



Rediscover the
meaning of travel

Tour Notes

Pacific Explorer

Tour Duration – 27 Days



Tour Rating

Fitness ●●●○○ | Off the Beaten Track ●●●●○ | Culture ●●●●○ | History ●●●○○○ | Wildlife ●○○○○

Tour Pace

Moderate

Tour Highlights

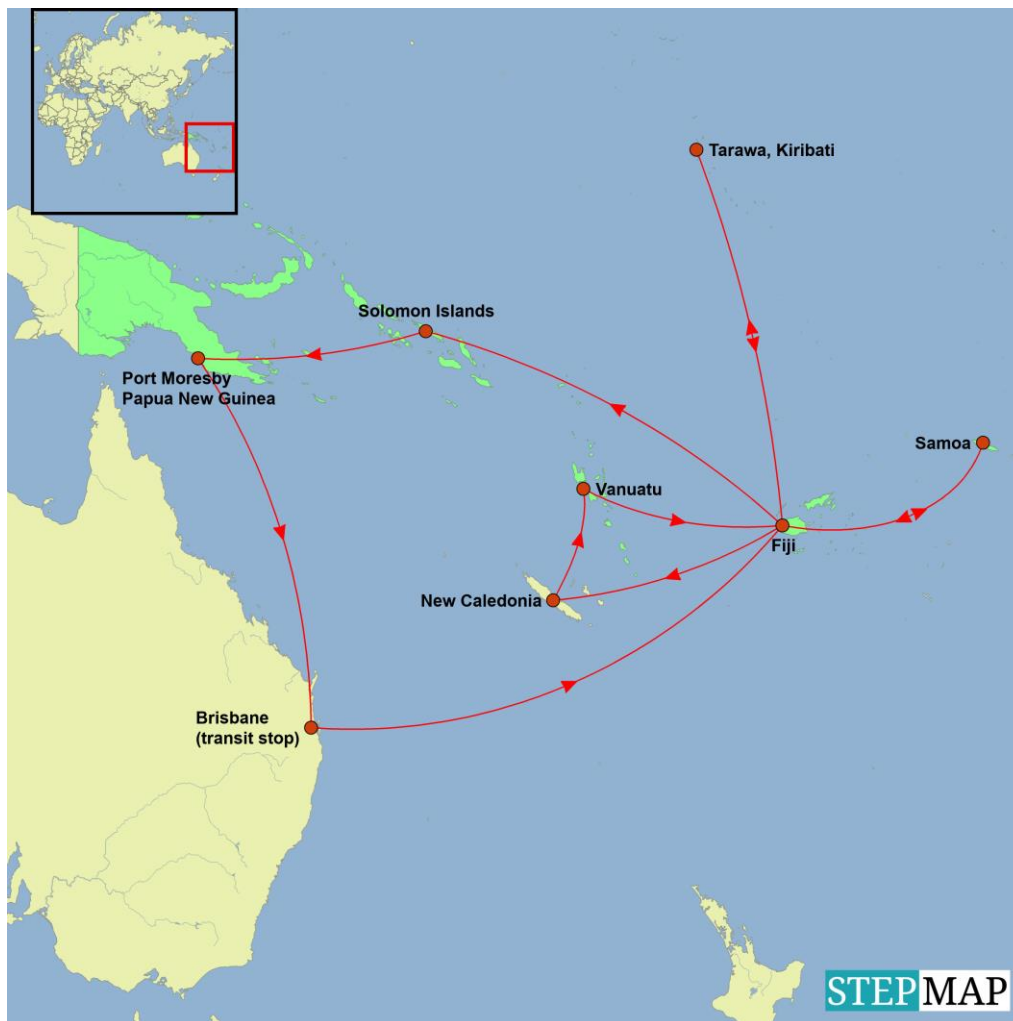
- ✓ A comprehensive exploration of some of the smallest and most remote countries in the world
- ✓ Explore Melanesia, Micronesia and Polynesia
- ✓ Experience the diversity of the Pacific cultures





Rediscover the
meaning of travel

Tour Map



Tour Essentials

Accommodation: Comfortable tourist class hotels, with en-suite bathrooms, plus 1 night in a traditional style 'buias' (bungalows) with shared bathroom in North Tarawa, Kiribati

Included Meals: Meals as shown in the itinerary; breakfast (B), lunch (L), dinner (D)

Group Size: 8

Start Point: Nadi, Fiji – you can arrive any time on this day

End Point: Nadi, Fiji – you can depart any time on this day

Transport: Regional flights, minibuses, or private cars

Countries Visited: Fiji, Samoa, Kiribati, New Caledonia, Vanuatu, Solomon Islands, Papua New Guinea



Rediscover the
meaning of travel

Pacific Explorer

A unique opportunity to explore an amazing array of islands in the Pacific, which are some of the least visited nations and territories in the world, such as Kiribati. Though many of the 7 countries we discover can be visited individually, this is a rare chance to be able to explore the wider region, taking in Melanesia, Micronesia and Polynesia. This is a tour for real travellers -- those who have a passion for exploration and discovery -- those who seek an adventure that is off the 'tourist trail' to places where few have been before. You should not come looking for 5-star resorts and high-speed wi-fi. Just be sure to come with a true sense of adventure and a great travel spirit.

Tour Itinerary Notes

While our intention is to adhere to the day-by-day itinerary as advised below, a degree of flexibility is built in. Overnight stops may vary from those suggested and on occasions alternative accommodation, of a similar standard to that named below, will be used.

The itinerary as described below is very dependent on current flight schedules, and in some cases these may only be fully confirmed within a few months of travel. On some routes flights may only operate once or twice a week. Should the days of operation change then this will have an impact on the overall itinerary and inadvertently the programme will need to be revised. We will do our best to visit each island nation named below, but we reserve the right to substitute some of the destinations, with one or more other island nations.

Tour Guide

Our guides are a key strength, chosen for their knowledge of and passion for the areas in which they work. All of our guides are carefully hand-picked, and are not just passing through these countries, but are usually locally born. Unlike some companies it should be noted we do not send a guide or tour leader from Undiscovered Destinations in the UK as we have every confidence in our locally appointed representative who is responsible for operating the tour on our behalf.

It should be noted that a different guide will be allocated in each island nation. The group will not be accompanied throughout and will fly between each island without a guide. On arrival at each destination the group will be met and transferred to the hotel. On occasions you will be met by your guide. Alternatively, upon check-in at the hotel you will be given a 'welcome letter' with details about when and where to meet the guide for a tour briefing.

In the event of any flight delays or cancellations, our partner in Kiribati who is responsible for overseeing the complete itinerary, will contact the group accordingly, provide full assistance and manage any changes.

Itinerary

[Fiji] Day 1: Arrive in Nadi

Arrive in Nadi, the joining point of our tour. Check-in time is usually 1400hrs. Overnight Tanoa International Hotel or similar. No meals nor guided arrangements included today.

Fiji

The town of Nadi was established in 1947 as a "Government Station" on the higher grounds of Nadi and established itself as Fiji's tourist hub in the 1960s. For most travellers Nadi is a transit point for other destinations in Fiji.



Rediscover the
meaning of travel

Day 2: Nadi

Today we take the "road less travelled" into the heart of Fiji across the Sigatoka River (Fiji's longest river) and head inland to learn more about the cannibalism history of the Naihehe Cave (Fiji's largest cave system), and home to the Sautabu people during the days of tribal warfare. We have a BBQ lunch, and time for swimming before returning to the hotel. After a short rest, visit the Fiji Culture Village in Nacaqara Navo Nadi for walking tour to get a taste of Fijian cultures and learn more about the people, history and traditional crafts and arts. Try kava and lovo and watch Meke and Fire dance entertainment while interacting with villagers in a naturally beautiful setting. Overnight at Tanoa International Hotel or similar. (BLD)

[Samoa] Day 3: Nadi – Flight to Upolu

This morning visit the Garden of Sleeping Giant located at the foothills of Sabeto mountain range, home to Fiji's largest collection of orchids, Vaseisei village, the legendary landing site of the first Fijians and Vuda Lookout which offers a 360 view of hills, and Yasawa and Mamanuca islands. If there's time we may also take a short tour of a citrus farm and Namaka market. We then transfer to Nadi airport for a mid-afternoon flight to Apia, the island of Upolu, Samoa. Upon arrival we will be met and transferred to our hotel. Tonight, enjoy dinner and a cultural show at the hotel. Overnight Taumeasina Resort or similar (BD)

Flight Schedule (subject to change)

Nadi to Apia Dep. 12:55 Arv. 15:50 Fiji Airways – FJ255

Day 4: Upolu

Today we take a scenic tour of the Southeast of Upolu visiting Mulinuu historic monuments and parliament house. We then drive to the lookout for panoramic views of Apia Township, and head to Bahai Temple of worship and its gardens, Continue to Sopoaga Falls where you will be given a cultural demonstration before we head to Lalomanu beach for lunch and a swim. After lunch we visit To Sua Ocean Trench in Lotofaga Village. To Sua translates as 'big hole' – here you will see a natural deep swimming hole surrounded by lush tropical foliage where there is the option of a swim (must be able to climb down a 30m ladder). En route back to the hotel we stop at Le Mafa Pass (1700ft above sea level) which has breathtaking views of the East and South coastlines. Dinner and overnight at Taumeasina Resort or similar (BLD)

Day 5: Savaii - Tour of Savaii

Early pick up for departure on the 08:00 ferry to Savai'i. On arrival in Savai'i start a tour of the island including lunch. Highlights include the island's colourful market, Taga Blowholes and surrounding area, tapa making demonstration and Afua'au falls. We stop for lunch at Vaisala Hotel and a swim before continuing our tour. Overnight Amoa Resort or similar (BLD)

Day 6: Apia Upolu

Drop off at Salelaloga for the 10am ferry back to Apia, Upolu. En route to the wharf we visit the landing site of missionaries and tomb of the last king of Samoa. On arrival back in Upolu we begin a tour of the West side of the island. After lunch we continue to Faleata Sports complex and a visit the Fugalei Food and Handicrafts market and the Cathedral. Overnight Insel Fehmarn Hotel or similar (BLD)

[Fiji] Day 7: Nadi

Watch Police Parade for raising of flight before driving to Robert Louis Stevenson's Museum. Situated in the hills south of Apia, and originally his home, this museum with its spectacular setting, showcases and preserves the memories and lifestyle that drew him and his family to Samoa. We then visit the Samoa Cultural Village including tattooing, traditional cloth making (siapo), traditional dancing and cooking. Continue to Mulinuu historic sites including Parliament House and the Court, and there is an opportunity for souvenirs. Lunch at Manai Restaurant before heading to the airport for a flight to Nadi. On arrival transfer to your hotel. Overnight Tanoa International Hotel or similar. (BL)



Rediscover the
meaning of travel

Flight Schedule (subject to change)

Apia to Nadi Dep. 16:55 Arv. 18:00 Fiji Airways – FJ254

[Kiribati] Day 8: Nadi – Kiribati

Today take a flight to Kiribati, another truly remote island nation, and one of the world's smallest, situated in the middle of the Pacific. Fewer than 6,000 visitors make it here each year, making it the 4th least visited country in the world. This geographically isolated nation is untouched thanks to its seclusion and inaccessibility. Upon arrival at Bonriki International Airport, located on South Tarawa, we will be met and transferred to our accommodation on North Tarawa. We will stop by the museum as it is close to the airport and have a light lunch before heading to North Tarawa for overnight in traditional accommodation. Relax and enjoy the remainder of the day at leisure. Overnight Tabon Te Kee Kee Eco Lodge or similar. (LD)

Flight Schedule (subject to change)

Nadi to Tarawa Dep. 07:30 Arv. 10:35 Fiji Airways – FJ231

Note: Accommodation at Tabon Te Kee Kee Eco Lodge consists of traditional style buias (huts) which offer simplistic, comfortable living.

Each hut is a pandanus wood structure with a locally thatched roof and raised floor, ideally suited to the island climate with cooling ocean breezes and shade. Most buias are land-based. In addition, there are 2 overwater buias to accommodate couples and larger parties which subject to availability maybe allocated to the group. Kindly note that we are unable to guarantee a particular type of buias in advance of your arrival.

Kiribati

The passing centuries have had little impact on Kiribati's outer islands, where people subsist on coconuts, and seafood. The country has a total land area of 800 sq. km (310 sq. mi) but, incredibly, its 33 atolls and islands are spread over 3.5 million sq. km (1,350,000 sq. mi) of ocean. In fact, Kiribati is the only country in the world to fall into all four hemispheres, straddling the equator and extending into the eastern and western hemispheres. Today's climate change projections predict that the ocean could swallow this country whole by the end of the century.

Kiribati has been inhabited by Micronesians speaking the same Oceanic language thought to stretch as far back as 3000 BC. Throughout history arrivals from Samoa, Tonga, and Fiji have impacted the cultural landscape. Inter-marriage tended to blur cultural differences and resulted in a significant degree of cultural homogenization. Within these islands a Micronesian culture developed, and it was also infused with elements from Polynesian and Melanesian societies. Chance visits by European ships occurred in the 17th and 18th centuries, as these ships attempted circumnavigation of the world, or sought sailing routes from the south to the north of the Pacific Ocean. Kiribati became independent from the United Kingdom in 1979, and today is a member of the Commonwealth of Nations, the IMF and the World Bank, and became a full member of the United Nations in 1999.

The population is just over 130,000, 2/3 of whom live on Tarawa Atoll. This is one of the world's poorest and least developed countries and has few natural resources. Commercially viable phosphate deposits were exhausted at the time of independence, and today copra and fish represent the bulk of production and exports. In one form or another, Kiribati earns a large portion of its income from abroad (fishing licenses, development assistance, and worker remittances)



Rediscover the
meaning of travel

Day 9: North Tarawa – South Tarawa

After breakfast take a living cultural tour through the village of Abatao so see the old traditions in daily practice today. Visit the clam farm that spawns and grows exotic-coloured clams for aquariums worldwide. In the afternoon transfer to South Tarawa. Overnight Utirerei Hotel or similar (BL)

Day 10: South Tarawa

A whole day to discover South Tarawa and learn about the important role that the Battle of Tarawa played in WWII. Explore relics of the battle, view the landing sites, and visit memorials to the battle and the lives lost and hear the stories of one of the bloodiest battles in the Pacific during World War II. Overnight Utirerei Hotel or similar. (BL)

Day 11: South Tarawa

This morning is at leisure, or you can choose to visit a church service. During lunch experience I-Kiribati Traditional Dance show – the traditional dances of Kiribati or 'te Mwaie ni Kiribati' are a unique form of art and expression. The movement of the feet, hands and of course the whole body imitates the movement of the frigate bird and the Pacific golden plover bird while walking and flying. The afternoon is at leisure. Overnight Utirerei Hotel or similar (BL)

[New Caledonia] Day 12: Noumea, New Caledonia

After breakfast, transfer to the airport for a flight to Noumea, via Nadi. On arrival you will be transferred to your hotel. Overnight Hilton La Promenade or similar (B)

Flight Schedule (subject to change)

Tarawa to Nadi	Dep. 11:50	Arv. 14:55	Fiji Airways – FJ250
Connection in Nadi			
Nadi to Noumea	Dep. 17:05	Arv. 18:15	Aircalin – SB331

New Caledonia

The third largest island in the Pacific after Papua New Guinea and New Zealand, New Caledonia, a dependent overseas territory of France is only 1,500 km east off the coast of Australia. Seeing this "terra incognita" in 1774, the British navigator James Cook found a similarity between the mountainous terrain of the Grande Terre and his native Scotland, whose former name was "Caledonia." From coast to coast, New Caledonia, stretches some 500 kilometres passing through the archipelago of Loyalty Islands, and is home to surprising and remarkably diverse landscapes. Principally a beach destination New Caledonia is a charming mix of French and Melanesian: warm hospitality sitting alongside European elegance, gourmet food served beneath palm trees, sand, resorts, and bungalows. Long gorgeous beaches form a backdrop to cafes and bars, with horizons displaying tiny islets, all of which attract day trippers.

Noumea

With its cheerful multi-ethnic community, New Caledonia's cosmopolitan capital is sophisticated and uncomplicated, classy, and casual. The relaxed city sits on a large peninsula, surrounded by picturesque bays, and offers visitors a variety of experiences. Diners can eat out at sassy French restaurants hidden in Quartier Latin, dine at bold water-fronting bistros or grab a bargain meal from a nocturnal van in a car park.

Day 13, 4th July: Noumea

Today we start with a tour of the city and a stop at the market before driving to the Tjibaou Cultural Centre for a 3.5hr guided tour. We visit the main points of interest including Forest Parc and the Maritime History Museum. Overnight Hilton La Promenade or similar (B)



Rediscover the
meaning of travel

[Vanuatu] Day 14: Noumea – Tanna Island

This morning transfer to the airport for your flight to Tanna Island via Port Vila. On arrival you will be transferred to your accommodation. On the afternoon of arrival into Tanna, we will take a 3-hour tour to visit the world's largest Banyan tree and see a TOKA dance. Overnight at Evergreen Resort or similar (BL)

Flight Schedule (subject to change)

Noumea to Port Vila	Dep. 08:50	Arv. 10:15	Air Vanuatu – NF065
Connection in Port Vila			
Port Vila to Tanna Island	Dep. 12:10	Arv. 12:50	Air Vanuatu – NF240

Note: Due to the small number of cars available, the tours on Tanna Island, provided by Evergreen Resort, may be shared with other tourists.

Vanuatu

With a population of approximately 221,000, Vanuatu boasts 113 distinct languages and innumerable dialects. This makes it one of the most culturally diverse countries on earth, a result of thousands of years of sporadic immigration from many Pacific countries. Over the millennia, natural boundaries such as large open stretches of water, dense jungle, and mountainous terrain, isolated many groups from each other, even those from the same ethnic origins. And isolation bred not just warfare, but quite different, sophisticated societies and political systems.

Day 15: Tanna Island Volcano

We start the day after breakfast with a 4WD journey across the island, and stop for a traditional welcome at historical weapons cave at Ash Plain village. We tour a cannibal village and visit Port Resolution's black sand hot water beach. Around the cove we have a local lunch at the Best White Sandy Beach and swim and relax before heading for the twilight and night volcano experience of Yasur. Once we reach the summit it is a short 10-minute uphill walk to the rim of the crater where we will observe the awesome power of the world's most accessible active volcano! This ancient volcano is conspicuously located in one of the most pristine and unspoiled corners of the globe. Late evening return to our accommodation Overnight Evergreen Resort or similar. (BL)

Day 16: Tanna – Port Vila

This morning we visit Louiniu primitive cultural village of the Yakel tribe where we spend 3 hours before heading to the airport for the short domestic flight to Port Vila. On arrival in the capital we visit the Museum and city Market before checking into our overnight accommodation. Overnight Holiday Inn Hotel or similar (B)

Flight Schedule (subject to change)

Tanna Island to Port Vila	Dep. 13:30	Arv. 14:10	Air Vanuatu – NF241
---------------------------	------------	------------	---------------------

Day 17: Port Vila

Enjoy breakfast before a circle tour of the island, starting at cultural village blue hole. After refreshments and lunch, continue to the airport for a late afternoon flight to Fiji where you will stay overnight before continuing the next morning to the Solomon Islands. Overnight Tanoa International Hotel or similar. (BL)

Flight Schedule (subject to change)

Port Vila to Nadi	Dep. 16:40	Arv. 19:55	Fiji Airways – FJ262
-------------------	------------	------------	----------------------



Rediscover the
meaning of travel

[Solomon Islands] Day 18, 9th July: Nadi – Honiara

Today we continue from Fiji on an early flight to Honiara, capital of the Solomon Islands. Upon arrival, we transfer to hotel. The remainder of the day is at leisure. Overnight Coral Sea Resort or similar. (BL)

Flight Schedule (subject to change)

Nadi to Honiara Dep. 08:15 Arv. 10:15 Solomon Airlines – IE703

Solomon Islands

Just 9 degrees south of the equator, the Solomon Islands are comprised of 992 islands, of which 147 are inhabited. These islands stretch 900 miles in a south-easterly direction from the Shortland Islands, on the border with Papua New Guinea, to the Santa Cruz Islands, which border Vanuatu. The archipelago covers an area of 461,000 sq. km made up of deeply forested mountainous islands and low-lying coral atolls. The Solomon Islands are part of the Melanesian group of islands that also includes Papua New Guinea, Vanuatu, and Fiji.

Archaeological and linguistic evidence shows that hunters and gatherers from Southeast Asia first settled the Solomon Islands, with seafarers following later, and it is believed that early Papuan speaking settlers began arriving around 3,000 BC. Austronesian speakers arrived in 4,000 BC. Today between 70 and 80 percent of the population live a subsistence way of life, often away from the main urban centres. The number of local languages listed for the Solomon Islands is greater than 75. Communal, clan and family ties remain strong in these islands with the existence of the Wantok system. A key part of the Melanesian culture, Wantok means people from the same language groups who are blood relatives and part of the extended family, support and assist one another. Traditional practices are still being followed, especially by those living in the interior of the country's larger islands. Off the beaten path, village life remains much as it has been for centuries. Entering the totally unique environment of the islands of the Solomons is a richly rewarding experience. Without doubt, this is one of the few remaining truly unspoilt tourist destinations left in the world.

Day 19: Honiara

The city tour to allow us to discover many points of scenic, cultural and historic interest about Honiara and the Solomon Islands. The Honiara central market is busy, colourful, and offers local produce and crafts, after which we will visit the Parliament House, built for the people of Solomon Islands. With a commanding position, the US Peace War Memorial was constructed in 1992 for the 50th anniversary of the Battle of Guadalcanal. It provides an excellent view of Iron Bottom Sound and the surrounding mountainous regions of Honiara and Guadalcanal. The small National Museum accommodates the diverse cultural artefacts of the Solomon Islands. Overnight Coral Sea Resort or similar. (BL)

Day 20: Honiara

Today take a cultural tour of Honiara, including a visit to Graceland Nature Park. Overnight Coral Sea Resort or similar (BL)

[Papua New Guinea] Day 21: Honiara – Port Moresby – Mount Hagen

Transfer to the airport for your flight to Mount Hagen, via Port Moresby. On arrival to Mount Hagen you will be transferred to your hotel. Overnight McRoyal Mount Hagen or similar (B)

Flight Schedule (subject to change)

Honiara to Port Moresby Dep. 11:30 Arv. 12:50 Air Niugini – PX85

Port Moresby to Mount Hagen Dep. 15:20 Arv. 16:20 Air Niugini – PX188



Rediscover the
meaning of travel

Day 22: Mount Hagen – Mountain Tribes and Villages

Mount Hagen, the heart of the PNG highlands is famed for its fertile lands and mountain ranges, is home of the Melpa tribes. Today a journey through the traditions and customs of the Melpa people. The tour will bring you to local villages where the villagers will share their tribal traditions and daily customs. This area is also the home of the famous Polga mudmen, known for their unique bilas (traditional dress) and the ancient story that surrounds it. Also visit the iconic Huli people at their local settlement in Mount Hagen. The Huli as their art, body decoration, face painting and human hair decorated with feathers, flowers and moss. These famous highland people are admired for their vibrant and colourfully decorate hair wigs and bilas Overnight McRoyal Mount Hagen or similar (BL)

Day 23: Western Highlands

Today take a cultural tour through the Western Highlands, visiting Avi Village known for the skeleton painting and their ritual dance performance. We will also visit Kopeng and Kolkui villages (please note that village visits may be changed very last minute to to events that may happen in the village such as a death or marriage. Visitors are not allowed into the village when this occurs and alternative arrangements will be made should this happen). Overnight McRoyal Mount Hagen or similar (BL)

Day 24: Mount Hagen - Port Moresby

This morning transfer to the airport for a short flight to Port Moresby. On arrival we take a city tour before heading to our hotel. The first stop is the National Museum and Art Gallery. We then visit the Nature Park to see the Bird of Paradise (national symbol) and other different species. Take a short boat trip around the stilt villages of Hanuabada, and from APEC house we head to the hotel, taking in all points of interest en route including House of Parliament and University of Papua New Guinea. Overnight Holiday Inn Resort or similar (B)

Flight Schedule (subject to change)

Mount Hagen to Port Moresby Dep. 10:00 Arv. 11:15 Air Niugini – PX181

Day 25: Port Moresby

Today travel to Sogeri via the Bomana war cemetery, waterfalls and scenic lookout points. After lunch (at own expense) visit Sirinumu dam and National Park before returning to the hotel. Overnight Holiday Inn Resort or similar (B)

[Fiji] Day 26: Nadi

A very early transfer to the airport for a flight to Brisbane with an onward connection to Nadi. Overnight Tanoa International Hotel or similar.

Flight Schedule (subject to change)

Port Moresby to Brisbane	Dep 06:30	Arv. 09:40	Air Niugini – PX003
Connection in Brisbane			
Brisbane to Nadi	Dep. 11:35	Arv. 17:10	Fiji Airways – FJ920

Day 27: Departure

You will be transferred to the airport for your departure flight. (B)



Rediscover the
meaning of travel

Tour Inclusions/Exclusions

Inclusions:

Arrival and departure transfers

All accommodation

Transport throughout

Services of local English-speaking guides (*please note that the group will travel unaccompanied between each island state. A local guide will be allocated in each island state for all sightseeing and excursions*)

All regional flights – as referred to in the itinerary

Meals as listed (B – Breakfast, L – Lunch, D – Dinner)

Entrance fees for sites listed as part of the itinerary

Excluded:

International flights – to/from Nadi, Fiji, to coincide with the start and end of the tour

Items of a personal nature

Travel Insurance

Visas, if required

Drinks

Tips (discretionary)

Covid-19 test/s and related procedures, if required

Important Information

Foreign Office Travel Warnings

We constantly monitor the advice posted by the British Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO). In particular we will always advise clients of any travel warnings. At the time of writing the Foreign and Commonwealth Office does not advise against travel to any of the countries or areas that we visit on this tour.

It should be noted that this information applies to British citizens. Other nationals are asked to check the current position of their respective government.

Accommodation and Meals

Hotel Check-in Times

As a general rule most hotels will allow guests to check-in from 2pm. Please note that the price of your tour does not include guaranteed early check-in. Therefore, please advise us if you would like to ensure that your room is available for an earlier arrival. This is particularly relevant on the first day of the tour and for early morning arrivals. One option is to pre-book and pay for an extra night at the beginning of your tour which will guarantee your accommodation is available irrespective of what time you arrive. Please contact us for information and costs.

It should also be noted that on many of our tours we have set-aside Day 1 of the itinerary as an 'arrival day'. For this reason and because tour participants are likely to be arriving at different times, and often from different countries, guided sightseeing or other activities are not included. If you are arriving early or before the start date of the tour and would like to organise some extra arrangements on a private basis, please contact us.

Accommodation Rating





Rediscover the
meaning of travel

On this tour we use mostly clean, simple but comfortable hotels and resorts. Rooms will be with an en-suite, private bathroom, with the exception of our stay on North Tarawa, Kiribati (see below). Each hotel/resort will offer a restaurant and bar facilities. And at certain properties you will find other facilities including a swimming pool.

Please note that the accommodation on North Tarawa, Kiribati is more basic. At the Tabon Te Keekee Lodge we will stay in traditional style buias (bungalows). Each bungalow is a wooden structure with a thatched roof and raised floor, ideally suited to the island climate with cooling ocean breezes and shade. There is a mix of land-based lagoon view buias and overwater buias, and we cannot guarantee a land or over-water buia before arrival. Bathroom facilities are shared on land.

We welcome solo travellers and single rooms will be allocated subject to the applicable tour supplement. Please note that on occasions you may not always be allocated a double or twin room, as some hotels have designated single rooms. These may be smaller in size. However, the supplement payable takes this into consideration.

Food & Drink

The daily meal basis is shown in the tour itinerary; breakfast (B), lunch (L) and dinner (D). Please note that lunch may be a picnic. Drinks are not included and will be payable locally in cash.

Dietary Requirements

If you have any special dietary requirements, you must notify us at the time of booking. While we will make every effort to cater for you, we cannot guarantee that this will be possible.

Budgeting for your Tour

You will need some extra money to cover meals and drinks not included in the tour price, any optional sightseeing, souvenirs, and items of a personal nature such as laundry.

Food

The costs for meals may vary depending upon location, type of restaurant and number of courses eaten and so the prices given are an average guide. Local restaurants located off the beaten track may be less expensive, whereas an upmarket restaurant located in the centre of a major city may charge more.

Fiji / New Caledonia / Vanuatu / Solomon Islands / Kiribati / Samoa

2 course lunch or dinner – AUD 40

Papua New Guinea

3 course lunch or dinner – AUD 40

Drinks

The prices for drinks can vary greatly depending upon location and the prices detailed below are an average guide. In general, you would expect that drinks purchased in a supermarket or local bar to be less expensive, whilst drinks in an upmarket bar or restaurant may be more expensive.

Fiji / Kiribati / Samoa

Bottle of local beer – AUD 4

Small bottle of water – AUD 2

New Caledonia

Bottle of local beer - AUD 10

Small bottle of water – AUD 4



Rediscover the
meaning of travel

Vanuatu / Solomon Islands

Bottle of local beer – AUD 7

Small bottle of water – AUD 3

Papua New Guinea

Bottle of local beer – AUD 4

Small bottle of water – AUD 1

Tipping – Guide and Drivers

Tipping is NOT a common practice in the region; however, if you feel that the experience merits a tip then it will be greatly appreciated.

Foreign Exchange

Fiji

ATM Availability: ATM machines are common in most urban areas

Credit and Debit Card Acceptance: Cards are widely accepted in hotels, lodges and restaurants

Local Currency: Fiji dollar

Recommended Currency for Exchange: The easiest currency to exchange is the Australian dollar

Where to Exchange: At the airport or bank

New Caledonia

ATM Availability: Available in Noumea and most small towns

Credit and Debit Card Acceptance: Cards are generally accepted in the main hotels and higher end restaurants

Local Currency: French Pacific franc

Recommended Currency for Exchange: The easiest currency to exchange is the Australian dollar or the Euro

Where to Exchange: At the airport or your guide will offer advice

Vanuatu

ATM Availability: Available in Port Vila

Credit and Debit Card Acceptance: Cards are generally accepted in the main hotels and higher end restaurants.

Local Currency: Vatu

Recommended Currency for Exchange: The easiest currency to exchange is the Australian dollar

Where to Exchange: At the airport or local currency can be obtained from an ATM

Solomon Islands

ATM Availability: Available in Honiara

Credit and Debit Card Acceptance: Cards are generally accepted in the main hotels and higher end restaurants.

Local Currency: Solomon dollar

Recommended Currency for Exchange: The easiest currency to exchange is the Australian dollar

Where to Exchange: At the airport or local currency can be obtained from an ATM

Papua New Guinea

ATM Availability: Available in major cities

Credit and Debit Card Acceptance: Cards are generally accepted in top-end hotels, higher end restaurants and some shops in larger cities and towns.

Local Currency: Papua New Guinean Kina



Rediscover the
meaning of travel

Recommended Currency for Exchange: US dollars.

Where to Exchange: Your guide will offer advice.

Kiribati

ATM Availability: A small number of ATMs are available.

Credit and Debit Card Acceptance: Cards are generally accepted in the main hotels.

Local Currency: Australian dollar

Recommended Currency for Exchange: It is advisable to travel with Australian dollars

Where to Exchange: It is best to have AUD cash with you. Your guide will offer advice.

Samoa

ATM Availability: A small number of ATMs are available in Apia.

Credit and Debit Card Acceptance: Cards are generally accepted in the main hotels and higher end restaurants

Local Currency: Samoa Tala

Recommended Currency for Exchange: Australian dollar or US dollar

Where to Exchange: At the airport or your guide will offer advice

Joining your Tour

Flight Information

Our advertised prices do not include the cost of international flights. Please contact us if you would like a quotation to book a 'flight inclusive' package.

Joining Tour Abroad

Customers booked on the 'Land Only' arrangements will receive an airport transfer, both on arrival and departure include in the tour price. In order that the transfer can be arranged please ensure that you advise us of your flight information once available. Please advise the date, time, and flight number for your arrival/departure. If we have not been advised of this information at least 2 weeks before travel, then you will be required to make your own way to the hotel on Day 1 of your tour.

Internal Flights

Flights between the islands are booked by our local team. You will be sent the flight confirmations with your final travel documents.

Travel Insurance

It is a condition of booking with Undiscovered Destinations that you have adequate valid travel insurance. It is your responsibility to arrange appropriate travel insurance and ensure you have read and understood the full terms and conditions of your travel insurance policy to ensure that you are covered for all activities you intend to undertake whilst on the tour, including all optional activities. Your Insurance Policy must fully cover you for medical expenses and emergency repatriation to your home country and be valid for the entire duration of your holiday.

Visa Information

Please note that all information is provided for guidance only and is subject to change.

Fiji

UK, US, Canadian, Australian and most EU citizens do not require a visa for a stay of up to 4 months.



Rediscover the
meaning of travel

New Caledonia / Solomon Islands

UK, US, Canadian, Australian and most EU citizens do not require a visa for a stay of up to 3 months.

Vanuatu / Kiribati

UK, US, Canadian, Australian and most EU citizens do not require a visa for a stay of up to 30 days.

Samoa

UK, US, Canadian, Australian and most EU citizens do not require a visa for a stay of up to 60 days.

Papua New Guinea

Most nationalities require a visa for Papua New Guinea, which is an evisa – most passport holders can apply for an easy visitor permit for either 20 days or 60 days. Please visit <https://evisa.ica.gov.pg/evisa/account/Apply> for more information and to apply.

If you need a cover letter, this will be provided by Undiscovered Destinations.

Please note that you may be asked to produce a return or onward ticket as a condition of entry to most of the countries covered on this tour. We recommend that you have proof of your travel arrangements and a copy of this tour dossier to hand, ready to produce to the immigration authorities.

As regulations can frequently change, it is the responsibility of all travellers to check the very latest requirements at the time of booking, upon making any balance payments and again no later than four weeks before departure. For further details please visit the applicable website shown below.

British Nationals - www.gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice

US Nationals - <https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/international-travel.html>

Australian Nationals - www.smartraveller.gov.au/

Other nationals should check the latest requirements with the authorities in their home country, or with the destination's nearest embassy or consulate.

Passports

It is your responsibility to ensure that you are in possession of a full passport, valid for at least six months beyond the end date of this tour.

We strongly advise that your passport contains a minimum of one blank page per country to be visited.

For specific information about the requirements for each destination please check with the nearest embassy or consulate. Alternatively, UK citizens can visit www.gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice.

Vaccinations & Protection

We strongly recommend that you contact your doctor's surgery or a specialist travel clinic for up-to-date information, advice, and the necessary vaccinations.

For a visit of less than one month, almost certainly you will be advised to have immunisations against the following: Diphtheria and Tetanus, Hepatitis A, Typhoid, Meningitis. Anti-malaria medication may also be required for some of the countries visited on this tour, including Vanuatu and the Solomon Islands and the use of a DEET-containing insect repellent is highly recommended.



Rediscover the
meaning of travel

Under International Health Regulations, a yellow fever vaccination certificate is required from travellers over 1 year of age arriving from countries with risk of yellow fever transmission and for travellers having transited for more than 12 hours through an airport of a country with risk of yellow fever transmission.

The legal status and regulation of some medicines prescribed or purchased in your home country can be different in other countries. If you're travelling with prescription or over-the-counter medicine, read this guidance from NaTHNaC on [best practice when travelling with medicines](#). For further information on the legal status of a specific medicine, you'll need to contact the embassy, high commission or consulate of the country or territory you're travelling to.

Covid Vaccination Requirement

At the time of writing, as a condition of entry to at least some of the countries visited on this tour, you must be fully vaccinated against Covid-19, and you will be required to provide the necessary proof. For further details and to check the specific requirements for each destination please follow the links given below.

British Nationals - www.gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice

US Nationals - <https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/international-travel.html>

Australian Nationals - www.smartraveller.gov.au/

Other nationals should check the latest requirements with the authorities in their home country, or with the destination's nearest embassy or consulate.

Preparing for your tour

Climate

Covering such a wide area across the Pacific Ocean, the islands we visit on this tour have a variety of weather. In general, we schedule the tours at a time of year when we can be reasonably sure of avoiding any significant rainfall. The climate can generally be described as tropical in this part of the world, but the cooling sea breezes prevent really extreme temperatures and humidity. In most cases temperatures of around 25°C to 30°C can be expected.

Although local weather patterns have changed in the past 20 years, making conditions less predictable, local residents recognise a cooler and more comfortable dry season during the austral winter, from May to October. The winter trade wind blows fairly steadily during these months, bringing generally fine tropical weather throughout most of the region. The austral summer from November through April is the warmer and more humid wet season. Low-pressure troughs and tropical depressions can bring several days of rain at a time, especially from December to February, when we would advise against travel. However, usually heavy rain showers are followed by periods of intense sunshine. This is also the season for tropical cyclones (hurricanes), which can be devastating and should never be taken lightly.

Safety Perception in the South Pacific

The South Pacific Islands are generally safer travel destinations than most places in the world, and the locals are some of the friendliest you'll ever meet. But, as when travelling anywhere on the planet, it pays to use a little common sense. Exercise normal safety and security precautions as you travel around the South Pacific. General travel advice in parts of the Pacific can be as socially conservative – particularly outside the tourist and resort areas.



Rediscover the
meaning of travel

Even in the larger cities, assaults and violent crime are uncommon, but they do occur. Play it safe when walking around at night: stick to well-lit areas where there are other people are hanging around and avoid situations where you might be vulnerable.

You won't see many local ladies travelling solo, but the South Pacific is generally a safe and respectful region for visiting women to navigate alone.

Clothing

When it comes to clothing it is usually recommended that lighter clothes are worn through the day, and warmer ones at night. A hat is also advised to be worn through the day to protect from the sun, along with at least one piece of waterproof clothing for any days that the weather may be wet or windy.

Equipment

The first thing on your list should be a first aid kit. Whilst there is no undue cause for alarm, travellers are best advised to travel well-prepared: adequately immunized, with sufficient supplies of prescription drugs, along with a medical kit. Suncream/sunblock is a must. Insect repellent, including a bite spray is essential for parts of this tour.

Footwear

Comfortable footwear is a must on this tour. We would also recommend taking a pair of reef shoes. Sandals are okay for travelling.

Luggage on tour

Your luggage should not exceed 20kgs (44lbs). One large suitcase/rucksack, and one small hand luggage rucksack is acceptable.

Electric Supply & Plugs

Most of the countries which we visit on this tour use a plug that has two flat pins in a V-shape as well as a grounding pin. This is the same as used in Australia. You should travel with the appropriate adaptors.

Tour Itinerary Versions

Please ensure that you have an up-to-date copy of these tour notes immediately before you travel, as from time to time our itineraries may be amended, either for operational reasons or in response to feedback from customers. You will be informed of any major changes to your tour, but small changes may just be added to these tour notes. These notes were updated 9 May 2023.