

# .....SAILING FRENCH POLYNESIAN ISLANDS.....

## DETAILED ITINERARY

Jul 30/19

Lush and green Uo Pou Island.



### DEPARTURE DATES

#### 2020

Feb 06 - Feb 18, 20 *	Jul 25 - Aug 06, 20
Feb 22 - Mar 05, 20 *	Aug 08 - Aug 20, 20
Mar 12 - Mar 24, 20	Aug 22 - Sep 03, 20
Mar 28 - Apr 09, 20	Sep 10 - Sep 22, 20 *
Apr 30 - May 12, 20	Sep 26 - Oct 08, 20
May 16 - May 28, 20	Oct 15 - Oct 27, 20
Jun 04 - Jun 16, 20	Oct 31 - Nov 12, 20
Jun 20 - Jul 02, 20	Nov 14 - Nov 26, 20
Jul 09 - Jul 21, 20	Nov 28 - Dec 10, 20
	Dec 17 - Dec 29, 20

The lush, jagged volcanic islands of the Marquesas are French Polynesia's most spectacular island chain. You can imagine their raw beauty, the welcoming people and their mysterious stone tikis by reading the adventures of Paul Gauguin, Herman Melville, Jack London, Robert Louis Stevenson and Thor Heyerdahl. Today, there is no better way to explore these enchanting islands than by passenger/freighter.

Your days will be filled with adventure, as we journey to the Tuamotu and Marquesas Islands. Well-trained guides will take you hiking to ancient archaeological sites. Enjoy swimming, snorkeling, scuba diving and horseback riding. You'll visit charming villages and

### FACTS & HIGHLIGHTS

- 13 days • Start and finish in Papeete, Tahiti • All meals on ship and land included • Guided excursions included
- Scuba diving, horseback riding, deep sea fishing tours available at additional cost • Visit volcanic amphitheater in Nuku Hiva Bay • Visit grave site of Paul Gauguin on Hiva Oa • Visit Fatu Hiva, center of Marquesian culture
- Discover island of wild horses - Ua Huka

**PRICE:** (standard cabin, twin share)

**2020: \$4920 USD**

**\* 10% off select departures**

See pg. 2 for more categories.

The price does not include Tourism Tax, Port/Cruise fees, lowsulphur fuel surcharge (approx \$430), and transfers. This trip is not exclusive to ElderTreks.

Single occupancy: add 50% (will be limited to no more than 15 per sailing)

**Activity Level: 2**

**Comfort Level:**

Seas can be rough. Shore landings (using traditional style whaleboats).

### ACCOMMODATIONS

Travel aboard the upscale passenger & cargo freighter, Aranui 5. Cabins range from standard to deluxe staterooms, as well as a variety of suites, all with private facilities.

**ELDERTREKS**



**SMALL GROUP  
EXOTIC ADVENTURES  
FOR TRAVELERS 50 PLUS**

see local artisans making intricately-carved wooden bowls, war clubs and tapa - a traditional bark cloth. Very little has changed in these untouched islands. Visitors are rare but very welcome!

**Important:** We strongly recommend that you arrive 1 day early. If there are any flight delays and you miss the embarkation of the Aranui, ElderTreks & the Aranui are not responsible for lost services or extra expenses incurred to connect with the ship.

## DAY 1 • ARRIVE IN PAPEETE, TAHITI

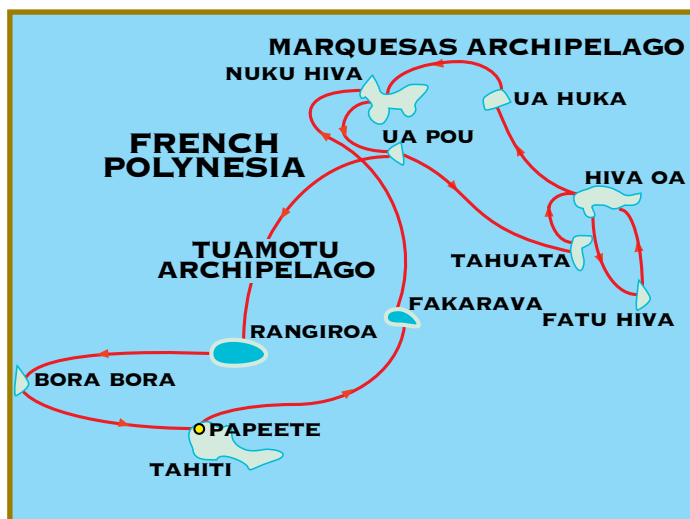
A charming bit of France, Papeete is the French capital of Polynesia from where you will begin your sailing adventure. The ship departs from the dock at 11:00 am (passengers must board the ship by 10 am).

## DAY 2 • TUAMOTU ARCHIPELAGO - FAKARAVA

We arrive in Fakarava in the morning. Designated as a UNESCO Biosphere Reserve and the second largest atoll in French Polynesia, you will have time to discover the small village of Rotoava, the church, built of coral and the local arts and crafts. Afterwards, enjoy a refreshing swim and snorkel in the translucent lagoon among the colorful ballet of tropical fish. Optional excursions, such as snorkeling or diving in the various passes or an outing to an islet for bird watching, are available at an additional cost. We will return to vessel by 12:00pm.

## DAY 3 • AT SEA

A day to relax on board on one of the sun decks, swim in the pool, curl up in the library with a book or simply enjoy the view of the South Pacific Ocean. Balmy evenings can be spent socializing on the



## Tariff (in USD)

Prices are per person based on double occupancy and include 3 meals with complimentary wine, guided excursions, picnic and meals on shore. Optional excursion such as scuba diving, horseback riding, and helicopter tours are not included.

**2020 Prices: Double Occupancy.**

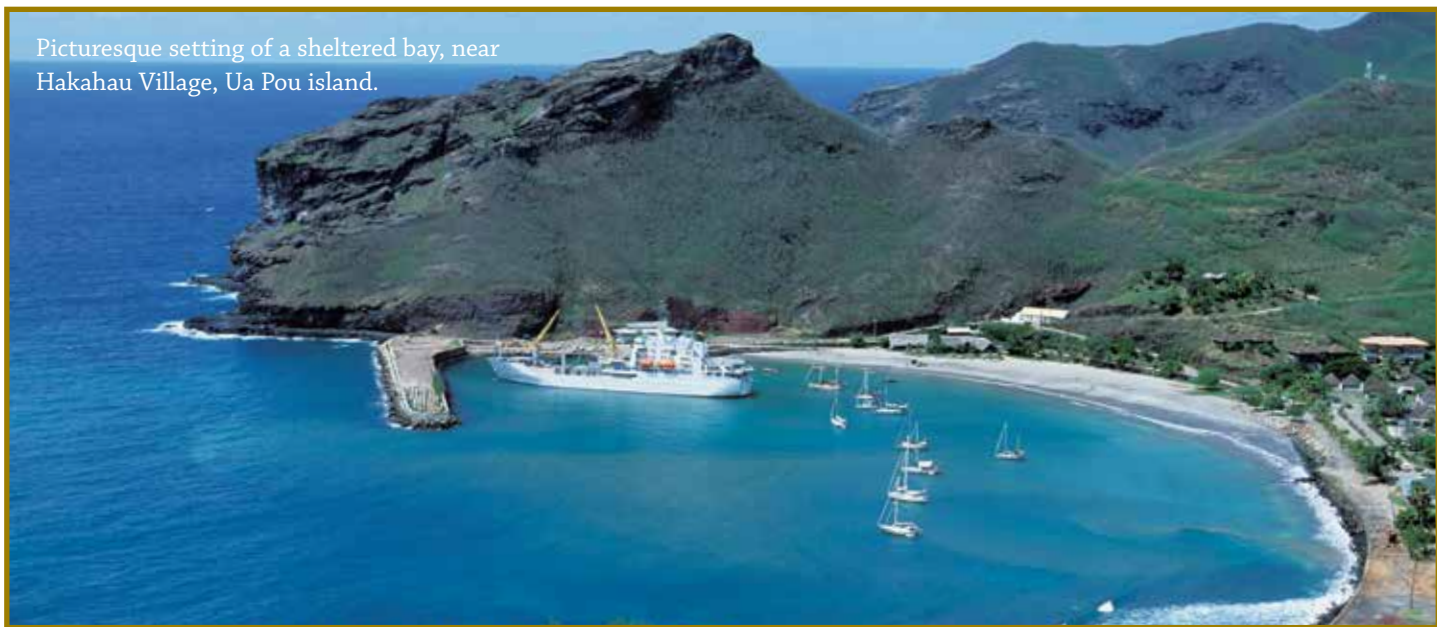
**Single: add 50% to Price and Tourism Tax.**

<b>Stateroom</b> with private facilities	<b>\$4,920</b>
Add: Tourism Tax: \$140, Port, Cruise Taxes: \$160, LSFO \$130	
<b>Deluxe</b> with private facilities	<b>\$5,930</b>
Add: Tourism Tax: \$169, Port, Cruise Taxes: \$160, LSFO \$130	
<b>Superior Deluxe</b> with private facilities	<b>\$6,420</b>
Add: Tourism Tax: \$183, Port, Cruise Taxes: \$160, LSFO \$130	
<b>Jr. Suite</b> with private facilities	<b>\$6,800</b>
Add: Tourism Tax: \$194, Port, Cruise Taxes: \$160, LSFO \$130	
<b>Premiere Suite</b> with private facilities	<b>\$7,090</b>
Add: Tourism Tax: \$202, Port, Cruise Taxes: \$160, LSFO \$130	
<b>Royal Suite</b> with private facilities	<b>\$7,770</b>
Add: Tourism Tax: \$222, Port, Cruise Taxes: \$160, LSFO \$130	
<b>Presidential Suite</b> w/ private facilities	<b>\$9,890</b>
Add: Tourism Tax: \$283, Port, Cruise Taxes: \$160, LSFO \$130	

\* Children tariff: 50% of base tariff \* Adults sharing cabin with Pullman (3 beds) – third person less 25% from full tariff.  
\* Single occupancy: add 50% \* Children (14 years old and under) will be limited to no more than 15 per sailing

This is not an ElderTreks operated tour. As such, participants on this tour are not exclusive ElderTreks clients and it may not adhere to ElderTreks' maximum size restrictions of our tours.

Picturesque setting of a sheltered bay, near Hakahau Village, Ua Pou island.



upstairs deck/bar with your fellow travelers from around the world.

The spirited Polynesian crew treat you as welcomed guests and proudly introduce you to their rich culture. Almost every night, they sing and strum hypnotic Polynesian rhythms on their ukuleles.

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#### **DAY 4 • ARRIVAL TO THE MARQUESAS ARCHIPELAGO, ISLAND OF NUKU HIVA; TRADITIONAL MARQUESAS LUNCH IN THE VILLAGE OF HATIHEU**

We sail into Taiohae's spectacular bay, a giant volcanic amphitheater dominated by towering cliffs streaked with waterfalls. As the Aranui unloads, you can explore Taiohae, the tiny administrative capital of the Marquesas. Taiohae Bay is where a 23-year-old sailor, Herman Melville and a buddy jumped a whaling ship in 1842. We follow their escape route by jeep along steep, winding dirt mountain roads to the village of Hatiheu to visit an archeological site. We'll have lunch at Yvonne's Restaurant, one of the best restaurants in the Marquesas, where the specialty is pig baked in an underground oven. You'll meet the owner-chef, Yvonne, who also happens to be the town's energetic mayor. After lunch, we travel

to the valley of Taipivai. The area is dotted with stone tiki gods and sacred ritual sites (me'ae) and immense stone platforms (paepae) where the Taipi built their houses. Enigmatic petroglyphs of birds, sacred turtles and fish are carved on huge boulders. The Aranui's whale boats will sail down the river to return you to the Aranui, which is anchored in the bay.

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#### **DAY 5 • UA POU - MARQUESAS LUNCH**

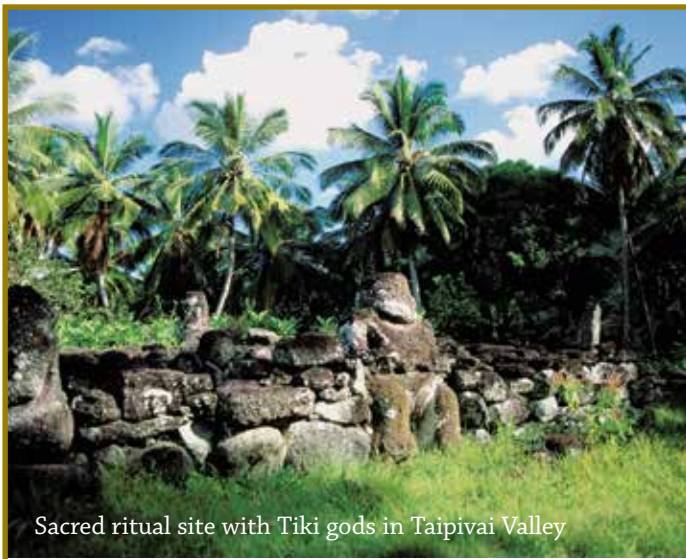
From the deck, you'll see the soaring mountain spires of Ua Pou. Whenever the Aranui stops, villages greet it. As the crew unloads supplies - from cements to sugar - and loads sacks of copra (dried coconut meat), you'll explore the tiny town of Hakahau with its church with a hand-carved wooden dais. You can meet some talented woodcarvers and hike up a hill for a breathtaking view of the distant cloud-covered mountains. At Rosalie's Restaurant, you'll taste your first Marquesan lunch: breadfruit, a Marquesan staple, along with curried goat, barbecued rock lobster, poisson cru (raw fish marinated in lime juice and soaked in coconut milk), taro and sweet red bananas.



## DAY 6 • HIVA OA (ATUONA) AND TAHUATA (VAITAHU)

In the morning we will explore Hiva Oa (Atuona), the second largest village in Marquesas. This is where Paul Gauguin lived and did some of his best work. You can visit the colonial store where Gauguin shopped and see a replica of the Impressionist's infamous "House of Pleasure". As you walk up the hill of the cemetery, you'll have sweeping views of the harbor. Beneath a huge frangipani tree is a tombstone with the simple words : Paul Gauguin 1903. Nearby is the grave of another famous European who also was seduced by Hiva Oa, Belgian singer-composer Jacques Brel, who died in 1978. You'll also enjoy another lavish Marquesan lunch at Hoa Nui Restaurant. There will be free time in the village in the afternoon or hike up to the viewpoint.

Later we visit the island of Tahuata. On this historical leaf-shaped island, the air is thick with fragrant scent of tiare and frangipani. In the tiny village Vaitahu, Spanish explorers landed in 1595 and opened fire on a crowd of the curious islanders, killing about 200. When the first missionaries came in 1797, the generous local chief left his wife with missionary John Harris, on instruction that he treat her as his own wife. Harris fled the next day.



Sacred ritual site with Tiki gods in Taipivai Valley

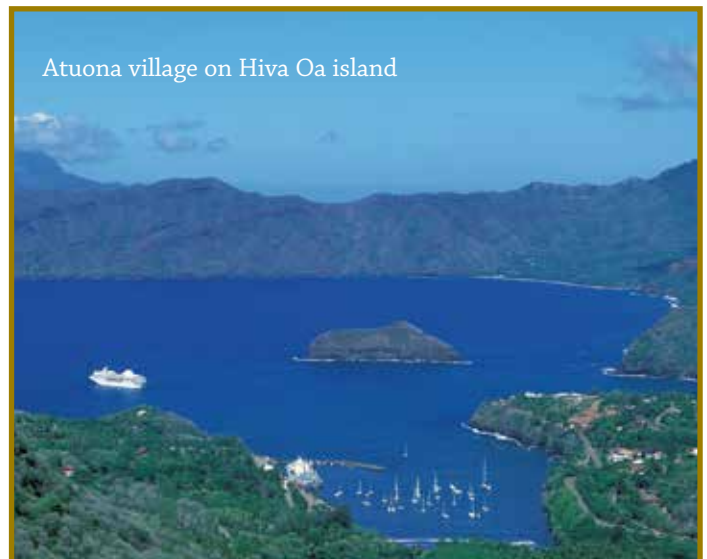
Tahuata also is the site of the first French settlement in the Marquesas, which occurred in 1842. The huge church built by the Vatican, is decorated with beautiful Marquesan carvings.

Tahuata is famous for its exquisite bone and helmet shell carvings. There will be many to choose from in the village.

## DAY 7 • HIVA OA (PUAMAU) & TAHUATA (KOKUU)

In Puamau, travel by 4WD to the most incredible archaeological site for tikis (ancient, human-like religious stone sculptures) outside of Easter Island. Once you reach Mea'e Lipona, our knowledgeable guides will tell you the stories of these haunting statues of ancient times. Surrounded by beautifully lush grounds, the site is overwhelming and has a lot of what Polynesians call "mana" (spiritual power). Only a small part of the site has been restored and most of it is still buried under massive trees and rocks.

After lunch on board, Aranui will set sail for Tahuata, where you can enjoy a lazy afternoon relaxing at the beach or taking a refreshing dip in the Pacific Ocean.



Atuona village on Hiva Oa island







## DAY 8 • FATU HIVA (OMOA-HANAVAVE)

This is the most lush and remote island of the Marquesas. The only access is by sea, since there is no airport on Fatu Hiva. It is also the island of “tapa” and you will discover all about this traditional cloth. In the tranquil village of Omoa, you will see women pounding mulberry, banyan or breadfruit tree bark on logs. The bark is then dried and used as a canvas where the locals will paint ancient Marquesan designs. Fatu Hiva is also well-known for its hand-painted pareos (sarongs) and monoi, coconut oil infused with “Tiare Tahiti” blossoms, vanilla or sandalwood. You will meet skilled woodcarvers in the large handicraft center. This will be another great opportunity to purchase Marquesan art and souvenirs.

Before lunch, the Aranui will sail to the other side of the island, to jaw-dropping Hanavave Bay, also known as the Bay of Virgins. Athletic passengers may choose to make the trip on foot. On this unforgettable 10 mile hike you will take in breathtaking views of towering cliffs and majestic waterfalls. For hikers, a delicious lunch will be served at the top of a mountain. (Scale of difficulty 8/10.) Sunset in Hanavave Bay is a moment of pure bliss.



Paul Gauguin's tombstone

## DAY 9 • UA HUKA (VAIPAEE-HANE-HOKATU)

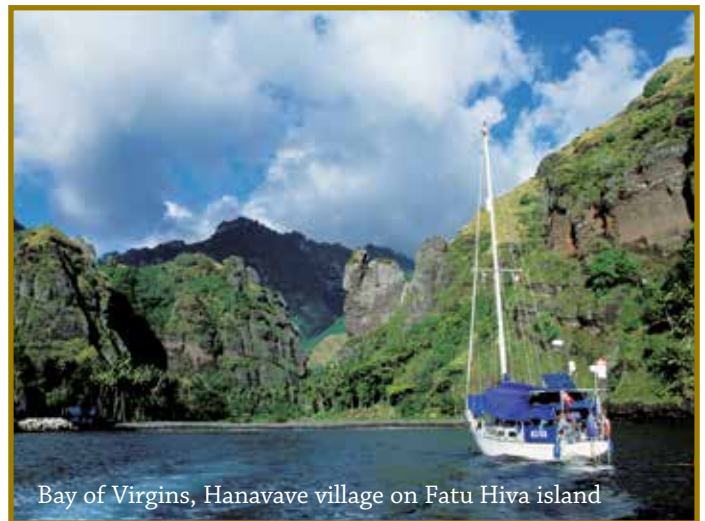
Today we will visit a museum with exquisite replicas of Marquesan art. Passengers may wish to explore the island by 4WD; others can ride the famed Marquesan horses. We will explore the mountain landscape with heart-stopping views of the Pacific. The wild horses (brought from Chile in 1856) thrive here, outnumbering the islands 476 residents. We'll have a Marquesan lunch at local restaurant and have plenty of time to visit studios of woodcarvers. We will also visit the arboretum as well as the garden, which is abundant with flowers and fruits. Back on the Aranui, it's Polynesian night with dancing and buffet dinner on the decks.

## DAY 10 • AT SEA

After an exciting few days exploring the islands, we have a full day at sea to reflect on our adventures and relax on board the Aranui 5.

## DAY 11 • TUAMOTU ARCHIPELAGO - RANGIROA

From the decks, watch our approach and arrival into French Polynesia's largest atoll and the second largest in the world. You may spot playful dolphins



Bay of Virgins, Hanavave village on Fatu Hiva island

greeting the ship as we enter Tiputa Pass, one of Rangiroa's two channels.

Snorkeling and scuba diving excursions are available (sign-up is required and an additional cost applies). Scuba diving in Rangiroa is rated as one of the best in the world (all levels welcome).

The Tuamotu atolls, with their pristine environment and pure waters, offer the ideal conditions for pearl farming. This will be your opportunity to visit a working pearl farm and learn how Tahiti's famed jewel of the sea is produced. And if your dream is to bring one home, the small on-site store features a nice selection of loose and set pearls.

Should you decide not to go on any tours, enjoy Rangiroa's white sand beach and translucent lagoon. The local "mamas" will have an excellent display of shell necklaces, key chains, and other small souvenirs for sale on the beach.

The Aranui will depart in the afternoon and sail to the mythical island of Bora Bora.

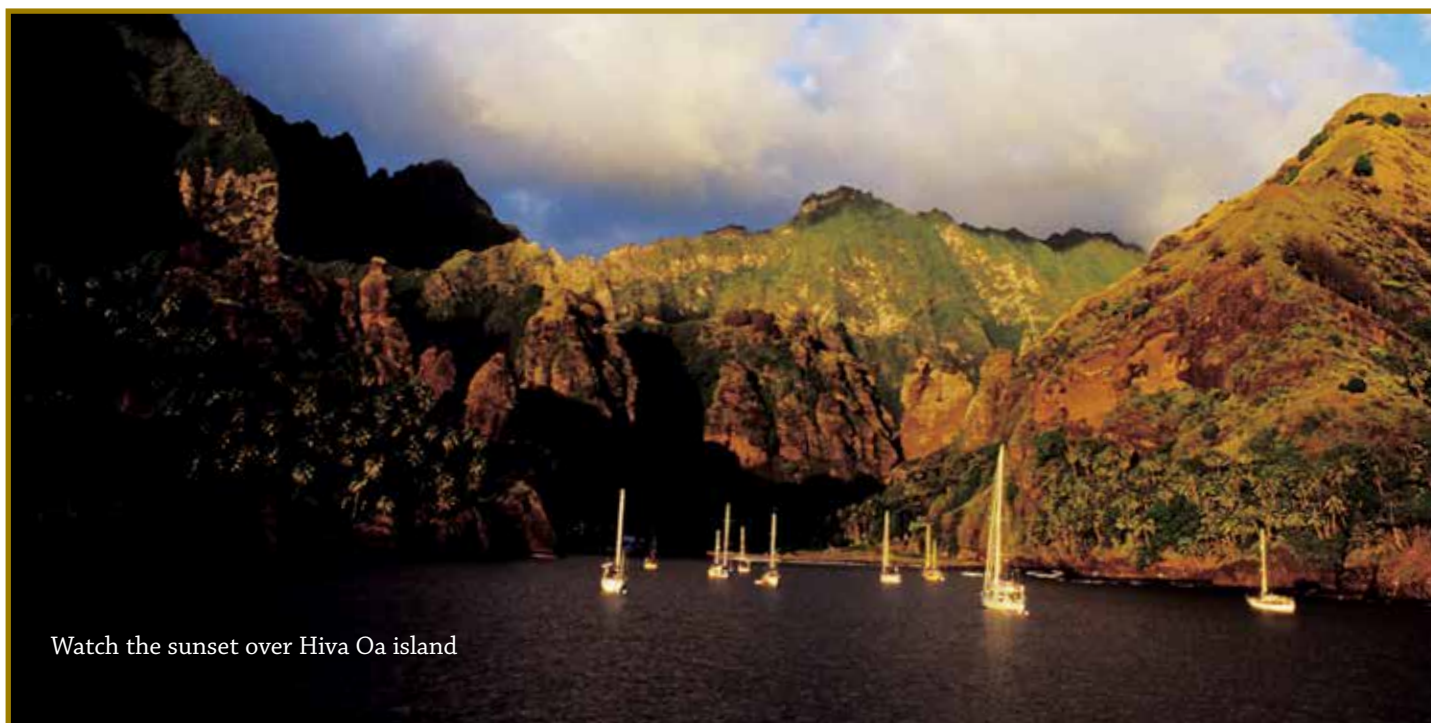
## **DAY 12 • SOCIETY ISLANDS - BORA BORA**

The Aranui will anchor in the magnificent blue lagoon of Bora Bora, which for many is the most beautiful island in the world. Romantics from around the world have laid claim to this island with its incredible palette of blues and greens, lush tropical slopes, and white sandy beaches. Passengers will have the opportunity to spend the day at the beach, snorkeling in the turquoise waters and enjoying a picnic lunch. For those wishing to further explore the island, additional excursions (including an island tour, swimming with the sharks/rays and helicopter tour) will be available at an additional cost.

## **DAY 13 • MORNING ARRIVAL IN PAPEETE, TAHITI**

We bid a fond farewell to our new friends and the Aranui 5 upon arrival in Papeete, Tahiti.

Please note: For each voyage, our exact route and program may vary according to weather conditions. The time given for visits ashore is the schedule set by the cargo's commander. Flexibility is the key to the most enjoyable voyage.



Watch the sunset over Hiva Oa island



## ABOUT THE ARANUI 5:



**The Aranui 5** can accommodate up to 258 passengers. With a high staff to passenger ratio guests can enjoy meeting fellow travelers in an atmosphere of warmth and intimacy.



*Dining Room*

## ARANUI 5 PLAN



*Suite*



*Standard Cabin*

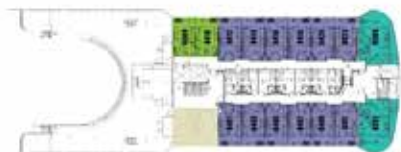
<span style="color: #ff69b4;">■</span>	Presidential Suite
<span style="color: #00ced1;">■</span>	Royal Suite
<span style="color: #00bfff;">■</span>	Premium Suite
<span style="color: #ff00ff;">■</span>	Suite without balcony
<span style="color: #9370db;">■</span>	Superior Deluxe
<span style="color: #90ee90;">■</span>	Deluxe
<span style="color: #ffff00;">■</span>	Stateroom
<span style="color: #ffa500;">■</span>	Class C

### Public Areas

- Gym
- SPA
- Video & Computer Room
- Boutique
- Restaurant
- Lounge on Boat Deck
- Conference Rooms
- Veranda/ Lounge/Library/ Shop
- Swimming Pool/Whirl Pool
- 4 bars
- Dancing room
- 2 lifts/elevators



**SKY BAR DECK**  
Presidential Suite  
Superior Deluxe  
Deluxe



**SUN DECK**  
Royal Suite  
Superior Deluxe  
Deluxe



**POOL DECK**  
Royal Suite  
Premium Suite  
Deluxe



**Veranda Deck**  
Royal Suite  
Premium Suite  
Suite without balcony



**Boat Deck**  
Royal Suite  
Stateroom



**Upper Deck**  
Superior Deluxe  
Class C



**Main Deck**  
Superior Deluxe  
Stateroom



**Lower Deck**  
Stateroom





Religious sanctuary...







## QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

### 1. HOW BIG ARE THE GROUPS?

The Aranui 5 can carry a maximum of 258 passengers. To explore such a region with just a small number of fellow passengers from all over the world is a real luxury and will help to make your voyage of discovery and adventure a truly unforgettable experience. You will be joined by other international passengers of various ages. There will not be an ElderTreks escort on-board. You will be well-cared for by the crew of the Aranui 5.

### 2. WHAT IS INCLUDED IN THE TOUR PRICE?

In addition to your cabin, your voyage includes: all meals, on-board guest lecturers, guided shore excursions, use of the ships swimming pool, library, lounges and gym. Horseback riding, scuba diving and helicopter flights are not included but may be purchased on-board at an additional cost.

### 3. WHAT IS NOT INCLUDED IN THE TOUR PRICE?

Airfare, transfers between the ship and airport, tourism tax, cruise tax, port fee, baggage, cancellation and medical insurance (which is strongly recommended) excess baggage charges and all items of a personal nature such as ship board purchases, liquor, laundry, telecommunication charges, gratuities and optional excursion (horseback riding, scuba diving, helicopter flights.)

### 4. TRAVEL INSURANCE

Please note that travel insurance is not included in the cost of the program. We strongly recommend that you purchase a fully inclusive policy that will cover for cancellation, any possible medical emergency, and possible evacuation. ElderTreks offers a fully comprehensive policy to insure you fully, please call for details.

### 5. HOW DO WE TRAVEL DURING THE TOUR?

We sail aboard the Aranui 5, a custom built 125m long passenger cargo ship. The Aranui 5 maintains the warmth and intimacy of the Aranui heritage, with a high staff to passenger ratio. Unlike larger boats, it's easy to meet fellow guests.

The spacious cabins are tastefully designed with windows, queen or twin beds, bathrooms with showers, personal safes, mini bars and are fully air conditioned. Deluxe

cabins and suites are larger and feature additional amenities with picture windows. The suites have balconies with your own private panorama. The large dining room offers views as well as varied menus.

On board time passes quickly, with two charming bars, two lounges, swimming pool, library and well equipped gym. There is a full program of activities and guest lecturers to enhance your sailing experience.

### 6. HOW MUCH TIME DO WE SPEND SAILING AND ASHORE?

Every voyage is different, even though the destinations are the same. Visits ashore are limited to the time required by cargo operators and port restrictions. Port time may range from just a few hours to a day or more. Shore excursions may be available at some ports of call. It's up to you how much time you spend on the ship. You may spend your entire stay relaxing in the comfort of the ship, or every minute enjoying outdoor activities, visiting historical sites and stunning vistas.

### 7. WHAT ARE THE MEALS LIKE?

Meals are served in an informal, family-styled setting in our dining facilities. Depending upon the number of passengers booked per voyage, there may be two seatings per meal scheduled. Dressing for dinner means a pareo (wrap around sarong skirt) or shorts, sandals and a hibiscus blossom behind the ear!

### 8. WHAT ABOUT WEATHER?

The Polynesian Islands have warm tropical temperatures all year round. Winter season is from March to October and temperatures are in the high 70's. Summer is from November to March and temperatures are the 80's with increased humidity and periodic rains.

### 9. WHEN IS PAYMENT DUE?

A 30% deposit is due at the time of booking with your final payment being due 150 days prior to departure. Deposits can be made by check and/or credit card. Final payment can be made by check or credit card. Cancellations received 150 days prior to departure are subject to a \$750 USD administration fee. Cancellations received 150 – 91 days before departure are subject to 50% non refundable. For cancellations received 90 – 0 days before departure, all monies will be forfeited. For

these reasons you are strongly encouraged to obtain trip cancellation insurance. Cancellation information is outlined in the Terms & Conditions section of your brochure.

### **10. CAN YOU ARRANGE MY FLIGHTS?**

We would be happy to take care of your air arrangements. ElderTreks offers personalized flight itineraries — not group flights. Stop over en route, come in a few days early, or extend your stay. Call us for a customized itinerary.

### **11. WHAT IF I WOULD LIKE MORE INFORMATION?**

If you have any further questions about the trip, please do not hesitate to contact our office for

additional information. A Trip Kit containing further details on the destination will be sent to you once you have booked the trip.

### **12. WHAT IF I WOULD LIKE MORE INFORMATION?**

If you have any further questions about the trip, please do not hesitate to contact our office or your travel agent for additional information. A Trip Kit containing further details on the destination will be sent to those who have booked on the tour.



Ride the famed Marquesan horses...