Leadership

Leading the expedition will be Bob Nansen. Bob is an excellent naturalist and expedition leader for Betchart Expeditions Inc., from Alaska to Antarctica, Tahiti to Australia. He has had a long and successful career as a field biologist and as Field Operations Coordinator for Betchart Expeditions Inc. He graduated from San Jose State University in biology and then headed to the Galapagos Islands where he helped set up the first trails in Galapagos National Park and worked as a naturalist guide.

Bob has led trips for Betchart from Fiji to Australia, Hawaii to New Zealand. The cultural heritage of the South Pacific in Fiji, Tahiti, and New Zealand has long been of interest, as well as the marine life, birds, and natural world. He has a special interest in the southern skies. Bob looks forward to sharing the delights of Tahiti with you.

Overview

Discover the magic of Polynesia on this extraordinary voyage in Tahiti and the Society Islands! We will travel on board the 4-masted tall ship Star Flyer, a true sailing yacht, and one of the largest sailing yachts in the world.

Many have said Tahiti is the most alluring destination on Earth. It is breathtaking! Idyllic, picturesque forested isles, surrounded by turquoise waters lie before us and the amazing clipper ship, Star Flyer, awaits our arrival!

On this 8-day, 7-night adventure, we will explore natural and cultural sites in Tahiti and the legendary Society Islands. There will be opportunities to discover ancient Polynesian archaeological sites, to walk on forested mountain trails, meet villagers, amble through towns, bike on the islands, and discover the underwater world while snorkeling and swimming.

Our itinerary will include islands of renown in the archipelago—Moorea, Bora Bora, Huahine, Taha’a and Raiatea. We will see the most important Polynesian archaeological sites in Tahiti, explore a vanilla plantation, learn about pearl farming, watch spinner dolphins at play, learn about the Tahitian cultural heritage and delight in the wonderful atmosphere as we explore each island.

Please join us as we discover the magical isles of Robert Louis Stevenson, Paul Gauguin, Captain Cook, and botanist Joseph Banks!
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Day 1 — Depart Los Angeles for Papeete, Tahiti.

Itinerary

Day 2 — Huahine, Society Islands. Normally he was a no-nonsense guy, but Captain Cook fell in love with Tahiti. When he and his crew arrived in Matavai Bay in 1769, they found an untouched Eden. But is was the glowing tales of French explorer Comte Antoine de Bougainville that forever perpetuated the image of Tahiti as a voluptuous paradise of nature, attracting a bevy of followers, notably artist Paul Gauguin and writer Robert Louis Stevenson.

Today we will explore Huahine. A laid back haven for surfers, ex-patriots, and writers. After a morning spent hugging the reefs offshore, our yacht will anchor in Cook’s Bay and the sunset view of Bora Bora in the distance will captivate you.

Day 5 — Bora Bora, Ev. You have never been there, but most people think you have been here. This is where James Currey was stationed as a young naval officer, which later inspired him to write Tales of the South Pacific.

On Bora Bora, you’renot only rusting WWII gun batteries hidden in the jungle-choked hillsides, and then quench your thirst at a bar called Bloomy Mary’s. In this tiny European town, you can get your fill of local flavor and colonialism for place for fierce war parties to other islands. Today, the peaceful lagoon is a favorite snorkeling place. We will join an excursion where you can glide in a glass-bottomed boat to see the colorful marine life layers of coral and fish. The sting rays will glide around us in an effortless ballet.

Day 6 — Cook Bay, Moorea, Society Islands. Moorea is favored by yachties because its beauty is a vision of paradise that takes your breath away. This was the real-life site of Michener’s longed-for “special island.” Tahitians, too, hold Moorea in high regard. The main island is the Cook’s Bay and Opunohu Bay, with a wonderful reef offshore. Our yacht will anchor in Cook’s Bay today. You may join an optional side trip to “Tahiti’s other island,” Moorea’s deep valleys and mountains and reach the domain of Opunohu, with views from Leeward Point. Return via the Agricultural school which welcomes students from throughout the islands. Optional activities are available for you after our excursion.

Day 7 — Opunohu Bay, Society Islands. Today we will anchor in Opunohu Bay and enjoy an exploration of this marvelous paradise. We’ll join hooking, jetting, and paddling. On our way to the “Island of the Nymphs,” Dr. Alice might guide us on the ancient Polynesian canoeing route, with double or twin share in comfortable yacht-sized cabin with private bath, meals and companionship on board ship, tour leadership by an excellent naturalist, and admission to the Polynesian cultural center.

Expedition & Travel Yacht: Star Flyer.

Expedition Fee Includes:

- Group transfers; transportation by airplane, ship, van, motorcoach, or any other conveyance used in connection with the voyage.
- A 4-masted yacht for 8 days/7 nights as described in the itinerary, including 3-masted sailings.
- Four half-day excursions as indicated; accommodations based on twin share in comfortable yacht-sized cabin with private bath, meals and companionship.
- Scuba diving is available at additional cost. There is a leisurely expedition fee of $500 per person payable to Betchart Expeditions Inc. for transfers. Typically the flights depart Los Angeles in the early evening on December 15th. Then take connecting flights home.

Costs & Conditions

Expedition Fee: Per person twin share (depending on cabin category) $35,145. For the single traveler, the entire expedition will be provided with a day-room until early evening. You will then transfer to the airport for your flight departure.

Honeymooners: Receive a 10% discount. Contact Betchart Expeditions Inc.

Day 8 — Papeete, Tahiti to Los Angeles. Today we will return to Papeete, and say farewell to our friends and fellow travelers on Star Flyer. Transfer to the Radisson Plaza Resort Tahiti where you will recognize the “Island of the Nymphs” and return to Papeete International Airport to Papeete, RT Category 3 $163,895 pp — Fuel Surcharge $56 * Port Charges $210 Category 5 $314,195 — Fuel Surcharge $56 — Port Charges $210

Supplement for solo cabin in Category 2, 3, or 4: $200 will encourage all singles to bring a roommate.

Travellers: A limited number of cabins are available for triple occupancy at the rate of $13,930 pp sharing a cabin with two others. A limited number of cabins are available for triple occupancy at the rate of $13,930 pp sharing a cabin with two others.

Expedition & Travel Yacht: Star Flyer.

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Day 1 — Depart Los Angeles for Papeete, Tahiti. Our journey will be on board a 170-passenger M/Y Star Flyer, which, at 360 feet long, is one of the largest full-rigged sailing yachts in the world. The airlines concerned are not to be held responsible for any act, omission, or event of the airlines concerned, or of any other carrier. The airlines concerned are not to be held responsible for any loss or damage to luggage, or for any act, omission, or event of any person, whether passenger or otherwise, employed by them in connection with any of their services. All such losses or damages will have to be borne by the passenger, as tour rates provide for arrangements made by the airlines concerned. No refunds are made for unused services. Refunds are made for unused services.

Day 2 — Huahine, Society Islands. Normally he was a no-nonsense guy, but Captain Cook fell in love with Tahiti. When he arrived there in Mataroa Bay in 1769, they found an untouched Eden. But is was the glowing tales of French explorer Compte Antoine de Bougainville that forever perpetuated the image of Tahiti as a voluptuous paradise of nature, attracting a bevy of followers, notably artist Paul Gaugain and writer Robert Louis Stevenson.

Today we will explore Huahine. A laid back haven for surfers, expatriates, artists, and writers. Huahine has never been traveled, Huahine offers an authentic example of what the islands used to be. Tahitian, rather than French, is the lingua franca, and the island’s numerous archaeological digs offer a fascinating window into the past.

This morning, we will take an open air vehicle to explore the twin island of Bora Bora and Tahaa, including the village of Maeva, one of the most important archaeological sites in Polynesia. Here we will learn about Polynesian prehistory, traditional society, religion, temples (marae), warfare, and the arrival of the Europeans. We will visit the marae along the lake shore and the Fare Pote museum, and will continue to the ancient stone fish traps of Lake Fauna Nui. In sacred marae reminiscent of Stonehenge, giant stones looking like gravestones remind you that human sacrifices were part of the Polynesian religious rituals. Afternoon for kayaking, snorkeling, hiking or other interests on shore. B.L.D

Day 3 — Raiatea, Society Islands. When we venture up the jungle-clad shores of Faaroa’s Fanu to disembark in Raiatea, you would still believe you have been transported to pre-European times. For the Polynesian ancestors of today’s Tahitians, Raiatea was known as Sacred Avarau’s, and was the centre of royalty, religion, culture and navigation. We will take a 4-wheel drive safari into the center of the island through tropical forests of bamboo, cinnamon, mahogany, and gourds. Our stops will include Maara Tapu, the sacred site from where the ancient Polynesians set off to discover the triangle: Hawaii, New Zealand, and Easter Island. Raiatea is also heritage of the legendary God, Iloha, father of the Polynesians. The hibiscus tree, or marama, which was used since ancient times for outriggers of Polynesian proas. Afternoon for snorkeling, swimming, kayaking, or other activities.

Day 4 — Taha’a, Society Islands. The islands of Raiatea and Taha’a are a visual delight, created by an enormous reef. Taha’a, the more northerly island, offers a glimpse of the traditional life of the Tahitians. Taha’a was a sacred island known as “Taha’a the distant Marae.” Site of vanilla plantations and pearl farms, Taha’a is a delightful quiet reminder of the old island ways.

Day 5 — Bora Bora, Eventide. If you have never been there, most people describe this as an experience of the chiseled peak of Mt. Otemanu on the horizon, the sunset view of Bora Bora in the distance will captivate you. Day 5 — Bora Bora, Eventide. A layback haven for surfers, expatriates, artists and writers. Bora Bora is one of the most romantic places on earth. The island is a delightfully quiet reminder of the old island ways.

Depart Los Angeles on a nonstop flight to Papeete, Tahiti, on Air Tahiti Nui to Papeete, and include arrival and departure taxes. Air Tahiti Nui Group Exits: $0, Star Flyer, (800) 252-4910 or (408) 252-4910. For a limited number of cabins are available for triple occupancy. M/Y Star Flyer:

Expediton Fee: Per person twin share (depending on cabin category) including a 15 percent government and air transportation tax and 10 percent local tax. Star Flyer: RT.

M/Y Star Flyer: Category 1 $42,895 pp; Fuel Surcharge $56; Port Charges $210 Category 2 $35,145 pp; Fuel Surcharge $56; Port Charges $210 Category 3 $28,295 pp; Fuel Surcharge $56; Port Charges $210

Costs & Conditions

Reservation:

Day 8 — Papeete, Tahiti to Los Angeles. Today we will return to Papeete, and say farewell to our friends and fellow travelers on Star Flyer. Transfer to the Radisson Plaza Resort Tahiti where we will be provided with a day-room until early evening. You will then transfer to the airport for your flight departure. Day 8 — Papeete, Tahiti to Los Angeles.

Expedition Fee Does Not Include: International airfare (arranged separately); independent transfers; meals except on board ship; alcoholic beverages, snacks, sodas, bottled water, laundry, internet use, phone, fax, passport, travel insurance, or other personal expenses; foreign airport departure taxes.

To Expect: This expedition is for the travel enthusiast who would like to explore Tahiti and the Society Islands to enjoy the true Polynesian beauty and culture. The Polynesian culture includes marae, ancient stone fish traps at Lake Fauna Nui. In sacred marae, are Cook’s Bay and Opunohu Bay, with a wonderful reef offshore. Our yacht will anchor in Cook’s Bay today. We may join an option side trip of the Polynesian archaeological sites. This was the real-life site of Michener’s longed for Bora in the distance. This was the real-life site of Michener’s longed for Bora in the distance. This was the real-life site of Michener’s longed for Bora in the distance. This was the real-life site of Michener’s longed for Bora in the distance. This was the real-life site of Michener’s longed for Bora in the distance.

Questions?

Mail To: Betchart Expeditions Inc., 17050 Montebello Road, Cupertino, CA 95014-5435. FAX: (408) 252-4910. Questions? Please contact Tanaya DeVując, Betchart Expeditions Inc., (800) 252-4910 or (408) 252-4910. There are no refunds for any cancellation within 60 days of departure. Trip cancellation insurance is offered. No refunds are made for unused services.

Responsibility:

Visa! We want to join the Tahiti & Bora Bora Expedition, December 7-15, 2008 offered by Betchart Expeditions Inc. (Please reserve ___ spaces).

Yes! We want to join the Tahiti & Bora Bora Expedition, December 7-15, 2008 offered by Betchart Expeditions Inc. (Please reserve ___ spaces).

As a deposit, I/We will enclose a check for $__ (500 per person) payable to Betchart Expeditions Inc. Trust Account.

Name(s) ________________________________ Age ______

City __________________________________ State ___ Zip ______

Signature ____________________________ Date _______

Phone: Home ( ) Work ( )

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