

Discover The Marquesas

Aboard the Aranui 5 Freighter Cruise

14 days / 13 nights

From
\$8635

Per person - double occupancy
2023 departures, Stateroom obstructed view

Day 1: Papeete Arrival

After collecting your luggage and clearing customs, look for our representative in the arrivals area who will transfer you to your hotel in downtown Papeete.

Day 2: Papeete Departure

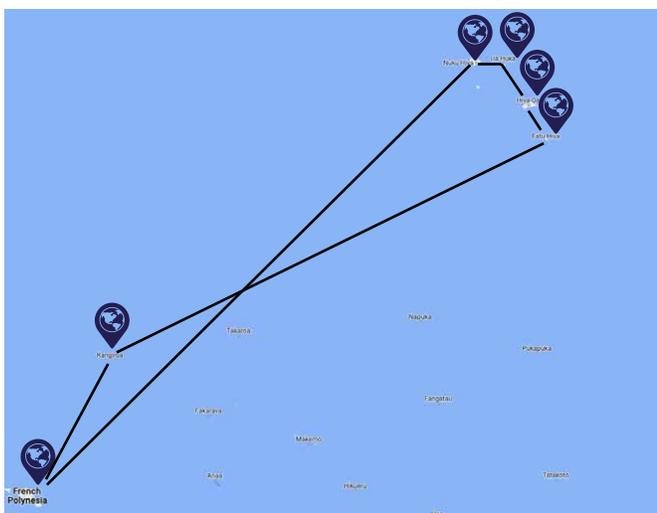
Boarding of the Aranui commences between 4pm and 5:00pm. Once all check-in procedures are complete, you have the rest of the evening at leisure as the ship sails towards its first stop.



Day 3: Kauehi (February to end of June Departures) or Fakarava (July 15 to December 15th)

The population of the island is 547 inhabitants mainly grouped in the village of Tearavero. Kauehi is a nesting place for turtles and is also classified as a “Biosphere Reserve” by UNESCO in 2006 and 2017. The Aranui will be at anchor in the lagoon of Kauehi facing the village of Tearavero. Passengers can visit the village and its church or swim from the white sand beach fronting a beautiful turquoise.

Fakarava, the second largest atoll in the Tuamotus, is 450km from Tahiti. Once the ship is anchored by the Rotoava Wharf, passengers can go to the beach. The lagoon with its crystal-clear waters, its multicolored fish and its coral reefs invite you to snorkel or dive (certificate needed). From the Rotoava wharf, you will find vendors selling crafts or offering optional activities such as bike rental. Lunch is served on board.



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Day 4: At Sea

There are many ways spend a day at sea - learn the Polynesian culture during workshops on weaving, dancing, cooking, wrapping a pareo or playing the ukulele. Or you can relax on deck, have a drink at one of the bars, attend a lecture, browse the boutique, work out in the gym, be pampered at the Polynesian spa or take a dip in the pool.

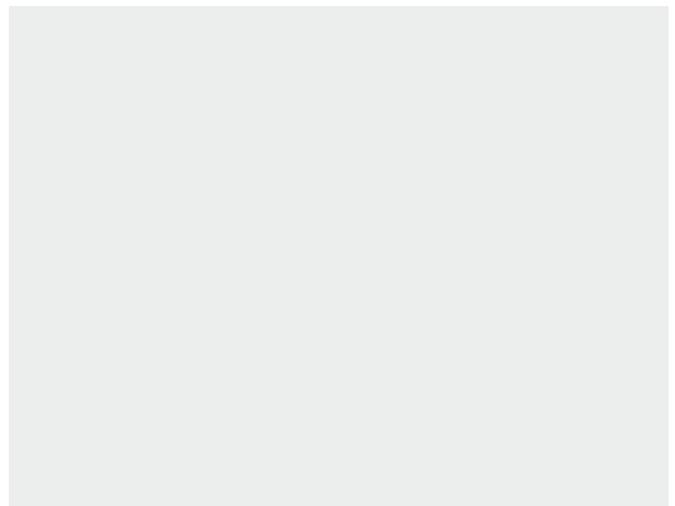
Day 5: Nuku Hiva – Taiohae

As the Aranui unloads freight in Nuku Hiva, passengers go ashore to visit Taiohae, the small administrative capital of the Marquesas. The first stop will be a visit to Taiohae Cathedral and the market to buy handicrafts. Next, visit the archaeological site of “Kamuihei” with its giant banyan trees and petroglyphs, where there will be a performance of the Marquesan and traditional pig dance. Hike to nearby “Paeke” site with paepae, huge stone platforms, where the “Taipi” built their houses. Your first introduction to traditional Marquesan cuisine will be served for lunch. The specialty here is the “umu”, an underground oven where food is cooked for hours. Local music during the meal will provide a great ambiance. In the small village of Hatiheu, you can visit a museum that displays copies of petroglyphs from unexplored valleys. Your excursion will continue south to Taiohae with its spectacular bay, a giant volcanic amphitheater dominated by towering cliffs dotted with waterfalls. Back to Taiohae village, you will also find banks and shops. You can return to the ship from the village on foot or by car.

Day 6: Ua Pou

From the decks as the ship approaches Ua Pou, you will see the mountain spiers unique to this island. As the Aranui’s crew unload supplies, cement, sugar, and load sacks of copra (dried coconuts) and fruit, explore the picturesque village of Hakahau and its church with a carved wooden dais. Meet the talented sculptors and artists of the island, climb up to the Cross for a breathtaking view of the mountains, the lush valleys, and the main village.

Another delicious Marquesan lunch will be served - breadfruit, a Marquesan staple with goat curry (a specialty of the Marquesas Islands), raw fish marinated in lemon juice and coconut milk, taro, and red bananas. Enjoy an excellent dance performance, including the bird dance, which is traditional in Ua Pou.



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Day 7: Ua Huka – (Vaipe'e/Hane/Hokatu)

This island, the least inhabited in the Marquesas, is largely arid and home to many wild horses, goats, and pigs. It is also a refuge for two endemic birds - the patí'oti'o and the pihiti, which are only found here.

In the early morning, the Aranui will execute a point-to-point 180-degree turn in the narrow mouth of Vaipae'e's Invisible Bay. With only metres to spare on either side, it is a skillful operation undertaken by the captain and the crew and is not to be missed. From the dock, travel by 4WD to the village of Hane. Along the way, you will stop to explore the Botanical Garden, the cultural centre Te Tumu, featuring a small museum with exquisite replicas of Marquesan artifacts, and a petroglyph museum and local woodcarvers' studios in the fishing village of Hokatu. Look for the unusual carved black and white coconuts. In Hane, where a Marquesan lunch will be served, visit the Marine Museum beforehand and in the afternoon, hike to view red tuff tikis overlooking the bay.

Day 8: Hiva Oa (Atuona) – Tahuata (Kokuu)

The Aranui will arrive in Hiva Oa in the morning, where you will have plenty of time to explore Atuona, the second largest village in the Marquesas. This is where Paul Gauguin lived and created part of his work. You can visit the colonial store where he bought his bread, as well as a replica of his sad and famous "house of pleasure" and the Museum. Walking up the hill to the cemetery, you'll have a stunning view of the Harbour.

Beneath a huge frangipani tree is a tombstone with the simple words: Paul Gauguin 1903. After lunch onboard, enjoy a lazy afternoon on a beautiful white sand beach or take a refreshing dip in the sea.

Day 9: Hiva Oa – Puamau/Tahuata

A morning drive by 4WD takes you to Puamau to visit the most important local archeological site for tikis in French Polynesia. Guides will show you through the mysterious ruins at Mea'e lipona and share stories of these haunting statues and an ancient civilisation. In the afternoon, you will visit the impressive church of Tahuata which was built by the Vatican and decorated with beautiful carvings and a stained-glass window featuring the Marquesan cross. Though the smallest of the inhabited Marquesan islands, it is historically one of the richest. The locals carve exquisite tikis, sea creatures, bracelets, necklaces and more from horse and cow bone, fossilised bone, tusks, and pink helmet shell.



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Day 10: Fatu Hiva (Omoa, Hanavave)

Fatu Hiva is the lushest island in the Marquesas. The only access is by sea, as there is no airport on Fatu Hiva. It is also the island of the “tapa” and you will discover everything about this traditional fabric. In the quiet village of Omoa, you will see women beating the murier, Banyan or bread fruit tree bark on log. The bark is then dried and used as a canvas where the artists will paint ancient conceptions of the Marquesas. Fatu Hiva is also known for its hand-painted “pareo” and “monoi” coconut oil infused with flowers from “Tiare Tahiti”, vanilla, or Sandalwood.

Following the visit of the village, passengers may choose to hike from Omoa to Hanavave, a 16 km hike offering spectacular views of towering cliffs. A picnic lunch will be served at the summit. Non-hikers will sail on the Aranui to Hanavave’s Bay of Virgins, considered one of the most beautiful bays in the world. Passengers may go ashore for a visit to the village.

Day 11: At sea

There are many ways to spend a day at sea - learn the Polynesian culture during workshops on weaving, dancing, cooking, wrapping a pareo or playing the ukulele. Or you can relax on deck, have a drink at one of the bars, attend a lecture, browse the boutique, work out in the gym, be pampered at the Polynesian spa or take a dip in the pool.

Day 12: Rangiroa

Rangiroa est le plus grand atoll de Polynésie française et le deuxième plus grand du monde. Le lagon bleu attire les plongeurs qui viennent y faire de la plongée libre, de la plongée sous-marine ou simplement profiter d’être entourés de poissons de toutes tailles, couleurs et formes. Rangiroa est célèbre pour ses majestueuses raies manta. Elle abrite également de superbes perles de toutes les nuances et des artisans locaux connus pour leurs bijoux en coquillages. Vous aurez l’occasion de profiter du magnifique lagon en faisant une excursion en bateau à fond de verre pour nager, faire de la plongée libre ou de la plongée. Vous pourrez également visiter l’une des plus belles fermes perlières des Tuamotu pour en savoir plus sur ces pierres rares et voir comment elles sont cultivées. L’Aranui retourne à l’île de Tahiti pour la nuit.

Day 13: Papeete Tahiti

The ship arrives around 7am. Disembark and transfer to your hotel in Papeete. Enjoy the rest of the day at leisure to explore this lovely island.

Day 14: Tahiti Departure

Today, you say farewell to these beautiful islands as you are transferred to the airport for your flight.



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The Package Includes:

- Transfer from Papeete airport to the hotel
- 1 night in Papeete at Tahiti Nui Hotel, standard room
- Transfers from hotel to the pier for Aranui boarding
- 11 night Discover the Marquesas cruise with all meals (lunches will be in local restaurants enroute) - in selected cabin accommodation
- Bottle of wine at dinner (shared between 4 guests) for meals taken on board
- Guided shore excursions as per the itinerary
- Transfer from Papeete pier to Tahiti Nui Hotel

- 1 night in Papeete at Tahiti Nui Hotel, standard room
- Transfer from the hotel to Papeete airport
- All tourist, port, and fuel taxes

The Package Does Not Include:

- Domestic or international flights
- Meals and visits not mentioned in the itinerary
- Beverages (except wine during dinner on board)
- Personal expenses
- Gratuities

2022 Departure Dates:

June 3, June 17, July 1, July 15, July 29, August 12, August 26, September 23, October 7, November 4, November 18, December 2 & 16

Accommodations	Per person Double occupancy	Per person Single occupancy
Class C Cabin – 4 Bunks	-	\$6,525
Single Stateroom	-	\$12,235
Stateroom Obstructed View	\$8,199	\$12,415
Stateroom Unobstructed View	\$8,575	\$13,975
Deluxe Stateroom	\$10,005	\$15,245
Superior Deluxe Stateroom	\$10,708	\$16,345
Junior Suite	\$11,379	\$17,189

2023 Departure Dates:

January 20, February 3, March 3, March 17, March 31, April 27, May 5, May 19, June 2, June 16, June 30, July 14, July 28, August 11, August 25, September 22, October 20, November 3, November 17, December 1, December 14**

**December 14th Cruise takes place during the Marquesas Arts Festival and incurs a 10% surcharge on cruise only

Accommodations	Per person Double occupancy	Per person Single occupancy
Class C Cabin – 4 Bunks	-	\$6,525
Single Stateroom	-	\$12,235
Stateroom Obstructed View	\$8,635	\$12,415
Stateroom Unobstructed View	\$9,029	\$13,975
Deluxe Stateroom	\$10,635	\$15,245
Superior Deluxe Stateroom	\$11,409	\$16,345
Junior Suite	\$12,005	\$17,189

Quebec permit holder #703430

The prices do not include the contribution to the compensation fund for clients of travel agencies of \$0.35 per \$100. This amount will be automatically added to the invoice. Rates were issued at press time and can increase or decrease any time due to exchange rates or new promotions. No contractual commitment. Contact your travel agent for updated pricing.