

# BEST OF THE COOK ISLANDS

*With Trade Travel*

**9 Days / 8 Nights ex Melbourne**

**Departs: Friday 22 May - Saturday 30 May 2020**



**TRADE TRAVEL**  
Group Travel Specialists



## **Day 1 Fri 22 May: Melbourne - Sydney - Rarotonga**

**Flight Meals & Dinner**

We arrive at Sydney Airport late afternoon after our flight from Melbourne.

### **QF458 Melbourne 1530 - Sydney 1655**

After our arrival we transfer to the Sydney International terminal for check in for our direct flight to Rarotonga. Prior to our flight we will have access to **The House** where we can take a seat in the lounge, bar, or dining room and enjoy the very best hospitality, which features full waiter service, a la carte dining, extensive wine list plus showers, and unlimited WiFi.

### **NZ0060 Sydney 2130 - Rarotonga 0715**

*Please note: Flights times are as per current schedules at the time of print and may change due to unexpected schedule changes with airlines.*

**Crossing over the dateline** we arrive into Rarotonga early Friday morning at 7.15am (Rarotonga time). We then transfer to our resort where we enjoy an early morning check in and rest. A tropical buffet breakfast is also available for us to enjoy after check in. After a leisurely morning we will set off on our **orientation tour of scenic Rarotonga** in one of the modern air-conditioned coaches. Our tour takes us to important historical sites and places of interest around the island. We also learn all about the black pearl, the colour significance and how they are grown in an informative presentation. Another interesting stop is the beautiful **Maire Nui Tropical Gardens**, see the many tropical plant species and learn about their uses in the Cook Islands culture. We then drive across to **purchase lunch from Charlie's Cafe** (own expense) which is located within a beautiful setting. Charlie's is known for whopper fish or chicken sandwiches but has other choices with coffee/tea and full bar facilities. Following lunch we return to our resort where we enjoy a leisurely afternoon poolside or catching up on some sleep. Tonight enjoy **Island tunes by Rob and Roy plus a Pig and Prawn Night** - try the famous Pork Spare Ribs and King Prawns cooked up to 4 different flavours. .

**Overnight Rarotonga: Muri Beach Club Resort Hotel**

## **Day 2 Sat 23 May: Rarotonga**

**Breakfast & Dinner**

This morning after breakfast we enjoy **Rarotonga's Saturday 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. A special market day today as villagers from the outer islands will also be showing their wares. It's a great place to sample the local homemade delicacies, or just to pass the time meeting and chatting with the locals. We have time to purchase lunch in town (own cost) and enjoy some shopping time before returning to our resort. Tonight we are in for a treat at the **Te Vara Nui Polynesian Village** for the "**Ultimate Island Experience**" where we learn about the history, traditional medicines, fishing and navigation, legends and beliefs. Local artisans and craftspeople will show us how to weave, carve, prepare costumes and cook traditional foods. Afterwards Te Vara Nui Polynesian Village invite us to the biggest show in Rarotonga at their sensational Island night. Rarotonga's finest dancers and musicians will thrill us as they perform by flaming torchlight on the floating and fixed stages of Vara Nui's water garden whilst enjoying a delicious blend of traditional and modern cuisine as we watch the show unfold. This is a 'must do' experience not to be missed.

**Overnight Rarotonga: Muri Beach Club Resort Hotel**



Victoria: PO Box 1137 Mildura VIC 3502 | Queensland: PO Box 1715 Noosaville BC QLD 4566

Freecall: 1800 034 439 | Fax: 03 5022 7993 | E-mail: groups@tradetravel.com

Website: www.tradetravel.com.au | ABN: 91 061 591 375

### Day 3 Sun 24 May: Rarotonga

Breakfast & Dinner

We enjoy our buffet breakfast at the hotel before we are then involved in a moving experience as we attend a local **church service at the Arorangī Cook Islands Christian Church**. We experience the friendly, generous people, the women's Rito hats, the service and the magnificent singing. The men, women and children all join in to sing the hymns in their own native language. We stay for a delightful morning tea with the congregation. After the church service, we head to the **Te Ara Museum** to view their world-class exhibition of the history of the Cook Islands (Rarotonga), which delivers an in-depth insight into their cultural and environmental past, present and future. We can also buy locally made products including art, crafts, home-ware, skincare, books, food and more. The remainder of our afternoon is free to maybe explore the island in a Tuk Tuk (pre booked) or relax on the beach. Tonight is **Reef and Beef night at the resort with live music by Duo Henzart and Destiny**.

Overnight Rarotonga: Muri Beach Club Resort Hotel

### Day 4 Mon 25 May: Rarotonga Today

Breakfast & Dinner

This morning after a leisurely breakfast we discover some local industries producing fantastic products sold locally and internationally. Our first stop the **Rito Cook Islands** where they produce beautiful products made with cold-pressed virgin coconut oil, which is made in the Rarotonga village of Tikioki, Rito products capture the purity and simplicity of a tropical paradise. The Rito range includes cold-pressed virgin coconut oil, tamanu oil, soaps and skincare products. Then we head to the **Matutu Brewery Company** where we will enjoy a short tour. This small business operated by two families of patriotic Cook Islanders aim to produce premium beers and beverages that will be iconic to our Cook Islands experience. We hear about their humble brewing process and are able to taste products from their range of beers. We also visit Enea at his **KMD Ukulele workshop** to see how they are made and hand carved, our visit also includes fruit refreshments. The afternoon is free at leisure. This evening we depart on a "**Progressive Dinner**" where we are treated to **traditional island cooking** as we progress to **three different island homes** for entrée, main course and dessert. A fun night and a good way to meet the local people and sample some of the fine local Island dishes - quality is assured.

Overnight Rarotonga: Muri Beach Club Resort Hotel

### Day 5 Tues 26 May: Rarotonga

Breakfast & Lunch

Another day in paradise begins with a tropical buffet breakfast at the hotel before beginning our exciting half-day **4WD Raro Mountain Safari Tour**. As we travel into the interior of the island we will **discover the real Rarotonga and its fascinating history**. Learn about life on the island from our colourful local guides as we climb along out-of-the-way tracks and take in **breath-taking mountain vistas** and stunning views across the turquoise lagoons, blue waters and four islets that will surely take our breath away. Our tour includes a **BBQ lunch on the beach** before returning to our hotel for a relaxing afternoon. Tonight we stroll the short distance to the **Muri Night Markets** to **enjoy the awesome food, free entertainment, unique Rarotonga culture and island hospitality**.

Overnight Rarotonga: Muri Beach Club Resort Hotel

### Day 6 Wed 27 May: Rarotonga

Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

After breakfast this morning we then transfer to **Captain Tama's Lagoon Cruise**. (*BYO Drinks*) Listen to the drums before boarding our vessel to get a view of the wonderful marine life in Rarotonga's lagoons through a **glass bottom boat** or snorkel with the fish (snorkels and flippers supplied). We disembark for lunch and relax on our own uninhabited island to enjoy a **delightful beach BBQ** and truly entertaining show. Mid afternoon we return by glass bottom boat to the beach hut before transferring back to our hotel. Tonight we enjoy a **Polynesian buffet feast and live performance by the Akirata Island Dance Troupe**.

Overnight Rarotonga: Muri Beach Club Resort Hotel

### Day 7 Thurs 28 May: Rarotonga - Sydney

Breakfast

Sadly, this morning is our last on the island but a chance to bid the friendly staff at the resort farewell. After check out and before departing this piece of paradise we will stop by a **local school (subject to school holidays)**. This provides a wonderful experience where we enjoy a **tour of the school** and see how the happy children spend their days. Following morning tea it's onto the **Creative Centre** which was established as a life skills programme that caters for adults with an impairment. At the centre they make art and crafts which are sold to the public, join in some of their activities if one wishes. Then it's one last chance to shop for a souvenir or bargain before our driver transfers us to the airport for our return flight home. On arrival we check-in and board our direct flight to Sydney.

NZ0061 Rarotonga 1640 - Sydney 2010 + 1 (Friday)

### Day 8 Fri 29 May: Sydney

On arrival into Sydney at 8.10pm we disembark our aircraft and clear customs before transferring to our hotel for a good nights rest.

Overnight Sydney: Mantra Hotel Sydney Airport

### Day 9 Sat 30 May: Sydney - Melbourne - Stawell

Breakfast

After a leisurely breakfast at our hotel we transfer to the Sydney Domestic Terminal for check in and flight back down to Melbourne. This completes our wonderful holiday to the Cook Islands with Trade Travel.

QF439 Sydney 1130 - Melbourne 1305



**Tour Highlights:** Rarotonga Orientation Tour - Pearl Shop; Maire Nui Tropical Gardens; Charlie's Cafe; Island Tunes & Pig & Prawn Night; The Punanga Nui Market; Te Vara Nui Polynesian Village Tour, Dinner & Show - "The Ultimate Island Experience"; Sunday Community Church Service - Arorangi Cook Islands Christian Church "Includes M/Tea; Te Ara Museum; Reef & Beef Night; Rito Cook Islands Factory; Matutu Brewery Company; Ukulele Workshop; Island Homes Progressive Dinner; 4WD Raro Mountains Safari Tour; Captain Tama's Glass Bottom Boat Lagoon Cruise & Beach BBQ; Muri Beach Night Markets; Polynesian Buffet & Akirata Island Dance Troupe Show; Local School Visit; The Creative Centre plus more.

**Tour cost includes:**

- Return domestic economy airfares Melbourne - Sydney - Melbourne.
- Return International economy airfares 'Works Deal' Sydney - Rarotonga - Sydney - Direct!
- Access Passes to The House Lounge - all inclusive food & drinks.
- 7 Nights resort style accommodation as per above - Includes early check in day 1.
- 1 Night Sydney airport hotel accommodation with transfer & breakfast.
- Daily tropical Island breakfast.
- All meals, transfers and touring as specified in the itinerary.
- All attractions and meals at hotels as specified in the itinerary.

**Tour cost excludes:**

- Premium economy or business class upgrades - POA.
- Any portion of the tour stated as optional.
- Personal expenses for drinks, laundry, and personal requirements.
- Meals not mentioned in above itinerary.
- Travel Insurance not included but highly recommended.

**Tour Cost from: \$4098.00 per person Twin Share (\$1280.00 single supplement)  
+ Taxes Approx \$196.00**

**Business Class Fares available on application**

**Tour price based on minimum 20 paying passengers ex Ex Stawell**

**We wish to advise that all pricing for International Travel is subject to tax, surcharges, fuel increases and currency fluctuations. It may be necessary to make adjustments to the pricing during the course of the tour booking, at ticketing and at the final payment deadline to ensure these currency changes are allowed for in the pricing!**

**Please note that itinerary is subject to change without notice.**

**PAYMENT DETAILS**

**DEPOSIT of \$500.00 per person due on booking with completed booking form to secure your place on this tour - no later than Friday 18 October 2019**

**FINAL PAYMENT to be paid on or before Friday 17 January 2020**

**For information and bookings contact: Trade Travel**

**Phone: 1800 034 439 or Email: [natasha@tradetravel.com](mailto:natasha@tradetravel.com)**

