A guide to

Fiji weddings



CREDIT - Lyka Weddings Fiji

Viva
DESTINATION WEDDINGS

www.vivadestinationweddings.au
weddings@travelwithviva.com
1300 84 82 82

About us



We can organise everything for you, from beauty and events through to flowers, flights and guest travel, using our trusted suppliers to make the whole process simple and enjoyable.

We know how overwhelming it feels when you first start researching, especially with so much mixed and unclear information online, so our role is to guide you through every decision, manage itinerary changes, legal requirements and logistics, and make sure everything runs smoothly from start to finish so you can focus on the fun parts.

Couples love working with us because it is genuinely easy and great value. You pay the same, and often less, than booking direct because our fees are paid by the resorts, not by you. You also benefit from real hands on experience. Mandi has been working with Fiji for over 20 years and has visited more than 80 times, so she knows the resorts, the logistics and the little details that make a big difference. We look after everything from guest bookings and flights to transfers and wedding arrangements, so you are not left coordinating it all yourself.

Fiji is beautiful but it is not one size fits all, especially for families. Between different opinions, social media advice, meal plans, island choices and everyone having their own idea of what nice looks like, it can become overwhelming very quickly. That is why we take the time to understand what your perfect wedding looks like and how to achieve it together, using real local knowledge to remove the stress and create something that truly suits you.

Fully ATIA accredited Travel company

Verified member of Skal (International Association of Tourism and Travel Professionals)

Travel Agency with over 100 years of experience combined

Members of local and international industry networking groups

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Meet your expert



Mandi Forrester-Jones

Just to let you know a little bit about me - I am a travel agent that has dedicated my travel career of over 43 years to specialise in destination weddings. Why? Simply because these once in a lifetime experiences need an expert to make perfect.

I also simply love love, evidenced by also moonlighting as a celebrant in Brisbane, with over 30 years of event planning experience as well.

I have lived in 3 countries, travelled the world, including well over 75 visits to Fiji!

I am from the UK, now happily married to my Australian husband. I am an absolute die-hard Brisbane Lions tragic, and also I am a Marriage Celebrant in my spare time!

My favourite places?
Malta, Amalfi Coast, South Pacific and Tasmania (in no particular order)!!

My email is mandi@travelwithviva.com

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Helping your guests



Once you have decided on a place and time, then you can tell your friends and family!

Are you sitting there thinking, I can barely organise something for dinner, let alone manage 50+ peoples travel arrangements? Well don't worry, we've got you!

- **We can create your own personalised website -**
- **Showcase your love story & welcome note**
- **Digital RSVP system to track guests attending**
- **All guest accommodation & flight information**
- **Detailed wedding event itinerary**
- **Information to contact Viva Destination Weddings to book**

Once your guest list has been finalised, we can organise all of their travel too,

- **Guest accommodation**
- **Guest flights & transfers**
- **Additional pre & post travel arrangements**
- **Additional tours & experiences**

Depending on how many guests book through us, we can offer group discounts.
Note: Guests who book direct will not be included, and will minimise discounts available

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About Fiji

Bula!

You will hear this ebullient and heartfelt greeting from the moment you step off the plane. They call it the Bula Spirit and Fijians love to say "Happiness is closer than you think".

Fijians are also the most hospitable, genuine and caring people you will meet in the world. It is this warmth that has made Fiji one of the most popular destinations for Australians.

Fiji is our most popular destination for weddings and honeymoons, it's our specialty, we know and love it very much, so we do weddings and honeymoons well.

Fiji is a beautiful place to get married!! There is plenty of choice, but to make sure you pick the right place for you, it makes sense to speak to an expert.

Fiji is a little different and you are likely to have most guests staying in the resort the entire time as they are mini destinations all on their own. This is why it is important to make sure we give you what is right for you!



The destination

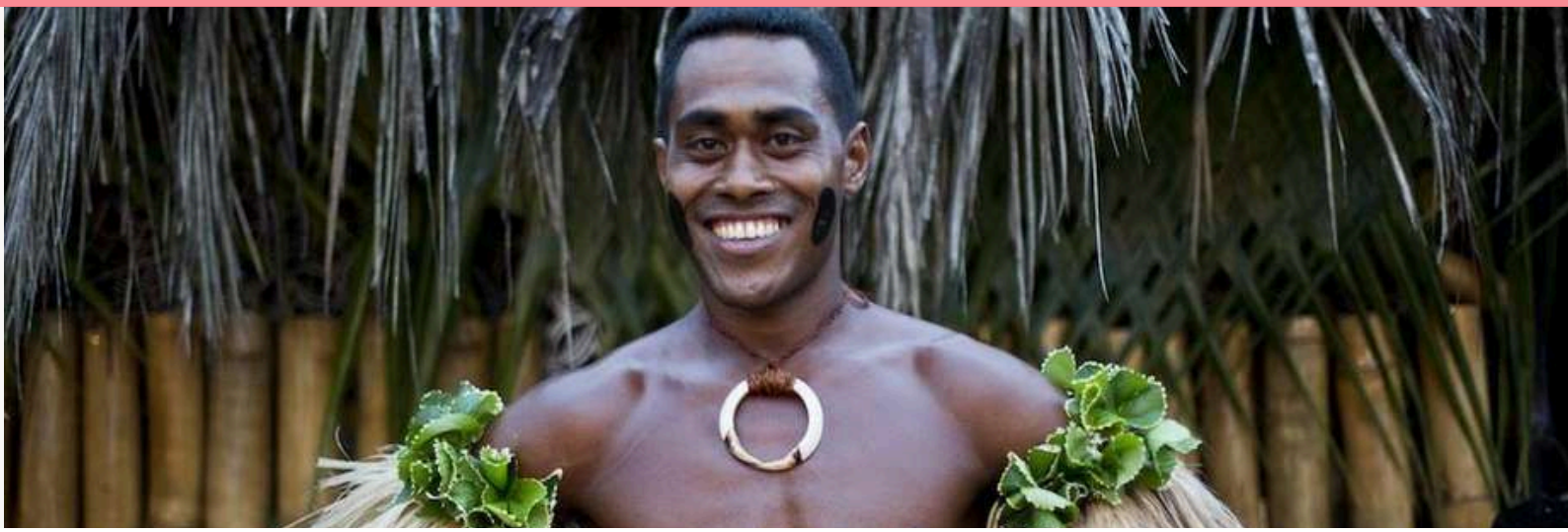
From family friendly resorts through to exclusive islands and barefoot luxury. Do as much or as little as you like. With white sand beaches, snorkelling and diving, a pristine natural environment and an abundance of culture to immerse yourself in, there's something for everyone.

Where you choose as your wedding destination will make an impact on every other decision, including guest lists, suppliers and more.

While Fiji is the always popular for weddings, each resort and island has their own unique vibe, which means a destination must be thoughtfully handpicked for each couple depending on what they want their dream wedding to look and feel like.

Families and couples are a specialty in Fiji and with so many beautiful resorts, who could think of a more romantic place to get married or honeymoon?

Fiji has a wide range of beautiful locations you can choose from; beach, forest, private islands, remote sandbanks and quaint picturesque wedding chapels.



The people & culture

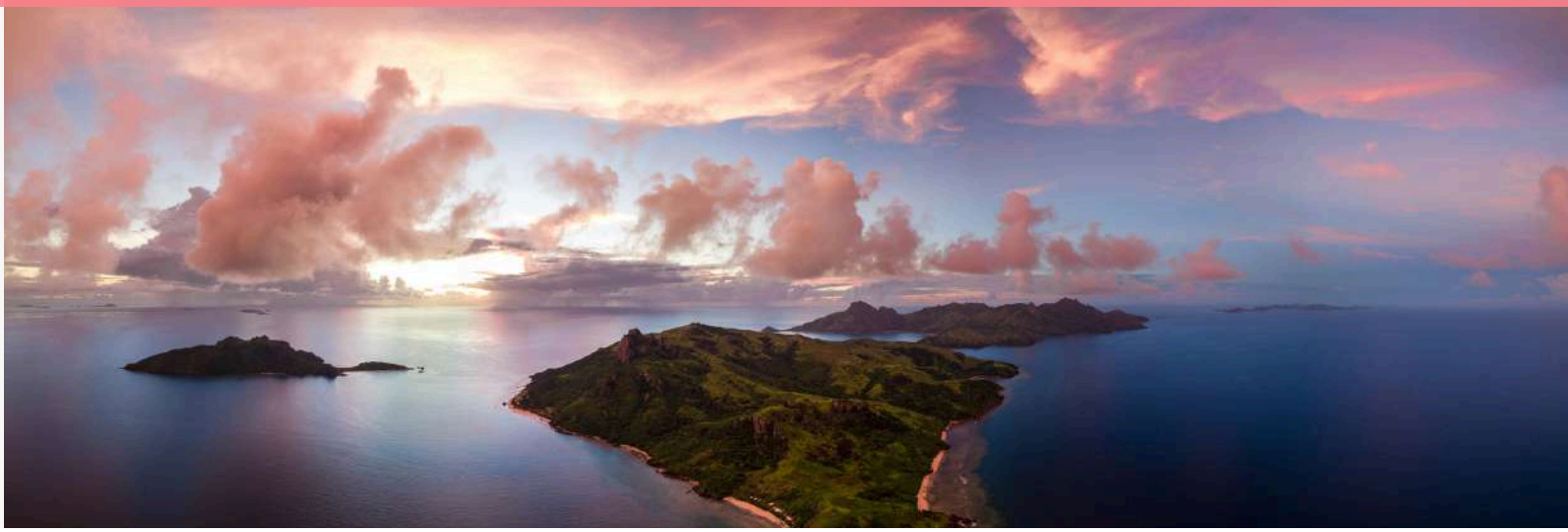
From the moment you step off the plane, a smile spreads across your face and stays there until you leave.

Fijians are natural storytellers, take time to listen to their stories, legends and myths such as that of the Beqa firewalkers!

Fijian culture has evolved with a mix of Indian, Chinese and European culture, as well as from neighbours; in particular the Tongan and Rotuman cultures.

As a romantic destination, Fiji is the perfect place to celebrate your honeymoon!

Like anywhere in the world, Fiji offers options for all budgets. From a barefoot rustic vibe to pure luxury, we can help you book what you need at the best prices.



Frequently Asked Questions

WHEN IS THE BEST TIME TO GO?

The “wet” season is officially November to March but if there is going to be any really adverse weather it is usually December-January. Price wise the cheaper times are November and March, ideal times for weather is August and late October. School Holidays and main holiday events like Easter and Christmas will typically mean higher prices.

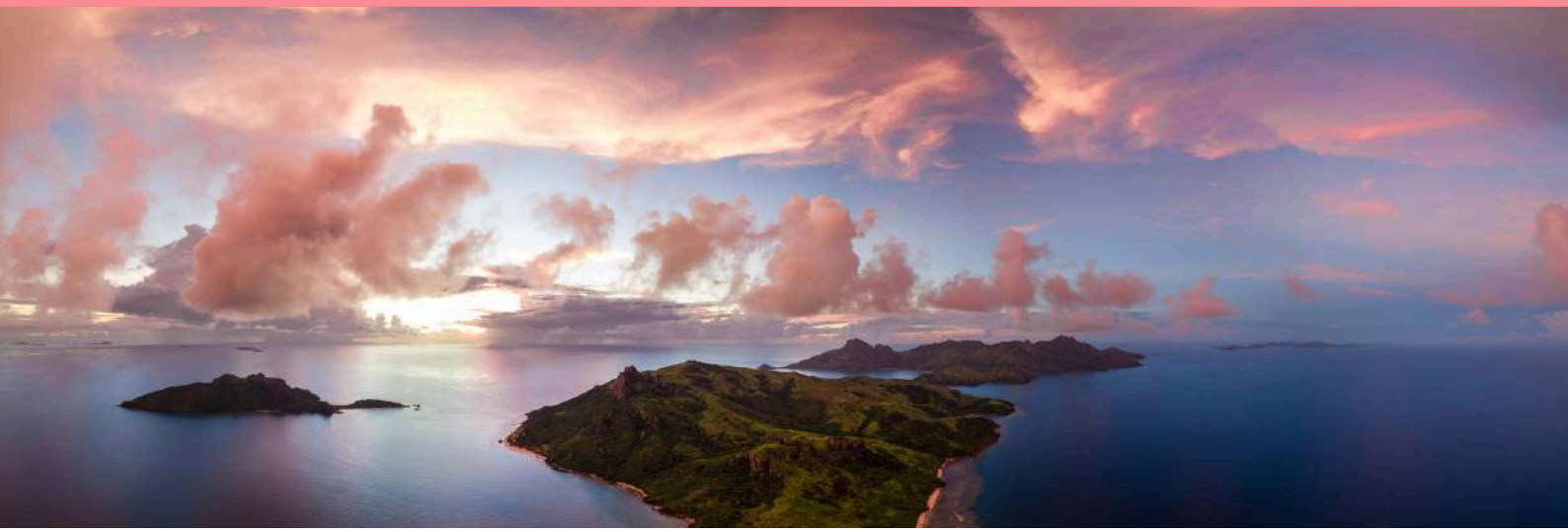
IS IT LEGAL TO GET MARRIED THERE?

Getting married in Fiji is legal and recognised worldwide.
Paperwork is easily arranged, and we work with some of the most professional and experienced onsite wedding coordinators to ensure your day runs smoothly

ARE THERE GOOD SUPPLIERS THERE?

Absolutely! Fiji has some amazing, highly trained and professional suppliers. World-class photographers, hair and make-up artists who have trained with the best in the USA and Australia etc.

You can be sure that any of the suppliers we recommend will be of an amazing standard



IS IT SAFE TO TRAVEL THERE?

Yes it is. Of course, like with all travel, there are risks.

But be assured that Fiji has done everything in their power to keep you safe while you enjoy your visit.

IS FIJI FAMILY FRIENDLY?

The Fijians love of children is legendary! Each resort will have an army of beautiful Nannies, who will look after your children like their own.

Most resorts will have fantastic kids clubs and a multitude of activities to keep them occupied, and they will not want to come home!

DO I NEED A VISA?

Most countries, especially from the Commonwealth do not need a visa to enter Fiji. You MUST have a t least 6 months validity on your passport from your return date and a ticket out of the country.



The locations

Why Your Resort Choice Matters in Fiji

Fiji is a destination unlike many others. In places like Asia, there is often so much to see and do outside the hotel with markets, shopping and culture that your room is really just a place to sleep.

In Fiji, most resorts are more like mini destinations in their own right. You tend to spend much more time at the resort, so if it is not the right fit, it can shape your whole experience. That is why choosing the right resort matters so much, and why it helps to understand the different areas, as this is not always clear at first glance.

It is also worth remembering that Photoshop is a wonderful thing. What you see online does not always tell the full story.

Are you looking for convenience or a perfect beach? A range of dining options or a more secluded, tropical feel? This comparison is designed to highlight the key differences so you can decide what matters most to you.

This is our guide to finding the right location for you.



The Mainland

DENARAU:

Denarau is a man-made island reached by a causeway and just 25 minutes from the airport. Most of the resorts in Denarau are close to the marina where the island transfers go from, so Denarau is a great place to stay before heading off to the islands.

The resorts there are all international chains such as Sofitel, Radisson etc and the difference here is that they are all within close proximity, giving you flexibility for staying and eating etc. Plus you have the marina itself where there are many restaurants at the marina so a lot of choice for dining.

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The beaches are not amazing white sandy beaches but more black sand and coral, as it is a working port and built on reclaimed land.

So if you are after convenience it is great but if you want a white sandy beach it may not be for you.

WAILOALOA (NADI BAY):

Wailoaloa is about 15 minutes from the airport. It is a great alternative because you have the Crowne Plaza there, and also has a few budget hotels for anyone needing that. Because they are just on the same short strip of beach it is very easy for them to stay there but still attend the wedding.

It is situated on a quieter beach, away from Denarau. It still has the same beach as Denarau but because it is away from the port, it is cleaner.

Also there are some cool restaurants along the beach that have a great casual vibe for if you just want to go somewhere and eat and drink outside of the resort.

It is really a chilled and less touristy place.



The Mainland

CORAL COAST:

The majority of the resorts are down on the Coral Coast. Resorts are dotted along the coast, but as there can be significant distances between them, you are more resort bound here.

Once again bigger western style resorts here although there are some smaller places for those on tighter budgets.

The beaches are often in protected lagoons so are quite nice and calm although it is called the Coral Coast for a reason. They still do not usually have that beautiful blue water and white sandy beaches, with a couple of small exceptions.

Great for a more Fijian feel and a total resort experience.
Note that you do need transport for tours or out to the islands such as Malamala or Cloud 9.

Pacific Harbour, Beqa & East Coast

PACIFIC HARBOUR -

Known as the adventure capital of Fiji, Pacific Harbour is about 3 hours drive from the airport, but worth it. Beautiful white sandy beaches, a world class golf course, a lively cultural centre and some great restaurants.

BEQA/EAST COAST -

Beqa is the home of the traditional and mythical fire walkers seen at all the shows.
Beqa is fabulous for divers and those looking for some rustic luxury at (another) Viva fave Royal Davui Resort.
Another option is to take over a whole resort with Toberua Island Resort



The Islands

MAMANUCA ISLANDS

Home to some amazing resorts, including the family friendly Plantation, Castaway, Mana and Malolo Islands to adults only islands like Tokoriki and Matamanoa, and the luxury islands such as Likuliku which has Fiji's first and only overwater bungalows.

Which island will suit you will be depending on your budget mainly, but the islands are the quintessential Fiji, with the beaches, palm trees and everything you imagine it to be!

Logistics with the islands need to be taken into consideration. The transfers out to the islands may not match up or connect with all flights, so necessitating either an overnight on the mainland or water taxis.

If you choose an island we strongly suggest that you do not book flights without checking with us first (or get us to book them) so we can ensure it all works

YASAWA ISLANDS

Further up past the Mamanuca Islands, are the famed Yasawa Islands, where they filmed Blue Lagoon! Most resorts here are rustic, with amazing beaches, you can swim with the Manta Rays here as well. Waya Island is highly recommended for an adults only escape!

At the far end, and reached by private jet, is the gorgeous Yasawa Island Resort, which is another favourite at Viva!

Because of the logistics and remoteness, this is a great place for eloping, or to spend your honeymoon.

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Cruises

Want to not be resort-bound? Love the idea of cruising through the Fijian Islands? You can get married on a remote and rustic island, on one of your days spent sailing through the clear blue waters of the islands.

Cruise the Mamanuca and Yasawa Islands, for 3, 4 or 7 nights if you are limited for time, or take an 11 night cultural cruise to the rarely visited remote eastern group of islands, the Lau group.

Have your wedding on the beautiful and rustic Tivua Island or on a private beach at Nanuya Lailai. Enjoy the day then celebrate with your small group back on the boat.

Visit a new island or coral reef every morning and afternoon, anchor in private lagoons, laze on golden beaches and swim, snorkel or dive in clear blue waters.

Cruising might be the perfect alternative to a resort!

p.s look who is front and centre on the picture!



Island Charters

Have you ever dreamed about your own private island for your wedding day? Taking over a whole resort for just you and your guests? No other people there to intrude?

This sort of wedding is available in Fiji, and is not only for celebrities with a big budget.

You are able then to completely customise your wedding, create your own group activities and celebrations.

You are not restricted to worrying about other guests and have the whole place to yourselves – beach, restaurants and so on.

Your reception can party on until the wee hours without noise disturbing other guests. And even if it is an adults only resort, an island buyout means the little ones can be there too.

Resorts can make the entire experience the one you imagine, making it totally unique to you. So if you want a private yet flexible location, consider a buy-out as it is a great option



Elopements

It's just so easy to have a dream elopement in Fiji!

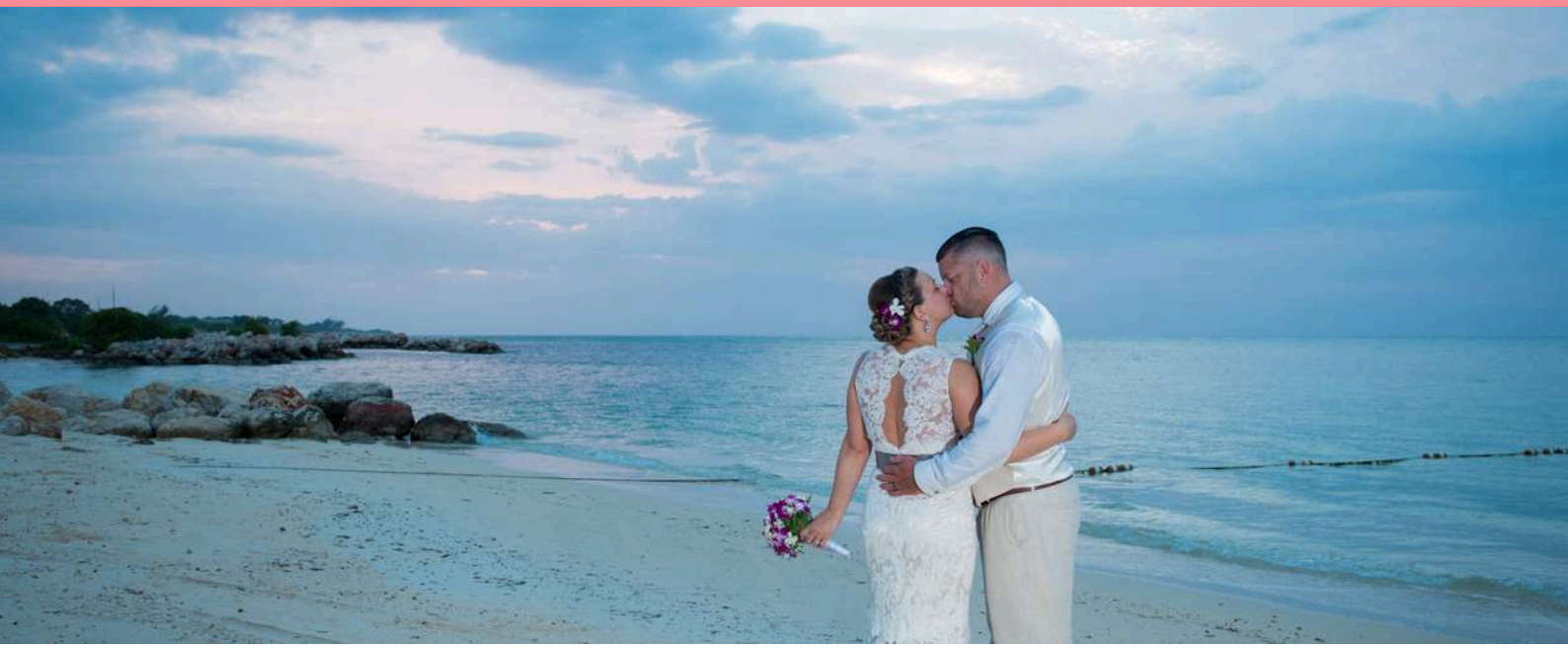
Eloping is a wonderful experience and Fiji is perfect for that.

We can include everything you need for a fabulous elopement experience.

We would include accommodation one of our amazing properties, for adults only or family friendly, plus all your usual vendors such as a photographer to capture your day, hair and make up plus all you need for your wedding day, such as a simple ceremony, dedicated wedding coordinator at the resort, all paperwork, celebrant, bride's bouquet & grooms buttonhole etc.

And us, your independent Fiji Wedding Planners to take care of all of your requirements such as flights/transfers. Budgets can range quite considerably!

Sound easy? It really is.



Do your own thing

In the true spirit of a destination wedding! No guest list, just the two of you (and maybe a couple of your besties), no stress!

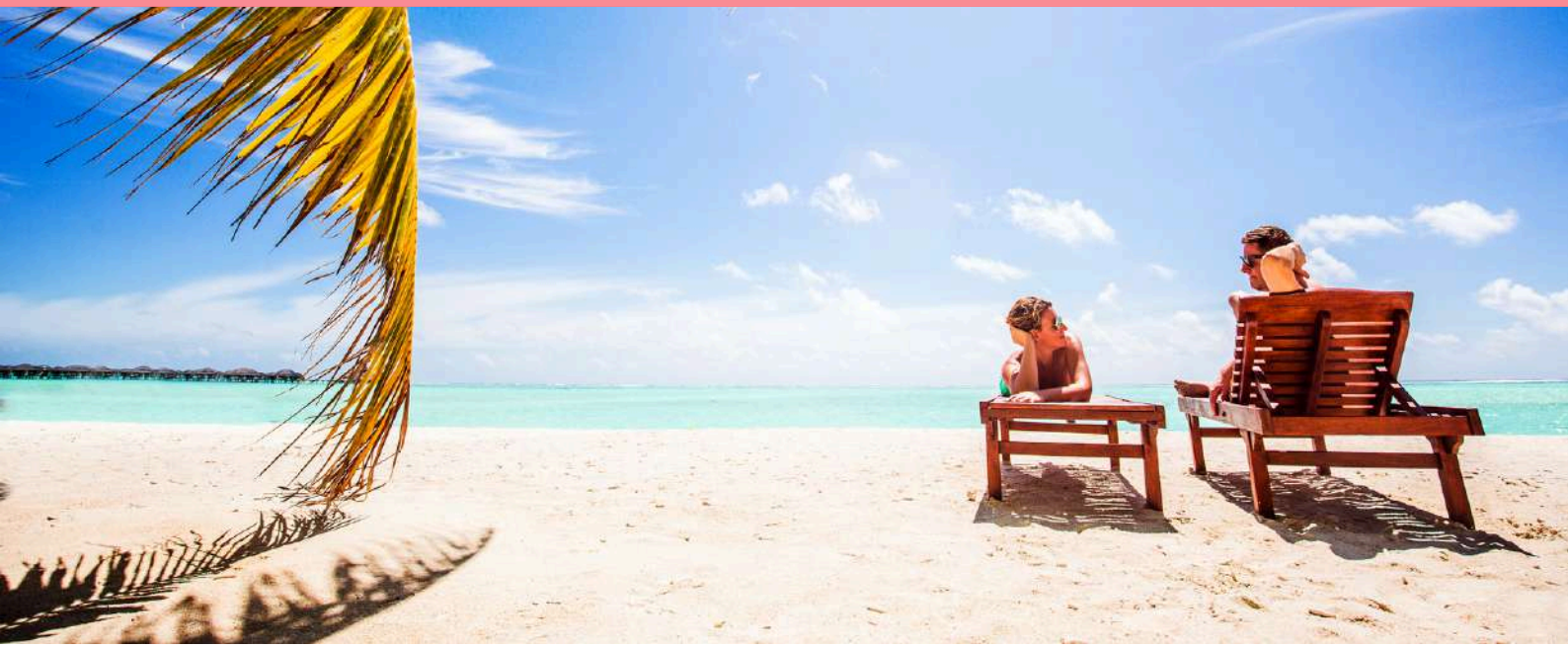
A pop up wedding can be organised in any resort, alternatively we can arrange them off the beaten track as well. Think beach club, or small rustic islands without large crowds, a day cruise, even a cute café.

It will depend on where you choose to spend your holiday, but there are heaps of options.

And just because your wedding isn't having all the bells and whistles, we can still make it an amazing day.

We can have your event styled, organise a photographer to take pictures, and hair and make-up artists to make you look your best.

And if you are taking some people along for the fun, we can organise that too! We can arrange a include a simple tailor-made wedding just for you.



Honeymoons

For anyone looking for that amazing text-book honeymoon destination, you can't beat Fiji!

Fiji has always been very popular with newly-weds looking for that romance and luxury –after all, this is a very special once-in-a-lifetime trip!

Here you can find it all –from the lovely weather, beautiful places to stay, and as much (or little privacy or activities as you wish.

There are so many options -stunning yet secluded, adult-only, all-inclusive or private island style resorts, where the staff get to know you and often remember your favourite drinks after the first time. Plus there are so many beautiful family friendly resorts if you are travelling with your little ones.

We are truly experts in all the resorts, so we can advise you on the perfect place that will suit a of your requirements.

Fiji truly is amazing for that romantic escape!



Legal Considerations

Here are all of the legal requirements for a wedding in Fiji, so that your special day is remembered for all the right reasons. Getting married in Fiji is a pretty easy process, we will send you all you need in advance.

To legally marry in Fiji, you need to:
- Be single, widowed or divorced.
- Not be related (bloodline relationship).
- Be 21 years of age or over.
- Any witnesses must be 18 years of age or over.
- Both spouses must be physically present to obtain the licence.

There are a variety of documents required, depending on your individual circumstances.
We will provide you with all the forms, current information and assistance to obtain your licence.

Important note:
All Original documents are required to be brought to the resort and sighted by your wedding coordinator. All special application license forms must be typed, no handwritten forms will be accepted. Signatures can be made after all information is completed on the above section of the license forms.

Legal FAQs

IS IT A LEGALLY RECOGNISED MARRIAGE?

Your marriage is recognised and legal worldwide. Births Deaths and Marriages can't register it in Fiji as they only register marriages that take place on Australian soil

WHO IS REQUIRED TO PRODUCE A CERTIFICATE OF SINGLE STATUS?

All applicants are now required to produce a Certificate of Single Status. You will need to go to your state Births Deaths and Marriages and apply for one.
They need to cover all the places you have lived in since you were 18 years old.

HOW DO I CHANGE MY NAME THEN?

Most people do an official name change when they get back to Australia which is then recorded in Births Deaths and Marriages.

We suggest that when you receive your marriage certificate get around a dozen copies certified by a JP and keep them safe. If you lose your certificate you will need to apply to Fiji for a copy, but it is easy! Banks and credit cards etc will keep a copy on file, so never send the original. Legally you are married and can use your new name, but it is easier and more official to do a name change.

HOW LONG BEFORE DO I NEED TO ARRIVE IN FIJI?

There is no legal requiremwnrt however you will need to visit the Registry Office for a short appointment to verify your documents. This means you need to be there during the working week (Monday-Friday/office hours).

We also suggest arriving at least 3 days prior to allow you to meet with your wedding coordinator, visit the Registry Office (during the working week) and finalise all paperwork and preparations.

Remember to check Fiji Public Holidays when planning your travel arrangements and allow an extra day if necessary.

Please note Sunday is a religious day in Fiji and weddings on this day are subject to individual resorts.

So what's next?



We'd love to hear all about your wedding plans! The best place to start is with a relaxed chat so we can get to know you both, hear your ideas and find out what you're hoping for.

Whether you've already got a clear picture of your wedding day or haven't got a clue where to start, that's absolutely fine! We'll chat about your guest numbers, budget, places you've visited, what you love (and what you don't!) and anything else that's important to you. It's also a chance to ask us questions and find out how we'll help you along the way.

So let's have a chat! We'd love to hear what you've got in mind, share a few ideas you might not have considered and help you take those first exciting steps towards your Fiji wedding.

You can book in a "face-to-face" video chat via the QR code

CONTACT DETAILS
The office is open from 8.30am-5pm Monday-Friday.
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The main office email is info@travelwithviva.com and is accessed by the whole team.
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