



## Private Scenic Island Excursion

Upgrade to a private car and enjoy the comfort of an air-conditioned vehicle and explore Rarotonga from car or van, with your own English-speaking driver/guide for an exclusive and fascinating private scenic tour of Rarotonga.

This will offer you not only a luxurious way to enjoy a scenic tour but the flexibility to stop along the driving route for any photo opportunity, comfort stop or shopping that you might like to do.

Your tour starts as soon as you are picked up from your accommodation. Our tour guide will give you an overview 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), churches and inland plantations.

The first stop will be at Maire Nui Tropical Gardens, a wonderful place that portrays the exuberant tropical nature of the island, with its hibiscus, heliconias, frangipani and much more.

Your scenic tour continues on to a number of historical sites including one of the first limestone churches built on the island, 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).

You will enjoy a relaxing coffee break in Avarua for the best espresso in town, before heading to the beautiful Muri lagoon and the departure point of the 7 Canoes that left Rarotonga and settled the Maori people in New Zealand.

The next stop will be at Tokerau Jim's, to admire his stunning mother-of-pearl shell carving and jewellery. Next will be a visit to Pa Ariki's Museum, an exhibition on the ancient chiefs of Rarotonga. The tour will then continue on to Rito, a boutique cold pressed coconut processing facility that produces cold pressed coconut oil — and from that organic cosmetics.

Your lunch break at the Mooring Fish Café will be the perfect opportunity to taste delicious fresh fish caught by Captain Moko and cooked by his lovely wife.

Before ending the tour, our guide will demonstrate and explain the Cook Islands Tree of Life, the coconut. You will learn coconut husking and sample its exquisite flavour.



Our Private Tour Minivan



Vaka, typical Polynesian canoe



The enchanting inland



discovering with your driver

## 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. The Gardens have also a small café that prepares delicious fresh fruit salads.

### 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. 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 black of the rock and the turquoise of the lagoon, makes it the perfect place for amazing pictures.

### Pa Ariki's Museum

The Pa Ariki's Museum is the only exhibition on the ancient chiefs of Rarotonga open to the public. Here you can touch and see the history of the village traditional leaders that have lead their people since 1350, creating a real dynasty.

### 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.

### 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

Here you will taste the famous Captain Moko's fish-burgers, among the best of the South Pacific. This picturesque sandwich-bar on the beach will also offer delicious vegetarian and chicken gourmet meals.

### Cook Islands Tree of Life

The coconut is the most important tree for Cook Islands local traditions and daily applications. You will learn coconut husking and how to extract milk and oil from it.



Maire Nui Tropical Gardens



Black Rock



Manihiki black pearls



Coconut demonstration

## TOUR DETAILS

DAYS OF OPERATION	TOUR DURATION	VEHICLE INFORMATION
FROM MONDAY TO FRIDAY WE CAN VARY TIMES	10.00AM - 2.00PM 4 HOURS APPROXIMATELY PICK-UP TIME WILL BE ADVISED WHEN BOOKED	AIR CONDITIONED CAR OR MINIVAN

SEATING ARRANGEMENTS	INCLUSIONS	DISABLED ACCESSIBILITY	TOILET STOPS
DOUBLE SEATING	~ RETURN TRANFERS ~ LUNCH (VEGETARIAN MENU AVAILABLE) ~ GUIDED TOUR ~ BOTTLE OF WATER	SUITABLE FOR MOST PASSENGERS. WHEELCHAIR ACCESS NOT AVAIL- ABLE BUT CAN BE ASSESSED AND PERSONAL ASSISTANCE PROVIDED ON REQUEST	AVAILABLE DURING THE TOUR

WHAT TO BRING	WHAT TO WEAR	CANCELLATION POLICY
~ SUNSCREEN ~ CAMERA/FILM ~ INSECT REPELLENT	~ COMFORTABLE FOOT-WEAR ~ HAT	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**