Tahiti to Easter Island

ABOARD THE CALEDONIAN SKY

November 5 to 24, 2017

a program of the Stanford Alumni Association
There are places on earth that might be described as iconic, remote or even mysterious. On our voyage from Tahiti to Easter Island we will explore several places that aptly fit all of those descriptions…and then some. Both legends and true stories are woven into the places on our itinerary, from artist Paul Gauguin’s tumultuous years in Tahiti and the Marquesas to the HMS Bounty mutineers who took refuge on Pitcairn Island to Easter Island’s haunting moai. Easter Island, in particular, is steeped in mystery and folklore that goes beyond its enormous carved megaliths. Speculation is rife about the rise and fall of its population, but the real story is still largely unknown. I’ve always loved a compelling travel story, especially one with a cliffhanger. I hope you’ll join us for a journey to a remote part of the world marked by spectacular beauty and embellished with a bit of enigma.

BRETT S. THOMPSON, ’83, DIRECTOR, STANFORD TRAVEL/STUDY

Highlights

**PHOTOGRAPH** the exquisite Marquesas with their sky-piercing volcanoes, lushly carpeted canyons and chiseled bays.

**VIEW** Easter Island’s giant volcanic stone statues, or moai, their original purpose lost through time and one of the world’s great archaeological mysteries.

**MEET** the residents of tiny Pitcairn Island; most are direct descendants of the HMS Bounty crew.

**ENJOY** snorkeling or diving nearly every day amid healthy reefs teeming with tropical fish.
Stanford Faculty Leader

**ROB DUNBAR**, whose research interests span climate change, marine ecology, oceanography, glaciology and biogeochemistry, heads a Stanford research group that works on past, present and future climate change as well as its impacts on oceanic and coastal environments. He works regularly with the U.S. government as well as the United Nations to help develop and implement solutions to environmental and resource problems. Dunbar has been studying the coral reefs of the central and eastern Pacific, including Easter Island, since 1977. In 2009 and again in 2015, he led a group of 23 Stanford undergraduates on a 3,500-mile scientific sailing voyage from Tahiti through various island groups to Hawaii. He also led the first-ever deep-ocean submersible expedition to seamounts of the newly designated U.S. Central Pacific Islands National Monument. During our expedition Dunbar will speak about coral reef ecology, the origin of the 50,000 seamounts estimated to be in the Pacific Ocean, the global impacts of modern changes in the largest ocean on earth and what we can learn about global sustainability practices from an examination of small island systems.

— At Stanford: William Keck Professor of Earth Science; J. Frederick and Elisabeth B. Weintz University Fellow in Undergraduate Education; and Victoria P. and Roger W. Sant Director, earth systems program
— Recipient of the Richard W. Lyman Award for exceptional volunteer service to the University
— BS, geology, University of Texas Austin
— PhD, oceanography, Scripps Institution of Oceanography, UC-San Diego

"Rob's lectures are always wonderful. His organization and presentation are excellent."

**NAN HAMPTON, ICELAND TO GREENLAND, 2016**
SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 5
DEPART U.S. / PAPÉETE, TAHITI
Depart the U.S. on independent flights to Papeete, arriving in the late evening and transferring to our hotel, INTERCONTINENTAL TAHITI RESORT & SPA

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 6
PAPÉETE / EMBARK CALEDONIAN SKY
Enjoy a morning at leisure, then take a tour of Papeete, the capital of French Polynesia’s largest island. Pass by orchards of papaya on our drive along the stunning coast, and visit the Museum of Tahiti, which traces the islands’ history. Embark our ship this evening.

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 7
APATAKI, TUAMOTU ISLANDS
Our first stop is at the atoll of Apataki in the remote, sparsely populated and far-flung Tuamotus, which comprise the world’s largest atoll chain. These venerable coral constructions rise just high enough above the water to be called land, and if it weren’t for their waving coconut palms, they might be entirely invisible from a distance. With few visitors and little industry, the dazzling lagoon of Apataki offers a pristine underwater landscape for snorkelers and divers to explore. Partake in a welcome cocktail reception before dinner this evening.

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 8
AT SEA
Enjoy our lecture series and the amenities of our ship today as the Caledonian Sky cruises toward the legendary Marquesas Islands.

THURSDAY TO SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 9 TO 11
MARQUESAS ISLANDS
The Marquesas lie farther from a continental coast than any other islands in the world. Unlike other Polynesian islands, the Marquesas have no surrounding reefs or placid lagoons. Their wide, deep bays are havens for vessels such as ours. Spend three days exploring this dazzling collection of islands whose breathtaking vertical peaks reach into the clouds, while carpets of lush vegetation drape cliffs and canyons that descend to sea-sculpted bays. Zodiacs bring us ashore on a variety of islands, to be greeted by dancers and drummers adorned in leis and tapa cloth. View petroglyphs and tiki figures representing deified ancestors, flanked by banyan trees, fragrant plumeria, blooming orchids and silvery waterfalls, then stop at open-air craft markets displaying baskets, shell jewelry and wooden carvings. Witness the process of coconut drying, enjoy a local crafts market or stroll along the lagoon’s shores watching crested terns circling overhead.

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 12
PUKA PUKA, TUAMOTU ISLANDS
Delightful music and dancing welcome us at this idyllic island—the first land sighted in the South Pacific by Europeans. Visit the island’s small village whose residents raise taro, bananas and coconut palms for copra (dried coconut). Birders can keep an eye out for Pacific reef-heron while snorkelers and divers explore the fringing reef.

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 13
PUKA RUÀ
Today we drop anchor at the island of Puka Ruà, where coconut palms and breadfruit trees cover the beautiful islets ringing its lagoon. Garlanded dancers greet our group in the tiny village whose hospitable inhabitants earn a living selling copra. Witness the process of coconut drying, enjoy a local crafts market or stroll along the lagoon’s shores watching crested terns circling overhead.

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 14
EXPEDITION STOP
Conditions permitting, stop at one of the many uninhabited Tuamotu Islands to enjoy a
day of swimming, snorkeling and/or diving. CALEDONIAN SKY (B,L,D)

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 15 MANGAREVA, GAMBIER ISLANDS
Going ashore on the island of Mangareva, visit the small village of Rikitea, strolling its tidy streets flanked with colorful tropical vegetation. Also ascend the slopes of Mt. Duff for nature walks. Birders have a chance to search for Christmas and tropical shearwaters. Spend the afternoon snorkeling or diving in Mangareva’s large lagoon. CALEDONIAN SKY (B,L,D)

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 17 HENDERSON
Sheer limestone cliffs surround this elevated coraline island, a World Heritage site, pockmarked by caves and blowholes. The island is home to 10 endemic flowering plants and four endemic species of land birds, including the Henderson Island crake and Stephen’s lorikeet. In addition to observing the outcome of Henderson’s astounding natural selection, we’ll also have the opportunity to snorkel or dive in the marine life-rich waters. CALEDONIAN SKY (B,L,D)

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 18 DUCIE
This small, uninhabited and rarely visited atoll is rimmed with white sand beaches that in turn surround a crystalline lagoon. As we walk along the shore, we’ll witness a vast variety of seabirds—tens of thousands nest here, including Murphy’s and Phoenix petrels, masked boobies, frigatebirds and red-tailed tropicbirds. Underwater forays will bring snorkelers face to face with legions of rainbow-hued fish in the warm, clear waters of the atoll’s lagoon. CALEDONIAN SKY (B,L,D)

THURSDAY & FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 23 & 24 EASTER ISLAND / DISSMBARK / SANTIAGO / U.S.
After breakfast, disembark the Caledonian Sky and enjoy a short tour. Then head to the airport for our afternoon flight to Santiago where we board international flights, arriving back in the U.S. the next day. (11/23: B)
Caledonian Sky

The Caledonian Sky is a 114-passenger premier expedition ship that was refurbished in 2012. All cabins have an ocean view, en suite bathroom with walk-in shower and/or bathtub, spacious wardrobe or walk-in closet, safe, mini-bar, individually controlled air conditioner, flat-screen television and sitting area with sofa. The ship’s public amenities include a dining room, two lounges with bar service, small library and gym, sun deck with comfortable lounge chairs, hairdresser, laundry service and gift shop. An elevator services all passenger cabin decks. The Caledonian Sky’s chefs prepare quality international meals, predominantly Western-style, served at a single open seating. A friendly crew provides exceptional personalized service, with more than a 1:2 crew-to-passenger ratio. The ship features advanced satellite navigation and communication equipment, roll stabilizers and a fleet of Zodiac landing craft.

Program Cost*

Rates are per person, based on double or single occupancy, as specified.

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<tr>
<th>CATEGORY 1</th>
<th>Castle Deck, 244 sq. ft. with 2 portholes</th>
<th>DOUBLE RATE</th>
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<th>CATEGORY 5</th>
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<th>CATEGORY 6</th>
<th>Bridge Deck, 217 sq. ft. plus 60-sq.-ft. private balcony, sliding glass doors, walk-in wardrobe, shower</th>
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*Association nonmembers add $300 per person.
**Single accommodations may be limited to as few as 2 cabins.

DATES
November 5 to 24, 2017 (20 days)

SIZE
This program can accommodate a total of 100 participants, including travelers from Stanford and Zegrahm Expeditions. Single accommodations are extremely limited; please call for availability.

INCLUDED
1 night of deluxe hotel accommodations  ▪ 17-night cruise aboard the Caledonian Sky  ▪ 18 breakfasts, 17 lunches and 18 dinners  ▪ Welcome and farewell cocktail receptions  ▪ Gratuities to guides, drivers and ship crew for all group activities  ▪ All tours and shore excursions as described in the itinerary  ▪ Transfers and baggage handling on program arrival and departure days  ▪ Port fees and embarkation taxes  ▪ Minimal medical, accident and evacuation insurance  ▪ Educational program with lecture series and pre-departure materials, including recommended reading list, a selected book, map and travel information  ▪ Services of our professional tour manager to assist you throughout the program

NOT INCLUDED
International and U.S. domestic airfare  ▪ Passport and visa fees  ▪ Immunization costs  ▪ Meals and beverages other than those specified as included  ▪ Independent and private transfers  ▪ Trip-cancellation/interruption and baggage insurance  ▪ Excess-baggage charges  ▪ Personal items such as internet access, telephone and fax calls, laundry and gratuities for nongroup services

AIR ARRANGEMENTS
Airfare is not included in the program cost. Round-trip, economy-class airfare on American Airlines from San Francisco to Papeete, Tahiti, and return from Santiago, Chile, is approximately $2,610 as of September 2016 and is subject to change without notice. The Easter Island to Santiago flight is not included in the tour cost. Estimated cost for that flight is $500. Information on recommended flight itineraries will be sent by Zegrahm Expeditions.

WHAT TO EXPECT
For most activities, a relatively moderate level of exertion is required. You will need to climb into and out of Zodiacs for excursions ashore. Onshore, you must be able to walk moderate distances, unaided, over varied terrain (e.g., uneven beaches or dirt streets and paths in small villages). Daytime temperatures range from the mid 60s (°F) to the upper 70s, and sunshine and humidity create a very temperate atmosphere. Participants must be physically fit, active and in good health. We welcome travelers 15 years of age and older on this program.

Terms & Conditions

Deposit & Final Payment
A $1,000-per-person deposit is required to hold space on this program. Sign up online at alumni.stanford.edu/trip?taht2017 or call the Travel/Study office at (650) 725-1093. Final payment is due 120 days prior to departure. As a condition of participation, all confirmed participants are required to sign a Release of Liability.

Cancellations & Refunds
Deposits and any payments are refundable, less a $500-per-person cancellation fee, until 120 days prior to departure. After that date, refunds can be made only if the program is sold out and your place(s) can be resold, in which case a $1,000-per-person cancellation fee will apply.

Insurance
Stanford Travel/Study provides all travelers who are U.S. or Canadian citizens with minimal medical, accident and evacuation coverage under our group-travel insurance policy. Our group policy is intended to provide minimal levels of protection while you are traveling on this program. You may choose to subscribe to optional trip-cancellation and baggage insurance. Information offering such insurance will be provided to travelers with their welcome materials. The product offered includes special benefits if you purchase your policy within 14 days of written confirmation of your participation on the trip.

Eligibility
We encourage membership in the Alumni Association as the program cost for nonmembers is $300 more than the members’ price. A person traveling on this program as a guest paid the nonmember fee. For more information or to purchase a membership, visit alumni.stanford.edu/goto/membership or call (650) 725-0692.

Responsibility
The Stanford Alumni Association, Stanford University and our operators act only as agents for the passenger with respect to transportation and ship arrangements and exercise every care possible in doing so. However, we can assume no liability for injury, damage, loss, accident, delay or irregularity in connection with the service of any automobile, motor coach, launch or any other conveyance used in carrying out this program or for the acts or defaults of any company or person engaged in conveying the passenger or in carrying out the arrangements of the program. 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, force majeure or other causes beyond our control. All such losses or expenses will have to be borne by the passenger as tour rates provide arrangements only for the time stated. We reserve the right to make such alterations to this published itinerary as may be deemed necessary. The right is reserved to cancel any program prior to departure in which case the entire payment will be refunded without further obligation on our part. The right is also reserved to decline to accept or retain any person as a member of the program. No refund will be made for an unused portion of any tour unless arrangements are made in sufficient time to avoid penalties. Baggage is carried at the owner’s risk entirely. It is understood that the ship’s ticket, when issued, shall constitute the sole contract between the passenger and the cruise company. The airlines concerned are not to be held responsible for any act, omission or event during the time that passengers are not onboard their plane or conveyance. Neither the Alumni Association, Stanford University nor our operators accept liability for any carrier’s cancellation penalty incurred by the purchase of a nonrefundable ticket in connection with the tour. Program price is based on rates in effect in September 2016 and is subject to change without notice to reflect fluctuations in exchange rates, tariffs or fuel charges.
"Rob Dunbar is the best! He was so easy to engage, so enthusiastic and so joyful in all of his talks, both formal and informal. He brought a wonderful sense of humor and playfulness to the trip."

JENNIFER PINTO MARTIN, '78, EVEREST BASE CAMP TREK, 2015