



## RARO SAFARI TOURS

Rarotonga

Raro Safari Tours offers an exciting half day adventure into the interior of the island of Rarotonga and visiting some of the islands 'hard to get to' places. This is a must do tour towards the beginning of your stay on Rarotonga and is a great way to really get a feel for the lay of the land.

The tour starts as soon as you are picked up from your accommodation. Your experienced tour guide will give you a brief overview of the island and what the tour entails; from there you will be taken on the main coastal road and then head inland to discover the lush tropical interior of the island. You will visit the green valleys of Avatiu along a paved road that takes you close to the centre of the island. Along the way, you will see taro plantations. The **taro** plant is an important food crop throughout the Pacific. You will learn of its history and how it came to the Cook Islands. You will also learn about traditional land laws that govern the use of land and how it is passed on from generation to generation.

**Ara Metua** - Most of the tour is conducted along the ancient Ara Metua - an inland road system that lies a mile or so inland from the coast, built by the warrior chief Toi, approximately 1000 years ago. The Ara Metua winds along its original course through areas that are intensively cultivated and pass colourful gardens and plantations. This part of the tour presents the island from a very different perspective than the coastal road.

The **Ara Tapu** is a 31 kilometre coastal *highway* that runs parallel to the white sand beaches of the island. This road takes the tour pass old limestone churches, through the main township of Avarua, where the island's main shopping area is located, through paw-paw plantations, resorts and village shops.

**Birds Eye View** - The tour also takes you to some of the heights of Rarotonga's more accessible mountains, offering spectacular views of the coastline and lagoon.

Throughout the tour, your tour guide will offer commentary on the history and traditions of the island as well as notes on the many uses of the local flora and fauna in traditional medicine making. You will visit our ancient **marae** (*ceremonial site*), where our ancestors performed sacrifices, investitures of chiefs and important meetings.



## TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

### Access to Maraes and other Sacred Sites

Gain access to some of Rarotonga's sacred sites like Arai Te Tonga Marae. This ancient site is located on private land and normally closed to the public. Here, you will learn of ancient rituals and sacrifices.

### Avatiu Valley

The interior of the beautiful green Avatiu Valley is the first stage of the Cross Island Trek. Raro Safari Tour takes you to the end of the paved track. Here you will see the volcanic pinnacle of the Needle.

### Spectacular Sightseeing

You will see the lush rainforest interior of the beautiful green Avatiu Valley, sensational mountain top views, ocean views and with a mountain climb of 300 metres above sea level - this is EXCLUSIVELY to the clients of Raro Safari Tours.

### Knowledgeable Guides

Your experienced guides will explain the history of the island and the culture and traditions of the people that live here. You will learn of traditional medicine making and the plants we use, the preparation of popular food items and the many folklore of this special place.



Your friendly local tour guide will share with you the history and traditions of the island.



Wigmore's Waterfall, located at the end of a long drive towards the centre of the island, is the final stop on the Cross Island Trek. The area at the top of the waterfall is the natural catchment for the supply of freshwater to residents on the Western and Southern side of the island.



Capture views 300 meters high from The Avatiu Mountains.

## TOUR DETAILS

| DAYS OF OPERATION   | TOUR DURATION  | VEHICLE INFORMATION  | SEATING ARRANGEMENTS  | ACCESS FOR DISABLE  |
|---|--|--|---|---|
| MONDAY - FRIDAY   | STANDARD AND PRIVATE TOUR 10.00AM—1.00PM<br><br>PRIVATE TOUR ONLY 1.30PM—4.30PM<br><br>3 HOURS APPROXIMATELY<br><br>PICK UP TIME WILL BE ADVISED WHEN BOOKED | 4 X 4 WHEEL DRIVE JEEP   | 4 X 10 SEATER<br>4 X 12 SEATER  | YES ACCESS IS AVAILABLE   |
| INCLUSIONS  | TOILET STOPS   | TRANSLATORS  | WHAT TO BRING/WEAR  | PAX REQUIREMENTS  |
| INLAND EXPEDITION: TOUR AND RETURN TRANSFERS<br><br>PRIVATE INLAND EXPEDITION: RETURN TRANSFERS, FRESH COCONUT WATER UPON PICK UP, TOUR, AND SEASONAL FRUIT PLATTER | AVAILABLE DURING THE TOUR  | AT ADDITIONAL COST, TRANSLATOR GUIDES AVAILABLE : GERMAN ~ FRENCH ~ ITALIAN ~ JAPANESE. AVAILABLE FOR GROUP BOOKINGS ONLY. POA | - CAMERA<br>- COMFORTABLE FOOTWEAR<br>- BOTTLED WATER<br>- INSECT REPELLENT | INLAND EXPEDITION: MINIMUM 6 PAX REQUIRED FOR TO OPERATE. MAX 10—12 PAX<br><br>PRIVATE INLAND EXPEDITION: MINIMUM 2 PAX REQUIRED FOR TO OPERATE. MAX 4 PAX. |

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