one of three overwater bungalows at the **Hotel Vahine Island** (from \$3,500 for six days and five nights; slh.com). Navigate the island's aquamarine lagoon in a free kayak or traditional Polynesian oar boat, called a *pirogue*. Paddle to the nearby **Champon pearl farm** to watch necklace-bound jewels extracted. Sample Tahitian-style shrimp and lobster in vanilla sauce at **Chez Louise**, a quick boat ride away on the island of **Tahaa**.

## SPRING TRAVEL 2009

*Escape from New York*

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