

2026 - 2027

# TRAILBLAZERS OF THE NORTHERN ATOLLS



ISLAND HOPPER  
VACATIONS

COOK ISLANDS

Photo by Melanie Cooper



Pukapuka



Manihiki



Tongareva



Photo by Melanie Cooper



## PUKAPUKA

Pukapuka, also known as Te Ulu O Te Watu, is the first destination on the Trailblazers of the Northern Atolls journey through the Cook Islands. Located 1,287 kilometers from Rarotonga and 450 kilometers from Samoa, Pukapuka is renowned for its untouched beauty, made up of three islets (Motu Ko, Motu Kotawa and Wale) set in a three-bladed fan formation, with a combined land area of approximately 3 square kilometers.

Pukapuka Island has a rich and varied history, serving as a meeting point linking eastern and western Polynesia. This unique cultural mix is reflected in its distinctive language, which carries influences from both Samoan and Tokelauan heritage.

Pukapuka Airport is located on Motu Ko. Upon arrival, visitors are transferred to Wale, the island's main settlement. The Island Council provides simple and well-maintained accommodation. The residence features three bedrooms, each with two single beds, along with a shared kitchen, living room and dining area on the veranda, as well as separate male and female bathrooms. While staying in Wale, visitors can connect with local residents and experience their simple way of life while exploring the island by truck.



Photo by Melanie Cooper

### TRAILBLAZERS OF THE NORTHERN ATOLLS

Journey on an unforgettable 5-day, 4-night private island-hopping expedition through the pristine Northern Group of the Cook Islands, featuring Pukapuka, Manihiki, and Tongareva. Travel aboard a seven-seat Citation private jet to the remote northernmost atolls, approximately 1,300 kilometres from Rarotonga, for an unparalleled sense of seclusion and discovery.

Experience the extraordinary natural beauty, rich cultural heritage, and serene lifestyle of each island. Curated excursions, intimate encounters with local communities, and moments of rare discovery provide an immersive experience, revealing the timeless elegance and charm of the Northern Group at its finest.

### 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 haven of remarkable natural beauty. Traditionally known as Te Fuinga o Niva, Manihiki is the second largest of the Northern Group atolls. Located approximately 1,299 kilometres north of Rarotonga, this triangular shaped atoll is made up of 43 small islets, or motus, encircling a deep lagoon measuring around nine kilometres wide. The population is divided between two main settlements Tauhunu and Tukao.

You will spend two nights at Sam's Place in Tukao Village. Sam's Place features a two storey house located by the water, along with a main house positioned across the road. The waterfront house includes two upstairs bedrooms with a balcony, as well as shower and toilet facilities downstairs. The main house offers four separate bedrooms, a kitchen, a living room, and an outdoor veranda and deck overlooking the lagoon. Toilet and shower facilities are situated at the rear of the property. Meals are served in the main house, which also provides coffee and tea making facilities, along with a small shop where guests can purchase drinks and basic groceries.

The deep indigo lagoon is the source of the island's most valuable resource, black pearls. Pearl farming centres on the cultivation of the black lipped pearl oyster, *Pinctada Margaritifera*. Visitors can explore a Kaa, or pearl farm, to learn how these prized gems are produced. Adventure continues with a range of optional activities available, weather permitting, including 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 the art of pearl farming. Enjoy swimming, snorkelling, and a barbecue lunch in the crystal clear waters. Return to your accommodation to unwind and relax, before savouring a delectable dinner in the evening.

## Day 4: Manihiki to Tongareva

Tongareva is a one-hour flight from Manihiki. Accommodation is on the main island of Omoka, approximately 250 meters from the airport. Upon arrival, you may choose to be transferred by vehicle or walk to your accommodation, enjoying the scenic surroundings along the way. Lunch will be served at your accommodation, with dinner planned around your afternoon activities.



A selection of tours is available, subject to lagoon conditions. Highlights include a visit to the ruins of the historic village of Mangarongaro and, weather permitting, a journey across the vast lagoon to Te Tautua.

## Day 5: Tongareva to Rarotonga

In the morning, embark on a tour to observe shark feeding, followed by breakfast at your accommodation. You will then visit Mama's market, where a variety of intricately handwoven *rito* hats, fans, and necklaces can be found. Afterwards, explore the remains of the WWII B24 Liberator bomber "*Go Getting Gal*" and a historical site linked to the legend of Sokoau. Lunch will be served following the tour, before your flight back to Rarotonga.

# TONGAREVA

Tongareva, also known as Penrhyn, is situated 1,365 kilometres north northeast of Rarotonga. This breathtaking atoll features a striking cerulean blue lagoon spanning approximately 233 square kilometres. With a circumference of 77 kilometres, the atoll is composed of more than 50 motus, or islets, forming a delicate necklace encircling the extraordinary lagoon. The villages of Te Tautua and Omoka are located on separate islets and are barely visible from one another. The women of Tongareva are renowned for producing some of the finest rito weaving in the Cook Islands.

Accommodation is provided in a charming, basic two bedroom home located on Omoka. This family residence overlooks a sand flat that offers excellent opportunities for bonefishing, also known as fly fishing for Kiokio or Bonefish.

Tongareva's lagoon is home to 18 species of sharks, with the most common being the Black tipped Sand shark and the Giant Nurse shark, locally referred to as Moemoe Ava.

During your time on Tongareva, you will also visit the remains of a World War Two B24 Liberator bomber. Weather permitting, a visit to Te Tautua, home to approximately 40 percent of the island's population, may also be included.

## Package Pricing:

Pricing is per person based on double / share twin room, and includes domestic flights, daily breakfast, lunch and dinner, 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 guests, plus our dedicated guide.

Pricing ranges from NZ\$14,665 per person if 6 people travelling to NZ\$21,402 per person if 4 people travelling.

## Booking code: IHNTH2627

Dates available on request basis.



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