TAHITI TO THE MARQUESAS: FRENCH POLYNESIAN DISCOVERY

10 Days  |  Nat Geo Orion  |  102 Guests  |  Expeditions in: May  |  From $8,360 to $18,290

DAY 1: Depart U.S./Papeete, French Polynesia
Depart the U.S. and land in Tahiti in the evening. Check into your room at the InterContinental Tahiti Resort and Spa.

DAY 2: Papeete, French Polynesia
Wake up to a view of Tahiti’s azure lagoon, and spend the day discovering the resorts many amenities. Or, join us for a leisurely afternoon excursion. This evening, connect with your fellow travelers for a welcome cocktail party.

DAY 3: Papeete/Embark
Today, join an island tour and have lunch at a local restaurant before embarking National Geographic Orion. (B,L,D)

DAY 4-5: Tuamotu Archipelago
Spend two days exploring this idyllic archipelago. Experience with all your senses while learning the geological distinction between volcanic islands, atolls, and uplifted coral atolls, like the stunning island of Makatea, one of the most unique landforms in the Pacific. See the spectral remains of a mining operation as you hike through a primeval landscape with your expedition team, to discover an incredible limestone grotto. Birders might add endemics such as the imperial pigeon or the Makatea fruit dove to their lists. Snorkelers will revel in the protected reefs of gorgeous Fakarava, one of the largest atolls in French Polynesia and part of a UNESCO Biosphere Reserve. Conditions permitting, ride the current into the vast lagoon on a world-famous drift dive or snorkel. (B,L,D)

2020 Departure Dates:
18 May

Advance Payment:
$1,000

Call us at 1.800.397.3348 or call your Travel Agent. In Australia, call 1300.361.012 • www.expeditions.com
DAY 6-7: At Sea/Fatu Hiva, Marquesas
A relaxing day at sea brings us to one of the most remote and historic island groups on Earth, the Marquesas. One never forgets the first sight of lovely Hanavave Bay, fronting one of the world’s most soul-stirringly beautiful islands—Fatu Hiva. Be sure you’re on deck and camera-armed as we arrive at one of the most storied shorelines in the entire Pacific. Enjoy a warm Polynesian welcome on a visit to a remote village where you’ll see displays of well-made, uniquely Marquesan arts and crafts. Choose a challenging hike through landscapes studded with sculptural granite and stunning flora to a remote waterfall, or Zodiac to the next bay where local transport takes you birdwatching deep in the Omoa Valley. (B,L,D)

DAY 8: Hiva Oa, Marquesas
At Hiva Oa, we plan to land at Atuona. Stop for a fresh-baked French baguette before a short visit to Calvary Cemetery and the gravesites of French artist Paul Gauguin and Belgian, Jacques Brel, both revered on the island. We’ll visit the village of Puamau to explore a well-maintained Marquesan sacred site, a me’a’ae lipona. Accompanied by our team and knowledgeable local guides, we’ll learn about religious rites, and get the chance to photograph one of the largest, most arresting ancient tikis in Polynesia. (B,L,D)

DAY 9-10: Nuku Hiva, Marquesas/Disembark/Tahiti/Home
If you read Herman Melville’s *Typee* in prep for your voyage, you’ll thrill doubly to the green-mantled, rugged silhouette of Nuku Hiva, the largest and most imposing of the Marquesas. Choose to end your Polynesia adventure here, and fly back to Papeete or continue: spend seven relaxing days at sea following in the wake of the great Polynesian explorers north to Hawai’i. (Day 9: B,L)
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
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