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PAPEETE TO LAUTOKA: SOUTH PACIFIC ISLANDS EXPEDITION CRUISE

Join us to look for the Pearls of the Pacific. Starting in Tahiti, Silver Explorer will sail through Polynesia via the Cook Islands, Niue and Tonga and will visit several island gems in Fiji. Discover black pearls and underwater wonders, and explore blue lagoons and raised coral islands. Swim with rays and sharks, watch for dolphins and look for seabird colonies on isolated islands in some of Polynesia's and Melanesia's best and least known lagoons, or relax on beautiful beaches. Interact with local communities and experience the legendary friendliness of the Pacific Islanders. Throughout the voyage, learn about the history, geology, wildlife and botany of these locations from lecture presentations offered by your knowledgeable onboard Expedition Team.



ITINERARY

Day 1 PAPEETE (TAHITI)

Papeete will be your gateway to 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 onward exploration of Tahiti – an island of breathtaking landscapes and oceanic vistas. Wonderful lagoons of crisp, clear water beg to be snorkelled, 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.

Day 2 BORA BORA (SOCIETY ISLANDS)



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Simply saying the name Bora Bora is usually enough to induce gasps of jealousy, as images of milky blue water, sparkling white beaches and casually leaning palm trees immediately spring to mind. The imagination doesn't lie, either, and if you visit, you'll soon realise this island is every bit as gorgeous as you ever imagined. Thatched wooden huts stand out over shallow, sparkling seawater, with vivid fish swirling just below. Soak up the sun, scuba dive, or simply revel in the opulent luxury of one of the island's many magnificent resorts.

Day 3 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 whale watching from the Observatory Lounge, writing home to your loved ones or simply topping up your tan by the pool, these blue sea days are the perfect balance to busy days spent exploring shore side.

Day 4 AITUTAKI

Even high praise like the 'world's most beautiful island' from Lonely Planet's co-founder, Tony Wheeler, won't prepare you for the intoxicating intensity of the coal blue ocean, the glow of the pure white sand, and the soothing ripple of the palm-tree forests at incredible Aitutaki. Breathless romance hangs thick in the air here, especially when a riot of purples, reds and oranges are spreading across the sky, accompanying the sun's descent each evening.

Day 5 PALMERSTON ISLAND

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 into the lagoon through a maze of coral reef. 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.

Day 6 BEVERIDGE REEF

Home to amazingly bright turquoise waters, Beveridge Reef is located within Niue, in the central Pacific Ocean to the northeast of New Zealand. Beveridge Reef is an undersea mountain capped by a coral atoll that encloses a small lagoon. The larger island of Niue is rather unique in being an isolated island rather than an archipelago. This uniqueness has its influence on the marine life found along Niue's coasts, as it lacks an interconnected 'network' of places to live. The Beveridge Reef was first reported in 1847 by the British Captain Lower-Tinger, commander of the brig 'Beveridge'.

Day 7 ALOFI

Niue, or "The Rock" as it is known to its inhabitants, is one of the largest raised coral atolls in the Pacific, an island type named "Makatea" after an island in French Polynesia. Niue's coast lends itself to exploration with stops at points of historical and scenic interest including opportunities for snorkeling, exploring limestone caves, and swimming in Niue's crystal clear water.

Day 8 DATE LINE LOSE A DAY

Day 9 NEIAFU VAVA'U GROUP & NUKU ISLAND

With a population of 6,000, Neiafu is the capital city and the second largest municipality in the Polynesian nation of Tonga (a



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169-island archipelago in the South Pacific). The city is situated in a deep-water harbor (Port of Refuge) on the south coast of Vava'u, the main island of the Vava'u archipelago in northern Tonga. The waters of this region are known for their clarity and beauty, and the area attracts many humpback whales between June and November. Nuku is a small tropical island to the west of the larger Kapa Island in the Tongan group. The vivid green vegetation of the low-lying island is fringed by white sand beaches that were likely formed by centuries of bright white coral skeletons being eroded into sand grains by waves and time. Living coral reefs surround the tear-drop shaped island of Nuku with a kaleidoscope of color and diverse marine life.

Day 10 UOLEVA ISLAND

Within the Polynesian nation of Tonga, an archipelago of 169 islands (only 36 of which are inhabited), lies the sand-cay Uoleva Island, one of the Ha'apai islands of Tonga. Uoleva Island is one of the most beautiful and protected anchorages in Tonga and is mostly uninhabited but for its three small resorts. On Uoleva Island visitors will discover pristine, palm tree-lined white sand beaches and clear, light blue waters.

Day 11 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 whale watching from the Observatory Lounge, writing home to your loved ones or simply topping up your tan by the pool, these blue sea days are the perfect balance to busy days spent exploring shore side.

Day 12 VANUA BALAVU LAU ISLANDS

Day 13 COBIA

Also known as Thombia Island, the crescent moon-shaped Cobia Island in Fiji is part of the Ringgold Isles archipelago. The arched entrance to Cobia island is lined with trees, and the island is teeming with biodiversity on land and underwater. Cobia Island is part of the Budd Reef and has a submerged volcanic crater with its highest elevation on the west side of the island.

Day 14 YASAWA

Nabukeru is the largest village located within the grouping of the 20 volcanic islands that make up the Yasawa Islands in Fiji. Until 1987 these islands were closed to land-based tourism and could only be viewed from aboard a vessel. With their clear, aquamarine waters and ecologically diverse tropical, mountainous landscapes, these islands were the location for the filming of the romantic adventure film *The Blue Lagoon* (both the 1949 and 1980 versions). The islands are famous for the limestone Sawa-i-lau caves, which must be accessed by swimming at low tide through an underwater tunnel.

Day 15 LAUTOKA

North of Nadi through sugarcane plantations and past the Sabeto Mountains is Lautoka, nicknamed the Sugar City for the local agriculture and its big processing mill. With a population of around 50,000, it's the only city besides Suva and, like the capital, has a pleasant waterfront. It's the sailing point for Blue Lagoon and Beachcomber Cruises but is otherwise unremarkable for tourists, itself having few hotels and fewer good restaurants. Locals recommend the city as a less-expensive place to shop for clothing, but note that it can take as long as 45 minutes to drive here.

Please Note:



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Expedition highlights and itinerary listed here are possible experiences only and cannot be guaranteed. Your Expedition Leader and Captain will work together to ensure opportunities for adventure and exploration are the best possible, taking into account the prevailing weather and wildlife activity. Expedition Team members scheduled for this voyage are subject to change or cancellation.



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YOUR SHIP: SILVER EXPLORER

YOUR SHIP:

Silver Explorer

VESSEL TYPE:

LENGTH:

PASSENGER CAPACITY:

BUILT/REFURBISHED:

Silver Explorer's all-inclusive dining, service and shore excursions means that this is luxury expedition cruising at its very best. Award-winning itineraries make this ship the perfect combination of adventure and comfort. The purpose-built Silver Explorer expedition ship (formerly the Prince Albert II) has been designed specifically for navigating waters in some of the world's most remote destinations, including both of earth's polar regions. A strengthened hull with a Lloyd's Register ice-class notation (1A) for passenger vessels enables Silver Explorer to safely push through ice floes with ease. A fleet of Zodiac boats allows guests to visit even the most off-the-beaten path locations and an expert Expedition Team provides insight and understanding to each unforgettable Silver Explorer cruise adventure. Silver Explorer features 2 x restaurants, a fitness suite, 2 x loungers, a beauty spa and a library. Suites include: Butler service Refrigerator and bar setup stocked with your preferences Luxury bath amenities Pillow menu Personalised stationery Umbrella Direct dial telephone(s) 220-volt outlets Unlimited Standard Wifi Flat-screen television(s) with Interactive Media Library French balcony with floor-to-ceiling glass doors Twin beds or queen-sized bed Marbled bathroom with shower Fitted

wardrobe with personal safe Sitting area with writing desk Hair dryer Plush bathrobe Champagne



on arrival



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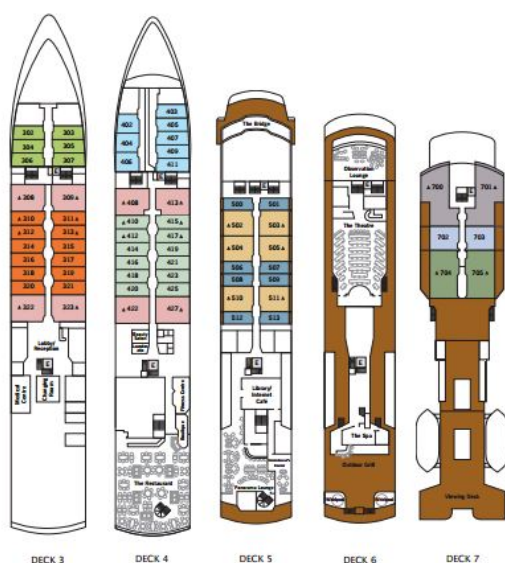
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INSIDE YOUR SHIP



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| EXPEDITION SUITE | |
| VERANDA SUITE | |
| VISTA SUITE | |
| VIEW SUITE | |
| EXPLORER CLASS | |
| ADVENTURER CLASS | |
| SPECIFICATIONS | |
| REFURBISHED | 2008 |
| LLOYD'S REGISTER | |
| ICE-CLASS RATING | 1A |
| CREW | 117 |
| OFFICERS | International |
| GUESTS | 132 |
| TONNAGE | 6,072 |
| LENGTH | 354 Feet |
| WIDTH | 52 Feet |
| SPEED | 14 Knots |
| PASSENGER DECKS | 5 |
| 3RD GUEST CAPACITY | ▲ |
| CONNECTING SUITES | |
| 702/704, 703/705, 500/502, 501/503, 504/506, 505/507, 510/512, 511/513 | |
| REGISTRY | BAHAMAS |



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PRICING



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