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# the Getaway

## 50 shades of blue

Home to white-sand beaches and some of the most beautiful water on the planet, the South Pacific is a honeymooners' idea of paradise.

But how to choose between the over-the-water bungalows of Tahiti and the private island resorts of Fiji? It's a tough job, but somebody's got to do it....

A view of Bora Bora's iconic Mount Otemanu from the St. Regis Bora Bora resort

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# The Getaway / SOUTH PACIFIC

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## ULTIMATE FIJI

When it comes to breathtaking one-resort islands (where you'll honeymoon with just a few other castaways), Fiji's got the market cornered. The blissfully simple routine? Explore untouched tropical forests, dive reefs teeming with trumpet fish and anemones, and chat up the unbelievably warm locals (bula means "hello" and "welcome," btw). Six of our favorite getaways:

**MATANGI** This 260-acre horseshoe-shaped island is still family-owned (it was once their coconut plantation). We love the three fabulous tree-house villas—20 feet up in the foliage, with smashing sea views. Diving in this area is unmatched; the kaleidoscopic, coral-rich Somosomo Strait is nearby. *From \$650, with meals; matangiisland.com.*

**NUKUBATI** This 35-acre, seven-room resort with organic gardens runs on solar power. You won't find TVs or a pool (too big a carbon footprint), just an endless lagoon and the pristine Great Sea Reef, much of which is still uncharted. It's as far away as you can get and still have sun-dried-tomato-and-prawn canapés delivered at dusk. *From \$710, all-inclusive; nukubati.com.*

**VOMO** Bachelorette Ashley Hebert got her proposal on this 225-acre paradise with 30 sleek, mod villas. Sip Vomo Ladies (Cointreau, gin, lemon, and lime juice) at the Rocks Bar, where everyone gathers for sunset photo ops; share a fresh-out-of-the-water sushi lunch on the resort's own deserted islet; or sail the azure seas on a Hobie cat. *From \$802, with meals; vomofiji.com.*

**ROYAL DAVUI** You'll come face-to-face with orangeband surgeonfish just off the beach of this adults-only 10-acre isle. Lush gardens of blazing red pinecone ginger surround 16 villas with plunge pools, all facing the sea.



FROM TOP: The gorgeous coconut tree-shaded pool on Vomo; Laucala's lagoon-like central pool.

And don't miss Indian-dinner Wednesdays, when the staff dresses up like the cast of a Bollywood movie. *From \$850, with meals; royaldavui.com.*

**TURTLE** For most of the year, this 500-acre gem is a couples-only haven. Communal dinners make for a party every night, but there are also loads of private dining setups (on a pontoon, on a mountaintop) for your just-caught Pacific green lobster or snapper. Each of the 14 spacious bures gets a "mama"—someone part-butler and part-nanny—and its own jaw-dropping beach. *From \$2,499, all-inclusive; turtlefiji.com.*

**LAUCALA** Once owned by the Forbes family, now owned by the reclusive founder of Red Bull, this 3,000-acre paradise even wowed Oprah. Imagine five restaurants catering to 25 palatial villas—then toss in an 18-hole golf course, an equestrian center, an organic farm with hydroponic greenhouses, Austrian hens, a hilltop spa, and a staff of 360. *From \$3,800, all-inclusive; laucala.com.* —Anne Johnson



### GETTING THERE

Fly to Nadi on Fiji's main island, Viti Levu, from Los Angeles via Air Pacific (which will rebrand to Fiji Airways in June 2013); *airpacific.com*. From there, the resorts are accessible by seaplanes and/or boat transfers.



FROM TOP: GEOFF LUNG; GEORGE FETTING.