



TAHITI

PAUL GAUGUIN "MARQUESAS, THE TUAMOTUS & SOCIETY ISLANDS" - 17 NIGHTS

(TOUR CODE: 13056)

TRAVEL PERIODS

31 Jan 24 - 03 Dec 25

EXPERIENCE

Cruising

TRAVEL STYLE

Cruise

Discover French Polynesia on a 15-day Paul Gauguin cruise: Fakarava's atoll, Marquesas' lushness, Society Islands' scenic beauty.

Highlights

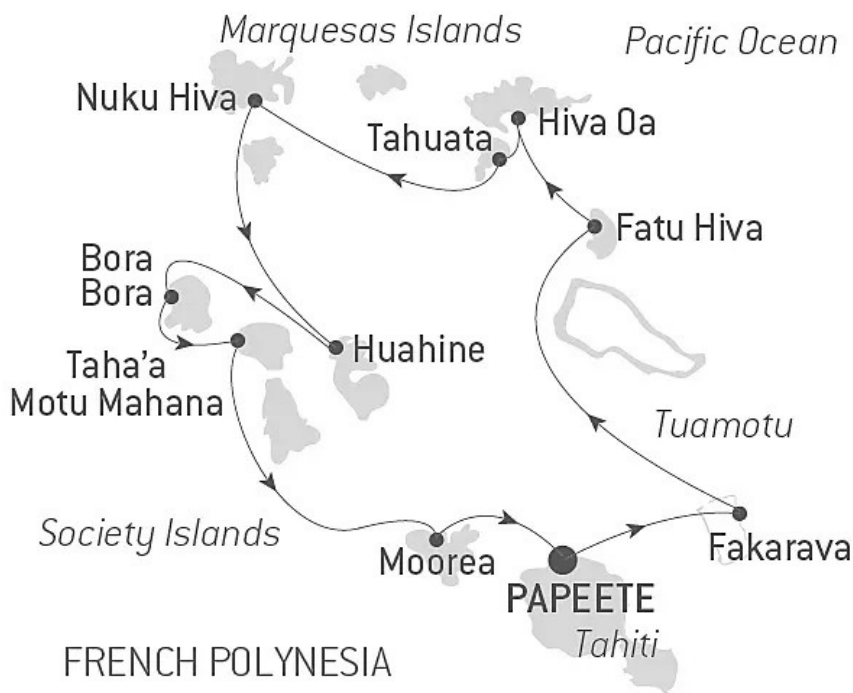
- Explore Polynesian culture through ancient crafts in **Fatu Hiva**, sculpted art in Tahuata, and a rich heritage of stone tiki and 7,000 petroglyphs in Taiohae.
- Explore the UNESCO World Heritage Site of **Fakarava**, a biosphere reserve featuring the world's second-largest lagoon, teeming with distinctive flora and fauna, grey sharks, and pristine coral reefs.
- Indulge in paradise on **Motu Mahana**, a private island, where you can relish sandy shores, the shelter of swaying palm trees, a delectable barbecue lunch, and coconut-drink refreshment.
- Uncover **Rangiroa's** 'infinite lagoon,' the largest atoll in French Polynesia, renowned for its 'shark wall' phenomenon.

Starting in Tahiti, Paul Gauguin Cruises offers a 15-day expedition to explore enchanting islands and atolls surrounded by clear lagoons and vibrant coral reefs. Aboard Le Paul Gauguin, journey to discover the natural beauty of French Polynesia, known as one of the world's most stunning destinations.

The cruise includes a stop in the Tuamotu Islands, where you'll explore the remarkable depths of Fakarava Atoll, designated as a UNESCO-recognized nature reserve.

Next, immerse yourself in the unique allure of the Marquesas Islands. These islands, sung about by Jacques Brel and painted by Paul Gauguin, are like lush green fortresses rising from the deep blue Pacific. Unlike other places, the Marquesas lack lagoons and reefs, but their charm lies in their untamed natural beauty. Dense forests in Nuku Hiva hide cascading waterfalls plunging from towering cliffs, while Hiva Oa and Fatu Hiva conceal mysterious ancient petroglyphs.

Finally, in the Society Islands, prepare to be captivated by the unparalleled beauty of Huahine, the turquoise waters of Motu Mahana (a private vanilla-scented paradise), the magnificent lagoon of Bora Bora with its iconic volcanic silhouette, and the picturesque pineapple plantations and lush peaks of Moorea overlooking the island.



INCLUSIONS

- 3 nights at Te Moana Tahiti Resorts - 3* (3 night pre cruise)
- 14 night cruise on board M/S Paul Gauguin "Marquesas, The Tuamotus & Society Islands" in a Stateroom (Category F)
- Airport Meet & Greet with Flower Lei
- All onboard gratuities on Paul Gauguin
- All shipboard entertainment on Paul Gauguin
- All shipboard meals on Paul Gauguin
- Shared Transfer Paul Gauguin Cruise Terminal to Tahiti International Airport
- Shared Transfer Tahiti International Airport to Te Moana Tahiti Resorts
- Shared Transfer Te Moana Tahiti Resorts to Paul Gauguin Cruise Terminal

ITINERARY

Day 1 Airport Te Moana Tahiti

Arrive at Tahiti International Airport where our representative will welcome and escort you to your transfer to InterContinental Tahiti Resort & Spa located a short 5 minutes drive from the airport.

Overnight stay in Tahiti at **Te Moana Tahiti**

Day 2-3 Te Moana Tahiti

Spend today at leisure enjoying the wonderful accommodation and facilities at InteContinental Tahiti Resort & Spa. Enjoy a great array of activities, from sports, such as tennis and volleyball, to water-based activities and cultural pursuits. With a luxury spa, fitness centre and two superb infinity pools, the InterContinental Tahiti Resort & Spa is the quintessential island

escape, with everything you need for a true French Polynesian getaway. Enjoy relaxing by the infinity sandy bottom pool or sipping delicious cocktails by the swim up pool bar. Perhaps take the time to explore the stunning island of Tahiti with a Tahiti Island Half Day Afternoon Tour (optional extra).

Overnight stay in Tahiti at **Te Moana Tahiti**

Day **4**

Te Moana Tahiti Paul Gauguin

Spend a relaxing morning at the Te Moana Tahiti. Once you have checked out of the hotel our representative will be there to transfer you to the Paul Gauguin Cruise Terminal which is located in town a nice 10 minutes drive from InterContinental Tahiti Resort & Spa. Receive a warm welcome onboard the Paul Gauguin from the crew and sail towards Huahine.

The day is spent getting to know crew and fellow guests while exploring the vessel that will be 'home' for the next 11 days. Meet Les Gauguins & Les Gauguines, Tahitian hosts and entertainers that bring the spirit of Polynesia to life on every Paul Gauguin voyage.

Capital of French Polynesia, the city of **Papeete** is on the north-west coast of the island of Tahiti. You'll find a **relaxed atmosphere** here, where urban buzz combines with the legendary laid-back Polynesian lifestyle. Culture is not lacking. You can enjoy sites narrating the history of the archipelago, including the colonial cathedral and the **Maison de la reine Marau**. The **Vaipahi** public gardens will win you over by their abundant plant-life. The large municipal market offers local specialities: fresh fruit, spices and all kinds of fish abound on their stalls.

Day **5**

At Sea

During your journey at sea, make the most of the many services and activities on board. Treat yourself to a moment of relaxation in the spa or stay in shape in the fitness centre. Depending on the season, let yourself be tempted by the swimming pool or a spot of sunbathing. This journey without a port of call will also be an opportunity to enjoy the conferences or shows proposed on board, depending on the activities offered, or to do some shopping in the boutique or to meet the PONANT photographers in their dedicated space. As for lovers of the open sea, they will be able to visit the ship's upper deck to admire the spectacle of the waves and perhaps be lucky enough to observe marine species. A truly enchanted interlude, combining comfort, rest and entertainment.

Day **6**

Fakarava, Tuamotu Islands

Listed as a **UNESCO Biosphere Reserve**, **Fakarava's coral ellipsis** is a narrow stretch of land sitting on a crystal-clear sea. Travellers here are surprised by the immensity of the lagoon, whose colours evoke an infinite palette. The atoll, renowned for its **immaculate beaches** and preserved nature, is home to rare bird species, plants and crustaceans. You'll disembark in front of the Veke Veke guesthouse, where you will be welcomed with garlands of flowers and **traditional music**. You will then be able to go for a walk along the beach or put on flippers, mask and snorkel to make the most of the warm waters of Fakarava and observe its brightly coloured **coral**.

Day **7**

At Sea

During your journey at sea, make the most of the many services and activities on board. Treat yourself to a moment of relaxation in the spa or stay in shape in the fitness centre. Depending on the season, let yourself be tempted by the swimming pool or a spot of sunbathing. This journey without a port of call will also be an opportunity to enjoy the conferences or shows proposed on board, depending on the activities offered, or to do some shopping in the boutique or to meet the PONANT photographers in their dedicated space. As for lovers of the open sea, they will be able to visit the ship's upper deck to admire the spectacle of the waves and perhaps be lucky enough to observe marine species. A truly enchanted interlude, combining comfort, rest and entertainment.

Day **8**

Omoa, Fatu Hiva Island

Your ship will take you to **Omoa**, a peaceful fishing village far from all civilisation, nestling in a magnificent bay on the island of **Fatu Hiva**. In the valley, you will be able to spot some **tohua**, former sacred sites, as well as the many burial caves lost in the island's abundant tropical forest. During your port of call, you'll be able to discover the Maison Grelet, a museum that houses remarkable **wooden sculptures** and local works of art. Right in front of you, the village's artisans will **demonstrate how they make tapa**, a bark cloth obtained through the technique of beating layers of wood, and explain the manufacturing processes of *umu hei*, a bouquet garni made from a **delicious mix of fragrances**.

Day 9 Atuona, Hiva Oa Island

You'll immediately understand why this remote and unusual chain of islands bathing in the **crystal-clear waters** of the Pacific Ocean inspired Jacques Brel's final album. During your cruise, we will stop at **Hiva Oa**, considered to be the "**garden of the Marquesas Islands**." A special kind of power and charm emanate from its craggy skyline and black sand beaches. This port of call will provide you with an opportunity to visit the small village of **Atuona**, home to the tombs of **Jacques Brel** and **Paul Gauguin**, as well as a cultural centre devoted to the memory of the famous French painter.

Day 10 Hapatoni, Tahuata Island

Located on Tahuata, the smallest of the inhabited Marquesas Islands, the village of **Hapatoni** will open its doors to you. A road built in old stones will lead you from the seashore to **the village cathedral**. You will also find a craft centre presenting various sculptures and engravings in bone or wood. **Marquesan art** is, in fact, recognised all over French Polynesia. Further on, vegetation takes over, inviting you to walk among its beautiful green valleys. Here, the population will give you a proper welcome, with traditional singing and dancing. A moment of conviviality you'll remember!

Day 11 Taiohae, Nuku Hiva Island

Taiohae Bay welcomes you in a sumptuous setting. Your ship will drop anchor a few kilometres from the **black sandy beaches**, nestled between majestic valleys. You will find yourself in the middle of the main village on the **island of Nuku Hiva**. You can follow the footpaths on foot or in an all-terrain vehicle. From the top of the hill of **Mount Muake**, a breathtaking panorama allows you to clearly identify the rocky islands that emerge on either side of the bay. Further on, the site of **Piki Vehine** shows its *tikis*, sacred statues used for religious practices. In addition, do not miss the **Notre Dame des Marquises cathedral**. Its distinguishing feature is that it was built using stone taken from the six Marquesas Islands.

Day 12-13 At Sea

During your journey at sea, make the most of the many services and activities on board. Treat yourself to a moment of relaxation in the spa or stay in shape in the fitness centre. Depending on the season, let yourself be tempted by the swimming pool or a spot of sunbathing. This journey without a port of call will also be an opportunity to enjoy the conferences or shows proposed on board, depending on the activities offered, or to do some shopping in the boutique or to meet the PONANT photographers in their dedicated space. As for lovers of the open sea, they will be able to visit the ship's upper deck to admire the spectacle of the waves and perhaps be lucky enough to observe marine species. A truly enchanted interlude, combining comfort, rest and entertainment.

Day 14 Huahine, Society Islands

Located less than 200 kilometres north-west of Tahiti, **Huahine** Island is a secret gem in French Polynesia. You'll love the mysterious atmosphere emanating from its voluptuous contours, its **wild vegetation** and stunning **remote creeks**. If you explore both parts of the island, la Grande Huahine to the north, and la Petite Huahine to the south, will reveal some of its

hidden treasures, as well as some **archaeological remains** from the Polynesian past. You can meet the local population in the main town of **Fare**, or in the string of villages along the coast.

Day 15 Bora Bora, Society Islands

Paradisiacal atoll of the archipelago of the Leeward Islands, west of French Polynesia, mythical **Bora Bora** offers a natural spectacle of captivating beauty. You'll be won over as much by the white sandy beaches as by its **famous lagoon**, one of the most beautiful in the world, where colourful fish frolic in waters of incomparable turquoise. The island is covered with **tropical vegetation**, and dominated by the majestic outline of **Mount Otemanu**. A promenade through this volcanic landscape will enable you to discover a number of villages and meet local communities.

Day 16 Motu Mahana, Taha'a Island, Society Islands

Feet in the sand, on the islet of **Motu Mahana**, our sumptuous little private paradise, you will share a very special experience around an authentic traditional Polynesian barbecue. A veritable jewel in the **Taha'a** lagoon, pristine atoll of the Society Islands, **Motu Mahana** offers an infinite palette of shades of turquoise, an idyllic backdrop for observing the majestic ballet of the tropical fish. The volcanic island of **Taha'a**, dominated by Mount Ohiri and Mount Puurauti, will reveal its fertile and luxuriant nature, ideal for cultivating the magnificent **black pearls** of French Polynesia, as well as **vanilla**. This rare spice, greatly in demand by gourmets, is the main economic resource of what is also known as *Vanilla Island*.

Day 17 Moorea Island

A part of the **Windward Island archipelago** just to the west of Tahiti, famous **Mo'orea** will leave you with a series of unforgettable images and memories. Bask on its **heavenly beaches**, enjoy a dip in the turquoise waters of its lagoon, and soak up its **luscious vegetation** and the heady flowers that carpet the inland areas. Get the most out of this natural gem with a trip to the Mo'orea **Belvedere**. Exceptional views of Mount Rotui unfurl before your eyes, with the **Opunohu Bay** and its valley to the left, and the famous **Cook's Bay**, surrounded by notched, cathedral-style peaks, to the right.

Day 18 Paul Gauguin Airport

Tahiti's capital city of Papeete is where we'll part ways and say "until we meet again." Our representative will be waiting for you as you disembark to transfer you to Tahiti International Airport for your International flight back home.

OPTIONAL EXTRAS

Post Cruise Package - 2 nights

Post 2-night stay at Te Moana Tahiti in an Ocean View Studio



Prices are dynamic based on travel dates. Please proceed to [Book Now](#) or [Contact Us](#) for details.

ACCOMMODATION

Te Moana Tahiti Resort

Puna'auia

Located between land and sea, the Te Moana Tahiti Resort hotel offers the ideal setting for your stopover in Tahiti in an authentic Polynesian setting. Relax by the infinity pool, enjoy a meal in one of our two restaurants and enjoy the sunset over the island of Moorea every evening.



ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

OFFICIAL LANGUAGE

French

LOCAL CURRENCY

CFP franc

Excluded

- Domestic airfares and taxes, unless otherwise specified in our holiday package
- Local City Taxes (where applicable - payable locally on check in)
- Visa expenses, processing and issuance fees
- Meals other than as specified in our holiday package i.e. mandatory festive dinners
- Travel Insurance or expenses of a personal nature (mini-bar, phone call, laundry, etc.),
- Tips or gratuities to guides, drivers, porters, hotel, restaurant or boat staff, etc.
- Or any other travel expense that has not been included in our holiday package