

— 2022/2023 —

# ISLANDS OF TAHITI COLLECTION



**EPIK ESCAPES**  
DREAM. PLAN. EXPERIENCE. SHARE.



*There's nothing more exhilarating than travelling to places you've always dreamed of. Immerse yourself in various cultures, ignite your passions and senses.*





# A WORLD OF ADVENTURE AWAITS!

**DREAM. PLAN. EXPERIENCE. SHARE.**

With over 40 years of being in the travel industry and having a passion for travel, especially adventure travel, I present to you, Epik Escapes.

Epik Escapes caters to travellers looking to do something other than the norm.

All of Epik Escapes' programs have been hand-picked either by myself or by my incredible team and I can assure you that they are some of the best.

Epik Escapes can cater to individual requests because with us, nothing is impossible. Our goal is to make your dream escape a reality. We'll be there every step of the way to help you plan your trip so that the experience you have creates a lifetime of memories that are so incredible, you'll be waiting to share them with the people around you.

All of the trips in this booklet are bucket list ventures and I want to ensure that you have the time of your life.

Sincerely,

Carlton Montaut  
Chief Executive Officer







BORA BORA





## TAILOR MADE ESCAPES

SEE THE WORLD YOUR WAY

### PLAN YOUR TRIP

By working with you personally or through your travel advisor, we will be able to understand your trip requirements.

### CUSTOMIZE YOUR TRIP

We will create a detailed itinerary for you based on your trip requirements and refine it until you are pleased.

### PREPARE FOR YOUR TRIP

With your trip planned, we will provide you with all the necessary information that you will require to prepare for your upcoming trip.

### WE ARE THERE FOR YOU

Once you arrive at your destination, you will be completely taken care of but if you ever need to contact us, we will be there for you.





BORA BORA

## TAHITI & THE PEARLS OF FRENCH POLYNESIA

8 DAY CRUISE AROUND TAHITI AND THE SOCIETY ISLANDS ON BOARD M/S PANORAMA II

1 **PAPEETE, TAHITI ▶ BORA BORA**

Embark the Panorama II in Papeete Port between 2:30 pm and 4:00 pm. After a welcome briefing and safety drill, we will set sail for Bora Bora. Overnight at sea.

🍴 Dinner 🚢 M/S Panorama II

2 **BORA BORA**

Early morning arrival in Bora Bora, possibly the most photographed place on earth. Our ship sails into Bora Bora lagoon with Mount Otemanu rising proudly at the center. Over the following two days, we will have a variety of optional activities to choose from, such as:

- A Bora Bora Cultural Tour by 4x4.
- An excursion to snorkel with sting rays and sharks and explore the lagoon.
- The Bora Bora tour by “Le Truck” and more.

Overnight at anchor.

🍴 Full Board 🚢 M/S Panorama II

3 **BORA BORA ▶ HUAHINE**

Today, we continue our Bora Bora optional activities. After lunch, we cruise the Bora Bora lagoon and sail to Huahine, arriving late in the evening. Overnight at anchor inside the lagoon.

🍴 Full Board 🚢 M/S Panorama II

4 **HUAHINE**

Huahine, once home to Tahitian royalty, is considered the cradle of Polynesian

culture. The two islands maintain the largest concentration of ancient marae (temples) in French Polynesia, some of which are believed to date back to around 700 AD. Huahine is a colossal tropical jungle burgeoning with coconut plantations, vanilla orchids, banana groves, breadfruit trees and watermelon fields. Our optional half-day tour takes us by 4x4 vehicle around the island to visit the small villages of Fare and Maeva, an archaeological site, and a vanilla plantation. There will also be an opportunity to see and feed the sacred blue-eyed eels of Faie Bay.

Overnight at anchor.

🍴 Full Board 🚢 M/S Panorama II

5 **HUAHINE ▶ TAHA'A**

We leave Huahine early this morning and sail to the island of Taha'a, which shares a magnificent lagoon with Raiatea Island. The fertile island is covered with banana, watermelon and coconut groves. The island also acts as a vast natural greenhouse for the treasured Tahitian vanilla orchid.

Our optional half-day excursion will allow us to explore the beautiful interior of the island by 4x4 vehicle. Taste the local fruit and admire breathtaking views of the magnificent turquoise waters of Ha'amene Bay. This excursion also includes a visit to a pearl farm and a traditional vanilla plantation. In the afternoon, we will have plenty of time for swimming and snorkelling

from a “motu”, or reef islet.

Overnight at anchor.

🍴 Full Board 🚢 M/S Panorama II

6 **TAHA'A ▶ RAIATEA ▶ MOOREA**

We sail across the lagoon to reach nearby Raiatea, which translates to “faraway heaven” and “sky with soft light”. Originally known as Havai'i, Raiatea is considered the homeland of the ancient Polynesians. Our morning optional excursion will introduce you to the highlights of Raiatea. Meet your guide for an informative & intimate tour by minibus. Enjoy a panoramic drive through the main town of Uturoa -- the cultural and administrative center of Raiatea. Shortly after leaving town, you will see Mount Temehani -- endemic home to the Tiare Apetahi. Our highlight stop is at the main ancient Marae (open-air temple) of Taputapuatea, recently became a UNESCO protected site -- your guide will cover the origins & history of this famous land mark. Here, we will learn about its Polynesian origins and historical relevance. Optional afternoon tour includes an exploration by kayak of the Faaroa River, French Polynesia's only navigable river, with an expert guide leading the way through Raiatea's verdant interior. Late in the evening we sail to Moorea.

Overnight at sea.

🍴 Full Board 🚢 M/S Panorama II



MOOREA



M/S PANORAMA II



RAIATEA & TAHA'A

7 **MOOREA**

This morning, we reach Moorea, believed to be the inspiration for the mythical Bali Hai from James Michener's Tales of the South Pacific. Eight gargantuan mountain peaks rise from its magnificent lagoon, creating a distinctive silhouette visible from the western coast of Tahiti. Morning and afternoon optional half day excursions;

- A snorkelling and ray tour.
- A nature & culture tour taking you to admire magnificent views in the interior of the island.

Tonight we will enjoy our Farewell Dinner. Overnight at anchor.

🍷 Full Board 🚢 M/S Panorama II

8 **MOOREA ▶ PAPEETE, TAHITI**

Early morning sailing to Tahiti. Morning arrival in Papeete. Disembarkation at 9:00 am after breakfast.

🍷 Breakfast

**INCLUSIONS**

- Accommodation in double or twin cabins with private SH/WC and air conditioning.
- Full Board: Buffet breakfast and two meals daily, including a Welcome Cocktail, a local Theme Evening, fun BBQ (weather permitting) and Captain's Dinner.
- Regular (filter) coffee, tea and drinking water free all day.
- Use of fishing and snorkelling equipment (subject to availability).
- English speaking cruise escort.

**EXCLUSIONS**

- International flights and airport taxes.
- Transfers from and to the airport.
- Beverages (except what is included).
- Shore excursions on the islands or other land arrangements.
- Tips for members of the crew.
- Personal items and expenses.
- Wi-Fi (available at an extra charge).

**BOOK NOW. PAY LATER.**  
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THROUGH **UPLIFT**





OVERWATER BUNGALOW





MOOREA

## TAHITI, THE SOCIETY & TUAMOTU ISLANDS

11 DAY CRUISE AROUND TAHITI, THE SOCIETY AND TUAMOTU ISLANDS ON BOARD M/S PANORAMA II



1 **PAPEETE, TAHITI ▶ BORA BORA**

Embark the Panorama II in Papeete Port between 2:30 pm and 4:00 pm. After a welcome briefing and safety drill, we will set sail for Bora Bora. Overnight at sea.

🍴 Dinner 🚢 M/S Panorama II

2 **BORA BORA**

Early morning arrival in Bora Bora, possibly the most photographed place on earth. Our ship sails into Bora Bora lagoon with Mount Otemanu rising proudly at the center. Over the following two days, we will have a variety of optional activities to choose from, such as:

- A Bora Bora Cultural Tour by 4x4.
- An excursion to snorkel with sting rays and sharks and explore the lagoon.
- The Bora Bora tour by "Le Truck" and more.

Overnight at anchor.

🍴 Full Board 🚢 M/S Panorama II

3 **BORA BORA ▶ TAHA'A**

We continue our Bora Bora activities. After lunch we cruise the Bora Bora lagoon and sail to nearby Taha'a, a true botanical paradise. The fertile island is covered with banana, watermelon and coconut groves. The island also acts as a vast natural greenhouse for the treasured Tahitian vanilla orchid. Our optional half-day excursion will allow us to explore the beautiful interior of the island by 4x4

vehicle. Taste the local fruit and admire breathtaking views of the magnificent turquoise waters of Ha'amene Bay.

This excursion also includes a visit to a pearl farm and a traditional vanilla plantation. In the afternoon, we will have plenty of time for swimming and snorkelling from a "motu", or atoll. Overnight at anchor.

🍴 Full Board 🚢 M/S Panorama II

4 **TAHA'A ▶ RAIATEA**

In the morning we sail across the lagoon and reach nearby Raiatea, which translates to "faraway heaven" and "sky with soft light". Originally known as Havai'i, Raiatea is considered the homeland of the ancient Polynesians. Our morning optional excursion will introduce you to the highlights of Raiatea. Meet your guide for an informative & intimate tour by minibus. Enjoy a panoramic drive through the main town of Uturoa -- the cultural and administrative center of Raiatea.

Shortly after leaving town, you will see Mount Temehani -- endemic home to the Tiare Apetahi. Our highlight stop is at the main ancient Marae (open-air temple) of Taputapuatea, recently became a UNESCO protected site -- your guide will cover the origins & history of this famous land mark. Here, we will learn about its Polynesian origins and historical relevance. Optional afternoon tour includes an exploration by kayak of the Faaroa River, French

Polynesia's only navigable river, with an expert guide leading the way through Raiatea's verdant interior.

Overnight at anchor.

🍴 Full Board 🚢 M/S Panorama II

5 **RAIATEA ▶ HUAHINE ▶ MAKATEA**

Morning sailing to Huahine. Huahine, once home to Tahitian royalty, is considered the cradle of Polynesian culture. The two islands maintain the largest concentration of ancient marae (temples) in French Polynesia, some of which are believed to date back to around 700 AD. Huahine is a colossal tropical jungle burgeoning with coconut plantations, vanilla orchids, banana groves, breadfruit trees and watermelon fields. Our optional full-day tour takes us by 4x4 vehicle around the island to visit the small villages of Fare and Maeva, an archaeological site, and a vanilla plantation. There will also be an opportunity to see and feed the sacred blue-eyed eels of Faie Bay. Evening sailing to Makatea, overnight at sea.

🍴 Full Board 🚢 M/S Panorama II

6 **MAKATEA ▶ RANGIROA**

The island of Makatea is like no other found in French Polynesia. It is not a coral atoll but rather a raised island of coral. The limestone cliffs tower over the coast and the island's interior shows significant vegetation, complete with a few species of endemic



birds and a peculiar expanse of limestone holes. Today, this sleepy but spectacular island is home to three species of threatened endemic birds: the beautiful Makatea fruit dove, the impressive imperial pigeon, and the comely appearing singer extraordinaire, the reed warbler. Our half-day optional tour will take us across this unique island to a magnificent beach with rockpools to explore before we visit an incredible grotto. Swimming deeper inside the grotto, this underwater cave system will slowly open out to reveal a spectacular watery cathedral, full of wonderful stalagmites and stalactites. Late afternoon departure to Rangiroa. Overnight at sea.

🍴 Full Board 🚢 M/S Panorama II

### 7 RANGIROA

Morning arrival in Rangiroa, the largest atoll in the Tuamotu Archipelago and one of the largest in the world. One of the best



destinations for scuba diving, Rangiroa is composed of 240 islets, more than 110 miles, encompassing a deep lagoon. Our full-day optional excursion will take us to the Blue Lagoon, a natural pool formed by islets and reefs within the central lagoon. At only 16 feet deep, the Blue Lagoon is an ideal location for snorkelling, and observing the vast assortment of marine life. Enjoy a traditional Polynesian picnic before returning to the ship. Overnight at anchor.

🍴 Full Board 🚢 M/S Panorama II

### 8 RANGIROA ▶ TIKEHAU ▶ TETIAROA

Early morning sailing and arrival at Tikehau also called the Pink Sand Island. This small atoll consists of countless tiny white and pink sand islets engulfed in coconut groves and hidden alcoves. In Tikehau, which actually means “peaceful landing,” you will find nothing but absolute serenity on her calm and graceful shores. The lagoon, formed by



an almost unbroken ring of continuous coral, resembles an immense natural swimming pool. This underwater aquarium is teeming with marine life. According to the legendary marine researcher Jacques Cousteau, it has a higher concentration of fish than any other lagoon in French Polynesia.

Our optional walking tour will take us to one of the family-owned fish farm where they trap different species of fish in a maze of underwater fencing. Much of their catch is then shipped to Papeete and sold at the local markets. We will visit Tuherahera at the southern side where most locals live, leaving the remainder of the atoll virtually untouched. In fact, the northeastern quarter is mostly uninhabited. Naturally adorned with colorful flowers such as hibiscus and bougainvillea, Tuherahera is one of the most attractive villages in the Tuamotu Atolls. Afternoon sailing to Tetiaroa.

🍴 Full Board 🚢 M/S Panorama II



9 **TETIAROA ▶ MOOREA**

A haven for birds, sea turtles and all kinds of marine life, Tetiaroa is treasured among Tahitians who know it as a sacred place. So sacred, that at one time the coconut-dotted white sand beaches and crystalline lagoon of this uninhabited atoll was an exclusive getaway for Tahitian royalty. It's not surprising that actor Marlon Brando fell under its spell during the filming of "Mutiny on the Bounty" in 1960 and later went on to become its owner. Under his direction a luxury eco-resort was designed and it operates in 100% sustainable manner. We will spend the morning in this charming island, exploring the lagoon and snorkelling in its crystal clear waters. Enjoy an optional guided walking tour to the islet of Tahuna Iiti, the Birds' Island. The islet shelters one of the largest colony of birds in Tahiti and is a national reserve for seabirds, frigates, terns, phaetons (straw tails), brown gannets and other petrels. Afternoon sailing and evening arrival at Moorea.

🍴 Full Board 🚢 M/S Panorama II

10 **MOOREA**

Moorea is believed to be the inspiration for the mythical Bali Hai from James Michener's Tales of the South Pacific. Eight gargantuan mountain peaks rise from its magnificent lagoon, creating a distinctive silhouette visible from the western coast of Tahiti. Enjoy morning and afternoon optional

half day excursions;

- A snorkelling and ray tour;
- A nature & culture tour taking you to admire magnificent views in the interior of the island.

Tonight we will enjoy our Farewell Dinner.

Overnight at anchor.

🍴 Full Board 🚢 M/S Panorama II

11 **MOOREA ▶ PAPEETE, TAHITI**

Early morning sailing to Tahiti. Morning arrival in Papeete. Disembarkation at 9:00 am after breakfast.

🍴 Breakfast

**INCLUSIONS**

- Accommodation in double or twin cabins with private SH/WC and air conditioning.
- Full Board: Buffet breakfast and two meals daily, including a Welcome Cocktail, a local Theme Evening, fun BBQ (weather permitting) and Captain's Dinner.
- Regular (filter) coffee, tea and drinking water free all day.
- Use of fishing and snorkelling equipment (subject to availability).
- English speaking cruise escort.

**EXCLUSIONS**

- International flights and airport taxes.
- Transfers from and to the airport.
- Beverages (except what is included).
- Shore excursions on the islands or other land arrangements.

- Tips for members of the crew.
- Personal items and expenses.
- Wi-Fi (available at an extra charge).

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RANGIROA

## DISCOVER THE MARQUESAS

12 DAY CRUISE AROUND THE MARQUESAS, TUAMOTU AND SOCIETY ISLANDS ON BOARD M/V ARANUI 5



1 **PAPEETE, TAHITI ▶ FAKARAVA, MAKATEA OR KAUEHI**

Depart from Papeete in the morning, receive a warm welcome onboard from our crew and sail to Fakarava atoll in the Tuamotu archipelago.

🍴 Lunch • Dinner 🚢 M/V Aranui 5

2 **FAKARAVA, MAKATEA OR KAUEHI \***

Fakarava, 488 km northeast of Tahiti, is a huge atoll that is part of a UNESCO "biosphere reserve" because of its rich eco-system, with an abundance of rare flora and fauna. Makatea, 210 km northeast of Tahiti, is an elevated atoll, like a fortress standing on the ocean with its 70 m high cliffs. This raised atoll is home to only 94 inhabitants who have decided not to leave their beloved island and its history. At the end of the 19th century, large quantities of phosphates were discovered here.

Makatea was to have a unique industrial destiny in Polynesia. The island, until then forgotten by the modern world, was equipped with schools, a cinema, religious centres, various industrial installations, including a 100-metre metal jetty and even a railway, which are still today the silent witnesses of the island's singular history.

Kauehi, 40 km north-east of Fakarava, was uninhabited not so long ago. It was gradually populated for the exploitation of

copra and for several years, pearl farming has also been developed. Recently opened to tourism, Kauehi will seduce you by its authenticity as well as by the surrealist hues of its lagoon, which you can enjoy as if you were alone in the world!

🍴 Full Board 🚢 M/V Aranui 5

3 **AT SEA**

There are many ways to while away a day at sea on Aranui 5 from immersing in the Polynesian culture during workshops on weaving, dancing, cooking, wrapping a pareo, playing the ukulele, language, and even 'tatau' or relax on deck, in one of the bars, attend a lecture, browse the boutique, work out in the gym, be pampered. In Aranui's Polynesian spa, take a dip in the pool or just gaze out at the sea. When we arrive in the waters of the Marquesas, you will have to set your watches forward by half an hour.

🍴 Full Board 🚢 M/V Aranui 5

4 **NUKU HIVA (TAIOHAE / HATIEU / TAIPIVA)**

This island is the administrative centre of the Marquesas. The village of Taiohae stretches along the beach, which is like a magnificent amphitheatre created by the successive eruptions of three concentric volcanoes and dominated by towering cliffs streaked with waterfalls. In the small village, all of the government services and residences, the hospital, bank and schools,

are close by. A lovely handicraft centre is located on the beach road. Your adventure in Nuku Hiva will include a tour of the Cathedral Notre Dame, famed for its stonework and wood sculptures. In Hatiheu, you will visit the archaeological site known as Tohua Kamuihei, where public festivities once took place. Here you will see the paepae, immense stone platforms on which houses were built, and huge boulders carved with enigmatic petroglyphs. Under a giant banyan tree, enjoy a performance of traditional songs and dances, including the "Pig Dance", which originated in Nuku Hiva. For lunch, try a traditional "Umu", a Marquesan specialty where food is cooked in an underground oven.

🍴 Full Board 🚢 M/V Aranui 5

5 **NUKU HIVA ▶ UA POU (HAKAHAU)**

Legend refers to Ua Pou as the "pillars of the archipelago" and it is often called "The Cathedral Island". These names become clear as the ship docks at Hakahau Bay surrounded by 12 basalt summits soaring as high as 1100 metres. Every island has its own special ambience and Ua Pou's is one of mystery and magic. You are sure to see familiar looking faces as many of our crew members are from here. Energetic early risers can hike up the hill to the Cross for breathtaking views of the valleys and village below. The artisans' centre is a short stroll into town and the



**PAPEETE**



**M/V ARANUI 5**



**SMILING TIKI**

offerings include works featuring the unique flower stone and a variety of carvings and children's clothes. Before enjoying a Marquesan lunch, take in an excellent dance show, including the Bird Dance, a traditional Ua Pou performance.

🍴 Full Board 🚢 M/V Aranui 5

**6 UA POU ▶ UA HUKA (VAIPE'E / HANE / HOKATU)**

This island, the least inhabited in the Marquesas, is largely arid and home to many wild horses, goats and pigs. It is also a refuge for two endemic birds: the pati'oti'o and the pihiti, which are only found here. In the early morning, the Aranui will execute a point-to-point 180-degree turn in the narrow mouth of Vaipae'e's Invisible Bay. With only metres to spare on either side, it is a skillful operation undertaken by the captain and the crew and is not to be missed. From the dock, travel by 4WD to

the village of Hane. Along the way, you will stop to explore the Botanical Garden, the cultural centre Te Tumu, featuring a small museum with exquisite replicas of Marquesan artifacts, and a petroglyph museum and local woodcarvers' studios in the fishing village of Hokatu. Look for the unusual carved black and white coconuts. In Hane, where a Marquesan lunch will be served, visit the Marine Museum beforehand and in the afternoon, hike to view red tuff tikis overlooking the bay.

🍴 Full Board 🚢 M/V Aranui 5

**7 UA HUKA ▶ HIVA OA (ATUONA) ▶ TAHUATA (KOKUU)**

Atuona, principal village of Hiva Oa and the second largest in the Marquesas, was once the capital of this archipelago. Sweeping views of the harbour can be seen after a walk up the hill to the cemetery where Paul Gauguin and Jacques Brel are

buried. Explore the Gauguin Museum, a replica of his "House of Pleasure", and the Brel Museum, which showcases his plane JoJo, which was often used for medical emergencies. After lunch, enjoy a lazy afternoon on a beautiful white sand beach or take a refreshing dip in the Pacific Ocean.

🍴 Full Board 🚢 M/V Aranui 5

**8 TAHUATA ▶ HIVA OA (PUAMAU) ▶ TAHUATA (VAITAHU)**

A morning drive by 4WD takes you to Puamau to visit the most important local archaeological site for tikis in French Polynesia. Our guides will show you through the mysterious ruins at Mea'e Ipona and share stories of these haunting statues and an ancient civilization. In the afternoon, you will visit the impressive church of Tahuata which was built by the Vatican and decorated with beautiful carvings and a stained glass window featuring the



Marquesan cross. Though the smallest of the inhabited Marquesan islands, it is historically one of the richest. Tahuata has experienced it all — it was the first island in the archipelago to be discovered by Spanish explorers, who opened fire on a crowd of curious islanders in 1595, saw the arrival of missionaries in 1797 and then became the first French settlement in the Marquesas in 1842.

The locals carve exquisite tikis, sea creatures, bracelets, necklaces and more from horse and cow bone, fossilized bone, tusks and pink helmet shell.

🍴 Full Board 🚢 M/V Aranui 5

#### 9 **TAHUATA ▶ FATU HIVA (OMOA / HANAVAVE)**

Fatu Hiva is the most lush and remote island in the archipelago, and is also a centre of Marquesan crafts. In the village of Omoa, women will demonstrate the making of tapa by hammering mulberry, banyan or breadfruit bark on a log. It is then dried and painted with traditional designs. Another demonstration will show the making of the kumuhei, a bouquet used by the local women to perfume their hair. The adjacent craft centre offers tapa, carvings, hand-dyed pareo and some of the finest monoi coconut oil found in these islands. Following the visit of the village, active passengers may choose to hike from Omoa to Hanavave, a 16 km hike offering spectacular views of towering cliffs. A picnic lunch will be served at the summit. Non-hikers will sail on the Aranui to

Hanavave's Bay of Virgins, considered one of the most beautiful bays in the world.

Go ashore for a visit of the village and to welcome the hikers.

🍴 Full Board 🚢 M/V Aranui 5

#### 10 **AT SEA**

Enjoy a full day at sea.

🍴 Full Board 🚢 M/V Aranui 5

#### 11 **RANGIROA**

Rangiroa or "huge sky" is the largest atoll in French Polynesia and the second largest in the world. The seemingly endless blue lagoon attracts divers to snorkel, scuba or shoot the pass surrounded by fish of every size, colour and shape. Rangiroa is famous for its majestic manta rays. It is also home to stunning pearls in all shades and local artisans known for their fine shell jewellery. While in Rangiroa, you will have the opportunity to enjoy the magnificent lagoon on a glass bottom boat tour or swimming, snorkelling or diving. You can also visit one of the finest pearl farms in the Tuamotus to learn about these rare gems and see how they are grown.

🍴 Full Board 🚢 M/V Aranui 5

#### 12 **RANGIROA ▶ PAPEETE, TAHITI**

This is the end of our journey. It's time to say Nānā! (Goodbye) to your companions, the Polynesian staff and Aranui guides.

🍴 Breakfast • Lunch

#### **INCLUSIONS**

- Cruise transportation and related taxes (tourist tax, port tax, fuel, TDC).
- Accommodation plus 3 meals per day.
- A bottle of wine to share among 4 passengers for scheduled onboard meals.
- Lunches in local restaurants.
- Planned guided shore excursions to remote villages and archaeological sites.
- Cultural dance shows.
- Lecturers onsite and onboard.

#### **EXCLUSIONS**

- International flights and airport taxes.
- Transfers from and to the airport.
- Shipboard purchases.
- Liquour
- Gratuities
- Port taxes other than those specifically provided for.
- Personal items and expenses.

\* Depending on the time of the year your cruise is booked for, you will be taken to either Fakarava (January - April), Makatea (May - July) or Kauehi (August - December).

**BOOK NOW. PAY LATER.**  
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PITCAIRN ISLAND

## PITCAIRN & GAMBIER

11 DAY CRUISE AROUND THE TUAMOTU, GAMBIER AND PITCAIRN ISLANDS ON BOARD M/V ARANUI 5



1 **PAPEETE, TAHITI ▶ ANAA**

You will embark on the Aranui between 7:00 and 9:00 am. Departure at 12:00 pm. You will be warmly welcomed by our Polynesian staff and settle in on the ship before the big trip to Anaa.

🍴 Lunch • Dinner 🚢 M/V Aranui 5

2 **ANAA**

A small atoll with less than 500 inhabitants, Anaa wrote its way into the history books as the birthplace of Tahiti's royal family — the Pomare Dynasty. These days it's best known for its luminous jade lagoon with green clouds above from the sun rays reflecting off the water and picturesque motus with no less than eleven little islands scattered around the atoll. Most of the population is involved in copra or fishing, leading to the island's landmark sustainable fishing programme. Guests can explore the village of Tuhora and try traditional javelin throwing and handicrafts. Look out for 'feo', giant fossilized blocks of coral which are characteristic of the atoll. The shallow clear lagoon is ideal for fly fishing, an optional activity offered in Anaa.

🍴 Full Board 🚢 M/V Aranui 5

3 **ANAA ▶ AMANU**

Located 900 km east of Tahiti, Amanu is an idyllic atoll with palm-fringed crystal-clear lagoons and a charming island village. During a visit to Ikitake, guests can see local

handicrafts and explore the village's old lighthouse, church and the 19th century building with walls made of coral stones that doubles as the town hall and a shelter during cyclones. Under a century-old tree known as "tau", a buffet of local specialties will be served and a group of local singers and musicians will perform.

🍴 Full Board 🚢 M/V Aranui 5

4 **AT SEA**

Take advantage of this day at sea to relax by the boat's pool, to participate in one of our conferences or activities organized by our guides.

🍴 Full Board 🚢 M/V Aranui 5

5 **MANGAREVA**

Mangareva is the largest island in the Gambier and its main village, Rikitea, is the chief town of the archipelago. The island has a large lagoon with striking blue and green hues and is also famous for its Tahitian black pearls, which are cultivated in the pristine waters around the island. Once the cradle of Catholicism in Polynesia, a visit to the renovated St Michael's Catholic Church, where the altar is inlaid with iridescent mother-of-pearl shell, is a must.

🍴 Full Board 🚢 M/V Aranui 5

6 **MANGAREVA ▶ PITCAIRN**

More than 200 years after the Bounty arrived, Aranui 5 will call at Pitcairn. The tale

of the mutiny of His Majesty's Armed Vessel Bounty is one of the best known in history. After the master's Mate Fletcher Christian cast adrift Commander Lieutenant William Bligh in the ship's boat, the mutineers sailed the Bounty back to Tahiti then onwards to the Austral Islands, eventually seeking refuge on an uninhabited island, secure from the outside world. Pitcairn. As part of their crew, they took with them six Polynesian men and twelve women, the beginnings of the current Pitcairn community. Upon their arrival on January 17, 1790, the crew found Pitcairn to be an inaccessible and uninhabited place with fertile and warm conditions. After removing their possessions and lugging everything up the aptly named Hill Of Difficulty, the Bounty was run ashore and set alight so that no trace of her would remain visible from the sea. A village was established on the lower plateau, situated above Bounty Bay, where the village of Adamstown still stands. Although he lived in this isolated sanctuary only a few years, Fletcher Christian is fondly remembered as the founder and first leader of modern-day Pitcairn.

🍴 Full Board 🚢 M/V Aranui 5

7 **PITCAIRN**

Home to just 50 people, Pitcairn is one of the most isolated islands in the world. During their visit, guests can immerse themselves in the living history and culture

of the island, walking in the footsteps of the Bounty settlers from the landing at Bounty Bay to Adamstown; meeting the descendants of the mutineers at the curio market; visiting the grave of the last surviving mutineer John Adams; learning about an earlier Polynesian civilization and viewing artifacts from the Bounty at the Museum.

🍴 Full Board 🚢 M/V Aranui 5

#### 8 PITCAIRN ▶ AUKENA

Aukena is home to pristine lagoons perfect for black pearl farming, idyllic beaches and the first church constructed out of stone in all of French Polynesia – Saint-Raphael Church was built in 1839. Guests can visit a pearl farm, do some sightseeing, and enjoy a barbeque on a white sand beach.

🍴 Full Board 🚢 M/V Aranui 5

#### 9 AT SEA

Take advantage of this day at sea to relax by the boat's pool, to participate in one of our conferences or activities organized by our guides.

🍴 Full Board 🚢 M/V Aranui 5

#### 10 HIKUERU

Located in the Central Tuamotu Archipelago, Hikueru was once a large natural pearl oyster reserve. A cyclone in 1903 caused considerable damage to the atoll, which Jack London described in great

detail in his South Sea Tales. The first pearl farm to produce high quality Tahitian pearls was established here in the 1960s. Today, the population relies on the production of copra. Following a tasting of local fruits, guests will visit the village and a church built of coral, including an explanation of the island's legends by its inhabitants. A beach barbecue will be served for lunch with time to swim and snorkel.

🍴 Full Board 🚢 M/V Aranui 5

#### 11 AT SEA

Enjoy a full day at sea.

🍴 Full Board 🚢 M/V Aranui 5

#### 12 PAPEETE, TAHITI

Arrival around 6:00 pm. This is the end of our journey. It's time to say Nānā! (Goodbye) to your travel companions, to the Polynesian staff and Aranui guides.

🍴 Full Board 🚢 M/V Aranui 5

#### INCLUSIONS

- Cruise transportation and related taxes (tourist tax, port tax, fuel, TDC).
- Accommodation plus 3 meals per day.
- A bottle of wine to share among 4 passengers for scheduled onboard meals.
- Lunches in local restaurants.
- Planned guided shore excursions to remote villages and archaeological sites.
- Cultural dance shows.
- Lecturers onsite and onboard.

#### EXCLUSIONS

- International flights and airport taxes.
- Transfers from and to the airport.
- Shipboard purchases.
- Liquour
- Gratuities
- Port taxes other than those specifically provided for.
- Personal items and expenses.

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SNORKELLING WITH A STING RAY AND SHARK





RAROTONGA ISLAND

## LAGOON HOPPING IN THE COOK & SOCIETY ISLANDS

9 DAY CRUISE AROUND THE COOK AND SOCIETY ISLANDS ON BOARD M/V ARANUI 5



1 **PAPEETE, TAHITI ▶ RAIATEA**

You will embark on the Aranui at 5:00 pm, receive a warm welcome from our crew and sail to the Society Islands.

🍷 Dinner 🚢 M/V Aranui 5

2 **RAIATEA**

Within the Polynesian triangle, Raiatea, or Havai'i as it was originally know, is considered the cradle of Polynesian civilization. As the first island to be populated by these seafaring people, this is where all migration to the three points, New Zealand, Hawaii and Easter Island, began. Taputapuatea, a 1,000 year-old large marae complex, or open air temple, and now a UNESCO World Heritage Site, is regarded as the religious and spiritual center of all of Eastern Polynesia. From here, navigators and sailors would venture out to settle new lands. Appropriately, Raiatea, with its main town of Uturoa, is the base for most yacht charter companies.

Mount Temehani, the island's most sacred mountain, is home to the tiare apetahi, a flower found nowhere else in the world, which only blooms at dawn.

🍷 Full Board 🚢 M/V Aranui 5

3 **AT SEA**

Take advantage of this day at sea to relax or participate in one of our conferences or activities organized by our guides.

🍷 Full Board 🚢 M/V Aranui 5

4 **AITUKATI**

Another paradise island in the South Pacific, Aitutaki has it all: gorgeous white sand beaches and a stunning turquoise lagoon surrounded by motus on the barrier reef. Though considered an atoll, it has a significant large area of high land on the north side, providing sweeping views across the lagoon. According to legend, the island was settled by Ru, who sailed from Raiatea in the Society Islands in search of new lands and many Aitutakians believe they are descended from this seafaring warrior. Today, they are known for their charm, easy going attitude and hospitality. Whether relaxing on the beach, snorkeling the crystal-clear lagoon in search of colorful tropical fish and corals, or discovering remnants of an ancient past, Aitutaki offers the best of both worlds.

🍷 Full Board 🚢 M/V Aranui 5

5 **AITUKATI ▶ ATIU**

Home to approximately 400 warrior people, there are few untouched places left in the world like Atiu. Over 8 million years old, Atiu, the 3rd largest island of the Cook Islands is one big adventure playground, ancient and unspoiled. Rich in culture and history, Atiu is an eco-lovers paradise. There are numerous limestone caves dotted around the island, which are continually being carved out by the interaction of fresh and salt water. Life is pretty much the same as it

was some 25 years ago and offers therefore a really genuine insight into island living.

🍷 Full Board 🚢 M/V Aranui 5

6 **ATIU ▶ RAROTONGA**

The largest and most populous, Rarotonga is the hub of the Cook Islands, with its chief town, Avarua, as its capital. Settled by Polynesians from French Polynesia around the 9th century, the bond with Tahiti and her islands has always remained strong. Today, as modern Pacific people, the high spirited Cook Islanders are a cosmopolitan blend of Western influence and ancient Polynesian heritage. Many important archeological sites can be found here, such as Arai Te Tonga, the most sacred marae in Rarotonga, and nearby, the Ara Metua, a thousandyear-old interior road, paved with basalt or coral slabs, that once circled the island and of which, about two thirds still exists. Highland Paradise, sometimes known as "the lost village" is now a cultural center consisting of old and faithfully rebuilt traditional structures, offering guided tours of the once large settlement site, and re-enactments and cultural demonstrations.

🍷 Full Board 🚢 M/V Aranui 5

7 **AT SEA**

Enjoy a full day at sea. Relax or participate in conferences or activities.

🍷 Full Board 🚢 M/V Aranui 5

8

**BORA BORA**

Bora Bora. A name that evokes visions of paradise on Earth. A playground known throughout the world. For two days, Aranui 5 will be anchored across from the village of Vaitape, where you will have ample time to discover how and why the island has earned its much-deserved reputation. You will discover the Pearl of the Pacific after a picnic on the paradisiac Motu Tapu.

🍴 Full Board 🚢 M/V Aranui 5

9

**BORA BORA ▶ PAPEETE, TAHITI**

This is the end of our journey. It's time to say Nānā! (Goodbye) to your travel companions, to the Polynesian staff and Aranui guides.

🍴 Breakfast • Lunch 🚢 M/V Aranui 5

**INCLUSIONS**

- Cruise transportation and related taxes (tourist tax, port tax, fuel, TDC).
- Accommodation plus 3 meals per day.
- A bottle of wine to share among 4 passengers for scheduled onboard meals.
- Lunches in local restaurants.
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- Personal items and expenses.



RAIATEA



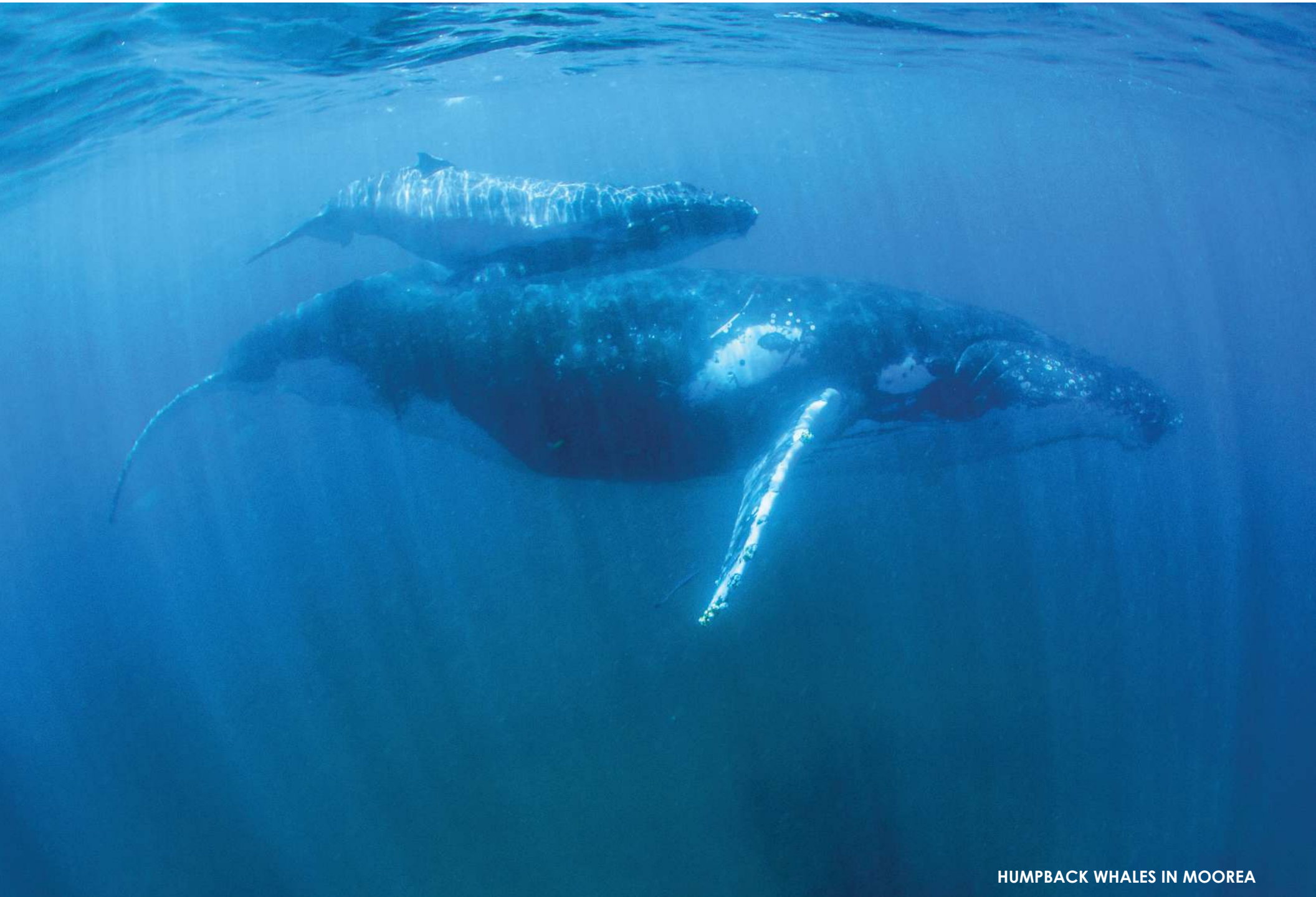
BORA BORA



PAPEETE

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HUMPBACK WHALES IN MOOREA



CULTURAL PERFORMANCE IN NUKU HIVA

## MARQUESAS ARTS FESTIVAL

13 DAY CRUISE AROUND THE MARQUESAS, TUAMOTU AND SOCIETY ISLANDS ON BOARD M/V ARANUI 5



1 **PAPEETE, TAHITI ▶ FAKARAVA**

Depart from Papeete in the morning, receive a warm welcome onboard from our crew and sail to Fakarava atoll in the Tuamotu archipelago.

🍴 Lunch • Dinner 🚢 M/V Aranui 5

2 **FAKARAVA, MAKATEA OR KAUEHI \***

Fakarava, 488 km northeast of Tahiti, is a huge atoll that is part of a UNESCO "biosphere reserve" because of its rich eco-system, with an abundance of rare flora and fauna. Makatea, 210 km northeast of Tahiti, is an elevated atoll, like a fortress standing on the ocean with its 70 m high cliffs. This raised atoll is home to only 94 inhabitants who have decided not to leave their beloved island and its special history. At the end of the 19th century, large quantities of phosphates were discovered here.

Makatea was to have a unique industrial destiny in Polynesia. The island, until then forgotten by the modern world, was equipped with schools, a cinema, religious centres, various industrial installations, including a 100-metre metal jetty and even a railway, which are still today the silent witnesses of the island's singular history.

Kauehi, 40 km north-east of Fakarava, was uninhabited not so long ago. It was

gradually populated for the exploitation of copra and for several years, pearl farming has also been developed. Recently opened to tourism, Kauehi will seduce you by its authenticity as well as by the surrealist hues of its lagoon, which you can enjoy as if you were alone in the world!

🍴 Full Board 🚢 M/V Aranui 5

3 **AT SEA**

There are many ways to while away a day at sea on Aranui 5 from immersing in the Polynesian culture during workshops on weaving, dancing, cooking, wrapping a pareo, playing the ukulele, language, and even 'tatau' or relax on deck, in one of the bars, attend a lecture, browse the boutique, work out in the gym, be pampered in Aranui's Polynesian spa, take a dip in the pool or just gaze out at the sea. When we arrive in the waters of the Marquesas, you will have to set your watches forward by half an hour.

🍴 Full Board 🚢 M/V Aranui 5

4 **NUKU HIVA (TAIOHAE / HATIEU / TAIPIVAI)**

This island is the administrative centre of the Marquesas. The village of Taiohae stretches along the beach, which is like a magnificent amphitheatre created by the successive eruptions of three concentric volcanoes and dominated by towering cliffs streaked with waterfalls. In the small village, all of the government services and

residences, the hospital, bank and schools, are close by. A lovely handicraft centre is located on the beach road.

Your adventure in Nuku Hiva will include a tour of the Cathedral Notre Dame, famed for its stonework and wood sculptures. In Hatiheu, you will visit the archaeological site known as Tohua Kamuihei, where public festivities once took place. Here you will see the paepae, immense stone platforms on which houses were built, and huge boulders carved with enigmatic petroglyphs. Under a giant banyan tree, enjoy a performance of traditional songs and dances, including the "Pig Dance", which originated in Nuku Hiva. For lunch, try a traditional "Umu", a Marquesan specialty where food is cooked in an underground oven.

🍴 Full Board 🚢 M/V Aranui 5

5 **NUKU HIVA**

An extra day in Nuku Hiva to attend cultural performances of the Marquesas Arts Festival.

🍴 Full Board 🚢 M/V Aranui 5

6 **NUKU HIVA ▶ UA POU (HAKAHAU)**

Legend refers to Ua Pou as the "pillars of the archipelago" and it is often called "The Cathedral Island". These names become clear as the ship docks at Hakahau Bay surrounded by 12 basalt

summits soaring as high as 1,100 metres. Every island has its own special ambience and Ua Pou's is one of mystery and magic. You are sure to see familiar looking faces as many of our crew members are from here. Energetic early risers can hike up the hill to the Cross for breathtaking views of the valleys and village below. The artisans' centre is a short stroll into town and the offerings include works featuring the unique flower stone and a variety of carvings and children's clothes. Before enjoying a Marquesan lunch, take in an excellent dance show, including the Bird Dance, a traditional Ua Pou performance.

🍴 Full Board 🚢 M/V Aranui 5

#### 7 **UA POU ▶ UA HUKA (VAIPE'E / HANE / HOKATU)**

This island, the least inhabited in the Marquesas, is largely arid and home to many wild horses, goats and pigs. It is also a refuge for two endemic birds: the pati'oti'o and the pihiti, which are only found here. In the early morning, the Aranui will execute a point-to-point 180-degree turn in the narrow mouth of Vaipae'e's Invisible Bay. With only metres to spare on either side, it is a skillful operation undertaken by the captain and the crew and is not to be missed. From the dock, travel by 4WD to the village of Hane. Along the way, you will stop to explore the Botanical Garden, the cultural centre Te Tumu, featuring a

small museum with exquisite replicas of Marquesan artifacts, and a petroglyph museum and local woodcarvers' studios in the fishing village of Hokatu. Look for the unusual carved black and white coconuts. In Hane, where a Marquesan lunch will be served, visit the Marine Museum beforehand and in the afternoon, hike to view red tuff tikis overlooking the bay.

🍴 Full Board 🚢 M/V Aranui 5

#### 8 **UA POU ▶ HIVA OA (ATUONA) ▶ TAHUATA (KOKUU)**

Atuona, principal village of Hiva Oa and the second largest in the Marquesas, was once the capital of this archipelago. Sweeping views of the harbour can be seen after a walk up the hill to the cemetery where Paul Gauguin and Jacques Brel are buried. Explore the Gauguin Museum, a replica of his "House of Pleasure", and the Brel Museum, which showcases his plane JoJo, which was often used for medical emergencies. After lunch onboard, enjoy a lazy afternoon on a beautiful white sand beach or take a refreshing dip in the Pacific Ocean.

🍴 Full Board 🚢 M/V Aranui 5

#### 9 **TAHUATA ▶ HIVA OA (PUAMAU) ▶ TAHUATA (VAITAHU)**

A morning drive by 4WD takes you to Puamau to visit the most important local archeological site for tikis in French Polynesia.

Our guides will show you through the mysterious ruins at Mea'e lipona and share stories of these haunting statues and an ancient civilisation. In the afternoon, you will visit the impressive church of Tahuata which was built by the Vatican and decorated with beautiful carvings and a stained glass window featuring the Marquesan cross. Though the smallest of the inhabited Marquesan islands, it is historically one of the richest. Tahuata has experienced it all — it was the first island in the archipelago to be discovered by Spanish explorers, who opened fire on a crowd of curious islanders in 1595, saw the arrival of missionaries in 1797 and then became the first French settlement in the Marquesas in 1842. The locals carve exquisite tikis, sea creatures, bracelets, necklaces and more from horse and cow bone, fossilised bone, tusks and pink helmet shell.

🍴 Full Board 🚢 M/V Aranui 5

#### 10 **TAHUATA ▶ FATU HIVA (OMOA / HANAVAVE)**

Fatu Hiva is the most lush and remote island in the archipelago, and is also a centre of Marquesan crafts. In the village of Omoa, women will demonstrate the making of tapa by hammering mulberry, banyan or breadfruit bark on a log. It is then dried and painted with traditional designs. Another demonstration will show the making of the kumuhei, a bouquet used by



the local women to perfume their hair. The adjacent craft centre offers tapa, carvings, hand-dyed pareo and some of the finest monoï coconut oil found in these islands. Following the visit of the village, active passengers may choose to hike from Omoa to Hanavave, a 16 km hike offering spectacular views of towering cliffs. A picnic lunch will be served at the summit. Non-hikers will sail on the Aranui to Hanavave's Bay of Virgins, considered one of the most beautiful bays in the world. Go ashore for a visit of the village and to welcome the hikers.

🍴 Full Board 🚢 M/V Aranui 5

### 11 AT SEA

Take advantage of this day at sea to relax or participate in one of our conferences or activities organized by our guides.

🍴 Full Board 🚢 M/V Aranui 5

### 12 RANGIROA

Rangiroa or "huge sky" is the largest atoll in French Polynesia and the second largest in the world. The seemingly endless blue lagoon attracts divers to snorkel, scuba or shoot the pass surrounded by fish of every size, colour and shape. Rangiroa is famous for its majestic manta rays. It is also home to stunning pearls in all shades and local artisans known for their fine shell jewellery. While in Rangiroa, you will have the opportunity to enjoy the magnificent

lagoon on a glass bottom boat tour or swimming, snorkelling or diving. You can also visit one of the finest pearl farms in the Tuamotus to learn about these rare gems and see how they are grown.

🍴 Full Board 🚢 M/V Aranui 5

### 13 RANGIROA ▶ PAPEETE, TAHITI

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🍴 Breakfast • Lunch 🚢 M/V Aranui 5

#### INCLUSIONS

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- Personal items and expenses.

\* Depending on the time of the year your cruise is booked for, you will be taken to either Fakarava (January - April), Makatea (May - July) or Kauehi (August - December).

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CONRAD BORA BORA NUI

## MOOREA & BORA BORA HONEYMOON GETAWAY

10 DAY HONEYMOON GETAWAY IN MOOREA AND BORA BORA



1 **PAPEETE, TAHITI ▶ MOOREA**

Upon landing in Papeete, you will be transferred to the pier where you board a ferry to Moorea (approximately 30 minutes).

Stay in leisure for 5 nights at Hotel Hilton Lagoon Resort & Spa (5\*) in a Garden Pool Bungalow with daily breakfast.

**Honeymoon Amenity:** 1 complimentary bottle of champagne (37.5 cl) upon arrival, Circle Island Tour and Belvedere Lookout Point.

🍽️ Breakfast

🏨 Hotel Hilton Moorea Lagoon Resort & Spa

6 **MOOREA ▶ BORA BORA**

Fly from Moorea to Bora Bora.

10 Stay in leisure for 4 nights at Conrad Bora Bora Nui (5\*) in an Overwater Villa with daily breakfast and dinner.

**Honeymoon Amenity:** 1 complimentary bottle of champagne (37.5 cl) upon arrival and special flower arrangements on bed. Romantic Lagoon Tour with lunch on a motu.

🍽️ Half Board 🏨 Conrad Bora Bora Nui

10 **BORA BORA ▶ PAPEETE, TAHITI**

Fly from Bora Bora to Papeete. In Papeete you will transfer flights and fly back home.

🍽️ Breakfast

**INCLUSIONS**

- VIP welcome on arrival with fast track, connection assistance and a flower lei upon international arrival.
- Private transfers and domestic flights.
- Accommodation at two 5 star resorts.
- Honeymoon amenities at each resort.
- Meals as mentioned in the itinerary.
- Personal concierge service while at destination.
- Business class lounge access upon departure from Papeete.
- All fees and taxes except city taxes which is to be paid on the spot upon check-out.

**EXCLUSIONS**

- International flights and airport taxes.
- Gratuities
- Personal items and expenses.

**This package is 100% customizable and no set itinerary is available.**

**BOOK NOW. PAY LATER.**  
ASK US ABOUT TRIP FINANCING  
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