

BEST OF THE COOK ISLANDS

With Val Henry

9 Days / 8 Nights

Departs: Wednesday 15 May - Thursday 23 May 2019

Tour Cost: \$3,630.00 per person Twin Share

(\$1280.00 single supplement)

Inclusive Airport taxes & levies which are subject to change without notice.

Premium Economy & Business Class upgrades & pricing available on request!

Tour Price based on minimum 20 paying passengers. Price subject to 2019 airfare fare increases & schedules changes.



TRADE TRAVEL
Group Travel Specialists



Day 1 Wed 15 May: Brisbane - Rarotonga

Flight Meals, Breakfast & Dinner

After arriving at the Brisbane International terminal, we check in and enjoy some duty free shopping before boarding our flight to Rarotonga via Auckland with Air New Zealand.

NZ0136: Brisbane 1115 to Auckland 1725 & NZ0748: Auckland 1930 to Rarotonga 0120

Crossing over the dateline we arrive into Rarotonga early Wednesday morning (Rarotonga time). We then transfer to our resort where we enjoy an early morning check in and sleep before waking to a tropical buffet breakfast. After a leisurely morning we will set off on our **orientation tour of scenic Rarotonga** in one of the modern air-conditioned coaches. Our tour takes us on a clockwise tour from the Hotel into town, with a quick 15 min stop at Temu's shop for rest-room break and **pearl talk**. Black Pearl being the most important souvenir on offer in the Cook Islands. Our next stop is at the **Matutu Brewery Company** where we will enjoy a short tour. This small business operated by two families of patriotic Cook Islanders aim to produce premium beers and beverages that will be iconic to our Cook Islands experience. We hear about their humble brewing process and are able to taste products from their range of beers. We also visit the **Maire Nui Tropical Gardens** before strolling across to the beach to **purchase lunch from Charlie`s Cafe** which is located within a beautiful setting. Charlie`s is known for whopper fish or chicken sandwiches but has other choices with coffee/tea and full bar facilities. Following lunch we return to our resort where we enjoy a leisurely afternoon poolside or catching up on some sleep. Tonight we enjoy a **Polynesian buffet feast and live performance by the Akirata Island Dance Troupe**.

Overnight: Muri Beach Club Rarotonga

Day 2 Thurs 16 May: Rarotonga

Breakfast & Dinner

This morning after a leisurely breakfast we discover some local industries producing fantastic products sold locally and internationally. Our first stop is **Cook Islands Noni juice factory**. For more than 2,000 years, the juice of the Noni fruit has been widely used as herbal medicines by ancient healers of the South Pacific. It is 100% pure, undiluted and bursting with health and vitality. This factory has been producing 100% pure Cook Islands Noni Juice for the past fourteen years. Our next stop is **Rito Cook Islands** producing beautiful products made with cold-pressed virgin coconut oil, which is made in the Rarotonga village of Tikioki, Rito products capture the purity and simplicity of a tropical paradise. The Rito range includes cold-pressed virgin coconut oil, tamanu oil, soaps and skincare products. We learn about the production of the humble coconut to the finished product before departing and enjoying morning tea at a scenic location. We also visit a **Ukulele workshop** to see how they are made and hand carved. This workshop is very unique as it is located in the local gaol. After our morning tour we have a free afternoon at leisure.



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Day 2 Continues

This evening we depart on a “**Progressive Dinner**” where we are treated to **traditional island cooking** as we progress to **three different Island homes** for entrée, main course and dessert. A fun night and a good way to meet the local people and sample some of the fine local Island dishes – quality is assured.

Overnight: Muri Beach Club Rarotonga

Day 3 Fri 17 May 2019: Rarotonga

Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

Another day in paradise begins with a tropical buffet breakfast at the hotel before beginning our exciting half-day **4WD Raro Mountain Safari Tour**. As we travel into the interior of the island we will **discover the real Rarotonga and its fascinating history**. Learn about life on the island from our colourful local guides as we climb along out-of-the-way tracks and take in **breath-taking mountain vistas** and stunning views across the turquoise lagoons, blue waters and four islets that will surely take our breath away. Our tour includes a **BBQ lunch on the beach** before returning to our hotel for a relaxing afternoon. Tonight enjoy **Island tunes by Rob and Roy and Pig and Prawn Night** - try the famous Pork Spare Ribs and King Prawns cooked up to 4 different flavours.

Overnight: Rarotonga Muri Beach Club Hotel

Day 4 Sat 18 May: Rarotonga

Breakfast & Dinner

This morning after breakfast we enjoy **Rarotonga’s Saturday Punanga Nui Market** which offers a wide range of island gifts and handicrafts, black pearls, pearl shell jewellery, pareu fabrics, clothing, local music and fresh local produce. A special market day today as villagers from the outer islands will also be showing their wares. It’s a great place to sample the local homemade delicacies, or just to pass the time meeting and chatting with the locals. We have time to purchase lunch in town (own cost) and some shopping time before returning back to the hotel early afternoon. Tonight we are in for a treat at the **Te Vara Nui Polynesian Village** for the “**Ultimate Island Experience**” where we learn about the history, traditional medicines, fishing and navigation, legends and beliefs. Local artisans and craftspeople will show us how to weave, carve, prepare costumes and cook traditional foods. Afterwards Te Vara Nui Polynesian Village invite us to the biggest show in Rarotonga at their sensational Island night. Rarotonga’s finest dancers and musicians will thrill us as they perform by flaming torchlight on the floating and fixed stages of Vara Nui’s water garden whilst enjoying a delicious blend of traditional and modern cuisine as we watch the show unfold. This is a ‘must do’ experience not to be missed.

Overnight: Muri Beach Club Rarotonga

Day 5 Sun 19 May: Rarotonga

Breakfast & Dinner

We enjoy our buffet breakfast at the hotel before we are then involved in a moving experience as we attend a local **church service at the Arorangi Cook Islands Christian Church**. We experience the friendly, generous people, the women’s Rito hats, the service and the magnificent singing. The men, women and children all join in to sing the hymns in their own native language. We stay for a delightful morning tea with the congregation before returning to the hotel. Afterwards we have a free afternoon to maybe explore the island in a Tuk Tuk or relax on the beach. Tonight we enjoy the **delicious Reef and Beef night with live music by Duo Henzart and Destiny**.

Overnight: Muri Beach Club Rarotonga

Day 6 Mon 20 May: Rarotonga

Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

After breakfast this morning we then transfer to **Captain Tama’s Lagoon Cruise**. Listen to the drums before boarding our vessel to get a view of the wonderful marine life in Rarotonga’s lagoons through a **glass bottom boat** or snorkel with the fish (snorkels and flippers supplied). We disembark for lunch and relax on our own uninhabited island to enjoy a **delightful beach BBQ** and truly entertaining show. Mid afternoon we return by glass bottom boat to the beach hut before transferring back to our hotel. Tonight we have dinner at the hotel.

Overnight: Muri Beach Club Rarotonga

Day 7 Tues 21 May: Rarotonga

Breakfast & Dinner

This morning we enjoy the tropical buffet breakfast before visiting a **local school (subject to school holidays)**. This is a special experience where we enjoy a **tour of the school** and experience how the happy children spend their days. We enjoy **morning tea** here before we head back to the resort. This is a great opportunity to give back to the Island with providing the children with much needed school supplies. We have a free afternoon for a swim or snorkel in the beautiful waters that surround the island, a refreshing swim in the resort pool, shopping or maybe explore the island in a Tuk Tuk. Tonight we enjoy a relaxing at the hotel.

Overnight: Muri Beach Club Rarotonga

Day 8 Wed 22 May: Rarotonga - Brisbane

Breakfast & Flight Meals

Today we have a leisurely morning giving us time to enjoy the resort activities one last time before we travel to the township for free time to purchase lunch and do some last minute shopping. Our driver will then take us to the airport for our return flight home. On arrival we check-in and board our flight to Brisbane via Auckland.

NZ0045 Rarotonga 1555 to Auckland 1830 & NZ0733 Auckland 1930 to Brisbane 2120 (Thursday)

Day 9 Thurs 23 May: Brisbane

On arrival into Brisbane we disembark our aircraft before we clear customs and reflect on a memorable holiday to Rarotonga in the Cook Islands with Trade Travel.

The tour includes:

- Return international economy airfares 'Works Deal' Brisbane - Rarotonga - Brisbane via Auckland
- 8 Nights resort style accommodation at the **Muri Beach Club Rarotonga** inclusive early check in day 1
- All meals as per the itinerary
- All transfers and touring as per the itinerary (includes pick up & drop off at hotel when required)
- All attractions as per the itinerary

Not included in the tour cost:

- Premium economy or business class upgrades
- Optional touring
- Personal expenses for drinks, laundry, and personal requirements
- Meals not mentioned in above itinerary
- Travel Insurance not included but highly recommended

Tour highlights include:

Rarotonga Orientation Tour - Pearl Shop; Matutu Brewery Company; Maire Nui Tropical Gardens; Charlie's Cafe; Polynesian Buffet & Akirata Island Dance Troupe Show; Cook Islands Noni Juice Factory Tour; Rito Cook Islands Factory Tour; Ukulele Workshop; Island Homes Progressive Dinner; 4WD Raro Mountains Safari Tour; Island Tunes & Pig & Prawn Night; The Punanga Nui Market; Te Vara Nui Polynesian Village Tour, Dinner & Show - "The Ultimate Island Experience"; Sunday Community Church Service - Arorangi Cook Islands Christian Church "Includes M/Tea; Reef & Beef Night; Captain Tama's Glass Bottom Boat Lagoon Cruise & Beach BBQ; School Visit (conditions apply) plus more.



PAYMENT DETAILS

DEPOSIT of \$500.00 per person due on booking with completed booking form to secure your place on this tour - no later than Friday 12 October 2018
FINAL PAYMENT to be paid on or before Friday 8 February 2019

For information and bookings contact: Trade Travel
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