

## THE MARQUESAS BY PASSENGER FREIGHTER

Friday 12 August - Saturday 27 August 2022

15 nights

### TOUR OVERVIEW

Cruise in comfort among some of the most remote islands on earth, with spectacular volcanic landscapes and a rich Polynesian culture that has ancient connections to New Zealand. For decades a Tahitian family business has provided a lifeline for these islands, and now its latest, modern ship conveys adventurous travellers as well as vital supplies and traded goods. The crew, mostly Polynesian and many from the Marquesas, are proud of their culture and history and keen to share it with you.

This cruise takes you to most of the inhabited islands in the Marquesas, sometimes more than once, as well as two different atolls in the Tuamotu Archipelago. The contrasts are great. The Tuamotu atolls rise just a couple of metres above sea level, and encompass tranquil lagoons. On other islands craggy cliffs rear out of the deep ocean, and the centre of these small islands might be 1,000 metres or more high. Small villages nestle in sheltered bays, some so narrow that entering by ship requires impressive feats of navigation.

The Aranui's arrival is a red-letter day for each community it visits. The crew go to work unloading goods ranging from groceries to motor vehicles, and collect produce for transport to market or supplies going to another island. Watching the unloading and loading, sometimes onto a wharf and sometimes onto tenders, is part of the adventure.

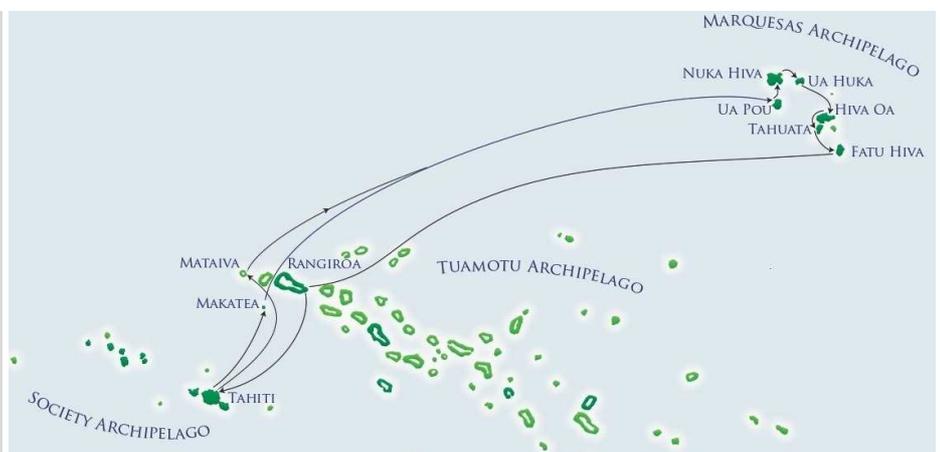
The locals also come out in force with their 4WD vehicles to take you to sites of interest - ancient archaeological sites almost reclaimed by the jungle, impressive churches that indicate the influence of missionaries, and spectacular viewpoints. The islanders also put a lot of effort into cooking meals and performing traditional music and dance. You will have time to stroll around the small villages, meeting locals and shopping for unusual souvenirs.

Life on board is really comfortable. The Aranui 5 entered service in 2015 and designed so the rear half is a cruise liner and the front half a freighter. With only 103 cabins spread over eight decks, it feels compact. It has a restaurant where the meals are served in a casual setting, lounges, conference rooms where guest lecturers provide presentations on topics related to the Marquesas, bars with sweeping panoramic views, an outdoor pool, a shop, fitness room and spa. Excursions are well organised, and on-board activities are also offered.

The owners and crew take pride in providing a vital link for the Marquesan people, and showing travellers from around the world this unique part of the Pacific. Before boarding the Aranui, you will spend three nights in Papeete with time to explore Tahiti.

### TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- Visit some of the most remote islands in the world.
- Join the local inhabitants in music, dancing and feasting.
- Watch as the Aranui's crew provide a vital lifeline to these far-flung communities.
- Learn about the ancient history and culture of this part of the Pacific.
- Discover what enchanted Paul Gauguin, Herman Melville and Jacques Brel so much they stayed in the Islands.
- Spend 3 days exploring and relaxing in Tahiti.



## TOUR INCLUSIONS

- The services of an experienced New Zealand based Calder & Lawson tour manager
- Economy class airfares
- 4 nights accommodation in Papeete
- 11 nights accommodation board Aranui 5
- All meals on board the Aranui 5, other meals as specified in the itinerary
- Local guides
- All group transfers
- Admissions as detailed in the itinerary
- All tips for local guides
- All tourist, cruise and port taxes
- Pre-tour material



## TOUR EXCLUSIONS

- Airline taxes
- Personal expenses
- Travel insurance
- Beverages during included meals, unless specified
- Hotel portorage
- Meals not specified in the itinerary
- Surcharge of 2.5% on credit card payments

### IS THIS TOUR FOR ME?

You will need to be agile and reasonably fit to enjoy this cruise. On some islands the Aranui can dock at a wharf, but at others passengers must use a small landing craft or tender to reach the shore. In some sea conditions moving between the tender and ship requires good reflexes and agility, though of course the excellent crew will be there to help you. Some landings are directly onto the beach, so you will get wet feet.

The shore excursions require a moderate amount of walking, and while all excursions are optional it would be a pity to miss out. There are one or two opportunities for hiking on the islands, and the crew will brief you about the level of difficulty. Otherwise, you can sit back and enjoy a relaxing cruise.

### TOUR PRICE *Share twin per person, Ex Auckland*

Stateroom Cabin (\$1000 per person deposit) NZD\$11,990

Premium Suite with balcony (\$2000 deposit per person) NZD\$14,890

**Note:** prices may be subject to change based on airline and supplier pricing

Single supplement (limited availability, price on application).

**GROUP SIZE** Minimum 10, maximum 18

**VARIATIONS IN TRAVEL** We can make arrangements for any travel you would like to do before or after this tour, or book business class seats for the flights. Please contact us.



Left: Stateroom Cabin - Exterior cabin of 11 sq m with porthole window.



Right: Premium Cabin - Exterior cabin of 18sq m with private outdoor balcony.



### YOUR SHIP - ARANUI 5

Aranui 5 is a custom-built, dual-purpose passenger/freighter designed to offer all of the comforts of a cruise liner, while operating as a supply ship. Aranui 5 is classified as a small vessel, accommodating approximately 254 passengers and 103 cabins. With 8 different guest decks, the interior decor reflects the Polynesian heritage of her owners and crew. The ship features a restaurant where all the meals onboard are served in a casual setting; two lounges; two conference rooms, where guest lecturers will offer presentations on various topics related to the Marquesas; four bars, including the Sky Bar with sweeping panoramic views; an outdoor pool; a boutique; a massage room and a gym.

# DAILY ITINERARY

**Friday 12 August 2022**

**Auckland – Papeete**

Meals: In flight/D

Overnight: Papeete

Depart Auckland in the evening on your Air New Zealand light to Papeete, capital of French Polynesia. On arrival early Thursday morning you will be met and transferred to your hotel where you will stay for three nights. Relax for the morning before meeting your tour manager and the group in the early afternoon for a walking tour of the vibrant and multicultural downtown Papeete.

Discover local produce, including fish and fruits at a traditional market, visit City Hall, a colonial palace flanked by lush gardens and also visit the Notre Dame Cathedral which dates back to 1875 and was restored in 1987. In the evening, join your tour manager to eat at Le Roulettes, the outdoor food trucks on the waterfront of downtown Papeete.

**Saturday 13 August**

**Papeete – on board the Aranui**

Meals: B/L/D

Overnight: Aranui 5

Depart Papeete harbour in the morning for an amazing journey across the Pacific. On board the comfortable Aranui 5 for the next 12 days you will enjoy a friendly atmosphere, fine French and Polynesian cuisine, informative lectures and the raw beauty of the destinations.

**Sunday 14 August**

**Makatea**

Meals: B/L/D

Overnight: Aranui 5

Surrounded by spectacular cliffs, rising 260 feet above sea level, this second largest raised atoll in French Polynesia is a sharp contrast from the typical low-lying corral-reef formation with a lagoon in the middle. It is also the only atoll in the Tuamotu with potable water which comes from its underground caves. Once a thriving island due to phosphate mining in the first half of the 20th century, it was mostly abandoned with only a few families remaining to keep watch. Today, the fewer than 100 inhabitants make their living from copra, fishing and the trade of coconut crabs.

**Monday 15 August**

**At sea**

Meals: B/L/D

Overnight: Aranui 5

A day to unwind and relax on one of the sun decks or in the comfort of an air-conditioned lounge. Or enjoy the views of the endless South Pacific Ocean as you make your way to the captivating Marquesas Islands. Lectures on Marquesan culture and history will give an insight into this ancient civilization. There will be plenty of time to socialise at the bar with fellow adventurers from around the world. The spirited Polynesian crew will proudly introduce us to their way of life and entertain with Polynesian songs and rhythms on their ukuleles, guitars and drums.

**Tuesday 16 August**

**Ua Pou (Hakahau)**

Meals: B/L/D

Overnight: Aranui 5

Legend refers to Ua Pou as the “pillars of the archipelago” and it is often called “The Cathedral Island”. These names become clear as the ship docks at Hakahau Bay surrounded by 12 basalt summits soaring as high as 1100 metres. Energetic early risers can hike up the hill to the Cross for breathtaking views of the valleys and village below. The artisans’ centre is a short stroll into town and the offerings include works featuring the unique flower stone and a variety of carvings and children’s clothes. Before enjoying a Marquesan lunch, take in an local dance show, including the Bird Dance, a traditional Ua Pou performance.



**Wednesday 17 August**  
**Nuku Hiva (Taiohae/Hatiheu/  
Taipivai)**

Meals: B/L/D

Overnight: Aranui 5

This island is the administrative centre of the Marquesas. The village of Taiohae stretches along the beach, which is like a magnificent amphitheatre created by the successive eruptions of three concentric volcanoes and dominated by towering cliffs streaked with waterfalls. Your adventure in Nuku Hiva will include a tour of the Cathedral Notre Dame, famed for its stonework and wood sculptures. In Hatiheu, you will visit the archaeological site known as Tohua Kamuihei, where public festivities once took place. Here you will see the paepae, immense stone platforms on which houses were built, and huge boulders carved with enigmatic petroglyphs. Under a giant banyan tree, enjoy a performance of traditional songs and dances, including the "Pig Dance", which originated in Nuku Hiva. For lunch, try a traditional "Umu", a Marquesan specialty where food is cooked in an underground oven which will be familiar to New Zealanders who have experienced hangi before. You will have time to explore Taiohae, the tiny administrative capital of the Marquesas. Taiohae Bay is where Herman Melville, then a 23-year-old sailor, and a buddy jumped a whaling ship in 1842. You can visit the cathedral or go the market to shop for arts and crafts. There are also banks, boutiques and an internet café.

**Thursday 18 August**  
**Ua Huka (Vaipae'e/Hane/Hokatu)**

Meals: B/L/D

Overnight: Aranui 5

This island, the least inhabited in the Marquesas, is largely arid and home to many wild horses, goats and pigs. It is also a refuge for two endemic birds: the pati'oti'o and the pihiti, which are only found here. In the early morning, the Aranui will execute a point-to-point 180-degree turn in the narrow mouth of Vaipae'e's Invisible Bay. With only metres to spare on either side, it is a skilful operation undertaken by the captain and the crew and is not to be missed.

From the dock, travel by 4WD to the village of Hane. Along the way, you will stop to explore the Botanical Garden, the cultural centre Te Tumu, featuring a small museum with exquisite replicas of Marquesan artifacts, and a petroglyph museum and local woodcarvers' studios in the fishing village of Hokatu. Look for the unusual carved black and white coconuts. In Hane visit the Marine Museum, then a Marquesan lunch will be served. In the afternoon, hike to view red tuff tikis overlooking the bay.

**Friday 19 August**  
**Hiva Oa (Atuona) and Tahuata  
(Koku'u)**

Meals: B/L/D

Overnight: Aranui 5

Your floating home will arrive this morning at Hiva Oa, the second largest island in the Marquesas, which was once the capital of this archipelago. Sweeping views of the harbour can be seen after a walk up the hill to the cemetery where Paul Gauguin and Jacques Brel are buried. Explore the Gauguin Museum, a replica of his "House of Pleasure", and the Brel Museum, which showcases his plane JoJo, which was often used for medical emergencies. After lunch onboard, enjoy a lazy afternoon on a beautiful white sand beach or take a refreshing dip in the Pacific Ocean.

**Saturday 20 August**  
**Hiva Oa (Puamau) and Tahuata  
(Vaitahu)**

Meals: B/L/D

Overnight: Aranui 5

The Aranui starts its homeward journey, but calling mostly at different ports. In Puamau we will travel by 4WD to the most incredible archaeological site for tikis (ancient, human-like religious stone sculptures) outside of Easter Island. Once we reach Mea'e Iipona, your knowledgeable guides will tell the stories of these haunting statues of ancient times. Surrounded by beautifully lush grounds, the site is overwhelming and has a lot of mana. Only a small part of the site has been restored and most of it is still buried under massive trees and rocks. In the afternoon the Aranui will anchor off the other side of Tahuata, the site of the first French settlement in the Marquesas in 1842. The large church is decorated with beautiful Marquesan carvings and a stunning stained glass window. Tahuata is famous for its exquisite bone and helmet shell carvings, and there will be many to choose from in the village.

**Sunday 21 August**  
**Fatu Hiva (Omoa and Hanavave)**

Meals: B/L/D

Overnight: Aranui 5

Fatu Hiva is the most lush and remote island of the Marquesas. The only access is by sea, since there is no airport here. It is also the island of 'tapa' and we will discover all about this traditional cloth. In the tranquil village of Omoa we will learn about the process of pounding mulberry, banyan or breadfruit tree bark on logs to make tapa. The bark is then dried and used as a canvas on which locals paint ancient Marquesan designs. Fatu Hiva is also well-known for its hand-painted pareos (sarongs) and monoi, coconut

oil infused with blossoms, vanilla or sandalwood. You will meet skilled woodcarvers in the large handicraft centre, and this will be another opportunity to purchase Marquesan art and souvenirs. During the day the Aranui will sail to the other side of the island, to Hanavave Bay, also known as the Bay of Virgins. If you are keen for some extra exercise you may choose to make the trip on foot. The 15km walk is breath-taking both for effort and for views. For hikers, a delicious lunch will be served at the top of a mountain. Sunset in the narrow Hanavave Bay is a moment of pure bliss.

**Monday 22 August**  
**At sea**

Meals: B/L/D  
Overnight: Aranui 5

After an enriching journey to the heart of Polynesian civilisation, it's time to unwind or enjoy the various activities and lectures offered on board.

**Tuesday 23 August**  
**Rangiroa (Ohutu), Tuamotu Archipelago**

Meals: B/L/D  
Overnight: Aranui 5

Return to the Tuamotu Archipelago, entering the largest atoll Rangiroa through a narrow channel. The atolls in this chain, with their pristine environment and pure waters, offer ideal conditions for pearl farming. Rangiroa is no exception, and this is your opportunity to visit a working pearl farm and learn how Tahiti's famed jewel of the sea is produced. Other options at Rangiroa include relaxing on a white sand beach by a translucent lagoon, doing some snorkelling, or signing up for a scuba excursion.

**Wednesday 24 August**  
**Return to Papeete**

Meals: B  
Overnight: Papeete

After a morning arrival in Papeete, transfer to your hotel. Enjoy a free day and evening, your tour manager will be available to have dinner this evening

**Thursday 25 August**  
**Papeete**

Meals: B/D  
Overnight: Papeete

Enjoy a half day Tahiti Island tour today, beginning with the incredible panorama from the Taharaa Lookout, then you'll head to Pointe Venus, the site where Europeans first landed on the island. James Cook named it after the planet, commemorating the observation of Venus that was made on his scientific voyage. Visit Vaipahi Garden, a vivid and varied tropical garden featuring a wonderful selection of endemic plants in an exotic environment. The garden's gorgeous waterfall serves as the centrepiece to this island getaway. Head down a hill to the Mara'a Grotto, a magical cave filled with a lake that hides its true depth with an optical illusion. Lastly, you'll visit the ancient Arahurahu Marae, Tahiti's best example of an ancient Polynesian temple and meeting place. Fully restored and maintained as a museum, the marae is used to re-enact old Polynesian ceremonies during the Islands annual Heiva Nui celebrations. Gather with the group for a farewell dinner this evening. You will have use of your room until you need to head to the airport for your early morning flight back to New Zealand

**Friday 26 August**  
**Papeete**

Meals: in flight

Depart Papeete Airport early this morning for your flight back to New Zealand. After crossing the date line, you'll arrive in Auckland early in the morning of **Saturday 27 August**.

## HOW TO SECURE YOUR PLACE ON THIS TOUR

A deposit of \$1000 or \$2000 is required to secure your place on the tour. When minimum numbers are reached, the tour will become a 'confirmed departure'. At that point we will advise when the full tour payment will be due.

- [Click here](#) to complete the online registration form, pay your deposit and your place on this tour is secured.
- Or you can complete a paper registration form. You can download one from the website [www.calderandlawsonstours.co.nz](http://www.calderandlawsonstours.co.nz), or give us a call and we will email or post one to you.

## TERMS & CONDITIONS

Can be found on the website [www.calderandlawsonstours.co.nz](http://www.calderandlawsonstours.co.nz), on the back of paper registration form or on the summary page when you complete an online registration.

## VARIATIONS

This itinerary is Version 2 dated 10/04/2022 and is subject to change.



the