

## FIJI ISLANDS DESTINATION OVERVIEW



More than anything else, Fiji is an exotic destination. It's the exhilaration of watching tropical fish glide through the water, waterfalls cascading through the lush highland rainforest; the smiles of excited school children. Life is lived in Fiji for the joy of it all; rushing is rude and the name of a new friend is never forgotten.

### GEOGRAPHY

Fiji is ideally located in the tropics of the southern hemisphere. The two major islands in the group are known as Viti Levu and Vanua Levu. Over 300 islands make the Fiji group of islands; only a 100 or so islands are inhabited by humans and the rest are left as nature reserves. Almost 80% of the population live on these two islands. The majority of the population live in the rural areas and the outer islands. Only about 40% of the population live in urban areas.

### WEATHER

<b>Summer</b>	
Average Air Temp.	23 - 30° C
Average Water Temp.	27 - 29 ° C
<b>Winter</b>	
Average Air Temp.	20 - 26 ° C
Average Water Temp.	25 - 27 ° C

### HEALTH

Fiji is free from malaria, yellow fever and major tropical diseases that are endemic to most tropical countries. No vaccinations are required to travel to Fiji.

### HISTORY

According to Fijian legend, the great chief Lutunasobasoba led his people across the seas to the new land of Fiji. Most authorities agree that the South Pacific people came from Southeast Asia via Indonesia. The first Europeans to land and

live among the Fijians were shipwrecked sailors and runaway convicts from the Australian penal settlements. From 1879 to 1916 Indians came as indentured labourers to work on the sugar plantations. After the indentured system was abolished, many stayed on as independent farmers and businessmen. Today they comprise 44 percent of the population. Fiji was originally known as the Cannibal Isles due to its fierce warriors; however, the modern age has seen Fiji become the exotic centre of the South Pacific.

## **LANGUAGE**

It is handy to know some of the more common words and phrases, and the Fijians will be delighted to know you picked up some of their language.

<b>English</b>	<b>Fijian</b>
good morning	ni sa yadra (ni sah yan dra)
hello!	bula(mbula)
goodbye	ni sa moce (ni sa mothey)
please	yalo vinaka (yalo vee naka)
excuse me	tulou (too low)
yes	io(ee-o)
thank you	vinaka (vee naka)
no	seqa (senga)
eat	kana (kana)