

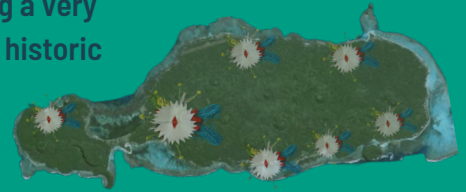
# ROTUMA

The island's unique name is derived from the words **ROTU** meaning Christian worship and **MA** from mana



The island is comprised of 7 main districts led by chiefs representing each one. The chiefs of each district are decided using a very complex and historic process

as to accept the decision or advice of. The belief and worship of spirits who were considered supreme influenced a lot of the islands customs.



is located 646km north of Fiji and is a Polynesian volcanic island. A Fijian dependency with their own culture and language unique to their island.

Considering its distance, Rotuma is only accessible by



OR



it takes less than 2 hours by plane and 2.5 days by boat. Boat is the more common mode by the locals.



Rotuma is an untouched paradise, there are no hotels on the island. Visitors are hosted by families in 'homestay' type of accommodation.

## MAMASA



is a traditional ceremony a forāu (person who returns home or a first time visitor) must have on arrival to the island. The word mamasa refers to the act of drying people who have just disembarked from a canoe or boat after their journey.

A Mamasa requires a päega (seat made of mats topped by our traditional fine mat called an apei) a koua (hangi) a tefui (traditional garland) and scented oil.








There are approximately 2,000 Rotumans residing on the island, more than 10,000 living in Fiji and less than 1,000 residing here in NZ

Food is a central aspect of any occasion and is generally prepared in abundance or in excess. Food is traditionally prepared in an earth oven or koua.



## FÄEAG ROTUAM

The Rotuman Alphabet is quite unique. It has 5 variations to the vowels A O and U.

	<b>Ää</b>		<b>Aa</b>
Long A sound in CAT		A sound PAW	
	<b>Ää</b>		
Short A sound in BAT			
	<b>Ö ö</b>		<b>Ü ü</b>
U sound in FUR		U sound in BOOT	

It also has a glottal stop as one of the consonants.



### Useful phrases:

Hello - Noa'ia (NOAH-E-YAH)

Please - Figalelei (FEE - NGA - LELE- YEE)

Thank you - Fa'ia'kse'ea (FOR-YAK-SEE-YAH)

Work - Garue (NGA - ROO- E)

There is a small hospital on the island run by one doctor and recently, have been allocated a dentist. Law enforcement on the island is minimal given the size of the island.



There is a post office that is used for sending and receiving mail. It also acts as a bank for where families can receive remittance from their loved ones overseas.



There are 4 primary schools and only one high school that serves all the children on the island.



# ROTUMAN LANGUAGE WEEK SUNDAY 8- 15 MAY

The theme for this years Language Week is

*Vetākia 'os Fäega ma Ag fak hanua*

Sustaining our Language and Culture



The Rotuman language is currently on UNESCO's list of endangered languages. The mission is to work towards the preservation and sustainability of the Rotuman language, culture and traditions to serve future generations. Being recognised alongside their pacific neighbours here in Aotearoa as part of the pacific language week series provides more opportunities to work towards this.

Celebrate Rotuman Language Week and help spread the word about the beautiful island of Rotuma.

Resources can be found via these links:

<https://www.mpp.govt.nz/programmes/pacific-language-weeks/rotuman-language-week/>

<http://rotuma.net>

