



Map not to scale.

Itinerary

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|--------------|-------------------------------------|---------------|------------------------|
| DAY 1 | Depart Papeete, Tahiti 10:00 am | DAY 8 | Hiva Oa |
| DAY 2 | Takapoto atoll, Tuamotu Archipelago | DAY 9 | Ua Huka |
| DAY 3 | At Sea | DAY 10 | Nuku Hiva |
| DAY 4 | Nuku Hiva | DAY 11 | At Sea |
| DAY 5 | Ua Pou (Hakahau-Hakahetau) | DAY 12 | Rangiroa |
| DAY 6 | Tahuata & Hiva Oa | DAY 13 | Bora Bora |
| DAY 7 | Fatu Hiva | DAY 14 | Arrive Papeete, Tahiti |





Let the Adventure Begin

From the moment you set sail on the *Aranui 5* and through this 14-day experience, you will be fully immersed in all things Polynesian—from the warmth of its people, the richness of its history and culture, to the sights and sounds of its majestic islands.

DAY 1 **Depart Papeete, Tahiti 10:00 am**

Welcome aboard! Enjoy a Marquesan dance show and fruit punch by the pool before departure.

DAY 2 **Takapoto, Tuamotu Archipelago**

At our first port of call, the ship will anchor outside the reef and you will go ashore by tender. A 15-minute walk takes you to a beautiful white sand beach and a picnic lunch with entertainment by local musicians. Join the tropical fish as you swim or snorkel in the blue lagoon.

DAY 3 **At Sea**

Time to explore the ship. After a relaxed breakfast, sunbathe on the deck or by the pool, read or chat in the comfortable lounge. There is plenty of time to meet and talk with the lecturers and guides and encounter fellow passengers from around the world.

DAY 4 **The Marquesas Islands**

NUKU HIVA: Taiohae • Hatiheu • Taipivai
Sail into Taiohae's spectacular bay, a giant volcanic amphitheater dominated by towering cliffs streaked with waterfalls. As the *Aranui*

unloads, explore Taiohae, the administrative center for the Marquesas. Taiohae Bay is where Herman Melville, then a 23 year old sailor, and a shipmate jumped a whaling ship in 1842, which he later recounted in his novel *Typee*.

After a tour of the cathedral, follow their escape route by jeep along winding mountain roads to the village of Hatiheu to visit the archaeological site of Kamuihei. Lunch is at Yvonne's Restaurant, one of the best in the Marquesas, where the specialty is *Hima'a*, pig cooked in a traditional underground oven.

After lunch, travel to the valley of Taipivai, an area dotted with stone tikis, *me'ae* (sacred ritual sites) and *paepae*, immense stone platforms on which the Taipi built their houses. Huge boulders in the area are carved with enigmatic petroglyphs of birds, sacred turtles and fish. Hikers can take a steep trail to visit the Paeke site. Non-hikers can head back to the ship or relax on the beach. The *Aranui* anchors in Taipivai Bay and whaleboats come in for a wet boarding on the beach.

DAY 5 **UA POU: Hakahau • Hakahetau**

From the deck you will see the soaring mountain spires of Ua Pou. As the crew unloads supplies—from cement to sugar—and load sacks of *copra* (dried coconut meat), explore the tiny



town of Hakahau. Discover the beach stands and craft center in town to shop for carvings in the flower stone unique to this island. Visit the church to see its hand-carved wood dias. At Rosalie's Restaurant, enjoy your first Marquesan lunch: breadfruit, an island staple, along with curried goat, *poisson cru* (raw fish marinated in lime and



coconut milk), *fei* (red mountain bananas) and fruit poe. Take in an excellent dance performance including the Bird Dance, traditional to Ua Pou.

DAY 6

TAHUATA: Vaitahu

Early morning, the ship anchors in front of this small leaf-shaped island, fragrant with Tiare Tahiti and frangipani. From the Spanish in 1595, who killed about 200, to the first missionaries in 1797 to the first French settlement in the Marquesas in 1842, the island's history is especially rich. Their huge church, built by the Vatican, is decorated with beautiful carvings and a stained glass window featuring the Marquesan cross. The craft center features the amazing intricate carvings in bone and shell for which Tahuata is famous.

HIVA OA: Atuona

There is time to explore Atuona, the second largest village in the Marquesas, where Paul Gauguin lived and created some of his best work. Sweeping views of the harbor highlight a walk up the hill to the cemetery, where under a large frangipani tree, a tombstone with the simple words "Paul Gauguin 1903" marks his burial site. Nearby sits the grave of another European seduced by Hiva Oa, Belgian singer-composer Jacques Brel. Enjoy a lavish lunch at Hoa Nui Restaurant followed by free time to visit a replica of Gauguin's infamous "House of Pleasure" and the museum dedicated to his paintings. The craft center at the far end of the village and the General Store are worth a visit. Or, hike to the scenic lookout (difficulty scale: 7/10)

DAY 7

FATU HIVA: Omoa • Hanavave

The most lush and remote island of the Marquesas, Fatu Hiva, is also a center of Marquesan crafts. Our guides will lead you to the village of Omoa where village 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 arts and crafts center offers excellent tapa and carvings, and the *monoï* coconut oil from Fatu Hiva is one of the finest. Athletic passengers may choose to hike from Omoa to Hanavave, a 10 mile (16 km) trek offering spectacular views of towering cliffs and waterfalls (scale of difficulty: 9/10). Lunch will be served at the summit. Non-hikers sail on the *Aranui* to Hanavave on the Bay of Virgins, considered one of the most beautiful in the world. Go ashore for a dance performance and to welcome the hikers.

DAY 8

HIVA OA: Puamau • Hanaiapa

Travel by foot or jeep to the most important local archaeological site for tikis (ancient, human-like religious sculptures) at Me'ae Ipona. Only Easter Island can boast more sculptures than here. Our knowledgeable guides will show you through the



mysterious ruins of Puamau and share stories of these haunting statues and an ancient civilization. Bring your camera. A swim at the local black sand beach will depend on water conditions.

DAY 9
UA HUKA: Vaipae • Hane • Hokatu

In early morning, the ship will execute a point-to-point turn in the notable “Invisible Bay” of Vaipae—not to be missed. Options today include a tour by four-wheel drive vehicle or (at additional cost) on horseback. Visit a museum with exquisite replicas of Marquesan artifacts. Explore the arboretum’s gardens and enjoy a fruit tasting. After lunch, visit local woodcarvers’ studios. Considered some of the Islands finest carvers, look for the unusual carved black and white coconuts. Back on board, it is Polynesian Night. Time to try out that new pareo and the dances and chants you have been learning throughout the cruise. A superb buffet dinner on the deck is followed by entertainment, music and dancing.

DAY 10
NUKU HIVA – UA POU

The ship will dock in the morning at Taiohae. You may take the truck back to town to visit shops and the Arts and Crafts center. At noon, the ship will sail to Ua Pou, docking at Hakahau. This is your last opportunity to buy Marquesan souvenirs.

DAY 11
At Sea

DAY 12
RANGIROA Tuamotu Archipelago

On lovely Rangiroa, the second largest atoll in the world, you can relax on a white sand beach or swim and snorkel in the translucent lagoon. “Rangi” is an underwater jewel box with colorful coral and clouds of tropical fish. Excellent scuba diving is available for all levels. Visit one of the finest pearl farms in the Tuamotus to learn about these rare gems and see how they are grown. A great opportunity to purchase an exquisite treasure. Shop with the “mamas” on the beach for unusual pearl and shell jewelry.



DAY 13
BORA BORA – Society Islands

Aranui 5 will anchor in the magnificent lagoon of Bora Bora as the watchful eye of castle-like Mt. Otemanu pierces the clear blue sky. Of all the islands of French Polynesia, Bora Bora is best known for the palette of blue and green lagoon



studded by the ring of islets that make up its reef. Relax on a beautiful white sand beach or snorkel the crystal waters accompanied by colorful reef fish. Enjoy a picnic lunch prepared by the faithful crew and augmented with Tahitian dishes. At an additional cost, optional excursions are available: scuba diving; island tours by outrigger or bus; swimming with the sharks and manta rays; or a helicopter joy ride over the lagoon.

DAY 14
ARRIVAL PAPEETE, TAHITI
Maururu Roa and Bon Voyage.