

Cook Islands: honeymoon paradise in the Pacific

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You've done the hard part, organised and partook in marrying your one and only, now it's important to make sure that your honeymoon is ultra-relaxing and begin your wedded bliss on the right note. One of the loveliest things about honeymooning on the Cook Islands is that they're a little more off-the-beaten-track, so the crowds

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found on other tropical islands are noticeably absent here.

Instead, you'll be able to recoup on peaceful, quiet beaches, choose from plenty of chilled activities and a plethora of resorts to suit any budget. Come and dive into the crystal-clear waters with us and be inspired by all of the romantic possibilities the Cook Islands have to offer.

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This infinity pool at Pacific Resort Aituiki is the perfect way to begin your happily ever after © Pacific Resort Rarotonga

Western Rarotonga

The Crown Beach Resort and Spa, situated on what's referred to as the 'sunset side' of Rarotonga, caters specifically to adults. Visitors can expect calm and tranquillity in abundance. The indulgent villas are stand-alone so privacy is a given. Lush gardens and tropical waterfalls landscaped around the property give it a serene and peaceful atmosphere. For those with certain dietary needs, the resort's two restaurants offer a fantastic selection of meals that are gluten and lactose free, using as much locally-sourced fresh produce as possible. As you can imagine, the fish dishes are not to be missed!



Snorkelling off the coast of Rarotonga, tropical coral reef, blue skies, blue sea, Pacific Islands

Soothe away any post-wedding stress with a spot of snorkelling around Rarotonga's fascinating coral reef © Pacific Resort Rarotonga

The spa has the island's only therapist qualified to perform acupuncture, acupressure and ayurvedic massage (a great post-wedding de-stressor). Special honeymoon options include a decadent three-

course dinner on the beach in a private candle-lit gazebo, with a bottle of bubbles as well as a personal waitperson.

Eastern Rarotonga

[Pacific Resort Rarotonga](#) sits on a beautiful stretch of [Muri Beach](#) and it's one of the best places on the island to get active in the water with kayaking, paddle boarding and snorkelling to choose from. The resort even has their own glass-bottom boat for lagoon cruises. If you're travelling with kids on your honeymoon, you'll be happy to note this resort is not only child-friendly, but it has a complimentary culturally interactive and beach-focused Kids Club.



Cook Islands, fish dish, Pacific Islands

Fish dishes on the Cook Islands are not to be missed © Pacific Resort Rarotonga

Muri Beach is the perfect place to explore Rarotonga's four nearby *motu* (islets); Taakoka, Koromiri, Oneroa and Motutapu. The jewel-like

waters surrounding the *motu* are usually teeming with tropical fish who make their home on the reef.

This part of the island also has a handful of romantic and secluded restaurants – a great spot for a drink is at the Barefoot Bar & Café, just a few sandy steps away from the lapping water.


Luxury Villa, Rumours resort, Rarotonga, Cook Islands

The South Pacific is quite literally on your doorstep when you stay in one of Rumour's villas © Rumours

For a luxury, high-end experience, [Rumours](#) is an intimate getaway – there are just seven villas – each boasting canopy-style beds, private swimming pools complete with waterfall features, in-room spa services and direct access to the beach. The villas are large and fully-equipped – including a full-kitchen, laundry room, living room, bedroom and a media room, with more than a whopping 450 movies available (great for cinema buffs). Meaning, you don't even need to venture into the outside world, especially as the beach is at your doorstep. It's the perfect

spot to hide away for a week. The location is ideal for water-based activities as well as scenic hiking trips, or you could just sit on your private white-sand beach holding hands all day if that's what you fancy.

Another villa option tucked away on the eastern side of the island is family-friendly [Te Manava Luxury Villas & Spa](#). It's ideal for couples looking for a quiet and secluded stay that won't break the bank. The villas each have a private, individual pool – perfect for romantic swims under the stars.



A private courtyard at Rumours resort, Pacific Islands, Cook Islands, luxury honeymoon destination


The island's natural beauty exudes exotic luxury even before you step into one of the many decadent resorts © Rumours

Southern Rarotonga

[Little Polynesian Resort](#) is an intimate property with 10 beachfront bungalows and four garden studios, located on a marine reserve in the village of Titikaveka. The resort allows guests aged 15 and over, but the

majority of the clients are adults as they specifically cater to honeymooners and couples looking for seclusion. The luxurious infinity pool is a big draw, as well as the suave open-air bar and restaurant.

If you're on a tight budget, the delightful [Moana Sands Hotel & Villas](#) sits on a 10km stretch of soft, white sand, and includes barbecue facilities should you fancy cooking anything you might have caught at sea. If you're a cyclist, the flat topography and smooth roads are ideal for biking around, and the resort has a range of bikes and helmets available. Children are welcome and most of the guests here tend to be families.

 Sun sets over the sea, Aitutaki Island, horizon, Pacific Resort
Aitutaki

The sun sets over the sea from Aitutaki Island, throwing a myriad of colour across the horizon © Pacific Resort
Aitutaki

Aitutaki


The [Pacific Resort Aitutaki](#) is a particularly popular choice for honeymooners as it's part of the 'Small Luxury Hotels of the World' collection. All 27 beachfront rooms are located mere steps away from the turquoise waters of Aitutaki lagoon. Located on the west coast of Aitutaki means there are amazing sunsets, perfect for a nightcap or some alfresco dining. The infinity pool, spa, aquatic eco-trail and complimentary bikes give lots of options for relaxation and downtime. Any angling enthusiasts will be delighted to know there is an excellent bone fishing excursion available too!

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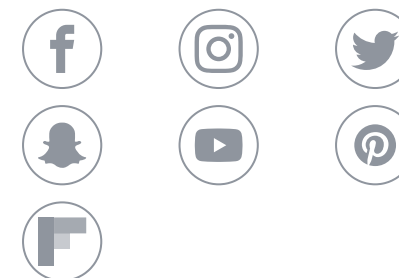
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