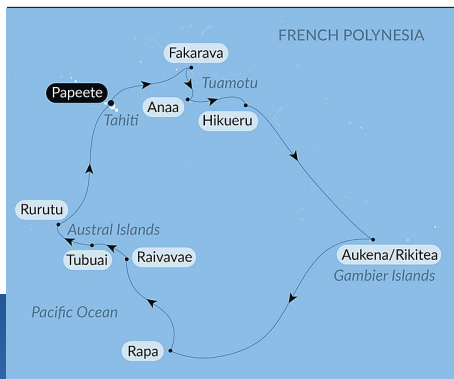


Secret Polynesia: Unexplored Tuamotu, the Gambier Islands and the Austral Islands

From **18/10/2026**
to **01/11/2026**

Ship: **Le Jacques Cartier**

From **Papeete, Tahiti Island**
to **Papeete, Tahiti Island**



At the edges of the world, set off on an all-new adventure discovering Polynesia's best-kept secrets. Far off the beaten path, **the shores of Tuamotu, the wild Gambier Islands and the Austral archipelago** will unveil their sovereign nature and insular culture, which is very much still alive. **Atolls just above the water, turquoise lagoons, fine sandy beaches and cliffs sculpted** by the ocean serve as a decor for the special ports of call and the activities designed hand-in-hand with the local communities. Sail from island to island, encountering their **unique traditions and fascinating ecosystems**.



Secret Polynesia: Unexplored Tuamotu, the Gambier Islands and the Austral Islands

YOUR STOPOVERS :

PAPEETE, TAHITI ISLAND

Embarkation 18/10/2026 from 16:00 to 17:00

Departure 18/10/2026 at 18:00

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.

FAKARAVA, TUAMOTU ISLANDS

Arrival 19/10/2026 early afternoon

Departure 19/10/2026 evening

Listed as a **UNESCO Biosphere Reserve**, **Fakarava's coral ellipsis** is a narrow stretch of land sitting on a crystal-clear sea. Travellers here are surprised by the immensity of the lagoon, whose colours evoke an infinite palette. The atoll, renowned for its pristine beaches and unspoiled nature, is also known for the Gombessa 2 and 4 expeditions, which focused on the study of camouflage groupers and reef sharks.

ANAA, TUAMOTU ISLANDS

Arrival 20/10/2026 early morning

Departure 20/10/2026 mid afternoon

All the beauty of Polynesia is concentrated in Anaa Atoll, somewhere in the waters of the Pacific. Here, the most beautiful shades of blue and green are on display to create a heavenly setting. For the inhabitants of the Tuamotu archipelago, Anaa Atoll is intrinsically associated with the raids conducted by the so-called **Parata** warriors of old. In 1983, the island was completely destroyed by a cyclone that left behind only the Saint-Etienne de Tematahoa church, which remains standing elegantly on the edge of the beach to this day, against a backdrop of coconut trees. Featuring moments of relaxation and a dive into the history of Polynesia, the stop at Anaa promises to be unforgettable.

HIKUERU

Arrival 21/10/2026 early morning

Departure 21/10/2026 midday

An isolated atoll in the Tuamotus, Hikueru's charm stems from the beauty of its landscapes and the authenticity of its inhabitants. Its crystal-clear lagoon, bordered by beaches of white sand and coral reefs, offers ideal conditions for scuba diving and snorkelling. On land, Polynesian songs, dances and handicrafts set the rhythm of daily life. Facing a calm horizon, explore the island at leisure, from a dugout canoe or by following the many paths.

AT SEA

Arrival 22/10/2026

Departure 22/10/2026

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.

AUKENA, GAMBIER ISLANDS

Arrival 23/10/2026 midday

Departure 23/10/2026 late evening

Located 5 kilometres southeast of Mangareva, **Aukena** is today the 4th-largest of the Gambier Islands in French Polynesia, with a population of around thirty inhabitants. This port of call will be an opportunity for you to dive into the past, to the era when Aukena was discovered by the sailor **James Wilson** in 1797. There are several remnants of this missionary period, such as the watchtower serving as a landmark on the southwest of the island or the Church of St. Raphael, constructed in 1839. These buildings nestling in the forest lead to sumptuous **white sand beaches** and **turquoise waters**. Take the time to explore this island in the Gambier archipelago, and get a taste of French Polynesia's gentle way of life.

RIKITEA, GAMBIER ISLANDS

Arrival 24/10/2026 early morning

Departure 24/10/2026 midday

Discover **Mangareva**, which means "floating mountain" in Polynesian. Located in the Gambier Islands, surrounded by a magnificent coral reef and blessed with generous vegetation, this island, **a cradle of Catholicism**, has exceptional cultural heritage, with many vestiges of religious buildings dating from the 19th century. Nestling in the heart of this historic site with idyllic landscapes, do not miss the small village of **Rikitea**, where one of Polynesia's wonders, **Saint Michael's Cathedral**, stands proudly, entirely built from coral and timber.

AT SEA

Arrival 25/10/2026

Departure 25/10/2026

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.

RAPA

Arrival 26/10/2026 midday

Departure 27/10/2026 midday

Wild and unspoilt Rapa is one of the best kept secrets of the Austral Islands. From majestic mountains to trails winding through lush forests and crystal-clear lagoons, everything here invites contemplation and exploration. In this mysterious land, Polynesian culture vibrates intensely to the rhythm of songs, dances and local traditions, and both the encounters and hikes immerse you in a timeless interlude.

RAIVAVAE, AUSTRAL ISLANDS

Arrival 28/10/2026 midday

Departure 28/10/2026 early evening

Situated 730 km to the south-east of Tahiti, **Raivavae** is part of the **Austral Islands**. This volcanic island surrounded by a vast emerald-coloured lagoon has fewer than 1,000 inhabitants for four villages and two roads – one running around the island and the other through it. It is an island with an original culture and a still untouched environment, known for making sewn dugout canoes that are still used today. Often described as one of the most beautiful islands in the Pacific, Raivavae comprises 28 islets where nest a multitude of seabirds. You will have the possibility of exploring the island during an enchanting ride aboard one of the island's rare 4-wheel drive vehicles.

TUBUAI, AUSTRAL ISLANDS

Arrival 29/10/2026 early morning

Departure 29/10/2026 late afternoon

Located in the **Austral Islands** in French Polynesia, 640 km south of Tahiti, **Tubuai** is a 45 km² volcanic island situated just south of the **Tropic of Capricorn**. Very well preserved, it is ringed by a 85 km² lagoon, one of the vastest in the **Austral Islands**. As it is rather shallow, it gives the ocean waters a distinctive shade of turquoise blue. Eight islets surround **Tubuai** and, with their beaches of fine soft sand, offer a landscape that is unique in **Polynesia**. You will love basking with your feet in the warm, clear water, or discovering an **exceptional underwater world** with a multitude of colourful tropical fish as you spend unforgettable moments snorkelling or diving.

RURUTU, AUSTRAL ISLANDS

Arrival 30/10/2026 early morning

Departure 30/10/2026 mid afternoon

Far from the traditional tourist circuits, you'll discover the wildest and most surprising parts of French Polynesia. In the heart of the Austral archipelago, over 500 km south-west of Tahiti, your ship will make a port of call at Rurutu, an elevated coral island of absolutely unique beauty. Carved with countless caves and surrounded by spectacular cliffs, this land of volcanic origin will reveal its mysterious and preserved landscapes to you. A real geological phenomenon, the troglodyte island also offers magnificent summits covered in lush vegetation that will delight hiking fans.

AT SEA

Arrival 31/10/2026

Departure 31/10/2026

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.

PAPEETE, TAHITI ISLAND

Arrival 01/11/2026

Disembarkation 01/11/2026 at 08:00

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.