

The Fiji Compendium

A Compilation of Guidebook References and Cruising Reports



A Waterfall in Taveuni Island taken by [Paul Woodford of Australia](#)

IMPORTANT: USE ALL INFORMATION IN THIS DOCUMENT AT YOUR OWN RISK!!

Rev 2025.5 – 3 Dec 2025

Keep the Fiji Compendium alive by being a contributor!
Submit updates on atolls, islands, anchorages, businesses, snorkel spots, etc... It can be on new places or existing places, even if it is duplicating existing information.
It's easy to participate and will help other cruisers for years to come.

Email Soggy Paws at sherry@svsoggypaws.com.

You can also contact us on Sailmail at WDI5677

The current home (and the most up to date) version of this document is located at:

<http://svsoggypaws.com/files/>

If you found it posted elsewhere, there might not be the most current version. Please check the above site for the most up to date copy, and remember...it will always be free!

Revision Log

Many thanks to all who have contributed over the years!!

Rev	Date	Notes
2025.5	2-Dec-2025	A few minor updates.
2025.4	18-Oct-2025	Updates on Kadavu, Vitu Levu, Malolo, Qalito, Malolo Lailai, Vuda Marina, Port Denarau
2025.3	13-Aug-2025	Update on Tourist Visa Extension process and position of Niagoro pass (Kadavu)
2025.2	9-Aug-2025	Updates Savusavu, Bay of Islands, Taveuni, Viani Bay, Rabi, Ovalau, Makogai, Matagai, Qamea, Ringgolds, and Kadavu by sv Sugar Shack
2025.1	2-June-2025	Updates on formalities, Savusavu, Nawi Island Marina, Cousteau, Taveuni, Ringgold Isles, Qamea and more by sv Sugar Shack
2024.4	23-Sep-2024	Various updates on services in Savusavu and Suva. Anchorage updates from s/v Perigrine.
2024.3	01-Sep-2024	Updates from Cream Puff, Moana, and PorePore
2024.2	30-Jun-2024	Report on a fridge repair guy in Savusavu
2024.1	18-Jun-2024	Updates on Marine Services and general info on Vuda Marina.
2023.3	21-Oct.-2023	Updates from Sv Sugar Shack, Nutmeg and Jamala, Moana (Vuda Point Marina), (Navadra), various updates on marine services, Ari B (Viani Bay)
2023.2	5-Sept.-2023	Updates from sv Sugar Shack, Knot Tied Down, Pitfua (Matuku), Jamala (Savusavu)
2023.1	25-June-2023	A few updates in Kadavu.
2022.3	26-Nov-2022	Updates throughout the guide: SeaGlub, sv Sugar Shack, Starlight, Lazy Sunday, Scooter, Oh Joy II, Seneto, Lazy Sunday, Dash, Dandelion, Amaryllis II, Aqua Fox
2022.2	1-Sept-2022	Updates throughout the guide: sv Sugar Shack, Starlight, Askari, Calliope, Major Tom, Bella Vita, Rainbow Safari, Margarita, Bliss of Stockholm, Airborne, Capall Mara, Dazzler's Watch
2022.1	26-July-2022	Reorganization of compendium and updates throughout the document from sv Sugar Shack, Eastern Stream, Mais Uma, Major Tom, Anima, Starlight, and Calash
2016.3	01-Nov-2013	Several minor updates.
2016.2	09-Sep-2016	Updates from Storm Bay of Hobart on Savusavu & Vuda Marina.
2016.1	15-June-2016	Updates: Budd Reef, Yanuca, and Cobia from s/v The Rose.
B.8, B.7, B.6, B.5, B.4, B.3	23-Nov-2013	Updates on Kadavu from Mediteraneo and Gypsea Heart. Updates Viti Levu & Yasawas from s/v Radiance and Namani. Notes: Taveuni, Vanua Balavu, and Namena from Southern Cross. Labasa River & Leleuvia (S of Ovalau) update from Fruit de Mer. Info from Soggy Paws on the islands S of Ovalau. Vanua Balavu-Little Bay update from Aqualuna. Minor updates -- final notes before leaving Fiji and on Gulf Harbor Radio Wx Net
A.1-10, B1- B2	2012-2013	Soggy Paws notes from 2012 & 2013. New info: Namena, Ovalau (Levuka), Suva, SW Coast of Viti Levu, Mbenga, Yasawas, etc. Updates from Shandon, Java, Midnight Sun, Chesire, Soggy Paws, Carina, Migration, Stray Kitty & Kora. Lau group update from Pincoya

**I would like to extend a Huge Thanks to
Christine Mitchell of s/v Sugar Shack for doing a
major update to this Compendium in 2022! (and continued inputs since!)**

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1 Introduction

We started creating compendiums as a way for s/v Soggy Paws and friends to organize notes and internet sources while we were in French Polynesia. Later, it became a way for us to pass on what we've learned to other cruisers for many other countries.

We have since created over 25 compendiums all the way across the Pacific and into SE Asia. Including, Panama, Ecuador, French Polynesia, Cook / Samoa Islands, Tonga, Solomon's, Fiji, Micronesia, Marshall Islands, Hawaii, Philippines, Malaysia, Indonesia, the Indian Ocean, and the Red Sea. Plus, we have received updates from cruisers since 2011 (please send us yours!).

If you haven't found our other 'Compendiums', they are free at www.svsoggyaws.com/files. There are also links on that page to satellite charts, track files and anchorage waypoints in GPX format (from Soggy Paws).

This is not intended to replace the guidebooks or charts, but to supplement out-of-date guides with recent cruiser first-hand reports, and fill in information on places that the guides don't cover.

This 'compendium' contains cruiser feedback from personal experiences, some website content, and information from our own experience. Source and date of information are noted.

1.1 The Archipelagos of Fiji

Fiji is broken up into 6 distinct and diverse areas. Viti Levu and Vanua Levu overlap archipelagos in certain areas (see map below). Starting at the top and going clock wise.

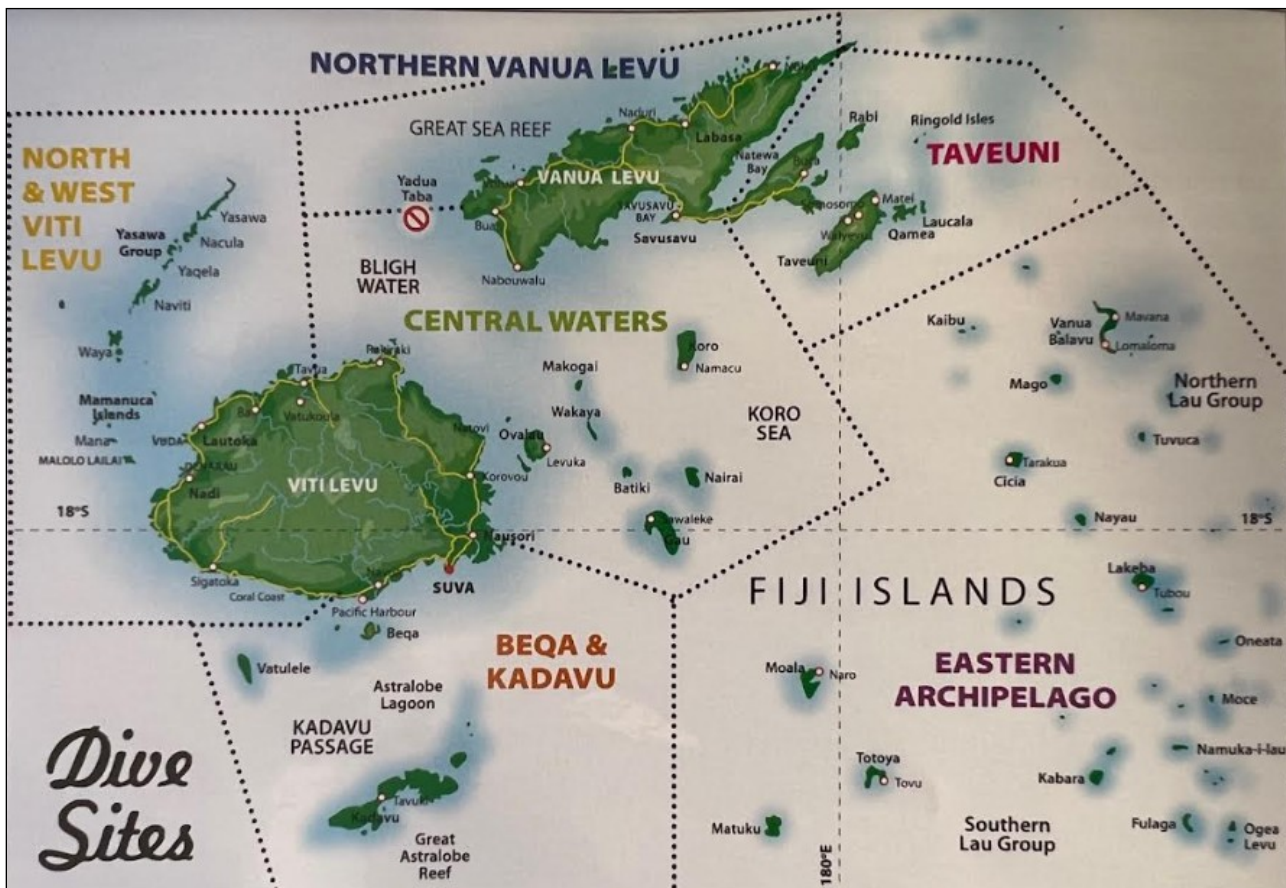


Photo courtesy of Fiji Shores & Marinas 2020

1.1.1 Northern Vanua Levu

Northern Vanua Levu splits the island in half and includes the north part of the island, Yadua, & Yadua Taba.

1.1.2 Taveuni & the Ringgold Isles

Taveuni, The Ringgold Isles, Rabi, Qamea, Laucala, Matei

Taveuni is famous for its spectacular waterfalls, varied bird watching, and world-class dive sites (Viani Bay). The Paradise Resort is a well-known cruisers delight.

Rabi and Kioa are populated by displaced South Sea Islanders.

Viani Bay: Is located on Vanua Levu across from Taveuni. It is famous for the Rainbow Reef, Great White Wall, and Cabbage Patch for diving.

1.1.3 Eastern Archipelago (Lau)

The Southern, Northern, and Eastern Lau

The remote islands of the Lau group offer one of the best cruising destinations of all time. It is very much open ocean sailing between the islands. Isolated reefs and islands are well-defined, so that night passages between islands are safe for competent navigators. There is very little tourism in the Lau islands. Be prepared for an authentic Fijian experience with sevusevu, host families, church services, and lovos.

1.1.4 Central Waters: Lomaiviti Group & Bligh Water

Vanua Levu, Bligh Water, Koro Sea, Makogai, Wakaya, Koro, Ovalau, Batiki

Home of Savusavu with entry clearance, marine facilities, (4) marinas, and a haul out facility.

Famous for its many dive sites (for experienced divers).

The island of Ovalau (city of Levuka) has the old-world capital (with buildings over 100 years old) and is worth the visit.

Wakaya is a private island and use of the bay and anchorage are strictly prohibited without prior consent.

Yadua Taba is strictly prohibited and protected by the National Trust Rangers. Do not voyage here.

1.1.5 Beqa & Kadavu

Beqa, Kadavu, Tavuki, Vatulele, Great Astrolabe Reef, Astrolabe Lagoon, Kadavu Pass

Kadavu offers beautiful anchorages and spectacular diving and snorkeling.

1.1.6 Viti Levu (and North West Islands)

Viti Levu, Yasawa Group, and Mamanuca's Islands

Viti Levu is the largest island and is home to the capital in Suva. Several marinas, haul out facilities, and marine facilities are located in and around Denarau and Vuda.

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

The climate is reliably sunny and dry due to being located on the dry side of Fiji.

Home of the famous Musket Cove, Blue Lagoon, and the Sawa-I-Lau limestone underwater caves.

1.2 Organization of the Guide

This guide is loosely organized by area in Fiji. We started with Vanua Levu and went clock wise around the Fijian Islands.



Photo courtesy of Fiji Shores & Marinas 2020

1.3 Formalities

Detailed information about Fiji entry requirements are included below, but regulations are changing rapidly, so be sure to double-check official Fiji websites for up-to-date customs, immigration, and clearance information before you leave.

Relevant entry and clearance information for cruisers:

<https://www.fracs.org.fj/our-services/customs/yachts-and-vessels/>

The Denarau Marina has very useful, and fairly up to date information on arrivals and departures from Fiji. The official Fiji website should supersede all information on Denarau Marina's site.

<https://www.denaraumarina.com/arriving-departing-fiji/>

The Government very much wants to promote more visits from cruising yachts. Fiji remains a very beautiful and peaceful place, however, if you disagree with the Government, it is prudent to keep your opinions to yourself.

Please be advised that all officials are required to identify themselves to you with a warrant card, but you may not inhibit them in the performance of their duties, and they are authorized to take any steps they may deem necessary to exercise their duties.

1.3.1 Notice of Pre-Arrival REQUIREMENTS

Fiji **REQUIRES** that all visiting yachts send the Advanced Notice of Arrival (Form C2-C) ([Download PDF File From Fiji Customs Website](#)) at **least 48 hours prior to arrival** (see recipients below). Please note that the minimum requirement is 48 hours, you can send your form a week or two before arrival and then follow up with a confirmed arrival date and time 24 hours prior.

Fiji officials PREFER that you receive approval to enter Fiji prior to leaving your current destination.

Be sure to complete every field on the C2-C Notice of Arrival Form. If a field is not applicable to you or your vessel, enter 'N/A'.

In addition to the C2-C form, you must send a copy of the vessel's registration, a photograph of the side of the vessel (preferably with the sails up), and a copy of the Captain's Passport Bio page.

Notifications Sent to the Following Personnel:

Send all documents to the following agencies at least 48 hours in advance of your arrival:

- FRCS (Fiji Revenue & Customs Services): yachtsreport@frcs.org.fj
- Biosecurity: bhpu.nadi@gmail.com and yachtinfo@biosecurityfiji.com
- Board of Health: ois@baf.com.fj
- Immigration: immigration@govnet.gov.fj
 - Immigration Levuka: Mohammed Rehan at: mrehan@frcs.org.fj
- Include a contact at the marina where you will be staying (just in case they need to forward it to the officials on the day of your arrival)
 - Nawi Island - Savusavu - grace@nawiisland.com
 - Copra Shed - Savusavu - coprashed@connect.com.fj
 - Vuda Marina - info@vudamarina.com.fj
 - Denarau Marina - reservations@denaraumarina.com

Documents Required:

- Completed and signed C2C form
- Vessel Registration
- Photograph of the side of the vessel (preferably with the sails up)
- Photograph of the Captain's passport bio page

In the email subject line include Boat Name, Port of Arrival, Date/Time of Arrival

Note: 24 hours prior to arrival, notify all officials (and the marina) that you are 24hours away from arrival.

You may or may not receive a response to either email. Be sure to cc yourself or ensure that you have proof of sending both emails.

It is not required to stay at a marina to complete your formalities. However, the marinas make the process much easier process and more efficient. The marinas in Savusavu (Waitui, Copra Shed, Nawi); Port Denarau and Vuda Marina will arrange for transport of the officials to and from your yacht, will ensure that they have all of your documentation, and will assist with payments in some cases. It is a small fee to pay for a mooring ball and their services and well worth the money.

1.3.1.1 Cruiser Reports

April 2025: Working with Dolly at Copra Shed is super easy. They come out to assist with the mooring and brought the officials out within 1.5 hours of arrival. We had Fijian dollars onboard and were able to pay all of the officials directly without running around town to different locations. Our Cruising Permit was ready after 3 days which we picked up from Customs right across from Copra Shed. – sv Sugar Shack

Aug. 2023: We submitted our paperwork, as stated above, and sent the 24hr email. We did not receive a response to either email. However, when we arrived, Copra Shed Marina confirmed that the officials had all of our paperwork and shuttled the officials to our boat within 2-hours. We had Fijian money on board and were able to pay everyone but Health as they wanted us to go to the hospital to pay direct. The next day we went to customs to inquire about our cruisers permit and within an hour we had it. Super easy process with very accommodating officials. So much easier working directly with the marina! – sv Sugar Shack

June 2022: We used Yacht Partners (agent) to expedite our entry and were very pleased with their service. They provided all of the necessary documents, assisted with questions on the forms, and submitted all paperwork to the necessary authorities.

Although we were not “required” to use an agent, we were very happy we did. Several other cruisers who opted to save the \$350 waited weeks for their approval and had to jump through hoops to try to get it.

Our agent alerted all authorities and the marina once we arrived in Savusavu. They ensured all paperwork was in order prior to the authorities coming out to our boat. Super helpful. – sv Sugar Shack

1.3.2 Entry into Fiji

IMPORTANT: See Notice of Arrival Requirements above.

Ports of Entry: (as of Sept. 2025)

Denarau Marina	Lautoka	Levuka	Rotuma
Savusavu	Suva	Vuda Marina	

You **CANNOT** stop anywhere prior to completing formalities in one of the above approved ports.

Aug. 2025: A cruising family decided to spend several weeks in the Lau group prior to clearing in at Savusavu. The officials had been keeping an eye on them and when they cleared in they were fined and expelled and banned from the country.

July 2023: A cruiser thought they could stop in the Lau group prior to completing formalities. They did not want to sail through the Lau group without stopping nor did they want to have to sail back against the trades. They stopped for a week or two, then made their way to Savusavu where Customs promptly impounded their boat. They were eventually fined and told to leave Fiji immediately.

Announce Arrival: In Savusavu, call the marina where you are staying on VHF 16, in Denarau (call Denarau Marina), in Vuda (call Vuda Marina) just before entering their channels. Most marinas do not have a high-power VHF so calling earlier doesn’t help as you cannot hear them.

Official Hours: In general, the officials work Mon-Thurs: from 0830 – 1600 with a lunch around 1300-1400 and Fri 0830-1530 with lunch around 1300-1400. Any time before, after or during lunch will incur overtime fees.

1.3.3 Arrival Procedures

Regardless of which port you enter, you have to see Ministry of Health, Customs Department, Ministry of Agriculture (Quarantine Dept), and Immigration.

Each marina will arrange for the officials to meet you (for a fee between \$25-\$35 Fijian).

If you have an agent or are a Pacific Rally member, they will forward all of the necessary paperwork to the authorities prior to your arrival. You will need the following paperwork:

- Clearance from last port of call
- Inward Report C2-C (Advance Notice of Arrival)
- Coastal Clearance Form

- Customs can provide if you did not get it from your agent or the Pacific Rally ahead of time.
- Passenger Cards for each passenger
 - The official will provide these if you don't have these ahead of time.
- Health Pratique (provide by Health official)
- Passports of everyone on board
- Boat Registration
- Crew List

The Health official will board first. They will have a few forms to complete and will ask to take a few photos. In May 2025, the official took photos of our toilets, canned goods, pantry, and snack drawer. The official accepted payment in May 2025, but they may ask you to go to the hospital to pay the fee.

Next Customs, Immigration, and Bio Security will all board at the same time. They will have more forms to complete and will ask that you make payment. Receipts were provided for payment made on the boat. If you do not have Fijian money, you can go to shore, withdraw from an ATM and make your rounds to customs, immigration, bio security, and the hospital.

Note: If you are arriving with pick-up crew, be sure to read the section on [Adding and Removing Crew](#).

1.3.4 AIS

All vessels operating in Fiji waters must have their Automatic Identification System (AIS) activated at ALL times.

1.3.5 Liquor, Beer, Wine, Tobacco

Fiji requests a list of liquor, beer, wine, and tobacco at entry and at departure. You will be charged duty on the consumed liquor less the duty-free allowance. [Click here](#) for allowable dutiable goods.

You're required to list all of your dutiable goods. You are NOT allowed to write "ship stores" on the C2C forms.

Crew and passengers, 18 years and older, will be allowed normal passenger landing duty-free allowance:

- 2.5ltrs of spirit or
- 4.5ltrs of Wine or
- 4.5ltrs of Beer, and
- 200 sticks of Cigarettes, or
- 200 cigar or
- 200g tobacco.

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

Any excess to the above allowance will be subject to levy of import duty and VAT or goods being detained by Customs.

July 2022: In Denarau - be warned, we had to pay import duty on the alcohol we were carrying which totaled about \$100. I heard they are more relaxed at Savusavu. – SY Calash

1.3.6 Random Searches

Aug. 2024: Several boats were randomly selected to be searched by 10 officials and 2 dogs. The officials that came aboard were polite but they opened every single cabinet, lifted the floorboards, false floors, and looked into the bilges, under beds, in the sail bags, under settees, all exterior hatches, and even false walls.

They are searching for undeclared liquor, drugs, and money. The dogs jump on furniture and beds searching for anything out of the ordinary. They spent several hours on 3 different boats that we heard about (2 in Savusavu and 1 in Vuda).

One boat had a fairly large quantity of undeclared liquor that exceeded the allotted amount. They said they “forgot it was there.” The officials confiscated all of the liquor and fined them the equivalent of \$3,000 USD, took their passports and detained them for several hours at the police station.

The Fijian government is trying to crack down on their very serious drug problem. However, the officials conducting the searches may not always be on the right side of the law. So, be very careful, declare everything and simply pay the excess duty for any items over the allotted amount. – sv Sugar Shack

1.3.7 Arms and Ammunition

You have to declare arms and ammunition to customs upon your arrival. Your items will be detained and handed over to the police for safe keeping.

To get them back when you leave, you have to give customs at least 48 hours’ notice for your departure so that arrangements can be made from Fiji Police to place them on board. (Not to worry, this really is true, you will get them back, but I'd give them a bit more than 48 working hours to do so.)

Procedure: Once you arrive at the port of entry the customs will seal all your high dutiable goods on board or it will be detained and brought to their warehouse for safe keeping. Once you are finally departing Fiji, customs will place the dutiable goods on board. (I've never heard of this allowed for vessels less than 200 tons, the Fijian cut-off between a yacht and a ship. You might be the first, but I wouldn't bet on it!).

1.3.8 Entry Fees and Charges

April 2025: We had Fijian dollars onboard and arrived during normal business hours. We paid the following fees during our check in process.

- Health \$172.50F
- Biosecurity \$89.70F

Both officials provided us with receipts and were very happy to receive exact payment at the check in.

However, if you do not have Fijian dollars, after clearance, visit an ATM and go around to all of the offices to make your payment with exact change within 24 hours of your arrival. You will be required to provide exact change so be sure to have it available before you visit the officials. – sv Sugar Shack

June 2022: Custom’s normal working business hours are Monday-Thursday (0800-1300 and 1400-1630) and Friday (0800-1300 and 1400-1600). Any clearance during working hours is subject to the following fees (in Fijian dollars unless stated otherwise):

- Biosecurity: \$191.30F
- Health: \$163.50F
- Fiji Ports (garbage): \$140.61F
- Marina Fees (formality assistance) \$25-\$35F
- Agent fees (flat rate if you use one): \$350 USD

Overtime fees will be applied if you require Customs to work outside of normal business hours (including during lunch, after working hours, and on the weekends). A list of all fees can be found on pages 12 and 13 on the [C2-C form](#). Overtime fees are in addition to standard fees:

- \$25.00/hr (between 1630 and 2000 Mon-Fri)
- \$75.00/hr (between 2000 and 0500 Mon-Fri)
- \$40.00/hr (between 1300 and 1400 Mon-Fri)
- \$105.00/hr (weekends and public holidays)

You will be handed a bill if you do not have local currency upon arrival. You will then be required to obtain local currency and pay directly, in the exact amount, at each of the official offices within 24 hours.

May 2024: In Savusavu, neither Biosecurity or Health officials had change, so make sure you have the right amount to give them. – Ariel

1.3.9 Biosecurity / Quarantine (and Pets)

Biosecurity website: www.baf.com.fj. Additional information is at www.baf.com.fj/ships-vessels.

Fiji calls Quarantine, “Biosecurity” and they are expecting advance notification of arrival! The “Advance Notice of Arrival” form should be emailed (a minimum of 48 hours in advance of arrival).

If you need any clarification you can write to them at info@baf.com.fj or call +679.331.2512.

All ships and vessels travelling to Fiji need to meet a number of requirements before and on arrival to ensure Fiji’s environment, economy, and people are protected from invasive pests and diseases.

Yachts and pleasure crafts are welcome in Fiji. However, international yachts entering Fiji waters are considered to be of a high biosecurity risk and are closely monitored by BAF. Hence it is important for yacht owners to be aware of the clearance procedures for yachts and other pleasure crafts.

Part of the C2-C form includes a “Master’s Declaration Form” declaring all biosecurity risk items on board that are either restricted or prohibited.

1.3.10 Prohibited & Limited Items

Items which are prohibited and must be declared include:

Foods (tinned/packed): ALL meat, sausages, salami, ham, poultry, eggs, milk, butter, cheese, honey etc;

- Only chicken frozen and packaged from New Zealand is allowed.
- Only frozen beef and lamb are allowed if they are packaged from Australia and New Zealand.
- Frozen prawns without head and shell are allowed from any country
- Frozen dairy products are allowed only from Australia, New Zealand, and France.
- Shelf stable dairy products are allowed from approved countries.

Prohibited:

- No pork products are allowed (cooked, frozen, canned, or uncooked)
- No honey is allowed (opened or unopened)
- 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, 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).

Prohibited:

- Firearms, weapons. All firearms and ammunition must be declared and surrendered to the Customs officer upon arrival.
- Drugs
- Pornographic material

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

The yacht master should also ensure that no refuse containing any animal, plant, animal product or plant product is discharged from the yacht into the sea while the yacht is in Fiji. All refuse generated on the vessel is

placed in a suitable leak-proof container, with a lid, and the container is kept aboard the yacht. The refuse can only be removed from the yachts under the directions of the Biosecurity Officer.

Limited Items:

- Liquor: 2.25 liters of spirits or 4.5 liters of wine or 4.5 liters of beer per adult (note “or” not “and”)
- Cigarettes: 250g cigarettes or 250g tobacco or 250g cigars for each adult over 17years of age.

Customs duty will be charged on all spirits and tobacco products over the allowance.

Please note that sealing of stores onboard is NOT permitted.

Note: Prior to August 2023, Savusavu did not have an incinerator and it was relatively easy to clear through biosecurity with the official simply stating that all prohibited food items remain onboard at all times.

However, as of October 2023, Savusavu has a working incinerator and is now charging \$120-\$175F to incinerate your prohibited items.

1.3.11 Hull Cleaning and Scraping

Biosecurity prohibits incoming yachts from cleaning their hulls in Fiji waters without prior approval. Be sure to arrive with a clean hull to avoid this process.

Visit this site for more information: www.msaf.com.fj/mn-01-2024-hull-scraping-and-cleaning-in-fiji-waters/

Yachts can maintain the cleanliness of their hulls once they’ve been in Fiji waters.

Biosecurity is trying to prevent harmful substances and other pollutant or invasive species in Fiji Waters

1.3.12 Live animals on yachts

See the Fiji Biosecurity website: www.baf.com.fj/ships-vessels. And you may refer to section Biosecurity/Quarantine below.

The above website has information on requirements for bringing in a pet to Fiji. You may also find the necessary forms and email addresses on where to send them and get approval prior to arrival. The current fee is \$286.84FJ (as of 8/2023) which should be paid while lodging the application. It takes a minimum of 3 working days to process applications.

Yachts arriving in Fiji with live cats, dogs, pet birds etc must pay a bond to the Biosecurity Authority of Fiji (BAF) as security against the pet(s) coming ashore while in Fiji’s territorial waters. The bond payment is FJD \$1,500 which is refundable upon departure from Fiji, if bond conditions are not breached.

*In general, no animals will be permitted to come ashore in Fiji
and must remain on board the vessel at all times while in Fiji’s territorial waters.*

Cat and dogs and other pet animals may not be imported into Fiji via yachts.

Cats and dogs must be vaccinated against rabies not more than 12 and not less than 6 months before arriving in Fiji. One month after the rabies vaccination of the dog, it must be subjected to the Rabies Neutralization Antibody Titre Test (RNATT) with a positive result of no less than 0.5 IU per ml.

By taking these precautionary measures visitors will enjoy traversing the pristine waters of Fiji without the worry that their pets may be posing a risk to the native fauna, flora, the environment and the people of Fiji.

Vaccination certificates and laboratory tests results must be original and made available to Biosecurity Officers when Biosecurity Boarding Inspection are carried out at the First (1ST) Port of Entry.

For further information or clarification please contact the Biosecurity Authority of Fiji on +679.331.2512, fax +679.330.5043 or info@biosecurityfiji.com. Enquires can also be made in person at any of the BAF office.

1.3.13 Cruising Permit

After Customs visits your boat, the official will tell you to wait at the marina until your cruising permit is ready.

You are not allowed to leave the port of entry until you have a cruising permit.

It generally takes 1-3 business days to process the Cruising Permit. Permits are issued for a 4-6-month period. If you plan to stay for 6-months, be sure to ask for a 6-month cruising permit.

The letter is in Fijian. You can tell if they gave you 4 or 6 months:

VA NA VULA = 4 months

ONO NA VULA = 6 months

Check in with Customs a few days after your arrival to see if your cruising permit is available. Usually, when you go to Customs, they will invite you in the back where they will have you wait as they create your cruising permit. This process usually takes between 20-30 minutes so be patient.

Customs in Savusavu is located across the street from Waitui marina.

Customs in Denarau is located in the same building as the marina office, facing the parking lot.

1.3.14 Weekly Check in

NOTE: You are REQUIRED to leave your AIS on at all times while in Fijian waters. In addition, you are REQUIRED to email your position (boat name, location, lat, long) once per week. Send your weekly report to yachtsreport@frcs.org.fj.

1.3.15 Tourist Visas

Check and verify all current information at www.immigration.gov.fj/visa-application

You must have a passport valid for at least 6-months beyond your departure date and with (1) blank visa page.

Most nationalities will be granted a 4-month tourist visa upon arrival. You may apply for an extension for an additional 2 months (total of 6 months) for a nominal fee (as well as filling out a long form online).

At the end of six months, you may apply for 'Special Purpose Permit for Yacht Owners and Crew', which is valid for up to six months, and may be renewed for another six months (bringing the total immigration stay to 18 months). This fee is not nominal, but you do not have to post a bond, either.

If you need to leave your vessel and fly out (or crewing on another), merely go to Immigration FIRST and get a letter from them explaining what you are doing. If you fail to do this, you will have a very large problem when you try to return without a round-trip airline ticket.

Immigration is, as a rule, very courteous and helpful, provided that you talk to them first about anything out of the ordinary.

1.3.16 Volunteer Work (Prohibited)

Please note that working, which includes volunteer work, is not allowed in Fiji without prior approval and a special visa.

'Tourist' does not mean doing a little work 'on the side' or starting your own ferry service! The Republic of Fiji welcomes new, legal, business ventures at all times, contact the FTIB for more information.

If you are caught doing any work, even if not for profit or volunteer work, you will have a large fine levied on you before you are expelled with a penalty re-entry period assessed on your passport (yes, Immigration has networked computers and they know how to use them!).

If you need/want to take on Fijian crew or to act as a pilot, make sure that you speak to Customs FIRST to ensure that there isn't any misunderstandings or anxieties.

Oct. 2023: A very generous cruiser was called into Customs for his volunteer work which was classified as “working illegally in Fiji.” Customs was not happy that this cruiser was volunteering to help the locals fix things like fiberglass, solar systems, water tanks, and engines. They were concerned that duty was not paid on the materials being used and of course it was “taking work away from other locals.”

This cruiser was not sure how Customs found out, it could be a number of ways, but regardless, Customs found out and he was reprimanded.

1.3.17 Extending your Visa

Upon entry, visitors are given a 4-month visa. A Visitor’s Permit Extension will allow the holder to stay for an additional two months, making it six months in total from the date they arrived in Fiji. You can also apply for an additional 6-month visa which has slightly different requirements.

The **new process** has just become active (May 2025).

You will need a strong internet connection and lots of patience. It is best to have all of your required documents ready prior to beginning the process. All pdf documents must be less than 2mb in size.

Visit <https://immihub.immigration.gov.fj/FIDPortal/welcome> to complete the Visa Extension application AND pay with a credit card online. The process can take up to 3 weeks. The system has a 21-business day turn around. You will then need to visit the Immigration Office to show your approval letter and get a stamp in your passport.

Tourist Visa Extensions Online

1. Apply for your visa extension at least 2 weeks prior to your Tourist Visa expiry date
2. Ensure you have a solid internet connection, few distractions, time, and patience
3. Be sure you have the following documents ready for upload:
 - a. JPEG Passport size photo (you can use your phone and a plain solid color background)
 - b. PDF Certified copy of passport bio page (less than 2mb)
 - c. PDF Certified copy of Passport Fiji Entry Stamp page (less than 2mb)
 - d. PDF recent Bank Statement (showing you have money to support your stay) (less than 2mb)
 - e. PDF of page 1 of your approved C2C form (less than 2mb)
4. First, go to <https://immihub.immigration.gov.fj/FIDPortal/welcome>
 - a. You will need to create an account.
 - b. You will receive an authorization code within a few seconds (check spam folder if you don’t receive it right away).
 - c. Ensure you note the username/password
 - d. You can create one account (under the captain) and then create a group for family/crew.
 - i. Several people had issues with this in 2025, so doing individual accounts might be easier.
5. Select “Visitor Permit Extension”
6. Select “Holiday” (do not select the yacht one as you are not paid crew)
7. Select “Tourist” (do not select the yacht one as you are not paid crew)
8. Check “Self-Sponsored”
9. Under “Expiration date of flight airfare ticket” I just put a few days AFTER my newly requested expiry date (for example my 4-mo visa expired 4/30/25, my requested extension and new planned date of departure was 2-mo later at 10/30/25 and my Expiration date of flight airfare ticket was 11/5/25)
10. Under Address in Fiji, I put Line 1: Private Vessel “sv Sugar Shack”, Line 2: Sailing around various islands, Line 3: Port Denarau Marina, City: Port Denarau, State: Denarau
11. Uploading Documents
 - a. Confirm Return Ticket: Upload Page 1 of your approved C2C form
 - b. Proof of Payment / Confirmed Hotel: Upload Pag 1 of your approved C2C form

12. During the Review stage, be sure to print/save your application
13. Submit
14. After you submit the application, you will be directed to the payment section. Do not close out of the page or click back. Once the payment has been accepted you will get an official payment successful on the screen. Print and SAVE
 - a. The fee was approximately \$91F. We were charged a little extra for the credit card payment. It is all calculated for you on the website.
15. You will receive an email or you can check your visa extension status on the website

Aug. 2025: We submitted our 2 applications (because I did not do the “group”) at 8:45am and received our email approval by 12:45pm on the same day. The process is easy if you follow the above instructions. We printed out the application, the proof of payment, the email stating we need to go to immigration for our passport stamp and the “approved” page on their website. (A little overkill, really). We went to immigration a few weeks later (as we were in Kadavu), showed our documents, and received our stamp with no issues.

Note: Immigration at Denarau and Vuda cannot stamp your passport. You have to go to Savusavu, Lautoka or Nadi Immigration to get your passport stamped. – sv Sugar Shack

July 2025: We applied for our visa extension online using the new system. Within 2 hours we received a rejection because of corrupted uploads. I received a form letter, without my name on it stating the application was rejected. The letter had explicit instructions not to reapply.

Multiple calls to Suva were never answered (the phone just rings and rings). The immigration staff at Savusavu and Vuda did not want to deal with it and advised me to leave Fiji and return.

We ended up flying to Samoa overnight. Upon return we received another 4-month visa permit. What a ride! We are from a visa exempt country. The visa guy at the airport did not ask any questions. – Planet Express

1.3.18 Yacht Length of Stay & Yacht Importation

Yachts that are sole property of a bona fide tourist, or are part of a cruise or yacht race may remain in Fiji for a period **not to exceed 24 months** (18 months initial period, + 6 months extension period, with prior approval). This does not apply to yachts that have been abandoned by master/owner. [Click here](#) for more information.

Importing Vessels; Information for cruisers about importing boats can be found:

<https://www.fracs.org.fj/our-services/customs/doing-business-in-fiji/boats-and-aircraft/>

Duty Rates vary between 0-32% dependent on the tariff classification of the boat

VAT is currently 15%. VAT is calculated on the duty payable inclusive of value for duty.

Import Transaction Fee: May be assessed as well

An independent survey by a FIRCA approved surveyor and an agent may be required to determine the value of the boat.

1.3.19 Agents

Fiji does not require the use of an agent. However, having one greatly facilitates everything including entry, exit, permits, shipping, boat part importation, and more.

- **Yacht Partners** - www.yachtpartnersfiji.com, +679.675.1136
Josephine Morris: Cell: +679.992.7986, WhatsApp: +679.992.7986, jo@yachtpartnersfiji.com. Her partner Capt. Carol Dunlop 64 (0) 2145.8062, carol@yachtpartnersfiji.com. Peter at peter@yachtpartnersfiji.com
- **Yacht Help** – www.yachthelp.com

+679.675.0911, info@yachthelp.com, David Jamieson +679.750 5000 and david@yachthelp.com.
Open 6-days a week or anytime for emergencies. Located at Port Denarau, Vuda Marina, Nawi Island.

- **Baobob Marine / Seal Superyachts** – www.seal-superyachts.com
Chase Smith +679.999 6556, Office +679.675.1120 and fiji@seal-superyachts.com
- **Aquam Insula Maritime Lifestyle**, www.aqiml.com/superyacht-agency,
maritime-lifestyleaquam-insula.com

May 2025: You do not need to hire an agent. You can do it yourself or join the Pacific Rally hosted by Island Cruising New Zealand (www.islandcruising.nz/home). Viki Moore who runs the rallies is absolutely amazing. She provides all of the necessary documents and updated processes for entering many Pacific Island countries. As part of the rally, you can come and go as you please and still have access to tons of informational and educational webinars on weather, routing, safety, formalities, and more. Well worth the money as you'll save lots of money with all of the discounts offered to rally participants! www.islandcruising.nz/upcoming-rallies. sv Sugar Shack

June 2022: We hired Yacht Partners (Jo Morris) to facilitate our entry into Fiji and were very pleased with their assistance (completing the forms, working with local authorities, and answering questions), response time was amazing, and their ability to get things done impressive. – sv Sugar Shack

1.3.20 Departure Procedures

Departing Fiji requires two government officials: Immigration and Customs. You must complete (in full) the [Outward Report for Yachts / Small Crafts C2-C Form](#) and email to yachtsreport@frcs.org.fj at least 24 hours in advance and advise them as to which port you would like to clear out from.

You are not allowed to anchor your vessel and travel by land to the customs office as officials will require to see the vessel following the clearance process.

The customs officer will require receipt copies of your clearance into the country, crew details, vessel details, next port of call, and inventory of alcohol and tobacco.

Once cleared, you will need to leave Fiji waters within 24 hours. It is prohibited to stop at any island once cleared. 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.

1.3.20.1 Cruiser Reports

Oct. 2023: Clearing out of Denarau: We made an appointment with Customs, and provided the following information:

- Completed Outward C2-C report
- Copies of all entry paperwork
- Copy of boat registration
- Passports of all crew
- (4) Photos of boats (bow, stern, and each side) which we sent via WhatsApp

The process was super easy. We anchored outside the channel and took the dinghy in (we asked if we had to be in the marina or on a mooring and he said “no” but I think this depends on his mood). – sv Sugar Shack

Aug. 2022: Clearing out of Suva: We emailed the C2C departure form 24hr in advance. Later we brought a copy and all clearance documents to Customs office at the port of Suva. (No need to go to Immigration office). We were told to leave Fiji right away, but we were allowed to leave later in the afternoon. – Major Tom

Verified 2025: April 2013 - Checking out in Savusavu: We tied up to the Copra Shed Marina dock in Savusavu to take on water before leaving to the Marshall Islands. Schedule with Copra Shed BEFORE you go in, (may be a small charge). It is best to go in to the dock (in front of the bar) at high tide, and when it has NOT been raining much. (the water quality from the hose degrades if there has been a lot of rain in the last 1-2 days).

After filling up, we walked down to Customs and Immigration, and checked out. We had previously checked with them about the procedure and the timing, so we were able to finish the process efficiently. The officials did NOT opt to come to our boat. However, a friend with a dog who was leaving, was required to bring his boat into the dock, and Customs and Immigration personally visited.

When we checked out, we were told that we MUST leave within 2 hours. – Soggy Paws

1.4 Getting Visitors in and out

Flights into and out of Fiji all originate from the international airport in Nadi on Viti Levu.

Fiji Airways has a code-share arrangement with Qantas Airways. Other international airlines include Air New Zealand, Jetstar Airways, Virgin Australia, Air Niugini, Air Vanuatu, and American Airlines.

Fiji Airways – +679.672.0888 or +679.330.4388 or www.fijiairways.com. Reservations: reservations@fijiairways.com.

Air New Zealand flies from Fiji to other international destinations via NZ: <http://airnewzealand.com.au/>

1.4.1 Adding and Removing Crew

Oct 2024: Fiji takes the Skipper's responsibility for the crew very seriously. As skipper you are totally responsible for any crew that you bring with you, that they actually leave Fiji. One skipper had casual crew just abandon ship. He was held up for weeks before leaving with a \$3,000 fine. Consider signing casual crew off the boat as soon as you arrive. They need to physically leave the boat, but might return a few days later :-). There is no onus on the crew to behave, and no real penalty for them deserting you. Crew can easily get another passport if you keep theirs.

Aug 2024: Caution about Pickup Crew: My neighbor had French crew desert his boat without checking out properly. Fiji made the skipper responsible but with no way to get the nasty crew back. Fiji would not let him leave, threatened huge fines, ended up costing him "only" \$4,000 plus other fees.

Always take passports off crew, so you have a measure of control. Always check them off the boat upon entry to Fiji, and back when leaving. Always insist on them buying a refundable airline ticket out for this purpose, before you let them ON the boat. Always insist that they have decent medical insurance.

If they stay on the boat, you will not be able to check them out. So, if you have any qualms about them, check them off the boat and onto land. They can quietly come back a few days later. – The Answer

Aug. 2023: Adding crew to your boat, after you arrive and before you leave Fiji. You will need to do 2 things. The first is to add your crew to the crew list and the second is to obtain a "Facilitation Letter" that will allow your crew to travel here with a one-way ticket.

To add crew to your crew list, you need to complete the following forms and bring them to immigration:

- Department of Immigration [Crew Change Form "A"](#)
- Copy of Captain's Passport Bio Data Page
- Copy of new Crew's Passport Bio Data Page
- Copy of Boat Registration
- Copy of Certificate of Pratique
- Copy of Authority to Disembark
- Letter from Marina (the letter states that your vessel is in their marina, who the owner is and who the crew is being added to the boat)
- Copy of Crew List
- Copy of Coastal Clearance

Immigration will issue a new crew list. Your crew member does not need to be present, but you must add them to the crew list close to their arrival date. – sv Sugar Shack

Aug. 2022: In, Suva, to remove a person from the crew list, we downloaded the “[Crew change form B](#)” from www.denaraumarina.com/forms-and-documents, brought skipper and crew passport, a copy of plane ticket to Immigration office, Border control (upstairs) at Harris road. Then we needed to go to Customs office at the port of Suva, located at the other end of Harris Road, South Port. They made copies of documents and gave us an updated crew list. – Major Tom

1.4.2 Flying in on a one-way ticket

April 2025: Most airlines will not allow passengers to board the plane without a return ticket back to their originating destination. In order to board the plane with a single-entry ticket you will need to acquire a “Facilitation Letter” from Immigration. What you will need in order to obtain a facilitation letter:

- Copy of Captain’s Passport Bio Page
- Copy of Crew’s Passport Bio Page
- Copy of Airline Ticket showing crew’s name, travel date, departure and arrival
- Copy of Boat Registration
- Proof of crew’s financial status (recent bank statement showing they can afford to buy a return ticket)
- Letter from Captain of the boat “Proof of Onward Travel” (state crew member’s name, birthday, passport number, address, boat name, boat registration number, MMSI number, home port, departure port, and arrival port, signed by Captain)

Present the above completed forms to Immigration and they will draft a “Facilitation Letter” for your crew to present at check in (prior to departure). We also sent our boat registration, and the onward travel letter to our crew member to present and he had no issues boarding with a singly entry ticket.

It took Immigration in Savusavu less than 10-minutes to write the letter after reviewing documentation.

The easier option is for your crew to purchase a one-way ticket on the day of travel and either make it “flexible” so it is refundable or cancel it within 24hours. American Airlines allows free, fully refundable cancellation within 24hrs and I am sure other airlines do as well. The ticket doesn’t have to be back to your point of origin, merely out of Fiji. – sv Sugar Shack

1.4.3 Getting from the Nadi Airport to Where You Are

The international airport for Fiji is in Nadi, near Lautoka, on the west coast of Viti Levu. If you are on Viti Levu, it is easy for visitors to get to you by taxi and/or shuttle service. There are regular shuttles to/from the airport to Suva, Port Denarau, Lautoka, and Vuda Point Marina. And these places are accessible by taxi (April 2025 taxi from airport to Port Denarau was \$45F).

If you are somewhere other than Viti Levu, there are two ways for visitors to get from Nadi to where you are-- by plane or by ferry.

You can travel between Viti Levu and Vanua Levu by Fiji Airways (plane) or Fiji Searoad Service (ferry). [Rome2Rio](#) and [Levuka Fiji](#) tickets and schedules.

Airplane, of course, is the easiest, quickest, and most expensive. There are regular direct flights from Nadi to many islands throughout Fiji. Check the local airline for the schedule for your location (some flights may only be once or twice a week). The local regional airline is [Fiji Airways](#) also [Fiji Link](#).

May 2025: I had to fly from Savusavu to California with a stop in Nadi. It was a quick 1-hour flight on Fiji Link. I landed at the domestic airport, collected my bags and walked the short 4-minute walk to the International Airport. Checked my bag and boarded my international flight. There are carts in both terminals for an easy transport. – Sv Sugar Shack

Ferry: There are ferry routes all over Fiji--taking passengers from major islands to Suva, or from the western islands to Lautoka. Fast catamaran ferries whiz between the mainland and the islands of Mamanucas and

Yasawas daily. Affordable passenger and car ferries voyage across to Fiji's more far-flung islands on daily to weekly schedules.

The [Fiji Pocket Guide](#) has a great section on ferries, schedules, and pricing.

Most tickets are one-way, but there is a [Hop-on / Hop-Off pass](#) that you can consider. There are two types of hop-on/hop-off passes: Bula Pass and the Awesome Pass. Both available for 5, 7, 9, 11, 13, and 15 days.

1.4.4 Guests Carrying Boat Parts

Anything for the boat, except alcoholic beverages and tobacco products, can be imported duty/VAT free.

Provide the receipt for each item (if at all possible).

The luggage probably won't be checked, but if it is the person needs to be prepared to show the proper documentation including: Vessel registration, vessel entry paperwork, and a letter from the captain. Also, have each item addressed as follows:

Yacht in Transit – “Yacht Name”
Rotation Number “AY2025/XX”
“Captain’s Name”
Name of Marina
Address

The **rotation number** can be found in the upper right-hand corner of your custom document (that you get at check-in). It should start with two letters, then the year and then another number (which indicates which number yacht you were at the port of entry).

The rotation number is issued when you clear your boat in with customs, it will be in the form of 'AYXXX-/nnn', which is your temporary import permit number (the “X” is usually the year, then followed by your number. For example, AY2025/100 would be AY the year 2025 and the yacht was the 100th boat to clear in).

This would apply to your guests if they are carrying in stores for you, although, in general, apparently tourists aren't given the going over in Nadi that locals are given.

1.5 Navigating in Areas with Coral

Note: Fiji is covered in beautiful reefs all over the islands, bays and anchorages. Do not be carefree while underway. It is very important to stay vigilant, constantly check your charts and satellite images and stay at least 2nm from all reefs.

In 2023, there were over a dozen yachts that ran aground in Fiji.

May 2025: Though we found both the CMAP and Garmin charts to be fairly accurate in Fiji (not so everywhere, however), your ability to explore coral-laced atolls is greatly enhanced by acquiring high-resolution satellite images.

There are a number of sources of satellite charting/imagery for Fiji.

1.5.1 KAPS and mbtiles (used by charting programs like OpenCPN)

[Migration's Charts](#) Pacific Mexico, French Poly, Pitcairn Island, Easter Island mbtiles 2020

[Zen Again's Charts](#) Pacific Ocean, SE Asia, Crossing to S Africa, S Atlantic, Brazil

[Soggy Paws' Charts](#) Pacific Ocean, SE Asia, Red Sea

[Jacaranda's Charts](#) French Polynesia

[Ocelot's Charts](#) SE Asia, Western Pacific, and Indian Ocean

Make Your Own: You can make your own, look for the Sat2Chart program here: <http://gdayii.ca>

There is a Facebook Group called GE2Kap that provides support for Sat2Chart (formerly GE2KAP).

OpenCPN is a free fully functional navigation program, downloadable from <http://opencpn.org> It runs on Windows 7-11, many flavors of Linux and Raspberry Pi, and Apple Macs (but not iDevices).

1.5.2 iDevices

OpenCPN doesn't run on iPads and iPhones due to their proprietary architecture/non-open-source attitude. Here are some satellites navigation options for iDevices.

Ovital Maps used to be the most-recommended for iPads/iPhones, but the Apple Store gutted this program in about 2019. If you have it, and have maps you want to keep, don't hook your iPad up to the internet, or your maps will go away!

The latest recommended choice is **Guru Maps**.

<https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.bodunov.galileo>

You get one free week and then can buy the Pro version for \$10 per year. Cheaper to start with the free version than buy the Pro outright, but I heard that maps downloaded for the free version have to be re-downloaded for the Pro version. You can add map types from here: <https://ms.gurumaps.app/>

Also, **Zulu Offshore**: <https://apps.apple.com/id/app/zulu-offshore/id1522412216>

1.5.3 Android Devices

The most-recommended solution (besides OpenCPN on Android) is **All in One Offline Maps**:

<https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=net.psyberia.offlinemaps>

Another often recommended choice is **Guru Maps**.

<https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.bodunov.galileo>

You get one free week and then can buy the Pro version for \$10 per year. Cheaper to start with the free version than buy the Pro outright, but I heard that maps downloaded for the free version have to be re-downloaded for the Pro version. You can add map types from here: <https://ms.gurumaps.app/>

And a third is **Alpine Quest**: <https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=psyberia.alpinequest.full>

1.5.4 Windows

OpenCPN, of course (with added maps). <http://opencpn.org> The benefit of OpenCPN is the widely available old worldwide CMAP chart set. Download free from Valhalla's site (see chart source links above).

SAS Planet: <https://sasplanet.geojamal.com> is a good alternative for Windows users. But SAS is NOT a navigation program. OpenCPN is. Best place to download a copy of SAS Planet that works well with Sat2Chart is from the Sat2Chart developer's website: <https://www.gdayii.ca/Downloads/>

1.6 Weather in Fiji

1.6.1 General Weather Conditions June-Nov.

The "[French Polynesia Weather Compendium](#)" is the best source of info for overall Pacific weather systems, and weather sources. A few Fiji-specific links that are not in that document, are given below.

Similar to French Polynesia in June-Aug., it is warm during the day but cools down nicely at night.

By October it is starting to warm up some. There are still lows and cold fronts going through the area in October, bringing alternately rainy and squally weather, and then fine clear weather.

There is also the possibility of the South Pacific Convergence Zone dropping into the area from the west, bringing very wet weather.

1.6.2 Weather Sources – With Onboard Email/SSB

The Fiji Met Service URL is here: <https://www.met.gov.fj/>

High Seas Forecast (text): Met14.trop on Saildocs

URL: <https://www.met.gov.fj/fiji-weather/fiji-weather/marine-weather/#:~:text=Moderate%20southerly%20swells.,winds%2015%20to%2020%20knots>.

Fiji text forecast files.

`send nadi.fiji`

`send http://www.met.gov.fj/aifs_prods/10040.txt`

`send https://www.met.gov.fj/aifs_prods/20036.txt`

New Zealand Weather Faxes

They only have one transmitter in NZ, so each product is broadcast on a different frequency every 15 minutes starting at xx00 (5Mhz), xx15 (9Mhz), xx30 (13Mhz), xx45 (16Mhz daytime, 3Mhz nighttime).

All times are Fiji Island Local times. (+12UTC)

PRODUCT	TRANSMISSION TIMES (Local) & Freqs				
	3247.4	5807	9459	13550.5	16340.1
1200 SW PACIFIC MSL ANAL	0445	0400	0415	0430	
1800 SW PACIFIC MSL ANAL		1000	1015	1030	1045
TRANSMISSION SCHEDULE		1100	1115	1130	1145
0000 SW PACIFIC MSL PROG H+ 30		1200	1215	1230	1245
0000 SW PACIFIC MSL PROG H+ 48		1300	1315	1330	1345
0000 SW PACIFIC MSL PROG H+ 72		1400	1415	1430	1445
0000 SW PACIFIC MSL ANAL		1600	1615	1630	1645
0600 SW PACIFIC MSL ANAL	2245	2200	2215	2230	
TRANSMISSION SCHEDULE	2345	2300	2315	2330	
1200 SW PACIFIC MSL PROG H+ 30	0045	0000	0015	0030	
1200 SW PACIFIC MSL PROG H+ 48	0145	0100	0115	0130	
1200 SW PACIFIC MSL PROG H+ 72	0245	0200	0215	0230	

(subtract 1.9 to get dial frequency)

1.6.3 Weather Sources – Voice

1.6.3.1 Gulf Harbor Radio

The best source of voice weather for Fiji is the Gulf Harbor Radio net, which is on 8752 kHz or 8779 kHz or 8297 kHz. (In that order, depending on interference).

The latest info on Gulf Harbor Radio scheds and frequencies is available on this website: www.ghradio.co.nz

This broadcast is available at 0515 UTC / 17:15 NZST **May 02 - 25 Nov.**

Daily during passage making - otherwise weekdays only

David Sapiane (s/v Chameleon) is located in Gulf Harbor, NZ (or out cruising in the Western Pacific) and is easily receivable by boats in the western South Pacific islands, and enroute to/from NZ.

1.6.3.2 Taupo Maritime Radio ZLM

Taupo Maritime Radio is located in Wellington, NZ. Technically they cover Met Area 14 (FJ is Met Area 12b), however there is one broadcast that likely covers Fiji waters:

03:03, 09:03, 15:03, 21:03 UTC – 6224khz and 12356khz

03:33, 09:33, 15:33, 21:33 UTC – 8297khz and 16531khz

NavArea XIV includes:

Islands - Equator to 25S, 160E to 120W

Subtropic - 23S to 40S, Australian Coast to 120W

Pacific - 25S to 55S, 170W to 120W

1.6.4 Weather Sources – Internet

Soggy Paws & friends have created a “[French Polynesia Weather Compendium](#)” for overall Pacific weather systems which is very useful for all cruisers. Here are a few additional sources specific to Fiji.

Color Satellite View of Entire SW Pacific

<https://www.ospo.noaa.gov/products/imagery/sohemi.html>

For Fiji, scroll down to the “Himawari-9 East” section. I like the Infrared Loop version.

Fiji-only Sat Pic

Black and white sat pic (much smaller file):

https://www.data.jma.go.jp/mscweb/data/himawari/sat_hrp.php?area=r5s

Fiji Met Service

Home Page: <http://www.met.gov.fj/>

Surface Analysis (Chart): <https://www.met.gov.fj/fiji-weather/weather-maps/>

Fiji Marine Forecast (Text): <https://www.met.gov.fj/fiji-weather/fiji-weather/marine-weather/>

1.6.5 Tropical Weather (Dec-April)

2012: We have only experienced one tropical season in this area. So, we don't really know enough to know whether our experience is typical or not. But here's what we got.

The official tropical season runs 1 Dec - 30 Apr. But the height of the activity seems to be 15-Jan through 15-March.

From about Jan 15, the SPCZ descended on us, and lay right along a line from the Solomons down across Fiji and down to Tonga. The wind in Fiji was NW and cloudy/rainy for weeks on end. And a new tropical low spawned in the NW and came towards Fiji about once a week. Some of lows have been just squally, one or two turned into 'Named Storms' and got pretty violent. At least one popped up out of a blob of rain over Fiji and built into a cyclone between midnight and 6am (mostly affecting Tonga, not Fiji), and was on top of Neiafu by 7am--with no warning whatsoever. This was right as an MJO peak was passing over us. **So, when Bob McDavitt starts talking about MJO's, pay attention.**

Check this link for more info on the current state of the MJO:

<https://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov/products/precip/CWlink/MJO/foregfs.shtml>

The main cyclone forecasting in our area is handled by Fiji. Fiji is not like the US National Weather Service. The frequency of bulletins is not very good, and they only forecast about 24 hours in the future.

If the tropical system drops below 25S, Fiji stops reporting, and Wellington, NZ, picks it up. We had one system that walked along 25S, and neither weather center took responsibility for it.

The US Joint Typhoon Warning Center is not supposed to be forecasting cyclones in our area; however, they do. If there is an active system, they have a graphic and text forecast out for 120 hours.

<https://www.metoc.navy.mil/jtwc/jtwc.html>

I could not find a weather product in Airmail for the text forecast, but once you request it via internet, you can then request the text file directly via Saildocs.

The Fiji Tropical Weather information can be gotten on Sailmail by requesting: Met.14trop

This is a conglomeration of tropical and high seas warnings, and sometimes runs so long when there are active warnings that Sailmail truncates it. Sometimes, the report is not there, and we get nothing.

The satellite photo link in the [Weather Sources Internet](#) section above is useful to monitor squally weather and tropical storms. These are big, animated, infrared satellite photos, but if you have internet, they are the best source of what's happening right now.

Finally, if you don't have internet, a long range, wide-area GRIB file is much better than nothing. – Soggy Paws

1.6.6 Tsunami Information

The entire Pacific Basin is subject to tsunamis. There have been 4 significant tsunamis which have affected cruising locations (Tonga 2023, Hawaii & Mexico 2011, So. America, Galapagos & Panama 2010, American Samoa and Tonga in 2009) The tsunamis originate in various locations, but the worst origination locations were Japan and Chile, however, many 'tremors' happen in these locations that do not cause widespread tsunamis.

The US Tsunami Warning Center website is located here: <https://www.tsunami.gov/>

1.7 Overview of Fiji

1.7.1 Time Zone

Note that you cross the international dateline when arriving in Fiji from the Cook Islands or Samoa.

Fiji is GMT +12 (one hour less than Tonga). Example: Tues. 09:00 in Tahiti, its Wed. 0800 Tonga, & 0700 Fiji.

Fiji observes daylight savings time. Otherwise, Fiji is generally on the same time zone as New Zealand.

The **dateline passes** between Vanua Levu and Taveuni and across the Koro Sea. The Lao group and Totoya are east of the dateline. Matuku, Moala, Gau, Nairai, and Koro are west of the dateline.

Your electronic charts (Navionics, Maps.me) tend to have a difficult time when navigating across the date line.



1.7.2 Tides

Tides in Fiji can be as much as 1.8m. Be sure to check the tide tables thoroughly. For a web-based tide chart, visit [Tide Forecast Charts](#).

<https://www.tide-forecast.com/locations/Nandi-Waters-Viti-Levu-Fiji-Islands/tides/latest>

Or a free offline tide program (for Windows), called WXTide32. www.wxtide32.com/

1.7.3 Dress Code

The dress code in Fiji is quite strict and very conservative. Men should always wear shirts in town and women should wear skirts or dresses that cover shoulders and the upper legs while seated. Wearing bathing suits, short shorts, and tank tops in public is seen as a lack of respect. Revealing too much skin in Fijian villages is considered offensive.

You have a little more leeway in the major towns of Denarau, Vuda, and Savusavu, but even in these populated areas the locals will prefer to see you dressed appropriately.

Do not wear hats (only the chief can wear a hat) and do not wear your sunglasses on your head. Backpacks should be carried and not worn on the back.

Public nudity and topless sunbathing are both illegal.

1.7.4 Sevusevu (Kava ceremony) for Beginners

Fiji Marinas website gives a great 101 of the Sevusevu ceremony held in the outer islands:

<https://www.fijimarinas.com/sevusevu-101/>

IT IS CUSTOMARY TO PRESENT YOUR SEVUSEVU TO EACH VILLAGE

PRIOR to swimming, diving, and exploring on shore.

Sevusevu marks the time and place for visitors to seek acceptance into a Fijian village. Typically, sevusevu occurs in the outer islands (not in Viti Levu or Vanua Levu major towns). A half kilo bundle of kava root is the appropriate and required offering (\$25F-35FJ). The kava root is the preferred gift (not the powdered kava as that is not part of their tradition and the locals do not know what part of the root it is made from).

Attire: 'Modest' dress is a must.' Everyone should be dressed accordingly:

Men with shirts and sulus.

Women are expected to cover their shoulders down to their knees.

Everything should be removed from the head (hats & sunglasses). No hats or sunglasses should be worn and backpacks should be carried anywhere but on the back.

The villagers probably won't show open disapproval if their social codes are broken, but it pays to respect their ways. A formal farewell – plus a thank you, of course – on leaving relieves the village of any further responsibility for you.

You may be part of a shortened version of the sevusevu ceremony where kava is not consumed or the full version where kava will be pounded, poured, and consumed.

Why Sevusevu?

All land belongs to someone – and it's not 'the public'. There is some government-owned land, but the seafront and the bits you'd like to explore will usually belong to the nearest village and within the village individual families will own certain areas, called 'gardens', where they grow their crops. To anchor, swim, walk ashore etc without asking permission is the equivalent of a total stranger pitching his tent or caravan on your front lawn back home! You wouldn't much like it, and even if he asked, you'd probably still say no.

Luckily for yachties there is a way round this in Fiji, which involves visiting the village Chief and presenting him with a gift of kava roots in a ceremony where he will grant you permission to remain on his property, walk through his village, swim in his sea etc. You are now accepted as a member of the village – which brings certain obligations to behave accordingly.

Kava Root: Kava (also called yaqona) comes from the roots of the pepper plant, which are ground to a powder in a sort of giant pestle and mortar. Then it goes into a sacred kava bowl where water is poured on and squeezed through what looks to foreign eyes like an old tea towel. This is repeated over and over until the kava gets to a certain strength– and when the whole thing looks just like muddy dish water, guess what? You get to drink it! (And if you think that’s bad enough, in the past the roots were first chewed by young women to soften them prior to the addition of water!). It is a mild narcotic and has a numbing effect on lips and tongue. The locals call it ‘grog’ and it is widely drunk throughout Fiji and other South Pacific countries.

How will I recognize kava and how much do I buy? No problems there, since it is the most obvious thing you will see in every Fijian market. It looks like a bundle of sticks, wrapped in newspaper and ribbon. In the market, kava will most likely be gathered into pre-wrapped bundles of varying sizes, so your only decision is a financial one. A half kilo bundle (\$25-\$50F) is usually the accepted gift per village. Be sure to buy enough kava for the outer islands as you cannot buy it locally when you are out there. Every bay with a village will require sevusevu.

Kava roots need to remain dry. Store them in a cool dry place on your boat. It is recommended to store them in an enclosed area (cooler or box) as there is a distinct smell.

The locals prefer the kava root to the powder because it is purer and they know exactly what they are going to get. With the powder, they do not know how much of the root was ground down into it and what other ingredients were added to the powder.

Sevusevu Ceremony:

Upon your first arrival to an outer island be sure you are prepared with your sulus (sarong for men, women, and children), kava, local currency (in case they require a donation), and friendly smile.

When you arrive, ask for the **Turaga ni Koro’** (pronounced too-ranga nee koro) who is the appointed village headman. He will greet you and present you to the chief.

The chief will rarely, if ever, greet you at the edge of the village. Your presence in an anchorage doesn’t go unnoticed. Even if you cannot see the village, the locals will know you are there, and they also know it is only be a matter of time before we come ashore clutching our kava.

The villagers know all about it and have been doing it among themselves for years. It’s part of their tradition and shows an age-old respect for elders. Because they are such friendly, helpful people they will not embarrass you by leaving you to struggle on your own to find the Chief. There will always be at least one person at the water’s edge to greet you – and if you arrive outside school hours, well ... you’ll be mobbed.

The headman, Turaga ni Koro’ will accompany you to the chief’s house. Leave your shoes at the door and follow the cues of your Turaga ni Koro’. Some Chiefs speak English – our experience was a mixture – but the person who meets at the shore most certainly will, and he will keep you right and interpret for you.

You will be invited to sit on the floor – remember that shortage of chairs – cross-legged for men, legs tucked under for women. You either hand your kava to the Turaga ni Koro’ or you may lay your kava in front of the Chief, thus giving him the opportunity to refuse it, though I’m sure this is unheard of. You do not hand it directly to the chief.

The official greeting is ‘noqu sevusevu gor’. We haven’t a clue what it means, but on those occasions, we have remembered the words the response has been one of utter delight! Well worth the effort. The Chief will then make a speech of welcome, long or short, in English or Fijian.

The chief will seek introductions via the headman, then clap a few times and say a prayer. The chief or the Turaga ni Koro' will then ask what you would like to do on their island or in their village (swim, snorkel, fish, see the village, etc...) and ask if you have any questions. This is a good time to ask if they have any activities or sites that you should see (ie: in Vulaga they have the cave of bones and in Vanua Balavu they have cave tours).

Unless you're very lucky, or very well padded, the funny bone on your ankle will be the first to complain and here we come to a new worry – how to leave without causing offence. You're not supposed to stand while the Chief is sitting, yet it would be rude of him to rush his guests away. You could be locked into this all day unless you find some diplomatic way out! Asking if we may now visit the village, or perhaps even the school, is a good exit line – it would be rude for the Chief to refuse your request, so you're released.

Above would be considered the “short or condensed version of sevusevu.”

The Full Sevusevu Ceremony

If you are lucky enough to be invited for a full sevusevu ceremony, be prepared for a treat! After the chief's prayers, the kava preparation begins.

After the speech of welcome, the pounding of the kava root begins, and quite hard work it was too. Your host will get a tea towel which is more of a pouch than a plain towel, into which went the newly pounded kava. The next stage – getting the brew at ideal strength – required the supervision of the chief.

Your host will pour water over the towel, squeeze the contents, and catch it in a beautiful ornate kava bowl. At intervals, the kava might be passed to the chief for “testing” to ensure it is perfect.

Once the kava is ready, the ceremony begins. You may ask your host for a “small portion” by requesting a “low tide.” On acceptance of the coconut cup you say 'bula', clap once, and down it in one gulp – you may be glad you asked for a small! – and then clap three times. We often got the claps muddled up but it never seemed to matter. Willing participation was more important than getting all the moves right.

Low Tide, Mid Tide, High Tide may be used for the quantity of kava you wish.

Clapping is a deep clap where your palms do NOT touch.

Fijians know this is not part of our culture. They appreciate the effort and would never embarrass a visitor.

The coconut cup should be handed back to the host, not put on the ground.

After the cup has been passed around a few times and the kava bowl is empty, you may find a way to politely excuse yourself.

Kava Tips:

As for actually drinking your gift, we stumbled quite by accident on a useful ploy that worked a few times. Typically, locals do not consume kava in the mornings.

Only recently have the Fijian Police been banned from drinking it while on duty! It's very much a male thing. At the end of a day's work on the plantation the men gather and knock back the grog. They will sit cross-legged round the kava bowl – and pass the grog round in a half coconut shell. In markets, wherever there is a gathering of men, there will also be a kava bowl, regardless of time of day. In certain areas kava drinking to excess has become a serious social problem, though the participants are more likely to be torpid and lethargic than drunk and disorderly.

1.7.5 Fijian Culture

Fiji is one of the friendliest places you'll ever travel. It's impossible to walk down the street without being greeted with bula (pronounced “buuuuulaaaah” with a smile) by many. Fijians have a strong sense of ethnic pride and learning the cultural folkways and more is helpful.

It is a very serious mistake to ever touch the head of any Fijian chief as the head is considered sacred. In town, slacks or shorts are acceptable for men, but may not be in villages where men and women wear sulus, type of skirt or sarong.

Indo-Fijians, originally introduced to work the cane fields, but now Fijians for several generations, tend to be shopkeepers and professionals (doctors, dentists) and we found little chance to visit an Indo-Fijian village. Ethnic Fijians tend to be more laid back and seem to eschew commercial enterprise. Christianity, Hinduism and Islam were all represented.

Language: Most adults and children of school age speak English (a welcome change for those coming from French Polynesia) though both Fijian and Fijian Hindi are widely spoken.

ALCOHOL: Many Fijians do NOT drink alcohol. Especially in the outer islands where it is frowned upon (some chiefs forbid it on their island). They enjoy their kava. So, it is customary NOT to offer alcohol to the locals.

1.7.6 Sea Mercy Fiji

Sea Mercy Fiji is a Charitable Trust run by sailors. They utilize volunteer cruising yachts to provide assistance, as needed, to remote island communities in the South Pacific. They offer an environment where cruiser skills and capabilities can make a real difference.

Sea Mercy Fiji wants yachties to feel that they have a place and a medium to help out. They create an effective, efficiently run, and enjoyable way for people to pitch in and feel that their contributions are welcomed, accepted, and meaningful.

Mobile: +679.750.5000. WhatsApp: +679.928.1460, bula@seamercyfiji.org, www.seamercyfiji.org

1.7.7 Manta Rays

There are several special areas in Fiji that are home to Manta cleaning stations. It is a true wonder and unique opportunity to be able to see these gentle giants in their natural environment. Fiji works very closely with The Manta Trust (www.mantatrust.org) to ensure these habitats remain a safe place for the manta rays.

Swimming with the Mantas: <https://swimwithmantas.org/>

- Move calmly and quietly.
- Avoid excessive splashing by keeping your fins underwater.
- Maintain 3m from the mantas. Let the manta decide if it wants to come closer to you.
- Mantas are very curious by nature, so stay where you are and they will most likely circle back to check you out.
- At a cleaning station, stay to the side, do not swim over or touch the cleaning station.

Please note the following rules when swimming with the Mantas:

- Do not drive your dinghy in, around, or over the cleaning stations. This will scare off the mantas and they will stay away from that area for several days or weeks.
- Do not chase after the manta rays.
- Do not attempt to touch the manta rays.
- Do not scuba dive anywhere near a manta cleaning station. This is strictly prohibited in Fiji.
- Do not block their path, stay to their side where they can see you.

When tourists break the rules, it often leads to scaring the manta rays away for days or weeks which ruins the experience for others. Please respect the rules and the mantas.

1.7.8 Fishing

Fishing in the lagoons is prohibited unless you gain approval from the chief. And Fiji has implemented new laws to protect their future fishing opportunities.



1.7.9 Ciguatera

From Wikipedia: Ciguatera fish poisoning, also known simply as ciguatera, is a foodborne illness caused by eating reef fish whose flesh is contaminated with certain toxins. Ciguatera Fish Poisoning commonly occurs in tropical and subtropical areas, particularly in the Pacific Ocean, the Indian Ocean, and the Caribbean Sea.

Symptoms may include diarrhea, vomiting, numbness, itchiness, sensitivity to hot and cold, dizziness, and weakness. The onset of symptoms varies with the amount of toxin eaten from half an hour to up to two days. The diarrhea may last for up to four days.

Any reef fish can cause ciguatera poisoning, but these species: barracuda, grouper, red snapper, moray eel, amberjack, parrotfish, hogfish, sturgeon fish, kingfish, coral trout, and sea bass are most commonly affected

The toxins do not affect the taste, texture, or odor of the fish and cannot be destroyed by cooking, smoking, freezing, salting or any other method of food preparation. Outbreaks can occur seasonally or sporadically, particularly after storms. Not all fish of a given species or from a given area will be toxic.

Preventive efforts include not eating reef fish, not eating high-risk fish such as barracuda, and not eating fish liver, roe, or fish heads. Ciguatoxin has no taste or smell, and cannot be destroyed by conventional cooking. There is no specific treatment for ciguatera fish poisoning once it occurs. Mannitol, Gabapentin or amitriptyline may be used to treat some of the symptoms. Gastrointestinal decontamination with charcoal has also been used. Intravenous fluids may be necessary to control nausea and vomiting.

Ciguatera

Fish Poisoning

A food borne illness caused by eating certain reef fish whose flesh is contaminated with ciguatera toxin.

How do people get ciguatera fish poisoning

Ciguatera is a toxin produced by marine micro-algae specifically a dinoflagellate, called *Gambierdiscus toxicus*. Tropical marine fish accumulate this toxin through their diet by eating algae or smaller fish. When humans eat contaminated fish, they develop a condition called ciguatera fish poisoning.

Symptoms

Ciguatera poisoning usually starts 2-24 hours after eating fish with this toxin.

The most common signs are:

- Numbness in fingers, toes, lips, mouth and throat.
- Burning sensation on contact with cold water.
- Joint and muscle pain.
- Nausea, vomiting, diarrhoea and headache.

Treatment

- Seek medical attention at the on-set of the symptoms. There is no define treatment for Ciguatera in Fiji, however doctors can prescribe medications to relief discomfort and pain.
- People recovering from fish poisoning should avoid eating reef fish for at least 6 months.

Minimizing the risk

1. Ciguatera toxin fish can not be destroyed by freezing, cooking or any other process.
2. Ciguatera toxin fish can not be detected by appearance, odor, texture or taste.
3. Avoid eating head, liver or other viscera (eg intestine) of the fish as toxin is concentrated in these parts.
4. Avoid eating large fish. (Limit whole weight to around 3kg per fish).

Outbreak Areas

Ciguatera poisoning mostly occurs in areas which has:

1. Rapid increase in algae in the water system.
2. Recent habitat degradation through developments, natural disasters such as cyclones and tsunamis, phase shift.
3. Nutrient enrichment through land run-off.
4. High oil spills (near jetties).

For more information contact:

Ministry of Fisheries | P.O. Box 2100, Laoli, Suva, Fiji | Telephone: 338 1100 | Fax: 338 8000

1.7.10 Fijian Phrases and Pronunciation

The first missionaries devised an alphabet to take into account sounding the Fijian language.

“c” is “th” as in Mamanuca	Pronounced “Mamanutha”
“d” is “nd” as in Nadi	Pronounced “Nandi”
“b” is “mb” as in Ba	Pronounced “Mba”
“g” is “ng” as in Ogea	Pronounced “Ongea”
“q” is “gg” as in Beqa	Pronounced “Bengga”

Calder's guide has a pretty good summary of the pronunciation issue. Key words you should know:

English	Fijian	Pronunciation
Hello	Ni sa bula or just “bula”	boo-lah
My Name is	Nah Yah Thang Gu	
Goodbye	Ni sa moce	Nee sa moh-thay
Good Morning	Ni sa yadra	Nee sa yan-dra
Good Afternoon	Ni sa bula	Nee say mBoola

Good Night	Ni sa moce	Nee sah moh-thay
How Are You?	Vacava tiko?	Va-tha-va tee-koh
Yes	lo	ee-oh
No	sega	seng-ah
No Worries	Sega na leqa	seng-ha nah len-gah
Please	Yalo Vinaka	ya-lo vin-ah-ka
Excuse Me	Tolou	
Thank you / Good	Vinaka	
Thank you very much	Vinaka vaka levu	
You are welcome	Bula Vinaka	boo-lah vee nah cah
Beautiful	Totoka	toh-toh-kah
What is this?	A cava oqo	A cava onngo
Fiji	Viti	Vee-tee
See You Again	Sota Tale	So-tah tah-leh
Boat	Wan-ga	
Night	Bongee	

1.8 Yachtsmen Services

1.8.1 Cooking Gas (Propane)

Viti Levu: Most marinas have the facilities to refill your propane tank and or will help organize the filling of your tank. There is a propane refill station just outside the Vuda Point Marina.

Vanua Levu: LPG Bottles can only be refilled in Savusavu and Labasa. All three marinas will help you refill your propane bottles.

1.8.2 Fuel (Diesel/Gasoline)

Diesel can be purchased in Savusavu (Copra Shed Marina, Nawi Island Marina), Mate, Somosomo (Taveuni), Wairiki, Nuku (Rabi), Labasa.

Diesel and gasoline can be purchased in Port Denerau, Vuda Marina, Musket Cove, Lautoka, and a few other places in Viti Levu.

Premix fuel 50:1 for 2 stroke engines can be bought in almost all villages and settlements, but non-premix is hard to find in the outer islands. The **gasoline** they commonly sell near the water is called "premix", and it is gasoline premixed to a 50:1 ratio.

You can check current pricing at https://www.globalpetrolprices.com/Fiji/diesel_prices/

May 2025: Diesel \$2.31/litre, Gasoline \$2.71/litre, Premix \$2.32/litre.

Duty-free diesel in Fiji

For fuel and duty-free alcohol sales yachts must be 100+ tons and complete a [C-35 Application to Ship Stores](#) form which is required at clearance.

In the outer islands, diesel, gasoline, and premix are very hard to come by, so stock up before you leave civilization. You will be using your dinghy a lot in the outer islands, for exploring and snorkeling. The price

seems to be fixed, because the price of gasoline in the remote Lau was the same as in Savusavu. However, prices for fuel in Musket Cove was a little higher than Denarau and Vuda.

Note: Oct. 2023: We had an unfortunate incident with two Pacific Energy Stations in Savusavu. It appears their pumps are not properly calibrated. We filled 8 jerry cans at the station in front of MaxValue store. Each one was shorted by about 10-20% despite 20liters showing on the pump. The next day we went to the Pacific Energy located across from Waitui Marina with 6 cans and had the same thing happen. When we reported it, they simply stated that “it’s because the price of diesel has gone up.” But 20 liters is 20 liters despite the price. Locals later informed us that it is much better to hire a taxi to go to Total Energies as they are calibrated properly and will not take advantage. – D. Saunders

1.8.3 Trash and Recycling

Formal garbage disposal and recycling facilities can be found at Fiji’s ports and marinas. Please do not dump or give your trash to locals in the outer islands as they have a difficult time properly disposing of it. Keep all plastics and batteries onboard until they can be properly disposed of in the larger islands.

Recycling in Fiji

There are recycling bins at Nawi Vuda Marina, Port Denarau Marina, Nawi Marina, Copra Shed Marina, Waitui Marina, and Musket Cove Marina. These facilities segregate used batteries, used oil, plastic, glass, kitchen waste, paper, cardboard. Those items which cannot be recycled in Fiji are shipped overseas for processing by Waste Recyclers Fiji.

Burning Garbage

It is illegal to burn garbage in Fiji (and it is bad for you and the environment).

Tossing Trash into the Sea

Only ground food may be thrown into the sea when you are over 12 miles from land.

1.8.4 Water

Most of the marinas offer drinking water at a small fee.

1.9 General Services

1.9.1 Airlines

Fiji Airways has a code-share arrangement with Qantas Airways and other international airlines including Air New Zealand, Jetstar Airways, Virgin Australia, Air Niugini, Air Vanuatu, and American Airlines.

Fiji Airways – +679.672.0888 or +679.330.4388 or www.fijiairways.com. Reservations: reservations@fijiairways.com.

Fiji Airways operates Fiji Link which travels between Fijian islands.

1.9.2 Banks & ATMs

The currency in Fiji is the Fijian dollar. Exchange Rate Sept. 2025 is about \$1FJD = .44 USD. There are ATMS in most larger cities. There are no banks or ATMs in the outer islands (especially Lau). Be sure to check out the rare \$7 Fijian bill (in yellow and blue).

There are several No.1 Currency and Western Union locations in the major cities.

Oct. 2023: Need Vatu (Vanuatu money)? GCC Exchange in downtown Nadi will exchange Fijian dollars or USD for Vatu. +679.801.6506, +679.670.1100, www.gccexchange.com, gccfiji@gccexchange.com, 395A Building Main Street, Nadi (across from taxi stand and next to large Jack’s). – sv Sugar Shack

1.9.3 Importation of Spares and Repair Parts

Nearly all BOAT items being shipped to Fiji will be allowed to enter the country as Yacht Parts in Transit (duty free) provided they are going to be fixed to the yacht or added to the yacht's inventory.

The only things that will attract import duty are alcohol, tobacco, and other high duty items. Contact Customs via email: info@frcs.org.fj.

Many marinas and agents will also facilitate this process for a fee.

Although the merchants of Fiji far prefer that you buy from them (and remember, they have to cover very large duties and VAT, which are included in the shelf prices), you may import, duty, VAT and service charge free, spares for your vessel.

Yacht in Transit Rotation Number: This number will usually start with AY followed by the year, followed by another number (for example: AY2023/100)

After you clear in, on the upper right-hand corner of the Customs document, you will see a number referred to as a 'Rotation Number'. If you have your shipper include that number on the face of any parcel addressed to you, you will only be charged a clearance fee of F\$2.40 (not the service charge, an importer has to pay a total of four fees!). You will also need a copy of the document and a photo ID to pick up the package.

If the spares (or gifts) include electronic media (CD, DVD, etc.), Customs will verify to ensure that you are not importing pornography. The agents enforce the rules, they don't make them. Please don't be rude to them for doing their job!

If you intend to have spares shipped in prior to your arrival in Savusavu, a caution to you about the inbound courier services.

1.9.4 Shipping Parts and Mail into Fiji

May 2025: Unfortunately, Fiji Freight is no longer doing consolidation shipping as they focus on their commercial side of the business. DHL now appears to be the best shipper to/from Fiji.

We needed to have a 20lb box (12"x12"x6") sent from the U.S. to Savusavu and the cheapest price we received was \$900.00 USD. We tried many sources and the price ranged from \$900-\$1,500USD. In the end we decided it was in our best interest to fly back to retrieve our parcels as this guaranteed no customs issues or delays. Round trip flight from Savusavu was \$1,100.00.

Subsequently, we found several shippers around Savusavu. We did not use them:

CDP Courier has offices in Nadi, Savusavu, Suva, Lautoka, Ba, Labasa, Levuka, Sigatoka. They ship international (air and sea), freight forward, express, and secure mailbag. <https://cdpcourier.com>, For contact information: <https://cdpcourier.com/about-us/branches/>

Nadi: +679.670.1965, +679.999.6206, nadi@cdp.com.fj,

Savusavu: +679.999.6222, savusavu@cdp.com.fj

Lautoka +679.666.2376, +679.999.6213, lautoka@cdp.com.fj

Suva +679.999.6210, +679.331.3077, admin@cdp.com.fj

Sailax Shipping & Freight Forwarding Limited +64.9.257.2323, www.sailax.co.nz, sales@sailax.co.nz. Hours: Mon-Fri: 0900-1600, Sat: 1000-1400. Local Branches www.sailax.co.nz/branches: Sailax, Suva +679.932.3611, +679.310.0079, info@sailax.co.nz, Sailax Shipping Freight Nadi +679.974.3926, +679.804.7210, info@sailax.co.nz,

Nov. 2024: I just used Sailax and they were excellent. The contact Shinoy is totally on the ball, a refreshing change. They can ship air or sea. I shipped air freight and the prices were reasonable and quick. They fly once per week (Saturday or Sunday from Auckland). – S/Y Isabel

AUSFF +61.1300.345.700, WhatsApp +61.490.839.412, sales@ausff.com.au, www.ausff.com.au, Hours: Mon-Fri: 0800-1700

Nov. 2024: I can recommend AUSFF (Australia to Fiji shipping). They are very economic, process packages, fast, and can consolidate multiple packages. – sv Matylda

Northern Freight Courier Services +679.840.3947, +689.808.9829, +679.205.8507 (Taveuni, Savusavu, Suva, Western) Hours: Mon-Wed: 0900-2100, Thurs-Sat: 0800-Sunrise, Loading Hours: Sun: 1100-1730. Time table” Fri, Sat, Tavenuin, Sunday loading to Suva/Western

Post Office: Express Mail +679.334.5900, emscuster@postfiji.com.fj includes local and international door to door delivery, domestic sea and air freight services, excess baggage, local same day delivery, international prepaid and import express. – sv Sugar Shack

Aug 2024: Fiji Freight: Update: No longer doing consolidation shipping as of 9/2025. The best way to get packages to Fiji from the USA is Fiji Freight. We have used them several times over the past 2 seasons in Fiji. There is no extra fee to deliver from Nadi Airport to Denarau Marina. There is a relatively small fee to ship by regional plane to Savusavu. With DHL we have had issues with packages over both seasons in Fiji. The packages have been held anywhere from 3-5 days even though labeling was correct and pertinent documents were attached to the box and sent to DHL locally as well. With Fiji Freight the process is seamless. Our packages always went through Customs seamlessly without delays. It is worth it to us not to be sitting idle wondering when our packages will finally be released.

Fiji Freight offers U.S. to Fiji freight solutions. Tel/WhatsApp: +1.424.392.5746, +1.424.290.0965. www.fijifreight.us. email: ship@fijifreight.us.

Offices: Manhattan Beach, California, USA & Fiji: Savou St. Westfieldcity, Nadi. Local Office for pickup/drop off only +679.973.1346. – Cream Puff

July 2024: DHL: DHL was super fast, delivering to Vuda Marina from Australia in 3 to 5 days.

May 2024: Both DHL and FedEx both offer their own courier service to the office marina. I believe these two firms are the only firms in Fiji which control their goods themselves from pick up to delivery. – s/v Wizard

Sept. 2023: We had such a good experience shipping with Fiji Freight that we decided to ship more boat parts from Europe and the U.S. to Fiji. The good folks at Fiji Freight repackaged everything and sent it to us. Once they received all of our items in California, they repackaged everything, shipped on the next Friday, and everything cleared customs by the following Tuesday. We then had them hold our large parcel for a week as we were in route. They delivered it to Musket Cove during the regatta. The whole process was easy.

We were replacing our heaters (which you need in NZ). We shipped all of the parts to Fiji Freight on a Monday, they were on a plane Tuesday and in our hands in Denarau on Friday. – sv Sugar Shack

Aug. 2022: Fiji Freight’s shipping rates are about half what we’ve paid from DHL and FedEx, and the service is fast! Rates are only \$12USD per kg, plus their Nadi office clears your box at Fiji customs; expect a smooth and quick release. We don’t pay duty as “Yacht in Transit.” They even deliver it directly to the marina office in Port Denarau or Vuda Marina. Our deliveries were here in a matter of days.

Rates as of Aug. 2022 (in USD): (1) Box up to 24kg; 12 USD per kg = \$288. TSA Inspection/processing fee \$80. There may be a credit card fee as well.

We have used Fiji Freight services many times with zero problems or surprises. Shawn, their general manager, has shipped a mattress and air conditioner for us and a complete 50hp engine for a friend! I wish there were more businesses with this kind of service. – Wiz (Susan and Darrell)

1.9.5 Medical and Dental

There are a number of clinics and small hospitals around Fiji. There are even government-sponsored nursing stations in the far-flung islands in the Lau Group. But in general, if you want anything major done, everyone

flies to Suva. We even know of two cruisers who were medically evacuated by helicopter, one from Musket Cove and one from remote Vulaga in the Lau Group.

Hospitals (at least 2) in Suva, the public and Suva Private Hospital. There is also Nasese Medical Center (+679.331.4450)

Recompression chamber in the public hospital, Colonial War Memorial in Suva.

Hospitals (2) in Savusavu (public and private) plus a medical center.

Public Hospitals:

Lautoka Hospital +679.666.0399, recommended by cruisers if you have to go to a public hospital.

Oceania Hospitals (Suva) <https://ohpl.com.fj/contact-us>, +679.330.3404, Specialists +679.998.5948, Customer Service: +679.330.3404, +679.998.2498, Cathlab: +679.992.4047, info@ohpl.com.fj. Also recommended by other cruisers

Savusavu Hospital +679.885.0444

Nadi Hospital +679.670.1128, info@nadihospital.org

Private Hospitals

PSH (Nadi) +679.672.1022, +679.331.0022, +679.892.2241, <https://psh.com.fj/>, outpatient, inpatient, diagnostic, specialists. Recommended by many cruisers

MIOT Pacific Medial (Suva) +679.999.9385, Hours: Mon-Fri: 0700-2200, Sat: 0800-1700, <https://www.mpm.com.fj>, outpatient, telemedicine, specialists, minor procedures, emergency, labs

Mitchell Clinic at Tappoo (Suva) +679.337.1133, AU physicians, International standards

Aspen (Ba) +679.667.4022, <https://aspenmedical.com.fj/>, International standards, 305 beds, surgical, specialists, labs, more

Most cruisers feel that the public hospitals are not as good as the private hospitals. The staff are good, but they are often overworked and without the resources needed. In addition, shift changes can leave you starting all over again.

Dentist: There is a decent dentist in Labasa on Vanua Levu, that many cruisers have used (bus over from Savusavu). There is an excellent dental surgeon in Suva, Dr. Vikash J. Singh (BDS Adelaide) +689.330.8882. drsingh@connect.com.fj. Location: Stewart Street Dental Practice. Vinod Patel Building 10 Stewart St. Suva.

See the respective sections (Suva and Savusavu) for more details on what's available.

Dermatologist: nandanavendra@gmail.com. In Lautoka. Dr. Davendra Nandan will do examinations and general treatments. But he does not do surgical procedures. He refers surgeries to a general surgeon Dr. Josese Turagava at +679.799.0989.

Pharmacy: Reliance Pharmacy +679.670.5013, +679.768.7513, +679.916.3859, reliancepharmacy@outlook.com, 46 Lodhia St, PO Box 1202, Nadi. This pharmacy is amazing! They will refill your medications and stock your first aid kit without a prescription. I emailed them a list of medications, their strength, and quantity and they filled the order and had it ready for me to pick up. I believe most pharmacies in Fiji will refill medications without a prescription, but I am not 100% sure. I do know that Reliance will work with you, fill your order and provide similar brand substitutes for medicines that they don't carry. – sv Sugar Shack

1.9.6 Provisions (Groceries)

See individual island sections for details.

Good grocery stores can be found in all the major cities. The largest grocery chain in Fiji is Morris Hedstrom. See their location map for an idea of where you will find reasonable provisioning: **Morris Hedstrom Location Map:** www.mh.com.fj/locations/

Denarau, Nadi, Vuda, Lautoka, Savusavu, Suva all have a good variety of markets.

Farmboy Delivery +679.928.6371, +679.941.3194. www.farmboyfiji.com (order & pay online), accountsfarmboyfiji@yahoo.com & farmboyfiji@gmail.com Farmboy Fiji will deliver fresh produce, veggies, root crops, kava, herbs, beer, liquor, groceries, and pretty much anything you need, anywhere a ferry goes. Free delivery to Fantasy Island, Naisoso Island, Denarau Island. Working with more than 1000 registered farmers throughout the country to ensure premium and wide range of products. Located in Nadi. They can make arrangements to deliver to Malolo, Mana Island, Lau, Kadavu, Savusavu and more.

There are usually tiny stores in every village, but pickings can be slim. You should provision in the larger towns as if you won't find any stores in the outer islands.

There are **liquor stores, specialty stores, grocery stores** on the waterfront road in Savusavu. Likewise, there's another one on the road into Lautoka from Vuda Point Marina.

There is a **Cost-U-Less** in Suva similar to the one in Pago Pago, American Samoa--a Costco-type store with lots of (pricey) imported goods. +679.331.5915, suva@costules.com Hours: Mon-Sun: 0800-2000

Ethnic Indian restaurants are a great value, so if you like curry and roti, you'll be in heaven in Fiji.

Prices are posted as Value Added Tax (VAT) inclusive at 15%.

Commodities are readily available—flour, sugar, rice, milk—but because of the ethnic mix of the country, so are exotic spices and dozens of varieties of tea. Good quality coffee is expensive, good quality tea is widely available, loose or bagged.

The best **meat** is obtained in a specialty meat shops (butcher), though grocery stores carry frozen whole chicken, seafood, and some fresh meats. The specialty meat shops offer beef, pork, chicken, and lamb. They are exceptionally clean, air conditioned and offer competitive prices.

Most **fish** for sale is frozen, and much of it is reef fish (ciguatera IS in Fiji, so it's best to eat only pelagic fish species). Imported farmed seafood (prawns, etc.) can be found.

Local **cheese** is about 2/3 the price of the NZ imports. Grating cheese and mozzarella is hard to difficult to find. Eggs are local, fresh and sold unrefrigerated.

For some reason, pasta tends to be expensive (and often weevil-infested). All flour should be sifted.

The prices for **alcohol** can range from expensive to prohibitively expensive as they are heavily taxed, with imported spirits carrying the bulk of the tax burden. Even locally produced Fiji Bounty-brand rum (116 proof!) is expensive. Beer and wine are reasonably priced. Alcohol is generally sold in a separate section of the store, and prices are particularly expensive, especially imported alcohol.

Larger towns generally have a **fresh veg & fruit public markets** that bustles every day, but particularly on Saturday when vendors arrive by bus from villages, bringing the freshest of produce. Locally grown produce is modestly priced, but imported produce is fairly outrageous due to high import duties. Lovely Asian eggplant is ubiquitous, as are hot peppers. Potatoes, onions, cabbage, bok choy and Fijian "spinach" are generally available. Kumala (sweet potato) tends to be seasonal. Taro (called dalo) and cassava are available year-round as are Fiji staples.

1.10 Haul out, Marinas, Storage

Facilities and services are listed by location below.

Visit the Island sections below, then Haul out and Marinas for more info on each haul out facility and marina.

1.10.1 Vanua Levu: Savusavu

1.10.1.1 Valaga Boatyard (by Nawi Island Marina)

Valaga Boatyard (by Nawi Island Marina) +679.229.6821, boatyard@nawiisland.com, www.nawiisland.com. Haul out, boat storage, repairs. Located at 016°44.352S / 179°21.622E. They have a 75-ton lift, boat stands, and 24/7 security. They have water and power pedestals working and several cyclone pits. No services.

1.10.1.2 Nawi Island Marina

+679.885.3602. marketing@nawiisland.com. www.nawiisland.com. Marina has 137 slips including 21 dedicated superyacht slips. Natural harbor surrounded by 3 islands which allows for year-round mooring and cyclone rated for up to category five.

1.10.1.3 Copra Shed Marina

+679.885.0457. www.coprashedfiji.com, coprashed@connect.com.fj. Hours: Mon-Fri: 0800-2200. Dolly who runs the office is extremely helpful. She can be reached on WhatsApp +679 999 2764. Copra Shed Marina has both moorings and dockage with electrical service.

1.10.1.4 Waitui Marina

+679.885.3067, Mobil: +679.925.7111, +679,835,3913, +679.885.3447, VHF 16. Waituimarinafiji@gmail.com, www.fijimarinas.com/waitui-marina. Waitui Marina has 24 Helix Moorings with 3 meters of 24mm studded ship chain at the bottom. Moorings are inspected and repaired by a certified diver twice per year.

1.10.1.5 Savusavu Marina

+679.866.0625 and +679.746.1454 (Melil Cell). www.savusavumarina.com, office@savusavumarina.com VHF 16. Hours: Mon-Fri: 0800-1700. Dock with power, water and wifi. Cyclone moorings and small dock.

1.10.2 Viti Levu: Nadi Area

1.10.2.1 Vuda Point Marina

+679.666.8214. www.vudamarina.com.fj, info@vudamarina.com.fj. Hours: Mon-Sun: 0800-1700. Monitor VHF 11 and 16 7/24. 180 in-water berths, and 150 hardstand spaces, with 63-ton lift, and services.

1.10.2.2 Marina Naisoso

(Between Denarau Marina and Vuda Marina) +679.672.9374, +679.999.3424 and M: +679.999.0342. info@marinanaisoso.com, www.naisosomarinafiji.com. Naisoso Marina has 62 fixed berthing spaces, usually really good rates. Good place to do work or leave your boat. No services.

1.10.2.3 Port Denarau Marina

+679.675.0600 and +679.776.0600. VHF 14. www.denaraumarina.com, Reservations: reservations@denaraumarina.com. 56- berths, moorings, and a 50-tonne travel lift for monohull lifting.

1.10.2.4 Musket Cove Marina

+679.666.2215, www.musketcovefiji.com email inquiries@musketcoverfiji.com or mcyc@musketcovefiji.com, VHF 64 & 68. On Malolo Lailai Island in western Fiji offers many moorings and dockage. A small membership is due upon arrival \$10F per person which is good for a lifetime.

1.10.3 Viti Levu: Suva

1.10.3.1 Royal Suva Yacht Club

+679.331.2921. <http://fijimarinas.com/royal-suva-yacht-club-rsyc> and <https://www.facebook.com/RoyalSuvaYachtClub>. Hours: Sun-Sat: 0800-2200. If you intend to use the Royal Suva Yacht Club facilities, you will need to register with the club and become a temporary member. Drydock Facilities: There are several drydock facilities suitable for larger vessels.

1.11 Marine Services

Note: These service providers and contractors are outside of marina and yard services. See each marina/yard for their specific services offered and whether 3rd party contractors are allowed in the marina.

There are good marine stores and hardware stores in all the normal yacht ports in Fiji. You can ship items 'duty free' after you have arrived in Fiji and have your Customs Rotation Number. See "[Shipping Parts and Mail into Fiji.](#)"

However, for bonafide imported marine items, you will pay dearly. For those things you cannot find in Fiji, it is possible to ship items in duty free.

Important Note: Not everyone is 100% happy with the service they got from people listed here, so BUYER BEWARE. Expect things to cost more, and take longer than they tell you!! Expect to have to be involved and supervise EVERYTHING and EVERYBODY, in order to get work done properly.

- **Air Conditioning:** Baobab Marine, P. Kumar Electronic Services, and Yacht Help.
 - Baobab Marine & Seal Superyachts +679.675.1120, +679.664.0827, +679.999.6556, fiji@baobabmarine.com, www.baobabmarine.com Located: Port Denarau & Vuda
 - P.Kumar Electronic Services: +679.666.2577, +679.665.2577, +679.651.0850, +679.992.9696. p.kumargroupofcompanies@gmail.com. Hours: Mon-Fri: 0800-1700, Sat: 0900-1200.
 - Yacht Help +679.666.8969, +679.675.0911, +679.750.5000 cel, info@yachthelp.com, (Servicing Port Denarau, Vuda Marina, Nawi Marina, Valaga Boatyard).
- **Boat Brokers / Agents**
 - Nautilus Yacht Management – www.nautilusyachtmanagement.com/our team
 - Anna Manach, +614.20882296, info@nautilusyachtmanagement.com
 - She offers reduced buyer/seller fees and has you more involved in the process. You take the photos/videos, talk to prospective buyers/sellers
- **Boat Watching Services**
 - Baobab Marine 679.664.0827 (Vuda) and +679.675.1120 (Denarau), +679.999.6556, +679.999.7941. marine@baobabindustries.com.fj.
 - Don Henderson on Wharram Catamaran called Coromandel (around Musket, Denarau, Vuda)
 - Ifraz Khan at maintenance@yachthelp.com
 - Ravi Kumar at RevMarine in Denarau ravi@revmarine.com.fj
- **Canvas, Fabric and Foam** (See sails below)
 - **All Tents & Marine Upholsteries:** (Suva, Savusavu) +679.450.6063, +679.996.3326, alltents@hotmail.com. Sail Makers and Repairs Marine Trimmers and Custom-made Covers.
 - **Exact Footwear Repair** (Nadi) +679.944.1113 / +679.848.4635. herishnarayan@gmail.com. In Nadi next to Max-Value supermarket and Reliance Pharmacy. This tailor has done wonderful work on cushions, covers, and other boat related projects. Fast and reasonably priced.
 - **Jet Set Upholstery** (Nadi) +679.679.5720 / +679.997.5156. jetsetupholstery@gmail.com. Canvas and upholstery work. Typically, does not do sail repair, but will may make an exception for simple jobs. Reasonably priced for upholstery projects.

- **Marshall Sails** (Vuda, Denarau) +679.675.0996 marshallsails@connect.com.fj. Owner Alan Marshall. Focuses on sail work. Will do canvas work on the side when he is not busy with sails.
- **Motiram** (Suva fabric store) +679.777.1075 Nadi & 679.331.6614. www.motiram.com. Have a wide variety of fabrics available including sunbrella and a sunbrella like fabrics.
- **Pawan Upholstery Works** (Nadi/Lautoka) +679 995 1950, pawansupholsteryworks@live.com, replaced salong and cockpit cushions.
- **Popular Furniture Ltd:** (foam replacement) Melvin +679.983.2954 (WhatsApp), +679.779.6760. manimelvin31@gmail.com or popular@connect.com.fj. Replaced cockpit cushion foam in less than 24 hours and the pricing was reasonable.
- **Chain and Anchor Galvanizing:** (2013) North of Lautoka. Elisha Engineering +679.667.0122. www.elishaengineering.com. Location: 36-38 Nabeka St. Ba. They do galvanizing for large building construction. They were happy to re-galvanize our anchor and a portion of our chain. It is not hot-dipped, but "hot sprayed", and then coated with a hard-clear coating (very durable). We hired a taxi to take the chain & anchor to Elisha Engineering in Ba, and then they delivered it back to us at Vuda. Not cheap but good quality galvanizing, and they do sections of chain. – Soggy Paws
- **Chandleries:**
 - The Yacht Shop www.yachtshop.com.fj. Complete marine store, suppliers of Sika, Fusion, Harken, Jabsco, Garmin
 - Aquam Insula, www.aqiml.com/home, Denarau, very good prices, wide variety of marine supplies and products.
- **Dinghies:** Baobab Marine & Seal Superyachts +679.675.1120, +679.664.0827, +679.999.6556, +679.999.7941. fiji@baobabmarine.com, www.baobabmarine.com Located: Port Denarau & Vuda
- **Dinghy Repair & Life Raft Servicing:** Marine Safety Services +679.331.2426 issac.whippy@marinesafety.com.fj
- **Diving Equipment:** Aqua-Trek Beqa Dive Center +679.702.9896. www.aquatrek.com/. Hours: Mon-Sun: 0700-1615 (Suva) for dive gear.
- **Engineering:**
 - All Engineering (Fiji) Ltd. +679.665.2696, allengltk@connect.com.fj, All engineering services.
 - Lautoka Engineering +679.666.1788. Lautoka
 - Shane Veday Middenway, +679.732.6335, +679.972.7160, shanevmiddenway@gmail.com. Construction, engineering, welding, production. Very proficient, friendly & easy to work with.
- **Electrical:**
 - Baobab Marine & Seal Superyachts +679.675.1120, +679.664.0827, +679.999.6556, +679.999.7941. fiji@baobabmarine.com, www.baobabmarine.com In: Port Denarau & Vuda. Electrical, wiring, navigation (servicing/repairs), starter motors, and alternators.
 - Ram Pillai (Savusavu) +679.921.9777, rampillai090@gmail.com. Location: 16°46.783S / 179°20.207E. (see comment under motors). He can repair or suggest repair facilities for anything electrical. Old school. Believes in repair and not replacement. Super nice, very informative and helpful person!
 - RevMarine (Denarau) +679 932 2019, +679 926 0531, ravi@revmarine.com.fj, www.revmarine.com.fj Maintenance, repair, refit all electrical equipment, pumps, plumbing, winches, batteries, starter motors, chargers, inverters, solar, generators, AC
 - P.Kumar Electric Services: +679.666.2577, +679.665.2577, +679.651.0850, Cell: +679.992.9696. p.kumargroupofcompanies@gmail.com. Hours: Mon-Fri: 0800-1700, Sat: 0900-1200.
 - Yacht Help +679.666.8969, +679.675.0911, +679.750.5000 cel, info@yachthelp.com, (Servicing Port Denarau, Vuda Marina, Nawi Marina).
- **Fiberglass Laminator:**
 - Savusavu: Rodney Miller +679.830.6807 or +679.742.7854
 - Savusavu: Alseac Miller +679.714.9455

- Denarau: **South Pacific Fibreglass**. Nick Tansley +679.926.8488. southpacificfibreglass@gmail.com, www.southpacificfibreglass.com. Does composite and fiberglass fabrication. Repairs to international standards. Best in Fiji! Good work & fair prices.
 - **Sept. 2025:** OMG Nick is amazing. We needed work on both of our rudders in mid-Sept. He said he was flat out with 6-8 other projects. But we decided to drop them off at his shop anyway in the off chance he had “spare time” between projects. In a week he had formed divinycell (less water absorbent) foam and in 2 weeks he had glassed, primed and applied Coppercoat on them. He offered great communication, photos along the way and provided great customer service. In addition, to doing really great work! Highly recommend Nick! – sv Sugar Shack
- **Generators**
 - All Engineering (Fiji) Ltd. +679.665.2696, allengltk@connect.com.fj, All generator work.
- **Life Raft Services**
 - Lawhill Liferaft & Marine sales@lawhillfiji.com Denarau: Necco +679 998 9803, Suva: Sanjesh +679 998 98913, cfo@lawhillfiji.com, and Nadi: Shiu westsales@lawhillfiji.com
 - [Liferaft Sale & Service Centre](#) +679 331 5239 +679 992 8935. They only work and sell Chinese Brands of life rafts. They do not work on RFDs, Viking, or Winslow life rafts. They are authorized by MSAF (Maritime Safety Authority Fiji)
- **Marine Safety Services**
 - Marine Safety Services +679 331 2426, +679 992 2426, +679 992 2427, +679 992 2429, Isaac.whippy@marinesafety.com.fj
- **Mechanic**
 - Savusavu: Sami has 35 years’ experience working on yachts. +679 935 9730 WhatsApp, ksami2011@connect.com.fj. He specializes in aluminum, stainless steel and barcing. He serviced our anchor winch gearbox and motor and it runs like new. He also serviced our Yanmar SD50 sail drive gear cone with great precision and execution. He has done welding repair on a water heater exchanger and overhauling of diesel engines. I highly recommend him, without reservation. – Clive Nothling.
 - Vuda: **Krishna Yacht Services** “Diesel Mechanic” Ritesh +679.844.0860 (Denarau) is very good but you need to book him in advance as he is usually booked 1-2 weeks out.
 - **Sept. 2025:** Our starboard engine decided to stop going in reverse. Ritesh came out right away, diagnosed the issue. He came back the next day, moved the engine forward, lapped the cone clutch, and put it all back together. – sv Sugar Shack
- **Motors**
 - Ram Pillai (Savusavu), +679.921.9777, rampillai090@gmail.com. Location: 16°46.783S / 179°20.207E. From Copra Shed, turn left, then turn right at Hopper Road.
 - **May 2025:** We needed a machine shop to press some bearings. Pillai couldn’t do it himself but he recommended Vanua Engineering and gave us contact info. Really nice and helpful man! Love his work ethic as he will do what he can to get your parts working (repair vs replace). – sv Sugar Shack
 - For \$300F he cleaned up our watermaker motor, replaced the bearings and brushes. Not a quick turnaround & we “chased him” but he got it done. – SV Rainbow Safari
 - Ram is a good electrician with a can-do helpful attitude; he is efficient and fairly priced and on time. He knows everybody and can get most electrical parts. – Ian Redwood
 - Motor Winders run by Rahul (Savusavu) +679.707.3093 (son of Ram Pillai)
- **Outboard Repair:**
 - Baobab Marine & Seal Superyachts +679.675.1120, +679.664.0827, +679.999.6556, +679.999.7941. fiji@baobabmarine.com, www.baobabmarine.com In: Port Denarau & Vuda
 - Dan’s Outboard Repair +679.651.3452, +679.994.0718.

- Yamaha Asco Motors: Suva: +679.338.488, Nadi: +679.672.1777, Denarau: +679.675.0371, Lautoka: +679.666.9993, BA: +679.667.4406, Labasa: +679.881.1688
- **Refrigeration:**
 - Baobab Marine & Seal Superyachts (Vuda, Denarau) +679.675.1120, +679.664.0827, +679.999.6556, fiji@baobabmarine.com, www.baobabmarine.com
 - Iceman Refrigeration (Labasa) +679.310.0481, +679.992.4104, +679.992.4682, sales@icemanfiji.com, operations@icemanfiji.com, refrigeration parts and spare parts. Located: 16°26.031S / 179°21.761E
 - LRL Lincoln Refrigeration (Labasa) +679.336.1244, www.lincolnrefrigerationfiji.com, info@lincolnrefrigerationfiji.com, offices in Labasa, Lautoka, and Suva. They do refrigeration, Air Conditioning, Electrical, sheet metal & stainless-steel fabrications
 - Nitin Fridge Guy Fiji +679.998.1234 tel and WhatsApp
 - P. Kumar Electric Services: +679.666.2577, +679.665.2577, +679.651.0850, +679.992.9696. p.kumargroupofcompanies@gmail.com. Hours: Mon-Fri: 0800-1700, Sat: 0900-1200.
 - Rainbow Mustak (Nadi) +679 998 1234, +679.847.4354 (WhatsApp). Services Vuda, Denarau. Company normally works on land-based systems, but Mustak has a lot of experience on boats. Might be hard to reach, but when you get Mustak they do good work. If he is out of town, you can call him and he will try to walk you through your problem.
 - **Oct. 2022:** Mustak repaired my freezer. Had to replace 5m of corroded copper pipe, test, evacuate, refill the system. He did a proper job, brought everything that was required, reliable, good communication, fair prices. – Scooter
 - Shiv Prasad (Savusavu) +679 879 0109 a local freezer tech who is self-employed. Nawi and Copra Shed recommends him as do many cruisers. Very reasonable prices.
 - Yacht Help: +679.666.8969, +679.675.0911, +679.750.5000 cel, info@yachthelp.com, (Servicing Port Denarau, Vuda Marina, Nawi Marina).
- **Rigging**
 - **Westide Rigging** (Vuda) +670.405.084.832 (Sammy), +679 999 8838 (WhatsApp), mothership@connect.com.fj, Hours: Daily: 0700-1700. They have a full range of stainless-steel wire ranging from 4mil to 14 mil with rigging screws and fittings to suit in stock and ready to go. Specialize in all types of furlers (Facnor, Profurl, Furlex, etc...). The splice halyards and ship to all Pacific islands. They travel all over Fiji including to Savusavu.
 - Sept. 2025: One of our sidestays (1:19 1" SS) popped a wire. Sammy not only had the threads, pins, and 1:19 but he was able to upgrade us to dyform (1:25)! In addition, he helped us replace our furler and foils for very reasonable rates. He is extremely efficient, knowledgeable, and friendly. Highly recommend him! – sv Sugar Shack
 - **Bruce Vasconcellos** formerly from Hawaii (28 years ago) along with Kos (Hammer wire). Rigging in stock includes 3mm or 1/8" to 16mm (5/8"). Has fittings and a swager to attach these sizes. Bruce has been a rigger for a long time and knows furling systems and their problems with a wealth of contacts for parts if they are not in stock locally. Just 15 minutes from Nadi International Airport. They can pick up and copy any rigging and send to anywhere needed. Bruce has been a rigger for 40+ years and knows furling systems and their problems with a wealth of contacts for parts (if they're not stocked with him).
- **Sails:**

See above "Canvas, Fabric and Sails"

 - **Marshall Sails:** (Vuda & Denarau) +679.675.0996, marshallsails@connect.com.fj
 - Sept. 2023: Marshall Sails services is good. – Moana
 - Oct.2022: Our 21-year-old main ripped 7m across a seam 2 weeks before our scheduled departure. We contacted Marshall Sails on Sunday, had a response Monday

morning, dropped off the sail Monday afternoon, had a quote Tuesday. Alan Marshall was extremely responsive and keen to help us out. He said he could have it repaired in 10 days for about \$1100F. Our sail weighs over 136kilos and is double layer dacron. The quote included taping and triple stitching the torn seam and re-enforcing all other seams. He delivered our repaired sail early for exactly the quoted price and did a really good job on the repair. They were all very professional & provided quality work for a reasonable price! – sv Sugar Shack

- **Solar Panels:**

- **Clay Engineering:** (Suva) +679.336.3880. www.clayenergy.com.fj. Hours: Mon-Fri: 0800-1700
 - **2012:** Soggy Paws bought a large solar panel from Clay Engineering in Suva, over the phone, and had it shipped via CDP (the Fijian version of UPS) to Savusavu for only \$35 FJ. So, don't rule out shopping for larger items in Suva.
 - **Oct. 2023:** Innertech Electrical PTE +679.992.9233, +679.998.3779, +679.881.7418, innertech@connect.com.fj. (Labasa) They sell a lot of solar equipment like charge controllers, inverters, solar panels, and solar lights. They are right off the main street in central Labassa. They are very reasonably priced. – Travis Holub

- **Surveyors**

- Don Buckley, a cruiser out of Australia is frequently in Fiji +64 412-226-245
- Dover Marine, +679.666.3922, dovermarine@connect.com.fj,
 - 20-30 cats in last 5 years, Master Class 1 Unlimited, Diploma Marine Surveying Lloyds Maritime Academy & Post Graduate Diploma in Marine Insurance from World Maritime University. Surveys for Pantaneius, but do not consider themselves Yacht Survey Specialists. Cost \$700 Fijian (Vuda) as of May 2025
- Marsden Marine Ship Surveyors (Fiji too) www.smallshipssurveys.co.nz/
- Check in with Anna Manach (with Nautilus Yacht Management) as she often organizes surveyors to come to Fiji to survey boats she is listing for sale. +614-20882296, info@nautilusyachtmanagement.com

- **Watermaker:**

- Baobab Marine & Seal Superyachts (Vuda & Denarau) +679.675.1120, +679.664.0827, +679.999.6556, +679.999.7941. fiji@baobabmarine.com. www.baobabmarine.com
- Oceania Water Group Fiji +679.786.6417, +679.786.6415, +679.774.3126. Owner: Neil Towner www.oceaniawatergroup.com, sales@oceaniawatergroup.com. 288 Vomo Street, Lautoka, PO Box 6190, Fiji. Hours: Mon-Fri: 0800-1700

- **Dec 2023:** I took my Spectra Watermaker to Oceania Water Group, the full-service Spectra water maker company in Lautoka. They charged me \$7000 Fijian to do a complete overhaul of my leaking machine. I was in and out of their shop 6 times! as each time they said it was repaired, it continued to leak. It finally stopped working altogether on my sail down to NZ.

In Oceania's workshop they had no 5-micron filter at their work bench where they were recycling seawater out of a big tub to test my water maker. They also put red loctite thread sealer on all connections including the ferrules. They also scratched the Clark pump considerably because they did not have the appropriately sized wrench. Neil Towner, the owner would not give me any refund, only offering to attempt to fix it for a 7th time.

In NZ I had Enertec (another full-service Spectra dealer) properly repaired it, and they found many sub-quality parts installed by Oceania including some type of old glass piston. – s/v Afrikii

- **Aug. 2022:** Our 12V DC single 40" membrane watermaker stopped working. We visited Oceania and it is a big shop. They are water experts! They had a replacement membrane in stock and had the ability to test our set-up. Highly recommended for any watermaker issues. Dan is the office man to call! – SV Rainbow Safari
- **Welding:**
 - All Engineering (Fiji) Ltd. +679.665.2696, allengltk@connect.com.fj, All welding equipment.
 - Sami ha (Savusavu) 35 years' experience working on yachts. +679 935 9730 WhatsApp, ksami2011@connect.com.fj. He specializes in aluminum, stainless steel and barcing.
 - Baobab Marine & Seal Superyachts +679.675.1120, +679.664.0827, +679.999.6556, fiji@baobabmarine.com, www.baobabmarine.com Located: Port Denarau & Vuda.
 - Shane Veday Middenway, +679.732.6335, shanevmiddenway@gmail.com.
 - We called him on a Saturday and he came down 45 minutes later. He took the structure to be repaired and managed to panel beat and bent and kinked the stainless pipes that I thought would need replacement. Shane came back and installed the structure with his staff on a public holiday. His communication skills were excellent; he provided regular updates with the progress including photos and video calls. The quality was excellent and the pricing realistic. I highly recommend him. – SV Dragonfly
 - Due to the complete long overdue refit of my Lofrans CAYMAN windlass, I had to find someone able to weld aluminium properly, and an electrician to repair the motor. Shane Veday did a fantastic job in just a few hours on a quite difficult task, sending photos, coming on board and even working on Sunday, although I told him I was not in a hurry. Shane's contact info is correctly listed in your compendium. But not to be missed for another Shane who also holds a sort of workshop near marina Waitui : so when I asked for Shane I was at first directed to the wrong guy who did a shameful job.
 - Labasa has a lot of welding shops in the "industrial area" just before the main town.
- **Wood Work**
 - Samson McLaren (Savusavu) +679.998.9777. Highly recommended, speaks great English and is skilled at problem solving

1.12 Thefts and Break-ins

It is certainly not the norm, but crime happens everywhere especially where there is opportunity. It is advised to hide your valuables, lock your boat, and lock your dinghy while you are away.

Kadavu, Kavala Bay

Oct. 2023: Diving suits, shoes and a bucket of cosmetics were stolen off our boat at night while anchored at 18°58.88S / 178°25.07E. We made our sevusevu and gave the village plenty of other gifts. A 40-year-old thief came from another bay in a boat (white hull, 5 meters, 50hp Yamaha, 2 stroke). We gave him some presents. He returned with two cousins to give us a few coconuts. One of the cousins jumped onboard (uninvited) and inspected the boat quickly before they left. They returned later that night to steal the equipment. – SY Trinity

Vorulevu / Manta Island

Sept. 2023: A dinghy and outboard were stolen off a boat. The thief came from Kavala bay and the dinghy was not recovered.

Yaurava Bay / Muani

2022: A monohull had her boat broken into and lots of stuff was stolen. We worked vigilantly with the village and chief to get the stolen property returned. Nothing happened to the thieves.

Vuda Marina

Sept. 2023: A catamaran was hauled out at Vuda Marina. While the owners were away, they had a few vetted contractors working on the boat. However, they were not on the boat every day. In broad daylight, a thief crawled in through the starboard cabin hatch, several times over the course of a few weeks. The thief ate their food, drank their drinks, and stole liquor, computers, and a lot of other equipment. A neighboring boat saw the thief once enter through the hatch. The marina and police were notified, but nothing was returned and nobody was caught. Evidently this was not the first theft in the yard this season. – sv Sugar Shack

1.13 Leaving your boat in Fiji for the Cyclone Season

These are just options, please use your experience and take into effect your specific boat and insurance needs before following these recommendations.

Location 1: Savusavu Nawi Island Marina: The Nawi Marina is strategically situated between three islands and is a custom designed marina, engineered to provide year-round mooring. It is fully rated to qualify for cyclone insurance.

Location 2: Valaga Boatyard (operated by Nawi Island Marina) has room for over 100 boats including cyclone pits and 24/7 security.

Location 3: Savusavu in the Water: You can leave your boat on a storm mooring in Savusavu. The harbor is well protected. There are plenty of friendly people around to look after your boat. If you plan ahead, you can book a mooring (the best moorings are booked nearly a year in advance, so plan ahead!!).

At Savusavu, your boat is connected to the bottom by just its mooring. You can put in a new mooring and all that – but it's still just one string. They do offer boat watching services where they will monitor the weather and move your boat to the mangroves should a cyclone become apparent.

Location 4: Vuda Point Marina in the Water or Out.

You can leave your boat at Vuda Point Marina (which is in a circle). Up until the Nawi marina opening, this was the most common option. The marina is a circle, the boats are moored with the bows of all the boats connected to a central point, and the sterns are connected via individual strong points in the circular quay. No dock fingers to get involved during the cyclone fun, which is probably good. If a strong storm passes over, it's not uncommon for boats to have damage to rub rails and stanchions—do as much as possible to protect your boat from adjacent boats. The wave action in the tiny lagoon can get pretty bad in a strong storm.

There is also a secondary, more modern basin at Vuda that has docks and piers.

You can leave it in the water, or you can leave it on the hard with the boat sitting on tires and the keel resting in a pit. There is capacity here for more boats.

Location 5: Musket Cove: Some smaller cats have been left in a variety of places. One is past the bridge inside the tiny lagoon at Musket Cove.

Location 6: Port Denarau Marina: The Fiji Guide to Marine Facilities says that Denarau has wonderful facilities. However, neither the holding in the lagoon at Denarau, nor the dock facilities are up to the job of keeping your boat safe during cyclone season.

Location 7: Other "Cyclone Holes": There are many spots within in Fiji that are known as good cyclone holes. They would be good options if you are aboard and cruising, but probably not good options if you wish to leave your boat unattended.

Cyclone Evan 2012: Hit the west coast of Viti Levu, Vuda Point & Denarau areas hard.

At Vuda Point, boats in the water sustained a fair bit of damage to rub rails and stanchions, due to the movement of boats in the tightly-packed circle. Boats on the hard were mostly OK--lots of trees down and debris. Many boats "tilted" in their cyclone holes (unknown whether this caused any keel issues down the road). But no boats sunk or were severely damaged.

Reports from Denarau were not so good. Most boats left the dock. One large yacht left at the dock was reportedly sunk. The docks were pretty much totally damaged.

Most boats in that area not at Vuda Point, went up the river N of Lautoka, and tied up into the mangroves. I have heard no reports of major damage.

Aging: Your boat will take an incredible beating on the hard for months during the tropical summer. Sails delaminating. Seals going bad on engines, pumps, etc. There is a long list here.

Contamination: Being on the hard at Vuda Point means: Your boat is in and surrounded by dirt blown around by wind which can be pretty fierce sometimes. Your boat will be covered by the debris from the surrounding trees. Some have nice purple berries that will stain just about any painted surface. Let's face it, your boat will be a bloody mess when you come back.

Your keel sits in a trench which typically has standing water, and the tires have standing water, all of which support a few billion mosquitoes. An army of insects is just waiting to crawl up. I can almost guarantee that you'll have all kinds of interesting critters living inside your boat when you return.

Collateral damage: They control the weeds in the boat yard with "weed whackers". Cheap and efficient. But your boat is also at risk from flying rocks. Some friends of mine had to repaint their boat (which had just been painted the year before). I was there after this event, and had other friends getting rocks on their boats while in the water!

Hot, dusty and buggy: If you leave your boat on the hard, you'll spend significant time out of the water at both ends of your stay. It is going to be very hot, dusty and buggy. I found that if I was not covered head to foot with repellent, I'd be eaten alive by the mozzies. They don't control them, and there is a lot of standing water. So be prepared for some "this is not fun" time.

Customer service: I made a special effort to keep good relations with the management and the staff. As a result, I generally felt well taken care of and welcome. However, there is a serious mismatch between expectations and reality. I had quite a few friends that felt pretty "unwelcome" at times. And there were a few times I felt that way as well. Funny thing is that Vuda Point and the major marina at Savusavu (The Copra Shed) are owned by the same guy, but the "feel" at Savusavu is very friendly, and the "feel" at Vuda Point is sometimes yes, sometimes no.

Insurance: If you insure your boat, don't forget to investigate this very carefully. I've had plenty of discussions with people that had already committed to leaving their boats only to discover after it was too late, just how much trouble their insurance company was going to create with last minute surprises.

Caretaking: At Vuda Point, you can hire Baobab Marine to do boat watch. They are quite diligent. – Learjet

2016 Updates: Savusavu got really smacked by a cyclone in 2015—the cyclone passed SOUTH of Vanua Levu and therefore the winds were coming from the west, right into the mouth of the harbor. About 12 boats ended up high and dry on the reef, a few with major damage. However, most were eventually floated by hard work and cruisers helping cruisers.

March 2013: Both Savusavu and Vuda Point fared well with Cyclone Evan in Dec. 2012... with some notes:

In Savusavu, one boat on a private mooring "walked" its mooring nearly the whole length of the mooring field, hitting a couple of boats before coming to rest alongside the Copra Shed dock. In post-cyclone discussions, it became apparent that little attention is paid to whether moorings are properly sized for the boats that are on them, and some are better maintained than others. Waitui Marina USED to have the best-maintained moorings, but now that they are under new management, who knows now. Bottom line, inspect your own mooring, and be prepared to add components if needed.

Port Denarau Marina was nearly completely destroyed, and one boat sunk at the dock.

Vuda Point Marina fared well, except their "boom" designed to keep the surge out broke on deployment, and there was an incredible amount of movement in the marina. Many boats suffered hull and toe-rail damage as

the tightly-packed boats moved against each other, some extensive. Boats on the hard were OK, though a few were poorly prepared and lost things like solar panels, etc. A few were leaning in their keel holes (with unknown amount of stress to the keel).

Proper preparation for leaving your boat is to strip ALL canvas (main, jib, bimini, awnings, etc), firmly secure wind generators and solar panels (better: take them down). For longevity of expensive rigging lines, we put up sacrificial (cheap) line in place of our good lines, and bring in all blocks, the jib furling line, etc (tip: as you are doing this, take a piece of masking tape and label where you are removing it from). Dinghy: Best to leave it onboard, covered with a tarp, and securely fastened down. Outboard should be flushed with fresh water, covered, and locked. Openings (except cockpit drains) should be stuffed with something to keep the critters out. Remove all food, and put out roach bait and ant bait. Wipe down all interior surfaces with vinegar (to deter mold growth). A small window air conditioner or dehumidifier running on shore power will keep your boat from becoming a messy moldy awful place to return to. – Soggy Paws

1.14 Communications

1.14.1 VHF

In Fiji, there is surprisingly little use of the VHF. Therefore, most yachts that have their radio on are on VHF channel 16 or 72.

The marinas all monitor different channels so check with them to see which channel they can be reached on. Sometimes, the marinas will monitor 16.

General VHF Advice that applies to all areas: Be aware that on high power, a good VHF will transmit 25 miles. So, if you are only doing within-anchorage communications, switch to low power. On the flip side, if you are trying to call across island, or to the next island, use high power, low squelch. Make sure you are aware which channels are automatic low power (ie 17), and stay away from the low-power channels for long distance chats.

Though widely spaced in channel number, channels 16, 68, and 18 are very close to each other in frequency. Most VHF antennas are ‘tuned’ for channel 16, so long distance communications will work best on 18 or 68. Conversely, in a crowded anchorage, transmission on high power on channel 18 or 68 may ‘bleed’ over to 16 (and almost any other channel, if you're close enough). You don't need high power to talk to the boat next to you, so turn your radio to Low Power!

Be aware that some channels that Americans use frequently are ‘duplex’ channels in International mode. You may have trouble communicating with a European boat, or an American boat whose radio is in International mode, on Channel 18. (see any VHF guide for the full list of international and US channels and frequencies). Make sure you ask in each port what the local channels are--both so you know how to reach someone ashore and so you know not to use those channels for your off-channel conversations.

1.14.2 Telephones & Cell Phones

There are 2 major cell phone providers in Fiji—**Digicel** and **Vodafone**.

Both companies have several locations in the major cities.

Both companies have store fronts in Savusavu, Nadi, Lautoka, Levuka, Suva.

Sim cards are generally free with the purchase of a plan or a prepaid account. With the prepaid account there is no commitment required and you can easily download the app, top up and renew each month. If you do not get a prepaid you may have a difficult time stopping service.

It is advised to get coverage on both networks. Digicel works where Vodafone doesn't and vice-a-versa.

Vodafone: www.vodafone.com.fj/, Vodafone is Fiji's main phone network and has a more extensive network throughout Fiji. Locations: Suva, Sigatoka, Nausori, Nadi, Lautoka, Tavua, Labasa. [Click here](#) for a coverage map (4G, 3G). You can top up with scratch off cards each month.

Aug. 2023: Vodafone has a funky top up process - so beware! I received a text (among many that they send) asking me to “re-subscribe” which I ignored because I didn’t recall “subscribing” in the first place (Vodafone set everything up for us). So, I did my top up procedure and by the next day I had no data? What the heck happened to my \$25F top up and how did I lose 125gigs overnight? Well evidently, when you do not re-subscribe and you top up, you will be charged between \$.01-.04 per mg. I did not know and this is when I decided to update apps and there went all the data.

The next day the marina office explained what happened. You automatically subscribe when you add a bundle/data plan and top up. At the end of your month, when you top up, you will have to subscribe to a bundle/plan, then you top up, then you must unsubscribe to avoid what happened to us.

Steps: 1) load money from top up card (numbers to press: *555#, 1 (bundles), 4 (25-day plan), 1 (25 gig), 1 (yes), 1 (yes). Wait 10 minutes, then *555#, then (1) bundles, 4 (25-day plan), 1 25 gig), Unsubscribe, confirm). – sv Sugar Shack

Digicel: www.digicelfiji.com/

Digicel has its own app for choosing and buying bundles. Digicel’s coverage is rather extensive across Fiji, however, it has slightly less coverage than Vodafone. Locations: Suva, Sigatoka, Nausori, Nadi, Ba, Tavua, Labasa. [Click here](#) for a coverage map.

Digicel: www.digicelpacific.com/mobile/fj, Has an app and a website where you can load your account for 3 months and have it automatically renew each month. However, you need to top up at least \$1 every 3 months to keep your account activated.

To dial the U.S. from a Fijian cell phone, dial 001-XXX-XXX-XXXX. To have friends and family dial a Fijian cell phone from the U.S., dial 011 +679 number.

May 2025: We visited the Digicel store in Savusavu and bought (2) prepaid plans. We received (2) free SIM cards and signed up for the 125gig data, 100-minute talk and text plan for \$25FJ. We also downloaded the Fiji Digicel App so we could top up and sign up for the same bundle each month. The staff are very friendly and helpful and will do everything for you. We took one of the SIM cards and installed it on our boat so we could turn Starlink off.

We did not know that you have to top up your account (even with \$1F) every 3 months or they will deactivate your card. We learned this the hard way. But you can load 3-months worth of payment onto your account and it will automatically renew your plan each month. – sv Sugar Shack

1.14.3 Internet Access

In general, internet in Fiji is much better (faster) than Tonga and French Polynesia, and cheaper than most places. There are two options--one is to use wifi as you normally would, and the other is to buy a cell phone-based 'dongle' and use cellular broadband.

In **Savusavu**, there are several 'Connect' **wifi** hotspots that are reachable from an on-board wifi system. These are put up by Telecom Fiji, and require you to buy a voucher ashore before you can use them. Check before you leave the boat whether you can connect to a Connect hotspot.

The second option is **cellular broadband (3G)**, offered in Fiji by Digicel and Vodafone (a world-wide company with good infrastructure). Vodafone's name for this is "Flashnet". You buy (or supply) a 'dongle' and then pay for the data you use. I am told that this option keeps you connected in most places in Fiji at a reasonable rate.

July 2022: We purchased a sim card from both Digicel and Vodafone and then purchased a \$25F top card for both carriers. We used the sim cards in two devices, one that stayed on the boat and worked our network and the other in a cell phone. We found that the Lau group had spotty internet at best so be prepared to be disconnected. Near W side of Lakeba, Mango Island, Vanua Balavu (Susui, Dalconi) we found 3G access. But in Vulaga & Ogea access was limited (even WhatsApp was intermittent). – sv Sugar Shack

1.14.4 SSB Radio Nets

Gulf Harbor Radio: David Sapiane on s/v Chameleon (and his wife Patricia), run Gulf Harbor Radio. On at were on at 1915 UTC (7:15pm Fiji time) on 8752 USB (alternate freq 8779 and last alternate freq 8297). They will track your position daily and provide weather updates for your area.

Pacific Seafarer's Net: Time: 0300 UTC frequency 14,300 KHz. If you're a ham, for longer passages, we always checked in with the Pacific Seafarer's Net. This is also a good frequency to have saved in case of emergency—the Hams on the PacSea net will move heaven and earth to help any boat with a true emergency—ham operator or not. Even when there is no net going on this frequency, there are often hams monitoring the frequency for emergency traffic. Website: <https://pacseanet.blogspot.com/>

They start with a 'warmup session' at 0300, where you can call in and chat, and maybe hook up with someone who will make a phone call to the US for you. The "Roll Call" (boats who have checked in regularly and indicated they are underway) starts at 0310 UTC, and when they finish (30-60 minutes later), they call for boats getting ready to go on passage to get on the Roll Call list for tomorrow's net.

It's always a good idea to listen up on a structured net for a day or so to get the rhythm of the net, before calling in. You can call in for a radio check during the warmup period, or just after the formal net ends. There are usually people on the net who will do a "phone patch" for you—just ask.

The net control is usually in Hawaii, but there are always relay stations on both sides of the Pacific to help with weaker signals.

Tony's Maritime Net is on 14315 USB daily at 2100UTC, and 7087 LSB follows the above at about 2135UTC. This is for boats underway in and around NZ and Australia.

Northland Radio: Northland Radio offers a tracking check in service for vessels underway (fee required). Northland Radio is located in the Bay of Islands, New Zealand. Peter recently installed a new large antenna and has been able to work boats throughout most of the South and Central Pacific and as far as Alaska from New Zealand. Learn more and contact Peter Mott peter@northlandradio.nz. And www.northlandmaritimeradio.nz/products/passage-tracking.

German Net: Time: 2000 UTC (0800 Fijian time) frequency 14770 in German. We were told that if you ask politely, they will give you weather info in English if you need it. At least one of the weather guys (s/v Ana Maria) has a professional forecaster background.

1.14.5 News

Here are some English language Fijian news websites:

Fiji Times - www.fijitimes.com/

Fiji Sun - www.fijisun.com.fj/

Regional News from New Zealand Herald: www.nzherald.co.nz/

Radio NZ's Pacific News Page - hwww.rnzi.com/pages/news.php

2018: We use NPR (US National Public Radio) news feed when away from internet. It gives a headline with a short 2-3 line of data. There is some text that you have to ignore but does gie you a basic summary of US news. You can receive this via Saildocs—send an email to query@saildocs.com with this in the body: "send <http://www.npr.org/sections/news/> -- Jacaranda

1.15 Diving Sites

See individual island sections for more diving details.

There are many operators who will take you diving on Rainbow Reef. The two most popular are Dive Academy and Paradise Resort.

Dive Academy: +679.725.8184 or 675.725.8167. www.diveacademyfiji.com email: info@diveacademyfiji.com.

Paradise Resort: +679.932.8878, www.paradiseinfiji.com/diving/, info@paradiseinfiji.com,

Beqa Adventure Divers +679.998.8006, www.fijisharkdive.com, contact@fijisharkdive.com, adventures@connect.com.fj. Located in Pacific Harbour.

AquaTrek, <https://www.aquatrek.com/>, +679.702.9898, +679.702.9896, info@aquatrek.com (shark dive)

Diving attractions in Fiji are:

Rainbow Reef: The White Wall, etc in the Somosomo straits, between Taveuni Island and Vanua Levu's SE coast. Most dive operations operate out of facilities on the SW coast of Taveuni Island, or from Viani Bay.

Beqa, Astrolabe Reef and Kadavu (south coast of Viti Levu, near Suva). There are several dive operations based at small resorts in these areas, plus live-aboard dive boats that leave from Suva.

Savusavu and Namena Reserve. There are 2-3 dive operations based in the Savusavu area that dive the reefs on the south coast of Vanua Levu, and the Namena Reserve. There is also a resort on Namena Island.

Oct. 2023: Shark Dive: Bequa Adventure Divers can be reached by car from either Suva, Denarau, or Vuda. There is no anchorage nearby so you need to commit to an overnight, but the dive is worth it. Beqa Adventure Divers worked with the community and government to create a Shark Reef Marine reserve and the Shark Corridor (no fishing). The two dives were amazing, interesting, exciting, and very safe. Wonderful staff. Cost \$500F/pp with gear rental as of 10/2023. – SV Nutmeg

1.16 Cruising Information Sources

We are indebted to the people and organizations below for documenting their experiences and sharing them with us. Every section is a mix of several sources.

1.16.1 Fijian Websites

Here are some websites you should visit when you are looking for Fiji information:

- Fiji Pocket Guide: www.fijipocketguide.com
- Fiji Shores and Marinas: www.fijimarinas.com/cruising-guide
- National Trust of Fijian Islands: <http://www.nationaltrust.org.fj/>

1.16.2 Sail Fiji Cruising Guide App

This [Sail Fiji Cruising Guide app](#) is only for iPads (as of Aug.2023) and costs about \$99.99 U.S. It features charts for the four main cruising areas (Western, Central, Eastern, and the Lau Group). It is an interactive Cruising Guide designed to help cruisers safely navigate Fiji waters whether connected to the internet or not. Anchorages, villages, sevusevu information, and passages are listed in the app.

Aug. 2022: We purchased the Sail Pacific App and found it lacking and not very useful. So, we were hesitant to purchase Sail Fiji. However, it has come in very useful and works well as an enhancement to our navigational charts and this compendium. – sv Sugar Shack

1.16.3 Facebook Groups

There is a very useful Fiji Facebook Group called [Sailing & Cruising in Fiji](#) where you can stay abreast on local government updates, buy/sell/trade, keep in touch with fellow cruisers, and ask questions about Fiji.

1.16.4 Buy/Sell/Trade

There are at least two Buy, Sell, Trade Facebook Groups in Fiji:

- Buy, and Sell Fiji Market Place: www.facebook.com/groups/211072082359807
- Fiji – Buy Sell: www.facebook.com/groups/fijiclassifree

1.16.5 Noonsite

www.noonsite.com

Originally started by Jimmy Cornell, this site is a great repository of information for all those out-of-the-way places. Made possible by YOUR contributions.

1.16.6 Seven Seas Cruising Association

www.ssca.org

The SSCA is a world-wide organization for cruisers whose primary function is to exchange information about cruising destinations. They have a monthly publication that is mostly letters from cruisers about the areas they are cruising. They also have a good website and a well-attended bulletin board. Membership is reasonable, and the monthly publication and indexed back issues are available electronically.

1.16.7 Island Cruising Pacific Rally

<https://www.islandcruising.nz> Boats depart from New Zealand, Australia, French Polynesia and explore Minerva Reef, Tonga, Fiji, Vanuatu, New Caledonia. Rallies are packed with fun events, tons of content to prepare you, your vessel, and crew for amazing adventures.

Membership includes intensive pre-departure training, weather routing and weather support, all of the necessary documentation for formalities (for each country), loads of resources, and many discounts from a variety of vendors, marinas, and boatyards.

There are several different rallies to select from (1: Tonga, Fiji, Vanuatu, New Caledonia, Norfolk Island, NZ, Australia. 2: French Polynesia, Cook Islands, Samoa, Niue, Tonga, NZ, Australia. 3: Australia across the Tasman to NZ, 4: Traditional route "Go East" to Australia, New Caledonia, Vanuatu)

1.16.8 Pacific Puddle Jump Yahoo Group

<https://groups.io/g/PacificPuddleJump>

This group is where the people gathering in South and Central America meet to share information about crossing the big puddle. A good source of information, but not very organized, and it can be full of bloat from people who ask the same questions without doing any research of their own.

You must be a member to read or post anything on this site, but if you are getting ready for a Pacific crossing, it is well worth a few minutes to sign up for Groups IO and then sign up for this group. Explore Files and Links pages, for great information.

1.16.9 Cruiser Reports

We are indebted to the people and organizations that have documented their experiences and shared them with us. We can't do this alone and rely on cruisers sharing updated information. So, please be sure to document and email us your notes at sherry@svsogypaws.com.

Every section is a mix of several sources: A few details about the boats are included, so you can assess what 'a foot under the keel' means, for example.

For most of the earlier sources, we have gleaned the information off the internet (cruiser's websites, blogs, and online forum postings) or out of a Seven Seas Cruising Association bulletin. For the sources reported below, much of the info came directly from cruising friends, helping to round out the information in our various Compendiums.

sv Sugar Shack (2022-2025): A 47' Catana catamaran: 15m long, 7.7m wide, 1.3m draft. Matt and Christine on sv Sugar Shack have sailed from Turkey to the Caribbean, ABCs, Panama Canal, Costa Rica, Galapagos, Chile, French Polynesia, Tonga, New Zealand, Minerva, Vanuatu, Marshall Islands, Tuvalu, Kiribati. They arrived in Fiji

in 2022, again in 2023 and again in 2025. sv Sugar Shack was instrumental in the reorganization and update of the Fiji, Tonga, (5) French Polynesia Compendiums in 2019-2023, Marshall Islands, and Fiji to Marshall Islands compendium. www.svSugarShack.com

Wainani (2025): A 2006 Beneteau Oceanis 473 and is 15m long, 4.3 beam, 2.1m draft. Jaqui and Tony are typically based in Auckland, New Zealand. Wainani spent the 2024 and 2025 cruising seasons exploring idyllic islands and pristine waters of Fiji.

Geniet Lewe (2025): Shane and Wendy are on a 2009 Leopard. 14.2m long, 7.5 beam, 1.2m draft. They have spent the last 4 seasons cruising New Zealand and Fiji Islands as full time live aboards.

Peregrine (2024): Dave Chesney.

Cream Puff (2024): Amel Super Maramu 52' monohull. 6.6' draft.

Moana (2024): A Lagoon 450 (14m long, 7.9m wide, 1.32m deep. Moana spent several months in Vanuatu before returning to Fiji and then heading to Australia.

Knot Tide Down (2023): A Kaufman 47 normally based in Auckland, NZ. 14.33m long, 4.13m wide, draws 2.1m. Crew is a family of four; Tammy, Nathan, Cody, Jacob.

SeaGlub (2022-2023): Is a 1998 Hylas 46 (hull #22) that is 14.1m long, 4.2m wide, 2.1m draft). Captain Chris Glubka is her second owner as of 2012 and has sailed from San Francisco, CA, thru Mexico for 4 years, French Polynesia and most recently Fiji. Chris has sailed almost 3,000 miles throughout Fijian waters. As a contributor to the largest sailing rallies in the world, Chris has been sharing trusted data and tracks for several years throughout Central American and the South Pacific.

Jamala (2023) Maria and Allen left the U.K. in 2017 on their Moody 425, Lady Jane, and sailed to French Polynesia in 2019. In 2020, we sold Lady Jane, bought Jamala in Seattle, and crossed the Pacific Ocean again to continue circumnavigation. After spending time in Mexico and another 18 months in French Polynesia, we arrived in Tonga in July 2023. Jamala is an Amel Super Maramu 2000, 16m ketch with a 4.6m beam and 2.05m draft. www.untilthebuttermelts.com

Independence (2023): Candy Wood and Rick Delfosse on SV Independence, a USA 43' Pan Oceanic (13' wide, 6.5' draft). Candy and Rick left NYC on 12.24.18 and have spent 5 years exploring new lands and immersing themselves in different cultures as they circumnavigate.

Moana (2023): Moana is a Lagoon 450 (14m length, 8m width, 1.4m draft) and is captained by Renate Klocke.

Nutmeg (2023): Max and Whitney White are crew on board with the owners Ruth and John Metz. After chartering in the BVIs for 12 years, Ruth and John decided to sail around the world with Max and Whitney who have over 25 years' experience in the charter industry.

Ari B (2023): Ari B is a Trintella 45. Length 45', draft 2.2m, width 4m. Alex (Austrian) and Carla (English) left the UK on Ari B in 2014, crossing the Atlantic via Cape Verde to the Caribbean where they sailed extensively from Tobago and Columbia in the south to Cuba in the North. They arrived in the Marquesas in early 2019 and have spent the last two years cruising in French Polynesia (Marquesas, Tuamotus, Societies, and Gambier). Follow their adventures on www.sy-arib.com.

Eastern Stream (2022): With their steel ketch, Eastern Stream, Jaap and Minke sailed in six years from the Netherlands to Fiji. They spent most of that time in Chile (2 years) and French Polynesia (2.5 years due to Covid). The boat's length of 15m, wide 4m, and depth 2m.

Mais Uma (2022): Is a 45' Outremer with beam 7.2m and draft 1m. Anita and Knut bought their boat in France in 2016 sailed through Brazil and French Polynesia before arriving in Fiji.

Scooter (2022): Amel Maramu LOA 14m, width 4m, draft 2m with Thomas and Mareike onboard.

Major Tom (2022): Is a Najad 391, with Swedish couple Anki and Sivert onboard. They left Sweden in 2018 and have been enjoying many countries along the way to completing their circumnavigation. Major Tom is 12m long, beam 3.6m, draft 2m.

Anima (2022): is a 42' catamaran, 25' wide, 4' draft. Manuel left Portugal in 2017 on a round the world journey through Panama Canal. Arrived Fiji early June and planning on heading to Australia in Nov. 2022. In 2023, Anima will sail towards Thailand.

Starlight (2022): Simona and Rokas, Lithuanian couple sailing the world since Jan. 2020. They started their journey in the Canary Islands, Spain, and came to Fiji in July 2022. Starlight is a monohull, Moody 425, with a draft of 1.83m. www.instagram.com/sv.starlight.

Amaryllis II (2022) Jef and Marin on Amaryllis II have lived aboard since 2012. Amaryllis II, a Switch 51 catamaran (#10) from 2003. She is 15.30 long, 7.68m wide, and 1.3m draft.

Aqua Fox (2022) A Leopard 50' catamaran with 26' beam, 5'4" draft. They've been sailing since Jan. 2021 starting in Florida through Caribbean, Panama Canal, Galapagos, French Polynesia, to Fiji.

Calliope (2022): The boat is a Bavaria Cruiser 56, monohull, 2.8m draft. Matias has been sailing since July 2021, started in Croatia, across the Atlantic, Panama Canal, Galapagos, French Polynesia, Rarotonga and now Fiji. We are a group of friends, Matias is the Captain, his girlfriend and 2 friends are full time crew and we take on additional friends throughout our journey.

Capall Mara (2022): John and Sal Potter, self-funded vagabonds. Left home in Australia in 2005, sailed SE Asia, and Pacific for 12 years before flying to Europe to pick up Capall Mara, a Beneteau Sense 50.

Carpe Diem (2022) Laura, June, and Soren left Denmark in July 2020, crossing the Atlantic, Caribbean, and Pacific oceans in a monohull Furia Brisa 40. Length 12m, width 3.5m, draft 2.2m.

Dash (2022): is a Taswell 56 with an 8' (2.5m) draft. Mike and Kellie departed from a noisy bar in Avalon, CA and sailed directly to the Marquesas...just like the song says (Southern Cross).

Dazzler's Watch (2022): Americans Dan & Jilly Morrison have sailed all of Pacific Mexico spending years in the Sea of Cortez. They took off for the South Pacific in 2018 sailing French Polynesia, Cook Islands, American Samoa, Niue, Tonga, New Zealand and Fiji. Their beloved *Dazzler* is a Union Polaris 36 double ender by Robert Perry. She's very similar to a Hans Christian or Tiana. She's 43' overall with an 11' beam and 6' draft.

Lazy Sunday (2022): Is a Ron Given Motor catamaran that is 15m long, 6.9m wide, and 1.2m draft. The previous owners converted the boat from a sail boat to a motor boat and this is Kevin and Sonya's first ocean boat. They intend to live full time on their boat and visit as many pacific islands as possible.

Oh Joy II (2022): Captain Harry Pattison and First Mate Joy Archer sailing aboard Oh Joy II, a 44' Mason monohull with a draft of 6.5'. Home port Bainbridge Island, Washington, USA.

Seneto (2022): Kate & Bill Gover are on a Hallberg Rassy 352. They left the UK in Sept. 2019 arriving in March 2020. They spent 3 months in Las Perlas before heading to French Polynesia where they spent 2 years before coming to Fiji in June 2022.

SY Calash (2022): Merlyn and Alan are onboard a Sweden Yacht 45. Draft 2.3m, length 14.1m.

SV Margarita (2022): is a 13m x 7m sailing catamaran owned by Bruce and Dinah. www.nzmargarita.wordpress.com.

SV Bella Vita (2022): Cavalier 45 (Kiwi built design by Laurie Davidson), center cockpit 14m, 4.12 beam, 2.2m draft. Richard and Libby have been sailing in NZ for decades. #bellavitasailing

SV Rainbow Safari (2022): 45' Leopard Catamaran. Started in Singapore in 2018 with a family of 6 and they have extensively cruised Thailand, Malaysia, & Indonesia. They crossed to Fiji in 2022 to explore the S. Pacific.

Bliss of Stockholm (2022): Bliss is an Oyster 56, 17,5m long, 5m wide, 2.5m draft with Cecilia and Joakim. Started in Sweden in June 2018, transit the Panama Canal Jan. 2020, and then sailed to Easter island via the

Galapagos. We spent 2 years in French Polynesia before we sailed to New Zealand. Now we are enjoying Fiji and will continue west to Australia via Vanuatu and New Caledonia.

Airborne (2022): SV Airborne is a 2016 Lagoon 450. Rick and Lorrain picked up the boat in Malta in Oct.2016 and then crossed the Mediterranean. The build of their time spent in French Polynesia. They arrived Fiji at Easter 2022 and have been enjoying cruising life. In Dec.2022, heading to New Zealand.

Tintamarre (2022): Jeanneau 44i (LOA 13.75m, beam 4.35m, draft 2.1m) Acquired and refitted for cruising in St. Martin in the E. Caribbean in 2016. On board is Andy and Clare Glasspool whom are both British.

Dandelion (2022): Mates Carolyn and Carla are on Dandelion a 47' catamaran. Draft is 1.2m

Sky Pond (2022): 11.6m long, 6m wide, 1.1m draft. Roxy and Carl picked up Sky Pond, Seawind 1160 catamaran in 2016. Since then they've sailed 40k miles from South China Sea, Australia, New Zealand through the S. Pacific to Canada, US and Mexico. In 2022, they went through French Polynesia and to Fiji.

Soggy Paws (2012-2013) Soggy Paws arrived in Fiji in June 2012, and stayed over in Savusavu for the 2012/2013 cyclone season. While much of the factual information we gather goes directly into the Compendium, there is additional info in our blog. Soggy Paws is a CSY 44, 44' monohull, with a 5.5' draft.

www.svsoggypaws.blogspot.com .

Storm Bay of Hobart (2016) Aussies Margaret Beasley and Chris Wilkie aboard, arrived from American Samoa in July 2016, cleared in at Savusavu, hauled the boat, and cleared out in late Aug./Early Sept. from Vuda.

The Rose (2014): Pat and John - We are aboard a Kelly Peterson 46 "The Rose". Our blog site is at sailblogs.com under The Rose. But our blogs are usually more experiential rather than informative so this was an exception to write up the waypoints etc

Aqualuna (2013): Jonathan and Gabrielle cruised Fiji in 2013, and sent updates on the Lau Group. Their blog (mostly pictures): blog.mailasail.com/aqualuna

Fruit de Mer (2013): Gerrit and Anne-Mieke cruised Fiji for 6 months in 2013. Contributed specific information about their cruise on the Lambasa river and their stay at the anchorage of tiny Leleuvia island (South of Ovalau). In general, our C-map electronic charts, turned out to be reliable for us.

Namani (2013) - Namani is a 1981 Dufour 35' sloop. They crossed the Pacific to Tonga in 2012, and spent the season in 2013 in Fiji. www.sailblogs.com/member/namaniatsea/

Radiance (2013): Mark V. Ward KL2RZ, Laurence Blakely KL2WZ. Radiance is from Seward, Alaska. Members of SSCA & OceansWatch. www.sailblogs.com/member/thebigblue/

Migration (2010-2012) - Migration is a trimaran with a beam of 25' and 4'9" draft with Bruce Balan and Alene aboard. Some of their comments in this booklet come from Bruce's website at brucebalan.com/migrations

They have also contributed a few comments via the PPJ Yahoo Group over the past few years. But the primary info on the southern Lau islands came from a very detailed email sent to me specifically for Compendium.

Bruce also wrote a very good article for Latitude 38 on South Pacific weather, which can be found on our website, here: <http://www.svsoggypaws.com/files/>

Pincoya (2012) - Gene and Gloria of s/v Pincoya traveled from Suva to Kadavu thru the western Lau islands to Fulaga, then north to Vanua Balavu. Pincoya is an Island Packet 44 with a 5-6-foot draft. Blog: www.sailblogs.com/member/smilin1/

Sarah Jean II (2012) - Norm and Beth Cooper of s/v Sarah Jean II spent 2 weeks in Kadavu in Aug. 2012, & wrote up their experiences and anchorage waypoints for us. Sarah Jean II is a Saga 43. Blog: www.sailblogs.com/member/sarahjean2/

Carina (2010-2011): Carina arrived in Fiji (Savusavu) in June 2010, and stay over through cyclone season, departing in April 2011. They cruised the south coast of Vanua Levu, the Lau Group, bits of the Koro Sea and

the Mamanucas, and to Vuda Point Marina and back. They have a 32-foot monohull with a draft of under 6 feet. Their website can be found at www.sv-carina.org

Nine of Cups (2011) - Nine of Cups is a deep draft 44' cruiser. They passed through Fiji in 2011. They circumnavigated Vanua Levu counter-clockwise. www.nineofcups.com

Shandon (2010) - David Mitchell of s/v Shandon compiled a report which we have only taken excerpts from. There are other useful bits of information (photos and sketch charts, mainly) that we have not included. You can download this report published by the RCC as a PDF file. It is available for download as a free e-book on Amazon.com, or directly from the RCC website here: www.rccpf.org.uk

Cyan (2008) - Cyan used Cheshire's Lau Group notes and added their own, for a more complete picture of the Lau group. Most of this was published in the SSCA Commodore's Bulletin, but other information came directly from their website sailingcyan.blogspot.com

Tackless II (2005-2006) - T2 is a 44' CSY center cockpit cruiser (5.5' draft). They were in Fiji in 2006-2007. Blog: www.thetwocaptains.com/logbook/southpacific.htm

1.17 Printed Sources

We are consciously NOT duplicating any printed, copyrighted information here. It takes a lot of effort AND money to publish a cruising guide, and we firmly believe that if it is still in print, you should BUY it, not steal it (in electronic form).

1.17.1 Fiji Shores & Marinas

Fiji Shores and Marinas last edition was 2020 (due to covid), but hopefully they will continue their annual free publication in the future. www.fijimarinas.com You can pick up a free edition at any marine store or download a free pdf. Some images were used from this resource and noted below the image.

1.17.2 A Yachtsman's Guide to Fiji 3rd Edition - Michael Calder

First published in 1987, with an update in 1993, this guide has been re-published by Michael Calder as a PDF file on the internet for free download, as a 3rd edition. 265 pages of still mostly-relevant information on Fiji.

Michael Calder's 3rd edition is available for [free here](#). Here is the preface to this edition:

After many requests to reprint this book, all of which Michael has refused on the grounds that it is now 18 years since it was last updated, I have now decided to make it available as a historic reference in electronic format. One reason for this is that I have found that copies of the original 2nd Edition were being offered for sale online for prices as high as \$200. To pay such a sum is problematic.

Generally, however I have not updated the navigational information.

In the Preface to the 2nd Edition, I mentioned my aversion to "GPS Coordinates". We now have that wonderful resource Google Earth and I am sure many of you will do just what I have done and compare my chartlets to the satellite imagery. In some places the imagery is good; in others, Vanua Balavu for instance it is poor and there is a probable error in the latitude that I give for Qilaqila Passage of about 0.4 miles. As I have said 'The chartlets that I have drawn are illustrative, positions given are approximate and are there only to enable correlation with the same feature on the published chart.' Be warned and put your trust in the ole eye-ball.

1.17.3 South Pacific Anchorages – Warwick Clay

South Pacific Anchorages, Warwick Clay, 2nd Edition, 2001

Noted the anchorage locations stated in South Pacific Anchorages by Warwick Clay did not match up with our C-Map NT+ plotter locations, or our backup GPS units. In general, Clay's locations were slightly east of the actual locations and usually on land. Available on [Amazon for \\$39.67](#).

1.17.4 The Pacific Crossing Guide – RCC Pilotage Foundation

The [Pacific Crossing Guide](#), published by the Royal Cruising Club Pilotage Foundation in association with the Ocean Cruising Club. Originally edited by Michael Pocock, and Revised by Ros Hogbin. We have the 3rd Edition published in 2016 sells for \$115.00USD.

1.17.5 Island Cruising Pacific Rally

<https://www.islandcruising.nz>. When you join any of the Island Cruising Rallies you receive a very detailed Cruising Guide Book detailing a wide variety of resources on formalities, anchoring, passages, and more.

2 Passage Reports

2.1 To and From Fiji

2.1.1 Tonga to Fiji

Aug. 2023: We left Neiafu anchorage at 0730 and had a challenging exit out of the Faihava pass. The forecast was for 10-12kts ESE so we put full sail up (despite only having one rudder). As it happened a storm came upon us and the winds were howling from several different directions. And what we learned is that a catamaran cannot hold course or provide you steerage with full sail and one rudder. We quickly reefed the main and got control back.

There was supposed to be lots of rain but small seas. Of course, we only saw a little rain and 3m seas. Lucky for us the wind and seas were coming across ESE which is on our good rudder side. We constantly had to manage the sail trim to ensure the boat was not overpowered and the auto pilot was not overworked.

We entered Fijian waters between Munia and Katafage and watched the charts to avoid the reefs and small islands. We were well clear of our 2nm standard from shore. Then we went between Kanathea and Mango island and headed straight to the channel where Copra Shed sent Phio to assist us with a mooring.

We had on average 15-20kts with gusts of 25-30kt and 2.5-3m seas both from ESE. There was no moon and a lot of cloud cover so our nights were dark. But over all a very uneventful passage. Boat speed average 7kt, max 14.2kts, total travel time 60 hours. – sv Sugar Shack

2.1.2 New Zealand to/from Fiji

Most cruisers leave from Marsden Cove / Opuia and make a stop at Minerva Reef (if needed to let a weather system go by), and make landfall at either Lautoka, Vuda/Denarau, or Savusavu. Savusavu is reported to have easier formalities.

On the return, most cruisers depart from Lautoka/Vuda/Denarau area, for the trip back to NZ. Though you can leave from Savusavu, this adds another day to the trip (more wx uncertainty).

The passage usually takes 7-14 days, though one boat took a month. Sometimes the "weather hold" at Minerva can be long, and unpleasant (but better than being at sea).

Conclusion--lots of boats make this trip numerous times, but it isn't a passage to be taken lightly. You really need to make sure you have an experienced weather person giving you advice, and even then, still might encounter some significant weather, coming or going from NZ.

2.1.3 French Polynesia to Fiji

June 2022: We left Raiatea in the Society Archipelago of French Polynesia in a light wind window with the hopes of keeping my sea sickness at bay. All forecasts had us heading North to avoid a large blue window on day 4 and 5. So, we headed NW and created a cross track of over 130+nm.

From there, we slowly headed west, then went North of Suvarrow and went South of American Samoa. Next, we went through Cook Islands (above Niue) at approximate 17°23S / 174°47W.

As we continued west, we went through Tonga's Vavau Group at approximately 16°53S / 173°47W.

We entered Fijian waters through the Lau Group. We went between Jeffreys Bank and Lookout Reef (north of Lomaloma) at approximately 16°55S / 178°48W. We kept Williamson Reef to port and Naitaubai to port approximately 17°18S / 179°54W. Then we passed the southern tip of Ngathavulu to starboard. After that, it was pretty much a straight shot to Savusavu where we picked up a mooring at Waitui Marina.

There was only one day where we had to motor for 8 hours (after a storm sucked the air from us) the rest was really a nice sail. We used almost all of our sails on this trip including main, jib, medium spinnaker (150m symmetrical) and our parasail. We had lots of squalls to contend with but for the most part the weather was between 12-18kts and we maintained a course of 265-280 once we stopped going North. It took us 11 days and 23 hours from hook to hook. And best of all, I didn't get sea sick at all! This was shortly after Covid. We couldn't stop at any of the other country between French Poly and Fiji (they were closed). – sv Sugar Shack

2.1.4 The Samoas to Fiji

July 2016: Our passage from American Samoa to Savusavu was uneventful, plenty of SE breeze and a pesky southerly swell so we had that S Pacific roll that most will recognize! We came in through the Nanuka pass, it was deep and no problem. Our transit began in late afternoon and we could easily see Welangilala Island to port. After Cyclone Winston we wondered whether the light on that island would be working, but after sunset it was visible. – Storm Bay of Hobart

2.1.5 Marshall Islands to Fiji (via Kiribati and Tuvalu)

April 2025: The plan: leave Majuro for Tarawa, Kiribati. Spend 2 days and then head to Funafuti, Tuvalu. Spend a week then head to Savusavu, Fiji.

We left the Majuro anchorage around 1600 and arrived at the Tarawa anchorage at 0800 - 3.5 days later. We had a lovely passage the first 3 days with 15-17kts of wind on the beam, 1.5-2m seas at 8 second intervals. On the last 12 hours we had to motor as the wind dropped below 5kts and we were dodging several squalls. Pleasant passage. Traveled 450nm. It took us almost 4 days. We spent 2 days in Kiribati and left for Tuvalu.

We left Tarawa anchorage around 1800. We had hoped to leave earlier but the officials were running behind (it was Sunday). We had an amazing 80 hours with consistent 15-18kts of wind just forward of the beam. The seas were 1.5-2m but came in 7-8 second intervals so they were not terribly uncomfortable. On the 4th day we lost the wind and it shifted to right on the nose. As we crossed the ICTZ there was no wind. So, we dropped the sails and turned on the engines. We tried multiple times to motor/sail but we just did not have enough wind. So, we ended up motoring the last 36 hours.

Traveled 729nm over 120 hours. We spent one week in Tuvalu. We left Funafuti around 0800 and sailed the 6nm to the Ta ave Pua Pua pass which was deep, wide, and pretty easy. We did have light conditions and left during low tide. The first 24 hours were super light winds 4-6kts from all over NE, E, SE but consistently light. We motored most of this day.

Day 2 & 3: The winds picked up to 7-9kts allowing us to sail, albeit slowly. Sea state was 1.1-5.m from SE. But so much better without the engines on. The winds were still shifty all over the place but for the most part Easterly. Our nights were dodging squalls.

Day 4: Winds started to die as we approached the channel between Taveuni and Vanua Levu. We had wanted to sail the Somo Somo Straight during the day, but it didn't work out. So, we sailed through in the pitch black (barely a new moon). We had tracks and good charts to help us avoid the reefs. Total miles: 561nm and Total Time: 97hours (4 days). – sv Sugar Shack

2.2 Passages within Fiji

2.2.1 Savusavu to Vanua Balavu (Lau Group)

June 2022: There was a light wind window to head East from Savusavu to Vanua Balavu. Even though it is only 100nm we decided to leave around 10am with the hopes of an early morning arrival the next day.

We motored for the first 4 hours until the wind picked up enough for us to raise the working sails. After a few hours it really picked up and we had a nice boat speed of 7-8kts which had us arriving at 1:30am so we decided to reef the sails. After we reefed the sails, we had a nice 5kt boat speed which carried us nicely to the NW pass (17°09.265S / 179°03.587W).

There are white range markers on the hill and one crooked/bent one in the water as you near the pass. It is really straight forward and both Sail Fiji App and Navionics were spot on in getting us there. – sv Sugar Shack

July 2012: Budd Reef to Vanua Balavu. We debated whether to leave from Budd Reef, or move down to Matagi for a closer shot. In reality, the only benefit in leaving from Matagi is that you can leave after dark, where it would be a little risky traversing Budd Reef after dark.

We pulled anchor at 4pm, and motored in light easterly winds out the south pass (16-33.18S / 179-41.01W). We had scoped this area on the way in in good light, and knew it to be pretty much wide open. The only thing we had to avoid was coral close to NE of Raranatiqa Island.

Once outside the reef, we headed straight for our waypoint NE of Motu Lailai. Continuing on this course would take us straight into the NW pass at Vanua Balavu. But for two reasons, once clear of Motu Lailai, we opted to head just west of Kanacea Island (just west of Vanua Balavu). The 1st reason was that this was a more comfortable point of sail for us in the ENE winds, and the 2nd was that we expected to arrive about 2am, and it'd be more comfortable killing time in what was forecast to NE at 20, in the lee of Vanua Balavu and Kanathea, rather than off the NW tip of the island.

Once in the lee of Kanacea and Vanua Balavu, we took down most of the sail and spent the rest of the night slowly jogging upwind under reefed main in the comfortable conditions. At 8am we were outside the Adavaci Pass. The light was in our eyes, but the conditions were good, and the waypoints were good, so we proceeded slowly with a good lookout on the bow, and had no problems. 5 boats followed us in this pass.

From the pass, we headed for the southern tip of the island to the east of the pass, and straight east into Daliconi. No reefs or hazards on this course. – Soggy Paws

June 2012: We did a quick overnight from Savusavu to the Adavaci Pass on the west side of Vanua Balavu. We have attached some Adavaci pass waypoints if you want to go directly in to Daliconi for sevusevu. (If you go in the Qilaqila pass, which has a nice range, you are still ten-ish miles north of your sevusevu site.)

Adavaci 1: 017-13.6851 S / 179-01.2963 W

Adavaci 2: 017-13.6523 S / 179 01.2015 W

Adavaci 3: 017-13.6021 S / 179-01.1103 W

Adavaci 4: 017-13.5813 S / 179-01.0268 W

Daliconi Anchorage: 017-13.1750 S / 178-57.9830 W. – SV Shango

2.2.2 Savusavu to Lautoka/Vuda Point Area

The best way to get to Lautoka (Viti Levu) from Savusavu (Vanua Levu) is to sail south out of Savusavu, staying in deep water and in the clear, and pass around the south coast of Viti Levu. You can do this safely in an overnight, where the more direct route along the north coast of Viti Levu is reef-strewn and needs to be done carefully and only in good daylight. It normally takes 3-4 days of day-hops to make the trip.

The channel between Vanua Levu and Viti Levu experiences a venturi effect when strong winds are blowing. The winds can often be 10-15 knots higher than prevailing conditions (i.e.: 35-40 knots when there are forecasts of 20-25 knot Tradewinds).

Sept. 2010: We left from Savusavu and first stopped in Koro Island (Dere Bay) and then Makogai and Naigani Island, then north across Viti Levu. We were headed to Vuda Point Marina for a haul out.

From Naigani, we sailed approximately ten miles through rough and shallow waters littered with hazards, before slipping inside Viti Levu's barrier reef on its southeast shore. From here to Lautoka, we navigated a narrow channel bordered on our south, or port side, by the beautiful, yet spare, Rocky Mountains of Fiji's largest island and, on our north, or starboard, by a nearly impenetrable barrier of reef and rock.

Once inside the reef, we enjoyed great sailing on flat water as the trade winds wrapped neatly around the mountainous island, keeping the warm fresh breezes always astern. Reaching and running northwest and around the tip at Nananu I Thake before turning southwest, we breezed along at nearly hull speed with a bit of genoa pulling, averaging 35 miles per day and were safely anchored each day long before reef spotting became more difficult with the sun's decline. Jibing leisurely every so often.

However, Fiji is not a place for sailing if you are faint of heart. Uncharted rocks, reefs and small islands abound and many boats come to grief plying these waters. This season, many of our friends admitted to bouncing off or grinding onto reefs around Fiji. We figure that our reef is out there, we just hope Carina's husky hull is up to the bump. We'd rather not test her, though, so during most of our sailing time we post one of us on the bow trying to spot obstacles. Then too, in Fiji we only sail during daylight hours and try to be safely anchored by midafternoon. After a few days, we reached the port city of Lautoka. – Carina

2.2.3 Savusavu to Suva

Jan 2013: We "cruised" between Savusavu and Suva (summer months with light winds), with the following stops: 20 miles to Namena for a couple of days of diving. 20 miles to Makongai. 20 miles to Levuka, and then 40 miles to Suva. We mostly motor sailed because the wind was ~10 knots SE. This was an easy trip (but might be harder during trade wind season when the wind is blowing 15-20 kts). – Soggy Paws

2.2.4 Savusavu (Vanua Levu) to Volivoli (Viti Levu)

Sept. 2022: We took a leisurely sail from Savusavu through the Nasonisoni Pass (a bit lively and swirly at first, but then absolutely fine with the reef clearly visible all around. We anchored in various spots including Yadua Island (highly recommend), before crossing Bligh Water to the tip of Viti Levu and the Volivoli Resort. – Seneto

2.2.5 Savusavu to Fawn Harbor or Taveuni / Viani Bay

July 2012: First light, we motored fairly close around the reef and headed east for the entry to Dakuniba Bay. The wind started out calm, but picked up and was actually blowing pretty hard in the area off Lesciaciva Point and east of that for about 5-10 miles. Our speed, motor sailing with high RPMs, dropped to about 3.5 knots between the wind and seas, and our ETA at Dakuniba was looking pretty grim. Within the next hour, we got out of the 'wind compression zone' off Lesciaciva Point, and in the lee from big Taveuni Island out to the east. The wind veered a little more SE (from Taveuni, and draw over the 'mainland' where the land was heating up), and we were able to ease back on the throttle, and still arrived at Dakuniba entry by about 1:30pm. With the sun at our back, waypoints, and a Google Earth chart, this was an easy entry.

We spent a week at Dakuniba, and then used our Google Earth chart to navigate the 5 miles inside the reef from Dakuniba to Viani Bay (just across Somosomo Strait from Taveuni). From here, the whole NE side of Vanua Levu is accessibly by day-hops in mostly protected water. – Soggy Paws

2.2.6 Viani Bay to Vanua Balavu

Many boats leave Savusavu for Paradise Resort on Taveuni, then wait for a weather window to head to Lomaloma, Bay of Islands which is a nice overnight.

Aug. 2022: With light NE winds, we departed Viani Bay early in the morning to stage at Matagi Island in Horseshoe Cove. From Horchow Cove it is approx. 60nm to the northern entrance of Vanua Balavu. We spent 3 nice days at Horseshoe Cove. The pass to Horchow Cove is wide open and easy to navigate at night. We left at 8pm for an overnight sail. There is a reef that runs from another part of the island for about 7nm. We motored around this and as soon as we turned right, the motor went off and we had a magical sail for the next 10 hours with a full moon, beam reach, and flat waters. We slowed down to arrive after sunrise. We had cell coverage a few nm before reaching the island.

As mentioned in other reports, there are range markers and day markers. A few day markers were missing that were shown on Navionics but it wasn't a difficult entrance. We motored to Daliconi village to complete our sevusevu and then visited the school to drop off supplies. We got some fresh fruit from one of the villagers. From here we motored back and anchored in the stunning Bay of Islands. – Dash.

2.2.7 Vanua Levu to Yadua to Yasawa Group

Sept. 2013: You do have to use your eyes and read the water to move around here. 9AM to 3PM is best with blue sunny skies. Reefs are not seen well in overcast.

The Yasawa Group is west of the main islands of Vanua Levu and Viti Levu. The clouds are usually rained out by the time the tradewinds push them over the main islands. The islands do cause gap winds in the 30-mile-wide passage between them. They act like a huge nozzle that accelerates the wind in & downwind of the pass. We left from Savusavu and anchored overnight at Coconut Point on the SW end of Vanua Levu. Then to Yadua Island, where we stayed a few days away from crowds.

From Yadua we could have waited for good winds to cross the pass to Viti Levu or gone more downwind and headed to the Yasawas. We had a good track on the electronic chart of our arrival in to Watering Bay and there weren't any really close passes to hazardous reefs if we went around the west side of Yadua. So, we left at 3AM in order to arrive at the first of the reefs to the east of the Yasawas before noon. It would then be 3 more hours through the reefs to our first anchorage.

We had nice wind until the gap effect calmed down and then we had to motor sail. We anchored at Blue Lagoon. A well-protected anchorage and we slept well. – Tortuguita

2.2.8 Yasawas to Savusavu (via Bligh Water)

July 2022: We entered the Vatu I Ra channel skirting the north of Viti Levu via a channel to the west of the Ba Passage - 17°22S / 177°37E. Lovely motor round to an anchorage called The Slot - 17°23S / 177°47E. This was the most peaceful and sheltered anchorage we have had on our entire trip and wasn't marked on Navionics.

Next stop was **Volivoli Dive Resort**. Rolly anchorage but with good holding. The resort picked us up in a water taxi so we didn't have to blow up the dinghy! Restaurant does really good food and I read somewhere they do the best cheeseburger in Fiji.

We exited the Vatu I Ra channel directly North of Volivoli point (Nananu Passage) and worked our way through the channel in Vanua Levu Barrier Reef. Entered - 17°09S / 178°31E. Was relatively straight forward when triangulating Navionics with Google Earth / Maps. Exited via the Nasonisoni Passage - 16°56S / 178°58E. We had heard scary stories about this passage so we timed it for slack tide and it was fine.

Made our way into Savusavu in the dark which was a big mistake. Chart was mostly accurate but our Sail Fiji app wasn't. Buoys and boats EVERYWHERE, many without their anchor lights on. There is a channel with unlit buoys that wasn't on any of our charts and two big black posts around 179.19E that we didn't see until we

woke up. Keep to the right. We also read somewhere that a black buoy was in the middle of the channel but it doesn't appear to be there anymore. Would strongly advise timing this entry for daylight. – SY Calash

2.2.9 Qamea to Vanua Balavu, Lau

June 2025: We left Naiviivi Bay in Qamea at 6:45am with 25kt northerly winds predicted. We decided to put 1 reef in the main and genoa. We had wonderful conditions, NE wind on the port beam 16-20kt, seas 1m. We ended up unfurling the genoa (left 1 reef in the main). Travel time 6hrs30min, max speed 10.5kt, avg. speed 7.3kt from hook to hook. Super great day of sailing. – sv Sugar Shack

2.2.10 Qamea to Malolo, Musket Cove

Sept. 2023: We took a few days to travel from Qamea to Musket Cove. We left Naiviivi Bay (NW side of Qamea island) at 0630 during high tide and followed our tracks out of this tricky little indent. The pass between Qamea and Taveuni had a beautiful current going with us giving us a 2-2.5kt increase in boat speed. We got lucky as the light NE wind was going the opposite direction. We had a gorgeous downwind sail with our asymmetrical spinnaker for the rest of the 60nm to north east side of Koro Island.

Koro: We went around the **Vatulele Reefs** and went all the way around avoiding the Vatumatau Bay anchorage altogether as it was late in the afternoon and we did not have good light. We entered Tulani Harbor / Dere Bay around 1730 after 64nm. Dropped the hook and enjoyed a quiet night by ourselves.

We left our beautiful anchorage at 0400 to make the 75+nm from **Koro Island** to **Yadua**. We had beautiful light 10-12 East winds with small seas and flew our parasail. Gorgeous sailing day.

Entering **Vanua Balavu Barrier Reef:** We arrived at the **Nadi Pass** on the SW corner of Vanua Levu. The Sail Pacific Fiji App and Navionics recommended this as the entrance. We came in at high tide and were hugging the reef to starboard. The seas got really confusing, increasing to 1.5-2m and the current was about 2-3kts outgoing. Our poor boat struggled with the parasail, engines at 2k RPM, strong outgoing current, and swell - all using one rudder (we are a catamaran and should have 2). We did see some really wonky depths. The sun was up and we could not see the bottom at all, but our depth was reading 1.8-2m for a good 5 minutes causing our hearts to thud in our chest. Again, as a lookout at the bow and Matt at the helm, we could never see the bottom, even with the sun. Not sure what was going on but I am glad it turned out ok.

There is a reef in the middle of the Vanua Balavu Barrier at about **17°02.0855S / 178°41.5486E** which has a marker. It completely snuck up on us so pay attention as you sail across the barrier.

Exiting **Vanua Balavu Barrier:** **17°00.2960S / 178°37.9502E** we exited at less than mid-tide at 11:43 with 12-15 ESE winds. The pass has a large marker marking the south reef but the north reef marker is hard to see as it is short. There is also another reef behind the reef as you exit. However, we saw no issues sailing out of the pass at 6.5-7kts under a parasail. We did an increase of boat speed .5-1kt with outgoing current.

Yadua: Cuckuvou Harbour: arrived late afternoon, but we could clearly see the reefs to avoid (with the naked eye, satellite charts & navionics). We dropped in 12m with a really good hold.

From Yadua we headed 76nm to Kuata Island which had us crossing through several reefs. The first reef we passed between Navarukua and Tamaniar Aqele (**17°09.554S / 177°35.501E**), we crossed through the next reef at **17°17.737S / 177°18.626E**. Then we took the pass between Wayasewa and Kuatu to arrive at our anchorage **17°21.958S / 177°07.973E**. From here we sailed to Musket Cove, a short 30nm. – sv Sugar Shack

2.2.11 Vuda (Viti Levu) to Volivoli Point

Sept. 2022: We left around 0700 and prepared for a 50-60nm journey heading east in light winds and no swell. There was a weather window to cross the Bligh waters in a few days so we had to get a move on to get to a good jumping off point.

Just past the Nukurauvula Pass, near the mark were 7 yellow jerry cans used as floats (for either fishing or pearl farms) so be aware if you are traveling at night to avoid this area. Around this waypoint, but not exact as we didn't drive through them: **17°20.833S / 178°02.295E**.

We arrived at Volivoli Point around 1730, dropped the hook in 17m of water and called it a day after motor-sailing 56nm in light winds (mostly on the nose).

We went out the Nananu Pass and headed across Bligh. Our plan was to head to Taveuni, but as luck would have it, half way across, we tore our 21-year-old main right at the seam (7m wide) in 12kts of wind. She was just done with us. We turned around to get it repaired. Disappointed in so many ways. – sv Sugar Shack

2.2.12 Suva to Kadavu

June 2012: We waited in Suva for more easterly wind for our crossing to Kadavu and it was worth it. We had a wonderful sail at 60-88 AWA with 15-20 knots and blue sky. We're at Ono island and looking forward to exploring and diving. Kadavu looks like the Lau Group. More remote than expected. – Shango

June 2012: We departed Suva early Sat morning in a brisk SE wind, 18 to 25. We were immediately close hauled with the new jib sheeted inside the shrouds. Even so, we were unable to make the rhumbline to Herald Pass. Friends on Noe Noe rumbling, starting right behind us in their Farr 40, was able to hold the course and speed by us, although delayed by hooking (then losing) a mahi just out the reef.

At the end of a long day, we turned upwind to motor sail the 6 miles we couldn't make and entered the pass as a strong squall hit us. Quickly putting in a second reef, we proceeded through and to the island of Dravuni, where we had a lee anchorage. Noe Noe went to Naqura Bay. – Pincoya

2.2.13 Suva to the Lau Group

July 2012: Kadavu to Southern Lau via Matuku: We went from Suva to Kadavu to the southern Lau. When we left Kadavu for the Southern Lau (first stop, Matuku), we went out the Naigara Pass, on the NE tip of Kadavu. It was a hairy exit; we wouldn't recommend it!

Our friends on Noe Noe and Fortaleza went N and exited above the N Astrolabe and were able to lay Matuku; probably a better strategy in strong SE trades. Their tack N was protected where ours wasn't.

We left Kavala Bay on the NE side of Kadavu; decent jumping off place for our planned passage to Matuku.

Once through the pass around 11:00 am, we set the sails for Matuku, an overnight passage. Seas were 1m and winds enough to the ENE that we would have to tack our way to Matuku.

As the sun went down, we did our big tack during the night, and, sad to say, we are not able to tack better than 120 degrees "course made good."

Next morning, we continued our tack to just N of the island, then motor sailed to the pass into Matuku Harbor and the village of Lomati around 9:00 am. – Shango

Matuku to Vulaga: The wind was from the ESE and we wanted to go E. We started on a starboard tack going toward Totoya Island, 20 miles away. Then to a port tack to miss Totoya and get below the rhumb line from Matuku to Vulaga, as the weather was forecasting a change to the SE sometime. At 2 am, that change happened and as we were about 4 miles S of the rhumb line, we tacked E. At first, we were holding the line, but as time passed, the wind shifted back more to ESE and we had to veer N. – Pincoya

2.2.14 Northern Lau to the Southern Lau

June 2022: We had predicted NE winds that started strong and ended light. We decided to leave Susui around 0900 with a projected pass arrival at 0700 the next day (high tide). We started out with 18-19kt NE winds pushing us along at 8-9kts on a course of 165T. Around 1500 the winds dropped to 5-7kt and we spent the rest of the afternoon slowly making 4-5kts of boat speed. Several times during the night we motor sailed. We

went west of Lakeba (great internet for few hours). All in all, a nice passage, easy and uneventful. Trip took 17 hours, avg speed 5.9kt, max speed 10kt. We had 1-2kt incoming and no issues with the pass. – sv Sugar Shack

Aug. 2012: We left Susui about noon, and motored straight east to the opening in the pass. We had 2 other boats with us. We saw whales inside and outside the pass here

The rest of the night was nice--one of the nicest sails we've had in a while. We had 10-12 knots of wind, about 65 degrees relative, and the seas were down--partially because of the reefs and islands to the east, and partially because of several days of light winds.

We passed close west of Lakeba around midnight. We got 5 bars on Vodafone as we sailed by, but slow speed.

By dawn we were just west of Namuka, and now hard on the wind. We couldn't quite make the pass at Vulaga, on the NE coast, so we sailed as best we could into the lee on the west side of Vulaga, and then motor sailed around to the pass close to the reef (in very light conditions, very good sun).

We just happened to arrive right at slack low tide, and had only about ½ knot of incoming tide. The entry was easy using waypoints in the Fulaga section. – Soggy Paws

June 2012: This was a fast off the wind sail. We left Vanua Balavu out the NW pass and made a flying trip to Welagilala to break up the passage to Matagi. It's a beautiful island but the anchorage is a bit lumpy in seas. Great holding in sand.

Matagi's Horseshoe Cove is a beautiful anchorage. The snorkeling is terrific. – Shango

2.2.15 Lau Group to Taveuni Area

July 2022: Vulaga to Taveuni. The best time to leave Vulaga pass on this day, was at 11am so it gave us a bit of a late start. But we had strong winds 20-25kts from SE and gave us a good run straight to Taveuni on a COG of 320. The seas were big at 2.5-3m and hit us in a funky way which was unpleasant, but otherwise it was a good trip. We averaged 6.9kts and arrived at 10am the next day. – Sv Sugar Shack

3 Vanua Levu

Anchorage and bays start with Savusavu and go around Vanua Levu clock wise.

3.1 Savusavu

The town of Savusavu is easily accessible from both Copra Shed Marina and Waitui Marina. From either marina, turn left and head down the one main road toward town. Nawi Marina will shuttle you across the channel and will either drop you off in the center of town or at the Waitui Marina dock.

The downtown is a quarter-mile stretch of a paved road along the waterfront with businesses below a lush, jungle-covered hill.

The town has numerous grocery stores, two butchers, three bakeries, a sizeable daily veggie, fruit and fish market, hardware stores, clothing stores, pharmacies, barber shops, CD and DVD shops, several churches. Next to the market are the taxi and bus stations with lots of inexpensive taxis and buses for island travel.

There are several area attractions, such as a pearl farm, forest preserve, cocoa farm, hot springs and steam vents, of which there are a couple right in the shoreline next to Copra Shed. Savusavu also has numerous souvenir shops and a few nice hotels.

3.1.1 Approach and Arrival

See "Customs and Immigration" above in section 1.3 for formalities

Round Point Reef Savusavu Nawi Island which is about 4.8nm to Nakama Creek where you enter to go to the various marinas.

Hailing a Marina: Hail the marina where you are staying on VHF 16. Do not hail the marina until you are at the mouth of the channel (next to the commercial concrete dock on your starboard as you enter the creek). The marinas use small hand-held radios and cannot hear you when you call before the channel entrance.

If you cannot reach Nawi Marina on the VHF, you can call the Nawi Security Booth at +679.891.6897.

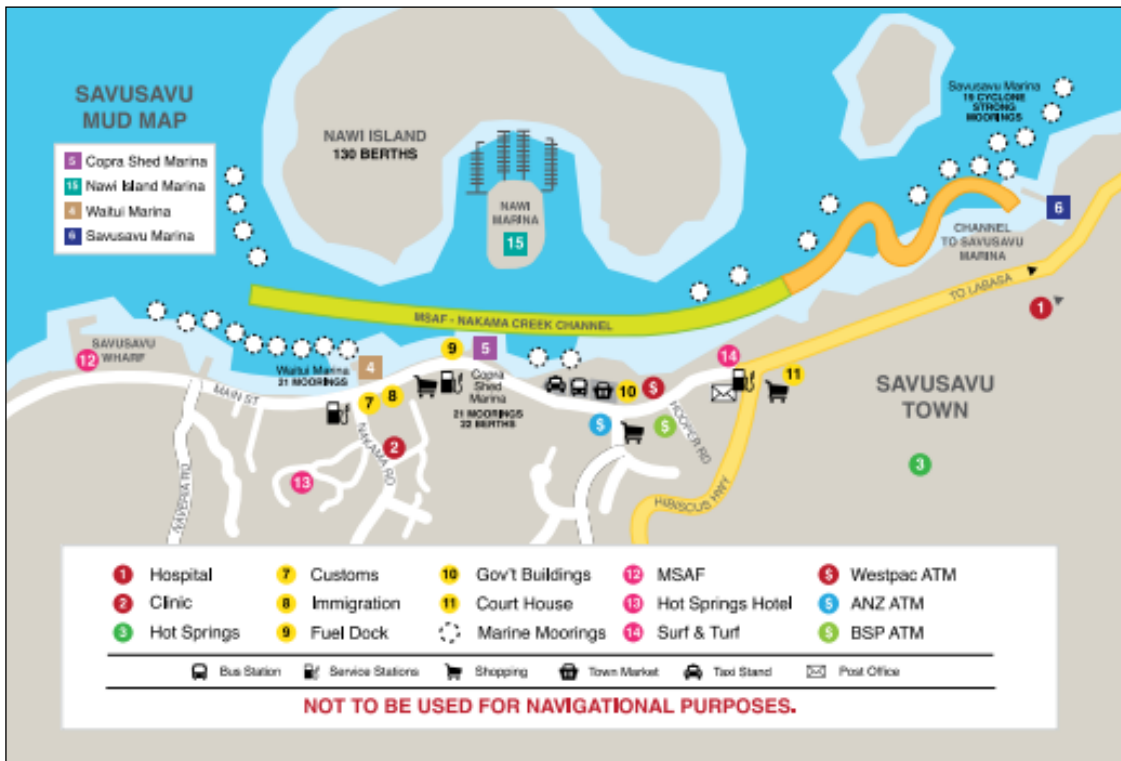


Photo courtesy of Fiji Marinas & Shores 2020

Dock Masters: Nawi Island Marina, Copra Shed Marina, and Waitui Marina have “dock masters” that will assist you with your mooring and docking. Typically, they work 0700-1700 but if you make prior arrangements, they may be able to help you a little earlier or later.

ARRIVAL: Upon arrival in Savusavu Bay, you head east, first passing the Cousteau Resort anchorage area to starboard, then the town’s commercial wharf (where there may be a ferry). At this point you should call Copra Shed, Waitui, or Nawi Island VHF Channel 16. They will meet you in the channel and assist you from there.

All marinas send a panga out to direct you to the quarantine dock or assist you with the mooring (most moorings have short painters). Either the marina or your agent will then help you begin the entry procedures.

All the officials in Savusavu are very professional, friendly, easy to deal with. The marinas organize transportation of the officials to and from your yacht (for a small fee).

If you do not have local currency, you will be handed invoices to pay within 24 hours.

3.1.1.1 Cruiser Reports on Arrival

May 2025: We arrived with limited steering and were so grateful to see Pio. He was able to tow us to the mooring. Within 2 hours he delivered the Health Official. She had us complete some forms and pay \$172.50 FJ (\$76 USD). She took photos of our toilets, looked inside our fridge, freezer, and food pantry. She also looked under all of our beds in search of bed bugs. We got the all clear and removed our yellow flag.

Customs, Immigration, and Biosecurity came next. More forms and a payment of \$89.90 FJ (\$40 USD) to Biosecurity and we were done. We had a few things out for the Biosecurity guy to look at but he did not take anything. They were extremely professional and very friendly. We were done within 3 hours of arrival. Our visa is good for 4 months.

We picked up our Cruising Permit 2 days later from the Customs office.

Savusavu's incinerator is working. Fees: \$120-\$175FJ to incinerate prohibited food. – Sv Sugar Shack

Aug. 2023: We arrived at 4:50pm and the man answered the radio right away, came out, showed us to a mooring and tied our lines. The officials came the next morning (helping us avoid overtime fees).

The health official came out first, looked at our covid vaccination dates, took photos of our toilets, food storage areas, fridge, freezer, and bilges. Then we waited 3.5 hours for Immigration, Customs, and Bio Security. They looked at all of our food, taped up our honey. They didn't take any and were very nice.

You go ashore, get local currency, walk to hospital to pay health fees, walk to biosecurity to pay them (need exact change) and then 2 days later you can go to customs to get your cruising permit. You can't sail away from Savusavu until you have your cruising permit.

Cruising Permit: A few days after arrival we went to collect our cruising permit at Customs. Just tell them you are ready to leave Savusavu so they will issue your permit right away. If you tell them a few days later then will ask you to come back the day before you leave. Go to the counter and inform them that you are there to pick up your cruising permit then have a seat. They will call you and take you to the back. – Jamala

June 2022: Made our way into Savusavu in the dark which was a big mistake. Chart was mostly accurate but our Sail Fiji app wasn't. Buoys and boats EVERYWHERE, many without their anchor lights on. There is a channel with unlit buoys that wasn't on any of our charts and two big black posts around 179.19E that we didn't see until we woke up. Keep to the right. We also read somewhere that a black buoy was in the middle of the channel but it doesn't appear to be there anymore. Would advise timing this entry for daylight. – SY Calash

3.1.2 Marinas, Haul out, and Anchoring

It is customary to book a berth or utilize the moorings provided by the marinas. If you believe your vessel is too heavy for a mooring, contact the marinas and ask where the best place is to anchor. There is some deep anchoring in its western-most area near the west end of the adjacent island.

3.1.2.1 Nawi Island Marina

Nawi Island Marina: +679.885.3602. VHF 16, Nawi Security booth +679.891.6897. www.nawiisland.com, marketing@nawiisland.com. Marina office hours: Mon-Sat: 0800-1700, Sun: 0800-1600. 132 berths, fuel jetty, 24-hour security, 240volt single phase and 415 volt 3-phase power, sewage pump out, high-speed internet, UV filtered water supply, showers, bathrooms, trash, pool, shuttle to/from Savusavu, and assistance with formalities. Nawi Island Marina offers these services:

Fuel Dock: Book with the marina office. Fuel dock hours: Mon-Fri: 0800-1600, Sat: 0800-1200.

Yacht Help +679.777.2296, nawimarina@yachthelp.com, www.yachthelp.com, Hours: Mon-Fri: 0800-1630, Sat: 0800-1230. Marine services (fiberglass, detailing, diesel repairs, aircon, refrigeration)

Savusavu Mart: +679.845.6744, +679.846.0229, savusavumartshop@gmail.com, Hours: Mon-Sun: 0900-1700. Limited supplies, but easy access for snacks and drinks.

Restaurants: You can order from either menu at both Domoni's and Fiji Time Mexican Grill:

Domoni's (Italian) +679.741.5162, corp@EATFiji.com. Happy hour daily from 1600-1800.

Fiji Time Mexican Grill +679.741.5162, julie@EATFiji.com, located by the pool. Hours: Mon-Sun: 0900-2100. Serves lunch and dinner. Happy hour daily 1600-1800.

Island Sub +679.832.0440. Hours: Mon-Fri: 0800-1200. Order 24 hours in advance for Turkish bread \$9.00 or croissants \$3.00

Coffee Isle Nawi +679.920.3112, lizturagadee@gmail.com. Hours: Mon-Sun: 0700-1500.

Pool Club: Beautiful, negative edge pool with overhead lights for night swimming. For non-Nawi Island Marina guests, you can enjoy the pool for \$10.00/pp/day which includes full access to the pull, lounge chairs, showers, and a towel. There are stools in the pool to enjoy the bar.

Laundry: \$9.00 per kilo for wash, dry, fold and \$7.00 per kilo for wash only.

Niu Spa Beauty Care +679.748.0188, +679.960.4394niuspafiji@gmail.com, bookings: <https://niuspa.setmore.com.niu>. Massages, manicures, pedicures, facials and more. Book early as they fill up fast. Many cruisers enjoyed lovely massages for reasonable prices.

No. 1 Currency / Western Union

Fiji Link (Operated by Fiji Airways) Hours: 0800-1300, 1430, 1600. Offers domestic flights between Fijian Islands and will assist with international bookings and questions.

Activities Center: Horseback riding, dive tours, snorkeling, fishing charters, waterfall tours, sunset cruise, mud baths, kava bar, and more

Accommodations: By Dec. 2025, Nawi will have 3 bures available for rent.

Shipping Address: Yacht Name – Yacht in Transit – Rotation #, c/o Nawi Island Marina, Savusavu, Fiji

3.1.2.2 Valaga Boatyard (by Nawi Island Marina)

Valaga Boatyard is operated by Nawi Island Marina. +679.229.6821, boatyard@nawiisland.com, www.nawiisland.com. Located: 16°44.352S / 179°21.622E. Haul out, boat storage, repairs. A 4.5-5-mile walk (one-way) from the main Savusavu town. The yard is spread across 12 acres with stand and pit storage.

75-ton boat lift capable of carrying boats up to 28m long and 8.6m wide). Pressure wash available.

24/7 security. They have water and power pedestals and a few cyclone pits.

Temporary bathrooms and showers are available. There are no other services available. However, Yacht Help is an approved vendor and has been doing work on many vessels hauled out here.

Yacht Help +679.777.2296, nawimarina@yachthelp.com, www.yachthelp.com, Hours: Mon-Fri: 0800-1630, Sat: 0800-1230. Marine services: fiberglass, detailing, diesel repairs, aircon, refrigeration, antifoul, varnishing, joinery, osmosis treatment, electrical, watermaker services, welding, fabrication.

Coming soon they will have the capacity for 112 vessels, a wash bay, engineering and welding workshop, paint and anti-fouling workshop, and dive and gas bottle refills.

3.1.2.3 Copra Shed Marina

Copra Shed Marina: VHF 16: Dolly Singh, Manager, Ofc: +679.885.0457, Mobile +679.999.2764. coprashedmarina@gmail.com. Hours: Mon-Fri: 0800-2200. Berths and moorings. Fuel access, water, showers, bathrooms, trash and recycling, assistance with formalities, and moorings. Copra Shed Marina also offers these services:

Yacht Shop: +679.999.9307, +697.999.2764, savusavu@yachtshop.com. After hours Rupeni +679.999.4704. Well stocked marine chandlery. They can acquire products from any of their other stores and ship it into Savusavu.

Restaurants

Captain's Café: specializing in pizza, sandwiches, and a variety of other options

The Captain's Table Restaurant: offers nice sit-down option. Steak, seafood, curries, and more

Savusavu Yacht Club full bar with indoor and outdoor seating

Laundry: \$20/load (wash, dry, fold). \$15/load for wash only

Fiji Link (operated by Fiji Airways) Hours: Mon-Fri: 0800-1300 & 1400-1700. Offers domestic flights between Fijian Islands and will assist with international bookings and questions.

Tradewinds Marine ships chandlers

MoneyGram & Western Union: Hours: Mon-Fri: 0800-1700, Sat: 0800-1300 Foreign exchange transactions and Western Union money transfers

Tako Handicrafts: sells a variety of beautiful, local handicrafts

Activity Center: Sharon Wild +689.885.0348, +679.932.2233 horseback riding, waterfall tours, picnics, volcanic hot pools, jungle river tools, SUP tours, River Rafting tours

Diving Center +679.929.5803, +679.732.8062

Sunday Evening BBQ & Band: Enjoy a tasty BBQ and local band every Sunday at the Yacht Club

Accommodations: access to two furnished queen bed rooms with AC, breakfast, and daily maid service

Branded Clothing: Savusavu Yacht Club caps, t-shirts, polos, and sulus available in the office

Shipping Address: Yacht Name – Yacht in Transit – Your Rotation #, c/o Copra Shed Marina, Main Street, Savusavu, Fiji

June 2025: Copra Shed Marina has fewer moorings available, due to a very unfortunate political dispute between Nawi Marina and Copra Shed Marina. – sv Sugar Shak

May 2025: We've stayed on a Copra Shed mooring during 2 different seasons. We love the easy access to town, the beautiful breeze, and the security of a solid mooring. Rates are reasonable and the staff is incredibly helpful and friendly! – sv Sugar Shack

3.1.2.4 Waitui Marina

Waitui Marina: VHF 16: +679.885.3057, +679.885.3031, +679.997.2558, waituimarinafiji@gmail.com. Hours: Mon-Fri: 0800-2200.

They offer (24) Helix moorings with 3 meters of 24mm studded chip chain at the bottom (available for short- or long-term stays). Showers, bathrooms, laundry, garbage disposal, water, book exchange, restaurant, limited bar, and assistance with formalities. Additional services include:

Butcher

DHL Express agent

Assistance with filling gas bottles.

Fuel Access from their dinghy dock

Aug. 2022: We used Waitui Marina and will always be glad we did. If you want real Fiji hospitality, then this is the place to come. Anything you need, they will help you sort it; shipping locally or internationally, tours, medical, rental cars, dentist, shopping, etc. The current rates for a 35'/10.5m boat, \$18F per night, \$103F per week. Most Saturdays they have a "Cruisers Night" with good buffet, live music, informal talk on Fijian history/customs and kava drinking for \$18-\$20F/pp. Always great fun. Genevieve, Ala, and Annie plus the rest of the staff couldn't have been more friendly or helpful. We love Waitui Marina. – Seneto

3.1.2.5 Savusavu Marina

Savusavu Marina VHF 16. +679.866.0625, +679.746.1454 (Melil Cell). Hours: Mon-Fri: 0800-1700 www.savusavumarina.com, office@savusavumarina.com. Offers 20-cyclone moorings and a small dock

(power and water). Wifi available. Showers, bathrooms, kitchen with freezer, washing machine. Other services

Workshop: General engineering, structural fabrication, mild cast steel, brass, copper welding TIG, MIG

Savusavu Yacht Services: Ezra Fiji Marine +679.838.6023. Hull and boat cleaning, boat sitting & checking

May 2025: Savusavu Marina is located up the river and is pretty protected from inclement weather. It is a bit of an obstacle course to get there, but during high tide most boats should be ok. Check with the marina regarding your depth and access. – sv Sugar Shack

3.1.3 Yachtsmen Services

3.1.3.1 Cooking Gas

Propane is provided by Fiji Gas. Many markets sell propane tanks which can then be decanted into your own propane tank.

Fiji Gas +679.885.0437, +679.799.8524 WhatsApp. Mon-Fri: 0800-1300 & 1400-1700, Sat: 0800-1300. Fill your gas bottles here with LPG Butane. There is no sign on the road, but it is located at 016°46.017S / 179°21.508E (just before CDP Courier Services) on the right-hand side of the road (if coming from Savusavu).

If you want to check to see if they will fill your tanks, send a photo of your fitting to Jefferson on WhatsApp +679.799.8524. \$30.95FJ to fill 17lb tank or about \$3.40/kg (May 2025). Cash only

If there are several cruisers who require gas, ask one of the marinas if they will organize a trip to Fiji Gas Depot (taxi fare is around \$15F).

2023: Waitui Marina in Savusavu helps with the propane fills, they announce on the Savusavu VHF net (Ch 68 at 0830) when they're going to arrange a propane pickup, so if you need propane, check with them when you arrive. Their cost for a 9Kg bottle was \$42FJ and \$22FJ for a 5Kg bottle. It appears that they charge only for the gas cost and no service fee.

Nawi Marina and Copra Shed will help organize refilling for you as well. – sv Sugar Shack

3.1.3.2 Fuel (diesel and gasoline)

May 2025: Schedule a fuel appointment with the Nawi Island Marina (+679.885.3602. Fuel dock hours: Mon-Fri: 0800-1600, Sat: 0800-1200.

Both Copra Shed Marina and Waitui Marina will also assist with fuel. However, their docks are not as easily accessible and they have to arrange for a fuel truck – but still very doable.

Copra Shed: Tie up your big boat (during high tide, when there is NO wind) to the small, temporary dock. It can be a little nerve racking as the dock is very small. The truck must be scheduled several days in advance and will require a minimum.

Gasoline: can be purchased at any of the fuel stations on shore. However, it appears that none of the stations have their pumps calibrated properly. We had 3 (20 liter) jerry cans and none of them were filled to the line despite the pump showing 20 liters. Not much you can do when they all do it.

The easiest place to access is the fuel station behind Waitui Marina. You can leave your dinghy at the Waitui dock and walk across the street to the fuel station. There are several service stations for obtaining engine oil, filters, and jerry-jugging diesel or petrol (gasoline). Pacific fuel station located directly across from Waitui Marina and has two stations. MaxVal-U also sells fuel. There is a Mobile fuel station at the end of town on the right-hand side. – sv Sugar Shack

Note: Oct. 2023: We had an unfortunate incident with two Pacific Energy Stations in Savusavu. It appears their pumps are not properly calibrated. We filled 8 jerry cans at the station in front of MaxValue store. Each one

was shorted by about 10-20% despite 20liters showing on the pump. The next day we went to the Pacific Energy located across from Waitui Marina with 6 cans and had the same thing happen. When we reported it, they simply stated that “it’s because the price of diesel has gone up.” But 20 liters is 20 liters despite the price. Locals later informed us that it is much better to hire a taxi to go to Total Energies as they are calibrated properly and will not take advantage. – D. Saunders

Aug. 2023: If you need more than 200L you can make arrangements with Copra Shed to go to the dock and have the fuel truck scheduled. If you need less than 200L go across the road to the fuel station. – Jamala

Aug. 2022: If you only need a small quantity of fuel, it is easy to take your dinghy to the small dock between Copra Shed and Waitui Marinas and tie off there to walk across the street to the petrol station. We have 50-liter containers which are heavy when filled. The great guys at the station used their wheel barrel and delivered the containers directly to the dinghy. It was so easy! – Dash

3.1.3.3 Trash and Recycling

All marinas in Savusavu offer trash and “recycling” services. Recycling is loosely used here as I am not sure they truly recycle. They do recycle glass (including the beer bottles) at a lot across the street from Copra Shed Marina.

Waitui Marina asked us to separate glass and aluminum from everything else and put it in a separate bin. The trash (and everything else) went in a bin behind a small gate.

Around town are a few small garbage bins but not really suited for dumping cruiser trash. There is one large bin (raised platform with wood on 3 sides) that is used for trash as well. From marinas, turn right and it will be on the left (before you get to the corner of the island). There is another raised platform near the fresh market.

Trash Dump +679.290.1028, +679.999.0990, Hours: Mon-Fri: 0900-1300. Located at 016°46.130S/179°21.453E

3.1.3.4 Water

All three marinas offer tap water near their perspective dinghy docks. Guests are allowed to fill jugs. The water pressure at the dock is very low.

Copra Shed Marina has allowed boats to tie up to the dock to take on water before leaving Fiji. You must ask the management at Copra Shed and schedule this before you go in, and there may be a small charge. It is best to go in to the dock (in front of the bar) at high tide, because of the dock configuration.

It is best to take on water (anywhere in Savusavu) when it has NOT been raining much (the water quality from the hose degrades if there has been a lot of rain in the last 1-2 days).

The fittings at the dock hose connection does not fit a U.S. hose. Check ahead of time.

3.1.4 General Services

Lunch in Fiji is generally taken between 1300-1400.

3.1.4.1 Airlines: Fiji Airways

Fiji Air has an office in Copra Shed Marina. Hours: Mon-Fri: 0800-1300 & 1400-1700. Sat: 0900-1200. www.fijairways.com They can assist with both domestic (Fiji Link) and international flights.

3.1.4.2 Bank / ATM

There are two banks and several Western Union facilities.

Westpac Bank has one ATM. +679.132.032 or +679.885.0229. Hours: Mon-Fri: 0930-1530.

westpacfiji@westpac.com.au or www.westpac.com.fj. Location: From marinas, turn left, it will be in center of town past bus station on left side.

BSP Savusavu Bank has two ATMs +679.132.888. www.bsp.com.fj Hours: Mon: 0930-1600; Tues-Fri: 0900-1600. Location: From marinas, turn left, it will be in center of town, past bus station on right.

Western Union: has several authorized dealers including one in Copra Shed Marina, New World IGA, and MaxVal-U Supermarket. Copra Shed Marina Western Union Hours: Mon-Fri: 0800-1700; Sat: 0800-1300.

Sept. 2022: Westpac charges \$15F per withdrawal and will tempt you to make the transaction in your home currency which will add up to 3% to the cost. BSP (across the street) will charge \$10F per withdrawal and does not ask how to make the transaction. – Tintamarre

3.1.4.3 Beauty, Hair Salons, Barbers, and Massages

Niu Spa Beauty Care (Nawi) +679.748.0188, +679.960.4394. Massages, manicures, pedicures, facials and more. Book early as they fill up fast. Many cruisers enjoyed lovely massages for reasonable prices.

Kumar's Hair Salon +679.991.4117. Hours: Mon-Sun: 0730-2300. Located near bus terminal.

Debo's Barber located near bus terminal parking lot. Open 7 days a week

Cut & Glam +679 723 9423, +679 841 5891, +679 909 9913. Full-service salon. Has a beauty treatment room where they give delightful massages, body wraps, facials, waxing, and other therapeutic and beauty treatments. Ask for Quini Whippy

Joti's House of Beauty Salon +679.939.4897, jotiprasad777@gmail.com. Haircuts, aesthetics, facials, massages available for reasonable prices

Naveria Heights Lodge +679 885 0348, www.naveriaheightsfiji.com, pickup from Copra Shed.

3.1.4.4 Communications

Vodafone and Digicel are the two main service (internet/phone) providers for Fiji.

The **Vodafone kiosk** by the bus stop closed. But you can get Vodafone SIM cards and top up at the Valuefone across the street from the bus depot (they have a large white sign). Bring your phone and passport.

Vodafone has a larger coverage area, but there are pockets where Digicel covers better.

Digicel has a store front directly across from the bus and taxi depot. You can buy SIM cards and top up. Bring your phone and passport. They will get you set up. You can download their app or go to their website to Top Up and get a new bundle each month with the prepaid plan.

Both companies sell sim cards and top up cards. Prices are very similar. 125 gig, 100 minutes talk, unlimited texts for \$25 Fijian per month on the prepaid plan as of May 2025.

Sept. 2025: We purchased both Digicel and Vodafone sim cards (we like to turn Starlink off to save power). We purchased scratch off cards for Vodafone to top up each month.

With Digicel we pre-paid 6-months' worth of our plan (\$25F/mo) and each month it automatically renewed. However, on month 4 we realized our service was cut off. We went into the store and they informed us that we had to top up the account, even if it is only \$1F every 3-months to keep the account active. Gesh! No worries, we topped it up and it is working again. The app and web page (www.digicelpacific.com/mobile/fj) for Digicel is super easy to use. – sv Sugar Shack

Aug. 2023: We got Digicel sims for \$35F/mo for 250gb, international phone calls (incl. to the U.K.). – Jamala

June 2022: We decided to get sim cards from both carriers since it was so cheap. We paid \$20 U.S. for 125gigs (offers are the same for both companies). Very cheap!! The plans run for 25-30 days, then you have to top up. Vodafone's app would not work on our U.S. cell, but Digicel App worked ok on our Android. Both companies installed and activated our sim cards and ensured they worked before sending us on our way. You can also purchase "top up cards" for \$25F which will allow you to pay for your next month without using the app or having to go to the kiosk. You scratch off a number, text it and the money is applied to your account.

Note: Digicel is straight forward and there are no “tricks.”

However, Vodafone does an “automatic” subscribe each month when you top up. So, you top up (which auto-subscribes you), then you have to unsubscribe. If you do not unsubscribe and you accidentally top up then you will burn through your data super-duper fast. (see the [Telephones and Cell Phones](#) section above for instructions on how to top up properly) – sv Sugar Shack

3.1.4.5 Computer Services

- **Paradise Computers** +679.986.9013, +679.872 1398. Hours: Mon-Fri: 0800-1700. Sat: 0800-1500. Super helpful, wide range of products including hard to find batteries.
- **Ozi Electronics** +679.997.5437. ozielectronics@yahoo.com.
- **Courts** +679 885 0272, turn left at Waitui Marina, on your left side. Computer, Home goods, Sports
- **Kaka Watches:** (near Totoka Jewelry, past Westpac) has all sorts of batteries and makes keys

3.1.4.6 Formalities

See section 1.3 for details on clearance processes, procedures, and fees.

3.1.4.6.1 Customs

The Customs office is located directly across the street from Waitui Marina. +679.885.0727. savsavuport@frcs.org.fj and yachtsreport@frcs.org.fj. Hours: Mon-Thur: 0830-1600; Fri: 0830-1530. Take a number, wait to be called and then you will be taken to the back where they will issue your cruising permit. Expect it to take 20-30 minutes and bring all of your paperwork.

Cruising Permits are picked up from this office 3-5 days after arrival.

Customs requests that you send in weekly reports with your boat name and location to yachtsreport@frcs.org.fj.

You are required to leave your AIS on at all times.

3.1.4.6.2 Immigration

Immigration: +679.885.0800; +679.885.3492, immigration@govnet.gov.fj, Mon-Thurs: 0830-1600, Fri: 0830-1530. Location: From Waitui Marina, turn right, they are on left hand side (behind Sea Lovers) at 16°46.765S / 179°19.899E. Go to the 1st floor (which is 1 floor above the ground floor).

3.1.4.6.3 Health

May 2025: Board of Health ois@baf.com.fj, The Health officials used to have you pay at the hospital, but this year, they requested cruisers go to the Ministry of Health to make their payment. Ministry of Health position 16°46.729S / 179°20.323E. The officer is on the first floor, take the stairs on the backside of the building and turn left. www.health.gov.fj

3.1.4.6.4 Biosecurity

Biosecurity:+679.868.6464 bhpu.nadi@gmail.com and yachtinfo@biosecurityfiji.com or info@baf.com.fj. Hours: Mon-Fri: 0800-1700. Pay your biosecurity fee at 16°46.750S / 179°20.151E. Turn left from Copra Shed Marina, past the supermarket corner. Turn right before Westpac and walk to the back of the L shaped building. Biosecurity office faces the river.

3.1.4.7 Hardware & Automotive Stores

- **Avikash Amlean Investments** (Automotive) +679.885.3193, +679.989.8556; +679.986.9560. Located at end of town, right side of street. Last building before you leave town, turn right. Near Mobile fuel.
- **Hussein Hardware** +679.885.0204 and +679.892.22520. Hours: Mon-Fri: Mon-Sat: 0800-1700
- **Marimuttu & Sons** +679.999.1115. Hours: Mon-Sat: 0800-1700; Sun: 0800-1300. Located at the end of town, right side of street. (near mobile station).
- **Savusavu Hardware Fiji Limited.** +679.885.0379. Left from marinas, end of town, on left.
- **The Home Depot** +679.885.0198, +679.885.0158, +679.995.5178. thehomedepot1@hotmail.com. Located right from marina, on left hand side. General hardware and marine.
- **R.C. Manubhak & Co Hardware Store** +679.998.2704, www.rcmanubhal.com.fj Hours: Mon-Fri: 0800-1700, Sat: 0800-1300. Well stocked 2-story store, hardware, home goods, appliances, generators, outboards. Ask for assistance if you don't find what you need.

3.1.4.8 Laundry Services

Copra Shed Marina, Nawi Marina, and Waitui Marina offer laundry services. Inquire at each marina for current prices and turnaround time.

Copra Shed Marina +679.8850.457. As of May 2025: \$20FJ (wash, dry, fold), \$15FJ (wash)

Nawi Marina +679.229.6823. As of May 2025: \$9kilo (wash, dry, fold)

Waitui Marina +679.962.3037 and +679.885.0336.

3.1.4.9 Library

Savusavu Library is open to the public. +679.885.0154. Hours: Mon-Tues, Thu-Fri: 0830-1700. Wed: 0830-1530. Sat: 0830-1200. Left from marina, toward end of town on left, on the corner.

3.1.4.10 Marine Store & Services

- **Yacht Shop** +679.999.9307. After hours: +679.999.6758 or +679.999.2764. savusavu@yachtshop.com.fj and www.yachtshop.com.fj. Hours: Mon-Thur: 0800-1700; Sat: 0800-1600. Located at Copra Shed Marina. Great shop packed with marine items and water / sporting goods. They can order products from any of their stores and have it shipped in at no cost.
 - **May 2025:** The store expanded and has more stock than 2 years ago. We ordered some hose and were told it would come in 2 days. Arrived 4.5 weeks later. – sv Sugar Shack
 - **Aug. 2023:** Seems to be a well-stocked but everything we needed was out of stock. They said the items would come in a few days, but they never materialized. – Jamala
- **Batteries**
 - **Promoter Spares** +679.878.0096, sparespromotor@gmail.com, Located to the right of Copra Shed Marina, on the left-hand side. They sell spare parts, accessories, batteries.
- **Canvas Work**
 - **All Tents & Marine Upholsteries:** +679.450.6063, +679. 996.3326, alltents@hotmail.com, (Suva and Savusavu). Sail Makers and Repairs Marine Trimmers and Custom-Made Covers.
 - **Ahmed General Upholstery Works** +679.974.7714, Location: 016°45.995S / 179°21.484E. Specializes in settees, canopies, and sail repairs. Located near CDP Courier services & Fiji Gas.
 - Waitui Marina recommends **Ahmed the upholsterer**. He is priced fairly and does acceptable work; however, his machine does not do zig zag.
 - **Shanam Upholstery and Canvas Works:** +679.993.4100 and +679.957.8107. Specializes in dinghy covers, sail repairs, cushion covers, seats, canopies. We found her working out of her car as we headed to town. Her machine does not do zig zag.
 - She is a go-getter but often under produces and provides poor work.

- **Carpenter:** Samson McLaren +679.998.5511. Highly recommended by a few cruisers, speaks great English and is skilled at problem solving
- **Courts:** +679.885.0272, <http://www.courts.com.fj>, Located to the right of Copra Shed Marina. They sell solar panels, generators, SUPs, electronics, home goods and sporting goods.
- **Electrical**
 - **Ram Pillai** +679.921.9777 and +679.707.3099. Location: Main road, just past BSP bank turn right on side street Location: 16°46.783S / 179°20.207E. He can repair or suggest repair facilities for anything electrical. Old school. Believes in repair and not replacement. Super nice, very informative and helpful person!
 - **Xpro Electrical Works** +679.885.3422 or 926.5067 or 772.7012. xproelectrical@hotmail.com. Located in town on right side of street.
 - **Macuata Electrical** +679.209.9442. macuataelectricalservices@yahoo.com. Located right from Waitui marina on left hand side of street.
- **Engines and Transmissions**
 - **Ram Pillai** +679.921.9777 and +679.707.3099. Location: Main road, just past BSP bank turn right on side street Location: 16°46.783S / 179°20.207E. He can repair or suggest repair facilities for anything electrical. Old school. Believes in repair and not replacement. Super nice, very informative and helpful person!
 - **May 2025:** Pillai is amazing and super helpful. He knows everyone and if he can't fix your problem, he can refer you to someone who can. – sv Sugar Shack
 - **Aug. 2022:** Ram Pillai (Savusavu), +679.921.9777, third shop up the side street opposite WestPac Bank repairs electric motors. For \$300F he cleaned up our watermaker motor, replaced the bearings and brushes. Not a quick turnaround and we had to “chase him” but he got it done. – SV Rainbow Safari
 - **Savusavu Small Engine Repairs** (Formerly called “Joe’s 2 & 4 Stroke Repair”): +679.922.9966 and +679.951.6844 email: josephvosataki@hotmail.com. Repairs 2 and 4 stroke engines and generators. Located right from marina, on left-hand side. See sign on fence.
 - **Krishna Yacht Services** (Vuda Marina), Ritesh Kumar, +679 844 0860, krishnayachtservices@gmail.com. Inboard, outboard, repairs, maintenance, servicing. Comes highly recommended, will travel to other islands, will even trouble shoot over the phone. (+1 from s/v Wizard 2024)
 - **Sept. 2025:** Ritesh is amazing! We were docked at the fuel dock when starboard engine would go into reverse. Ritesh came out within the hour, worked with Matt to assess possible repairs. He returned the next day with a helper, moved the engine forward, removed the cone clutch, lapped it, and installed it. Reverse is now working. Ritesh was very efficient, friendly and cost effective. – sv Sugar Shack
 - **Ameer Engineering Works** +679.850.2340, +679.800.2387, ameerengineering@hotmail.com, Hours: Mon-Fri: 0800-1700, Sat: 0800-1300. Location: 016°45.975S / 179°21.516E
 - **(2012)** Leon was recommended to a cruiser with serious transmission problems. Leon's +679.979.7730. He operates out of a shop at the head of the bay in Savusavu.
- **Fiberglass**
 - Savusavu: Rodney Miller +679.830.6807 or +679.742.7854
 - Savusavu: Alseac Miller +679.714.9455
- **Rigging**
 - Westside Rigging: Sammy tel/WhatsApp: +61 405 084 832. Absolutely amazing, has a well-stocked shop, plenty of tools, swaging and more. He replaced both of our 34m side stays with 1:25 dyform 1” stainless and had the pins and threads. All completed within 24 hours. He also helped us replace our Profurl furler and foils (ordered from Australia). Very reasonably priced, efficient, and super friendly. – sv Sugar Shack

- **(2012):** Local guy named Wayne does rigging work in Savusavu +679.999.6370. We had some rigging work done by him at good prices & work. Climbs the rig, and knows rigging work. – s/v Far Star
- **Refrigeration (2024):** There is a Fridge repair guy named Shiv and his WhatsApp is +679.879.0109. He did good work for a boat this year, fixed their fridge and charged them about \$60 USD
- **Yamaha Services at Asco Motors.** +679.999.9307 Mr. Vishwa or +679.998.0291 Ms. Seruqia Tuvou (sales manager) Hours: Mon-Sat: 0800-1700.
- **Welding**
 - **Ritesh Singh** +689.866.9444. Singh22ritesh@yahoo.com. He is super helpful, does great work, is efficient, affordable. Very reliable, prompt, easy to communicate with. – Grace of Longstone
 - **Shane Veday Middenway** +679 732 6335 shanevmiddenway@gmail.com. Construction, Engineering, welding, production. owner of the company that Kenrad works for.
 - **Kenrad Lilo** +679.212.8305. “Experienced with stainless steel, fixtures, modifications.” Works for Shane Veday Middenway.
 - **(2012):** Local guy named Wayne does welding work in Savusavu +679.999.6370. Leon at Savusavu Marina (east end of the bay) does welding and machine shop work.
- **Woodworking (2012):** Disish +679.925-6923. We needed a hefty 4x4" hardwood beam cut and shaped. Disish at the "tools handles shop" in the alley next to Savusavu Computers did a good job of doing exactly what we wanted from our sketch. He supplied the nice piece of hardwood, and worked on Sunday to get it done for us.

3.1.4.11 Medical

- **Hospital:** +679.885.0444. The hospital is located 1.2 miles from the marinas. Turn left, go through town, continue 1 mile until you see the “H” on the right and up a hill.
- **Zens Medical Center** +679.799.4181, +679.7788800, cs.savusavu@zensmedical.com, Hours: Mon-Fri: 0800-1700, Sat: 0800-1300. Location, past market, turn right at fuel station, on left (16°46.848S/179°20.274E) Xray, Ultrasound, Labs, ECG, consultations, injections
- **Savusavu Pharmacy** Hours: Mon-Sat: 0830-1730. Located in town on right hand side of street. The pharmacy does sell prescription drugs as one to one exchange for expired prescription drugs
- **Savusavu Medical Center and Hot Springs** +679.923.9043 email: Dr. Ishaque at savusavumedicalcenter@yahoo.com. Hours: Mon-Fri: 0800-1600 (later appointments until 2200 upon request). Located at Nakama Road at the base of the Hot Springs Hotel (near Khamendra School). Facebook: Savusavu Medical Centre and Hot Springs Baths. Every Tuesday morning one can walk in for blood tests (after 12h of fasting). All blood samples go to Labasa and the results are available the next day. A comprehensive test currently costs \$120F plus \$30F PSA test for men.
Update July 2024: Dr. Ishaq’s contact info is ishaq@yahoo.co.uk 679.885.0721 and 679.998.1786(c)
- **Dental:** There is a dental clinic in Savusavu in a separate building at the Savusavu hospital. They do not have x-ray equipment but they are willing to exam teeth to determine pain. Also, minor dental work (putting a crown in place with adhesive). Reasonable prices. Crown repair cost \$40F (Airborne 2022)
You can also take a bus inexpensively to Labasa and there is a good dentist right near the bus station. Dr. Kishor Kumar, **Dental Surgeon** Office 881-3475. Cell 921-7581 or kumar_shivaan@yahoo.com. He is across the street from the Civic center, about a block away from the bus stop/market area. Several cruisers have used this dentist for teeth cleanings and fillings. If he is not comfortable with your dental issue, he will recommend another dentist (probably in Suva) who can handle it.
We were all impressed. Dr Kishor Kumar did a cleaning, and thorough exam, for F\$45. He also did an excellent job of education, not nagging you to do more.

3.1.4.12 Office & Photo Services

Paradise Photo and Typing Services. +679.213.1165, paradisepicssv@gmail.com. Left from marina, on left side in the bus terminal parking lot. Instant passport photos, portraits, printing, typing, emailing, photocopying, and laminating. They also sell USB flash drives and SD Memory cards.

Paradise Computers +679.986.9013. Hours: Mon-Fri: 0800-1700. Sat: 0800-1500. Offers office supplies, printing, copying, passport photos and a variety of other services.

3.1.4.13 Post Office

Fiji Post: +679.885.0310, Hours: Mon-Fri: 0800-1630; Saturday: 0800-1230. Just past the BSP Bank (end of town, right side of street) 16°46.740S / 179°20.247E. There is a small sign on one of the windows “Fiji Post” but hard to see. They sell office supplies, school supplies, and top up cards on top of standard postal services. Great place to stock up on school supplies for village donations!

3.1.4.14 Shipping and Freight

- **Post Office** claims to be able to ship both domestically and internationally
- **Goundar Shipping Services** +679.885.3085 and mobile: +679.777.5472. Ask for Mr. Kong. Interisland roll on and roll off ferry services. The fastest link to outer islands: Suva, Levuka, Savusavu, Taveuni, Gau, Koro, Kadavu, and Lau Islands. Located at the end of town across from the post office.
- **UB Freight** +679.330.2710, +679.773.0610, www.ubfreight.com, Hours: Mon-Fri: 0800-1700. In Suva
- **Northern Freight Services (Courier Service)** +679.840.3947, +679.808.9829, +679.952.8888. House to house delivery. Taveuni, Savusavu, Labasa, Seaqqa, Lekutu, Bua, Suva, Lautoka, Nadi

3.1.4.15 Transportation

3.1.4.15.1 Taxi

The taxi stand is located next to the bus terminal (left from marinas to town, on left).

Taxis are fairly inexpensive but be sure to ask the price to your destination before you get in.

3.1.4.15.2 Buses:

The bus depot is in the center of town (left from marinas to town, on left).

Bus Card: A bus card is required to ride the bus. You can get a free bus card at Valuefone which is across the street from the bus depot. Bring your passport. You can also top up the card at Valuefone or any of the little pop-up shops near the bus depots.

The bus fare to Labasa is \$9.72 per person, one way (5/25). When you board the bus tell the driver where you are going, then tap your card on the card reader.

Check with the bus drivers or the people in the pop-up markets to find out the schedule. Be there at least 30 minutes before departure time as they will leave early if they are full. As of 5/25 the bus departed Savusavu 0730, 0815, 1130, 1300, 1430, 1530. Bus departure from Labasa to Savusavu 1215, 1415, 1615.

There are several buses (red and green) that go to Labasa.

Dalip Chand and Son +679.881.2580, +679.998.2709, +679.998.2698 (red bus)

Vishnu Holdings +679.992.2089 (green bus)

3.1.4.15.3 Rental Cars:

Each of the marinas will help arrange rental cars / tours for clients.

AA Car Rental. +679.989.8556 +679.986.9560 aarentalsavusavu@gmail.com. Located right from marina.

James Car Rental +679.885.0455, +679.867.33675, +679.999.1115, jamesrentalssv@gmail.com, mslfiji92@gmail.com, www.jamesrental.com. Located at end of town (past the bus depot) on the right side
Budget Rental Car Office located upstairs above Island Grill (old Surf & Turf) +689.998.9135, +689.2051363
AA Rental Car +679 989.8556, +679.847.0746 aarentalsavusavu@gmail.com. Located right from Waitui Marina
Eagle Words Rent a Car +679.848.4744, +679.844.09209
Yens Rental Luxury Drive +679.922.2560, +679.885.0244, yenkanna1955@gmail.com

3.1.4.16 Veterinary Clinic

Savusavu Veterinary Clini +679.998.6253, north@animalsfiji.org, www.animalsfiji.org, Hours: Tues-Fri: 0830-1700, Sat: 0830-1300. Location: 16°46.802S / 179°19.866E

3.1.5 Provisions

Instead of a one-stop-shop, you will find yourself visiting multiple stores to procure your grocery list. You go to the butcher for meats, the baker for breads, the liquor store for liquor, etc...

3.1.5.1 Bakeries

Several bakeries are located in town. Follow your nose.

- **Lee's Bread and Cake House.** +679.999.9620. Open 7 days. Location: Left into town. On right side.
- **Hot Bread Kitchen** +679.885.0599. Hours: Mon-Sun: 0630-1800. Location: Left into town on the right (past Lee's Bread and Cake House). They offer a large selection of baked goods, sweets, breads.
- **Elli Artisan Breads** +679 290 9361 makes breads, bagels, baguettes, pretzels, eclairs and more. Pre-Order and pick up the next day.

Aug. 2022: Elli Provides homemade artisan breads. A fairly wide variety is offered--baguettes, bagels, pretzels, whole meal rustic, etc. Call to place order the day before you want it. She will bring it to the marina the next morning. We had mixed rye loaf and pretzels--delicious. – Dash

3.1.5.2 Butcher

- **Maravu Meats** +679.999.9307. Hours: Mon-Fri: 0800-1300 & 1430-170; Sat: 0800-1400. Location: From marinas, turn left, go through town, and it will be located on right (sign out front). Cash only, no credit cards accepted. She gets a daily supply of meats (Tuesday) so the best time to visit her is after 11:00am on Tuesday.
- **Waikama Meats** +679 805 5327, robz.bubblesdive@gmail.com, Ask for Neelam, Facebook: WaikamaMeats, located behind Sea Lovers and next to the Immigration office (southwest corner of the courtyard). Hours: Mon-Fri: 0900-1630, Sat: 0900-1300. Frozen meats, very good Italian and German Sausage. They offer pork ribs, pork belly, streaky bacon, salami, chicken breast/thighs, sirloin.

3.1.5.3 Groceries and Markets

There are several grocery stores, smaller markets, and "gourmet stores" peppered throughout town. Listed are the largest stores.

- **Fresh Choice** +679.666.4148, info@freshchoice.com.fj, www.freshchoice.com.fj, Located just past Main Town Market. Good selection, produce, meats, frozen goods, staples, snacks. Open daily. Quality products, good variety, super clean. Great store.
- **"Fresh" Market:** Hours: Mon-Fri: 0800-1400. Sat: 0800-1200. Located in the new gray Municipal Building with over 150 stalls for produce, kava, fish, handicrafts. Saturdays are the best days to visit.

- **Main Town Market & Liquor land.** Large market with a good variety of products, produce, meats, staples and snacks. Budget friendly, not as nice as other stores. Liquor Land has the cheapest beer by the case. Open Daily
- **MaxVal-U Supermarket** +679.885.0030. Big Pink Building. Hours: Mon-Sat: 0800-1800. Sun: 0800-1300. Between Waitui and Copra Shed on the opposite side of the street. They offer Western Union Services and sell fuel. A variety of products at decent prices. More of a discount store.
- **New World IGA** +679.999.1748. Hours: Mon-Sat: 0800-1800; Sun: 0800-1300. Left into town, near the end of town, on right side. Large selection of products. Probably the best market in town along with Fresh Choice, with the biggest selection and variety.
- **Pmeghji Food Service:** Gourmet foods, wines, deli items. Hours: Mon-Sat: 0900-1800. Left from marina, end of town, on left side (no signage) next to RAJ vegetable store. More specialty and American/New Zealand items and prices reflect import.
- **RAJ Vegetables and Kava Suppliers Green Grocery** +679.921.8536 and +679.869.7+679. Hours: Mon-Sat: 0800-1800. Location: Left from marinas, at end of town on left side just past the BSP & the library. Offers fresh vegetables, fruits, eggs, spices, and dry goods.
- **RB Patel Supermarket** +679.339.1899, info@rbpatel.com.fj, rbpatel.com.fj, nice new store (as of 3/25) with good selection of produce, frozen meats, staples, snacks. Open daily. Tends to be pricey.
- **Sea Lovers Wines and Spirits Gourmet** Grocery, wine, cheese. +679.885.3888. Hours: Mon-Sat: 0900-2100; Sun: 1400-1900. Location: Across the street from Waitui Marina. Very nice selection of wines and gourmet items, but expensive! American products and local made halloumi cheese and yogurts.
- **Suntek Supermarket** +679.999.4952. Hours: Mon-Wed: 0800-1800; Thurs-Sat: 0800-1900; Sun: 0800-1400. Located across the street from New World IGA. Large selection of products.

3.1.5.4 *Liquor and Wine*

Several liquor stores can be found throughout town. The larger grocery stores will sell, beer, wine and liquor.

- **Bluebay Wine and Dine** Hours: Mon-Wed: 0730-2130. Thurs: 0730-2000. Located across the street from Waitui Marina
- **Main Town Liquor Land** offers the best prices on cases of beer. Location: From Copra Shed, turn left and it will be in the center of town (past bus depot) on left.
- **Pmeghji Wine & Liquor** +679.338.4135. Hours: Mon-Sat: 0900-1800. Location: Left from marina, past bus station, past Wespac Bank, across from the library. Very well stocked store (sell cases of beer in both bottles and cans). They will deliver your order to the dinghy dock behind the liquor store. Super nice and well stocked store.
- **PMS Traders** +679.885.0050 or +679.932.9260. Hours: 0800-2400. Located at end of the town, pass the last shopping area and turn right by the gas station. The store will be on the right.
- **Savusavu Bottle Shop** +679.952.2798, +679.981.0647. Located end of town on left
- **Sea Lovers Wines and Spirits Gourmet** Grocery +679.885.3888. Hours: Mon-Sat: 0900-2100; Sun: 1400-1900. Location: Across the street from Waitui Marina. Nice selection liquors, wines and champagnes but expensive.
- **Liquor Store** (across from Waitui Marina, by gas station). We went here to buy (5) cases of Fiji Gold cans and the guy totally overcharged us. He charged us \$75F per case and we later found out that the rate is \$62-\$67F. Highly recommend avoiding this store, even though it may be convenient.

3.1.6 *Restaurants*

- **Arun's Taste of Hidden Paradise** Chinese / Indian Restaurant takeaway +679 920 9781
- **Captain's Café** is located in Copra Shed Marina. Hours: Mon-Sun: 0700-2100. They offer takeout and delivery to the bar. The large menu is posted outside and includes: burgers, pizza, pasta, and more for lunch and dinner.

- **Captain's Table** is located in Copra Shed Marina. +679.885.0457. Hours: Mon Sun: 1100-1500 and 1730-2200. This is a restaurant located on the water and is table service.
- **Coffee Isle Nawi** +679.920.3112, lizturagadee@gmail.com. Hours: Mon-Sun: 0700-1500.
- **Decked Out Café** Hours: Mon-Sat: 0800-2100. Sun: 1030-1900. More of a bar with bar food.
- **Dehli6 Wine and Dine** +679.218.8952, dehlifi@gmail.com. Location: Turn right from Waitui Marina and walk 3 blocks, on the left (16°46.769S / 179°19.798E). Open daily. Happy hour 1700-2200 daily.
 - **May 2025:** We ate here several times and it is delicious! Plus, you have a great breeze on the patio. Super amazing flavors and all-around excellent food. – Sv Sugar Shack
- **Domoni's** (Italian) (Nawi) +679.741.5162, corp@EATFiji.com. Happy hour daily from 1600-1800.
- **Ethan's Coffee Heaven** +679 907 8562. Hours: Mon-Sat: 0800-2000. <https://ethanscoffeeheaven.com>, Hours: Mon-Sat: 0600-1800, Sun: 0600-1300. Offers delicious coffee and free wifi in Aircon. Serving breakfast and lunch with tasty sandwiches and mini pizzas. Across from Waitui
 - **Aug. 2023:** Ate breakfast & lunch here. It's nice, friendly staff, but food wasn't great. – Jamala
- **Fiji Time Mexican Grill** (Nawi) +679.741.5162, julie@EATFiji.com, located by the pool. Hours: Mon-Sun: 0900-2100. Serves lunch and dinner. Happy hour daily 1600-1800.
 - **May 2025:** Super tasty food located by the Nawi pool. Always a good time. – sv Sugar Shack
- **Grace Road Kitchen** offers healthy and fresh food. +679.8500.242 or +679.891.5484. Hours: Mon-Sat: 0900-2100. Left from marina on right side (across from Waitui Marina)
 - **July 2025:** Very fresh ingredients from their own garden. Tasty food, but not very spicy (even when you order spicy). Delicious shakes, teas, coffees. – sv Sugar Shack
 - **Aug. 2023:** Nice wraps, organic food. – Jamala
- **Island Grill** (which used to be Surf and Turf) +679.879.8281. Open daily
 - **May 2025:** We ate here several times and always had a great meal. – sv Sugar Shack
- **Island Sub** (Nawi) +679.832.0440. Hours: Mon-Fri: 0800-1200. Order 24 hours in advance for Turkish bread \$9.00 or croissants \$3.00
- **Naveria Heights Lodge** +679.885.0348 and +679.936.4804. www.naveriaheightsfiji.com, email: justnaveria@connect.com.fj. Serve a lovely breakfast, lunch, & dinner with stunning valley views.
- **Planters Club:** +679.996.1990 and +679.959.1401. Hours: Mon-Wed: 1100-2000; Thurs-Sat: 0800-2130, Sun: 1100-2000. Great food and reasonable prices! Available for sit down and takeout 7 days a week. From Waitui marina, turn right, on left side past Courts.
 - **May. 2025:** Wow, what a surprising gem of a place. Sit on their big deck, enjoy reasonably priced drinks, beers, cocktails (run tab at the bar), order food (pay cash when ordering). The portions were big and everything was really tasty! – sv Sugar Shack
- **Raj's Secret Delight** offers Indian food that is tasty & inexpensive. Right side of street, side alley, 2nd fl.
- **Savusavu Wok Chinese Restaurant** Hours: Mon-Sun: 0800-2300. Located across from Waitui
 - **Aug. 2023:** The service was good, but the food was bland and came out almost immediately. Our dishes tasted the same even though they were very different dishes. Very cheap. – Jamala
- **Snowy House Desert Café** +679.850.0243 or +679.891.3839. Hours: Mon-Sat: 0900-2100. Left from marina, on right hand side (blue sign)
- **Sugar Delicious** great curry. Go to alley of the BSP bank building and it's the last door on left.
- **White Stork Tavern (Bar/Club)** Hours: Wed: Sat: 1100-1300. Bar/club.

Aug. 2022: Food in Savusavu we found to be excellent and very reasonably priced, especially compared to French Polynesia. In most case, it is cheaper to eat out than on the boat with a whole range of prices and choices. We spent around 6 weeks in Savusavu and enjoyed meals in all of the following: Low-cost places (\$8-\$15F): Arun's (BYO booze); Planters, and Waitui Marina (lunchtime only). Midrange cost (\$15-\$40F): Copra Shed Marina. Bit more expensive (\$25-\$45F) Surf and Turf (excellent food). – Seneto

3.1.7 Activities

Koko Mana Chocolate +679.298.9426. www.kokomanafiji.com. Hours: Mon-Fri: 1000-1500. \$30F/PP.

Wonderful tour of a cocoa factory. 15-20-minute walk: follow coast road out of Savusavu, heading SW. Turn left near Daku Resort. Find on GoogleMaps.

Sharon Wild, +679.932.2233, is an amazing tour guide. Take any of her 6 scheduled tours including waterfalls, tubing down a fresh water river through the forest, SUP in the jungle, horseback riding, full day and half day hikes. She has Cultural tours, meditation and more. Highly recommend her tours.

I understand she is starting to “outsource” some of her tours so be sure to ask for her specifically as the guide otherwise you might be disappointed. – sv Sugar Shack

Vuadomo Village and Waterfall: Rent a car or hire a taxi driver. Pay the small fee (\$10F/pp as of 7/2022) first at the village before heading to the waterfall. Go early to avoid tour groups. This is the most popular waterfall to visit in Savusavu. It is an easy, albeit muddy 10-minute walk to the falls. The water is super refreshing. The falls are not super tall, but they are wide and it is lush and pretty. At the community hall, where you will pay your entrance fee, the village ladies will have a small artisan market.

Nakawaga Waterfall +679.909.8899. The trip to the waterfall is about 30-45 minutes and then the hike is an additional 20-30 minutes. It is a fairly easy hike not overly difficult terrain. Fee is \$20F/pp (as of 7/2022). Turn right at sign posted FEA Vunisesi dam, follow road about 3.5km keeping to the road forking to the right. This is a much more secluded waterfall as it is further from town, a longer hike, and has some precarious rocks desperately holding on to the side of the mountainside. But well worth the visit. This waterfall is very tall and skinny. It is more challenging to get behind the falls than at Vuadomo Falls.

Tubing down fresh water river thru a forest. We went with Sharon Wild on a 5-hour tour that included tubing down a beautiful and refreshing fresh water river. I believe it was the Nakawaga river and it had lovely country side, mountainous views, cows and horses, and beautiful plants and flowers. Only a few small rapids (more treacherous with rain) but they were easily navigable on our day.

Hot Springs Mud Bath. Sharon Wild took us to a remote hot spring that you can swim in with remarkably clear water. It looked brown until you filled a cup and realized it was clear. We covered ourselves in mud for a nice body cleanse and enjoyed the warm water after the river excursion.

Flora Tropica Gardens +679.930.4697 or +679.921.4600 or floratropica@gmail.com. www.floratropica.com. Self-guided walking tour. \$25F per person.

Waisali Rainforest Reserve +679.951.7277, +679 330 1807, info@nationaltrust.org.fj, <https://nationaltrust.org.fj/waisali>. This has been closed since 2019 and has not reopened as of 8/2025.

Reservations are strongly suggested. A 40-minute hike with uneven paths that can be slippery after a rain. A guide is recommended as the entrance can be tricky to find. The waterfall is amazing. The entrance is located 20km North of Savusavu, directly off the road to Labasa. (culvert 14.4) It is about ½ way to the town of Labasa (take the Labasa bus to get there).

Copra Mill – Bagata Free guided tour of the Copra Mill to learn the process of turning dried coconut (copra) to coconut oil, cooking oil, olive oil, and virgin olive oil. About 15 minutes out of Savusavu on the road to Labasa (see sign). This is very different than copra mining in French Polynesia, well worth the stop.

Savusavu Hot Springs Bagasau Village About 1 hour from Savusavu on the road to Buca Bay. Present sevusevu to the chief and you will be taken on a guided tour of the hot pools.

Hot Springs Savusavu has local hot springs that the locals use to prepare their meals. It is a short 5-minute walk from town. Across from Waitui Marina, turn on Nakama Street, then you will see signs on the left for the hot springs – it is free!

Fiji Pearls J. Hunter Pearls Fiji. +679.885.0821. www.fijipearls.com. Hours: Mon-Fri: 0830-1630; Sat: 0900-1400. Offers tours daily Mon-Fri at 0930 (\$10F/pp plus sevusevu to chief). Private tours: \$50F adults and \$20F

for children. Minimum of 4 guests and maximum of 10. Full tour which includes snorkeling the pearl farm \$50F per person. Book the day before: www.fijipearls.com/contact-us/. On coast road as you head SW out of Savusavu (pale blue building, set back from the road, just after Planters).

Fiji sells both fresh and salt water pearls. The fresh water pearls are far cheaper. After coming from French Polynesia where the pearls are colorful and vibrant, it was a wee bit disappointing to see the Fijian pearls that were gray or white, small and imperfect (with lines and holes), yet still very expensive. – sv Sugar Shack

3.1.7.1 Diving

Diving Center +679.929.5803, +679.732.8062. Located at Copra Shed Marina.

Jean-Michel Cousteau Dive Shop +679.885.0694. www.jeanmichelcousteaudiving.com email donsantee@jeanmichelcousteaudiving.com. Hours: Mon-Sun: 0730-1630. Tours and courses available.

KoroSun Dive +679.934.1033. www.korosundive.com. Open 7 days a week. Offers dive and snorkel excursions and dive courses. Tours depart around 0900 and return around 1300.

Liquid State Free Diving +679.925.8764. www.liquidstatefreediving.com, liquidstatefreediving@gmail.com, Hours: Mon-Sun: 0900-1600. AIDA Freediving education, training, and tours. They just opened an office front with a dive company in Copra Shed (near the Yacht Shop) as of 9/2023.

Sept. 2023: I completed their 3-day package and went from a confident snorkeler to freediving to 20m with confidence. They are very patient, calm, non-competitive agents, very good for making you relaxed and confident. – Afriki

Ocean Ventures Fiji: +679.929.5803 or +679.953.1800. info@oceanventuresfiji.com www.oceanventuresfiji.com. Offers diving and snorkeling tours, diving courses and coral conservation experiences.

KoroSun Dive +689 885.2452 and +689 934.1033. www.korosundive.com

3.1.7.2 Cruiser Reports

May 2025: Market Day is the first Saturday of every month. Just outside Copra Shed Marina many handicraft vendors will set up tables on both sides of the streets. This is where you can find great deals on beautiful Fiji handicrafts.

You can also buy handicrafts Mon-Sat at the Municipal Market (gray building just past the bus depot).

Copra Shed: Every Sunday Copra Shed has a live band and a BBQ.

Nawi Island Marina: On Sundays they have a live band from 1600-1800 by the pool

Waitui Marina will do a welcome reception on Wednesdays if they have a group of cruisers.

We did a fantastic tour with Sharon Wild where we river rafted, visited a waterfall and hot pool.

The Hot pools, Chocolate Factory, and various hikes makes this a truly fabulous place to be. – sv Sugar Shack

Sept. 2023: We had a wonderful all-day tour (0900-1700) with Simon who picked us up at Copra Shed (but he can pick you up from anywhere on Vanua Levu). Simon Sharma +679 839 7211 and sharma7778@hotmail.com. His vehicle can hold up to 6 people and he charges one flat fee for the van (whether there are 2 or 6 people). He took us to two unusual waterfalls: Cavu and Naselesele Waterfalls. We went on unmarked roads to get to them so they are off the beaten path. One waterfall required a bit of a hike and both had swimming holes. They were quite large and beautiful. He then took us to the hot springs that is on his friend's private property (that only he has access to). Then we went to a village where we had lunch. It was an awesome tour. He was exceptionally professional and at a very reasonable fee. He is willing to do

private tours for anyone who wants to go anywhere. He is native, ex-military, very professional and safe. We highly recommend him! – SV Independence

Aug. 2022: Koko Mana Chocolate +679.298.9426. Well worth going. Chocolate is delicious. – Seneto

Bespoke Tours: very low key and very worthwhile. Depending on what you decide to do, take swimming gear, snacks, water, etc... Visits to the Copra Factory, waterfalls, mud pools, local villas. Genevieve at Waitui Marina can arrange a minibus can take up to 8 people and the price is based on a bus load rather than per person. Prices obviously depend on what you do but as an indication they are around \$200-\$250F for the minibus including the guide. We've been out twice with them and its worth every penny. Our first time out we got back to Waitui around 1500. We decided to go to Planters taking Liga and Mahendra with us as a "thank you." Genevieve can be contacted on +679.885.3057 or dhlsavusavu@gmail.com. – Seneto

Aug. 2023: We booked a hike tour to a waterfall which included going to a mud bath and hot springs with Sharon from Naveria Heights. We were told it was a full day tour with a 4-mile hike with lunch and refreshments. There were 6 of us so 4 went in a tax and 2 went with the tour guide. We ended up waiting for our guide to arrive. At 11am we went to a waterfall village to pay the fee and look at their trinkets which were twice as much as in town. A 10-minute muddy walk to a small waterfall that did not look anything like the waterfalls our friends saw on a previous tour.

On the way down the guide told us all about the plants and vegetation (he was very knowledgeable). Back at the car we were given a chicken wrap, no drinks and were told to eat in the car on the way to the mud bath. At the mud bath the path was very slippery so only 2 of us went in. Our last stop was the hot springs. The entire tour took 3hrs and cost \$120F/pp. It would have been better had the tour been rescheduled when it wasn't so muddy (after a big storm) or we should have gone by taxi or rented a car for a fraction of the cost. – Jamala

Sept. 2022: Flora Tropicana Gardens Call Enoch to arrange entry on +679 930 4697. A short car drive towards Cousteau Resort. An amazing collection of palm tree species from all over the world arranged over 5 acres, with elevated timber walkways rising up the hillside. 25-dollar entry fee. Enoch is very interesting- but has mobility issues so will not accompany you whilst you explore.

Kokoma chocolate factory – more of an eco-farm project than a factory. This project is run by a British guy, Richard who is very knowledgeable. He is experimenting with eco agriculture (very similar to Bobby on Taveuni) and produces chocolate – trying to produce the very best beans to make the best chocolate. It is superb (tour includes tasting – and you won't be able to resist buying supplies to take away!). Cost is \$30 dollars per adult – family discounts available!

Note: Genevieve at Waitui marina was fantastically helpful in helping us arrange these expeditions. We rented a car from James rental. Was fine but watch out for hidden additional costs!

Waitui marina arranged excellent social evenings – a curry night with live band, dancing, some cultural information (the master of ceremonies also included a pause for reflection following the death of Queen Elizabeth II which occurred earlier in the week) singing, and kava. Great fun! – Tintamarre

3.2 Cousteau Resort Anchorage

The Cousteau Resort prefers that yachts do not anchor in front of their property.

3.2.1 Anchorage

July 2025: 16°48.970S / 179°16.8700E in 3.4m during mid-tide (pulled back to 5m). Good holding and easy stick in this area. We needed a shallow spot to change zincs and this was perfect.

16°48.961S / 179°16.866E in 4.2m in mid tide (pulling back to 15m).

We also anchored at **16°48.945S / 179°16.873E** in 4m during low tide. This spot is off the normal anchorage (where most boats anchor). We thought the water would be clearer her (it wasn't). – sv Sugar Shack

Aug. 2023: 16°48.450S / 179°17.388E in 10m. It was dark when we arrived and could not see what we were anchoring in. The next day, our anchor chain appeared to get snagged on debris or coral heads. So, if you anchor here float your chain. The anchor struggled to get a hold, but eventually stuck well. – sv Sugar Shack

Sept. 2022: 16°48.623S / 179°17.248E anchored in 12-15m. Nice backup option for Savusavu area, protected from normal trade conditions. –SeaGlub

Sept. 2022: 16°48.36S / 179°17.49E. Split the rock and big bommie with a crack down the middle, had some of the best snorkeling we have experienced in Fiji. Tie dinghy to the close by buoy. – Carpe Diem

Aug. 2022: 16°48.906S / 179°16.886E Anchored on sand (on the reef for lunch and a hull scrubbing). Don't be tempted to go shallow, it is rocky and rumbly! We anchored here 16°48.480S / 179°17.462E and it was too close to shore so we moved back further. – Seneto

June 2022: 16°48.54S / 179°17.28E anchor in 12n-18m of sand between coral heads. Holding is considered "average." If you go closer to shore, 10m and shallower, there are numerous coral heads and anchoring is not recommended. Good anchorage in prevailing easterly weather, but can get nasty if the wind blows from the north, and a sizeable fetch can result in untenable seas and a dangerous coral reef lee shore.

Beware of the pearl farm running along the bay, NE of Split Rock. Stay a min. of 700m offshore. – Major Tom

3.2.2 General Services

3.2.2.1 Communications

July 2025: Digicel is good here. Will load webpages, Facebook, Instagram (albeit a little slow). – sv Sugar Shack

3.2.3 Cruiser Reports

Sept. 2023: You can reach Savusavu by taxi or a decent walk. The buses are infrequent, but you may see one on your walk. Snorkeling along the reef towards the lighthouse is rumored to be nice. – sv Sugar Shack

Sept. 2022: Jean Michael Cousteau Resort: Nice resort on the beach to walk through, but wasn't looking to share facilities with yachties as it was all inclusive (so no a la carte purchases). But they were still very friendly and you are welcome to walk around. – SeaGlub

3.3 Namena

Namena is a large thumb-shaped reef, sticking out from the south coast of Vanua Levu, SW of Savusavu. There is a small island inside the reef with a small anchorage, and can be a destination for divers, or an intermediate stop on the way to Viti Levu or the N Coast of Vanua Levu.

Namena is a marine preserve. A small fee must be paid to the Namena Island Resort office which is located in Savusavu at the Waitui marina building (the marine preserve office is located in the same building facing the street). Normally you would pay directly to the resort, but it is under construction (as of Oct. 2023) so they require payment before heading to Namena. The fee is \$30.00 per person and you are given a tag which is good for one year. +679 885 3389, namenaisland@connect.com.fj.

The Namena Island Resort is currently under construction (as of Aug. 2025). The old Moodys Namena Resort was destroyed in the 2016 Cyclone. www.namenaislandresort.com.

May 2024: We got tokens for Namena from Dolly at Copra Shed FJD 30ea. – Ariel

3.3.1 Pass

The entry and exit through the north and south passages are straightforward. Favor the North of the passage marked by two beacons.

Aug. 2023: We entered through the North pass at 17°01.102S / 179°01.779E during mid tide and the shallowest we saw was 12m. We could clearly see the bottom at 20m. We used satellite images which I recommend in this area. We had fairly calm conditions 10-12kts SE winds and 0.5-1m seas. Through the pass the seas became jumbled, swirly, and increased to 1-1.5m. We passed the large bommie in the center on port. You'll see several other bommies, but they were easily cleared.

We exited out of the Grand Central Drift Pass or the North "Save a Tack" Pass at 17°04.0907S / 179°06.2412E. We saw 9m during high tide as the lowest point when leaving out of this pass. We had strong 20-25kt of SE winds with a 1.5m swell so it was choppy, but easy to navigate. – sv Sugar Shack

2022 verified (Jan. 2013): There are several openings in the reef on the northeast side and on the southwest side. Here are midpoints for each of these passes:

NorthEast Pass: 17°04.31S / 179°06.44E

SouthWest Pass: 17°07.44S / 179°04.48E

There is some current normally flowing through the passes and over the reef--usually a knot or so. In the middle of the NE Pass are several "bommies", but depths on top of these are 25'. They cause a lot of current swirl in the pass. – Soggy Paws

3.3.2 Anchorages

Aug. 2023: We picked up the one mooring at **17°06.756S / 179°05.544E**. We pulled down on it with 1800rpm and it held good. There is a long painter that allowed us to bring the loop all the way up to the deck (2m off the water). This mooring has 10m of 2.54cm chain attached to a sunken steel hull, then 22m of 1" rope in decent shape within 3m of the surface.

This anchorage is good protection from any south or east wind.

The anchorage is deep until it is not and then it is covered in coral. If the mooring is occupied, then anchor in the deep water, 18-25m where it is generally coral free.

17°06.616S / 179°05.635E we had friends anchor here in about 20-25m.

Anchoring is said to be good from **17°06.690S / 179°05.605E** to the north east in a parallel to the beach at about 18-20m. Sand with very small bommies.

This is a preserve. They still require payment to anchor here. Pay in Savusavu prior to arrival. – sv Sugar Shack

Jan. 2013: 17°06.74S / 179°03.83E Anchored in 50' deep, but clear water (could easily see sand vs coral on the bottom). This anchoring spot is near the two dive sites: Chimneys and Tetons. The anchor spot was a winner--a small patch of sand next to a big bommie. We carefully placed our anchor and backed down slowly, making sure we didn't get into any coral.

There is one mooring behind the island off a little beach. This was in reasonable condition when we were there, and is reasonably protected in SE winds.

Near the North pass, **17°04.38S / 179°06.51E** dropped anchor in 35' sand, behind the reef near drop off.

17°06.35S / 179°03.63E Anchored in a sand spot near bommies close to Mushroom Dive Site – Soggy Paws

3.3.3 Activities

Surrounding the tiny island of Namenalala, the approximately 70 square kilometer Namena Marine Reserve was established in 1997, stretching between the two main Fijian islands of Viti Levu and Vanua Levu.

Basically, an NGO named The Coral Alliance has encouraged the village (located on the south coast of Vanua Levu) that "owns" Namena Reef to establish a Marine Reserve. To anchor or dive there, you must pay a user fee per person per year. This money pays the village to not fish there.



Dive Sites Map from Moody's Namena Resort

Aug. 2023: Diving / Snorkeling: These sites are about 1.7nm from the mooring.

"Chimneys" (aka 2 thumbs) **17°06.796S / 179°03.820E**. There is no mooring and nowhere to anchor the dinghy, so we just pulled our painter along. The water was pretty silty but there were loads of little fish all around the pinnacle. We snorkeled both of these gigantic pillars that jet up from the seabed reaching for the water's surface.

The "Teutons" **17°06.630S / 179°03.696E** are relatively close by dinghy or a pretty long swim. We had a bit of a current and decided to dinghy over. There is no mooring and no place to anchor the dinghy so we pulled her by the painter. Even though the water was silty, we could see loads and loads of schools of little fish. I even found some soft coral and 4 nemos swimming about. This was by far my favorite spot.

Namena Island Beach Resort (www.namenastrandresort.com) is still in the construction phase. What once was Moody's Namena Resort is no longer as it was destroyed during the 2016 cyclone. But plans for a much-improved resort is in progress.

We went ashore and found a trail that led to the other side of the island with a bigger beach. There are lots of nesting birds on the island so be careful not to spook them. – sv Sugar Shack

Jan. 2013: We loaded our dive gear in the dinghy and dinghied a short distance over to the "Chimneys" dive spot. **17°06.79S / 179°03.82E**. We dropped the anchor in sand and snorkeled a little bit to get the lay of the dive site. Here, there are 2 pinnacles coming up from about 80 feet to the surface, ringed with all kinds of fish, invertebrates, and hard and soft corals. At 15-20 feet, there is a huge amount of sea life, so the 3-minute stop passed quickly. This was truly gorgeous diving.

We dinghied over to the dive spot known as **The Tetons** for a second dive. Again, very nice coral diving.

Grand Central drift dive start location (around **17°04.26S / 179°06.59E**). This is right off the end of the shelf, on the south side of the pass--where the depth goes from about 50 feet to 100 feet in a sheer drop.

Take the dinghy in tow on a long line. We were being swept in with the current (not bad in deep water, but runs pretty swiftly on the tops of the shallow bommies). We picked a spot right on the drop-off and placed the

dinghy anchor in a rock cleft, and spent about 10 minutes swimming around on the edge of the drop off. As promised, we saw lots of big fish and a few sharks. The conditions were good and the water was clear. Other divers have gone NNW along the face of the drop-off. There are a couple of big canyons where the bottom goes from 50' to 20' rapidly, the dive spot is called **Kansas** (17°04.32S / 179°06.42E). But we thought the best part of the dive was along the drop-off.

Mushroom Dive Site: Another big bommie rising up out of the 100' depths. (17°06.35S / 179°03.59E). We could have spent another week diving without getting bored, but we had to get going. – Soggy Paws

3.3.4 Cruiser Reports

Aug. 2023: We went to the Namena Marine Preserve office at the Waitui Marina building and they did not have 2023 tags. They did however, ask us to pay the \$30/pp fee. On the receipt, they gave us they noted “Tags not picked up yet.” Evidently, they are well known for not having current / up to date tags, but they are super friendly and will make concessions for cruisers who are willing to follow the rules and pay the annual fee.

We stayed on the mooring for 6 days and enjoyed gorgeous weather. We watched many boats come and go with most only staying one night. – sv Sugar Shack

3.4 Rokocivia Bay

3.5 Coconut Point / Nabouwalu

3.5.1 Pass

June 2007: We were a tad anxious about whether the seas might be piling up a bit at the entrance to the Nasonisoni Passage -- a cut through the reef we need to take into the protected lagoon waters west of it, but up ahead of us was Peter of sv Seeker, who kindly radioed back to us the conditions as he arrived.

As is often the case, the reality of the pass was much less stressful than the anticipation from the charts. Although the Fijian buoyage is a little worse for wear sometimes, the marks are there, and even though the sky was stubbornly overcast, the reefs were plainly visible. – Tackless II

3.5.2 Anchorage

Oct. 2023: Anchored in 7m, there were live coral patches here, don't anchor near the pier as the ships come and moor up in the night and need a large area to turn around. There lights are very bright. We did not go ashore, just used this as a stopping point on the way to Voilvoli. – Jamala

Oct. 2011: 16°59.630'S / 178°40.970'E. Coconut Point (Nabouwalu): Anchor outside the concrete dock in sand, protected from waves by the reef. We were visited by officials looking to examine our coastal clearance. The passage through the reef to Bligh Water is roughly 3nm west of Nabouwalu. – Carina

3.5.3 Pass

Aug. 2023: We entered the Kubulau Pass at low tide (not intentionally) and had no issues but we did have very calm conditions. The pass is wide and deep. We had less than 10kts of SE winds with about 0.5-meter swell. The reefs on both sides were easy to spot. – sv Sugar Shack

3.5.4 Anchorage

Aug. 2023: 16°52.868S / 179°02.718E. This is a little shallow spot. Our draft is 1.4m. We dropped the hook in 6m (during low tide) between a few reefs. However, as we swung around, we saw 2.9m so be careful when anchoring here. Super pretty spot, very quiet and isolated.

We had tracks from a friend who anchored at **16°53.005S / 179°03.001E** but I do not know the depth. This is on the other side of one of the reefs as we came into the bay. – sv Sugar Shack

3.5.5 Cruiser Reports

Aug. 2023: A few locals were fishing in pangas when we arrived late in the afternoon. One came over to say “bula” and asked if we had any food as they were hungry from being out all day. We gave them some treats and they invited us over to their village around the corner. We did not go because we wanted to watch the depth on the boat but they were super friendly.

We followed our tracks out of the bay but instead of taking the Kubulau pass out we turned right and went between Kubulau Point and the reef, then passed Raravatu Bay and exited. – sv Sugar Shack

3.6 Bua Bay (Lekubi Point)

3.6.1 Anchorage

Sept. 2022: **16°51.743S / 178°36.016E.** Anchored in 7m of sand/mud. A large open bay with not much protection. The wind picked up to 20kts and we held good and firm. – Seneto

June 2007: **16°51S / 178°35E.** Anchorage is between 30-50’ deep in a huge, protected bay with good holding. We pushed all the way around to **Bua Bay**, on the northwest corner of Vanua Levu. Up ahead is a long low shoreline of mangrove. – Tackless II

3.7 Yadua (Yandua) Island

Cruisers can visit Yadua, but it’s neighboring island, Yadua Taba is forbidden to all yachts and tourists.

3.7.1 Passes

Sept. 2023: The entrance to Cukuvou Harbor is about 535’ across and deep (we came in during low-mid-tide) and never saw anything below 12m. You do have to be mindful of the bommies but they are marked on Navionics and the satellite images (and can be seen by eye). – sv Sugar Shack

Sept. 2022: The pass is not marked but visible in most light conditions, wide enough to enter at night once you’ve got a trusted track. Pass depth is 20m or more. – SeaGlub

3.7.2 Cukuovou Harbor Anchorage

Sept. 2023: **16°49.010S / 178°17.121E** dropped in 12m with really good holding. Stuck very well. Super pretty anchorage with multiple beaches, tall hillsides in a quiet and protected bay. – Sv Sugar Shack

Sept. 2022: **16°49.058S / 178°16.996E** dropped in a sandy bottom on the south side of the anchorage. The north side of the anchorage has several bommies to be wary of. Protection is from all directions except maybe straight west. Once inside the anchorage, you will have half or less of the tradewinds outside the island. Pull up as close to the inside shore reef as you like, drop anchor and allow the winds to blow you off. Enjoy some of the most beautiful and untouched reefs in all of Fiji. – SeaGlub

Sept. 2022: **16°49.060S / 178°17.013E.** Anchored in 12m of sand. A stunning bay, with turquoise waters and if you’re lucky, mantas to greet you on arrival, a real treat. There was just one other boat when we arrived and the day after, just us. A beautiful secluded spot. – Seneto

Sept. 2022: **16°48.900S / 178°17.000E,** E Cakuvou Harbor. Good holding in 45’ over sand. We stayed three nights here through some strong gusts (20-30 knots, which seemed to come from every direction except west) and were very comfortable with our level of protection and holding. – Oh Joy II

3.7.3 Navi Laca Bay Anchorage

Sept. 2022: **16°48.913S / 178°19.532E.** Anchored in 15m of sand. It is absolutely stunning in this bay. The pass is narrow, but in good light straight forward and bommies clearly visible. – Seneto

3.7.4 General Services

3.7.4.1 Wifi (Internet and Phone)

Sept. 2023: Vodafone did not work in the bay. – Sv Sugar Shack

Sept. 2022: No signal for Digicel or Vodafone. – Oh Joy II

3.7.5 Activities

Sept. 2023: There are 4 pristine beaches available to walk on during mid-tide. High tide they were covered with water and low tide was difficult to access in the dinghy over the reef. But mid-tide is perfect.

Village: Evidently there used to be a trail marked by a FAD beacon at 16°49.061S / 178°17.251E. However, we traversed across the trail, over trees, under trees, around fallen trees and kept coming up with dead ends. The walk to the village which is at Denumanu is supposedly 6km one way from the Cakuvou Harbor. But we did not find the trail.

Hike across to the south side of Yadua. If you want to do a small hike, go to **16°49.180S / 78°17.113E** which is on the south side of the anchorage. There is a nice trail that goes up over the little mountain and deposits you on the long sandy beach on the other side.

Snorkeling: There is great snorkeling here. We found turtles on the grassy areas between us and the beach. We had a large pod of dolphins playing in the bay. We snorkeled all around the south side of the bay and the pass between Yadua and Yadua Tabu. A few soft corals, lots of hard corals and tons of fish. – sv Sugar Shack

Sept. 2022: At low tide there is plenty of sandy beach in Cakuvou Harbor for walking, playing frisbee, or making sandcastles (remember sandcastles?).

Snorkeling: Some of the best snorkeling we've had in Fiji can be found here in Cakuvou Harbor. All excellent spots. At all these treasure sites you'll find some deep crevasses, a bajillion fish, healthy, gorgeous coral and maybe a black-tip reef shark.

- The southeast point of the bay (16°49.056S / 178°16.564E)
- Large south bommie that makes the "pincers" for the pass (16°48.941S / 178°16.715E)
- Also, the large bommie at 16°48.723S / 178°17.119E is outstanding. – Oh Joy II

3.7.6 Cruiser Reports

Oct. 2022: There is no village in Cakuvou to do sevusevu. However, if you anchor in Navi Laca Bay, you will be required to do sevusevu in the Denumanu village located at Naenimanu Bay. – sv Sugar Shack

Sept. 2022: Snorkeling and diving outside the pass are incredible. While sevusevu is recommended on all and especially remote islands, here on Yadua the village is very far away and when visited by local boats they were happy to just say hello and trade some fish for reading glasses. – SeaGlub

Sept. 2022: The western anchorage on Yadua, Cakuvou Harbor, is a great spot with hiking, snorkeling and diving. The Sail Fiji app says a visit should be made to the Tui Yadua at Denimanu Village to present your sevusevu. Here's where things get fuzzy: Navionics shows Denimanu Village on the north side of Yadua, but satellite images on OpenCPN show a large village on the east side at the north end. Is this actually Denimanu Village? If we'd been able to go there, we would have a more complete report.

The Sail Fiji app says there's a hiking trail from Cakuvou Harbor to Denimanu Village, about 3km one way. There's also a note in Navionics from 2018 that says this trail no longer exists. The truth is likely somewhere in between: We found a trail behind the sandy beach at approximately 16°49.0683S / 178°17.225E. But it's more of a somewhat-trodden possibly-path situation winding through the jungle in a southeast direction. It's super easy to get lost and go in circles here. The situation (it doesn't deserve to be called a path since it's definitely not that) is not well-marked. It can be a fun adventure if you've got plenty of water, snacks, bug spray and no

expectation of reaching a village. After 40 minutes of traipsing, bush-whacking and climbing, we ended up at the top of the ridge at about 16°49.466S / 178°17.990E. This is nowhere near the village. But the view is spectacular. – Oh Joy II

Sept. 2022: Navi Laca Bay Not sure if many boats come here, but would be highly recommended. Take the dinghy around to the village to present sevusevu to the chief “Johnny” who you can usually find sitting under the tree at the far end of the beach – he has fab hair. Fishing gear is greatly appreciated and we also took exercise books and colored pencils to the primary school. – Seneto

July 2022: We anchored in Watering Bay, the NNE Bay, and walked over the hill to Denimanu Village to do Sevusevu. We then motored to Cukuvou Harbour. We had a good reception. Others gave their kava to the boys out fishing and it didn't seem to get to the chief. The boys also asked for fuel, sometimes in exchange for fish. The iguana wild life officer is married to the nurse. They live in the village. The nurse is always happy to get first aid items. We enjoyed our time there! – SV Margarita

3.8 *Yadua Taba (Yandua Taba)*

Yadua Taba reef and island are strictly prohibited to enter, anchor, and visit. There is regular policing by National Trust Rangers to enforce the rules.

Fiji National Trust cares for the National Park on **Yadua Taba**, the small island at the southwest corner of the main island. The green crested iguana, a rare, protected species, is found only on Yadua Taba. Yadua Taba is strictly prohibited to enter, anchor or visit.

3.9 *Palmlea Farms*

Palmlea Farms is an eco-resort and organic farm. Owned by a world sailor, Julie who welcomes people from all over the world to her resort. +679.828.2220, www.palmleafarms.com. VHF 16, palmleafarms@yahoo.com

3.9.1 *Pass*

2012: Several passes through the reef offer easy access to this secure anchorage. From this point, it's possible to day hop from anchorage to anchorage inside the protection of the reef west around Vanua Levu and back to Savusavu or head out through one of several passes to the Yasawa group. – SSCA Bulletin.

3.9.2 *Anchorage*

2012: 16°24.728'S, 179°14.120'E. The anchorage, well protected behind the reef, is calm and peaceful with good holding in mud and sand. A 150' pier, great for dinghy tie-up, extends from the mangrove-fringed shore and leads to a well-worn path up to the lodge. – SSCA Bulletin

3.9.3 *Cruiser Reports*

(Verified 2025) Jan. 2012: Palmlea Farms Lodge, an eco-resort that is part of an oceanside farm encompassing 40 acres of meadows and hills. The organic farm specializes in the breeding and development of the Boer goats, the world's largest meat goat, and the Smelsers participate significantly in the local farming community. Located inside the Great Sea Reef, the world's third longest continuous barrier reef, Palmlea is a dream-come-true for weary sailors.

The lodge itself is open, airy and inviting with a bar and dining room, lush organic gardens, a saltwater lap pool and, if you want to take a break from the boat, luxurious thatched covered bures.

Only a short ride from Labasa, cruisers can take advantage of experiencing a unique blend of Fijian and Indian cultures. The Palmlea Lodge offers as much or as little as you'd like to do. You can chill out using the lodge's

facilities to swim or just lie in a hammock. There are walks and hikes to take with panoramic views of the reef and Lion's Head Rock and great bird watching opportunities. – SSCA Bulletin

3.10 Nukubati (Nukumbati)

3.10.1 Cruiser Reports

June 2022 verified (June 2007): "Nukubati is a small luxury private island, secluded with an untouched natural splendor, a remote haven surrounded by white sand, lush rainforest, and crystalline coral reefs." It is the home to [Nukubati Island Resort](#), the laid-back luxury resort tucked into a perfect alcove of a bay.

It is a striking setting. The resort occupies one of the two Nukubati (pronounced Nook-oom-Ba-Tee) islets that are joined together like Siamese twins by a mangrove bank. On the mainland behind the resort, rise the crests of a multi-peaked mountain ridge, densely clothed in rainforest and old coconut plantations, while in front is an apron of white sand (which the island gets its name, "nuku" means sand), a rarity in these parts.

Nobody came out to run us off, so we tentatively made our way ashore around happy hour. The main pavilion, is a large open-fronted building with high ceilings, thatched roof, and the same style of plaited wall covering, in this case bamboo.

In the back of the room to the right is a bamboo bar while to the left is a cozy reading nook and a 3,000-book library. Comfortable chairs and sofas cluster in conversational groupings in the middle. – Tackless II

3.11 Kia Island (Navionics lists it as Nananukukura)

Located 12nm west from the main land of Vanua Levu, inside the lagoon at 16°13.999S / 179°05.503E.

3.11.1 Cruiser Report

Aug. 2022: On Kia Island there is a cannon, circa 1700's at the top of the craggy mountain that dominates the skyline. It is a heck of a climb, but ask George to show you the way. The cannon is said to be gifted to the village by the British, and that George's ancestors carried it up there centuries ago. – Bella Vita

3.12 Labasa

3.12.1 Pass (Entrance to Labasa River)

Sept. 2013: 16°23.61S / 179°18.80E approximate entrance. High tide was 0700 and we went for the entrance, which is not where it should be according our C-map chart but, at a branch further South-West

The first couple of markers only had the green one in place and a tree branch instead of the red one, the second couple are both there, the third is only a green one.

Once inside, there is a fork in the river, with no markers showing where to go. We took the left fork that appears to go to the former entrance branch, **least depth so far 2.8 meters (one hour after high tide)**.

The river deepened gradually to about 7m and we were enjoying it very much. The river is about 50m wide and we were sailing between two green walls of mangrove trees with the dark blue shade of the mountains in the distance. None of the markers on our chart exists any more except a red one where the first branch from the right joins the main branch, **least depth found here is 2.9 meters, shallowest part of the river**.

The first turn to the right following had on our chart an obstacle which is pretty obvious to see by the way the water is flowing, here we hugged the left shore.

Once in town where a small boatyard is situated approx. 16°25.54S / 179°22.35E our chart shows a marker, not in place, probably instead a tree branch protruding from the water, to be sure we leave it to our right hand and had to hug the shore pretty close, depth 3 meter. – Fruit de Mer

3.12.2 Anchorages

July 2022: 16°14.53S / 179°31.99E. Anchored here. We had a great dinghy trip up the mangrove lined river to about 16°22.7S where it turns into a babbling brook between cane fields. – SV Margarita

Sept. 2013: We anchored in front of the bridge in 3-meter, good holding. In the afternoon the wind picked up to 20 knots, combined with the incoming tidal current (stronger than we expected) and made the boat turn in mad circles coming close to the shores of the rather narrow river. So, we decided not to stay for the night and pulled our anchor at 1645 and just before dark we were back at the anchorage at Malau. Glad to have done it and have experienced this lovely river. – Fruit de Mer

3.12.3 Yachtsmen Services

3.12.3.1 Fuel (Diesel & Gasoline)

Sept. 2013: Ashore, just before the bridge about 50m from the fuel station. We jerry-jugged some diesel but unfortunately this landing is used as a public toilet by a lot of men waiting for their buses – Fruit de Mer

3.12.4 General Services

3.12.4.1 Banks & ATMs

May 2025: Several Banks (with ATMs) are in downtown Labasa including BSP & Westpac. – sv Sugar Shack

3.12.4.2 Communications

May 2025: Both Digicel and Valuefone (Vodafone) have store fronts in town. – sv Sugar Shack

3.12.4.3 Hardware Stores

May 2025: There are several hardware stores on the main road in Labasa. – sv Sugar Shack

3.12.4.4 Marine Stores and Services

- **Canvas Shop**
 - **Naidu's Unique Upholstery** +679.881.7446, +679.927.1785. Located on main street Nasekula Road and Ivi Street.
- **Machine Shops**
 - **Vanua Engineering** (recommended by Pillai in Savusavu) +679.881.5294, +679.741.0897, +679.941.0897 (owner's cell), Raul +679.947.9270, Hours: Mon-Fri:0800-1300, 1400-1600. Located: 16°25.983S / 179°21.779E
 - **May 2025:** Raul at Vanua Engineering pressed 2 bearings out of our steering gear box. They had to grind a weld to access one of the bearings. They also made seals for us (as the ones we brought did not fit). They then pressed the new bearings and seals and welded it back together. Took a little over a day as they were super busy (we supervised), but they did decent work. \$250FJ. – sv Sugar Shack
 - **Latu Engineering Works** +679.925.8924, latueng@connect.com.fj, General engineering, fitting & machining, welding, fabrication. Located near Vanua Engineering
 - **Zaid Engineering:** Mechanical engineering and fabrication. Located near Vanua Engineering

- **Chand's Technology System** +679.928.4620, +679.944.8844, chandstechnologysystem@yahoo.com, Motor rewinds, DC starter & alternator, transformers, electrical machines, diesel pump services. Located near Vanua Engineering
- **Refrigeration**
 - **Iceman Refrigeration** +679.310.0481, +679.992.4104, +679.992.4682, sales@icemanfiji.com, operations@icemanfiji.com, refrigeration parts and spares. Located: 16°26.031S / 179°21.761E
 - **LRL Lincoln Refrigeration** +679.336.1244, www.lincolnrefrigerationfiji.com, info@lincolnrefrigerationfiji.com, offices in Labasa, Lautoka, and Suva. They do refrigeration, air conditioning, electrical, sheet metal & stainless-steel fabrications
- **Solar Panels**
 - **Oct.2023:** Innertech Electrical PTE +679.992.9233, +679.998.3779, +679.881.7418, innertech@connect.com.fj. (Labasa) They sell a lot of solar equipment like charge controllers, inverters, solar panels, and solar lights. They are right off the main street in central Labassa. They take credit cards and are very reasonably priced. – Travis Holub
- **Welding**
 - **Tech Welds** +679.942.8384 specializes: aluminum & stainless. Located near Vanua Engineering

3.12.5 Transportation

The bus depot is in the center of town (on right).

Bus Card: A bus card is required to ride the bus. Ask the locals or the staff of the pop-up markets where you can buy a bus card. Bring your passport. You can also top up the card at any of the little pop-up shops near the bus depots.

The bus fare to Savusavu is \$9.72 per person, one way (5/25). When you board the bus tell the driver where you are going, then tap your card on the card reader.

Check with the bus drivers or the people in the pop-up markets to find out the schedule. Be there at least 30 minutes before departure time as they will leave early if they are full.

As of 5/25 the bus departed Savusavu 0730, 0815, 1130, 1300, 1430, 1530.

Bus departure from Labasa to Savusavu 1215, 1415, 1615.

There are several buses (red and green) that go to Labasa.

Dalip Chand and Son +679.881.2580, +679.998.2709, +679.998.2698 (red bus)

Vishnu Holdings +679.992.2089 (green bus)

3.12.6 Provisions

There are many small stores around the main town of Labasa, but you will want to visit the two largest: Extra and New World as well as the large fresh market.

Extra +679.204.7557, +679.992.8253, +679.998.5491, cs@extra.com.fj, Hours: Daily 0900-2100, Location: 16° 25.595S / 179°22.775E. Very large supermarket with some American, NZ, and Australia products. Great produce selection, frozen meats, bakery, liquor, staples. (They have stores: Suva, Lautoka, Laucala Beach, Labasa)

New World +679.667.4600, info@newworld.com.fj, 16°25.556S / 179°22.832E. Hours: Mon-Wed: 0900-2030, Thur: 0900-1900, Fri-Sat: 0900-2100, Sun: 0830-1530. Large New World (bigger than Savusavu) with good selection of produce, frozen meats, bakery, liquor and staples.

Labasa Outdoor Market: Location 16°25.731S / 179°22.636E. From town, it will be on the left and spreads across both sides of the bridge. Fresh produce, kava, fresh fish, handicrafts

3.12.7 Restaurants

May 2025: There are several eateries around town, but these are the two that we tried:

Dehli6 +670.247.4383, Location: 16°25.618S / 179°22.780E (Damodor Shopping Mall). Hours: Mon-Sun: 1100-1500 & 1700-2200. Super good food with great flavors and spices. They have a location in Savusavu too.

The Lunchbox PeriPeri +679.773.0050 (located at the Damodor Shopping Mall). A combination of a buffet and sit down. The spicey grilled chicken was surprisingly delicious!

We were a little surprised at how few places we found to eat but we really only stayed on the main road as we walked around Labasa. – sv Sugar Shack

3.12.8 Cruiser Reports

May 2025: We took the bus to Labasa to find a machine shop (Vanua Engineering). While we waited for our part to be repaired, we walked to town (about 1 mile). Some great shopping at Extra and New World but we were already loaded down so we did not buy much.

If you are taking the bus, you can store your bags under the bus (luggage compartment). Inside the bus gets really crowded so it might be hard to store a lot of extra bags.

Most of the info above came from us around May 2025.– sv Sugar Shack

Sept. 2013: Cruising the Labasa River seemed interesting to us.

A French sailor who has been cruising Vanu Levu for five years told us it would be no problem with a boat that has a draught of 2 meters or less. Our boat has a centerboard making it possible to reduce the draught to 1.2 meter, so we thought "why not?" – Fruit de Mer

3.13 Blackjack Bay

3.13.1 Anchorages

2007: 16°14.5S / 179°31.9E. We anchored in a small dimple of a bay on the west side of Vatudamu Point, a long finger of land thrusting north from the coast, dotted by a muffin-shaped islet at the end.

Dubbed Blackjack Bay by Nigel Calder in his cruising guide (named for a boat that was at anchor with him), the anchorage proved to be one of the prettiest on our trip. Due east on a low isthmus was an actual sand beach – courtesy of the low tide – backed by coconut palms. Framing the low strip were rugged lumps of rock with eroded hollows where boulders had fallen out.

Exiting through the great Sea Reef at Sausau Pass to motor sail east to Nukudamu Pass. – Tackless II

3.13.2 Cruiser Reports

Aug. 2022: 16°14.53S / 179°31.99E. We had a great dinghy trip up the mangrove lined river where it turns into a babbling brook between cane fields. – SV Margarita

3.14 Nasonisoni Point

3.14.1 Pass

Sept. 2022: We took a very leisurely sail from Savusavu through the Nasonisoni Pass (a bit lively and swirly as we first entered, but then absolutely fine with the reef clearly visible all around). – Seneto

Sept. 2011: Nasonisoni Pass: It is possible to anchor on the east side of the pass up near the village of Namalata. However, if you leave Savusavu early enough in the day, you can travel through the pass and anchor west of Nasonisoni Island.

A note on Nasonisoni Pass: take caution during ebb tides when tradewinds are blowing hard; we've heard reports of difficult conditions. If you can, travel at slack tide, though we passed through at mid tide during a new moon and had about 1.5 knots of favorable current. – Carina

3.14.2 Anchorages

Sept. 2022: **16°55.3068S / 178°59.4363E** Flat, sandy/muddy bottom in about 45'. Calm water even in moderate trade winds. – Oh Joy II

Sept. 2022: **16°55.307S / 178°59.349W.** Anchored in 9m of mud in the middle of nowhere. It proved to be a good pit stop with excellent holding. The anchorage which we call "Hook Anchorage" (not it's official name), to starboard after coming through the pass. – Seneto

Sept. 2011: **16°55.361S / 178°59.469W.** The water clarity is poor here and coral abounds, so proceed slowly and post a bow watch. – Carina

3.14.3 Cruiser Report

Sept. 2022: We snorkeled over to the nearby reef and saw lots of fish, though the coral was mostly dead. Good Digicel, ok Vodafone.

We wanted to make our way west to the Yasawa's from Savusavu in small hops. So, we plotted a route that went Cousteau Anchorage > Nasonisoni Island > Bua Bay > Yadua Island > Yasawa Island. Cousteau to Nasonisoni was about 25 miles, Nasonisoni to Bua about 35 miles and Bua to Yadua Island about 20 miles. If you're not in a hurry this makes the journey slow and easy with plenty of time to swim and snorkel around each afternoon when you reach the anchorage. – Oh Joy II

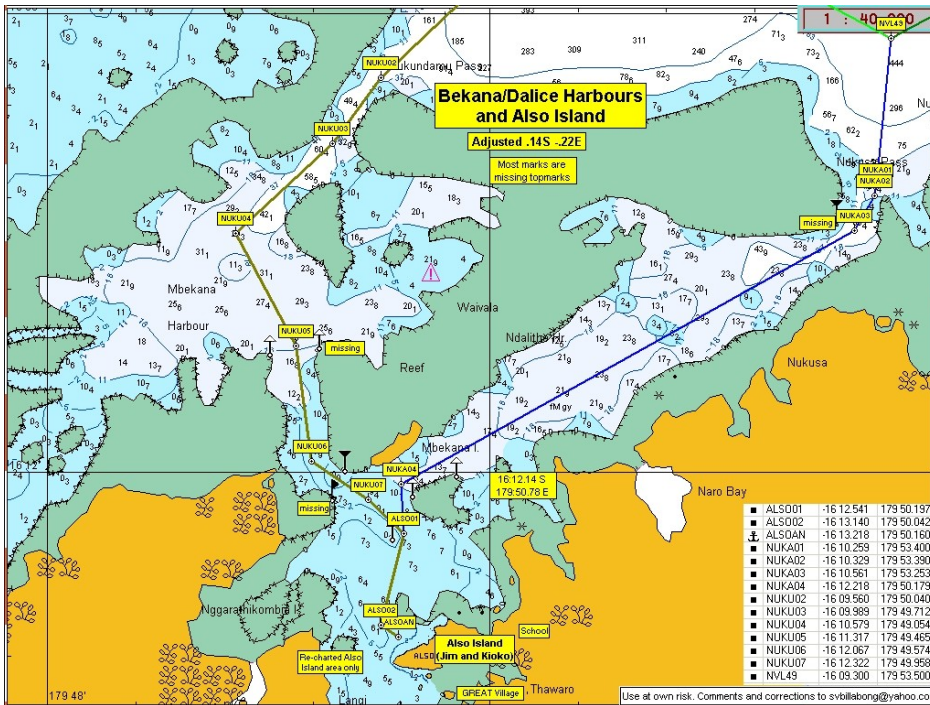
3.15 Lagi Bay (Langi Bay) and Also Island

Also Island: +679 999.2323. Jim's email alsoisland@gmail.com.

Jim Bandy sailed out from California in 1999 and made Also Island in Lagi Bay on the North Eastern corner of Vanua Levu his home. Jim established a number of business enterprises to employ many locals.

Jim loves visitors and enjoys showing you around their little enterprise. Services include:

- Small boat building repairs (have various tools)
- Fuel (regular, premix, super, kerosene, and oils) available in small amounts
- Virgin Coconut Oil available
- Small market for basic provisions
- Propane/Cooking gas refill (gravity fed)
- Backpacker style accommodations for \$50F/night
- Vodafone, Inkk, Eticketing, and Mpsa top up cards (no Digicel)



Chartlet compliments of s/v Billabong

3.15.1 Pass

July 2022: The shallowest we saw was 6 meters provided you keep the reef to port. It is clearly marked. Maybe other cruisers are put off by the very shallow water marked on C-Maps and Navionics once past Nukusa. – SV Bella Vita

March 2013: The chartlet above provides all the waypoints you need to get in there. – Soggy Paws

3.15.2 Anchorages

Sept. 2012: 16°13.2S / 179°50.1E. Anchored in 6-8m of mud. – Soggy Paws

July 2007: 16°13.2S / 179°50.16E behind Also Island in Lagi Bay on the Udu Peninsula. – Tackless II

3.15.3 Cruiser Reports

Aug. 2023: Jim loves cruisers and is always hoping they stop by Also Island. So, don't be shy, make a stop and visit Jim and his beautiful piece of paradise. – sv Sugar Shack

July 2022: Jim is nearing 80 now and not the force of nature he once was, by his own reckoning. But he still filled our gas bottles "island style" with 9kg bottle suspended from the roof of his boat shed. He'd be happy to do it for others too, not that many boats go up there these days. Maybe they're put off by the very shallow water marked on C-Maps and Navionics once past Nukusa. The shallowest we saw was 6 meters provided you keep the reef to port. It is clearly marked.

Passport 42 "Also II" sunk off the island in a cyclone a few years ago, so Jim is a bit stuck. He's off the air as well having given up his SSB frequency and channel "Rag of the Trades." He used to read the weather pretty well every day for 20 years. Jim is a local legend and well worth paying a visit. – SV Bella Vita

March 2013: It is worth a visit to Also Island to meet Jim. It is great to see his Fijian enterprises first hand.

Cyclone Season Storage: Starting in the 2012/2013 cyclone season, Jim started accepting cruisers' boats to be stored for cyclone season. The boats are anchored and tended to right off Jim's facility. But if a cyclone approaches, Jim will take the boat up into a nearby river, and secure the boat in a "hole" in the mangroves.

We've been up this river with Jim, and it's the best cyclone hole in all of Fiji. There's a ~6' bar at high tide to get into the river, but once in, it's nearly 20' for a long way up. – Soggy Paws

3.16 Lasea Island

Eastern most anchorage on the northern coast of Vanua Levu.

3.16.1 Anchorages

Aug. 2022: 16°07.67S / 179°58.32W. Near Vuruna pass. We found CMap accurate but lacking in detail. With good light it is practical to navigate through the coral to a more sheltered anchorage under Udu Point, but we decided it wasn't worth it for 1 night. We climbed to the light for spectacular 360° views. – SV Margarita

3.17 Viani Bay

Viani is a large bay on the island of Vanua Levu's east side. It has a small island, Yanuy Anuwri which divides the bay in an easterly and westerly parts. Cruisers tend to prefer the large bay to the west. It is well protected but south winds can make the anchorage bumpy. Most cruisers come here to dive the Rainbow Reef.

NOTE: The underwater markers near the dive sites - are NOT for dinghies to tie up to. They are to mark where the dive sites are located. The markers are not equipped to hold dinghies during your snorkel/dive. Please do not tie your dinghy to these markers.

One buoy in particular is getting a lot of use and the locals are tired of having to reset it every time it floats and moves due to dinghy use. The "marker" near the Great White Wall is a marker to show the divers where the swim through tunnel entrance is and the start of the dive. Please do not use this marker even though it is indicated on Navionics. Anytime you find a buoy underwater it is considered a marker and not a dinghy float.

3.17.1 Pass

Aug. 2023: We entered Dakuniba Pass at **16°46.124S / 179°5349.6133E**. It was almost high tide, with 20-25kts of wind, 1.5m seas. We entered on a sunny day and had no issues spotting the reefs. We gingerly weaved our way through the reef on our way to Viani Bay. The satellite charts, navionics, and eyes on the bow are critical to navigate this area. The shallowest point was 5m (still high tide), but all of the bommies and reefs were easy to spot. – sv Sugar Shack

Sept. 2022: We entered the bay through the South pass. It was deep and easy using satellite charts. – Starlight

June 2022: Enter the bay from the channel inside the reef leading from Dakuniba to Viani, or from Somosomo Straight. We entered through the South Pass, almost only visible on the chart. Navionics said it's 3.9m but we did not see anything less than 17m. Heading to the anchorage from the pass is straight forward. – Major Tom

3.17.2 Anchorage

Nov 2025: What a diabolical bay for coral bommies!! For what it's worth, I got tangled on one at 16° 45'.073 S 179° 53'.967E, which took a scuba dive to untangle. When re-anchoring, I traversed a section of bay further west using the fish finder to find a flat area in 15m. Set buoys at 25m and 40m to float the chain off the bottom. – sv Zeppo

June 2025: 16°44.792S / 179°53.615E anchored in 17m at mid tide. Took a bit of a drag to stick, but then it stuck good. We put 2 floats on at 45m, 55m, and the bridle at 65m. Despite our floats, we still managed to get stuck on a bommie (as did our neighbor and 3 other boats in the bay).

Several boats got their ground tackle stuck on coral or bommies. Ask Marina at Viani Bay Resort where the best spot to anchor is in the bay.

Dinghy Landing at Dive Academy: We have a long shaft and it can look shallow, but it is very doable – even during low tide. Head toward Dive Academy (blue building and blue sign on shore **16°44.680S / 179°53.588E**), there is one small orange fender floating near shore, head toward the fender for a good beach access point and keep it to starboard.

You can beach your dinghy or anchor it out. – sv Sugar Shack

June 2025: 16°44.898S / 179°53.708E anchored in 20m hard mud, good stick. – Wainani

Sep. 2024: 16°45.110S / 179°54.115E Good sand patch relatively bommie free just west of the isthmus connecting the little (Fisher) island with Kaitoqa Point. Marina at the Dive Academy has said it is her intention to have her divers map the sand patches in Viani Bay and make that info available to cruisers for use in anchoring. – Peregrin

Oct. 2023: 16°45S / 179°54E. We anchored on the right side of the bay near Yanu Yanuwiri Island in 12m. There are a few bommies so we floated our chain. The anchorage is calm and well protected. If there is strong wind from the south it can get a little lumpy. – Ari B

Aug. 2023: 16°45.1052S / 179°54.1488E. Dropped in 6m in a nice sandy bottom and floated our chain. As we pulled back, we floated over the bommies which is why we added floats. We had really good holding and had this spot all to ourselves. Probably because it is pretty darn close to the mangroves. This anchoring spot is behind the small island of Yamuy Anuwir (right hand side of the bay as you enter Viani Bay). Most other boats anchored in 18-35m in the bay. – sv Sugar Shack

Sept. 2022: 16°44.951S / 179°53.856E. Rocky bottom, 18 meters depth. Anchoring is tricky as the bottom is full of corals and they are deep, so you don't see where you drop your anchor and the SAT pictures do not help very much. We saw many boats get stuck when they wanted to leave. The bay is calm and well protected except when you get south winds. When we started to get winds from the south, it became very uncomfortable. – Starlight

Aug. 2022: 16°45.056S / 179°52.588E. Anchored in 27m. Tricky anchorage with very fine sand/silt, many large bommies/rocks and erratically varying depths across the bay. Many boats get their anchors/chains caught here so having scuba gear is a definite bonus. – Seneto

June 2022: 16°45.044S / 179°54.07E. The bay is quite deep and closer to shore where you want to drop the anchor it is about 15-20m. There are a lot of bommies on the bottom so the depth will vary a lot. The most popular spot to anchor is tucked in behind the island of Yamuy Anuwir on the right-hand side when entering the bay. There are supposedly patches of sand here and there, but they are hard to find. You will probably listen to your anchor chain making noise. According to the dive center it is mostly rocks, not coral. Even if there isn't much wind the boat will turn 360 during the day. When the wind direction is south it can get bumpy. During our stay the forecasted wind was 20kts SE, we actually had no wind at all. There are no moorings in Viani Bay anymore.

Dinghy parking on the beach by the Dive Academy. When you approach the beach look for fenders in the water to go from there straight to the beach, then you are clear from bommies. – Major Tom

3.17.3 Yachtsmen Services

3.17.3.1 Trash

July 2025: Dive Academy will accept trash in the yellow bin on the beach in front of Dive Academy, for \$10 per (kitchen size) bag. However, they ask that you separate the following:

- Organic waste: bring to the staff to feed the pigs.
- Glass with lids: please give to staff as they will reuse them.
- Plastic, tin, aluminum: goes inside yellow bin.
- Paper and cardboard items: place outside the yellow bin as they will burn these items.

- Glass without lids: they do NOT accept, dispose of somewhere else.
- Ensure there are no batteries, electronics, or other similar items in the trash. They don't accept.

The staff thanks you in advance for your cooperation in separating your garbage. – sv Sugar Shack

Sept. 2022: Put trash in the yellow bin on the beach in front of Dive Academy. \$10 FJD per bag. – Starlight

June 2022: Leave garbage (not recycling) at The Dive Academy Fiji in yellow can on the beach. – Major Tom

3.17.4 General Services

3.17.4.1 Laundry

July 2025: Dive Academy can assist with laundry when they have enough water. Typically, a standard hotel bag of laundry is \$30F/bag for wash, dry, fold. – sv Sugar Shack

3.17.4.2 Wifi (Internet / Phone)

July 2025: Viani Bay Resort offers free wifi on their Starlink when you purchase something from the restaurant. The code changes daily and is only good for one device.

Digicel was weak, good for text, WhatsApp and occasional email. We relied on Starlink. – sv Sugar Shack

Sept. 2022: Internet is sporadic. If you have 4G booster, it might work pretty well. – Starlight

Sept. 2022: Adequate Digicel and Vodafone, but inconsistent. Not strong enough to download websites but ok for emailing and texting. We used the “wi-fi” at the resort restaurant and that was fine for the complex freediving interactive lessons. – Oh Joy II

June 2022: Decent internet from Viani Bay (using Digicel/Vodafone). – Major Tom

3.17.5 Provisions

July 2025: Viani Bay Resort has a vegetable garden. When they have plenty of water and overstock, they will sell to the cruisers.

You can also rent a long boat (from Viani Bay Resort) for a half day (\$250 for the boat) or full day (\$400 for the boat) for provisioning and sightseeing trips. Max 4 ppl. Max load is 1 ton, less during rough weather which includes the captain and fuel). The half day is max 4 hours on shore and the last pickup for both half and full day is 1500.

Viani Bay Resort is no longer able to offer rides on their provision runs. Nor are they able to shop for you. You have to rent their boat for the half or full day to go to Somosomo.

Fiji Sea Salt is harvested and sold here. They have a lot of tasty flavors (garlic sea salt, presto sea salt, etc..) and they also sell coconut oil in a few varieties. – sv Sugar Shack

Sept. 2022: You can go together with Dive Academy's staff on a long boat to Taveuni for shopping, or you can give them a list and they do shop for you. They charge \$20 FJD per ride/order. – Starlight

June 2022: Across the Somosomo Straights are several villages including Somosomo and Waiyevo in Taveuni. It is about a one-hour trip in the big boat to Somosomo. You can also ask one of the dive operators to take you by panga for about (\$20F/pp + taxi to store). In Somosomo you can get your hair cut for \$5F or a tooth pulled for \$5 (both are optional). – Major Tom

2022 verified (2012): There is a decent MH Grocery in Somosomo. – Soggy Paws

3.17.6 Restaurants

July 2025: Happy Hour at Dive Academy is from 1600-1800 with \$2 off beer and cocktails.

Lunch must be prearranged by 1800 the night before. 2 course meal \$45F

Dinner must be prearranged by 12pm same day. 3 course meal \$75F

Lovo night \$85F.

Children under 12 are 50% off.

Wednesday is pot luck night where everyone is invited to bring a dish to share. \$10/pp which covers the restaurants dishes, clean up, entertainment, and local dishes.

Dinner at Viani Bay Resort is a lovely affair. They make the effort to transform the restaurant into a lovely setting with table cloth, runner, and flowers. Each night offers a different menu. We had steak, mashed potatoes, greens, soup and a delightful desert.

Be sure to try a few of their sea salts with your meal or ask for a tasting. – sv Sugar Shack

Sept. 2022: Dive Academy has a nice place, where you can order lunch (always vegetarian), dinner (fish or meat meals), beer, wine, coffee etc. They sometimes do lovo evenings with live music. – Starlight

June 2022: The Dive Academy runs a resort and restaurant. You can make reservations for dinner if you contact them before 1100 for same day reservations. There is no set menu, but you can choose between (2) main courses. – Major Tom

3.17.7 Viani Bay Resort

Viani Bay Resort +679.725.8184, +679.725.8167, info@diveacamdey.com, www.diveacademyfiji.com, Hours: Daily 0800-1800. Marina and Jone are the owners.

- Restaurant
 - Open daily for lunch and dinner
 - Every Wednesday they offer a potluck with entertainment
 - Happy Hour is from 1600-1800 with \$2F off beer, wine, cocktails
- Vegetable and herb garden
- Laundry
- Trash disposal
- Wifi
- Activities:
 - Dive, freedive, and Snorkel Tours
 - Includes gear, pick up at your boat, rinsing of gear, showers. 4 guests to 1 dive master.
 - \$350 for (2) dives and a light snack and beverage in between dives (July 2025)
 - Manta Tours
 - Coral Farm Tours which allow you to plant new coral
- Accommodations

Super great place to dine and hangout. They offer lots of cruiser activities, BBQ's and more.

3.17.8 Dolphin Bay Retreat

Dolphin Bay Divers Retreat +679.992.4001, info@dolphinbaydiversfiji.com, 16°44.826S / 179°53.143E

Dive and snorkel tours.

Refill private dive tanks for \$30F per tank. Takes about 30-40 minutes.

Accommodations (on occasion)

3.17.9 Activities

NOTE: There are very strong currents that run along the Rainbow Reef. If you are diving without a guide (which is NOT recommended), you must have someone in the dinghy at all times to retrieve you if you get swept up in a current.

The underwater markers near the dive sites - are NOT for dinghies to tie up to. They are to mark where the dive sites are located. The markers are not equipped to hold dinghies during your snorkel/dive. Please do not tie your dinghy to these markers.

One buoy in particular is getting a lot of use and the locals are tired of having to reset it every time it floats and moves due to dinghy use. The “marker” near the Great White Wall is a marker to show the divers where the swim through tunnel entrance is at the start of the dive. Please do not use this marker even though it is indicated on Navionics.

Anytime you find a buoy underwater it is considered a marker and not a dinghy float.

REFILL PRIVATE TANKS: Dolphin Bay Divers will refill tanks for \$30F per tank which usually takes 30-40 minutes. Roland is located next bay over at 016°44.826S / 179°53.143E (as of June 2023)

Dive Academy does not refill private tanks.

July 2025: Dive Academy offers several packages, but in general (1) dive is \$180 and (2) dives are \$350. They accept Visa and Mastercard. They can pick you up from the boat or you can meet ashore. You can use their gear or bring your own.

Dives include dive equipment, pick up/drop off at the boat, rinse of equipment, shower, light snack/drink between dives.

We dove the **Great White Wall** which was absolutely stunning. We went during neap tide which is when the wall is the most vibrant as it feeds and flourishes in its full glory. We went through a large lava tube that was full of soft coral and fish and popped out at the White wall. On our exit we went through another lava tube (also large). There was no current so we took our time enjoying all the little critters along the wall. Max depth was 101' and we were in the water for 42 minutes.

Our 2nd dive with at **Jerrys Jelly** which was one of my favorite dives. I'd say it was as glorious as our dives in Bonaire. There are 4-5 large bommies that you swim around with a rainbow of color of fish and soft coral. We saw a pregnant white tip shark, turtle, mantas, and more. Spectacular dive. Max depth was 18 meters and we were in the water for 56 minutes.

Hikes: You can hike/walk to Naquiqai Bay or to Nasua Bay (The Remote Resort) which takes about 2 hours. I promise - you will get lost, but you will have fun doing it. This is a very muddy trail so wear sturdy shoes. Be sure to make a reservation for lunch if you plan to go to the Remote Resort for lunch.

We added this trail link to our [Wikiloc](#) trail from Naquiqai to Viani Bay which will be a great guide on No Foreign Land.

We also walked south from Viani Bay Resort past Dolphin Bay Retreat. During low tide you can walk the beach and water. However, there is a small, narrow trail that you can also take during high tide. – sv Sugar Shack

Sep 2024: Dive Academy very cruiser friendly; approach directly toward the school sign. – Peregrine

Oct. 2023: We went diving with Ian at Dive Academy. They picked us and our gear up at our boat and we zoomed to the “Zoo” portion of the Rainbow Reef. After a briefing, we rolled off the panga and enjoyed a wonderful dive with loads of large pelagic fish, a couple of gray sharks, many white tip sharks, a turtle, tons of schools of fish and an octopus! Very cool dive.

We also dove the White Wall which happened to be in bloom. Wow, what an amazing dive with so many soft corals and little fish. A truly special and rare occurrence to see what appeared to be snow covered soft coral on the reef. – sv Sugar Shack

Oct. 2023: When we were here in 2021, we met a lovely Fijian family who opened their home and their lifestyle to us. We kept in touch and were so happy to meet up with them again, bringing with us clothing from New Zealand, toys for the kids and some staples – rice, flour, oil etc..

The head of the family is Inoke and they live on their settlement which is about 20 minutes' walk inland from the school. They have over 1200 acres of land which provides them with almost everything they need from fresh vegetables and fruit to mud crabs and freshwater prawns.

In accordance with Fijian customs, we did sevusevu with Inoke and afterwards we had a very traditional Fijian lunch with the family, all of the food provided by their land. During the time we were here we spent many wonderful days together and shared lots of fabulous food and stories. I particularly enjoyed cooking lunch with the ladies and learning about their foraged ingredients and authentic Fijian recipes. The children are just delightful and were thrilled when we took them to our boat to show them around. On our last day here, we went for a fabulous hike with Solo junior, Parama and Nan and enjoyed a farewell lunch with the family. See hiking below.

Fiji day is a day of celebration all over Fiji. This year the school organized a fundraising day for the library. All the people in the area were there and depending on when they attended the school, were told which color t-shirt to wear. There were a blue, green, yellow and red teams, the red team for people who now lived in Viani but didn't attend the school. The days was filled with various sports from soccer, rugby and volleyball to tug of war and stacked half coconut races. The kava was flowing in each team camp and everyone from each team gave a donation to the school. A great day with lots of fun, laughter, dancing and kava.

Hiking: Viani Bay isn't just about diving and there is some great hiking on the 1200 acres of land owned by Inoke and his family. We were accompanied by Solo junior and his parents, Nan and Parama. We hiked from their settlement through some pristine bush to a viewpoint looking right down to Naqaiqai Bay and Kioa Island.

On the way they gave us lots of information on the various plants they use for medicine and food and we were also lucky enough to see an owl. After a rest and time to enjoy the beautiful view, we hiked to another spectacular viewpoint overlooking Viani Bay. Solo junior collected some delicious green coconuts to quench our thirst whilst we soaked up the view. On the way back we spotted lots of birdlife including a hawk but the famous orange dove that frequents this area remained elusive.

Solo junior did catch some fresh water prawns in the stream which we enjoyed for our lunch when we got back to the settlement. The hike was 2 – 3 hours and overall including lunch about 4 hours. The family are planning to cut many more trails through their land so they can offer hikes of various durations and they are also very happy to prepare lunch for you or make a special lovo using ingredients sourced from their land. The palusami is especially delicious (taro leaf parcel in a half coconut shell filled with onion and coconut cream and baked in the lovo).

If you want to have a truly authentic experience with the most wonderful Fijian family, I cannot recommend this enough. Enquire at the house up the hill to the right of the school. – Ari B

Sept. 2022: Freediving lessons from Jone ("Johnny") at Dive Academy Fiji was an outstanding experience. Jone is one of the original PADI instructors in free dive and helped PADI develop the course. His passion for this discipline is evident and he made us feel confident and safe in all our efforts. The class starts with about five hours of online learning. You'll need strong data signal for this. We ended up doing this part at the Dive Academy resort restaurant because we couldn't get consistent signal where we were anchored. After you pass an online test, you're approved for the two days of in-water training. We started each morning on shore around 8:30 and finished around noon. They can provide all the equipment, wetsuits, fins, mask, snorkel, and weight belts. Cost was \$400 FJD per person. – Oh Joy II

Aug. 2022: A huge popular bay with good shelter. Ideal for diving or snorkeling on Rainbow Reef which is fabulous. There are a few settlements dotted around the bay, most boats anchor around the north east corner where there is a small settlement with a primary school and Methodist church. This is also home to Dive

Academy who offer great diving/snorkeling trips on Rainbow Reef and they also run a small restaurant (need to book as they prepare food based on reservations). They regularly have lovos for around \$50/pp.

Walk along the beach and you'll soon get chatting with the locals. Very friendly and generous. We were kindly given armfuls of green coconuts, papaya, banana, aubergine, without expectation of something in return. We of course, did, with basic supplies, pencils, paper, homemade cake for one particularly generous family (Jack and Sophie who love a visit and chat) at the end of the day. – Seneto

June 2022: The Dive Academy Fiji is run by Marina and Jone +679 725 8184. They are very cruiser friendly. They arrange all sorts of excursions, snorkeling with navitis, and of course diving the Rainbow Reef. A two tank five is \$300F (as of June 2022). Tanks are included but gear is not. The Rainbow Reef has several dive sites. The most famous being the Great White Wall.

Dolphin Bay Divers. +679.992.4001. Many cruisers have dove with them. They are around the corner from the Dive Academy Fiji, small bay to the west. www.facebook.com/dolphinbaydiversretreatfiji/

Snorkeling: There are several small coral reefs inside the bay for snorkeling.

South side of Island Yanuy Anuwri: 16°45.5715S / 179°54.1055E, lots of healthy corals.

East side of the bay 16°45.8008S / 179°54.6270E,

Around the small island without trees: 16°46.3530S / 179°53.6727E, lots of clown fish.

Coral Farm: Please be advised that you're not allowed to visit, snorkel or dive at the community based Marine Protected Area (Coral farm) in the bay, on your own. Contact Dive Academy Fiji for a guided tour. \$10F per person and you get a short introduction about corals and the coral farm before the group gets a ride to the farm to snorkel the reef.

Hiking: You can walk the beach in both directions, as long as you stick to the beach or the path, you are not trespassing. Preferably during low tide. Behind the school is a path that takes you to the top with pine trees. It is a nice view of the bay. You can also follow a muddy path through the forest, but there was not much to see and we ended up in someone's garden.

Bat Watching: At sunset the fruit bats on the island of Yanuy Anuwri are flying around to eat. During daytime they are hanging in the old trees sleeping. We took the dinghy to the west side of the island looking and listen to them waking up. Around 5 pm they start flying. – Major Tom

June 2013: Rainbow Reef Dive/Snorkel: Set your departure time for your dive/snorkel with an eye on getting to the reef at slack tide. Ask your tour guide, or check the tide tables to ensure you are not caught up in a strong current. If you go with a guide, be sure to talk your process and timing through before heading to the reef. Some of the locals make assumptions and are too nice to question or challenge you – so be sure everyone is on the same page. – Namani

July 2012: Diving: We had already arranged a day of diving (by email and phone) with Taveuni Ocean Sports. Our friend Linda from Sea Flyer dove with Julie for a couple of dives on the reefs off Taveuni and just raved about Julie. There are several other operators, but I highly recommend Taveuni Ocean Sports.

Taveuni Ocean Sports: +679.867.7513, dive@nakiافی.com. Julie Kelly Owner. <http://taveunioceansports.com/>

The dives we did were great, especially the famed 'White Wall' dive. But even the 'lesser' spots were full of fish, and lots of live soft and hard corals.

A few other dive operations: www.taveunidive.com/ and [Dolphin Bay Divers](#).

There are also hikes ashore, and the bay is great for exploring by kayak. – Soggy Paws

(Verified 2025) June 2012 - Diving: Today we went scuba diving with a dive company from Taveuni. Rainbow Reef has 1500 kinds of fish here and 400 kinds of coral. Hawaii has 400 kinds of fish and 15 kinds of coral. Very Nice dives. We saw a Blue-ribbon eel; they only live in Fiji and are rare even here. Lots to take pictures of

and the dive master goes slow enough to take your time taking pics. But with the strong current you have to hold on to a rock to keep from going too fast.

We did Rainbows End and the Mini White Wall, the Great White Wall. Nice boat. 4 people to a dive master.

The **Great White Wall** can be done every day, but it is best during neap tides (every 2 weeks) when it is in full bloom and feeding. It is fantastic! You go in at the top of a big lava tube and come out the bottom of the reef at the Great White Wall. More soft corals than you can imagine, and fish that are nowhere else. She will show you the little things and go slow enough for you to take all the pics you want. That dive goes to 90 ft. We were in the water 62 minutes. After the bottom of the Lava tube, you slowly go up.

Jack's Place was a shallow reef dive Max 60 mostly 25 ft. Julie will show you an 80-year-old giant clam. The reef is teeming with life. We spent 80 minutes underwater, and still had air.

This is all from Viani Bay. The dive co. will come pick you up from your boat for no extra \$\$ and even gave us a few lbs. of organic Tomatoes. We have now done 2 days with them About \$200 Fiji each If you use a credit card cheaper if you do cash. – Sea Flyer

Verified 2023 (July 2007) - Diving: The Purple Wall is one of the most beautiful dives I have ever done. The wall exploded with a profusion of soft corals, which for some reason are all in purple hues! They were dark purple, lavender or white with purple trim! It was a spectacular display. Plus, there were loads of fish, and lots of crinoids, relatives of feather starfish that filter feed at night but curl up in the day. Most eye-catching were the little orange basslets that mass around the corals providing quite the color contrast, and at one spot I saw a pair brilliant yellow goatfish against the purple. Talk about Nature's palette! We also saw two huge Napoleon wrasse, thousands of butterfly fish. At the end of the dive was a swim-thru cavern, clad in every color soft and cup coral you can imagine, along with beautiful sea fans, wire corals, and gorgonians. Since this cave both ends the Purple Wall dive and begins the famous **White Wall** dive, you have seen it photographed in dozens of dive magazines.

The next day, we dove the **Cabbage Patch**. We crept up and over the edge of the wall and again enjoyed the profusion of soft corals, these of mixed colors, purples and yellows with lots of colorful fish. The soft coral wall was over too quickly thanks to the current, so the second half of the dive was up on the ledge. We saw many large fish around the bommies: groupers, snappers! We also had several sharks, including a 10' lemon shark resting on the bottom. – Tackless II

3.17.10 Cruiser Reports

2012: Taxi Service to/from Savusavu or Labasa. We used a guy named Bhupen at phone number +679.997.8553 to help us shuttle guests in and out. We have been hanging out in Viani Bay, and we have had Bhupen meet us in Buca Bay several times to take our guests to the airport, and pick up the next set of incoming guests from the airport and bring them to Buca Bay. He has been really reliable and also helped with some provisioning logistics as part of his taxi service. – Rayfiki

3.18 Naquaiquai (Naquiqai Bay) Creek

3.18.1 Anchorage

June 2025: 16°43.322S / 179°53.394E in 3.9m of mud one-hour after low tide. There were 3 other boats in this anchorage so we nosed up pretty close to the forward bay. Forecasts showed 35k+ winds so we hid here for a few days. Not sure if the storm went around us or if we were so protected we never saw it, but either way we were protected. A truly beautiful bay that is exquisitely quiet at night.

We had 35+kt of predicted SE winds and we never saw or felt it in here. The stick was good in thick mud. Solid wash down of the chain and anchor required, but worth the good holding.

One boat went forward of us into the 3m area, one boat behind us was anchored in 5m and another boat behind them was anchored in 10m.

Dinghy Landing: 016°43.091S / 179°53.602E you can either leave your dinghy tied to the dock (at mid to high tide) or you can beach it next to the dock. Be careful as the rocks can be sharp on your feet and we saw glass in the mud and shore during low tide. – sv Sugar Shack

Sep. 2024: 16°43.259S / 179°53.429E Great place to ride out winds. Anchor right in front of Willie and Morena's hut - good holding in 20 ft. The bottom turns to sloppy mud further up the creek. Do sevusevu with Willie. Bring instant coffee and suki for Eddie (Willie's brother). There is a service path to Remote Resort over the ridge. Start at the dive shop. Remote Resort very cruiser friendly, sharing their Starlink without a password. No cell coverage in the bay. – Peregrine

3.18.2 General Services

3.18.2.1 Laundry

June 2025: The Remote Resort (over the hill) will do laundry (wash, dry, fold) for \$35F. The bag size is based on a typical hotel laundry bag so it is small.

To get to The Remote Resort leave your dinghy at 016°43.091S / 179°53.602E and follow the short path (15-20 minutes) over the hill. Very clear, easy walkable path. – sv Sugar Shack

3.18.3 Restaurants

June 2025: The Remote Resort (www.theremoterest.com) offers very delicious food, beautiful atmosphere, and lovely staff! The food was tasty and reasonably priced. Lunches \$25F, dinners \$35F, desert \$15F, beer \$9F. They offer 3 entrees per meal service which changes daily. You have to pre-order your food.

Call ahead, +679.830.7909, email request@theremoterest.com, or stop by the restaurant to make a reservation and select your meal.

To get to The Remote Resort leave your dinghy at 016°43.091S / 179°53.602E and follow the short path (15-20 minutes) over the hill. Very clear, easy walkable path. – sv Sugar Shack

3.18.4 Activities

June 2025: There is a path from Naquiqai bay to Viani Bay. You can leave your dinghy at Willie's place and ask him to point to the start of the path. This is about a 2-hour walk, one way through mud, across rivers, over hills, through the bush, and lots of vegetation. Highly advised to go at mid to low tide so you can walk along the river's edge and mangroves. We got lost several times as the trail disappears and you have to guess which way to go. A GPS or phone with a map would have been very useful. Or you can ask Willie if someone can be your guide.

The easier way to Viani Bay is to take a kayak, SUP, or short shaft dinghy up the river. You do this at mid-high tide. You go pretty far into the bush until you come to a landing area. There will be a few kayaks and a self-made catamaran (made of 2 metal little boats). The path is on the right. It will take 20-30 minutes from here to Viani Bay. But don't linger as you still need to get back out of the river. Good luck. Wear big spray, bring water, and shoes that won't come off in the mud. Lots of mud!

Snorkeling: We took the dinghy out to the reef (about 1nm from the anchorage). The reef is very healthy and gorgeous with lots of soft corals and fish. Go on a relatively calm day and low tide. – sv Sugar Shack

3.18.5 Cruiser Reports

June 2025: Sevusevu at 016°43.304S / 179°53.503E. This is Willy's place and his brother Eddie. Typically, you do sevusevu with both, but Willy is the elder. Super nice family and very welcoming. Best to visit during mid to high tide though.

His family has owned the property for decades which used to be a very large copra plantation. He is very grateful for boats who stop in to say "hello" and do sevusevu. Several boats this year did not do sevusevu with him and he was rather upset about it. – sv Sugar Shack

3.19 Buca Bay

3.19.1 Pass

June 2007: As we sailed further and further along, past Kioa Island and approaching Buca Bay (pronounce Bu-tha), we must have been off by nearly a mile!

To add to our discomfort, the pass east between Kioa and the mainland refused to reveal itself. It looked like we were sailing into a closed bay, and our guidebook let us down with no detailed drawings or pix of it as to where would be best to anchor! Fortunately, we spied by binocs a sole sailboat with a triple spreader rig and red sail covers anchored dead ahead. – Tackless II

3.19.2 Anchorages

2011: 16°40.47S / 179°49.69E. Dropped in 40' of water. From Fawn Harbor, we moved around the southeast corner of Vanua Levu, through the Somosomo Strait to a protected anchorage at Buca (Boo-tha) Bay just off the village of Loa. Our timing during the short trip had been excellent with an ebb tide giving us a push through the Straits and sun to read the waters enroute. Our luck held as the rain started just as we finished anchoring and tidying up Cups for the night. – Nine of Cups

2007: 16°40.443S / 179°51.363E. The afternoon wind being nor'east we settled nor 'east right back with the shore off our stern. – Tackless II

3.19.3 Yachtsmen Services

2011: Gas station, limited hours, sells diesel, gasoline and kerosene. – Nine of Cups

3.19.4 Cruiser Reports

2012: Taxi Service to/from Savusavu or Labasa. We have been using a guy named Bhupen at phone number +679.997.8553 to help us shuttle guests in and out. We have been hanging out in Viani Bay, and we have had Bhupen meet us in Buca Bay several times to take our guests to the airport, and pick up the next set of incoming guests from the airport and bring them to Buca Bay. He has been really reliable and also helped with some provisioning logistics as part of his taxi service. – Rafiki

2011: Loa village is home to about 60 people. It's small, but extremely friendly and we met several people in our short stay. Three buses per day run along the unpaved coast road for the 2-1/2 trip to Savusavu.

The next town of **Natuvu** was a Seventh Day Adventist village. There was a small mini-mart in Natuvu. We replenished our peanut supply, but there was little else available...but you could buy phone cards for your cell phone. – Nine of Cups

3.20 Dakuniba (Dakunimba) & Nasasobu (Nasasombu) Bay

3.20.1 Pass

July 2012: Maxsea shows this place as 'Dakuniba' but Google Earth has it labeled Nasasobu. They are a pair of bays about 6 miles east of Fawn Harbor. Mid channel waypoint is 16°46.168S / 179°49.534E. The pass is easy, but you need a good lookout on the bow as there are occasional bommies once inside the pass.

These are the waypoints we (Soggy Paws) used, and they worked for us, but we also had a good lookout on the bow. Use the waypoints to find the entry, but your eyes and common sense on going through the pass.

DAKUN1	S16°46.5997' E179°49.3001'
DAKUN2	S16°46.1688' E179°49.5346'
DAKUN3	S16°46.0512' E179°49.6722'
DAKUN4	S16°45.8628' E179°49.7657'
DAKUN5	S16°45.8441' E179°50.2099'

Note that this pass is where the sailboat Touche was lost in May 2012, exiting, following their inbound track, in 25 kt winds. We have never heard exactly what happened, but based on our snorkel reconnaissance, if a large SW swell is running, the pass may be breaking in areas that weren't breaking on calmer days. – Soggy Paws

3.20.2 Anchorages

July 2012: 16°54.07S / 179°51.05E. Anchored in 40-45' mud/sand, great holding and great protection. This would be a good place to be in a blow.

Anchored in 60' at **16°45.29 S / 179°51.10E** right off a house.

And then at **16°46.473S / 179°50.216**. Anchored 15' good sand with 360° swinging room. This is our Reef Anchor position. Room for at least 3 boats. – Soggy Paws

3.20.3 Activities

July 2012: We chose to go to Dakuniba because it is linked by an inside-the-reef route into Viani Bay (takes eyeball navigation, but no open ocean). We got going at 6am from off Cousteau Resort near Savusavu, on a light easterly day, and motor sailed and made Dakuniba at about 2:30pm.

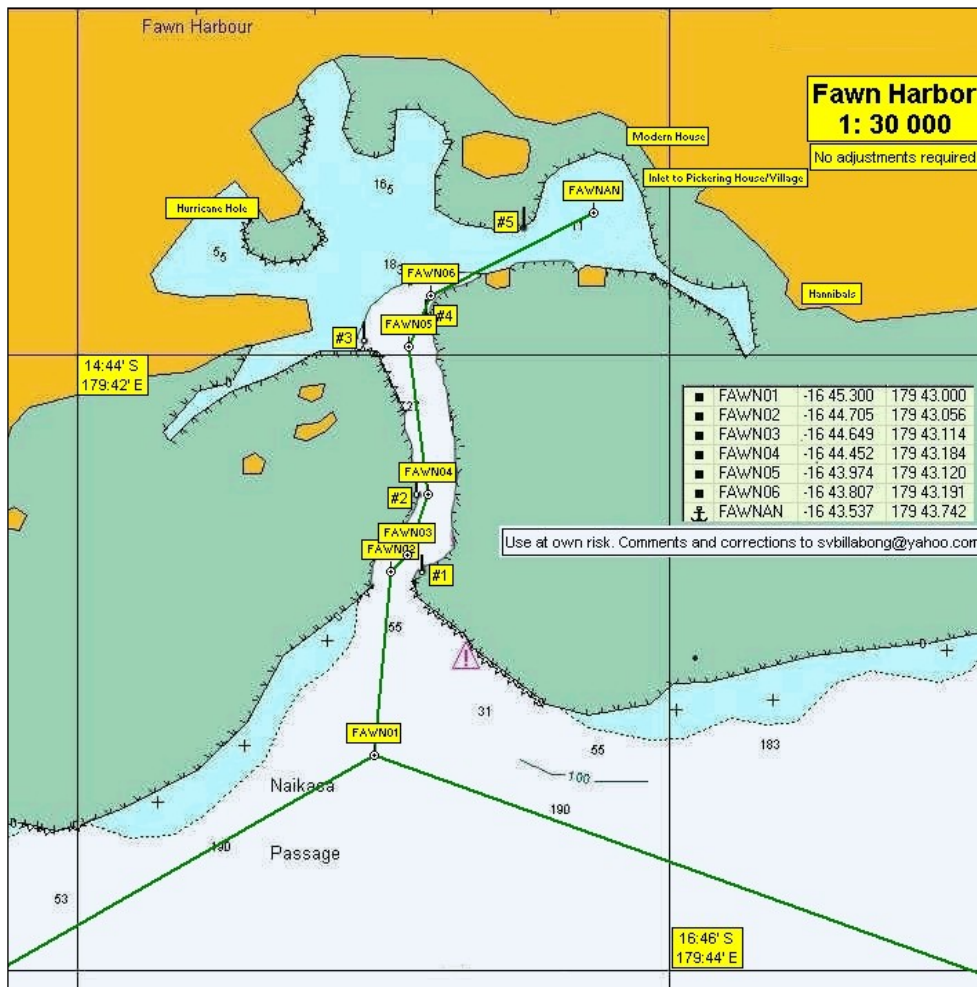
We ended up with 6 boats in the bay and there was still plenty of room. The bay is completely mangrove-lined and offers interesting exploration by dinghy / kayak, as well as some hiking ashore.

The 'chief' who 'owns' the area and the waters is in Dakuniba (approx. 16°44.75S / 179°50.79E), around in the next bay. We dinghied around and did our sevusevu with the Chief.

Check the tides before you go. High tide is best, and plan accordingly. With a 4-6' tidal range, it can be quite a challenge getting back to water at low tide, after you've left your dinghy under the trees at high tide.

The winds here do not seem to blow with the prevailing weather (which right now is supposed to be 12 knots ESE). In the late afternoons we've had light westerly winds, and overnight light NEly winds. In higher winds and seas this might be a challenging anchorage. – Soggy Paws

3.21 Fawn Harbor



Chartlet compliments of s/v Billabong

3.21.1 Pass

Aug. 2010: When viewed from almost due south upon approach, the reef entrance was not evident - its first aid to navigation is a log marking, though not quite, the limit to the reef on starboard. Breakers along the length of the reef were "dead" ahead as Carina surfed wind waves and swell that continued to roll in. Relatively confident in our twice-checked GPS waypoints which were obtained from at least two sources, we continued on and shot through the pass with Philip on the bow confirming the location of the reef and bommies. Once inside, we could see only reefs stretching east and west for miles, and we continued deep into the bay to anchor off the Pickering Plantation. Except for the south, "reefy" side of the bay, mangroves line the shoreline with coastal mountains rising behind. – Carina

3.21.2 Anchorages

Sep 2024: 16°43.731'S / 179°42.546'E Very nice secluded anchorage in the southwest arm. Mud bottom, good holding, good wind protection. If a strong east wind is blowing, large swells develop at the entrance, making getting out difficult. Best to wait out the winds. – Peregrine

July 2023: 16°43.5973S / 179°43.8116E. Lovely calm flat water. Ok snorkel. Worth a stop. – Knot Tide Down

July 2011: 16°43.48S / 179°43.64E. Dropped in 35' of water. Coastal navigation and eyeballs ruled the day. The chart plotter was definitely off. The "beacons" shown are really no more than large stakes sticking up out

of the water, hard to spot, but definitely good markers once they're in view. Note the village of Bagasau is written on the map as "Mbangasau", as it is pronounced. – Nine of Cups

Aug.: 2010: 16°43.53'S / 179°43.74'E. A dog-leg entrance brings you into an inner bay; anchor in eastern lobe of bay. We waited nearly two weeks behind the protection of the massive reef to windward at Fawn Harbor and here we would experience winds gusting to over 30 knots, sometimes for days and days without a break. Thankfully the holding was good and we worried little about dragging into the coral behind us. – Carina

3.21.3 Cruiser Reports

July 2012: We had a good cell phone signal on our Vodafone sim card last time we were there, but could get no internet access. Seemed like the signal was there, but no connection. It may have been a temporary equipment problem. – Accapella

Aug.: 2010: Do Sevusevu with Chief Maya in Bagasau, but also go ashore and meet the friendly Pickerings. They'll direct you to the hot springs.

Accessible from the bay at Fawn Harbor are two villages, Bagasau (BANG-ga-SOW) and Fawn Harbor.

To get to the chief's home from the anchorage required a dinghy ride through a narrow shallow channel through overhanging mangroves, passable only at mid tide or higher.

The village of Fawn Harbor is accessed through another slough cut into the fringing mangroves, dry at many tides. Even at the best of tides (mid tide or higher) a dinghy is grounded well away from land and access to shore is by walking through the muck. Local skiffs tie to the mangroves or anchor the length of the channel and someone is always tending boats and moving them to keep them afloat and out of trouble.

The hot spring was a joy. Set in the jungle aside a mountain stream, the glorious, just-right-hot, sweet-water flows into the first rocky pool from a bamboo spigot stuck into the hillside. From this pool, water cascades into two additional pools before joining a cool, clear stream. We scrubbed our bodies and our laundry and returned, refreshed, to the bay.

All the while at Fawn Harbor, tremendous waves continued to hit the fringing reef and the sound was like the booming of distant artillery. – Carina

3.22 Naidi Bay

3.22.1 Anchorage

July 2025: 17°47.918S / 178°22.145E in 3.5m of mud at low tide. Good holding. We had a bit of a side swell in here, but we were hiding from gusty NW winds. – sv Sugar Shack

3.22.2 General Services

3.22.2.1 Communications

July 2025: We had Digicel coverage at this anchorage. It was slow to load web pages, but it sent emails, and allowed for texts and WhatsApp. – sv Sugar Shack

3.22.3 Reports

July 2025: There are beautiful blow holes along the coast as you approach Naidi Bay. This is a really pretty bay that looks like you can walk around on the black sandy beach during low tide.

Namale Resort is a private resort and closed to yachties. We were not welcome. However, a few of the guests came out in kayaks to talk to us which was lovely. – sv Sugar Shack

4 Central Waters & the Koro Sea

4.1 Koro Island

The Koro Sea is named after this volcanic island that once boasted of American pilots landing during WW2. This is the 6th largest island in Fiji.

4.1.1 Nola Point

4.1.1.1 Pass

July 2025: We passed by the long reef starting at 17°13.508'S / 179°22.031'E. The shallowest depth we saw was 26m during mid-tide. There are a few bommies between here and our anchorage, but they were visible by eyesight. – sv Sugar Shack

4.1.1.2 Anchorage

July 2025: 17°15.500'S / 179°21.480'E in 15m during mid-tide in mud. We put out 60m and had a solid holding. We ended up putting 2 floats on at 35m and 45m as we heard the anchor rubbing on some coral. There was a 1.5-2m SW swell and 16-18kts SW winds outside but inside this anchorage it was lovely. – sv Sugar Shack

4.1.1.3 General Services

4.1.1.3.1 Communications

July 2025: Digicel worked well here. – sv Sugar Shack

4.1.1.3.2 Sevusevu

July 2025: Nabuna village at 17°14.982'S / 179°23.036'E is where the chief lives and where you need to do sevusevu for Nola Point or at Vatumatau Bay anchorages. He is super friendly and eager to meet cruisers.

We anchored at Nola Point and just took the dinghy to the village. There is a tall white pole near shore. Take the dinghy toward this pole as there is a cut out in the reef making the approach easier. – sv Sugar Shack

4.1.2 Dere Bay

4.1.2.1 Anchorages

July 2025: The Koro Island Resort has (4) moorings for rent. They were serviced in June 2025. Check in with the resort prior to taking a mooring if your boat is over 16 tons. The anchorage is deep 20-25 meters (60-70').

Dinghy Landing: The Koro Resort has a very long, kind of sketch dock (17°16.352S / 179°21.741E) that they are making longer to extend out to deeper water. During low tide it is difficult to use right now. The resort recommends yachties use the private dock (17°16.330S / 179°21.491E). – sv Sugar Shack

Sept. 2023: 17°16.436S / 179°21.628E. Dropped the hook in 16m. We tried to go closer to shore but it was dusk and what we could see appeared to be large scattered bommies. So, we went back to the deeper water and anchored. The satellite charts DO NOT show the bommies.

We entered the anchorage in early evening around 1730, mid-tide, so we were a bit cautious as we could not see what we were anchoring in which is never a good thing. But the anchor stuck well. There is a mooring ball in the bay but it no longer has a painter.

Friends anchored at 17°16.416S / 179°21.617E, in 20m and found it comfortable.

We were told this anchorage is poor holding over coral in Vatumatau Bay: 17°14S / 179°22E and 17°15S / 179°21E in 10-15m. –sv Sugar Shack

4.1.2.2 General Services

4.1.2.2.1 Wifi (Internet and Phone)

Aug. 2022: Cellphone coverage was great. – Major Tom

4.1.2.3 Cruiser Reports

There are weekly flights to Koro and ferry connections each week between both Suva and Savusavu.

July 2025: Koro Island Resort is very cruiser friendly and is super keen to have visitors as they build the resort. The restaurant and bar are open for breakfast, lunch and dinner. Prior bookings are required.

They can assist you with tours and diving excursions as well. – sv Sugar Shack

Aug. 2022: We stopped by in Dere Bay on our way south from Savusavu and stayed one night. The Dere Bay seems quite deserted and the resort was empty of guests.

There are still some old moorings in unknown condition. During low tide it seems difficult to go ashore, so we did not go. It was very gusty in the bay and during high tide a bit rolly. – Major Tom

4.2 Makogai (Makongai)

From 1911 to 1960 the village in Dalice Bay used to be a leper colony. There are still some ruins and an old cemetery. Today the area is a site of Department of Fisheries clam program. After cyclone Winston, the island and its dive sites suffered tremendous damage. A rather long walk away is the main village. In the bay lives a caretaker of the fisheries some workers and settlers from the main village, in total 6 families. The bay is a Marine Protected Area, so no fishing is allowed.

Humpback whales are commonly found at Makogai during whale season.

4.2.1 Passes

July 2025: We came in through the north pass (around **17°25.417S / 178°58.420E**) zoom in on your charts, have a lookout, and stay prudent as there are lots of bommies to dodge. The pass itself is pretty deep (50m) but our path to the Dalice anchorage saw depths between 15-22m. During good sunlight it is straight forward to navigate in this area. – sv Sugar Shack

Oct. 2022: We entered the NW pass at a course of 160T. – Amaryllis II

Aug. 2022: There are two passes through the reef. The north pass seemed difficult when we passed it due to the wind and waves from the east. We entered via the west pass following the chart in navionics without any problems. The pass is approximately 10 meters deep at the shallowest part. – Major Tom

4.2.2 Anchorages

July 2025: **17°26.506S / 178°57.187E** in 13m of mud during high tide (8.7m low tide). It took a big to stick, but then it stuck well. We put three floats on (30m, 40m, 50m and the bridle at 60m) as we heard the chain hitting coral. There were two other monohulls with us and we all had plenty of space.

Dinghy Dock: **17°26.601S / 178°57.218E**. The easiest way to get to shore is to pass by the broken-down dock (do not use). Hug the rocks as there is a cleared path in the reef where you can leave your dinghy near shore or on the beach. – sv Sugar Shack

Sep 2024: **17°26.457S / 178°57.167E**, deep anchorage, 56'. The 'Northern Pass' markers in Navionics are more or less accurate; 'Northern Pass 1' appeared to be right on top of the reef. A sharp eye is recommended to watch for the reefs on either side. Otherwise, no problems. - Peregrine

Oct. 2022: 17°26.361S / 178°57.182E which is west of a big 4m chimney bommie (17°26.360S / 178°57.216E) in the middle of the anchorage. We tried to anchor east of the bommie but the anchor chain went right over the bommie so we moved to the above spot. The bommie does not show up on satellite views. – Amaryllis II

Aug. 2022: Dalice Bay: 17°26.322S / 178°57.232E dropped the anchor in 20 meters, good holding. The bay is well protected, except from westerly winds. If there are strong tradewinds it can be a bit gusty at times. There is also some swell but not really roly. The bay is deep. – Major Tom

4.2.3 General Services

4.2.3.1 Communications

July 2025: There was no Digicel or Vodafone in this bay. – sv Sugar Shack

4.2.4 Activities

July 2025: Makogai is the “first” of many things. They are the first island to have a hospital, post office, telephone center, and movie theater!

The Pacific’s internationally known old Leper Hospital was located in Dalice Bay and there are other interesting things to see:

- Hospital steps (1911-1969)
 - Left of the “dock.” All that is left are the stairs and the bathrooms to the right of the stairs. We got conflicting information on whether these were stairs to the hospital or to the women’s dormitory.
- Dorms
 - Left of the dock, along the path, on the left-hand side. All that is left is the foundation.
- Old Theater
 - Left of the “dock” along the path and on the right side (before cemetery)
- Jail / Prison
 - Across the road from the theater. However, the jail is completely covered with vines and plants and is hard to see from the road. If your back is to the theater, look toward the beach. You will see a single palm tree which is right next to the jail. We bush whacked our way there
- Leper cemetery
 - Left from dock at the end of the road. Over 1200 patients buried here.
 - Fijian Sister, Maria Filomena lived on the island for 30 years as a worker and a patient. Her grave along with hundreds of others are at the Makogai cemetery.
- Old Post Office & Telephone Center
 - We found (2) telephone poles in the forest (between the beach and the road and between the theater and the cemetery).
 - We did not find the original post office or telephone center buildings and our “guide” did not know where they were
- Coconut soap factory
 - Our guide did not know anything about the factory
 - A massive engine house, island store, and even a bakery.
- Giant Clams harvest on shore
 - They are in the process of demolishing the existing clam beds with plans to rebuild.
 - There is 1 large clam in the shallows near the village.
- Juvenile clams in the shallow waters near the dumped hospital beds
 - Winston took the old hospital beds, but the juvenile clams are still in the shallows.

Sevusevu: We did sevusevu with the staff and they were happy to show us around. – sv Sugar Shack

Aug. 2022: Walk the beach especially at low tide in both directions. Take a hike up the hill to look at the view, but really not much of a view, lots of trees and bushes in the way. From the hill it is supposedly some cellphone coverage. Snorkeling, if you do the sevusevu, you will get information on where you can see the giant clams in the bay. – Major Tom

4.2.5 Cruiser Reports

July 2025: The locals were so very lovely and welcoming. We bought 1 stock of bananas and received 1 stock for free.

We didn't walk to the other village (where the school is located). It is a solid 2.5-3 hours one way.

We did wander all around the forest near the village and cemetery trying to find the jail.

Snorkel: 17°26.417S / 178°57.224E marked with 2 yellow floats is a beautiful pinnacle full of colorful fish and loads of soft coral. It was the largest clown fish school we have ever found! – sv Sugar Shack

Sept. 2024: Sevusevu with the staff from the clam farm. – Peregrine

Oct. 2022: The village has 40 inhabitants and is on the east side, a 4.5km walk on a footpath from Dalice Bay. There was a spokesman of the chief, Inoki, living and working for the government at Dalice Bay. We did sevusevu with him. He gave a guided tour of the giant clam breeding, and around the ruins of the leper colony. His family lives in the village, and he regularly walks home.

Winston did substantial damage in 2016. There are some 100-year-old houses from the leper colony still standing, and a new Category 5 government buildings. – Amaryllis II

Sept. 2022: There are only a couple of guys at Delice, the settlement by the leper colony. The families have moved back to the main village as the current price of fuel makes it too expensive to deliver the children to school each day. Sevusevu can be done in Delice during the week – but the villagers at the main village would be delighted if you go there for sevusevu at the weekend.

The walk to the village follows the track up the hill and the path contour hugs around the hill following the coast. It is shown accurately on the app maps.me. The walk takes about an hour (4.5km). The path is easy to follow – though you have to scramble through fallen trees a few times.

At some point along the path, you get a smattering of internet. WhatsApp text worked on Digicel.

The village has a population of 40 – the neat school has 20 pupils and 4 teachers including a welcoming headmaster. An elderly gentleman called Bill can recall the days of the island as a leper colony and has a very interesting book with pictures of how it was at that time. There is no shop. – Tintamarre

Aug. 2022: Sevusevu: Yes, go ashore and you will be met by someone. We had sevusevu with “Joe” who is working at the Fishery. After the sevusevu we got a guided tour of the remnants of the leper colony, cemetery and clam project. It was all very interesting. We also signed the guestbook. All in all, it took less than an hour. (No sevusevu on Sunday, wait until Monday morning). If taking the tour in to the cemetery, some mosquito repellent can be nice to use.

Cell Phone Coverage: No cellphone coverage at all in the bay. It is said that there is some kind of cellphone coverage if you walk 10 minutes up the hill. – Major Tom

4.3 Wakaya

This is a private island. The Wakaya Resort and Spa must grant you permission prior arrival. Email Monika Pal (GM) at GMwakayaislandResort.com or call her at +679.998.5770 for permission.

This entire lagoon surrounding Wakaya is a marine preserve and all boats must receive permission to anchor, prior to anchoring.

Once you receive permission and are at the pass, call the Island Manager at +679.998.5762. He will instruct you where you are allowed to anchor.

4.3.1 Pass

July 2025: There are (2) passes on the charts. We decided to take the northern most pass called **Daventanik Aidraiba Pass located 17°34.346S / 178°59.262E**. It was a direct shot into the pass. We entered with 16-20kts SE wind, 1.5-2m seas at low tide. The shallowest depth we saw was 23m.

As soon as you pass the reef on the starboard, hang a 90 degree turn to starboard to avoid the 10m bommie located in the center of the pass. – sv Sugar Shack

4.3.2 Anchorage

Homestead Bay

July 2025: **17°35.590S / 178°59.496E** in 13m during low tide. It skipped a bit before catching. The Island Manager told us there was no coral here so we did not float the chain.

We called the Island Manager as we approached the outside of the pass. They instructed us to come through the pass and look for their long boat. Once we approached the anchorage we spotted the blue long boat. The instructed us where to anchor and were super friendly. – sv Sugar Shack

4.3.3 Wakaya Resort and Spa

July 2025: Wakaya Resort and Spa <https://wakayaislandresort.com>, +679.344.8128, +679.998.5770 for General Manager, Monika Pal.

To make a lunch or dinner reservation, contact Guest Services either by phone or WhatsApp +679.896.0685 at least 3 hours prior to meal service (preferably 12 hours).

Subject to availability and with prior permission, the resort will offer the following to cruisers:

- Reservations at the restaurant
- 9-hole golf course
- Spa services
- Pool
- Diving and snorkeling tours (manta feeding station and sharks)
- Hike to Chieftain's Leap
- Activities: tennis, basketball, croquet, activity center
- Tour staff village, school, church
- Tour of the organic farm (will sell produce and fruit)

Monika, the GM, and the entire staff are incredibly friendly and welcoming. They will welcome you to the resort if they are not at full occupancy and if the guests are agreeable.

Monika requires a daily text, prior to coming to shore, to discuss what is available for cruisers. – sv Sugar Shack

4.3.4 General Services

4.3.4.1 Communications

July 2025: Vodafone seemed to work well here for the locals. Digicel only worked sporadically in this anchorage. – sv Sugar Shack

4.3.5 Restaurant

July 2025: We had the pleasure of eating dinner here one night which was absolutely superb. It was a set 2-course menu. Entrees for us were either ceviche or ravioli, dinner was either venison or fresh fish (Spanish mackerel for us), fresh bread, and desert. Absolutely divine food and drinks. (our bill for 2 people + 2 cocktails, 1-soda, 3-beers was \$166 USD) Worth every penny! – sv Sugar Shack

4.3.6 Cruiser Reports

July 2025: We were very blessed to be able to spend a few days onshore at the Wakaya Island Resort and Spa. They only had 2 people staying with them during our visit. We were able to play a round of golf, enjoy the pool, do the Chieftain's Leap tour, and do a tour of the staff village.

The school was amazing with 23 kids ranging in grades kindergarten to 8th grade. They sang several songs and did a few dances for us. It was heart-warming and beautiful.

The anchorage was exceedingly uncomfortable and rolly. We had wanted to stay for a week, but could not stand the roll. We are grateful for the hospitality and the amazing time we had at the resort. – sv Sugar Shack

4.4 Naigani (Naingai)

Just north of Ovalau lies the little island of Naigani. There are a few bays you can anchor, but avoid anchoring in Sova Bay, as it is sacred fishing ground for the village.

4.4.1 Anchorages

Sept. 2022: 17°34.264S / 178°40.598E. Navionics has a bad report here, but we found it to be a lovely spot, sand anchorage, sheltered when there are strong winds outside. – Dandelion

July 2022: 17°34.306S / 178°40.647E anchored in sand bottom 12m deep. We came to Naigani straight from Cousteau resort anchorage. It was blowing hard outside, but once we tucked behind the reef, we had calm, flat anchorage, all to ourselves. – Starlight

4.4.2 Cruiser Report

Sept. 2022: The people of the village told us the women of the village fish in Sova Bay on trevally fish and pregnant women and their husbands are not allowed at the bay at all. The village does not want to disturb the fish and ask cruisers to anchor in Cagabuli Bay or in front of the village. The village is very welcoming to cruisers and we had a good time there. – Eastern Stream

July 2022: The scenery is beautiful with tall hills, cliffs, and a beach. You can snorkel just in front of the beach; we found corals in decent shape there. Unless there are corals in front of the beach, we found this not a problem to beach our dinghy even with the inflatable bottom.

There is no wifi connection in the bay. However, you may have 2G as you exit the bay.

We walked through the beach and did not find any possible way to the other side of the island, but when we left, we saw that from one beach down south, there might be an option to walk further as the coast there was much flatter. – Starlight

4.5 Ovalau

4.5.1 Levuka (Port of Entry)

Levuka is the old capital of Fiji. The Deed of Cession was signed here when Fiji became part of the British colony in the 1870's. The architecture is very different from the rest of Fiji and you feel like you are in an old Western movie.

4.5.1.1 Passes

Jan. 2013: East Pass: 17°43.52S / 178°50.89E. The conditions were perfect so we went inside the reef at the very north end of the reef east of Ovalau. This enabled us to travel south inside the reef, in calm water.

South Pass: It's fairly straightforward using satellite charts, and we had no trouble going out in our 1.5m monohull. In a strong SE wind, you'd be bashing straight into the wind and waves on exit. – Soggy Paws

4.5.1.2 Anchorages

July 2025: Dinghy Landings: There are a few places to leave the dinghy: **17°41.070S / 178°50.186E** near the dock which is next to the customs office and police boat. There might be a fee here to dock the dinghy.

The other place to leave the dinghy is **17°40.725S / 178°50.074E** which is close to a fuel station and the hospital. This can get shallow during low tide. – sv Sugar Shack

Sept. 2024: 17°40.929S / 178°50.158E in 30', mud in front of stone church. Generator noise 24/7. – Peregrine

Sept. 2022: 17°41.45S 178°50.36E. in about 14m near the south of the town to avoid the smell and noise. We had easterlies and were very protected by the reef, more than you would expect.

Dinghy landing was past the tuna cannery pier at the customs building. There is a long concrete pier for the small pangas who are coming from the surrounding islands for provisioning that you can use as well. Use a stern anchor. The place is guarded during the day.

We stayed only 3 nights, and were nicely asked by the port captain to re-anchor to the main anchorage which was in front of the town if we were to stay longer. We did not ask why because they were fine with us there for a short stay. – Scooter.

Jan 2013: 17°37.47S / 178°48.82E (Possible anchorage, about 4 miles north of Levuka). The Levuka anchorage is somewhat exposed to the prevailing southeasterlies, and we were looking for an anchorage 'nearby' that would be better. We found several possibles--but since we had nearly no wind, it was hard to evaluate exactly how good (or bad) the anchorage would be if the winds were blowing 20 knots out of the SE.

17°40.97S / 178°50.15E The big pier for fishing boats and ferries, if you anchor close in, gives you a wee bit of protection from the chop and swell from the SE. We eventually ended up at Levuka. Curly had told us to anchor close in, in 7 meters, a shade south of the "leading line". We looked around a bit and decided that this WAS the best anchor spot.

While VERY convenient to town, and a spot at which you can check in to Fiji, this anchorage has two MAJOR drawbacks (besides it is slightly exposed in strong southeasterlies). First, the town generator is right at the base of the pier--right next to you. It is a very VERY noisy beast and runs 24x7. It was Sunday afternoon, and we didn't notice the second one until Monday morning--when the Tuna processing plant cranked up. Whew!! We were right downwind of the tuna factory. – Soggy Paws

4.5.1.3 Formalities

Follow the standard pre-arrival process if you are clearing in at Levuka. However, be sure to add the Immigration Agent in Levuka to your pre-arrival communications.

Customs +679.324.3000 and WhatsApp +679.860.8058, VHF 16, Mohammed Rehan at: mrehan@frcs.org.fj. Located: 17°40.636S / 178°50.024E. Hours: Mon-Fri: 0800-1300, 1400-1600.

When you arrive the port, hail the officials on VHF 16. You will have to pick the officials up and bring them to your boat.

Process: Visit Customs first. He will contact the health officer who will visit the boat first. Then you will have to retrieve Customs and Biosecurity officers. You have to manage the process on your own but the officials are very friendly.

Affairs Board iTaukei: +679.773.0909, tab@govnet.gov.fj, www.itaukeiaffairs.gov.fj This is where you go to pick up your cruising permit.

Visa Extension: Fiji requires a certified copy of the passport bio page along with the Tourist Visa application. We spoke to Customs and they instructed us to visit the Justice of the Peace, Anne Morgan. She is located at 17°41.089S / 178°50.097E. Take the walkway just to the right of MH market, and she is the first house on the left. Her hours: Mon-Fri: 0900-1100, 1400-1600.

We brought photo copies of our bio page and Fiji entry stamp page. She certified both of them at no cost. Super friendly woman. – sv Sugar Shack

4.5.1.4 Yachtsmen Services

4.5.1.4.1 Fuel

July 2025: Pacific Fuel Station located at 17°40.707S / 178°50.064E. Cash only. – sv Sugar Shack

4.5.1.4.2 Propane / Butane

July 2025: The Cannery (Pacific Fishing Company) has the equipment to refill tanks. Several markets also sold propane bottles that you could decant. – sv Sugar Shack

4.5.1.5 General Services

4.5.1.5.1 Bank / ATM

July 2025: ANZ has an ATM located at 17°41.083S / 178°50.132E. The max withdrawal is \$900F and the fee was \$15F. There is a Westpac ATM across the road. – sv Sugar Shack

4.5.1.5.2 Communications

July 2025: You can purchase both Digicel and Vodafone SIM cards and top up at several small stores on Beach Street. Most have signs advertising which service they offer.

Vodafone and Digicel both worked well in Levuka. – sv Sugar Shack

4.5.1.5.3 Hospital

July 2025: The Levuka Hospital +679.344.0088, located at 17°40.636S / 178°50.024E. Hours: Mon-Thurs: 0800-1630, Fri: 0800-1600.

This is where you can pay your health certificate.

Basic emergency services, general outpatient department, specialist outpatient department, pharmacy services, general health services. – sv Sugar Shack

4.5.1.5.4 Post Office

The Post Office and Customs are located in the same building. Location: 17°41.072S / 178°50.167E. Hours: Mon-Fri: 0800-1630, Sat: 0800-1200.

4.5.1.5.5 Shipping

July 2025: Gundar Shipping +679.330.1035, goundarshipping@kidanet.com.fj, located at 17°41.083S / 178°50.116E.

This is also where you can purchase a ferry ticket to Suva for approximately \$50 return. – sv Sugar Shack

4.5.1.6 Provisions

July 2025: There are few grocery stores / markets:

MH Supermarket (Morris Hedstrom Supermarket) +679.998.2846, located at 17°41.084S / 178°50.106E. Hours: Daily 0800-1700. Sells meats, dairy, some fruit and vegetables, fish, staples.

Orange Shop across from MH Supermarket has a variety of goods, limited produce

Anna's Shop sells kava between \$30F-\$50F. Located at 17°40.981S / 178°50.073E

Ivan's Shop sells baked goods (bread, rolls), kava, and staples. Located at 17°40.017S / 178°50.082E

Lee Yam Bakery located at 17°41.075S / 178°50.106E is the only bakery in town.

Pacific Fishing Company sells cans of fish by the box. +679.344.0055. Hours: Mon-Fri: 0600-1700.

Fresh Market open daily but limited offerings.

The offerings are random and limited in Levuka. We were in dire need of kava root and did not find any at all. We did manage to get some beer, Sprite zero, some produce, and snacks. But overall, not a good place to provision. – sv Sugar Shack

Sept. 2024: Not much for provisions in Levuka; some fresh veggies available along street. – Peregrine

4.5.1.7 Restaurants

July 2025: **Horizon Restaurant** located at the southern end of town (17°41.107S / 178°50.136E). They serve seafood, local Fijian cuisine, and pizzas for lunch and dinner. Next to the restaurant is the NW Horizon Club where you can enjoy a cold beer in the air-con.

Na'ovake Uptown Café +679.942.9548 +679.954.7004, sreijeli@gmail.com, located at 17°41.027S / 178°50.082E. Hours: Mon-Sat: 0800-1900. Serving local cuisine and fish specials.

Four of us had 4 different meals and they were less than average tasting. The grilled chicken was extremely tough and dry and the Thai dishes were very bland.

Kumar's Kozy Kafe +679.952.1663, located at 17°40.986S / 178°50.074E. Local cuisine along with international favorites. Cash only. – sv Sugar Shack

Sept. 2024: We found one good restaurant - the Uptown Cafe above Westpac. There is the 'Levuka Club' located behind the gas station at the north end of the harbor. There is a place to tie up dinghies there. It has beer and a disco ball and opens at five pm. – Peregrine

4.5.1.8 Activities

July 2025: There are lots of historic buildings to see in Levuka! See No Foreign Land for details and locations.

- Old German Cemetery & David Whippy Memorial
- Sacred Heart Catholic Church, old Gothic Revival church built in 1850
- Masonic Lodge built in 1913 (Roman architecture). Burned in 2000. Peace Garden opened in 2024.
- Ovalau Club: Fiji's first private members club and the oldest social organization
- Royal Hotel opened in 1852 and still open and operating today
- Fiji War Memorial honors Fiji's soldiers who fought and died in Europe during WWII
- European War Memorial
- Deed of Cession where Fiji became a British colony on 10.10.1874

- 199 Steps to Mission Hill passing some of Levuka's oldest buildings.
- Beach Street full of old store fronts and buildings
- Bishop's Tomb at Cawaci. It is the final resting place of Fiji's First Catholic Bishop and his successor.

We hired a car to drive us from Rukuruku Bay to Levuka (45-minute drive \$100F return). We spent 4 hours seeing the sights, shopping, and having lunch. – sv Sugar Shack

Jan 2013: We had some time to kill one afternoon. We had read about a nice walk up into the hills, so we decided to investigate it a little bit. Then we found there was a river was there, and Dave got hot on the trail of a waterfall. So, we ended up hiking WAY up into the hill to the beginning of the town water supply, there was a tiny waterfall. Fortunately, it was mostly paved (became a narrow one-person track at the end). – Soggy Paws

4.5.1.9 Cruiser Report

July 2025: We were so happy we did not anchor in Levuka. We felt that 4 hours was plenty of time to see all of the historic marks, have lunch, and shop. The only thing we wished we could have done was have a drink or lunch at the Royal Hotel or the Ovalau Club but both were closed during our visit. – sv Sugar Shacks

Sept. 2022: There is a big Tuna cannery employing thousands of people and working in two shifts. Expect a fish smell in the lee of the factory. Right in the town center is a very noisy diesel power generator supplying the island with electricity. Besides that, there are some good supermarkets, street market for fruits and veggies, hairdresser, gas station, and some restaurants. Even a night club. They also have a ferry in the morning and evening to go to the main island, so you could have crew change here instead of Suva. – Scooter

4.5.2 Wainaloka Bay

4.5.2.1 Anchorage

July 2025: 17°44.148S / 178°45.991E. Anchored in 5m of mud just after high tide. Winds were blowing 20kts and calmed down once we dropped the hook.

We ended up moving across the lagoon to Moturiki Island when the winds shifted S-SW as we were a little too close to the reef for our comfort. – sv Sugar Shack

July 2022: 17°44.230S / 178°46.104E. Anchored in mud, 7 meters depth. We came here from Naigani using satellite pictures. It's a very deep and protected bay, surrounded by mangroves. – Starlight

Jan 2013: 17°44.09S / 178°45.99E (the best spot). On our way from Levuka to Suva, we were keen to check out a place that Curly had showed us, labeled "**Hurricane Hole**". It was a snug anchorage, but isn't quite protected enough to be a Hurricane Hole. (but it was way better than remaining off Levuka in a blow).

Even though it was getting late in the day, we decided not to anchor there, but press on south to an anchorage off one of the two islands on the south end of Ovalau that supposedly had a "Backpacker Resort" on the island. There are reefs all over in this area, and we'd certainly ignored AGAIN Curly's advice to only travel between 10am and 2pm so you can see the reefs. GoogleEarth Charts are our friend. It also helps a lot that the regular electronic charts (CM93 C-Map charts dated 2010, and our Garmin charts dated 2008) are reasonable detailed and reasonably accurate in most places. – Soggy Paws

4.5.2.2 General Services

4.5.2.2.1 Communications

July 2025: Both Digicel and Vodafone worked sporadically. Text messages, WhatsApp good, but email and web pages very sporadic. – sv Sugar Shack

4.5.2.3 Provisions

July 2022: There is a bakery right where you leave the dinghy and they bake bread and buns. – Starlight

4.5.2.4 Cruiser Reports

July 2022: There are two ways to get on shore. The left tunnel through the mangroves is where the resort with a dock is located, then you walk to the village. We took the tunnel more to the right and went straight to Wainaloka village. The mangrove tunnel is beautiful to explore itself. Village people met us and helped us to get onshore (it's a muddy, slippery place).

The villagers were super friendly, opened a few coconuts for us and did a little kava ceremony. We brought kava to the village chief, and after that walked in the village.

The locals said there are trucks and pickups going to Levuka every morning before 0800. You pay \$2.50F per person in the truck or \$30F for the entire truck (not per person). In the afternoon you should be able to catch the transport back. Should be about 45-minute ride each way. – Starlight

4.5.3 RukuRuku Bay

4.5.3.1 Pass

July 2025: North West Pass. **17°35.387S / 178°46.154E** Not sure of the name, but it looks like Navionics calls it Tomuna. We entered 2 hours before low tide and the shallowest depth we saw was 26m. It was fairly easy to navigate, even during our rainy, cloudy day. Be sure to zoom in on Navionics and satellite charts. As there are a few shallow bommies (6-7m). – sv Sugar Shack

4.5.3.2 Anchorage

July 2025: **17°38.395S / 178°45.228E** in 6m of mud with pretty good holding during low-mid-tide. We put 33m with no floats. – sv Sugar Shack

4.5.3.3 General Services

4.5.3.3.1 Communications

July 2025: Vodafone worked well here. Digicel barely worked in the anchorage or village. – sv Sugar Shack

4.5.3.4 Cruiser Reports

July 2025: The villagers are simply lovely and so very welcoming! They organized a group of kids to take us on the walk to the lookout and waterfall. They also hired the school truck to take us to Levuka.

Hike & Waterfall: There is a great 3-mile walk starting from the village, to the main road, turn left, then follow the road up to pretty views of the anchorage. Along the way, have one of the kids show you where the little waterfall is and be prepared to be entertained with their frolicking in the water. Then continue on the road until the road splits. Take the left toward Stay Bay. The road will split again, stay straight. This will take you to the beach where you can wrap up your walk back to the village.

Levuka: We wanted to go to Levuka but did not want to anchor the big boat in that anchorage. We found out that you can hire the school truck for \$50F each way (which can take up to 8 passengers). The truck takes the secondary school students from Rukuruku Bay to Levuka at 0600 and returns at 0730. He can then take you to Levuka for the day and return you at the village 1500 or earlier. It worked our great as we split the cost the total \$100F with another boat. The trip takes about 40-45 minutes.

Have them stop at the Bishop's Tomb in Cawaci and then drop you at the old German Cemetery. You can walk the single road through town to capture all the historic locations (see Levuka).

The Methodist Church service starts at 10:30am and ran for 2+ hours. – sv Sugar Shack

4.6 Moturiki Island

4.6.1 Anchorage

July 2025: 17°44.506S / 179°44.286E in 12m of mud at low tide. We felt like our anchor chain was hitting coral so we did not stay here long (16 hours).

We moved here when the winds turned to S-SW pushing our stern a little too close to the reef at Wainaloka Bay. – sv Sugar Shack

4.6.2 General Services

4.6.2.1 Communications

July 2025: Vodafone worked in this anchorage. Text messages and WhatsApp good, but emails and web pages kind of sporadic. – sv Sugar Shack

4.7 Caqalai Island

4.7.1 Anchorage:

Jan. 2013: 17°44.15S / 178°43.80E is a tiny island. On our chart, there is no island there--just a reef. But this island is owned by the Methodist Church in Ovalau, and has rustic accommodations for about 20 people. Caqalai is pronounced Thang-a-lie in Fijian. We went ashore and talked with the people there. There was only one guest and she was leaving tomorrow. – Soggy Paws

4.7.2 Cruiser Report

Jan. 2013: This resort is owned by Kiwis and is an extremely well-manicured family resort. The buildings were nicely constructed, and everything was in its place. The Fijian staff was impressively friendly.

Full blog post: <https://svsoggypaws.blogspot.com/2013/01/gunkholing-around-ovalau.html> – Soggy Paws

4.8 Gau (Ngau) Island

Gao is the 5th largest island in Fiji and offers world class dive sites. There is airstrip at the southern tip of the island (not always used).

Sevusevu is required at the main village of Sawieke, and should only be approached at high tide.

Manta Rays can often be spotted near Waikama in the Bay of Angels (near the Nuku resort) and in Arrow Bay.

4.8.1 Pass

July 2025: We entered the pass around 17°58.544S / 179°13.490E which was wide. The shallowest spot we saw was 14m during mid-tide. The reefs were easy for us to see around 1400. – sv Sugar Shack

Aug. 2022: Wakaciva pass (north) is deep and there are no problems to enter. – Bliss of Stockholm

4.8.2 Arrow Bay

Navionics can be confusing here as “Herald Bay” is listed at the island peak – not in either bay. But if you zoom in and click on the “+” it clearly says “Arrow Bay.”

4.8.2.1 Anchorage

July 2025: 17°59.642S / 179°14.458E in 8m during mid-tide. Anchored in the center of the U-shaped reef. There are 4-6 small floats off our stern-be careful. – sv Sugar Shack

Sept. 2024: 17°59.642S / 179°14.466E in 25' in sand and coral. Easy in, out. Village inaccessible by dinghy at anything but high tide. – Peregrine

July 2023: We tried to anchor in Herald Bay. There were buoys and coral bommies all over which made it very difficult to find a good spot. In the end we gave up and left. – Knot Tide Down

Aug. 2022: When approaching Heralds Bay, you will see buoys that are in your way. These buoys mark a pearl farm. They are not connected to each other horizontally. Pass with caution and anchor closer to shore in 10m. There are some sandy spots and the anchorage has good holding. – Bliss of Stockholm

4.8.2.2 General Services

4.8.2.2.1 Communications

July 2025: Digicel had very weak coverage. Vodafone did not work at all here. – sv Sugar Shack

Sep. 2024: Spotty cell coverage along jetty. (Cell tower is at the north end of the island; most of the village is in the shadow of the mountains.) – Peregrine

4.8.2.3 Cruiser Report

July 2025: There are mantas in this anchorage and the coral and fish along the reef are beautiful. Sevusevu is done in the Sawaieke village during high tide. – sv Sugar Shack

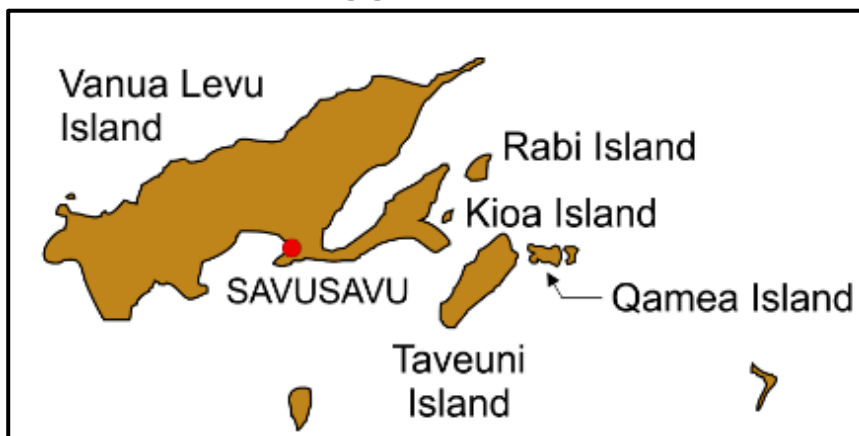
Aug. 2022: The village of Sawaieke will accept your sevusevu but only go there at high tide. The bay is almost dry at low tide. The village is very nice and the people are friendly and welcoming. We saw some mantas on our way to the village and we had mantas every day at the anchorage. – Bliss of Stockholm

4.8.3 Vakanicuku Bay

4.8.3.1 Anchorage

July 2024: 18°01.808S / 179°14.483E Anchored in 16-20m. Beautiful well protected anchorage. – Kolika

5 Taveuni & Ringgold Isles



5.1 Taveuni

5.1.1 Currents in the Somosomo Straits

The Somosomo Strait is between Vanua Levu and Taveuni. The tides tend to go NE on the ebb (falling tide) and SW on the flood (rising tide). About 2-3kts. If the wind is blowing strong out of East, there can be quite a wind-against-current chop on the ebb.

To get out of most of the wind and chop, go close in to Taveuni (inside the reefs between the towns of Waiyevo Somosomo, with someone watching on the bow).

5.1.2 Paradise Taveuni Resort and Vuna Point

Paradise Taveuni Resort, +679.778.0123, cel: +679.999.0125, WhatsApp +679.931.0313. Allan and Terri Gortan are the owners. www.paradiseinfiji.com, info@paradiseinfiji.com, allan@paradiseinfiji.com.

- 10 Free moorings available (first come).
 - They do ask that you spend money at the resort (bar, restaurant, tours, etc...)
- Cruisers are allowed to use resort facilities including
 - Fresh water pool
 - Showers
 - Laundry
 - Fuel
 - Taxi and tours (land, dive, and snorkel)
 - Bar and restaurant (nightly happy hour).
 - PADI Dive center (20% discount for cruisers)
 - Provision run into town
 - Vegetable garden
 - Bakery
 - Day Spa open 1000-1800 daily
 - Wifi (free) via Starlink
 - 16 aircon accommodations

You will be asked to complete a single sheet with your credit card information prior to use of facilities, bar, and restaurant.

Credit Card Fees: You can pay cash for your meals and purchases, but they ask to have a card on file. A 4% administration fee will be charged to all Visa and Mastercard transactions. 5% for American Express.

Be sure to check your final bill before closing it.

Shipping Address:

Boat Name – Yacht in Transit – Rotation #
C/O Paradise Taveuni
South Taveuni Road
(PO Box 69)
Waiyevo
Taveuni
Fiji
+679 7780125

5.1.2.1 Anchorage

Paradise Taveuni Resort offers (10) free moorings (with the expectation that you will spend money at their resort). Although, a few of them are pretty close to shore and would require a shallow draft.

There is room for 3-5 boats to anchor to the right of the resort (toward the school) but you will drop amongst lots of bommies and should float your chain.

During a northerly wind the resort will ask all boats to leave the anchorage due to unsafe conditions.

Dinghy Landing: Dinghies are allowed to dock to the left side of the dive boat dock. It is a small area due to most of the area being shallow water. The area gets crowded especially when their second dive boat is docked there.

Use a long painter to make room for other dinghies and DO NOT lift your outboard. There is one short swim ladder to use to get on and off the concrete dock.

Be sure to stay out of the way of the local boats, dive boats, and guests that swim in this area.

During low tide, you can use cement area (by the gazebo) with a stern anchor, but guests use this area to swim. Just be courteous of the guests as they are priority.

May 2025: Always lovely coming to Paradise resort. We were hailed on VHF 16 to follow the blue kayak to a mooring. When we got there, a lovely woman warmly greeted us, took our bridle, and tied us to our mooring. Not all of the floats were attached to their moorings. So, it may appear that they only have 5 or 7 moorings, but as more boats arrive, they send divers out to add the floats to other moorings making more available for use. You can always contact them to see if there are available moorings. – sv Sugar Shack

Aug. 2022: Dinghy Landing: As you face the resort, on the right is a ladder up to a gazebo; you can tie there but be aware that the timber at the top is unstable. To the left is the main landing, dive boats tie up on the right and along the front of the rock/concrete dock. You can tie to the left with a stern anchor but guests swim and enter for shore dives here. We were asked to take the kayak that is always there and tie the dinghy to the big buoy just 50M off, using the kayak to get back. – Capall Mara

Aug. 2022: 16°56.098S / 179°53.947E there are 7 moorings provided by the Paradise Resort. They are free, but they ask that you visit the resort and spend your money there. We had a super nice guy named Philip come out and meet us with his kayak. He helped us moor and welcomed us to “Paradise.” The anchorage was a little rolly even in calm conditions.

On a return visit one of the boats hit the reef because their mooring shackle broke. They gathered the mooring line and anchored out. Within 30 minutes the resort had a dive team checking all other moorings and making repairs. – sv Sugar Shack

Aug. 2022: Mooring balls available free of charge (there is expectation that you will pop ashore for a drink/meal which is only natural). If the wind picks up, you may be asked to leave the mooring ball and anchor nearby. We did this one evening and would recommend that you anchor near the balls as the bottom is very rocky further out, took us a couple of attempts to hold. – Seneto

5.1.2.2 Yachtsmen Services

5.1.2.2.1 Fuel (diesel and gasoline)

May 2025: Diesel was charged at \$4.50/liter. Bring jerry cans to Mike (or ask for manager). – sv Sugar Shack

Oct. 2023: Paradise Taveuni Resort offers diesel and unleaded fuel (containers not provided and only when available). Price is provided upon request. – sv Sugar Shack

5.1.2.2.2 Trash and Recycling

May 2025: Trash that is separated (glass, tin, paper, other) can be disposed of at \$10 per bag. They also offer composting. – sv Sugar Shack

5.1.2.2.3 Water

July 2025: Paradise Resort sells water. Inquire about pricing. – sv Sugar Shack

5.1.2.3 General Services

5.1.2.3.1 Bank & ATM

May 2025: There are no banks or ATMs near Paradise Resort. You can charge “cash” to your credit card. They were happy to do any amount from \$100-\$1500. 4% Administration Fee is added per transaction for Visa/MC. A 5% Administration Fee is added per transaction for American Express. – sv Sugar Shack

5.1.2.3.2 Communications

May 2025: We found that our Digicel connection sporadically, on shore, at the resort and on the boat. We reverted back to Starlink while we were moored here.

They provide 15 minutes per person, per day for free.

Paradise Island Resort offers wifi packages. Inquire at the desk. As of 5/2025 1 day \$15, 3 days \$25, 5 days \$35, 7 days \$45. Vouchers provided at the desk. – sv Sugar Shack

5.1.2.3.3 Copy & Printing

May 2025: Paradise Resort offers photocopying at \$2 per page and printing at \$2 per page. – sv Sugar Shack

5.1.2.3.4 Laundry

May 2025: One small to medium load of laundry costs \$40 for wash, dry and fold.

Be warned, a cruiser brought one load of linens for wash only and was quoted \$40.00 and signed a receipt with this price. When she picked up her laundry, they charged her \$58 because she had “linens.” – sv Sugar Shack

Oct. 2023: Paradise Taveuni Resort offers laundry service at \$30 - \$75 per bag (depending on the size of the bag). – sv Sugar Shack

5.1.2.4 Nanny and Babysitting Services

May 2025: Paradise Resort offers nanny service (0800-1630) for \$100. Babysitting \$15.00/hr. – sv Sugar Shack

5.1.2.5 Provisions

May 2025: Sweta’s South Taveuni Shopping Center +679.932.4812, +679.202.5449. Hours: Mon-Sat: 0800-1900, Sat: 0800-1200. Located: 16°92.086S / 179°91.783E. The store is 1.6miles from Paradise Resort (exit resort, walk to the left and it will be on the right-hand side) about 30-minute walk. She sells canned goods, staples, eggs, potatoes, onions, some frozen meats, snacks, wine, and some liquor. If the gate is closed, just yell “Bula” and she will come out from the back.

Paradise Resort can arrange for a taxi into town to take you shopping. A 2-hour trip will cost around \$300.00

Bakery: +679.999.0125, Hours: Daily 0600-1700. Located near the street entrance to the Paradise resort. Be sure to book your order the day before as they sell out of baked goods fast. You can go in and place your order or you can text Flo on WhatsApp +679 292.5670. They also sell snacks, cakes, bread, and convenience items.

Vegetable Garden: Paradise has a vegetable garden. Ask about availability. Whatever they don’t have they will offer to go to Somosomo to pick up for you. Vegetables include: lettuce, cabbage, eggplant, local fruit, basil, coriander, mint, lemongrass and ginger. Pre-order your vegetables with the staff the day before you wish to pick them up.

Bacon: Ask at Paradise reception on availability, but they often sell bacon. (2) kilos cost \$35F.

Butcher: Taveuni Meats +679.779.4225, wainiyakaultd@connect.com.fj, Hours: Mon-Fri: 0800-1200 & 1300-1600. From Paradise, turn right and walk along the West Coast main road. Located: 16°94.133/ 179°89.374E. – sv Sugar Shack

Sept. 2022: Suncity Super Market Bottle Shop & Gas. +679.888.0462. Hours: Mon-Sat: 0800-2000 & Sun: 0800-1930. Location: Need a car. Near the Matei airport just off the main road and situated near an American/Aussi/Kiwi home development. Good supply of fresh produce (including berries), pasta, pesto, olives, etc. – sv Sugar Shack

Sept. 2022: A general store can be found 30-minute walk from the resort (approx.16°55S / 179°55E). Just next to the Green Lodge which is on GoogleMaps – Carpe Diem

5.1.2.6 Restaurants

There are (2) menus: non-resort guests and a standard guest resort menu. To get the resort menu you must order around lunch and make a reservation for that evening. You can go inside and order or text Flo on WhatsApp Flo on WhatsApp +679 292.5670.

Every Thursday is “Fiji Night” where they do a lovo and have special entertainment. Reservations are required. The restaurant and bar both serve food and its rather tasty. Cocktails, beer, and snacks also served.

May 2025: We ate at the restaurant several times. We were surprised at how much the prices have increased since the last time we were here (1.5 years ago). Ask for the special meal and drink of the day as they tend to be less expensive. – sv Sugar Shack

Oct. 2023: Paradise offers Fiji Night with a traditional Fiji Lovo feast including meats, fish, and local vegetables prepared Fijian style in an earth oven, followed by a night of cultural entertainment with Meke (dance) performances and Kava ceremony. – sv Sugar Shack

5.1.2.7 Transportation

May 2025: A taxi to town is about \$120F per vehicle (1-4 passengers). A local taxi to the National parks and waterfalls is about \$300F per vehicle (Max 4 passengers).

Paradise Resort can arrange a provision run into town. A 2-hour trip will cost around \$300.00.

Excursions at Taveuni: +679.994.4753, +679.943.0646. Airport Transfers and Island Tours. – sv Sugar Shack

5.1.2.8 Activities

The resort has a lovely trinket shop, clothing shop, spa, tours, and PADI dive services. They also have a daily activity board listed by the restaurant. Cruisers get 20% off on dive services when they use their own equipment.

May 2025: Paradise Resort offers many activities. Check out the daily activity board:

- Diving: Many options for diving the Rainbow Reef including dive certifications and more.
- Snorkeling tours: Rainbow Reef, Lagoon
- Island Tours
- Fishing Explorations
- Sunset Cruises
- Spa: Paradise Resort offers the Paradise Oceanfront Spa with a variety of massages, body wraps, scrubs and polish. Including facials, manicures, pedicures, hair braiding

Activities can be booked through Mike or Flo and are charged to your overall bill.

Bouma National Park (Tavaro Waterfalls) and Laverna Coastal Walk and Waterfalls and Somosomo Natural Waterslide and Dateline: These are all amazing things to do but will cost you a small fortune to do them from the anchorage at Paradise Resort. It is much closer, easier, and less expensive to do these activities from

Matei Bay (Naselesele Point) with a rental car. It is a 20–25-minute drive to Somosomo from there and a 30-35-minute drive to Bouma National Park. – sv Sugar Shack

Aug 2024: At Paradise Taveuni Resort we were set up with an independent tour guide named Jeet. He is not only a tour guide but will set up provisioning trips as well. He has a very new model truck that is impeccably clean, in excellent condition and comfortable (and air conditioned). Jeet pointed out the best shops to get what we needed. He is very personable and will tailor tours or provision trips to the needs of the riders. We highly recommend him.

His contact information is: Jeet: 939-7624 and 792-4012 jitenchand86@gmail.com – SV Cream Puff

May 2025: The resort recommends the following “things not to be missed” Bouma Waterfalls, Snorkel/Dive Rainbow Reef, Hike Lavena Coastal walk (swim up waterfalls). You can make arrangements through the resort. Happy hour, 10% off single drinks is around sunset. – sv Sugar Shack

Sept. 2022: The diving (snorkeling) trips are highly recommended. Visiting yachts receive a 20% discount which makes it a great cost option for diving Rainbow Reef and the White Wall. The dive boat is spacious and fast (takes about an hour to Viani Bay). Delicious fruit and baked snacks are also provided.

We had not realized there was a cruiser discount until we settled our tab. It is worth asking the price with all associated discounts including paying by cash and cruiser discounts.

Bobby’s Farm (Nabogiono Farm) +679.828.3677. nabogiono@yahoo.com.au. The orange doves are no longer present, but we did spot some beautiful parrots. Bobby will collect and return you to Paradise in his truck, but it is only a 35-minute walk turning left out of the resort. I wasn’t able to sample his lunch, but he told me it was a vegan menu with most food items grown on the farm. A 2-hour tour was \$60F/group, no lunch.

Island Tour: Arranged by Paradise Bay, lots of driving around the island and the waterfalls were the highlight for us. – Tintamarre

Aug. 2022: Great snorkeling on the reef to the shore and diving on the house reef is excellent. They will even fill your cylinders for free if the compressor is on, otherwise it is just \$10 per fill.

There is good walking around and about-head out of the resort and turn right towards the school, take the left turn to walk inland or continue to down the road where the track goes to the left to the plantation. You’ll meet all sorts of people on the way, pure joy. – Seneto

5.1.2.9 Cruiser Reports

Sep 2024: The staff is very accommodating and friendly. Most of our communication was with Allan through email and Mike in person. Both responded to our questions quickly and worked to make all their guest happy. The restaurant food is at typical resort prices but quite good. The bakery is good as well. The resort will set up tours and provision runs. A drive to town for 2 hours shopping is \$300 Fiji. Sorted trash can be dropped off for \$10 Fiji. The moorings are still free.

The staff also would like boaters to monitor VHF 16 at all times in the event they need to reach a boat about weather. You might need to drop an anchor in high winds to protect the moorings. Also, if you monitor VHF channel 16 you might hear a call from the staff or from other boaters informing everyone about whale sightings in the mooring field which we saw twice. – Cream Puff

Aug. 2023: The Paradise Taveuni resort is absolutely lovely. They sent someone out to help us with the mooring and welcomed us to Paradise. Cruisers are allowed to use the facilities and visit the bar and restaurant. They were very welcoming. No charge for the mooring balls.

Cruisers are welcome to use their showers, pool, restaurant, bar and other facilities including the day spa, diving facilities, and tours.

A taxi to town is about \$120F per vehicle (1-4 passengers). A local taxi to the National parks and waterfalls is about \$300F per vehicle (Max 4 passengers).

Scuba diving with Paradise will offer a 20% discount on all dive services and packages (ask during booking).

The spa offers many services and is open from 1000-1800 daily.

It turned out to be a great thing to have our credit card on file because one day we woke with strong northerly winds which caused an awful swell. We were already planning on leaving this day, but the resort called everyone and asked us to leave due to the conditions. Because our card was on file, we simply called Alan and asked him to charge our previous meals and purchases and email us a receipt and they gladly obliged. So nice and easy. – sv Sugar Shack

Aug. 2022: What's not to like? Apart from the fact that it's not good in northerlies, we had a great time at Paradise. Yachts are made to feel incredibly welcome with mooring balls available free of charge. The resort itself is friendly, laid back, and a great place to have a couple of days chilling by the pool. On arrival, you'll register and provide your credit card details and then simply settle up at the end of your stay (a far more sensible approach). – Seneto

5.1.3 Somosomo

5.1.3.1 Anchorages

Sep. 2024: **16°46.171'S / 179°58.390'W** Anchor off the creek in the gravel outwash. – Peregrine

Sept. 2022: **16°47.094S / 179°59.363W**. 16 meters depth in sand/mud. There were only local boats around. The bay wasn't perfectly protected from SE-S winds, but wasn't terrible either. Our goal was to stop here to be quite close to town for provisioning. We landed the dinghy on the beach in front of someone's house. The family was friendly and said they will look up for the dinghy. – Starlight

Sept. 2022: **16°46.236S / 179°58.470W**. Anchored in 30' to the right of the river where it starts to shallow up. We were over sand and rock, and when we pulled up the anchor in the morning, we'd gotten tangled around some rocks and/or bommies. Nothing disastrous, but it took some time to untangle. Strongly recommend floating your chain if you anchor here, we should have.

Holding was good through pretty steady winds 10-20 kts through the afternoon and night. Wind came from the SE straight down off Taveuni. We'd expected some protection from the SE trades, but the winds seemed to roll right off the mountain and across the water. We had some rolling in the swell, but not enough to complain about. No problem sleeping.

Dinghy ashore at the beach in front of the large grassy "park" area. This is to the right of the school. We tied to a tree and two small children immediately came to investigate. They said they'd watch the boat for us. When we came back a couple hours later the two small children had become 14 children. Extremely sweet and curious and interested in helping us get the dinghy off the shore and into the water. I worried that we didn't have any small gifts for them, but that didn't seem to be an interest for them. – Oh Joy II

July 2012: **16°48.18S / 179°58-295W**. Anchored in 25' in what felt like good holding sand. We edged our way in really close to the black sand beach, before the bottom shallowed up to anchorable depths. This was certainly good enough for a day anchorage and would probably be OK overnight. – Soggy Paws

5.1.3.2 Yachtsmen Services

5.1.3.2.1 Fuel

July 2025: There are several fuel stations attached to markets in Somosomo. Usually, they have (2) pumps located off to the side of the market and you have to hunt down the operator. We found the price of gas was the same across all stations.

We fueled at Dynasty Trading and General Merchants. They had 2 pumps and charged \$2.95F/liter for gasoline. Dynasty Trading +679.888.1069, +679.888.0311. – sv Sugar Shack

5.1.3.2.2 Trash and Recycling

July 2025: There is a public trash can at 016°46.502S / 179°58.314W. – sv Sugar Shack

5.1.3.3 General Services

5.1.3.3.1 Bank (ATM)

July 2025: There is a BSP bank and (2) ATMs in Somosomo village. +679.132.888, www.bsp.com.fj, Mon: 0930-1530, Turs-Thurs: 0900-1530, Fri: 0900-1600. – sv Sugar Shack

July 2012: A BSP bank and ATM in Somosomo village (left of beach). – Soggy Paws

5.1.3.3.2 Communications

July 2025: We had Digicel coverage while walking around Somosomo and Meridian.

Digicel (located opposite ocean side) and a Vodafone (ocean side) have kiosks in Somosomo. – sv Sugar Shack

Sept. 2022: Good signal for both Digicel and Vodafone. – Oh Joy II

5.1.3.3.3 Computers

July 2025: Zintec Computers upstairs, left side, computers and accessories, sales & repair. – sv Sugar Shack

5.1.3.3.4 Transportation

July 2025: Taveuni Bus +679.888.0278, +679.999.4358. There is a big bus depot on the ocean side of Somosomo. The bus has limited schedule and only operates a few times per day. Often being used as a school bus. – sv Sugar Shack

5.1.3.4 Provisions

July 2025: There are several stores in Somosomo including

- Max Val-U +679.888.0053, large size market and home goods.
- Fair Price: Hours: +679.888.1401, Mon-Sat: 0800-2000, Sun: 0715-1200
- Dynasty Trading +679.888.1069, +679.888.0311 supermarket, hardware, home goods, service station
- Retail Guru Hours: +679.890.0436. Mon-Sat: 0700-1900, Sun: 0700-1400 & 1600-1900
- Taveuni Meridian Trading: market, bakery, liquor, home goods

July 2025: We visited most of the markets which were surprisingly well stocked. Several stores sold liquor, beer, and wine.

There are loads of produce stands that line both sides of the streets offering fruits and veggies, baked goods, and roti. – sv Sugar Shack

Sep 2024: There is a new grocery store on the shoreline near the anchorage, well stocked including booze. Dinghy access is just to the right of the store, well to the left of the school. You'll walk through a church courtyard. – Peregrine

Sept. 2022: We walked to town; it took around 20 minutes. Good shopping there: few supermarkets, veggies and fruit stands along the main street, fishing/diving shop, bakery, café. On the way back we took taxi, which is easy to catch as they run one after another. – Starlight

Sept. 2022: From the road in front of the dinghy landing, walk left for 5 minutes to a large and well-stocked grocery called Max Val-u Supermart. There's no longer any grocery store called "MH Grocery". Max Val-u is a fine store and probably has everything you'd need, but to see the real commerce of Somosomo, walk right on the road in front of the dinghy landing. There are vendor stalls selling fresh fruits & vegetables and there is a large supermarket called Fair Price Supermarket with lots of goodies. – Oh Joy II

5.1.3.5 Restaurants

July 2025: We had lunch at **Kai Time** +679.888.0301. Located on the ocean front side (016°47.995S / 179°59.556E). Hours: Mon-Wed 1100-1900, Thur: Sun: 0700-1900. They have a wide variety of food including a wood burning pizza oven. Super delicious, friendly staff, and lovely setting! Well worth the stop.

There are several local eateries and hidden gems along the road in Somosomo and Meriden. – sv Sugar Shack

Sept. 2022: The main town of Somosomo/Waiyevo is to the right of the dinghy landing, about a 10-minute walk. There are several cafes and restaurants. – Oh Joy II

July 2012: Small restaurant next to BSP bank. Offers local food (\$6-8F) for a nice sit-down meal. – Soggy Paws.

5.1.3.6 Activities

July 2025: Fun place to visit and walk around. A few places to visit:

180° Meriden / Date Line: Location: 016°47.798S / 179°59.997E it is hidden from the main street next to a large field and a house. Where else can you be in two time zones at once? Small display but fun photo opportunity. The family who lives next to the display sells handicrafts and papayas.

Waitavala Natural Waterslide: Location 016°47.685S / 179°59.435W. Coming from the main road, there is a bus stop with a large metal sign that has “Waterslide” painted on it – turn here. Then follow the small white signs to the parking lot. Easy walk along the path and you cross the falls (using a rope). Great fun for everyone.

Holy Cross Catholic Mission located at 016°48.374S / 179°59.438E. Built in the 1800’s with beautiful stain glass and carved stations.

Make a day of visiting Somosomo and Meriden. Nice experience.

Bouma National Park (Tavaro Waterfalls) and **Laverna Coastal Walk and Waterfalls** are all amazing things to do but will cost you a small fortune to do them from Somosomo. It is much closer, easier, and less expensive to do these activities from Matei Bay (Naselesele Point) with a rental car. It is a 50-60-minute drive to Bouma National Park from Somosomo or a 30–35-minute drive from Matei Bay. – sv Sugar Shack

5.1.3.7 Cruiser Reports

July 2025: We drove here from Matei Bay. What a lovely little town (both Somosomo and Meriden). Stores, shops, food stands line both sides of the street.

You can find an ATM, fishing store, provisions, liquor, fuel, and lunch! Plus, you can visit the beautiful Catholic Mission, the Dateline, and the waterslide! – sv Sugar Shack

Sept. 2022: The main town of Somosomo/Waiyevo is to the right of your dinghy landing, about a 10-minute walk. There are a few hardware and building stores, a couple of hotels, some small general merchandise shops.

We were at Somosomo on a Saturday afternoon and the main part of the village (apparently Waiyevo) was hoppin’. Lots of people out and about, vendors lining the street, very fun energy. The supply ship, which we’re real sure doesn’t come to Somosomo because there’s no wharf for it, had come in earlier in the day and the shops were taking delivery from lots of overloaded trucks. The townspeople seemed to have shown up for the excitement. – Oh Joy II

5.1.4 Matei Bay / Naselesele Point (Airport Anchorage)

5.1.4.1 Anchorages

July 2025: 16°41.429S / 179°53.418W in 11m of water during low tide. We put 1st float on at 25m, 2nd float at 40m and our bridle at 50m.

In June we anchored, **16°41.446S / 179°53.461W** in 12m with good holding. We anchored in front of the beautiful resort on the hill. Very pretty bay.

Dinghy landing: 016°41.654S / 179°53.405W. Best to come at mid to high tide as it can be a challenge during low tide with the surrounding reefs and bommies. We have a long shaft and struggled to get to shore during king low tide. But other than that, we were fine.

Near the Taveuni Island Resort on the mountainside (left side of bay) there is a narrow entry thru the reef. Head to the large piles of rock (just to the left of the beach and concrete ramp). Rocks are below the white cabana on the hill. Go straight to shore.

Resort: There is a gate to the left with an outdoor shower. Rinse your feet, go through gate and uphill.

Non-Resort: Walk across the grass up hill, straight to the road through the gate.

It is very difficult to get to shore during low tide. Schedule your visit during mid to high tide. – sv Sugar Shack

Sep 2024: **16°41.583S 179°53.701W** Good sand holding in 30'. Good shore access at high tide; can row in at low tide. Very roly, swells coming around the point to the north. – Peregrine

Aug. 2022: **16°40.908S / 179°52.588W**. Anchored in sand with large, visible bommies. Ideal anchorage if you're picking folk up from the airport and/or need to provision. The anchorage is slightly less roly than the NW anchorage. Getting ashore at low tide is a careful operation, head to the middle of the island to the east before turning towards shore and taking a path in through the reef.

Just south of Matei: **16°41.538S / 179°53.522W**. Anchored in sandy patches with large visible bommies. Beautiful sandy beach surrounded by a coral reef. It's not easy getting ashore at low tide. There is a channel, where you line up on the door of the hut of Taveuni Divers, best to ask the locals. – Seneto

July 2022: **16°41.476S / 179°53.492W**. – Askari

July 2012: **16°41.59S / 179°53.66W**. We anchored in the open bay west of the point in about 35' with good sand and isolated coral heads. There is some swell in the bay, but it wasn't bad for an overnight anchorage. Good anchorage for leaving in the middle of the night (for passage to the Lau) -- easy in/out.

16°40.925'S / 179°52.426'W. The reef is broken to the north and west. There is better protection here than the chart would indicate. – Soggy Paws

5.1.4.2 Yachtsmen Services

5.1.4.2.1 Fuel (Diesel and Gasoline)

July 2025: Suncity Supermarket (near the airport) sells fuel. +679.708.0391, +679.888.0462.

suncityfj@gmail.com, Hours: Mon-Sat: 0800-1800, Sun" 0830-1900. \$2.95F/L for gas. – sv Sugar Shack

July 2022: Two supermarkets: Satish Supermarket and Suncity Supermarket. Both are within walking distance to the airport and both have fuel. – Askari

5.1.4.3 General Services

5.1.4.3.1 Laundry

June 2025: Taveuni Island Resort will do laundry at \$20F/bag (good size laundry bags). We brought (2) loads, were charged \$40F and were happy. Call the manager, Storm, at +679.923.2000. – sv Sugar Shack

5.1.4.3.2 Transportation

July 2025: Taveuni Island Resort hired **Aloha Taveuni Car Rental** for us. Aloha Taveuni +679.902.8375, +679.973.2547. Or you can ask Storm at Taveuni Island Resort to schedule it (+679.923.2000) They dropped the car off/picked up at the resort. We did not sign any paperwork, or pay for insurance or any bond. Just a

flat \$140/day plus refill the fuel to the level we had when we started. Nice clean, 4-door, automatic car. We parked the car at the resort overnight. – sv Sugar Shack

Aug. 2022: Tramonto Restaurant will have a list of taxi drivers and activities. We loved Harry +679.871.915. He took us to Somosomo for provisioning and everything else that we needed to do, he drove us around for the whole morning for \$60F. – Seneto

July 2022: Taxi Drivers: Jazz +679.918.9061; Harry +679.871.9155; Ajay +679.931.2550; Mateo +679.948.0928. – Askari

July 2022: Rentals, Tours, and Transfers: Sharriff & Naaz Excursions @ Taveuni +679.994.4753 and +679.943.0646. And you may also try Samir and Voa Aloha Taveuni +679.902.8375. – Askari

5.1.4.4 Provisions

June 2025: There are two grocery stores:

Satish Foodmart +679.888.2401 located near the airport.

Suncity Supermarket +679.708.0391, +679.888.0462. suncityfj@gmail.com, Hours: Mon-Sat: 0800-1800, Sun" 0830-1900. Located near the airport (NE side of island)

Vacala Organic Garden: Matt's family has 85 acres just above Tramonto Restaurant. His farm manager is Bale, her WhatsApp +679. 844.0808. Matt is the owner, +679.909.1101. Best to call the farm manager with your wish list. She will tell you what is available and when to pick it up.

Vena has a small veggie near the airport (Past Satish market) +679.804.9129

CLOSED: Taveuni Organic Vegetable Garden, Located: 016°41.763S / 179°53.377W.

We called Matt (Vacala Organic Garden) and scheduled a tour and shopping trip to his organic garden. Any given day he sells a variety of lettuce, cucumbers, herbs (basil, rosemary, tyme, coriander, mint), frozen juices (lemon, lime, passionfruit), tomatoes, green beans, spring onions, papayas, limes, lemons, passion fruit, pineapple, dragon fruit, leche, and more. Very reasonable prices – cash only. – sv Sugar Shack

July 2022: 2 markets: Satish market and Suncity market. Both offer fuel and liquor and are within walking distance. It looks like you can get dinghy right into the Suncity supermarket at high tide—this one has a great selection including AUS and NZ cheeses, imported fruit and slightly more upscale selection. It's closer to the anchorage north of here. We accessed Suncity via the storm drain at high tide (and fuel). – Askari

5.1.4.5 Restaurants

June 2025: There are a few different places to dine at.

Tramonto By the Sea: +679.906.0530, [Facebook Link](#), raymondmadden78@gmail.com, Hours: Daily from 1000-2000. They offer happy hour specials and lovo buffets. They are cash only! They are known for their pizza, but they cook it in a large "toaster oven" but it is still tasty. Beautiful view.

Taveuni Island Resort +679.923.2000, call and ask if they have availability for a reservation prior to arriving at the resort. Amazing food, great service, beautiful setting, \$\$\$.

The Drift Café +679.888.2010, info@thedivefiji.com, bar and grill. Serves coffee, tea, and casual food

Dive Café +679.943.0229, Hours: Sun-Wed: 0700-2000, Thur-Sat: 0800-2200 breakfast, lunch and dinner. www.thedivecafe.com. Beautiful setting with a large deck overlooking the bay.

We ate at Tramonto several times and the Taveuni Island Resort. Both were tasty. – sv Sugar Shack

Aug. 2022: Great food/drinks at Salt Diver Café on the beach and Tramonto Restaurant (turn right as you come out of Salt Diver), with its stunning views overlooking the bay. – Seneto

July 2022: There is a great local pizza place called Tramonto on the ridge overlooking the bay, the posh looking Tides Beach Resort, salt divers and dive café spread across a beautiful white sand beach.

There's also another smaller kava lounge bar / local dive center here.

A few others: Suncity (takeout), Café @ Salt Dive, The Drift. – Askari

5.1.4.6 Taveuni Island Resort

Taveuni Island Resort is very welcoming to cruisers. +679.888.0441, www.taveuniislandresort.com, resort@taveuniislandresort.com.

Contact Storm at +679.923.2000 to make lunch or dinner reservations, do laundry, drop trash, or organize a tour or rental car.

Located on top of the hill facing the anchorage.

Dinghy landing: 016°41.654S / 179°53.405W. Best to come at mid to high tide as it can be a challenge during low tide with the surrounding reefs and bommies. We have a long shaft and struggled to get to shore during king low tide. But other than that, we were fine.

Near the Taveuni Island Resort on the mountainside (left side of bay) there is a narrow entry thru the reef. Head to the large piles of rock (just to the left of the beach and concrete ramp). Rocks are below the white cabana on the hill. Go straight to shore.

Resort: There is a gate to the left with an outdoor shower. Rinse your feet, go through gate and uphill.

Services offered (must be prearranged with Storm at +679.923.2000 (phone & WhatsApp))

- Restaurant: Lunch or dinner must be pre-arranged
- Full-service bar
- Spa services
- Pool
- Tours
- Rental Car
- Laundry \$20 per bag (wash/dry/fold)
- Trash

July 2025: We had Storm arrange for a rental car for us for 2 days (\$140/day), she did (2) large loads of laundry \$20/bag, scheduled lunch and accepted some of our trash. She is absolutely lovely and very willing to help cruisers.

This is a pretty fancy resort, please respect their guests and give them priority. We ate in the corner, had our drinks at the lookout, and took our laundry and trash (around the back) to avoid the guests. – sv Sugar Shack

5.1.4.7 Activities

July 2025: Be sure to visit the Vacala Organic Farm as it is a beautiful place.

Taveuni Sports Center +679.867.7513 offers surf, dive, SUP and more.

We rented a car from Matei Bay and left at 8:15am toward Tavoro and Laverna waterfalls. Our goal was to do both hikes in one day. It took us 45 minutes to get the Bouma National Park. Then it took us 4-hours to hike and swim in all three waterfalls. \$50F cash entry fee per person.

We then continued around the eastern side of Taveuni toward Laverna. It took us 20-25 minutes to drive to this village. It took us 3 hours to hike the coastal trail, swim in the gorgeous waterfall pool and hike back. \$35F per person. You do not need a guide. This is one of the best well-marked trail we've seen!

Then the long trip home on the bumpy, pot-holed road back took us about 1.5hours. We returned back to the bay at about 4:30p. A very long, but adventurous day!

Total walk for both sets of falls was 9.3 miles (15 kilometers).

Laverna village requires proper attire. Women must cover shoulders down to knees, no hats / sunglasses on heads. However, Bouma is not “technically” a village so traditional Fijian attire is not required.

Bouma National Park / Tavoro Waterfalls (3) waterfalls, 45 min drive from Matei Bay / Naselesele Point and across 11 bridges. Tavoro waterfalls are located in Bouma National Park.

1.5hr hike to all 3 (one way), steep incline of 65 flights, about 600’ elevation, good hike.

\$50F / pp entrance fee, no guide needed. Bring lunch.

1st waterfall is 10-minute walk on flat, easy concrete trail through the garden. 2nd waterfall is another 40-minutes, 3rd waterfall is another 40-minutes from 2nd waterfall.

A few different ways to go. Do the 1st fall, then walk on trail to the first “Y”. If you go left at the “Y” you will head toward 2nd waterfall, crossing a river (hold on to the rope). This is a beautiful trail. If you go right at the “Y” you continue on for about 15 minutes and you will come to a second “Y”. If you go left you will go to the 2nd waterfall. If you continue right you will get to the 3rd waterfall.

We decided to go up first so we hit the 1st waterfall, then the 3rd waterfall, then went back to do the 2nd waterfall.

Laverna Coastal Walk and Waterfalls (2) waterfalls, coastal walk, 20-25-minute drive from Bouma (across 3 more bridges).

1.5hr walk, 4.5kilometers (one way), flat easy walk until the last 20 minutes.

\$35.00F / pp entrance fee, no guide needed.

This was by far our favorite set of waterfalls. It is an easy walk along the coast on a flat well-defined trail. The last 20-minutes is an incline to reach the falls but not difficult.

There are 2 pools to swim in. The falls are actually surrounded by the rock with a beautiful opening. So when you peer toward the falls from shore you do not see the 2nd waterfall. Both falls are inside a “U” shape space which is covered in moss and plants giving it a beautiful setting. To get to the falls you have to swim a good 500-600 yards.

There is a small, very basic, store with canned goods, and some sweets. But I suggest you bring your own snacks and drinks.

Waitavala Natural Waterslide Location: 16°47.685S / 179°59.435W. If you are driving on the main road, you will see a bus stop with a large metal sign that reads “Waterslide” turn here. Then follow the small white signs to the parking area. The path to the slide is fairly easy and well-marked. You do have to cross the river but there are ropes to help you hold on.

180° Meridian / Dateline: Location: 16°47.798S / 179°59.997E. This exhibit cannot be seen from the main road. It is next to a large field and a private home. See No Foreign Land. The people who own the house sell handicrafts and papayas. This is a quick stop and a great photo op!

Holy Cross Catholic Mission dating back to the 1800’s. Location: 16°48.374S / 179°59.438E. Beautiful stained glass and carved wood stations. – sv Sugar Shack

Aug. 2022: Island Tour with Aloha Taveuni Tours +679.973.2547, +679.902.8375, alohataveuni@gmail.com, www.alohataveunirentaltours.com.fj. Highly recommend exploring the island with Aloha Taveuni! We left the dinghy with the local fishing boats at the beach. We had such a good trip with them on their West Coast Tour taking in the Holy Cross Catholic Church, the International Date Line (has to be done), bundles of fun in the natural waterslides (take bug spray and dive boots/beach shoes for walking up the rocks), and they even stopped off for us in Somosomo to pick up some fresh veg and bread. The half day tour was \$100 for 3 people.

Taveuni Divers offers a massage for \$30F for 30 minutes and worth every penny. They are located after Salt Diver and before Tramonto.

Hike up the hill to Taveuni Farm (opposite Salt Diver) for fresh, organic veg at market prices.

There is an easy walk from Lomaloma to Matei where there are two supermarkets: Suncity and Satish Foodmart (both sell fuel and liquor). You can also take the dinghy to Matei. Either anchor the dinghy off the beach opposite the airport where you will see the local boats (again, be careful at low tide), alternatively, there is a private dock next to Suncity which we were able to use after asking permission, and in exchange for a smile and Vinaka. – Seneto

5.1.4.8 Cruiser Reports

July 2012: We arrived in the area at almost sunset, and didn't feel comfortable going inside the reef. So, we DID NOT go inside the reef, but opted to anchor in the open bay west of the point. – Soggy Paws

June 2012: The anchorage at the North end of Taveuni is at Naselesele Point. It is behind a reef which stops the seas but not the wind. Those with wind generators will be thrilled. Lots of hiking ashore but it requires figuring out the bus schedule or catching a round-trip cab for F\$60. We went to the Bouma National Heritage Park and hiked to the 3 sets of waterfalls. They were just beautiful. – Shango

5.1.5 Vurevure Bay (East Side of Taveuni)

Cruising Guide References: A Yachtsman's Fiji, 3rd Ed - Pg. 175-177

5.1.5.1 Anchorages

Oct. 2011: 16°47.786S / 179°50W. There is a mooring buoy here behind the pearl farm buoys; it had recently been surveyed when we were there, but otherwise anchor behind it to get protection from SE swell or in front of the river mouth of the prominent bridge. It's a big bay but filled with coral.

Our entry proved uneventful and we searched for a mooring buoy. It wasn't exactly where it was supposed to be, but it was the only buoy that was clearly not part of an array of buoys of pearl farm oyster cultivation lines, so we took it. Using unknown moorings is always a risk, though we later found out it was laid as a cyclone mooring for three masted schooner and had been recently surveyed. Winds were from the north and we were in a tight circular area of water ringed by coral. – Carina – SSCA Newsletter

5.1.5.2 Cruiser Reports

Oct. 2011: Walk or take an infrequent bus south to Tavoro Falls or the Lavena Coast Walk. Vunivasa Estate dominates the northern shore; they grow pineapples and other crops.

Safe water between Taveuni and Qamea Islands runs through a narrow channel between the islands with waves breaking over reefs stretching out more than a mile perpendicular to the land, so Philip stood at the bow on reef watch.

On our list of must-dos was to visit the **Bouma National Heritage Park** which incorporates almost all of eastern Taveuni, a preserve of rainforest, reefs, waterfalls and wildlife. Waaitabu village in the park is 4 kilometers away. – Carina: SSCA Newsletter

June 2011: This was a quick motor over to Vurevure Bay on the island of Taveuni. We came here to go to Bouma National Heritage Park's Tavoro Waterfalls & Lavena Beach.

We did our sevusevu in the village of Vurevure and met many locals.

We arranged for a cab to pick us the following morning to take us to the base of the **Tavoro Waterfalls**. The first waterfall was a 10-minute hike and this is where they filmed scenes from the movie "The Return of the Blue Lagoon". The second waterfall was another 30-minute hike, we swam at both – it really felt like paradise and extremely refreshing after a sweaty hike.

Levuna Beach, we took about a 20-minute stroll on the beach when we got back to the village, the visitors center said we had to come in and sign the guest book, then they told us that we had to pay \$15.00 for the privilege of walking down the beach! -- Stray Kitty

5.2 Pass between Kioa Island and Vanua Levu

June 2025: We left Naquiqai Bay, Vanua Levu at 0830 and entered the pass shortly after. We had very light winds (5-7kts) from the SE. Once we entered the channel the winds swirled from the west / northwest to north (always light).

True wind was under 7kt and we had a slight .5m swell.

We had no issues, tides, swirls, or anything with these weather conditions.

A monohull followed us and they were not even rolling. – sv Sugar Shack

5.3 Kioa Island

Kioa Island is a very interesting place. It is not actually part of Fiji, although it is right in the middle of the Fijian islands. All of the inhabitants of Kioa are from the nation of Tuvalu in Micronesia. Just after World War II, when their atolls were ravaged by the war in the Pacific, the Tuvaluans purchased Kioa and moved there. Although they are Fijian citizens, they have their own government, language and customs. They also have retained their Polynesian features of straight black hair and lighter skin - and as there are only about 500 people on the island, there are hints of inbreeding as well.

5.3.1 Anchorages

Jan. 2012: We dropped anchor inside the reef and headed ashore. Sean noticed that we were dragging anchor in an anchorage where there is not much room to drag, as it is surrounded by reef on 3 sides. So, for the third time today, we pulled up anchor, and ended up moving to Rabi Island. – Corrie Schneider

5.3.2 Cruiser Reports

June 2019: Kioa is situated opposite Buca Bay. Known for their artisans and fishing.

5.4 Rabi (Rambi) Island

Rabi Island (pronounced Rambi) has four villages populated by Micronesians originally from Banaba, in Kiribati. Their homeland was ruined by phosphate mining and influx of settlers and more so during WWII when the Japanese invaded Banaba and massacred many villagers. Rabi was purchased for the Banabans by the British Government with Banabas own phosphate mining royalties.

5.4.1 Albert's Cove

Cruising Guide References: A Yachtsman's Fiji, 3rd Ed - 165-166

North side of Rabi Island

5.4.1.1 Anchorages

June 2025: **16°26.800S / 179°56.329W** in 12m. It took us a bit to get the anchor to stick good (pulling back at 2400rpm). We are at low-low tide (big moon).

We tried to anchor at **16°26.733S / 179°56.274W** in 9m and at **16°26.715S / 179°56.254W** in 13m but we could not get the anchor to stick in either place.

The bay is deep and has bommies so best to float your chain. – sv Sugar Shack

Sept. 2022: 16°26.811S / 179°56.392W. Sand holding, but there were bommies around so we floated our chain. We came here from Matagi to hide from forecasted 30+ knots and big swells. We had some gusts, but were protected by the extended reef. – Starlight.

5.4.1.2 General Services

5.4.1.2.1 Communications

June 2025: There is no Digicel or Vodafone connectivity in this bay at all. We let the locals connect to our Starlink and they were super grateful. – sv Sugar Shack

5.4.1.3 Activities

June 2025: Ask Thomas and Pauline to take you on a short walk to Smiling Bay. It is about 1 mile, one way, 45 minutes. The path is dirt and mud in some areas, but it is a relatively easy hike. Super pretty through the trees, plants, bushes, and some of their crops.

Snorkeling is good on the NW corner reef area. – sv Sugar Shack

5.4.1.4 Cruiser Report

June 2025: Be sure to go to shore to meet Thomas and Pauline. They are located at the far-left side of the bay. They have a table and bench on the beach in front of their house. Super lovely couple who live here full time. They do go to the main village and to Taveuni periodically, but for the most part they are here every day. The rest of the copra houses are only occupied when the land owners come to process copra.

Every Thursday a boat comes to take the locals to Taveuni. From Albert Cove, they take a long boat to the main village, then catch a ferry to the main land and a bus to town.

Key Banaban phrases: Hello: mauri, Goodbye: sepo; Thank you: korrapa. – sv Sugar Shack

Sept. 2022: Very good snorkeling on the North West corner of the bay. There is no village here, but people come with longboats every day to work on copra and fishing. No cell coverage here. – Starlight

5.4.2 Elizabeth Cove

North side of Rabi Island

5.4.2.1 Anchorages

Sept. 2022: 16°27.594S / 179°57.975W. Sand. There are reefs on both sides coming in to the anchorage and both Navionics and satellite (google maps) pictures are messed up (probably because of the proximity of 180° line). Don't trust the satellite pictures as the reef is off by 50 meters! But the reefs are clearly visible, so trust your eyes only. – Starlight

5.4.2.2 Cruiser Report

Sept. 2022: There is a little village in the bay. People are friendly, but they are not as communicative as Fijians typically are. But the kids were super keen to show their surroundings and we spent hours walking with them.

Sevusevu: As this is not Fijians community, you do not need to do sevusevu here.

Wifi: Vodafone works here.

The snorkeling was superb! We tried several places and they all were really good with beautiful healthy corals and plenty of life. – Starlight

5.4.3 Katherine Bay

Cruising Guide References: A Yachtsman's Fiji, 3rd Ed - 166-167

South West side of Rabi Island

5.4.3.1 Anchorages

Sept. 2022: 16°31.607S / 179°59.426W. 10 meters of depth. You need to be careful going out from the bay. At 16°35.858S / 179°59.171W on Navionics is the marker called 'SW Reef Extension'. Watch out for it! We were sailing looking at satellite pictures and had depths suddenly drop to 6 meters. SAT pictures don't show that. Be careful here and go through only in daylight. – Starlight

2011: 16°31.64S / 179°59.44W – Anchored in 42'.

Most noticeable when entering Katherine Bay is the huge church which dominates the hillside above the village. Built in the 1960's, it lost its roof and ceiling two years ago in a cyclone.

The small village here is called Buakonikai. There was one main dirt road which ran through town, lined with small tin-roofed, cement block houses. There was one tiny store which sold the very basics.

The Banbans maintain many of their own traditions including use of outrigger canoes for handline fishing. Note the ubiquitous blue tarp sail.

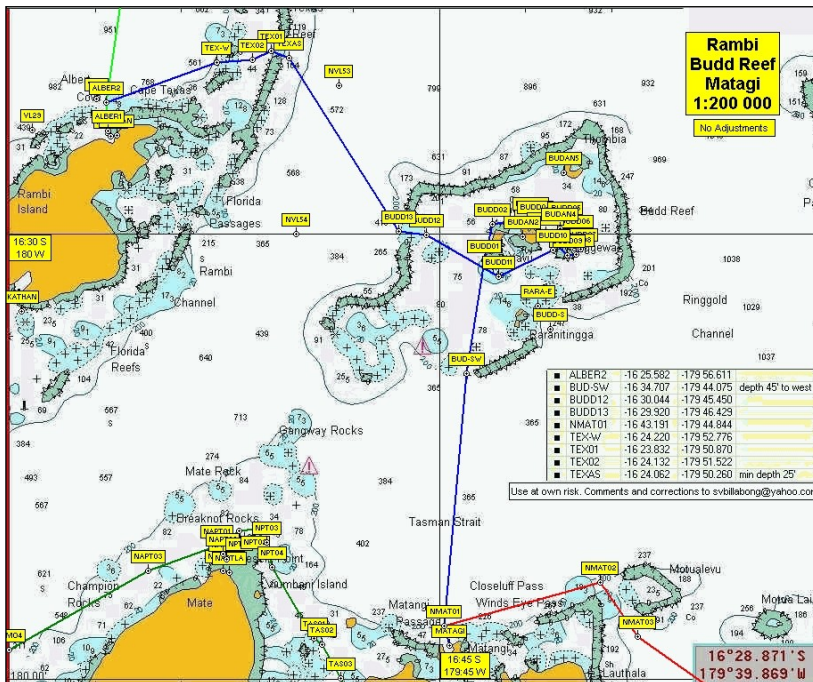
Everyone greeted us with "Mauri", the Banaban/Gilbertese greeting. Children sitting on doorsteps waved and shouted to us. – Nine of Cups

5.5 Matagi (Matangi) Island

Pronounced Matangi. Located just North of Qamea Island.

This is a private anchorage; you must ask the resort for permission to land beforehand.

Matagi is owned by Noel and Flo Douglas who enjoy hosting superyachts and cruisers. There is a charming boutique resort with lovely beaches and great diving.



Chartlet compliments of s/v Billabong

5.5.1 Anchorages

Sept. 2022: 16°43.822S / 179°44.668W. Sand, 18 meters depth. The bay is very pretty, but full of bommies. It's enough space for two monohulls and few catamarans if you anchor closer to the beach. We floated our chain. – Starlight

Sept. 2022: 16°43.868S / 179°58.470W. We anchored in about 30' of thin sand over rock with good holding. We had low winds while we were here, and the bay was calm and flat as a pancake. We stayed here just one night as we moved from Vanua Balavu to Viani Bay, but it was lovely and would be a great spot for multi-night stop. We did not go ashore or go in the water. – Oh Joy II

Aug. 2022: We spent three nights in Horseshoe Cove. It is a small cove. We were the only boat for the first 24 hours, then two others joined us. Not sure if 1 or 2 more would fit. – Dash

5.5.2 General Services

5.5.2.1 Wifi (Internet & Phone)

Sept. 2022: Excellent high-speed internet with Digicel. Lightning-fast! Probably coming from the resort over the hill. Good internet with Vodafone also, but not as fast as Digicel. – Oh Joy

Sept. 2022: We had good Vodafone coverage here. – Starlight

5.5.3 Cruiser Report

Aug. 2023: We took the dinghy from Namata bay to see how the anchorage was here. It was a sporty ride across the waters and between the islands. Super beautiful bay with several large sandy spots for anchoring, although they did look deep. But the long sandy beach looked super appealing.

We also dinghied past the resort and they tried to wave us in, but it was super low king tide and our long shaft dinghy just would make a mess of things so we waved and thanked them for the offer. – sv Sugar Shack

Sept. 2022: The beach is private with a little hut, where every day they bring one couple from the resort from other side of the island for few hours. You can't step on the beach. Snorkeling on the North West corner of the bay was very good. – Starlight

Aug. 2022: The snorkeling was decent but had significant coral damage from a recent cyclone but still nice to be able to just go from the boat. We tried to call the resort on VHF but no luck. The next morning, we called about going in for lunch. Found out it really isn't easy to get to the resort from where we were anchored and lunch was quite expensive. But the staff I spoke with were really pleasant. – Dash.

5.6 Qamea (Ngamea)

Cruising Guide References: A Yachtsman's Fiji, 3rd Ed – Pg. 180-182

Pronounced Ngamea.

5.6.1 Namata Bay

5.6.1.1 Anchorages

Namata bay is a bay on the island of Qamea (pronounced "Ngamea"). The bay is situated on the north side of the island and is well protected, except from north east wind. Here lives the Mitchell family who welcomes you as guests of honor and with great hospitality. This is a perfect place to hang around and wait for a weather window for Lau.

June 2025: 16°44.748S / 179°46.367W in 9m of sand with interspersed bommies. We thought they were far enough apart and deep but as it turned out we spun 360° during our 3-day stay and ended up wrapping

around some small dead rock formations. We were able to easily dislodge the chain, but something to be aware of if you anchor in this area. Super pretty and calm, just like we remembered.

Dinghy Landing: In the center of the bay there are red markers indicating a little path to shore. You have to go at mid to high tide otherwise it is difficult to get over the reef. This spot is in front of a lovely house with a garage and well-manicured garden with trees and flowers. – sv Sugar Shack

June 2025: 16°44.645S / 179°46.33W in 8m in good holding. – Geniet Lewe

Sept. 2024: 16°44.739S / 179°46.338W Good sand patch, 30 ft. Float chain for bommies. A bit roly with a NE wind, otherwise well protected. – Peregrine

Aug. 2023: 16°44.7640S / 179°46.3586W. Dropped the hook in 8m in a large sandy spot with plenty of swing room. There was a slight roll as we had SE winds at 10-12kt. But it was not too bad.

Getting ashore: We were here during king tide and man oh man does the tide goes out! We tried to go ashore as the tide was rising but the entire shoreline is blocked by coral. Arthur (one of the Mitchell brothers) told us to come back at high tide (which is when the beach is gone). I am sure a SUP or short shaft dinghy would have better luck, but our long shaft just needed more water. – sv Sugar Shack

Aug. 2022: 16°44.724S / 179°46.462W. Dropped in 14m of sand. A great spot though it can get a little roly when there is some north in the wind. Quite a few bommies, so important to float your chain. Low tide can be tricky to land the dinghy ashore due to rocks close in, but it is possible without too much difficulty. – Seneto

July 2022: 16°44.617'S / 179°46.163'W. Anchored in the corner of Namata Bay. – Askari

July 2022: 16°44.676S / 179°46,240W. Depth: 8-10m. The bay is deep, closer to shore you can find large patches of sand. There is room for several boats by the shoreline.

The Dinghy is parked on the beach. There are a lot of corals close to shore, especially at low tide. We waited for high tide. – Major Tom

5.6.1.2 Communications

May 2025: We had Digicel coverage here. – sv Sugar Shack

Sept. 2022: Spotty cell coverage. – Peregrine

5.6.1.3 Cruiser Reports

May 2025: The extended Mitchell family owns this entire bay and almost half of the island. There are several Mitchell brothers and sisters including Tomas, Arthur, Stanley, Siah. Each sibling and their family reside in different houses along the beachfront.

Guest Book: Thomas had the famous guest book when we visited. His house is located at 16°17.616S / 179°76.871W, which is toward the east end of the bay, set back with a beautiful walk up. Any of the kids can show you the location. Be prepared to get creative as some boats really designed amazing pages.

Sevusevu: Sevusevu is not required here. However, they certainly appreciate a bundle of kava, school supplies, reading glasses, toys for the kids, fishing gear, or baked goods. – sv Sugar Shack

Sept. 2024: Mitchell family very friendly; sign guest book. – Peregrine

Aug. 2022: North of Nukubalavu Point. Home of the Mitchell Family which is basically four brothers and their associated families living along the length of the bay. They make you extremely welcome and very generous in giving fruit and vegetables. Sevusevu is not expected, but they appreciate it if you do present it. We gave various supplies in return for the fruit and vegetables. A loaf or two of bread is always gratefully accepted. Ask to see their magnificent visitor's book and be prepared to get creative, it really is a wonderful tradition and fantastic record of the visiting yachts.

One evening we joined Tomi (I think that is how you spell it), and his family for kava drinking and a delicious dinner. We were also invited to join them at church on Sunday. This is a very special bay indeed. – Seneto

Aug. 2022: Vatusogosogo on Qamea Island is open to have you visit and enjoy a truly Fijian experience. I stayed here a few months when I was crossing the South Pacific. They are my Fijian family. Hurricane Winston damaged their church and many parts of the village and Covid closed the local resort that employed many of the villagers. Come visit the church, enjoy lunch, participate in a kava ceremony and book a tour to help revitalize the community. Any contribution made will be used to help rebuild the church and city hall. This is very important and they will be very happy and thankful. – Gabriela Carreira

July 2022: Sevusevu Not required, but go ashore and introduce yourself which is very much appreciated. We met Sia who invited us for Kava, and later that evening we sat down on her porch with other family members. We were guided into kava drinking and had a nice time. When we left, they gave us veggies.

Guestbook: Since 1995 the Mitchell family kept a guestbook where visiting cruisers leave notes. When we left the bay, we said goodbye and gave some symbolic gifts as a thank you for their hospitality. – Major Tom

July 2022: Qamea is the next island north end of Taveuni. In Namata Bay, we met the head family, the Mitchell's. Be sure to stop in and sign the visitor's book. The anchorage has quite a few bommies but the water is clear to find sand spots. In strong east winds yesterday, we did get a local onshore wind and a bit of swell but today it's stunning and flat calm. I snorkeled the bay and it was surprisingly good; Matilda and Charles came out and showed me their prize coral - it's a stunning dome coral opposite Maria's house. We also saw squid playing near there! – Askari

5.6.2 Naiviivi Bay

Chief Sepo is the chief of 3 villages and is the person you do sevusevu with when you anchor in this bay. See "Sevusevu" section below

5.6.2.1 Entrance

June 2025: As you approach the entrance to the bay there are two markers. A red marker to port (where only a pole is left standing) and a green marker to starboard (intact). These each mark the reefs on either side. There is also a small round float with a red flag that marks another reef so be aware. – sv Sugar Shack

Aug. 2023: This is a 1nm indent on the NW side of Qamea. Strongly suggest using satellite images as there are several bommies as you enter the bay. We entered at low, low tide (it was a Super Blue Moon or King's Tide). There was a bommie around **16°46.049S / 179°47.57W** (on port) and another **16°45.986S / 179°47.60W** on starboard. There are markers on the two main reefs in the center of the bay indicated on Navionics.

During our low tide entry, it slowly shoaled up until we got to the place where we dropped the hook. If you have satellite images and a lookout, there is no problem coming into this spot. – sv Sugar Shack

5.6.2.2 Anchorage

June 2025: 16°45.848S / 179°46.902W in 12m of mud. We were in this bay with 5 other boats and we all had plenty of room. We ended up with 8 boats in the anchorage.

Do NOT anchor here if you are expecting shifting winds or increment weather. After several days with 3-6kts of wind we had a rogue system come through. It swirled us around at 25kts, dislodged our anchor, and we ended up on the reef. Luckily, we had friends around to help us and we escaped with only scratches on the rudders. – sv Sugar Shack

Aug. 2023: 16°45.8506S / 179°46.8583W. Dropped the hook in 7m of mud and it stuck well. Super beautiful and calm spot. Surrounded by lush green hillsides on three sides – this is an ideal spot. Another cruiser

anchored further up in 4m but because we were here during a king tide, we played it “safe” and stayed in the 7m area which was lovely. – sv Sugar Shack

5.6.2.3 Communications

June 2025: The internet connection was really poor inside this protected anchorage. Guess you can’t have everything all the time. We were not asked to pay any fees, but we did provide some donated items for the school, the nurse, and the children. – sv Sugar Shack

5.6.2.4 Sevusevu

June 2025: Chief Sepo is the chief for 3 of the main villages. Take your dinghy back through the entrance (the 2 markers) and land by the beach on the left. Ask a local to take you to Chief Sepo or just walk along the path. His house is green and blue and is right before the school and right across from the Catholic church.

Chief Sepo is located at 16°77.039S / 179°78.867W. Be sure to visit the school. There are 117 children who attend this school and they will eagerly greet you.

We visited Chief Sepo on 6/4/25 and he did not ask for any fees. However, another boat visited 5 days later and they were asked to pay a \$50 fee. If this happens to you, just ask the chief “Is this a new fee? What is this fee for? Do I need to alert other yachties of this fee so they are prepared prior to arriving?”

A week after we visited Naiviivi Bay, another boat stopped and did sevusevu with Chief Sepo. They were asked to pay a mandatory \$50F fee. When asked what it was for, the chief simply replied “medical bills.” If this happens to you, ask the chief what the fee is for, if it is a new fee being asked of all yachties and if you should alert other yachties prior to their arrival. – sv Sugar Shack

5.6.2.5 Cruiser Report

June. 2025: There appears to be a little conflict on sevusevu, but we were told the official Chief is Chief Sepo and he is the one and only person you have to do sevusevu with in this bay. Don’t be fooled or tricked into going to another village (to the left across the bridge) as you will have to still do sevusevu with Chief Sepo.

There are lots of fun places to explore by dinghy (at high tide) or by SUP at lower tides. If you head straight back toward the mangroves you can take a really long meander through the trees and mangroves. It is really pretty and leads to a lovely house. – Sv Sugar Shack

5.6.3 Nadilo Bay

5.6.3.1 Anchorage

July 2023: 16°47.6775S / 179°46.7895W. Anchored in 10m of sand. Reasonable anchorage to access surf break. Small friendly village. There is a buoy to tie the dinghy to next to the surf break. The left hander on the east side is also worth a look if the wind is more SE. – Knot Tide Down

5.7 Laucala Island

Laucala Island lies to the east of Qamea and is a privately owned island. It is the home of a very exclusive, private resort called Como Laucala Island Resort.

5.7.1 Anchorages

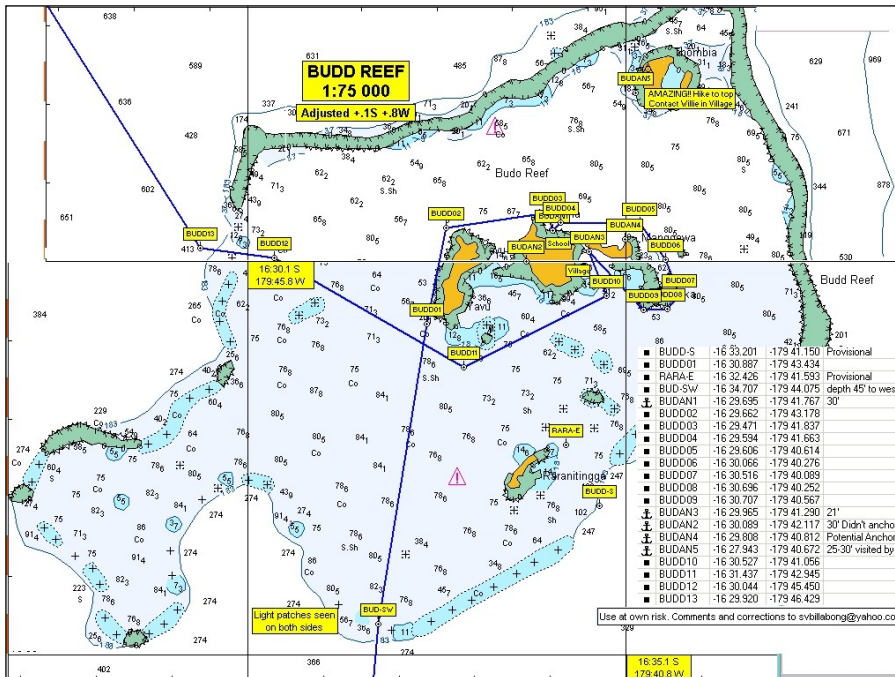
Sept. 2023: 16°44.7780S / 179°42.3300W this is called the **Laucala Island Pass** (north side) between Qamea and Laucala. We drove through it as it looked so incredibly beautiful, but with the 25kts of East winds it left us very exposed. But this is truly a gem of a place and I would recommend it in calm conditions.

16°44.163S / 179°41.21W. Navionics shows this as an anchorage but it is right in front of the very exclusive and private resort, Como Laucala Island Resort. We have friends coming to stay here and thought it would be fun to anchor and visit but it is super exposed to wind and seas. We didn't stop. – sv Sugar Shack

5.8 Ringgold Isles: Budd Reef (Yanuca & Cobia)

Cruising Guide References: A Yachtsman's Fiji, 3rd Ed - Pg 182-184

Pronounced Yanutha and Thombia.



Chartlet compliments of s/v Billabong

5.8.1 Pass

May 2025: **16°33.741S / 179°44.62W** Over 1 mile wide with the shallowest depth 70m at low tide. We had 5-10kts of NE winds and no swell. This does not really look like a pass but rather a large opening. We did have super calm conditions, but this was truly an easy "pass." – sv Sugar Shack

Aug. 2022: We entered from the south **16°34.707S / 179°44.075W**. Reef is always covered and offers little protection from the trades. – Capall Mara

2014: Budd Reef is easy to enter and the lagoon is mostly wide open all though a lookout on the bow is always prudent. We did find one **uncharted bommie** right on our path from the west entrance to the anchorage on the west side of the westernmost island of Yavu. (Approximate waypoint of the bommie **16°29.875 S / 179°43.542 W**). – The Rose

5.8.2 Yanuca Island

This is the village where you do sevusevu before you go to any other anchorage in the Ringgolts.

5.8.2.1 Anchorages:

5.8.2.1.1 Village Anchorage

May 2025: 16°30.0318S / 179°40.9903W in 16m (low tide) on the opposite side of the village. We had NE light winds. It is deep over on this side with several bommies, but we found a sandy patch. We did snag a small bommie but luckily did not get stuck.

Our friends at Wainani and Genet Lewe anchored on the sandy patch which was beautiful and had no bommies, but a bit of a roll. We thought we would “crowd” them if we anchored over but in retrospect there was plenty of room for all three boats on the sandy patch. – sv Sugar Shack

May 2025: 16°29.956S / 179°41.228W in 9 m. – Wainani

Aug. 2022: 16°30.007S / 179°41.315W in rubble. We anchored in front of the village. The anchor held but the lee shore with reef behind was disconcerting. – Capall Mara

2014: 16°29.971S / 179°41.294W. The Yanuca village is at the SE corner. The bay in front of the village is beautiful and has good sand holding but can be rough if swell is up. – The Rose

5.8.2.1.2 School Anchorage

Aug. 2022: 16°29.755S / 179°41.785W in front of the school on the north side of Yanuca. – Capall Mara

2014: 16°29.727S / 179°41.772W. If the tradewinds are blowing, the school anchorage on the N side of Yanuca is excellent, protected from the swell & great sand holding. – The Rose

2012: 16°29.69S / 179°41.77W Southerly winds. Not good with prevailing winds. – Soggy Paws.

5.8.2.1.3 West Anchorage

2012: 16°30.09S / 179°42.12W - E-NE With prevailing winds, we moved to the “West Anchorage” which did not offer much better protection and was a tight fit for 3 boats. – Soggy Paws

5.8.2.2 General Services

5.8.2.2.1 Sevusevu at the Village

May 2025: The village has two short white poles sticking out. Take the dinghy in between and go straight to shore during high tide. Zack, the Turaga ni Koro’ should meet you at the shore. The chief was at Taveuni so we did sevusevu with Zack and half the village. It was super basic, here is your kava, welcome, you can do anything, anywhere in the Ringgolds. Super nice and very welcoming.

He offered a guide to take us to Cobia to hike the caldera rim, but we politely declined. – sv Sugar Shack

5.8.2.2.2 Wifi (Internet and Phone)

May 2025: Digicel and Vodafone did not work anywhere in the Ringgolds. – sv Sugar Shack

July 2012: Internet: We had Vodafone cell and internet access--weak but usable with our dongle on a USB extension cable and tied as high as we could reach in the rigging. The chief’s son called on the VHF and told us to go to the west side of the main island. We headed for the west side of the big island (BUDAN2 on the chartlet). – Soggy Paws

5.8.2.3 Cruiser Reports

May 2025: The village is really friendly. There are about 60 people who live there even though many have moved off island. The school is a 30-minute walk over the ridge. There is a school boat that takes the kids over the reef (mid to high tide) to school too. They love gifts as they don’t get many visitors. – sv Sugar Shack

Aug. 2022: John went ashore to meet Willy, the chief’s nephew. He was about to go fishing so sevusevu was arranged for later. Willy came past with a lobster for us. Later, John paid him \$20 without negotiation.

Willy visited several times; he wanted to take us diving but the weather was too bad. Willy is very personable. He runs a homestay business: Yanuca island Homestay and Spearfishing. Willy Bukarau: +679.930.9116. bukarau@gmail.com – Capall Mara

2014 - We have made three visits to Yanuca and the Cobia (pronounced Thombia) caldera this season. We keep going back because it is so beautiful and because the village is so friendly and unspoiled. In prevailing winds, it makes a very convenient loop as a day trip up from Viani Bay or Kioa with a good angle on the wind to the west entrance. After a few days visit we continued to Matagi Island enjoying a nice angle on the wind for sailing there as well. – The Rose

5.8.3 Yuvu Island

5.8.3.1 Anchorages

5.8.3.2 West Middle Bay

May 2025: **16°30.12S / 179°43.7W** in 10m little roll when wind shifts. We experienced a bit of a swell, but our neighbors on a catamaran said they did not. – Wainani

May 2025: **16°30.190S / 179°43.071W** in 9m, no need for floats. – Geniet Lewe

Aug. 2022: **16°30.200S / 179°43.129W**. We anchored in sand between low coral and spent 6 days until the wind came down. The wind was forecast to increase, so Willy came with us in 25kt to this anchorage on the west side of Yavu Island. – Capall Mara

2012: **16°29.9S / 179°42.98W** anchorage near the NW corner. Good for SE-NE wind and swell. – sv Soggy Paws

5.8.3.3 Cruiser Reports

2014: The snorkeling just north of the west anchorage (16°29.896 S / 179°42.989) is some of the best we've seen with coral lattice and lots of fish all an easy swim from the boat. – The Rose

5.8.3.4 West Bottom Bay

May 2025: **16°30.486S / 179°43.179W** in 7m surrounded by bommies. We added two very large floats at the 20m and 30m mark and put the bridle on at 40m. There is a reef close by but we cleared it with our scope. Lovely bay with turtles and clear water. – sv Sugar Shack

5.8.3.5 Cruiser Reports

May 2025: Easy paddle board/dinghy ride to the middle west bay. The snorkeling was not terribly exciting (except the turtle we saw). There are some young corals trying to thrive here. It is a really beautiful bay, peaceful and calm (during our wx conditions).

We took the dinghy to Cobia (see Cobia report below) to hike the rim and swim the caldera. – sv Sugar Shack

5.8.4 Cobia

5.8.4.1 Anchorage

May 2025: **16°27.920S / 179°40.771W** in 9m in front of the beach with good holding. – Geniet Lewe

5.8.4.2 Cruiser Reports

May 2025: We took our dinghy from the West Bottom anchorage on Yuvu to Cobia a 3.5m one way trip. We had pretty nice conditions and only a small swell. We arrived at high tide and decided to explore the inside of the caldera first. Zack said we could only go in / out of the caldera lagoon in the dinghy during high tide

because the reef is too shallow. It was super beautiful inside with clear water and lots of birds. We swam a little but did not see many fish.

Hike: We anchored the dinghy at the long beach (16°27.889S / 179°40.545W). We turned right (south) along the beach and then hiked up the hill (where you will see grass). We sort of made our own trail through the trees and up the hill (slowly heading north). We eventually found a narrow trail that we followed Navionics has a mark for the tallest point on the ridge (16°27.697S / 179°40.447W) at 500' elevation.

We found three great look points.

- 16°46.267S / 179°67.438W. The 1st one you come to has a great view of the caldera with only a little vegetation obstruction.
- 16°46.139S / 179°67.401W. The highest point at 500'. If you have a drone, you can capture a great shot of the caldera from the top
- 16°46.432S / 179°67.351W. This was the very best view of the caldera. We ventured down the wrong path on the way back and found it. Just a short 15-minute diversion and well worth the view.

In retrospect it would have been a LOT easier going to the actual trail start, but it was an adventure. We walked 3.1 miles round trip for about 1.5 hours. The views are worth it!

Navionics has a pin (16°27.988S / 179°40.269W) where the walk is supposed to start. It says it is a 15-20-minute walk to the ridge. The problem is the wind and swell pour into this bay during the tradewinds making it hard to land and leave your dinghy. – sv Sugar Shack

2014: A **dinghy entrance** is well marked through the shore reef for visiting. The village does request a visit and sevusevu prior to visiting the caldera of Cobia.

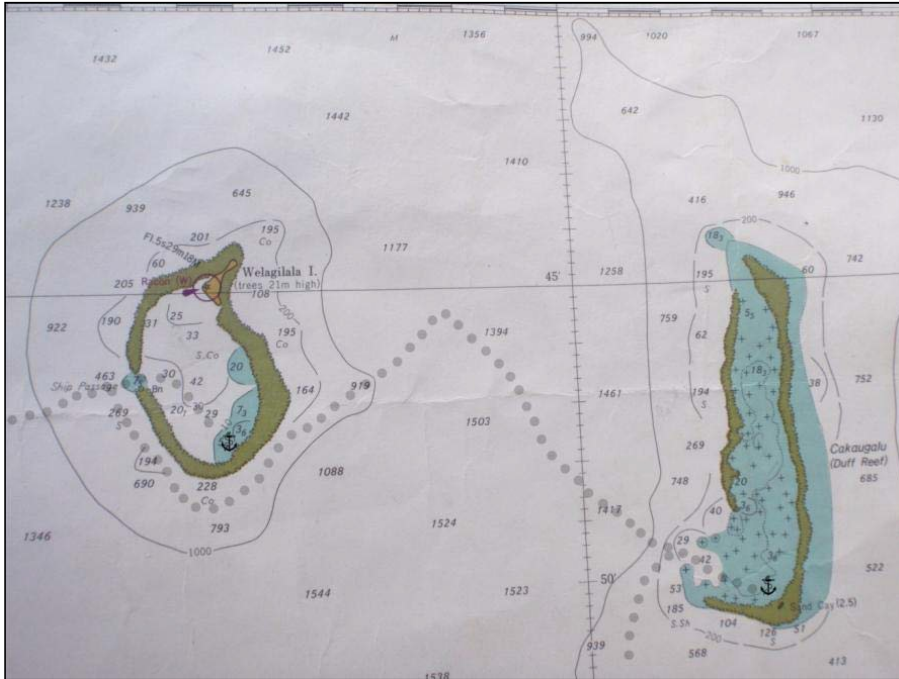
We have enjoyed great adventures climbing the caldera, diving. He is a wonderful inroad to their island culture. On some Fridays the village performs a Mekka (Meki, dance/get-together) which is reputed to be excellent. – The Rose

July 2012: Willie, the Chief's son, offered to take us in the village launch to hike to the top of the crater on Cobia Island, in the northern part of Budd Reef. It is possible to take the big boat there, but it seemed easiest to go with Willie in the launch. He quoted a price of \$20FJ per person for this trip.

The next day, we loaded 10 cruisers, and their hiking and snorkel gear into Willie's launch. The wind and seas were up in the lagoon, and it was a very wet ride over from where we were anchored to Cobia Island. The wind was a little more south than normal, and the beach that Willie normally stops at was not very tenable, so we circled the island counter-clockwise to the opening in the island facing NE. It was about mid-tide and falling, and the heavily laden launch just made it over the reef and into the bowl-shaped lagoon. We spent the next 2 hours hiking up to the highest point on Cobia. From there we had a spectacular view of the entire reef and the village and islands to the SE. – Soggy Paws

5.9 Islands/Reefs Between Vanua Levu and the Lau

5.9.1 Welagilala (Welangilala, Wailagilala)



Chartlet Courtesy s/v Shandon

5.9.1.1 Pass

June 2012: Welagilala Pass from Kite

16°46.471S / 179°07.621W

16°46.417S / 179°07.516W

16°46.388S / 179°07.436W

Aug 2010: The approach to the pass at Welagilala is straight forward. Using waypoint 16°46.30S / 179°07.70W off the chart and it worked. The post on the south side of the entrance is visible. Width of pass approx. 100m. 7m in the pass then drops fast to 30m. Once inside the water is deep and bommie free. – Shandon

5.9.1.2 Anchorages

Sept. 2024: 16°45.192'S / 179°06.574'W in 13'. 50 miles due east of Namata Bay. Good place to overnight on way to Vanua Belavu if winds are against you. Large sand patch; shallow. Navionics accurate for passage through reef. – Peregrine

Aug. 2022: 16°45.11S / 179°06.54W in 4m, anchorage can be bumpy around high water. – Eastern Stream.

June 2012: Once clear of the pass, turn northerly and head for lighthouse. Anchor where the water turns turquoise in 20-35'. There is at least one reef off the beach that we saw so keep a good eye out. Otherwise, excellent holding in sand. – Kite

5.9.1.3 Cruiser Reports

Aug. 2022: This is a little island with white sandy beaches. You anchor on a sandy bottom in crystal clear water. The island started building a little resort years ago, but it never opened. There are a few holiday

houses and, on the island, lives a caretaker family. They are very welcoming. We did a bonfire, lovo, and kava evening with the locals living on the island and had a good time. – Eastern Stream

5.9.2 Cakaugalu (Cakaungalu)

5.9.2.1 Pass

Sept. 2022: Pass is wide and easy. There are few bommies on the way to the anchorage, but they are big and clearly visible. – Starlight

5.9.2.2 Anchorages

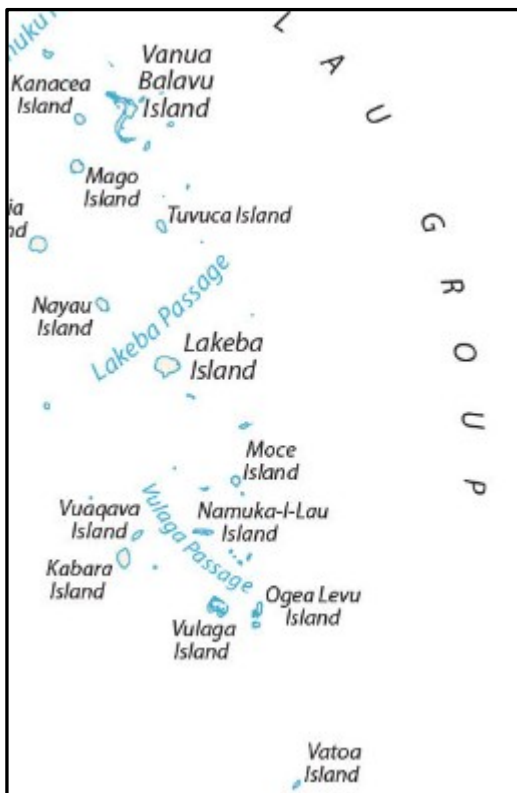
Sept. 2022: **16°50.554S / 178°56.792W.** Sand, 5 meters depth. On every high tide we had quite severe swell coming in and it was not very comfortable to stay on the boat. But on low tide when you have trade winds from SE, there was almost no swell. – Starlight

5.9.2.3 Cruiser Report

Sept. 2022: Duff Reef aka Cakaugalu. It is a lovely remote place with a soft sand island and only two palm trees. There are sea birds nesting and we found many old turtle nests. This is a place if you want to feel literally in the middle of nowhere. – Starlight

6 Eastern Archipelago: Lau Group, North to South

Calder's Yachtsman's Guide - Pg 101



6.1 General Information

6.1.1 Lau History

The Lau islands of Fiji, including these northern islands, have an interesting history.

Lomaloma, the principal village of Vanua Balavu, was Fiji's first port and was once a small city with hotels, restaurants and even a botanical garden. During World War II, large US warships anchored in the narrow waters off the town. Today, it is little more than a quiet seaside village with two tiny grocery stores, a post office, a secondary school and a rudimentary public hospital.

Lomaloma's "suburb" of Sawana was the site where Tongan Christians, led by Ma'afu, arrived to subdue Fijian heathens after the murder of a missionary. After this, the Lau became and remained a province of Tonga and the Roko Tui Lau (King of the Lau) was the ruler of Fiji.

Tonga ceded the Lau to Fiji when Fiji became part of the UK but the Tongan architecture, art and language are still represented in the Lau. The people of the province are a mixture of ethnic Fijian and Tongan peoples, with only a smattering of Indo-Fijians working mostly on island plantations. Tongan is spoken in the far south of the archipelago. Also, the chief or king of the Lau is now called the Tui Layau and is located in Lakeba (lah KEM bah), the present-day administrative capital of the Lau, far to the south. Even today, leaders of Fiji often come from the Lau. – Carina

6.1.2 Medical: Hospitals and Clinics

Aug. 2012: We had a diving-related medical emergency in Fulaga in the S. Lau. As a result of this incident, this is what we know about medical facilities in the Lau group

There are medical clinics on almost every island, usually in the largest village.

Vanua Balavu's clinic/hospital is in Lomaloma.

Vulaga is in the primary village of Moana-i-Cake (where you do sevusevu), is reasonably well equipped with a trained nurse with good English. The facility is equipped with a land-line connection to Suva, and an HF radio on which they can communicate with doctors located in Lakeba and Kabara, and with doctors and hospital staff in Suva. I would assume that all the clinics are similarly equipped.

Neither the clinic in Vulaga nor anyone in the village has VHF radio. The nursing station has limited channels on the **SSB radio**, but does seem to **monitor 8068.5** during the day--this frequency is what the nurses and doctors in the Lau use to communicate with each other. We were also successful in making contact (pre-arranged) the nurse at Vulaga, on 4030.

We also understand from some tourist literature that **Suva Radio (callsign 3DP)** stands by on several frequencies, including 2182 and 6215, and they can provide medical advice by radio.

There is no airfield for medical evacuations in Vulaga, but the large protected lagoon makes it possible for a float plane to land in the lagoon, and they are also close enough to Suva to be able to send a helicopter that can land in the village. In order to get a medivac out of Vulaga, we had to first visit the village nurse, who did an assessment and called her boss, the doctor in Lakeba, who then elevated the request to Suva. We were told that they did several such evacuations in 2011, but ours is the first in 2012.

The doctor in Lakeba then has to elevate the request to Suva, and their first comeback was to try to get us to sail to Lakeba where there is an airfield, but we insisted on a medivac out of Vulaga due to the urgency of the situation. Within an hour, we had approval for the medivac all the way up to the Ministry of Health in Suva.

Three hours later, a helicopter landed in the village, even though the wind was blowing 20+ knots out of the SE. The helicopter is the preferred transport for urgent medical issues, because it can land directly at the hospital in Suva. It is important that you try to provide GPS coordinates for the expected landing area (our helicopter had to overfly 3 villages before he guessed correctly which one to land at).

There is no cell coverage in Vulaga and most of the S. Lau (but there is coverage in Lakeba). We used our satellite phone and HF to muster support from cruisers and US-based medical facilities (DAN and a relative of a cruiser who is a neurologist & diver).

Also, though I am sure the nurse in Vulaga would have been responsive to our emergency in her official capacity, we felt that having made contact with the village, beyond just doing the sevusevu, helped in our situation. By the time the emergency occurred, we had been to church in the village twice and attended several lunches in the village, had some villagers aboard Soggy Paws for a look-see, and spread a few small gifts around. By this time, we were almost family, and were treated as such. So, it is useful to make a little time in your visit to establish a rapport with the nearby village(s).— Soggy Paws

6.2 Naitauba (Nautumba)

Naitauba Island is a privately-owned island, owned by a religious sect. In a special arrangement, they own the island and the anchoring area. Passing yachts CANNOT anchor there without prior permission. Contact info: <http://www.naitauba.org>

6.3 Vanua Balavu

NOTE: All boats are required to stop at Dalconi Village to do sevusevu **PRIOR** to anchoring in the Bay of Islands. The chief is aware that many cruisers are not following this requirement and he is very annoyed with us. So, please stop at Dalconi first, then move to Bay of Islands.

6.3.1 Passes

6.3.1.1 NorthWest Pass

Cruising Guide References: Yachtsman's Fiji, 3rd Ed - Pg 104-105

June 2025: Entering the northwest pass simply follow the marks on the reefs and line up the lights / white pillars on shore. From there follow a trusted track or use satellite images. Path into the Pool area is minimum 3m at low tide but the shallow areas will get your attention. Watch for well discussed bommies port and starboard and make entrance into the Pool area from either the north or south. Entering from the south definitely keep someone on the bow but passage is possible between the little islets. – SeaGlub

June 2022: We approached the NW pass at early morning and slack tide. There are two white range markers on the mountain side that you can use to line up the pass. Once you near the pass there is “special purpose beacon” at 17°09.497S / 179°03.897W. Both Navionics and the Sail Fiji Cruising app were pretty accurate and easily guided us to Dalconi and then to a protected anchorage at Bay of Islands. – sv Sugar Shack

6.3.1.2 Adavaci (Western) Pass

Cruising Guide References: Yachtsman's Fiji, 3rd Ed - Pg 111

July 2022: Winds blowing ESE at 20+kt we entered the pass with wind and sea on the nose. Tide was just starting to ebb. There are no markers for this pass, but it's deep and wide, our charts were spot on (both Navionics and satellite chart). After you enter the pass and before you enter the lagoon, you will come to a slight dog leg where you need to split two large bommies. On COG 058T at **17°13.650S / 179°01.193W**. Then at **17°13.555S / 179°01.315W** we were on course 082T. After we split the two coral heads and headed straight for the village. – sv Sugar Shack

June 2012: Adavaci pass waypoints to go directly in to Dalconi for sevusevu.

- Adavaci 1: 017°13.6851S / 179°01.2963W
- Adavaci 2: 017°13.6523S / 179°01.2015W

- Adavaci 3: 017°13.6021S / 179°01.1103W
- Adavaci 4: 017°13.5813S / 179°01.0268W

Our electronic charts were pretty far off. We used both CM93 & Navionics. – Shango

6.3.2 Dalconi (Dalthoni, Daliconi) Village

Cruising Guide References: S. Pacific Anchorages - Pg 87, A Yachtsman's Fiji, 3rd Ed - Pg 110-111

Contact information for Daliconi Village: Sam and Lako are the Daliconi Village Tourism Committee. They can be reached at +679.603.0823 or +679.943,0831 (cell), or lako.newton@yahoo.com.

Daliconi Village WP: 17°13.140S / 178°57.400W.

6.3.2.1 Anchorages

Sept. 2024: 17°13.215S / 178°57.989W Anchored in 30 ft; rocky, sketchy holding. – Peregrine

Sept. 2022: 17°13.173S / 178°58.002W. Rocky bottom so we floated our chain. – Starlight.

July 2022: 17°13.190S / 178°57.980W dropped in 10m. It was a challenging stick as it appears to be rocky holding. We tried to drop further N at 17°13.178S / 178°57.975W and we just dragged and skipped. We planned to only stay overnight (1500-0800) so we just set a tight anchor alarm and called it a night.

About 1-1.5nm away, is a quiet little bay where you can anchor and dinghy into village, a catamaran anchored at **17°14.495S / 178°58.153**. Another boat with a shallow draft anchored at **17°14.762S / 178°58.762W°**.

Dinghy Landing: Beach landed (left of the village), used a stern anchor & tied a line to a rock. – sv Sugar Shack.

July 2022: 17°13.190S / 178°57.980W. Anchored in 15 meters, sand with bommies, so either float the chain or dive after anchoring to check that the chain doesn't get tangled up in the coral. – Calliope

July 2022: 17°13.35S / 178°58.05W. We had good, rocky holding. Anchored here for 3 days. – Eastern Stream

July 2022: 17°13.205S / 178°58.029W. Anchored in 11m, reasonable holding for 2 nights. – Seneto

6.3.2.2 Provisions

Sept. 2024: Take the bus or hitch to Lomaloma, but it doesn't have much for shops. There is a local bakery in a village on the way there. Ask your driver. There is cell coverage in Lomaloma. – Peregrine

Sept. 2022: On Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays a truck from Daliconi goes to Lomaloma, where you can get some groceries. The ride both ways costs \$7 FJD per person. The truck leaves Daliconi around 8:30 and brings you back around noon. – Starlight

July 2022: There is a small village store open during the week. Follow the dirt road up and over the hill, just past the school, it's a small house on the left. They have very little provisions so it is best to leave the store's inventory for the locals. We did not find the bakery in Daliconi Village. – sv Sugar Shack

6.3.2.3 Activities

Sept. 2022: We came here to do sevusevu. That was quick and easy. In Daliconi, you can do a little hike uphill till the school, it's short but beautiful. – Starlight

July 2022: Ask Tuta or the chief if you can schedule a cave snorkel tour in Bay of Islands. It is absolutely wonderful to swim inside 3-4 caves and see the stalagmites and stalactites. You must go at low tide, bring water shoes, snorkel, fins, mask, underwater torch, and camera. Well worth the money. They will pick you up in a long boat and drive you to each cave. Also, if they have time ask them to take you by the Flying Fox tree (tons and tons of bats!). The fee was \$30F per person for the cave/bat tour. Well worth the money for a 3-4-hour tour. We truly enjoyed the caves and the long-boat ride around Bay of Islands. – sv Sugar Shack

July 2022: We did our sevusevu at the village and we took the truck from Dalconi to Lomaloma. The truck leaves on Mon., Wed., and Fri. around 0830 from the top of the hill. A two-way ticket is \$7/pp. In Lomaloma there are two little shops that offer “general provisioning” (such as sugar and flour). – Eastern Stream

July 2022: Wonderful place with a small beach in the north and another one in the south. Beautiful snorkeling, a lot of coral, spotted eagle rays and many lobsters. Shelter from northeast to southeast, open to the west. Nearby to a cave to the northeast where you can enter and see many small bats. – Calliope

June 2022: The village is incredibly friendly and the sevusevu presentation was an enjoyable and respectful experience. If you are there on a Sunday, it is likely that you will be invited to church and may be asked to share lunch with the elders. Contrary to previous reports, we were not asked for any money. – Seneto

6.3.2.4 Sevusevu

June 2025: Both Chief Josese and the headman were off island. So, the Minister of Tourism did our sevusevu. He is located at the blue across from Chief Josese’s house. Really nice, but super quick sevusevu.

He asked for a donation to help them build a concrete path from the church through the village and had us sign his guest book (which was just a simple sign in). – sv Sugar Shack

July 2022: Sevusevu: Tuta is the headman and the chief is new, his name is Josese. To do your sevusevu, go to shore, turn right, past the church. The house is yellow with a monument out front. – sv Sugar Shack

6.3.2.5 Cruiser Reports

Sept. 2024: Navigating Daliconi to Bay of Islands: There is a huge error in the Navionics chart that shows an emerging reef north of Yaniahaloa Island on the way to BOI from Daliconi. The pass is deep and wide, reef to both sides easily visible. – Peregrine

July 2022: After finishing with sevusevu we asked to go to the school as we had supplies to leave. It’s a few minutes up a hill and out of town but an easy walk. We asked the head teacher about where to get fresh fruit and she called one of her students – he was on his best behavior as he came in immediately, said “yes ma’am several times. She said his grandpa had available fruit and showed us how to get to the right house. We were able to purchase papaya, bananas, and a few other items. – Dash

6.3.3 Bay of Islands

NOTE: All boats are required to stop at Dalconi Village to do sevusevu PRIOR to anchoring in the Bay of Islands. The chief is aware that many cruisers are not following this requirement and he is very annoyed with us. So, please stop at Dalconi first, then move to Bay of Islands.

6.3.3.1 Anchorages

June 2025: 17°10.673S / 179°00.940W. Dropped the hook in 5m during high tide. Good holding, sandy spot. Super pretty area with a nice soft breeze.

17°10.625S / 179°00.949W in 6m during mid-tide. This spot gave us a little more space between us and the bommie toward our stern.

At one point we had 5 boats in here, (2) med-moored to off to the side and (2) near the lagoon entrance with us near the aft bommie. – sv Sugar Shack

Sept. 2024: 17°10.760’S / 179°1.195’W Mostly sand, but I caught on a coral outcrop even with a floated chain. Anchored in lee of big island. – Peregrine

Sept. 2022: 17°10.638S / 179°00.935W. Swimming Pool Anchorage. Once inside the Pool area, depths are 6-8m. Swing anchoring probably 4 boats can fit comfortably, however it is possible to med anchor and tie the stern lines to the island to the south and fit twice as many boats. – SeaGlub

Sept. 2022: 17°10.857S / 179°01.381W. Some rocks. This is not the best anchoring spot as we and other boat were stuck and struggled a bit to lift the anchor. The spot is very close to the fruit bats place, where at daytime they hang on the trees and around dusk they start flying for the search of food. – Starlight

July 2022: 17°10.830S / 179°00.9914W. Dropped the hook in 11 meters of sand. We followed the “pink” Navionics line around the first island but decided not to take the first left into Bay of Islands. We continued south to the track at 17°11.550S / 179°01.070W and turned to port and then tucked into the first little bay all by ourselves. – sv Sugar Shack

July 2022: 17°10.193S / 179°01.192W in 12m. Beautiful spot. – Capall Mara

July 2022: 17°10.92S / 179°01.01W There were already some boats in the first few bays of the Bay of Islands, so we decided to continue a little further. The entrance is small and you have to eyeball your way in as there are several bommies. We placed several lines to shore as there is no swinging room. It felt like we were back in Chile, where we always anchored this way. It was only 30 degrees warmer.

We also anchored at **17°09.83S / 179°01.87W** anchored here with two lines ashore. – Eastern Stream

July 2022: 17°10.576S / 179°01.043W. Dropped the hook in 6m of sand, excellent holding and shelter at the western entrance to Ship Sound. Absolutely stunning. – Seneto

6.3.3.2 General Services

6.3.3.2.1 Wifi (Internet / Phone)

June 2025: We were able to access Digicel (slowly, patiently) while at our anchorage. So much so that we could turn off the power hungry Starlink. – sv Sugar Shack

June 2022: We found that Digicel worked better than Vodafone here, but both were spotty at best (WhatsApp, Messenger, some email, no web surfing). Early morning and late evenings had better service (less people trying to connect). It appears that the connection was location based. Where we anchored it seemed to work better than other locations so we found several dinghies around us with cruisers trying to get a signal. Also, if the island is low on fuel, they will shut off the wifi tower (which runs on fuel). – sv Sugar Shack

6.3.3.3 Activities

June 2025: The Turanga ni koro (headman) and or the chief can arrange for a cave tour. It was \$30F/pp. Or you can be adventurous and explore the beautiful hidden gems in your dinghy, kayak, or SUP.

Bat Tree: 017°10.974S / 179°01.180'W. The Flying Fox bat tree is fairly easy to find and is near most of the anchorages. Come around dusk to see them start their hunting adventures.

Caves near main anchorage: 017°10.919S / 179°01.064W. Small cave, accessible at mid-low tide. Unfortunately, graffiti is on the outside of the cave.

Cave 017°10.391S / 179°01.226W a nice large cavern accessible at mid-tide (to avoid scraping your belly on the coral at the entrance).

Cathedral / Meeting Room Cave: 017°09.744S / 179°02.520W. This is a beautiful cave that is best entered at mid-tide. You can come at low tide with water shoes, but it is much easier to swim in at mid-tide. The elders used to meet here during low tide to discuss important village matters. There are super high ceilings with stalactites and several “windows” that let light into the cave.

Paw Paw Beach: 017°11.562S / 179°00.716W. Nice beach for a happy hour. Watch the tides & bring bug spray.

Hike to the Lookout: 017°11.736S / 179°00.378W leave your dinghy here to start your hike to the lookout.

017°11.668S / 179°00.346W is where the gate is to access the trail to the lookout. Close the gate behind you!

017°11.244S / 179°00.665W is the actual lookout location. Great view of the bays

There are numerous nooks and crannies all around the Bay of Islands. Take your dinghy out and explore all of the beautiful mini-lagoons and hidden areas. – sv Sugar Shack

July 2022: On the corner of the cliff to the east at about **17°10.200S / 179°01.155W** is a fresh water spring visible at low water; the fresh water comes out through a clamshell under some pressure; at low tide this could be collected from your dinghy. – Capall Mara

6.3.3.4 Cruiser Reports

July 2022: Sevusevu has to be done in Dalconi (prior to arrival). This is a magnificent bay full of many glorious places to anchor, snorkel, and explore. Find a cozy place to hide away from reality or drop the hook next to other cruisers. Enjoy the sunset flight of the Pacific Flying Fox Bats and Fijian Free-Tailed Bats, or visit the underwater world of fish. – sv Sugar Shack

July 2022: Be aware that Navionics is inaccurate for the leading line into the north west passage. There are 2 conspicuous white land marks which when lined up, will see you safely inside the passage. Whilst it is tempting to go straight to Bay of Islands for its stunning anchorages, please be respectful and visit Dalconi Village (pronounced Dalithoni) to present sevusevu. Whilst we were there, the chief was aware of a number of boats that had not visited the village and was very upset by this.

When visiting the remote islands, we always ensure that we have spare basics on board to share (rice, flour, sugar, salt, soap, toothpaste / brushes, pencils, paper for kids and fishing gear is always welcome. -- Seneto

6.3.4 North Vanua Balavu

6.3.4.1 Anchorages

Sept. 2022: **17°09.762S / 179°02.3737W**. Dropped in 35' on this sand over rock for one night before our departure for Matagi Island. Entry to this tiny bay was clear based on Navionics and Open CPN images. The winds were really whipping around while we were there and it seemed like they came from all directions except west. The land masses here probably cause a lot of swirl with the wind. We had good holding and didn't worry about dragging. – Oh Joy II

6.3.4.2 Cruiser Report

Sept. 2022: The area is like a miniature Bay of Islands, excellent for kayak, SUP or dinghy exploring. There are a few caves west of the anchorage in the islets and rock formations. Very cool to poke around in.

There is no cell service here for Vodafone or Digicel.

Sevusevu: We did sevusevu at Dalconi Village. – Oh Joy

6.3.5 Malaka Bay

Cruising Guide References: South Pacific Anchorages - Pg 87

South East of Daliconi Village

6.3.5.1 Anchorages

Aug. 2012: **17°14.26S / 178°58.09W** Dropped in 14m of mud with good holding out of the view of the village. We "may" have been in the way of the runway, so be aware.

We also anchored another time at around **17°14.24S / 178°58.06 W**. At low tide the water goes out a considerable way from the slipway, but it is possible to wade through the mud. – Dream Away

6.3.5.2 Cruiser Reports

Aug. 2012: The bay is quite extensive, and seemed to be around 16-20m all over. The whole bay is surrounded by mangroves, which are fronted by reef running pretty much all around the bay, and there are also some isolated patches, so we're not sure how much that would count as a good hurricane hole - we'd prefer to fetch up onto soft mud if something went wrong. There is only the one entrance, so that would be the only direction you would get any fetch. According to the locals, even when the wind is honking, the bay is quiet. The village is totally separate from Daliconi. You *will* need to do sevusevu upon arrival. – Dream Away

6.3.6 Bavatu (Mbavatu) Harbor

Cruising Guide References: South Pacific Anchorages - Pg 87, Yachtsman's Fiji, 3rd Ed - Pg 103, Pg 107, 109

Bavatu Harbor is the northernmost of the 3 bays on the coast north of Lomaloma. It is a huge bay, and includes The Exploring Isles Yacht Club, which is owned/run by the same guy who owns the Copra Shed Marina in Savusavu and Vuda Marina in Vetu Levu. The Exploring Isles Yacht Club is not currently open, but if you ask permission, you may be allowed to have sundowners on the dock or deck.

It is a fairly deep bay with 2 or 3 arms.

Bavatu is freehold land, and if only stopping there, you do not need to do sevusevu with any village.

6.3.6.1 Anchorages

July 2022: 17°11.17S / 179°00.10W anchored with good holding. This is a nice and protected bay on the north side of the island. The bay is deep and we circled around for a while to find ourselves a good spot that was a little shallower and where we fit in between the other boats. – Eastern Stream

July 2022: 17°10.954S / 178°59.822W. A large bay with plenty of places to anchor. We chose to go in the left-hand smaller bay as you enter, offering great holding and shelter. – Seneto

June 2022: 17°10.951S / 178°59.840W in 7m mud (close to the wall, but plenty of swing room). Our friend was on the mooring so we had to give them space while still anchoring around bommies. There is another anchorage at **17°11.214S / 179°00.00W** which looked to be in 13m but there were 3 boats already there.

The mooring belongs to the plantation owner. You may ask the locals to ask the owner if you can use the ball, but do not assume it is ok to use it without prior approval. – sv Sugar Shack

July 2012: Bavatu Harbor is pretty easy in/out. There are some coral heads in sand (pretty visible) down in the southern end of the bay, keep a good look-out.

Harbor Entry: 17°10.6 S / 179°00.2 W

Yacht Club: 17°10.95 S / 179°00.2W 2 moorings

Anchorage 1: 17°11.25 S / 179°00.034W SE end of Bay, 20-40' some coral

Anchorage 2: 17°10.9 S / 178°59.8W E end of Bay 15-40' some coral

Anchorage 3: 17°11.2 S / 178°59.92W In 45' of water tight quarters

Dinghy Landing: 17°11.24 S / 179°00.14W For Steps/Path to Village

The bay is mostly very deep, except the west side of the bay south of the yacht club--it shallows rapidly and there are coral heads there, so use caution. – Soggy Paws

6.3.6.2 Activities

Sept. 2024: There is a path to the plantation on top of the hill at the Bavatu Yacht Club. Don't take it. The staircase path at the south end of the bay is much easier. Having said that, the plantation on top is spectacular and they are used to yachties trooping around. Just introduce yourselves and ask permission to walk to the other side of the peninsula for a spectacular view of the Bay of Islands. – Peregrine

Aug. 2022: We asked the plantation owner about the hike to the beach. He told us to go straight up the hill where there is a fence/gate. Go through that but ensure it is closed as this is the horse paddock. Keep walking through to another gate – again close it, and a few minutes later you will be at the beach. We found the best wifi signal was at the top of the second gate. Since we were in the bay for a week waiting out strong winds, we had plenty of time to explore the area by walks. We would take our folding chairs and go up with our computers and catch up with emails and such! -- Dash

July 2022: The plantation is nice to explore and has several hikes. The ridge where you have a beautiful view of the Bay of Islands is great. We also did “Malley’s track” that starts at the beginning of the road to the plantation, marked by a wooden sign.

The landlady told us that Malley’s track goes over the hill to a beach, but that it has probably not been used for a long time. Which we found to be correct and on the top of the hill we could not find the path to the beach anymore. So, instead, we went over the hill, down and ended up at the wood sew area of the plantation. It is not a hike with views, but in the woods most of the time. Good for stretching the legs and doing a little exercise. We enjoyed it.

The plantation lady also told us that if you take the path up the plantation and go straight on to the white fence, when the path goes to the right, it should be possible to walk to a beach you pass on the way from Dalconi village to the Bay of Islands. – Eastern Stream

July 2022: We climbed the steps (at the head of the bay), to the small plantation village to meet the 5 people living there. Whilst sevusevu is not expected, big smiles showed how much it was appreciated along with the other basic food items (they supply ship had not been here for 2 months). Everyone was so friendly and on the following morning they came out to signal the boat with bags full of mandarin, green coconut, bananas, and papaya. There’s great walking and the views across to the Bay of Islands are spectacular. – Seneto

June 2022: Hike to the Ridge. Dinghy Landing: 17°11.24S / 179°00.14. Take 271 steps to the top and continue on the path to the village (8 blue houses). Enter through the gate and be sure to interact with any locals you see. To the left is a brick wall with a white gate, go through that and across the field to the next white gate. Continue straight and follow the trail through a lovely forest area lined with fruit trees, and up the hill. At the top of the hill, to the right you will see a rather large, tall grave. To the right of the grave is a small, but breathtaking overlook over Bay of Islands.

For a view of Bavatu Bay, go through the village, but continue straight through across the small field to a small gate (do not take the left to the brick wall with white gate). Continue across the field and up a hill and you will see two beautiful homes of the plantation owners. Enjoy the gorgeous views of Bavatu Bay. – sv Sugar Shack

6.3.6.3 Cruiser Reports

Aug. 2022: The Exploring Isles Yacht Club is not currently operational. But the owner said it was fine if we wanted to go and have sundowners on the dock or the back deck. We did this a few evenings with the five or so boats in the anchorage. – Dash

June 2022: We came from Bay of Islands and went around the NW corner to Bavatu Harbor. The path was well marked and accurately chartered (navionics). On the North side you do a funny little zig zag around the reefs, but they too are clearly marked. – sv Sugar Shack

6.3.7 Mavana Village

Mavana Village is on the 'mainland' just opposite Avea Island. Mavana Village should be visited for sevusevu if you plan on stopping in Horse Bay or Little Bay. It is a very nice and neat village and supposedly has produced one or two Prime Ministers for Fiji.

6.3.7.1 Anchorages

Many cruisers reported this bay has having poor holding. Perhaps, just a quick stop to do sevusevu or take your dinghy in to do sevusevu from Little Bay or Horse Bay.

Oct. 2022: Mavana doesn't really have a good anchorage for sevusevu. – SV Aqua Fox

Aug. 2022: The village does not have a good anchorage. – Capall Mara

Aug. 2012: **17°12.599S / 178°55.692W.** Easy anchor outside Mavana, but not very protected. – Chesapeake

July 2012: We anchored just inside the prominent coral head in the bay off the village. It's not a really protected anchorage, so only suitable for a day anchorage or very settled weather. – Midnight Sun

6.3.7.2 Cruiser Reports

Nov. 2013: We visited Manava village to present 'Sevusevu' to explore more of the islands and inlets near there. To get there we anchored in Little Bay, a very sheltered cove which could hold 6 small yachts. We took the dingy around to Mavana's pig and cow farm which is now run by a chap called Sotia Vuniwaqa. He greeted us on the beach and then took us on the 1-hour walk through the forest to Mavana Village.

We were very warmly greeted there and presented our Sevusevu plus some things for the school. The village looks very well to do and neat and tidy. It was a wonderful experience, meeting a very happy and very generous village. – Aqualuna

Aug. 2012: Chesapeake went Bavatu-Mavana (for sevusevu)-Little Bay in one day. When we arrived at Mavana, guess who met us--Sam from Daliconi. He was visiting family, and so accompanied us to do kava drop off with the chief's wife (chief not there), and then gave us a tour of the village. It is a very orderly village and quite large with an architectural mix of huts and prefab houses. They gave us some very sweet small bananas and we bought bok choy for \$10 for a big bag. It was really low tide when we arrived, so we had to pull the dinghy on its wheels quite a bit in on soft sand. – Chesapeake

July 2012: Mavana is a further mile or so to the East and just around the corner to the South from Little Bay. It is one of the most splendid villages we have ever seen.

You can dinghy around to the house on the beach next to Little Bay, and walk to Mavana from there. It's about a half hour walk to Mavana from Rubin's house. Or dinghy the whole way from Little Bay from Mavana.

The Chief of Mavana is now the ex-prime-minister (ousted in 2006), but he is usually not there. When we stopped in Mavana to present our sevusevu, our spokesperson was Tui. Tui looks after the Chief's House (the bright blue roofs visible from the beach), who is usually away in Suva. He presented us to the 2nd Chief. Tui translated the sevusevu for us quietly in English as the 2nd Chief spoke--this was a first for us, after many sevusevu experiences--it sure makes more sense to us. – Midnight Sun

6.3.8 Horse Bay

Yachtsman's Fiji, 3rd Ed - Pg 103, Pg 109

Note that this bay is part of the vanua of the village of Mavana. You must first do sevusevu at Mavana village prior to anchoring in Horse Bay.

6.3.8.1 Anchorages

July 2012: **17°11.524S / 178°57.710W.** We stopped in the bay that Calder calls Horse Bay. Most of the bay is somewhat exposed to the SE, and though there were attractive beaches, it didn't look like a good overnight anchorage. There was a small area in the SE corner of the bay that you could perhaps anchor one boat out of the swell and in reasonable depths. We saw an opening into a large inner bay just inshore from this anchorage spot, but it did not look navigable by a sailboat. – Soggy Paws

6.3.9 Little Bay

Yachtsman's Fiji, 3rd Ed - Pg 103, Pg 109

Note that this bay is part of the vanua of the village of Mavana. You must first do sevusevu at Mavana village prior to anchoring in Little Bay. However, cruisers have reported that Manvana has a poor anchorage so they anchored at Little Bay and took the dinghy to Manvana for sevusevu.

6.3.9.1 Pass

July 2012: The entrance is very narrow, but once inside, there is room for 6 boats of average size. Once inside, it is very protected.

There is an opening into a large inner bay just inshore from this anchorage spot, but it did not look navigable by a sailboat. It is a really large bay and we had fun exploring by dinghy. – Soggy Paws

July 2012: 17°11.21S / 178°57.113W. Little Bay has a Northerly facing very narrow entrance, so watch out for the protruding horns on either side, it opens up into the anchorage and at its Southern end a narrow corridor leads to a large inland lagoon. – Midnight Sun

6.3.9.2 Anchorages

Oct. 2022: 17°11.429S / 178°57.139W Anchored in 35' of water and good holding. There are two parts to this bay. The first, outer bay, is navigable through a cut and allows a protected anchorage from wind and waves from all sides excluding the north. Room for a handful of boats. – SV Aqua Fox

Aug. 2022: 17°11.416S / 178°57.157W in 14M in mud. Anchored here for several days. Rubin came around at low tide to take sevusevu for us as the village does not have a good anchorage. – Capall Mara

July 2012: 17°11.427 S / 178°57.151W. We stopped in Little Bay for a short overnight. If you plan to stay, you should either take your boat down to Mavana Village first, or go in your dinghy, and do your sevusevu (see Mavana Village info). – Soggy Paws

6.3.9.3 Activities

Oct. 2022: From the anchorage, you can easily see a gap between the hills directly to the south that is navigable with your dinghy or kayak. Once through the small gap, another large bay opens up. It starts out narrow but then opens up into a large bay, a little less than a mile long.

At the end of this bay are some mangroves and above the mangroves lives a Fijian family, Tui, Dee and their 5 sons giving it their best shot at country life. They are very friendly and welcoming to cruisers. They invited us to their home and cooked us *lovo* the same day we arrived. Tui slaughtered a pig and served it with fish, cassava, fresh vegetables, and soup. Our kids rode around the property on their horses and played with their children. They would love to have more cruisers and offer this experience as a way to earn money. We paid \$50F per adult and \$25F per child. Best to have several boats come to do this as one pig feeds a lot of people and they don't want to slaughter a pig for a few people. They gave us fruit and vegetables as we left.

Also, from this house you can walk over the hill to Mavana. – SV Aqua Fox

July 2012: There is some good **snorkeling/diving** nearby...Just inshore of the anchorage area, in the 'neck' of the passage to the inner bay, on the east side (left side going in), there is an amazing amount of soft coral. Best time for this snorkel is on an incoming tide, after the current has washed clean water in, and when the sun is high. On the opposite side of the pass is some nice sea fans.

Just outside the bay, on the west (left side going out) bank of the entry.

Best: At a coral head, **17°10.385S / 178°56.700W**. This is a mile outside the anchorage at Little Bay, and good for a snorkel or for a dive. The best area of the large coral mound is on the side toward Avea Island (the east side). Best time to dive is on a rising tide, a couple of hours after the tide turns inside Little Bay, and in the

morning (where the sun will shine on the east side of the coral mound). There are some amazing beds of Lettuce Coral in about 30' at the northern and southern extent of the best diving area. When there's some current on the head, the soft corals are also out in full bloom. There's really no place in reasonable depth to anchor the big boat out by this head, so anchor in Little Bay and dinghy out. It's only a mile from the anchorage. – Soggy Paws

July 2012: A large unmarked coral head less than 1-mile due North of Little Bay, is a great snorkel or tank dive and offers a pretty drop off and an enormous lettuce leaf coral patch (Eastern & south eastern corner so morning sun is best). Anchor the dinghy in less than 2 meters on the reef in a sandy patch- a transit is to line up the marker just outside the Little Bay entrance and the distant hill through the Little Bay pass.

Two minutes by dinghy to the East of the entrance is "the Estate". This is Mavana's pig and cow farm. Rubin, his wife Melini & daughter Rebecca live at & manage the Estate & welcome visits. If you are in a group, Rubin will provide lunch at their gorgeous setting - a roast pig on the beach & lovo with sweet potatoes. For a 30KG pig (more than enough to satisfy 6 boats), total cost is an extremely reasonable \$140. For a complete experience, those wishing to can watch the killing, gutting, skin preparation and roasting, including the famous Tongan technique of basting the skin with green coconut husks - an experience not to miss. – Midnight Sun

6.3.9.4 Cruiser Reports

July 2012: Just 3 miles East of Bavatu is Little Bay, a gorgeous secluded anchorage surrounded by high hills with great protection & flat water.

Seaplanes used to land and hide here during WW2. The large inland lagoon results in a strong current through the long corridor providing for a fast snorkel and clumps of large red soft coral. Middle of an incoming tide and bright sunshine helps visibility. – Midnight Sun

6.3.10 Lomaloma Village

6.3.10.1 Anchorages

Aug. 2022: 17°17.182S / 178°59.066W. This sandy anchorage is behind Yanu Yanu in 14 east wind fairly good protection for going to shore. Easy beach landing next to the pier.

Either side of the sandy spot is good depending on wind direction. – Askari

Oct. 2007: 17°17.7S / 178°58.9W in 11'. Deployed 180' of chain and rope our depth sounder showed 40'. Off Yanu Yanu Island in 11-40' sand. Dinghy approach from the beach S of the quay is clear, no coral. – Cheshire

6.3.10.2 Yachtsmen Services

6.3.10.2.1 Cooking Gas (Propane & Butane)

July 2012: Cooking Gas is available (swap or buy new tanks. Arrange prior to the ship's arrival). – Soggy Paws

6.3.10.2.2 Fuel (Diesel & Gasoline)

July 2023: General Store "Fotofili (left and behind the church) will help with diesel & petrol. – Knot Tide Down

July 2012: Premix gasoline is available at the gas station next to the bakery. – Soggy Paws

6.3.10.3 General Services

Oct. 2022: There is no bank/ATM. However, Fotofili market may allow you to do a small withdraw. – Sky Pond

July 2012: There is a Hospital, Post Office, Western Union. And, we had cell phone coverage. – Soggy Paws

6.3.10.4 Communications

Oct. 2022: There is a cellular tower on the hill overlooking Lomaloma. The locals report that Digicel has a stronger signal than Vodafone. We received “H” connectivity which is better than 3G but less than 4G. You may need to set your network preference to 3G on your phone to get “H.” If you don’t specify your preferred network to something less than 4G you may only get “E” as default. The closer in to the village you are, the more likely you will get 4G. – Sky Pond

6.3.10.5 Provisions

July 2023: We found three shops in the village.

- To the right of the wharf is the “post office shop” which had basic supplies.
- To the left of the wharf is a shop on the waterfront that has a good range of products but pricey.
- To the left and behind the church is a general store called Fotofili with a good range of supplies. They also sell ice cream cones. – Knot Tide Down

Oct. 2022: Push Tailevu is the largest store in the village, (cash only). Sharon Devi, the manager offers frozen chicken, sausages, whole frozen local fish and lobster (requires preorder for cleaning and cutting). It is a small store, but well-stocked. She will fill your shopping list from the counter of the store. A variety of fruits and vegetables are available including carrots, pears, apples, and oranges. She also has baking staples plus honey, raisins, crackers, mozzarella cheese, jam, peanut butter, etc.

There is also a small store behind the church called Fotofili (credit cards and cash).

Friday mornings there is a produce market at the post office which opens at 0700 and closes at 1000. You can find cabbage, tomatoes, cucumbers, onions and more. – Sky Pond

Aug. 2022: There are two small shops ashore for general provisions and gasoline. However, they do not have or sell beer. There is also a small bakery. – Askari

July 2012: At the time we were in Daliconi, there were 7 boats all looking for a little re-provisioning. So, we arranged with Sanila in Daliconi for one of the village's half-ton pickups to take us to Lomaloma and back. The cost round trip for the truck was approximately \$75, which we split up among the people who wanted to go.

The supply ship had just visited Lomaloma a few days before, so we knew they were pretty well stocked.

The ride over and back in the pickup was well worth doing, even if you don't need any provisions. The village of Daliconi does a regular run over to Lomaloma, so if you are by yourselves, you can likely get a ride over with villagers for a reasonable share of the cost of the truck. You can also take a launch from Susui Village to Lomaloma (see Susui section for details). – Soggy Paws

6.3.11 Cruiser Report

Aug. 2022: We were here for the annual road show end of July 2022. It was super fun and a great band was playing. But otherwise, the roadshow goodies were really not of much interest to cruisers. – Askari

6.4 Avea Island

6.4.1 Anchorages

Sept. 2024: 17°11.007S / 178°54.421W. Anchored off NW side of island in lee of the wind. A few reefs to avoid, but otherwise good holding in sand. – Peregrine

July 2012: 17°10.996S / 178°54.348W. Anchored in 25-40' sand. The anchorage was somewhat rolly at high tide, though wind-wise it was completely protected from the tradewinds. – Soggy Paws

6.4.2 Activities

July 2012: We visited Avea Island on a short reconnaissance trip from the Bay of Islands.

There was coral nearby good for snorkeling, and a cute little bay with a beach (accessible only by dinghy, and only a mid-tide or higher). Getting into this spot, we passed between two coral mounds that were easy to see, about a quarter mile west of the waypoint. We snorkeled on these mounds, and they were a decent snorkel, and might be a decent dive spot. On the rising tide, the water was reasonably clear. There is also coral inshore and a few hundred feet to the NNE of the anchor spot, that looked good, but we didn't snorkel.

From this anchorage, by dinghy, looking for a pass through the outer reef to go **diving** outside the reef.

Dinghy Pass Inner - 17°10.349S / 178°54.429W

Dinghy Pass Outer - 17°10.315S / 178°54.447W

Dive Spot - 17°10-239S / 178°54.504W

We did this exploration on a fairly calm day, on a rising tide, about an hour after low tide. The sea state in the GFS was about 1.6m. A lot of the reef in the area was breaking regularly, but this spot hardly broke. You would still need to exercise caution, but it's do-able in a normal dinghy. We didn't actual dive here, but jumped in for a snorkel and it looked OK. The reef dropped from 10' to 60+'. – Soggy Paws

6.5 Susui

Susui is on the southern and windward side of Vanua Balavu and is very well protected.

The two villages in Susui were devastated during cyclone Rae in February 2025. Please bring supplies.

6.5.1 Pass

See Tonga pass (section 5.8.1) for pass information.

6.5.2 Anchorages

June 2022: 17°20.407S / 178°56.889W in 7m. Navionics shows us on shore, but we are well behind the reef and in a nice sandy area with no bommies. – sv Sugar Shack

June 2022: 17°20.454S / 178°.56.975W. Sand anchorage, 5-8m. Very nice anchorage! – Mais Uma

Aug. 2012: 17°20.459S / 178°56.979W. The west side of the bay is full of reef which is why we're all anchored on the eastern side. There is plenty of space to anchor 6-7 boats in this bay. Do not swim on your anchor without doing sevusevu first (it is considered an afront). – Chesapeake

6.5.3 General Services

6.5.3.1 Wifi (Internet / Phone)

July 2024: Easy anchorage in 9m on sand with good shelter from trades and bogi walu. – PorePore

June 2022: We had both Digicel and Vodafone service in Susui. Not super-fast, but good enough to download web pages, order from Amazon, and upload photos to our blog (patiently). – sv Sugar Shack

6.5.4 Cruiser Reports

July 2024: We just had a wonderful stay here. Amazing snorkelling. The village has turned their bay into a reserve and the coral and fish life are stunning. Saw at least 15 giant clams which are very rare.

Very friendly village. Arm full of fruit handed out with no expectation of payment and delight when you do.

Great walk to the cave of bones. Yep, dead ancestors. And a boat trip to the hidden lagoons. – PorePore

June 2022: We left Bavatu Bay and came around Vanua Balavu straight into the wind. Route was a little wiggly to avoid the reefs but they're clearly marked on Navionics and have stick/pole indicating their location.

Sevusevu Jacob is the headman and will take you to the Chief John. We were all required to wear our sulus (sarong), remove our hats, and enjoyed a quick 10-minute ceremony. The headman, “Jacob” was in Lomaloma so the local who we met on the beach took us to the chief.

We were specifically told “no fishing” in their waters.

Susui was hit really hard during Winston and they are still trying to rebuild. They have no water, so no fresh goods. They rely on food from Lomaloma. The chief said they would welcome donations to help them rebuild their small village.

Jacob will take you on a longboat tour of the Hidden Lagoon and will catch some oyster for a BBQ if you schedule it ahead of time. Super nice people here. – sv Sugar Shack

June 2022: We had sevusevu with the chief whose name is John. We went on a great excursion in a longboat with the locals to the blue lagoon (different from the Yasas Blue Lagoon). The guys picked oysters for us that were bbq'd and served with yam on a little beach. It was delicious! – Mais Uma

Aug. 2012: We arrived in Susui and anchored at 1pm using Cheshire and Kittywake's waypoints. Here's what we were told about Susui Village's rules and services:

No burning of **trash**.

No fishing between the 2 points of the bay. They're proud that the anchorage is a marine reserve Swimming and snorkeling are okay (after your sevusevu).

They have a long boat that will take us to Lomaloma for provisions. On the way back from Lomaloma, we'll swing into the hidden lagoon for a look. The cost for this trip is \$50 roundtrip flat, not per person.

We can dinghy into the hidden lagoon but can't fish in there as it's their fishing ground. We can, however, buy fish from them. – Chesapeake

6.6 Mago Island (Mango)

July 2022: As we passed Mago Island (west side), we had a really great internet connection (we do have a Wifi extender). We had both Digicel and Vodafone for several hours. – sv Sugar Shack

6.7 Munia Island (Near Tonga Pass)

Munia is in the vanua of the village of Avea, on Avea Island, halfway up the east side of Vanua Balavu. Stop in for sevusevu even if it is a short overnight stop.

6.8 Tonga Pass (Southern Pass)

6.8.1 Pass

June 2022: Exiting the pass, coming from Susui. We went North of the bommies 17°18.9204S / 178°53.7728W. Then we went NE of the next bommies at 17°18.973S / 178°51.0803W.

The marker / special beacon was gone (which was supposed to be at 17°18.954S / 178°51.143W).

As we exited the pass, we went between 17°19.6187S / 178°49.8424 and 17°19.6521S / 178°49.3559W.

We had 1kt of outgoing current, but sailed nicely out of the pass at 7kt. CMAP, Navionics, and Sail Fiji App were all pretty accurate (except for the missing special beacon not being there) – sv Sugar Shack

6.8.2 Anchorages

Sept. 2024: 17°21.378S / 178°52.923W Anchored here to get early start through Tongan Pass en route to Lakeba. Good holding in sand. Humpback whales cruised by the boat. Navionics hopelessly lost. – Peregrine

Aug. 2012: 17°21.344S / 178°52.961W. Anchored in 25-30' sand/coral heads. We came in Tonga Pass in the afternoon and anchored behind Munia Island.

The wind, usually from the SE, wraps around the NE end of the island, and we were hanging ENE most of the night. Small wind chop. Not a big roll. – Pincoya

6.9 Vekai Island

6.9.1 Pass

Aug. 2010: 17°32.7S / 178°50.2W. The guano covered rock is clearly visible. The approach is straight forward from the NW. Shallowest depth 3.5m, came in on a bearing of 110°M on the north end of the rock. – Shandon

6.9.2 Anchorage

Aug. 2010: Anchored on the N side of the rocky cay in 3.5m. With 25m of chain I fell back to 7.2m. Very roly at high water. Best used in settled weather. – Shandon

6.9.3 Cruiser Reports

Aug. 2010: The only reason for stopping here was because of the birds: light and dark phase red legged boobies, brown boobies, brown noddies, sooty and common terns. There is a small beach and vegetation on the SE side. – Shandon

6.10 Tithia

6.10.1 Anchorage

June 2008: 17°43.367S / 179°20.024W in 54' depth. – Cyan

6.10.2 Cruiser Reports

June 2008: We only knew that Thithia had room for a supply boat, and we had heard of one boat anchoring somewhere there at some time. Without any chart detail or way points we scouted out the small harbor. We found a small, one-boat area just west of the jetty and anchored in 45' with an added stern anchor to keep the swing in close and away from the reef. It was a good thing we left the little harbor open because at midnight, in a heavy thunderstorm, the "lit up like Christmas" supply boat anchored there just 300' from us.

The accessible village, **Tanukua**, is right on the NW point of the island. We approached the Jetty Dock inside 5-6 I-beam pilings all in 40-45' but since the supply ship comes in there, we scouted out the area just south of it that looked wide enough to anchor. We set the anchor on line with the only "bent-over" piling up near the reef. We anchored in 45' but after pulling back we were in 65-70' after we let out 200' of chain and set the stern anchor to keep us from swinging south. Sometimes the wind comes a bit north around the hills and drove us southerly but in no danger to the reef on the south.

Approaching the jetty:

Soundings begin about 290' WP: 17°43.228S / 179°20.021W

Inside harbor area near concrete slab WP: 17°43.355S / 179°19.957W

We took the dinghy to the SW side in the middle of the jetty and tied it to the rocks with the dinghy anchor behind and easily found places to climb up to the muddy road.

At midnight our first night we were awakened in a thunderstorm by a huge spotlight shining around the ports. The supply boat that comes every 2 weeks was looking for the harbor to anchor in to unload passengers and crates. Good thing we didn't risk it and anchor inside the harbor!!! – Cyan

6.11 Lakeba (Lakemba)

Cruising Guide References: South Pacific Anchorages - Pg 87

Population is 2000+, in 7 villages spread around the shore, with a road running right around. The island has an airport with weekly flights, and very basic shops and a clinic. There is a basic guest-house, and no other facilities for visitors.

6.11.1 Pass

July 2022: 18°14.652S / 178°48.079W. There is no “pass” for the NW anchorage-it’s just an “indent in the reef.” Makes it easy to leave at night or the wee early hours. Super easy.

The pass to the town anchorage is very narrow. It starts out wide and reduces down to 23-30m, so take care. Perhaps a dinghy excursion through the pass would be wise prior to bringing in the big boat? – sv Sugar Shack

6.11.2 Anchorages

Sept. 2024: 18°12.693S / 178°50.506W Anchored outside of reef. Poor holding, had to reset twice. Exposed, but easy to leave. There was cell coverage when leaving the anchorage. – Peregrine

July 2023: 18°12.6605S / 178°50.5210W. Anchored in 12-15m. Super clear water. Look down to spot the isolated bits of foul. – Knot Tide Down

July 2022: 18°12.666S / 178°50.492W. Dropped in 15m of sand. Could not see any corals. This anchorage is deep, but has plenty of swing room for at least 5/6 boats. Even though you’d think there would be a swell, there wasn’t. It was a comfy night.

Village Anchorage: As we drove past, we noticed two catamarans anchored there. One was all the way in near the dock and the other stopped just shy of the end of the pass/river mouth. They were far braver than we were, but we were super happy with our anchorage. – sv Sugar Shack

July 2012: Lakeba has 2 anchorages, one an indent in a reef, and one a pass that goes into the dock for the Lau Trader. Don't go to the latter. The indent in the reef is much better than it seems. Though there was big swell outside, surfing waves on either side, but 16 meters depth, the anchorage was just fine. It is a good jumping off place for going N/S in the Lau, because you can leave during the night. – Midnight Sun

6.11.3 Yachtsmen Services

6.11.3.1 Fuel (Diesel & Gasoline)

June 2023: The village of Tubou has diesel and unleaded petrol. – Knot Tied Down

6.11.4 General Services

6.11.4.1 Provisions

June 2023: The village of Tubou has good range of basic supplies including alcohol. – Knot Tied Down

6.11.4.2 Wifi (Internet / Phone)

June 2022: Interesting enough we had pretty decent internet (both Digicel and Vodafone) when we sailed past the western side of Lakeba on two different occasions. However, we did not have internet, at all, from either carrier, when we anchored in the indent of the reef (the NW spot, not the village). We snuggled up too close to the mountainside, but when we left, we had a connection starting at the pass. – sv Sugar Shack

6.11.5 Cruiser Reports

July 2023: Great snorkeling along the edge of the reef. We went to Tubou in the dinghy outside the reef. You can travel inside the reef at high tide with a bit of negotiation. – Knot Tide Down

Aug. 2022: Airport Pickups: If you want to pick up or drop off guests/crew in the Lau group, then Lakeba is a perfect spot. There is a flight every Thursday from/to Suva. From the anchorage in the indent of the reef (not the village anchorage), there is a deep but narrow channel in to the beach at 18°12.675S / 178°50.199W there is a trail leading to the main road. Follow the trail and turn left when it splits. Continue through an old farm and then you are on the main road. Continue on the main road about 40 minutes, but you will probably get a ride from the friendly locals. We got a ride from the police. Super friendly people.

There is also really good snorkeling by the reef. – SV Bliss of Stockholm.

July 2022: We had a lovely evening in this anchorage. Relatively protected, beautiful view, calm and peaceful, especially considering it is only “an indent in the reef”. – sv Sugar Shack

6.12 Oneata

Cruising Guide References: South Pacific Anchorages - Pg 86

6.12.1 Pass

Aug. 2012: The NW pass is open. Our route through the pass took us through two waypoints:

Outside Pass 18°24.950S / 178°32.316W

Inside Pass 18°25.199S / 178°31.271W

The plusses on the chart are bommies, spread out. You will need to visually pick your way through the bommies, but it is pretty easy in appropriate light. – Pincoya

6.12.2 Anchorages

Aug. 2012: 18°26.017S / 178°28.881W. Anchored in sand in 5m. As with most of the anchorages, there was a slight swell at high tide. We stayed only one night, never went ashore. – Pincoya

July 2012: Oneata is a strange place--it looks like you can find a calm anchorage there, but we didn't. The lagoon is so big and so deep and it was calmer outside than inside. Even in calm weather. Beautiful anchorage, but just not very calm. – Midnight Sun

2007: 18°25.9 S / 178°28.7W in 27-30', sand with bommies. We chose to anchor on the north side of the island. We were told boats anchor on the south side near one of the two villages. We anchored as close inshore as you want to get, due to reefs near the shore and prickly rocks on either side. The bottom appears to slope gradually away and you could probably anchor further off. The wind backed round the compass during our stay, including an unexpected night of N squalls with gusts well over 30 kt - quite rare according to the islanders. The holding was pretty good but we motored to relieve the pressure on the chain, as the lee hazards were quite close. – Cheshire

6.12.3 Cruiser Reports

2010: At the northern end of the beach near the angled palm, a footpath leads to the other village, Waigori, where there is another chief. The path continues to Dakuiloa with a pleasant 20-min. walk. – Shandon

2007: Waigori is actually the larger and newer village west of the original one. This older village is now called **Dakuiloa**. In the nineteenth century there was some disagreement that led to the founding of the new village, where the chief lives. This is also the site of the school and clinic. Both villages have churches and the original one has its own headman. You can make sevusevu at either village and be covered for the whole lagoon.

If you anchor on the north side, it is a long dinghy ride around. There are trails across the island to both villages - I could not have found it without a guide. You can hike to Waigori from Dakuiloa, past the graves to visit Oneata. – Cheshire

6.13 Komo

Cruising Guide References: South Pacific Anchorages - Pg 86

6.13.1 Pass

July 2023: The east pass was wide and deep. – Knot Tide Down

2010: The Komo East Passage is W-I-D-E! The outer approach is 18°38.70S / 178°38.40W. The bommie shown on the chart is there and clear to see. I came in on 165°M and cleared it. Note: there are a number of bommies and shallow patches (>10m) outside the reef. The large rock, shown on the north reef above the 9 of 29 is a good beacon. Once inside I missed the second bommie and had a lovely tack up to shore.

Left via West Passage 18°38.23S / 178°40.34W. Cluster of bommies just before the pass. Ample room & depth between large north bommie and remainder. – Shandon

6.13.2 Anchorages

Sept. 2024: 18°40.669S / 178°37.529W Easy entrance, good holding in sand. – Peregrine

July 2023: 18°40.6300S / 178°37.5400W in 8m on sand in clear water. Beautiful anchorage. Slight roll at high tide if there is a well, but not uncomfortable. – Knot Tide Down

July 2012: 18°40.663S / 178°37.538W in 10m of sand. We went in one pass and out the other, and spent 3 nights of fairly settled wx (10-15kts ESE). – Pincoya

June 2012: Komo is a nice island and easy anchorage. About 30' feet in sand. It wouldn't be good if the wind was any direction other than S to SE, unless it wasn't too strong. When we were there, we had some ESE and it could be a little roly at high tide. But it wasn't a problem on our trimaran. – Migration

2007: 18°41.24S / 178°38.66W in 26' sand. As the winds were predicted to the north, we chose to anchor south of the west end of Komo Levu. A shallow reef precludes sailing between Komo Levu and Komo Driki. Keep clear of the west point of Komo Driki as there is a reef extending here. The water is sort of deep up to the reefs that ring the shore, with some bommies. – Cheshire

6.13.3 Cruiser Reports

Sept. 2024: Sevusevu at village on other side of island. Long walk up over hill. Not much to see/do on Komo. No cell coverage. – Peregrine

July 2023: Beach has good dinghy access. Track to walk over the hill to village is to the left of the anchorage up the little stream entrance. Very yacht friendly village keen to show off village life to passing yachts. Little shop with basics (flour, onions, potatoes, etc...). A good kick off point for Fulaga. – Knot Tide Down

July 2012: Easy trail from beach slightly more NE that goes up and over the ridge to the village. Obvious trail heading SE. 10-minute walk across the island to the village.

We found great snorkeling at a dinghy pass on the NE tip of island, where reef meets the island. – Pincoya

June 2012: There are two paths from the N side anchorage to the village on the S side. Very fun and friendly teachers at the school: Headmaster Mateni, teachers Save & Inoke. From the top of the hill above the school you can get Vodafone service from Lakeba. The teachers call it Callback Mountain because they go up at night to call their friends and family. – Migration

6.14 Moce (Mothe)

Moce is an island not often visited by boats because of the tricky pass.

6.14.1 Pass

July 2022: The pass is on the leeward side of the island, not straight forward and you need calm weather to eyeball your way in. In front of the pass entrance are some big bommies, where water is breaking almost all of the time. The coordinates from Pincoya seem correct. Inside is a second reef and you need to pass that close to Koroni Island. It took 2 weeks to get a weather window to exit the pass safely. – Eastern Stream

July 2012: **18°41.45S / 178°28.78W.** Google Earth chart looks like it has a pass. Pincoya confirmed that this was the general area where they entered, but you must go in visually. – Soggy Paws

6.14.2 Anchorages

July 2022: **18°40.18S / 178°30.74W.** We anchored close to the school, where you can put the dinghy on the beach. Due to the reef around the island, you have to plan your visits to the village well. – Eastern Stream

July 2012: **18°40.326S / 178°29.814W.** We anchored near the village of Nasaua. Approaching the village, there's a reef with black ball on the end of the reef. Give this 20-meters to clear the reef. – Pincoya

July 2012: **18°41.931S / 178°28.999W.** 4m deep among bommies. The villagers later led us to the Koroni Island. Beautiful, but we would have never gone in there by ourselves. – Soggy Paws

6.14.3 Cruiser Reports

July 2022: We visited the village almost every day, did some hikes and had a great time on this welcoming island. At the end, we did not anchor at Koroni Island, as we took the first weather opportunity to go through the pass again after two weeks.

Even if you stop at Koroni Island you should visit the village for your sevusevu. – Eastern Stream

July 2012: Based on first anchorage **18°40.326S / 178°29.814W.** For dinghy access, there are 2 rock piles exposed at LW. The left one has a stick; the right one is not visible at high tide. It's a long muddy walk at low tide. Tie your dinghy to one of the rock piles and walk or wade in (this is better than trying to take the dinghy all the way in).

There is a second village on the island, Corotolu. It is just across a 'ditch' from Nasaua, and they share the same chief. We spent a couple of weeks here, and were the only boat here. Moce had some beautiful tapas for very reasonable prices. – Pincoya

6.15 Yagasa Levu (Yangasa)

Cruising Guide References: South Pacific Anchorages - Pg 86

6.15.1 Pass

Sept. 2022: The pass is incredibly wide but keep a lookout for bommies on approach once inside the pass. There's one large bommie in particular about half way visible in good light conditions. – SeaGlub

July 2022: With 16-18kts from ESE we entered at mid-tide. Once we turned to head into the pass, we had winds and waves on the nose which made it a bouncy entrance and 3.5 miles to the anchorage. The pass is wide, deep, and easy to navigate with no obstructions (that we could see). – sv Sugar Shack

July 2012: Big wide-open pass **18°54.843S / 178°29.693W** to **18°55.622S / 178°29.250W.** – Pincoya

June 2012: Pass was wide open. Waypoints: W1: **18°54.706S / 178°29.855W**, W2: **18°55.781S / 178°29.838W**, W3: **18°56.181S / 178°29.356W** - Migration

6.15.2 Anchorages

Sept. 2024: 18°57.616S / 178°29.309W in 17' sand, some bommies. anchored in small bay of southernmost island. Very nice beach, dinghy accessible. Humpback whales cruised through the lagoon every day. Easy approach through reef. – Peregrine

Sept. 2022: 18°57.026S / 178°27.482W. The popular anchorage is well marked just north of the little islet but don't be afraid to check the anchorage south of the islet. You'll get a little more protection from the trades when they are blowing more from the East. The anchorage area south of the islet is beautiful sand with scattered bommies 6-8m depth. No floats needed as the sand patches are very wide. – SeaGlub

July 2022: 18°56.872S / 178°27.355W. In 9 meters of beautiful sand and very few bommies. Super calm and lovely spot. The winds were blowing 20-22kt when we entered the lagoon and quickly went down to 5-7kt up by the towering mountainside. We headed straight for the anchorage on a course of 135° and did not see any bommies or coral heads to worry about. – sv Sugar Shack

July 2012: 18°56.911S / 178°27.371W. In 10m. You can also anchor off small islet SW, on N side. – Pincoya

June 2012: 18°56.809S / 178°27.309W in 12-14 meters. I'm sure you could cut across the shallow crescent shown on the chart but we chose to go around it as visibility wasn't perfect when we entered. It was very windy from the SE but the anchorage was flat calm --- just some swirling winds occasionally. – Migration

6.15.3 Cruiser Reports

Sept. 2022: Excellent bird viewing, but no beach access. - SeaGlub

July 2022: Yagasa is an uninhabited island with just local fisherman coming in for fishing. There is no sevusevu as there is nobody here and no way to get onshore. It is a beautiful mountainside that jets up 116m into the sky. The trees are peppered with a boobie colony that like to sing to you throughout the day. – sv Sugar Shack

July 2012: Yagasa is under joint control of Namuku, Komo, Mothe. Longboats go fishing for sea cucumbers. Someone told them that there are sea horses there, but we never saw them. – Pincoya

June 2012: This is the largest of a group of uninhabited islands. A booby colony with lots of birds. Pretty place with some interesting snorkeling. – Migration

6.16 Namuka-I-Lau

Cruising Guide References: South Pacific Anchorages - Pg 86

6.16.1 Pass

July 2012: West Pass - Line up a small rock islet, painted white, with white coconut tree on island (man-made range). Some bommies close but easily seen, wide apart.

18°50.577S / 178°40.921W Outside pass

18°50.787S / 178°40.581W Inside here line up rock & coconut.

18°50.766S / 178°40.364W Outside harbor, some bommies on route.

The other pass: Real tricky. There is a reef the runs out into the lagoon. You have to pass inshore of this reef-- you need almost touch the island. 4-5m deep. Scary. 18°49.732S / 178°39.333W, hang a left & go to 18°49.362S / 178°39.578W. – Pincoya

6.16.2 Anchorages

Aug. 2022: 18°50.738S / 178°40.284W in 5 meters, sand and some grass on the bottom. Anchorage is very protected and the holding is good. – SY Bliss of Stockholm

July 2012: 18°50.829S / 178°40.215W in 4-5m sand, good holding. Harbor anchorage, off the beach. – Pincoya

July 2012: 18°50.8 S / 178°40.2W. Anchored on the west end of the island. – Midnight Sun

6.16.3 Cruiser Reports

Aug. 2022: The trail from the beach is almost gone. We found the start of it, but after a while it was too overgrown to continue. We took the dinghy to the village. The village is 3 miles to the east in the big bay on the south side of the island. The bay is very shallow and we almost got stuck there when the tide became too low. Very friendly people but we don't think they get that many visitors. We snorkeled and did a dive in the channel on the west side. A fun drift dive in 4kts of current. – SY Bliss of Stockholm

July 2012: Namuka I Lau is about 20 miles N. of Vulaga, and is a great stop. The village is just inshore from anchor spot. After 40 minutes' walk, you come to a fork, take the right fork. Spokesperson is pink house on the left. The village at 18°51.1S / 178°38.15W. – Midnight Sun

July 2012: Spokesman for the beach has garden and the trail to the village is on the left side of the garden. 45-minute walk to village. – Pincoya

6.17 Kabara Island

6.17.1 Anchorage

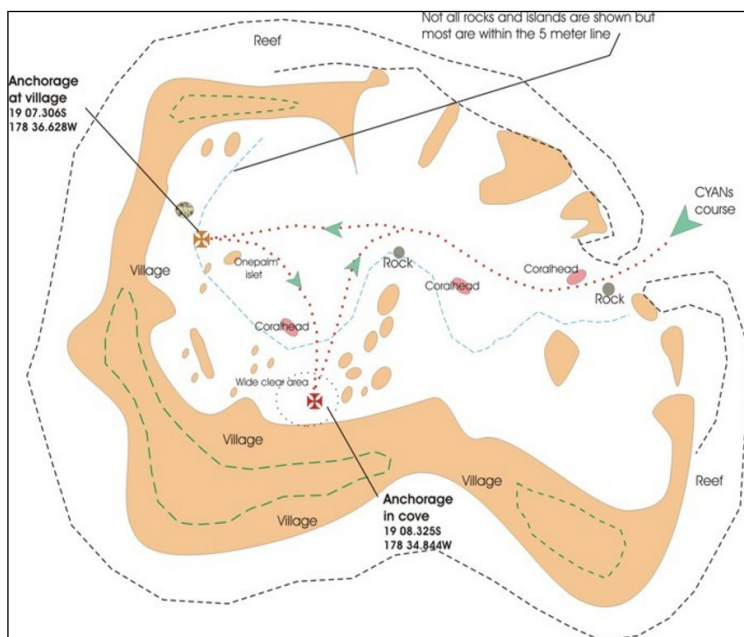
Sept. 2024: 18°55.638S / 178°58.289W. One good sand patch surrounded by reef/bommies/coral. Very roly due to strong east wind. Big hill to climb in back of village, well worth the effort. No cell coverage. – Peregrine

6.18 Vulaga (Fulaga, Fulanga)

Pronounced "Fulanga". Cruising Guide References: South Pacific Anchorages - Pg 85-86

The primary village is called Moana-I-Cake (pronounces Moana-I-thake), the village next to that is Moana-I-Ra, and the village at the north end on the lagoon is Naividamu. You do your sevusevu in Moana-I-Cake and you are good for the whole lagoon.

You will be asked to pay \$50F to help the village rebuild their community, this is non-negotiable and in addition to your kava donation.



CYAN's Map of Fulaga - See Cyan Info Below

6.18.1 Pass

June 2022: We had heard from a cruiser who has been around this area for years that the current can be ripping at 7+ knots. He said stay to the left and resist veering right until you are well past the large, visible rock. Only enter the pass during incoming tide at about 2 hours before high tide. Best to always eyeball the pass before entering.

Entry: we accidentally veered too far right and saw 1.8m depth. We quickly moved left, uncomfortably close to the large rock, but had no other issues. On our exit, we hugged the large rock and had 1kt outgoing current during high tide. – sv Sugar Shack

June 2022: The pass is very straight forward and the explanation that is in the Sail Fiji Cruising App is correct. The lagoon is shallow and you can anchor in lots of places. – Eastern Stream

2012: Migrations' figure of 2 hours and 15 minutes after **low tide**, for the slack, based on the Moala tide from WXTide32, was spot-on for us. The outgoing tide goes slack at about this point, and within about 15 minutes, turns incoming.

The outgoing tide, even in fairly light conditions, makes a pretty daunting set of standing waves outside the pass. The current starts at about 1 knot outside the pass, and as the pass narrows and shallows, the current picks up to about 4 knots.

On the **high tide**, the slack comes almost at the same time as the Moala high tide, and lasts longer. The high tide slack lasts nearly an hour. If you are trying to snorkel or dive, it's best to get out in the pass before the time of high tide. The water is clearer than, when the water is still incoming.

On the incoming tide, the pass is much easier to navigate by dinghy or big boat. In winds to 15 knots ESE-SE, there are almost no standing waves in the pass. (we haven't been out near the pass in higher winds). While diving, you get about a half-hour warning before the current turns and starts going out--the water starts to cloud up a bit. It's not as pretty then, but this seems to be the time of maximum fish--when the nutrients from the inner lagoon start flowing out the pass.

Even when the tide is in full flood, it's not bad, either in a dinghy or in a yacht. So, if you're worried about the tide on entering Fulaga, try to do it on a rising tide (between 2 hrs. after Low tide and about 30 minutes after High tide at Moala). – Soggy Paws

Aug. 2012: Pass - 19°07.360S / 178°32.360W outside. Pass on an outgoing tide, will have standing waves with eddies. They cut the corner coming in, to miss the worst of the waves. Stay close to the rock/island on the port side. Once inside, looking at line of islets. Can go thru 2 different ways. – Pincoya

July 2012: Entering the Pass: Pass, entering, on port side, end of pass, rock/island 40' high, leave that rock/island to port, very close. You will see bits of black; that's shallow coral. Head for the sandy patch. 4.5 meters deep at low tide. In the pass, it's deep, it's just inside that it shallows up. The pass is 25 meters wide and can have 4kts of current. – Midnight Sun

6.18.2 Anchorages

Sept. 2024: 19°08.955S / 178°33.973W Mosquito Bay for sevusevu. Good holding in 35'.

19°07.968S / 178°34.334W Somewhat protected from wind. Nice sand anchorage, cool islands to explore.

Cyclone hole: 19°06.521'S / 178.34.905'W Good holding in 17', sand. Good protection from winds. – Peregrine

July 2023: 19°08.5396S / 178°34.2284W. Alternative anchorage for good access to village landing. Sand bottom. – Knot Tide Down

Sept. 2022: 19°08.363S / 178°34.522W in 4m of sand. There are so many places to anchor in Vulaga but not many boats make their way over to this one. Very protected and great holding. Very consistent and flat bottom without bommies. – SeaGlub

June 2022: 19°08.488S / 178°32.144W we anchored in 3m of water in a nice sandy patch with no bommies. Super pretty spot that was away from all the other boats, but close enough for a happy hour dinghy visit. The village was pretty far, but worth the anchor spot. – sv Sugar Shack.

June 2022: 19°08.92S / 178°33.95W. From here, you can hike easily to the town for your sevusevu.

19°08.19S / 178°32.27W in 5m. This position is close to the pass where you have good snorkeling and can explore this part of the lagoon with the dinghy.

19°08.32S / 178°34.52W in 3.5m between small islands. This spot is called Mallakuia. From here you can hike through the woods to the village. Go to the beach with the two palm trees, the path starts there.

19°09S / 178°32W This is E-SE corner of the lagoon. There is a nice sandy beach for BBQs. – Eastern Stream

July 2022: 19°07.951S / 178°34.217W. YANUYANUKALOU: Small island in the middle of the lagoon. The route to here is an easy approach between the two small rocks to the island's north east with good holding on the western side. – SV Bella Vita

Aug. 2012: 19°07.993S / 178°32.465W anchorage for pass snorkeling. OK overnight. 6-7m sand/some coral.

In 4-5m of sand at **19°09.155S / 178°32.415W.** Favorite anchor spot. Hug bay with big sand spit, coconut trees, no swell or roll, good protection.

Anchorage approx. **19°08.381S / 178°34.798W.** – Pincoya

June 2012: 19°07.97'S / 178°34.31'W in 20' sand at Yanyanykalou Our favorite anchorage.

19°08.9S / 178°34.00W. Anchorage off the **path** to the village. Muanaucake Village: For sevusevu you must go to the main village which is **not** the village you can see from the lagoon.

You can anchor the boat there or just take the dinghy from somewhere else in the lagoon (which we did). Whatever you do, take bug repellent!! The mosquitoes were ferocious on the path to the village.

19°08.23S / 178°32.39W. Anchored in 10-20' of sand in the East Anchorage which is beautiful and could fit several hundred boats. Just have a look out when coming into the area between the islands. I think you must be down around 19°08.22S. The area to the N of this is too shallow (or is blocked by small islands).

19°08.24S / 178°35.30W. Muanaira Village anchorage. There are hundreds of places you could anchor in Fulaga and you could spend months exploring. – Migration

6.18.3 Communications

Sept. 2024: Near the village, no cell coverage, but you can buy Wifi access. We found the Wifi not very good, however. And it was available only while sitting on the Community Center steps. – Peregrine

2016: Village phone at Sikeli & Sera's house, which serves the entire village: +679.603.0423 Call this number, ask for your party, and whoever answers the phone will go get whoever it is. Be prepared to hang up and call back in 10 minutes.

2012: VHF: Soggy Paws gave Sera, the village nurse, a VHF radio. She theoretically is in her office around 8:30-4:30, and may have the radio on. She uses Fulaga Radio as her callsign. A good time to try to contact her is around 8:30am. She also stands by on SSB 8068.5--a 'chat' frequency for the Lau medical clinics--when she is in the office. So, if you can't raise her on VHF, try this SSB frequency, and ask her to turn on the VHF. You need a pretty strong VHF with good antenna to talk reliably with Sera from the SE anchorage. The VHF in the nursing station is using a tiny 'emergency' antenna. – Soggy Paws

6.18.4 Activities

July 2022: Artisan Markets: There are two villages and each has their own artisan market. The men in each village carve and give their work to the market to sell. They have beautiful carvings of all sorts of items. Be sure to visit both artisan markets. They will even custom carve items for you (takes about a week, depending

on intricacy.). We had the artisan market in the second village make a small version of their happy couple and turned out spectacular (7" tall, 4" wide, kissing couple) for \$50F.

Cave of Bones & Look Outs: Ask your host family to take you to the Cave of Bones and to the two lookouts. Our family couldn't actually take us (they were older), but they arranged for a guide. The cave of bones is a steep, but easy hike that can be done in 20-25 min. It can be super slippery if it rained recently, go when it is dry and bring mosquito repellent.

The Cave of Bones is a collection of skulls, femurs, and other random bones from their enemies that attacked the village (or maybe they were cruisers who refused to do sevusevu). The cave is a small hole, but easily accessible, and it is a bit moldy or stank inside.

The Lookout continues up the trail and overlooks the entire bay and village. Super pretty on a cool, clear day. There is a second lookout as you come down the trail as well.

We dinghied around many of the towering rocks, explored alcoves and small bays, and walked on lots of beaches (loads of mosquitos). – sv Sugar Shack

2013: We did 3 dives in the past 2 days, all to the right, as you exit the pass. The topography is amazing with all the canyons, caves and tunnels. Also saw about a dozen new-to-us fish. A few white tips cruising around and some big grouper and wrasse off the wall. Viz is about 100'. – Idyl Island

Aug. 2012: There are small tiny passes to get out to the reef in your dinghy (with a strong motor). Anchor at **19°08.454S / 178°32.227W** go there for dinghy ride thru islets. 3 little tiny passes that you can take the dinghy thru (4kts current in and out usually). Sevusevu: **19°08.950S / 178°34.000W** trailhead to village. Longboats, sailing canoe, building storage shed. Village 20 minutes' walk, and buggy, take bug spray. It's not bad in the village, but the path to the village is bad. They make and sell Kava bowls & other handicrafts in the village. Good snorkeling NW of anchorage **19°07.236S / 178°33.116W** by inside reef. Limestone arch. – Pincoya

July 2012: Best pass snorkeling is on either tide incoming or outgoing, at half tide, when the current is really moving. You will see lots of fish, sharks, barracudas, snapper, etc. The incoming tide is better with schools of fish. You need to start at the deep blue, where you see the big schools. They were told by the villagers that barracuda are OK to eat at Fulaga. – Midnight Sun

June 2012: THE PASS: Absolutely excellent **snorkeling**. Make sure you go all the way out to the drop off. On the pass's NW corner there are huge schools of snapper, barracuda, tuna, etc. There are also some sharks, turtles, and big grouper. There are a couple of nice pinnacles off the NE corner of the pass that are worth a snorkel. As with most passes, the visibility for snorkeling is better on the incoming tide. – Migration

6.18.5 Cruiser Reports

Sept. 2022: Vulaga Molokua. Here you'll have secluded beaches. Immediately to the south on the main island there's a sand beach, usually marked by an unattended kayak, with a trail which leads through the jungle, up the hill and into the village where sevusevu is necessary. – SeaGlub

July 2022: Sevusevu: The anchorage is about 20-30-minute dinghy ride (depending on your outboard) from the village. Just because the locals may not be able to see you, they know you are here, so please follow the procedure of going to do your sevusevu.

Bring your sulu (sarong) for men and women, kava, and \$50F. You will be asked to pay \$50 per boat to help cover costs of the village (community center, water tanks, school, medical community).

19°08.90S / 178°33.90W. Drive your dinghy to this waypoint. If you have Sail Cruising Fiji App it is "Village / Anchorage C" and is accurate. It is helpful to bring your GPS. Leave your dinghy here (with anchor), and walk up the path to the village (about 20-minute walk). BRING MOSQUITTO SPRAY. We were attacked in the worse way. The path is super easy to follow and you will most likely be greeted by villagers along the way who will stop and introduce themselves.

The first building you see is the medical center, you can ask here for the headman who will take you to Chief Simon in the Community Center.

We handed our kava to the headman and sat down, had a short ceremony, the kava was presented, the chief spoke about the \$50 donation, we signed a book and asked a few questions. Then we were introduced to our host family where we sat down for tea and cakes. – sv Sugar Shack

July 2022: There is a supply ship that comes once per month but when we were there, they missed one time, so the village ran out of stuff and will ask cruisers for help. If you want to bring something for the host family as a gift, they really like snorkel gear, fishing items, and t-shirts.

The village asks besides the sevusevu, \$50F per boat (as a conservation fee, not an anchoring fee). After the sevusevu, you get a host family. They guide you through the village and you will most likely be asked to visit church on Sunday and share lunch with them. – Eastern Stream

July 2022: YANUYANUKALOU: Old man Bera has long since died, perhaps buried under his house, but his son takes care of the crops and the somewhat lonely chicken that is the island's sole inhabitant now. The chicken loves coconut so mash one open for him/her if you go. – SV Bella Vita

July 2012: The \$50 fee in Fulaga goes into community pot, not to the chief.

There is a shop in the village where you can buy carvings like kava bowls. The village owns the shop; you cannot buy carvings from an individual. Everything that the village creates goes into the shop. The carvings are made from Vesi timber--grows in Fulaga.

The soil won't permit the growing of **kava** there, so they have to buy it all from other islands. Many of the islands in the Lau, including Vulaga, cannot grow kava. So, it is scarce there. Buy your kava before you arrive, or in Matuku, or Taveuni. – Midnight Sun

6.19 Ogea (Ongaea)

Cruising Guide References: South Pacific Anchorages - Pg 85

6.19.1 Pass

Sept. 2024: North anchorage: Tricky to get in! Large patches of reef/rocks 3-4 meters down in the middle of the pass. Navionics rock markings are pretty accurate. Best approach for monohulls is to hug the prominent rock point on the NE corner, approaching due south and then making a sharp turn to port. – Peregrine

July 2022: **19°10.835S / 178°27.330W.** This is the center of the northern of the 2 passes, on the outside. We entered 1hr before high tide and had 1kt of current against us as we approached the pass and then it switched to 1kt current incoming as we entered. We had N of E winds at 16-18kts early AM.

On our exit, at 0900, the sun clearly showed the bommies. With ESE winds blowing at 17kt, a 0.5-1m sea it was an easy exit. – sv Sugar Shack

July 2022: The pass was easy to navigate (except with winds from the East), paying careful attention to the underwater reef patches. – Anima

6.19.2 Anchorages

There are two lovely anchorages at Ogea.

6.19.2.1 North Anchorage

Sept. 2024: North Anchorage. **19°08.481S / 178°24.864W** in 10' sand at the bay gets shallower the further you go south. Once inside the pass, the anchorage is shallow sand with few bommies. – Peregrine

July 2022: 19°08.433S / 178°24.836W. Dropped in 3m of beautiful sand (good for cleaning the anchor chain) with 20m scope (lots of swing room). Super beautiful, isolated spot with a nice breeze.

Our friends with a 2m draft anchored at **19°08.629S / 178°24.909W** and another boat with a 2.7m draft anchored at **19°08.378S / 178°24.943W**.

We had 1-1.5m tide so be careful coming in and where you anchor. One catamaran ended up on the sand after tide went out. – sv Sugar Shack

July 2022: 19°08.427S / 178°24.891W Anchored in a spectacular bay with good protection in 2-3m of sand and some coral. – Anima

June 2022: 19°08.46S / 178°24.95W anchored in 3m at spring low tide. Even with our draft of 2m we still found a good spot. Further south it slowly gets shallower. – Eastern Stream

6.19.2.2 South Anchorage

Sept. 2024: Driki: **19°12.217S / 178°25.960W** in 10' sand. Very big sand shelf here, room for dozens of boats. But, exposed to west and north. – Peregrine

Sept. 2022: 19°12.235S / 178°25.943W in 3-5m depth. More of an open water anchorage but absolutely stunning sand bottom over very wide area, very flat and consistent depth. –SeaGlub

July 2022: Beea Anchorage: 19°12.29S / 178°25.98W. This is a very popular anchorage. The entrance is a little shallow, so you have to pay attention at what tide you come in. We always tried to go in on at least mid-tide. Inside the bay is deeper and gets shallower to the back.

Driki Island: 19°11.70S / 178°25.19W was our first anchorage where you anchor in between different islands with good holding in sand. We also anchored at **19°12.29S / 178°25.98W** in 5 meters. This anchorage is close to a lovely beach where we had several bonfires and BBQ. –Eastern Stream

Aug. 2012: 19°12.315S / 178°26.049W. (Driji Anchorage) at edge of sand shelf. Shelf is less than 3m, they anchored 5-6m, and back of boat off drop-off. – Pincoya

6.19.3 General Services

6.19.3.1 Communications

Sept. 2024: No cell coverage. – Peregrine

July 2022: They sell 1 hour of wifi for \$2F at the school (during the week). Ask your host family or the headman for more information. –sv Sugar Shack

6.19.4 Provisions

There is a small magasin in the village. The hours vary depending on the season, but in general they are 1000-1500. The supply ship comes here once a month so they run low on supplies in between visits. It's best to come prepared with all of your provisions before arriving so as not to deplete the supply for the locals. They will most surely offer to sell you something, but try to refrain. – sv Sugar Shack

6.19.5 Activities

July 2022: Sevusevu: 19°08.440S / 178°24.767W is the location of the start of the path which is hidden behind a large rock. Sail Fiji app has an accurate description and location of the start of the path. If you come around the rock, you will see the start of the path. Be aware that the tides can be as much as 1.5m so park your dinghy somewhere you can easily access it after your time in the village. The walk is 45-minutes and can be muddy after a rain, but it is relatively straight forward.

After lunch, our host family invited us over for lovo and a HUGE Sunday meal. This village has 2 services. One at 10:00am which is the “main service” they invite tourists too and the 2nd service is at 1500 (3:00pm). Believe it or not, the services are identical and the villagers will attend both of them.

Shopping: The village chief is a master carver and sells many beautiful carved tikis, kava bowls and more. Ask your host family or the headman for more information.

It is rather unfortunate that the village is literally flooding. The sea water is coming up through the limestone and fills the village with large pools of water (even during low tide). Some of it comes in from the tide over the sea wall, but most of it is coming up through the ground. – sv Sugar Shack

July 2022: Sevusevu: From our anchorage (see above), there is a pathway leading to the village, it is a 40-minute walk on a relatively level hike through the forest. The “start” is a little hidden. The chief, Simon said that they will have to move the village due to the rising water. – Anima

June 2022: We enjoyed snorkeling near our 2nd anchorage off Driki Island. We went to the reef at low tide, as the reef is higher than the water level and you can see a wide waterfall. – Eastern Stream

Aug. 2012: Great snorkeling, approx.: 19°12.331S / 178°26.423W. The next morning, we went for a long dinghy tour, first to the North end of Driki where we found beautiful bays and beaches with many more small limestone islands with overhanging edges. Very beautiful, but unfortunately the bays were less than 3M deep and not possible for a yacht to anchor in the protected areas.

We then went to the SW corner and the barrier reef, exploring over to an old shipwreck; possibly an old fishing boat maybe 90 feet long. After admiring the rusted large engine, we turned back towards Pincoya. When we got to 4M deep water, we went for a beautiful snorkel around the stunning coral heads with large fish communities in them, very worthwhile! – Pincoya

6.19.6 Cruiser Reports

Sept. 2024: Path to village for sevusevu is behind a rock. There is a beach there for dinghy access. It’s a long walk, 50 minutes. – Peregrine

Sept. 2022: The beach should just be a movie set with little islets just meters away. And the jewel of this beautiful south anchorage is the inside of the reef just south of the anchorage. Simply follow the shore line of the island at low tide and then witness a rare ocean waterfall. Here as the tide fills back in, you’ll get to experience the water falling over the coral reef back inside the bay. - SeaGlub

July 2022: We loved Ogea! So incredibly beautiful and peaceful. The village is lovely, the anchorage is lovely, and the entire island is lovely. In retrospect, we wish we also anchored down in the south as well as the North, but we had run out of time. We will save that for our next visit. – sv Sugar Shack

July 2022: There is a footpath to the village (40 min trail) where sevusevu should be offered to the village chief who lives close to the far end of the village. The village trail 19°08.436S / 178°24.768W. – Anima

7 Yasayasa Moala Group (Matuku, Moala, Totoya)

Cruising Guide References: So. Pacific Anchorages - Pg 91, A Yachtsman's Fiji, 3rd Ed - Pg 112-113

The Moala Islands are a subgroup of Fiji's Lau archipelago. Its three islands including: Matuku, Moala, and Totoya. They are located west of the Lau Islands proper, and were historically linked more closely with Bau Island and Viti Levu than with Lau.

They were unified by Ratu Sukuna to part of the Lau congregation to support traditional gift through provision of taro and other vegetables. All three islands were not defeated by Enele Maafu but greeted him and his entourage as they first landed on their shores.

Moala Islands main economic activity is coconut and root crop farming including marine and fisheries.



7.1 Moala

There are three villages on the island of Moala which include: Naca, Naro (central village), and Cakoba (Thakomba).

7.1.1 Passes

2010: Pass on NorthWest side. 18°31.7S 179°56.3E. Will get you into the wide pass. The reef to the west is not a traditional, surf-breaking line, but largely a collection of bommies with virtually no surf. I came in on 150°M on East Cape although the GPS said COG was 160°. This leaves a cluster of small bommies about 30m to starboard. From there I came in on the leading marks. There are leading marks in the school – a large collection of buildings climbing up the hill at the east end of the village. The bottom mark is above the largest rectangle building (blue walls, green roof). The back marker is below the highest building with the corrugated-iron roof. Both markers look pale green rather than white. Course 177°M (190°T). This will take you to the Observatory Rocks. – Shandon

Oct. 2007: 18°38.4S / 179°50.35E Cakova (Thakova) West pass. The pass contains a dogleg and we would not advise following the leading line shown on the chart without a forward lookout and good through the water visibility. – Cheshire

7.1.2 Anchorages

Sept. 2024: 18°33.439S / 179°55.490E Anchor west of pier. Avoid the reef jutting out from the pier. There are bommies and reef patches further west. – Peregrine

2010: I anchored in the lee of the Observatory Rocks in 15m. It does not pay to go close to the coral shelf off the beach as there are off lying bommies and the bottom is horrible loose and jagged coral.

I anchored in Mangrove Bay as fading light. Rather more bommies than indicated on chart. Surprisingly sheltered. Would use again.

At low water there is a long shelf approaching the landing area by dinghy. Landing & exiting by dinghy can involve much tugging, but there will be endless helpers if the school is out. – Shandon

Oct. 2007: 18°33.4S / 179°55.5E. Depth: 30-35', mud. We considered anchoring in front of village, and decided instead on a site just off the quay for the supply ship, about ¼-mile W of the village but still within their purview. This area had a small swell but appeared well protected from winds from the East to WSW.

The beacon shown on our CMAP chart near here was not present. There was a small beach near the quay where we took the dinghy, then followed the track to the village.

We moved around to the Cakova (Thakova) anchorage and found two spots:

Cakova Anchorage 1: 18°37.8S / 179°52E. Depth: 45 feet, mud

We chose to anchor off the village. We considered anchoring on the coast north of the village, but the reefs extend fairly far offshore, and in most places north and south the water gets deep once you are a safe distance off the reef. In Cakoba's bight, the fetch was minimal, but a cleft extending eastward through the island behind the village created wind acceleration during reinforced trades.

We had some difficulty initially getting the anchor to hold off the reef on the south side of the village. We set our scope at about 4.5:1, deploying all our 160' of chain plus some line. Several nights later during strong and gusty tradewinds, the anchor began to drag. So, we made the risky decision to move Cheshire closer to Cakoba, setting the anchor just where the river channel widens the break in the reef.

Cakova Anchorage 2: 18°37.7 S / 179°52.1E Depth: 12', mud

Even moving slowly and with a few on shore lights to guide us, we touched the port dagger board on the reef, slightly damaging it. We deployed all the chain, giving us a scope of better than 10:1, then sat anchor watch the rest of the night as we knew we had little room for maneuvering.

In the morning, we found that not only were we near to reefs on either side, but we had managed to come in around a small point in the reef which was now about 50' behind us. We set our Danforth as a stern anchor, and our Bruce as a second bow anchor, with the aim to prevent further dragging or swinging into the nearby reefs. In hindsight, it would have been better to deploy the additional chain when we initially anchored. But fortunately, we had no further trouble, and were able to retrieve all three anchors from the boat when we were ready to depart. The reduced wind strength, and of course good daylight, made it easier. – Cheshire

7.1.3 General Services

7.1.3.1 Airport

There is an airport here near the village of Naioi. There are weekly flights to Suva.

7.1.3.2 Communications

Sept. 2024: Good cell coverage (Digicell). – Peregrine

7.1.3.3 Post Office

The village of Naioi has a small post office.

7.1.3.4 Medical Clinic

A rather "large" medical clinic is located in Naioi.

7.1.4 Cruiser Reports

Sept. 2024: Most kava grown in Fiji comes from Moala (according to the natives). Most modern village we saw in the islands due to the prosperity of the farms. They are intending to build a hotel in 4-5 years to attract tourists. – Peregrine

7.2 Totoya

Cruising Guide References: South Pacific Anchorages - Pg 89-90

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.

7.2.1 Pass

2010: Approach from SE of the island. 19°01.5S 179°51.5W is 200m of the SW tip of the reef, course 275°M. I came through the reef at 18°57.6S 179°54.3W. There is deep water inside the reefs of the village below the light house (not working), held up by 4 posts – all left to seaward. There's a post on the west side of the Gullet. Came out via shallow pass near the Gullet 19°00.1S / 179°50.7W WP outside the reef. 1m waves not breaking. Would attempt only in calm conditions. – Shandon

7.2.2 Anchorage

Sept. 2024: 18°58.09'S / 179°53.069W in 45' sand. Navionics suggested anchorages were in a wind tunnel formed by a low valley on the island. – Peregrine

2010: Anchored in 4m on sand off Tovu on the east side, south of the concrete wharf. Warning: The hills act as a vortex and the easterly wind can blast in from all angles spinning a yacht around and pushing it onto the shallow shelf. Next time I will use two anchors and a Bahamian moor. I found nowhere to anchor on the west side from the Gap to the SW tip. The water is too deep and where it is shallow it looks full of coral. – Shandon

7.2.3 Cruiser Reports

Sept. 2024: No cell coverage. – Peregrine

2010: There are five villages, four on the water; each has a chief. Tovu is the head chief and it was not necessary to sevusevu with the others. – Shandon

7.3 Matuku

Cruising Guide References: South Pacific Anchorages - Pg 90-91

Marine Reserve as of June 2023

The islanders of Matuku have decided to protect 3 areas—the biggest of them is 4.5 km²(!) and includes mangroves, sandy shelves and a lively, beautiful reef just off the main pass! No spear-fishing or net-fishing will be allowed in this Tabu (traditional ban) and it's planned to be permanent, so all species of reef fish will find a refuge to grow, multiply and guarantee sustainable fishing for the villagers in the surrounding areas.



Matuku Marine Reserve

The biggest no-fishing zone is located off the main pass on the western side, so visiting yachties can anchor either in the Tabu (behind the little motu Wailangi) or in the deep, protected bay of Lomati and enjoy great snorkeling on a pristine reef with a lively fauna!

We have seen so many reefs here in Fiji that have been fished empty, either by locals trying to make a short-term profit with exporting fish, by visiting fishermen (many of those who have emptied their own reefs now raid remoter islands...) and even by visiting cruisers (please don't contribute to the problem here...) but some islands in the Lau group still feature pristine reefs, where overfishing only recently has started (mostly with the arrival of electricity, thus freezers and a way to export).

When we first visited Matuku last year in July, we were impressed by the healthy reefs there, but talking to fishermen we found that they had already noticed a decline in fish. We started sharing info, explained the good and bad examples we had seen on other islands (e.g. empty, dead reefs in Tahiti, thriving fish and coral on the permanently protected side of Rapa Iti) and tried to raise awareness for the problems they would face if they kept overharvesting.

We sailed to Matuku again last October and yet again in February this year and each time the plans to install Tabu areas became more concrete. In June 2023 the boundaries of the no-fishing zones were set down--bigger than expected! This is a big step for the people of Matuku who will have sustainable fishing on a long-term basis (if climate change and pollution won't wipe out all reefs) and hopefully more islands of Fiji will follow their example.

Please make sure to praise the islanders for their efforts towards sustainability and environmental protection and leave a donation for the marine reserve either with the headman of Yaroi or Lomati when you do your sevusevu at one of the super-friendly villages. The islanders will have to patrol the Tabu in order to keep people from neighboring islands from illegal spearfishing and they will need money for fuel to do so.

For more info on the project, visit our blog: www.pitufa.at/2023/07/the-matuku-marine-reserve-and-how-it-came-into-being/Pass. -- Pitufa

7.3.1 Pass

July 2012: 19°09.284S / 179°43.774E, we used this WP as an 'outside the pass' and then worked our way into the inner harbor. – Pincoya

2010: Matuku Island has a dramatic, ragged back-bone more reminiscent of Polynesia. I approached the harbor round the north end of the island. Closing the island on 260°M, 19°06.3S 179°45.2E is about 100m off the end of the reef, which was not breaking. The center of the harbor entrance is 19°09.2S 179°43.7E. This is slightly south of the leading line shown on the chart and requires a dog leg to avoid the back of the outer reef. A post marks the northern limit of the south-side inner reef – opposite the wharf. – Shandon

7.3.2 Anchorage

July 2012: 19°09.66S / 179°45.15E. The anchorage off the village was a 100% protected. Need to consider tide when going ashore--there is a big mud flat at low tide with heavy sucky mud. Go barefoot. – Pincoya

2011: There is an excellent, sheltered anchorage, 10 – 15m over mud, inside the crater off the village of Lomati. This is a beautiful, verdant, high volcanic island, with its crater open to the west through a wide, clear pass. Other deeper, less sheltered anchorages are in the channel inside the pass, to the north of the main channel (17m over sand), or south of the main channel, amongst coral (6m over sand). There are more marginal anchorages inside some narrow passes on other coasts. Anchorage is possible off another delightful village, Makadru, south of the pass. – Mandala

7.3.3 Activities

The village is near **19°09.94S / 179°44.12E** where you go to do sevusevu.

July 2012: Our guides for the hike up to Korovava were Luke, Lai and Tats along with three dogs. The hike to Korovava was steep and thankfully only two hours up through the trees, mud and vines. Ropes were used to help guide us up steep, slippery and just made machete path. We were glad to arrive at the top and see the view of our boats and all the surrounding reefs and coral heads. Heading down, the ropes were again secured and we slid our way back to Lomati.

It was time to check out the snorkeling. With wetsuits, we took the dinghy out through the pass to the outside of the reef. There were incredibly large coral heads surrounded by large schools of fish, larger fish than we have seen in some time. – Pincoya

7.3.4 Cruiser Reports

July 2012: We motor sailed to the pass into Matuku Harbor and the village of Lomati. Entering the reef and navigating through to the village of Lomati was very scenic. This island reminded us of the Marquesas with high and unique shaped mountains.

After anchoring, we headed to shore for sevusevu. This was the first time that our kava roots were immediately pounded, made into kava and served to us!! Because of the rain, their kava was too wet and were appreciative of our gift.

Around 50 people live in Lomati. When asking on the size of the village, we noticed that the villages always add that most of their people live in Suva.

We walked to the neighboring village. There was a road built by the government to connect all the villages, even though there are no cars on the island. Around 3 km later, we arrived at the village and was greeted by that village's spokesman. The primary school is located here and the village has 100 people. They had underground electric service to each bure from a central generator and 4 telephones. This village was located on a sandy beach, unlike the muddy mangroves access at Lomati. – Pincoya

8 Vatulele

8.1 Pass

Aug. 2025: **18°28.471S / 177°38.246E**. This is a narrow and shallow pass. The narrowest point appears to be 63m wide and the shallowest depth we saw at high tide was 4.2meters.

We had 15kts of easterly winds and 1m sea from the east. The water is difficult to see through, very green with a grassy bottom. A little bit of a pucker factor as you navigate from the pass to the anchorage. Navionics shows us on land, so we used multiple satellite charts to guide us through this area.

Looks can be deceiving as the land you see from outside the atoll is actually inside the reef.

Navionics shows (2) passes but NFL only shows one, which is the one we entered.

On our exit, we left at dawn which put us at the pass at mid-tide and the shallowest depth we saw was 4m. We had 15kts of wind and 1m seas but the pass was navigable. – sv Sugar Shack

8.2 Anchorage

Aug. 2025: **18°29.957S / 177°36.917E** in 4m of water during high tide. Grassy/sandy bottom makes it hard to see where you are dropping the hook, but we had a solid hold. – sv Sugar Shack

8.3 General Services

8.3.1 Communications

Aug. 2025: We did not have Digicel or Vodafone service despite there being a cell tower in front of us. The tower is no longer working as it is covered in vines and the resort closed 14 years ago. – sv Sugar Shack

8.4 Cruiser Reports:

Aug. 2025: Vatulele Resort closed in 2011 and is the source of an ongoing legal battle. Originally there were 19 bures, with multiple pools, restaurant, bar, and full staff.

Highly recommend exploring on shore. We were able to check out 13 of the 18 bures, the restaurant/bar, and reception which had (3) eMac computers (2006!). The pools had tons of tadpoles and frogs covered in green muck, but you could easily imagine the beauty of the resort back in its day.

We also walked away from the resort on the beach during low tide. You keep following it until it dead ends, then look to your left and you will see a trail through the trees and along the rock face mountain. If you continue down this path you will come to a beautiful vibrant blue pool.

Some locals came from the village to say “hello” when we arrived. We happily gave them a fat skip jack which made them so very happy.

The village is about 3.4nm away from the anchorage. Technically, you are supposed to do sevusevu there, but the water had white caps and it would have been into the wind the entire way.

We enjoyed a sunset happy hour in the tower which showed off so beautifully.

There are lots and lots of birds here. We also saw several turtles. – sv Sugar Shack

9 Beqa

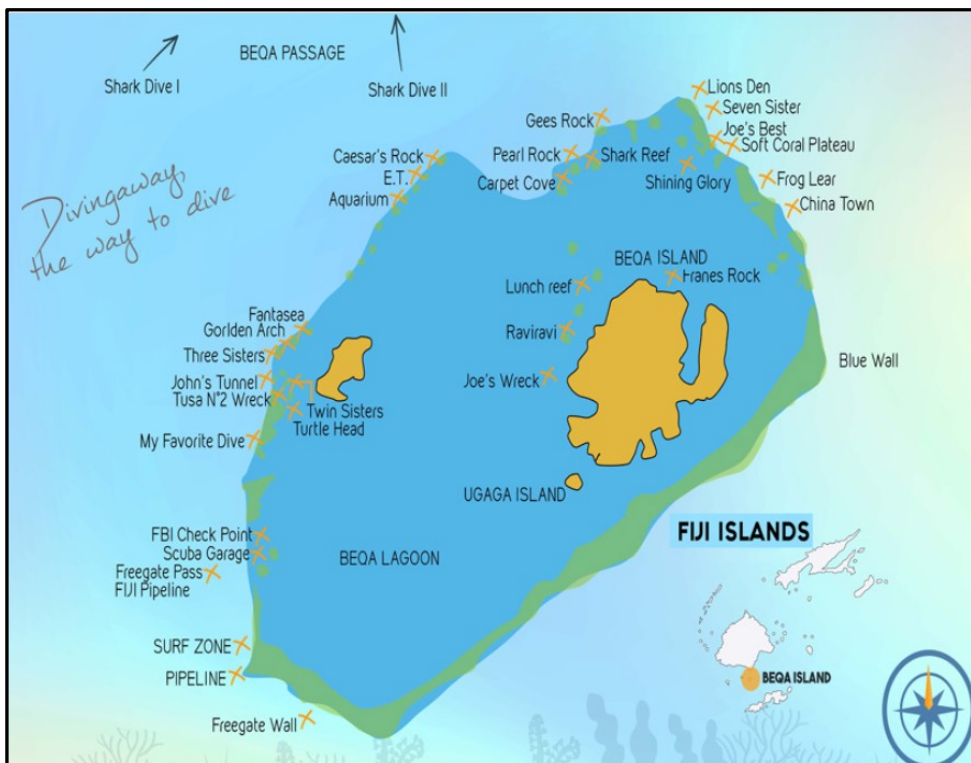


Photo courtesy of DivingAway.com

9.1 Mbengga (Beqa)

Cruising Guide References: A Yachtman's Fiji, 3rd Ed - 187-191

9.1.1 Pass

Sept. 2022: Bala Pass: Coming from Malumu Bay at sunrise during mid-low tide with 2kts of N wind. We could barely see the low rocks marking the edges of the pass. The waters were very calm, but the sun was in our eyes. The pass is wide and the charts were accurate even though there are no markers. The shallowest we saw was 12m. – sv Sugar Shack

Anchorage Entrance: The entrance to Malumu Bay is not marked well so be sure to eyeball everything and use the Navionic charts which were accurate. When you zoom in to Navionics you will see (3) red markers which are not present, we took these to starboard. However, there is a black stick/marker showing the edge of the reef at 17°21.616S / 178°09.238E. We passed this to starboard and gave it a wide berth (we were coming from Yanuca). There was one more black stick/marker at 17°21.842S / 178°09.272E as you enter the inlet. We nosed all the way to Lawaqa Levu before dropping the hook. – sv Sugar Shack

9.1.2 Anchorage

Aug. 2023: East Frigates Pass Anchorage: 18°28.1330S / 177°56.6146E. Anchored in 6m of sand. There are less bommies closer in. This is a good day anchorage to surf frigates pass or if calm an overnight anchorage. There is a buoy to tie the dinghy to by the surf break. A boat load of surfers came over from the mainland and guides were very friendly and let us tie off to their boat. – Know Tide Down

Sept. 2022: Malumu Bay 18°23.223S / 178°09.126E. Dropped in 5m of mud with really good holding. This anchorage is protected from everything except northerlies. It is very safe. You are surrounded by beautiful hillsides covered in lush greenery. A nice breeze funnels down the inlet giving you relief from the hot sun. Super calm, beautiful, and perfect. – sv Sugar Shack

Feb. 2013: 18°23.14S / 178°09.13E. 25'. Malumu Bay, the deep ravine in Mbengga. We ended up anchoring a good way in at, this is a nice protected location. Though the Google Earth picture made it look like there were shoals on the way in, that turned out to be just shadows and wind. The depth started at about 50' at the entrance. The bottom on our fish finder looked like mud all the way in. We had a few mosquitos overnight when the wind dropped.

In the mouth of the bay was some kind of a resort. There were 2 dive boats on moorings right off the resort. We almost anchored just south of the resort, but decided to explore further in. – Soggy Paws

9.1.3 Activities

Beqa Adventure Divers +679.998.8006, www.fijisharkdive.com, contact@fijisharkdive.com, adventures@connect.com.fj. Located in Pacific Harbour.

Beqa, Astrolabe Reef and Kadavu (south coast of Viti Levu, near Suva). There are several dive operations based at small resorts in these areas, plus live-aboard dive boats that leave from Suva.

Oct. 2023: Shark Dive: Bequa Adventure Divers can be reached by car from either Suva, Denarau, or Vuda. There is no anchorage nearby so you need to commit to an overnight, but the dive is worth it. Beqa Adventure Divers worked with the community and government to create a Shark Reef Marine reserve and the Shark Corridor (no fishing). The two dives were amazing, interesting, exciting, and very safe. Wonderful staff. Cost \$500F/pp with gear rental as of 10/2023. – SV Nutmeg

9.1.4 Cruiser Report

Sept. 2022: On the way in we passed by the Lalati Resort which brought some tourist by on jet skis (for less than 30 minutes). Pretty little resort. Next you pass the school and a small village. Sevusevu is done at the village. If you don't make your way promptly, they will send someone out.

There are lots of fabulous smaller inlets to explore by dinghy through the mangroves. If you have a SUP or kayak be sure to take it past Lawaqa Levu toward the even smaller island of Lawanga Levu. Super isolated and pristine lagoon toward the back and fun to explore. We really enjoyed exploring the smaller inlets deep into the mangroves where it was shaded and calm waters.

The waters were a little murky with some slime on the top. We did not see many fish swimming about.

Lots of Fruit bats come out at sunset to entertain you as they hunt for food across the sky.

Despite the hillsides all around us, we had decent internet on both Digicel and Vodafone. We do have a wifi extender on the mast for Digicel, but the Vodafone is on a cell (3G) – sv Sugar Shack

9.2 Yanuca (Yanutha)

Inside the Beqa Lagoon

9.2.1 Pass

Sept. 2022: 18°21.514S / 179°59.027E – West pass. This is a very wide and deep pass. We were coming from the west (Musket Cove) and rounded the reef below Bird Island. It gave us a straight shot to Yanuca anchorage. We had 13-14kts of NE winds with 1m swell and had no issues. – sv Sugar Shack

Sept. 2022: Entering from NW, look out for poorly charted bommies while approaching Yanuca. – SeaGlub

9.2.2 Anchorage

July 2023: 18°22.624S / 177°59.284E. 6-8m of water, we anchored in a clear patch of sand between coral. We tried a bigger patch of sand a bit further in but came up to 1.5m under the keel. No good in our mono, probably ideal for cats. – Knot Tide Down

Sept. 2022: 18°22.641S / 177°59.228E dropped in 8.5m of sand/coral bottom. The bottom has a lot of “rubble coral” and some small, short bommies. Drug the anchor for a wee bit before she stuck. We had light winds and put out a lot of scope (we were by ourselves). Winds died down to 7-8kts and there was a slight roll in the anchorage. – sv Sugar Shack

Sept. 2022: 18°22.654S / 177°59.317E. Difficult anchorage bottom conditions but can be done safely and environmentally friendly if taking your time in 4-10m. Provides good protection from trade wind conditions providing smooth waters even when trades are 20+kts.

Anchoring is easiest with a lookout on the bow or, if you're lucky enough, someone scouting on a dinghy. Use satellite images to find holes in the coral covered bottom. There are suitable sand areas but use floats if needed to avoid dragging chain over the colorful and lively coral formations just under the keel. This is the nearest protected anchorage for the famous Frigates surf location. – SeaGlub

July 2013: 18°22.55'S / 177°59.36'E. We had a good Google image and anchored on the west side of the island. The anchorage was reasonably protected. – Radiance

9.2.3 Activities

Sept. 2011 Diving: I've heard forever about the shark feed dive near Beqa (Benga) Lagoon here in Fiji. This is where they get the “bigs”.

We loaded up all our gear on Aquatrek's dive boat for the 15-minute ride to the site. It turns out that the dive is actually at the entrance to the bay we were in and no longer out in Beqa Lagoon which would have been another half hour ride.

There were hundreds of fish, all very good sized and well fed from having two meals a day served by Aquatrek and Bega Adventure's the other "Shark Feed" company that does these trips. Between them, these animals are fed at least 6 days/week.

The 50-gallon drum full of fish parts was hung in mid water and the action began.

At first, a few white tip, gray reef and several very large 10' Tawny Nurse sharks showed up. The Tawny's are yellow in color with small mouths and look like they've small barbs under their lower jaws like a catfish.

Next came the Silver Tips and the Bulls! The Silver Tips look like big Gray Reef sharks with silver highlights on all their fin tips. A very cool looking shark.

Now the Bulls are an entirely different critter. They were BIG. Very girthy as a sign of how well fed they were. "Big Mama" was 10' long and 5' wide. Fortunately, none of these animals are interested in "us".

All the sudden, I saw Joe take Joyce by the hand and swim her right into the melee. I thought this was some sort of Fijian ritual sacrifice (LOL). However, Joe was taking Joyce first but in turn, all the rest of the brave into an area where they could "pet" some sharks. Mostly the Tawny Nurse sharks which have no teeth.

2nd Dive: We saw 3 tiger sharks. Joe told me that 10 years ago, they used to get up to 30 or so Tigers. Now only one and only "sometimes". A wake up to the world that these magnificent predators are being fished out for their fins. – Beach House

9.2.4 Cruiser Report

Sept. 2022: Sevusevu is necessary and the village can be found by landing on the beach nearest this anchorage and then following a trail across the island. Maybe 15-minute walk. – SeaGlub

July 2013: We took the dinghy to the southern beach where there is an abandoned backpacker's resort, and walked along the shore to the northern beach where we found a path through the island to the other side. The northern beach is difficult to access by dinghy at low tide.

After walking through plantations, we came upon the school grounds on the top of a hill overlooking the village. We walked down steps to the village and presented sevusevu. – Radiance

10 The Great Astrolabe Reef & Islands

Note: Starting North and going around the Great Astrolabe Reef clock wise

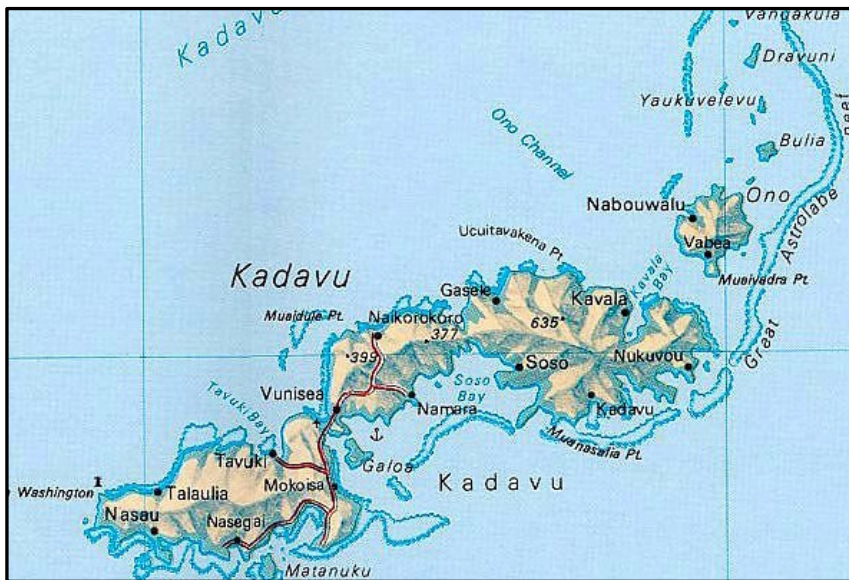
Cruising Guide References:

- South Pacific Anchorages - Pg 92-94
- A Yachtsman's Fiji, 3rd Ed - Pg 70-88

For all the beauty of the island itself, the most spectacular natural feature is the Great Astrolabe Reef which extends 30 kilometers north of the island into the clear waters of the Kadavu Passage. The reefs bend around on itself to form a thumb shaped lagoon in which ten beautiful islands lay. It then runs down to the eastern end of the island and wraps around the length of the southern coast.

While many of the world's reefs have suffered from massive coral kill offs, the Astrolabe remains a vibrant garden of aquatic diversity. But even a reef as large as the Astrolabe cannot long withstand the pressures of commercial fishing. Modern equipment such as outboard engines, sophisticated fish-finders, and scuba equipment has taken an obvious toll on the populations of fish, shells, bech-de-mer, and many other marine species. To create a safe haven and preserve prime breeding grounds, the French government, still active and

influential in the South Pacific, has donated scientists, patrol boats and money to help establish and monitor the **Naingoro Pass Marine Reserve** on Kadavu's eastern end.



10.1 Passes

10.1.1.1 *Usborne Pass (NW Side)*

Sept. 2022: $18^{\circ}42.354S$ / $178^{\circ}30.129E$. Sailed right through this wide pass at low tide. Lowest depth was 12m. There is a bit of a dog leg. There are no markers but the Navionics charts are accurate. – sv Sugar Shack

10.1.1.2 *Herald Pass (NW side)*

Located near the NW side of the island (above Ono).

Aug. 2012: We went through Herald Passage on our way out. Only 1 of 4 markers are there. Diamond Rock is located just inside and in the middle of the pass so one must choose a route north or south of the rock. We chose the wider southern route and had lots of room and depth. – Sarah Jean II

June 2012: Herald Pass, using an approach waypoint of $18^{\circ}45.187S$ / $178^{\circ}27.589E$. Easy entry. – Pincoya

10.2 Dravuni Island

Note: Multiple cruisers have reported unfavorable sevusevu experiences with the chief who is more often than not, agitated to perform the obligatory ritual.

10.2.1 *Anchorage*

Aug. 2012: $18^{\circ}45.4 S$ / $178^{\circ}31.1$ in 30' of very clear water on sand. Good holding. – Sarah Jean II

10.2.2 *Cruiser Reports*

Aug. 2022: We arrived at Dravuni Island a few days ago. As per protocol, we went to shore to do sevusevu with the chief. Everyone on the island was exactly as you'd expect...kind and welcoming. The only one who was less than welcoming was Chief Kiki. In fact, he made us feel quite unwelcome which is something we've never experienced before in Fiji. His Turanga ni Koro, Bill, ushered us out of the chief's house within minutes of us arriving. In fact, there was no chant, or blessing over the kava. He just took it and said we could anchor in the bay. It was very, very odd.

We do know from villagers there that they host a cruise ship once a month so maybe it's become less about tradition here and more about money? Of course, that's purely speculation. Maybe he was just having a bad day...it happens to all of us but since then we've heard from others that they also received the same "unwelcome welcome."

We left the following morning for Yaukuvelailai and chalk this experience up to a one-off type of event.

The other thing is that wherever we've stopped in the Kadavu Group, we've been asked to show our cruising permit. Seems they've had some issues with cruisers coming here before checking into the country. Just something everyone should know and be prepared to do.

As a side note, we did do sevusevu at Biyula Island to get permission to anchor at Vurolevu in order to swim with the mantas. Chief Tony at Biyula was very welcoming and spent time chatting with us and answering questions. And, the manta experience is the best we've had in Fiji! – Dazzler's Watch

10.3 Namara Island

10.3.1 Anchorages

Sept. 2022: 18°47.242S / 178°29.731E. Dropped in 5m of beautiful sand with good holding. There were a few scattered bommies, but with our light winds we did not need to float our chain. A light roll with the NE winds, but not too bad. – Sv Sugar Shack

10.3.2 Cruiser Reports

Sept. 2022: Sevusevu should be done at Dravuni island prior to stopping here. It is a beautiful and peaceful anchorage at this uninhabited island. Really clear water with decent snorkeling.

We swam ashore and enjoyed a super short and easy walk across to the other side of the island. There used to be a ridge trail but it needed a good machete cleaning to make it doable.

Digicel (2G) worked a little better than Vodafone ("E" service). Maybe it's because our Digicel was using our antenna at the mast and Vodafone was on a cell, or maybe just because Digicel had better coverage. Either way they both cut in and out and had 2G at best. – sv Sugar Shack

10.4 Yaukuvelailai Island

10.4.1 Anchorages

June 2012: 18°47.900S / 178°31.400E and 18°48.784S / 178°31.190E. we buoyed the last length of our anchor chain, which worked out very well and we got to have a quiet night's sleep! – Pincoya

10.4.2 Cruiser Reports

June 2012: Snorkeling around Yaukuvelailai showed moderately nice coral and small fish. We figure the locals keep the fish populations down. Next day, we decided to go out to the Takua Rocks about a mile E of us where we had a good snorkel with much nicer coral, but still small fish. – Pincoya

10.5 Buliya Island

10.5.1 Cruiser Reports

Sept. 2022: Sevusevu must be done with chief Tony on Buliya, the village is at (18°50.835S / 178°31.867E.). This sevusevu will cover you for Vurolevu, Buliya, and Tabu. They are extremely nice, happy to have a chat in the shade and show you around their village. Sevusevu was quick, but the enjoyable conversation continued. We were given some tasty papayas, took a long walk on their beautiful sandy beach.

Manta Rays swim all over this area. We were told by the villagers that the mantas are mostly out in the mornings, regardless of tide. We found their cleaning station where we enjoyed seven giant (4m) mantas at any given time. They are such graceful and magnificent creatures. We even saw several babies/juveniles playing with their family and friends. What a treasured experience.

Please heed the manta ray information in [Section 1.7.7](#) or <https://swimwithmantas.org> about interacting with the Manta Rays. – sv Sugar Shack

June 2012: We motored the 2-mile pass to the village of Buliya and did our Sevusevu. This was very casual, but the local children walked us around their village and we met a number of villagers.

This village appears somewhat wealthy with a generator, freezer, wind generator, nice homes with concrete floors and glass windows. The inhabitants seemed very industrious grinding coconut to make virgin coconut oil, pandanus drying everywhere for later weaving into mats, making brooms, washing clothes, and generally working. Most of the men seem to work at the resort being built on a neighboring island. We also got to see their extensive garden area with taro, tapioca, coconut, pandanus, and more. They seemed quite self-sufficient. – Pincoya

10.6 Yabu Island

10.6.1 Anchorage

Sept. 2022: **18°50.890S / 178°30.120E.** In 6m of sand. A few scattered bommies, but they were low and not near the anchor spot. With N of E winds there was a bit of swell, but a nice day stop. – sv Sugar Shack

June 2012: **18°50.678S / 178°30.067E.** Anchoring in 25' of coral and sand. – Pincoya

10.6.2 Cruiser Reports

Sept. 2022: This island is a nature preserve and extreme caution must be used when going ashore. Please do not disturb the bird's nests. We did not find a trail to the other side of the island, so we just enjoyed the beach along the waterline so as not to disturb the baby boobies.

Sevusevu must be done with chief Tony on Buliya village (**18°540.835S / 178°31.867E.**). They are extremely nice, happy to have a chat in the shade and show you around their village. Sevusevu was quick, but the enjoyable conversation continued for 30 minutes or so. – sv Sugar Shack

June 2012: Yabu, a small island which was supposed to have a lot of birds and snorkeling. It was still part of Buliya domination. Cautiously, we moved slowly through and around the reef. – Pincoya

10.7 Vurolevu / Vuro Levu Island Anchorage

Sept. 2022: **18°50.822S / 178°31.390E.** Mantas love to swim around this anchorage, near Buliya (right under your boat. – sv Sugar Shack

June 2012: **18°51.652S / 178°30.992E.** The last three days we have been anchored by ourselves off I. Vuroleva, between I. Buliva and I. Ono. – Pincoya

10.7.1 Activities

Sept. 2022: Sevusevu must be done with Chief Tony on Buliya, the village is at (**18°50.835S / 178°31.867E.**). This sevusevu will cover you for Vurolevu, Buliya, and Tabu. They are extremely nice, happy to have a chat in the shade and show you around their village. Sevusevu was quick, but the enjoyable conversation continued. We were given some tasty papayas, took a long walk on their beautiful sandy beach.

Manta Rays swim all over this area. They are predominantly at the northern tip of Vurolevu. We were told by the villagers that the mantas are mostly out in the mornings, regardless of tide.

Please heed the manta ray information in [Section 1.7.7](#) or <https://swimwithmantas.org> about interacting with the Manta Rays. You can also visit the village of Buliya since Vuru island belongs to that village. They have a step-by-step guide for interacting with the manta rays. – sv Sugar Shack

June 2012: We have enjoyed the snorkeling here, discovering very nice coral heads S of the island, and on the north end got to swim with a beautiful manta ray. This was at the north end of Vuroleva at approximately 18°51.455S / 178°31.296E.

Another good snorkeling spot was at the south end at approx. 18°51.929S / 178°30.842E. With coral heads and some current it made a nice drift snorkel. – Pincoya

10.8 Ono Island

South Pacific Anchorages - Pg 94, A Yachtsman's Fiji, 3rd Ed - Pg 85-87

10.8.1 Pass:

10.8.1.1 Niagoro Pass (East)

Aug. 2019: The pass is fairly wide and easily visible with good light. However, the Navionics chart does not match with the location of the actual marker sticks once you're through the pass. To get to the anchorage behind Vatulutu Island, we used these:

19°01.053S/ 178°30.719E

19°00.777S/ 178°29.858E (clears reef protruding from north)

19°00.610S/ 178°29.452E

19°00.509S/ 178°29.145E

19°00.142S/ 178°28.912E

19°00.151S/ 178°28.706E

19°00.368S/ 178°28.553E (anchorage)

The anchorage is very well protected from the trade winds and is in sticky mud. Do sevusevu at Naigoro village located approx 18°59.8S/178°27.9E.

On the Navionics chart, there is a dinghy pass shown through the mangroves at approx. 19 00.5S/178 28.5E. Look for a big hole in the mangrove. We watched several local boats enter, so decided to try it at high tide. It was cool, about a 5-minute ride through the mangroves, and exits into the bay south.

The pass snorkel is excellent! Coral on the top of the reef is somewhat bleached, but the side wall is gorgeous and teeming with fish. We also snorkeled the reefs along the passage into the anchorage and they were even more wonderful.....like an aquarium.

Aug. 2012 - Approach: We came from the northeast as if from Suva. There are a number of passes through the reef. Our approach was mid-morning in overcast conditions so we elected to sail down the west side of the reef, past the Alacrity Rocks and into Nabouwalu Bay, one of two good anchorages on Ono. This pass is very wide and should be OK in most conditions. The marker on Alacrity Rocks is missing but the surf break on the rocks is quite visible.

If the weather is fair and you decide to go first to Dravuni Island, you can enter the lagoon through Usborne Passage to the north or Herald Passage just west of Dravuni. – Sarah Jean II

10.8.2 Anchorage Nabuwalu Bay (West side)

Sept. 2022: 18°53.348S / 178°27.798E Dropped in 6m of mud. Quiet anchorage, even when it was blowing outside 25+kts. We dropped our anchor just before the shelf and pulled back just before a bommie. Be sure you have good conditions to anchor in this spot. – sv Sugar Shack

Aug. 2012: 18°52.4S / 178°29.6E. West side of Ono – anchored in 50' in the middle of the bay as we had strong winds from all directions and wanted to have swinging room. Good holding in mud. – Sarah Jean II

10.8.3 Cruiser Reports

Sept. 2022: We arrived late in the afternoon and left early in the morning so we did not do sevusevu. But the anchorage is well protected and super pretty.

We had a very, very weak internet connection (with both Digicel and Vodafone). – sv Sugar Shack

Aug. 2012: The water is quite shallow approaching the village so we followed the route of the boats from the village. The big wheels on our dinghy were helpful to get ashore. It's best to go ashore at high tide.

The village is very friendly. We did sevusevu with the chief and then returned the next morning on Sunday to go to church. The pastor's name is Steve and made a special announcement in church welcoming the guests from Canada. After church the chief's wife invited back to their home for lunch for traditional Fijian food. The next day Steve was our guide on a hike over to Nagara village – about 3 hours return on a muddy path. We carried Kava with us and did sevusevu with the chief in Nagara. – Sarah Jean II

10.8.4 Anchorage Naqara Bay (North side)

Aug. 2012: 18°52.4S / 178°29.6E 70', middle of the bay away from the reef. Good holding. Depth drops off fast from the reef. Beautiful bay with views up to the islands to the north inside the Astrolabe Reef. – Sarah Jean II

June 2012: 18°52.506S / 178°29.594E. – Pincoya

10.8.5 Cruiser Report

Aug. 2012: The weather was settled when we anchored in Naqara but there was good protection from the easterly winds. We went diving with Mai Dive – Jason or Richard – +679.603.0842. Their resort is on the east side of Ono but they came and picked us up in Naqara Bay. We dove Naiqoro Pass on NE end of Kadavu – a good drift dive. The next day we dove the Alcrity Rocks on the west side of Astrolabe Reef which had very interesting caves and tunnels. Great dive. We had access to the internet. – Sarah Jean II

11 Kadavu Island

Note: Bays / Anchorages are listed North and go clockwise around Kadavu.

Kadavu lies only 40 miles south of the main island of Viti Levu and it is inexplicably undeveloped. A spine of steep mountains runs down the center of the island, and much of the native jungle remains intact. Because the island has not suffered from the introduction of invasive wildlife species such as the predatory mongoose and mynah bird, the indigenous bird life is rich, boasting species either numerous or rare enough to draw amateur bird watchers and ornithologists alike.

The island hasn't given way to extensive logging or clear cutting for sugar cane fields like its neighbor to the north because it boasts a more profitable crop - yangona, or the kava root. A few inconspicuous eco-tourism lodges quietly add to the economy and encourage the preservation of its natural beauty.

Remember that Kadavu does have its own check in policies (updated 2025) and the local officials require that you show paperwork (cruising permit and passports) when entering Kadavu. The police station sits at the top

of the hill in Vunisea. It is asked by local officials that this check in policy be followed by all cruisers whether on the north or south side of the island. – SeaGlub

June 2025: Be prepared to show your cruising permit when you go ashore. – sv Sugar Shack

11.1 Kavala Bay

Note: Several thefts have been reported in Kavala Bay in Sept/Oct. 2023. It is recommended to ensure all valuables are stowed properly and out of view. Lock the boat when you leave and lock your dinghy when you go to shore.

Oct. 2023: Diving suits, diving shoes and a bucket of cosmetics were stolen off our boat at night while we were asleep and anchored at 18°58.88S / 178°25.07E. We made our sevusevu and gave the village plenty of other gifts. A 40-year-old thief came from another bay in a boat (white hull, 5 meters, 50hp Yamaha, 2 stroke). We gave him some presents (rice and kava). He returned with two cousins to give us a few coconuts. One of the cousins jumped onboard (uninvited) and inspected the boat quickly before they left. They returned later that night to steel the equipment. – SY Trinity

11.1.1 Anchorages

North Coast

July 2022: 18°58.972 / 178°25.127E Anchored in mud. Use satellite photos coming in to this anchorage.

Dinghy Landing: There is a dock where you can leave your dinghy. On the dock is a little store and many local boats were coming here to refuel. – Starlight

June 2012: 18°58.999S / 178°25.158E another spot at 18°58.45S / 178°24.98E was a good anchorage. The reef to watch out for coming in has a marker but is not intuitive. – Pincoya

11.1.2 Yachtsmen Services

11.1.2.1.1 Fuel (Diesel and gasoline)

July 2022: There is a small dock where you can fill jerry cans – Starlight

11.1.3 General Services

11.1.3.1 Medical Clinic

There is a medical clinic in Kavala.

11.1.3.2 Provisions

July 2022: There is a small store at the end of the dinghy dock (18°58.45S / 178°24.98E). It has a bit of almost everything, including potatoes, apples, bok choy, and eggs. – Starlight

11.1.4 Cruiser Report

July 2022: There are two villages on different sides of the bay. We left the dinghy on the dock just in front of our boat and walked on a dirt road to Solotavui Village (20-minutes). Turn left when the road splits, go downhill, and the village on the coast.

On Saturdays, there is a ferryboat coming from Suva to Kadavu. When this happens, there are food stands selling rotis, local dishes with fish or chicken and some cakes. When going from the dock, you walk on the hill, leave Solotavui village on your left and continue straight on the dirt road until you reach the ferry landing.

The next day we went to the church ceremony to Solotavui all the way with the dinghy. On high tide you can cut the corners, but on the low tide you need to follow the markers and dinghy around. The ceremony was quite long, but the singing was impressive. After church, they invited us to lunch.

Later in the afternoon we dinghied through mangroves on high tide. Very beautiful, endemic Kadavu parrots flying close by. We met two families there, who come here to farm. The second family offered to show us a waterfall hike the next day. – Starlight

11.2 *Ucuna Naigoro Bay*

South Pacific Anchorages - Pg 94, A Yachtsman's Fiji, 3rd Ed - Pg 79-81

11.2.1 *Pass*

Sept. 2022: Tight reef entrances from either north or south of anchorage entrance, use satellite images. Depths are minimum 15m but the entrances could be considered narrow. – SeaGlub

2012: Three of us left the anchorage and went out the pass in fairly strong tradewinds, and it was a struggle at the pass. We were last and knew it would be rough as we could see the others really rolling and disappearing in the wave troughs.

When we got there, it was short interval 4+ meter seas and 25 knot winds on the nose. We had sea water going over our bimini from the bow and had the throttle at about 3500 rpm, and were soaked. – Pincoya

11.2.2 *Anchorages*

Sept. 2022: **19°00.070S / 178°28.213E.** Matasawelevu. Once inside you can choose anchorages depending on wind. To escape trades, anchor behind the reef and island to port as you enter (**19°00.296S / 178°28.625E**) where you can anchor in 16-20m. All other wind conditions (N-W-S) you can make way closer into the village. The bottom gradually increases with mud from the river so just pick your depth. – SeaGlub

2012: **19°00.36S / 178°28.55E.** Inside the reef. – Soggy Paws

2012: **19°00.082S / 178°28.207E.** Our CMAP the bay's name is Matawalevu when you zoom in. – Pincoya

11.2.3 *Activities – Ucuna Naigoro south of Lagalevu / manuqiwa*

2022: Dive Kadavu: <http://matanabeachresort.com>, Phone: +679.894.6211

July 2013 - Diving Around NE Kadavu: Kadavu Island and Astrolabe Reef offer some of the top dive sites in Fiji. The Naigoro Pass offers spectacular drift dives with groupers aggregating around the pass entrance during spawning season (July to Sept.). – Mediteraneo

June 2012: This pass is supposed to be a good dive; we snorkeled it but had such strong currents and debris in water on outgoing tide we couldn't see much. The pass is a Reserve, and the village wanted \$5 per person to let you snorkel. – Pincoya

July 2012: At Kandavu we dove with Waisalima Dive. \$210 for two dives. We anchored in Naigoro Bay and they picked us up. Siewa, the dive master, showed a couple of boats where to snorkel on Alacrity Rocks on the west side. I'm told you can't anchor off the Resort anymore as it's now a marine preserve. – Shango

11.2.4 *Cruiser Reports*

Sept. 2022: Sevusevu is necessary and if you go in on a Sunday, you'll find yourself having lunch with the locals. There's a cement longboat (dinghy) dock but it will be dry at low tide so time your entrance and exit appropriately. The little island you can anchor behind in 16-20m is owned by a family, one of them is named Pony. He's worked in hospitality worldwide, is an excellent source of information, and will give you a tour around the area simply to share your company. – SeaGlub

11.3 Vatululu Bay

11.3.1 Anchorage

July 2022: 19°00.411S / 178°28.629E. Dropped in 23m of mud. Navionics was not accurate – we recommend you use satellite photos. – Starlight

11.3.2 Cruiser Report

July 2022: We stopped here for one day to go snorkeling in Naigoro Pass. But the sea was rough and we decided to snorkel inside about 50m North of the pass. The corals were alive and beautiful, only small reef fish though. We also dinghied few cuts in mangroves and wandered around. We did not meet anyone, did not go onshore, and left in the morning through the Naigoro pass. – Starlight

11.4 Korolevu (Vaca Levu)

11.4.1 Korlevu Pass

Aug. 2025: 19°03.667S / 178°26.178E The pass is about 150m wide and during low tide the shallowest spot we saw was 50m. There is a jog in the pass so be sure to use good satellite charts as you enter. We had 18kts of easterly winds and 2m seas as we entered (both pushing us in). – sv Sugar Shack

July 2012: 19°03.882S / 178°26.360E straight in to outside the Vaca Leva anchorage. Take care going, friends almost hit a reef coming in, because the reef protrudes. They weren't paying attention, taking down sails, etc. Reef point to watch out for: 19°01.716S / 178°24.643E. Keep on starboard going in. Going out the pass, had strong incoming wind and tide (25kt, big ugly waves, etc). – Pincoya

11.4.2 Anchorage

Aug. 2025: We tried anchoring several times in 3 different locations. All were deep (20-30 meters) and all had rubble/coral holding making it difficult to get a good stick.

We tried Mataikadavu, the mangrove hook (boot) off Toba Ni Korolevu, and the anchorage by Matava Resort. There were lots of moorings by Matava Resort but we were unable to determine if they were available. The anchorage near the moorings was 18-25m deep. We ended up leaving. – sv Sugar Shack

July 2012: 19°01.344S / 178°24.456E. A nice anchorage. – Pincoya

11.5 Waca Island / Matava Dive Resort

Aug. 2019: We continued south from Korolevu Pass, hoping to anchor behind Waya Island and visit Matava Dive Resort. However, when we got there, we found that resort moorings had taken the shallower spots and we would have to anchor in more than 27meters. So, we went back to Korolevu Harbor for the night.

11.6 Ucuinaqaralevu Point

11.6.1 Soso Pass

Aug. 2025: 19°03.083S / 178°16.508E has no markers and a twist as you enter the lagoon. The narrowest point in the pass is 183 meters and the shallowest depth we saw was 13m at the entrance (going in) and 15m once you enter the lagoon. This was during mid-tide. We entered the pass with 18-20kts east winds and a 1.5-2m east swell. Pushed us in a bit but not horrible. – sv Sugar Shack

11.6.2 Anchorage

Aug. 2025: 19°03.206S / 178°19.009E we anchored in 7meters during mid to high tide. Solid, good holding. We found a beautiful sand spot on this sandy spit. Navionics has us on shore, but I assure you we had plenty of scope and room to do 360 degree turns without touching anything or anyone. – sv Sugar Shack

11.6.3 General Services

11.6.3.1 Communications

Aug. 2025: Vodafone worked here, not Starlink speeds, but web pages loaded. – sv Sugar Shack

11.6.4 Sevusevu

Aug. 2025: There are four villages in the bay, but the village you do sevusevu in is Jioma. The mangrove entrance is at **19°03.206S / 178°19.009E**. Go during mid to high tide, up the river until you get to 2-4 long boats tied up. You will come to a “Y” in the river, take a right. You will pass a few houses on the right, keep going. Tie up your dinghy to the pole and take the short dirt path until you see the cement walkway. Walk into the village and ask to see the Turanga Ni Koro or the Chief. – sv Sugar Shack

11.6.5 Activities

Aug. 2025: Waterfall Hike. From Niudua Village (the 2nd village you get to from Jioma village), there is an arduous 2hr hike (one way) to the waterfall. There is some bouldering, streams to cross, and mud tramping. Go to Jioma village and ask them to point you to the bridge that leads to the path to the Niudua village. You will have to do sevusevu here as well as at Joima village (bring appropriate attire). At the Niudua village ask around to for guides to take you to the waterfall hike.

We had (4) guides for 9 people (including 12 and 14 year olds). Bill and Thomas were the best guides and helped us navigate the muddy tracks and slippery boulders.

Stunning waterfall and great place to swim. Bring a lunch and drinks to enjoy after your arduous hike.

When we returned to the Niudua Village they had a beautiful celebration with kava, juice, and several plates stacked with mounds of food. There was music and dancing and good fun had by all.

We tipped each of the (4) guides \$20F even though it was not asked of us. They spent all day with us and were really, really helpful. – sv Sugar Shack

11.7 Vonobia Island

11.7.1 Anchorages

July 2022: 19°02.720S / 178°19.365E anchored in mud. – Starlight

11.7.2 General Services

11.7.2.1 Communications

Aug. 2025: Vodafone worked here, not Starlink speeds, but web pages loaded. – sv Sugar Shack

11.7.3 Cruiser Report

July 2022: We entered through the Soso pass. Really nice spot, peaceful and protected. Beautiful sand beach and a cut in the mangroves to enjoy the shade and walk in clear water (belly high on low tide) to the other bay. We snorkeled along Vonobia island but found corals pretty much in poor health. – Starlight

11.8 Yauravu Bay / Muani

There are 7 villages in and around this large bay. The main village is Ravitaki Village located at 19°08.009S / 178°07.800E. However, this village is difficult to access from the water. Best to try at high tide near the above coordinates. Muani village is a lot easier to access with a nice shallow, beach front (19°08.997S / 178°08.719E). Probably best to visit the village closest to your anchorage point for sevusevu.

Note: Thefts have been documented in this bay. Be cautious, stow your valuables and lock your boat.

2022: A monohull had her boat broken into and lots of items were stolen. She worked vigilantly with the village to get the stolen property returned. Nothing happened to the thieves even though they were identified.

11.8.1 Pass:

Aug. 2025: 19°09.729S / 178°08.126E entrance to the pass. Could not find a name for the pass. The pass is approximately 200m wide and the shallowest depth we saw at mid-tide was 29m. There was a 1.5-2kt outgoing current when we entered. Navionics showed us on land as we turned right to our anchorage, thank goodness for satellite images. – sv Sugar Shack

Sept. 2022: Pay attention in this pass. Favor the starboard side on entering as there is a section of reef protruding from the opposite side. Currents are noticeable but not typically concerning. – SeaGlub

11.8.2 Anchorage:

Aug. 2025: 19°09.369S / 178°07.314E in 2.1m of sand during low tide. What a beautiful sandy spot. We have enough room to swing 360°. We had very light winds when we anchored here and forecast showed light winds for a few days (even though it clocks all the way around). – sv Sugar Shack

Sept. 2022: 19°09.346S / 178°07.337E in 3-5m sand bottom near the pass. It can be had in winds that originate from anything with a north flavor to it. Close proximity to the reef for snorkeling, diving, and surfing.

Anchoring is most popular to the east after entering near Muani village. Take a wide track in and go the long way around the stakes marking reef areas to starboard. Once near the village anchoring is deep 20m+ but if wind conditions are good anchoring just west of Muani can be had on sand bottoms at 10m but watch your swing room. Sevusevu is a must (all of Kadavu, except Vunisea and resort areas, is very traditional like this) and can be done in one of several villages in the bay. – SeaGlub

11.8.3 General Services

11.8.3.1 Communications

Aug. 2025: Both Digicel and Vodafone had an “ok” signal. Good for texts, WhatsApp a little slow for web browsing, but still functional. – sv Sugar Shack

11.8.4 Sevusevu

Aug. 2025: There are 7 villages in and around this large bay. The main village is Ravitaki Village located at 19°08.009S / 178°07.800E. However, this village is difficult to access from the water. Best to try at high tide near the above coordinates. Muani village is a lot easier to access with a nice shallow, beach front (19°08.997S / 178°08.719E). Sevusevu was done with the chief Freddy (who is blind) and a few other elders.

Probably best to visit the village closest to your anchorage point for sevusevu. – sv Sugar Shack

11.8.5 Cruiser Reports

Aug. 2025: Muani village is absolutely lovely and full of super friendly people. We went to church, which starts at 10:30am and lasted until 11:45am. Truly some of the best singing we've heard in a long time!

The school principal was also very welcoming and was thrilled to receive our school supplies.

We spent well over a week at our anchorage because it was so beautiful and calm. Matt took the SUP out around every island and into each mangrove opening he could find.

Waterfall: We found a super accessible waterfall. During high tide, take your dinghy to 19°08.178S / 178°07.034E and you will find an opening into the mangroves. Enjoy a slow dinghy ride through the beautiful, canopied mangroves until you come to the end (the main dirt road). Tie your dinghy to a tree or rock. Be sure you leave NO belongings inside your dinghy.

Cross the road, turn right, about 30-40' you will see a little path (on the left across the ditch). Follow the path. It will "Y", stay to the left, do not go up the hill. You will come to a river, cross the river and follow it to the right. This is where the fun begins – bouldering. Regular shoes are best for this short hike to help you climb the boulders (see photos on NFL).

The waterfall is at 19°07.923S / 178°07.045E. It took us 12 minutes from the dinghy to the top of the waterfall. It sounds a lot further than it is. The waterfall pool is shallow, but very refreshing. – sv Sugar Shack

11.9 North Bay

11.9.1 Pass

Sept. 2022: The entrance is pretty well marked by stakes on the edges of the reef, depths 30-35m until you make the turn to starboard where the depths come up to 18-20m. – SeaGlub

11.9.2 Anchorages

Sept. 2022: Soso Pass Anchorage. 19°02.753S / 178°17.026E. In the correct wind conditions, it is possible to find enough sand in 3-4m on the edge of the reef with swing room to anchor. Beautiful snorkeling, diving and healthy spearfishing can be had in the pass.

Soso Pass Sandbar Anchorage: 19°03.018S / 178°19.003E. 7-9m of sand. After making your way through the pass, angle northeast to avoid scattered bommies and then turn southeast towards the sandbar. Here you will find a wide area fairly well protected from most wind conditions. The bottom is pretty clean of bommies and sand bottom. Enough room to fit a dozen or more boats. – SeaGlub

July 2022: 19°02.922S / 178°11.207E dropped in 9m of water. The water was super murky and it was an overcast day so we could not see what or where we were anchoring, but the anchor stuck well. North Bay is accessed by passing through Galoa Bay.

Getting to Shore: We left the dinghy tied to the concrete dock with a stern anchor. The tide takes the water pretty far from shore so be aware. We walked up the road and at the top of the hill, took the left dirt road (there are 3 roads, take the far left) to go to town. – sv Sugar Shack

11.9.3 Cruiser Reports

Sept. 2022: Sevusevu is necessary and is a way off at a village up the mangrove river to the north. This village is actually two villages separated by short walk through the richest of jungle grass fields. Well worth a visit to the village to see their farming and living. If you're up for a strenuous 2-2.5-hour hike, you can find some of the most exhilarating water falls on Kadavu. Just ask in the village and you're likely to get half a dozen willing guides. – SeaGlub

11.10 Galoa Bay

11.10.1 Pass

Sept. 2022: The pass entrance here is large and not complicated. Depths are 70-80m, yes very deep. Using this south approach will be difficult in normal trade wind conditions but other times of the year this side of the Kadavu can be very protected and an incredible place to explore. – SeaGlub

July 2022: Galoa Bay is also known as Schooner Channel (at least on Navionics) and it is between Esk Reef and Pearl Reef to Galoa Harbor. We entered the channel at low tide, with 18-20kts of ESE winds and 2.5-3m following seas. The shallowest we saw was 40m. We had good satellite images over OpenCPN and Navionics. Both charts appeared to be good. The only thing is that Navionics showed several markers that are no longer present. The first marker, inside the pass at 19°05.915S / 178°12.199E we left it to port. Then we made a hard turn to starboard (right). The next marker at 19°04.482S / 178°12.087E marked a reef, we left it to port, then made a soft turn to port (left) to get to our anchorage. – sv Sugar Shack

11.10.2 Anchorage

Sept. 2022: 19°02.959S / 178°10.925E anchored in 6-20m. This particular anchorage is at the mouth of a river so the bottom is gradually sloping mud and you can anchor in anything from 6-20m - SeaGlub

July 2022: 19°04.482S / 178°10.514E anchored in 6m of mud. Came here from Vonobia Island, inside the lagoon, between the markers north of Galoa Island. There are reefs on the left and right, but they are visible in the daylight and clearly in satellite pictures. Hug the left reef, turn left and anchor in protected bay surrounded by mangroves. Beautiful and remote, just the water quite bit murky with some debris floating.

It is a 2.5nm to go with the dinghy to the harbor, from where you can easily walk to Vunisea Village. Usually, the fisherman can help you to reach the shore if you need to leave the dinghy further in the water due to tides. We left our dinghy close to shore, the tide went out, and we had a long tow through the mud. – Starlight

July 2012: 19°04.491S / 178°10.500E. We anchored at Inner Galoa Bay near the airport. Anchorage behind Galoa Island is, fantastic protection.

Outer reef anchor spot for snorkeling: **19°06.030S / 178°12.509E.** – Pincoya

11.10.3 Yachtsmen Services

11.10.3.1 Cooking Gas (Propane)

July 2022: Several stores offered propane tanks for sell. – sv Sugar Shack

11.10.3.2 Fuel (Diesel and Gasoline)

July 2022: You can purchase premix (mix of gasoline & oil), but it's very expensive (\$4F per liter). – Starlight

11.10.4 General Services

11.10.4.1 Airport

July 2022: There are a few flights per week to Nadi and Suva. – Starlight

11.10.4.2 Hardware Stores

July 2022: Hardware: Several stores offered hardware items. There is one store that offered just hardware items. Once you come down the hill, first building on left (white). – sv Sugar Shack

11.10.4.3 Medical

July 2012: There is a hospital located in town. – Pincoya

11.10.4 Wifi (Internet & Phone)

July 2022: There are wifi antennas at the top of the mountain so you can get pretty decent wifi with both Digicel and Vodafone. – sv Sugar Shack

11.10.5 Provisions

July 2022: For such a small village, there were tons of markets. We counted at least 5 maybe 7 (as some did not appear to be open). Most of the markets were to the left once you reached the water's edge. Operating Hours tended to be Mon-Sat: 0800-1600.

From where we anchored, go up the hill, past the police station, and took the road on the left down the hill.

- **Kems Wholesalers and Retail:** Hours: Mon-Sat: 0800-2100; Sun: 0600-0900 & 1700-2000. Sold cooking gas and had a very good variety of products including frozen foods, canned foods, baked goods, liquor and some hardware/housewares.
- **Advance Store:** Offered baked goods, and a variety of provisions, in small quantities, but they did have baking powder, yeast, & condensed milk. Plus, a small selection of hardware, fuel, and retail items.
- **Liquor Shop** (blue building) had liquor, some hardware, retail, clothing, baked goods, and a few provisions. They also had some roti for sell for \$1F which were tasty!

Each store had different offerings, but all were clean and had friendly staff. – sv Sugar Shack

July 2022: There are at least (3) grocery stores and we saw several people selling rotis and cakes in front of their houses at lunch time (not sure if this happens regularly or if it was special occasion due to the rugby tournament happening over the weekend). The stores were well stocked with bread, eggs, some fresh produce, some cheese, and meats in the freezers. – Starlight

Aug. 2019: There is a fresh veg market held on Fridays and frequently on Monday and Wednesday also. If you don't find what you want, it is possible to ask one of the farmers to bring it the next time. Lettuce goes really fast, so be there by 0730 to get some, or order for the next day.

The supply ship comes Wednesday's and Saturdays.

11.10.6 Restaurants

July 2022: We found two restaurants and several stores that sold take away rotis. The first eatery is Rock Harvest and they have a variety of tables on their porch. Their awning is blue.

The next eatery may be under repair. Jessica's Take Away. +679.710.1142 or +679.861.0690. – sv Sugar Shack

July 2022: There is a restaurant and a lunch place in the village. – Starlight

Aug. 2019: We had a delicious lunch at Mai Chow, in the blue building on the right at the north end of town.

11.10.7 Transportation

July 2022: **Sai Car Rentals** +679.999.6910, +679.500.3333, +679.500.5555, saicarrentalsfj@gmail.com. We did not use their service, but saw the advertisement on the side of their clean car. – sv Sugar Shack

11.10.8 Activities

July 2022: A 1-hour (each way) hike to the waterfall. When you hike uphill from where you leave the dinghy, you see a police station before you reach Vunisea. Turn right and continue around for 1 hour on the dirt road until you reach a dam. Walk through the little bridge and after 20 meters you will see a little trail on your right down to the river. Few slippery steps and you will come to the waterfall. It is not big, but the place is beautiful and you can take a dip in the many little pools. We had fun here watching freshwater shrimps and eels navigating through the crevices. – Starlight

11.10.9 Cruiser Reports

Sept. 2022: If you're in need of a 'city' for provisions or even quick transportation to the mainland via air, you can find options in Vunisea. Remember that Kadavu does have its own check in policies and the local officials require that you show paperwork (cruising permit and passports) when entering Kadavu. The police station sits at the top of the hill in Vunisea. It is asked by local officials that this check in policy be followed by all cruisers whether on the north or south side of the island. – SeaGlub

July 2022: We were told there is no sevusevu here. However, we were asked to stop off at the police station to show them our boat paperwork. The police station is at the top of the hill. Cement dock, dirt road to the top, turn left, on the road to the left (white building with flag pole). – sv Sugar Shack

July 2022: Villagers were happy that we visited them as they said sometimes cruisers stop here, but do not visit their village. One guy showed us the village and said that this week they do not consume kava because of their religion (Methodist). They invited us to the church ceremony and we went the next day. It was the most joyful mass I have ever attended. All happened outside, with the chairs, mats, placed on the grass and a little hut constructed for the priest. They not only sang, but did some dancing in a few groups which is what took a big part of the ceremony.

We reached Galoa village & Vunisea Village from the same anchorage. 10-min to walk to Vunisea. – Starlight

Aug. 2019: 19 04.1S/ 178 09.8E. We watched a local long boat disappear into the mangroves west of the airstrip and decided to explore. It is vital to go at a minimum of half tide rising and even then may require rowing across to the mangrove entrance.

From our anchorage, head for a spot just to the left of the airstrip windsock pole. When we were here, there was a floating raft south of this pole and the airstrip. Keep the raft close to port and just past it, turn 90° to port and head for the big hole in the mangrove. About 100meters into the mangrove, there is a landing on the right side and you can see the dirt road up a short embankment. There were 2-thin monofilament lines hanging down from branches at the landing. We found the walk into town from here to be 40 minutes. Make sure you are back before mid-tide falling!! Caveat, this area is a creek delta so the mud may shift.

11.11 Cape Washington (off Denham Island)

11.11.1 Anchorages

Aug. 2025: 19°07.639S / 177°57.189E. Dropped in 18m during mid-tide. This was just a "stop-over" place for us as we arrived at 1700 and left the next morning at 0600. DO NOT ANCHOR HERE! We got stuck in a bommie which took 45 minutes and dive gear to get free from.

The clarity is amazing. We could see the anchor 17m down as we were trying to free her. We came in late in the afternoon and could see NOTHING as we dropped, unfortunate.

July 2022: 19°07.660S / 177°57.048E. Dropped in 15m in between coral heads. We had a funky wind angle, NE so we did not stay long. – sv Sugar Shack

11.11.2 Cruiser Reports

Aug. 2025: The village is up over the mountain ridge. I assume at high tide you can get to either beach on either side of the mountain which would lead you to the village. This is a pretty stop over, but a deep anchorage. – sv Sugar Shack

July 2022: Wow, what a beautiful bay off Denham Island. A little abandoned resort with huts hidden in the trees. Kadavu's SW end has a rather large village. Kadavu showcases her beautiful, blue water, and towering cliffside here. – sv Sugar Shack

11.12 Talaulia Bay

11.12.1 Anchorage

July 2012: 19°06.084S / 178°00.572E. South of Taiwava (sp?) Village. Calm and protected anchorage from the SE Winds. We spent 3 nights. There are 3 villages on the beach and no obvious attractions. – Pincoya

11.12.2 Activities

July 2012: We did a jaunt up to Dawson Reef to snorkel. The reef seemed mostly dead with few live corals. Quite a few fish though, and one nice coral head near the anchorage. – Pincoya

11.12.3 Cruiser Report

July 2012: After not finding a good anchorage at Denham Island, we motored 3 miles to Talaulia bay. This end of the island is very pretty with the mountain dominating, cliffs and sandy beaches. It is too bad that there are not more calm anchorages so you could explore this part of Kadavu. – Pincoya

11.13 Soladamu

11.13.1 Pass

July 2012: 19°02.053S / 178°06.685E. Pass thru Hope Reef for Vunasea or Soladamu. – Pincoya

11.13.2 Anchorages

July 2012: 19°04.250S / 178°06.90E. Anchorage for Soladamu. – Hibiscus

11.13.3 Provisions

July 2012: The Soladamu village had produce available on north coast. – Pincoya

11.14 Vunasei

11.14.1 Pass

July 2012: Went in thru Namalata Reefs pass. 18°59.942S / 178°09.299E hung a hard left there and in to 18°59.386S / 178°07.736E. Working around a big reef.

Waypoint on the way in: 19°02.442S / 178°09.170E. Go in thru some bommies, then this waypoint and go into anchor area (kind of a hook thing). – Pincoya

11.14.2 Anchorages

July 2012: 19°02.911S / 178°09.262E. In front of the fuel dock. – Pincoya

11.14.3 Yachtsmen Services

11.14.3.1 Fuel (Diesel and Gasoline)

July 2022: There is a fuel dock in Vunasei. – sv Sugar Shack

11.14.4 General Services

11.14.4.1 Airport

There is an airport at Vunasei.

11.14.5 Provisions

July 2012: The market was tiny but everything was grown fresh. We were able to get some great lettuce, small tomatoes, bok choy, okra and eggplant, green onions, a pineapple, kumaru, ginger, and a couple tapioca roots. Plus, we also bought a couple potatoes at a store, a bottle of rum at the “liquor store” and a loaf of whole grain bread. – Pincoya

11.15 Daku Bay / Tomba Ni Ndaku Bay

11.15.1 Pass

Sept. 2022: The entrance into the Tomba Ni Ndaku bay is a swerby “S” so caution should be exercised. It would be best to enter at high tide with a strong sun and good visibility. Navionics and on the satellite charts noted a **bommie at 18°57.199S / 178°16.134E** that was jstt under the water at low tide. There are no markers into the bay, but again, the charts are pretty accurate. – Sv Sugar Shack

11.15.2 Anchorages

Sept. 2022: **18°58.391S / 178°16.472E**. Dropped in 15m of water with good protection from the wind and waves. We originally tried to anchor on a nice sand bank at **18°58.425S / 178°16.231E** in 8m but the waves and swell were wrapping funky into the bay and hitting us on the side panel so we opted to go across the bay. Another spot in 5-7m of sand/mud is at **18°57.735S / 178°15.935E**. – sv Sugar Shack

11.15.3 Communications

Sept. 2022: There is no (Digicel or Vodafone) internet access in this bay. – sv Sugar Shack

11.15.4 Sevusevu

Aug. 2025: Sevusevu should be done at Daku village (which is to the north of the bay and around the corner **18°57.755S / 178°16.627E**). Visit Chief Joe and his sone, the Headman, Joe at high tide or you can walk the road (take a left at the fork) – 30-minute walk. – sv Sugar Shack

11.15.5 Daku Yacht Club

Aug. 2025: The Daku Yacht Club has recently been established. Located at Daku village (18°57.755S / 178°16.627E). You can ask for Joe (the chief or headman). They offer snorkeling with giant clams, weaving classes, bird watching, mangrove tours, beach bonfires, fishing trips, herbal medicine tour, and long boat charters for a small fee.

You can also partake in coconut husking, fish feeding, seaweed farming, mangrove planting. – sv Sugar Shack

11.15.6 Cruiser Report

Aug. 2025: Daku Bay actually belongs to Daku village which is to the north of the bay (around the corner). **Daku Yacht Club** was recently established and offers services including water taxi, fishing/snorkeling tours, kava/cultural experiences and more. Be sure to join their club. – sv Sugar Shack

Sept. 2022: Sevusevu is done at the village at the back of the bay (just past the mangroves). Head toward the back of the bay, keep the tall stick/pole to port. There is a reef that shallows quickly around this pole so going during high tide is best (if you have a long shaft outboard). Pull up toward the left of the bay near the concrete dock. Joe at the first house on the left is the chief’s son. He can get the toranga ni koro and or the chief Joseph for sevusevu.

It was fun to weave our way through the mangroves to reveal the pretty little village of Vunisei. We signed the guest book for the village and were walked to the town hall for sevusevu.

This was our first official full sevusevu ceremony after being in Fiji for 3 months and visiting a dozen villages! Don't get me wrong, we have done sevusevu, but it was usually a clap, clap, clap, prayer, gratitude's, and a chat. This was the first pounding of the kava all the way through to "high tide" consumption.

After the ceremony, we walked up the steep hill to the school which is shared by all 4 villages. We signed the school's guest book, shared some school supplies, and enjoyed the gorgeous view across the two valleys.

Once you do sevusevu there is a nice walk up the hill giving you some pretty views. – sv Sugar Shack

11.16 Drue

11.16.1 Namalata Pass

Sept. 2022: We had no wind, flat seas, and perfect conditions as we exited this pass from the Drue anchorage. The sun was just coming up so we took it slow navigating toward the pass around the bommies, but once in the deep water it is a straight shot. The pass is pretty wide (use satellite charts to see the extending reef) and deep (we left at near high tide). – sv Sugar Shack

11.16.2 Anchorage

Sept. 2022: 18°59.962S / 178°09.512E dropped the hook in 5m of sand with a few scattered bommies. Super calm and beautiful spot with great sunsets! – sv Sugar Shack

11.16.3 Communications

Sept. 2022: We did not have any Vodafone service. Our Digicel seemed to work much better. Internet: Vodafone showed 3G, but we had no connectivity (not even WhatsApp) and the Digicel tower was having problems where it came and went randomly (not consistent). You could be surfing web pages then the signal completely dropped off. – sv Sugar Shack

11.16.4 Cruiser Reports

Sept. 2022: Jim Bule lives in the village and used to be a divemaster with the resort (which is now abandoned). He takes people out for dive excursions for \$100F per person. You have to bring your own equipment, but he will take you out in his long boat and be your underwater guide.

Hike: There is a lovely hike to the top of the mountain with wonderful views of the bay. – sv Sugar Shack

12 Viti Levu

Content for Viti Levu starts in Suva and goes clock wise around the island.

12.1 Suva

12.1.1 Approach and Arrival

See "Customs and Immigration" above in section 2.7 for formalities

12.1.2 Pass

Suva Harbor is well protected by a reef about 1.5 miles offshore. The pass is well marked and wide enough to enter with plenty of room. However, the reefs lining the coast and the main entrance are dotted with shipwrecks so be careful and stay alert.

There is a **navigation hazard** consisting of the over turned hull of a steel ship about 80' long which is awash at high tide and is visible about 4' at low tide. Recently a red and black striped pole about 8 feet high has been placed on the wreck to mark the spot.

Sept. 2012: Approaching the harbor at night there are blue range lights but few buoys. The channel is deep but care is to be taken to stay clear of the reefs. – Far Star

12.1.3 The Royal Suva Yacht Club

+679.331.2921, Fax: +679.330.4433, www.fijimarinas.com/royal-suva-yacht-club-rsyc/, rsyc@kidanet.net.fj or gm@rsyc.org.fj, PO Box 335, Suva, Republic of Fiji Islands. Hours: Mon-Sun: 0800-2200.

If you wish to use the club facilities you will need to become a temporary member for a small fee (see admissions office). In Aug.2022 the fee was \$60F/month. There is a daily fee available to use the dinghy dock as well.

Drydock Facilities: There are several drydock facilities suitable for larger vessels.

Services:

- Berths
- Boatyard Repairs
- Clearance and Formalities (small fee to ferry officials to/from the boat)
- The Galley Restaurant bar offers casual and fine dining: breakfast, lunch, dinner and snacks. Closed on Monday's and only open to members. Happy Hour: Tues, Wed, and Fri from 1800-1900
- Bure Bar & BBQ has a TV screen & BBQ (small fee)
- Fuel
- Chandlery
- Potable Water
- Trash
- Showers
- Laundry
- Internet
- Pool & snooker table
- Kids playground
- Book exchange



Figure 1 Photo courtesy of Fiji Shores & Marinas 2020

A daily fee per person will be charged for using the facilities.

12.1.4 Anchorage

There are several mooring facilities to accommodate visiting cruisers. Trot and Plastic Pontoon moorings are generally leased to members who own private yachts. Concrete moorings added to the plastic pontoon are available for bigger boats or visiting yachts.

Dinghy Docks: These are for daily use only, no overnight without prior permission.

Sept. 2022: 18°06.58S / 178°23.76E about 2nm NW of Royal Suva Yacht Club in front of Novotel in 6m of mud. Very protected from the weather. The police have their boats in the same bay, so feels quite safe. We still did not leave anything on deck or in the cockpit. There are a few solid looking moorings in the bay, but we were

not sure of ownership. The hotel is being renovated and is scheduled to open in 2023. We did use a little dock in front of the hotel for the dinghy. – Scooter

Aug. 2022: 18°07.298S / 178°25.468E in 4m of thick mud with very good holding. If you arrive in the dark there are some unmarked ship wrecks and old moorings, so be careful. Approach with caution. During our stay, we had moderate to strong winds from the east and some squalls from northeast. Later one we got slightly southerly winds and then it was a bit roly. Regarding all the bad reviews written about this place we would like to add that this is an “ok” anchorage except if there are strong winds from SE-S-SW. not pretty, but if you need to go to Suva, don’t hesitate to anchor here.

There are some moorings close to the yacht club and sometimes available slips for visiting yachts. The harbor is quite shallow during low tide. Mostly local boats with lots of mold. – Major Tom

Sept. 2012: We anchored here for 2 weeks at the Royal Suva Yacht Club. The anchoring area is open to the south and SE and subject to a 1-mile fetch which builds to a 3’ chop in winds of 25-30 knots. This caused six boats to drag at once as the weather moved in. The yacht club sent out boats to help the stricken yachts. There is a mud bar downwind which collected several of these yachts.

The bay here has a mud bottom which has rather poor holding. A member of the yacht club told me that drilling here was done in preparation for adding a pier and the drill went to 18 meters of mud before hitting rock. Near the yacht club the water shallows up to less than 6’ and drops to 50’ further out.

The yacht club has facilities for transient yachts and welcomes them. Sometimes there are slips available for cruisers by stern tie. Access for sailboats is generally only at high tide which rises about 4’.

This is an industrial port with large ships operating in the harbor (tankers, cruise ships, freighters). The waters show evidence of oil spills on the surface from time to time. The bottom is littered with debris. At least a dozen large ships are anchored at all times with many near the yacht anchorage. Some are abandoned. – Far Star

12.1.5 Yachtsmen Services

12.1.5.1 Fuel (Diesel and Gasoline)

Fuel (diesel and gasoline) can be purchased.

June 2012: The fuel dock is a 6’ at high tide (5+foot tide) rules out many boats. Unfortunately, there is no other fuel dock in town with a low-speed fuel source. – Shango

12.1.5.2 Wifi (Internet and Phone)

The Yacht Club provides wireless internet access that may cover as far as some of the offshore moorings.

12.1.6 General Services

12.1.6.1 Laundry

Next day laundry service is available from the Yacht Club.

12.1.6.2 Hardware Stores

2025 verified: 2013: There are a lot of marine-oriented supplies in the commercial area along the waterfront, including a good hardware store. We also had a taxi take us to a couple huge hardware stores within a 5-10-minute drive of RSYC. – Soggy Paws

12.1.6.3 Marine Stores and Services

2025 Verified (2013): Marine Supplies: There are three marine stores in Suva

- The Yacht Shop: +679.999.3932. www.yachtshop.com.fj Located steps from RSYC docs. Hours: Mon-Fri: 0800-1700. Sat: 0800-1500. Sun: 0800-1300.
- Western Marine Limited: +679.331.9888. Hours: Mon-Fri: 0800-1700, Sat-Sun: 0800-1300.
- Tecair Ptr Ltd: +679.324.0040. www.tecairfiji.com. Hours: Mon-Thurs: 0800-1630, Fri:0800-1530. Marine Electronics

The Yacht Shop and Western Marine Limited have several stores across Fiji. There is no price advantage in going to those in Suva vs Savusavu or Vuda Point, and all the more remote stores can get whatever's available anywhere in Fiji within a few days. They are fairly well stocked, and will order things for you if they don't have it. Prices are of course fairly high due to the normal markup: shipping, Fiji Customs Duty.

- **Chain and Anchor Galvanizing:** (2013) Not in Suva, but in Ba, north of Lautoka, but worth mentioning. Elisha Engineering +679.667.0122. www.elishaengineering.com. Location: 36-38 Nabeka St. Ba. They do galvanize for large building construction. They were happy to re-galvanize our anchor and a portion of our chain. It is not hot-dipped, but "hot sprayed", and then coated with a hard -clear coating (very durable). We hired a taxi to take the chain & anchor to Elisha Engineering in Ba, and then they delivered it back to us at Vuda. Another friend had it trucked from Savusavu to Ba and back. Not cheap but good quality galvanizing, and you can have them do sections of your chain. – Soggy Paws
- **Furuno Radar / ICOM dealer: Tecair Ltd:** +679 324 0040. www.tecairfiji.com at 39 Foster Road, Suva
- **Solar Panels and Electrical Supplies: (2013)** Clay Engineering +679.336.3880. Hours: Mon-Fri: 0800-1700. Located in Suva and regularly brings in solar panels from the U.S. and Asia, and related charging equipment (inverters, solar regulators, connectors, wiring). They were able to offer us a Yacht in Transit discount. We bought 1 large and 4 small solar panels from them. They delivered the large panel to us in Savusavu for a reasonable price, and we picked up the 4 smaller panels later ourselves while in Suva. – Soggy Paws
- **All Tents & Marine Upholsteries:** +679.450.6063, +679. 996.3326, alltents@hotmail.com, available in Suva and Savusavu. Sail Makers and Repairs Marine Trimmers and Custom-Made Covers.

12.1.6.4 Medical

Aug. 2022: There are several private hospitals in Suva. We visited the Oceania Hospital and got a referral to Pacific Specialists Health. If we were to do it all over again, we would have gone directly to Pacific Specialist Health, but if you don't really know, Oceania is a good start with several GPs.

Oceania Hospital: 120 Amy Street, www.ohpl.com.fj. You don't need an appointment, they do accept 'walk-in' patients. When you arrive at the hospital you head to the front desk inside and arrange paperwork. Then you wait outside to see a nurse who sort of triage you. After that you go to the waiting area. There are several GPs and you are asked if there is someone special you want to see. The waiting hall was freezing cold and after an hour of waiting we were shivering. We met a GP who had a look and then referred us to a specialist. After seeing two different doctors, we were referred to another hospital and didn't need to pay anything.

Pacific Specialist Healthcare: Foster Court, 107 Foster Road, Walu Bay. www.psh.com.fj. Private hospital with GP and specialists. According to the website, they do accept outpatients. We were referred here. Meeting with specialist, consultation and a written brief medical report was \$70 USD, paid in cash. The medical report was \$50 USD explaining the outcome of the consultation (in our case really not necessary). We could go again, if needed, but check cost beforehand.

Epworth Clinic: 254 Wiamanu Road +679.330.2045. This is an Australian and New Zealand approved health clinic for medical and x-ray examinations regarding visa. (Always check with the country's immigration authority that the clinic is still authorized). Make an appointment, bring documents and be ready to leave a urine sample as well. All in all, it took an hour and was a smooth process. – Major Tom

July 2013 - Hernia Surgery: Rich recently had hernia surgery in Suva, and we were very impressed with the care he got, so thought the info might be useful.

Rich had a small hernia which became enlarged and uncomfortable while we were in Savusavu. First, we went to see Dr. Ishaq, at the Savusavu Medical Center (across from the Hot Springs Hotel, not at the Savusavu hospital). Dr. Ishaq was concerned about a strangulation and made a reservation for Rich to fly to Suva that afternoon, and also an appointment for him to see a surgeon that evening.

When Rich arrived in Suva, he went to the **Nasese Medical Center** and was examined by two doctors. Although the situation was not an "emergency," it needed to be taken care of in short order and they scheduled surgery for the next evening.

The Nasese Medical Center (tel 331 4450) is not the same as the Suva Private hospital, but it is listed on the U.S. Embassy website, and we were very pleased with the care Rich received. Dr. Siti (cell 925 8834) is an excellent surgeon and very experienced (53 years old). Rich had a "femoral" hernia, which is much less common than the inguinal hernias men often get, but Dr. Siti had experience with the femoral hernia as well and did a great job with what could have been a difficult surgery. (Dr. Ishaq later told us that the last femoral hernia he saw was while he was in medical school.)

The total cost of the surgery was \$3,500 Fijian. Nasese Medical Center didn't take credit card, but we easily made a few withdrawals from the ATM to pay in cash. – Slipaway

Sept. 2012: There are several **hospitals** in town including a private hospital. The public hospital, **Colonial War Memorial, has a hyperbaric chamber** for divers which is also treats other patients with medical issues non-dive related. It sees 400 patients a year in the chamber. The facilities at the hospital are somewhat primitive to first world standards with wards rather than private rooms, cold water showers, no hospital attire or ice. Patients live in their street clothing for the most part. There is little privacy and rather noisy conditions. However, the staff is very kind and attentive to the needs of patients. – Far Star

June 2012: Dentist: Dr. Vikash J. Singh (BDS Adelaide) +689.330.8882. drsingh@connect.com.fj. Location: Stewart Street Dental Practice. Vinod Patel Building 10 Stewart St. Suva. He is the best dentist we have ever had, very modern! The recommendation came from Jim (Rag) in Labasa. – Midnight Sun

12.1.6.5 Transportation

Bus schedules can be found here: <http://pacifictransport.com.fj/time-table.html>

Aug. 2022: Bus: The bus is really cheap, but it is cash free so you need to go to the bus station to buy a ticket. Long distance bus from Suva to Nadi airport takes 4 hours and costs \$19F. – Major Tom

Taxi: Hail a taxi on the road outside the yacht club. Ask the driver to turn on the meter (if it is not already on). A trip to Oceania Hospital is \$5F, to downtown market it costs less. One taxi driver told us that many drivers don't live in the city and don't always know the exact address. We didn't have any problems. – Major Tom

2012: Taxis: There are lots of taxi's in Suva. A big company you can call 24x7 to get a taxi sent to you is: +679.331.2100. Taxis are easy to flag down out front of RSYC--it's getting back from wherever you are that can sometime be more challenging (unless you are right downtown).

Flying Crew/Visitors in and out of Suva. The international airport is in Nadi. Your options for a 4-hour travel between Suva and Nadi.

When we flew in to Nadi airport, there was an information desk just outside the baggage claim / Customs area. We inquired about the transport options, and they were very helpful--calling to find out when the next bus was, and sending someone with us to the ticketing counter to make sure we got to the right place and got on the right bus. The Express Bus is a nice new bus, with A/C and a movie. – Soggy Paws

12.1.7 Provisions

Aug. 2022: Close to the bus station, there is a butcher, bakery, and several grocery stores. – Major Tom

Verified 2023 (2013): There are a number of big supermarkets in downtown Suva. Supplies are better and prices are less than in Savusavu. Below from Soggy Paws

- **MH Grocery:** +679.331.1811. Hours: Mon-Thurs: 0630-1800. Fri-Sat: 0630-1800. The biggest is probably the M&H at MHCC--a mall-ish kind of place within walking distance or easy bus/taxi of RSYC.
- **Cost U Less:** +679.331.5915. www.costuleless.com. Hours Mon-Sun: 0800-2000. This is a place where you can buy in bulk (like Sam's Club). We also took the shoreline bus out to **Cost-U-Less** on the NE side of the Suva peninsula (out by the University of South Pacific). We took the bus out and a taxi back. We found American brand products that we'd been looking for. They also had some good-quality lamb chops at reasonable prices, something we'd not found at all in Savusavu. Worth a trip.
- **Whalyes Butchery** +679.773.3223. Hours: Mon-Fri: 0800-1700. Sat: 0800-1300. They had a very nice supply of imported fruits and veggies, including some really nice quality tomatoes. Plus, they had some really nice meats..."sea bass" (small white filets), smoked ham, chicken, pork, and steak. The taxi driver found the place, but the address on the card they gave us was 1-3 Rewa Street, Flagstaff, Suva.
- The **Suva Market** is within walking distance of RSYC (or the bus station, if you're out at Tradewinds moorings). It is a vast market area, but without a lot of variety. You'll find the same Fijian fruits and veggies. It is a great place to get fresh fruits and veggies. But we thought prices were higher than at the market in Savusavu (the best market, we think, in Fiji).

12.1.8 Restaurants

The **Galley Restaurant** is attached to the main clubhouse and offers casual or fine dining (breakfast, lunch, dinner, and snacks). It closes at 2100 and it is closed on Mondays.

Aug. 2022: Eating and drinking at the Suva Royal Yacht Club: A Fiji bitter in the bar is \$4F and a nice cheeseburger with fries \$15F. The food ordered at the restaurant, The Galley is in the same building, and you can eat in the restaurant, bar, or out in the garden. – Major Tom

Sept. 2012: There are the usual local restaurants. For something special, a friend took me to a going away dinner at a really good restaurant, Tiko. On a barge anchored along shore. Very good steaks. There is also a restaurant at the RSYC. The food there is good and the restaurant is clean. – Far Star

June 2012: The food in Suva is absolutely delicious. We generally ate out at lunch trying the different places, shopped and took a taxi with all our purchases back to RSYC. One of our taxi drivers suggested the Maya Dhab, a fine Indian restaurant. For \$7 US, we had a sampling of several different delicious Indian dishes with roti. Both of the shopping malls have food courts on the top floor. – Pincoya

12.1.9 Activities

Sept. 2023: There is the Fiji Museum and Botanical Gardens located near downtown. Hours are 0900-1630 at a cost of \$7F per visitor. +679.331.5944 www.fijimuseum.org.fj. – sv Sugar Shack

Sept. 2023: Shark Dive: Bequa Adventure Divers can be reached by car from either Suva, Denarau, or Vuda. There is no anchorage nearby so you need to commit to an overnight, but the dive is worth it. Bequa Adventure Divers worked with the community and government to create a Shark Reef Marine reserve and the Shark Corridor (no fishing). The two dives were amazing, interesting, exciting, and very safe. Wonderful staff. Cost \$500F/pp with gear rental as of 10/2023. – SV Nutmeg

12.1.10 Cruiser Reports

Aug. 2022: We became temporary members of the Royal Suva Yacht Club and could use the facilities, dinghy dock, water, showers, bar, and restaurant (otherwise for members only). We paid \$60F for a month. There is a possibility to pay a daily fee for use of the dinghy dock. – Major Tom

Sept. 2012: I had a pleasant visit enjoying the city and the club facilities. The club charges \$50.00 FJD a day for slips. If you wish to anchor out and use the club facilities you have access to the club restaurant, bar, hot showers, fuel dock, dinghy dock and water for \$5.00 a day per crew member. Members are friendly and share lots of local info. The club sponsors weekend racing. Ask if you would like to crew. – Far Star

June 2012: Suva by South Pacific standards is a very modern and busy city. The city of Suva is a 20-minute walk for Royal Suva Yacht Club along a very rough, but busy street.

As you walk down town, you past the local prison. Next along the way are car dealerships, hardware store, Fiji gas, Fiji Brewery. Crossing the bridge, you see the main commercial wharf, the local market. From there you move to the shopping district with all the small Chinese and Indian owned stores that carry everything from pans, assorted house wares, shoes, clothes, and fabric.

Two shopping malls, one is like a Nordstrom, the other with typical shops you see in a mall in the USA except anchored by the MH grocery. The retail area was constantly filled with streams of folks shopping. – Pincoya

June 2012: Despite the anchorage, if you choose to come, you will love the mechanical supplies and services here. You can get almost anything you need, in the industrial area supporting the shipping fleet. Prices are great as well. The RSYC is a friendly and convenient spot. – Shango

12.2 Toberua Island

12.2.1 Anchorage

Jan. 2013: 17°58.58S / 178°42.17E) Toberua Island Resort is another resort on a small island in the reefy area between Ovalau and Viti Levu. What a difference from last night's stop at Caqalai. – Soggy Paws

12.3 Pacific Harbor

Cruising Guide References: A Yachtman's Fiji, 3rd Ed - Pg 196

Pacific Harbor is not a "harbor" but rather a 60' wide and 7' deep river at the entrance.

Aug. 2011: We came to Pacific Harbor to do the "shark dive". We made the quick 20nm trip to Pacific Harbor from Suva, in preparation for our shark dive the next day. We ended up sailing most of the way but to our surprise upon arrival, we discovered that Pacific Harbor was anything but.... a harbor!

Pacific Harbor as it turns out is a river. This was a major surprise. No facilities, and the dive shop said, "no worries" you can anchor off our dock. Problem is, they didn't take into account that there was a bridge which made getting our 78' of mast (off the water) more than an impossibility to get there. We were going to literally tie off in the mangroves on the side of the river as it was blowing a gale out in the bay and there was no close anchoring option.

In the nick of time, "Charlie", a local live aboard diver operator, saw our plight and invited us to tie up to his dock for the two nights we'd be there. This was a gift, as Charlie had the only dock there that could handle "Beach House". The river had a current which switched with the tide and we would have to have anchored bow and stern or tied off to trees to prevent swinging. – Beach House

12.4 Serua Harbor

Cruising Guide References: A Yachtman's Fiji, 3rd Ed - Pg 192

12.5 Vunaniu (Vuna Nui)

Cruising Guide References: A Yachtman's Fiji, 3rd Ed - Pg 192

12.5.1 Anchorage

Aug. 2022: Holding was good. Better yet, it was an amazing sleep. The winds were light from the SE, the water was calm.

We had planned a two-night sail from Vanua Balavu to Musket Cove planning to arrive at the pass near Musket at sunrise. We had such favorable winds and seas that we were about 8 hours ahead of schedule. We pulled into Vanu Nui Bay and as noted above it was very easy entry and more important easy to get away at first light the next morning. – Major Tom

Oct. 2010: **18°15.739S / 177°52.169E.** Here we managed to find a really nice bay tucked inside the reef, which gave us safe and secure anchoring conditions. Another anchorage **18°15.79S / 177°52E.**– Mr. John IV

12.6 Somosomo Bay

Cruising Guide References: A Yachtman's Fiji, 3rd Ed - Pg 194-195 (with chartlet).

12.6.1 Anchorage

2013: **17°05.57'S/177°16.08'E.** Anchored 60' on East side of central bay on the N. end of Naviti. – Radiance

12.6.2 General Services

12.6.2.1 Wifi (Internet and Phone)

July 2013: There is a Digicel cell tower on the hill behind the village. – Radiance

12.6.3 Provisioning

Aug. 2022: Somosomo is great for provisioning with its fresh fruit and veg stalls, Max-Valu supermarket and everything in between. Don't be tempted to go early, the ladies at the veg stalls were just setting up at 0900 when we arrived. So, we headed to Paradise Café/Bakery and watched the world go by. – Seneto

12.6.4 Cruiser Report

2013: The chief accepted our sevusevu and handed us the visitor's book to sign, and asked for a monetary donation to the village. We were happy to make a \$20 donation, but we didn't feel pressured either.

The village is spacious, neat, and very friendly. Nice landscaping. We enjoyed some very nice walks on the eastern peninsula, up the hills through long grass. We walked on a path over the flats to the eastern shore, searching for a World War II airplane that crashed here. We met the two residents who welcomed us and pointed us to the float that their grandson had attached to the plane. We donned our gear and swam out to check it out – pretty cool.

The man who was there told us that his grandfather saw the plane crash and remembers helping the pilot. The pilot's granddaughter came to visit the site a few years ago!

The path from the cove to the eastern side of the island was very pretty and it was lovely to visit such a peaceful, neat residence. – Radiance

12.7 Korolevu Bay

12.7.1 Pass

Sept. 2022: Deep entrance with clearly visible reef on both sides. Favor port side entrance. – SeaGlub

12.7.2 Anchorages

Sept. 2022: 18°12.979S / 177°43.444E mud 6-8m which gradually comes up. Protected from winds but can be roly on south swell conditions. Current in and out can swing boats different directions so be mindful if there are multiple boats. – SeaGlub

12.8 Cuvu (Thuvu) Harbor

Cruising Guide References: A Yachtman's Fiji, 3rd Ed - Pg 196

12.9 Busa Bay

12.9.1 Pass

Sept. 2022: Pass is manageable and deep, no less than 15m all the way in. – SeaGlub

12.9.2 Anchorages

Sept. 2022: 18°12.408S / 177°41.784E in 5-7m sand clay bottom. Anchorage for 2-3 boats. Once inside there's a shelf to starboard (east). In front of you is a break wall for the cruiser friendly Naviti Resort. Anchorage is protected from trade winds but may get roly in large south swell conditions. - SeaGlub

12.10 Natadola Bay

Cruising Guide References: A Yachtman's Fiji, 3rd Ed - Pg 198

12.10.1 Pass

Sept. 2022: The pass is wide and deep. We entered with 17kt of SE winds and 2-meter, long, lazy swells. Nice, easy entrance with fairly large breaking waves on either side of us. – sv Sugar Shack

12.10.2 Anchorage

Sept. 2022: 18°06.473S / 177°18.939E dropped in 14m of sand tucked nicely behind the little Navo island and just in front of the Intercontinental Hotel.

2nd Anchorage: 18°06.461S / 177°18.957E dropped in 7m of sand near the entrance to the river (where the village is located). – sv Sugar Shack

12.10.3 Cruiser Report

Sept. 2022: A large and pretty bay with a very long, beautiful beach that covers the entire half-moon bay. You will most likely see horseback riders enjoying a gallop down the sandy coast along with surf lessons near the resort. This was a quick stop for us so we did not go ashore to explore our privileges at the resort. The village is to the right of the resort and about a 1/2 mile down the river. – sv Sugar Shack

12.11 Likuri (Robinson Crusoe Island)

Cruising Guide References: A Yachtman's Fiji, 3rd Ed - Pg 198-199

12.11.1 Pass

Sept. 2022: The pass is not difficult; watch charts. – SeaGlub

12.11.2 Anchorage

Sept. 2022: You can get in quite close with the anchorage where it shallows up. – SeaGlub

12.11.3 Cruiser Reports

Aug. 2023: The fire dance show is amazing. You can anchor in front of the resort and make a reservation. You can try your luck by arriving at 1730 to get a nice table. \$70F includes show and dinner. They accept credit cards. www.likurifiji.com/tours.html

2022: The resort welcomes cruisers. There is a \$10F dinghy landing fee, then you can spend the day having drinks. The bartender, Ace makes spectacularly tasty and beautifully designed drinks! The resort does a Fiji night on Saturday, Monday, and Wednesday. Cost for cruisers is \$59F (plus \$10F dinghy landing fee). The charge includes kava ceremony, lovo dinner (all you can eat), storytelling about lovo, fire walking, sunset bonfire accompanied by local singing and then a 90-minutes of dancing and fire performances. – SeaGlub

12.12 Momi Bay

Cruising Guide References: A Yachtman's Fiji, 3rd Ed - Pg 199

12.12.1 Anchorage:

Oct. 2010: A nice calm anchorage with calm breezes It was really good to get tucked in behind the main island and behind a substantial reef system that took away the swell. – Mr. John IV

12.12.2 Cruiser Reports

Oct. 2010: After Thuvu Bay, Momi Bay was paradise. Although the forecast was for heavy rain and thunderstorms, we had been exceptionally lucky in missing most of it. We stayed in Momi Bay for days 3-days doing odd jobs on the boat, as there was no good place to get ashore. – Mr. John IV

12.13 Nadi (Nandi)

12.13.1 Anchorage

2022: 17°45.561S / 177°25.353E in 3-5m of mud with good holding. This is not particularly a nice anchorage as the water can be very dirty and lots of rubbish is on the beach. But it is a convenient place to pickup/drop off from the airport.

You can easily catch a taxi from one of the hotels to go into town. There are lots of restaurants and bars on the beach front. – Aihe



Figure 2 Photo courtesy Fiji Shores & Marinas 2020

12.13.2 General Services

12.13.2.1 Bank (ATM)

There are several banks with ATMs in downtown Nadi. Most bank hours are Monday-Friday 0930-1530.

Aug. 2023: **GCC Remit Exchange** will exchange Fijian dollars for Vatu. +679 932 7700, gccfiji@gccexchange.com, Hours: Mon. 0900-1730, Tue-Fri: 0900-1730, Sat: 0800-1500. Bring passports to exchange money. In Aug. 2023, exchanged F500 for 24000Vatu. There are a few exchange places in this area and we suggest you shop around. There is another place across from ANZ. – sv Sugar Shack

12.13.2.2 Canvas and Upholstery

Pawan Upholstery Works +679 995 1950 pawansupholsteryworks@live.com. Salon & cockpit cushions. Speedy and good work at reasonable prices.

12.13.2.3 Engine Repair

Oct. 2023: Vinz Small Engine Repairs in Nadi at the Ganesha Building, Nadi Back Road. +679.994.1715, vinz.spares@yahoo.com. I got my Honda dive compressor gasoline small engine repaired. He did a fast, excellent job cleaning out a very gunked up carburetor and doing general servicing for a very reasonable price. Very professional – Travis Holub

12.13.2.4 Hardware Store

There are a few different hardware stores around downtown.

12.13.2.5 Medical & Dental

Nadi has a hospital and a medical clinic and a pharmacy.

Smart Dental Care +679.861.6622 ext 7356375. Hours: Mon-Sat: 0900-1700; Sat: 0900-1300

Pro Smile Dental: Dr. Kulsoom S. Mohammed (General Dentist) +679.230.5474, +679.728.1859, prosmiledental.fj@gmail.com, Really lovely lady, super clean and modern clinic.

12.13.2.6 Post Office

Post office +679.679.0001. Hours: Mon-Fri: 0800-1700, Sat: 0800-1300. Located 5CW8 + 7CF, Korivolue, Nadi

12.13.3 Provisions

Sept. 2025: Several new stores have opened up in or around Nadi:

- **Tru Mart** +679.899.0927, Located on Tarewa Road (closer to Denarau). 17°47.464S / 177°24.832E. Hours: Mon-Fri: 0630-2100, Sat-Sun: 0700-2100. Really big, clean, well-stocked market with good selection of meats, produce and staples.
- **Fresh Choice:** +679.675.0294. Hours: Mon-Sun: 0700-2200. Good, clean, well-stocked market
- **New World:** +679.999.6136, newworld.com.fj, Good, clean, well-stocked market.

There are a variety of other stores including RB Patel, Extra, Super Saves and the fresh market. See entry below.

After shopping in both Nadi and Lautoka, we would highly recommend going to Nadi instead. The markets are bigger, cleaner, and have a much wider selection. – sv Sugar Shack

2025 Verified (July 2022): We had to do a huge provision run and found that we could not find all that we needed in Port Denarau. So, we hired a taxi driver to drive us around to the stores indicated below. There are loads more stores in downtown Nadi, but we were unable to get to all of them.

- **Butchers**

- **South Pacific Butchering Company** +679.679.3900. Hours: Mon-Fri: 0800-1700; Sat: 0800-1400. Just off Queens Road (near Nadi) on Narewa Road (by the Nadi River). This is an amazing butcher! They had all the meats you could imagine and crave. They will deliver to Port Denarau (for a fee) or you can have Farmboy deliver for you. They will even vacu-seal portions of your order for easy storage (ie: 4 chops individually sealed).
- **Golden Prime Butcher Shop** +679.672.7865. sales1@goldenprimefj.com. Hours: Mon-Fri: 0800-1800; Sat: 0800-1700. On Queens Road (on the way to Nadi) and Goundar Road. Pretty large butcher, but they run out fast. Best to pre-order and pick up or just test your luck and get what's in stock. They have a large variety of good meats both local and international. Will cut up to order.
- **Global Premium Flavio's Italian Shop** +679.679.7317. www.italianiafiji.it, info@italianiafiji.net. Hours: Mon-Sat: 1000-1815. Just off Queens Road (near Nadi) on Narewa Road (by the Nadi River). Offers a fine selection of wines, cheeses, and everything Italian at wonderful prices.
- **RB Patel** (several locations) go to the one in FNPF Plaza (ground floor), it is less crowded and has a great variety. This store had a selection of provisions, but was lacking in meats and produce.
- **Farmers Market** (1 block from RB Patel/FNPF Plaza) Hours: Sat: 0600-1300; Mon-Fri: 0700-1700. Saturdays are the best day to go with the most vendors. But it is also the most crowded. They had a huge variety of produce, vegetables, fruits, kava, spices, eggs and more. Come with cash!
- **Max Value** (several locations) +679.339.3304. Hours: Mon-Sat: 0800-1900.
- **Shop and Save** (several locations). Hours: Mon-Thurs: 0800-1700| Fri-Sat: 0800-1930; Sun: 0800-1230. This is more of a low-cost market, but honestly, we did not find them that much cheaper and the store was not as well organized or stocked as the others.
- **Naveen Bhai P. Patel and Company** +679.924.9675, or business lines: +679.667.0051, +679.667.1826. will deliver large quantities of grain, lentils, kidney beans, spices, garlic, onions, potatoes. She delivers to the Nadi market every Wednesday between 1000-1100. You can call to arrange everything a day ahead of time and meet her truck drive in front of the market.
- **BioPlus Packaging** +679.672.7126, +679.777.6049, admin@packplus.com.fj, packplus.com.fj. Hours: Mon-Fri: 0800-1700, Sat: 0800-1300. Good selection of coffees, spices, and more. Nice market.

We could have easily spent all day walking around Nadi and looking at the stores, but we ran out of time, money, & energy. Taxi ride was \$50F for 3-hours. He was wonderful Taslim +679.960.9094. – sv Sugar Shack

12.13.3.1 Refrigeration

Oct. 2023: I had my 12v ilo therm refrigerator repaired in Nadi by a Chinese fellow a block and a half down from the big Mobile gas station. His shop has lots of machines scattered all over the place and he works a day job doing maintenance at hotels. He did an excellent job resoldering pipes, cleaning off rust, painting the pipes then refilling the compressor for a very fair price & in 24 hours. – Travis Holub

12.13.4 Activities

Rise Beyond the Reef +679.450.1457, is a short 15-20-minute drive north of Nadi in a small town called Sabeto Valley which is also home to the famous mud baths and orchid gardens. Rise Beyond the reef works with rural communities teaching the skills to weave, screen print, and sew. They collect their items together to be sold online or in their shop called the Shed Shop on Wailoko Road. It is a wonderful non-profit that helps the population in the remote areas of Viti Levu. www.risebeyondthereef.org, order@risebeyondthereef.org, Hours: Mon-Fri: 1000-1600., Sat: 1000-1400.

Hot Glass (glass blowing studio and gallery). Hours Mon-Fri: 1000-1500. 679.909.3200, www.hotglassfiji.com, alice@hotglassfiji.com. NCH will deliver a hire car to/from Denarau. Spectacular experience, learn how to blow glass, and enjoy a wonderful local experience.

12.13.5 Cruiser Reports

Sept. 2023: You can get most things here; we needed some odd batteries for some gadgets and managed to find them here. We also went to the fresh market; it was similar to Lautoka but a little smaller. There are also supermarkets but we did not find any as big as the one in Lautoka. – Jamala

July 2022: I would highly recommend taking the bus or hiring a taxi to explore downtown Nadi. Lots of culture to experience, artisan markets, and stores to keep you busy for a full afternoon. – sv Sugar Shack

12.14 Port Denarau

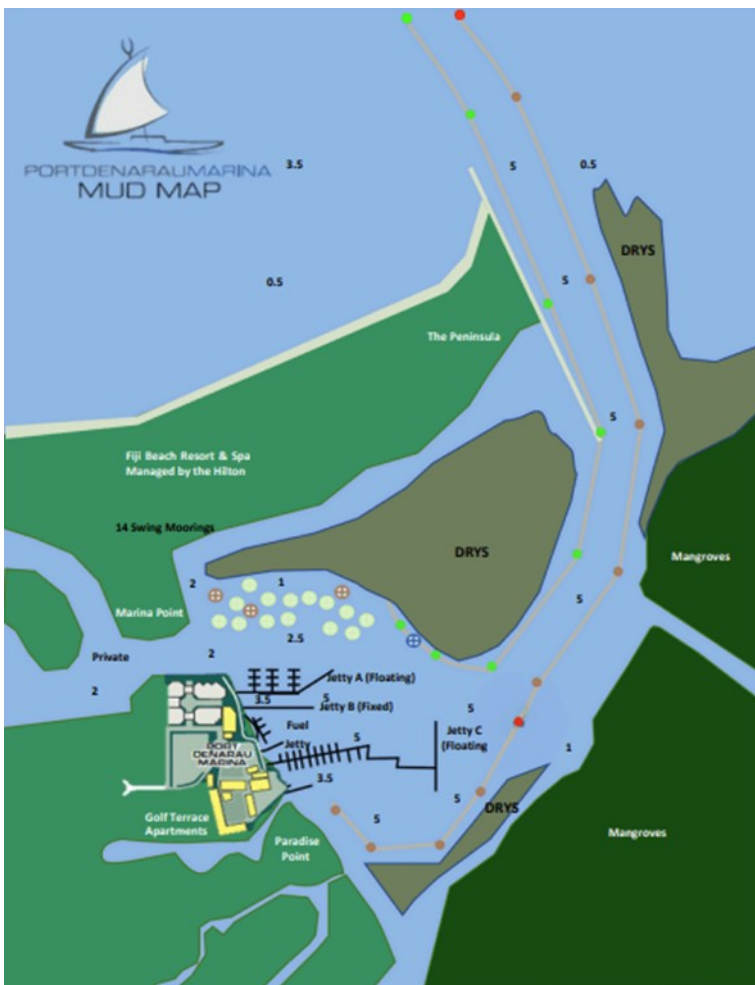
+679.675.0600, +679.776.0600. www.denarumarina.com/, VHF 14. General Manager Cynthia Rasch
+679.707.5650 cynthia@denarumarina.com

Hours: Nov-Apr: Mon-Sun: 0800-1700 and May-Oct: 0800-1800.

See [Haul Out and Marinas](#) section for more details.

Only 20 minutes' drive from Nadi International Airport, Port Denarau Marina is Fiji's premier marina facility.

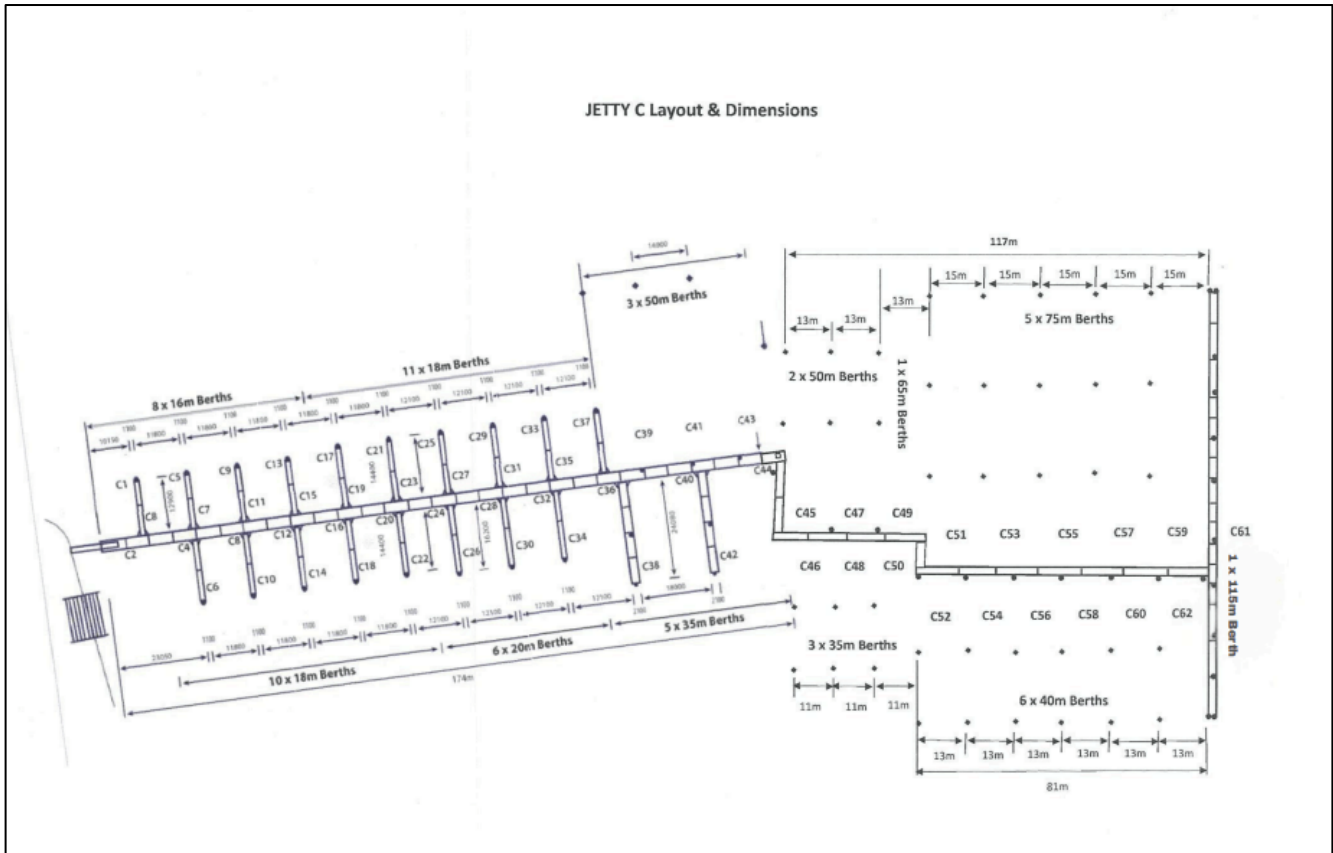
Provisioning is easy - with a supermarket, pharmacy, and bakery at the end of the dock and Nadi and Namaka only a short bus or taxi ride away. Port Denarau Marina is walking distance to several international hotels, offering a vast array of recreational pursuits including an international 18-hole golf course - not to mention, being part of the largest retail/restaurant complex in the Nadi area.



12.14.1 Port Denarau Marina

A fully equipped marina featuring 60 dedicated finger berths accommodating vessels up to 115m in length and 16-meters draft (at low water). Services include:

- Fuel dock with two pumps
- Gas bottle refills
- 24-hour card-access to modern bathrooms, showers, and laundry facilities
- High-speed Wifi
- Shore power and fresh water connections



In addition to the berths, Port Denarau Marina offers 16 moorings.

Reservations are required in advance as they are often booked. Book ahead, they're busy! Email the marina at reservations@denarumarina.com (they like things in writing). VHF 14 call Port Denarau Marina.

Marina Access: If you are anchored out you can leave your dinghy at the public dinghy dock near Cardos Restaurant (to the right of the fuel dock and behind the mooring field).

In addition, if you are anchored out you can still get marina access to the showers, laundry, trash, recycling, water, and secure dinghy dock. Go to Marina office and ask for an access card. It costs \$10F per day and you have to put a \$30F deposit down (which is refunded when you return the card).

July 2016: We intended to haul at Port Denarau, as some other cruising friends had recommended it. But you no longer can stay on your boat while you are on the hard. Deal breaker for us. – Storm Bay of Hobart

12.14.1.1 Cruiser Reports

Sept. 2022: Moorings: After chatting with the marina office, we were able to secure a mooring for a few days. Our particular mooring (#1) had a frayed line so we connected our shackle directly to the stainless-steel loop on the mooring and bypassed the line. The painter was super short; we had to pick it up from the stern and connect the bridle afterward. The frayed line was removed the day we left so the marina is often looking and taking care of the moorings. We returned a few weeks later and grabbed mooring #6 and it too had a short painter. sv Sugar Shack

12.14.2 Port Denarau Boat Yard

They have a 50-ton travel lift, fork lifts, short and long-term storage. Services offered:

- Engineering
- Welding
- Hydraulic workshop
- Outboard/jet ski repairs
- Aluminum and stainless-steel fabrication
- Sail and canvas maker
- Painting and antifoul
- Dive bottle refill

12.14.3 Anchorages

Aug. 2025: 17°45.684S / 177°22.710E in 3.7m during mid tide. We had a good stick. It is close to the “resort jet ski area” – sv Sugar Shack

17°45.312S / 177°23.242E in 6.6m at high tide. It took us 3-4 tries to get our anchor to stick “good” in this area. But finally, it dug in at 2400RPM and had a solid hold in the mud. – sv Sugar Shack

Sept. 2023: We anchored out and took the dinghy into the marina, the dinghy dock is right opposite the fuel pontoon. You need to go to the marina office to pay \$10 per 24hr period to use this dock and it gives you access to rubbish, recycling, laundry, and showers. – Jamala

Oct. 2022: 17°45.418S / 177°22.188E and **17°45.407S / 177°23.398E** both anchor spots: 4-5m of good holding.

Dinghy Landing: Our dinghy has a deep draft (long shaft outboard), so be careful cutting the channel during low tide as you can easily run aground (especially on the red side). – sv Sugar Shack

Sept. 2022: 17°44.401S / 177°23 373E. Dropped in 5m of mud with good holding. We had tried for a month to get a reservation for a mooring, but they were fully booked. So, we anchored out with the rest of the riff raff. Between 10-14 boats came and went with plenty of swing room between boats.

Channel to Marina: It is surprising how shallow and narrow the channel is -- when we came in (at mid-tide) the depth was between 4m-6m. It is well marked. On our way out of the channel, we were hugging the reds because a large ferry was coming in and we ran aground and stuck in the mud. Lucky for us, we were able to maneuver ourselves out safely and exited hugging the greens (yep, I know we were on the wrong side of the channel – but screw that!). Depth went from 4m to 1m in a blink of an eye.

We later learned from a few other cruisers that the red marker side is super shallow and to stay near the center during low tide. – sv Sugar Shack

July 2022: 17°45.593S / 177°23.275E in 5 meters mud. We stayed there few days and the wind was shifting a lot. It gets bumpy and not very comfortable when it turns to N or W. This always happened in the afternoon and stayed till late evening, when it calmed down again. The channel to Denarau marina is marked very well with green and red waterway buoys. They are lit at night too.

There is a dinghy dock on the main pontoon, on port side looking at the fuel dock. In order to enter/exit marina area, there are locked gates. Marina charges \$10f/day to use their facilities. You just pay 10 FJD at the marina office per 24 hours and get a card, which allows you to enter the area, leave the trash (recyclable), use showers and laundry (buy tokens at the marina office, 6 FJD per wash or dry). – Starlight

12.14.4 Yachtsmen Services

12.14.4.1 Fuel (Diesel and Gasoline)

Diesel and gasoline are sold here daily between 0800-1700. VHF 12. +679.775.7641 and +679.775.6615. Call on VHF to see if they can accept you at the fuel dock. The diesel pump is very slow (low capacity output) so they don't like two yachts on the dock at the same time. The fuel dock is up near the marina office with a red awning. To the left of the ferry dock. The dock is rather short, perhaps 13m (40') at most so you have to do some "dancing" to ensure you are secured properly. There is a railing at the dock that you have to shimmy up/down to get to shore from your boat.

Fuel office: If the fuel dock is not manned, go to the fuel dock office which is located in the two-story building behind Sails Restaurant (office faces parking lot).

They prefer yachties fuel after 1100 as the smaller, local boats fuel in the morning. – sv Sugar Shack

July 2022: There is a fuel station in the marina, where you can bring your big boat. It's very busy in the mornings with the locals and tour operators. They sell diesel, gasoline and premix. – Starlight

12.14.4.2 Cooking Gas (Propane)

Port Denarau Marina will fill gas bottles and several stores (Fresh Choice) will sell or replace local bottles.

Aug. 2022: We dropped our propane tank with the office at 1000 and they had it back by 1500. Ali refills at the marina and makes it super easy and efficient. It cost \$34F for a 20lb American tank. They prefer you do not leave the tanks by the office, so go in and tell them you have a refill and they will lock it up until they can do the refill. – sv Sugar Shack

12.14.5 General Services

12.14.5.1 Bank & ATM

Westpac Bank & ATM: +679.675.0381. Hours: Mon-Fri: 0930-1600. The bank charges a \$15F per transaction and there is a conversion fee of 5.5%

12.14.5.2 Computers and Electronics

July 2022: DDF (Denarau Duty Free) is an authorized Apple reseller. +679 675 0602 and +679 998 6666, www.portdenarau.com.fj Hours: Mon-Sat: 0800-2100

12.14.5.3 Customs and Immigration

Fiji Revenue and Customs Service office is located in the same building as the marina office. Their door opens toward the parking lot. Hours: Mon-Thurs: 0800-1630 & Fri: 0800-1600. After hours contact:

- FRCS +679.934.9743, hkumar@frcs.org.fj
 - The door posts these numbers 985.0735 & +679.735.3690
- BAF: +679.998.9327 & +679.730.3515
- IMM: +679.861.7561 & +679.725.3083
- MOH: +679.967.7599 & +679.967.7599

If the marina is not assisting you with clearance you will need to make an appointment with FRCS and immigration to clear in/clear out.

You can email or send a WhatsApp message to FRCS. You need to include the date/time/port of departure and send your C2C outward report and the front page of your C2C Inward report showing your rotation number.

Bring to your appointment for clearance out of Fiji:

- Printed & signed C2C Outward Report
- Printed & signed Statement by Master of Yacht Departure
- Printed copy of boat Registration
- Printed copy of page 1 C2C Inward Report showing your rotation number (upper right corner)
- Photos of your boat: front, port, starboard, stern (these can be sent via WhatsApp/email)

If you do not have a printer on board, the Port Denarau Marina office will print your documents for a fee.

12.14.5.4 Diving and Dive Equipment

July 2024: Viti Water Sports, +679.670.2413, www.vitiwatersports.com, located in Denarau can do dive compressor repairs.

12.14.5.5 Fishing Store – Shimano

Oct. 2025: +679.992.7124. enquire@oceanfiji.com, www.oceanfiji.com. We walked by Shimano and it was always closed. So, don't wait for it to be open, simply call or email Rob the owner. Really well stocked fishing store with fishing rods, reels, lures and more. Super nice guy, very helpful! – sv Sugar Shack

12.14.5.6 Laundry

Sept. 2025: There are (3) heavy duty washing machines and (3) dryers that are amazing! Wash takes about 30-minutes and dryer takes 50 minutes. I was able to squish a lot of laundry into 1 machine. Tokens are \$6F each and can be purchased at the marina office. It takes (1) token for wash and (1) token for dry. – sv Sugar Shack

12.14.5.7 Marine Services & Stores

Note: See section 9.11 for yachtsmen services, contractors, & vendors outside of the marina.

Aquam Insula Marine +679.780.7578 Hours: Mon-Sat: 0800-1600. Large variety of marine supplies & parts. www.aqiml.com/home, maritime-lifestyle@aquam-insula.com, Located near Denarau Marina

Sept. 2025: We worked with Marika M. +679.755.0303, marika@aquam-insula.com, and he was very helpful. We emailed him the parts we needed and he pulled them aside and had them ready for pick up. Very efficient and helpful. They claim to be the “best prices in Fiji.” – sv Sugar Shack

Baobob fiji@baobabmarine.com, +679 675-1120, After hours +679.999.7941

Krishna Yacht Services: Ritesh mechanic +679.844.0860 highly recommended by multiple cruisers. He's super busy so it can be challenging to get on his schedule. He can sometimes assess issues over the phone.

The Yacht Shop +679.999.3706. Hours: Mon-Fri: 0800-1700, Sat: 0800-1300. <http://yachtshop.com.fj/>. Good variety of marine parts and supplies.

Yacht Help Fiji: +679.777.2331. www.yachthelp.com, kiti@yachthelp.com. Hours: Mon-Fri: 0800-1700; Sat: 0800-1500. Offers a fine variety of marine supplies and they do repair and maintenance. Located near the yard facilities. (+1 from s/v Wizard 2024)

Rev Marine Electrical: +679.932.2019, +679.926.0531, www.revmarine.com, ravi@revmarine.com.fj, anjani@revmarine.com.fj. Specializes in marine electronics and electrical work. Located near yard facilities.

Marshall Sails LTD: +679.675.0996 mobile: +679.992.9246, marhsallsails@connect.com.fj. Canvas work, upholstery, outdoor fabrics, shade sails, marine trimming, sails and sail repairs, roller bins. Have sunbrella and strataglass in stock. Located near yard facilities.

- **May 2024:** Marshall Sails remains first class! – Wizard

- **Sept. 2023:** Marshall Sails services is good. – Moana
- **Oct.2022:** Our 21-year-old main ripped 7m across a seam 2 weeks before our scheduled departure. Marshall Sails delivered ahead of schedule, on budget and did a very good job on the repairs and re-stitched all other cross seams. – sv Sugar Shack

South Pacific Fibreglass: Nick Tansley +679.926.8488 (tel & WhatsApp), southpacificfibreglass@gmail.com, www.southpacificfibreglass.com. Denarau Marina. Does composite and fiberglass fabrication. Repairs to international standards.

Sept. 2025: Nick and his team do excellent work. They are however very busy - best to get on his schedule as soon as possible. He is very fair, honest, and efficient. Good rates too. – sv Sugar Shack

Yamaha Authorized Service Vatimo +679.999.1769, vvatimio@asco.com.fj, Hector Smith +679.999.1999 hsmith@asco.com.fj, Richard Qoro rgoro@asco.com.fj Located near yard facilities.

Hydraulic Hose Services LTD: +679.675.0892 and mobile +679.999.5518. Located near yard facilities.

Imported Marine Accessories +679.675.0993 & +679.891.6364 (cel), www.importedmarinefiji.com, Hours: Mon-Fri: 0900-1600; Sat: 0800-1300. General marine hardware and yacht chandlery. Decent variety of lines, filters, cleaning products, 3M, 5200, etc...Located near the yard facilities.

Wash & Wax: If you are Denarau Marina, give Moses Bakaniceva a call at +679.806.9407. email: bakanimosese@gmail.com. He does boat wash and wax and general maintenance. He is super nice guy

12.14.6 Medical

Sept. 2022: In the center of the mall is “Emergency Medical Services” that will do RAT Covid tests and other minor medical. Hours: Mon-Sun: 0900-1700. +679.770.7770. contact@ems.com.fj, www.ems.com.fj.

Emergency Medical Services (2nd floor) +679.222.0903 contact@ems.com.fj. Matt free dove to retrieve our dinghy anchor and popped his ear drum. We started him on antibiotics and he stayed out of the water for the 2 weeks it took us to get back to town. We went in to see the doctor at Emergency Medical Services and were very impressed with the care they provided. We were in and out in 30 minutes and that included filling out paperwork, taking all vitals, exam, diagnosis, and images of damaged/perforated ear drum. We were given 2 weeks of more antibiotics and 1 week of antihistamines and walked out after paying \$200F.

Pharmacy: Reliance Pharmacy +679.996.8968 reliancepharmacy@outlook.com. Hours: Mon-Sat: 0730-2100; Sun: 0900-1300. Located in Nadi. They will fill medications without a prescription. I believe most pharmacies in Fiji will do this, but Reliance is very reasonably priced and eager to assist you with updating your medical kit. I emailed them a list of expired medications from my First Aid kit and they matched with exact medication/strength and or similar. Had it all packaged together and ready. Super convenient and easy to work with. Very friendly and accommodating. – sv Sugar Shack

12.14.7 Provisions

Sept. 2025: Places to provision in Port Denarau:

Yees Xpress Mart: +679.675.0425. Hours: Mon-Sun: 0800-2100.

Sept. 2025: Yees is expensive, but convenient. Meats, produce, liquor, staples. – sv Sugar Shack

Sept. 2023: Yees Xpress Mart is a good stocked supermarket. However, we noticed the fruit and veg is a bit more expensive than the market in Nadi. – Jamala

Bakeries: The Hot Bread Kitchen offers a nice variety of breads and breakfast items in the morning.

Fresh Choice Supermarket & Liquor: +679.675.0294 or +679.327.5026. Hours: Sun-Wed: 0700-1930; Thurs-Sat: 0700-2000. www.freshchoice.com/fj, info@freshchoice.com/fj Very well stocked store, decent selection of produce along with other provisions. Their beer was more expensive than at Yees.

You can walk to Fresh Choice which is about a mile each way or you can take your dinghy around the marina. There is a little ramp (go during high tide) at 17°46.937S / 177°22.85 where you can leave your dinghy. Go up the ramp and walk about 100 yards. You approach from the back of the store, so keep walking until you get to the parking lot and turn right. They will also deliver.

Farmboy Delivery – +679.928.6371, +679.941.3194. www.farmboyfiji.com (order & pay online), accountsfarmboyfiji@yahoo.com & farmboyfiji@gmail.com Facebook: Farmboy Fiji. Farmboy Fiji will deliver fresh produce, veggies, root crops, herbs, beer, liquor, groceries, and pretty much anything you need, anywhere a ferry goes. Free delivery to Fantasy Island, Naisoso Island, Denarau Island. Working with more than 1000 registered farmers throughout the country to ensure premium and wide range of products. Located in Nadi. They can make arrangements to deliver to Musket Cove, Plantation Island, Lomani, Mana Island, Lau, Kadavu, Savusavu and more.

We were provisioning for guests and found that Xpress did not have a lot of the items we needed, which is why we went to Nadi.

The Bottle Shop has a wide variety of wines, champagne, and liquor. However, we found them to be pricey (Case of Fiji Gold cans \$67.80F). – sv Sugar Shack

July 2022: We found supermarkets and hardware stores in Nadi not very well stocked. On the way back, we took a taxi and the driver told us that basically everything, even clothes, are the same price or even a little cheaper in Denarau.

We went to Yee's Xpressmart and found the driver was right – even the beer was a few dollars cheaper here. If we would have checked this supermarket before, we wouldn't bother to go to Nadi.

There is another supermarket, around 15 minutes by walk from the marina, called Fresh Choice Supermarket and Liquor. They have good selection of specialties and liquor.

There is a baker in the marina as well.

The fresh market had a good selection of veggies, fruits, and herbs at good prices. But for fresh stuff you can order from Farmboy, which delivers to Denarau for free a few times per day. You can WhatsApp them and ask for the specials of the week. – Starlight.

12.14.8 Restaurants

There are lots of restaurants & bars within walking distance. Mall restaurants include: Nadina Authentic Fijian, Indigo Indian & Asian, Amalfi Italian, Bonfish Seafood, Cardos, New Zealand Ice Cream, Chicken Express, Hot Bread Kitchen, Mama's Pizza, Kebabs and Med Grill, Bilo Café, Taka, Shanghai, Snowy House, Lulu's

Sept. 2023: We ate at a great Indian restaurant and Lulu's. – Jamala

July 2022: We were craving some authentic Mexican food (being that we are from Texas) so we had dinner at Cantina Mexican Grill. Wow, what a nice surprise. The atmosphere was lovely, live music played in the background, the drinks were tasty and the food was super delicious.

Cardos is also really good with great steaks and frozen mojitos. We also tried Lulu's for lunch which we found to be just about average. – sv Sugar Shack

12.14.9 Shipping Parts and Mail to Fiji

Fiji Freight offers U.S. to Fiji freight solutions. Tel/WhatsApp: +1.424.392.5746, +1.424.290.0965. www.fijifreight.us. email: ship@fijifreight.us.

Offices: Fiji: Savou St. Westfieldcity, Nadi. Local Office for pickup/drop off only +679.973.1346

Note: As of May 2025 Fiji Freight is NOT doing any consolidation shipping. They are only doing commercial shipping.

Sept. 2022: We did not have much luck with shipping in French Polynesia so when a friend of ours raved about Fiji Freight we were a little skeptical. However, we were reassured with the very first email. As a project manager I can be “a little over the top and OCD.” I like to know the process from beginning to end and ask a bazillion questions. Each response was answered rapidly, professionally, and kindly. Absolutely top-notch customer service!

We had several boxes and a full wing kite package sent to us including the 5’ board, wings, kite, and foil. Packages were shipped from all over the U.S. and some were even hand delivered to the Fiji Freight LA office. All of our stuff was inventoried, accounted for, repackaged, and prepared for shipment.

We were alerted at each step of the process. Within days of receiving our final packages, they had them ready to ship to Fiji. They cleared customs with ease due to Fiji Freight’s expertise and proficient knowledge of the process. All delivered to us at Denarau Marina where we happily enjoyed Christmas in Sept.!

Fiji Freight offers very reasonable pricing, excellent customer service, and stellar service. We highly recommend them! – sv Sugar Shack

Aug. 2022: Their shipping rates are about half what we’ve paid from DHL and FedEx, and the service is fast! Rates are only \$12USD per kg, plus their Nadi office clears your box at Fiji customs; expect a smooth and quick release. We don’t pay duty as “Yacht in Transit.” They even deliver it directly to the marina office in Port Denarau or Vuda Marina. Our deliveries were here in a matter of days.

Rates as of Aug. 2022 (in USD): (1) Box up to 24kg; 12 USD per kg = \$288. TSA Inspection/processing fee \$80. There may be a credit card fee as well.

We have used Fiji Freight services many times with zero problems or surprises. Shawn, their general manager, has shipped a mattress and air conditioner for us and a complete 50hp engine for a friend! I wish there were more businesses with this kind of service. – Wiz

12.14.10 Activities

Oct. 2023: Shark Dive: Bequa Adventure Divers can be reached by car from either Suva, Denarau, or Vuda. There is no anchorage nearby so you need to commit to an overnight, but the dive is worth it. Bequa Adventure Divers worked with the community and government to create a Shark Reef Marine reserve and the Shark Corridor (no fishing). The two dives were amazing, interesting, exciting, and very safe. Wonderful staff. Cost \$500F/pp with gear rental as of 10/2023. – SV Nutmeg

12.14.11 Stores (clothing, artisan, jewelry, etc...)

Most stores in the mall are open Mon-Sun: 0800-2100. Retailers include: DressKode Collection, Jewels Fiji, Harrissons, Island Artifacts, Dahia Shoes, Jacks of Fiji, Cloud Break, RIP Curl Store, Denarau News, By the Sea Boutique, TAKI-Fiji Bitter Shoppe

Services: Oasis Spa and Massage, Spa Denarau, Spolit Rotten Hair Salon, Island Hoppers (Tours), Money Exchange (Western Union).

Sept. 2023: There Yacht Shop is well stocked and they were very helpful. – Jamala

12.14.12 Transportation

May 2025: Coastal Car Rentals out of Denarau +679.777.8526. – sv Sugar Shack

Sept. 2023: Budget Rental Car hours: Mon-Sat: 0900-1700.

Bus-Yello: You can catch the yellow bus into Nadi for about \$1F each way. It does go by the resorts prior to heading to Nadi, so just enjoy the ride.

Tiki Resort Shuttle: A fun tiki hut shuttle that will allow you to hop on/off and goes to all of the resorts.

Taxis can be found near the main terminal. Be careful, they will charge you more here because it is a tourist area. You can negotiate with them.

Uncle Sam wonderful taxi driver +679.922.2006, localtaxifj@gmail.com.

Ali WhatsApp +679.751.9043 really sweet, professional taxi driver. \$35F one-way meet/greet at airport (with sign), \$8F to Fresh Choice from Denarau Marina. Nice, clean vehicle, very good experience.

Taxi by Taslim +679.960.9094 (Cell/WhatsApp) License #LH.1046 is super nice, speaks excellent English and very professional. We hired him to take us to Nadi and he took us to Fresh Choice, RB Patel, the butcher, liquor store, New World and Shop & Save. Total fee \$50F for 3 hours. He picked up/dropped off many guests from the airport for us (\$45F). He will also do tours, sightseeing, and other transport. – sv Sugar Shack

Sept. 2023: We got the yellow bus to Nadi which took about 15minutes. You pay when you get off. It was \$1.61F each way. We got dropped off at the end of the line in Nadi and caught it on the way back at the same place. There are other yellow buses that go to Lautoka but they have clear signs in the front. You can also get the bus back from outside the “Jack’s” store but if it is in the afternoon and the schools are out you won’t find a seat. – Jamala

July 2022: A local good guy and taxi driver Sam Ali or “Uncle Sam” supports local charities and is a great taxi driver. His business page is www.facebook.com/naditaxi, +679.922.2006, localtaxifj@gmail.com – Capall Mara

July 2022: The public bus leaves from Denarau to Nadi every 20 minutes. The tickets are cheap. – Starlight

12.14.13 Cruiser Reports

2025 Verified (2023): Laundry fees are \$6 per load and per drier. Tokens are available at the marina office. Showers are also available. If you want to get an access card you need to pay a deposit of \$30F. – Jamala

Sept. 2022: Excellent marina with well-designed facilities (that may seem a slightly strange comment but it does make a difference when you’ve got a great shower with plenty of hooks to hang clothes and bags, a spacious, clean laundry, etc...) The whole place is clean and everything works and is extremely functional, just what you need from a marina. The staff are great and will do everything they can to accommodate you.

There are a whole host of shops (it is very commercial and touristy which is a bit of a shock to the system) bars, restaurants on site, (highly recommend Sails, we had a great dinner there. A little pricey but well worth it and a bit further away from tourists.

We went to Nadi (fresh veg market, Max Val-U, Shop n Save) on the regular running yellow Westpac bus that stops outside of Jacks. It does a circuit of the island first before heading to Nadi and terminating at the bus station next to the market. – Seneto

Aug. 2022: The marina staff, Mere and Ali are wonderful and really do try hard to accommodate you. The facilities are wonderful (take advantage of their lovely showers and industrial laundry facility). Plus, you have easy access to many well stocked marine and provisioning stores.

I had an issue with Vodafone which Mere helped me fix, they refilled our propane tank efficiently and quickly, and were always friendly while answering our multitude of questions. – sv Sugar Shack

June 2022: Can't speak highly enough of this marina. Superb facilities, lovely people, worth pre-booking. Good lift out facilities and excellent yard. Rev Marine did work on our hull and they were very good.

The marina office sells both Vodafone and Digicel sims. We bought a Vodafone sim and \$50 of data which amounted to 300GB (that’s GB not MB!!). Cellular internet is also high speed - easily enough to stream/download movies. Denarau offers gas cylinder refills (we have CampingGaz), self-service laundry and hot showers. – SY Calash

12.15 Yakuilau Island (off Denarau)

12.15.1 Anchorages

Oct. 2022: 17°45.812S / 177°21.805E dropped in 5m of water behind the island trying to hide from the swell, white caps and waves. It was still a little bumpy but nothing like the exposed anchorage by Denarau. Super long dinghy ride to Denarau, but worth the good night rest.

On another visit we dropped in 4m at 17°45.821S / 177°21.796E. – sv Sugar Shack

12.16 Marina Naisoso

(Between Denarau and Vuda Marina) +679.999.3424, +679.672.9374, and M: +679.999.0342.

info@marinanaisoso.com, www.naisosomarinafiji.com. Naisoso Marina has 62 fixed berthing spaces with electricity and water. The docks are heavy duty and floating concrete, so they are secure.

Marina recommends you enter/exit only at high tide giving you a depth of 3.3m (11'). You may experience a current on entry, even at slack tide.

Mostly leisure boats stay here with very few live aboards even though all are welcome. As of Sept. 2022, there are only two bathrooms and toilets. There are no laundry facilities, restaurants, bars or shops. The bus picks up hourly to go to town and is an easy walk over the bridge.

Advice: Enter at high tide only. Depths are around 11' during high tide.

Sept. 2022: This place is fantastic for cruisers. There are only 3 other boats that are living aboard, the rest are just leisure boats and the people are not onboard. The docks are heavy duty and floating concrete, so they are quite secure. There's water and electricity pedestals for the majority of the docks, the end nearest the entrance does not have them yet. I thought the place was newly built, but the manager says its 10 years old. Doesn't look it!

For comforts, there's only one bathroom (1 ladies/1 men) with a simple toilet, sink, and shower. It's clean but spartan. The water pressure is powerful and gets plenty hot.

This is the ideal place to go if you need to work on boat projects and stay focused!

The manager helped secure a rental car for \$50/day.

The marina claims that most of the boats stay put for cyclone season and other boats from Vuda and Denarau come here. I'm thinking they mean smaller power or fishing boats, because a sailboat mast can't pass below the fixed bridge to access the larger parts of the mangrove. We could maybe enter and then back out, but not enough space to spin around. – Sonja Novotny

12.17 Vuda Point

12.17.1 Vuda Point Marina

+679.666.8214. www.vudamarina.com, info@vudamarina.com.fj. VHF 11 & 16 24/7

Hours: Mon-Sun: 1000-1800. Address: PO Box 5717, Lautoka, Fiji Islands. Skype i.d: vudamarina. Adam is the owner and Jashinta (Jazz) Singh runs operations

Berthing is based on prior reservations and pre-payment. You may need to stay on a middle mooring for a few hours. There are two options for berthing:

East Basin: med-moor style on fixed docks with power and water.

West Basin med-moor style on modern floating berths with power and water.

East Basin is med-moor style and this section has fixed docks with power and water. You are charged by length of your boat (minimum of 35'). When docking in the East Basin, have (2) stern lines, (2) bow lines ready before you approach the berth. You will also need a minimum of (4) fenders on both port AND starboard.

West basin med-moor on more modern floating berths with power and water. There are (3) docks with its own minimum charges. Dock 1 is a minimum of 50'; Dock 2 is 70' and Dock 3 is 80'. You need (2) 30-meter lines for the bow (to tie to moorings), (2) lines on the stern, (1) spring line and fenders on both sides.

Check-in/Check-out check out is between 1100-1200 and check-in is after 12000.



Photo courtesy Fiji Shores & Marinas

Vuda Marina services include:

- Formalities including paying the officials fees and putting it on your marina tab.
- Yacht Shop: Marine Chandlery, +679.999.3829. Hours: Mon-Sun: 700-1800.
- Fuel Dock (24/7)
- ATM (BSP Bank) near the General Store and Yacht Shop
- Laundry (There are 2 laundry areas with total 5 machines)
 - 2 tokens per wash and 2 for dry. Tokens \$5F each from General Store (8/2025)
- Bathrooms and Showers (there are 2 shower areas)
- Ice machine (free)
- Trash and recycling
- Internet
- Restaurant: The Boatshed Restaurant and The Boatyard Cafe
- Bar: Sunset Bar which runs daily specials and offers great view
- General Store open daily 6:30am – 1700.
 - Basic food staples, ice cream, clothing, snacks, sandwiches, drinks
- Rental cars
- Taxi Base

12.17.2 Vuda Point Boat Yard

+679.666.8214. www.vudamarina.com.fj, info@vudamarina.com.fj. Hours: Mon-Sun: 0800-1700.

Monitor VHF 11 and 16 7/24.

They have a 63-ton travel lift and a trailer capable of lifting catamarans up to 20ton with beam 10.5m (35'). They have the ability to haul out trimaran and catamarans on a trailer.

Yacht owners are allowed to work on their own vessel and or use the marina approved contractors.

Services:

- Mechanical
- Refrigeration
- Plumbing
- Carpentry
- Sandblasting
- Metal works & stainless-steel work
- Fiberglass work
- Electrical
- Rigging
- Spray painting and anti-fouling
- Approved Contractors: www.vudamarina.com.fj/yachting/contractors/

Working hours on the hard-stand are strictly enforced: Mon-Fri: 0800-1800, Sat: 0800-1300.

Vuda Point boat yard is pretty busy. They sell out of dry storage space fairly early before each cyclone season. So, contact them well before arrival if one plans on being there. They lower yachts keels into holes dug in the boatyard, supporting the hull with large tires.

12.17.2.1 Cyclone Storage

For monohulls, catamarans and trimarans. Monohulls are lowered into a cyclone pit. Catamarans and trimarans are strapped down using a 10-point system consisting of concrete blocks.

12.17.2.2 Security:

Note: Several boats were broken into while on the hard in Sept/Oct.2023 so be sure to lock your boat and ensure your workers are vetted.

Since October 2023 and March/April 2024 there has been a significant tightening of security.

There are now 5 night watchmen moving around.

The gate into the actual marina stays closed all the time and everybody gets checked in and out. The man on the gate writes down all visitors and if they are not pre-advised they do not get in until the office clears them, or otherwise.

The number of contractors has been cut down and each one now needs a work permit from the marina.

Ad hoc contractors have no access.

The marina is staying tight-lipped about the reasons, but evidently thieving got out of hand, hence the clampdown and quite a few people were let go. Quite a few new hires but all seem very service-oriented and standard Fiji happy/smiling.

12.17.2.3 Cruiser Reports

Sept. 2025: We had a reservation in the West Basin and were asked to med-moor with (2) long 30m lines on the bow, (2) lines on the stern, (1) spring line, and fenders on both sides. We were super surprised they needed 30-meter lines on the bow, but they did to secure you to moorings.

The crew that assists you with dockage are very friendly, patient, and professional. You will be squeezed in and close to your neighbors so put out all of your fenders.

We saw the security guard making rounds several times at different hours of the night.

It does get very hot in the marina and there are lots of birds that love to color your deck with their poop.

Water and power are included in your marina fee! – sv Sugar Shack

Sept. 2023: Vuda hauled out our 17t catamaran perfectly smooth with trailer. Takes up to 40t. Best dry dock ever. Not much dirt. Excellent new showers and toilet. – Moana

July 2016: It is very protected. But it was jam packed most of the time we were there, you med moor to the perimeter and are very close to your neighbors.

Haul out: Ours went pretty smoothly--all haul outs have their minor issues. Travel lift driver is super experienced. We worked mostly ourselves, ran into some strife as we wanted to use a local guy a friend had recommended, it was extremely difficult to do so and not a pleasant process. I guess like most yards they have their rules about who can come in and who cannot. – Storm Bay of Hobart

12.17.3 Marina Channel

Before entering the marina channel, hail the marina on VHF 11 “Vuda Marina” and await further instructions. All radio operators speak English. You may be advised to wait at the yellow mooring buoy right in front of the entrance channel, otherwise proceed. The staff will await you for check in or help you into your berth.

The marina entrance is marked with beacons and green leading lights. It is recognizable by the highly visible British Petroleum storage tanks.

12.17.4 Anchorages

Aug. 2025: 17°41.049S / 177°22.836E in 11m during high tide in mud with good holding. – sv Sugar Shack

Sept. 2023: 17°41.031S / 177°22.810E. Dropped in 12m of mud. Depending on where you drop the hook, the anchor may or may not stick. So, don't give up if your anchor doesn't stick the first time. – sv Sugar Shack

Sept. 2022: 17°41.053S / 177°22.941E in 8m of mud. We tried anchoring near the pass into the marina (on starboard) and we could not get a good stick in two locations. So, we moved more west and got a good muddy stick. There were 15 boats anchored here and still plenty of room for more boats. – sv Sugar Shack

Sept. 2022: We anchored outside the marina (along with many other boats), as it's an easy dinghy ride in. We had friends in both the inner and outer basin. The inner basin, the boats were packed like sardines and getting on/off the boats and onto the small platforms that jutted out from the walkway proved to be a challenge. Whist the outer basin is for 50' plus boats, our friends (on a 44' yacht), opted for this and simply paid the difference. A small price to pay for a finger pontoon and a little privacy. – Seneto

12.17.5 Yachtsmen Services

12.17.5.1 Fuel (Diesel and Gasoline)

You can bring the big boat right to the dock and fill up from the pump with both diesel and gasoline.

The fuel dock is open 24/7, but you have to alert the office/Yacht Shop if you wish to get fuel after hours. You pay and schedule the fuel dock through the Yacht Shop.

Suggest getting fuel at mid to high tide.

12.17.5.2 Cooking Gas (Propane)

Sept. 2025: Cooking gas can be refilled at Blue Gas. +679.705.0807, www.bluegas.com.fj, From marina office, take a left on the road, and then another left on the main road. Rattle orange gate for someone to let you in.

They filled our 20lb bottle in less than 5 minutes. Cost \$3.25F per kilo (our 20lb cost \$28F). – sv Sugar Shack

12.17.6 General Services

12.17.6.1 Banks & ATMs

Vuda Marina has a BSP bank ATM near the office and general store.

12.17.6.2 Communications

Sept. 2025: Digicel and Vodafone work well in the marina and yard.

Vuda Marina offers their clients 1 free hour of internet per day. A day pass is \$5F and a weekly pass is \$20F. Passes are available from the marina office with speeds up to 10Mbps and 99% of the marina/yard covered. – sv Sugar Shack

Sept. 2023: SIM Cards are available at the office. – Moana

12.17.6.3 Formalities

Sept. 2025: Vuda Marina will assist you with your formalities for a small fee. Departure formalities were \$70F plus the cost of the marina. They do gather several employees and sing a lovely farewell song and provide you with flowers for the boat (for safe passage). The entire experience is lovely. – Sv Sugar Shack

Sept. 2023: Vuda Marina will take care of formalities for you. They arrange for Customs, Immigration, Health, and Biosecurity to come to your boat. The marina will also cover all fees for you so you do not have to run around to 4 different offices making payments. The fees are then added to your marina tab. It is all very convenient and efficient. – Moana

12.17.6.4 Laundry

Sept. 2025: There are 2 laundry areas in Vuda. One is located by the office and has 2 washers and 2 driers. The 2nd location is between the East and West basin close and it has 3 washers and 3 driers (and a free ice machine).

The staff use the machines by the office. Laundry (30-35 minutes) takes 2 tokens (\$5/ea), driers (for 40-45 minutes) takes 2 tokens (\$5/ea) but you usually have to run the dryer 2x per load making them 4 tokens per load. There is a nice table to fold your clothes and bathrooms/showers right next door. – sv Sugar Shack

12.17.6.5 Marine Services

Yacht Shop: Marine Chandlery, +679.999.3829. Hours: Mon-Sun: 700-1800.

Yacht Help +679.777.2331, +679.666.8969, www.yachthelp.com maintenance@yachthelp.com

Antifoul, caretaking, detailing, watermaker services, joinery, shrink wrap/tenting, Fiberglass, Osmosis, diesel & outboard repairs, electrical work

Rev Marine +679.932.2019, +679.926.0531, ravi@revmarine.com.fj, anjani@revmarine.com.fj,

Fiberglass, electrical and electronic, mechanical, hull repair, antifoul, painting, AC/DC

Summer Electrical Services +679.805.3235, +679.870.5310

Air conditioning, refrigeration, marine electrical & mechanical, windlass, water pumps, generators

Approved Vendors for Vuda Marina:

<https://static1.squarespace.com/static/6445e8192fbbd43b021a6917/t/67e09adc7e41ff7348286eb2/1742772959851/VM+contractors+2025.pdf>

Canvas and Sails

- **Marshall Sails:** New sails and sail repairs, plus all canvas work, dodgers, bimini, upholstery, stock list of Sunbrella. +679.666.0030. Alan +679.992.9246. marshallsails@connect.com.fj (s/v Wizard 2024)

Electrical

- **Rev Marine:** marine electrical, outboard mechanical, antifouling, air-con, refrigeration, spray painting. Ravinesh +679 932.2019, +679 926.0531. ravi@revmarine.com.fj
- **Summer Electrical Services:** Marine electrical, air-con, refrigeration, motor winding, generator repairs, outboard engine repairs, painting, antifouling, varnish, polish. Mohitesh +679.870.5310, +679.862.9309, mohitnaicker@gmail.com

Engine Repairs

- **Krishna Yacht Services** Ritesh Kumar +679 844 0860, krishnayachtservices@gmail.com. You need to book him in advance as he is usually booked 1-2 weeks out.
 - **Sept. 2025:** Ritesh is amazing! We were docked at the fuel dock when starboard engine wouldn't go into reverse. Ritesh came out within 30 minutes, worked with Matt to assess possible repairs. He returned the next day with a helper, moved the engine forward, removed the cone clutch, and found the problem. We ordered a new part from AU and Ritesh installed it and the engine. Reverse is now working. Ritesh was very efficient, friendly and cost effective. – sv Sugar Shack
 - **2024:** Inboard, outboard, repairs, maintenance, servicing. Comes highly recommended, very cruiser friendly, will travel and trouble shoot on the phone. --s/v Wizard 2024
- **Dockside Marine & Auto Solutions:** repair & maintenance works, diesel mechanic. Sachin +679.935.2055, +679.995.4039. dsmarinesolution@gmail.com
- **Fremlins Workshop:** inboard & outboard repairs, antifouling, osmosis treatment, yacht caretaking, electrical and generator repairs, fiberglass, joinery, buffing, detailing. William +679 978.5870, +679.672.205. william_fremlin@hotmail.com
- **Prasads General Marine Services:** boat engine repairs, antifouling, fiberglass repairs, spray-painting, timber works. Sachin +679.937.2478. prasadsmarineservices@gmail.com
- **Rev Marine:** marine electrical, outboard mechanical, antifouling, air-con, refrigeration, spray painting. Ravinesh +679 932.2019, +679 926.0531. ravi@revmarine.com.fj
- **Sundar & Simon Outboard Repairs:** boat engines, jetskis. Aklesh +679.998.2871, +679.992.8418, sharanj@connect.com.fj

Fiberglass

- **South Pacific Fiberglass:** composite and fiberglass fabrication, repairs to international standards. Nick +679.926.8488, southpacificfibreglass@gmail.com. Based in Denarau. Very responsive and communicative.
 - **Sept. 2025:** Highly recommend Nick! He repaired both of our rudders using quality materials (divyncl foam, Interprotect primer, Coppercoat). He is efficient, reasonably priced and communicates well throughout the process. – sv Sugar Shack

Mechanical Engineering:

- **All Engineering:** mechanical repairs, electrical, and stainless. +679.666.5976 or Praveen +679.992.9309. alleng@connect.com.fj
- **Yacht Help:** mechanical, spray painting, antifouling, varnish, polish. +679.666.8969, +679.777.2330, maintenance@yachthelp.com

Metal Work & Welding:

- **Custom Weld & Design:** Fabrication and welding of stainless, aluminum, and mild steel. All welding works. Vikash +679.866.2065, +679 762.1449, customweldingndesign@gmail.com

Outboard Repairs:

- **Fremlins Workshop:** inboard & outboard repairs, antifouling, osmosis treatment, yacht caretaking, electrical and generator repairs, fiberglass, joinery, buffing, detailing. William +679 978.5870, +679.672.205. william_fremlin@hotmail.com
- **Hauraki Adventures:** Servicing Honda outboard motors, inboard engine mechanical services, antifouling. +679 777.1118, Paul +679.777.1117. info@haurakiadventures.com
- **Rev Marine:** marine electrical, outboard mechanical, antifouling, air-con, refrigeration, spray painting. Ravinesh +679 932.2019, +679 926.0531. ravi@revmarine.com.fj
- **Sundar & Simon Outboard Repairs:** boat engines, jetskis. Aklesh +679.998.2871, +679.992.8418, sharanj@connect.com.fj

Refrigeration

- **Rainbow Cool Tech:** air-conditioning and refrigeration. Abdul Mustak Minaf +679.998.1234, rainbowcooltech@gmail.com.fj
- **Rev Marine:** marine electrical, outboard mechanical, antifouling, air-con, refrigeration, spray painting. Ravinesh +679 932.2019, +679 926.0531. ravi@revmarine.com.fj
- **Summer Electrical Services:** Marine electrical, air-con, refrigeration, motor winding, generator repairs, outboard engine repairs, painting, antifouling, varnish, polish. Mohitesh +679.870.5310, +679.862.9309, mohitnaicker@gmail.com

Rigging

- **Westside Rigging:** Sammy tel/WhatsApp: +61 405 084 832. Bruce +679 628 6957, +679 999.8838. mothership@connect.com.fj
 - **Sept. 2025:** Absolutely amazing, has a well-stocked shop, plenty of tools, swaging. He replaced both of our 34m side stays with 1:25 dyform 1" stainless and had the pins and threads. All completed within 24 hours. He also helped us replace our Profurl furler and foils (ordered from AU). Very reasonably priced, efficient, & super friendly. – sv Sugar Shack
- **Yacht Rigging Solutions:** replacing and surveying, running and standing rigging, rope splicing. Colin +679 292.9633, yachtriggingsolutionsfiji@gmail.com

Signage

- **Signs 53:** vinyl stickers for yachts, boats, lettering cutouts, printing images, graphic design and wraps. Muniappa Pillay +679.982.2838, +679.723.5887, signs1053@gmail.com

12.17.6.6 Transport

Sept. 2025: Atil Taxi +679.297.4868 charged us \$100F Vuda-Lauotka-Vuda, took us to Immigration, Digicel, Vodafone, fresh market, RB Patel and Extra. He then helped us carry our groceries from the car to the boat. Really nice guy. He said he would charge the same money to go to Nadi as well!

Avi Taxi +679.234.7944 took our friends to Nadi, went shopping, and back to Vuda for \$45F!

Taxi stand: +679.990.6666, +679.995.5720, +679.866.9750, sales@abdulscars.com, to Lautoka \$25F (one way) and \$15F/hour to wait. A 4-hour trip was \$110F. Taxi stand located outside of marina office. A 4-hour round-trip to Nadi \$200F (\$140 round trip + \$15/hr * 4hrs). Super expensive

The Vuda Marina office will rent a car for 24hrs for \$120F.

Marvelous Rentals: +679.926.0080, +679.831.6282, marvelousrentals@gmail.com, they will rent a car for \$60F/day if you book for 4 or more days.

Nidesh +679.960.2983 will offer a great discount of \$40F/day if you rent for 30 days or more. Not the greatest cars, but he is responsive about fixing them when they break down. He might ask that you pay extra for insurance but you can negotiate.

Marina Car Rentals: +679.990.6666, +679.995.5720, +679.866.9750, sales@abdulscars.com, marinarentals_fiji@outlook.com, abdulscars@connect.com.fj. Their car rentals average \$125-\$135F/day. Very expensive. The taxi rates are posted on the board next to the marina office. Also, very expensive. It is better to walk to the main road and flag down a taxi. – sv Sugar Shack

Sept. 2023: Taxi to Lautoka \$20F one way, bus is around \$2F. – Moana

Sept. 2022: Car Rental: We rented a car at the taxi stand. 24 hours is \$100FJ Good basic car with a/c and automatic. BUS: Marina office has the schedule of the bus to Lautoka \$2FJ pp/one way. – Carpe Diem

12.17.7 Provisions

Sept. 2025: The General Store (located near the marina office. Open daily 6:30am – 1700. Basic food staples, bread (in the AM), some produce and cheese, ice cream, clothing, snacks, sandwiches, drinks.

Purchase your laundry tokens for \$5F each (wash 2 tokens, dry 2 tokens).

Pre-Made Curry dishes: Angie +679 936 491 will make pre-made curry dishes and vegetarian curry too. Be sure to ask for the fish to be boneless. – sv Sugar Shack

12.17.8 Restaurants

The [Boatshed](#), offers seating outside or under the palapa on the water's edge. Offers daily specials on food and drinks. Live music on Friday-Sunday.

Sept. 2025: There are 4 places to eat while staying at Vuda Marina:

The General Store: sandwiches, rotis, wraps, bread, croissants, danishes, drinks, ice cream

The Boathouse: Nice sit-down restaurant serves same menu as the Boathouse Bar

The Boathouse Bar: Beautiful scenery overlooking the marina. Great sunsets. Bar and tables. Offers same menu as the main restaurant. They have Margarita Mondays, 1/2 price pizza Tuesdays, Wine Wednesdays.

Nil Resort Restaurant +679.999.1333, located near the marina (17°40.283S / 177°23.036E).
<http://nilabeachresortfiji.com/>

Get to know your neighbors during happy hour for a fun night out. – sv Sugar Shack

Sept. 2022: The Boathouse bar/restaurant is a great setting for a sun-downers. We arrived during Margarita Monday \$10F for a magnificent drink and the food was good too. – Seneto

July 2016: The Boathouse restaurant is part of the setup and it is excellent. Good food, great staff, daily specials, and superb location. We are not restaurant cruisers but went to their half price pizza nights and had our anniversary special dinner there, they spoiled us. – Storm Bay of Hobart

12.17.9 Activities

Sept. 2025: Hike to Mt Batilamu Summit which is part of the National Park. Entry fee was \$25F per person and you have a choice to go to the waterfall or the summit. The summit is straight up (2500' elevation), 5 miles which took about 5 hours roundtrip. Beautiful views, worth the effort. It took about 40 minutes to drive to the park from Vuda Marina. – sv Sugar Shack

July 2024: We wanted to visit the Koroyanito National Parc so we contacted Bukka at +49 9148 131. She runs the National Park, can arrange for transport, lunch and even overnight stays in the mountain or in the village. The taxi from Vuda was 140fj for two people, from Lautoka it was 35 one way/pp. The fee to enter the park is 25/pp and lunch in the village is 20/pp and is well worth it. It was a very lovely hike with a fantastic view. Worth the effort to do this all-day hike and lunch in the village. – Moana

Oct. 2023: Shark Dive: Beqa Adventure Divers can be reached by car from either Suva, Denarau, or Vuda. There is no anchorage nearby so you need to commit to an overnight, but the dive is worth it. Beqa Adventure Divers worked with the community and government to create a Shark Reef Marine reserve and the Shark Corridor (no fishing). The two dives were amazing, interesting, exciting, and very safe. Wonderful staff. Cost \$500F/pp with gear rental as of 10/2023. – SV Nutmeg

12.17.10 Cruiser Reports

Sept. 2023: Check-in is well organized. The marina office looks after payment of clearance by customs, immigration, health, and biosecurity and arranges for cruising permits. Biosecurity took some frozen bananas from our freezer. We had no vegetables, fruit, or meat products. – Moana

Sept. 2022: Access to Lautoka and its excellent fruit and vegetable market is either a bus ride away (times posted at the marina) or a \$20FJ taxi ride. – Seneto

June 2022: Arrived on a Sunday having pre-booked RAT tests. Turned out the marina had already arranged everything. Marina manager came straight away to catch ropes and inform us that COVID tests, immigration and bio security was on their way. Within 2 hours we had been checked and cleared. Be warned though, we had to pay import duty on the alcohol we were carrying which totaled about \$100. I heard they are more relaxed at Savusavu. – SY Calash

July 2016: The marina has good information available online, and it is all correct pricing. They were organized, answered my emails immediately too. Hauled out for a week, and spent a bit over a week in their harbor.

The staff are generally great, the two women in the office are excellent. Power and water, and for a 40-foot boat we paid around \$200FJD per week, power is another \$5 a day. Weekly rates payable in advance. Nice facilities, washing machines work well and you can hang your washing out on lines at the back of their accommodation cottages.

The chandlery has basics; we ended up using International antifouling as little else was available.

Lautoka is a 30-minute fun bus ride away, there are several hardware stores for paint supplies etc, a good market and plenty of supermarkets.

We are about to clear out, Vuda marina organized customs and immigration to come to Vuda marina, the marina charges \$60 FJD to do this. There's no charge for either Customs or Immigration. – Storm Bay of Hobart

2013: Bad Experiences Getting Work Done: When our shaft was pulled to replace the cutlass bearing it was found to have pitting; minor at this point but as we would be in remote locations, we decided to have a new one. Yacht Help organized for it to be brought in from New Zealand and tooled by All Engineering. They have a workshop at Denarau. When it was first installed, the thread was not correct. In trying to remove the jammed nut, the shaft and prop keyway were damaged by large tool marks. We sent it back to be rethreaded.

Painting proceeded Ok until the last coats, one all over the hull and two extra to waterline, were put on in the space of 2 hours. The painters maintained that they always did this. Consultation with International confirmed that a min of 6 hrs. is required between coats. Yacht help agreed to repaint this part but tried to get us to pay for the paint.

One of our jobs was to fit extra solar panels. This required four small stainless-steel brackets to be fabricated. The first ones, very rough and unpolished, were rejected by us; the next company that came quoted FJD\$1500.00; finally Yacht Help brought another person who could do the work for a cost that we still thought expensive but agreed to. It turned out that he was banned from working at Vuda. We agreed to go to Denarau for this when the other work was done.

When finishing up at Vuda, the invoice had 96hrs for painting. From my log, being very generous, I could only find 77hrs. The invoice was changed without question.

We went straight to Denarau to get the welding done. On the 5nm trip there, we found a shaft vibration noise that had not been present before. The welder informed us that Denarau Marina would not let him work there either. The Yacht Help boss, David Jameison, fixed it, but we were rapidly losing confidence in them as project managers.

We continued to have multiple problems with workers, but overall, our issue was with Yacht Help. We found Yacht Help to be unprofessional, incompetent and dishonest.

In summary when getting work done in Fiji, you do not need to engage one of the companies that purport to handle all aspects of maintenance. Individual workers can be sourced from lists provided by either marina. But if you have several different jobs it should be easier.

Both boat yards handled our haul out professionally but be very clear just what you are paying for. At Vuda our new antifoul was damaged on the haul out but was repaired.

Bottom line: Watch everything, get a fixed price and have endless patience. We have had work done all-around SE Asia and haven't had a bad experience like Fiji. – Jaraman

Aug. 2012: Boabab Marine & Vuda Point Marina: We got hauled for bottom painting and topsides waxing. Mo who drives the lift and generally is the day-to-day hands-on guy is competent, friendly and a joy to work with. His helpers are also good at being very available to help with getting you in and out of the circular med moor area which can get quite full. The office staff is also friendly and helpful. Clean showers, laundry, snack bar, grocery store, and a modest chandlery are the main resources.

We had some stainless-steel fabrication and a windlass motor rebuild done by Baobab. They have a very complete set of mechanical, woodworking, electrical, diesel repair, glass work, and painting workshops and experienced crew. The workers are well supervised by Brian, the owner, Dave the paint expert, and Lorenzo the mechanical guy. The workers also are very professional.

The price for labor is 65 Fijian per hour so you can figure on work of good quality at 1/2 to 1/3 the cost in the States. I felt I got very good value. Promise had a failed SS anchor incident resulting in major, hull, engine, electrical, and interior joinery work. Baobab is doing everything. I'm not sure there is much that Brian couldn't handle.

He also has a big operation at Port Denarau. He and Lorenzo alternate days there.

Baobab is the Yanmar dealer for this part of Fiji and I got everything I needed in terms of spares. – Shango

12.18 Saweni Bay

12.18.1 Anchorage

Oct. 2011: Anchored in peaceful Saweni Bay along with one other yacht in 6 meters of water. – Katipo

Nov. 2010: Saweni is a very nice anchorage, usually millpond calm. It can get a bit choppy if the winds cause the land effects to come from the N. rather than any other quadrant.

Best anchorage: Enter the reef opening and turn hard right, and anchor in the spot there, with reef on 2-3 sides. It is only 15-20' deep, with viscous mud. I rowed ashore and drag my dinghy up the beach and lock it, but no one else locked theirs. – Fellow Traveler

Sept. 2010: A small anchorage on our way to Vuda Point. We dropped our anchor in about 30' of water between the entrance reefs and in front of two sailboats already in the bay. Even with over 200' of anchor chain deployed, we were dismayed to find Carina rapidly dragging her anchor towards the other boats; we decided to re-anchor. While pulling up our anchor, one of the sailboats decided to leave and we ended up taking that boat's spot, anchoring in about 15' of water with an anchor-sucking muddy bottom. This time our anchor held though Carina's bow pitched in the 5-6' swell. – Carina

12.18.2 General Services

12.18.2.1 Formalities

Sept. 2025: There is a Justice of the Peace at 17°39.381S / 177°23.791E, a two-story yellow/peach building which is conveniently located to Denarau and Vuda Marinas. Contact him by phone. +679.902.9417 first to schedule a time to have him certify your passports (for your tourist visa extension). Be sure to bring your own copies of your passports (both the bio page and the Fiji entry stamp page) so he can certify them. -- Y2K

12.18.3 Cruiser Reports

Oct. 2011: This afternoon we went ashore and walked the 2.5 miles to Vuda Point Marina through the farm land. Most of the way we walked along the narrow-gauge railway track which carries the train and dozens of trucks loaded high with sugar cane to the processing plant in Lautoka. – Katipo

Nov. 2010: From the beach, it is a 1-2 km walk to the road where buses pass constantly between Nadi and Lautoka. A few times a day, they will pick you up right at the beach (ask at the store for schedule), but may take a circuitous route to town. – Fellow Traveler

12.19 Bekana Island

12.19.1 Anchorage

Sept. 2023: 17°35.5078S / 177°26.7641E. Dropped in 16m of mud. We tried to drop at 17°35.532S / 177°26.621E and 17°35.567S / 177°26.650E and could not get a solid hold/stick, we kept dragging when we pulled down at 2k RPM so we tried the third place that is in bold. – sv Sugar Shack

Sept. 2023: We anchored here, but there were a few boats on moorings. We took the dinghy to the mainland where the ferry takes people backwards and forwards to Bekana Island. – Jamala

Oct. 2011: 17°35.303S / 177°26.905E. – Katipo

12.19.2 Cruiser Report

Sept. 2023: There were 2 boats on moorings and 3 boats anchored here when we arrived. A small resort with a large water playscape and a pretty beach lies on this island. We were only here for 24 hours to provision so we did not see the smoke and soot from the sugar cane factory. – sv Sugar Shack

Sept. 2023: There is a channel that is marked with a stick that goes up the side of the sewer outhaul pipe. There is a small ferry dock but you cannot leave your dinghy here. We tied the dinghy to the rocks and paid \$5 to the lady who works the ferry shuttle. There were some rubbish bins near the main walkway and we were told we could leave our rubbish here. – Jamala

Oct. 2011: We anchored just off Bekana Island, close to Lautoka. We are overlooking the large port and city. It is much bigger than we thought. Black smoke is pouring out of the chimneys of the sugar mill! The island of Bekana on the other hand looks to be a resort island with a lovely sandy beach. – Katipo

12.20 Lautoka

Note: Be sure to lock your dinghy to the dock and do not leave anything that can easily 'walk away' as there have been several thefts reported.

12.20.1 Anchorages

Sept. 2023: 17°35.931S / 177°26.70E. Several boats were anchored, but it is close to shore where you get lots of smoke and ash coming from the Sugar factory. In addition, there is a sewer run off right here making this not an appealing stop. We anchored across the way at Bekana Island.

Dinghy: 17°36.202S / 177°26.73E. Facing Lautoka / Tavai Mangrove you'll see the sewer outfall (looks like an old dock but just piles of dead coral. Enter on the right side (between the sewer outfall and Tavai Mangrove). You'll see a small pole with a red flag on it. You want to enter between the pole and the shore (on your left) to get to the dinghy landing area as the center of this bay is very, very shallow.

Bring a stern anchor! You tie your bow to the rock and drop a stern anchor. There is a small dock with a small building. The ferry uses this dock so do not block it. Once you situate your dinghy, go to the small building on the small dock and pay \$5F to leave your dinghy here.

There is a ferry from Bekana Island to the small dock. The fee for non-locals is \$25F one way. – sv Sugar Shack

Aug. 2012: Anchoring at Lautoka is easy, mud bottom. Chesapeake

Oct. 2010: 17-36.107S / 177-26.448E. The Lautoka anchorage was not a great place to hang about but we had to get our clearance. Saweni Bay was a much nicer anchorage and was only a short bus ride away from Lautoka which is Fiji's second largest city. There's a good market and good shopping in general. – Mr. John IV

12.20.2 Yachtsmen Services

12.20.2.1 Cooking Gas (Propane & Butane)

Sept. 2023: Fresh Choice sells Fiji Gas and Blue Gas. – sv Sugar Shack

12.20.2.2 Fuel

Sept. 2023: There are several fuel stations inland including a large Total. – sv Sugar Shack

12.20.3 Formalities

Sept. 2025: Immigration +679.666.1706. Located at 17°36.530S / 177°27.040E (Tavewa Ave across from RB Patel Supermarket). Two-story, white building. Ground floor, 1st door on right. Hours: Mon-Fri: 0830-1400.

Ask cashier or go directly to the line for the window "Passport Collection / Inquiries."

We applied for our 2-month Tourist Visa Extension online (see Extending Your Visa section 1.3.15) and received approval, online. We asked Immigration at Denarau and Vuda if they could stamp our passports and they both said they could not. They told us to go to Nadi or Lautoka. – sv Sugar Shack

12.20.4 General Services

12.20.4.1 Automotive

Sept. 2025: Asco Motors +679 666 9993. Right off main street. Hours: Mon-Fri: 0800-1700, Sat: 0900-1300.

We also walked by a large Automotive store called Sigatoka Motor Spares +679 666 6176, +679 707 3493, www.sigatokaspares.com.fj, smsspares@connect.com.fj. – sv Sugar Shack

12.20.4.2 Bank (ATM)

Sept. 2025: There is a Westpac bank right behind Fresh Choice off Vitogo Parade Street. +679.666.0833. Hours: Mon-Fri: 0930-1530

There is an ANZ Bank further down the road on the corner of Vitogo Parade and Waterfront Road. +679.0800 269 296. Hours: Tues & Thurs: 0930-1630.

Western Union +679 327 0612. Hours: Mon-Fri" 0800-1500. Sat: 0800-1400. There are several locations and several other money exchanges around downtown. – sv Sugar Shack

12.20.4.3 Computers & Wifi

Sept. 2025: There are a number of electronic stores, but the only Apple Authorized dealer was Cyber City Courts. +679 892 5631. Hours: Mon-Fri: 0900-1700, Sat: 0900-1400.

Valuefone (Vodafone) +679 998 8814, lautoka@valuefonefj.com, located 14 Naiviti St. – sv Sugar Shack

12.20.4.4 Hardware

Sept. 2025: Link Hardware +679 666 4152, +679 707 6675, linkhardware.fj@outlook.com. Really large, well-stocked hardware store.

RC Manubhai +679 666 1190. Hours: Mon-Fri: 0800-1700, Sat: 0800-1330. Located at 14 Tukani. – sv Sugar Shack

12.20.4.5 Justice of the Peace: Document Certification

Fiji Muslim League: Sheik Sahib +679 956 5443 and sheiksaheb861@gmail.com. Located in Lautoka at the Muslim Primary school. Very helpful

12.20.4.6 Medical

Sept. 2025: Life Care Medical Center. +679 276 8083, +679 775 4274, fd.procarelautoka@gmail.com, Hours: Mon-Fri: 0830-1700, Sat: 0830-1300. Located at 17 Tukani St. They also offer general outpatient services, medical exams, minor surgical procedures, radiology, lab work, ultrasounds. – sv Sugar Shack

12.20.4.7 Pharmacy

Sept. 2025: We found several pharmacies in downtown. Here are just a few:

- Quality Life Pharmacy +679 940 7600, +679 792 0008, qlifepharmacy.fj@gmail.com. Located at 121 Vitogo Parade. Hours: Mon-Sat: 0800-1900
- Thakorlal's Pharmacy +679 666 4645. Hours: Daily 0700-2200. Located on Vitogo Parade
- Quality Life Pharmacy +679 940 7600. Location 121 Vitogo Parade, Hours: Daily 0800-1900

12.20.4.8 Post Office

Sept. 2025: The Lautoka Post Office is located on Tavewa Ave. +679 666.0022, +679 132 123, care@postfiji.com.fj Hours: Mon-Fri: 0800-1700, Sat: 0800-1300. – sv Sugar Shack

12.20.4.9 Refrigeration

Sept. 2025: Lincoln Refrigeration +679 664 5405, www.lincolnrefrigerationfiji.com, Located 2 Nuqa Place. We also saw an advertisement for Coolman Refrigeration & Electric +679 664 0714 +679 992 4170, coolman_refrigeration@yahoo.com, – sv Sugar Shack

12.20.4.10 Transportation

Sept. 2025: Correct Taxi & Tours +679 942 9522 offers 24hr service.

June 2013: We used a cab driver regularly in Lautoka. His name is Ravin, and he usually hangs out near the wharf where you dinghy in from the anchorage, but his tel. number +679.931.7068. – Radiance

12.20.4.11 Watermaker Services:

Oceania Water Group +679 786 6415, <https://oceaniawatergroup.com>, sales@oceaniawatergroup.com Hours: Mon-Fri: 0800-1700. Offers parts, products and services for water makers of all types.

May 2024: In September 2023, I took my Spectra Watermaker to Oceania Water Group, the full-service Spectra water maker company in Lautoka, Fiji. They charged me \$7000 Fijian to do a complete overhaul of my leaking machine. I was in and out of their shop 6 times! as each time they said it was repaired, it continued to leak. It finally stopped working altogether on my sail down to NZ. In NZ I had Enertec (another full-service Spectra dealer) properly repair it, and they found many sub-quality parts installed by Oceania including some type of old glass piston.

In Oceania's workshop they had no 5-micron filter at their work bench where they were recycling seawater out of a big tub to test my water maker. They also put red loctite thread sealer on all connections including the ferrules. They scratched the Clark pump considerably because they didn't use the appropriately sized wrench.

Neil Towner, the owner would not give me any refund, only offered to try to fix it for a 7th time. – s/v Afrikii

12.20.5 Provisions

Sept. 2025: There are lots of choices for grocery shopping in Lautoka.

- **Extra Supermarket** Fiji +679 999 8401. Daily 0700-2000. www.extra.com.fj, Located: Vitogo Parade. One of the best markets in Lautoka, clean, decent selection, light on meats, but produce was good.
- **RB Patel:** +679.665.2991, Hours: Mon-Sat: 0800-1930, Sun: 0800-1400. Located on Tavewa Ave. Decent market with good selection, but it is expensive.
- **Fresh Choice** right off Marine Drive (the main road). +679 666 4148, info@freshchoice.com.fj, www.freshchoice.com.fj. Hours: Mon-Wed: 0800-1900, Thurs-Sat: 0800-2000. Large, clean, well-stocked market with a good selection of meats, cheeses, can goods. Convenient to dinghy landing
- Lautoka **Fresh Market** is a HUGE fresh market, super impressive. Daily: 0600-1700. Located between Tukanmi, Vakabale and Nawiti St. Absolutely fabulous fresh market
- **Shiu Prasad & Sons:** Spices and Grinders +679 666 2532, +679 666 0845, shiuprasadsons@connect.fj
- **Max Value** (pink bdg) Located: Naviti St. +679 666.2999. Hours: Mon-Sat: 0800-2100, Sun. 0830-1300
- Rajendra Hypermart +679 999 1319. Hours: Mon-Sat: 0700-1830, Sun: 0800-1400
- **Shop N Save** +679 927 2645, Hours: Mon-Sat: 0730-1900
- **Liquor: Pmeghji Trading** +679 666 3594. Located 179 Vitogo Parade, Hours: Mon-Thurs: 0800-2000, Fri-Sat: 0800-2100. Sells liquor, beer, wine in bulk. Just up from Fresh Choice

There is a very large fresh market called Lautoka Market off of Tujani and Vakabale. Located near the Sugar City Mall. Hours: Daily 0600-1700. – sv Sugar Shack

Sept. 2023: Great for provisioning, good super markets, good fresh market. You can walk 10-minutes to the town or you can grab one of the many available taxis if you purchase lots of groceries. – Jamala

12.20.6 Restaurants

Sept. 2025: Walk around and enjoy this very large, industrial city. There are several places to eat with different price ranges and a variety of food. – sv Sugar Shack

12.20.7 Cruiser Reports

Sept. 2025: This is a true "downtown" city with loads of stores, shopping, and restaurants. We only came to provision and stayed less than 24 hours. But we found loads of fun places. – sv Sugar Shack

Aug. 2012: Checking out in Lautoka: Our check out at Lautoka went smoothly. They're open Mon-Thur 0830-1630 Friday 0830-1530. Closed Sat/Sun.

Be sure to bring a dinghy anchor because you tie off at the steps by the wharf and need to drop an anchor to prevent the dinghy from getting swept under the wharf.

There was a lot of smoke in the air and we've been told sticky stuff lands on your boat and is hard to remove, so you don't want to anchor there for more than a few hours. – Chesapeake

12.21 West Coast of Viti Levu

Oct. 2022: 17°25.170S / 177°44.868E. In 6m of mud at the ex Vatia Eco Resort with solid holding. – Seneto

12.22 North Coast of Viti Levu

12.22.1 General Info

Oct. 2011: Sailing through the reefs on the north of Viti Levu however is not a relaxing sail! It means frequent changes of direction, resetting the sails, gybing at times and trying to spot reefs most of which are submerged not far below the surface.

Most of the markers are poles, some are missing and some have broken off leaving a stub just above the water. We take turns to steer while the other keeps ducking below into the chart room to check we are on course to the next GPS waypoint, or to scan ahead for markers using the binoculars. – Katipo

12.22.2 Nukuivovo Island

Sept. 2022: 17°23.452S / 177°43.497E Dropped in 6m of mud just off the Nukuivovo Island. We had really light winds and no swell. A quick overnight on our way back to Denarau.

Both Digicel and Vodafone had good connectivity. – sv Sugar Shack

12.22.3 Volivoli Point

12.22.3.1 Anchorages

Oct. 2023: Anchored in 15m of mud. Holding was good here. Put the dinghy on their dock. – Jamala

Sept. 2022: 17°18.844S / 178°10.370E dropped in 17m of water with just “ok” holding. Since we had light winds and were only staying the night, we set the anchor alarm and called it a night. They are cutting the hillside to extend the resort so it was not the best view. But we had traveled 56nm and were tired and just needed to rest before continuing east. – sv Sugar Shack

Sept. 2022: 17°19.105S / 178°10.472E. Anchored in 14.5m of mud. – Seneto

12.22.3.2 Cruiser Reports

July 2024: Ring Gold divers in Volivoli - great dive sites, super-friendly team, fjd300 for 2-tank dive including gear. – Giles

Oct. 2023: You need to go to reception and check in but there is no fee. The receptionist said the fee is for people from other resorts in the area, not cruisers. You can use the pool and the restaurants; they would like 2 hours’ notice if you wish to have dinner with them. – Jamala

Sept. 2022: Both Digicel and Vodafone had strong connectivity. – sv Sugar Shack

Sept. 2022: Not what we expected at all! The resort itself couldn’t have looked less Fijian. There was lots of building work taking place and our anchorage view was one of excavators and barren land. Just to make it even more delightful, the fields were being burnt at night leaving black soot on, and in the boat.

The resort itself is friendly, but to us lacked authenticity. You can’t pay cash for anything. You have to go to the top of the hill to register your card details with reception, pay a \$10FJ landing fee per person, and a \$20FJ per person minimum charge that they will deduct from your final bill. Be warned that anytime you have a drink, something to eat or go on a dive, you go back up the hill and pay immediately, you can’t run a tab and settle up at the end (as you do at Paradise Resort, Taveuni).

You must call ahead to book lunch/dinner. Food was very good, but prices are very different compared to Savusavu, more like UK prices for us

The dive guys were great (Ra Divers). It is not cheap, but they take you quite a way out to the sites (approx. 45 minutes), which are excellent. There are various dive packages available. – Seneto

2022: Ra Divers +679.992.0942. A fully professional SSI Dive Resort that was established in the 1980s. They offer a variety of packages for beginners to advanced. Visit www.volivoli.com/scuba-diving-fiji for their interactive dive map which shows the many diverse diving opportunities including the fascinating Vau I ra Passage, black magic mountain, Mellow Yellow, Breathaker, and wreck diving.

12.23 Nananu Pass

12.23.1 Pass

Sept. 2022: We left our anchorage at Volivoli Point at daybreak and slowly motor-sailed out of the Nananu Pass which was pretty wide and deep. We left with light winds 8-10kts ESE and no swell, during high tide. The shallowest we saw was 45m. There is one stick at the NW corner of Thakay Savua. However, there are no markers around the pass. Navionics was pretty accurate. – sv Sugar Shack

12.23.2 Cruiser Reports

Aug. 2011: We sailed 40 miles across the Bligh Waters (the western area between the two big islands of Fiji) from Nabouwalu on the northern big island of Vanua Levu to Nananu-I-ra on the southern island of Viti Levu. With little wind but enough to keep our large sail filled. With one motor, we happily made it across in 7 hours on flat seas.

Upon our arrival, we called a local dive shop to schedule a scuba dive with them. They directed us to a mooring right in front of their dive shop in a quiet bay on the east side of Nananu-I-ra. We snorkeled on the narrow reef, between the mooring and the island, which was profusely covered with healthy soft corals. The water was almost hot in spots and very cold in others.

We went for a 2-tank dive to 2 dive sites: Cannibals' Caves and Amazing Mazes, both located on the reef 2 miles off shore. At maximum depths of 60', we saw a huge array of colorful soft and hard corals. The soft coral is often shaped like large mushrooms (10" tall) or massive flat flowers (2' across) or balls of tiny white waving flowers or fans (2-3' wide) in purples, pinks and browns. The hard corals are in traditional shapes but in many colors; some are brain coral striped with red or antler shaped tan coral with blue tips. Between the larger corals are bright spots of yellow, red, and orange, all visited by wildly colored reef fish. There were schools of small (3") very purple fish with reddish plumes on their heads swimming with large schools of bright orange (2") fish, all in and around the colorful corals. Outrageously colorful parrot fish also added to the scene. It was like Fantasia or a fairyland that one cannot imagine is real, but is. – Dreamcaper

13 Rotuma

13.1 Anchorage

April 2011: 12°29.256S / 177°07.273E. The two Way-points on the way in 12°29.233S / 177°07.202E and 12°29.227S / 177°07.163E. Any further north you will clunk the reef!!!!

The Southwest anchorage was recommended to us by the locals for when there are northerly conditions. We had a NE wind and a fairly big swell running whilst in the NE anchorage, thus we were rolling heavily.

We thought about moving around to the SW anchorage however others had warned that the southwest anchorage was very 'tight' and if the wind swung back to the SE (where it most often is) then we'd be in a right mess as the swell builds up very quickly.

Note: The ferry, when it comes, follows the same path indicated but once past the reef she swings to port, hard round to the north. Then she drops an anchor and backs down to the end of the dock and drops her ramp (it's a RoRo). If you anchor right off the dock you may have to move. – Mr. John IV

13.2 Cruiser Reports

April 2011: Rotuma has a Web Page, www.rotuma.net. Two days sail to the north of Round Island Passage is Rotuma, a little jewel of an island which used to be a 'Clearance Port' for Fiji (and may be in the future).

We tried to get there on our way north but the wind came around to the NW and that made the only real anchorage on the island very exposed and untenable. Thus, we had to wait till we were south bound from Kiribati to get acquainted with this beautiful island.

On top of that the Island was short on fuel and supplies, the monthly ferry was due soon but until then, there would be little transportation on the move.

Without knowing that you are going to have some form of transport, Rotuma is limited as a place to visit... True, you can walk and you can get lifts (sometimes).... – Mr. John IV

14 The Mamanuca Group

Pronounced "Mamanutha"

14.1 General Information

The Mamanuca Islands (Fijian: [mama'nuða]) of Fiji are a volcanic archipelago lying to the west of Nadi and to the south of the Yasawa Islands. The group, a popular tourist destination, consists of about 20 islands, but about seven of these are covered by the Pacific Ocean at high tide.

In general, we've found that the Mamanuca's have better coral and underwater visibility than the Yasawa's to the north. The Mamanuca's tend to have more up-scale resorts, and virtually all islands have at least 1 resort on them. Most of these seem friendly to yachts, even though we don't spend a lot of \$\$.

The Yasawa's are further from the mainland and tend towards lower end backpacker-type resorts and local villages. If you visit the villages, you'll need to do a Sevusevu ceremony with the chief, bringing him a gift of Kava. Deserted anchorages are available but relatively rare.

14.1.1 Filming and Island Closures

As of 2025, the islands have been filming the television series "Survivor." During filming many of these islands are closed and cruisers are not allowed to anchor around them.

In 2025, they were filming between April 15- July 3 on Mana Island, Monu Riki Island, Monu Island (east side), Tavua Iland (Northeast to southeast side), and Yadua Island.

The island Monuriki is where they filmed Cast Away.

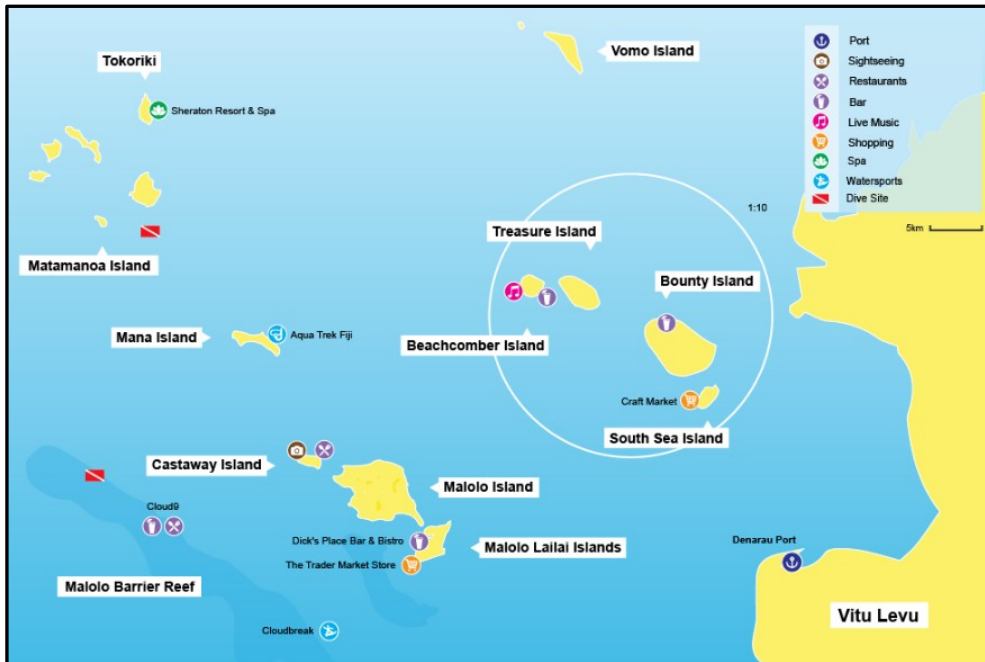


Photo courtesy Fiji Bookings.com

14.2 Malolo Island (Musket Cove)

Musket Cove Marina +679.666.2215, www.musketcovefiji.com, inquiries@musketcovefiji.com, Office hours: 0900-1300 and 1400-1800. Call on VHF 68 to check availability for berths or moorings.

All waters in and around Musket Cove, including moorings are a Marine Sanctuary and all fishing is prohibited.

Membership Fee: \$10F for a lifetime membership and discounts to Malolo Cat Ferry plus access to use of facilities onshore, trash/recycling, laundry, showers.

Swimming Pool is available for use (except during regatta week), but resort guests have priority over lounge area so please do not use the lounges.

Makare Spa: Hours: 0800-1700. A full range of beauty and relaxation treatments.

The Musket Cove Marina Services (included with membership fee):

- Fuel
- Laundry
- Trash/recycling
- Showers
- Pool
- Grocery market: The Trader General
- 2 Restaurants: Musket Cove Island Bar and Dick's Place Bistro and Bar
- 3 Bars
- Musket Cove Bottle Shop thru Dick's Place Bistro and Bar
- ATM
- Wifi throughout the resort
- Padi Dive Shop (Subsurface Dive)
- Artisan Shop (trinkets, clothes, jewelry)
- Malolo Cat ferries between Malolo Island and the mainland

Media room just off Dick's Bistro where they often show rugby games.

2025 Rates: [Download current PDF](#). Marina berths: monohull \$6/meter per night (\$153/meter/per month) and multihull \$10/m per night (\$255/meter/per month). Monthly and long -term rates available.

Moorings available for yachts up to 25tons. \$28F/night (\$715.00 per month). Moorings must be paid in advance and are non-refundable.

They use rain water for toilets, sinks, and laundry which tends to be brown.

14.2.1 Passes

Sept. 2025: Malolo Pass is between Namotu and Tavarua islands. It was 12m deep during mid-tide. We had 15-17kts of SE winds and a 2M swell but had no issues exiting this pass. We were “supposed” to have a 1m of incoming current, but we actually had .5 meter of outgoing. – sv Sugar Shack

July 2022: Navula Pass is the main shipping channel (deep and wide). We found it accurate on the charts (Navionics, OpenCPN) and most of the markers were lit to enter at night (one red lights was out). We entered with no wind (2-3kt) at low tide. Shallowest we saw was 40m. We had about >1kt against us. Typically, we would not enter a new pass at night, but this was so well marked and lit that we had no issues. – SY Calash

Tubasalusalu Pass: is wide but can be shallow (especially during low tide). We came thru at mid tide and the shallowest spot we saw was 12m on the south east side of the pass. – sv Sugar Shack

14.2.2 Anchorages

14.2.2.1 Musket Cove Anchorage

Everyone who sails to Musket Cove Yacht is eligible for membership (for a small fee).

If a mooring has a fender attached it is in use and reserved. Only the moorings with no fenders or names written on it are available.

It is best to radio Musket Cove to see if they have moorings or a berth available upon arrival.

Dinghy Landing: Head into the marina, turn right before the first finger pier and go behind the first dock, between the shore/beach and the dock. The marina frowns upon leaving the dinghy anywhere else.

Sept. 2025: Near Plantation (during regatta week) **17°46.506S / 177°11.209E** in 14m during low tide. This is not an ideal anchorage in between two reefs where the ferry runs to and from the two resorts. Also, many boats use this channel so it is often roilly. – sv Sugar Shack

Sept. 2023: Anchorage near disappearing tourist sandbank (Nuku Reef): **17°46.705S / 177°10.508E** Dropped in 13m of sand by the sandbank. This spot gets busy during low tide when the sandbank is visible with day boats, but in the morning and evening it is gorgeous and you usually only share it with 1-2 other cruisers. – sv Sugar Shack

Sept. 2022: **17°46.453S / 177°10.718E** Dropped in 20m, deep, but good holding. We came in super early in the morning and could not see anything. It was nice and breezy, albeit far into the marina.

Plantation resort: **17°46.516S / 177°11.227E** dropped in 15m in between two very large and clearly visible bommies/reef areas. This was during regatta week so we wanted to be out of the way of the race boats.

Same general area for the 2023 regatta **17°46.4897S / 177°11.2166E** in 15m good holding. – sv Sugar Shack

July 2022: Less than 20 miles from Denarau, very sheltered with lots of mooring buoys and a big anchorage with decent holding. We loved Musket Cove, plenty of cruisers were staying there for most of the season due to its proximity to the great surf reefs. Beware if you're anchoring, we were hit by a squall and a catamaran that was anchored dragged onto the reef (no harm done thankfully). Enter in daylight, Navionics is MILES out and marker buoys. (black sticks) were sometimes not there at all or submerged, Google Earth / Maps is invaluable here. – SY Calash

14.2.2.2 East Side Malolo

July 2022: 17°45.604S / 177°11.839E. Dropped in 16m of water with good holding. East side of Malolo and between Malolo and Malolo Lailai. With 8-10kts of NW winds it was a rolly! The winds were predicted to shift and of course they didn't. This was a very uncomfortable anchorage - even after the winds finally shifted. But there were very few boats on this side (as opposed to over 60 boats in the Musket anchorage.)

During high tide (and maybe even mid-tide if you have a short draft dinghy), you can take your dinghy from the east side (where we anchored) through the pass to the Musket Cove Marina. We have a deep draft dinghy and could only do this (carefully and slowly) during high tide. – sv Sugar Shack

14.2.2.3 Seventh Heaven Anchorage

Sept. 2023: Unfortunately, Seventh Heaven has changed their rules and they now charge a \$50F landing fee, just to land. It is no longer applied to your bar/food tab so be aware. – sv Sugar Shack

Sept. 2022: 17°47.827S / 177°11.463E dropped in 12m of water for a day stop near this tasty and fabulously fun restaurant/bar. Highly recommend a visit (by dinghy or big boat)! If you visit by dinghy, they will valet your dinghy for you (so you don't have to get wet). – sv Sugar Shack

14.2.2.4 Cloud Nine Anchorage (Ro Ro Reef)

Oct. 2025: 17°47.064S / 177°07.453E in 4.6m at high tide in a nice big sandy spot. We needed to put in our rudders and clean the bottom – this was the perfect spot at low tide. It was a wee bit rolly at high tide with 18kt of wind.

2nd Spot: **17°47.502S / 177°07.940E** in 4m of clear water at high tide. It's a bit rolly, but it's so pretty that we put up with the uncomfortable roll for a few days. – sv Sugar Shack

Sept. 2023: 17°47.4869S / 177°07.967E. Dropped 3.5m of beautiful sand and clear water. We stopped here to clean the bottom of the boat. It was gorgeous.

2nd Spot: **17°46.800S / 177°06.930E** in 5m of sand, good holding. Gorgeous waters by the reef. – sv Sugar Shack

Oct. 2022: 17°47.076S / 177°07.434E. Dropped in 3.8m of sand with good holding.

Also anchored at **17°47.811S / 177°08.288E** in 5.5m of sand, good holding (on no wind day). Float your chain.

Another spot **17°47.6468S / 177°08.332E** in 10m with "decent" but not great holding. There were several large bommies around us though. With 8-10kts of Northerly winds. – sv Sugar Shack

Sept. 2022: RoRo Reef (next to Cloud 9) has many spots along the eastern side of the reef to anchor safely and go for a swim/snorkel around the reef. – Lazy Sunday

14.2.2.5 NW Anchorage Likuliku Lagoon Resort

Home of the exclusive, private, and not cruiser welcoming resort Likuliku Lagoon Resort.

Sept. 2023: 17°44.367S / 177°08.858E. Dropped in 14m. We snugged up to the resort's channel, dropped the hook and backed down. The swell was much better than the anchorage noted below.

17°43.966S / 177°09.213E. Dropped in 20m of water with good holding during a storm with consistent 25-30kt of SE wind. This is just around the bay from Likuliku with a long sandy beach in front of us. It was a wee bit rolly but much better than the sandbank anchorage where we were trying to ride out the winds. – sv Sugar Shack

Oct. 2022: 17°44.1342S / 177°08.823E. Dropped in 16m of water and put out 65m of chain. Strong SE were forecasted so we hid out in this nice protected bay. Based on the SailFiji App it states to anchor after the dotted line between the two peaks in 12-15m. We did see shallower depths in that area, but it was not as protected from the wind and swell, so we snuck in a little closer to shore. – sv Sugar Shack

Oct. 2022: 17°44.012S / 177°09.243E in 15m of sand with some rock, just around the corner from the Likuliku resort. We came from Musket Cove and tried to anchor near Qalitu to hide from strong southerlies, but the anchorage had the wind whistling all around the island. – Seneto

14.2.3 Yachtsmen Services

14.2.3.1 Cooking Gas

Cooking gas is available at Musket Cove. Inquire with Patrick (Yacht Club) or at the Trader (grocery store).

14.2.3.2 Fuel (Diesel and Gasoline)

Sept. 2025: There is a fuel dock (17°77.137S / 177°19.459E) where you can pull up the big boat or dinghy. Hours: 0900-1300 & 1400-1700. They sell diesel and gasoline, but it's about \$0.20 more expensive per liter than Denarau. Wait for high tide as it appears shallow, even to us with 1.3m draft. – sv Sugar Shack

14.2.3.3 Trash and Recycling

Sept. 2025: Your membership fee allows you to dispose of your trash and recycling. The bins are located on the side of the marina office. From dinghy dock, take dock to shore, marina office just past fuel dock. They recycle glass, plastic, and paper. – Sv Sugar Shack

14.2.3.4 Water

Drinking water is available from the marina at \$0.10F per liter.

14.2.4 General Services

14.2.4.1 Bank & ATM

There is an ATM located in front of the market (on the back side of the artisan market). It frequently runs out of money so might not be wise to depend on it.

14.2.4.2 Laundry

Musket Cove uses gray water as you will notice in the sinks and toilets.

Sept. 2023: Laundry is only done by Musket Cove Staff; you can no longer purchase tokens to do laundry yourself. Go to The Trader (market) to purchase laundry services. \$10F to wash and \$5F to dry. Get a receipt and bring your receipt, detergent, and laundry to the laundry area (building across from Trader by the men's bathroom). The attendant, when present, will look at your receipt and do the laundry.

I had some issues with laundry, but then again it was during regatta week. I had to hunt down the attendant, we started the laundry which is a huge washer 14kg. He told me to come back in 2 hours to pick up my clean laundry. I returned a 90min later and my wash was sitting in the washer machine. I fetched another worker who restarted the washer and told me it needed another 10 minutes. She then added a token to the dryer and told me how to use it. So, I waited and swapped over the clothes. Then I returned another hour later to find the clothes sitting in the dryer. So, I pulled them out and left.

None of that really bothered me, but when I got back to the boat the clothes were dirtier than when they went in. One of the machines left green stains on the sheets, towels, and shirts. I had to rewash everything. It was rather disappointing. – sv Sugar Shack

14.2.4.3 Mail

Incoming mail is kept at the Marina Office. Outgoing mail is in the boutique where stamps are available.

14.2.4.4 Transportation

The Malolo Cat operates 4 times daily. Purchase tickets (30 minutes before your departure) at the thatch roof hut behind the Trader Cafe. Tickets are discounted when you show them your Musket Cove membership card (normal \$95F and reduced to \$70F) which also includes a bus to the airport.

14.2.4.5 Wifi (Internet and Data)

Paid Wifi is available throughout the resort and MCYC Island Bar via Tomizone and can be purchased from front office and the Trader.

Sept. 2025: Both Digicel and Vodafone work perfectly around Malolo (Musket Cove, Sandy spit, and East of Musket Cove). Full 4G service – sv Sugar Shack

14.2.5 Provisions

The Trader: Is the general store and it is open between 0800-1800. Resort +679.666.2125. Small supply of frozen foods, fresh produce, and general provisions. Located at the back of the marina in white building.

Sept. 2025: Farm Boy will deliver to Musket Cove for \$9F. Super nice, easy to work with and reasonably priced. +679.928.6371, +679.941.3194. www.farmboyfiji.com (order & pay online), accountsfarmboyfiji@yahoo.com & farmboyfiji@gmail.com Facebook: Farmboy Fiji. You can email them your wish list and they will send you the approximate cost and estimated delivery date and time. Easy! An order was placed on Wednesday and delivered Thursday afternoon. – sv Sugar Shack

14.2.6 Restaurants

- **Dicks Place Bistro and Bar:** Reservations required. Hours:0800-1100, 1130-1400, 1700-2100. They offer daily a-la-carte and theme night buffets. Dicks is located to the right of the marina office, by the pool. Saturday nights are their pig roast/lovo and best night to eat here.
- **Musket Cove Café (also Called The Trader Café):** Hours: daily 0730-1030 and 1130-2000. Pizza, burgers, sandwiches and a small assortment of other foods all of which are tasty
- **MCYC Island Bar:** Hours: 1000-2100. Food can be at the bar (from the Café) and will be delivered to the bar. They also offer coin operated BBQs (\$2F for 30 minutes). Island Bar is located in a tiki hut off the dinghy dock and offers the same menu as The Trader Cafe and cocktails. We found Fiji Gold is more expensive at Island Bar than at Trader's Café.

14.2.7 Activities

Musket Cove offers a Dive Shop with dive packages, a Spa, Swimming Pool, and BBQ area.

Sept. 2023: Seventh Heaven. Be aware that there is a \$50 landing fee that is NO longer applied to your food/bar tab. It is a fee just to have the privilege of going to Seventh Heaven on your own dinghy and not on their ferry. So, unfortunate as the food and service was so much better than Cloud 9, but they've priced themselves out.

Snorkeling: In front of Plantation Resort is a white roped off area. They have sunk 4 golf carts and several tables set with dinnerware and plateware. They also used coral to spell out Bula. Great photo opportunity.

Hikes: During low tide we walked around the entire Malolo Lailai island (6 miles) which was a great walk. You'll need regular shoes as there are some rocky areas.

Hike the Malolo Ridgeline: You can also walk the entire ridge line. Start at Funky Fish (which is a great, fun easy-going surf resort) and there is a lovely trail (follow the signs, past the helipad). The first part of the trail is well marked, has good signs, and is easily done in flip flops (but it is straight up hill). It takes about 1 hour to get to the tallest peak where the big cement shelter / lookout is located. Most people will turn around and go back to Funky Fish.

However, if you continue down the trail and along the ridgeline you can hit all of the peaks and eventually make it to the reef between Malolo and Malolo Lailai (plan this arrival for low tide). The 2nd part of the trail is NOT well maintained and can be tricky. You would be better off with regular shoes and a machete. There are parts where you are sliding down slopes and walking through 2+ meter grass. It is sporty, but doable. The 2nd part of the hike took 2 hours.

Total hike time 2hrs53 minutes, ascent (up and down several hills) 1200', highest peak 750', total 4.5 miles and burned 1200 calories. It was an effort, super-duper hot and a bit of a challenge past the lookout. But fun and well worth the effort. Big reward at the café with lunch and cold brew. – sv Sugar Shack

Sept. 2022: Seventh Heaven Bar and Restaurant +679.675.1161 (see anchorage spot under July 2022 Sv Sugar Shack Anchor). www.seventhheavenfiji.com, bookings@seventhheavenfiji.com (Instagram & Facebook).

Located near the Malolo Pass. We stumbled upon Seventh Heaven by accident after a successful snorkel excursion (see below). A wonderful way to spend the day. The difference between Seventh Heaven and Cloud 9 is that Seventh Heaven has a wait staff, drinks and food are a lot less expensive, fun activities, more staff ensuring you are taken care of. Cloud 9 has a fun, party atmosphere, more relaxed (you order and pick up at the bar). A mojito at Seventh Heaven \$24F and at Cloud 9 was \$30F.

Snorkel a large bommie at 17°47.596S / 177°12.06E. It is a bommie in the middle of the pass, but it is really lovely with tons and tons of beautiful, bright blue starfish, reef fish and lots of pretty coral.

Snorkel the reef at 17°47.936S / 177°11.809E. All great places to snorkel. We took our dinghy which was about 2nm from the Musket Cove anchorage and then swung into Seventh Heaven for lunch and drinks.

Dive the Plantation Pinnacle at 17°48.101S / 177°11.902E. Tie to the buoy. There are 2 pinnacles, suggested to swim a figure 8 around them.

Walk: We walked from Musket Cove, across the airport runway, through The Plantation resort (where the original raft from The Cast Away film, to the “adult only” resort of Lonai. Pleasant walk.

Hike: We took the dinghy to Funky Fish (17°76.211S / 177°16.374E) and hiked up the trail to the top mountain. From there we walked across the ridge line (which could use a bush whack), across the channel (during low tide) and over to Musket Cove. Hike took about 3.5 hours and was 5-6 miles. – sv Sugar Shack

Sept. 2022: Snorkeling at the large sandbar is close enough to dinghy to but there are lots of tourist boats around. Be sure to walk through Plantation resort and explore the hillsides. – Lazy Sunday

14.2.8 Cruiser Reports

Oct. 202: The Musket Cove / Sand Bar anchorage is a great place to kite, foil, and play. Often you will find loads of cruisers out enjoying the windy conditions. – sv Sugar Shack

Sept. 2022: Musket Cove resort is very cruiser friendly. Joining the yacht club for \$10F per person. This gives you access to showers, rubbish disposal, pools, laundry (\$10F/14kg load – ask the shop for tokens), fuel at the dock. Swing moorings are \$20F/night with no booking – just first come, first serve. But once you are on a mooring, you can pay upfront for as long as you like if you want to go day tripping just add a buoy with your boat name on to reserve your mooring. Dinghy dock is near the Island bar which has BBQs and tables for use and a great bar. There is also a great ferry service from Denarau to Malolo making this a great spot to pick up or drop off guests. – Lazy Sunday

Aug. 2022: We had many happy hours at the Island Bar which has such a lovely setting. Their drinks tend to run more expensive than even the Trader Café. You're paying for the setting, I guess. They do offer a frozen mojito that is divine! You can also order food from The Trader and they'll deliver it to the Island Bar.

Funky Fish Resort: +679.628.2333. Hours: Daily 0700-2300. (17°76.211S / 177°16.374E).

www.funkyfishresort.com. Totally cool beach packer/surf resort that is welcoming to cruisers. They have a

great trail that leads up to the top of the mountain (45 minutes each way) with great views. Stop by the bar for tasty cocktails.

Malolo Resort: If you anchor by Likuliku Resort (which is NOT cruiser friendly), you can take your dinghy around the corner to the Malolo Resort which is very cruiser friendly. They have a very welcoming staff and will allow you to enjoy cocktails and dining at any of their 3 restaurants and use of their pool. – sv Sugar Shack

July 2022: Very busy anchorage, many sailboats both on mooring balls and on anchor. Decent kitesurfing and winging at the sandbar when the wind is from the North. Great pizza in the resort beach bar, but do not order drinks – pricey and no good! We kept our mooring ball and went out several days to anchor at Namotu Island close to Cloudbreak, returning in the afternoon. Very beautiful! Crystal clear waters. – Mais Uma

14.3 Namotu Island

Near the surf break, uninhabited island.

14.3.1 Anchorages

Sept. 2022: 17°50.477S / 177°10.932E dropped in 5m sand (less coral than 1st spot) near Namotu Island (small island near surf break). 1st anchor spot, **17°50.451S / 177°10.881E** - not the best anchor spot so we moved. Cruisers usually come here to surf so the anchorage will fill up on good surf days. – sv Sugar Shack

Sept. 2022: 17°50.455S / 177°10.922E. Small Island next to the reef where a lot of surfers hang out. Not a lot of space so get here early. You can get in close enough to anchor in 8-10m. – Lazy Sunday

14.3.2 Cruiser Report

Sept. 2022: Resort on the island is private. They will not allow you on shore. – sv Sugar Shack

Sept. 2022: Anchor/snorkel spots on eastern side on the reef. – Lazy Sunday

14.4 Qalito Island (Galito)

Located off the NW corner of Malolo Island and home to the “Cast Away Resort.” Note: this resort is not on the island where Cast Away was filmed which is Monuriki Island. Cast Away resort is welcoming to cruisers.

14.4.1 Anchorages

Oct. 2025: 17°43.706S / 177°07.752E in 22m during mid-tide. It’s a bit rolly here but the holding was good and stuck well on the first time. Convenient to visit the Castaway Resort.

It can be blowing 20-25kts on the front of the resort and you will only see about 8-10kt at the anchorage. Unfortunately, you have to go into the wind/waves to get to the dinghy landing on the beach. – sv Sugar Shack

14.4.2 Castaway Resort

Castaway Resort, +679.666.1233, www.outrigger.com/fiji/castaway-island-fiji, reservation@castawayfiji.com.fj, is very yacht friendly. It is known as Fiji’s original barefoot resort and is located on a private island. Enjoy a lovely meal at the restaurant overlooking the bay.

Amenities

- (2) Pools
- (3) Restaurants & Bars: main restaurant, pool eatery, sunset bar and restaurant (upstairs)
- Tennis Courts
- Spa
- Tons of water activities (Hobie cat, kayak, canoe, etc...)
- Bush walk with 2 beautiful lookouts

The resort will provide access to their facilities and kid's bouncy obstacle course (for a small fee).

Nurses station is located behind the main restaurant and near the pool/restrooms.

Oct. 2025: We have enjoyed many lunches at Castaway Resort and have always found the food to be delicious, drinks frosty and tasty, and staff super friendly. They do a wonderful celebration for Fiji Day (10/10) which I would highly recommend.

Activities: You walk around the entire island at mid to low tide. You can also visit two beautiful lookouts on the bush walk tour which starts behind the resort (follow the signs).

We took the bushwalk trail from the back of the resort and made it to the top (2 lookouts) in 30 minutes. On the way down we decided to take the trail to the Navutu Beach rather the trail we came up on. The bushwalk trail is well marked and maintained. However, the trail to Navutu beach is not and would be better done in shoes. The entire walk took about an hour to do 2 miles. – sv Sugar Shack

14.5 Mociu Island

Sept. 2022: 17°413.083S / 177°08.859E This is a private island owned and operated by Likuliku Resort. They bring their honeymooners here for privacy. You can bring the dinghy over to snorkel but you are not allowed to step foot on island. – sv Sugar Shack

14.6 Waidigi Island

Sept. 2022: 17°45.131S / 177°08.580E. This is a private island, rumored to be owned by Google. It is prohibited to swim or step on shore. – sv Sugar Shack

14.7 Mana Island

Mana Island Resort and Spa, Mana Bula Lagoon Resort and many backpacker resorts are located here. The backpacker resorts are open to everyone, anytime. The Mana Island Resort is open to cruisers who are dressed appropriately.

Survivor was filmed at the back-side Mana Island. During filming, cruisers are not allowed anywhere near filming areas.

14.7.1 Pass

There is only one pass into the main anchorage and it is clearly marked on Navionics. It is a curved pass and has a dog leg near coral at the end as you enter the lagoon. Depths range from 2.4m to 6m at low tide.

Sept. 2023: We entered the pass at exactly low tide (not intentional). We have a 1.3m draft and the lowest we saw was 2.4m near the last dog leg. Do not enter pass if there is another boat departing. The pass can be narrow and it won't be comfortable for 2 boats to be in the narrow portion at the same time. – sv Sugar Shack

Oct. 2022: We entered the pass with light winds (8-12kts from NE) and followed the clearly marked charts on Navionics and Open CPN satellite imagery. The actual markers are not all present, some are sticks and some are red/green markers. In the middle of the pass is a tall stick that you want to take to port (it marks a bommie) as you enter.

The second time we visited Mana we had excellent sun and could see the reefs much better than the first time. We had wind blowing from the N at 18-20kt which was "fun." Around **17°41.078S / 177°06.794E** there is a reef that sticks out very close to the green marker (starboard side as you enter). We were "hugging" the greens and saw about 2.5m at mid-tide. We cleared it with no problem, but something others need to be aware of if they have deeper drafts or come in at low tide.

Exiting the pass with N winds less than 10kts during low tide. The shallowest we saw was 3m. – sv Sugar Shack

Sept. 2022: We went through the reef pass which is a double S bend at low tide. Felt really tight so high tide and sticking to the middle would be fine. Water was super clear and easy to see the reef on either side. Inside the lagoon it is 20m deep of dark water. Turtles swim everywhere. – Lazy Sunday

14.7.2 Anchorage

Do not park in the channel. You will be surprised by how many boats park in the center of the channel and or on the edge and end up in the channel when the wind shifts. The ferries, which come through 3x a day get very upset and will ask you to move.

Sept. 2023: 17°40.8221S / 177°06.7126E. Dropped in 10m of water. We had always wanted to anchor in this spot but each time we visited it was occupied. When we arrived, the winds were SE and we were expecting N/NW winds. So, it was a little tricky getting the boat just right between the reef and coral heads. We made several attempts before we could enough scope out and still be far enough away from the “U” shaped reef. But it is such a beautiful spot.

When the winds shifted, our stern ended up 5m from the reef. The ferries/daily and local boats come speeding across the lagoon making this a rolly spot. But the anchorage on the other side of the channel has the same problem. – sv Sugar Shack

Oct. 2022: 17°40.545S / 177°06.056E. Dropped in 12m of sand with good holding. There were 5 boats when we arrived, but we were well spread out and not in each other’s way. Anchorage was super comfortable with a nice breeze and no swell.

2nd visit: **17°40.647S / 177°06.468E.** Dropped 12m mud. We had a little skip at the beginning as we pulled back, but then she stuck good but our stern was a tad bit in the “channel” so we decided to move to the 3rd spot.

Spot 3: **17°40.705S / 177°06.281E.** Dropped in 12m of mud but it was a good stick!

4th Spot: **17°40.784S / 177°06.409E.** Dropped in 10m of mud near the reef. Good to snorkel. – sv Sugar Shack

14.7.3 General Services

14.7.3.1 Wifi

Aug. 2022: We had both Digicel and Vodafone coverage at this bay. We had a wifi extender at the top of the mast for Vodafone and Digicel was on a phone. – sv Sugar Shack

14.7.4 Restaurants

Aug. 2022: There are several places to eat on the shore front. We did not eat at any of them, but this is what we found. – sv Sugar Shack

- Restaurant: Part of Ratukini Dive Resort, yellow building with large “Restaurant” sign clearly visible from anchorage. Hours: 0700-0900, 1200-1400, 1800-2000. Menus are located on the deck.
- Mana Bula Lagoon Resort has a restaurant that will open end of Aug. 2022. Located left of the main dock (backpacker resort)
- Mana Island Resort (large posh resort) is a beautiful property with several restaurants. They welcome cruisers, but ask that you dress appropriately. We enjoyed cocktails at their pool bar.
 - Live Cooking Restaurant: Hours: 0700-1000; 1200-1400; 1800-2100
 - Nasu Restaurant: Hours: 1800-2100. Reservations required 24hrs in advance
 - The South Beach (adults only): Hours: 1800-2100. Reservation required
 - Ocean Breeze Café: Hours: 1200-1600; 1800-2100
 - Hibiscus Café: Hours: 0900-1700

14.7.5 Provisions

Aug. 2022: There is a small market behind Ratukini Dive Resort that is open daily 0700-1500. They had eggs, bread, some basic staples, and ice-cream. – sv Sugar Shack

14.7.6 Activities

Sept. 2023: There are several hikes/walks on this island. You can of course enjoy the beautiful beaches that line the anchorage, but we suggest you walk around the island or walk the ridge line.

If you leave 1.5hrs before low tide you can safely anchor your dinghy (or beach it) and start your adventure. We typically go counter-clockwise. Bring shoes, this is not a flip flop walk. There are times when your feet will be wet and two small places where you have to scamper over rocks. But if you time it right, you can make it all the way around the island in about 2hrs (4.6miles).

At the Tadrai Resort you can either ask them if you can go up the hill to the ridge/view and then walk along the ridge or you can go in front of the resort along the beach to continue around the island.

You will pass by several large open fields, the control station, and the elimination platform for the TV series Survivor. – sv Sugar Shack

Aug. 2022: Many of the resorts allow cruisers to participate in their water activities and tours. Here are a few we found while walking onshore. – sv Sugar Shack

- **Ratukini Dive and Tour Operation** (PADI), offers dive tours, island tours, dive lessons and more.
- **Aquazur Tours and Activities** (Part of Mana Island Resort) Hours: Daily 0900-1700. Similar services to Ratukini Dive and Tour
- **Artisan markets and massages:** There are two artisan places where you can shop (carved wood, jewelry, pearls, sulus, and more). The first is near the Ratukini Dive Resort and the second is to the right on the beach under the trees. They offer 30-minute massages and hair braiding as well.

14.7.7 Cruiser Report

Aug. 2022: Wowza, the shore is dotted with resort after resort after resort. Most are back-packer resorts with the exception of Mana, the resort on the far west with over the water huts.

There is a huge, ugly fence that separates the backpacker resorts from the Mana Island Resort (which is on leased property). Evidently the Mana Resort does not wish the backpackers to come over, but the backpackers welcome everyone. Cruisers are welcome everywhere, but they are required to “dress appropriately in the Mana Resort.” – sv Sugar Shack

14.8 Nakumana Reef

14.8.1 Cruiser Report

Sept. 2022: 17°40.390S / 177°07.941E. Located on the eastern side of Mana Island. This is visible at low tide and it is just a hill of sand with a reef around it. We have only passed it and not stopped as people were always anchored on/near it. This is one of those places where resorts charge tourists to drop you off for the day with a picnic. – Lazy Sunday

14.9 Nautanivoni Island

14.9.1 Anchorages

Sept. 2022: 17°37.82S / 177°07.673E. We anchored in 20m three times on the southern side. The island is uninhabited and has a sandy beach on one end with a reef for snorkeling. – Lazy Sunday

14.10 Monuriki Island (“Cast Away” Island)

The famous movie “Cast Away” with Tom Hanks was filmed at this beautiful and uninhabited island. Any boat wishing to anchor and/or visit this island must first do sevusevu with the chief at the neighboring island of Yanuya. The chief will require a \$20F fee per person to visit Monoriki Island which helps maintain the beauty of this uninhabited island.

Note that the locals have been known to take their long boats out to chase down cruisers who have not followed the rules. Please be sure to adhere to the local requirements. If you do not wish to pay the fee, then visit another island.

Ashore you will be welcomed with a very large “Help Me” sign spelled out in coconut shells, you can walk on the same corner where Chuck was washed ashore, hike to the tallest peak where he tried to “kill himself”, and you will find the giant rock where Tom Hanks left a farewell message.

14.11 Yanuya Island

Sevusevu is required here for Yanuya Island, Mono Island, and Monoriki Island (where Castaway was filmed) The village in Yanuya is known for pottery making.

14.11.1 Anchorages

There are moorings near the village.

Oct. 2022: 17°35.950S / 177°03.742E. Dropped in 15m in a sandy patch between bommies. There are lots of sandy patches to drop the hook but we were limited by other boats already at anchor. – sv Sugar Shack

Sept. 2022: 17°35.385S / 177°03.684E. Dropped in 15-20m. This is the next small bay to the north of the village. First anchored on the south-east side of the village in about 15m of clear water. – Lazy Sunday

Sept. 2022: 17°36.143S / 177°03.641E (sand). This is just north of the big reef. There are big bommies anchoring near the village. – Amaryllis II

14.11.2 Cruiser Reports

Oct. 2022: All cruisers wishing to go to Monoriki Island, must first visit the chief on the island of Yanuya to do sevusevu and pay \$20F per person to land on Monoriki. The fee goes to help maintain the uninhabited island. The locals will chase boats down who anchor at Monoriki without visiting Yanuya first.

Yanuya has a lovely artisan market. It is pretty large with 6 rows of tables that are full of wood carvings, tapas, pearls, shells, and more. Most of the products are made elsewhere and resold here so the prices are a little more than what you’d pay elsewhere.

We came when Yanuya was hosting a rugby tournament and it was great fun! Over 32 teams played for 3 days on a large field backed by gorgeous scenery. The locals are lovely and so very kind! – sv Sugar Shack

Sept. 2022: We first anchored near the village to do sevusevu (which is required). There is a well-established village and school. We managed to get to shore at low tide in the dinghy, brief sevusevu and then left. We had 3 days in the 2nd anchorage mostly doing boat stuff and did not go to shore. They have stewardship over Monuriki and Monu Island. – Lazy Sunday

Sept. 2022: We snorkeled on the reef just beyond the boat. The chief owns Yanuya Island, Monu Island, and Monuriki Island (the latter 2 are uninhabited). Sevusevu also requests a landing fee of \$20F per person. After that we had the tour of a big handicraft building. This was almost all tourist souvenirs made elsewhere, there are no local artisans in this area it seems.

Monuriki Island is a tourist attraction since it starred in the movie Cast Away with Tom Hanks. There is a picnic place on the beach, and there is a steep trail up the mountain. – Amaryllis II

14.11.3 Cruiser Report

Oct. 2022: We anchored by the village in Yanuya, did our sevusevu with the chief and then took the dinghy the 1.2nm over to Monoriki (sometimes called Modriki) aka Cast Away Island. We happened to arrive before the “tourists” came so we were able to snag the one beautiful picnic table in the shade off to the side. About 45 minutes later a boat with 30 people arrived and took over the other shaded spot to feed them lunch.

There is a lovely “tourist” hike that starts on the right side of the beach. This trail is clearly marked and will take you up and over to the other side of the island where the famous rock is located. Chuck (Tom Hanks) wrote his farewell on this rock. But before you get to the other side there is a trail that veers to the right. Take this up the hill for gorgeous views. You probably want regular shoes (not flips) as it is slippery coming down. You will also find the “Help Me” spelled out in coconut shells on the beach corner (to the left of the picnic table) which is a great photo op.

Splendid island, soft sand, beautiful scenery, and a little piece of Hollywood history. – sv Sugar Shack

Sept. 2022: This is where Cast Away film was made. Sevusevu must be done at Yanuya island before arriving at Monuriki. We happily paid a \$20F per person landing fee which is good for the entire season (we can go back as often as we like). We have heard other cruisers being charged more.

The gentleman there was super nice and talked a little bit about the island. He took us for a short walk through the bush to the other side and showed us where the track was to do a bigger walk up the hill (which we did not do as we did not have the right shoes). We then went for a swim where there is abundant marine life with big schools of tropical fish. The deeper water the better it got.

We approached the island between Monuriki and Monu Island. You can see some open shelter has been built and a couple of swing moorings are here. We were told to take a mooring by the man on the beach (so we did). The rope is well secured to a large boulder on the sea floor and is used by other large tourist boats. He was happy for us to stay there until the boat was due to arrive at mid-day. – Lazy Sunday

14.12 Nakelo Treasure Island

Nakelo is also known as Treasure Island as the famous Treasure Island resort is located here and takes over the island from end to end.

14.12.1 Pass / Channel

The Marine Conservation established a mandatory boat channel which is the only place for boats to enter.

14.12.2 Anchorages

The Marine Conservation has established a mandatory mooring buoy program to minimize negative impacts on the reef and prevent anchor damage.

14.13 Tokoriki Island

14.13.1 Cruiser Report

Sept. 2022: In bad weather, we anchored in front of the resort but were told we were not allowed to anchor there. Weather was rough and it was getting late, so we debated the point and said it was not safe to leave. The staff member then asked us to get onto the mooring ball, which we did. Early the next morning, we were approached by a large resort boat and were sternly advised to leave ASAP. There is a beach on the eastern side, but we did not stop there. – Lazy Sunday

14.14 Vanua Levu & Navadra Islands

These islands are together because they are almost joined by a sandy spot. If you look at Google images Vanua Levu shows a sandy stretch toward another large rock formation to the west, this is part of the island. At high tide some waves wash over this stretch of sand. Best spot to anchor is in the big sandy bowl in the center of 2 large rocks that enter the water and separate / cut off the beach.

14.14.1 Anchorage

Oct. 2023: 17°27.525S / 177°02.685E. Dropped in 20m good holding while it blew 20-30kts all night from SE. But this was a well-protected bay from swell and we only had a light roll. – Bird Song

Sept. 2022: 17°27.478S / 177°02.700E. Dropped in 15-20m deep. We anchored close to the western end by the big rock and it was fine. There is a family of reef sharks in this bay. – Lazy Sunday

14.14.2 Cruiser Reports

Oct. 2023: Excellent anchorage with great beaches and beautiful rock formations. We went ashore on Navadra for sunset and had an incredible bat sighting. The large bats had 3' wing span. Bats are the only native animal to Fiji. – Bird Song

Sept. 2022: As you come into this bay, it shows deep water quickly turning to 5 meters and then dropping to 20 meters and then back to 5 meters. There is a deep valley between a reef which is beautiful. If you draw a line joining the tip of Navadra to the rock at the other end of Vanua Levu this would roughly indicate where the reef is located. You will see it with your eyes as you nervously cross over the top of it.

We loved this bay. The swimming & snorkeling nice, access to the beach was easy. There are currently signs on the beach saying no trespassing, but there is not really anywhere to go other than the beach. – Lazy Sunday

15 The Yasawa Group

The Yasawa Group is made up of 20 volcanic islands that cover 135 km². Islands are listed South to North.



Photo courtesy Fiji Shores & Marinas 2020

15.1 Waya Island

Waya is the home of Octopus Resort.

15.1.1 Likuliku Bay (Octopus Resort)

15.1.1.1 Anchorages

Sept. 2022: 17°16.553S / 177°06.263E Anchored in 10m of beautiful sand with good holding in Likuliku Bay in front and to the left of Octopus Resort. Be sure to stay clear of the Yasawa Flyer Ferry's path as they come through the anchorage. We had 8-12kt from ESE inside the bay (outside the bay it was blowing 18-22kt). We had pretty strong gusts swinging us all around our anchor.

Dinghy Landing: There is one, small, narrow, dinghy channel that the resort and the Yasawa Flyer use to drop off/pick up guests. It is marked with small, white floats. Do not block this channel but you can use it and pull your dinghy up on shore (use an anchor, but mark it so the guests don't trip on it).

See Cruiser Reports for more information on the Octopus Resort. – sv Sugar Shack

Sept. 2022: 17°16.547S / 177°06.213E is at the north western point of the island. It is deep at 15-20m. Once anchored there is a reef to cross to get to the resort which is easier by kayak. It can be a bit rolly so pick your weather. – Lazy Sunday

July 2013: 17°16.59S / 177°06.23E. Anchored in 45' of sand in front of resort. There is a very narrow cut in the coral which is the only pass to get your dinghy ashore, but it was well marked with two buoys. Upon landing, we signed the "yacht check-in book" at the dive shop and also checked in with Jo-Jo at the office.

The village anchorage was much better with less swell, better protection and more swing room. – Radiance

15.1.1.2 General Services

15.1.1.2.1 Wifi (Internet and Data)

Aug. 2022: We had both Digicel and Vodafone service at this anchorage. There is a cell tower right on top of the mountain providing a steady stream of connectivity. – sv Sugar Shack

15.1.1.3 Restaurants

Aug.2023: The Waya Island Resort is now open and serving Cruisers. Our friends stopped here and loved it. Stop in to make reservations. – Independence

Aug. 2022: We enjoyed a lovely, albeit pricey lunch at Octopus Resort. It was a flat \$45F per person and you could select a meal from the menu (burgers, sandwich, salad, ahi, vegetable or chicken stir fry). They had a lovely homemade lemonade that was fantastic and the burgers were extremely tasty. – sv Sugar Shack

15.1.1.4 Activities

Aug. 2022: Hike: distance: 5.5 miles / 400-meter elevation / 120 flights, about 3-4 hours. The steep rise is along a narrow path, over boulders and rocks. Wowza, we hiked up to the top of one of the two horned summits (that you can see looming above and behind the resort from the anchorage). You have to go with a guide and we opted to go with Ben (+679.966.8178) for \$40F per person (half the money goes to the village).

The resort offers a guide for \$40-\$50F/pp (half their money goes to the village too). Ben was perfectly lovely, super fit, and fun to be with on this strenuous hike. He walked us through the village to visit the artisan area.

The walk starts behind the dive shop and up the cement stairs. There is a cement path that leads to the village. After you pass through the Nalauwaki village, you cross a long beautiful beach and at the end you turn right to start up the path. You do have to scamper over several boulders, rocks, and hillsides so sturdy shoes and water are recommended. Good hike, beautiful views and a lovely day with Ben.

Nalauwaki Village: You have to have a guide to do the “walk” to the Nalauwaki village (where you can do Sevusevu, even though you do not have to do sevusevu if you anchor in Likuliku Bay. – sv Sugar Shack

15.1.1.5 Cruiser Reports

July 2024: Octopus resort: when we visited (mid-July), anchoring off no problem but as the resort was full they declined to sell us drinks, let alone food. -

Sept. 2022: This is a really pretty spot with towering mountainsides, turquoise waters, and white sandy beaches. Super nice to walk along the plush sandy waterside while enjoying the cool waters.

The Octopus Resort is super cruiser friendly and very welcoming. We came onshore and went straight to the general manager, Tiffany to ask permission to access their beach. She provided full permission and told us that we could visit their bar and restaurant as well. We simply needed to go to the office to provide our name and credit card information prior to drinking or eating.

The showers and pool were lovely and a welcome relief after our hike.

Snorkeling: They fully encourage people to snorkel their beautiful reef, but they ask that you not walk on it anywhere (including from the beach nearing the water during low tide). Really, the only place to enjoy the water is in front of the resort, the rest of the long beach front has a reef and the only way to get over it is to swim beyond the reef (or just swim in front of the resort). – sv Sugar Shack

Sept. 2022: The resort is cruiser friendly and happy for you to use their pool and bar after you have left your credit card information. – Lazy Sunday

Aug. 2022: We arrived at Octopus Resort on Friday, their Meke night (culture show) and then lovo buffet. Cruisers are welcome to attend. They just require that resort guests be allowed to take their seats first for the show. It was no problem as even waiting in the back until the show started there were front row seats available. The show is put on by the resort staff with lovely traditional, lovely Fijian singing and dancing. It lasted about 30 minutes then the buffet opened and there was a delicious variety of dishes. The best was at the end when one could get ice cream sundaes! – Dash.

July 2022: Absolutely gorgeous island. Octopus Resort is great and very welcoming to cruisers. Excellent snorkeling straight off the resort and the kids loved body boarding on the good waves. – SY Calash

15.1.2 Nalauwaki Bay

15.1.2.1 Anchorages

Sept. 2023: Nice protected bay on the north of the island. – Jamala

July 2022: 17°16.370S /177°06.916E in 18m, good holding in Nalauwaki Bay (N part of the island). – SY Calash

15.1.2.2 Cruiser Reports

Sept. 2023: You need to do sevusevu here and the locals will happily show you around the village. They put on a show for us in the evening for \$20/pp. It was really worth it but make sure to bring exact change as they don't have change. It is 1-2 hours and there were lots of boats in the bay who attended.

Watch the tide here when you put your dinghy on the beach, you may come back to find you have to drag it out a fair distance. The locals will sell you fruit (papaya \$5F).

There is a concrete path that joins Octopus resort to the village. The resort is cruiser friendly. – Jamala

July 2022: We originally anchored near the Octopus Resort in a southerly but it was extremely roly and uncomfortable so we moved to Nalauwaki Bay. There is a new concrete path linking the two bays and it's a 10-minute walk. If you anchor here Sevusevu is required with the delightful village chief - John. – SY Calash

15.1.3 Yalobi Bay

15.1.3.1 Anchorages

Oct. 2023: Yalobi Bay has solid holding in about 10m of depth. The winds do howl through sometimes and we rotated around even up to 360 degrees in the night so give yourself plenty scope and room between you and the other boats, the reef in the middle and the shore. If it blows hard from west to northwest it is no good but for all other quadrants it is fine and the bay is stunningly beautiful. – Travis Holub

Sept. 2023: We anchored here for the night. The wind changed directions making it really horrible and put us in a lee shore. We didn't get off the boat and had to leave early in the morning. – Jamala

Oct. 2022: **17°18.623S / 177°07.104E.** Dropped in 15m of mud (good holding) in front of the village and a lovely waterfall up in the mountains (it had been raining for a few days). Strong winds and rain were forecasted for 36 hours wrapping from NE-N-NW and this spot provided good protection. – sv Sugar Shack

July 2022: **17°19.404S / 177°07.940E** Anchored in 10m in front of the sandbar connecting the two islands. Sand had good holding. A few villages, but we did not go ashore. – Mais Uma

15.1.3.2 Communications

Sept. 2023: There was no internet connection at all. – Jamala

Oct. 2022: There is no Digicel in this bay and very limited Vodafone. – sv Sugar Shack

15.1.3.3 Cruiser Report

Oct. 2023: This is a very beautiful bay and there are a set of teenagers named Daniel, David, and Louis who are extraordinarily helpful. They act as tour guides and can you the small local waterfall and hiking trail over to the other village they call "Rock City." On this trail there is a lookout over the bay that is wonderful for taking panoramic photos.

David's aunt in Rock City does Fijian lunches and homestays at their place. We had an excellent lunch and found their village to be very relaxing and cheerful. Tell them ahead of time so they can prepare the lunch.

The kids in Talobi village were altogether excellent and made a bonfire for us in the evening where we sang songs. Very sweet loving kids raised with no internet (the village gets no cell service), so the kids draw, climb coconut trees, swim, snorkel, sing and have thousand-watt smiles. – Travis Holub

Oct. 2022: We hid out in this anchorage during an unusual rain storm and when we woke in the morning there were several cascading waterfalls down the mountains. Truly beautiful to see and hear!

Hikes: There are a few hikes to do here including one to the summit and one to a waterfall. They do require a guide to go with you for \$30F (not sure if that was per person or for a group). We couldn't do the hikes as it had rained for several days while we were here (thus the many waterfalls), making it too dangerous & slippery.

Locals are super nice and will offer to show you the artisan market or sell you some fruit. – sv Sugar Shack

15.2 Wayasewa

15.2.1 Anchorage:

Sept. 2022: To visit Namara Village, you can anchor comfortably in the bay on the northwest of Kuata island and take a short dinghy ride across the channel – Karenza Yates

Sept. 2022: For a local experience hosted at Namara Village (southside of Wayasewa island). The lovely Spunky and Donna hosted us for a beautiful lunch in their home. We feasted on freshly fried fish in a delicious coconut sauce with cassava, a bounty of tropical fruit and other accompaniments. They welcome people into their home and offer lunch to all cruisers for a reasonable \$15/head.

There is also the opportunity for a guided 1-hour hike up to the magnificent rock formations behind their village. This is also \$15/head and well worth it.

If you would like to enjoy a local style lunch and hike, please give Spunky or Donna a call or text message the day before to let them know how many people. Spunky (Vodafone) +679.231.1465, Donna +679.976.5681 and +679.727.0688. – Karenza

15.3 Kuata Island

15.3.1 Pass

Sept. 2023: We went through the pass between Wayasewa Island and Kuata late in the afternoon after sailing 75nm from Yadua around mid-tide with light 10-12kts of NE winds. The pass is wide and deep. The shallowest spot we saw was 24m. There is a shallow area / reef on the north tip of Kuata so be sure to give it plenty of birth (it is well noted on navionics). – sv Sugar Shack

15.3.2 Anchorage

Sept. 2023: **17°21.958S / 177°07.973E** Dropped the hook in 13m. There were two other boats here when we arrived which precluded us from anchoring in our original desired spot. But this is not a bad spot. We dropped twice and both times the anchor stuck very well. We picked up the first time as we did not like where we were in relation to the other boats, so we re-anchored. – sv Sugar Shack

15.3.3 Cruiser Report

Sept. 2023: We arrived very late in the day, just before sunset, and did not have a chance to explore this pretty little bay. A long, lovely beach cried out for a walk. There is a path up over the ridge that leads to the Barefoot Kuata Resort. On your walk you can reach the summit & caves. – sv Sugar Shack

15.4 Viwa

15.4.1 Pass

Oct. 2022: There are two passes, about 55-60m wide with about 80m-90m reef in between. Neither pass is marked well. The pass closest to shore has one white pole and the wreck is just beyond that. We approached at high tide with incoming tide and about 10kt of wind. Bad timing on our part. We could not see a clear path down either pass and decided to not risk it. Perhaps during low tide, the reefs and passes are more easily seen, but we did not feel like waiting several hours. Unfortunate for us. – sv Sugar Shack

Aug. 2022: Approaching the island reef pass is marked by a steel wreck, a handy aid and reminder. The pass has 2 parallel channels which if combined and straightened would be ideal. Unfortunately, this is not the case. We arrived at low water when the surrounding reef is clearly visible and an outgoing current. – sv Margarita

15.4.2 Anchorages

Aug. 2022: We made it through the pass unscathed and turned right into a small basin off the village of Naibalebale. As we anchored, three young men swam out and showed us a better place 100m away. After several attempts the anchor held and we quickly dinghied ashore to meet the chief. – sv Margarita

15.4.3 Cruiser Reports

Aug. 2022: We headed NW from Waya Island in the Yasawas and sailed off the chart. For those who prefer paper the Lautoka to Yasawa islands chart is probably the most popular one of Fiji. It covers the islands off Nadi some 70 miles north to south from the Mamanucas to the Yasawas. All the Yasawas but one. To the west beyond the edge of the chart lies the forgotten island of Viwa. It isn't rugged and lofty like its cousin's; it's uplifted coral and rises not much above sea level. Not even enough for the surveyors to note its highest point. Here just 15 miles off the main maritime tourist route in Fiji is an island very rarely visited.

The sail was a pleasant two-hour reach through coral studded waters. Our electronic charts were remarkably accurate. Everything was in its place almost to the meter and nothing unexpected appeared nearby. The hydrographers have been busy since we last visited!

By one account, we are the first yacht to visit since 2012. Unlikely, but we may be the first for 2022. The chief insisted on seeing our Cruising Permit. Back we went to rifle through a ream of paperwork for that essential, but only Viwa document. The chief read the one-page letter written in Fijian with care. Satisfied, he thanked us and explained his official responsibility. We handed over our kava, without ceremony. Some drinking nuts and a short stroll followed before turning to the boat for lunch and siesta. – SV Margarita

15.5 Naukacevu Island

15.5.1 Anchorage

Oct. 2022: **17°11.691S / 177°10.597E** in 8m of sand. Don't anchor in this spot. We anchored here when the wind and waves were coming SW. The waves, current, and wind all play different games and cause a havoc in this spot. Plus, our anchor chain got caught up in some coral making it difficult to depart.

Several boats anchored around **17°11.568S / 177°10.763E** and did not seem to have the same wind, wave, current problem we did. – sv Sugar Shack

Sept. 2022: **17°11.718S / 177°10.412E** in 10-15m sand. This is front of Paradise Cove Resort (which is cruiser friendly). It is a big bowl that is then a horse shoe of coral reef.

We have also anchored at **17°11.595S / 177°10.796E**. Conditions of anchorage can be spoiled by tide/current moving through the pass. – Lazy Sunday

15.5.2 Cruiser Report

Oct. 2022: The locals at the resort are lovely and very keen to have cruisers come ashore. They do ask that you fill out a form and leave your credit card information at the office prior to ordering drinks or food. They also ask that you pay at the office afterwards. Very kid friendly with loads of families. – sv Sugar Shack

Sept. 2022: The resort is happy to allow you use of their pool, bar & restaurant. They even allowed me to join a weaving class which I offered to pay but they insisted I participate at no charge. There is a reef that crosses over to Nanuya Balvu island which is easy to cross at low and high tide. Navionics was reliable in this area. Clear water and great for snorkeling. A dinghy ride around to Manta Ray is a short distance. – Lazy Sunday.

15.6 Nanuya Balavu

15.6.1 Pass / Anchorage

Aug. 2022: Many locals boats and the Yasawa Flier use the Qaracuva pass so it can be roly and busy. Believe it or not, we have seen several boats anchor in this pass and we would not recommend it. – sv Sugar Shack

July 2022: Came in Qaracuva (South) pass to The Boathouse Nunuya. Keep a good watch out and lean on Google earth/satellite as Navionics was inaccurate on entry. West pass is more commonly used. – SY Calash

15.6.2 General Services

15.6.2.1 Wifi (Internet and Data)

Aug. 2022: We had both Digicel and Vodafone at this anchorage (3G). – sv Sugar Shack

15.6.3 Cruiser Reports

Aug. 2022: Boats want to be here or in the pass to be close to the mantas, but you can get to them from Drawaqa Island which is a much better anchorage. – sv Sugar Shack

15.7 Drawaqa Island (Manta Rays)

The pass between Drawaqa and Naviti is famous for manta rays. The mantas come to feed here and can most often be found at the NE side of the pass. The locals ask that you drive your dinghy on the south side (or middle) not directly over where the mantas swim as you will scare them away.

Also, the locals prefer that you don't drive your big boat down this pass. If you have to, then drive down the south side of the pass.

15.7.1 Pass

Aug. 2022: Not sure we would call this a "pass" but we came in between the reef on the west side (near Salakolo Pass) and directly across to the anchorage near Drawaqa Island. We found the Navionics and Open CPN with satellite to be fairly accurate for us.

Many locals' boats and the Yasawa Flier use the Qaracuva pass so that can be roly and busy. We would not recommend anchoring there. – sv Sugar Shack

15.7.2 Anchorage

Sept. 2023: We anchored in 17m and had dolphins swimming around the boat. – Jamala

Sept. 2022: **17°10.311S / 177°11.296E.** Anchored in 16m of sand. The closer you can get to shore, the better as the wind/current combination makes for a roly anchorage. It is incredibly uncomfortable in northerlies. Instead, move around the bay at the southern end of Naviti (see Naviti Anchorage) – Seneto

Aug. 2022: **17°10.338S / 177°11.258E.** Dropped in 15m of water, deep, but good holding. – sv Sugar Shack

15.7.3 General Services

15.7.3.1 Wifi (Internet and Data)

Aug. 2022: We had both Digicel and Vodafone service here (3G). – sv Sugar Shack

15.7.4 Activities

Sept. 2023: We went to snorkel with the manta rays in the pass but the water was a little murky, it did not clear a bit and we did not see any mantas. There are also some mooring balls for dinghies near the coral patch and you can snorkel here too. – Jamala

Sept. 2022: Barefoot Manta Resort is very welcoming, laid back and lovely, our sort of place. We had a wonderful 3-course meal for \$65FJ per person. Let reception know that you'd like to eat when you arrive. Word of warning, if they're doing a buffet because they have marine students staying, eat on the boat, they'll be serving mountains of pasta!

Great fun diving with them (caves, wreck dive, coral gardens), they offer various reasonably priced dive packages. We paid \$540 for 4-dive package. – Seneto

Aug. 2022: The best time to see the manta rays is during high tide. They typically hang out (feed) on the north east side of the Tokatokanu Pass (between Naviti and Drawaqa islands). They swim east to west but we found them to be closer to the NE side (across from the large rock on shore off Naviti).

It was absolutely the best manta experience we have ever had and we saw tons of them in French Polynesia. We were swimming with 6-8 mantas at any given time and at least 2 of them had wing spans of over 5 meters (they were enormous)! We swam through several times and on the last pass, they treated us to a flipping show. Up and over each other and rolling all around. It was fantastic!

Several people said that the snorkeling in front of the Manta Island Resort is wonderful. – sv Sugar Shack

15.7.5 Cruiser Reports

Aug. 2022: Lots of boats seem to come and go. They stop to swim with the mantas then move on so don't be afraid to anchor here if there are several boats.

We did not have a chance to visit the Manta Island Resort located on the Northern tip of Nanuya Balavu but they stopped by our boat and extended a warm invitation. They have a bar, restaurant, and volleyball. Super warm and friendly. – sv Sugar Shack

15.8 Naviti Island (Somosomo)

Cruising Guide References: A Yachtsman's Fiji, 3rd Ed - Pg 252

15.8.1 Passes

Aug. 2022: The pass does not have a name, but it is between Namatay Alevu and Naviti on the east side. It is wide, deep, and clearly marked on the charts (no markers in sight). It was a roly night for us (especially considering we are a catamaran) even though it was light wind (6-8kt). – sv Sugar Shack

15.8.2 Anchorages

Sept. 2022: 17°09.527S / 177°12.167E anchored in 13.5m of sand (with some rocks). – Seneto

Sept. 2022: Vunatawa Bay: 17°05.070S / 177°16.638E dropped in 8m during high tide with really good holding. The bay just before Somosomo Bay as you enter from the North. – sv Sugar Shack

Sept. 2022: Vuatu Bay: 17°08.384S / 177°12.292E. South western side of Naviti island. Anchored in 15-20m. There was a gentle swell but not uncomfortable

Cuvu Bay: 17°09.421S / 177°12.226E. This bay is located at the bottom of Naviti Island and is unnamed on Navionics. This is a nice bay to get out of all the wind other than southerlies. It can be a little roly but we had a couple of good nights here. – Lazy Sunday

15.8.3 General Services

15.8.3.1 Wifi (Internet and Data)

Aug. 2022: We had both Digicel and Vodafone in this bay. The Digicel is on wifi extender at the top of the mast but the Digicel was on a phone. – sv Sugar Shack

15.8.4 Cruiser Reports

Sept. 2023: We anchored near the village. You don't need to go to the village if you anchored here, but we took the dinghy in to meet the locals and see the village. We were shown around by Marrian and she took us over to the chief where we did sevusevu. She gathered the local people to sell us trinkets, mats, and jewelry. She offered to get us fruit. We were invited to breakfast where we were served delicious bread and tea.

They asked if we had any empty jars or plastic bottles. They make honey here and reuse them so be sure to bring yours into the village. Such a lovely family! We were so glad we went to the village. The dinghy was stranded on the beach so several locals came down to help us drag her into the water. They asked if we could tell other cruisers to stop by the village. Snorkelling in the anchorage was great. – Jamala.

Sept. 2022: Cuvu Bay: From our anchorage, we took the dinghy to Drawaqa island for some snorkeling. The reef between Drawaqa and Naviti is not for crossing in the big boat (dinghy only). Do not trust Navionics which shows this as white, indicating deep water. The reef has joined up and we could not even get over it in our dinghy in low tide. We did have beautiful snorkeling and it was well worth the stop when you combine the snorkeling and Manta Ray Island.

Vuatu Bay: There is a resort here that is not in operation called Botaira Beach resort. We swam over and dinghied over to the reef of the beach. Coconuts were in abundance. Care takers at resort were friendly and happy for us to be there. – Lazy Sunday

Sept. 2022: There is a WW2 airplane wreck at **17°05.540S / 177°17.391E**, marked with a buoy, 2-3m deep on sand. Good day anchoring in the bay nearby which is open to the east.

There is a 40-minute trail from the beach on the other side, NW of the wreck. We anchored there which was easy anchoring in the sand. The wreck is small. The main attraction is a V12 48-valve engine, and the Nemo like fish in anemones on the frame. You can find details of the air place including facts and the myths (like that it is a Spitfire) - google "Naviti Pacific airplane wreck WW2" (<https://pacificwrecks.com/aircraft/p-39/fiji.html>) Sevusevu needs to be done at Somosomo village where the locals are very friendly, we were invited for tea and roti by a family, and fixed their sewing machine. – Amaryllis II

15.9 Nanuya Lailai (Blue Lagoon)

This is where the famous movie "Blue Lagoon" was filmed.

15.9.1 Pass

Aug. 2022: In toward Nanua Lailai anchorage: not sure I would call it a "pass" but it is an entry between Matacawa Levu and Tavewa Island to get to the anchorage. It is wide, deep and easy to navigate.

Exit: again, a "pass" between Tavewa Island and Nanuya Lailia (charts have markers, but we did not see any), It's easy to follow charts as they were accurate (Navionics/Open CPN with satellite overlay). – sv Sugar Shack

15.9.2 Anchorage

Sept. 2022: 16°56.575S / 177°21.836E Anchored in 14m of sand in between Nanuya Lailai Island and Matacawa Levu (the village has the same name). Beware of the big bommies on the starboard side in the middle of the bay, we nearly got caught out. The anchorage was incredibly busy when we arrived. – Seneto

Sept. 2022: 16°56.6145S / 177°22.105E dropped in 13 meters with 17 other boats. Busy anchorage, but plenty of room for all the boats to swing around. It was gusty, but comfortable. – sv Sugar Shack

July 2022: Anchored in Nanuya Lailai / the Blue Lagoon. Very busy anchorage, many sailboats, some yachts with helicopters flying in and a small cruise-ship visited while we were here. – Mais Uma

July 2022: 16°56.597S / 177°22.061E. Good holding in front of The Boathouse. – SY Calash

15.9.3 Yachtsmen Services

15.9.3.1 Cooking Gas

Sept. 2022: The general store will swap propane tanks. – sv Sugar Shack

15.9.3.2 Fuel (Diesel & Gasoline)

Sept. 2022: Hours: 0900-1200 & 1300-1630. Premix is \$14.32/gal; gasoline \$14.66/gal. –sv Sugar Shack

15.9.4 General Services

Aug. 2022: Nanuya Island Resort and The Boathouse at Nanuya +679.666.7633, www.boathousenanuya.com, Cruisers cannot use resort facilities. But they do offer cruisers:

- Laundry
- Restaurant
- Bar
- General store
- Water activities.

Not very cruiser friendly, although they will allow you to make a reservation for lunch or dinner and you can purchase drinks at the bar.

The neighboring beach is private when a cruise ship is in port. However, if there is no cruise ship, you may ask the caretakers for permission to walk the beach (they asked us for some kava in return). – sv Sugar Shack

15.9.4.1 Laundry

Aug. 2022: Nanuya Lailai offers laundry service. Half a bag \$15F and a full bag \$30F. – sv Sugar Shack

15.9.4.2 Transportation

There is a helicopter and sea plane service from Nanuya Lailai to Viti Levu. In addition, there are several ferry services including Blue Lagoon Express +679.666.7633, which takes 1.5 hours to get to Vuda Marina (approximately \$200F per person).

15.9.4.3 Wifi (Internet & Phone)

Sept. 2022: We had both Digicel and Vodafone in this bay. The Digicel is on wifi extender at the top of the mast but the Digicel was on a phone. The general store sells Digicel top up cards. – sv Sugar Shack

15.9.5 Provisions

Sept. 2022: The General Store: Hours: Mon-Tues, Thurs-Sun: 0900-1800. Wed: 0900-1600. They offer a decent supply of basic provisions and fresh bread.

Fresh veggies and produce: order produce by 0800 and receive it by 1700 same day, otherwise it takes 24 hours to get produce. They take your order and go up in the hills to retrieve your order. – sv Sugar Shack

Sept. 2022: The Nanuya Resort/Boathouse has a small shop with the usual stuff but you can also order fresh vegetables for the following day. Just be aware that you might not always get what you ordered and collection

time will be very much Fiji time. Best to arrange your pick up for Happy Hours where Gold and Bitter long necks are a bargain.

The village boys will come around the boats in their canoes selling limes, bananas. – Seneto

Sept. 2022: There is a shop at the Boat House with basic supplies and you can order fruit and veggies from here which mostly come from the resort gardens. Place your order in the morning and it is usually ready that afternoon. Prices: carrots \$5F (6 carrots); tomatoes \$19F/kg; capsicum \$6F (x3); lettuce \$10F; coriander \$4F/bunch; basil \$4F/bunch; spring onion \$2F (green).

Every day we had a village or kayak over offering coconuts, papaya, bananas, limes, eggplant and pumpkin. Some days it is only one and then other days it was 2 or 3. I have always found the prices to be very reasonable considering the effort in bringing it out to our boat. It's a great service.

There is a village on the opposite island called Matacawa levu. – Lazy Sunday

15.9.6 Restaurant

Aug. 2023: Sammy and wife host a lovo \$40/pp at their house. It was a great evening shared with other yachties. It's the little blue house on the beach right next to the Nanuya Resort. You need to make prior arrangements with Sammy. – Knot Tide Down

Sept. 2022: Dinner (reserve in advance), turned out to be not so great, unashamedly non-Fijian, distinct lack of vegetables on the dishes that claimed to have them and my meal turned up half an hour after everyone else's – overall it was really disappointing. – Seneto

Sept. 2022: We just went for a walk across the hill from Boathouse Nanuya and stumbled upon "Lo's Tea house" on the other side. Actually, Lo's House, as her Tea house got destroyed in a Hurricane 2 years ago. She is hoping to one day raise enough money to rebuild it.

The sign on the door advertises her Fiji Famous Doughnuts, but as we arrived around midday, and her family was about to have lunch and smoked fish with casava and greens in coconut milk were on the menu, we opted for that instead. Pay for lunch and you will get free doughnuts. You must have doughnuts!

So, we had delicious freshly fried chocolate doughnuts, as an entry as lunch was still underway (her husband was just husking coconuts for the milk), freshly made lemon juice, and finally a massive plate of delicious authentic food from her garden. We happily paid the F\$20 she was asking, it was worth it!

If you fancy a little walk (3hm one way, the path is fairly easy and the hill isn't too steep) and some fresh local food, she is offering breakfast and lunch. Beautiful beach and lovely family, highly recommend a visit.

You can also dinghy there if you don't feel like stretching your legs. She is on google maps. – Images

Sept. 2022: You can walk over to the other side of the island where there is another village and a place called Lou's Tea House. She will make you a donut and lemon tea for \$10F. She is trying to rebuild her tea house that was destroyed in a cyclone. Just ask at the Boat House where the path is. – Lazy Sunday

Aug. 2022: We arrived at 1100, ordered drinks at The Boathouse and made a reservation at the main restaurant for lunch. They have a daily menu with 3 options which all were pretty tasty and ran about \$30F each. Portions were very generous.

Happy Hour: 1700-1800 at the Boathouse and 1800-1900 at Iguana bar. – sv Sugar Shack

July 2022: The Boathouse is a great bar and has very friendly staff. The restaurant offers good food but requires a reservation ahead of time. No walkins – SY Calash

15.9.7 Activities

Sept. 2022: Island Way Adventures +679.931.1132 islandwayadventures@gmail.com. Offers many wonderful activities including: Sawa-I-Lau cave trip (includes lunch, transportation) \$170F/pp, beach picnic, hand-line

fishing, snorkeling, lunch (\$100F/pp), Sunset bonfire, lovo, local entertainment on the famous blue lagoon beach \$45F/pp, secluded beach trip and traditional Fijian spear fishing, lunch \$50F/pp, spear fishing \$50F/pp, night handling fishing \$70F/pp, weaving lesson \$20F/pp (prices as of Aug.2022). They are based on Nanuya Lailai island; however, they can do pickup from neighboring island homestays or resorts (for a fee).

You can walk on the beach if there is NO cruise ship in port. We asked politely if we could walk the beach and they asked if we had kava. We of course did, offered them a bundle and were welcome to enjoy the sandy shores for our stay.

Westside Water Sports (also known as Yasawa Dive) +679.666.7633. They offered trips to the Underwater Caves (at Sawa-I-Lau), village trips, manta safari, snorkeling, sunset cruise, hikes and walks.

Spa Services are also available. Inquire at the General Store or the Restaurant. They were offering manicure and pedicure specials when we visited. – sv Sugar Shack

Sept. 2022: There is a beautiful and easy hike (30-min) to Lo's tea house on the NE side of the island (16°56'59S 177°22'49E). She sells donuts, tea, lemonade, which you must try. She can also arrange lovo dinners. It is possible to go directly there in your dinghy at high tide. – Carpe Diem

July 2022: Snorkeling directly off the resort was some of the best we have seen – anywhere. You can dinghy around the corner to the pass to see Mantarays, there are there most days June-Aug. – SY Calash

July 2022: Good for wing foiling and kitesurfing at low tide, launch your kite from Tavewa Island where a sandbank appears. – Mais Uma

15.9.8 Cruiser Report

Sept. 2022: We had heard that the resort was “not cruiser friendly” but we found everyone delightful from the bartender, Ali to the lady who worked at the store and the servers at the restaurant. We enjoyed a super beautiful walk on the beach (see activities), a tasty lunch at the restaurant, & fabulous drinks. – sv Sugar Shack

Sept. 2022: This is where Nanuya Island Resort and Boat House are located. Cruiser friendly with an anchorage big enough for 15 boats. Popular with cruisers who are into kite surfing, wing boarding, foiling, etc. They also have a sports bar which is well attended by the cruisers and back packers. You can make a reservation to have dinner at the resort. There is also a spa if you fancy a massage as well. – Lazy Sunday

Sept. 2022: We headed to the village, Matakawa Levu to present sevusevu to the chief's son, Tuti. After accepting, Tuti kindly showed us around this unexpectedly, large, quiet village (you're not allowed to shout here and strictly no hats or sunglasses). Many of the folk work at the resort or have moved to the mainland, so many of the houses are only used during holidays. The people, as always, are kind and welcoming, and told us that they love meeting us as much as we love meeting them. We were fortunate enough to meet Kimi and Mere at the far end of the beach, who happily offered to teach us to weave the following morning. We had a great time and more memories were made as we returned for dinner that evening. – Seneto

15.10 Nacula Island

This is where the Blue Lagoon Resort is located (not actually the Blue Lagoon from the movie “Blue Lagoon”)

The bay in front of the Blue Lagoon Resort is a **marine protected area**. All cruisers are welcome at the resort and they have a safe anchorage. However, there is no fishing, spear fishing, or hunting of any kind in the bay.

15.10.1 Anchorage

Sept. 2022: 16°53.466S / 177°24.588E. Anchored in 5m and were still a long way off the beach. This is a beautiful, large bay. – Lazy Sunday

15.10.2 Blue Lagoon Resort

Blue Lagoon Resort +679.707.9066, NZ+64.3588.5045, USA+1.888.977.4891, www.bluelagoonresortfiji.com.

July 2025: Blue Lagoon Resort (not available when they are on full capacity): day pass \$99 Adult / \$49 Child - Available 9am-5:30pm. Includes: Day Pass for pool access (Beach sun lounges are for beachfront inhouse guests only), towel, food and beverage credit of \$70 (non-refundable), single day use only. Does not include Wifi. Basically paying \$29 for use of their pool and beach front as the \$70 can be applied to food and beverage. Many reviews are mixed about this resort. – sv Sugar Shack

15.10.2.1 Medical

Aug. 2013 - Medical Clinic on Nacula island near Nanuya Lailai: When a friend fell very ill in the Yasawas, we were relieved to find there is a local medical clinic north of the Blue Lagoon.

The resort staff of Blue Lagoon at Nacula, were very helpful in helping us arrange a skiff to take the sick cruiser over within an hour of our call. It was a 20-minute ride through shallow reefs; you need to know the way, so a skiff makes sense even at a cost of F\$60-80. The sick sailor was treated immediately and even given antibiotics. It's good to know that there's help nearby as we were almost thinking of transporting her by ferry to the mainland for help – Namani

15.10.3 Cruiser Report

Sept. 2022: Sevusevu is required here. We had a local come out to the boat selling lobsters. We bought 2 large lobsters for \$30F each. Others reported being offered very small lobsters which they declined in an effort to discourage picking them so small. We hiked up the hill behind the village. Requires good shoes and a cold drink. It was harder coming down the steep hill and there were a few places where I sat down and scooted down on my bum. View from the top is amazing. Others reported being charged for a guide to take them up the hill. This was not offered to us so we did not pay anything. – Lazy Sunday

15.11 Sawa-I-Lau (Underwater Caves)

Directly across from the anchorage is the small village of Nabukeru (about 20-25 people). The chief will accept sevusevu on any day except Sunday! Please respect his one day of rest.

Dinghy Landing for Nabukeru: **16°50.496S / 177°27.894E.**

Famous for their underwater caves. Visitors must do sevusevu at Nabukeru village prior to visiting the caves. \$35F per person. Hours: Mon-Sat: 0900-1100. Gates are locked during non-working hours.

This is a super cool place to visit and it is where Brooke Shields runs to escape in the movie Blue Lagoon.

Bring extra money as there are artisans selling Fijian wares including wood carvings, pearls, jewelry, sulus, etc...

Bring: snorkel/mask, underwater torch, and camera, flippers are not necessary but useful as you end up treading water a lot.

You climb 40 stairs to the gate, then you descend 25 stairs into the fresh, saltwater pool. The stairs can be slippery. See "activities" for more information on the cave experience.

15.11.1 Passes

Aug. 2022: Heading in toward Sawa-I-Lau, we approached from the west side of Navula island and entered the pass between Nacula and Yasawa which was well charted (no markers).

Exit: We left out of Tamasua Pass which was well chartered and easy to enter/exit. – sv Sugar Shack

Aug. 2022: We came in from the east, and navigated by satellite imagery. The pass through the reef is at least 100m wide and 20m deep or more. In this bay, Navionics is reasonably accurate as well. – Kismet

15.11.2 Anchorage

Oct. 2022: 16°50.803S / 177°28.042E. Sawa-I-Lau (near southern tip of Yasawa) Dropped in 16m of water with 5 other boats. The anchorage is deep but the holding was good. – sv Sugar Shack

Sept. 2022: 16°50.665S / 177°27.818E. There are a lot of places to anchor in this bay and plenty of room for a lot of boats. The bottom is flat sand/mud with no apparent bommies. – Oh Joy II

Sept. 2022: 16°50.679S / 177°27.865E. Anchored off the village Nabukeru in 14m of sand. Beautiful spot that reminded us a little of northern Lau (at low tide). – Seneto

Aug. 2022: 16°50.796S / 177°27.961E. We dropped the hook in 18m. Bottom is a bit rocky/coral but holding was (eventually) good. This anchorage is not well protected from east winds as they flow right through the two isthmuses, however, it was comfortable enough (no swell) while it was blowing in the low 20s. – Kismet

15.11.3 General Services

15.11.3.1 Wifi

Oct. 2022: Both Digicel and Vodafone worked well here. – Ss Sugar Shack

Sept. 2022: Digicel & Vodafone both had very strong, fast, signal in the bay off Sawa-I-Lau. – Oh Joy II

Aug. 2022: We had 4 bars H+ Digicel (2+MBps) – Kismet

15.11.4 Activities

Oct. 2022: We visited on a Monday and it was so darn busy. Evidently Mondays and Thursdays are when the resorts tend to visit. Cruise ships come on Wednesday. If you can, try to visit during low tide.

Wowza, the caves are so very beautiful! The first cave is enormous and has several openings where the sunshine comes through. The guides will entertain you with jumps from incredibly high rocks while you wait to enter the 2nd cave. You will be treading water for a while so flippers can be useful.

The second cave was a 3-second breath hold (during low tide). It is even more spectacular than the first cave. No openings to the sky, but super cool caverns to explore with the guide where you can go deeper into the cave. The echo of your voice is fabulous. Truly a wonderful experience.

We were told you haven't been to Yasawa if you haven't been to the caves!

The village is small but lovely. We bought a stalk of bananas and some beautiful sea shells.

Be sure to bring extra money as there are lots of ladies selling their artisan wares! – sv Sugar Shack

Sept. 2022: Underwater Caves: The caves are a huge draw for cruisers, and the surrounding resorts bring guests here for tours as well. The cave tours are managed by the village of Tamusua. But you must do sevusevu at Nabukeru before going to the caves for a guided tour (Tamusua and Nabukeru share the same chief). The cost for the tour is now \$40 FJD *per person. * (There is no separate "guide fee" as others have noted here in the compendium.) When we balked, the man taking our money said this is a discount because it used to be \$55 per person. Robert the tour guide also said this later when we were talking about it with others in the water with us. This is a lot of money. But we paid it, and my guess is this is what most people do.

The cave is open for tours from 9am to 11am every day except Sunday. Just go to approx. 16°50.99S / 177°28.04E and secure your dinghy on the beach. Someone will come out to take your money and guide you through the tour. You may have to wait a bit as they only take about 4-6 people through at a time, and one group at a time. Each tour is about 20 minutes long. You may need shoes/flip-flops to walk from your dinghy across the rocks and up the stairs to the cave entrance, but you will not need shoes once you're in the cave. There is a place to stow backpacks (and shoes) inside the cave entrance, and where you can take off clothes. You will want your mask and snorkel.

There's also a collection of sellers at tables outside the cave with trinkets for sale. Every table appears to have the same thing, and the sellers come from the village across the way, Tamusua.

Snorkeling. The west tip of the small island at 16°50.733S / 177°27.624E has some nice coral and fish. We swam all the way around the island at high tide and found the best snorkeling in an arc around the west tip reaching a few hundred yards up each side. It's a mix of dead coral and vibrant coral and the fish are numerous and active. When we were there the visibility was poor in murky water but it's always a thrill to see the active fish even if they do seem to be swimming in fog. – Oh Joy II

Sept. 2022: If you want to go to the caves on Sawa-I-Lau please do present sevusevu to the chief "Wise" in the village. We were kindly shown to him by Sioni who also jollied the village ladies along to lay out their crafts so that we could have a browse, no obligation to buy, but as this is their source of income, it only seems right to and they have really nice things. Sioni took us to his farm where we bought pumpkin, papaya, bananas, and limes. He was shy about price and also mentioned the church fund, this is definitely at your own discretion.

There is a great hike up and along the ridge with fantastic views over the bays. The track starts at the northwest corner of the school.

Sawa-I-Lau caves are a bit like going to Venice and not going on a gondola, it's got to be done and they are stunning, a definite "wow". We went early in the morning before the small cruise ship and resort boats arrived. It was \$35FJ per person but we have heard of varying prices. The main cave is stunning and accessed via a few steps, it's cathedral like and makes for a refreshing swim. There's a smaller unlit cave accessed via a brief underwater swim through, if you can time your visit for low water, then you have more space. – Seneto

July 2022: Great hike on the beach / around the rock formations on low tide to the sandbank over to Yawini Island. Very beautiful. – Mais Uma

15.11.5 Cruiser Reports

Oct. 2022: Not sure if we got lucky having the chief Lubu in town, but he took our sevusevu and welcomed us to his small village. He offered bananas and papayas and also told us that some of the ladies sell sea shells (which were very beautiful and reasonably priced (spider conch for \$10F)).

The chief said that there is another village that "owns and operates" the caves and they do not need sevusevu but they do accept cash for the cave entrance fee. – sv Sugar Shack

Sept. 2022: We arrived late afternoon on a Friday and as we were making dinner a launch slowly approached our boat. Two young boys were selling pawpaw/papaya and we bought one (a large one for \$5 FJD – we probably paid too much but didn't mind). They were chatty and delightful and told us to come to shore at 9 the next morning and they'd take us to the chief for sevusevu.

We dinghied ashore at 9 and a tall man came out to greet us. We asked for the chief so we could offer our kava for sevusevu, and he told us the chief is not there (he works on the mainland) but he would take our kava to him. He told us to sit down on some benches and he did some cupped-palm claps and gave thanks for the kava. Then we had some conversation and different people arrived to investigate us. In the course of conversation, we learned that they get supplies from Lautoka. I asked how often they go to Lautoka and he said "it depends on when we have some money to buy fuel and flour and rice. We only get money from selling things here." About 80 people live in the village and they subsist on whatever they can scrape together from tourists stopping in. This is a little sobering and I'll admit it totally opened our pocketbook. If we were marks, we were easy marks.

A woman brought out some jewelry and tapa cloth for sale. We asked one man if he could make us some coconut cups, and he was happy to do it. \$3 each for custom made coconut cups to take home. They were confused about why we wanted them since they only use them to drink kava. In my opinion one can never have too many small cups/bowls. We bought a mother-of-pearl necklace and a small piece of tapa cloth for a total of \$50 FJD.

One of the men invited us to come to church the next day at 10:30am. We did, and it was a blessedly short (45 minutes) service. We came for the singing and were not disappointed. When it came time to tithe, we were prepared with some cash to put in the bowl, for which we were loudly and roundly thanked. – Oh Joy II

Aug. 2022: We proceeded directly to the closest village for sevusevu, which was with the Chief's spokesperson, Isaiah. We were given permission to anchor, swim, snorkel, etc. and were told if we want to visit the caves, we need to dinghy over around the point to the next village to get a guide (\$50F). We declined this. Our greeter who took us to Isaiah, who is also the village farmer, took us to his farm and sold us some amazing pumpkin, cassava, and green coconuts (albeit at retail prices).

The surrounding limestone geology is absolutely stunning and we highly recommend exploring with the dinghy around the area between Sawa-I-Lau and Nanuya Islands. Great hidden beaches and views. –Kismet

July 2022: Nice village with very friendly locals. Highly recommend! Sevusevu required. Take the dinghy ashore north of the big rock in the middle of the beach, and ask for Ratu, the chief's brother. He lives behind the chief's house with the red roof. The chief apparently lives on the mainland. – Mais Uma

Feb. 2013: According to our Moon Guide, this cave is the cave that Brooke Shields runs away to in the movie, Blue Lagoon. Of course, we had to see it!!

Legend says that when the water level was lower, the caves would lead all the way to the Lau, hence the name of the bay Sawa-I-Lau, which probably means something like "porthole to the Lau". – Soggy Paws

15.12 Yasawa Island

Cruising Guide References: A Yachtsman's Fiji, 3rd Ed - Pg 239, 243

15.12.1 Anchorage

Sept. 2022: 16°49.226S / 177°27.881E. Anchored in 10m at the southern end of the island. – Seneto

July 2022: 16°42.557S / 177°34.574E Anchored in Yasawairara, on the North of Yasawa Island in shell sand at 4-5m with great holding. Beautiful, quiet anchorage, amongst the nicest beaches we have seen so far with beautiful green water.

Dinghy Landing: Take the dinghy ashore north of the big rock in the middle of the beach. – Mais Uma

15.13 Turtle Island

15.13.1 Pass

Feb. 2013: The pass starts at 16°59.56S / 177°22.28E and heads NW behind "Turtle Island". – Soggy Paws

15.13.2 Anchorage

Feb. 2013: 16°57.13S / 177°22.256E. We anchored in good sand in about 30' of water. Having good Google Earth charts helped a lot in navigating in this area, as our C-Map and Garmin charts didn't have much detail, and seemed off a bit.

Turtle Island is a big-big-bucks resort and they don't want the cruisers anchoring near their island at all.

The normal cruiser's anchorage is at the north end, off Nanuya Resort, approx. 16°56.55S / 177°22.01E, but that didn't look protected from NW winds. So, we pulled in to a nice little cove on the south side of the north end of Turtle Island. – Soggy Paws