



The Small Cruise  
Ship Collection

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## SOUTHERN LAU - PACIFIC ISLANDS CRUISE

BULA! Welcome onboard Fiji's luxury expedition small ship, MS Caledonian Sky. Our seven-night cruise to the Southern Lau islands takes guests on an unforgettable journey to some of the most beautiful and remote islands in the South Pacific. The cluster of islands is composed largely of limestone islands and cays, home to colourful reefs filled with vibrant marine life to calm, shallow bays to miles of pristine white sandy beaches. Sensitively designed to sail to places larger ships can't access, MS Caledonian Sky offers guests a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to experience the genuine welcome and fascinating culture of remote Fiji. WHAT TO EXPECT Set sail in an easterly direction from Port Denarau towards the Lau Islands, sometimes known as 'Little Tonga' to explore some of Fiji's most remote islands rarely visited by tourists. Around half of the islands in the cluster are uninhabited, offering a real sense of an off-grid escape. MS Caledonian Sky's Southern Lau itinerary offers guests the chance to swim, snorkel, kayak or enjoy a scuba dive in the turquoise waters and a first-hand exploration of the region's tranquil oceans rich in marine life. Stroll along the white sandy beaches of Fulaga and visit the remote islands of Dravuni, Moana and Mutuki. Experience rich Fijian culture on the islands of Beqa and Vatulele, home to Fiji's famous red prawns as well as the best traditional tapa makers. Welcome to the real Fiji. DISCOVER SOUTHERN LAU Fiji's Southern Lau region consists of a cluster of beautiful and remote picture-postcard islands. These are some of the least visited islands in the South Pacific where culture and traditions has been well preserved by its villagers. Guests experience more authentic and undiscovered Fiji onboard MS Caledonian Sky with its access to

remote areas within the Lau via guided marine adventures as well as visits to small island communities. A visit to this region offers a once-in-a-lifetime experience for a select few travellers, with personal access to pristine white sandy beaches and tranquil turquoise bays as well as remote villages. These are some of Fiji's most beautiful locations and experiences. Thanks to its setting between Melanesian Fiji and Polynesian Tonga, the Lau Islands are a real meeting point of the two Pacific cultural spheres: Fijian and Tongan. Lauan villages remain very traditional, and the islands' inhabitants are renowned for their wood carving and the creation of traditional tapa barkcloth. Guests onboard MS Caledonian Sky navigate the horseshoe-shaped islands of Fulaga in Southern Lau to Dravuni in the Kadavu province. You'll be guided by our onboard cultural experts as we explore the traditions of Beqa Island, which features secluded tropical beaches and a large lagoon protected by a 30-kilometre-long barrier reef which makes it ideal for shark diving, feeding and deep-sea game fishing. Best of all, you'll be welcomed and entertained by the friendly people of this region and experience a traditional Meke, Sevusevu and lovo, which is quite different here from the traditional



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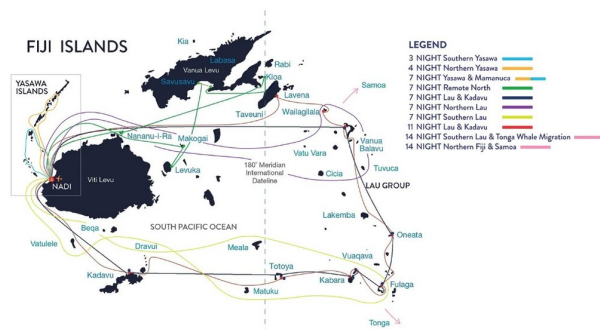
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shallow waters and for divers, the world's fourth largest reef Great Astrolabe is calling!

## Day 3 Matuku

The volcanic island of Matuku is part of a group of islands in the Lau archipelago known as Yasayasa Moala. The island is historically significant as it is the subject of debate as to whether or not the island was conquered by the Tongans led by the Tongan Prince Enele Ma'afu. Today, the residents are proudly Fijian in their culture and in defiance of the Tongans Matuku is the only island in Lau where the villagers do not wear the traditional Masi or Ta'ovala around their waist. Between 1840 and 1853 when Ma'afu was trying invade the island, the Cakobau (King) of Fiji was protected on Matuku by the people and ultimately returned to his home island of Bau. Evidence of the fierce battles remain including ring ditches and war fortifications from the era can be found around the island. Highlights of a visit include joining a guided hike to discover the island's history and visit Lomati, one of its five villages.

## Day 4 Fulaga & Yagasa

This morning you'll visit one of the Lau islands' most twinkling jewels, Fulaga Island. Sometimes known as Komo Island, Fulaga is an extinct volcano crater and is famous for its crystal-clear lagoons, colourful tropical fish and vibrant corals. You'll have a chance to swim in this magnificent aqua blue paradise and meet local villagers who'll be happy to welcome you to their home and share their traditionally crafted woodcarvings and handicrafts.

## Fijian feast.

## ITINERARY

### Day 1 The Great Sea Reef

Before the sun sets, take an afternoon snorkel, swim or dive on the third largest reef in the world, the Great Sea Reef. Settle into a sunset cocktail and enjoy a welcome dinner on board as you are introduced to the crew onboard MS Caledonian Sky

### Day 2 Buliya

Located right on the edge of the Great Astrolabe Reef, Buliya is bordered by white sandy beaches and slender coconut palms, a picture-postcard Fijian paradise. Buliya is Fiji's fourth largest island whose villages and residents are discovered on a welcome guided hike with our ship's crew. It's a beautiful island base to complete a refreshing ocean swim or take a book and laze on its magnificent white sandy beaches. There's a chance to swim and snorkel with serene manta rays in Buliya's pristine





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This afternoon we arrive at Yagasa Island for snorkelling, swimming, coral viewing and kayaking. Plan your snorkel around the magnificent collection of coral bommies rich with marine life and beautiful coral gardens. Sea life is diverse and abundant here at Yagasa.

### Day 5 Vagava & Kabara

Come ashore on the chalky white beach of this uninhabited and sacred island of Vagava. A beautiful, guided hike through the lush vegetation leads to the centre of the island where an inland lake - known for its resident turtles, snakes and amazing bird life - spreads out before you. It's a great spot to have a swim or just enjoy the tranquility. On the return you may notice the relics from a time last century when the island was used to isolate Cholera victims during an outbreak. When you return to the island's shore you may be treated to a locally prepared delicacy of coconut crabs on the beach, or perhaps take a refreshing swim in the aqua blue water?

This afternoon you'll be welcomed and entertained by the people of the Naikelaya Village on the island of Kabara. Legend has it that the extraordinary white sand of Kabara is so fine you can't wash it out of your hair. Known for its wood turning and Tongan heritage, Kabara is famous in Fiji as the home of wood carving. Experience a traditional Meke, Sevusevu & Ilovo here which is quite different from most you will find in Fiji.

### Day 6 Totoya

Today's island visit heads to the tiny horse-shoe shaped Totoya Island with its deep-water volcanic crater. Totoya is the smallest island in the Yasayasa Moala Group. The high reef surrounding Totoya makes it a popular boating destination with its fascinating water passages and it's also home to a world-famous surfing break. An important part of Totoya is the sacred passage "Daveta Tabu". Tradition has it that if visitors or locals wish to pass through this passage, they must follow traditional protocol by observing utter complete silence and to be seated in the traditional manner (seated cross-legged with feet resting beneath the knees for gentlemen and for ladies, legs bent at knees resting on the side). This protocol is adhered to to this day.

The island also runs a successful coconut farming operation, which is its main export. We visit a local school and the children will surprise you with their entertainment and be proud to show you their work. We'll also have the opportunity to explore the local reefs for some outstanding diving and snorkeling. If you thought the snorkeling and coral viewing in Fiji couldn't get any better, it just did.

### Day 7 Vatulele & Beqa

Spend the afternoon experiencing one of Fiji's most beautiful islands, Vatulele. A beautiful aquamarine lagoon surrounds Vatulele which offers fabulous snorkelling and some extraordinary dive sites. Vatulele is the most famous place in Fiji for the craft of tapa, the traditional bark cloth. The ladies of the



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village might share their knowledge and teach you how it is done. As you explore the island, you'll discover the sacred and protected red prawns.

An exiting island stop including Fiji's famous firewalking tradition and ceremonies. The story of firewalking in Fiji begins around 500 years ago here on the island of Beqa, when there were only around 50 people living in the village of Nakarovu. The special firewalking powers are specific to the descendent of Tuinaivqalita, the subject of legend. Beqa also offers the opportunity to dive with sharks, and there's also a chance to book in for an optional sport fishing experience at Beqa.

#### Day 8 Nadi

Return to Nadi for a 9:00am disembarkation. After breakfast, the crew will bid you farewell in song including their traditional Fijian 'Isa Lei' as they say 'sototale' or 'see you again'.

#### Please Note:

Itineraries subject to change due to weather and other operational requirement.



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### YOUR SHIP:

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**YOUR SHIP:**

**VESSEL TYPE:**

**LENGTH:**

**PASSENGER CAPACITY:**

**BUILT/REFURBISHED:**



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## PRICING

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