

# Wild Earth Travel

*Small Ships, Big Adventures*

**wildearth-travel.com**

**info@wildearth-travel.com**

## PEARLS OF POLYNESIA - ISLAND HOPPING IN FRENCH POLYNESIA

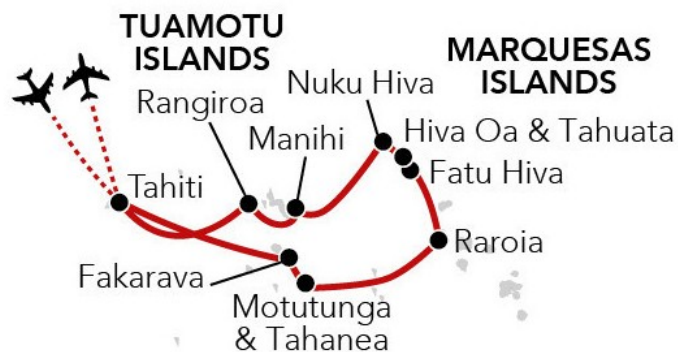
Join us aboard the MS Island Sky and discover the idyllic islands of French Polynesia as we uncover their history and legends and visit some of the most captivating islands in the world. The beauty of the islands exceeds everyone's expectations. They are as sensuous as the paintings of Gauguin, more adventurous than the tales of Robert Louis Stevenson and more romantic than James Michener's fabled Bali Hai.

The name Polynesia means 'many islands' and no one could argue with the suitability of this title. There are islands of low lying coral with some of the most stunning beaches in the world and contrasting volcanic mountainous landscapes of lush, incomparable beauty. Welcoming others is sacred to Polynesians and that will be evident as we island hop through the region experiencing the genuine warmth of the people as we learn more about their fascinating culture and heritage. Visiting the villages and meeting the locals who have preserved many of their traditional customs and values is a truly memorable experience.

Our island hopping expedition begins and concludes in Tahiti, the iconic island of the Pacific dream. Envision if you will the evocative paintings of Paul Gauguin, a Paris stockbroker who ditched it all to pursue his art in Tahiti. Gauguin's images of exuberant outdoor settings with vivid lagoons and statuesque palms will become the backdrop of your first days in paradise. We will also discover the volcanic Marquesas Islands and the beauty of the Tuamotu Islands which constitute the largest chain of coral atolls in the world. Our days will be spent on nature

walks, searching for endemic birds such as the Tuamotu sandpiper, beachcombing, snorkelling or swimming from the pristine beaches, interacting with the locals and learning about their way of life and traditional handicrafts or, simply experiencing some of the most pristine tropical scenery to be found anywhere in the world.

An expedition such as this requires a vessel akin to the MS Island Sky with the ability to adapt to her surroundings and land on remote atolls using the fleet of Zodiac landing craft whilst providing a comfortable base. We will explore inlets, lagoons and land in otherwise inaccessible places and although we set sail with a set itinerary, it is often the unscheduled events that become the highlight. We will be joined on board by an expert expedition team, consisting of naturalists and marine biologists who will share their knowledge and enthusiasm during forays ashore and whilst on board.



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t on board.

Day 6 Nuku Hiva, Marquesas Islands.

## ITINERARY

### Day 1 London to Tahiti, French Polynesia.

Fly by scheduled flight via Los Angeles.

### Day 2 Tahiti.

Arrive this morning and transfer directly to the MS Island Sky which will be moored in Papeete. Sail later today.

### Day 3 Rangiroa, Tuamotu Islands.

As one of the world's largest coral atolls, Rangiroa, whose name translates into "vast sky", has a magnificent lagoon surrounded by small islets or motus, stretching as far as the eye can see. Arriving in the mid-morning we will have time to enjoy our first snorkel or swim, join our birder for a nature walk, visit the island's black pearl farms or wander through the enchanting local village of Avatoru.

### Day 4 Manihi.

Spend the morning at the idyllic atoll of Manihi. It was here, in the inner lagoon, that black pearls were first farmed in Tahiti and we have the chance to visit a farm to learn about the growing process. Alternatively enjoy a swim in the clear waters, snorkel over the coral reefs where we may see manta rays and tropical fish or meet the islanders and shop for local crafts in the colourful village of Turipaoa. Return to the ship for lunch and an afternoon at sea.

### Day 5 At Sea.

Enjoy a day relaxing on the sun deck and join a lecture in the lounge as we sail north.

Arrive in the Marquesas Islands, far removed from the rest of the South Pacific in everything from language and culture to geology. Nuku Hiva is the largest of the islands and the island group's economic capital. Here, we will immerse ourselves in local culture and geography. Traditional Marquesan dancers will welcome us to their village and we will visit the archaeological centres at Kamuihei and Hikoku'a and see the temples, petroglyphs and tiki. Meanwhile a series of island walks will focus on the flora and fauna of the island whilst there will also be an opportunity to swim from the beaches.

### Day 7 Hiva Oa & Tahuata.

This morning will be dedicated to Gauguin, iconic artist of the South Pacific. We will visit the museum which offers a permanent exhibition of his works and make a pilgrimage to his final resting place in the cemetery perched high on a hill overlooking the town. We will soak up the landscape that inspired him to leave it all behind and go native. Over lunch we will sail to the neighbouring island of Tahuata, the smallest inhabited island of the Marquesas which was the first to be visited by Protestant and Catholic missionaries and where the first church in the Marquesas was built. With no airport the island is only accessible by sea and is off the usual tourist trail. We will land this afternoon and explore Hapatoni village, meet the local population and learn about their history and ways of life.

### Day 8 Fatu Hiva.

With a landscape of spectacular pinnacles towering over the cobalt Bay of Virgins, Fatu Hiva is one of the most floral and pristine islands. Villagers will perform their traditional dances and demonstrate their handicrafts of wood carvings and tapa making. Afterwards, weather depending, our expedition team will run a series of nature walks either climbing to the viewpoint, searching for birds with our ornithologist or a nature walk to the waterfall. Meanwhile a snorkel platform will be set up for those who wish to swim.

### Day 9 At Sea.

Spend a day at sea. Maybe join a lecture or find a spot on deck to relax or

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watch for wildlife.

## Day 10 Raroia, Tuamotus.

Raroia is known for its pearl farming and we will see the strings of oysters all around the local farms. After the traditional welcome to the island including a selection of local fruits and fish, we will have the day to explore on a variety of walks, swim from the beach or snorkel in the beautiful coral garden with parrotfish, angelfish and butterfly fish.

## Day 11 Motutunga & Tahanea.

Motutunga Atoll was first sighted by James Cook in 1773 who named it 'Adventure' after his own ship. Both Motutunga and Tahanea are uninhabited atolls and offer some of the finest snorkelling in the Tuamotu archipelago. We will be able to see amazing corals and marine life including triggerfish and surgeonfish. At Tahanea there will be another chance to snorkel or alternatively join our birders on a walk to find the endemic Tuamotu sandpiper or our naturalists as we beachcomb.

## Day 12 Fakarava.

Spend the day in this protected atoll which, along with its six neighbouring islands, make up a UNESCO classified nature reserve. It has been the home to Robert Louis Stephenson in 1888 and Henri Matisse in 1930 whose art was influenced by the landscape for many years. The local villagers of Rotoava will welcome us and demonstrate their handicrafts and cultural traditions. There will be the chance to sample local delicacies, explore independently, join our naturalists for walks or maybe take the opportunity for a last swim in the clear Polynesian waters.

## Day 13 Tahiti to London.

After a morning at sea we arrive into Papeete at lunchtime. Disembark this afternoon and transfer to the airport for the scheduled flight to London via Los Angeles.

## Day 14 En Route.

Transit in Los Angeles for our onward flight to London.

## Day 15 London.

Arrive today.

**Please note:**

Itineraries are subject to change.

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## YOUR SHIP: ISLAND SKY

|                            |                           |
|----------------------------|---------------------------|
| <b>YOUR SHIP:</b>          | <b>Island Sky</b>         |
| <b>VESSEL TYPE:</b>        | <b>Luxury Small Ship</b>  |
| <b>LENGTH:</b>             | <b>90 metres</b>          |
| <b>PASSENGER CAPACITY:</b> | <b>116</b>                |
| <b>BUILT/REFURBISHED:</b>  | <b>1992 / 2010 / 2017</b> |

The MS Island Sky offers an intimate and luxurious cruising experience, designed for travelers who appreciate peace, high-quality service, and a relaxed atmosphere. The ship features elegant public spaces, including a main lounge for daily briefings and talks, The Club with a pianist and a 24-hour tea and coffee station, and a well-stocked library with internet access. Guests can enjoy al fresco dining on the Lido Deck, a walk-around promenade for scenic views, and a top-deck observation area ideal for relaxation and wildlife spotting. The ship also includes a small hair salon, a doctor on board, and a lift serving all decks for added convenience. Complimentary satellite Wi-Fi is available, though signal strength may vary.

Accommodations include 59 spacious and well-appointed suites, all with outside views, seating areas, and en-suite bathrooms. Some suites offer private balconies or sliding glass doors for enhanced ocean views. Amenities include a mini-fridge, flat-screen TV, Molton Brown toiletries, air-conditioning, and a safe. The Island Suite boasts an extended balcony, complimentary minibar, and laundry service. Dining is a refined yet relaxed affair, with an emphasis on fresh, locally sourced ingredients and a single open seating. Guests

can enjoy buffet-style breakfasts, a la carte lunches and dinners, daily afternoon tea, and included wines. The ship's culinary team creates exceptional meals, often incorporating local specialties, while the friendly staff ensures a welcoming and social dining experience.

Life onboard is serene, focusing on enriching experiences rather than organized entertainment. Guests can enjoy informative talks, port briefings, and casual evening music rather than large-scale shows or games. The ship is equipped with modern safety and navigation technology, including roll stabilizers for a smooth journey. The atmosphere is akin to a private yacht or boutique hotel, where like-minded travelers can immerse themselves in nature, history, and culture.



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## INSIDE YOUR SHIP



Columbus Deck Superior Single



Columbus Deck Superior Suite



Erikson Deck Deluxe Balcony Suite



Explorer Deck Island Suite



Explorer Deck Owner's Balcony Suite



Magellan Deck Standard Single



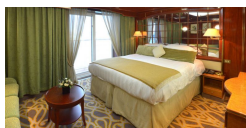
Magellan Deck Standard Suite



Marco Polo Deck Corner Suite



Marco Polo Deck Premium Suite





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## PRICING

**18-Oct-2026 to 01-Nov-2026**

|  |                     |
|--|---------------------|
| <b>Magellan Deck Standard Suite</b>        | <b>9795 GBP pp</b>  |
| <b>Columbus Deck Superior Suite</b>        | <b>10095 GBP pp</b> |
| <b>Marco Polo Deck Premium Suite</b>       | <b>10995 GBP pp</b> |
| <b>Magellan Deck Standard Single</b>       | <b>10995 GBP pp</b> |
| <b>Marco Polo Deck Corner Suite</b>        | <b>11295 GBP pp</b> |
| <b>Columbus Deck Superior Single</b>       | <b>11495 GBP pp</b> |
| <b>Erikson Deck Deluxe Balcony Suite</b>   | <b>11795 GBP pp</b> |
| <b>Explorer Deck Owner's Balcony Suite</b> | <b>12295 GBP pp</b> |
| <b>Explorer Deck Island Suite</b>          | <b>12995 GBP pp</b> |

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