



Photo by JIM GARIN (MAIDIVE)



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### DAY THREE

Day Three we finally got to experience Kadavu's greatest attraction and my personal highlight of the trip, the Great Astrolabe Reef. Divers come from far and wide to swim amongst a reef system arguably more attractive than the Great Barrier Reef and with a fraction of the traffic. In a group of four led by Dive master Dee, we felt like we were the only divers on the reef. There wasn't another boat in sight as we descend onto 'Cabbage Patch', a calm area inside the reef with beautiful topography and lots of fun macro life to investigate.

Mai Dive offers two tank dives every day but after the first, our programme insisted we jet off to Tamarillo Kayak Fiji. Founded by the owner of Tamarillo Expeditions, New Zealand, the Kadavu

kayaking tours range from leisurely trips along mangrove cut-through to a full circumnavigation of Kadavu Island for the more experienced (and physically fit). In the hour and a half that we take to complete the tour, our surroundings change from white sandy beaches to rocky sea cliffs to mangrove canopies. Tamarillo Kayak Fiji manages to display the vastly different landscapes of Fiji in the span of one kayaking trip, with our guide Ratu punctuating splash of our paddles with his old Fijian stories and descriptions of the land.

In less than twenty-four hours, we explored both above and below the surface of Kadavu's waters and it's tough to decide which we prefer. In a secluded island group in the middle of the Pacific Ocean, much is influenced by the sea

and Kadavu had given us almost everything her surrounding seas have to offer.

### DAY FOUR

After an action-packed few days it was time to head back to reality but we dragged our feet, Kadavu had cast her spell. Once you've experienced the thrill of the South, you wonder why you hadn't done it sooner.

Adventure is aplenty on Fiji's fourth largest island. Kadavu and Ono offer the adrenalin without the crowds and if a fun-filled Fijian holiday is what you're looking for, look to the very bottom of the Fiji map for a destination that should be at the very top of your list.

*Fiji Link flies to Kadavu from Nadi every Tuesday, Saturday, Sunday, and from Suva every Monday.*