



5continents

THE WORLD. YOUR TRIP. YOUR WAY

13 DAYS / 12 NIGHTS

ARANUI-5 CRUISE – AUSTRAL ISLANDS THE SECRET ARCHIPELAGO

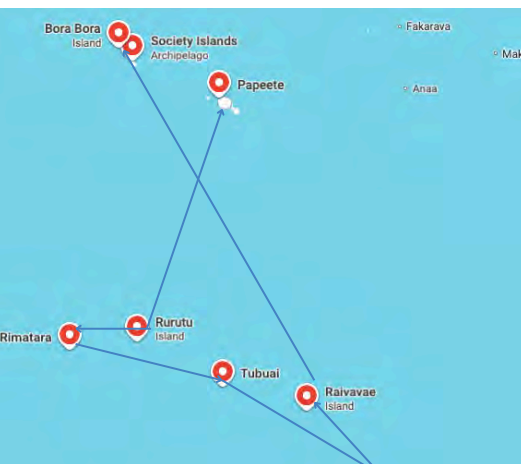
\$ 10,299

< From

Price per person, Double occupancy, Cruise package
Set departures 2026 / Applies to a Standard Cabin
Other categories available \$

The Austral Islands guarantee a journey beyond time, a deep immersion into Polynesia, very far from the beaten track. Discovered by Europeans in the 18th century, the Australs are located 600 km south of Tahiti's capital city. This remote archipelago consists of seven islands, five of which are inhabited; Rimatara, Rurutu, Tubuai, Raivavae, and Rapa, and four are accessible by air. Home to just 6,800 people, the Austral Islands offer an untouched and mysterious escape, where white sand beaches meet the intense blue of the lagoons. The cliffs and caves of the Australs, once ancient burial grounds, now serve as perfect vantage points to observe Humpback Whales frolicking just offshore. These majestic creatures migrate here from August to October to give birth.

The Aranui 5 is a supply ship designed to offer all the comforts of a cruise ship. It is classified as a small ship, accommodating 230 passengers with a total of 103 cabins. Featuring 8 different decks for passengers, the ship's interior design reflects the Polynesian heritage of its owners and crew. The ship has a dining room where meals are served in a casual setting, two lounges, two conference rooms where speakers will offer presentations on the Marquesas, four bars including a Sky Bar with stunning panoramic views, an outdoor pool, a boutique, a massage room, a gym and a tattoo parlor. Passengers are accommodated in cabins with private balconies, Standard cabins with portholes and also in dormitories.



DAY 1 : DEPARTURE FROM TAHITI (PAPEETE)

Embark on the Aranui 5 between 7:00 and 9:00 am in the morning. Departure around 12:00 pm. Once on board, a warm welcome by the Polynesian crew awaits. Begin your journey to the Austral Islands.

Aranui 5 Cruise



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DAY 2 : RURUTU, AUSTRAL ISLANDS

Rurutu, one of the two largest raised atolls in French Polynesia, stands out for its surprising geology. Basalt and limestone cliffs dotted with caves, a volcanic interior covered in lush jungle, and white sand beaches along scenic bays create a landscape rarely found in the South Pacific. The island is also famed for its high-quality basketry, including hats, bags, baskets, and rugs made from pandanus leaves and other natural materials. With the Aranui 5 anchored offshore, passengers enjoy lunch on board before disembarking by tender at the Moerai dock. A warm local welcome with traditional songs awaits, followed by free time to explore the peaceful village of Moerai.

Aranui 5 Cruise

DAY 3 : RURUTU, AUSTRAL ISLANDS

Today you will be greeted with a traditional flower welcome, accompanied by Polynesian songs and rhythms played on ukuleles, guitars, and drums. Board trucks to explore the island's wonders. Discover basalt and limestone cliffs dotted with caves once inhabited by islanders, lush tropical jungle, white sand beaches, and stunning bays offering breathtaking views. Rurutu's fertile soil and cooler climate make it ideal for growing coffee and taro. Enjoy a traditional Rurutu meal at the mayor's house, featuring the ceremonial opening of the "umu'ai" (earth oven). Relax on the white sandy beach of Vitarua and its lagoon. An optional activity includes a visit to Mole'e cave, nicknamed "the mouth of the monster," suitable for experienced hikers (registration required at reception).

Aranui 5 Cruise

DAY 4 : RIMATARA, AUSTRAL ISLANDS

The Aranui docks at Taanini. Rimatara is a small volcanic island and the last of the Austral Islands discovered in the 19th century. It keeps many old traditions, including its own dialect and is home to the colorful Kuhl's Lori bird, called the "Ura," which is also found in the Cook Islands. After a traditional purification smoke ceremony, visit the main villages of Amaru, Anapoto, and Motuaura by mini-bus or truck. In Amaru's old cemetery by the sea lie the kings and queens who once ruled the island. Local legend says making faces near their tombs leaves you disfigured forever. Enjoy a barbecue lunch on the beach at Motuaura, where the clear waters are perfect for swimming and snorkeling. Rimatara is covered with taro plants and fruit trees, making it a beautiful flower garden with a fresh water well. An optional bird-watching trip to see the red parakeet "Ura" is available (sign up at reception).

Aranui 5 Cruise

DAY 5 : TUBUAI, AUSTRAL ISLANDS

Tubuai is the most populated island in the Austral Islands. Upon arrival by tender at the landing stage of Bloody Bay, passengers are warmly welcomed at the town hall with a wreath of flowers and the sound of local music. Enjoy demonstrations of pandanus leaf weaving and shell necklace making, traditional crafts unique to the island. The island's fertile soil and cooler climate make it perfect for growing cabbage, lettuce, and potatoes. The day's activities include a truck tour of Tubuai's cultural sites: the marae of Po Tui Tui, Fort George (the first refuge of the Bounty mutineers from July to September 1789), and Bloody Bay, known for the historic clashes between islanders and mutineers. Lunch is served on board the Aranui 5. The beach at Bloody Bay invites you to swim and snorkel in its clear waters. Certified diving is available as an optional activity (sign-up at reception).

Aranui 5 Cruise



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DAY 6 : AT SEA

Enjoy a day to relax on the Pool Deck or in the comfort of the air-conditioned Lounge. Alternatively, simply take in the stunning views of the South Pacific Ocean as you cross to Rimatara. Lectures on the culture and history of the Austral Islands provide a comprehensive introduction to this fascinating civilization. Throughout the cruise, the spirited Polynesian crew proudly share their way of life, entertaining you with traditional songs and rhythms played on ukuleles, guitars, and drums.

Aranui 5 Cruise

DAY 7 : RAPA, AUSTRAL ISLANDS

As you approach Rapa, only accessible by sea, the Captain may announce: "Welcome to Rapa. Next stop, Antarctica." As the southernmost inhabited island of French Polynesia, this crescent-shaped landmass—with a fjord-like coastline deeply indented by 12 bays—is as remote as it gets. Known as Easter Island's little sister, Rapa has a temperate climate and no coral reefs or coconut trees. However, it produces a variety of fruits and vegetables beyond the tropical variety, including apples, peaches, and nectarines. The Aranui docks at Ahurei, where passengers are greeted with flower wreaths and the traditional sounds and rhythms of Rapa. Trucks await to take you to the cultural center, where you'll see local "mamas" crafting delicate hats and baskets from reed and bamboo. A local meal is served on land. On Rapa, a two-and-a-half-hour walk to Fort Morango Uta is offered. In the evening, enjoy a Polynesian-themed plancha buffet by the pool on Deck 7 or in the restaurant on Deck 4, depending on the weather.

Aranui 5 Cruise

DAY 8 : RAPA, AUSTRAL ISLANDS

During the one-and-a-half-day stopover in Rapa, several activities are offered. Visit Ahurei, the island's main village, explore ancient fortresses, tour an agricultural production center, and discover local arts and crafts. Meet the inhabitants of this remote island and share a traditional ma'a cooked over a wood fire in the village.

Aranui 5 Cruise

DAY 9 : RAIVAVAE, AUSTRAL ISLANDS

Often called the "Bora Bora of yesteryear," Raivavae is said to have the most beautiful lagoon in all of Tahiti and her islands. This hidden gem, carefully preserved by its inhabitants, is a true garden of Eden that quickly enchants its visitors.

With the Aranui anchored offshore, disembark by tender onto Mahanatoa Beach, where a warm welcome awaits with flower wreaths, accompanied by the songs and rhythms of Raivavae. A guided island tour by bus follows, including a visit to the famous "Smiling Tiki" and several marae scattered throughout the island. A traditional Raivavae buffet is served on Mahanatoa Beach. You then have free time to stroll through the village or explore the lush lagoon with a mask and snorkel. An optional hike to Mount Hiro is also available (sign-up at reception).

Aranui 5 Cruise





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DAY 10 : AT SEA

Enjoy a relaxing day on the Pool Deck or in the comfort of the air-conditioned Lounge. Or simply take in the endless views of the South Pacific Ocean as the Aranui 5 makes her way back to the Society Islands. Lectures on the culture and history of the Aranui 5 offer insight into the ship's unique role as a passenger-freighter and the company's contribution to the islands. Staying true to the Polynesian spirit, the entertainment on board remains authentic: learn traditional songs, try Tahitian dance, and enjoy live performances and starlit shows on deck.

Aranui 5 Cruise

DAY 11: RAIATEA, SOCIETY ISLANDS

Located in the heart of the Polynesian Triangle, Raiatea—formerly known as Havai'i—is considered the cradle of Polynesian civilization. As the first island settled by Polynesian navigators, it served as the departure point for great migrations to New Zealand, Hawaii, and Easter Island. The Aranui docks in Raiatea, where passengers are welcomed with a tiare flower and the rhythmic beats of the to'ere drums. Buses are ready to take you to Taputapuātea, the most significant marae in all of Polynesia. This 1,000-year-old open-air temple, now listed as a UNESCO World Heritage Site, is regarded as the religious and spiritual center of the entire Polynesian world. After lunch, enjoy a leisurely afternoon exploring the town of Uturoa, browsing its waterfront shops and local crafts.

Aranui 5 Cruise

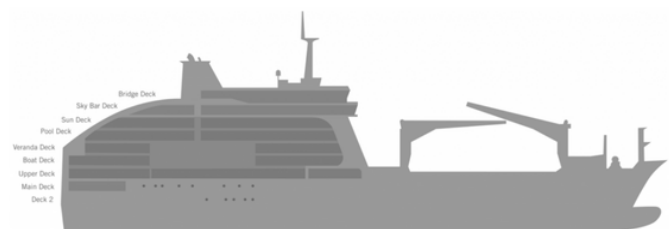
DAY 12 : BORA BORA, SOCIETY ISLANDS

Arriving in Bora Bora's stunning lagoon, you're greeted by the dramatic peak of Mount Otemanu. Spend the day on Motu Tapu, a private islet, enjoying crystal-clear waters and a beach barbecue. Optional excursions (at extra cost) include scuba diving, lagoon tours by boat or canoe, and swimming with sharks and rays. A 4x4 tour reveals World War II relics from Bora Bora's time as a U.S. military base. Evening departure for Papeete.

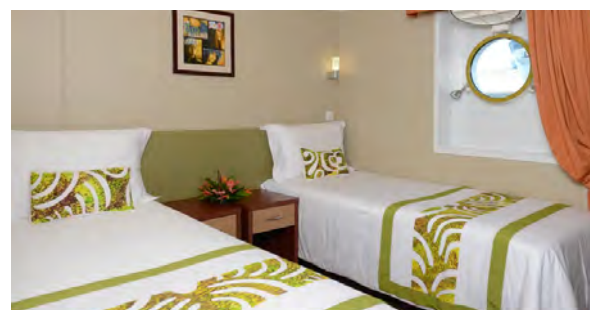
Aranui 5 Cruise

DAY 13 : END OF CRUISE - TAHITI (PAPEETE)

This is the end of your journey. It is time to say Nānā! (goodbye) to your fellow travellers, the Polynesian staff and the Aranui guides. Arrive in Papeete early morning and end of services.



STANDARD STATEROOM



DELUXE





ARANUI-5 CRUISE - AUSTRAL ISLANDS- 13 DAYS / 12 NIGHTS

THE PACKAGE INCLUDES:

- 12 nights in the selected cabin
- 36 meals: 12 breakfasts, 12 lunches, 12 dinners with complimentary wine (1 bottle for every 4 guests) onboard
- Services of expedition staff including lectures, briefings, slide/film presentations, and other group activities
- Group transfers during the cruise
- Excursions as per itinerary
- Shore excursions, these include meals, a picnic lunch or a meal at a local restaurant will be provided
- English-speaking guide
- Landing fees and port taxes

THE PACKAGE DOES NOT INCLUDE:

- Flights
- Meals not included, beverages
- Optional excursions such as scuba diving, horseback riding, fishing and helicopter tours (\$)
- Beverages not mentioned
- Gratuities to cruise personnel and guides
- City tax in Papeete
- Travel insurances and personal expenses

CRUISE PACKAGE 13 DAYS / 12 NIGHTS, PRICE PER PERSON IN DOUBLE OCCUPANCY

DEPARTURE DATES 2026

February 14, March 28, September 12, October 24, 2026

CABIN TYPE	DOUBLE OCCUPANCY		
Standard Stateroom	\$ 10 299		
Deluxe	\$ 12,649		
Superior Deluxe	\$ 13,649		
Junior Suite	\$ 14,099		
Premium Suite	\$ 14,699		
Royal Suite	\$ 15,999		
Presidential suite	\$ 20,249		

Single room supplement on request

Rates were issued at press time and can change at any time due to exchange rates, new promotions, or fuel surcharges. Prices advertised on our site are valid if you purchase services during the same session. If you log out of our site, the prices may be different the next time you log in.