

See the Total Solar Eclipse July 11, 2010

Tahiti Eclipse 2010

Come Explore With The Planetary Society! • July 4-12, 2010

Dear Members & Friends:

We invite you to explore Tahiti with us in 2010 and see the **Total Solar Eclipse July 11, 2010**.

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, a profusion of flowers, fringing coral reefs, fascinating cultural sites of early Polynesia, and a bounty of coral and tropical fish.

During this Tahiti Eclipse adventure, we'll discover the magic of **French Polynesia** and the **Eclipse!** This expedition will take you to one of the most fascinating islands in the **Tuamotu Archipelago** to view the eclipse, and along the way provide a first class introduction to the natural and cultural world of French Polynesia.

The three islands that we will visit are the perfect examples of oceanic island evolution from high island to atoll. We will take advantage of this to talk about the development of these islands and what they can expect in the future. The trip will foster opportunities to meet and mingle with local people, and get face to face with the flora and fauna both on land and in the water.

Our trip will begin with the legendary island of **Tahiti**, the biggest island in the region and the political and economic base of French Polynesia. Here we will visit historical sites, museums, and spectacular coastal waterfalls and beaches. 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, meet **Mari Mari Kellum** at her beautiful house and



gardens, and investigate the coral reef.

A special highlight will be joining **Dr. Michael Poole** to learn about the spinner dolphins. Dr. Poole has been studying dolphins in Tahiti since 1987 and is a world's expert on these marine mammals. With a bit of luck, we will be entertained by schools of acrobatic dolphins, as we learn about their life and habits.


After we explore the high islands of Tahiti and Moorea we will fly into the path of the eclipse to one of the most fascinating islands in the Tuamotu Archipelago—**Anaa**—which is famous for its warriors who paddled to other atolls, wreaking havoc as they went.

Today, Anaa and the Tuamotu islands are a marine wonderland of coral reefs, vast lagoons, exquisite reef islands, and a hardy Polynesian people who have learned to exist in this ruggedly beautiful environment. Anaa is a slightly raised atoll with no passes through the reef which gives it a unique character. We will have accommodations in the school, meeting house, and gymnasium (since there are no hotels on the island), hosted by the villagers. This will create a house party atmosphere which will be a highlight of our trip.

On the day of the **Total Solar Eclipse** we will rise early to be ready for the show and then enjoy a traditional feast before we return to Tahiti for our departure.

We hope you will join us to explore Tahiti and see the 2010 Total Solar Eclipse! Space is limited, so please let us know right away.

Best regards,


Dr. Louis Friedman
Executive Director



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 7:30 pm. Transfer to the *Radisson Hotel (2 nights)*. Have a welcome drink and trip orientation.

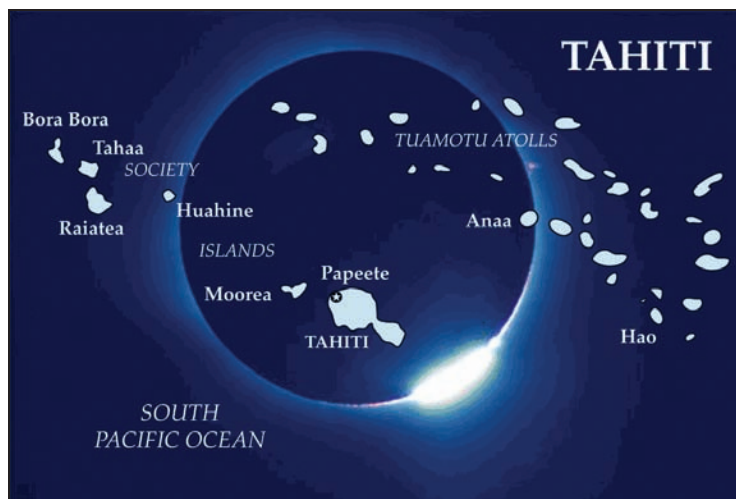
Day 2 Tahiti

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.

Today we will visit the Gauguin Museum which presents comprehensive exhibits about the life and paintings of this famous man, and his time in Tahiti and the Marquesas. At the Musee des Isles, we will see excellent exhibits on volcanic geology and other aspects of French Polynesia. Along the way we'll pass by coastal communities, the town of Papeete, and some of Tahiti's great beaches. Also learn about modern life on Tahiti and its future in a rapidly changing world. Afternoon at leisure. 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 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 and have pieced together the settlement history and land use. We will also discuss plant communities and look for Moorea's two endemic birds. Enjoy a cocktail hour talk and dinner. (B,D)

Day 4 Spinner Dolphins & Barbecue on Motu

Today we will discover the marine paradise which rings the island of Moorea. 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. Dr. Poole has been studying dolphins in Polynesia 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 & Kellum Estate

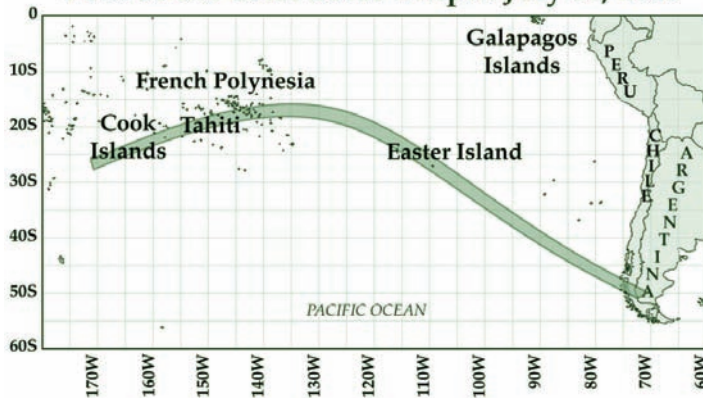
This morning we will have a special excursion to two notable locations. The UC Berkeley Gump Research Station is one of the world's finest tropical ecology

The Total Solar Eclipse July 11, 2010



A Total Solar Eclipse takes place when the Sun, Moon, and Earth are perfectly aligned and the Moon is the right distance from Earth. When the Moon passes in front of the Sun, it will cast a shadow on a portion of the Earth. When the Moon completely covers the Sun, we will see a Total Solar Eclipse. The moving shadow of the Moon on Earth creates the eclipse path. The duration of totality for this eclipse at Anaa Atoll will be approximately 3 minutes.

Path of the Total Solar Eclipse July 11, 2010



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 then drive around Cook's Bay to Opunohu Bay and explore the gardens of the Kellum Estate. Our host will be Mari Mari Kellum whose parents settled in Moorea in 1925. She will talk about her parent's fascinating story and their life on Moorea. 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 & Anaa Atoll

We will have an early departure to the ferry terminal this morning to catch the ferry for Papeete. Transfer to the airport for our 66-passenger plane to the Anaa Atoll. At noon, we will arrive in Tukahora village. This atoll is situated in the immense Tuamotu archipelago, which extends across thousands of miles of the South Pacific just northeast of Tahiti and the Society Islands. The Tuamotus are very ancient volcanic islands which are now all coral atolls (no high islands remain). They are a sun-washed paradise.



We will meet our island hosts, and then enjoy a welcome lunch. In the afternoon we'll have an introduction to life in the Tuamotus. We will tour the village with our local hosts to learn how people live in these remote

and rugged islands. Where do they get their water and electricity? Where do the children go to school? What sort of work do they do here? All of these questions and more will be discussed as we explore the village and meet local people. Enjoy a dance program this evening. (B,L,D)

Day 7 Anaa Atoll & Eclipse Tomorrow

Early risers may enjoy first light and dawn over the lagoon, followed by a delicious breakfast prepared by our Polynesian hosts. The activities this morning will focus on the natural history of the lagoon and motu of this amazing island. We will go across the lagoon by boat to visit the best snorkeling spots, and explore old village sites. We'll learn about atoll plants, birds, invertebrates, fisheries, and how the islanders use the natural resources they have to make a living here. This afternoon we may snorkel outside the barrier reef or take a bird walk to look for Tuamotu endemics. There will also be cultural activities hosted by the village, including a weaving workshop, and village artisans will show you their wares. Briefing in preparation for the Eclipse. (B,L,D)

Day 8 Anaa Atoll & Total Solar Eclipse

This morning we will rise early for the Total Solar Eclipse. All participants will receive eclipse-viewing glasses. We will look for special phenomena of the eclipse. As the Moon slowly comes between the Sun and the Earth, you will see the dark crescent of the Moon cross the Sun and slowly advance to block all of the

Sun's direct rays. The sunlight passes through lower surface features of the Moon, and may create a phenomenon called "Baily's Beads." Sometimes the depression of the Moon is so great that it produces a larger phenomenon called the "Diamond Ring."



During the Total Eclipse, the rays of the Sun produce a corona, or crown of light radiating outward behind the dark globe of the Moon. This rare event can be seen only with a Total Solar Eclipse.

In the late morning, we will gather at the local church to enjoy the incredible singing and music. We will then celebrate the eclipse with a Tuamotu feast! This is a rare treat, and great eating! We'll then bid farewell to our hosts, and take our return flights to Papeete and the USA.

Day 9 Arrive Los Angeles

Arrive Los Angeles in the morning on July 12th. Then take connecting flights home.

Reservations

#1130

Yes! I/we want to join the **Tahiti Eclipse 2010 Expedition, July 4-12, 2010** offered by **The Planetary Society**. Please reserve _____ space(s). As a deposit, I/we enclose a check for \$_____ (\$1000 per person) payable to Betchart Expeditions Inc. Trust Account.

Name(s) _____ Age ____ Sex ____

_____ Age ____ Sex ____

Address _____

City _____ State ____ Zip _____

Phone: H(____) _____ W(____) _____

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: ___ Lagoon *or* Beach Bungalow

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

**Please Mail To: Tahiti Eclipse 2010 Expedition
Betchart Expeditions Inc.
17050 Montebello Road
Cupertino, CA 95014-5345**

Costs & Conditions

Expedition Fee: \$4,995 per person twin share + air fare of \$995 + tax from Los Angeles International Airport to Papeete, RT + \$995 per person air charter flights Papeete/Anaa, RT.

Single Supplement: We encourage all singles to bring a roommate. Singles are available (except on Anaa Atoll) for \$795 per person. No single accommodations are available on Anaa.

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

Expedition Fee Does Not Include: International air fare or charter flights (quoted separately); independent transfers; some meals or optional excursions; tips; beverages at meals; alcoholic beverages, snacks, sodas, bottled water, laundry, personal expenses; foreign airport departure taxes.

What to Expect: This expedition is for the travel enthusiast who would like to explore Tahiti, Moorea, and the remote atoll of Anaa to discover the heritage of Polynesia and see the Total Solar Eclipse July 11, 2010. Led by an excellent naturalist, you will explore villages and cultural sites, snorkel and enjoy discovery of this South Pacific paradise. There will be a barbecue on a remote motu (island on the fringing reef), and an opportunity to enjoy a traditional Polynesia feast. We'll have accommodations two nights in a Polynesian village. 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 eclipse could be obscured by clouds. (No smoking in buses or at meals.)

Accommodations: Are in excellent hotels in Papeete and on the island of Moorea, twin share with private bathroom. On Moorea, most of us will be accommodated in Lanai or Garden Bungalows. Beach and Lagoon bungalows are a supplement of \$300 per person.

There are no hotel accommodations on the remote Anaa atoll where we will see the eclipse. We have been invited by the Mayor of the village to stay in their best available accommodations (in several rooms in the school, the meeting house or gymnasium; toilets and showers are available). We will have a house party with mattresses on floor mats, meals cooked by the villagers, some privacy curtains for couples, and an unbelievable opportunity to become acquainted with these warm and generous Polynesian people.

Air Fare & Airline Ticketing: Group flights from Los Angeles are on Air Tahiti Nui to Papeete. The in-tour charter flights to Anaa and return are on Air Tahiti.
AIR FARES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE.

Reservations, Deposits & Payments: To reserve a place on this expedition, please mail a deposit of \$1,000 per person with the completed reservation form to: **Betchart Expeditions Inc., 17050 Montebello Road, Cupertino, CA 95014-5435**. Final payment is due 120 days before departure (March 6, 2010).



Questions?

Please call **Taunya DeYoung,**
Betchart Expeditions Inc.

phone: **(800) 252-4910**
or **(408) 252-4910**

Email:

Taunya@betchartexpeditions.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 **Bob Nansen**. Bob is an excellent naturalist and expedition leader for Betchart Expeditions Inc., from Alaska Aurora Borealis Expeditions to trips to Antarctica, Tahiti, the Galapagos Islands, and Hawaii.

Bob has led expeditions for The Planetary Society and Betchart to see Annular or Total Solar Eclipses in South Africa in 2002, Costa Rica in 2001, Iceland in 2003, Turkey in 2006, and Novosibirsk and Lake Baikal in Russia in 2008.

The cultural heritage of the South Pacific in Tahiti, Fiji, and New Zealand has long been of interest to him, as well as the marine life, birds, and natural world. Bob has a special interest in the southern skies. He looks forward to sharing the delights of French Polynesia with you. Co-leading with Bob will be local guest experts.

Responsibility: Betchart Expeditions Inc. and The Planetary Society act only as agents for the passenger with respect to transportation and hotels and exercise every care possible. We can assume no liability for injury, damage, delay, loss, accident, or irregularity in connection with the services of any airplane, ship, motorcoach, or any other conveyance used in carrying out the arrangements of the tour. We cannot accept any responsibility for losses or additional expenses due to delay or changes in air or other services, sickness, weather, strike, war, quarantine, acts of God, terrorism, or other causes beyond our control. All such losses or expenses will have to be borne by the passenger, as tour rates provide for arrangements only for the time stated. We reserve the right to substitute another leader of similar expertise or to cancel any tour prior to departure in which case the entire payment will be refunded with no further obligation on our part. The right is also reserved to decline to accept or retain any person as a member of the tour. No refund will be made for the unused portion of any tour unless arrangements are made in sufficient time to avoid penalties. The price of the program is based on current tariffs and rates, and is subject to change. Any tariff, exchange rate, or fuel increases will be passed on to participants. Baggage is carried at the owner's risk entirely. It is understood that the air ticket when issued shall constitute the sole contract between the passenger and the airline concerned. The airlines concerned are not to be held responsible for any act, omission, or event during the time passengers are not on board their plane or conveyance.

©2009 Betchart Expeditions Inc.
All rights reserved. Maps by April Milne.

CST# 2036304-40

For reservations, please contact
Betchart Expeditions Inc.
17050 Montebello Road, Cupertino, CA 95014-5435
Telephone **(800) 252-4910** or **(408) 252-4910**
Fax: **(408) 252-1444**
Email: info@betchartexpeditions.com
On the Web: www.betchartexpeditions.com