



ATIU CLOSE ENCOUNTERS

Inclusive Packages

ATIU

TOUR & EXCURSION FACT SHEET

Looking for something totally different to do during your stay in the Cook Islands? Then escape to Atiu, a small upraised coral island located 45 minutes by air from Rarotonga. Ask the locals about Atiu and immediately they will talk about the fantastic Fibre Arts Studio, the ancient burial Caves, the secluded white sand coves that break Atiu's rugged coastline, the aromatic Atiu Coffee and a 300 year old institution, the Tumunu - home brewed fruit beer served from the hollowed-out trunk of the Coconut tree. Plus there are the Birds—The unique Kopeka and the endangered Kakerori. Read on

Atiu, traditionally known as Enuamanu (land of the birds) is located 187 kilometres (116 miles) northeast of Rarotonga and is the largest of the three sister islands commonly referred to as Ngaputoru. (Atiu, Mitiaro and Mauke). The island is a raised volcanic island which sits on top of a mountain that is 4500 meters from the ocean floor. Over the last 10 million years , the island was surrounded by a coral reef from which rose six meter cliffs of fossilised coral known as Makatea.

The ring of makatea form an impenetrable mile-wide ring around the island creating a coral plateau at the coast. Carved into the makatea cliffs are over 28 secluded white sand beaches leading down to the shallow and narrow lagoon. The plateau of Makatea is riddled with caves. The interior of one cave

(Anatakitaki) is home to the Kopeka bird, an indigenous black swift found only on Atiu. This unique bird flies into the darkness of the cave and then uses a sonar clicking like a bat to fly in the darkness. Other caves were once used as burial sites. Visitors can still see human remains with some dating back 500 years.

In the centre of the island, volcanic eruptions and subsequent erosion has created a sunken interior, with some areas measuring some 30 meters lower than the makatea plateau. At the very centre of the island, the ground rises in to form ridges around 70 meters (230feet) above sea level, where the 5 villages are found. Atiu now has a population of around 500 inhabitants.

Our packages to this unique island for 3 nights accommodation with all transfers and 2 tours included, are very inexpensive and offer the chance to experience true Pacific culture with comfortable accommodation and wonderful experiences.



TOUR INFORMATION

PACKAGE DURATION	Three Nights / Four Days
DAYS OF OPERATION	Monday to Saturday
TIME OF OPERATION	Pick up and return from your hotel on Rarotonga
SPECIAL CLOSED OUT DATES	Sundays Only

TOUR DESCRIPTION

DAY 1	Transfer from your accommodation to Rarotonga Airport. Fly to Atiu. On arrival you are met and transferred to your hotel. After check in, you will be taken on a Circle Island Tour of the Island en route to your Hotel. Rest of the day is yours to explore.
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ATIU ISLAND TOUR

Walk some of the island's spectacular white sandy beaches. Relax and enjoy a tropical picnic on a beach in paradise". Visit a range of historic sights - The Cook Islands Christian Church, Captain Cook's Landing, a burial marae. Learn of the people of Enuamanu and their customs. Experience the dramatic variations in bush and coastal scenery. Walk some of the island's spectacular white sandy beaches. Relax and enjoy a tropical picnic on a beach in "paradise".




DAY 2	Today we have arranged a Half Day Cave Tour to Anatakitaki Cave (Kopeka Bird). On Tour, you will learn about the geology of Atiu and hear legends of long ago - After the Tour, you have an option to go to a Tumunu and not only sample the Orange based beer but also to mingle and chat with the Atiuan people.
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ANATAKITAKI CAVE TOUR

Anatakitaki Cave Tour offers a unique opportunity to visit the only habitat of the indigenous Kopeka Bird. The Kopeka, a tiny swift like bird, lives in the dark interior of the cave only coming out to feed on flying insects like mosquitoes. While in the pitch darkness of Anatakitaki Cave, the Kopeka finds its way around including its nest by using an echo-locating clicking sound, similar to bats. The trek to the cave entrance is an exhilarating and sometimes challenging 30 minutes of walking over rugged coral and limestone terrain. The path is lined with interesting Coral formations and many fossilised shells embedded in the limestone structures. Some of the fossils along the track date back to over 120 thousand years.

DAY 3	This is a free day or we can arrange more Tours and Excursions to explore and experience the island.
DAY 4	Free morning before your return to Rarotonga. Transfers are provided to your Rarotonga accommodation.

ACCOMMODATION OPTIONS

ATIU GUESTHOUSE	A small 3 bedroom house converted into a backpacker lodge with shared bathroom and kitchen. Tidy and clean as well as being very good value - near to Te Rangi Nui Restaurant.	
ATIU HOMESTAY	Marshall Humphreys, one of the local Tour Guides opens his comfortable home to you and you can rent out a bedroom and share the house with Marshall and his wife Jeanne.	
ATIU VILLAS	Atiu Villas has 6 Units all fully self contained with a stocked larder of food and drink items that you pay for what you use. Hot water shower and full kitchen as well as a restaurant. On site are motor bikes and car rental. This is the best full service property on Atiu and is well managed Pricing is also very reasonable for the facilities provided.	

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

DINING	Atiu Villas has a restaurant open every day except Sunday but please ring and make reservations. Te Rangi Nui is a New Restaurant and this is open daily for Lunch and Dinner On Sunday, Birdman George puts down an Umukai on the Beach and this is a good meal option as well.		
BANKING	There are no ATM's on Island so bring enough cash to pay for purchases / food		
WHAT TO BRING	Sunscreen Insect repellent	Hat Change of Clothing	Sturdy walking shoes Camera

