# Fiji ~ Pearl of the Pacific

May 9 - 16, 2025 • 8 Days • \$3990\*

NOTE: This Adventure is currently FULL. Standby requests may be submitted by clicking the CONTACT US button to the right.

Our second WAI cruise in the islands of the South Pacific takes place in the magical archipelago of Fiji!

Join us for a romantic south seas cruise as we visit the intimate palm-covered Mamanuca Islands, sail to the majestic southern Yasawa Islands, and relax in the idyllic Blue Lagoon, framed by picture-perfect beaches.

While the Fijian islands number well over 300, our adventure focuses on these three island groups – the Mamanuca, Sacred, and Yasawa Islands – situated just northwest of the main island of Viti Levu.

We cruise aboard a small ship – only 68 berths – giving us optimal access to drop-dead-gorgeous coves and islands. Our ship is large enough to ride comfortably in the quiet Fijian waters but small enough to tie off to a palm tree!

Daily shore excursions take us to world famous beach sites seen on the Big Screen and the Small Screen; we see settings for three well-known shows – Blue Lagoon, with Brooke Shields, Castaway, with Tom Hanks, and the TV reality show, Survivor.

The themes of our trip, however, are tasting paradise from our friendly little ship, connecting with the warm-hearted Fijian people, relishing the remote grandeur of a secluded set of South Sea islands, and participating in world class Fijian water and beach activities.

NOTE: This Fijian cruise takes place immediately following the Australia Adventure; the two tours can be combined.

\* Does not include port fees of \$98 per person (subject to change).

#### **Contact Us**

Tour Type: Classic Curated, Small Ship Cruising, Walking LITE

## **Trip Details**

- · What's included
- Our Ship
- Reviews

# Including:

- Accommodation for 7 nights in all outside facing cabins aboard our 68-passenger ship, the *M.V. Fiji Princess*, small enough to tie off on a palm tree!
- 21 meals 7 breakfasts, 7 lunches, 7 dinners as denoted (BLD)
- Daily mid-day and afternoon refreshments (tea/lemonade/snacks/cakes) while at sail
- Sailing through three island groups: Yasawa Islands, Sacred Islands, and Mamanuca Islands
- 5 walks available: 3 during the cruise; 2 optional walks pre and post cruise
- Fees for two IVV walking stamps for those collecting IVV walk credit (Note: This is

Walking LITE trip. 3 short trails are expected to be available mid-cruise with 2 optional walks available pre and post cruise. Total 10 to 14 kilometers — 6 to 8 miles)

- WAI guide service throughout
- Pricing is based on double occupancy. Due to the limitation of cabins, it is difficult to offer single accommodations. Please call us if interested in a single cabin. WAI provides a roommate matching service

# Activities / Entrance fees:

- Kava ceremony with locals on Naviti Island with local history and legends presentation
- Fijian feast and kava ceremony with locals in Tamusua village
- Sunday church service in local church, a cultural experience in its own right
- Fijian cooking, basket weaving, and wood carving lessons onboard ship or during island excursions
- Snorkeling opportunities throughout the tour
- Kayaking opportunities at various times during the cruise
- A variety of South Pacific activities on our private Blue Lagoon beach
- Southern Constellation star-gazing that is nearly 100% free of artificial light
- A visit to Sawa-i-Lau Caverns (film setting for the 1980 movie, Blue Lagoon) with optional cave swimming possible.

# **Optional Services:**

Once group size is viable, we will publish recommendations for booking airfare into Nadi, Fiji. Three suggested itineraries will be available:

<u>Standard Package</u>: Arrive Fiji on Day 1, May 9 and board the ship that afternoon to begin the cruise. No additional services or airport-ship transfers provided. Because this is a ship-based itinerary, this option is NOT recommended. Once the ship leaves port, travelers who arrive late due to missed connections will find it expensive, if not impossible, to rendezvous with the ship.

# <u>Pre-night Package - May 8</u>:

Arrive Fiji on **May 8**, one day early, to rest after the trans-Pacific flight. Included in this package are:

- \* Airport-hotel transfer with lei greeting upon arrival in Fiji
- \* One night in a luxury hotel in Nadi on May 8
- \* Breakfast on May 9
- \* Hotel-ship transfer on May 9

Price: \$250 per person; single supplement of \$140

### Day Room Package - May 16:

Our ship returns to Nadi mid-morning on **May 16**. Since flights do not departure until late at night, we offer day rooms in the same luxury hotel in Port Denarau where we stayed on May 8. These rooms are meant to be shared between 4 travelers. Included in this package is:

- \* Use of a day room in a luxury hotel to be shared with 3 other travelers.
- \* Transfers from hotel to airport on the evening of May 16.

Price: \$130 per person

# Nadi Town Cultural Walk - May 16:

Exploring Nadi is a great way to spend the day on **May 16** while awaiting late night flights back to North America. This 4-hour experience includes:

- \* Roundtrip transfers from Port Denarau to Nadi Town with a local guide
- \* A local lunch at the Corner Cafe Restaurant
- \* A 2-hour, 2.5 km walk in Nadi Town in small groups led by local guides featuring 3 highlights: Nadi handicraft centre, the colorful fruit & vegetable market, and Sri Siva Subramaniya Swami Temple, largest Hindu temple in the Southern Hemisphere.

*Price:* \$125 per person (10 person minimum)

# Our ship - the M.V. Fiji Princess

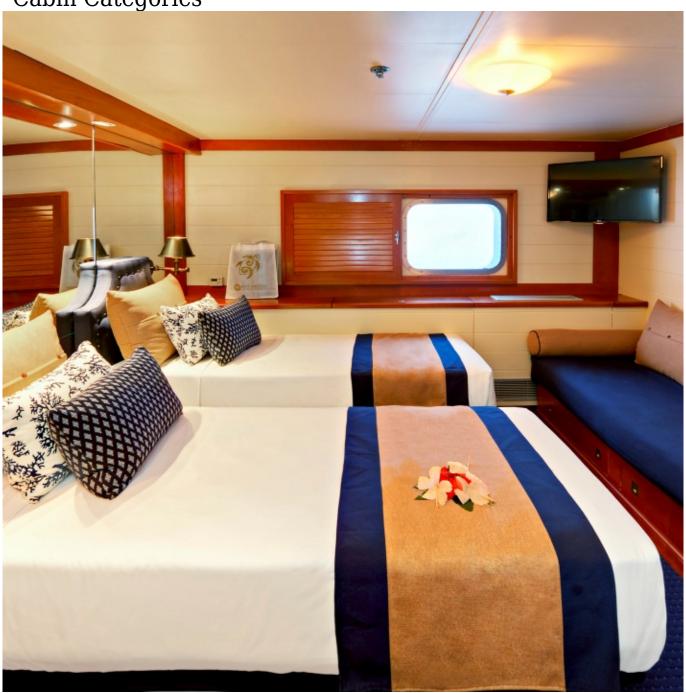


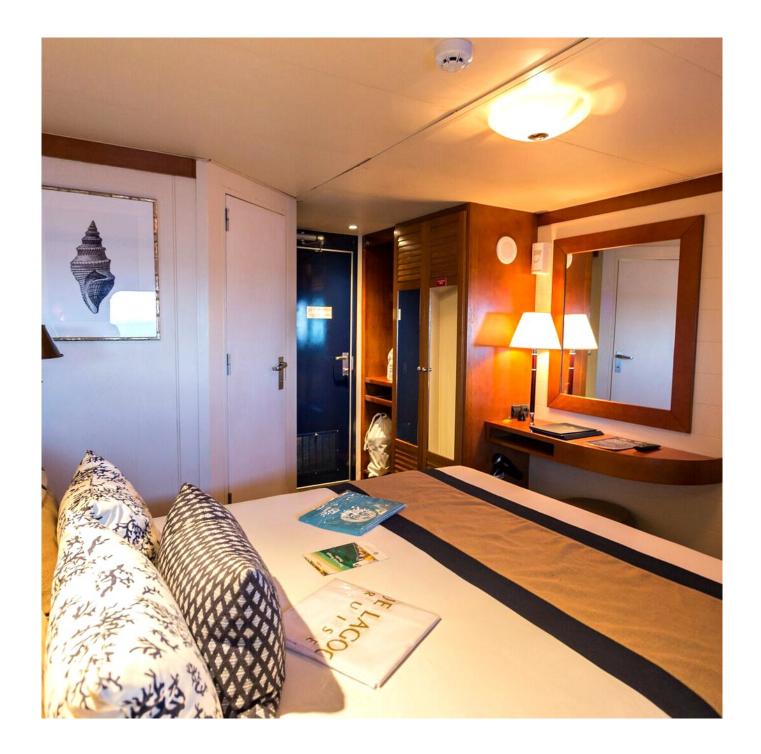
- Launched in 1997 and renovated in 2014 the *Fiji Princess* is ideal for cruising the magnificent Mamanuca Islands, Sacred Islands, and Yasawa Islands. Featuring 4 decks, she holds a maximum of only 68 passengers serviced by a warm and hospitable Fijian crew of 28.
- All cabins are outward facing with two twin or one queen-sized beds, small but functional bathroom with separate shower, hair dryer, mini-safe, flat screen TV for inhouse movies and closet space.
- Public areas are open-air, reflecting the tropical ambiance with a single-seating, openair dining area on the Main deck, a tropical themed bar on the Middle deck, and a second bar on the partially covered Sun deck. Plenty of lounge chairs complement the

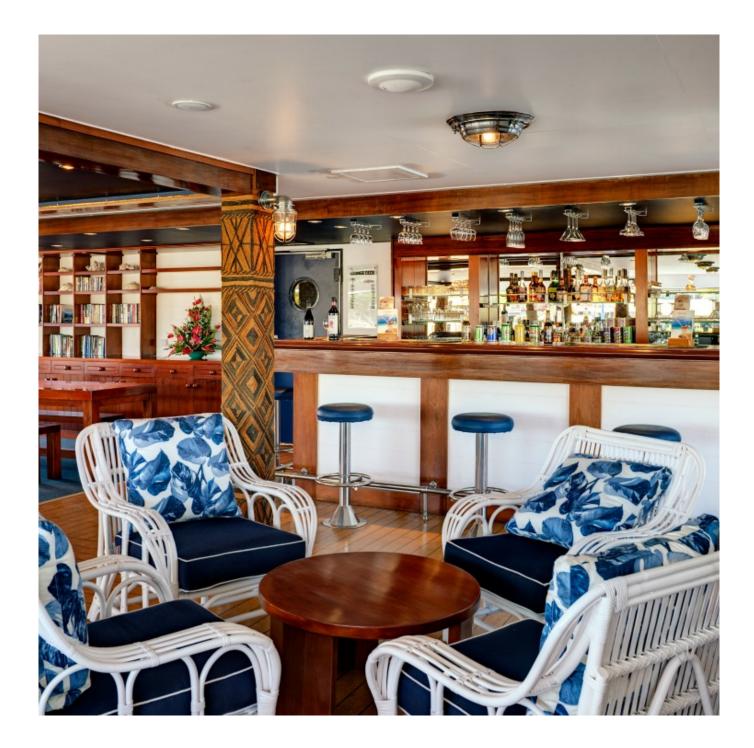
small dipping pool.

- A glass bottom boat makes coral viewing accessible to all. Kayaks are also available for the more adventurous.
- The *Fiji Princess* is committed to be free of single-use plastic. Each traveler receives a free reusable water bottle that is refillable at artisan filtered mineral water stations throughout the ship water is free!
- Spa services are provided onboard for additional fees
- As would be expected in the South Pacific, the on-board atmosphere is casual and informal. This is not a luxury liner you may have experienced on the high seas.
- The *Fiji Princess* is an older vessel, lovingly maintained by a conscientious and responsive crew.

Cabin Categories







- Two cabin categories are available on the ship, Hibiscus and Orchid.
- Orchid cabins are located on the Middle and Upper decks and average 14 sqm (150 sq ft). Our booking includes a complementary upgrade to the Orchid category.
- Hibiscus cabins are on the Main Deck only and only 6 cabins are available.
- Cabin come with a premium stocked mini bar with soft drinks, French sparkling wine, premium Fijian chocolate, and snacks, restocked daily!

# Ship Diagram

"I feel like cruising through the islands and then walking as we did is the only way to capture the full experience of Fiji. The sheer beauty of the Islands is truly remarkable."

- Marty; Clemmons, NC

"I had a wonderful experience with the great crew, the WAI staff, and my fellow travelers. This was not only my first WAI trip but also my first travel experience with any established group. I had a great time."

- Lynn; Molalla, OR

"Our guides and the crew were the best!!! I've always been pleased with crew and staff on cruise boats but these were really exceptional!"

- Anonymous

"Just seeing the beauty of the clear water, swimming in it, and the mountains and island scenery. Sunsets! The food was amazing and the crew was outstanding. I've never witnessed such friendly and service-minded people. I appreciated the option of walking or not... Aside from the obvious beautiful scenery and water, my favorite was seeing the villages, people of Fiji, and the schools that we visited."

- Ginny; Tipp City, OH

"It seemed as though every aspect of the adventure was well thought out and planned and there's always a Plan "B" if something doesn't work out. I'm sure there are hiccups along the way, but the travelers don't usually see those."

- Marty; Clemmons, NC

- <u>360.260.9393</u>
- Email Us



# Adventure Pace

**Tour Pace: 1** 2 3 4 5

Walk Challenge: 1 2 3 4 5

**About Adventure Pace** 

# Adventure Pace

How much Adventure do you want? Here are a few features to help gauge the following factors on each tour.

**Tour Pace:** On a scale of 1 (slowest pace) to 5 (fastest pace), we've rated the following factors: number of 1-night hotels; driving miles per day; fullness of schedule; mid-tour airline flights; high elevation setting; and average amount of walking per day.

**Walk Challenge:** This number represents an average walk difficulty rating for the tour using a scale of 1 (easiest) to 5 (hardest).

#### Contact Us

# Important Info



#### **Group Size**

Maximum 30 travelers.



#### **Hotels**

Accommodation for 7 nights in all outside facing cabins aboard our 68-passenger ship, the M.V. Fiji Princess



#### **Meals**

21 meals - 7 breakfasts, 7 lunches, 7 dinners as denoted (BLD)



#### Airfare

Official start and finish point for this adventure is Port Denarau in Nadi, Fiji, for embarkation and disembarkation of the M.V. Fiji Princess. Travelers will be advised of how to book air to maximize access to airport-hotel shuttles and optional pre-cruise activities. Travelers will be flying into Nadi, Fiji (airport code NAN).



#### **Transportation**

All ship travel is included. No land transportation is included in the cruise price. Transfers from airport to hotel for optional pre-night, from optional hotel to ship, and from ship to airport, are provided on an optional basis (pricing to follow). Otherwise, taxi service is easy to book.



#### **Traveler Age**

Our travelers usually range from 50-75 years of age. All ages welcome!

# Your Guides



**Scott Isom** has had a passion for the outdoors ever since his childhood days spent exploring the waterfalls and outstanding hiking trails of the Columbia River Gorge with his family.

Scott has led tours on all 7 continents and is one of WAI's busiest guides and on-site Adventure planners.

Scott returns to Fiji after leading the inaugural WAI cruise there in 2022 and will be guiding  $Fiji \sim Pearl$  of the *Pacific* along with support from a cadre of local staff from our ship.

# **Itinerary**

Click on each day to reveal more details. (BLD) refers to meals included - Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner.

Day 1~May 9: Set Sail for Modriki Island (B\* D)

Anchorage: Modriki Island

Walk #1: Optional Denarau Island Stroll - 2 km, rated 1A

After your early morning arrival in Fiji, the first part of the day is free. Our floating hotel for the next 7 nights, the *Fiji Princess*, is available for boarding at Port Denarau between 1:30 and 2:30 pm. The taxi ride from Nadi Airport into Nadi, where you would spend your free time, is about 10 minutes. From Nadi to Port Denarau is about 15 minutes.

Travelers who arrive a day early on May 8 (highly recommended) and opt for the Pre-night package have this morning free to enjoy a preview of Fijian paradise from our luxury resort. Have a leisurely breakfast, stroll the beach, or relax by the pool before a short transfer to the ship in the early afternoon. WAI guides will likely offer an optional walk of the delightful port area. (This optional service package is described briefly in the Including section above and will be fully explained in the Adventure Advice memo travelers receive after registration.)

Mid-afternoon, we set sail for the outer Mamanucas. While we cruise, settle into your cabin, enjoy the welcome briefing along with English tea and snacks, meet fellow guests, and admire the scenery that slides by as we sail the South Pacific.

Our first destination is gorgeous, secluded Modriki Island, filming location for Tom Hanks' movie "Cast Away". On arrival, we explore this little island and have our first chance to take a dip in the warm South Pacific waters. Back on board, cocktails are served with canapés on the sun deck. Mingle with fellow travelers and drink in views over tranquil waters as the sun sets.

This evening, the Captain's Welcome Dinner is an à la carte menu with entertainment provided by our crew! Don't forget to wander up to the upper deck to see the magnificent array of stars of the Southern Constellations.

 $B^*$  - Breakfast for travelers who arrive May 8.

Day 2~May 10: Naviti Island, Soso Bay (BLD)

# **Anchorage: Soso Bay**

Awake to the aroma of freshly brewed coffee and consider a morning swim or stroll on the beach before we set sail for the southern Yasawa Islands during breakfast.

Late morning, we take you on a bit of an adventure... to a special reef location where you are invited to swim with reef sharks (sea conditions permitting)! While harmless to humans, reef sharks make for an remarkable snorkel experience!

Back on-board, we cruise into the waters around Naviti and Soso Bay. A tasty buffet lunch is served on-board before heading ashore for a visit to the chiefly village of Soso. We'll be welcomed in traditional fashion with a "yaqona" kava ceremony, before exploring this typical Fijian island village with our hosts. A presentation on the local history and legends gives insight into early Yasawan life.

We ease into the evening back aboard the *Fiji Princess* with cocktails served on the sun deck, followed by a 'Thali' buffet dinner featuring exquisite Indian dishes. After dinner, those with energy remaining are welcome to take in a fun 'Bollywood Dancing' lesson on the sun deck!

# Day 3~May 11: Naukacuvu and Narara Island (BLD)

## Anchorage: Naukacuvu Island

Sunday is still a day of rest in Fiji and this morning we have the unique opportunity to attend a village church service, and learn more of the happy culture of Fiji.

Lunch is served on board as we cruise a short distance to our next slice of paradise. As we sail, you are invited to join a Fijian cooking lesson and help prepare a tasty Fijian fish-dish, "Kokoda".

Later this afternoon we anchor in the sheltered waters of Naukacuva and Narara Islands, picture-perfect for a lazy Sunday afternoon. Sunbathe on the *Fiji Princess* or dive into the waters and discover the amazing colorful underwater world below.

Tonight's buffet dinner has a range of dishes from Fiji as well as a selection of European favorites.

## Day 4~May 12: Sacred Islands - Yalobi Bay (BLD)

# **Anchorage: Yalobi Bay**

In the morning, join the crew for a finger fishing trip or snorkel, swim or kayak before we depart to one of Fiji's most beautiful and remote island groups – the Sacred Islands.\*

Filming location for the popular "Survivor" series, the Sacred Islands provide a breathtaking backdrop for swimming, snorkeling, and kayaking, especially since we expect to be the only ones there!

A beachside picnic lunch is provided by your crew along with afternoon scones and tea. Back on board it's happy hour at the bar followed by another festive Captain's dinner.

\*Depending on seasonal weather conditions, an alternate stop may replace the Sacred Islands.

## Day 5~May 13: Nanuya Lailai (BLD)

### **Anchorage: Blue Lagoon**

Laze on the sun deck after breakfast as we sail on the famed Blue Lagoon. This superb stretch of water is circled by islands, creating a lagoon filled with fascinating coral reefs easily seen from the surface of the crystal-clear waters.

One of these islands, Nanuya Lailai, is home to our private beach. Lunch is served on-board, while on shore our private 'Fiji style beach club' awaits, with sun loungers, onshore massage, a bar, and beach volleyball to work off a bit of lunch.

Time abounds for swimming, snorkeling, fish feeding, viewing coral from the glass bottom

boat or just wandering along a secluded stretch of beach. Our ship's crew will also teach basket weaving and give a coconut demonstration – climb the palm tree, collect the coconuts and husk them, then enjoy fresh coconut milk straight from the coconut along with afternoon tea.

Diving for both novices and experienced divers can be pre-booked for this location or you can join our crew for a guided 'reef safari' snorkeling tour!

Happy hour is served on shore from our beach bar along with canapes followed by the unveiling of a traditional Lovo meal where the food is cooked underground in a specially prepared pit.

Our dining room tonight is on the beach beneath coconut palms and tropical stars from the southern constellations. The day ends with a "Meke" show featuring singing, dancing and story-telling by a group of local villagers.

Day 6~May 14: Tamusua Bay, Yasawa Island (BLD)

# Anchorage: Sawa-i-Lau Island

Walk #2: Cross-island hike to Lo's Tea Shop - 2 km, rated 2B

This morning is at leisure at our private Blue Lagoon beach. Dive, snorkel and swim, or try your hand at basket weaving.

The main event, however, is a leisurely hike along the beach and up over the hill to the other side of the island. Exquisite panoramas across Blue Lagoon are part of this hike before arriving at the 'very local' Lo's Tea Shop on the beach! Enjoy Lo's famous cakes and browse the shell market prior to returning to the ship via water taxis.

During lunch, we sail to our next destination, the island of Sawa-i-Lau, where the 1980 Blue Lagoon movie starring Brooke Shields was filmed. Here, we visit the subterranean pools of the Sawa-i-Lau Caverns. View the dramatic caverns from the stairs or take to the water on a short swim through an underwater passage to the second of these stunning limestone caves! This was a favorite activity of the 2022 WAI group.

This evening, cross the bay for a memorable visit to the village of Tamusua. A kava ceremony, a guided stroll around the village, and an authentic Fijian village style 'feast' prepared and cooked by the locals awaits. The Fijian meal is served to us as we sit upon mats and listen to our hosts share more about village culture.

Day 7~May 15: Drawaqa Island (BLD)

# **Anchorage: Drawaqa Island**

Walk #3: Somosomo Village Walk - 2.5 km, rated 2B

Walk #4: Barefoot Manta Walk - 2 km, rated 3C

Fiji Princess sails south out of the bay, this morning, bound for Naviti Island and our second walk of the cruise. We disembark at the tiny island village of Somosomo and hike up over the saddle of the island on the path used by village children to reach the island's school.

After an opportunity to connect with the children (when school is in session), we continue our cruise to Drawaqa Island. On arrival, a marine biologist joins us to tell about local marine life and the conservation work of the Vinaka Fiji Volunteers.

A guided 'Reef Safari' snorkeling tour here offers some of the tour's best snorkeling to see prolific corals, clams and, from May to October, fascinating Manta Rays!

Our final walk opportunity is a sunset hike through lovely Barefoot Manta Resort with an ascent up Drawaqa Island for outstanding views over the island and the surrounding azure seas. This trail is the most difficult of the three but travelers are welcome to hang back and hang loose aboard the *Fiji Princess* or ashore.

Our farewell dinner this evening is a barbecue served on the upper deck dining under the stars, where a final feast is the perfect way to celebrate our time in the Yasawa Islands! Try your hand at the "Bula Bula" dance, if you haven't already, or simply enjoy the grandeur of the southern night sky one last time!

## Day 8~May 16: Depart Fiji (B)

Walk #5: Optional Nadi Town Cultural Walk - 2.5 km, rated 1A

Enjoy a final breakfast on-board as the *Fiji Princess* cruises back toward her home port. We'll be "farewelled" with the traditional Isa Lei song from the crew as our exploration of the beautiful Mamanuca, Yasawa, and Sacred islands comes to an end.

Late morning, we disembark the *Fiji Princess*. Flights are later this evening and travelers who purchase the Standard package have the day free with no additional services and depart at their leisure from Nadi Airport.

Optional Day Room Package: Travelers who purchase the Day Room Package enjoy the use of a shared day room (4 people per room) in the upscale Hilton Hotel we used before the cruise. These rooms are meant to serve as a base to store luggage, explore the Denarau Island resort area, and rest and freshen up throughout the day before the evening shuttle to the airport.

This package also includes an evening transfer to the Nadi airport.

Price: \$130 per person

Optional Nadi Town Cultural Walk: Exploring Nadi is a great way to spend the day while awaiting late night flights back to North America. This 4-hour experience includes:

• Roundtrip transfers from Port Denarau to Nadi Town with a local guide

- A local lunch, laced with famous Fijian hospitality, at the Corner Cafe Restaurant
- A 2-hour, 2.5 km walk in Nadi Town in small groups led by local guides. The walk features 3 highlights:
  - Nadi handicraft centre, where local crafts people display their talents (for which Fijians are renowned) in wood carvings, clay pots, tapa cloth, and Whales' tooth, or 'Tabua', of significant value to the Fijian people
  - the colorful **fruit & vegetable market** to enjoy the richness of tropical produce and the culture of Fijian farming, and
  - **Sri Siva Subramaniya Swami Temple**, largest Hindu temple in the Southern Hemisphere, a reflection of the large Indian population in Fiji, originally brought as indentures workers by British colonial rulers in the 19th century.

*Price:* \$125 per person (10 person minimum)

Travelers who opt for the Day Room Package will be transported to the Nadi airport around 7 pm this evening for flights to North America across the International Date Line, arriving in Los Angeles on May 16, (technically, before we even leave Nadi)!

# **Before You Book**

Click on each heading to reveal more details.

How Do I Lock in My Place on This Adventure?

To register, a **non-refundable** \$300 deposit is required to hold your spot. A 2nd **non-refundable** deposit of \$1000 is due July 15, 2024. A final payment is due January 31, 2025. You will receive a prompt email from us 2 to 3 weeks in advance.

Once this tour has a viable number of participants, an "Adventure Advice" email will be sent with critical information on flight arrangements as well as important steps to take in the months before your trip. <u>Please do not buy your airline tickets</u> until you review this Adventure Advice email.

Please follow this link to read our full General Tour Conditions.

### Modified Payment Terms

Because of the ship's payment terms, our standard payment and cancellation terms must be modified.

To register, a non-refundable \$300 deposit is required to hold your spot.

A second, non-refundable deposit of \$1000 is due by July 15, 2024.

Final payment is then due January 31, 2025.

All payments are non-refundable after the due date.

### What is a Classic Curated Tour?

With help from local experts and walking guides, these itineraries are crafted with extensive on-site planning by WAI tour planners.

When designing Classic Curated Tours, our objective is to capture the essence of a destination—the history, culture, and natural wonders unique to that part of the world. We then build activities and walks that take us *inside* these characteristics.

Yes, these tours are educational, but they are also interactive and immersive; walking gets us off the bus and penetrates local cultures to not only see, but also touch, smell, and feel these special spaces.

Along the way, interactions with locals amplify the experience by sharing insights into the magic of that particular location.

In the case of Fiji, our first tour was in 2022. We were able to charter the ship with a larger group and, in this case, staffed the tour with 4 WAI guides. The WAI guide team evaluated several walk opportunities that supplement the ship's non-walking itinerary. We know we can provide two of these walks and hope to be able to add one or two additional walks/hikes as the ship schedule allows.

#### What is a Walking LITE Tour?

A Walking LITE itinerary widens the range of travelers who can comfortably enjoy a WAI travel experience. Travelers who prefer a slower pace and less walking than a standard WAI Adventure, but still appreciate an experiential approach to travel, can join a Walking LITE group knowing that the itinerary will be less demanding physically.

Conversely, travelers can enjoy the standard ship itinerary knowing that, where possible, WAI will also offer walking and hiking opportunities <u>on an optional basis</u>. Further, travelers have the assurance that the ship, our floating hotel, is always a ready refuge where they can relax and transition from participant to observer as they choose.

In addition, using itineraries of trusted small ship cruise partners, WAI planners are able to take advantage of a wider range of destinations, confident that our creativity and the wide WAI knowledge base (30 years' worth) allows WAI guides and planners to amplify and enhance any itinerary by inserting walks of various lengths, some directly from the ship, and some using land transportation to nearby trails with which we are familiar.

Two primary aspects contribute to the designation of a "walking like" Tour Type: first, the itinerary offers itinerary options for travelers who prefer not to walk or to walk very little; second, the walks themselves may be easier and shorter. In the case of  $Fiji \sim Pearl$  of the Pacific, the first is true and the second is partially true. Travelers can have a high quality Fiji cruise experience without participating in any of the 3 official walks (this is the standard

experience for the typical *Fiji Princess* passenger). Further, the 3 walks included are not necessarily easier than a typical WAI walk, but they are relatively short – all less than 3 kilometers.

Finally, adding *Walking LITE* small ship cruise experiences captures the value of unpacking only once and enjoying the floating hotel model of small ship cruising with its slower pace and relaxed tempo.

## **Unique Aspects of This Tour**

This walking adventure is a "walking LITE" experience, which means the focus is less on the walks and more on other attractions of a visit to the Fijian Islands. Furthermore, a few uniquely Fijian aspects to consider include:

<u>Weather</u>: Fiji sits in a magical corner of the South Pacific, at 15 degrees south latitude, butting up against the International Date Line. A latitude of fifteen degrees south places Fiji in the southern tropics, making humidity and heat factors to be aware of during your time in Fiji. Tropical weather on this trip is offset by a few mitigating factors.

First, our walks are shortened (none more than 3 km) to counter the wearing impact of heat and humidity. Second, we are always on or near the water, giving ample opportunities for refreshing dips. Third, public spaces on the ship are nearly all open air, inviting the cooling kiss of tropical breezes.

<u>Walks</u>: Fiji is a group of more than 300 volcanic islands. Volcanic islands, by definition, require ascents up the slopes of ancient volcanoes whenever walking inland from a shoreline. Further, the trails we walk are footpaths used by the locals and can be rocky and rough on the one hand, or muddy and slick after rains on the other.

As such, weather plays a more significant role in our walking than usual and rainy weather may impact our ability to carry out our plans on certain trails. Also of note is the fact that these are not groomed trails and no entity, government or otherwise, takes responsibility to install safety railings, mandate warning signs at overlooks, or otherwise oversea public safety on the trails of Fiji.

For these reasons, and because of weather conditions noted above, walks in Fiji are short and sweet (less than 3 km), most with unforgettable views and some with memorable connections with locals. Water sandals/shoes come in handy on at least one walk, and for some water activities, and walking sticks are a good idea as well.

<u>Water activities</u>: Clearly a highlight of a cruise in the Fijian islands is the opportunity to enjoy the colorful tropical seas. Several high-quality snorkeling expeditions are available. Scuba diving is possible for an extra fee on two days. And the sea cave visit on the island of Sawa-i-Lau, where the Blue Lagoon (Brooke Shields) was filmed is magical. A glass-bottom boat makes the sights accessible even for non-swimmers.

## **Walk Ratings**

We generally walk at a pace of 2 to 3 miles per hour. Walks that are oriented more towards education may take longer due to stops for guide commentary. Nature walks, on the other hand, generally continue at a steadier pace because we're stopping less to talk. In most cases, we are not "strolling." We are walking at a relaxed but steady pace. Your experience will be significantly affected by your level of physical fitness. If not walking regularly at home, we strongly recommend that you make a priority of "training" beforehand to both enjoy the trip and avoid medical issues due to overexertion.

If you have questions about your ability to participate, please contact our office at <a href="mailto:fun@walkingadventures.com">fun@walkingadventures.com</a>.

We have adopted a walk difficulty rating system which contains a numeric indicator for trail incline and an alpha indicator for trail terrain. The explanation for this system is presented on the table below:

#### **INCLINE**

- 1. Minimal hills or stair climbing. Cumulative elevation gain: <200 feet.
- 2. Some moderate hills and stair climbing. Cumulative elevation gain: 200-1000 feet.
- 3. Some significant hill or stair climbing. Cumulative elevation gain: 1000-2000 feet.

#### **TERRAIN**

- A. Almost entirely on pavement.
- B. A significant part of the route is on well-groomed trails with very few obstacles.
- C. A significant part of the route is on somewhat difficult terrain (rocky / rooted paths or soft sand).

# **How is Airfare Arranged?**

The cruise begins in Nadi, Fiji, on May 9, 2025. Because we fly across the international date line, and flights are overnight, arriving into Fiji very early in the morning, it is necessary to depart North American on the evening of May 7. WAI will notify travelers when it is time to purchase air and will have suggestions to make in that regard. Travelers should arrive into Nadi, Fiji (airport code NAN).

The official start and finish point for this adventure is Port Denarau outside the city of Nadi, Fiji. This is the embarkation and disembarkation point for the *M.V. Fiji Princess*.

As usual, we recommend arriving 1 day early, facilitated by WAI's Pre-night Package.

The Pre-night Package requires that you depart North America on May 6 and arrive Fiji the morning of May 8. It includes the airport-hotel transfer upon arrival in Fiji, one night in a luxury hotel in Nadi, and the hotel-ship transfer on May 9.

Price: \$250 per person in a shared room with \$140 single supplement for travelers who prefer their own room.

Details for the early arrival options, including pricing, are llsted above in the WHAT'S INCLUDED section and ITINERARY, and will also be spelled out in the Adventure Advice memo which announces airfare and Fiji entry requirements. This document will be provided by email after you register for the Adventure and as soon as we reach a viable number of participants. Please do not book your airfare prior to receiving these flight details from us!

• Laura Pfahler: 503.434.6401 or <a href="mailto:llp@wtpdx.com">llp@wtpdx.com</a>

### **Travel Insurance**

WAI believes in the importance of travel insurance for financial and medical protection from any number of unforeseen circumstances that can arise before departure or during your Adventure. Many travel insurance providers are available for you to consider. Laura Pfahler and Sharon Mitchell of World Travel Inc. can provide travel insurance options for your WAI tour, as well as your airfare. For those who purchase airfare through Laura, purchasing your travel insurance from her colleague, Sharon Mitchell, may be the simplest option.

Be aware that some travel insurance policies contain time-sensitive provisions (i.e. some benefits are available only if the policy is purchased within a certain number of days of the purchase of the travel package).

Check out <u>Insurance Tips</u> from World Travel for a short introduction to travel insurance.

Sharon Mitchell—World Travel Inc.

Phone: 971.261.2091

Email: <a href="mailto:smitchell@wtpdx.com">smitchell@wtpdx.com</a>

Other options include:

- Allianz
- Betins
- Travel Guard
- Travel Insured International

Using the www.SquareMouth.com website can be an easy way to compare pricing.

NOTE: WAI receives no commission or financial remuneration from World Travel Inc. In addition, WAI bears no responsibility for travel insurance benefits advertised by various credit card companies. If you are relying on this type of benefit for insurance, we advise you to verify coverage types, coverage limits, and that your purchase does in fact qualify you for this insurance.

What if WAI Cancels the Tour?

Walking Adventures International reserves the right to cancel this tour departure with fewer than 12 participants, in which case registered participants will receive a 100% refund of payments received.

This refund policy contains one exclusion. Many suppliers require non-refundable deposits as a condition of booking services. Though it is rare, unforeseen circumstances can force us to cancel a tour. In cases where supplier's non-refundable policies are imposed, WAI attempts to retrieve as much of these deposits as possible but cannot guarantee a 100% refund. In cases where full refunds cannot be obtained for a cancelled tour, we will do our best to transfer unrefunded money as traveler credits to be applied to a future tour to that destination.

View our full **General Tour Conditions** for more details.

### Wellness Policies for This Tour

Our approach to wellness on tour has traditionally been to encourage travelers to:

- Focus on health before the tour so you start healthy.
- Pace yourself while on tour; travel is inherently stimulating and can produce adrenalin boosts that mask energy drain. Guard your energy reserves and consider the length of the trip and whether to opt out of some activities and/or walks.
- Be self-aware. If you feel yourself tiring or feel a bug coming on, take precautions to block it (e.g. extra rest, extra doses of vitamin C, etc).
- If you feel a bug coming on or if you take ill, distance yourself from others when possible.
- If you feel ill, isolate yourself towards the back of the bus and away from others

Click WAI Wellness on Tour Policy to view the WAI policy on Wellness on Tour.

### What Happens Next?

Once we have a viable number of participants, an "Adventure Advice" email is sent with critical information on flight arrangements as well as important steps to take in the months before your trip. Please do not buy your airline tickets until you review this Adventure Advice email.

You will receive reminders to pay the second deposit and the final payment as detailed above under *Modified Payment Terms*. All payments are non-refundable after the due date.

About 2 weeks before departure, you will receive a final packet with all the details of the program, including hotel name and contact information, a list of fellow travelers, and a more detailed daily schedule.