



A MARINERS GUIDE TO

# FJI

Shores & Marinas 2016

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## MARINE DISTRESS & SAFETY SYSTEM

# Distress, Search & Rescue

We all know that even with everything checked, checked and triple checked, nautical disasters DO happen.

In case of emergencies all distress messages must be sent to the nearest RCC. Search & Rescue operations within the waters around Fiji are coordinated by a National Search & Rescue Committee. RCCs are located at Suva and Nadi. Rescue Sub Centres (RSCs) may

be temporarily established in other areas as demanded by the situation.

Suva (3DP) maintains a continuous listening watch on 2182 kHz and VHF 16 for distress calls. The station is also equipped with 6215.5 kHz for Search & Rescue Operations.

**If you are in imminent danger and require urgent aid, use MAYDAY.**

1. Switch to 2182 kHz or 6215 kHz or 156.8 MHz (Chnl 16)
2. Alarm signal, say:

"MAYDAY, MAYDAY, MAYDAY."

This is YOUR BOAT, YOUR BOAT, YOUR BOAT, MAYDAY, MAYDAY, MAYDAY"

Give your position

State the nature of your distress.

State the nature of help required.

Give any other information that will assist the rescue operation.

Listen on the same frequency for acknowledgement.

**Our National Search & Rescue Authority is the Maritime Surveillance Centre**

HQ Fiji Navy, Box 12387, Suva, Fiji Islands.

T: +679 331 5380 | E: msc@connect.com.fj

**RCC Suva T: +679 331 5380**

**RSC Suva T: +679 330 4296 | 3DP Suva T: +679 337 1326**

**RCC Nadi T: +679 672 5777**

The Government of Fiji is upgrading current RCC protocol and procedures. They aim to have a centralized RCC FIJI established within 2015. Please stay tuned to fijimarinas.com for updates as they occur, but for now, the above procedure remains firmly in place.

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Cover: Destination photographer Tor Johnson grabbed this image of the "2015 Award Winning" Boatshed Bar & Restaurant at Vuda Marina as the sunset over the Mamanuca Islands.

## Issue Four | 2016

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Fiji Marinas

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All information within this guide was correct at the time of going to print. This book is intended as a guide to compliment the careful planning and sailing of the Owner / Captain of each individual vessel cruising Fiji waters. Please note that travel information is subject to change and while we strive to bring you regular updates via the website, all information should be checked personally as Sea Reel Productions Ltd cannot be held responsible for issues arising from information listed within this guide. Sea Reel Productions Ltd cannot be held responsible for any claims, statements or offers made in any advertising content. No part of this guide may be reproduced, wholly or in part without prior written permission from Sea Reel Productions Ltd.

# Bula Vinaka!

We are delighted to welcome you to the eagerly anticipated 2016 edition of 'A Mariners Guide to FIJI Shores & Marinas'. We aim to be your trusty guide throughout the duration of your visit; helping you to navigate clearance procedures, make the most of your time here by highlighting the best of everything Fiji has to offer and finally, providing procedural information on departure clearance when the time comes for you to set sail in pursuit of your next adventure.

Fiji is a unique cruising destination. From the remote and very traditional Lau Islands to the modern pontoons of Denarau Marina, the restaurants and bustling nightlife of Suva to the white sand deserted beaches of the Yasawas; Fiji truly has something to suit every type of cruiser.

Our 333 islands are a land of stunning contrast and diversity. Home to picture perfect beaches, endless coral reefs, world class surfing waves and internationally renowned diving sites.

With so many islands, it is easy to escape the crowd and find your very own anchorage, your own piece of paradise, why not try the diving in Taveuni, Kadavu or Beqa. If looking for fun & new friendships head to the new Boathouse Nanuya or the legendary Musket Cove for activities - it is many cruisers home away from home for the season!

If water sports aren't your thing, get the hiking boots out and venture inland with Talanoa Treks and explore rivers, mountains and waterfalls. Hear and see endemic birds dart through the rainforest canopy! Get an insight into daily life in remote traditional villages in the hills and by the rivers.

Hire a car or 4-wheel drive and explore the coastlines dotted with villages, roadside stalls and seaside resorts. Indulge in a spa treatment - available at almost every resort in Fiji. The local oils, seaweed masks & massages are to die for!

Fijian's are proud of their culture, and traditions remain strong particularly in the outer islands. If you're lucky, you may be invited to a village lovo feast (local meat and produce infused with coconut and cooked in a traditional earth oven), or offered to join a sevusevu (traditional kava ceremony) where you'll be formally welcomed into the village.

But if you're growing a bit weary of sand, sea & beaches (life can be tough sometimes!), you'll find plenty of opportunities to reacquire yourself with city life in Fiji's capital of Suva. You'll find restaurants, bars, coffee shops, shopping centres, cinemas and hardware stores galore! Visit the Suva Market or any produce market in smaller towns for fresh fruit and veges. Fill your shopping bag with fresh local produce! Try the sweetest pineapples, bananas, papayas and watermelon.

Even after the stunning beauty of the eastern Pacific, Fiji is a surprise to most visitors with many yachties wishing they had planned to spend longer here. Don't make the same mistake....

...we look forward to seeing you soon!

*\*All information within the pages of this guide was correct at the time of going to print but as 12 months is a long ol' time, and we all know that things sometimes change, we recommend checking [www.fjimarinas.com](http://www.fjimarinas.com) and Border Control Agency website for important updates before you intend to enter Fiji Waters.*

Vinaka vakalevu!

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## VUDA MARINA FIJI



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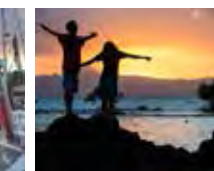
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# FIJI Shores & Marinas 2016 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

## 2016 PUBLIC HOLIDAYS

**New Year's Day** | 1st January  
**Good Friday** | 25th March  
**Easter Saturday** | 26th March  
**Easter Monday** | 28th March  
**National Sports Day** | 24th June  
**Constitution Day** | 7th September  
**Fiji Day** | 10th October  
**Diwali** | 31st October  
**Prophet Mohammed's Birthday** | 12th December  
**Christmas Day** | 25th December  
**Boxing Day** | 26th December

## SAILING

**Doyle South Pacific Rally** | 16th May  
 Opua, New Zealand to Vuda Point Marina, Fiji. Vuda  
 to Villa, Vanuatu, Villa to New Caledonia.  
[www.islandcruising.co.nz](http://www.islandcruising.co.nz)



ANZ Sail Fiji Finish - Squealer & Django Photo: © Brad Davies

**ANZ Sail Fiji** | 4th June  
 Royal Akarana Yacht Club, New Zealand to Port  
 Denarau Marina, Fiji. [www.sailfiji.co.nz](http://www.sailfiji.co.nz)



**Musket Cove Regatta** | 16th to 20th September

## SCHOOL TERMS

Some yachting families like to set up a temporary base here in Fiji and enroll their children in local schools for both social and educational reasons.

While some schools may vary slightly, national term times are as follows:

**Term 1** - 18th January - 22th April

**Term 2** - 9th May - 12th August

**Term 3** - 29th August - 25th November



A Guide to the Coral Coast photo

## OCTOBER | Fiji Day

On October 10th each year, we band together to celebrate our independence from British Rule. The country will be adorned with Fiji Flags and you will likely stumble across a celebration of some sort wherever you are.

**Bilibili Races** | 10th October  
 Inter-Hotel Bilibili Races, Sigatoka.



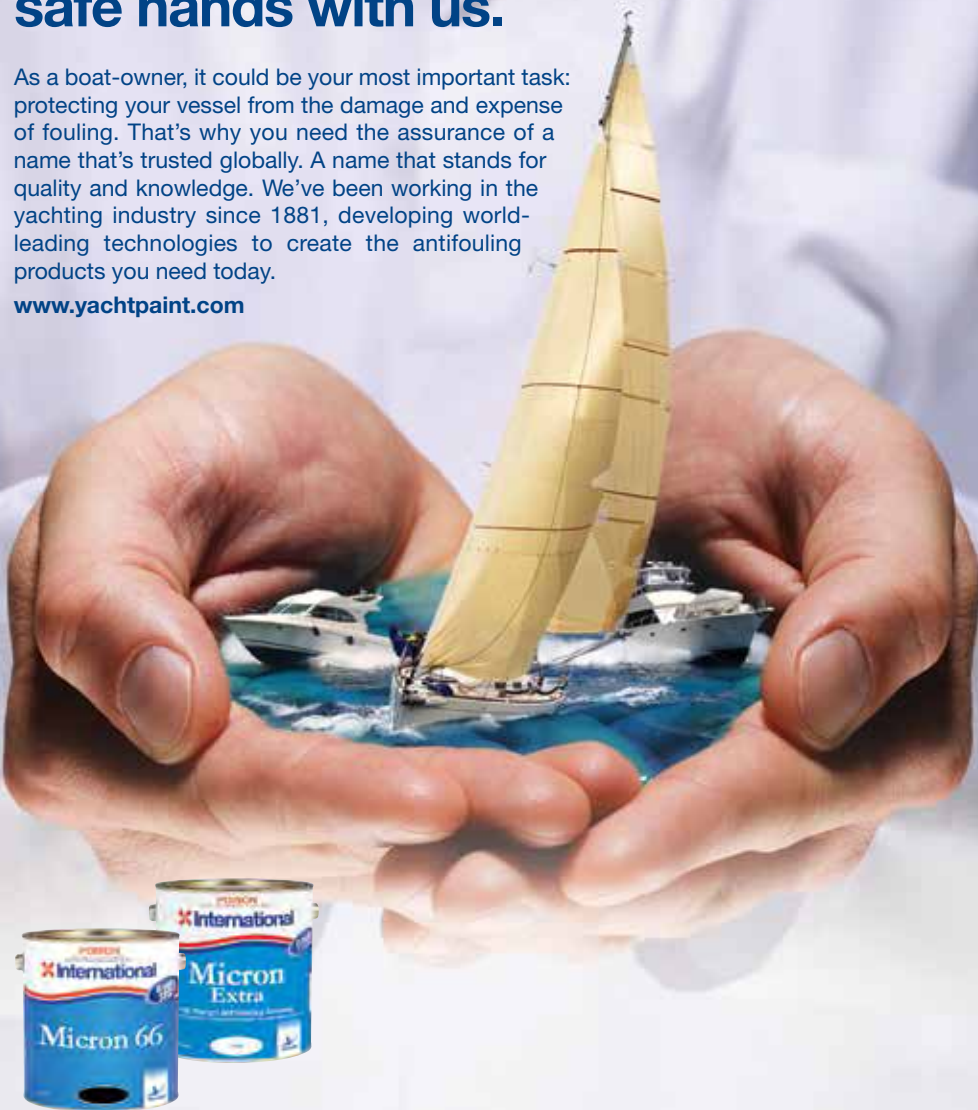
A Guide to the Coral Coast photo



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## FUN

### Painting Paradise, Daku Resort, Savusavu

11th - 18th June

Learn to paint Seascapes & Landscapes with award winning artist, teacher & writer Elena Parashko.

30th July - 6th August

Painting Inspiration in Acrylics with Mark Waller.

17th - 24th September

Painting with Kerrie Lester.  
+679 885 0046 or  
reservations@dakuresort.com



**Super Rugby** | 1st July  
The Gallagher Chiefs vs. BNZ Crusaders. ANZ Stadium, Suva.



### Fiji Coral Coast Sevens

14th - 16th January

Lawaqa Park, Sigatoka ("Rugby Town") Over 30 teams battle it out on the pitch –come along and get Rugby Fever! +679 650 1721 or sevenspassion@gmail.com

### Bula Festival, Nadi July 2016

The Bula Festival will take place in Prince Charles Park, Nadi.



### Hibiscus Festival, Suva

August 2016

Featuring Pacific arts and craft, food, fun fair, traditional and contemporary dances, sports and many fun and exciting activities. The festival culminates in the crowning of a Miss Hibiscus & Hibiscus King.



### FNU's International Food Festival

October 2016

FNU Campus, Namaka, Nadi.  
email: iff@fnu.ac.fj

### Corona Uprising Festival of Music, Dance & Lights

5th November From 12:00pm  
'til you drop...



### Annual Fiji Street Party

31st December

Fiji's annual street party in Suva.

## GOLF

### Starwood Golf Classic Fiji

7th - 11th June

Venue: Natadola Bay & Denarau Golf & Racquet Club.  
www.pacificgolf.co.nz



Natadola Bay Championship Golf Course Facebook

### 2016 Sheraton Villa Teams Challenge

7th - 13th August

Venue: Denarau Golf & Racquet Club, Nadi



www.pacificgolf.co.nz

### Air New Zealand Pro-am

25th - 29th May

Venue: Natadola Bay & Denarau Golf & Racquet Club.  
www.pacificgolf.co.nz



Intercontinental Fiji Golf Resort

### Qantas 2016 Fiji Pro-am

29th May - 2nd June

Venue: Intercontinental Fiji Golf Resort & Spa  
www.qantasgolfclub.com

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## FISHING COMPS



### ANZAC Day Fishing Comp

April 24th

### Bill Williams Memorial

27-28th August - Port Denarau

### One Day Club Fishing

#### Competitions

Feb 28 | March 27 | May 29 |

June 26 | July 24 |

September 25

### Ladies Day Pinktober

#### Fishing Comp

October 16th

### Fiji Classic International Gamefishing Tournament

November 11-13th

for more information:  
Denarau Game & Sport  
Fishing Club

+6799780189 | info@dgsfcfiji.com

## SURFING & SUP



### Fiji Womens Pro

May 29th - June 3rd. Hosted by  
Tavarua & Namotu Island Resorts.

### Fiji Mens Pro

June 5th-17th. Hosted by Tavarua  
& Namotu Island Resorts.

## SPORT

### Ocean Swims

9th - 16th October | Yasawas  
18th - 23rd October | Mana Island  
23rd - 30th October | Yasawas  
[www.oceanswimsafaris.com](http://www.oceanswimsafaris.com)



### Fiji International Triathlon 26th - 29th May

The Fiji International Triathlon Festival, race and relax in this unique  
and much loved paradise. For more information visit: [www.trifiji.com](http://www.trifiji.com)



[www.oceanswimsafaris.com](http://www.oceanswimsafaris.com)

### 2016 Oceania Championships 19th - 25th June

Pool and Synchro events will be held at the Damodar City National  
Aquatic Centre in Suva, and the Open Water events will be held at  
Pacific Harbour. Email: [fijiswimssec@gmail.com](mailto:fijiswimssec@gmail.com)

## SHOPPING



### Makers & Growers Market

A fresh produce & food market is held every second  
Saturday of the month at Vuda Marina. Buy local  
jams/preserves, goats cheese, organic eggs, herbs,  
coconut oil, spices, honey etc.



### ROC Market

The Dolphin Plaza in Suva holds a popular eclectic  
market on the third Sunday of every month. Stalls  
feature homemade treats, arts & crafts, pot plants,  
books, clothes etc.

**REACH FOR FIJIAN MADE** - While visiting Fiji, be sure to look out for the 'FIJIAN MADE' emblems on  
products that you intend to purchase. 'FIJIAN MADE' certification logos give everyone the opportunity to  
easily recognize Fijian made products and services. When you buy a Fijian made product or service, you're  
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# CRUISING THE FIJI GROUP

with CAPTAIN CAROL DUNLOP



Malolo Bay. Photo © Skyward Industries

There are so many reasons to cruise the idyllic waters of Fiji. It is one of the warmest, friendliest nations on earth and caters to cruisers looking for adventure, timeout experiences with locals and very remote cruising.

Fiji is a nation comprising 322 islands in 18,376 square kilometers of the Pacific Ocean. The islands range from being large and volcanic with high peaks and lush terrain to sand keys so small they peak out of the warm aqua water when the tide recedes, to rugged up thrust limestone cliffs.

There are five distinct cruising areas as described throughout this guide, which provide very diverse cruising locations to suit every traveler of the high seas. This is not always the case in some of the other South Pacific island destinations where good anchorages can be sparse. In the outer islands, off the beaten tourist track, there are many deserted beaches, good anchorages, and opportunities to really experience local customs and the culture of Fiji.

"Cruising in Fiji waters is remote and stunningly beautiful, and over the past 35 years has given me the opportunity to experience many once-in-a-lifetime moments."

Fiji is certainly worth making the decision to pass through the Panama Canal and into the South Pacific for. Now that Super yachts can charter in Tahiti and now Fiji, and New Zealand, many ship Owners and Captains may be tempted to commit to a longer cruise in this magical region, which compared to the Mediterranean and the Caribbean, must be refreshingly unpopulated with unspoiled coastlines and often empty anchorages.

There are white sand beaches, small boutique resorts, snorkeling and sunshine in the western group close to the international airport in Nadi. It's pretty extraordinary that you can leave a very western style precinct such as Port Denarau Marina, and sail to close by rural outer islands, where there is no

running water or electricity and where culture and tradition still run deep.

Provisioning and other supplies for Super yachts (and their often quite particular clients) are easily imported from New Zealand and Australia; however it is worth noting that many in-country suppliers are able to meet such demands.

Cruising in Fiji waters is remote and stunningly beautiful, and over the past 35 years it has given me the opportunity to experience many once-in-a-lifetime moments. However, its isolation and untouched beauty also means that it is one of the more navigationally exacting cruising areas in the South Pacific. Sailing with good light and obtaining local knowledge is advantageous. Having a well stocked ship and a good spare parts inventory is also worth the effort.

So, as the South Pacific has so much to offer the adventurous cruiser, we look forward to seeing you soon! forward to seeing you soon!

- Captain Carol Dunlop



## Is it still a workout if you're this relaxed?

Come to the place where a morning walk is taken along a white sand beach, and exercise is rolling a paddle through crystal clear waters. It's not hard to see why Fijians are such happy people, and it's not hard to be just as happy as they are. Make a booking at [www.fiji.travel](http://www.fiji.travel)

[www.fiji.travel](http://www.fiji.travel)





## CRUISING IN THE FIJI GROUP with CAPTAIN CAROL DUNLOP

This series of articles is about cruising the 5 quite distinct and diverse areas of Fiji. Voyage and charter planning should be restricted to one area at a time, to avoid the cruise being interrupted by long sea passages as the ship re-positions. Yasawa & Mamanuca Islands | Kadavu & Beqa Lagoon | Lomaiviti Group comprising the Vatuira Channel, Makogai, Namena, Wakaya, Ovalau, Gau and including the Northern side of Viti Levu | Taveuni, Vanua Levu and The Ringgold's | Northern and Southern Lau and Eastern Group of Islands.

# CRUISING THE YASAWA & MAMANUCA ISLANDS

## White sand beaches & protected cruising

The Yasawa and Mamanuca islands are the closest cruising grounds to Fiji's International Airport in Nadi.

A departure from Port Denarau (which is only 20 minutes from the main international airport) will find you at Malolo Island, the southern-most in the Yasawa/Mamanuca chain of islands, in just a couple of hours.

The chain of islands and surrounding coral reefs are strung out over 80 nautical miles from Malolo Island to Yasawa-i-rara at the most northern tip of the

Yasawas. Most of the traveling is inside the reef with short passages between many good anchorages and fine beaches.

The climate is reliably very sunny due to being located on the "dry" side of Fiji. You are likely to see a few cruising boats, but the area is still pristine with easy, safe diving and very good snorkeling.

The Diving is good for novice to moderately experienced divers. It's a great area for guests that do not feel comfortable in open waters.

There are a few small boutique resorts in the Mamanucas where you can hire jet skis, go parasailing, have a spa treatment and do the usual resort things.

Good anchorages can be found off Malololailai and Qalito Island close by.

Momi Bay is a good anchorage both to arrive at night on the leading lights, and from where to make an early departure.

At the southern most island of the Yasawas - Waya Island, you will find the lovely Octopus Resort. Cruise northwards up the island chain to see the many other small backpacker operations and several more luxurious resorts nestled on some of the islands.

About midway up the chain you will find the Blue Lagoon anchorage (so named as this was the location for the movie Blue Lagoon in 1980) and the private Turtle Island Resort.

Nanuya Island Resort is right on the beach of Nanuya Lailai Island; close by and do welcome cruising yachts.



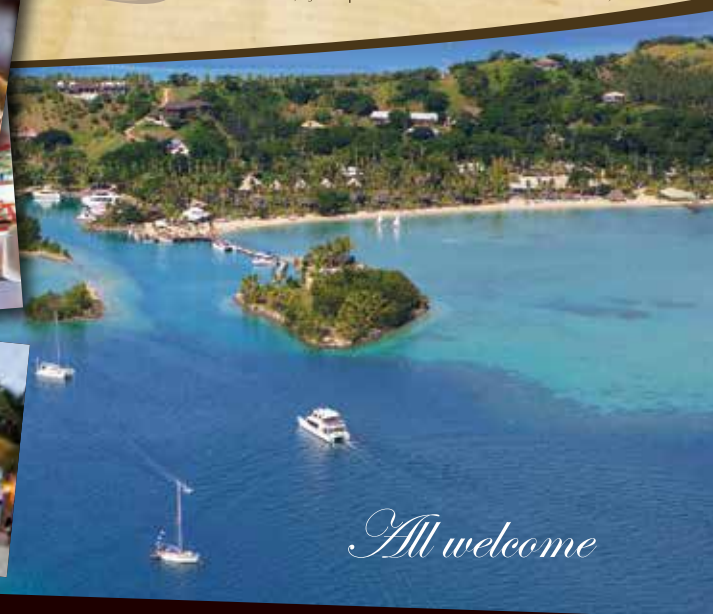
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Yasawa Islands. Photo: Patricia Mallam



Waya, Yasawas. Photo: Carol Dunlop

On Tavewa Island, The Coconut Beach Resort has taken over from Otto and Fanny but the new owner Alex Negrioski can organize a private lovo on the beach for your guests. This is the Fijian way of cooking food on hot rocks buried in the ground. A typical lovo meal will include fish, pork, whole chicken, and some dalo (taro), palusami and other root crops from the market. The resort staff weave coconut frond baskets to hold the food, which is then placed on the heated rocks, covered with banana leaves and more coconut fronds, and buried for a few hours. The food comes out tender, juicy and infused with the flavor of grated coconut. The same staff will greet you and Fanny will still be in the background.

We have also found the Blue Lagoon Beach Resort on the Southern end of Nacula Island very helpful in assisting some of our guests. The Resort is lovely and the location stunning.

Yaqona (Kava) drinking while being serenaded by harmonious Fijian singers provide a musical delight

under the stars. A really great night out Fiji style! We would take our guitars and ukuleles and of course the full bar for the guests. I guess this is the nearest thing to a nightclub - South Pacific island style!

One can easily cruise for 7-10 days in the Yasawa/ Mamanuca area and find something of interest to suit everyone on board; beaching, hiking, kayaking, snorkeling, diving, fishing, cultural village visits and water sports. Most villages will put on a meke (Fijian Dancing) and/or lovo for guests on very short notice.

The beaches are magnificent. Whiter and more dramatic the further north you go; Yasawa Island being the most spectacular with miles of white sand, nobody there except for a few villages and the very up market Yasawa Island Resort tucked away, almost invisible amongst the palms.

At the southern end of Yasawa Island are the famous Sawa-i-Lau Caves which are worth a visit. You can hire a guide from the village to show you the entrance into the underwater caves. Take torches, masks and snorkels! The lagoon at Sawa-i-Lau is just great for exploring with kayaks, and the snorkeling is very good near the caves.

Many anchorages can be found both on the east and west side of the island chain. The best in bad weather being the Blue Lagoon anchorage at Matacawalevu; other anchorages are at Sawa-i-Lau caves, which has good holding ; Vava island in a strong southerly and North and South Naviti and Waya island both east and west depending on wind direction. ■



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# THE CLIMATE

# OF FIJI

Savusavu jetty looking SE. Photo © Skyward Industries

Comprising over 300 islands lying wholly within the tropical south-west Pacific ocean, Fiji enjoys a tropical maritime climate without great extremes of heat or cold. By virtue of its location close to the equator and within the Pacific, the El Nino – Southern Oscillation (ENSO) is the dominant influence on climate variability in Fiji.

by Neville Koop | NADRAKI

## Winds

Trade winds are the predominant broad scale winds affecting Fiji and occur in all seasons with varying duration and intensity. The trade winds blow from the south-east towards the northwest, and as a result there is a strong windward – leeward component to the microclimate of Viti Levu and Vanua Levu, the two largest and most populated islands of Fiji. This in turn affects rainfall to a large extent and temperatures to a lesser extent.

On the coast of these two main islands, Viti Levu and Vanua Levu, day-time sea breezes blow with great regularity. The sea breeze strength is affected by the seasons; in summer when daylight hours exceed hours of darkness by 2 to 3 hours sea breezes are stronger than in winter when heating is reduced by fewer hours of daylight.

Winds over Fiji are generally light or moderate; strong winds are far less common and are most likely to occur in the period of June to October when the trade winds are most persistent. Tropical cyclones and depressions can cause winds of gale force or stronger from time to time, especially from November to April. See the TROPICAL CYCLONES section for more information.

## Temperatures

Temperatures at sea level near the coast around Fiji are fairly uniform. Due to the influence of the surrounding warm tropical ocean waters, changes in the temperature from day to day and season to season are relatively small. The average temperatures change only about 2 to 4°C between the coolest months (July and August) and the warmest months (January to February). In the lee of

the mountains, however, the day-time temperatures often rise 1 to 2 °C above those on the windward sides or on the smaller islands. Also, the humidity on the lee side tends to be somewhat lower.

Around the coast, the average night-time temperatures can be as low as 18 °C and the average day-time temperatures can be as high as 32 °C. In the central parts of the main islands, average night-time temperatures can be as low as 12 °C. South-eastern coastal areas and the high interior often experience persistent cloudy weather, with humidity exceeding 75% during the day for long periods. Monthly average sea surface temperatures range from 26°C to 29 °C.

## Sunshine

Being located within the tropical latitudes sunshine variations on a seasonal basis are smaller than that of locations at higher latitudes. On June 22nd (Winter Solstice) there is typically eleven hours and two minutes of daylight (excluding twilight) while on the December 21st (Summer Solstice) there is 13 hours and 13 minutes of sunshine.

A geographic difference in sunshine distribution is evident between Suva (windward side of Viti Levu) and Nadi (Leeward side of Viti Levu during winter

(June to August). The prevalence of onshore trade winds results in significant periods of overcast along the windward coast of the larger islands, often (but not always) associated with showers or drizzle. While these two locations represent the two extremes of sunshine, most locations including all of the smaller outer islands receive sunshine amounts in the mid ranges of those shown in the table attached.

## Rainfall

Rainfall is highly variable and strongly influenced by the orography of the islands and the prevailing south-east trades. The trade winds are often saturated with moisture, causing any high land mass lying in their path to receive much of the precipitation. The mountains of Viti Levu and Vanua Levu create wet climatic zones on their windward sides and dry climatic zones on their leeward sides; hence, the main islands have pronounced dry and wet zones. Little climatic differentiation occurs on the smaller islands.

Fiji experiences a distinct wet season (November to April) and a dry season (May to October), controlled largely by the north and south movements of the South Pacific Convergence Zone, the main rainfall



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QUESTION TO 188**

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producing system for the region. Much of the Fiji's rain however falls in heavy, brief local showers and thunderstorms.

Rainfall is typically abundant during the wet season, especially over the larger islands, and it is often deficient during the rest of the year, particularly in the "dry zone" on the north-western sides of the main islands. Annual rainfall in the dry zones averages around 1500-2000mm, whereas in the wet zones, it ranges from 3000mm around the coast to 6000mm on the mountainous sites. The smaller islands receive various amounts according to their location and size, ranging from around 1500mm to 3500mm.

The south-eastern parts of the main islands, generally receive monthly total rainfall of 150mm during the dry season, and 400mm during the wettest months. These parts of the islands have rain on about six out of ten days for the dry season, and about eight out of ten days for the wet season. The north-western parts of these islands are in the rain shadow and receive generally less than 100mm per month during the dry period. The variation in the

monthly totals between the two zones during the wet season is little. The wettest month is usually March and the driest month is almost always July. During the wet season, brief heavy afternoon showers and thunderstorms are common in the lee of the main islands.

### Tropical Cyclones

Fiji lies in the area occasionally traversed by tropical cyclones. They are mostly confined to the period November to April, with greatest frequency around January and February. On average, some ten to fifteen cyclones per decade affect some part of Fiji, and two to four will do severe damage. Specific locations may not be directly affected for several years but the dominant north-west to south-east tracks gives some increased risk of damage in the outlying north-west island groups and the north and west coasts of the main islands. Seasonal variability of tropical cyclones also occurs based on the El Nino – Southern Oscillation cycle, with Fiji at higher risk of more and stronger cyclones during warm phase (El Nino years) of the ENSO cycle. ■

## South Pacific Weather Resources



**F**iji has a fantastic cruising climate. It is situated in a tropical trade wind belt providing fresh steady winds for easy passage making.

Regularly, as the subtropical highs pass to the east, the wind backs off and even reverses counterclockwise around the compass. These reversals are well forecast and provide the cruising sailor with opportunities to sail to the east - unthinkable in some tropical trade wind cruising grounds. Using the weather to expand

your cruising opportunities this way means you have to pay a little more attention to weather observations and forecasts. If you choose to stay around for the summer, watching the weather sometimes becomes a more serious business.

So where do you go to for weather information in the South Pacific region? The number of different online weather and climate resources available can seem daunting. However, it is this diversity of weather information that helps make better decisions. Comparing information from different sources will give you some idea of the degree of certainty.

It is human nature to want to know exactly what will happen in the future, but the reality is that no one knows for certain. The bottom line is that you have to use what's available to form a conclusion which helps you make good decisions. You can find a great list of links to some of the most commonly used online weather resources for the South Pacific region, compiled by Fiji cruising regulars Rory and Kate, at [www.yachtstreetcar.com](http://www.yachtstreetcar.com)  
by Rory Garland



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# Secrets of Sawa-i-Lau

You have not been to the Yasawas if you have not visited the Sawa-i-Lau caves. That is the commonly heard declaration, and given the reputation of these mysterious limestone formations, it stands true. *By Drue Slatter | Photos: Patricia Mallam*



The godly grottoes carved by surrounding (and now surrounded) ocean, feature sheer rock walls, stunning turquoise water and a foundation in ancient Fijian history.

Reportedly the resting place of *Ulutini* (the ancient ten-headed Fijian god), the Sawa-i-Lau caves crown the Yasawas at the northern end of the island group. Other ancient stories tell of a young Chief and his lover taking refuge in the limestone atrium after the woman's family promised her to a rival Chief. With his beloved safely hidden behind the rocky curtain, the young chief would swim in and out of the cave with food for



her. For all our romantic readers, you'll be happy to know the duo escaped and settled on another island, together forever.

Sawa-i-Lau is owned by the people of Tokatoka Koro and the limestone island is not only a tourism attraction but a 'jewel' close to the heart of many Fijians. Underneath all the excitement is a sense of gratitude, that the people of the Yasawas have allowed you a glimpse into a resting place of their *mana* or their 'magic'.

The aesthetics and adrenalin involved in your Sawa-i-Lau experience offer a brief break (should you even need one) from the common 'fine white sand and

pristine lagoons' of the Yasawas. Upon your arrival, your hired guide will meet you on shore, flanked by local villagers with a line of souvenir-selling women bringing up the rear. At this point your guide has probably started chatting with the familiarity that Fijians welcome new 'family' with. However, over the years the predominantly backpacking vibe of the Yasawas has made way for a bit more structure. What was once a casual, spontaneous adventure into the underwater limestone paradise now sees guides stressing the caution of the slippery rocky path and low hanging stone ceilings with insistence.





Now, for the caves themselves. There are three majestic caves, all offering their own thrill. The first, dome-shaped cave is an atrium lit through an opening in the giant cavern and reflecting off the deep turquoise within. Swimming through, you're watching the light reflect onto eerie walls of stone and wondering how the world can possibly keep revolving outside. It is suggested you take a torch and some snorkeling gear, as the next little swim is not for the faint of heart. Proceeding to the inner sanctum, you swim under a rocky curtain and a couple of feet through an underground tunnel.

The second cave is possibly the most controversial, as the *Qara ni Bukete* or "Pregnancy Cave" refuses entry to any woman that is hiding her pregnancy. There

would have been quite the fuss from family and friends alike if I didn't make it in! The slight fear factor of the underwater tunnel is echoed in the cave's pitch darkness, stretching about twenty meters in length. This experience is also not for the fast-paced traveller. The real beauty of the Sawa-i-Lau caves is that in that space and in that moment, you are truly able to marvel at the artistic forms of our planet, without any outside disturbances.

Finally, there is *Qara ni Kasivi* or the "Spitting Cave" where oftentimes your guide will hop in the water and have a talanoa or a "story session". In the presence of remembered ancestors and the magnificence of these limestone formations, those who are interested can listen to a brief recount of

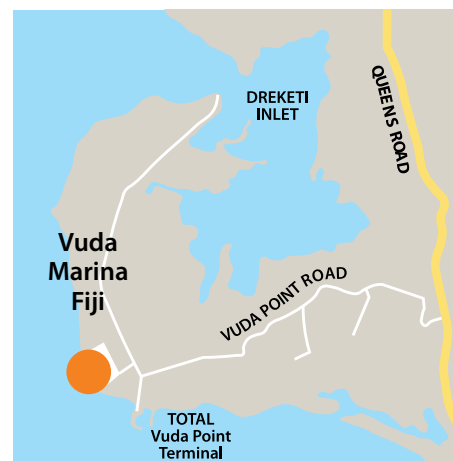
Fiji's traditional history. For those a little more restless, the Sawa-i-Lau adventure isn't complete until at least one of you has clambered up the sheer limestone walls and plummeted into the deep electric blue! Your guide will often take the lead on this one.

Whether you're making your way to the Sawa-i-Lau caves from a nearby anchorage or hopping off a hired water-taxi, these alcoves and underwater caves are worth the trip. Traversing the northwestern region is a must-do for cruising through Fiji, and something many visitors tick off their lists. But to do it right, one must visit the "Heart of the Yasawas" – Sawa-i-Lau. Stoop through the rocky opening of these limestone caves and you've opened yourself up to the Yasawas, as they should be seen. ■



# Vuda Marina Fiji

17° 41' 04" South | 177° 23' 02" East



PO Box 5717, Lautoka, Fiji.  
T: +679 666 8214 | F: +679 666 8215  
E: [info@vudamarina.com.fj](mailto:info@vudamarina.com.fj)  
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Along the historical beach where our intrepid ancestors first discovered land, having sailed in canoes from lands far, far away some 3,500 years ago you will find Vuda Marina Fiji.

This unique commercial marina complex, designed specifically as a cyclone and severe weather shelter, is located only 20 minutes from Nadi International Airport and operates as a hub for yachtsmen and yachtswomen offering a convenient base for those wishing to explore the beautiful chain of the Mamanuca and Yasawa islands situated just offshore and within view.

## Facts & Figures

Accessible through a 25 metre wide reef channel, the marina entrance is marked with beacons and green leading lights and is easily arrived at by approaching the highly visible 'Total' storage tanks from the southwest. Vuda Marina Fiji is a berth and repair marina equipped with the largest travelift in Fiji (63-ton WISE). The marina has inwater berthing for 78 vessels, hardstand working area for 30 vessels and 45 cyclone pits for potentially 153 yachts at any one time. The 'cyclone pits' are ideal for monohulls

## Services & Facilities at a Glance



that choose to sit out the cyclone season with their keels lowered into pits.

Special berthing rates are offered for yachts that stay for longer periods. The marina has a minimum depth of 2.5m in the channel at zero low tide and a minimum depth of 3m within the basin.

## Safety

Due to its unique inland basin, Vuda Marina Fiji is protected and well secured with very limited wave action - even in cyclones. The Marina also has a surge boom that can be placed across the channel



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entrance to impede any kind of rough seas from entering. While nowhere can be guaranteed as being 'hurricane proof', this marina is certainly a safe hideaway. The marina is equipped with 24-hour CCTV coverage for better security of the premises.

## Services

Here you'll find a one stop yacht chandlery for all your boating needs, from stainless steel rigging, yacht paints, repair materials, hardware items, sail repair kits and all-weather clothing. The Marina also has a register of professional yacht and marine repair & maintenance companies for all your repair works. Discussing required works directly with contractors is a convenient option here within the contractor village. Storage Facilities provide 1m<sup>3</sup> & 2m<sup>3</sup> Storage Lockers for long & short term rental.

## Clearance Facilities

Arriving yachts can conveniently clear into Fiji waters using the Marinas floating dock where government officials will be waiting to greet the captain and crew and proceed with formalities. Captain and crew can then immediately start to enjoy their stay in Fiji by using the marina's facilities,



restaurant, café, bar, yacht chandlery, general store, ATM, laundry and fuel station.

Operation hours of the Vuda Marina Boarding Station are:

**Monday to Friday** **0900hr – 1500hr**

*Please note, 24 hour advance notice is required for use of these facilities. Vessels arriving on weekends or public holidays must clear in Lautoka*

## Provisioning

The Marina has planted 1000 pineapple plants, over 50m of passionfruit and various fruiting trees for guests of the Marina to enjoy free of charge. They ask you to tend to the garden as payment for the fruits and only take what you need. The General Store has a variety of foods, drinks, toiletries and various miscellaneous items for your convenience.

For anything else, Lautoka City is 15 minutes away in one direction and Nadi town, 30 minutes in the other. You will find supermarkets, hardware stores, and fresh produce galore in either.





Something to look out for is the Makers & Growers Market at the Marina. Held on the second Saturday of the month, you'll find local jams/preserves, goats cheese, organic eggs, herbs, coconut oil, spices, honey etc.

## Visitor Attractions

**The Boatshed Restaurant & Bar** offer al-fresco dining options. A fantastic and frequently revamped a la carte menu is available in both the Boatshed Restaurant & Sunset Bar with locally inspired nightly specials to whet the appetite. There is also a kids menu and play area.

The Boatshed Restaurant is a recipient of the Fiji Excellence in Tourism award for best restaurant in Fiji and is a regular recipient of the Tripadvisor Certificate of Excellence for consistently positive reviews.

You can also enjoy stunning views from the balcony of the **Boatyard Café**. Consistently updated menu items available include salads, light meals and delicious coffees.

**Half price pizza nights** on Tuesdays from 5.30pm

**Happy Hour** on Thursday nights 5.30-6.30pm

**Talent night** on Thursdays after happy hour. Live

acoustic music every Friday!

**Sunday afternoon Jazz** 2pm – 7pm. Sunday afternoons at the Marina are always accompanied by live band entertainment.

**Popular open-air big screen movies** showing on the front lawn - weather permitting. A wide selection of movies are shown – check the notice board for what's showing if you want to catch up on your Hollywood action! Mon, Wed & Sat @ Sunset

**Cooking & Cocktail Classes** Throughout the week, there are a variety of cooking and cocktail making lessons to be enjoyed free of charge for those wishing to learn new skills and techniques during their travels.

Cultural and Traditional lessons such as basket weaving, say it in Fijian and kava ceremonies are available throughout the week.

## Accommodation

Vuda Marina Fiji has a variety of accommodation options for those wishing to spend a few nights on dry land. Rates are reasonable and you are only a stones throw away from your beloved yacht.



## Getting Around

The Vuda Marina Taxi's operate a stand daily and are on call nightly. A 15 minute ride in to Lautoka should cost you in the region of \$15, and 30 minutes in the other direction and you will arrive in Nadi Town for around \$30. Local Buses can be caught from the Vuda Marina Police Post. They are a great way to travel, cheap and fun and a great way to get a taste of the real Fijian, urban way of life.

**Lautoka City Bus Timetable:** Bus departs

Mon - Sat: 07h30 | 11h15 | 13h15 | 15h15 | 17h15

**Nadi Town Bus Timetable:** Bus departs at regular 15 minute intervals from the Vuda Junction.

See page 67 for what to see and do in Nadi ■

# Vunabaka Development Taking Shape



17° 45' 42" South | 177° 09' 30" East

The luxury hospitality sector is waiting in eager anticipation as the Vunabaka development on Fiji's Malolo Island nears completion, its opening set for year end 2016.



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The \$350m FJD Vunabaka marina and beachfront development is a luxury residential and resort development. It's designed around superb marina, ocean and pristine beachfront villa sites, all anchored with a Luxury Boutique Hotel at its center.

The development hosts everything you could want in a tropical island paradise – luxurious facilities, stunning sandy beach, two world class marinas, varied elevation and an original rainforest. It's oriented to capture dazzling sunsets and is protected from trade winds by an amphitheatre-like setting.

Called a marina-based community, this development has been designed from the get-go for those who are both ocean/beach enthusiasts and devotees of ultimate luxury. A select number of lots are still available for purchase.

The resort boasts a pristine white sand beach created with a swimming channel that allows for all-tide swimming – and with proximity to world-class surfing, fishing, diving and boating spots.

Construction of the Luxury Boutique Hotel and first 20 privately-owned villas will be complete by end 2016. The Vunabaka development team is in the



final stages of negotiation with the international Six Senses Hotels Resorts Spa group to manage the boutique resort.

The boutique resort has already secured renowned chef Ihaka Peri – already known as one of the hospitality Industry's premier up and coming chefs. Chef Peri's approach to cooking follows a holistic sustainable philosophy, which will use Vunabaka's own home grown produce..

Expert hotelier Neil Palmer recently joined the development group as a shareholder, bringing his extensive knowledge of the global hotel industry to the development.

Palmer is Owner/CEO of hospitality services consultants Elements and has over 25 years'

experience with Starwood Hotels & Resorts, and a further 4 years as CEO and co-owner of premium luxury company Per AQUUM Retreats & Resorts.

Vunabaka was designed by renowned New Zealand architect Richard Priest, ensuring that as well as being a luxury resort experience it would also be committed to the local Fijian cultural aesthetic and have minimal impact on the environment.

It is this combination of attention to detail, focus on luxury and true commitment to the Fijian environment that has made Vunabaka one of the most highly anticipated luxury developments seen in the South Pacific.

For more information email [info@vunabaka.com](mailto:info@vunabaka.com) or visit [www.vunabaka.com](http://www.vunabaka.com)





# Life's not just a beach

By the time you reach Fiji's shores you'll have no doubt seen many of her beautiful beaches, have navigated her reefs and enjoyed spectacular sunsets over the Pacific Ocean. And, yet there is another world beyond the sea and beyond the beach.

**V**enture inland, into Fiji's hidden heart, and you'll find yourself in a landscape of dramatic peaks, pristine forests, sparkling rivers, remote villages and unique history.

Here you can visit places rich in biodiversity, hear and see endemic birds dart through the forest, gaze at a tree in Fiji's cloud forest and puzzle over all the life it supports, breath in sweeping views, and cool-off in warm tropical rivers.

Dipping your toe into this particular ocean of adventure is not always easy, but there are a number of ways to do it, whether by joining a rafting trip or taking a trip to visit the village of Navala with its rows of traditional built burees.

One of the best ways is to explore the interior on foot, joining local guides on trails that existed long before any roads. By investing a bit of time you will get a unique insight into the vibrant traditional culture that still underpins daily life in the hills.

There are very few established walking tracks in Fiji and most land in Fiji has traditional landowners, such that permission should always be sought before it is crossed. However, the Koroyanitu



National Heritage Park near Lautoka, and Bouma and Lavena on Taveuni, have wonderful established walks that are easy to access.

For more immersive hikes, it's best to team up with a specialist operator who can help you get off the beaten track and enjoy your trek knowing that you are respecting Fijian culture and walking with the blessing of traditional landowners.

Talanoa Treks works in partnership with the communities you visit on your trek to reduce its




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impact and maximise its benefits. You stay in and visit traditional villages and local lodges, enjoy meals with the community and share stories. Talanoa Treks have trained guides in each community to lead walks to show the way (there are no signposts!), for safety, and to share a bit about life in the hills.

‘Talanoa’ is the Fijian word for chatting or telling stories, and as you walk and talk you’ll discover all around you, hidden in plain sight, medicinal plants, old village sites, food gardens, grazing sites, fishing grounds and even battlefields. For your guides this is home. It’s where they played as kids, where they hunt and farm, relax and joke, and it’s where they guide you.

Seeing Fiji this way, means foregoing one or two luxuries for a few days, but in return you see a Fiji that few visitors experience, enjoy genuine Fijian hospitality and leave with friends, memories, and stories that last long after the blisters have healed!

And after all, those stunning beaches will be waiting for you and that hammock will be all the more rewarding after an adventure into the hills. Talanoa Treks is Fiji’s only dedicated hiking



company. They offer multi-day treks including climbing Mt Tomaniivi, Fiji’s highest mountain, cross-county hikes, village stays and an authentic cultural experience, all in partnership with partner communities. Trips operate on a scheduled departure basis, but can also be booked by groups (Min. 3).

For more information visit: [talanoa-treks-fiji.com](http://talanoa-treks-fiji.com)  
or email [info@talanoa-treks-fiji.com](mailto:info@talanoa-treks-fiji.com)

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### Services & Facilities at a Glance

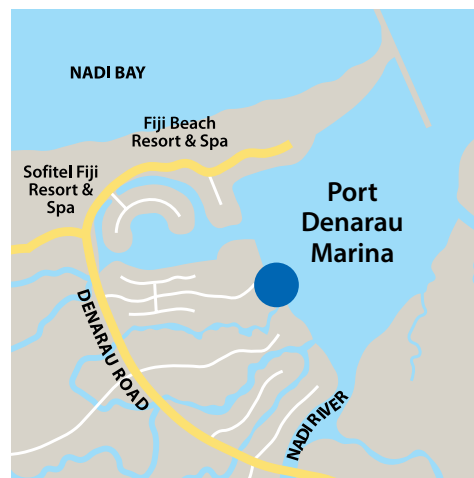


# Port Denarau Marina

17°46'18" South | 177°22'56" East



PO Box D23, Port Denarau, Fiji.  
T: +679 675 0600 | F: +679 675 0700  
reservations@denarumarina.com  
www.denarumarina.com  
VHF 14



Port Denarau Marina was awarded "MIA International Marina of the Year" in May 2015 for outstanding services and facilities provided to the cruising and yachting industry.

The marina is well positioned to provide a stopover for rest, recreation and provisioning during your cruising of the Fijian Islands. Situated on the western coast, it's a short 20-minute taxi ride from Nadi International Airport, and only an hour to Lautoka city, which is a main port of entry.

Port Denarau Marina is state of the art and part of the largest retail/restaurant complex in the Nadi area.

### Facts & Figures

Accessed through a well-marked channel that is 5 metres deep at zero tide. The marina contains 64 fully serviced berths for visiting yachts including 4 x 85m, 7 x 65m, 3 x 55m, and 12 x 30m berths and 5m draft at low tide. The marina is a swipe card

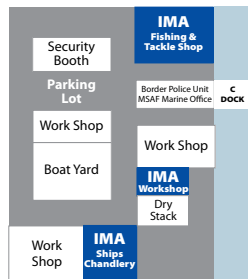


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E: [imasales@connect.com.fj](mailto:imasales@connect.com.fj) or [ima@connect.com.fj](mailto:ima@connect.com.fj)  
Boat Hire: [www.boathirefiji.com](http://www.boathirefiji.com)



access restricted area and provides vessels with on the dock water and single and three-phase 50hz electricity. WiFi Internet is also available on all berths. Diesel is reticulated to all superyacht berths for easy high speed transfers.

In the height of the season there is also a spill over marina with many Mediterranean style berths. Additionally there are 14 moorings within the marina basin. No anchoring is allowed within Port Denarau Marina limits but a good anchorage is available just to the east of the marina entrance markers.



## Safety

The marina is fairly well protected and offers in-ground cyclone holes and mangroves but is not a cyclone haven and must be evacuated in the event of a cyclone.

## Services

### The Boat Yard

Port Denarau Marina is a haul out facility providing the latest equipment that offers comprehensive marina services that includes a 50 tonne travelift, forklift services, a hardstand area, marine workshops, short and long term boat storage, and dry stack facilities. You will also find the following services based on-site within the



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**SAVUSAVU** | Copra Shed Marina | Tel: +679 999 3957 | Fax: +679 885 3022

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marina complex: Engineering/ Welding Workshop, Hydraulic Workshop, Outboard / Jet Ski Repairs, Aluminum Fabricators & Boat Builder, Stainless Steel Fabrication, Repairs & Maintenance, Sail & Canvas Maker, Yacht Agents, Marine Chandlerys, Painting & Antifouling, Dive Tank Refills, Gas Bottle Refills.

### Barge Services

Port Denarau Marina also owns of the 'Spirit of Denarau' which is a 32m self propelled landing craft with inbuilt fuel and water tanks as well as a 120m2 deck with access via a loading ramp. For large vessels and superyachts the Spirit of Denarau can be used for bunkering either at berth or outside the marina for vessels restricted by draft.

### Provisioning

Within the retail centre you will find a well stocked supermarket, bottle store, post office, bank, money exchange, doctor's clinic, pharmacy, clothing and souvenir shops as well as a wide range of bars and restaurants (which is great if you are sick of cooking!).



### Denarau Yacht Club

The Grand Opening of a 2 storey Yacht Club in 2015 added significant development to this popular yachting destination. Named 'The Rhum-Ba', the Yacht Club incorporates a rum bar and modern dining on the ground level with a function and events facility upstairs. Only recently opened The Rhum-Ba has been well received and is already Tripadvisor's number 2 restaurant on Denarau. With a light and modern interior The Rhum-Ba offers expansive views to the north and east across the Port Denarau Marina and Jetty C. The new facilities also provide opportunities to host more international yachting and game fishing events.



New  
showroom  
opening in  
2016



ADRENALIN MARINE



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**SEA-DOO**



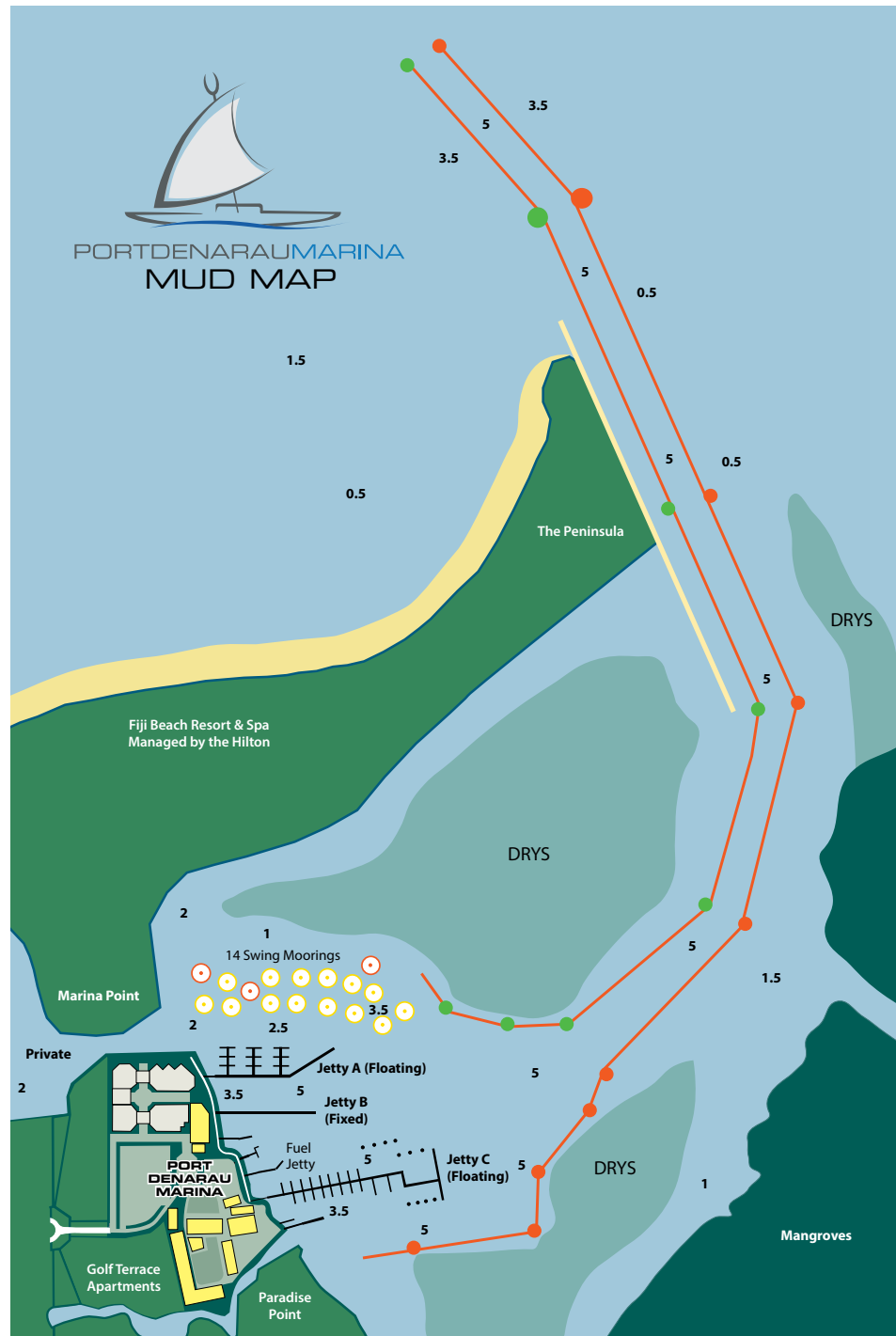
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## Attractions

Situated at the main marina complex you will find an array of companies offering trips to the islands and activities such as game fishing, Scuba diving, jet boat rides, hiking trips, camping trips, dinner cruises, parasailing, sky diving, banana rides, water skiing, wakeboarding, helicopter rides, island tours and much more...this place is geared for tourism.

The Marina is walking distance to several international hotels that offer a host of recreational pursuits including an international 18-hole golf course, hard and turf surfaced tennis courts, the







*Sofitel Fiji Resort & Spa photo*

Denarau Mini Golf & Driving Range offering bungee trampolines, ten pin bowling, batting cage and mini golf. The Big Bula Water Park is great if you have kids – or are a big kid yourself! Spas are dotted around the island where you can be given a new lease of life if you are feeling a little weather beaten.

## Accommodation

The Marina complex is part of Denarau Island which is home to a suite of international brand named hotels if you feel like spoiling yourself or

have friends / relatives flying in to meet you. All the top names are there; Worldmark (Wyndham) Resort Denarau, Radisson Blu Fiji Resort, Sheraton Fiji Resort, Sheraton Denarau Villas, The Westin Fiji Resort & Spa, Sofitel Fiji Resort & Spa, The Terraces, The Palms and The Hilton.

## Getting Around

The marina offers an extensive range of ferry, water taxi and cruise operators catering to day trips and Island Resort transfers.

Explore Denarau Island and get your bearings by taking a ride on a unique and open 'Bula Bus'. Operating on a continuous loop departing every 15 mins from 7.30am – 11.30pm, 7 days a week! \$8.50 for adults and \$2 for children under 10 per day for unlimited travel.

Nadi Town (larger) and Namaka (slightly closer) are only a short bus or taxi ride away. Denarau Taxi's are safe, honest and reliable.

West Bus Transport services Denarau Island and drops passengers at Nadi bus station 7 days a week. From the bus station in downtown Nadi, you can jump on a bus to Lautoka or ride all the way to Suva. ■

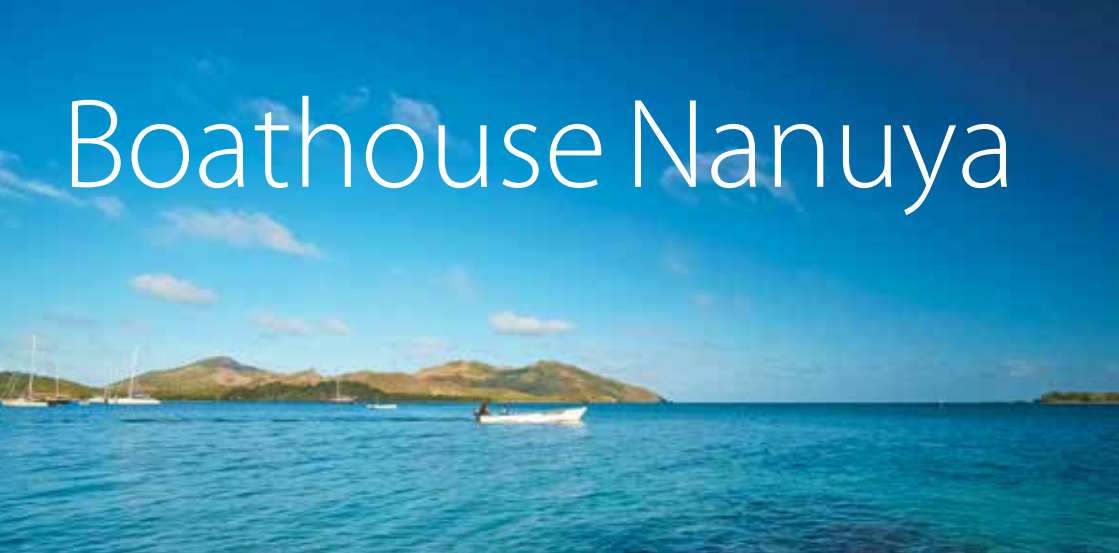


Famous across Fiji for its coffee, bakery, pizzas and deli foods, L'Epicier is your catering solution in Denarau. Featuring a wide range of freshly baked artisan breads, cakes and pastries, healthy DIY salads and sandwiches, full espresso menu and gourmet pizzas that are simply delicious, with gluten free needs catered for. L'Epicier also offer a wide range of antipasto, cured meats, cheeses and condiments.

For more information and catering orders please call +679 6756 800 ext. 56952 or email: [deli.fiji@hilton.com](mailto:deli.fiji@hilton.com)



# Boathouse Nanuya



16° 56' 23.32" South | 177° 22' 13.77" East



Boathouse Nanuya is a unique casual dining, beverage and accommodation facility located adjacent to Nanuya Island Resort in the spectacular natural beauty of the Yasawa Islands, Fiji.

Boathouse Nanuya sits on the beachfront of the famous Blue Lagoon Bay at Nanuya Lailai Island



and has its own convenience store, ATM, Sky TV (for those big sports events) with an Activities & Day Tour Centre.

For those wanting more than a day visit, the two level Boathouse has 12 sparkling new motel style rooms. These spacious rooms all have ensuite, ceiling fans and air-conditioning.

Ten rooms are configured as double (king bed) or twin, with five of these rooms you can add an extra person creating a triple room (one king and 1 single or 3 single beds).

Two extra-large rooms are configured with one male and one female dormitory both with 6 single beds in each dorm. (Male dorm downstairs and female dorm upstairs).

Ideal for one great night's sleep or a week or month of good times diving, fishing and experiencing the Fijian Culture.

Catering for the sole traveller, couple or a group – you will immediately feel at home. You can also stay connected (if you wish) via a high speed WiFi network boasting the largest guest bandwidth available in Fiji.

The commercial laundry is also available to guests to have their clothes laundered for a small fee!

Inside the Boathouse Bar & Restaurant the relaxed atmosphere welcomes guests to their Yasawa home.



This is a social hub for guests to meet up with like-minded travellers including visiting yachts.

Casual dining is a Boathouse specialty - from Pizzas and Burgers to homemade meat pies, all day breakfast and of course their much loved specialty of fresh local reef fish and kasava chips.

Enjoy a cold beverage after a swim and stroll along the beautiful beach front and watch the sunset over the water with old and new friends alike. ■

*For more information please contact Lauren Mossop  
T: 8658985 or email [lauren@nanuyafiji.com](mailto:lauren@nanuyafiji.com)*

Nanuya Lailai, Yasawa Islands | PO Box 7136, Lautoka | T: +679 666 7633 Ext 107







Jon Apted is a litigation partner in a large Suva law firm. Off duty, Jon enjoys capturing people & moments that showcase the diversity and beauty of Fiji. Inspired by Humans of New York - Humans of Fiji is fast growing to 100,000 likes. Jon also dabbles in blogging about good food, good music and humorous encounters on his local and overseas travels. Apted's friends on Facebook are entertained daily by his tongue in cheek comments and unique ability to grab one's attention. The following is a small piece of Jon Apted's fine art. ENJOY! and then come meet Humans of Fiji yourself.

# HUMANS OF FIJI

JON APTED



**Salanieta & Laisani** - "I've been living in Mt Isa but it's so good to be back especially to see my family. This is my sister. Look at her! She's looking so pretty. I am so happy to see her pretty face."

**Special Constable Aseri, Denarau** - "I'm in the tourist section of the Police. I love it. I meet nice people from all around the world every day. It always reminds me we are part of a big world of human beings. I learn new words from different languages all the time. Today I learnt how to say bula in Mexico."



In Korolevu, Saturday mornings are for fishing... with a little bit of swag on the side.

**Rakesh, Suva** - "My biggest achievement is having 4 children, good children - oh and having a house with an ocean view. You know I built it myself."

Seen in Suva; family fun.







**Lynden, Port Denarau** -  
"Life is about being yourself."



**Natasha, Suva** - I've never had short hair before. My hair is naturally curly but I've always had it longish, and I had it long and straight for the last few years. The other morning I woke up and decided it was just time to make a big change. So I cut it and I set my curls free. It was a really special moment for me because I felt like I was letting go of so much in my past. Now I have my first afro and I'm loving it. It's nice that other people are loving it too. I know I'm not my hair, and looks are not what life should be about, but hey sometimes, somehow, a change like that can change your life for the better."



**Trish, Suva** - "I came to Fiji to relieve a lecturer at USP who went on sabbatical and have had several different roles since then. I've lived in PNG and Tonga too. I'm from Australia originally but I've lived so long in the Pacific that I find Australia too different now. Plus I don't think I can afford it anymore! I think that there are things that I can contribute here and I hope to stay for so long as I can contribute to the people."

**Vilikesa, one Sunday in Suva** - "No I'm not coming back from Church. I'm going to grog. The music makes the grogging sweet and the kava makes our voices sweeter."



**Parbhubhai** - "I was a sweetmaker, but life is sweeter now that I have finally retired. I spend my day wandering around town visiting my friends, spreading my sweetness."



**Kiran, Suva** - "I have been selling here for 24 years. It was my mother's table and I took over when she went overseas. I like it. My husband doesn't work anymore. He's in a wheel chair. This is my business. It supports us."

**Dioni, Talei & Rosi, Natadola**  
"Lying in the shade enjoying the sea breeze on a Sunday afternoon - that's one of God's gifts."







**Asivani, Denarau** -  
"The most important  
qualities for any man are that  
he should be kind and good.  
Just like anyone else."



*Seen in Suva*



**Ashnita, Momi**  
"Selling all my mangoes  
is making me happy."



**Save, Seru and babies**  
**Una, Thurston Gardens, Suva** - "Beauty is not a physical  
thing. It's in a person's character. It's the ability to make  
other people feel warm and happy. It doesn't age or  
fade. It's part of you throughout your life."



**Laura & Antonette** -  
Shining bright like a Pulpy

**At the Suva Market** - If you grew with  
a Fijian *bubu* (grandmother), you too  
may have been subjected periodically  
to herbal tonics such as the bitter  
juice of the *layalaya* root (wild ginger)  
which this *bubu* is selling here.  
My *bubu* swore it could ward off  
anything- even vampires



*Vatukarasa, Nadroga*





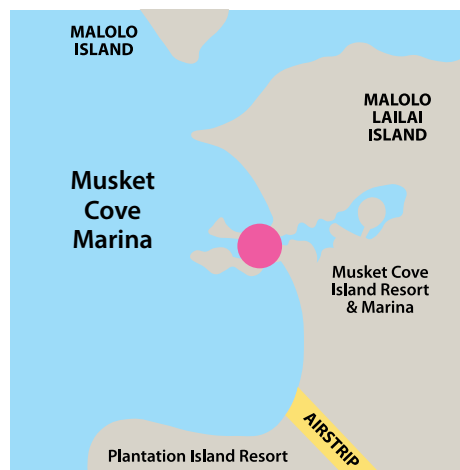


# Musket Cove Marina

17° 4' 27" South | 177° 11' 45" East



Private Mail Bag 0352, Nadi Airport, Fiji  
 T: +679 666 2215 | F: +679 666 2633  
[mccyc@musketcovefiji.com](mailto:mccyc@musketcovefiji.com)  
[www.musketcovefiji.com](http://www.musketcovefiji.com)  
 VHF Channel 64, 68



## Services & Facilities at a Glance



Malolo Lailai was an uninhabited island that was originally sold by a chief of Nadroga – Ratu Kini in 1872, to John Thomson who intended to plant cotton.

The island was eventually sold to an American, Louis Armstrong (not of 'Wonderful World' fame although, had that Louis Armstrong been here, Fiji would have definitely been the inspiration for the song!).

A few owners later, it was eventually sold in the late 60's to three men, Richard Smith, Regge Raffae & Sir Ian MacFarlane who renamed Malolo Lailai







to Leeward Island. The gentlemen decided to individually manage portions of the island. By then an airstrip had been built which ran as a boundary.

Richard (Dick) Smith began building Musket Cove, which was then casually known as 'Dick's Place' and on the 3rd October 1976, Musket Cove Island Resort was born with 400 hundred acres used for an organic farm and the continuation of the coconut plantation to supply the resort.

Today, Musket Cove stands as Fiji's oldest resort company boasting a diverse range of accommodation choices with 55 Bures & Villas, a purpose built day spa, fully licensed bars, restaurants and... a Marina!

## The Marina

The nearest port of entry is Vuda Marina Fiji. However, during the Regatta Week, Customs and Immigration are present at the marina for outward clearance.



Musket Cove provides an ideal gateway to Fiji's spectacular cruising grounds. Marina berths and moorings are available or you can drop anchor in the tranquil bay.

Those who arrive by yacht can become lifelong members of the Musket Cove Yacht Club for a nominal fee. This allows the privilege of using the resort facilities (providing proper conduct) and also offers discount on the ferry service.

**The Musket Cove Yacht Club** is famous for hosting and organizing the annual Fiji Regatta Week and currently has over 16,000 lifetime members.

Docking facilities in the marina are in a dredged basin. Moorings outside of the marina are also available.

There is a dinghy dock and a small number of berths available on the club pontoon, although these need to be booked in advance.

## Safety

A small inner basin is accessible in the event of a cyclone.

## Visitor Attractions

The island boasts many secluded beaches where you can soak up the sun or laze around in the shade and enjoy the peace and tranquility of the island.

There is an extensive choice of water activities as well as a five-star PADI Dive facility, offering courses and a schedule of daily dives. Game fishing, speedboat



island hops, water skiing and wake boarding are also on offer. You are welcome to use the Resorts café and restaurant facilities.

**Dick's Place** opens daily for breakfast, lunch and dinner. You can choose to dine by the pool or under the stars. An extensive wine menu and island string band accompanies the a la carte menu and theme nights. The menu brings together freshly prepared local delicacies. Bookings are recommended.

Linked to the resort by the marina walkway, the **MCYC bar** is a 'sand between the toes' beach bar with a relaxed and casual atmosphere. Local spirits, beer and wines are at yacht club prices. With cook your own BBQ's available. BBQ packs are available for sale from **Trader Café**.

The lagoon side **Marina Coffee Cove** serves pizza, light meals, snacks, freshly baked pastries and juices throughout the day and early evening.

**The Trader Shop** stocks a wide variety of groceries, fresh fruit and vegetables, meats, ice and snack foods.

Indulge in a full range of beauty treatments and massages by internationally trained staff at **Makare Wellness Spa**.

## Getting Around

The marina offers access to an extensive range of ferry, water taxi and cruise operators catering to day trips and Island Resort transfers. ■







## Using Remotely Piloted Aircraft Systems (Drones) in Fiji

*Photo © Skyward Industries*

Remotely Piloted Aircraft Systems or also known as drones are increasing in popularity around the world. Similarly, due to the increasing ease of access to this technology, Fiji has started seeing an increase in the number of drones for private use. Much like any other industry in the world, these machines too must abide by regulations and guidelines in order to maintain general public safety and awareness. After all, these machines are capable of flight and have the potential to pose a significant amount of risk if not operated in a safe

and guided manner. The Civil Aviation Authority of Fiji (CAAF) is actively requesting that all private and commercial owners of any RPAS/drone to get in touch with CAAF authorities prior to operating in Fiji. This activity is a regulated one and appropriate approvals and permissions must be granted. Whether you have arrived in Fiji by air or sea, private or commercial, you must both declare and register these flying robots prior to use in Fijian airspace, even if only for a few minutes of use.

There are slight differences between a RPAS and a Remote

Controlled Aircraft. The RPAS has GPS monitoring capabilities and have the ability to carry and remotely operate a camera. The pure Remote Control aircraft that does not have these capabilities are mostly used for hobby flying and are classed as toys, provided they do not have a range in excess of 50 meters and weigh less than 2 kg. Anything above 2 kg will be classed as a model aircraft and will require permission from CAAF to operate. ■

*For any questions or concerns, contact the Civil Aviation Authority of Fiji on (679) 672 1555, extension 3356.*



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16° 56' 28" South | 177° 22' 10" East

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## Things to See & Do in Nadi



### Zip Line Fiji

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T: 672 6045

### Garden of the Sleeping Giant

Meander through 20 hectares of incredible beauty and experience the serenity of one of the world's largest orchid collections. Sitting at the foothills of the Nausori Highlands, the gardens were started in 1977 by the late actor Raymond Burr, of 'Perry Mason' and 'Ironside' fame. Take a peaceful walk through the garden that is home to a beautiful



array of native flowers, plants and lily ponds. At the end of the walk you will come to a quaint seating area where you can relax and reflect on the spectacular scenery. You may also choose to take a look around Burrs old home, where the nominal entry fee also includes a delicious afternoon tea. Don't forget your camera!

Wailoko Rd, Nadi

### Sri Siva Subramaniya Temple

This unique Hindu temple, the largest in the southern hemisphere, reflects an architectural style rarely seen outside of India. The temple houses sacred statues designed by craftspeople brought over specifically from India. Situated at the far end of Nadi town, the colours and statues around the temple are exquisite. While no tour is available, you can pick up a printed pamphlet detailing the meanings of the paintings, scriptures, and scenes. Just don't forget to cover your shoulders and take your shoes off before you enter!



movingpictures photo



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### **Momi Gun Battery** T: 628 4356

Nestled among the sugar cane fields of Momi lies a now silent gun battery. In 1941, with World War II raging throughout the Pacific, Fiji was vulnerable to Japanese attack, and if captured, would be the perfect staging area for incursions into New Zealand and Australia. Momi was selected as a battery site because it overlooked the Navula Passage, which offered one of the few breaks in the surrounding reef and was the spot where enemy ships could enter to attack Nadi town and the adjoining airfield. Eight cement structures that housed a command post, a fire control room, a rest room, two ammunition storerooms, two gun emplacements, and a range finder were built. In

the two gun emplacements, the battalion installed two six-inch guns and mounted them facing the sea. Today the Momi Battery is in the care of the National Trust of Fiji Islands. It represents a proud period in Fiji's history when so many of its citizens joined the war effort; many sacrificed their lives to keep Fiji safe and free. It is a monument to the memory of these men and women.



### **Navala Village** T: 672 4312

One of the most picturesque villages in Fiji, this one retains the traditional bures (thatched huts supported by center poles) that have been replaced in other villages by prefabricated concrete homes.



Hannibal Poenaru photo

### **Surf Iconic Cloudbreak**

Just off Tavarua Island, **Cloudbreak** is rated one of the top ten waves in the world! Cloudbreak is a 'must surf' wave on most surfers bucket list. Depending on swell direction and power, it can be a long wall with tubing sections, or a very long and critical barrel. Surfable up to 20ft while also fun at 2ft. A S-SW swell (the more West in the swell the more critical the wave) with a NE-SE wind make this great at any tide. Can be deceptively heavy, and over 6ft is for the experienced only! **Restaurants** is also rated one of the top ten waves in the world. It doesn't break a lot, only in a large SW ground swell, but when it does, it is perfection in motion.

### **Life Cinema** T: 672 7888

This brand new complex houses four digital and 3D-enabled screens, with the large 'D-Max' screen powered by Dolby Atmos. VIP experiences include fully reclining seats and a private lounge area to enjoy before your movie commences. Food and drink can be ordered and brought to you throughout.

### **SPA THERAPY**



HensParty Fiji photo

### **Sabeto Hot Springs & Mud Pool**

Wailoko Rd, Nadi

Enjoy an all-natural 'Spa' treatment relaxing in one of nature's treasures. Jump in to the natural pool and cover yourself in mud, glorious mud from the pool bed. If you want to get serious, head to the shallows to wallow and make like a hippo! While the mud dries, you are free to browse through the village stalls. Afterwards you can wade back into the water to wash the mud off leaving your skin feeling soft as a baby's bottom! You can then head down to relax in the mineral pool (naturally heated to around 30°C) where you complete the treatment. If you are hungry for more, you can request a 30 - 60 minute coconut oil massage under the palm trees for a modest fee. Sheer bliss!



Essence of Fiji photo

### **Essence of Fiji Rejuvenation Centre**

T: 672 5280

The new Essence of Fiji rejuvenation center offers a range of therapeutic day spa services using their own locally sourced marine and plant extracts with beneficial and healing properties to revitalize the senses. If you have guests joining you for charter, you may be interested in the Transit Lounge. Here you will find day room facilities, showers, lockers and luggage storage available along with all of the regular services which include a cafe, day spa, massage, hairdresser, kids club, gym, yoga & more...

### **Big Bula Inflatable Water-Park**

There are 15 different rides within the newly opened park on Denarau Island, ranging from a gated area for younger children to the worlds tallest inflatable water ride for the adventurous thrill seeker! Whether you want to ride giant water slides, surf big waves, climb 10 metre high palm trees or race through obstacle courses, there is something for everyone! T: 776 5049

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CRUISING IN THE FIJI GROUP with CAPTAIN CAROL DUNLOP

# CRUISING KADAVU & THE BEQA LAGOON



Brigitte Dewhirst photo

For diving, surfing & adventure  
close to the main island of Viti Levu



## KADAVU

The North Astrolabe lagoon offers close proximity to some excellent diving. Due to its location and topography the water here is consistently one degree lower than the rest of Fiji and the chances are you will likely see large pelagic species, schooling



Namara Island, Kadavu © Carol Dunlop

barracudas, turtles, manta rays, and stunning corals. There is about 25 nm of open water from NE Beqa (Sulphur Pass) before you enter into the lee of the North Astrolabe Kadavu reefs and the entrance into the North Astrolabe lagoon via Usbourne pass.

A sevusevu should be presented to the chiefly village of Dravuni before undertaking any cruising and diving in the area of the North Astrolabe lagoon. There are some beautiful beaches within the Astrolabe mainly at Dravuni, Yaukuve Levu (home of the new Kokomo Yaukuve Island Resort) and Namara (deserted island). There are a few dive resorts further south on the island of Ono and mainland Kadavu. People are friendly and welcoming in the villages. All of these places are off the traditional tourist route.

There are great waterfalls on the southern side of Kadavu island in Kadavu village, (Captains need to take tenders in to the village at half tide rising). Close to Kadavu village is the eco-resort Matava who can spin you to the incredible Manta dive on the south coast near Galoa. Matava is also where you will find an IGFA Captain and weigh-station at Bite Me Game Fishing Charters. The anchorage at



Kadavu village waterfall © Carol Dunlop

19° 02' 55" South | 178° 23' 47 East

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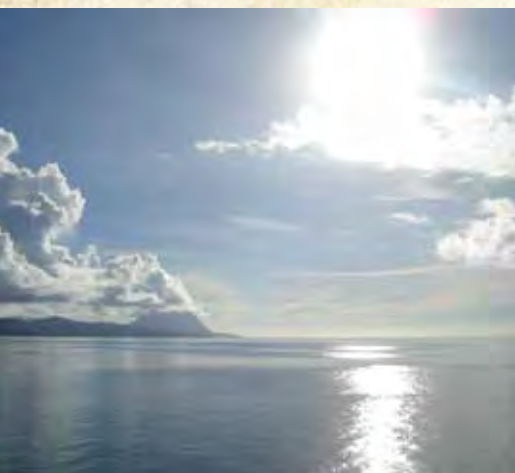
Galoa is really good and is a great place to run to in boisterous conditions.

The Namalata reefs to the north of Vunisea are great to explore with SCUBA but as always, a local guide will guarantee you hit the best spot at the best time to get the best experience. See Dive Kadavu as in my experience they are the best on the northern Namalata reef side.

At the most western end of the island is Cape Washington, which is another location for fantastic diving and surfing. This area, which is about 80nm south of Port Denarau, is a fabulous cruise, particularly for those who are interested in varied diving. Alternatively, a passage between Beqa (Frigate passage) and Cape Washington is about 40nm.

The village at Cape Washington is one of the best at putting on a Meke (traditional Fijian dance). Your sevusevu needs to be made to the village of Nabukalevuira. There was a surf resort 'Naigiagia' on the island just off Cape Washington, however this has now closed but the surfing, snorkeling and diving are wonderful in this location providing the wind is right for the very deep anchorage. SW around to ENE is fine. There is a ledge on the eastern part of the bay where you will find 60-80 feet.

There is the additional option to fly into Vunisea, the main village on the north-western side of mainland Kadavu where you can find a small market, Government stations and a medical centre.



Cape Washington



Beqa Island

## BEQA

Beqa is home to the famous Beqa Fire Walkers, members of the Sawau tribe, who can walk bare foot across blazing hot rocks! A historical encounter with a spirit God by one of their great ancestors saw the exchange of the captured Gods freedom for power over fire. Ask any Beqa island native to regale you with their story and they will be happy to share the history of their people with you.

One of the best anchorages on the NE side of Beqa is Malumu Bay. Here you will find Lalati Resort & Spa. The sapphire waters of the bay offer a safe harbour for yachts and super yachts alike. Here you can grab a nice cold beer from the beach bar, eat gourmet style island cuisine in the chiefly – style open air bure, or sign up for a spa treatment...or two. You can also go for a guided dive with a member of the resorts dive team.

Vaga Bay on the west side of Beqa is great for a more protected night time anchorage if you are visiting the exclusive Royal Davui Resort on Stewart Island.

Permission should be obtained from the island's managers before making any arrangements to visit the resort. Bookings can be made for a private dinner ashore and maybe a meke with the famous firewalkers can be organized. This would have to be booked well in advance so that the staff can prepare.

The surf at Frigates Passage is extremely good and considered one of the best surf breaks in Fiji while fishing in the Beqa channel is renowned for hooking yellow fin tuna, wahoo and walu. There is some good diving (and surf) by Black Rock at Frigate Pass, SW Beqa. If you are on your way to Kadavu, Malumu Bay close to the pass offers anchorage for early departure to Kadavu.



Entrance to the Qaranagio River at The Pearl Resort

To the North of Yanuca Island are several SOFT coral dives. There is a small surf resort with a nice beach on the SW side of Yanuca which is operated by Yanuca Island Village. They may ask you for a sevusevu. The village has been known to put on spectacular fire-walking and entertainment on the beach for large private yachts.

From Beqa, access to Pacific Harbour is easy with anchorage outside The Pearl South Pacific Resort, and also in the mouth of the Qaranagio River for very much smaller cruising yachts.

## PACIFIC HARBOUR

This is an area not to be missed with action packed shark dives and all day river rafting in the Navua highlands. The area is the base for popular shark dive operators. Large vessels can anchor outside the breakwater and tender in to the new marina tucked inside the river. There is the option of two renowned shark dive companies, Aqua-Trek and Beqa Adventure Divers.

Aqua-Trek's founder Brandon Paige is known as the pioneer of the Fiji shark dive. In 1999 he created a dive with the intent to educate divers and aid in the



Sam Cahir 2010

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## CRUISING IN THE FIJI GROUP with CAPTAIN CAROL DUNLOP



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conservation of sharks. Little did he know he was creating what is now known as the worlds #1 shark dive.

This is a 2-tank dive which is usually booked out so you may have to book well in advance. It can be an exclusive dive with early pre-booking or just book into a group. Reporting time at Aqua-Trek is at 0800 and the dive boat departs between 0830 and 0845.

An afternoon dive is possible if you have a minimum of 4 people for the booking.

Another exciting excursion to consider in Pacific Harbour is the Jetski Safari Tour. They are located on the beachfront next to The Pearl South Pacific and Fiji Palms. Their safari's generally run for about 4 hours and take you on a 65 km tour through the Beqa Lagoon and around Beqa Island.

Alternatively treat yourself to a spa at the Pearl Resort or visit the cultural centre to take in some Fijian dancing and enquire about their fire-walking shows.

Rivers Fiji Rafting & Kayak Trip - Adventure into the heartland of Fiji on an all day trip into the highlands with rapids and waterfalls. This is an extremely well run organization and if you have the time definitely worth doing.

They offer both river and sea kayaking trips (for novice to medium level kayakers) as well as whitewater kayaking and rafting. This is a great cultural day out as it involves a traditional village visit and sevusevu. ■

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# Bikini Bottom Dive Shop

## Fiji's new premier sales & service centre for dive gear

What does Bikini Bottom Dive Shop and every great super hero have in common? A terrific and unlikely story of origin. Bikini Bottom starts in July of 1946 when Uncle Sam began nuclear testing on a tiny and almost unheard of place in the South Pacific named Bikini Atoll. This testing inspired the name of a new style of women's swim suit, created a great wreck dive site, was blamed for the creation of Godzilla, and may have had something to do with an animal of the *phylum porifera* who wears geometrically symmetrical pants and resides in a submerged *ananas comosus*. But mostly, it's a fun sounding name for a dive shop.

Billy Longo, a retired State Trooper started diving at the YMCA in 1974. Katie received her SSI certification in 2005. In 2006 they travelled to Fiji for the first time and spent a spectacular week diving from the Beqa Lagoon Resort. The allure of the exotic Fiji Islands combined with the hospitality of the Fijians made moving to Fiji in 2009 an irresistible choice. (Also, rumor had it that white guys weren't being thrown into the lovo anymore. Bonus!). Why would anyone want to go anywhere else? They were Fijified.

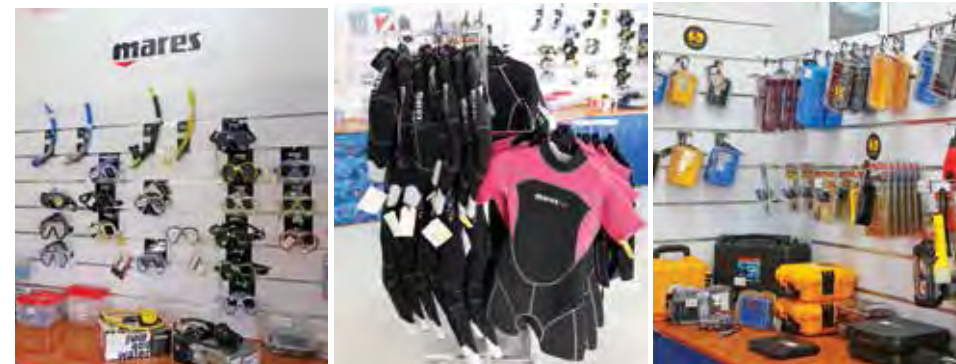


Katie &amp; Billy Longo

One lazy afternoon, during a discussion over a bilo or two of grog, someone mused "Wouldn't it be great if there was a dive shop in Pacific Harbour where we could buy name brand equipment at reasonable prices and have it serviced by certified technicians?" As there was none at the time, it seemed like a brilliant suggestion. So, from that kava fueled

idea was born The Bikini Bottom Dive Shop (Bibods). Also, the phrase "We mix again?" was coined, but that's another story.

Bibods retail store, is now located at Shop 17 of the Arts Village in Pacific Harbour and is considerably larger than the former Longos Dive Shop. This provides space for a wider selection of items to be displayed and a swanky new fitting room. No more trying on a wetsuit in the same room as someone else who is engaged in another activity unrelated to purchasing a wetsuit. Leisurely browse through items for sale from 3 ring binders to zipper sticks and everything in between. Well, almost everything. Do you need something that's not in stock? *Sega na lega!* (No worries!). All items can be special ordered. Leaving before the item will arrive? Bibods will







ship it to you almost anywhere you are going (sorry North Korea). Visa and MasterCard are accepted as well as some foreign currencies (again, sorry North Korea).

As authorized dealers for Aqua Lung, Atomic Aquatics, Bare, Bauer, Cyalume, Loksak, Mares, McNett, Oceanic, OMS, Pelican, Polar Pro, Sherwood, Spyderco, Surface Marker, Suunto, Trident, XS Scuba, Zeagle and more, Bikini Bottom offers the full manufacturers' warranty on all items purchased. Not an abridged Fiji Only Warranty or a grey market - internet no-warranty-at-all, but the Real Deal!

Bikini Bottom Service Lab is where life support equipment services are conducted by certified technicians. From tune ups to overhauls, all procedures are conducted to manufacturer's specifications using OEM parts and specialized, calibrated tools. Cylinder inspections and re-qualifications are done utilizing computerized pit measurement tools, digital cameras and Eddy Currant testing equipment. An ultrasonic cleaner is



used to clean parts using only food grade solvents. Partial pressure gas blending is available as is aluminum oxygen cylinder refills.

Deco, The Dive Shop Dog, reminds you that you are cordially invited to participate in one of the Saturday afternoon Safety Meetings held at the shop. Good times, good deals and good grog. That's Fiji Style. Bula! ■



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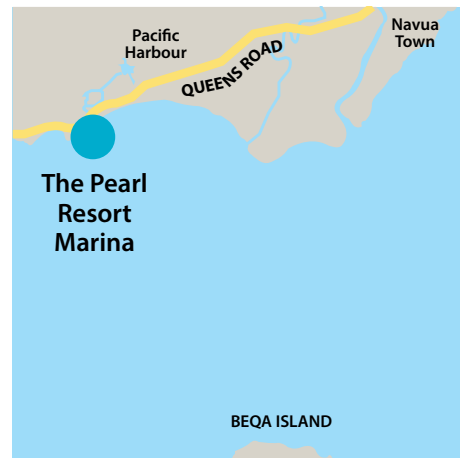
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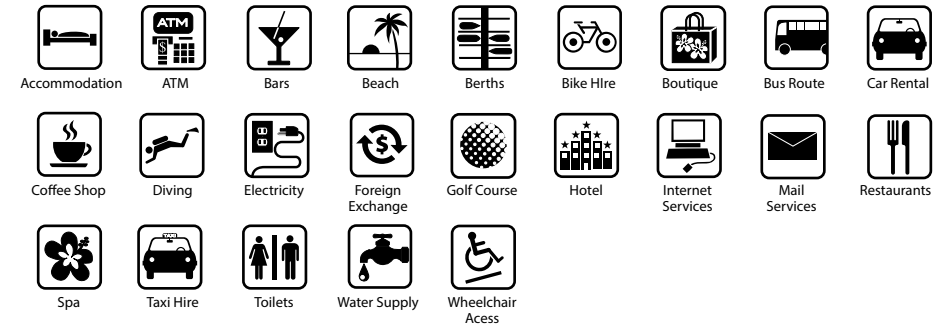
# The Pearl Resort Marina

18° 15' 229" South | 178° 04' 023" East



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## Services & Facilities at a Glance



**P**acific Harbour lies along the south coast of Viti Levu, opposite Beqa Island. At the mouth of the lazy Qaranaqio River, you will find the brand-new boutique Marina at the elegant Pearl Resort.

Designed by Australian-based Marina International, designer of Singapore's Keppel Bay Marina and Dubai's 3 km, 800 berth Marina, the new \$7m Marina is a welcome addition to Fiji's coastline. It is not only a luxurious haven for visiting yachts, it also provides access to the abundance of water based activities in and around the world-renowned Beqa Lagoon.

The Pearl Resort has a stellar reputation and is popular with tourists, yachties and locals alike, offering the perfect location for a spot of land loving luxury between the bustling cities of Nadi and Suva.

## Facts & Figures

The Marina is a restricted access area. Here, at 4m draft, you will find a total of 12 berths offering single-phase electricity.

## Safety

The river mouth is fairly well protected but is not a cyclone haven and must be evacuated in the event of a cyclone.

## Facilities

The Pearl offers a range of chic accommodation options from penthouse suites to garden view rooms - perfect if you have friends or family coming to visit, or guests joining you onboard. Just ask about some of the great packages on offer, including 3, 5 and 7 night specials.







You'll find 6 fully licensed restaurants and bars on site and a state of the art waterside spa – the perfect, secluded retreat for anyone in need of a little pampering after a long voyage!

## Provisioning

In the heart of Pacific Harbour (and within walking distance of The Pearl Resort) you can take a leisurely stroll around the Arts Village - a convenient place to pick up the essentials. Here, you will find a well-

stocked supermarket, bottle-shop, Post Office, bank, money exchange, doctor's clinic, dive shop (hydrostatic tank testing available) and a selection of clothing and souvenir outlets, bars and restaurants.

## Attractions

Pacific Harbour is known as the 'Adventure Capital of Fiji'. Here you can do almost anything from diving with big bull and tiger sharks (without a cage!) to zipping through the tropical rainforest canopy. You



can whitewater raft through spectacular canyons, jet ski out to deserted islands to picnic, freedive and spearfish, drive off-road buggies into the highlands to swim in the cool thundering waterfalls, surf the world famous Frigates or play a round on the Pearl Resorts 18 hole Championship Golf Course!

## Getting Around

Most of the shops and activities in Pacific Harbour are within walking distance however, should you wish to venture further afield, you'll find an convenient onsite car rental in addition to the numerous taxis and buses passing through en route to Suva, Nadi and the nearby township of Navua.







Grasskirt Photography

## There is nothing that captures the essence of Fijian culture better than the 'sevusevu'. by Manoa Rasigatale

It is the central component of all life-cycle rituals, social gatherings, healing ceremonies and community meetings. Significant and ancient in Fiji, the "sevusevu" also marks the time and place for visitors (you) to seek acceptance into a Fijian village.

A half kilo bundle of **Waka** is the appropriate (and required – you should never show up in a village without it!) offering, and this should cost you in the region of FJ\$25.

When you arrive at a village, you should ask for the '**Turaga ni Koro**' (pronounced too-ranga

nee koro) who is the appointed village headman. It is his duty to greet you and ascertain your intentions before presenting you and your gift to his chiefs and village elder.

Everyone participating in the ceremony should be dressed accordingly in a **Sulu**. Women are also expected to have their shoulders covered and everything should be removed from your head (for example, hat, sunglasses).

A small chant performed by the Turaga ni Koro at the door step of either a house or village hall signals your presence and intention to the people waiting inside. A reciprocal chant from those inside invites you to enter.

You will be shown where to sit on the woven mat (remember to remove your shoes). Men should sit cross-legged (ensuring

the sulu covers the knees) while women sit with knees and feet together, resting on the floor to whichever side is most comfortable. Silence at this point is the key.

The Turaga ni Koro will approach the Chief on his knees to place your bundle of yaqona in front of him, staying low as he does so.

He will **cobo** three times, which in Fijian culture means, "I am about to speak, thank you for listening while I do".

It is inappropriate to take photographs or video footage throughout the ceremony (the Turaga ni Koro will usually indicate the appropriate time for you to start snapping once all the formalities are out the way).

He will then begin reciting the traditional monologue, which differs slightly throughout Fiji, but essentially means the same thing. This will end with a chant, coupled with three more cobos that indicate they have completed their introduction.

The Chiefs 'herald' – or second in command, will officially accept the yaqona on behalf of the chief with three cobos to announce the beginning and end of his speech.

In a formal yaqona ceremony, authority is given by the village spokesman to begin mixing the yaqona. In a ceremonial setting, every movement involving the mixing is significant.

*In more formal settings, you will witness the complete performance where each male from the village has a specific role to play. Traditional attire is worn with pride, collected rain water is poured from bamboo shafts, pounded kava is strained through hibiscus bark and each bilo is delivered deliberately and seriously in absolute silence (aside from the sound of deep 'Cobo' claps in acceptance and thanks of each 'bilo').*



In the old days, the dried roots were cut into small pieces and chewed to soften them, before being added to the tanoa with water.

These days fortunately, chewing has become unnecessary, with the pieces now pounded to a fine powder form before being mixed with water and filtered through a silk cloth, or for more formal situations, through hibiscus fibres.

The man in charge of preparing the kava will cobo and recite the words 'I will respectfully mix the yaqona for the Chieftain', in local dialect.

When the yaqona has been prepared, and the consistency approved by the chief's spokesman, the 'mixer' puts his hands together and circles the **Tanoa** with his hands, saying "With respect to the chiefs, yaqona is ready to drink". Then he cups his hands, cobo three times and begins to serve the yaqona in a **Bilo**.

This will be carefully taken to the chief in his own, personal bilo. The chief will receive your offering by cupping his hands and clapping with a deep, dignified sound. As he is drinking everyone will clap in slow time, and when he is finished the herald will exclaim "Maca" (which means 'empty') and everybody present should cobo three times.

The same will be repeated for the herald, but all will cobo only twice when he is finished. For a time this process will be



Heidi Williams photo



repeated until the tanoa is empty, at which point the mixer announces "the bowl is empty my chief", and everyone cobos. The mixer then runs both hands around the bowl and cobos three times which terminates the formal part of the ceremony.

A second tanoa is then prepared from which everyone will drink. A server will carry a bilo to the chief guest (you), who must cobo once before and three times after completely drinking the first cup. The order of serving depends on the status of those present, from the highest-ranking, down (sorry ladies, but women will usually go last in this patriarchal society!).

After the first 'round' is complete and everyone has drunk, the ceremony relaxes and the drinking session will continue along with the telling of many stories. You are likely to be asked to introduce yourself and talanoa about your travels.

Remember that this is just a guide, and that kava ceremonies can vary from one village to the next, with each maintaining their own unique features of an age old tradition.

There is another world of social 'grog' drinking among younger people or in more urbanized areas. These sessions will usually see you drinking yaqona out of a brightly coloured plastic tea cup, from a laundry bucket! But... we won't go into that as we

figure, if you have been invited to one of those, you can handle yourself!



*Left & below: More commonly, you will be met with a group of smiling friends who still retain much tradition but with a more relaxed approach. A sulu is tied casually around the days outfit of shorts and t-shirt, kava is strained through a cloth and water is poured into the mix from a bucket!*



*A cupped-clap - Cobo*

#### KEYWORDS

- Kava** (*Piper methysticum*) Latin for 'intoxicating pepper' is a crop of the western Pacific, the roots of which are used to produce a drink with mild sedative and anesthetic properties.
- Yaqona** (yang gona) is the name for kava in Fiji. In your travels, you may have heard it referred to as 'awa (Hawai'i), ava (Samoa), and sakau (Pohnpei).
- Waka** comes from the lower part of the plant and the kava is up higher. Waka is more potent than kava, and is also a little bit darker in colour.
- Tanoa** a traditional hand crafted from a single slab of wood (usually vesi – an indigenous hardwood) bowl in which yaqona is prepared and shared from during the ceremony.
- Bilo** a drinking bowl that is made from the half-shell of a coconut. These are highly polished and sleek. Chiefs generally have their own cups from which no one else is allowed to drink. Everyone else drinks from a common cup. Some say this cements communal bonds.
- Sulu** similar to a sarong, is a wrap around (wrapped around the waist so you are covered from waist to ankle) piece of rectangular material elaborately decorated with patterns and designs of various styles. Usually reserved for more casual and informal occasions, you should have one to hand to wrap over your shorts for such events.
- Cobo** (thombo) – literally means 'clap!' But we are not talking a cricket match polite kind of clap, we are talking about a loud, deep and deliberate cupped hand clap.
- Talanoa** The exchange of stories, discussions etc.

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Sitiveni Yaqona hails from the island of Lakeba in the Lau Group of Islands and has spent most of his life in Suva. He joined the Civil Service in 1959 and was appointed the first iTaukei to head the Government's Public Relations Office. Sitiveni left the Civil service in 1975 to join the Fiji Visitors Bureau and in 1980 was offered an executive position in Fiji's domestic carrier Air Fiji becoming its General Manager in 1985. Five years later he was appointed to FVB as head

of marketing Fiji the US and Canada. Sitiveni was Regional Director, the Americas based in Los Angeles until his recall to Fiji in 1996 to head the Fiji Visitors Bureau. He remained in that position until his retirement in 2002.

# Bones & Balolo

Fiji is better known to visitors by the generosity of its people, its relatively pristine environment and its rich, cultural diversity. Little is known about its past and in particular, the legends, myths and folklores which abound in these islands. For me personally, it took a visit by David Attenborough over 50 years ago to enable me to see a few of these intriguing places and events mostly in Lau and one island in the Lomaiviti Group. David came to Fiji in 1959 to film the BBC series "People of Paradise" which would later launch and propel

him into national and global fame as a renowned naturalist. Our team consisted of David, cameraman-Geoff Mulligan and a cousin of mine, Manu Tupoutaunaolo, a radio broadcaster and in later years to star in that epic "Hawaii", A Man Called Horse, Hawaii Five O and many other smaller films. Our floating home for six weeks of the journey was the sailing vessel Maroro formerly used in Tongan waters and brought to Fiji for local charters by Captain Stan Brown former commander of the Fiji Naval Reserve and local naval historian and who accompanied us on this trip.

BBC Photo



The islands of Vanuabalavu in Lau was the first of our destination to find a cave believed to contain the remains of the first inhabitants of the island. The site was a cave a short distance away from Sawana Village, where the Tongan noble, Enele Ma'afu quartered his warriors and made forays to conquer the Lau group and parts of the Northern area in Vanua Levu.

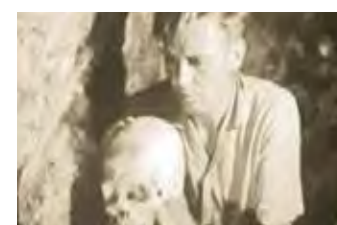
The cave appeared to be a fissure in the limestone rock formation close to the sea, narrow at the entrance and which widened as we progressed into it. Dark at first but as we moved into the small cave, an opening overhead cast a dull ray of sunlight onto the floor which was littered with the skeletal remains of the island's former inhabitants. In the gloom, I could only recall seeing two skulls lying on the floor one of which Manu picked up to take back to the Fiji Museum. The guide assigned to take us to the site asked Manu not to replace the skull or "something might happen to one of you". Undaunted, Manu picked up a thigh bone to add to his collection!

I did not have any explanation for David when he asked how and why remains happened to there. Our guide recalled that the remains were people who had contracted a disease described by the elders as "lila balavu", translated literally to mean "long and thin", and who were taken to the cave to await death as was the practice amongst the iTaukei people in the olden days.

We returned to Sawana village to spend the night and whilst supping kava that evening, one of the elders of the village, Simione advised that the remains removed from the cave should be taken back to its proper resting place where it belonged.

On the afternoon of the following day we set sail for the nearby island of Munia, whereby the owner invited us all to dinner. On the menu that evening was fried balolo cakes in batter. Later that night, Geoff complained of body pains and itching on his upper body. Rather than sail on to Kabara, one of the southernmost island in Lau, Capt. Brown suggested we return to Sawana to have Geoff checked out by the local doctor. It was fortuitous we did, because by noon of the following day Geoff's entire body and face was covered with painful welts and his breathing labored. The doctor, unable to diagnose what was wrong, contacted, Capt. O'Malley, owner of Nabavatu Estate, at the northern tip of the island for a quantity of penicillin which may alleviate the malady. One of my grand uncles Sekona suggested that as added insurance, a special kava be prepared and drunk to appease the spirits of our ancestors. This duly done, we then awaited the arrival of the penicillin which arrived before nightfall and administered to Geoff. By the following morning, Geoff's condition had improved considerably. There was much speculation in the village whether it was the efficacy of the penicillin or the kava that cured Geoff of his illness!

Stills from a BBC Production of "A Journey through the South Seas" by David Attenborough







Stills from a BBC Production of "A Journey through the South Seas" by David Attenborough

## Ulivi Ni Drano - Stirring Lake Masomo

Lake Masomo sits on top of a hill and not too far from the Nabavatu Estate now owned by local entrepreneur and yachtman, Tony Philip (snr). Legend has it that the lake was formed because of a spat between a local chief and a Tongan princess who was "flying" over the island carrying water, fish and mud in a basket fashioned out of "qai" leaves. The chief on being refused a share of what she was carrying, broke off a branch of a nearby qai tree and hurled it skywards which missed the princess but broke open the contents of the package and fell on the top of the hill forming Lake Masomo.

We arrived shortly before noon at the edge of the lake where yaqona was presented before this unique fish harvest began. Only one cardinal tabu had to be observed. No one was allowed to wear clothing of any kind except a skirt made of "qai" leaves. There must have been close to a hundred of us, men and women and we started swimming in groups of three or more people to "stir" the water and the decomposed leaves and debris which littered the shallow shore of the small lake. Short logs were cut and used as floaters to assist us swimming around in the water. As we swam, a smell akin to rotten eggs permeated the lake. Nothing much happened until just before dawn, the darkest time of the night. Fish started to leap out of the water all over the lake. Several large ones brushed up against my legs and thighs, a decidedly uncomfortable predicament to be in with no underwear for protection! It was time to head for dry land. Some 22 hours had passed when the first group of villagers got into the lake. The sun was high over the hill when the village priest came to the edge of the lake and again prepared kava to be served to the head of the village. It was time for the fish harvest. Almost immediately after there were shouts from men and women swimming at the far end of the lake to indicate that fish "had risen". Out of nowhere rose a shining, silvery, writhing carpet of fish seemingly trying to reach dry land. Using spears, nets and even bare hands, the villagers caught and landed several hundred "yawa", a fish known only to live in the sea and not in freshwater! Then, just as suddenly as they came, the "yawa" disappeared into Lake Masomo.

## The Burial Cave in Lakeba

We left Vanuabalavu two days later and sailed to Lakeba to find a burial cave some distance away from the village of Tubou where I was born. Assisted by a local guide, we found the mouth of the cave not too far from the road but some distance from the beach. It was wide and low to the ground forcing us to crouch as we entered. The light through this narrow entrance disappeared totally as we went deeper into the cave. The light of the torches we carried was swallowed up by the dull, brown wall of the cave which widened and by the ceiling that grew higher. Occasionally I would

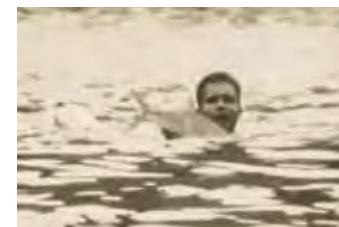
notice what appeared to me to be white or greyish striations or markings on the floor close to the wall of the cave away from the path taken by the many people who had walked this way in the past. On closer observation, it turned out that the markings were in fact the skeletal outline of some of our people who died here many years ago. Unlike the remains we saw in the cave at Vanuabalavu, the resting place of these "Lakebans" was selected with care and respect. They were also undisturbed by more recent visitors to this historic site. It took us about half an hour to reach what turned out to be the actual entrance of the cave which was large and opened out to an inviting beach.

Near to and immediately inside the entrance were several huge remains of "lovos" or earthen ovens stacked high on all sides with seashells, no doubt the remains of countless meals eaten eons ago.

We retraced our steps back to where we entered the cave and were half way there when I noticed to my right and beside a boulder, a skeletal outline which I had missed on the way in. I stopped and it was clear that this individual had been carefully and deliberately laid with his head near a small, flat limestone outcrop on which sat the most exquisite bone axe I had ever seen. It was about three and a half inches long, narrow at one end but widened at the other tapering to the "shaving" edge. The remains must surely have been of an individual known and remembered for his skill as an artisan.

## The Calling of Tui Nacamaki

We sailed to the Island of Koro and anchored off the village of Nacamaki early in the morning. Following traditional protocol and paying our respects to the head of the village we then trekked for about half an hour to a 100 foot cliff where the ancient chant to call Tui (King) of Nacamaki from the depths of the sea. Now it's one thing extolling the iTaukei's ability to be one with nature (the primary reason why David chose Fiji to be featured in his "paradise" series) but I was more than a little skeptical about the outcome of coaxing this animal to make an appearance with a chant! The villager who was selected for the chant and decked out in traditional costume stood a short distance from the edge of the cliff and began his chant. He completed the chant for the first time and was half way through the 2nd when, from the depths of the greenish blue sea, about 100 yards from the base of the cliff, this single turtle with its flippers slowly rotating rose to the surface. It appeared to be the size of a six penny coin used in the 50s which had the Queen on one side and a turtle on the other. I was speechless. We had been warned not to point at the turtle when it surfaced because it would immediately dive out of sight. Geoff who had his eyes glued to the camera could not locate this small object floating



Stills from a BBC Production of "A Journey through the South Seas" by David Attenborough



just above water and we had to desperately point out its location. The turtle immediately dived. Would it come up again if the chant was repeated? The chant started again and before it was completed, the animal made another appearance! Geoff made another desperate attempt to locate Tui Nacamaki without success. In a last effort to film this phenomenon, I suggested that Geoff and I should go down to the base of the cliff where a large boulder sat and from that location be in a better position to film the turtle as it surfaced. It took us about half an hour to get to the boulder and Geoff to setup his camera. I then signaled David for the chanting to begin and probably some 30 seconds later, a white shark emerged from the sea to the right of the boulder, moved silently across our front, turned back from where it came and swiftly disappeared into the sea. Geoff was too preoccupied to capture the turtle in his viewfinder and oblivious to my call to film the shark's arrival.

It wasn't until we had climbed back to the top of the cliff to be told by the villagers that the boulder on which we stopped happened to be the traditional home of Tui Nacamaki and his appearance is normally presaged by the arrival of a companion shark! ■



1st January 1960

My dear Grog,

Geoff and I are now back and I must say neither of us can think why we ever left Fiji. We had such an enjoyable time and to my dying day I shall regret that we never had our taralala at Koro. I don't know whether you noticed but I threw my lei into the stern because in some parts anyway it means that you make sure that you will come back. I wish I could be certain of returning to Fiji some time, but the purpose of this letter is to thank you very much indeed for all you did for us. With your help both as interpreter, companion and supervisor-in-chief of the moral fibre we enjoyed ourselves enormously. Whether or not we got any film that was worth while having is almost neither here nor there and at this stage I find it very hard to form any idea at all of what the finished films will be like. I have to start on the work of putting them together at the beginning of next week.

Once again very many thanks to you both from Geoff and from me. We will never forget the time we spent with you. If you come to England you must, of course, write and let me know so that we can organise a little drinking session (though not unfortunately kava) to welcome you and so that we will have a chance of explaining to you the extraordinary customs and tabus of England and pointing out when everybody guffaws with laughter that all they are laughing at is an old English joke.

Thank you again.

Yours as ever,



# Recycling in Fiji

"The sea, the great unifier, is man's only hope. Now, as never before, the old phrase has a literal meaning: we are all in the same boat."

*Jacques Yves Cousteau, Oceanographer*

## How to recycle in Fiji

Please support our recycling programs!

You will find recycling bins at Vuda Marina, Port Denarau Marina, and the Copra Shed Marina in Savusavu which facilitate the segregation of waste and recyclables such as used batteries, glass, plastic, kitchen waste and paper and cardboard. Those items which cannot be recycled in Fiji are shipped overseas for processing by Waste Recyclers Fiji.

At Vuda Marina, Port Denarau and the Royal Suva Yacht Club you will also find waste oil collection containers in which you can pour any used engine oil. This is collected by Fletcher Steel and used in their foundry, preventing the oil from seeping into the groundwater from a landfill.

Waste Recyclers (Fiji) Ltd are willing to accept recyclables directly from you, our visiting yachtsmen and women, at their offices in Suva (Lot 26 Wailada Industrial Estate, Lami) or Lautoka (Bouwalu Street). They will accept: clean crushed aluminium cans, clean crushed tin cans, washed PET bottles, newspapers and cardboard. Call Amitesh on 992 1067 for more information.

## What to do with all the plastic?

There's a lot going on behind the scenes in Fiji to try and reduce the amount of plastics dumped on our beaches, in our rivers, and sent to our landfills.

Did you know you can convert waste plastic into crude oil? Ocean Ambassadors have been travelling around Fiji, running educational programmes about the problems posed by plastic waste and demonstrating an interesting new machine which can turn plastic waste into fuel.

It uses a process called 'gasification', a form of chemical recycling. The plastics are heated to 420 degrees in a low oxygen environment. This allows the plastic to break down into gas which is then converted into an oil. Unfortunately you can't use PET in this machine, but pretty much any other type of plastic you find on the beach including plastic bags, cutlery, food wrappings, bottles or packaging can be recycled.

If you would like to get involved and help the Ocean Ambassadors with their fight on marine debris in Fiji, go to:

<http://oceanambassadors.org/fast-track-fiji>



## Garbage Disposal Regulations for Yachts

International regulations are contained in Annex V of the IMO International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships (MARPOL 73/78).

Recent amendments (Jan 2013) set new, more stringent, requirements which apply to all ships, including cruising yachts.

If your boat is flagged under a country that is a signatory to MARPOL, it is subject to MARPOL requirements regardless of where it sails.

The new Maritime Transport Decree 2013 (MTD 2013) and its subsidiary Fiji Marine (Pollution Prevention and Management) Regulations 2014 is designed to enable Fiji to align its regulations with MARPOL.

According to MARPOL (for the Pacific), & the MTD 2013 and the Fiji Marine Regulations, only food waste can be discharged into the ocean (according to strict guidelines). Disposal of ALL other waste is prohibited, and must be retained on board to be discharged to shore reception facilities.

Food waste disposal rules: food waste which has been ground to a particle size of 25mm or less, must be discharged at least 3 nautical miles from the nearest land. If it is not ground, discharge is only permitted at least 12 miles from the nearest land.

There are additional regulations relevant to larger vessels.

## ON COURSE FOR CLEANER SEAS

The Maritime Safety Authority of Fiji (MSAF) is the Commercial Statutory Authority, that acts as a regulator, responsible for Fiji's maritime safety; protection of the marine environment and regulation of search and rescue, and hydrographical services.

MSAF has been busy implementing major reforms after a transition from a government department to a commercial statutory authority. Through close working relationships with a wide range of stakeholders and interest groups, MSAF is raising the profile of safety at sea and marine environment protection obligations to ensure safe vessels and clean seas.

They are committed to ensuring a rapid response to mitigate oil spills, reliable aids to navigation and compliant international and domestic ports.

### OBJECTIVES

- Regulate the operations of Fiji's international port
- Ensure the provision of an array of effective, efficient and reliable aids to navigation
- Provision of an oil spill response team with tier 2 level capability
- Coordinate and assist in marine emergencies
- Protection of the marine environment

### AIDS TO NAVIGATION

As per article 116 of the Maritime Transport Decree, the Authority is responsible for the management of all aids to navigation on or near the coasts of Fiji and the adjacent seas and islands.

As such, if you wish to report any damage to or missing Aids to Navigation, or shortcomings in navigational Charts and publications please contact MSAF's Captain Philip Hill ([phill@msaf.com.fj](mailto:phill@msaf.com.fj)) and/or Sunil Kumar ([skumar@msaf.com.fj](mailto:skumar@msaf.com.fj))

### OIL SPILLS

For emergency oil spill response you should call:



**Captain Philip Hill**

T: 331 5266 | M: 990 6331 | F: 330 3251

# Our playground



Photo © Tor Johnson

You can pick up a copy of 'Fiji's Clean Boating Programme' from any marina in Fiji. The programme is part of an international environmental initiative through which many marine related businesses and recreational boaters aim to improve their environmental performance.

As boat owners, we all want to enjoy healthy, safe and pristine waters. The Clean Boating component provides educational materials to help us all play our part. The booklet has been designed to give tips to ensure our boating is clean and our seas remain alive and healthy.

The booklet contains information and a great list of tips to help us make a difference. Information on the spreading of marine pests, keeping hitchhiking pests off your boat, waste management, fish waste management, sewage management, refueling, grey water, bilge water, grid and beach use, storm event preparations and even alternatives to traditional cleaning products that are less harmful to the environment!

You too can be an active steward of our marine environment by implementing these simple practices.

For more information on Fiji's Clean Boating Programme, factsheets and links to other useful material, visit: [www.cleanboating.org.nz](http://www.cleanboating.org.nz)





# Towage Safety & Support at Sea



- Harbour Towage
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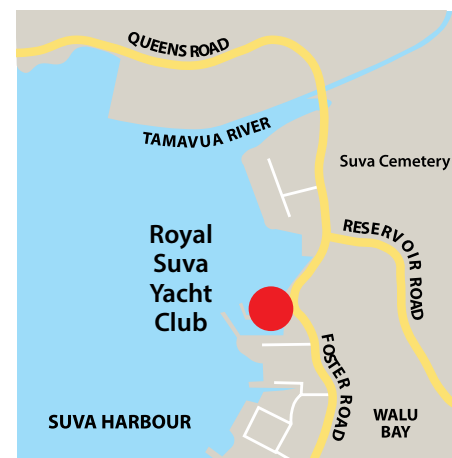
[www.southseatowage.com.fj](http://www.southseatowage.com.fj)

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Phone: +679 3312 488 | +679 9997 521 | +679 9994 141 | +679 9997 522 | Fax: +679 3301 762

**LAUTOKA OFFICE:** Phone: +679 9446 012 | Fax: +679 6283 450



## Royal Suva Yacht Club



PO Box 335, Club House, Korovou, Suva, Fiji.  
T: +679 331 2921 | F: +679 330 4433  
VHF Channel 16  
[www.rsyc.org.fj](http://www.rsyc.org.fj) | [rsyc@kidanet.net.fj](mailto:rsyc@kidanet.net.fj)

18°07.04 South | 178°25.80 East





## Welcome to the Capital!

Suva Harbour is well protected by a fringing reef about 1.5 miles offshore. The opening is well marked and wide enough to enter with plenty of room for commercial ships. However, the reefs lining the coast and the main entrance are dotted with shipwrecks. Anchorage in the Suva Harbour is shared by fishing boats, freighters, yachts, and cruise liners. If you prefer to use a marina facility, the Royal Suva Yacht Club is the place to go.



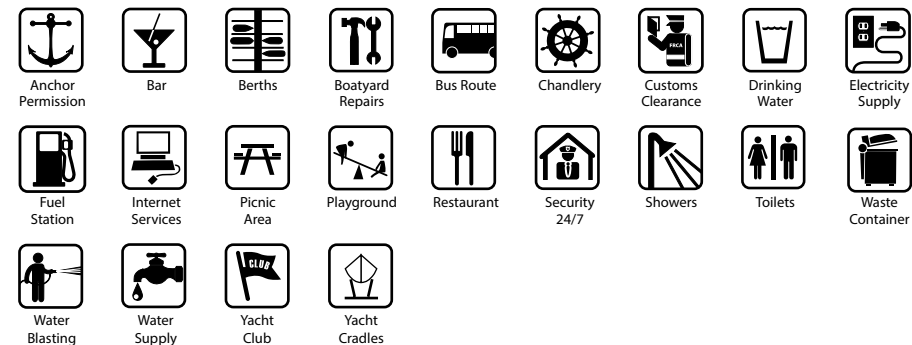
## The Royal Suva Yacht Club

If you intend to use the facilities of the Royal Suva Yacht Club, you will need to register and become a temporary member. The rich history of the club can be found dotted around the clubhouse with trophies, photos and mementos on display.

## Facts & Figures

There are several mooring facilities and a trailer park available to accommodate members, visitors and commercially owned yachts/

## Services & Facilities at a Glance



boats; Trot and Plastic Pontoon moorings are generally leased out to members who own private vessels and are available on a first come, first served basis.

Concrete moorings are an extension to the plastic pontoon and are able to cater for bigger boats or visiting yachts. The

concrete moorings are to facilitate visiting Yachtsmen and small Commercial Yachts/vessels.

The Dinghy Docks are to temporarily facilitate members and offshore yachts, tenders and dinghies for embarkation and loading purposes.

The trailer park area is facilitated

as a hardstand for boats on trailers, which are leased out to members who prefer the trailer park to a mooring site.

## Services

The club has bathrooms with hot water, and a next day laundry service. There's also a restaurant,

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*Above: Bay of Islands, Lami - hurricane refuge*

a great kid's playground and wireless internet access that may cover as far as some of the offshore moorings.

The RSYC slipway caters for the smaller vessels up to 20 tons on the first cradle with arms that extend according to the needs of the vessel.

The second cradle caters for vessels up to 10 tons but do not have the arms to support the vessel. If you have your

own provisions for a trailer, arrangements for haul out are at your discretion. A crane that caters up to 4 tons is available for hire.

A loading & fuelling Dock is located in front of the TOTAL Bowser and accommodates fuelling for all registered and visiting sailing vessels to the club, loading and off loading of registered private sailing vessels only.

## Safety

Every boat has to have its name clearly displayed so it is easy to identify in times of emergency. There is 24-hour security on site.

## Provisioning

Suva City is only a short distance by taxi. Here you will find supermarkets, hardware stores and a bustling market where you will find a wide variety of fresh fruit and vegetables. You'll also find post offices, banks, doctors, pharmacies and clothing stores galore!

## Attractions

The Galley Restaurant is attached to the main clubhouse and offers seriously good casual or fine dining. The Club's Bar Complex is exclusively for members and their guests, registered guests to the club and reciprocal



members. The bar offers snacks, (which can also be purchased from the restaurant), light music and television (including Sky TV for sports enthusiasts). The lounge area offers a more relaxed atmosphere away from the bar and provides television (inclusive of Sky TV) and a DVD Deck for movie lovers.

The new Bure Bar & BBQ area is very popular with the outdoor 42"TV screen regularly screening sports events like Super Rugby.

A barbeque set is available for use in this area for a small fee.

The club operates 7 days a week and is limited to the laws of the day. Happy hour is on Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday from 6pm to 7pm. During the day sensible casuals are permitted and from 1800 hours onwards, smart casuals (dress shoes, sandals, collared t-shirts and shirts) are required. The wearing of hats by males in the bar area is forbidden and the penalty for

doing so is to buy a round of drinks for every patron in the bar at the time!

## Getting Around

Getting Around Lami and Suva City are both a short bus or taxi ride away. Once at the main Suva bus station, the country is yours for the exploring. Regular buses depart in either direction around Viti Levu. ■



## Experience a Taste of Fiji

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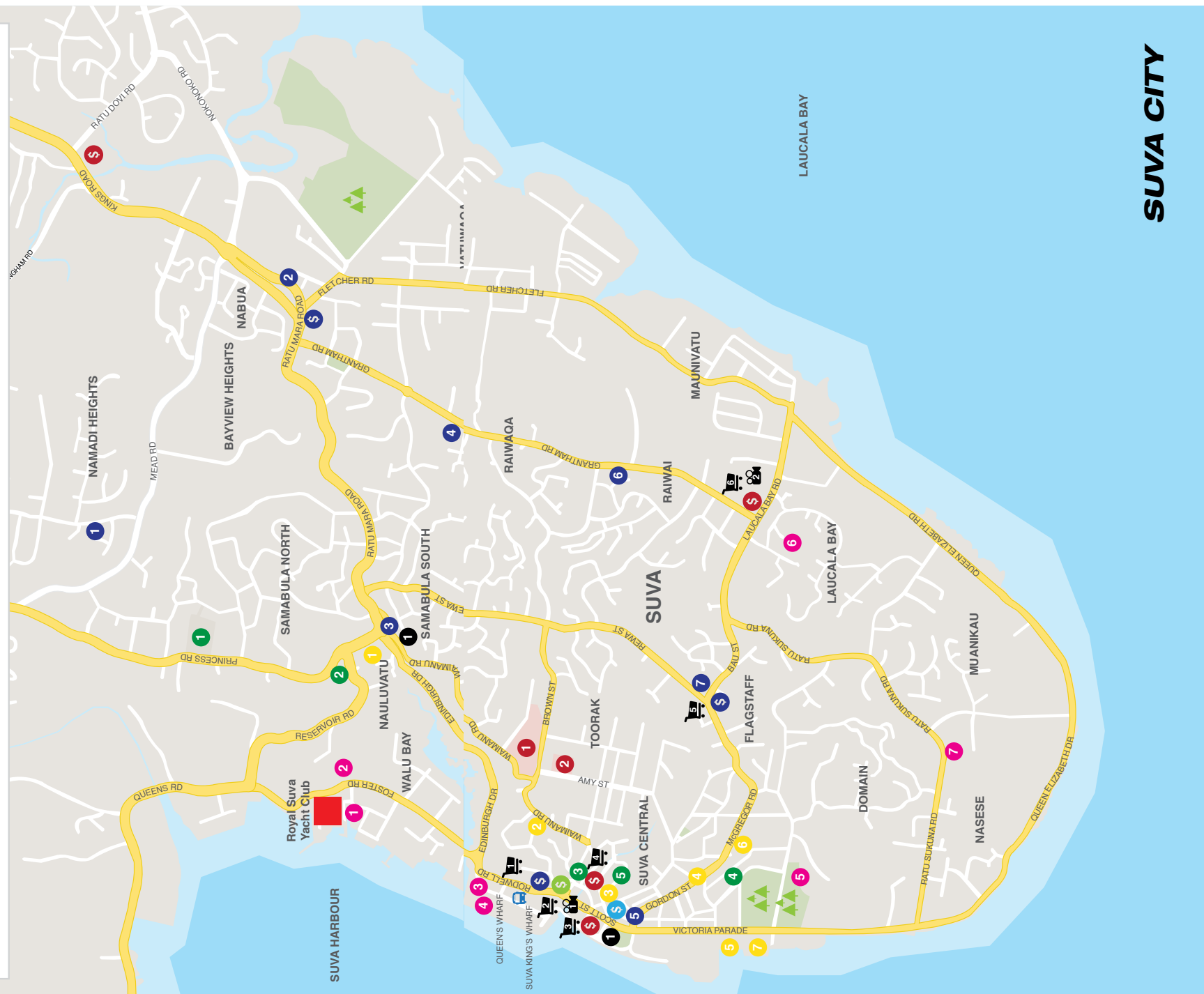
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**Key Locations Guide:**

- |                            |                               |                             |                       |               |
|----------------------------|-------------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------|---------------|
| 1 Namadi Police Station    | 1 USA Embassy                 | 1 Five Princes Hotel        | 1 SPCA                | 1 Post Office |
| 2 Nabua Police Station     | 2 Australian High Commission  | 2 Capricorn Apartments      | 2 Brewery             | 2 Post Office |
| 3 Samabula Police Station  | 3 French Embassy              | 3 Quest Serviced Apartments | 3 Immigration         | Westpac ATM   |
| 4 Grantham Police Station  | 4 British High Commission     | 4 Tanoa Plaza Hotel         | 4 Bio Security        | BSP ATM       |
| 5 Togotogo Police Station  | 5 New Zealand High Commission | 5 Holiday Inn               | 5 Fiji Museum         | ANZ ATM       |
| 6 Raiwaga Police Station   | 1 CWM Hospital                | 6 Grand Pacific Hotel       | 6 USP                 | Bred Bank ATM |
| 7 Flagstaff Police Station | 2 Private Hospital            | 7 Suva Motor Inn            | 7 Parliament Building | Bus Station   |

- Handicraft (1) Suva Market Handicraft (2) MHCC Flagstaff Damodar City Village 6 Cinema Damodar Event

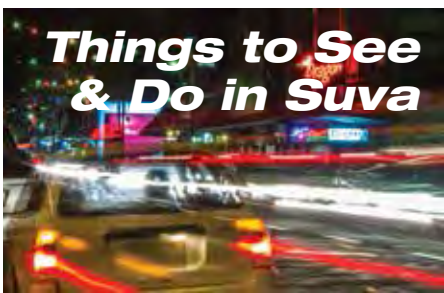
**SUVA CITY**





### Fiji Museum

Located within botanical Thurston Gardens, the Fiji Museum is the oldest museum in the South Pacific. From old photographs to a full size war canoe, the museum is brimming with archaeological findings spanning over 3500 years, as well as cultural objects reflecting Fiji's inhabitants during the past 100 years. There is even a piece of the rudder from 'HMS Bounty' - a vessel infamous in our sailing history. This is an absolute must-see attraction!



### Things to See & Do in Suva



### Suva Market

After a long voyage, your fresh fruit and veggie supplies will likely be low, so why not take a trip to the vibrant Suva Market. A sensory overload of colour awakens the eyes, the sound of several languages being spoken at once, the smell of fresh herbs and spices, the taste of ready prepared snack size pineapple and watermelon, and the feel of the plump succulent fruit as you load it onto the scale. Locally grown and imported fruit and vegetables,

free-range eggs, tofu, kimchi, and fresh seafood straight from the ocean seafood are all laid out in an array of colour. Don't miss the upper floor where you can stock up on your kava offerings if you plan on exploring our outer islands. Friendly 'barra (as in wheel-'barra) boys' are on standby to help carry any heavy items. These young entrepreneurs make a living from tips received for helping shoppers by transporting their goods to awaiting transport. *Open Mon to Sat | 8am to 5pm.*

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### Government House

Government House today is the official residence of the President of Fiji - Ratu Epeli Nailatikau. The mansion was built in 1928 to replace the original building that burnt to the ground after being struck by lightning in 1921. This was the residence of the colonial governor. The building is closed to the public, but a highlight of a tourists visit to Suva is the changing of the guard ceremony during the first week of each month. Fiji's version of Buckingham Palace!

### The Grand Pacific Hotel

The Grand Pacific Hotel is located on the main sea front, on Victoria Parade. It was built by The Union Steamship Company in 1914 to serve the needs of passengers on its transpacific routes. The original design of the hotel was to make the passengers think they had never gone ashore with rooms decked out like first-class staterooms, complete with saltwater bathrooms and plumbing fixtures identical to those on an ocean liner! Today she stands proud and alive once more after years of careful rebuilding and stylish refurbishment. The GPH is the perfect place for a little luxury, high tea or an evening of colonial glamour.



### Municipal Handicraft Centre

Although situated under a car park, and so not exactly inviting to the eye, this market will attract your purse! Brimming with authentic local treasures, shipped in to be sold from the outer islands where traditional crafts are an essential part of the culture. Traditional crafts still practiced today produce such items as hand carved wooden kava bowls (tanoa), or traditional war club replicas, hand painted masi, woven baskets & rope; the list is endless and old is of course mixed with new. You will have heaps of fun bargaining with the vendors, while helping Fiji's economy by supporting our local artisans.

*Open Monday to Saturday | 8am to 5pm.*



### Damodar Event Cinemas

The Damodar City complex along Grantham Road is home to a range of high-end stores, coffee shops and a fantastic food court. The complex is also where the state of the art Damodar Event Cinema offers popular Vmax (huge screen) and Premium (VIP) screenings of all the latest movies. Buy a box of freshly popped popcorn or another sweet delight, settle into a wide, comfortable chair, and enjoy!

*For movie listings go to: [www.damodardvillage.com.fj](http://www.damodardvillage.com.fj)*



*Damodar City | Grasskirt Photo*



### Heritage Mall

Explore the mystique of the South Seas that first drew adventurers and traders to the exotic islands of Fiji. Once the residence of Fijian High Chief and Pacific statesman, Ratu Sir Lala Sukuna, this restored colonial estate known as 'Heritage Mall' now houses Governors Gourmet Coffee House & Restaurant among other exciting boutiques. Here you'll find old world charm matched with a maritime motif in honour of the primary mode of transport of days long passed. There's a tribute to the old King's Wharf, images of sailing ships and stylised private dining and meeting rooms aptly named the 'Captain's Table' and 'Bosun's Quarters' for you to enjoy. ■

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CRUISING IN THE FIJI GROUP with CAPTAIN CAROL DUNLOP

# CRUISING THE LOMAIVITI GROUP



Levuka Town

Between the Lau Group and the mainland of Viti Levu



**T**his is the dive area of Fiji for serious divers. There are numerous world-class dives in the Vatu-i-ra channel, and at the fabulous islands of Namena, Koro, Makogai, Wakaya, and Gau. It's highly recommended to carry a dive guide as this is "experienced divers only".

On the island of Ovalau you will find the old capital Levuka. It's like being in a time warp with many buildings standing just as they were 100 years ago. The Royal Hotel reminds me of something out of Somerset Maugham and a visit to the local watering hole, The Ovalau Club, has to be part of life's rich experiences. The leading lights, particularly the lower one on the main church spire, are the best in Fiji and are rarely out!

## MAKOGAI

Makogai island has a very good anchorage in Dalice Bay which is currently used as the site of a Department of Fisheries clam hatchery and turtle head-start program. The island is state owned (although a sevusevu is still required) and steeped



Ladies &amp; Leis of Wainaloka Village, Ovalau.

in history, as it was previously a large leprosarium serving the region.

Annual humpback whale surveys around Makogai and Levuka, record sightings of migrating humpback whales, so do keep your eyes open and download and complete a sighting form from [fijimarinas.com](http://fijimarinas.com)

## GAU ISLAND

Good anchorages and some more world class dive sites. Gau is the 5th largest island in Fiji covering an area of 136 sq km. There is an airstrip at the southern

tip of the island. The Rugby's 7's legend Serevi hails from this island.

Inside the Lagoon the dives are tide dependant and divers will need a guide with knowledge of the ideal times to dive. On the outer wall however, times to dive are flexible.

A sevusevu is required at the village of Sawieke, approached only at high tide.

Waikama is a good village as is Lovu to the south. Hot springs can be found close by Waikama village.

"Always the first retreat, never the last resort."



## Leleuvia

ISLAND RESORT

**Located 17° 48' 0" S - 178° 43' 59" E**

Leleuvia Island offers complimentary mooring and anchorage, a fully stocked bar, showers and restaurant. Situated between the Chiefly island of Bau, Moturiki and Ovalau Islands, it provides the perfect venue to base yourself to relax and explore a region steeped in mythology, warfare and ancient tribal traditions.

[www.leleuvia.com](http://www.leleuvia.com) | +679 8901049 | [reservations@leleuvia.com](mailto:reservations@leleuvia.com)





### NAMENALALA - Namena Marine Reserve

Rising from the depths of the Koro Sea, on the fringe of Bligh Waters, lies the mile-long island of Namenalala, surrounded by one of Fiji's most pristine diving and snorkeling reef eco-systems known as the Namena Marine Reserve.

Namenalala Island is privately owned and as such a small fee applies for landing. The island itself is home to a red-footed booby nesting colony. You can also see fruit bats, lesser frigates, long-tail tropic birds, and multi-hued land birds that will entertain you with their songs.

Hawkesbill turtles come ashore to nest here, and critically endangered leatherback turtles and whale sharks have been sighted within the area.

There is fair anchorage on the North-Western side of the island in average trade wind conditions. Moorings have been installed to protect the delicate coral reef, and the iQoligoli owners from Kubulau request you use them whenever possible.

The chiefs of Kubulau District had the wisdom to protect the beautiful reefs of Namena from destructive overfishing. As such, they established a goodwill 'user fee' for those visiting the reserve to meet community and management needs. The fee is essential to the reserve's success, covering management costs such as patrolling, fuel, and mooring maintenance.

A portion of the fee also funds community development projects such as the Kubulau Education Fund, which provides the children of the district with scholarships for tertiary education.

### Namena Island Reserve Admission & Rules:

#### ADMISSION

Tags may be purchased for FJD \$30 and are valid through December 31 of the year of purchase.

These may be purchased in advance from:

Any dive or tour operator within the reserve.

- Namena Island Resort on Namenalala Island.
- The CORAL field representative based in SavuSavu: +679 740-0704; +679 906-0109; +679 885-303.
- The KBDC Representative in Suva: +679 925-4564; +679 728-8855.

#### PARK RULES

The Kubulau Resource Management Committee respectfully requests adherence to the following rules to ensure Namena's spectacular marine resources thrive for generations to come:

- All forms of fishing (line, spear and net) are prohibited in the marine protected area.
- Use mooring buoys where available. If you must anchor, only do so in areas with a sandy bottom.
- Do not collect marine life (plant or animal), either alive or dead. This includes seashells, seaweed, and live or dead coral.
- Do not discard anything in the water, including food or plant materials. Please properly dispose of all trash.
- Do not walk on the reef flats even at low tide when reefs are more exposed.
- Never chase, harass, or try to ride marine life. Do not touch, handle, or feed marine life.
- When diving, maintain proper buoyancy control and practice good fining to avoid contact with the reef.
- Do not put your feet down when swimming or snorkeling. If you must stand up, look down first and pick a patch of sand or hard rock.
- A tag charge of FJD \$30pp applies for diving or snorkeling - all goes to promoting and protecting the marine reserve.
- The tag is valid for a year or through to December 31 of year of purchase.
- You may visit the beaches on the western and southern sides between 0900 -1200 and between 1300 -1600.
- You will be required to pay FJD \$15pp /day. This is to give some privacy to the in-house guests.
- As you come into the lagoon and anchor please call Mere on channel 14 and she will come down to the resort dock to give you your tags etc.,

### WAKAYA

Wakaya is a private island and the Wakaya Club & Spa is an exclusive resort. Guests can check into the resort to enjoy the facilities ashore (with prior arrangement). There is a good anchorage and great diving and snorkeling.

Larger vessels can use the Daveta Ni Kai Draï Ba pass. Homestead Bay anchorage is fine in normal prevailing E-SE winds. Anchor close to the eastern side to keep out of the occasional swells wrapping around the point.

Mantas and hammer head sharks are frequently seen on the dives around the island.

#### HOWEVER WAKAYA MANAGEMENT HAVE ISSUED THE FOLLOWING NOTICE;

Homestead Bay is now an MPA gazetted by government and use of the bay as an anchorage is not permitted without prior consent from Wakaya management .

Strictly no access to the beaches is permitted, with MPA boundary up to the high water mark and Wakaya private property beyond that .

The Wakaya Club and Spa is strictly a private resort with no facilities available to yachts unless you have confirmed arrangements to check in your guest/s.

However, there is nothing to stop a vessel from diving the outer reef and anchoring to the north of Homestead Bay just inside the Daveta Ni kai dri Ba pass.

### KORO

Koro Island is part of the Lomaiviti archipelago. The Koro Sea is named after this volcanic island, which has a chain of basaltic cinder cones extending from north to south along its crest. With a land area of 108.9 sq kms, it is the sixth largest island of Fiji.

Fiji Link ([www.fiji Airways.com](http://www.fiji Airways.com)) has weekly flights to Koro, and there are ferry connections each week between both Suva and Savusavu.



*Dive with the Mantas near Wakaya. Photo: Brigitte Dewhirst.*

Charter flights can also be arranged to the airport situated on the Eastern coast.

On the North Western tip of the island, you will find the Dere Bay Resort and the Koro Beach Resort. The beautiful residential development 'Koro Seaview Estates' surrounds Dere Bay, if you decide you cannot tear yourself away from the area. A deep but good anchorage can be found in Dere Bay, and also to the North of the island in southerly winds.

### NORTH VITI LEVU, INSIDE PASSAGE.

This is deep and clear and suitable for large ships. The channel is deep and wide. There are some good dives on the outer reefs and many places to drop the pick. Safari Island Lodge, Vatia Beach Eco Resort, Volivoli Beach Resort and Wananavu Beach Resort offer anchorages.



*Vatia Beach north of Viti Levu*



*North of Viti Levu*





# The Kauwai Experience

17°44.209 South | 178°45.874 East

Beginning mid 2016 you are invited to drop anchor at *Tavuniciva*, 'Flaming Oyster', Bay. This naturally protected bay, found on the southwest corner of Ovalau Island, is marked by a unique rock, an islet and a sandbar. Upon entering, you will be steered naturally towards the winding wooden walkway, flanked by lush mangrove forest.

At the top of the staircase, nestled between the ocean and the forest, lies in wait your home and host for a day – *Kauwai*. For some of you, it will be your first taste of a raw and exclusive Fijian cultural experience.



'Living simply and simply living' describes *Kauwai* in a nutshell. Within this Cultural day, *Kauwai* will be providing the platform and opportunity for nearby communities to come together and share their rich traditional history with you and your friends. Working closely with these villages in order to share, preserve and spread awareness of traditional knowledge and culture is one of *Kauwai's* main aims. Employing and investing in villagers nearby, collaborating with rural communities (and other operators) are just some examples of how *Kauwai* supports



the sons and daughters of Ovalau. The heart of Kauwai is an old colonial cottage which has been transformed into a home for adventurers curious about Fiji's culture, lifestyle and cuisine. Two gazebos overlook the bay offering communal gathering spaces, while the hammocks call to you to kick off your shoes, lay back and relax in a setting that can't be described in words.

We invite you to spend a day in nature, meet the 'people of paradise' (David Attenborough's



words) and to catch a glimpse of traditional Fijian ceremonies, such as:

- *Sevusevu*, the traditional welcoming ceremony where you will be granted blessings ensuring your safety and protection within the village and the ocean.
- Some of you will be introduced to your first taste of *Kava*, (the root of *Piper methysticum*) the social and traditional beverage of Fiji.







- *Mekes* (traditional Fijian dances) enact local stories and legends have been performed for centuries. It is by far the most impressive and spectacular expression of Fijian performing artistry. The dances still function as a focus of traditional identity and cohesion and are loved by all people of Fiji – an indispensable part of any grand occasion.
- Whilst dining, talented musicians will serenade you to the natural sounds of Fijian music inviting



you to sway along and at times standing up to dance. This is known as *Sigidrigi* (singing while drinking) another past time loved by Fijians.

As part of an authentic cultural experience is Fijians outstanding and unique cuisine. The traditional *Magiti* (feast) is prepared with love and affection by village mothers and fathers. Local produce and sacred cooking techniques, handed down for centuries, are used to create a culinary experience to remember. The feast includes the infamous Lovo (earth oven) where vegetables, seafood, meats and root crops are cooked underground using hot stones. This method brings out the 'pacific flavour' of all foods and is the delicacy of Fijians here and

abroad. Our traditional food can also be a culinary adventure if you have never tried octopus, smoked stingray and our vast array of seafood's and vegetables found only in Fiji. ■

**JOIN US AT KAUWAI FOR YOUR EXCLUSIVE FIJIAN EXPERIENCE!**

E: [KauwaiFiji@gmail.com](mailto:KauwaiFiji@gmail.com) | M: +679 7324 330

Duration: Full or Half Day

WEATHER PERMITTING\*

Visit: [veikauwaitaki.weebly.com](http://veikauwaitaki.weebly.com)

BOOKINGS AVAILABLE FROM JUNE 2016

1 months advanced notice (MIN 10 GUESTS)





# Yadua Island Anchorage & Yadua Tabu

16°48'58.05" South | 178°17'9.14" East

You may well be wondering why your cruising permit excludes Yadua Tabu.

Yadua Tabu. Photo © National Trust of Fiji



attractive lizards. The species is endemic to the Fiji Islands where it is now restricted to less than 10 of the 300 or so islands of the archipelago.

Yadua Tabu is special for another reason in that it contains a large strand of the Tropical Dry Forest Vegetation, one of the most (if not the most) endangered vegetation types in the world!

The sanctuary has the largest and most impressive Crested Iguana population and it is the only wild location in the world where the population can be viewed with certainty. More importantly, it is the location where the species has the best chance of survival – and hopefully greater than that, they will thrive!

Waitui  
Kelekele  
Marina  
SAVUSAVU

Grab a  
mooring  
& dingy  
on up!

It doesn't get more  
relaxed then this...

+679 885 3057 | waituimarinafiji@gmail.com

Well... Yadua Tabu (Yan-do-a Tam-ber) is a small volcanic islet at the south-west corner of the larger island of Yadua. A signboard made from dried wood stands on the beach reads 'Wildlife Sanctuary, No Entry'.

After the discovery of a crested iguana on the tiny island back in 1979, and the public interest that followed, the National Trust of Fiji secured a management agreement to the uninhabited island and surrounding coral reefs, and established it as Fiji's first wildlife sanctuary in 1980.

The Crested Iguana (locally known as 'Vokai') is one of the rarest, and to some, one of the world's most



The Crested Iguana. Photo © National Trust of Fiji

wananavu  
the real Fiji

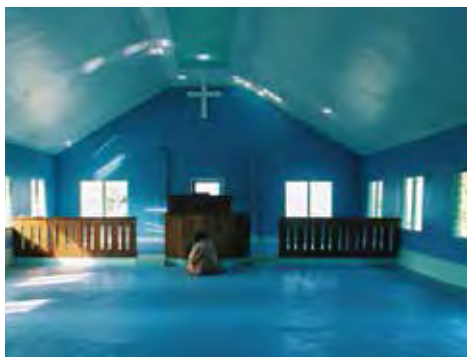
Land Ahoy!  
17°19'4.23 S 178°12'14.63 E

Welcome to Wananavu!

Leave your skiff at our enclosed and secure jetty and come ashore to enjoy access to many of the onsite luxuries including our tranquil spa. We will happily organise your return transport to Rakiraki town for easy provisioning, but why not save yourselves the job of shopping and cooking and choose to dine with us on the deck? Sample the delicious, freshly prepared dishes from our extensive daily menu, and kick back with a glass of something cold during happy hour. Raise your glass to another glorious day in paradise... **Wananavu!**







Above: Yadua Island. Photos © National Trust of Fiji

It is for this reason that no one is allowed to visit the island, and landing here is strictly prohibited, unless approved and guided by the National Trust. Due to the 'Critically Endangered' status of the Fijian Crested Iguana (IUCN Red List), their listing on CITES Appendix I and threats from disturbance, a 'community watch' program was initiated, with regular policing by National Trust Rangers and the local community. These rangers are charged with protecting the island on behalf of the National Trust

and there is high chance that you will be visited by one if you're anchored within the Yadua waters. ■

### VISITATION

**For entry to the island, you will need to seek permission from the National Trust of Fiji.**

3 Ma'afu Street, Suva.  
PO Box 2089, Govt Bldings, Suva, Fiji  
Tel: (679) 330 1807 | Fax: (679) 330 5092  
jniukula@nationaltrust.org.fj



# Fishing Regulations in Fiji



Giant Clam. Stacy Jupiter photo

While the state ultimately retains ownership of the ocean and her resources, the people of Fiji have been given tenure and the right to fish for subsistence from allocated areas of coral reef referred to as 'iQoliqoli'.

All coral reef areas in Fiji are part of an iQoliqoli. Deeper water passages between the islands of Fiji are commonly outside of iQoliqoli areas.

Commercial fishing licenses can be applied for, much in the same way that you applied for your cruising permit –but as you are likely only fishing for your dinner, this will not be necessary. However, if you intend to fish for money or, for example, take guests on fishing charters, you will need a commercial fishing license. Enquire with the Department of Fisheries office found in many of the administrative centers or at the ports of entry into Fiji.



If your yacht is berthed within one of the iQoliqoli jurisdictions (apart from a marina), you will need to present your *sevusevu* to the adjacent village and ask for permission to catch fish from their reef, rivers or streams.

There are many Marine Protected Areas (MPA's) within iQoliqoli that have been set up by the village. During your *sevusevu* presentation, you will be told if there are any protected areas in which you cannot fish, or if there are any specific restrictions, such as spear fishing.

There are strict laws prohibiting the use of underwater breathing apparatus to collect, take or dive for fish throughout Fiji. If you plan on using fishing nets, there are mesh size restrictions – again, enquire with the Fisheries Department for these regulations.



## ABSOLUTE NO NO'S

The following information has been taken from the Fisheries Act Cap 58.

**No person shall take, be in possession of, sell, offer or expose for sale or export any of the following:**

**Giant Clams** – *Tridacna derasa* / *squamosa* / *maxima*. (vasua) flesh, including adductor muscle or mantle tissue.



**Trochas shell** - *Trochus niloticus* (sici) measuring less than 90 mm [3.5 inches] across the whorl;



**Tritons Trumpet Shell** - *Charonia tritonis* (davui)



**Pearl Oyster Shell** - *Pinctada margaritifera* (civa) of which the nacre or mother-of-pearl measures less than 100 mm [4 inches] from the butt or hinge to the opposite edge or lip.



**Giant helmet shell** - *Cassis cornuta* (yaga)

**Beche-de-mer** (sea cucumbers) *Metriatyla scabra* (*Holothuria scabra*) (dairo) (sandfish). No person shall export, either in a natural or processed form, any other species whatsoever of a length less than 7.6 centimetres [3 inches].

**Live fish of any kind;**

**Turtle flesh; Turtle shell** unless worked into jewellery or otherwise processed into a form approved by the Permanent Secretary for Primary Industries and Cooperatives.

## GUIDELINES FOR OTHER SPECIES

### Turtles

The Fiji Fisheries Act prohibits the killing of sea turtles. Fiji has a national moratorium in place until January 1st 2019 that prohibits harassing, taking or killing of turtles or their eggs. Furthermore, anyone caught selling turtles can be fined FJ\$20,000 or face a prison sentence of five years!

### Sharks / Manta Rays

As of 2013, eight species of sharks and all manta rays are included in Appendix II of CITES. These include the basking shark (*Cetorhinus maximus*), whale shark (*Rhincodon typus*), Great White Shark (*Carcharodon carcharias*), Oceanic whitetip shark (*Carcharhinus longimanus*), Porbeagle shark (*Lamna nasus*), Scalloped hammerhead shark (*Sphyrna lewini*), Smooth hammerhead shark (*Sphyrna zygaena*), Great hammerhead shark (*Sphyrna mokarran*) and Manta rays (*Manta spp.*).



Stacy Jupiter photo

### Humphead Wrasse

The humphead wrasse, *Cheilinus undulatus* (also known as the Maori wrasse, Napoleon fish or varivoce in Fijian), is a large and quite spectacular reef fish that can grow to over 140cms. They are easily overfished and so their presence on a reef may suggest that fishing pressure is not high. Considered a delicacy in East Asian countries the species has been heavily targeted by the live reef food fish trade. Listed as Endangered on the IUCN



Above: A gravid grouper - note swollen belly.

Red List, and included in Appendix II of CITES, here in Fiji bans are only in place for commercial harvest, sale or export.

### Groupers/Rock Cod/Coral Trout

Each year, groupers aggregate at specific sites to spawn or reproduce, usually at full moon. As fishing pressure has increased, particularly for commercial sale, the gathering of groupers to spawn in the same spot, at the same time of year, has



made it far too easy to overfish them. You can help turn that around with a simple pledge not to eat, sell or buy grouper during the spawning season. If you do happen to land one, consider this information and gently release it back into the ocean so that they can release literally millions of eggs to help repopulate our reefs. For more information visit [www.4fj.org.fj](http://www.4fj.org.fj)

### What can you do to help FIJI meet it's obligations under CITES?

Ensure that you are not taking any items out of Fiji that are listed in Section 3 of the Endangered and Protected Species Act (see page 187), without being registered or having the necessary permit. You can apply for a permit through the Department of Environment which is the Secretariat of the Fiji Islands CITES Management Authority. The Act has strong enforcement provisions with fines of up to \$5000 or 2 years imprisonment for breaches of provisions under the Act. ■

## Minimum Size Limits for Fish

To protect our fish stocks, our government has implemented regulations for minimum catch size limits for certain species. Please see the table below:

SIXTH SCHEDULE (Regulation 18)

Common Name	Fijian Name	Family	Genus	Min Length (mm)
Barracuda	Ogo	<i>Sphyanidae</i>	<i>Sphyrone</i>	300
Crevally, Trevally, Pompano	Saqa (Excluding vilu/Saqa)	<i>Carangidae</i>	<i>Caranx</i>	300
Grey Mullet	Kanace	<i>Mugilidae</i>	<i>Mugil</i>	200
Glassperch, Aholehole	Ika Droka	<i>Duclidae</i>	<i>Dules</i>	150
Ketang, Spinefoot Rabbitfish	Nuqa	<i>Siganidae</i>	<i>Siganus</i>	200
Long-jawed Mackerel	Salala	<i>Scombridae</i>	<i>Rastrelliger</i>	200
Longtom, Garfish, Greengar	Saku Busa	<i>Belonidae</i>	<i>Belone</i>	300
Milk Fish	Yawa	<i>Chanidae</i>	<i>Chaos</i>	300
Mojarra	Matu	<i>Gerridae</i>	<i>Gerres</i>	100
Parrotfish	Ulavi	<i>Callyodontidae</i>	<i>Scarichthys</i>	250
Pouter, Slimy, Soapy, Peperek	Kaikai	<i>Leignathidae</i>	<i>Gazza</i>	100
Rock Cod, Grouper, Salmon Cod	Donu, Kawakawa, Kavv (Excluding small red Spotted cod)	<i>Serranidae</i>	<i>serranus</i>	250
Sea Bream, Pig-faced Bream	Kawago, Dokonivudi, Musubi	<i>Lethrinidae</i>	<i>Lethrinus</i>	250
Small Sea Bream	Kabatia, Kake	<i>Lethrinidae</i>	<i>Lethrinus</i>	150
Small Sea Bream	Sabutu	<i>Lethrinidae</i>	<i>Lethrinus</i>	20
Surgeon Fish	Balagi	<i>Hepatidae</i>	<i>Hepatus</i>	200
Surmullet, Goatfish, Whiskercod	Ki, Ose	<i>Mullidae</i>	<i>Mulloidichthys Pseudopeneus Upeneus</i>	150
Snapper	Damu	<i>Lutjanidae</i>	<i>Lutjanus</i>	300
Unicorn-Fish, Leather jacket	Ta	<i>Hepatidae</i>	<i>Naso</i>	300





# Navigating Whale & Dolphin Encounters in Fiji

The Pacific Islands region is important for a great number of cetaceans (whales and dolphins), whether as a permanent habitat, a breeding ground or a migration corridor. Currently, more than thirty species of whales and dolphins have been identified in this area, and in Fiji alone we have 15 confirmed species of whales and dolphins.

Humpback whales are seen migrating through our waters, as they travel to Tonga to breed and calve after feeding in Antarctica. There are large groups of pilot whales that inhabit our waters, and false killer whales that seem to come through annually singing loudly as they do!

Of course we also have the odd individual that you may encounter, minkes and sperm whales being the most common. Cetaceans may be disturbed by the presence of people, vessels or aircrafts.

Therefore it is our responsibility to minimize the disturbance caused by our presence. Towards that goal, the collaborative efforts of SPREP, Cetacea, IFAW, and FFEM have produced some regional best practice guidelines.

**Whale and dolphin watching activities can potentially cause long-term disturbance to cetacean populations, which include:**

- Disruption of behavior (e.g. feeding, nursing, mating, migrating);

- Displacement from important habitat areas (e.g. resting, feeding, breeding and calving areas);
- Long term stress;
- Injury;
- Reduced breeding success;
- Increased mortality.

**Changes in the behavior of whales and dolphins need to be recognized and acknowledged as such, so that animals can be left undisturbed.**



**The following behaviors may indicate that a whale or dolphin is affected by our presence:**

- Changes in swimming speed or direction (to avoid boat);
- Changes in breathing / diving patterns;
- Stopping or changing activity patterns (e.g. vocalizing, feeding, nursing, socializing);
- Changes in group size and cohesion; changes in acoustic behavior and surface behaviors such as peduncle tail throws and trumpet blows.

**Populations, and individual cetaceans may react differently depending on the species, their age, sex, and if accompanied by a calf. NEVER get between a mother and her calf. Do not encircle animals and always leave them an 'escape' route.**

**Persons shall always:**

- Operate vessels so as not to disrupt the normal movement or behavior of whales and dolphins;

- Stop any interactions with a cetacean at any sign of the animal becoming disturbed or alarmed;
- Allow cetaceans to determine the nature and duration of interactions.

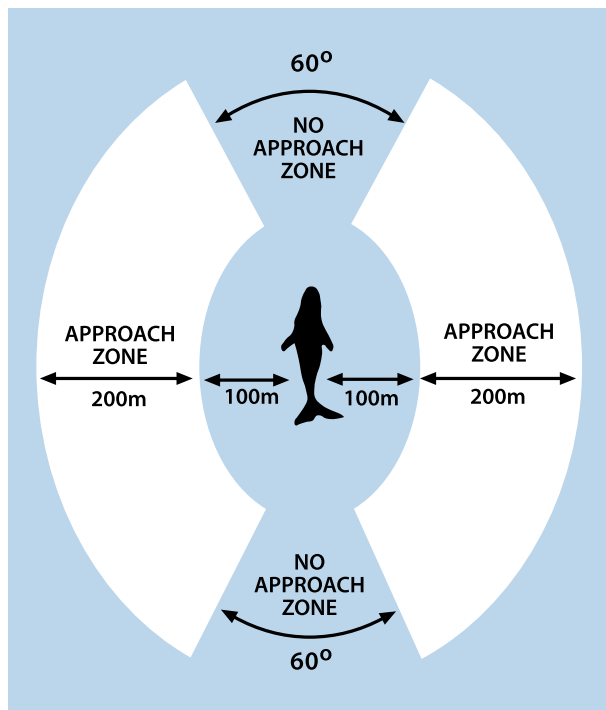
**Therefore, the following recommendations need to be considered:**

- Do not touch a cetacean;
- Do not feed a cetacean;
- Do not make any loud or sudden noises;
- Do not make sudden or repeated changes in direction or speed;
- Dedicated observers should be on duty in addition to the captain of the vessel;
- Do not place a vessel up wind of, or in a position where it will drift into, the no-approach zone (see diagram next page).





Whale strandings are a phenomenon that occur throughout the world for a variety of debated reasons. Here in Fiji we have a trained response team that you can call should you happen upon a whale stranding while cruising our waters. Please call 918 7614 or 336 1122 and be prepared with as much information as you can gather such as your exact location, how many whales, their species (see over for identification guide), and any injury you can see the animal has sustained if any.



**CAUTION ZONE:** The caution zone is the area within 100m – 300m from a whale and 50m – 300m from a dolphin.

#### When vessels are within the caution zone of whales or dolphins:

- Approach cetaceans slowly and cautiously;
- Observe cetaceans at a speed not exceeding the speed of the animals;
- No more than 3 vessels should be in the caution zone of a whale or dolphin at a time. Coordinate approaches into the viewing zone with other vessels to avoid “trapping” whales or dolphins;
- Leave boat engine on and in idle when watching cetaceans;
- Do not disperse or separate a group of cetaceans;
- A vessel should not chase, encircle, block the direction of travel of cetaceans, or position itself in the middle of a pod;
- If cetaceans approach a vessel, slow down gradually and put engines in idle;
- If cetaceans approach a vessel to bow-ride, maintain a slow and steady speed and avoid sudden changes in course;
- When departing from watching cetaceans, determine where the animals are relative to the vessel to avoid collisions or coming too close to the animals, and increase speed gradually while exiting the caution zone.

The most appropriate method for approaching a whale or a dolphin is from the side and slightly to the rear of the animal. Avoid approaches from head on or directly from behind. ■

*Source: Pacific Islands regional guidelines for whale and dolphin watching. September 2008. SPREP Cetacea, IFAW, and FIFEM.*



*Tor Johnson photo*

Savusavu is an international port of entry into Fiji. Welcoming over 200 overseas yachts annually, this bustling yacht focused town which is nestled along the coastline of Southern Vanua Levu, is home to not one, but three marinas. The town is usually the first port of call for people sailing from Tonga and Samoa. Savusavu town provides most things a cruising yacht needs, from fuel, water and groceries, to banking, marine chandlery, general hardware, and electrical supplies. As such, the harbour is bustling with coming and going yachts.

Many use Savusavu as a base for exploring the less ‘touristy’ North and often settle in to the protected Nakama Creek for the duration of cyclone season.

The Savusavu Yacht Club (located within the Copra Shed Marina) hosts various sailing regattas throughout the year including Optimist sailing events for the kids and some Laser sailing. Merlin Trailer Sailors are also greatly enjoyed by some of the yacht club members.

For provisioning, Savusavu Farmers Market is located in the middle of Savusavu town, next to the bus centre. A colourful array of seasonal fruit and vegetables leads to an area dedicated to freshly caught seafood. You can also stock up on your kava supplies ready to present a sevusevu to your next destination. The markets are open from Monday to Saturday – but Saturday is by far the best day to shop!





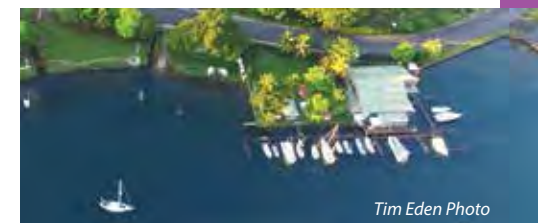
## Navigation Cautions for Entering Savusavu

- ◆ The Point Passage light lies on the INSIDE of the reef, about 50 meters east of the actual end of the reef. Chart legends show it as being a lighthouse, in truth it is more on the lines of a light standard sticking up on the reef. It is mostly, but not always, lit.
- ◆ The rocks on the west side of Point Passage only break with a West to Southwest swell. In other words, although the reef passage is almost a nautical mile wide, there is such a thing as too much caution in leaving a wide berth to the light.
- ◆ As you approach Savusavu from the Point Passage light, you cannot see Savusavu, but you will see the Copra Mill in Balaga Bay, which lies to the North-East of Savusavu. Although it's a nice, quiet anchorage to visit (so long as the wind is not from the west), it IS NOT Savusavu!
- ◆ There is a mooring for the bows of the inter-island ferrys west of the Main Dock. If there is a ferry at the dock, it is probable that there is a line between the mooring buoy and the ferry.
- ◆ There is a channel marker as you enter Nakama Creek that you should leave to your port side. An avoidance waypoint, as determined by S/V Jill Diane is 16° 46.659'S 179° 19.796'E. This reference is provided for your convenience and is to be used at your own risk.

Source: Bebi Electronics



Tor Johnson photo



Tim Eden Photo

PO Box 262, Savusavu, Fiji  
 T: +679 885 0457 | F: +679 885 0989  
 coprashed@connect.com.fj  
 www.coprashed.com.fj  
 VHF Channel 16

16° 46.7 South | 179° 20.0 East



## Services & Facilities at a Glance



The old Copra Shed Marina that was built in the 19th century, is a major landmark in Savusavu. Renovated in recent years it now houses the Savusavu Yacht Club. Historical photographs depicting the 'Sheds' past adorn the walls of the building.

### Facts & Figures

The Copra Shed Marina has 8 stern-to-wharf berths for vessels up to 20 metres. Water and electricity are available at these berths. Seventeen moorings are available for vessels of varying sizes. The Copra Shed Marina also has a new floating dock berth facility for thirty vessels of up to 20 metres.

### Safety

The Nakama Creek is well sheltered from strong weather.

### Visitor Attractions

**The Captains Café** – specializing in some seriously good pizza but also catering for other international tastes.

**The Captains Table** is located on the waterfront of the marina and offers a wonderful wine and dine experience.

The Copra Shed is also home to the **Savusavu Yacht Club Bar** that provides delicious cold draft beer and a fine selection of wines and spirits. Overseas visitors can become temporary members of the club upon payment of a small fee.

**The Art Gallery** offers creative works of local artists, souvenirs and some beautiful jewellery if you need to pick up a nice gift for someone special.



*Tor Johnson photo*



### Services & Facilities

The Copra Shed Marina will arrange for Boarder Control agents to board and clear your yacht. Repair and maintenance services such as sail repair, refrigeration and electrical works can be arranged upon request.

Jerry cans can be filled with water at the dinghy pontoon while water in large quantities is available at a designated dock for FJ\$5 a fill.

Any mail you have sent to the Copra Shed mailbox can be collected from the marina office. Wi Fi internet is also available.

### Accommodation

The Copra Shed Marina has three lovely rooms that are available to rent on a nightly or weekly basis. ■



*Tim Eden photo*

## Savusavu Marina & Boatyard

PO Box 186, Savusavu, Fiji Islands | T: +679 8853 543 | F: +679 8853 422  
E: savumari@connect.com.fj | kilowen@connect.com.fj | VHF Channel 16

At the far end of Namaka Creek, you will find another Marina. Popular with Catamaran owners. There are 8 alongside berths and 20 cyclone moorings - each comprising 3 helix anchors for extra strength. It is advisable to book early to secure a cyclone mooring for cyclone season.

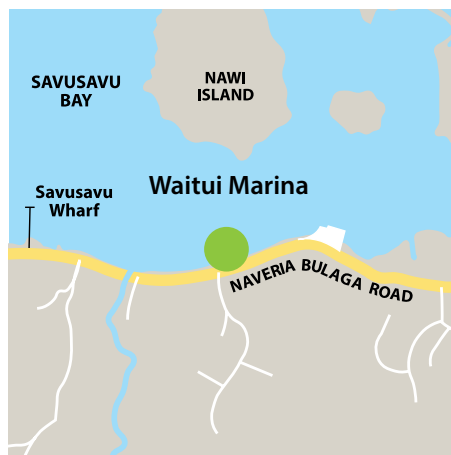
Here you will find power and water on the marina dock plus showers and toilets at the office building. Just behind here is Robo Engineering's fully equipped workshop. Catamaran haul outs can be done, just ask for Curly Carswell. ■





# Waitui Kelekele Marina

Photo: Jim Faulkner SV Hotspur



PO Box 465, Savusavu, Fiji  
T: +679 885 3057 | AH: +679 806 0021  
waituimarinafiji@gmail.com  
VHF Channel 16

16° 46' 44" South | 179° 19' 51" East

## Services & Facilities at a Glance



Anchor  
Permission



Bar



Bus Route



Customs  
Clearance



Fuel  
Station



Laundry  
Facilities



Restaurant



Waste  
Container



Water  
Supply

The unassuming Waitui Kelekele Marina adds a quaint charm to the Savusavu foreshore and swing moorings are popular during season.

You can call on VHF Channel 16 or after hours on telephone number 835 3913 and dock staff will meet you and guide you to your mooring. If you are arriving in the wee hours, just pick up any of the ORANGE mooring buoys numbered W1 through to W24.

### Safety

All of the moorings have 3 meters of 19mm studded ship's chain to prevent the line from chafing on the bottom. These moorings are inspected twice annually with a hard copy mooring report available for viewing.

### Facts & Figures

Waitui Kelekele Marina has 24 moorings, 12 of which are Helix Moorings.

### Services & Facilities

The marina will arrange for relevant clearing officials to visit your vessel, and also bring them over - a service that is completely free so long as you are going to stay on one of the Waitui moorings. They offer free watering, free dinghy dock usage, rubbish and garbage disposal, and free use of main dock for fueling or watering (up to six hours). A very handy service also provided here, is the use of a

chest freezer during the day in which to store your provisions. This will save you many trips back and forth to your yacht from the town each time you realize your arms are full! There is a great laundry service at the front of the building that offers a hot water wash and ironing services. The **Waitui Club** offers a full range of wines, beer, cocktails and soft drinks are available in a relaxed environment where you can socialize with other yachties and locals.

### Provisions

Within the building facing the main road is 'Fiji Meats'. They supply fine quality fresh beef, pork, lamb, as well as sausages and chickens. They can also place special orders for turkey. You can order in advance and in large quantities. If ordering beef, it's always a good idea to request 'aged' beef. There is also an authorised DHL agent located here. Dotted along the main street of Savusavu town you will find many well stocked grocery stores, a bottle shop and deli and a bustling market to replenish your supplies.

### Transport

Taxi's swarm the town and flagging one down from outside either marina, or anywhere in the town is easy. The main bus station in the town centre sees buses leaving regularly for places as far afield as Labasa, Nabouwalu, Buca Bay and even (inclusive of a ferry ride of course) over to Taveuni. ■



Tim Eden photo



CRUISING IN THE FIJI GROUP with CAPTAIN CAROL DUNLOP

# CRUISING TAVEUNI, VANUA LEVU KIOA, RABI & THE RINGGOLDS

*Nasau Bay, Vanua Levu © Carol Dunlop*

**T**aveuni is famous for its spectacular waterfalls, varied bird watching, and world-class dive sites. Here you will need a dive guide as the correct tide and current is essential to see the 'Rainbow Reef' and the white coral flowers open on the sheer 'Great White Wall'. Good anchorage areas close to the Rainbow Reef dive sites are Viani and Vatudamu bays.

Buca Bay on mainland Vanua Levu also offers a very good anchorage in bad weather with good holding ground and is also a great spot for a seaplane to land when transporting guests to and from your vessel.

While in the area, you should spend some time exploring. Be sure to include a visit to the two islands in Fiji that are populated by displaced South Sea Islanders, namely Rabi and Kioa.

*Rabi Island © Carol Dunlop*

Kioa is an outlier to Vanua Levu. Situated opposite Buca Bay. It is a freehold island purchased by settlers from Tuvalu, who arrived between 1947 and 1983. Their skill in fishing is as legendary as their artisans and handcrafts.

To the south of Kioa is 'Sau Eco Resort' run by locals Nigel and Carol Douglas; the anchorage is nice and Nigel is the best guide for diving this area. He has piloted and led dives on many visiting super-yachts. However, please do get permission to land.

To the East at Waiyevo on the island of Taveuni you can find basic stores and provisions. Anchor well south of Korolevu island to avoid the bombies and tender ashore. Fresh provisions can also be sought in the area.

The Bouma Heritage National Park Falls or Tavoro waterfalls are a worthwhile visit on Taveuni or trek the Vidawa rainforest trail. Lavena coastal walk is also a great excursion as is a visit to Civa Pearl Farm at Vurevure Bay on the east side. These places can be accessed from Matei via road in a taxi or truck – or tender into Navakacoa and take a truck ride from there.

*Laucala Island © Carol Dunlop**Taveuni © National Trust of Fiji**Sau Eco Resort © Carol Dunlop*

The Waitavala water slide is accessed from Waiyevo. Sailing on to Rabi (Rambi) you can meet the inhabitants who are displaced Banabans from Ocean Island, in Micronesia. Phosphate mining devastated Ocean Island, so the British bought Rabi for resettlement. Though Fiji citizens since 1945, they still speak in their native tongue - Gilbertese, and their lifestyle preserves age-old traditions. Their dancing is very unlike Fijian dancing; more Polynesian in style and very stimulating!







Matagi Island © Carol Dunlop

The islands of Matagi (Matangi) and Qamea (Gowmear) located to the east of Taveuni also boast some excellent anchorages. Matagi is owned by Noel and Flo Douglas who have hosted Iovos and meke's for numerous Superyachts over the years. This is a charming boutique resort with lovely beaches and great diving. A very good anchorage can be found to the south of the island. As this is a private island you do need to ask permission to land and any arrangements should be made with the resort beforehand.

Laucala Island, to the east of Matagi, is home to a private 7-star resort often frequented by the affluent and famous. It is considered one of the world's most exclusive private retreats. Previously owned by

Malcolm Forbes the present owner heads the Red Bull energy drink company.

The island is magnificent to say the least and the facilities amazing. Anchoring in front of the resort or the beaches is strictly not permitted but Superyachts that wish to check their guests into the resort and have made arrangements may anchor off to the side in protected waters.

The Ringgold Islands are to the North of Matagi Island; the pass is deep and wide into the area. Your sevusevu can be presented to Yanuca (Yanutha) village. Be sure to visit the Cikobia (Thikombia) Crater, and the deserted Raraningga island is also worth a lunch stop. ■



# Welcome to Fiji's World Famous

## Rainbow Reef

Story: Jon M. Piepkorn | Photos: Heather Sutton

The Somosomo Strait (loosely translated 'Calm Water') is a relatively narrow channel of water separating Fiji's second largest island, Vanua Levu, from its third largest, Taveuni - home to some of the world's best dives!

With more than 10,000 sq km of pristine coral reef, some of the absolute best diving in Fiji is located in the Somosomo Strait. Many would even argue that this area is THE BEST diving in all of Fiji. Most reefs are fringing, bordering nearby shores, with a complement of flat-topped platform reefs. The reefs that make up the Rainbow Reef system vary in size, shape and underwater topography. There are several wall dives - The Zoo, Purple Wall and the famous Great White Wall - as well as a scattering of bommies and flat top reefs sitting at different angles in relation to the constant flowing incoming and outgoing tidal currents (north to south & south to north respectively). These currents dictate where the best dives will be on any given day, so consult local shops and crews for knowledge and tips. These currents are also attributed with the rich nutrient filled water which feeds the reef system twice a







*"If Cozumel is Cayman on speed,  
then the Somosomo Strait is Cozumel on Acid"*

day from the deep waters on the north and south end of the Somosomo Strait.

Fiji's reefs boast a spectacular biodiversity with some 467 species of molluscs, 298 species of hard corals and around 1,200 species of reef fish. Not forgetting the *Dendronephthya* - a soft coral species that thrives in this area, seen in all colours of the rainbow - providing Rainbow Reef its name. Diving in

Fiji is amazing. 'Spectacular', awe-inspiring' and 'incredible' doesn't have enough 'punch' to describe Rainbow Reef. I like Buck Butler's description (Butler, 2007):

*"If Cozumel is Cayman on speed,  
then the Somosomo Strait is  
Cozumel on Acid"*

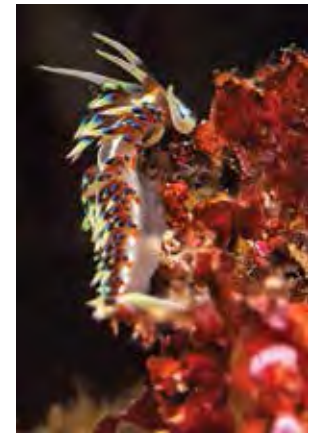
Consistently rated among the top dive sites in the world - The Great White Wall - is a reason divers come to Taveuni and Rainbow Reef year after year. Often not

mentioned is that this dive is very tide and current dependent. The absolute best time to dive the Great White Wall is at low slack tide after the outgoing tide has fed the soft corals for about 6 and a half hours. When dropping into the plateau, your guide will bring you to a large tubular swim through starting at about 12m in depth and ending at about 24m in depth. Diving down, take your time to look for nudi branches,

big eye squirrel fish and huge gorgonian sea fans. Often large moray eels can be seen in the cervices of the walls, checking you out as you descend the tube. Upon exiting the swim through, you'll take a 'left hand' turn where you will catch the 'WOW' factor as the Great White Wall comes into view. White corals will be in full bloom, covering the wall from about 20m down to 60+m. Diving at slack tide (little or no current) lets the divers enjoy their time taking in the magnificent beauty. 'No current' conditions are perfect for photographers to get their 'money' shots. Diving during the wrong tide ensures you encounter "The Great Brown Wall" as the soft white corals contract and look like little white nubbies. Drop into the wall in the middle of a Somosomo Strait 'ripping' current means you'll be lucky to see the wall for 5-10 seconds as

the strong current takes you past with no hope of stopping! After checking out the wall, finish your dive back up to the top plateau. You will be treated to fields of blood red/purple soft corals, as well as scorpion leaf fish, banded pipe fish, octopus, a few white tip reef sharks and a couple of large spotted or potato groupers who call this site their home. Darting around the corals as well are thousands of coloured anthurids and a number of species of clown fish.

Another popular dive site is Annie's Bommie's. Discovered many years ago by local Fijian Divemaster, Annie - this dive, many say, is the reason Rainbow Reef has its name. Three bommies ranging in depth from about 20m up to 6 or 7m give bloom to the soft corals in all colours of the rainbow. But again, correct tide and current here is







critical. A less than favourable current or tide can make the difference between a 'that was a nice dive' and a 'WOW! One of my top 5 dives!' experience. Surrounding these bommies is a sugar white sandy bottom, home to thousands of garden eels as well as ribbon eels, hawksbill turtles and numerous other creatures.

Adventurous? Barracuda Hole located on the northern end of the Somosomo Strait is for you. Upon incoming tide you'll be treated to large schools of great barracuda, garden eels, white tip reef sharks and schooling big eye jacks. At times there are so many

small reef fish it's hard to see! Use your bottom time on the current (northern) side, then enjoy the roller coaster ride over the top and to the bottom (southern) side. End your dive exploring shallower hard coral gardens, schooling reef fish and macro critters.

Rainbow reef extends for several kilometers from the north end of Somosomo Strait and curving along the shoreline of Vanua Levu, heading south. With over two dozen 'known' or popular dive sites, there are probably two dozen more dived by those who know the reef well and keep their treasure semi-secret.

Other popular dive sites include: Jerry's Jelly, Rainbow Passage, Nuku (sand) Reef, Fish Factory, Yellow Tunnel, Jack's Place, The Corner and the Cabbage Patch - usually a nice light to no current dive, home to one of the worlds largest and most pristine Cabbage Coral patches.

Somosomo Strait marine life ranges from large to small. The Great Fiji Shark Count held every April and November shows an increase in shark sightings each year, Somosomo Strait being no exception. Diving Rainbow Reef sees white tip, black tip and grey reef sharks, as well as occasionally Leopard or zebra sharks and



great hammerheads. If the shark gods are smiling on you, you may glimpse a resident tiger shark – 'Bill' as he's known locally. Manta rays (spotted underwater or on the surface), spotted eagle rays, mobula's (or devil) rays and small blue spotted rays can all be seen. Turtles – mainly hawksbill, can be seen feeding on many coral reefs. A favourite of many divers are the ribbon eels. All stages of these hermaphroditic creatures can be seen: Juvenile's are black with flouro yellow strip down their back; most often seen are the male stage when they are flouro blue with flouro yellow strip down the back; and finally

the female stage when they are completely flouro yellow in colour. Also difficult to spot are the small pygmy seahorse, the Hippocampus Severnsi (one of the smallest) but can be found on various dive site on Rainbow Reef. Sharpen your eyes, or get a guide to show you one!

For those non-divers, even top side there is much to see by snorkelers or even from the deck of your yacht. From the northern end of Somosomo Strait an island by the name of Rabi can be seen in the distance. On the southern shore, manta ray cleaning station, well known but difficult to find if you don't know where it is.

With a strong current, this is an excellent place to snorkel with up to 30+ manta ray's at a time. Simply sailing the Somosomo Strait, you can be treated to a pod of spinner dolphins playing and jumping in your wake, a pod of pilot whales hunting or at the right time, humpback whales migrating with their young. ■

Come up to Fiji's  
'Far North' and enjoy  
some of the best diving  
on the planet. The  
Somosomo Strait  
awaits you!

## HD EXPEDITIONS FIJI

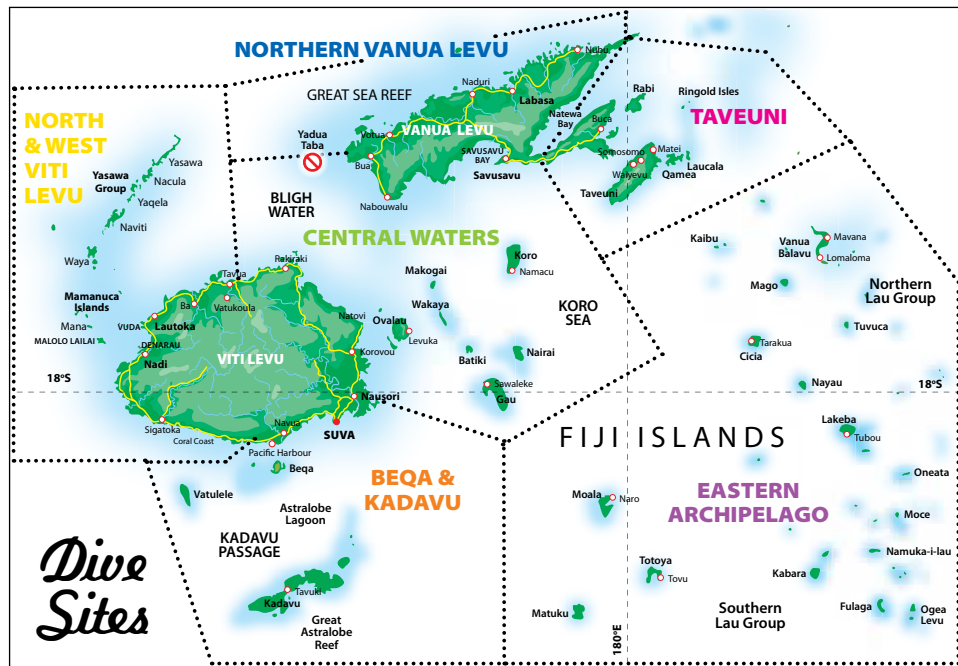
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experienced profesional.

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Tel: 00 679 860 4452  
Email: [info@hdexpeditionsfiji.com](mailto:info@hdexpeditionsfiji.com)







## Dive Areas of Fiji

Fiji has coral reefs everywhere, and all have their attractions. However, you'll have the best time diving here if you select the type that's best for you and your experience level. Here is a generalised account of diving character in the main areas that divers usually visit.

*By Helen Sykes*

### North & West of Viti Levu

#### The Coral Coast, Mamanuca & Yasawa Islands

The best for casual and relatively new divers: easy diving, very few currents, schools of small colourful fish, most sites are relatively shallow (best diving generally in less than 50 feet/ 15 metres of water).

### The Bigger Small Islands

Recommended for the more experienced divers who can handle currents and deeper diving at least some of the time: spectacular soft corals, pristine reef systems, and larger fish life. **Taveuni** for soft corals, swarming fish, rare critters, and intact ecosystems. **Beqa** for soft corals, rare critters, wrecks and shark feeding. **Kadavu** for walls and passages, healthy hard corals, manta rays and sharks.

### Central Waters

Some of the best and most varied diving in Fiji - most of these sites are quite far off shore. Mostly easy

diving but many sites require careful planning due to tide dependant currents and depth. **Vatu-i-Ra Passage** for spectacular walls, soft corals, schooling fish. **Lomaiviti islands** for passages with sharks, manta rays, and rare critters. **Southern Vanua Levu** for walls and soft corals. **Namena** for absolutely everything concentrated into one package.

### Northern Vanua Levu

#### Cakaulevu: The Great Sea Reef – the third longest barrier reef in the world!

Dramatic outer walls and passages. Limited fish life in some areas, and outer waters can be rough. Inner reef mangrove islands have poor visibility but extensive fish life of interest to specialists and ecologists. **Kia Island** provides a good and sheltered bay to base while exploring.

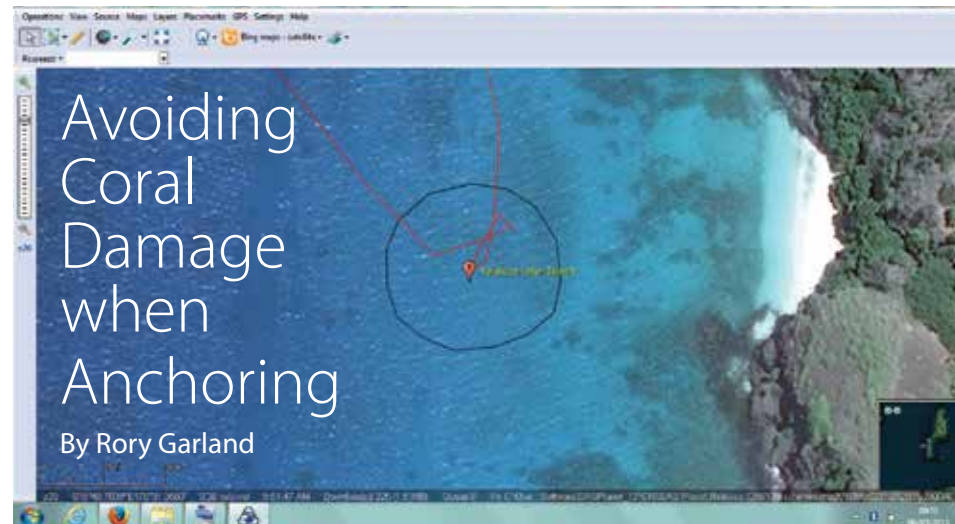
### The Eastern Archipelago

#### Lau Islands

Scattered islands with varied diving. Relatively easy conditions, but there are fewer well-known dive sites, so most is exploratory diving with some areas better than others. Some areas are overfished while others are pristine.

*Helen Sykes is a marine ecologist and dive instructor who has dived extensively across the Fiji Islands for over 15 years.*

For more information see [www.marineecologyfiji.com](http://www.marineecologyfiji.com)



Fiji's coral reefs and bommies are some of our most valuable assets. They are home to an incredible diversity of life. However they are also very fragile.

Anchored boats are swung around by the winds and currents and drag chains across the seabed. If done carelessly, live corals and the habitats they provide are scythed down leaving a waste ground which might never recover. Many countries impose penalties and fines for such irresponsible anchoring. One common technique for avoiding damage to the coral (and snagging your chain) is to buoy the chain with floats or fenders. However, if the wind dies and you swing around you can snag a float on

your rudder or propeller. Then if the wind comes back with a bang you could be in trouble.

Another way is to use satellite imagery to help pick an anchoring spot with clear swinging room to avoid coral.

Using a GPS and PC it is possible to identify your spot on packages like Google Earth or SAS Planet and then pilot the boat slowly over to your chosen spot before you let go.

For our cruise to Kadavu, home of the Great Astrolabe reef we picked a spot with clear swinging room to avoid any coral. A 30m-radius swing circle was plotted on a Bing satellite image to avoid coral heads.

## TRITONMARINE

### COMMERCIAL DIVING & SALVAGE

Triton Marine draws on over 15 years of experience in commercial diving and salvage to bring you an unparalleled level of service Fiji wide.

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[www.tritonmarinefiji.com](http://www.tritonmarinefiji.com)





# DIVE SAFETY IN FIJI

Despite being well-trained and experienced, diving accidents do happen. While we are able to put many mechanisms in place to protect ourselves, sometimes these are not enough and we need help. Here in Fiji, there is a dedicated team standing by to help in such an emergency and there are some necessary steps you should follow to assist them with their efforts.

If a member of your crew suddenly feels ill after having dived - **PLACE THE PATIENT ON OXYGEN BEFORE YOU DO ANYTHING.**

Do not presume that oxygen will be available in your location, and you should always have enough oxygen onboard to be able to administer for 4-5 hours (two E size tanks should be adequate). BOC Fiji Ltd located in Suva and Vuda can fill your tanks for you.

The CWM Hyperbaric Unit operates routine hyperbaric treatments. They have a 24hr emergency call list for emergencies after hours and weekends. On arrival at the hospital, please report to the emergency room, where a hyperbaric staff member will meet and assist you. Call one of the mobiles on arrival if there is no hyperbaric staff there. **Follow the Dive Accident Management Flow Chart for Fiji.**

## Dive Emergency Telephone Numbers

Colonial War Memorial Hospital  
HYPERBARIC CHAMBER

24 HOURS | Tel: 331 3444

Emergency Rotating Mobile Number  
for CWM Hyperbaric Doctors  
Tel: 903 4093

Hyperbaric Nurse | Tel 321 5525

Your medivac will land on the CWM roof heli-pad where treatment will be done at the Hyperbaric Unit at CWM.

## SUVA PRIVATE HOSPITAL

Contact Person	Phone
Dr John Alfred Clinical Coordinator	992 9541
Dr Penuel Anav - Ward Manager Medical Physician (Internal Medicine)	992 9368
David Qumivutia General Manager	992 4056
Hospital (after hours) Nursing Supervisor	330 3404

## ZEN'S MEDICAL CENTRE (Nadi)

Contact Person	Phone
Dr Zen	672 2288   979 7872
Dr Tupou	672 2288   939 3590

## DISTRICT HOSPITALS

Hospital	Phone	Hospital	Phone
Lautoka	666 0399	Sigatoka	650 0455
Savusavu	885 0444	Taveuni	888 0444
Labasa	881 1444	Navua	346 0181

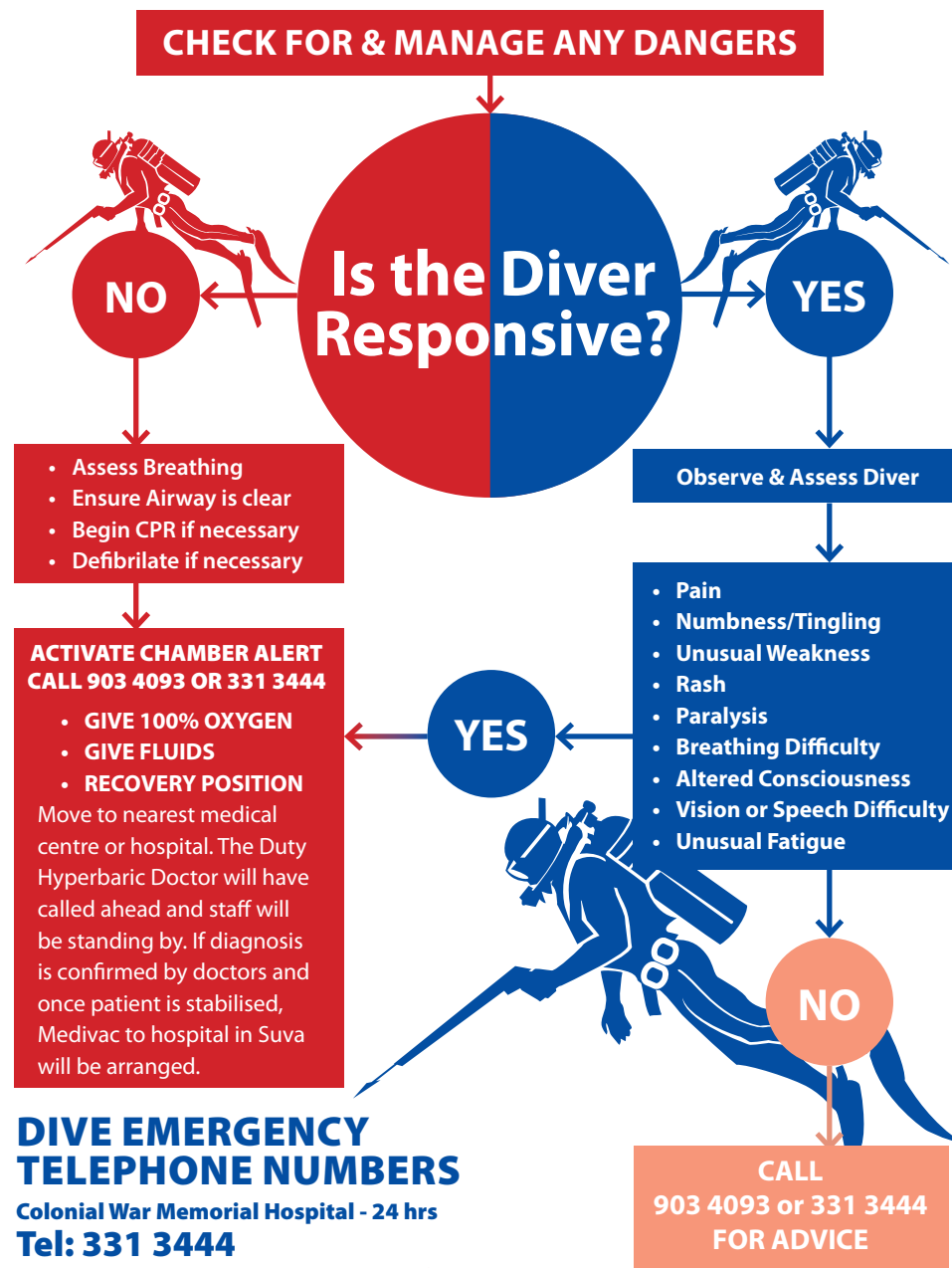
## FIJI AIR | SEA RESCUE

Police Sea Rescue	368 2488
Fiji Navy	331 2585   331 5380
Pacific Island Air	672 5644   999 1644
Island Hoppers	672 0410   672 3343
DAN 24-Hour Emergency Hotline	+61 88212 9242
PADI 24-Hour Emergency Hotline	+61 28907 5614

## INSURANCE

Willis PADI Insurance, V Insurance Group	0061 29285 4111
Mike Holme PADI QA/Incident Rpt Mgr	0061 29451 2300 ext. 202

## DIVE ACCIDENT MANAGEMENT FLOW CHART FOR FIJI



## DIVE EMERGENCY TELEPHONE NUMBERS

Colonial War Memorial Hospital - 24 hrs

Tel: 331 3444

Emergency Rotating Mobile Numbers for  
CWM Hyperbaric Doctors

Tel: 903 4093 or 992 4056



# Forewarned is forearmed

by Heidi Williams | Illustrations by James Keiaho

The magnificent waters of Fiji are blessed with stunning coral reefs that are teeming with species for ocean lovers to explore. From 99.9% of your swims/snorkels/dives you will take only photos and happy memories away with you. Occasionally however, you may find yourself a little too close to an otherwise docile marine critter who may decide to launch a defensive attack, in which case, you might take a little wound away with you too! The following is information about some of the potentially dangerous critters most commonly found in the waters around Fiji, how to avoid annoying them, and how to treat any injury they may inflict. Some unlucky souls can have the misfortune of being highly allergic to the toxins that some of these wounds will contain, and reactions can be severe and sometimes life threatening, so it is always a good idea to carry a shot of epinephrine (adrenaline) and an oral antihistamine onboard.



**FIRE CORAL** is easily identifiable by its tan, mustard or brown color and finger-like columns with whitish tips that are covered by fine, hair-like spikes. Contact with Fire coral causes a burning sensation that lasts for several minutes and may produce red welts on the skin. But as we all take such great care while swimming near the reef, and of course, we NEVER touch the reef, we should all be fine! | **TREATMENT:** *Do not rub the area, as you will spread the stinging particles. Cortisone cream can reduce the inflammation, and antihistamine cream is good for killing the pain. A doctor should treat serious stings*

**SEA SNAKES** - Three species of sea snakes reside along Fiji's rugged coastlines, where they come to the shore to rest. The highly venomous black and white banded sea snakes are often found along Fiji's shores or in lagoons. They are usually docile and will not attack people unless they are severely provoked. Their venom is 20 times stronger than any land snake, and while it has been reported that much larger specimens could possibly inflict a bite, generally their little mouths are too small to open wide enough for even your pinky finger – not that we are game enough to test that theory. | **TREATMENT:** *If you find your buddy in the predicament of having been nibbled by one of these slithery suckers, use a pressure bandage and immobilize the victim. Try to identify the snake, be prepared to administer CPR, and seek URGENT medical aid.*



**STONEFISH, LIONFISH & SCORPIONFISH** - Stonefish, as well as scorpion fish and lionfish, can inject venom through their dorsal spines (the pointy spikes along their backs). Be careful, as these spines can penetrate booties, wetsuits and gloves, so to avoid injury, simply watch your step, and steer clear of these docile creatures. Do not grab at the reef, even in strong current before having 'wafted' over the rock or dead coral you intend to touch (although we all know you should NEVER touch the reef – right!?!?) as there may be a cunning little stonefish in camouflage.



**TREATMENT:** *Soak the wound in non-scalding hot water (as hot as you can tolerate) as the heat should inactivate some of the venom. Administer pain medication if necessary and treat the wound with an antiseptic cream. Allergic victims who experience more serious problems such as convulsions or cardio respiratory failure should be transported to a hospital immediately. There is an antivenom available to help manage the sting of the dreaded stonefish. A scorpionfish sting can take months to heal and therefore should be attended to by a*

*medical professional.*

**MORAY EEL** - Have you ever wondered what on earth the characters 'Flotsum' and 'Jetsom' from the popular Disney cartoon 'The Little Mermaid' were supposed to be? Well, they were good old crevice loving Moray Eels! Distinguished by their long, thick, snake-like bodies and tapered heads, moray eels come in a variety of colors and patterns. Don't feed them or put your hand in any dark holes along the reef – eels have the unfortunate combination of sharp teeth and poor eyesight and will bite if they feel threatened! **Treatment:** *If you're bitten, don't try to pull your hand away suddenly – the teeth slant backwards and are extraordinarily sharp. Let the eel release your hand and then surface slowly. Treat with antiseptics. Check your tetanus status (you never know who's grotty little hand he bit before you!) and if the wound gets red and angry looking, go visit a doctor as anti-biotics may be required.*



**CONE SHELLS** - NEVER touch or pick up cone shells, no matter how pretty they are. The little critter inside some of beautifully patterned shell can deliver a venomous sting that will cause numbness and can be followed by muscular paralysis or even respiratory paralysis and heart failure. Tricky little thing! | **TREATMENT:** *Immobilize the victim, apply a pressure bandage, be prepared to use CPR, and seek urgent medical aid.*

**JELLYFISH** sting by releasing stinging cells contained in their trailing tentacles. Stings are often just irritating, not too painful, but should be treated immediately with vinegar (as a general rule, the longer the jellyfish tentacles, the more painful the sting). Although only occasionally encountered, the 'Blue Bottle', also known as the 'Portuguese man-o-war' can be found in the waters of Fiji and washed up along the beach just before Christmas. This beautiful blue bubble likes to blend in with the blue of the ocean and bob along at the surface. Trailing along behind are very long (up to 10 meters!) tentacles that sting. Sting symptoms range from a mild itch to intense pain, blistering, skin discoloration, shock, breathing difficulties and even unconsciousness. They are able to sting even when lying dead on the beach, so watch where you step if strolling along barefoot! **TREATMENT:** *Remove the tentacles with anything but your bare hands - preferably with tweezers. Do not rub the skin (even after tentacles have been removed) as more poison will be released. Rinse the area with sea water and place in hot water.*



**CROWN-OF-THORNS** - This large sea star may have up to 23 arms, although 13 to 18 are more commonly observed. Body coloration can be blue, green or grayish with the spines tinted red or orange. The spines are venomous and can deliver a painful sting even if the animal has been dead for two or three days. Also beware the toxic pincers between the spines, which can also cause severe pain upon contact. | **TREATMENT:** *To treat stings, remove any loose spines, soak stung area in non-scalding hot vinegar or water for 30 to 90 minutes and seek medical aid. Neglected wounds may produce serious injury. If you've been stung before, your reaction to another sting may be worse than the first.*



**SEA URCHIN** - There are a variety of sea urchins in Fiji. The type divers should especially avoid is the venomous spiny urchin. These are generally black and white or all black and have very long, brittle spines. The spines are the urchin's most dangerous weapon, easily able to penetrate neoprene wetsuits, booties and gloves. Puncture wounds immediately cause throbbing pain. **TREATMENT:** *Carefully remove any visible spines – but since the spines may break off in the flesh, the wound should be monitored for infection. Treat minor punctures by soaking the wound in non-scalding hot water (as hot as you can tolerate) until the pain subsides. If the wound shows signs of infection, or for more serious injuries, seek medical attention.*



**TRIGGERFISH:** The 'Titan' triggerfish will usually swim along minding its own business, however, when building or guarding an egg nest, they can be extremely territorial and quite aggressive. If you get too close to the nest, you may get a warning nip! A good warning sign for an imminent attack is the fish going on its side readying itself for the charge. Get your snorkel, dive gauge or something else pokey ready to wave in self-defense, and fin out of its space backwards watching the fish as you do. Be careful as Triggerfish normally hit you once and then do a loop to come back at you again.

**TREATMENT:** *If you do receive a nip from one of our toothy friends, scrub the cut clean with soap and water, and then flush the wound with large amounts of water. Apply antiseptic cream. If the wound shows any sign of infection, seek medical assistance.*

**STINGRAY** - The pain from a stingray wound can be excruciating, most wounds involve the feet and legs as ocean lovers wade barefoot in the shallows. Stingrays submerge themselves in the sand of the shallows and it is easy to accidentally tread on one who is just chillin' out, minding its own business. It's a good idea to shuffle your feet when wading along sandy shorelines to avoid such an encounter. A stingray does its damage by lashing upward in defense with its 'tail', which carries up to four sharp, sword-like stingers. The stingers are venomous so the injury inflicted can be both deep and injected with venom.

**TREATMENT:** *Rinse the wound with clean water and immerse in non-scalding hot water (as hot as you can tolerate) for 30 to 90 minutes. Extract any visible piece of stinger and scrub the wound with soap and water. Administer pain medication (ask the stingray if he would like some too, as your foot stomping on his head may have given him a nasty headache!), apply a dressing and seek medical help. ■*





# Taveuni Dive Resort

16° 50' 23" South | 179° 58' 2" East



In the 19th century, needing to establish an International Dateline to distinguish one day from another for navigators, a line was drawn right through the middle of Taveuni. Forevermore Fiji's

third largest island was divided, geographically, into two days. Fast forward a few hundred years and you can be the first to watch the sun rise over a new day from the secure anchorage at Taveuni Dive Resort.



Nestled along the western coastline you'll find the islands only 5-Star Instructor Development Dive Resort, located within a 4000-acre privately owned real estate development known as Taveuni Estates.

If you need a little time on terra firma, you may like to check-in to one of the resort's eight comfortable and private Bures.

The Resort is only a short walk from the marina and a mere 15-minute boat ride from many world-class dive sites along the Rainbow Reef.

## Getting There

You'll find the approach is good from all directions – deep in the Somosomo Strait up to the 4 moorings that are from 15-20m above the predominantly sandy

## Services & Facilities at a Glance



bottom. On your approach, please radio ahead on Channel 16 to 'Taveuni Dive Resort'.

Sea grass and a few small rocks provide foraging ground to an interesting array of marine life should you wish to don your snorkel and explore.

Anchoring is possible between 20-30 metres, but we would prefer you use the moorings. This is a good anchorage in calm seas. However during bad weather, there is shelter across the Somosomo Strait in Viani Bay.



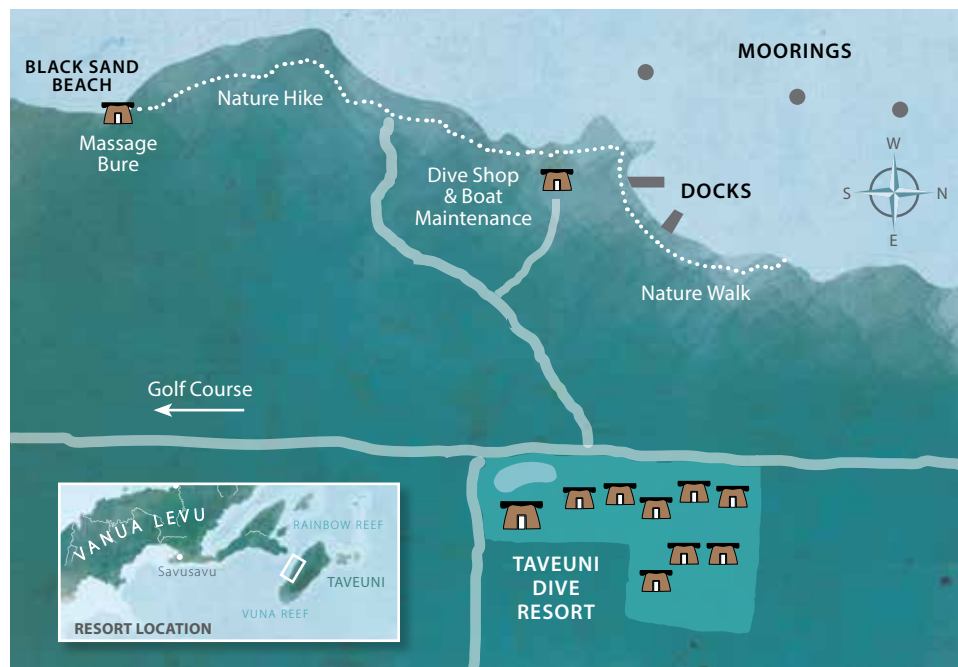
There is easy access into town for shopping, provisions and small hardware supplies - not to mention the infamous 'Salty Fox Bar & Grill' – it is well worth a visit.

## The Marina

Once moored, there is a small channel for easy dinghy access into the marina (see map) where you will find two small docks you may tie up to. The marina is patrolled by an onsite security team from 7pm to 6am.







## Facilities

A short walk up from the marina you'll find the Salty Fox Bar & Grill which boasts a delicious all-day menu (we recommend the Salty Balls!) with nightly specials. Open daily from 7am, while the closing time is officially 10pm – they will happily stay open later for 'salty' patrons!

A two day turn-a-round laundry service is available.

## Provisioning

In addition to the small, onsite retail market, you'll find food supplies and general hardware shops are a ten minute taxi ride away with fuel available from the nearby TOTAL station in Waiyevo. Roadside stalls selling cheaply priced fresh fruit and vegetables from the local village farms are common. The Taveuni Dive Resort team will be happy

to arrange a taxi for you, with the closest shopping destination typically incurring a fare in the region of FJ\$7.

Alternatively, local buses can transport you around the island with fares from FJ\$1 to FJ\$4, depending how far you want to go.

## Things to see and do

The resort is adjacent to the Soqulu Country Club – the island's nine-hole golf course and tennis courts. A pool is also available at the resort and you are welcome to jump in and cool off.

With a plethora of activities available on Taveuni, the resort team will happily arrange to keep you entertained – from a trip to the International Date Line to a whizz down the nearby natural water slides! ■



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# Mission of Love

*Mission at Natuvu Creek, Buca Bay, Vanua Levu. Photo: Michelle Philp*

In 1998, Steve Arrington, former lead diver with the Cousteau Society and founder of the Fiji-based Dream Machine Foundation, asked California ophthalmologist and dentist, Tom and Marta Tooma to lead a group of dental students on the Foundations's first dental outreach program to Fiji.

The accommodations were primitive and the equipment minimal, however, the need was so profound everyone felt compelled to return.

While Fijians are surrounded by extraordinary natural beauty, specialized care is often not available or accessible, either geographically or financially. The result is many suffer acutely from debilitating, but treatable skin diseases, blindness, heart disease, various injuries, tooth decay and more.

In 2000, an 850 acre parcel of land at Buca Bay became available and was purchased by the Tooma Family Foundation.

100 acres were donated to the Dream Machine Foundation to allow for their future expansion with youth.

The Tooma's themselves desired to build a beautiful state-of-the-

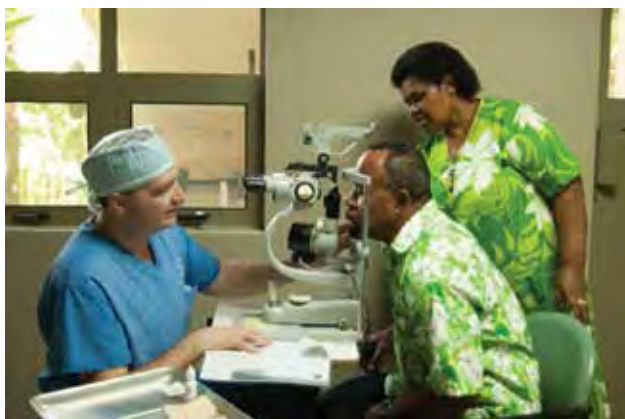
art facility to give back to the generous and kind people they had come to know and love.

In 2005, after much planning and countless miracles, the process of building the mission at Natuvu



*The Team*





Creek began. The facilities were completed in 2008.

Situated on 750 acres and encompassing an extinct volcano that reaches an altitude of 1,200 feet at its peak, down through rain and bamboo forests, to the shores of Buca Bay, sits the clinic and other facilities of the Mission at Natuvu Creek.

Since 1998 and that first dental outreach, thousands of patients have received free medical care by hundreds of volunteers.

As health professionals practicing in a faith-based community, they are called not merely to heal the body, but to meet the spiritual needs of those they serve.



At Mission Natuvu Creek, they model a healthy lifestyle in a tobacco, drug and alcohol-free environment.

### State of the Art Facilities

The doors of the 7,000 sq.ft facility are open from 8am to noon on weekdays, when Dr. Anibal Kalbermatter, a trauma surgeon and his team see patients. His wife, Nani assists in the clinic as lead nurse.

Also on staff are administrators, orderlies, and facilities staff to help manage patient flow and keep the operation running smoothly. Today, there are 25 clinic staff for the everyday running of the Mission and other facilities.

The air-conditioned facility has a large waiting room and reception desk area, several exam rooms, and an operating room. Available equipment includes a full eye exam center, equipment for producing prescription eyeglasses, a surgical microscope, dental chairs, pneumatic and other dental instruments, an x-ray machine, general anesthesia equipment, and equipment for a surgical theater.

Patients come to the clinic from all over the island as well as from Fiji's largest island, the capital city of Suva, the nearby islands of Taveuni, Kioa and Rabi. The population that can be reached by the clinic is in the hundreds of thousands.

### An Opportunity To Help Locals Help Themselves

The Mission strives to employ as many local people as possible, not only creating jobs but opportunities for the residents of Buca Bay to earn a living without having to leave their families in search of work in the cities.

The Mission at Natuvu Creek is initiating industries on-site that

will employ more people and generate revenue to cover the cost of operations.

A primary focus of this initiative is the harvesting and processing of coconuts for products such as bio-fuel, virgin coconut oil for use in the nutrition and pharmaceutical industries and charcoal for filtration systems.

To raise funds for the clinic, the mission runs a small store located on the clinic grounds offering basic necessities, produce, local crafts and souvenirs for both local residents and visiting groups.

Other initiatives include the development of the Mission farm, greenhouse facility, bee keeping and cultivating pearls in Buca Bay.

In November 2015, founder, Tom Tooma participated in the Ironman competition in Arizona in the hope of raising \$250,000 to build additional volunteer housing and a fully functional solar and hydro electric system that will power the entire clinic compound.

### Visiting Medical Volunteers

The clinic welcomes volunteer medical specialists and while the Mission strives to equip the clinic as completely as possible, medical teams can also help by bringing the specialized equipment and materials they need.

You simply can't give out as many blessings as you will receive from the deserving people of Fiji.

visit [www.natuvu.org](http://www.natuvu.org) for more information on volunteering or to make a donation to the Solar Dream. ■





# The Lady Captain of Taveuni

Story & images by Michelle Philp

Last October whilst visiting Savusavu I decided on a lark to take the bus to Natuvu, Buca Bay where I was to catch the ferry to Somosomo on Taveuni for a bit of adventure.



I'd heard about the lady captain of the Taveuni-Savusavu-Labasa Express but I could not have imagined the vibrant personality I was about to meet. I was in for a pleasant and very interesting encounter with Fiji's first female qualified captain and engineer and an Indo-Fijian woman at that. As she skillfully maneuvered her vessel into the dock at Natuvu I caught my first glimpse of Captain Soniya Thakur amongst the crowd who had come across from Taveuni to Vanua Levu that morning.

There was no mistaking who was master of this ship as she stood out in her khakis and captain's hat, hands on hips overseeing the lines in confident manner and then assisting the elderly negotiate the tricky task of clambering safely on to terra firma.

"She was a sight to behold in her immaculately starched uniform, polished boots and long bleached hair purposely styled under her cap. Her bling and epaulets among other gold adornment brought to mind a hip-hop star."

I was intrigued by this woman's character and when we set off on the ferry's return journey to Somosomo, a relatively short distance of about 18 nm or about 1hr 20mins chugging along on a fine day, I clambered up onto the bridge to meet our captain and find out a little about her background.

Born in Taveuni in 1975, Soniya was raised by her parents in the

Christian faith. She is the eldest daughter of Latchman and Grace Prasad. Her father and his elder brother built timber ferry boats, the last one called 'Taveuni Princess' was built in 2012. They are the original ferry service provider for the Taveuni-Natuvu-Taveuni run and Latchman himself has operated from Taveuni to Natuvu (Vanua Levu) for the last 52 years.

Soniya was brought up with a passion for the sea though she loves beaches too and points out that she once lived at Bondi Beach in Sydney. Her mother spent a lot of her time working with her husband on their boats, dad was captain of his own vessels too and the admiration she holds for her parents is clearly evident.

After high school Soniya left for further studies in Australia. She studied for a Bachelor in Business Management during her first three years before switching to study nursing, all paid for by her parents. After obtaining her degree in nursing and acquiring permanent residency she began to feel some pressure from her father to be involved in the family business and so decided on four years of nautical science with a major in sea pilotage and marine engineering at the University of New South Wales. At the time of her maritime studies she was the only female among 32 other students.

I asked her if she was married and she declared that she was once, but it was a failed arranged marriage and that her father was very supportive of her decision to end it. Refreshingly frank, she reveals the marriage just wasn't her cup of tea, especially

after the experience of living in Australia. He was an Indian police officer introduced by her parents. She thought he was 'cool' and within nine months of their parents planning their union they were legally married and began to prepare his paperwork for Australia. She explains there was no pressure or force by her parents to marry him and she emphasized they are not typical traditional Indian parents, being Seventh Day Adventists and culturally liberal. Soniya didn't want to marry someone from Australia and felt Fiji Indian guys were better suited but it was to be a short-lived marriage and within 3 months of meeting and marrying her husband she filed for divorce. At the time, she wanted to return to Australia but he was not interested in migrating. Add to the fact - he had older parents to take care of and she wasn't quite ready to assume subservient ways to her husband's family.

Upon her eventual return to Fiji in early 2013 she began operating the family ferry within the Somosomo Straight piloting it to a regular schedule due to high demand. The ferry runs 6 days a week Sunday to Friday



and on each of these mornings Soniya rises early, and with much pride selects her khaki or white uniform and styles herself in a way essential to her image, before making her way to work for the first run departs Taveuni at 8am. Not missing a beat, she is there early enough to issue tickets and calculate her passenger numbers. The return trip from Vanua Levu arrives back at Taveuni by 11am which leaves Soniya time to attend to other aspects of the business.

I found the trip itself rather fun, laid back and amusing what with a large TV screen offering the lords prayer upon departure followed by a Bollywood movie. All part of the experience of journeying on the Taveuni-Savusavu-Labasa Express.

Despite a little sadness in her love life she says she feels successful in her chosen field and loves her job as a Managing Director and Sea Pilot. Even from her remote outpost Captain Soniya stands as a great inspiration to the young women of Fiji pursuing their dreams. ■



# Coral Gardening in Taveuni

People who live on or by the sea are so blessed to have access to our beloved oceans, there are many who have not seen the magnificence of a wave breaking, or the beauty of a coral reef - "The Cradle of Life".  
- by Roberta Davis

**T**he despairing facts are the coral reefs are being degraded at a rate of 2 per cent a year. About a fifth of the world's stock has already gone, and nearly half of the remainder is in danger of disappearing within the next 20 years and 40% of the Great Barrier Reef is gone.

With so many odds going against a coral reef, one might be tempted to throw their hands up in despair. But there is an answer which is reef gardening. Pessimists may scoff at it because the root of the problem is controlling the Co2 levels on the planet. However, the phytoplankton in the ocean plays a partial stabilizing role by converting Co2 into Oxygen and reef habitats produce a fair degree of the phytoplankton.

We chose to make things happen to whatever degree we are able towards rehabilitating our fragile planet.

The basics of coral gardening are simple, great fun and can become a healthy addiction. The simple version is like landscaping a yard. The same principles are applied where one would plant fast growing cuttings to give their landscape a look of maturity and large slow growing plants in areas where they will have a lot of room to grow without being smothered.

**There are a couple of critical aspects to keep in mind when coral gardening. For the casual snorkeler who wants to make a difference to our planet here are some tips.**

1. Once you find a broken piece of coral, (frag) part of it might be white and dead, that part is knocked off easily, leaving a completely healthy colorful fragment.
2. Find a rocky hole or dead coral base that will fit the healthy part of the cutting snugly, if there is any movement it will never take root. Ideally you want as many sides touching the dead coral base. Not all of the cuttings will take, but the majority will. At first the progress is slow, but once it takes root it takes off in leaps and bounds. When a frag is planted in a denuded area and it takes, it begins a cycle because corals emit a signal to other corals floating in the plankton that this is a safe place to take up residence.



**For those that have the ways and means to create many new reefs once again the technique is easy. There are two techniques one is a little more costly but easier**

1. Purchase a coil of 3 ply rope, cut lengths to around 30 ft. or less. Twist the ply to open the rope and insert your frag within it about a hand span apart. Or use heavy fishing line to tie the frags.
2. Find cinder blocks and tie the rope to it as an anchor or tie it securely to the bottom.
3. Any old jugs will suffice as floats to tie to the top end of the rope. Or use a larger PVC pipe drill some holes in it about 2 feet apart, weave some rope loops into the pipe and tie the coral ropes off the loops. Alternatively, you can use heavy fishing line instead, making loops to tie your coral ropes. Use buoys or many plastic jugs as a float.
4. Until the herbivore fish population moves in the ropes will need monthly cleaning, so the algae doesn't over take the frags.. After a few months the fish will help do that task for the most part.
5. After about a year the corals will be very large. There are three alternatives you can plant them individually in dead areas using the technique of finding a snug place or tying them into the reef. If fishing lines were used to grow the coral they can be stretched from one coral head to another near but not on the bottom. We have over 50 lines and over 1500 cuttings, so we will make various 10X10 ft. PVC frames cut holes in it with looped ropes and string our existing coral ropes to it at 2 ft. apart in single file, place it on the bottom with some cinder blocks to hold it off the bottom and keep the frame level in denuded areas. Over time as the coral gets larger it will attach itself to the sea bottom.
6. Be aware of the growing depth of the coral and water temperatures. Don't situate the corals on top of a freshwater spring, those are usually easy to detect as they are the cold water pockets you

*Above left: Coral fragments established 6 months prior to large corals (above right & opposite page).*

feel when you are in the water. Study the area so you don't plant it in water that has a tendency to get too warm or somewhat stagnant in its movement or where it will be exposed at full growth during the low tides. As much as possible try not to plant a fast growing coral next to a slow growing coral as it will end up dominating the slow growing coral.

7. Wear gloves when working with large amounts of coral frags to avoid cuts

Coral gardening gives reefs a minimum of a 5 year head start its development or restoration. As it develops the fish populations start to increase and the whole ocean cycle is enriched.

The latest scientific theory is - if a decimated reef is left to its own devices it will take 50 years to establish itself again. The global rewards for reef gardening will be phenomenal.

As the coral grows, more reef fish and other organisms will move into the area.

**"Happy coral gardening & ocean preservation wherever you are in Fiji"**

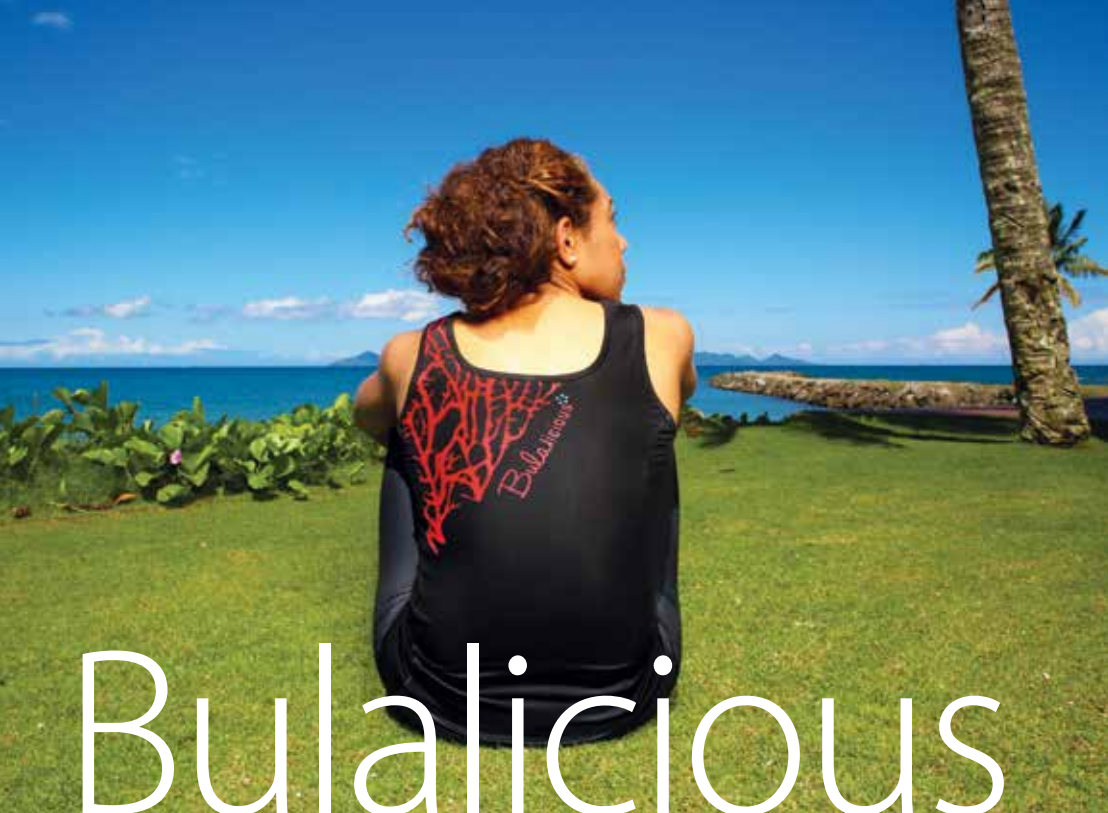
*If you find yourself near Makaira Resort in Taveuni, please join us in our project.*

Contact us at: makaira@connect.com.fj



Brigitte Dewhurst photo





# Bulalicious



## Active Wear

### Supporting the Coral Reefs

The Pacific Islands are famous for their picture perfect beaches, friendly locals and glorious weather. One island in particular has been the main inspiration for a brand new ladies active wear brand, Bulalicious.

Bulalicious is an innovative brand that prides itself on designing clothing with a conscience. Themed on the prevalent causes



within the stunning islands of Fiji, Bulalicious aims to showcase the true beauty of the Islands whilst raising awareness and funds for each particular cause.

Bulalicious launched into the popular and ever-growing active wear market with their Coral Reef line. The stunning and eye-catching designs were inspired by the colours, textures and patterns of the coral found in the South Pacific.



The Fijian Archipelago encompasses one of the most extensive and magnificent coral reef systems in the world but this diverse and beautiful natural environment is also extremely vulnerable.

Damage from marine recreation, pollution, overfishing, and natural causes add stress to coral reefs. These reefs are already susceptible to rising ocean temperatures caused by climate change, which makes it urgent and essential to act now to reduce as many human-induced stresses as possible.

By purchasing one of the Bulalicious garments from the Coral Reef line at [www.bulalicious.com](http://www.bulalicious.com) you will directly support the protection of this vital resource. Your purchase will help implement sustainable interventions which will protect our coral reefs for future generations. Let's act now to ensure our future generations can continue to enjoy one of the world's natural wonders. ■

WHAT'S HOT

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yachtshop.com.fj



## CRUISING IN THE FIJI GROUP with CAPTAIN CAROL DUNLOP

and Captain Adrian Faulkner of MV MANDALA

## CRUISING THE LAU GROUP



Bay of Islands, Vanuabalavu © Carol Dunlop



Bay of Islands, Vanuabalavu © Carol Dunlop

The remote eastern group of islands, the Lau group, have to be one of the best cruising destinations of all time and are certainly one of the highlights in a world cruise!

It used to be more difficult to visit the Lau Group due to restrictive permit requirements, however you will find it easy today as permission to cruise Lau is included in your government

issued permit for the entire area of Fiji Waters.

In Lau you will find absolutely no tourism. It is very much open-ocean sailing between the islands and as such, some of the passages between the islands can be quite bumpy. The bonus however, is that isolated reefs and islands are well-defined, so that night passages between islands are safe for competent navigators. Indeed, one commonly reaches through the night across Force 4-5 trade winds, hearing and even smelling unseen islands to windward, making some superb sailing.

Both Northern and Southern Lau are very remote areas away from any tourist track. There is absolutely no shopping, nightclubs, stores, or resorts! However there is excellent fishing, great diving, rich cultural

experiences and beautiful scenery. The Fijians of this region follow a subsistence lifestyle that is not greatly changed from that of their ancestors. Unlike on the large islands there are few people of other races, and only rarely has land been sold out of indigenous ownership. It is very important that visitors respect the traditions that underlie daily life, as careless or disrespectful behavior can lead to animosity, and damage to the fragile ecosystem. Please keep this in mind while cruising here.

The island life is very simple, and the people are poor in material terms but rich in others. Most villages have a store, but there is little for sale. Fresh fruit and vegetables are hard to find, and villagers are not used to the idea of selling these things that are normally shared freely with friends and family.

Premix petrol (and sometime diesel) is sometimes available in the larger villages. While most islands have a telephone at the post office, internet is rarely available.

Vanuabalavu and Lakeba have the only airports in Lau and both are serviced by domestic carrier Fiji Link, with once-



weekly scheduled flights that depart Suva in the mornings. There are airstrips on Cicia and Moala too – again Fiji Link runs a once-weekly scheduled flight to

Cicia while Northern Air services Moala. Charter flights are able to land at all these airstrips. Cargo ships, with passengers, visit some islands roughly monthly (in theory), but this is unreliable. Due to this infrequency, the local stores are often in low supply, so do not rely on buying any of your supplies here.

Cruisers may be able to help in this respect by carrying extra supplies of sugar, rice and flour (which may be used for trades; or in sevusevu if supplies of yaqona have run out. One may also be asked to carry produce (MANDALA carried 50 wooden kava bowls, and three sacks of smoked sea slug to Suva from Fulaga) or people from their islands to the main islands.



Delivering school supplies to a village meeting in Fulaga © Carol Dunlop





Vanua Balavu Airstrip © Carol Dunlop

Please observe the sevusevu protocol; you must bring the required yaqona with you as it cannot be purchased easily once in Lau. This means estimating how many villages you will visit during your entire stay! In these remote islands, gifts of basic stores, schoolbooks, pens, pencils, paper, and both school and medical supplies are greatly valued.

While in Lau, you must also pay particular attention to observing the iQoliqoli protocols (see below) as they are of fundamental importance and followed more strictly in this area, that retains such a strong link to their tradition and culture.

### Weather

The region is dominated by the SE trade winds, which are usually from Force 3 - and mostly 5. Quite frequently these bring occasional showers. When fronts pass through heavy showers and rain are more frequent, making navigation in lagoons a little tricky. June July and August can be boisterous sailing.

### How to get there.

Before stopping in Lau, you will first need to report to a Port of Entry. Any boat found to have

Vanua Balavu, and on Lakeba as mentioned before, but these are not always accessible if the weather is difficult.

The best way to get to Lau is to wait, happily, for the few days of west or north-quadrant winds that comes every week or two, when a front moves through the region, and these will give you a free ride from Suva to Matuku or Fulanga; or from Taveuni to Vanua Balavu (Adrian's yacht, MANDALA averaged near 8 knots on this!).

## Islands with good anchorages

### Vanua Balavu

A long and winding island with uplifted coral in the north, and volcanic landforms in the south. A huge lagoon bounded by a 130-kilometer barrier reef encloses a 37-by-16-kilometer lagoon extending east. One could cruise the area, making use of the many excellent anchorages for seven days or more.

The island has a beautiful harbour that is popular with cruisers at the north end called the Bay of Islands (or Qilaqila in Fijian). This Bay is a recognized hurricane shelter. Although I think Maluca to the south has better good mud holding and is surrounded by mangroves. The Bay of Islands have sharp limestone rocks and a sand bottom so to drag anchor would be nasty!

A great calm anchorage can be found in the fjord-like harbour at Nabavatu, it is very secure and can accommodate a few dozen yachts. Here you will find the Bavatu Plantation, which almost completely surrounds the harbour and offers lovely walks and spectacular scenic views including westward over the Bay of Islands. However, only those

who are properly introduced either through the owners of Vuda Marina and/or the Copra Shed Marina (Savusavu) may enjoy access to the Plantation and it's scenic walks.

The "Royal Exploring Isles Yacht Squadron" is located on the waters edge on the point of a snug little cove about halfway down the western side. There are several plantation moorings; "lay back or berth" moorings, positioned to secure the plantation owners yachts.

The REIYS is generally only fully accessible when the estate owners are in residence, and even then, it is very relaxed. You are welcome to use the facilities, but please – look after yourself. The lovely folks that own the estate aren't always there to be your hosts.

### Lakeba

Population is about 2000, in 7 villages spread around the shore, with a road running right around. The island has a very basic shop and a clinic. There is a basic guest-house, but no other facilities for visitors or tourists.

This roughly circular volcanic island, about 6 miles across, is the political centre of Lau, indeed Lakeba, and Bau (on Viti Levu), were the two poles of power in traditional Fiji, and the tombs of several of the great leaders of Fiji are revered on the main village of Tubou's waterfront.

The channel through the reef off Tubou is very narrow (20m wide), is only roughly marked and very challenging.

Leading about half a mile inside the reef, the channel leads to a long jetty and past this to a narrow anchoring basin about 6m deep on sand. With care there could be room for two small



Qilaqila Pass, Vanua Balavu © Carol Dunlop

cruising yachts, but only using great skill, good anchors and co-operation. The anchorage is calm, but difficult. It is recommended to take a dinghy ride in before entering with the yacht, and to enter only at slack water as currents are strong.

Not really recommended for any sizable super yacht; the pass is considered very dangerous at times.

The ship can lie off Tubou while the tender can be used to pick up and drop off guests via the dock and then to the small airport on the island (4 nm NW of Tubou). A local carrier can be hired to carry the guests but this is a hard seat truck - no taxis here! Local cargo ships at anchor outside the passage in calm weather.

### Wainiyabia

Another anchorage to the North of Tubou on the western side of Lakeba is called Wainiyabia (18 12S 178 50W). This affords an anchorage in winds between SSE and NNE close to the reef in about 60ft. There is a small boat landing here, through an opening in the reef by the shore, close to the anchorage.

The leads here are a couple of beacons with a white triangle top mark, point up, on the shore

and the course in is about 120T on the alignment of the beacons.

### Oneata Island

To the South East of Lakaba is the island of Oneata which has several reasonable passes in good light. There is a nice village on the southern side and lovely anchorages on the Northern side.

### Komo Island

Has a deep wide pass and a delightful village on the southern side of the island. The anchorage is normally mid island on the Northern side and guests can walk through to the village to the south; but with care a yacht can pass west about the island and anchor on the SW side of the island and islet.



Komo dance display © Carol Dunlop



*Fulaga Lagoon and Passage*

### Yagasa Cluster

Further south the Yagasa cluster affords some remote anchorages away from any village. There may be a few fishermen around but that's about all. Like many islands in Lau, the land is sharp, raised coral rock, and access to the land is difficult: the anchorage is welcoming, but the land is not! The middle island in the cluster, Navutu-i-Loma, has a small, pretty beach on the Northern side.

### Fulaga (Vulaga)

South again to Fulaga, this island consists of an oval rim of jungle-covered hills of raised coral, around a lagoon about 6 miles by 5 miles where the small sailing canoes (Waka) are still seen

today. There is one 50m-wide pass into the lagoon, straight but challenging - and dangerous in bad weather or strong tides. Inside the lagoon are countless mushroom islets and some larger islands dotted with rare palms, countless anchorages over white sand, usually <10m deep. At least one anchorage could be considered hurricane shelter for a small boat. The pass is difficult, but can accommodate at least a 35m vessel with a draft of 3m. This cannot be attempted with a strong current running and the usual time to enter this pass is on slack water, which is usually at half tide.

Population is about 400 over three villages. One village (Naivindamu) lies on the W

shore inside the lagoon, with good anchorage about 200m offshore allowing ready contact with the welcoming villagers. The other two villages lie close together on the southern edge, with two tracks leading from the lagoon to them. The head-village, Monacake, where one should present the sevusevu, has the school and clinic, and is about half an hour's easy walk over the hills. No airport, and very infrequent ships make this a very isolated world, rarely visited by yachts but well worth the trip.

### Kabara Island

Just NW of Fulaga lies the island of Kabara which is famous for its handicrafts and carvings. They are especially renowned for the huge kava bowls that are sent to Suva to be sold.

*Kabara is famous for high quality wood carvings, especially tanoas.*

### Ogea Island

This island has a deep and wide pass and the diving is truly awesome. The village is to the south of Ogea Levu and needs to be approached at high tide to make sevusevu.

A run with the wind into the Yasyasa Moala Group overnight is good with the usual prevailing

easterly quadrant winds. The group is comprised of three islands - Moala, Totoya and Matuku.

### Yasayasa Moala Group

#### Moala

The island is of volcanic origin; the summit of 'Delai Moala' is 468m high in the NW part.

A barrier reef encircles the island, line up Double Hill on a bearing of 080T which leads you through the pass into the lagoon.

NE Point bearing 167T leads to an open roadstead (Herald Roadstead) or approximately 0.7nm off the Northern part of the island on this alignment turn onto the leads bearing 189T.

Nairoi, situated at the NE end is the principal village of the island and your sevusevu needs to be carried out here. Anchorage can be found to the west of Observatory rocks.

Another anchorage is via Daveta-i-Cakova. There are several other anchorages around the island but these are best in normal

prevailing easterlies. There is an airstrip on the island.

#### Totoya

The island is about 5 miles wide, being the rim of a volcano with the crater open to the south, and a barrier reef around most coasts. The crater is accessible through a clear pass on the west side, and by a passage inside the reef. Anchorage in the crater is far from ideal, and very deep (20m+). Anchorage on the N coast is possible, open but calm in S winds.

The usual anchorage is inside the pass on the western side in Herald sound.

#### Matuku

This is a beautiful, verdant, high volcanic island, with its crater open to the west through a wide, clear pass. There is an excellent sheltered anchorage, 10 - 15m over mud inside the crater off the village of Lomati. Other deeper, less sheltered anchorages are in the channel inside the pass, to the north of the main channel (17m over sand), or south of



the main channel, amongst coral (6m over sand). There are more marginal anchorages inside some narrow passes on other coasts. Seven villages are spread around the coasts, with total population about 800. No airport, only occasional shipping and yachts (mostly surf and dive charters). The main village is Yaroi, on the NW coast, with a clinic and school. Anchorage is possible off another delightful village, Makadru, south of the pass.

Over the past few years Matuku and to a lesser extent Moala and Totoya have been explored for excellent surfing opportunities. You would be sure to have a clear go at the breaks! ■

*Above & below: Weilagilala © Carol Dunlop*

*Fulaga Lagoon. Carol Dunlop photo*





# The American Iguana

## The Importance of Biosecurity

Stacy Jupiter photo

**“Fiji is the only country in the Pacific that has native iguanas.  
They could be threatened by the American iguana.”**

As you travel from region to region and country to country, it is important to keep an eye out for rogue animals hitching a ride on the hull, in cupboards or within food items. Over the centuries, Fiji has fallen foul to many an introduced outbreak. From Cholera, to warfare and more subtle threats which take time to reveal themselves. While we

appreciate you may be keen to get ashore and start exploring, it is imperative that you wait onboard for Biosecurity officers to board and inspect your vessel for such unwelcome hitchhikers.

The Biosecurity Authority of Fiji (BAF) wishes to inform travelers that there exists an invasive species to Fiji on the islands of Qamea, Matangi and Taveuni called the American Iguana (*Iguana iguana*). The American Iguana is not native to Fiji and was illegally introduced in the year 2000 on the island of Qamea. Since then the American Iguana has spread to Matangi and Taveuni. BAF wishes to advise you that it is illegal to intentionally or unintentionally move any stage of the American Iguana from Qamea, Matangi and Taveuni to other parts of Fiji and vessel owners should take every precautionary measure to ensure the American Iguana's do not hitch-hike on your vessels. It is also advisable that vessel owners



© Jan Sevcik

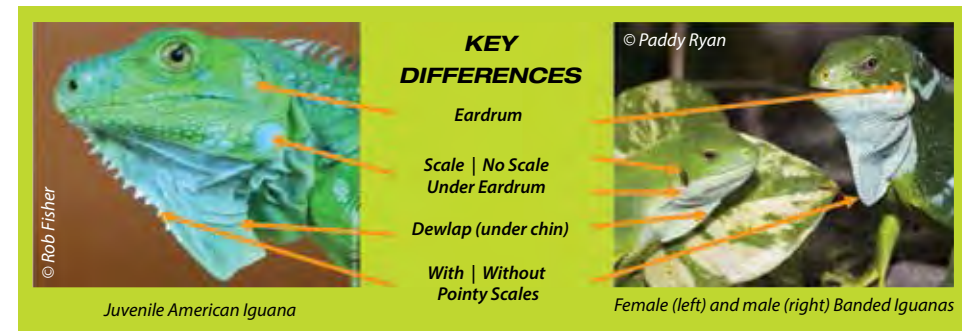


Diagram & image below kindly provided by NatureFiji-MereqetiViti - [www.naturefiji.org](http://www.naturefiji.org)

inspect their vessels thoroughly before departing these islands for other islands in Fiji to ensure you do not aid in the spread of this invasive species.

There are heavy fines and penalties if anyone is found to in possession of any life stage of the American Iguana. BAF would like you to support the efforts of the Fijian Government to contain the American Iguana from spreading to other parts of Fiji by adhering to this message.

### Spot the Difference:

Unlike the native Fiji iguanas, the adult American iguanas can grow almost two metres in length and weigh in at nine kilograms. They are green and may also appear bluish with black markings. Adult American iguanas have long dangerous spines along their backs and tails and long sharp claws, which they use to defend themselves. They also have long flaps of saggy skin hanging from their chin to the base of their necks, which is called a dewlap.

On each sides of their cheeks they have a large scale underneath their tympanums (a slightly sunken leathery covering of their eardrums). This large scale is a key identification feature for the American iguanas. The native Fijian iguanas do not have this large scale or the large dewlap. The large scale and dewlap are ways to differentiate between American and the Fiji iguanas.

You can play a huge role in preventing the spread of the American Iguana:

- Report any sightings of the American iguana to BAF;
- Do not transport American iguana to other parts of the country (this is illegal and carries heavy fines); and
- Bring in captured American iguanas to the nearest BAF office. ■

### FACTS about the AMERICAN IGUANA

- Native to South & Central America
- 16cm - 200cm (2m) in size
- Lives on trees
- Good Swimmers and jumpers
- Active during the day, sleeps at night
- Lifespan of 8-20 years
- Potential to interbreed with native iguana species
- Can fall 15m and remain unhurt
- Presence of a third eye on top of their heads
- Lays 20-45 eggs in a clutch

### Call Biosecurity Authority of Fiji:

Suva 3312 512 | Nadroga 628 2533 | Nadi 672 5092 | Lautoka 666 5984  
Ba 912 0121 | Savusavu 885 0864 | Rotuma 889 1042

**ALTERNATIVELY CALL 5995 FOR AMERICAN IGUANA QUERIES**



# Noa'ia 'e mauri Rotuma

by Monifa Fiu - Lāje Rotuma Initiative

Some 465 kilometers North of Fiji rests the beautiful volcanic island and islets of Rotuma. A glance at the map shows Rotuma as an isolated speck (a mere 13km by 4km island) in the vast Pacific Ocean, observed to be at the crossroads of Polynesia, Micronesia and Melanesia.



Many Rotumans can trace their descent from various islands of the Pacific: Fiji, Tonga, Samoa, Wallis and Futuna, Tuvalu, Solomon Islands, Vanuatu and Papua New Guinea. These physical connections are evident not only in oral tradition and early written accounts but in the linguists and archaeology of the island. Over the years, these connections have influenced social relations, systems of land tenure and customary practices.

## The Island

There are a few black basaltic cliffs - mostly at the western end of the island while white sandy beaches cover much of the island's coastline. The island is densely vegetated, except for this narrow coastal belt that extends around the island. It is here, amongst clusters of coconut plantations that

you will find most of the villages.

Rotuma's geographical isolation poses much ecological and anthropological intrigue. Oceanic conditions create a distinct range of habitats and species, with high endemism and uniqueness. The fertile volcanic soil supports a rich flora and fauna as well as

numerous species of soft and hardwood trees, endemic ferns and many reptiles and birds that you might see during your visit.

## The People

The population of 1901 indigenous peoples is spread between 14 villages. Perhaps one of the most distinct social differences between Rotuma and Fiji is the matriarchal structure, which sees women as recognized heads of the family, and the key decision makers. The main sources of income are derived from the processing and sale of Copra, small entrepreneurial family businesses and salaried jobs for teachers and civil servants that work at the Ahau government station. Dilo nuts are also dried and sold to traders for the medicinal Dilo Oil to be extracted.

## Visiting Rotuma

### Island Protocol

Since 1881 it has been politically part of Fiji, however Rotuma is mainly associated with a Polynesian ancestry. As such, there are some cultural differences of which you should be aware:

There is no sevusevu or strict protocol to follow, as you would expect when visiting a Fijian village. However, as a visitor, you are expected to make a courtesy visit to the village chief.

### Traditional protocol

If you are being hosted by a local family there is a ceremony accorded by your host family as a first time visitor to the island shores, known as the mamasa.

As a guest of the island, you will be awarded a pig style feast and be garlanded with a drop of coconut oil on your head signifying the scents of Rotuma, and the drying of your feet after a long sea voyage, a symbolic act of being safely on land.

## Dos & Don'ts

- Sunday is an observed day of rest
- Any visitor is expected to dress respectfully when visiting the village or any formal functions on the island.
- There is no 'nude beach' on the island – no matter how enticing the scenery can become!

### Accommodation

There is no hotel except for a lodge situated at the western peninsula at Motusa. Home-stay accommodation is a norm, however this would need to be arranged with friends or family on the island ahead arrival.



### Communication services

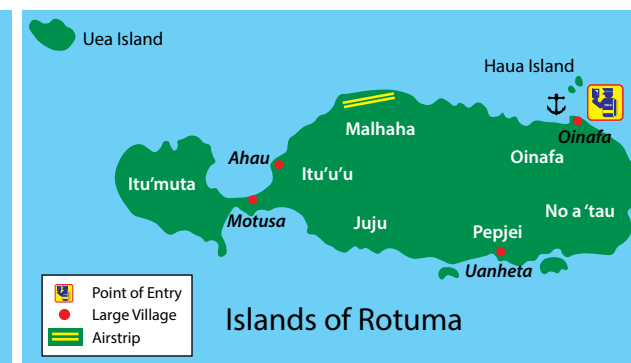
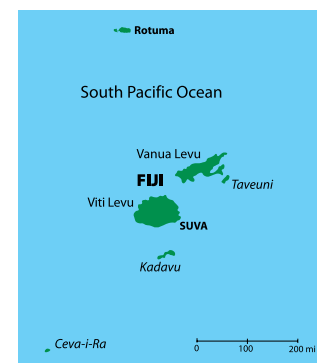
Telecom Fiji Ltd is the main service provider with mobile network 'Digicel' connecting the northwestern end of the island.

### Shopping services

There is a Post Shop situated at the Ahau government station, and there are at least two canteens per village. When supply boats are delayed, stocks can run exceptionally low, and so stocking up on goods that can be traded is always a good idea (*See page 147*).

### Water & Sanitation

There is a piped water supply and a good level of sanitation and hygiene.





## Transportation

There is a weekly 2¼ hour flight from Nadi, serviced by Pacific Sun and a monthly boat service usually scheduled for the first part of the month.

Island transportation is costly averaging \$5 per km but you can walk around the island freely.

## Port of Entry

Rotuma is an official port of entry with a dock at Oinafa for clearance. Just off the sandy beach and alongside the wharf you can anchor in 5m sand at 12°29.247'S 177°07.256'E. In the trade winds, this anchorage is great, calm and well protected. However, under wind from the N to SW, the swell invades and puts you on a lee shore to the reef on the opposite side of the bay.

While there does not appear to be an 'all-weather' anchorage for the island, there is another anchorage on the southern side of the island. This is exposed to the south and protected to the north at an approximate waypoint to entrance at 12°31'S 177°02.27'E.

The administrative center is some 12 kilometers away from the anchorage at the other end of the island within the government station at Ahau. Within the vicinity you will also find a hospital, post office, small store, market, school and police station. Extension services for agriculture, biosecurity and quarantine are also located here.

*\*Anchorage information taken from 'Westward II - Cruising Notes of Rotuma'. This information is from their observations, and reproduced with permission. It should NOT be used for navigational purposes.*

## Important Biosecurity Information

### Fruit Flies

There are two species of fruit fly only present in Rotuma but not in Fiji; namely *Bactrocera kirki* and *Bactrocera obscura*. The migration of *B.kirki* to Fiji poses a significant threat to the country's fruit and vegetables and seriously could jeopardize Fiji's fresh produce exports. Likewise, the Fijian fruit fly (*B. passiflorae*) is a serious pest that would cause considerable damage to Rotuma if introduced from Fiji. Therefore, Biosecurity Authority Fiji (BAF) would like to advise people travelling to and from Rotuma that it is prohibited to bring any fruits to or from Rotuma. People found in breach of this biosecurity regulation are liable for prosecution and penalties

(maximum fine of \$40,000 and or 12 months imprisonment or an alternative fixed penalty of \$800 for those who breach the regulation).

### Taro Beetle

Rotuma is relatively free of taro beetle and other major insect pests. Any movement of taro planting materials and other taro beetle host materials from taro beetle infested areas is strictly prohibited. The Biosecurity Authority of Fiji Regulates movement of any planting materials between mainland Fiji and Rotuma, and requests that the travelling public refrains from taking planting materials of any kind from mainland Fiji to Rotuma. The travelling public should seek advice and help from any of its Biosecurity Offices situated at the various areas around mainland Fiji on the how the movement of planting materials can be facilitated before its allowed to be shipped to Rotuma. ■

### Call Biosecurity Authority of Fiji:

Suva 3312 512 | Nadroga 628 2533

Nadi 672 5092 | Lautoka 666 5984

Ba 912 0121 | Savusavu 885 0864

Rotuma 889 1042

### GET THE LINGO

alalum	blessings
noa'ia	Hello
faiaksia hanisit	Thank you for your kindness
Se fek	I'm sorry. (Lit. Don't be angry)
figalelei	Please
la' ma ne'ne'äe	Goodbye, go and (you) be well.
'lgke	No
I (eee)	Yes

If you are a keen linguist and are interested in learning more about the beautiful Rotuman language, the University of the South Pacific (USP) has published 'A New Rotuman Dictionary: An English-Rotuman Wordlist', which is available at the USP Bookshop in Suva.

<b>Title</b>	A New Rotuman Dictionary: An English-Rotuman Wordlist
<b>Author</b>	Elizabeth Kafonika Makarita Inia
<b>ISBN</b>	9820201284, 9789820201286

Contact: Monifa Fiu | Email: monifafiu@gmail.com  
Website: www.rotuma.net/laje

# 2016-17 Tide Predictions for Fiji

## SUVA | Local Standard Time

**DISCLAIMER:** "This product is based on Bureau of Meteorology information that has subsequently been modified. The Bureau does not necessarily support or endorse, or have any connection with, the product. In respect of that part of the information which is sourced from the Bureau, and to the maximum extent permitted by law:

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Source: Commonwealth of Australia, Bureau of Meteorology



## SUVA - FIJI

2016

LAT 18° 8' LONG 178° 25'  
TIMES & HEIGHTS OF HIGH & LOW WATERS

## MARCH

## APRIL

## MAY

## JUNE

## SUVA - FIJI

2016

LAT 18° 8' LONG 178° 25'  
TIMES & HEIGHTS OF HIGH & LOW WATERS

## JULY

## AUGUST

## SEPTEMBER

## OCTOBER

Time	m	Time	m
1 0527	0.80	16 0027	1.72
1145	1.68	0628	0.69
TU 1813	0.78	WE 1248	1.85
		1919	0.56
2 0020	1.52	17 0135	1.69
0617	0.84	0734	0.73
WE 1240	1.68	TH 1355	1.82
1909	0.77	2024	0.57
3 0121	1.51	18 0241	1.68
0714	0.86	0841	0.74
TH 1337	1.69	FR 1457	1.81
2007	0.75	2125	0.56
4 0222	1.53	19 0339	1.70
0814	0.85	0942	0.72
FR 1433	1.74	SA 1552	1.82
2103	0.69	2219	0.55
5 0318	1.59	20 0430	1.73
0913	0.80	1035	0.69
SA 1526	1.80	MO 1641	1.82
2156	0.62	2306	0.54
6 0409	1.67	21 0515	1.77
1007	0.73	1122	0.65
SU 1615	1.88	MO 1726	1.83
2245	0.53	2348	0.53
7 0457	1.77	22 0556	1.79
1058	0.64	1204	0.63
MO 1703	1.95	TU 1808	1.82
2330	0.45		
8 0543	1.88	23 0027	0.54
1147	0.55	0633	1.81
TU 1752	2.02	WE 1244	0.62
		1847	1.80
9 0016	0.38	24 0102	0.56
0629	1.97	0710	1.82
WE 1236	0.48	TH 1321	0.61
1842	2.05	1926	1.77
10 0102	0.34	25 0138	0.59
0715	2.04	0745	1.81
TH 1326	0.42	FR 1358	0.62
1932	2.06	2003	1.74
11 0149	0.34	26 0213	0.63
0803	2.08	0820	1.80
FR 1418	0.40	SA 1436	0.63
2025	2.02	2042	1.69
12 0239	0.37	27 0248	0.67
0853	2.07	0857	1.77
SA 1513	0.41	SU 1515	0.65
2119	1.96	2123	1.64
13 0330	0.44	28 0326	0.72
0946	2.03	0935	1.74
SU 1610	0.44	MO 1558	0.67
2218	1.87	2206	1.60
14 0426	0.53	29 0408	0.77
1043	1.97	1017	1.71
MO 1710	0.49	TU 1644	0.69
2320	1.79	2255	1.55
15 0525	0.61	30 0454	0.81
1143	1.90	1105	1.68
TU 1814	0.53	WE 1734	0.71
		2350	1.53
		31 0545	0.84
		1159	1.66
		TH 1829	0.71

Time	m	Time	m
1 0048	1.53	16 0218	1.68
0642	0.82	0822	0.72
FR 1257	1.67	SA 1433	1.72
1927	0.69	2057	0.57
2 0148	1.56	17 0313	1.70
0743	0.82	0921	0.70
SA 1357	1.71	SU 1529	1.72
2024	0.65	2149	0.57
3 0245	1.63	18 0401	1.72
0844	0.77	1014	0.67
SU 1454	1.77	MO 1618	1.72
2119	0.58	2236	0.57
4 0336	1.73	19 0445	1.75
0942	0.68	1100	0.64
MO 1548	1.84	TU 1703	1.72
2211	0.50	2317	0.58
5 0425	1.84	20 0525	1.77
1035	0.57	1143	0.61
TU 1640	1.92	WE 1745	1.72
2300	0.43	2355	0.59
6 0513	1.94	21 0601	1.79
1127	0.47	1221	0.58
WE 1730	1.98	TH 1824	1.71
2347	0.37		
7 0600	2.04	22 0030	0.60
1217	0.38	0637	1.80
TH 1822	2.01	FR 1258	0.57
		1902	1.69
8 0036	0.34	23 0105	0.63
0649	2.10	0713	1.80
FR 1305	0.32	SA 1334	0.56
1915	2.01	1940	1.67
9 0126	0.35	24 0141	0.65
0739	2.11	0748	1.78
SA 1401	0.29	SU 1411	0.56
2009	1.98	2018	1.64
10 0216	0.39	25 0217	0.69
0830	2.09	0825	1.76
SU 1456	0.31	MO 1449	0.57
2105	1.92	2059	1.61
11 0311	0.46	26 0256	0.72
0925	2.03	0904	1.74
MO 1552	0.35	TU 1530	0.58
2204	1.85	2143	1.58
12 0408	0.55	27 0339	0.76
1021	1.95	0946	1.71
TU 1651	0.41	WE 1615	0.60
2306	1.77	2230	1.56
13 0509	0.62	28 0427	0.78
1121	1.87	1033	1.68
WE 1752	0.47	TH 1703	0.62
		2324	1.55
14 0012	0.72	29 0519	0.80
1121	1.62	1215	1.67
TH 1226	1.79	FR 1756	0.63
1855	0.52		
15 0116	1.69	30 0020	1.57
0717	0.72	0617	0.79
FR 1331	1.75	SA 1234	1.67
1958	0.55	1851	0.61

Time	m	Time	m
1 0117	1.62	16 0239	1.68
0717	0.76	0851	0.69
SU 1325	1.69	MO 1458	1.62
1949	0.58	2113	0.60
2 0214	1.69	17 0327	1.70
0818	0.70	0945	0.66
MO 1425	1.73	TU 1549	1.61
2045	0.53	2200	0.61
3 0306	1.78	18 0410	1.72
0917	0.61	1032	0.63
TU 1523	1.79	WE 1636	1.62
2139	0.48	2242	0.62
4 0357	1.88	19 0450	1.75
1014	0.50	1115	0.59
WE 1618	1.85	TH 1718	1.62
2230	0.42	2320	0.63
5 0445	1.98	20 0528	1.76
1107	0.40	1155	0.56
TH 1712	1.90	FR 1759	1.62
2321	0.38	2358	0.63
6 0535	2.05	21 0604	1.77
1200	0.31	1232	0.53
FR 1805	1.93	SA 1838	1.63
7 0012	0.36	22 0033	0.64
0626	2.09	0641	1.78
SA 1252	0.24	SU 1309	0.51
1900	1.94	1916	1.62
8 0103	0.38	23 0111	0.66
0717	2.10	0718	1.78
SU 1345	0.23	MO 1346	0.49
1954	1.92	1955	1.62
9 0157	0.42	24 0149	0.67
0810	2.06	0757	1.77
MO 1439	0.24	TU 1425	0.49
2050	1.87	2036	1.61
10 0252	0.48	25 0230	0.69
0904	2.00	0838	1.75
TU 1533	0.28	WE 1505	0.50
2148	1.82	2119	1.61
11 0350	0.55	26 0315	0.71
1000	1.91	0921	1.73
WE 1630	0.35	TH 1549	0.51
2247	1.76	2207	1.60
12 0449	0.62	27 0404	0.73
1058	1.82	1009	1.71
TH 1727	0.43	FR 1636	0.53
2348	1.71	2259	1.61
13 0551	0.67	28 0458	0.73
1158	1.74	1100	1.69
FR 1825	0.50	SA 1728	0.54
		2353	1.64
14 0048	1.68	29 0556	0.72
0652	0.69	1158	1.68
SA 1300	1.68	SU 1821	0.54
1923	0.55		
15 0146	1.67	30 0048	1.68
0754	0.70	0655	0.51
SU 1401	1.64	MO 1258	1.69
2020	0.58	1917	0.53

Time	m	Time	m
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0856	0.54	0958	0.64
WE 1501	1.74	TH 1804	1.54
2111	0.48	2203	0.67
2 0331	1.91	17 0414	1.72
0954	0.45	1044	0.60
TH 1600	1.78	FR 1649	1.55
2206	0.45	2245	0.67
3 0422	1.98	18 0454	1.74
1049	0.36	1126	0.55
FR 1657	1.82	SA 1731	1.57
2300	0.42	2325	0.66
4 0514	2.03	19 0532	1.76
1144	0.28	1205	0.51
SA 1751	1.85	SU 1812	1.59
2352	0.41		
5 0605	2.06	20 0003	0.65
1237	0.22	0611	1.78
SU 1845	1.87	MO 1243	0.48
		1851	1.61
6 0045	0.42	21 0043	0.64
0658	2.05	0650	1.79
MO 1330	0.20	TU 1321	0.45
1940	1.86	1930	1.64
7 0138	0.45	22 0123	0.64
0751	2.02	0731	1.80
TU 1421	0.22	WE 1400	0.43
2033	1.84	2012	1.66
8 0233	0.49	23 0206	0.64
0844	1.95	0814	1.80
WE 1513	0.27	TH 1442	0.42
2127	1.79	2055	1.67
9 0329	0.55	24 0252	0.65
0937	1.87	0900	1.79
TH 1604	0.34	FR 1525	0.43
2221	1.75	2142	1.69
10 0425	0.60	25 0343	0.65
1030	1.78	0947	1.77
FR 1656	0.42	SA 1612	0.45
2315	1.70	2331	1.70
11 0522	0.65	26 0437	0.65
1125	1.70	1039	1.75
SA 1748	0.50	SU 1701	0.47
		2325	1.72
12 0011	1.67	27 0534	0.64
0619	0.68	1035	1.72
SU 1222	1.62	MO 1755	0.50
1842	0.57		
13 0105	1.66	28 0021	1.76
0716	0.70	0718	0.54
MO 1321	1.57	TU 1236	1.69
1936	0.62	1851	0.52
14 0159	1.66	29 0118	1.80
0814	0.69	0735	0.57
TU 1419	1.54	WE 1340	1.68
2029	0.65	1950	0.52
15 0246	1.67	30 0215	1.85
0908	0.67	0837	0.51
WE 1514	1.53	TH 1445	1.69
2117	0.66	2049	0.52

Time	m	Time	m
1 0311	1.90	16 0336	1.69
0938	0.44	1508	0.64
FR 1546	1.72	SA 1616	1.52
2147	0.51	2210	0.71
2 0404	1.95	17 0419	1.73
1036	0.37	1053	0.57
SA 1644	1.75	SU 1700	1.55
2244	0.49	2253	0.69
3 0458	1.99	18 0501	1.77
1130	0.30	1135	0.52
SU 1739	1.79	MO 1743	1.60
2337	0.47	2335	0.66
4 0549	2.01	19 0543	1.81
1223	0.25	1215	0.47
MO 1831	1.82	TU 1823	1.65
5 0030	0.47	20 0016	1.82
0641	2.00	0624	1.64
TU 1313	0.24	WE 1255	0.42
1923	1.83	1903	1.70
6 0121	0.48	21 0059	0.59
0732	1.97	0706	1.87
WE 1401	0.26	TH 1335	0.39
2013	1.82	1945	1.74
7 0212	0.51	22 0144	0.57
0822	1.92	0751	1.88
TH 1449	0.30	FR 1416	0.37
2101	1.79	2030	1.78
8 0303	0.55	23 0231	0.56
0912	1.84	0838	1.88
FR 1535	0.37	SA 1500	0.38
2149	1.75	2115	1.81
9 0355	0.60	24 0322	0.56
1000	1.76	0927	1.85
SA 1622	0.45	SU 1547	0.40
2237	1.71	2205	1.



**LAT 18° 8' LONG 178° 25'**  
TIMES & HEIGHTS OF HIGH & LOW WATERS

# Entering Fiji

NOVEMBER				DECEMBER				JANUARY '17				FEBRUARY '17															
	Time	m		Time	m			Time	m			Time	m														
1	0120	0.54	16	0116	0.24	1	0133	0.53	16	0104	0.24	1	0321	0.49	16	0410	0.61										
	0728	1.69		0727	1.95		0744	1.65		0807	1.92		0837	1.87		1023	1.80										
	TU 1324	0.69		WE 1326	0.46		TH 1332	0.75		FR 1403	0.54		WE 1545	0.68		TH 1641	0.72										
	1930	1.80		1939	2.11		1938	1.80		2105	2.05		2036	1.84		2136	1.85		2242	1.68							
2	0156	0.55	17	0210	0.24	2	0210	0.53	17	0246	0.27	2	0304	0.51	17	0400	0.46	2	0406	0.53	17	0453	0.69				
	0805	1.66		0822	1.92		0822	1.65		0900	1.89		0920	1.73		1015	1.83		1026	1.87		1109	1.75				
	WE 1400	0.72		TH 1421	0.51		FR 1412	0.77		SA 1500	0.59		MO 1517	0.77		TU 1625	0.70		TH 1641	0.68		FR 1731	0.76				
	2006	1.77		2033	2.05		2017	1.78		2109	1.98		2120	1.82		2226	1.79		2242	1.80		2333	1.60				
3	0233	0.56	18	0304	0.27	3	0248	0.54	18	0338	0.33	3	0346	0.53	18	0445	0.55	3	0456	0.58	18	0540	0.76				
	0845	1.63		0919	1.88		0903	1.64		0955	1.85		1104	1.79		1104	1.79		1119	1.87		1200	1.71				
	TH 1439	0.76		FR 1520	0.58		SA 1455	0.80		SU 1558	0.65		TU 1608	0.77		WE 1719	0.74		FR 1740	0.67		SA 1826	0.78				
	2045	1.74		2130	1.97		2100	1.75		2203	1.89		2209	1.79		2317	1.69		2340	1.75							
4	0313	0.59	19	0400	0.33	4	0329	0.56	19	0430	0.42	4	0431	0.56	19	0533	0.64	4	0550	0.63	19	0630	1.54				
	0928	1.60		1018	1.83		0947	1.64		1050	1.81		1055	1.77		1156	1.75		1216	1.88		0631	0.82				
	FR 1522	0.80		SA 1621	0.64		SU 1542	0.82		MO 1658	0.70		WE 1704	0.77		TH 1815	0.77		SA 1842	0.66		SU 1254	0.69				
	2127	1.70		2229	1.88		2145	1.73		2259	1.79		2301	1.75					1923	0.79							
5	0356	0.61	20	0457	0.41	5	0413	0.58	20	0522	0.51	5	0521	0.59	20	0613	1.61	5	0644	1.70	20	0731	1.51				
	1105	1.58		1120	1.78		1035	1.64		1146	1.77		1148	1.79		1202	1.73		1202	1.73		1259	1.86	0649	0.67	0727	0.86
	SA 1610	0.84		SU 1725	0.69		MO 1634	0.83		TU 1757	0.74		TH 1802	0.75		FR 1250	1.72		SU 1318	1.89		MO 1350	1.69				
	2214	1.67		2330	1.79		2234	1.70		2357	1.70		2359	1.72		1912	0.79		1945	0.63		2021	0.78				
6	0442	0.64	21	0556	0.49	6	0500	0.60	21	0615	0.59	6	0614	0.61	21	0713	1.55	6	0753	1.69	21	0826	0.87				
	1105	1.58		1222	1.75		1128	1.66		1243	1.75		1245	1.83		0717	1.78		1240	1.92		TU 1445	1.71				
	SU 1702	0.86		MO 1829	0.72		TU 1730	0.82		WE 1857	0.75		FR 1902	0.71		SA 1344	1.72		MO 1420	0.92		TU 2117	1.74				
	2304	1.64	☉				2328	1.68	☉				2009	0.78					2050	0.58		2117	0.74				
7	0532	0.66	22	0635	1.72	7	0551	0.62	22	0657	1.63	7	0611	1.69	22	0715	1.52	7	0800	1.70	22	0930	1.54				
	1201	1.58		0655	1.56		1222	1.70		0711	0.66		0710	0.64		0813	0.81		0858	0.69		0921	0.86				
	MO 1800	0.86		TU 1323	1.75		WE 1830	0.79		TH 1338	1.74		SA 1342	1.88		SA 1435	1.73		TU 1519	1.96		WE 1533	1.74				
			1932	0.73	☉			1956	0.75		2004	0.65		2105	0.75		2152	0.52		2207	0.70						
8	0000	1.63	23	0136	1.67	8	0026	1.67	23	0158	1.58	8	0207	1.69	23	0314	1.52	8	0403	1.75	23	0418	1.58				
	0626	0.66		0754	0.61		0645	0.62		0805	0.71		0812	0.64		0907	0.83		1000	0.66		1011	0.82				
	TU 1258	1.61		WE 1418	1.75		TH 1317	1.76		FR 1430	1.75		SU 1439	1.94		MO 1523	1.76		WE 1615	2.00		TH 1618	1.79				
☉	1859	0.83		2031	1.71		1929	0.74		2052	0.73		2106	0.57		2158	0.71		2250	0.45		2252	0.64				
9	0100	1.65	24	0237	1.65	9	0128	1.68	24	0257	1.56	9	0313	1.72	24	0406	1.55	9	0500	1.80	24	0501	1.65				
	0722	0.65		0849	0.64		0742	0.61		0859	0.74		0913	0.63		0957	0.82		1058	0.62		1057	0.77				
	WE 1352	1.68		TH 1508	1.77		FR 1411	1.83		SA 1516	1.77		MO 1513	2.00		TU 1607	1.78		TH 1708	2.03		FR 1701	1.84				
	1958	0.77		2127	0.69		2028	0.66		2145	0.70		2206	0.49		2245	0.67		2343	0.40		2332	0.58				
10	0200	1.68	25	0332	1.64	10	0230	1.71	25	0350	1.56	10	0414	1.76	25	0452	1.58	10	0552	1.86	25	0542	1.72				
	0818	0.61		0940	0.59		0840	0.59		1008	0.61		1014	0.61		1104	0.81		1150	0.60		1139	0.71				
	TH 1444	1.77		FR 1552	1.79		SA 1503	1.92		SU 1559	1.79		TU 1627	2.05		WE 1649	1.82		FR 1800	2.05		SA 1743	1.89				
	2054	0.68		2216	0.65		2126	0.56		2232	0.66		2320	0.41		2327	0.62										
11	0258	1.74	26	0422	1.64	11	0330	1.75	26	0439	1.58	11	0512	1.82	26	0535	1.63	11	0031	0.36	26	0012	0.52				
	0912	0.56		1024	0.67		0935	0.56		1031	0.76		1107	0.58		1124	0.77		0641	1.90		0621	1.79				
	FR 1531	1.87		SA 1633	1.81		SU 1554	2.00		MO 1639	1.81		WE 1720	2.09		TH 1730	1.85		SA 1240	0.57		SU 1221	0.66				
	2149	0.58		2301	1.62		2222	0.46		2315	0.62		2357	0.34				☉	1848	0.24		1825	0.93				
12	0353	1.80	27	0507	1.64	12	0429	1.80	27	0522	1.60	12	0606	1.87	27	0005	0.57	12	0117	0.36	27	0050	0.48				
	1003	0.51		1104	0.69		1030	0.52		1112	0.75		1201	0.55		0615	1.68		0728	1.92		0701	1.86				
	SA 1619	1.97		SU 1711	1.82		MO 1645	2.07		TU 1718	1.82		TH 1812	2.10		FR 1204	0.74		SU 1329	0.57		MO 1303	0.61				
	2242	0.47		2343	0.58		2316	0.36		2355	0.58		☉			1809	1.88		1936	2.00	☉	1908	1.96				
13	0447	1.86	28	0548	1.65	13	0524	1.86	28	0603	1.62	13	0047	0.30	28	0044	0.53	13	0202	0.39	28	0210	0.45				
	1053	0.46		1143	0.70		1122	0.50		1151	0.75		0658	1.91		0653	1.73		0812	1.92		0842	1.92				
	SU 1707	2.06		MO 1747	1.83		TU 1735	2.11		WE 1757	1.84		FR 1254	0.55		SA 1244	0.72		MO 1416	0.59		TU 1348	0.57				
	2333	0.36										1904	2.09	☉	1849	1.91		2023	1.94		1953	1.96					
14	0540	1.91	29	0620	1.56	14	0010	0.29	29	0033	0.55	14	0137	0.29	29	0121	0.50	14	0245	0.45	29	0245	0.45				
	1143	0.44		0628	1.65		0619	1.90		0642	1.65		0748	1.92		0731	1.78		0856	1.89							
	MO 1756	2.11		TU 1218	0.71		WE 1215	0.49		TH 1229	0.74		SA 1345	0.57		SU 1325	0.69		TU 1503	0.63							
			1824	1.83		☉	1828	2.13		☉	1834	1.85		1956	2.04		1930	1.92		2109	1.86						
15	0025	0.28	30	0057	0.54	15	0102	0.24	30	0110	0.52	15	0226	0.32	30	0159	0.48	15	0328	0.53	30	0328	0.53				
	0632	1.94		0705	1.65		0713	1.92		0719	1.67		0838	1.91		0811	1.82		0939	1.85							
	TU 1233	0.43		WE 1255	0.73		TH 1309	0.51		FR 1307	0.74		SU 1438	0.60		MO 1408	0.68		WE 1551	0.68							
☉	1846	2.13		1900	1.82		1920	2.10		1914	1.85		2046	1.98		2014	1.92		2155	1.77							
								</																			

Times are in local standard time (Time Zone UTC +12:00)

new moon      first quarter      full moon      last quarter   

Customs law requires that the Master of a vessel give a minimum of 48 hours notification to Customs **prior** to arrival in Fiji. You may fax or email your 'C2C - Advance Notification/Inward Report for Yachts/Small Craft' (download from [www.frca.org.fj](http://www.frca.org.fj)) to (+679) 330 2864 or [yachtsreport@frca.org.fj](mailto:yachtsreport@frca.org.fj) respectively.

The same 48 hours notice needs to be given to **Ports Authority, Department of Immigration, Health and Biosecurity**. Failure to do so will result in a fine – so let us try to help you ensure this doesn't happen.

Fiji is home to many reputable and experienced Yacht and Super Yacht Agents who will navigate the way through the formalities of cruising to and around the country on your behalf. If however, you have chosen not to use such a service, you will need to read through the information in the following pages carefully to make sure you have completed all relevant paperwork prior to arrival.

Regulations for Immigration stipulate that you must be cleared within 24 hours of arrival into Fiji waters.

The Ports of Entry, through which you must arrive, are located in Suva, Lautoka, Savusavu, Levuka and

Rotuma. Vuda Marina now falls under the Lautoka Wharf Boundary and clearance can also be made here during scheduled hours (*see inside back cover*). Port Denarau Marina can be used as sufferance clearance port by prior application only. This can be made though the Marina officers or an agent, no less than 48 hours in advance.

Upon reaching the pilot station, you will need to contact Port Control using VHF Channel 16 to request entry into port. It is also necessary to inform Suva Radio 3DP to direct an arrival notification request to Health Quarantine for radio pratique or physical boarding by Health officials, depending on each circumstance. Unless and until Health Quarantine has cleared the vessel, the yacht must display the 'Q' flag at the main mast and all crew must remain on board.

If you intend to clear in Suva, Port Control will likely advise you to continue to the Royal Suva Yacht Club who will then transport the relevant government officials to your vessel for a fee of approximately \$60.

While at sea, the RFMF Naval division is responsible for maritime surveillance and represents the border control agencies.



## Fiji Revenue & Customs (FRCA)

**Required Documents:**

- Certificate of clearance from your previous port/country;
- Crew list, detailing passport numbers, nationalities and ages of all crew and their position on vessel;
- Yacht registration documents;
- Passports for all onboard, which must be valid for at least 3 months from date of departure from Fiji waters;
- Valid outward airline ticket if crew/passenger is disembarking at port of entry and leaving the country by air;

- Completed INWARD CLEARANCE DOCUMENTS; and
- Additional Alcohol/Tobacco and Medical Supplies Inventory (Super yachts only)
- A Cruising Permit is also required at Inward Clearance in order for Customs to issue a Coastal Clearance. The Cruising Permit can be arranged through your Agent or through Vuda Marina or The Copra Shed Marina (if clearing at these marinas) or apply yourself through iTaukei Affairs Board (refer page 177).

(Please note that should anyone onboard require a visa to enter Fiji, this will also need to be provided - see 'Visas').



Type	Brand	% alc.	Amount
<b>Beer</b>	Heinekin	5.4%	720 x 340ml btl
<b>Spirits</b>	Baileys Irish Cream	17%	10 x 750 ml
	Johnnie Walker	43%	7 x 1L
<b>Wines</b>	<b>Red</b>	2008 Spottswoode Cabernet Sauvignon	14.5% 100 x 750ml
	<b>White</b>	2008 Didier Dagueneau Silex Sauvignon Blanc	11% 50 x 750ml
		2008 Egon Müller Scharzhofberger Spätlese Riesling	11% 50 x 750ml
<b>Champagne   Sparkling</b>	Veuve Clicquot	13%	20 x 750ml
	Moët Impérial	13%	40 x 750ml
<b>Tobacco</b>	H. Upmann Cigars		20 x 50 cabinets
	Treasurer Luxury Gold Cigarettes		50 x 20 count pks

## Super Yacht Special Duty Arrangement:

Visiting Super yachts are liable to pay duty only on the alcohol brought in onboard the vessel and consumed while in the country. You will need to submit an inventory of all alcohol on board upon arrival. This will need to include brand, type, % of alcohol and quantity and measurement of each bottle (*see example above*).

Also required is an inventory of all controlled medical supplies on board.

At the end of your visit, you are required to submit an updated inventory of your on board alcohol to customs who will charge import duty for each bottle brought in and consumed while cruising Fiji waters.

Please be warned that while this is all in good faith, spot checks are not uncommon and any false declarations will incur a serious fine and penalties.

## Import Clearance Requirements

All yachts and crafts entering Fiji are subject to import clearance requirements and the payment of customs duty on arrival.

- Together with the completed 'C2C - Advance Notification/Inward Report For Yachts/Small Craft' Form, the Yacht Master is required to also present the Clearance from Last Port, passports and completed **"Passenger Arrival Card"** of all crew and passengers and all such individuals (including infants) to Customs at time of boarding.
- You will need to inform Customs of any disembarking crew and reasons for disembarking.
- You will also be asked to complete and sign a **"Notice to Owner of Yachts Declaration"**

before your inward clearance is granted. You will need to read and understand the contents of the Notice to Yacht Owners as any breach of any conditions may warrant heavy penalties.

- If you are carrying any currency and its combined value is equivalent to FJ\$10,000.00 you will be required to fill in the **"Border Currency Report"**.

## Your entry into Fiji

Under Customs laws, visiting yachts may enter and can be kept temporarily in Fiji without payment of Customs duty on the yacht, provided:

- The yacht is the sole property of a bona fide tourist;
- The yacht is on a bona fide cruise or participating in a yacht race;
- The yacht is not abandoned in Fiji by Master/ Owner; and
- The yacht shall remain in Fiji for a period not exceeding 18 months from date of arrival.

### The yacht will become liable to duty if:

- It is used commercially whilst in Fiji waters (eg: commercial charter or hired);
- The owner is associated in any way with any entity in Fiji as an employer either before or after arrival; or
- The yacht is not exported within 18 months of the date of arrival into Fiji, unless a customs extension has been approved.

## Super Yacht Charters:

Superyachts that are not registered in Fiji but intend to run charters in Fiji's Water, are required to register their vessel with MSAF and operations with FRCA. As part of this process, MSAF will need to carry out an inspection of the vessel. This can be arranged

directly or arranged through one of the registered superyacht agents. You will be expected to pay 12.5% of the charter fee to FRCA. You may refer to the Superyacht Charter Decree 2010 for further information.

For more info email: [yachtsreport@frca.org.fj](mailto:yachtsreport@frca.org.fj)

## Customs Duty

All crew and passengers above the age of 18 years will be allowed normal passenger landing duty free allowance of the following:

- 2.25 ltrs of Spirit, or
- 4.5 ltrs of Wine, or
- 4.5 ltrs of Beer, and
- 250 sticks of Cigarettes, or
- 250g cigar, or
- 250g tobacco, or

(Any combination of the above provided that it does not exceed the equivalent quantity under liquor, wine and beer, cigarette, cigar and tobacco). AND

- A new, unused item valued at no more than FJ\$1000.

Any excess to the above allowance will be subject to levy of import duty and VAT or goods being detained by Customs. Please note that sealing of stores onboard is not permitted.

## Yacht equipment

All equipment onboard or imported especially for the yacht will be duty free, provided they leave the country with the boat. This equipment is considered onboard a "yacht in transit" and should be labeled with the yacht's name and Rotation Number, in addition to an address including a telephone number and the invoice must accompany the package. The parts will be delivered 'under bond' to the yacht by a Customs Officer and you will be required to pay for the Customs Officers return transport costs for this service. Be sure to keep records and receipts of any such delivery.

## Prohibited Items

### Firearms and Weapons

The importation of firearms and weapons is strictly controlled in Fiji. All firearms or weapons must be declared to the Customs Officer on arrival of the vessel from overseas.

Firearms onboard will be detained and placed for safekeeping by the Fiji Police who will hold them until the vessel's departure.

## COUNTRIES THAT **DO NOT** REQUIRE A VISA TO ENTER THE FIJI ISLANDS

- |              |                       |                            |
|--------------|-----------------------|----------------------------|
| • Antigua    | • Italy               | • Singapore                |
| • Argentina  | • Jamaica             | • Solomon Islands          |
| • Australia  | • Japan               | • South Africa             |
| • Austria    | • Kenya               | • Spain                    |
| • Bahamas    | • Kiribati            | • Swaziland                |
| • Bangladesh | • Lesotho             | • Switzerland              |
| • Barbados   | • Liechtenstein       | • Taiwan                   |
| • Belgium    | • Luxembourg          | • Tanzania                 |
| • Belize     | • Malawi              | • Thailand                 |
| • Bermuda    | • Malaysia            | • Tonga                    |
| • Botswana   | • Maldives            | • Trinidad & Tobago        |
| • Brazil     | • Malta               | • Tunisia                  |
| • Brunei     | • Marshall Islands    | • Turkey                   |
| • Canada     | • Mauritius           | • Tuvalu                   |
| • Chile      | • Mexico              | • Uganda                   |
| • Colombia   | • Micronesia          | • UK & N.Ireland           |
| • Cyprus     | • Nauru               | • United States of America |
| • Darussalam | • Netherlands         | • Uruguay                  |
| • Denmark    | • New Zealand         | • Vanuatu                  |
| • Dominica   | • Nigeria             | • Venezuela                |
| • Finland    | • Norway              | • Western Samoa            |
| • France     | • Palau               | • Zambia                   |
| • Gambia     | • Paraguay            | • Zimbabwe                 |
| • Germany    | • Peru                |                            |
| • Ghana      | • Philippines         |                            |
| • Greece     | • PNG                 |                            |
| • Grenada    | • Republic of Ireland |                            |
| • Guyana     | • St.Lucia            |                            |
| • Iceland    | • St.Vincent          |                            |
| • India      | • Seychelles          |                            |
| • Indonesia  |                       |                            |
| • Israel     |                       |                            |

## Contraband items

Please be aware that Fiji is vigilant in prosecuting those found with, drugs, pornographic material and other prohibited items.

## Immigration guidelines

Each person will be required to complete a passenger arrival card. You should note that the Customs officer boarding your vessel may also complete immigration clearance and issue a four (4) month visitors permit upon entry providing you have a passport issued from a country that **does not** require you to have a visa to enter the Fiji Islands.

Part of the passenger arrival card will be detached and left in your passport and you must keep this safe, as you will be required to deliver it to Immigration again on your way out of Fiji. Passports must be valid for at least six months from the date of entry.

## Visas

See above for a list of country's nationals who **do not** require a pre-entry visa to Fiji.



For countries that **do** require pre-entry visas into Fiji, crew members are required to apply for and receive approval from the Department of Immigration prior to their arrival in Fiji.

You will also need to contact the Department of Immigration regarding any other immigration issues such as replacement passports, change of status, work permit applications etc. It is also here that for a fee of FJ\$96, you are able to apply for a standard two month extension to your initial 4-month visitors permit. You may then apply for 'Special Permit to Reside' should the need arise, which grants a further 6 month stay.

While immigration services are provided free of charge, vessels will be charged for the return transportation costs incurred by the immigration officer en route to the yacht.

### Crew signing on or off

It is important to note that visitors or crew coming into Fiji are not able to enter the country on a one-way ticket. They must have a return ticket OR they must have a letter of approval from the Department of Immigration stating that they are authorized to enter on a one-way airline ticket in order to join a yacht and depart by sea. Airlines will not allow crew members travelling on a one way ticket without this letter, and so advanced preparation of this document is important. A Fiji Immigration 'Facilitation' letter authorizing entry on a one way ticket can be arranged by your Agent, Vuda Marina (if you are berthed there) or by visiting the immigration department yourself.

In much the same way, any crew or visitor that has arrived by yacht and who plans on departing by air must officially sign off the crew list and the vessel's master must notify immigration before the date of departure.

As Owner or Captain of the yacht, it is a requirement that you notify Immigration when signing on or off new crew. You will need;

- A copy of the crew members passport;
- Completed 'Change of Crew **Form A**' when signing on and 'Change of Crew **Form B**' when signing off, both of which can be downloaded from [www.immigration.gov.fj](http://www.immigration.gov.fj)

**Note: Please remember to keep a copy of the departing crew members plane ticket.**

For more information, or to download copies of all forms please visit [www.frca.org.fj](http://www.frca.org.fj)

### Health Quarantine

Until further notice, the "Quarantine Pre-Arrival Advice for Vessels" form can be downloaded from [www.fijimarinas.com](http://www.fijimarinas.com)

Completed forms should be emailed 24 hours in advance of arrival to:  
[healthquarantinefiji@gmail.com](mailto:healthquarantinefiji@gmail.com)

You will need to provide information relating to the health of you, your crew and any passengers and submit this together with a copy of the 50-day movement of the vessel.

For complete procedural information see page 184.

### Bio-security Authority of Fiji

The Bio-security Authority of Fiji (BAF) requires advance notification, a minimum of **48 hours** prior to arrival. The following should be emailed to [yachtinfo@baf.com.fj](mailto:yachtinfo@baf.com.fj)

- the destination seaport in Fiji and the estimated time of arrival of the vessel;
- its immediate preceding port or place of call;
- the proposed itinerary of the vessel until it leaves Fiji;
- the presence of any live animal or live plant on the vessel; and
- any other matter relevant to facilitating bio-security landing clearance of the yachts that is specified.

For complete procedural information see page 185.

### Fiji Cruising Permits

Application for cruising permit shall either be submitted through an agent or made personally at the Provincial Service Division. Processing time is 1-3 days and the permit shall be issued up to a maximum of six (6) months.

For complete procedural information see page 181.

### Ports Authority

Any time you enter or depart from a Port in Fiji, all vessels must use VHF Channel 16 to communicate with Port Control requesting information on port traffic and permission for your entry or exit.

For complete procedural information see page 183.

### Important Requirement

The yacht master shall be required to provide weekly updates on status, movement and location

of the vessel. Communication can be made through any of the following:

VHF Channel 16

T: (679) 3243782 | (679) 3243747 | (679) 3243315

Customs Hotline (679) 3243666

Email: [yachtsreport@frca.org.fj](mailto:yachtsreport@frca.org.fj)

Facsimile Suva: (679) 3302864

Lautoka: (679) 6665961 | Levuka: (679) 3440425

Savusavu: (679) 8850728

**Note: You will be subject to heavy penalties under the Customs Act for any breach of the conditions of cruising.**

### Fees

Border Control Agencies (Customs, Immigration, BioSecurity and Health) hours of operation are Monday-Friday: 08:00-16:30. Overtime charges apply for services outside of these hours including weekends and public holidays (which both require prior arrangement). It is therefore highly advisable to time your entry for within office hours as overtime penalties add up and can become quite expensive.



## iTaukei Affairs Board

### Cruising Permits

The iTaukei Affairs Board is a statutory body working to ensure that the Government develops, maintains and promotes policies that will provide for the continued good governance and welfare of the iTaukei now and into the future.

Tourists travel to Fiji in different ways to experience the iTaukei lifestyle that is being offered. The iTaukei Affairs Board is the issuing authority of cruising permits for yachts and Superyachts that plan to spend their holidays within the Fiji Group.

Whether you decide to make the trip to the iTaukei offices in Lautoka or Suva yourself, or contract an

**Cruising Permit:** No charge.

**Immigration:** No charge unless a visa is required.

**Customs:** No charge. However, overtime will be charged for clearance during lunch hour (1-2pm) on weekdays at \$27.40. After 16:30 at FJ\$18.40 per hour; Saturdays, Sundays and public holidays, at FJ\$25.55 per hour. After 20:00 to 06:00 weekdays, and on Saturdays, Sundays and public holidays, there is a three hour minimum charge.

**Health:** \$172.50. Overtime fees of \$47.82 apply outside of office hours

**Bio-Security Clearance:** FJ\$89.70 (which includes fee for incineration of prohibited food). Overtime rate of \$182.39 applies outside of office hours.

**Ports Authority of Fiji:** All entering vessels up to 100 tonnes maximum of FJ\$14.45.

**Important Note: Please keep receipts for payments made in a safe place for departure requirements.**

**\*Figures are subject to change**

agent to do this for you, it is to the **iTaukei Affairs Board** that you must apply for your permit to cruise Fiji's waters.

The following information gives a comprehensive guide to the process and the documentation that you will need to produce.

### Purpose

The purpose of this permit is to allow bona fide visiting yachts to cruise around the Fiji Islands. This permit is:

- To ensure that Captain of the yacht and its crew are advised of the iTaukei protocol needed to visit iTaukei traditional fishing grounds;



- To inform the iTaukei traditional fishing ground owners to welcome the visitors [you] and assist them should they need; and
- To allow the iTaukei communities to report any suspicious activities and/or any vessel that is accessing the iTaukei communities without the Government's knowledge

### Scope

The cruising permit around Fiji waters shall be issued by the iTaukei Affairs Board under the provision of the Fiji Customs Act to Yachts and Superyachts cruising around Fiji waters and traditional fishing boundaries.

### Responsibility

The Principal Assistant Secretary (PSD) and any of his officers shall be responsible for issuing Cruising Permits.

### Definitions

"Agent" – a registered Marina operating under the Fiji Islands Hotel and Tourism Association (FIHTA) Marine Operators. Also refers to a recognized yacht / superyacht agent.

"Crew" – any person engaged in any capacity on board a yacht.

"Cruising Permit" – means the vessel permit issued by the Principal Assistant Secretary (PSD).

"Customs clearance" – certificate issued by the Fiji Islands Revenue and Customs Authority under the Customs Act Cap.

"Master" – the person in charge or in command of the yacht.

"Passport" – travel document.

"Superyacht" – as defined under Superyacht Charter Decree 2010.

"Travel document" – proof of identification as defined under the Immigration Act.

### Processes to be undertaken by iTaukei Affairs Board staff

#### Application for Cruising Permit

Application for cruising permit shall either be

submitted through an agent or made personally to the Provincial Service Division.

#### Verification of Identity

- Verify the Master of the yacht's identity with his or her passport.
- Verify the yacht's Customs Clearance to indicate that the yacht is a legitimate visitor.
- Verify the identity of the yacht and its colour with Customs Clearance and Certificate of Registration.

#### Issuing of Cruising Permit

- Enter the name of the Master of the yacht as it appears on the passport or travel document on the permit.
- Enter the name of the yacht as it appears on the Customs Clearance Certificate on the space provided on the permit.
- Enter the number of months they wish to cruise in Fiji waters on the permit.
- Enter the number of crews who shall be cruising on the yacht.
- Verify the information being typed on the electronic certificate before printing.

#### Superyacht Cruising Permit

Follow the process as specified above if an agent is lodging the application for cruising within the traditional fishing boundaries on behalf of the Master of the Superyacht.

#### Duration of Permit

The permit shall be issued up to a maximum of six (6) months. Should the yacht depart the Fiji waters within six months after being cleared by Fiji Island Revenue and Customs Authority will have its permit revoked as soon as it leaves Fiji waters.

#### Processing Time

The processing time is 1 day.



## Ports of Fiji

Fiji Ports Corporation Limited (FPC) is a wholly owned Government Commercial company committed to providing return to its shareholders. FPCL owns and carries out maritime operations in the four main ports of Suva, Lautoka, Levuka and Malau. In addition, FPCL also oversees the operations and ISPS requirements for Malau port, Rotuma port and Vuda mariner. There are other ports of entry covered under the Customs Act, but not administered by FPCL, namely Savusavu and any sufferance port.

Communicating with Fiji Ports is via VHF16, and you will be advised when to proceed to anchor at the designated boarding area within the harbour to await the arrival of customs, immigration, bio-security, and health for the required statutory clearances.

Charges relating to pilots (if required) when your vessel is alongside are all stipulated in the tariff guide available from the Fiji Ports website. Piloting is compulsory for all overseas vessels with charges included in the Fiji Ports website.

### About the Ports

#### Port of Suva

Port of Suva is Fiji's largest, busiest and biggest container and general port providing the maritime gateway to the country and also as transshipment center particularly for cargo destined for other Pacific Island countries.

#### Data

Position – 18 degrees – 8 S, 178 degrees – 26 E

5 Berth Locations:

Kings South; 11m @ CD

Kings Central; 11m @ CD

Kings North; 11m @ CD

Walu Bay; 9m @ CD

Princess Wharf; 4m @ CD

Fresh Water: Available at all berths.

#### Port of Lautoka

Situated at position 18 degrees -8 South, 178 degrees -26 East. Handles mostly bulk cargo, including sugar, molasses, woodchips, petroleum, and gas. However it also handles containerized cargoes including the Fiji Water exports.

#### Data

Maximum draft: 11 m @ CD

Fresh Water: Available at the wharf and supplied by Fiji Ports.

Pilot Boat: Available.

#### Port of Levuka

Port of Levuka is primarily a fishing port catering for fishing vessels that berth at Levuka to supply Levuka's Cannery managed by PAFCO.

Levuka is Fiji's old capital and the original wharf was built in 1886. Back then it was a bustling trading centre and was known as Queens Wharf comprising a timber super-structure supported on concrete piles.

Levuka Town is registered as a natural heritage site for Fiji; many of its original buildings and infrastructure remain as it was built in the late 1800's. A step back into Fiji's past and history is experienced with Levuka and it is this unique atmosphere that has encouraged cruise vessels to berth at Levuka to experience their heritage and culture.

#### Data

Maximum Draft: 7.5m @ CD

Fresh Water: Available at all berths.

**For more information on Fiji Ports Corporation:**

**[www.fijiports.com.fj](http://www.fijiports.com.fj)**

**T: 331 2700 | F: 330 0064**





## Health Quarantine

Until further notice, the "Quarantine Pre-Arrival Advice for Vessels" form can be downloaded from [www.fijimarinas.com](http://www.fijimarinas.com)

Completed forms should be emailed to: [healthquarantinefiji@gmail.com](mailto:healthquarantinefiji@gmail.com)

You will need to provide information relating to the health of you, your crew and any passengers and submit this together with a copy of the 50-day movement of the vessel.

### Healthy Ports

For vessels arriving into Fiji from Healthy Ports (free of Malaria, Yellow Fever or any other dangerous communicable diseases), Radio Pratique (approval to berth alongside) may be requested, however, the Health Quarantine officers may still board your vessel for inspection.

### Malaria

Fiji is currently free of the Malaria vector; and we would like to keep it that way. Therefore, if you are travelling from or through any of the below list of ports that have been identified as Malarial carrying mosquito areas within the last 50 days, the Health Quarantine department will need to carry out an onboard inspection. If arriving within 10 days, your vessel will be subjected to anti-malarial spraying. There is a fee applicable for inspection and/or spraying which is dependent upon the size of the vessel.

### Malarial Ports:

Vanuatu, Solomon Islands, Papua New Guinea, Australia (north of the latitude of Brisbane), Panama Canal, the East Indies, Asia, or any port or place in which malaria carrying mosquitoes are present.

You will need to declare this information on your pre-arrival form and you must also notify Port Control that you are arriving from a Malarial carrying mosquito area prior to entering the port. Only after Health Quarantine has given the all clear, will other Border Control Agencies be permitted to board.

### Yellow Fever:

Anyone travelling within 6 days from, or through a country that is yellow fever endemic (see list below), must produce a valid vaccination certificate upon arrival. This must also be declared on the arrival card. Vessels travelling with passengers who have visited yellow fever endemic countries within 6 days of arrival will be boarded first by Health Quarantine Officers.

### WHO: Countries with risk of yellow fever transmission (2012):

Angola, Argentina, Benin, Bolivia, Brazil, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Colombia, Congo, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Cote d'Ivoire, Ecuador, Equatorial Guinea, Ethiopia, French Guyana, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Kenya, Liberia, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Nigeria, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Rwanda, Sao Tome & Principe, Senegal, Sierra Leone, South Sudan, Sudan, Suriname, Togo, Trinidad & Tobago, Uganda and Venezuela.

### Worldwide Pandemics:

Outbreaks such as Ebola, H1N1 and Bird Flu have unfortunately swept through the world's population in the past. Should such another pandemic occur, arrival from, or through an infected country must be declared. The Ministry of Health will take necessary precautions to keep the people of Fiji safe, and you should check for updates to information during such a time, as each situation will be different.

**For any further information,  
please contact the Quarantine Authority of Fiji  
on 3306 177 or 321 5710**



## Biosecurity Authority of Fiji (BAF)

Biosecurity is the protection of the economy, environment, biodiversity and human health from the negative impacts associated with the entry, establishment and spread of organisms including pests, diseases and invasive species.

It is also ensuring Fiji has a strong export industry for our produce by maintaining existing trade markets and finding new ones. Bio-security is vitally important to Fiji as we are heavily reliant on agriculture and our natural environment. New pests can not only devastate our food security, but can also damage agriculture or horticultural production, forestry and tourism and affect trade in international markets.

The economic consequences of failing to protect Fiji are dire: it could affect our employment opportunities, our human health and also our traditional lifestyle which is highly treasured.

All ships and vessels travelling to Fiji need to meet a number of requirements before and upon arrival to ensure Fiji's environment, economy and people are protected from invasive pests and diseases.

This page sets out the requirements for ships and vessels.

### Yachts

Yachts and pleasure crafts are welcome in Fiji. However, international yachts entering Fiji waters are considered to be of a high biosecurity risk and are closely monitored by BAF. Hence it is important for yacht owners to be aware of the clearance procedures for yachts and other pleasure crafts.

#### Biosecurity clearance procedures:

- Once in Fiji waters, the yachts should proceed immediately to the designated port of entry.
- The Master or Captain of the yacht must declare to BAF the following:
  - the destination seaport in Fiji and the estimated time of arrival of the vessel;
  - its immediate preceding port or place of call;
  - the proposed itinerary of the vessel until it leaves Fiji;
  - the presence of any live animal or live plant on the vessel;

- any other matter relevant to facilitating biosecurity landing clearance of the yachts that is specified by BAF.

This above declaration must be made at least 24 hours before the estimated time of arrival.

The vessel master must complete a Master's Declaration Form declaring all biosecurity risk items on board that are either restricted or prohibited.

#### Items to declare include:

- Foods (tinned/packed), including meat, sausages, salami, ham, poultry, eggs, milk, butter, cheese, honey etc;
- Plants or parts of plants (live or dead) including vegetables, fruits, nuts, seeds, bulbs, flowers (fresh or dry), mushrooms, straw, bamboo or any other articles made of plant materials;
- Animal products including feathers, fur/skin, shells, hatching eggs;
- Animals, reptiles, fish, birds (or parts thereof), alive or dead, stuffed or mounted;
- Soil or equipment used with animals of any kind or that has come in contact with soil;
- Biological specimens including vaccine cultures, blood or any other biological specimen; and
- Domesticated pets to be bonded and kept on board the vessel at all times (cats/dogs/birds etc).

Some of these items will not be permitted to be kept aboard the yacht for the duration of the visit in Fiji. What is allowed to stay aboard will be at the discretion of the Biosecurity Officer at the time of inspection, depending on the risk they represent.

The yachtmaster should also ensure that no refuse containing any animal, plant, animal product or plant product is discharged from the yacht into the sea while the yacht is in Fiji. All refuse generated on the vessel is placed in a suitable leak-proof container, with a lid, and the container is securely fastened at all times and kept aboard the yacht. The refuse can only be removed from the yachts under the directions of the Biosecurity Officer.



**Live animals on yachts:**

Yachts arriving in Fiji with live cats, dogs, pet birds etc must pay a bond as security against the dog, cat or pet bird etc coming ashore while in Fiji's territorial waters. The bond payment is F\$1,500 which is refundable upon departure from Fiji if bond conditions are not breached.

In general no animals will be permitted to come ashore in Fiji and must remain on board the vessel at all times while in Fiji's territorial waters.

Cats, dogs and other pet animals may not be imported into Fiji via yachts.

Cats and dogs must be vaccinated against rabies not more than 12 and not less than 6 months before arriving in Fiji. One month after the rabies vaccination of the dog, it must be subjected to the Rabies Neutralization Antibody Titre Test (RNATT) with a positive result of no less than 0.5 IU per ml.

By taking these precautionary measures visitors will enjoy traversing the pristine waters of Fiji without the worry that their pets may be posing a risk to the native fauna, flora, the environment and the friendly people of Fiji.

Pet birds (e.g. parrots, finches, canaries etc) on yachts, must have been tested free of Newcastle Disease six (6) months prior to arrival in Fiji, must not have been in the waters of countries not free of Newcastle Disease without vaccination less than six (6) months prior to arrival in Fiji. Pet birds must be in locked cages at all times, and must not be brought on shore at any time.

Other species of pet animals are prohibited from entry into Fiji waters via yachts.

Vaccination certificates and laboratory tests results must be original and made available to Biosecurity Officers when Biosecurity Boarding Inspections are carried out at the first Port of Entry.

*For further information or clarification please contact the Biosecurity Authority of Fiji on*  
T: +679 331 2512, Shortcode 5994,  
F: +679 330 5043 or E: [yachtinfo@baf.com.fj](mailto:yachtinfo@baf.com.fj)

## Departing Fiji

You must advise Customs at least 24 hours prior to your expected departure and then berth your yacht in a port of entry/exit.

You are required by officials to sail your yacht to the Port where you wish to apply for departure clearance. You **must not** leave your yacht at a Marina or Yacht Club and travel by land to your chosen departure Port.

Pay your port fees at the port office and proceed to the Customs Office to complete Customs clearance out formalities. You will need your inbound clearance papers, crew details, the details of your vessel and next port of call. Don't forget your updated inventory of on board alcohol, tobacco and medical supplies if you have taken advantage of the Super Yacht Special Duty arrangement.

Immigration will not clear you until you have been cleared by customs. Customs will only clear you providing your port fees and all other fees (including health and biosecurity) have been paid (receipts for these should have been kept).

Once cleared, you will need to leave Fiji waters within 24 hours. It is prohibited to stop at any island once cleared out. However, if your departure is delayed for some reason, and you anticipate being in Fiji over that 24 hour time period, you need to contact the same customs officer and advise them of this **as soon as possible!**

Immigration also requires prior notice so that they are ready to authorize your departure and once cleared, it is expected that you will depart the port immediately.

Overstaying 24 hours after departure can result in large fines (\$20,000) or even imprisonment (2 years) of the yacht master, and this can create many problems with your clearance from Fiji. Best to check the weather and your boat for anything that could cause an issue or delay with plenty of time to spare. Be sure to contact the same customs office immediately, and record in your Log Book the reason for failure to depart.

## Moce Mada...

# Information on Wildlife Trade for Yachting Visitors

by Helen Pippard

*Species Officer @ IUCN Oceania*

## Introduction to CITES

The international trade in wildlife is estimated to be worth around US\$10 billion per year and includes hundreds of millions of plant and animal species ranging from live specimens to wildlife products derived from them.

The Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) is an agreement developed between governments to ensure that international trade does not threaten a species' survival. To date, 175 countries (known as Parties) including Fiji have joined CITES.

The Convention has three lists of species (Appendices) that are considered to be at risk from international trade. If a species is listed in the Appendices, governments must ensure that trade of these species into and out of their countries is regulated to prevent the species from becoming endangered or extinct.

**Appendix I** includes species that are threatened with extinction. Trade in these specimens is permitted only in exceptional circumstances. Trade in pre-CITES (Pre-Convention) specimens (i.e. specimens harvested prior to the date they were listed on the CITES Appendix) is allowed with the correct documentation.

**Appendix II** includes species that may become threatened with extinction if trade is not properly regulated. Trade in these species requires a CITES export permit as a minimum. In addition, Appendix II includes look-alike species in order to effectively regulate trade and prevent unnecessary extinctions.

**Appendix III** lists species that are protected in at least one country, which has requested other CITES Parties to assist in controlling the trade of such species. Species are not necessarily threatened with extinction on a global scale. Fiji does not have any species listed in Appendix III of the Convention.

## Endangered and Protected Species (EPS) Act

Although CITES is legally binding on the Parties, it does not take the place of national laws. Parties therefore implement the Convention through their own national legislation. Fiji joined CITES in 1997 and implements the Convention through the *Endangered and Protected Species Act (2002)* (EPS Act) and the *Endangered and Protected Species Regulations (2003)* (EPS Regulations). The EPS Act aims to regulate and control the international trade,

domestic trade, possession and transportation of species protected under CITES.

As well as species listed in the CITES Appendices, the EPS Act contains Fijian species that are not listed in the Appendices, but which are instead protected under Schedules 1 and 2. Like the CITES-listed species, trade in these species must be authorized through permits. A species listed in Schedule 1 or 2 can only be traded into or out of Fiji if the Department of Environment has approved the trade and issued the relevant permit.

**Schedule 1** of the EPS Act lists all species indigenous to the Fiji Islands that are not listed in Appendix I of CITES but which are believed to be threatened with extinction

**Schedule 2** lists species indigenous to the Fiji Islands that are not listed in Appendix I, II or III or Schedule 1 of the EPS Act

## Permits

Contact the Department of Environment for advice on trading an endangered species or specimen. Obtain the relevant permit or letter of approval from iTaukei Affairs Board, Dept. Forestry, Dept. Fisheries or Quarantine Division prior to applying for a CITES permit.



*For further information, please contact:*

[info@environment.gov.fj](mailto:info@environment.gov.fj) | T: +679 331 1699 | [www.environment.gov.fj](http://www.environment.gov.fj)

## DUTY FREE BUNKERING

By law only vessels 100 tons net or more may bunker duty free fuel. Your yacht or ship agent must get an approved C-35 form from customs before any bunker.



[www.cites.org](http://www.cites.org) for general information about CITES  
[www.iucnredlist.org](http://www.iucnredlist.org) for information on threatened species





# A Quick Guide to the Fijian Language

## Bula!

"Bula!", the Fijian 'hello', is the best-known Fijian word. Whatever their own language, people who come from Fiji like to say *bula* to each other when they meet in other parts of the world.

*Bula* is not the only Fijian word for 'hello'. Throughout the western part of Fiji, including western Vitilevu, the Yasawa and Mamanuca islands, and Vatulele, the usual word for 'hello' is *cola* (pronounced *thola*). If you are in western Fiji, try saying *cola* instead of *bula*, and the gesture will be appreciated.

There is another, more respectful, way of saying hello, which is by adding *nī* before the *bula* or *bula vinaka*. So *Ni bula* or *Ni bula vinaka* is what you might say if you were formally introduced to a chief, or a person of high status.

## Sounds of Fijian

Fijian uses the Roman alphabet, as do English and most European languages, but some of the letters represent sounds in ways that are unexpected for English speakers.

The vowels are a little different from English – and how different they are depends on what kind of English you speak! If you are a speaker of German, Italian or Spanish, you should have no problems at all, because the five vowels (a, e, i, o, u) are pronounced almost exactly the same. The pronunciation is roughly as follows:

a	as in 'spa'
e	as in 'pet'
i	as in 'machine'
o	as in 'sore'
u	as in 'too'

Some vowels have a line over the top: *ā, ē, ī, ō, ū*. This line is called a 'macron', and is used in Fijian and other Pacific languages to show that the vowel is long – so it's pronounced significantly longer than the same vowel without a macron. It's a bit like the difference between the vowel in 'sit' (short) and 'seat' (long).

Getting the length of the vowels right is important. For example, *vuvu* means 'muddy', but *vūvū* means 'jealous', and takes about twice as long to pronounce. Here are some small differences in the pronunciation of consonants that English speakers need to bear in mind:

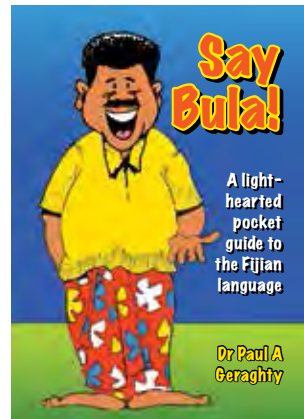
c	is like the 'th' in 'that' (not as in 'thin')
b, d	have a preceding nasal consonant, so b sounds like 'mb' and d like 'nd'
g	is like the 'ng' in 'hang' (not as in 'finger')

j	is like 'ch', but without the puff of breath that usually follows
k, p, t	are as in English, but without the puff of breath that usually follows. Also, t often sounds like 'ch' before the vowel i, so <i>oti</i> is often pronounced as if it were <i>oji</i> ('ochi').
r	is rolled, as in Scottish English, Spanish, etc.
q	is like the 'ng' in 'finger' (not as in 'hang')
v	is pronounced by placing the lips together (not with the lower lip against the upper teeth as in English).

## Who speaks Fijian?

There are many different varieties of Fijian. There are about 300 regional dialects. Of these, approximately one hundred are 'western' and two hundred 'eastern'. These two groups are very distinct, so much so that they should be considered totally different languages. Below are a few examples of common words that differ between a typical western dialect and Standard Fijian, which is eastern:

Western Fijian	Standard Fijian	English
<i>la</i>	<i>lako</i>	go
<i>qu</i>	<i>au</i>	I
<i>maru</i>	<i>keirau</i>	us two (not you)
<i>bālō</i>	<i>lasu</i>	tell a lie
<i>kova</i>	<i>dabe</i>	sit
<i>tavukē</i>	<i>i keri</i>	there (where you are)
<i>were</i>	<i>vale</i>	house
<i>mataku</i>	<i>rere</i>	afraid
<i>vulau</i>	<i>goneyalewa</i>	girl



## Excerpts from Say Bula!

*A light hearted pocket guide to the Fijian language - 160pp*

Written by well known linguist, Dr Paul A Geraghty, Associate Professor in Linguistics at the University of the South Pacific

Available from Tappoo Outlets.

a	na, e dua na
a little	vakalailai
a lot	vakalevu
able to	rawa ni
above	i cake
accept	ciqoma
accident	vakacalakā
ache	vutu
aeroplane	waqavuka
afraid	rere-vaka
again	tale
ahead	liu
alive	bula
all	kece, taucoko
allowed	vakatarai
almost	vōleka ni
alone	duadua
animal	manumanu
another	e dua tale
arrangement	veivosaki
arrive	yaco
arrogant	viavialevu
ashamed	māduā
ask a favour	kerekere
awake	yadra
away	tani
backwards	i muri
bag	kato
bailer	inima
banana	jaina
bank	baqe
bathe	sili, sisili
bathroom	valenisili
beautiful	totoka
bed	idavodavo
beef	bulumakau
beer	bia
begin	tekivū
behind	muri, daku
below	rā
best	vinaka duadua
better	vinaka (cake)
beware of	qarauna
bible	ivolatabu
bicycle	basikeli
big	levu
birthday	siganisucu
bite	kata, kati-a
bitter	wiwi
black	loaloa
blessed	kalougata
blood	drā
blow	uvu-ca
blue	karakarawa
board	vodo
boat	boto
bone	sui

book	ivola
boss	boso
both	ruarua
bottle	tavaya
boy	gonetagane
bread	madrai
breadfruit	uto
break	voroka
breakfast	katalau
breathe	cegu
bring	kauta mai
brought	kau mai
bucket	vōkete
burn	kama
bus	basi
bush	veikau
business	bisinisi
busy	osooso
buy	volia
call	kaci-va
can	rawa ni
canoe	waqa
car	motokā
care for	lomana
carpenter	mātai
carry	kau-ta
catch	ciqoma
cemetery	ibulubulu
cent	sede
centre	lomadonu
chair	idabedabe
change	veisau-taka
charity	loloma
chat	talanoa
cheeky	vosalevu
chicken	toa
chief (male)	tūruga
chief (female)	marama
child	gone
church (bdg)	valenilotu
church (srv)	lotu
cigarette	itibi
clan	mataqali
clap	vakasausau
clean	savasavā
clear	macala
clever	vuku, mātai
clock	kaloko
close	sogota
close (near)	vōleka
clothes	isulu
coast	bāravi
coconut	niu
cold	batabatā
come	lako mai
complete	taucoko
cooked	buta

cool	liliwa
coral reef	cakau
correct	donu, dina
cost	isau
cough	vū
count	wili-ka
crew (ship)	kaimua
crooked	veve
cup	bilo
cure	walia
custom	itovo
cut	musuka
dad	tā
dance	dānisi
dance (trad)	meke
dark	butō
daughter	luve- yalewa
day	siga
dead	mate
deckhand	kaimua
deep	titobu
delicious	maleka
devil	tēvoro
die	mate
different	duatani
difficult	drēdrē
dinner	ivakayakavi
dirty	duka
dislike	cata
district	tikina
dive	nunu
do	cakava
doctor	vuniwai
dog	koli
done	caka
don't	kua ni
door	kātuba
down	sobu
dry	māmaca
eager	mākutu
earth oven	lovo
easy	rawarawa
eat	kana, kania
eat dinner	vakayakavi
eat lunch	vakasigalevu
edible	laukana
eight	walu
electricity	livaliva
embarrassed	māduā
embrace	mokota
empty	maca
English	vakavālagi
enjoy	tāleitaka
enough	rauta
enter	curu (i loma)
escape	drō
evening	yakavi



excellent	uasivi
exit	curu (i tuba)
fall	lutu
false	lasu
family	vūvale
fan	iri
far	yawa
fast	totolo
fat	levulevu
father	tama-, tā
fear	rere-vaka
female	yalewa
fetch	lakova
Fijian	vakaviti
film	yaloyalo
find	kunea
fine	totoka
finished	oti
first	imatai
fish	ika
fish-fence	baniika
fishing-line	wānisiwa
five	lima
flashlight	cinalivaliva
flee	drō
fly	vuka
follow	muri-a
food	kākana
forbidden	tabu
forget	guilecava
fork	icula
forwards	i liu
four	vā
free	galala
friend	itau
from	mai
fruit	vua
full	sīnai
funny	lasa
garden	iteitei
gentleman	tūraga
gentle	yalomālua
genuine	dina
get off	sobu
get on	vodo
get ready	vakarau-taka
gift	iloloma
girl	goneyalewa
give	solī-a
glasses	matailoilo
go	lako, gole
go ahead	liu
go ashore	cabe
go back	lesu
go behind	muri
go in	curu (i loma)
go on a trip	gādē
go out	curu (i tuba)
god	kalou
good	vinaka
goodbye!	moce!
goods	iyāyā

government	matanitū
grab	kovea
grass	cō
great	set
greedy	kocokoco
guest	vūlagi
habit	itovo
hair	ulu
half	veimāmā
hand	liga
handsome	totoka
happy	mārau
hardworking	gūmatua
hat	isala
hear	rogoca
heavy	bibī
hello	bula
help	veivuke
high tide	ua
him	koya
hold	taura
hole	qara
honest	yalodina
hot	katakata
hotel	ōtela
hour	awa, yawa
house	vale
how	vakacava
hug	mokota
hundred	drau
hungry	viakana
hurt	mosi, mavoa
immediately	sara
injured	mavoa
inside	loma, loma
invite	sureta
island	yanuyanu
jealous	vūvū
joke	veiwali
July	Julai
jump	lade, rika
June	Jūnē
just	dodonu
keen	mākutu
kerosene	karasini
kind	yalovinaka
kiss	regu-ca
kitchen	valenikuro
knife	isele
know	kilā
lady	marama
lamp	cina
land	vanua
language	vosa
large	levu
late	bera
later on	mālua
laugh	dredre
laze about	mokusiga
learn	vuli-ca

leave behind	biu-ta
letter	ivola
lift	lave-ta
lightning	liva
little	lailai
long	balavu
long time	dedē
look at	rai-ca
look for	vāqarā
lost	yali
love	loloma
low tide	mati
lucky	kalougata
luggage	iyāyā
mad	lialia
male	tagane
man	tagane, tūraga
manioc	tavioka
market	māketē
marriage	vakamau
married	vakawati
mat	ibe
matches	māsese
medicine	wainimate
message	itukutuku
midday	sigalevu
midnight	bogilevu
mile	maile
milk	sucu
mine	noqu
missing	yali
money	ilavo
month	vula
moon	vula
morning	mataka
mother	tina-, nā
move	toso
mud	sōsō
muddy (wtr)	vuvu
mum	nā
my	noqu
name	yaca
narrow	rabalilai
near	vōleka
neat	maqosa
net	lawa
never mind	veitālia
new	vou
news	irogo
nice (person)	yalovinaka
night	bogi
nine	ciwa
no, none	sega
not allowed	tabu
not enough	lailai
not yet	se bera
now	sā
ocean	wasawasa
oil	waiwai
old (person)	qase

old (thing)	makawa
one	dua
open	dolava
outside	tuba
owner	itaukei
pants	tarausese
papaya	weleti
pass, past	sivi
passenger	pasidia
passport	pasipote
pawpaw	weleti
pay	isau
pillow	ilokoloko
pitiful	vakaloloma
place	vanua
plantation	iteitei
play (sport)	qito
policeman	ovisa
poor (pitiful)	vakaloloma
possible	rawa
post office	posi
pray	masu
prepare	vakarautaka
priest	bete
problem	leqa
province	yasana
pull	drē, dreta
push	bili-ga
put out (fire)	bokoca
quick	totolo
radio	rētio
rain	uca
ready	vakarau
really!	sā dina!
red	damudamu
refuse	bese
remember	nanuma
request	kerekere
reside	tiko
rest	cegu
return	lesu
river	uciwai
road	gaunisala
rock	vatu
rugby	raka, rakavī
run	cici
sad	rarawa
sail	soko
sailor	dausoko
salt	māsima
sand	nuku
sarong	isulu vakatoga
say goodbye	vakamoce
say hello	vakabula
school	koronivuli
scream	kaila
sea	waitui
second	karua
see	raica
sell	volitaka

seven	vitu
shallow	vōdea
shark	qiō
ship	waqa
shop	sitōa
shopping	volivoli
shore	bāravi
shout	kaila
show	vakaraitaka
show respect	vakarokoroko
shut	sogota
sick	tauvimate
simple	rawarawa
sing	laga sere
sink	luvu
sit	dabe
six	ono
skilled	mātai
skin	kuli
sky	lomālagi
sleep	moce
slow	berabera
slowly	vakamālua
small	lailai
smoke	kubou
soap	sovu
soft	malumu
soil	qele
soldier	sōtia
someone	e dua
son	luve- tagane
soon	vakarau
sorry!	tilou! vosota!
souvenir	ivakananumi
speak	vosa
stairs	ikabakaba
stand	tū, tūcake
star	kalokalo
stay	tiko
steal	butako
stop	tū
story	italanoa
straight	dodonu
string	wā
strong	kaukaua
study	vuli, vuli lēsoni
stupid	lialia
suck	domi-ca
sugar	suka
sugarcane	dovu
take	kauta, taura
taken	kau
talk	vosa
tapa	masi
taro	dalo
taro leaves	rourou
taste (try)	tovolea
tea	ti
telephone	talevoni
tell	tukuna

ten	tini
thank you	vinaka
that way	vāyā
this way	vāqō
three	tolu
throw	virī-taka
throw away	biu-ta
thunder	kurukuru
time	gauna, kaloko
tired	oca
today	nikua
together	vata
toilet	valelailai
tomorrow	nimatata
tooth	bati
top	dela
tourist	saravanua
towel	tauelu
tree	kau, vunikau
trouble	leqa
true	dina
trust	nuitaka
try (test)	tovolea
turn	gole
two	rua
up, upwards	cake
village	koro, nakoro
visible	laurai
visitor	vūlagi
wait	wāwā
wake up	yadra
walk	taubale
want	vinakata
wash	savata
watch	kaloko
watch out for	qarauna
water	wai
weak	malumalumu
weather	draki
weave	tali-a
week	mācawa
well	vinaka
wet	suasua
what	cava
when?	naica?
whistle	kalu
white	vulavula
why	baleta
wide	rabalevu
wife	wati
wind	cagi
wireless	wālesi
wise	vuku
woman	yalewa
work	cakacaka
write	volavola
wrong	cala
year	yabaki
yes	io
yesterday	nanoa



# FIJI Shores & Marinas 2016

## DIRECTORY SERVICE

**Fiji Yachting Association**  
c/o Tradewinds Marine Ltd  
P.O. Box 3084  
Lami | Fiji  
T: 3361833 | 3361796 | F: 3361035

### Marinas

**Copra Shed Marina | Savusavu**  
VHF: 16 & 17 | T: 885 0457  
coprashed@connect.com.fj

**Denarau Marina | Nadi**  
VHF: 16 & 14 | T: 675 0600 | F: 675 0700  
reservations@denarumarina.com

**Musket Cove Marina**  
Mamanuca Islands  
VHF: 68 | T: 666 2251  
mccyc@musketcovefiji.com

**Royal Suva Yacht Club | Suva**  
VHF: 16 & 68 | T: 331 2921 | 992 2921  
F: 330 4433 | rsysc@kidanet.net.fj

**The Pearl Resort Marina, Pacific Harbour**  
T: 7730 022  
stay@thepearlsouthpacific.com

**Vuda Marina Fiji | Vuda**  
VHF: 16 & 11 | T: 666 8214  
reception@vudamarina.com.fj

**Waitui Marina | Savusavu**  
VHF: 16 | T: 835 3913  
waituimarinafiji@gmail.com

**Savusavu Marina & Boatyard**  
VHF: 16 | T: 885 3543 | F: 885 3422  
savumari@connect.com.fj

### Resorts with Anchorages

**Boathouse Nanuya**  
16° 56' 28" S | 177° 22' 10" E  
T: +679 666 7633

**Leleuvia Island Resort**  
17° 48' 0" S | 178° 43' 59" E  
T: +679 890 1049  
reservations@leleuvia.com

**Matava Resort**  
19° 02' 55" S | 178° 23' 47" E  
info@matava.com

**Paradise Taveuni**  
16° 56' 07" S | 179° 54' 06" E  
T: +679 888 0125 | M: +679 999 0125

**Safari Island Lodge**  
17° 17' 914" S | 178° 13' 361" E  
T: +679 628 3332  
warren@safarilodge.com.fj

**Taveuni Dive Resort**  
16° 50' 23" S | 179° 58' 2" E  
T: +679 891 1063  
enquiry@taveunidiveresort.com

**Vatia Beach Eco Resort**  
17° 25' 10" S | 177° 45' 07" E  
T: +679 625 4737

**Volivoli Beach Resort**  
17° 18' 41" S | 178° 10' 24" E  
T: +679 669 4511 | M: +679 999 2113

**Wananavu Beach Resort**  
17° 19' 4" S | 178° 12' 14" E  
T: +679 669 4433  
stay@wananavu.com

### Overnight Charters

**UniQue - 2 double cabins**  
16.3m Sailing Catamaran  
enquires@uniquechartersfiji.com

**Stellar - 4 double cabins**  
49.4 ft Fast Cruiser  
Rachael@fjissafari.com

**Bel'Mare - 6 guests**  
86m Power Catamaran  
info@belmarefiji.com

**High Aspect - 4 double cabins**  
22 m Yacht  
info@yachtchartersfiji.com

**Moale - 8 guests**  
48m Sailing Catamaran  
info@adventuresailingfiji.com

**Tui Tai - 22 guests**  
42 m Tall Ship  
reservations@tuitai.com

**Wayward Wind - 8 guests**  
70ft Topsail Schooner  
info@waywardwind.com.fj

**Looping**  
43m Sailing Catamaran  
saillfarnorth@gmail.com

**Catatac - 8 guests**  
65ft Power Catamaran  
alan@charterboatsfiji.com

**Wai Tadra - 6 guests**  
40ft Flybridge Cruiser  
info@xtaseacharters.com

### Fiji Almanac & Fiji Chart Agents

**Hydrographic Office**  
Fiji Marine Department, Suva  
T: 336 1099 | F: 330 6295  
navops@navy.gov.fj

**Carpenters Shipping**  
22 Edinburgh Drive, Suva  
T: 3312 244 | F: 330 1572  
5-11 Naviti Street, Lautoka  
T: 666 3988 | F: 666 4896

**The Yacht Shop**  
4 Vetaia Street, Lami, Suva  
T: 336 1522 | 999 7790  
yachtshop@tradewinds.com.fj  
Vuda Point Marina T: 665 0844  
Copra Shed Marina T: 885 0040  
Royal Suva Yacht Club T: 331 3832  
Port Denarau T: 675 0522

### Pilots

**Sea Pilots (Fiji) Ltd**  
193 Rodwell Road, Suva  
T: 331 0983 | 331 2003  
Lautoka: T: 992 0415  
seapilots@unwired.com.fj

### Towage

**South Sea Towage Limited**  
25 Eliza St, Walu Bay, Suva  
T: 331 2488 | F: 330 1762

### Yacht & Super Yacht Agents

**Baobab Marine**  
Port Denarau T: 675 1120  
Vuda Point T: 664 0827  
Savusavu T: 999 3957  
info@baobabmarine.com

**Super Yacht Services**  
T: 336 3968 | 999 8803 | 999 8859  
F: 336 3948  
neilunderhill@connect.com.fj  
justiney@connect.com.fj

**Super Yacht Solutions (Fiji) Ltd.**  
T: 9996190 | PO Box 14869, Suva  
PO Box 11670, Nadi Airport  
superyachtsolutions@hotmail.com

**Yacht Help**  
Port Denarau, Nadi  
T: 675 0903 | info@yachthelp.com

**Yacht Partners Fiji**  
Port Denarau  
T: +6421 458 062  
F: 675 0062 or 675 0794  
team@yachtpartnersfiji.com

### Shipping Agents

**Carpenters Shipping**  
22 Edinburgh Dr, Suva T: 331 2244  
5-11 Naviti St, Lautoka T: 666 3988  
Nadi Airport, Nadi T: 672 2933  
agency.shipping@carpenters.com.fj

**Pacific Agencies (Fiji) Ltd**  
Level 2, Gohil Complex, Suva  
T: 331 5444  
6 Sautamata St, Lautoka  
T: 666 0577  
Nadi Airport, Nadi  
T: 672 5054  
info@pacshipfiji.com.fj

**Williams & Goslings**  
80 Harris Road, Suva T: 331 2633  
Navutu Ind. Lautoka T: 666 4093  
Nadi Airport, Nadi T: 672 2855  
Main St, Savusavu T: 885 3002  
info@wgfiji.com.fj

### Dive Equipment & Servicing

**Bikini Bottom Dive Shop**  
Shop 11B, Arts Village,  
Pacific Harbour  
T: 973 1176  
longosdiveshop@yahoo.com

**Deep End Services**  
T: +679 9998862  
lancemillar9@gmail.com

**Triton Marine**  
T: 999 5980  
wayne@tritonmarinefiji.com

### Game Fishing Supplies

**Bobs Hook Line & Sinkers**  
14 Thomson Street, Suva  
T: 330 1013 Suva  
T: 670 2013 Nadi

**Hop Tiy & Co. Ltd**  
155 Renwick Road, Suva  
T: 330 0309

**Imported Marine Accessories**  
Port Denarau Marina  
T: 675 0993 | 923 6125  
F: 675 0042  
ima@connect.com.fj

### Life Raft, Safety Equipment & Services

**Fire Solutions Ltd**  
Vuda Point, Vuda  
T: 666 6020 | 992 4200  
firesolutions@hotmail.co.nz

**Lawhill Life Rafts**  
25 Wailada Ind. Est., Lami, Suva  
T: 336 1171 | 707 8809 | F: 336 1137  
Lot 6 Beddoes Circle,  
Waqadra Ind. Sub., Nadi  
T: 672 5226 | 707 8815 | F: 672 4266

**Marine Safety Services Ltd**  
Neptune Hse., Tofua St, Walu Bay  
T: 330 4764 | 338 0199 | F: 330 6121  
Beddoes Place, Namaka, Nadi  
T: 672 0177 | F: 672 0671  
marinesafety@connect.com.fj

### Airlines, Helicopters & Transfers

**Fiji Airways | Fiji Link**  
24 Hours 7 Days  
T: 672 0888 | 330 4388  
Suva Travel Centre, Grd Flr, Colonial  
Building, Victoria Parade, Suva  
T: 672 0777 | 8am-5pm Mon-Fri  
Nadi Travel Centre, Nadi Airport,  
T: 672 2777 | 8am-5pm Mon-Fri  
After hours: 672 2824

**Korean Air**  
Block 16-19 1st Flr,  
Arrival Concourse, Nadi  
T: 672 7775  
24 Hour Call Centre T: 672 7422  
nansm@koreanair.com

**Island Hoppers**  
*Helicopter & fixed wing charter planes*  
T: 672 0410  
reservations@islandhoppersfiji.com

**Pacific Island Air**  
Nadi Airport  
T: 672 5644 | F: 672 5641  
reservations@pacisair.com.fj

**Northern Air**  
T: 347 5010 | F: 347 5004  
northernair@connect.com.fj

### High Commissions & Embassies

**Australia**  
37 Princes Road, Tamavua, Suva  
T: 338 2211

**Canada**  
Suva - T: 672 1936

**France**  
7th Floor Dominion House,  
Thomson Street, Suva  
T: 331 2233 | 331 0562

**Japan**  
2nd Floor Dominion House,  
Thomson Street, Suva | T: 330 2122

**New Zealand**  
10th Fl, Reserve Bank Bldg,  
Pratt Street, Suva | T: 331 1422

**Peoples Republic of China**  
183 Queen Elizabeth Drive, Suva  
T: 330 0215

**South Africa**  
16 Kimberly Street, Suva | T: 331 1087

**United Kingdom**  
Victoria House,  
47 Gladstone Road, Suva | T: 322 9100

**United States of America**  
158 Princes Road, Tamavua, Suva  
T: 331 4466

### Chandlery & Rigging

**Imported Marine Accessories**  
Port Denarau Marina  
T: 675 0993 | 923 6125 | F: 675 0042  
ima@connect.com.fj

**The Yacht Shop**  
4 Vetaia Street, Lami, Suva  
T: 336 1522 | 999 7790  
yachtshop@tradewinds.com.fj  
Vuda Point Marina T: 665 0844  
Copra Shed Marina T: 885 0040  
Royal Suva Yacht Club T: 331 3832  
Port Denarau T: 675 0522

**Westside Rigging & Wire (Rigger)**  
2 Dreketi Feeder Road, Saweni, Lautoka  
T: 628 6957 | 999 8838



## Slipways

### Fiji Ships & Heavy Industries LTD

Lot 1 Eliza Street, Walu Bay, Suva  
T: 330 6426 F: 330 9420  
E: mataivasu@fijiports.com.fj

### South Seas Slipway

Shed 11, Muaiwalu Complex,  
Rona St , Walu Bay, Suva  
T:3314819 | F:3314973  
talei@solander.com.fj

## Outboards Sales | Service | Parts | Repairs

### EVINRUDE

Adrenalin Fiji  
Shop 8, Port Denarau  
T: 675 0061 | 702 2232  
marine@adrenalinfiji.com

### HIDEA

Yacht Help, Port Denarau, Nadi  
T: 675 0903 | info@yachthelp.com

### SUZUKI - Niranjans

366 Grantham Road, Raiwaqa, Suva  
Suva T: 338 1555  
Ba T: 667 6555  
Labasa T: 881 1199  
Lautoka T: 666 1733  
Nadi T: 672 4677  
Sigatoka T: 650 0511

### MERCURY

#### Baobab Marine

Port Denarau T: 675 1120  
Vuda Point T: 664 0827  
Savusavu T: 999 3957  
info@baobabmarine.com

### TOHATSU | HONDA

Carpenters Motors  
Suva T: 331 3644  
Labasa T: 881 1522  
Lautoka T: 666 0599  
Nadi T: 670 6481  
Savusavu T: 885 0274  
sales.motors@carpenters.com.fj

### YAMAHA - Asco Motors

Ratu Mara Road, Nabua, Suva  
T: 338 4888 | F: 337 0309  
Marina Drive, Lautoka  
T: 666 9213 | F:666 9838  
Queens Road, Namaka, Nadi  
T: 672 1777 | F:672 1770  
Ganga Singh Street, Ba  
T: 667 4406 | F:667 0223  
Nasekula Road, Labasa  
T: 881 1688 | F:881 1749

**GENERAL - City Marine**  
Foster Road, Walu Bay, Suva  
T: 324 0004 | 992 0066

## Marine Engines

### CATERPILLAR

Suva T: 327 5027  
Labasa T: 881 1522  
Lautoka T: 666 1655

### HYUNDAI, Seamech Ltd

21 Matua St, Walu Bay, Suva  
T: 330 1882 | F: 665 1727  
seamech@connect.com.fj

### VOLVO

Yacht Help, Port Denarau, Nadi  
T: 675 0903  
info@yachthelp.com

### YANMAR

#### Baobab Marine

Port Denarau T: 675 1120  
Vuda Point T: 664 0827  
Savusavu T: 999 3957  
info@baobabmarine.com

## Diesel Fuel Injection

### Westend Diesel

Lot 3, Kabani Road  
Legalega Industrial Estate, Nadi  
T/F: 672 8989 | M: 838 8379  
mishrada@hotmail.com

## Canvas Products | Repair | Upholstery

### All Tents & Marine Upholsteries

Eliza St, Walu Bay  
T: 357 9425 | 996 3326

### Auto Upholstery Canvas

12 Nava Street, Lautoka  
T: 666 2438 | 997 8229

### Jet Set Upholstery Works

Wekamu Industrial, Nadi  
T/F: 670 5720 | M: 997 5156  
jetsetupholstery@gmail.com

### Marshall Sails LTD

Port Denarau Marina, Nadi T: 675 0996  
Vuda Point, Lautoka T: 666 0030  
marshallsails@connect.com.fj  
www.sailsfiji.com

## Marine Paint | Hardware | Epiglass Products

### Baobab Marine

Port Denarau T: 675 1120  
Vuda Point T: 664 0827  
Savusavu T: 999 3957  
info@baobabmarine.com

### Pacific Coatings (Hempel)

Nukuwatu St, Lami  
T: 336 1622

### Resene Pacific Ltd

Wailada, Lami T: 336 1700  
Marine Drive, Lautoka T: 666 7673

### Imported Marine Accessories

Port Denarau Marina  
T: 675 0993 | 923 6125 | F:675 0042  
ima@connect.com.fj

### The Yacht Shop

#### (International Paints)

4 Vetaia Street, Lami, Suva  
T: 336 1522 | 999 7790  
yachtshop@tradewinds.com.fj  
Vuda Point Marina T: 665 0844  
Copra Shed Marina T: 885 0040  
Royal Suva Yacht Club T: 331 3832  
Port Denarau T: 675 0522

## Refrigeration & Air Conditioners

### Baobab Marine

Port Denarau T: 675 1120  
Vuda Point T: 664 0827  
Savusavu T: 999 3957  
info@baobabmarine.com

### Kooline Refrigeration Lautoka Ltd

Port Denarau  
T: 675 0647 | 999 8332  
koolineltk@connect.com.fj

### Refrigeration & Electrical Services Limited (RESL)

20 Matua Street, Walu Bay  
T: 330 4426 | F: 331 2953  
Lot 48, Namaka Sub Div, Nadi  
T: 672 8358 | F: 672 7243  
resl@connect.com.fj

## Marine Watermakers

### Spectra Watermakers

#### Baobab Marine

Port Denarau T: 675 1120  
Vuda Point T: 664 0827  
Savusavu T: 999 3957  
info@baobabmarine.com

## Marine Surveyors (Class | Valuations)

### Billlett Wright & Associates Ltd

Suva  
T: 3313 766 | 777 6918 | 777 6919  
F: 3303 024  
billlett@unwired.com.fj

### Dover Marine

10 Marine Drive, Lautoka  
T: 666 3922 | 992 9920 | F: 666 5866  
dovermarine@connect.com.fj

## Fibreglass Boat Builders

### Adventure Marine

Veitari, Lautoka  
T: 666 2921 | F:666 5692  
aj@gmhire.com

### Pacific Fibreglass Ltd

17 Nukuwatu Street, Lami, Suva  
T: 336 1613  
pacglass@connect.com.fj

### The Fibreglass Shop

16 Wailada Road, Lami, Suva  
T: 336 1057  
islanderboatsfiji@gmail.com

## Aluminium Boat Builders

### Bluewater Craft

Naitata Road, Navua, Pacific Harbour  
T: 346 0068 | 927 7592  
bluewater@connect.com.fj

### Hammerhead Plate Aluminium Boats Ltd,

Lami, Suva | T: 336 1596  
hammerhead@connect.com.fj

### Integrated Welding Industries | Fiji Boats

1 Foster Road, Walu Bay, Suva  
T: 324 0001 | F:324 0002  
raybern@connect.com.fj

### Marine Power & Services Ltd | Cobra Boats

Lot 3 Beach Road, Wailoaloa, Nadi  
T: 672 6147 | 707 6147  
mps@connect.com.fj

### Marine Solutions

Fisheries Wharf, Lautoka  
T: 628 4066 | 992 7123  
marinesolutions@connect.com.fj

### Leeda Boats

3 Toti Street, Wailada, Lami, Suva  
T: 336 1977 | F: 336 1767  
leeda@connect.com.fj

## Hydraulics

### Seamech

21 Matua Street, Walu Bay  
T: 3301882 | 999 8726 F: 330 0866  
sales@seamechfiji.com

## Marine Engineers

### Industrial & Marine Engineering Ltd (IMEL)

Eliza Street, Walu Bay, Suva  
T: 331 2133 | 992 8134

### Marine Gear Co Ltd

Lot 13 Rokobili Subdivision,  
Walu Bay, Suva  
T: 330 2373

### Marine Industrial & Structural Engineering Ltd

22 Tofua Street, Walu Bay, Suva  
T: 331 2938

### Marine Solutions

Fisheries Wharf, Lautoka  
T: 628 4066 | 992 7123  
marinesolutions@connect.com.fj

### Seamech Ltd

21 Matua St, Walu Bay, Suva  
T: 330 1882 | 999 8726 F: 330 0866  
seamech@connect.com.fj

## Marine Generators

### YANMAR | Baobab Marine

Port Denarau T: 675 1120  
Vuda Point T: 664 0827  
Savusavu T: 999 3957  
info@baobabmarine.com

## Marine Salvage & Marine Equipment

### Dive Centre (Fiji) Ltd

Royal Suva Yacht Club Boatshed  
T: 330 0599 | 999 8809 | F: 330 2639  
divecentre@unwired.com.fj

### Deep End Services

T: +679 9998862  
lancemillar9@gmail.com

### Marine Solutions

Fisheries Wharf, Lautoka  
T: 628 4066 | 992 7123

### Pacdrive International

PO Box 10, Port Denarau, Nadi  
T: 670 7979 | 9991166  
F: 675 0080  
dennisdiving@yahoo.com

### South Sea Towage Limited

25 Eliza St, Walu Bay, Suva  
T: 331 2488 | F: 330 1762

### Triton Marine Fiji Ltd

Eliza Street, Walu Bay, Suva  
T: 999 5980  
wayne@tritonmarinefiji.com

## Gas Suppliers

### Blue Gas

Vuda Point, Vuda T: 666 1755  
Vou Street, Suva T: 336 1023

### Fiji Gas Limited

Head Office, Amra St,  
Walu Bay, Suva T: 330 4188  
Terminal Wailada, Suva T: 336 1694  
Waterfront Rd, Lautoka T: 666 3355  
4 Queens Rd, Nadi T: 672 8116  
Queens Rd, Sigatoka T: 650 0578  
Nasekula Rd, Labasa T: 881 2973  
Naqere, Savusavu T: 885 0437

## Oxygen Cylinder Refills

### BOC (Fiji) Liited

Vetaia St, Lami, Suva T: 336 1011  
Damanu St, Labasa T: 881 1899  
Navutu Ind., Lautoka T: 666 2366

## Batteries

### Carpenters Motors

Argo Street, Walu Bay, Suva | T: 999 6248

### Clay Energy

Lot 13 Carpenter St, Raiwai, Suva  
T: 336 3880 | 999 7761 | F: 336 3882  
sales@clayenergy.com.fj

### Pacific Batteries

Lot 20 Wailada Ind. Estate, Lami  
T: 336 2255 | F:336 2737  
pacificbatteries@connect.com.fj  
Labasa T: 999 0673  
Lautoka T: 999 0641

### Sunrise Batteries

6 Luke Street, Nabua, Suva  
T: 338 4247  
Main Street, Nadi  
T: 670 1621

## Solar Solutions

### Clay Energy

Lot 13 Carpenter Street, Raiwai, Suva  
T: 336 3880 | 999 7761 | F: 336 3882  
sales@clayenergy.com.fj

## Marine Electronics Radio | Radar | Lights

### Baobab Marine

Port Denarau T: 675 1120  
Vuda Point T: 664 0827  
Savusavu T: 999 3957  
info@baobabmarine.com

### Danz Electric (Fiji) Ltd

Lot 2 Karsanji Street, Vatuwaqa  
T: 354 3466 | 994 4635  
danz\_electric@yahoo.com.au

### Suva Electric

Shop 17, Grantham Plz, Raiwai, Suva  
T: 362 3691 | 992 2440 | F:337 3692



**Tech Air Ltd**

1 Foster Way, Walu Bay, Suva  
T: 324 0040 | F: 324 0042  
3 Matua Street, Lautoka  
T: 666 2536 | F: 666 2536  
tecairltd@connect.com.fj

**The Yacht Shop**

4 Vetaia Street, Lami, Suva  
T: 336 1522 | 999 7790  
yachtshop@tradewinds.com.fj  
Vuda Point Marina T: 665 0844  
Copra Shed Marina T: 885 0040  
Royal Suva Yacht Club T: 331 3832  
Port Denarau T: 675 0522

**Video Production****Moving Pictures**

#6 | 190 Foster Road, Walu Bay, Suva  
T: 338 7966 | 799 0634  
movingpictures@connect.com.fj

**HD Expeditions (Underwater)**

T: 860 4452 | info@hdexpeditionsfiji.com

**Photography****Grasskirt Photography**

T: 934 2953 | adi.nacola@gmail.com

Tor Johnson | www.tjhawaii.com

**Aerial Imagery****Skyward Industries**

T: 722 5569  
info@skywardindustries.com

**Car Rental****Avis**

info@avis.com.fj  
T: 6722 233 (24 hours)

**Courier Service****LOCAL**

CDP  
Suva T: 331 3077  
Lautoka T: 666 2376  
Nadi T: 670 1965  
Labasa T: 881 2999  
Levuka T: 344 0015  
Ba T: 667 5752  
Sigatoka T: 650 0647  
Savusavu T: 999 6222  
admin@cdp.com.fj

**EMS**

Toll Free 0800 334 5900  
muscstser@postfiji.com.fj

**INTERNATIONAL****DHL**

Grantham Plaza, Raiwaqa, Suva  
T: 337 2766 | 999 0411  
dhlinfof@dhl.com  
Nadi Airport, Nadi T: 672 3800  
Main Street, Savusavu T: 885 0307

**Fed Ex**

22 Edinburgh Drive, Suva  
T: 331 5980 | F: 330 2471  
5 Naviti Street, Lautoka  
T: 666 3988 | F: 666 4896  
Nadi Airport, Nadi  
T: 672 2933 | F: 672 0056  
fedexgsp.fiji.airfreight@carpenters.com.fj

**TNT**

18 Disraeli Road, Suva | T: 330 8677  
Nadi Airport, Nadi | T: 672 4587  
Marine Drive, Lautoka | T: 666 9470

**UPS (Williams & Gosling)**

Nadi T: 672 0043  
Suva T: 324 9431  
Lautoka T: 666 4093

**UB Freight**

189 Foster Rd WBay, Suva | T: 330 2710  
Nadi Airport, Nadi | T: 672 3412

**Fresh Flowers****Tadra Flowers**

Nadi T: 670 3325  
Suva T: 331 8090 | 992 2051  
info@tadra.com.fj

Namaka Market, Nadi  
Suva Market, Suva City (Fri & Sat)

**Physiotherapists****Cathy Wong**

381 Waimanu Road, Suva  
T: 331 8434

**Dentists****Dr Imtiaj Sahu Khan**

Ratu Sakuna House,  
Victoria Parade, Suva  
T: 331 1424 | 707 5637 | F: 330 5685  
sahukhandentist@gmail.com

**Stewart Street Dental Practice**

Dr Vikash Singh  
Vinod Patel Bldg,  
10 Stewart Street, Suva  
T: 330 8882 | 992 8820 | F: 331 1830  
drsingh@connect.com.fj

**Savusavu Hospital**

T: 885 0444

**Dr Osbourne**

Nadi Hospital | T: 670 1120

**Pearlz Dental Practice**

Dr Ilaijia J. Lewenilovo  
5 Nede Street, Lautoka  
T: 666 1220 | 923 0112  
ilewenilovo@gmail.com

**Northern Dental Care**

Dr Chand Lal  
Jaduram Street, Labasa  
T: 881 4077 | 993 8836 | F: 881 7530

**Pharmacies****Namaka Medisure Pharmacy**

Lot 12 Namaka Lane, Namaka, Nadi  
T: 672 8851

**Food Service Suppliers****Goodman Fielder International (Fiji) Ltd**

30 Karsanji Street, Bhindi Industrial  
Estate, Vatuwaqa  
T: 338 7066 | 337 0697 | F: 337 0317

**Wines | Spirits****Victoria Wines**

Lot 17 Queens Rd, Martinar, Nadi  
Shop 6, Denarau Marina  
Shop 27, Damodar City, Suva  
www.victoriawines.com.fj

**Bakeries | Pastries****Épicier - Hilton Denarau**

T: 6756 800 Ext. 56952  
E: deli.fiji@hilton.com

**Supermarkets****MH - Morris Hedstrom**

Head Office Suva T: 331 5299  
Suva MHCC T: 331 0683  
Superfresh Tamavua T: 338 6085  
Flagstaff T: 331 6811  
Namaka T: 672 0722  
Savusavu T: 885 0030  
Levuka T: 344 0467  
Taveuni T: 888 0053

**Butchers | Fresh Meats****South Pacific Butchering Co. Fiji**

7 Denarau Road, Nadi  
T: 670 3900 | 999 3900 | F: 670 3800  
spbcd@connect.com.fj

**Real Estate****Resort Homes Fiji**

Arts Village, Pacific Harbour  
T: 345 0034 | 992 4924 | F: 345 0067  
resorthomes@connect.com.fj

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www.vudamarina.com.fj





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