

# COOK ISLANDS

## PACIFIC PARADISE CULTURAL TOUR

Discover the untouched beauty, culture and charm of the Cook Islands...matched only by the friendliness of her people. This fully inclusive escorted tour specially designed for the mature traveller offers exceptional value for money with the most authentic experiences available in the magical Cooks!



### ITINERARY

12 – 20 June 2020

**Day 1 Fri 12 June** Depart Brisbane / Free Day [In-flight meals/B/D]

Today we meet at the Brisbane Domestic Airport at 4.15pm for our Qantas flight to Sydney, before boarding our flight with Air New Zealand to Rarotonga at 9.30pm. After arriving in 'Raro', we will transfer to the **Edgewater Resort and Spa**, our home for the week. *(Please note: as our flight crosses the International Date Line, we will technically be arriving at our destination before leaving Australia!)* Time for a sleep, then breakfast is available between 7am - 10.30am. We will enjoy our personal resort orientation in the "Umu Hut" before relaxing for the rest of the day. Use part of your complimentary NZ\$50 food and beverage credit for lunch in-house. Perhaps take the opportunity to hop on the local 'town bus' which pulls into our hotel reception, to go into town or right around the island (*own expense*). Or you may simply wish to relax around the pool, go snorkeling or enjoy the resort facilities. Meet at Mal's Bar at 5.00pm for happy hour drinks, followed by dinner. (Drinks are at own expense).

**Hotel: Edgewater Resort & Spa – Phone: 0011 682 254 35**

**Day 2 Sat 13 June** Punanga Nui Markets / Island Discovery Tour [B/L/D]

It's market day in Raro! All the locals attend the colourful **Punanga Nui Markets**, and we will too! Here we have a chance to mingle with the locals, look at local island crafts, enjoy entertainment and purchase some gifts. After the markets, enjoy a delicious lunch at **Charlie's Cafe**, before we embark on our **Island Discovery Tour** this afternoon. This is an excellent introduction to the Cook Islands, and provides information on the country's history and culture, stopping along the way at fascinating historical and ceremonial sites. Light refreshments included on tour. Enjoy a relaxing afternoon, then tonight enjoy the fantastic in-house **Polynesian Island Night & Show**, including a sumptuous feast!

**Day 3 Sun 14 June** Cook Islands Christian Church / Te Ara Museum [B/LR/D]

Sunday is church day, when everything stops in Raro. We travel south to the village of **Titikaveka** to attend at church service at their **Cook Islands Christian Church**. Here we'll enjoy a wonderful experience! Hear the locals raise the roof with their renowned beautiful, spine-tingling singing! After the service, we join church members for morning tea. We then visit the **Te Ara Museum**, where we will see the world-class exhibition of the history of the Cook Islands with an environmental focus on ocean conservation. Later enjoy lunch at **The Mooring Cafe** before returning to our resort for the remainder of the afternoon. Early evening, we depart for dinner at a local restaurant.

**Day 4 Mon 15 June** Koka Lagoon Cruise [B/L/D]

This morning is a very special treat in store! We join "**Koka Lagoon Cruise**" on the world-famous **Muri Lagoon**. This is undoubtedly the best way to discover the magnificent protected lagoon of Rarotonga. Join the fun, professional crew on board a glass bottom boat and cruise around the world-renown **Muri Lagoon** to the inner reef area to view the varieties of tropical marine life. If you wish to swim, wear your bathers underneath your clothes today, and pack your hat, sunscreen and towel! A sumptuous BBQ lunch is provided, with lots of fun guaranteed today! This evening we dine in-house for a delicious dinner.

Day 5 Tue 16 June

Local Primary School / Progressive Dinner

[B/L/D]

This morning after breakfast, we visit a **Local Primary School** where we can mingle with the school children who are known for their friendly smiling faces and wonderful curiosity of meeting people from other countries! If you wish, feel free to bring educational material for the children, such as pens, pencils, erasers, colouring in books etc. Tonight, we enjoy a special **Progressive Dinner**, where we will visit some local homes. We leave the familiar surrounds of our resort and venture out to the villages to experience true Cook Islands cuisine, hospitality and the real spirit of culture and lifestyle when you visit the locals in their homes! This 5-hour wine and dining experience takes visitors through three island style homes where you feel the magic of meeting 3-4 generations under one roof. Revel in the stories of old, and the dreams and aspirations of Cook Islanders as they map out their young lives.

Day 6 Wed 17 June

Highland Paradise

[B/L/D]

This morning we visit the very special **Highland Paradise**, situated high up in the rugged volcanic and beautiful mountains of Rarotonga. This fascinating "open air museum" boasts spectacular views and showcases evidence of a historical lost village and survival of the Polynesian people. This is a truly authentic experience situated on Raro's most sacred mountain! Learn about the intellectual know-how of the early signs of astrology to the barbaric rocks of sacrifice, including the navigational stones used to guide the 'vakas' to Aotearoa (*New Zealand*). Meander through the gardens with our guide, who points out medicinal and ritual plants. Light refreshments provided for lunch before returning to our resort. This afternoon is at leisure before we return up the mountain to Highland Paradise to enjoy an evening of unique and truly authentic cultural entertainment and feasting ... prepare yourself for an evening of true Cook Islands exhilarating dance!

Day 7 Thu 18 June

Depart Rarotonga

[B/LR/In-flight Meals]

Enjoy a morning of leisure or head into town for some last-minute shopping (own expense). We enjoy a light lunch at the resort, before we transfer to the airport. Our Air New Zealand flight departs this afternoon to begin our journey home, after our wonderful Cook Islands experience.

Day 8 Fri 19 June

Arrive Sydney

[B/In-flight Meals]

We arrive into Sydney late this evening, where we will overnight at the fabulous 5-star Stamford Plaza Sydney Airport. With dinner being in-flight, arrive at your hotel and enjoy a relaxing sleep after a long day. *(Please note: your flight crosses back over the International Date Line to return to Australia).*

Day 9 Sat 20 June

Depart Sydney / Arrive Brisbane

[B/In-flight Meals]

Enjoy a delicious buffet breakfast this morning before we transfer to the airport for our flight back to Brisbane. We say "Aere Ra e Kia Manuia" until you grace the shores of the beautiful Cook Islands again!!!

Key: B=Breakfast LR=Light Refreshments L=Lunch D=Dinner

### **SPECIAL PRICE**

\$3559.00 per person twin share plus taxes \$235.00      Single supplement \$755.00

### **PAYMENT DETAILS**

Booking form and non-refundable deposit \$800.00 per person on/before 20 December 2020.  
Balance payment due on/before 9 March 2020.

### **BOOKINGS**

For bookings and enquiries, please contact Uplift Tours and Travel on 1300 484 510 / 07 5513 1086.

#### **NOTE:-**

The itinerary may be subject to change without notice. Whilst every effort is made to adhere to the itinerary as provided, Uplift Tours and Travel reserves the right to alter the touring and attractions as dictated by circumstances and conditions outside the company's control. Alterations may be made to ensure the smooth running of the tour. Every attempt will be made to ensure alterations do not adversely affect the operation of the tour. Uplift Tours and Travel will not be held responsible for weather-based cancellations or those closures made at the venue's discretion. All bookings are subject to availability and price confirmation at the time of booking. Travel insurance is highly recommended.

## **Uplift Tours and Travel**

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*Service is our strength, Travel is our passion.*

