

# TURAMA PACIFIC PRESENTS - THE NORTHERN ATOLLS -

  
TURAMA  
PACIFIC TRAVEL GROUP



Pukapuka



Manihiki



Penrhyn



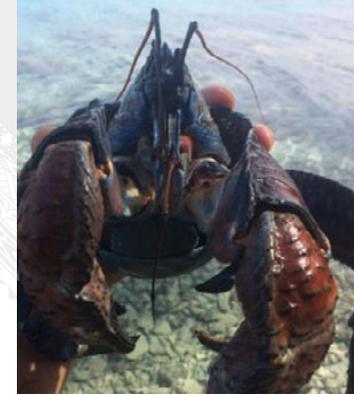
This excursion is 5 days and four nights and takes you on an expedition to our remote Northern Group atolls, some 1,300 Kilometres (800 + Miles) north of Rarotonga, visiting Pukapuka, Manihiki and Penrhyn. You will be accompanied by our local guide who is from the Northern Group. You are likely to be the only tourists on each island during your stay.

The itinerary is on a Private Jet, 7-seater Citation which is specially fitted out for landings on non-sealed landing strips – as are Pukapuka, Manihiki and Penrhyn. Until this jet came to the Cook Islands the flight was an arduous 4 hours plus in a small Bandierante Aircraft with limited baggage.

Food on this trip is local cuisine throughout including Coconut pancakes and lots of local fish, taro, coconut pancakes. We do need to know well in advance if anyone has any allergies or requires special food. We take cheese and snacks as well to provide a little more variety. There are a few small shops on these islands that we can buy from however, they may have limited stock due to delayed shipping, so we plan beforehand and make sure we have everything you need. The same applies to wine and liquor – if you wish to have anything special, we need to know well before departure and will try and source and take.

Special food and drink requirements will be charged back to clients at cost.

What to take – we suggest you travel light as taxis and wheelie bags don't work so a carry-on backpack is better than a suitcase. No formal clothes are required – casual and light, and for walking or snorkelling comfortable walking shoes that you can get wet are a good idea. Masks, fins and snorkels can be supplied.



Pukapuka, our first stop (approximate 2 Hours flight), had 444 people living there at the last census in 2016 and we believe the number is less now. Pukapuka has three motus: Motu Ko (where the airport is), Motu Kotawa (is a protected reserve and is uninhabited), and Wale (the main settlement). On arrival you will be transferred by boat to Wale. Historically Pukapuka served as a hub between east and west Polynesian and is in fact closer to Apia in Samoa, than to Rarotonga in the Cooks – this is also evident in the dialect and culture which has some influences from the Samoan and Tokelauan language.

American author Robert Dean Frisbie settled on Pukapuka in 1924 – to get away from it all, and wrote a number of books whilst here, including The Book of Puka Puka and a number of others including The Island of Desire. His son still lives on Pukapuka and during your stay you may get to meet him. The foundations of his original house can be seen as we travel from the airport to Wale Pukapukan's are great coconut tree climbers and at one time held the world record for coconut tree climbing. You will see an example of this on your visit. Accommodation is simple and provided by the Island Council and you will get meals 3 times a day, with more than you can eat and an abundance of Nu (Fresh drinking coconuts). The accommodation - each separate room has 2 beds and there is a separate male and female shower and toilet block. Your guide will take you on an island tour on the back of a truck and should you have any requests for special activities, he will provide for you.

Later on day 2, we will travel back to the airport by boat and fly to Manihiki which is one hour away by our private JET. If it is clear you will fly over the island of Rakahanga, Manihiki had a population of 212 in the 2016 census. The airport is located near the village of Tukao. Manihiki is home to the Cook Islands Black Pearls.

On arrival, you will travel by boat to Tauhunu, to your accommodation at Manihiki Lagoon Villas for 2 nights. There are two bungalows, both of which sit perched

on the edge of the Lagoon. If there are 6 people on the expeditions, 2 will stay at Sam's Place. The two Manihiki Lagoon Villas are self-contained with bathroom shower and open living area with full kitchen and fridge. Meals are provided and you can also use food in room (cereals bread eggs etc.) as needed. At Sam's Place there are bedrooms upstairs with balcony and downstairs you have your tea coffee facilities and shower toilet. Meals are provided next door to the property at the owners own house.

On Manihiki there are a number of tour options available including. Some activities are weather permitting of course:

- Fishing
- Snorkelling
- Diving
- Coconut crab hunting
- Night crayfish hunting
- Visiting a pearl farm
- Boat trip and picnic day on one of the old Pearl farms which are called a kaoa – structures added to the coral heads.

There is an option of staying one night out on a pearl Kaoa on day 4 we depart for Penrhyn. Before that there is time to tour Tukao before we board our jet to Penrhyn. (population 226 – 2016 Census).

Penrhyn is our Northern most island and is around 40 minutes flight from Manihiki on our private jet. The atoll is 77 kilometres in circumference and made up of more than 50 motu's or islets making the surrounding reef and necklace of the island. The airstrip was built (like Aitutaki) by the American army at the time of World War 2.

On arrival you can actually walk to your accommodation which is just off the Airstrip – a lovely house with two bedrooms (another soon to be added). There are two bathrooms and showers, and each room has a double and a single bed. The house is a family home and feels as if the family have moved out to accommodate guests, with fully stocked kitchen and fridge.

Lunch is served as is dinner and guests make their own breakfast. The house overlooks a sand flat which is good for bone fishing (fly fishing for Kiochio or Bonefish which are renowned as one of the best light tackle fighting fish in existence).

The amazing thing in Penrhyn is the sharks and this deep lagoon is home to many of these creatures – 18 species. The predominant species is the Black tipped sand shark and the other shark, known locally as Moemoea. To go swimming with them is quite fun and also before we leave on day 5, we will visit and watch the feeding of the sharks.

There are 2 main settlements in Penrhyn – Omoka which is where the airport is situated and 10.5 km across the lagoon is Te Tautua where about 40% of the population reside. A visit to this island Te Tautua may be possible, but only if the lagoon is calm as there is a predominant wind and that can whip up the waves in this huge lagoon. Sometimes a visit is not always possible.

Activities can include a visit to the remains of a crashed World war two B24 Liberator bomber called 'Go Gettin Gal'. There is one engine left and a part of the fuselage as well as the remains of a half truck which we believe to have been an M3A1 Scout car.

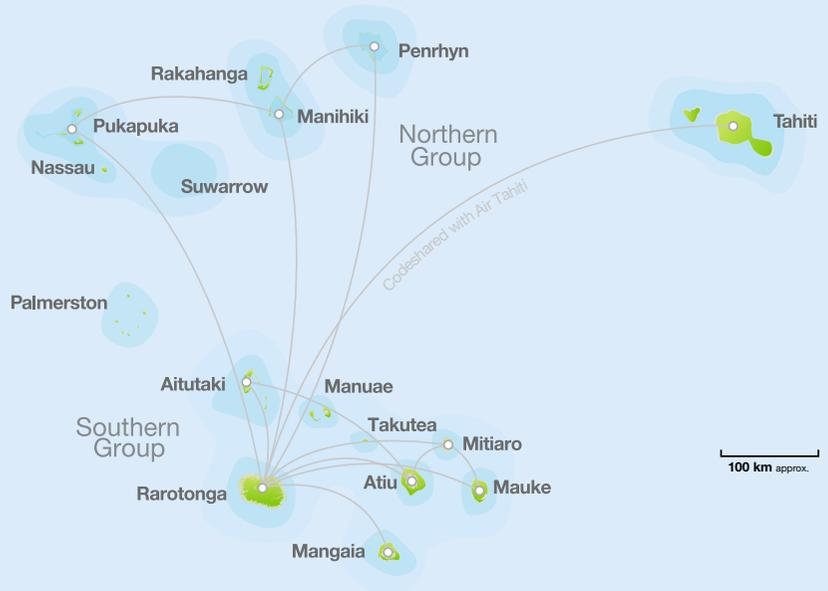
Then it's a 2 hour flight back to Rarotonga after your unique experience of visiting the Cook Islands last frontier.

Pricing per person is NZ\$ 8895 and flights will operate with 4 people booked.

Fixed departure dates are as follows;

- 23 – 27 March 2020
- 22 – 26 June 2020
- 17 – 21 August 2020
- 19 – 23 October 2020

We can arrange other dates as required subject to numbers travelling and aircraft availability.



# PACIFIC JET

*Private*



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