

TAHITI, THE SOCIETY & TUAMOTU ISLANDS 2024

- All year round aboard the 25-cabin M/S Panorama II
- 10 nights cruises in Tahiti, Society & Tuamotu Islands



AT A GLANCE



Sailing round-trip from Papeete port, Tahiti, uncover the world-famous Society islands of French Polynesia by small ship. Bora Bora, Taha'a, Moorea, Huahine, Raiatea - islands sculpted by sky-piercing, moss-green peaks and lined with vivid turquoise lagoons. Island hopping allows you to see every landscape, from geometric ridges strung with waterfalls on the high islands to flat, desert-like atolls where lagoons far outsize the landmass. There are many sides to the Islands of Tahiti, yet they are all connected by Mana. Mana is a life force and spirit that surrounds us. You can see it. Touch it. Taste it. Feel it.

Highlights include:

Bora Bora - Moorea - Huahine - Taha'a - Raiatea - Makatea - Tikehau - Rangiroa

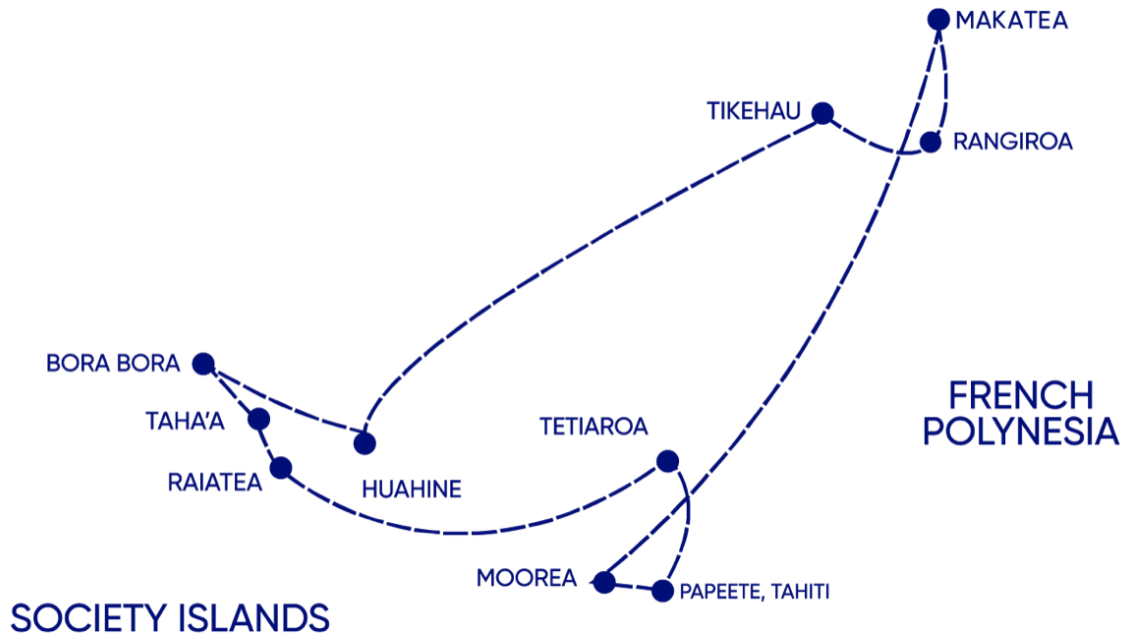




TAHITI, THE SOCIETY & TUAMOTU ISLANDS

10-NIGHTS/11-DAYS DEPARTURES ALL YEAR ROUND

ON THE M/S PANORAMA II | 2024



DAY 1 - PAPEETE, TAHITI

Embark the Panorama II in Papeete Port between 2pm and 3pm. After a welcome briefing and safety drill, we will set sail for Mo'orea. Arrival late afternoon. Dinner on board and overnight.

DAY 2 - MO'OREA

Mo'orea is believed to be the inspiration for the mythical Bali Hai from James Michener's Tales of the South Pacific. Eight gargantuan mountain peaks rise from its magnificent lagoon, creating a distinctive silhouette visible from the western coast of Tahiti. Morning and afternoon optional half day excursions; a/ a Snorkeling and ray tour b/ a Nature & Culture Tour taking you to admire magnificent views in the interior of the island. Afternoon sailing to Makatea.

DAY 3 - MAKATEA*

The island of Makatea is like no other found in French Polynesia. It is not a coral atoll but rather a raised island of coral. The limestone cliffs tower over the coast and the island's interior shows significant vegetation, complete with a few species of endemic birds and a peculiar expanse of limestone holes. Today, this sleepy but spectacular island is home to three species of threatened endemic birds: the beautiful Makatea fruit dove, the impressive imperial pigeon, and the comely appearing singer extraordinaire, the reed warbler. Our half-day optional tour will take us across this unique island to a magnificent beach with rockpools to explore before we visit an incredible grotto. Swimming deeper inside the grotto, this underwater cave system will slowly open out to reveal a spectacular watery cathedral, full of weird and wonderful stalagmites and stalactites. Late afternoon departure to Rangiroa. Overnight at sea.



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DAY 4 - RANGIROA *

Morning arrival in Rangiroa, the largest atoll in the Tuamotu Archipelago and one of the largest in the world. One of the best destinations for scuba diving, Rangiroa is composed of 240 islets, more than 110 miles, encompassing a deep lagoon. Our full-day optional excursion will take us to the Blue Lagoon, a natural pool formed by islets and reefs within the central lagoon. At only 16 feet deep, the Blue Lagoon is an ideal location for swimming, snorkeling, and observing the vast assortment of marine life. Enjoy a traditional Polynesian picnic before returning to the ship. Overnight at anchor.

DAY 5 - TIKEHAU *

Early morning sailing and arrival at Tikehau also called the Pink Sand Island. This small atoll consists of countless tiny white and pink sand islets engulfed in coconut groves and hidden alcoves. In Tikehau, which actually means "peaceful landing," you will find nothing but absolute serenity on her calm and graceful shores. The lagoon, formed by an almost unbroken ring of continuous coral, resembles an immense natural swimming pool. This underwater aquarium is teeming with marine life. According to the legendary marine researcher Jacques Cousteau, it has a higher concentration of fish than any other lagoon in French Polynesia. Our optional walking tour will take us to one of the family-owned fish farms where they trap different species of fish in a maze of underwater fencing. Much of their catch is then shipped to Papeete and sold at the local markets. We will visit Tuherahera at the southern side where most locals live, leaving the remainder of the atoll virtually untouched. In fact, the northeastern quarter is mostly uninhabited. Naturally adorned with colorful flowers such as hibiscus and bougainvillea, Tuherahera is one of the most attractive villages in the Tuamotu Atolls. Afternoon sailing to Huahine.

*Please note that due to visit by anchor adrift to the Tuamotu islands, such are dependent on favorable weather conditions.

DAY 6 – HUAHINE

Huahine, once home to Tahitian royalty, is considered the cradle of Polynesian culture. The two islands maintain the largest concentration of ancient marae (temples) in French Polynesia, some of which are believed to date back to around 700 AD. Huahine is a colossal tropical jungle burgeoning with coconut plantations, vanilla orchids, banana groves, breadfruit trees and watermelon fields. Our optional afternoon tour takes us by 4x4 vehicle around the island to visit the small villages of Fare and Maeva, an archaeological site, and a vanilla plantation. There will also be an opportunity to see and feed the sacred blue-eyed eels of Faie Bay. Evening sailing to Bora Bora, overnight at sea.



Itineraries can be changed at the discretion of Variety Cruises and of the Vessel's Captain in case of adverse weather conditions - winds of 6/7 Beaufort or more depending on the vessel- on port authorities not allowing a vessel to leave port or in case of other extraordinary conditions. Such itinerary changes do not automatically entitle passengers to any refunds, but Variety Cruises guarantees that passengers are disembarked at the advertised port of disembarkation on time for their flights.



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DAY 7 – BORA BORA

Early morning arrival in Bora Bora, possibly the most photographed place on earth. Our ship sails into Bora Bora lagoon with Mount Otemanu rising proudly at the center. We will have a variety of optional activities to choose from, such as: a) An excursion to snorkel with sting rays and sharks and open-air Lagoon Aquarium exploration; b) The Bora Bora tour by "Le Truck" and more. Overnight at anchor.

DAY 8 –TAHAA

Morning arrival to nearby Taha'a, a true botanical paradise. The fertile island is covered with banana, watermelon and coconut groves. The island also acts as a vast natural greenhouse for the treasured Tahitian vanilla orchid. Our optional half-day excursion will allow us to explore the beautiful interior of the island by 4x4 vehicle or by boat. Taste the local fruit and admire breathtaking views of the magnificent turquoise waters of Ha'amene Bay. This excursion also includes a visit to a pearl farm and a traditional vanilla plantation. Afternoon sail to the nearby Raiatea. Overnight in port.

DAY 9 – RAIATEA

In the morning we sail across the lagoon and reach nearby Raiatea, which translates to "faraway heaven" and "sky with soft light". Originally known as Havai'i, Raiatea is considered the homeland of the ancient Polynesians. Our morning optional excursion will introduce you to the highlights of Raiatea. Meet your guide for an informative & intimate tour by minibus. Enjoy a panoramic drive through the main town of Uturoa -- the cultural and administrative center of Raiatea. Shortly after leaving town, you will see Mount Temehani -- endemic home to the Tiare Apetahi. Our highlight stop is at the main ancient Marae (open-air temple) of Taputapuatea, recently became a UNESCO protected site -- your guide will cover the origins & history of this famous landmark. Here, we will learn about its Polynesian origins and historical relevance. Optional afternoon tour includes an exploration by kayak of the Faaroa River, French Polynesia's only navigable river, with an expert guide leading the way through Raiatea's verdant interior. Overnight at anchor.



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DAY 10 – TETIAROA (only for January 23, 2024 , Sailing)


A haven for birds, sea turtles and all kinds of marine life, Tetiaroa is treasured among Tahitians who know it as a sacred place. So sacred, that at one time the coconut-dotted white sand beaches and crystalline lagoon of this uninhabited atoll was an exclusive getaway for Tahitian royalty. It's not surprising that actor Marlon Brando fell under its spell during the filming of "Mutiny on the Bounty" in 1960 and later went on to become its owner. Under his direction a luxury eco-resort was designed and it operates in 100 % sustainable manner. We will spend the morning in this charming island, exploring the lagoon and snorkeling in its crystal clear waters. Enjoy an optional guided walking tour to the islet of Tahuna Iti, the Birds' Island. The islet shelters one of the largest colony of birds in Tahiti and is a national reserve for seabirds, frigates, sterns, phaetons (straw tails), brown gannets and other petrels. Afternoon sailing at Papeete. Overnight at sea.

DAY 11 – PAPEETE, TAHITI

Early morning arrival in Papeete. Disembarkation at 9:00 am after breakfast

*Please note that due to visit by anchor adrift to the Tuamotu islands, such are dependent on favorable weather conditions.

Variety Cruises' itineraries are contingent upon weather and sea conditions as well as local port authorities. In cases where wind speeds reach 6/7 Beaufort or high swells occur, itinerary changes may be necessary. It is upon Captain's discretion to alter the itinerary or skip port calls due to adverse weather or sea conditions to ensure the safety and comfort of passengers and crew. Such changes do not entitle passengers to any kind of refunds. Variety Cruises guarantees that passengers will be disembarked at the advertised port of disembarkation on time for their flights.

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SAILING DATES

From Papeete to Papeete
10 nights
Tuesday sailings

LOW SEASON: JAN, FEB, NOV

HIGH SEASON: APR, MAY, OCT.

Jan. 23* Tetiaroa is included
Feb. 20
Apr. 09, 30
May 21
Oct. 15
Nov. 19

YOUR BOAT



M/S PANORAMA II

Motor Sailer

GENERAL INFORMATION

Length: 50 m

Launched: 2004 | Renovated: 2015

Cabins: 25

Capacity: 49 passengers

Crew: 16-18

The two-mast M/S Panorama II, launched in 2004, carries just 49 passengers and offers high standard accommodation, comfort and safety. This state of the art Motorsailer has performed several Atlantic Ocean crossings, from the Seychelles to Monte Carlo and from the Black Sea to Tunis. The public areas include a main bar and lounge, which was renovated in 2015 to feature wood flooring and new furniture with soft fabrics in warm coral tones. Service on board is provided by your Captain, the Cruise Coordinator and your experienced Marine and Hotel crew members.



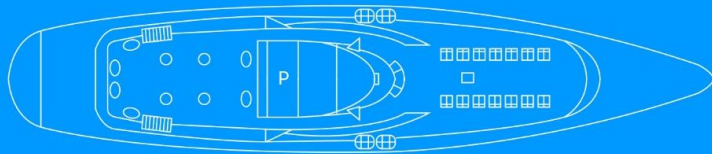
YOUR BOAT



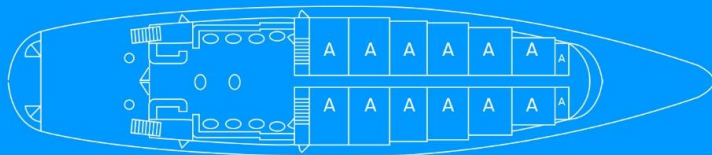
M/S PANORAMA II

Motor Sailer

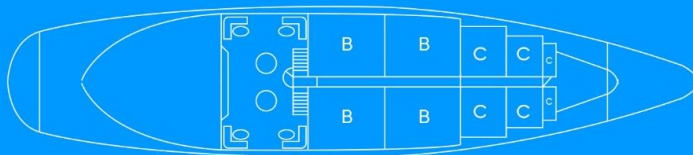
360°
SUN DECK



RIVIERA
MAIN DECK



OCEANS
LOWER DECK



The Panorama II is a 164 ft Motor Sailer which complies with the latest SOLAS regulations for International Voyages. Her state of the art twin masts with 600 m³ of sails allow safe and comfortable sailing. The sails are hoisted occasionally when wind and itinerary schedules allow

YOUR BOAT



M/S PANORAMA II

Motor Sailer

CABIN SPECIFICATIONS

The M/S Panorama II outside cabins are located at the Upper, Main and Lower decks and are handsomely designed, finished with lustrous wood trims and warm fabrics. They all have marble-appointed en suite bathrooms with showers and are equipped with windows (Upper & Main deck cabins) and portholes (Lower deck cabins). All cabins have individually controlled A/C and fitted with Flat screen Tv for inhouse movies, telephone (for internal use), hairdryers, mini-fridge, central music, public address system and safe deposit boxes. 4 Main Deck cabins are convertible into 2 suites. 4 Lower deck cabins can be offered as Triple cabins.

LIFE ON BOARD

During the day life on board centers around the indoor Lounge area and the indoor dining room, as well as the open and inviting deck areas, natural gathering places, perfect for enjoying your meals al fresco, settling into a chair with a good book, or gather with your fellow passengers and enjoy the views of the places you visit. The swim platform on PANORAMA II's stern enables you to swim off the yacht when weather and anchorage conditions permit and as mentioned in your specific itinerary.



YOUR BOAT



M/S PANORAMA II

Motor Sailer

Main deck lounge

The main lounge with comfortable sofas has a full-service bar and a plasma TV screen for movies and is the hub of social activities such as the daily briefings on the destinations visited and other gatherings. This area is ideal for enjoying the company of your fellow travelers or simply for reading a good book from the library. The area was beautifully renovated in 2015 to feature wood flooring and new furniture and comfortable sofas with soft fabrics in warm coral tones.

Indoor and Outdoor dining room

Located on the Lower deck, the indoor dining room seats all passengers in a single, unassigned seating and offer generous buffet space. The aft area at the Upper Deck provides generous semi-covered area where guests can enjoy their meals al fresco in a single, unassigned seating, with wonderful views, weather permitting. Food is served at the table or displayed on the state of the art hot & cold buffets. The menu is international, with a focus on local specialties.

Sun deck

The bow area at the Upper deck provides generous space and comfortable sun loungers are available to sunbathe in total comfort.



