

Pacific Romance

YOUR GUIDE TO WEDDINGS, HONEYMOONS
AND ROMANCE IN THE PACIFIC ISLANDS



NIUE

NIUE

Romantic Exploration



Tying the knot



The Notice of Intended Marriages Form must be filled out and signed with minimum three (working) days' notice.

You will be required to provide:

- A formal letter from both bride and groom stating they have never been married before.
- Certified copy of birth certificate and passport documents from each person
- Divorce documents if appropriate – to show proof of dissolve of marriage

Contact Niue Justice Department during working hours. Ph 00 683 4351 or noora@niue.nu



© NIUE TOURISM

For a lot of couples, the death of romance is quite simple; time. The pace of life seems to get faster and fuller, and the rare opportunity we get to just stop, breathe and turn to those we love with our full focus and gaze must be grasped with both hands. If you don't have a full understanding of how nourishing that time could be, you will after you visit Niue.

This small, perfectly formed, stunning little slice of the South Pacific runs at a pace that opens the senses right up. The natural beauty of the island and the crystal clear waters that surround it entirely will restore you. With fewer than 1500 people living on the island, it's small enough to drive right around in a few hours, and large enough to keep you exploring and discovering new swims, walks and views for days on end. If you need more than a resort break, but you want all those pleasures with plenty of adventure and discovery to boot, Niue is your spot.

So where to start. Even if you're the sort of couple who is capable of finding your own way around a new destination, it is well worth taking a guided tour of the island on your first day. Two hours with Explore Niue owner Vanessa Marsh will set you up for the week. She'll show you the best places to swim and snorkel and recommend some fantastic dining options. And she knows so much about the landscape, the history of the island and almost every single plant, insect and sea creature you come across.

From there, you can explore with to your heart's content. Self-drive is the best way to make the most of the island. You can pick up a roomy reliable rental right at the airport from Niue Rentals. Everything is so close and very well sign-posted, it is a five-minute drive from the airport down to the Scenic Matavai Resort and short trips to all the best swimming and eating spots. Dodging all the biggest potholes can be a challenge! But even though some sections of the road are a little worse for wear, there is no rush hour, no traffic lights and no worries. Bliss!

Together uncovering all the amazing coastal pools and caves and immersing yourselves in the cleanest ocean you'll ever swim in, often having the place all to yourself, is the most incredible feeling.

Limu Pools and the Avaiki Caves are both extraordinary natural wonders and swimming at high tide inside one of the main Avaiki Caves is an almost spiritual experience. You'll likely have the entire place

to yourself. The water is an astonishing shade of clear deep blue and turquoise. Most couples walk away saying they have never seen or swum in anything like it.

You'll need a whole day and then another at Limu Pools, there are so many nooks and crannies to snorkel and the entire place changes as the tide comes in and out. The pools on the far right as you go in have a very cool arched cave through to some even more impressive snorkelling spots teeming with coral fish, so take your time! Another unique location to add to your itinerary is the Matapa Chasm. Freshwater meets the ocean here with sheer high cliffs on either side, and if you float on your back you'll feel the gentle surge as the sea breathes in and out of the chasm – it's just amazing.

If the idea of a tropical wedding and/or honeymoon has always been a dream, Niue may not immediately spring to mind. But the appeal of doing something different, somewhere different where your guests will get a very special, unforgettable experience, definitely consider Niue.

The Scenic Matavai has a lovely banquet room which looks out onto the ocean and there are plenty of accommodation options within the resort and beyond for guests. There are fishing, snorkelling and dive tours to entertain friends and family. Honestly, the list is endless when it comes to getting wedding photos, there are just so many stunning coastal and forest backdrops within a stone's throw of the resort and further afield, you'll need an entire day just for photos!

To ease the wedding recovery, wander to the Washaway Café at Avatele Beach on a Sunday. It's only open Sundays, and owner Willy makes fresh bread for the burger buns and they are delicious. The honesty box self-service bar is the stuff of legends and there is no better place to chill back with a burger and beer and watch the sun go down on another gorgeous Niuean day.





On the subject of good eating with good views, on the way to the Matapa Chasm stop by the Hio Café for its divine iced chocolates and coastal vista and grab a coffee from the Crazy Uga in Alofi when you need one. If you prefer your views with a little competitive golfing, the Vaiolama Café on the outskirts of Alofi has an awesome mini golf course and do not leave without sampling their specialty, the rockmelon crush (get in early though, they run out fast!).

Given how brilliant the shallows are for snorkelling, go and see Anthony and Tom at Niue Dive right next door to the Scenic Matavai for an even deeper adventure. Your snorkelling adventure will begin by piling onto the back of their ute for the short drive to the boat ramp. Avatele Beach is only a couple of minutes up the road and has a well-kitted out ramp complete with a sturdy crane to lower the dive boat into the sea.

A few minutes later you'll be off through the narrow reef channel into the open sea. Anthony will take you right across the bay, along the way imparting his inside knowledge about both land and sea and especially where the best snorkel and dive spots are for beginners and pros alike. He has worked as a dive instructor all over the world, and he says that Niue is hands down the best place he's dived.

Most days you'll get to swim with the Spinner dolphins and of course, don't forget the June to October whale season. You'll see a tonne of big and small reef fish, lots of cool yellow and black sea snakes and quite possibly a turtle or two. The visibility is unlimited and the deep water is just so refreshing you won't want to get out.



TAKE A TIKI TOUR

With most of the more popular swimming spots on the Alofi side of the island, the other side of Niue has plenty of hidden treasures for the more adventurous. A couple can spend a full day driving around the entire island, passing through Avatele and onwards up the back of the island. The bigger ocean swells smash into the cliffs creating lots of caves and chasms to see and explore.

There are two must-do walks. One is the more challenging trek to the Togo Chasm, the other is back up the top of the island, the Talava Arches. The arches are an uneven but fairly easy walk and best at low tide, put aside a few hours to make the most of them. The Togo Chasm will need a few hours too and will require good comfy sturdy walking shoes for the coastal rocks and the steep ladder, but the views are worth the effort.

If you want the views without the excursion, head for the Anaana Lookout up the coast from the Scenic Matavai. Go at high tide during a big swell and you'll see the ocean smash through into the underwater caves below and blast high into the sky through the blowholes. It's the perfect spot for unrestricted views high up and down the coastline and of course prime viewing for whales when they're visiting. And let's not forget this spot for those spectacular wedding photos!



PLACES TO STAY

The Scenic Matavai Resort

The Scenic Matavai Resort will feel like home the moment you wander in. The staff will greet you with genuine warmth and your first task will be to sip on fresh coconut water, direct from an actual coconut no less! While you're sipping, walk out onto the expansive deck high on the cliffs above the sweeping bay, and soak up the breath-taking views.

All the rooms make maximum use of the ocean views. They also come with a spacious layout, high ceiling with lots of light and their own balcony looking out through the palm trees to the sea below.

If you're a stickler for a good hot strong shower, the simple, stylish bathrooms will deliver on that. The lovely wicker chair settings indoors and out are also perfect for settling into with a book and a beer as a sundowner in the evenings. And while the rooms come with televisions, most couples won't bother to turn it on! (When in Niue it's nice to stay detached from the outside world).

The resort offers air conditioning in all the rooms and in the hot peak summer months there's no doubt that would be a godsend. The large ceiling fan above the comfy super king bed is your other cooling option.

A short meander to the main building and you'll find the Dolphin Restaurant and Bar and the main reception area. Then the short drop down the stairs to the two lovely pools and swim-up pool bar. Try a "Kafesi a Niue" cocktail drizzled with delicious fresh Niuean Gold Honey and soak up the unbeatable sunsets from here. As if the sunsets

weren't enough, there are the regular visits from large pods of Spinner Dolphins as they cruise off the resort.

Of course, time your holiday right and it won't be just the dolphins you'll see from the deck at the Scenic Matavai. Niue is well known as a spectacular place to whale-watch between June and late September – when the humpback whale settles into the warmer environs off Niue to breed. There are specialist licenced operators who treat visitors to close-quarter encounters with these magnificent sea creatures – an absolute must-do experience for any couple.

The resort is the ideal base for all your exploring and a haven to come home to. You can also book a couples massage in the peace and quiet of your own room. The yummy buffet-style breakfast will set you up for the day and the staff were such a lovely bunch, nothing will be a problem.

Lau's Getaway

There are some excellent boutique options available for couples. Lau's Getaway (just along the road from Scenic Matavai Resort) consists of two bright blue villas that sit on a cliff edge overlooking the ocean. You can spot them from miles away! Their sweeping views are incredible, and during the whale season you'll have the best seat in the house. Their signature feature is a private bathtub located on the deck – think hot bubbles, sunset and cold bubbles, i.e. a nice bottle of Champagne.

Namukulu Cottages & Spa

At the other end of the island is the Namukulu Cottages & Spa. Set in beautiful, park-like grounds, couples have a choice of six cottages, each with expansive decks. Namukulu also has a swimming pool, plus the Matapa Chasm and Limu Pools are just a few minutes away too. And they have a day spa for some essential getaway pampering. 🌸



THE INSIDE WORD

The joy of life's surprises

By Kate Roger

It's my job to ask people interesting, though-provoking questions, but one of my own big questions was 'where to get married'. As it turned out, the answer, that had so far eluded me, came about in a rather unexpected way. In a rather unexpected place. Niue!

You see Tristan, my partner of 10 year is Niuean born, but he hadn't been back to Niue since he was a kid. When the opportunity to visit the island popped up, it seemed like the perfect opportunity to wind back from life back home, spend some quality time together and give Tristan the chance to re-connect with his birthplace.

The wonderfully laid-back island provided all of the above and more. From rock pool swimming, to diving with dolphins to eating seafood that was literally straight from the boat, we soaked up every second of this serene South Pacific paradise. And five days later, the answer was as clear as Niue's crystal blue waters. This is where our wedding bells will ring.

Kate's Top Romantic Tips

Sip cocktails at sunset at Scenic Matavai Resort

Even though you'll already be super-relaxed (you can't help it in Niue) – take your chill factor to the next level by watching the sunset from the deck at Scenic Matavai Resort. The view is top-shelf and so are the resort's yummy cocktails!

Find a secluded snorkelling spot

One of the best things about Niue is you don't have to share! You'll be lucky to see another soul, even at the island's most popular rock pools – try the Limu Pools, Matapa Chasm and Avaiki Cave. Pack a picnic while you're at it.

Get on your bike

They say a couple that plays together, stays together! So hire a mountain bike and pedal along one of Niue's many tropical bush trails. Apart from enjoying some quality active time, you'll see parts of the island many tourists miss out on.

Gaze into the night sky

Look skyward at night and you'll be gobsmacked by what you see! Niue is essentially free from light pollution, which makes for some world-class stargazing. It's even better done with a glass of wine in hand.



Kate and Tristan



scenic

Matavai Resort Niue

free
FLIGHTS
& SEVEN
nights

Your dream Niuean wedding & honeymoon destination awaits...

Celebrate your special day with family and friends at the Scenic Matavai Resort Niue and receive:

2 return flights to Niue (*ex Auckland)

7 nights' Deluxe Clifftop room accommodation

Daily tropical continental breakfast for the bride & groom

All airport transfers on Niue

Simply book your wedding reception at Scenic Matavai Resort Niue before November 2020 to turn your dream into reality.

To find out more contact us on 0800 NZ OWNED, visit scenichotelgroup.co.nz,
or enquire with your preferred travel specialist today.

The offer is valid for all new bookings made up to 30th November 2020, to hold your wedding reception at Scenic Matavai Resort Niue before 30th June 2021. Only valid for 7 nights for 2 adult guests in a Deluxe Clifftop room. Not transferable for cash. 50% deposit is required on confirmation of wedding reception booking. A minimum of 25 paying adult guests with a chosen menu of \$90pp. A minimum of 10 guest rooms booked at the resort with a minimum stay of 4 nights per room. Subject to availability and seasonality. Excludes all beverages.