



# DISCOVERING KADAVU

By DRUE SLATTER  
Photos by FEROUZ KHALIL

The southern-most islands of Fiji, the Kadavu group, are virtually untouched and often unnoticed. Given it takes a little longer to get there than to the Mamanucas or the Coral Coast on the main island of Viti Levu, proper planning is useful before hopping on the Fiji Link flight to Vunisea Airstrip in Kadavu.

If you do choose to venture down to the cluster of islands often dropped off the edge of Fiji's maps, you will be pleasantly surprised. The group includes Kadavu, Ono, Galoa and a number of other islets mostly known for either their impeccable diving, or untouched birdlife, or collection of deserted surf breaks during Fiji's 'winter' months.

## GETTING THERE

*By Air:* Fiji Link provides flights to Kadavu from both Nadi and Suva. If you are flying in to Fiji, your domestic flight to Kadavu from Nadi International Airport can be added to your international ticket. The flight takes about 45 minutes.

## STAY

The factors that make Kadavu difficult to access are the very features that make it worth visiting. Isolation and an almost non-existent road system ensure that those looking for privacy are afforded just that.

On Kadavu Island there are a number of accommodation options, Matava Resort being one of the more popular. It has a reputable dive operation overlooking the amazing Astrolabe Reef. Placing an emphasis on eco-friendliness, Matava derives all power from solar energy

and uses fresh organic produce from its gardens.

A little higher up the price ladder is Papageno Resort, with 350 acres of beachfront property and only 15 villas. A popular spot for yoga retreats and honeymooners, Papageno offers seclusion in stunningly designed accommodation sited in between jungle gardens.

Other accommodation options on the island include:

- Dive Kadavu (Matana Beach Resort)
- Tiliva Resort
- Waisalima Beach Resort and Dive Centre

On the smaller island of Ono, there are also a number of hideouts for your Fijian holiday.

At Mai Dive Astrolabe Reef Resort, the reef is right off your doorstep. Mai Dive is tailored for divers keen on exploring the spectacular