

# Pacific Islands

Adventures like no place on earth



Fiji

## Namatakula Village Homestay

They love their rugby in Namatakula. As dusk envelopes this sleepy Coral Coast village, boys of all ages are honing their footy skills, dreaming of making it in the Australian professional leagues.

Down on the beach fringing the reef, strapping teens are weaving and bobbing in a game of touch rugby. On the grassy lawns between the well-tended houses, the youngest generation is rolling about with laughter. A well-loved rugby ball almost seems incidental to their play.

I'm surprised they've got much energy left after providing me with the warmest of village welcomes a couple of hours earlier. Countless spontaneous shouts of 'Bula!' mixed with 'Come with me!' invitations mean I've already met most of Namatakula.

Tonight my own extended family includes gracious hosts Simon and Judith Batibasaga. Since 2004 they've been inviting guests into their simple but comfortable home and surprising them with some of Fiji's best home-cooked food. The diverse spread tonight includes marlin steaks with coconut, fried eggplant fritters, sweet potato tapioca and delicately curried river prawns collected upstream in the hinterland of Viti Levu. Dessert – possible only after a substantial rest – is fresh pineapple and mango. On other occasions guests could be served homemade coconut bread, Fijian-style lobster or kokoda (spicy salad made with raw fish).

It's all overwhelming proof that the best travel food is family food. It also means a calorie-burning spell of touch rugby might be good for me in the morning.



## Contact Details

Fiji Bure Village Homestays  
[www.fijibure.com](http://www.fijibure.com)  
per person with all meals FJ\$130

# Pacific Islands

Adventures like no place on earth



## Fiji

### 🏠 Accommodation

Namatakula Village Homestay  
[www.fijibure.com](http://www.fijibure.com)  
per person with all meals FJ\$130

Mango Bay Resort  
Namatakula, Coral Coast  
Phone +679 650 0185  
[www.mangobayresortfiji.com](http://www.mangobayresortfiji.com)  
dorm/double from FJ\$36/195

### 🚶 Tours

A variety of tours are available while staying at Namatakula village, including snorkelling on the nearby reef, horse riding, fishing, spearfishing and trekking to the nearby Savunamatelaya waterfall.

### 👁 Other Attractions

Sigatoka Sand Dunes  
[www.nationaltrust.org.fj](http://www.nationaltrust.org.fj)

Sigatoka River Safari  
[www.sigatokariver.com](http://www.sigatokariver.com)  
adult/child from FJ\$99/200  
Jetboat tour and village visit.

Kula Eco Park  
Sigatoka  
Phone +650 0505  
[www.fijiwild.com](http://www.fijiwild.com)

### ✈ Transport

Air New Zealand  
[www.airnewzealand.com](http://www.airnewzealand.com)  
Links Auckland and Christchurch with Fiji.  
Air Pacific  
[www.airpacific.com](http://www.airpacific.com)  
Flies from Auckland, Christchurch, Sydney, Melbourne, Brisbane and Los Angeles to Fiji.

Pacific Blue  
[www.flypacificblue.com](http://www.flypacificblue.com)  
Qantas  
[www.qantas.com.au](http://www.qantas.com.au)  
Both airlines fly from Brisbane, Sydney and Melbourne to Fiji.

Air Pacific also flies to Hong Kong and their sister Regional Airline (Paciic Sun) to Apia, Port Vila, Honiara, Nuku'alofa, Apia, Tarawa, and Funafuti.

To reach Namatakula village, take one of the frequent buses that travel along the Queen's Highway from Nadi to Suva. A taxi from Nadi airport to Namatakula is around F\$90.

### 🛍 Shopping

Buy traditional Fijian crafts at Baravi Handicrafts in the village of Vatukarasa.

### 🍴 Drinking and Dining

Vilisite's Restaurant  
Korolevu, Coral Coast  
Phone +679 650 1030  
mains FJ\$15-40

Mayshaars Restaurant  
Sunset Strip  
Phone +679 65200584  
mains NZ\$10-15

Raj's Curry House  
Queen's Rd, Sigatoka  
Phone +679 650 1470  
mains FJ\$10-20

Sigatoka Club  
Queen's Rd, Sigatoka  
Phone +679 650 0026