

*Come Explore with The Planetary Society!*



# Tahiti Eclipse 2025

March 6 -16, 2025

*See the Total Lunar Eclipse March 13, 2025!*

Dear Members & Friends:

We invite you to explore **Tahiti** with us in 2025 and see the **Total Lunar Eclipse March 13, 2025**.

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 Lunar Eclipse from the magical isle of Bora Bora.**

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 exquisite volcanic island of Bora Bora, our staging ground to see the Total Lunar Eclipse. Bora Bora is a marine wonderland of coral reefs, tropical fish, and volcanic peaks. We will see the Total Lunar Eclipse amidst this splendor. You may also enjoy optional excursions by 4-wheel drive or boat, snorkeling or diving.

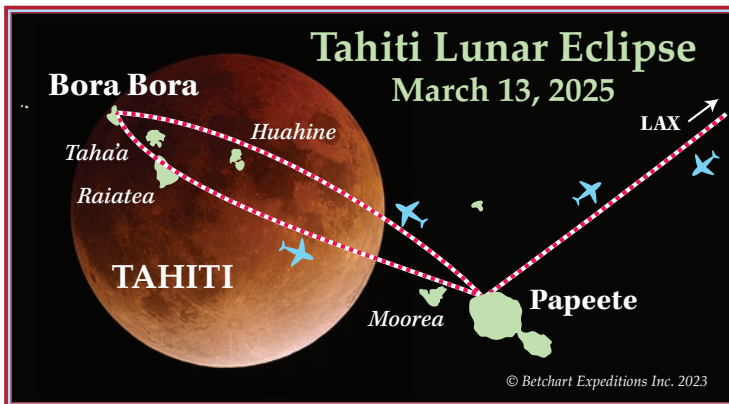
We hope you will join us to explore Tahiti and see the 2025 Total Lunar Eclipse! Space is limited, so please let us know right away.

Best regards,

*Bill Nye*

Bill Nye  
CEO

The Planetary Society



# Itinerary

## Day 1 Depart Los Angeles for Papeete, Tahiti

Expedition members depart Los Angeles on a nonstop flight to Papeete, Tahiti, arriving around 8:15 pm. Transfer to the *Tahiti Pearl Beach Resort* (2 nights).

## Day 2 Tahiti

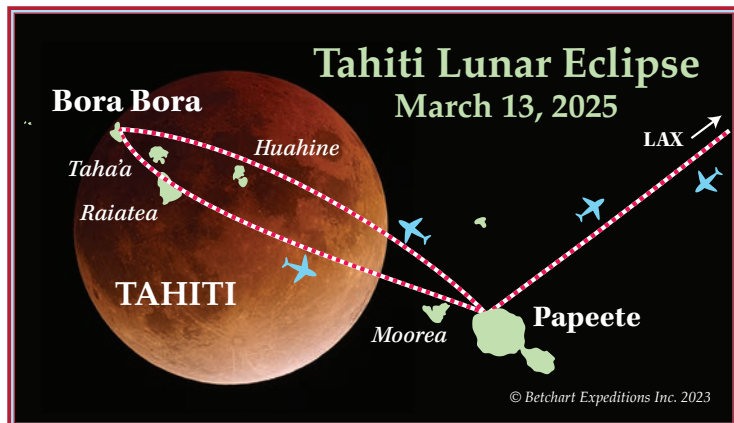
We will begin to discover the magic of French Polynesia today as we explore the island of Tahiti. Our first stop will be Point Venus, where Tahitians and Europeans met for the first time in 1767, and Captain Cook landed two years later to observe the Transit of Venus on June 3, 1769. This was also the 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

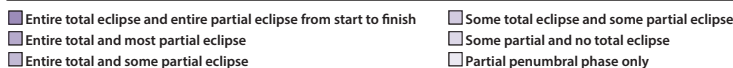
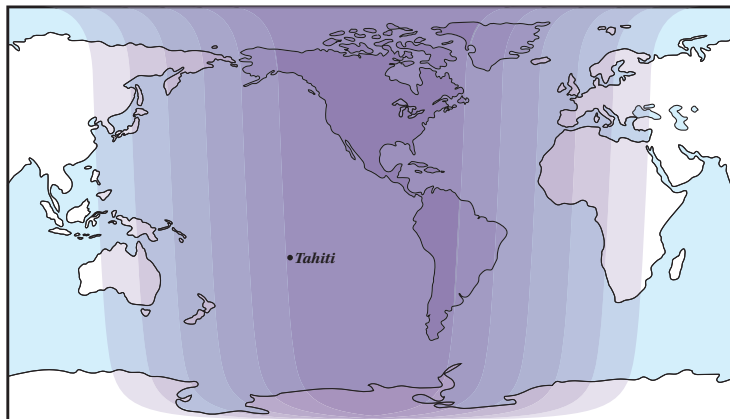


## Day 3 Moorea & Opunohu Valley

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



# Total Lunar Eclipse - March 13, 2025



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 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

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 Cultural Center, we will learn about the Polynesian community educational programs offered there. 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

After lunch, depart to the ferry terminal to catch the ferry to Papeete and the *Tahiti Pearl Beach Resort*. A lecture on the Total Lunar Eclipse will help us prepare for our Eclipse adventure. (B)



#### Day 7 Papeete to Bora Bora

On March 12 we will 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)*. (B)

#### Day 8 Bora Bora & Total Lunar Eclipse

We will have this morning and afternoon for a fiesta of activities on Bora Bora, from petting friendly sting rays, to snorkeling, or signing up for an around Bora Bora 4 x 4 excursion. You may also book a jet ski excursion or go scuba diving. When you arrive on Bora Bora, you can see the entire list of excursion possibilities and decide what you would like to do.

This evening, the Total Lunar Eclipse will occur over Bora Bora, and will fill your evening as it occurs over the lagoon waters of Bora Bora. The timing of the eclipse is excellent. It will begin at 7:09 pm and the Total Lunar Eclipse will occur from 8:26 pm to 9:31 pm. You will have plenty of time before the eclipse to set up for photographs and the best location for your photos. It will be a wonderful experience! (B)

#### Days 9/10 Fly to Los Angeles

We will have Day 9 at leisure on Bora Bora. Your time will be your own 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! The next day transfer to the airport for your return flight that evening. Arrive on the morning of Day 11. (B)



## Reservations

#1750

**Yes!** I/we want to join the **Tahiti Lunar Eclipse 2025 Expedition**,

**March 6-16, 2025** offered by **The Planetary Society**. Please reserve

\_\_\_\_\_ space(s). As a deposit, I/we enclose a check for \$ \_\_\_\_\_

(\$1,000 per person) for Tahiti 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 Moorea:** \_\_\_\_ Beach or lagoon bungalow (\$300 pp share extra)

**On Bora Bora:** \_\_\_\_ Beach Bungalow (\$350 pp share extra)

\_\_\_\_ Overwater (\$750 pp share extra)

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Please Mail To:** Tahiti Lunar Eclipse 2025  
Betchart Expeditions Inc.  
17050 Montebello Road  
Cupertino, CA 95014-5345

## Costs & Conditions

**Expedition Fee:** \$6,495 per person twin share + air fare of \$1,395 from Los Angeles International Airport to Papeete, RT + \$595 per person in tour air Papeete to Bora Bora RT.

**Single Supplement:** We encourage all singles to bring a roommate, or we may be able to pair you up with someone.

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

**Expedition Fee Does Not Include:** International air fare or in-tour flights (quoted separately); independent transfers; some meals; 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 Bora Bora, to discover the heritage and natural world of Polynesia, and to see the Total Lunar Eclipse March 13, 2025. Led by an excellent naturalist and local guides, explore cultural sites on the islands of Tahiti and Moorea, and delight in the marine world of this South Pacific paradise. Activities will include a round Tahiti excursion, and on Moorea a traditional Polynesian feast, and boat trip to see spinner dolphins. and On Bora Bora you may choose from several optional excursions to see sting rays, explore the high country by 4 wheel drive, snorkeling, scuba, and more.

We will see the Total Lunar Eclipse over the water in Bora Bora on the evening of March 13, 2025. 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 lunar 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. On Moorea, most of us will be accommodated in Lanai or Garden Bungalows. Beach and Lagoon bungalows are + \$300 per person share.

On Bora Bora, we are accommodated in Garden and Ocean View rooms. Beach bungalows are + \$300 per person share, or Overwater bungalows are + \$750 per person share.



**Air Fare & Airline Ticketing:** Group flights from Los Angeles are on United Airlines. The flights Papeete to Bora Bora are on Air Tahiti. AIR FARES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE UNTIL TICKETED.

### For Reservations

*Please mail the completed reservation form with a deposit check for \$1,000 per person :*

**Betchart Expeditions Inc.**

**17050 Montebello Road, Cupertino, CA 95014-5435**

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

**Fax: (408) 741-5762**

*Email: [betcharttaunya@gmail.com](mailto:betcharttaunya@gmail.com)*

*On the Web: [www.betchartexpeditions.com](http://www.betchartexpeditions.com)*

Final payment is due 120 days before departure (November 1, 2024)

**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](mailto: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 **Dr Chris Carpenter**. Chris has led numerous expeditions for Betchart including eclipse trips to China in 2008 & 2009, Bali in 2016, and Bali and E Timor in 2023. He also leads research expeditions in the marine world of Thailand and trekking research trips in Nepal.*

*The cultural heritage of the Pacific has long been of interest to Chris, 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 Chris will be a talented astronomer and local guest experts.*



## Alaska Aurora Borealis

**March 7-13, 2025!**

*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. \$3,395 pp twin + air.*

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