A MARINERS GUIDE TO

FIJI

Shores & Marinas 2020

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

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

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

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

1. Switch to 2182 kHz or 6215 kHz or 156.8 MHz (Chnl 16)
2. Alarm signal, say:
   “MAYDAY, MAYDAY, MAYDAY.
   This is .............................................. 3 TIMES
   Give your position
   State the nature of your distress.
   State the nature of help required.
   Give any other information that will assist the rescue operation.
   Listen on the same frequency for acknowledgement.

Our National Search & Rescue Authority is the Maritime Surveillance Centre
HQ Fiji Navy, Box 12387, Suva, Fiji Islands.
T: +679 331 5380 | E: msc@connect.com.fj

RCC Suva T: +679 331 5380
RSC Suva T: +679 330 4296 | 3DP Suva T: +679 337 1326
RCC Nadi T: +679 672 5777

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

We are delighted to welcome you to the 2020 edition of ‘A Mariners Guide to FIJI Shores & Marinas’. We aim to be your trusty guide throughout the duration of your visit; helping you to navigate clearance procedures, make the most of your time here by highlighting the best of everything Fiji has to offer and finally, providing procedural information on departure clearance when the time comes for you to set sail in pursuit of your next adventure.

Fiji is a unique cruising destination. From the remote and very traditional Lau Group of islands to the white sandy beaches of the Yasawa and Mamanuca Group.

Our 300 islands are a land of stunning contrast and diversity. Home to picture perfect beaches, endless coral reefs, pristine forests and internationally renowned diving sites.

From Denarau Island with it’s award winning marina, 5 star resorts, restaurants and activities to smaller hideaway resorts and anchorages dotted all over Fiji that offer authentic Fijian hospitality.

With so many islands, it is easy to escape the crowd and find your very own anchorage, your own piece of paradise; Fiji truly has something to suit every type of cruiser.

Head to Vuda Marina and have a go at sailing a “Drua” double hulled canoe or to Leleuvia Island and you could experience sailing the Camakau" outrigger canoe as well.

Join like-minded cruisers at the popular Boathouse Nanuya that sits on the famous Blue Lagoon Bay recently renamed Nanuya Marine Reserve.

Island resorts and communities across Fiji are joining hands to protect their fishing grounds as well as restore damaged coral from past cyclones and changes in climate patterns. It is important to be on the look out for coral farms and marine protected areas when anchoring in the outer islands.

You are invited to join in the activities the communities offer in saving the marine eco-system for future generations.

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

You are advised to wear a sulu (sarong) to cover your legs. No skimpy attire should be worn in a village setting as it is considered disrespectful.

Please take the opportunity to purchase authentic Fijian Made crafts & produce from local vendors.

You are invited to join in the activities the communities offer in saving the marine eco-system for future generations.

Save money. Help the communities. Please take the opportunity to purchase authentic Fijian Made crafts & produce from local vendors.

As we look forward to seeing you soon!

Vinaka vakalevu!
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We at Sea Reel Productions would like to thank the following people for their advice and contributions throughout the production of this guide, in no particular order: Capt. Carol Dunlop | Cynthia Rasch | Ian Thompson | Dr. Paul Geraghty | John Philip | Adam Wade | Wayne Lilo | Janey King-Lilo | Marina Walser | Roberta Davis | James Keialho | Moving Pictures | Stuart Gow | Helen Sykes | Seth Carter | Delia Rothie-Jones | Curly Carswell | Monica Laurence | Jayson Chang | AND THE SUPPORT FROM OUR ADVERTISERS! - Vinaka Vakalevu
Emergency Contacts

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

If a member of your crew suddenly feels ill after having dived - PLACE THE PATIENT ON OXYGEN BEFORE YOU DO ANYTHING. Oxygen first aid is essential and may reduce symptoms of DCS; however, O2 is not a substitute for a full evaluation by a medical professional. DAN recommends that there be enough oxygen available to get the injured diver to an appropriate medical facility. In Fiji, this may take up to five (5) hours.

DIVE EMERGENCY TELEPHONE NUMBERS 24/7

EMERGENCY MOBILE NUMBER
Dr Luke Nasedra | T: 973 0854
Doctor in charge of Hyperbaric Services

COLONIAL WAR MEMORIAL HOSPITAL
Hyperbaric Chamber | T: 331 3444
OR Dr Neeraj Sharma | T: 976 6584

FIJI AIR | SEA RESCUE
Police Sea Rescue 368 2488
Fiji Navy 331 2585 | 331 5380
Heli-Tours in Partnership with LifeFlight Fiji Tim | 992 4078
with LifeFlight Fiji Mary | 992 4940
Pacific Island Air 672 3644 | 999 1644
Island Hoppers 672 0410 | 672 3343
Helipro Fiji 770 7770
DAN 24-Hour Emergency Hotline +61 88212 9242
PADI 24-Hour Emergency Hotline +61 28907 5614

ZEN’S MEDICAL CENTRE (Nadi) CONTACT PERSON PHONE
Dr Zen 672 2288 | 979 7872
Dr Tupou 672 2288 | 939 3590

OCEANIA HOSPITAL FIJI
CONTACT PERSON PHONE
Dr John Alfred 992 9541
Clinical Coordinator
Dr Penuel Anav - Ward Manager 992 4683
Medical Physician (Internal Medicine)
David Qumivutia 992 4056
General Manager
Hospital (after hours) 330 3404
Nursing Supervisor

DISTRICT HOSPITALS
Hospital Phone Hospital Phone
Lautoka 666 0399 Savusavu 885 0444
Sigatoka 650 0455 Labasa 881 1444
Taveuni 888 0444 Navua 346 018T

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

POLICE EMERGENCY 917
CRIME STOPPERS 919
TOURIST POLICE UNIT 331 1222
POLICE HEADQUARTERS 334 3777
Lautoka Police Station 666 0222
Nadi Police Station 670 0222
Sigatoka Police Station 650 0222
Pacific Harbour Police Post 345 0156
Navua Police Station 346 0222
Lami Police Station 336 1222
Suva Central Police Station 331 1222
Kadavu Police Station 368 1268
Levuva Police Station 344 0222
Savusavu Police Station 885 0222
Labasa Police Station 881 1222
Taveuni Police Station 888 0224
Vanua Balavu Police Station 828 0890

SHIPS AGENTS SINCE 1936
Suva Head Office | 80-82 Harris Rd | T: +679 3312 633 | F: +679 3235 565
Nadi Airport Office | Bradfield Drive, Nadi Airport | T: +679 6722 835 | F: +679 6735 730
Lautoka Office | 9 Royal Palm Rd, Navutu Industrial | T: +679 6664 093 | F: +679 6665 844
Savusavu Office | Webster Blq. Main St | T: +679 6333 007 | F: +679 6855 002

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FIJI PUBLIC HOLIDAYS

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37th Fiji Regatta Week
11th - 16th of September 2020

Monthly Wine Tastings
Wines @ $20 per head. Every last Tuesday of the month at the Damodor Wine Shop, Suva. Pre-bookings required.
Email: suva@victoriawines.com.fj
Tel: 331 0798 | 999 2293

Soak up the music and make new friends. Featuring local & international musicians & dance groups. Bring a mat, a hat and your latest dance moves.

Plastic Bag Ban
Single-use plastic bags are banned as of 1st January 2020. This is our first step towards achieving a plastic-free environment in Fiji.
Ecoconscious bags sold at Vuda Beach Market

37th Fiji Regatta Week
11th - 16th of September 2020

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Ecoconscious bags sold at Vuda Beach Market

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www.yachtshop.com.fj

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Ecoconscious bags sold at Vuda Beach Market
Sail in from a foreign port and become a Member of the Musket Cove Yacht Club. An iconic destination in the Mamanuca Island group known for its laid back atmosphere safe moorings, berths and on shore facilities.

17Ø 46'17.09ØS                  177Ø11'40.61ØE
17Ø 46'17.09ØS                  177Ø11'40.61ØE
17Ø 46'17.09ØS                  177Ø11'40.61ØE

37th Fiji Regatta Week
11th - 16th of September 2020

REMEMBER to carry small cash in Fiji currency to outdoor markets & events for hassle free transactions. Carry valuables in an over the shoulder bag and under your arm anywhere in Fiji.

VUDA BEACH MARKET is held on the 2nd Saturday of the month. Support local vendors and craftsperson by purchasing unique handmade items. Fresh home grown fruit & veges, juices, jams and delicious baked goods are also available. Bring a hat and wear sunscreen.

On Loftus Street, Suva every 3rd Sunday of the month. A place for artisans, producers of cultural products and locally hand made goods, food stores and entertainment.

The 2020 Auckland Fiji Yacht Race will set sail on Saturday 30th May 2020 with a fleet of offshore yachts and multihulls competing in the 1,100nm endurance event across the Pacific Ocean. For all the details visit www.aucklandfiji.co.nz

Giacomo sets a record finishing in 2 days, 22 hours, 53 minutes and 19 seconds.

While visiting Fiji, be sure to look out for the ‘FIJIAN MADE’ emblems on products that you intend to purchase. The ‘FIJIAN MADE’ certification logos give everyone the opportunity to easily recognize Fijian made products and services. When you buy a Fijian made product or service, you’re helping to create jobs and promote growth in the country. Your purchase ensures that the money spent in Fiji stays in Fiji, reinvesting in the economy and the community.

REACH FOR FIJIAN MADE

www.timeanddate.com

VUDA BEACH MARKET

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

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

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

Fiji is certainly worth making the decision to pass through the Panama Canal and into the South Pacific for something unique in all the island groups.

Now that superyachts can charter in Tahiti and now Fiji, and New Zealand, many ship owners and captains may be tempted to commit to a longer cruise in this magical region, which compared to the Mediterranean and the Caribbean, must be refreshingly unpopulated with unspoiled coastlines and often empty anchorages.

Provisioning and other supplies for superyachts are easily imported from New Zealand and Australia on a regular basis; however, it is worth noting that many Fiji suppliers especially near Nadi can meet such demands.

Fiji also has some very capable ship repair experts; specializing in hydraulics; electronics; engineering; varnishing; canvas works and more. Also, IMEL operates a floating dry dock business in Fiji with lifting capacity of 3500 MT.

Cruising in Fiji waters is remote and stunningly beautiful, and over the past 44 years it has given me the opportunity to experience many once-in-a-lifetime moments. However, its isolation and untouched beauty also means that it is one of the more navigationally exacting cruising areas in the South Pacific.

With the start of the Americas Cup challenge in Auckland March 2021 owners may not wish to miss the stunning cruising in this country. Its also a chance to catch up on boat maintenance; plan major refits, where the shipwright standards and local expertise is high. Out of the South Pacific tropical cyclone belt it’s a great country to take time out before exploring more remote island groups beyond Fiji.

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

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

CRUISING THE YASAWA & MAMANUCA ISLANDS
White sand beaches & protected cruising

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

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

The chain of islands and surrounding coral reefs are strung out over 80 nautical miles from Malolo Island to Yasawa-i-rara at the most northern tip of the Yasawas. Most of the traveling is inside the reef with short passages between many good anchorages and fine beaches.

The climate is reliably very sunny due to being located on the “dry” side of Fiji. You are likely to see a few cruising boats, but the area is still pristine with easy, safe diving and very good snorkeling.
The diving is good for novice to moderately experienced divers. It's a great area for guests that do not feel comfortable in open waters.

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

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

Musket Cove really encourages yachts; there is a bar on the beach. It’s a great place to visit; hire a mooring and do some socializing. Its close to Cloud 9 which is a bar and restaurant from which you can surf paddle board and windsurf.

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

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

Many of these resorts if properly approached can offer Spas and the use of some of the facilities but a polite call first is a must do.

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

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

They put on a lovo and meke on a Saturday night and welcome yachts if they made a booking. It is a lovely venue with perfect sunsets.

A lovo is the Fijian way of cooking food on hot rocks buried in the ground. A lovo meal will include fish, pork, whole chicken, and some dalo (taro), palusami and other root crops from the market. The resort staff weave coconut frond baskets to hold the food, which is then placed on the heated rocks, covered with banana leaves and more coconut fronds, and buried for a few hours. The food comes out tender, juicy and infused with the flavor of grated coconut.

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

Yaqona (Kava) drinking while being serenaded by harmonious Fijian singers provide a musical delight under the stars. A really great night out Fiji style! We would take our guitars and ukuleles. I guess this is the nearest thing to a nightclub - South Pacific Island style!

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

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

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

Many anchorages can be found both on the east and west side of the island chain. The best in bad weather being the Blue Lagoon anchorage at Matacawalevu; other anchorages are at Sawa-i-Lau caves, which has good holding; Yava island in a strong southerly and North and South Naviti and Waya island both east and west depending on the wind direction.
Comprising over 300 islands lying wholly within the tropical south-west Pacific ocean, Fiji enjoys a tropical maritime climate without great extremes of heat or cold. By virtue of its location close to the equator and within the Pacific, the El Nino – Southern Oscillation (ENSO) is the dominant influence on climate variability in Fiji.

**WINDS**

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

On the coast of these two main islands, Viti Levu and Vanua Levu, day-time sea breezes blow with great regularity. The sea breeze strength is affected by the seasons; in summer when daylight hours exceed two minutes of daylight (excluding twilight) while on the December 21st (Summer Solstice) there is 13 hours and 13 minutes of sunshine.

A geographic difference in sunshine distribution is evident between Suva - windward side of Viti Levu and Nadi - Leeward side of Viti Levu during winter (Jun - Aug). The prevalence of onshore trade winds results in significant periods of overcast along the windward coast of the larger islands, often (but not always) associated with showers or drizzle. While these two locations represent the two extremes of sunshine, most locations including all of the smaller outer islands receive sunshine amounts in the mid ranges.

**RAINFALL**

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

Fiji experiences a distinct wet season (Nov - Apr) and a dry season (May-Oct), controlled largely by the north and south movements of the South Pacific Converge Zone, the main rainfall producing system for the region. Much of the Fiji’s rain however falls in heavy, brief local showers and thunderstorms.

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

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

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

**TROPICAL CYCLONES**

Fiji lies in the area occasionally traversed by tropical cyclones. They are mostly confined to the period Nov - Apr, with greatest frequency around Jan and Feb. On average, some ten to fifteen cyclones per decade affect some part of Fiji, and two or four will do severe damage.

Specific locations may not be directly affected for several years but the dominant north-west to south-east tracks gives some increased risk of damage in the outlying north-west island groups and the north and west coasts of the main islands. Seasonal variability of tropical cyclones also occurs based on the El Nino – Southern Oscillation cycle, with Fiji at higher risk of more and stronger cyclones during warm phase (El Nino years) of the ENSO cycle.

**TEMPERATURES**

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

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

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

**SUNSHINE**

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

A geographic difference in sunshine distribution is evident between Suva - windward side of Viti Levu and Nadi - Leeward side of Viti Levu during winter (Jun - Aug). The prevalence of onshore trade winds results in significant periods of overcast along the windward coast of the larger islands, often (but not always) associated with showers or drizzle. While these two locations represent the two extremes of sunshine, most locations including all of the smaller outer islands receive sunshine amounts in the mid ranges.
SURFING FIJI

By Ian Thomson

If you love surfing, you will love Fiji! After a long period of restricted private use, the Government has released access to all breaks to everyone. We have many awesome waves to offer in addition to the world famous Cloudbreak, and if you are cruising around our magnificent waters; you should check them out! From beginner to advanced; here in Fiji, it’s all about adventure culture and waves…

Where to go if you have just sailed in...

If you have just arrived after journeying across the Pacific on a sailboat there are a few suggestions of places to head to where you will have a great anchorage and an abundance of surf close by. For yachties, the best place to head after clearing customs and reprovisioning on the main island of Viti Levu is Musket Cove at Malolo Lailai Island in the Mamanucas. Right on the doorstep of some of the most famous surf breaks in the world. There are many surf breaks in the surrounding area 20 to 30 minutes by tender from Musket Cove which will have your jaw dropping in wonder at the magnificence of so many high quality waves in such a short distance of each other. Lefts and Rights to suit all skill levels and still relatively uncrowded. There are numerous anchorages close to the breaks namely Namotu Island near Swimming Pools, Wilkes Passage, Tavarua Island near Restaurants and an overnight anchorage inside Cloudbreak (if the conditions are calm). Just be aware of the fragile Corals in this area and try to anchor in the numerous sandy areas available.

From this area in calm conditions an overnight sail to Beqa or Yanuca Island to experience the wonder of the classic left at Frigates Passage. The anchoring outside Frigates is very marginal so best to arrange a local boat to take you from your anchorage on the North Side of Yanuca to Frigates Passage.

The next waves are either in Kadavu or Lau and a lot of preparation and good knowledge of the charts of these areas is highly necessary. (NB If using Chart plotters especially in Lau and Kadavu be very cautious to use your eyes rather than plotter as plotters can be very inaccurate in these areas. Saying this - it goes for all of Fijian waters even around Musket Cove, Mamanucas and Yasawas to not rely on the accuracy of your chart plotters. As well many reefs are not charted. There are plenty of anchorages in both Kadavu and Lau close to the surf breaks but you will still need to use your tender to get to the breaks from your sailboat. An alternative route is to enter into Savusavu then to Lau, Kadavu, Frigates then back to Musket Cove as you will be running with the trades instead of beating into them (any time you do this trip either way you are far better in lightish winds for the sake of comfort of navigation as it can be very demanding at times. 20 years ago there were very few sailboats coming to Fiji with surfers on board. Now it seems there are many more - so while you are at Musket Cove best to chat with them at the Island Bar as they will surely help you out with directions and dos and don’ts. A very important thing to remember is that Fijian Surfing is still very friendly and localism does not exist so good attitude in the water at all times is what will keep this unique surfing experience extremely rewarding for you and future travellers who embark on these shores.

Late drop at Cloudbreak.
Photo: Stuart Johnson
What to do if arriving via air...

For those of you straight off the plane, you have most likely booked into some accommodation already and have some sort of plan for your stay here. There are several surf companies doing boat charters off of the main land mainly from Denarau, Sonaisali Island, Fiji Surf Co and Uciwai where there are several local charter boats reasonably close to the main surf breaks.

If you have not made a decision there are a few good resorts down the coral coast that offer trips out to the local waves or you can paddle off the beach out to several reef waves from the liked of The Beachhouse, Matavanusi and Hideaway. Like everywhere in Fiji except for a few beach breaks and the odd close reef the majority of surf is only accessible by boat which tends to make the whole surf mission to Fiji more expensive than a lot of other tropical destinations.

There are a few budget surf resorts that have reasonably inexpensive surf trips with food and accommodation packages taking you out to the main surf break area near Nadi.

Namely Rendezvous which is a dedicated surf resort that has morning and afternoon trips or they can organise a one off charter for you if you need. There is also Funky Fish on Malolo Island as well as the main resorts Musket Cove and Plantation Island on Malolo Lailai which organise surf trips out to the breaks if you wish to go out and get wet.

Kadavu has plenty of surf and the main resort for surf there is Matava Eco Resort. Here you will discover true Fiji in its raw as there is very little tourism on Kadavu

Travelling further afar field from the main island of Viti Levu is an adventure in to unexplored territory but is logistically difficult. Finding boats or other transport to get around these places is generally difficult and unreliable. You will definitely need time and patience to get barrelled in the outer islands of Southern and Northern Lau but if you have both a great appetite for adventure and an indulgence to discover real traditional Fijian Culture it is a great and memorable adventure well worth doing.

WAVES FOR BEGINNERS

There is plenty of surf for beginners and several great coaches around the Nadi area namely Inia Nakalevu and Godfrey Eaton. These coaches can be found on facebook. As well most surf dedicated resorts will have a surf coach for beginners.

Nadatola Inside Left is an inner reef left in Nadatola Bay (just outside Nadl), that only breaks when there is a large SW groundswell around. It is great for beginners and the wave is only fifty yards from the beach. You need a large SW swell at high tide with offshore winds to create the perfect 1-4ft beach break.

Swimming Pools on the SE side of Namotu Island while is one of the most fun waves in Fiji. A right-hander that has a wide-open face and steep wall make the perfect playground.

NW-W winds at mid-high tide works best for this beginner friendly spot on smaller days. It can even tube when the SW swell gets bigger. Best to stay at Rendezvous for this location and hire Inia Nakalevu to coach you from here he has his own boat and will charter especially for you.

MAMANUCAS & YASAWAS

Mana Island has a left-hander on its North west tip that is great fun on its day and good for long boarding. Best on mid-tide and requires large swell to get through Mana passage with winds from S to SE offshore.

Monu Island has a left on its Northern side that can be fun at mid tide and breaks very shallow. Wind from the South is offshore.

Waya Island has a great left on its Northern side near Octopus Resort and barreling waves right in front of the resort that are also fun. Requires offshores from the East and South.

Tavewa near Blue Lagoon Beach Resort has a fun right-hander. Best swells are from the North but it also works in large SW’s. Ideal for intermediate to advanced, and breaks perfectly on its day.

Cloudbreak is rated one of the top ten waves in the world! Cloudbreak is a ‘must surf’ wave on most surfers bucket list. Depending on swell direction and power, it can be a long wall with tubing sections, or a very long and critical barrel. Surfable up to 20ft while also fun at 2ft.

A S-SW swell (the more West in the swell the more critical the wave) with a NE-SE wind make this great at any tide. Can be deceptively heavy, and over 6ft is for the experienced only!

Restaurants is also rated one of the top ten waves in the world. It doesn’t break a lot, only in a large SW ground swell, but when it does, it is perfection in motion.

Namotu Left is sometimes referred to as the best longboard wave in Fiji but it can also pack a punch for the shortboard guys too. Great for all levels when 3ft and under, but when it reaches 8ft and above, it is one of the best big wave spots in Fiji for intermediate surfers and above. It is a quality long set-up and is a little protected from the SE trades. S-SW swell and E-NE winds (avoiding g纳ly currents at low tide).

Tavarua Rights is a rarely surfed right-hander on the back of Tavarua Island. It needs a considerable SW swell and Northerly winds, which is a tough combination to find in Fiji. When the conditions align with a high tide however, it is a very quality set-up for intermediates and above.

Surfing Namotu Left

Surfing Cloudbreak near Musket Cove

"Bera na liva" (literally, lightning is slow)

Very fast, faster than lightning. Note the Fijian way of expressing a comparative, by saying “lightning is slow” rather than “faster than lightning”.

Fijian Proverb translated by Dr. Paul A. Geraghty
Wilkes is a long right-hander on the opposite side of Wilkes Passage from Namotu Island. World class on its day, which is S-SW swell with NE-NW winds. At 1–3 ft Wilkes is very accommodating, over 3 ft, it is recommended for intermediate surfers and above.

Desperations is big hump in the barrier reef just North of Wilkes Passage. It is not a classic reef pass set-up, but has a unique shape that funnels the incoming swells into fun peaks. SW–SE swell and NE-NW wind make a good wave for intermediate surfers and above.

Mini Cloudbreak doesn’t quite live up to the quality of its namesake, but if there is a trade wind blowing and you want to surf somewhere fun, without a crowd, this is a good option. It is a long stretch of reef in the Navula Passage near Momi Bay, but it tends to section a bit. It’s definitely worth a look if the SW swell and NE-ESE wind conditions are right.

Sigatoka
Sigatoka Beach Break
The Sigatoka Sand Dunes stretch West for seven kilometers from the mouth of the Sigatoka River. There are waves along the entire stretch of beach, however they depend on the banks at the time. The bank at the river mouth is much more consistent and better protected from the SE trade winds. While generally a long barreling left-hander, there are often some short punchy rights available that break back in to the river channel. Avoid after heavy rain and if the water is murky as Bull sharks do tend to hang out around the river mouth. WSW to SE swells will pick up with a NW-NE wind.

Coral Coast
The Coral Coast is the area between Natadola and Pacific Harbour where there is a long reef flat leading from the shore out to a break along the reef crest. Waves here are usually accessible from the beach and take their name from the resorts they are in front of.

Hideaway is a great little reef pass in front of the Hideaway Resort. A 10-minute paddle from the beach gets you set for some super fun right-hand tubes which are fairly accessible to all up to 3 ft. When the swell gets to 4ft and above, it churns out some pretty intimidating barrels and usually inflicts a few grazes to the unlucky. Best conditions are SW –SE swell with N-NW winds.

Naviti is similar to parts of the North Shore of Hawaii when it’s working i.e. fast, barrelling peaks that end in close outs in the shallow water. Expect a 20+ min paddle out from the beach.

Beachouse is similar to Hideaway in that it is a short and punchy right-hand tube. SW-S swell and NE-NW winds at mid to high tide make this a great wave for intermediate level and above.

Yanuca
Frigates Pass is an exposed wave that picks up every ounce of energy from the southern ocean. A world-class wave to rival Cloudbreak, and one of the longest in Fiji. The wave breaks for over 100m when it is lining up properly with a W-SSW swell and NE – E wind. Intermediate and above when it is small to medium size. 6ft and over is experienced only.

Kadavu
The best time to surf in Kadavu is between December and May when the winds are light and generally out of the North. Remember before surfing around Kadavu, the traditional sevusevu should be performed. This is a show of respect and although the new ‘Surfing Decree’ opened waves to the public for surfing without having to present a sevusevu, it is extremely advisable, as this is a very traditional island.

The main resort that caters for surfing on Kadavu is Matava Eco Resort. The owner Mark Obrien is a keen surfer and loves to take guests to show his secret surf locations.

King Kong Left is a heavy left-hander that comes straight from the deep to meet one of the most Southerly points of Fiji. Situated off the island of Kadavu, this will pick up any scrap of swell around from SE–SW. NE-E winds are best but it can also handle the SE trades if not too strong. Low tide can get pretty gnarly. Intermediate level when small, 4ft and over for advanced only.

Typhoon Alley is a high quality, barreling right-hander. Mid to high-tide with offshore winds anything from NW to SW and swell from S to SE. Can get very rippy at times. Surfable from 2-10ft.

Vesi Passage is a very powerful, shallow breaking left-hand barrel. Not for the faint hearted as this is an extremely heavy, >4ft wave (take a good supply of spare boards as breakage is common!). Swell is best out of the S to SE with NW wind at mid to high tide. On its day it is mechanical perfect barrel.
As boat havens go, there’s none better than Boathouse Nanuya but now there’s even more reason to call the area ‘home’ while visiting the area. Located in the protective waters of the Blue Lagoon, on the island of Nanuya Lailai in the spectacular Yasawa Islands, Boathouse Nanuya is your port in a storm. 

The Fiji Surfing Association (FSA) is the sole national governing body in all matters relating to surfing and access to surfing beaches for the public of Fiji. It is the mission of the FSA to bring the sport of surfing to the people of Fiji by encouraging and enabling mass participation with emphasis on youth and children. For more info visit: www.surfingfiji.com.fj
villagers have formed small marine protected areas (traditionally called “Tabu” areas) where fish and shellfish can breed for their long-term sustainability. Partnerships have also been created between Tourism operators, Government Departments and their local communities, known as “Marine Conservation Agreements”.

These Marine Conservation Agreements provide benefits to everyone. Tourism operators who support these initiatives derive benefits of better snorkelling and diving opportunities for their guests, while also strengthening their relationships with the village communities.

On August 1st 2019, in line with these progressive movements, the calm, tranquil waters that lie immediately off the property have now been declared a Marine Reserve – the Blue Lagoon, famous in film and local culture is now known as the Nanuya Marine Reserve.

While relaxing around the property, you will now be able to experience and see first hand the efforts of both local marine staff as well as representatives from overseas study groups, organisations as well as volunteers from all over the world. Take the time to participate in a snorkel excursion and see the work as it is actually occurring – the coral replanting as well as the formation of giant clam farms – all enhancing and enriching the coral reefs in the area.

Vinaka Fiji, an active group. Focused on protecting and creating awareness of the Yasawa Islands rich heritage, are a major partner with us in protecting and promoting the Marine Reserve.

Don’t be surprised to hear American, Danish and accents from various parts of the globe. Boathouse Nanuya is now the meeting point, the gathering place for not just yacht, motor craft but also youth and study groups, keen to experience the Yasawa way of life.

Interaction with these young people, will also give our ‘water’ visitors to the area, an opportunity to interact with them as well as the local staff dedicated to preserving some of the pristine elements that make up the Yasawa Islands lifestyle.

There’s now even more reason to make Boathouse Nanuya your preferred ‘resting point’ as you sail or motor our waters. Whether you stay for an hour or an overnight ‘refresh’ rest assured there’s so much to offer when you call Boathouse Nanuya ‘home’.

We look forward to welcoming you – and don’t forget your snorkel!

For more information: www.boathousenanuya.com.fj or boathousereservations@nanuyafiji.com

Nanuya Lailai, Yasawa Islands | PO Box 7136, Lautoka | T: +679 666 7633
Vuda Marina Fiji

17°41’04” South | 177°23’02” East

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Services & Facilities at a Glance

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- Scooter Hire
- Showers
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- Superyacht Services
- Taxi Hire
- Toilets
- Travel Lift
- Waste Container
- Water Blasting
- Water Supply
- Yacht Club
- Yacht Cradles
- Yacht Repair Workshop
Along the historical beach where our intrepid ancestors first discovered land, having sailed in canoes from lands far, far away some 3,500 years ago you will find Vuda Marina Fiji. This unique commercial marina complex, designed specifically as a cyclone and severe weather shelter, is located only 20 minutes from Nadi International Airport and just 15 minutes from Fiji’s second largest city, Lautoka. It operates as a hub for yachtsmen and yachswomen offering a convenient base for those wishing to explore the beautiful chain of the Mamanuca and Yasawa islands situated just offshore and within view.

Facts & Figures
Accessible through a 25 metre wide reef channel, the marina entrance is marked with beacons and green leading lights and is easily arrived at by approaching the highly visible white ‘Total’ storage tanks from the southwest. Vuda Marina Fiji is a berth and repair marina equipped with the largest travelift in Fiji (63-ton WISE). It is also the only marina in Fiji capable of lifting catamarans up to 20-ton with its newly acquired catamaran lifting trailer. The marina has inwater berthing for 78 vessels, hardstand working area for 30 vessels and 45 cyclone pits for potentially 153 yachts at any one time. The ‘cyclone pits’ are ideal for monohulls that choose to sit out the cyclone season with their keels lowered into pits. Catamarans can also be hauled out and tied down on the hardstand for longterm storage. Special berthing rates are offered for yachts that stay for longer periods. The marina has a minimum depth of 2.5m in the channel at zero low tide and a minimum depth of 3m within the basin. There are a select few ‘deep water’ berths that can accommodate vessels with a draft over 3m.

Safety
Due to its unique inland basin, Vuda Marina Fiji is protected and well secured with very limited wave action - even in cyclones. The Marina also has a surge boom that can be placed across the channel entrance to impede any kind of rough seas from entering. While nowhere can be guaranteed as being ‘hurricane proof’, this marina is the safest place to be. The marina is manned 24 hours a day and is equipped with CCTV coverage for added security.
Services
Here you’ll find a one stop yacht chandlery for all your boating needs, from stainless steel rigging, yacht paints, repair materials, hardware items, sail repair kits and all-weather clothing. The Marina has a register of over 20 professional yacht and marine repair & maintenance companies for all your repair works. Onsite the various contractors can perform virtually all yacht repair works needed including spray painting, engine repairs, stainless steel fabrication, welding, electrical, mechanical, carpentry, sail making, upholstery, bimini & dodger repairs. Discussing required works directly with contractors is a convenient option here within the contractor village. Storage Facilities provide 1m3 & 2m3 Storage Lockers for long & short term rental.

Clearance Facilities
Arriving yachts can conveniently clear into Fiji waters using the Marinas floating dock where government officials will be waiting to greet the captain and crew and proceed with formalities. Inward & outward clearances are processed at a fee of $75. Captain and crew can then immediately start to enjoy their stay in Fiji by using the marina’s facilities, restaurant, café, bar, yacht chandlery, general store, ATM, laundry and fuel station.

Operation hours of the Vuda Marina Boarding Station are: Monday to Friday - 9am to 4pm. Please note, 48 hour advance notice is required for use of these facilities. Vessels arriving on weekends or public holidays must clear in Lautoka.

Provisioning
The Marina has a communal garden and various fruiting trees for guests of the marina to enjoy free of charge. They ask you to tend to the garden as payment for the fruits and only take what you need. The General Store has a variety of foods, drinks, toiletries and various miscellaneous items for your convenience. For anything else, Lautoka City is 15 minutes away in one direction and Nadi town, 30 minutes in the other. You will find supermarkets, hardware stores and fresh produce galore in either.

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

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

The Boatyard Café is located in the main marina office complex and is open from 7am to 4pm daily. The menu includes great coffees, healthy smoothies, tasty breakfasts, an assortment of pastries items and a range of lunch options. There is always something exciting happening at Vuda Marina.
A Mariners Guide to FIJI Shores & Marinas 2020

Floating dock with separate bedroom, bathroom, kitchen & lounge, TV & AC.

Vuda Marina also has a new laundry and offers free wifi each day to all guests.

Getting Around

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

lautoka city bus timetable:
Bus departs: Mon - Sat: 07h30 | 11h15 | 13h15 | 15h15 | 17h15

nadi town bus timetable:
Bus departs at regular 15 minute intervals from the Vuda Junction. See page 64 for what to see and do in Nadi??

Accommodation

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

Options:
- 1 x cabin, bedroom with QS Bed, TV, AC, vanity, shared toilet & shower facility next door
- 4 x cottages with QS bed, bathroom, AC, TV & fold-out sofa bed with minibar
- 1 x apartment adjacent to Tor Johnson photo

Tuesday – Half priced Pizza Night from 5.30pm

Wednesday – Outdoor Cinema from 7pm and Cook-Your-Own BBQ from 6pm.

Thursday – Happy Hour from 5.30pm to 6.30pm (Bottle of Fiji Bitter or Gold Beer – $2.50 and glass of wine $3)

Friday – Live 2-piece Band from 6pm

Popular open-air big screen movies showing on the front lawn - weather permitting. A wide selection of movies are shown – check the notice board for what’s showing if you want to catch up on your Hollywood action! Mon, Wed & Sat @ 7pm.

Sunday – Live 5 piece band from 2pm until 7pm and our special seafood platter is available. Our most popular day by far.

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

Vuda Sailing Club - Kids Optimist sailing classes are held throughout the year. Dates are posted on the Facebook page - Vuda Sailing Club, or parents may contact the marina.

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

Options:
- 1 x cabin, bedroom with QS Bed, TV, AC, vanity, shared toilet & shower facility next door
- 4 x cottages with QS bed, bathroom, AC, TV & fold-out sofa bed with minibar
- 1 x apartment adjacent to Tor Johnson photo

Tuesday – Half priced Pizza Night from 5.30pm

Wednesday – Outdoor Cinema from 7pm and Cook-Your-Own BBQ from 6pm.

Thursday – Happy Hour from 5.30pm to 6.30pm (Bottle of Fiji Bitter or Gold Beer – $2.50 and glass of wine $3)

Friday – Live 2-piece Band from 6pm

Popular open-air big screen movies showing on the front lawn - weather permitting. A wide selection of movies are shown – check the notice board for what’s showing if you want to catch up on your Hollywood action! Mon, Wed & Sat @ 7pm.

Sunday – Live 5 piece band from 2pm until 7pm and our special seafood platter is available. Our most popular day by far.

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Rum Co. of Fiji
SINCE 1980

Handcrafted from the finest local ingredients, the Rum Co. of Fiji deliver a range of deliciously smooth, distinctive tasting rums. Our world class, award winning rums are proudly distilled in Lautoka, Fiji.

From the outside, the Rum Co. of Fiji Distillery is just another rustic, early-20th-century building along the outer edge of Lautoka.

At a glance the inside appears similarly old fashioned: filled with heavy oak barrels, forklifts, rum still pots and friendly staff. However, it is far from that.

I follow the yellow lined pathway to the storage area. It’s dark; my eyes adjust slowly. I’ve stumbled into a warehouse filled to the brim and towering with wooden oak barrels. This was how I was first introduced to the distillery and the man behind the rums, master distiller and blender, Liam Costello.

Liam walks to a room on the other side of this vast storage area. He pulls out a bottle and pours me a glass. “That’s our new flavoured spirit,” he says. His enthusiasm at showcasing the range of spirits he’s been working on with the team is understandable as he frequently refers to them as his ‘babies’.

I sip the spirit as I try to figure out how this small quaint distillery has managed to do all of this. Our rums and vodkas have won medals in international spirits competitions, and deservedly so. It’s good and evidently, I’m not the only one that thinks so. The accolades span the globe and consistently collect these awards annual.

A big part of Liam’s work at the distillery eventuated from his early beginnings. “I started in the industry at the Regatta Hotel as a GPU (Glass Picker Upper) when I left school. However, my first encounter with rum was 41 years ago when I was the youngest rum distiller at the first and oldest rum distillery in Australia on the shores of the Albert River near Beenleigh. The owner then was a man named Ray Moran and he taught me all about rums and working life,” Costello said.

Costello worked in various roles, ventures, industries and companies which lead him to Fiji where he started working as a distiller at Fosters Group Pacific.

A few years on and after the numerous spirit tasting sessions hosted by Mr Costello, I’ve come to understand and appreciate the processes of making rum but obviously not as well as he does.

“I love what I do and never get tired of it. From the start where molasses are fermented to creating a base wash and to the different types of distillation depending on the flavour profile we are looking for. Then finally putting our rums into used bourbon barrels to mature,” he says.

Each time he speaks of his ‘babies’ his enthusiasm increases and his vast knowledge on all things rum is showcased.

RUM Co. of Fiji is owned by Fiji’s leading beverages manufacturer Paradise Beverages, which is part of the Amatil Group. For more information on RUM Co. of Fiji and the Ratu and Bati ranges, go to www.rumcooffiji.com.

International award-winning Rum Co. of Fiji has been recognised at the prestigious Rum & Cachaça Masters Awards, Asia 2019, for its premium rums and liqueurs - winning seven gold and silver awards.

- Ratu Dark 5 Year Old Rum - Gold Medal
- Ratu Signature 5 Year Old Liqueur - Gold Medal
- Ratu White 10 Year Old Rum - Silver Medal
- Ratu Spiced 5 Year Old Rum - Silver Medal
- Bati White 2 Year Old Rum - Silver Medal
- Bati Spiced 2 Year Old Rum - Silver Medal
- Bati Dark 2 Year Old Rum - Silver Medal
A subtle, well rounded rum that is lightly spiced with warm vanilla overtones.

**BATI SPICED PREMIUM RUM**

**Aged for 2 years**

Fijian white rum with a depth of creamy smooth banana notes for the perfect tropical cocktail.

**BATI BANANA RUM LIQUEUR**

**Aged for 2 years**

Spiced & Stormy Banana Rama

Glass: Highball glass
Method: Build on ice
30mL BATI Spiced Rum
Top with ginger ale and garnish with a wedge of lime

Glass: Rocks glass
Method: Shake & top up
45mL BATI Banana Rum Liqueur
30mL orange juice
15mL kumquat juice
Top up with ginger ale and garnish with kumquat halves

Savoury, smoked oak aromas give way to the rich sweetness of licorice and lingering smoky oak.

**RATU DARK RUM**

**Aged for 5 years**

Aromas of zesty orange and dark chocolate with a velvet mouth feel of coconut, chocolate and spiced oak followed by a lingering fresh citrus flavour.

**RATU SIGNATURE RUM LIQUEUR**

**Aged for 8 years**

Fijian Old Fashioned Coconut Old Fashioned

Glass: Old Fashioned glass
Method: Build
45mL Ratu Signature Rum Liqueur
15mL Bati Coconut Rum Liqueur
3 dashes of bitters
Garnish with muddled cherries & orange wedge
Port Denarau Marina

17° 46'18" South | 177° 22'56" East

PO Box D23, Port Denarau, Fiji.
T: +679 675 0600 | F: +679 675 0700
reservations@denaraumarina.com
www.denaraumarina.com
VHF 14
Port Denarau Marina is an award winning International Marina through Marina Industries of Australia for 4 consecutive years and has also won numerous awards in Community Support and Innovation by a marina. The marina was awarded MIA Clean Marina & Fish Friendly Accreditation 2017 – 2020 and is actively focused on raising national awareness and education on marine conservation through their various programs at community levels.

The marina is well positioned to provide a stopover for rest, recreation and provisioning during your cruising of the Fijian Islands.

Situated on the western coast, it’s a short 20-minute taxi ride from Nadi International Airport, and only an hour to Lautoka city, which is a main port of entry.

Port Denarau Marina is state of the art and is situated adjacent to the largest retail/restaurant complex in the Nadi area.
Facts & Figures
Accessed through a well-marked channel that is 5 metres deep at zero tide. The marina contains 57 fully serviced berths for visiting yachts including 1 x 85m, 2 x 75m, 3 x 65m, 3 x 50m, 7 x 35m, 4 x 30m and 37 x 14-20m berths and 5m draft at low tide.

For our visiting guests we have full bathroom and laundry facilities with 24 hour security card access. The marina is covered by a 10mb WiFi internet connection and has full power, water and fuelling facilities. Diesel is reticulated to all superyacht berths for easy high speed transfers.

Additionally there are 16 moorings within the marina basin. No anchoring is allowed within Port Denarau Marina limits but a good anchorage is available just to the east of the marina entrance markers.

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

The Boat Yard
Port Denarau Marina is a haul out facility providing the latest equipment that offers comprehensive marina services that includes a 50 tonne travelift, forklift services, a hardstand area, marine workshops, short and long term boat storage, and dry stack facilities. You will also find the following services based on-site within the marina complex: Engineering/ Welding Workshop, Hydraulic Workshop, Outboard / Jet Ski Repairs, Aluminum Fabricators & Boat Builder, Stainless Steel Fabrication, Repairs & Maintenance, Sail & Canvas Maker, Yacht Agents, Marine Chandlery, Painting & Antifouling, Dive Tank Refills, Gas Bottle Refills.
Denarau Yacht Club

Ideally located in the marina, ‘The Rhum-Ba’, the Yacht Club incorporates a rum bar and modern dining on the ground level with a function and events facility upstairs. With a light and modern interior, The Rhum-Ba offers expansive views to the north and east across the Port Denarau Marina and Jetty C. The facilities also provide opportunities to host more international yachting and game fishing events.

Provisioning

Within the retail centre you will find a well stocked supermarket, bottle store, bank, money exchange, doctor’s clinic, pharmacy, spas, clothing and souvenir shops as well as a wide range of bars and restaurants.
Attractions

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

The Marina is walking distance to several international hotels that offer a host of recreational pursuits including an international 18-hole golf course, hard and turf surfaced tennis courts, the Denarau Mini Golf & Driving Range offering bungee trampolines, ten pin bowling, bat-tling cage and mini golf. The Big Bula Water Park is great if you have kids – or are a big kid yourself! Spas are dotted around the island where you can be given a new lease of life if you are feeling a little weather beaten.

Hilton’s Deli in-house bakery and pastry kitchen, has become famous across Fiji for mixing, rolling and baking all your favourites to be enjoyed while sailing our beautiful waters.

- Artisan bread & pastry range - frozen or baked
- Healthy salads & sandwiches
- Ready-to-bake gourmet pies & sausage rolls (vegetarian options)
- Selection of sweet treats & celebration cakes
- Gluten free range
- Full espresso menu

For more information and catering orders please call +679 6756 800 ext. 56952 or email: restaurants.fiji@hilton.com
Accommodation

The Marina complex is part of Denarau Island which is home to a suite of international brand named hotels if you feel like spoiling yourself or have friends / relatives flying in to meet you. All the top names are there; Worldmark (Wyndham) Resort Denarau, Radisson Blu Fiji Resort, Sheraton Fiji Resort, Sheraton Denarau Villas, The Westin Fiji Resort & Spa, Sofitel Fiji Resort & Spa, The Terraces, The Palms and Hilton Fiji Beach Resort & Spa.

Left: Sheraton Denarau Villas
Ask anyone in a village in Fiji, what they are thinking of having for dinner and 9 times out of 10, the response will be rouROU, the iTaukei name for the leaf of the taro (dalo) plant. It is ubiquitous throughout Fiji as taro is an important root crop staple for Fijians.

Throughout the Pacific, this hardy vegetable is prepared in many different ways in the myriad of cultures. But it is the Polynesians and Fijians that truly elevate this simple leaf into Pasifika haute cuisine. Perhaps the most recognized way rourou is enjoyed by Fijians (and Pacific Islanders) is the palusami. Its origins are said to be Samoan, but depending on who you ask, each culture will vigorously defend that it belongs exclusively to them and the others are copycats. For those new to the Pacific, the intense rivalry between the Islands extends further than just rugby. Food, clothing styles, cultural ceremonies, just about everything that you can have a competition about really, is talked up over the other guy, but it is generally good natured. But, I digress.

Palusami is a parcel of taro leaves, filled with coconut milk, chopped onion and tomatoes and a little salt seasoning. It is usually cooked over hot stones in a traditional Fijian earth oven, called a lovo. Every lovo master, (of which every Fijian man over the age of 10 proclaims himself to be) has their own wrapping style and cooking technique. Traditionally, palusami is wrapped in breadfruit leaves, or other broad leaves such as banana or similar. In a nod to modern convenience, palusami can

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

Explore Denarau Island and get your bearings by taking a ride on a unique and open 'Bula Bus'. Operating on a continuous loop departing every 15 mins from 7.30am – 11.30pm, 7 days a week! $10 for adults and $2 for children under 10 per day for unlimited travel. Nadi Town (larger) and Namaka (slightly closer) are only a short bus or taxi ride away. Denarau Taxi's are safe, honest and reliable. West Bus Transport services Denarau Island and drops passengers at Nadi bus station 7 days a week. From the bus station in downtown Nadi, you can jump on a bus to Lautoka or ride all the way to Suva.

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Rourou Soup

**INGREDIENTS**
- 2 cups prepared rourou
- 1 chopped small onion
- 2 chopped cloves garlic
- 6 cups vegetable stock
- 1 cup coconut cream
- ¼ teaspoon lemon rind
- salt & pepper to season

**METHOD**
- to prepare the rourou - separate the leaves from the stem, shred and drop into a large pot of boiling water. Allow to cook until leaves are very tender. You can add a 1/2 teaspoon of baking soda to help the cooking along and to retain the luxurious green color. Pour through a fine strainer and allow to drain completely.
- sauté onions, lemon rind and garlic until onions are golden. Add rourou together with the stock and season to taste. Allow to cook for approximately 30 minutes and blend immediately, adding the coconut cream a little at a time until smooth.
- serve when ready with fresh crispy bread.

Breadfruit Hash Browns

**INGREDIENTS**
- 1 whole breadfruit peeled, cut and steamed until fully cooked and course grated
- 1 medium onion, finely diced
- ½ teaspoon crushed garlic
- 2 eggs (lightly beaten)
- 1 tablespoon chopped coriander (optional)
- salt and pepper to season

**METHOD**
- to prepare the breadfruit hash browns - coat in a little plain flour and deep fry until golden brown
- fold all the ingredients together, careful not to mash the grated breadfruit
- season to taste and shape into small discs
- cool and semi-freeze the mixture, food process until smooth and return to the freezer to semi-freeze. Repeat process 2 – 3 times.
- form balls with an ice cream scoop and serve – 3 times.

Soursop Sorbet

**INGREDIENTS**
- 4 cups soursop flesh (de-seeded)
- 2 cups sugar
- 1 cup lemon juice
- 2 cups water
- 1 teaspoon very finely chopped lemon grass

**METHOD**
- fold all the ingredients together, careful not to mash the grated breadfruit
- season to taste and shape into small discs approximately 6 cm in diameter and 2 cm thick. Allow to rest for 10 minutes
- coat in a little plain flour and deep fry until golden brown
- hint – you can add 2 cups of smoked fish, prawns or even grated cheese to this recipe and turn it into a meal with steamed or stir-fried vegetables or a green salad

Breadfruit

The humble breadfruit (Uto) is perhaps one of the most underrated foods of Fiji. Breadfruit trees grow wild and abundantly throughout the islands and is a common feature in many a backyard and village plantation. It has a reputation as a survival food bank because they tend to withstand tropical cyclones rather well, recover quickly and continue to fruit and provide uto, the ‘Taukei name for breadfruit. Interestingly, it is also the ‘Taukei word for heart.

The stuff of the “Mutiny on the Bounty” folklore, it is quickly becoming a much sought after cultivated tree crop as more of the world discover what we in the South Sea Islands have known for eons. That uto is a delicious and nutritious food. It is usually just steamed and eaten as the starch part of a meal. It makes excellent chips or wedges when fried into chips the next day or even as a sticky sort of dessert, (for lack of a better description) when ripe uto is roasted over hot coals, broken open when cooked and dipped in fresh coconut milk. Many Fijians will remember this as a favourite pastime when they returned to spend the school holidays at their villages.

Contemporary Fijian chefs are now exploring exciting new ways to present an old favourite such as breadfruit gratin, gnocchi and croquettes. Here is a recipe for another way to enjoy uto - breadfruit hash browns.

Soursop

One of the greatest rewards of living in or travelling through the tropics, is that you get to enjoy a profusion of tropical fruit and when in Fiji, it truly is an experience to go fruit shopping at the local markets. The explosion of colour, competing scents and the sheer abundance is an assault on the senses.

Whether cultivated or wild-grown in the rich volcanic soil and nurtured by rainfall borne by the South East Trade Winds, the fruit in Fiji is wonderfully aromatic and intensely flavoured. A fruit basket in Fiji will typically contain mangoes, pineapple, watermelon, papaya, bananas, passion fruit, soursop, guava, mandarins and many other exotic tropical fruit depending on the time of season.

Fresh tropical fruit is best enjoyed ripe and chilled, but another delicious way to experience the fruit of Fiji is to make a refreshing sorbet, flavoured with your favourite fruit and for the more adventurous types, even spiked with your favourite spirit or liqueur. Simple and easy to make, with just fruit or fruit juice and sugar, sorbets are a great desert idea during the heat of summer time, or just at any time really.

Here is a recipe for soursop sorbet, but you can use any other fruit you like. ENJOY!

“Katakata vākurokava”
(literally, hot like an aluminium pot)

Aluminium pots (known locally as Bombay pots) are very popular in Fiji, and being thin walled quickly lose their heat. This expression refers to people’s enthusiasm for something being short-lived – quick to heat up and just as quick to cool down again!

Fijian Proverb translated by Dr. Paul A Geraghty
There are many variations of kokoda in the Pacific, but the Fijian version is the only one that actually ‘cooks’ the fish by curing it in lime or lemon juice & salt for several hours, which cures out the rawness of the fish. Its origins are said to have been born out of necessity, when early Fijians used it as a method to preserve fresh fish for a bit longer and combining it with the most abundant resource around, coconuts. This happy accident, with some refinements in the recipe over time, resulted in the present day delicacy enjoyed by Fijians and visitors alike.

Oftentimes compared to the South American ceviche, I would venture that kokoda is very different in many respects. Firstly, the fish is fully cured. It contains no garlic, or olive oil and its flavour is subsumed by the fresh coconut milk as opposed to the strong flavour of the snap marinated fish and herbs such as coriander common in many ceviche recipes.

Kokoda can be enjoyed as an entrée, in place of a salad or as main course if you like. In Fiji, locals usually eat it with a starchy root crop such as cassava, taro, sweet potato or even a piece of coal-roasted breadfruit.

**INGREDIENTS**
- 2 cups firm fleshed white fish like Spanish Mackerel or Mahimahi (1.5 – 2 cm cubed)
- 2 cups of lemon / lime juice or white vinegar
- pinch of salt
- 2 cups coconut milk
- 1 small onion
- 1 small cucumber
- 1 small bell pepper
- 2 tomatoes
- ½ teaspoon chopped chilies (optional)
- Spring onion to garnish with a wedge of lime to serve

**METH O D**
- marinade fish in salt and lemon juice in a bowl large enough to stir the fish for 3-4 hours until the fish is white and resembles cooked white fish (use white vinegar as a substitute if lemon / lime juice not available)
- finely chop onions, tomatoes, bell peppers, spring onions, gently fold into the coconut milk and season to taste
- rinse fish in fresh water the drain well, add to coconut milk and vegetables and mix well
- let sit in the cooler for at least ½ an hour to allow the flavors to marry and develop before serving.
There is nothing that captures the essence of Fijian culture better than the ‘Sevusevu’. It is the central component of all life-cycle rituals, social gatherings, healing ceremonies and community meetings. Significant and ancient in Fiji, the “sevusevu” also marks the time and place for visitors (you) to seek acceptance into a Fijian village.

Half a kilo of Waka is the appropriate (and required – you should never show up in a village without it) offering, and this should cost you in the region of FJ$60.

When you arrive at a village, you should ask for the ‘Turaga ni Koro’ (pronounced too-runga nee kawraw) who is the appointed village headman. It is his duty to greet you and ascertain your intentions before presenting you and your gift to his chiefs and village elder.

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

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

You will be shown where to sit on the woven mat (remember to remove your shoes). Men should sit cross-legged (ensuring the sulu covers the knees) while women sit with knees and feet together, resting on the floor to whichever side is most comfortable. Silence at this point is the key.

The Turaga ni Koro will approach the Chief on his knees to place your bundle of yaqona in front of him, staying low as he does so. He will cobo three times, which in Fijian culture means “I am about to speak, thank you for listening while I do.”

It is inappropriate to take photographs or video footage throughout the ceremony (the Turaga ni Koro will usually indicate the appropriate time for you to start snapping once all the formalities are out the way). He will then begin reciting the traditional monologue, which differs slightly throughout Fiji, but essentially means the same thing. This will end with a chant, coupled with three more cobos that indicate they have completed their introduction.

The Chiefs ‘herald’ – or second in command, will officially accept the yaqona on behalf of the chief with three cobos to announce the beginning and end of his speech. In a formal yaqona ceremony, authority is given by the village spokesman to begin mixing the yaqona. In a ceremonial setting, every movement involving the mixing is significant. In the old days, the dried roots were cut into small pieces and chewed to soften them, before being added to the tanao with water. These days fortunately, chewing has become unnecessary, with the pieces now pounded to a fine powder form before being mixed with water and filtered through a silk cloth, or for more formal situations, through hibiscus fibres.

The man in charge of preparing the kava will cobo and recite the words ‘I will respectfully mix the yaqona for the Chieffain’, in local dialect. When the yaqona has been prepared, and the consistency approved by the chief’s spokesman, the ‘mixer’ puts his hands together and circles the Tanoa with his hands, saying “With respect to the chiefs, yaqona is ready to drink”. Then he cups his hands, cobo three times and begins to serve the yaqona in a Bilo.

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

The same will be repeated for the herald, but all will cobo only twice when he is finished. For a time this process will be repeated until the tanao is empty, at which point the mixer announces “the bowl is empty my chief”, and everyone cobos. The mixer then runs both hands around the bowl and cobos three times which terminates the formal part of the ceremony.

A second tanoa is then prepared from which everyone will drink. A server will carry a bilo to the chief guest (you), who must cobo once before and three times after completely drinking the first cup. The order of serving depends on the status of those present, from the highest-ranking, down (sorry ladies, but women will usually go last in this patriarchal society). After the first ‘round’ is complete and everyone has drunk, the ceremony relaxes and the drinking session will continue along with the telling of many stories. You are likely to be asked to introduce yourself and talanoa about your travels.

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

**KEYWORDS**

**BILO** - a drinking bowl that is made from the half-shell of a coconut. These are highly polished and sleek. Chiefs generally have their own cups from which no one else is allowed to drink. Everyone else drinks from a common cup. Some say this cements communal bonds.

**COBO** *(thombo)* – literally means ‘clap’! But we are not talking a cricket match polite kind of clap, we are talking about a loud, deep and deliberate cupped hand clap.

**KAVA** *(Piper methysticum)* Latin for ‘intoxicating pepper’ is a crop of the western Pacific, the roots of which are used to produce a drink with mild sedative and anesthetic properties.

**SULU** - similar to a sarong, is a bowl in which yaqona is prepared and shared from during the ceremony.

**WAKA** - comes from the lower part of the plant and the kava is up higher! Waka is more potent than kava, and is also a little bit darker in colour.

**YAQONA** - (yang gona) is the name for kava in Fiji. In your travels, you may have heard it referred to as ‘awa (Hawaii), aya (Samoan)’, and ‘isakau (Pohnpei).

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*Fijian Proverb translated by Dr. Paul A Geraghty*
Musket Cove Marina
17° 4' 27" South | 177° 11' 45" East
Musket Cove Island Resort & Marina is situated on the once uninhabited island of Malolo Lailai which today still offers a truly Fiji barefoot island experience. Warm, friendly Fijian staff are waiting to welcome and indulge you from your voyage across the seas.

The island resort & marina boasts a diverse range of accommodation choices with 55 Bures & Villas, a purpose built day spa, fully licensed bars, restaurants and... a Marina! A true reflection of Fiji, the rustic style and relaxed spirit offer guests an uncrowded hideaway.

The spacious 400 acre surroundings of tropical gardens, secluded walking trails and palm fringed beaches are all waiting to be explored and soaked in.

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

Musket Cove provides an ideal gateway to Fiji’s spectacular cruising grounds. Sheltered marina berths and moorings are available or you can drop anchor in the tranquil bay. The famous unpretentious atmosphere at Musket Cove attracts cruising and racing yachtmen and women from all over the world.

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

The Musket Cove Yacht Club is famous for hosting and organizing the annual Fiji Regatta Week and has “countless” lifetime members. Docking facilities in the marina are in a dredged basin. Moorings are outside of the marina and there is a dinghy dock and a small number of berths available on the club pontoon, which need to be booked in advance.

Safety
A small inner basin is accessible in the event of a cyclone.
### Visitor Attractions

There is an extensive choice of water activities as well as a five-star PADI Dive facility, offering courses and a schedule of daily dives. Game & sport fishing, kayaking, coral reef snorkeling, cruiser bike rentals and cooking classes are are also on offer. You are also welcome to use the Resorts café and restaurant facilities.

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

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

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

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

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

### Reducing Our Footprints

In 2019 Musket Cove collaborated with the Ministries for Forestry and Fisheries and local communities to protect our wetlands and surrounding reefs for future generations. Work commenced by planting 5000 Mangrove saplings and farming several coral species together with a giant clam nursery. Another initiative was restoring and regenerating the island with native species. Over 1000 plants have been planted to date.
2019 HIGHLIGHTS
Viwa is a remarkable island. Not, in this case, the historical Viwa situated between Bau and Verata which was the site of one of the earliest Methodist missions serving Vitilevu, but the most westerly island in Fiji, way out there beyond the main Yasawa group. It is a low coral island with three villages, about 18 miles (29 kilometres) to the northwest of Waya and approximately the same distance west of Naviti. Its language is very similar to that of Waya, but some words are closer to Naviti.

The fact that these two Viwas have the same name is probably not coincidental: ‘Viwa’ can be analysed as being composed of viu meaning ‘fan-palm, Pritchardia sp’ plus the locative suffix -a meaning ‘place of’. Viwa in the Yasawas certainly used to be well known in the West as a source of fan-palms and their leaves, which are used as ceremonial fans and in certain dances. The one near Bau, being a limestone island, never was, but it was probably named after another place some of the inhabitants came from, as often happens (think Boston in the US, Canterbury in NZ, Newcastle in Australia, etc), so an example of place-name transfer.

About 300 miles (500 kilometres) due west of Viwa is central Vanuatu, but because of the prevailing south-east trade winds, if you do sail to Viwa and miss it, it’s probably next stop Solomons, about 400 miles north-west of Viwa, the closest island being Anuta, in Temotu Province, with Tikopia slightly further away. Having said which, it must be pointed out that recent examples of boats drifting from Fiji to the Solomon Islands have not been from anywhere in the Yasawas, but more easterly places such as Buliā (Kadavu) in 2014, and Nawakama (Gau), from where a launch with seven people on board bound for Levuka drifted for 45 days in 1982 before ending up in the Solomons. Nevertheless, George Barker (founding curator of the Fiji Museum) did report that a dismasted cutter from Naviti in the early years of the last century drifted for 21 days before fetching up on New Georgia, in the western Solomons, while oral traditions in Naviti tell of another boat that was hit by a hurricane in 1914 and ended up after 20 days in Tikopia (Temotu Province).

Local tradition, as related in print by the abovementioned George Barker and confirmed to me by elders of Viwa, has it that Viwa was originally a submerged reef. One of the lesser ancestor gods of Waya, by the name of Rainima, became restless and wanted to leave Waya and live in a land of his own, so the great ancestor god of Waya, Raibulu, gave him permission to go and settle on this reef.

A parenthetic word now about this ancestor god’s name – Rainima. It is common through much of Fiji for people, originally only males, to be named after plants, creatures or artefacts, with a prefix Ra- indicating that the said item has become a personal name. Ralulu is a fairly common example, being based on lulu ‘owl’, and other examples that come to mind are Rakuita, based on kuita ‘octopus’, Raisele (isele ‘knife’, originally meaning ‘bamboo knife’) and Raura (ura ‘prawn’). So Rainima’s name was derived from inima meaning ‘bailer’, and he was told that he could settle on this reef after bailing it dry – though whether he was given the name after this episode, or given this job because of his name, is unclear (Barker prefers the latter).

Rainima and his family then returned to Waya in their canoes to fetch earth for their new home – and the proof of this is that there are parts of Waya today that are devoid of earth, because it was taken by Rainima.
Rainima then asked Raibulu, his divine superior in Waya, for a source of water on the new island. Raibulu replied that they must first build him a large house there, for him to live in when he returned. Rainima then asked Raibulu, his divine superior in Waya, for a source of water on the new island. Rainima then asked Raibulu, his divine superior in Waya, for a source of water on the new island.

Raibulu replied that they must first build him a large house there, for him to live in when he returned.

Rainima planted the coconut, and from it grew all the coconuts on Viwa today. The attempted theft had dire consequences. Raibulu went to Viwa to hand down Rainima’s punishment, and lectured him thus: “For your lack of faith, I will not give your land a stream, nor a spring. You will all bathe in saltwater. Should no rain come, you will get water from Waya. There will be no true rock to make water reservoirs and you will only be able to use coconut trunks to store water.” To this day, the bathing-place, known as Kavua, is saltwater, but the inhabitants claim it feels to them like freshwater.

Another parenthetic comment about place-names, for those who haven’t already guessed: just as Viwa means ‘place of fan-palms’, compounded from viu ‘fan-palm’ and the suffix a meaning ‘place of’, so Waya means ‘place of water’, a compound of wai ‘water’ and the same suffix. It is indeed the most watered island in the Yasawa group.

Throughout Fiji, in places without running water or wells, freshwater used to be obtained, and still is in parts, by hollowing out rocks or tree trunks to receive rainwater channeled there. These are usually known as tugu in Western Fiji and dugu in the East.

After administering this rebuke, Raibulu was becoming very thirsty, so Rainima made him some yaqona (kava), using coconut water, since there was no freshwater available. This made Raibulu even more hot and bothered. Rainima suggested some girls fan him with coconut leaf fans, which made Raibulu even more angry. He refused to be fanned and told Rainima to go to the other end of the island, close to where the largest village, Naibale, now is, and dig there a hole in the coral from which the vualiku (north wind) would blow. Rainima and his family did as instructed, and after much work digging into the coral with digging sticks of velau (Casuarina equisetifolia, Standard Fijian nokonoko), the hole was finished, the wind emerged and cooled Raibulu so he recovered his health.

Raibulu was so happy to recover that he let Rainima into a secret. “The hole of the north wind is useful to cool you when it gets too hot,” he said, “but it has another use. When you see unwelcome visitors sailing towards Viwa, just open the hole and the north wind will make the ocean too turbulent for them to sail here. On the other hand, if you see welcome visitors on their way, close the hole so they can come, and if you want them to stay longer, open it again so they cannot leave!”

And so it has been to this day. As to why some visitors are more welcome than others, I leave that to your imagination, only saying that bearing gifts and food is only part of the equation.
sound of waves pounding on the reef, likened to drumsticks pounding on a giant loli (drum of a hollowed out log). It was also reported in the Fiji Times last year (26th September 2019) that a new 36-ft aluminium vessel to be used to patrol parts of the Western Division has been christened Dua Lei Rainima.

Postscript number two is the question as to whether there might be any truth in this story about Viwa being raised within human memory from a sunken reef, as indeed there is in myths about the sunken islands of Davetalevu near Moturiki, Burotukula off Matuku, Solo north of Kadavu and Nagilogilo off the coast of northern Tailevu. The answer, according to experts, is: none at all! Geologists tell us that Viwa has been in much the same position and with much the same shape and height for hundreds of thousands of years.

Having said that, if we look just to the south of Viwa, about a mile away, we see two tiny islets, collectively known as Nuku, and individually as Nukuvatu ‘stone Nuku’ and Nukuvolivoli ‘sand Nuku’. They are home to many nesting seabirds, especially terns and noddies. They are also said to be home to ancestral spirits. When people of Viwa go to fish in Nuku, they first present an isevu, consisting of coconuts rather than yaqona, at a reef called Cakau ni Saravou (young men’s reef), to request admission to Nuku. Then they present another isevu, also of coconuts, on the island of Nukuvolivoli. Failure to do so results in failure of the fishing. There are certain prohibitions also, for instance when fishing is under way, those remaining in the boat may not eat. Other prohibitions are similar to those obtaining in places like Davetalevu: no shouting, no throwing or leaving rubbish, no throwing things at birds. If these prohibitions are not observed, accidents can occur, like someone being bitten or otherwise injured, or a sudden change in the weather.

So might Nuku have been inhabited previously? I crave readers’ indulgence because I do not know the answer to this very important question – but will continue to research it and see what I can come up with! In the meantime, as with other formerly inhabited reefs and passages, visitors to Nuku south of Viwa would be well advised to treat it with respect.

Fancy something a little different? Come for a sail with the Drua Experience and experience first hand the proud seafaring heritage of Fiji on board the only Fijian drua sailing on the ocean in the world today! Be part of our traditional knowledge revitalisation efforts and support Fijian traditional navigators and sailors by coming for a sail with us. Available for 4hr and 2hr cruises daily and for speciality charters.

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CLoud 9 is Fiji’s only two level floating platform with an internationally stocked bar and Italian wood-fired pizzeria surrounded by turquoise blue water and picturesque views.

This unique venue features a surround sound system throughout, sun decks and day beds. The music does not focus on the mainstream, it is here to create a relaxed atmosphere while you are embracing the seascape. The platform hosts regular DJs from all over the world to keep the vibe fun and fresh. Cloud 9 is built with precision and creativity giving you an experience like no other!

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With a combined fleet of 13 aircrafts, the Joyce Aviation Group (Fiji) is well positioned to offer the ultimate support for transfers, charters, tours, skydiving, aeromedical services and search & rescue. Customs, immigration, crews, guests and perishable food supplies can also be transferred from the airport or their hangar to the various maritime zones of Fiji.

The Joyce Aviation Group (Fiji) PTE Limited includes:
- Tandem Skydive (Fiji)
- Heli-Tours (Fiji)
- Sunflower Aviation
- Pacific Flying School
- Adventure Sailing Fiji

The Joyce Aviation Group is owned and operated by Tim and Susan Joyce who came to Fiji in 2003.

Skydive Fiji
Skydive Fiji prides itself as the most experienced, and premier skydiving company in Fiji, offering tandem skydiving over Fiji’s spectacular islands and coral reefs. Customers are given the opportunity to experience freefall from as high as 14,000ft in the air with stunning views of pristine blue waters, white sandy beaches and beautiful fringing coral reefs of the Mamanuca Islands and Denarau.

Heli-Tours Fiji
Following the success of their skydiving operations, Heli-Tours Fiji was established in 2011. Their services range from offering world-class scenic flights, resort transfers, private charters, mining and aerial construction, specialist film works, aeromedical evacuation & search and rescue operations. They currently have three helicopters in their fleet:
- The AS355 Twin Engine Squirrel (5-seater)
- Two Robinson R44 (3-seater)

Charters & Aeromedical Evacuations
Concerns about the primary medical care and aeromedical evacuations were major impediments to the growth of foreign investment and tourism in Fiji. About 10 years ago, Mr. Joyce teamed up with one of Fiji’s leading disaster and emergency management professionals, Anthony Blake who also saw the need to advance search and rescue capabilities in Fiji.

LifeFlight Fiji was established in 2017 working in partnership with LifeFlight Australia (previously Careflight) that provided technical and training support. Their AS355 twin engine helicopter is equipped with an articulated medical stretcher and essential medical equipment to enable overwater patient transfers & landings on major hospitals. They also have the R-44 helicopter (3 passenger seats) available to transfer medical staff & equipment or seated patients at a more affordable rate. Their fixed wings (aeroplanes) are also available for medivacs and can land in maritime zones that have airstrips. This includes the Lomaiviti Group, Lau, Kadavu, Taveuni, Vanua Levu and Taveuni. LifeFlight Fiji are more affordable and can customize rates and schedules to suit the guests requirements.

See pages 19 & 150 for contacts.
Be captivated as VOU Dance Fiji, the Pacific’s most internationally toured dance company performs Fiji’s number 1 stage show “Fiji Untold” hosted inside an enormous 450 seated Big Top tent at VOU HUB Fiji located 10 minutes along Denarau Road. Your evening begins with a live drumming extravaganza! You will then be drawn into an enticing mix of contemporary and traditional song and dance performance that awakens the senses and gives you a deeper understanding and connection with beautiful Fiji! The Fiji Untold show is held every Thursday & Sunday from 8pm to 10pm with complimentary light refreshments and return Port Denarau Marina or hotel transfers conveniently included. A truly unforgettable evening not to be missed!

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

CRUISING KADAVU & THE BEQA LAGOON

KADAVU

The North Astrolabe lagoon offers close proximity to some excellent diving. Due to its location and topography the water here is consistently one degree lower than the rest of Fiji and the chances are you will likely see large pelagic species, schooling barracudas, turtles, manta rays, and stunning corals. There is about 25 nm of open water from NE Beqa (Sulphur Pass or Bala Pass as it is called) before you enter into the lee of the North Astrolabe Kadavu reefs and the entrance into the North Astrolabe Lagoon.

There are a few dive resorts further south on the island of Ono and mainland Kadavu. People are friendly and welcoming in the villages. All of these places are off the traditional tourist route.

There are great waterfalls on the southern side of Kadavu island in Kadavu village, close to the small Waya Island. Captains need to take tenders in to the village at half tide rising. Close to Kadavu village is the eco-resort Matava who can spin you to the incredible Manta dive on the south coast near Galoa. Matava is also where you will find an IGFA Captain and weigh-station at Bite Me Game Fishing Charters. The anchorage way inside at Galoa is really good and a great place to run to in boisterous conditions.

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

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

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

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

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

Yachts are able to anchor off the village Dakubeqa, near Beqa Lagoon resort on the western side of Beqa to engage the village in a fire dancing spectacle. The resort can also assist in arrangements.

"Come and join us as the flames start to disappear and the warriors of Dakubeqa village uncover the stones that have been buried in roaring fire for hours. Be told the story of the spirit god that, in exchange for his life, blessed the Chief of Dakubeqa and all generations after him with the ability to walk on fire. Listen as the warriors chant to the fire and then witness as they walk over and even pause on top of these white-hot stones. These are the famous Beqa Island Firewalkers. Watch in awe as they perform this traditional ceremony unique only to Beqa Island, and forbidden to be performed by anyone who it not a descendant of Chief Tui Naiviqalita."

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

Vaga Bay on the west side of Beqa is great for a more protected night time anchorage if you are visiting the exclusive Royal Davui Resort on Stewart Island. Permission should be obtained from the island’s managers before making any arrangements to visit the resort. Bookings can be made for a private dinner ashore and maybe a meke and or with the famous firewalkers can be organized. This would have to be booked well in advance so that the staff can prepare.

The surf at Frigates Passage is extremely good and considered one of the best surf breaks in Fiji while fishing in the Beqa channel is renowned for hooking yellow fin tuna, wahoo and walu and marlin. Check out the reef Kakau lekakeka!

There is some good diving and surf by Black Rock at Frigate Pass, SW Beqa. If you are on your way to Kadavu, Malumu Bay close to the pass offers anchorage for early departure to Kadavu.

To the North of Yanuca Island are many SOFT coral dives but most of these are novice dives and generally no more than 60 feet.

PACIFIC HARBOUR

This is an area not to be missed with action packed shark dives and a river rafting adventure in the Navua highlands with Rivers Fiji. The rafting & kayaking adventure into the heartland of Fiji is an all day trip with rapids and waterfalls. This is an extremely well run organization and if you have the time definitely worth doing.

They offer both river and sea kayaking trips for novice to medium level kayakers as well as whitewater kayaking and rafting. A great cultural day out as it involves a traditional village visit and a Fijian yaqona ceremony.

The area is the base for popular shark dive operators. Large vessels can anchor outside the breakwater and tender in to the new marina tucked inside the river. There is the option of two renowned shark dive companies, Aqua-Trek and Beqa Adventure Divers.

Aqua-Trek’s founder Brandon Paige is known as the pioneer of the Fiji shark dive. In 1999 he created a dive with the intent to educate divers and aid in the conservation of sharks. Little did he know he was creating what is now known as the worlds #1 shark dive. This is a 2-tank dive which is usually booked out so you may have to book well in advance. It can be an exclusive dive with early pre-booking or just book into a group. An afternoon dive is possible if you have a minimum of 4 people for the booking.

Another exciting excursion is Kila Eco Adventure Park, 19km east from The Pearl Marina. The park has rope courses, giant swings, zip lining, abseiling etc. and is designed to make your tree climbing adventures perfectly safe but with the maximum level of adrenalin and fun.

Walk through 10km of jungle and get a closer look at the indigenous flora and fauna from tiny, fragile species to larger, agile and fascinating ones. Cool off under waterfalls and rest at picnic spots around the park.

WEATHER

The southern coast of Viti Levu can be boisterous during the height of the trade wind season June - August.

If it is blowing say 15kts SE or E over the country the Southern coast of Viti Levu and the NE tip of the island and down the eastern Vatuvu passage can often be blowing 10kts stronger so 25kts or more is not uncommon. Great if the wind is behind you.

Travelling to Beqa from the west is an uncomfortable beat. However, there is often a land breeze at night and with our little 36-foot sail boat we would take off at say 5 in the morning and travel east and sail with a northerly until 10am when the trades kicked in. Larger power boats sailing at 10kts may choose to do an overnight to Pacific Harbour by leaving Momi anchorage at MN and arriving early AM.

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The Pearl Resort Marina entrance and Beqa in the distance.
Fijian Names and their Meanings
by Paul Geraghty

Fijian personal names often have interesting meanings that give insights into Fijian culture of the past and the present – insights that the bearers themselves of such names are often unaware of, as is indeed the case with English and other western names.

For example, I would doubt that many of the bearers of the surname Geraghty know that it comes from the Irish for ‘son of the orator’.

Pacific Harbour lies along the south coast of Viti Levu, opposite Beqa Island. At the mouth of the lazy Qaranaqio River, you will find the elegant Pearl Resort Marina.

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

The Marina is a restricted access area. Here, at 4m draft, you will find a total of 12 berths offering single-phase electricity. Refuelling is not available and garbage can be disposed of at a fee.

While berths are predominately leased to local marine-based tourism operators, visitors are welcome.

The Pearl Resort is popular with tourists and locals alike, offering the perfect location for a spot of land loving luxury between the bustling cities of Nadi and Suva. The Marina offers 5 fully licensed restaurants and bars.

For provisioning you can take a leisurely stroll to the Arts Village. Here, you will find a well-stocked supermarket, bottle-shop, post office, bank, money exchange, doctor’s clinic, dive shop (hydrostatic tank testing available) and a selection of clothing and souvenir outlets, bars and restaurants.

Most of the shops and activities in Pacific Harbour are within walking distance however, should you wish to venture further afield, there are car rentals closeby in addition to taxis and buses passing through en route to Suva, Nadi and the nearby township of Navua.

T: +679 7730 022
stay@thepearlsouthpacific.com

Photo: Jon Piepkorn
Some people have chiefly titles, which come are required to do so by officialdom or trying to surname of their husband on marriage (nor Similarly Fijians have never gone for the English-language medium. Were being featured in what they knew to be felt obliged to give a 'surname' because they children Samu Koroi and Litia Liku - but they use every day – which are more likely to be Jone Waqa, his wife Mere Leba, and today there are hundreds of Merewalesi all over Fiji!

Traditional Fijian names go a long way back, some perhaps thousands of years. They are mostly commemorative, given to a child in memory of an important event that occurred in the village or country, or something that happened to a relative. Once acquired, these names can be passed on through generations, by naming children after relatives (their yaca or namesake), rather than making up a new name. A well-known commemorative name is Tanoa, which marked the introduction of a particular style of kava bowl into Fiji from Tonga. Another is Sukuna, the name which Cakobau, the chief of Bau, gave his eldest son to commemorate the introduction of a new type of vessel, the schooner.

Many Fijian names were originally badges of honour – names given to warriors to commemorate their prowess in battle. Among the best known of these are Koroi, Waqa, Tata, and Koli, with compounds of these terms indicating the senior warrior the recipient chose to name himself after, for example Koroinavunivalu ‘Koroi of the Vunivalu (chief of Bau),’ the name taken by the notorious Swedish beachcomber Charlie Savage. Not all traditional names are ancient, because Fijians (and particularly Lauans) still make up new commemorative names, such as Talemailepanono (literally, returned from the Lebanon) to mark the return of a soldier from peace-keeping duties in the Lebanon.

It is common nowadays to address people with positions of importance in society by their profession, such as qasenivilu ‘teacher’, talatala ‘church minister’, vinwavi ‘doctor,’ or by the profession of their spouse, such as radinitalatala ‘minister’s wife.’ In some parts of Fiji, especially eastern Vitilevu, it is polite to address and refer to someone with a child using the (eldest) child’s name, such as tamai Samu ‘father of Samu,’ inai Samu ‘mother of Samu.’ This is so pervasive that a conversation with a young boy in Tailevu is said to have gone thus:

What’s your name?
Samu.

What’s your father’s name?
Tamai Samu.

And despite being pressed the young boy knew no other name for his father, because that’s what everyone in the village called him!

Typically, a Fijian has three names. The first is a Christian name, the second a traditional name, and the third (if it exists) a surname. The idea of having a surname, that is a name of rank in Kadavu and Nadroga. Lau and Rō in Rewa, Kadavu and Nadroga are genuine traditional titles, as is Bulou for ladies of rank in Kadavu and Nadroga.

Christian names originate mostly from the nineteenth century, when Christianity was introduced. They are usually the names of biblical characters (Mōsese Moses, Tēvita David, John John, Mere Mary) or missionaries (Watisoni Watson, Kalivati Calvert, Līdēs Lindsay), but can be derived from famous writers (Logivala Longfellow, Vuniani Bunyan, Mīlton Milton), businessmen (Batianamu Putnam, a New England trader), European monarchs and historical characters (Kūviniliame King William, Kinijioji King George, Salote Charlotte, Napoleon Napoleon Bonaparte, Nelsoni Nelson) or, for Catholics, saints (Aksūsinito Augustine, Berenadeta Bernardette). Catholics also have different versions of biblical names, based on Latin rather than English, such as Ioane John and Maria Mary, contrasting with the Jone and Mere of other denominations. Like English Christian names, many of them have shortened versions that are used mainly by close friends and family (Jo Joe, Su Sue, Il or Beta short for Illisābeta Elizabeth).

One of the most fascinating stories of nineteenth-century naming concerns Mary Wallis, the wife of the American trader Benjamin Wallis. She accompanied her husband on three of his voyages to Fiji in the 1840s and 1850s and so was the first European woman many Fijians had seen, apart from a small number of missionaries’ wives. She also was blessed with an outgoing and gregarious personality, and spent much of her time with the people of Viwa, a small island near Bau in Tailevu. So when one of her friends on Viwa gave birth to a baby girl, she asked Mary if she could name the child after her and Mary readily agreed. The child was given the name Merewalesi, from Mary Wallis. The name spread from there and became popular, so today there are hundreds of Merewalesi all over Fiji!

Dr. Paul Geraghty graduated from Cambridge with an MA in Modern Languages (French and German), and earned his PhD from the University of Hawaii with a dissertation on the history of the Fijian languages. He was Director of the Institute of Fijian Language and Culture in Suva from 1986 to 2001, and is currently Associate Professor in Linguistics at the University of the South Pacific. Author of several books (including The History of the Fijian Languages, the Lonely Planet Fijian Phrasebook, and Say Bula) and numerous articles on Fijian and Pacific languages, culture, and history, he is also well known in Fiji as a newspaper columnist and radio and TV presenter.
Royal Suva Yacht Club

18° 07.04 South | 178° 25.80 East

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VHF Channel 16
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The Capital City Suva. Photo: Moving Pictures

Aerial of RSYC from shore. Photo: Moving Pictures
Welcome to the Capital!

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

The Royal Suva Yacht Club

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

Facts & Figures

There are several mooring facilities and a trailer park available to accommodate members, visitors...
and commercially owned yachts/boats; Trot and Plastic Pontoon moorings are generally leased out to members who own private vessels and are available on a first come, first served basis. Concrete moorings are able to cater for bigger boats or visiting yachts. The concrete moorings are to facilitate visiting Yachtsmen and small Commercial Yachts/vessels. The Dinghy Docks are to temporarily facilitate members and offshore yachts, tenders and dinghies for embarkation and loading purposes. The trailer park area is facilitated as a hardstand for boats on trailers, which are leased out to members who prefer the trailer park to a mooring site. Contact the RSYC for availability of moorings and load capacity details. Anchorage outside the Marina is poor due to soft mud.

Many yachts drag here in strong southerlies. Yachts should not be left unattended if a frontal system is expected. Commercial vessels also drag across the harbour. The Bay of Islands in Lami is a good alternative to RSYC, especially in bad weather or southwest sector winds. Lami town centre is walking distance (walk southeast on main road) and has small supermarkets and a good chandlery (Yacht Shop). This is a sheltered lagoon that is surrounded by mangrove, residential homes, non-intrusive commercial marine activity and the Novotel Hotel.

**Services**

The club has bathrooms with hot water, and a next day laundry service. There’s also a restaurant, a great kids playground and wireless internet access that may cover as far as some of the offshore moorings. The RSYC slipway caters for the smaller vessels up to 20 tons on the first cradle with arms that extend according to the needs of the vessel. The second cradle caters for vessels up to 10 tons but do not have the arms to support the vessel. If you have your own provisions for a trailer, arrangements for haul out are at your discretion. A crane that caters up to 4 tons is available for hire. A loading & fuelling Dock is located in front of the TOTAL Bowser and accommodates fuelling for all registered and visiting sailing vessels to the club, loading and off-loading of registered private sailing vessels only.

**Safety**

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

**Provisioning**

Suva City is only a short distance by bus or taxi. Here you will find supermarkets, hardware & electronic stores and a bustling fresh fruit & vege market. There is a post office, banks, butchers, internet cafés, doctors, dentists, pharmacies and clothing stores.

**Attractions**

The Club’s Bar Complex is exclusively for members and their guests, registered guests to the club and reciprocal members. The bar offers snacks, music and television (including Sky TV for sports enthusiasts). The Bure Bar & BBQ area is very popular with the outdoor 42” TV screen regularly screening sports events like Super Rugby. A barbeque set is available for use in this area for a small fee.

The club operates 7 days a week and is limited to the laws of the day. Happy hour is on daily from 6pm to 7pm. During the day sensible casuals are permitted and from 1800 hours onwards, smart casuals (dress shoes, sandals, collard t-shirts and shirts) are required. The wearing of hats by males in the bar area is forbidden and the penalty for doing so is to buy a round of drinks for every patron in the bar at the time!
SAILING
TAU

A Fijian Family
Circumnavigate
the World

by John Philp

‘TAU’ is a 90 ft ketch rig of steel construction and fiberglass sheathed. Launched in Suva, Fiji in 1972, TAU was built by C. E. Philp and finished at Pattans Boatyard in Sydney, Australia.

I’ve been asked to put together some words on the twentieth anniversary of the Fijian yacht ‘Tau’ completing a sailing circumnavigation of the globe in 2000. The trip started in 1999 and over 18 months she covered 27,000 nautical miles.

On board was Capt. Anthony C. Philp, his wife Lydia and their two daughters - Michelle and Kristy. The writer of this article John Philp and Sefo (Seforana Fatnifiu) rounded out the core crew. Sefo, who was Rotuman was Bosun and had served on Tau since her launch in the early 70’s. He probably spent as much time with that yacht as any human ever has with a sailing vessel. In fact he was offered a break during the trip but preferred to stay with the yacht. In return Captain Tony suggested flying Sefo’s daughter Monifa Fiu to join us, which she did (in Cape Town), and sailed across the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans back home to Fiji with us.

Sefo passed away ten years after we returned from the trip. He is missed. A true kaiwai (water-man), and a gentle human being who never had an unkind word to say about anyone. Stoic, good humoured, and a great cook especially if the sea got rough. The more the yacht bounced around, the louder he would whistle and sing from down in the galley. Usually by this time it was so humid with all the portholes closed below, cups and plates rattling after each green wave that came over the bow that no one else was keen to spend too much time down there. Sefo however was in his element!

Left: TAU’s arrival at Borabora

The first question non-sailors invariably ask when you mention completing such a trip is, “Did you have any really bad weather, or tough situations?” Sure we sailed through some vast space, those blue bits on the globe in between all the land. It is however easier to complete blue water passages now than it was before the days of satellite phones and daily weather forecasts. For the most part one can sail around or delay passing through the rough patches.

In saying that there are a few priorities we took care of each day under Captains watchful eye. Wear and tear on ropes was one of them. Long passages of up to eighteen days, 24 hours of rubbing and chaffing in one place will invariably lead to breakages at the weakest points so we were vigilant to this, always.

We did have one unplanned incident in the Indian Ocean that could have ended up a lot worse than it did. Some hours out of Reunion headed West to southern Madagascar we had all sail up in a good breeze when the bottom back-stay insulator gave with a loud crack and the whole ship shuddered as the rig went loose. Had the insulator totally given way we may have lost the main mast. Fortunately it didn’t completely come apart. Captain Tony’s first thought was to turn back to Reunion 62 miles away but in the end he jury rigged extra lines onto both masts to help take the load off the back-stay and Tau sailed on towards Madagascar with reduced sail.

For the non-technical, the main mast on Tau is secured and tensioned at the stern by a single stainless steel rigging wire. That wire (or stay in sailing parlance) also doubles as the antenna for the high frequency ships radio. There are ceramic insulators at the top and bottom of the stay so as not to have electrical current running through the wire.

In mid September 1999, as we prepared to depart Australia to sail across the Indian Ocean we were warned by Australian Customs that two yachts in the past weeks had reported menacing approaches by Indonesians off Darwin looking to board yachts. In anticipation of this threat we had arranged in Townsville to take aboard a cache of expired projectile flares - they would do some damage should someone approach uninvited. We did have an Indonesian vessel follow us one afternoon some days out of Darwin so we took the precaution of shuffling the ladies below decks and the men presented themselves on deck walking around with puffed out chests pretending we were bigger and more numerous than we were, but that was the extent of our excitement with would-be pirates.

Not so lucky for others we knew. Later in September we met a nice Australian couple at Coco’s (Keeling) along with MADAGASCAR - Feeding lemurs, local children, bike tours, local canoes and a lobster dinner. BRAZIL - Street urchins train surfing and Recife architecture.
meters away and started rifling through it looking for food and useful bits. That was sobering. We did share one thing - our languages derive from the same Austronesian source, some of our words were very similar so it was possible to communicate at times without resorting to French. Fascinating to know that Fijians and indigenous Madagascans are related - if you go back a few thousand years.

Hospitality towards us was incredible during our trip and we were the beneficiary of all of the goodwill that Fijians have created around the world through the generations. Sport crosses all oceans, it creates a bridge between people, and for us rugby was that bridge.

One of the things I miss is watching the moonrise at sea during a night-watch. Something you rarely see as a householder living back on land. I was on deck with Sefo for one of them. We were sitting under a clear sky with countless stars twinkling in the clear sky when we noticed them go dim like the lights in a cinema as the curtain opens. It was odd. I didn’t realise what was happening of course. Soon after a head of orange peaked over the horizon, then an enormous ball of it began to rise majestically over the ocean. Later it turned yellow, and finally the familiar white of our moon when it was high in the sky. Very cool.

When people open their hearts and homes to you in foreign places, people you will never see again, it makes you a different person and influences they way you treat strangers. We all pay it forward even more now since that trip.

The pirates stopped the yacht by snagging the propeller in a net, shot the boat up with sub machine guns, stole all the electronic equipment and some jewellery, and left them adrift. Luckily the crew were not harmed. The most interesting country we visited was Madagascar. For us she only existed in National Geographic magazines. Arriving there felt like we had sailed off the end of the earth. Madagascar was radical for us visually as 90% of it’s wildlife is found nowhere else on Earth. Her plant life is equally bizarre. One might describe Madagascar as the poorest parts of India meets Dr. Suez, with a French accent, against a backdrop of some LSD-weird looking tree’s and animals.

One morning we took the ships rubbish ashore in a garbage bag and asked a young man where we could take it. He offered to take care of it himself, then walked five meters aboard their brand new yacht ‘Aphrodite’. In November we heard the disturbing news that they had been targeted by pirates ten miles off the coast of Yemen near the Suez Canal.

SoUTH AFrICA - Table Mountain, giraffe heaven, Clifton Beach aerial and Table Mountain cable ride.

CARIBBEAN - Mustique bar & beach, St Maarten sunset, entry to Trinidad and Trinidad coastline.

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one of mine was the 4am to 6am solo watch. It was on one of those 4am watch starts that I enjoyed one of the profound experiences of the trip. As we sailed West we would from time to time sail off the end of one paper chart and onto another. So the charts got swapped. Captain would usually perform this function during his watch.

I woke just before 4am, the others were dead to the world except for Captain Tony, sometimes he would hang around for a bit after he briefed me on what was going on, other times if he had a rough night he would head directly below to rest.

One of my experiences was the 4am to 6am solo watch. It was on one of those 4am watch starts that I enjoyed one of the profound experiences of the trip. As we sailed West we would from time to time sail off the end of one paper chart and onto another. So the charts got swapped. Captain would usually perform this function during his watch.

I stumbled over to the chart table rubbing sleep from my eyes. All was dark except for the instrument lights on the dash. A low voltage reading light poured a dull orange glow over the chart. I peered at it, and for the first time in a long while looked at a chart of Fiji. It was unexpected, after many months of looking at outlines of Galapagos, or St. Lucia, or Rodriguez Island I was looking at the outlines of Viti and Vanua Levu as a visitor would. A more beautiful thing I had not seen in a long time.

Best experiences? Seeing the Dalai Lama speak in the Durban Town Hall. The wild beauty, and fabulous hospitality from the locals on Reunion Island, and surfing her famous breaks. The shark problem has become so bad there since we visited that there is a blanket ban on surfing the outer breaks now. The famous ‘table cloth’ on Table Mountain in Cape Town. Sailing past Robben Island, Nelson Mandela’s dominion for much of the twenty seven years he spent behind bars during the apartheid era. Watching the local street urchins train surfing on a hot day in the city of Recife, Brazil. Surfing alone with seals on the island of San Cristobal in the Galapagos. Spearfishing on Suvarov - an uninhabited atoll in the northern Cook Islands where the sharks think they own the place. Cuba was incredible on so many levels! Too many great memories. I would do it again, loads of fun!

SOUTH PACIFIC - Nuku Hiva highest waterfall, Sefo’s catch, Marquesas voyager and arriving at Vavau, Tonga.
This is the dive area of Fiji for serious divers. There are numerous world-class dives in the Vatu-i-ra channel, and at the fabulous islands of Leleuvia, Koro, Makogai and Gau. It’s highly recommended to carry a dive guide as this is “experienced divers only”. On the island of Ovalau you will find the old capital Levuka. It’s like being in a time warp with many buildings standing just as they were 100 years ago. The Royal Hotel reminds me of something out of Somerset Maugham and a visit to the local watering hole, The Ovalau Club, has to be part of life’s rich experiences. The leading lights, particularly the lower one on the main church spire, are the best in Fiji and are rarely out!

**LELEUVIA ISLAND**

Leleuvia Island is nestled between Ovalau and Viti Levu. The Moturiki Passage that takes you into Leleuvia is a whopping 2.5 kilometers across, is unmarked but easily visible during the day. With its golden sand beaches, you could be forgiven for thinking you were in the Yasawa’s as Leleuvia sits just outside the Nausori, Suva rain belt and therefore enjoys an abundance of sunshine.

Leleuvia is a haven for indigenous coastal plants and vegetation that grow naturally on small low-lying islands.

The reefs around Leleuvia enjoy rich nutrients flowing down Fiji’s largest river from the highlands of Viti Levu. The surrounding reefs are fed from major ocean currents and upwelling from deep sea passages with strong currents to calm inside reefs that form the habitat for large schooling fish like tuna, barracuda, trevally, snapper, black tip reef sharks, hammerheads, manta rays, turtles as well as whales and dolphins.

Leleuvia has become the Fiji center for the revival of the art of traditional sailing and the only resort in Fiji where you can sail a traditionally designed “Camakau” outrigger canoe or a “Drua” double hulled canoe.

Leleuvia offers free moorings right off the beach. There are hot showers and toilets available on shore and plenty of fresh water if you need a top up. The daily bar ‘Happy Hour’ is from 5pm to 7pm.

**NAMENA**

A visit in 2018 found the island devastated. There was nobody there and the whole island had been totally destroyed by Cyclone Winston 3 years before. The dive sites were badly affected but after 4 years hopefully the corals are coming back. Such a fabulous dive experience around these waters. Worth a visit anyway to see how the ecosystems are managing. Anchorage on the NW is around 80ft and watch for a few bombies.

**MAKOGAI**

Makogai island has a very good anchorage in Dalice Bay which is currently used as the site of a Department of Fisheries clam hatchery and turtle head-start program. The island is state owned (although a sevusevu is still required) and steeped in history, as it was previously a large leprosarium serving the region. After cyclone Winston the island suffered major devastation on land particularly on the dive sites. Annual humpback whale surveys around Makogai and Levuka, record sightings of migrating humpback whales, so do keep your eyes open.

**GAU ISLAND**

Good anchorages and some more world class dive sites. Gau is the 5th largest island in Fiji covering an area of 136 sq km. There is an airstrip (unused at times) at the southern tip of the island. The Rugby’s 7’s legend Serevi hails from this island.

Inside the Lagoon divers will need a guide with knowledge of the ideal times to dive. On the outer wall however, times to dive are flexible. A sevusevu is required at the main village of Sawieke, approached only at high tide. Waikama is a good village as is Lovu to the south. Hot springs can be found close by Waikama village. Close to Waikama there is a new eco resort called Nuku resort in the Bay of Angels. Mantas can often be sighted in this location. The anchorage there is deep 100ft.

**WAKAYA IS A PRIVATE ISLAND**

Homestead Bay is now a Marine Protected Area gazetted by government and use of the bay as an anchorage is not permitted without prior consent from Wakaya management. Strictly no access to the beaches is permitted, with MPA boundary up to the high water mark and Wakaya private property beyond that.
KORO
Koro island is a very Interesting Island. Not well known but during WW2 the Americans practiced their landing for Guadalcanal on Koro. They tried 3 times before they got it right! We had a very interesting visit there this year 2019. The stories on the Americans testing their landing skills there are not well documented.

This year we went in search of the “story” and found that Indeed this did happen in the village of Nabuna in the north. A lovely story was recounted to us during our visit. They actually do have two steel helmets left by two American soldiers that were left behind or absconded! Great Village and very friendly. They actively welcome yachts. There were left behind or absconded! Great Village and very friendly. They actively welcome yachts. There were steel helmets left by two American soldiers that were left behind or absconded! Great Village and very friendly. They actively welcome yachts. There were steel helmets left by two American soldiers that were left behind or absconded! Great Village and very friendly. They actively welcome yachts. There were steel helmets left by two American soldiers that were left behind or absconded! Great Village and very friendly. They actively welcome yachts. There were steel helmets left by two American soldiers that were left behind or absconded! Great Village and very friendly. They actively welcome yachts. There were steel helmets left by two American soldiers that were left behind or absconded! Great Village and very friendly. They actively welcome yachts. There were steel helmets left by two American soldiers that were left behind or absconded! Great Village and very friendly. They actively welcome yachts. There were steel helmets left by two American soldiers that were left behind or absconded! Great Village and very friendly. They actively welcome yachts. There were steel helmets left by two American soldiers that were left behind or absconded! Great Village and very friendly. They actively welcome yachts.

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

Koro is 112

Bethams Beach Cottages

Dere Bay Resort, Koro Island

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

Cyclone Winston tore into this island and a great deal of reconstruction has been achieved over the past few years. However, they need all the help they can get. As of 2019 the village of Kandi is still living under tarpaulins.

NORTH VITI LEVU - Inside Passage
This is deep, clear and suitable for large ships. The channel is deep and wide. There are some good dives on the outer reefs and many places to drop the pick. Vatia Beach Eco Resort, Volivoli Beach Resort and Wananavu Beach Resort offer anchorages. Chart plotters are very accurate here.

NANANU-I-RA ISLAND
Hidden Away from the rest of the world Macdonalds Nananu Beach Cottages and Bethams Beach Cottages are out of the way and the friendly staff and comfortable accommodation offer the weary traveler a place to relax and experience nature at its very best.

The Island of Nananu-I-Ra offers eight white sandy beaches, miles of unexplored reef systems and 870 acres of coves and bays to discover. Great swimming and snorkeling are only meters away from the doorstep of your cottage. It is of a little surprise that travelers from around the world often extend their stay on this lovely island. The cottages are spacious, fully self-contained and overlook the mysterious Nakauvadra Mountain range, legendary home of the Fijian Gods.

The departure point for the short boat ride to Nananu-i-ra. Boats from the island will pick up and drop off at Ellington Wharf. Compared to the ever popular Mamanuca and Yasawa Islands, this place is very laid back. Enjoy uncrowded beaches (that are every bit as good as the finest in the Yasawas), and water sports activities that include kitesurfing, windsurfing, SUP, snorkeling, diving and game fishing. Your day can be spent snorkeling, swimming, kayaking, windsurfing, kiteboarding and fishing. Exploring or just lazing in the sun. Your night can be spent counting the stars, enjoying a barbeque with a cool drink and exchanging travel stories.

Things To Do On The Island
Don’t expect this island to be the same as the Mamanucas (a list of daily activities posted on a board each morning). You do as much or as little as you like, with water sports predominating. With reliable trade winds for kitesurfing, close to top class dive sites, and sheltered sandy beaches on the leeward side, this is a mecca for water-based activities. Here are just a few of the highlights.

Diving - there are some terrific dive sites in close proximity to Nananu-i-Ra, which range from beginner to experienced. Several dive operators are based in this area and service all the lodges here, so just ask the staff at your accommodation.

Windsurfing and Kiteboarding - this is the place to be if you enjoy either of these sports or want to learn.

Snorkeling - there is snorkeling right off the beach. Swim at the end of the jetty, where the fish have become tame and will keep you company as you explore the corals. It is also possible to take a short boat ride out to some of the outer reefs for some exciting dives.

Fishing - either handline or charter the experts at Volivoli Beach Resort and chase Snapper, Rainbow Runner, Trevally and Spanish Mackerel.

Roughly midway between Nadi and Suva on the Kings highway, lies the coastal township of Rakiraki.

WEATHER
The NW side of Viti Levu can have enhanced Tradewinds (easterly quadrant) during the season. It can be 10kts up on other areas in the Fiji group as the winds whistle around the Vatuira channel. With a forecast of 15kts you can have up to 25kts in this area. The Nananuira anchorage area is inside the reefs and mostly in the lee of the island so that it is pretty protected for yachts anchoring. There are many good anchor spots inside the reef system all along the North Viti Levu coast. It’s a lovely cruise in sheltered waters. Chart plotters are usually very accurate here.

- Transport to the boat fishing spots
- All necessary equipment & gear
- Lunch & refreshments
- Local expertise
FULL-DAY / HALF-DAY / TWO-HOUR

MacDonald’s Nananu Beach Cottages
Fiji’s Fishing Regulations

While the state ultimately retains ownership of the ocean and her resources, the people of Fiji have been given tenure and the right to fish for subsistence from allocated areas of coral reef referred to as ‘iQoliqoli’. All coral reef areas in Fiji are part of an iQoliqoli. Deeper water passages between the islands of Fiji are also part of an iQoliqoli. Deeper water

processed form, any other species whatsoever of a length less than 7.6 centimetres (3 inches).

Giant Clams - *Tridacna derasa / squamosa / maxima.* (vasua) flesh, including adductor muscle or mantle tissue. *Trochus shell* - *Trochus niloticus* (sici) measuring less than 90 mm (3.5 inches) across the whorl;

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

Giant helmet shell - *Cassis cornuta* (yaga)

Live fish of any kind;

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

GUIDELINES FOR OTHER SPECIES

Turtles

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

Sharks / Manta Rays

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

Humphead Wrasse

The humphead wrasse, *Cheilinus undulatus* (also known as the Maori wrasse, Napoleon fish or varivoce in Fijian), is a large and quite spectacular reef fish that can grow to over 140cms. They are easily overfished and so their presence on a reef may suggest that fishing pressure is not high. Considered a delicacy in East Asian countries the species has been heavily targeted by the live reef food fish trade. Listed as Endangered on the IUCN Red List, and included in Appendix II of CITES, here in Fiji bans are only in place for commercial harvest, sale or export.

No person shall export, either in a natural or

*Qalova uaua na moka* (literally, swimming to the fish-wall while it’s still high tide)

A moka is a low stone wall built on a tidal flat in such a way as to trap fish when the tide goes out. To go there before the tide is low is to do something before its proper time, in particular for a child to do something that only adults should do.

Fijian Proverb translated by Dr. Paul A Geraghty
What species are banned?

There is a total of 27 species of fish that fall under kawakawa (grouper) and donu (coral trout). The fishing, sale and export (and associated activities such as transport) of all 27 species are banned under the Public Notice. The six most common kawakawa and donu typically caught are:

- **NAME: Squaretail Grouper**
  - SCIENTIFIC NAME: Epinephelus areolatus
  - FIJIAN NAME: Batisai
- **NAME: Leopard Coral grouper**
  - SCIENTIFIC NAME: Plectropomus leopardus
  - FIJIAN NAME: Donu, Drodroua
- **NAME: Blue Rock Cod**
  - SCIENTIFIC NAME: Epinephelus cyanopodus
  - FIJIAN NAME: Revua
- **NAME: Brown Marbled Grouper**
  - SCIENTIFIC NAME: Epinephelus fuscoguttatus
  - FIJIAN NAME: Delabulewa
- **NAME: Camouflage Grouper**
  - SCIENTIFIC NAME: E. polyphekadion
  - FIJIAN NAME: Kawakawa dina
- **NAME: Blacksaddle Coral Grouper**
  - SCIENTIFIC NAME: Plectropomus laevis
  - FIJIAN NAME: Lava Kasala, Kerakera

For more information and the full list of the 27 fish please visit: 4fjmovement.org

**The 4-Month Ban on All Species of Grouper (Kawakawa) and Coral Trout (Donu)**

The Fiji Government has banned the fishing, sale and export of all species of Grouper (kawakawa) and Coral Trout (donu) during their peak spawning months, from June through to September to help revive these rapidly declining fish species. The ban is just a little longer than a traditional 100-night tabu placed on marine resources following the death of a chief in Fiji.

Any person or business found selling kawakawa and donu during the 4-month ban period can have their fish confiscated and could receive high fines:

- For individuals, an instant fine of $10,000, with the potential of up to $50,000 in fines.
- For corporations, an instant fine of $20,000, with the potential of up to $100,000 in fines.

The level of the fine can depend on the severity of the offense and will be determined by the Fiji Court System.

Why These Fish?

Kawakawa and donu breed each year, in large numbers, in the same places. These breeding sites were traditionally fished, but as the population and income needs in Fiji have increased, these breeding sites are being heavily overfished, leaving too few fish to restock Fiji’s fishing grounds.

According to the Fiji Ministry of Fisheries, more than 80 per cent of Fiji’s known kawakawa and donu breeding sites are either declining or have been lost. One study found fish landings of kawakawa have declined 70 per cent over 30 years, with some areas of Fiji hardly catching the prized fish anymore. Fishermen interviews tell the same story: These fish are harder and harder to catch in our fishing grounds. We are losing these prized fish at alarming rates.

What can I do if I see someone selling kawakawa and donu?

The Ministry of Fisheries will need everyone’s support to effectively enforce the kawakawa and donu seasonal ban. Right now, the town councils, the Fiji Police Department, Fiji Revenue and Customs Service and Fiji Navy are stepping up. But everyone can help, including fishermen, middlemen, market sellers, and consumers. We need to spread the word that the ban is in place. Let’s give people a chance to do the right thing.

And where we see it being sold, we can report it to the Ministry of Fisheries by calling:

- Nausori Fisheries Office: 3476587 | 9966745
- Lami Fisheries Office: 3361122 | 9966752
- Lautoka Fisheries Office: 665899 | 9966759
- Labasa Fisheries Office: 8812833 | 9966770

You can also help by photographing any kawakawa and donu on sale and sharing it on the campaign Facebook page (www.facebook.com/4fjmovement). Please note the location, seller if possible, and time of day to help document the incident for the Ministry of Fisheries.
Coastal Plants of Cultural Importance

Coconut Palm

Scientific name: Cocos nucifera
Fijian name: Niu

Coconut palms, which inhabit coastal regions of most islands and atolls in the Pacific, are a prominent feature of the Fijian coastline. Coconut palms are very tolerant of salty soils, with a preference for sandy ground. They are able to grow at altitudes over 1000 m, but they hardly fruit at all at altitudes over 400 m.¹ The fruits hang in clusters, and the mature seed is filled with ‘meat’ and ‘milk.’ A coconut is not a nut in the botanical sense, but rather a fruit of the same type as a peach. Coconut palms can yield 1 or 2 coconuts per week all year in the right conditions. When the husk is removed from the coconut, three holes can be seen in the surface through which the root emerges when the coconut seed germinates. Large young coconuts can contain 1 litre of coconut water (bu).

¹ From:


**Source:**

Coconut Palm
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Fijian name: Niu

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¹ From: [http://www.fao.org/3/i3982e/i3982e.htm](http://www.fao.org/3/i3982e/i3982e.htm)
There is an old Fijian expression: “useful as a coconut tree”. Indeed, the coconut is one of the most useful trees in Fiji and across the Pacific. From the shoot to the root, all parts of the coconut plant are used: the meat and flesh provide food and water; the leaves, or fronds, can be fashioned into baskets, bags, brooms, roof thatching, and walls for traditional houses; the trunks provide timber; and the roots have medicinal value.

Coconut flesh can be processed to derive coconut milk (lolo), or it can be dried to make copra, the product from which coconut oil is extracted. Coconut shells are used to make cups (including the ones used for kava drinking), ornaments, and jewellery. The husks can be fashioned into sennit (braided cord) and serve as a good source of firewood fuel. Even the inflorescence (the cluster of flowers that will mature into coconut fruit) is used to make an alcoholic beverage called ‘toddy’.

The coconut is still widely used in Fiji, and some rural Fijian communities rely on the copra industry to sustain themselves financially. To make 1 tonne of copra, it takes around 6000 coconuts. Unfortunately, the parasitic coconut beetle has caused a lot of damage in Fiji’s coconut plantations, threatening the viability of Fiji’s copra industry.

Pandanus

Scientific name: Pandanus tectorius
Fijian names: Vadra (‘Vandra’), Balawa (‘Mbalawa’), Voivoi

Pandanus is a palm-like tree with aerial roots, adapted to a very wide range of light to heavy soil types. Female flowers resemble pineapples, and the resulting fruit is made up of many fruits fused together, measuring up to 25 cm in diameter. The useful leaves grow over 1 m long and have sharp-toothed edges; one tree can yield up to 300 leaves in a single year.

The pandanus is a very useful tree in Fiji, and there are many varieties of this species. The wild variety, which is locally called vadra or balawa, grows into a tall tree and produces a

Above: Ladies of Namalata village, Kubulau District, preparing pandanus leaves for weaving. Photo: Margaret Fox
Right: Coastal Pandanus tree. Photo: WCS
Pandanus leaves hanging to dry in the sun. Photo: Nick Askew

Hibiscus flowers are also prized for decorations. Photo: WCS

Hibiscus
Scientific name: Hibiscus tiliaceus
Fijian name: Vau

Vau, a coastal tree belonging to the Hibiscus genus, has been an important plant to Fijians and other Pacific Islanders for centuries. Its seeds float and are very resistant to salt water, hence its wide distribution. It tolerates salty waterlogged soil and is therefore well adapted to grow on beaches, by rivers and in mangrove swamps. This tree produces colour-changing flowers throughout the year: when the flowers open they are yellow, but they turn red during the day.

In Fiji, the bark of this tree is used for making yaqona strainers, garlands, cords, and skirts that are similar to hula skirts. The bark is stripped from the tree, boiled, and dried out in the sun. After the leaves are dry, they are softened by running the edge of a large mussel shell along their surfaces. When the leaves are soft enough for weaving, each voivoi leaf is split lengthwise into the desired width for the project.

Excerpts from Ecotales from Kubulau - A guide to the cultural and natural heritage of the Vatu-i-Ra Seascape. Written by Natalie Askew, Margaret Fox and Stacy Jupiter. 100pp. Available at the University of the South Pacific Book Shop.

You may well be wondering why your cruising permit excludes Yadua Taba

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

After the discovery of a crested iguana on the tiny island back in 1979, and the public interest that followed, the National Trust of Fiji secured a management agreement to the uninhabited island and surrounding coral reefs, and established it as Fiji’s first wildlife sanctuary in 1980. The Crested Iguana (locally known as ‘Vokai’) is one of the rarest, and to some, one of the world’s most attractive lizards. The species is endemic to the Fiji Islands where it is now restricted to less than 10 of the 300 or so islands of the archipelago.

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

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

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

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

Tel: (679) 330 1807  |  Fax: (679) 330 5092

The Crested Iguana. Photo © National Trust of Fiji

SAVUSAVU

Bula! and Welcome to Fiji's Hidden Paradise

Dating back to the old sailing ships era of the 1800's Savusavu on the southern coast of the Island of Vanua Levu Fiji Islands has been a favoured port when crossing the South Pacific going west.

Today Savusavu is an International Port of Entry for Fiji, and hosts over 200 cruising yachts a year by being one of Fiji's most friendly destinations, delivering a hassle free and quick "Check-in" experience. All 4 marinas monitor VHF 16 and can facilitate check-ins with just a VHF call from you. The current marinas are Copra Shed Marina, Waitui Marina, Savusavu Marina and soon Nawi Island Marina & Shipyard, a soft opening is expected during the 3rd quarter of 2020.

Savusavu is a yachts person's "Hidden" paradise where the day starts at 0800 VHF 16 then 68 "GOOD MORNING SAVUSAVU!". This fun informative net provides weather updates, what's on - diving, tours etc. where to get whatever, Q&A from cruisers and lasts for 50-60 mins on Mon, Wed and Fri. However on Tues, Thu and Sat it lasts approx 25-35mins. No Vhf-net on Sundays.

Savusavu Town is small (population 6,000 approx). Over the years the town businessmen, Town Council, Savusavu Tourism, Government Authorities and the Yachting Industry have worked together to provide a unique "Holistic Yachting Destination", that provides almost all a yachts person needs.

With the new inclusion of Nawi Island Marina and it’s 130 fully serviced berths catering for 10/85 meter mono-hull yachts, catamarans and some super-yachts the difference to Savusavu will be huge! Especially with it’s 75 ton travel-lift & hardstand, as well as long term dry storage enabling more yachts to stay year round.

There are few remote island yachting destinations in the...
South Pacific that can provide the following:

Business, Health & Travel
There are 3 banks all with 24/7 ATMs. These are Westpac, ANZ and the Bank of the South Pacific. 3 international internet providers supply affordable internet options (cheaper than our international neighbours to the east and south of Fiji) and WiFi is often free.

Local & international post, courier & freight services are available (3-5 day ex USA/NZ/Aust).

It is a one hour flight from Savusavu Airport to Nadi International Airport (great for crew changes) and 40 mins to Nausori Airport for a quick trip to Suva. Getting around is easy with the inter-island ferry services being very affordable, frequent bus services and many taxi fleets closeby.

Savusavu has a hospital, ambulances, a dentist, pharmacy and a private medical centre (which has thermal hot pools and massages available).

Restaurants & Cafés (Licensed & BYO)
It is almost cheaper to eat out than to cook your meals onboard. There are 5 very popular international quality restaurants, then perhaps 15 or more local restaurants serving tasty Indian, Fijian, Chinese and European dishes.

The most common remarks from new yachting arrivals from off shore is that the food is just awesome and so much more affordable compared to countries east of Fiji.

Yacht Maintenance & Parts
In Savusavu there is a well stocked chandler, with a second chandler expected to be opened in late 2020/2021. There are facilities for refueling, watering and mechanical for both outboards & main engines, AC & DC electricians as well as refrigeration techs.

A fitting & turning shop with another expected to open in late 2020/2021. There are facilities for refrigeration techs.

AC & DC electricians as well as mechanic’s for both outboards & main engines, AC & DC electricians as well as refrigeration techs.

It is important to understand that specific yacht make/model spares will need to be ordered from off-shore i.e. USA/NZ/AU/EU some (not all) of our International Courier Services are very efficient and parts can be delivered to Savusavu yachts in 3-5 days from order/payment.

Savusavu has a bright future!!

The next year to 18 months will see some incredible investments coming into operation in Savusavu that will change the traditional scope of yachting in Savusavu. Nawi Island Marina & Shipyards will have a positive impact that will be immense.

The Town Council is building a new 2 story building that will also house the new vegetable, fruit & fish market. A supermarket is also being considered.

A new hotel to cater for the expected increase in yacht arrivals. There will be improved infrastructure, improved facilities in regards to engineering, electrical and refrigeration repairs with parts backup we don’t enjoy currently.

Hopefully increased tourist flow will see increased flights and ferries etc. And finally there will be increased jobs and increased income for Savusavu Town. For a cruiser it will be an exciting time to visit Savusavu and Fiji.

WARNING: Savusavu is a special place, it’s easy to want to retire here and swallow the anchor!!
The Point Passage light lies on the INSIDE of the reef, about 50 meters east of the actual end of the reef. Chart legends show it as being a lighthouse, in truth it is more on the lines of a light standard sticking up on the reef. It is mostly, but not always, lit.

The reefs on the west side of Point Passage only break with a West to Southwest swell. In other words, although the reef passage is almost a nautical mile wide, there is such a thing as too much caution in leaving a wide berth to the light. Charts/GPS’s are accurate here to Savusavu Town.

From the Point Passage light, you cannot see Savusavu, but you will see the Copra Mill in Balaga Bay in the distance, continue down the coast but be aware there are Pearl Farm buoys between Point Passage and Savusavu at night you will see a major glow of the town as you get closer. After sailing 3 miles from Point Passage call the relative Marina you wish to arrange “International Checkins” with on VHF 16.

Nakama Creek is the Mooring and Berthing area for Savusavu, it’s entrance is between the large concrete Ferry Ship Wharf and Nawi Island. Do not anchor out from the Wharf as ferries come and go day and night.

MSAF-Maritime Safety Auth Fiji have installed Lateral Navigation Markers for the “new Nakama Channel”, Port Hand - Red with blinking light and Starboard Hand Green blinking light, on the MSAF Markers there are a “NO WAKE” notices.
Things to See & Do in Savusavu

**Daku Resort** offers a wide choice of things to do throughout the year. The resort is located about a mile from the harbour - an easy 25 min walk or a F$4 cab ride which takes 5 minutes. Non Residents are welcome to join in, but must must pay for and participate in the whole course of your choice. ALL SKILLS WELCOME!

**Watercolours outside the Square**
with Charles Sluga
18 – 25 July 2020
Charles Sluga's workshops explore the world – not just the world of watercolours, but the world around him. This workshop celebrates the tropical landscapes of Fiji and the warm hospitality of the people of Savusavu.

**KokoMana Chocolate Farm & Factory**
KokoMana Farm & Chocolate Factory offers a unique chocolate experience with its tours taking you from 'tree to bar'. Owners Richard Markham and Anne Moorhead have created a fascinating experience, starting with a walk through carefully selected cocoa varieties growing in the forest plantation, and finishing with their hand-made fine-flavour chocolate. Anne travelled to South America to learn the finer techniques of chocolate making, and now produces a range of delicious dark chocolate flavours. They explain the principles behind agroforestry, which encourages biodiversity within a sustainable farming system – as evidence you'll see and hear many native birds, insects and more. Tours end with a tasting and the opportunity to buy chocolate. KokoMana Farm & Chocolate Factory is just 2km from town, in the forest behind Daku Resort.

**Nadamole Healing Pools**
The village of Nadamole, 5 km on the road west out of Savusavu, has opened itself up to visitors, offering a bath in its healing pools of Naseruseru. The river runs down the mountainside into a glorious pool of refreshing water, deep enough to jump into from the rocks. The belief is that only the pool has the healing quality – the river above it is just ordinary water. The villagers give you a rousing welcome – you can come just for the pools, or if there's a group of you they will put on a full meke (traditional dance) and kava ceremony. You can also hike up the mountain path beside the river. Well worth a morning or afternoon. Call Inoke on 976 6016.

**Liquidstate Freediving**
Tobi Bernhard and Neelam Ratan will take you into a glorious other-worldly realm of freediving – diving down into the ocean on a single breath with no specialist gear. Whether you are a snorkeler wanting to spend more time at depth or an advanced freediver wanting to increase breath-hold time and depth; whether you are a spearfisherman wanting access to bigger targets deeper down or a surfer who wants more breath-hold confidence to tackle bigger waves; whether you are interested in the meditative and relaxation aspects of apnea and pranayama yoga or you are a gas guzzling scuba diver wanting to improve air consumption and become a safer scuba diver – the promise from Liquidstate Freediving is of helping you to unlock your body's potential to dive on one breath. Freediving is not an extreme sport and is extremely safe to learn and practice following AIDA standards. Contact: liquidstatefreediving@gmail.com

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**Pop Art**
with Dale Leach
19 – 26 Sept 2020
Dale Leach's course in Pop Art is a lively, absorbing foray into a whole new way of capturing images. The final result is deceptively simple, and Dale will guide you through the techniques of constructing those bright, focused paintings that leap out of the canvas and tease the imagination.

**Nurture and Nourish Body and Mind**
with Gabrielle Boswell
18 – 25 July 2020
Gabrielle's Yoga in Fiji week is paced to offer a gentle, meditative practice that allows you the opportunity to sink deeper into the asanas and gain a thorough awareness of your body's needs.

Visit: www.dakuresort.com and find something that you've always wanted to have a go at.
The Copra Shed Marina

16° 46’ 7” South | 179° 20’ 0” East

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

Facts & Figures

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

Safety

The Nakama Creek is well sheltered from strong weather.

Visitor Attractions

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

The Captains Table is located on the waterfront of the marina and offers a wonderful wine and dine experience.
Services & Facilities at a Glance

The Copra Shed is also home to the Savusavu Yacht Club Bar that provides delicious cold draft beer and a fine selection of wines and spirits. Overseas visitors can become temporary members of the club upon payment of a small fee. The Club hosts various sailing regattas throughout the year including Optimist sailing events for the kids and some Laser sailing. Merlin Trailer Sailers are also greatly enjoyed by some of the club members.

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

Services & Facilities
The Copra Shed Marina will arrange for Border Control agents to board and clear your yacht. Repair and maintenance services such as sail repair, refrigeration and electrical works can be arranged upon request.
Jerry cans can be filled with water at the dinghy pontoon while water in large quantities is available at a designated dock for FJ$5 a fill.
Any mail you have sent to the Copra Shed mailbox can be collected from the marina office. Wi-Fi internet is also available.

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

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

Waitui Marina
Waitui Marina is the first marina after passing the main large concrete ferry wharf when entering Nakama Creek. They provide a boat and boatman to meet and greet on arrival from off shore and will bring the authorities out to your yacht. This marina has no berths but has 24 genuine single pin American made Heliz screw moorings. 12 are available for the cyclone season. In the Waitui building there is the marina office, a DHL Courier Office, a laundry, café, frozen meat & fish shop and the Waitui Club.

PO Box 465, Savusavu, Fiji
T: +679 885 3057 | AH: +679 835 3913
waituimarinafiji@gmail.com
VHF Channel 16

Savusavu Marina & Boatyard
Savusavu Marina & Boatyard is at at the far end of Nakama Creek. They are very popular as they have 20 Cyclone Moorings all have 4 meter - triple pin heli-coil screws that are exceptionally well maintained. In addition there are 8 berths on their pontoon with limited water and power. Ashore there is the marina office, a toilet, shower, kitchen, freezer and a washing machine that clients can use. There is an engineering workshop on the property.

PO Box 186, Savusavu, Fiji Islands
T: +679 885 343 | F: +679 885 422
savumari@connect.com.fj
kilowen@connect.com.fj
VHF Channel 16
Paradise offers 6 FREE moorings and FREE anchorage for more vessels along a sandy bottom. Welcomed as our Guest, enjoy the Resort facilities - swimming pool, Cocktail Bar and Oceanfront Restaurant. Don't miss our cultural evenings - Fiji Night, Bula Night and Indian Night! Paradise provides laundry service, organic farm produce, homemade bread, gift shop, fuel, taxi service, guided tours of the island and 20% discount on all Scuba Dives for Cruising Guests.

P: +679 999 0125 • info@ParadiseinFiji.com • www.ParadiseinFiji.com • Marine Radio Channel 16

Taveuni is famous for its spectacular waterfalls, varied bird watching, and world-class dive sites. Here you will need a dive guide as the correct tide and current is essential to see the 'Rainbow Reef' and the white coral flowers open on the sheer 'Great White Wall'. Good anchorage areas close to the Rainbow Reef dive sites are Viani and Vatudamu bays.

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

While in the area, you should spend some time exploring. Be sure to include a visit to the two islands in Fiji that are populated by displaced South Sea Islanders, namely Rabi and Kioa.
Rabi (Rambi) where you can meet the inhabitants who are displaced Banabans from Ocean Island, in Micronesia. Phosphate mining devastated Ocean Island, so the British bought Rabi for resettlement. Though Fiji citizens since 1945, they still speak in their native tongue - Gilbertese, and their lifestyle preserves age-old traditions. Their dancing is very unlike Fijian dancing; more Polynesian in style and very stimulating! The sailing canoes still in use are a pretty sight.

Catherine Bay in the south is a very good anchorage. The wharf has been completely destroyed by cyclone Winston but a dinghy can safely land on the beach nearby. Be sure to visit the local elder who lives close by to ask permission to visit the village. There is no sevusevu but he is charming and only wants to know where you are from and have a chat. The Methodist church is huge and used for all sorts of important venues. They have a serious brass band in the village and the Rabi dancers sometimes perform here.

Nuka on the western side is the main village where you can enquire about the dancers and Is the home of Important venues. They have a serious brass band in the village and the Rabi dancers sometimes perform here.

A recent village visit in 2019 showed a stark contrast with previous visits. The village was immaculate. The houses; the rara and druas were well presented and the villagers forthcoming. We had a great time and it proved to be one of the great revisits.

To the south of Kioa is ‘Sau Bay Fiji Retreat. An Eco Resort’ run by fifth generation locals Nigel and Carol Douglas; the anchorage is good, especially for larger yachts and Nigel is the best guide for diving this area. He has piloted and led dives on many visiting super-yachts. However, please do get permission to land from the owners. They are a wealth of information on anything in these northern islands.

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

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

The Waitavala water slide which is a great hit with kids and adults is accessed from Waiyevo.

Superyachts that wish to check their guests into the resort or the beaches is strictly not permitted but Superyachts that wish to check their guests into the resort and have made arrangements may anchor off to the side in protected waters.

The Taveuni area has several good anchorages. Depending on the wind direction Catherine Bay; Buca Bay, Vanua Levu; Niviivi Bay; Gamea; Lali Bay, Gamea; all have good holding.

WEATHER
Taveuni is called the garden isle so does have its fair share of rainfall in the wet season around November to March. Tradewinds blow as usual and are stronger between June and August. Once in the lee of Taveuni you do have protection from the swells. The current in somosomo straits between Taveuni and Vanua Levu can be strong at times when you have wind against tide.

NORTHERN VANUA LEVU

The channel along the Northern Vanua Levu coastline is deep and wide.

It is really beautiful and rarely visited by yachts. There are some lovely spots including Kia island; Nukubati island private resort and many great river trips. Great for Kite surfing and fishing the northern reefs.

The Labasa river can be a navigational experience at low tide but a fun day out in the busy colorful town with great markets and curry shops.
Although the Rainbow Reef is one of the last large pristine and intact reef systems in the world, the amount, sizes and variety of fish in the adjacent Viani Bay decreased over the decades. However, most families rely on fishing in the bay to feed their families – a vicious circle that gets resolved through a joint effort with Dive Academy Fiji.

Dive Academy Fiji started their dive resort in 2017 with marine conservation being a major driver of the venture. First initiatives include volunteer teaching at the school, cleanups, taking locals for discovery dives and simply talking to the community about the marine eco-system at their doorstep.

However, for the health of the ocean and an increased amount of fish for the locals, a next level is needed: A coral farm is the ideal instrument to re-grow the reef, provide a nursery for fish and thus benefit the whole eco-system in the bay and on the Rainbow Reef. Clean shores, where no waste is washed into the ocean - hence the cleanup activities – plus a no-fishing zone in the coral farm area are a prerequisite.

After he participated in a Coral Farming course with Reef Explorer Fiji in Sigatoka in late 2018, Jone Waitaiti from Dive Academy, identified Tivi, a small uninhabited island in the bay as the ideal location for the nursery. Although part of the reef is dead, one side of the island features a healthy variety of hard corals, is shallow and gets enough water movement for baby corals to grow. Victor Bonito from Reef Explorer identified over 100 different species of hard corals off the shore in front of Viani Bay Resort and on Tivi Island, some very rare ones and species that can sustain higher water temperatures. A reassuring finding and ideal starting point for the project.

It was instrumental that Jone is a local, thus able to explain the long-term benefits of a no-take-zone and knowing the traditional ways to get approval. With the support of Jone Paulo, the area Headman, Tivi Island was declared a local MPA and the first two nurseries, or "coral hammocks" were setup in July and September 2019.

The two nurseries at the Tivi MPA are a 100% success: "All the corals on the nurseries are growing, the amount of fish around Tivi and in the whole bay already increased. Soon we will see larger sizes of fish as well", states Jone Waitaiti. "We plan to set up additional nurseries and replant the corals around the bay." Dive Academy also wants to setup moorings in Viani Bay, not only for the convenience of the yachts, but also to protect the newly planted corals, once propagated.
Join & Support Coral Farming in Viani Bay

- Take a guided tour and join in planting or maintaining the nurseries: FJ$30*
- Buy a Rainbow Reef Coral Farm T-Shirt: FJ$30*
- The MPA may only be visited with a guide from Dive Academy Fiji.
- This includes anchoring/tying a launch, swimming, snorkeling, diving and kayaking.
- To protect the reefs please:
  - avoid breaking corals while swimming, snorkeling or anchoring
  - use reef-protective sunscreen
  - do not throw any rubbish in the ocean
  - bring organic waste to the local pigs
  - we take your rubbish bags to Taveuni for FJ$10* per bag

* The fees are used for further investment; direct costs are covered by Dive Academy, donations welcome

CONTACT: Dive Academy Fiji
T: 7258167 or 7258184
E: info@diveacademyfiji.com
FB: Rainbow Reef Coral Farm or Dive Academy Fiji

www.diveacademyfiji.com

While Dive Academy provides the boat rides and material, locals are volunteering in setting up and maintaining the nurseries. Resort guests and yachties who anchor in the bay can support the initiative by visiting the farm or actively participate in planting corals or cleaning the nurseries. One of the supporters donated T-Shirts with the Rainbow Reef Coral Farm logo to resell. "As a start-up, we rely on funding to expand our marine conservation projects. We therefore charge a small fee for the coral farm activities and are grateful for any additional support", says Marina Walser, Dive Academy Fiji.
As individuals or as groups we have the ability to help save reefs. 10 years ago some die hard volunteers and I started working on developing sustainable techniques through trial and error and a fair amount of error to create an elegant and simple solution. It is not only sustainable but affordable.

The simplest method that anyone can do is when they see a live broken coral fragment while they are snorkeling is pick it up and fit it snugly into an existing hole in the coral substrate. In a month it will calcify and take root and grow. It is wise to wear gloves.

However if confronted with a huge area that was at least a square kilometer as we were, a coral gardener needs to get proactive and creative. Skeptics would like to believe it is all nature. Nature plays a huge part but it requires a helpful nudge from people to start it up.

Scientists have discovered that corals put out signals to corals floating in plankton indicating that this is a good place to live. If there are no corals or limited signals, they will keep floating in the current until they get a good signal. This concept was made apparent to us when we decided not to plant in one area that 10 years later has very little growth.

For the sake of continuity I have tried to have pictures of the evolution of the reef in the same area. That evolution is throughout the whole reef system with at least a hundred photos showing the progress.

Rather than discussing our learning curve, let’s go straight to the simple elegant solution of hanging corals on ropes. It has been field tested for the last 7 years with spectacular results of turning a large area that was rubble due to cyclone surf, COT invasions, and bleaching into beautiful, thriving reefs. All funding for it came out of my slender pockets, so it is affordable and sustainable.

Above: From the surface the layout of buoys that support the mother line. Our project was 17 buoys long. A: This photo is sample section of the reef in November 2013 that was wiped out by storm surf.

Before you set the mother line.
1. Check to see how the currents are running to assess the widest seed area possible.
2. Determine the best location according to water temperatures and topography.
3. The ideal growth and temperature range is between 3 meters and maximum of 7 meters, depending on water temperatures. The depth area for the anchors to be at least 10 meters deep so the corals can be adjusted to the perfect water temperatures by slackening off or tightening the buoy lines. The anchor line should have some slack to provide scope of tides and surf.
4. Study the area to see where small buds are trying to bloom instead of deciding where a new reef would be nice. I have learned from that mistake and didn’t observe the new natural evolution of the reef and tried to replace the areas where the reefs were destroyed. I paid dearly during the next CAT 5 cyclone, which is always followed by a COT invasion.
5. Mother ropes are laid horizontal to the shore to get more seed coverage. The currents run east to west and the tides run in and out. In the process choose an area that has barren drop offs whenever possible.

Necessary Equipment
1. Long line fishing line or similar gauge with knots about 2ft. to a meter apart. We used rope because it is easier to handle, but more costly.
2. Buoys.
3. Smaller gauge rope or you can use heavy gauge fishing line and put place knots in it.
4. Bags of cement to create large anchor block points for the main line. Dig a hole in the sand, pour the cement into the hole and bend some rebar into a horse shoe shape so you can attach the mother line. Depending on the size you will need some volunteers in the water to assist at least two strong divers to coordinate instructions between the divers and the boat for the placement of the anchor blocks.

A: We started with frags that were half the size of our thumb or a baby finger for the branching corals in mid 2014.

Planting the Corals
STEP 1: Gather your coral frags and segregate the various species into long water tight containers filled with sea water. Don’t get more frags then your team can string in a day and set up on the mother line.

B: Same sample section in 2017 and C in 2019.
shore, providing a huge seed area. Every year in line with currents running horizontally to the incoming and outgoing tides with the shore and way of laying out your project is in line with the had a couple of years of spawning. The clever f: illustrates how you want to lay out your corals. e: By 2016 they looked like this. This photo also on the same auxiliary ropes. species. Try to keep compatible or same species depending on the species of coral and growth rate and optimal growing depth for particular species. Try to keep compatible or same species on the same auxiliary ropes. E: By 2016 they looked like this. This photo also illustrates how you want to lay out your corals. F: Here they are above in 2018. By now they have had a couple of years of spawning. The clever way of laying out your project is in line with the incoming and outgoing tides with the shore and in line with currents running horizontally to the shore, providing a huge seed area. Every year they seed during the birth of the reef and hear lots of signals. The beauty is with each birth you have varying years of growth from buds to mature corals. The buds will withstand storm surf. The ropes will survive storm surf because they are free swinging on the ropes enabling them to go with the surge. It is wise to place your mother line outside of the line of storm surf. G: By 2019 they looked like this and the weight of them were breaking the ropes. SO we quickly removed some of the larger ones and put them on rope frames to secure on the bottom. The downside of that is it was flimsy and although it held together it took a lot of effort to transport it to the bottom. H: Pictured is Scott Putnam who has been an invaluable volunteer throughout this whole project. We knew that in September of 2019 we would moved onto an artificial reef in a safe area while they continue to spawn. Benefits: The personal benefits of helping nature to grow a reef are awe-inspiring. One can’t measure the shear happiness of watching a reef evolve from rubble. The ones planted in the wild are rooting and putting out signals, fish are moving in, often a minute after you plant the frag. Any fish in the area are lined up with rent checks to move in. The rope corals are sending out seedlings and signals. The dynamic is set in motion. Before you know it the whole area is jam packed with corals. It is great exercise, not only while you are planting, but also while you are checking on the reef. One can’t help but smile because your heart is filled with joy, passion and incredulity. From an altruistic standpoint by nudging this beautiful evolution into motion, you have done something wonderful for the planet. It doesn’t get better than that. You end up with reefs that look picture (L). If you would like to experience our beautiful reefs or help with our coral gardening project visit us at Makaira resort in Taveuni. If you would to like to create of help a reef anywhere in the tropics any of the methods mentioned above will work.
BEING A RESPONSIBLE DIVER

It is important to support operations that care passionately about our precious underwater environment. Divers are some of the strongest and most effective advocates for coral reef conservation. As a responsible diver, consider our comprehensive list below when choosing which operator to dive with.

- **Seeks Local Perspectives in Planning**
- **Hires Local Dive Guides & Masters**
- **Uses Moorings Instead of Anchoring**
- **Participates in Local Conservation Projects**
- **Respects Local Guidelines, Laws, Regulations & Customs**
- **Actively Supports Local Marine Parks**
- **Offers Pre-Dive Talks by Knowledgeable Dive Masters That Educate and Reinforce Rules for Divers Such As:**
  - Maintaining neutral buoyancy;
  - Maintaining control of fins, gauges, and accessories;
  - No touching, standing on, or collecting corals and;
  - No feeding or handling fish and other living organisms.

WHAT YOU CAN DO

IN THE WATER: It is not just the responsibility of the dive operator to take care of our reefs, there are some best practice guidelines to help you make sure you have a safe and enjoyable, yet environmentally aware experience on our beautiful reefs.

- **Never Touch Corals:** Even slight contact can harm them. Some corals can sting or cut you.
- **Make Sure** equipment is well-secured. Remain neutrally buoyant at all times.
- **Carefully Select** points of entry and exit to avoid walking on corals.
- **Take Care** in underwater caves. Remain only for a limited time, air bubbles can cause damage.
- **Maintain** a comfortable distance from the reef so as to avoid contact.
- **Practice Good** finning and body control to avoid accidental contact with the reef or stirring up the sediment.
- **Do Not** remove anything living or dead out of the water except recent trash that does not have living organisms on, or inside it.
- **Never Stand or Rest on Corals. Stay off the Bottom. Avoid Using Gloves in Coral Environments.**
- **Move Slowly** and deliberately. Remember, look but don’t touch.
- **Minimize Contact with Marine Life:** Never chase, harass or try to ride marine life. Never touch or handle marine life.

Also verifies the proficiency of dive guests before allowing them to dive at fragile or tricky sites; has well-maintained engines to avoid release of petroleum products into the ocean; Disposes of sewage in a way that does not affect the nutrient balance of the reef ecosystem.

Encourages the purchase of authentic art and crafts made by locals and other products that benefit the local economy.

DISAPPEARS THE PURCHASE OF SOUVENIRS MADE FROM THREATENED WILDLIFE
Every snorkeller experienced these moments, when they want to dive down only a little bit longer or deeper to follow that turtle, swim next to the manta ray or take a closer look at these beautiful corals beneath them. When scuba diving isn’t an option and snorkelling doesn’t get you to where you want, freediving offers the perfect solution.

It’s a common misconception that freediving is all about depth and records. Of course, these make it into the news, but freediving is much more about emotions, peace of mind and the freedom to get closer to marine life on just one breath, without gear, without fear. As Umberto Pelizzari, one of the pioneers in freediving puts it: „The scuba diver dives to look around. The freediver dives to look inside.‟

Two days of professional training are well invested to boost self-confidence and equip the freedivers with all they need to safely enjoy this bubble-free adventure. „Most students double or triple their breath-holding time in the

Relax, take a deep breath, sink down into the ocean and be mesmerised by the colours and vibrance of the world beneath the surface. It’s just you and the ocean.

By Marina Walser
first day of the course, ” says Jone Waitaiti, PADI Advanced Freediving Instructor at Dive Academy Fiji. “By also improving the techniques to dive down and swim under water, this is an eye-opening experience.” Bernhard, one of his recent student smiles, “As a side-effect you can take better pictures than during snorkeling”, and proudly shows the picture of a seahorse he found in five meters depth. During the PADI Freediver course the students practice static and dynamic apnea, free immersion, constant weight freediving as well as safety principles. Techniques on how to immerse effortlessly, efficiently use fins and position the body in the water lead to increased distance and depth. Jone, who went freediving in the ocean since he was a child, also explains the benefits of special freediving equipment and the students can practice with it. Breathing, stretching and meditation exercises that are closely related to yoga enable the freediver to focus on the inside and extend the breath holding time. “It’s the unique combination of mental and physical work that creates the fascination of freediving and makes it an increasingly popular activity. If you struggle to meditate, try freediving.” states Marina Walser, who trains the relaxation and breathing techniques with the freediver students at Dive Academy. “We went to the Rainbow Reef for our deep dives. In clear water with a colourful reef, even seeing some sharks, makes the training so much easier and fun”, says Marcel another of Jone’s students. After course completion, Dive Academy Fiji offers to practice the skills while spearfishing and have a Fijian style beach BBQ of the catch. “No worries, they point out which fish are allowed to be caught and one of the local spearfishermen will come along and ensure you don’t stay hungry,” adds Bernhard.

Freediving FAQs

1. Is freediving the same as snorkeling?
Snorkeling is primarily a surface activity with maybe a few dives down, where the snorkelers observe the reef below them. In Freediving the objective is to maximise the time under water on one breath. You get closer to marine life and stay longer.

2. Why not just scuba dive instead of freediving?
Scuba diving is not for everyone, equipment might not be available, or it is simply not allowed to scuba dive, which is the case at many areas where manta rays, whale sharks or whales are around. Freedivers get closer to marine animals who don’t like the noise and the bubbles of scuba divers.

3. Why take a course and not only practice on your own?
The snorkeler, being on the surface, breathes through the snorkel most of the time, while the freediver tries to maximise the amount of air inhaled before immersion and minimise the amount of oxygen used while being under water. Thus, techniques, and preparation are vital to stay safe during freediving. A professional instructor demonstrates and assesses the skills and helps the students to improve these. He also ensures safety and accompanies the students during the deep dives. After the course, the freediver is equipped with the knowledge and techniques to further train and expand the skills – with a qualified buddy.

4. Do you need special equipment?
Mask, fins and snorkel are all that are required. During the course, students also wear a weight belt and weights to be neutrally buoyant when exhaling at the surface. For protection against the sun or from getting cold, an exposure or wetsuit are recommended. A dive watch or computer with freediving mode are helpful to monitor and control the activity. Special freediving equipment like masks with smaller volumes or longer fins help to further improve the freediving skills. During the course the students learn what to look for with their equipment.

5. How long does it take to do the PADI Freediver course and what are the times and depths?
The practical part of the PADI Freediver Course is spread over two days with one confined and two open water sessions. The course approach is based on the progress of the students, so that the freedivers can slowly expand their limits. The goal of the PADI Freediver Course is to hold the breaths for 90 seconds, dive a distance of 25 meters and go down to 10 meters. 16 meters is the maximum depth for the PADI Freediver. PADI Advanced Freedivers go to 2.5 minutes static, 50 meters dynamic apnea and up to 20 meters depth. Students complete their theory using the PADI eLearning App. The app already includes the content for the Advanced and Master Freediving Courses.
The remote eastern group of islands, the Lau group, have to be one of the best cruising destinations of all time and are certainly one of the highlights in a world cruise! It used to be more difficult to visit the Lau Group due to restrictive permit requirements, however you will find it easy today as permission to cruise Lau is included in your government issued permit for the entire area of Fiji Waters.

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

Vanuabalavu and Lakeba have the only airports in Lau and both are serviced by domestic carrier Fiji Link, with intermittent flights to these islands. There are airstrips on Cicia and Moala too – again Fiji Link runs a schedule to Cicia while Northern Air services Moala. These flights are subject to change. Charter flights can land at all these airstrips. Cargo ships, with passengers, visit some islands roughly monthly (in theory), but this is unreliable. Due to this infrequency, the local stores are often in low supply, so do not rely on buying any of your supplies here. In 2019 we discovered that some islands are serviced every two weeks?? Unheard of!

Changeover of guests; provisioning; etc usually rely on Pacific Island Air charter flights with their larger seaplanes covering the more remote areas.

Both Northern and Southern Lau are very remote areas away from any tourist track. There is absolutely no shopping, nightclubs, stores, or resorts! However, there is excellent fishing, great diving, rich cultural experiences and beautiful scenery. The Fijians of this region follow a subsistence lifestyle that is not greatly changed from that of their ancestors. Unlike on the large islands there are few people of other races, and only rarely has land been sold out of indigenous ownership. It is very important that visitors respect the traditions that underlie daily life, as careless or disrespectful behavior can lead to animosity, and damage to the fragile ecosystem. Please keep this in mind while cruising here.

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

Premix petrol (and diesel) is rarely available in the larger villages. While most islands have a telephone at the post office, internet is rarely available. Although Vanuabalavu does have a Vodafone and Digicel tower now. Since our recent cruise in 2019 we discovered that there really is no wifi in Southern Lau. The odd school will offer a connection for emails but we basically were 3 weeks without internet!

Digicel is up and coming and generally offers better coverage in Lau.

iQoliqoli

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

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

If your yacht is berthed within one of the iQoliqoli jurisdictions (apart from a marina), you will need to present your sevusevu to the village and ask for permission to anchor or fish there.
How to get there.

Before stopping in Lau, you will first need to report to a Port of Entry. Any boat found to have arrived into Fiji is likely to be in serious trouble. Please refer to the WHITE section in the back of this guide that details all the information you will require. As of 2019 we were asked by every island for the cruising permit. Most islands are a little confused as to the terminology but once we introduced the cruising permit, they were happy. If you don’t have one then you obviously haven’t cleared customs and the sky will fall on your head!

If you are arriving into Fiji from the East perhaps consider entering in Savusavu which is a Port of Entry on the southern coast of Vanua Levu. From here it is only a 40 nm sail to windward into the lee of Taveuni and thus much closer to Northern Lau and a nice reach south to southern Lau. Visit the fabulous Wailigilala Atoll 40 nm to the East of Matagi Island, its then a beam wind to Vunaabalavu. From Nadi it’s a 240 nm mile passage back to Vunaabalavu or from Suva 180 nm against the prevailing winds to get to Northern Lau – however, you will not regret the effort once you arrive!

Our usual route however for relocation from Nadi towards Lau is in from the inside route N Viti levu then down Vatuia channel and up to Taveuni leaving Makaogai to starboard and Namena to port. If you have guests on board that would prefer not to make the windward passage, or your ship is constrained by a time factor, there are daily flights from Nadi to Taveuni or Savusavu, or special charters flights can be arranged on seaplane, helicopter or fixed wing to most areas.

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

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

How to get there.

Left: Children and making masi in Oneata. Photo: Carol Dunlop

There are small grass airstrips at Lomaloma, on the island of Vanua Balavu, and on Lakeba as mentioned before, but these are not always accessible if the weather is difficult.

Islands with good anchorages

Vanua Balavu

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

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

The Bay of Islands are under the village Daliconi so its good to present your sevusevu to that village on the west coast just south east of Adavaci Island. Adavaci Island is privately owned and a caretaker is in residence. A great calm anchorage can be found in the fjord-like harbour at Nabavatu. On some chart plotters it is called soso which can be confusing, it is very secure and can accommodate a few dozen yachts. Here you will find the Nabavatu Plantation, which almost completely surrounds the harbour and offers lovely walks and spectacular scenic views including westward over the Bay of Islands.

The owners Greg and Jean Lawlor are usually in residence and prefer that you don’t enter their private residence compound close to the small village on top of the hill. With the huge increase in the numbers of yachts now cruising Lau their very private lifestyle is being somewhat invaded! Please be aware that It is a working plantation so please leave gates as you find them.

Cyclone Winston caused phenomenal damage to the Yacht Club and the whole of the plantation and it is yet to be re-built. The leaves are back on the trees and so to all visitors the magical place looks picture perfect.

Susui

The southern end of Vanua Balavu has an area similar to the Bay of Islands in the North. Many limestone Islets and a lovely village still rebuilding after Cyclone Winston. Do visit the village to make a sevusevu and to see the school. If you are anchored away from the village the elders will approach your yacht and request that you make sevusevu.

There are some great landlocked anchorages around this area. About 150 feet on entrances and beautifully calm inside.

Lakeba

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

This roughly circular volcanic island, about 6 miles across, is the political centre of Lau, indeed Lakeba, and Bau (on Viti Levu), were the two poles of power in traditional Fiji, and the tombs of several of the great leaders of Fiji are revered on the main village of Tubou’s waterfront. The channel through the reef off Tubou is very narrow (20m wide), is only roughly marked and very challenging.

Leading about half a mile inside the reef, the channel leads to a long jetty and past this to a narrow anchoring basin...
about 6m deep on sand. With care there could be room for two small cruising yachts, but only using great skill, good anchors and co-operation. The anchorage is calm, but difficult. It is recommended to take a dinghy ride in before entering with the yacht, and to enter only at slack water as currents are strong. Not really recommended for any sizable super yacht; the pass is considered very dangerous at times.

The ship can lie off outside the reef at Tubou while the tender can be used to pick up and drop off guests via the dock and then to the small airport on the island off guests via the dock and then can be used to pick up and drop reef at Tubou while the tender considered very dangerous at

**Fulaga (Vulaga)**

South again to Fulaga, this island consists of an oval rim of jungle-covered hills of raised coral, around a lagoon about 6 miles by 5 miles where the small sailing canoes (Waka) are still seen today. There is one 50m-wide pass into the lagoon, straight but challenging - and dangerous in bad weather or strong tides. Inside the lagoon are countless mushroom islets and some larger islands dotted with rare palms, countless anchorage over white sand, usually <10m deep. At least one anchorage could be considered hurricane shelter for a small boat. The pass is difficult, but can accommodate at least a 35m vessel with a draft of 3m. This cannot be attempted with a strong current running and the usual time to enter this pass is on slack water, which is usually at half tide.

**Ogea Island**

This is a really lovely island. The main island Ogea has a lovely protected anchorage on the western side. The pass is deep and uncomplicated and suitable for large vessels. The diving in the outer pass is spectacular. Fishing outside is productive, and the chief was pleased when we gave the village a huge saqa. At our sevusevu we asked permission to fish which is a must.

A tender tour at HW will take you through a myriad of islets leading you through from the west to the centre of the island where the village stands. A village visit has to be made just before HW in order to land on the waterfront. The chief is charming; the school put on a very special meke for us. We took school supplies. The village was engaged in making wood carvings and especially tanos made of the hard wood vesi.

Ogea Driki is also a great anchor spot with a small but lovely beach. In comparison to Fulaga this island has a lot going for it.

**Kabara Island**

Just NW of Fulaga lies the island of Kabara which is famous for its handicrafts and carvings. They are especially renowned for the huge kava bowls that are sent to Suva to be sold. Anchorage is found off the village on the NW side. In order to avoid the bommies close to the shore anchorage is in about 80 ft. The main village Naikelayaga is full of lovely trees and breadfruit with plenty of shade to walk around to see the church, handicraft market, and the school, post office and medical Centre, which serves more than 400 people from the four villages on the island.

Many carved handicrafts are available; although the island is being stripped of the vesi trees which take up to 80 years to grow. Vuaqava Island close by has been uninhabited since it suffered a cholera outbreak in the 1860s; when the sick were dragged into caves and left
carried out here. Anchorage and your sevusevu needs to be the principal village of the island Naikeleyaga, situated at the NE end is onto the leads bearing 189T. The island on this alignment turn 0.7nm off the Northern part of Roadstead) or approximately an open roadstead (Herald Point bearing 167T leads to the pass into the lagoon. NE of 080T which leads you through line up Double Hill on a bearing barrier reef encircles the island, 468m high in the NW part. A the summit of ‘Delai Moala’ is
The island is of volcanic origin; conditions.
these islands are reputed to be
comprised of three islands - Moala, Totoya and Matuku. All to visit this island and cannot be
given by the village. A run with the wind into the Yasasa Moala Group overnight is good with the usual prevailing easterly quadrant winds. The group is inside the pass on the western
eastern wind into the Yasyasa Moala side in Herald sound.

Moala
The island is of volcanic origin; the summit of ‘Delai Moala’ is 468m high in the NW part. A barrier reef encircles the island, line up Double Hill on a bearing of 080T which leads you through the pass into the lagoon. NE Point bearing 167T leads to an open roadstead (Herald Roadstead) or approximately 0.7nm off the Northern part of the island on this alignment turn onto the leads bearing 189T.
Naikeleyaga, situated at the NE end is the principal village of the island and your sevusevu needs to be carried out here. Anchorage can be found to the west of Observatory rocks. Its quite a walk from the dinghy landing to the west of the village through to the school and to make the sevusevu so not ideal in the midday sun! Another anchorage is via Daveta-i-Cakova. There are several other anchorages around the island but these are best in normal prevailing easterlies. There is an airstrip on the island.

Totoya
The island is about 5 miles wide, being the rim of a volcano with the crater open to the south, and a barrier reef around most coasts. The crater is accessible through a clear pass on the west side, and by a passage inside the reef. Anchorage in the crater is far from ideal, and very deep (20m+). Anchorage on the N coast is possible, open but calm in S winds. The usual anchorage is inside the pass on the western side, to the north of the main channel (17m over sand), or south of the main channel, amongst coral (6m over sand). There are more marginal anchorages inside some narrow passes on other coasts. Seven villages are spread around the coasts, with total population about 800. No airport, only occasional shipping and yachts (mostly surf and dive charters). The main village is Yaroi, on the NW coast, with a clinic and school. Anchorage is possible off another delightful village, Makadru, south of the pass.
Over the past few years Matuku and to a lesser extent Moala and Totoya have been explored for excellent surfing opportunities. You would be sure to have a clear go at the breaks!

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

Sevusevu
To the south of Yanuabalavu and into Southern Lau it seems that every visit has to be preceded by a sevusevu the presentation of yagona correctly bundled. This is a very expensive commodity now in Fiji but is an essential part of visiting these remote islands. School books; reading books; medical supplies are greatly valued. As is the odd rugby ball! You will be asked for your cruising permit when you go ashore so it pays to make a bunch of photocopies and keep the original on the boat.

Moala, Totoya and Matuku. All islands are reputed to be comprised of three islands - Moala, Totoya and Matuku. All islands are reputed to be comprised of three islands - Moala, Totoya and Matuku.

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

Sevusevu
To the south of Yanuabalavu and into Southern Lau it seems that every visit has to be preceded by a sevusevu the presentation of yagona correctly bundled. This is a very expensive commodity now in Fiji but is an essential part of visiting these remote islands. School books; reading books; medical supplies are greatly valued. As is the odd rugby ball! You will be asked for your cruising permit when you go ashore so it pays to make a bunch of photocopies and keep the original on the boat.

Moala, Totoya and Matuku. All islands are reputed to be comprised of three islands - Moala, Totoya and Matuku. All islands are reputed to be comprised of three islands - Moala, Totoya and Matuku. All islands are reputed to be comprised of three islands - Moala, Totoya and Matuku.
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**SUVA – FIJI**

LAT 18° 8’ S        LONG 178° 25’ E

**TIMES & HEIGHTS OF HIGH & LOW WATERS**

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**Timetable Entries**

- **SUVA – FIJI**
- **LAT 18° 8’ S        LONG 178° 25’ E**
- **TIMES & HEIGHTS OF HIGH & LOW WATERS**
- **Local Time**
- **2020**

**Note:** Times are in local standard time (Time Zone UTC +12:00)
### SUVA - FIJI

#### LAT 18° 8’ LONG 178° 25’

**TIMES & HEIGHTS OF HIGH & LOW WATERS**

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#### Fijian time

**CUSTOMS LAW**

- A Mariners Guide to FIJI Shores & Marinas 2020
- Entering Fiji
- fjirv.com
- Suva Radio 3DP
- Health Quarantine for radio practise or physical boarding by Health officials, depending on each circumstance.
- The Ports of Entry, through which you must arrive, are located in Suva, Lautoka, Savusavu, Levuka and Rotuma. Vuda Marina now falls under the Lautoka Wharf Boundary and clearance can also be made here during scheduled hours (see inside back cover).

#### Fiji Revenue & Customs (FRCA)

**Required Documents:**
- Certificate of clearance from your previous port/country.
- Crew list, detailing passport numbers, nationalities and ages of all crew present.
- Yacht registration documents.
- Passports for all onboard, which must be valid for at least 3 months from date of departure from Fiji waters.
- Valid outward airline ticket if crew/passenger is disembarking at port of entry and leaving the country by air.

- Completed INWARD CLEARANCE DOCUMENTS; and
- Additional Alcohol/Tobacco and Medical Supplies Inventory (Super yachts only)
- A Cruising Permit is also required at Inward Clearance in order for Customs to issue a Coastal Clearance. The Cruising Permit can be arranged through your Agent or through Vuda Marina or The Copra Shed Marina (if clearing at these marinas) or apply yourself through iTaukei Affairs Board (refer page 169).
You will also be asked to complete and sign a "Notice to Owner of Yachts Declaration" before your inward clearance is granted. You will need to read and understand the contents of the Notice to Yacht Owners as any breach of any conditions may warrant heavy penalties.

5. If you are carrying any currency and its combined value is equivalent to FJ$10,000.00 you will be required to fill in the “Border Currency Report”.

Your entry into Fiji

Under Customs laws, visiting yachts may enter and can be kept temporarily in Fiji without payment of Customs duty on the yacht, provided:

• The yacht is the sole property of a bona fide tourist;
• The yacht is on a bona fide cruise or participating in a yacht race;
• The yacht is not abandoned in Fiji by Master/Owner; and
• The yacht shall remain in Fiji for a period not exceeding 18 months from date of arrival.

The yacht will become liable to duty if:

• It is used commercially whilst in Fiji waters (e.g. commercial charter or hired);
• The owner is associated in any way with any entity in Fiji as an employer either before or after arrival; or
• The yacht is not exported within 18 months of the date of arrival into Fiji, unless a customs extension has been approved.

Super Yacht Charters:

Super yachts that are not registered in Fiji but intend to run charters in Fiji's Water, are required to register their vessel with MSAF and operations with FRCA. As part of this process, MSAF will need to carry out an inspection of the vessel. This can be arranged directly or arranged through one of the registered super yacht agents. You will be expected to pay 12.5% of the charter fee to FRCA. You may refer to the Super Yacht Charter Decree 2010 for further information.

For more info email: yachtsreport@frca.org.fj

Yachts Duty

All crew and passengers above the age of 18 years will be allowed normal passenger landing duty free allowance of the following:

(i. 2.25 ltrs of Spirit, or
ii. 4.5 ltrs of Wine, or
iii. 4.5 ltrs of Beer, and
iv. 250 sticks of Cigarettes, or
v. 250g cigar, or
vi. 250g tobacco, or

(Any combination of the above provided that it does not exceed the equivalent quantity under liquor, wine, beer, cigarette, cigar and tobacco); AND

vii. A new, unused item valued at no more than FJ$1000.

Any excess to the above allowance will be subject to levy of import duty and VAT or goods being detained by Customs. Please note that sealing of stores onboard is not permitted.

Yacht Equipment

All equipment onboard or imported especially for the yacht will be duty free, provided they leave the country with the boat. This equipment is considered onboard a “yacht in transit” and should be labeled with the yacht’s name and Rotation Number, in addition to an address including a telephone number and the invoice must accompany the package. The parts will be delivered ‘under bond’ to the yacht by a Customs Officer and you will be required to pay for the Customs Officers return transport costs for this service. Be sure to keep records and receipts of any such delivery.

Prohibited Items

Firearms and Weapons

The importation of firearms and weapons is strictly controlled in Fiji. All firearms or weapons must be declared to the Customs Officer on arrival of the vessel from overseas.

Firearms onboard will be detained and placed for safekeeping by the Fiji Police who will hold them until the vessel’s departure.

Contraband Items

Please be aware that Fiji is vigilant in prosecuting those found with, drugs, pornographic material and other prohibited items.

COUNTRIES THAT DO NOT REQUIRE A VISA TO ENTER THE FIJI ISLANDS

- Antigua & Barbuda
- Argentina
- Australia
- Austria
- Bahamas
- Bangladesh
- Barbados
- Belgium
- Belize
- Bermuda
- Botswana
- Brazil
- Brunei
- Canada
- Chile
- Columbia
- Cyprus
- Darussalam
- Denmark
- Dominica
- Finland
- France
- Gambia
- Germany
- Ghana
- Greece
- Grenada
- Guyana
- Iceland
- India
- Indonesia
- Israel
- Italy
- Jamaica
- Japan
- Kenya
- Kiribati
- Lesotho
- Liechtenstein
- Luxembourg
- Malawi
- Malaysia
- Maldives
- Malta
- Marshall Islands
- Mauritius
- Mexico
- Micronesia
- Nauru
- Netherlands
- New Zealand
- Nigeria
- Norway
- Palau
- Paraguay
- Peru
- Philippines
- PNG
- Republic of Ireland
- St.Lucia
- St.Vincent
- Seychelles
- Singapore
- Solomon Islands
- South Africa
- Spain
- Swaziland
- Sweden
- Switzerland
- Taiwan
- Tanzania
- Thailand
- Tonga
- Trinidad & Tobago
- Turkey
- Tuvalu
- Uganda
- UK & N.Ireland
- United States of America
- Uruguay
- Vanuatu
- Venezuela
- Western Samoa
- Zambia
- Zimbabwe

Immigration Guidelines

Each person will be required to complete a passenger arrival card. You should note that the Customs officer boarding your vessel may also complete immigration clearance and issue a four (4) month visitors permit upon entry providing you have a passport issued from a country that does not require you to have a visa to enter the Fiji Islands.

Part of the passenger arrival card will be detached and left in your passport and you must keep this safe, as you will be required to deliver it to Immigration again on your way out of Fiji. Passports must be valid for at least six months from the date of entry.

Visas

See above for a list of country’s nationals who do not require a pre-entry visa to Fiji.

For countries that do require pre-entry visas into Fiji, crew members are required to apply for and receive approval from the Department of Immigration prior to their arrival in Fiji.
You will also need to contact the Department of Immigration regarding any other immigration issues such as replacement passports, change of status, work permit applications etc. It is also here that for a fee of FJ$96, you are able to apply for a standard two month extension to your initial 4-month visitors permit. You may then apply for ‘Special Permit to Reside’ should the need arise, which grants a further 6 month stay.

While immigration services are provided free of charge, vessels will be charged for the return transportation costs incurred by the immigration officer en route to the yacht.

Crew signing on or off

It is important to note that visitors or crew coming into Fiji are not able to enter the country on a one-way ticket. They must have a return ticket OR they must have a letter of approval from the Department of Immigration stating that they are authorized to enter on a one-way airline ticket in order to join a yacht and depart by sea. Airlines will not allow crew members travelling on a one way ticket without this letter, and so advanced preparation of this document is important. A Fiji Immigration ‘Facilitation’ letter authorizing entry on a one way ticket can be arranged by your Agent, Vuda Marina (if you are berthed there) or by visiting the immigration department yourself.

In much the same way, any crew or visitor that has arrived by yacht and who plans on departing by air must officially sign off the crew list and the vessel’s master must notify immigration before the date of departure.

As Owner or Captain of the yacht, it is a requirement that you notify Immigration when signing on or off new crew. You will need:

• A copy of the crew members passport;
• Completed ‘Change of Crew Form A’ when signing on and ‘Change of Crew Form B’ when signing off, both of which can be downloaded from www.immigration.gov.fj

Note: Please remember to keep a copy of the departing crew members plane ticket.

For more information, or to download copies of all forms please visit www.frc.org.fj

Health Quarantine

Until further notice, the "Quarantine Pre-Arrival Advice for Vessels" form can be downloaded from www.fijimarinas.com

Completed forms should be emailed 24 hours in advance of arrival to:

healthquarantinefiji@gmail.com

You will need to provide information relating to the health of you, your crew and any passengers and submit this together with a copy of the 50-day movement of the vessel.

Bio-security Authority of Fiji

The Bio-security Authority of Fiji (BAF) requires advance notification, a minimum of 48 hours prior to arrival. The following should be emailed to yachtnfo@baf.com.fj:

• the destination seaport in Fiji and the estimated time of arrival of the vessel;
• its immediate preceding port or place of call;
• the proposed itinerary of the vessel until it leaves Fiji;
• the presence of any live animal or live plant on the vessel; and
• any other matter relevant to facilitating bio-security landing clearance of the yachts that is specified.

Fiji Cruising Permits

Application for cruising permit shall either be submitted through an agent or made personally at the Provincial Service Division. Processing time is 1–3 days and the permit shall be issued up to a maximum of six (6) months.

Ports Authority

Any time you enter or depart from a Port in Fiji, all vessels must use VHF Channel 16 to communicate with Port Control requesting information on port traffic and permission for your entry or exit.

Important Requirement

The yacht master shall be required to provide weekly updates on status, movement and location of the vessel. Communication can be made through any of the following:

VHF Channel 16

T: (679) 3243782 | (679) 3243747 | (679) 3243315
Customs Hotline (679) 3243666
Email: yachtsreport@frca.org.fj
Facsimile Suva: (679) 3302864
Lautoka: (679) 6665961 | Levuka: (679) 3440425
Savusavu: (679) 8850728

Note: You will be subject to heavy penalties under the Customs Act for any breach of the conditions of cruising.

Health: 1. Vessel is from a Clear Port and is being cleared in a Designated Port of Entry - FJ$163.50. 2. Vessel is from a Clear Port and is being cleared in an Undesignated Port of Entry - FJ$1,253.50. 3. Vessel is from a High Risk Port and is being cleared in a Designated Port of Entry - FJ$250.00. 4. Vessel is from a High Risk Port and is being cleared in an Undesignated Port of Entry - FJ$1,340.70. Fees may change with the inclusion of Overtime & transport allowance.

Bio-Security Clearance: 1. Boarding & clearance of superyachts during normal working hours FJ$183.12 per vessel. 2. Boarding & clearance of superyachts after hours - FJ$462.16 per vessel. 3. Boarding & clearance of yachts during normal working hours - FJS85.02 per vessel. 4. Boarding & Clearance of yachts after hours FJ$172.87 per vessel.

Ports Authority of Fiji: All entering vessels up to 100 tonnes maximum of FJ$14.45.

Important Note: Please keep receipts for payments made in a safe place for departure requirements.

*Figures are subject to change

iTaukei Affairs Board

Cruising Permits

The iTaukei Affairs Board is a statutory body working to ensure that the Government develops, maintains and promotes policies that will provide for the continued good governance and welfare of the iTaukei now and into the future. Visitors travel to Fiji in different ways to experience the iTaukei lifestyle that is being offered. The iTaukei Affairs Board is the issuing authority of cruising permits for yachts and Superyachts that plan to spend their holidays within the Fiji Group.

Whether you decide to make the trip to the iTaukei offices in Lautoka or Suva yourself, or contract an agent to do this for you, it is to the iTaukei Affairs Board that you must apply for your permit to cruise Fiji’s waters.

The following information gives a comprehensive guide to the process and the documentation that you will need to produce.

Purpose

The purpose of this permit is to allow bona fide visiting yachts to cruise around the Fiji Islands. This permit is:

• To ensure that Captain of the yacht and its crew are advised of the iTaukei protocol needed to visit iTaukei traditional fishing grounds;
Processes to be undertaken by iTaukei Affairs Board staff

Application for Cruising Permit

Application for cruising permit shall either be submitted through an agent or made personally to the Provincial Service Division.

Verification of Identity

- Verify the Master of the yacht's identity with his or her passport.
- Verify the yacht's Customs Clearance to indicate that the yacht is a legitimate visitor.
- Verify the identity of the yacht and its colour with Customs Clearance and Certificate of Registration.

Issuing of Cruising Permit

- Enter the name of the Master of the yacht as it appears on the passport or travel document on the permit.
- Enter the name of the yacht as it appears on the Customs Clearance Certificate on the space provided on the permit.
- Enter the number of months they wish to cruise in Fiji waters on the permit.
- Enter the number of crews who shall be cruising on the yacht.
- Verify the information being typed on the electronic certificate before printing.

Superyacht Cruising Permit

Follow the process as specified above if an agent is lodging the application for cruising within the traditional fishing boundaries on behalf of the Master of the Superyacht.

Duration of Permit

The permit shall be issued up to a maximum of six (6) months. Should the yacht depart the Fiji waters within six months after being cleared by Fiji Island Revenue and Customs Authority will have its permit revoked as soon as it leaves Fiji waters.

Processing Time

The processing time is 1 day.

For more information on Fiji Ports Corporation: www.fijiports.com.fj
T: 331 2700 | F: 330 0064
Health Quarantine

Yellow Fever:
Anyone travelling within 6 days from, or through a country that is yellow fever endemic (see list below), must produce a valid vaccination certificate upon arrival. This must also be declared on the arrival card. Vessels travelling with passengers who have visited yellow fever endemic countries within 6 days of arrival will be boarded first by Health Quarantine Officers.

WHO: Countries with risk of yellow fever transmission (2012):
Angola, Argentina, Benin, Bolivia, Brazil, Burkin Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Colombia, Congo, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Cote d’Ivoire, Ecuador, Equatorial Guinea, Ethiopia, French Guiana, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Kenya, Liberia, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Nigeria, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Rwanda, Sao Tome & Principe, Senegal, Sierra Leone, South Sudan, Sudan, Suriname, Togo, Trinidad & Tobago, Uganda and Venezuela.

Worldwide Pandemics:
Outbreaks such as Ebola, H1N1 and Bird Flu have unfortunately swept through the world’s population in the past. Should such another pandemic occur, it is important for yachts owners to be aware of the clearance procedures for yachts and other pleasure crafts.

Biosecurity Authority of Fiji (BAF)

Biosecurity is the protection of the economy, environment, biodiversity and human health from the negative impacts associated with the entry, establishment and spread of organisms including pests, diseases and invasive species. It is also ensuring Fiji has a strong export industry for our produce by maintaining existing trade markets and finding new ones. Bio-security is vitally important to Fiji as we are heavily reliant on agriculture and our natural environment. New pests can not only devastate our food security, but can also damage agriculture or horticultural production, forestry and tourism and affect trade in international markets.

The economic consequences of failing to protect Fiji are dire: it could affect our employment opportunities, our human health and also our traditional lifestyle which is highly treasured.

All ships and vessels travelling to Fiji need to meet a number of requirements before and upon arrival to ensure Fijian environment, economy and people are protected from invasive pests and diseases. This page sets out the requirements for ships and vessels.

For any further information, please contact the Biosecurity Authority of Fiji on 3306 177 or 321 5710

For any other matter relevant to facilitating biosecurity, landings clearance of the yachts that is specified by BAF.

This above declaration must be made at least 24 hours before the estimated time of arrival.

The vessel master must complete a Master’s Declaration Form declaring all biosecurity risk items on board that are either restricted or prohibited.

Items to declare include:
- Foods (tinned/packed), including meat, sausages, salami, ham, poultry, eggs, milk, butter, cheese, honey etc;
- Plants or parts of plants (live or dead) including vegetables, fruits, nuts, seeds, bulbs, flowers (fresh or dry), mushrooms, straw, bamboo or any other articles made of plant materials;
- Animal products including feathers, fur/skin, shells, hatching eggs;
- Animals, reptiles, fish, birds (or parts thereof), alive or dead, stuffed or mounted;
- Soil or equipment used with animals of any kind that has come in contact with soil;
- Biological specimens including vaccine cultures, blood or any other biological specimen; and
- Domesticated pets to be bonded and kept on board the vessel at all times (cats/dogs/birds etc).

Some of these items will not be permitted to be kept aboard the yacht for the duration of the visit in Fiji. What is allowed to stay aboard will be at the discretion of the Biosecurity Officer at the time of inspection, depending on the risk they represent.

The yacht owner must ensure that no refuse containing any animal, plant, animal product or plant product is discharged from the yacht into the sea while the yacht is in Fiji. All refuse generated on the vessel is placed in a suitable leak-proof container, with a lid, and the container is securely fastened at all times and kept aboard the yacht. The refuse can only be removed from the yachts under the directions of the Biosecurity Officer.

Until further notice, the “Quarantine Pre-Arrival Advice for Vessels” form can be downloaded from www.fijimarinas.com.

Completed forms should be emailed to: healthquarantinefiji@gmail.com

You will need to provide information relating to the health of you, your crew and any passengers and submit this together with a copy of the 50-day movement of the vessel.

Healthy Ports
For vessels arriving into Fiji from Healthy Ports (free of Malaria, Yellow Fever or any other dangerous communicable diseases), Radio Pratique (approval to berth alongside) may be requested, however, the Health Quarantine officers may still board your vessel for inspection.

Malaria
Fiji is currently free of the Malaria vector; and we would like to keep it that way. Therefore, if you are travelling from or through any of the below list of ports that have been identified as Malarial carrying mosquito areas within the last 50 days, the Health Quarantine department will need to carry out an onboard inspection. If arriving within 10 days, your vessel will be subjected to anti-malarial spraying. There is a fee applicable for inspection and/or spraying which is dependent upon the size of the vessel.

Malarial Ports:
Vanuatu, Solomon Islands, Papua New Guinea, Australia (north of the latitude of Brisbane), Panama Canal, the East Indies, Asia, or any port or place in which malaria carrying mosquitoes are present.

You will need to declare this information on your pre-arrival form and you must also notify Port Control that you are arriving from a Malarial carrying mosquito area prior to entering the port. Only after Health Quarantine has given the all clear, will other Border Control Agencies be permitted to board.

For any further information, please contact the Biosecurity Authority of Fiji on 3306 177 or 321 5710

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Inspections are carried out at the first Port of entry into Fiji waters via yachts. Other species of pet animals are prohibited at any time. By taking these precautionary measures visitors of no less than 0.5 IU per ml. Be sure to contact the same customs and immigration also requires prior notice so that they are ready to authorize your departure and once cleared, it is expected that you will depart the port immediately.

Overstaying 24 hours after departure can result in large fines ($20,000) or even imprisonment. Overstaying 24 hours after departure can result in large fines ($20,000) or even imprisonment. Overstaying 24 hours after departure can result in large fines ($20,000) or even imprisonment.

For further information please contact the Biosecurity Authority of Fiji on T: +679 331 2512, Shortcode 5994, F: +679 330 5043 or E: yachtinfo@baf.com.fj

Departing Fiji

You must advise Customs at least 24 hours prior to your expected departure and then berth your yacht in a port of entry/exit. You are required by officials to sail your yacht to the Port where you wish to apply for departure clearance. You must not leave your yacht at a Marina or Yacht Club and travel by land to your chosen departure Port. Pay your port fees at the port office and proceed to the Customs Office to complete Customs clearance out formalities. You will need your inbound clearance papers, crew details, the details of your vessel and next port of call. Don't forget your updated inventory of on board alcohol, tobacco and medical supplies if you have taken advantage of the Super Yacht Special Duty arrangement. Immigrant will not clear you until you have been cleared by customs. Customs will only clear you providing your port fees and all other fees (including health and biosecurity) have been paid (receipts for these should have been kept). Once cleared, you will need to leave Fiji waters within 24 hours. It is prohibited to stop at any island once cleared out. However, if your departure is delayed for some reason, and you anticipate being in Fiji over that 24 hour time period, you need to contact the same customs officer and advise them of this as soon as possible!

Immigration also requires prior notice so that they are ready to authorize your departure and once cleared, it is expected that you will depart the port immediately.

Overstaying 24 hours after departure can result in large fines ($20,000) or even imprisonment (2 years) of the yacht master, and this can create many problems with your clearance from Fiji. Best to check the weather and your boat for anything that could cause an issue or delay with plenty of time to spare. Be sure to contact the same customs office immediately, and record in your Log Book the reason for failure to depart.

Moe Mada...

Information on Wildlife Trade for Yachting Visitors

by Helen Pippard
Species Officer @ IUCN Oceania

Introduction to CITES

The international trade in wildlife is estimated to be worth around US$10 billion per year and includes hundreds of millions of plants and animal species ranging from live specimens to wildlife products derived from them.

The Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) is an agreement developed between governments to ensure that international trade does not threaten a species’ survival. To date, 175 countries (known as Parties) including Fiji have joined CITES.

The Convention has three lists of species (Appendices) that are considered to be at risk from international trade. If a species is listed in the Appendices, governments must ensure that trade of these species into and out of their countries is regulated to prevent the species from becoming endangered or extinct.

Appendix I includes species that are threatened with extinction. Trade in these species is permitted only in exceptional circumstances. Trade in pre-CITES (Pre-Convention) specimens (i.e., specimens harvested prior to the date they were listed on the CITES Appendices) is allowed with the correct documentation.

Appendix II includes species that may become threatened with extinction if trade is not properly regulated. Trade in these species requires a CITES export permit as a minimum. In addition, Appendix II includes look-alike species in order to effectively regulate trade and prevent unnecessary extinctions.

Appendix III lists species that are protected in at least one country, without which has requested other CITES Parties to assist in controlling the trade of such species. Species are not necessarily threatened with extinction on a global scale. Fiji does not have any species listed in Appendix III of the Convention.

Endangered and Protected Species (EPS) Act

Although CITES is legally binding on the Parties, it does not take the place of national laws. Parties therefore implement the Convention through their own national legislation. Fiji joined CITES in 1997 and implements the Convention through the Endangered and Protected Species Act (2002) (EPS Act) and the Endangered and Protected Species Regulations (2003) (EPS Regulations). The EPS Act aims to regulate and control the international trade, domestic trade, possession and transportation of species protected under CITES.

As well as species listed in the CITES Appendices, the EPS Act contains Fijian species that are not listed in the Appendices, but which are instead protected under Schedules 1 and 2. Like the CITES-listed species, trade in these must be authorized through permits. A species listed in Schedule 1 or 2 can only be traded into or out of Fiji if the Department of Environment has approved the trade and issued the relevant permit.

Schedule 1 of the EPS Act lists all species indigenous to the Fiji Islands that are not listed in Appendix I of CITES but which are believed to be threatened with extinction.

Schedule 2 lists species indigenous to the Fiji Islands that are not listed in Appendix I, II or III of Schedule 1 of the EPS Act.

Permits

Contact the Department of Environment for advice on trading an endangered species or specimen. Obtain the relevant permit or letter of approval from iTaukei Affairs Board, Dept. Forestry, Dept. Fisheries or Quarantine Division prior to applying for a CITES permit.

For further information, please contact:
info@environment.gov.fj | T: +679 331 1699 | www.environment.gov.fj

www.cites.org for general information about CITES
www.iucnredlist.org for information on threatened species

DUTY FREE BUNKERING

By law only vessels 100 tons net or more may bunker duty free fuel. Your yacht or ship agent must get an approved C-35 form from customs before any bunker.
## A Quick Guide to the Fijian Language

### Sounds of Fijian

Fijian uses the Roman alphabet, as do English and most European languages, but some of the letters represent sounds in ways that are unexpected for English speakers.

The vowels are a little different from English – and how different they are depends on what kind of English you speak! If you are a speaker of German, Italian or Spanish, you should have no problem at all, since the five vowels (a, e, i, o, u) are pronounced almost exactly the same. The pronunciation is roughly as follows:

- **a** as in ‘spa’
- **e** as in ‘pet’
- **i** as in ‘machine’
- **o** as in ‘sore’
- **u** as in ‘too’

Some vowels have a line over the top: **ā, ē, ī, ō, ū**. This line is called a **macron**, and is used in Fijian and other Pacific languages to show that the vowel is long – so it’s pronounced significantly longer than the same vowel without a macron. It’s a bit like the difference between the vowel in ‘sit’ (short) and ‘squat’ (long).

Getting the length of the vowels right is important. For example, **vuvu** means ‘muddy’, but **vuvū** means ‘jealous’, and takes about twice as long to pronounce. Here are some small differences in the pronunciation of consonants that English speakers need to bear in mind:

- **c** is like the ‘th’ in ‘thin’ (not as in ‘thin’)
- **b, d** have a preceding nasal consonant, so **b** sounds like ‘mb’ and **d** like ‘nd’
- **g** is like the ‘ng’ in ‘hang’ (not as in ‘finger’)
- **j** is like ‘ch’, but without the puff of breath that usually follows
- **k, t** are as in English, but without the puff of breath that usually follows. Also, **t** often sounds like ‘ch’ before the vowel **i**, so **oti** is often pronounced as if it were **otichi**.
- **r** is rolled, as in Scottish English, Spanish, etc.
- **v** is pronounced by placing the lips together (not with the lower lip against the upper teeth as in English).

### Who speaks Fijian?

There are many different varieties of Fijian. There are about 300 regional dialects. Of these, approximately one hundred are ‘western’ and two hundred ‘eastern’. These two groups are very distinct, so much so that people from one side of the country have difficulty understanding people from the other side.

#### Western Fijian

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>English</th>
<th>Standard Fijian</th>
<th>Western Fijian</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>a little</td>
<td>na, dina na</td>
<td>a little</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>a lot</td>
<td>vakalali</td>
<td>a lot</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>able to</td>
<td>raiva ni</td>
<td>able to</td>
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<td>e dua tale</td>
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<td>bathie</td>
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<td>best</td>
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<td>bitter</td>
<td>visku visku (cake)</td>
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<td>qarauna</td>
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#### English - Fijian (Standard) Translations

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>English</th>
<th>Fijian</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>book</td>
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<tr>
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<td>boso</td>
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<td>nauna</td>
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<td>tavava</td>
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<td>gonetagane</td>
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<td>madrai</td>
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<td>voreka</td>
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