

Pacific Romance

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



COOK ISLANDS

Unspoiled beauty

Tying the knot

The legal requirements of getting married in the Cook Islands are straightforward, but there are a few things that Kiwis should note:

- If a bride or groom is under the age of 21 they will need written parental consent.
- An application for a marriage licence must be made in person to the Registrar of Marriages at least three working days before the wedding, New Zealanders cannot apply for a licence before they arrive.
- Applicants for a wedding licence must produce a passport, and if divorced, a copy of the Decree Absolute.

The Cook Islands has all the ingredients for a romantic escape with its wide variety of accommodation and restaurant options, coupled with unspoiled beauty and a laid back village lifestyle.





AITUTAKI LAGOON PRIVATE ISLAND RESORT



RAROTONGA

With a circumference of just 32km, it's so easy to explore Rarotonga, with its forest clad mountains that plunge into a turquoise lagoon. Its diverse landscape means there is all the usual water activities of the Pacific alongside trekking, mountain biking and 4x4 safari tours.

Relax at your resort accommodation by the pool, enjoy the beaches near your intimate water bungalow, or admire the view from your luxury Mediterranean style villa. Take a glass-bottom day cruise to surrounding Motus or head beyond the reefs that surround Rarotonga's white sandy beaches where the quick drop into deep water creates the perfect diving and fishing location - there really is something for everyone.

Rarotonga is also a great place for weddings, its bounty of venues means there is a wide-variety of wedding packages to choose from and lots of accommodation options to suit the needs of attending family and friends. And if you want to add something extra special for your honeymoon, just a 40 minute plane ride away is the spectacular Aitutaki, the island that tops many bucket lists.



ROMANTIC ACTIVITIES

Couples Massage – Rumours Luxury Waterfall Spa:

Bring some luxury relaxation to your holiday with a couples massage at Rumours. After a decadent relaxing massage, relax and enjoy time together in a candlelit therapy room for two. Finish off with glass of bubbly or juice and receive a special gift to take home.

Private sunset dinner at Crown Beach Resort

Enjoy a three course sunset dinner, served by your own personal table attendant in an exclusive gazebo on the beachfront looking out to the coral reef. Choose a bottle of wine from the wine list or a bottle of Jean Pierre Brut, Classic or Rosé.

Aitutaki day Tour – Air Rarotonga

Catch an 8am flight to Aitutaki for a full day's experience of the pristine island that dreams are made of. On arrival you will be taken on a one hour island tour of the main island of Aitutaki by 'le truck' followed by the highlight of the trip, The Vaka Cruise aboard the 21 metre catamaran, Titi-ai-Tonga.

The vaka has comfortable covered seating and deck sun loungers and there is time for snorkelling and swimming off the boat in Aitutaki's tropical waters, followed by a tasty barbecue lunch cooked on board. The cruise stops at several motu including the stunning One Foot Island. You'll be back in Rarotonga by 5:30pm having experienced an unforgettable piece of paradise.

Hit the markets

Every Saturday Punanga Nui market comes alive with an array of stalls offering fresh local produce, street food, coconuts and arts and crafts to take home as souvenirs of your romantic holiday. Open from 6am to midday, this is a social occasion in the Cook Islands not to be missed, with performances by local bands and cultural groups and a chance to hang out with the locals.

Tik-e Tour's Sunset Cocktail Cruise by Tuk Tuk

How's this for a bit of fun - an environmentally friendly electric tuk tuk will pick you and your partner up from your hotel and take you on a tour of the island's best beachfront bars. Your friendly guide will help you choose the best locations, and the best cocktails to sip while you watch the sun slowly lower into the horizon.

Raemaru Mountain Trek

Want to experience a different side of Rarotonga? Join Island Way Adventure, for a 3-4 hour trek of Raemaru Mountain, which has a flat peak 350 metres above sea level. The prize at the top is panoramic views of the mountains, valleys and forest, expanding towards the coast, lagoon, reef and the ocean. A great adventure to share.

PARADISE, BY TRUE DEFINITION

Royale Takitumu is the dream destination for a romantic island getaway with your special someone. With the sun beating down on the golden sands of Titikaveka beach, immerse yourselves in the idyllic tropical surroundings with the one you love. While away the days in a haze of relaxation, where the time ticks by slowly and living feels like a dream.

COOK ISLANDS
www.royaletakitumu.com





PLACES TO EAT

Tamarind House

This is located in a restored, 1904 heritage colonial house, on two and a half acres of lawn bordering the lagoon. Originally the home of the Union Steamship Company management and then the British Consul, this is a unique building set in beautiful surrounds.

Refurbished in 2004 by Kenyan born Sue Carruthers and Cook Islander and executive chef Robert Browne, it's open for espresso, lunch, dinner or drinks and serves a range of innovative dishes using fresh seasonal produce. A popular venue for weddings, and well known for its line-up of fine-dining entertainment.

Vaima Polynesian Restaurant and Bar

Sitting beachfront on the South side of Rarotonga, in Titikaveka is Vaima Polynesian Restaurant and Bar. The restaurant offers both traditional indoor or terrace dining or you can choose a table on the beach and feel the sand under your feet while you eat. This is also a popular relaxed, wedding venue catering for up to 50 people and weather permitting, another 30 on the beach under a marquee.

Nautilus Resort

The stylish Polynesian beachfront restaurant at Nautilus Resort celebrates Polynesian architecture, design and cuisine. Enjoy creative dishes that take inspiration from different cultures throughout the Pacific using locally grown, fresh, ingredients and served in a fine dining a la carte setting in the main dining area. On the spacious patio overlooking the lagoon and infinity swimming pool, guests can enjoy a more casual al fresco dining experience. The open bar features a lounge area with panoramic views of the beach as well as 180 degree views of Muri lagoon.

Nautilus also offers a private dining room overlooking Ta'akoka inlet that can seat up to 22 people. The elegant room with its vaulted wood-beamed Pacific-inspired ceiling is a lovely space for an intimate wedding dinner.

Island Platters

Treat yourselves, or surprise your loved one with a romantic sunset dinner, catered by Island Platters. Set yourself up on your favourite spot on the island with a personalised platter featuring the freshest seafood, meats and salads, made to order. From sashimi, to mussel fritters to pork belly and paw paw Salad, a bounty of fresh treats awaits!

Antipodes

Enjoy a Mediterranean experience in the Pacific, at this very special al fresco villa perched on a north facing cliff with 180 degree views over the reef. Offering a selection of a la carte dishes and a range of shared boards, platters and entrees, take your time to enjoy a romantic meal while enjoying the stunning views and working your way through the delicious wine list. The range of daily Blackboard Specials is determined by fresh local and where possible, organic produce. On a Sunday Antipodes runs a 'Long-Lazy-Lunch' with local live entertainment.

The executive chef and owner has more than 30 years' international experience in weddings and events, and bought Antipodes with weddings in mind. Larger events are catered with beautiful buffets, and smaller events with pre-selected menus.

Hold your wedding on the lawn area, surrounded by tropical trees, or on the veranda overlooking the ocean. Small ceremonies for 10 maximum can be held on the rooftop deck with its 360 wraparound views or if it rains, up to 80 guests can be accommodated inside the villa, leading out to the enormous covered front veranda with fabulous views.



NAUTILUS RESORT



CROWN BEACH RESORT

discover the romance of the Cook Islands


the
edgewater
— RESORT & SPA —
RAROTONGA

Dreaming of a romantic island wedding with friendly Polynesian hospitality and the sweet smell of frangipani in the air? Say 'I do' at one of the most romantic places on earth. With a range of superb accommodation options and great wedding packages to suit all budgets, The Edgewater Resort & Spa is the perfect place to celebrate your romantic destination wedding - from intimate ceremonies with close family and friends to large scale events and lively receptions. Whatever you're looking for, Edgewater's team of event planners will ensure your Cook Islands wedding is enjoyable and stress-free.

THE TIPANI WEDDING PACKAGE - FROM NZD\$1699

* **FREE Tipani Wedding Package**

If your guests book 35 paid room nights in any room categories and receive our Tipani Wedding Package FREE

* **50% off Tipani Wedding Package**

If you book 5 nights or more in any room category and receive 50% off our Tipani Wedding package.

ALL-INCLUSIVE 5 NIGHT WEDDING PACKAGE for \$NZ6299 for 30 people **Our all inclusive wedding package features:**

CEREMONY:

- The Services of your Personal Wedding & Reception Planner
- Marriage License & Certificate
- Services of a Celebrant or Minister
- Tropical Flower Bouquet for the Bride and Neck garland (Neck Ei) or Buttonhole for the Groom
- Decorated Beachside Ceremonial Archway
- Complimentary Bottle of Bubbly to Celebrate
- Wedding Gift from The Edgewater

RECEPTION:

- Mouth-watering Island BBQ Buffet Menu for 30 close family and friends
- 3-Hour Beverage Package for 30 close family and friends
- One-tier Wedding Cake
- Fully Decorated Wedding Reception Venue

BRIDE & GROOM'S ACCOMMODATION:

- 5 Nights in a Beachfront Deluxe Suite @ The Edgewater Resort & Spa
- Return airport-resort transfers for the Bride & Groom
- A His & Hers 30min Aromatherapy Massage or a Picnic Hamper for two (your choice)



*Quote 'ALL INCLUSIVE' for more information: email weddings@edgewater.co.ck, or contact your travel professional.
www.facebook.com/edgewaterresortandspa

www.edgewater.co.ck

PLACES TO STAY

Pacific Resort Rarotonga

This four star resort overlooks the world famous Muri lagoon, and offers a choice of 64 air-conditioned rooms and villas for your luxurious romantic getaway. All rooms are beautifully appointed and designed with a fresh Pacific style, high end amenities and surrounded by beautifully manicured gardens bordering the sea. Relax by the pool, cool off under the coconut palms, enjoy a couples massage at the Te Manava Spa and easily access all the activities the island has to offer. Pacific Resort offers romantic dinners for two on the beach, or sit under the stars and enjoy Sandal's Restaurant cuisine followed by a nightcap at Barefoot Bar.

Royale Takitumu

Royale Takitumu villas on Titikaveka Beach are a luxurious, peaceful place to spend your romantic holiday. Surrounded by beautifully manicured gardens, the 10 free standing, thatched-roofed villas overlook palm-tree lined pathways, that lead to the golden sands of the lagoon. Make the most of the complimentary snorkelling gear, kayaks and stand up paddleboards, or relax in the freshwater pool and sun loungers.

Moana Sands Lagoon Resort

Moana Sands Lagoon Resort is an adult's only (18 and over) resort offering an intimate environment with 24 spacious, modern suites and studios overlooking Muri Lagoon. Enjoy the spectacular swimming pool, sip a cocktail or drinking coconut from the poolside cabana, and enjoy an al fresco meal at the stylish Laguna restaurant and bar.

Palm Grove

Set in Vaimaanga on the stunning Southern coast, the small and friendly Palm Grove offers 22 self-contained bungalows – 13 set in the hibiscus-filled gardens, and nine on the secluded beachfront. Relax in the swimming pool and beach followed by a meal at the Yellow Hibiscus Restaurant which offers open-air dining, serving quality Pacific fare and with live music, three nights a week.

Palm Grove provides wedding planning through an on-site wedding coordinator who will take care of your reception, flowers, photography, videography, and music. There are several wedding packages to choose from – from intimate weddings for two to a special day with friends and family and you can choose from a beach or garden ceremony.



ROYALE TAKITUMU



PALM GROVE



*Experience the magic of Manuia
... in a truly romantic beachside location*



From quality accommodation – each room with an outdoor shower – to superb island cuisine in our 'toes-in-the-sand' restaurant, with cocktails on the beach at sunset... the holiday of your dreams is waiting for you here.

For enquiries: **phone (682) 22461** | email: rooms@manuia.co.ck | www.maniuia.co.ck 

Dreaming of a South Pacific Island Wedding ...

Unique tropical weddings and honeymoons are a specialty of Nautilus Resort, located on Rarotonga's stunning Muri Beach. Wed on the beach, amongst tropical gardens – even on an uninhabited tropical island.

The professional team of event planners will design celebrations from intimate to grand occasions specialising in creating full service unique experiences. The bridal couple can relax and enjoy this treasured time –with their entire family and friends or just relaxing on their honeymoon.

Honeymoon in spacious Polynesian-inspired Garden or Beachfront villas, boasting their own plunge pool, grand bathroom, kitchenette and furnished patio; choose to dine at the beachfront Pacific-Rim restaurant or cocktail bar overlooking the resorts infinity pool and the lagoon.

Resort services include watersports, the exclusive Thalgo branded Spa Nautilus, kids concierge and tour desk services.

res@nautilusresortrarotonga.com
nautilusresortrarotonga.com



FAST FACTS

Absolute beachfront • Dedicated wedding coordinators
Celebrations two to 150 guests • All Ares with private plunge pools
Thalgo Spa • Full concierge service

Cool, boutique and Rarotongan Beachfront ...

The eco-friendly Muri Beach Resort promises to make your tropical-wedding promises into memories to treasure forever. A personal Wedding Coordinator, will guide you through our pre-arranged Wedding Plans; from a flower-decked beachfront site or pristine sands with coconut palms and Muri Lagoon as a stunning background or sail to the getaway splendour of a lush uninhabited island . . .

Every detail is included, from registering the marriage, choosing a celebrant, organising flowers, finding the right music and providing your Certified Marriage Certificate.

But don't think a big budget is necessary. We'll happily arrange a wedding day for only the two of you, or to give over the entire resort so you are surrounded by loving family and friends on your Big Day. Cocktails for just a few, snacks by the pool, a sit-down banquet that includes local entertainment and music? We will do it all, so all you must do is count your blessings.

relax@muribeachresort.com
muribeachresort.com



FAST FACTS

Absolute beachfront • Dedicated wedding coordinator & plans
12 metre swimming pool • Polynesian inspired restaurant and bar

The Rarotongan Beach Resort & Lagoonarium

On the Southwest Coast on Aroa Lagoon marine sanctuary, The Rarotongan Beach Resort and Lagoonarium is the perfect spot to enjoy the white sand beach and clear blue lagoon. With accommodation options for families, couples and wedding groups, this is a great resort to accommodate an island wedding. You'll be spoilt for choice with places to hold your special day including the Blue Lagoon Marquee, Treetops Verandah Room and Latitude 21-30 soundproof after-party venue. There are resort experiences to suit many tastes including snorkeling, fish-feeding, stand-up paddleboarding, kayaking, tennis and night snorkeling tours. Enjoy a Lagoonfront & Private Candlelit Beach Dining with your loved one or have a casual meal at Captain Andy's Beach Bar & Grill.

Sanctuary Rarotonga on the Beach (Adults-Only)

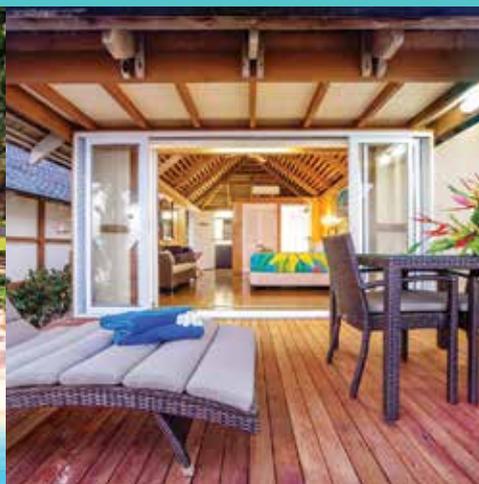
Next door is Sanctuary Rarotonga, The Rarotongan's adults-only sister property. The boutique beachfront resort has 48 suites and is for guests 18 years and over. Make the most of the private white sandy beach on the shores of Aroa Lagoon, enjoy the peace and quiet of the Pacific cuisine in Blue Water Grill, and luxuriate in the poolside pavilions, swim-up bar and pool. Then top it off with a treatment at Spa Polynesia.

Crystal Blue Lagoon Villas

Enjoy one of just four spacious, two-storey, two-bedroom villas with sweeping lagoon views, wrapped around a deluxe infinity pool. Each villa is equipped with modern kitchens, stylish living and dining areas, and a private outdoor dining space. Swim in the infinity pool with its panoramic lagoon views, and relax in the daybeds and sun loungers. Make the most of your private beach access for strolls under the stars and soak in the sheltered Jacuzzi. This indulgent, private space is perfect for a carefree couple escape. Crystal Blue Lagoon Villas also offers an idyllic romantic setting for a stylish private wedding or a fully catered event with family and friends.



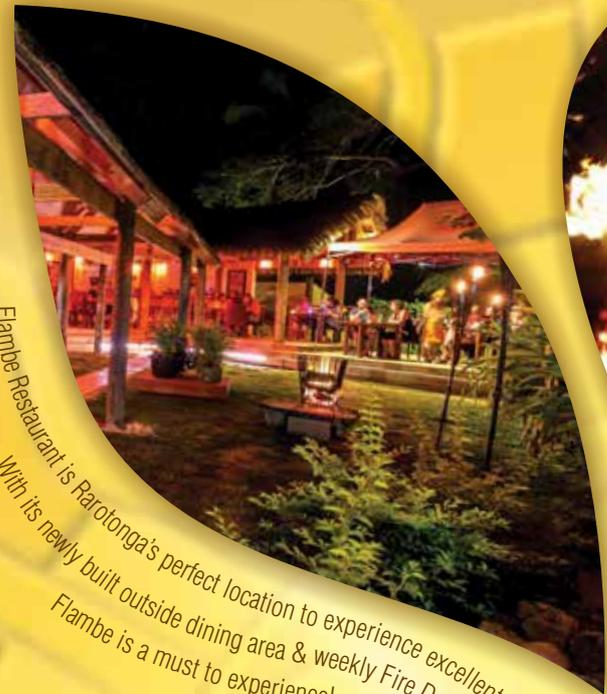
Welcome to Palm Grove, your private piece of paradise!



Beachfront and garden bungalows
Onsite restaurant and bar
Personal wedding co-ordinator
Rarotonga's quiet southern coast

Palm Grove
R A R O T O N G A

PO Box 23, Rarotonga, Cook Islands p: +682 20002 e: beach@palmgrove.net www.palmgrove.net



Flambe Restaurant is Rarotonga's perfect location to experience excellent service and food. With its newly built outside dining area & weekly Fire Dances, Flambe is a must to experience!



Our magnificent Island Night Buffet and Dance Show is every Thursday night at our beautiful Oceans Beachfront Restaurant, located directly on the beach where our guests can eat breakfast lunch & dinner beside the ocean. Located on the Western side for magnificent sunsets!



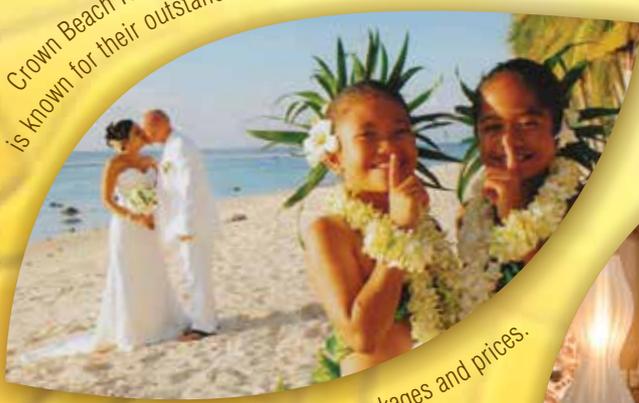
Crown Beach

RESORT & SPA
RAROTONGA ~ COOK ISLANDS

36 individual villas situated on 5 acres of tropical gardens

www.crownbeach.com | info@crownbeach.com | +682 23953

Crown Beach Resort & Spa is known for their outstanding Weddings & Events.



Contact us today for available packages and prices.

Book at our onsite spa for massages, manicures, pedicures, facials, body wraps, scrubs, & more!



Enjoy one of our luxurious beachfront, garden, or private pool suite villas.

All sumptuously decorated, with spacious king bedrooms. Our beautiful adults only resort offers you the peace and quiet you need to refresh and reconnect with loved ones.

YOUR PIECE OF PARADISE

For a romantic getaway in the South Pacific, Rarotonga is the dream destination and home to Moana Sands Group and its three stunning properties. This idyllic island holds all you could wish for, from lazy days in the sun, to warm evenings filled with the scent of tropical flowers. True romance abounds in this little paradise.

COOK ISLANDS
www.moanasands.co.ck



Manuia Beach Resort

This adults-only boutique hotel is set in tropical gardens and has a beachside infinity pool with views over the lagoon. Choose a garden suite, a beachfront suite or an apartment – all decorated with fresh Polynesian inspired interiors. Have an intimate dinner delivered to your room or enjoy your Polynesian inspired meals at the On the Beach Restaurant and Bar. Drink in the views and a tropical cocktail from the pool or soak up the sun on Manuia Beach. There is an experienced wedding planning team on hand to organise your wedding under a floral archway by the sparkling water's edge. Heaven!

Muri Beach Club Hotel

Set right on Muri Lagoon, this adults only resort has its own restaurant and bar, Rarotonga's biggest pool, rental cars and scooters, activities and tours, beach volleyball, snorkeling gear, kayaks and stand up paddleboards. Eat at Muri Beach Restaurant, visit the spa for a romantic couples massage, or book in a group indulgence day for your wedding party or special occasion. Muri Beach Club hotel offers a range of wedding ceremony packages, including a personal wedding coordinator, a beautiful ceremony under a floral archway in an exclusive beachfront location. Add ons can include flowers, photography, hair and make up, a reception venue and catering, drinks packages, canapés, entertainment, and much more.

Nautilus Resort

This luxury resort has 17 premium villas, each with their own salt water plunge pool, large outdoor furnished deck with undercover gazebo and a private open-air outdoor shower and courtyard. The spacious villas have been designed to reflect the tropical island location and climate. Each room as a well-equipped mini-kitchenette, and the bathroom includes a limestone bath.

The resort has on-site wedding and event planners who offer specially designed menus, a variety of entertainment and all the special touches and attention your special occasion deserves. Choose from a number of reception venue options including a poolside or beachfront marquee, resort restaurant or private dining room overlooking the lagoon. The resort can cater for up to 150 guests for a seated dinner or 300 for cocktail party. Get married on the beach or travel across the lagoon to an uninhabited tropical island to celebrate in seclusion.



Escapism, romance & natural beauty

EXQUISITELY MARRY TOGETHER TO MAKE FOR AN UNFORGETTABLE DESTINATION WEDDING



Award-winning Muri Beach Club Hotel is both captivating and intimate. Indulge in the Hotel's most popular wedding package, the "I-DO" All Inclusive Wedding package from NZD\$6999 for up to 30 of your closest friends and family. This fuss free package includes, the choice of three unrivalled venues, a comprehensive food and beverage package, romantic vibes and more allowing you to focus on the most important part of the day your vows. Extra guests can be added to the list for an affordable NZD\$199 per person.

Your "I Do" package includes the following

Wedding Coordinator ● Wedding License ● Transfers to the Court House ● Celebrant/Minister ● Beachside Ceremony under an archway of your choice ● Decorated signing table and two chairs ● Package covers up to 30 of your close family & friends ● Polynesian Buffet Feast for up to 30 guests (set options) ● 3 hour beverage package (Standard House Wines, Beer & Spirits, Soft Drink & Juices) ● Choice of three amazing Reception venue options: Lagoon Lounge, SilverSands Restaurant or Beachside Marquee ● 1 tier wedding cake ● Wedding Gift ● Use of sound system including a cordless mic for Reception only ● 5 Nights' accommodation in a Deluxe Beachfront Hotel Room for the Bride & Groom



MURI BEACH
CLUB HOTEL

P +682 23000

E operations@muribeachclubhotel.com

W www.muribeachclubhotel.com





PACIFIC RESORT AITUTAKI



AITUTAKI

Aitutaki is home to approximately 1800 people and a breathtakingly pristine lagoon. This very special island is only a 45 minute flight from Rarotonga. Secluded and romantic, the lagoon has 15 motu (islets) sprinkled among its turquoise waters. Take a day cruise or charter a boat for a secluded picnic on your own private motu. Nicknamed Honeymoon Island, Aitutaki offers the ultimate setting for a romantic holiday.



ACTIVITIES

Bishops Lagoon Cruise

Discover the eastern side of the Aitutaki Lagoon with Bishops Cruises. See turtles, snorkel the tropical wonderland of Aitutaki, visit the famous Heaven Sand Bar, then cruise your way to the star attraction of the lagoon - One-foot Island (Tapuaetai). Enjoy a BBQ lunch in the Hideaway Hut and spend the rest of the afternoon relaxing, and swimming. Get your passport stamped and send a postcard from the "smallest, uninhabited post office in the world". Bishop's Cruises also offer weddings on One Foot Island with a variety of packages to choose from.

Wet & Wild water activities

Wet and Wild offer a smorgasbord of ways to explore Aitutaki Lagoon. Water activities on offer include boat charters, kiteboarding, wakeboarding, tube riding, skiing, fishing, spear fishing, sightseeing, island hopping, snorkelling and whale watching. Take your pick and enjoy the ocean paradise.

Punarei Culture Village

Want to learn about the history and culture of this very special place? Visit Punarei Culture Village which was built as a replica of traditional village life. Hear the real stories of Aitutaki, learn about the history and language and understand Aitutaki's unique culture within the Cook Islands. Visit the sacred site 'Marae Arangi-rea' that was excavated as research for the cultural village, enjoy a traditional umu lunch together and help Aitutaki's culture live on.



AITUTAKI LAGOON



PACIFIC RESORT AITUTAKI



PLACES TO STAY

Etu Moana

Etu Moana is one of the leading resorts on Aitutaki. Nestled gently into the surrounding landscape on a beautiful beach, each of the 10 luxury Polynesian villas has a spacious veranda. Admire the ever changing colour of the lagoon through the day with a grand finale of a spectacular sunset from the outdoor loungers in the evening. Set on two acres of tropical gardens, the villas have fully equipped kitchens, king-sized beds, marble floored bathrooms, and lights that can be dimmed to guarantee a romantic atmosphere. A tranquil and private property to fully immerse yourself in the beauty of Aitutaki.

Aitutaki Lagoon Private Island Resort

A two minute ferry ride from Aitutaki, is Motu Akitua Private Island, home to Aitutaki Lagoon Private Island Resort and the Cook Islands' only overwater bungalows. Experience the joy of accessing the water directly from your veranda and enjoy panoramic views of the lagoon with its tiny islets on the horizon. The bungalows are stylishly decorated with tropical decor, air-conditioning, thatched roofs, pandanus-lined walls, and open-air showers. The resorts signature romantic experience is Private Dining Under the Stars at Kuriri Point, a truly special experience for honeymooners.

Pacific Resort Aitutaki

The 29 luxury villas at the award winning Pacific Resort Aitutaki are set over 19 acres of absolute Aitutaki beach front land. View the stunning lagoon with a cocktail from the infinity fresh water pool. Try a variety of dining options including evening poolside dining at Black Rock, fine dining at Rapae Bay restaurant or try the special romantic dining option - a Bedouin-style dinner for two on the beach. And be sure to treat yourself with a massage or beauty treatment from Tiare spa on the beach or in the comfort of your villa. 🌺

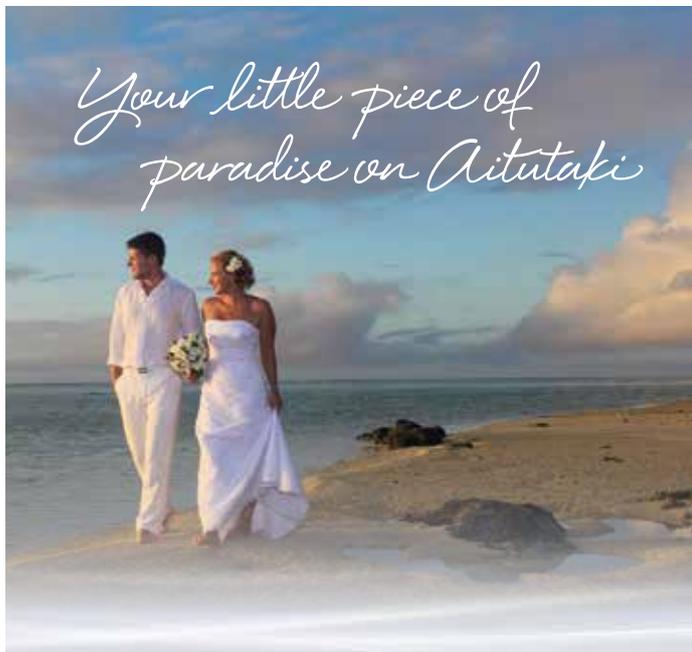


ETU MOANA RESORT



AITUTAKI LAGOON PRIVATE ISLAND RESORT

Your little piece of paradise on Aitutaki



Join us at our Award Winning Boutique Resort for your Romantic Getaway. Allow our personal touch to help ensure your stay with us is perfect. The unique hideaway for your wedding, honeymoon or simply spending valuable time together.

www.etumoana.com 



PACIFIC RESORT AITUTAKI

The Rarotonga Beach Resort & Lagoonarium

Dreamy destination has lots of family activity

Are you, or do you have clients who yearn for a great-value, all-inclusive destination wedding? Are you expecting 30 or more guests to your big day?

For a week-long wedding, honeymoon, holiday or family reunion filled with lifelong memories, The Rarotongan Beach Resort & Lagoonarium has created a Seventh Heaven All-Inclusive Wedding Package.

Imagine the white sandy beach turning golden in the island sun, the fragrance of frangipani in the tropical air, the soft popping of champagne bubbles and being surrounded by the warm wishes of those you love. And Rarotonga is just a 3.5-hour flight away from Auckland.

Afterwards, fly away to your overwater honeymoon at the private, adults-only Aitutaki Lagoon Private Island Resort.

For wedding couples who are expecting families to celebrate with them in paradise, The Rarotongan Beach Resort & Lagoonarium has just been voted the People's Choice - Best Family Resort in the Pacific in the Family Travel Awards. This is in addition to being named a Top 10 Family Resort 2018 by readers of Holidays with Kids.



Children and teenagers up to the age of 16 stay and play for free at The Rarotongan. The Kids Club (open 9-12 noon, 2-5pm and 7-9pm, Monday-Saturday) and the Teen Zone, which offers stand-up paddleboarding, kayaking and snorkelling, are both also free.

There are lots of activities for families to enjoy together. Hand-feed the reef fish, take scuba-diving lessons in the pool, have fun in the games room, learn to husk a coconut, dance the hula and make a lei. Or have a go at playing the ukulele and island log drums. The prime white sandy beach and the Aroa Lagoon Marine Sanctuary can be enjoyed regardless of the tide.

All the rooms at the Rarotongan Beach Resort come with a microwave and airconditioning, and there are a range of interconnected rooms, self-catering suites, two and three-bedroom options.



AITUTAKI LAGOON
PRIVATE ISLAND RESORT

Overwater Heaven
Float over the world's bluest blue

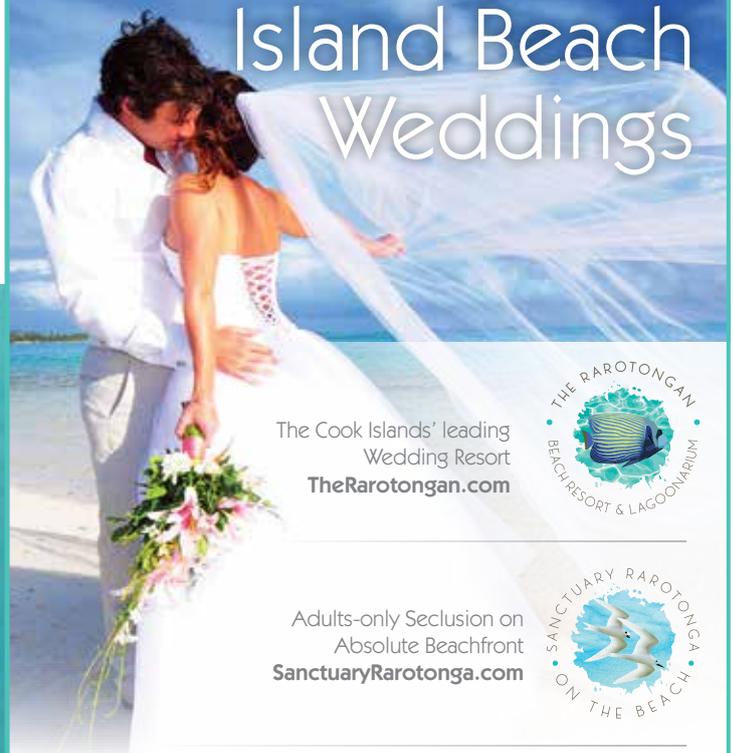


Indulge in the **ONLY** Overwater Bungalows on the **ONLY** private island resort in the fabled Cook Islands (just west of Tahiti) at the **ONLY** resort set directly on the World's Most Beautiful Lagoon. Heaven sent for dream honeymoons, weddings, anniversaries. Meant to be.

info@aitutakilagoonresort.com | P (+682) 31 200
AitutakiLagoonResort.com

ICONIC SOUTH PACIFIC SISTER RESORTS

Island Beach Weddings



The Cook Islands' leading
Wedding Resort
TheRarotongan.com



Adults-only Seclusion on
Absolute Beachfront
SanctuaryRarotonga.com



The **ONLY** Resort set right on the
World's Most Beautiful Lagoon
AitutakiLagoonResort.com



AITUTAKI LAGOON
PRIVATE ISLAND RESORT

— PHOTOGRAPHERS — SNAPSHOT

Brie Zeman

Turama Photography

How long have you been a wedding photographer for?

Six years.

What made you decide to specialise in this form of photography?

Being able to capture a couples love on the most important day of their life together brings us so much fulfilment. It really is a honour to be a part of such special occasions.

Do you have any special qualifications, training or mentoring?

We both studied photography/art/design in college but most of what we have learned since then has been self-taught because of a desire to always provide our couples with the best possible photos. We are constantly learning from other photographers around the world who offer specialty workshops. We believe that you can never stop learning.

What questions should the bride and groom ask photographers to ensure they get the photo album they want?

We believe the most important part is making sure the couples connect with the style and photographic voice of the photographer. The worst thing a couple can do is choose a photographer that doesn't quite fit their style because they think they are getting a deal.

Do some couples only want video? How many want both formats?

Yes we find that more and more couples are booking video. About half of our weddings have some form of video coverage.



Julian and Brie

Can you provide any tips to help them prepare for the shoot?

For our style of photography the most important part is to just relax and have fun. We are really trying to capture those in-between natural expressions. Don't worry too much about photo lists and let us do our job to get you the best possible photos on the day.

How do you get everyone to relax for the candid shots?

We encourage everyone to have a drink and bring some food for our bridal party and intimate portrait sessions. No one is going to look good if they are thirsty or hungry! We also request the couples Spotify playlist or favourite type to music to help lighten the mood and get fun natural expressions!

Have you had any unusual requests for locations or scenarios?

Yes you name it, everything from a couples boudoir session to deep sea underwater sessions swimming with fish! We love to get creative and try and get unique images that couples can look back on for years to come.

What is your typical turnaround time?

Depending on the time of year our usual turn around time is 6-8 weeks from the wedding day.



Wedding Planner

Ramana George-Welsh

Nautilus Resort and Muri Beach Resort

How long have you had this role?

I have spent 3.5 years with Nautilus and Muri Beach Resort, however I started as a wedding coordinator 12 years ago.

What lead time do you require to plan a wedding?

We recommend booking at least a year in advance, simply because this can secure the date you want, and allows you to book the best external suppliers like hair and makeup artists, photographers and live entertainment to ensure you don't miss out on your preferred choice. The finer details can be planned a few months out from the beautiful day. If needed, we can arrange a wedding in a week, but would be limited by the availability of those partners we work with to make the day happen.

What are some of the unique things you can offer?

Every wedding we create is different from every other one, as our wedding couples have the opportunity to select from our wide range of setup gear. Our weddings team can assist with designing a theme to suit a wedding ceremony and transform one of our venues to create the perfect ambience for your reception. With our beachfront resorts, the turquoise lagoon and tiny motus, or islets, offer a uniquely authentic and romantic backdrop.

What are the main benefits of getting married in Rarotonga?

We have one of the most sought-after locations on Rarotonga or the Cook Islands, for that matter. We don't require all of your party to be in-house guests to have your celebrations with us, and we provide couples with flexibility in finalising their plans and offer a manageable payment plan. Children are welcome, as so many wedding groups have children included in their wedding parties these days. We can arrange every aspect of your celebrations, from the ceremony and reception to hair and makeup, photography, transport, entertainment and all the décor.



Ramana George-Welsh

What are some of ways you personalise a wedding?

I ensure I am available to my brides around the clock via phone, email, messaging or in person if I am in the country they are located, as it's nice to meet to the person you are dealing with prior to the couple arriving on the island. Once the wedding couple are on the island, they are our priority, and we are there to accommodate their needs and wants.

Best advice you would give a couple?

Remember to take the time to relax and enjoy your beautiful day, as it will go so quickly. Do not stress when you have a professional team who are there to organise your day - have faith. Try not to do too much yourself, or that may take the fun out of this special occasion. Make the most of the help you are offered and make the most out of your day.

Any memorable or unique wedding stories you can share?

One of the most memorable occasions was a wedding party when the groomsmen decided to swim to the ceremony location, a small island 200 metres off the main island, situated in the calm waters of Muri Lagoon. I took all their clothes with me on the boat and met them on the island, where they proceeded to get ready for the big day, all cool, calm and collected. They got dressed, looking very swish, neat and tidy, in time to meet the guests and the bride and her bridesmaids. That was definitely a great way to ensure the groom and his groomsmen were fresh for the ceremony.



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REAL LIFE WEDDINGS

Sarah and Michael Russell

Lagoon Breeze Villas, Rarotonga

What inspired you to have a South Pacific island wedding?

I wanted the wedding to be more than just one day. Having the wedding in Rarotonga meant everyone got a holiday and we were able to spend a week with our family and friends. I felt the wedding day went by very quickly and I didn't get to talk to everyone, so I was pleased I would be seeing everyone over the next few days.

What made you pick that specific island ahead of all the others?

I grew up in Rarotonga and have returned for many holidays. Rarotonga is a special place for my family and me. I have always wanted to get married there.

What made you pick that specific resort or other wedding venue?

Lagoon Breeze is a small property that is family-friendly. The owners live on the site and are very customer service oriented. They even provided their garden for our ceremony, as the weather was not suitable for the beach wedding we had wanted. Lagoon Breeze catered for everyone, including couples, and families. We had six children attending the wedding. I wanted somewhere where everyone would enjoy their holiday. Plus, as a large group, we could spread ourselves around the resort and not worry about other guests.

Did you use an agent to book your trip? If so, who?

Yes, Kimberlee Collins. She knows the island very well, which was very helpful. I booked part of our wedding arrangements directly and she booked all our guests.

What was the main benefit of using an agent to book your trip?

When we were doing welcome packs and group itineraries, we knew what time everyone was arriving. Plus, we were able to make sure

everyone had done their booking correctly. Some people get caught out with the time difference. It also took the pressure off me trying to ensure everyone had accommodation that they were happy with. It basically meant someone else dealt with all of the details.

What were some of the advantages of getting married in the islands?

Smaller wedding, more relaxed, we enjoyed the wedding day with family and friends, plus the extra days everyone was there.

Did your resort or wedding venue provide you with a wedding planner? If so, how did you find that experience?

Yes, and I am so pleased they did. She was amazing. We met our onsite wedding planner the day after we arrived at Lagoon Breeze. She helped us arrange our marriage licence, and meet our celebrant. She had everything under control and made us feel relaxed. On the day, she ensured everything went to plan and had alternative options, just in case.

Did you stay on the same island for your honeymoon?

Yes, but we also did a day trip to Aitutaki.

If you had a friend planning an island wedding, what would your Top 5 tips be?

1. Get there in plenty of time to organise your marriage licence. Three days before wasn't enough. Allow at least four days, as they don't count the day you arrive.
2. Flowers and hair are a lot more affordable than in New Zealand.
3. People are very helpful when it comes to organising the wedding.
4. I would recommend accessing as much local help as possible.
5. One Island Photographers were also more affordable than in New Zealand and were very helpful.

What did you love most about getting married in the islands?

It was the bringing together of family and close friends to a place I love. Relaxed, friendly - a time of sharing that was stress-free.

What did your guests love most about your wedding in the islands? The most common comment was, "It was so lovely and relaxed." They also said how much they enjoyed having a holiday and all being together. Most people wished they had stayed longer!

