



ISLAND HOPPER  
VACATIONS

COOK ISLANDS

**2022 – 2023 UPDATE**

# MITIARO BY PRIVATE-JET





## MITIARO

Mitiaro, traditionally known as Nukuroa, is located approximately 266 kilometres northeast of Rarotonga. It is encircled by a band of Makatea (raised coral) with a fertile interior. The island is the fourth largest island in the Cook Islands and has a population of around 160 - all its residence live in one settlement on the west coast of the island. Mitiaro is particularly known for its fresh water twin lakes in the centre of the island which is home to the Itiki (eel) a local delicacy, its fresh water subterranean limestone caves, the Pritchardia Mitiaroana - a variety of Fan Palm native to Mitiaro, and the beautifully hand woven hats and baskets which the local women produce from the leaves of Pandanus Trees. There are no hotels or resorts on Mitiaro so be prepared to be the only tourists on the island.

## MITIARO OVERNIGHT PACKAGE

**Priced from NZ\$16,370 Share/Double, or NZ\$3,054 per person for 6 people sharing 3 rooms**

This All-Inclusive Package takes you on a fascinating overnight adventure to explore the pristine natural beauty of Mitiaro. Learn about the local history, and experience their unique culture and way of life.

### Our standard package includes:

- Our own Guide to accompany you throughout
- Return Private Airport Transfers on both Rarotonga and Mitiaro
- Return Private Jet Flights (Rarotonga / Mitiaro / Rarotonga)
- Ei Meet & Greet on Arrival into Mitiaro
- One night at Divine Retreat in Mitiaro
- Guided Private Island Tour of Mitiaro - Tour includes swim at Vai Nauri and Vai Marere, fresh water cave pools.
- Lunch & Dinner on the day of arrival, and Tropical Breakfast and Lunch of Day 2
- Visit to Mitiaro School, and Weaving and Tivaevae demonstration with the local mamas on Day 2

\*\*The Jet can only carry up to 6 passengers plus our guide. For groups of 8 or more, a larger aircraft will be required which we can arrange.

## DIVINE RETREAT

Divine Retreat is a large modern guest house owned by your amazing hosts, Cindy and Junior, who live on-site and will ensure you have a wonderful time in Mitiaro. At Divine Retreat there are three types of rooms to choose from.

The two double Guest Rooms, located within the house sleep up to 2 adults and 2 children under 12 years. Each of these rooms have a queen size bed, futon couch, and a dresser. The two rooms share bathroom (with shower) and toilet facilities.

The Honeymoon Suite is accessed from the veranda and has its own private bathroom with shower and toilet, a queen size bed, and an open closet with built in shelves. This room can only sleep 2 people.

Separate to the house are two stand-alone One Bedroom Villas. The Villas can sleep up to 2 Adults and 2 Children under 12. Each have their own bathroom with shower and toilet, a king size bed in the bedroom, small kitchen, living area with a futon couch, and a veranda.

In the main house is the kitchen where Cindy prepares your delicious meals, the living room with comfortable sofas and a large wall-mounted TV. On the spacious veranda is the dining area. There are also outdoor lounging furniture where you can relax, and enjoy the company of other guests.



# MITIARO PRIVATE TOURS:

## DAY 1: ISLAND TOUR

The Island Tour has you taking in Mitiaros lush tropical scenery as you drive along the coastal road the island way - on the back of a truck.

Your first stop is into a mini market where the local mamas setup their stalls and display their beautifully handmade arts & crafts. They will have for sale items such as baskets and hats, coconut body oils, colourful Tivaevae (hand sewn bed spreads and pillow cases) and more. You will also be hosted to lunch here before continuing your tour.

Mitiaro is known to have many limestone caves, many are hidden and not visited but you will have the opportunity to swim at Vai Nauri, which is one of the popular fresh water cave pools with cool, crystal clear waters. You will also stop into Vai Marere, a Sulphuric water cave said to have healing properties, and has been known to cure skin irritations.

Weather permitting, you may have the opportunity to trek inland to see the Pritchardia Mitiaroana fan palms, and/or Vai Tamaroa. Sturdy footwear and a walking pole is required as the trail is uneven, and involves walking over sharp makatea (limestone). The walks are not recommended for people with walking or joint problems. To do these walks a liability waiver form will need to be completed and signed.

The Mitiaroana Fan Palm locally known as Iniao, is native to Mitiaro and considered to be a threatened species within the Cook Islands. Growing only in one small area on Mitiaro island, these palm trees can grow to up to 10 meters tall and 35cm in diameter. Its smooth hollow trunk, when struck with your knuckles, emits a resonating drum-like sound. The walk to the Fan Palms takes around 30 minutes.

Vai Tamaroa, a secluded fresh water swimming hole is a 20 minute walk. Its waters can only be accessed by jumping off the cliff into its deep, cool waters. To ascend, there is a rope to assist or you can free climb up its limestone wall. Vai Tamaroa has a humbling history which may not be fully understood or appreciated until you reach the site.

The twin lakes, located close to the centre of the island, are what makes Mitiaro unique to any other island in the Cook Islands. You will stop at the viewing point of Te Rotonui lake to enjoy its visually appealing natural scenery. The lake is home to the Itiki (eel), and Silapia (Milk fish), both local delicacies. The Silapia is plentiful in these waters so you will see them swimming close to the shallow banks. The Itiki are usually in the deeper parts of the lake but with a good eye you may spot one.

## DAY 2: MARKET DAY AND WEAVING & TIVAЕVAЕ DEMONSTRATION WITH THE LOCAL MAMAS

After breakfast, we take you for a visit to the only school on Mitiaro. Here you will meet the cheerful and friendly children, enjoy cultural activities with them and also take a look at a large 3D map of the island. Your guide will point out to you on the map, the route taken and places you visited on your island tour. Your guide will also share with you more of the islands history and traditions.

From the school, we take you to spend a couple of hours with the local mamas who will demonstrate how they weave their baskets and hats, as well as show you how they create their unique Tivaevae (hand sewn bed spreads with matching pillow cases).

The baskets and hats are crafted from the leaves of Pandanus trees and the process from picking the spikey leaves by hand to stripping and drying them out in the sun can be timely. Weaving the leaves into finished products can take days or weeks to complete.

Tivaevae is a special form of art that is usually only created by the older women in the community. It is a talent and skill that takes years of practise to perfect, and often takes months or years to complete. Traditionally the Tivaevae was only made to be presented as a gift to family members, in particular as a wedding or milestone birthday gift for their children. Cook Islanders consider it a privilege to own a Tivaevae.





  
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