

Diving French Polynesia

Just say the words “French Polynesia” and what springs to mind are a plethora of small islands with stunning white beaches, surrounded by crystal clear warm water. Situated in the heart of the Pacific Ocean, this island archipelago is home to some of the most wondrous dive sites, where hundreds of hungry sharks gather in schools to be joined by manta rays and bottle-nosed dolphins. Diving Rangiroa’s reefs and channels you can expect to see grey reef hammerhead, black tips, silky, tiger and silver tip shark species cruising the reef, hunting on schools of snapper and fusiliers. Whilst drift diving through the 1200m wide channel at North Fakarava Island, you can experience incredible shark action, see huge Napoleon wrasses and witness marbled groupers spawning. A typical diving day will see you cruising through channels and exploring the outer reefs of the atolls, yet there are numerous of shallow dive sites within the Tuamotu Archipelago, each with stunning hard corals, sheltering all manner of crustaceans and molluscs.

French Polynesia Diving Itinerary

On a typical day we offer up to 3 day dives however the third day dive may be substituted for a sunset or night dive when the boat is anchored within a lagoon.

The diving day aboard the French Polynesia Master is scheduled as follows:

Light breakfast followed by a briefing and Dive 1

Full breakfast, relaxation period, briefing and Dive 2

Snack, relaxation period, briefing and Dive 3

Dinner

Guests may also take the opportunity to visit the islands and walk upon the pristine beaches.

Our diving itineraries take you through the Tuamotu Island chain, from Rangiroa to Fakarava, with a choice of 7 or 10 night safaris between these two hot spots, as well as a Fakarava-Fakarava 7-night loop which maximises the time spent in this UNESCO Biosphere Reserve.

Dive sites are typically channel or “Pass” dives and the route planning for each trip is highly dependent upon the incoming and out-going tides for each island. We dive the optimum tide for each site to bring you the ultimate in pelagic fish action. Strong currents and sometimes diminished visibility are to be expected and diving can be challenging here, even for the experienced diver. We highly recommend our guests are Nitrox-certified and have training beyond beginner level and a minimum experience of 50 dives, preferably in similar conditions to ensure maximum enjoyment. Dive sites also include outer reefs, plateaus and coral gardens found with the lagoon, where currents are less intense and many smaller creatures can be found.

Water temperatures throughout the year range from 24-28°C (60-82°F), with January-March being the warmest months and July-November the coolest. The cooler waters bring forth migrating humpback whales and the spawning of marbled groupers, with June/July being the optimum time to see them in large numbers.

Yacht Information

The 46 metre M/V French Polynesia Master has lower deck and upper deck cabins, each with en-suite and individual air conditioning units. Communal relaxation areas are split between the middle and upper decks; comprising a spacious indoor lounge area, camera set up station and guest storage drawers, with pillowed bench seating and a plasma screen. There is an extra shaded outdoor lounging area to the rear of the upper deck with more cosy seating. Finally, there is a sun deck on the upper level with comfortable lounge chairs from where you can unwind and soak up the stunning views of the French Polynesian islands.

Dive equipment is set up and stored at the rear of the main deck in a dedicated shaded outdoor area. All guests are allocated an individual set up station, with under bench storage for masks, fins and other personal items. A camera table can be used to store prepared equipment ahead of the dive, with dedicated rinsing tanks provided. Divers can make use of the shower hoses on deck or rinse off between dives with the port side deck heads.