

AUSTRAL ISLANDS WITH RAPA 2028 SMALL SHIP CRUISE

Cruise in the Austral islands, the secret archipelago Discovered by Europeans in the 18th Century, the Australs are located 373 miles (600 km) south of Tahiti's capital city. The archipelago is made of seven islands, five of which are inhabited - Rimatara, Rurutu, Tubuai, Raivavae and Rapa - and four of which are accessible by air. 6,800 people live in the Austral islands, an off the beaten track archipelago of untouched and mysterious land where white sand clashes with the intense blue of the lagoons. Breath-taking landscapes, from sheer mountains to valleys and high plains, these islands are famous for their farming activities. Several archaeological remains witness to a well organised, pre-European community of rich cultural and religious practices. The cliffs and caves of the Austral Islands were ancient burial grounds and now provide a platform from which visitors can watch Humpback Whales frolic in the water just offshore as they come here from August to October to give birth. Passengers on board Aranoa will take a guided tour of the island's colourful, picturesque villages and discover the handiwork of islanders who mainly live off their artwork. During their Polynesian cruise they will also enjoy watching fishermen, farmers and basket weavers at work and are unlikely to leave without purchasing a hat or a woven basket to remind them of their magical time in the Austral Islands.



ITINERARY

Day 1 — Papeete Departure

Boarding: 7:00 a.m. - 9:00 a.m.

Departure: Noon

Day 2 — Rurutu (Austral Archipelago)

Rurutu is renowned throughout Polynesia for the excellence of its handicrafts and, in particular, for the finesse of its woven items. Hats, bags, baskets, and rugs are meticulously crafted from pandanus leaves and other natural materials, using techniques passed down from generation to generation.

After lunch on board, the Aranoa, anchored off the coast of Rurutu, will take you by barge to the pier in Moerai, the island's peaceful main village. Take advantage of this free time to stroll through the streets of Moerai, experience the authentic



atmosphere of Rurutu, and admire, as you walk, the skill of the local artisans and their magnificent woven creations.

Day 3 – Rimatara (Austral Archipelago)

The Aranoa docks at Taanini Wharf on Rimatara, a small volcanic island that has preserved its traditions, dialect, and unique identity. After a traditional purification smoke ceremony, take a bus to explore the main villages. In Amaru, discover the ancient royal cemetery overlooking the sea, where the island's former kings and queens are buried.

Legend has it that you mustn't make faces in front of the royal tombs... or you'll be left disfigured! In Motuaura, enjoy the crystal-clear waters for a swim or to explore the seabed with a mask and snorkel. With its taro fields, fruit trees, and lush gardens, Rimatara offers a true natural paradise. The island is also home to the magnificent Kuhl's lory "Ura," an iconic red parakeet.

Optional excursions to see the Ura and the "navel of Rimatara" are available upon registration at the front desk.

Day 4 – Tubuai (Austral Archipelago)

Tubuai is the most populous island in the Austral Islands and is said to have one of the most beautiful lagoons in Polynesia.

You'll disembark by barge at Baie Sanglante, where you'll be welcomed with music and a flower lei around your neck. Thanks to its cooler climate and fertile soil, Tubuai is renowned for its vegetable crops, particularly cabbage, lettuce, and potatoes. Set out to explore the island by truck and discover its cultural sites, including the Vaitauarii marae. Lunch will be served under the large tent at City Hall, accompanied by a showcase of local crafts.

Optional: island tour by 4x4 or a boat tour of the 8 motu. Sign up at the front desk.

Day 5 – At Sea

Take advantage of this day at sea to treat yourself to a moment of relaxation in our spa. Browse our boutique, participate in our cultural workshops, or simply let yourself be carried away by the rhythm of the journey as the ship continues its voyage toward the mysterious and nearly inaccessible Rapa.

Day 6 – Rapa (Austral Archipelago)

Rapa is one of the most unspoiled and isolated islands in the Austral Islands. Shaped like a crescent, it is distinguished by its 12 deep bays, its temperate climate, and its unique natural environment, which lacks coral reefs and coconut palms. Among other things, fruits and vegetables that are surprising for these latitudes--such as apples, peaches, and nectarines--are grown there.

The Aranoa docks at Ahurei, where you'll be welcomed with music and a flower garland around your neck. Take a truck to the cultural center to discover the crafts of the "mamas," including hats and baskets made from mountain reeds, called "kakae." You'll also explore the small historical museum, learn about agricultural traditions centered on "roki" taro, and participate in cultural workshops on making popoi and reed baskets. A local meal will be served at the Cultural Center on the Temotouri pier.

For the more adventurous, a 2.5-hour hike to Fort Morongo Uta offers the chance to explore Rapa's wild and unspoiled landscapes.

Day 7 – Raivavae (Austral Archipelago)

Nicknamed the "Bora Bora of yesteryear," Raivavae is an unspoiled island in the Austral Islands, surrounded by a magnificent turquoise lagoon and numerous motus.

During your stopover on the Aranoa, explore the village of



Rairua, its traditions, its ancient marae, and the famous "Smiling Tiki." You can also enjoy a lunch featuring local flavors and explore traditional crafts, including "Pupu" shell necklaces. For nature lovers, a hike or excursion to Motu Vaiamanu and its crystal-clear waters will round out this wonderful experience.

Day 8 — Rurutu (Austral Archipelago)

Back in Rurutu, rediscover the traditional villages, ancient marae, and local crafts, particularly basket weaving. Rurutu is also renowned for its humpback whale season, which runs from July through October; you can spot them in its waters during this time.

With its unspoiled natural beauty, Polynesian traditions, and encounters with the locals, Rurutu offers a stopover full of charm and authenticity.

Day 9 — At Sea

Take this opportunity to slow down and enjoy a drink or a cup of coffee while gazing out at the ocean, and simply let yourself be swept away by the boat's atmosphere. It's also a great time to chat with the other passengers or the crew, or to jot down a few impressions and take some photos of this unique crossing before we head back to the Society Islands.

Day 10 — Raiatea (Society Archipelago)

In the heart of the Polynesian Triangle, Raiatea--formerly known as Havai'i--is recognized as the cradle of Polynesian civilization. As the first island settled by navigators, it served as the starting point for the great migrations to New Zealand, Hawaii, and Rapa Nui.

Upon the Aranoa's arrival, passengers are welcomed with a tiare flower in their ear, to the rhythm of the to'ere. Buses will then take you to the spectacular Taputapuatea marae, over 1,000 years old and a UNESCO World Heritage Site, considered the religious and spiritual center of all of Polynesia.

As an optional activity, explore the Faaroa River by canoe, surrounded by endemic plants and fruit trees, or enjoy a certified scuba diving excursion (sign up at the front desk). After lunch on board, spend the afternoon in Uturoa, browsing shops, admiring local crafts, and soaking up the warm atmosphere of the pier.

Day 11 — Bora Bora (Society Archipelago)

As you approach the legendary lagoon of Bora Bora, the landscape unfolds like a living painting: a mosaic of blues and greens reflecting the majestic Mount Otemanu, an icon of Polynesia.

The island also reveals a little-known history: during World War II, it served as a strategic U.S. base, and cannons and bunkers from that era still remain.

Your day continues on Motu Tevairoa, a private islet surrounded by a crystal-clear lagoon. Between relaxing, swimming, and enjoying the white sand, savor a Polynesian barbecue in a warm and welcoming atmosphere.

Optionally, explore the lagoon by boat or canoe, enjoy a scuba diving excursion, or have a fascinating encounter with rays and sharks in their natural habitat (sign up at the front desk).

Day 12 — Moorea (Society Archipelago)

Upon arrival in Moorea, discover an island with spectacular scenery, featuring lush green mountains, a turquoise lagoon, and white-sand beaches. Admire the famous Cook and Opunohu bays, as well as the majestic Mount Rotui.

Take advantage of this stopover to explore the pineapple plantations, discover the island's scenic viewpoints, and immerse yourself in Polynesian culture. A boat or canoe trip will



also allow you to explore the lagoon and its rich marine life.

Day 13 – Tahiti (Papeete) Arrival

Arrival: 7:00 a.m.

Please note:

Itineraries are subject to change.



YOUR SHIP: ARANOA

YOUR SHIP: **Aranoa**

VESSEL TYPE:

LENGTH:

PASSENGER CAPACITY:

BUILT/REFURBISHED:

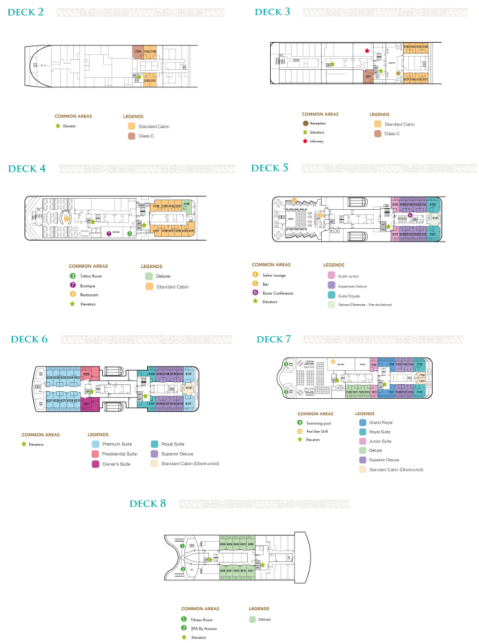
Launching in 2027, Aranoa marks an exciting new chapter for Aranui Cruises, extending its legacy of authentic and sustainable Polynesian voyages. This innovative mixed passenger-freighter vessel will journey through the remote Austral Islands--Rimatara, Rurutu, Tubuai, Raivavae, and Rapa--offering guests an intimate connection to some of French Polynesia's most unspoiled destinations. With capacity for just 198 passengers across 93 cabins, including 62 with private balconies, Aranoa promises a boutique cruising experience complemented by Polynesian warmth and hospitality. Onboard amenities include two restaurants, two bars, whirlpools, a spa and tattoo area, a boutique, and a fitness centre, ensuring both comfort and cultural immersion as guests explore the lush mountains, turquoise lagoons, and white-sand beaches of the Australs. True to Aranui's pioneering spirit, Aranoa combines tradition with forward-thinking sustainability. The ship features a diesel-electric propulsion system with azimuth thrusters, an eco-friendly antifouling hull coating, and technology designed to reduce noise and emissions while enhancing fuel efficiency. Continuing the company's 40-year commitment to inclusive tourism, Aranoa will work closely with local communities to promote inter-island trade and cultural exchange, creating meaningful connections between travellers and the islands. Blending discovery, comfort, and responsibility, Aranoa invites guests to experience a slower, more authentic Polynesia--where every voyage



tells a story.



INSIDE YOUR SHIP



Class C



Deluxe



Grand Royal Suite



Junior Suite



Owner Suite



Premium Suite





Presidential Suite



Royal Suite



Stateroom



Superior Deluxe





PRICING

12-Feb-2028 to 24-Feb-2028

Premium Suite	£6869 GBP pp
Junior Suite	£6485 GBP pp
Class C	£2995 GBP pp
Stateroom	£4679 GBP pp
Grand Royal Suite	£8705 GBP pp
Owner Suite	£9125 GBP pp
Royal Suite	£7225 GBP pp
Superior Deluxe	£6379 GBP pp
Deluxe	£5915 GBP pp
Presidential Suite	£9125 GBP pp

25-Mar-2028 to 06-Apr-2028

Class C	£2995 GBP pp
Stateroom	£4679 GBP pp
Grand Royal Suite	£8705 GBP pp
Owner Suite	£9125 GBP pp
Royal Suite	£7225 GBP pp
Premium Suite	£6869 GBP pp
Superior Deluxe	£6379 GBP pp
Junior Suite	£6485 GBP pp
Deluxe	£5915 GBP pp
Presidential Suite	£9125 GBP pp

22-Apr-2028 to 04-May-2028

Premium Suite	£6869 GBP pp
Owner Suite	£9125 GBP pp
Royal Suite	£7225 GBP pp
Superior Deluxe	£6379 GBP pp
Junior Suite	£6485 GBP pp
Deluxe	£5915 GBP pp
Presidential Suite	£9125 GBP pp
Stateroom	£4679 GBP pp
Class C	£2995 GBP pp
Grand Royal Suite	£8705 GBP pp



PRICING

12-Aug-2028 to 24-Aug-2028

Class C	£2995 GBP pp
Stateroom	£4679 GBP pp
Grand Royal Suite	£8705 GBP pp
Owner Suite	£9125 GBP pp
Royal Suite	£7225 GBP pp
Premium Suite	£6869 GBP pp
Superior Deluxe	£6379 GBP pp
Junior Suite	£6485 GBP pp
Deluxe	£5915 GBP pp
Presidential Suite	£9125 GBP pp

07-Oct-2028 to 19-Oct-2028

Class C	£2995 GBP pp
Deluxe	£5915 GBP pp
Stateroom	£4679 GBP pp
Grand Royal Suite	£8705 GBP pp
Owner Suite	£9125 GBP pp
Royal Suite	£7225 GBP pp
Premium Suite	£6869 GBP pp
Superior Deluxe	£6379 GBP pp
Junior Suite	£6485 GBP pp
Presidential Suite	£9125 GBP pp

04-Nov-2028 to 16-Nov-2028

Class C	£2995 GBP pp
Royal Suite	£7225 GBP pp
Deluxe	£5915 GBP pp
Grand Royal Suite	£8705 GBP pp
Owner Suite	£9125 GBP pp
Presidential Suite	£9125 GBP pp
Superior Deluxe	£6379 GBP pp
Junior Suite	£6485 GBP pp
Stateroom	£4679 GBP pp
Premium Suite	£6869 GBP pp