



In Search of Eastern Polynesia.
INTRODUCING OUR NEW ITINERARIES

Tuamotu, Gambier & Pitcairn Islands

SOCIETY ARCHIPELAGO

TAHITI

ANAA

HIKUERU

AMANU

GAMBIER ARCHIPELAGO

MANGAREVA
AUKENA

OENO

PITCAIRN

PITCAIRN ISLANDS

SATURDAY DEPARTURE

Day 1, Saturday: Papeete
 Day 2, Sunday: Anaa, Tuamotu
 Day 3, Monday: Hikueru, Tuamotu
 Day 4, Tuesday: At Sea
 Day 5, Wednesday: Mangareva, Gambier
 Day 6, Thursday: Oeno Island, Pitcairn
 Day 7, Friday: Pitcairn Island, Pitcairn

Day 8, Saturday: Pitcairn Island, Pitcairn
 Day 9, Sunday: Aukena, Gambier
 Day 10, Monday: At Sea
 Day 11, Tuesday: Amanu, Tuamotu
 Day 12, Wednesday: At Sea
 Day 13, Thursday: 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, left to right: Page 16: Javelin contest, Anaa; Weaving demonstration, Amanu; St. Michael's Church, Mangareva; Island of Aukena.



Oeno

Named after an American whaler by its captain, Oeno is considered an atoll, though the main island, approximately 15 ft. high can be found in its lagoon. Designated as an Important Bird Area, it is home to different bird species, most notably its colony of Murphy's Petrels, estimated to be the second largest in the world. Though uninhabited, Oeno Island is used for two weeks in January as a private holiday site by the people of Pitcairn Island who travel by long boat the 90 miles to get there. *Aranui 5* will spend half a day in Oeno, where guests will have the opportunity to discover the island.

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, left to right: Page 17: Oeno Island; St. Paul's Pool, Pitcairn Island; Cannon from The Bounty, Pitcairn Island.