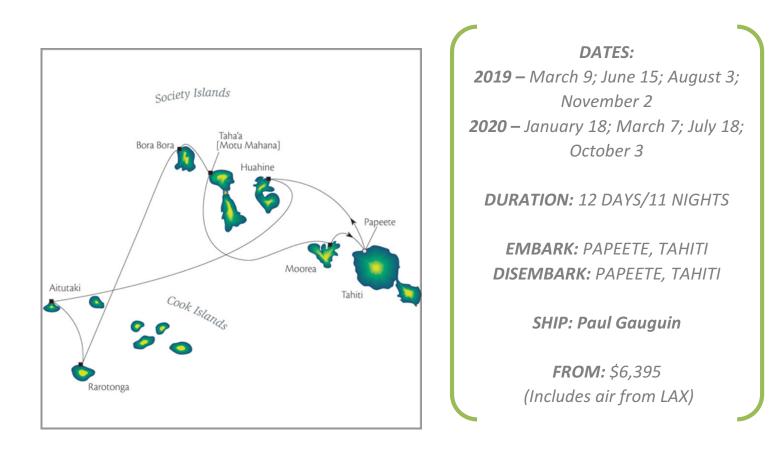
# **COOK & SOCIETY ISLANDS**



This 11-night odyssey showcases the region's incredible diversity of scenery, from Aitutaki's low-lying islands to the jagged peaks and deep valleys of fertile Rarotonga, which was simply called "Paradise" by the first European explorers. Continue to the Society Islands to delight in the South Pacific's crown jewels—Bora Bora, Taha'a, Huahine, and Moorea.



### HIGHLIGHTS -

- While in the Cook Islands, call upon Aitutaki, a tiny island that's home to one of the world's most spectacular lagoons.
- Spend a relaxing day on Motu Mahana, our very own private islet, complete with whitesand beaches, swaying palm trees, a barbecue lunch, drinks served in coconuts, and a floating lagoon bar.
- The waters around Moorea are home to an amazing array of sea creatures. Take an optional SCUBA excursion to swim among the sea turtles and vibrant schools of fish.
- In Bora Bora, spend time at our exclusive white-sand beach on a motu enjoying snorkeling, kayaking, paddleboarding, volleyball, and stunning views of Mount Otemanu.

## ITINERARY -

# Day 1 – Embark the m/s Paul Gauguin in Papeete, Tahiti, Society Islands

The islands of Polynesia are a gorgeous collection of volcanic atolls strewn across the grand Pacific Ocean, and the island of Tahiti is the largest of all 118. Explore the dynamic dining, nightlife, and shopping in the capital city of Papeete before embarking on The Gauguin.

#### Day 2 – Huahine, Society Islands

Known as "The Garden Island," Huahine's lush rainforests and dramatic terrain surround sacred sites and legendary landmarks that are among the best-preserved archeological sites in French Polynesia. If Huahine's expansive lagoon is calling your name, enjoy a SCUBA diving excursion or picnic on the beach.

#### Day 3 – At Sea

Spend the day enjoying The Gauguin's Polynesian ambiance: casual, leisurely, and graceful. Perhaps you'll take in a lecture by one of our special guests, and then reflect on your day over classic French cuisine at L'Etoile.

#### Day 4 – Aitutaki, Cook Islands

While the island of Aitutaki may be small, it's big on beauty, thanks to its coral reef-enclosed lagoon. Witness its splendor up-close with a leisurely beach visit. Don't forget to save time to venture into the village of Arutanga, where you'll find the oldest church in the Cooks, which dates from 1829.



#### Day 5 – Rarotonga, Cook Islands

Rugged Rarotonga is the most mountainous of all the Cook Islands, and time here is best spent exploring its natural beauty. Snorkel in Muri Lagoon, wander the lush Takitumi Conservation Area, or take a hike into the island's dense interior



with Pa, a local naturalist.

#### Day 6 – At Sea

The time you spend onboard The Gauguin offers endless opportunities for relaxation and enjoyment, whether that means sampling gourmet cuisine, indulging in a spa treatment, watching the sunset from a chaise lounge on the sun deck, or simply making the most of your in-room amenities.

#### Day 7 & 8 – Bora Bora, Society Islands

A bucket list destination for many, stunning Bora Bora welcomes you for two full days of exploring lush peaks, white-sand beaches, colorful coral reefs, and romantic lagoons. Experience the natural excursion, sunset jetboat ride, or a helicopter tour that flies you over Bora Bora's iconic Mount Otemanu. You can also spend time at our private beach which offers volleyball, snorkeling, kayaking and paddleboarding.

#### Day 9 – Taha'a (Motu Mahana), Society Islands

Embark on your choice of exciting shore excursions today, or spend your whole day relaxing on Motu Mahana, our very own private islet. Enjoy swimming, snorkeling, and kayaking, or simply lounge on the beach with a chilled beverage from our floating bar. Les Gauguines will also be on hand to provide musical entertainment and demonstrate traditional Polynesian crafts. A delicious barbecue lunch is provided.



#### Day 10 – Moorea, Society Islands

Vibrant colors abound on Moorea, in everything from fresh fruits and flowers to multi-hued lagoons, and from spectacular mountain peaks to multi-hued lagoons, and from spectacular mountain peaks to palm-fringed beaches. Shop for local handicrafts, embark on an optional dolphinwatching expedition with a marine biologist, and sample the local pineapples, said to be the most delicious in all of French Polynesia.



#### Day 11 – Moorea, Society Islands / Papeete, Tahiti, Society Islands

Moorea, often likened to James Michener's mythical island of Bali Hai, is worth a visit just to experience its spectacular vistas. Volcanic peaks, reflected in the waters of Cook's Bay and Opunohu Bay, rise like a shark's jaw above palm tree-lined beaches. The underwater world is just as enchanting, with sharks, tuna, dolphins, and tropical fish—no wonder it's a popular destination for divers.



#### Day 12 – Disembark in Papeete, Tahiti, Society Islands

Tahiti's capital city of Papeete welcomes you back with emerald hillsides, sapphire waters, and warm breezes. If you're not ready for your South Pacific vacation to end, spend a few days here experiencing resorts, spas, restaurants, nightlife, and shopping.

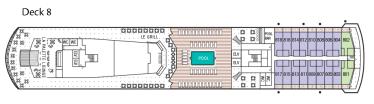


#### PAUL GAUGUIN **GUESTS:** 332

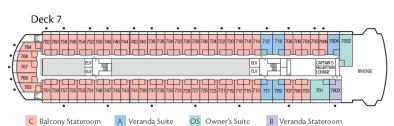
FROM: \$6,145 (Includes air from LAX)

Want to stay longer and Explor the area? Pre and or Post stays are available in French Polynesia, Cook Islands, Australia, New Zealand or Fiji!

Denotes suite with two twin-beds that convert to gueen. Suite 801 has king.

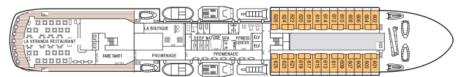








Deck 6



D Balcony Stateroom







E Window Stateroom





F Porthole Stateroom



**Reservations & Information** 1-855-EXPLOR1 (397-5671) Email - info@explorcruises.com

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