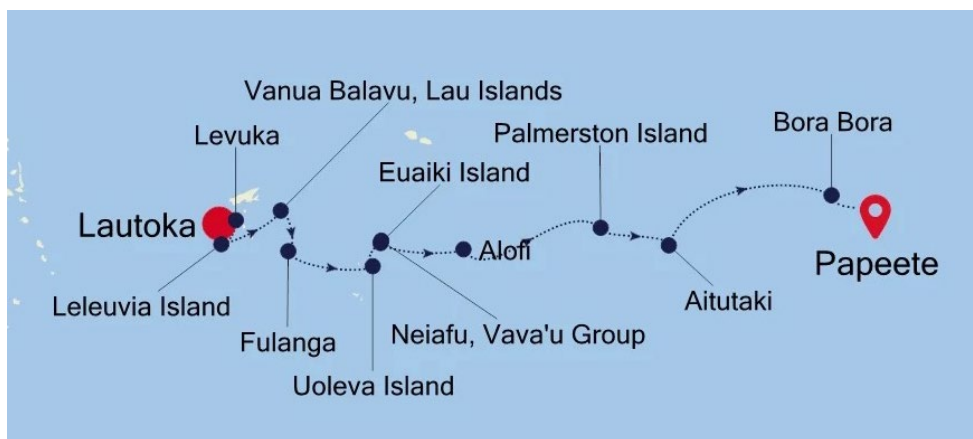


# SOUTH PACIFIC FIJI TO TAHITI



Forget everything you think you know about South Pacific travel. Because while this cruise goes to paradisiacal places such as Fiji, Tonga, the Cook Islands and of course lovely French Polynesia, it turns your preconceived ideas on their head. Far from just beach days, you'll be visiting rarely seen authentic villages, swimming with humpback whales, enjoying welcome ceremonies and hiking through verdant jungles.



**DATES:** 2022 – OCT 9

**DURATION:** 14 DAYS/13 NIGHTS

**EMBARK:** LAUTOKA, FIJI

**DISEMBARK:** PAPEETE, TAHITI

**SHIP:** Silver Explorer

**FROM:** \$11,070

After 10% Early Booking Savings

## ITINERARY

### DAY 1 – ARRIVE LAUTOKA

Transfer to your included hotel. Fiji's second-biggest settlement opens up a world of blissful beaches and turquoise seascapes, while its dense jungle lures the adventurous deep into its embrace. Sugar is Lautoka's main trade, but its botanical gardens are a sweet insight into the tropical plant life that thrives here - from pearl white lilies to tall, fragrant orchids.



### DAY 2 – LAUTOKA, FIJI - EMBARKATION

Enjoy some beach time before transferring to the ship.

### DAY 3 – LEVUKA, OVALAU; LELEUVIA, FIJI

Levuka highlights both the historical and natural aspects of Fiji. The quaint town of Levuka has the honor of having been Fiji's very first capital where King Cakobau reigned and where the deed of cession to Queen Victoria was signed in 1874. Many of the old buildings in the town have remained nearly unchanged since the late 1800s. Here one can find Fiji's first government school, the popular Ovalau Club, and the "Cession Stone" commemorating the signing of the Deed of Cession.

Leleuvia is a small low-lying island southeast of Ovalau with a length of barely 500 meters. An easily accessible reef with many colorful reef fish 10 meters off Leleuvia's beach invites exploration. Resident sea kraits are often seen resting ashore north of the small pier.

### DAY 4 – VANUA BALAVU, LAU ISLANDS, FIJI

Vanua Balavu, the third largest of the Lau Islands, is part of Fiji's Eastern Division. The island is protected by a barrier reef of some 130 kilometers in length. The enclosed lagoon area promises excellent snorkeling while the reef keeps larger ships at bay. Vanua Balavu geologically unique - it has volcanic origins in the south and uplifted coral in the north, even hot springs and limestone caves exist. As the Lau Group was once under

Tongan rule, with the Tongan chief Ma'afu residing in the village of Lomaloma, folkloric presentations feature Fijian and Tongan music and dance and have formed a special union.

### DAY 5 – FULANGA, FIJI

Fulanga has a large central lagoon with a 50-meter wide pass to the ocean on its northeastern side. The crescent-shaped raised limestone island is famous for its numerous islands, mushroom-shaped islets and many sandy beaches in the calm lagoon. Some 400 residents live in three small villages. Traditional crafts are still practiced by men and women. The weavers and carvers producing pandanus mats and wooden bowls for kava ceremonies which are not only valued on Fulangabut, are highly sought after in Suva.

### DAY 6 – UOLEVA ISLAND, TONGA

Uoleva is one of those classic postcard images of a south sea island. Clean white sand beaches, abundant coconut palms, and clear blue shallow waters with the visible shapes of coral bommies and reefs. The coral reef has a rich display of marine life to explore while snorkeling. The warm, clear waters promote coral growth which supports animal life like feather stars, fan worms, sponges and sea squirts. Fish of many shapes, colors and habits provide you with unlimited opportunities to watch their behaviors.

### DAY 7 - NEIAFU, EUAIKI ISLAND, TONGA

With a population of 6,000, Neiafu is the capital of the Vava'u Group and the second largest municipality in the Polynesian nation of Tonga (a 169-island archipelago in the South Pacific). The city is situated next to a deep-water harbor (Port of Refuge) on the south coast of Vava'u, the main island of the Vava'u archipelago in northern Tonga. The waters of this region are known for their clarity and beauty, and the area attracts many humpback whales between June and November. A popular destination in Neiafu is the 'Ene'io Botanical Garden, a bird sanctuary that promotes the survival of exotic and native bird species as well as supports and conserves a diverse array of plant life.

Eueiki has all that a typical tropical island in the South Pacific should have - white sand, coconut palms, a calm turquoise sea and coral reefs reaching to the shore. Take a walk from the island's beach to the shade of the island's interior. Listen for birds. The names of the Polynesian Triller and the Tongan Whistler (a Vava'u endemic) give away their identity. The 'coos' are made by fruit-eating Pacific Pigeons or Purple-capped Fruit-doves. Coral reefs provide great snorkeling, with clear



waters giving excellent views of the diverse corals and fish. Small reef fish linger on the reef, none more so than the anemonefish. Small groups of these orange, white, and sometimes black, banded fish find protection amongst the tentacles of sea anemones. Anemonefish are nicknamed Nemos after the *Finding Nemo* movie.

#### **DAY 8 – CROSS INTERNATIONAL DATELINE – GAIN A DAY – ALOFI, NIUE**

Alofi is the capital of Niue island, or “The Rock” as it is known to its inhabitants. The island has a population of only around 600 inhabitants, giving it the modest title of being the second smallest capital “city” in the world. Niue has a distinctive beauty all its own. Think less of the sweeping, romantic beaches for which Polynesia is famous and more sheltered rocky coves, jewel-like reef pools, headlands, tropical forest, coconut plantations and neat, colorful villages scattered throughout the island. The crystal-clear waters and limestone caves of beautiful Alofi Bay offer spectacular snorkeling opportunities.



#### **DAY 9 – DAY AT SEA**

#### **DAYS 10 – PALMERSTON, COOK ISLANDS**

The low-lying atoll of Palmerston is inhabited by three families, all descendants of William Marsters (1831-1899). Members of the community are known to greet visitors and guide small boats and Zodiacs into the lagoon through a maze of coral reef to reach the only inhabited islet. Once ashore, the whole community generally turns out to meet visitors as it is a rare occurrence. In the lagoon’s waters it is possible to find colorful reef-fish, sea cucumbers, rays, and sea turtles. Overhead there is birdlife including tropicbirds, boobies, noddies, frigatebirds and terns.

#### **DAY 11 – AITUTAKI, COOK ISLANDS**

Aitutaki: unbelievable, idyllic and unimaginable. There are simply not enough superlatives to describe quite how amazing Aitutaki is. Brought to light in 1779 by



Captain Bligh, the Mutiny on the Bounty meant that Aitutaki has something of a bloodthirsty history. While European missionaries eventually settled on the island in the 19th century, the island’s Polynesian history dates to around 900 AD. The island is part of the Cook Islands, one of the most secluded and romantic archipelagos in the world. With its powder white sand, warm turquoise waters and a reef that completely encompasses a large turquoise lagoon, Aitutaki is considered one of the most spectacular diving and snorkeling destinations in the world.

#### **DAY 12– DAY AT SEA**

#### **DAY 13 – BORA BORA, FRENCH POLYNESIA**

The first time viewing of Bora Bora still defies belief. This small tropical hideaway in the heart of the South Pacific has been topping travel wish lists for years. Long considered the realm of honeymooners – spectacularly romantic sunsets are a specialty – Bora Bora is not just for wandering with your love. Although little is known of the history of the island, it is known that Bora Bora was called Vava’u in ancient times. This supports belief that the island was colonized by Tongans prior to French annex in 1888.

#### **DAY 14 – PAPEETE, TAHITI, FRENCH POLYNESIA**

Papeete is the center of the tropical paradise of French Polynesia, where islands fringed with gorgeous beaches and turquoise ocean await to soothe the soul. This spirited city is the capital of French Polynesia, and serves as a superb base for onward exploration of Tahiti – an island of breathtaking landscapes and oceanic vistas. Relax and settle into the intoxicating rhythm of life in this Polynesian paradise.

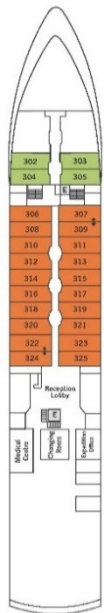
#### **Transfer to airport or hotel.**

Depart for home, plan to stay a day or two, or travel on to other areas of French Polynesia.

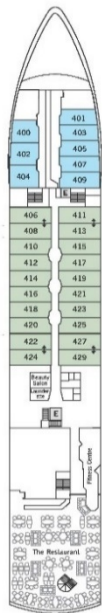
**Pre- and post-cruise programs are available.**



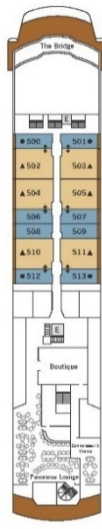
SILVER EXPLORER – Deck Plans



**DECK 3**  
Reception Desk  
Medical Centre  
Changing Room  
Expedition Office



**DECK 4**  
Beauty Salon  
Launderette  
Fitness Centre  
The Restaurant



**DECK 5**  
The Bridge  
Boutique  
Connoisseur's Corner  
Panorama Lounge



**DECK 6**  
Tor's Observation Library  
Explorer Lounge  
Zagara Spa  
The Grill



**DECK 7**  
Viewing Deck



**SUITE CATEGORIES**

- Owner's Suite . . . . . ●
- Grand Suite . . . . . ●
- Silver Suite . . . . . ●
- Medallion Suite . . . . . ●
- Veranda Suite . . . . . ●
- Vista Suite . . . . . ●
- View Suite . . . . . ●
- Explorer Suite . . . . . ●
- Adventurer Suite . . . . . ●

**SPECIFICATIONS**

- T Lloyd's register . . . . .
- Ice-class rating . . . . . 1A
- Crew . . . . . 118
- Officers . . . . . International
- Guests . . . . . 144
- Tonnage . . . . . 6,072
- Length . . . . . 354 Feet/107.9 Metres
- Width . . . . . 52 Feet/15.8 Metres
- Speed . . . . . 14 Knots
- Passenger Decks . . . . . 5
- 3rd Guest Capacity . . . . . ▲
- Queen beds . . . . . ●
- Connecting suites . . . . . ↓
- 702/704, 703/705, 500/502, 501/503, 504/506, 505/507, 510/512, 511/513, 307/309, 324/322, 406/408, 411/413, 422/424, 427/429
- Refurbished . . . . . 2017
- Registry . . . . . Bahamas

Suite diagrams shown are for illustration purposes only and may vary from actual square footage. Please refer to suite specifications for square footage.

**2022 RATES: PER PERSON – DOUBLE – ALL INCLUSIVE\***

SUITE	10% Early Booking Savings
Adventure – Deck 3	\$11,070
Explorer – Deck 4	\$11,430
View – Deck 3	\$12,150
Vista – Deck 4	\$12,780
Veranda – Deck 5	\$17,370
Medallion – Deck 7	\$ WL
Silver – Deck 5	\$21,600
Grand – Deck 7	\$22,680
Owner's – Deck 7	\$26,190



**Reservations & Information**  
**1-855-EXPLOR1 (397-5671)**  
 Email - [info@explorcruises.com](mailto:info@explorcruises.com)  
[www.explorcruises.com](http://www.explorcruises.com)

\*Port fees and taxes; gratuities to crew; open bar throughout ship; all excursions; team of Expedition leaders and guides. Economy air fare, or \$1500 per person credit; one night hotel before the cruise; transfers; guided zodiac, sea and land tours.