

### Itinerary

Day 1	Departure from dock in Papeete at 11.00am
Day 2	Fakarava, Tuamotu Islands
Day 3	At Sea
Day 4	Ua Pou (Hakahau-Hakahetau) Marquesas
Day 5	Nuku Hiva (Taiohae-Hatiheu-Taipivai)
Day 6	Hiva Oa (Atuona)
Day 7	Fatu Hiva (Omoa-Hanavave)
Day 8	Hiva Oa (Puamau-Hanaiapa)
Day 9	Tahuata (Vaitahu-Hapatoni)
Day 10	Ua Huka (Vaipae-Hane-Hokatu), Ua Pou (Hakahau)
Day 11	Nuku Hiva (Taiohae), Ua Pou (Hakahau)
Day 12	At Sea
Day 13	Rangiroa, Tuamotu Islands
Day 14	Arrival back in Papeete at around 9.30am

You'll board the Aranui III in Tahiti and sail almost 800 miles to the most spectacular and remote islands in French Polynesia. The first stop on this 14 day voyage starts with the Tuamotu islands, where you'll see pearl farmers harvest rare black pearls from giant oysters.

The Marquesas' six inhabited islands are so remote that the Aranui III is their lifeline to the outside world, bringing supplies and picking up copra, dried coconut and noni fruit. We make 14 stops, so we have plenty of time to explore. Little has changed in these untouched islands, which have few roads or cars. Visitors are very rare and very welcome.

The first view of the Marquesas are the mountain spires of Ua Pou, "volcanic needles like the pinnacles of some ornate church," as Robert Louis Stevenson wrote in 1880. Whenever the Aranui III docks, villagers gather on the pier to greet us. As our muscular crew unloads supplies -- from cement to sugar -- and loads sacks of copra (dried coconut meat), our well-trained, multi-lingual guides bring you to meet traditional artists and take you on breathtaking hikes to hidden jungle ruins.

You'll never forget sailing into Nuku Hiva's spectacular bay, a giant volcanic amphitheater dominated by towering cliffs streaked with majestic waterfalls. There are dramatic dive sites or heart-stopping views by helicopter. A decade before he wrote Moby Dick, 23-year-old Herman Melville jumped his whaling ship here in 1842. We'll retrace his escape route on a spectacular Jeep safari over the mountains to mysterious jungle river valley, still much the same as Melville described it in his autobiographical first novel -- Typee. Hidden amidst the bamboo and vanilla vines, you'll see stone tiki gods, sacred ritual sites and enigmatic petroglyphs of birds, fish and sacred turtles and fish carved on boulders

Hiva Oa is where Paul Gauguin's search for an unspoiled island ended. This artist with a lust for life painted his final masterpieces here. In the hill top cemetery where Gauguin is buried is the gravestone of another European who also was seduced by these islands -- singer-composer Jacques Brel. Our guides will show you mysterious jungle ruins -- the largest tikis outside the Easter Islands. Once used for religious rites, these human-like stone sculptures are reminders of that a great civilization flourished here before the Europeans invaded.

Even though Fatu Hiva is a center of Marquesan culture, Aranui passengers usually are the only visitors to this remote, verdant island. We'll see artists painting ancient designs on tapa cloth, making pareos (sarongs) and monoi, coconut oil scented with tiare blossoms. We'll see woodworkers carving intricate bowls and spears. After hiking past towering cliffs with dizzying views of majestic waterfalls, cool off with a plunge in a secluded river pool.

On Ua Huka, the wild horses outnumber the 300 residents. Explore by horse or by jeep -- either way, you'll have magnificent views. Along the way, you'll enjoy bounteous Marquesan buffets: barbecued rock lobster, poisson cru (raw fish marinated in lime juice and soaked in coconut milk), curried goat, breadfruit, taro and sweet red bananas.





## ACTIVITIES IN THE TUAMOTU AND THE MARQUESAS ISLANDS WITH ARANUI

### Day 1 MORNING DEPARTURE FROM PAPEETE, TAHITI

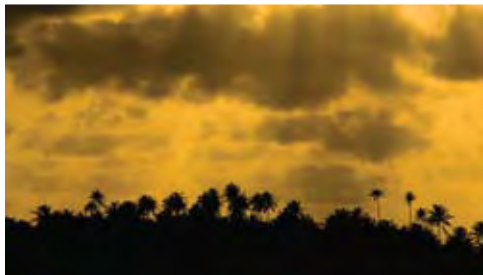
### Day 2 TUAMOTU ARCHIPELAGO - FAKARAVA

Fakarava is the largest atoll in the Tuamotu. There is snorkeling and scuba diving for people of all levels. You can swim and snorkel in the translucent lagoon to watch the colourful ballet of tropical lagoon fish. The entire morning will be spent on shore. Lunch will be served on board while we set sail for the Marquesas.



### Day 3 AT SEA ON THE ARANUI

You can relax with a book on one of the sun decks, swim in the small pool or enjoy the immense South Pacific. Balmy evenings mean reading in lounge/library or chatting with an authority on Marquesan culture or archaeology. You'll probably spend many evenings socializing on the upstairs deck/bar with your fellow adventurers from around the world. The spirited Polynesian crew treat you like welcomed guests and proudly introduce you to their rich culture. Almost every night, they sing and strum hypnotic Polynesian rhythms on their ukuleles and will teach you to move your hips to hypnotic beat of the tamure.

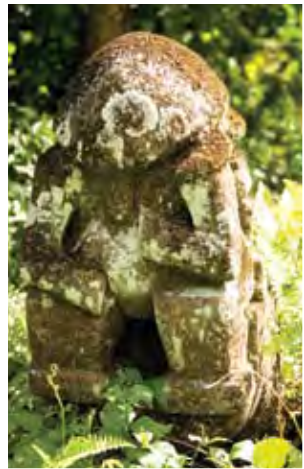
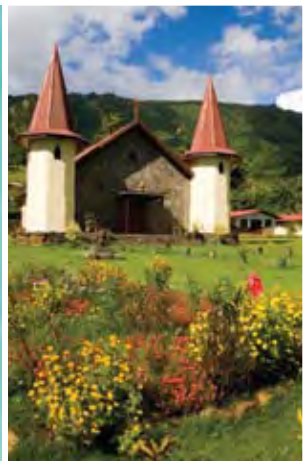


### Day 4 THE MARQUESAS ARCHIPELAGO - UA POU (Hakahau-Hakahetau)

From the deck, you'll see the soaring mountain spires of Ua Pou. Whenever the Aranui stops, villages greet it. As the muscular crew unloads supplies - from cements to sugar - and loads sacks of copra ( dried coconut meat ), you'll explore the tiny town of Hakahau with its church with a hand-carved wooden dais. You can meet some talented woodcarvers and hike up a hill for a breathtaking view of the distant cloud-covered mountains. At Rosalie's Restaurant, you'll taste your first Marquesan lunch: breadfruit, a marquesan staple, along with curried goat, barbecued rock lobster, poisson cru (raw fish marinated in lime juice and soaked in coconut milk ), taro and sweet red bananas.

### Day 5 **NUKU HIVA (Taiohae-Hatiheu-Taipivai)**

We sail into Taiohae's spectacular bay, a giant volcanic amphitheater dominated by towering cliffs streaked with waterfalls. As the Aranui unloads, you can explore Taiohae, the tiny Administrative capital of the Marquesas. Taiohae Bay is where a 23-year-old sailor, Herman Melville and a buddy jumped a whaling ship in 1842. We follow their escape route by jeep along steep, winding dirt mountain roads to the village of Hatiheu to visit an archeological site. We'll have lunch at Yvonne's Restaurant, one of the best restaurants in the Marquesas, where the specialty is pig baked in an underground oven. You'll meet the owner-chef, Yvonne, who also happens to be the town's energetic mayor. After lunch, we will travel to the valley of Taipivai. The area is dotted with stone tiki gods and sacred ritual sites (me'ae) and immense stone platforms (paepae) where the Taipi built their houses. Enigmatic petroglyphs of birds, sacred turtles and fish are carved on huge boulders. The Aranui's whaleboats will sail down the river to return you to the Aranui, which is anchored in the bay.



### Day 6 **HIVA OA (Atuona)**

We have plenty of time to explore Atuona, the second largest village in Marquesas. This is where Paul Gauguin lived and did some of his best work. You can visit the colonial store where Gauguin shopped and go into a replica of the Impressionist's infamous "House of Pleasure." As you walk up the hill to the cemetery, you'll have sweeping views of the harbor. Beneath a huge frangipani tree is a tombstone with the simple words: Paul Gauguin 1903. Nearby is the grave of another famous European who also was seduced by Hiva Oa: Belgian singer-composer Jacques Brel, who died in 1978. You'll also enjoy another lavish Marquesan lunch at Hoa Nui Restaurant.



### Day 7 **FATU HIVA (Omoa-Hanavave)**

This is the most lush and remote island of the Marquesan. It's also a center of Marquesan crafts. As our guides lead you through the village of Omoa, you'll see women hammering mulberry, banyan or breadfruit bark on logs. They dry it and then paint ancient Marquesan designs on their famous tapa cloth. Fatu Hiva is also well-known for its hand-painted pareus (sarongs) and monoi, a perfumed coconut oil scented with tiare blossoms and sandalwood. Skilled woodcarvers will invite you into their home/studios.



The Aranui sails to the other inhabited village. Hanavave is on the Bay of the Virgins, which is one of the world's most beautiful bays. Some athletic passengers may choose to make the trip by foot. On this unforgettable ten mile hike you'll have unforgettable views of towering cliffs and majestic waterfalls.



### Day 8 **HIVA OA (Puamau)**

We'll travel by foot or by jeep to the most important archeological sites for tikis (ancient, human-like religious sculptures ) other than Easter Island. Our trained guides will show you these mysterious jungle ruins of Puamau and tell the stories of these haunting statues of an ancient civilization. Bring plenty of film..



### Day 9 **TAHUATA (Vaitahu)**

On this leaf-shaped island, the air is thick with fragrant scent of tiare, frangipani and history. In the tiny village of Vaitahu, Spanish explorers landed in 1595 and opened fire on a crowd of the curious islanders, killing about 200. When the first missionaries came in 1797, the generous local chief left his wife with missionary John Harris, with instruction that he treat her as his own wife. Harris fled the next day. Tahuata also is the site of the first French settlement in the Marquesas in 1842. The huge church built by the Vatican, is decorated with beautiful Marquesan carvings. We'll picnic in the Valley of Hapatoni and swim and snorkel at a nearby beach.





### Day 10 **UA HUKA (VAIPAEE-HANE-HOKATU)**

We'll visit a museum with exquisite replicas of Marquesan art. Some Aranui passengers will explore the island by four-wheel drive; others will ride the Marquesan horses. For three hours, we will explore the mountain landscape with heart-stopping views of the Pacific. The wild horses (brought from Chile in 1856) thrive here, outnumbering the islands 476 residents. We'll have a Marquesan lunch at local restaurant and have plenty of time to visit studios of woodcarvers. We'll visit the arboretum and the garden of fruits and flower. Back on the Aranui, it's Polynesian night with dancing and buffet dinner on the decks.



### Day 11 **NUKU HIVA (TAIOHAE) AND UA POU**

The Aranui will dock in Nuku Hiva at Taiohae in the morning. You may take the Le Truck back to the town center and spend free time there. At noon, the ship will sail to Ua Pou, returning to our first stop in the Marquesas, Hakahau. This is your last chance to buy Marquesan crafts.



### Day 12 **AT SEA**



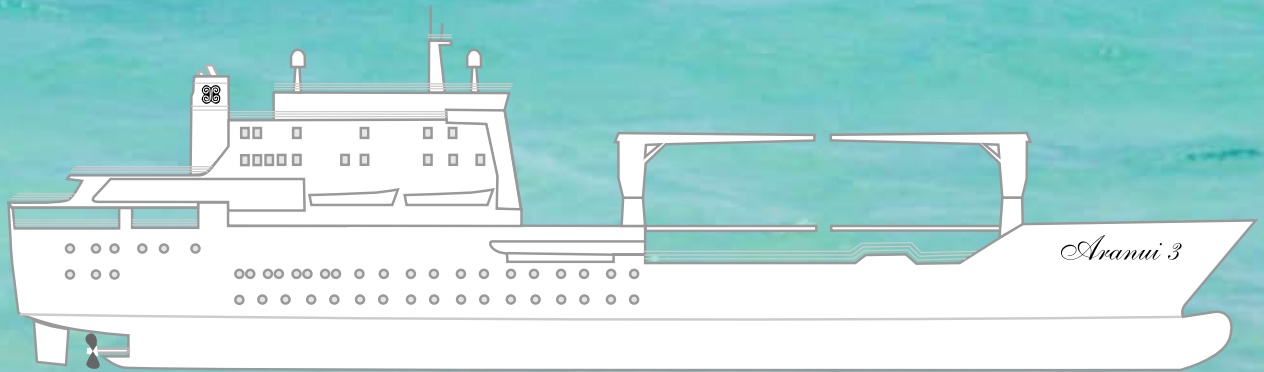
### Day 13 **TUAMOTU ARCHIPELAGO- RANGIROA**

On lovely Rangiroa, the largest atoll in the world, we'll picnic on coral beach. Aranui passengers can swim and snorkel in a translucent lagoon. Excellent snorkeling and scuba diving are available for people of all levels. "Rangi" is an underwater jewel box with stunning colors of corals and clouds of tropical fishes. You'll have the opportunity to purchase black pearls from local black pearl farmers. These rare black pearls are French Polynesia's main economic resource.



### Day 14 **MORNING ARRIVAL IN PAPEETE, TAHITI**

NAVIGATION DECK  
 STAR DECK  
 SUN DECK  
 BOAT DECK  
 RESTAURANT DECK  
 MAIN DECK  
 A DECK  
 B DECK



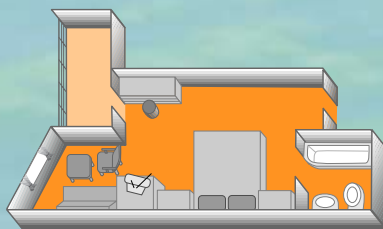
There are many types of cruise ships, but only one Aranui III. Our passengers love our gracious staff who make them feel part of their extended family. The Aranui III maintains the warmth and intimacy of the old Aranui, with our high staff to passenger ratio. Unlike larger boats, it's easy to meet fellow guests. From dining room to stateroom, you'll quickly feel the Aranui III is your floating home away from home.

The spacious cabins are tastefully designed with windows and portholes, queen or twin beds, bathrooms with showers, personal safes, mini-bars and are fully air-conditioned. Deluxe cabins and suites are larger and feature additional amenities with picture windows. The suites have balconies with your own private panorama. Our large, family-style dining room offers views as varied as the menus. Relish the ever-changing scenery and our imaginative chefs' French and Polynesian cuisine with new friends from all over the world. Dressing for dinner means a pareo (sarong-like wrap around skirt) or shorts, sandals and a white tiare (hibiscus blossom) behind the ear.

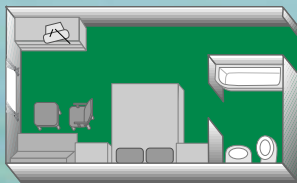
The swimming pool is the place for the perfect plunge. In our well-equipped gym, you can stretch your muscles while getting an ocean-view.

On board, time passes quickly. There are two charming bars, two lounges and a full program of activities. You'll learn about Marquesan history, culture and art from our guest lecturers. And our spirited crew will teach you to weave hats, wear our national dress, the pareo and dance the tamure.

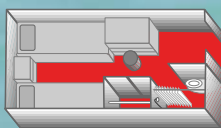
In our library you can read how Herman Melville, Robert Louis Stevenson and Thor Heyerdahl described these alluring islands. Their words and the Gauguin prints on the walls will spring to life when we dock.



**Suites**      14 cabins      Large outside cabin with one queen sized bed, refrigerator, private facilities with bathtub and with or without balcony. (2 suites are without balcony)



**Deluxe**      9 Cabins      Large outside cabin with one queen sized bed, refrigerator, private facilities with bathtub. DL14 - Navigation Deck

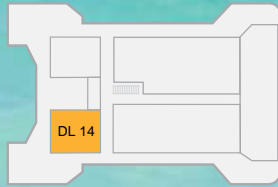


**Standard**      63 Cabins      Two lower berths, outside cabin with private facilities.

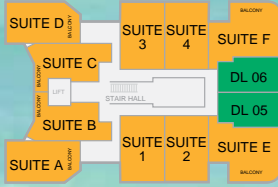
Diagrams are for illustration only. Actual ship suite configuration may vary.

**Class C**      Dormitory style, upper and lower berths, air conditioned, share facilities, located on restaurant deck.

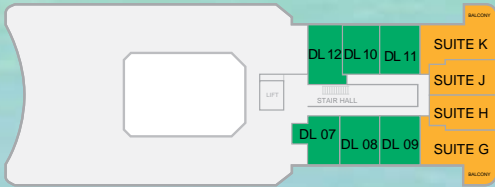
NAVIGATION DECK



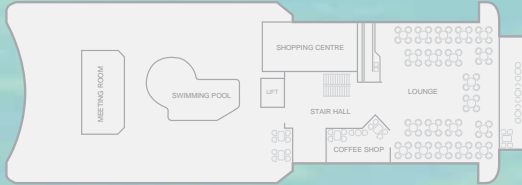
STAR DECK



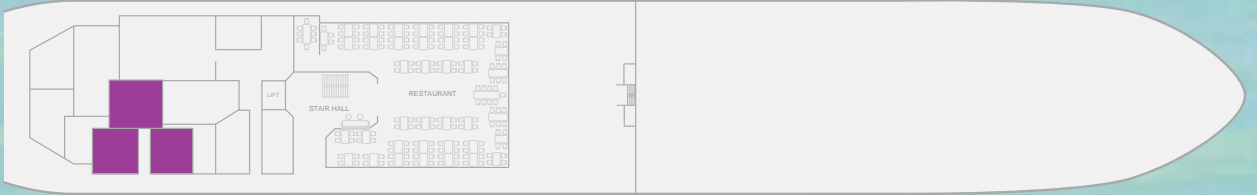
SUN DECK



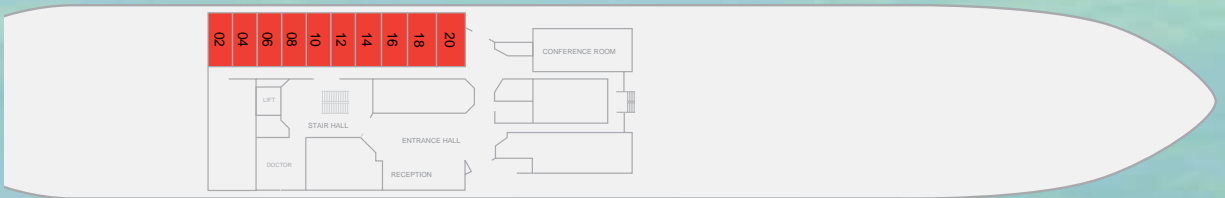
BOAT DECK



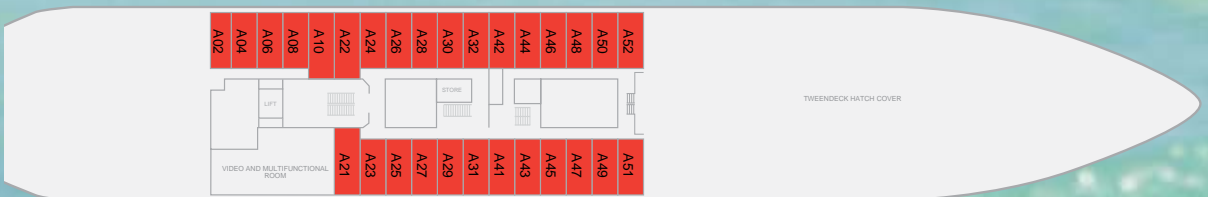
RESTAURANT DECK



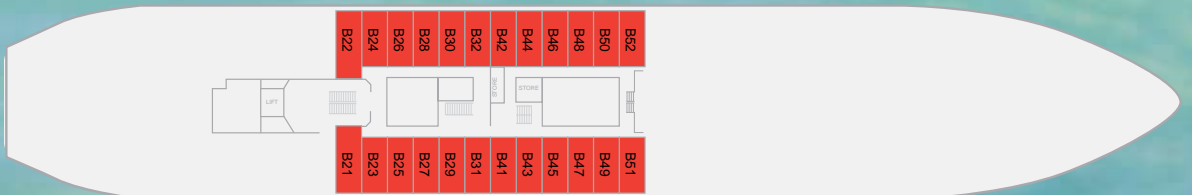
MAIN DECK



A DECK



B DECK



*Aranui 3*  
Freighter to Paradise



## Ship Information

### Food

Meals are served in an informal, family-style setting in our dining facilities. Depending upon the number of passengers booked per voyage, there may be two seatings per meal scheduled. 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 (CFP).

### Local Time

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

### Climate and 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 sweat shirt 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.

### Ship's Boutiques

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.

### Emergency Telephone

In an emergency, it is possible to place the 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 of 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 board of 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 excursion may be available at some ports of call, Compagnie Polynesienne de Transport Maritime neither owns nor operates nor exercises any control of shore excursions arranged at any port of call. The company, its agents and servants do not assume any responsibility in connection with the operations of said programs. The company accepts no responsibility or 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

Traveler's checks and credit card may be used to pay for shipboard expenses. American Express, Visa and Master Card will be accepted. Traveler's checks can be cashed on board, personal checks cannot.

### Valuables

Lock boxes are available on board, however C.P.T.M. cannot accept custody or responsibility for passenger's money or other valuables while aboard the vessel.

Credits – Photographs: Danee Hazama, Julien Avrial, Tahiti Tourism



Standard Cabin



Suite Cabin