

Pacific Romance

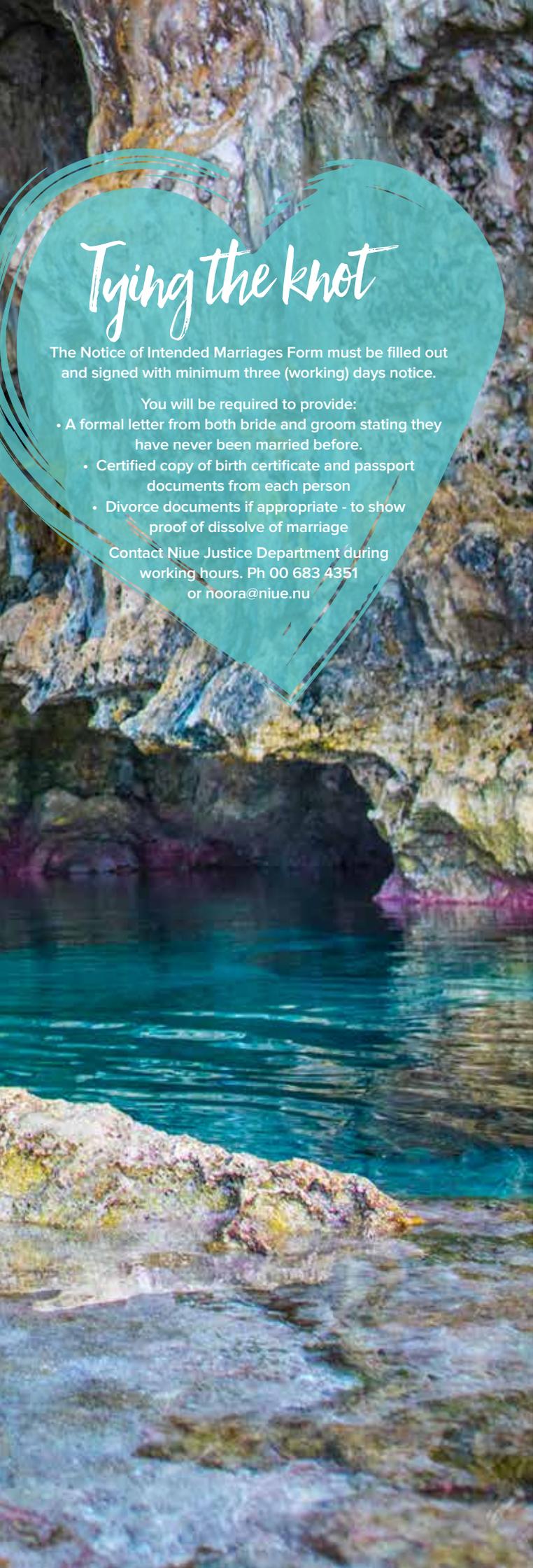
YOUR GUIDE TO WEDDINGS, HONEYMOONS
AND ROMANCE IN THE PACIFIC ISLANDS



NIUE

NIUE

Romantic adventures



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 is a charming destination for couples who want beautiful outdoor adventures on an intimate island where they can forget the distractions of a busy life back home.

Niue's version of romance is quite different from the glitz and glamour you'll often find on other Pacific Islands. And that is what makes the island so attractive. With only 1500 residents, one resort and a smattering of boutique accommodation and dining options to choose from, Niue offers you the simplicity to enjoy the incredible surrounds and each other, with little else to worry about.

Niue is also a place where couples (or any visitors for that matter) will feel 'at home' from the second they step off the plane. The tight-knit local community are warm, welcoming and they proud to share their small piece of Pacific paradise.

EXPLORE TO YOUR HEART'S CONTENT

There's a surprising amount of sights to see on Niue, so hiring a car is well worth it. It's easy to drive around this lovely island, with the array of must-see locations easily landmarked on the coastal loop road. Adventure-loving couples will be in their element on the coral atoll, with rock pools, chasms and caves galore to explore. Many of the best natural pools and caves are tide dependent, so grab a map and a tide chart and work out the optimum time to visit. Every place is unique and you can spend days discovering new places. Allow yourself to get lost and find your own private piece of paradise.

On the North west side of the island on Hikutavake reef is three deep pools for snorkelling that are accessible at low tide. There's incredible marine life and exciting swim-throughs here and it's also well worth checking out sunset from the lookout at the top of the walkway. A few minutes' drive from Hikutavake is Limu Pools, home to a deep swimming hole, where a perfectly placed rock has formed a wall to the ocean. This is a beautiful spot for snorkelling, and a romantic picnic.

The Avaiki Cave is another amazing spot. And like most places in Niue, it's not unusual to have it all to yourself. The rock formations and the colours in the rock pool to the North of Avaiki cave are remarkable. Swim in the clear waters of the cave while you watch the waves break onto the shore, look for whales swimming in the distance, and if the time is right, take in a stunning sunset.

Niue is also famous for its on-water adventure. And what better way to bond with your loved one than catching your dinner together. Deep blue water are literally just off the shore making Niue brilliant for fishing. There are a number of reliable fishing charters and those wanting a really unique experience can try fishing the traditional way from a vaka (canoe) or head out for a flying fish netting session. Whatever your preference you'll likely have a big fish to show for it at the end of your trip!

For couples visiting between April and September there's the chance to swim with dolphins and whales. There are two whale watching enterprises on the island - Magical Niue Adventures and Buccaneer Adventures. A trip with Magical Niue Adventures includes the opportunity to swim with whales and dolphins if they are around, as well as a snorkelling on a live coral reef and in a very special cave. Ravi Oved who runs the trips is well aware you can't control nature, so only charges for the parts of the trip you experience.



PLACES TO STAY

Scenic Matavai Resort

Set on a clifftop just 10 minutes from central Alofi, Scenic Matavai Resort is a great option for a romantic getaway. The resort has 55 recently renovated rooms available, most with Pacific Ocean views, as well as self-contained apartments one kilometre down the road. Sip a cocktail by the pool while you take in the 180 degree views of the Pacific Ocean and watch whales and dolphins swim by.

For those wanting to get married at this special location, an onsite wedding planner is available to help you arrange your wedding day. Choose from a ceremony on the restaurant terrace, the resort's conference room, or at your favourite island location with transport arranged for guests. Pick from a range of well-priced, fully inclusive wedding packages ranging from couples eloping for a private ceremony to those wanting a large ceremony and three course dinner with family and friends.

Namukulu Cottages

New Zealander's Ross Hight, Michelle Andrew and their family run Namukulu Cottages - six lovely self-contained units in a beautiful tropical garden setting on the North West side of the island near some of the best snorkelling spots. Couples can choose from self-catering one bedroom cottages or studios.

The view from this property is expansive and watching the sunset from the lookout here is a must, as is the cycling tour to the Washaway Café on a Sunday. Couples massages can be arranged by appointment by a local massage therapist and Michelle and Ross are planning to make even more of the spectacular view from their property, with plans to build a pizza oven and bar and an outdoor cinema. They also hope to run weddings here in the future. This is a lovely private home away from home, with the help of great hosts available if you need it.

Laus Getaway

Located in Avatale, these two standalone two bedroom oceanfront villas are set in tropical gardens with outstanding views of the ocean. These are a great option for couples wanting the ultimate private escape. Watch dolphins from the day bed, have an open-air bath on the secluded balcony surrounded by nature or open a bottle of bubbles and watch the sunset from the outdoor couch and soak up the magic.



PLACES TO EAT

Falala'fa Café, in the main centre of Alofi is a must visit for dinner. The sashimi is melt in your mouth and the tuna with pilaf rice a delight. You'll likely return more than once to this little gem.

Kaiika restaurant is the brain child of Avi Rubin and Japanese Niue enthusiast, Taiichi Fox. Avi previously ran a commercial fishing business on the island and Taiichi wanted somewhere on Niue to eat fresh fish served by Japanese chefs. The result is a winner - delicious Japanese food using fresh local ingredients.

Washaway Café on Avatele Bay is both a local and tourist favourite. One of the few cafes open on a Sunday, it runs a charming cash only, serve yourself, system. Patrons help themselves to drinks and write them in a book to be tallied up at the end. The Washaway serves simple but satisfying fare - fish focaccias, burgers, pizzas and fries – perfect for refuelling after the guided bike ride from Namukulu cottages.

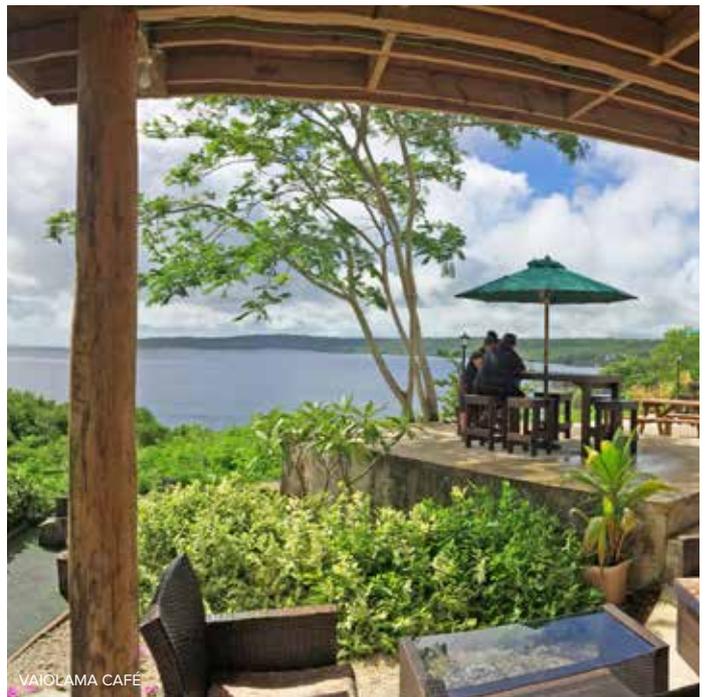
Visit Vaiolama Café in Alofi, run by ex-Wellington mayor Mark Blumsky and his wife Pauline Rex. Choose from a cabinet full of good food, soak in the incredible ocean views and have a game of mini golf while you watch the whales swim by in the distance. Open for lunch every day, except Saturday and for dinner on Thursday, the rockmelon crush here is an island favourite. 🌸



SCENIC MATAVAI RESORT



NAMUKULU COTTAGES



VAIOLAMA CAFE

Wedding Planner

Missy Brettell, Scenic Matavai Resort



How long have you had this role?

I've been in the industry for over 25 years, and in Niue for 14 months.

What lead-time do you require to plan a wedding?

Six to 12 months is good, but no issues on last-minute contact.

How many weddings do you organise each month?

I organise about two a month.

What are some of the things you can offer?

Beach ceremonies, pool area ceremonies, amazing views whilst you have dinner, inside and outside arrangements, back-up plans for rainy days that still give you an outside covered wedding, great Niuean-style decorations and awesome photo opportunities.

What are the main benefits of getting married at your resort or destination?

Easy to organise. The accommodation, the wedding ceremony and dinner all at the one venue. I also organise the marriage certificates and the pastor or celebrant.

What do you enjoy most about your job?

Weddings make me happy and they make me cry.

What are Top three things a planner needs to find out from a couple?

The date, the theme and their budget.

What are some of ways you personalise a wedding?

I get to know the bride and groom to find out what they really want to get out of the day and take it from there. I make sure they know they can change their mind at any time (within reason) so they have that ownership.

Best advice you would give a couple?

It is your day, so ensure you do what you want to do to make you both happy.

Do you help with honeymoon plans, too?

Absolutely. We have 14 other hotels throughout New Zealand and Pacific, or we can whisk them away to a more private accommodation venue in Niue.

What's your key tip to avoiding wedding day stress?

Be organised by letting the planner guide you. A good planner will direct but not take over. We have a run sheet which can guide you through, so you know what needs to be done before the day

What is the best time of the year to get married at your resort/destination?

The best months are March, April, May and June, or October and November.

Any memorable wedding stories you can share?

There have been a lot of reunions here in Niue. One, where the daughter decided to get married in Niue and brought her father back who had left the island when he was very young and was reunited with his family, was very touching.



Shari and Joseph Feast

**Tamakautoga Beach ceremony
and Scenic Matavai Resort**

What inspired you to have a South Pacific island wedding?

We both have very large family and realistically couldn't get married in New Zealand. Rather than 80 people in Niue it would have likely been 800 people in New Zealand! We had travelled to Niue three years ago to meet our Niuean family - it made sense to go back, and I got to take my grandfather back home.

What made you pick that specific island ahead of all the others? I'm Niuean – says it all.

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

We stayed at the Scenic Matavai Resort on our first visit to Niue. The staff were amazing and the food was fantastic. Plus, it's the only resort on the island.

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

Making memories with my family, introducing my New Zealand family to Niue, and watching faces glow as they explored paradise. The pictures said it all.

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

Marie, from Scenic Matavai Resort was amazing. Nothing ever seemed to be too hard or a problem.

Did you stay on the same island for your honeymoon?

Can you still class it as a honeymoon if you are taking your children to Canada and the United States in 2020?

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

Reuniting our New Zealand and Niuean whanau together and having the most beautiful wedding photographs I have ever seen.

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

1. It's island time – chill.
2. Don't sweat the small stuff (No one knows that flower shouldn't be there.)
3. Plan and prepare early.
4. Find the perfect hair spray for the bride. It's humid, remember.
5. Book through a travel agent. I am our destination wedding specialist for our office – find one!

What did your guests love most about your wedding?

Most of them didn't own a passport, so you could only imagine their excitement. The scenery, the smells, the kai and whanau were enjoyed most.

What were some of the special touches you could only get in the islands?

I was lucky being Niuean. We were all given a lei from our Niuean whanau on our arrival and we celebrated with a special traditional Niuean ceremony. Beautiful songs were sung and there was plenty of dancing.

