TRAVELS 2018

CRUISING TAHITI & FRENCH POLYNESIA

with Christie McDonald
Smith Professor of French Language and Literature
February 6–16, 2018
THE EVOLUTION OF ANCIENT VOLCANIC ACTIVITY BENEATH THE SEA, SCULPTED BY WAVES AND WIND OVER MILLENNIA, CREATED THE IDYLLIC ISLANDS OF TAHITI, HUAHINE, RA’IA’ATEA, TAHAA, BORA BORA, AND MO’OREA.

Experience this unspoiled earthly paradise—majestic peaks rising up from emerald green jungles, chalk white atolls, pristine beaches, and turquoise lagoons—under the billowing white sails of the Five-Star Wind Spirit. During this nine-night land and sea sojourn, explore the resplendent Society Islands—an exotic and colorful land that has beckoned explorers, artists, and writers for centuries. Enjoy two nights (air schedules permitting) in colorful Pape’ete, Tahiti, and seven nights sailing aboard the Wind Spirit.

The 73-Stateroom Wind Spirit provides an unmatched small sailing ship experience. During the cruise, enjoy complimentary alcoholic and nonalcoholic beverages served throughout the ship; complimentary snorkeling and kayaking; and a specially arranged excursion included on every island. (Please note that additional excursions and activities are available at an extra cost payable directly to the Wind Spirit during the cruise).

During your stay in Tahiti, visit ancient marae, tour a vanilla plantation, and learn more about Polynesia’s unique history, environment, and culture. You can observe—and even snorkel or swim with—extraordinary marine life and breathe in the fresh fragrances of vanilla, gardenia, and jasmine.

Join us for this opportunity featuring round-trip air included from Los Angeles and Low Air Add-Ons from select U.S. cities.

THIS IS A CO-SPONSORED PROGRAM: the Smithsonian and the National Trust for Historic Preservation

*Included air from Los Angeles and Low Air Add-Ons have limited availability and are not guaranteed.*
The Lure of the South Pacific

Tahiti, "Queen of the Pacific," and her sister islands—Huahine, Taha’a, Bora Bora, Ra’iatea, and Mo’orea—have beckoned visitors ever since Captain James Cook landed here in 1769. This tropical paradise has captivated explorers and mariners, artists, and writers. Contemporary Tahitian society was born of a unique blend of peoples originating in Southeast Asia. In addition to English, French, and Polynesian heritage, the Chinese also came to Tahiti during the late 19th century, furthering the diverse cultural blend of the island’s inhabitants. To this day, these beguiling islands are synonymous with the world’s romantic vision of the South Seas, and they await your discovery as you experience the true essence of French Polynesia under sail.

HARVARD STUDY LEADER

Christie McDonald is the Smith Professor of French Language and Literature in the Department of Romance Languages and Literatures and professor of comparative literature at Harvard University. From 2000-2006, she served as Chair of the Department of Romance Languages and Literatures. She and her husband, Michael Rosengarten, are faculty deans of Mather House at Harvard.

McDonald was born and raised in New York City, and her love for France and the French language began when she first traveled to the country when she was 16 years old. She studied abroad for a year at the Université de Paris before she graduated from Mount Holyoke College in 1964. She later earned her Ph.D. from Yale University in 1969.

A literary historian, as well as cultural critic and theorist, McDonald has worked in her research and teaching on 18th- and 20th- to 21st-century French thought and literature in a comparative context. She has also published in the areas of literature and philosophy, anthropology, feminist theory, and the arts (music and painting).

Scheduled guest speakers may be altered due to circumstances beyond our control. See General Information section.
AIR IS INCLUDED FROM LOS ANGELES*
Low Air Add-Ons are available from select cities.

*Round-trip economy-class air is included from Los Angeles to Pape’ete with return from Pape’ete, available exclusively through Gohagan & Company in partnership with award-winning Air Tahiti Nui; Gohagan & Company and Harvard Alumni Travels have no control over availability.

TUESDAY & WEDNESDAY, FEB 6 & FEB 7
U.S./PAPE’ETE, TAHITI
Depart the U.S. and arrive in lively, cosmopolitan Pape’ete. This capital of French Polynesia and the gateway to the treasures of the South Pacific extends a hospitable welcome to visitors. Located on a natural harbor cooled by trade winds, Pape’ete enjoys one of the finest natural settings, set against a backdrop of verdant, forest-clad peaks. Check into the ideally located, Five-Star InterContinental Resort Tahiti.

Wednesday afternoon, travel along Tahiti’s west coast, and tour the Museum of Tahiti and Her Islands. Walk through the sacred Arahurahu Marae, Polynesia’s only fully restored marae (temple). Visit the beautifully landscaped Spring Garden of Vaipahi, a haven of tranquility, waterfalls and walking paths and home to 75 different species of plants. In the evening, enjoy the Welcome Reception in the hotel. (b,a)

THURSDAY, FEB 8
PAPE’ETE
Enjoy time at leisure before embarking the Wind Spirit. Attend the Captain’s Welcome Reception on board this evening. (b,l,d)

FRIDAY, FEB 9
OPUNOHU BAY, MO’OREA
The heart-shaped island of Mo’orea is the remnant of a long-extinct volcano. Once a sanctuary for vanquished warriors from Tahiti, it inspired James Michener to write Tales from the South Pacific. A scenic drive to Belvedere Point reveals a panoramic view of the island’s lushly forested volcanic peaks and the crystalline waters of Cook’s and Opouhou Bays. Visit the Agricultural School for a sampling of fresh fruit and local jams. The afternoon is at leisure. (b,l,d)

SATURDAY, FEB 10
RA’IATEA
In the pre-colonial era, Ra’iatea served as the political and spiritual center of the Society Islands and was beloved by Captain Cook, who called here on each of his three voyages of discovery. According to local legend, it was the birthplace of Oro, the god of war and fertility. On a panoramic tour, visit Marae Taputapuatea, a temple constructed of coral and black volcanic rock, and one of the best-preserved marae complexes in Polynesia. Aboard a motorized va’a (outrigger canoe), cruise along Ra’iatae’a’s tranquil Fa’aroa River, the only navigable river in Polynesia.

Your afternoon is at leisure. (b,l,d)

SUNDAY, FEB 11
TAHAA
Taha’a is dominated by the profile of Mount Ohi’i, named for Hiro, the Polynesian god of sailors and thieves. Today, two exotic enterprises provide the islanders’ livelihoods—the harvesting of the world’s most flavorful vanilla beans and the farming of lustrous black pearls. Tour the lush grounds of a vanilla plantation and visit a farm that meticulously cultivates the region’s distinctive black pearl oysters.

Enjoy a traditional Polynesian feast on a private motu (islet), where you can swim, snorkel, or kayak. (b,l,d)

MONDAY, FEB 12
BORA BORA
Bora Bora is the proverbial vision of a South Seas paradise. On a panoramic tour, view its distinctive black basalt peak cloaked in a tropical forest and silhouetted against turquoise waters. Along Fa’anui Bay, see the Fare Opu marae and bunkers constructed by American soldiers during World War II.

The islanders have preserved the ways of their forefathers, farming pineapples and papayas and crafting fine works of art from seashells and indigenous wood.

On board the ship this morning, enjoy an enriching lecture by naturalist Frank Murphy. Afterward, visit the Atitia Outreach Center at Richard B. Gump Research Station to learn more about the unique ecosystem of French Polynesia. Enjoy a demonstration of traditional weaving and tapa (barkcloth) making.

This evening, attend the Captain’s Farewell Reception on board. (b,l,d)

THURSDAY, FEB 15
PAPE’ETE
Disembark the ship and explore the east coast of Tahiti. Visit the former home of American author James Norman Hall, best known for co-authoring Mutiny on the Bounty. Admire the island of Tahiti’s only lighthouse at Point Venus, named for the observatory Captain Cook established here in 1769.

Day-room accommodations have been reserved in the InterContinental Resort Tahiti.

This evening, transfer to the airport to continue on to the Bora Bora Post-Program Option or board your flight home. (s)

FRIDAY, FEB 16
U.S.
Arrive in the U.S.

TO BOOK A TRIP, CALL 800-422-1636 OR VISIT ALUMNI.HARVARD.EDU/TRAVEL
WHAT IS INCLUDED:

• Round-trip air included from Los Angeles*
• Enrichment program of lectures and discussions by Christie McDonald
• Two nights (air schedule permitting) in the five-star InterContinental Resort Tahiti
• Seven-night cruise aboard the five-star sailing yacht Wind Spirit
• Complimentary alcoholic and nonalcoholic beverages throughout the cruise
• Excursion on every island (optional excursions not described in itinerary are available at additional cost)
• Taxes and gratuities to ship personnel, guides, and drivers
• Services of a tour manager throughout the program
• Transfers and luggage handling abroad for participants whose arrival(s)/departure(s) coincide with the scheduled group transfer(s)
• $200,000 emergency medical evacuation insurance

*From $1,585 per person, double occupancy
From $2,420 per person, single occupancy

Extend your sojourn in French Polynesia with two nights in a Five-Star seaside resort hotel on Bora Bora, providing an authentic Polynesian experience. On Bora Bora’s dazzling Matira Point, enjoy magnificent, expansive ocean views from your deluxe beachfront or overwater bungalow—choose from three categories. Observe the abundant marine life on a reef excursion, dine in one of the island’s gourmet restaurants for the exotic flavors of fresh local seafood prepared with French Polynesian flair, or enjoy the resort’s wide array of watersports and white-sand beach. This resort option includes breakfast daily and round-trip air between Tahiti and Bora Bora.

Details will be provided with your reservation confirmation.
RATED THE #1 CRUISE TO BOOK TO TAHTI BY CONDE NAST TRAVELER, THE INTIMATE, FOUR-MASTED FIVE-STAR WIND SPIRIT OFFERS AN UNFORGETTABLE AND CAPTIVATING SAILING EXPERIENCE—SEAFARING IN ITS MOST TRADITIONAL FORM. A HARMONIOUS ALLIANCE OF NAUTICAL HISTORY AND ELEGANT STYLE, THIS SMALL SHIP IS DESIGNED TO SAIL AMONG THE ISLANDS, ATOLLS, AND MOTUS OF TAHTI AND FRENCH POLYNESIA—ITS YEAR-ROUND HOME—FROM DEEP SEAS INTO BAYS AND SHALLOW LAGOONS INACCESSIBLE TO LARGER VESSELS, MAKING IT FEEL LIKE YOUR OWN PRIVATE YACHT.

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A SAMPLING OF 2017-2018 HAA TRIPS

LAND & RAIL

IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF ST. JAMES: EL CAMINO DE SANTIAGO
SEP 15–27, 2017
MARY GAYLORD

EXPLORING HAVANA, CUBA
OCT 12–17, 2017
SUSANNA SIEGEL

MYSTICAL INDIA
OCT 15–31, 2017

SOUTHERN AFRICA ODYSSEY
OCT 19–NOV, 2017
PUEBLA & OAXACA
NOV 6–12, 2017
BENEDICT GROSS

TREASURES OF THE DESERT: MINIMALIST ART IN MARFA
NOV 9–12, 2017
ALICE DELANA

ARCTIC EXPLORER ABOARD THE GOLDEN EAGLE TRANS-SIBERIAN EXPRESS PRIVATE TRAIN
DEC 28, 2017–JAN 9, 2018
JULIE BUCKNER

JOURNEY THROUGH VIETNAM
JAN 1–16, 2018
JULIET BUCKLER

SPRING BREAK IN MOROCCO
MAR 9–17, 2018
FRAN ULMER

NATIONAL PARKS OF THE SOUTHWEST
APR 30–MAY 10, 2018
MICHAELE MCNEARY

THE DESERT KINGDOMS OF PERU
MAY 26–JUN 6, 2018
JEFFREY QUITTER

HIMALAYAN KINGDOMS
MAY 27–JUN 30, 2018
PETE GALBRAITH

MACHU PICCHU TO THE GALÁpagOS ISLANDS
JUN 19–JUL 4, 2018
HARVEY FEINBERG & MARY WILSON

CRUISES

SICILY BY SEA ON SEA CLOUD II
OCT 11–19, 2017
ROBERT DARTNORTH

CRUISING THE RIVERAS AND ISLANDS OF ITALY, FRANCE, & SPAIN ON VARIETY VOYAGER
OCT 14–22, 2017
THOMAS FORREST KELLY

PEARLS OF SOUTHEAST ASIA:
THAILAND, LAOS, VIETNAM
MAY 26–JUN 6, 2018
THOMAS FORREST KELLY

AMADEUS SILVER II ON THE GREAT JOURNEY THROUGH EUROPE:
THE NETHERLANDS, GERMANY, FRANCE, SWITZERLAND
MAY 20–APRIL 20, 2018
MICHAELE MCNEARY

THE GLACIER EXPRESS ON THE DESERT KINGDOMS OF PERU
DEC 28, 2017–JAN 10, 2018
DANIEL DONOGHUE

GANGES RIVER ON BENGAL GANGLA
DEC 20, 2017–JAN 10, 2018
JAMES ENGELL

AMAZON RIVER EXPEDITION ON ZAFIRO (PLUS MACHU PICCHU)
MAR 10–20, 2018
MICHAELE MCNEARY

AMADEUS SILVER II ON SOUTHERN AFRICA ODYSSEY
DEC 26, 2017–JAN 10, 2018
DANIEL DONOGHUE

STAR LEGEND ON GANGES RIVER ON BENGAL GANGLA
JAN 31–FEB 10, 2018
JAMES SALZMAN

EUROPEAN COASTAL CIVILIZATIONS ON LE PORPOISE (LONDON TO LONDON)
APR 15–26, 2018
JAMES SALZMAN

EUROPEAN COASTAL CIVILIZATIONS ON LE PORPOISE (SCOTLAND TO LONDON)
APR 20–MAY 1
SUSAN SULEMAN

ALASKA’S GLACIERS AND THE INSIDE PASSAGE ON STAR LEGEND
JUN 26–JUL 5, 2018
DANIEL DONOGHUE

IN THE WAKE OF THE VIKINGS ON SEA CLOUD II (COPENHAGEN TO EDINBURGH)
JUL 10–21, 2018
CATHERINE MCKENNA

SYMPHONY ON THE BLUE DANUBE ON AMADEUS SILVER II
OCT 10–21, 2017
CATHARINE MCKENNA

PRAHCE THE SWISS ALPS ON ROYAL CROWN
OCT 12–26, 2017
THOMAS SIMONS

BODINAYS CHATEAUX OF BORDEAUX ON AMADEUS SILVER II
OCT 18–26, 2017
CHRISTIE MCDONALD

KOLKATA TO VARANASI: INDIA’S GANGES RIVER ON BENGAL GANGA
DEC 26, 2017–JAN 10, 2018
JAMES ENGELL

Pride of SOUTHERN AFRICA on ZAFIRO
JAN 22–FEB 8, 2018
ALICE DELANA

Pride of SOUTHERN AFRICA on AMADEUS SILVER II
DEC 26, 2017–JUN 20, 2018
ALICE DELANA

Ganges River on Bengal Ganga
JAN 26–FEB 15, 2018
JAMES ENGELL

FLYING THE DESERT KINGDOMS OF PERU
JAN 11–24, 2018
DANIEL JACOB
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