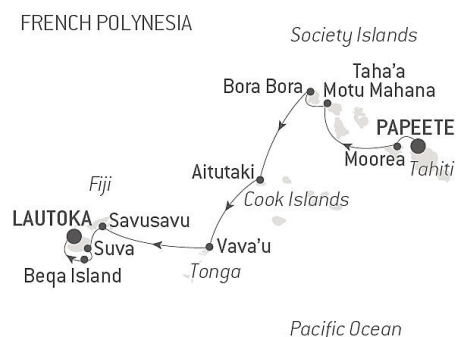


Fiji, Tonga, Cook Islands and Society Islands

From **26/10/2024**
to **10/11/2024**

Ship: **LE PAUL GAUGUIN**

From **Papeete, Tahiti Island**
to **Lautoka, Viti Levu Island**



Leaving from **Papeete**, **PAUL GAUGUIN Cruises** offers you a brand-new **16-day** cruise to discover **four beautiful archipelagos of the South Seas**. Set sail aboard *Le Paul Gauguin* for an unforgettable journey between nature and culture, through the varied and luxuriant landscapes of the idyllic islands and atolls of **French Polynesia**, the **Cook Islands**, **Tonga** and **Fiji**.

In the **Society Islands**, in **French Polynesia**, you will be dazzled by the incomparable beauty of the sumptuous lagoons of **Bora Bora**, with its distinctly recognisable volcanic silhouette, by the turquoise waters of the **motu Mahana**, our private vanilla-scented little paradise, and by **Moorea**, with its hillside pineapple plantations and its verdant peaks overlooking the island.

You will sail towards the **Cook Islands** and the incredibly clear waters of the **Aitutaki** lagoon.

Le Paul Gauguin will then set sail for **the Kingdom of Tonga**. Consisting of around 30 picture-postcard islets, **Vava'u** is an idyllic and pristine destination for exploring the wonderful seabed, sunbathing on the fine sandy beaches edged with coconut trees and discovering the local crafts and traditions.

You will finally discover authentic villages, hillsides covered in dense tropical vegetation and the sumptuous lagoons of the islands of **Fiji**.



The information in this document is valid as of 22/8/2024

Fiji, Tonga, Cook Islands and Society Islands

YOUR STOPOVERS :

PAPEETE, TAHITI ISLAND

Embarkation 26/10/2024 From 3:00 pm to 5:00 pm

Departure 26/10/2024 at 6:30 pm

Capital of French Polynesia, the city of **Papeete** is on the north-west coast of the island of Tahiti. You'll find a **relaxed atmosphere** here, where urban buzz combines with the legendary laid-back Polynesian lifestyle. Culture is not lacking. You can enjoy sites narrating the history of the archipelago, including the colonial cathedral and the **Maison de la reine Marau**. The **Vaipahi** public gardens will win you over by their abundant plant-life. The large municipal market offers local specialities: fresh fruit, spices and all kinds of fish abound on their stalls.

MOOREA ISLAND

Arrival 27/10/2024 early morning

Departure 27/10/2024 late afternoon

A part of the **Windward Island archipelago** just to the west of Tahiti, famous **Mo'orea** will leave you with a series of unforgettable images and memories. Bask on its **heavenly beaches**, enjoy a dip in the turquoise waters of its lagoon, and soak up its **luscious vegetation** and the heady flowers that carpet the inland areas. Get the most out of this natural gem with a trip to the Mo'orea **Belvedere**. Exceptional views of Mount Rotui unfurl before your eyes, with the **Opunohu Bay** and its valley to the left, and the famous **Cook's Bay**, surrounded by notched, cathedral-style peaks, to the right.

MOTU MAHANA, TAHA'A ISLAND, SOCIETY ISLANDS

Arrival 28/10/2024 early morning

Departure 28/10/2024 late afternoon

Feet in the sand, on the islet of **Motu Mahana**, our sumptuous little private paradise, you will share a very special experience around an authentic traditional Polynesian barbecue. A veritable jewel in the **Taha'a** lagoon, pristine atoll of the Society Islands, **Motu Mahana** offers an infinite palette of shades of turquoise, an idyllic backdrop for observing the majestic ballet of the tropical fish. The volcanic island of **Taha'a**, dominated by Mount Ohiri and Mount Puurauti, will reveal its fertile and luxuriant nature, ideal for cultivating the magnificent **black pearls** of French Polynesia, as well as **vanilla**. This rare spice, greatly in demand by gourmets, is the main economic resource of what is also known as *Vanilla Island*.

BORA BORA, SOCIETY ISLANDS

Arrival 29/10/2024 at night

Departure 30/10/2024 late afternoon

Paradisiacal atoll of the archipelago of the Leeward Islands, west of French Polynesia, mythical **Bora Bora** offers a

natural spectacle of captivating beauty. You'll be won over as much by the white sandy beaches as by its **famous lagoon**, one of the most beautiful in the world, where colourful fish frolic in waters of incomparable turquoise. The island is covered with **tropical vegetation**, and dominated by the majestic outline of **Mount Oteman**. A promenade through this volcanic landscape will enable you to discover a number of villages and meet local communities.

AT SEA

Arrival 31/10/2024

Departure 31/10/2024

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.

AITUTAKI

Arrival 1/11/2024 early morning

Departure 1/11/2024 late afternoon

Aitutaki is a little island of 16 km², with a small fishing port with few motor boats, where a simple and peaceful life endures. During your visit, don't miss the opportunity to walk along this magnificent lagoon, reputed as one of the most beautiful and spectacular in the world. Snorkelling fans will discover the treasures of underwater life here. The island is specialised in the sale of **black pearls** and the production of **coloured sarongs**, as well as "**tivaevae**" — patchwork quilting and handiworks. This local manufacture has great value because of its careful artisanal fabrication, and the pieces made are generally offered at important occasions.

AT SEA

Arrival 2/11/2024

Departure 2/11/2024

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.

CROSSING THE INTERNATIONAL DATE LINE

Arrival 3/11/2024

Departure 3/11/2024

Your itinerary enables you to cross **the International Date Line**. This imaginary line across the Earth's surface approximately follows the 180th meridian in the Pacific Ocean. Because of the roundness of the Earth and the necessity of having reference time meridians, we have to change dates when we cross this line. So if your ship is travelling west, you will need to add a day to the expected date; conversely, if travelling east, you will take away a day. This paradox, already noted by Magellan's crews during his circumnavigation, serves as dramatic motivation in several novels, including Jules Verne's famous *Around the World in Eighty Days*.

AT SEA

Arrival 4/11/2024

Departure 4/11/2024

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.

VAVA'U ISLANDS

Arrival 5/11/2024 early morning

Departure 5/11/2024 late afternoon

Vava'u is a splendid archipelago in Tonga made up of around forty picture-postcard coral islands scattered across the turquoise waters of the south Pacific Ocean. The main island is dominated by **Mount Talau** which offers a magnificent panoramic view over the islands. Along the long fine sandy beaches of these idyllic islets, the teeming marine life can be seen in the coral reefs, the **gorgonian** coral gardens and the **underwater caves**. The lush vegetation of the island will delight amateur botanists. The **traditional local know-how** reveals all the richness of this incredible natural heritage: woven leaves from the legendary pandanus, production of Noni juice with its many virtues, extraction of vanilla essence.

AT SEA

Arrival 6/11/2024

Departure 6/11/2024

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.

SAVUSAVU, VANUA LEVU ISLAND

Arrival 7/11/2024 early morning

Departure 7/11/2024 late afternoon

Receiving fewer visitors than its neighbour Viti Levu, lying some sixty kilometres to the south, **Vanua Levu** is the second largest island of **Fiji**. From **Savvasvu**, set out to discover some of the many treasures of this mountainous island and its luxuriant vegetation. You will be enchanted by the fragrances and intense colours of its **tropical rainforest**, which hides sumptuous and refreshing **waterfalls**. You will be charmed by the hospitality of the Fijian people. Among the local traditions, there is the famous *kava* ceremony, where a drink made from a plant similar to the pepper plant is served in half a coconut shell. Snorkelling fans will be delighted by the beauty of the underwater world, renowned for its **incredible visibility**.

SUVA, VITI LEVU ISLAND

Arrival 8/11/2024 early morning

Departure 8/11/2024 late afternoon

Viti Levu, the largest island in Fiji, is teeming with natural and cultural richness. Dominated by Mount Tomanivi, the island is covered with dense and luxuriant tropical vegetation to the south and vast sugar cane plantations to the north. **Suva**, the modern and dynamic capital of Fiji, is home to the historical heritage of the islands. In Thurston Gardens, the **Fiji Museum** showcases the magnificent collections of archaeological objects, illustrating human activity for more than 3,000 years. Whether under the green and luminous highlights of the vertiginous forest canopy or under the turquoise waters of the Beqa lagoon, exploring the natural treasures of **Viti Levu** is an unforgettable experience.

BEQA ISLAND

Arrival 9/11/2024 at night

Departure 9/11/2024 late afternoon

Just a few kilometres from Viti Levu, the small and remote island of **Beqa** (pronounced "Benga") offers a concentrated dose of **Fiji's** cultural and natural treasures. Its inhabitants continue the impressive ancestral tradition of **fire walking**, or *Vilavilavevo*. During demonstrations, they invite us to watch these **ceremonies** where barefooted men, prepared and dressed for the occasion in traditional costume, walk over red-hot coals. Legend says that they also have the power to heal burns. The **coral reef** so close to the beach is the promise of unforgettable underwater excursions. Further out to sea, the sumptuous seabeds are reputed to be home to **many species of sharks**.

LAUTOKA, VITI LEVU ISLAND

Arrival 10/11/2024 early morning

Disembarkation 10/11/2024 at 8:00 am

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.