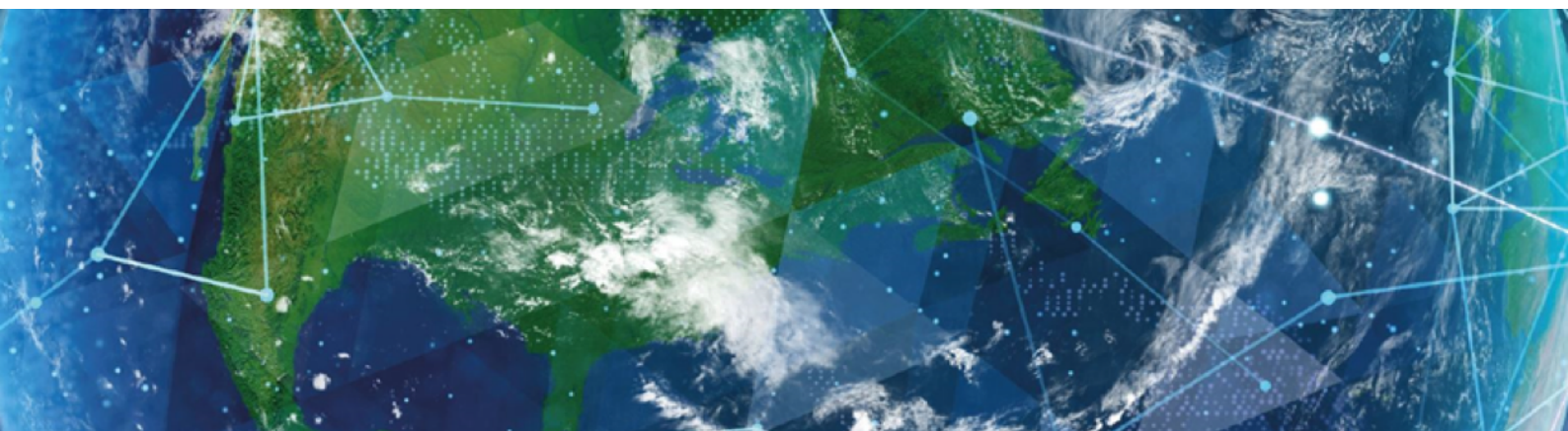


Country Travel Advice Report

Fiji

Overall Risk Rating: **Low - Moderate | 2.50**



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Country Risk Rating Breakdown

Country Overall Risk Rating				Low - Moderate 2.50	
Security	Environmental	Infrastructural	Political	Medical	
Low 2.00	Moderate 3.00	Low 2.25	Low - Moderate 2.50	Moderate 3.25	

Country Overview

Low - Moderate | 2.50

Fiji is a developing Polynesian country located in the South Pacific Ocean. The country has experienced improved stability since its return to democracy in 2014, although the opposition continues to voice occasional complaints about the government allegedly using various security apparatuses to crack down on dissent.

Crime is generally not a major risk for foreign travelers provided precautions are taken. However, incidents of petty theft, as well as sexual and physical assaults, have been reported. Businesses operating in the country can also face challenges from corruption and weak rule of law.

Due to its position in the Pacific Ring of Fire, Fiji is vulnerable to storm systems and earthquakes throughout the year. A lack of funds to fully implement its disaster preparedness and recovery programs increases the likely impact of natural disasters on human populations, infrastructure and the country's economy.

Security

Low | 2.00

Overview

Conflict, terrorism and unrest do not pose a significant threat to foreign nationals in Fiji. Levels of criminal activity in the country are generally low but incidents of assault and burglary do occur and petty theft is relatively common. Popular tourist areas, including downtown Suva, are at increased risk from criminal activity.

Political

Low - Moderate | 2.50

Overview

Fiji has largely returned to relative political stability following the holding of elections in 2014 which ended eight years of military rule. However, issues of corruption continue to plague the government and rule of law remains weak. The country has implemented several measures to promote transparency and clean governance but corruption remains widespread in the public sector.

Infrastructural

Low | 2.25

Overview

Fiji's aviation sector is generally considered to meet international regulatory oversight standards, although international flight destinations are limited.

Most roads, particularly in urban areas and the Western Division, are paved but those in rural areas may be poorly maintained. Fiji has one of the lowest rates of road traffic fatalities in the region but driving can still be hazardous, particularly at night.

A reliance on hydropower has left Fiji's electricity network vulnerable to seasonable variation, particularly during periods of drought.

Mobile network coverage is generally good in urban centers but signal strength may be weaker in some rural areas. Internet reliability and speeds are also considered good by regional standards.

Environmental

Moderate | 3.00

Overview

Fiji has a tropical maritime climate. It does not have a fixed wet period, although downpours occur most frequently over the larger islands during the cyclone season between November and April. The country experiences more frequent severe weather during the cyclone season but storms can occur at any time of year. Cyclones can have a devastating impact on the islands, bringing a risk of flooding, landslides and significant disruption to local infrastructure.

Due to its position in the Pacific Ring of Fire, Fiji is also susceptible to earthquakes and experiences frequent tremors of moderate to high magnitude. Significant offshore earthquakes in the region can also bring a risk of tsunamis.

Medical

Moderate | 3.25

Overview

Mosquito-borne diseases are a concern in Fiji and the country has experienced periodic outbreaks of dengue, including strains with a risk of haemorrhagic fever. There is also considered to be a threat of Zika transmission in Fiji. Health facilities in the country are limited but are generally adequate for routine medical treatment. However, facilities in rural areas may experience shortages of drugs and medical supplies and provide only basic services. More serious injuries or illnesses may require evacuation to Australia or New Zealand which can be extremely expensive. Prescription and over-the-counter pharmaceuticals are available at hospitals and clinics. Drugs are also dispensed at private pharmacies but some prescription pharmaceuticals may be in short supply.

Fact Box

Government Type	Parliamentary Republic
Population	892,145 (2015)
Currency	Fijian Dollar
Languages	English (official), Fijian (official), Hindustani
Time Zone	UTC+12
Religions	Protestant 45%, Hindu 28%, other Christian 10%, Roman Catholic 9%, Muslim 6%, Other 2%
Traffic	Drives on the left
Plug Types	Type I
Ethnicities	iTaukei 57%, Indian 38%, Other 5%
Drinking Water	Not Safe to Drink
Additional Information	<p>2020 Significant Dates:</p> <p>January 1 - New Year's Day April 10 - Good Friday April 13 - Easter Monday September 7 - Constitution Day October 10 - Fiji Day November 2 - Mawlid al-Nabi (Prophet Mohammed's Birthday) November 16 - Diwali Holiday December 25 - Christmas Day December 28 - Christmas Holiday</p>
International Country Code	+679

Travel Risk Advice

Vaccinations and Key Health Risks

You should visit a health care professional at least four to six weeks prior to the trip. Travellers should ensure that they have routine vaccination courses and boosters. Routine vaccines include measles-mumps-rubella (MMR), diphtheria-tetanus-pertussis, varicella (chickenpox), polio, and annual flu vaccine.

Zika virus and other mosquito-borne illnesses are present in the country, and mosquito prevention efforts are recommended.

There is no vaccination to prevent Zika and comprehensive mosquito protection methods are recommended. This is particularly important for those who are pregnant, planning to become pregnant, suffer from a severe, chronic medical condition, or have a medical condition that weakens the immune system. Female travellers who are pregnant or who wish to become pregnant, including their partners, may wish to seek additional medical advice.

Dependent on work, reason for travel, or underlying health conditions, some travellers may require vaccines from:

- Hepatitis A
- Hepatitis B
- Yellow Fever
- Typhoid
- Tuberculosis
- Rabies

Pre-departure

- Travellers should identify possible sources of medical support in Fiji, such as the availability of hotel provided doctor for minor ailments.
- Travellers should have adequate travel insurance in place to enable rapid medical treatment or emergency extraction from the country and should review contingency options, business continuity and crisis management plans.
- During the cyclone season, travellers should familiarise themselves with natural disaster preparedness and evacuation plans issued by the local government or relevant authorities.
- Travellers should provide friends and family with a copy of their travel itinerary, and make a copy of important travel and identification documents.

On Arrival

- Travellers should continually reassess the security and threat environment through a range of multi-source intelligence advisories.
- Travellers should confirm the location of storm shelters, evacuation areas, evacuation routes, open spaces, and facilities such as community halls and convenience stores.

In Transit

- Public transport is generally safe and self-driving may be conducted.

At Your Hotel

- There are no extraneous measures that should be undertaken at the hotel. However, weather reports provided by local media and authorities should be monitored, and trusted news sources should be followed on social media. During the cyclone season, travellers should prepare an emergency kit of bottled water, non-perishable food items, a battery-powered radio, any medications that are taken regularly, and vital travel documents.

In the Street

- Travellers should be aware of the national culture and behavioural expectations. Although homosexuality was decriminalised in Fiji in 2010, the country remains socially conservative and same-sex travellers may encounter discrimination, particularly in rural areas.
- Travellers should avoid overt displays of wealth, dress discreetly and appropriately to the environment, not display money, jewellery or valuables and maintain a low profile.
- Travellers should use only small denominations of the local currency, and keep large amounts of cash and cards in a separate place on their person. The contents of wallets or purses should be reduced, particularly cards which may denote affiliations, memberships and accounts.
- Travellers should ensure that their mobile phone is carried with sufficient battery life and programmed with appropriate emergency numbers. Travellers should also carry an ID card or passport and emergency medical information.
- Travellers should be aware of their location and surroundings, avoiding high-crime areas and walking through dimly lit streets after dark. Travellers should know routes and carry a map if necessary, but keep it concealed.
- In crowded situations, travellers should be aware of jostling as this may be used as a ploy by pick-pockets. Travellers should also be aware of people loitering, and also attackers who may first pass their victim to attack from behind.
- Travellers should ignore verbal bait from passers-by, not get into any arguments and avoid eye contact with strangers.
- Travellers should avoid any demonstrations, protests and rallies, which may attract security forces and present a dynamic and volatile environment.
- Travellers should be aware that photographing government buildings or military facilities may result in detention by authorities. Travellers should ask permission before taking pictures of locals, especially women.

COVID-19 Information

Travel Restrictions: Authorities in Fiji have lifted all COVID-19 restrictions for international travelers as of Feb. 16. Inbound passengers arriving in Fiji by air or sea are no longer required to present proof of COVID-19 vaccination and travel insurance to enter the country.

Domestic Measures

Individuals who test positive for COVID-19 must self-isolate for five days but can exit quarantine only if their symptoms are improving and they have not had a fever in the previous 24 hours. Patients that continue to test positive after the 5-day isolation period will be given a "Fit-to-Fly" certificate confirming they are not infectious.

Close contacts of COVID-19 cases only need to self-isolate for five days if they display symptoms and test positive on a COVID-19 test. Authorities may move visitors from accommodations to overflow facilities to serve quarantine; officials recommend booking a CFC hotel.

Additional Information: <https://fj.usembassy.gov/u-s-citizen-services/covid-19-information/>

Threat Scale Reference

Threat Rating	Implication
1 - Negligible	The operating environment is benign and there are only isolated threats to business and/or travel.
2 – Low	The operating environment is generally permissive, although there are a limited number of threats to business and/or travel that requires basic mitigations.
3 – Moderate	The operating environment is challenging and there are serious threats to business and/or travel that requires some mitigations.
4 – High	The operating environment is hostile and there are significant threats to business, personal safety and/or travel, requiring comprehensive mitigations and planning.
5 – Extreme	The operating environment is characterised by pervasive direct threats to business, personal safety and/or travel, requiring strict risk management procedures.

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