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The Marquesas Archipelago is one of the most remote island groups in the world, lying 1,400 kilometres northeast of Tahiti in the Pacific Ocean and around 4,800 kilometres away from the west coast of Mexico, the nearest continental land mass. Believed to have been the home of Polynesian people for almost 2000 years, the Marquesas Islands were discovered and named by Spanish navigator Álvaro de Mendaña in 1595. Since then, the isolated island group has fascinated and intrigued European explorers, including Captain James Cook, with its dramatic beauty and the rich and turbulent history of the Marquesan people.

Today the archipelago of 12 volcanic islands is an overseas collectivity of France with a population of around 10,000, and still captures the interest of historians, artists and archeologists due to its impressive collection of petroglyphs, stone tiki gods, sacred ritual sites (me’ae) and limestone platforms. For the last 60 years Aranui’s freighter ships have maintained a vital lifeline between the Marquesas and the outside world. In 1985, Aranui, which translates as The Great Highway in Maori, introduced the first comfortable passenger/freighter hybrid, offering travellers an opportunity to explore the six inhabited islands of this remote archipelago.

Thirty years on, passengers can experience the 14-day round trip from Tahiti in comfort onboard the modern, custom designed Aranui 5 freighter cruise ship. Equipped with state of the art technology, from the bridge right through to the well-appointed suites and cabins, Aranui 5 accommodates just 254 guests who are looking for a once in a lifetime adventure.
During the two-week, 3800 kilometre round-trip voyage, Aranui 5 visits the Marquesan Islands of Nuku Hiva, Ua Pou, Tahuata, Fatu Hiva, Hiva Oa and Ua Huka as well as Takapoto and Rangiroa in the Tuamotu Archipelago and Bora Bora in the Society Islands. On shore we follow in the footsteps of artist Paul Gauguin, novelist Robert Louis Stevenson, adventurer Thor Heyerdahl and poet Jacques Brel and discover why they were so captivated by these islands.

The itinerary includes excursions by 4WD, travelling on winding mountain tracks through jungle like valleys; guided hikes to sacred ritual sites and churches; a visit to the final resting place of Paul Gauguin and Jacques Brel in Hiva Oa, plus plenty of time to explore villages, artisan markets and museums. Enjoy beach picnics, traditional feasts at local restaurants, a French and Polynesian menu and some of the finest cultural performances in the South Pacific.

Deep-sea fishing, horse riding and scuba diving are offered as optional activities.

But, while her passengers relax Aranui’s muscular and proficient sailors take control of the freight. With skillful precision they unload and load cargo at remote docks to an audience of waiting villagers. The precious cargo of food, fishing equipment, building materials, and vehicles is replaced with limes and coconuts, tonnes of copra (dried coconut), fruit, meat and fish for the return journey to Tahiti.

Many of Aranui’s Polynesian crew call the Marquesas Islands home and during the journey they will introduce you to their land in a manner and with a perspective only they can offer. You will gain access to villages no other ships visit and learn about a civilisation who are passionate about their heritage.

NO, WE ARE NOT Tahitian

While there is a cultural unity between the Pacific Islands, the isolation of the groups dictated a different evolution. The volcanic structure, rough coast and deep valleys of the Marquesas created a tribal society, with each valley sheltering distinct tribes divided between aristocrats, priests, artisans and laborers. The Marquesan language, which includes different dialects, and while related to other areas of the Pacific, is unique, even from the other islands of French Polynesia. Constant conflict between the tribes was inevitable, creating a nation of formidable warriors.
### The Art of Tattoo

The modern word tattoo originates in early Polynesian history. Practiced throughout all the island groups, the Marquesan designs represent gods, mythology and nature. Traditionally, tattooing began shortly after birth and continued to mark rites of passage and for decoration. Men were generally heavily covered, with women tattooed on the hands, arms, lower body and behind the ear. A man’s position and wealth could be read from his tattoos. Tattooing was banned by the French from 1858 until 1985, but is now flourishing and influencing art worldwide. The customary bird and fish bone and mother of pearl needles tapped by a mallet are rarely seen today and the many fine Marquesan artists use modern equipment.

**Day 1**
Depart Papeete, Tahiti at 9.30am

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<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Distance</th>
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<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Depart Papeete, Tahiti</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Tuamotu Archipelago: Takapoto (Papeete – Takapoto)</td>
<td>563km</td>
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<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>At Sea (Takapoto – Nuku Hiva)</td>
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<td>Nuku Hiva: Taiohae/Hatiheu/Taipivai (Nuku Hiva – Ua Pou)</td>
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<td>5</td>
<td>Up Pou: Hakakau (Ua Pou – Hiva Oa)</td>
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<td>6</td>
<td>Hiva Oa: Puaumau/Atuona (Hiva Oa – Fatu Hiva)</td>
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<td>Fatu Hiva: Omoa/Hanavave (Fatu Hiva – Tahuata)</td>
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<td>Tahuata: Vaitahu (Tahuata – Ua Huka)</td>
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<td>At Sea (Ua Pou – Rangiroa)</td>
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<td>Society Islands: Bora Bora (Bora Bora – Papeete)</td>
<td>260km</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>Arrive Papeete, Tahiti at 9am</td>
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**DAY 1**
**DEPART PAPEETE, TAHI (9.30AM)**
Embarkation commences from 7.30am at the passenger wharf in downtown Papeete. Be welcomed onboard to the Polynesian sounds from the Aranui band and watch Tahiti fade into the distance as Aranui 5 heads northeast to the Tuamotu Archipelago. Settle in and explore the vessel that will be 'home' for the next 14 days. Try the local greeting – Ia Orana (Tahitian), Bonjour (French) and Ka’Oha (Marquesan).

**DAY 2**
**TAKAPOTO, TUAMOTU ARCHIPELAGO**
After breakfast Aranui 5 anchors in the turquoise lagoon of the Takapoto atoll. Today we go ashore by barge for a day at the beach and a barbecue picnic lunch. We wander through the village to arrive at an exceptionally beautiful white sandy beach fringed by swaying coconut palms and a coral rimmed lagoon. The calm waters are perfect for swimming and snorkelling or just find a palm tree to relax under. Local musicians provide the soundtrack of the South Pacific on ukulele and guitar, while the crew proudly shows off their cooking prowess.

**DAY 3**
**AT SEA**
It’s a great day to be pampered by our wellness / massage therapist in the spa; sunbath on one of the decks, take a dip in the pool or attend a lecture. There is also a library, gym equipped with spin bikes and weights, a well-stocked boutique and four bars to explore.

Keep a look out for dolphins, whales and at dusk, flying fish.
**DAY 4**

**THE MARQUESAS ISLANDS**

**NUKU HIVA: TAIHOAE, HATIHEU AND TAIPIVAI**

The Marquesas Archipelago comes into view at sunrise and Aranui sails into Taihoa Bay, a volcanic crater surrounded by towering cliffs. Docking at the wharf, passengers have the chance to explore the small administrative capital of the Marquesas. Taihoa houses a bank, post office, handicraft centre, yacht club, grocery stores, court house, gaol, and café on the wharf with internet.

After a tour of the Cathedral Notre Dame, famed for its stonework and wood sculptures, we get into 4WDs and head inland. Taihoa Bay was made famous by Herman Melville’s choice to jump ship here in 1842 and write his sea adventure Typee (he went onto write Moby Dick among others.) Following his escape route up the same winding mountain tracks and through jungle-like valleys, we arrive at the archeological site of Kamuihei, where a troupe of dancers perform in a magical setting on an ancient stone platform beneath a giant 400-year old Banyon tree. The site also hosts an impressive collection of petroglyphs.

Lunch is a traditional Umu, pork cooked a Marquesan earth oven, served with local delicacies including breadfruit, poisson cru (raw fish), taro and sweet red bananas.

**DAY 5**

**UA POU: HAKAHAU**

After a short overnight voyage, dawn reveals the extraordinary jagged pinnacles that have given Ua Pou the name ‘Cathedral Island’. Docking in the small town of Hakahau, locals turn out to greet Aranui 5 and while the crew set about unloading cargo, passengers can take the 40-minute walk to the ‘hill with the stone cross’. Commanding 360° views of Hakahau and its 12 surrounding peaks, it’s a great opportunity to take in the spectacular scenery.

Before the traditional buffet lunch, enjoy a performance by some of the finest dancers in the Marquesas, including the traditional Bird Dance for which Ua Pou is famed for.

Wander the handicraft stalls, where artisans carve precious volcanic flower stone into figurines of turtles, tikis and fish hook necklaces and wood carvers create distinctive pieces of art.

**DAY 6**

**HIVA OA: PUAMAU AND ATUONA**

Follow our expert Aranui guides to the mysterious jungle ruins of Puamau, where we visit one of the Marquesas’ most significant archeological sites at Mae’e Ipona, noted for its tikis (ancient human-like religious sculptures). These haunting and sometimes frightening statues remind us of the forgotten fearsome ancient civilisations. Of particular interest is the largest tiki in the Marquesas that stands at approximately 2.67 metres high and another that is a revered symbol of childbirth.

Our next port of call is the village of Atuona, where French impressionist artist Paul Gauguin and Belgium singer and poet Jacques Brel spent the last years of their lives.

We visit the Gauguin and Brel museums (entrance fee additional) and the famed ‘house of pleasure’, a replica of Gauguin’s home.

Both men are buried at the Calvary Cemetery, overlooking Atuona, and it’s a short walk to reach their final resting places set amongst frangipani trees.

The more active can also join a one-hour hike to a viewpoint above the village or if the weather is fine, sign up for an adventure on horseback. Lunch is another traditional Marquesan feast followed by free time to stop for local crafts or check out the general store.
DAY 7
FATU HIVA: OMOA AND HANAVAVE
The first European contact with the Marquesan people occurred here in 1595 when the Spanish, thinking they had reached the Solomon Islands, arrived at Fatu Hiva. It is the most lush and remote island of the Marquesas and also a centre of Marquesan crafts. In the village of Omoa we see women making tapa cloth in the traditional way by beating mulberry banyon or breadfruit tree bark. We are also shown how to make the beautiful fragrant “umu hei” flower bouquets that the women wear in their hair. Ink drawings on Tapa, hand-dyed pareos and monoi coconut oil are among the most highly prized souvenirs at Omoa’s arts and crafts centre.

While Aranui 5 sails up the west coast to the Bay of Virgins at Hanavave, the energetic set off for the 16 kilometre hike to meet the ship.

The walk is moderately challenging, but hugely rewarding. After a picnic lunch stop, we descend into Hanavave and take stock of the soaring volcanic peaks and Aranui 5 anchored in the bay.

Meanwhile, those that stayed onboard have time to explore the village and enjoy a performance by local dancers.

DAY 8
TAHUATA: VAITAHU
This is the smallest of the Marquesas inhabited islands and was the first to trade with Europeans. Captain Cook named the island’s Resolution Bay after landing there in 1774. The impressive church, opened by the Vatican in 1988 is worth seeing for its wood carvings, tiled stations of the cross and stained-glass windows. The island is also famed for its bone carving and there will be plenty bone jewellery among the handicrafts for sale here.

While the Marquesans would once have carved objects from the bones of their ancestors, today they use the bone of cows, whales and pigs rather than humans.

In the afternoon we head to Kokuu Beach, one of the most beautiful in the Marquesas, for a barbecue picnic followed by a relaxed afternoon swimming or lying in the shade of the pandanus trees.
DAY 9

UA HUKA: VAIPAEE, HANE AND HOKATU

Gather on deck at dawn to witness one of the most extraordinary maritime manoeuvres in the world when Aranui 5 has to make a 180-degree turn in the narrow mouth of Vaipae’e’s Invisible Bay. With no more than 15 metres to spare either side, it is a skillful operation by both the captain and the crew, in restricted waters.

Once ashore, we visit an archaeology museum and an artisan market. Ua Huka is home to the Marquesas’ best wood carvers and here you will find a fantastic range of carved items including tikis, manta rays, turtles, bowls and ukuleles.

The island, where the Marquesas’ first airstrip was built in 1972, is largely arid and home to many wild horses, goats and pigs. It is also the last inhabited island in the Marquesas and due to it being free of the black rat, is a refuge for two endemic birds: the pati’oti’o and the pihiti, only found on this island.

After stopping for a wonderful dance performance, we travel in flower-decorated 4WDs to a large botanical garden and meet the extraordinary man behind it – Frenchman Leon Litchie, who was the town’s mayor for 30 years. Lunch today is at a local restaurant in Hane, then for the energetic, there is a moderate 40-minute walk to a small me’ae. Three ancient red tikis overlook Hane Bay and the view from the natural lookout is exceptionally impressive.

Back onboard, preparation is well underway for Polynesian night on the pool deck. Dress to impress – island style - and prepare for an evening of feasting and fanfare. Be entertained by the crew and fellow passengers, then dance the night away to the hip swinging sounds from the Aranui band.
**DAY 10**

**NUKI HIVA – UA POU**

A brief return to our first port of call, Taiohae in Nuku Hiva, allows enough time to disembark and stroll to the village shops and handicraft centre. Then we sail back to the village of Hakahau in Ua Pou, where there is time for a swim, some last minute souvenir shopping or hike to the cross on the hill.

**DAY 11**

**AT SEA**

It’s a great time to review the past 10 days, spend time with new friends and talk a bit more to the crew, now that you have visited their homeland. Aranui 5 is considered the ‘seventh island’ to the Marquesan people and as we head back to Tahiti, it’s sobering to realise the important role Aranui 5, her cargo and her passengers plays in this lifeline to the Pacific.

Update your journals and share your pictures, for these memories will stay with you forever.

**DAY 12**

**TUAMOTU ARCHIPELAGO: RANGIROA**

Sailing into Rangiroa, one of the largest atolls in the world, the water colour turns to mesmerising shades of blue. Here we spend most of the day swimming, snorkelling or scuba diving in the warm turquoise lagoon. There is the chance to visit a pearl farm where we learn first hand how black pearls are cultivated, right through to their grading and eventual sale. It’s also a great time to take home the ultimate French Polynesian souvenir.

**DAY 13**

**SOCIETY ISLANDS: BORA BORA**

Of all the islands in French Polynesia, Bora Bora is arguably the most beautiful with its crystal waters and ring of inlets emerging from the coral reef. At the island’s centre rises Mount Otemanu, a dormant volcano that stands sentinel above impossibly perfect white sand beaches. Coral gardens teem with tropical fish of the most vibrant colours and the water clarity is like looking through a glass.

Here there is the opportunity to swim and snorkel from a private island while the crew prepares a beach picnic lunch.

Optional activities for an additional cost include scuba diving, lagoon tour by motorised canoe, island tour by bus or swim with manta rays and small sharks.

**DAY 14**

**ARRIVE PAPETE – TAHITI 9AM**

Enjoy a leisurely breakfast before disembarking Aranui 5.

Au Revoir

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Traditional arts and crafts are experiencing a healthy revival throughout the Marquesas and there are many opportunities on this voyage to meet local artisans, see them at work and buy some individual and collectable pieces.

At every port of call you will find them – some displaying their wares at simple roadside stalls, others in larger community markets. And every island has a specialty. Among the most prized treasures are intricate wood, bone and stone carvings – keep an eye out for tiki statues or objects carved out of rosewood and the unusual distinctive volcanic flower stone. Also popular are ink drawings on tapa cloth and jewellery crafted from bones, shells and brilliantly coloured seeds. Other items include baskets and hats woven from pandanus leaves, hand carved ukuleles, monoi oil and hand dyed pareos. When it comes to price, bargaining is acceptable to an extent but negotiations should be subtle – a gentle glance and a tilt of the head is often enough to gain a modest discount.

At Rangiroa in the Tuamouto Archipelago, the magnificent black pearl is at the top of the wish list. With their individual dark multi-hued sheen, these aquatic gems are distinct from the lustrous white pearls. It is well worth the visit to Gauguin’s Pearl Farm, as trained technicians step visitors through the multitude of meticulous processes that are required to achieve the final result – a majestic black pearl.

The pearls may be cheaper in other ports we have visited, but the pearls here have higher quality control with a wider range of styles and settings.
YOUR HOME IN THE ISLANDS
Be part of the adventure

The Aranui 5 voyage is as much about the experience of being on a cargo ship as the fascinating excursions ashore.

There is nothing like watching the muscular Polynesian crew go about their daily tasks and witnessing the kaleidoscope of activity as the ship’s cranes swing into action unloading everything from sugar to cars, trucks and building materials, and loading copra (dried coconut), citrus fruits and fish to take back to Papeete. And because it is a working ship, methods of disembarking and embarking vary according to port access. At some islands the ship is able to tie up at the dock, while at others it has to drop anchor and ferry passengers and cargo ashore by barge. But this is all part of the adventure.

Your life onboard

A full programme of onboard activities is available during the voyage, presented in English and French, including a series of lectures about the Marquesas and the part played by Europeans and Polynesians in shaping its history.

For those interested in picking up new skills, we have a selection of Polynesian themed classes ranging from a ukulele or dance class; learning how to make Tahitian raw fish or a Tahitian language course.

Or you might like to simply relax on one of the sundecks, take a dip in the pool, work out in the gym equipped with spin bikes and weights or indulge in a spa treatment.

With four bars, where guests can enjoy a variety of beer, wine and cocktail selections, a comfortable lounge and library, the ship never feels crowded.

Stepping on board the newly built freighter, Aranui 5, there is the sense of a well skilled operation. Everyone has a job to do – from the Pacific sounds of the Aranui band, to a busy reception, the dining staff and housekeeping.

It is a floating hotel, well half of the ship is. The other half is dedicated to cargo, loaded with refrigerated containers, barges and boats, destined to an island group 1400 km northeast off Papeete.

An adventure on Aranui 5 doesn’t mean hardship. You can be as active or as relaxed as you like. While the vessel has all the buzz and excitement of a working ship, passenger accommodation and amenities has been designed to a high standard of style and comfort.
TASTE OF THE SOUTH PACIFIC

Discover the distinctive flavours of French Polynesia in the spacious restaurant. Three meals are served daily with a complimentary glass of wine offered at lunch and dinner. Tea and coffee, including percolated and Nespresso machines (additional cost) are always available in the bars and lounge.

Daily fare comprises a light continental or hot breakfast with fresh pastries, tropical fruit, cereal, juices, tea and coffee. Lunches are usually lighter and often include salads and mains utilising local ingredients and fruit. Three-course dinners begin with a starter followed by a main course often featuring locally sourced produce, including the freshest fish you will ever taste. For vegetarian and other special dietary requirements, every effort will be made to meet your request (please notify with your booking).

Dress is ‘South Seas casual’ – think a colourful shirt, dress or pareo and perhaps a fragrant tiare flower behind your ear, but definitely no need for a tux, suit or ball gowns.
YOUR COMFORT IS ALL-IMPORTANT

The Aranui 5 has taken freighter cruising to a new level, offering more passenger space and facilities, a higher level of comfort and more balcony suites than its predecessor. All suites, staterooms and public areas are air-conditioned and there are two passenger lifts for easy access between decks. Accommodation includes 32 suites, ranging from the sprawling Presidential Suite to 8 Royal Suites, 20 Premium Suites and 3 Junior Suites.

There are 24 Superior Deluxe and 7 Deluxe Staterooms, all with private outdoor balconies, and 40 Standard Staterooms with private facilities. There are also 24 dormitory-style berths in C-Class with shared facilities.

A doctor travels on each voyage and the onboard infirmary is equipped to deal with most first-aid requests and emergencies.

Wifi is available during the voyage, using your own devices, in most public areas throughout the ship. Satellite calls can also be made through the radio room if needed.

Guests can use the self-serve laundry and the onboard boutique has a wide range of books, souvenirs, toiletries, clothing, sweets and snacks.
**Suites & Cabins**

**Presidential Suite (1):**

More like an apartment at sea than a cabin, this is the jewel in the crown. From its position on the top Sky Deck, it offers sweeping views through sliding glass doors, a 12m² private outdoor balcony and 41m² of interior space spread across three separate rooms – a lounge with a built-in bar and sofa bed, dining room, and master bedroom with a walk-in wardrobe, dressing table, en suite bathroom and king size bed. Other features include a second bathroom, desk, fridge, safe, hairdryer and two flatscreen TVs.

**Royal Suite (8):**

Situated in prime position at the front on the Boat Deck, Veranda Deck, Pool Deck and Sun Deck, these offer not only great views from their 9.5m² private corner balconies with sliding glass doors, but also a generous 22m² of interior space. The bedroom, with king-sized bed, walk-in wardrobe, dressing table and en suite bathroom, is divided from the lounge area by a decorative filigree screen. The accommodation includes a separate sofa bed, flatscreen TV, fridge, safe and hairdryer.
PREMIUM SUITE (20):
These exterior cabins, located on the Veranda Deck and Pool Deck, have 4m² private outdoor balconies with sliding glass doors and 18m² of interior space. As with the Royal Suites, the bedroom has a king size bed, dressing table, and en suite bathroom and is separated from the living area by a filigree screen. The accommodation also includes a separate sofa bed, wardrobe, flatscreen TV, fridge, safe and hairdryer.

JUNIOR SUITE (3):
Located on the Veranda Deck, these offer 18m² of interior space and are similar to the Premium Suites, the main difference being they have no balconies. Each has a bedroom with king size bed, wardrobe, dressing table, hairdryer, flatscreen TV, fridge, safe and en suite bathroom.

One Junior Suite with balcony is available, it has 16.5m² of interior space and 4m² of private balcony. This suite is narrower than the other two Junior Suites.

SUPERIOR DELUXE (24):
Each of these staterooms has a 4m² private outdoor balcony and 14.5m² of interior space. Situated on the Main Deck, Upper Deck, Sun Deck and Sky Deck, accommodation includes a king-size bed, bathroom, desk, wardrobe, flatscreen TV, fridge, safe and hairdryer. With these, there is the option to connect to an adjacent room.
DELUXE (7):
Similar to Superior Deluxe Staterooms with same size private outdoor balcony but slightly smaller interior (13m²). Located on either the Pool Deck or Sun Deck, accommodation includes king size bed, wardrobe, desk, bathroom, flatscreen TV, fridge, safe and hairdryer.

STANDARD STATEROOM (32), OBSTRUCTED VIEW STATEROOM (8):
With an interior space measuring 11m², these outside ocean view cabins (with portholes) on the Lower Deck, Main Deck and Boat Deck have a choice of a king size bed or two singles. Each has its own bathroom equipped with shower and hairdryer, plus a desk, wardrobe, flatscreen TV and safe.

CLASS C (4X4PAX):
Dormitory-style accommodation on the Upper Deck with 12.5m² of interior space featuring bunk beds for up to four people, a bathroom and wardrobe.

CLASS C (1X8PAX):
Larger dormitory on the Upper Deck with 26.5m² of interior space and a sitting area. Includes bunk beds for up to eight, two bathrooms and wardrobe.
**BOUTIQUE**

The boutique sells a variety of supplies including mosquito repellent, toiletries, clothing, hats, books, snacks and local souvenirs.

**CLIMATE AND PACKING SUGGESTIONS**

Clothing that is informal, comfortable and easily washable is most practical aboard the ship. For men, casual attire may consist of polo shirts, T-shirts, shorts and long pants. For women, the native ‘pareo’, made of colorful fabric that can be wrapped in a variety of styles, is a versatile choice for both casual and festive occasions. In addition, a bathing suit, a rain poncho or jacket and warm sweatshirt or light jumper for chilly evenings is recommended. Comfortable shoes are essential for walking ashore over coral reefs. Tennis shoes, good walking shoes and sandals are recommended.

**ELECTRICAL CURRENT**

Each cabin is equipped with 220 volt, 50 cycle AC (European-style outlet).

**EMERGENCY TELEPHONE**

In an emergency, it is possible to place telephone calls through our shipboard communications and to contact the vessel through CPTM’s office in Tahiti.

**FOOD**

Meals are served in an informal, family-style setting in our dining facilities. Special consideration for medically prescribed diets must be requested at the time of booking or not less than three weeks in advance of sailing date.

**INTERNET**

Wifi is available during the voyage, using your own devices, in most public areas throughout the ship. Provided by satellite service, the connection may not be as reliable as land broadband, but it is adequate for checking and sending emails. A log-in code can be purchased from the boutique.

**LAUNDRY**

There are washing and drying machines onboard (small fee is payable). We collect larger items during the trip to be laundered complimentary. You will be advised of the schedule once onboard. Dry cleaning is not available. As the laundry is offered as complimentary, therefore it would be at the passenger’s own risk to use our service or to opt to manage their own laundry themselves.

**LECTURES**

Each voyage has a guest speaker onboard and as experts in their fields they will deliver lectures in English and French on topics relevant to the destination and Polynesia.

**LIBRARY**

Aranui 5 features a small library with a selection of novels and history books on deck 6.

**LOCAL CURRENCY AND TRAVEL FUNDS**

The unit of exchange is the French Pacific Franc (XPF). Travellers cheques and credit cards may be used to pay for shipboard expenses. American Express, Visa and MasterCard will be accepted. Passengers should travel with Pacific Francs (XPF) for purchases at the ports of call during the trip. There are banks in the Marquesas, but we cannot guarantee the opening hours, so we recommend you exchange sufficient currency in Papeete.

Travellers cheques and personal cheques cannot be cashed onboard. Only Euro, USD, AUD, NZD, CAD currency notes can be exchanged.
LOCAL TIME
The Marquesas are half an hour ahead of Tahiti. Thus, when it’s noon in Tahiti, it’s 12:30pm in the Marquesas. The crew will advise when the ship is entering the different time zone and you can adjust your watch accordingly.

MEDICAL
There is a doctor or physician onboard the vessel. If any person has or is suffering from a serious ailment or condition, they should seek the advice and consent of their personal physician prior to embarking on the vessel. The right is reserved to refuse passage to anyone in such a state of health or physical condition as to be unfit to travel or whose condition, for whatever reason, might be dangerous to the individual or other passengers.

OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES
You will be advised of the optional activities available during the cruise. The following are at an additional cost, booked and payable onboard.

- Aranui 5 is equipped with its own fishing boat and we offer fishing trips with an experienced crew. Imagine the thrill of landing a catch and then having chef prepare it for your dinner that same evening.
- Scuba Diving for certified divers only. Please remember to bring your certification. (Available on Rangiroa and Bora Bora)
- In Bora Bora we offer a Lagoon Tour by motorised canoe, Island Excursion by Truck, Swim with Rays and Sharks (Shark Boy) and Helicopter Ride over the lagoon. Prices will be advised once onboard.
- Horse riding is available on some islands. Your guide will advise the cost.
- The wonderful trip to the Gauguin Pearl Farm is complimentary. Departure times will be advised closer to arrival into Rangiroa.

SHORE VISITS
At most ports we visit handicraft markets and there is the opportunity to purchase local handicrafts and souvenirs. Please ensure you have local currency, as the stallholders do not accept credit cards or travellers cheques.

Visits ashore are limited to the time required by cargo operators and port restrictions. Port time may range from just a few hours to a day or more. While shore excursions may be available at some ports of call, Compagnie Polynésienne de Transport Maritime neither owns nor operates nor exercises any control over shore excursions arranged at any port of call. The company, its agents and employees do not assume any responsibility in connection with the operations of said programmes. The Company accepts no responsibility or liability for the failure of any operator to perform any said programme and/or for any injury, damage or loss however caused or arising therefrom.

SPA TREATMENTS
The Aranui Spa offers a variety of treatments by our fully trained wellness and massage therapist. Pamper yourself with a facial, body scrub and massages using the traditional oils of French Polynesia. Treat yourself to a manicure or pedicure or a relaxing foot massage – perfect after a day exploring.

VALUABLES
Electronic lock boxes are available onboard. However, CPTM cannot accept custody or responsibility for passenger’s money or other valuables while aboard the vessel.
**FAST FACTS:**

- Length: 126 m
- Width: 22 m
- Speed: 15 knots
- Dead Weight: 3200 tonnes
- Passengers: 254
- Cabins: 103
- Dining Room: 1
- Lounges: 2
- Bars: 4
- Boutique: 1
- Pool: 1
- Spa: 1
- Lifts: 2
- Gym: 1

**TECHNICAL:**

- Registered in France
- Built by Huanghai Shipbuilding Co, Shidao, China
- Gross tonnage: 11468 UMS
- Nett tonnage: 3550 UMS
- Displacement: 10488 tonnes
- Main engines: 2 x 5000cv.hp 8M 32C MAK (Germany)
- Bow thruster: 675cv/hp
- Fresh water capacity: 593,000 litres
- Desalinization rate: 200,000 litres per day
- Daily fresh water consumption: 50,000 litres per day
- Total weight of 16 ballast tanks: 2398 tonnes
- Diesel oil capacity: 740 tonnes
- Heavy fuel oil capacity: 271 tonnes
- Dry cargo capacity: 1700 tonnes
- Loading cranes: 2 x Liebherr (Austria)
**GENERAL INFORMATION AND CONDITIONS**

**RESERVATIONS POLICIES**

**Reservations:** See your Travel Agent or contact:

Compagnie Polynésienne de Transport Maritime
P.O. Box 220 Papeete, Tahiti.
Telephone (689) 4042 6242 Fax (689) 4043 4889
Email: reservations@aranui.com

**Passenger contract:** Passengers are carried subject to the stipulations of the Passage Contract Ticket of Compagnie Polynésienne de Transport Maritime. The passage ticket is non-transferable and is valid only for the person(s) who originally purchased the ticket.

**Cancellations:** After your booking has been confirmed by CPTM, should you cancel for any reason, a cancellation fee of (AUD) $125 per person if booked in Australia or (NZD) $136 if booked in New Zealand:

- If cancelled 90 to 61 days before scheduled departure – 1/4 of the total fare is retained.
- If cancelled 60 to 45 days before scheduled departure – 1/3 of the total fare is retained.
- If cancelled 44 to 30 days before the scheduled departure date – 2/3 of the total fare is retained.
- If cancelled less than 30 days or non-appearance at cruise departure date – the total fare will be retained.

**Changes:** After CPTM issues a confirmation, changes to the confirmed departure date made at passenger’s or travel agent’s request, less than 90 days prior to the confirmed departure date, will be subject to the same penalties applied to cancellations.

**Insurance:** Insurance is available to help recover non-refundable travel expenses for trip cancellations or interruption, baggage damage or loss and trip accident. We recommend that passengers consider these coverages. Consult your travel agent or insurance agent for specific details concerning coverage and exceptions.

**CRUISE INFORMATION**

**Rates include:** Cruise transportation and shipboard accommodation, meals and excursions. Rates are based on per adult double occupancy. All published fares are quoted in Australian Dollars (AUD) or New Zealand Dollars (NZD), depending on the country of residence and where the booking was made. These fares are correct at the time of printing and are subject to change with or without notice.

**Rates do not include:** Shipboard purchases, liquor, gratuities, port taxes other than those specifically provided for, and other personal items. Rates quoted at the time of printing are based on current costs and are subject to change up to and including the date of sailing.

**Schedule and extra cost provision:** If, due to weather or other uncontrollable reasons, you are required to spend one or more additional nights, you will be responsible for your own hotel and meal costs. In addition, because the primary function of vessels in the service of Compagnie Polynésienne de Transport Maritime is to carry freight, the departure dates, ports of call, and duration of cruises may be subject to variation both prior to departure and en route. Freighters passengers should have a flexible time schedule and anticipate the foregoing possibilities. While we do everything possible to inform and assist our clients, neither CPTM nor its agents will assume additional expenses, hotel or meal costs associated with delays or changes in itinerary and schedules.

**Itinerary Changes:** CPTM pledges to make every effort to operate all cruises as advertised. CPTM reserves the right to alter or curtail the itinerary, or substitute sightseeing, ports of call or conveyances as deemed necessary.

**Transfers:** All cruise arrangements originate and terminate from the specified pier or departure point. Transportation is not provided between airport locations and the vessel, or vice versa, unless specified.

**Baggage:** Luggage will be accepted on the day of sailing at boarding time only. All personal luggage is to be stored in passenger’s cabin as we are unable to store it in other areas aboard the ship. Passengers should clearly label all luggage with their name, vessel, cabin number or deck assignment number and date of sailing. Valuables should be hand carried on board. We recommend that travellers take out a baggage damage or loss policy through their insurance agent or travel agent.

**Travel documents and entry requirements:**

- All passengers must have valid passports for entry into French Polynesia. Those visitors who are not citizens of the United States or Canada or from the European Economic Community and whose planning to stay in French Polynesia for more than one month should contact their travel agent for visa requirements. All visitors must have a round trip airline ticket.
- **Inoculations:** At time of printing, vaccinations are not required. Passengers should consult their travel agent for latest requirements.
- **Refunds:** Requests for refunds should be directed to the agency that sold you the cruise. No refunds will be made on unused features, such as meals, voluntarily omitted by the passenger.
- **Responsibility:** All cruises outlined herein are carried out under the business management of Compagnie Polynésienne de Transport Maritime (CPTM) and are governed by the terms and conditions printed on the Passage Contract Ticket which may be inspected at the Company’s office.

**Australia – New Zealand**

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Fax 61 3 9449 2433
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CPTM – U.S.A. Office
2028 El Camino Real South, Suite B, San Mateo, CA 94403
Telephone (650) 574-2575 | (800) 972-7268
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Contact Vaima Islands Consulting
Telephone 33 143 312 534
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Disclaimer: CPTM has made every effort to ensure the accuracy of this brochure. CPTM will not be held responsible for any errors or omissions contained therein.

Photography: Danee Hazama, Lionel Gouverneur and Ruth Scott

Aranui 5 is a working ship and copra is carried on the return journey to Papeete.