

## INCLUDED EXCURSIONS MARQUESAS ISLANDS

At each island stopover an excursion is included as part of the cruise fare and per our daily itinerary. On our Marquesas cruises only, where freight is carried, our guides will escort guests ashore while supplies are unloaded and goods destined for Tahiti are loaded. Each excursion has been designed and developed between Aranui and the local islanders to show off the highlights of each destination.

### **Fakarava**

Passengers will have time to discover its small village, the church built out of coral, the local crafts and a demonstration of the many uses of the coconut. Enjoy a day of relaxation, sun and beach, swimming or snorkelling among colorful tropical fish.

### **Nuku Hiva**

A 4x4 excursion from town to the Cathedral Notre Dame, known for its stonework and wood sculptures; the Tohua Kamuihei in Hatieu, and archeological site; the valley of Taipivai, where a traditional Marquesan lunch will be served. Stops at scenic viewpoints on the return, with free time in the town of Taiohae in the afternoon.

### **Ua Pou**

Following a morning hike to a hill overlooking the bay and surrounding valleys for breath-taking views, walk into the village to sample local fruits and visit the arts and crafts centre. Locals will perform the island's Bird Dance before a Marquesan lunch at a local restaurant.

### **Ua Huka**

A 4x4 excursion from Vaipae to the villages of Hokatu and Hane, with stops at the botanical garden, three museums featuring replicas of Marquesan artifacts, ancient maritime objects and petroglyphs, woodcarvers' studios, followed by a traditional local lunch.

### **Hiva Oa**

In the main village of Atuona, visit the Calvary cemetery where French artist Paul Gauguin is buried, the Gauguin and Jacques Brel museums and an arts and crafts centre.

### **Tahuata**

Visit the Catholic Church built by the Vatican and decorated with beautiful carvings and a stained-glass window with the Marquesan cross, and an arts and crafts centre featuring some of the finest bone carvings, for which the island is known.

### **Fatu Hiva**

Visit the village of Omoa in the morning to see demonstrations of tapa, a cloth from the bark of various trees, and the kumuhei, a floral bouquet unique to this island and worn by women to perfume their hair. A 16km hike to the village of Hanavave is offered to active guests. For those who do not wish to partake, the ship will reposition to Hanavave, where non-hiking guests can disembark for a visit and a demonstration of coconut oil production.

### **Makatea**

Visit the remains of Makatea's past and the phosphate exploitation or the sacred caves of Makatea with clear water. You will enjoy a picnic under the cliffs or on the beach.

### **Rangiroa**

Enjoy Rangiroa's white sand beach and translucent lagoon. The "mamas" stands will have an excellent display of shell necklaces and other small souvenirs. After lunch on board, you will enjoy your afternoon at the public beach.

### **Bora Bora**

Upon arriving in Bora Bora's stunning lagoon, you'll be greeted by the majestic Mount Otemanu, the island's highest peak. This paradise offers the option to relax on the beach and enjoy a barbecue on the private Motu Tapu surrounded by clear waters.

## INCLUDED EXCURSIONS AUSTRAL ISLANDS

At each island stopover an excursion is included as part of the cruise fare and per our daily itinerary. Each activity has been designed and developed between Aranui and the local islanders to show off the highlights of each destination including archaeological sites, villages, botanical gardens and arts and crafts centres.

### Rurutu

Rurutu is renowned in Polynesia for its high-quality basketry, including hats, bags, and rugs made from pandanus leaves and natural materials. Upon arriving at Rurutu via the Aranui, passengers are greeted with local songs and have free time to explore the tranquil village of Moerai. The second day offers a tour of the island's scenic wonders, including cliffs, caves, lush jungles, sandy beaches, and a traditional meal, with the opportunity to witness humpback whales in September as an optional activity.

### Rimatara

Visitors can explore the main villages, including Amaru, Anapoto, and Motuaura, where the cemetery holds the lineage of past kings and queens. A barbecue on Motuaura's beach is followed by opportunities for snorkelling, bird-watching for the colourful Kuhl's Lorikeet, and optional activities like bike and kayak rentals.

### Tubuai

Tubuai, the most populous island in the Austral Islands, welcomes passengers at Bloody Bay's landing stage with local music and wreaths. Visitors can observe art and craft demonstrations, including pandanus leaf weaving and shell necklace making. The day's activities include a truck tour of cultural sites followed by lunch onboard and opportunities for snorkelling, with certified diving available as an optional activity.

### Rapa

Rapa, the most remote of the Austral Islands, boasts a unique crescent-shaped coastline with numerous deep bays and a temperate climate. Despite the absence of coral or coconut trees, the island is abundant in non-tropical fruits and vegetables like apples, peaches, and nectarines. Upon disembarking at Ahurei dock, passengers are greeted with flower wreaths and traditional Rapa music, followed by a visit to the cultural centre to witness local handicrafts and enjoy a traditional meal. Optional activities include a hike to Fort Morango Uta and a Polynesian evening with on the oik deck including a special buffet dinner.

### Raivavae

Raivavae, often described as the "Bora Bora of the past," is known for having the most beautiful lagoon in Tahiti and its islands. Passengers disembark at Mahanatoa beach, where they are greeted with flower wreaths and local music. A tour of the island includes visits to the "Smiling Tiki" and marae sites, along with a typical Raivavae buffet on the beach. Optional activities include exploring motu Vaiamanu, known as the "motu swimming pool," a coral garden, and hiking to Mount Hiro.

### Bora Bora

Upon arriving in Bora Bora's stunning lagoon, you'll be greeted by the majestic Mount Otemanu, the island's highest peak. This paradise offers the option to relax on the beach and enjoy a barbecue on the private Motu Tapu surrounded by clear waters. Additionally, you can partake in various optional excursions, including scuba diving, lagoon tours by boat or motorised canoe, and swimming with sharks and rays.

### Raiatea

You will visit a luxurious Botanical Garden and the archaeological site TAPUTAPUATEA, a 1 000-year-old large marae complex, or open air temple, and now a UNESCO World Heritage Site, which is regarded as the religious and spiritual centre of all of Eastern Polynesia.

## OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES

Various optional excursions & activities are offered depending on the selected itinerary, including:

### **Diving in French Polynesia**

Some of the best diving in the world can be found here. The three different topographies offer a different experience each time, with diving available on six islands: Fakarava, Rangiroa, Hiva Oa, Tubuai and Bora Bora.

### **Fishing**

Due to its remoteness and isolation in the South Pacific and with an abundance of marine life, the Polynesian waters are a fisherman's paradise. Mokai Nui 2, a four-person boat, offers deep sea fishing outings at different ports.

### **Private guided tours in Ua Pou or Fatu Hiva**

In Ua Pou, guests will have the opportunity to explore in greater depth either the eastern or western coasts of the island on a half day 4x4 tour. As there are fewer available vehicles on this small island, space is limited. In Fatu Hiva, for those who do not wish to make the 16km hike between the villages of Omoa and Hanavave, there is a three hour crossing by 4x4 as an option. Discover some of the most spectacular scenery in the Marquesas, including a view from above of the Bay of Virgins.

### **Glass bottom boat in Rangiroa**

Those who don't dive or snorkel can enjoy the extraordinary underwater world of Rangiroa's blue lagoon on a glass bottom boat tour. Discover the colourful coral and tropical fish that call the atoll home with the chance of a cameo from a shark or ray.

### **Bike & E-bike rental**

Explore the islands at your own pace on a bicycle in Fakarava.

**Discovery voyages:** These special voyages also include optional excursions at each stopover.

These optional activities are indicative and may be modified without notice due to technical or meteorological reasons. Please contact our office for more information.