



Planning Guide

Peter Hughes Diving

Liveboard Excellence

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Thank you for choosing M/Y Island Dancer II for your live-aboard dive vacation. Our crew looks forward to your visit.

All information contained here is correct at the time of printing, however is subject to change without notice.

Work Hard,[®] Dive Easy.

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OVERVIEW

WHERE IS FIJI?

Republic of the Fiji Islands is an island nation in the South Pacific Ocean east of Vanuatu, west of Tonga and south of Tuvalu. The country occupies an archipelago of about 322 islands, of which 106 are permanently inhabited, and 522 islets. The two major islands, Viti Levu and Vanua Levu, account for 87% of the population.



WHAT KIND OF DIVING IS FOUND AROUND FIJI ?

Island Dancer II itineraries are varied to optimize diving in areas where the diving conditions are best throughout the year. During your dive cruise, you will visit undersea pinnacles, swim throughs and be amazed by creatures large and so small you may miss them if you cruise by too quickly!



Throughout the week aboard the Island Dancer II, an intimate 10 passenger yacht, guests will depart Suva to explore the reefs, bommies and walls of Nigali Pass, Wakaya, Koro and Namenalala Islands. Known as the soft coral capital, the brilliant colors on display will dazzle even the most experienced divers and photographers. Drift dives with eagle rays, mantas, turtles, sharks and giant groupers are also on the itinerary.

Clownfish, pygmy seahorses, ornate ghost pipefish, and a multitude of nudibranchs bring smiles to every dive! With direct flights from several major cities worldwide, it is an

easy destination to add to your dive log.

To top off the exiting diving and experience some of Fiji's local culture, a visit to a Fijian village on one of the remote islands is arranged including a Kava ceremony and warrior dance. All guests are required to wear a traditional sulu (sarong or wrap) so either bring your own or we will gladly provide one for you!

IN WHAT TIME ZONE IS FIJI LOCATED?

The time zone is GMT+ 12 hours with no daylight savings time.

WHAT LANGUAGES ARE SPOKEN ONBOARD?

English and Fijian are both the official languages. Onboard the Island Dancer II, our crew will converse in English with guests.

WHAT WEATHER CONDITIONS CAN I EXPECT IN FIJI

FIJI is a destination that offers year round diving. Fiji's climate is generally warm with wet and dry seasons. The wettest months for most regions are mid December to mid April, but the rain falls mainly in the evenings and rarely disrupts daily activities. A light wetsuit is necessary, though some people choose more thermal protection (a 3mm suit) to ensure continued core temperature warmth throughout their visit

	Air Temp. High/Low	Water Temp. High/Low	Avg. Rain Days
January	88 / 80 f	85 / 80 f	6
February	88 / 80 f	85 / 80 f	6
March	88 / 80 f	85 / 80 f	5
April	85 / 76 f	83 / 80 f	3
May	86 / 78 f	83 / 76 f	1
June	86 / 77 f	83 / 76 f	0
July	84 / 77 f	83 / 76 f	4
August	84 / 78 f	83 / 76 f	6
September	82 / 78 f	83 / 76 f	1
October	83 / 78 f	83 / 78 f	n/a
November	84 / 79 f	83 / 78 f	n/a
December	85 / 80 f	83 / 79 f	n/a

Degrees Fahrenheit www.climate-zone.com

WHAT CURRENCY IS USED?

The local currency is the Fijian dollar.

Major credit cards are accepted by most hotels. It is advisable to exchange currency at banks, as the most favorable exchange rates may not be obtained elsewhere. Most banks are open Monday to Friday. It is recommended that you exchange enough for island tipping and small pocket change. Major credit cards are accepted by most restaurants, hotels, car rental companies, and shops. Travelers checks are accepted everywhere.

WHAT DOES MY DANCER PACKAGE INCLUDE?

All staterooms are air-conditioned and fitted with private toilets, showers and sinks. Breakfast (cooked to order), buffet lunch and an elegant meal at dinner with table side service are served daily in addition to fresh mid-morning and mid-afternoon snacks. Beverages (alcoholic and non-alcoholic) are complimentary while onboard. Bathrobes and some toiletries are available for your use onboard. The yacht is equipped with hairdryers in each stateroom. Linens are changed mid-week and fresh towels are placed in each stateroom daily as needed. Filled tanks, weights and weight belts are included.



FOR WHAT ADDITIONAL EXPENSES WILL I BE RESPONSIBLE?

No air transportation is included in the Dancer package. An airport departure tax must be paid at the airport when leaving. Please see the latest rate schedule for departure tax amount. Dive instruction, dive and photo equipment rentals and "Boatique" purchases must be settled onboard prior to departure. Acceptable methods of payment include: US Dollars, local currency, Traveler's Checks, or Credit Cards (AMEX, Visa or MasterCard). Personal checks are not accepted. Crew gratuities are not included.

A BRIEF HISTORY OF FIJI

The first people of Fiji arrived long before contact with European explorers in the seventeenth century. Pottery excavated from Fijian towns shows that Fiji was settled before or around 1000 BC, although the question of Pacific migration still lingers. The Dutch explorer Abel Tasman visited Fiji in 1643 while looking for the Great Southern Continent. It was not until the nineteenth century, however, that Europeans settled the islands permanently. The islands came under British control as a colony in 1874, and the British brought over Indian contract laborers. It was granted independence in 1970. Democratic rule was interrupted by two military coups in 1987 because the government was perceived as dominated by the Indo-Fijian (Indian) community. The second 1987 coup saw the British monarchy and the Governor General replaced by a non-executive President, and the country changed the long form of its name from *Dominion of Fiji* to *Republic of Fiji* (and to *Republic of the Fiji Islands* in 1997). The coups and accompanying civil unrest contributed to heavy Indian

emigration; the population loss resulted in economic difficulties but ensured that Melanesians became the majority.

In 1990, the new Constitution institutionalized the ethnic Fijian domination of the political system. Sitiveni Rabuka, the Lieutenant Colonel who carried out the 1987 coup became Prime Minister in 1992, following elections held under the new constitution. Three years later, Rabuka established the Constitutional Review Commission, which in 1997 led to a new Constitution, which was supported by most leaders of the indigenous Fijian and Indo-Fijian communities. Fiji is re-admitted to the Commonwealth of Nations.

TRAVEL INFORMATION

HOW DO I GET TO FIJI?

Your final destination is Suva. The port of entry is usually Nadi where you will claim your luggage and clear customs and immigration. From Nadi you can either take a domestic flight to Suva or travel around the island (approx 3-4 hours) via bus or taxi to Suva.

If you wish us to assist with your hotel or flight arrangements, be sure to contact Peter Hughes Diving's travel specialist, Dive Easy Travel, at 1-800-9-DANCER or 305-669-9391 for the most competitive airfares.

WHAT TRAVEL DOCUMENTS WILL I NEED?

You are required to possess a passport valid for at least six months from the date of arrival and have proof of return or onward ticketing.

You may also require a Visa. You may qualify for a free Visa or a Visa on arrival depending on your citizenship. Please contact your local Embassy or Consulate for your destination or review the requirements on one of the many travel visa information websites.

WHAT SHOULD I KNOW ABOUT CUSTOMS AND IMMIGRATION?

At the airport, customs formalities are usually quick and trouble free. Tourists are allowed articles for use during their stay. These include items of personal adornment, wearing apparel, toilet requisites and any portable articles which someone can reasonably be expected to use during their stay.

WHAT ARE THE EMBARKATION AND DISEMBARKATION TIMES?

Embarkation will begin at 12:00 noon on the first day of charter and the Island Dancer II typically sails immediately. All guests will disembark between 8:00 am and 9:00 am on the final day of charter. An early disembarkation and transfer can be arranged for guests who have a flight departing prior to the scheduled disembarkation time.

HOW DO I GET FROM THE AIRPORT TO ISLAND DANCER II?

Round-trip transfers are provided from the airport for guests who arrive on the scheduled embarkation and disembarkation days. A group transfer to the yacht is scheduled at 10:30 am on embarkation days. Guest are met at the airport baggage area. Please look for a sign that either has Island Dancer II, or your name on it.

If you are unable to join the group transfer, then you will need to take a taxi to the Island Dancer II which docks next to the Novotel Hotel (formerly the Trade Winds hotel))

HOW DO I GET FROM THE HOTEL TO ISLAND DANCER II IF I ARRIVE EARLY?

The Island Dancer II docks next to the Novotel Hotel (formerly known as the Trade Winds Hotel) in Suva. If you arrive early, please make your way to the Novotel Hotel in time for the 12:00 noonboarding. Peter Hughes Dive Easy Travel Specialist will be able to arrange airport transfers for you in addition to a hotel accommodation should you arrive a night or two before embarkation.

WHAT DO WE DO ON THE DAY WE DISEMBARK?

Island Dancer II returns to the port of disembarkation on its last day (the night before disembarkation). Your last day with us has been organized to give you time to off gas and enjoy the land sites Suva has to offer.

Final disembarkation will occur between 8am – 9am. Transfers are provided to the airport for guests departing this day. For guests departing later in the day, you may relax at the Novotel Hotel. If you are departing in the afternoon, you may even have time to enjoy one of our shore excursions in the morning as well.

HOW DO I ARRANGE FOR PRE AND POST CHARTER HOTELS AND TRANSFERS?

Dive Easy Travel™, Peter Hughes in-house travel agency has already done the legwork for you and created several package tours that will fit most of your needs. Custom packages are also available. Please inquire with us if your schedule will permit.

DO I NEED TRIP INSURANCE?

We strongly recommend that each guest purchase comprehensive accident, medical, baggage and trip cancellation and interruption insurance when space is reserved. Trip insurance will protect you from financial disappointment if you are prevented from making your scheduled trip due to illness or family illness, or in the event that unforeseen circumstances prevent the airline or yacht from making its scheduled trip. In an event where it is necessary to cancel or interrupt a charter due to weather or any matter beyond the control of Peter Hughes Diving, there will be no refund or credit issued. We also recommend diving accident insurance. Please inquire with our reservation office for assistance.

ON-BOARD

IF I AM TRAVELING AS A SINGLE, WILL I HAVE A ROOMMATE?

All rates are quoted on a share basis; therefore, unless you require a guaranteed single room and pay an additional 65% supplement, you will very likely be sharing your stateroom with one other guest of the same gender.

WHAT TYPE OF FOOD IS PREPARED?

Meals prepared by our onboard chef consist of an international mix with a local flair. If you have any special dietary requirements, please advise our US office as soon as possible so we can adequately prepare to meet your needs. Certain special dietary and beverage requests may not be available on a consistent basis due to the remote nature of this location.



WHAT KINDS OF BEVERAGES ARE AVAILABLE?

The Dancer's selection includes fruit juices, soft drinks, plenty of iced water, tea and coffee and a limited selection of local beer, wine and alcoholic beverages. Fresh milk may not be available, although UHT long life milk is provided onboard. We recommend that you purchase any special brands of alcoholic beverages that you may want to consume onboard the Dancer at the Duty Free Shop at any airport. We encourage you to consume lots of non-alcoholic liquids during the week to avoid dehydration. REMEMBER: ALCOHOL AND DIVING DO NOT MIX. For your safety, we recommend that the consumption of any alcoholic beverage be delayed until your dive day is complete.

WHAT ELECTRICAL CURRENT IS AVAILABLE?

The electrical current on the Island Dancer II is 110 volts including cabin outlets.

HOW MUCH SHALL I PACK?

Please plan to travel light, as on all live-aboard dive yachts, space is limited. We recommend that you pack your gear in soft luggage such as duffel bags for easy stowage and to add to your comfort in your cabin, leave those large, rigid suitcases at home. Clothing should be lightweight, comfortable sportswear and bathing suits are a must. A light sweater or jacket is ideal for the evenings. Dress aboard is always casual. Light clothing that reflects the sun is best, and a hat is recommended. Evening dress is informal. Additional items you may want to bring are sunscreen, sunglasses, walking shoes for your time on

shore. Hairdryers are provided in each cabin. We recommend you pack your regulator, dive computer, mask, bathing suit and change of clothes and essential items in your carry-on bag. This will make it easier in the event your luggage is delayed. Please check with your airline as to what weight restrictions will apply to your carry-on and checked luggage.

WILL WE VISIT ANY VILLAGES ASHORE DURING THE CRUISE?



To top off the exciting diving and experience some of Fiji's local culture, a visit to a Fijian village on one of the remote islands is arranged including a Kava ceremony and warrior dance. All guests are required to wear a traditional sulu (sarong or wrap) so either bring your own or we will gladly provide one for you! There is a \$15 fee for this experience that goes to the villages school.

WHAT IF I AM PRONE TO SEA SICKNESS?

Currents and winds may cause moderate movement of the yacht at times. If you have a tendency toward seasickness we strongly urge you to bring some sort of over-the-counter motion sickness medication or consult your doctor about prescription brands, such as the trans-dermal patch or Scopace tablets. Chewable ginger tablets or capsules of powdered ginger have also proved to be very effective natural alternative.

All Dancer crews are trained in first aid and diving accident management. Each yacht is equipped with a complete first aid kit and a high capacity oxygen system. Each yacht also has direct contact with the closest hyperbaric chamber. Since emergency transportation and treatment cost is the responsibility of each guest, we strongly recommend that you dive conservatively and obtain special insurance for divers from Divers Alert Network, Dive Assure or similarly ranked company.

HOW CAN MY FAMILY CONTACT ME IN THE EVENT OF AN EMERGENCY AT HOME?

Your family may contact you in the case of a medical emergency by calling our Miami office at 1-800-932-6237 or 305-669-9391 during business hours. If outside of our operating hours, you may call our emergency cell phone number, 305-778-8004.

TELECOMMUNICATIONS, MAIL, AND E-MAIL

Check with your local cell phone provider for service while visiting the Dancer yacht and it's destination. Each Dancer is equipped with Satellite based phone and email for emergency communications.

IS SMOKING PERMITTED?

A designated area on the back of the outdoor lido deck is available for smoking. Smoking is not permitted in any other area for any reason.

IS THERE ENTERTAINMENT ONBOARD?

Island Dancer II has a multi-system TV/DVD unit for video camera playback, a compact disc player and cassette deck. If you have a favorite movie, a slide show or a video to share, we encourage you to bring it along! A small library of "books for exchange" is maintained onboard, as well as fish identification books for reference.

HOW CAN I CELEBRATE A SPECIAL OCCASION?

Our crew is delighted to help you celebrate any special occasion onboard including birthdays, anniversaries, honeymoons or weddings. Kindly advise our US office at least 30 days prior to departure so that we can adequately prepare.

IS IT CUSTOMARY TO OFFER A GRATUITY TO THE CREW?

Aboard Dancer Fleet yachts, gratuities are not included. We prefer that our guests reward our crew based on performance. If the crew performs to your expectations, we suggest that a gratuity of approximately 10%-15% of the published package price be considered normal aboard a live aboard dive yacht. Payment of gratuities is entirely at the discretion of the guest. It is policy on all Dancer Fleet yachts to equally divide all collected gratuities among the crew. Payment of gratuities can be by cash, traveler's checks, or credit card (AMEX, MasterCard or Visa).

HOW CAN I PAY FOR MY EXPENSES AND PURCHASES ONBOARD?

Each Dancer yacht has a small, onboard "Boatique" which sells a selection of logo clothing, custom jewelry, sundries, diving accessories, batteries, logbooks, etc. A crew member will gladly assist you with your purchases at any time during the week. The US Dollar, local currency, Traveler's Checks or credit cards (MasterCard, AMEX, or Visa) are accepted onboard. Personal checks are not accepted.

DIVING OPERATIONS

HOW MANY DIVES WILL WE DO EACH DAY?

Our guests enjoy up to 5 dives per day, four during the day and one night dive, on the full days we are at sea.

WHAT PAPERWORK WILL I NEED FOR DIVING?

Please bring your Charter Application, certification card and log book for verification of your dive training and experience. You will be required to complete and sign a standard release and waiver form prior to your arrival. Please remember that you alone are responsible for determining your medical and physical fitness to dive or to take part in any other activities during this trip. **DIVING ACTIVITIES ARE CONDUCTED AT YOUR OWN RISK.** We take no responsibility with respect to your determination. If you have any questions concerning your medical or physical fitness to dive or take part in any such activities, please consult your personal physician.

WHAT IS THE WATER TEMPERATURE – SHOULD I WEAR A WETSUIT?

November through April is the Fijian summer where water temperatures run 80-84f (27-29C) and then start cooling for the winter season. May through October the water ranges 76-79f (25-27C) before starting a climb again for summer. A light wetsuit is recommended for the summer and a heavier one for the winter.

HOW WILL WE DIVE FROM THE ISLAND DANCER II?

Diving is conducted either from the dive deck on the Island Dancer II or from its tender depending on the weather and current conditions present. Our experienced crew will happily provide assistance to divers with special needs. Our crew will hand down cameras and other equipment and to re-board the yacht, guests may remove their gear in the water and hand it up to our staff and simply climb onboard by way of a ladder.

For your safety, it is mandatory for each diver to carry an emergency SMB (safety sausage), Dive Alert (personal air

horn), and mini-strobe light on all dives. If you do not bring any one of these devices with you they are available for rent on board, however, quantities may be limited. If you do not possess these items, please notify our office prior to departure.

ARE THERE ANY LIMITATIONS OR RESTRICTIONS ON THE DIVING?

All diving onboard the Island Dancer II should be within the limits and standards of the training agency which certified you. All dives should be planned no-decompression dives.

Solo diving and Rebreather is not permitted on this yacht.

CAN I EARN ADVANCED DIVING CERTIFICATIONS OR SPECIALTIES ONBOARD?

Several diving specialty courses are offered on the Island Dancer II, but it is necessary to give at least one month notice to Peter Hughes Diving in advance of your charter date to ensure that an instructor will have the time available and that all required paperwork is complete. If you intend to receive diving instruction onboard, you must complete a medical statement in advance and return it to Peter Hughes Diving prior to your departure. A doctor's note may be required if you answer yes to any of the questions on the medical statement. A list of available courses and prices is located on our website. You will also need to bring the appropriate books and materials with you.

ARE NITROX FILLS AVAILABLE?

The Island Dancer II is equipped with Nitrox facilities. Nitrox fills of up to 32% are normally available to all certified Nitrox divers for an additional charge. It is recommended that the planned PO₂ level be set within the limits of your certifying agency. All Nitrox fills must be analyzed by the divers using the mix and logged prior to each and every dive. Oxygen analyzers available for use by guests while onboard will be calibrated a minimum of one time per day by a crew member. Nitrox certifications are usually available onboard to all certified open water divers for an additional charge.



(c) Michele Westmorland

WHAT DIVING EQUIPMENT WILL I NEED TO BRING?

Equipment provided aboard the Island Dancer II includes tanks (80 cu. ft. aluminum with yoke style "K" valves), weights and weight belts. Divers will also need the following equipment:

Basic Required Diving Equipment For Each Diver

- Regulator with alternate air source
- Depth and Pressure Gauge
- Dive Computer
- Buoyancy Compensation Device (BCD)
- Mask / Fins / Snorkel
- Wetsuit / Light Skin
- Night Dives: We require at least two light sources on a night dive.

Recommended (Additional) Dive Equipment

- Chemical (Cyalume) light sticks
- Dive Light with extra batteries or charging source

WHAT SAFETY EQUIPMENT DO I NEED TO HAVE?

We suggest that you bring your own to ensure compatibility with your personal equipment. The Island Dancer II has a limited supply available for rental by our guests.

Mandatory Surface Safety Equipment For Each Diver

- Dive Alert (Air Horn)
- Inflatable Safety Sausage (redundant)*
- Personal Mini-Strobe

Additional Recommended Surface Safety Equipment

- Whistle
- Signaling Mirror

* The Tropic Dancer will provide a primary sausage and reel for identification if you get separated from the group. Your personal Safety Sausage will serve as a redundant unit in case you need to release the primary in an emergency.

ARE DIVE GEAR AND PHOTO/VIDEO GEAR AVAILABLE FOR RENT?

Island Dancer II has a limited amount of diving equipment available for rent, so it is critical that you advise our US office staff in advance if you decide you want to rent gear. We offer ScubaPro BCDs with Dive Alerts and ScubaPro regulators. The photo shop offers digital cameras housed in an underwater housing.



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I AM A PHOTOGRAPHER – WHAT CAN I EXPECT

Photo opportunities are abundant and no matter what system you have, you will probably experience excellent results. Be sure to pack your photo equipment carefully in a durable carrying case and bring any unique spare parts and back-up equipment with you.

Guests who are shooting digital photography may view their images on the entertainment center in the salon. Please be sure to bring the appropriate connection cables to fit your particular equipment.

Camera Tables: The Island Dancer II has a camera table built into the dive deck for your use.

Charging Stations: There is a charging station in the salon for your use. Transformers are not required as 110v power is available.

Rinse Buckets: There is a "cameras only" rinse bucket on the dive tender for the exclusive use of photographers onboard.

Underwater Privacy: All divers are required to have a buddy with them at all times. In a drift diving situation, photographers are expected to stay with the body of the group. You may move away from the group within reason – providing that the divemaster leading the dive is kept in sight at all times.

CAN I FISH OR SPEARFISH?

Fishing and spear fishing are not available. Spear fishing equipment is prohibited onboard the diving yacht.



SAMPLE IT INE RARY

Day 1: The Island Dancer II awaits dockside at the Novotel Hotel (formerly the Trade Winds Hotel) in Suva. The vessel sets a course for Wakaya soon after boarding. Guests are treated to a delicious dinner and welcome aboard briefing.

Day 2: Dive Briefing! The crew prepares everyone for a fabulous week of diving starting at Manta Rock in search of those huge manta rays, which use this reef as a cleaning station. Guests may enjoy up to four dives each day. Night dives are offered throughout the week, conditions permitting.

Day 3, 4, 5: Diving continues at favorites like Black Forest, Magic Mountain, Namena Reef, Kansas, and North Save-a-Tack Passage.

Day 6: After a day of diving, the local chief invites the guests on a tour of Makogai Village. The villagers celebrate the event with native dances and a traditional kava ceremony. Bring your camera and get ready for a night of Fijian culture.

(7 day itinerary) Day 7: The Island Dancer II returns after an early morning dive to the Novotel Hotel early afternoon.

(7 day itinerary) Day 8: Checkout early morning for your transportation back to the airport or local hotel.

(10 day itinerary) Day 7, 8, 9: Diving continues at spectacular seamounts and walls such as E6 Hi 8 and Naisonisoni.

Day 10: The Island Dancer II returns after an early morning dive to the Novotel Hotel early afternoon.

Day 11: Checkout early morning for your transportation back to the airport or local hotel.

Itinerary may vary due to weather conditions and yacht location.



(c) Michele Westmorland

Bula, and Welcome Aboard the Island Dancer II