

Lautoka, Viti Levu, Fiji

Fiji's second city earned its nickname from the sugar cane that perfumes the air — especially during crushing season. Skip the polish of Nadi and discover an everyday Fijian town with soulful Indo-Fijian food, a giant produce market, and easy taxi rides to hot springs and orchid gardens.

Docked (Queens Wharf)

Typical call: 7-9 hrs

Fijian Dollar (FJD)

English & Fijian

MY DAY IN PORT

Ship/Date: _____ Arrive: _____ All aboard: _____

Excursion: _____ Notes: _____

GETTING ASHORE

Docking: Pier — Queens Wharf, working industrial port

Walk to Center: ~1.5 km, but hot & dusty; take a taxi or shuttle

Best For: Authentic markets, hot springs, orchid gardens, Indo-Fijian food

Don't Miss: Lautoka Open-Air Market and Garden of the Sleeping Giant

Getting around: Taxi FJ\$5–10 to city center · Rideshare not available

TOP THINGS TO DO

- Garden of the Sleeping Giant** — Founded by actor Raymond Burr, this stunning hillside garden holds over 2,000 Asian orchid varieties and a boardwalk through tropical rainforest.
- Sabeto Hot Springs & Mud Pool** — Slather on warm volcanic mud, let it dry in the sun, then rinse in natural geothermal pools.
- Lautoka Open-Air Market** — One of the largest produce markets in the South Pacific — a riot of tropical fruit, fresh coconuts, kava root, and spices.
- Viseisei Village** — Said to be the oldest settlement in Fiji and the landing place of the first Fijians.
- Koroyanitu National Heritage Park** — Hiking trails through native highland forest with waterfalls and panoramic views toward the Yasawa Islands.

BEST WALKS

- Lautoka City Center Loop** ~2 km · 30-45 min · Easy — Start at the open-air market, walk past Shirley Park waterfront, swing by the Sri Krishna Kaliya Temple, and browse the main shopping street before looping back.
- Botanical Gardens Stroll** ~1 km · 20 min · Easy — A small, shaded garden near the colonial Governor's Mansion with tropical orchids, lily pond, and a respite from the midday heat.

WEATHER · DAYLIGHT · MONEY

CLIMATE (AVG °F · RAINY DAYS)

Mon	High	Low	Rain
Apr	84°	74°	16d
Jun	81°	70°	6d
Aug	80°	69°	7d
Sep	82°	70°	11d
Oct	83°	71°	15d

DAYLIGHT & MONEY

Apr 6:19AM–6:00PM · Jun 6:38AM–5:42PM · Aug 6:29AM–6:00PM · Sep 6:06AM–6:05PM · Oct 5:41AM–6:10PM

KNOW BEFORE YOU GO

- Sunday closures are real. If your ship docks on a Sunday, the market and most shops will be shut. Plan on a booked excursion rather than independent exploration.
- Eat the curry. Lautoka's large Indo-Fijian population means the curries are legitimate — try Singh's Curry House or any small local spot for a cheap and outstanding lunch.
- Beware the sword sellers. Vendors near the port gate may carve your name into a wooden ornament and then demand payment. Say 'No, vinaka' and keep moving.
- Beach? You'll need a taxi. The port area is industrial with no beach. Saweni Beach is 15-20 min away; Vuda Point (First Landing Resort) is 20-25 min.
- Village etiquette matters. Remove hats and sunglasses on entry to a Fijian village — wearing them is considered disrespectful to the chief. Dress modestly (shoulders and knees covered).
- Cash is king at the market. ATMs are in the town center and cards work at restaurants and supermarkets, but stalls and taxi drivers want FJD cash.

Lautoka, Viti Levu, Fiji — Port Map

Red = walkable sights · Amber = excursions farther out · P = cruise terminal. Numbers match the order you'd typically visit.



- 1

Lautoka Botanical Gardens

Lush municipal gardens showcasing Fiji's diverse tropical plant life near the town center.
- 2

Lautoka Jame Masjid

Lautoka's main mosque and a landmark of the city's significant Indo-Fijian community.
- P

Cruise port / terminal