

# Fiji

**Continent:** Australia

**Languages Spoken:** English, Fijian, Hindi

**Population:** 896,000

**Currency:** Fijian Dollar (FJD)

**Area:** 18,274

## Main Landmarks:

- {'name': 'Sabeto Hot Springs and Mud Pool', 'writeup': 'Natural hot springs and mud pools known for their therapeutic properties, located near Nadi.'}
- {'name': 'Garden of the Sleeping Giant', 'writeup': 'A botanical garden famous for its collection of orchids and tropical plants.'}
- {'name': 'Sri Siva Subramaniya Temple', 'writeup': 'The largest Hindu temple in the Southern Hemisphere, located in Nadi.'}
- {'name': 'Bouma National Heritage Park', 'writeup': 'A protected area on Taveuni Island featuring waterfalls, rainforest, and hiking trails.'}
- {'name': 'Fiji Museum', 'writeup': "Located in Suva, it showcases Fiji's history, culture, and archaeology."}

## Head of State / Government:

President Wiliame Katonivere

## Main Cultural Events:

- {'name': 'Fiji Day', 'writeup': "Celebrated on October 10th, marking Fiji's independence from British colonial rule in 1970."}
- {'name': 'Hibiscus Festival', 'writeup': 'An annual event in Suva featuring music, food, and cultural performances.'}
- {'name': 'Diwali', 'writeup': "The Hindu festival of lights celebrated by Fiji's Indian community with prayers, feasts, and fireworks."}
- {'name': 'Bula Festival', 'writeup': 'A cultural festival showcasing traditional Fijian dance, music, and crafts.'}

## Food & Cuisine:

Fijian cuisine is a blend of indigenous Fijian, Indian, and other influences, featuring dishes like kokoda (marinated raw fish), lovo (food cooked in an earth oven), and curries. Root crops, seafood, and tropical fruits are staples.

## Brief History:

Fiji was settled by Austronesian and Melanesian peoples before European contact in the 17th century. It became a British colony in 1874 and gained independence in 1970. Fiji has experienced political instability including coups but remains a democratic republic.

## Important People:

- Ratu Sir Kamisese Mara - Founding father and first Prime Minister
- Frank Bainimarama - Current Prime Minister

- Adi Litia Cakobau - Prominent political figure and chief
- Viliame Gavoka - Leader of the opposition
- Laisenia Qarase - Former Prime Minister

#### **Current Conflicts:**

Fiji currently experiences no active armed conflicts but faces challenges related to political stability, climate change impacts, and economic development.

#### **Youtube Links:**

- Discover Fiji: Paradise Islands of the South Pacific
- Fiji Travel Guide - Top Things to Do in Fiji
- Fijian Culture and Traditions Explained
- The History of Fiji: From Colonization to Independence
- Fiji Food Tour: Exploring Traditional Fijian Cuisine