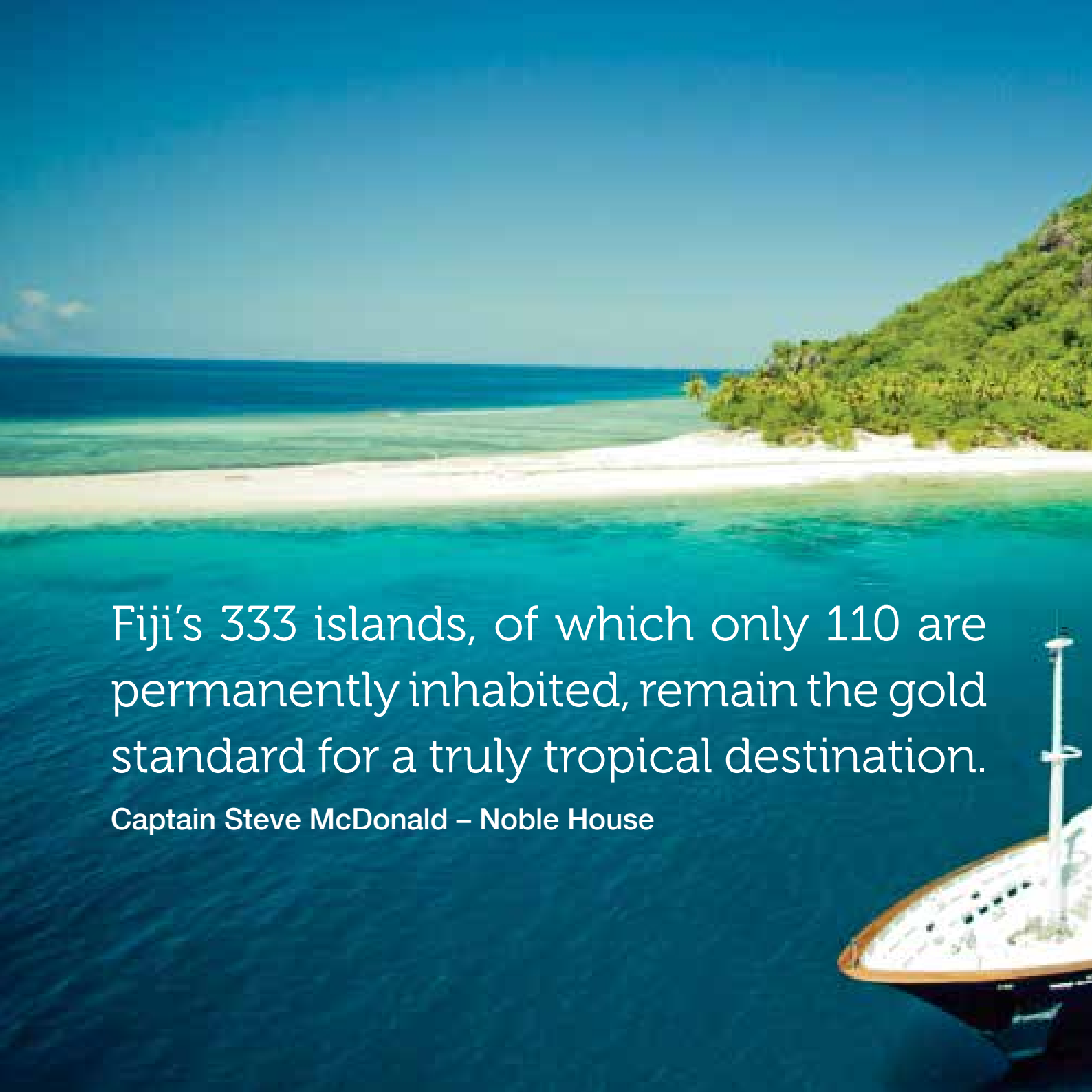




# FIJI MARINE GUIDE 2014



SET YOUR COURSE



Fiji's 333 islands, of which only 110 are permanently inhabited, remain the gold standard for a truly tropical destination.

Captain Steve McDonald – Noble House

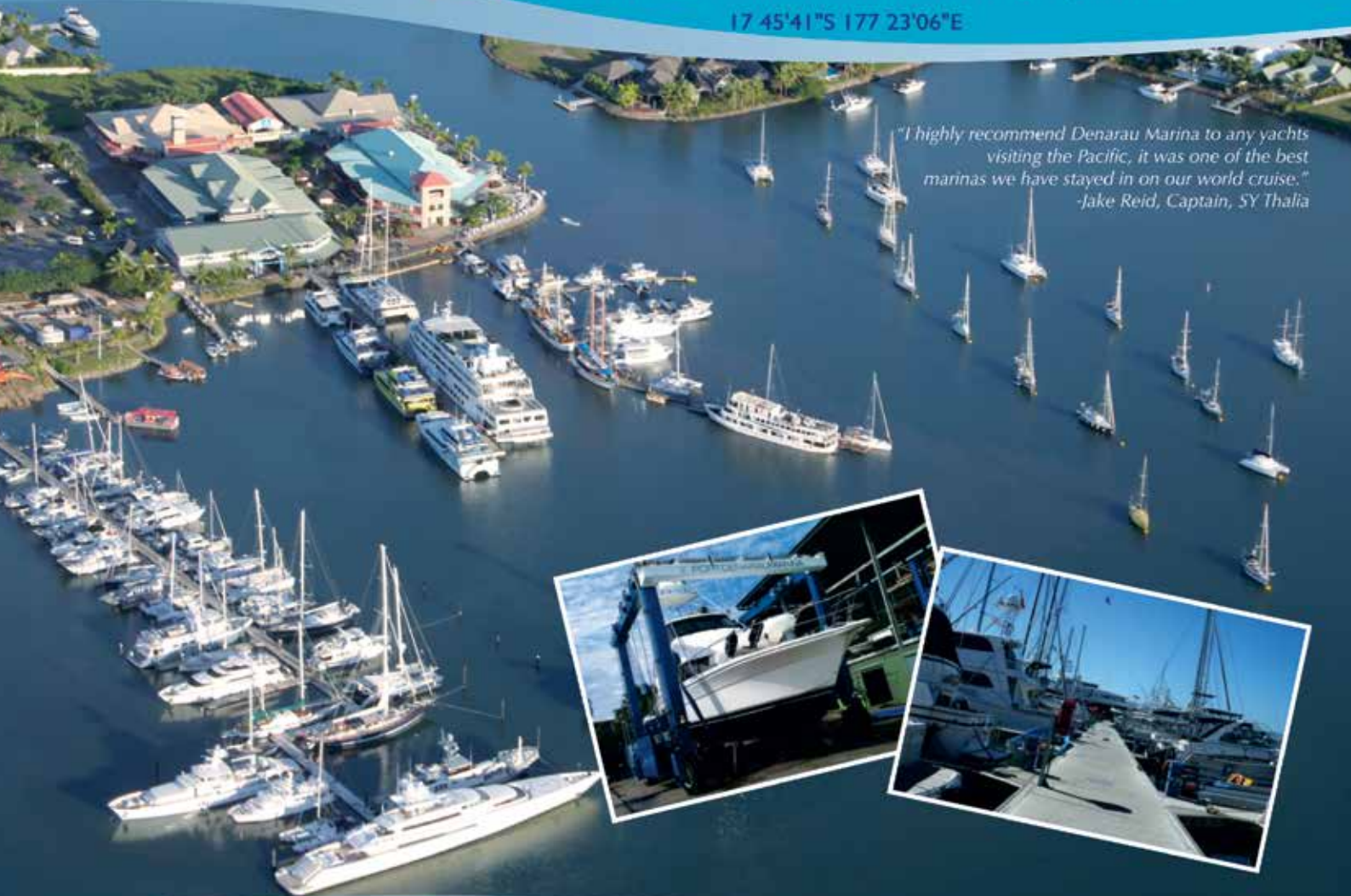


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17 45'41" S 177 23'06" E

*"I highly recommend Denarau Marina to any yachts visiting the Pacific, it was one of the best marinas we have stayed in on our world cruise."  
-Jake Reid, Captain, SY Thalia*



Only 20 min from Nadi International Airport, Port Denarau Marina is the perfect base for cruising the Mamanucas and Yasawas. The marina consists of 52 dedicated visitor berths for Vessels up to 85m with 5m draft and a 50 ton travel lift with full repair and maintenance facilities. On site you will find a full range of shops, restaurants and bars as well as seven world renowned resorts and an 18 hole golf course.

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VHF14



PORTDENARAUMARINA



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# Destination Fiji



'Set Your Course To The Adventure Hub Of  
The South Pacific'



# Dockside



Bula and welcome to the 23rd edition of the Fiji Marine Guide published yearly by Yacht Help Fiji.

Our new look guide has received great feedback, designed not only to assist yachts with practical information to ensure you enjoy hassle free cruising, but the coffee table design has been well received. This glossy look with some amazing Fijian photos makes this guide a must keep and valuable addition to any yacht.

The guide covers approved clearance information from Customs, Immigration and Quarantine along with a wealth of essential information including emergency contacts, marina information and cultural tips.

Fiji is sunny, unique and unspoiled and with 333 islands there is definitely something for everyone. Fijian hospitality is second to none and opportunities to experience this abound. The islands have miles of white sandy beaches, azure lagoons, lush tropical rainforests, fabulous coral gardens teeming with sea life and tranquil village life. Fiji promises to not disappoint any yacht visitor.

Each year more yachts are attracted to Fiji's shores with over 700 foreign yachts entering Fiji last year. With this expansion, facilities and services for yachts are continuously being upgraded. The authorities have streamlined entry procedures and all areas of Fiji can now be cruised with one cruising permit including the Lau Group.

Even with this number of yachts visiting the country, there are still yachts arriving in islands where the whole village turns out to give the yacht visitor a BULA welcome. Quite often in the more remote areas you will find that they have not had a yacht visit for several years. Traditions and culture remain strong in the outer islands and it's important to conform to these so as not to cause offence and to ensure



# Dockside



you receive a true Fijian experience. Ensure you read the section in the guide on “Visiting the Outer Islands”, particular attention should be paid to the Sevusevu Ceremony which is the presentation of Kava (ceremonial drink) to the chief of a village upon your arrival.

The Yacht Help Team hopes this guide will help make your cruise in Fiji ‘plain sailing’ and we encourage any suggestions on how we can improve future Fiji Marine Guide editions, please feel free to email us on [info@yachthelp.com](mailto:info@yachthelp.com), the Fiji Marine Guide can also be found online at [www.fijimarineguide.com](http://www.fijimarineguide.com)

Discover ‘Fiji Time’ where life is appreciated in a much more relaxed pace, chill out, go with the flow and enjoy.

We hope you enjoy this year’s edition and that your travels around this amazing part of the Pacific is something you will talk about for years to come.

“Safe Sailing”  
Bula Vinaka from the Yacht Help Team



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We need your comments and ideas to improve the quality of services provided by Fiji’s Yachting industry and the Authorities. Please email us on [info@yachthelp.com](mailto:info@yachthelp.com)

Help Us Make Fiji A Better Cruising Destination.



# Fiji Profile



## Geography

Fiji lies between 15° and 22° south of the equator and just west of the International Dateline. The Fiji group is made up of 333 islands spread over an area 4 times larger than islands and waters of French Polynesia. Only one third of the islands are inhabited and many are pristine havens for plant and wildlife. The two main islands, Viti Levu and Vanua Levu, are volcanic and make up almost 85% of the land mass, the rest of the islands vary greatly in size and are largely coral, limestone or atolls.

## People

Fiji's multi-cultural society offers a variety of customs and traditions unparalleled in the Pacific. The islands of Fiji are home to Fijians, Indians, Europeans, Chinese and other Pacific Islanders. At the last census (2007), Fiji's population was 837,271.

## Culture

Fiji is one of the friendliest places in world. Every person that passes by will offer a "BULA" the Fijian word for hello. Hospitality in the outer islands is second to none. Traditions and Culture are highly valued and local protocols need to be followed by all who visit the islands.

## Commerce

Fiji's biggest industries are tourism, mining, sugar cane, fishing and timber. Over the last 3 years Fiji has experienced economic growth with improvements in Infrastructure, Health and Education.

## Kava

Kava is the traditional drink of the islands and is drunk both ceremonially and casually playing a large part in the culture. This very mildly intoxicating drink will be offered to the visitor in a coconut shell cup and this must be drunk in one go to be polite.

## Fiji's Climate Ranges From Warm To Hot

Fiji has an oceanic tropical climate with two seasons, from May to November Fiji is bathed in warm dry trade winds blowing over the islands, December to April brings calm, hotter more humid weather with a possibility of cyclones.

## Fly Direct

Flights are direct from LA, Australia, New Zealand, Hong Kong, Honolulu, Korea, Papua New Guinea, Vanuatu and New Caledonia. There are two domestic airlines that service most areas as well as charter aircrafts, Seaplanes and Helicopters.

## Language

English, Fijian and Hindustani are the languages of Fiji. English is widely used and understood. All official forms and signs are in English making it easy for most visitors

## Money

The local currency is the Fiji dollar (\$); it is stable against the US, Australian and New Zealand dollars. Banks and ATMs are in all the main towns but not in the outer islands.



# Highlights of Fiji



- Friendliest People in the South Pacific
- Soft Coral Capital of the World
- Amazing Volcanic Rock Formations
- Stunning over water Bungalows
- Beqa Island Firewalkers
- World Champion Seven's Rugby Team
- Championship Golf Courses
- The best boutique Hotels and Resorts on the planet
- World Class Diving
- Crystal Clear Water
- World Renowned Surfing at Cloud Break
- Pure Fiji Indulgent Massages
- Untouched White Sandy Beaches
- Remote Cultural Traditional Islands

---

## Activities Ashore



While Fiji may be a mere speck on most world maps, it manages to pack a lot into its tiny frame. Its white-sand beaches, coral reefs, clear waters and world-class surf make this one of the Pacific's most alluring playgrounds.

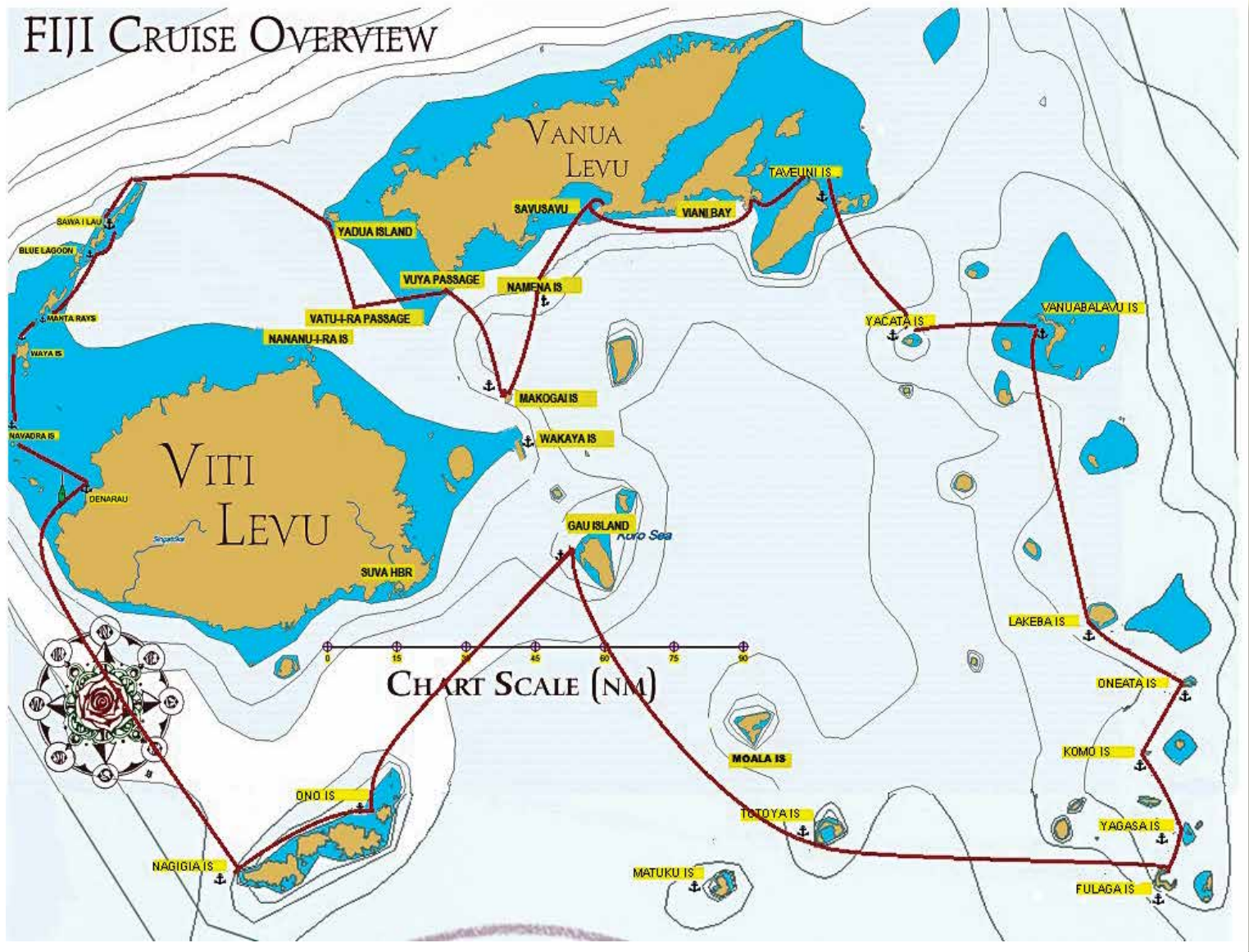
Inland the fun continues; there are rainforests to explore, villages to visit, canyons to raft and hot springs to soak in, and with two vibrant and famously friendly cultures, these sunny isles are so warm they sizzle.

- Sky Dive Fiji
- Sigatoka River Safari
- Whitewater Rafting & Kayaking Adventures
- Zip Fiji
- Championship Golf Course
- Heli-Tours
- Waterfall Tours
- World Famous Shark Dives
- Local Tours
- Sabeto Mud Baths

---

Truly something for everyone  
Fiji's Hidden Paradise

# FIJI CRUISE OVERVIEW



# Cruising Fiji



Fiji is all those images of the tropical island paradise you have ever dreamed of on a cold wet day in Europe. Gentle warm breeze, crystal clear sea lapping on a deserted beach, swaying palms, friendly smiling people - it is a slice of heaven on earth.

Our own Captain David Jamieson (Managing Director of Yacht Help Fiji) has over 10 years sailing knowledge in the Fiji Islands, he has been asked to speak at many conferences regarding his knowledge and itinerary planning, and he can ensure that you have the best itinerary to get the most out of your cruising.

---

## Overview

The following is a general description of what you will see in each of Fiji's island groups.

## Waypoints and Tracks

Over the last ten years we have gathered hundreds of waypoints and tracks to assist yachts when cruising the islands. These will now be published on our Fiji Marine Guide website [www.fijimarineguide.com](http://www.fijimarineguide.com) and can be downloaded for free giving you full access to the best store of local knowledge available for Fiji.

## Sample Itineraries

On our Fiji Marine Guide Web site you will also find a full selection of sample itineraries to help you plan your Fiji cruise.

## Yasawas and Mamanuca Islands

These 2 groups of islands provide a wide range of options for a 7 to 10 day Cruise.

Their Location on the leeward side of Fiji provides them with dry sunny weather. The Mamanuca islands lie within the reef providing smooth sailing. There are a wide variety of islands some are home to Boutique resorts others are more secluded such as Monoriki where the movie Castaway was filmed. It's a great place to start a cruise with easy diving and good snorkeling. As you sail north you arrive at Waya Island in the Yasawa Group. Anchor off Natawa village (South Waya). This high island has spectacular views from its peak and is worth the short hike to the top. Stop and refresh in the natural spring on the way up.

The Yasawa Group gets more spectacular the further north you go. Swim with the Manta Rays at Naviti Island, anchor in the turquoise waters of Blue Lagoon where the film of the same name was made, explore the huge Limestone caves at Sawa-l-Lau and finally stand on the fine sand of the 10kms of pristine beaches of Yasawa Island.

# Cruising Fiji



## Vatu-I-Ra Channel and Lomaiviti Group

The Vatu-I-Ra channel contains some of Fiji's best dives. The constant flow of water through the channel produces some of the world's most colourful soft coral gardens and in the deeper water there are pinnacles rising up to the shallows that are the domain of the large pelagic species. These are for experienced divers and a local guide is recommended.

The Lomaiviti Group includes the islands of Makogai an ex leper colony and now home to a turtle hatchery, Gau well known for its shark dives, and the remote Namena which is a marine sanctuary.

## Savusavu and Taveuni

Savusavu is a quaint little town with volcanic activity producing hot springs that steam along the foreshore. The town has shops and a market for fresh provisions. Across Savusavu bay is the Jean-Michel Cousteau Resort which offers fine dining ashore. Heading East to the Island of Taveuni know as the garden island because lush rain forest and waterfalls, here you will find little evidence of tourism and an opportunity to experience traditional Fijian life.

## Lau Group

This group is Fiji's hidden paradise with no tourism this is one of the most traditional areas of Fiji. Vanua Balavu Island has some of the most spectacular scenery in Fiji. Here traditional etiquette needs to be strictly observed. You need to bring with you a gift of half-a-kilo of the root of the pepper plant from which kava, the social and ceremonial drink is made. Now begins an ancient ritual known as Sevusevu. This usually takes place in the village longhouse, where your party sits on the floor opposite the Ratu (chief) and his elders. The Ratu appoints a spokesman to speak for the visitors, although the entire proceedings are held in the Fijian language. The spokesman ceremoniously requests the Ratu to accept your gift of kava. The Ratu places his hands on the gift, and thanks the visitors. All present clap three times. You are now officially the guest of the village.

There is plenty of exploring inside this large lagoon and is worth staying a few days. The village will put on a traditional feast or Lovo with meat, fish and local vegetables baked in an underground earth oven this is followed by a Meke (Fijian Dancing) in honour of their guests. For the more adventures you can cruise south through the Lau islands to experience more of these little visited islands.



# Cruising Fiji



## Beqa and Kadavu

Beqa Lagoon has one of the world's most highly recommended shark dives where Tiger and Bull sharks are seen daily. Ashore the people of Beqa are known for their ability to fire walk over red hot rocks.

## Kadavu

Is a must for keen divers and sites abounding inside the Astrolobe reef where fish life is bountiful among the huge coral gardens. Turtles, large pelagic's, schooling Barracudas and Mantas are regular sights. Ashore there is little tourism and you will be assured of a traditional "Bula" Fijian welcome.

Sunny, unique and unspoiled,  
Fiji is a fascinating blend of cultures and colours that  
promises to not disappoint.

For news, updated information  
and links, log on to  
[www.fijimarineguide.com](http://www.fijimarineguide.com)



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# Captain's Log



## Capt. Mark Thirkettle MNI / Capt. Nicholas Jackson SY Erica XII

So it seems that Fiji does have it all.

2013 was our fifth visit to Fiji since 2006, and can now say that we have seen it all, nearly.

From a Captain's point of view Fiji is ideally suited to large yacht operations, and it has the benefit of a gateway airport with a long runway, a good FBO and great air links for guests, provisions and parts.

It also has a vast cruising area, with most of it sheltered from the open ocean. Cruises can be tailored to specific tastes without worrying about roly anchorages. In addition, so few vessels that cruise the outlying islands that one also quickly gets used to being the only vessel in a bay.

Even with a deep draught super yacht, there are no areas off limits that you would usually consider feasible, as swinging room would come into play long before water depth. The bathymetry is as expected for coral reef areas – all or nothing – and we have found anchorages so stunning that we still talk about them years later. Albert Cove on Rabi Island, tied stern-to the reef, is one such place, and the anchorage at Navadra is another. That is without even mentioning the Lau group or northern Vanua Levu.

We know that the navigation here can be a worry to some people, and most ECDIS systems will be displaying a large question mark at some point, but with the right paper charts (remember those?), good planning, somebody in the rig and a little patience, there is no reason why you cannot sail Fiji from end to end and keep coming back for more.

## Captain M/Y Plan B

I clapped one loud clap before taking the half-coconut shell of kava from the local village man. There must have been thirty other locals watching from the back of the room, as I, an obvious 'newbie' to this tradition, tilted my neck just a little and downed the drink and clapped a thank-you as I passed the shell back.

From what I can see the meeting house is constructed from palm tree trunks and sporting a thick palm frond thatched roof, and all of us (14 visitors and 30 locals) sat cross-legged inside passing around kava as the locals welcomed us to the village. It wasn't long before the formalities were over and someone pulled out a guitar and the Chief was singing soulful Bob Marley songs; all of us bobbing our heads, tapping our feet and grinning at each other enjoying the moment.

Fiji has a rich fabric of diversity, from the tiny local villages nestled quietly in the hills to the chaotic buzzing of the larger cities of Suva and Nadi – it really has it all. The spectacular mountain views of lush green forest sown into the deep red fertile soil from the hinterlands, contrasting with the white sandy beaches and incredible outer reef environments give Fiji the complete package of experiences to be had. From traditional village encounters, kava ceremonies, sky-diving, snorkeling, scuba diving, wake boarding, spa and massage packages, top-quality golf courses, surfing and much more – we really made the most of our time there.

We spent 6 weeks in Fiji, in and around Port Denarau, Musket Cove for a couple of nights, then travelling around the outer reefs and smaller islands – most of which were wildlife protected areas. Fiji was incredible, and we can't wait to go back!

# Captain's Log



## Enjoy! – Captain Mike Gregory 74m M/Y Dragonfly

As a busy yacht cruising the South Pacific we had heard lots about the magic of Fiji, all of it was true. A professional and warm response from Yacht Help Fiji allowed us to smoothly enter and clear-in and provided us with some excellent and valuable local knowledge. The cruising areas are vast, the watersports grounds some of the finest in the world and the people and their cultures remain un-spoilt in many of the outer islands. We highly recommend cruising Fiji and the surrounding areas and are happy to promote Yacht Help as an agency with experience and passion for delivering a great experience for crew and owners alike.

## Captain David Broome M.Y. Pacific

Port Denarau, Fiji is a great base for any yacht cruising the South Pacific Islands. Smooth entry and exit procedures with immigration and customs for both yachts and private aircraft with easy transfers between the airport and the marina and very accommodating air traffic control and regulations if you are using private helicopters.

Port Denarau is very secure, with protection from all wind directions. At HW, there was never less than 5.5 M in the channel and at the berth. Great friendly infrastructure in and around the marina and very crew friendly. There are also regular flights to the major hubs of NZ and Australia.

The team at Yacht Help is super friendly and efficient and assisted with all our needs, guests on and off. Bunkering and provisioning was very simple with competitive pricing.

Fiji as a cruising ground has something for everyone, whether you are a water sports and fishing fanatic or into local cultural experiences and quiet anchorages. The locals all over Fiji, at the big islands or the remote outer islands were very friendly and accommodating and very happy to have yachts visit.

It is not only a unique and beautiful place to visit with guests but a superb, safe, central place to operate from during a season due to its convenient location of only a few days steaming/sailing to the many other cruising grounds in the vicinity.





# Environmental Guidelines



## Environmental Guidelines for Yachts

Please help us to protect the beautiful coral reefs you have come to see by acting responsibly during your stay and adhering to the following guidelines.

- Always use mooring buoys where provided. Never drop anchor on or near a coral reef. Only anchor in sand and well away from any dark coloured patches. These patches are likely to be living reef structures that will be damaged by carelessly placed anchors.
- Collect all rubbish together for disposal at appropriate facilities on land. Do not throw any rubbish into the sea. Rubbish not only looks unsightly but is also a hazard to marine organisms.
- Use water conservatively and where possible, use environmentally friendly detergents. Water is a scarce and valuable resource for Fijians, whilst many conventional detergents contain polluting chemicals.
- If your boat is fitted with a waste water holding tank, please store its contents until they can be disposed of at facilities ashore. If no holding tank is available, waste water should only enter the sea while underway offshore at least 1 mile from a reef. Do not dispose of non-biodegradable sanitary waste at sea.
- Do not drive tenders over the shallow reef flats, stick to the channels or passes and prevent any physical contact with corals. When driving tenders along mangroves or shallow reefs, drive slowly and minimise wake to avoid erosion and damage to this vital part of the eco-system.
- Please do not remove anything, dead or alive from the sea. Even an empty shell on the beach will be a home for another animal. Resist the temptation to buy shells and coral. Even though it is already removed, your purchase sets up trade and more will be removed in future.
- If you are snorkeling or diving, do not touch any living organism with your body or equipment; be especially conscious of your fins. Corals secrete a protective antibacterial film, which can be removed from even the slightest physical contact. Once this protection is removed, the coral colony is more susceptible to disease and may die. Feeding fish is also discouraged – it alters their natural behavior pattern.
- Do not ever catch fish on any reef system without express permission of the customary resource owners, i.e. the villagers.

# Oyster World Rally

**Fiji feature – David Glenn**

**Photography - Mark Synder**

David Glenn, editor of Yachting World magazine, spent 10 days in Fiji with the Oyster World Rally and was able to see the island from the yachtsman's perspective. He quickly concluded that 10 days simply isn't enough to explore an archipelago that seems to have it all.







# Oyster World Rally



My first glimpse of Fiji was from the air as I took a very early morning flight from Nadi to Suva where I was due to meet a private plane to fly me out to the Lau Group more than 120 miles to the east. I was on my way to meet the 25-strong Oyster World Rally fleet, which had almost reached the halfway mark in its circumnavigation to mark the company's 40th year in business. It is Oyster's inaugural world rally but it's been so successful there's another one already planned and Fiji will undoubtedly be on the itinerary.

That first aerial view of Viti Levu revealed a lusciously green volcanic topography with rivers winding through the countryside like silver ribbons glinting in the early morning sun. Along their length tiny settlements nestled in the protective folds of wooded valleys. I couldn't wait to land and explore.

## Rally Rendezvous

But first I needed to make my rendezvous with the rally. I was aware that Fiji was an important Pacific cross-roads for yachtsmen and that for many world-girdlers it's a vital marine pit-stop, but what I hadn't realised is just how big the archipelago is with its 333 islands spread out over a vast area.

This offers yachtsmen a magnificent pocket cruising ground and for anyone planning their circumnavigation or indeed their cruise from New Zealand or Australia, they would be wise to build in a minimum of a month, preferably two, to get the full benefit.

What also struck me was the wide variety of attractions for yachtsmen ranging from the totally unspoilt and remote Lau islands in the east where village life, the sevusevu (welcoming party) and the ceremonial taking of kava are all alive and well, to the bustling markets and busy streets of a town like Nadi where a multi-cultural society offers a warm welcome.

I was acutely aware that I was for most of the time existing in third world communities, which personally I found very appealing, but for yachtsmen like those in the Oyster World Rally the existence of places like Port Denarau Marina near Nadi on the main island of Viti Levu, Vuda Point Marina just north and the Copra Shed Marina in Savusavu on the smaller island of Vanua Levu meant that support was never far away.

# Oyster World Rally



By the time yachts on a circumnavigation reach Fiji it's certainly time to consider having them hauled for a thorough check. This was no exception for the Oyster fleet and many were lifted in Denarau or Vuda Point at very competitive rates - £300 for a lift in and out for a 56-footer is an appealing price wherever you are in the world!

## The appeal of Lau

But back to Lau. One of the reasons I had been invited to Fiji was that Oyster, with considerable help from the local yachting community, had arranged to have the entire fleet checked into the country at a temporary immigration post set up in Lau.

Normally yachts would have to sail on to Savusavu to complete formalities so that if they wanted to return to Lau they would have a wearing 120-mile beat to get back. Customs and immigration plus bio-security personnel sent out a special team to undertake the work.

The appeal of the completely unspoiled Lau group is obvious with its remote, protected anchorages, welcoming villagers and exploring opportunities on the water, under the water and on land. It's important for yachtsmen to understand local customs and to get used to the fact that locals not only own the land upon which their villages are built, but also the adjacent waters which may well include the anchorage you have selected. So asking permission and familiarising yourself with welcoming customs is important.

## Perfect meeting place

The Turquoise Anchorage on the north eastern end of the main island of Vanua Balavu provided the perfect meeting place for the Oyster fleet although the approach following their passage from Tonga was tricky. The use of chart plotter software based on original surveys meant that on-screen positions were often far from reality and in some cases yachts appeared to be positioned ashore before they had even arrived!

Once skippers had got used to this and the need to go back to navigation and pilotage basics, the fleet proceeded with more confidence. There was plenty of banter and exchanging of ideas in the Royal Exploring Isles Yacht Squadron, a timber built clubhouse on the shore of the Turquoise Anchorage built by ex-pat Tasmanian Tony Philp. Tony not only made the fleet extremely welcome, but was very informative about the local customs and some of the challenges the locals face as the modern world, largely through yachting, meets tradition and the fragile infrastructure that exists in Lau.

## Fabulous sail to Savusavu

I left Lau aboard the Oyster 885 Lush, owned by one-time F1 team boss Eddie Jordan, and enjoyed a fabulous sail in 20 knots of breeze north to Welagilala where we anchored off the pristine beach. Although it blew almost 30 knots during the night we were safe in the lagoon and left the following morning for an equally fabulous 120-mile sail to Savusavu where I was introduced to the delights of the Copra Shed Marina and yacht club.



# Oyster World Rally



There was a real bluewater cruising community here including plenty of Australians and New Zealanders who seem to visit the Fiji archipelago much as the Americans would visit the Caribbean. It's their winter bolt-hole in the sun.

I'm not a scuba diver but I'd recommend anyone visiting this area to get their qualification before arrival because Fiji is a dive paradise with plenty of opportunities to swim with sharks and indulge in all sorts of other underwater exploration. I spent a night in the nearby Cousteau resort a short taxi ride from Savsavu and in addition to being able to completely relax in their magnificent beach front resort, they also offer top quality dive excursions.

But for me just wandering the street (there is only one) and markets of Savusavu itself was a fascinating experience with great little restaurants where you can eat anything from a cheap curry or a Chinese to a slap up feast of fish, lobster and fresh vegetables.

Yes, the food's great too. Returning to the bar at the yacht club for an ice cold Fiji Gold beer I enjoyed a chat with commodore Geoff Taylor, another entertaining Aussie ex-pat with a ton of stories!

## A closer look at Denarau

Time was beginning to get short so I flew from here to Nadi to give myself time to take a closer look at Port Denarau Marina which, after spending a week or so in my third world cocoon, was a bit of a culture shock. It's not only built on reclaimed land but is a gated community with a major marina and a string of top class beachside hotels at its heart.

Yachts can be lifted here and there's a whole host of marine services from engineers and woodworkers to sailmakers and excellent chandlers. You'll also find Yacht Help's office with its knowledgeable staff who can provide support to any yacht planning a visit. Somehow the marina had remained largely intact during cyclone Evan which tore through Fiji last year.

The Oyster World Rally was due to leave en masse from Musket Cove resort on the amazing island of Malolo at the southern end of the Mamanuca chain so I took a ferry out there to see where they would be gathering. It's a piece of Fiji paradise and from here those with some time can enjoy a whole new cruising experience working up through the islands. Will Moffat, an experienced yachtie who runs the resort will helpfully show you the way. Oh, and if you are a surfer there's apparently one of the biggest waves in the world on the reef you can see with the naked eye from the hill just behind the Musket Cove resort.

As I wandered back from that hill to the resort in preparation for my long flight home to London I felt I had barely scratched the surface in Fiji and I never did get to explore that green and pleasant heartland I had seen at the start of my journey. But one thing was certain. Fiji's just about got it all.

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# Diving In Fiji



## Underwater Expeditions Fiji - Author Sam Campbell

Fiji's reefs offer an amazing diving experience – from schooling fishes and large Pelagic's cruising deep walls, to shallow Soft Coral laden bommies where cryptic macro critters wait to be discovered - Fiji has it all. Fiji is renowned as being the 'Soft Coral Capital of the world', but it also offers a whole lot more - from Mantas to Mantis Shrimps the reefs are teeming with life. A keen eye will be able to see beyond the kaleidoscope of color and find those weird and wonderful critters hiding camouflaged on the reef, although, you may wish to keep one eye in the blue to be sure not to miss an unexpected visitor from the deep.

Dendronephthya- soft corals have thrived in the nutrient rich waters around Fiji and with their array of colour and sheer abundance they illuminate the reefs. Fiji's reefs are spread around over 1.3 million square kilometers of the South Pacific. The Fijian Archipelago encompasses one of the most extensive reef systems in the world. The reef system is made up of barrier reefs, atolls, patch reefs, channels, passages and fringing reefs – offering all types of diving from wild advanced current dives in Shark inhabited passages to calm beginner dives along sheltered colorful reefs.

To see the best of Fiji dive sites local knowledge is key. Knowing when and where to take the plunge can be the difference between a 'nice dive' and 'WOW'. Some areas are current dependant and you must dive at the right tidal time to get the best out of that particular site. Also local guides know the critters and their habitats allowing them to build up a repertoire of resident animals.

With so many Islands and dive sites to explore around Fiji it would be impossible to cover them all in this article. Here is a brief overview, in my opinion, of Fiji's finest diving:

Namena Marine Reserve lies south of Vanua Levu, Fiji's second largest Island. Traditionally in Fijian culture the local villages also own their fishing ground's ('Qoliqoli') and therefore the reefs. The now deceased Chief of the Kumbulau district declared their 'Qoliqoli' a no take zone –or 'Tabu' area over 15 years ago. With the help of CORAL Reef Alliance Namena is thriving. The Namena dive sites offer world class diving. North Save-a-Tack passage must be dived on an incoming tide (usually an advanced dive). Huge Schools of Fish hang out on the drop off whilst Grey



# Diving In Fiji



Reef Sharks cruise in the current. You never know what will turn up from the deep – from huge Stingrays and massive Dogtoothed Tuna to Schooling Hammerheads and sleek Silver Tip Reef sharks. The bommies or pinnacles of South Save-a-Tack are breathtakingly beautiful and covered in a myriad of reef fishes. Once again an eagle-eyed spotter can find critters galore. Pontohi Pygmy Seahorses defy the current and these tiny macro creatures cling to Hydroids whilst evading predators.

Lomoviti Group are a must see when looking for Fiji's best dive spots. - Wakaya, Gau, Makogai and Naigani make up this group to the west of Viti Levu. Offering a range of diving for novices to advanced divers. Wakaya is not just a picturesque Island but also the home to a resident Manta population and 'Vatu Vai' or manta rock is a dive site where you can regularly encounter these majestic creatures. The hard coral gardens on the fringing reef are teeming with reef fish – from Garden Eels, Blennies, Turtles and Octopus Wakaya's intermediate dive sites are a must see. As you travel further south in the Lomoviti chain the Island of Gau and Nigali passage offer a truly unique experience, with there being no local dive operators able to access this area due to it's remote location. Nigali passage is a current swept channel where Grey Reef sharks congregate to mate and hunt. Huge Malabar Grouper, Big Eyed Barracuda, and Banded Sea Snakes are some of the highlights that can be seen during visits to these reefs.

The Vatu-i-ra passage to the North East of Viti-Levu is the antipathies of Fiji's colorful coral stacked reefs. The dive sites in this area can be challenging and strong currents are common, but currents bring food/nutrients and the reefs are packed with life. Drift diving here can be wild and most dives are advanced. From Leaf Scorpion Fish to Blue Ribbon Eels Vatu-i-ra is home to some of Fiji's favorite creatures.

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# Diving In Fiji



Kadavu lies to the South of Viti Levu and near the Great Astrolabe Reef. Best known for its Manta population and large schools of Fish. There is diving for all skill sets around the reefs of Kadavu.

The Great White Wall in Taveuni is one of Fiji's most popular dives and attracts thousands of people every year to Fiji. Located in the Somosomo straights the dive is a sheer wall blanketed in White Soft Corals, The wall plummets into the abyss. A unique and dramatic dive site. The Island of Taveuni is lush and tropical. Guided hikes up to scenic waterfalls and stunning scenery make it one of Fiji's most idyllic spots.

The Yasawas are a good place to begin diving in and around Fiji. During May through October the Manta Ray season is on, this is a great time to visit and watch the majestic

creatures from the deep feed & interact. The Yasawas are also a great place for village visits, snorkeling, surfing and just about any water sport you can imagine. Usually offering calm flat seas and sheltered bays the Yasawas are perfect for beginner divers or as a place to get wet. Hard coral gardens, slopes, fringing reefs & crystal clear lagoons provide great sites for all levels.

If adrenalin and big fish are your thing then the Shark Feeds of Beqa can be exhilarating. Here you must dive with a local operator. The feed can attract up to eight species of Shark and if you are lucky enough you may encounter a Tiger Shark – all diving levels welcome. Beqa Lagoon also has some beautiful soft coral pinnacles and good diving on the outer reef. The Beqa people are also known for their fire walking and put on a great traditional show.





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# Reef Conservation



## Reef Conservation, A Shared Goal “Maddy Carse, Marine Biologist”

Coral reefs are the tropical paradises of the ocean; they're rich with life and contain great diversity, in fact more than any other marine ecosystem. Within this habitat is an array of complex networks all relying on the tiny coral polyps that build their foundation. These ecosystems are strong when they stand alone yet vulnerable and fragile if interfered with.

The state of coral reefs around the globe attracts concern in the media in regards to their current health and future, does this mean that all reefs are doomed?...It certainly poses a very controversial question to which there are many different answers depending on who you talk to or where you are in the world. A common agreement will be that we are seeing affects of global warming; however as an audience we tend to hear less about local impacts where the damage is present and often extensive. A certain archipelago of islands has given us some reason for optimism and it takes this case study to Fiji, where researchers are seeing positive results that show reefs in Fiji to be remarkably resilient.

Fiji is made up of over 300 islands with a great variety of reef types in various states of health. These reefs boast a diverse array of marine life with over 2000 individual species of fish to be found! 33 of which are endemic to Fiji.

## Vanua Levu

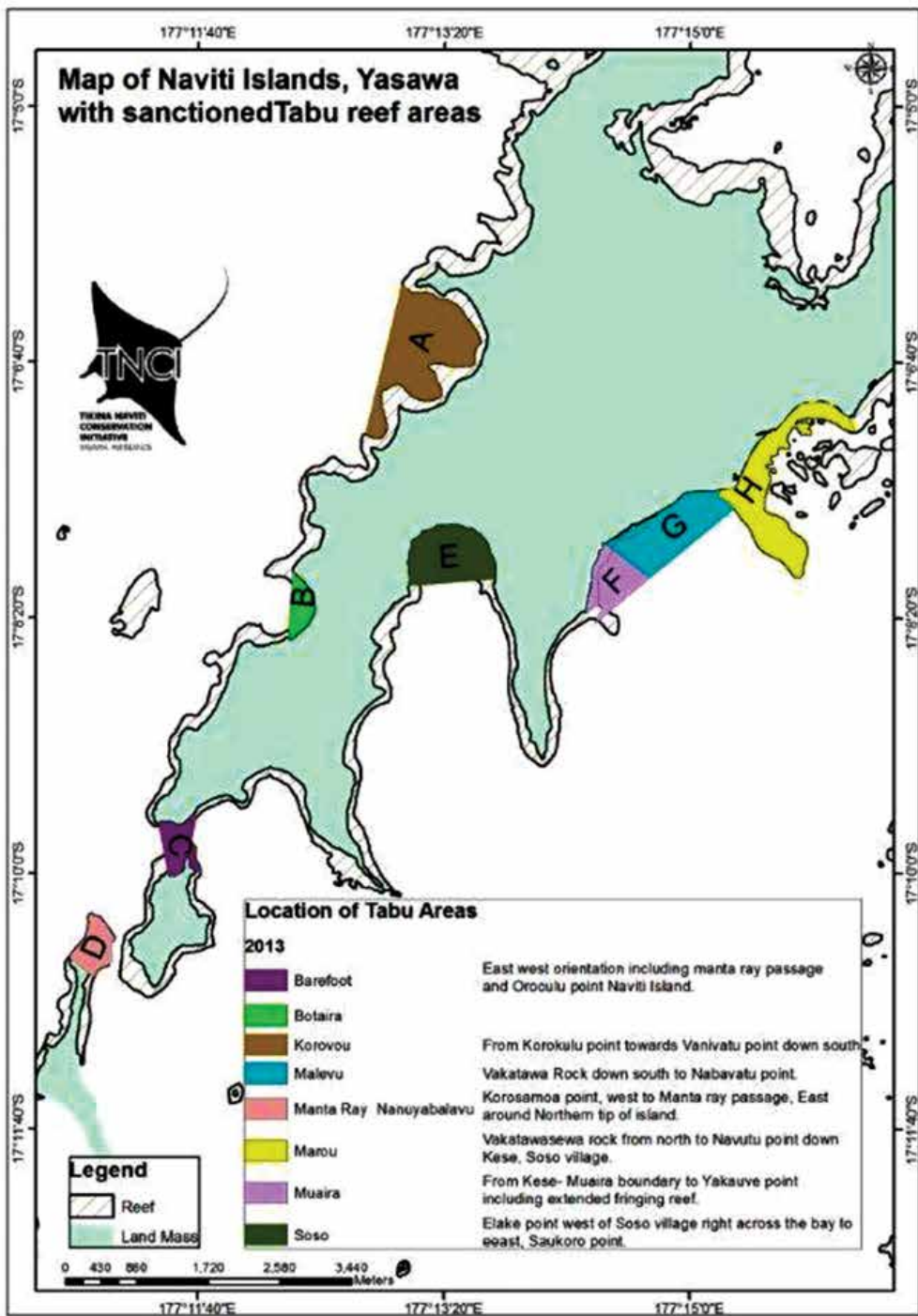
Often referred to as the soft coral capital of the world, many reefs found between the two main islands and off Vanua Levu are lush with fields of soft coral trees and is a diver's paradise. Most islands have a fringing reef that is accessible from the shore so tourism thrives as holiday makers soak up the sun, drink coconuts while lazing in a hammock and slip into the water to enjoy one of the most spectacular marine environments – the coral reef.

## Threats to Fiji

Of course there are factors that contribute to each reefs individual health as some are in better shape than others. Natural impacts that affect the health of Fiji's reefs include cyclones, large storms and hot summers that can cause coral to bleach, as well as more localized factors such as over-fishing, nutrification, algal overgrowth and coral predation from Crown of Thorns Seastar and coral-eating snails such as *Drupella*. These are all fairly common issues that threaten most coral reefs around the globe, and it is fair to say that the localized pressures pose the most immediate threat.

## Tourism in Fiji

As coral reefs are so spectacular they attract much tourism, and trying to operate a tourism resort nearby to a coral reef is a tricky business, as any altering to the surrounding water quality can have devastating impacts on your house reef. However it can be accomplished. There are several instances in Fiji where tourism has proven to be very successful in conserving its precious marine life; something that can only be achieved by working together with operators, land owners and in some cases the government and universities.



# Reef Conservation



## Giant Clam Re-establishment

As resources can be fairly limited throughout, departments have had to be creative. A brilliant project by Fiji Fisheries has seen an extinct species of giant clam (The *Tridacna Gigas*) re-introduced into Fijian waters all the way from Australia's Great Barrier Reef. This clam originally died out in the 1960's as it was overharvested and its slow reproductive cycle was not able to keep up with this. This clam can grow to a massive 1.5m, and is a valuable asset to any reef as a clams purpose is to filter the water, keeping nutrients low and coral happy. It was an achievement to get the clam species back to Fiji, but the hardest was still to follow, its dispersal. The success has come down to tourism operator involvement and funding. Many resorts now boast clam farms off their shore to be accessed as an attraction for their snorkeling or diving guests.

## Reef Check

Keeping track of the health of hundreds of reefs that make up Fiji is a large task that is minimally funded, tourism has provided an advantage here as well. A global project called 'Reef Check' provides materials to reef operators in exchange for their data which is used to assess the overall health status of Fiji annually. It is basic enough to be reliable upon data collected by dive operators or even tourists that have had some training. They focus on counting some fish and invertebrates species and identifying coral. The data can tell us numerous things such as if overfishing is evident in the area and how the coral health tallies. This data can also be used when discussing areas worth reserving and spreading awareness throughout villages and giving direct information related to their waters.

## Marine Parks

A recent example in the Yasawas sets a positive trend for Fiji. A collaboration of resorts, village representatives and Fisheries worked together to set up marine reserves in the areas. The outcomes were many; Fisheries trained fish wardens in each of 7 villages in the area who are now able to legally police their reserves, the data of the surveyed reefs have been issued to the government to obtain global reserve status, and operators and landowners have equally pitched in for a common goal: a local landmark of resident mantarays.

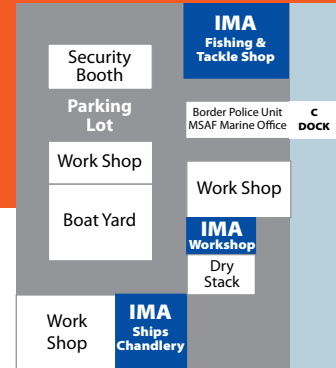
## Mantarays

These Mantarays can be found in a channel of water that lies between Naviti and Drawaqa Island in the Yasawas (marked 'C' on the map). They are reef mantarays and can have up to a 4m wingspan. In the past there have been no guidelines for resorts or private yachts taking tourists into this channel to snorkel with these majestic creatures. Research that has been conducted in the last two seasons has shown over seventeen individual mantarays using this area to feed, two of the rays this year were pregnant! You can find the mantarays in the channel between May and September every year. Where they go to after is not yet known however they are well on their way to discovering this. Pilot studies have now been completed with the added protection of the Fijian Tabu (traditional no fishing reserve status) the next stage of research is ready to begin. So if a snorkel with these amazing animals interests you and you are not going on a guided tour, be sure to get some information from nearby resorts beforehand, as they now are protected and certain precautions for their livelihood need to be taken.

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# Reef Conservation



## Crown-of-thorns

The Crown of Thorn Seastar (COTS) is a natural predator on a coral reef that preys on the polyps of coral. In normal populations it acts as a lawnmower by 'trimming' faster growing corals (the favourite foods) which subsequently allow slower growing corals to settle and grow, increasing the coral diversity on any reef which is of upmost importance to its overall health and ability to survive storms and cyclones. Only when the numbers rise catastrophically does the Crown of Thorn have the ability to damage a reef, and this can be devastating. According to research on the Great Barrier Reef in Australia COTS infestations have been identified to occur naturally in a reef cycle over 8-10 year periods, however there is emerging evidence that poor water quality has created conditions for COTS numbers to increase at some locations.

Many COTS outbreaks have been occurring throughout Fiji for the past 6 years. It is here that tourism has provided a management advantage. On reefs that have had outbreaks where tourism takes place, management strategies have been applied. For reefs that are unprotected an attack by the crown-of-thorns will mean they will be left to be devoured. The natural rejuvenation process take many years.

## Summary

It is these examples that are setting Fiji aside from other coral reef nations, and is what gives us reason to be optimistic. Naturally a lot of these positive movements by operators ignite only to be marketed as responsible or 'green', but regardless the outcomes are mutual to both operators and reefs. Certainly this does not apply to all, but strong movements in this direction will outweigh movement in others, peer pressure acting as a positive reinforcement in this case.

It is a balancing act between traditional land use and ongoing reef health which is in everyone's best interest. As a nation Fiji will need to work on keeping standards high and publicize those who are letting them down. Landowners need to be especially diligent when negotiating leases to ensure the responsible use of their sacred 'vanua' (land). In this way we can enjoy the beautiful paradise that is Fiji for generations to follow. If you visit please respect the conservation efforts and most of all, enjoy!



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# Khaled bin Sultan Living Oceans Foundation



Fiji was lucky enough to have M/Y Golden Shadow in our waters for many months, while they were here during the month of June the Global Reef Expedition Team began conducting coral reef surveys in and around the Fiji Islands. All of the research is staged from the research vessel MY Golden Shadow and lasted approximately 30 days.

- The research involved a combination of various data-gathering techniques:
- Ground truthing: boat based surveys to collect data on depths and habitat characteristics of shallow marine environments (0-25m depth).
- Scuba Dives: in situ observations to conduct detailed assessments of the coral reefs and the plants and animals that live on them.

The science team is made up of around 15 scientists from the Foundation as well as local participants from the University of South Pacific Institute of Applied Science and the Wildlife Conservation Society. The full science team visited sites in Moala, Totoya, Matuka, Cicia, Tuvuca, Vanuabalavu, Mago, Vanua vatu, Navau, Fulaga and Kabara. All their research was passed onto the Lau Provincial Office and relevant Ministries in Fiji and non-governmental offices working on coral conservation initiatives.

## Here are some extracts from their research: Mission Fiji Begins

Departing from Nadi yesterday afternoon, we began our 17 hour transit to the remote island of the Lau Province. Lau Province is one of the 14 provinces in Fiji. It is located in the South Pacific Ocean, due east of the Koro Sea. Lau includes a chain of about 100 islands and islets, about 30 of

which are sparsely populated. While most of the northern group of islands are high and volcanic in origin, those in the south are a mix of extinct oceanic volcanoes, and low-lying carbonate islands. Together, they have a total mass of only about 188 square miles.

## Canopies of Coral

Fiji's reefs house some 333 species of corals of all shapes, sizes and colours, many of which are seen in the Lau Province. We've examined many reef types, some which fringe the shore (fringe reefs), some in the center of a lagoon (lagoon patch reefs) and some that form a barrier between the open ocean and the lagoon (barrier reefs). We've also surveyed different habitats within these reefs – the reef flat, reef crest, pinnacles and coral bommies, for reef slope and lagoon floor, from about 30 metre depth to just below the water's surface.

## Sea Cucumber Craze

They have cylindrical bodies, leathery skin and generally are peculiar looking creatures. You may or may not have noticed these slow moving animals on the bottom of the sea floor. They are sea cucumbers and they are considered a delicacy in most Asian countries. They are used fresh or dried in many culinary dishes.

In Fiji sea cucumbers or sasalu are harvested and sold to Asian countries. With a market value upwards of \$50 (US) each, they are highly prized for anyone who can find them. However, herein lies the problem. With such high incentives, Fijians are now overharvesting these vulnerable, slow-moving sea cucumbers (about 10 feet an hour) that don't stand a chance against speedy free divers.

# Khaled bin Sultan Living Oceans Foundation



Throughout the Lau Province it's typical to find sea cucumbers drying in the sun. The dried sea cucumbers are called beche-de-mer. These sea cucumbers fetch a good price and for some islands it has become their primary source of income.

This fishery is practical and easy for Fijians because it requires no refrigeration, which is limited in these remote islands. To process these animals, they are first boiled. Then they are placed in salt for up to three days. This helps to dry and season the sea cucumbers. Afterwards, some are boiled again and laid in the sun to dry.

## Faces of the Future

Walking up to the village, we are welcomed by loud, harmonious singing pouring out of a school classroom. They continue to sing as we remove our shoes, enter the classroom and take a seat. It's been the same procedure as the twelve schools prior to this one, but I'm still smiling from ear to ear and the loudness and clarity of the singing never ceases to amaze me.

We begin our talk with information about the Khaled bin Sultan Living Oceans Foundation, followed by two short films that showcase the research that we are conducting while scuba diving. It seems to be an effective way to show the students what we are doing.

We continue teaching and I ask, "What is a coral? A plant, animal or mineral?" Throughout the different schools the answer has been the same. About 95% of the students think that it's a mineral because it's not living and it's hard like a rock. We continue to explain that corals are animals and identify the relationships between the plant, animal and mineral.

In these remote islands, students are not taught about the environment around them. By providing this knowledge we hope that they will better understand their resources and how to manage them.

## Restocking the Future

For those of you, who have never seen a giant clam, let me tell you they are incredible creatures. I'm intrigued by these enormous, marble-coloured flesh animals. Their size alone is impressive with potential to grow up to almost 5 feet (1.5m) and weigh upwards of 440 pounds (200kg). Not to mention, some have a lifespan of over 100 years.

Due to their immobility, giant clams must filter feed. They siphon hundreds of gallons of water per day removing plankton and organic matter. Like corals, they have a symbiotic relationship with zooxanthellae (algae) that live in the mantle (fleshy part) of the clam. The algae photosynthesize providing an added food source.

Sadly, *Tridacna gigas*, the largest giant clam, was believed to be extinct in Fiji to overharvesting. They were harvested for the shell and aquaria trade as well as consumption. The good news is that in 2000 the Fiji Department of Fisheries started a giant clam reintroduction program, not only with *T. gigas*, but other threatened or endangered giant clams as well. Today, giant clams are protected under the Fish Fisheries Act that prohibits the export of giant clam meat.

To read more about their valuable research go to <http://www.livingoceansfoundation.org>

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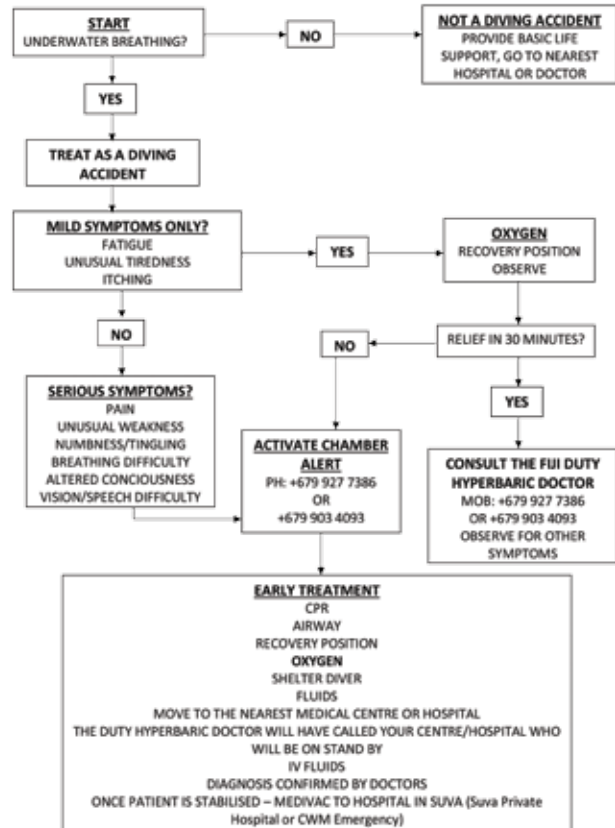
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# Surfing in Fiji



If you surf, you will love Fiji, there are waves for beginners through to advanced and they promise not to disappoint. We offer some legendary breaks such as Swimming Pools, Restaurants and of course, Cloudbreak.

Not so long ago, these breaks were for the exclusive use of the local resorts however the Government of Fiji has in effect, deregulated the waves. Fiji's 2010 'Surfing Decree' now allows anyone to surf anywhere in Fiji waters.

While the Mamanucas and Yasawas have some of the best surfing in Fiji, and of course is home to the famous Cloudbreak which is rated one of the top ten waves in the world and is on most surfers bucket list, there are other parts of Fiji that boast some awesome waves.

Beqa Island (Yanuca) has Frigates a world class wave to rival Cloudbreak and one of the longest in Fiji. The Coral Coast offers waves that are accessible from the beach such as Hideaway, Naviti and Beachhouse. Kadavu is a very traditional island and while the new 'Surfing Decree' opened waves to the public without having to do a sevusevu (refer to Visiting Fiji's Outer Islands section) it is advisable to continue to do this if you intend surfing in this area. King Kong and Typhoon Alley are among a handful of advanced reefs in this area. If you have never surfed before Natadola beach about 45mins east of Nadi by road offers the perfect learning ground.

Southern Lau offers something for the truly adventurous. A visit to this area will not disappoint with established breaks in the islands of Matuku and Fulaga and more just waiting to be discovered.

Fiji offers surfing all year round. That said however, there are two different surf seasons. Fiji's winter April-October offers the best surfing conditions, low pressure systems in the Southern Hemisphere ignite consistent swells as high as 8-10 feet.

During summer November through April, swells generally have shorter duration, 1-3 days. Typically winds are light, it's hotter, glassy and you'll get afternoon showers.

## Surfing Locations

Name	Location (approximate)	Type of Break	Level
Black Rock	Nadi	reef break	right hand Expert
Cloudbreak	Nadi	reef break	left hand. Expert
Hideaway	Sigatoka	reef break	right hand Intermediate
Mata Point	Nadi	reef break	right hand Expert
Mini break	Nadi	reef break	left hand Intermediate
Namotu Lefts	Nadi	reef break	left hand Expert
Pipe	Nadi	reef break	left hand Intermediate
Resorts Left	Nadi	point break	left hand Beginner
Restaurants	Nadi	reef break	left hand Expert
Serua Rights	Nadi	reef break	right hand Expert
Sigatoka	Sigatoka	beach break	left and right Beginner
Vunaniu	Coral Coast	reef break	right hand Expert
Wilkes Passage	Nadi	reef break	right hand Expert
Wilkes Passage (2)	Nadi	reef break	left hand Expert
Frigates Passage	Yanuca Island	reef break	left hand. Expert
King Kong	Kadavu	reef break	left and right Intermediate

# Safety Guidelines



Fiji is known around the world as the friendly Isles. We hope by following our suggestions that we can be known as the safe and friendly waters as well.

Specifically to those coming into Fiji waters on Yachts and other large sailing vessels we offer the following advise to maintain peace and while surfing our more popular breaks surrounding Namotu and Tavarua Island.

The map points out recommended anchorage points which are more protected from the swell, wind and changing currents. Please use your tender or small dingy to access the surf breaks. We ask that you do not anchor your large vessel in the same zone as the small boats operating surf tours. Your small tender is more than welcome and will receive a much friendly reception amongst local tour operators.

We recommend that if anyone is hurt and is in need of emergency treatment you gather up all your guests call an ambulance or have a car waiting to take them straight to the Hospital. If in extreme circumstances and peoples lives are at risk you may want to call Island Hoppers (672-0410) who are licensed to do medivac and can land on Namotu or Tavarua if we are the closet helipad to the injury. Please remember Namotu and Tavarua are not hospitals and by bringing guests here you are just delaying medical care.

Do not leave surfers unattended at surf breaks or take some surfers to other breaks while leaving others at a different break.

When bringing guests out to a surf break please don't take them straight out the back and drop them off. By doing this you are putting your boat and guests in an unnecessarily dangerous situation from a rouge wave or your motor could stall and a wave capsizes the boat, which has happened on numerous occasions out here over the years. It also straight away causes other guests that have been patiently waiting out the back for a set wave to get upset and straight away you have created negative vibes in the water.

Any further questions please Contact the Fiji Surfing Association via their Facebook page or website [www.surfingfiji.com.fj](http://www.surfingfiji.com.fj)

Vinaka





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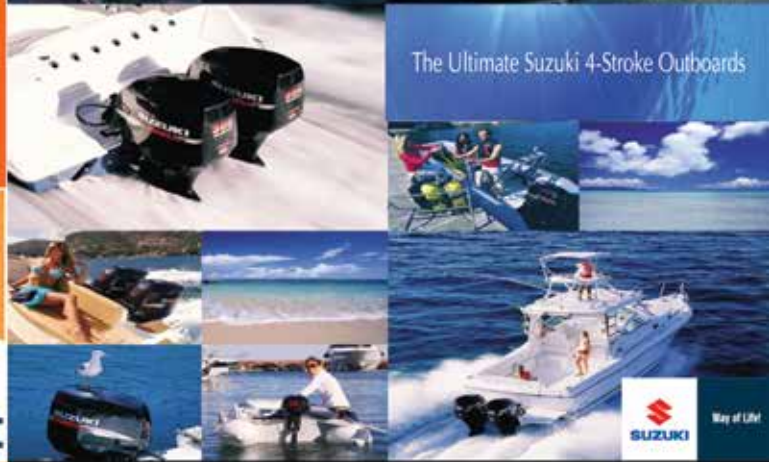
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<i>Tomata</i>	Tomato	<i>Bu</i>	Green Coconut
<i>Papukeni</i>	Pumpkin	<i>Kiukaba</i>	Cucumber
<i>Uto</i>	Breadfruit	<i>Urau</i>	Lobster
<i>Qari</i>	Crab	<i>Ika</i>	Fish





# Yacht Help Superyacht Services



Yacht Help Fiji is owned and operated by ex-superyacht captain, David Jamieson. With 20 years experience as crew plus over 10 years operating in Fiji this gives him and the dedicated Yacht Help team the experience to provide hassle free cruising. Our experienced team has worked with some of the finest superyachts to visit the South Pacific and we have welcomed back many to our beautiful waters of Fiji.

Our comprehensive local knowledge and experience within the industry ensures that Yacht Help will provide you with the best personal service and products available. We appreciate that not everyone's requirements are the same so our friendly, flexible team are waiting to provide you with a service second to none.

Using our extensive local knowledge and navigational information we will be able to help you create the best itinerary to suit your guests so they can enjoy a well planned hassle free cruise. Yacht Help operates Fiji wide enabling us to provide logistical support wherever you are in the islands.

- Aircraft Charter
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- VIP Airport Clearance
- Berthing Arrangements
- Cruising Permits
- Freight Forwarding
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## Provisioning

Provisioning in a foreign country can not only be confusing but also frustrating, different varieties, brands, but not only that you have your guests arriving within weeks, sometimes days.

Fiji's fruit and vegetable markets provide a colourful experience of what is locally grown. Our supermarkets are fairly well stocked with a variety of dry goods, however, specialty items and sometimes even the basic ingredients are not readily available.

Yacht Help Fiji takes the hassle out of provisioning; with our wide range of local and overseas providers we can ensure that we source the finest products for you at competitive prices. Whether you are berthed at Denarau Marina or travelling around the islands, we work closely with you to ensure fast and efficient service bringing you the best quality delivered directly to your yacht.

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Denarau Marina Activities



# Marinas & Yacht Clubs



## Denarau Marina (17°46.18 S 177°22.56 S)

Only 20 minutes drive from Nadi International Airport, Port Denarau Marina is Fiji's premier marina facility. As the hub of the integrated Denarau Island Resort, Port Denarau Marina is the gateway to exploring our idyllic sun drenched tropical isles of Fiji's West Coast.

Port Denarau Marina provides berthage and marina services for commercial and leisure craft up to 85m LOA at a depth of 5m MLWS on floating finger jetties and 14 swing moorings. The Marina also has a 50 ton Travel Lift and Boat Yard with plenty of on site services from small to major repair jobs, to antifoul or a complete repaint. All the services expected from an international marina facility are available.

Wanting to leave your boat in Fiji for the summer? Port Denarau Marina is able to accommodate up to 14 yachts in our storage cyclone holes. Please enquire early as these are always in demand.

---

## Provisioning is Easy

With a supermarket, pharmacy and bakery at the end of the dock and Nadi and Namaka towns only a short bus or taxi ride away. Port Denarau Marina is walking distance to several international hotels, offering a vast array of recreational pursuits including an international 18 hole golf course - not to mention, being part of the largest retail/restaurant complex in the Nadi area. With 38 restaurants on Denarau Island all tastes from fine dining to fish and chips are available.

Fuel, water and power are all available on the pontoons as is wireless internet.

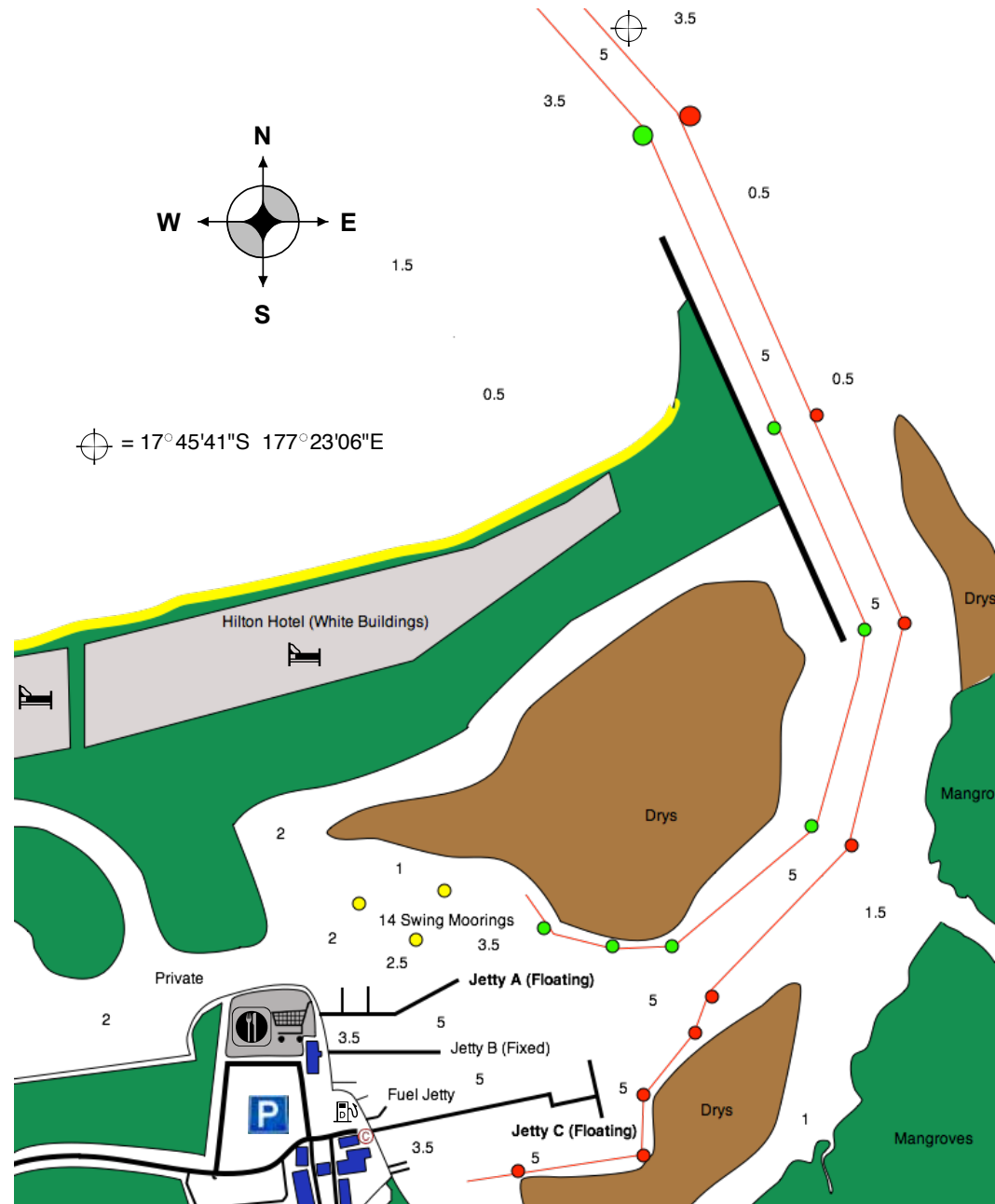
Port Denarau Marina is seeking government approval to be a clearance port for international yacht arrivals and departures. Yachts can enquire about the current status of this prior to departing for Fiji.

Services available within the marina complex include. On the berth fuel & water

- On the berth Power 3 phase, 240V, 125amps, 50 Hz
- On the berth wifi Internet
- 50 tonne travel lift
- Engineering/welding workshop
- Hydraulic hose workshop
- Outboard/Jet ski repairs
- Aluminum Fabricator
- Sailmaker
- Marine Chandleries
- Internet, fax and phone
- Laundry
- Showers
- Restaurants & Bars
- Supermarket & Bakery
- Retail Shopping Complex



# Denarau Marina





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# Marinas



## Vuda Marina Fiji

(17°41.04 S 177°23.02 E)

Vuda Marina Fiji is a unique commercial marina which operates as a hub & safe haven for yachts traveling to the South Pacific. It is Fiji's only insurance rated cyclone storage marina, both in the water and out.

The marina is conveniently located inland at Vuda Point situated on the outer most end of Vuda Point between Nadi airport (15mins by car from the marina) and Lautoka City (main port of entry 15mins drive) on the west coast of Viti Levu. The marina can be entered via a 25-meter wide channel clearly marked with arrows and beacons in the day and green upper and lower leading lights for entry at night. Both the marina and marina basin were constructed to a depth of 3 meters at zero tide and has a capacity for 160 boats (78 in water) with ramp ways for smaller boats. The complex operates a 63-tonne WISE travel lift and has cradles (as well as the famous "cyclone pit" berths) with spaces available for up to 80 boats in the hard-stand area (34 of which are dedicated cyclone pit berths).

The new catamaran haulout ramp has also been constructed allowing haul outs of catamarans up to 12m wide. Vuda Marina Fiji also has its own fully licensed bar, restaurant and café as well as a ship chandlery and general store located within its environ. Marina activities are varied and include, open air movie nights and a live band every Sunday on the lawn area overlooking the Mamanuca Group of Islands.

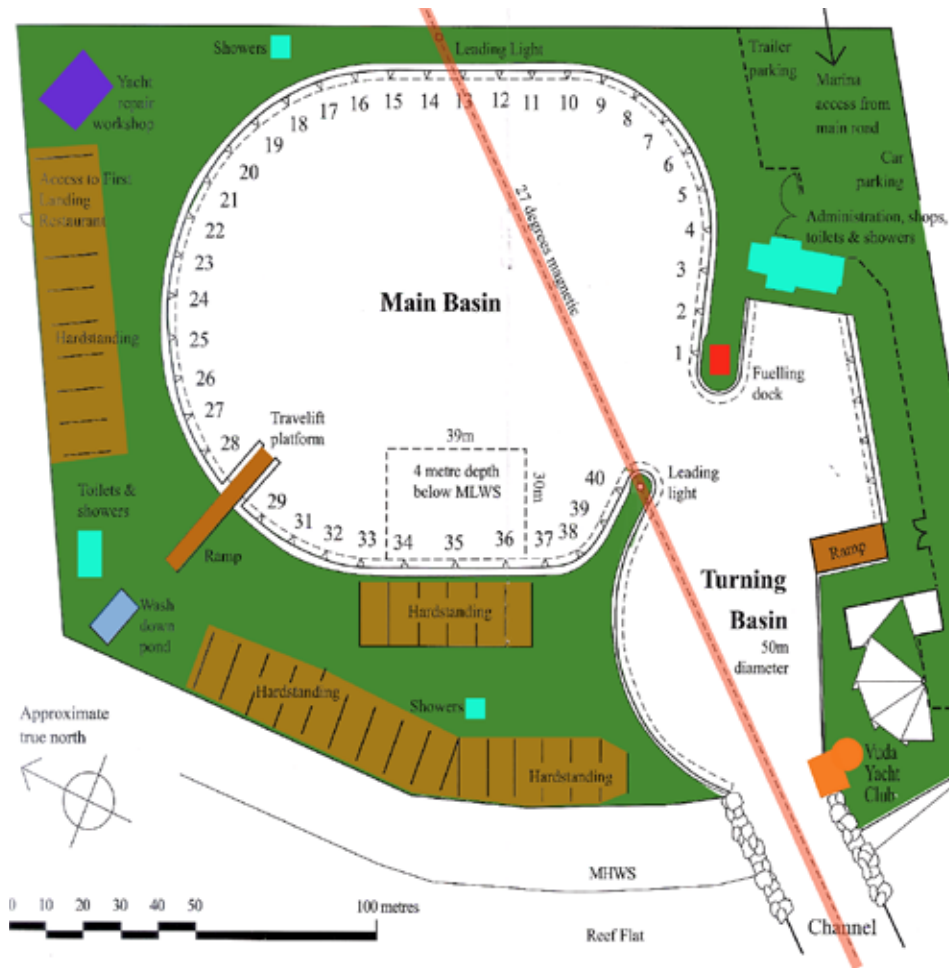
The Marina also has accommodation (single and two bedroom apartments and rooms) for short term rental. Please visit [www.vudamarina.com](http://www.vudamarina.com) for photo's and details.

# Vuda Marina



## Marina Plan

Note that there are 2 bays per jetty - a & b - one on each side of the numbered jetty. The travelift platform and the ramp counts as jetty 29.



# Marinas & Yacht Clubs



Adjacent to Vuda Marina is the “First Landing” Resort complex and in close proximity (1km away) is the “Anchorage” Resort. Both establishments also offer rental cottages available at special rates for cruisers wanting a break during a haul out or when maintenance projects are underway.

Vuda Marina has applied for the status of Approved Boarding Station. This means that all yachts will be able to clear internationally inward and outward at the marina. For more information and updates regarding the approved boarding station status or info on our new Super Yacht extension please check [www.vudamarina.com](http://www.vudamarina.com) .

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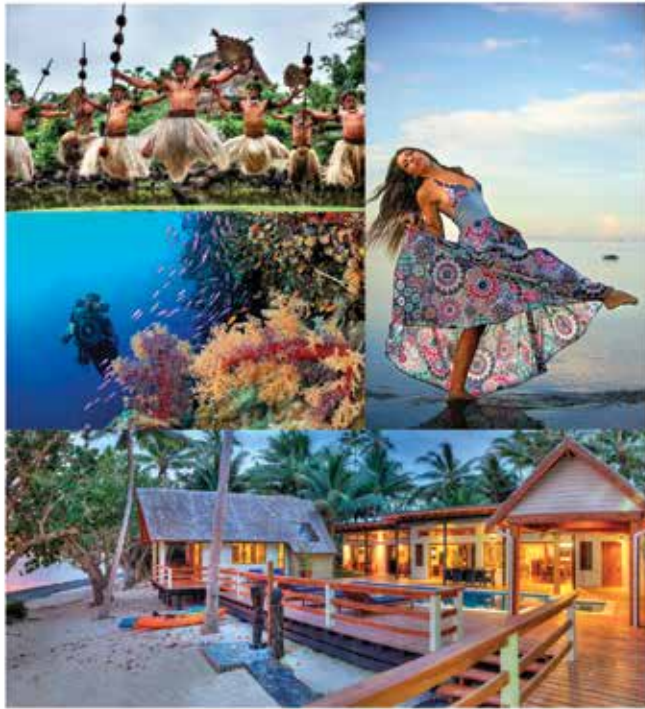
Facilities & Services available at Vuda Marina Fiji include:

- 63 tonne WISE Travel Lift
  - Fuel dock
  - On the berth Water & Power (3 phase, 240 V)
  - On the berth and environ Wifi Connection
  - Yacht Help shore Support & Marine consultancy
  - Self use Engineering & Welding workshop
  - On site Sail Maker
  - Taxi stand, Car & Scooter rentals
  - Repair & Maintenance services
  - Toilets and Showers
  - General Store
  - Coin operated Laundry
  - Yacht Chandlery
  - Restaurants & Bars. ‘Sunset Bar’ and Boatshed Bar & Restaurant’ open daily from 10h00 to 22h00
  - Boatyard Café’ open daily from 07h30 to 17h00
  - ATM (accepts all major credit cards)
  - Phone and Fax
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# Marinas & Yacht Clubs



## Musket Cove Marina (17°46'.27 S 177°11'.45 E)

Located on Malolo Lailai Island in Fiji's Mamanuca Group, the marina has a well-protected basin containing 32 stern to berths for yachts up to 24m in LOA and 2.5m draft. Outside the marina are 25 moorings set in deep water, 2 for yachts up to 24m and the remainder for yachts up to 12m.

The resort is set amongst the 600 tropical acres (240 hectares) of tall coconut palms and tropical gardens on an island fringed by 12kms of white sandy beach. The island overlooks a sheltered lagoon, which has been a haven for visiting yachts from around the world for over 30 years. Home to the famous Musket Cove Yacht Club and host to the annual Fiji Regatta Week that takes place in September 2014.

For dates of forthcoming races and events, please visit the Yacht Club events page on our website [www.musketcovefiji.com](http://www.musketcovefiji.com) 55 Fijian bures and villas offer comfort and privacy from romantic and traditionally thatched beachfront bures

to our Armstrong Island Villas with over water veranda's and private pool for the exclusive use of Armstrong Island guests. All bures are fan cooled and well ventilated. All villas are air-conditioned with separate living area, TV/DVD, Ipod dock/radio. Yachts are welcome to use the resort's facilities.

Services available within the marina:

- Tomizone Wifi
- Water and Fuel
- Laundry
- General Store
- Showers & Toilets
- Bar, Bistro & Cafe
- Luxurious Mandara Spa
- Island Bar and Main Bar
- Boutique
- Chandlery
- 3 Swimming Pools

---

## Copra Shed Marina (16°46'.7 S 179°20'.0 E)

Located on the waterfront in the middle of Savusavu town, this marina provides 4 deep-water stern to berths on the dock, 22 moorings for yachts up to 15 meters and one mooring that can hold up to a 36 meter yacht. There are also 26 floating dock berths adjacent to the main dock. Situated on the dock is the Copra Shed building which houses several offices, shops and restaurants and also the Savusavu Yacht Club bar and it is a short walk to a supermarket and other shops.

Services available within the marina include:

- Bar and Restaurants
- Fuel (on the dock) by arrangement with the Chandlery shop.
- Water (on the dock)
- Apartments
- Chandlery
- Toilet and Showers
- Laundry
- Local Airline
- Tour Desk
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Island Resort & Marina, Fiji



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# Marinas & Yacht Clubs



## Royal Suva Yacht Club (18°07.04 S 178°25'.80 E)

The Royal Suva Yacht Club offers visiting sailing and motor yachts a safe haven in Fiji's capital city, Suva. After entering Suva Harbor, the Club's location is indicated, due northeast, by the concentration of small vessels, at anchor and moored off the pontoons.

After clearing Health and Customs, check in at the Club House Office, and then treat the RSYC as your Suva home

Services available within the marina include:

- Bar & Restaurant
- Accommodation
- Water & Fuel
- Laundry
- Chandlery
- Showers & Toilet

---

## Robinson Crusoe Island Yacht Club (18°03'.49 S 177°15'.97 E)

Robinson Crusoe Island Resort is a small coral island near the passage into Likuri Harbour just offshore the west of Natadola Beach on southern Viti Levu. Robinson Crusoe Harbour is a yacht friendly resort and life membership is granted on receipt of one Fijian dollar and when one cold Fiji bitter is consumed at the "Wreak Bar"!

Anchorage is available off the west side of the island with good holding. Contact the resort office and they will provide assistance for entering the passage and anchoring.

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Email: [robinsoncrusoe@connect.com.fj](mailto:robinsoncrusoe@connect.com.fj)

Resort facilities include:

- Restaurant
- BBQs and traditional Fiji lovos
- Free use of resort pool & kayaks
- Daily snorkeling tours
- Free entertainment including traditional dance and stunning fire and knife shows
- Mainland provisions delivered three times a week



# Likuri Harbour - Yacht Stop

## Robinson Crusoe Island

Entrance Min. Depth 20m. Call VHF Channel 10. We can escort you in. Safe heavy weather anchorage. Anchorage min. depth 2m - 6m. Some provisioning available. Club membership and discounts. Nadi Town connections daily. Child friendly. Weekly Village visits.

Entrance GPS Coordinates: 18°03.491'S 177°15.971'E VHF Channel 10



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# Visiting Fiji's Outer Islands



## Cruising Permits

To visit any port, island or anchorage outside of Suva, Lautoka, Levuka or Savusavu harbour limits, you will need domestic clearance from Customs and a cruising permit from Ministry of Fijian Affairs . Cruising Permits can be obtained through yacht agents, marinas or directly from Ministry of Fijian Affairs at the NLTB building, Suva, Ph 330 4200, Fax 330 5115. Cruising permits don't cover the Lau Group and if you wish to visit the Lau group, we advise you to consult with a yacht agent to get the latest information.

## Outer Island Culture

The way of life in the outer islands is still very much traditional. You will see obvious signs of adherence to traditions in dress, architecture and culture. Christianity is strongly evident. The two most prominent denominations are the Methodist (Wesleyan) and Roman Catholic. Non-believers are virtually non-existent as few will ever admit to being so.

## Sevusevu (Welcome Ceremony)

The Sevusevu ceremony plays an important role in Fijian culture. Casual visits between friends in Fiji are usually accompanied by the offering of yaqona (kava). Kava is also drunk at all important ceremonies including the welcome ceremony or Sevusevu. This is why you see so many 'pyramids' (cone shaped bundles) of kava roots on display in the markets. These pyramids are for presentation at formal ceremonies.

Fijians are known as the friendliest people in the world. Your respect for their customs and traditions will not only make you a welcome guest in their villages and homes, but add another dimension to your Fijian experience. For a visiting yacht, when you arrive at an anchorage it is important to go ashore to the village and do the Sevusevu ceremony before engaging in any other activity.

The presentation of about half a kilogramme of kava root to the chief is the correct way to commence your visit. At the ceremony you should inform the chief of all the activities you intend to undertake both on land and sea. Visitors are not encouraged to give any other forms of gifts on a formal occasion except for kava root, but thank you tokens such as pens, school books or clothes could be given to villagers to show your appreciation of their hospitality. Appropriate dress is very important in the villages.

## Fishing

Harvesting in the waters around Fiji is strictly allocated to various villages; it is one of their most important sources of food. You must remember that when you are fishing with a hand line or spear, you are catching fish that villages identify to be theirs and the use of fishing nets is strictly forbidden. If you wish to fish, be quite clear in requesting permission to do so and ensure that it is only sufficient for meals. Trawling for fish outside the reefs while on passage is unlikely to cause any offence.

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# Visiting Fiji's Outer Islands



## Alcohol

The consumption of alcohol in the villages is discouraged and many villages are 'dry' where alcohol it is not permitted at all. It is therefore discourteous to your hosts and the village to offer it even though on occasion some may request it. You may consider that you have made a friend in acceding to such a request, but you will most certainly have offended and upset the Turaga Ni Koro (village spokesman), and your presence at anchor in the waters of the village will no longer be appreciated. Having initially accepted your sevusevu (presentation of kava) and welcomed as an honoured guest, the village will have the greatest difficulty in informing you that you are no longer welcome. Fijians by nature are gentle, humble and above all polite.

## Dress

Dress conservatively whenever you are in proximity to villagers, particularly if invited into the village or a house. Swimwear and long trousers or shorts worn by women are not appropriate. It is appropriate for men to wear long trousers or a sulu. Items such as rucksacks, handbags, cameras etc, should be carried in the hand and not slung over the shoulder. Don't wear any hats in the village and avoid wearing sunglasses especially when meeting people. Footwear is normally taken off at the doorway when entering a house. Finally, do not overstay your welcome. Do not place any burdens upon the villagers.

## Remember

Your Cruising Permit asks the villagers to make your visit 'pleasant and memorable'. Consideration to the above will help ensure it is.



# Way Points



These are some useful waypoints for popular resorts, anchorages and attractions. Please use them with caution as the anchorages will not suit all vessels and are only designed guides.

	Lat and Long		Depth		Lat and Long		Depth
Wailoaloa beach	S17° E177°	45'.80 25'.50	10'ft	Monuriki (Castaway Resort)	S17° E177°	36'.50 02'.34	10'ft
Sheraton Denarau Island	S17° E177°	46'.00 22'.00	12'ft	Navadra Island	S17° E177°	27'.55 02'.73	37'ft
Vuda Marina Entrance Anchorage	S17° E177°	41'.04 23'.02	30'ft	Octopus Resort ( Waya Island)	S17° E177°	16'.68 06'.22	43'ft
Bekana Anchorage Lautoka	S17° E177°	16'.68 26'.68	30'ft	Manta Ray Resort (Nanuya Balavu I)	S17° E177°	10'.29 11'.20	58'ft
Robinson Crusoe, Likuri Island	S18° E177°	03'.14 17'.23	30'ft	Naviti South	S18° E177°	09'.50 12'.20	
Beachcomber Resort	S17° E177°	39'.44 17'.23	30'ft	Korovou Naviti	S17° E177°	07'.27 12'.69	
Musket Cove	S17° E177°	46'.35 11'.34	60'ft	Sunken War Plane Naviti	S17° E177°	07'.94 13'.48	
Namotu Island	S17° E177°	50'.49 11'.12	30'ft	Soso Village Naviti	S17° E177°	07'.94 13'.48	
Likuliku Resort (Private no landing)	S17° E177°	44'.30 08'.90	60'ft	Entrance Blue Lagoon South	S16° E177°	59'.41 22'.22	
Mana West	S17° E177°	40'.12 05'.82	42'ft	Entrance Blue Lagoon West	S16° E177°	56'.13 22'.08	
Matamanoa Island	S17° E177°	38'.40 04'.16	42'ft	Blue Lagoon Anchorage	S16° E177°	56'.57 22'.08	
				Caves Sawa-i-Lau	S16° E177°	50'.80 20'.00	

# Language



English, Fijian and Hindustani are the languages of Fiji. English is widely understood, all official forms and signs are in English making it easier for the visitor. An attempt at the local language is always a good way to get to know the people better and will make your stay more fun. Fijians and Indians have different languages. Indigenous Fijians have many dialects with the 'Bauan' dialect being the most widely understood. Fijian Indians speak Hindustani and Urdu.

The following Fijian words and phrases may prove to be useful.

## FIJIAN

Bula  
 Ni Sa Bula  
 (sa) Yadra  
 (sa) Moce  
 Vinaka  
 Vinaka Vakalevu  
 Sa Oti  
 Lako  
 Evei  
 Evei Na Valelailai  
 Io  
 Sega  
 E Vica  
 Sota Tale  
 Dua Tale  
 Seqa Na Leqa  
 Dua  
 Rua  
 Tolu  
 Va  
 Lima  
 Ono  
 Vitu  
 Walu  
 Ciwa  
 Tini  
 E Dua Na Dola

## PRONUNCIATION

Boo-lah  
 Nee-Saa-Boolah  
 Yadra  
 Mo-They  
 Vee-Na-Ka  
 Vaka-Lay-Vu  
 Sa-Oh-Tee  
 Lahko  
 Eh-Vay  
 Vale-Lie-Lie  
 Ee-Yo  
 Senga  
 Eh-Vee-Tha  
 Soh-Tah-Tah-Lay  
 Doo-Ah-Tah-Lay  
 Senga Na Lenga  
 Doo-Ah  
 Roo-Ah  
 Toloo  
 Vah  
 Leemah  
 Oh-No  
 Vee-Too  
 Wa-Loo  
 Thee-Wah  
 Tee-Nee  
 En-doo-nan-doh-lah

## ENGLISH

Hello  
 Hello (formal or plural)  
 Good morning  
 Goodbye/Goodnight  
 Thank you  
 Thank you very much  
 Finish  
 Go  
 Where?  
 Where is the toilet?  
 Yes  
 No  
 How much?  
 See you again  
 One more  
 No worries  
 One  
 Two  
 Three  
 Four  
 Five  
 Six  
 Seven  
 Eight  
 Nine  
 Ten  
 One dollar

# Medical & Health



In Fiji's tropical climate some basic preventative precautions will help you avoid most health problems.

- Fiji is free from Malaria and most other tropical diseases. There have been out breaks of dengue fever (a mosquito borne viral illness) that generally occur during the rainy season. Mosquito nets, repellent and covering up will avoid this.
- Cuts, scrapes and minor injuries fester very quickly, particularly if contracted in seawater or on coral. Immediately clean these with antiseptic and keep the wound dry. Be sure you have the correct Antibiotics on board for the treatment of Staphylococcal (Staph) infections.
- Water; All town water is treated and safe to drink. Water from the outer islands should be treated prior to drinking.

---

## Things to watch out for: “If you don't recognise it don't touch it”.

- Sea snakes - are very poisonous. This non aggressive animal rarely bites and should be left well alone. Treat like any other snake bite.
- Sharks - mostly small, harmless reefs sharks. Shark attacks in Fiji are extremely rare and are often related to fishing activity. Treat with respect, never clean fish where someone else is swimming and people who spear fish should remove speared fish from the water immediately.
- Stone fish - may be present in rocky bottoms, often in the shallows. Always wear shoes whilst reef walking. If stung immerse in the hottest water bearable. Seek immediate professional medical help.
- Stingrays - If stung, control bleeding and immerse in the hottest water bearable. Sting ray stings are extremely painful for the first 30-90 minutes. Seek professional medical help.
- Jelly fish - If stung, apply vinegar liberally, DO NOT rub the vinegar in. Seek immediate professional medical help.
- Sea urchins - Remove some of the spines with cellotape, then leave the rest alone. Do not try to dig them out. These spines may cause infection. Seek medical help.
- Shells - Some shells like cone shells and others can deliver a highly toxic poison. Do not pick up or touch any shells. If you are stung by one of these shells seek medical help immediately.

### Where to Get Help

There are hospitals in the towns and cities and health centres in most of the larger rural settlements. There is a minimal charge for medical services. Many private practitioners are also available and most medications can be obtained on prescription.

See essential numbers on page 92 for contact details.

# Weather



Postcard images of Fiji show palms bending in balmy trade winds and beautiful sunsets over azure waters. The reality is that the islands of Fiji lie in a tropical maritime environment within one of the most climatologically variable regions of the world. Here are some basic weather phenomena that you need to be aware of:-

## Dry (Trade Wind) Season

**May to September:** During this period the Trade Winds blow over Fiji from the E to SE for about 70% of the season. The winter months are seasonally dry in Fiji and in the west around the Yasawa and Mamanuca islands extended dry spells are common.

## Tropical Cyclone Season

**November to April:** Tropical cyclones have occurred in and around Fiji as early as the first week of October and as late as the first week of June. Early season and late season cyclones are most commonly associated with strong El Nino events. On average 1.5 to 2 tropical cyclones move through Fiji's coastal waters annually. To be prepared you should have a cyclone plan ready. You will need to listen for Marine Warnings and advisories from DISMAC, the Fiji Disaster Management Centre when cyclones occur.

During the summer season from December to March the climate is hotter and more humid with longer periods

of calm during this season. Monsoonal bursts of strong northwest winds can occur for extended periods of up to a week.

## Thunderstorm Season

**September to December:** While thunderstorms are possible at any time in Fiji the peak thunderstorm times are the spring and early summer months of September through to December. These commonly occur over the coastal areas of the biggest islands.

Timely and accurate weather advice is available via the internet through the web site [www.nadraki.com](http://www.nadraki.com), or via subscription or IOD on your Fiji Vodafone or Inkk handset, or by voice simply by calling 5008 on your Vodafone handset and speaking to the Nadraki forecaster. Information is upgraded regularly and is available when you need it. See the advertisement on the opposite page for details.

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Alternatively, the latest marine weather bulletin from Fiji Meteorological Service is broadcast via 3DP Suva Radio upon receipt on 2182 kHz and 6215.5 kHz followed by broadcasts on the working frequencies of 4372 and 8746 kHz at 0803, 1203, 1603 and 2003 Fiji local time. SPECIAL MARINE BULLETINS or SPECIAL WEATHER BULLETINS containing GALE, STORM or HURRICANE WARNING are broadcast in immediate receipt on 2182 kHz, 6215.5 kHz followed by broadcasts on working frequencies of 4372.9 and 8746 kHz on receipt, after 1st silence period following receipt, and at 3 minutes past the hour, or as otherwise as considered appropriate whilst the HURRICANE, STORM or GALE WARNINGS are in force.



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Tavua	Sub WTAV
Savusavu	Sub WSVU
Kadavu	Sub WKDV
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**Eg: Txt Sub WSUV to 777**

...or Get it Instantly!

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**TXT MARNADI TO 365** to get an instant Nadi Bay and Mamanuca Region forecast.

**TXT MARSUVA TO 365** to get an instant Suva Harbour and Beqa Passage forecast

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Suva
Nadi
Lakeba
Lautoka
Tavua
Savusavu
Kadavu
Sigatoka
PacHarbour
Labasa

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**Eg: Txt Suva to 365**



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# Entering & Departing Fiji



As with most countries, Fiji takes a very hard line with persons or yachts found with drugs, dangerous weapons, pornographic material or other prohibited items. If you have any doubts as to the legality of items aboard, you are strongly advised to contact the relevant authorities prior to arrival in Fiji.

## Port Control

Before entering/departing a port of clearance, all vessels are required to communicate with Port Control (VHF CH16) to request permission to enter/depart the port. Suva and Lautoka Port Controls stand a 24hr radio watch, Levuka is daytime only, in Savusavu contact the Copra Shed Marina on VHF CH16 and for Rotuma contact the Rotuma Island Council at Ahau.

Fly the international “Q” flag on Arrival and await instructions or arrival of the authorities. You may be instructed to come alongside a wharf or provide dingy transportation for the authorities.

Do not let anything nor anyone on or off prior to Inward Clearance or after Outward Clearance has been issued

## Port Fees

The Fiji Ports Corporation Ltd levies a fee for yachts entering and anchoring in the ports of Suva, Lautoka and Levuka. This is to be paid at the Port office in each Port.

## ON ARRIVAL

### Pratique (Health)

On arrival, yachts must obtain a health clearance certificate or “Pratique” from the Health Department. The Health Officer will be the first official to clear the yacht. You will

be instructed to await the arrival of the health officer or to proceed directly to a wharf and wait. The Department of Health levy a fee for this clearance which is payable at the Divisional Medical Officer’s office.

## Malarial Areas

Vessels arriving from a malarial area within 50 days preceding the date of arrival in Fiji you must notify Port Control upon arrival. The yacht will be required to proceed to the Quarantine anchorage and await necessary clearance. There is a fee payable for malaria inspection/spraying.

## Quarantine

Inform Quarantine of any prohibited items on board. If you are not sure if an item is prohibited declare it to the officer.

## Customs

After clearance by Health/Pratique, the Customs Officer will process you through the customs declaration including your yacht’s intentions and stores held aboard whilst in Fiji waters. Customs will issue your inward clearance and Rotation Number (customs ID number).

# Entering & Departing Fiji



## DECLARE ALL FIREARMS TO CUSTOMS PRIOR TO ARRIVAL

### Immigration

All crew require permits before they can disembark. An Immigration Officer will process clearance onboard. If any crew on board your yacht will be departing either to fly out of Fiji or join another yacht or if you are expecting new crew to join you in Fiji notify the immigration officer when clearing in.

### Documents required for clearance on Arrival.

- Certificate of Customs clearance from your previous port/country
- Crew list, with passport numbers, nationality, age, position on vessel
- Passports for all personnel, valid for at least 3 months from your date of Fiji departure
- Yachts Registration Document
- Ownership documents and list of any arms, ammunitions or other weapons carried
- Detailed list of Alcohol carried onboard including brand, type and quantity of each bottle i.e. Jonny Walker Black label 2 x 750ml
- Up-to-date yacht log book

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## ON DEPARTURE

### Customs/Immigration

You must berth in a Port of entry/exit. Pay your port fees at the port office and proceed to the Customs Office to complete Customs clearance out formalities. If firearms, ammunition or other weaponry are to be returned to you on departure, you must make arrangements with the Police to have your property returned from the armoury and placed back on board. Immigration will provide departure clearance on board and will issue Certificate of clearance accordingly. The yacht must leave immediately or at least one (1) hour after Immigration Departure clearance has been issued.

### Exiting Fiji Waters

You are required to sail from Fiji waters within 1 hour. Complete all business ashore prior to clearance. If you are delayed beyond 1 hour, contact the same Customs office immediately and record in the Log Book the cause for failure to depart.

Failure to inform customs that the yacht has not departed Fiji Waters within 1 hour of clearance is an offence for which the penalty is a fine of FJ\$20,000 or 2 years imprisonment.

### Documents required for clearance on departure.

- Copy of your inward clearance
- Up dated Crew list, with passport numbers, nationality, age and position on vessel
- Passports for all personnel
- Detailed list of Alcohol carried onboard including brand, type and quantity of each bottle i.e. Jonny Walker Black label 2 x 750ml



# Clearance Information



These guidelines are for privately owned pleasure yachts where all crew are bona fide tourists. It does not cover commercially owned/operated vessels. Commercially owned/operated vessels are entered as a regular vessel and require the services of an agent.

## 48 Hours Notice of Arrival

All Yachts arriving into Fiji must give the Fiji Revenue & Custom Authority (FRCA) 48 hours advanced notice of arrival. All the details required for the advanced notice are on Customs form C2-C which is available from the FRCA's website at [www.frca.org.fj/docs/customs\\_forms/c2c.pdf](http://www.frca.org.fj/docs/customs_forms/c2c.pdf). Advance notice should be emailed to [yachtsreport@frca.org.fj](mailto:yachtsreport@frca.org.fj). Failure to give 48hr notice of arrival will result in a fine.

## Ports of Entry

Yachts must first call at a port of entry e.g. Suva, Lautoka, Levuka, Oinafa (Rotuma) or Savusavu. Pratique (Health), Customs, Immigration and Quarantine formalities will be completed on board.

No vessel is permitted to stop at any other place prior to Inward Clearance or after Outward Clearance has been issued. A breach of this requirement will result in a fine or imprisonment and the vessel may be subject to forfeiture.

## Sufferance Port

Port Denarau Marina can be used as a clearance port by prior application only. Applications for clearance in/out of Port Denarau Marina can be made through the Marina office or Yacht Agent no less than 48hrs in advance of arrival.

## Working Hours

All the Border Agencies (Health, Quarantine, Immigration and Customs) operate Monday-Friday: 0800-1630. Overtime charges will apply outside these hours. Clearances on Weekends & Public Holidays are by prior appointment only and overtime charges apply.



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### **NADI AIRPORT OFFICE**

P.O. BOX 9414, NADI AIRPORT  
PH: (679) 6722 855  
FAX: (679) 6735 730

### **LAUTOKA OFFICE**

P.O. BOX 226, LAUTOKA  
PH: (679) 6664 093  
FAX: (679) 6665 844

### **SAVUSAVU OFFICE**

P.O. BOX 850, SAVUSAVU  
PH: (679) 8853 007  
FAX: (679) 8853 002

# Clearance Information



## Length of Stay

Immigration issues a standard 4 month visitor permit to all personnel whose nationalities are eligible to a visa on arrival. This can be extended a further 2 months to a total of 6 months. 18 month special purpose visas are also available. Customs issue a temporary import permit for the yacht to remain in Fiji for 18 months.

---

## Cruising Permits

All yachts intending to visit any of the outer islands require a Cruising Permit. Cruising Permits can be obtained through yacht agents, marinas or directly from Ministry of I Taukei Affairs on arrival

## Clearance Fees Ports of Entry

Customs	F\$ Nil	After hrs	F\$18.50 per hr
Immigration	F\$ Nil	After hrs	Transportion charge
Quarantine	F\$150	After hrs	F\$45.00 per 3hr
Health	F\$172.50	After hrs	Transportation charge

## Clearance Fees Sufferance Ports

Customs	F\$203.45
Immigration	transportation is to be provided by the Owner of the yacht/Agent
Quarantine	F\$180 Plus F\$45 Per 3 hrs
Health	Vessels less than 100GRT F\$100 Plus F\$22.50 per hour. (Fees increase by tonnage)

---

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# Customs



## Duty

Visiting yachts may enter and can be kept temporarily in Fiji without payment of Customs dues for a period not exceeding 18 months, provided:

- the yacht is the sole property of the bona fide tourist;
- the yacht is on a bona fide cruise or participating in a yacht race.

Your yacht will become subject to full duty and Customs enforcement actions if:

- it is put to commercial use or for other consideration while in Fiji waters (e.g. commercial charters, hired or leased etc); with the exception of superyachts holding a Short Term Charter Permit.
- the owner is associated in any way with any entity in Fiji as an employer or employee, either upon arrival or subsequently; and
- the yacht is not exported within 18 months of the date of the yachts arrival in Fiji.
- when the Bona-fide status changes to investor, work permit holder and the permanent residency permit holder

## Alcohol Duty

The new regulations below have just come into force and there may be changes without notice. Contact [info@yachthelp.com](mailto:info@yachthelp.com) for the latest information.

Visiting yachts pay duty on the alcohol they consume in the country. On arrival you will need to submit an accurate list of all the alcohol on board stating the brand, type and quantity of each bottle i.e. Jonny Walker Black label 2 x 750ml. When you clearout of Fiji an updated list of alcohol on board must be submitted to customs and import duty will then be charged on each bottle consumed in the country.

False declaration or failure to declare all alcohol onboard will incur a serious fine and penalties.

## Domestic Clearance

The system of Domestic Clearance in Fiji has now been abolished.

## Arms and Ammunition

Declare these to customs on arrival with list of all arms, ammunitions or other weapons carried.

## Currency

All currency or negotiable bearer instruments need to be declared to Customs on arrival.

## Yacht Equipment

All equipment on board or imported for the Yacht shall be kept “duty free” provided such goods depart the country with the boat. All such equipment is considered to be aboard “yachts in transit”.

## Importing Yacht Parts

Parts imported for a “Yacht in transit” need to be labelled with the yachts name and Rotation Number. The address will need a contact phone number and the invoice must accompany the package. A Customs Officer will deliver the parts “under bond” to the yacht. You will be required to pay for transport for the Customs Officer to the yachts location and return. Records of any such delivery made to your yacht must be kept. Imported goods consumed in the country will be liable for duty.

## NOTE

If you have any doubts as to the legality of items aboard, you are strongly advised to declare them.



# Immigration



Prior to departing for Fiji you must check if any of your Crew/guests requires a visa to enter Fiji.  
Countries whose nationals DO NOT require a pre-entry visa to Fiji:

Antigua & Barbuda	Argentina	Australia	Austria
Bahamas	Bangladesh	Barbados	Belgium
Belize	Bermuda	Botswana	Brazil
Brunei	Bulgaria	Canada	Chile
China	Columbia	Cook Islands	Cyprus
Czech Republic	Denmark	Commonwealth Dominica	Estonia
Germany	Finland	France	The Gambia
Ghana	Greece	Grenada	Guyana
Holy See (Vatican)	Hong Kong	Hungary	Iceland
India	Indonesia	Ireland	Israel
Italy	Jamaica	Japan	Kenya
Kiribati	Latvia	Liechtenstein	Lesotho
Luxemburg	Malawi	Malaysia	Maldives
Malta	Marshall Islands	Mauritius	Mexico
Micronesia	Moldova	Monaco	Nauru
Netherlands	New Zealand	Nigeria	Norway
Palau	Papua New Guinea	Paraguay	Peru
Philippines	Poland	Portugal	Romania
Russia	Samoa	Serbia	Slovak Republic
St Kitts & Nevis	St Lucia	St Vincent	Seychelles
Sierra Leone	Singapore	Slovenia	Solomon Islands
South Africa	South Korea	Spain	Swaziland
Sweden	Switzerland	Taiwan	Tanzania
Thailand	Tonga	Trinidad & Tobago	Tunisia
Turkey	Tuvalu	Uganda	United Arab Emirates
Ukraine	United Kingdom	United States of America	Uruguay
Vanuatu	Venezuela	Zambia	Zimbabwe

The list above may be altered without notice see [www.immigration.gov.fj](http://www.immigration.gov.fj) for the latest information.  
Visas can be applied for through Fiji Embassies or directly through the Department of Immigration in Suva.  
Email:- [immigration@govnet.gov.fj](mailto:immigration@govnet.gov.fj)

# Immigration



## On Arrival

The Immigration officer will need to sight your last port clearance, crew list. Every person aboard will need to present themselves with their passport to the officer. All crew /guests will have to fill out a passenger arrival card.

Upon completion of these formalities all crew/guests will be issued with a tourist entry visa which is valid for 4 months which can be extended to for a further 2 months. Part of the blue arrival card is detached (the 'B' portion) and is be retained in the passport of each crew member or guest. Take care not to lose this ('B' portion) as is a requirement to hand this back to immigration when departing.

A Special Purpose residence Permit for Yacht Crew can also be applied for. This entitles you to remain in Fiji for 18 months. The requirements are:

- Request letter from owner/agent
- A copy of the authority from Ministry of Finance
- Copy of inward immigration clearance
- Copy of cruising permit approval from the
- I Taukei Affairs
- Fee of F\$667 per crew member. If applying as a family then an application fee of F\$477 will apply per family plus F\$190.00 for each person.

## Crew Signing On / Off

It is the owner or captain's responsibility to ensure that all crew who sign on or off should first obtain the approval of an Immigration Officer.

Notify Immigration on arrival if any crew are signing off. Crew signing off require:-

- A valid air ticket and relevant visa.
- Fill out "CHANGE OF CREW FORM A". Available from [www.immigration.gov.fj](http://www.immigration.gov.fj)

Keep a copy of the departing crew members plane ticket. Crew signing on a yacht that are flying into Fiji on a one way ticket will need a letter of approval from the Fiji Immigration Department. This letter will need to be sent to the crew member prior to their flight departure.

## NOTE

The airlines will refuse to carry crew members travelling on a one way ticket without a letter of authority as it is a Fiji Immigration requirement. Notify Immigration when signing on new crew. Immigration will require:-

- A copy of their passport.
- Fill out "CHANGE OF CREW FORM B". Available from [www.immigration.gov.fj](http://www.immigration.gov.fj)

## Immigration Extensions

On arrival, a four month visitor's permit is issued and a further two months extension may be granted on application with a fee of \$96.00. Apply at least 7 days prior to expiry.

## On Departure

The Captain/Owner of the yacht will be required to complete the departure statement. In addition, he/she will be required to supply the following documents:

- The blue 'B' portion of the arrival cards retained in each passport;
- Arrival Statement by master / owner
- Cruising Permit
- Arrival Crew list
- Updated departure Crew list
- Copies of plane tickets from crew that have already departed

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# Quarantine



Overseas yachts are requested to declare on arrival the following:

- 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.
- Domesticated pets to be bonded and kept on board the vessel at all times. (cats / dogs / birds) etc.

Many of the above items will not be permitted to be kept aboard the yacht for the duration of the visit in Fiji. Garbage may also contain restricted items and should not be discharged without the permission of the Agricultural Quarantine Officer.

What is allowed to stay aboard is at the discretion of the Officer who works according to the Biosecurity Regulations.

## Food Garbage

All wet food garbage will be removed and incinerated at FJ\$37.50 per garbage bag.

---

## Malarial Areas

The following ports or places have been identified as a Malarial Areas;

- The New Hebrides
- Solomon Islands
- New Guinea
- Australia - north of the latitude of Brisbane
- Panama Canal
- The West Indies
- Vanuatu
- Asia or, any port or place in which malarial carrying mosquitoes are present

If your yacht has left or called at any of these areas within fifty days preceding the date of arrival in the republic of Fiji Islands you will be subject on arrival to a separate boarding by Port Quarantine Officer. Malarial spraying and inspection fees will apply. The other Border Control Agencies will be permitted to board after Quarantine has given the all clear.

**Yachts must notify Port Control that you are arriving from a Malarial area prior to entering a port.**

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# VHF Channels & Essential Numbers



Ports & Marina	Channel	Resorts	Channel
Copra Shed Marina	16 & 17	Beachcomber Island Resort	16 & 9
Denarau Marina	16 & 14	Castaway Island Resort	16 & 11
Musket Cove Marina/Yacht Club	68	Malolo Island Resort	16
Port Control – Levuka	16 & 12	Mana Base	64
Port Control – Lautoka	16 & 12	Mana Island Resort	16 & 10
Port Control – Suva	16 & 12	Namotu Island	14
Royal Suva Yacht Club	16 & 68	Navini Island Resort	71
Vuda Point Marina	16 & 11	Plantation Island Resort	72
Waitui Marina	16	Robinson Crusoe Island	10
Yacht Help Fiji	16 & 11	South Sea Cruises Base	16
		Tavarua Island Resort	14
		Tokoriki Island Resort	16
		Treasure Island Resort	86
		Wakaya Island Resort	85

Channel 64 – Private Channel which Mana and Musket Cove rent (may be used by M.C.Y.C. members) and covers an area from Mamanucas up into the Yasawas

## Emergency Fire / Police / Ambulance Dial 911

Key Services	Number	Embassies	Number
Agriculture & Quarantine:-	Suva 331 2512	Australia	338 2211
	Lautoka 666 5984	British	322 9100
Customs:	Suva 324 3000	France	331 0526
	Lautoka 666 0131	Japan	330 4633
	Savusavu 885 0727	Micronesia	330 4566
Dentist: Dr Haroon	Suva 331 3870	China	330 0215
Short Lane Dental	Nadi 666 0999	Indonesia	331 6697
Doctor: Dr.Raju	Nadi 670 0240	Korea	330 0977
	Denarau 992 0444	Marshall Islands	338 7899
Namaka Medical	Nadi 672 2288	United States of America	331 4466
Hospitals: Private	Suva 330 3404	India	330 1125
	General-Suva 331 3444	Kiribati	330 2512
(Gen)-Savusavu		Malaysia	331 2166
	(Gen)-Lautoka 666 0399	Nauru	331 3566
Immigration:	Suva 331 2622	New Zealand	331 1422
	Lautoka 666 1706	Papua New Guinea	330 4244
Maritime Surveillance Centre		South Africa	331 1087
Ministry of Fijian Affairs		Tuvalu	330 1355
Marinas:	Denarau 675 0600	Vanuatu	330 5356
	Vuda 666 8214		
	Copra Shed 885 0457		
	Waitui 885 3057		
Police Stations:	Suva 331 1222	Consulates	
	Lautoka 666 0222	Canada	672 2400
Yacht Clubs:		Chile	330 0433
	Robinson Crusoe 628 1999	Germany	323 6350
	Royal Suva 331 2921	Italy	666 2896
	Musket Cove 666 2251	Netherlands	338 1575
	Yacht Help Fiji 675 0911		



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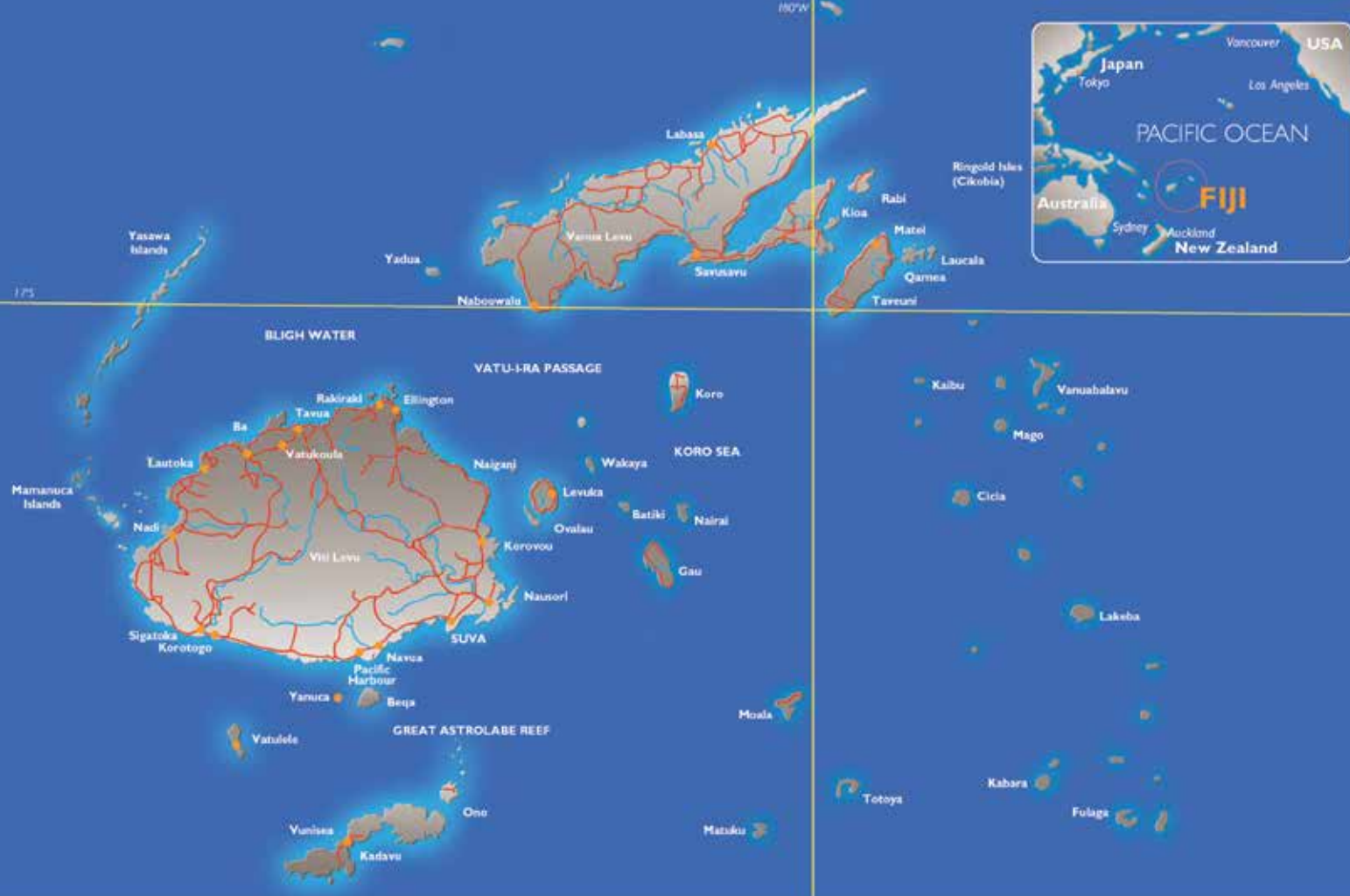
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