



ISLAND DISCOVERY TOUR - RARO TOURS

Rarotonga

TOUR & EXCURSION FACT SHEET

Explore Rarotonga from the comforts of an air-conditioned coach as our learned guides take you on a half day tour of the island. This is a great way to get to know where everything is before you head out to explore Rarotonga on your own.

Your tour of the island starts as soon as your air-conditioned coach picks you up from your hotel and heads along the Ara Tapu - the main coastal road that runs parallel to the white sand beaches and lagoon of the island. Along the way, your guide will give you an overview of the island and the many interesting places you will visit during the tour.



Main Township of Avarua

The central business area of Rarotonga is Avarua and located on the northern coast of the island. You will drive past the main harbours of Avarua and Avatiu.

Limestone Churches

During the tour you will drive past ancient limestone churches - some built at the turn of the century by the London Missionary Society. Christianity still plays a very important part in the Cook Islands as you will see from the impressive structures of some churches. One thing to watch out for is the bronze bust of the Cook Islands first Premier - Sir Albert Royale Henry. This is located in the church yard in the Avarua CICC church.

Ancient Marae (Sacred Sites)

Your Island Discovery Tour will also take you inland to visit some of our ancient marae. These are sacred sites once used for Rituals, Traditional Investiture of Leaders and Warriors, Tribal Meetings and Human Sacrifices. Today they are still being used for the investiture of our tribal leaders. Arai Te Tonga Marae and Pa Ariki's Marae are two of the more accessible marae on the island.

Departure Site of the 7 Canoes

At the end of the 15th century, a flotilla of double hulled Polynesian canoes departed from Avana, a passage on the eastern shores of Rarotonga, for an epic voyage to Aotearoa, New Zealand. Today 7 stones are permanently fixed to the ground to commemorate that voyage. Your guide will recite the story that followed the brave navigators and their passengers of warriors and maidens across the Pacific Ocean as they searched for the land of the long white clouds.

Along the tour, you will visit picturesque locations, take a break on a beachfront section with plenty of opportunities for photographs.



Site of 7 Canoes



Taro Patch



Coconut Husking

TOUR DESCRIPTION	
TOUR DURATION	Monday to Friday—10.00AM—1.30PM Approximately 3 Hours
CLOSE OUT DAYS	Christmas Day Boxing Day New Years Day Good Friday Easter Sunday Anzac Day Local Religious Holidays Note: Tour Does Not Operate If Cruise Ships are in town
VEHICLE DESCRIPTION	
VEHICLE TYPE	Air-conditioned Coach - seating varies
SEATING ARRANGEMENTS	Seats are in double seating arrangements (No Fold Down seats)
SCHEDULE	
PICK UP	Pickup times will be advised when booking.
ADDITIONAL INFORMATION	
ACCESIBLE FOR DISABLED	Suitable for most passengers Wheelchair access not available but can be assessed and personal assistance provided on request.
REFRESHMENTS	Refreshments Not Included In Tour However There Will Be the Opportunity Where You Can Purchase Your Own Refreshments After the Coconut Demonstration
TOILET STOPS	Available during tour
TRANSLATORS/FOREIGN LANGUAGE GUIDES (Available for Group Bookings Only)	We can provide guides who speak English as well as the following languages - German - French - Italian - Spanish
WHAT TO BRING	
Sunscreen Camera/Film Walking Shoes	Insect Repellent Hat Bottled water



Coconut Husking Demonstration



Avarua township, the main shopping business &



The sleepy village of Arorangi in the district of Puaikura. This is the Paramount Chief Tinomana Ruta Ariki's domain.

Our tour will stop at the Palace for a brief commentary on the History of the Title and current title holder.



TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

Arai Te Tonga & Pa's Marae

Gain access to some of Rarotonga's sacred sites like Arai Te Tonga Marae and Pa Ariki' Marae in the Takitumu district. These ancient sites are located on private land and normally closed to the public. Here, you will learn of ancient usage and its significance in today's modern society.

Site of the 7 Canoes

The departure of the flotilla of canoes from Avana passage on their epic voyage to New Zealand at the turn of the 15th century marked the end of Polynesian migrations using their doubled hulled canoes. The site is now marked by 7 Rocks in commemoration of this epic voyage.

Cook Island Christian Church

Rarotonga has many limestone churches built by the London missionary society. Some of these churches are over 100 years old. The most famous of these churches is the one in Avarua where the bronze bust of the first Premier of the Cook Islands can be found.

Inland Villages and Plantations

This part of the tour always offers a more intimate look at the island. You will visit remote inland plantations where locals still use an agriculture system that dates back to pre missionary times.

Perfumes Of Rarotonga

Enjoy the chance to stop at Perfumes of Rarotonga where you can sample the beautiful scents of the locally made products.

Knowledgeable Guides

All guides on our tours are locals who have a great appreciation of our culture and heritage. The commentary throughout the tour will provide you with the information you need to gain an insight into the structures of this small island community.