

NIUE

Niue

Niue is a very special South Pacific island destination, situated 410km east of Tonga across the dateline. It is a single island, the largest coral land mass in the world and is affectionately known as "The Rock". "The Rock" is blessed with great natural beauty inland, a unique rugged coastline and small reef that provides superb fishing, diving and snorkelling. The surging Pacific Ocean has created soaring archways, deep chasms, cool caves, fascinating rock pools and intimate swimming coves around the island. As a fringe of coral reef clings to Niue's sides before plunging to abyssal depths, there are no sandy beaches. Nor are there streams or rivers on the island; the rain filters through the porous coral out into the warm Pacific Ocean completely devoid of any silt runoff. This allows the surrounding sea to be crystal clear (it doesn't get any clearer) with water visibility often reaching up to 70 metres. A walk in the tropical rainforest is a "must do", as is visiting the stalactites, stalagmites, caves



Spectacular scenery - Niue.

and limestone formations. There is a simplicity about holidaying on "The Rock", no cities and no crowds. It is the cleanest and tidiest Pacific nation. The currency is the New Zealand dollar and everyone speaks English. If that's not enough, the warm climate, smiling faces and tranquil village life will make you feel at home.

Matavai Resort: This magnificent resort is located on a cliff top with dramatic, panoramic, 180-degree view of the South Pacific Ocean

and is on the sheltered side of the island.

Matavai has 24 fully furnished rooms and all rooms have a view of

the ocean. Located a little distance away from the accommodation are; reception, restaurant, bar and an art gallery displaying works of local artists. Extending several metres from the bar, restaurant and conference room is a wide decking - both undercover and in the open - to take advantage of the resort's outstanding natural coastal view. On the lower terrace is a small intimate swimming pool nestled in the naturally framed hollow of coral, while there is a larger pool located on the upper deck. A bar, the Cliff-hanger, is conveniently tucked in against a coral outcrop. NB. Because the Matavai is built over a cliff, it is not suitable for children under 6.



Matavai Resort.

Namukulu Motel: Has three beautifully appointed self-contained studio rooms set in lush tropical gardens with sweeping sea views from the deck & lounge. Your unit is complete with kitchen facilities & pots & pans, and is well geared up for self catering. There is a walkway down to the sea and a lovely natural swimming pool and excellent snorkelling. Namukulu has a nice BBQ area and fantastic swimming pool with great views.



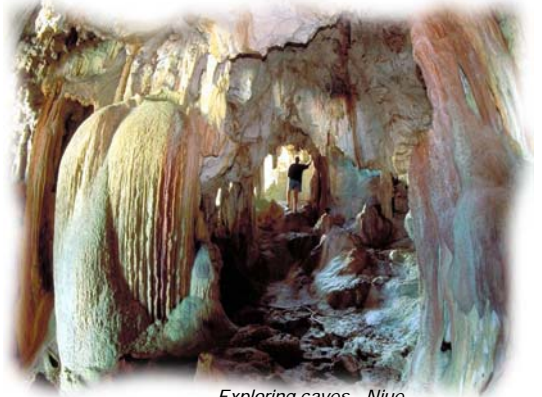
Secluded patch of sand - Niue.

Coral Gardens Motel:

Five self-contained studio-room chalets adjoining Sails Restaurant. Situated near a tropical coral garden close to Makefu and Alofi and in close proximity to popular reefs and swimming pools.

Activities:

Niue's unique geological situation has created spectacular formations, both along its coast and deep within the rainforest where subterranean caves inter-



Exploring caves - Niue.

lace the limestone mantle. Some of the other highlights are two cave trips with stalactites, stalagmites and one of the best rain forest walks in the Pacific, and a Circle Island Tour. Available for hire are; motor bikes, scooters, cars, mountain bikes (forrideres in the bush). Stunning snorkelling and natural swimming pools, scuba diving, landbased game-fishing and light tackle sportfishing are just some of the activities that will fill your days.



Friendly marine life - Niue.

NIUE - Diving

Diving Niue:

Niue sits atop an undersea mountain with pristine clear water hundreds of metres deep just metres from shore. There are no rivers or streams, rainwater filters through the coral structure of the Island, entering the ocean crystal clear and devoid of any silt run-off. Dives are into the open Pacific Ocean as Niue has no fringing reef or lagoon. Average visibility is 50 metres or more, especially during the calmer dry season, April - November. Water temperature is around 29°C in January and 25°C in August.

Caverns, Gardens and Sea Life

Within 100 metres from shore dive over canyons, through caves or visit drop-offs. A short coastal trip in a custom built inflatable takes you below the Coral Gardens Motel at 'Namoui'. Here you dive over pristine coral ridges where divers regularly encounter numerous turtles. A trip in the opposite direction takes one to the 'Chimney' where 5 metres below the surface you drop vertically 23 metres down a shaft then side exit through a large cavern to the open sea. All this within metres of land.

Avatele dives are a photographers dream both above and below water. The dive boat departs from a beautiful small lagoon used by locals to swim and launch their fishing canoes or 'vaka'. Dive sites are close to traditional fishing grounds and in sight of The Matavai Resort with it's sweeping views of the bay. Along with clear water, coral gardens and an abundance of colourful reef fish and frequent sightings of the timid Niuean sea snake, you may encounter pelagics, reef sharks or maori wrasse. If caverns are your interest then try the dive below Namukulu Motels, two enormous joined caverns you could park several buses in.



Spectacular snorkelling - Niue.

Some of the more popular dive sites:

Snake Gully - This site has it all - great coral, a lovely cavern, heaps of fish and more sea snakes than you'll see anywhere else - all in a depth of less than 20 metres (65 feet).

The Fans - A beautiful garden of over two dozen Gorgonia Fans at a depth of 30-40 metres (100-130ft) The site also features a



Divers & the crystal clear waters of Niue.

lovely wall of hard corals covered in reef fish. Pelagics including barracuda, tuna, trevally and sharks are often seen swimming by.

Marine Park - A site for those who love their coral big and beautiful - some of the healthiest plate corals you'll find anywhere in the world. More than a kilometre of pristine reef intercut with gullies - don't forget to look for turtles sleeping under the coral.

Limu Twin Caves - One of the many great cavern dives around Niue - from a pretty reef top you descend into a world of light



Exploring the deeper drop-offs

and shade, where schools of midnight perch hide in the dark and morays camouflage amongst the coral - you exit into the deep blue for a chance to spot ribbon eels and maybe a reef shark before plunging back into another cavern where lionfish lurk around the edges and a narrow tunnel takes you back into the first cave. Cavern addicts will also enjoy "the Chimney" with its painted crays and "the Bubble cave" (home of the stalactites).

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