

# A Rare World.

THE TRAVEL INTELLIGENCE AUTHORITY

**Fiji**

LAUCALA AND WAKAYA CLUB



*Laucala Island, Fiji*

## **INDIA**

**Amanbagh Taj Mahal Palace Mumbai Raas  
Leela Palace New Delhi & Udaipur Oberoi Mumbai**



PHOTOGRAPHS COURTESY KLAUS LORKE

# LAUCALA

*Even your G550 will complain when it's time to go home.*

**WE** WERE TAKEN by the Wakaya plane to Laucala's luxurious international airport and we could feel the difference immediately upon arrival. This is the most beautiful private airstrip you've ever seen in your entire life. In the middle of the rainforest and surrounded by beautiful huts, we arrived to the sight and sound of an ensemble of employees welcoming us in song. The group included Maja and Thomas, the island's general manager team, and their dog Troy. Just beyond, a beautiful black Land Rover Defender awaited us. Between the airport and the main area of the island, we traveled a magical journey through tropical forests, across 18 magical holes, and through beautiful breathtaking gardens.

When our journey came to an end, we were offered a brief lay of the land and led to our villa. All the villas are done in a contemporary tropical motif and finished with the finest stone, wood, and textiles. The décor is highlighted with brilliant colors that exhilarate and soothe in perfect harmony. The thoughtfulness and lack of compromise in any aspect of material selection is highlighted in every corner. These are spacious accommodations designed with generous square footage in interior and exterior living areas alike, and the multiple indoor and outdoor bathrooms will excite your senses. Each villa includes its own private pool, multiple sunny and shaded lounge areas, and an outdoor

dining option. There is something for everyone here. Choose from villas located on the hill, on the beach, over the water, or even on a peninsula away from what little hubbub might be closer in. Our favorites are the Plantation Villas which offer direct access to the remarkable beachfront. The overwater villa is very special, but is situated very close to shore and as such is best suited for someone who truly enjoys the sounds of the tides. The hilltop units aren't our favorites. Though the views are amazing, we found them to be a bit far from the beach, but that may be just a personal choice.

This private island paradise proudly boasts five different dining opportunities including the Seagrass Restaurant, Rock Lounge, Pool Bar & Restaurant, Plantation House, and in-room service. From Barcelona to Paris, New York to Napa, you will be hard pressed to find as many exotic flavors, aromas, and finely prepared cuisine as you will experience at Laucala. These chefs are masters in their art, and we were never disappointed in over a dozen experiences at all of the different restaurants. In fact, we were generally overwhelmed and amazed by each regardless of how casual. Even a last minute request for a quick burger for dinner left us in awe. We were given exactly what we wanted, yet it was so far beyond our expectation, and cooked to perfection. Breakfast service is a dream fit to rival anything anywhere in the world. The selection of starters that is offered before ordering



*We were left wanting for nothing except to come back as soon as possible.*

was so amazing that we were even satisfied when we thought it might be our entire meal! Things are always in motion at Laucala. We took due note that regardless of occupancy, all tables at all restaurants are always set to perfection and changed regularly depending upon the time of day, just in case someone decides to stop in.

The spa at Laucala is as notable as you might expect. The well-trained therapists are on call and available with or without an appointment. We stopped in three times one day, including once on a whim for a quick 15-minute neck massage. Consider a fully tailored ritual of treatments, potions, services, and techniques that will soothe and satisfy even the most discerning spa goer. The treatment rooms here are absolutely gorgeous with one-of-a-kind ambience. The products made in their spa kitchen laboratory are sublime. We wanted to bring them home with us, but couldn't because of their short-term shelf life since they are made from completely natural indigenous ingredients. We were curious enough to participate in a lesson at the lab, and were fascinated to see how every product on property from sun soothers to soaps is made right there.

Island activities include 14 vessels for aqua bound

enthusiasts, including a catch, motor yacht deep sea fishing boat, state of the art ultra modern dive boat, jet ski, hobie cats, and a Beijing Olympics gold medal winning catamaran—all available 24-7. There are also 18 holes of golf nirvana designed by David McClay Kid for those who prefer to stick to the land. The dive shop is a boudoir of the latest in submersible technology and accoutrements in impeccable organization. The dive master and his team tickled our Scuba button and brought us to private, unmapped sites belonging to Laucala that would top any diver's wildest dreams. You'll never want for anything to do, even if you just want to do nothing. Further, mountain biking, water skiing, and horseback riding are a few of the other activities offered, though we found nothing as interesting as the following: Be sure to ask Maja or Thomas to give you their private tour of this island. Pay special note along the way to infrastructure planning, power and water facilities, farming, botanicals, livestock, and sustainability. If the experience of Laucala hasn't already blown you away, this insight certainly will.

Laucala is not akin to any resort experience we've ever known. With the incredible, attentive, professional, and genuine staff (350 strong) from more than 13 nations looking after us we were left wanting for nothing except to come back as soon as possible. And we're already making plans.

P.S. Since our visit in late November, we returned to Laucala with our children, ages 12 and 10, and spent 11 more amazing days. ●●●●

### Laucala

Laucala Island, Fiji

General Managers: Maja and Thomas Kilgore  
laucala.com

## DOs & DON'Ts

**DO** book Laucala for romantic opportunities, anniversaries, retreats, transaction celebrations, and every other excuse you can think of.

**DO** feel comfortable in bringing your children. They will not only be welcomed, but adored by the staff. However, we feel they should be at least 8 years of age to get the most out of the island and in particular the educational aspects of how this island sustains itself. It is an invaluable experience for the kids.

**DO** note that this island is exclusive, and not everyone will be allowed to book. There is much regard here for inviting the right people to experience the island with no real concern for occupancy rates. With its very strict rate integrity, Laucala is not for everyone. However, the experience here is worth every penny and then some.

**DON'T** worry about which villa to select. The property will happily accommodate a change, and why not experience more than one during your stay?

**DON'T** waste your time attempting to challenge this staff. You will only frustrate yourself! Everyone here at every level truly "gets it."

**DON'T** try to tell your friends to go to the website. It's password protected and you will need to request permission for access.