



## PRIVATE SCENIC ISLAND EXCURSION

The Private Scenic Island tour is an upgrade from the Island Discovery Tour, which is normally taken by coach with other visitors to the island. It is an exclusive and more personal tour of our island paradise that you will enjoy from the comfort of a private car or van with your very own English-speaking driver and tour guide.

It is also not only a luxurious way to experience Rarotonga but you have the flexibility to stop along the way for photo opportunities, a comfort stop, and/or for any shopping that you might like to do.

The moment you are picked up from your accommodation your tour begins. You will be given an overview of the island and the many of points of interest you will see along the way.

As you travel along the ancient Ara Metua, or 'Road of Toi' - built in 1050 AD as an all-weather paved road, you will visit ancient maraes (ceremonial sites), and local plantations.

You will also visit the Maire Nui Tropical Gardens, a wonderful place that portrays the exuberant tropical nature of the island with many varieties of tropical flora on display for you to enjoy.

You will stop to visit one of the first limestone churches built here in the village of Titikaveka, and then Black Rock—a volcanic boulder on the edge of the lagoon, traditionally believed to be the departure point of the spirits to Avaiki (the afterlife).

You will enjoy a relaxing espresso coffee break in down town Avarua before heading to the stunning Muri lagoon to visit the departure point of the 7 Canoes that set sail for Aotearoa, New Zealand.

While you are in Muri, you will also visit Te Ara Museum, a building that houses many products and much history of the Cook Islands. The Vaka Migration map you will get to view, along with intriguing artworks which are put on display. The museum exhibits aquariums with tropical fish to emphasize the importance of protecting our lagoon and marine environment. Also located on site is a small cafeteria and a gift shop where you can purchase locally made goods.

You will then stop to admire Tokerau Jim's mother-of-pearl shell carving and jewellery store.

The tour will then continue on to the Rito factory, a boutique cold pressed coconut processing facility that specializes in beauty and health products made with cold pressed virgin coconut oil.

Your scrumptious lunch is then served at the Mooring Café, here will enjoy a taste of freshly caught fish by Captain Moko and prepared for you by his lovely wife.

Then before ending the tour, your guide will demonstrate and explain the Cook Islands Tree of Life - the coconut tree. You will learn of all its many uses, as well as learn how to husk a coconut before sampling its exquisite flavour.



Our Private Tour Minivan



Traditionally built Vaka—Marumaruatua



Te Ara Museum



Cook Islands made Rito products

## TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

### Maire Nui Tropical Gardens

Seven acres of spectacular botanical nature with lush lily ponds and magnificent mountain view. A beautiful place to relax and admire the island nature. Within the gardens is a small café that prepares delicious lunches.

### Churches, Inland villages and Plantations

Rarotonga has many limestone churches which were painstakingly built by hand. Some of these churches are over 100 years old and are all still being used to this day. The Titikaveka Church for instance dates back to 1841. You will visit remote inland plantations where locals still use an agriculture system that dates back to pre-missionary times.

### Black Rock

One of the few volcanic rocks immersed in the lagoon. The contrast between the blackness of the rock and many shades of blue within the lagoon makes it the perfect place for amazing pictures.

### Te Ara Museum

Te Ara Museum is a world-class historical exhibition located in Muri, Ngatangia. There is much to see and learn about here, not only just the history of the Cook Islands but also about the importance of protecting our marine environment.

### 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 showroom.

### Muri Lagoon and the Garden of the Seven Canoes

Muri lagoon includes 4 beautiful uninhabited motu (islets) surrounded by clear water with plenty of marine flora and fauna. In Muri, the departure of the flotilla of seven canoes from Avana passage on their epic voyage to New Zealand in 1350 AD, marked the end of the great Polynesian migration. The voyage is commemorated by a circular formation of stones known as the Garden of Seven Canoes.

### Mooring Fish Café

The Mooring is famous for its fish burgers, sandwiches, & salads which are among the best on Rarotonga. This picturesque sandwich-bar on the beach will also offers delicious vegetarian and chicken gourmet meals.

### The Tree of Life

The people of the Cook Islands have for decades heavily relied on the Coconut Tree. Every part of the tree has a use from its fronds to its bark and your guide will explain its importance to our people.



Maire Nui Tropical Gardens



Black Rock



Manihiki Black Pearls



Coconut demonstration



Lunch at the Mooring Fish Café

## TOUR DETAILS

DAYS OF OPERATION	TOUR DURATION	VEHICLE INFORMATION
MONDAY TO FRIDAY	10.00AM - 2.00PM 4 HOURS APPROXIMATELY PICK-UP TIME WILL BE ADVISED AT TIME OF BOOKING	AIR CONDITIONED CAR OR MINIVAN
SEATING ARRANGEMENTS	INCLUSIONS	DISABLED ACCESSIBILITY
DOUBLE SEATING	~ RETURN TRANSFERS ~ LUNCH (VEGETARIAN MENU AVAILABLE) ~ GUIDED TOUR ~ BOTTLE OF WATER	SUITABLE FOR MOST PASSENGERS. WHEELCHAIR ACCESS NOT AVAILABLE BUT CAN BE ARRANGED AND PERSONAL ASSISTANCE PROVIDED ON REQUEST
TOILET STOPS	WHAT TO BRING	WHAT TO WEAR
AVAILABLE DURING THE TOUR	SUNSCREEN, CAMERA, INSECT REPELLENT	COMFORTABLE FOOT WEAR AND A HAT

### CANCELLATION POLICY

PRIVATE SCENIC ISLAND EXCURSION REQUIRES A MINIMUM OF 2 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 TOUR\*\*