

13 DAYS LUXURY FRENCH POLYNESIA CRUISE - PAPEETE TO LAUTOKA

Enter the South Pacific's dreamy world of towering volcanic peaks, opal-blue waters and coral atolls, and a wealth of time-honored island traditions. Begin in the sparkling scenery of the Society Islands, admiring iconic Bora Bora's setting, before sailing for the irresistible lagoons of Aitutaki and Rarotonga in the Cook Islands. Tonga and Fiji offer snorkeling in kaleidoscopic coral reefs, the UNESCO-celebrated heritage of Levuka, and warm village hospitality. _Some departures may have slightly modified itineraries. Please confirm the itinerary with an Expedition Specialist._



ITINERARY

Day 1 - Papeete (Tahiti), French Polynesia

Papeete is the center of the tropical paradise of French Polynesia, where islands fringed with gorgeous beaches and turquoise ocean await to soothe the soul. This spirited city is the capital of French Polynesia and serves as a superb base for further exploration of Tahiti - an island of breathtaking landscapes and oceanic vistas. A wonderful lagoon of crisp, clear water begs to be snorkeled, stunning black beaches and

blowholes pay tribute to the island's volcanic heritage, and lush green mountains beckon you inland on adventures, as you explore extraordinary Tahiti. Visit to relax and settle into the intoxicating rhythm of life in this Polynesian paradise.

Day 2 - Raiatea, French Polynesia

Known as the 'Sacred Island,' Raiatea is a fascinating haunt for archaeologists and historians as it's one of the islands in the Pacific where Polynesian culture can trace its roots. Visitors will find many of the older Polynesian structures still in place and are fascinating places to explore. In the 16th century, Raiatea developed a powerful cult dedicated to Oro the God of War, and built a large meeting ground, the Taputaputea Marae, which is still intact. Human sacrifice was practiced until around the middle of the 18th century and visitors should look for the sacrificial stone. Several tour operators run visits to the marae (ancient temples) along with some degree of informed commentary - although in fairness Polynesian storytelling can embellish things a little. The Faaroa River is the only navigable waterway in French Polynesia, and it can be traveled by powerboat or outrigger canoe. Running through the Faaroa Gorge it passes some spectacular scenery with steep-walled jungle foliage holding dozens of bird species and wild hibiscus. Trekking up Mount Temehani, a well-known landmark that's said to be Oro's birthplace, is relatively demanding. Keep a lookout for the rare, five-petal tiare apetahi. Said to be impossible to grow anywhere else, this white, indigenous flower can only be found above 1,300 feet (396 meters). Look, but don't touch. It's against the law to pick them.

Day 3 - Bora Bora (Society Islands), French Polynesia

If you have ever dreamed up your ideal island holiday, we suspect it goes something like this: Soapy blue seas? Check. Sparkling white beaches? Check. Thatched wooden huts, gently sloping palm trees, and kaleidoscopic marine life? Check, check, and check. And yet, even by ticking every box, first-time viewing of Bora Bora still beggars belief. This tropical hideaway less than 12 square meters in the heart of the South Pacific has been topping travel wish lists for years. Long considered the realm of honeymooners - spectacularly romantic sunsets are a specialty - Bora Bora is not just for wandering with your love. If the prismatic shades of blue of the world's most beautiful lagoon do not fill you up, then perhaps underwater scooters and aqua-safaris will charge your batteries. If exploring Bora Bora's lush hinterland is more your glass of tequila sunrise, then trips around the island (often stopping off at the celebrity haunt Bloody Mary Restaurant & Bar) are a must. Bora Bora's peaceful ambiance has not always been the case. The island was a U.S. supply base, known as "Operation Bobcat," during WWII. During this time, Bora Bora was home to nine ships, 20,000 tons of equipment, and nearly 7,000 men. Eight massive 7-inch naval cannons were installed around the island, all but one of which are still in place. Although little is known of the history of the island, it is known that Bora Bora was called Vava'u in ancient times. This supports the belief that the island was colonized by Tongans before French annexation in 1888.

Day 4 - Day at sea

Days at sea are the perfect opportunity to relax, unwind, and catch up with what you've been meaning to do. So whether that is going to the gym, visiting the spa, whale-watching, catching up on your reading, or simply topping up your tan, these blue sea days are the perfect balance to busy days spent exploring shoreside.

Day 5 - Rarotonga, Cook Islands



Rarotonga is the essence of Polynesia with its warmth, vibrant tropical plants, and some of the happiest and friendliest people on Earth. As the main island of the Cook Islands, Rarotonga supports most of the country's people and services. The island was settled about 1,500 years ago by traditional sailing canoes as part of the great Polynesian expansion. Cook Islanders are proud of their culture and happy to demonstrate their traditional skills. Mesmerizing dances incorporate energetic posturing of warrior men and seductive gyrations of grass skirts on the hips of women, along with graceful hand movements. An ancient, eroded volcano bedecked in rainforest dominates the island. Skirting the mountain is a flat coastal strip where most people live. The island is fringed by white coral sand beaches and a shallow coastal lagoon stretching to a protective outer ring of coral reefs. Rarotonga has many modern water and land activities for visitors but without the tourism hype of more well-known Pacific islands. An easy escape is to trek across the island's interior past the Needle - an aptly named volcanic rock spire. The decaying volcano on Rarotonga produces fertile soil and captures rain, ensuring lush dark green vegetation. Bird life is headlined by the Cook Islands Fruit Dove, and the Kakerori (Rarotongan Flycatcher). Kakerori were critically endangered with only 29 birds in the Takitumu Conservation Area in 1989. A dedicated conservation program has enabled a recovery of over 500 birds.

Day 6 - Aitutaki, Cook Islands

When the Lonely Planet co-founder describes somewhere as 'the world's most beautiful island' you can be sure that you are in for a treat. Incredible Aitutaki, inspiring Aitutaki, unbelievable, idyllic, and unimaginable, there are simply not enough superlatives to describe quite how amazing Aitutaki is. Brought to light in 1779 by Captain Bligh, the Mutiny on the Bounty meant that Aitutaki had somewhat of a bloodthirsty history. While European missionaries eventually settled on the island in the 19th century (evidenced by the white, coral-encrusted walls of the many churches) the island's Polynesian history dates to around 900 A.D. Traditional songs and dances from this period still exist (although Christian hymns, known as imene metua are also popular), and are performed by islanders with gusto and much pride. The island is part of the Cook Islands, one of the most secluded and romantic archipelagos in the world. With its powder-white sand, warm turquoise waters, and sense of casual luxury, it is easy to see why the island has earned itself the moniker "honeymooner's island". However, there is much more to Aitutaki than just fun in the sun. With a reef that completely encompasses a large turquoise lagoon, Aitutaki is considered one of the most spectacular diving and snorkeling destinations in the world. Added to the tropical excitement is that when entering the main village via Zodiac along a narrow channel - travelers will be greeted by a traditional and customary warrior challenge.

Day 7 - Palmerston Island, Cook Islands

The low-lying atoll of Palmerston is inhabited by three families, all descendants of William Marsters (1831-1899). Members of the community are known to greet visitors and guide small boats and Zodiacs into the lagoon through a maze of coral reefs to reach the only inhabited islet -commonly called 'Home'. Once ashore, the whole community generally turns out to meet visitors as it is a rare occurrence. The island's highlights include a church, the oldest house, the cemetery, the school, the underground gardens, and 'Duke's Pool,' - inviting for a swim or snorkel. In the lagoon's waters, it is possible to find colorful reef



fish, sea cucumbers, rays, and sea turtles. Overhead there is birdlife including tropicbirds, boobies, noddies, frigatebirds, and terns.

Day 8 - Day at sea

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Day 9 - Alofi, Niue

Alofi, the capital of Niue island, or 'The Rock' as it is known to its inhabitants. The island has a population of only around 600 inhabitants, giving it the modest title of being the second smallest capital 'city' in the world. The island does boast an international airport but despite this, tourism is not as rife here as in some of the other, better-known Polynesian idylls. Niue has a distinctive beauty all of its own. Think less of the sweeping, romantic beaches for which Polynesia is famous and more sheltered rocky coves, jewel-like reef pools, headlands, tropical forest, coconut plantations, and neat, colorful villages scattered throughout the island's 100 square miles. The crystal-clear waters and limestone caves of beautiful Alofi Bay offer spectacular snorkeling opportunities. The island is sometimes referred to by its ancient name of Savage Island. Niueans' nature of worship was in the past joyful and ecstatic. Islanders would receive the power of the divine by dancing around a campfire. These ceremonies, called tugi e mama (lighting the fires) were especially used before going to war, when a priest or shaman would light a fire and call out to the gods to come to the aid of the troops who were about to enter in battle. As one of Polynesia's poorer islands, today Niue has no organized religion, although islanders are incredibly spiritual. Thus, there are no real places of worship but rather areas of land - known as taugas - marked out and reserved solely for the breeding of birds and crabs.

Day 9 - Date Line lose a day

Planet Earth is divided into 24 different time zones and regardless of where you are on the planet, the time and date always change at midnight. So, for those who travel westwards, time moves seemingly "slower" over the time zones gaining one hour per time zone crossed, but you suddenly find yourself one day older when crossing the date line from the Western to the Eastern Hemisphere since you have to adjust for the time 'gained'! Just to confuse matters even further, the IDL (International Date Line) is arbitrary, and countries can request to move it as they please! For two hours every day (between 10 a.m. and 12 p.m. GMT), the world has three different dates, meaning that when it is 11.30 p.m. on Sunday in American Samoa (GMT-11), it will be 6.30 a.m. on Monday in New York City (GMT-4) and 12.30 a.m. on Tuesday in Kiritimati, Line Islands (GMT+14)!

Day 10 - Euaiki Island, Tonga

A typical tropical island in the South Pacific should have white sand, coconut palms, a calm turquoise sea, and coral reefs reaching to the shore. Eueiki has all that. The 19-hectare (48-acre) island is one of the Vava'u island group of Tonga and is privately owned, with a small resort. Eueiki is made of limestone laid down by marine life thousands of years ago and later uplifted. Take a walk from the island's beach to the shade of the island's interior. Listen for birds. The names of the Polynesian Triller and the Tongan Whistler (a Vava'u endemic)



give away their identity. The "coos" are made by fruit-eating Pacific Pigeons or Purple-capped Fruit-doves. Screeches identify Tongan (Insular) Flying Foxes. Fascinating to watch, these large bats are sacred and protected by the King of Tonga. Coral reefs provide great snorkeling, with clear waters giving excellent views of the diverse corals and fish. Healthy corals are mostly green, brown, and occasionally blue due to the algae that live in the flesh of the skeleton-making coral polyps. It is the texture and shapes of the coral that make them fascinating. Some are soft and some are hard. Growth forms include shrubby, finger, plate, massive (round domes), and branched. Small reef fish linger on the reef, none more so than the anemonefish. Small groups of these orange, white, and sometimes black, banded fish find protection amongst the tentacles of sea anemones. Anemonefish are nicknamed Nemos after the Finding Nemo movie. Find Nemo in the word anemone.

Day 11 - Day at sea

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Day 12 - Levuka, Ovalau, Fiji & Leleuvia Island, Fiji

Sitting below the emerald slopes and peaks of Ovalau Island's extinct volcano, Levuka is a perfect South Pacific time capsule. Fiji's first colonial capital - and only UNESCO World Heritage site - this remarkable port town preserves an extraordinary chapter of the region's history. Traditional Fijian bure houses - wooden constructions with corrugated iron and weatherboard - nestle alongside Victorian-era buildings, which together form an outstanding example of late 19th century Pacific port settlements. Part of the World Heritage listing, Sacred Heart Church's blackened gothic bell tower serves as both church steeple and lighthouse, guiding ships safely through the surrounding reefs. Hemmed between volcanic cliffs lined with mahogany and coconut palms on one side and the deep, blue expanse of the South Pacific on the other, Levuka's stunning natural setting made further expansion virtually impossible as the town developed. This led to the Fijian capital relocating to Suva in 1882. The silver lining? Present-day Levuka has preserved its colonial-era character, offering visitors an authentic taste of Fiji that feels refreshingly unhurried, genuine, and deeply welcoming. The town that laid the foundations for modern Fiji provides the perfect introduction to this lush, volcanic island, which is surrounded by spectacular coral reefs.

Leleuvia is a small low-lying island southeast of Ovalau with a length of barely 500 meters. Situated between the chiefly island of Bau, Moturiki, and Ovalau, almost equidistant from Ovalau and the Central Eastern coast of Viti Levu, this lush, green island hosts a small resort. An easily accessible reef with many colorful reef fish 10 meters off of Leleuvia's western beach invites to be explored. Resident sea kraits are often seen resting ashore north of the small pier. Despite its small size and the resort on its southern side, the island still has quite an extensive forest of tamanu (Alexandrian laurel), lantern trees, fish-poison trees, and beach gardenia. There are also local clusters of beach hibiscus, beach heliotrope, and Pacific rosewood where Sacred Kingfishers, Orange-breasted Honeyeaters, and Pacific Swallows have been recorded.

Day 13 - Lautoka, Fiji



It doesn't get much sweeter than arriving on the sun-soaked shores of the Sugar City. Fiji's second-biggest settlement opens up a world of blissful beaches and turquoise seascapes, while its dense jungle lures the adventurous deep into its embrace. Step ashore where the first Fijians landed, and you'll understand instantly why they chose to make this island paradise their heavenly home. Experience rich Fijian life, and see dramatic displays like warrior dances, and remarkable local practices like firewalks, which kick up burning embers into the night's sky. Legend says the city took its name after two chiefs faced each other in a duel. A spear pierced one of the chiefs, leading to the shout of 'lau-toka!' or 'spear hit!' Sugar is Lautoka's main trade, but its botanical gardens are a sweet insight into the tropical plant life that thrives here - from pearl white lilies to tall, fragrant orchids. Explore temples, charming cafes, and mills - or barter for some of the juiciest mangoes you'll ever taste at the city's lively market. You'll only be able to resist the beaches for so long, and it doesn't get much more stunning than the Blue Lagoon - a heavenly blend of woven-together turquoise shades. Remote, wild, and unspoiled, these are some of the best tropical beaches in the world. There's more rejuvenating relaxation at the mineral-rich mud pools and spas, fueled by the volcanic activity below. Savala Island is a teardrop of sand offshore and another beautiful place to wander with the soft powder between your toes - along sandy spits that peter out into the water. Or swim and snorkel among its envied reefs, thronging with fish life.

Please note:

Itineraries are subject to change.



YOUR SHIP: SILVER CLOUD

YOUR SHIP: **Silver Cloud**

VESSEL TYPE:

LENGTH:

PASSENGER CAPACITY:

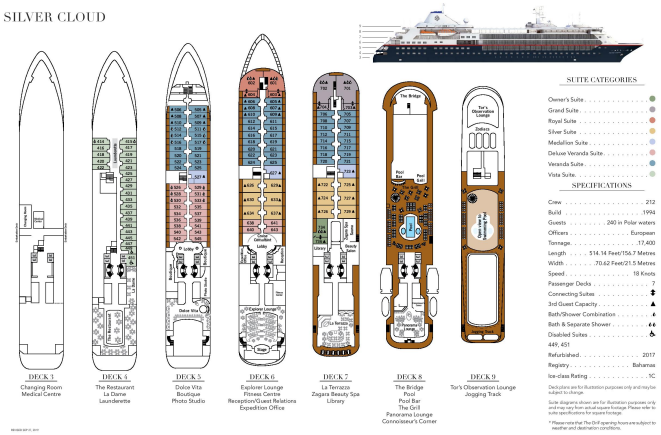
BUILT/REFURBISHED:



With 18-brand new Zodiacs, four superlative restaurants in Antarctica and a pole to pole expedition itinerary, Silver Cloud really does break the ice between expedition and luxury. Spacious yet intimate, designed to cross oceans and yet able to slip up rivers and into hidden harbours with ease, the yacht-like Silver Cloud carries just 296 guests in incomparable comfort and style. Combining spacious ocean-view suites and private verandas with stunning dining and entertainment options, Silver Cloud provides world-class cruise accommodations, service and amenities. After extensive refurbishment, Silver Cloud is the most spacious and comfortable ice class vessel in expedition cruising. Her large suites, her destination itineraries and her unparalleled service make her truly special. Her four dining options will tantalise your taste buds and as 80% of her suites include a veranda, watching a breaching whale or a few cavorting penguins has never been so personal. She carries a limited number of guests in polar waters, meaning that Silver Cloud has the highest space to guest and crew to guest ratios in expedition cruising. With her 18 zodiacs, 10 kayaks, possibilities are almost limitless with ship-wide simultaneous explorations.



INSIDE YOUR SHIP



Grand 1 Bedroom



Grand 2 Bedroom



Medallion



Midship Veranda



Owner 1 Bedroom



Owner 2 Bedroom





Royal 1 Bedroom



Royal 2 Bedroom



Silver



Veranda



Vista





PRICING

01-Apr-2027 to 14-Apr-2027

Vista	£11025 GBP pp
Royal 1 Bedroom	£19205 GBP pp
Royal 2 Bedroom	£30475 GBP pp
Veranda	£12525 GBP pp
Midship Veranda	£13505 GBP pp
Silver	£18655 GBP pp
Medallion	£17675 GBP pp
Grand 1 Bedroom	£21725 GBP pp
Owner 1 Bedroom	£22055 GBP pp
Owner 2 Bedroom	£31975 GBP pp
Grand 2 Bedroom	£33005 GBP pp

13-Oct-2027 to 23-Oct-2027

Midship Veranda	£12975 GBP pp
Owner 1 Bedroom	£24925 GBP pp
Royal 2 Bedroom	£30025 GBP pp
Grand 2 Bedroom	£33475 GBP pp
Vista	£10405 GBP pp
Owner 2 Bedroom	£34275 GBP pp
Veranda	£12005 GBP pp
Medallion	£18175 GBP pp
Silver	£18825 GBP pp
Royal 1 Bedroom	£19225 GBP pp
Grand 1 Bedroom	£22675 GBP pp

13-Oct-2028 to 23-Oct-2028

Silver	£15525 GBP pp
Royal 1 Bedroom	£17255 GBP pp
Owner 1 Bedroom	£21525 GBP pp
Medallion	£13405 GBP pp
Vista	£9405 GBP pp
Royal 2 Bedroom	£27375 GBP pp
Grand 1 Bedroom	£18675 GBP pp
Grand 2 Bedroom	£28805 GBP pp
Owner 2 Bedroom	£29975 GBP pp
Veranda	£11255 GBP pp
Midship Veranda	£12975 GBP pp