

Discover SCUBA Diving with Paul Gauguin Cruises



Paul Gauguin
CRUISES

Float effortlessly over rainbow-coloured coral reefs and pirouette with parrotfish, clownfish, giant clams, and sea turtles. Dive deeper to swim alongside colourful sea anemones, eagle rays, sharks, and octopi. Polynesia's translucent, shimmering aqua lagoons are begging to be explored. And there's no better place to do so than from the m/s *Paul Gauguin's* watersports marina, where you can embark on an optional SCUBA adventure.

Even if you have never SCUBA dived before, as a guest aboard *The Gauguin*, you can come face to face with some of the most spectacular marine life at sea and swim among gracefully swaying coral reefs within a matter of hours. *The Gauguin's* SCUBA diving excursions are designed for all levels of experience, and we are the only luxury ship in French Polynesia to offer PADI certification on board for novice divers, as well as refresher courses.

The SCUBA Experience Aboard the m/s *Paul Gauguin*

Offering PADI certification on board

All dives operated from *The Gauguin* are guided by a professional PADI (Professional Association of Diving Instructors) Dive Master/Instructor. Each is skilled in ensuring that you have the best dive possible, from helping you identify and improve your level of experience to seeking out the most rewarding dive locales.

Plus, *The Gauguin* is fully equipped, including an onboard practice pool, a tank-filling station, and two inflatable dive boats with ladders. Each holds eight divers and two instructors. No tender to shore is needed—you simply leave from the marina platform of the ship and return to it after your dive, where a warm shower awaits.

And on top of that, we take care of all the details for you, from set-up and gearing you before you enter the water to leading you through the deep. The only thing you have to do is breathe.





Diving Destination Guide

Beneath the waves, you can view blacktip and whitetip reef sharks, parrotfish, lion fish, tuna, snappers, jackfish, Napoleon fish, and more up close. Here are highlights of what else you might expect to find in dives off specific islands along the path of your itinerary.

Society Islands

Moorea | Catch a glimpse of blacktip reef sharks, impressively large moray eels, sea turtles, and barracudas.

Bora Bora | View lemon sharks and eagle and manta rays up close.

Tuamotus Islands

Rangiroa & Fakarava | In this premier diving location, look for hammerhead sharks (December-February) or manta rays (September-October). In addition, dolphins, turtles, eagle rays, barracuda, and other fascinating fish species are often spotted here, among coral reefs and canyon passes.

Marquesas Islands

Nuku Hiva | The steep cliffs and caves off this island reveal a variety of unusual marine life, including hammerhead sharks, melon-headed whales, moray eels, and scorpion fish.

Tahuata | Jump into an underwater wilderness and observe grey sharks, rays, and schools of juvenile fish dancing among predators such as giant trevally or tuna.



About Our SCUBA Equipment

For your SCUBA diving experience on board *The Gauguin*, you'll be provided with all necessary equipment: wet suit, mask, snorkel, full foot fins, and weights.

Your tank is also included. The word SCUBA is an acronym for Self-Contained Underwater Breathing Apparatus, and our tanks are 80 cubic feet aluminium, non compensated, with AquaLung BCD, and AquaLung regulator with SPG (submersible pressure gauge) and depth gauge. The air is pure: 79 nitrogen and 21 oxygen. Enriched Air Nitrox is also available.



The Gauguin offers you your only opportunity to explore the underwater world of the Marquesas, as there are no dive centers in these remote but pristine islands.



Paul Gauguin CRUISES

How to Sign Up for SCUBA Diving Aboard *The Gauguin*

All guests wishing to dive from *The Gauguin* need to bring either proof of certification and a logbook or take a diving course. You may sign up for a dive at the Dive Desk, located near the Travel Concierge Desk. If you are a certified diver, simply identify yourself to the Sport Coordinators at the Dive Desk on the first day of the cruise. As a licensed PADI Resort, *The Gauguin* recognises divers from all international certifying agencies.

Before signing up for a dive, divers at all levels of experience must meet with one of our dive instructors and also fill out a medical questionnaire and a liability disclaimer. Depending on the results of the questionnaire, you may also be asked to consult with the ship's doctor.

How to Book a Diving Certification Program

If you are not a certified SCUBA diver and but would like to try SCUBA, a *Discover SCUBA Diving* (DSD) class is available. The course consists of 45 minutes of theory and a 45-minute pool session. It is brief, safe, and a rewarding experience for those participating.

The DSD class and beginners' dives can also be booked online prior to your cruise.

Certification Offered

The resort certification or *Discover SCUBA Diving* program offered aboard *The Gauguin* is the beginning of the PADI open-water diver course. If you sign up for one dive on board *The Gauguin* after completing a *Discover SCUBA Diving* course, you are registered with PADI and receive credit for one confined-water (pool) session and one open-water dive. This certification can be used for up to one year for a dive of up to 40 feet with a dive instructor at any PADI dive center around the world. Nitrox certification is also available on board *The Gauguin*.

To complete the full PADI open-water diver certification, you must complete five confined-water (pool) sessions, four open-water dives, five chapters of the open-water diver manual, and a final exam, for a total of about 40 hours.

Diver Certifications for Minors

You must be at least 10 years old to receive a Junior Open-Water Diver Certification. Ten- and 11-year-old Junior Open-Water Divers must dive with a certified parent, guardian, or PADI professional to a maximum depth of 40 feet (12 meters). Twelve- to 14-year-olds must dive with a certified adult. At age 15, the Junior Certification upgrades to a regular Open-Water Diver Certification. Divers with Junior Open Water and SCUBA Diver certification may not be able to participate in some dives due to limitations imposed by these certifications.

RESTRICTIONS: You need to be a reasonably proficient swimmer and comfortable in the water. You must swim 200 yards/ metres nonstop, without a time or specific stroke requirement or a 300-yard/metre swim with mask, fins, and snorkel. You'll also perform a 10-minute tread/float.

Divers who have not been diving within the last twelve months and cannot provide proof of a SCUBA review course since their last dive may be requested to participate in a SCUBA review course on board prior to a dive in the open water.

To SCUBA dive safely, you must not be extremely overweight or out of condition. Diving can be strenuous under certain conditions. Your respiratory and circulatory systems must be in good health. All body air spaces must be normal and healthy. A person with coronary disease, a current cold or congestion, epilepsy, or a severe medical problem or who is under the influence of alcohol or drugs should not dive. If you have asthma, heart disease, or other chronic medical conditions or if you are taking medications on a regular basis, you should consult your doctor and the instructor before participating in this program. Women who are pregnant or trying to get pregnant also should not dive.

Diving certifications are subject to availability and not available in the Marquesas Islands. Some dives are operated by outside vendors.



FOR BOOKINGS & FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT YOUR TRAVEL PROFESSIONAL OR
WILTRANS INTERNATIONAL 1800 251 174 (AU) | 0800 446 376 (NZ) | travel@wiltrans.com.au