

ISLAND HOPPING IN THE
**SOUTH
PACIFIC**

ABOARD THE MS CALEDONIAN SKY
SEPTEMBER & OCTOBER 2017

SPECIAL
OFFER - SAVE
£500
PER PERSON



NOBLE CALEDONIA



MS Caledonian Sky

Formerly known as the Hebridean Spirit, the MS Caledonian Sky began her life with Noble Caledonia in May 2012. Accommodating a maximum of 114 passengers in 57 spacious outside suites, she is more akin to a country hotel than the big cruise ships of today. The vessel is a sister ship to MS Island Sky and MS Hebridean Sky, all were built in the same yard and at similar times and share the same excellent attributes that make them three of the finest small ships in the world and we are very proud to have them as our flagships.



Your Cabin/Suite

On board the MS Caledonian Sky there are 57 exceptionally spacious and well designed suites, 23 of which have private balconies located on the Promenade or Bridge Decks. Each suite exudes great character and grandeur with wood

panelling and brass features found throughout. The large suites all measure between 20 and 23 square metres and the balconies range in size from 4.2 to 5.6 square metres. Suites are arranged over four decks and all have outside facing views. All suites feature a sitting room area complete with coffee table, armchairs and flat screen televisions (DVD players and DVDs can be borrowed from reception for use in your suite). The beds in each cabin offer exceptionally comfortable mattresses and pillows and can be configured as large double beds or twins.

Each suite affords considerable comfort with an en-suite bathroom featuring a country style wash basin, a hot towel rack, shaver outlet and vanity unit with sink and walk-in shower and/or corner bath tub. Towelling dressing gowns and slippers are also provided for your comfort. Further facilities in the suites include walk-in or spacious wardrobes, dressing table with large mirror and stool or desk, minifridge, cabin to cabin telephone, programmable electronic safe, hairdryer, assorted Molton Brown toiletries, individually controlled air-conditioning and heating, bottled water replenished daily, as well as extra blankets and pillows.

Your Space

The spacious and finely decorated public rooms include a large lounge featuring comfortable seating and classic winged armchairs to enhance the modern country-style furnishings throughout. Daily briefings given by the Cruise Director or Expedition Leader and talks from Guest Speakers and Expedition staff take place in the main lounge which is fitted with the highest standard of presentation equipment including multiple screens. Also featured in the Lounge is an elegant bar where the onboard pianist plays periodically throughout the day. The bar also features a 24-hour tea and coffee station.

In addition to the main lounge on the Caledonian Deck, there is the Lounge on the Panorama Deck which features a bar, library and two computers and further spacious seating arrangements, ideal for watching the world go by as you cruise to your next destination. The travel library is the perfect place to relax with a good book. The main dining room which can seat all guests at one sitting is located on the Castle Deck. Outside there is a rear Lido Deck located on the Bridge Deck which is complete with deck tables and chairs where meals are served in warm weather under shade.

Further to this on the Panorama Deck towards the front of the vessel there is a further observation deck, complete with bar service and comfortable cushioned deck furniture for sun bathing, relaxing with a book or catching up with fellow travellers. On the Promenade Deck there is also a small gymnasium featuring a treadmill, bicycle and cross trainer, and a hairdressers with appointments made on request.



Sun deck



Dining on deck



Panorama Lounge



Premium Balcony Suite

Your Dining

With only one sitting and a maximum of just over 100 passengers, the cuisine on board is of a consistent superior quality. Afternoon tea and pre-dinner canapes take place every day in either the comfort of the lounge or out on the Lido Deck when the weather is favourable. In keeping with the informal atmosphere on board, when dining you are able to choose your seating arrangements at your leisure. Whether that be joining a table of four to six other like minded passengers outside on the Lido Deck in the evening's sunshine or whether you prefer to enjoy meals in the à la carte restaurant. For those travelling alone, our friendly restaurant staff will take care to ensure you are seated with other like minded travellers. In the main elegant dining room, breakfast is served buffet-style, with certain items cooked to order on request. Lunch and dinner are an à la carte five course affair, with the menu reflecting the daily catch or local delicacies. To enhance your dining experience even further a selection of wines are included with both meals.

Life On Board

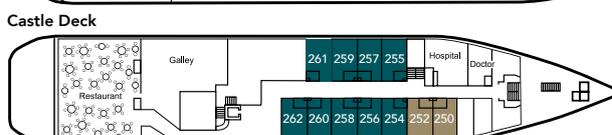
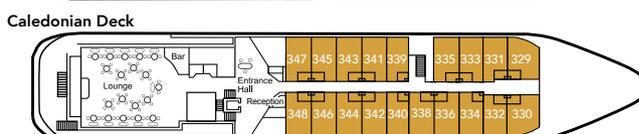
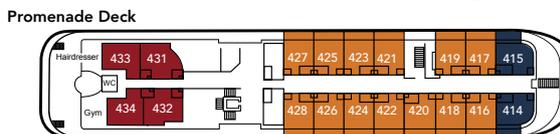
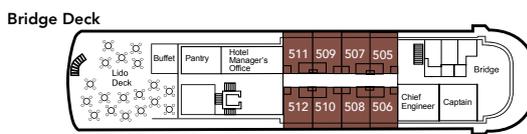
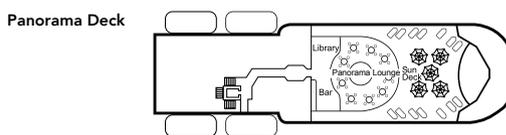
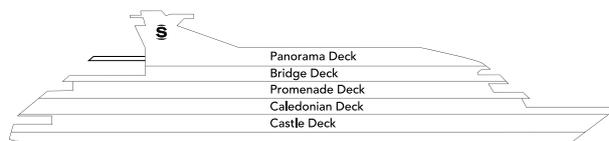
The atmosphere on board is warm and convivial and more akin to a private yacht or country hotel in which you can learn more about the wonders of nature, culture and ancient civilisations in the company of like-minded people. A little music in the lounge or bar after dinner, Guest Speakers and informative port briefings from our Expedition Leader and of course good food, all contribute to make any voyage aboard this wonderful vessel a memorable and joyful experience. After a day ashore you will return to the comfort and peace of an exceedingly comfortable ship.

The daily programme on board is in the capable hands of our Expedition Leader and staff who coordinate with the Captain and Officers to make the most of each day. Briefings and talks will be provided throughout the voyage together with a 'Daily Programme' that is distributed every evening to your suite outlining the next day's activities.

For your Comfort, Safety & Security

The MS Caledonian Sky is equipped with the latest safety, navigation and communications equipment along with roll stabilizers to minimise the ship's motion. During your voyage you will have the opportunity to visit the Captain and Officers on the Bridge to check the vessel's progress by charts and learn more about your journey. On board you will also find a clinic and doctor and a lift that serves all decks.

Deck Plan



- Standard Suites (Forward)
- Premium Suites
- Premium Balcony Suites
- Standard Suites
- Deluxe Balcony Suites
- Owner's Corner Suites with Balcony
- Superior Suites

NB. All Suites on Castle Deck feature a minimum of two portholes.

Melanesian Odyssey



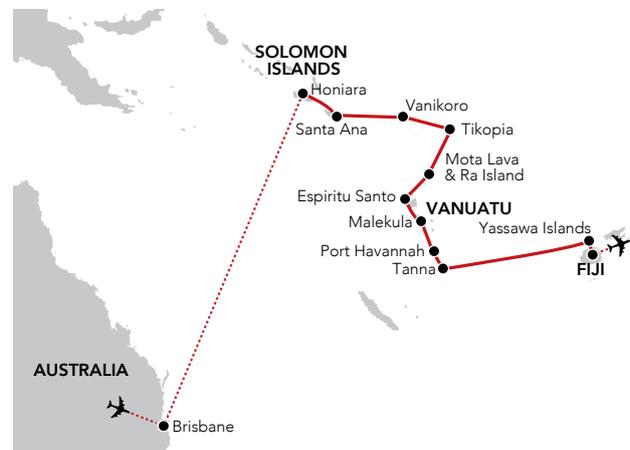
An island hopping adventure from the Solomon Islands to Fiji including Vanuatu
13th to 29th September 2017

Join us for this fascinating island hopping exploration from the Solomon Islands through to Vanuatu and ending in Fiji. All the islands we will encounter are beautiful in their different ways and all have unique features and cultures. They are certainly not on the mass tourism circuit and their beauty and customs remain relatively unscathed by the modern world. The region is ideal for exploring by small ship and particularly one as suitable as the MS Caledonian Sky. Her fleet of Zodiac landing craft gives us access to islands and bays that the big ships simply cannot get close to and provides us the freedom of spontaneity to explore where relatively few travellers have been before us.

We begin our journey in the Solomon Islands, a constitutional monarchy which gained its independence from the UK in 1978 and a melting pot of Pacific cultures. The islands have been inhabited for some 60,000 years but it was World War II that thrust them on to the centre stage of world history when the Allied forces took the offensive in the South Pacific and air, land and sea battles ensued for control of the Solomons. We will explore the war sites in Honiara before heading east to the outer islands of Santa Ana, Vanikoro and Tikopia. From these remote island paradises we will have the opportunity to visit tribal villages little changed for centuries, see astonishing ceremonial dances, enjoy nature walks inland or swim in the warm waters from isolated palm-fringed beaches.

The second half of our expedition takes us to the Vanuatu archipelago, home to some of the most beautiful islands in the South Pacific, with rainforests bursting with a magnificent array of flora and fauna and a mesmerising underwater world of tropical fish and vibrant coral. This is also one of the most culturally complex and fascinating regions in the world with hundreds of languages spoken across the Solomon Islands and Vanuatu and a vast spectrum of spiritual beliefs, traditions and artistic craftsmanship.

This voyage has something for everyone, whether your interest lies in natural history, military history, bird watching, the undersea world or simply just being one of the privileged few who are able to set foot on islands of astonishing richness and beauty. Afloat and ashore, our adventure will be filled with unforgettable images, remote idyllic islets, kaleidoscopic reefs and soaring white-tailed tropic birds. We hope you can join us in this faraway haven, for an unparalleled opportunity to explore one of the most intriguing places on the map.



What To Expect...

Flexibility is the key to an expedition cruise; sometimes the whole day's schedule will be changed to maximise your experience, something that would not be possible on a large cruise ship. Each day holds something new and below are extracts from the MS Caledonian Sky's ship's log from when she last visited Vanuatu which should provide you with an idea of what to expect.

Espiritu Santu, Vanuatu:

Today was a bulging day of activities. Our first visit was to a local village where we were lucky witnesses to the unique water music, which involved local ladies slapping the surface of the water with some force and exhausting consistency. The next major visit was another highlight, cavorting in the beautiful freshwaters of the local 'Blue Hole'. Meanwhile the more aquatically inclined of us jumped into vans for our visit to the end of the coast to Million Dollar Point. Here, the Americans had pushed huge amounts of military gear into the sea rather than take it home, or let it fall into other hands. It was an abstract mish mash of metallic objects, hard to tell where one wheel ended and another boat started. In amongst it all there were many fish, including anemone and their 'nemos'.

Tanna Island, Vanuatu:

Today we visited the spectacular volcanic island of Tanna. This is a regular stop for many of us on expedition ships, and always a highlight of any visit to Melanesia. The island is home to constantly burping Yassur, a volcano located in the middle of lush tropical rainforest with the occasional small village. We anchored cautiously just outside Resolution Bay. There was a gentle roll filtering into the fairly open bay, forming a slight break on the beach and on arrival the band started up some tropical tunes. To mirror the fleet of Zodiacs there was a fleet of tray-backed 4-wheeled drives to meet us. The recent wet season rains had turned the jungle even greener than usual and the first section included the flats and were dominated mainly by planted guava and coconut. As we bounced onward and upward, the vegetation developed into simple but beautiful rainforest, dominated by strangler figs. As we drove higher, tall and skinny tree ferns arched over the road. Those with good eyes noticed a number of 'Tanna Fruit-Doves', plump green birds that flicked between trees in the canopy. The great fat lady known as Yassur was smoking continuously as we started to clamber up her rocky slopes. Once at the top we could peer into her belly. Before each explosion of sound and debris, we could see a shock wave expand out in a split second, vibrating all the particles in a wave. After the sudden shock wave, red lava and bombs were flung high into the air.



Yasawa Islands, Fiji



Malekula Island



Market, Tanna Island



Traditional dance, Solomon Islands



Blue Hole, Espiritu Santo Island

The Itinerary

Day 1 London to Brisbane, Australia. Fly by scheduled indirect flight.

Day 2 Brisbane, Australia. Arrive this afternoon and transfer to the Royal on the Park Hotel for a two night stay. The remainder of the day and evening will be free to relax after our journey and acclimatise.

Day 3 Brisbane, Australia. After breakfast in the hotel enjoy a leisurely morning to explore independently and perhaps visit the botanical gardens, the central mall or the riverfront. This afternoon we will enjoy a city drive on our way to the Lone Pine Koala Sanctuary which is home to 130 koalas as well as kangaroos. Continue to Mount Coot-tha for a fantastic lookout over Brisbane before returning to the hotel for dinner this evening.

Day 4 Brisbane to Honiara, Solomon Islands. After breakfast in the hotel transfer to the

airport for our scheduled flight to Honiara. Arrive this afternoon and transfer to our hotel for an overnight stay. Enjoy some free time to relax before we meet for dinner this evening.

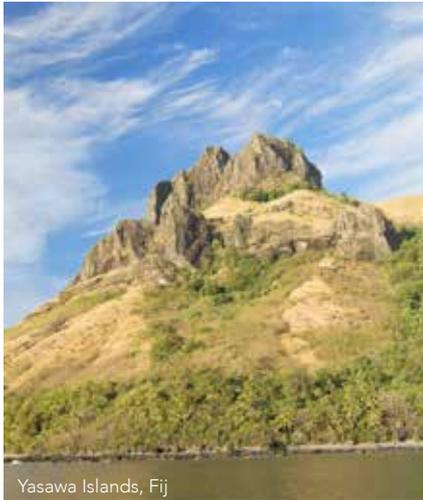
Day 5 Honiara. During World War II the British founded Honiara as a military base. The town and Mataniko River, which runs through it, were the front for many months during the battle of Guadalcanal. Today, this is a bustling town with lovely hibiscus and palm-tree-lined avenues. After breakfast in the hotel we will join a city tour of Honiara including the bustling central market, parliament building and National Museum where we get an insight into the history of the Solomon Islands. We will enjoy lunch before continuing to the World War II sites including Henderson Field, the Japanese Peace Park and the US Memorial at Skyline Ridge. In the late afternoon we will transfer to the MS Caledonian Sky and sail this evening.

Day 6 Santa Ana, Solomon Islands. Over breakfast we anchor off Port Mary on Santa Ana Island. We are welcomed by a stunning dance by the villagers with spears and mud face masks. After the performance we have the opportunity to explore the town further with its plethora of local handicrafts, join a nature walk through the forests, meet the students at the village school or swim from the local beach. Return to the ship for lunch and an afternoon at sea.

Day 7 Vanikoro, Solomon Islands Enjoy a morning cruising before arriving at Vanikoro at lunchtime. Situated in the Temotu Province of the Solomon Islands, Vanikoro was where French explorer Jean-Francois de la Perouse became stranded after both his vessels, La Boussole and the Astrolabe, hit the then unknown reefs of the island in 1788. Learn more about the island's history and the mystery of the lost La Perouse expedition that captured the

imagination of the European public. We will be welcomed ashore by the local villagers before choosing to explore the village further, join a nature walk where we can look out for the endemic birds, the Vanikoro Monarch and Vanikoro White-eye, or enjoy a swim or snorkel from the beach.

Day 8 Tikopia, Solomon Islands. This small remote island is a tropical paradise where traditional customs remain intact. This Polynesian-settled island lies in Melanesia, yet its people are descendants of Tongan and Wallis Island settlers. Settled for over 3000 years the local inhabitants have had to develop their way of life, cultivating sustainable crops and slaughtering all the pigs, that were staples of the Polynesian diet, to survive. We have a day on the island where you may wish to hike to the crater lake to search for local birdlife, swim or snorkel on the fringing reefs or meet the



Yasawa Islands, Fiji



Solomon Islands



Coconut crab

locals in the traditional village and learn about their lifestyles.

Day 9 Mota Lava & Ra Island, Vanuatu. Our first call in Vanuatu will be the island of Mota Lava and Ra Island in the Banks Island group. These tiny island communities are still off the main tourist routes but the locals are happy to share their culture, stories and ways of life with the visitors that make the journey to their islands. From our anchorage point we will Zodiac ashore, see a traditional snake dance where the men paint themselves black and white as sea snakes before being welcomed into the village. We also hope to have the chance to snorkel on the reef and enjoy nature walks on the island.

Day 10 Espiritu Santo Island, Vanuatu. Espiritu Santo is the largest of Vanuatu's islands with some of the most beautiful white sand beaches, amazing blue holes, caves and renowned snorkelling. It was also a huge military base during World War II. This morning join an island tour including the Nekar Custom Village where we will learn about local traditions and customs, including their unique water music and cava making, before enjoying time to swim in the nearby Riri Blue Hole. Return to the ship for lunch and in the afternoon snorkel amongst the corals and fish of the region at Million Dollar Point, named after the value of the military equipment dumped into the sea.

Day 11 Malekula Island, Vanuatu. The second largest of the island group Malekula is also the most culturally diverse with a small population which speaks over 30 distinct languages. Here we will

learn about the ancient tribes the Big Nambas who lived in the north and Smol Nambas from the central and southern provinces. Tribal warfare was once very common but today the island is peaceful. We plan to visit one of the tribal groups to learn about their culture including a history of cannibalism, with many ancient sites hidden in the forests, and see some of their important traditions of dance and song. In the afternoon we will relocate and find a suitable spot to enjoy some of the excellent snorkelling found on the coral reefs off the island.

Day 12 Port Havannah, Vanuatu. Awake this morning off Port Havannah, situated on the north coast of Efate Island and our base for today's activities. There are a number of outer islands that we may be able to explore depending on weather and sea conditions. Lelepa Island is a 160 acres of unspoilt tropical rainforest and palm fringed beaches. On a nature walk we will see the herbs used in local medicines before exploring Feles cave thought to be the resting place of the legendary Polynesian Chief, Roi Mata. Meanwhile on Moso Island we can meet the volunteers at the Tasiriki Turtle Sanctuary who will teach us about the rehabilitation of the Hawksbill turtles and the attempts to increase their numbers. If time and weather permit, we will also set up a snorkelling platform or offer a chance to swim from the beach.

Day 13 Tanna, Vanuatu. Our final call in Vanuatu is the island of Tanna, meaning earth in the local Kwamera language. Captain Cook was the first European to

visit the island in 1774, landing at Port Resolution, having been attracted by the glowing light of Mount Yasur. This 361 metre active volcano is situated in the south east of the island and dominates the landscape. The more adventurous amongst us may wish to join a journey to the crater taking local trucks through the rainforest that covers the mountain before walking to the rim. Alternatively, we hope to have the chance to visit local villages where traditional lifestyles are maintained and the local culture has been largely unaffected by western influences. We will learn of the customs, traditional medicines, crafts and cooking styles. Return to the ship for lunch and an afternoon cruising as we start our journey to Fiji.

Day 14 At Sea. Enjoy a day at sea. Our onboard lecture programme

will continue during the day or, alternatively, find a spot on board to relax with a book.

Day 15 Yassawa Islands, Fiji. After a morning at sea we will drop anchor amongst the twenty islands of the Yassawa group during lunch. In 1789 when Captain Bligh was set adrift from the HMS Bounty he passed by the Yassawa Islands from where two war canoes were sent to pursue them. They escaped and the waters are still known as Bligh Water. Today we can expect a friendlier welcome as we find a spot on a secluded beach to relax or enjoy a last opportunity to snorkel and swim.

Day 16 Fiji to London. Disembark this morning in Lautoka and transfer to the airport for your scheduled indirect flight.

Day 17 London. Arrive this morning.

PRICES PER PERSON

Based on double occupancy

BOOK EARLY & SAVE £500 PER PERSON			
Deck	Suite Category	Brochure Price	Special Offer Price
Castle	Standard Forward	£8095	£7595
Castle	Standard	£8295	£7795
Caledonian	Superior	£8495	£7995
Promenade	Premium	£8695	£8195
Bridge	Deluxe Balcony	£8995	£8495
Promenade	Premium Balcony	£9395	£8895
Promenade	Owners Corner Suite with balcony	£9595	£9095
Castle	Standard for sole use	£9695	£9195
Caledonian	Superior for sole use	£9895	£9395

Price Includes: Economy class scheduled air travel, two nights hotel accommodation in Brisbane and overnight accommodation in Honiaria on a bed and breakfast basis, dinners on days 3 and 4, 11 nights aboard the MS Caledonian Sky on a full board basis, wine, beer and soft drinks with lunch and dinner on board, shore excursions, expedition team, gratuities, transfers, port taxes.

Not Included: Travel insurance, visas.

NB. Ports and itinerary are subject to change. Flight schedules are yet to be released at time of going to print and dates and timings may change on their release.



Nomads of the Wind

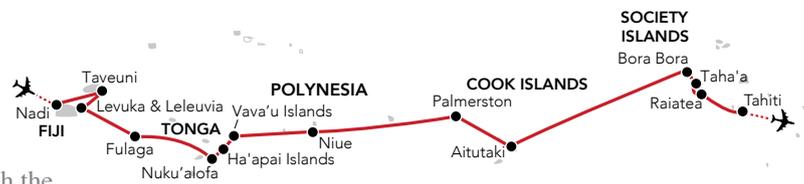


An island hopping expedition cruise from Fiji to Tahiti with Rear Admiral John Lippiett
25th September to 13th October 2017

By wind, wave and star the ancient people of Polynesia ventured to the farthest reaches of the South Pacific. Isolated by miles of ocean over thousands of years, these, the world's first island cultures, developed a pantheon of gods, myths and legends. This voyage tells the story of Polynesia and uncovers its history and legends as we sail through the South Seas and visit the captivating islands.

The real age of European exploration did not take place until the 18th century and many of the islands we will visit have changed little since that time. Their sheer isolation has been their saving grace and apart from an influx of missionaries in the late 19th century, western culture has made few inroads. The natural beauty of these islands is mesmerising. Join us aboard the MS Caledonian Sky to explore the Pacific in all its vastness, diversity and warmth and experience the description defying beauty of its islands, its culture and its ambience which have attracted generations of adventurers, explorers and travellers to its magical shores.

With our fleet of Zodiac landing craft we can explore inlets, bird sanctuaries 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 by a hand-picked expedition team, consisting of naturalists, marine biologists and ecologists who will share their knowledge and enthusiasm during forays ashore and whilst on board.



What To Expect...

Flexibility is the key to an expedition cruise; sometimes the whole day's schedule will be changed to maximise your experience, something that would not be possible on a large cruise ship. Each day holds something new and below is an extract from the MS Caledonian Sky's ship's log from when she last visited Bora Bora. If you are new to expedition cruising, this extract should provide you with an idea of what to expect.



Bouma Waterfall, Taveuni, Fiji

Bora Bora – 18th December 2015:

Bora Bora is one of the most beautiful islands on earth, home to film stars, captains of industry and oligarchs, hotels with rooms on stilts in the sea, coral reefs and sun-drenched sands. And when we woke, looked out of our cabin windows or portholes, there it was in all its splendour. Zodiacs took us ashore to the main town of Vaitapu where we boarded buses for a tour of the island. The buses had been built on lorry chassis (le truck) with windows which remained open giving a cool breeze as we drove slowly around the coast road. Stops were made at various vantage points including Faanui Bay, the Faanui Marae, the island's biggest ancient temple where Polynesian gods and idols were worshipped long ago, and a wall of large sandstone and coral slabs could be seen. Bora Bora's involvement in World War II was marked by metal bunkers built by American forces who used the island as a military supply base. It had an oil depot, airstrip (the only international airport in French Polynesia until Faa'a in Tahiti was opened in 1960) seaplane base and defensive fortifications. It was officially closed on 2 June, 1946. Our tour passed some of the remnants of this occupation. On the landward side we had the twin peaks of Mt Pahia and Mt Otemanu (it marks the highest point of the island at 727m or 2,385ft) remnants of a long extinct volcano. Superb sea views over a huge lagoon were enjoyed from the Belvedere lookout while at Anau we had time to sample Matira Beach the most famous on Bora Bora. Our options after lunch included snorkelling from one of two Zodiac platforms close to the ship (a moray eel was seen by most who went), taking a trip back to Matira Beach for snorkelling lessons or swimming, or relaxing in Vaitapu town. Our departure from Bora Bora was equally exciting as the ship sailed into a beautiful sunset which illuminated the fast disappearing island.



Aitutaki, Cook Islands



Traditional sail boat



Royal Palace, Tongatapu Island

The Itinerary

Days 1 & 2 London to Fiji. Fly by scheduled indirect flight.

Day 3 Nadi, Fiji. Arrive this morning and transfer to our hotel for an overnight stay. The remainder of the afternoon is free to explore independently or enjoy the hotel's facilities as we acclimatise after our journey.

Day 4 Nadi, Fiji. After breakfast in the hotel either join a morning island tour or remain at the hotel and relax on the beach. After lunch we will transfer to the MS Caledonian Sky moored in Lautoka and sail this evening.

Day 5 Tavenui Island, Fiji. We have a choice of excursions this morning. The nature lovers can take a four-wheel drive to Dos Voeux Peak. At the summit we will be treated to fantastic views of Taveuni and across to Lake Tagimoucia. Here we will see the tropical plants, palms and rainforest and hope to spot spectacular birdlife such as orange-breasted doves, silktails, ferntails and parrots. Alternatively, join a walking trip to the Bouma Heritage Park to see some of the waterfalls and enjoy a swim. The view from the highest waterfall is spectacular. Our cultural tour will give the opportunity to witness lifestyles in a traditional Fijian village and see cooking demonstrations. In the afternoon we will head to one of the neighbouring islands for some snorkelling opportunities.

Day 6 Levuka & Leleuvia, Fiji. The island of Levuka and the town of Ovalau has a special place in Fijian history as it was here in 1874 that the Fiji islands were ceded to the British and also where in 1970 Fiji was declared independent again. The town is unlike any other Fijian town having retained the colonial buildings which made it the first Fijian site to be granted UNESCO status. Join a walking tour around Nasova village on the shores of the bay and visit the museum and Cession Monument, the site where Chief Cakobau signed the deed ceding Fiji to Great Britain. This afternoon we will relocate to Leleuvia where we can relax on the beach or join an organised snorkelling trip.

Day 7 Fulaga, Fiji. After a morning at sea we land on Fulaga, our last Fijian island and famous for its woodcarving and the making of large outrigger canoes. Over 100 tiny islands in the Fulaga Lagoon have been undercut into extraordinary mushroom shapes and the surrounding waters are tinged with striking colours by the dissolved limestone. On arrival we hope to meet with the village elder to welcome us to the island. We will use our Zodiacs to explore the rocks or finding a suitable beach to land for swimming, snorkelling or beachcombing.

Day 8 Nuku'alofa, Tonga. After a morning at sea we arrive into

Nuku'alofa the capital of Tonga during lunch. After clearing immigration formalities we will have a chance to explore this laidback town and the island of Tongatapu. Having never been colonised by Europeans we will experience traditional Polynesian culture alongside beautiful beaches and spectacular natural wonders. We will see the historical Captain Cook landing site from his 1777 voyage, explore the Royal Palace (Tonga retains the last monarchy in the Polynesia), and the famous Tongan blowholes, considered the most spectacular in the South Pacific.

Day 9 Ha'apai Islands, Tonga. Today we arrive at the Ha'apai group which consists of 62 islands comprising of lagoons, barrier reefs and active volcanoes. The islands have a rich maritime history with Abel Tasman being the first European to visit in 1643 whilst Captain James Cook visited twice in the 1770s. However, the most famous event was Mutiny of the HMS Bounty which occurred between the islands of Lifuka and Tofua. It was on the island of Tofua that Captain William Bligh landed after being cast off from the Bounty with limited provisions and nautical equipment. A hostile reception from the islanders meant they quickly fled to sea again. Tropical forests grow along gentle slopes here and at the centre of the island is the volcanic

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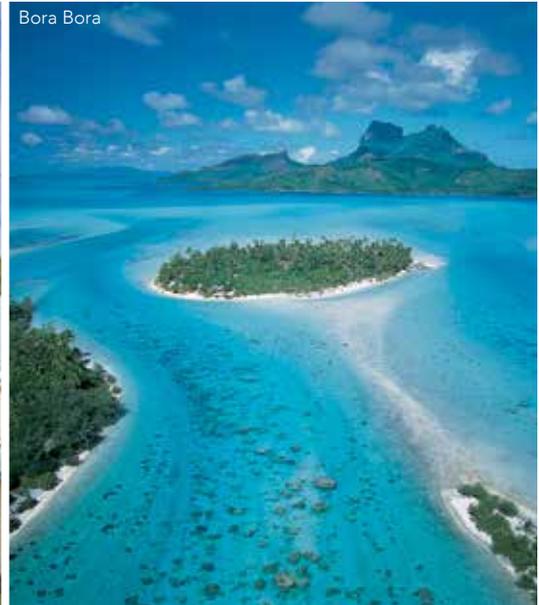
This expedition voyage tells the story of Polynesia and uncovers its history and legends as we sail through the South Seas and visit the captivating islands.

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Sacred Heart Church, Levuka, Fiji



Bora Bora

crater, with a clear blue lake at its base. During the day, depending on conditions, we hope to offer a hike on the slopes of the volcano through a spectacular forest full of birds, unique tree ferns and ironwood and the opportunity for a Zodiac cruise and snorkel.

Day 10 Vava'u Islands, Tonga.

Arrive over breakfast in the pretty port of Neiafu. Spend the morning independently exploring the town, maybe visit the local market or enjoy a drink in a harbour-side café. Over lunch we will reposition to one of the nearby islands and use our Zodiacs to find a suitable location to land and set up snorkelling activities. There are many different species of colourful tropical fish here and we hope to see the graceful black-and-yellow angelfish and curious clown fish on the surrounding reefs.

Day 11 Niue. Having crossed the international date line we use our "gained" day to spend an afternoon in Niue. Niue is one of the smallest independent nations on earth at just 260 square kilometres with a population of just 1200 people. Populated since the 10th century the first European to sight Niue was Captain Cook in 1774 but his attempts to land were refused by the inhabitants. Today we will visit the capital, Alofi Village, and stop at the Philatelic Bureau, where some of the world's most sought after stamps may be purchased. We will continue to Matapa Chasm, a secluded cleft in the sea cliffs, where we discover the perfect swimming hole.

Day 12 At Sea. Enjoy a day at sea, maybe join a lecture in the lounge or simply find a spot on deck and watch the world go by.

Day 13 Palmerston, Cook Islands. The engaging history of the William Masters family comes alive as we meet the descendants of this eccentric 19th century Englishman who took three native brides. We will be welcomed by the local officials before enjoying a walking tour with our local guides. Extremely fine handicrafts are made on this island and here the birdwatchers should catch sight of the red-tailed tropic birds. There will also be a chance to snorkel from the beach where large coral blocks team with goatfish, boxfish, groupers, stingray and turtles.

Day 14 Aitutaki, Cook Islands. This lovely lagoon is famous for its fascinating coral formations and bountiful brightly hued tropical fish. Choose this morning from an island drive which will explore the sleepy village of Arutanga including a visit to the oldest church in the Cook Islands. We will see the lush forest of Nikaupara and from the top of Mount Piraki will see the bunkers built during World War II. From the top of Maunga Pu we are treated to breathtaking views of the island and lagoon. Alternatively, you may wish to join our naturalists for a cruise and snorkel in the lagoon.

Day 15 At Sea. A relaxing day at sea as we continue our journey to our next island group of French Polynesia.

Day 16 Bora Bora, French Polynesia. One of the most stunning islands on the planet, Bora Bora's interior is crowned by majestic eroded volcanic formations and a distinctive black basaltic peak. A tour of the island will take you past colourful villages, archaeological sites and World War II relics. This afternoon explore independently or take the opportunity to snorkel in the clear waters.

Day 17 Raiatea & Taha'a, French Polynesia. Raiatea is recognised throughout Tahiti as its "Sacred Island" the cultural heart of all Tahiti Polynesia. Local Polynesian legends say Raiatea, formerly known as "Havai" was the island of origin of great voyaging canoes that took the people as far as Hawaii. This, the second largest Tahitian isle, was the

centre of religion and culture over 1000 years ago and still lends enchantment to ancient legends told to this day. This morning's island tour will include a visit to the Taputapuatea marae which dates back over 1000 years. This afternoon we sail over to the neighbouring island of Taha'a. With the rich aroma of vanilla lingering heavily in the air, Taha'a offers a glimpse of the traditional, tranquil life of the Tahitians.

Days 18 & 19, Papeete, Tahiti to London. Disembark this morning and enjoy an island tour and lunch before transferring to the airport for your scheduled indirect flight to London.

Day 20 London Heathrow. Arrive this morning.

PRICES PER PERSON

Based on double occupancy

BOOK EARLY & SAVE £500 PER PERSON			
Deck	Suite Category	Brochure Price	Special Offer Price
Castle	Standard Forward	£9095	£8595
Castle	Standard	£9295	£8795
Caledonian	Superior	£9495	£8995
Promenade	Premium	£9695	£9195
Bridge	Deluxe Balcony	£9995	£9495
Promenade	Premium Balcony	£10395	£9895
Promenade	Owners Corner Suite with balcony	£10595	£10095
Castle	Standard for sole use	£10695	£10195
Caledonian	Superior for sole use	£10895	£10395

Price Includes: Economy class scheduled air travel, overnight hotel accommodation in Fiji on bed and breakfast basis, 14 nights aboard the MS Caledonian Sky on a full board basis, house wine, beer and soft drinks with lunch and dinner, expedition team, shore excursions, gratuities, transfers, port taxes, airport taxes.

Not Included: Travel insurance, visas.

NB. Ports and itinerary are subject to change. Flight schedules are yet to be released at time of going to print and dates and timings may change on their release.



Tiki, Taveuni, Fiji

Passage to Polynesia & Beyond



A journey through the islands and atolls from Tahiti to Fiji with Rear Admiral John Lippiett
9th to 25th October 2017

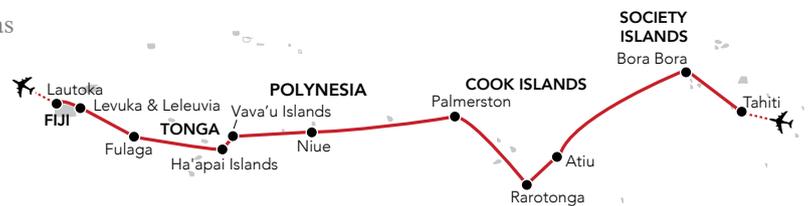
Join us on a leisurely passage through the South Seas to an area long associated with Captain Cook, Captain Bligh and the Bounty. We can promise you an unforgettable voyage to a corner of the world which has lured adventurers and romantics alike ever since Magellan first sailed to these waters in 1521. This comprehensive voyage explores the diverse cultures of the South Pacific, crossing the International Date Line and sailing between the mysterious islands of Polynesia and the Melanesian islands of Fiji.

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 beautiful beaches in the world and contrasting volcanic mountainous structures of lush, incomparable beauty. On the more remote islands, villages are still composed of thatched houses, set amongst the shade of the breadfruit and coconut trees. We begin our expedition in Papeete, Tahiti, the iconic island of the Pacific dream. Envision the evocative paintings of Paul Gauguin, whose images of exuberant outdoor settings with vivid lagoons and statuesque palms will become the backdrop for the voyage. From the Polynesian paradise of Tahiti and Bora Bora we travel to the Cook Islands and Tonga with visits to a number of the smaller islands such as Atiu, with only 560 residents, and uninhabited Tofua. Meet local villagers, learn about Polynesian culture and its many ancient rituals and experience a wide range of unique flora and fauna.

The only comfortable way to explore this intriguing region is by sea and we are fortunate in having one of the finest and best equipped expedition vessels in the world for our explorations. Helping us understand all the wonders we will encounter will be our expedition team who will accompany us ashore and enlighten us with their onboard talks.



Butterfly fish and stingray



Guest Speaker



Rear Admiral John Lippiett

John Lippiett had a 36 year career in the Royal Navy serving in a large number of ships from aircraft carriers to minesweepers and deployed to all of the world's operational theatres. He was second-in-command of the frigate HMS Ambuscade throughout the Falklands War, and his book "War and Peas; intimate letters from the Falklands War" was broadcast on BBC's Today programme for the 25th anniversary. John commanded three ships, a Frigate Squadron, and then the School of Maritime Warfare. On promotion to Rear Admiral, he flew his Flag at sea as Flag Officer Sea Training before serving in Naples as Chief of Staff of the NATO maritime forces in the Mediterranean. His final posting was as the Commandant of the Joint Services Command and Staff College. John retired and for nearly 13 years was the Chief Executive of the Mary Rose Trust, during which time he led the project to build the award-winning new museum and ensure Henry VIII's flagship is conserved and displayed for future generations. He has immersed himself in maritime history for many years, building on the extensive experiences of his two careers and gaining considerable attention as a speaker. His programme will include talks on the remarkable Polynesian seamen, Captain Cook and the colonial race for power as well as Captain Bligh and HMS Bounty.

What To Expect...

Flexibility is the key to an expedition cruise; sometimes the whole day's schedule will be changed to maximise your experience, something that would not be possible on a large cruise ship. Each day holds something new and below is an extract from the MS Caledonian Sky's ship's log from a previous visit to Palmerston. If you are new to expedition cruising, this extract should provide you with an idea of what to expect.

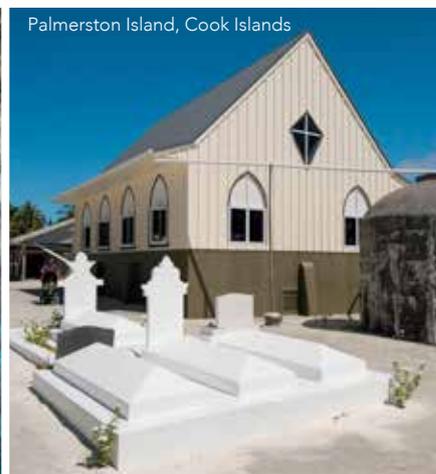
Palmerston, Cook Islands – 23rd December 2015:

What a wonderful surprise Palmerston proved to be.

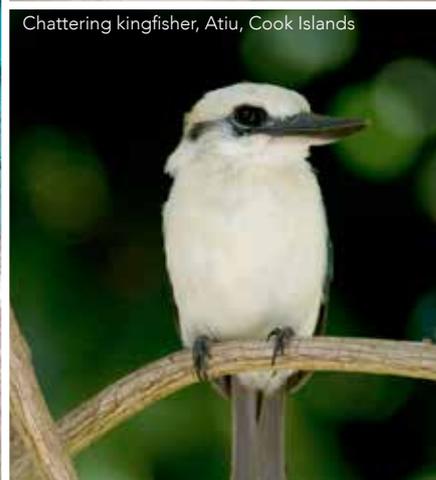
The island is delightful, as close to a paradise coral atoll as it is possible to get. The 60 residents have no form of transport other than small motorcycles so there is no need for roads, only sandy tracks. A welcoming group gave us coconuts to drink from. A minister conducted a service of welcome and the mayor gave a short speech before accepting materials for the school we had brought with us. Islanders staged a dance programme, largely performed by schoolchildren who took us off in small groups to see the village afterwards. We visited Lucky School, the solar farm which supplies the majority of the island's electricity, and chatted to islanders in their homes. Our time was our own and we gained a great impression of life which is devoid of most modern facilities such as television. Lunch was on board, although a few people chose to stay ashore. The Duke's Pool is a popular swimming spot which we descended upon in the afternoon. People enjoyed snorkelling, sunbathing, further exploration of the island or watching the Red-tailed tropicbirds and Great frigatebirds which drifted low over our heads. We left Palmerston with regret: it had been a taste of the simplest life imaginable, with sweet children who displayed a non-worldliness and innocence long lost in western society.



Swimming hole, Niue



Palmerston Island, Cook Islands



Chattering kingfisher, Atiu, Cook Islands

The Itinerary

Day 1 London to Tahiti. Fly by scheduled flight via Los Angeles.

Day 2 Tahiti. Arrive today and transfer to our hotel for an overnight stay. The remainder of the day is free to relax after and acclimatise.

Day 3 Tahiti. After breakfast in the hotel we will embark on a full day tour of Tahiti. We will start at "One Tree Hill", located on the east coast of the island offering excellent views over to the neighbouring island of Moorea before continuing to the Arahoho Blow Hole. This lava tube, designed by liquid lava flowing under cold and hard lava, has created a channel. When waves crash against the rocks and enter the channel the result is a powerful sea water geyser. We will enjoy lunch at a local restaurant before visiting the Museum of Tahiti And Her Islands. Later this afternoon we transfer to the MS Caledonian Sky and sail tonight.

Day 4 Bora Bora, French Polynesia. One of the most stunning islands on the planet,

Bora Bora's interior is crowned by majestic eroded volcanic formations and a distinctive black basaltic peak. A tour of the island will take you past colourful villages, archaeological sites and World War II relics. This afternoon explore independently or alternatively take the chance to swim from the beach or enjoy our first snorkelling opportunity in the clear waters.

Day 5 At Sea. Enjoy a day at sea as we sail to the Cook Islands.

Day 6 Atiu, Cook Islands. Our first stop in the Cook Islands is the small island of Atiu. With only 560 residents we will be guaranteed a special welcome. There will be the chance to join the local expert "Birdman George" on a walking tour to search for the Rarotonga monarch, chattering kingfisher, Cook Islands fruit dove and Atiu swiftlets. Alternatively, discover the island on a tour which will include James Cook's landing site from 1777, the coffee plantations and a visit to some of the local houses. After lunch on board there will be the chance to return to Atiu for a relaxing

afternoon exploring from the beach or maybe enjoy a taste of the local Tumunu, a traditional drink brewed from fermented oranges.

Day 7 Rarotonga, Cook Islands. Arrive this morning in Rarotonga, the hub of the Cook Islands where we have a morning to explore. Join the nature walk in the Takitumu Conservation area, a 155 hectare forested area in the interior of the island. Here we can look for some endemic birds such as the Rarotongan flycatcher, Pacific pigeon and fruit dove whilst walking in the beautiful scenery of the park. Alternatively, explore the history and culture of the island on a drive including the sacred marae, site of the seven canoes and local churches. We also see the inland plantations where locals use an agricultural system which dates back hundreds of years. Return to the ship for lunch and enjoy an afternoon at sea.

Day 8 Palmerston, Cook Islands. The engaging history of the William Masters family comes alive as we meet the descendants

of this eccentric 19th century Englishman who took three native brides. We will be welcomed by the local officials before enjoying a walk through the village. Extremely fine handicrafts are made on this island and here the birdwatchers could catch sight of the red-tailed tropic birds. This afternoon we will have a chance to swim or snorkel from the beach where large coral blocks team with goatfish, boxfish, groupers, stingray and turtles.

Day 9 At Sea. Relax on board during a day at sea as we cruise the Pacific Ocean.

Day 10 Niue. Niue is one of the smallest independent nations on earth at just 260 square kilometres with a population of just 1200 people. Populated since the 10th century the first European to sight Niue was Captain Cook in 1774 but his attempts to land were refused by the inhabitants. Today we will visit the capital, Alofi Village, and stop at the Philatelic Bureau, where some of the world's most sought after stamps may be purchased. We will continue to Matapa



Chasm, a secluded cleft in the sea cliffs, where we discover the perfect swimming hole. Return to the ship for lunch and an afternoon at sea.

Day 11 Vava'u Islands, Tonga.

After crossing the International Date Line (so it is now 20th October), we arrive this morning in the Vava'u islands part of the kingdom of Tonga and the pretty port of Neiafu. Spend the morning independently exploring the town, maybe visit the local market or enjoy a drink in a harbourside café. Over lunch we will reposition to one of the nearby islands and use our Zodiacs to find a suitable location to land and set up snorkelling activities. There are many different species of colourful tropical fish here and we hope to see the graceful black-and-yellow angelfish and curious clown fish on the surrounding reefs.

Day 12 Ha'apai Islands, Tonga.

Today we arrive at the Ha'apai group which consists of 62 islands comprising of lagoons, barrier reefs and active volcanoes. The islands have a rich maritime history with Abel Tasman being the first European to visit the islands in 1643 whilst Captain James Cook visited twice in the 1770s. However, the most famous event was Mutiny of the HMS Bounty which occurred between

the islands of Lifuka and Tofua. It was on the island of Tofua that Captain William Bligh landed after being cast off from the Bounty with limited provisions and nautical equipment. A hostile reception from the islanders meant they quickly fled to sea again. Tropical forests grow along gentle slopes here and at the centre of the island is the volcanic crater, with a clear blue lake at its base. During the morning we hope to offer a hike on the slopes of the volcano through a spectacular forest full of birds, unique tree ferns and ironwood or, depending on conditions, a Zodiac cruise and snorkel.

Day 13 Fulaga, Fiji.

Our first call at a Fijian island will be on Fulaga, famous for its woodcarving and the making of large outrigger canoes. Over 100 tiny islands in the Fulaga Lagoon have been undercut into extraordinary mushroom shapes and the surrounding waters are tinged with striking colours by the dissolved limestone. On arrival we hope to meet with the village elder to welcome us to the island before spending the morning using our Zodiacs to explore the rocks or find a suitable beach to land for swimming, snorkelling or beachcombing.

Day 14 Levuka & Leleuvia, Fiji.

The island of Levuka and the town of Ovalau has a special

place in Fijian history as it was here in 1874 that the Fiji islands were ceded to the British and also where in 1970 Fiji was declared independent again. The town unlike any other Fijian town having retained the colonial buildings which made it the first Fijian site to be granted UNESCO status. Join a walking tour around Nasova village on the shores of the bay and visit the museum and Cession Monument, the site where Chief Cakobau signed the deed ceding Fiji to Great Britain. This afternoon we will relocate to

Leleuvia where we can relax on the beach or join an organised snorkelling trip.

Day 15 Lautoka, Fiji to London.

Disembark this morning and transfer to the airport for your scheduled flight to London via Los Angeles. We cross the international date line during the flight.

Day 16 London. Arrive today.

PRICES PER PERSON

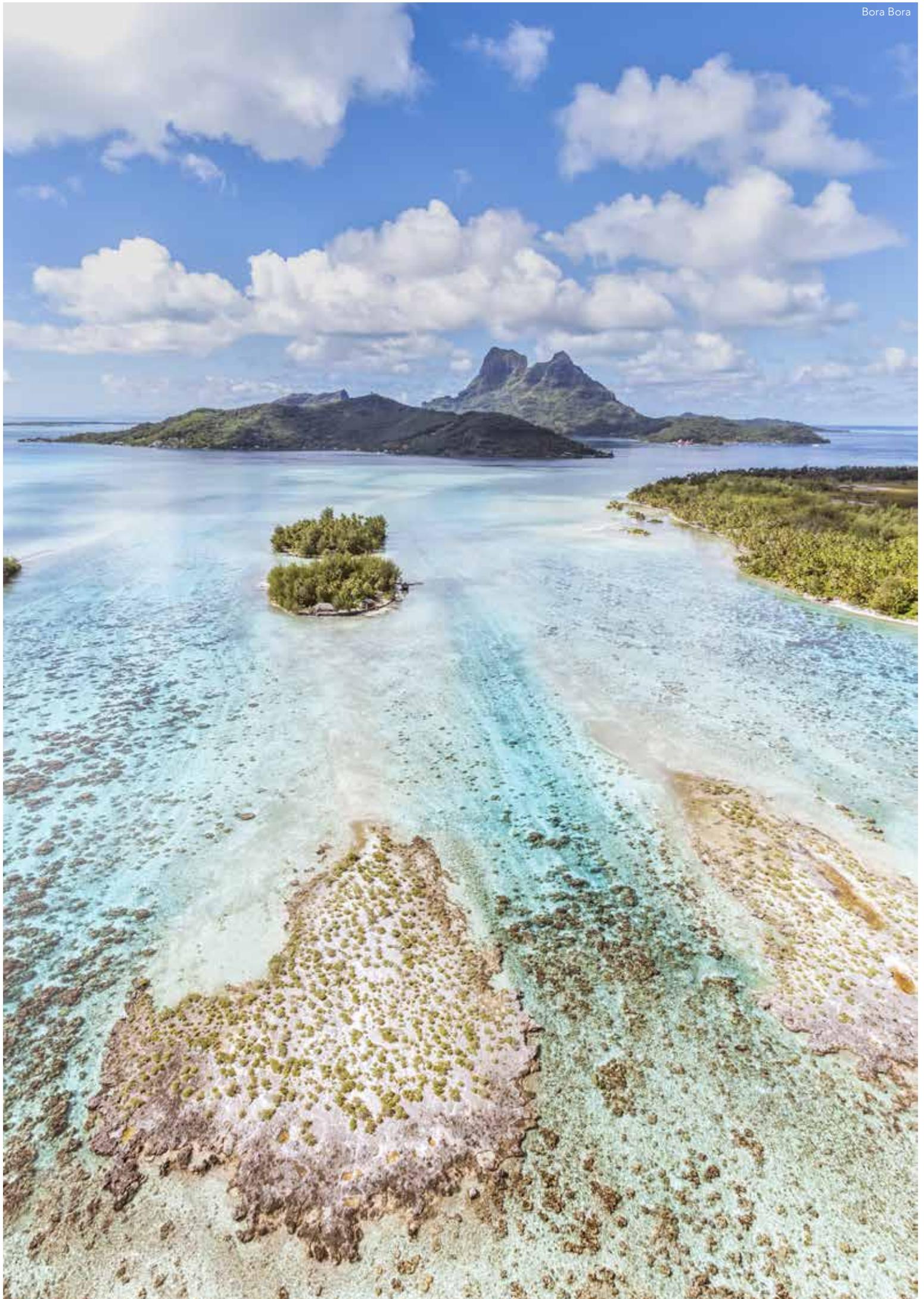
Based on double occupancy

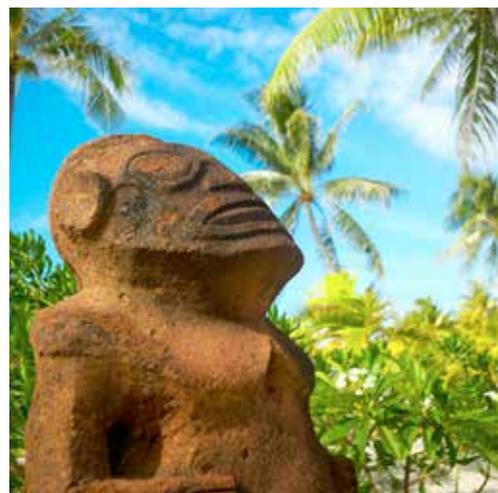
BOOK EARLY & SAVE £500 PER PERSON			
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Price Includes: Economy class scheduled air travel, overnight hotel accommodation in Tahiti on a bed and breakfast basis, 12 nights aboard the MS Caledonian Sky on a full board basis, house wine, beer and soft drinks with lunch and dinner, expedition team, shore excursions, gratuities, transfers, port taxes, airport taxes.

Not Included: Travel insurance, visas.

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These cruises visit out of the way destinations. You will be accompanied by an expedition team and some landings ashore will be made by Zodiac landing craft. Cruises such as this will appeal to the more adventurous and those who enjoy the natural world.

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All special offers are subject to availability. Our current booking conditions apply to all reservations and are available on request. Ports subject to change.
Cover image: Aitutaki, Cook Islands

