



Makatea | Credits: Lionel Gouverneur



TAHITI

ARANOA'S TUAMOTU ESCAPE: PEARLS, REEFS & ISLAND RHYTHMS

(TOUR CODE: 15409)

STARTS AND ENDS

in Australia

TRAVEL PERIODS

See additional information

EXPERIENCE

Cruising
Cultural

TRAVEL STYLE

Ocean Cruising

Sail the Tuamotus with Aranoa—crystal lagoons, pearl heritage, coral reefs, and vibrant Polynesian culture.

Highlights

- **Cruise through the pristine Tuamotu archipelago aboard Aranoa** – a new eco-conscious vessel offering comfort and cultural immersion.
- **Swim, snorkel, and picnic on untouched motus** – surrounded by jade-green lagoons and coral reefs.
- **Explore Makatea, Anaa, and Mataiva** – each with unique features like sacred caves, fossilized coral blocks, and vibrant village life.
- **Discover pearl heritage, historic churches, and local crafts** – with guided excursions and warm Polynesian hospitality.
- Start and finish your island escape at **Maitai Express Tahiti**, ideally located in the heart of Papeete. Explore the vibrant waterfront, browse bustling local markets, and indulge in authentic Tahitian cuisine at nearby restaurants and the iconic *roulottes*.

Entire Bonus

BONUS: Free Transfers in Tahiti

Peace of Mind, Every Step of the Way

This holiday package is carefully designed by our team to give you complete Peace of Mind, with access to trusted local partners and expert support at your destination.

Australia's Only Industry-Accredited Tahiti Specialists

Tahiti Travel is Australia's only industry-accredited Tahiti specialist, combining genuine destination expertise with the strength and stability of an established travel group - so you can book with total confidence.

Set sail on a serene 5-day voyage through the Tuamotu Islands aboard *Aranoa*, a new eco-friendly passenger-freighter designed for immersive exploration.

This unique itinerary blends cultural discovery with lagoon-side relaxation as you visit remote atolls such as Makatea, Anaa, and Mataiva. Explore sacred caves, fossilized coral formations, and the heritage of pearl farming, with plenty of time for daily swims, snorkelling, and tranquil beach picnics.

Your journey begins and ends with a 3-night pre-/post-stay at Maitai Express Tahiti, where Polynesian warmth, modern comfort, and lagoon views set the perfect tone. With guided excursions, onboard hospitality, and breathtaking scenery, this experience takes you deep into the untouched beauty of French Polynesia.



THE LEADING
TAHITI SPECIALISTS



50+ YEARS
EXPERIENCE



ACCREDITED
& TRUSTED



ESTABLISHED
PARTNERSHIPS



TAILORED
ITINERARIES



ON GROUND
SUPPORT

INCLUSIONS

- Return economy airfares from Sydney, Brisbane or Melbourne with Air Tahiti Nui
- 4-night cruise aboard *Aranoa* in a Standard Cabin (Obstructed View)
- 3 nights at Maitai Express Tahiti in a Standard Room King - ★★
- Airport meet & greet with traditional flower lei
- All transfers between airport, hotel, and cruise terminal
- All onboard meals (breakfast, lunch, dinner)
- Daily Continental breakfast at Maitai Express Tahiti
- Wine included during onboard lunches and dinners
- All shore excursions with English-speaking guides
- Port charges and government taxes

ITINERARY

Day **1**

Airport Maitai Express Tahiti

Upon arrival at Faa'a International Airport, you will be transferred to Maitai Express Tahiti. Perfectly located in downtown Papeete, the hotel offers easy access to the waterfront, local markets, and the city's lively dining scene. Spend the evening at leisure, perhaps sampling dinner from the famous food truck "roulottes" or taking a stroll along the harbor.

Overnight stay in Tahiti at **Maitai Express Tahiti** in a Standard Room King.



Day **2**

Maitai Express Tahiti

Spend a relaxing morning at the Maitai Express Tahiti perhaps taking a dip in the stunning pool with views over to Moorea. Take a swim in the stunning lagoon or enjoy the bars and restaurants the resort has to offer.

Overnight stay in Tahiti at **Maitai Express Tahiti** in a Standard Room King.

Breakfast

Day **3**

Maitai Express Tahiti Papeete Moorea

Enjoy a leisurely morning at the Maitai Express Tahiti before checking out of the hotel.

At the Papeete Cruise Terminal, you'll board in true Polynesian style, greeted with fragrant flower garlands, lively ukulele music, and warm smiles. As the ship sets sail, the lush mountains of Tahiti gradually fade into the distance, making way for your next Pacific adventure.

Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner



Day **4**

Makatea

Surrounded by cliffs rising nearly 240 feet, Makatea is the only atoll in the Tuamotus with potable water from underground caves. Once prosperous from phosphate mining (1917–1964), it is now sparsely inhabited, with locals living from copra cultivation, fishing, and trading the coconut crab (*Kaveu*).

Passengers will disembark by tender at Temoa Wharf and explore the island on foot or by car. Highlights include the sacred caves and the remains of Makatea’s phosphate mining era. A picnic is served under the cliffs or on the beach.

Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner



ARANO

Day **5**

Mataiva

Mataiva is a stunning atoll, known for its unique lagoon and white-sand beaches, offering an authentic and tranquil experience with minimal tourism. Locals are warm and welcoming.

Passengers will disembark by tender at Pahua Wharf and be greeted with a traditional “Orero” performance. The village is

just a 5-minute walk from the dock and can be explored at your leisure.

Optional excursions include visits to Turtle Rock, the Paure marae, the phosphate pond, the bird motu, and the “pito” of Mataiva (sign-up at reception). 4x4 vehicles will transport guests to a private beach for a picnic and lagoon activities.

Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Day 6

Anaa

Anaa, birthplace of Tahiti’s Pomare royal family, is renowned for its sparkling jade lagoon and white-sand motus. Most locals are engaged in copra production or fishing, supported by a sustainable fishing program. Look out for the *feo*, the giant fossilized coral blocks unique to the atoll.

Passengers will disembark by tender at Tukahora Pier. Explore the village by bus or on foot, and try fly-fishing in the shallow, crystal-clear lagoon. A picnic lunch is served on the beach in Tukahora village.

Optional activities: Swimming and discovery at the “Ogoogo” pito.

Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner



Day 7

Papeete Maitai Express Tahiti

This is the end of our journey. It's time to say *Nānā!* (Goodbye) to your travel companions, to the Polynesian staff and Aranui guides.

Morning arrival into Papeete by around 7:00 AM and guests disembark. Our representative will be waiting for you as you disembark to transfer you to the Maitai Express Tahiti. Spend a relaxing afternoon, wander through scenic coastal spots, admire local architecture, and explore open-air viewpoints and historic sites that capture the island’s charm.

Overnight stay in Tahiti at **Maitai Express Tahiti** in a Standard Room King.

Breakfast



Day **8**

Maitai Express Tahiti Airport

It's time to wrap up our journey. Please check out and take the transfer to Tahiti International Airport for your international flight back home.

Breakfast

ACCOMMODATION

Aranoa

Aranoa will offer voyages to the Austral Islands — Rimatara, Rurutu, Tubuai, Raivavae, and Rapa — known for their lush mountains, turquoise lagoons, and white sandy beaches. Like the Aranui 5, it will be a mixed passenger-freighter vessel carrying fewer than 200 guests, designed for comfort and minimal environmental impact. Continuing Aranui's 40-year legacy of inclusive tourism, Aranoa aims to support the Austral Islands by fostering sustainable tourism, promoting inter-island connections, and showcasing the region's breathtaking landscapes and rich Polynesian culture.

Specifications:

- Length: 116m
- Breadth: 21m
- Number of passengers: 198
- Number of cabins: 93, including 62 with balcony
- 2 Restaurants
- 2 Bars
- 2 Whirlpools
- 1 Boutique
- 1 Spa & Tattoo area
- 1 Fitness centre

Photo | Credit: ©Aranui Cruises



Maitai Express Tahiti

Discover the new "express" version of the Maitai hotel chain. Offering quality services comparable to the first three establishments, Le Maitai Express Tahiti stands out for its exclusive accommodation and breakfast offer. Ideally located in the heart of downtown Papeete, it allows guests to enjoy the culinary diversity of the surrounding restaurants and famous food truck "roulottes". It also offers easy access to all the capital's tourist attractions (waterfront, Papeete market, shopping malls) as well as the city's nightlife (bars and nightclubs). Its double-glazed rooms offer a pleasant, functional setting, ideal for a relaxing stopover in the heart of the bustling city. This touch-and-go concept is perfect for travellers in transit between international flights and the surrounding islands.



ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

OFFICIAL LANGUAGE

French

LOCAL CURRENCY

CFP franc

- **Advertised FROM prices apply to low-season travel periods only** and are subject to availability at the time of booking.
- **Prices vary by travel date, room type, length of stay and demand**, with higher rates applying during shoulder and peak periods, including school holidays and blackout dates.
- **FROM prices may not be available on all departures** and are indicative only.
- **International flights, where included, are based on lead-in fares** and are subject to limited availability. Actual airfares may vary depending on travel dates, seat availability and airline policies.
- **Any airfare differences from the advertised package price will be advised prior to booking**, and additional charges may apply for flight upgrades or changes.
- **Additional charges may apply**, including peak-season surcharges, festive period supplements, mandatory resort dinners, upgrades and optional experiences.
- **Final pricing, inclusions and promotions are confirmed at the time of enquiry or booking** and are subject to availability and change without notice.
- **Indicative pricing shown** for advertising purposes only.

Excluded

- **Domestic airfares and taxes**, unless expressly stated in your holiday package
- **Visa costs**, including application, processing and issuance fees
- **Local city, tourist or accommodation taxes**, where applicable, payable locally
- **Meals not specifically listed as included**, including mandatory festive or special-event dinners
- **Travel insurance and personal expenses**, including mini-bar, laundry, telephone calls and similar incidentals
- **Tips and gratuities** to guides, drivers, porters, hotel, restaurant or boat staff
- **Any other services or expenses not expressly included** in the holiday package

IN PARTNERSHIP

