



ISLAND DISCOVERY TOUR

Rarotonga

Explore Rarotonga from the comfort of an air-conditioned coach as our experienced, local guide takes you on a fascinating 3 hour sightseeing tour, your perfect introduction to the island's rich culture, legends and history.

Your tour starts as soon as you are picked up from your accommodation. As soon as everyone is on board your tour guide will give you an overview (in English) of the island and the many points of interest you will see along the way. You will travel along the ancient Ara Metua or "Road of Toi" built in 1050 AD as an all-weather paved road and visit ancient maraes (ceremonial sites).

Enjoy a light refreshment and convenience stop where you will have the opportunity to purchase locally crafted gifts & souvenirs. Here your guide will demonstrate and explain the Cook Islands Tree of Life, the coconut.

Your sightseeing tour continues on to a number of historical sites including one of the first limestone churches built on the island, the Garden of the Seven Canoes at Avana Passage and Black Rock, a volcanic boulder on the edge of the lagoon, traditionally believed to be the departure point of spirits to Avaiki (the afterlife). Along the way you will catch a glimpse of the Needle Lookout a volcanic outcrop that marks the center of the island and is one of its highest points and legendary Raemaru Mountain.

Old church buildings and plantations of citrus, bananas, tapioca, papaya and taro and other crops line your route on this informative scenic drive.

Make the Island Discovery Tour your first tour on Rarotonga!



The Tour Bus



Visit Historical Sites



Coconut Husking Demonstration



Your local tour guide sharing his knowledge of Rarotonga

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

Arai Te Tonga & Pa Ariki Marae

Arai Te Tonga Marae (circa 1250AD) and Pa Ariki Marae are among Rarotonga's best known sacred and ancient sites. Here, you will learn of ancient ceremonies and their significance in today's island society.

Garden of the Seven Canoes

The departure of the flotilla of seven canoes from Avana passage on their epic voyage to New Zealand in 1350AD marked the end of the great Polynesian migration. The voyage is commemorated by a circular formation of stones known as the Garden of Seven Stones.

Churches

Rarotonga has many limestone churches which were painstakingly built by hand. Some of these churches are over 100 years old. The Titikaveka Church for instance dates back to 1841.

Inland Villages and Plantations

Take a more intimate look at the island. You will visit remote inland plantations where locals still use an agriculture system that dates back to pre-missionary times.

Tokerau Jim

Tokerau Jim is one of only a few pearl-carvers in the world. His pieces are a cut above the rest: smaller, more intricate, and highly prized. See displays of his stunning mother-of-pearl shell carvings at his popular showrooms.

Cook Islands Library & Museum

The Museum has a small collection of historical art, photographs and artefacts from the period of early European settlement on Rarotonga to the present day including some outstanding examples of traditional weaving and carving.

Needle Lookout

Ascend the lush Avatiu Valley for a close up look at Te Rua Manga the volcanic spire known as "The Needle" which marks the center of the island and is one of its highest points. Carvings can be seen here similar to those found on Easter Island.

Light Refreshments

Enjoy a light refreshment of fruit platters and cakes in a sprawling tropical garden and plantation setting surrounding an old colonial homestead built in 1853. Your guide will demonstrate and explain the Cook Islands Tree of Life, the coconut.



Vaka on the beautiful Muri Lagoon.



Light Refreshments using local products



Locally produced Rito Skin care range



TOUR DETAILS

DAYS OF OPERATION	TOUR DURATION	VEHICLE INFORMATION
MONDAY TO FRIDAY	10.00AM - 1.00PM 3 HOURS APPROXIMATELY PICK UP TIME WILL BE ADVISED WHEN BOOKED	AIR CONDITIONED COACH

SEATING ARRANGEMENTS	INCLUSIONS	ACCESSIBLE FOR DISABLED	TOILET STOPS	REFRESHMENTS
DOUBLE SEATING (NO FOLD DOWN SEATS)	~ RETURN TRANSFERS ~ LIGHT REFRESHMENTS ~ GUIDED TOUR	SUITABLE FOR MOST PASSENGERS. WHEELCHAIR ACCESS NOT AVAILABLE BUT CAN BE ASSESSED AND PERSONAL ASSISTANCE PROVIDED ON REQUEST	AVAILABLE DURING TOUR	LIGHT REFRESHMENTS INCLUDING BOTTLED WATER

TRANSLATORS	WHAT TO BRING/WEAR	CANCELLATION POLICY
AT ADDITIONAL COST WE CAN PROVIDE TRANSLATOR GUIDES: GERMAN ~ FRENCH ~ ITALIAN ~ JAPANESE. AVAILABLE FOR GROUP BOOKINGS ONLY. POA	~ SUNSCREEN ~ COMFORTABLE FOOTWEAR ~ CAMERA/FILM ~ INSECT REPELLENT ~ HAT	THE ISLAND DISCOVERY TOUR REQUIRES A MINIMUM OF 4 BOOKED PASSENGERS TO OPERATE THE TOUR. IF MINIMUM NUMBERS ARE NOT MET WE RESERVE THE RIGHT TO CANCEL THE TOUR IN WHICH CASE CLIENTS WHO HAVE MADE A BOOKING ON THE CANCELLED TOUR MAY REBOOK OR RECEIVE A FULL REFUND. **NO REFUND WILL BE MADE FOR CANCELLATIONS RECEIVED WITHIN 24HRS OF THE ISLAND DISCOVERY TOUR**