



Royal Honeymoon Pool Villa 'Te Arau' 23
Overwater Bungalows 31-37
Deluxe Beachfront Bungalows 26-30
Premium Beachfront Bungalows 16-25
Beachfront Bungalows 1-15



Motu Akitua (Akitua Island)

Motu Akitua (Akitua Island). Aitutaki was first discovered in the 12th century by Chief Ru. With him on his voyaging double-hulled canoe called Nga-Pu-Ariki, were his wives, his brothers and their wives, and 20 young royal maidens. A violent storm struck during the voyage. While his crew feared for their lives, Ru prayed to the God of the Sea, Tangaroa, to subside the storm. Lo and behold, an island lay ahead glimmering in the light. Ru named the island Uta-taki-enua-o-Ru-ki-te-moana ("the-land-of-Ru-glimmering-at-sea"), believing that his God guided him there. Today the Island is called Aitutaki.

After hauling their canoe ashore through a channel, Ru named the islet beside it, Uritua-o-Ru-ki-te-moana (the place where Ru turned his back on the sea), signifying Ru's momentous decision to settle in Aitutaki permanently and never to voyage again. The islet is alternately called A'aki-tetua, also having the same meaning, i.e.: "to turn one's back (Ru's)..." It is from the latter that the present day name of the islet is derived: "Akitua".

Uritua Beach. In ancient times Akitua was also called Uritua which means "turning Ru's back to where he came from".

O'otu (Full Moon) Channel and O'otu (Full Moon) Bay. According to legend it was a night of the full moon when Ru came upon Akitua, an event remembered in this name. This area provides particularly good snorkeling.

Bligh's Beach. Captain William Bligh was the first European to discover Aitutaki in 1789, just 17 days before the infamous Mutiny on the Bounty. Our Bounty Restaurant is also named in honour of this historic discovery. Captain Bligh is also credited with bringing the pawpaw (papaya) to the Cook Islands.

Kuriri Point. Named after the Wandering Tattler, a pretty shore bird whose musical cry sounds exactly like its name, ku-ri-ri.

Sunset Beach. Akitua's glorious tropical sunsets are best viewed from here, and this is also Aitutaki's best swimming area. The world's most beautiful lagoon, Aitutaki Lagoon, is also best viewed from here. On a typical clear day, the panoramic views of this majestic lagoon are guaranteed to take your breath away.

Taputapu (Butterfly Fish) Beach. Taputapu is the Cook Islands Maori name for the beautiful and inquisitive yellow and black-striped butterfly fishes found in the Cook Islands. The Rau'i or traditional marine reserve around Akitua is where many reef fish come to spawn.

Kotuku (Heron) Cove. The kotuku or reef heron can often be seen out fishing in this area as well as around the Overwater and Deluxe Beachfront Bungalows. Usually it is the blue heron which is seen (actually more of a slate grey colour) but occasionally the rarer and very elegant white heron can also be sighted. Kotuku Cove is a great place to view the sunrise on yet another beautiful day in paradise!

Araura Beach. Aitutaki itself was historically known as Ara Rau Enea O Ru Ki Te Moana (shortened to Araura) meaning "the path which Ru had travelled across the horizon in search of new land."