



BETCHART  
EXPEDITIONS INC.

# FIJI

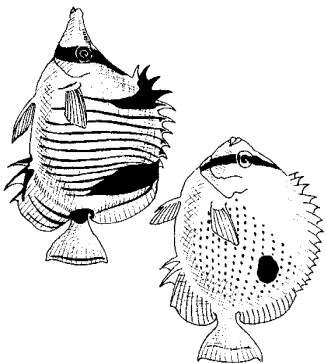
Natural History & Cultural Heritage

October 19-29, 2008

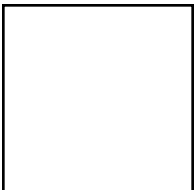


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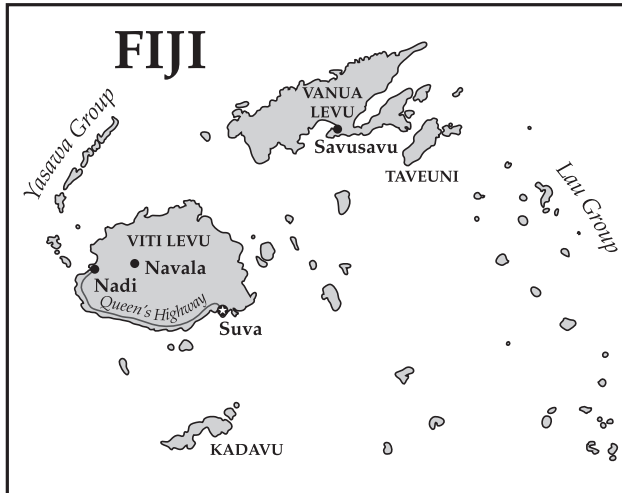
17050 Montebello Road, Cupertino, CA 95014-5435



FIRST CLASS



Discover Fiji! October 19-29, 2008



## Overview

An outstanding introduction to Fiji, this 11-day expedition offers an exceptional opportunity to explore Fiji and to learn about the natural history and cultural heritage of this intriguing nation in the South Pacific.

In **Nadi** we will begin to relax in the ambiance of the south seas and relish the delights of Fiji from the spectacular firewalking ceremony to the extraordinary marine life of the fringing and barrier coral reefs.

We will enjoy the enchantment of Fijian culture, music, history and traditions, and the wee taste of British colonialism as we travel down the **Queen's Highway** to explore **Suva**, the historic capital city. Here we will enjoy the fine shops, and the excellent Fiji Museum.

We will then fly to the fourth largest island in Fiji, remote **Kadavu**. Here we may enjoy the festivity, utter relaxation, and color of life on a Fijian isle. We will stay in *bures* (Fijian cottages) with easy access to local villages, rainforest trails, beaches, kayaking, and snorkeling. Learn about Fijian culture and village life, as you also explore the marine biology of the South Pacific, an extraordinary zoological/botanical wonderland of tropical coral and fishes.

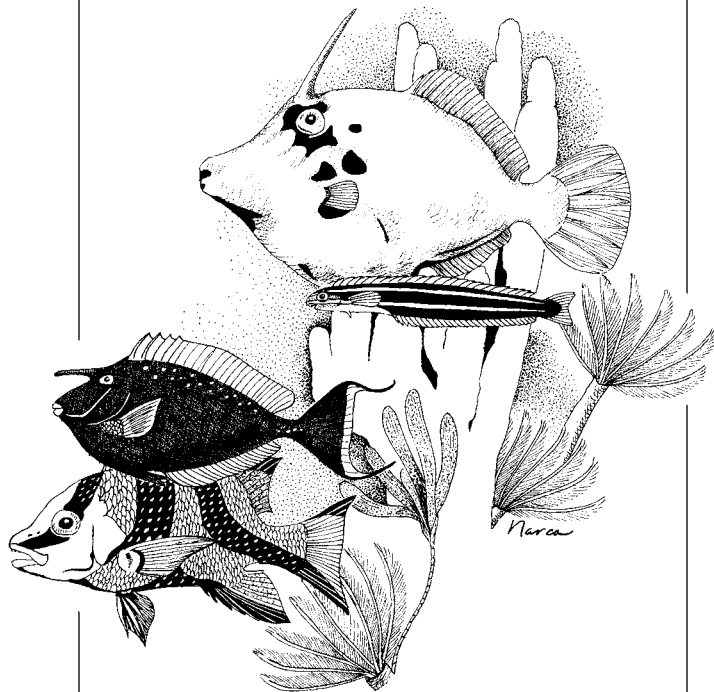
Also of interest will be Fiji's fledgling conservation movement; Fijian folklore and archaeological sites; and birds unique to Fiji, including three bird species found only on Kadavu—Kadavu fantails, honeyeaters, and parrots.

## Leadership

Leading this expedition will be **Bob Nansen**, an excellent naturalist and expedition leader for Betchart Expeditions Inc. from Alaska to Hawaii and Fiji.

Bob has had a long and successful career as a field biologist and as Field Operations Coordinator for Betchart Expeditions Inc. He graduated from San Jose State University in California in biology and then headed to the Galapagos Islands where he helped set up the first trails in Galapagos National Park and worked as a naturalist guide. Bob has returned many times to Galapagos with groups, and has led other Betchart trips from Iceland to Siberia, Australia, New Zealand, Hawaii, and Fiji.

Bob first went to Fiji in 1986. He has led numerous expeditions for Betchart to Fiji since then and looks forward to sharing his knowledge of Fiji's birds and marine life, as well as his appreciation of Fiji culture and history with expedition members.



## Itinerary

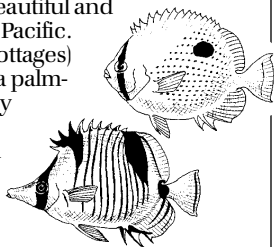
**October 19/20 — Los Angeles to Fiji.** Depart from Los Angeles International Airport on Air Pacific for Nadi, Fiji in the South Pacific, crossing the International Date Line en route.

**October 21 — Nadi, Fiji.** Arrive in Nadi and transfer to *First Landing Resort (2 nights)*, situated on a white sand beach where the first people landed 3,500 years ago. Your morning is at leisure. Enjoy a welcome luncheon and afternoon introduction to Fiji at Bounty Island, a coral island 15 km offshore whose interior is home to some endangered Fijian bird species and the rare Fijian crested iguana. The island is edged by a beach where hawksbill turtles nest and the marine reserve has bountiful fish and coral. Welcome dinner. L,D

**October 22 — Navala.** We'll depart by coach up the King's Highway for Lautoka and Ba this morning, two diverse Fijian communities, and then head into the highlands of Viti Levu to the Fijian village of Navala. Here tradition thrives, and the village is the most picturesque in Fiji. Traditional thatched bures line the streets along the Ba River. We'll first meet the village head man and give him a gift, and then learn about the village. Return to First Landing in time for a swim, and then go to an evening firewalking and cultural show. B,L

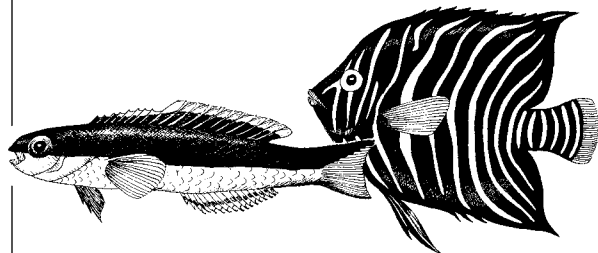
**October 23 — Queen's Highway to Suva.** This morning we will depart down the Queen's Highway, stopping first at the Sigatoka Sand Dunes National Park. Pottery from prehistoric people has been found here. Nearby is the Sigatoka Valley, Fiji's bread basket, and the Tavuni Hill Fort, an ancient defensive site. In a cave in the Sigatoka Valley were found the bones of a huge flightless pigeon (much larger than a big turkey) which existed 3,500 years ago. We will continue along the south coast of Viti Levu to Kula Eco Park, an educational center for local children. It has a captive breeding program for the Fiji peregrine falcon and Fiji's crested and banded iguanas. We will also see Fiji's musk parrots, collared parrots, and honeyeaters. Arrive in Suva, the colorful capital of Fiji which reflects the charm and history of the colonial era. *Holiday Inn Suva.* B,L

**October 24 — Fiji Museum & Kadavu Island.** This morning we will visit the Fiji Museum. Here we will learn about the history and cultural heritage of the Fijian people. The exhibits are excellent and insightful. See one of the last ancient catamarans, the traditional boat of the Fijians, which is on display. Then fly south to Kadavu Island, the fourth largest island in Fiji. This remote island offers friendly, true Fijian culture, tropical reefs, rainforests, and wonderful snorkeling (or diving) on one of the most beautiful and untouched islands in the South Pacific. Our resort has only 10 bures (cottages) set in lush, tropical gardens on a palm-fringed sand beach. It offers easy access to Fijian villages, forest trails, snorkeling, kayaking, and other activities, as well as an excellent setting to learn more about Fijian culture. *Matana Beach Resort (4 nights).* B,D



**October 25 — Kadavu Village Visit.** One of the finest aspects of a visit to Fiji is the opportunity for day to day contact with Fijians. The Fijians are an extremely attractive, English-speaking people who show great athletic prowess in cricket, rugby, and soccer, yet a strong chief-village tradition continues. This morning we will visit a local village to learn about its schools, families, and activities. We will sample the traditional drink yaqona (kava), meet the headman of the village, and have an opportunity to purchase handicrafts made by the villagers.

This afternoon we'll begin to explore the multicolored world of coral and fish offshore. We will look for coral color, texture, growth, forms, and different feeding methods. Or take a leisurely afternoon to beachcomb and look for treasures from the sea. B,L,D



**October 26 — Singing & Snorkeling.** This morning, we will visit a nearby village to enjoy the joyous singing at the Sunday morning church service. The singing is truly extraordinary, and utterly delightful!

This afternoon, we will again enjoy some of Fiji's best marinelife, which is just offshore. We will explore the wonderland of plate, brain, staghorn, elkhorn, and delicate mushroom coral which attracts a profusion of angel fish, shy butterfly fish, elusive triggerfish, and great schools of brilliant blue tangs. It is an extraordinary world to be savored one coral head at a time. B,L,D

**October 27 — Rainforest Walk.** This morning, we will take a Rainforest Walk and look for plants and birdlife of interest. Kadavu is a volcanic island which supports thriving perennial forest vegetation, especially on the eastern side. Old crystallised lava flows may reach the coast. Much of Fiji's flora and fauna originally came from Indonesia or Malaysia on the winds and ocean currents. Today, more than 3,000 plant species have been identified on Fiji; about one-third of these are only found on Fiji. In the forest we'll especially have our eye out for the three bird species only found on Kadavu. Other birds of interest may include the whistling dove and collared lory.

This afternoon, we may enjoy a kayaking adventure, or stroll on the beach. Diving is an option for any divers in the group (at an additional cost) and Kadavu has some of the best diving in the South Pacific. There is a dive site where extraordinary, gentle giants—manta rays, up to 20 feet wide—are consistently seen on an all-day diving trip. B,L,D

**October 28 — Meke & Lovu.** Today will give you an opportunity for more snorkeling, an all-day or half-day kayaking adventure, or the chance of another village

visit. There are 72 villages on the island and few roads; most transportation is by boat. Most villages support themselves with subsistence agriculture or exporting to the main island, Viti Levu. Kadavu's Galoa Harbor was once considered as a site for a new colonial capital. Tonight, we'll watch local Fijians prepare for tonight's *lovo* and *meke*—a celebration in the Fijian tradition! B,L,D

**October 29 — To Nadi & Home.** This morning bid farewell to our new friends on Kadavu. Fly to Nadi and transfer to First Landing to relax around their pool until it is time to board our return flight to Los Angeles. B

## Costs & Conditions

**Expedition Fee:** \$2,995 per person for 11 days (plus air fare of \$965 + tax from Los Angeles to Fiji, return), plus in-tour flights Suva/Kadavu of \$150. Expedition is limited to 19 participants.

**Expedition Fee Includes:** Transport by coach, van, motor launch or motorboat for group excursions; airport transfers; accommodations in two small Fijian-style resorts, based on twin share and a hotel in Suva; most meals; baggage handling; leadership, administration.

**Expedition Fee Does Not Include:** International plus in-tour air fare (quoted separately); some meals; fishing, diving, or other personal activities; alcoholic beverages, passport, snacks, or foreign airport departure tax.

**What to Expect:** This expedition is for travelers who would enjoy exploring the Fiji Islands, learning about the Fijian cultural heritage, meeting Fijian people, and learning about the natural heritage, marine biology, birds, and conservation in Fiji. Led by an excellent naturalist, the group will spend most days exploring villages, nature reserves, cultural sites, and museums on daily outings on foot of 1/2 to 2 miles at a leisurely pace. There are frequent opportunities for snorkeling and swimming. Typically, it will be in the 70's and 80's. We are visiting during the dry season, however some rain can be expected. (No smoking in vehicles, during lectures, or meals, please.)

**Air Fare & Air Ticketing:** Air fare is a special fare with Air Pacific from Los Angeles to Nadi, Fiji, with a return from Kadavu to Nadi and Los Angeles. All air bookings and ticketing will be handled by Betchart Expeditions Inc. AIR FARES AND FUEL SURCHARGE ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE.

**Accommodations:** Matana Beach Resort on Kadavu Island is a small simple resort with 10 Fijian *buves* (cottages) picturesquely situated on its grounds; all are twin share with bath and ceiling fans. First Landing is a small resort with easy access to Nadi International Airport and offers a comfortable welcome to Fiji. In Suva, we will stay in a first class hotel well situated for exploring Suva and the Fiji Museum. Except at Kadavu, singles are available for a supplement of \$295. If you do not have a roommate, you must pay the extra cost of a single.

**Reservations, Deposits & Payments:** To reserve a place on this expedition, please mail a deposit of \$500 per person with the completed reservation form to **Betchart Expeditions Inc., 17050 Montebello Road, Cupertino, CA 95014-5435.** You will receive an invoice for the balance which is due 60 days before departure.

**Cancellations & Refunds:** The initial deposit for this expedition is refundable up to 60 days before departure less a handling fee of \$100 per person. There is no deposit refund for any cancellation after the 60-day period unless your place can be resold; then only the \$100 per person handling fee is withheld. There are no refunds for unused meals, accommodations, or other expedition features. Trip cancellation insurance will be offered.

**Questions?** Please contact Taunya DeYoung, **Betchart Expeditions Inc., (800) 252-4910** or **(408) 252-4910.** Email: [Taunya@betchartexpeditions.com](mailto:Taunya@betchartexpeditions.com)

## Responsibility

*Betchart Expeditions Inc. acts only as agent for the passenger with respect to transportation and hotels, and exercises every care possible. However, we can assume no liability for injury, damage, delay, loss, accident or irregularity in connection with the services of any airplane, ship, van, motorcoach, or any other conveyance used in carrying out the arrangements of the tour. We cannot accept any responsibility for losses or additional expenses due to delay or changes in air or other services, sickness, weather, strike, war, quarantine, acts of God, or other causes beyond our control. All such losses or expenses will have to be borne by the passenger, as our rates provide for arrangements only for the time stated. We reserve the right to substitute another leader of similar expertise or to cancel any tour prior to departure, in which case the entire payment will be refunded with no further obligation on our part. The right is also reserved to decline to accept or retain any person as a member of the tour. No refund will be made for the unused portion of any tour unless arrangements are made in sufficient time to avoid penalties. The price of the program is based on current tariffs and rates, and is subject to change. Any tariff, exchange rate, or fuel increases will be passed on to participants. Baggage is carried at the owner's risk entirely. It is understood that the air ticket when issued shall constitute the sole contract between the passenger and the airline concerned. The airlines concerned are not to be held responsible for any act, omission, or event during the time passengers are not on board their plane or conveyance.*

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Illustrations by Narca Moore-Craig.

## Reservations

#1063

**Yes!** I/we want to join the **Fiji Expedition, October 19-29, 2008** offered by **Betchart Expeditions Inc.**

Please reserve \_\_\_\_\_ space(s). As a deposit, I/we enclose a check for \$ \_\_\_\_\_ (\$500 per person) payable to Betchart Expeditions Inc. Trust Account.

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: Home (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Work (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Accommodations Preference:

Twin  Single (except Kadavu)

Nonsmoker  Smoker

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

**Mail To:**



**Betchart Expeditions Inc.**  
**17050 Montebello Road**  
**Cupertino, CA 95014-5435**