

COOK ISLANDS

Love a LITTLE PARADISE

AITUTAKI



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COOKISLANDS.TRAVEL

AITUTAKI

WITH ITS HUGE TURQUOISE, SUNLIT LAGOON DECORATED WITH 15 MOTU (ISLETS) AND AN EMERALD GREEN MAIN ISLAND, AITUTAKI IS UNDISPUTEDLY ONE OF THE MOST BEAUTIFUL OF ALL SOUTH PACIFIC DESTINATIONS.

The view when approaching by air is one of the most stunning sights that travelers to this part of the Pacific will experience. Just 220 kilometers north and an easy 45 minute flight from Rarotonga, its lagoon is considered one of the most magnificent in the world.

A triangular shaped reef encompasses Aitutaki lagoon which is imbedded with massive coral heads – home to countless varieties of brilliantly coloured tropical fish and marine life. It is this spectacular lagoon that makes Aitutaki unrivaled in the Cook Islands for water activities. But the allure of Aitutaki doesn't stop at the water's edge. The charm of this lovely place which has the unique characteristics of being both an island and an atoll continues on land. The main island of Aitutaki is where some 2000 people live on approximately 16 sq kilometres. With a blissfully relaxed lifestyle of the warm locals, this destination is the top of any bucket list in the South Pacific.



STAY WITH US

The variety of accommodation available on Aitutaki can cater to all tastes. At the top end of the scale are luxurious resorts that have won many international awards. Mid-range accommodations are plentiful, as are self-catering establishments and there is a good handful of budget options.

DINING & ENTERTAINMENT

As a little paradise, Aitutaki has several exceptionally good restaurants with a personal feel, using daily fresh local produce to present exotic meals with an island flavour. Island nights with cultural shows are on throughout the week and a couple feature fire-dancing. These are experiences not to be missed and will be a highlight of your visit to this alluring island.

YOUR ACCOMMODATION OPTIONS...



EXPLORE AITUTAKI

Safari tours takes visitors to Maunga Pu, whilst touring the lush interior of the island, along little used tracks where the scenery is breathtaking. Maunga Pu hill is the highest point on Aitutaki. The hill provides a wonderful 360 degrees view of the entire lagoon and all motu. There are also numerous lagoon tours, which last almost an entire day. Seafood BBQ lunch, refreshments, snorkeling gear and towels are always provided and nearly all tour operators will pick you up from the airport, or your hotel. After a wonderful morning of snorkeling and feeding the fish, lunch is served and islands explored before heading back to the main island.

TOURS & ACTIVITIES



THE ULTIMATE GETAWAY

Aitutaki does not bear the name “honeymoon island” without cause. Want an island to yourself to get married – or escape to? This is where you will find it. A sunset cruise on tranquil water with the destination of a desert island and a picnic on the shore your ultimate dream? The reality is here. Want someone to organise a full scale wedding with banquet on the beach? It will be provided – and to perfection. Want to bring a whole wedding party with you? That too can be catered for. The only hard thing about Aitutaki is saying goodbye.



AQUATIC PLAYGROUND

Keen fishermen and those looking to experience deep sea fishing, or bone fishing in the lagoon will not be disappointed. Aitutaki lagoon is home to some of the largest bonefish in the world. Scuba buffs are well catered for with two local and experienced operators offering dive trips and there's a chance of swimming with turtles and rays. Kayaking and stand-up paddleboarding are also unbeatable on Aitutaki lagoon. Our little paradise offers perfect conditions both for experienced or beginner kitesurfers alike. With clear, spacious lagoons, warm tropical waters and predominant easterly trade winds ranging from 15-30 knots, it's a kitesurfer's nirvana.



How to get here...

Domestic flights are operated by Air Rarotonga with daily flights to Aitutaki. Air Rarotonga also operate a scheduled service from Aitutaki to Atiu. Flights times to Aitutaki from Rarotonga take 45 mins. For a domestic flight schedule please visit www.airraro.com



Did you know...

1. Aitutaki is 220kms north of Rarotonga
2. There are 15 reef motu in the Aitutaki lagoon
3. The population of Aitutaki is just over 2000
4. Aitutaki is 16 sq kms in land mass
5. New Zealand and American forces built the two air strips on Aitutaki in WWII
6. The oldest church in the Cook Islands is the Arutanga Cook Islands Christian Church in Aitutaki built of coral limestone rocks.
7. The best lagoon activities in Aitutaki are bone fishing, snorkelling and kite surfing.
8. The highest point in Aitutaki is Maunga Pu hill at 123 metres above sea level
9. Aitutaki was settled in 900 AD
10. The lagoon is 12 km across and 15km from top to bottom – and Rarotonga, the largest of the Cook Islands can fit neatly inside it.

KEY EVENTS

1. Aitutaki volleyball championships – local teams from all the villages on the island compete in a tournament on Easter Monday with a great atmosphere.
2. 'Pursuit in Paradise' – The first Aitutaki 10km, half and full Marathon around our stunning island begins the first week of May 2018
3. Manureva Kitesurfing festival - Top names come for kitesurfing freestyle and race competitions, SUP boarding, canoeing and partying in August on the stunning motu Tavake, also known as honeymoon island.
4. Te Maeva Nui - Festival of Cook Islands' culture featuring spectacular dance and music performances celebrating independence every August.
5. Motu 2 Motu – canoe paddling festival including 36km changeover race around the world's most beautiful lagoon in December
6. Koni Raoni - a thanksgiving day of dancing and feasting progressing from village to village, held on Boxing Day and New Years Day.

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VISITOR CENTRE

At the centre of everything! Advice on accommodation, tours, restaurants, activities, entertainment and outer islands travel.

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