

# Your Dream Aitutaki Private Island Wedding FAQs

## When's the Best Time to Get Married on Aitutaki?

Aitutaki has been called by celebrities The Most Romantic Place on Earth.

And here, as close to Heaven as its possible to get whilst you're still on Earth, any time of the year is perfect for a paradise wedding beside Aitutaki Lagoon, the World's Most Beautiful Lagoon.

If you have your heart set on frangipani as your wedding flowers, make sure you come during our glorious Frangipani Season from November through to March. Frangipani Season is when we enjoy glorious flowering frangipani, long summer days and stunning island sunset views from Aitutaki Lagoon Private Island Resort, the ONLY private island resort in the Cook Islands.

If you live in Australia or New Zealand and you want to escape winter back home, come anytime from May through to October, our fragrant Gardenia Season.

Temperatures are pleasant all year-round with a balmy 21 to 30 degrees centigrade in 'summer' and 17 to 25 degrees centigrade in 'winter'. Aitutaki is slightly closer to the Equator than Rarotonga, so tends to be a couple of degrees warmer overall than her sister island.

As a result, some of the most beautiful varieties of frangipani in the world grow on Aitutaki in a riot of coral pinks, hot pinks, salmon pinks, butter yellows and blush reds, and the almost-atoll is also famous for her luscious aromatic mangoes.

All brides and grooms naturally want perfect weather for their big day, and for many the word 'rain' is indeed a 4-letter word! Whilst the weather is always in the lap of the gods anywhere on the planet, what we can guarantee is a care-free wedding day as we take care of every detail so you as our wedding couple can relax, rest easy and enjoy each other's company.

In the event of any tropical showers, these are generally passing through, and in addition, the canopies of the Oneroa Beach Chapel or the Kuriri Point Gazebo afford welcome protection from any 'wet sunshine', as it's often called by the locals! If 'wet sunshine' does indeed come to pass on your wedding day (such as might happen around the time of the New Moon), then think as the locals do - that this is a very auspicious blessing showering down from above on your special day!

So when planning your tropical beach wedding, think Plan A and Plan B. Plan A is when you are standing on the shore exchanging your vows under a clear South Seas sky, the lagoon a-sparking and the sun caressing your cheeks. Plan B is when you have wisely selected a beach location which has a fall-back position in the event that any 'wet sunshine' makes it tricky to proceed with Plan A – especially if you are part-way through your ceremony!

Very few Plan B locations exist on Aitutaki or Rarotonga. Aitutaki Lagoon Resort & Spa however is blessed with the only dedicated Plan B locations on Aitutaki, the fabulous Oneroa Beach Chapel and the charming Kuriri Point Gazebo – both of which are perfect for your intimate ceremony whether in brilliant sunshine or in 'wet sunshine'! (We also offer a selection of beautiful Plan B venues at sister resort, The Rarotongan Beach Resort & Spa, including the Aro'a Beach Gazebo, the Tropical Garden Gazebo and the Blue Lagoon Marquee – ask the bride who hastily changed her wedding location from Muri Beach to Aro'a Beach when she realized that Plan B would be a very wise thing to have!).

Having a Plan B fallback location means you can proceed with your Plan A dream tropical beach wedding with confidence, knowing that, whatever happens, you're ... uhhmm ... totally covered!

### **How Can I Have a Private Island Wedding?**

Aitutaki Lagoon Private Island Resort is the only private island resort with the only overwater bungalows in the Cook Islands.

Here you can say "I do" on your own private island, on your own private beach, right on the shimmering champagne sands at any time of day, or even, as sunset draws nigh.

Here we offer you a unique and exclusive selection of breathtaking, secluded sites to choose from for your dream island wedding.

- **Oneroa Beach Chapel**

Aitutaki Lagoon Private Island Resort is delighted to offer Aitutaki's dedicated wedding venue, the absolutely stunning Oneroa Beach Chapel.

Imagine saying "I do" with the World's Most Beautiful Lagoon as your backdrop, you and your family and friends under the cool shade of the Chapel's thatched canopy, the glorious lagoon glistening before you, and beneath you, a carpet of fine champagne sands. Bliss!

Named in honour of Tekura-I-Oneroa, one of the 24 beautiful royal maidens brought to Aitutaki by legendary warrior and navigator Chief Ru on his voyage of discovery in the 12th century, the Oneroa Beach Chapel is the perfect venue for the bride and groom alone in paradise, yet is just as ideal for a couple celebrating their big day with those they love, accommodating up to 50 guests.

Located on the secluded western end of Sunset Beach towards Kuriri Point, the Oneroa Beach Chapel and Wedding Pavilion is the ultimate wedding location which effortlessly switches from being the perfect Wedding Ceremony location to being the ideal location for your memorable Wedding Dinner.

- **Kuriri Point & Kuriri Point Gazebo**

Named after the Wandering Tattler, a pretty shore bird whose musical cry sounds exactly like its name, ku-ri-ri, Kuriri Point has 'box seats' on Akitua's **glorious tropical sunsets** and panoramic views of the world's most beautiful lagoon, Aitutaki Lagoon.

if you can, book your wedding photographer to ensure you can get shots with the sun setting across Aitutaki Lagoon as you stand on Sunset Beach at Aitutaki Lagoon Private Island Resort - pure magic!

On a typical gloriously clear day, the majestic lagoon views from here are guaranteed to take your breath away. Kuriri Point is ideal for couples in love to say "I do" in paradise, either under the canopy of the blue Aitutaki skies or under the cool shade of "The Umbrella" ~ the intimate, umbrella-style thatched Kuriri Point Gazebo, another favourite wedding location.

- **Sunset Beach**

Right on Aitutaki Lagoon Private Island Resort's Akitua Private Island, the sweeping swathe of champagne sands along Sunset Beach, traced on one side by a long line of elegant, softly-swaying coconut palms and on the other, by the gentle lapping of Aitutaki Lagoon, provides one of the world's most beautiful beaches on which to seal your wedding vows.

After all, what can top saying "I Do" on a stunning private beach, on your own private island, right on the shores of the World's Most Beautiful Lagoon? Ideal for couples in love searching for a dream location for your romantic South Seas wedding, on Aitutaki's most beautiful private beach. Absolute Aitutaki awaits.

- **Palm Tree Aisle**

Take a few steps back from Sunset Beach and you find yourself standing in Palm Tree Aisle, a beautiful sandy aisle flanked on each side by a line of tall, graceful coconut palms. This makes a naturally cool canopy for your paradise wedding ceremony, or alternatively, a fabulous backdrop for stunning wedding shots after your ceremony&&l

### **What Time Can We Get Married?**

Each part of a perfect day in Paradise has its own special charm. Late afternoon is a wonderful time of day to exchange vows as you bask together in the golden glow of the Aitutaki sun, and later your Wedding Photographer can capture you standing together against a riot of oranges, pinks, yellows and reds as the sun melts into the horizon (the sunset views from Aitutaki Lagoon Private Island Resort are to die for!)

If you prefer shots of glorious blue skies at the height of their brilliance, you should consider opting for earlier in the afternoon as your preferred ceremony time, such as 1pm.

Or you may prefer a slightly cooler part of the day – and you may be yearning to become Mr & Mrs as soon as possible on your wedding day! – in which case mid-morning at 10.30am may be your better option.

- Wedding Ceremony Times at Aitutaki Lagoon Private Island Resort's Motu Akitua Private Island
- Mid-morning – 10.30am
- Early Afternoon – 1pm
- Mid-afternoon – 3pm
- Late Afternoon leading into Sunset – 4.30pm

### **How Should I Go About Choosing My Wedding Date?**

Aitutaki Lagoon Private Island Resort is a very exclusive wedding destination, and we are pleased to generally be able to offer most wedding couples their first or second choice of wedding date, sometimes even at quite short notice. Our policy is to perform only one wedding per day so we can offer our undivided attention to you as our special wedding couple.

Some dates such as national and international public holidays (including Good Friday, Christmas Day, New Year's Day and New Year's Eve) may not be available for wedding ceremonies. Religious-observance and respect for family time are important values in the

Cook Islands, and at such times it is difficult to secure services such as those of a Celebrant or Minister, therefore weddings on Sundays are not available either. Where a wedding can be held on a public holiday there is a surcharge on all goods and services.

Please contact your Personal Wedding Planner for advice at [info@aitutakilagoonresort.com](mailto:info@aitutakilagoonresort.com) (or at our sister property, [weddings@therarotongan.com](mailto:weddings@therarotongan.com)) for guidance and availability when considering your wedding date.

Weddings at Aitutaki Lagoon Private Island Resort are performed for in-house guests only. To deliver the best service possible and to fulfill legal requirements, the Bride & Groom are required to be staying in-house a minimum of 5 nights, including at least 3 working days prior to the wedding date (this can include the day of your Marriage Licence Application), the day of the wedding itself, and the day following the wedding.

### **How Do I Book My Wedding Date?**

Once you have chosen your date and confirmed availability with your Resort Personal Wedding Planner, you will want to secure the date, and this is possible by making an advance deposit (check with your Planner for details).

We appreciate that it may take a little time between selecting your Wedding Date and arranging your Flight and Accommodation bookings, so we would be pleased to hold your wedding date 'penciled in' for 2 weeks to allow you time to co-ordinate your arrangements prior to making your deposit.

Thereafter we reserve the right to cancel a wedding date booking should the deposit not have been made to secure the date.

Full payment of the balance of your chosen 'Lagoon of Love' Wedding Package must be made at least 90 days prior to your arrival. Please note that we reserve the right to refund your deposit and release the wedding date should your accommodation booking not satisfy the minimum stay requirements outlined.

Your Personal Wedding Planner at [info@aitutakilagoonresort.com](mailto:info@aitutakilagoonresort.com) is also able to assist you with your Accommodation and Air Rarotonga bookings.

### **What If I'm Planning to Bring Wedding Guests?**

You may be wanting to elope to Aitutaki Lagoon Private Island Resort for your wedding day, just the two of you. Or you may be yearning to share your happy occasion with those you love.

You may be wanting to bring with you just a small handful of special friends or family, or you may have in mind a truly Big Day in Paradise and make a party of it with 20, 40, 60 or more people.

Whatever your style, Aitutaki Lagoon Private Island Resort is the ideal private tropical island destination for your wedding or wedding group as we offer the widest selection of accommodation and wedding venue options for you and your guests here on Aitutaki.

We would love to welcome you and your wedding guests to this very special resort destination. For further information please consult your Personal Wedding Planner at [info@aitutakilagoonresort.co.ck](mailto:info@aitutakilagoonresort.co.ck)

### **How Do We Apply for our Marriage Licence?**

The Cook Islands Registrar of Marriages requires the Bride & Groom to apply for their Marriage Licence in person at least 3 working days prior to their wedding date. When applying for your Licence you are required to bring with you to the Registrar's Office the following:

- your current Passports (with at least 6 months validity at time of travel)
- your Birth Certificates (originals or certified copies)
- your Divorce Decree (if divorced)
- the Death Certificate of your deceased Spouse (if widowed)
- Where there has been a name change of either the Bride or Groom, you will also need to provide supporting documentation for this.
- All documents are required in English, or with an official English translation.

Your Wedding Planner will personally escort you to the Register's Office to apply for your Licence.

### **Who Will Officiate at Our Ceremony?**

As Bride & Groom you are able to select either a Non-Religious Celebrant or an ordained Minister to perform your ceremony and declare you Husband and Wife.

The services of a Celebrant or Minister are included in the cost of your "Lagoon of Love" 'Over The Moon' Wedding Package. If you require an Officiator of a certain faith or denomination, please consult your Wedding Planner for availability. Aitutaki's small and remote location means that we are unable to guarantee the availability of an Officiator of a specified faith or denomination.

Catholic couples may wish to note that the Cook Islands is in the unique position of being able to offer officially recognized Beach Weddings to Catholic couples.

### **What Range of Wedding Services & Facilities Do You Offer?**

Aitutaki Lagoon Private Island Resort offers the ideal South Seas experience for any wedding couple searching for a truly distinctive location for your once-in-a-lifetime occasion to share with your special guests.

Our dedicated Weddings Team is able to coordinate your wedding and reception from beginning to end, with great service blended with the friendly warmth and charm of the Cook Islands, making this destination a truly memorable one for you and your guests.

When you choose to say "I do" at Aitutaki Lagoon Private Island Resort, you are taking advantage of having everything you need for your dream day right at your fingertips:

- exclusive world-class locations such as the Oneroa Beach Chapel and Kuriri Point – right on the shores of the World's Most Beautiful Lagoon (no other resort can offer you such stunning locations)
- your Personal Wedding Planner on-hand to take care of every detail

- your therapist at SpaPolynesia Aitutaki to help you feel relaxed and look your best
- a fabulous selection of venues for your Wedding Reception and
- unsurpassed Function Catering for you and your guests

### **Tell Me About My Wedding Dinner Venue Options?**

Whether it's just the two of you or whether you're celebrating surrounded by your family and friends, Aitutaki Lagoon Private Island Resort offers an unsurpassed range of venue options on Aitutaki for your deliciously memorable wedding celebration dinner or reception.

- **Sunset Beach**

Nestled just in front of Palm Tree Aisle on Sunset Beach is a wildly romantic and exclusive location for your **Private Candlelit Dinner on the Beach**, just the two of you. With your toes wriggling in the champagne sands, imagine sitting at your beautifully-draped table as a riot of reds, oranges, pinks and yellows set the sky ablaze. Toast the first day of your new lives together as flame torches flicker about you and the mysterious lagoon gently caresses the shore. Then watch as the sunburst colours melt away into a vast black velvet sky sparkling with a trillion twinkling stars, and set off with the fattest yellow moon you've ever seen. This is your night, your night together on Sunset Beach, your faces alight with candlelight, starlight, and joy.

A Private Candlelit Dinner can also be set for you in a variety of other locations, such as the over-the-water verandah of your Overwater Bungalow, the intimate poolside privacy of your Royal Honeymoon Pool Villa Te Arau, or tucked under the romantic thatched canopy of the Kuriri Point Gazebo. Seats up to 4 people.

- **Oneroa Beach Pavilion**

Blessed with the world's most beautiful lagoon as its stunning backdrop, and a canopy of thatched palm-fronds, the stylish **Oneroa Beach Pavilion at Aitutaki Lagoon Private Island Resort** is a truly unique and exclusive location for your special event. Highly recommended. Seats up to 50 people.

- **Flying Boat Beach Bar & Grill**

Any closer to Aitutaki Lagoon, and you'd be in the water. Named in honour of the glorious Tasman Empire Airways Limited (TEAL) Flying Boat aircraft which used to land on Aitutaki Lagoon during their glamorous Coral Route heyday in the 1950s, this is another unique venue.

Hand-worked by local craftsmen of ano and toa (ironwood) trees and kikau (thatched palm fronds), the Flying Boat Beach Bar & Grill makes a breathtakingly beautiful location for your wedding reception, and comes complete with the best views on Earth of the World's Most Beautiful Lagoon! Seats up to 40 people.

Venue hire and/or set-up fees may apply, please consult your Personal Wedding Planner for details.

## **WHAT MAKES AITUTAKI LAGOON PRIVATE ISLAND RESORT SO VERY SPECIAL FOR YOUR BIG DAY**

Aitutaki Lagoon Private Island Resort offers you a one-of-a-kind South Seas wedding experience – a unique private island resort set directly on the World's Most Beautiful Lagoon, complete with a number of Aitutaki exclusives:

- The ONLY high-end resort set directly on Aitutaki Lagoon
  - The Cook Islands' ONLY private island resort – your very own private island on which to say 'I do'
  - The ONLY Overwater Bungalows in the Cook Islands
  - Listed as one of the world's 12 BEST PRIVATE ISLANDS by ISLANDS magazine USA
  - Voted as one of the TOP 25 Resorts in Australia, New Zealand and the South Pacific by Readers of CONDE NAST TRAVELER, the ONLY Cook Islands resort on the list
  - Featured on the cover of top travel magazines such as ISLANDS USA and CONDE NAST TRAVELER
  - Beautiful 'Over The Moon' Wedding Package ideal for intimate beach weddings
  - A stunning all-weather venue, the unique Oneroa Beach Chapel
  - The charming Kuriri Point Gazebo, right on the sands with stunning lagoon vistas
  - Aitutaki's fabulous private pool villa, Royal Honeymoon Pool Villa Te Arau, fit for a King and his Queen
  - Aitutaki named as THE MOST ROMANTIC PLACE ON EARTH in TV's long-running GETAWAY travel show
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- **Aitutaki Lagoon Private Island Resort** is the ONLY high-end resort set directly on the World's Most Beautiful Lagoon, Aitutaki. It's the ONLY private island resort in the Cook Islands and comes complete with exclusive Overwater Bungalows, the ONLY ones in the Cook Islands.
  - The resort is a favourite with celebrities for romantic getaways, honeymoons, weddings or milestone celebrations like anniversaries and special birthdays.
  - To make your wedding dreams come true, email us now at [info@aitutakilagoonresort.com](mailto:info@aitutakilagoonresort.com)

## **IMAGINE SAYING 'I DO' ON THE SHORES OF THE WORLD'S MOST BEAUTIFUL LAGOON**

Picture yourself and your beloved saying 'I do' on your own private tropical island with the World's Most Beautiful Lagoon, Aitutaki, as your witness. Follow in the footsteps of celebrities and journey to Aitutaki Lagoon, considered by GETAWAY show host Catriona Rowntree to be "The Most Romantic Place on Earth" (and where she chose for her own honeymoon, having traveled the world several times over for over a decade ...).

Aitutaki Lagoon Private Island Resort is the ONLY high-end resort set directly on spectacular Aitutaki Lagoon. Its spellbinding beauty will take your breath away.

Listed by ISLANDS USA magazine as one of the World's 12 Best Private Islands, by the GETAWAY show as one of the World's Top 50 Resorts and voted by Conde Nast Traveler readers as a TOP 25 RESORT for the South Pacific, Australia and New Zealand.

Magnificent uninterrupted 180-degree lagoon vistas, champagne sand beaches and dazzling sunsets provide a stunning backdrop for your wedding photographs.

This intimate boutique bungalow resort offers the gorgeous 'Over The Moon' Wedding Package, personally-designed weddings, thatched Oneroa Beach Chapel and Kuriri Point Gazebo, the Cook Islands' ONLY Overwater Bungalows and the sumptuous luxury Royal Honeymoon Pool Villa Te Arau fit for a King and his Queen.

The ideal blend of seclusion and easy accessibility to the main island of Aitutaki, Aitutaki Lagoon Private Island Resort exudes an authentic South Pacific ambience.

Perfect for weddings from 2 to 66 people, the resort offers beautiful menus, private dining gazebos, a dining pavilion and the Flying Boat restaurant looking directly out at the expanse of Aitutaki Lagoon to cater for your style of wedding reception, whether small and intimate or larger and celebratory.

**PROPERTY FEATURES for the Wedding Couple and Wedding Guests include:**

- 33 absolute beachfront bungalows & 1 private pool villa
- Beachfront wedding chapel
- Personal wedding planner
- Day spa
- Pool
- Lagoon-front restaurant & bar | plus Aitutaki's largest private function room/restaurant
- Private beach / lagoon-front dining gazebos
- Resort-wide WiFi

**AITUTAKI LAGOON PRIVATE ISLAND RESORT**

Motu Akitua Private Island | P O Box 99 | Aitutaki Lagoon | Aitutaki | COOK ISLANDS

[info@aitutakilagoonresort.com](mailto:info@aitutakilagoonresort.com)