

2023 - 2024

TRAILBLAZERS OF THE NORTHERN ATOLLS



Photo by: Melanie Cooper Photography



ISLAND HOPPER
VACATIONS

COOK ISLANDS



Pukapuka



Manihiki



Tongareva



PUKAPUKA

Pukapuka is reminiscent of paradise in many ways. Traditionally named Te Ulu O Te Watu, Pukapuka is located north-west 1,287 kilometres from Rarotonga and 450 kilometres from Samoa. Captivated by the islands charm, American writer Robert Dean Frisbie settled on Pukapuka in 1924 writing a number of books there including 'Island of Desire'.

Pukapuka is made up of three beautiful islets (Motu Ko, Motu Kotawa and Wale), shaped like a three bladed fan with a total land area of approximately 3 square kilometres. Historically the island served as a hub between east and west Polynesia and is closer to Apia in Samoa than it is to Rarotonga. This unique culture mix is also evident in the dialect with some influences from Samoan and Tokelauan language.

The airport on Pukapuka is located on Motu Ko, from here you are transferred to Wale (the main settlement). Accommodation is very basic but clean and provided by the Island Council. The house has three bedrooms, each room with two single beds. Facilities include shared kitchen lounge and dining area on the verandah, and allocated male and female bathrooms. While on Wale, you will have the opportunity to meet the locals and learn of their simple way of life as you explore Wale on the back of a truck.



TRAILBLAZERS OF THE NORTHERN ATOLLS

Encompassing a mass of untainted islands, we take you on a 5-day / 4 nights fully escorted Island Hopping adventure to three of the Cook Islands unspoiled gems of the Northern Group — Pukapuka, Manihiki and Tongareva.

You will experience the unique natural beauty and the authenticity of each islands history and culture—which will no doubt draw you closer in appreciation for the environment and the simplicity of life as you absorb all that these islands and their people have to share with you.

Our Trailblazers of the Northern Atolls Packages has you and your group enjoying guided tours, engaging with locals, and experiencing the unique island life of the Northern Group.

Package includes:

- Airfares—Rarotonga/Pukapuka/Manihiki/Tongareva/ Rarotonga
- Return Airport Transfers on all islands
- Accommodation on each island - 1 Night Pukapuka, 2 Nights Manihiki and 1 Night Tongareva (Penrhyn)
- Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner daily
- An Island Tour on each island.
- Tour Manager / Guide
- Opportunity to purchase souvenir gifts while on each island.

Day 1 : Rarotonga to Pukapuka

On arrival you will be taken from the airport in Motu Ko by boat to Wale Pukapuka's main settlement.

Upon arrival to Wale, you will be transferred to your accommodation to check-in. Once checked in, you will be hosted to a lunch and briefing before your guide takes you on an Island Tour to meet the locals and learn their way of life.

Day 2 : Pukapuka to Manihiki

Begin your day with breakfast before you are transferred by boat back to Motu Ko for your flight to Manihiki. Upon arrival you will be transferred to your accommodation on Tukao where lunch will be served and we will give a briefing on the history of Manihiki. After lunch we will take you by boat to Tauhunu to see the village and view the fishing traps and part of the lagoon.

MANIHIKI

Manihiki is the heart of scintillating treasures. Te Fuinga o Niva as it is traditionally known, is the second-largest of the Northern Group atolls. Approximately 1,299 kilometres north of Rarotonga, Manihiki is roughly triangular-shaped, consisting of 43 tiny islets (motus) surrounding a deep nine-kilometre-wide lagoon. The population is divided between the two main islands- Tauhunu on the west coast and Tukao to the north.

Guest will be staying at Sam's Place on Tukao village for two nights. Sam's place has a two story house by the water and a main house on the opposite side of the road. The house by the water has 2 bedrooms upstairs with a balcony, while shower and toilet facilities are located downstairs. Main house has 4 separate bedrooms, kitchen, living room and outside veranda and deck facing the lagoon. The toilet and shower facilities are at the back of the property. Coffee and tea facilities are located in the main house, and here is also where all meals are served. The main house has a little shop, where guest can buy drinks and various groceries.

The deep indigo lagoon is the source of the islands greatest asset – black pearls. Pearl farming involves cultivating the special black-lipped mollusc otherwise known as “Pinctada Margaritifera”. You will visit a Koa (Pearl Farm) and learn how these exquisite treasures are farmed. The exploration does not end there with several tour options available (weather permitting) such as fishing, snorkelling, diving, coconut crab hunting and night fishing.

Day 3 : Manihiki

Breakfast is served at your accommodation, before your boat trip to a Koa (Pearl Farm) where you will learn how pearls are farmed. Enjoy the clear waters and spend the day swimming and snorkelling. BBQ lunch is provided during this tour. After lunch you will be taken back to your accommodation to unwind and relax. Dinner will be served at your place of accommodation.

Day 4: Manihiki to Tongareva

Tongareva is a 1-hour flight from Manihiki. The accommodation in Tongareva is on the main island of Omoka, and roughly 250 meters from the airport. Upon arrival, guests have the option to be transferred by vehicle or to walk to take in some scenery on the



way to their accommodation. Lunch will be served at your accommodation. Dinner will be planned around the activities you have on for that afternoon. A selection of tours are available and subject to lagoon conditions. We will plan a visit to the ruins at a historical village of Mangarongaro, and there again weather permitting to Te Tautua on the otherside of the vast lagoon.

Day 5: Tongareva to Rarotonga

At 7.00am we will take you on a tour to witness shark feeding, followed by breakfast back at your accommodation. You will then be taken to the Mama's market, where there will be a variety of intricate hand woven rito hats, fans and necklaces. Followed by a tour to the remains of the WWII B24 Liberator bomber called 'Go Getting Gal' and a visit to a historical site significant to the legend of Sokoau. Lunch will be provided after the tour before your flight back to Rarotonga.

TONGAREVA

Discover the unparalleled beauty of Tongareva (Penrhyn) the most remote island of the Cook Islands.

Tongareva lies 1,365km NNE of Rarotonga with a remarkable cerulean blue lagoon measuring 233 sq km. The atoll is 77km in circumference and made up of more than 50 motus (islets) making the surrounding reef and necklace of the extraordinary lagoon. The villages of Te Tautua and Omoka are on different islets that are barely visible to each other. The women of Tongareva are known to make the finest rito craftwork in the Cook Islands.

Your accommodation is a lovely basic two-bedroom house located on Omoka. A family home overlooking a sand flat which is good for bonefishing (fly fishing for Kiokio/Bonefish)

Extraordinarily, Tongareva is home to 18 species of sharks. The predominant species is the Black-tipped sand shark and the Giant Nurse shark, known locally as Moemoe Ava.

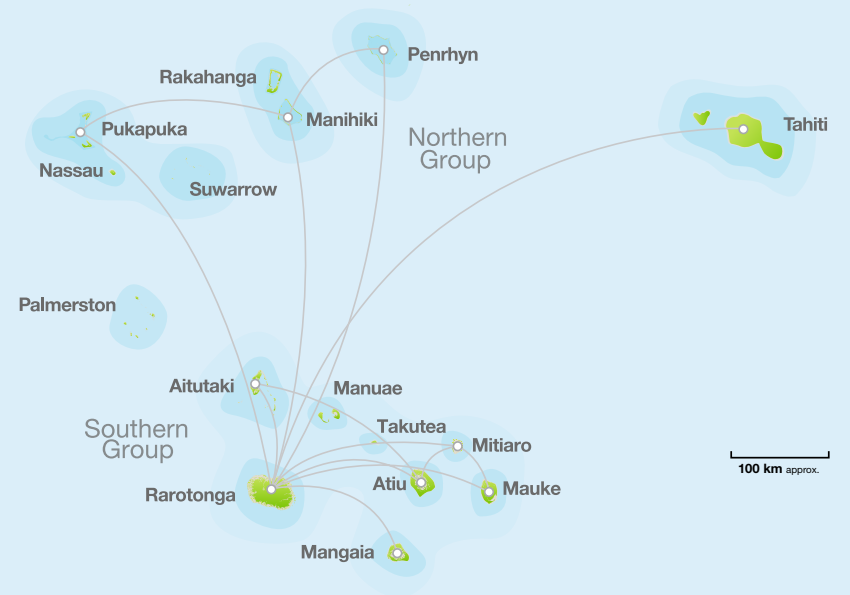
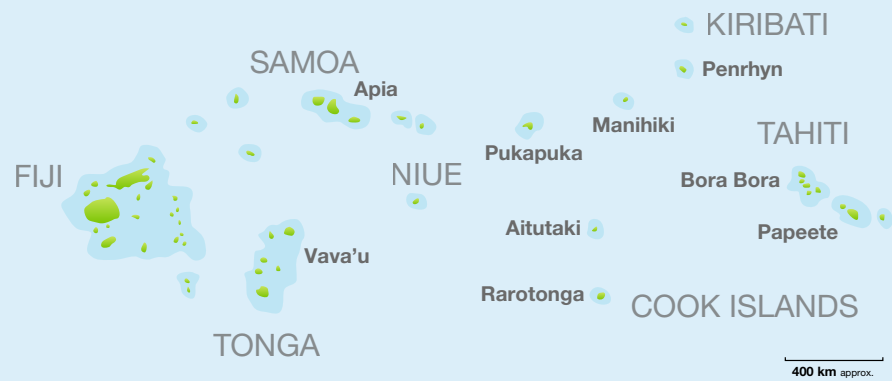
While in Tongareva, you will also visit the remains of a crashed WWII B24 Liberator bomber called 'Go, Getting Gal'. Weather permitting a visit to Te Tautua where 40% of the population live may be possible.

Package Pricing:

Pricing is from NZ\$ 11,946 per person - based on 6 people travelling together. Flights will only operate with a minimum of 4 booked passengers and cost for 4 is NZD\$17,490 per person— maximum of 6 people per departure date.

Fixed departure dates are as follows; and other dates on request.

- 15—19 May 2023
- 14—18 August 2023
- 13—17 November 2023



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