

South Seas Defined

From the early explorations of Captain Cook to the more recent expedition of Thor Heyerdal and the colourful paintings of Gauguin, this vast area has long captivated the traveller. 21st century visitors will similarly not be disappointed: welcoming locals, pristine beaches, turquoise seas, rich coral, green volcanic mountains, centuries old cultures and first rate hospitality distil into a wonderful experience. Our South Pacific specialists have defined the highlights of the main island groups and debated endlessly to choose their favourite places to stay.

Turquoise seas, rich coral, green volcanic mountains, centuries old cultures and first rate hospitality ...



Fiji

Yasawa Island Resort



To the north of the main island, only accessible by sea plane, lies remote, pristine and beautiful Yasawa Island. Tucked amongst the palms this resort has just 16 'bures' offering a complete paradise complemented by unabashed luxury.



With two main islands and over 300 smaller islands, Fiji has an abundance of turquoise lagoons, offshore coral reefs and pristine beaches where the friendly Melanesians offer a genuinely warm welcome. In Fiji you would expect to stay in your own private 'bure' (cottage) – either rustic or ultra-exclusive as Fiji caters to most budgets – on a single small island resort.

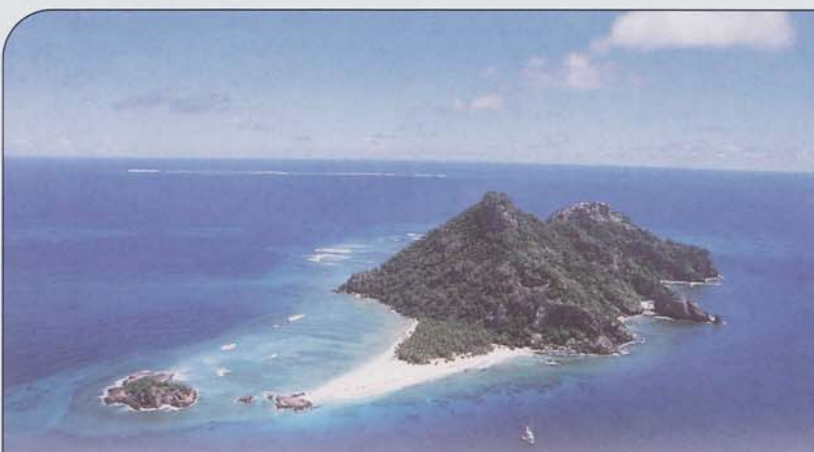
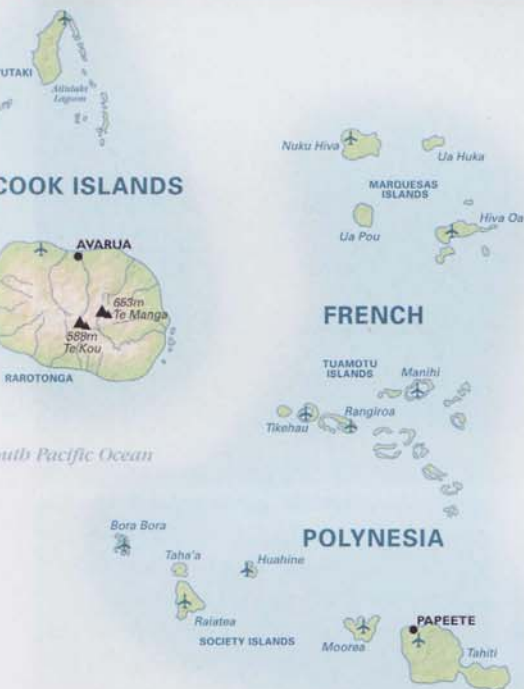
Cook Islands

Rarotonga Beach Bungalows



One of Audley's best kept secrets in the South Pacific, this is true escapism and privacy in a tropical island setting. These five bungalows front onto a wide, ocean washed, white sand beach on the southern coast of Rarotonga. The turquoise lagoon boasts the best snorkelling on the island, and is a 'Rau'i' zone: a protected marine wildlife area rich in tropical fish and coral.

Laid back and relaxed – and that's even by South Pacific standards. The Cooks may not share the fame and glamour of its two neighbours (you suspect that that is just the way they like it), but it is certainly not the poor relation when it comes to the sheer beauty of the beaches and azure waters. For those on a budget, the Cooks offer the best value for money in the South Pacific.



Travel file

A visit to the South Pacific can easily be combined with time in New Zealand or can be treated as a destination in itself, either staying on one island or combining several. For further details please call our South Pacific specialists (Patrick, Sam, Martin and Felicity) on 01869 276 245.

Tahiti & French Polynesia

Le Taha'a Private Island



Irresistibly romantic, on a small coconut palm fringed 'motu' (small island), this outstanding property is a member of the distinguished 'Relais & Chateau' association of resorts. The pristine lagoon waters, over which you sleep in opulent bungalows, boast one of the most beautiful coral gardens in all Polynesia.



The realisation of paradise, French Polynesia has been the principal exotic draw to the region since Samuel Wallis first stumbled across the islands in 1767. Tahiti island itself is merely the staging post before moving on to resorts in the Society Islands or to the more remote, but equally stunning, Tuamutu Islands. Most stays are a luxurious affair, staying in over-water bungalows in sun drenched lagoons.