

## Introduction

**Fiji** is 300 islands in the South Pacific Ocean, about 100 of which are inhabited.

Amid the natural beauty of its blue waters, white beaches and lush tropical gardens, Fiji also has a rich culture that is a unique blend of mainly Melanesian, Micronesian, Polynesian and Indian influences.

Two of the major islands in the group are *Viti Levu* and *Vanua Levu*.

## Capital City

Suva, on the island of Viti Levu.

## Time Zone

GMT/UTC +12

## Population

Approx 775, 077

## Official Language

English

## Currency

Fijian dollar - one A\$ is about F\$1.30

## Climate

Tropical - with little seasonal temperature variation. The summer average maximum temperature is around 30 degrees celsius, while the winter average maximum is 26 degrees.

Fiji's wet season is from November to February.

## Getting there

Air Pacific flies daily from Sydney and Brisbane to Nadi on the island of Viti Levu, and several times a week from Melbourne.

Air NZ flies several times a week from east coast capitals to Nadi via Auckland.

Pacific Blue operates direct flights from Brisbane, Sydney and Melbourne to Nadi.

## Fiji Weddings

Fiji has long been a popular destination for honeymooners from Australia, but couples are now going one step further by getting married there and taking their friends and families too!

The demand for weddings has grown so quickly that the Fiji Visitors Bureau website at [www.bulafiji.com](http://www.bulafiji.com), devotes a separate section to weddings and honeymoons, explaining in detail the official requirements for the bride and groom. Included on the website is a checklist that assists couples from Australia and elsewhere with the planning and preparations for tying the knot in Fiji.

To further encourage interested couples, the romantics at the Bureau have produced their own special list, their seven inspirations - one magical reason to say "I do" in the Fiji Islands for every day of the week.

### 1. Remote settings and complete privacy

Fiji offers travellers secluded, stunning locations for a wedding, but for the ultimate private escape, *Blue Lagoon Cruises* operate small ship wedding charters for groups of up to 70 guests.

Blue Lagoon offers several packages including either an Island Wedding which takes place at

sunset on a private island, or an Onboard Wedding on the top deck of the ship.

### 2. Tropical ambience in lush garden settings

The Fiji Islands' tropical landscape with its lush garden settings are often used as a backdrop to wedding ceremonies.

Some properties like *Maravu Plantation Resort* on Taveuni Island have couples exchanging vows in their own gardens or in a nearby jungle setting beside a tropical waterfall.

### 3. Your very own secluded beach

A romantic beach wedding appeals to many couples planning a wedding in Fiji and many of the resorts offer private beach weddings.

*First Landing Resort* is one such property and has its own private historic beach.

Legend has it that the first Fijians landed here over 3,500 years ago.

### 4. Fijian choirs and warrior escorts and 5. Unique cultural ceremonies and adorned traditional costumes

Weddings in Fiji can be a 'traditional' white wedding or a 'traditional' Fijian wedding with live Fijian music and warrior escorts.

*Lomalagi Resort* offers a Traditional Deluxe Wedding package which sees young Fijian warriors escort the bride to the ceremony on a bamboo raft at high tide.

The village choir sing traditional Fijian hymns for guests and perform dances.

A traditional kava ceremony is performed and guests are also able to enjoy a *lovo feast* in which food is cooked in a Fijian underground oven.

### 6. Variety of all-inclusive resort wedding packages

Many properties offer all inclusive resort wedding packages including the *Sheraton Resorts*, *Denarau Island* which offers several that come complete with a wedding coordinator who can organise a range of options, from a casual ceremony at the scenic beachfront *Paradise Chapel* followed by a champagne toast, to a more lavish ceremony on the resorts own private island, *Akuilau* and a formal reception in the resort ballroom.

Most wedding packages include a marriage license, a minister or celebrant, flowers, a Fijian choir, a cake and some professional photography.

### 7. Quaint wedding chapels and churches.

Not all couples opt for a beach or garden ceremony; many want to get married in a wedding chapel or church.

The Seaside Wedding Chapel at the *Shangri-La's Fijian Resort* is a popular option, set amongst a plantation of palm trees on the water's edge.

The chapel seats 40 guests and has a glass wall behind the altar, providing guests with sweeping Pacific Ocean views.

Sunset is the most popular time for a wedding at this location.

*Fiji has South Seas romance and some very professional assistance to offer couples of all ages an unforgettable wedding experience. Las Vegas now has competition as a wedding destination!*



## For further information on weddings in Fiji contact:

Fiji Visitors Bureau  
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Sydney NSW 2000  
Ph: (02) 9264 3399  
Web: [www.bulafiji.com](http://www.bulafiji.com)

## Contact details;

### Blue Lagoon Cruises

Email: [blc@connect.com.fj](mailto:blc@connect.com.fj)  
Web: [www.bluelagooncruises.com](http://www.bluelagooncruises.com)

### Maravu Plantation Resort

Email: [maravu@connect.com.fj](mailto:maravu@connect.com.fj)  
Web: [www.maravu.net](http://www.maravu.net)

### First Landing Resort

Email: [firstlanding@connect.com.fj](mailto:firstlanding@connect.com.fj)  
Web: [www.firstlandingfiji.com](http://www.firstlandingfiji.com)

### Lomalagi Resort

Email: [heaven@lomalagi.com](mailto:heaven@lomalagi.com)  
Web: [www.fiji-lomalagi.com](http://www.fiji-lomalagi.com)

### Sheraton Resort Fiji

Email: [sheratondenarau@sheraton.com](mailto:sheratondenarau@sheraton.com)  
Web: [www.sheraton.com/fiji](http://www.sheraton.com/fiji)

### Shangri-La's Fijian Resort

Email: [fij@shangri-la.com](mailto:fij@shangri-la.com)  
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A pristine island paradise



Traditional kava ceremony



A couple enjoying a secluded Fiji beach