

Gambier Islands, French Polynesia

One of the most remote ports in French Polynesia, the Gambier Islands reward expedition cruisers with a stunning lagoon, 19th-century stone ruins, and the world's finest black pearls.

 Tender port (no pier)  Typical call: 6–8 hrs  CFP Franc (XPF) — no ATMs, bring cash  French / Mangarevan

🗓 MY DAY IN PORT

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

GETTING ASHORE

Docking: Tender to Rikitea wharf — no cruise pier **Walk to center:** 2 min from tender wharf to village centre
Best For: Black pearl shopping, historic ruins, lagoon excursions **Don't Miss:** St. Michael's Cathedral interior with pearl-inlaid altar

 Getting around:

TOP THINGS TO DO

- St. Michael's Cathedral & Historic Ruins** — The 1848 coral-stone cathedral dominates Rikitea and can be explored in 30–45 minutes.
- Mount Duff Summit Hike** — A strenuous 441m ascent through pine forest and grassland rewards hikers with a 360° panorama of the entire Gambier...
- Black Pearl Farm Tour** — Visit a working periculture farm and see how Gambier's prized black pearls are grafted and harvested.
- Lagoon Island Hopping (Aukena & Taravai)** — Boat tours visit uninhabited outer islands in the lagoon.
- Motu Beach Day** — The volcanic main island has limited beaches, but the outer coral islets offer white-sand, turquoise-water beaches...

BEST WALKS

- Rikitea Village & Cathedral Walk** 45 min · Easy · Flat — From the wharf, walk through the village to St.
- Mount Duff Trailhead Approach** 20 min walk to trailhead · then 1.5 hrs up — Follow the main road south from the wharf to reach the start of the Mount Duff trail.

WEATHER · DAYLIGHT · MONEY

 **CLIMATE (AVG °F · RAINY DAYS)**

	Mon	High	Low	Rain
Apr		78°	75°	16d
Jun		74°	72°	13d
Aug		72°	70°	11d
Sep		72°	70°	12d
Oct		73°	71°	14d

 **DAYLIGHT &  MONEY**

Apr 6:13AM–5:45PM · Jun 6:39AM–5:21PM · Aug 6:24AM–5:43PM · Sep 5:56AM–5:53PM · Oct 5:26AM–6:04PM

KNOW BEFORE YOU GO

- No ATMs — bring cash. There are no ATMs on the island that accept international cards. Bring CFP Francs (XPF) or small bills in USD/EUR. Pearl farms may accept cards but satellite...
- Sunday mass is unmissable. If your ship calls on a Sunday, attend the morning service at St. Michael's Cathedral — the congregation's acapella singing in French and Mangarevan is...
- Eat on the ship. Dining options in Rikitea are extremely limited — one or two casual snack bars with unpredictable hours. Eat