

Sample Itinerary
Tahiti: Marine Biology
Field Study in Oceanography and Marine Methods

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Notes: This itinerary is a sample of potential program activities, deviations may be expected. All meals provided.

Destination	Date	Time	Topic	Contact Hours
Pre-departure			Orientation	2L
			Online pre-departure lectures	2L
Pape'ete	Day 1		Group flights arrives	
		18:00 – 21:00	Welcome dinner, survey A and orientation to Tahiti	
Pape'ete	Day 2	09:00	Tahitian Islands all day field trip	
			Captain Cook's explorations: Matavai Bay	1F
			Tahitian biodiversity: Faarumai waterfall	1F
			Paul Gauguin: Gauguin museum	
			Tahitian religion and culture: Arahurahu Marae	
			Social history: Musee de Tahiti et des Iles	
Pape'ete	Day 3		Free morning	
		Noon	Depart for Mo'orea	
		15:00 – 17:00	Safety in marine fieldwork (boating, swimming, and lab safety)	1L, 1F
		17:30	Welcome dinner and orientation to Gump	
		19:00	Introduction to Mo'orea: geology and fringing reefs	2L
Mo'orea	Day 4	9:00	What is saltwater?	2L
		13:00	Fringing reefs field trip	5F
Mo'orea	Day 5	9:00	Nutrients in seawater	2L
		13:00	Nutrient analysis (total nitrogen, orthophosphate lab)	4F
Mo'orea	Day 6	9:00	Bacterioplankton, phytoplankton, and microbial loop	2L
		13:00	Hike the Vaiare-Paopao route: Volcanism and the formation of cinder cones and atolls	5F
Mo'orea	Day 7		Free morning to explore Mo'orea on own	
		13:00	How to use a CDT, collect profiles, and analyze CTD data	4F
Mo'orea	Day 8	9:00	The zooplankton (function, form, recruitment)	1L

		13:00	Collecting phytoplankton and bacterioplankton, microscopy & staining	4F
Mo'orea	Day 9	9:00	What is biodiversity and why does it matter?	2L
		13:00	Lagoon, reef, and motu ecology: Stingray and snorkel trip to collect microbial samples from reef and pelagic environments	5F
Mo'orea	Day 10	9:00	Molecular biology in microbial ecology	2L
		13:00	DNA extraction of environmental samples	5F
		18:00 – 21:00	Traditional Tahitian culture: Atitia cultural center feast and dancing	
Mo'orea	Day 11	9:00	Functional and taxonomic diversity	2L
		13:00	qPCR of functional genes	4F
Mo'orea	Day 12	9:00	Corals (biology, major groups, climate change)	1L
		13:00 – 18:00	Snorkeling to observe reef structure and zones and invertebrate transect surveys	5F
		19:00	Closing dinner: Survey B, program wrap-up	
Mo'orea	Day 13	9:00	Final exam	2L
		13:00	Transfer to Pape'ete and free afternoon	
		20:00	Transfer to Pape'ete International Airport and depart for Los Angeles	

Contact Hours

Lecture hours: 23

Field hours 44 hours (using 2 field hours = 1 lecture hour): 22

Total contact hours = 45 (3 semester credits)