

FRENCH POLYNESIA

GAMBIER ARCHIPELAGO

POPPING & JIGGING EXPEDITION

Fishing at the end of the world, the way it should
be.

7 NIGHTS · 6 FISHING DAYS



THE EDGE OF THE PACIFIC

About 1,700 km southeast of Tahiti, at the far end of French Polynesia, the Gambier Islands rise from the open ocean. Green volcanic peaks sit inside a huge turquoise lagoon, ringed by a barrier reef and scattered motu.

Few visitors come here. The main island, Mangareva, is home to black-pearl farms, old coral-stone churches and a quiet village pace. The waters around it see almost no fishing pressure.

WHY THE FISH ARE HERE

The Gambier waters see little commercial fishing, and one reason is ciguatera. This natural toxin builds up in many reef fish here, so local reef fish can't be sold or exported. As a result, the reefs have been left mostly alone, and the fish live longer and grow bigger. For catch-and-release anglers, the reason fishermen stay away is the reason you should come.

BUILT FOR JIGGING & POPPING

The Gambier have what serious anglers look for: steep reef drop-offs, current-swept passes, seamounts and deep blue water close to the reef.

On the shallows and reef edges, giant trevally crash poppers and stickbaits, along with bluefin trevally and other reef predators. Drop a jig down the walls and you're into hard-fighting dogtooth tuna, amberjack and grouper. Offshore, yellowfin tuna and wahoo keep things exciting.

The fish are strong, the scenery is spectacular, and you'll often be the only boat in sight.





TARGET SPECIES

POPPING & STICKBAITING: REEF AND SHALLOWS

- **Giant Trevally (GT):** The top prize. Powerful and aggressive, they hit surface lures hard over the reef edges and passes.
- **Bluefin Trevally:** Fast and colorful. They often hunt in packs and will chase poppers right to the boat.
- **Bigeye Trevally:** They school around passes and drop-offs and are great fun on light popping gear.
- **Great Barracuda:** They strike surface lures with explosive speed.
- **Green Jobfish:** A strong snapper of the reef edge that will take both stickbaits and jigs.

OFFSHORE: BLUE WATER

- **Yellowfin Tuna:** Fast and strong. Taken on jigs, poppers and trolled lures.
- **Wahoo:** Lightning-fast runs and razor teeth.
- **Mahi-Mahi (Dorado):** Acrobatic, colorful and always welcome.
- **Rainbow Runner:** A hard fighter that often shows up around tuna schools.

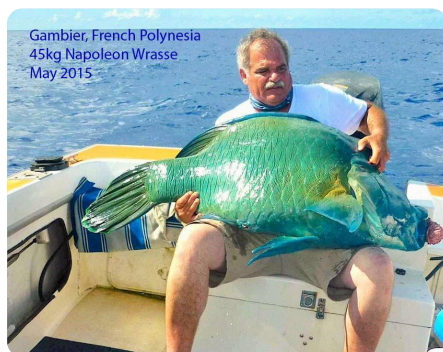
JIGGING: DROP-OFFS AND DEEP REEF

- **Dogtooth Tuna:** The heavyweight of the reef walls. They hit jigs hard and dive straight for the bottom.
- **Amberjack:** Brutal, deep-water fighters that test both tackle and angler.
- **Red Bass:** A tough, territorial reef predator.
- **Grouper / Coral Trout:** Several species, including lyretail and coral grouper. They grab jigs and head for cover.
- **Emperor:** Hard-pulling reef fish that take jigs on the deeper reef.

PROTECTED: LOOK, DON'T KEEP

Napoleon Wrasse: A giant of the reef, sometimes seen around the passes and occasionally hooked by accident. It is protected in French Polynesia and must be released right away, with as little handling as possible.

Catch-and-release is encouraged across all reef species. Many reef fish here carry ciguatera and are not safe to eat.



Gambier, French Polynesia
45kg Napoleon Wrasse
May 2015



FISHING SEASON

We fish the Gambier from August to May. June and July are too cold for good fishing.

WARM SEASON · NOVEMBER–APRIL

Air 24–27°C · Water 24–27°C

Calmer seas and the best surface action. Peak season for GT on poppers, yellowfin and mahi-mahi.

COOL SEASON · MAY · AUGUST–OCTOBER

Air 21–24°C · Water 22–25°C

Stronger trade winds and southern swells. Excellent jigging for dogtooth tuna, amberjack and grouper on the deep walls. Wahoo are often active.

BEST MONTHS

FEBRUARY–APRIL · OCTOBER–NOVEMBER

THE BOATS

We fish from traditional Tahitian **poti marara**. These fast, open boats were built for Polynesian waters. Each one takes up to **4 anglers** and has plenty of room for casting and jigging. With two boats, we can host up to **8 anglers** per trip.

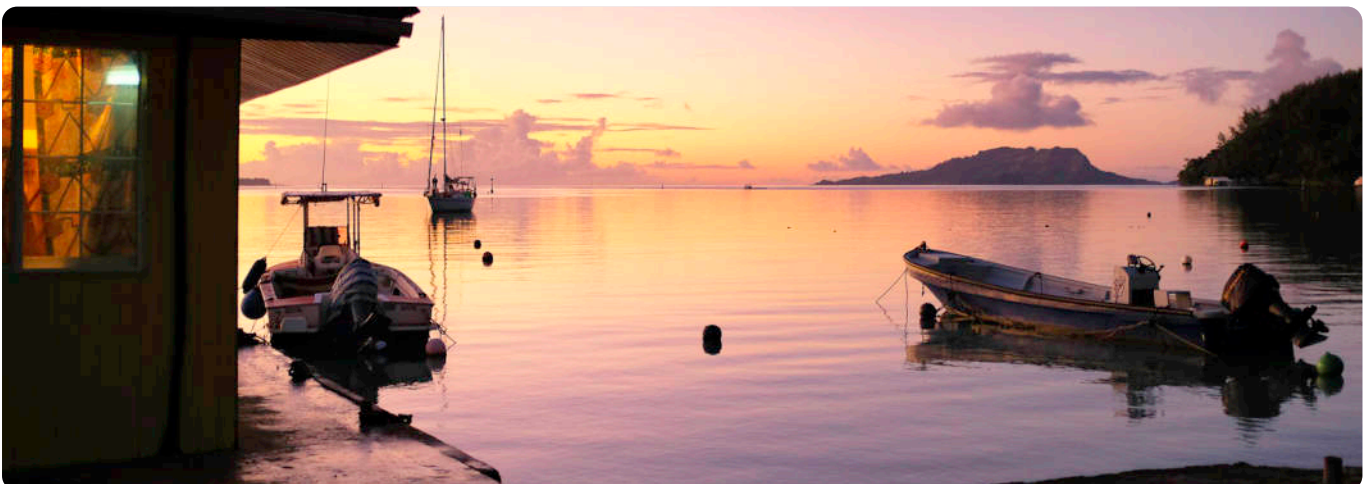




ACCOMMODATION

You'll stay at a family-run guesthouse on Mangareva, where your hosts look after you like family. Rooms are shared by two anglers and have hot showers.

All meals are home-cooked: breakfast before you head out, a packed lunch on the boat, and dinner at the guesthouse each evening.





ITINERARY · 7 NIGHTS / 6 FISHING DAYS

MONDAY PAPEETE

Arrive in Tahiti and stay overnight near the airport.

TUESDAY ARRIVAL IN THE GAMBIER

- **06:30** Depart Papeete
- **11:15** Arrive at Totegegie, then take the boat transfer to Mangareva
- Check in at the guesthouse and have lunch
- **Afternoon:** Explore Mangareva, including Rikitea village, the historic coral-stone cathedral and the island's lagoon views
- **Evening:** Rig your tackle, get a trip briefing and have dinner

WEDNESDAY– MONDAY 6 FULL FISHING DAYS

- **07:30** Depart
- A full day of popping and jigging: reef edges and passes for GT, deep walls for dogtooth, and offshore for pelagics
- We plan each day around weather, tides and where the fish are
- A packed lunch (sandwiches) and water are provided on the boat
- **16:30** Return to the guesthouse
- **Evening:** Dinner at the guesthouse

TUESDAY DEPARTURE

- **Morning:** Pack and take the boat transfer to Totegegie
- **12:00** Depart the Gambier
- **14:50** Arrive in Papeete and connect to your international flight or a hotel



GETTING THERE

The Gambier are reached by Air Tahiti from Papeete, Tahiti (PPT), to Totegegie Airport (GMR). Totegegie is on a motu on the reef, and a short boat transfer across the lagoon takes you to Mangareva. *The boat transfer is included in your Air Tahiti ticket.*

There is one scheduled flight a week, on **Tuesdays**, with an occasional extra flight on Saturdays. All our trips run **Tuesday to Tuesday**.

FLIGHT SCHEDULE (TUESDAY)

FLIGHT	DEPARTS	ARRIVES
Papeete → Gambier	PPT 06:30	GMR 11:15
Gambier → Papeete	GMR 12:00	PPT 14:50

Times are local. The Gambier are 1 hour ahead of Tahiti.

PLANNING YOUR TRAVEL

- Arrive in Papeete no later than **Monday**, and stay the night near the airport so you can check in early for the 06:30 departure.
- If you miss the Tuesday flight, the next one may be a week away.
- On the way home, you land in Papeete at 14:50 on Tuesday. Choose an international departure that evening or later, or stay an extra night in Tahiti.
- Air Tahiti has strict baggage limits. Check the current allowance and the fees for rod tubes and extra bags when booking.
- **Entry requirements:** Check passport validity and visa requirements for French Polynesia before you travel.



RECOMMENDED TACKLE

We recommend bringing three setups.

01

GT POPPING

Line

PE10 minimum

Leader

150 lb

Reel

18000–20000 size spinning

Rod

Rated for PE8–10

Lures

Poppers and stickbaits, about 120–250 g. Both work well.

02

JIGGING

Line

PE5–6

Leader

100 lb

Reel

8000–10000 size spinning, or an equivalent overhead

Rod

Jigging rod rated for PE5–6 and jigs up to 400 g

Jigs

250–400 g

03

LIGHT CASTING: LAGOON

Line

PE2–3

Leader

30–50 lb

Reel

4000–5000 size spinning

Rod

Light casting rod for lures of about 20–60 g

Lures

Small poppers, stickbaits, minnows and metal jigs

TACKLE TIPS

- Use heavy-duty split rings, solid rings and hooks rated for your setup. GTs and dogtooth find any weak point.
- Bring spare lures, leaders and terminal tackle. There are no tackle shops in the Gambier.
- Travel rods (2- or 3-piece) make the Air Tahiti flight easier.



WHAT TO BRING

- Sun protection: hat or buff and reef-safe sunscreen
- Polarized sunglasses
- Fishing gloves
- Lightweight, quick-dry long-sleeve shirts and pants
- Rain jacket or windbreaker
- Dry bag
- Personal medications and a basic first-aid kit
- Seasickness tablets
- Cash in Pacific francs (XPF). Banking and card payments in the Gambier are limited.



WHAT'S INCLUDED

- 7 nights at the guesthouse (twin share)
- All meals: breakfast, packed lunch and dinner
- 6 full days of guided fishing (07:30–16:30)
- Drinking water on the boat

NOT INCLUDED

- Domestic flights (Papeete–Gambier)
- International flights
- Hotel in Papeete
- Fishing tackle
- Alcohol
- Gratuities
- Travel insurance

PRICE PER ANGLER

All inclusive · full board + fishing

2 anglers
US\$8,000 per boat **US\$4,000**

3 anglers
US\$9,900 per boat **US\$3,300**

4 anglers
US\$11,800 per boat **US\$2,950**

7 nights / 6 fishing days
2 boats · up to 8 anglers per trip

BOOKING & PAYMENT

- **Deposit:** US\$1,000 per angler to confirm your booking
- **Balance:** Remaining amount, due 3 months (90 days) before the trip starts

TRAVEL INSURANCE

We strongly recommend comprehensive travel insurance. It should cover trip cancellation, flight disruption, lost baggage and fishing equipment, and **medical evacuation**. The Gambier are very remote, and medical facilities on Mangareva are basic.

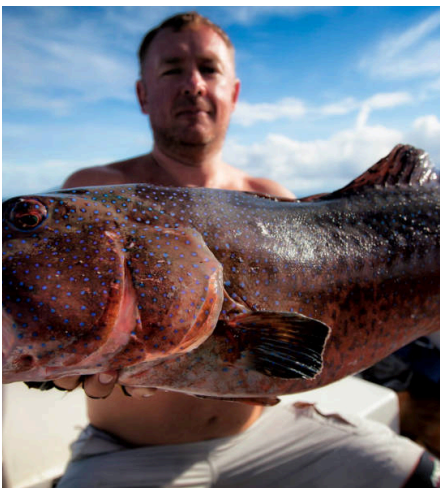
CANCELLATION POLICY

- **More than 90 days before the trip:** The deposit is non-refundable. It may be moved to another available date within 12 months, once.
- **Within 90 days of the trip:** 100% of the trip cost is non-refundable.
- **Replacement angler:** If you find a replacement for your spot, we will refund your payment minus a US\$200 admin fee.
- **If we cancel the trip,** for example because the minimum group size isn't met, you will receive a full refund of all payments made to us.
- **Weather and flights:** We can't refund fishing days lost to weather, sea conditions, or Air Tahiti delays or cancellations.

GALLERY







A small boat with a canopy is docked on a body of water at sunset. The boat has a white hull with red and yellow stripes. The canopy is made of a dark material supported by several poles. The water is calm, reflecting the orange and pink hues of the sunset. In the background, there are mountains and a few other boats.

BOOK YOUR TRIP

RANDY CHIN

EMAIL

randychin85@gmail.com

WHATSAPP

Tap here to message me