



Variety  
Cruises

# TAHITI & TUAMOTU ISLANDS

## SHORE EXCURSION PACKAGE – 10 NIGHTS





# MOOREA

## **FIRST OPTION - DOLPHIN WATCH EXPEDITION by Dr. Poole's biologist team**

- Duration approx. 3 hours
  - Per Person: Euro 108
- Min 10 / Max. 11 (small boat) or Min.16-26 (bigger boat) - prebooking required

Join American marine biologist Dr. Michael Poole, a dolphin and whale specialist in French Polynesia since 1987, or his assistant for this combination eco-tour and research expedition focusing on wild, free-ranging dolphins.

Depart the pier aboard a covered boat for the scenic ride to Moorea's reef. Spinner dolphins and rough-tooth dolphins can be seen around Moorea, with spinner dolphins regularly swimming inside the lagoon. Most often you will see schools of acrobatic spinner dolphins, while listening to informative commentary about their remarkable life and society at sea. Dr. Poole's team operates with the utmost respect in the presence of these incredible animals. Dolphins are found on 95% of the tours, but the engaging narrative and sheer magnificence of Moorea's coastline will ensure a rewarding time in any event.

View Moorea's dramatic beauty from the sea, and time permitting you may have an opportunity to go swimming or snorkeling before returning to the pier.

- Although this tour is not a swim with the dolphins program, it is sometimes possible to snorkel near dolphins. Wear a swimsuit under a cover-up, and bring sunscreen, sunglasses, camera gear, snorkeling gear, and a towel from the ship. Operation of this tour is subject to guide availability. *(Dolphin sights cannot be guaranteed)*



# MOOREA

## SECOND OPTION - 4 X 4 SAFARI

- Duration approx. 4 hours
- Per Person: Euro 75

Min 6 / Max 8 per vehicle (prebooking required). Additional vehicles if available should have minimum 6-guests per vehicle.

Explore the island interior on a 4WD expedition. Discover dramatic island views, fruit plantations, and ancient Polynesian temples.

## PHOTO OPPORTUNITIES

**Marae** – During your 4x4 safari, stop at an ancient Polynesian marae, an open-air stone temple.

**Le Belvedere** – The summit of Mt. Tohi'e'a boasts panoramas of Mo'orea's mountains and Cook's and Opunohu Bays.

**Magic Mountain** – The summit for a stunning view of Mo'orea's north shore

## TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

4x4 Safari Excursion – Discover our beautiful volcanic island, its tropical flora and fauna on a 4x4 tour. Your guide takes you to the pineapple fields, bamboo groves and orange, grapefruit, papaya and vanilla plantations. Enjoy the breath-taking view from the Belvedere Lookout point and pay a visit to the archaeological sites and temples of precontact Polynesia. Stories and legends of ancient « Eimeo » will be narrated to you on the way. Ascend Magic Mountain; an optional hike travels the last 300 feet (91m) to the summit for a stunning view of Mo'orea's north shore. Our stop at the fruit juice plant and distillery is the opportunity to sample our local liqueurs and fruit juices.

**Note:** This off-road tour can be bumpy, muddy and wet. Wear comfortable clothes and casual shoes. Not recommended for elderly guests, pregnant women, or guests suffering from back and neck ailments. The short hike to the summit of Magic Mountain is roughly paved and quite steep.



# MOOREA

## ISLAND TOUR AND BELVEDERE

- Duration approx. 3,5 hours
- Per Person: Euro 77

Min. 4 pax – Max. 6 per vehicle up to 8/9 vehicles (prebooking required)

## YOUR SCENIC JOURNEY

Hop on your air-conditioned motorcoach for an enjoyable tour around the island of Mo'orea as your guide relates entertaining stories about the island's history, culture and ecology and travel along Mo'orea's lush Opunohu Valley. The valley is home to a number of Polynesian marae or an open-air temple. Ascend the slopes of Mt. Tohi'e'a and continue pass Cook's and Opunohu Bays. A stop will be made at Mo'orea Fruit Juice Factory, where you can buy fresh juices made from locally grown fruits. The factory also produces an assortment of fruit brandies and liqueurs in a variety of flavors including star fruit, ginger, papaya, mango, orange, grapefruit, coconut and pineapple.

## PHOTO OPPORTUNITIES (Moorea Highlights tour)

**Marae** – Stop at the massive ancient Polynesian marae, an open-air stone temple in the Opunohu Valley.

**Le Belvedere** – The summit of Mt. Tohi'e'a boasts panoramas of Mo'orea's mountains and Cook's and Opunohu Bays.

**Toatea Lookout** – The Lookout has sweeping views of Mo'orea's lagoon with Tahiti in the background.

**Protestant Church** – First church in French Polynesia constructed in 1822.

## SHOPPING

A brief stop will be made at one of the local pearl stores.



# MAKATEA

## **EXPLORATION TOUR: ENDEMIC BIRDS, ROCKPOOLS & THE GROTTO HALF DAY - EARLY AFTERNOON TOUR**

- Duration approx. 4 hours
  - Per Person: Euro 89
- Min 15 / Max. 50 (prebooking required)

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. In the early 20th century, important reserves of phosphate were discovered in these naturally occurring holes, and for over 50 years the island was the center of a thriving phosphate mining business. The mining ceased in the 1960s, and the island went from a home to thousands to that of less than 100 inhabitants. 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. Activities this morning 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.



# RANGIROA

## **THE BLUE LAGOON TOUR WITH A MOTU LUNCH - FULL DAY TOUR**

- Duration approx. 7 hours
- Per Person: Euro 137

Min 15 / Max 36 (prebooking required)

Departing from the Marina of Avatoru, you'll be heading straight to the Blue Lagoon, spectacular scenery composed a real lagoon created within the lagoon. After about an hour of navigation, during which you'll be able to appreciate the wideness of the lagoon, get ready to discover that special place of Rangiroa. You will not regret it. Grab your snorkeling equipment and jump in this unreal blue pond for an amazing snorkeling session. Visit of the bird island motu, weaving demonstration and swimming in the Blue Lagoon. Aperitif and lunch to the "sound of the Ukulele". After a well-deserved feast served under the shade of the coconut trees, get your hands on a coconut palm braiding session for you to bring back some souvenirs of this fantastic day. In the middle of the afternoon, your return to the village will include a stop at the famous aquarium for some snorkeling time and some time for dolphins' observation.



## TIKEHAU

### **TUHENAHERA VILLAGE BY CAR**

- Duration approx. 2,5 hours
- Per Person: Euro 53

Min 4 / Max 16 per excursion (prebooking required)

\*for more guests upon request on embarkation day\*

We will visit Tuherahera at the southern side where most locals live, leaving the remainder of the atoll virtually untouched. Naturally surrounded off his famous pink sand, and the feos (kind of coral rocks coming out of the ground), Tuherahera is one of the most attractive villages in the Tuamotu Atolls. Discover also Hina's bell, where before, the princess Hina came to take her bath. Meet local artisans who makes shell jewelry. We may have a quick lesson on the different ages of the coconut.



# HUAHINE

## SACRED SITES & LEGENDARY PLACES – MORNING TOUR

- Duration approx. 2,5 hours
  - Per Person: Euro 87
- Min 6 / Max. 50 (prebooking required)

Set off on an educational exploration of the island and learn all about Polynesian geology, botany, anthropology, archaeology, sociology, economy, history and traditions. Your driver-guide and will share his knowledge, experience and passion for this beautiful island with such a rich culture. Village of Maeva: Huahine is renowned for its village of Maeva, where all district chiefs once lived side by side and worshiped their ancestors at their respective marae. Marae are places including stone structures set aside for religious rites and ceremonies. 200 archaeological stone structures have survived centuries of natural destruction. These structures lie within yards of one another along the shore of Lake Fauna Nui and on the sacred and scenic Matairea Hill. Visit the museum with your guide and learn about the arrival of the first navigators in Polynesia. The village of Maeva is also sheltering the remains of stone fish traps unique in French Polynesia. There are still fishermen using stone traps in the village. Your return route will take you through the village of Faie for a visit with the giant blue-eyed eels, and then up the mountain to the Belvedere Lookout where you will have a wonderful photo opportunity of the beautiful Bay of Maroe.





## BORA BORA

### **SNORKELING TOUR "Stingray Ballet"**

- Duration approx. 3,5 hours (4 stops)
- Per Person: Euro 110

Min 4 / Max. depending on boat availability (prebooking required)

Enjoy as the boat travels around the lagoon of Bora Bora. This tour has 4 stops, though they are subject to last minute change due to weather, safety precautions, or other circumstances. The first stop is just outside of the reef for observation and snorkeling with majestic black tip reef sharks & sting rays. After 30 minutes swimming with them we will head out to the best coral Garden in Bora Bora, on the way our captain will point different important things along the way and show us the most famous Hotels in the Pear Of the Pacific, once on the snorkeling site we will follow our Captain while snorkeling and discover colorful coral, clams, and a multitude of tropical fish in this marvelous underwater world for about 40 minutes in one of the best snorkel places in our French Polynesia trip, we will circumnavigate the entire island but before we will stop in the Manta rays cleaning station for 20 minutes approx, sometimes when to many people are here they get shy so we have to look for them in another place, then we will do one more stop and swim with the residents spotted eagle rays swim towards the Beach and enjoy some water, fruit juice, soft drinks and seasonal fruits .Have some 20 minutes break in the largest Motu of Bora Bora and sail back to ship.

### **BORA BORA BY LE TRUCK**

- Duration approx. 2,5 hours
- Per Person: Euro 58

Min 10 / Max. 41 (prebooking required)

Your colorful fun truck takes you on a scenic tour of Bora Bora. Enjoy the sights as you pass by groves of coconut palms and tiny villages hugging the shoreline. Learn about the interesting history traditions and cultures of the Tahitians with this narrated drive along the 22-mile road that circles this legendary island. Discover the villages of FAREPITI, FAANUI, and ANAU with their mysterious "Marae". As you travel on, you will discover the MATIRA point with its spectacular view. The road continues & takes you along coconut groves and tiny villages along the shoreline.



## TAHA'A

### **4WD TAHA'A SAFARI**

- Duration approx. 2,5 hours
- Per Person: Euro 97

Min 8 / Max. 24 (prebooking required)

Begin with our land tour through the island of Taha'a to visit a pearl farm, a vanilla plantation and a rum factory. Discover the black pearl and the vanilla culture, two precious treasures of Taha'a. On the way, your guide will show you the different fruit plants and flowers that grow on this beautiful rich island. From the graft to the pearl collection, you will learn how to get this precious black pearl. Discover how vanilla grows and how to get those beans which perfume is so sweet. You'll stop at a beautiful viewpoint and learn the traditional uses of local plants and trees.

### **HALF DAY TAHA'A VANILLA PLANTATION & RHUMERIE**

- Duration approx. 4 hours
- Per Person: Euro 97

Min 10 / Max. 56 (prebooking required)

Discovery of Taha'a . Taha'a, renowned for its vanilla production, hence its name [VANILLA island], but also known for its majestic CORAL GARDEN. Embark aboard a traditional motorized canoe with outrigger and equipped with an awning for a unique and comfortable experience to discover Taha'a: - visit to a vanilla plantation - Visit to a pearl farm - Visit to a rum distillery and snorkeling.



# RAIATEA

## **FAAROA RIVER & MOTU BEACH BREAK**

- Duration approx. 4 hours
- Per Person: Euro 88

Min 10 / Max. 56 (with prebooking 2 days prior)

Board a typical motorized Polynesian outrigger canoe and glide on deep blue waters towards the east coast of the island. You'll travel upstream on the only navigable river in the Society Islands -- the Faaroa River. Along the way, the steep riverbanks are clad in lush with jungle foliage and are home to a diverse range of bird species. Wild hibiscus trees (purau) grow along the sheer cliffs at the edge of the rain forest. Pass some villages en route -- a chance to observe the daily life of the inhabitants. Leaving the river, you will transfer to a small motu, or islet, where you will have time to enjoy the warm sea water and relax in the sun.

Visit of the Faaroa river (unique navigable river in French Polynesia, cradle of the 1st civilization and the 1st Polynesian immigrants). Visit of the Marae of Taputapuatea, (Sacred temple where human sacrifices dedicated to the Gods were made, listed as UNESCO heritage)

### **Notes:**

Wear your swimsuit under your clothing; bring a towel, biodegradable sunscreen, and a hat. At the beach, participants must hop out of the canoe using a side ladder and wade a few yards in shallow water to reach the shore.



# RAIATEA

## **RAIATEA OF YESTERDAY AND NOWADAYS**

- Duration approx. 4 hours
- Per Person: Euro 75

Min 5 / Max. 22 (prebooking required)

Leaving the port, your minibus takes you to a small pearl station built over the lagoon of Raiatea and during your visit learn how the famous Tahitian black pearl is cultured. Black-lip pearl oysters are more commonly known as Tahitian pearls and are often referred to as black, but they have a remarkable colour range from light creamy white and grey, to greens, iridescent peacock and deep black. Your next stop will be to a local vanilla plantation where your guide will explain the taste and scent of the local 'black gold'. Tahitian vanilla is world-renowned for its delicate aroma and floral flavour used in baking and perfume making. Your last stop will be a visit to Marae Taputapuatea archaeological site where you will be given an explanation of ancient customs and Polynesian culture, still very present in the islands of French Polynesia.

## **ANAPA PEARL FARM - HALF DAY MORNING OR AFTERNOON TOUR\***

- Duration approx. 3 hours
- Per Person: Euro 92

Min 6 / Max. 18 per session (prebooking required)

### Coral Garden

Join our pearl divers and explore the stunning reef where the mysterious black pearl is born. A boat shuttle will bring you out to the pearl farm where you will enjoy an unforgettable pearl harvest and learn about the history and legends of pearl farming. Extensive choice of Tahitian pearls and jewelry. Don't miss this rare adventure! -3-hour tour -Snorkel the pearl beds and coral garden -Clear tropical waters -Pearl boutique -Stunning views -Eco friendly -Easy stairs descend into the water -Guided, beginners welcome -Snorkeling equipment provided.



## TETIAROA

### **PRIVATE ISLAND EXPLORATION BY CATAMARAN**

- Duration approx. 4 hours
- Per Person: Euro 124

Min 4 / Max 8 per excursion (prebooking required)

We will be welcomed by the local crew in the morning for our short ride. We will reach the motu with dinghies (2-3 guests at a time) from where we will start our escorted hike to the only designated area on this remote, so called "bird island". Enjoy some relaxing time until returning to the ship with an opportunity to swim or snorkel along the reef (with fins and masks). A snack and a drink will be offered on board.

(with bigger groups the excursion will be operated in two sessions at approx. 9am and 10.30am)



## REMARKS:

Please note that each tour requires a minimum number of participants to operate at the above prices.

Our tours are offered in English language. Providers and availabilities on most islands are very limited therefore we strongly advise to prebook your tours the first day on board.

The tours are privately operated for our Variety Cruises guests; most tours are quite active, requiring good physical condition and walking ability. Please follow the daily briefings and hints given by our Cruise Coordinator; what to take ashore? swimwear, a towel, an extra T-shirt, water shoes (Croc type/ no flip flops) water, sunscreen, anti-bug spray, a hat. In the rainy season a light poncho can be very useful. Remember to protect your cameras, mobiles and bags from getting wet during boat, zodiac rides and hikes. Jeep safari rides can be bumpy on dirt /muddy roads.

The length of the tours and time spent on the sites is given as an indication as it may vary depending on weather, sea, tendering, port and traffic conditions and on the pacing of each group. The Captain reserves the right to change the itinerary in order to suit wind, swell, weather and local conditions.

100% cancellation fees apply after the booking deadline 2-3 days ahead of the tour. Please contact your cruise coordinator who is the sole responsible in such a case.

Tips for local guides, escorts or drivers are not included.

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