



**Business travel**

Tanoa Plaza in central Suva

# Business travel guide to Suva

**I**F you decide to travel to Fiji to investigate a business opportunity, you will probably spend time in the capital Suva, at least for part of your stay. Not only are all the Government departments located there, but most of the larger companies are based there.

Suva is not a beautiful city, but it does exude a certain charm and is certainly the most sophisticated city in the South Pacific.

## **CLIMATE**

Suva is situated on the eastern side of the main island of Viti Levu. This is the 'wet' side of the island, with most of the resorts located towards the west. Although rain can be expected at any time during the year, the official wet season is December to April.

## **GETTING THERE AND AWAY**

Suva is served by Nausori Airport, around 19 km from the CBD. A taxi to the CBD costs around F\$25 (just under A\$20/NZ\$21.30). Allow plenty of time at peak hour, as this stretch is Suva's most congested.

Although some international flights do land at Nausori, the main international airport is at Nadi on the other side of the island. A taxi from Nadi to Suva will cost around F\$120 (A\$94/NZ\$102), and take three hours. For a similar cost, you can take an internal flight between the two airports with Air Fiji ([www.airfiji.net](http://www.airfiji.net)).



## GETTING AROUND

**Driving:** This is a more precarious exercise in Fiji than in Australia and New Zealand. If you do decide to drive yourself, drive with caution. Aside from the international car hire companies that operate in Fiji, Central Rentals (Victoria Parade, Suva, tel 331 1866) has a good reputation.

**Taxis:** There are hundreds of taxis shuttling around Suva, and they are very cheap (if often shabby and meter-less). A short hop around the CBD will cost no more than F\$2 (A\$1.57/NZ\$1.70). If travelling by taxi at night, it is recommended you select the company you use carefully (ask at your hotel). Black Arrow Taxis is recommended (tel 330 0541).

**Internal flights:** Apart from Air Fiji, another carrier, Sun Air ([www.fiji.to](http://www.fiji.to)), operates flights between Fiji's islands.

## PRACTICALITIES

**Currency exchange/ATM:** Several locations along Victoria Parade

**Health care:** Suva Private Hospital (tel 331 3355)

**Safety:** You're advised not to walk beyond Victoria Parade after dark.

**Information:** Fiji Visitors Bureau office (Thomson St)

**Email/internet:** Connect Internet Café, next to the General Post Office in Victoria Parade. F\$3.50 for 30 minutes. 8am–8pm, Monday–Saturday.

**Bookstore:** Bookmasters, 173 Victoria Parade, sell maps of the greater metropolitan area if you need one.

## SHORT-TERM ACCOMMODATION

**Holiday Inn:** Long-established business hotel. Well-situated on Victoria Parade, it boasts ample grounds and a good-sized pool. Tel +679 330 1600

**Tanoa Plaza:** This new hotel is part of the Tanoa chain of hotels with properties all around the country. It caters for business travellers and offers exceptional service. Cable TV, a small pool, and internet terminals in reception are among the amenities. There are smart executive suites on the top floor. Room-service menu invites long-stay guests to request their favourite dishes! Tel +679 331 2300, email [tanoaplaza@connect.com.fj](mailto:tanoaplaza@connect.com.fj)

**JJs on the Park:** Another new addition to the Suva hotel scene, this property's ugly concrete exterior belies first-class modern rooms and suites, many of which have facilities such as multi-function work centres. There is a 24-hour butler service on each floor. The bar-restaurant downstairs is a favourite with ex-pats. Tel: +679 330 5005, email [jjs@connect.com.fj](mailto:jjs@connect.com.fj)

**Quest Suva Central (forthcoming):** Australian serviced-apartment chain Quest is scheduled to open a small property within the Suva Central retail development in downtown Suva. This will fill a gap in the market.

It is also worth keeping in mind that the hotels of the Coral Coast are no more than 90 minutes away from Suva. It is certainly not unheard of for executives to install their families at The Warwick, a kid-friendly four-star resort, while they carry out business in Suva.

## LONGER-TERM ACCOMMODATION

Ex-pats reportedly struggle to find suitable long-term accommodation in the Suva area. These are best sourced through local real estate agents such as Harcourts. Another option is to commute from Pacific Harbour.

Looking ahead, local businessman Mark Halabe is currently building a block of apartments designed to appeal to this market overlooking Suva (pictured above left).

## FOOD AND DRINK

*Most of these places are located on or close to Victoria Parade in Suva's CBD.*

**JJs on the Park (see above):** Pleasant, large bar and restaurant, with an extensive menu and wine list. Excellent service and reliable food. Wireless internet access is also under consideration.

**Bad Dog Café:** Informal, bustling brasserie-style eatery. The filet mignon of tuna is exceptional! Highly recommended.

**Tiko's Floating Restaurant:** Seafood and jazz.

**Republic of Cappuccino:** There are two of these café outlets in the CBD. Excellent for coffee and snacks. Long opening hours.

**Ashiyana:** Widely considered the best of the many Indian restaurants in Suva.

**Daikoku:** Upmarket Japanese cuisine.

**Malt House Brewery & Restaurant:** Located a few kilometres from the CBD on Jerusalem Road, this microbrewery has acquired a reputation as one of the best eateries around.

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- \* IP based service industry in Fiji ?***

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