



Exploring the Reefs of Fiji

September 12-21, 2020



Sea for Yourself®

Snorkeling Safaris

Dear Friends and Snorkeling Enthusiasts,

In the spirit of underwater discovery, Sea for Yourself is dedicated to offering you the world's best snorkeling opportunities. In this mailing, you will find detailed information describing one of our most vibrant and delightful programs: Exploring the Reefs of Fiji.

Fiji fits the image of "tropical paradise" many of us share: palm-studded white sand beaches, clear water, and one of the world's most engaging indigenous cultures. An added advantage, when compared to many other tropical destinations, is Fiji's lack of malaria.

In this program we will snorkel a Fijian marine environment known for its prolific reef communities. The snorkeling will be supported by comfortable and beautiful land-based accommodations that will make our travel in paradise a pure pleasure. While Sea For Yourself programs consider snorkeling the top priority, this particular occasion provides certified SCUBA divers with excellent diving opportunities.

For a rich combination of snorkeling and cultural hospitality in a lush South Pacific environment, we invite you to join our Exploring the Reefs of Fiji program in September, 2020.

Jill Simon



- ✓ from \$4790 per person
- ✓ 10 days / September 12-21, 2020
- ✓ Privately chartered boat for the exclusive use of our snorkeling group
- ✓ Inner lagoon and barrier reef snorkeling
- ✓ Marine biology lectures on a diversity of species and snorkeling habitats
- ✓ Opportunities to engage with the indigenous culture
- ✓ Resort shore snorkeling as often as you like



Trip Overview

Experience one of the world's best snorkeling venues!

This program combines the exploration of Fiji's extraordinary marine wilderness with excellent insights into Fijian village life, history, and culture. The marine biology of Fiji offers an ideal snorkeling environment with an incredible variety of fish and coral and a profusion of invertebrates. Huge flat-topped coral heads called "bommies" rise from the deep to within a few feet of the surface, which along with the protected interiors of barrier reefs make Fiji one of the world's great snorkeling venues.

During our program, we will stay at the secluded Beqa Lagoon Resort, a small, remote island skirted by stretches of sandy beach and laced with vibrant tide pools. The reefs here supports an abundance of shallow corals, populated with bright fishes and prolific invertebrates, that are easily accessible by boat to snorkelers.

We plan daily visits to many of the flourishing offshore sites reached by privately-chartered boat reserved exclusively for our group. To complement the offshore snorkeling, there is snorkeling available anytime, as often as you like, and at your convenience in front of our resort.

No journey to Fiji is complete without visiting a Fijian village. We plan to visit both a local school and a village where we will gain an informative and emotional appreciation of our hosts in this country and their traditional lifestyle. All in all, the world class snorkeling, cultural elements, and comfortable accommodations will provide a rich combination for our unique Exploring the Reefs of Fiji program.



Species great and small!

In contrast with the Caribbean, Fiji's reefs offer a multitude of soft corals, presenting the snorkeler with resplendent views of brilliant reds, yellows, and pinks. While the Caribbean has 68 species of coral, the South Pacific boasts over 700 (so far) and over 3000 species of fish. Striped, spotted, dappled, and dotted, these fish come in colors and shapes only nature can inspire.

Unique creatures that we can expect to see include lionfish, with their elegant plume-like fins, amusing and very approachable clownfish in their host anemones, brilliantly colored and patterned butterflyfish, triggerfish, wrasse, and the possibility of rays, schooling jacks, and the occasional reef shark.

We also plan to visit Kula Eco Park near Sigatoka on the island of Viti Levu. This small, but gracefully designed facility is a hybrid zoo and endangered species breeding facility operated in conjunction with the National Trust for Fiji. Indigenous animals we usually see include banded iguanas, Kadavu parrots and a host of other colorful birds and local flora. The curator is both personable and knowledgeable, and he has agreed to give our group a special tour.



Itinerary

Day 1

Our program begins in the early morning when we meet at Nadi International Airport for our group transfer to Beqa Island, the mysterious land of the firewalkers (2.5 hours by bus followed by a 45 minute boat ride). Covering only a few square kilometers, Beqa Island has no roads, no towns and only a few isolated villages scattered around the perimeter. We will check into the Beqa Lagoon Resort, our home for the next ten nights. Resting on a white sand beach flanked with palm trees overlooking Beqa Lagoon, the resort is justly known for its cuisine, cultural elements, and comfortable accommodations including a spa and a fresh water swimming pool. After lunch we take advantage of introductory shore-based snorkeling (instruction provided as needed) or relax in the beautiful surroundings. In the evening, we enjoy a short program orientation and an image-illustrated discussion of Fiji's marine life, followed by dinner. (L,D)

Days 2-9

Most mornings and early afternoons are devoted to snorkeling in this island paradise. There is a plethora of sites accessible by the boat that we have reserved for exclusive use by our group as well as snorkeling just in front of the resort. We visit protected shallow reefs where gardens of hard and soft coral harbor diverse species of colorful reef fish. We have also planned excursions to a native village and a local school. We will also visit the town of Sigatoka and stop for a tour of the Kula Eco Park, Fiji's only wildlife park operated in cooperation with the National Trust for Fiji and a model flora and fauna park for the South Pacific. The evenings are spent enjoying leisurely dinners, possible night snorkeling opportunities, and interpretive sessions led by your Sea for Yourself staff. (B,L,D)

Day 10

After breakfast, we transfer by boat (45 minutes) to Pacific Harbor and continue on to Nadi. In the afternoon, we will have some time for independent activities that could include shopping or a visit to the colorful Hindu temple. We celebrate with farewell drinks and dinner at a delightful restaurant. Following dinner, we transfer to Nadi International Airport for our return flights. Flights should be planned for 10pm or later. (B,L,D)



Trip Details & Prices

Trip limit

Exploring the Reefs of Fiji is limited to 18 participants, with a minimum of 10. Due to the limited space available for this tour, reservations will be accepted in the order deposits are received. You will be notified when your space is confirmed.

Program Costs

The cost for this travel experience is \$4790 per person, based on double occupancy, For those requesting a single room an additional supplement of \$795 will be added to the tour cost. Please be advised that single space is limited and subject to availability. If you wish to share a room, we will do our best to find a roommate for you. If, by the time of your final payment, a share cannot be found and space is available, you will be charged a single supplement.

Deposits & payments

A deposit of \$850, plus a signed, completed reservation form confirms your registration for the trip. You will be notified when your space on the program is confirmed. Final payment, plus single supplement, if applicable, are due 120 days prior to departure.





International and/or domestic airfare

Sea for Yourself does not issue airline tickets. Trip participants are responsible for making their own air travel arrangements. Please do not purchase airline tickets until your reservation for the program has been confirmed and you have reviewed your travel schedule with our office.

Accommodation

For this year's Fiji program, we have chosen the Beqa Lagoon Resort. Only fifteen square kilometers, Beqa Island has no roads, no towns and only a few isolated villages scattered around the perimeter. The island is skirted by stretches of sandy beach laced with tide pools. The resort features 25 deluxe, private air-conditioned villas (called bures) spread out beneath the lush tropical landscape. Each of these generously- sized mini-suites is beautifully appointed with traditional island décor.

Deposits & Payments

A deposit of \$850, plus a signed, completed reservation form confirms your registration for this trip. You will be notified when your space on the program is confirmed. Final payment, plus single supplement, if applicable for this trip are due 120 days prior to departure.



The tour fee includes

All group bus and boat transfers in Fiji, meals as indicated in the itinerary, accommodations in hotels as specified, all snorkeling activities, guided cultural excursions, local taxes, group gratuities to hotel/resort staff, services of the trip leader including any needed snorkeling lessons, biology lectures, and explanations of Fiji's cultural and natural history.

The tour fee does not include

International and domestic airfare, increases in international airfare rates, international departure tax, SCUBA activities, rental gear, medical immunizations, passport fees, accident/baggage/cancellation insurance, individual transfers, excess baggage charges, medical expenses, meals not specified in the itinerary, dishes and beverages not part of included meals, laundry, telephone, internet or fax charges, room service, and other items of a purely personal nature.

Insurance

Sea for Yourself provides participants who are U.S. or Canadian citizens with limited medical, accident and evacuation coverage under our group travel insurance policy. We highly recommend the purchase of optional baggage and trip cancellation insurance; information will be sent to registrants. Exclusions for pre-existing conditions may be waived with the prompt purchase of travel insurance.

Trip Preparation

Skill level

All snorkelers, from novice to expert, will enjoy this program. Our tour staff will gladly provide any needed snorkeling instruction, from floating to free-diving. Whenever possible we will seek out protected waters for our snorkeling excursions, but at times the surface may be choppy due to wind.

Climate and weather

Daytime temperatures in Fiji during the month of September range from the low 80's to the high 90's, and cool to a refreshing 65-70° at night. Rain showers usually end in April and begin again in mid-November. However, in the tropics, there is always a chance of rain. Water temperatures are expected to be approximately 75-80°F. Thermal tolerance obviously varies with each individual. As a guideline, many people wear a thin wet suit when in the water longer than 30 or 40 minutes. Please remember that some kind of covering (such as a Lycra suit or even pajamas!) when in the water is highly recommended as protection from sun, occasional stinging zooplankton, and to prevent coral abrasions. We strongly recommend that you consider wearing a wet suit.

Departure information

After you have reserved space on a trip and the program is confirmed, you will receive information to help you prepare for departure, including airline information to arrange for your international and/or domestic flights, optional supplemental travel insurance information, a complete packing and a reading list and other useful information about our destination.



Reservation Form Exploring the Reefs of Fiji 2020

I/We wish to hold _____ spaces on the Exploring the Reefs of Fiji, September 12-21, 2020
Enclosed please find my/our deposit check of US\$ _____ (\$850 per person, made payable to Sea for Yourself)

Name 1 _____ Birth Date _____
(as it appears on passport)

Name 2 _____ Birth Date _____
(as it appears on passport)

Address _____

(If using a P.O. Box, please also include a street address)

City/State/Zip _____

Home Phone _____ Work Phone _____

Fax _____ Email _____

Accommodations:

- ☐ Twin, sharing with (List name of accompanying person if not shown above.)
- ☐ Single (not guaranteed) with single supplement of \$795
- ☐ Share (to be assigned; not guaranteed; if share is unavailable, single supplement will apply)

Waiver of Liability: I have read the schedule of activities and other information in the Sea for Yourself: Exploring the Reefs of Fiji tour materials and recognize and accept all risks thereof. I understand and agree on behalf of myself, my dependents, heirs, administrators, and assigns to abide by the conditions set forth under "Liability/Responsibility" and to release and hold harmless Sea for Yourself and any of its officers, employees, agents, licensees, or representatives from any and all liability for delays, injuries, or death, or for the loss of or damage to property, however occurring, in relation to this Sea for Yourself program scheduled for September 12-21, 2020. By signing this, I also certify that I do not have any mental or physical condition that would create a hazard for myself or other passengers.

Signature _____ Date _____

Signature _____ Date _____

NOTE: Each participant must sign this waiver.

Please send your completed reservation form and deposit to Sea For Yourself, 729 College Ave, Menlo Park, CA 94025. Fax: (650) 323-1201 Phone: (650) 322-1494 Email: info@seaforyourself.com

Terms & Conditions

A deposit, plus a signed, completed reservation form will confirm your registration for one of our programs. You will be notified when your space on the program is confirmed. Final payment will be due 120 days before departure.

Cancellations & refunds

If it becomes necessary for you to cancel your trip, notice of cancellation must be received in writing at Sea For Yourself, by email, fax or postal mail. At the time Sea For Yourself receives your written cancellation, the following per-person penalties will apply: Full refund less a per person handling fee of \$250 if cancellation is made 120 days or more prior to trip departure. No refunds will be granted for cancellation less than 120 days prior to trip departure, unless the trip departs full and your space is resold. Once the trip has departed, there will be no refunds for any unused portions of the trip. Cancellation could cost you as much as 100% of the tour cost. In the event the tour is undersubscribed or sold out, you will be notified and receive a full refund of any payments you have made. No refunds will be given for unused portions of the trip.

Single supplements & shares

Please be advised that single space is limited and subject to availability. If you wish to share a room, we will do our best to find a roommate for you. If, by the time of your final payment, a share cannot be found, you will be charged a single supplement.

Possible land & fuel cost increases

Our prices are based upon the prevailing rates made far in advance of the trip's departure. While we will do everything possible to maintain our prices, if land or fuel costs increase significantly prior to departure, it may be necessary to increase these costs. While we reserve the right to institute such an increase, since 1995 it has never been necessary to do so on any of our programs.

Liability and responsibility

While Sea for Yourself, Inc. endeavors to choose the best suppliers available, we do not have the right to control their operations and they are subject to the laws of the state or country where the service is provided. As such we make the travel arrangements described via Sea for Yourself Services upon the express condition that Sea for Yourself, Inc., and its own agents and employees, shall not be liable for any damage, delay, loss, accident, bodily injury or death, or other irregularity that may be caused by the defect of any vehicle or the negligence or default of any company or person engaged in carrying out or performing any of the services involved in Sea for Yourself tours. Nor does Sea For Yourself, Inc. accept responsibility for losses or expenses due to sickness, weather, strikes, wars, or other such causes. Any such losses or expenses must be borne by the participant.



Most travel, including international travel, is completed without incident. Still, prior to booking travel, Sea for Yourself, Inc. urges passengers to review travel prohibitions, warnings, announcements and advisories for its destinations. Information from the U.S. Government may be found at <http://www.state.gov>, <http://www.tsa.gov>, <http://www.cdc.gov>, <http://www.customs.gov> and similar sites. Sea for Yourself, Inc. does not represent or warrant that travel to its destinations is advisable or without risk and Sea for Yourself, Inc. disclaims liability for damages or losses that may result from travel to such destinations.

Sea For Yourself, Inc. reserves the right to make changes in the published itinerary, trip leaders or number of participants on the program whenever, in its judgment, conditions warrant, or if it is deemed necessary for the comfort, convenience, or safety of the tour. Sea For Yourself, Inc. reserves the right to withdraw without penalty any tour announced. Sea For Yourself, Inc. also reserves the right to decline to accept any person as a member of the tour, or to require any participant to withdraw from the tour, at any time, if such action is determined by the appropriate staff member to be in the best interest of the health, safety, and general welfare of the tour group or of the individual participant. Under such circumstances, no refund will be given. Baggage and personal effects are solely the responsibility of the owner at all times.

Dates, schedules, program details, and costs, given in good faith, based on information available and in force at the time of publication. Sea for Yourself, Inc. reserves the right to make photographs and video of any of its trips, and may use any such materials for promotional and commercial purposes.



Trip participant responsibility

As a condition to acceptance of enrollment, participants must read, agree to, and sign, the Waiver of Liability statement provided as part of the trip reservation. Participants have the responsibility to sign up for a trip appropriate to their abilities and interests. Our program materials provide information on skill level, local conditions and other information that will help you make an informed choice. We would be happy to discuss any of our trips with you to assist you in making a decision. Participants should be in good health and able to participate in the activities described in the program itinerary and are responsible for being familiar with the pre-trip information provided by Sea for Yourself, including information about equipment and clothing appropriate for the trip.

In 1995, the California legislature enacted the Seller of Travel Law creating the Travel Consumer Restitution Fund (TCRF) for the benefit of consumers located in California who suffer losses as a result of the bankruptcy, cessation of operations, insolvency, or the failure to provide travel services as contracted. This law applies only to California residents, but it does not cover foreign travel for California residents where the foreign providers are not in compliance with the Sellers of Travel Law (those registered in the State of California as a Seller of Travel and a participant in the TCRF). Sea for Yourself is required by law to advise you that this tour is not covered by the TCRF. California law requires sellers of travel to maintain a trust account or bond. Sea for Yourself operates with a trust account.

CST 208277-40
Photos ©Joel Simon