

Ovalau & the Lomaiviti Group

POP 12,065

Includes ➔

Ovalau	140
Levuka	140
Lovoni	146
Rukuruku	146
Arovudi & Silana	147
Naigani	147
Yanuca Lailai	148
Moturiki	148
Caqalai	148
Leleuvia	148
Wakaya	149
Koro	149

Best Sights

- ➔ Levuka (p143)
- ➔ Snake Island (p148)
- ➔ Lovoni village (p140)
- ➔ Niubasaga (p148)
- ➔ Nadelaiovalau Peak (p140)

Best Places to Stay

- ➔ Levuka Homestay (p145)
- ➔ Bobo's Farm (p147)
- ➔ Caqalai Island Resort (p148)
- ➔ Leleuvia Island Resort (p148)

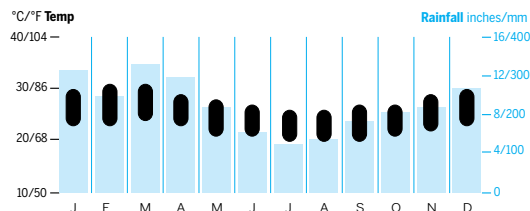
Why Go?

Despite its proximity to Viti Levu, the Lomaiviti Group is often overlooked as a tourist destination, which is a shame. It was in Levuka, the capital of the main island Ovalau, that the first Europeans settled and eventually made this the country's first capital. Its wild and immoral colonial days are long over but you'll be seduced by its charms and welcoming atmosphere – not forgetting its historic centre that won Fiji's first World Heritage site listing in 2013.

The tiny coral islands of Leleuvia and Caqalai have sandy beaches, good snorkelling and simple budget resorts. To the north is Koro with its fantastic diving, family-oriented Naigani and the luxury resort of Wakaya island. Hawksbill turtles visit to lay their eggs, and a pod of humpback whales passes the east coast of Ovalau on their annual migration between May and September. Unfortunately Ovalau and the Lomaiviti Islands were badly damaged by 2016's Cyclone Winston.

When to Go

Levuka



Feb–Mar Calmest and warmest months with temperatures hovering around 30°C.

Aug Often the coolest month of the year when temperatures can dip below 20°C.

May–Oct Trade winds keep days dry and nights cool. Whales can be spotted off the coast.



Ovalau & the Lomaiviti Group Highlights

- 1 Enjoying the rickety colonial architecture of colourful **Levuka** (p143) and easily imagining its rowdy outpost atmosphere of times past.
- 2 Spotting Napoleon wrasses, banded sea snakes, phenomenally big schools

of fish and psychedelic gardens of soft corals while snorkelling **Snake Island** (p148).

- 3 Hiking through river jungles to the proud and remote village of Lovoni with **Epi's Tours** (p140).

- 4 Eating homegrown organic food in the rainforest at **Bobo's Farm** (p147).

- 5 Getting spiritual with a melodious church service at **Niubasaga village** (p148) on remote Moturiki.



Activities

Diving & Snorkelling

The Lomaiviti waters offer some wonderful, little-visited dive sites where you can encounter manta rays, hammerheads, turtles, white-tip reef sharks and lion fish, but at the time of writing few resorts offered diving trips. **Blue Ridge**, off Wakaya Island, is famous for its bright-blue ribbon eels. There is stunning soft coral at **Snake Island**, just

off Caqalai, in the Moturiki Channel, and excellent hard coral at **Waitovu Passage**. The **Pipeline**, two minutes by boat from town at Levuka Passage, is for experienced divers only. Here the fishy waste from the Pafco tuna plant attracts giant groupers, eagle rays and bull sharks. The famous **E6** in the Vatu-i-Ra Channel is a huge pinnacle with soft corals and plenty of big pelagics. **Nigali Passage** off Gau island is a narrow channel