

Austral Islands, French Polynesia

One of the most remote and least-visited archipelagos in French Polynesia, the Austral Islands reward adventurous cruisers with dramatic limestone caves, humpback whale encounters, and living Polynesian traditions barely touched by tourism.

-  Tender port (all islands)
-  Typical call: 6-8 hrs
-  Currency: CFP Franc (XPF)
-  French & Tahitian

MY DAY IN PORT

Ship/Date:	Arrive:	All aboard:
Excursion:	Notes:	

GETTING ASHORE

Docking: All Austral Islands are tender-only; ships anchor offshore and ferry passengers by tender to small village landings

Best For: Adventurous travelers seeking off-the-beaten-path Polynesia, whale watching (Jul–Oct), archaeology

Main Islands: Rurutu (caves), Tubuai (Bounty history), Raivavae (lagoon beauty), Rapa (remote), Rimatara (birds)

Don't Miss: Rurutu's Ana Ae'o limestone cave, Tubuai's Fort George, and traditional weaving demonstrations in village markets

 Getting around:

TOP THINGS TO DO

- Humpback Whale Watching (Rurutu)** — Between July and October, humpback whales from Antarctica gather in Rurutu's waters to mate and calve.
- Rurutu Cave Tour — Ana Ae'o & Ana Taupe'e** — Rurutu is dubbed the 'Troglydye Island' for good reason.
- Tubuai: Bounty Mutineers & Fort George** — After the Bounty mutiny in 1789, Fletcher Christian attempted to settle Tubuai, building an earthwork fort named Fort...
- Village Weaving & Craft Demonstrations** — Rurutu is famous throughout French Polynesia for exceptionally fine woven pandanus products — hats, baskets, and mats.
- Raivavae Lagoon by Outrigger or Boat** — Often called the 'Bora Bora of the South,' Raivavae has a stunning turquoise lagoon ringed by reef motu.

BEST WALKS

- Moerai Village & Coastal Walk (Rurutu)** ~3 km · 1-1.5 hrs · Easy · Flat — From the Moerai tender quay, walk the coastal road south past the village church and waterfront, then loop back through the village...
- Tubuai North Coast — Bloody Bay & Fort George** ~3 km · 1-1.5 hrs · Easy · Flat coastal road — From the northern landing, follow the flat coastal road east toward Bloody Bay — the shoreline where the Bounty mutineers clashed with...

WEATHER · DAYLIGHT · MONEY

 **CLIMATE (AVG °F · RAINY DAYS)**

Mon	High	Low	Rain
Apr	79°	76°	14d
Jun	75°	72°	11d
Aug	73°	70°	10d
Sep	73°	70°	9d
Oct	73°	71°	11d

 **DAYLIGHT &  MONEY**

Apr 6:18AM–5:51PM · Jun 6:43AM–5:28PM · Aug 6:29AM–5:50PM · Sep 6:01AM–5:59PM · Oct 5:32AM–6:09PM

 Currency: CFP Franc (XPF)

KNOW BEFORE YOU GO

- Bring XPF cash from Papeete. ATMs are scarce or absent on most Austral Islands, and card readers are rarely available in village markets or at tender landings. Stock up before...