

## Tour 10 Fiji Tropical Wonderland Tour

Seven day Pacific Islands (Fiji) tour  
(Sunday 24 - Saturday 30 August 2014)

### Tour Cost:

\$1,900 (pp twin share; \$2,500pp with single supplement)

Tour Leader: Dr Richard Beyer

Fiji is an exciting, welcoming destination and an excellent location in which to wind down after the congress. The tour offers a mix of sun, sea and sand, spectacular scenery, insights into Pacific island culture and horticulture, a walk through native unspoiled bushland, and the option of more ambitious adventure activities if you are up to it. Horticulturalists will love the colorful tropical plants and flowers, as well as the visit to the Sigatoka Valley where fruit and vegetable production is carried out. Many years ago, this was the heart of Fiji's banana export industry and the valley gave its name to 'Black Sigatoka' - one of the world's most notorious banana diseases. Bananas are now grown only for local consumption, but the valley produces most of the delicious 'Fiji red papaya' and a range of other high-quality fruit and vegetables for export. For those with broader cultural interests, separate visits can be made to archaeological sites that manifest early human settlement in Fiji.



### Itinerary

#### Day 1: Sunday 24 August 2014 Travel to Nandi, Fiji

Arrive in Nandi. Suitable flights are offered by Air Pacific/Fiji Airways and Virgin Australia (direct from Brisbane) or Air New Zealand (via Auckland).

*Overnight in Nadi, meals not included*



#### Day 2: Monday 25 August Nadi

Sites to see include a commercial orchid farm, a rapidly developing breadfruit orchard (interplanted with local food plants) and nursery of Fiji native plants used for landscaping, a visit to a local beauty spot - the Valley of the Sleeping Giant, a recently-constructed vegetable processing factory and a commercial herb garden (exporting basil to New Zealand and supplying local high end markets).

*Overnight Nadi, Meals included: Breakfast/Lunch/Dinner.*



### Day 3: Tuesday 26 August Nadi-Sigatoka

Today, we visit the municipal market in Nadi before travelling to Sigatoka (approximately one hour on the road). En route, we will visit the Sigatoka sand dunes and visit a small museum, explaining the archaeology of the Lapita people, the first known inhabitants of the Fiji Islands. Participants will have the option of travelling to their hotel or trekking to the excavation sites on the Sigatoka sand dunes where archaeologists carried out the original 'digs' and where pottery and bones are still continuously exposed by winds and erosion. In Sigatoka, you will visit a small but highly successful processor of tropical fruit pulps and juices. 'Sunset accommodation varies between backpacker style to four-star resorts or elegant boutique accommodation serving exquisite local food.

*Overnight in Sigatoka, Meals included: Breakfast/Lunch/Dinner.*



### Day 4: Wednesday 27 August: Sigatoka (and on to Pacific Harbour)

The Tavuni hill fort (some 20 minutes drive up the east bank of the Sigatoka river) offers breathtaking views of the lower reaches of the majestic Sigatoka river with line of sight stretching as far as the sand dunes themselves for perfect photo-opportunities. Details of the history of the fort and the relationships between Tongans and Fijians will be related in graphic detail alongside the killing stone.

Horticulturalists cannot miss the visit to the west bank of the Sigatoka river where fruit and vegetables are produced. Many years ago, this was the heart of Fiji's banana export industry and the valley gave its name to 'Black Sigatoka', one of the world's most notorious banana diseases. Bananas are now grown only for local consumption, but the valley produces most of the delicious 'Fiji Red Papaya' that are exported to New Zealand and Australia, along with a great diversity of vegetables for local markets. Participants will have an opportunity to visit the Government's Sigatoka Research Station and one or two commercial farms.

Travel to Pacific Harbour (just over an hour by road). The delightful resort town of Pacific Harbour boasts a range of hotels and accommodation from four-star to home stay facilities and a wealth of activities – for serious horticulturalists or more light-hearted vacationers. In the evening you will be treated to a traditional Fijian feast with a cultural show in which you will be invited to participate.

*Overnight in Pacific Harbour, Meals included: Breakfast/Lunch/Dinner.*



### Day 5: Thursday 28 August Pacific Harbour/ Suva/Pacific Harbour

Fiji's capital city, Suva, is less than an hour by road from the major port of Pacific Harbour. After morning tea, participants are invited to visit the gene bank and tissue culture laboratory of the Centre for Pacific Crops and Trees (CePaCT) of the Secretariat of the Pacific Community (which probably holds the largest collection of taro, together with unique Pacific banana and breadfruit accessions) and the Government's Koronivia Research Station, one of the oldest in the region and still an important centre for research on Pacific Crops such as taro. The Suva municipal market is the best place for fish, fruit and vegetables. Lunch will be provided at Suva's Holiday Inn and participants will be given 2-3 hours of shopping inclusive of visits to the Local Handicraft Centre and the National Museum before returning to Pacific Harbour.

*Overnight in Pacific Harbour, Meals included: Breakfast/  
Lunch/Dinner.*



## Day 6: Friday 29 August Pacific Harbour, returning to Nadi

Local options for the horticulturalists include Ben's Trading – Fiji's largest exporter of dalo (taro) to Australia and New Zealand (Navua close to Pacific Harbour), Kaiming, Fiji's biggest crystallized ginger manufacturer (Navua close to Pacific Harbour), and examples of the effects of newly-introduced shade houses for production and multiplication of planting material.

Participants leaving on Saturday return to Nadi in the afternoon

*Overnight in Nadi, Meals included: Breakfast/Lunch*

## Day 7: Saturday 30 August depart Fiji

Suitable flights are offered by Air Pacific/Fiji Airways and Virgin Australia or Air New Zealand (via Auckland).

*Meals included: Breakfast*

We acknowledge the following resource people who will make themselves available subject to out-of-town commitments:

- Prof Randy Thaman (USP) Ethnobotanist
- Prof Paddy Nunn (USP) Sigatoka Sand Dunes
- Kyle Stice - Breadfruit and Papaya nurseries
- The Burnesses - Orchid farm
- Dr Richard Markham (ACIAR)

## Included

- Transport in air-conditioned coach
- Share twin accommodation in good quality hotels ranging from 3 to 4 star
- All breakfasts plus dinners and lunches as indicated in the itinerary
- Technical visits
- English speaking guide with a professional background in horticulture

## Not Included

- Travel insurance
- International departure taxes
- Meals not itemised in the itinerary
- Items of a personal nature such as beverages, laundry, telephone.

\* Please note that we endeavour to follow the itinerary as set out on the previous pages. However, unforeseen circumstances beyond our control may mean we have to make alterations to the program.

