

See the Total Solar Eclipse July 2, 2019!

Tahiti Eclipse 2019

Come Explore with The Planetary Society! June 25-July 4, 2019
With optional Bora Bora Extension to July 7th

Dear Members & Friends:

We invite you to explore **Tahiti** with us in 2019 and see the **Total Solar Eclipse July 2, 2019**.

Captain Cook and Robert Louis Stephenson fell in love with Tahiti for good reason. It is really one of the most beautiful places on earth, with jagged volcanic peaks, fringing coral reefs, fascinating cultural sites, and a bounty of coral and tropical fish.

During this Tahiti Eclipse adventure, **we will discover the magic of French Polynesia and see the Total Solar Eclipse from our chartered aircraft near the remote Gambier Islands.**

Our trip will begin with the legendary island of **Tahiti**, the biggest island in the region. This will include **Point Venus** where Captain Cook first landed to observe the Transit of Venus in 1769.

The next day we will take a ferry from **Papeete** to **Moorea**, certainly one of the most spectacular islands in the world. Here we will visit the **UC-Berkeley Gump Research Station**, take a walk through an ancient village site, and enjoy the coral reef.

A special highlight will be joining



Dr. Michael Poole to learn about the spinner dolphins.

After we explore the high islands of Tahiti and Moorea, we will fly to the remote **Gambier Islands**, our staging ground to see the **Total Eclipse** the next day. The Gambier Islands are a marine wonderland of coral reefs, exquisite islands, and a hardy Polynesian people who have learned to exist in this ruggedly beautiful environment.

We will be hosted by the villagers, and have

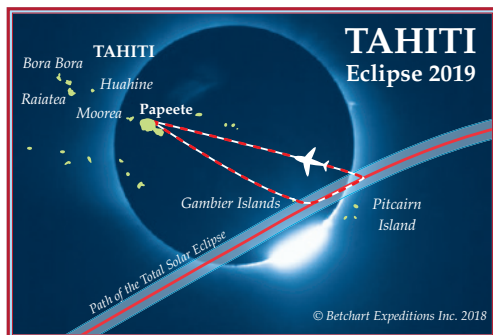
accommodations in the school, meeting house, or gymnasium (there are no hotels on the island). This will create a house party atmosphere which will be a highlight of our trip! (In 2010, we saw the Tahiti Eclipse at Anaa atoll hosted by the local people, and it was the trip of a lifetime!)

On the day of the Total Solar Eclipse, we will board our charter aircraft and fly to the centerline of Totality and follow along it's path! This will be a wonderful adventure with shared viewing out the airplane windows. We did this in Iceland in 2015, and it was a wonderful experience!

We hope you will join us to explore Tahiti and see the 2019 Total Solar Eclipse! Space is limited, so please let us know right away.

Best regards,

Bill Nye
The Science Guy®
CEO



Itinerary

Day 1 Depart Los Angeles for Papeete, Tahiti

Expedition members depart Los Angeles on a nonstop flight to Papeete, Tahiti, arriving around 9:30 pm. Transfer to the *Tahiti Pearl Beach Resort* (2 nights).

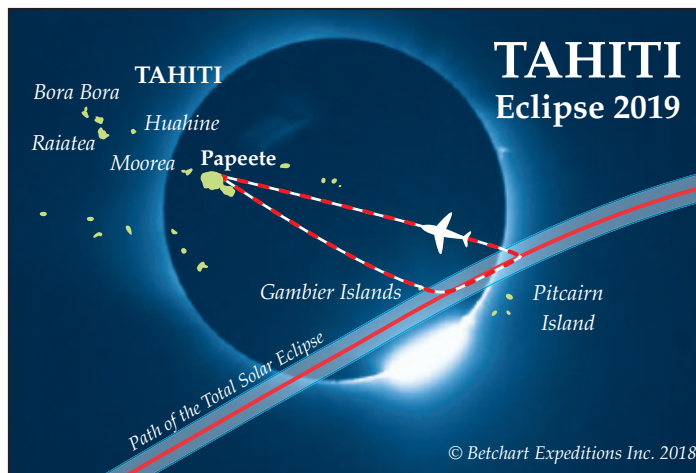
Day 2 Tahiti

We will begin to discover the magic of French Polynesia today as we explore the island of Tahiti. Our first stop will be Point Venus, where Tahitians and Europeans met for the first time in 1767, and Captain Cook landed two years later to observe the Transit of Venus on June 3, 1769. This was also the site where the *Bounty* anchored on its fated voyage and a young Charles Darwin came here on board *M/V Beagle* in late 1835. Once the world learned about Tahiti it attracted a bevy of followers, notably artist Paul Gauguin and writer Robert Louis Stevenson.

After Point Venus, we will circle around the island of Tahiti, seeing the beaches, villages, and learning about modern life on Tahiti and its future in a rapidly changing world. At the Musee des Isles, we'll see excellent exhibits on volcanic geology and other aspects of French Polynesia. Welcome dinner. B,D

Day 3 Moorea & Opunohu Valley

Following breakfast, we will transfer to the wharf for the ferry to the island of Moorea. During our 30-minute ferry trip, we will draw ever closer to this spectacular, rugged volcanic island. At the fringing coral reef, we will motor through one of the "passes" in the reef to the Vaiare ferry terminal and transfer to the *Kaveka Hotel*



Bungalows (3 nights) on Cook's Bay. This afternoon we will take a trip into the Opunohu Valley to explore an ancient Polynesian village and enjoy the incredible vistas from the Belvedere Lookout over the island of Moorea. The Opunohu Valley was settled in the 7th century AD and by the time Captain Cook visited Moorea in 1777 it may have had a population of 8,000. Archaeologists have been studying this valley for the last 40 years. We will also discuss plant communities and look for Moorea's two endemic birds. Enjoy a cocktail hour talk and dinner. (B,L,D)

Day 4 Spinner Dolphins & Barbecue on Motu

Today we will discover the marine paradise which rings the island of Moorea. We will join biologist Dr. Michael Poole or one of his assistants to learn about his ecotourism and research project on wild, free-ranging dolphins since 1987. Spinner dolphins, rough-toothed dolphins, humpback whales, and pilot whales can be seen around Moorea. Spinner dolphins regularly come through the passes to the inside of the reef. With a bit of luck, we may be entertained by schools of acrobatic dolphins, as we learn about their life and habits. We cannot swim with the dolphins, but they are seen 95% of the time! In the early afternoon, we will head for an offshore "motu" (small reef island) for a beach barbecue and afternoon of snorkeling. We'll see a great variety of fish and coral here in shallow crystalline water with idyllic views of Moorea. (B,L)

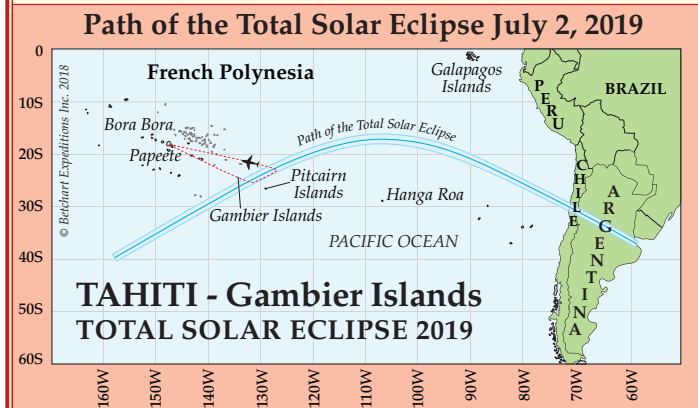
Day 5 Research in Paradise & Kellum Estate

This morning we will have a special excursion to two notable locations. The UC Berkeley Gump Research Station is one of the world's finest tropical ecology research stations and the only US field station in the South Pacific. We will have a short presentation on its fascinating research projects. At the station's outreach site, the Atitia



The Total Solar Eclipse - July 2, 2019

A Total Solar Eclipse takes place when the Sun, Moon, and Earth are perfectly aligned and the Moon is the right distance from Earth. When the Moon passes in front of the Sun, it will cast a shadow on a portion of the Earth. When the Moon completely covers the Sun, we will see a Total Solar Eclipse. The moving shadow of the Moon on Earth creates the Eclipse path. The duration of Totality for this Eclipse east of the Gambier Islands will be more than 3 minutes.



Cultural Center, we will learn about the Polynesian community educational programs offered there. We will then drive around Cook's Bay to Opunohu Bay and explore the gardens of the Kellum Estate. We will also have time for optional activities, from snorkeling to kayaking, visits to pearl shops, and more! (B,D)

Day 6 Moorea to Papeete

This morning, you will have the opportunity to hear the extraordinary singing at a Tahitian church service or spend the morning at leisure for swimming, kayaking, or other marine activities. After lunch, depart to the ferry terminal to catch the ferry to Papeete and the *Tahiti Pearl Beach Resort*. A lecture on the Total Solar Eclipse will help us prepare for our Eclipse flightseeing adventure to the Gambier Islands. (B)

Day 7 Papeete to Mangareva, Gambier Islands

We will transfer to the airport this morning for our charter flight to the Gambier Islands, arriving in the early afternoon. We will meet our island hosts, and then enjoy a welcome lunch. In the afternoon enjoy an introduction to life in this remote island paradise. We will tour the village with our local hosts to learn how people live in these remote and rugged islands. Where do they get their electricity? Where do the children go to school? What sort

of work do they do here? All of these questions and more will be discussed as we explore the village and meet local people. Enjoy a festive dance program and dinner put on by our Polynesian hosts this evening. (B,L,D)



Day 8 Gambier Islands & Total Solar Eclipse

Early today we will fly into the path of the Total Solar Eclipse. The Eclipse is over the South Pacific east of Gambier. Our charter plane will fly to the zone of Totality! We will first have a dramatic view of the Gambier Islands from the air and then see First Contact of the Eclipse and then Totality. We will watch with anticipation as the Sun is slowly covered by the Moon. Everyone will have protective solar glasses to watch the Eclipse safely right out your windows. It will be a great adventure unlike anything imaginable...from full sun as the Eclipse starts, to the shadow of the Moon starting to cover the face of the Sun, and then Totality covering it (all while we are in flight!).

You will share viewing out the plane windows with your seat mates, and swap seats mid-flight. A cooperative spirit and sense of humor will allow good viewing for all.

We will then return to Gambier, and continue our flight to Papeete and the *Tahiti Pearl Beach Resort*. (B, L, D)

Days 9/10 Fly to Los Angeles or Begin Bora Bora Extension

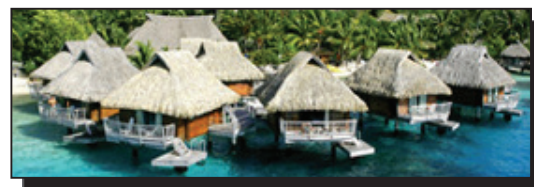
Passengers returning to the USA will have Day 9 at leisure in Papeete for personal interests. Then transfer to the airport for your return flight that evening. Arrive on the morning of Day 10. (B)

Bora Bora Extension - July 3-7

On July 3 fly to this island paradise! As you fly into Bora Bora you will see the stunning volcanic peaks for which the island is renowned, surrounded by a crystal clear lagoon and barrier reef! It is breathtaking (and has been featured in many films!). We will then transfer to the *Maitai Polynesia Bora Bora Resort (3 nights)*.

Your time will be your own on Bora Bora, to choose from the array of delightful opportunities, from swimming with the rays or sharks, to kayaking, island tours, biking, or loafing! Bora Bora is renowned for a reason! Come see why!

On July 6, fly back to Papeete and Los Angeles, arriving mid-morning on July 7.



Reservations

#1550

Yes! I/we want to join the **Tahiti Eclipse 2019 Expedition, June 25 - July 4, 2019** offered by **The Planetary Society**. Please reserve _____ space(s). As a deposit, I/we enclose a check for \$_____ (\$1,000 per person) for Tahiti and \$_____ (\$500 per person) for the Bora Bora Extension payable to Betchart Expeditions Inc. Trust Account.

Name(s) _____ Age ____ Sex ____
 _____ Age ____ Sex ____

Address _____

City _____ State ____ Zip _____

Phone: H(____) _____ C(____) _____

Email address: _____

Membership: Planetary Society AAAS Sigma Xi ACS

Accommodations Preference:

___ Twin ___ Single ___ Twin Share ___ with a friend or
 ___ Nonsmoker ___ Smoker ___ assign a roommate

On Bora Bora Extension: ___ Garden View (\$795 pp share)
 ___ Ocean View (\$995 pp share)
 ___ Beach Bungalow (\$1,295 pp share)
 ___ Overwater (\$1,595 pp share)

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

**Please Mail To: Tahiti Eclipse 2019
 Betchart Expeditions Inc.
 17050 Montebello Road
 Cupertino, CA 95014-5345**

Costs & Conditions

Expedition Fee: \$5,995 per person twin share + air fare of \$1,795 from Los Angeles International Airport to Papeete, RT + \$1,995 per person air charter flights Papeete/Gambier, RT.

Single Supplement: We encourage all singles to bring a roommate. Singles are available (except on Gambier) for \$895 per person.

Expedition Fee Includes: Group transfers; transportation; activities as indicated; accommodations; most meals; leadership by an excellent naturalist and local guest experts; administration.

Expedition Fee Does Not Include: International air fare or charter flights (quoted separately); independent transfers; some meals or optional excursions; tips; beverages at meals; alcoholic beverages, snacks, sodas, bottled water, laundry, or personal expenses.

What to Expect: This expedition is for the travel enthusiast who would like to explore Tahiti, Moorea, and the remote Gambier Islands to discover the heritage of Polynesia and see the Total Solar Eclipse July 2, 2019. Led by an excellent naturalist, explore villages and cultural sites on Moorea, snorkel, and discover the delights of this South Pacific paradise. There will be a barbecue on a remote motu (island on the fringing reef), a traditional Polynesian feast. We'll have accommodations one night in a Polynesian village. Typically, it will be in the 80's, with balmy weather. There is a high possibility of clear skies, but there is a slight chance the Eclipse could be obscured by clouds. (No smoking in buses, on flights, or at meals.)

Accommodations: Are in excellent hotels in Papeete and on the island of Moorea, twin share with private bathroom. On Moorea, most of us will be accommodated in Lanai or Garden Bungalows. Beach and Lagoon bungalows are a supplement of \$300 per person.

There are no hotel accommodations on the remote Gambier Islands where we will stay to see the Eclipse. We have been invited by the villagers to stay in their best available accommodations (in the school, the meeting house or gymnasium). We will have a house party with mattresses on floor mats, meals cooked by the villagers, and an unbelievable opportunity to become acquainted with these warm and generous Polynesian people and to see the Total Solar Eclipse.

Air Fare & Airline Ticketing: Group flights from Los Angeles are on Air Tahiti Nui to Papeete. The in-tour charter flights to Gambier and return are on Air Tahiti. AIR FARES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE.

Optional Bora Bora Extension: Includes transfers, accommodations twin share 3 nights with breakfast, and a chance to explore this paradise. You book excursions on arrival. Air fare \$495 additional. Following pricing is per person share. (Beach and Overwater bungalows include dinner.)

__ Garden View (\$795 pp) __ Beach Bungalow (\$1,295 pp)
__ Ocean View (\$995 pp) __ Overwater (\$1,595 pp)

For Reservations

Please mail the completed reservation form with a deposit check for \$1,000 per person + \$500 pp for Bora Bora to:

Betchart Expeditions Inc.

17050 Montebello Road, Cupertino, CA 95014-5435

Telephone (800) 252-4910 or (408) 252-4910

Fax: (408) 252-1444

Email: betcharttaunya@gmail.com

On the Web: www.betchartexpeditions.com

Final payment is due 120 days before departure (February 15, 2019)

Responsibility: A statement of responsibility is available upon request.

Questions?
Please call **Taunya DeYoung,**
Betchart Expeditions Inc.

phone: (800) 252-4910
or (408) 252-4910

Email: betcharttaunya@gmail.com

Cancellations & Refunds:

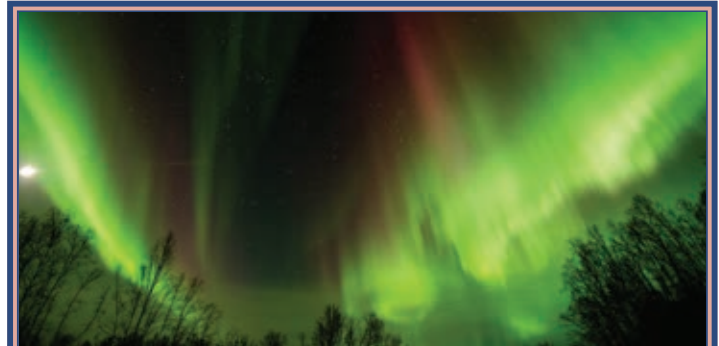
The initial deposit is refundable up to 120 days before departure, less a handling fee of \$250 per person. There is no refund for any cancellation within 120 days of departure. Trip cancellation insurance will be offered. No refunds are made for unused services.



Leadership

Leading this expedition will be **Bob Nansen**. Bob has led expeditions for The Planetary Society and Betchart to see about a dozen Annular or Total Solar Eclipses from South Africa in 2002 to Iceland in 2003 and 2015, Tahiti 2010, Australia 2012, Indonesia 2016, and the Grand Tetons 2017.

The cultural heritage of the South Pacific has long been of interest to Bob, as well as the marine life, birds, natural world, and the southern skies. He looks forward to sharing the delights of Tahiti and the Eclipse with you. Joining Bob will be a representative of the Planetary Society and local guest experts.



Alaska Aurora Borealis March 7-13, 2019!

Come discover the great beauty of Alaska in winter, and see the greatest light show on earth! Also see Alaskan wildlife in winter near Seward, and then take the train from Talkeetna to Fairbanks, passing lofty 20,310 foot Denali (Mt. McKinley) en route. See the Ice Festival in Fairbanks and learn about the Aurora at the Geophysical Institute. Watch a local sled dog team, and see the Aurora Borealis dance across the night sky. \$2,995 pp twin + air.

For a detailed brochure, call (800) 252-4910