

Activites

Dancing to an island drum

One of the most enjoyable times the Cook Islands is the Island Nights, run by most resorts. You don't have to stay at a resort to book in for one of these, all you have to do is call and make a booking.



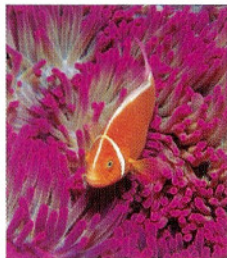
This is a display of the local native costume and dance routines and they do not boast when they say that Cook Island dancers are among the best in the world. Music is to the Pacific Islanders, much more than just the beat of a drum or twang of a catgut chord.

For most of these cultures, their music is their oral history, handed down from generation to generation, remembering

their ancestors' feats. Accompanied by a row of drummers and – of course – the guitar/ukulele and young men and women in colourful Cook Island traditional clothing.

The diving destination

Diving is a very popular pastime in the Cook Islands, given they are the home of the famous black pearls. Many top quality dive operations are available for tourists.



The amazing clear waters give an underwater visibility up to 200 feet, with spectacular canyons, caves and wrecks. The most popular places are the Ngatatangiia Swimthrough, Matavera Drop off, Mataora Wreck, Papu Canyon, Sand River and Koromiri Coral Garden. Fishing is another huge sport and tours range from night fishing with the locals to serious game fishing.

The Island also offers great surfing opportunities.

How much is your money worth in the Cook Islands?

The currency used in the Cook Islands is the New Zealand Dollar (NZD). Banks on the islands include Westpac and ANZ Banks in Avarua, which are open Monday to Friday 9:00am – 3:00pm.

Visitors can exchange travellers cheques and principal currencies at larger stores and hotels. Banking facilities are also provided at the airport for currency exchange and cashing of travellers cheques. They are open for the arrival and departure of all International flights.

Major credit cards are accepted throughout the island at most shops and restaurants. ATM machine and EFTPOS facilities are becoming more widespread throughout local businesses and cash advances on major credit cards are accepted.



The history

The Cook Islands are a Pacific Island country of 15 islands spread over two million square kilometres of sparkling Pacific Ocean.

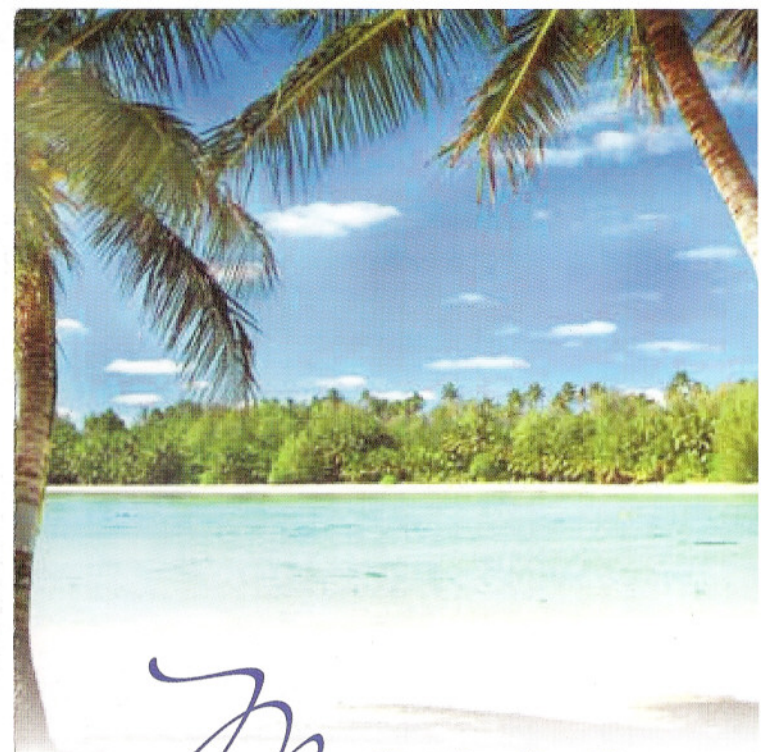
Mitiari, Mauke, Mangaia and beautiful Atiu are raised atolls framed by rings of coral and dotted with caves. Different again, Aitutaki boasts one of the world's most spectacular lagoons and less land mass, in the form of one major island and many small, idyllic motus.

It isn't known exactly when the Cook Islands were settled, but historians believe that Pukapuka was occupied some 2400 years ago, while Rarotonga's settlement followed about 900 years later.

The indigenous people who live on the islands now are believed to have been the remnants of the last great Polynesian Migration which started as early as 1500BC from Asia and whom originally arrived on Pukapuka, and then continued on to New Zealand

European settlement has been varied, with Spanish explorers recording sightings of the islands in the late 16th century. It was another 150 years before another European was to explore the islands and land on one of them, Captain James Cook. The island group takes its name after the intrepid explorer, however Captain Cook originally named them the Hervey Islands.

The arrival of the Christian missionaries in the Cook Islands was and has continued to be a huge influence on Cook Island society. The London Missionary Society first sent Reverend John Williams to Aitutaki in 1821, followed by a trip to Rarotonga in the early 1820's. Christianity is still a strong social force in the Cook Islands today.



*M*anea
means beautiful

Villas

best value on *Muri Beach*



Simple yet perfect

One of the most idyllic spots in the Cook Islands, right on Muri Beach. Lie back on the deck of your chalet and watch the gentle turquoise waters of the lagoon lap against the white sand just metres from your front door. **Manea, which means 'beautiful'** offers many features including:

- Eight fully self contained beach front & garden villas and bungalows.
- Guest BBQ, kayaks, snorkeling equipment & room DVD/CD
- Aquatic activities on World Famous Muri Lagoon.
- A full range of dining along **Muri Beach.**
- Air conditioned
- Island breakfasts available



Normal check in is 12.00pm
Normal check out is 10.00am

Situated on the eastern side of Rarotonga, Manea is an easy car, bus or scooter ride to the main township of Avarua and has neighbouring activities close by.

Manea Beach villas is New Zealand owned, and is the first resort in the Cook Islands to be owned in unit title.

Explore a private island

Slide into a kayak and explore the four Motu (Islets) enclosing the azure blue waters of Muri Lagoon. Take our complimentary snorkelling gear and discover the abundant tropical fish, and other marine life. With the white sand, clear waters and sun at your back, it will be moments like this that you will treasure for ever.

Whether planning on getting married, honeymooning or bringing the grandchildren with you, Manea Beach is a superb resort which offers that extra personal touch.

Children are welcome.

Manea beach villas

(1) two bedroom absolute Beachfront Villa

The two bedroom absolute is mezzanine style with one bedroom and ensuite upstairs and the second bedroom and bathroom downstairs. The Villa is completely self-contained with a lounge/dining room; there's a spacious veranda and outdoor decking for basking in the tropical sunshine.

The Beachfront Villa can sleep up to a maximum of five; the master bedroom has a king size bed upstairs with the second bedroom having a queen and a single bed.

The high ceiling with pedestal fans will make sure you have a nice cool room to have some time away from the drenching sunshine. Inside you will find a full cane lounge suite and dining suite.

There's outdoor furniture, TV, DVD, CD player and a full sized kitchen with complete cooking facilities and much more. The Beach Villa is an ideal home away from home for families or up to two couples or a family of five.



(4) one bedroom Bungalows

Utterly comfortable and perfect if you are travelling as a couple or on a budget, these one bedroom villas are of very high quality.

Self catering is available, with kitchens featuring a microwave and cooking plate. Gleaming white ceramic tiled floors create a spacious feel. This is enhanced by good quality furnishings. TV, DVD and CD are provided.

Big decks, which is a feature of all Manea Beach Villas, allows great indoor/outdoor flow and a good view of the lagoon as well. Ceiling fans are included, with the bedroom having airconditioning.

(1) three bedroom absolute Beachfront Villa

The Beachfront Villa has three bedrooms and two bathrooms. The Villa is completely self-contained with a lounge/dining room; there's a spacious veranda and outdoor decking for basking in the tropical sunshine.

The Beachfront Villa can sleep up to a maximum of six people; each room has a king sized bed, with the master room having airconditioning. The high ceiling with pedestal fans will make sure you have a nice cool room to have some time away from the drenching sunshine. Inside you will find a full cane lounge suite and dining suite. There's outdoor furniture, TV, DVD, CD player and a full sized kitchen with complete cooking facilities and much more.

The Beach Villa is an ideal home away from home for families or up to three couples.

(1) three bedroom Garden Villa

Great family value, with plenty of privacy and just a short stroll to the beach means you have an excellent opportunity if holidaying as a family.

Beautifully appointed, crafted with the solidity of polished timber floors and walls, the two level villas comfortably sleep five with three bedrooms offering two kingsized beds and one single. The master bedroom features airconditioning.

They are fully self contained, with complete kitchen facilities including a full sized stove, fridge freezer and microwave and all cooking requirements available. There's also a TV, CD and DVD player.

While the same as the beachfront chalets in terms of great comfort, if you are planning to budget your accommodation money for best value, then these are terrific – slightly less in cost than the beachfront chalets, the beach is still only a few seconds walk away.

(1) three bedroom Riverside Villa

Great family value, with plenty of privacy and just a short stroll to the beach means you have an excellent opportunity if holidaying as a family.

Beautifully appointed, crafted with the solidity of polished timber floors and walls, the two level villas comfortably sleep five with three bedrooms offering two kingsized beds and one single. The master bedroom features airconditioning.

They are fully self contained, with complete kitchen facilities including a full sized stove, fridge freezer and microwave and all cooking requirements available. There's also a TV, CD and DVD player.

While the same as the beachfront chalets in terms of great comfort, if you are planning to budget your accommodation money for best value, then these are terrific – slightly less in cost than the beachfront chalets, the beach is still only a few seconds walk away.

Trip advisor traveller reviews

"One of the best locations on Muri Beach"

Manea Beach Villas

Indie43
Melbourne
July 12, 2008



“ We stayed for a week at this property and found it incredible. One of the best locations on the island, we stayed in the timber cottage right on the beach, which was clean and very comfortable with the verandah positioned right on the sand. We used the kayaks every day to kayak over to the motus around the lagoon, my two kids loved it here and spent hours kayaking around the lagoon. The owners were very nice and even supplied some reef fish for our dinner one night.

We moved to a different location (bigger resort) in the second week of our stay that could not compare after our stay at Manea. We felt very lucky to stumble across such a great intimate resort. ”

- 5 out of 5 Value
- 5 out of 5 Rooms
- 5 out of 5 Location
- 5 out of 5 Cleanliness
- 5 out of 5 Check in / Front desk
- 5 out of 5 Service

Manea Beach Villas

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