

# The fun never stops in Fiji

From the kid's clubs to the endless activities to amazing children's facilities and accommodation options, very few Pacific Island destinations have embraced family travel like Fiji.

## **FIJI MEANS FAMILY FUN**

Fiji has been catering to visiting families for many years. Over this time they've been able to fine-tune and expand their offer to a point where virtually every family can experience their tropical dream.

From budget conscious to five-star. To big and small. To mainland, island and totally out of the way. Each of Fiji's major tourist regions also offer a different experience and within those regions, each resort provides its unique take on the family holiday.

There really is so much choice, the best idea is to decide what kind of experience a family prefers – full-on, relaxed, out-of-theway or adventurous – and then pick the place that will make it happen. There will always be something to suit! Another key ingredient in Fiji's recipe for family holiday success is its people. And it doesn't take long to work out why. Fijians have strong family traditions and it immediately shows in the way they engage with children.

They genuinely love little ones! Which means parents with babies or toddlers can leave their precious bundles with their wonderful nannies and have total peace of mind they're in the safest of hands. Meanwhile, the older kids can hang out with "activities staff" who are stars at making every moment the best time of a kid's life.

Because the family resorts attract a bunch of kids, the children also get a chance to make new friends from New Zealand, Australia and elsewhere – even if the friendships only last a few days – they have a ball. And when the kids are happy, the parents are happy too. Which is what family holidays are all about!





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#### FIJI MARRIOTT RESORT MOMI BAY

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### **DENARAU ISLAND**

It's big. It's busy. And boy does Denarau Island deliver an action packed family holiday! Nowhere else in the South Pacific are there so many five-star properties in such close proximity. They all provide comfortable accommodation, exceptional "Fijian smile" service, and top quality food and beverage outlets. And of course, they are home to kid's clubs that take children's entertainment to the next level.

Convenience is a big bonus when staying on Denarau. With a clear run on the new Nadi bypass road, a family can be playing poolside 30 minutes after passing through customs. Yes, family holidays in the Pacific don't come much easier. Having so many resorts sideby-side also gives families a smorgasbord of dining options. So when it's time for a change, you can simply walk next door.

When it's time to branch out a little further, Port Denarau comes into its own. It's just around the corner, so families can jump on the Bula Bus, catch a taxi for FJ\$7 or walk if they're feeling energetic. Along with more dining options, the port is a hub for day trips and transfers to the islands. We're talking action-packed jet-ski tours, various cruises, and day trips to the islands. Plus there is a supermarket if you want to stock up on some bottled water or snacks for the kids!

### PLACES TO STAY

#### Hilton Fiji Beach Resort & Spa

Sitting at the northern tip of Denarau is the Fiji Beach Resort & Spa, managed by Hilton. Over the years, this quality resort has consistently been recognised as one of top family stays in Fiji. The recognition is well deserved. The resort has a host of quality family facilities, such as the complimentary Kid's Club, and accommodation that's perfectly set up for family groups – with spacious two and three-bedroom options.

The ground floor rooms are particularly convenient, as the kids can walk straight outside and play on the wide, grassed area out the front.

Mealtimes at the Hilton are also a bonus. Apart from being chock full of delicious snacks and meals, the kid's menus come free of charge at various times.

At breakfast, kids under 13 years of age eat free from the buffet in the Nuku Restaurant (when accompanied by a paying adult). Lunch and dinner discounts are also available.

#### **Sheraton Denarau Villas**

Very few properties have accommodation as family-friendly as Sheraton Denarau Villas. The one, two and three-bedroom apartment-style options come with a long list of features that include a washing machine and dryer (guaranteed to put a smile on Mum's face).

There's a fully equipped kitchen with full-sized fridge, microwave and cooktop. Plus there's a convenience store and mini food market directly out front of the resort.

The cooking facilities are ideal for families who don't want to eat every meal in the restaurant. And it's nice being able to whip up a quick snack when tummies start rumbling. Add unlimited access to the facilities next door at the sister property, Sheraton Fiji Resort, and you have the ultimate in Denarau family convenience.

#### **Radisson Blu Resort**

When kids land in Fiji they get an instant boost of energy. From the moment their eyes open each morning, the switch flicks and they're into absolutely everything! The trick is staying in a place where the fun never ends. Like Radisson Blu Resort, where the famous Banana Boys' activities crew keep hordes of Kiwi and Aussie kids totally entertained at all times.

The Banana Boys have made an art out of entertaining children, and the resort's kid's offer is rightly considered one of Fiji's very best. Front and centre are the Banana Boys, quite possibly the happiest bunch of Fijians on the planet - and that's saying something. Their genuine joy for life is infectious, and visiting kids just can't get enough of it. They entertain them all day, play with them in the pool, go down the waterslide with them and virtually any other fun activity they're requested to do.

Treasure hunts, touch footy and pool volleyball are just a few of the activities on offer, and the "Bananas" love it just as much as the kids. What's even more impressive is that each time the children return, the staff will often remember them by name. So every visit becomes like a big reunion and basically all the fun starts where it left off! And that's a big part of why Fijian family holidays are so good. The staff members who spend time with the kids end up becoming genuine friends.

Having said all that, Radisson Blu is perfect for adults, too. The resort has recently been through a major refurbishment, and their dining options have stepped up a level. This includes the fabulous Thai restaurant, Chantara, which people come from all over Denarau to experience.

The accommodation options at Radisson Blu are spacious, and they come with home comforts like dining room tables and sofas. Plus they feature full kitchens and laundries, which is especially handy when you're with kids.

#### Waitui is on the way

Sofitel Fiji Resort & Spa will soon undergo a major refurbishment that includes the creation of Waitui for Kids – an interactive multi-zone children's experience that will quite possibly set a new standard for Fijian resort fun. Plans include Wet & Wild (an outdoor water play area), Knowledge Zone (indoor and outdoor area where the little ones can learn Fijian arts and crafts), Chill Zone – an indoor, airconditioned area where kids can relax, read, play and be out of the sun, Artist in Residence – an indoor/outdoor area where painting rules, plus Simple Pleasures and Islander Cabana – two areas where kids can learn about island life and Fijian culture and games. Then add in a climbing wall, trampolines, and the grand centrepiece will be a large pirate ship! The whole thing sounds completely amazing and we can't wait to see it come to life!







For a day of slip-sliding fun, head to the Big Bula Waterpark next to the Denarau Golf Course. Kids will love the adrenalin-pumping speed slides and corkscrew twisters. Plus, there is a huge inflatable play section with obstacle courses, surf rides and virtually anything else you can think of.

And they have a dedicated area for the younger ones. The water park operates all year round and although it's perfect for the kids, adventurous adults will enjoy it just as much!





#### Flight time



Feel like flying through tropical jungle? Within half an hour of Denarau there are two fantastic zipline operations designed to get the heart pumping! Zip Fiji has 16 giant zip lines high above a spectacular canyon and Fiji largest cave. Needless to say, the views are outstanding.

Over at the Sleeping Giant Zipline, they have a 14 hectare eco-friendly adventure park complete with five ziplines, two waterfalls and a jungle safari. Either way, mum, dad and the kids can have a blast!

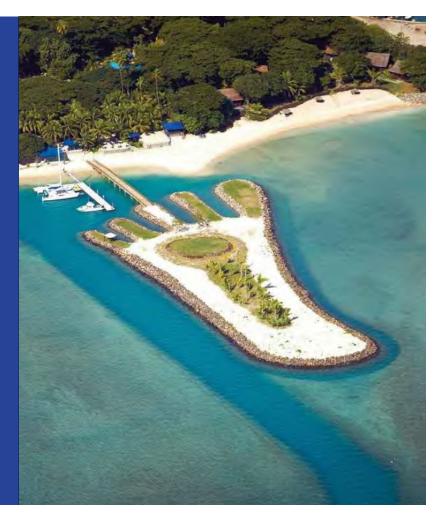
# NORTH OF NADI

#### PLACES TO STAY

#### First Landing Resort Fiji

Turn left outside Nadi International Airport (instead of right to Denarau and the Coral Coast), and 15 minutes later you'll find First Landing, one of Fiji's hidden family gems. Sitting on Vuda Point at the northern tip of Nadi Bay, this resort offers a laid-back alternative to the busy, big resort experience you'll find down on Denarau.

The resort's villa accommodation options are ideal for families to settle into. The one, two and three-bedroom set-ups come with a fully equipped kitchenette, a washing machine and dryer, a bathroom with a bath, and a private pool where the kids can play in all day long. And just because the resort is a little smaller, guests don't miss out on anything. Far from it. First Landing has an extensive range of facilities, including the complimentary kids club, a spa (for mums in need of pampering), babysitting services, car hire, free wifi and a host of watersports activities.





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# THE MAMANUCAS

Picture-postcard islands, palm trees swaying, crystal clear waters and white sand beaches - it's easy to understand why many families believe "island" Fiji is the only Fiji!

There are plenty of "island" options for families. And the most popular are those in the picture postcard Mamanuca Group. Their dramatic beauty has been filmed by Hollywood – it's where Tom Hanks was stranded in *Castaway*. They've also hosted a number of American editions of the *Survivor* series. Lucky holidaymakers don't have to put up with that sort of hardship, but they sure do get to enjoy the island paradise side of things!

For families landing at Nadi International Airport, island transfers are a breeze. South Seas ferries have multiple sailings from Port Denarau every day of the week. You can also charter a private water taxi. Or if the budget can stretch, families can go the aerial route by helicopter or seaplane. But regardless of how you get there, the resorts of the Mamanuca Group offer true island-style relaxation and family fun in the sun.

### PLACES TO STAY

#### **Castaway Island Resort**

One of Fiji's original island resorts, Castaway Island Resort is a longtime favourite for families. Indeed, many who visit keep coming back over and over again. So, what makes Castaway so special? Where do we start.

The stunning main beach comes with soft white sand, the water is crystal clear and because the beach faces northwest it's sheltered from the trade winds that blow during the day. In other words, Castaway offers safe, picture-perfect swimming for kids.

Older children can help themselves to the kayaks, paddleboards and snorkelling gear and explore the rich coral reef system just offshore. And at low tide, when the reef becomes more exposed, children can migrate to their own dedicated pool.

Being a smaller resort, Castaway has a friendly vibe, and children find it's super-easy making new friends, whether that's at the kid's club, the pool or just exploring around the resort. Accommodation options are also well set up for families, in particular the beachfront family bures which can sleep mum, dad and three kids with ease.

#### **Malolo Island Resort**

Malolo Island Resort is another property that's consistently rated as a top family resort. Malolo's appeal is obvious. There's a separate kid's pool, an innovative children's club programme, an entertainment lounge and a dining area for children 13 years and older. The Kids' Club in Tia's Treehouse, set on the hillside under an enormous mango tree, is always a hive of activity. It's home to a host of equipment and games and has a fully fenced playground.



Malolo's Yanu Yanu programme is also a real feature and gives children the opportunity to experience the life of an islander for one or two days, or a whole week!

Free for children aged between four and 12 years old, the programme mixes Fijian fun, while they learn about real environmental issues, and the history of Malolo. Kids can also meet the local iguanas which have called Malolo home for longer than anyone!

#### **Mana Island Resort**

Another glorious Mamanuca island and another fantastic family escape. Sitting amongst more than 120 hectares of lush tropical beauty, Mana Island Resort is a vast playground for families. The natural highlights are the three separate beaches that provide endless opportunities for snorkelling, swimming and every other water-based activity you can think of.

Mana has also introduced a number of unique features that parents will appreciate. In the Mamanuca Restaurant they've set up a separate play area for kids under six years of age. And during breakfast service, the kid's club staff come in and look after the little ones, so mum and dad can actually sit down, relax and enjoy their first meal of the day!

Otherwise, the Tu Vonu Kids' Club has a full schedule of activities and events. And should a babysitter be required, an in-room service is available, along with the Mei Mei Baby Care Centre - a creche where infants aged up to two years receive care for up to five hours at a time.







#### **Plantation Island Resort**

A five-star location at a friendly price - that magical mix makes Plantation Island one of the most popular family resorts in Fiji.

Plus the young ones can enjoy more activities than you can throw a coconut at. There are two new outdoor playgrounds, one for children under five years of age, the other for children aged six to 12.

The resort's inflatable water park is action central, with six sections that include a spring-free aqua-trampoline and various climbing towers – your children simply will not want to leave the water!

For a little family exercise, there's a fleet of bicycles (Bula Bikes) to explore the island on, plus the Coconut Kids' Club and a seriously long list of fun activities. In a nutshell, Plantation Island is a paradise for children.

#### **Treasure Island**

A small, tropical island surrounded by flawless white sand beaches and a colourful coral reef - Treasure Island provides a classic Fijian island family experience. With such a pristine marine environment on your doorstep, it's no surprise that most holiday action takes place on the water with superb snorkelling, swimming, kayaking and paddleboarding happening right off the beach.

The organised kids' activities take place at Little Treasures. The timetable is packed – fish feeding, handline fishing, mini-golf, t-shirt painting, crab racing and treasure hunts are just the tip of the iceberg (or shall we say island). The kids will also love visiting Treasure Island's on-site turtle rehabilitation centre.





# Be free at Malolo!

Malolo Island Resort is about a bure near the beach, surrounded by the world's friendliest people with a living and authentic culture. Perfect for families and couples alike, you can fill your day with a myriad of activities or simply unwind and do nothing at all.

TREASURE ISLAND

Year round choose from F\$200 resort credits, Kids Eat FREE with 5 night stays, or between November and March, stay 5 nights and receive 1 extra night FREE! Malolo. This is the way the world should be. T +679 672 0978 | malolores1@ahuraresorts.com www.maloloisland.com

For reservations and information visit **www.maloloisland.com** \*Conditions apply. Approx rates only – check daily FOREX rates.

AHURA RESORTS The Warm Heart Of Fiji.

The resort puts a lot of effort into marine conservation and education, and visiting youngsters are actively encouraged to join in. If a family is lucky enough to be there when a group of baby Hawksbill turtles are released into the ocean, it's a special moment they won't forget.

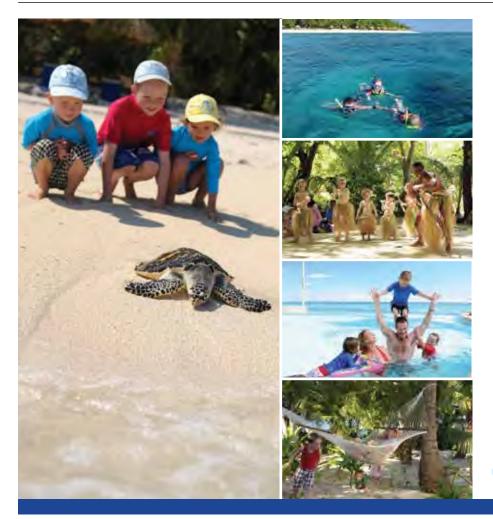
#### Six Senses Fiji

Well established through Asia, Europe and the Middle East, Six Senses brought its brand of sustainable luxury to Fiji at the beginning of 2018. The new kid on the block couldn't have picked a better location to set up. Sitting on a sweeping stretch of white sand beach on Malolo Island, the surroundings are a playground for kids and adults alike. Swimming, kayaking, stand-up paddle boarding and snorkelling in clear blue waters are go-to activities. And there's even a chance of spotting black tip reef sharks which breed around the fringing coral reef. Don't worry, they're harmless!

The resort boasts a magnificent infinity pool overlooking the beach. Plus each room comes with its own private pool. So there are swimming options galore! And because most guests tend to switch between the two, the main pool never gets too busy.

The resort's kids club is well set up and the staff are experts at entertaining children. Plus there are bundle of other highlights that make this resort that extra bit special. Like an ice-cream parlour that serves up delicious ice-creams free between 11am and 1pm. Seriously, it's like all their Christmases have come at once! There's a funky outdoor cinema where the kids can chill out on beanbags and take in a movie. There's a resident artist who takes daily painting lessons – which you can take home. And the pizza making (and eating) is also a big hit. Just like resort itself.





# Memories to treasure

On Treasure Island we create family holidays that children will never forget. Our 24-hour airport meet and greet and boat transfer ensures the adventure can begin the same day you arrive in Fiji. On arrival to Treasure Island you'll be greeted by some of the finest Fijian nature. Pure white sand, sparkling blue waters, tropical gardens and swaying palm trees. It's a playground to explore, enthral and enjoy.

Then comes our most important ingredient. Our people. Warm, welcoming and dedicated to making every family holiday the one to remember. These are what memories are made of. These are the memories to treasure.

#### www.treasureisland-fiji.com











#### Vomo Island

Taking a family away can soon add up, but for parents with the means to enjoy the finer things in life, premium resorts such as Vomo Island offer a mix of luxurious five-star accommodation, delicious cuisine and first-class kid's facilities and activities.

Welcoming families all-year around, Vomo boast an amazing purpose-built, airconditioned Kid's Village that's open from 9am to 9pm. The level of quality is obvious. For example, the toys are wooden and beautifully made, rather than cheap and plastic. There's a media room, undercover play areas, outdoor climbing frames, craft tables, dress-up wardrobes and an impeccably clean dining area.

The Kids Village even has its own dedicated chef who prepares an array of healthy, delicious cuisine. In most cases, little ones eat breakfast with their family, but more often than not they'll dine with their Vomo buddies for the evening meal.

The older children don't miss out either! There's a tennis court and a nine-hole pitch and putt golf course (all equipment is supplied and free). There are stand up paddleboards, single and double kayaks, sailing craft, windsurfing and snorkel equipment – again, all free to use. For confident swimmers, there is an escorted snorkel safari every day by boat at 11am, going to a variety of different sites not far from the island – once again complimentary. And for those over 10s wanting to go a step further, there's a Discover Scuba diving course where they can enjoy amazing local diving down to a depth of 12 metres!

As you would expect, Vomo's service levels are exceptional and so is the standard of childcare. The resort's Baby Butlers are naturals with the young ones, and there's a polish and professionalism to everything they do. For a fee of around \$15 an hour, Baby Butlers are available from the morning through to late evening. It's really just a matter of mum and dad choosing when they want to schedule in some quiet time of their own.

There's probably no better excuse than "date night" at The Rocks, VOMO's adults only venue. Sitting on the very western tip of the island, it's the best spot to watch the sun set behind the small neighbouring island of Vomo Lailai. Order a cocktail, lie back in the big comfy lounge chairs and enjoy the views, ambience, complimentary canapes and peace and quiet. www.vomofiji.com



## BESPOKE FAMILY HOLIDAYS "In one of the most stunning places in the world"

VOMO is a luxury private island resort, offering just 28 air-conditioned resort villas and 4 luxury holiday residences.

Home to long stretches of white sand beaches, this 5 star, all-inclusive resort merges contemporary design sophistication with the island's stunning natural surrounds, creating a new style of luxury that is understated, organic and genuine.

With renowned snorkelling and diving, creative dining options and hip bars, an award-winning day spa and more, VOMO has become one of Fiji's favourite luxury resorts for couples and families. VOMO has all the ingredients for the perfect island getaway.





res@vomo.com.fj | www.vomofiji.com







# CORAL COAST

Drive an hour or so south of Nadi and you'll come to Fiji's Coral Coast. The area is a hotspot for families who love the convenience, facilities and activities of the larger resorts. And those who enjoy getting out a bit further and exploring the many natural attractions in the local area.

The Sigatoka Sand Dunes, Sigatoka River Safari and Kula Wild Adventure Park are Coral Coast highlights. And visitors also have the chance to soak up the real Fiji at any number of villages along this 80 kilometre stretch of coast. If a family were to choose one, a visit to Sigatoka Town is a must. The bustling centre is always full of activity, and it's a great to browse the shops and food stalls alongside the friendly locals.

### PLACES TO STAY

#### Fiji Hideaway Resort & Spa

You could say that Fiji Hideaway Resort & Spa ticks all the boxes of a family holiday. And best of all, it can be enjoyed on a modest budget. The atmosphere here is superbly chilled. No stress. No worries! The resort prides itself on having a "real Fiji" feel and kids can soak up the local culture by paying a visit to a local school. The children's village choir also perform at the resort, which is a treat for everyone.

The Hermit Kids Club is headquarters for young Hideaway visitors (up to 12 years old) and access is free for all. Hand-line fishing, hermit crab catching, snorkelling lessons, bush walks, treasure hunts and beach picnics are all part of the organised activities. When it's time to feed hungry mouths, it's also nice to know that breakfast in the Chief's Restaurant is free from 7am to 10am, plus children dine free with their parents during kids meal times - 12 noon to 1pm for lunch and 5–6pm for dinner.

#### Outrigger Fiji Beach Resort

A great resort will recognise that different customers want different things. With families, Outrigger Fiji Beach Resort has taken that concept and run with it!

Instead of having one or two different sets of kid's activities, Outrigger has created three different programmes to suit young clientele. Little Riggers is for those aged between three and seven, and Beach Riggers is for the eight to 12-year-olds.

That way, children don't get stuck doing anything they're too "old" or "young" for. For example, Little Riggers might relax with Groovy Movie Time or do a colouring-in competition, while Beach Riggers might dance away at the Riggers Disco, or visit the Kula Eco Park to meet a green iguana!

For teens, an Outrigger holiday is one big fun adventure. Making spears, an excursion to the Sigatoka Sand Dunes, a tour of the Tavuni Hill Fort, hikes to Bebe Hill or the Enchanted Pool are just some of the activities on offer. And to give teens a perspective on local life, there's even a student exchange trip to a local Fijian high school.

#### Shangri-La Fiji Resort and Spa

Swing off the main Coral Coast road, drive over a short causeway and you'll come to Yanuca Island, a private island that's home to the Shangri-La Fijian Resort and Spa.

Kids central at the Shangri-La is the Little Chief's Club. Their mission – to entertain children with loads of fun activities while parents can relax. The resort's surroundings provide the playground with many activities taking place around the children's pool and on the beach.

Plus there's a children's playground that gets plenty of use. Otherwise there is a tonne of activities - coconut boat races, pottery making, scavenger hunts, crab races, Fijian singing lessons, climbing contests and mini-Olympics. In other words, the fun never stops!



#### InterContinental Fiji Golf Resort & Spa

For a fun family getaway, InterContinental Fiji Golf Resort & Spa is hard to match. The white sands and clear blue waters of Natadola Beach are a big drawcard, with safe swimming, kayaking and snorkelling for the whole family. And how about this – a family pool that measures 105 metres in length - it's one of the biggest pools in Fiji! And because it's only 80 centimetres deep at its deepest spot, it's basically one safe, super-sized watery playground!

The Planet Trekkers Kids Club is another great spot for the younger ones. The spacious club is divided into two areas – one for four-toseven year olds and another area for eight-to-12 year olds. They have all the regular activities like crab racing, hair braiding and so on. On top of that, there's a games room kitted out with a pool table, fussball, air hockey and three PS3s. Sure, most kids will prefer to be hanging out at the beach or pool, but for a change of scene the games room comes into its own!

The resort also offers a wide variety of room and suite options. So whether families are coming on their own, with grandparents too, or as a big family reunion, there will always be something to suit. Rooms either have two double beds or one king bed with rooms of the latter configuration allowing for a rollaway bed to be added. Plus cots can be added in all room types at no extra charge. There are also two-bedroom suites available with semi inclusive rates at the Club InterContinental level.

In 2018, the resort was recognised as Australasia's 2018 Leading Family Resort at the World Travel Awards. It's easy to see why.









#### Fiji Marriott Resort Momi Bay

Serene and secluded, the Fiji Marriott Resort Momi Bay is one of the newest properties in Fiji. The luxury hotel opened in April 2017. And in keeping with its five-star standards, Momi Bay has created a host of first-class family-friendly facilities.

For non-stop entertainment, the Turtles Kid's Club is the place to be. Complimentary for kids four to 12 years old, it features spacious indoor and outdoor play areas where the young ones can play to their heart's content. The adventure playground with slides, swings and places to climb has proved a big hit, and there's also a long list of activities to entertain and educate the kids.

Kids can get a taste of Fijian culture through traditional handicraft making (such as basket weaving), can learn how to husk a coconut and there are marine education sessions and even Fijian language classes that take them a step beyond your everyday "Bula!" The children also have their own designated pool – complete with wind-up water cannons. The action doesn't stop at night either. The resort offers an evening Kids Club programme from 6pm to 10pm, where kids can enjoy disco nights or a movie with popcorn. In terms of family-friendly accommodation options, there are interconnecting rooms available in the Deluxe Lagoon View rooms and Deluxe Lagoon Front rooms – these give everyone enough space to enjoy their holiday!

It should also be said the parents can have a pretty good time too! Especially if they can escape the little ones for an hour or two. The swim-up bar is a top spot for enjoying a cocktail. And Mums can rest and rejuvenate at Quan Spa while they're away from their family duties. Now that's family bliss.

#### Kula Eco Park

For families holidaying on the Coral Coast, a visit to Kula Eco Park is an easy excursion and a whole lot of fun. The heroes of this experience are the amazing local wildlife – in particular the splendidly colourful birds and friendly jungle lizards. And it's not like they're all stuck in glass enclosures either. Visiting the park is all about getting up close and personal – hand-feeding turtles, having a friendly boa constrictor wrapped around you and holding an iguana are just some activities on offer!









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### TAKING THE FAMILY FURTHER AFIELD

If you take the time to look outside the most popular parts of Fiji, there are some exceptional places to take the family. Here are a few of our top picks to get you started.

### PLACES TO STAY

#### Paradise Cove Resort, the Yasawa Islands

Yasawa locals will proudly tell you that of all the beautiful places in Fiji, they have the clearest, bluest water. After swimming in them, it's hard not to argue! Which makes a spot like Paradise Cove Resort an amazing experience for a family of waterbabies.

This resort sits on the edge of an outstanding beach. Safe for little ones, and out deeper there is plenty of coral for older kids to snorkel around. Plus of course, there's a family pool up off the beach. The Kid's Club provides plenty of entertainment for the little ones, and being a smaller resort, the older kids make new friends with ease – so they pretty much look after themselves.

Paradise Cove also has an adults-only area with two pools and its own bar, so if Mum and Dad do have a little downtime, they can walk down the path and soak up some peace and quiet.

#### Jean-Michel Cousteau Resort, Savusavu

Sitting on the southern tip of Savusavu Bay on Vanua Levu, Fiji's second largest island, Jean-Michel Cousteau offers one of the most sought-after family experiences anywhere in Fiji. And while getting there requires extra effort (it's a 70-minute domestic flight from Nadi to Savusavu), going the extra mile is easily worth it.

The calm, clear waters of Savusavu Bay are made for safe swimming, snorkelling and other watersports. The award-winning Bula Club keeps kids under 12 years entertained and educated with a full programme that runs from 8.30am to 9pm every day. Plus, all the activities include meals and bottled water for children. The facilities also include two pools - a family pool with a water slide which adults can share with kids, a second, shallower pool with a gentler water slide for smaller kids and a very shallow toddlers' area, with a cascading water mushroom for the little ones!

Plus, there is table tennis, an activities bure, a cubby house, sand pit, toddlers' nursery bure, trampoline, child and baby swings, jungle gym, flying fox, tricycles, a playground and a tree house.

Teens don't miss out, either. In fact, they get individual attention from activities staff who take on the role of buddy and mentor for teenage guests between 8.30am and 6pm daily. Their activities included making a traditional Fijian "billi billi" (bamboo raft) from bamboo poles by lashing them together with a native vine called viliyawa, rainforest hikes to a spectacular waterfall, tubing down a river, a snorkelling trip to Shark Alley, a bonfire on the beach with guitars and singing, stand-up paddleboards and more. In short, family holidays don't get much better.

#### Nanuku Auberge Resort, Pacific Harbour

Families searching for a true luxury escape will find it at Nanuku Auberge Resort at Pacific Harbour. The adventures begin with a host of family-oriented excursions and activities. It's all about families having fun together and enjoying the serene natural surroundings. From sky-high adventures by helicopter to scenic hikes through waterfalls, families can create the perfect getaway specifically tailored to them. And if a family wants to plan something unique, the resort concierge is on hand to organise and help manage itineraries, transportation and activities both at the resort and around the islands.

For younger kids there's the Lailai Kids Club, which offers a huge range of daily activities including arts, craft, watersports, games and cultural learning. And older children can pair up with buddies (Nanuku staff), who are experts at making sure teens have the adventure of a lifetime.

The resort also has a host of complimentary necessities such as strollers, prams, car seats, high chairs and cots, so parents don't have to cart all the gear back and forth through airports.



#### Manta ray magic in the Yasawas

If you do one thing during your stay at Paradise Cove, it's swimming with the manta rays that frequent the waters of the nearby "Manta Ray Channel" between May and October. The Paradise Cove snorkelling guides make the 10-minute boat ride to the channel with stories about the local area. But when you reach the channel, it's all action. Spotters keep a lookout for the manta rays and on this excursion they pick them out virtually straight away. With the safety briefing done, four guides dive into the clear blue waters to lead resort guests in the right direction. In a word, the experience is quite magical. These gentle giants are driven along by wide fins that look more like wings. Being in the water as they slowly "fly" over, under and around you is an amazing sensation.





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### CRUISING

It's not the first thing that springs to mind for travelling families, but cruising Fijian waters, exploring private beaches and enjoying all that on-board entertainment can make for a truly memorable family getaway.

#### **Captain Cook Cruises**

Ready for a voyage of discovery and fun? How about experiencing Fijian culture, idyllic beaches and some of the most breathtaking scenery in the South Pacific! With Captain Cook Cruises families can do all of the above by choosing a three, four, seven or 11-night cruise.

Each voyage is a highlight reel that includes visits to remote Fijian villages and schools where families meet local children and experience a Fijian church service and a traditional village sevusevu ceremony, meke and lovo feast.

Of course, there's the chance to spend hours in the water each day - kayaking, swimming, snorkelling and learning about marine life on a glass-bottom boat ride. There's even a complimentary Captain's Kid's Club on board on the *MV Reef Endeavour*. Plus the vessel offers a range of family accommodation from family Porthole cabins that sleep four to inter-connecting Ocean family staterooms.

#### **Blue Lagoon Cruises**

For the most part, Blue Lagoon Cruises is strictly an adults-only experience. But during the Australian and New Zealand school holidays, the cruise company opens up a number of family itineraries. These include the three-night Explorer, four-night Wanderer and the ultimate seven-night Escape to Paradise. The destination for each adventure is the Yasawa Island Group, which is home to a number of true Fijian gems such as the Blue Lagoon (the actual place they filmed the movie) and the Sawa-I-Lau caves. The longer the cruise the more the family will see! Staying on a ship, sailing across the Fiji's beautiful waters and waking up in a different location each morning makes this experience totally different from a land-based holiday. And it's an experience families will never forget.





#### Day tripping with South Seas

For families who prefer to base themselves on the mainland, South Seas Cruises offer some superb day trips that are great for families and give them a taste of the outer island experience. One of the most popular family friendly cruises is the full day (seven hour) or half-day (four hour) cruise to Treasure Island Resort.

Just 45 minutes away, Treasure Island is surrounded by a magnificent marine reserve, making it perfect for swimming and snorkelling in the crystal-clear waters. Families can also make use of the island's swimming pool, mini-golf and playground, and if it's the right time of the year, the fabulous turtle pond. And there's no need to bring your own snorkelling gear, South Seas provide that, plus it's free to use.

For smaller kids there's the Finding Nemo cruise to South Sea Island. It's just a 30-minute ride away and when you get there you can see the stunning underwater world of the marine sanctuary from the comfort of the South Seas semi-submersible vessel *Coral Explorer*. Afterwards there's time to relax and go ashore, go kayaking or have a swim or a snorkel.

At a total of three hours (including the 30-minute trip each way), this shorter but highly entertaining cruise is ideal for those with younger families, and who knows, they might just find Nemo!





#### OUR FUN-FILLED FIJI FAMILY ADVENTURE





The warm, family-oriented culture of the Fijian people created the quintessential backdrop for our Six Senses' hids adventure, and the perfect escape from their parents.

As a family, we experienced the best snorheling we've ever done, and loved our outdoor movie evenings. We just can't wait to return.

> Joanna Choi Sydney, Australia

Set on Malolo Island, Six Senses Fiji comprises 24 pool villas, a stunning beach and lagoon. Larger residences include kitchens, living areas and stunning panoramas; all complemented by eversmiling Fijian hosts. Dining options highlight local ingredients, while a Six Senses Spa offers a layered approach to wellness together with water and land activities. For information, visit www.sixsenses.com and to make a reservation, please call +679 675 0284.



#OUTOFTHEORDINARY

# SPOTLIGHT\_\_\_\_\_

## **Castaway Island Fiji**

# Authentic meets action packed.

If Fiji is a place where the fun never stops, then the Castaway Island Fiji Kid's Club experience is the perfect example. Welcoming kids from the age of three, the club is the place where children become real club "members" who are encouraged to learn some real Fijian traditions, games and crafts, while they're having the time of their lives!

Needless to say, the dedicated kid's club team brim with enthusiasm and a genuine Fijian love of children. The smiles never stop. Here, kids and parents are always greeted with the biggest of bulas!

Activities vary from day to day. But one thing you can guarantee, is there's never a dull moment! The doors open at 9am, and apart from a break between 4.30-6.30pm (probably to catch their breath), the club doesn't close until 10pm.

And the hours in-between? Well, where do you start!

Two legged races. Sandcastle competitions. Ice-cream eating competitions (the kids will be lining up for this one). Broom making. Fijian dancing. And this is just the tip of the iceberg. Then you can add in a bunch of "old school" fun. Like egg and spoon races, Simon says, Tug-o-war and movie night to wind things up.

If that sounds "a bit young", not to worry. There's a separate teen programme for the big kids. Many of them make the most of the beautiful surroundings, such as underwater treasure hunts, beach volleyball, beach cricket, guided snorkelling, beach soccer, and even a guided kayak tour around the island. Last, but not certainly least, you're guaranteed your tuckered-out kids will sleep like babies!









FAMILY FAVOURITES



Hamison Family

# Easy breezy.

Lawyer Mum and landscaper Dad lead an active life, so when it's time for the family holiday, the number one priority is making it easy for everyone. Which is why Fiji has been the number one choice – it's all too easy!

## Why did you choose this destination for your family holiday?

Fiji has been our go-to Pacific Island for the last few years. The ease of travel is a big one. There are lots of flights to choose from, which gives us the flexibility to leave at a time that suits. The quality (and choice) of accommodation is also amazing. And the sun's not too bad either!

#### How many times has your family been there?

This is our third visit.

Which property did you stay at on your last visit?

Mana Island, with an overnight at Raddison Blu Resort in Denarau.

#### What was the reason for choosing the accommodation?

Again, convenience is a big thing when you're bringing three kids away on holiday. But apart from that, we want to stay somewhere the kids will love – somewhere with plenty of activities, a great pool or beach, and a fun Kids Club.

#### How old are your children?

One boy nine, and two girls six and two.

#### What did the kids love most about Fiji?

In summer we spend a lot of time down the Coromandel and out at Muriwai Beach near Auckland, so the kids love the beach. With Fiji they're spoiled with warm, clear blue water – it's just about impossible to get them out sometimes!

#### What did you love most about Fiji?

Getting away from cold, wet Kiwi weather is always nice. The poolside cocktails come a very close second.

#### What were your top three family activities?

Swimming, eating, snorkelling, in no particular order.

#### What are your top tips for taking a family away here?

We'll have breakfast, lunch and dinner at the resort, but it's good to have a few snacks on hand for when hungry mouths need something to tide them over. With that in mind we pack some BYO snacks and bring them over. They can be lifesavers!







# RADISSON BLU

### STAY AT FIJI'S NUMBER I FAMILY RESORT AND MAKE EVERY MOMENT MATTER

Enjoy benefits such as; a selection of complimentary water sports, fun with the Blu Bananas Kids Club, free high speed wireless internet and lagoon style pools.

# DENARAU, FIJ

Please enquire for best available rates

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