

## Fijian Country Guide

### Page 1 of 5 Important Information Prior to Travelling to Fiji Current DFAT Travel Advice

This advice is current for Thu, 1st November 2018.

*Exercise normal safety precautions in Fiji. Use common sense and look out for suspicious behaviour, as you would in Australia. Fiji will hold a general election on 14 November. Avoid any demonstrations, rallies and public gatherings in the lead up to, and during the election period. See [Safety and security](#). Cyclone season is November to April. See [Natural disasters](#). On 21 March 2018, the [Fiji Ministry of Health](#) declared an outbreak of meningococcal disease. Meningococcal can be highly fatal. Symptoms include high fever, sensitivity to light or nausea. See [Health](#). Outbreaks of endemic mosquito-borne illnesses (including dengue fever) are common. Protect yourself against mosquito bites. See [Health](#).*

*The only hyperbaric (decompression) chamber in Fiji is undergoing long-term maintenance. Dive well within safety limits and ensure your travel insurance covers diving and evacuation costs. See [Health](#). Driving at night can be dangerous because of insufficient street lighting, stray animals and poor quality roads. Exercise caution. See [Local travel](#). Expatriates and tourists have been the victim of violent crime, including sexual assault. Be vigilant. See [Safety and security](#).*

The above information is an edited excerpt of the Travel Advice Summary from The Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade. Travellers are encouraged to read the travel advice in full, subscribe to updates to this advice and to register their presence in Fiji at [www.smartraveller.gov.au](http://www.smartraveller.gov.au).

## Vaccinations and Health Precautions

The following information is intended as a guide only and in no way should it be used as a substitute for professional medical advice relative to a travellers individual needs and vaccination history. No guarantee is made as to its accuracy or thoroughness. For further information, please contact The Travel Doctor on 1300 658 844.

Vaccination against hepatitis A is recommended for travellers to Fiji. Frequent or long stay travellers should consider vaccination against hepatitis B. Vaccination against typhoid should be considered by travellers to Fiji particularly if travelling to areas with poor sanitation and hygiene. As there is a risk of dengue fever and sporadic/limited transmission of the zika virus in Fiji, insect avoidance measures may be necessary depending on your itinerary, pregnant women should consider postponing travel to Fiji.

Regardless of destination, all travellers should be up-to-date with their routine "background" vaccinations, including a recent annual influenza vaccination. Please consult a medical practitioner or contact The Travel Doctor for your specific risk to these preventable diseases and the appropriate avoidance measures.

Australians travelling to Fiji should ensure that they have adequate travel insurance to cover the length of their stay. Medications that are legal in Australia may be illegal in other countries. For further information on insurance, taking medication overseas, the zika virus and other issues please visit [www.smartraveller.gov.au/tips](http://www.smartraveller.gov.au/tips).

## Fijian Representation in Australia

High Commission of Fiji, Canberra

19 Beale Crescent  
DEAKIN ACT 2600

Tel: (02) 6260 5115  
Fax: (02) 6260 5105

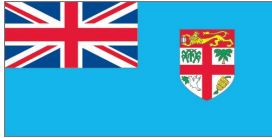
Web: [www.fijihighcom.com](http://www.fijihighcom.com)

Consulate General of Fiji, Sydney

100 Walker Street  
NORTH SYDNEY NSW 2060

Tel: (02) 9900 0700  
Fax: (02) 8904 0376

Web: [www.fijiconsulategeneral.org.au](http://www.fijiconsulategeneral.org.au)



## Fijian Country Guide

Page 2 of 5 Important Information while Travelling in Fiji

### Time Differences between Fiji and Australia

Fiji is Greenwich Mean Time +12 hours (+13 during daylight saving). The applicable time zones are Fiji Time (FJT) and Fiji Summer Time (FJST). Daylight saving is observed from the first Sunday in November to the second last Sunday in January.

Fiji, 12 noon, Winter (Jun) = Perth 8am, Darwin, Adelaide 9:30am, Brisbane, Hobart, Melbourne, Sydney, 10am.  
 Fiji, 12 noon, Summer (Dec) = Perth 7am, Darwin 8:30 am, Brisbane 9am, Adelaide 9:30am, Hobart, Melbourne, Sydney 10am

### Important Contact Numbers

Country Code for Fiji: +679  
 To Dial Australia Call: 00 61 <City> <Number>  
 Australian Reverse Charges Direct:  
 004 890 6101  
 Local Directory: 011  
 Travelex Card Services:  
 Call the US on 00 1 954 838 8294  
 Visa Global Assist:  
 Call Australia on 00 61 2 9251 3704  
 (this number can be dialled reverse charges by  
 calling Australia Reverse Charges Direct)  
 MasterCard:  
 Call the US on 00 1 636 722 7111  
 American Express Travellers Cheques:  
 004 890 1001, then 888 937 2639  
 Qantas (Nadi Airport) 672 2880  
 Air Pacific 672 0888  
 Emergency Services:  
 Police 917  
 Ambulance and Fire 911 or 910

### Important Information to be Recorded

Travellers are encouraged to carry photocopies of all important documents separately to their originals and to leave a set of these photocopies with someone in Australia. This includes those documents listed below.

#### Passports

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Passport #: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Passport #: \_\_\_\_\_

#### Credit Cards

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Institution: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Card Number: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Institution: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Card Number: \_\_\_\_\_

#### Travel Insurance

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Institution: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Policy #: \_\_\_\_\_ Emergency #: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Institution: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Policy #: \_\_\_\_\_ Emergency #: \_\_\_\_\_

### Australian Representation in Fiji

Australian High Commission, Fiji

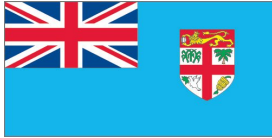
37 Princes Rd  
 Tamavua  
 SUVA

Tel: (+679) 338 2211  
 Fax: (+679) 338 2065

Web: [www.fiji.embassy.gov.au](http://www.fiji.embassy.gov.au)

Alternatively, Australians may obtain assistance by contacting the 24 hour Consular Emergency Centre in Australia on (+61) 2 6261 3305.

Australians in Fiji are encouraged to register their presence and contact details with the Australian High Commission in Suva, or online with the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade at [www.orao.dfat.gov.au](http://www.orao.dfat.gov.au).



## Fijian Country Guide

Page 3 of 5 General Destination Information for Fiji

### Duty Free Allowances for Fiji and Australia

#### Allowances when entering Fiji:

Alcohol: 2.25 L of spirits or 4.5 L of wine or 4.5 L of beer  
 Tobacco: 250 cigarettes or 250 g of cigars or tobacco  
 Other Goods: Up to \$1,000 Fijian Dollars

#### Allowances when entering Australia:

Alcohol: 2.25 L.  
 Tobacco: 25 cigarettes plus one open packet of cigarettes.  
 Other Goods: Up to \$900 (\$450 for minors).

Minors may not claim alcohol or tobacco products. Further restrictions apply when entering/exiting Fiji and Australia. Travellers are encouraged to familiarise themselves with these restrictions before crossing the borders of either country. For information on Fijian customs please visit [www.frca.org.fj](http://www.frca.org.fj), or for information on Australian customs please visit [www.homeaffairs.gov.au](http://www.homeaffairs.gov.au).

### Electrical Adaptors and Voltage

Electrical Socket type: Australian (type I).

Supply: 220-240 V, 50 Hz (same as Australia).

As the electrical supply and connection systems in Fiji are the same as Australia, no converters should be required to use appliances designed for the Australian market.



### Fijian Holidays 2018

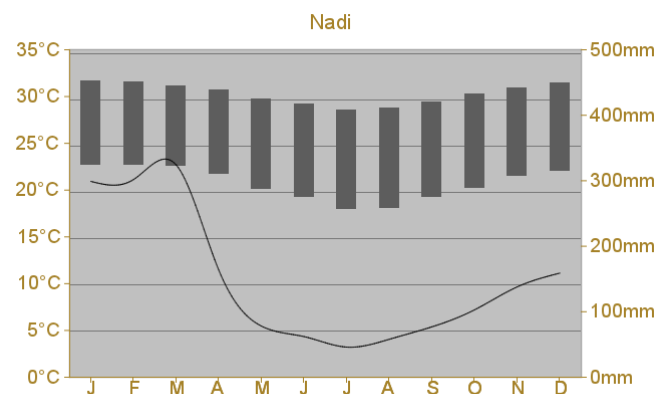
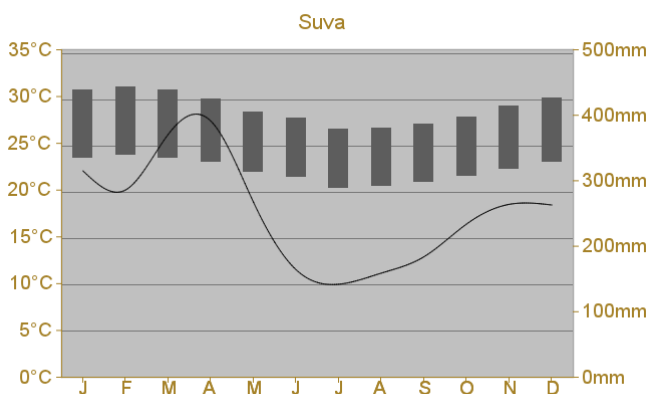
#### National Public Holidays

01 Jan:	New Year's Day	10 Oct:	Fiji Day
30 Mar:	Good Friday	07 Nov:	Diwali
31 Mar:	Easter Saturday	19 Nov:	Birth of Mohammed
02 Apr:	Easter Monday	25 Dec:	Christmas Day
29 Jun:	National Sports Day	26 Dec:	Boxing Day
07 Sep:	Constitution Day		

#### School Term Dates

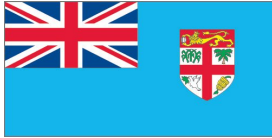
Term 1:	15 Jan – 20 Apr	Term 3:	27 Aug – 23 Nov
Term 2:	07 May – 10 Aug		

### Average Temperature (Bar) and Precipitation (Line) in Fiji



For local forecasts visit the Fiji Meteorological Service at [www.met.gov.fj](http://www.met.gov.fj).

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## Fijian Country Guide

### Page 4 of 5 Fiji Currency Information and Cheat Sheet

#### Exchange Rate

##### Interbank Rate

1 Australian Dollar (AUD) = 1.53 Fiji Dollars  
 1 Fiji Dollar (FJD) = 0.65 Australian Dollars

##### With 4% Margin

1 Australian Dollar (AUD) will buy 1.47 Fiji Dollars  
 1 Fiji Dollar (FJD) will cost 0.68 Australian Dollars

All rates were correct at a point in time on Monday, 05 Nov 2018. The "Interbank Rate" does not take into account exchange fees, while the "With 4% Margin" adds 4% to the exchange rate to simulate a typical margin that would be paid when exchanging these currencies. These currency rates have been rounded and should not be used when calculating transactions of large value.

#### Purchasing Power Parity

The following is a purchasing-power comparison of the Fiji Dollar and the Australian Dollar, using the Big Mac as a common good. While it does not present a faultless comparison, it is a useful indicator of the purchasing-power of the two currencies.

Big Mac Australia: \$5.95 (AUD) = 9.09 Fijian Dollars  
 Big Mac Fiji: \$8.75 (FJD) = 5.73 Australian Dollars

*A Big Mac in Fiji is therefore 4% less expensive than in Australia.*

This comparison is based on 2018 prices using current exchange rates. Prices may not include variations by locality or local taxes.

#### Currency Cheat Sheet

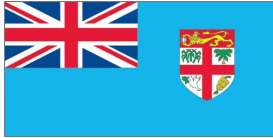
50 cents = \$0.34 AUD		This cheat sheet uses the "With 4% Margin" rate of exchange listed above.		100 FJD = \$68.11 AUD	
\$1 FJD = \$0.68 AUD	\$10 FJD = \$6.81 AUD	\$100 FJD = \$68.11 AUD	\$2 FJD = \$1.36 AUD	\$20 FJD = \$13.62 AUD	\$200 FJD = \$136.22 AUD
\$3 FJD = \$2.04 AUD	\$30 FJD = \$20.43 AUD	\$300 FJD = \$204.33 AUD	\$4 FJD = \$2.72 AUD	\$40 FJD = \$27.24 AUD	\$400 FJD = \$272.43 AUD
\$5 FJD = \$3.41 AUD	\$50 FJD = \$34.05 AUD	\$500 FJD = \$340.54 AUD	\$6 FJD = \$4.09 AUD	\$60 FJD = \$40.87 AUD	\$600 FJD = \$408.65 AUD
\$7 FJD = \$4.77 AUD	\$70 FJD = \$47.68 AUD	\$700 FJD = \$476.76 AUD	\$8 FJD = \$5.45 AUD	\$80 FJD = \$54.49 AUD	\$800 FJD = \$544.87 AUD
\$9 FJD = \$6.13 AUD	\$90 FJD = \$61.30 AUD	\$900 FJD = \$612.98 AUD			\$1,000 FJD = \$681.08 AUD

#### Notes and Coins

The legal currency of Fiji is the Fiji Dollar, which is abbreviated using the symbol \$ or FJ\$ (for example FJ\$100). The subunit of the dollar is the cent, of which there are 100 in every dollar. The following units of currency are the most common however other units are in circulation. Pictures are not to scale. As it is illegal in many countries to print copies of bank notes, travellers are advised to remove the below images before travelling.







## Fijian Country Guide

Page 5 of 5 About Fiji and Fijian Travel Map

### About Fiji

Full Name:	Republic of Fiji / Matanitu ko Viti.	Significant Dates:	1500's BC - iTaukei people begin to settle the Fijian islands.
Independence:	10 October 1970 (from the United Kingdom).		1643 AD - Abel Tasman is the first European to visit Fiji.
Size:	18,274 sq km (27% the size of Tasmania).		1830's - Christian missionaries begin to arrive.
Population:	903,000 (180% the population of Tasmania). Nasinu 76,000, Suva 74,000, Lautoka 43,000.		1874 - Fiji becomes a British colony.
Language:	English (most common), Fijian and Hindi.		1875 - Measles wipes out one third of iTaukei people.
Ethnicity:	iTaukei (Fijian) 57%, Indian 38%, other 5%.		1879-1916 - 60,000 indentured labourers arrive from India.
Religion:	Protestant 45%, Hindu 28% other Christian 10%, Catholic 9%, Muslim 6%, Sikh 0.3%.		1920 - Indentured labour ends.
GDP Per Capita:	US\$4,900 (Australia US\$43,000)		1963 - iTaukei and women attain the right to vote.
			1970 - Fiji becomes an independent country.
			1987-92 - Military seizes power to assert iTaukei dominance.
			1989 - Many ethnic Indians flee Fiji.
			2006-14 - Military chief Frank Bainimarama seizes power.
			2014 - Bainimarama is elected Prime Minister.

