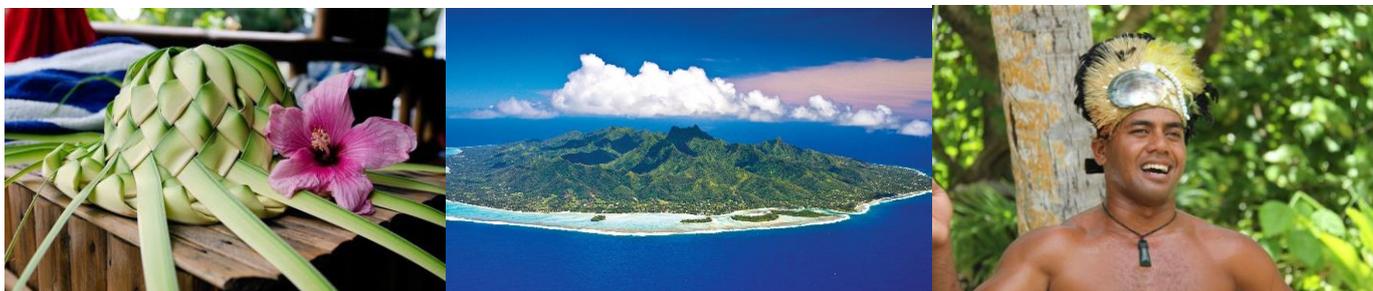


COOK ISLANDS

UKULELE TOUR

This unique tour is especially designed for ukulele players and friends to create a festival in the Cook Islands with locals. It will be an incredible experience that the locals can't wait to share with us.



ITINERARY

03 – 11 November 2023

Day 1 Fri 03 November Depart Brisbane / Overnight Auckland / Arrive Rarotonga [In-flight meals/B/D]

Welcome to the start of your tropical holiday. Meet your tour host at Brisbane International Airport, Departures Hall. Depart on Air New Zealand and arrive Auckland at 5.25pm. After clearing customs and collecting luggage, board the 'Yellow Bus' transfer to overnight airport accommodation. After an early breakfast, transfer back to the airport. Depart on Air New Zealand flight to Rarotonga at 8.55am & cross the international date line. Kia Orana & welcome to the Cook Islands! Upon arrival into Rarotonga, we go through Customs, and are greeted by a representative from DMCK and transferred to the Resort, our home for the duration of our holiday. This afternoon there will be an orientation of the resort where you will be introduced to the activities staff and features available to you throughout your stay at the Resort and on the island. This afternoon we will have a Jam Session at The Edgewater Resort with some locals. Meet at Mal's Bar at 5.00pm for happy hour drinks, followed by dinner. (Drinks is at own expense).

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

Day 2 Sat 04 November Punanga Nui Markets / Free Afternoon [B/L/D]

Tropical Breakfast buffet is included daily. Today visit Rarotonga's 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. Later enjoy early lunch at The Mooring Café before returning to our resort. This afternoon we join the activities staff and participate in a fun weaving class where we will make our own head ei (flower crown) and / or neck ei. Meet at Mal's Bar at 5.00pm for happy hour drinks (Drinks are at own expense). Tonight, enjoy the fantastic in-house Polynesian Island Night & Show, including a sumptuous feast!

Day 3 Sun 05 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. This afternoon we depart for dinner at The Anchorage, with a sunset Uke Jam session with some locals.

Day 4 Mon 06 November Island Discovery / Local Primary School / Progressive Dinner [B/L/D]

Tropical Breakfast buffet is included daily. After breakfast this morning we embark on our Island Discovery Tour. 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. This afternoon we will be transferred to the prison for our Ukulele workshop. We will see both the Ukulele & the Coconut Ukulele's being made. You will also have an option to purchase these after the workshop. Later we visit a Local Primary School where we have the opportunity to 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. We will also bring our Uke's along so that we can play the Uke with the local children. The remainder of the afternoon is at leisure, before time to freshen up for dinner. Tonight we enjoy a special Progressive Dinner, where we will visit some local homes and enjoy playing our ukes on the bus and at various 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 5 Tue 07 November Koka Lagoon Cruise / Island BBQ [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! Tonight, enjoy an Island BBQ and spectacular Fire Dance Show at your hotel.

Day 6 Wed 08 November 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 09 November Free Morning / 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, as we cross back over the international dateline.

Day 8 Fri 10 November Arrive Auckland / Overnight [B/In-flight Meals]

We arrive into Auckland this evening at 6:20pm. Clear customs and collect luggage before once again making our way to our private transfer to our overnight airport accommodation.

Day 9 Sat 11 November Depart Auckland / Arrive Brisbane [B/In-flight Meals]

Enjoy breakfast on the go 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

\$4'869.00 per person twin share

\$5'868.00 per person single

PAYMENT DETAILS

Booking form and non-refundable deposit \$800.00 per person due with booking and before 6th April 2023

Balance payment due before 2nd August 2023

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. **PLEASE NOTE: Should the Tour not be able to travel due to COVID19, the tour will be postponed, and all funds will be held by suppliers for the revised dates.** Travel insurance is highly recommended.

Uplift Tours and Travel

Ph. 1300 484 510 / 07 5513 1086
PO Box 922 Banora Point NSW 2486

E. groups@uplifttours.com

www.uplifttoursandtravel.com

Service is our strength, Travel is our passion.



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