

# 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 2023.3 – 21 October 2023

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](mailto: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
2023.3	21-Oct.-2023	Updates from Sugar Shack, Nutmeg and Jamala, Moana (Vuda Point Marina), Birdsong (Navadra), various updates on marine services, Ari B (Viani Bay)
2023.2	5-Sept.-2023	Updates from Sugar Shack (throughout), 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, 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: 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 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	15-June-2014	Updates on Gulf Harbor Radio Wx Net and...
B.7	23-Nov-2013	Labasa River & Leleuvia (S of Ovalau) update from Fruit de Mer. S of Ovalau info from Soggy Paws on the islands S of Ovalau. Vanua Balavu-Little Bay update from Aqualuna.
B.6	11-Sep-2013	Yasawa medical care from Namani on medical care. Notes: Taveuni, Vanua Balavu, and Namena from Southern Cross
B.5	10-Aug-2013	Updates on Kadavu from Mediteraneo and Gypsea Heart. Updates Viti Levu & Yasawas from s/v Radiance.
B.4	26-June-2013	Inputs from s/v Namani on diving with Jack at Viani Bay
B.3	20-Apr-2013	Minor updates -- final notes before leaving Fiji
B.2	21-Mar-2013	Update on Waitui Marina and Arrival Procedures
B.1	03-Mar-2013	Soggy Paws notes from 2012 & 2013. New info: Namena, Ovalau (Levuka), Suva, SW Coast of Viti Levu, Mbenga, Yasawas, etc
A.10	25-Nov-2012	Added Kadavu/Astrolabe Reef inputs from Sarah Jean II
A.8-9	19-Sep-2012	Koro Island Updates from s/v Koro and lots of minor updates and corrections
A.7a	20-Aug-2012	Lau group update from Pincoya & other minor updates
A.1-A6	09-Aug-2012	Updates from Shandon, Java, Midnight Sun, Chesire, Soggy Paws, Carina, Migration & Stray Kitty.

**I would like to extend a Huge Thanks to  
Christine Mitchell of s/v Sugar Shack for  
doing a major update to this Compendium!**

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# 1 Introduction

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

We have since created over 25 compendiums all the way across the Pacific and in to SE Asia. Including, Panama, Ecuador, French Polynesia, Cook and Samoa Islands, Tonga, Solomon's, New Caledonia, Micronesia, Marshall Islands, Hawaii, Philippines, Malaysia, and 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're free at [www.soggypaws.com/files](http://www.soggypaws.com/files).

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).

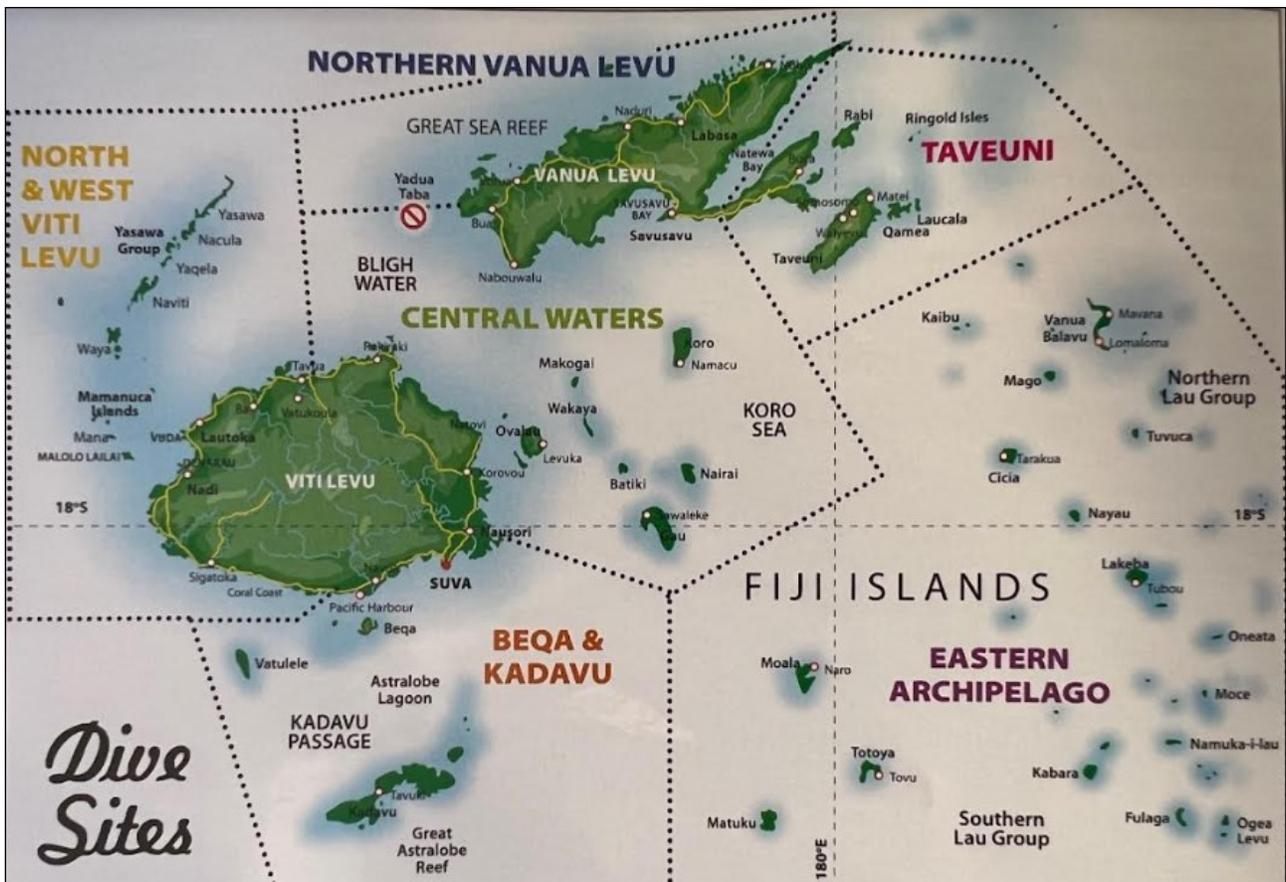


Photo courtesy of Fiji Shores & Marinas 2020

### **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).

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 and the Paradise Resort for relaxing.

### **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 and marinas.

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 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 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.

### **1.1.6 Beqa & Kadavu**

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

Kadavu offers beautiful anchorages and spectacular diving and snorkeling.

## 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 Customs & Immigration

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.frcc.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.

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 vessel, and the Captain's Passport Bio page.

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](mailto:yachtsreport@frcs.org.fj)
- Biosecurity: [cruiseshipreports@frcs.org.fj](mailto:cruiseshipreports@frcs.org.fj) and [yachtinfo@biosecurityfiji.com](mailto:yachtinfo@biosecurityfiji.com)
- Board of Health: [niko.nadolo@govnet.gov.fj](mailto:niko.nadolo@govnet.gov.fj)
- Immigration: [immigration@govnet.gov.fj](mailto:immigration@govnet.gov.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](mailto:grace@nawiisland.com)
  - CopraShed - Savusavu - [coprashed@connect.com.fj](mailto:coprashed@connect.com.fj)
  - Vuda Marina - [info@vudamarina.com.fj](mailto:info@vudamarina.com.fj)
  - Denarau Marina - [reservations@denaraumarina.com](mailto:reservations@denaraumarina.com)

**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. I would copy 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 effecient. The marinas 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.

**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! – 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. We received approval within 2 hours of submission.

Documents submitted: Completed C2-C form, copies of all crew passports (the information and photo page), copies of vaccination cards for all crew, photo of vessel, and an Arrival Health Declaration Form completed for each crew.

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. – Sugar Shack

### 1.3.2 Entry into Fiji

IMPORTANT: See Notice of Arrival Requirements above.

**Ports of Entry:** (as of Aug.2023)

Suva	Savusavu	Vuda	Lautoka
Levuka	Wairiki	Malau	

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

**July 2023:** A cruiser thought they could stop in the Lao group prior to completing formalities. They did not want to sail through the Lao 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.

### 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, usually between \$25-\$35 Fijian).

If you have an agent, they will forward all of the necessary paperwork to the authorities prior to your arrival. If you do not have an agent, you will need the following paperwork:

- Clearance from last port of call
- Inward Report C2-C (Advance Notice of Arrival)
- 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 Aug. 2023, the official took photos of our toilets, canned goods, pantry, and snack drawer. She gave us an invoice but would not accept payment. She asked us to go to the hospital to pay the fee.

She will go to the next boat and then 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.

### 1.3.4 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.

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, or

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

### **1.3.5 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!).

### **1.3.6 Entry Fees and Charges**

**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 are subject to the following fees (in Fijian dollars unless stated otherwise):

- Biosecurity: \$191.30
- Health: \$163.50
- Fiji Ports (garbage): \$140.61
- 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.

If you arrive just before sunset, you may be allowed to anchor just outside the harbor, stay aboard, and clear in at normal business hours. This is a luxury and may not be always be offered. They have every right to force you to enter and pay overtime fees if you arrive during non-business hours.

### **1.3.7 Biosecurity / Quarantine (and Pets)**

Biosecurity website: [www.baf.com.fj](http://www.baf.com.fj). Additional information is at [www.baf.com.fj/ships-vessels](http://www.baf.com.fj/ships-vessels).

**June 2022:** Fiji calls Quarantine, “Biosecurity” and they are expecting advance notification of arrival as well! The “Advance Notice of Arrival” form should be emailed (a minimum of 48 hours in advance of arrival) to [cruiseshipreports@frcs.org.fj](mailto:cruiseshipreports@frcs.org.fj). If you need any clarification you can write to them at [info@baf.com.fj](mailto: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.

### **1.3.8 Prohibited Items**

Items which are prohibited and must be declared include:

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

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

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

The yacht 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 securely fastened at all times and kept aboard the yacht. The refuse can only be removed from the yachts under the directions of the Biosecurity Officer.

**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.

### **1.3.9 Live animals on yachts**

See the Fiji Biosecurity website: [www.baf.com.fj/bringing-cats-and-dogs](http://www.baf.com.fj/bringing-cats-and-dogs). 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](mailto:info@biosecurityfiji.com). Enquires can also be made in person at any of the BAF office.

#### **1.3.10 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 days to process the Cruising Permit. Permits are issued for a 6-month period.

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.

#### **1.3.11 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](mailto:yachtsreport@frcs.org.fj).

#### **1.3.12 Tourist Visas**

Check and verify all current information at <http://www.immigration.gov.fj>

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).

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.

'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.

### **1.3.13 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.

### **1.3.14 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. Below are the requirements for an additional 2-month extension.

Renewing Online:

1. First, go to [https://www.immigration.gov.fj/images/pdfs/visitor\\_extension\\_permits.pdf](https://www.immigration.gov.fj/images/pdfs/visitor_extension_permits.pdf) and print, complete, and scan the “Application for Extension of Visitor’s Permit”
2. Step by step process: <https://form.jotform.com/211497415736057> which came from this site: <https://www.immigration.gov.fj/> (On right margin, click “Online Application for Permits and Visa”)
3. Upload following items in PDF only:
  - a. Bio page on passport
  - b. Fiji Stamp on passport
  - c. Immigration application (step 1)
    - i. Each person has to do a separate application
  - d. Letter stating the reason for the extension
  - e. Recent Proof of Financial Status
  - f. Vaccine Certificate / Card (showing name and stamps)

- g. Customs in Denarau also suggested we upload our boat registration and pdf of the half page Immigration form that we received upon entry.
4. Payment:
- 2023: One cruiser reported being able to go online with ASB who has a section for international money transfer using SWIFT code, yet other cruisers were required to go in person to make a payment.
- 2022: An email will be sent within minutes providing you with a link to pay via bank transfer. If you did not get this within 10-minutes then something went wrong and you will need to go to Immigration.
- a. The email will state that you have 72-hours to go to a BSP bank branch to make a deposit into the Immigration account (this is all outlined on the confirmation email).
    - i. There is a separate fee per person as bank payments have to be done separately.
  - b. In 2022, The online payment process was too complicated for us -- so we hired a taxi (\$45F each way for 20-minute ride) to take us to (Nadi) Namaka Immigration by the airport. Go directly to the cashier (far right back corner), do not wait in line to speak to an agent. We paid our fee, received a receipt. Cashier hours in Nadi 0830-1400 Mon-Fri.
5. Upload paid receipt by clicking on the link sent to you in an email.
- a. Regardless of how you pay, online or in person, you have to upload your receipt within 72hrs.
  - b. If you do not upload your paid receipt within 72-hours your application will be closed. So, be sure to time your application submission with your proximity to a BSP bank.
6. Email confirmation will be sent within minutes.
7. Your email confirmation will show that your application and payment were submitted but it does not state that your visa was approved for extension. It just is.

**Oct. 2022:** After we applied for our extension, we did not receive any confirmation. We cleared out 2 weeks after our expiry date and presented our application, printed email confirmations, and paid receipt upon check out with no issues. – Sugar Shack

Keep copies of all of your receipts as things tend to get lost and some cruisers were asked to pay the fees again.

You can use an agent to assist you as well. Yacht Partners was charging \$200F for their fees and \$50F for transportation for 2 people.

Renewing in Person: You may also do this process in person by following [The Fiji Pocketguide](#) which has a comprehensive write up on how to extend your visa beyond the initial 4 months. It states that for the visa application renewal process:

1. Complete the “Application for Extension of Visitor’s Permit” ([http://www.immigration.gov.fj/images/pdfs/visitor\\_extension\\_permits.pdf](http://www.immigration.gov.fj/images/pdfs/visitor_extension_permits.pdf))
2. Documents and information, you will need:
  - a. Arrival Card Number (ROT)
  - b. Valid passport
  - c. Return travel ticket
  - d. Proof of funds
  - e. The date you entered Fiji
  - f. The date your present Visitor Permit expires
  - g. The date you plan to leave Fiji (the date you plan for the extension until)
  - h. Reason for the extension
  - i. Vaccine certificate / card
3. Pay the fee of exactly FJ\$91
4. Immigration offices are located in Suva, Nadi, Lautoka, Savusavu, Levuka, Labasa, Rotuma

The visa extension application must be submitted at least two weeks prior to your expiry date.

### **1.3.15 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 60 months** (54 months initial period plus 6 months extension period after its first arrival). 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.

### **1.3.16 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](http://www.yachtpartnersfiji.com)  
Josephine Morris: Cell: +679.992.7986, WhatsApp: +679.992.7986, [jo@yachtpartnersfiji.com](mailto:jo@yachtpartnersfiji.com). Her partner is Leca +679.777.1855.
- **Yacht Help** – [www.yachthelp.com](http://www.yachthelp.com)  
David Jamieson +679.750 5000 and [david@yachthelp.com](mailto:david@yachthelp.com)
- **Seal Superyachts** – [www.seal-superyachts.com](http://www.seal-superyachts.com)  
Chase Smith +679.999 6556 and [fiji@seal-superyachts.com](mailto:fiji@seal-superyachts.com)

**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. – Sugar Shack

### **1.3.17 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@fracs.org.fj](mailto:yachtsreport@fracs.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.

**Oct. 2022: 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). – 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

#### **1.3.17.1 Cruiser Reports**

**Verified 2023: 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](http://www.fijiairways.com). Reservations: [reservations@fijiairways.com](mailto: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**

**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 to their arrival date. – 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](http://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**

**Aug. 2023:** 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 (because better safe than sorry) 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. – 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 (Oct.2022 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](#).

**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. To do so with the least problems, try to have the shipper mark the parcel 'yacht-in-transit', and put your rotation number (on your check-in paperwork) on the parcel and shipping label.

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, AY2022/100 would be AY the year 2022 and the yacht was the 100<sup>th</sup> 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 2018:** Though we found both the CMAP (CM93 v2) 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 satellite 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 recently updated "[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/index.php?page=south\\_west\\_pacific\\_marine#20](https://www.met.gov.fj/index.php?page=south_west_pacific_marine#20)

**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).

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.

The latest info on Gulf Harbor Radio scheds and frequencies is available on this website: [www.ghradio.co.nz](http://www.ghradio.co.nz)

**Aug. 2023:** “The number of yachts with radios has diminished over the years so in 2022 we will be on air daily during passage making but will review our schedule at other times to accommodate our hobbies.”

Contact GHR prior to going on passage, and see what they will do for you. Make sure you have a working marine radio or a way to receive a text email. Contact info here: [www.ghradio.co.nz/contact.html](http://www.ghradio.co.nz/contact.html)

#### 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

<http://www.goes.noaa.gov/sohemi/sohemiloops/shirgmscol.html>

##### 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](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/index.php?page=maps>

Daily Forecast (land): [http://www.met.gov.fj/aifs\\_prods/10040.txt](http://www.met.gov.fj/aifs_prods/10040.txt)

#### 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.

There are two satellite photo links that I have been using 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:

For a bigger picture, all the way out to the eastern edge of Australia, if you have good internet, this link is better: [www.goes.noaa.gov/sohemi/sohemiloops/shirgmscol.html](http://www.goes.noaa.gov/sohemi/sohemiloops/shirgmscol.html)

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: If it's Tuesday 09:00 in Tahiti, its Wednesday at 08:00 Tonga time, and 07:00 Fiji Time.

Fiji is generally on the same time zone as NZ except during daylight savings time.

Fiji does observe daylight savings time.

You may find that your electronic charts, like 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](http://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/](http://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). A half kilo bundle of kava root is the appropriate and required offering (\$20F-30FJ). 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, women are expected to cover their shoulders down to their knees, and 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 mildly 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-\$30F) 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 (for example 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.

One forgets the Fijians appreciate that this is not part of our culture, and they are such nice people that they 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, 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 "buuuulaaaah" 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, 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](mailto:bula@seamercyfiji.org), [www.seamercyfiji.org](http://www.seamercyfiji.org)



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

Department of Fisheries | P.O. Box 2100, Suva, Fiji Islands | Telephone: 324 1111 | Fax: 324 3944

### 1.7.9 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 onggoo
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.

**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. – Sugar Shack

### **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/](https://www.globalpetrolprices.com/Fiji/diesel_prices/)

**Oct. 2023:** Diesel \$2.83/litre, Gasoline \$3.05/litre, Premix \$2.62/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 Vuda Marina, Port Denarau 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](http://www.fijiairways.com). Reservations: [reservations@fijiairways.com](mailto:reservations@fijiairways.com).

### **1.9.2 Banks & ATMs**

The currency in Fiji is the Fijian dollar. Exchange Rate Sept.2023 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.

**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](http://www.gccexchange.com), [gccfiji@gccexchange.com](mailto:gccfiji@gccexchange.com), 395A Building Main Street, Nadi (across from taxi stand and next to large Jack's). – Sugar Shack

### **1.9.3 Wifi (Internet and Phone)**

See the [Communications](#) section for Wifi & Cell information

### **1.9.4 Importation of Spares and Repair Parts**

Nearly all 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](mailto: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 (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.

### **1.9.5 Shipping Parts and Mail into Fiji**

**Fiji Freight** offers U.S. to Fiji freight solutions. Tel/WhatsApp: +1.424.392.5746, +1.424.290.0965. [www.fijifreight.us](http://www.fijifreight.us). email: [ship@fijifreight.us](mailto:ship@fijifreight.us).

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

**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 and super friendly.

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 the following Friday. – Sugar Shack

**Sept. 2022:** We had not had much luck with shipping in French Polynesia so when a friend of ours raved about Fiji Freight we were a little trepidatious. 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 1.7m’ 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. Then they weredelivered 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!

Some of the marinas will allow you to ship directly to the marina. However, you will be responsible for clearing your items out of customs. – 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)

### **1.9.6 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.

**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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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. I was also in need of the transderm/scop patch and they called several pharmacies to find them for me. – Sugar Shack

**Sept. 2022:** Matt hurt his ear free diving and visited the doctor at the Emergency clinic in Denarau. They were very professional, kind and pretty fast. We had two visits, each we had to pay a small fee for the visit and the medications. But it was worth it to know what was going on (he had a perforated ear drum). We just walked in, no wait, and easy. – Sugar Shack

### **1.9.7 Provisions (Groceries)**

Good grocery stores can be found in all the major cities. See individual island discussions for details. 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/](http://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](http://www.farmboyfiji.com) (order & pay online), [accountsfarmboyfiji@yahoo.com](mailto:accountsfarmboyfiji@yahoo.com) & [farmboyfiji@gmail.com](mailto: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 Musket Cove, Plantation Island, Lomani, Mana Island, Lau, Kadavu, Savusavu and more.

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

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.

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%.

We found most larger towns have at least one grocery store.

**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. Sea Lovers in Savusavu carries a locally made halloumi cheese and a variety of yogurts.

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 are 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, Storage, Marinas, and Repair Facilities**

Facilities and services are listed by location below.

#### **1.10.1 Vanua Levu: Savusavu**

See island sections for additional information on these marinas.

##### **1.10.1.1 Copra Shed Marina**

+679.885.0457. [www.coprashedfiji.com](http://www.coprashedfiji.com) email: [coprashed@connect.com.fj](mailto: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. Copra Shed has a marine store, restaurant, assistance with clearance, garbage disposal, showers, laundry. A pseudo, short (10m) “fuel dock” requires multiple lines tied on shore and in the water to secure the boat. Dolly will assist with tours, car rentals, and any other areas where you need assistance.

**Aug.2023:** Dolly is amazing and so very helpful. She handled our clearance process efficiently, helped us with a tour, and general info. Absolutely lovely to work with. Pio & Tex come out to with moorings. – Sugar Shack

##### **1.10.1.2 Waitui Marina**

+679.885.3067, Mobil: +679.925.7111, or +679.885.3447, VHF 16. [www.fijimarinas.com/waitui-marina](http://www.fijimarinas.com/waitui-marina). Waitui is the first marina you come to while entering the bay. It has 24 moorings, bar, restaurant, DHL Express agent, dive shop, showers, and laundry. They have a dock that's only suitable for dinghies.

Assistance with clearance and departure, garbage disposal, and electricity (to charge devices, not boat). They also sell Wifi cards and will assist with tours and rental cars.

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. They have people come out to assist with moorings as you approach.

Mooring Fees: \$18F per day; \$105F per week; \$380F per month

**2022:** Upon our arrival, Copra Shed did not have our reservation for a mooring so we went to Waitui Marina. They were super nice and accommodating. A small panga met us and helped with the mooring (it was a short painter and we are a tall boat). Genevieve and Alla (in the office) worked with our agent to coordinate the clearance process. Alla also arranged for a fabulous island tour and assisted us with hard to find shopping items. – Sugar Shack

### 1.10.1.3 Savusavu Marina

+679.866.0625 and +679.746.1454 (Melil Cell). [www.savusavumarina.com](http://www.savusavumarina.com), [office@savusavumarina.com](mailto:office@savusavumarina.com) VHF 16. Hours: Mon-Fri: 0800-1700. Dock with power, water and wifi. (2) cyclone moorings. General engineering, structural fabrication, cast steel, brass, and copper welding (TIG, MIG), boat cleaning, boat sitting, boat checking. Showers and laundry.

### 1.10.1.4 Nawi Island Marina

+679.885.3602. [marketing@nawiisland.com](mailto:marketing@nawiisland.com). [www.nawiisland.com](http://www.nawiisland.com). The marina is open as they continue to expand and build additional facilities, housing, shops, and haulout facility.

Marina will eventually have 137 slips including 21 dedicated superyacht slips. Owners state that this natural harbor surrounded by 3 islands will allow for year-round mooring and cyclone rated for up to category five.

There is a tasty restaurant, bar, market, chandlery, showers, and laundry facilities. Immersion Fiji provides a variety of tours, SUP & kayak rentals and fishing excursions.

Coming soon are retail stores, money exchange, in house bakery, ATM, swimming pool, beach club restaurant and bar, volleyball court, museum, children's area, spa, and marina condos.

The boatyard, opening mid to late 2024, will have the capacity for 112 vessels, a wash bay, engineering and welding workshop, paint and anti-fouling workshop, dive and gas bottles refills and 24/7 security.

**Dinghy Dock** will be in place and operational by Nov.2023. As of Sept. 2023, dinghies are requested to tie up in the center of the docks in front of the marina office.

The **fuel dock** will be fully operational by Nov. 2023. As of Aug. 2023, the marina brings drums to the boat if the need less than 1000 litres. They will arrange a fuel truck for those who need 3000 liters or more and fueling will be done from the commercial dock.

**Laundry** is \$9/kilo (wash, dry, fold) and is run by Maureen Fong +679 270 4620.

**Pump Out Facility** will be operational Nov. 2023

## 1.10.2 Viti Levu: Nadi Area

### 1.10.2.1 Vuda Point Marina

+679.666.8214. [www.vudamarina.com.fj](http://www.vudamarina.com.fj), [info@vudamarina.com.fj](mailto: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'). Mechanical, refrigeration, caulking, plumbing, carpentry, sandblasting, metal works, fiberglass work, electrical, rigging, stainless steel work, spray painting, anti-fouling.

Vuda Point Marina 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. In the past, theft from boats dry-stored in this manner has been a problem.

Photo courtesy of Fiji Shores & Marinas 2020





+679.666.2215, [www.musketcoverfiji.com](http://www.musketcoverfiji.com) email [inquiries@musketcoverfiji.com](mailto:inquiries@musketcoverfiji.com) or [mcyc@musketcoverfiji.com](mailto:mcyc@musketcoverfiji.com), VHF 64 & 68. On Malolo Lailai Island in western Fiji offers many moorings and plenty of room to anchor safely. Their annual Musket Cove Race Week usually has an excellent turnout of yachts from many countries. Services include: Water, electricity, propane, fuel, grocery, spa, hair salon, golf course, Wifi, postal services, showers, trash disposal, bike rentals, restaurants and bars, accommodations. 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>. Hours: Sun-Sat: 0800-2200. Close to downtown Suva. Fuel dock, dinghy dock, bar, restaurant, showers, laundry, and wifi. Boatyard repairs, chandlery, water, electricity, Wifi, trash disposal.

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.

Photo courtesy of Fiji Shores & Marinas 2020



### 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 3<sup>rd</sup> 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](mailto:fiji@baobabmarine.com), [www.baobabmarine.com](http://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](mailto: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](mailto:info@yachthelp.com), (Servicing Port Denarau, Vuda Marina, Nawi Marina).
- **Boat Watching Services**
  - Baobab Marine 679.664.0827 (Vuda) and +679.675.1120 (Denarau), +679.999.6556, +679.999.7941. [marine@baobabindustries.com.fj](mailto:marine@baobabindustries.com.fj).
  - Don Henderson on Wharram Catamaran called Coromandel (around Musket, Denarau, Vuda)
  - Ifraz Khan at [maintenance@yachthelp.com](mailto:maintenance@yachthelp.com)
  - Ravi Kumar at RevMarine in Denarau [ravi@revmarine.com.fj](mailto:ravi@revmarine.com.fj)

- **Canvas, Fabric and Foam** (See sails below)
  - **Exact Footwear Repair** +679.944.1113 / +679.848.4635. [herishnarayan@gmail.com](mailto: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** +679.679.5720 / +679.997.5156. [jetsetupholstery@gmail.com](mailto:jetsetupholstery@gmail.com), Located in Nadi. 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** +679.675.0996 [marshallsails@connect.com.fj](mailto:marshallsails@connect.com.fj), located in Vuda and Denarau. Owner Alan Marshall. Focuses on sail work, but will do canvas work on the side.
  - **Motiram** (fabric store) +679.777.1075 Nadi & 679.331.6614 Suva. [www.motiram.com](http://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](mailto:pawansupholsteryworks@live.com), replaced salong and cockpit cushions.
  - **Popular Furniture Ltd:** (foam replacement) Melvin +679.983.2954 (WhatsApp), +679.779.6760. [manimelvin31@gmail.com](mailto:manimelvin31@gmail.com) or [popular@connect.com.fj](mailto: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](http://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](http://www.yachtshop.com.fj). Complete marine store, suppliers of Sika, Fusion, Harken, Jabsco, Garmin
- **Dinghies:** Baobab Marine & Seal Superyachts +679.675.1120, +679.664.0827, +679.999.6556, +679.999.7941. [fiji@baobabmarine.com](mailto:fiji@baobabmarine.com), [www.baobabmarine.com](http://www.baobabmarine.com) Located: Port Denarau & Vuda
- **Dinghy Repair & Life Raft Servicing:** Marine Safety Services +679.331.2426 [issac.whippy@marinesafety.com.fj](mailto:issac.whippy@marinesafety.com.fj)
- **Diving Equipment:** Aqua-Trek Beqa Dive Center +679.702.9896. [www.aquatrek.com/](http://www.aquatrek.com/). Hours: Mon-Sun: 0700-1615 (Suva) for dive gear.
- **Engineering:**
  - All Engineering (Fiji) Ltd. +679.665.2696, [allengltk@connect.com.fj](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:fiji@baobabmarine.com), [www.baobabmarine.com](http://www.baobabmarine.com) In: Port Denarau & Vuda. Electrical, wiring, navigation (servicing/repairs), starter motors, and alternators.
  - Ram Pillai (Savusavu) +679.921.9777 (see comment under motors)
  - RevMarine (Denarau) +679 932 2019, +679 926 0531, [ravi@revmarine.com.fj](mailto:ravi@revmarine.com.fj), [www.revmarine.com.fj](http://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](mailto: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](mailto:info@yachthelp.com), (Servicing Port Denarau, Vuda Marina, Nawi Marina).
- **Fiberglass Laminator:**
  - Denarau: Nick Tansley +679.925.8488

- Savusavu: Rodney Miller +679.830.6807 or +679.742.7854
- Savusavu: Alseac Miller +679.714.9455
- **Generators**
  - All Engineering (Fiji) Ltd. +679.665.2696, [allengltk@connect.com.fj](mailto:allengltk@connect.com.fj), All generator work.
- **Life Raft Services**
  - Lawhill Liferaft & Marine [sales@lawhillfiji.com](mailto:sales@lawhillfiji.com) Denarau: Necco +679 998 9803, Suva: Sanjesh +679 998 98913, [cfo@lawhillfiji.com](mailto:cfo@lawhillfiji.com), and Nadi: Shiu [westsales@lawhillfiji.com](mailto:westsales@lawhillfiji.com)
  - [Liferaft Sale & Service Centre](#) +679 331 5239 +679 992 8935. They only work and sell Chinese Brands of liferafts. They do not work on RFDs, Viking, or Winslow liferafts. 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](mailto:Isaac.whippy@marinesafety.com.fj)
- **Mechanic**
  - Savusavu: Sami ha 35 years experience working on yachts. +679 935 9730 WhatsApp, [ksami2011@connect.com.fj](mailto:ksami2011@connect.com.fj). He specializes in aluminium, stainless steel and barcing. He served 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.
- **Motors**
  - 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
  - Ram is a good electrician with a can-do helpful attitude, he is efficient and fairly priced and always 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](mailto:fiji@baobabmarine.com), [www.baobabmarine.com](http://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 +679.675.1120, +679.664.0827, +679.999.6556, [fiji@baobabmarine.com](mailto:fiji@baobabmarine.com), [www.baobabmarine.com](http://www.baobabmarine.com) Located: Port Denarau & Vuda
  - P. Kumar Electric Services: +679.666.2577, +679.665.2577, +679.651.0850, +679.992.9696. [p.kumargroupofcompanies@gmail.com](mailto:p.kumargroupofcompanies@gmail.com). Hours: Mon-Fri: 0800-1700, Sat: 0900-1200.
  - Rainbow Mustak +679 998 1234, +679.847.4354 (WhatsApp). Based on Nadi, but 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 +679 879 0109 in Savusavu is a local freezer tech who is self employed. 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](mailto:info@yachthelp.com), (Servicing Port Denarau, Vuda Marina, Nawi Marina).
- **Rigging**
  - **Westide Rigging** +679 999 8838 (WhatsApp), [mothership@connect.com.fj](mailto: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...). We even splice halyards. They can ship to all Pacific islands. We travel all over Fiji including to Savusavu.
  - 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. We can pick up and copy any rigging and send to anywhere needed. I've been a rigger for more than 40 years and know furling systems and their problems with a wealth of contacts for parts if I don't have them here.
- **Sails: Marshall Sails:** +679.675.0996, [marshallsails@connect.com.fj](mailto:marshallsails@connect.com.fj)
  - See above "Canvas, Fabric and Sails"
  - 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! – Sugar Shack
- **Solar Panels:**
  - Clay Engineering: +679.336.3880. [www.clayenergy.com.fj](http://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](mailto:innertech@connect.com.fj). (Labassa) 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
- **Watermaker:**
  - Baobab Marine & Seal Superyachts +679.675.1120, +679.664.0827, +679.999.6556, +679.999.7941. [fiji@baobabmarine.com](mailto:fiji@baobabmarine.com). [www.baobabmarine.com](http://www.baobabmarine.com) Located: Port Denarau Marina and Vuda.
  - Oceania Water Group Fiji +679.786.6417, +679.786.6415, +679.774.3126. Owner: Neil Towner [www.oceaniawatergroup.com](http://www.oceaniawatergroup.com), [sales@oceaniawatergroup.com](mailto:sales@oceaniawatergroup.com). 288 Vomo Street, Lautoka, PO Box 6190, Fiji. Hours: Mon-Fri: 0800-1700
    - **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](mailto:allengltk@connect.com.fj), All welding equipment.

- Sami ha (Savusavu) 35 years experience working on yachts. +679 935 9730 WhatsApp, [ksami2011@connect.com.fj](mailto:ksami2011@connect.com.fj). He specializes in aluminium, stainless steel and barcing.
- Baobab Marine & Seal Superyachts +679.675.1120, +679.664.0827, +679.999.6556, [fiji@baobabmarine.com](mailto:fiji@baobabmarine.com), [www.baobabmarine.com](http://www.baobabmarine.com) Located: Port Denarau & Vuda.
- Shane Veday Middenway, +679.732.6335, [shanevmiddenway@gmail.com](mailto: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

### **1.12 Thefts and Breakins**

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 (rive 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 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.

### **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 Marina:** The new 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: 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. And Savusavu is just a really

nice place. 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 3: 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. Since this is the common choice, you'll need to book early. If a strong storm passes over, it's not uncommon for boats to have damage to rubrails 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.

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 on the bottom of a trench. There is capacity here for more boats.

**Location 4: 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 5: 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 6: 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. And while there is not a big history of mozzie-borne disease there, getting lots of mozzie bites is just not safe. 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 to back out 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 mouldy 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 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 (7:15pmFiji time) on 8752 USB (alternate freq 8779 and last alternate freq 8297).

**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](mailto:peter@northlandradio.nz). And [www.northlandmaritimeradio.nz/products/passage-tracking](http://www.northlandmaritimeradio.nz/products/passage-tracking).

**Poly Mag Net** (formerly known as the Polynesian Magellan Net): Frequency 8.173USB. There are two daily scheduled net times. The morning net is at 1800UTC and the evening net is 0400 UTC. Signal can be reached, albeit weak, French Polynesia, Hawaii, Fiji, Tonga, Cooks, and New Zealand. During off season, the morning net is suspended.

**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.

### **1.14.3 Telephones & Cell Phones**

There are 2 major cell phone providers in Fiji--**Vodafone** and **Digicel**. Both have booths in Savusavu (and I would suspect at the airport and other major arrival locations). It took us 10 minutes, our passport, and \$5FJ to get a sim card for our unlocked cell phone. This is a pre-paid account--no commitment required. You buy 'top up' cards from cell phone stores or other stores, and add money to your account.

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

**Vodafone:** [www.vodafone.com.fj/pages.cfm/personal/price-plan/](http://www.vodafone.com.fj/pages.cfm/personal/price-plan/)

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)

**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).  
– Sugar Shack

**Digicel:** [www.digicelfiji.com/](http://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.

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.

### **1.14.4 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). – Sugar Shack

### **1.14.5 News**

Here are some English language Fijian news websites:

Fiji Times - [www.fijitimes.com/](http://www.fijitimes.com/)

Fiji Sun - [www.fijisun.com.fj/](http://www.fijisun.com.fj/)

Regional News from New Zealand Herald: [www.nzherald.co.nz/](http://www.nzherald.co.nz/)

Radio NZ's Pacific News Page - [hwww.rnzi.com/pages/news.php](http://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 give you a basic summary of US news. You can receive this via Saildocs—send an email to [query@saildocs.com](mailto: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](http://www.diveacademyfiji.com) email: [info@diveacademyfiji.com](mailto:info@diveacademyfiji.com).

Paradise Resort: +679.932.8878, [info@paradiseinfiji.com](mailto:info@paradiseinfiji.com), [www.paradiseinfiji.com/diving/](http://www.paradiseinfiji.com/diving/)

Beqa Adventure Divers +679.998.8006, [www.fijisharkdive.com](http://www.fijisharkdive.com), [contact@fijisharkdive.com](mailto:contact@fijisharkdive.com), [adventures@connect.com.fj](mailto:adventures@connect.com.fj). Located in Pacific Harbour.

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.

See the diving notes in the individual island sections for more diving in these areas.

**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

## **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](http://www.fijipocketguide.com)
- Fiji Shores and Marinas: [www.fijimarinas.com/cruising-guide](http://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. – 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](http://www.facebook.com/groups/211072082359807)
- Fiji – Buy Sell: [www.facebook.com/groups/fijiclassifree](http://www.facebook.com/groups/fijiclassifree)

### **1.16.5 Noonsite**

[www.noonsite.com](http://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.sca.org](http://www.sca.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 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.

### **1.16.8 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](mailto: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.

**Sugar Shack (2022-2023):** Matt and Christine on Sugar Shack have sailed from Turkey to the Caribbean, ABCs, Panama Canal, Costa Rica, Galapagos, Chile, and French Polynesia. They arrived in Fiji in 2022 and again in 2023. Sugar Shack is a 47' Catana catamaran: 15m long, 7.7m wide, 1.3m draft. Sugar Shack was instrumental in the reorganization and update of the Fiji, Tonga, and French Polynesia Compendiums in 2019-2023. In addition, Christine created the French Poly Cruisers Facebook group (with over 4k members) and ran the Poly Mag Net (SSB Radio) for 2+ years. [www.svSugarShack.com](http://www.svSugarShack.com)

**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](http://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.

**Birdsong (2023):** Chris Dillard from Portland Orgeon is a retired RN and a lifelong sailor. The boat was purchased in 2021. Birdsong is a 2003 Halberg Rassy 46 (48' long, 14' wide, 7.5' draft).

**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](http://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](http://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](http://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 Lorraine 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.svsoggyaws.blogspot.com/search/label/fiji](http://www.svsoggyaws.blogspot.com/search/label/fiji).

**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](http://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](http://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/](http://www.sailblogs.com/member/namaniatsea/)

Nadine from Namani is the author of a book for sailing families who home school called "Lesson Plans Ahoy: Hands-on learning for sailing children and home-schooling sailors", available through Amazon in print or Kindle versions; <http://www.sailkidsed.net>

**Radiance (2013):** Mark V. Ward KL2RZ, Laurence Blakely KL2WZ. Radiance is from Seward, Alaska. Members of SSCA & OceansWatch. [www.sailblogs.com/member/thebigblue/](http://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](http://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.svsoggyaws.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/](http://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/](http://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](http://www.sv-carina.org)

**Mandala (2011)** - The comments from Mandala on the Lau Group were originally found on Noonsite, who reported the following: Our thanks to Adrian Faulkner of Sail Yacht MANDALA for this interesting and useful report. Adrian is happy to help others with info. Contact him at [mandala@inspire.net.nz](mailto:mandala@inspire.net.nz).

**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](http://www.nineofcups.com)

**Stray Kitty (2011)**: <http://www.ellsay.ca> A catamaran

**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](http://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. [www.starsonthesea.com/laugp.htm](http://www.starsonthesea.com/laugp.htm) and [sailingcyan.blogspot.com](http://sailingcyan.blogspot.com)

**Billabong (2005-2006)** - Billabong spent 2 seasons in Fiji. Blog: [www.sailbillabong.com](http://www.sailbillabong.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](http://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](http://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 3<sup>rd</sup> 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 3<sup>rd</sup> edition. 265 pages of still mostly-relevant information on Fiji. Used for sell on Amazon for \$23.95

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 I have 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, 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition published in 2016 sells for \$115.00USD.

## **2 Passage Reports**

### **2.1 To and From Fiji**

#### **2.1.1 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! – Sugar Shack

### **2.1.2 *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 overworking our auto pilot.

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 Custeau Resort. We got up early the next day to head into the channel where Copra Shed sent Phia 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. – Sugar Shack

### **2.1.3 *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

### **2.1.4 *New Zealand to/from Fiji***

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

On the return, most cruisers depart from Lautoka/Vuda/Denarau area or Suva, 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.

## **2.2 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 (did I mention really light winds).

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 to our protected anchor spot. – 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 1<sup>st</sup> reason was that this was a more comfortable point of sail for us in the ENE winds, and the 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 as we first entered, 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:** At first light, we motored out following waypoints and our inbound track. We motored fairly close around the reef and headed east for our waypoint at 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 Malolo, Musket Cove**

**Sept. 2023:** We took a few days to travel from Qamea (east of Taveuni) to Musket Cove (west of Viti Levu). 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 (not sure what the name is) 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. – Sugar Shack

### **2.2.10 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. – Sugar Shack

### **2.2.11 Suva to Kadavu**

**June 2012:** We waited a couple extra days 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 will do sevusevu this morning. Looking forward to exploring and doing a couple dives. So far Kadavu looks a lot like the Lau Group. Much more remote than I 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

### **2.2.12 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

### **2.2.13 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 several 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. – Sugar Shack

**Aug. 2012:** We left the village of 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 (mid-Aug.).

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 were able to pull in 5 bars on our Vodafone internet stick as we sailed by, but the speed was slow.

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). Again, our 2010 version CMap (CM93v2) chart was positionally accurate but not very detailed.

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 which should suggest to you that the anchoring is a bit bony. – Shango

#### **2.2.14 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. – Sugar Shack

## **3 Vanua Levu & Central Waters**

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. The downtown is a quarter-mile stretch of not-too-badly (newly 2022) paved road along a 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, pharmacy, 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 grocery stores, one of which is big enough to be called a "Super Market" and have carts.

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, so at low tide you can walk over there and stand in the steam coming out of the rocky beach. 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 Copra Shed Marina and Waitui Marina.

**Hailing a Marina:** 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) as they are on small hand held radios and cannot hear you when you call before the channel entrance.

**Dock Masters:** Copra Shed’s Dock Master’s work 0630 to 1900 to assist boats coming into the marina. Sometimes they even have someone on standby later/earlier if pre-arranged. They also work on the weekends Saturday 0630-1300 and later in the afternoon or on Sunday if prearranged.

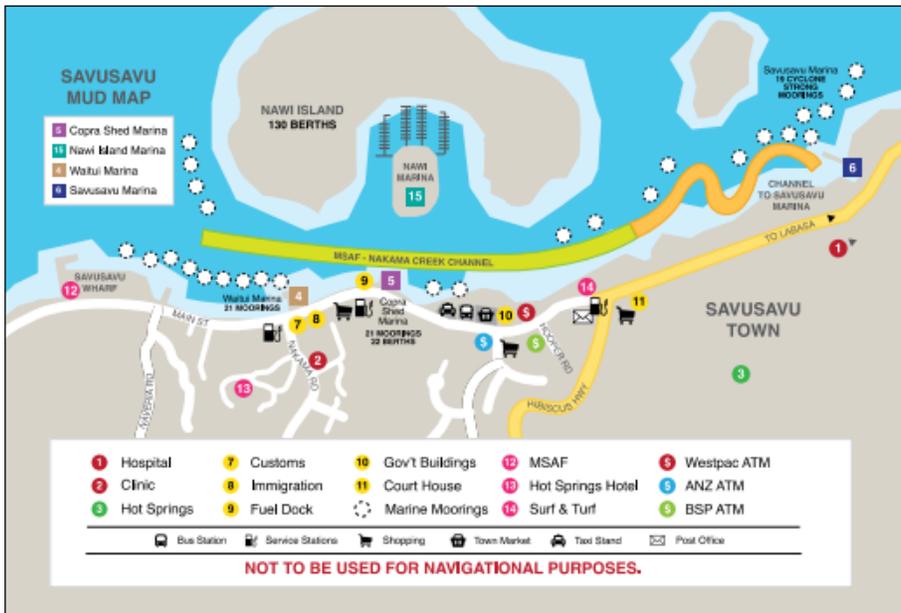


Photo courtesy of Fiji Marinas & Shores 2020

**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 the Copra Shed, Waitui, or Nawi Marina on Channel 16 regarding moorings available. Either will direct you further to a mooring.

All marinas send a panga out to 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. Totally recommend it as a place to clear in. The marinas organize transportation of the officials to and from your yacht.

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

**Oct.2023:** Savusavu just installed an incinerator (this month) and charges \$120-\$175FJ to incinerate your prohibited food. – Sugar Shack

**Aug. 2023:** We arrived just at dusk with one rudder and did not feel comfortable entering the channel with limited steering. So, we anchored by Cousteau Resort and came into the channel at 0715 where we met Pio with Copra Shed Marina. He directed us to a mooring, connected us up and then organized the officials.

Health official came first then all three (biosecurity, customs, and immigration) followed a few hours later. It all went super smoothly thanx to the well-organized system in Copra Shed. – 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. He said the officials may come later, but at 6:50pm the dock master returned and said the officials would come tomorrow (which was good because we avoided overtime fees).

The next morning, 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, told us not to eat some of our chicken and told us to eat other meats that day. 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:** We called Copra Shed Marina on VHF 16 and requested a mooring (which our agent had reserved ahead of time), but they were all full so Copra Shed told us to call Waitui Marina on VHF16. We did and they sent out a panga to meet us and assist us with the mooring.

Entry procedures started right away. First, two **health** people came out to perform the RAT (Covid) test. We showed them our passports and vaccine cards. The tests came back negative and they told us we needed to pay \$40F per test to the Waitui Marina (where she would collect the fees later). She also gave us an invoice for \$163.50F and told us to pay the hospital. The hospital is 1.2 miles from the marina, an easy walk or taxi ride (from marina, turn left, go through town and continue for 1 mile until you see it on your right). Once we had the receipt for payment, we could either deliver it to the Health Office (which is also called the Court House) or we could email it to them (which was much easier). We emailed it to them and then they emailed us the RAT certificate and negative test results.

Next came **Customs and Immigration** (2 people) who wanted to see ALL of our paperwork. They signed and stamped 2 pages from the C2C form, stamped our passports, and gave us really helpful information on the town. There was no fee for Customs and Immigration (unless they happen to be on your boat between 1300-1400 or after working hours).

The last official is **biosecurity**. He asked us if we had any fresh produce or meats on board, but did not explore the boat. We filled out some paperwork and he asked us to come to his office to pay \$85F. His office is located in a two-story green building across the street from the Westpac bank (from marina turn left, go to town, and it will be on the left). His office is in the back, first floor. He does require exact change (so stop at a store to buy a coke and get the exact fee).

Obviously, before you visit the offices you need a bank. We went to Westpac which is in the middle of town. From marina, turn left, and it will be on your left. There is another bank a little further down the road and across the street.

Our agent, Jo from Yacht Partners, handled our cruising permit. Monday morning, (we arrived Friday), we walked to the Customs office (which is directly across the street from Waitui Marina) and picked it up. Two boats who cleared in before us on Friday morning did not get their cruising permit until Tuesday.

We did not get charged the garbage fee. All in all, the process was remarkably easy. We arrived at 1100 and were done with the officials at 1400. Then we went ashore and ran around paying people before the 1600 closing. – Sugar Shack

**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 and Anchoring*

See the section on [Haul out, Storage, and Repair Facilities](#) above for details. It is customary to 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.

- **Copra Shed Marina:** VHF 16: Dolly Singh, Manager, Ofc: +679.885.0457, Mobile +679.999.2764. [coprashed@connect.com.fj](mailto:coprashed@connect.com.fj) Hours: Mon-Fri: 0800-2200. Berths and moorings. Services: (2) Restaurants, bar, showers, laundry, trash, chandlery, Fiji Airways, artisan market, water, electricity. Sunday early evening they have a band and large BBQ.
- **Nawi Island Marina:** Brand new marina. +679.885.3602. [marketing@nawiisland.com](mailto:marketing@nawiisland.com). [www.nawiisland.com](http://www.nawiisland.com). This new marina is open and really lovely.
- **Savusavu Marina** VHF 16. +679.866.0625, +679.746.1454 (Melil Cell). Hours: Mon-Fri: 0800-1700 [www.savusavumarina.com](http://www.savusavumarina.com), [office@savusavumarina.com](mailto:office@savusavumarina.com).
- **Waitui Marina:** VHF 16: Remi +679.865.0881. Genevieve or Alaseini +679.885.3067 cel: +679.925.7111, +679.885.3447, [alaseinipaniga@gmail.com](mailto:alaseinipaniga@gmail.com). Hours: Mon-Fri: 0800-2200. Moorings. Services: DHL, restaurant, showers, trash, laundry, butcher, water

**Aug. 2023:** There are several marinas in Savusavu. Presently cruisers mainly use Nawi, Copra Shed or Waitui. Each will assist with clearance procedures and have restaurants, showers, and laundry facilities. Copra is more upmarket compared to Waitui with reasonable showers, some mooring pontoons, mooring buoys, nice restaurant/bar facilities and a few shops, including a small chandlery. Waitui is a lot more basic with “adequate” showers, mooring buoys, a café, bar, meat market. Nawi is brand new and amazing.

**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

### 3.1.3 *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.

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).

#### 3.1.3.2 *Fuel (diesel and gasoline)*

**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

**Sept. 2023:** The fuel dock at Nawi Marina should be operational by Nov./Dec. 2023. – Sugar Shack

**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 you can take your jerry cans across the road to the fuel station. – Jamala

**June 2022:** If you organize it ahead of time, Copra Shed Marina can schedule a fuel truck to come to the very small, temporary dock in front of Copra Shed Marina. Here you can tie up your big boat (during high tide, when there is NO wind). It can be a little nerve racking as the dock is very small. The truck must be scheduled several days in advance and may require a minimum of 1,000 liters.

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. – Sugar Shack

**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.

### **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 did not fit our U.S. hose. We worked with the day shift "guy" at Copra Shed to get a proper connection and enough hose to fill our tanks on both sides of the boat. (you should check this 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.fijiairways.com](http://www.fijiairways.com)

#### **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](mailto:westpacfiji@westpac.com.au) or [www.westpac.com.fj](http://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](http://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 and Barbers**

**Sept. 2022:** Joti's House of Beauty Salon +679.939.4897, [jotiprasad777@gmail.com](mailto:jotiprasad777@gmail.com). Haircuts, aesthetics, facials, massages available for reasonable prices. – Airborne

**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

#### **3.1.4.4 Canvas Work**

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, but she used to have an office out of Waitui Marina. Her machine does not do zig zag so if you need sail work or work requiring a zig zag, she cannot do it.

Waitui Marina recommends Ahmet the upholsterer. He is priced fairly and does acceptable work; however, his machine does not do zig zag – ask Waitui for contact information.

#### **3.1.4.5 Computer Services**

- **Paradise Computers** +679.986.9013, +679.872 1398. Hours: Mon-Fri: 0800-1700. Sat: 0800-1500.
- **Ozi Electronics** +679.997.5437. [ozielectronics@yahoo.com](mailto:ozielectronics@yahoo.com).
- **Courts** +679 885 0272, turn left at Waitui Marina, on your left side. Computer, Homegoods, Sports
- **Kaka Watches:** (near Totoka Jewelry, past Westpac) has all sorts of batteries and makes keys

#### **3.1.4.6 Customs**

The Customs office is located directly across the street from Waitui Marina. +679.885.0727.

[savsavuport@frcs.org.fj](mailto:savsavuport@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.

#### **3.1.4.7 Electrical Services**

- **Xpro Electrical Works** +679.885.3422 or 926.5067 or 772.7012. [xproelectrical@hotmail.com](mailto:xproelectrical@hotmail.com). Located in town on right side of street.

- **Macuata Electrical** +679.209.9442. [macuataelectricalservices@yahoo.com](mailto:macuataelectricalservices@yahoo.com). Located right from Waitui marina on left hand side of street.

#### **3.1.4.8 Fiberglass**

- Savusavu: Rodney Miller +679.830.6807 or +679.742.7854
- Savusavu: Alseac Miller +679.714.9455

#### **3.1.4.9 Hardware & Automotive Stores**

- **Avikash Amlean Investments** (Automotive) +679.885.3193, +679.989.8556; +679.986.9560. Located at end of town, right hand side of street. Last building before you leave town, turn right. Near Mobile fuel station.
- **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](mailto:thehomedepot1@hotmail.com). Located right from marina, on left hand side. General hardware and marine.

#### **3.1.4.10 Immigration**

Immigration: Mon-Thurs: 0830-1600, Fri: 0830-1530. Location: From Waitui Marina, turn right, they are on left hand side (behind SeaLovers). Go to the 1<sup>st</sup> floor (which is 1 floor above the ground floor).

#### **3.1.4.11 Laundry Services**

Copra Shed Marina, Nawi Marina, and Waitui Marina offer laundry services. Inquire at each marina for prices and turnaround time. Copra Shed Marina +679.8850.457. Nawi Marina +679.229.6823. Waitui Marina +679.962.3037 and +679.885.0336.

**Aug. 2023:** Copra Shed Hours: Mon-Sun: 0600-2000. A full load of laundry, wash, dry, fold is still \$20F. It was done same day at Copra Shed Marina. – Sugar Shack

**June 2022:** A full load of laundry, wash, dry, fold cost \$20F, took 2 days at Copra Shed Marina. – Major Tom

#### **3.1.4.12 Library**

Savusavu Library is open to the public. 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.

#### **3.1.4.13 Marine Store & Services**

- **The Yacht Shop** is located in Copra Shed Marina. +679.999.9307. After hours: +679.999.6758 or +679.999.2764. [savusavu@yachtshop.com.fj](mailto:savusavu@yachtshop.com.fj) and [www.yachtshop.com.fj](http://www.yachtshop.com.fj). Hours: Mon-Thur: 0800-1700; Sat: 0800-1600. Great shop packed with marine items and water / sporting goods.
  - **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
- **Electrician:** Ram Pilkas +679.921.9777 and +679.707.3099. Location: Main road, just past BSP bank turn right on side street. He works on rewinding for starters, gensets and other electrical repair.
- **Engines and Transmissions (2012):** A guy named Leon was recommended to a cruiser with serious transmission problems. Leon's cell number is +679.979.7730. He operates out of a shop at the head of the bay in Savusavu. He may be found at Copra Shed bar.

- **Engine Repairs: Savusavu Small Engine Repairs** (Formerly called “Joe’s 2 & 4 Stroke Repair”): +679.922.9966 and +679.951.6844 email: [josephvosataki@hotmail.com](mailto:josephvosataki@hotmail.com). Repairs 2 and 4 stroke engines and generators. Located right from marina, on left-hand side. See sign on fence.
- **Engines & Mechanical:** Ritesh Kumar ar Krishna Yacht Services (Vuda Marina) +679 844 0860, [krishnayachtservices@gmail.com](mailto:krishnayachtservices@gmail.com). Inboard, outboard, repairs, maintenance, servicing. Comes highly recommended, will travel to other islands, will even trouble shoot over the phone.
- **Motors: (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
- **Rigging (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
- **Yamaha Services at Asco Motors.** +679.999.9307 Mr. Vishwa or +679.998.0291 Ms. Seruqaia Tuvou (sales manager) Hours: Mon-Sat: 0800-1700.
- **Stainless Steel Welding (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.
- **Welder (2022):**
  - **Ritesh Singh** +689.866.9444. [Singh22ritesh@yahoo.com](mailto: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](mailto: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.
- **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.

#### 3.1.4.14 Masseuse

- Cut and Glam Hair Salon +679 841 5891. Beauty treatment room where they give delightful massages, body wraps, facials, waxing, and other therapeutic and beauty treatments. Ask for Quini Whippy
- Naveria Heights Lodge +679 885 0348, [www.naveriaheightsfiji.com](http://www.naveriaheightsfiji.com), pickup from Copra Shed.

#### 3.1.4.15 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.
- **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 without the need for a new prescription.
- **Savusavu Medical Center and Hot Springs** +679.923.9043 email: Dr. Ishaque at [savusavumedicalcenter@yahoo.com](mailto: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 Lambasa and the results are available the next day. A comprehensive test currently costs \$120F plus \$30F PSA test for men.
- **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 and Tylenol are supplied. 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. 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. Dr. Kishor Kumar, Dental Surgeon Office 881-3475. Cell 921-7581 or [kumar\\_shivaan@yahoo.com](mailto:kumar_shivaan@yahoo.com). He is across the street from the Civic center, about a block away from the bus stop/market area.

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.

#### **3.1.4.16 Office & Photo Services**

Paradise Photo and Typing Services. +679.213.1165, [paradisepicssv@gmail.com](mailto: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.

#### **3.1.4.17 Post Office**

**Fiji Post:** Hours: Mon-Fri: 0800-1630; Saturday: 0800-1230. Just past the BSP Bank (end of town, right side of street), two double doors that say “push” there is a small sign on one of the windows “Fiji Post” but hard to see. The post office is lovely and offers regular office supplies, school supplies, and top up cards on top of standard postal services.

#### **3.1.4.18 Shipping and Freight**

- **Fiji Freight** offers U.S. to Fiji freight solutions. +1.424.392.5746. [www.fijifreight.us](http://www.fijifreight.us). email: [ship@fijifreight.us](mailto:ship@fijifreight.us). Frequently shipping boat parts, tools, accessories, online orders from U.S. retailers, household goods, packaged dry food, and snacks. They will consolidate your order and ship to you anywhere in Fiji. See below for comments and 2022 rates. See section “Shipping Parts & Mail to Fiji” for cruiser comments.
- **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.
- **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

#### **3.1.4.19 Shopping**

There are many stores selling clothing, home goods, housewares, and trinkets throughout the town.

There is an artisan handcraft store in Copra Shed Marina and an artisan market in town near the produce market (just past bus terminal).

#### **3.1.4.20 Transportation**

- The **taxi stand** is located in the parking lot of the bus terminal (left from marinas to town, on left).
- Dolly at Copra Shed Marina and Genevieve at Waitui will help arrange rental cars / tours for clients.
- Ayush Paradise Cabs +679.995.6026
- **AA Car Rental Savusavu**. +679.989.8556 and +679.986.9560. [aarentalsavusavu@gmail.com](mailto:aarentalsavusavu@gmail.com). Located right from marina, on left hand side.

- **James Car Rental** +679.885.0455, +679.867.33675, +679.999.1115, [jamesrentalssv@gmail.com](mailto:jamesrentalssv@gmail.com), [mselfiji92@gmail.com](mailto:mselfiji92@gmail.com), [www.jamesrental.com](http://www.jamesrental.com)

### 3.1.4.21 Wifi / Internet / Phone

Vodafone and Digicel are the two main service (internet/phone) providers for Fiji.

The **Vodafone kiosk** is located in front of the bus terminal (left from marina, on left side, by street). The outside of the container/building says “Value Phone” but it is Vodafone. Vodafone has a larger coverage area, but there are pockets where Digicel covers better. When you wait in line (yes there will be a line, but it moves quickly), go to the line on the left. The line on the right is for locals doing other services and paying bills.

**Digicel kiosk** is located in the bus terminal (back, left corner of parking lot).

Both companies sell sim cards and top up cards. Prices are very similar.

**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) – Sugar Shack

### 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 the right side of the street.
- **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)
- **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 +679.290.9361. 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. Both were delicious. – Dash

#### 3.1.5.2 Butcher

- **Marva Meats** +679.999.9307. Hours: Mon-Fri: 0800-1630; Sat: 0800-1400. Location: From marinas, turn left, go through town, and it will be located on right (sign out front). She gets a daily supply of meats (Mon-Sat) so the best time to visit her is after 11:00am any day, except Sunday.
- **Waikama Meats** +679 805 5327, Ask for Neelam, Facebook: WaikamaMeats, located behind Sea Lovers and next to the Immigration office (southwest corner of the courtyard). Hours: Mon-Fri: 0900-

1700, Sat: 0900-1200. Frozen meats, very good Italian and German Sausage. They offer pork ribs, pork belly, streaky bacon, salami, chicken breast/thighs, sirloin, and more.

### 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 Market:** Hours: Mon-Fri: 0800-1400. Sat: 0800-1200. Enter bus terminal (right corner of parking lot) and another entrance is sort of across from New World IGA - alley between blue building and King Fashion. Locals gather M-S to sell a variety of fresh produce including kava. Saturdays are the best days to visit.
- **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.
- **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, with the biggest selection and variety.
- **MaxVal-U Supermarket** +679.885.0030. Big Pink Building. Hours: Mon-Sat: 0800-1800. Sun: 0800-1300. They offer Western Union Services and sell fuel. A variety of products at decent prices. Between Waitui and Copra Shed on the opposite side of the street.
- **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.
- **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.

- **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.
- **Pmeghji Wine & Liquor** +679.338.4135. Hours: Mon-Sat: 0900-1800. Location: Left from marina, past bus station, past Wespac Bank, just before library, turn left down hallway (between buildings), Pmeghji will be on left. 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. Our taxi driver said this was the main “wholesale” liquor store.
- **Savusavu Bottle Shop** +679.952.2798, +679.981.0647. Located end of town on left
- **Bluebay Wine and Dine.** Hours: Mon-Wed: 0730-2130. Thurs: 0730-2000. Located across the street from Waitui Marina
- **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.
- **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.

### 3.1.5.5 Restaurants

- **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.
  - **Aug. 2023:** We had dinner here. a little more expensive but good food & service. – Jamala
- **Decked Out Café** Hours: Mon-Sat: 0800-2100. Sun: 1030-1900. More of a bar with bar food.
- **Ethan's Coffee Heaven:** +679.907.8562. Hours: Mon-Sat: 0830-2030
- **Naveria Heights Lodge** +679.885.0348 and +679.936.4804. [www.naveriaheightsfiji.com](http://www.naveriaheightsfiji.com) email: [justnaveria@connect.com.fj](mailto:justnaveria@connect.com.fj). Serve a lovely breakfast, lunch, & dinner with stunning valley views.
- **Raj's Secret Delight** offers Indian food that is rather tasty and inexpensive. Right side of street, side alley, 2<sup>nd</sup> floor.
- **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.
- **Surf and Turf** +679.885.3033, [surfnturfssv@yahoo.com](mailto:surfnturfssv@yahoo.com). Located left into town, on the left just before you leave town. Excellent reputation, good food. There is a dinghy dock behind the restaurant.
  - **Aug. 2023:** Absolutely tasty food and lovely service. It is a bit pricey, but the food was super delicious as were the cocktails! – Sugar Shack
  - **Aug. 2023:** Excellent food and service, a little more expensive than other places but worth it. They have a small seating area for drinks before dinner. – Jamala
- **The 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)
  - **Aug. 2023:** Nice wraps, organic food. – Jamala
- **The 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. Friendly staff and reasonable prices for huge portions of food.
  - **Aug. 2023:** 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! And they have a large pool table if you're up for a game. – Sugar Shacks
- **White Stork Tavern (Bar/Club)** Hours: Wed: Sat: 1100-1300. Bar/club.
- **Ethan's Coffee Heaven** +679 907 8562. Hours: Mon-Sat: 0800-2000. Across from Waitui
  - **Aug. 2023:** We had breakfast & lunch here. It's nice & clean, friendly staff, but food wasn't great. – Jamala
- **Arun's Taste of Hidden Paradise** Chinese / Indian Restaurant takeaway +679 920 9781
  - **Aug. 2023:** While we waited for takeaway, they gave us water. Lovely staff, food ok. – Jamala

**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

### 3.1.6 Activities

**Sharon Wild** 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. +679.932.2233 (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. – 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. – Sugar Shack

**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@fiji@gmail.com](mailto:floratropica@fiji@gmail.com). [www.floratropica.com](http://www.floratropica.com). Self-guided walking tour. \$25F per person.

**Waisali Rainforest Reserve** +679.951.7277, +679 330 1807, [info@nationaltrust.org.fj](mailto:info@nationaltrust.org.fj). This has been closed since 2019 and has not reopened as of 8/2023. 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](http://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/](http://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. – 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](mailto: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. [www.kokomanafiji.com](http://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. 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](mailto: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: Hot water pools.** Access these by taking the path to the right of the red roof supermarket (going past the customs office on the right). Cross the playing field aiming at the low thatch roofs behind a brown fence (slight diagonal right across the field). The hot pools were renovated and new information boards erected early Aug. 2022. Don't expect to paddle – the pools are boiling. Only a 5-minute diversion from your walk from Waitui marina into town.

**Bus to Labasa** – Take a day trip on the bus across the island – through the lush mountains. The bus leaves Savusavu bus station at 7:30am. You will need a bus card for your party loaded with sufficient dollars for your journey. Cost is approx. \$7 dollars per person. (\$14 r/t). Bus returns at 12:30 or 2pm. Highlights included a visit to the Sugar Cane factory (we were not allowed to enter, as we didn't have safety boots) But we were grateful to Sheik, the PR manager for spending time with us explaining everything about sugar cane production in Labasa, and the convoys of tractors loaded with cut cane, plus the diesel locomotives running about were interesting. Also...the market was fabulous- so much produce and very much cheaper than Savusavu. The Indo-Fijian culture in Labasa was very interesting- a very different town from Savusavu!

**Hot pool** – After the Nakawaga falls turn right on the main highway to Labasa and shortly pass Biula Minimart on the left side of the road. Very soon you can park on the road verge and walk just a few meters to the loveliest hot water pool. This one is perfect for a dip. Locals were using it and happy for us to join them after we asked politely!

**Flora Tropicana Gardens** 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. Call Enoch to arrange entry on +679 930 4697. 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!). Call +679 298 9426 to arrange a tour. Cost is \$30 dollars per adult – family discounts available! About 2km out of town towards Cousteau Resort. Look for the Daku Estate. It is situated behind this and signposted at the road.

**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. Well attended by locals and yachties alike. Great fun! – Tintamarre

### **3.1.7 Diving**

**Dive Academy Fiji** +679.725.8184 or +675.725.8167. [info@diveacademyfiji.com](mailto:info@diveacademyfiji.com), [www.diveacademyfiji.com](http://www.diveacademyfiji.com)  
Located Viani Bay, Vanua Levu. Hours: Mon-Sun: 0800-1800. PADI Freediving center, Padi dive resort, dive courses, dive tours. As of Aug.2023, 1-dive \$180F and 2-dives \$360F if you bring your own gear. They only dive with 4 guests and a guide which is super personalized experience.

**Jean-Michel Cousteau Dive Shop** +679.885.0694. [www.jeanmichelcousteaudiving.com](http://www.jeanmichelcousteaudiving.com) email [donsantee@jeanmichelcousteaudiving.com](mailto:donsantee@jeanmichelcousteaudiving.com). Hours: Mon-Sun: 0730-1630. Tours and courses available.

**KoroSun Dive** +679.934.1033. [www.korosundive.com](http://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](http://www.liquidstatefreediving.com), [liquidstatefreediving@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:info@oceanventuresfiji.com) [www.oceanventuresfiji.com](http://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](http://www.korosundive.com)

### **3.2 Cousteau Resort Anchorage**

The Cousteau Resort prefers that yachts do not anchor in front of their property.

### **3.2.1 Anchorage**

**Aug. 2023: 16°48.450S / 179°17.388E** anchored 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. Because we arrived at dusk, with one rudder, we did not feel comfortable going into the channel to grab a mooring in the dark with limited mobility. So, we anchored here for the night. The anchor struggled to get a hold, but eventually stuck well. – 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:** 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. We anchored on sand (on the reef for lunch and a hull scrubbing) at 16°48.906S / 179°16.886E. – 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 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. – 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 Rokocivia Bay**

### **3.3.1 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. – Sugar Shack

### **3.3.2 Anchorage**

**Aug. 2023: 16°52.868S / 179°02.718E.** This is a very shallow spot! Our draft is 1.2m. 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. – Sugar Shack

### **3.3.3 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. – Sugar Shack

### **3.4 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](mailto:namenaisland@connect.com.fj).

The Namena Island Resort is currently under construction (as of Oct. 2023). The old Moodys Namena Resort was destroyed in the 2016 Cyclone. [www.namenaislandresort.com](http://www.namenaislandresort.com).

#### **3.4.1 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. – 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

#### **3.4.2 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. I would not advise anchoring here as you will most certainly damage the coral and get wrapped in a bommie. 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.

Moody's and or Namena Resort was under construction so there is no where to pay the fee once you arrive. However, we were told to pay at the Namena office inside the Waitui building. This is still a preserve and they still require payment to anchor here. – 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

### 3.4.3 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 no where 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](http://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 with hopes to open at the end of 2024.

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. – 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

#### **3.4.4 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. – Sugar Shack

### **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

### **3.6 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 Yadua Taba (its neighboring smaller island) is forbidden.

#### **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). – 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 are 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. – 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°48.900S / 178°17.000E**, E Cakuvou Harbor. Good holding in 45 feet 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

**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

### **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:** We had Vodafone (and Starlink) and Vodafone did not work in the bay. – 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 get to the beach 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. Let me know if you find the trail.

Hike across to the south side of Yadua. If you want to do a small hike, go to **16°49.180S / 178°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 and 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. – 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. The southeast point of the bay (16°49.056S / 178°16.564E) and the large south bommie that makes the "pincers" for the pass (16°48.941S / 178°16.715E) are both excellent spots. Also, the large bommie at 16°48.723S / 178°17.119E is outstanding. At all these treasure sites you'll find some deep crevasses, a bajillion fish, healthy, gorgeous coral and maybe a black-tip reef shark. – 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. – Sugar Shack

**Sept. 2022:** Snorkeling and diving outside the pass is 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. He could only have shown us the iguana on Yadua Taba if we had a permit from Suva (which we did not). 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 is 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 *Nukubati (Nukumbati)***

#### **3.9.1 *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

### **3.10 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](http://www.palmleafarms.com). VHF 16, [palmleafarms@yahoo.com](mailto:palmleafarms@yahoo.com)

#### **3.10.1 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 or other destinations within Fiji. – SSCA Bulletin.

#### **3.10.2 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

#### **3.10.3 Cruiser Reports**

**(Verified 2023) 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

### **3.11 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. But we think there is much more to the story. Was the cannon captured from pirates in the Caribbean? Was it thrown overboard to lighten the ship once it founded on the Great Coral Reef? – Bella Vita

### **3.12 Labasa**

#### **3.12.1 General Services**

**Oct. 2023:** Innertech Electrical PTE +679.992.9233, +679.998.3779, +679.881.7418, [innertech@connect.com.fj](mailto:innertech@connect.com.fj). 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

### **3.13 Labasa River**

**Sept. 2013:** Cruising the Labasa River seemed interesting to us. None of the writers of the cruising pilots we know of, cruised the Labasa river themselves.

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

#### **3.13.1 Pass (Entrance to 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

#### **3.13.2 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

### **3.13.3 Yachtsmen Services**

#### **3.13.3.1 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

#### **3.13.4 General Services**

**Sept. 2013:** On the other side of the bridge is a good fresh produce and fish market. Better to use the concrete dock near the anchorage and walk a bit further. – Fruit de Mer

### **3.14 Blackjack Bay**

#### **3.14.1 Anchorages**

**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

**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.

We got an early start this morning, exiting through the great Sea Reef at Sausau Pass to sail and motor sail eastward to Nukudamu Pass. – Tackless II

### **3.15 Nasonisoni Point**

#### **3.15.1 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

#### **3.15.2 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

### 3.15.3 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

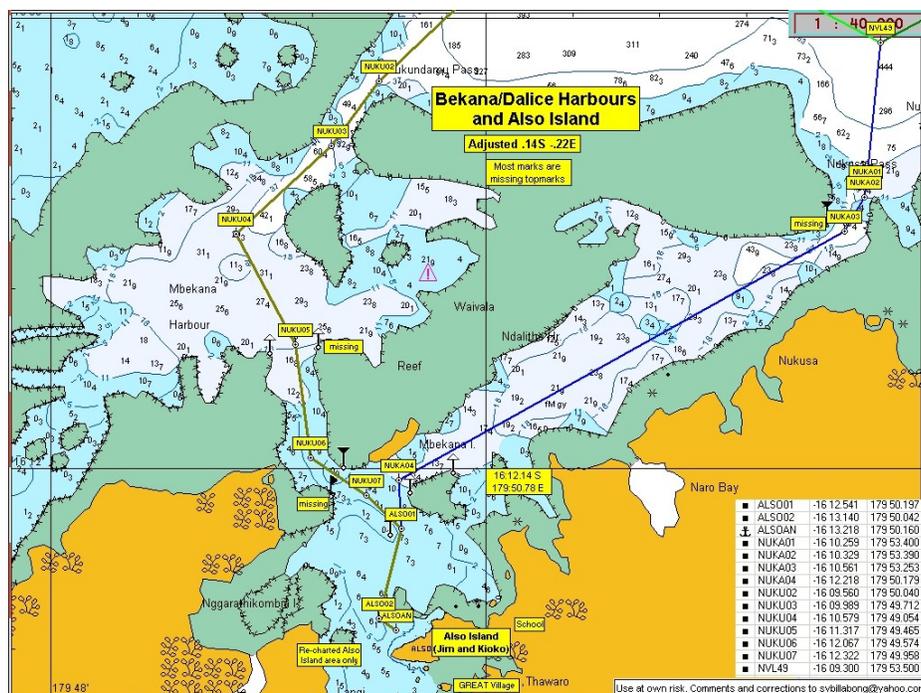
### 3.16 Lagi Bay (Langi Bay) and Also Island

**Also Island:** +679 999.2323. Jim's email [alsoisland@gmail.com](mailto: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 accomodations for \$50F/night
- Vodafone, Inkk, Eticketing, and Mpsa top up cards (no Digicel)



Chartlet compliments of s/v Billabong

### **3.16.1 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

### **3.16.2 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

### **3.16.3 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. – 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

## **3.17 Lasea Island**

Eastern most anchorage on the northern coast of Vanua Levu.

### **3.17.1 Anchorages**

**Aug. 2022:** 16°07.67S / 179°58.32W. Near the 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 the effort for 1 night. We climbed to the light for spectacular 360° views. – SV Margarita

## **3.18 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 part. 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 Rainbow Reef.

### **3.18.1 Pass**

**Aug.2023:** We entered Dakuniba Boat 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 were critical to navigate this area. The shallowest point was 5m (still high tide), but all of the bommies and reefs were easy to spot. – Sugar Shack

**Sept. 2022:** We entered the bay through the South pass. It was deep and easy using satellite charts. – Starlight

**June 2022:** You can enter the bay from the channel inside the reef leading from Dakuniba to Viani, or from the Somosomo Straight. We entered through the South Pass, almost only visible on the chart. Navionics said it is 3.9m but we did not see anything less than 17m. Heading to the anchorage from the pass is straight forward. – Major Tom

### **3.18.2 Anchorage**

**NOTE:** The underwater markers are not for dinghies, they are to mark where the dive sites are located. They 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.

**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.

**Dinghy Landing at Dive Academy:** We went during high tide and even then, it seemed shallow to us with our long shaft outboard. But we headed toward Dive Academy (**16°44.680S / 179°53.588E**), there is one small white fender floating near shore, head toward the fender for a good beach access point. – 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

### **3.18.3 Yachtsmen Services**

#### **3.18.3.1 Trash**

**Sept. 2022:** You can put your trash in the orange bin on the beach in front of Dive Academy. They charge \$10 FJD per bag. – Starlight

**June 2022:** You can leave garbage (not recycling) at The Dive Academy Fiji in the orange trash can on the beach. – Major Tom

### **3.18.4 General Services**

#### **3.18.4.1 Wifi (Internet / Phone)**

**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

### **3.18.5 Provisions**

**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 shopping 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

### **3.18.6 Restaurants**

**Aug. 2023:** Happy Hour at Dive Academy is \$2F off beer and cocktails. Enjoy a nice lunch (reserve before 0830 or the day before) or dinner (reserve before 12). – Food is delicious and they have nice, big portions as you enjoy sunset on their beautiful deck. – 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

### **3.18.7 Activities**

**NOTE:** The underwater markers are not for dinghies, they are to mark where the dive sites are located. They 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. There are very strong currents that run along the Rainbow Reef. If you are diving without a guide, please have someone in the dinghy at all times to retrieve you if you get swept up in a current.

**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.

**REFILL PRIVATE TANKS:** Dive Academy is not able to refill private tanks, but Dolphin Bay Divers (right next door) will refill for \$30F per tank. Usually takes 30-40 minutes. – 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 organised 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 colour 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 on the way though 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/](http://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@nakiافیji.com](mailto:dive@nakiافیji.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/](http://www.taveunidive.com/) and [Dolphin Bay Divers](#).

There are also hikes ashore, and the bay is great for exploring by kayak. – Soggy Paws

**June 2012 - Diving:** Today we went scuba diving with a dive company from Taveuni. They came to the boat and picked us up and took us to 2 real neat places on the reef. They have 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. Julie is very good and very nice, does first class dives. Nice boat only 4 people to a dive master.

The **Great White Wall** can only be done about every ten days due to tide currents. 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 teaming 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 and god knows what! We also had several sharks, including a 10' lemon shark resting on the bottom. – Tackless II

### **3.18.8 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

### **3.19 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.

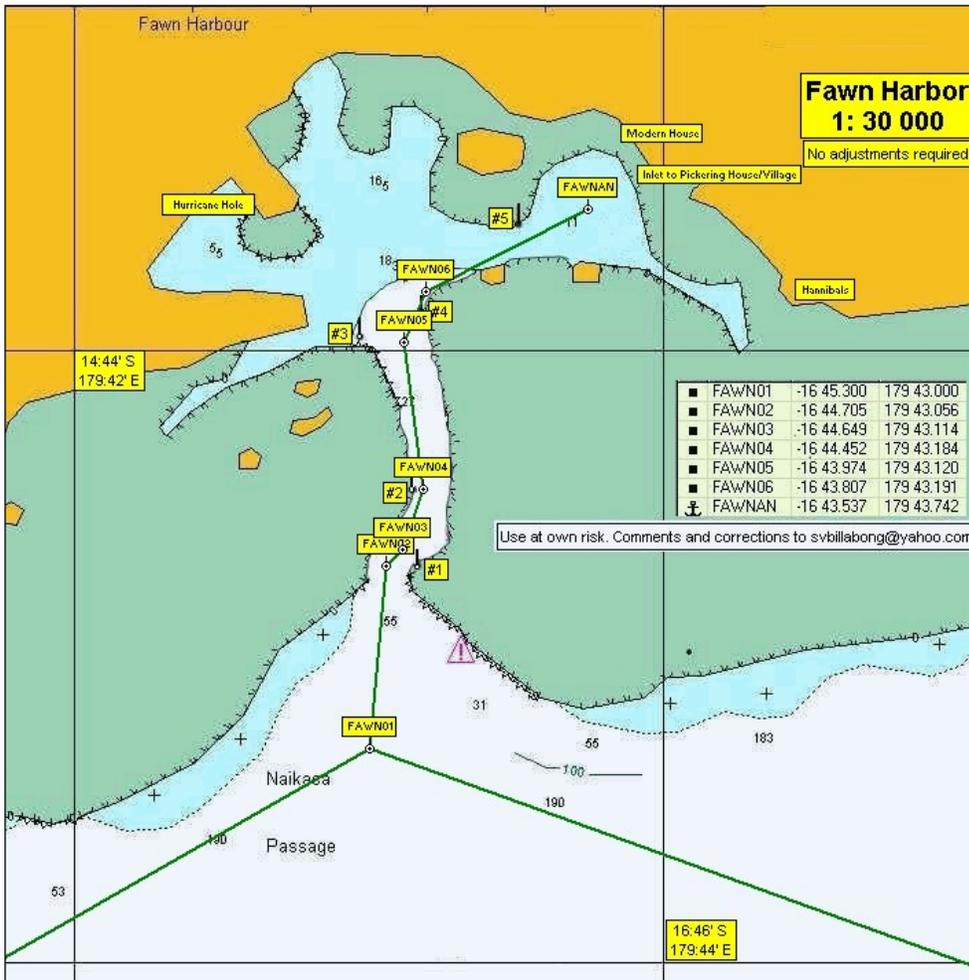
We ended up with 6 boats in the bay and there was still plenty of room. The bay is completely mangrove-lined and offers interesting exploration by dinghy / kayak, as well as some hiking ashore.

The 'chief' who 'owns' the area and the waters is in Dakuniba (approx. 16°44.75S / 179°50.79E), around in the next bay. The next morning, we dinghied around and did our sevusevu with the Chief.

Check the tides before you go. High tide is best, and don't stay too long (or plan accordingly). With a 4-6-foot 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

**July 2023:** 16°43.5973S / 179°43.8116E. Lovely calm flat water and a reasonable snorkel. Worth a stop. We did not do sevusevu as it was really unclear how to access the village. – 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 Central Waters & the Koro Sea**

### **3.22.1 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.

#### **3.22.1.1 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

#### **3.22.1.2 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

### **3.22.2 Ovalau**

#### **3.22.2.1 Levuka**

Levuka is the old capital of Fiji before becoming a 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, but in India.

##### **3.22.2.1.1 Anchorages**

**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.

##### **3.22.2.1.2 Cruiser Report**

**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

### **3.22.2.2 Wainaloka**

#### **3.22.2.2.1 Anchorage**

**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

#### **3.22.2.2.2 Provisions**

**July 2022:** There is a bakery right where you leave the dinghy and they bake bread and buns. – Starlight

#### **3.22.2.2.3 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

### **3.22.3 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.

#### **3.22.3.1 Passes**

**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

#### **3.22.3.2 Anchorage**

**Oct. 2022:** **17°26.361S / 178°57.182E** which is west of a big 4m chimney bommie which is in the middle of the anchorage at (17°26.360S / 178°57.216E). 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

#### **3.22.3.3 Activities**

**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

#### **3.22.3.4 Cruiser Reports**

**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 lepra 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

### **3.22.4 Wakaya**

This is a private island and protected area by the government.

Use of the bay and anchorage are strictly prohibited!

### **3.22.5 Koro Island**

The Koro sea is named after this volcanic island that once boasted of American pilots landing during WW2. This is the 6<sup>th</sup> largest island in Fiji.

#### **3.22.5.1 Anchorages**

**Sept. 2023:** Tulani Harbor / Dere Bay. **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 (at least the 3 we have did not clearly show all of the large 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 in 20m at **17°16.416S / 179°21.617E.** 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. –Sugar Shack

#### **3.22.5.2 General Services**

##### **3.22.5.2.1 Wifi (Internet and Phone)**

**Aug. 2022:** Cellphone coverage was great. – Major Tom

##### **3.22.5.3 Cruiser Reports**

There are weekly flights to Koro and ferry connections each week between both Suva and Savusavu.

**Sept. 2023:** We arrived late in the day 1730 and had to leave before dawn the next day so we did not have the pleasure of going ashore. – 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 roilly. – Major Tom

### **3.22.6 Gau (Ngau) Island**

Gao is the 5<sup>th</sup> 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).

#### **3.22.6.1 Pass**

**Aug. 2022:** The northern Wakaciva pass is deep and there are no problems to enter. – Bliss of Stockholm

#### **3.22.6.2 Anchorage**

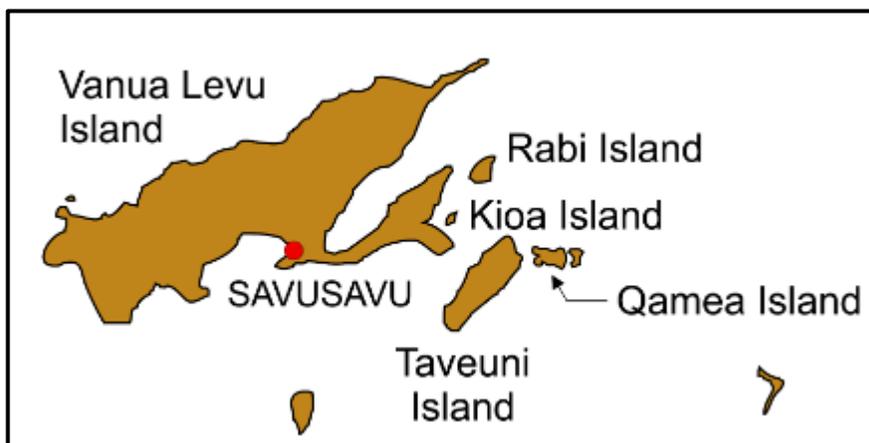
**July 2023:** We tried to anchor in Herald Bay. There were buoys and coral bommies all over which made it very difficult to find a good spot. In the end we gave up and left. – Knot Tide Down

**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

#### **3.22.6.3 Cruiser Report**

**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 Taveuni & Ringgold Isles**



## **4.1 Taveuni**

### **4.1.1 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).

### **4.1.2 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](http://www.paradiseinfiji.com), [info@paradiseinfiji.com](mailto:info@paradiseinfiji.com), [allan@paradiseinfiji.com](mailto:allan@paradiseinfiji.com).

10 Free moorings available (first come). Cruisers are allowed to use resort facilities, including showers, fresh water pool, bar, and restaurant. 16 aircon accommodations, restaurant, bar with nightly happy hours, PADI Dive center (20% discount for cruisers), laundry, vegetable garden, bakery, day spa, gift shops, fuel, trash, taxi and tours.

You will be asked to complete a single sheet with your credit card information prior to use of facilities, bar, and restaurant. You can pay cash for your meals and purchases, but they ask to have a card on file. See cruiser report from Sugar Shack

#### **4.1.2.1 Anchorage**

Paradise Taveuni Resort offers (5) free moorings (with the expectation that you will spend money at their resort).

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:** Cruisers are getting mixed messages on which side to tie the dinghy to the wooden dock so the best thing is to just ask when you arrive. Some say tie to the right and some say tie to the left. Either way, be sure to stay out of the way of the local boats, dive boats, and guests that swim in that area.

During low tide, you can use cement area with a stern anchor, but guests use this area to swim. Just be courteous of the guests as they are priority.

**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 5 moorings provided by the Paradise Resort. They are free, but they ask that you visit the resort (bar, restaurant) 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 roly 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. – 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

#### **4.1.2.2 Yachtsmen Services**

##### **4.1.2.2.1 Fuel (diesel and gasoline)**

**Oct. 2023:** Paradise Taveuni Resort offers diesel and unleaded fuel (containers not provided and only when available). Price is provided upon request. – Sugar Shack

##### **4.1.2.2.2 Trash and Recycling**

**Oct. 2023:** Trash that is separated (glass, tin, paper, other) can be disposed of at \$10 per bag. – Sugar Shack

#### **4.1.2.3 General Services**

##### **4.1.2.3.1 Laundry**

**Oct. 2023:** Paradise Taveuni Resort offers laundry service at \$30 - \$75 per bag (depending on the size of the bag). – Sugar Shack

##### **4.1.2.4 Provisions**

**Oct. 2023:** Paradise has a vegetable garden and bakery available on site. – Sugar Shack

**Sept. 2022:** Suncity Super Market Bottle Shop & Gas. +679.888.0462. Hours: Mon-Sat: 0800-2000 & Sun: 0800-1930. Location: 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. – 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

**July 2022:** Paradise Taveuni Resort offers a vegetable garden where they sell produce when available including: lettuce, cabbage, eggplant, local fruit, basil, coriander, mint, lemongrass and ginger.

The resort has a small bakery that sells snacks, cakes, bread, and convenience items. You can pre-order baked goods the day before. – Sugar Shack

##### **4.1.2.5 Restaurants**

There are (3) menus: cruiser discounted, but limited menu, standard resort menu, and a specials menu. To get the specials or resort menu you must order around lunch and make a reservation for that evening.

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.

**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. – Sugar Shack

**July 2022:** We ate at the restaurant several times. The food overall was “good to great” but we had a few meals that were “average at best.” – Sugar Shack

##### **4.1.2.6 Activities**

The resort has a lovely trinket 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.

**Sept. 2022:** 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. – 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](mailto: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

#### **4.1.2.7 Cruiser Reports**

**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. – 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 than Volivolo where you have to pay after every charge and receive a ream of receipts in the process. – Seneto

### **4.1.3 Somosomo (main village)**

#### **4.1.3.1 Anchorages**

**Sept. 2022: 16°47.094S / 179°59.363W.** Sand/mud, 16 meters depth. 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 between the ages of 6 and about 13. 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

#### **4.1.3.2 General Services**

##### **4.1.3.2.1 Bank (ATM)**

**July 2012:** A BSP bank and ATM in Somosomo village (left of beach). – Soggy Paws

##### **4.1.3.2.2 Wifi (Internet and Phone)**

**Sept. 2022:** Good signal for both Digicel and Vodafone. – Oh Joy II

#### **4.1.3.3 Provisions**

**Sept. 2022:** We went to the town by foot, 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 Valu 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

#### **4.1.3.4 Restaurants**

**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:** There is a little restaurant next to the BSP bank that offered local food for \$6-8F for a nice sit-down meal. – Soggy Paws.

**4.1.3.5 Cruiser Reports**

**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

**4.1.4 Waiyevo**

**4.1.4.1 Anchorages**

**June 2019:** Anchor well south of Korolevu Island to avoid the bommie & tender ashore. – Fiji Marine Guide

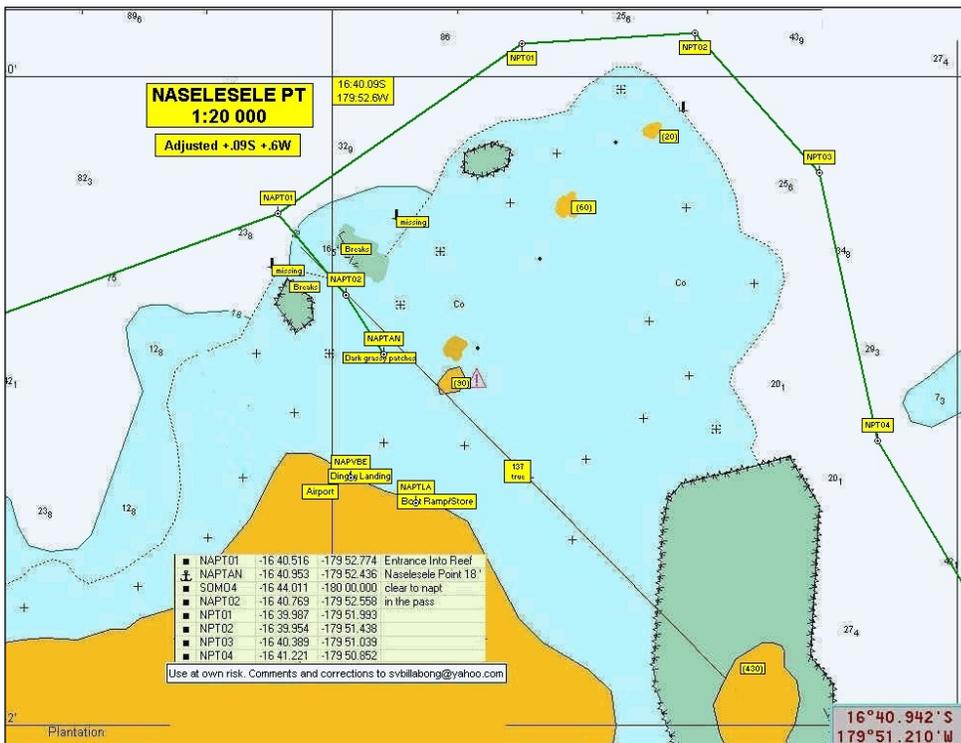
**4.1.4.2 Provisions**

**June 2019:** A smattering of basic stores and provisions are here. – Fiji Marine Guide

**4.1.4.3 Cruiser Reports**

**June 2019:** The Tavoro Waterfalls or Bouma Heritage National Park Falls are well worth the trek on the Vidawa rainforest trail. Also suggested visits: Waitavala water slide, Lavena coastal walk, and Civa Pearl Farm at Vurevure Bay (on the east side). – Fiji Marine Guide

**4.1.5 Naselesele Point / Matei**



Chartlet compliments of s/v Billabong

#### **4.1.5.1 Anchorages**

**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 rolly 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

#### **4.1.5.2 Yachtsmen Services**

##### **4.1.5.2.1 Fuel (Diesel and Gasoline)**

**July 2022:** Two supermarkets: Satish Supermarket and Suncity Supermarket. Both are within walking distance and both have fuel. – Askari

##### **4.1.5.3 Provisions**

**Aug. 2022:** Two supermarkets: Suncity and Satish Foodmart (both offer fuel & liquor as well). – Seneto

**July 2022:** Two supermarkets: Satish Supermarket and Suncity Supermarket. Both 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

##### **4.1.5.4 Restaurants**

**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

##### **4.1.5.5 Transportation**

**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

#### **4.1.5.6 Activities**

**Aug. 2022:** Island Tour with Aloha Taveuni Tours +679.973.2547, +679.902.8375, [alohataveuni@gmail.com](mailto:alohataveuni@gmail.com), [www.alohataveunirentaltours.com.fj](http://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

#### **4.1.5.7 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

#### **4.1.6 Vurevure Bay (East Side of Taveuni)**

**Cruising Guide References:** A Yachtsman's Fiji, 3<sup>rd</sup> Ed - Pg. 175-177

##### **4.1.6.1 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

##### **4.1.6.2 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

## **4.2 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.

### **4.2.1 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

### **4.2.2 Cruiser Reports**

**June 2019:** Kioa is situated opposite Buca Bay. Known for their artisans and fishing.

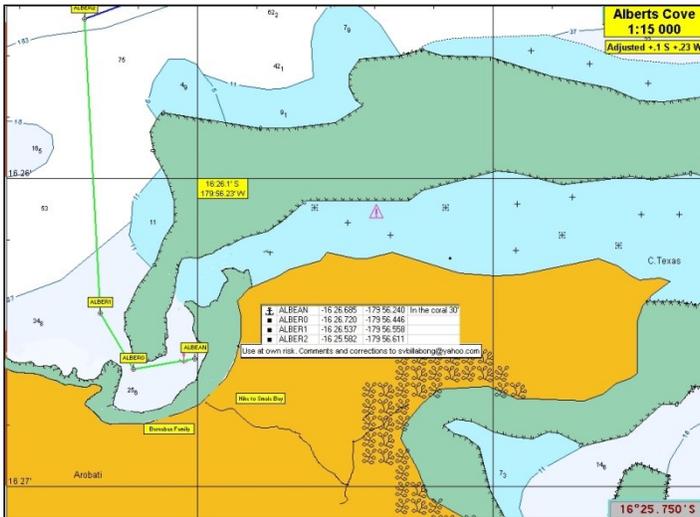
## **4.3 Rabi (Rambi) Island**

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. In 2000 the survivors were resettled here.

### **4.3.1 Albert's Cove**

**Cruising Guide References:** A Yachtsman's Fiji, 3<sup>rd</sup> Ed - 165-166

North side of Rabi Island



Chartlet compliments of s/v Billabong

#### 4.3.1.1 Anchorages

**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.

#### 4.3.1.2 Cruiser Report

**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

#### 4.3.2 Elizabeth Cove

North side of Rabi Island

#### 4.3.2.1 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

#### 4.3.2.2 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

#### 4.3.3 Catherine Bay

**Cruising Guide References:** A Yachtsman's Fiji, 3<sup>rd</sup> Ed - 166-167

South West side of Rabi Island

#### 4.3.3.1 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 and the village has been working to repair it ever since.

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.

Rabi Island is home to a resettlement group only this time it's the Banabans, formerly of Ocean Island (Banaba), a 6-sq km raised atoll in Kiribati (Keer-ah-bas) aka the Gilbert Islands. Banaba was a tiny atoll. They were relocated in 1945 at the end of WWII by the British because their island was being exploited for phosphate mining by the BPC (British Phosphate Commission).

The Banbans maintain many of their own traditions including use of outrigger canoes for handline fishing. Note the ubiquitous blue tarp sail.

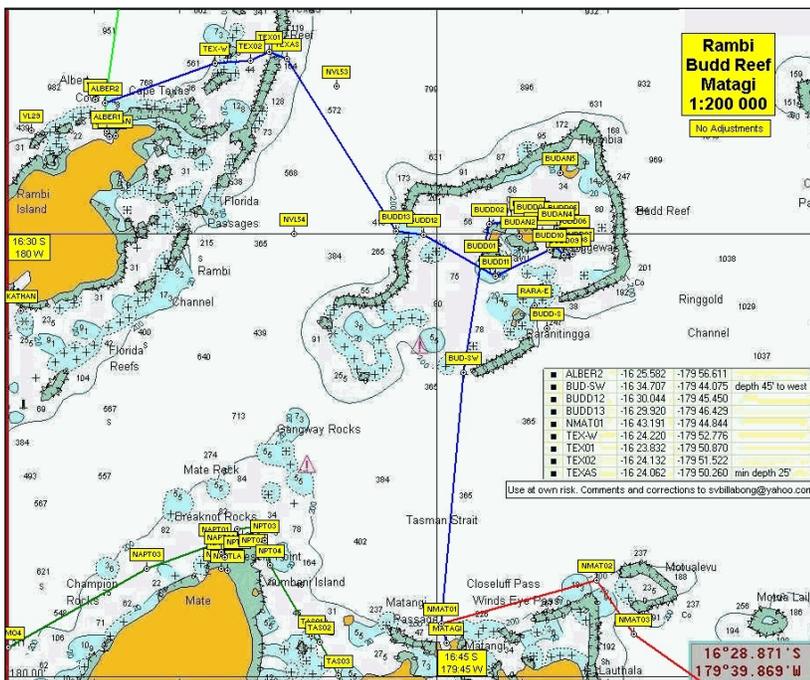
Everyone greeted us with "Mauri", the Banaban/Gilbertese greeting. Children sitting on doorsteps waved and shouted to us. – Nine of Cups

#### 4.4 Matagi (Matangi) Island

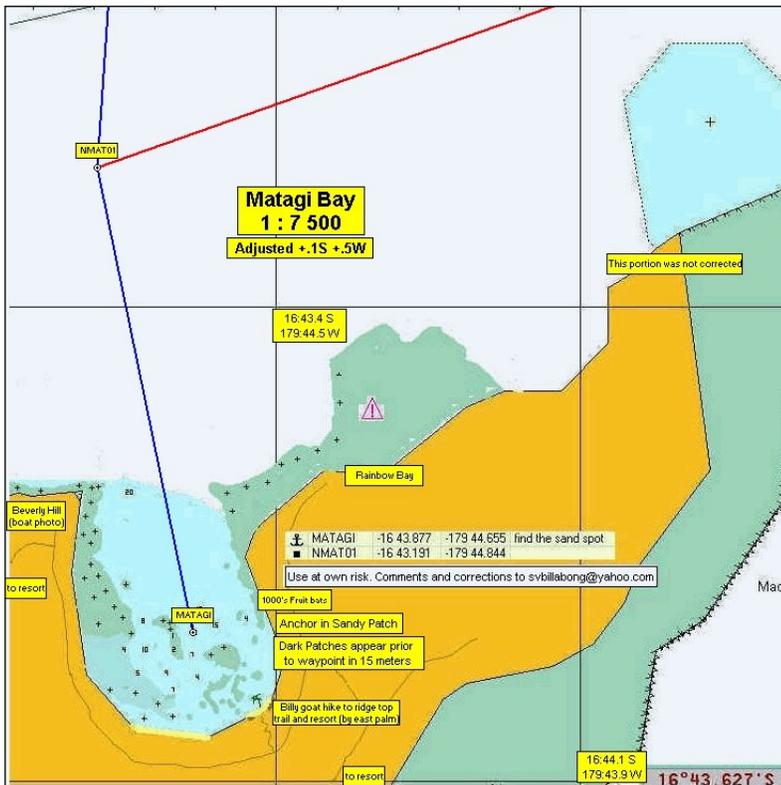
Pronounced Matangi. Located just North of Qamea Island.

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



Chartlet compliments of s/v Billabong

#### 4.4.1 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

**June 2012:** Matagi's Horseshoe Cove is a beautiful anchorage. The snorkeling is terrific which should suggest to you that the anchoring is a bit bony. – Shango

#### 4.4.2 General Services

##### 4.4.2.1 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

#### **4.4.3 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. – 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.

#### **4.5 Qamea (Nggamea)**

**Cruising Guide References:** A Yachtsman's Fiji, 3<sup>rd</sup> Ed – Pg. 180-182

Pronounced Nggamea.

##### **4.5.1 Namata Bay 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.

**Aug. 2023: 16°44.7640 / 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. – Sugar Shack

**Aug. 2022: 16°44.724S / 179°46.462W.** Dropped in 14m of sand. A great spot though it can get a little rolyly 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

##### **4.5.1.1 Cruiser Reports**

**Aug. 2023:** We stopped in Namata bay during a King Tide (Super Blue Moon) so we had big tide changes. During high tide the beach totally disappeared so we thought we could go visit the shore during low tide. That was a silly idea as our long shaft couldn't possibly reach the shore as there is a beautiful coral reef that parallels the beach making it impossible to cross during this particular low tide. So, we waited until mid-tide

and enjoyed a lovely walk along the beach. We ran into Arthur, one of the Mitchell brothers but all of the other family members were busy working.

It is a lovely snorkel along the reef. We saw lots of beautiful fish, sea stars, and coral. – Sugar Shack

**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

#### **4.5.2 Naiviivi Bay**

**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. – Sugar Shack

##### **4.5.2.1 Anchorage**

**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. – Sugar Shack

##### **4.5.2.2 Cruiser Report**

**Aug. 2023:** After spending a few days in a roly anchorage, this spot was ideal. So very calm and serene. There is a **small village** which can be tricky to find. From our anchorage (facing the end of the indent (stern to the

mouth of the indent) there is a river to the east (off starboard) with part of a wooden boat stuck in a tree. Take your dinghy down this river to the village (close to 16°45.916S / 179°46.76W). Several fishermen came and went but none stopped by to say “bula.” We arrived mid-day and had to leave at dawn the next day so we did not go ashore. – Sugar Shack

### 4.5.3 Nadilo Bay 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

## 4.6 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.

### 4.6.1 Anchorages

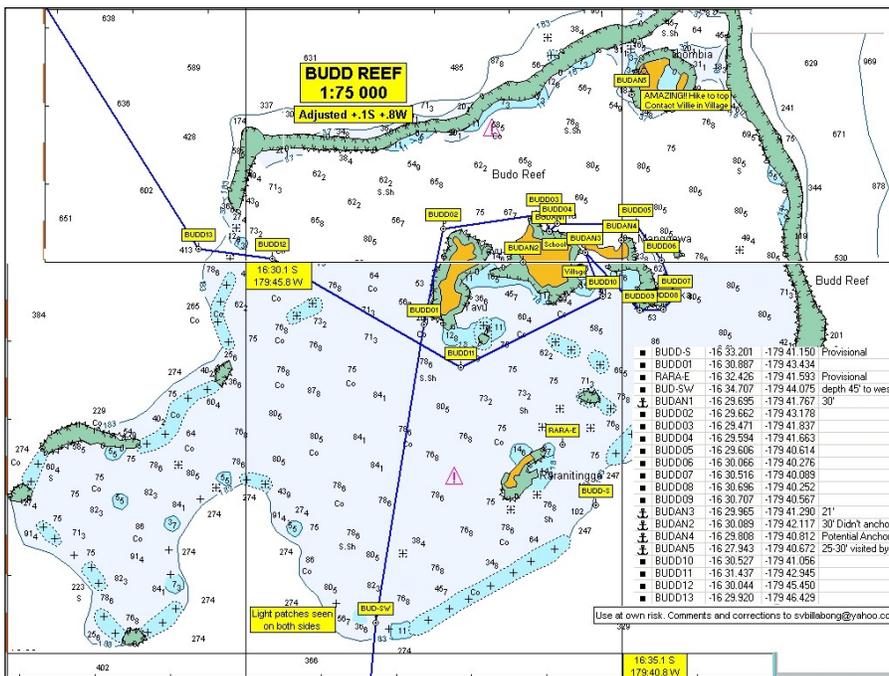
**Sept. 2023: 16°44.7780S / 179°42.3300W** this is called the **Laucala Island Pass** (north side) between Qamea and Laucala. We drove through it as it looked so incredibly beautiful, but with the 25kts of East winds it left us very exposed. But this is truly a gem of a place and I would recommend it 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. – Sugar Shack

## 4.7 Budd Reef (Yanuca & Cobia)

**Cruising Guide References:** A Yachtsman's Fiji, 3<sup>rd</sup> Ed - Pg 182-184

Pronounced Yanutha and Thombia.



Chartlet compliments of s/v Billabong

#### 4.7.1 Pass

**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

#### 4.7.2 Anchorages

**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.

The wind was forecast to increase, so Willy came with us in 25kt to an anchorage on the west side of Yavu Island at **16°30.200S / 179°43.129W**. We anchored in sand between low coral and spent 6 days until the wind came down.

As the wind comes down, we re-anchored **16°29.755S / 179°41.785W** in front of the school. – 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 & has good sand holding but can be rough if swell is up.

**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:** During prevailing winds, the village and school anchorage were not comfortable. We moved to the “West Anchorage” which did not offer much better protection and was a tight fit for 3 boats.

Village Anchorage: 16°29.96S / 179°41.29W - OK in E-NE thru W

School Anchorage: 16°29.69S / 179°41.77W - Southerly winds

West Anchorage: 16°30.09S / 179°42.12W - E-NE

Better Anchorage: 16°29.9S / 179°42.98W - SE-NE less wind and swell

With prevailing winds neither the village or school anchorage were very good. 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.

#### 4.7.3 General Services

##### 4.7.3.1 Wifi (Internet and Phone)

**July 2012: Internet:** It's worth mentioning that in the two westward-facing anchorages, 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. – Soggy Paws

#### 4.7.4 Cruiser Reports

**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](mailto: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 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.

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.

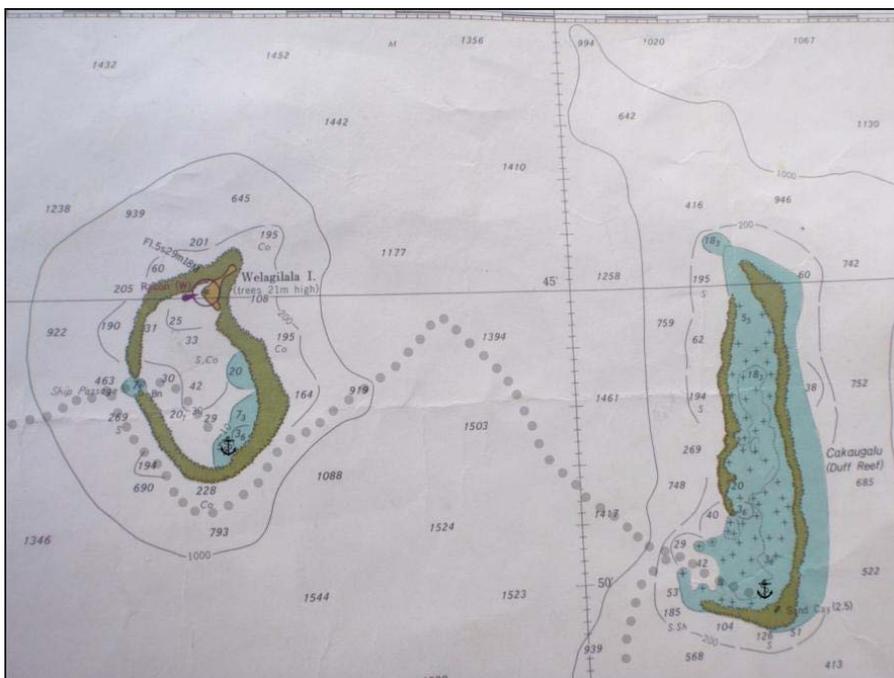
We have enjoyed great adventures climbing the caldera, diving. He is a wonderful inroad to their island culture. On some Fridays the village performs a Mekka (Meki, dance/get-together) which is reputed to be excellent. – The Rose

**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

## **4.8 Islands/Reefs Between Vanua Levu and the Lau**

### **4.8.1 Welagilala (Welangilala)**



Chartlet Courtesy s/v Shandon

#### **4.8.1.1 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

#### **4.8.1.2 Anchorages**

**Aug. 2022:** 16°45.11S / 179°06.54W. Dropped the anchor in about 4 meters, the anchorage can be bumpy around high water. – Eastern Stream.

**June 2012:** Once clear of the pass, turn northerly and head for old lighthouse on island. Anchor where the water turns turquoise in 20-35 feet. There is at least one reef off the beach that we saw so keep a good eye out. Otherwise, excellent holding in sand. – Kite

#### **4.8.1.3 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

### **4.8.2 Cakaugalu (Cakaungalu)**

#### **4.8.2.1 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

#### **4.8.2.2 Anchorages**

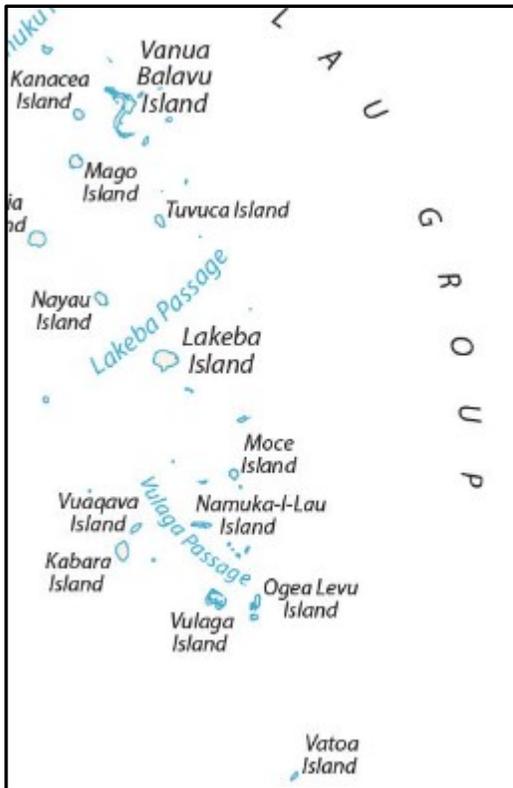
**Sept. 2022:** 16°50.554S / 178°56.792W. Sand, 5 meters depth. On every high tide we had quite severe swell coming in and it was not very comfortable to stay on the boat. But on low tide when you have trade winds from SE, there was almost no swell. – Starlight

#### **4.8.2.3 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

## **5 Eastern Archipelago: Lau Group, North to South**

Calder's Yachtsman's Guide - Pg 101



## 5.1 General Information

### 5.1.1 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

### 5.1.2 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. But we did not attempt calling Suva 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).

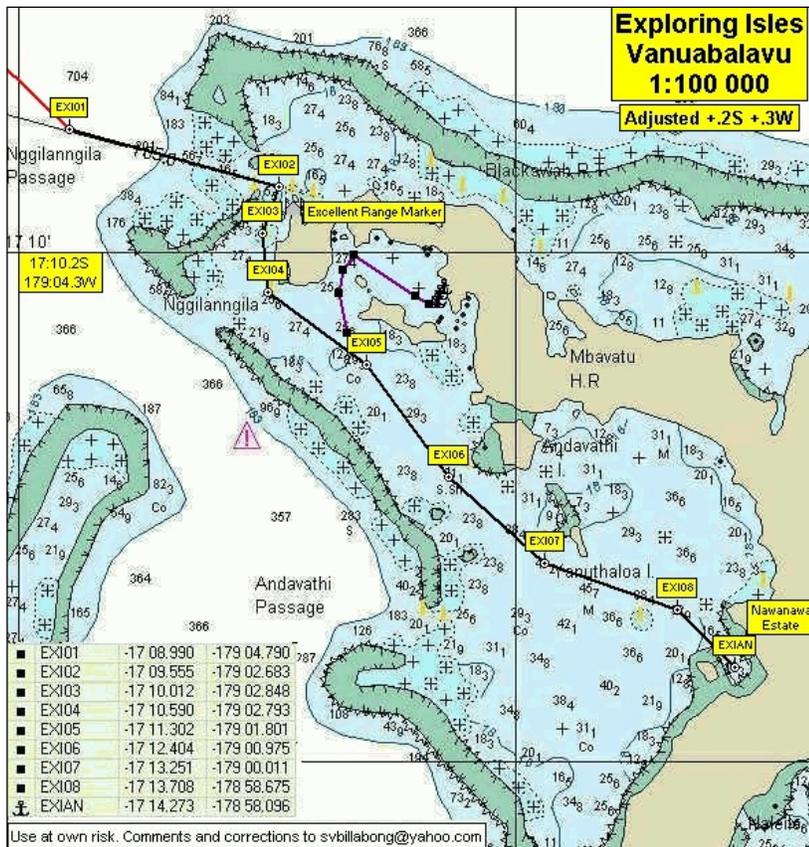
Also, though I am sure the nurse in Vulaga would have been responsive to our emergency in her official capacity, we felt that having made contact with the village, beyond just doing the sevusevu, helped in our situation. By the time the emergency occurred, we had been to church in the village twice and 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)--you never know when you might need some help. – Soggy Paws

## **5.2 Naitauba (Nautaubu)**

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>

## **5.3 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.



### 5.3.1 Passes

#### 5.3.1.1 NorthWest Pass

Cruising Guide References: Yachtsman's Fiji, 3<sup>rd</sup> Ed - Pg 104-105

**Sept. 2022:** 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. – Sugar Shack

#### 5.3.1.2 Adavaci (Western) Pass

Cruising Guide References: Yachtsman's Fiji, 3<sup>rd</sup> 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 with Open CPN). 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. – Sugar Shack

**June 2012:** Adavaci pass waypoints to go directly in to Daliconi 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

### **5.3.2 Dalconi (Dalthoni) Village**

Cruising Guide References: S. Pacific Anchorages - Pg 87, A Yachtsman's Fiji, 3<sup>rd</sup> 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](mailto:lako.newton@yahoo.com).

Daliconi Village WP: 17°13.140S / 178°57.400W.

#### **5.3.2.1 Anchorages**

**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:** Landed on the beach (left of the village), used a stern anchor & tied a line to a rock. – 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. We anchored here for several days. – Eastern Stream

**July 2022: 17°13.205S / 178°58.029W.** Anchored in 11m, reasonable holding for 2 nights. – Seneto

#### **5.3.2.2 Provisions**

**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. There is no bakery in Daliconi Village. – Sugar Shack

#### **5.3.2.3 Activities**

**Sept. 2022:** We came here to do the 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. Well worth the money for a 3-4-hour tour. We truly enjoyed the caves and the long-boat ride around Bay of Islands. – Sugar Shack

**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

#### **5.3.2.4 Cruiser Reports**

**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. – Sugar Shack

**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

**July 2022:** We did our sevusevu at the village and we took the truck from Dalconi to Lomaloma. The truck leaves on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday around 0830 from the top of the hill. A two-way ticket is \$7F per person. In Lomaloma there are two little shops that offer “general provisioning” (such as sugar and flour). – Eastern Stream

**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

#### **5.3.3 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.

##### **5.3.3.1 Anchorages**

**Sept. 2022:** Swimming Pool Anchorage. **17°10.638S / 179°00.935W**. 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. – 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

### **5.3.3.2 General Services**

#### **5.3.3.2.1 Wifi (Internet / Phone)**

**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). – Sugar Shack

#### **5.3.3.3 Activities**

**July 2022:** Did you schedule your cave snorkel tour in the Bay of Islands with the Dalconi Village? 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. Well worth the money for a 3-4-hour tour. We truly enjoyed the caves and the long-boat ride around Bay of Islands.

The chief asked that nobody climbed on the natural pillars (which can be tempting to do for young adventurous youths). – 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

#### **5.3.3.4 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 flying fox bats, or visit the underwater world of fish. – 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

### **5.3.4 North Vanua Balavu**

#### **5.3.4.1 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

#### **5.3.4.2 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

### **5.3.5 Malaka Bay**

Cruising Guide References: South Pacific Anchorages - Pg 87

South East of Daliconi Village

#### **5.3.5.1 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

#### **5.3.5.2 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. The chief works at the airport (cutting grass, we think), so our sevusevu was at 07:15 on a Monday morning, and did not include a tasting. Graham had to wear a sulu. We were presented by Soni, who is a fisherman, and he and his wife Teupola (usually called Teu - pronounced tay-oo), and their 5 sons looked after us royally during our stay.

There is an ice factory on the quay. Tap water is freely available throughout the village from a borehole, but everyone catches rainwater to drink. A bus/lorry goes 3 mornings a week across to Lomaloma, sits there for about 1.5 hours, then returns. – Dream Away

### **5.3.6 Bavatu (Mbavatu) Harbor**

**Cruising Guide References:** South Pacific Anchorages - Pg 87, Yachtsman's Fiji, 3<sup>rd</sup> 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.

#### **5.3.6.1 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** dropped the hook 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 when we arrived.

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. – Sugar Shack

**Soggy Paws - 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

### **5.3.6.2 Activities**

**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. We already planned to set sail the next morning so we did not actually do this hike ourselves. – 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.** Update from June 2012 Post: 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. – Sugar Shack

### **5.3.6.3 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. – Sugar Shack

### **5.3.7 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.

#### **5.3.7.1 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

#### **5.3.7.2 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 2<sup>nd</sup> Chief. Tui translated the sevusevu for us quietly in English as the 2<sup>nd</sup> Chief spoke--this was a first for us, after many sevusevu experiences--it sure makes more sense to us. – Midnight Sun

### **5.3.8 Horse Bay**

Yachtsman's Fiji, 3<sup>rd</sup> 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.

#### **5.3.8.1 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

### **5.3.9 Little Bay**

Yachtsman's Fiji, 3<sup>rd</sup> 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.

#### **5.3.9.1 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

#### **5.3.9.2 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, and did NOT do sevusevu in Mavana. But we were noticed--Rubin, caretaker of the house/plantation on the beach just outside the bay walked around to see us at low tide. He said he could take the sevusevu for the village of Mavana.

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

### 5.3.9.3 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 to do *sevusevu* or just give it to Tui and he will do it for you. Mavana doesn't really have a good anchorage for *sevusevu*. – 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

### 5.3.9.4 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

### **5.3.10 Lomaloma Village**

#### **5.3.10.1 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.** Off Yanu Yanu Island in 11-40' sand. We dropped the anchor in 11', and after deploying 180' of chain and rope our depth sounder showed 40'. Dinghy approach from the beach S of the quay is clear, no coral. – Cheshire

#### **5.3.10.2 Yachtsmen Services**

##### **5.3.10.2.1 Cooking Gas (Propane & Butane)**

**July 2012:** Cooking Gas is available (swap or buy new tanks. Arrange prior to the ship's arrival). – Soggy Paws

##### **5.3.10.2.2 Fuel (Diesel & Gasoline)**

**July 2023:** To the left and behind the church is a general store called Fotofili that will help with diesel and petrol. – Knot Tide Down

**July 2012:** Premix gasoline is available at the gas station next to the bakery. – Soggy Paws

#### **5.3.10.3 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

#### **5.3.10.4 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 with very slow service. To the left of the wharf is a shop on the waterfront that has a good range of products but we found it to be 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

**Soggy Paws - 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

### **5.3.11 Cruiser Report**

**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

**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

## **5.4 Avea Island**

### **5.4.1 Anchorages**

**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

### **5.4.2 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

## **5.5 Susui**

Susui is on the southern and windward side of Vanua Balavu and is very well protected.

### **5.5.1 Pass**

See Tonga pass for pass information.

## 5.5.2 Anchorages

**June 2022: 17°20.407S / 178°56.889W.** Dropped in 7m. Navionics shows us on shore, but we are well behind the reef and in a nice sandy area with no bommies. – 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

## 5.5.3 General Services

### 5.5.3.1 Wifi (Internet / Phone)

**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). – Sugar Shack

## 5.5.4 Cruiser Reports

**June 2022:** We left Bavatu Bay and came around Vanua Balavu straight into the wind. The route was a little wiggly to avoid the reefs but they are all clearly marked on Navionics and have a stick or small 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. – 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

## 5.6 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. – Sugar Shack

## **5.7 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.

### **5.7.1 Anchorages**

**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

## **5.8 Tonga Pass (Southern Pass)**

### **5.8.1 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) – Sugar Shack

## **5.9 Vekai Island**

### **5.9.1 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

### **5.9.2 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 popply at high water. Best used in settled weather. – Shandon

### **5.9.3 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

## **5.10 Tithia**

### **5.10.1 Anchorage**

**June 2008: 17°43.367S / 179°20.024W** in 54' depth. – Cyan

### **5.10.2 Cruiser Reports**

**June 2008:** The next island was an even more interesting challenge to anchor. We only knew that Tithia 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

## **5.11 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.

### **5.11.1 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? – Sugar Shack

### **5.11.2 Anchorages**

**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. – 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

### **5.11.3 Yachtsmen Services**

#### **5.11.3.1 Fuel (Diesel & Gasoline)**

**June 2023:** The village of Tubou has diesel, and unleaded petrol. – Knot Tied Down

### **5.11.4 General Services**

#### **5.11.4.1 Provisions**

**June 2023:** The village of Tubou has good range of basic supplies including alcohol. – Knot Tied Down

#### **5.11.4.2 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. – Sugar Shack

### **5.11.5 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”. – Sugar Shack

## **5.12 Oneata**

Cruising Guide References: South Pacific Anchorages - Pg 86

### **5.12.1 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

### **5.12.2 Anchorages**

**Aug. 2012: 18°26.017S / 178°28.881W.** Anchored in sand approximately 5m deep. 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** Anchored 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

### **5.12.3 Cruiser Reports**

**Shandon - 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

### **5.13 Komo**

Cruising Guide References: South Pacific Anchorages - Pg 86

#### **5.13.1 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

#### **5.13.2 Anchorages**

**July 2023: 18°40.6300S / 178°37.5400W.** Anchored 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.** Anchored 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.

There are two paths from the N side anchorage to the village on the S side. – Migration

**2007: 18°41.24S / 178°38.66W.** Anchored 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

### **5.13.3 Cruiser Reports**

**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:** 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

## **5.14 Moce (Mothe)**

Moce is an island not often visited by boats because of the tricky pass.

### **5.14.1 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°41.45 / 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

### **5.14.2 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

### **5.14.3 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

### **5.15 Yagasa Levu (Yangasa)**

Cruising Guide References: South Pacific Anchorages - Pg 86

#### **5.15.1 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). – 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

#### **5.15.2 Anchorages**

**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 at depths of 6-8m. Anchoring can be done without floats as the sand patches are very wide. – SeaGlub

**July 2022: 18°56.872S / 178°27.355W.** Dropped the hook 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. – 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.** Anchored 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

#### **5.15.3 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. – 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 including what looked like an underwater freshwater spring to the NE of the anchorage. – Migration

**July 2012:** The villagers in Fulaga told us to be careful anchoring in Yagasa. There is no village and sometimes fishermen stopping there can steal stuff if you leave your boat unattended. – Midnight Sun

## **5.16 Namuka-I-Lau**

Cruising Guide References: South Pacific Anchorages - Pg 86

### **5.16.1 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

### **5.16.2 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

### **5.16.3 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

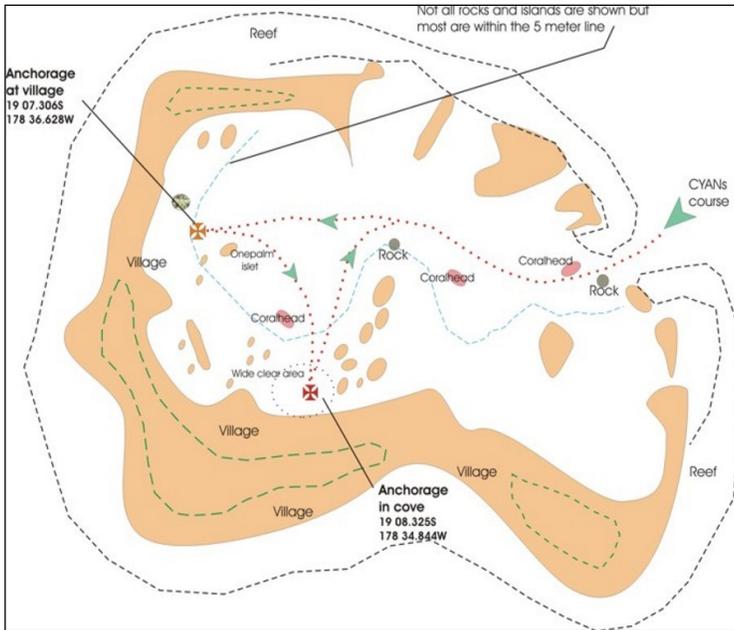
**July 2012:** Spokesman for the beach has garden and the trail to the village is on the left side of the garden. 45-minute walk to village. – Pincoya

## **5.17 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

### 5.17.1 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 accidently veered to 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. – 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

### **5.17.2 Anchorages**

**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. – Sugar Shack.

**June 2022: 19°08.92S / 178°33.95W.** From here, you can hike easily to the town for your sevusevu.

Anchored in 5m of water at **19°08.19S / 178°32.27W**. This position is close to the pass where you have good snorkeling and can explore this part of the lagoon with the dinghy.

Anchored in 3.5m. **19°08.32S / 178°34.52W** 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

### 5.17.3 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. But when do you get a chance to hold a skull?

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). – 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'.

We are really enjoying it here, even with the 20+ boats now in the lagoon! This place is now on the circuit. It will be interesting to see how the villagers handle the influx over the next couple of years. – 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 near (NW of) anchorage **19°07.236S / 178°33.116W** along the inside reef. Limestone arch. 4m sand. – Pincoya

**July 2012:** Best pass snorkeling is on either tide incoming our 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

### 5.17.4 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. – 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. – Eastern Stream

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

**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 (the only one Soggy Paws could spare), if you have a spare VHF antenna in working order, you might help out by upgrading their antenna installation for more reliable comms with the cruisers. – Soggy Paws

**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

## **5.18 Ogea (Ongea)**

Cruising Guide References: South Pacific Anchorages - Pg 85

### **5.18.1 Pass**

**July 2022: 19°10.835S / 178°27.330W.** 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. – 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

**Aug. 2012:** 19°10.607S / 178°27.452W to 19°10.889S / 178°28.205W. – Pincoya

### **5.18.2 Anchorages**

**Sept. 2022:** South Anchorage. **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: 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. – 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.

**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

### **5.18.3 General Services**

#### **5.18.3.1 Wifi**

**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. – Sugar Shack

#### **5.18.4 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. – Sugar Shack

### **5.18.5 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 2<sup>nd</sup> 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. – 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 2<sup>nd</sup> 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. – Easter 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

### **5.18.6 Cruiser Reports**

**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. – 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

## 6 Yasayasa Moala Group (Matuku, Moala, Totoya)

Cruising Guide References: So. Pacific Anchorages - Pg 91, A Yachtsman's Fiji, 3<sup>rd</sup> 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.



### 6.1 Moala

There are three villages on the island of Moala which include: Naca, Naro (central village), and Cakoba (Thakomba).

#### 6.1.1 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

### **6.1.2 Anchorages**

**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 feet 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 feet, 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 feet 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 this much easier. – Cheshire

### **6.1.3 General Services**

#### **6.1.3.1 Airport**

There is an airport here near the village of Naioi. There are weekly flights to Suva.

#### **6.1.3.2 Post Office**

The village of Naioi has a small post office.

#### **6.1.3.3 Medical Clinic**

A rather "large" medical clinic is located in Naioi.

## 6.2 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.

### 6.2.1 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

### 6.2.2 Anchorage

**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

### 6.2.3 Cruiser Reports

**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

## 6.3 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 km<sup>2</sup>(!) 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 neighbouring 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](http://www.pitufa.at/2023/07/the-matuku-marine-reserve-and-how-it-came-into-being/Pass). -- Pitufa

### **6.3.1 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

### **6.3.2 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

### **6.3.3 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

### **6.3.4 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

**2010:** The chief –of-chiefs' lives in Aroi. The Island Representative lives in Makadvu. Church on Sunday in Makadvu requires a tie and be ready to give a reply to a welcome speech.

## 7 Beqa

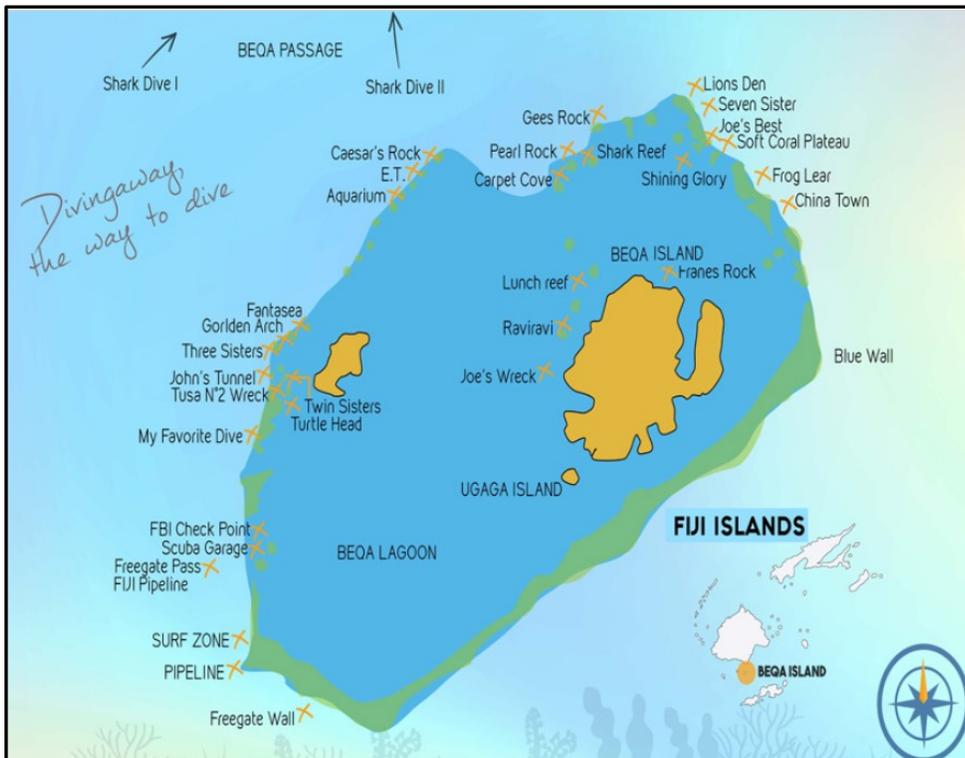


Photo courtesy of DivingAway.com

### 7.1 Mbengga (Beqa)

Cruising Guide References: A Yachtman's Fiji, 3<sup>rd</sup> Ed - 187-191

#### 7.1.1 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. – 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. – Sugar Shack

#### 7.1.2 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: 18°23.223S / 178°09.126E. Malumu Bay.** 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. – Sugar Shack

**Feb. 2013: 18°23.14S / 178°09.13E.** 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 and slowly shoaled to about 25' where we anchored. 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

### **7.1.3 Activities**

Beqa Adventure Divers +679.998.8006, [www.fijisharkdive.com](http://www.fijisharkdive.com), [contact@fijisharkdive.com](mailto:contact@fijisharkdive.com), [adventures@connect.com.fj](mailto: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

### **7.1.4 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) – Sugar Shack

## **7.2 Yanuca (Yanutha)**

Inside the Beqa Lagoon

### **7.2.1 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. – Sugar Shack

**Sept. 2022:** Entering from NW, look out for poorly charted bommies while approaching Yanuca. – SeaGlub

### 7.2.2 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. Dug 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. – 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

### 7.2.3 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 “biggs”.

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.

2<sup>nd</sup> 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

### 7.2.4 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

## 8 Kadavu (Kandavu) and The Great Astrolabe Reef

Cruising Guide References:

- South Pacific Anchorages - Pg 92-94
- A Yachtsman's Fiji, 3<sup>rd</sup> Ed - Pg 70-88

**Note:** Bays / Anchorages are listed North and going 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.

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 have 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.

**Remember** that Kadavu does have its own check in policies (updated July 2022) 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



## 8.1 Passes

### 8.1.1 Usborne Pass

**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. – Sugar Shack

### 8.1.2 Herald Pass

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

### 8.1.3 Niagoro Pass

**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 20.858E (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.

#### **8.1.4 From Naigoro Pass to Korolevu Pass Inside**

**Aug. 2019:** Looking at the charts, it appears that this can be done by following the Navionics purple dotted line and marker stakes. We decided to try at high tide and found that it is doable with good sunlight, although the purple line and marker stakes were a bit off. The marker stakes through Solomave Reef were present but did not match the chart. In other areas the markers were not present.

Here are our waypoints through Solomave Reef

19 01.690S/ 178 28.551E

19 01.718S/ 178 28.102E

19 01.900S/ 178 28.044E

19 01.949S/ 178 27.963E

Controlling depth between the last 2 waypoints is more than 4.5 meters at low tide. The rest of the passage through is deeper.

## **8.2 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

### **8.2.1 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.** And 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

### **8.2.2 Yachtsmen Services**

#### **8.2.2.1.1 Fuel (Diesel and gasoline)**

**July 2022:** There is a small dock where you can fill jerry cans – Starlight

### **8.2.3 General Services**

#### **8.2.3.1 Medical Clinic**

There is a medical clinic in Kavala.

#### **8.2.3.2 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

### **8.2.4 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 Solutavui 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 Solutavui 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 Solutavui 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

## **8.3 Ucuna Naigoro Bay**

South Pacific Anchorages - Pg 94, A Yachtsman's Fiji, 3<sup>rd</sup> Ed - Pg 79-81

### **8.3.1 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

### **8.3.2 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

### **8.3.3 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

### **8.3.4 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

## **8.4 Vatululu Bay**

### **8.4.1 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

### **8.4.2 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

## **8.5 Korolevu (Vaca Levu)**

### **8.5.1 Korlevu Pass**

**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

### **8.5.2 Anchorage**

**July 2012:** 19°01.344S / 178°24.456E. A nice anchorage. – Pincoya

## **8.6 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.

## **8.7 Vonobia Island**

### **8.7.1 Anchorages**

**July 2022:** 19°02.720S / 178°19.365E anchored in mud. – Starlight

### **8.7.2 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

## **8.8 North Bay**

### **8.8.1 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

### **8.8.2 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. – Sugar Shack

### **8.8.3 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

## **8.9 Galoa Bay**

### **8.9.1 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. – Sugar Shack

### **8.9.2 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

### **8.9.3 Yachtsmen Services**

#### **8.9.3.1 Cooking Gas (Propane)**

**July 2022:** Several stores offered propane tanks for sell. – Sugar Shack

#### **8.9.3.2 Fuel (Diesel and Gasoline)**

**July 2022:** You can purchase premix (mix of gasoline & oil), but it's very expensive (\$4F per liter). – Starlight

### **8.9.4 General Services**

#### **8.9.4.1 Airport**

**July 2022:** There are a few flights per week to Nadi and Suva. – Starlight

#### **8.9.4.2 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). – Sugar Shack

#### **8.9.4.3 Medical**

**July 2012:** There is a hospital located in town. – Pincoya

#### **8.9.4.4 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. – Sugar Shack

#### **8.9.5 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. – 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.

#### **8.9.6 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. – 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.

#### **8.9.7 Transportation**

**July 2022:** **Sai Car Rentals** +679.999.6910, +679.500.3333, +679.500.5555, [saicarrentalsfj@gmail.com](mailto:saicarrentalsfj@gmail.com). We did not use their service, but saw the advertisement on the side of their clean car. – Sugar Shack

### **8.9.8 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

### **8.9.9 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 (updated July 2022) 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). – 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.

### **8.10 Yauravu Bay / Muani**

**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.

#### **8.10.1 Pass**

**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

### **8.10.2 Anchorages**

**Sept. 2022:** 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.

**19°09.346S / 178°07.337E** can be had in winds that originate from anything with a north flavor to it. Sand bottom and near the pass at 3-5m, you can find proximity to the reef for snorkeling, diving, spearing, and surfing. – SeaGlub

### **8.11 Cape Washington (off Denham Island)**

#### **8.11.1 Anchorages**

**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. – Sugar Shack

#### **8.11.2 Cruiser Reports**

**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. – Sugar Shack

### **8.12 Talaulia Bay**

#### **8.12.1 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

#### **8.12.2 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

#### **8.12.3 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

### **8.13 Soladamu**

#### **8.13.1 Pass**

**July 2012: 19°02.053S / 178°06.685E.** Pass thru Hope Reef for Vunasea or Soladamu. – Pincoya

#### **8.13.2 Anchorages**

**July 2012: 19°04.250S / 178°06.90E.** Anchorage for Soladamu. – Hibiscus

### **8.13.3 Provisions**

**July 2012:** The Soladamu village had produce available on north coast. – Pincoya

**July 2012:** Good place for veggies & sevusevu. – Hibiscus

## **8.14 Vunasei**

### **8.14.1 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

### **8.14.2 Anchorages**

**July 2012:** 19°02.911S / 178°09.262E. In front of the fuel dock. – Pincoya

### **8.14.3 Yachtsmen Services**

#### **8.14.3.1 Fuel (Diesel and Gasoline)**

**2022:** There is a fuel dock in Vunasei

### **8.14.4 General Services**

#### **8.14.4.1 Airport**

There is an airport at Vunasei.

### **8.14.5 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

## **8.15 Vunidilo**

### **8.15.1 Pass**

**Sept. 2022:** Using satellite images we were able to weave around the bommies at 18°58.134S / 178°10.520E during mid tide and saw about 16 meters of depth. This pass is about 300m wide and with good light and light winds was pretty straight forward to navigate. – Sugar Shack

### **8.15.2 Anchorage**

**Sept. 2022:** We planned to drop the hook at 18°88.067S / 178°10.181E but there was no internet access so we continued on to Drue anchorage. – Sugar Shack

### **8.15.3 Cruiser Report**

**Sept. 2022:** Normally we are not a “slave” to the internet, but this particular day we had something rather important to do which required internet so we could not stop at what looked like a lovely anchor spot in front of a long sandy beach. – Sugar Shack

## **8.16 Tomba Ni Ndaku Bay**

### **8.16.1 Pass**

**Sept. 2022:** The entrance into the Tomba Ni Ndaku bay is a swervy “S” so caution should be exercised. It would be best to enter at high tide with a strong sun and good visibility. There is a bommie (noted on Navionics and on the satellite charts) at **18°57.199S / 178°16.134E** that was just under the water at low tide. There are no markers into the bay, but again, the charts are pretty accurate. – Sugar Shack

### **8.16.2 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**. – Sugar Shack

### **8.16.3 Cruiser Report**

**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.

There is no (Digicel or Vodafone) internet access in this bay, but it sure is beautiful. The village is deep inside the bay and down a short river. Once you do sevusevu there is a nice walk up the hill giving you some pretty views. – Sugar Shack

## **8.17 Drue**

### **8.17.1 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). – Sugar Shack

### **8.17.2 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! – Sugar Shack

### **8.17.3 Cruiser Reports**

**Sept. 2022:** We did not have any Vodafone service. Our Digicel seemed to work much better. – Sugar Shack

**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.

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. – Sugar Shack

## **8.18 Ono Island**

South Pacific Anchorages - Pg 94, A Yachtsman's Fiji, 3<sup>rd</sup> Ed - Pg 85-87

**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

### **8.18.1 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. – 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

### **8.18.2 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). – 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

### **8.18.3 Anchorage Naqara Bay (North side)**

**Aug. 2012: 18°52.4S / 178°29.6E.** Anchored deep in 70' in the middle of the bay away from the reef. Good holding. The 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

### **8.18.4 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

## **8.19 Vurolevu Island**

### **8.19.1 Anchorage**

**Sept. 2022: 18°50.822S / 178°31.390E.** Mantas love to swim around this anchorage, near Buliya (right under your boat). – 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

### **8.19.2 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. – 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

## **8.20 Buliya Island**

### **8.20.1 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. – 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

## **8.21 Yabu Island**

### **8.21.1 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. – Sugar Shack

**June 2012:** **18°50.678S / 178°30.067E.** Anchoring in 25' of coral and sand. – Pincoya

### **8.21.2 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. – 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

## **8.22 Yaukuvelailai Island**

### **8.22.1 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

### **8.22.2 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

## **8.23 Namara Island**

### **8.23.1 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. – Sugar Shack

### **8.23.2 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. – Sugar Shack

## **8.24 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.

### **8.24.1 Pass**

**Aug. 2012:** Keep the green marker to starboard as you approach the anchorage - there is a big reef under the marker. Good snorkeling on this reef. – Sarah Jean II

### **8.24.2 Anchorages**

**Aug. 2012: 18°45.4 S / 178°31.1.** Anchored in 30’ feet of very clear water on sand. We could see the anchor as it dropped. Good holding. – Sarah Jean II

### **8.24.3 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

## 9 Viti Levu

Content for Viti Levu starts in Suva and goes clock wise around the island.

### 9.1 Suva

#### 9.1.1 Approach and Arrival

See "Customs and Immigration" above in section 2.7 for formalities

#### 9.1.2 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

#### 9.1.3 The Royal Suva Yacht Club

+679.992.2921, +679.331.2921 | Fax: +679.330.4433, [rsyc@kidanet.net.fj](mailto:rsyc@kidanet.net.fj) or [gm@rsyc.org.fj](mailto: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.

**Services:** Restaurant, bar, trash, showers, chandlery, dive center, laundry, fuel, water, internet, pool, snooker table, book exchange. A daily fee per person will be charged for using the facilities.

A fee to ferry officials to/from boat will be charged.

#### 9.1.4 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 in Suva for two weeks at the Royal Suva Yacht Club preparing to depart Fiji.

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 six feet and drops to fifty feet 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 four feet.

This is an industrial port with large ships operating in the harbor including tankers, cruise ships, and 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 of these near the yacht anchorage. Some are abandoned. – Far Star

### **9.1.5 Yachtsmen Services**

#### **9.1.5.1 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

#### **9.1.5.2 Wifi (Internet and Phone)**

Wireless internet access that may cover as far as some of the offshore moorings.

### **9.1.6 General Services**

#### **9.1.6.1 Laundry**

Next day laundry service is available.

### **9.1.7 General Services**

#### **9.1.7.1 Hardware Stores**

**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

#### **9.1.7.2 Marine Stores and Services**

**2022 Verified (2013):** Marine Supplies: There are three marine stores in Suva

- The Yacht Shop: +679.999.3932. [www.yachtshop.com.fj](http://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](http://www.tecairfiji.com). Hours: Mon-Thurs: 0800-1630, Fri:0800-1530

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](http://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](http://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

### 9.1.7.3 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](http://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](http://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](mailto: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

#### **9.1.7.4 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 NadiNadi.

When we flew in to Nadi airport, there was in 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

#### **9.1.8 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.costules.com](http://www.costules.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.
- **Whalys 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 old 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).

### 9.1.9 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

### 9.1.10 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](http://www.fijimuseum.org.fj). – Sugar Shack

### 9.1.11 Cruiser Reports

**Aug. 2022:** We became temporary members of the Royal Suva Yacht Club and could use the facilities, link 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, (except 6 AWG butt connectors!) in the industrial area supporting the shipping fleet. Prices are great as well. The RSYC is a friendly and convenient spot. – Shango

## **9.2 Pacific Harbor**

Cruising Guide References: A Yachtman's Fiji, 3<sup>rd</sup> Ed - Pg 196

Pacific Harbor is not a “harbor” but rather a 60’ wide & 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

## **9.3 Serua Harbor**

Cruising Guide References: A Yachtman's Fiji, 3<sup>rd</sup> Ed - Pg 192

## **9.4 Vunaniu (Vuna Nui)**

Cruising Guide References: A Yachtman's Fiji, 3<sup>rd</sup> Ed - Pg 192

### **9.4.1 Anchorage**

**Aug. 2022:** 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. Better yet, it was an amazing sleep. The winds were light from the SE, the water was calm and the holding was good. – 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

## **9.5 Somosomo Bay**

Cruising Guide References: A Yachtman's Fiji, 3<sup>rd</sup> Ed - Pg 194-195 (with chartlet).

### **9.5.1 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

## **9.5.2 General Services**

### **9.5.2.1 Wifi (Internet and Phone)**

**July 2013:** There is a Digicel cell tower on the hill behind the village. – Radiance

### **9.5.3 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

### **9.5.4 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

## **9.6 Korolevu Bay**

### **9.6.1 Pass**

**Sept. 2022:** Deep entrance with clearly visible reef on both sides. Favor port side entrance. – SeaGlub

### **9.6.2 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

## **9.7 Busa Bay**

### **9.7.1 Pass**

**Sept. 2022:** Pass is manageable and deep, no less than 15m all the way in. – SeaGlub

### **9.7.2 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

## **9.8 Cuvu (Thuvu) Harbor**

Cruising Guide References: A Yachtman's Fiji, 3<sup>rd</sup> Ed - Pg 196

### **9.8.1 Anchorage**

Possible anchor spots: **18°08.16S / 177°25.06E** or **18°08.05S / 177°24.82E** (from unknown boat's tracks)

## **9.9 Natadola Bay**

Cruising Guide References: A Yachtman's Fiji, 3<sup>rd</sup> Ed - Pg 198

### **9.9.1 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. – Sugar Shack

### **9.9.2 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.

2<sup>nd</sup> Anchorage: **18°06.461S / 177°18.957E.** dropped in 7m of sand near the entrance to the river (where the village is located). – Sugar Shack

### **9.9.3 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. – Sugar Shack

## **9.10 Likuri (Robinson Crusoe Island)**

Cruising Guide References: A Yachtman's Fiji, 3<sup>rd</sup> Ed - Pg 198-199

### **9.10.1 Pass**

**Sept. 2022:** The pass is not difficult; watch charts. – SeaGlub

### **9.10.2 Anchorage**

**Sept. 2022:** You can get in quite close with the anchorage where it shallows up. – SeaGlub

### **9.10.3 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](http://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

## 9.11 Momi Bay

Cruising Guide References: A Yachtman's Fiji, 3<sup>rd</sup> Ed - Pg 199

### 9.11.1 Anchorage:

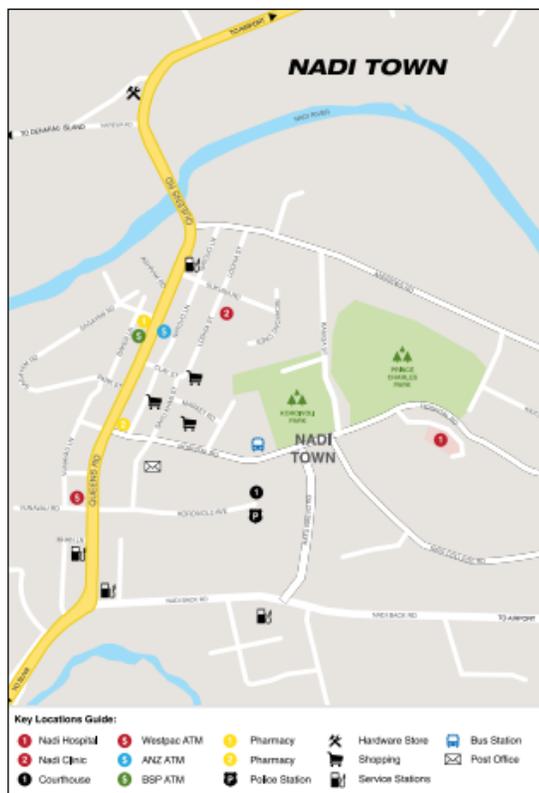
**Oct. 2010:** A nice calm anchorage with calm breezes It was really good to get tucked in behind the main island and behind a substantial reef system that took away the swell. – Mr. John IV

### 9.11.2 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

## 9.12 Nadi (Nandi)

Photo courtesy Fiji Shores & Marinas 2020 -->



### 9.12.1 General Services

#### 9.12.1.1 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](mailto: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. – Sugar Shack

#### 9.12.1.2 Canvas and Upholstery

Pawan Upholstery Works +679 995 1950  
[pawansupholsteryworks@live.com](mailto:pawansupholsteryworks@live.com). Salon & cockpit cushions. Speedy and good work at reasonable prices.

#### 9.12.1.3 Engine Repair

**Oct. 2023:** I got my Honda dive compressor gasoline small engine repaired at Vinz Small Engine Repairs in Nadi at the

Ganesha Building, Nadi Back Road. +679.994.1715, [vinz.spares@yahoo.com](mailto:vinz.spares@yahoo.com). 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

#### 9.12.1.4 Hardware Store

There are a few different hardware stores around downtown.

#### 9.12.1.5 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](mailto:prosmiledental.fj@gmail.com), Really lovely lady, super clean and modern clinic.

### 9.12.1.6 Post Office

Post office +679.679.0001. Hours: Mon-Fri: 0800-1700, Sat: 0800-1300. Located 5CW8 + 7CF, Korivolue, Nadi

### 9.12.2 Provisions

**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. A huge score. 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](mailto: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](http://www.italianiafiji.it), [info@italianiafiji.net](mailto: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. Go to their website and download their price list.
- **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. – Travis Holub
- **BioPlus Packaging** +679.672.7126, +679.777.6049, [admin@packplus.com.fj](mailto: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. – Sugar Shack

### 9.12.2.1 Refrigeration

**Oct. 2023:** I had my 12v ilotherm refrigerator repaired in Nadi by a Chinese fellow a block and a half 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 but he did an excellent job resoldering pipes, cleaning off rust, painting the

pipes then refilling the compressor for a very fair price and within 24 hours. His wife contacts you when it is ready. – Travis Holub

### **9.12.3 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](http://www.risebeyondthereef.org), [order@risebeyondthereef.org](mailto:order@risebeyondthereef.org), Hours: Mon-Fri: 1000-1600., Sat: 1000-1400.

### **9.12.4 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. – Sugar Shack

### **9.13 Port Denarau**

+679.675.0600, +679.776.0600. [www.denaraumarina.com/](http://www.denaraumarina.com/), VHF 14. General Manager Cynthia Rasch +679.707.5650 [cynthia@denaraumarina.com](mailto:cynthia@denaraumarina.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.

**Boat Yard:** Services offered: Engineering, welding, hydraulic workshop, outboard/jet ski repairs, aluminum fabricators, stainless steel fabrication, sail and canvas maker, painting and antifoul, dive bottle refill, gas bottle refill, fuel station.

**Marina Access:** 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).

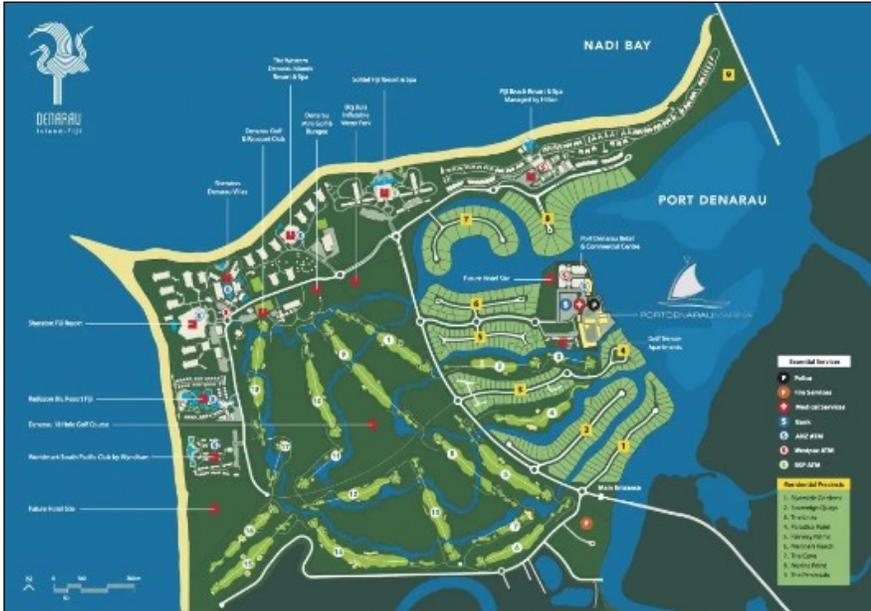
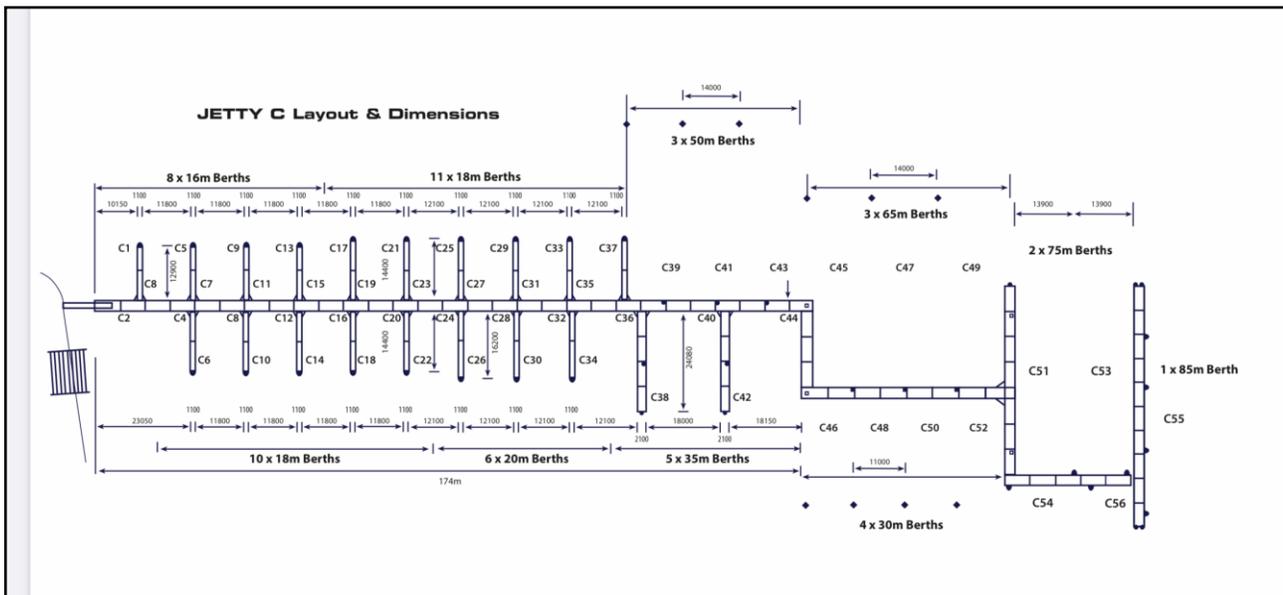


Photo courtesy Fiji Shores & Marinas 2020

### 9.13.1 Anchoring, Mooring, and Berths

Denarau has 56 berths and 16 moorings throughout the marina basin. Reservations are required in advance as they are often booked. Book ahead, they're busy! Email the marina at [reservations@denaraumarina.com](mailto:reservations@denaraumarina.com) (they like things in writing). VHF 14 call Port Denarau Marina.

Berthing available either on C dock (water included in price and electricity is extra), or mooring buoys, or anchoring outside the channel (which is a long dinghy ride).



**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 are between 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). – 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.

**Dinghy Dock:** There are two places you can leave your dinghy. The near Cardo's Restaurant is free, but there is no security. It is to the right, closer to the mooring field. Suggested to lock up dinghy.

The other dinghy dock is only available to those who pay the \$10F/day fee, or are on a mooring. To the left of the fuel dock is a small dock with a ramp leading to a locked gate (accessed by key card).

**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. – 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 gates, which are locked. Marina is fine with the cruisers anchored outside 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

### **9.13.2 Yachtsmen Services**

#### **9.13.2.1 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 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. – 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

### **9.13.2.2 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. – Sugar Shack

### **9.13.3 General Services**

Port Denarau offers the following services: Water, Electricity, ATM (bank) and Money Exchange, Laundry, Pharmacy, Showers

#### **9.13.3.1 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%

#### **9.13.3.2 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](http://www.portdenarau.com.fj) Hours: Mon-Sat: 0800-2100

#### **9.13.3.3 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 +679.985.0735 & +679.735.3690. BAF: +679.998.9327 & +679.730.3515. IMM: +679.861.7561 & +679.725.3083. MOH: +679.967.7599 & +679.967.7599

#### **9.13.3.4 Fishing Store – Shimano**

**Oct. 2022:** +679.992.7124. [enquire@oceanfiji.com](mailto:enquire@oceanfiji.com), [www.oceanfiji.com](http://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! – Sugar Shack

#### **9.13.3.5 Laundry**

There are (3) heavy duty washing machines and (3) dryers that are amazing! Wash takes about 30-minutes and dryer took about 50 minutes. I was able to squish a lot of laundry into one machine. Tokens are \$6F each and can be purchased at the marina office. It takes (1) token for wash and (1) token for dry. – Sugar Shack

#### **9.13.3.6 Marine Services**

**Note:** See section 9.11 for yachtsmen services, contractors, & vendors outside of the marina.

**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.

**Imported Marine Accessories** +679.675.0993 & +679.891.6364 (cel), [www.importedmarinefiji.com](http://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.

**Yacht Help Fiji:** +679.777.2331. [www.yachthelp.com](http://www.yachthelp.com), [kiti@yachthelp.com](mailto: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.

**Rev Marine Electrical:** +679.932.2019, +679.926.0531, [www.revmarine.com](http://www.revmarine.com), [ravi@revmarine.com.fj](mailto:ravi@revmarine.com.fj), [anjani@revmarine.com.fj](mailto: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](mailto: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.

- **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. – Sugar Shack

**Yamaha Authorized Service** Vatimo +679.999.1769, [vvatimio@asco.com.fj](mailto:vvatimio@asco.com.fj), Hector Smith +679.999.1999 [hsmith@asco.com.fj](mailto:hsmith@asco.com.fj), Richard Qoro [rgoro@asco.com.fj](mailto:rgoro@asco.com.fj) Located near yard facilities.

**Hydraulic Hose Services LTD:** +679.675.0892 and mobile +679.999.5518. Located near yard facilities.

**Wash & Wax:** If you are Denarau Marina, give Moses Bakaniceva a call at +679.806.9407. email: [bakanimosese@gmail.com](mailto:bakanimosese@gmail.com). He does boat wash and wax and general maintenance. He is super nice guy

**Aug. 2022:** Pretty impressed with the selection of chandleries and marine shops. Walk around by the yard for the majority of the suppliers. If they don't have what you are looking for, ask them to order it. – Sugar Shack

**July 2022:** There are few chandleries in the port area. But we were disappointed that they do not show prices on the items, you need to ask for every single thing. – Starlight

#### **9.13.4 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](mailto:contact@ems.com.fj), [www.ems.com.fj](http://www.ems.com.fj).

**Emergency Medical Services** (2<sup>nd</sup> floor) +679.222.0903 [contact@ems.com.fj](mailto: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](mailto: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. – Sugar Shack

#### **9.13.5 Provisions**

**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

**July 2022: Yees XpressMart** +679.675.0425. Hours: Mon-Sun: 0800-2100. They have a variety of produce, very little meat and a nice variety of other provisions. Their prices seemed moderate, but we were told it is more expensive than in Nadi. Beer (case, can, Fiji Gold \$61.50F)

**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](http://www.freshchoice.com/fj), [info@freshchoice.com/fj](mailto:info@freshchoice.com/fj) Very well stocked store, decent selection of produce and meats along with other provisions. Their beer was more expensive than at Yeas.

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](http://www.farmboyfiji.com) (order & pay online), [accountsfarmboyfiji@yahoo.com](mailto:accountsfarmboyfiji@yahoo.com) & [farmboyfiji@gmail.com](mailto: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, champaign, and liquor. However, we found them to be pricey (Case of Fiji Gold cans \$67.80F). – 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.

### **9.13.6 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, Shanhai, 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. We also tried Lulu's for lunch which we found to be just about average. – Sugar Shack

### **9.13.7 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](http://www.fijifreight.us). email: [ship@fijifreight.us](mailto:ship@fijifreight.us).

Offices: Fiji: Savou St. Westfieldcity, Nadi. Local Office for pickup/drop off only +679.973.1346

**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! – 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 (Susan and Darrell)

### **9.13.8 Stores (clothing, artisan, jewelry, etc...)**

Most stores in the mail 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

### **9.13.9 Transportation**

**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 tax 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. – 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](http://www.facebook.com/naditaxi), +679.922.2006, [localtaxifj@gmail.com](mailto:localtaxifj@gmail.com) – Capall Mara

**July 2022:** The public bus leaves from Denarau to Nadi every 20 minutes. The tickets are cheap. – Starlight

### **9.13.10 Cruiser Reports**

**Sept. 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. – 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

**July 2016:** We wanted to haul the boat out before going home to Australia, one less thing to think about when we get home. We originally intended to haul at Port Denarau, as some other cruising friends had recommended it. Since our friends were there, management no longer allows you to stay on your boat while you are on the hard. So that was a complete deal breaker for us. I found out about not being able to stay on board by chance. There is nothing about this on their website. – Storm Bay of Hobart

## **9.14 Yakuilau Island (off Denarau)**

### **9.14.1 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. – Sugar Shack

## **9.15 Marina Naisoso**

(Between Denarau and Vuda Marina) +679.672.9374, +679.999.3424 and M: +679.999.0342.

[info@marinanaisoso.com](mailto:info@marinanaisoso.com), [www.naisosomarinafiji.com](http://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 is 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

## **9.16 Vuda Point Marina**

+679.666.8214. [www.vudamarina.com](http://www.vudamarina.com), [info@vudamarina.com.fj](mailto: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.



Photo courtesy Fiji Shores & Marinas

**Boat Yard Services:** Spray painting, anti-foul, stainless steel work, rigging, electrical, fiberglass, metal work, sandblasting/sodablasting, carpentry, refrigeration, mechanical, caulking and plumbing, sail and canvas maker. Contractors: [www.vudamarina.com.fj/yachting/contractors/](http://www.vudamarina.com.fj/yachting/contractors/)

**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.

### **9.16.1 Marina Channel**

Before entering the marina channel, hail the marina on VHF 16 “Vuda Marina” and await further instructions. All radio operators speak English. You may be advised to wait at the white 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.

### **9.16.2 Anchoring, Mooring, Berths**

Berthing is first come, first served and is med-style at Vuda Marina. If no berths are available, you may need to stay on a middle mooring for a few hours.

The marina is very protected. The original basin is called the East Basin and the newer basin is the West Basin.

**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 (3) fenders on both port AND starboard (if you are less than 45’) and have at least (4) fenders on both sides if you are larger.

**West basin** (newer) has 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 will need longer lines and spring lines at midships in addition to more fenders.

They offer space on the hard where you can haul out on the large travel hoist or trailer.

**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. – Sugar Shack

**Sept. 2022: 17°41.053S / 177°22.941E.** Dropped 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. – 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. Whilst 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

**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

### **9.16.3 Yachtsmen Services**

#### **9.16.3.1 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.

#### **9.16.3.2 Cooking Gas (Propane)**

Butane and propane can be refilled at Blue Gas Station, 50m up the road

### **9.16.4 General Services**

Vuda Marina offers the following services:

- ATMs and Banks
- Fuel dock
- General Store
- Laundry
- Rental cars
- Restaurant: Boatshed Restaurant and Bar
- Taxi Base
- Wifi: (1) hour free wifi, per person, per day. SIM cards available at the office
- Yacht Chandlerly
- Commercial Retail Center (large mall)

#### **9.16.4.1 Formalities**

**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

#### **9.16.4.2 Marine Services**

Approved Vendors for Vuda Marina:

- **All Engineering:** mechanical repairs, electrical, and stainless. +679.666.5976 or Praveen +679.992.9309. [alleng@connect.com.fj](mailto:alleng@connect.com.fj)
- **Custom Weld & Design (Fiji):** Fabrication and welding of stainless, aluminum, and mild steel. All welding works. Vikash +679.866.2065, +679 762.1449, [customweldingndesign@gmail.com](mailto:customweldingndesign@gmail.com)
- **Dockside Marine & Auto Solutions:** repair & maintenance works, diesel mechanic. Sachin +679.935.2055, +679.995.4039. [dsmarinesolution@gmail.com](mailto:dsmarinesolution@gmail.com)
- **Engine Repairs: Krishna Yacht Services** ask for Ritesh Kumar +679 844 0860. [krishnayachtservices@gmail.com](mailto:krishnayachtservices@gmail.com). Inboard, outboard, repairs, maintenance, servicing. Comes highly recommended, very cruiser friendly, will travel and trouble shoot on the phone.
- **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](mailto: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](mailto:info@haurakiadventures.com)
- **Marshall Sails:** New sails and sail repairs, plus all canvas work, dodgers, biminys, upholstery, stocklist of Sunbrella. +679.666.0030. Alan +679.992.9246. [marshallsails@connect.com.fj](mailto:marshallsails@connect.com.fj)
- **Prasads General Marine Services:** boat engine repairs, antifouling, fiberglass repairs, spraypainting, timber works. Sachin +679.937.2478. [prasadsmarineservices@gmail.com](mailto:prasadsmarineservices@gmail.com)
- **Rainbow Cool Tech:** airconditioning and refrigeration. Abdul Mustak Minaf +679.998.1234, [rainbowcooltech@gmail.com.fj](mailto: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](mailto:ravi@revmarine.com.fj)
- **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](mailto:signs1053@gmail.com)
- **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](mailto:mohitnaicker@gmail.com)
- **Sundar & Simon Outboard Repairs:** boat engines, jetskis. Aklesh +679.998.2871, +679.992.8418, [sharanj@connect.com.fj](mailto:sharanj@connect.com.fj)
- **South Pacific Fiberglass:** composite and fiberglass fabrication, repairs to international standards. Nick +679.926.8488, [southpacificfiberglass@gmail.com](mailto:southpacificfiberglass@gmail.com). Very responsive and communicative.
- **Westside Rigging and Wire:** Specialist in SS wire rope and fittings, architectural and marine. Bruce +679 628 6957, +679 999.8838. [mothership@connect.com.fj](mailto:mothership@connect.com.fj)
- **Yacht Help:** spray painting, antifouling, mechanical, varnish, polish. +679.666.8969, +679.777.2330, [maintenance@yachthelp.com](mailto:maintenance@yachthelp.com)
- **Yacht Rigging Solutions:** replacing and surveying, running and standing rigging, rope splicing. Colin +679 292.9633, [yachtriggingsolutionsfiji@gmail.com](mailto:yachtriggingsolutionsfiji@gmail.com)

#### 9.16.4.3 Transport

**Oct. 2023:** The marina will help you with car rentals and tours. – 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 outside. 24 hours is \$100FJ Good basic car with a/c and automatic transmission. BUS: Marina office has the schedule of the bus to Lautoka \$2FJ per person one way. – Carpe Diem

#### 9.16.4.4 Wifi (Internet and Phone)

**Sept. 2023:** SIM Cards are available at the office. – Moana

**July 2016:** Vuda Marina gives u 2 hours internet a day free. (you have to go to the office each morning and get the codes) I used the Vodafone system the rest of the time. – Storm Bay of Hobart

#### **9.16.5 Provisions**

**Oct. 2023:** Pre-Made Curry dishes: Angie +679 936 4491 will make pre-made curry dishes and vegetarian curry too. Be sure to ask for the fish to be boneless. – Sugar Shack

#### **9.16.6 Restaurants**

There is one restaurant where you can eat inside or under the palapa on the water's edge.

**Sept. 2022:** The Boathouse is a sweet little place to eat and have a cocktail as the sun sets. We found the food to be average and the service a little less than we anticipated (it was a bit crowded), but overall, it was a nice experience. They do have daily specials or themes which were fun. – Sugar Shack

**Sept. 2022:** The Boathouse bar/restaurant is a great setting for a sundowner (they have different deals on different nights). 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

#### **9.16.7 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.

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

**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 into Denarau 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 management has some silly rules but 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. As you may know 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 Denerau. 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

## **9.17 Saweni Bay**

### **9.17.1 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

### **9.17.2 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

## **9.18 Bekana Island**

### **9.18.1 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. – 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

### **9.18.2 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. – 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

## **9.19 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 in Aug. 2022.

### **9.19.1 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. – 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

### **9.19.2 Yachtsmen Services**

#### **9.19.2.1 Cooking Gas (Propane & Butane)**

**Sept. 2023:** Fresh Choice sells Fiji Gas and Blue Gas. – Sugar Shack

#### **9.19.2.2 Fuel**

**Sept. 2023:** There are several fuel stations inland including Total. – Sugar Shack

### **9.19.3 General Services**

#### **9.19.3.1 Automotive**

**Sept. 2023:** 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](http://www.sigatokaspares.com.fj), [smsspares@connect.com.fj](mailto:smsspares@connect.com.fj). – Sugar Shack

#### **9.19.3.2 Bank (ATM)**

**Sept. 2023:** 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 Weaterfront 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. – Sugar Shack

### **9.19.3.3 Computers & Wifi**

**Sept. 2023:** There are a number of electronic stores, but the only Apple Authorized dealer was Cyber City Courts. +679 892 5631. Hours: MonFri: 0900-1700, Sat: 0900-1400.

Valuefone (formerly Vodafone) +679 998 8814, [lautoka@valuefonefj.com](mailto:lautoka@valuefonefj.com), located 14 Naiviti St. – Sugar Shack

### **9.19.3.4 Hardware**

**Sept. 2023:** Link Hardware +679 666 4152, +679 707 6675, [linkhardware.fj@outlook.com](mailto: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.– Sugar Shack

### **9.19.3.5 Justice of the Peace: Document Certification**

Fiji Muslim League: Sheik Sahib +679 956 5443 and [sheiksaheb861@gmail.com](mailto:sheiksaheb861@gmail.com). Located in Lautoka at the Muslim Primary school. Very helpful

### **9.19.3.6 Medical**

**Sept. 2023:** Life Care Medical Center offers radiology, lab work, ultrasounds. +679 276 8083, +679 775 4274, [fd.procarelautoka@gmail.com](mailto: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.

### **9.19.3.7 Pharmacy**

**Sept. 2023:** We found several pharmacies in downtown. Here are just a few:

- Quality Life Pharmacy +679 940 7600, +679 792 0008, [qlifepharmacy.fj@gmail.com](mailto: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

### **9.19.3.8 Post Office**

**Sept. 2023:** The Lautoka Post Office is located on Tavewa Ave. +679 666.0022, +679 132 123, [care@postfiji.com.fj](mailto:care@postfiji.com.fj) Hours: Mon-Fri: 0800-1700, Sat: 0800-1300. – Sugar Shack

### **9.19.3.9 Refrigeration**

**Sept. 2023:** Lincoln Refrigeration +679 664 5405, [www.lincolnrefrigerationfiji.com](http://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](mailto:coolman_refrigeration@yahoo.com), – Sugar Shack

### **9.19.3.10 Transportation**

**Sept. 2023:** 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

### **9.19.3.11 Watermaker Services:**

Oceania Water Group +679 786 6415, <https://oceaniawatergroup.com>, [sales@oceaniawatergroup.com](mailto:sales@oceaniawatergroup.com) Hours: Mon-Fri: 0800-1700. Offers parts, products and services for watermakers of all types.

#### **9.19.4 Provisions**

**Sept. 2023:** There are lots of choices for grocery shopping in Lautoka.

- Fresh Choice right off Marine Drive (the main road). +679 666 4148, [info@freshchoice.com.fj](mailto:info@freshchoice.com.fj), [www.freshchoice.com.fj](http://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](mailto:shiuprasadsons@connect.fj)
- Max Value (pink bdg) Located: Naviti Street. +679 666.2999. Hours: Mon-Sat: 0800-2100, Sun. 0830-1300
- Extra Supermarket Fiji +679 999 8401. Daily 0700-2000. [www.extra.com.fj](http://www.extra.com.fj), Located: Vitogo Parade
- 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. – 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

#### **9.19.5 Restaurants**

**Sept. 2023:** Walk around and enjoy this very large, industrial city. There are several places to eat with different price ranges and a variety of food. – Sugar Shack

#### **9.19.6 Cruiser Reports**

**Sept. 2023:** 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. – 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

#### **9.20 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

#### **9.21 North Coast of Viti Levu**

##### **9.21.1 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

### **9.21.2 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. – Sugar Shack

### **9.21.3 Volivoli Point**

#### **9.21.3.1 Anchorages**

**Oct. 2023:** Anchored in 15m of mud. The holding was good here. We went ashore and 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. – Sugar Shack

**Sept. 2022: 17°19.105S / 178°10.472E.** Anchored in 14.5m of mud. – Seneto

#### **9.21.3.2 Cruiser Reports**

**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. – 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. We forgot, and as there weren't many people in the restaurant, they fit us in, but it seemed like a big deal. 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](http://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, Breathtaker, and wreck diving.

## 9.22 *Nananu Pass*

### 9.22.1 *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. – Sugar Shack

### 9.22.2 *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

## 10 *Rotuma*

### 10.1 *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

### 10.2 *Cruiser Reports*

**April 2011:** Rotuma has a Web Page, [www.rotuma.net](http://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

## 11 The Mamanuca Group

Pronounced “Mamanutha”

### 11.1 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.

As of 2023, the islands have been filming the television series “Survivor.” During filming these islands are closed and cruisers are not allowed to anchor around them. In 2023, they were filming on Mana Island. The island Monuriki is where they filmed Cast Away.

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.



Photo courtesy Fiji Bookings.com

## **11.2 Malolo Island (Musket Cove)**

Musket Cove Marina +679.666.2215, [www.musketcovefiji.com](http://www.musketcovefiji.com), [inquiries@musketcovefiji.com](mailto: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.

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 has Padi Dive Shop (Subsurface Dive), Artisan Shop (trinkets, clothes, jewelry), laundry, trash/recycling, showers, pool, 3 bars, 2 eateries, market, ATM.

Media room just off Dick's Bistro where they often show rugby games.

**2023 Rates:** Marina berths: monohull \$4.80/m and multihull \$8.50/m (monthly and long-term rates available)

Moorings available for yachts up to 25tons. \$25F/night (monthly rates available at a discount). Moorings must be paid in advance and are non-refundable.

They use rain water for toilets, sinks, and laundry which tends to be brown.

### **11.2.1 Pass**

**Sept. 2022:** 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. – Sugar Shack

**July 2022:** Navula Pass is the main shipping channel and is deep and wide. We found it accurate on the charts (Navionics, OpenCPN) and most of the markers were lit to enter at night (one of the 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.

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. – Sugar Shack

### **11.2.2 Anchorages**

#### **11.2.2.1 Musket Cove Anchorage**

Musket Cove Marina offers sheltered moorings and marina berths. Onshore facilities include laundry, showers, general store, fuel, ATM, restaurant, and bars. Anyone 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. 2023:** Anchorage near sandbank: **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. – 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, so we anchored in the back of the pack. It was nice and breezy, albeit far into the marina.

Another anchorage near the 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.

We also anchored (**17°46.700S / 177°10.504E** in 15m) near **Nuku Reef** (which is just a sand spit and mostly disappears during low tide). Popular spot for tour boats, but when you catch it empty it's full of beautiful sea stars and sea shells. – 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

#### **11.2.2.2 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 Lilai. With 8-10kts of NW winds it was a roly! 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. – Sugar Shack

#### **11.2.2.3 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. – 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). – Sugar Shack

#### **11.2.2.4 Cloud Nine Anchorage (Ro Ro Reef)**

**Oct. 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 and take photos and it was gorgeous. – Sugar Shack

**Sept. 2023: 17°46.800S / 177°06.930E.** Dropped 5m of sand with good holding. Gorgeous waters by the reef. – 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 with good holding (on no wind day). Another spot **17°47.6468S / 177°08.332E** in 10m with "decent" but not great holding. There were several large bommies around us though. Float your chain if you anchor in second spot. With 8-10kts of Northerly winds. – 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

#### **11.2.2.5 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 snuggled 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. – 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. – 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

### **11.2.3 Yachtsmen Services**

#### **11.2.3.1 Cooking Gas**

Cooking gas is available.

#### **11.2.3.2 Fuel (Diesel and Gasoline)**

**July 2022:** 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. – Sugar Shack

#### **11.2.3.3 Trash and Recycling**

**July 2022:** 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. – Sugar Shack

#### **11.2.3.4 Water**

Drinking water is available from the marina at \$0.10F per liter.

### **11.2.4 General Services**

#### **11.2.4.1 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.

#### **11.2.4.2 Laundry**

**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.

Musket Cove uses gray water as you will notice in the sinks and toilets. – Sugar Shack

#### **11.2.4.3 Mail**

Incoming mail is kept at the Marina Office. Outgoing mail is in the boutique where stamps are available.

#### **11.2.4.4 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.

#### **11.2.4.5 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.

**Aug. 2022:** Both Digicel and Vodafone worked perfectly around Malolo (Musket Cove, Sandy spit, and East of Musket Cove). Full 4G service – Sugar Shack

#### **11.2.5 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.

**July 2022:** 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](http://www.farmboyfiji.com) (order & pay online), [accountsfarmboyfiji@yahoo.com](mailto:accountsfarmboyfiji@yahoo.com) & [farmboyfiji@gmail.com](mailto: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. – Sugar Shack

#### **11.2.6 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.

#### **11.2.7 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 priveledge of going to Seventh Heaven. So unfortunate as the food and service was so much better than Cloud 9, but they've priced themselves out.

**Hike:** During low tide we walked around the entire Malolo island (6m) which was a great walk. You'll need regular shoes as there are some rocky areas. – Sugar Shack

**Sept. 2022:** Seventh Heaven Bar and Restaurant +679.675.1161 (see anchorage spot under July 2022 Sugar Shack Anchor). [www.seventhheavenfiji.com](http://www.seventhheavenfiji.com), [bookings@seventhheavenfiji.com](mailto: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, more things to do (activities, more seating and lounge space), 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. – 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

### **11.2.8 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. – 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](http://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. – 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! Anchor a bit to the side of the boat entrance of the private resort to not be in their way. Crystal clear waters. – Mais Uma

### **11.3 Namotu Island**

Near the surf break, uninhabited island.

#### **11.3.1 Anchorages**

**Sept. 2022: 17°50.477S / 177°10.932E** dropped in 5m sand (less coral than 1<sup>st</sup> spot) near Namotu Island (small island near surf break). 1<sup>st</sup> 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. – 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

#### **11.3.2 Cruiser Report**

**Sept. 2022:** Resort on the island is private. They will not allow you on shore. – Sugar Shack

**Sept. 2022:** Many spots along the eastern side of the reef to anchor safely and go for a swim/snorkel around the reef. – Lazy Sunday

### **11.4 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.

Anchoring is on the west side in about 20m of sand but this is truly a day anchor spot.

### **11.5 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. – Sugar Shack

### **11.6 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. – Sugar Shack

### **11.7 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.

### **11.7.1 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 two boats to be in the narrow portion at the same time. – 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. – 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

### **11.7.2 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.

I will say that several boats tried to anchor between us and the reef and we had to explain we had 50m of chain out (5:1 ratio) and that when the winds shifted, which they did, our stern ended up 5m from the reef. So, most changed locations. The other thing is that the channel traffic (3 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. – 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.

2<sup>nd</sup> 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 3<sup>rd</sup> spot.

Spot 3: **17°40.705S / 177°06.281E.** Dropped in 12m of mud but it was a good stick!

4<sup>th</sup> Spot: **17°40.784S / 177°06.409E.** Dropped in 10m of mud near the reef. Good to snorkel. – Sugar Shack

### **11.7.3 General Services**

#### **11.7.3.1 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. – Sugar Shack

### **11.7.4 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. – 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

### **11.7.5 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. – Sugar Shack

### **11.7.6 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. – 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. – 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.

### **11.7.7 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.” – Sugar Shack

### **11.8 Nakumana Reef**

#### **11.8.1 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

### **11.9 Nautanivoni Island**

#### **11.9.1 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

### **11.10 Yanuya Island**

The village in Yanuya is known for pottery making. Yachts wishing to visit Monoriki Island (where the movie “Castaway” was filmed) must first make a visit to the chief at Yanuya for sevusevu.

#### **11.10.1 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. – 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

#### **11.10.2 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! – 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 2<sup>nd</sup> 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

### **11.11 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 Monuriki 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.

#### **11.11.1 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 Monuriki (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. – 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

## **11.12 Tokoriki Island**

### **11.12.1 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

## **11.13 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.

### **11.13.1 Pass / Channel**

The Marine Conservation established a mandatory boat channel which is the only place for boats to enter.

### **11.13.2 Anchorages**

The Marine Conservation has established a mandatory mooring buoy program to minimize negative impacts on the reef and prevent anchor damage.

## **11.14 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.

### **11.14.1 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

### **11.14.2 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. At first we thought it was a flick of birds but then realized they were large bats with about a 3' wing span. Really cool to see. Bats are the only native animal to Fiji. Well worth a look see. – 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 your eyes as you nervously cross over the top of it.

We loved this bay. The swimming was nice, 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

## 12 The Yasawa Group

The Yasawa Group is made up of about 20 volcanic islands that cover approximately 135 square kilometers.

Islands are listed South to North.

Photo courtesy Fiji Shores & Marinas 2020 ->

### 12.1 Waya Island

Waya is the home of Octopus Resort.

#### 12.1.1 Likuliku Bay (Octopus Resort)

##### 12.1.1.1 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. – 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

##### 12.1.1.2 General Services

###### 12.1.1.2.1 Wifi (Internet and Data)



with

**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. – Sugar Shack

### **12.1.1.3 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. – Sugar Shack

### **12.1.1.4 Activities**

**Aug. 2022: Hike:** distance: 5.5 miles / 400-meter steep / 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 also 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. – Sugar Shack

**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. – Sugar Shack

### **12.1.1.5 Cruiser Reports**

**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). – 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 sundies! – 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

## **12.1.2 Nalauwaki Bay**

### **12.1.2.1 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

### **12.1.2.2 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

## **12.1.3 Yalobi Bay**

### **12.1.3.1 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 where forecasted for 36 hours wrapping from NE-N-NW and this spot provided good protection. – 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

### **12.1.3.2 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

**Sept. 2023:** There was no internet connection at all. – Jamala

**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.

**Internet:** There is no Digicel in this bay and very limited Vodafone. – Sugar Shack

## **12.2 Wayasewa**

### **12.2.1 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

## **12.3 Kuata Island**

### **12.3.1 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). – Sugar Shack

### **12.3.2 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 reanchored. – Sugar Shack

### **12.3.3 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. We were trying to make haste to catch the Musket Cove Regatta, so we left early the next morning hoping to return another time. 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. – Sugar Shack

## **12.4 Viwa**

### **12.4.1 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. – 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

### **12.4.2 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

### **12.4.3 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 about 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

## **12.5 Naukacevu Island**

### **12.5.1 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. – 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

### **12.5.2 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. – 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.

## **12.6 Nanuya Balavu**

### **12.6.1 Pass / Anchorage**

**Aug. 2022:** Many locals boats and the Yasawa Flier use the Qaracuva pass so it can be rolly and busy. Believe it or not, we have seen several boats anchor in this pass and we would not recommend it. – 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

### **12.6.2 General Services**

#### **12.6.2.1 Wifi (Internet and Data)**

**Aug. 2022:** We had both Digicel and Vodafone at this anchorage (3G). – Sugar Shack

### **12.6.3 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. – Sugar Shack

## **12.7 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.

### **12.7.1 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 rolly and busy. We would not recommend anchoring there. – Sugar Shack

### **12.7.2 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. – Sugar Shack

### **12.7.3 General Services**

#### **12.7.3.1 Wifi (Internet and Data)**

**Aug. 2022:** We had both Digicel and Vodafone service here (3G). – Sugar Shack

### **12.7.4 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 dinghys 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. – Sugar Shack

### **12.7.5 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. – Sugar Shack

## **12.8 Naviti Island (Somosomo)**

**Cruising Guide References:** A Yachtsman's Fiji, 3<sup>rd</sup> Ed - Pg 252

### **12.8.1 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). – Sugar Shack

## **12.8.2 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. – Sugar Shack

**Sept. 2022: Vuatua 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

## **12.8.3 General Services**

### **12.8.3.1 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. – Sugar Shack

## **12.8.4 Cruiser Reports**

**Sept. 2023:** We anchored near the village. You don't need to go to the village if you anchor 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 also gathered the local people to sell us trinkets, mats, and jewelry. She offered to get us fruit. We were invited to breakfast the next day 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. If all the boats anchor in the other bay and don't stop in to the village they don't have a chance to meet you, show you around, or show their crafts. 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.

**Vuatua 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 very 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) when you 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

## **12.9 Nanuya Lailai (Blue Lagoon)**

This is where the famous movie “Blue Lagoon” was filmed.

### **12.9.1 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), but it is easy to follow charts as they were accurate (Navionics/Open CPN with satellite overlay). – Sugar Shack

### **12.9.2 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. – 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

### **12.9.3 Yachtsmen Services**

#### **12.9.3.1 Cooking Gas**

**Sept. 2022:** The general store will swap propane tanks. – Sugar Shack

#### **12.9.3.2 Fuel (Diesel & Gasoline)**

**Sept. 2022:** Hours: 0900-1200 & 1300-1630. Premix is \$14.32/gal; gasoline \$14.66/gal. –Sugar Shack

### **12.9.4 General Services**

**Aug. 2022:** Nanuya Island Resort and The Boathouse at Nanuya +679.666.7633, [www.boathousenanuya.com](http://www.boathousenanuya.com), offers laundry, restaurant, bar, general store, and water activities. Cruisers cannot use resort facilities.

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). – Sugar Shack

#### **12.9.4.1 Laundry**

**Aug. 2022:** Nanuya Lailai offers laundry service. Half a bag \$15F and a full bag \$30F. – Sugar Shack

#### **12.9.4.2 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).

### **12.9.4.3 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. – Sugar Shack

### **12.9.5 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: if you order produce by 0800 you can 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.

Toki no longer is selling produce. – 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

### **12.9.6 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. – 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 walk-ins – SY Calash

### **12.9.7 Activities**

**Sept. 2022:** Island Way Adventures +679.931.1132 [islandwayadventures@gmail.com](mailto: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. – 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

### **12.9.8 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. – 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

### **12.10 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.

#### **12.10.1 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

##### **12.10.1.1 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

#### **12.10.2 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

### **12.11 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.

### **12.11.1 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. – 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

### **12.11.2 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. – 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

### **12.11.3 General Services**

#### **12.11.3.1 Wifi**

**Oct. 2022:** Both Digicel and Vodafone worked well here. Digicel was on a wifi extender at top of mast, but the Digicel was phone reception. – 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

### **12.11.4 Activities**

**Oct. 2022:** We visited on a Monday and it was so darn busy. Evidently Monday's and Thursday's 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 2<sup>nd</sup> 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! – 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 Tamasua. But you must do sevusevu at Nabukeru before going to the caves for a guided tour (Tamasua 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 but fins are not necessary (the distance you travel is very short and the pace is very slow).

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

### **12.11.5 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. – 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.

We wanted to buy bananas but it didn't appear they had any (they have a non-answer style that confuses me). But once they understood we were in the market for stuff, 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. The coconut cups were going to take some time to craft so we returned the next day to pick them up.

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). We were also invited to church the next day, service was in Fijian and the singing was reportedly amazing.

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 recommendable! 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:** We arrived about 11:30, and we could see people on the beach near the spot where someone's track had annotated "caves", SE of the anchorage on the small island with the very tall cliff (approx. 16°50.99S / 177°28.04E). 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".

It was an easy in and out even without swim fins. We would have enjoyed it more had we remembered to bring our own underwater flashlights, so we could explore on our own a bit. But they're not absolutely necessary as the guide has a flashlight. The first cave has plenty of natural light, but the second cave, which you swim into, is fairly dark. – Soggy Paws

## **12.12 Yasawa Island**

**Cruising Guide References:** A Yachtsman's Fiji, 3<sup>rd</sup> Ed - Pg 239, 243

### **12.12.1 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

### ***12.13 Turtle Island***

#### ***12.13.1 Pass***

**Feb. 2013:** The pass starts at 16°59.56S / 177°22.28E and heads NW behind "Turtle Island". – Soggy Paws

#### ***12.13.2 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