

TAHITI & THE PEARLS OF FRENCH POLYNESIA 2024

- All year round aboard the 25-cabin M/S Panorama II
- 11-night 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

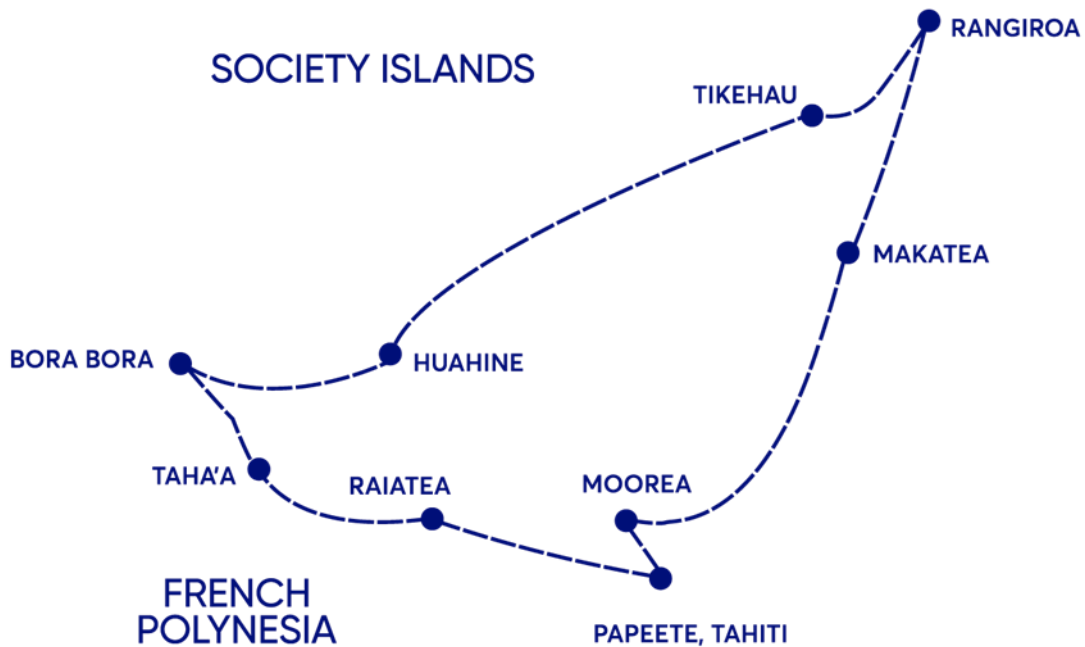




TAHITI, THE SOCIETY & TUAMOTU ISLANDS

11-NIGHTS/12-DAYS DEPARTURES ALL YEAR ROUND

ON THE M/S PANORAMA II | 2024



DAY 1 - PAPEETE, TAHITI, SOCIETY ISLANDS

Embark the Panorama II in Papeete Port at 3pm

Maeva [mah-yeh-vah] - that's welcome in Tahitian, and we extend a very warm welcome to you on our French Polynesia cruise. Settle in and meet your crew and cabin mates, we begin by setting sail for Mo'orea. Late afternoon arrival, dinner on board and overnight.



DAY 2 - MO'OREA, SOCIETY ISLANDS

With mountain peaks rising from its lagoon, Mo'orea is believed to be the inspiration for the mythical Bali Hai in Tales of the South Pacific by James Michener. Join our morning snorkelling and ray tour and our afternoon nature and culture tour to learn about the history of the island and her ancient remains, as well as taste the island's fruity flavours at the juice factory. Afternoon sailing to Makatea.

DAY 3 - MAKATEA, TUAMOTU ISLANDS*

Much of French Polynesia is made up of atolls - a ring shaped coral reef encircling a central body of water - but Makatea is different. This raised island of coral is the sleepy but spectacular island home to three species of threatened endemic birds: the Makatea fruit dove, the imperial pigeon, and the reed warbler. Our half-day tour will take us across the island in discovery of these, plus beautiful beaches with rock pools ripe for exploring, as well as to an underwater grotto full of stalagmites and stalactites. Late afternoon departure to Rangiroa. Overnight at sea.

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



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DAY 4 - RANGIROA, TUAMOTU ISLANDS*

Morning arrival in Rangiroa. Composed of 240 islets, Rangiroa is the largest atoll of the Tuamotu archipelago and the best spot for diving in all of French Polynesia. We know you'll want to experience the wide array of sea-life so join us on our full-day optional tour to the atoll's Blue Lagoon; at only 16 feet deep it's a mecca for swimming, snorkelling and marine life. Re-energise with a traditional Polynesian picnic before returning to the ship. Overnight at anchor.

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

DAY 5 - TIKEHAU, TUAMOTU ISLANDS*

Early morning sailing and arrival at Tikehau, also called the Pink Sand island. Think of an island paradise: no, really think and dream about it. We bet it comes with pristine turquoise lagoons, long stretches of white-sand beaches, and is adorned with jewel-like flowers such as bougainvillea and hibiscus. Tick, tick and tick for Tikehau. Oh - but add some pink sand to your picture too. Tiny white and pink sand islets surround a lagoon and are engulfed in coconut groves and hidden alcoves. Idle time away lounging on the colourful sands or exploring the marine life which - according to legendary marine researcher Jacques Cousteau - has a higher concentration of fish than any other in French Polynesia. Today's optional tour is to Tuherahera where most islanders live, and to a family-owned fish farm to learn about their intriguing - and successful - process. Afternoon sail 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, SOCIETY ISLANDS

Huahine, once home to Tahitian royalty, is a tropical jungle dotted with ancient marae (temples), some of which date back to 700 AD. Overnight in port.

DAY 7 – HUAHINE, SOCIETY ISLANDS

Our optional tour takes in many of the island's temples and small villages, and offers a chance to see and feed the sacred blue-eyed eels of Faie Bay, as well as visit a vanilla plantation. If you're a keen cook, we recommend you purchase vanilla beans while here; you won't find tastier - or cheaper! - versions elsewhere. Night 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 8 – BORA BORA, SOCIETY ISLANDS

Early morning arrival into the Bora Bora lagoon where you may feel like you've woken in a dream. In many respects you have; these are some of the world's most picturesque landscapes. You will have enough time for ample swim and snorkel stops, various optional tours such as: snorkel with stingrays and sharks, explore in an open-air bus known as 'Le Truck' and more. Or, choose your own adventure - tell us what you want to do and we'll arrange it. Overnight in port (docked or at anchor at times).

DAY 9 – BORA BORA, SOCIETY ISLANDS

In Bora Bora we will have a variety of optional activities to choose from, such as: a) A Bora Bora Cultural Safari by 4x4; b) An excursion to snorkel with sting rays and sharks and explore the lagoon c) The Bora Bora tour by "Le Truck" and more. Overnight in port (docked or at anchor at times)..

DAY 10 – TAHA'A, SOCIETY ISLANDS

Morning departure and arrival to nearby Taha'a, a true botanical paradise bursting with banana, watermelon and coconut groves. Taste the local fruit, gaze across calm waters in shades of turquoise you never knew existed, visit a pearl farm, and explore a traditional vanilla plantation. Afternoon sail and arrival to Raiatea.

DAY 11 – RAIATEA, SOCIETY ISLANDS

Raiatea means 'faraway heaven' and 'sky with soft light'. We know both to be true, but we'll leave you to discover why for yourself. This morning's optional excursion is with a local guide to Uturoa, the cultural and administrative centre, then on to Mount Temehani and the ancient Marae (open-air temple) of Taputapuatea. The latter is a UNESCO protected site, your guide will tell you about its Polynesian origins and historical relevance. Or choose out optional tour via kayak along the Faaroa River. Afternoon departure to Papeete. Overnight at sea

DAY 12 – PAPEETE PORT/TAHITI, SOCIETY ISLANDS

This morning we will arrive back to Papeete, Tahiti. We invite you to join us for the final breakfast on board at 9AM before disembarkation.

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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FRENCH POLYNESIA ALL YEAR ROUND CRUISES
ON THE M/S PANORAMA II | 2024



SAILING DATES

From Papeete to Papeete
11 nights
Friday sailings

Mar. 29
Nov. 08

LOW SEASON: MAR, NOV

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.



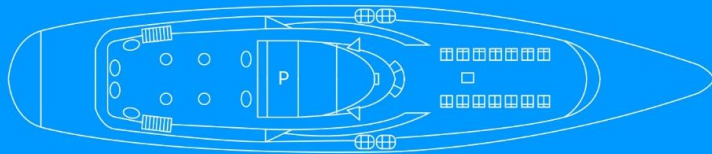
YOUR BOAT



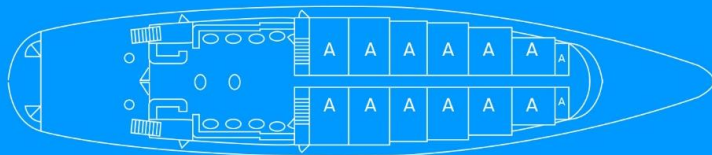
M/S PANORAMA II

Motor Sailer

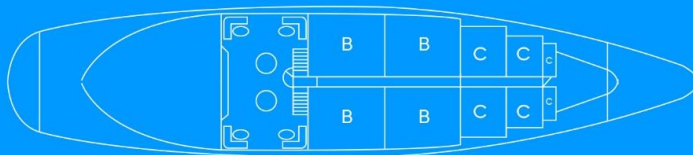
360°
SUN DECK



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, 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.



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 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 seat 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, also including an “a la minute cooking” section. 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.



