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THE SOUTH PACIFIC – FRENCH POLYNESIA

No other cruising destination is as remote and exotic as the intriguing shores of French Polynesia and the South Pacific. The ultimate tropical escape, the islands of the South Pacific are worth the journey. Open-water passages through the islands offer fantastic cruising with incredible anchorage. And for the ultimate adventure, be sure to show up certified and ready to dive in the tropical blue waters full of captivating sea life.

FAKARAVA

Embark from the virtually untouched Fakarava Island and South Pass, then travel to North Pass — equally anticipated, with quaint villages, old coral churches and welcoming locals. Snorkel, dive or kiteboard in the crystal-clear, turquoise waters, and picnic on a secluded pink-sand islet. There are endless opportunities here for everyone.

TOAU

A UNESCO-classified biosphere reserve, Toau is a stunning coral atoll with a 35-kilometre-long lagoon that is perfect for peaceful anchorages, swimming, snorkeling and diving. Travelers love to hunt for coconut crabs or BBQ on a romantic beach.

RANGIROA

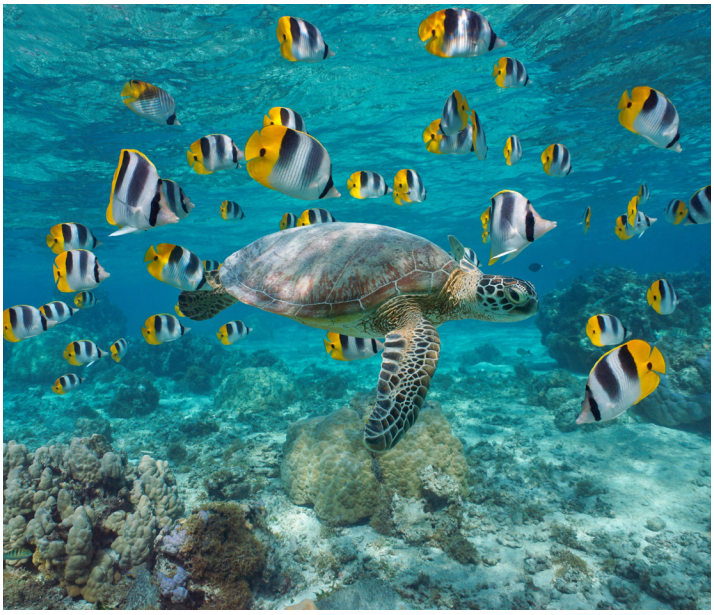
One of the most spectacular places on earth for diving, the atoll of Rangiroa is home to one of the world's largest natural aquariums. A string of coral encircles a vast lagoon, creating a diving spot worthy of your bucket list. Here, you can snorkel and dive among stingrays and manta rays. Or move along to the Avatoru Pass and Tiputa Pass, where you'll dive among silvertip sharks and bottlenose dolphins.

BORA BORA

Cruise from the Tuamotus to the Society Islands in a 24-hour crossing. You'll dine on the open deck as the captain navigates open water and the Te Ava Nui Pass into the lagoon of Bora Bora. The island itself, where the reef around the lagoon is clustered with desert islands, is as close to the tropical ideal as it gets. It is Bora Bora, after all. Join fellow yachties to swap stories at the Bora Bora Yacht Club, founded in 1972.

TAHA'A

From Bora Bora, it's a short trip back through the Te Ava Nui Pass and the Pai Pai Pass to the lagoon that surrounds the island of Taha'a. Float amid a rainbow of fish, including vibrant parrotfish, striped snapper, emperor angelfish and butterfly fish.



RAIATEA

Raiatea's rugged interior is impressive, as are its surrounding beaches. Discover French Polynesia's sacred temple, Marae Taputapuatea, a political and ceremonial center. Or for an even greater adventure, hike the Tapoi Mountain, where you'll be rewarded with spectacular panoramic views.

HUAHINE

Huahine, the garden island, features an immense tropical jungle where you'll discover coconut plantations, vanilla orchids, banana groves, breadfruit trees and watermelon fields. Once the home of Tahitian royalty, Huahine is considered the pinnacle of Polynesian culture, with the largest concentration of ancient temples in French Polynesia, dating back to around 700 AD. Step ashore to visit the island's pearl farm or take a horseback ride along one of the many outstanding beaches.

MOOREA

Moorea is known as Tahiti's sister island. This stunning location offers an opportunity to rejuvenate at top spas, dine in the best restaurants, and golf at the 18-hole Nicklaus-designed Moorea golf course. A visit to Moorea Dolphin Center is another must for an interactive dolphin session in the water. Between August and October, spend time whale watching — and perhaps even swimming or diving with the incredible humpback whales.

MAP OF THE SOUTH PACIFIC

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