

Ovalau & the Lomaiviti Group

POP 12,064

Includes »

Ovalau.....	139
Levuka.....	140
Lovoni.....	145
Rukuruku.....	145
Arovudi & Silana.....	146
Other Lomaiviti Islands.....	146
Naigani.....	146
Yanuca Lailai.....	147
Moturiki.....	147
Caqalai.....	147
Leleuvia.....	148
Wakaya.....	148
Koro.....	149

Best Places to Stay

- » Caqalai Island Resort (p147)
- » Leleuvia Island Resort (p148)
- » Levuka Homestay (p143)
- » Royal Hotel (p143)
- » Silana Ecologde (p147)

Best Sights

- » Levuka (p141)
- » Snake Island (p148)
- » Lovoni village (p145)
- » Niubasaga (p147)
- » Nadelaiovalu Peak (p140)

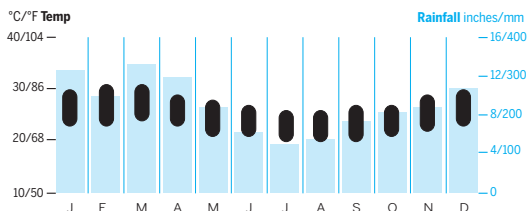
Why Go?

Lomaiviti literally means 'Middle Fiji' and although the group is just off Viti Levu's east coast, it really does feel like the middle of nowhere. It is therefore hard to believe that 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. Today it's laid-back and the political machinations long departed, but with the right wind you may yet catch a whiff of the town's wild and immoral colonial days.

South of Ovalau, 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.

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.



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. **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 gi-



Ovalau & the Lomaiviti Group Highlights

1 Enjoying the rickety colonial architecture of colourful **Levuka** (p141) 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 Midland Tour** (p141)

4 Experiencing Fijian village life while staying with Seru and his welcoming family at **Silana Ec Lodge** (p147)

5 Walking down a noticeable slope on creaking floors to your bathroom

at the **Royal Hotel** (p143), oldest hotel in the South Pacific

6 Spotting whales from the terrace of **Levuka Homestay** (p143), cocktail in hand

7 Getting spiritual with a melodious church service at **Niubasaga village** (p147) on remote Motoriki