

Trip to Fiji. August 2026

We booked a 1 week package holiday in Fiji before we knew that we were moving house. Renovations started on the day we were booked to leave for Fiji, but everything was pretty well organised so off we flew!

Monday August 3. To Fiji.

We flew Fijian Airways from Wellington to Nadi, arriving at 9pm. At the airport we were met by My Fiji staff, and given a welcome pack including essentials like a sun hat, beach ball and sunscreen. We were then taken by bus to the Naviti Resort on the Coral Coast (a 2 hour journey). After a typical warm Fiji welcome (Bula), we were shown to Room 302, a large and comfortable ocean view room. Our My Holidays package includes lots of different activities and a food allowance.

Tuesday August 4.

After breakfast at the Nukunuku buffet we explored the Naviti Resort and made bookings for all of our trips and activities. The resort is huge and is fully booked, mainly by Australians and New Zealanders.



In the afternoon we had a rest by the pool, wandered around the resort then walked at low tide over to Golf Island. We had a (basic and expensive) room service meal, then watched the evening entertainment - lovely singing and dancing.

Wednesday August 5.

We were picked up early and taken into Sigatoka - about 1/2 an hour away. After registration we were driven up river to join the Sigatoka River Safari - Fiji's premier tourist experience. It was superb! We went up river by jet boat, stopping occasionally to learn about the people who lived in the villages beside the river. Those on one side have a road so they can get to Sigatoka, but those on the other side have to cross the river for everything, including getting the kids to school. They cross the river by wading, swimming or on a horse. A few villages have a boat.



We stopped at Toga village, which is on the 'other side of the river'. The houses are very primitive but they do have power at times during the day, and have water piped down from the surrounding mountains. The villagers were just so warm, friendly and happy to have us visit. We were welcomed to the village with a kava ceremony then shown around. In the church they explained that in the old days they used to be cannibals but now because they are Christians the people, clans and villages live together in peace. Back in the community hall they put on a feast for us from the lomu (like a hangi), followed by singing and dancing. The village experience was the best we have ever experienced because it was so authentic and non touristified. We returned back to base on the jet boat, complete with a few 360s so we all got wet through!



Back at the Naviti we had a walk around the golf course, had dinner at the Grill and then watched another outdoor Polynesian cultural performance. A wonderful day!!

Thursday August 6.

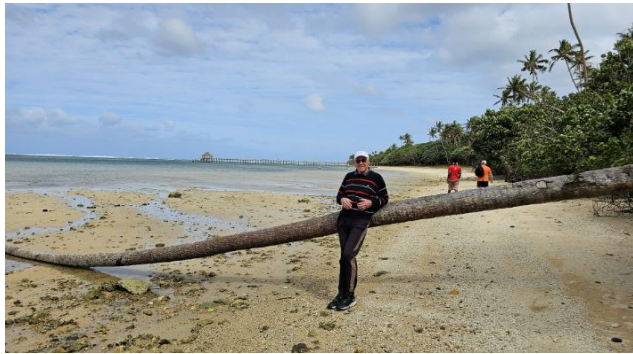
It was cold and wet so our planned snorkelling trip was cancelled. This meant the golf course was pretty much empty so Ross played 9 holes. The course is rough but tricky and Ross played really well and shot 34. Dinner was at the Grill.



Friday August 7.

A great day. In the morning we wandered through the neighbouring village and had some lovely chats to the local people. We then carried on walking along the beach to Maui Bay where there was a supermarket. Ross's hat blew into the sea when we were on the pier so he made a new one out of a McDonalds burger carton and a bandana and string we found on the beach. Real Castaway stuff! Our planned boat trip was cancelled due to the wind so we had swim (cold) and lazed around the pool. In the evening we had dinner at the Bamboo Hutt Chinese restaurant.





Saturday August 8.

A quieter day. Unfortunately our coral viewing, cruise around the bay, and snorkeling have been cancelled each day so far, due to wind and sea conditions. After wandering around the resort in the morning we decided to do some water activities anyway. First we canoed around the bay, then hired an aqua trike, something we had never done before.



In the evening we had dinner at the Talie Restaurant. It was expensive, with disappointing food quality, but the singing was lovely.

Sunday August 9.

In the morning we went to the church in the village next door, and were welcomed and cared for by Lucy, a friend we made the day before. The singing was amazing! We had a nice sandwich for lunch via room service, went for a lovely walk along the main road, and then went for two short cruises out into the lagoon. The first was to see the coral through the glass bottom of the boat - a bit like dry snorkelling. A highlight was seeing a pod of dolphins swimming beside the boat. The second cruise took us a little further out into the bay. Dinner was rather disappointing room service and then we packed up ready for our early morning departure for the airport.



Monday August 10.

We were picked up at 6am by our driver and had a most interesting trip into the airport in Nadi. Kathy chatted to Dan, a university lecturer who came with us,

Ross chatted to Zaheel, about setting up a tour business. We had a side stop at the Crowne Plaza at Wailoaloa Beach, next door to the Smugglers Cove where we stayed in 2013. There has been lots of development since then, much of it financed by the Chinese. We checked in smoothly and were soon on our way back to Wellington.

Highlights of our week in Fiji were

- Interacting with the local people, especially in the villages
- Managing Ross's back which was quite painful at times.
- The Sigatoka River Safari - a wonderful tourist experience
- The various activities offered by the Naviti, especially the golf, the cultural shows and the bay cruises.

The Naviti resort was quite good, but the Coral Coast is a long way from Nadi, and the resort food was expensive and relatively basic. It would have been better to have the all inclusive package, and next time we will look to stay around Nadi, perhaps in the beautiful Wailoaloa Beach area.

Bula Fiji, and vinaka for giving us yet another lovely holiday.

