

KADAVU

The Unplugged Adventure

Kadavu is home of the second-largest living organism on Earth, the Great Astrolabe Reef

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Looking out the aircraft window, the island of Kadavu is abundant, thriving, a green blanket of trees over hills, and endless grove.

If you are a green traveler or one looking for an unplugged adventure to get away from your gadgets and the daily need to post and hashtag on social media, then Fiji's fourth largest island may be just the place. Unlike most mainland holiday destinations that offer Fijian hospitality, Kadavu offers the experience of Fijian culture and traditional hospitality without the electronics and luxury frills. There are no large restaurants or fast food outlets here.

About 100 Kilometers south of Viti Levu, Kadavu people still have a lifestyle of simplicity, which can convince visitors that it is quite unnecessary to continuously use your gadgets or post and tag what you had for lunch. Kadavu has something completely unique. The fact that Kadavu is one of the islands of Fiji less visited by tourists is precisely the reason why you should go there, before others discover what a treasure it is. It is just a 40-minute flight by Fiji Link direct from Nadi Airport to Vunisea, the small Kadavu airstrip. Senior boat captain Magnus Mitchell loaded us and our luggage into a pickup truck and we made our journey to a reasonable yet less modern-like port where our boat was waiting to take us to Matava Resort.

Boat driver Sikeli sashayed us through open water on a 60 horse powered engine. The adventure had begun. The ride to our lodge was only 45 minutes, but for an almost timeless moment we remained hypnotised by the changing colours of the ocean, from midnight blue to glowing turquoise. We passed coastal villages and amazing scenery; the absence of roads and infrastructure was now evident. As we went we were educated on how villagers in Kadavu still rely largely on subsistence agriculture and fishing.

Matava Resort, where manager Leanne Mitchell and her staff warmly welcomed us, sits on the shore's edge close to the rush of waves. Listed as one of Fiji's premier eco resorts, Matava has