



FIJI & NEW CALEDONIA: 1 - 16 AUGUST 2024

~50 regional endemics expected, including the monotypic Kagu, the stunning Ouvea Parakeet, the Critically Endangered Crow Honeyeater, Fiji's mind-blowing Fruit-Doves, and the unique Taveuni Silktail. All physically easy, with comfortable hotels.

PRICE: \$11,300 USD pp with \$750 USD pp single supplement.

DEPOSIT: \$1,500 USD pp due by 1st October 2024.

Day 1: The tour will start this evening at Nadi (or Nandi) Airport (NAN) in Fiji, where we will stay overnight.

Day 2: Today we will take a flight across to the island of Kadavu for a two-night stay. Once we have checked into our comfortable resort, we will start our exploration of the island. Night on Kadavu.

Day 3: During our time on Kadavu we will focus on searching for four endemics: Whistling (Velvet) Fruit Dove, Crimson Shining Parrot, Kadavu Fantail and Kadavu Honeyeater. We also have a chance of seeing Tongan (Shy or Friendly) Ground Dove. Night on Kadavu.

Day 4: After some final birding on Kadavu we will fly back to Nadi and then onwards to Taveuni. The views from the plane should be spectacular: turquoise waters, coral reefs and green rainforests. Once we arrive on Taveuni we will drive to our fancy accommodation, right by the beach, where we will stay for three nights. The lodge is surrounded by tropical native gardens, volcanic hills and splendid reefs with multitudes of colourful tropical fish. Topped with great food and lovely hosts, our time here will surely be unforgettable. Night on Taveuni.

Days 5-6: Most of the birding on the island will take place on the slopes of Des Veoux Peak, at 1320m, the second-highest point on Taveuni. Here, our targets will be the incomparable Orange Fruit Dove, Azure-crested Flycatcher and the bizarre but delightful Taveuni Silktail. Other Fijian endemics we can see here include Maroon Shining Parrot, Fiji Wattled Honeyeater and Yellow-billed Honeyeater. We will also have another chance for Tongan Ground Dove. Taveuni is surrounded by fantastic coral reefs, and we will have enough free time to enjoy some world-class snorkelling. We can also see a number of seabirds around the resort, such as Tahiti Petrel, Lesser Frigatebird, and Brown and Red-footed Boobies. Nights on Taveuni.

Day 7: After some final birding on Taveuni we will take an afternoon flight to Suva (usually via Nadi) for a three-night stay in Fiji's capital city. Night in Suva.

Days 8-9: During our time on Viti Levu we will explore the montane forests of the central massif, which is the best birding area on the island. A number of Fiji's most-wanted birds are present here, including Golden Fruit Dove, Black-throated Shrikebill and Giant Honeyeater. We will also spend time searching for other Fiji endemics such as Fiji Goshawk, Fiji Woodswallow, Barking Imperial Pigeon, Collared Lory, Masked Shining Parrot, Kikau, Sulphur-breasted Myzomela, Fiji Wattled Honeyeater, Slaty Monarch, Chestnut-throated Flycatcher, Fiji Whistler, Fiji Bush Warbler, Fiji White-eye, and Fiji Parrotfinch. The rare Long-legged Thicketbird was rediscovered in the early 2000s, and we also have a fair chance of seeing this mega skulker. The endangered Pink-billed Parrotfinch has become somewhat pinned-down on Viti Levu recently, and we will definitely try hard to see the species, though luck will have to be on our side. Other widespread birds we are likely to see include Many-coloured Fruit Dove, Pacific Robin, Fiji Shrikebill, Vanikoro Flycatcher, Polynesian Triller and Polynesian Starling. Nights in Suva.

Day 10: After some final birding on Viti Levu we will fly to Nouméa in New Caledonia, where we will stay for five nights.

Days 11-12: Most of our birding time on New Caledonia will be spent in the incredible forest of the Rivière Bleue Reserve. This refuge preserves the best remaining forests in New Caledonia and is home to the incomparable Kagu, which is endemic to New Caledonia. The Kagu is the island's national bird, but because of deforestation and predation, the species is now seriously endangered, with fewer than 2000 birds surviving. There are lots of exceptional things about this iconic bird: it looks prehistoric and seems to belong to another age, having evolved in isolation over millions of years, it is a little larger than a chicken and it is flightless, being the only member of the family Rhynochetidae. We will also be searching for two other main targets: the giant Crow Honeyeater and the beautiful Horned Parakeet. Other specialities we can see here include White-bellied (or New Caledonian) Goshawk, Goliath (or New Caledonian) Imperial Pigeon, New Caledonian Parakeet, New Caledonian Myzomela, Barred Honeyeater, New Caledonian Friarbird, New Caledonian Cuckooshrike, Striated (or New Caledonian) Starling, New Caledonian Whistler, Green-backed White-eye, and Red-throated Parrotfinch. Nights in Nouméa.

Day 13: Today we will take an early flight to Ouvéa (Uvea) Island, and return in the afternoon. This remote island hosts the beautiful Ouvea (or Uvea) Parakeet, which should give good views. Seabirds such as Tahiti Petrel and Wedge-tailed Shearwater are also possible. Night in Nouméa.

Day 14: Today we will take a short flight over to the island of Lifou, the largest of the Loyalty Islands. Here we will search for the very common Small Lifou (or Small Lifu) White-eye and the uncommon Large Lifou White-eye. Red-bellied Fruit Dove

and Cardinal Myzomela are also possible here. After returning to Nouméa airport we will go to La Foa, where we will stay for two nights.

Day 15: The forests of Farino area will be our destination today. Amongst our targets here are the stunning Cloven-feathered Dove, the shy New Caledonian Thicketbird, and the famous tool-using New Caledonian Crow. Other more widespread species, such as Rufous Whistler, Southern Shrikebill and South Melanesian Cuckooshrike are also possible. Night in La Foa.

Day 16: After some final birding in the Farino area, we will drive back to Nouméa, where the tour ends this afternoon. International departures are from Nouméa – La Tontouta International Airport (NOU).