

Family Fun Fiji TODAY

Travel Today Feature

23 September 2011



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Travel Today Feature P1



Shangri-La Number One

Shangri-La's Fijian Resort & Spa has, for the fifth consecutive year, been named the top resort for families in Fiji in the annual *Holidays with Kids* magazine survey. Situated on its own private island, Yanuca, off the Coral Coast, the resort has numerous activities for children including the Marine Education Centre where children can build their own fish houses, and is renowned for its friendly staff. Up to two children under 18 can stay and eat for free at the resort, while the Little Chief's kids club is free for children between four and 12, making it an affordable option for families.

Fijian Babysitters Best In Business

Closeness, affordability and climate are the obvious selling points that have made Fiji one of New Zealand's key destinations for families—but what parents and children remember about their Fijian holiday, and what keeps them coming back, is the unique Fijian affinity with children.

Visit any family-friendly Fijian resort and you'll see children being entertained by Fijian nannies and kids clubs—wandering the beach looking for crabs, learning Fijian arts and crafts or playing a game of rugby—leaving mum and dad to relax.

A Fijian will naturally pick up a crying child or scoop yours out of your arms for a cuddle, says Tourism Fiji's Sala Toganivalu.

"Fijians love children to bits. They become part of their own family, and that makes all the difference."

For agents on a family-focused fam to Fiji earlier this year, that unique relationship was a key stand-out of the trip and the top thing they felt families would take away with them. By the way proud parents filled up their cameras with pictures of their tiny children performing traditional war dances next to Fijian warriors, it was clearly going to be a stand-out of theirs too.

"Treasure Islands kids club welcomed us in song—how cute was that! It's great that they are included



and all the other activities would ensure children leave Fiji having had a wonderful time," says travel agent Tanya Gurtin.

"I Didn't Know . . ."

What agents learnt on Tourism Fiji's family fam.



"One of the stand-out things for me was the lovely beach at Plantation Island. I hadn't been there before but have sold it a lot, and it was good to know that low tide doesn't mean there is NO water—there is still enough to kayak and swim and it still looks lovely." Anne Moore, Harvey World Travel Pukekohe (above right with travel agent Tanya Gurtin).



Affordable Fun At Plantation Island

Plantation Island Resort in the Mamanuca Islands is continually rated as one of the most family-friendly in Fiji, and this year came third in the *Holidays with Kids* magazine awards. From an impressive indoor playground to 7km of safe beach on their doorstep, children are well catered for in the resort. One of their big selling points is affordability—particularly with the existence of two mini-supermarkets on the island, meaning it is easy to prepare a snack for children rather than a full meal.



FAMILY GETAWAYS TO FIJI

PLANTATION ISLAND RESORT ★★★

STAY 6 NIGHTS IN A HOTEL ROOM + ONE NIGHT PRE OR POST AT RAFFLES GATEWAY HOTEL

FROM **\$1,249*** | **\$437^**
PER ADULT | PER CHILD

Includes FJ\$200 Food & Beverage credit per room per stay and a FREE upgrade (subject to availability). Up to 2 children under 12yrs eat FREE (conditions apply) and receive FREE Malolo Cat transfers.

Valid for travel:
21 Oct – 26 Nov 11
& 10 Jan – 31 Mar 12



SHANGRI-LA's FIJIAN RESORT & SPA ★★★★★

STAY 5 NIGHTS IN A LAGOONVIEW ROOM

FROM **\$1,229*** | **\$427^**
PER ADULT | PER CHILD

Includes full American breakfast daily for 2 adults. Up to 2 children under 12 yrs stay, play and eat FREE (conditions apply).

Valid for travel:
17 Oct – 05 Dec 11
& 16 Jan – 31 Mar 12



*Price based on twin share from Auckland. ^Child prices are based on one or two children of 2-11 years sharing a twin room with 2 adults. Price includes Return Economy Class airfares from Auckland flying Air Pacific, return airport transfers, accommodation and bonuses as specified.

CALL GO HOLIDAYS NOW ON 09 914 4002 FOR FULL DETAILS!

AIR PACIFIC
Fiji's International Airline





Family Fun Fiji TODAY

Travel Today Feature P2



Turtles On Treasure

Baby hawksbill turtles are being raised on Treasure Island in Fiji following the recent hatching of 126 eggs. The baby turtles are a huge drawcard, particularly with families. Children learn about animals while in the kids club (free for ages four-12), as well as taking part in plenty of Fijian cultural activities like traditional dance and preparing a lovo. Treasure Island has stay, play and eat free deals.

Added Low-Season Value

If clients are flexible, it may be worth suggesting they travel outside of school holidays. Many resorts have noticed an increase in families escaping the crowds and taking advantage of out-of-season deals by heading over during school term time. "It's more one-on-one with the nannies, more time in the kids club, and it's probably more value for money," says Tourism Fiji's Sala Toganivalu.

Affordable Fiji's Affordable Family Fun

With tightening budgets, many resorts in Fiji have recognised the importance of offering competitive deals for families, and offer stay, play and eat free deals.

For parents looking for a no-fuss option, this is one of the easiest approaches—children are cared for, entertained and fed, leaving mum and dad to relax. It also means they are not stung with a huge bill at the end of their stay.

Even if parents opt not to use kids clubs, it is generally easy to entertain children in Fiji for little money—just point them towards a beach.

If clients are the type who like to be more in control of their budget, there are some resorts available which offer self-cooking facilities.

On the mainland, supermarkets are generally easily accessible as are restaurants. This is one of the reasons Denarau Island, with its choice in eating options, is popular. There are also usually markets selling fruit and veges such as the one in Sigatoka on the Coral Coast—another low-cost option for a family day out. When staying out on the islands, options are slightly more limited, al-



though some islands such as Malolo Lailai (home to Musket Cove and Plantation Island resorts) do have mini-supermarkets.



Feed The Family At First

One of the big advantages of First Landing Resort is the villas and garden burees, which have enough room for the whole family and come with their own cooking facilities—right down to microwaves for heating up a baby's bottle. The resort is also close to Nadi, giving easy access to supermarkets. Although First Landing does not have a dedicated kids club, there are endless activities for children, including fishing, jewellery making and nature walks. To really impress clients, try and book the villa which Christina Aguilera, Pink and Prince Charles have stayed in.



Top Water Slide At Radisson

Radisson Blu Resort Denarau Island is home to Fiji's only white water tunnel water slide, a huge hit with children who also can't resist the four swimming lagoons (there is a fifth just for adults). Children under 12 stay free in existing bedding at the resort, and there are DVD players to keep them entertained in the evenings or on rare rainy days. The kids club caters to children aged four to 12, and costs vary depending on the child's age. Shops and restaurants (other than what is available at the resort) are all nearby at the marina.



FIRST LANDING BEACH RESORT

★★★★

STAY 5 NIGHTS IN A GARDEN BUREE

FROM \$1,079* | \$431^
PER ADULT PER CHILD

Includes continental breakfast daily PLUS a complimentary full day trip to Treasure Island Resort for up to two people only (conditions apply). Up to two children under 12 years stay for FREE when sharing a room with two adults using existing bedding.

Valid for travel:
01 Oct – 05 Dec 11
& 07 Jan – 31 Mar 12



TREASURE ISLAND RESORT

★★★★

STAY 5 NIGHTS IN AN ISLAND BUREE
+ ONE NIGHT PRE AND POST AT
TANOA INTERNATIONAL HOTEL

FROM \$1,509* | \$461^
PER ADULT PER CHILD

Includes a FJ\$200 Resort Credit per room PLUS up to two children aged 12 years and under stay, play and eat for FREE! For an additional \$79 per adult per day receive breakfast, lunch and dinner daily.

Valid for travel:
27 Oct – 05 Dec 11
& 15 Jan – 31 Mar 12



RADISSON BLU RESORT FIJI DENARAU ISLAND

★★★★★

STAY 5 NIGHTS IN A CLASSIC
GUESTROOM

FROM \$1,105* | \$417^
PER ADULT PER CHILD

Up to two children under 12 years stay for FREE when sharing a room with adults using existing bedding.

Valid for travel:
06 Nov – 05 Dec 11
& 07 Jan – 31 Mar 12

Travel 01-29 Oct 11
from \$1209* per adult &
\$417* per child.



*Price based on twin share from Auckland. ^ Child prices are based on one or two children of 2-11 years sharing a twin room with 2 adults. Price includes Return Economy Class airfares from Auckland flying Air Pacific, return airport transfers, accommodation and bonuses as specified.

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Family Fun Fiji TODAY

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Anchorage Child Focus

The Anchorage Beach Resort is hoping to attract family business with child-friendly deals and a new kids club, says new manager Shareen Dau. The kids club is for children aged three to 13, and children below 12 stay free. "It's something we're bringing in with a new campaign to bring in more family-orientated business," says Dau. The resort traditionally receives pre- and post- guests, but is looking to become more of a holiday destination.

Kids Club Hours

Kids clubs generally run for about eight hours, from around 0900-1700. Some resorts will break the sessions up while others have the clubs running all day. For after hours care, babysitters are usually available.

Culture And Games At The Kids Clubs

Parents can drop their children at any Fijian kids club—offered at most family-friendly resorts—safe in the knowledge that their children won't just be swimming or colouring in.

The clubs offer a huge range of activities under the watchful eye of Fijian nannies, and children often learn about the Fijian culture and the environment while they are there.

Arts, crafts and games are the obvious activities, but there is also generally something a little different like watermelon smashing and hermit-crab racing.

The environmental and cultural activities are also always popular. Many resorts have marine centres or conservation programmes, and children can plant coral, make homes for fish and learn about marine life.

Some visit local villages and schools and most will teach Fijian song and



dance, which is often later performed for adults at the resorts—a must-see for any visitor to Fiji, not just mum and dad.

"I Didn't Know..."

What agents learnt on Tourism Fiji's family fam.



"Take colouring-in books for the kids to keep them busy while waiting for water-taxis or flights." *Shane Ogg.*

Fijian Kids Clubs

What's The Age Limit?

Most clubs cater for children aged from three or four (although Sofitel's club caters to two-year-olds) to around 12, although some have separate clubs for older children.

They range in price—many are free but others charge either a one-off payment (usually to cover the cost of a gift such as a t-shirt) or a daily rate—it's worth checking with resorts.

Littlies Babysitting

Children under the minimum age are welcome to join in with kids clubs but need a babysitter. Costs usually range from FJD4 to FJD8.50 an hour, with some resorts giving a certain number of hours free. This is the same whether they join the kids club or take part in other activities with their babysitter.



Fun And Tradition At Mana

There is a big focus on traditional Fijian culture at Mana Island Resort & Spa's two kids clubs for children aged three to 12 and 12-16. As well as popular games like frog races and rugby, children have a go at environmental activities like coral planting and turtle releasing, go on bush walks and meet children from a nearby village. Mana's kids clubs are FJD25 per child per stay, while clients staying for five days or more receive five hours a day free baby sitting at the Mei Mei Centre for children under three.



TAKE THE KIDS TO FIJI

ANCHORAGE BEACH RESORT

★★★

STAY 5 NIGHTS IN AN OCEANVIEW SPA ROOM

FROM **\$799*** | **\$417^**

PER ADULT

PER CHILD

Includes continental breakfast daily for 2 adults, a day trip for 2 adults to Beachcomber Island on day of choice & one welcome drink on arrival. Up to 2 children under 12 years stay FREE when sharing a room with adults using existing bedding.

Valid for travel:
01 Oct – 05 Dec 11 &
07 Jan – 31 Mar 12.



MANA ISLAND RESORT AND SPA

★★★★

STAY 5 NIGHTS IN AN ISLAND BURE
+ ONE NIGHT PRE AND POST AT TANOA
INTERNATIONAL HOTEL

FROM **\$1,419*** | **\$475^**

PER ADULT

PER CHILD

Includes FJD200 credit per room per stay PLUS up to two children aged 12 years and under stay and eat FREE from the buffet menu when dining with a full paying adult.



Valid for travel:
25 Oct – 28 Nov 11,
11-19 Jan 12 &
01 Feb – 31 Mar 12.

AIR PACIFIC
Fiji's International Airline



*Price based on twin share from Auckland. ^ Child prices are based on one or two children of 2-11 years sharing a twin room with 2 adults. Price includes Return Economy Class fares from Auckland flying Air Pacific, return airport transfers, accommodation and bonuses as specified.

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Family Fun Fiji TODAY

Travel Today Feature P4



Nannies At Outrigger

Outrigger on the Lagoon Fiji expanded its popular Meimei Nanny Service in Jul due to its unprecedented success. First introduced last year with six fully trained Meimeis, the service has now grown to 26 nannies. The Meimei service allows parents time to totally relax while children immerse themselves in Fijian culture under their nanny's watchful eye. Four consecutive days of care for children aged 6 months to 12 years costs AUD161 per child. There are also Outrigger kids clubs for three to 12-year-olds.

Family Cruising

Cruise-y Family Fun In Fiji

Another family-friendly Fiji holiday option is to experience the destination on a cruise ship—they have plenty of activities to keep children occupied, meals are taken care of and once again the Fijian crew bring their unique way with children to the ship.

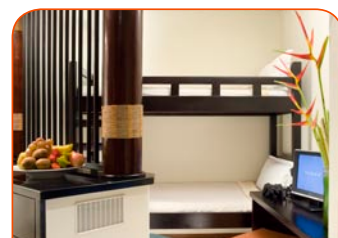
"The hospitality and everything is so well catered for families, and you've got fantastic Fijian staff who really love children," says GO Holidays cruising product development manager Lisa Johansen.

As guests will spend a lot of time off the ship swimming, snorkelling and exploring islands, there is no dedicated kids club on Blue Lagoon or Captain Cook cruise ships. However there are certain times of the day when children can be dropped off for child-minding, and babysitters are available.

As with resorts, activities onboard generally include cultural and traditional options, while Captain Cook guests are taken to visit remote villages to meet local school children—who they often become pen pals with, says local rep Anne Radonich. There is also equipment such as snorkelling gear and canoes, and an advantage of being on a ship is that it can access largely untouched coral reefs.



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Movies At Sofitel

Sofitel Fiji Resort and Spa has introduced movies on the green, a free event for guests every Wed and Sat evening during the school holidays. It sets out big screens, oversized cushions and woven mats, and has free popcorn for guests. Children dine free at Sofitel and have the choice of several restaurants. Accommodation choices include family rooms with bunks and playstations, and inter-connecting rooms are available. The kids club is FJD25 per day, ages two to 12, with babysitting FJD8 an hour.



Value At Castaway

Castaway Island Resort is a higher-end resort but still offers great value for families—on top of its free kids club, families who travel between Nov and Mar receive a value added meal bonus (some blackouts apply). Pay FJD300 per adult and FJD150 for children and receive all meals through the entire duration of the stay, no matter how long. The Kids Club is open 0900-2100 and has a distinct island flavor. Other popular family features include a registered nurse on the island and a dedicated room with its own bathroom for those waiting for a late check-out.

... Higher Age Range

Radonich adds that an advantage of Captain Cook cruises is that their child fares extend to children up to 17 years old.



CASTAWAY ISLAND RESORT

★★★★★

STAY 5 NIGHTS IN AN ISLAND BURE
+ ONE NIGHT PRE AND POST AT
TANOA INTERNATIONAL HOTEL

FROM \$2,289* | \$471^
PER ADULT | PER CHILD

For a one time payment of FJS250 per adult and FJS125 per child (5-12 years) receive all meals daily (conditions apply). Up to two children under 12 years stay FREE when sharing a room with adults using existing bedding.

Valid for travel:
01 Nov - 05 Dec 11
& 18 Jan - 31 Mar 12.



SOFITEL FIJI RESORT & SPA

★★★★★

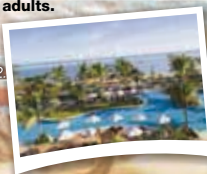
STAY 5 NIGHTS IN A CLASSIC RESORT ROOM

FROM \$1,319* | \$417^
PER ADULT | PER CHILD

Includes Sofitel champagne breakfast for two adults daily PLUS up to two children under 12 years receive FREE breakfast and dinner at the Lagoon Restaurant when dining with paying adults.

Valid for travel:
26 Oct - 05 Dec 11
& 06 Feb - 31 Mar 12.

Travel 01-11 Oct &
16-25 Oct 11 from
\$1419* per adult and
\$417* per child.



OUTRIGGER ON THE LAGOON FIJI

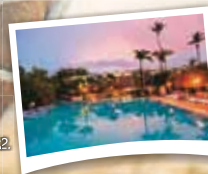
★★★★★

STAY 5 NIGHTS
IN A SUPERIOR RESORT VIEW ROOM

FROM \$1,275* | \$433^
PER ADULT | PER CHILD

Up to two children aged 12 years and under eat FREE from the resort buffets or kids menus (strict conditions apply).

Valid for travel:
10 Oct - 05 Dec 11
& 11 Jan - 31 Mar 12.



*Price based on twin share from Auckland. ^ Child prices are based on one or two children of 2-11 years sharing a twin room with 2 adults. Price includes Return Economy Class airfares from Auckland flying Air Pacific, return airport transfers, accommodation and bonuses as specified.

CALL GO HOLIDAYS NOW ON 09 914 4002 FOR FULL DETAILS!



Family Fun Fiji TODAY

Travel Today Feature P5

"I Didn't Know . . ."

What agents learnt on Tourism Fiji's family fam.

"It was really good to know that there are water taxis and transfers that can get clients out to islands 24 hours a day,"

Christy Jensen.



Fiji For Families Beyond The Kids Clubs

The kids clubs are amazing but when it comes down to it most families aim to spend some time together and may want to know what kind of activities are available.

The options vary depending on where clients are staying, especially whether it is on the islands or mainland.

On the islands clients are slightly limited to what is offered at the resort—however this usually includes a vast array of equipment from snorkelling to kayaking, as well as tours to nearby villages and islands. The islands also have the advantage of gorgeous beaches and snorkelling right on clients' doorsteps.

For adventurous clients, the Coral



Coast on the mainland has something a little different with plenty of walks to waterfalls and historical sites, as well as activities like horse riding. It is also home to Natadola Beach, which in the past has been voted the best in the world, and the Kula Eco Park.

Denarau Island (which is 10 minutes from Nadi and does not actually require a boat to get to) has a full range of activities other than what is available at resorts, including tennis, shopping and adrenalin watersports. To see white sandy beaches, day cruises and short trips out to the islands can be booked at nearby Port Denarau marina. Nadi town also offers further shopping and dining options.

Children will love the bright colours of the Sri Siva Subramaniya temple in Nadi, the largest Hindu temple in the Southern Hemisphere. The temple is found at the end of Main St and was built and decorated by artisans from India.

The mainland also offers the advantage of supermarkets to pick up the ingredients for a cheap picnic lunch.



Affordable Luxury

Staying at Sheraton Fiji Resort, Fiji's only five-star resort complex, may be more affordable than clients realise—up to two children under 12 stay, play and eat free. Sheraton's Lai Lai Kids Club activities range from language lessons to fish feeding. Under fours need a babysitter, which are FJD20 for the first three hours then FJD6 an hour following. All of the amenities of Denarau Island are close by—if clients can drag the kids away from the resort's five pools.



Armstrong Now For Kids

Musket Cove Island Resort and Marina recently changed the policy for its popular two-bedroom Armstrong Villas to allow children as young as five, while families with younger children are welcome in the resort's remaining villas. Although it does not have its own kids club, Musket shares an island with Plantation Island Resort and children are welcome to use the facilities for FJD16 per child per day. Babysitters are FJD4.50 an hour. With a supermarket within the resort and barbecues for hire, Musket is an affordable option for feeding large families.

Cruise For The Day

Day tours with Captain Cook leave from and return to Denarau. Cruise to island paradise Tivua where everything is free except spa and diving facilities. Included is a snorkelling tour, glass bottomed boat tour, canoes, volleyball, morning and afternoon tea, lunch and Nadi transfers.

Family Day With Animals

The Coral Coast is home to Fiji's only wildlife park, Kula Eco Park, which has a collection of brightly coloured tropical birds, insects and sea life. Children will love having their picture taken with parrots and iguanas, wandering through native trees and listening to bird calls. See fijiwild.com



FAMILY FUN IN FIJI

MUSKET COVE ISLAND RESORT

★★★★

STAY 5 NIGHTS IN A GARDEN BURE
+ ONE NIGHT PRE AND POST AT
TANOA INTERNATIONAL HOTEL

FROM \$1,699* | \$393^
PER ADULT | PER CHILD

Up to two children under 12 years stay for FREE
when sharing a room with adults
using existing bedding.

Valid for travel:
01 Oct – 05 Dec 11 &
07 Jan – 31 Mar 12.



SHERATON FIJI RESORT

★★★★★

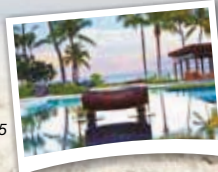
STAY 5 NIGHTS IN AN OCEAN BREEZE ROOM

FROM \$1,249* | \$417^
PER ADULT | PER CHILD

Includes full buffet breakfast for up to two adults
and two children. PLUS
up to two children under
12 years stay, play & eat
FREE (conditions apply).

Valid for travel: 01 Nov – 05
Dec 11 & 10 Jan – 31 Mar 12.

Travel 01-22 Oct 11 from \$1,345
per adult or \$417 per child.



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