

Polynesia & Easter Island

From **7/4/2021**
to **20/4/2021**

Ship: **LE SOLEAL**

From **Hanga Roa, Easter Island**
to **Papeete, Tahiti Island**

PONANT invites you to enjoy an unforgettable experience with our team of naturalists, discovering **atypical destinations** in the heart of the **Pacific**. From **Hanga Roa** to **Papeete**, you will sail aboard **Le Soléal** for an exceptional **all-new 14-day cruise**.

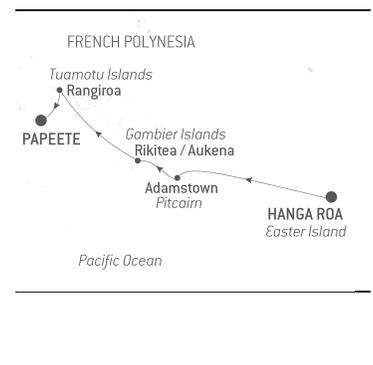
You will embark on the intriguing **Easter Island**, some 3,700 km away from the South American continent. You will discover its famous wooden tablets called "Rongorongo" and the **Moai**, or "walking statues", listed as a **UNESCO World Heritage Site**.

Clear waters, abundant flora and endemic fauna... you will sail to the **Pitcairn Islands**, an unspoiled subtropical environment whose capital, Adamstown, resembles a charming small village.

Far from the major maritime routes, the **Gambier Islands** are one of Polynesia's most unspoiled destinations. Encircled by a large ring of coral, its **multicoloured lagoons** are each more beautiful than the next and will offer you a breathtaking show.

Le Soléal will make a stop in the **small village of Rikitea**, where Saint Michael's Cathedral stands proudly, built entirely of coral and wood.

The last stop on this trip: **Rangiroa**, in the Tuamotus. This gigantic atoll with breathtaking **underwater scenery** is most known for the cultivation of its famous **black pearls**.





The information in this document is valid as of 1/6/2020

Polynesia & Easter Island

YOUR STOPOVERS :

HANGA ROA, EASTER ISLAND

Embarkation 7/4/2021 from 16h00 to 17h00

Departure 9/4/2021 at 19h00

The main town of legendary **Easter Island, Hanga Roa** is also its only urban area. Bathed by the Pacific Ocean, this picturesque Chilean town is an excellent base for exploring the island's spectacular treasures, particularly the **moai**, the famous enigmatic monumental statues. The Polynesian Hanga Roa culture and its traditional houses are a sheer delight. As evening approaches, wend your way to the charming fishing port where, weather permitting, you can admire the captivating light of the setting sun.

AT SEA

Arrival 10/4/2021

Departure 11/4/2021

During your day 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 day without a port of call will also be an opportunity to enjoy the conferences or shows proposed on board, 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.

SAILING ALONG DUCIE ISLAND

Arrival 12/4/2021

Departure 12/4/2021

This lost atoll in the heart of **the Pacific Ocean** merits special attention. It was discovered by the British Captain Edward Edwards in 1791. He named it after Baron Francis Ducie, a captain in the British navy. Located around 500 kilometres from **Pitcairn Island**, it is one of the most remote islands in the world. Very few ships have approached it, and it has apparently never been permanently inhabited. Sailing away from this **coral atoll**, you will be able to admire from afar the volcanic island of Pitcairn, whose summit culminates at 330 metres and which has around fifty inhabitants.

ADAMSTOWN, PITCAIRN ISLAND

Arrival 13/4/2021

Departure 13/4/2021

If you've got a taste for adventure and you love discovering wild, remote lands, you'll definitely be won over by the **Pitcairn islands**. This tiny British territory is mainly composed of atolls right in the middle of the Pacific Ocean. Rimmed by steep cliffs several hundreds of metres high, the volcanic **Pitcairn Island** is to be explored on foot. In **Adamstown**, the only village on this 5-square-kilometre land, you'll meet the 50 sole inhabitants of the entire archipelago. The call to Pitcairn is subject to weather and sea conditions.

AT SEA

Arrival 14/4/2021

Departure 14/4/2021

During your day 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 day without a port of call will also be an opportunity to enjoy the conferences or shows proposed on board, 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.

SAILING AROUND TEMOE ATOLL

Arrival 15/4/2021

Departure 15/4/2021

Sailing around the **Temoe Atoll** is breathtaking. Trapezoidal in shape, it is the most easterly atoll in French Polynesia. In administrative terms, it belongs to the Gambier Islands and has been uninhabited since 1838, when missionaries moved all the inhabitants to Mangareva. There are several ancient Polynesian remains and archaeologists are attempting to preserve the integrity of the **former heritage** of the atoll by faithfully rebuilding certain **coral monuments**. In the waters around the atoll, it is common to see shoals of tuna or sea bream following the coastlines: a unique and marvellous spectacle.

RIKITEA, GAMBIER ISLANDS

Arrival 15/4/2021

Departure 15/4/2021

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.

AUKENA, GAMBIER ISLANDS

Arrival 16/4/2021

Departure 16/4/2021

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.

AT SEA

Arrival 17/4/2021

Departure 18/4/2021

During your day 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 day without a port of call will also be an opportunity to enjoy the conferences or shows proposed on board, 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.

RANGIROA, TUAMOTU ISLANDS

Arrival 19/4/2021

Departure 19/4/2021

A secluded atoll in the Tuamotu Archipelago, **Rangiroa**, meaning "vast sky" in Polynesian, is very aptly named. The lagoon of the largest atoll in Polynesia is reminiscent of the heavens, imprisoned by hundreds of islets formed by sand that veers from immaculate white to pink. But the beauty of Rangiroa, classed by Captain Cousteau as **one of the most beautiful diving spots in the world**, is most evident in its underwater life: you will have the occasion of admiring all the richness of the site on a snorkeling tour or on a glass-bottom boat tour. Rangiroa is also the high seat of **Polynesian pearl culture**.

PAPEETE, TAHITI ISLAND

Arrival 20/4/2021 early morning

Disembarkation 20/4/2021 at 08h00

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.