

New ship will be based in Pitcairn

A new era for Pitcairn Islands Tourism is set to begin in March with the launch of a new shipping service to one of the world's most remote destinations. The delivery of the *MV Bravo Supporter*, under charter to the Pitcairn Islands Government, will see a 75 percent increase in available voyages each year, says Pitcairn Travel Coordinator, Heather Menzies. The 51 metre *Bravo Supporter*, which was built in Norway in 1998, will carry up to 12 passengers in six twin-berth cabins, each with an ensuite, lounge and office space.

The new schedule will see 21 passenger sailings to the island per annum, up from 12, together with increased opportunities for special interest cruises and charters, Menzies said. Access to the ship will continue to be via Mangareva in French Polynesia, a four-hour flight from Papeete. The service is timed to coincide with the arrival of the weekly Tuesday domestic flight to Mangareva. The extra capacity will increase Pitcairn's accessibility as an attractive destination, she said.

"We have so much more flexibility which means travellers are now able to choose voyage dates that work for them. Plus, we can deliver private charters and develop new itineraries that include the rest of our incredibly remote islands."

A range of new initiatives will be introduced during 2019 to complement the new service.



MV Bravo Supporter ©Opstad Shipping



Henderson Caves ©Andrew Christian

Solar eclipse tour

This year is shaping up to be a watershed time for tourism in the Pitcairn Islands. Following their application to be a Dark Sky Sanctuary and the introduction of the new shipping service, utilising the *MV Bravo Supporter*, Pitcairn Islands Tourism has launched two exclusive tours in 2019.

The first celebrates the total solar eclipse which will pass over the islands on July 2nd and the second provides a rare opportunity to visit Pitcairn's remote outer islands in October.

The Total Eclipse tour commences in Papeete Tahiti on 22 June 2019, and is now on sale. The tour price includes four nights' accommodation in Tahiti with transfers, a half day tour and breakfasts; return flights between Tahiti and Mangareva (to meet the ship); 11 days aboard *MV Bravo Supporter* with all meals; four days' homestay on Pitcairn Island with all meals, island touring program and transfers, plus landed visits to Oeno Island to witness the solar eclipse and also Henderson Island, which is a UNESCO World Heritage site.

The Pitcairn Islands Explorers Tour commences in Papeete Tahiti on 19 October 2019 and follows a similar itinerary, with visits also planned to Oeno and Henderson Islands, plus Pitcairn's least-visited island, Ducie.

Tours are on sale through Our Pacific, with early bird options for bookings made before January 31.

Fifteen things to do on Pitcairn Island

As Pitcairn Island is one of the most remote destinations in the world, it's no wonder there are some things you can only do on Pitcairn! Here are just a few ...

1. Get to know the real descendants of the *HMS Bounty* mutineers.
2. Dine with the entire country in one sitting. Population fewer than 50.
3. Snorkel in one of the world's largest marine reserves.
4. Feed Ms T, the island's Galapagos tortoise.
5. Taste some of the purest honey on earth. Seriously, our bees are tops!
6. Go stargazing in the world's next International Dark Sky sanctuary.
7. Swim at "the edge of the earth" in St Paul's Pool.
8. Shop for authentic Pitcairn curios and crafts.
9. Visit the grave of the *Bounty* mutineer John Adams.
10. Visit the Seventh Day Adventist Church.
11. Take a quad bike tour.
12. Play a game of tennis on the world's most remote tennis court.
13. View ancient Polynesian petroglyphs carved into the cliffs of the bay known as Down Rope.
14. Visit the Pitcairn Island Museum and see the *Bounty's* Bible.
15. Witness the once-in-a-lifetime total solar eclipse from Oeno Island in June, 2019.



Oeno Island ©Andrew Christian

Step off the beaten path...



Experience the living history of the legendary Pitcairn Islands

Untouched islands alive with endemic flora and fauna. Pristine waters where marine life abounds. An unforgettable journey. Incredible hospitality. A firsthand insight into the living history and culture of the direct descendants of the *Bounty* mutineers, and their Polynesian consorts. Just some of the experiences you will find where few travellers have been.

For bookings and enquiries contact:

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