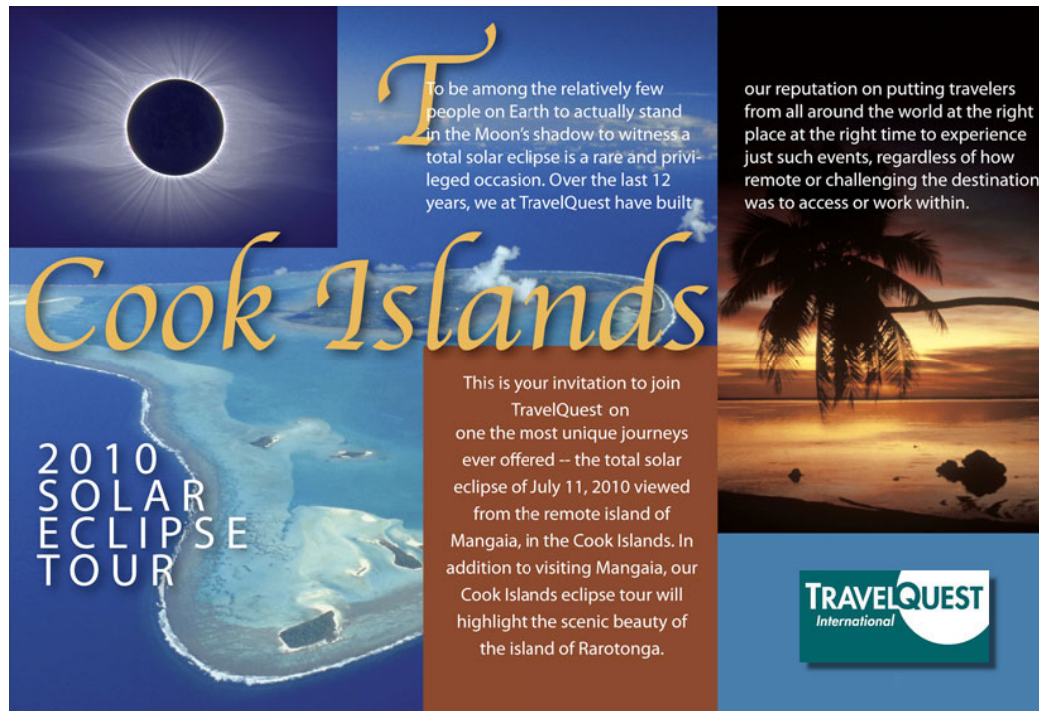


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TravelQuest International
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Prescott, AZ 86303 USA



To be among the relatively few people on Earth to actually stand in the Moon's shadow to witness a total solar eclipse is a rare and privileged occasion. Over the last 12 years, we at TravelQuest have built our reputation on putting travelers from all around the world at the right place at the right time to experience just such events, regardless of how remote or challenging the destination was to access or work within.

This is your invitation to join TravelQuest on one the most unique journeys ever offered -- the total solar eclipse of July 11, 2010 viewed from the remote island of Mangaia, in the Cook Islands. In addition to visiting Mangaia, our Cook Islands eclipse tour will highlight the scenic beauty of the island of Rarotonga.

The tour has completed.

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In addition to visiting Mangaia, our Cook Islands eclipse tour will highlight the scenic beauty of the island of Rarotonga, Capital of the Cook Islands. With its jagged peaks and deep valleys, fertile slopes of red earth and sparkling aquamarine lagoon, Rarotonga was one of the last of the Cook Islands to be visited by European ships. Many South Sea travelers consider it the most picturesque island in the Pacific. We will spend four days in Rarotonga relaxing and exploring its beautiful lagoons, highlands and culture



Since Mangaia is so off the beaten path, and there are fewer than 600 inhabitants on the entire island, it's not surprising that we have had more than a few logistical challenges to overcome in the creation of this most unique journey. TravelQuest, working through its local representatives, has met with Mangaia's traditional leaders, the island mayor, the Government Representative, and the island's Religious Advisory Group to receive exclusive permission to witness the total solar eclipse from their beautiful island.

The people of Mangaia live a simple life. During our journey, the two days we will spend in Mangaia will be a very cultural experience for TravelQuest and its travelers. Trip participants need to understand and respect the notion that we are visitors to a very small island where Christian traditions run deep and affect all aspects of daily life, and that Mangaia Elders maintain a great deal of respect and authority within their island community.

We will spend two nights on Mangaia - July 10 and eclipse day Sunday, July 11. On the night before the eclipse, we will be treated to a cultural evening at the island school with food, dance, crafts and entertainment. In the early morning hours of eclipse day, our group will assemble at the Mangaia airstrip to observe the eclipse. After the eclipse concludes, we will join residents for a traditional Cook Islands church service, providing a rare look into the islanders' Christian heritage. After this service we will gather for a meal prepared by the islanders.

Anyone participating on this unique journey must be aware that Mangaia receives very few tourists, and that the local Mangian residents will be working together to welcome so many visitors on their island. As guests, we must be respectful of their traditions and honor the requests of our hosts.

Before or after this amazing Cook Islands eclipse experience, join us for [optional add-on programs](#) to regional jewels including Easter Island and Aitutaki.

Of all the eclipses one might witness in their life, this experience on the island of Mangaia, in the Cook Islands, will never again be duplicated. We hope you will join us!

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Program Itinerary

OVERVIEW				
Day 1	Mon,	July 5, 2010	Arrive Rarotonga	
Day 2-5	Tue - Fri,	July 6-9	Rarotonga	
Day 6	Sat,	July 10	Mangaia	
Day 7	Sun,	July 11	Mangaia Eclipse!	
Day 8	Mon,	July 12	Rarotonga	
Day 9	Tue,	July 13	Onward	

Day 1 Mon, July 5, 2010
Arrive Rarotonga

No Meals

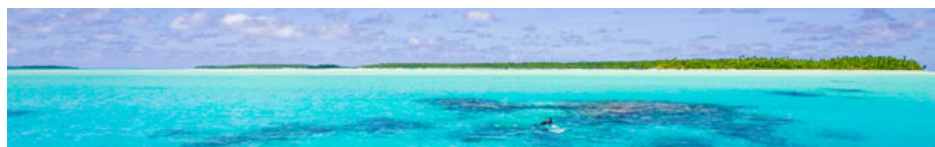
Arriving on your own in Rarotonga, Cook Islands (airport code RAR) you will be met and transferred to your hotel. The balance of your day and evening is free to relax and explore on your own. Those wishing to arrive early or stay after the eclipse tour may add a hotel night or choose to book one of TravelQuest's optional add-on packages including a [pre-tour excursion to amazing Easter Island or a post-tour excursion to the stunningly scenic island of Aitutaki](#).

Overnight: Edgewater Resort, Rarotonga (5 nights)

Days 2-5, Tue-Fri, July 6-9
Rarotonga

4 Breakfasts/3 Lunches/2 Dinners

Few places on Earth can equal the natural beauty of Rarotonga, where white surf pounds the island's encircling coral reef, while majestic emerald green mountains in the center of the island provide a dazzling contrast to a background of clear blue Polynesian sky. The capital of the Cook Islands, Rarotonga has fewer than 10,000 inhabitants and remains an unspoiled island of incredible beauty, surrounded by a beautiful lagoon, and white-sand beaches ringing this nearly circular 67 square kilometer (26 square mile) island paradise. We will spend four days here exploring Rarotonga, including a beautiful lagoon cruise, a tour of the island, a visit to the highlands of Rarotonga and a cultural performance with dinner.



Day 6 Sat, July 10
Mangaia Experience

Breakfast/Dinner

Today is devoted to transferring from Rarotonga to the island of Mangaia. We will fly in groups of 12 people on chartered Air Rarotonga flights to Mangaia, where we will be transferred by local islanders to our accommodations.

Baggage weights are restricted on this flight, so we have arranged for travelers to leave their main baggage in a secure storage area at our hotel in Rarotonga, and ask that travelers take no more than 10 kg (22 lbs.) luggage per person to Mangaia for their 2-night stay. Carry-on bags on these flights are restricted to 5 kg (10 lbs.) per person.

During our visit we will experience cultural presentations, and have time for caving, reef/lagoon walks, bush walks and shared meals prepared by local residents.

Overnight: Mangaia accommodations (2 nights)



Day 7 Sun, July 11
Eclipse Day!

Breakfast/Lunch/Dinner

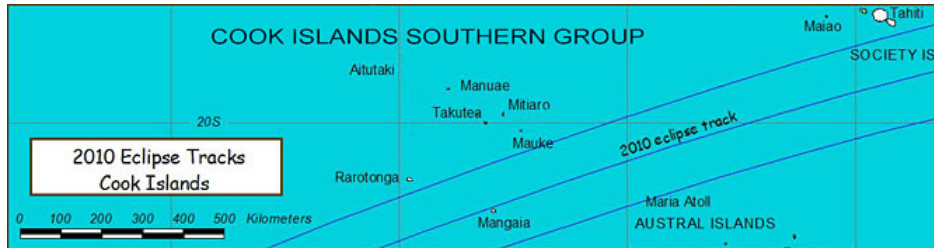
In the early morning hours before dawn, our group will assemble at the Mangaia airstrip to observe the sunrise eclipse. After the eclipse concludes, we will attend a traditional Cook Islands church service, providing a rare look into the islander's Christian heritage. After this service we will gather for a meal prepared by the islanders.



Local Eclipse Contact Times at Mangaia air strip

1st contact:	7:15:05 am	altitude 00 degrees (on the horizon)
2nd contact:	8:19:26 am	altitude 13 degrees
3rd contact:	8:22:45 am	altitude 14 degrees
4th contact:	9:36:50 am	altitude 48 degrees

Duration of totality: 3 minutes and 18.7 seconds. Time zone: UT -10 hours, with no daylight time.



ECLIPSE WEATHER PROSPECTS FOR MANGAIA ISLAND

by eclipse meteorologist Jay Anderson

The Cook Islands has a tropical oceanic climate with two seasons – and fortunately for eclipse watchers, July comes in the middle of the modest dry season. Mangaia Island itself is 9 km in diameter, rugged, with a modest 170 m peak in its interior, and cloud that forms over the land is usually confined to the central highlands. Our observing site is located along the ocean shore, away from the cloud-making heights, and situated to take advantage of the cooler winds from ocean and slightly lower cloudiness. The oceanside location also provides an unobstructed view across the ocean horizon to the rising Sun, already in small eclipse just as it rises from the sea.

Sunshine records are not available for Mangaia, but the frequency of sunny skies is probably similar to Rarotonga to the north – about 52% of the maximum possible. Temperatures are balmy: daytime highs typically reach the mid 20s C (about 77°F) and overnight lows sink to a pleasant and even slight cool 19°C (66°F).

Rains on Mangaia tend to come in the afternoon after a sunny morning, and may be quite heavy for a brief time. This diurnal pattern favours the eclipse, which begins just at sunrise, well before maximum heating and maximum cloudiness. Because tropical clouds are convective in nature – showers and thundershowers – they are sensitive to temperature. As the Moon's shadow approaches and the temperature begins to fall, the typical small morning clouds can be expected to dissipate.

Day 8 Mon, July 12

Rarotonga

After breakfast our chartered Air Rarotonga aircraft will begin shuttling everyone back to Rarotonga. Depending on your departure time, you will have free time to spend in either Mangaia or Rarotonga.

Overnight: Edgewater Resort

Breakfast/Dinner

Day 9 Tue, July 13

Onward flights

After breakfast you will be transferred to the airport according to your schedule for your flight home or onward for the optional add-on program to the nearby [Cook Islands paradise of Aitutaki](#).

Breakfast

What to Expect on Mangaia

The arrival of eclipse chasers for Eclipse 2010 on Mangaia Island will significantly increase the population on this seldom visited island. On Mangaia, there is no public transportation, so we will either walk up to 2 km (1 mile), or depend upon local residents to help us get around, perhaps even in the back of a pick-up truck.

There is no doubt that this unique situation will tax the island's very limited infrastructure. In anticipation of this, TravelQuest has secured most of the island's best available lodgings. Only a very few of these accommodations have bedrooms with a private bathroom. Other accommodations will be at guesthouses featuring private bedrooms with shared bathroom facilities. The majority of accommodations will be dormitory style at the school and public halls. Some of the 'dorms' will be segregated (men/ladies) and a few will be available co-ed for groups of 10 who already know one another. All dormitory accommodations will feature new mattress pads on the floor, along with new pillows and sheets.

There are few formal tourist venues on the island, and our hosts are not trained travel professionals, so please keep an attitude of flexibility when changes must be made, sometimes on the spot. Tremendous logistics are involved in this tour, but in spite of all our preparations, we can expect that situations will arise during the course of your visit that we have no control over. With this in mind, each traveler attending this Mangaia eclipse tour must understand that at all times during this group tour your TravelQuest staff and their local partners are doing everything possible to assure our group's maximum enjoyment and comfort. If you have any questions regarding any aspect of your journey to Mangaia, please contact TravelQuest by phone [+1 928 445 7754] or [email](#).

Mangaia Images

