

Niue



DIVE 
ADVENTURES
YOUR DIVING HOLIDAY SPECIALIST

Niue

Niue, affectionately known as “The Rock of Polynesia”, is the worlds largest coral island. Located 2400km north east of New Zealand, at the centre of the Polynesian islands, Tonga, Samoa and the Cook Islands, Niue retains a uniqueness when compared to its South Pacific neighbours. The large upraised coral atoll with a total land mass of 269 square kilometres, rises steeply from the ocean forming two terraces the lower at 28m and the upper to 69m above sea level. While there are no stretches of sandy beaches the rugged coastline consists of intimate swimming coves and a myriad of caves. The fringing terrace of limestone reef allows access to the ocean, before plunging off to abyssal depths, just metres from the shoreline.

Niue is a destination for the traveller who likes to visit and explore different places and create their own adventure. It is a destination for divers seeking crystal clear water and unique dive spots and the traveller who enjoys an unspoiled natural environment.



The Environment:

The surge of the Pacific Ocean against the unique geological make-up of the island has created a spectacular rugged coastline of soaring archways, deep chasms, cathedral sized sub-terranean caves, fascinating grottoes, reef pools and intimate swimming coves. Over a quarter of the interior of the island is made up of virgin rainforest that teams with exotic birdlife, flora and fauna. Explore in safety as Niue is free of any harmful animals or insects.

Because of the coral makeup of the island there are no rivers or streams, meaning when it rains the water filters through the porous coral rock straight out into the warm waters of the Pacific, devoid of any silt run-off.

The pristine ocean surrounding Niue has some of the cleanest and clearest water in the world.

Underwater visibility is up to 80m and rarely less than 30m. From June to October witness humpback

whales nursing their newborn calves. Niue enjoys a long dry season from April through to November with average temperatures of around 24°C. December through to March has a higher rainfall and humidity with average temperatures of around 28°C.



History:

The Niuean people are descendants of Polynesian seafarers who first settled the island about 1000 years ago. In 1974 Niue gained full independence in free association with New Zealand and is said to be the world's smallest self governing country.

The People: The Niuean people are a friendly, hospitable people who welcome visitors to their nation. The majority of the approximate 1,500 population live in

one of the 14 villages dotted along the 67km of road that circles the island.

Although they live traditional village lifestyles they do enjoy the use of many modern day facilities. The people are well educated and bilingual in Niuean and English. The women are highly respected for their weaving craft. Individual woven articles such as hats, baskets and mats can be purchased on market days.



General Information:

The best time to visit Niue is April to October. With only approximately 130 hotel rooms on the island, you're assured of avoiding holiday crowds. The island has a small selection of supermarkets, general stores, restaurants and cafes. Dining out will require a reservation and the supermarket opens 8 am - 6 pm Monday to Friday. Niue is a devote Christian nation and Sunday is considered a day of rest. All shops are closed and many excursions and dive trips do not operate. The currency of Niue is the New Zealand dollar. As there are no ATM or eftpos facilities on the island, cash is vital for use at most businesses. The Kiwibank will exchange foreign currency and credit cards can be used at most hotels. Niue does not have a public transport system however, you can hire cars, vans, motorbikes and mountain bikes. A local drivers licence is required and can be obtained from the Police Station in the capital Alofi.

Getting there

Air New Zealand flies once a week from Auckland to Niue with connections to and from Australia. A 2nd flight during April to October has been confirmed for 2013. A current valid passport and onward ticket is required. Visitors will be issued a free visa for stays of up to 30 days.



Niue - Diving

Diving Niue

The isolated location of Niue and lack of rivers on the island results in stunning clarity of the surrounding ocean. Visibility is usually well over 40m with water temperatures ranging between 22°C - 27°C.



Niue is the ideal spot to explore drop-offs, canyons, caves and tropical sea life. There is no lagoon surrounding Niue so all of your dives are done directly in the pristine waters of the Pacific Ocean. The reef is mostly made up of hard corals, descending down to 40m before leveling off for a short distance then dropping off into the vastness of the abyss. Pods of Spinner dolphins; reef sharks, barracuda, maori wrasse, surgeon fish, moorish idol, regal angelfish, large fin banner fish, the comical anemone, long nose butter fish and the elusive ribbon eel are all common sightings at many of the dive sites.

Most dive sites are less than a 10 minute boat ride away, the furthest being 30 minutes away. Just metres from shore you can swim over canyons, through caverns and caves to deep drop-offs. No special training is required for the cavern dives as they are all easy to access and have natural light sources.

Whale Watching

From July to October the humpback whales arrive in Niue's waters to calve and nurse their young. Niue is one of only three places in the world you are able to swim with these gentle giants of the deep. You can often view their antics 50m from the shore they are that close. At night you frequently hear the flapping of their giant fins against the water and hear their haunting calls.



Some of Niue's best dive sites include;

Limu: A twin cavern system connected by a tunnel. Depth is 8-28m. Regular sightings of lion fish, ribbon eels, white tip reef shark, schools of trevally and midnight sea perch are common.

The Dome: A dive for the adventurous with a 30m swim into a cave system under the island. Surface in a large air-filled chamber with the start of some stalactite formations.

Bubble Cave: A favorite with photographers featuring a shallow cave system with lots of natural light where sea snakes lay their eggs. You will surface in a small air-filled chamber with stalactites and can look out through a large hole in the cliff face.

Snake Gully: One of Niue's most popular dive sites. A cave and cavern at less than 20m crammed with painted crayfish and dozens of sea snakes with streams of light coming through. Schools of barracuda, turtles, sharks and maori wrasse, make regular appearances.

Activities and Excursions

Snorkelling: Stunning in-shore swimming areas and coral pools like Matapa Chasm and Limu offer an introduction to the marine world beyond the outer reef. Snorkel with Spinner Dolphins is another possibility.

Fishing: Niue is legendary amongst in-the-know fishermen. The steep drop off to the abyss on the edge of the Pacific plate provides fishing just metres off shore.

Caving: Niue is laced with caves ranging in size from wormholes to giant caverns. Guided cave tours and expeditions are graded from easy to challenging.

Forest Walks: A guided tour with a botanical expert will enhance your senses and knowledge of the ancient forest.

Mountain Biking: The mainly flat terrain and lack of traffic makes cycling around Niue a relaxing and fun pastime. Well maintained bikes can be hired on the island.



Accommodation in Niue

Matavai Motel

Matavai Motel opened early 2013. The new property features 5 duplex buildings set amongst tropical gardens and palm trees. Interconnecting doors offer the choice of 10 standard studio rooms or 5 two bedroom family rooms. All rooms are air conditioned and offer a balcony with prime ocean views. The kitchen area is equipped with cooking hob,



microwave, refrigerator, crockery, cutlery, cooking utensils, kettle, LCD TV and alarm clock. Motel facilities include a freshwater swimming pool, guest BBQ, laundry and wireless internet. Guests are welcome to use the restaurant and bar facilities at the near-by Matavai Resort.



Matavai Resort

Matavai Resort is perched on the cliff-top and sits well amongst the natural landscape of coral outcrops, coconut palms, rainforest and tropical flowers. The large observation deck, boasting 180 degree views over the Pacific Ocean, is the ideal spot to witness fabulous sunsets, pods of spinner dolphins frolicking and in season, the Humpback Whales performing their gymnastics. The 44 air conditioned rooms offer garden or ocean views, en-suite bathrooms, air conditioning, LCD TV, tea / coffee making, mini bar, safe, ipod docking station, hairdryer, iron, and wireless internet.

Resort facilities include Restaurant and bar, 2 swimming pools, gift shop, conference room and wedding facilities.



Accommodation in Niue

Namukulu Cottages & Spa

Namukulu Cottages & Spa is a 10 minutes drive from the capital Alofi. Located just minutes away from the natural reef pools, the property is set amongst tropical vegetation with panoramic ocean views. Accommodation consists of 3 one bedroom cottages and a two bedroom cottage. Each cottage offers separate bedrooms, an open plan living / dining room, ceiling fans, radio, TV, insect screens, bathroom and kitchenette with fridge, microwave and gas hob. Each cottage has a BBQ and generous deck area where you can relax with a drink while enjoying the spectacular sunsets or watch the whales breaching just off shore. The property offers a swimming pool, day spa, whale watch look out, laundry, library and internet access.



Nic's Motel

Nic's Motel, is located on a cliff top in the village of Tamakautoga just a short walk to Matavai Resort and restaurant. The beach and Dive centre are also only minutes away.

The motel consists of two self-contained units with great views. The open plan units are air-conditioned and sleep up to 2 people. Each unit is equipped with insect screens, ceiling fans, private balcony, a kitchen with a fridge / freezer, double hot plate, microwave and tea / coffee making facilities, SKY TV and DVD player. The shop is a 5 minute drive and car parking is available on site.



Stone Villa's

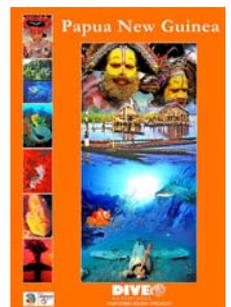
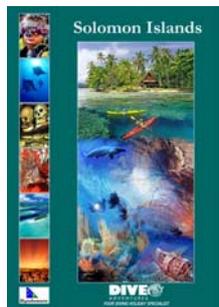
Stone Villa's is a one bedroom, self-contained villa built from limestone. The villa is located close to the main town and still just minutes from the Pacific Ocean. Stone Villa's provides a relaxed self contained holiday experience. The villa sleeps up to 3 and features a separate bedroom, fully equipped kitchen with stove, small fridge and microwave; lounge area with divan/ bed, TV, DVD, CD / radio player; dining area with private patio; separate bathroom facilities, solar powered hot water; laundry, free wireless internet and telephone. The villa is serviced daily (except Sundays) and comes with a private car for use during your stay.



Additional accommodation and tour options are available in Niue.

Contact Dive Adventures for more information and to discuss your requirements.

SOME OF OUR OTHER POPULAR ADVENTURE DESTINATIONS



SYDNEY -

Unit 607 6th Level, 379 Pitt St. Sydney 2000 - Lic. No. 2TA 003537
 PH: (02) 9299 4633 FAX: (02) 9299 4644
 TOLL FREE BOOKINGS: 1800 222 234
 email: sydney@diveadventures.com.au

MELBOURNE -

Unit A 5.2, 63-85 Turner St Port Melbourne VIC 3207 - Lic. No. 31669
 PH: (03) 9646 5945 FAX: (03) 9646 8589
 TOLL FREE BOOKINGS: 1800 242 724
 email: melbourne@diveadventures.com.au

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