

LITTLE-KNOWN TREASURES OF MELANESIA - LUXURY CRUISE

Set sail to discover the ancestral lands of Australia and four treasures of Melanesia:Papua New Guinea, the Solomon Islands, Vanuatu and Fiji. Amid tropical landscapes, pristine beaches and lush ecosystems, explore unspoilt lands shaped by nature and tradition. On Thursday Island , discover a history marked by the Second World War, then immerse yourself in the cultures of Papua New Guinea , home to more than 700 ethnic groups and centuries-old traditions. Fall in love with the wild landscapes of the Solomon Islands andVanuatu , featuring waterfalls, verdant hills, fine-sand beaches and coral reefs. Along the way, discover idyllic landscapes of lush forests alongside colonial heritage, myths and traditions.



ITINERARY

Day 1 - Darwin

Darwin is located in Australia's Northern Territory which is also known as the "Top End". It is the **capital city** and the most populated town of the Northern Territory. Darwin is a beautiful tropical city, a **melting pot of people and cultures** , over 50 different cultures live and work side by side that prides itself in its unique and friendly laid-back lifestyle. Come discover the town's still recent history through its emblematic buildings such as the new **Parliamant House** opened in 1994, a magnificent example of tropical architecture or **Admiralty House** declared heritage place, a tropical-style home elevated on stilts that has survived two cyclones and numerous air raids.



Day 2 - At sea

During your journey at sea, make the most of the many services and activities on board. Treat yourself to a moment of relaxation in the spa or stay in shape in the fitness centre. Depending on the season, let yourself be tempted by the swimming pool or a spot of sunbathing. This journey without a port of call will also be an opportunity to enjoy the conferences or shows proposed on board, depending on the activities offered, or to do some shopping in the boutique or to meet the PONANT photographers in their dedicated space. As for lovers of the open sea, they will be able to visit the ship's upper deck to admire the spectacle of the waves and perhaps be lucky enough to observe marine species. A truly enchanted interlude, combining comfort, rest and entertainment.

Day 3 - At sea

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Day 4 - Thursday Island

Located at Australia s northernmost tip, Thursday Island is one of more than a hundred in the Torres Strait ,between Cape York Peninsula and Papua New Guinea. The historic military fort of **Green Hill** offers magnificent views and you can discover more about the region and its pearling history at the Gab Titui Cultural Centre.

Day 5 - At sea

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Day 6 - Samarai Island

The Samarai islands are located in the China Strait off the south-eastern tip of New Guinea. In its colonial heyday it was said to be one of the most beautiful places in the PacificDeclared a "National Historical Heritage Island" by the government of Papua New Guinea in 2006, the islet was - at the time of English administration - a compulsory stop for all merchant ships sailing between Australia and South-East Asia, making the island the country's second commercial port. Founded in the 1800s, the town quickly attracted gold miners and other traders, who helped shape its history.

Day 7 - Alotau



Alotau became the provincial capital of Milne Bay in 1969 and today has a population of approximately 16,000. It serves as our port of entry into Papua New Guinea. Missionaries, miners, pearlers, Japanese and American warships have all contributed to the History of Milne Bay. Perhaps the most significant history surrounds the **Battle of Milne Bay**. It was here that the invading Japanese army suffered their first land defeat in the Pacific War in 1942. A memorial park at the battle site commemorates the event. The local people are warm and welcoming resulting in one of the most relaxed, secure and easy-going towns in Papua New Guinea. Join your expedition team for a tour taking in the town markets and **WWII memorials**.

Day 8 - At sea

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Day 9 - Honiara, Guadalcanal Island

Honiara is the capital city of The Solomon Islands, administered as a provincial town on the north-western coast of Guadalcanal Island. **Honiara** comes from the local Ghari Language "naho-ni-ara" meaning 'facing the ara', the place where the southeast winds meet the land. Discover this city, its beautiful landscape, and the significant role it played in **World War II**. Particularly The Battle of Henderson Field, the last of the three major land offensives conducted by the Japanese in 1942.

Day 10 - Roderick Bay, Florida Islands

Part of the Florida Islands, **Roderick bay** is surrounded by beautiful white sand beaches and fringing coral reefs. These clear warm tropical waters give rise to a myriad of colourful corals only metres from the shore. To add to this stunning environment, nosed up onto a nearby beach, listing heavily to its starboard side is **the wreck of the World Discoverer** ; an expedition cruise ship beached here in 2001 after striking a charted rock at the Northern entrance to Sandfly Passage. Venture ashore for a **welcome ceremony** , take a walk through the village or snorkel around the wreck to witness the marine environment attempting to reclaim this invader.

Day 11 - At sea

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and entertainment.

Day 12 - Champagne Beach, Espiritu Santo Island

On the northern coast of Espiritu Santo lies **Champagne Beach** , a place of striking natural purity. Its remarkably fine pale sand borders striking turquoise waters, with the light of the Pacific revealing the full softness of the landscape. This setting, ideal for relaxation, swimming or discovering the marine life, offers a moment marked by simplicity and enchantment.

Day 13 - Port Vila, Efate

Port Vila is the cradle of an insular harmony where time seems to stand still, a tropical pearl in Vanuatu emerging from the turquoise waters of the Pacific Ocean, a place that inspires contemplation and daydreaming. Beneath an azure sky, the colourful markets reveal the very essence of Vanuatuan culture. The stalls here are overflowing with tropical fruit bursting with sunshine, while the artisans showcase their talents, weaving vegetable-fibre baskets and sculpting traditional masks with enigmatic faces. On the lush heights in the inland region of Vanuatu's capital, the waterfalls whisper secret songs, creating an aquatic symphony that resonates in the heart of travellers in search of magic.

Day 14 - Mystery Island

Originally known as Inyeug, **Mystery Island** is an uninhabited island with a discreet charm, located in the southern part of the Vanuatu archipelago. During the Second World War, the island was used as an airstrip, and its isolated location made the arrival of Allied aircraft mysterious to the enemy, hence its name. Today, the island is a truly idyllic haven, where **white-sand beaches, wind-swayed palm trees and turquoise waters** form a pristine refuge in which the beauty of untouched nature is revealed.

Day 15 - At sea

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Day 16 - Lautoka, Viti Levu Island

Lautoka is the second largest city of Fiji. Located on the western side of the island of Viti Levu, 24 kilometres north of Nadi. Lying in the heart of Fiji's sugar cane growing region, it is known as the **Sugar City**. Lautoka is the gateway to Fiji's "Sun coast" a land of abundant sunshine, azure skies and dramatic grass-covered peaks chequered with sugar-cane fields, rural villages and quaint market towns.

Please note:

Itineraries are subject to change.



YOUR SHIP: PAUL GAUGUIN

YOUR SHIP: **Paul Gauguin**

VESSEL TYPE:

LENGTH:

PASSENGER CAPACITY:

BUILT/REFURBISHED:

Designed specifically to glide through the shallow seas of the South Pacific, The Gauguin is a small-ship cruiser's dream. She delivers travelers to intimate ports inaccessible to larger cruise ships, all the while providing an onboard experience that is nothing short of luxurious. Guests aboard luxury cruises enjoy spacious suites and staterooms (more than 70% with private balconies), an onboard watersports marina, three dining venues, an extensive spa, and five-star service. Life onboard also reflects the beauty and rich cultural heritage of the islands she calls upon, with a warm, friendly feel, informal setting, and even a beloved troupe of Gauguines and Gauguins--local Tahitians who serve as cruise staff, entertainers, and storytellers. Ship Features All oceanview accommodations, nearly 70% with balconies, measuring from 200 to 500 sq. ft., including balcony Butler service, in-suite bar setup, and iPod® music system in suite/stateroom category B and above A choice of three dining venues Complimentary 24-hour room service, including selections from L'Etoile restaurant during regular dining hours Complimentary beverages, including select wines and spirits, beer, soft drinks, bottled water, and hot beverages Onboard gratuities for room stewards, dining and bar staff Full entertainment program including Polynesian artists, musical entertainment, a pianist, and a professionally operated casino with slot machines Spa and beauty services, including hand and foot treatments, body treatments, facials, and spa programs Optional PADI SCUBA diving program and certification Watersports marina for complimentary kayaking and paddleboarding, and Zodiacs® for optional dive excursions Fully-equipped fitness center Presentations by local naturalists and a variety of special guests Spacious outdoor decks and pool La Boutique duty-free shop Book library (open 24 hours a day) Wi-Fi hot spots throughout the ship to cover most suites/staterooms and common areas, as well as guest-accessible computers, available 24 hours a day for a nominal fee Laundry services available Certified medical services 166 suites/staterooms on Decks 3-8, including one wheelchair-accessible stateroom and select staterooms that can accommodate





three guests

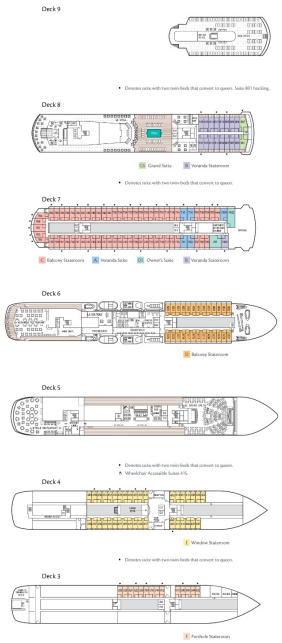
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INSIDE YOUR SHIP



Balcony Stateroom



Balcony Stateroom C



Balcony Stateroom CS



Grand Suite



Owner's Suite



Porthole Stateroom





Veranda Stateroom



Veranda Suite



Window Stateroom





PRICING

22-Mar-2029 to 06-Apr-2029

Balcony Stateroom CS	£8695 GBP pp
Balcony Stateroom	£8335 GBP pp
Porthole Stateroom	£5825 GBP pp
Grand Suite	£17995 GBP pp
Veranda Suite	£14715 GBP pp
Veranda Stateroom	£11015 GBP pp
Window Stateroom	£6725 GBP pp
Balcony Stateroom C	£8695 GBP pp
Owner's Suite	£24735 GBP pp