



Where Rays Roam

In the South Pacific Ocean, there's a little patch of powdery white sand on the northern side of Moorea, Tahiti's sister island, just inside Passe Taotoi. It's an idyllic spot, where the coral reef protects you from the ocean swell, and the towering volcanic spires soften the trade winds. But what makes this little patch of sand — lying in less than five feet of the clearest water you can possibly imagine — really special is that it's home, during lunchtime at least, to a fleet of stingrays.

Great, big, well-fed stingrays to be precise, some almost the size of a dinghy, and each day they come to this little area of the lagoon to be fed. These rays aren't trained or tamed, they're wild creatures — about as wild as a flock of pigeons feeding on breadcrumbs in Central Park.

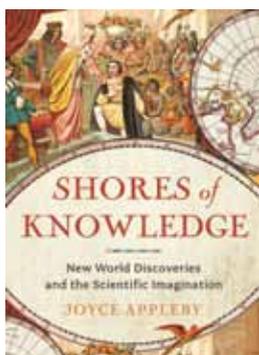
They're gentle too, and perhaps at times in an effort to be fed, a little persistent. Their majestic man-

ner, peaceful presence and cheeky smiles make them easy to forgive when you have a dozen of them swimming around, under and over you.

Just a faint whiff of fish brings these stealth feeders out from hiding. Some appear from the dark blue channel gliding silently out of the deep, fluttering toward you like a flag in a soft breeze. Others conserve their energy and choose to settle in the shallows right below the dinghy, shaking the sand off their gray backs when you arrive. All at once they wiggle, flap, glide, bank and coast their way over. It's lovely.

So if you find yourself in Moorea on holiday or perhaps anchored in Opunohu Bay, as we were aboard *Dream Time*, our 1981 Cabo Rico, buy some fresh fish from the market or take one of the tourist boats over to Passe Taotoi. The rays are waiting, and they'll be happy to see you.

Neville Hockley



GOOD BOOK

Shores of Knowledge by Joyce Appleby (\$26; W.W. Norton & Co., www.wwnorton.com; 2013).

Sailing a boat to see new places and meet new people: This is exactly what cruising sailors know and do, so they will deeply understand and appreciate how Appleby, a distinguished historian, locates this simple but profound act at the

center of her readable account. It explores how the exemplary voyages of discovery — by Columbus, Magellan, Cook, Darwin — spurred Europe's Enlightenment engagement with quantifying and categorizing natural phenomena, including

the social lives of other peoples, and drove the rise of modern science. *Shores* will add new layers of historical, intellectual and cultural meaning to your next weekend cruise to that place you've never been before.

John Wilson

PASSAGE NOTES

CRUISINGWORLD.COM



"My grandson Guillermo and his friend Bernardo enjoying a ride on the bow" P.C.S.

WHAT IS ON YOUR SAILING "BUCKET LIST"?

I'll take any place I haven't been yet.
W.L.

On my list was Brazil, the Amazon, Argentina and beyond. It's not gonna happen now but I did get to cruise to many beautiful places so I am one lucky girl!
C.D.

Fiji — to get there and back home I would have to sail everywhere (well, nearly!).
P.D.B.

I want to consecutively cross each line of longitude without using any canals or straights.
T.S.

Hiva Oa, French Polynesia, would be wonderful.
R.D.

Anywhere the wind will bring me, as long I've got enough water under my keel!
H.B.

I'll take anywhere since I'm stuck in Oklahoma!
B.G.

I'd like to see Raja Ampat and other northeast Indonesia islands.
P.J.P.

Definitely the Azores!
R.M.R.

I want to do the northern route across the Atlantic.
C.B.

Pitcairn island sounds cool. I'd also like to do America's Great Loop.
P.K.

If your bucket contains some water, I would be willing to sail around in that.
C.W.

I want to circumnavigate Newfoundland and transit the Northwest Passage.
C.M.