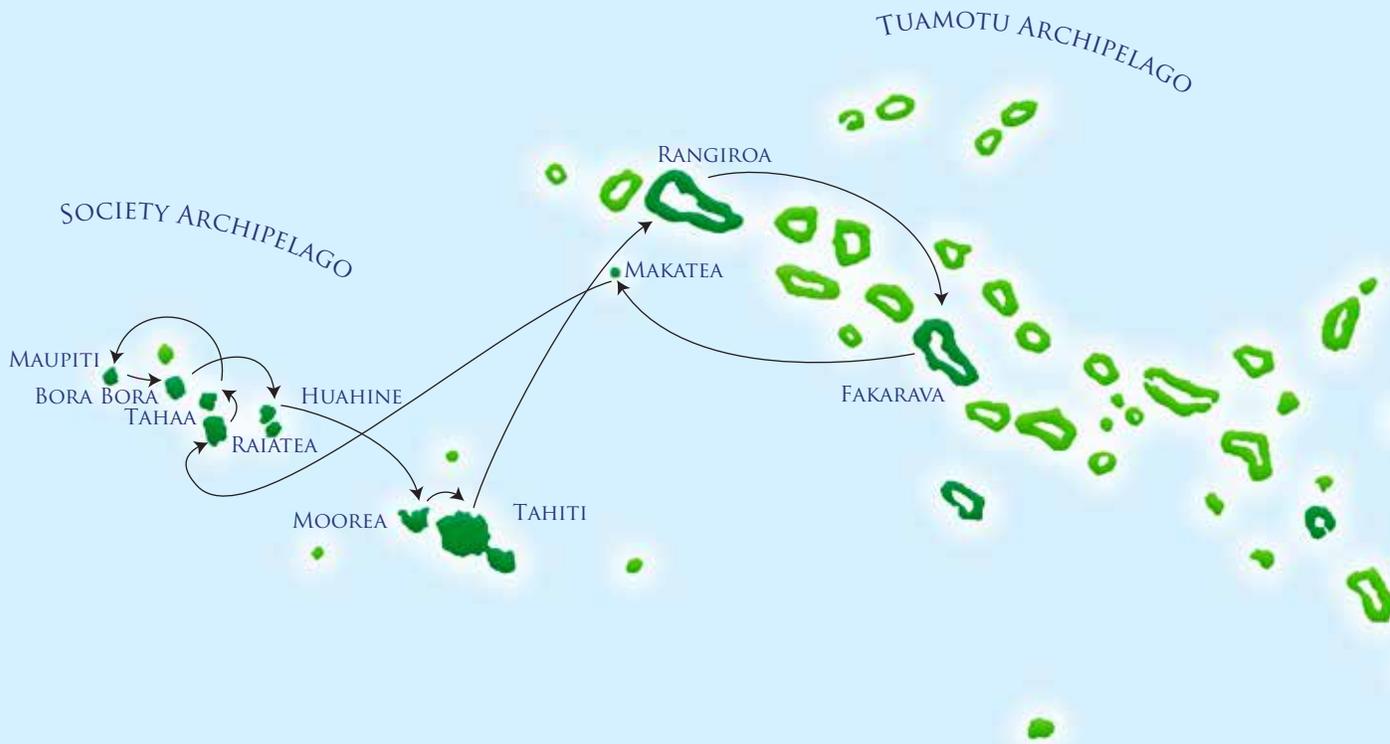


# Society & Tuamotu Islands



## SATURDAY DEPARTURE

Day 1, Saturday: Papeete  
 Day 2, Sunday: Rangiroa, Tuamotu  
 Day 3, Monday: Fakarava, Tuamotu  
 Day 4, Tuesday: Makatea, Tuamotu  
 Day 5, Wednesday: Raiatea, Society Islands  
 Day 6, Thursday: Tahaa, Society Islands

Day 7, Friday: Maupiti, Society Islands  
 Day 8, Saturday: Bora Bora, Society Islands  
 Day 9, Sunday: Bora Bora, Society Islands  
 Day 10, Monday: Huahine, Society Islands  
 Day 11, Tuesday: Moorea, Society Islands  
 Day 12, Wednesday: Papeete

# The High & Low Islands

Moorea and Bora Bora, the high; Rangiroa and Fakarava, the low. Some of the best known and most visited islands and atolls in French Polynesia. The Society and western Tuamotu Islands are an ideal introduction to the destination due in part to their proximity to the capital island of Tahiti. While the spectacular scenery of white sand beaches

and the stunning lagoons of blues and greens will draw you in, the varying degrees of development, different dialects and customs from one island to the next will offer a spectrum of Polynesian culture, from the old to the new.

## *Fakarava, Rangiroa & Makatea*

In addition to stops in Fakarava and Rangiroa in the western Tuamotu Islands, *Aranui 5* will visit 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.



*Photos, top to bottom, left to right: Cliffs and caves, Makatea; Vanilla plantation; Taputapuetea Marae, Raiatea.*

## *Raiatea & Tahaa*

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. Taputapuetea, 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.

Across from Raiatea lies the sister island of Taha'a. Enclosed by the same coral reef, it is believed that it once was a single island. Known as the "Vanilla Island" due to its many plantations and the fragrant scent of the bean permeating the air, Taha'a is an idyllic paradise of white sand beaches, a crystal clear lagoon and beautiful coral gardens. Less visited than its more famous neighbor to the north, Taha'a has maintain its traditional Polynesian charm.



## Bora Bora & Maupiti

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.

Lesser known and seldom visited, yet equally stunning, the tiny island of Maupiti sits 25 miles to the west of Bora Bora. The main island, only about four square miles, is surrounded by a shallow lagoon with translucent waters and several long and smaller motus that make up the barrier reef. Secluded, Maupiti offers a more authentic and traditional view of Polynesian life. Rich in archeological sites, marae, petroglyphs and graves dating from around 850 A.D. can be found on the island. A hike up to the peak of Mount Teurafaatiu offers an unforgettable panoramic view of the lagoon below and Bora Bora in the distance.



## Moorea

Moorea, or the “Yellow Lizard” in Tahitian, is a perennial favorite for most who visit the island and the best of both worlds. Located 11 miles from Tahiti, or a 30 minute ferry ride, its proximity to downtown Papeete makes it convenient to access without living in the frenetic environment of the Capital. It is ideal for the locals who travel to town in the morning for work and return to Moorea’s slower pace of life at the end of the day. With no street lights and a handful of stop signs, once the sun sets, the island goes dark, illuminated only by the lights of homes and hotels. Visually, the island is stunning. The two nearly symmetrical bays on the north side, Cook’s and Opunohu Bay, with a large mountain ridge as a backdrop, are equally as impressive from the sea as they are from atop the Belvedere, a lookout point on Mount Rotui. Land and water activities abound on Moorea, giving you the opportunity to do as much or as little as you want during your visit.



## Huahine

Only a 15 minute flight from Bora Bora, yet worlds apart, Huahine represents old Polynesia. Less visited than its glitzy neighbor to the East, this lush tropical Garden of Eden and its people have maintained the warmth and simplicity Polynesians are known for, mostly unaffected by the modern world. Huahine is actually two islands, connected by a small bridge. In the north, Huahine Nui, or big Huahine, is where the main village of Fare is located. Several marae, a small museum exhibiting objects and remnants from digs, stone fish traps, an ancestral method referred to as “lazy fishing”, and sacred blue-eyed eels can be found here. In the south, Huahine Iiti, or small Huahine, though a little more rugged, offers a postcard image of gorgeous white sand beaches and a lagoon in varying shades of blues and greens at the tip of the island.



*Photos, top to bottom, left to right: Island of Maupiti; Island of Bora Bora; Island of Huahine; Island of Moorea.*