

COOK ISLANDS

UKULELE TOUR

This unique tour is especially designed for ukulele players and friends to create a festival in the Cook Islands with locals. It will be an incredible experience that the locals can't wait to share with us.



ITINERARY

11 – 19 September 2019

Day 1	Wed 11 September	Depart Brisbane / Free Day	[In-flight meals/B/D]
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Today we meet at the Brisbane International Airport ready to depart on our Air New Zealand Flight to Rarotonga via Auckland. After arriving at the Rarotonga Airport, we will be transferred to Edgewater Resort and Spa, our home for the week. *(Please note: as our flight crosses the International Date Line, we will technically be arriving at our destination before leaving Australia!)* Time for a sleep, then breakfast is available between 7 and 10.30am. We will have a brief resort orientation before you enjoy your day of leisure. Perhaps take the opportunity to take the local bus into town, (own expense) approximately NZ\$8 if you wish to go right around the island! The "town bus" pulls into the reception at our resort so it's very easy. Or you may just wish to relax around the pool and enjoy the resort facilities. This afternoon we will have a **Jam Session at The Edgewater Resort** with some locals. Meet at Mal's Bar at 5.00pm for happy hour drinks, followed by dinner. (Drinks is at own expense).

Hotel: Edgewater Resort & Spa – 6.5 nights' accommodation - Phone: 0011 682 254 35

Day 2	Thu 12 September	Island Discovery Tour / Waterline Restaurant	[B/LR/D]
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After breakfast, we will meet our driver for our very own **Circle Island Discovery Tour**. This tour is an excellent introduction to the Cook Islands, and provides information on the country's history and culture, stopping along the way at fascinating historical and ceremonial sites. Light refreshments are included on tour. We return to our resort for an afternoon of leisure. This afternoon we depart for a very chilled & relaxed dinner at the **Waterline Restaurant & Beach bar**, bring along your Uke for a **Jam Session on the beach** with the locals.

Day 3	Fri 13 September	Highland Paradise	[B/LR/D]
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After breakfast, this morning we visit **Highland Paradise**, situated high up in the rugged mountains of Rarotonga. This fascinating "open air museum" boasts spectacular views and showcases evidence of a historical lost village and the survival of the Polynesian people. Learn about the intellectual know-how of the early signs of astrology to the barbaric rocks of sacrifice, which include the navigational stones used to guide the 'vakas' to Aotearoa - New Zealand. Meander through the gardens which contain medicinal and ritual plants. Light refreshments are provided for lunch before returning to our resort. This afternoon is at leisure before we return to Highland Paradise where we will enjoy an evening of unique and truly authentic cultural entertainment and feasting ... prepare yourself for an evening of true Cook Islands fun!

Day 4	Sat 14 September	Pununga Nui Markets	[B/D]
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After breakfast, we leave our resort to arrive at the colourful local **Pununga Nui Markets!** This is the 'place to be' on a Saturday morning where we will have a chance to mingle with the locals, look at local island crafts and take in the atmosphere of a typical Saturday morning in Rarotonga. (Lunch is at own expense) An Uplift Lunch favourite is Café Salsa, located in town, close to the Markets. Dinner this evening will be enjoyed at our resort.

Day 5	Sun 15 September	Cook Islands Christian Church / Te Ara Museum	[B/L/D]
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This morning after breakfast, we depart to travel to **Titikaveka Cook Islands Christian Church** to join a wonderful experience in the Cook Islands. Hear the locals raise the roof with their renowned beautiful singing! After the service, we join church members for morning tea. From here, we will visit the **Te Ara Museum**, where you will see the world-class exhibition of the history of the Cook Islands with an environmental focus on ocean conservation. After lunch, we will return to our resort for an afternoon of leisure. This afternoon we depart for dinner at a local restaurant, with a sunset **Uke Jam session** with some locals.

Day 6 Mon 16 September

Koka Lagoon Cruise / Progressive Dinner

[B/L/D]

After breakfast we have a very special treat for you! We join "**Koka Lagoon Cruise**" on the world-famous Muri Lagoon. This is undoubtedly one of the best ways to discover the protected lagoon of Rarotonga. Bring your Uke along and join the fun, professional crew of Koka Lagoon Cruise on board a glass bottom boat and cruise around the world-renown **Muri Lagoon** to the inner reef area to view the varieties of tropical marine life. Ensure you pack your bathers, hat, sunscreen and towel! A sumptuous BBQ lunch is provided. Lots of fun guaranteed today! Tonight we enjoy a special **Progressive Dinner**, where we will visit some local homes and enjoy playing our ukes on the bus and at various homes! We leave the familiar surrounds of our resort and venture out to the villages to experience true Cook Islands cuisine, hospitality and the real spirit of culture and lifestyle when you visit the locals in their homes! This 5-hour wine and dining experience takes visitors through three island style homes where you feel the magic of meeting 3-4 generations under one roof. Revel in the stories of old, and the dreams and aspirations of Cook Islanders as they map out their young lives.

Day 7 Tue 17 September

Local Primary School / Uke Workshop

[B/D]

This morning after breakfast, we visit a **Local Primary School** where we have the opportunity to mingle with the school children who are known for their friendly smiling faces and wonderful curiosity of meeting people from other countries! If you wish, feel free to bring educational material for the children, such as pens, pencils, erasers, colouring in books etc. We will also bring our Uke's along so that we can play the Uke with the local children. This afternoon we will be transferred to the prison for our **Ukulele workshop**. We will see both the Ukulele & the Coconut Ukulele's being made. You will also have an option to purchase these after the workshop. This evening we will be dining in-house with a delicious **Island Night Dinner**.

Day 8 Wed 18 September

Depart Rarotonga

[In-flight Meals]

Enjoy a morning of leisure or head into town for some last-minute shopping, before we transfer to the airport. Our Air New Zealand flight departs this afternoon to begin our journey home, after our wonderful Cook Islands Pacific Paradise experience.

Day 9 Thu 19 September

Arrive Home

[In-flight Meals]

With a brief transit in Auckland, we will arrive back into Brisbane late evening. *(Please note: your flight crosses back over the International Date Line to return to Australia).* We say "Aere Ra e Kia Manuia" until you grace the shores of the beautiful Cook Islands again!!!

Key: B=Breakfast LR=Light Refreshments L=Lunch D=Dinner

SPECIAL PRICE

\$3705.00 per person twin share plus taxes \$200.00 Single supplement \$755.00

PAYMENT DETAILS

Booking form and non-refundable deposit \$500.00 per person due at time of booking.

Progress payment \$1000.00 due on/before 12th April 2019.

Balance payment due on/before 10th June 2019.

BOOKINGS

For bookings and enquiries, please contact Uplift Tours and Travel on 1300 484 510 / 07 3283 1966.

NOTE:-

Tour is based on minimum numbers. Itinerary is correct at time of printing and subject to change without notice. Travel insurance is strongly recommended. Some hotels may require a credit card imprint on check-in to cover any incidentals used during your stay (such as mini-bar, etc.). This is hotel policy and not the policy of Uplift Tours and Travel.

Uplift Tours and Travel

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Service is our strength, Travel is our passion.

