



HIGHLIGHTS TOUR - 'BEST OF RAROTONGA'

Including the Tiare Flower Festival
26 NOVEMBER - 4 DECEMBER 2021
 Ex Brisbane

Each November the Tiare Flower Festival celebrates the beauty of the flowers of the Cook Islands, where business premises and public buildings are festooned with flowers and homes are filled with a scent of gardenias. The festival is named Tiare from the maori name for a 'flower' or 'flowering plant' and is commonly used to refer to the gardenia, which is the Cooks' national flower. Secure your place now or please call us for more information.

\$3,859*
 per person twin share
 ex BNE

\$755
 Single Supplement



<p>INCLUSIONS</p> <p>Return flight/taxes from Brisbane to Sydney & Sydney to Rarotonga 6 night's accommodation at Edgewater Resort & Spa 1 night stay in Sydney All touring as per the itinerary Meals as per itinerary Entries and attractions as per itinerary</p>	<p>HIGHLIGHTS</p> <p>Punanga Nui Markets Island Discovery tour Polynesian Island Night & Show Cook Islands Christian church Te Ara Museum Koka Lagoon Cruise Local Primary School Progressive Dinner Highland Paradise</p>	 <p>BOOK YOUR TRAVEL INSURANCE WITH UPLIFT TOURS & TRAVEL & RECEIVE A 20% DISCOUNT</p>
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TERMS & CONDITIONS: *All prices quoted are per person twin share. ** Single supplement applies. Credit card surcharges apply. A non-refundable deposit of \$800 per person is required within one month of booking to secure tour. Final non-refundable payment is due to our office on/before 4th March 2021. All bookings are subject to availability and price confirmation at the time of booking. The itinerary may be subject to change if beyond our control or that of the suppliers. Tour is subject to minimum numbers. Price may be subject to change until paid in full if airlines have any tax increases. Prices are correct as at 22 June 2020. Travel insurance is essential. D.A Bantoft & K Bantoft T/A Uplift Tours & Travel ABN: 93367366822 ATAS Accreditation No: A10619 IATA 0235976-6

Day 1 Fri 26 November 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 27 November 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 28 November 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 29 November 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 30 November 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 1 December 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 2 December 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 3 December

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 4 December

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!!!

Enjoy the beautiful Cook Islands!

Package Inclusions:

- *Return flight from Brisbane to Sydney. Taxes are included
- *Return flight from Sydney to Rarotonga. Taxes are included
- *6 night's accommodation at Edgewater Resort & Spa
- *7 Tropical breakfasts
- *6 dinners
- *4 lunches and 2 light refreshments
- *All touring as per the itinerary
- *1 night accommodation at Stamford Plaza Sydney

Conditions apply, and itinerary is subject to change if beyond our control or that of the airlines or suppliers. Travel Insurance is highly recommended.



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