



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. This tour is a must do as soon as you arrive on Rarotonga as it is the perfect introduction to the island's rich culture, legends and history.

Your tour begins as soon as all guests have been picked up from their accommodation. Your English speaking guide will then give you an overview of the island and the many points of interest you will see along the way.

You will stop at the Beachcomber Pearl Market, a great shopping place in Rarotonga where you can find Polynesian arts and crafts, lustrous black pearls and some of the best coffee on the island.

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) such as Arai Te Tonga marae.

You will enjoy light refreshments and a convenient stop where you will have the opportunity to purchase locally crafted gifts & souvenirs. Here your guide will give you a demonstration on the Cook Islands Tree of Life, the coconut tree, and explain its many uses.

Your sightseeing tour continues on to a number of historical sites including the Cook Islands Library & Museum, the Takamoia Theological College built on the island in the 1800s, the Garden of the Seven Canoes at Avana Passage, as well as 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 catch a glimpse of the Needle, a volcanic outcrop that marks the centre of the island, from various vantage points along the main road.

Plantations of citrus fruits, bananas, tapioca, papayas, taro and other crops line your route on this informative scenic drive.

The Island Discovery Tour is a great way to discover the many points of interest on the island before heading out on your own. It also allows you a glance into our history, culture, traditions and our people which we look forward to sharing with you.



Your mode of transport



Visit Black Rock—a historical site



Learn about our tree of life and its many uses



Your friendly local tour guide

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

Arai Te Tonga Marae

Arai Te Tonga Marae (circa 1250AD) is 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.

Takamoa Theological College

Takamoa Theological College was built in 1843. It was the first theological college to be established in the South Pacific by the London Missionary Society (LMS). The college has undergone several renovations over the years, but the original Mission House still stands on the campus.

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.

Beachcomber Pearl Market

The Beachcomber an old building of colonial architecture which now houses a number of boutique stores including a contemporary art gallery, a pearl store and mini café.

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 light refreshments 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 tree.



Takamoa Theological College



Garden of the Seven Canoes



Photo credit: Cook Islands Pocket Guide

Beachcomber Pearl Market

TOUR DETAILS

DAYS OF OPERATION	TOUR DURATION	INCLUSIONS	PAX REQUIREMENTS
MONDAY TO FRIDAY	9.45AM - 1.00PM 3 HOURS APPROXIMATELY *PICK UP TIME WILL BE ADVISED UPON BOOKING. PICKUP COMMENCES FROM 9AM	~ RETURN TRANSFERS ~ LIGHT REFRESHMENTS ~ GUIDED TOUR	MINIMUM 15 PASSENGERS REQUIRED TO OPERATE MAXIMUM 30 PASSENGERS PER COACH

VEHICLE INFORMATION	SEATING ARRANGEMENTS	TOILET STOPS
19 OR 30 SEATER COACH	DOUBLE AND SINGLE SEATING (NO FOLD DOWN SEATS)	AVAILABLE DURING THE TOUR
ACCESSIBLE FOR DISABLED	WHAT TO BRING/WEAR	TRANSLATORS
SUITABLE FOR MOST PASSENGERS. WHEELCHAIR ACCESS NOT AVAILABLE BUT ASSISTANCE CAN BE ARRANGED OR PROVIDED ON REQUEST	BOTTLED WATER, SUNSCREEN, COMFORTABLE FOOTWEAR, CAMERA, INSECT REPELLENT AND A HAT	AT AN ADDITIONAL COST WE CAN PROVIDE TRANSLATOR GUIDES: GERMAN ~ FRENCH ~ ITALIAN ~ JAPANESE. AVAILABLE FOR GROUP BOOKINGS ONLY. POA

CANCELLATION POLICY

THE ISLAND DISCOVERY TOUR REQUIRES A MINIMUM OF 15 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 REFUNDS WILL BE MADE FOR CANCELLATIONS RECEIVED WITHIN 24HRS OF THE ISLAND DISCOVERY TOUR



ARAI-TE-TONGA

Photo credit: Cook Islands Pocket Guide

Arai Te Tonga Marae



Light Refreshments