

SUVA, FIJI

Bula! Known as 'the New York of the South Pacific' thanks to its diverse population. Suva is the largest city in the South Pacific and performs an important regional role. It is not known for being a particularly pretty city, and most tourism is centered around Nadi on the west coast of Viti Levu

KEY INFO

Currency: Fijian Dollar (1 USD = 2.24 FJD)

Population: 94,000 (925,000 Fiji)

Emergency #: 911

Drinking water: Tap water is not drinkable

Time Zone: GMT+12

ID Requirements: Photo ID

Languages: Fijian, English & Fijian Hindi

Drive on the: Left

Pharmacy: TappooCity (Floor 4), Thomson St, Suva

Bug Spray: Recommended

Wi-Fi: Municipal Market, McDonalds

PORT LOCATION

Ships dock at the Port of Suva, which is a 10-minute walk to the city center

Getting Around: It is possible to walk from the port to town. Public buses are payable using an e-ticket system. It is required to buy a disposable card from the bus checkers; remaining credit can be reimbursed at a Vodafone retail outlet. Taxis are available; LT reg-plates are metered, LH reg-plates are unmetered. Most taxis take payment in cash

Experience Suva (supported by the City Council) has made a [self-guided walking tour](#)

Port Facilities: Toilet, Internet, ATM, Taxis, Currency Exchange, Handicraft Market

Port Address: Port of Suva, Usher Street, Suva, Fiji

BEACHES NEAR SUVA

Nasese Beach: The closest beach to the port, but very much an urban beach and not the picture-perfect paradise in the travel brochures. 10-minute drive (5.2km from port)

Apted Park: A picnic-type beachfront, but not a white-sand idyll. 10-minute drive (5.2km drive from port)

SHOPPING IN SUVA

Suva Municipal Market: This busy local market is the best place to buy local fresh produce. Prices are clearly marked and watch out for the boys with wheelbarrows who are on a mission to get their goods from A to B! 5-minute walk (280m from port)

Curio Handicraft Centre: Located underneath a multi-story car park, you can pick up all manner of locally crafted goods here, from kava bowls and grass skirts to tapa (Fijian cloth), Lali (Fijian drums) and other typical local items. 5-minute walk (350m from port)

Cumming Street: Suva's main shopping street is the perfect place to do your regular shopping. This road is crammed with shops, cheek to jowl. 7-minute walk (450m from port)

SUVA CITY HIGHLIGHTS

Fiji Museum: Set in the Victorian-era Thurston Gardens. This museum is home to traditional canoes, war clubs and tattooing tools. The ideal starting point to connect with the history and culture of Fiji. Card payment accepted. 9am-4:30pm (Mon-Sat) | \$10 FJD | 23-minute walk (1.9km from port)

📍 www.fijimuseum.org.fj

Parliament of Fiji: Visit the parliament building for exhibits and exhibitions, or (when in session) watch Fiji's parliamentary democracy in action from the public gallery. Tours can be arranged in advance by email (info@parliament.gov.fj). 25-minute walk (1.5km from port)

📍 <https://www.parliament.gov.fj/visiting-tours/>

The State House: Formerly known as Government House (until 2017), this Georgian mansion house is the most prominent building in the city and serves as the official residence of the President. 24-minute walk (1.7km from port)

Suva Fiji Temple: Impressive and imposing white temple of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. Opened in 2000 as the 91st temple of the LDS Church. 5-minute drive (2.8km from port)

Cathedral of the Sacred Heart: Also known simply as the Cathedral of Suva, this cathedral is the main Catholic site in Fiji, and was built in 1902 with sandstone brought from Sydney, Australia. 11-minute walk (700m from port)

PUBLIC GARDENS IN SUVA

Thurston Gardens: Victorian-era public gardens named after the Fijian consul who facilitated the annexation of Fiji to Britain, at the request of Chief Cakobau in order to clear his debts to American missionaries. 20-minute walk (1.4km from port)

Albert Park: The largest park and one of Suva's more attractive spots. It has been used as an impromptu runway on more than one occasion, most famously in 1928 following Charles Kingsford Smith's 34-hour flight from Hawaii, which led to the creation of the public garden. 2-minute walk (190m from port)

OUT OF TOWN HIGHLIGHTS

Colo-I-Suva Forest Park: Rainforest Park close to the city. Waterfalls, natural swimming pools, hiking and birdwatching are the main attractions of this popular city escape, which has entertained locals since the 1950s. 15-minute drive (10.6km from port)

Sigatoka Sand Dunes: The site of an ancient Pacific civilization burial site, these sand dunes are now predominantly covered by vines, but still an impressive sight. Located at the southern reaches of the Sigatoka River. 2-hour drive (128km from port)

📍 www.nationaltrust.org.fj/sigatoka_sanddunes.html