ASPA 81

ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH PACIFIC AIRLINES - RAROTONGA

Island Economies in Flight:
Strategic Partnerships Aviation–Tourism

Programme



COOK ISLANDS
I ove our little paradise

Air Rarotonga

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ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH PACIFIC AIRLINES - RAROTONGA



COOK ISLANDS

Love our little paradise

Air Rarotonga

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Kia Orana!

WELCOME TO THE COOK ISLANDS.

Welcome to the Cook Islands - a modern Polynesian nation of 15 islands scattered across a vast expanse of the South Pacific Ocean, halfway between New Zealand and Hawaii.

Renowned for its natural beauty, warm hospitality and vibrant culture, the Cook Islands offers a unique blend of untouched landscapes and contemporary island life. From the lush mountains of Rarotonga to the world-famous lagoon of Aitutaki, each island has its own distinct character and charm.

At the heart of the Cook Islands is the spirit of “Kia Orana” - a greeting that goes beyond hello. It represents a wish for a long and fulfilling life, and reflects the warmth, generosity and welcoming nature of the Cook Islands people.

While you are here for ASPA 81, we encourage you to take time to experience all that our islands have to offer — from local cuisine and cultural experiences to the natural beauty that makes this destination truly unforgettable.

Meitaki ma’ata (thank you) and enjoy your stay in our little paradise.

MESSAGES – Prime Minister & ASPA Chair



MARK BROWN
Prime Minister
of the Cook Islands



EWAN SMITH
Chair,
Association of South Pacific Airlines

Lorem Ipsum is simply dummy text of the printing and typesetting industry. Lorem Ipsum has been the industry's standard dummy text ever since the 1500s, when an unknown printer took a galley of type and scrambled it to make a type specimen book. It has survived not only five centuries, but also the leap into electronic typesetting, remaining essentially unchanged. It was popularised in the 1960s with the release of Letraset sheets containing Lorem Ipsum passages, and more recently with desktop publishing software like Aldus PageMaker including versions of Lorem Ipsum. Lorem Ipsum is simply dummy text of the printing and typesetting industry. Lorem Ipsum has been the industry's standard dummy text ever since the 1500s, when an unknown printer took a galley of type and scrambled it to make a type specimen book.

MESSAGES – CEO Cook Islands Tourism & ASPA Secretary General



KARLA EGGLETON
Chief Executive Officer,
Cook Islands Tourism Corporation



DAVID TOHI
Secretary General,
Association of South Pacific Airlines

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YOUR PROGRAMME

ACCOMMODATION: EDGEWATER RESORT & SPA
DRESS CODE: ISLAND CASUAL (NO SUITS)

MONDAY 18TH MAY

5:30pm	Pickup by Raro Tours. Meet at Edgewater Resort reception
6:00–9:00pm	AGM & Welcome Drinks – Venue: Air Rarotonga Hangar Hosted by Air Rarotonga Drinks sponsored by AJW
9:05pm	Transfer back to Edgewater Resort & Spa

DAY 1, TUESDAY 19TH MAY
Edgewater Resort & Spa, Conference Centre

7:30–8:15am	Delegates arrive and register
8:15am	Pe'e – Traditional chant by warrior
8:20am	Opening Prayer – CICC Orometua John Andrew
8:30am	Presentation – Kia Orana video
8:40–9:00am	Formal Opening – Hon. Prime Minister Mark Brown (TBC)
9:00am	State of the Aviation Industry – IATA
9:30am	State of the Tourism Industry – SPTO
10:00am	Update on Legal Matters – Norton White
10:30–10:45am	**Morning Tea (sponsored by Embraer)**
10:45am	Insurance Industry Update – Gallagher Aerospace
11:15am	Airfreight Regional Update – AIRWAY
11:45am	Presentation – Boeing
12:15pm	Tourism Panel Discussion – Cook IslandsTourism
12:45–1:30pm	**Lunch**
1:30pm	Presentation – Air Rarotonga
2:00pm	Airports – Brisbane Airport Corporation
2:30pm	Presentation – Embraer
3:00–3:15pm	**Afternoon Tea**
3:15pm	Aircraft Lessor – Panel Discussion
3:45pm	ASPA Airlines – Update
4:00pm	End of Day 1 Conference

GALA DINNER	**Tuesday Evening**
5:15pm	Pickup by Raro Tours Meet at Edgewater Resort reception
6:00–7:00pm	Pre-Dinner Drinks – Ukelele Bar
7:00–10:00pm	Gala Dinner & Island Show – Tamarind House Hosted by Cook Islands Tourism Drinks sponsored by Boeing
10:15pm	Transfer back to Edgewater Resort & Spa

DAY 2, WEDNESDAY 20TH MAY
Edgewater Resort & Spa, Conference Centre

8:30am	Arrival for all delegates
9:00am	ACWG (Air Connectivity Working Group) – Tuvalu
9:30am	Presentation – De Havilland
10:00am	Presentation – CAPA

10:30–10:45am Morning Tea

10:45am	Industry Session (TBC)
11:15am	Industry Session (TBC)
11:30am	Industry Session (TBC)
11:45am	Presentation – Airbus
12:15pm	Industry Service Providers Brief
12:45–1:30pm	**Lunch**
1:30pm	End of Conference – Free for networking

EVENING (OPTIONAL)

6:00pm	Rehab Party Bus Experience (details to follow)

THURSDAY 21ST MAY

7:00–6:30pm	Aitutaki Day Tour (Optional) Experience one of the most beautiful lagoons in the world
	Departures for home



OUR ISLANDS TO EXPLORE

Discover the heart of the Cook Islands through its two most iconic destinations.

Rarotonga, the vibrant hub, offers lush mountain landscapes, coastal roads, and a lively blend of local culture, cuisine, and community. Just a short flight away, Aitutaki reveals a different rhythm - home to one of the world's most breathtaking lagoons, where turquoise waters and secluded motu create a true sense of escape.

Airlines servicing the Cook Islands are Air New Zealand and Jetstar via Auckland, New Zealand, and Air Rarotonga.

Rarotonga

The beating heart of our little paradise will capture yours. As the hub of the Cook Islands, there's so much to see and do. Yet we remain unspoilt, with no traffic lights, no McDonalds and no building taller than a coconut tree. There are over 50+ restaurants and cafes scattered all over Rarotonga alone. Just 32 km around, explore an island where you can find treasure around every corner.





Aitutaki

The beating heart of our little paradise will capture yours. As the hub of the Cook Islands, there's so much to see and do. Yet we remain unspoilt, with no traffic lights, no McDonalds and no building taller than a coconut tree. There are over 50+ restaurants and cafes scattered all over Rarotonga alone. Just 32 km around, explore an island where you can find treasure around every corner.



PĀ ENUA – SOUTHERN GROUP

For the truly adventurous in spirit, our Outer Islands (Pa Enua) have a remote, unspoiled appeal for the explorer in all of us. The following islands are accessible by domestic flight via Rarotonga with Air Rarotonga, no boat or ferry services are available. Island Hopping Packages are available.

Atiu

There are a few places left in the world like Atiu. Known also as 'Enua Manu', the land of birds, Atiu is about half the size of Rarotonga. Villages are in the central plateau where soil is rich, and some of the best coffee in the Pacific Rim is organically grown.



Mauke

The traditional name for Mauke is 'Akatokamanava' which translates to "where my heart rests." It's a fitting name for this little garden of Eden, as many visitors find the island takes hold of their heart on arrival.



Mitiaro

Also known as 'Nukuroa'. Visitors to the island can be guaranteed a very real opportunity to immerse into the mellow way of life. Mitiaro has a rich history, with the most stunning subterranean limestone pools and caves in Polynesia.



Mangaia

Mangaia is traditionally known as 'Auau Enua'. Mangaia is the second largest and southernmost island of the Cooks. This island is made up of raised limestone coral, peppered with numerous caves that stretch into giant underground caverns.





PĀ ENUA – NORTHERN GROUP

Six of the beautiful Cook Islands lie to the north. Described as “the stuff that dreams are made of”, their remote appeal and promise of true escape pulls at the hearts of explorers, adventurers, authors and artists. The following islands are accessible by domestic flight via Rarotonga with Air Rarotonga, no boat or ferry

Pukapuka

This is one of the most beautiful untouched and secluded places in the Pacific. Its remoteness has also helped to keep the wonderful traditions and culture of its people largely unchanged for centuries.



Manihiki

Manihiki, a necklace of 40 tiny islands with a clear, deep blue lagoon. Manihiki is the epicentre of the Cook Islands’ pearl industry. It provides a true escape from the modern world.



Tongareva

The northernmost island of the Cook Islands group, also know as Penryhn. Its most spectacular feature is the immense, enclosed blue water lagoon that covers 233 sq. km and is one of the largest in the South Pacific.





FAST FACTS

Population
Cook Islands (2021 Census): 15,020
Rarotonga (Capital): 10,890

Entry Requirements
A valid passport with at least 6 months' validity is required. This allows you a stay of up to 31 days in the Cook Islands. New Zealand passport holders are eligible for stays of up to 90 days.

Currency & Banking
The currency in the Cook Islands is the New Zealand dollar, supplemented by Cook Islands notes and coins. ANZ, BSP, and BCI banks are open Monday to Friday, 9am to 3pm in downtown Avarua. Most hotels and stores offer EFTPOS. ATMs are conveniently located around Rarotonga and Aitutaki. There is a Western Union office in Avarua that offers money exchange and transfers. When visiting the outer islands, we recommend taking cash, as there is limited access to EFTPOS and only some businesses accept credit cards.

Domestic Air Travel
Domestic flights are operated by Air Rarotonga, with daily flights to Aitutaki and scheduled flights to Atiu, Mangaia, Mauke, Mitiaro, Manihiki, Tongareva, and Pukapuka. For the domestic flight schedule, please visit www.airraro.com.

Dress Code
Although the dress code is informal, we ask that you dress modestly and avoid wearing brief attire when visiting town, villages, and churches. Nude or topless sunbathing will cause offence.

Driving
Driving is on the left-hand side of the road. Cars and motor scooters can be rented. International visitors (16 years and over) can drive in the Cook Islands for up to six months using a full overseas licence. If a visitor wishes to ride a scooter or motorbike and is not licensed to do so in their home country, they must obtain a Cook Islands Driving Licence at the Police Headquarters in Avarua. Helmets are compulsory.

Tipping
Tipping is not customary in the Cook Islands, but you are welcome to do so at your discretion.

Medical & Dental
There is a well-equipped hospital in Rarotonga and a small hospital in Aitutaki. There are no poisonous animals or insects in the Cook Islands. For emergencies, call 999.

Electricity
Electricity is 240V AC/50Hz, using the same three-pin plugs as New Zealand and Australia.

WiFi
Internet is widely available with over 150 WiFi hotspots (visit: www.vodafone.co.ck). Most accommodations offer WiFi hotspots, and some provide in-room internet access for purchase.

Telecommunications
Traveller SIM cards can be purchased from Vodafone (the local telecommunications provider) and come preloaded with calls, text, and mobile data. Most smartphones will work with a local SIM; however, check with your provider before travelling.

Water
It is recommended that visitors do not drink directly from taps. Boil tap water before drinking. Free UV-treated water refill stations are available around Rarotonga and in the outer islands.



COOK ISLANDS MĀORI PHRASES

The Cook Islands Māori language is an important part of local identity and everyday life.

While English is widely spoken, you may hear and use a few Māori phrases during your time here - a simple way to connect with the culture and people of the Cook Islands:

Kia Orana	Hello / Welcome	**Ko'ai to'ou ingoa?**	What is your name?
Pe'ea koe?	How are you?	**Aere rā**	Goodbye
Meitaki	Thank you	**Ko [name] toku ingoa**	My name is...
I am well	Meitaki au	**'Ae**	Yes
Good luck	Kia Manuia	**Kāre**	No

PRONUNCIATION TIP
Vowels are pronounced as in Māori:
A (ah), E (eh), I (ee), O (oh), U (oo)



KEY CONTACTS

Emergency Services	999
Rarotonga Hospital	+682 22664
Cook Islands Police	+682 22499
Cook Islands Tourism	+682 20300
Air Rarotonga	+682 22888
Edgewater Resort & Spa	+682 25435
Event Enquiries	Please refer to event organisers or registration desk at venue.


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