

FRENCH POLYNESIA'S MARQUESAS ISLANDS AND TUAMOTUS

Journey across French Polynesia, from the coral atolls of the Tuamotus to the remote Marquesas Islands--one of the most isolated and culturally rich archipelagos in the Pacific. Discover the turquoise waters of Rangiroa and the UNESCO Biosphere Reserve of Fakarava before venturing north to the Marquesas' world of towering volcanic cliffs, ancient me'ae ceremonial sites and deeply rooted Polynesian traditions. Explore dramatic valleys, sacred tiki sites and island communities where carving, dance, music and storytelling remain central to daily life. Along the way, encounter rare birdlife, rugged coastlines and wild tropical landscapes on an expedition that reveals the extraordinary diversity of French Polynesia.



ITINERARY

Day 1 Papeete, Tahiti, French Polynesia / Embark Ship

Arrive in Papeete, the vibrant and multicultural capital of French Polynesia. Transfer from the airport to a hotel for breakfast before embarking the ship.

Day 2 Rangiroa

The atoll of Rangiroa is a necklace of slender islands surrounding one of the world's largest lagoons, renowned for some of the finest snorkeling in French Polynesia. Beneath the turquoise waters, marine ecosystems harbor large schools of reef fish, dolphins and other marine life. Snorkeling offers an immersive way to experience this extraordinary South Pacific



paradise.

Day 3 Fakarava

Arrive at Fakarava, one of the largest atolls in French Polynesia and part of a UNESCO Biosphere Reserve. Home to an exceptional diversity of marine life as well as rare birds and plants, this remote coral atoll offers opportunities to visit protected reefs and explore the village of Rotoava, the island's main settlement.

Day 4-5 At Sea

Enjoy time at sea en route to the Marquesas Islands, attending expert presentations, connecting with fellow travelers and taking advantage of the ship's exceptional amenities. Relax in the sauna or infinity hot tubs, visit the bridge for wildlife sightings and take in the vast expanse of the Pacific as your expedition team shares insights into the islands and cultures ahead.

Day 6-10 Marquesas Islands

Accompanied by knowledgeable local guides, visit remote island villages to learn about Marquesan traditions and religious rites, discover ancient petroglyphs, witness powerful dance performances at a traditional ma'ae, sample local foods and browse distinctive arts and crafts.

Hike through verdant valleys with naturalists and local guides in search of rare birds and sweeping island vistas. Explore dramatic coastlines by Zodiac, marveling at the rugged silhouettes of these legendary islands or slip beneath the surface to discover the vibrant marine life that thrives in the nutrient-rich waters of the Marquesas.

Day 11-12 At Sea

Enjoy two relaxing days at sea as you sail across the South Pacific en route to Makatea. Take in ocean views from the lounge, cozy up with a book on Polynesian culture in the library or edit your favorite images at the photo kiosk with help from your National Geographic-Lindblad Expeditions certified photo instructor.

Day 13 Makatea

An uplifted coral atoll, the island of Makatea is among the Pacific's most unusual and geologically fascinating landforms. Raised dramatically from the sea by tectonic forces, Makatea stands in striking contrast to the region's low-lying atolls, with towering limestone cliffs and rugged elevated terrain. So distinctive is this rare formation that the island's name has become the term used for uplifted coral atolls around the world. Spend the day with your naturalists and local guides, in search of endemic fruit doves and a myriad of seabirds. Explore the island's limestone caves and swim in the crystal-clear waters of its stalactite- and stalagmite-filled grotto.

Back on board this evening, gather with fellow travelers for a farewell dinner as you celebrate your journey through French Polynesia.

Day 14 Papeete / Disembark Ship

Disembark in Papeete this afternoon and enjoy dinner with your fellow travelers ashore. After dinner, transfer to the airport for flights home.

Please note:

Itineraries are sibject to change.



YOUR SHIP: NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC ORION

YOUR SHIP:	**National Geographic Orion**
VESSEL TYPE:	**Luxury Expedition**
LENGTH:	**103 metres**
PASSENGER CAPACITY:	**102 (in 53 cabins)**
BUILT/REFURBISHED:	**2003 / Refurbished 2014**

Engineered for maximum comfort and safety, _Orion_ is equipped with the latest technology including large retractable stabilizers, sonar, radar, and an ice-strengthened hull. A shallow draft plus bow and stern thrusters provide the convenience of being able to maneuver close to shore. 14 Zodiacs ensure quick disembarkation and offer the ideal transport for up-close exploration. _National Geographic Orion_ meets strict specifications for environmental protection and the on board waste management systems meet the stringent Antarctic operational standards enabling us to travel to the most pristine environments. A host of advanced design features and technology ensures sustainable marine environmental practices. _National Geographic Orion_ accommodates 102 guests in 53 cabins, including several with balconies. She is spacious and modern, with a variety of public rooms that offer panoramic views of the passing landscape. Friendly and informal, _Orion_ fosters a welcoming atmosphere where like-minded guests share in exceptional experiences and enrichment. Her public rooms include a dramatic window-lined main lounge, as well as an observation lounge and library perched at the very top of the ship, with plentiful observation decks. The spacious lounge is the heart of our expedition community, and is suited for spirited cocktail hours, informative presentations and our nightly tradition of Recap. In addition, a dedicated theater provides a unique setting for specialist presentations or films and slideshows. Both the main dining room and outside buffet easily accommodate all guests at once for open seating dining. On selected nights, weather permitting, our dining room menu is also available on the outside deck. While _Orion_ interiors are elegant, life aboard is always casual, with no need for formal clothing. And you'll find shipboard services like laundry, in-room cabled internet, and public-area wifi make packing and traveling more





convenient.

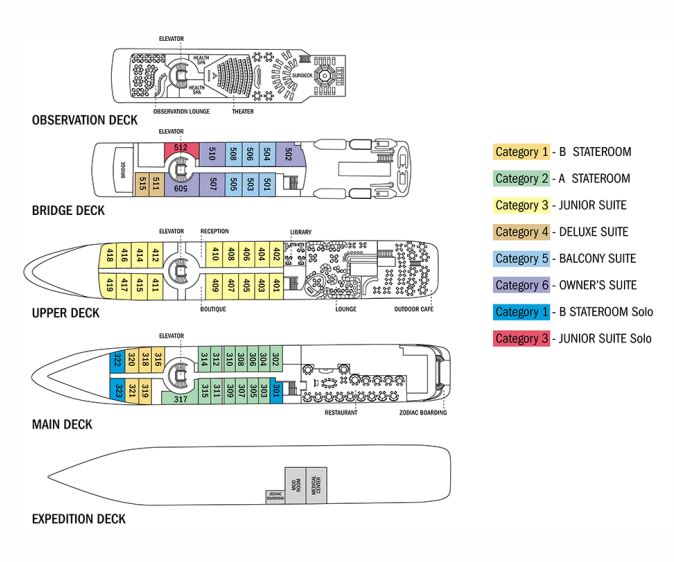
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