

# ISLES, ATOLLS, AND PRISTINE CORALS: THE TUAMOTUS AND SOCIETY ISLANDS

10 Days | Expeditions in: Apr/May/June/Aug |

Discover that the idealized notion of tropical paradise is alive and well—as are some of the world’s best dive and snorkel sites—on an expedition from Rangiroa’s sparkling lagoon to the verdant peaks of Tahiti’s neighbor, Moorea. This compact voyage maximizes your time in some of the most vibrant undersea sites in the world. Plus, there’s time to stroll pristine beaches, kayak peaceful coves, and experience true Polynesian hospitality. Dive or snorkel in the Southern Line Islands and see diverse coral, clouds of tropical fish, and healthy predator populations. It is one of the healthiest reef systems in the world and a rare place virtually unmarred by the touch of humans, which is why it was identified by the National Geographic Pristine Seas project as one of the few places researchers can study to see how reefs and undersea ecosystems looked before humans.



## DAY 1: Depart U.S.

Depart the U.S. on an overnight flight to Tahiti.



## DAY 2: Papeete/Rangiroa/Embark

Arrive Papeete, Tahiti early this morning and take a short, very scenic flight to the nearby atoll of Rangiroa. After a brief tour of the island, embark *National Geographic Orion* this afternoon. Settle in to your cabin, or linger on deck to take in the view of the island’s turquoise lagoon as you’re fanned by tropical ocean breezes. (L,D)



## DAY 3: Rangiroa

The atoll of Rangiroa is a ring of slender islands known for some of the best diving and snorkeling in French Polynesia. The turquoise lagoon at its center is the second-largest in the world. Our ship passes between the islets to anchor inside the lagoon near the village of Tiputa. Visit the village, and kayak, snorkel, and scuba dive in the rich waters here, home to large schools of pelagic fish, manta rays, dolphins, sea turtles, and hammerheads. (B,L,D)

## DAY 4: Apataki

Seldom visited by any but sailboaters, Apataki is a jewel in the Tuamotus. Known for pearl and copra production, it is also famed as an incredible place for diving and snorkeling. With two passes into its aquamarine lagoon and snorkeling accessible from the beach and our snorkel platform, Apataki offers incredible opportunities to enjoy the marine environment. (B,L,D)

## DAY 5 & 6: Fakarava

We begin our exploration of the “Dangerous Archipelago” at Fakarava, one of the largest atolls in French Polynesia and part of a UNESCO Biosphere Reserve. Snorkel the protected reefs or ride the current into the lagoon on a world-famous drift dive. (B,L,D)



## DAY 7: Makatea

An uplifted coral atoll, the island of Makatea is one of the most unique landforms in the Pacific. Spend the day exploring limestone caves and grottos with your expedition team and local guides, or search for endemic fruit doves and myriad seabirds, then snorkel and dive among clouds of colorful fish on the nearby reef. (B,L,D)





### **DAY 8: Moorea, French Polynesia**

Approach the verdant island of Moorea this morning, and anchor for the day in Opunohu Bay on the island's north shore. Spend the day hiking tropical forest trails or exploring ancient Polynesian sacred sites with an archaeologist. Take in the view of both Opunohu and Cook's bays from the island's famous Belvedere, then stop at the Lycée Agricole d'Opunohu to sample locally produced jam and sorbet. (B,L,D)



### **DAY 9 & 10: Papeete/Disembark/Home**

Disembark in Papeete this morning and tour Tahiti before overnight flight home.

### ***Important Flight Information***

Please confirm arrival and departure dates prior to booking flights.

### ***Cost Includes:***

Accommodations; meals indicated; alcoholic beverages (except premium brands); excursions; services of Lindblad Expeditions' Leader, Naturalist staff and expert guides; use of kayaks; entrance fees; all port charges and service taxes; gratuities to ship's crew.

### ***Cost Not Included:***

Immigration fees are not included. Air transportation; personal items such as emails, laundry, voyage DVD etc.

### **(1) Travel Protection Plan**

We strongly recommend our guests to take advantage of our Travel Protection Plan. This plan offers comprehensive coverage to protect you from cancellation fees, costs incurred due to trip delays/interruption, damage or lost of baggage, medical assistance, and evacuation during your travels. Our Travel Protection Plan is available for U.S. and Canadian residents only, and may be purchased any time prior to final payment due date, Travel Protection premiums are non-refundable once plan is purchased.

Learn more about our Travel Protection "Plus" Plan: <https://www.expeditions.com/TravelProtection/>

### **(2) Cancellation Plan**

Review our cancellation plan:

<https://www.expeditions.com/reservations/cancellation-policy/>