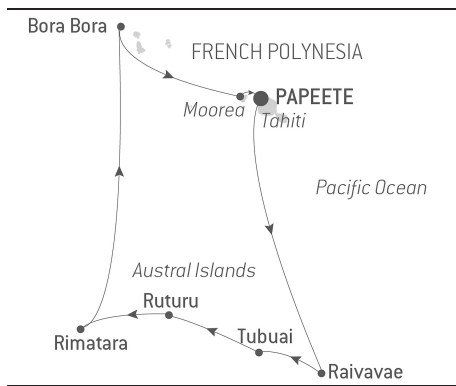


Polynesia: the Austral Islands & Bora Bora

From **5/4/2021**
to **5/13/2021**

Ship: **LE SOLEAL**

From **Papeete, Tahiti Island**
to **Papeete, Tahiti Island**



From Tahiti, **PONANT** invites you to embark on a brand-new **10-day cruise** to discover **French Polynesia**. Set sail for an unforgettable journey to discover idyllic islands and atolls.

Between **pearl farms** and white **sandy beaches**, French Polynesia will reveal its many mysteries to you. Surrounded by superb lagoons of **crystal clear waters** edged by **exceptional coral reefs**, the islands of Polynesia are undoubtedly some of the most beautiful in the world and home to an astonishing and rich wildlife.

An **experienced diving instructor** is on board for the entire cruise, enabling you to safely enjoy swimming and scuba diving.

First of all, your ship will take you towards one of the most secret and authentic archipelagos in Polynesia: **the Austral Islands**.

Various ports of call will enable you to admire the sumptuous "motu piscine" reef islet of **Raivavae**, the coral reefs of **Tubuai**, the mysterious marine caves of **Rurutu**, and discover the traditional handicraft of **Rimatara**.

On these islands off the beaten path, nature and ancestral traditions are treasures that are shared in all simplicity.

You will then head towards the **Society Islands**. You will be dazzled by the incomparable beauty of **Bora Bora**, with its distinctly recognisable volcanic silhouette, and will also appreciate **Moorea**, with its hillside pineapple plantations and its verdant peaks overlooking the island.



The information in this document is valid as of 10/29/2020

Polynesia: the Austral Islands & Bora Bora

YOUR STOPOVERS :

PAPEETE, TAHITI ISLAND

Embarkation 5/4/2021 from 16h00 to 17h00

Departure 5/4/2021 at 19h00

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.

AT SEA

Arrival 5/5/2021

Departure 5/5/2021

During your day 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 day without a port of call will also be an opportunity to enjoy the conferences or shows proposed on board, 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.

RAIVAVAE, AUSTRAL ISLANDS

Arrival 5/6/2021 early morning

Departure 5/6/2021 early evening

Situated 730 km to the south-east of Tahiti, **Raivavae** is part of the **Austral Islands**. This volcanic island surrounded by a vast emerald-coloured lagoon has fewer than 1,000 inhabitants for four villages and two roads – one running around the island and the other through it. It is an island with an original culture and a still untouched environment, known for making sewn dugout canoes that are still used today. Often described as one of the most beautiful islands in the Pacific, Raivavae comprises 28 islets where nest a multitude of seabirds. You will have the possibility of exploring the island during an enchanting ride aboard one of the island's rare 4-wheel drive vehicles.

TUBUAI, AUSTRAL ISLANDS

Arrival 5/7/2021 early morning
Departure 5/7/2021 early evening

Located in the **Austral Islands** in French Polynesia, 640 km south of Tahiti, **Tubuai** is a 45 km² volcanic island situated just south of the **Tropic of Capricorn**. Very well preserved, it is ringed by a 85 km² lagoon, one of the vastest in the **Austral Islands**. As it is rather shallow, it gives the ocean waters a distinctive shade of turquoise blue. Eight islets surround **Tubuai** and, with their beaches of fine soft sand, offer a landscape that is unique in **Polynesia**. You will love basking with your feet in the warm, clear water, or discovering an **exceptional underwater world** with a multitude of colourful tropical fish as you spend unforgettable moments snorkelling or diving.

RURUTU, AUSTRAL ISLANDS

Arrival 5/8/2021 early morning
Departure 5/8/2021 early evening

Far from the traditional tourist circuits, you'll discover the wildest and most surprising parts of French Polynesia. In the heart of the Austral archipelago, over 500 km south-west of Tahiti, your ship will make a port of call at Rurutu, an elevated coral island of absolutely unique beauty. Carved with countless caves and surrounded by spectacular cliffs, this land of volcanic origin will reveal its mysterious and preserved landscapes to you. A real geological phenomenon, the troglodyte island also offers magnificent summits covered in lush vegetation that will delight hiking fans.

RIMATARA, AUSTRAL ISLANDS

Arrival 5/9/2021 early morning
Departure 5/9/2021 early evening

Located in the southernmost part of **French Polynesia** in the **Pacific Ocean**, **Rimatara**, the smallest of the **Austral Islands**, with a 9 km² surface and a circumference of 8.5 km, has a very special charm. With its small lagoon, the island is home to a bird species nearing extinction: the **Rimatara lorikeet** (also called Kuhl's lorikeet), a psittacid that lives in the tropical forests of Kiribati, the Cook Islands and French Polynesia. The island offers an abundance of vegetation (coconut palms; fruit trees; taro, coffee and banana plantations, etc.) and superb white-sand beaches with small coves that you will be able to discover on foot or riding a bicycle.

AT SEA

Arrival 5/10/2021
Departure 5/10/2021

During your day 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 day without a port of call will also be an opportunity to enjoy the conferences or shows proposed on board, 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.

BORA BORA, SOCIETY ISLANDS

Arrival 5/11/2021 early morning

Departure 5/11/2021 early evening

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.

MOOREA ISLAND

Arrival 5/12/2021 early morning

Departure 5/12/2021 late afternoon

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.

PAPEETE, TAHITI ISLAND

Arrival 5/12/2021 evening

Disembarkation 5/13/2021 at 08h00

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.