



THE JOURNEY OF A LIFETIME



Makatea Atoll, Tuamotu Islands



Rapa, Austral Islands



Aitutaki, Cook Islands



Mangareva & Aukena, Gambier Islands



Pitcairn, Pitcairn Islands

A STILL UNDISCOVERED PARADISE

Mana, the spiritual life force bestowed by the gods upon all of Polynesia. It cannot be seen, heard or touched. It can only be felt, enveloping and emanating from all of nature and man, by those who are willing to embrace it.

No matter how often one visits Tahiti and her islands, there is always something new, different and unexpected to be discovered. With 118 islands making up five distinctive archipelagos spread across nearly one million square miles of ocean, once is never enough to fully grasp the richness and diversity of Polynesia and her people, from their culture, customs and artistry to geographically unique languages and topographies. One common thread that remains true to them all is their warmth and hospitality, drawing visitors into a sense of belonging.

Today, Aranui Cruises is proud to offer access to each island group, including Pitcairn Islands and the Cook Islands, on four unique itineraries to some of the most remote and rarely visited places in the world.

Step out of the ordinary to the off-the-beaten path and be prepared to be enlightened and amazed by the wonders of all of French Polynesia.



Fatu Hiva, Marquesas Islands





THE ARANUI EXPERIENCE

Soft adventure. The road less traveled. Cultural immersion. Discovering the heart and soul of Polynesia of olden days. This encapsulates the Aranui experience.

As the oldest Tahitian cruise company in French Polynesia, Aranui Cruises has been introducing the enchanting Marquesas Islands to avid adventurers for 35 years on what often has been referred to as the trip of a lifetime.

The vessel, Aranui 5, is unique in every way. This custom-built passenger-freighter, launched in 2015, combines the comforts and modern conveniences of a cruise ship while providing a public service to remote areas, supplying tiny communities so far from civilization. This small vessel accommodates just 230 passengers, allowing our international clientele the opportunity to get to know one another in an intimate and casual setting.





THE ARANUI WAY

From its inception to the present day, and through successive Aranui ships, the concept of Aranui Cruises has remained the same: a traditional and authentic Polynesian offering by Polynesians for the benefit of Polynesia. In that spirit, nearly all of the staff and crew are Polynesian, hailing from various islands of the five archipelagos and it is their approach and perspective in introducing their home to the outside world that creates an atmosphere unlike any other cruise sailing these waters. Whether in the public spaces, at special dinner events, as part of the onboard entertainment or assisting you from ship to shore on our tenders, you will become well acquainted with these lively and talented crewmembers. Though some can be a little shy at first, once you strike up a conversation, you will discover why they are an integral part of the Aranui experience.

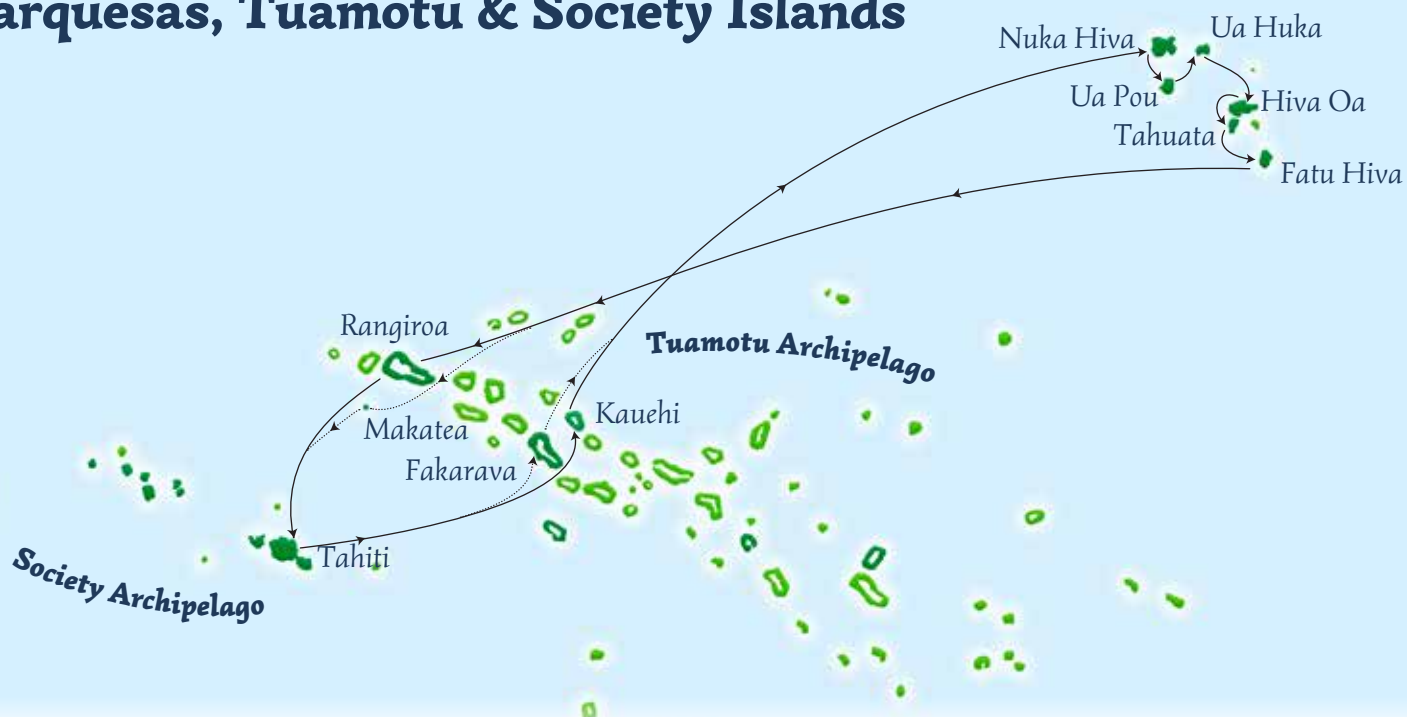




IN SEARCH OF THE MARQUESAS ISLANDS.

“Te Henua Enana”, The Land of Men

Marquesas, Tuamotu & Society Islands



ITINERARY KAUEHI – RANGIROA

Day 1, Saturday	Depart Tahiti (Papeete)
Day 2, Sunday	Kauehi
Day 3, Monday	At Sea
Day 4, Tuesday	Nuku Hiva
Day 5, Wednesday	Ua Pou
Day 6, Thursday	Ua Huka
Day 7, Friday	Hiva Oa
Day 8, Saturday	Hiva Oa – Tahuata
Day 9, Sunday	Fatu Hiva
Day 10, Monday	At Sea
Day 11, Tuesday	Rangiroa
Day 12, Wednesday	Return Tahiti (Papeete)

Makatea will substitute Rangiroa on Day 11 on select sailings

ITINERARY FAKARAVA – RANGIROA

Day 1, Saturday	Depart Tahiti (Papeete)
Day 2, Sunday	Fakarava
Day 3, Monday	At Sea
Day 4, Tuesday	Nuku Hiva
Day 5, Wednesday	Ua Pou
Day 6, Thursday	Ua Huka
Day 7, Friday	Hiva Oa
Day 8, Saturday	Hiva Oa – Tahuata
Day 9, Sunday	Fatu Hiva
Day 10, Monday	At Sea
Day 11, Tuesday	Rangiroa
Day 12, Wednesday	Return Tahiti (Papeete)

Mythical and mystical. A land that has beckoned explorers and inspired writers, painters and artists. A rugged and breathtaking landscape of peaks, valleys, plateaus and cliffs. A nation of proud and formidable warriors long ago, distinct from Tahitians, with their own language and culture. A people where a simple smile will win them over. The Marquesas Islands is a world onto itself.

While Aranui Cruises is now sailing to other destinations in Eastern Polynesia, this remote archipelago, located nearly 1,000

miles northeast of Tahiti, has always been its primary focus. Over the last four decades, Aranui ships, as the principal transporter of freight to the Marquesas, has been a lifeline to the Islanders. The creation of Aranui Cruises in 1984 has provided access to all six inhabited islands to over 60,000 international passengers, contributing to the revitalization and discovery of the once dormant Marquesan culture.

According to Marquesan legend, the creation of the archipelago represents a house built by the god Oatea for his wife Atanua.



Hiva Oa The Ridge

Atuona, this island's principal village and the second largest in the Marquesas, was once the capital of this archipelago. Adjacent to the town, a *tohua*, a huge set of ceremonial platforms, has been perfectly restored, showing the places where chieftains and priests sat, and a narrow ditch which held prisoners for sacrifices.

A morning drive by 4-WD takes you to Puamau to visit the most important local archeological site for *tikis*, ancient, human-like religious sculptures, at Mea'e Iipona. Our guides will show you through these mysterious ruins and share stories of these haunting statues and an ancient civilization. In Atuona, sweeping views of the harbor highlight 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.



Ua Pou *The Pillars*

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 3,745 feet. 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.

For the energetic early risers, you can hike up the hill to the Cross for breathtaking views of the valleys and village below. The artisans’ center is an easy walk and the offerings include works featuring the unique flower stone and a variety of carvings and children’s apparel. Before enjoying a Marquesan lunch, take in an excellent dance performance, including the Bird Dance, traditional to Ua Pou.

Photos, top to bottom, left to right: Page 8: Bird Dance, Ua Pou; Mea’e Ipona, Hiva Oa; Nuku Hiva; Church, Nuku Hiva. Page 9: Children playing, Ua Pou; Paul Gauguin’s Grave, Hiva Oa; Petroglyph, Nuku Hiva



A LAND OF INSPIRATION

For the last two centuries, the allure of the Marquesas has enticed numerous westerners to her shores. From writers and artists to explorers and adventurers, these islands have provided refuge and solace. Paul Gauguin spent the last years of his life in Hiva Oa, where he created some of his greatest masterpieces. Herman Melville and Robert Louis Stevenson produced novels inspired by their experiences in the islands. Belgian singer Jacques Brel wrote songs of the Marquesas during his time there.



Nuku Hiva *The Beams & Rafters*

This island is the administrative center of the Marquesas. The village of Taiohae stretches along the beach of a magnificent amphitheater created by the successive eruptions of three concentric volcanoes and dominated by towering cliffs streaked with waterfalls. All of the government services and residence, hospital, bank and schools are close by. A lovely handicraft center 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; 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”, original to Nuku Hiva. A traditional “Umu”, a Marquesan specialty, where food is cooked in an underground oven, will be served for lunch.



Fatu Hiva *The Roof*

The most lush and remote in the archipelago, Fatu Hiva is also a center 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 will be dried and then painted with ancient traditional designs. Another demonstration will show the making of the *kumuhei*, an herbal bundle unique to this island used by the local women to perfume their hair. The adjacent craft center offers tapa, carvings, hand-dyed pareo and some of the finest monoi coconut oil.

Following the visit of the village, athletic passengers may choose to hike from Omoa to Hanavave, a 10 mile trek offering spectacular views of towering cliffs. A picnic lunch will be served at the summit. Non-hikers will sail on the Aranui to Hanavave on the 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.



Ua Huka *The Gods Reserve*

This island, where the Marquesas' first airstrip was built in 1972, is largely arid and home to many wild horses, goats and pigs. It is also the least inhabited in the Marquesas and is a refuge for two endemic birds: the *pati'oti'o* and the *pihiti*, only found here. In the early morning, the Aranui will execute a point-to-point 180-degree turn in the narrow mouth of Vaipae's Invisible Bay. With only feet to spare on either side, it is a skillful operation by the captain and the crew not to be missed.

From the dock, travel by 4-WD to the village of Hane. Along the way, you will stop to explore the Botanical Garden, the cultural center 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, a hike to view red tuff tikis overlooking the bay, is available.



Tahuata A Ray of Light

Though the smallest of the inhabited Marquesan islands, it is historically one of the richest. Tahuata has experienced it all — as the first island in the archipelago to be discovered by Spanish explorers, who opened fire on a crowd of curious islanders, killing about 200, in 1595 to the arrival of missionaries in 1797 to the first French settlement in the Marquesas in 1842. The local men, and many of the women here carve exquisite tikis, sea creatures, bracelets, necklaces and more from horse and cow bone, fossilized bone, tusks and pink helmet shell.

The impressive church, built by the Vatican, and decorated with beautiful carvings and a stained glass window featuring the Marquesan cross, is well worth the visit.



THE ART OF TATTOO

The modern word tattoo originates from “tatau” in early Polynesian history. Practiced throughout all the island groups, the Marquesan designs represent gods, mythology and nature. In tradition, tattooing began shortly after birth and continued to mark rites of passage. A Marquesan man’s status could be read from his tattoos. Men were generally heavily covered, with women tattooed on the hands, arms, lower body and behind the ear. Banned by the French from 1858 until 1985, it is flourishing and influencing the art worldwide.



Tattooed Man from Nuka Hiva, Wilhelm Gottlieb Tilesius von Tilenau, in Krusenstern, A. J. von, Voyage Round the World in the years 1803, 1804, 1805, & 1806. . . Richard Belgrave Hoppner (trans.), J. Murray, 1813, Atlas: plate 10.

Photos, top to bottom, left to right: Page 10: Kumuhei, Fatu Hiva; Church, Tahuata; Bone and wood carvings, Tahuata; Vaipae Bay, Ua Huka. Page 11: The Bay of Virgins, Fatu Hiva; Botanical Garden, Ua Huka.

Fakarava

Designated as a UNESCO Biosphere Reserve for the preservation of rare species and the second largest atoll in French Polynesia, Fakarava has remained virtually untouched. From its stunning lagoon and glistening white sand beaches to its rich ecosystem, it is home to unique birds, plants and marine life.

You will have time to discover the small village of Rotoava, the church, built of coral and the local arts and crafts. Bicycle rentals are available if you wish to venture to the old lighthouse at the airport or enjoy a day of relaxation, sun and sand, swimming and snorkeling among colorful tropical fish.

Kauehi

Part of the commune of Fakarava, Kauehi is generally overlooked for her better known sister to the south. Yet, this seldom visited atoll offers an unspoiled scenery of white sand beaches and a beautiful clear lagoon in varying shades of turquoise and blues, with a feel of old traditional Polynesia. With fewer than 600 inhabitants, living mainly in the village of Tearavero, and the scarcity of tourists, has allowed their Paumotu culture to remain unaffected. Designated as a UNESCO Biosphere Reserve due to its association with Fakarava, Kauehi is also a nesting place for turtles.

After sailing through the pass of Arikitamiro, the Aranui will be anchored in the lagoon of Kauehi, across the village of Tearavero. This will be a time for relaxation before a full day at sea to the Marquesas, with the opportunity to visit the village and its church, or lounge, swim and snorkel at a white sand beach.



Photos, top to bottom: Light House, Fakarava; Village of Tearavero, Kauehi; Beach and lagoon, Rangiroa; Cliff and caves, Makatea



Rangiroa

The largest atoll in French Polynesia, Rangiroa or “huge sky” is the most visited of the Tuamotu.

The endless lagoon attracts divers to snorkel, scuba or shoot the pass surrounded by fish of every size, color and shape. Rangiroa is famous for its majestic Manta rays. It is also home to stunning pearls in all shades of blue and the local artisans are known for their fine shell jewelry.

While in Rangiroa, you will have the opportunity to enjoy the magnificent lagoon on a glass bottom boat tour; swimming, snorkeling or diving, or visit one of the finest pearl farms in the Tuamotu to learn about these rare gems and see how they are grown.

Makatea

Surrounded by spectacular cliffs, rising 260 feet above sea level, this second largest raised atoll in French Polynesia is a sharp contrast from the typical low-lying coral-reef formation with a lagoon in the middle. It is also the only atoll in the Tuamotu with potable water which comes from its underground caves. Once a thriving island due to phosphate mining in the first half of the 20th century, it was mostly deserted with only a few families remaining to keep watch. Today, the fewer than 100 inhabitants live from the culture of copra, fishing and the trade of coconut crabs. As you approach the old port of Temoa, remnants of the loading dyke are still visible. Open pits from phosphate extraction dot the island and the only railroad ever built in French Polynesia can still be seen. Visit the abandoned village of Vaitepaua and mining plant, hike to higher grounds for spectacular views of the island or take a refreshing dip in an underground cave.

At every port, guests can enjoy an array of included excursions. or a bit more adventure, there are plenty of optional activities from which to choose.

The following can be booked on board and at an additional cost.

Diving in French Polynesia

Some of the best diving in world can be found in French Polynesia. The three distinct topographies offer a different experience each time, with diving available on five islands. It is offered in Fakarava and Rangiroa, Hiva Oa and Tubuai for advanced certified divers only. All levels are welcome in Hiva Oa for the afternoon dive and in Bora Bora as well.. From sharks, manta rays, dolphins, turtles or whales, depending on the island and time of year, to an abundance of colorful tropical fish and coral, this paradise is a diver's playground.

Fishing in the Marquesas

Due to its remoteness and isolation in the South Pacific and with an abundance of marine life, the Marquesas is a fisherman's paradise. *Mokai Nui 2*, a four-person boat, offers deep sea fishing outings with a seasoned crew at four different ports. Tuna, wahoo fish and bonita are some of the types of fish that can be found here. Experience the thrill of catching your dinner, which our chef will turn into a delicious dish for you and your friends.

4x4 guided tour in Ua Pou

To fully appreciate and discover this island, two 4 X 4 guided tours are offered.

On the morning excursion, travel the eastern coast from the main village of Hakahau to the bay and valley of Hohoi. Along the way, explore the valley of Hakamoui, also known as the King's Valley, where the island's last king is buried on a site that is considered "tabu" (forbidden). From there, breathtaking scenery until reaching Hohoi, which was the principal village until 1845. In its valley, visit the Tohua Mauia, an archaeological site from the 16th and 18th centuries. On the beach, search for "flower stones", for which Ua Pou is known.

The afternoon excursion will take you along the western coast from Hakahau to Hakahetau, the main village until 1920. A stop above the airport reveals a unique landing strip, known in French Polynesia for its difficult access. Discover the Bay of Sharks, or Hakanahi Bay, including a rock formation on the other side that tightrope walkers used to get across the shark-infested waters below. From the village of Hakahetau, a hike to the base of the peak Poumaka, 3000 feet high, will let you see up close what makes Ua Pou iconic.

OPTIONAL EXCURSIONS



Private tour in Fatu Hiva

Fatu Hiva is known for its 10 mile hike from the village of Omoa to the village of Hanavave. If you don't feel like walking, a three hour crossing by 4 wheel-drive is an option. Discover some of the most spectacular scenery in the Marquesas, including a view from above of the Bay of Virgins. A picnic lunch will be served at the top of the mountain before going down the hairpin road to Hanavave below.

Bike rental in Fakarava

In Fakarava, you may discover the atoll on foot or if you wish to explore a little further, bicycles or E-bikes are available for rental.

Glass Bottom Boat in Rangiroa

For those who don't dive or snorkel, enjoy the extraordinary underwater world of Rangiroa's blue lagoon without getting wet on a glass bottom boat tour. Guests will discover the colorful coral and tropical fish that call the atoll home with the chance of a cameo from a shark or turtle.

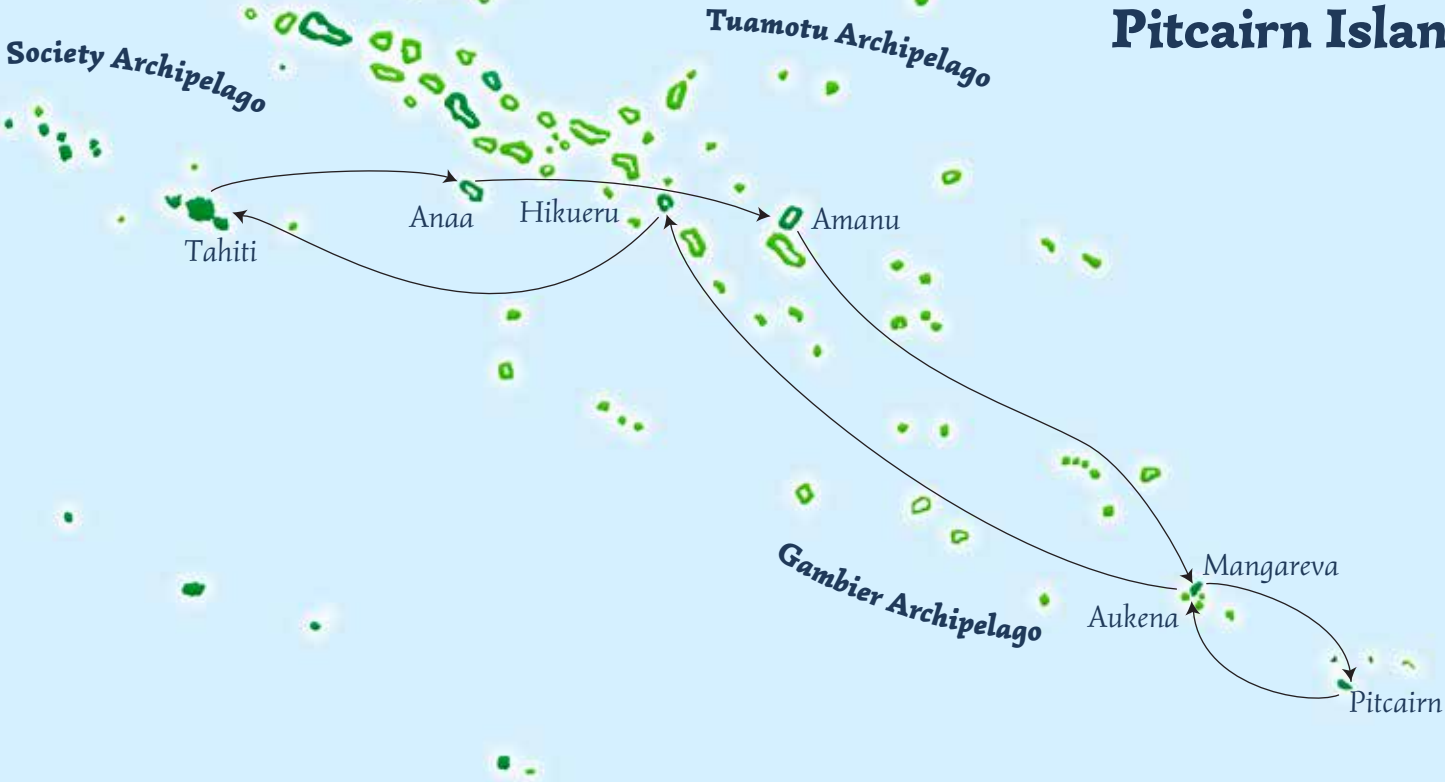




IN SEARCH OF THE EASTERN POLYNESIA.

Introducing our new Itineraries

Tuamotu, Gambier & Pitcairn Islands



ITINERARY

Day 1, Saturday	Depart Tahiti (Papeete)	Day 7, Friday	Pitcairn
Day 2, Sunday	Anaa	Day 8, Saturday	Aukena
Day 3, Monday	Amanu	Day 9, Sunday	At Sea
Day 4, Tuesday	At Sea	Day 10, Monday	Hikueru
Day 5, Wednesday	Mangareva	Day 11, Tuesday	At Sea
Day 6, Thursday	Pitcairn	Day 12, Wednesday	Return Tahiti (Papeete)

Known as the Polynesian Triangle, spanning from New Zealand to Hawaii to Easter Island, and with French Polynesia right in the middle, this vast swath of Mother Earth may appear similar on the surface. And while its origins may have begun as a single seedling, time and distance has created distinct branches in a long family tree. While Tahiti's surrounding islands such as the Society and western Tuamotu Islands are a great place to start, as one moves away from the center, the subtleties become clearer.

With the addition of three new itineraries, Aranui Cruises is expanding its reach beyond the Marquesas Islands to the North. From our cousins to the West in the Cook Islands, those to the South in the Austral, Gambier and Pitcairn Islands and to the East in the Tuamotu Islands, let us introduce you. You will be thrilled to make their acquaintance.



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 program. Guests can explore the village of Tukahora 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.

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.



Amanu

Located 560 miles east of Tahiti, Amanu is an idyllic atoll with palm-fringed crystal clear lagoons and a charming island village. A short walk from the dock leads to Ikitake, where you will be welcomed by a dance performance featuring some of the children. During your visit, you will discover local handicrafts, most notably their workmanship using sea shells, and explore the village’s ancient traditional lighthouse, the old and the new St. Paul’s church, a large fish park and the 19th Century building with walls made of coral stones that doubles as the town hall and a shelter during cyclones. In the plaza, under a 100 year old tree known as a “tau”, a buffet lunch of island specialties will be served accompanied by a group of local singers and musicians.

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.

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-Raphaël Church was built in 1839. Guests can visit a pearl farm, do some sightseeing and enjoy a barbecue on a white sand beach.



Photos, top to bottom: Javelin contest, Anaa; Weaving demonstration, Amanu; St. Michael’s Church, Mangareva; Island of Aukena.



Pitcairn

More than 200 years after the *Bounty* arrived, *Aranui 5* will call at 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 civilisation and viewing artefacts from the *Bounty* at the Museum.



FOLLOW IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF MUTINEERS

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.

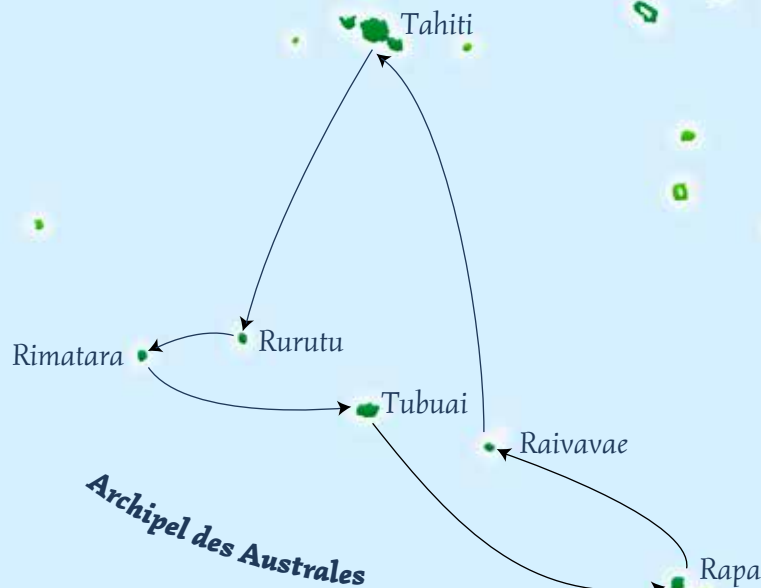
*After removing their possessions and lugging everything up the aptly named Hill Of Difficulty, the *Bounty* was run ashore and set alight so that no trace of her would remain visible from the sea. A village was established on the lower plateau, situated above Bounty Bay, where the village of Adamstown 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.



Photos, top to bottom: Getting around; Pitcairn Island; Hill of Difficulty; St. Paul's Pool; Cannon from the *Bounty*

Austral Islands



ITINERARY

Day 1, Saturday	Depart Tahiti (Papeete)	Day 7, Friday	Rapa
Day 2, Sunday	Rurutu	Day 8, Saturday	Rapa
Day 3, Monday	Rurutu	Day 9, Sunday	At Sea
Day 4, Tuesday	Rimatara	Day 10, Monday	Raivavae
Day 5, Wednesday	Tubuai	Day 11, Tuesday	At Sea
Day 6, Thursday	At Sea	Day 12, Wednesday	Return Tahiti (Papeete)

A LITTLE KNOWN PARADISE

Located just a little over 300 miles south of Tahiti, yet so often overlooked and seldom visited, the Austral Islands opens up a new perspective on the evolution of Polynesia. Made up of five inhabited islands, each one offers a unique experience, from its diverse topographies, its distinct culture and languages to its historical significance in the development of the Polynesian

Triangle. Ancient oral history recounts the migration and settlement of the Cook Islands by the people of Tubuai and of Easter Island by those of Rapa. As *Aranui 5* sails to all five islands in the Austral archipelago, discover at each stop, what makes it a must see destination for the discerning traveler.

Rurutu

One of two of the largest raised atolls in French Polynesia, the island formation of Rurutu is not what one expects to see in the South Pacific. Basaltic and limestone cliffs dotted with caves where the islanders once lived, a volcanic interior with a lush tropical jungle, white sand beaches and beautiful bays create stunning visuals. The island's fertile soil and cooler climate are ideal for growing cabbage, lettuce and potatoes as well as coffee and taro. Archeological digs have uncovered habitation sites, council platforms and marae temples in the village of Vitaria, showing man's presence around 900 A.D. Rurutu is known throughout Polynesia for the exceptionally fine quality of its woven products, creating magnificent hats, bags and baskets, or mats from pandanus leaves and other natural materials. From August to October each year, humpback whales can be seen and heard in Rurutu, where they come south to mate and give birth. As *Aranui 5* will be here in September, this should be a feast for your eyes and ears.



Rimatara

A small disc shaped volcanic plateau, Rimatara's highest point is less than 350 feet. This tranquil little island, last in the archipelago to be discovered by the outside world in the 19th century, has retained its old traditional ways, including its own dialect known as Rimatara. It is also home to two endemic birds, the stunning and colorful Ura or Kuhl's lorikeet, which can be found in the Cook Islands as well, and the Rimatara reed warbler. After walking through a purification smoke, an ancient welcome tradition, discover the villages of Amaru, Anapoto and Matuaura as you circle around the island.

Photos, top to bottom: Cliffs, Rurutu; Caves, Rurutu; Beach and raised coral, Rimatara



Tubuai

The largest island and administrative capital of the Austral, Tubuai's immense, shallow lagoon of blues and greens is twice the size of the island. According to oral history, the people of Tubuai, excellent navigators in their own right, settled parts of the Cook Islands. Eventually, the Cook Islanders sailed south, establishing the original tribes of New Zealand, whose descendants are known today as the Maori. Tubuai was also the first stop for Fletcher Christian and the mutineers of the *Bounty*, as they were seeking a place to hide. An attempt to settle on the island and the construction of Fort George, manned with a canon and swivel gun, proved futile as constant skirmishes between the mutineers and the islanders broke out. After two months, they left for good, eventually settling on Pitcairn Island.

Following a welcome with local music at the Town Hall, enjoy arts and crafts demonstrations of pandanus leaf weaving and shell necklace making, specialties the island is known for. A visit to Fort George and a marae, as well as a kava ceremony with dances and songs, will part of the day's activities. Scuba diving will be available as an optional excursion for those interested in exploring below the sea.



Raivavae

Known as the “Bora Bora of the Austral Islands”, Raivavae's white sand beaches, large emerald lagoon and 28 motus encircling the lush green main island, have earned it this distinction. Giant stone tikis resembling those in the Marquesas and on Easter Island, including an unusual smiling tiki, wood sculptures, an open air marae temple and Polynesian canoes are some of the archaeological elements you will discover during a circle island tour. If you wish to relax on one of the motus and swim in the crystal clear lagoon, an excursion by speed boat is available. A beach barbecue featuring local dishes will be served for lunch.



Rapa

As you approach Rapa, only accessible by sea, the Captain may announce: “Welcome to Rapa. Next stop Antarctica.” As the southernmost inhabited island, this crescent shaped island—with a fjord-like coastline deeply indented by 12 bays—is as remote as it gets in French Polynesia. Rapa-Iti—or “small Rapa”, as the island is also called—has a strong cultural connection to Easter Island, known as Rapa-Nui or big to the Polynesians. Legend tells of the settlement of Rapa-Nui by the people of Rapa-Iti. Once home to fierce warriors who lived in fortified settlements built on terraces among volcanic peaks, the islanders now live by farming and fishing. During our visit, you will be greeted by the unique dances of Rapa. You may choose one of two different hikes offered. The first goes from the village of Area around the stunning bay to the main village of Ahurei and the second, to the remnant of an old mountaintop fort. A traditional lunch will be served on shore.

Photos, top to bottom, left to right: Tubuai; Smiling tiki, Raivavae; Island of Raivavae; Woven hat, Rapa; Ahurei Bay, Rapa.

Cook & Society Islands



ITINERARY

Day 1, Monday Depart Tahiti (Papeete)
Day 2, Tuesday Raiatea
Day 3, Wednesday At Sea
Day 4, Thursday Aitutaki
Day 5, Friday Atiu

Day 6, Saturday Rarotonga
Day 7, Sunday At Sea
Day 8, Monday Bora Bora
Day 9, Tuesday Return Tahiti (Papeete)

OUR COUSINS TO THE WEST

Formidable navigators, it was only a matter of time before Tahitians made their way to what is known today as the Cook Islands. Over 1200 years ago, from Raiatea in the Society Islands and Tubuai in the Austral Islands, they set sail in search of distant lands, eventually conquering and settling their new home. A few centuries later, traveling on vakas or giant double

hulled canoes, they continued their expansion to the south, reaching New Zealand as the original tribes of the modern day Maori. As Aranui Cruises follows their original migratory path, you will discover one more aspect of Polynesia.

The Cook Islands

Once part of the British Empire, and now a self-governing country in free association with New Zealand, the Cook Islands have maintained their Polynesian identity. From the various island dialects, all originating from the old Maori (Maohi in Tahitian) language, to the arts and crafts, dancing and performing arts, the traditional culture and customs have remained strong. Less affected by development and tourism unlike some of its neighbors in the South Pacific, the Cook Islands have been described as Hawaii over 60 years ago. This idyllic group of 15 islands, divided between the Northern and Southern Cook Islands, was named in honor of Captain James Cook, who visited in the late 18th Century.



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 thousand-year-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.

Photos, top to bottom: The Kia Orana Aunties, Rarotonga; Island of Rarotonga; Unveiling an umu (underground oven), Rarotonga; Snorkeling in Aitutaki; Aitutaki Lagoon; Woven hat and bag, Rarotonga; Traditional ship’s bow, Aitutaki. Photos © David Strickland



Aitutaki

Another island paradise 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.



Atiu

Whereas Rarotonga is known as the capital with its modern touches and Aitutaki, picturesque with its white sand beaches and gorgeous lagoon, Atiu offers an old traditional Cook Islands experience. A raised plateau with a lush dense rainforest and caves similar to Rurutu in the Australs or Makatea in the Tuamotu, it is one of the few places in the world left untouched. As you explore the island, experience a two century old Atiu tradition, the tumunu, a gathering which includes the mighty bush beer, brewed in a barrel carved out of a coconut tree.



Raiatea

Within the Polynesian triangle, Raiatea, or Hawai'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.

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.

Photos, top to bottom; Cave, Atiu; Beach, Atiu; Taputapuatea Marae, Raiatea; Bora Bora



ARANUI 5

Your Home in the Islands

In the Island Tradition, our gracious staff continues the warmth and intimacy of the previous *Aranui* ships, welcoming passengers as part of their extended family.

You will quickly meet your fellow adventurers, and with three bars and a lounge, there is plenty of space to relax, get acquainted and share new discoveries.

The *Aranui 5* was designed to accommodate 230 passengers, with 29 spacious Suites, 31 Deluxe and Superior Deluxe Staterooms, with balconies; 3 Junior Suites with or without balconies; and 40 Staterooms, all beautifully appointed with your well-being in mind. For the more adventurous, the shared space in C Class will accommodate 24 passengers.

The large, family-style dining room offers excellent French and Polynesian cuisine. Dress is island casual, no tux, just a fragrant tiare (flower) behind your ear. Air conditioning will keep you comfortable in the cabin and public areas. There are two passenger elevators.



Among the many ships cruising in the South Pacific, the Aranui 5 is unique in every way.



Life On Board

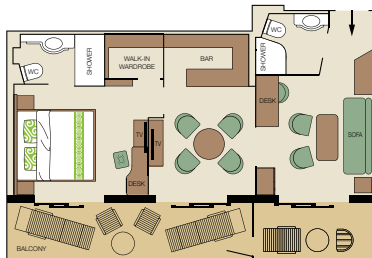
Polynesian casual best describes the atmosphere on board Aranui 5. From its relaxed and comfortable setting to a leisurely rhythm, it provides the opportunity to unwind and leave the hustle and bustle of everyday life behind. A variety of cultural enrichment classes are offered throughout the cruise, such as lessons in local dances or languages, the weaving of palm fronds or how to wear the island garb known as the pareo, providing immersion into and a greater knowledge of Polynesian traditions. Guest lecturers, experts in fields related to French Polynesia and primarily the Marquesas, such as history, culture, art or archeology, will give a more rounded understanding of the destination.



In keeping with the Polynesian experience, the entertainment remains traditional as well. The Aranui Band, consisting of staff and crew, and sometimes joined by guests, play Polynesian songs in the Veranda Bar. A couple of dinner events around the pool, gathering all of the passengers and crew for a communal feast, followed by performances and dancing under the stars, adds to the conviviality on board. Whether socializing in one of our three bars or curling up with a good book in the lounge, you will get to set the pace. From the Sky Bar on the highest deck, a 180 degree panoramic view looks out on to the horizon and the cranes and cargo holds below. A well-choreographed display of skill by our sailors, as they load and unload the freight, will keep you coming back for more of our own live reality television show. For complete relaxation, discover the healing hands of our Tahitian wellness therapist, offering various treatments at the Spa or if you still have energy left after exploring the islands, a gym is available. And should you wish to bring back with you a permanent traditional souvenir, a licensed Marquesan tattoo artist will provide a personalized design.

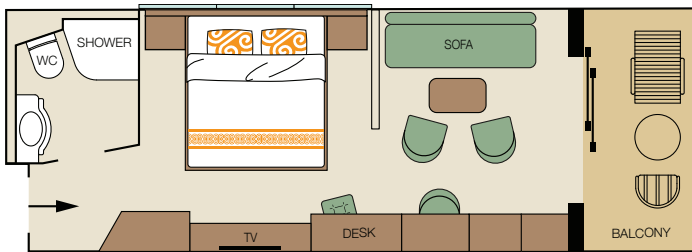


Suites & Cabins



Presidential Suite

Consisting of 3 individual rooms, approximately 440 sq. ft. (41m²) of interior space and a 130 sq. ft. (12m²) private balcony, this exterior cabin offers a separate bedroom with a king bed, a sitting room with a sofa bed, a lounge with a built-in bar, 2 bathrooms with shower and hair dryer, a walk-in closet, refrigerator and safe.



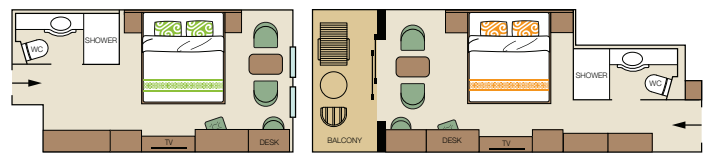
Premium Suite

From approximately 200 sq. ft. (19m²) of interior space and a 45 sq. ft. (4m²) private balcony, this exterior cabin offers a bedroom with a king bed or twin beds and a sitting room with a sofa bed, divided by a decorative filigree screen, a bathroom with shower and hair dryer, refrigerator and safe.



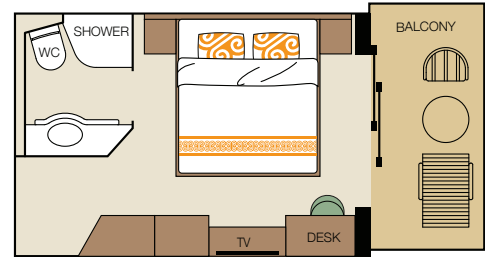
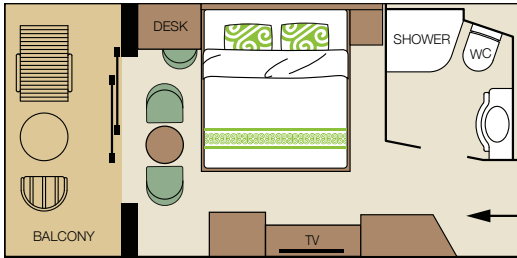
Royal Suite

From approximately 240 sq. ft. (22m²) of interior space and a 100 sq. ft. (9m²) private corner balcony, this exterior cabin offers a bedroom with a king bed or twin beds and a sitting room with a sofa bed, divided by a decorative filigree screen, a bathroom with shower and hair dryer, refrigerator and safe.



Junior Suite

From approximately 160 sq. ft. to 200 sq. ft. (15-19m²) of interior space with or without balcony, this exterior cabin offers a bedroom with a king bed or twin beds, a bathroom with shower and hair dryer, refrigerator and safe.

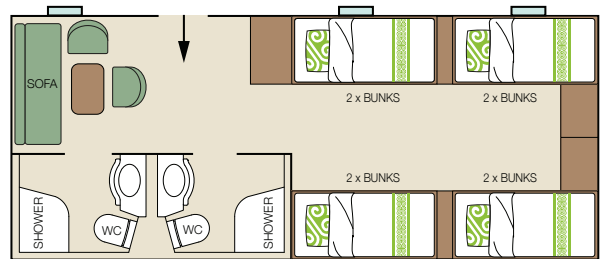
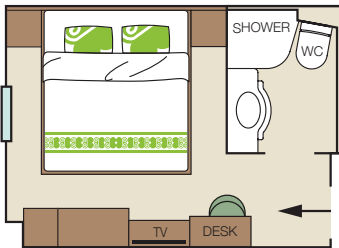


Superior Deluxe

From approximately 160 sq. ft. (15m²) of interior space and a 45 sq. ft. (4m²) private balcony, this exterior cabin offers a bedroom with a king size bed or twin beds, a bathroom with shower and hair dryer, refrigerator and safe.

Deluxe

From approximately 140 sq. ft. (13m²) of interior space and a 45 sq. ft. (4m²) private balcony, this exterior cabin offers a bedroom with a king size bed or twin beds, a bathroom with shower and hair dryer, refrigerator and safe.



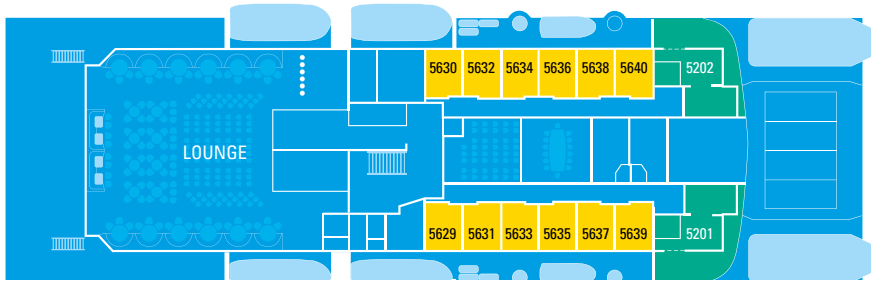
Standard Stateroom

From approximately 120 sq. ft. (11m²) of interior space and a porthole, this exterior cabin offers either, a king or two single beds, a bathroom with shower and hair dryer. Single, with approximately 100 sq. ft. (9m²) of interior space and a single bed, and four-passenger staterooms, with approximately 180 sq. ft. (17m²), a queen size bed and two single bunk beds are also available.

Class C

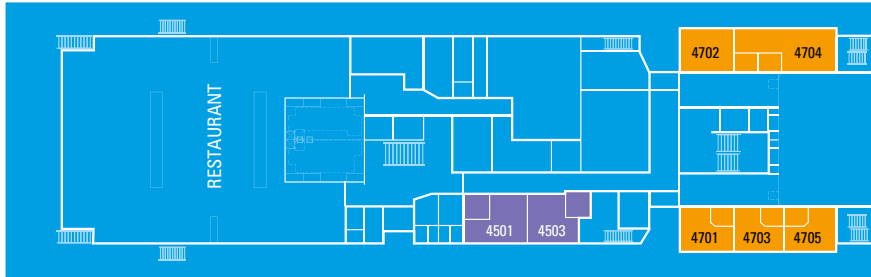
Dormitory style accommodations, this category offers approximately 285 sq. ft. (27m²) of shared interior space with four lower and four upper berths, a sitting area, two bathrooms with shower and hair dryer. Four passenger units with approximately 135 sq. ft. (13m²) of shared interior space are also available. This category may be co-ed.

Deck Plans



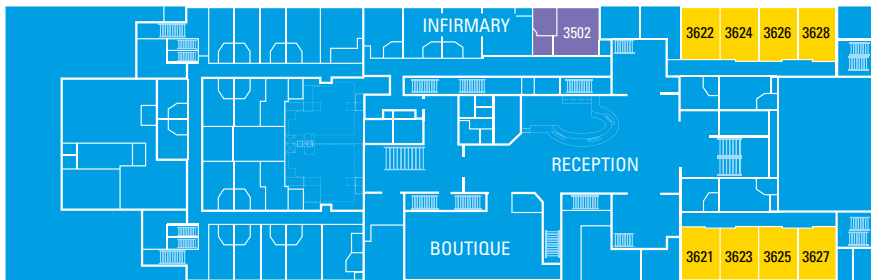
BOAT DECK – 5

Royal Suite | Standard Stateroom
Lounge



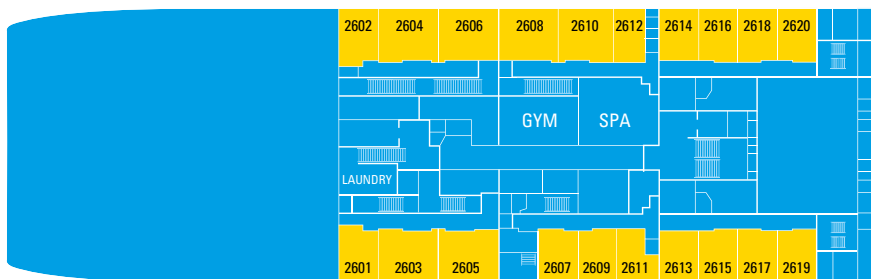
UPPER DECK – 4

Superior Deluxe | Class C
Restaurant



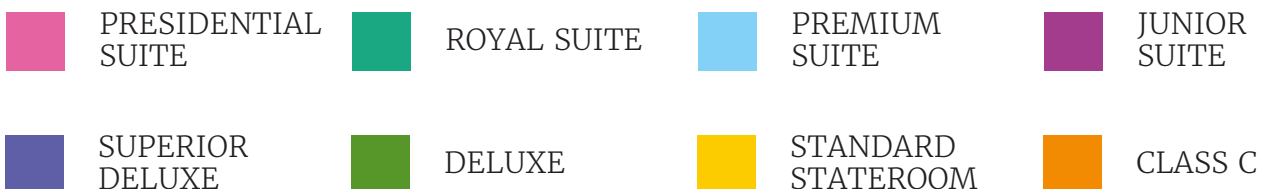
MAIN DECK – 3

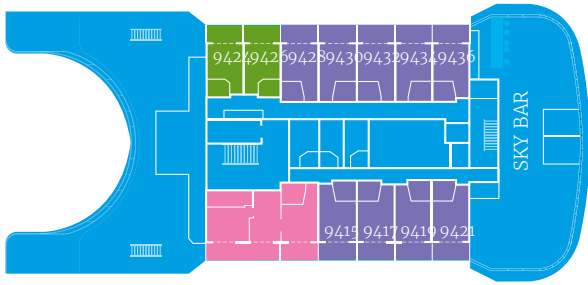
Superior Deluxe | Standard Stateroom
Front Desk and Reception | Boutique
Infirmary



LOWER DECK – 2

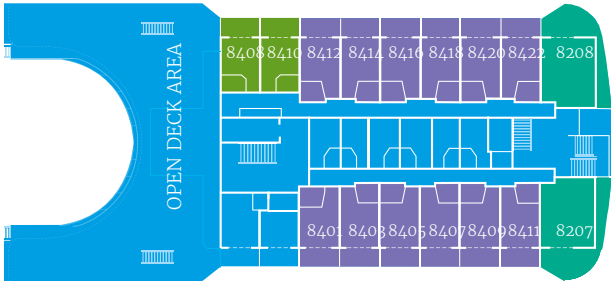
Standard Stateroom | Gym
Day Spa | Laundry





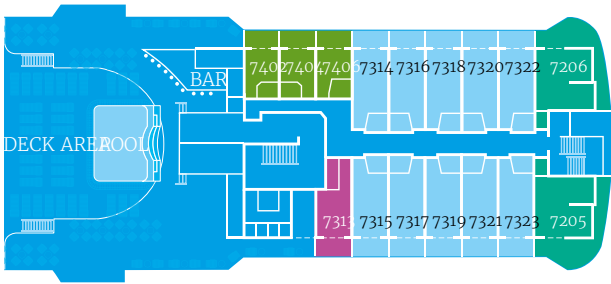
SKY DECK – 9

Presidential Suite | Superior Deluxe
Deluxe | Sky Bar



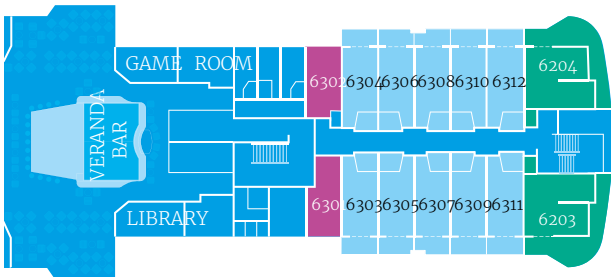
SUN DECK – 8

Royal Suite | Superior Deluxe
Deluxe | Open Deck Area



POOL DECK – 7

Royal Suite | Premium Suite | Deluxe
Junior Suite with Balcony
Pool | Bar | Open Deck Area



VERANDA DECK – 6

Royal Suite | Premium Suite | Junior Suite
Open Deck Bar | Veranda Bar | Game Room | Library

Specifications

Length: 410 feet
Breadth: 85 feet
Cruising Speed: 15 knots
Draft: 17 feet

Deadweight: 3200 metric tons
Capacity: 230 passengers – 103 cabins
Crew: 103

Ship's Information

Food Meals are served in an informal, family-style setting in our dining facilities. Special consideration for medically prescribed diets, must be requested at the time of booking or not less than three weeks in advance of sailing date.

Local Currency The unit of exchange is the French Pacific Franc (XPF).

Local Time The Marquesas are half an hour ahead of Tahiti. Thus, when it's noon in Tahiti, it's 12:30pm in the Marquesas.

Climate & Packing Suggestions Clothing which is informal, comfortable and easily washable is most practical aboard the ship. In addition to shorts, jeans or slacks, T-shirts and a bathing suit, a rain poncho or coat and warm sweatshirt or light sweater for chilly evenings are recommended. Comfortable shoes are essential for walking ashore over coral reefs. Tennis shoes or sandals are recommended. For women, the native pareo, made of colorful fabric which can be wrapped in a variety of styles, is a versatile choice for both casual and festive occasions.

Spa Treatments The Aranui Spa offers a variety of treatments by our fully trained wellness and massage therapist. Pamper yourself with a facial, body scrub and massages using the traditional oils of French Polynesia. Treat yourself to a manicure or pedicure or a relaxing foot massage — perfect after a day exploring.

Tattoo Studio A licensed Marquesan tattoo artist is available on board by appointment. He will help you design a personalized tattoo, using traditional Marquesan symbols to represent the story you wish to tell.

Tattooing is done in a clean and sterile environment, using modern equipment. A permanent souvenir of your time in the Marquesas.

Library A selection of novels and history books in French, English and German can be found in our library on Deck 6.

Ship's Boutique The ship's boutique sells a variety of supplies including mosquito repellent, sundries, clothing, and local souvenirs.

Electrical Current Each cabin is equipped with 220 volt, 50 cycle AC (European-style outlet).

Internet Wifi is available during the voyage, using your own devices, in cabins and most public areas throughout the ship. Provided by satellite service, the connection may not be as reliable as land broadband, but it is adequate for checking and sending emails. A log-in code can be purchased from the boutique.

Emergency Telephone In an emergency, it is possible to place telephone calls through our shipboard communications and to contact the vessel through CPTM's office in Tahiti.

Laundry Washing and drying machines are available on board; dry cleaning is not available.

Medical There is a doctor or physician on board the vessel. If any person has, or is suffering from a serious ailment or condition, they should seek the advice and consent of their personal physician prior to embarking on the vessel. The right is

reserved to refuse passage to anyone in such a state of health or physical condition as to be unfit to travel or whose condition, for whatever reason, might be dangerous to the individual or other passengers.

Shore Visits Visits ashore are limited to the time required by cargo operators and port restrictions. Port time may range from just a few hours to a day or more. While shore excursions with supplement may be available at some ports of call, Compagnie Polynesienne de Transport Maritime (CPTM) neither owns nor operates nor exercises any control over shore excursions arranged at any port of call. The company, its agents and employees do not assume any responsibility in connection with the operations of said programs. The company accepts no responsibility of liability for the failure of any operator to perform any said program and/or for any injury, damage or loss however caused or arising therefrom.

Travel Funds Credit cards may be used to pay for shipboard expenses. American Express, Visa and MasterCard will be accepted. Personal checks cannot be cashed on board. Euro, USD, AUD, NZD and CAD currency notes can also be exchanged.

Valuables Electronic lock boxes are available on board, however CPTM cannot accept custody or responsibility for passenger's money or other valuables while aboard the vessel.

Reservations

Please see your Travel Agent or contact our offices.

Passenger Contract Passengers are carried subject to the stipulations of the Passage Contract Ticket of Compagnie Polynesienne de Transport Maritime (CPTM). The passage ticket is non-transferable and is valid only for the person(s) who originally purchased the ticket.

Changes After CPTM issues a confirmation, any changes to the confirmed departure date made at passenger's or travel agent's request will be subject to the same penalties applied to cancellations.

Insurance Insurance is available to help recover non-refundable travel expenses for trip cancellations or interruption, baggage damage or loss, and trip accident. recommend that passengers consider these coverages. Consult your travel agent or insurance agent for specific details concerning coverage and exceptions.

Cancellations

After your booking has been confirmed by CPTM, should you cancel for any reason, a cancellation fee of (USD) 200/150 Euro per person will be applied.

The following applies to all Marquesas & Tuamotu Islands Cruises:

- If canceled 90 to 61 days before the scheduled departure date — forfeiture of the 25% deposit
- If canceled 60 to 45 days before the scheduled departure — 1/3 of the total fare is retained
- If canceled 44 to 30 days before the scheduled departure — 2/3 of the total fare is retained
- If canceled less than 30 days or nonappearance at cruise departure date — the total fare will be retained

The following applies to the Pitcairn & Gambier, Cook & Society and Austral Islands Discovery Cruises:

- If canceled 120 to 91 days before the scheduled departure date — forfeiture of the 25% deposit
- If canceled 90 to 61 days before the scheduled departure — 1/3 of the total fare is retained
- If canceled 60 to 31 days before the scheduled departure — 2/3 of the total fare is retained
- If canceled less than 30 days or nonappearance at cruise departure date — the total fare will be retained

Cruise Information

Rates Include Cruise transportation and shipboard accommodations, meals and excursions fares are based on per adult double occupancy. All published fares are quoted in US Dollars, Euro and French Pacific Franc (CFP). These fares are correct at the time of printing and are subject to change; with or without notice.

Rates Do Not Include Shipboard purchases, liquor, gratuities, port taxes other than those specifically provided for, and other personal items. Rates quoted at the time of printing are based on current costs and are subject to change up to and including the date of sailing.

Gratuities Gratuities are not included in the cruise fare and are at your discretion. While tipping is not a Polynesian custom, it is always appreciated by the staff. At the end of each sailing, a box will be set up at the Reception where you may leave what you want. If you wish to tip an individual staff member, you may do so in person.

Schedule & Extra Cost Provision If, due to weather or other uncontrollable reasons, you are required to spend one or more additional nights, you will be responsible for your own hotel and meal costs. In addition, because the primary function of vessels in the service of Compagnie Polynesienne de Transport Maritime is to carry freight, the departure dates, ports of call, and duration of cruises may be subject to variation both prior to departure and en route. Freighter passengers should have a flexible time schedule and anticipate the foregoing possibilities. While we do everything possible to inform and assist our clients, neither CPTM nor its agents will assume additional expenses, hotel or meal costs associated with delays or changes in itinerary and schedules.

Itinerary Changes CPTM pledges to make every effort to operate all cruises as advertised. CPTM reserves the right to alter or curtail the itinerary, or substitute sightseeing, ports of call or conveyances as deemed necessary.

Transfers All cruise arrangements originate and terminate from the specified pier or departure point. Transportation is not provided between airport locations, and the vessel, or vice versa, unless specified.

Baggage Stateroom luggage will be accepted on the day of sailing at boarding time only. All personal luggage is to be stored in passenger's cabin as we are unable to store it in other areas aboard the ship. Passengers should clearly label all luggage with their name, vessel, cabin number or deck assignment number and date of sailing. Valuables should be hand-carried onboard. We recommend that travelers take out a baggage damage or loss policy through their insurance agent or travel agent.

Travel Documents & Entry Requirements All passengers must have valid passports for entry into French Polynesia. Those visitors who are not citizens of the United States or Canada or from the European Economic Community and those planning to stay in French Polynesia more than one month should contact their travel agent for visa requirements. All visitors must have a round trip airline ticket.

Inoculations At time of printing, vaccinations were not required. Passengers should consult their travel agent for the latest requirements.

Refunds Requests for refunds should be directed to the agency which sold you the cruise. No refunds will be made on unused features, such as meals, voluntarily omitted by the passenger.

Responsibility All cruises outlined herein are carried out under the business management of CPTM and are governed by the terms and conditions printed on the Passage Contract Ticket which may also be inspected at the company's office.

Disclaimer CPTM has made every effort to ensure the accuracy of this brochure. CPTM will not be held responsible for any errors or omissions contained therein. Photos are non-contractual. Daily itineraries and optional activities are provided for information purposes only and may be modified at any time due to weather, freight activity or availability.

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