

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 archeological sites, villages, botanical gardens and arts and crafts centers.

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 snorkeling, birdwatching for the colorful Kuhl's Lori, 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 on board and opportunities for snorkeling, 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 center to witness local handicrafts and enjoy a traditional meal. Optional activities include a hike to Fort Morango Uta and a Polynesian evening with a plancha buffet, location depending on weather conditions.

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 of relaxing on the beach and enjoying 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 motorized canoe, and swimming with sharks and rays.

Raiatea

You will visit a luxurious Botanical Garden and the archeological 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 center of all of Eastern Polynesia