



28th July - 5th August 2026

Rarotonga

Join us on this amazing winter retreat to the jewel of the Cook Islands. Rarotonga, the hub of the Cook Islands, has so much to see and do, yet remains unspoilt. While enjoying the crystal blue waters and warm weather we will discover the true beauty of this island paradise.

DAY 1

Tuesday 28th

Home - Auckland

Today we simply fly from Palmerston North to Auckland and check in to the Novotel Airport Hotel ready for our morning flight tomorrow.

Dinner in house at 1350 Bar & Bistro.

Departing from another destination

For those departing from another destination we will arrange for you to meet the group in Auckland depending on your location.

Accommodation: NOVOTEL AUCKLAND AIRPORT



DAY 2

Wednesday 29th NZT

Auckland - Rarotonga



We depart New Zealand on Wednesday 29th of July and, thanks to the International Dateline, arrive in Rarotonga the day before – Thursday 28th. Now that's a genuine step back in time.

We'll settle into our **Beachfront Deluxe suites** at the wonderful **Edgewater Resort & Spa** with time to explore your home for the next eight nights. As well as being the perfect resort for our needs, it's ideally positioned, on the north-western shores of the island to spot the Humpback Whales that migrate north from the Great Southern Ocean to give birth and nurse their newborn calves. From July to October, every year, they meander up and down the western coast of Rarotonga, feeding and enjoying the warmer waters. And they often put on a show, close to land, of breaching and diving that can easily be watched from the beach. A truly awe-inspiring sight. And on the transport front, in a new twist this year we'll be under our own steam, with a couple of rental vans arranged to give us greater flexibility and capacity in our schedule.

Dinner will start with a lovely Seafood buffet inhouse.

Accommodation: THE EDGEWATER RESORT & SPA



DAY 3

Wednesday 29th July (Raro Time)

Rarotonga



Enjoy a **tropical breakfast**.

Today we acclimatise ourselves to our tropical paradise with an **Island Discovery Tour**. We'll take in the most notable spots and learn about life on 'Raro', followed by our first **beachside lunch at Charlies**.

We return to our resort for an afternoon of relaxation before **dinner at the elegant Tamarind House** on the other side of the main town of Avarua.

Accommodation: THE EDGEWATER RESORT & SPA



DAY 4

Thursday 30th July (Raro time)

Rarotonga



Enjoy a **tropical breakfast**.

After being on the go these last few mornings you can enjoy a relaxed start to the day with time at leisure.

Lunch is a unique event where we meet renowned chef Phillip Nordt at On The Beach restaurant as he, and his team, treat us to an interactive cooking masterclass followed by their '**Chef's Table Experience**' lunch.

After all this, the rest of the afternoon and evening is yours to choose.

Accommodation: THE EDGEWATER RESORT & SPA.



DAY 5

Friday 31st July (Raro time)

Rarotonga



Enjoy a **tropical breakfast**.

Today we're off to **Aitutaki**, an astonishing atoll surrounded by coral reefs 45 minutes' flight from Rarotonga. You'll be lost for words as you view the most perfect turquoise lagoon you've ever seen. After a wee tour of the island we'll join the **Vaka, a double-hulled cruiser**, and slowly sail across this vast lagoon and around the various tiny islands amidst crystal-clear waters, following the Green Turtles that live in the lagoon. Bring your togs for one of the most memorable swimming experiences of your life. It's so beautiful here you'll wonder if you're dreaming.

After a **BBQ lunch onboard** we'll stop at **One Foot Island**, site of the world's smallest registered Post Office. These views are the stuff of dreams.

Accommodation: THE EDGEWATER RESORT & SPA



DAY 6

Saturday 1st August (Raro time)

Rarotonga



Enjoy a **tropical breakfast**.

Today is **market day** and after breakfast we're off to the best on the island, **Punanga Nui Market** right in the middle of Avarua. Here you'll find stalls from all of the outlying islands as well as Rarotonga itself. Handicrafts, clothing, black pearls, jewellery, island food, fresh fruit, artworks, and second-hand books to read over the week. There's something for everyone here. Relaxation time in the afternoon. Perhaps by the pool, on the beach or just on the balcony of your room taking in the beach views.

Tonight we enjoy the Edgewater's Island **Umukai Dinner Feast & Cultural Show**.

Accommodation: THE EDGEWATER RESORT & SPA



DAY 7

Sunday 2nd August (Raro time)

Rarotonga



Enjoy a **tropical breakfast available**.

Today it's **Sunday**, and most places on the island close and the locals head to church. You're invited to join in this cornerstone of island life (optional, of course). See the ladies all dressed in their Sunday best, with their beautiful straw hats and fans, and all the chaps in collar and tie.

Another option is to come along to the beach at **Black Rock** for lunch from one of the many food trucks that gather there. It's a fun family atmosphere and the swimming and snorkelling is great. This afternoon is free for you to explore or chill out. Tonight, we enjoy **dinner** at the **Kikau Hut** at Aorangi.

Accommodation: THE EDGEWATER RESORT & SPA



DAY 8

Monday 3rd August (Raro time)

Rarotonga

Enjoy a **tropical breakfast**.

You have a **free day** today. There'll be an optional shopping expedition around some of our favourite spots in town. Maybe lunch at legendary Trader Jack's. We'll have plenty of suggestions and tips to help you do as much or as little as you want.

This evening, one of the highlights of the tour as we experience a **Progressive Dinner** at various local Rarotongan people's homes. A wonderful chance to try some fantastic food and get a more in-depth insight into life here.

Accommodation: THE EDGEWATER RESORT & SPA



DAY 9

Tuesday 4th August (Raro time)

Rarotonga



Enjoy a **tropical breakfast**.

We're fully in the swing of 'island time' by now and your first scheduled activity isn't until after lunch.

This afternoon we visit the **remarkable Maire Nui Gardens**, a 7-acre sanctuary created in 1996 by Hinano Macquarie, who was gifted the land by her mother and grandmother – both of chiefly rank. The garden is a testament to organic sustainability and a tonic for the senses.

Tonight we'll enjoy the unique maritime surroundings of **The Waterline with a lovely dinner**. Be ready to kick your shoes off and get your toes in the sand.

Accommodation: THE EDGEWATER RESORT & SPA



DAY
10

Wednesday 5th August (Raro time)

Rarotonga - Home



Enjoy a **tropical breakfast**.

Today we say farewell to our hosts and their island paradise. Remember, as we head home, we lose the day we gained on Day 2. There's a metaphor about a simpler time in there somewhere.

There really isn't anything quite like a break on a tropical island for lifting the spirits and enriching the soul, particularly through winter.

We arrive back in **Auckland at 6.15pm** transfer to Domestic Terminal together and fly home.



Total cost

Departing from Whanganui:
\$7,575 (twin share)

\$1,500 deposit due 2 weeks after booking.

Final payment due by 19th May 2026.

Payment methods

✓ Cheque

✓ Cash

✓ Eftpos

✓ Online

Send online bank deposits to:
BNZ 02-0792-0090015-00

Please use your name and trip name as code and reference.

What's included?



Transport

- All coach travel and transfers from airport
- Flights & ferry



Accommodation

- Great twin share accommodation
(single supplement available)



Food and drink

- Many wonderful meals as stated in **bold** in itinerary



Activities

- All activities as stated in **bold** in the itinerary



How to book

Be in quick to secure your seats



Call us

06 3447465

Freephone: 0508 482269



Email us

info@takeiteasytours.nz

Thank you,
The Take It Easy Team



Terms and Conditions

Cancellation policy

If after your booking has been confirmed and you wish to cancel, the following cancellation fees will apply:

- For cancellations after 30th March 2026 - loss of deposit.
- For cancellations after 19th May 2026 - total fare will apply.

Disclaimer

Take it easy tours will make every effort to provide on time service. It does not guarantee its departure and arrival times, which may be delayed by various factors including weather, traffic, road conditions, mechanical problems and any other conditions Take it easy tours can't control. Take it easy tours are not liable for any inconvenience or expense caused as a result of such delay. Take it easy tours assumes no liability or responsibility for property, delay or expense arising from or caused by weather conditions, acts of God, accident, government restrictions or regulations, from an act or omission of any individual, traffic, road conditions, mechanical problems, or any other cause or condition beyond its control. Take it easy tours reserves its right to cancel or change any tour, advertised schedule, or route without notice and assumes no liability or responsibility for any conditions beyond its control that may interrupt or cancel any tour.

