

2025 - 2026

# TRAILBLAZERS OF THE NORTHERN ATOLLS



ISLAND HOPPER  
VACATIONS

COOK ISLANDS

Photo by Cook Islands Tourism



Pukapuka



Manihiki



Tongareva



## PUKAPUKA

Pukapuka, also known as Te Ulu O Te Watu, is the first stop on the Trailblazers of the Northern Atolls excursion in the Cook Islands. Positioned 1,287 kilometers away from Rarotonga and 450 kilometers from Samoa, Pukapuka boasts pristine charm, featuring three islets (Motu Ko, Motu Kotawa, and Wale) arranged in a three-bladed fan configuration, with a total land area of approximately 3 square kilometers.

Pukapuka island holds a diverse past, acting as a crossroads connecting east and west Polynesia. This cultural blend is evident in its distinct language, blending elements of Samoan and Tokelauan origins.

Pukapuka Airport sits on Motu Ko. Following your arrival, you will be transported to Wale, the primary community. The Island Council offers modest yet tidy lodging. The residence comprises three bedrooms, each furnished with two single beds. Amenities encompass a communal kitchen, living room, and dining space on the porch, along with separate male and female bathrooms. During your stay in Wale, you can engage with the residents and gain insight into their uncomplicated lifestyle while touring the island by truck.



### TRAILBLAZERS OF THE NORTHERN ATOLLS

Explore on an unforgettable 5-day, 4-night island-hopping adventure with your expert guide through the Cook Islands' untouched Northern Group: Pukapuka, Manihiki, and Tongareva.

Journey to the remote northernmost atolls, located approximately 1,300 kilometers (800 miles) north of Rarotonga, in a 7-seater Citation private jet.

Experience the unique natural beauty and authentic history and culture of each island. Discover the simple island living of the Northern Group as you enjoy guided tours, engage with locals, and absorb all that these islands have to offer.

### 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
- Island Tour on each island
- Tour Manager / Guide
- Opportunity to purchase souvenir gifts while on each island

### Day 1 : Rarotonga to Pukapuka

Upon arrival at Motu Ko airport, you will be transferred by boat to Wale, Pukapuka's main settlement. Check in at your accommodation, then enjoy lunch and a briefing before a guided island tour to meet locals and learn their culture.

### Day 2 : Pukapuka to Manihiki

Begin your day with breakfast before a boat transfer back to Motu Ko for your flight to Manihiki. Upon arrival in Manihiki, you will be transferred to your accommodation on Tukao, where lunch will be served and a briefing on Manihiki's history will be provided. After lunch, take a boat trip to Tauhunu to see the village and fishing traps, and explore part of the lagoon.

## MANIHIKI

Manihiki is a treasure trove of natural beauty. Traditionally known as Te Fuinga o Niva, Manihiki is the second-largest of the Northern Group atolls. Approximately 1,299 kilometres north of Rarotonga, this atoll 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 on the north coast.

You will stay at Sam's Place in 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 two bedrooms upstairs with a balcony and shower, and toilet facilities downstairs. The main house has four separate bedrooms, a kitchen, a living room, and an outside veranda and deck facing the lagoon. The toilet and shower facilities are at the back of the property. Meals are served in the main house, where you can also find coffee and tea making facilities, as well as a small shop where guests can buy drinks and various groceries.

The deep indigo lagoon is the source of the island's greatest asset: black pearls. Pearl farming involves cultivating the black-lipped pearl oyster (*Pinctada Margaritifera*). Visit a Kaoa (pearl farm) to learn how these exquisite treasures are farmed. The exploration doesn't end here: several tour options are available (weather permitting), such as fishing, snorkelling, diving, coconut crab hunting, and night fishing.

### Day 3 : Manihiki

After breakfast at your accommodation, embark on a boat trip to a Kaoa (pearl farm) to learn about pearl farming. Enjoy swimming, snorkelling, and a BBQ lunch in the clear waters. Return to your accommodation to unwind and relax, before enjoying a delectable dinner.

### 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 located roughly 250 meters from the airport. Upon arrival, guests can choose to be transferred by vehicle or walk to their accommodation, taking in the scenery along the way. Lunch will be served at your accommodation and dinner will be planned around your afternoon activities.



A selection of tours is available, subject to lagoon conditions. You will visit the ruins of the historical village of Mangarongaro, and, weather permitting, Te Tautua on the other side of the vast lagoon.

### Day 5: Tongareva to Rarotonga

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

## TONGAREVA

Tongareva, also known as Penrhyn, is located 1,365 kilometers north-northeast of Rarotonga. It is a stunning atoll with a remarkable cerulean blue lagoon measuring 233 square kilometers. The atoll is 77 kilometers in circumference and made up of more than 50 motus (islets), which form a necklace around the extraordinary lagoon. The villages of Te Tautua and Omoka are located 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).

Tongareva's lagoon is home to 18 species of sharks. The predominant species are 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. Weather permitting, a visit to Te Tautua, where 40% of the population live, may be possible.

### Package Pricing:

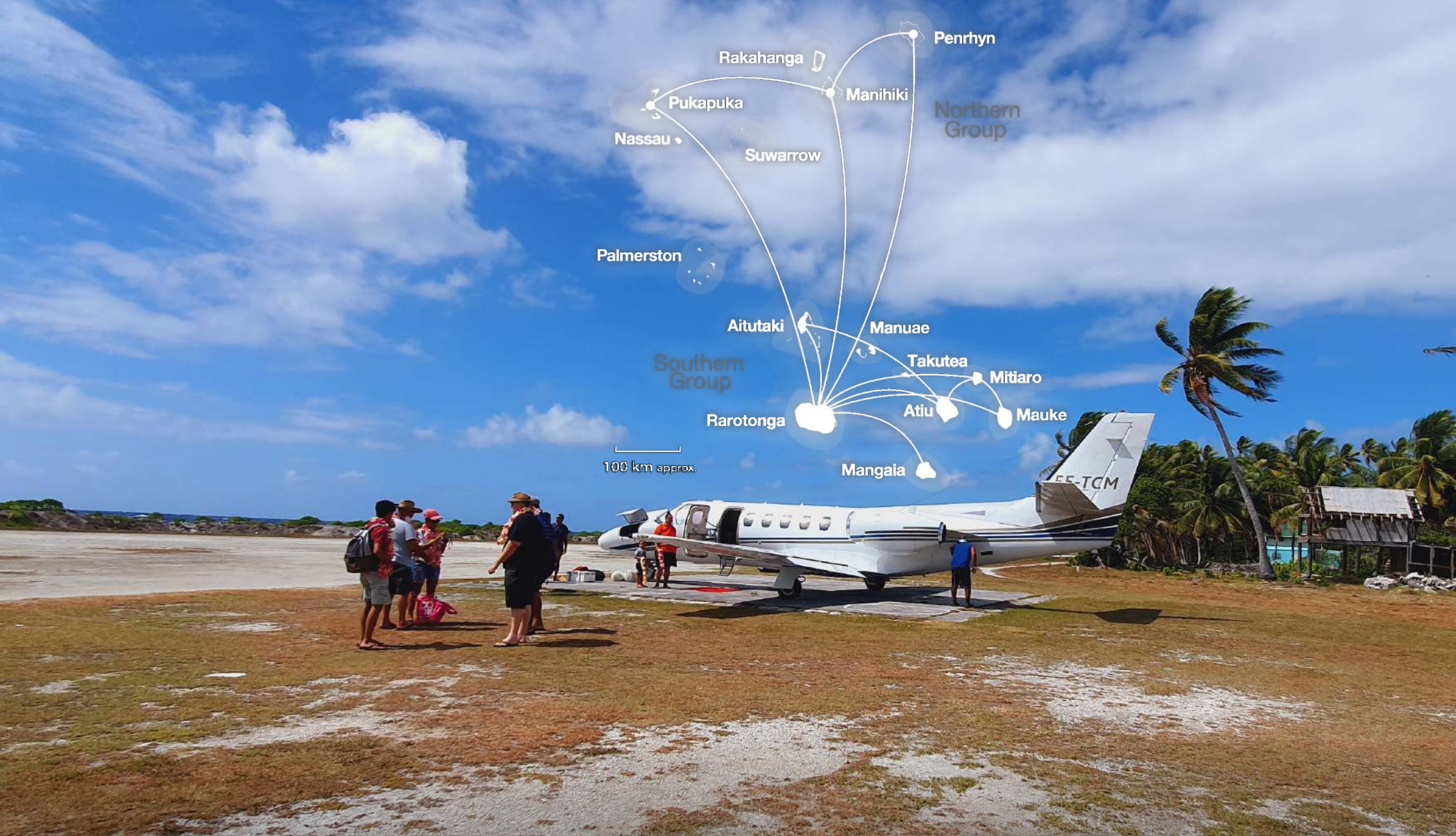
Pricing is per person in a double / share twin room and includes domestic flights, breakfast, lunch and dinner daily, transfers, tours and the services of our accompanying guide throughout the 5-day adventure.

A minimum of 4 passengers is required to operate this small group tour. Tour is for a maximum of 6 passengers plus our guide.

Pricing ranges from NZ\$13,224 per person if 6 people travelling to NZ\$19,306 per person if 4 people travelling.

### Booking code: IHNT25

Dates available on request basis.



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