



..... fiji islands .....  
**SIGATOKA RIVER SAFARI**  
 sigatokariver.com

**"SIMPLY UNFORGETTABLE"**



Bula Mum

Three words...BEST ADVENTURE EVER...  
 I have just got back to the resort and I cannot stop thinking about the experience I just had on the Sigatoka River Safari. I now see why it is known as "FIJI'S MUST DO ADVENTURE".

I was picked up this morning from the Resort lobby by their coach transfer (which is included in the price) and transported the short distance to Sigatoka Town. On our trip we had 3 generations of one family on tour with us, from the 2yr old grandson to the 90 year old grandfather.

After the short stop-over in Sigatoka Town, which included signing in for the adventure, receiving our bottles of water and sulu (sarongs), toilet stop and for those that wished to do some retail therapy (shopping). After a quick 20mins or so, we boarded our coach to begin the Safari adventure. As soon as you leave town you are surrounded by the rich, fertile lands that make the Sigatoka Valley so spectacular. The team of Lesley aka Lady Gaga and Inia aka Sponge Bob share information about the valley and sights as we pass them making the journey inland so much fun, highly informative and they had everyone in stitches with their sense of humour

We arrive at the boat departure point, where we are warmly welcomed by the Safari crew who are all smiles and they greet us with a big welcoming Bula as we disembark from the mini-coach.

The whole group is supplied with life jackets, then given a safety briefing and we appoint our "Chief".

We then board the Safari jet boat with our Captain assigned to us. From the moment you head up river you know what you are doing is special, as we pass numerous people going about their daily lives and the simple act of waving to a completes stranger and seeing their big Fijian smile gives you a feeling you have to experience to truly understand. The scenic ride up the river is a sensory overload, with the hills, the lush green vegetation, the Fijian people and the majestic river itself all making it so special.

The river water has a green tinge and is clear enough to see the fish swimming by and the rocks lining the river bed as we zip over the shallow areas of Fiji's Longest River. After a memorable trip upriver, we arrive at the highlight of the tour, which is the village!! We are welcomed in with such genuine warmth that you immediately feel at home and like you are visiting old friends.

What is truly unique about the tour is that each day they visit a different village (working with 17 villages). This gives us the visitors the opportunity to experience the traditional Fijian lifestyle and I think this helps reduce the impact mass tourism has on their daily lives.

After the short stroll from the river to the village, we make our way to the Chiefly house to present our sevusevu (offering) of Yaqona (Kava). This Traditional Fijian Kava ceremony is accorded to visiting dignitaries and guests. Our Chief Colin, was presented with the first bowl of kava and after he gulped it down and joked about it tasting like a glass of Fijian whiskey "Brown Label".

Once the ceremony was completed we are then taken on a tour of the picturesque village which has the most breathtaking scenery. We were able to get an idea how the people live within the village and the tranquillity of the area is something you can only experience as I cannot do it justice with words. Hopefully my pictures can help show you what i mean

Our two village guides of Pita and Miri, escorted us to the community hall where we were then are able to meet the rest of the villagers. The children are just adorable and the sumptuous Fijian lunch they prepared for us was wonderful, as we got to taste, touch and feel what it is was like to live like a Kaiviti (Fijian). After Lunch the band boys began to play and we were all up and dancing and I can tell you that the Locals really know how to shake it .In the time we were there I felt like I made so many new friends. It was so intimate meeting the villagers this way. They are so genuine in the way they receive you. One of the girls on tour commented to me how she felt so humbled to be there and I knew exactly what she meant. I should tell you that part of the proceeds from the tour goes directly to our village for their various village projects which is wonderful to know, but some of our fellow travellers, traditionally presented gifts to the village at the end and they absolutely appreciated this kind gesture.

Before we knew it is time to leave. The villagers sang the Fijian farewell song of Isa Lei and hearing this song and knowing what it meant had me in tears, but I knew I would be returning very, very soon.  
 Next time will have to be with you Mum!!

The Sigatoka River Safari was recently named back to back World Travel Award winner as Australasia's Leading Adventure Tour Operator and they are truly a World class product. I should tell you that they are also the World's First Jet Boat Safari combined with a village experience, Fiji's ORIGINAL. As you always say Mum, you can't beat an original.

Lots of love and will speak to you soon  
 Brooke xox



P.S Tomorrow I'm "Taking the Road less travelled" with their "Off Road Cave Safari", can't wait!!



Australasia's Leading Adventure Tour Operator



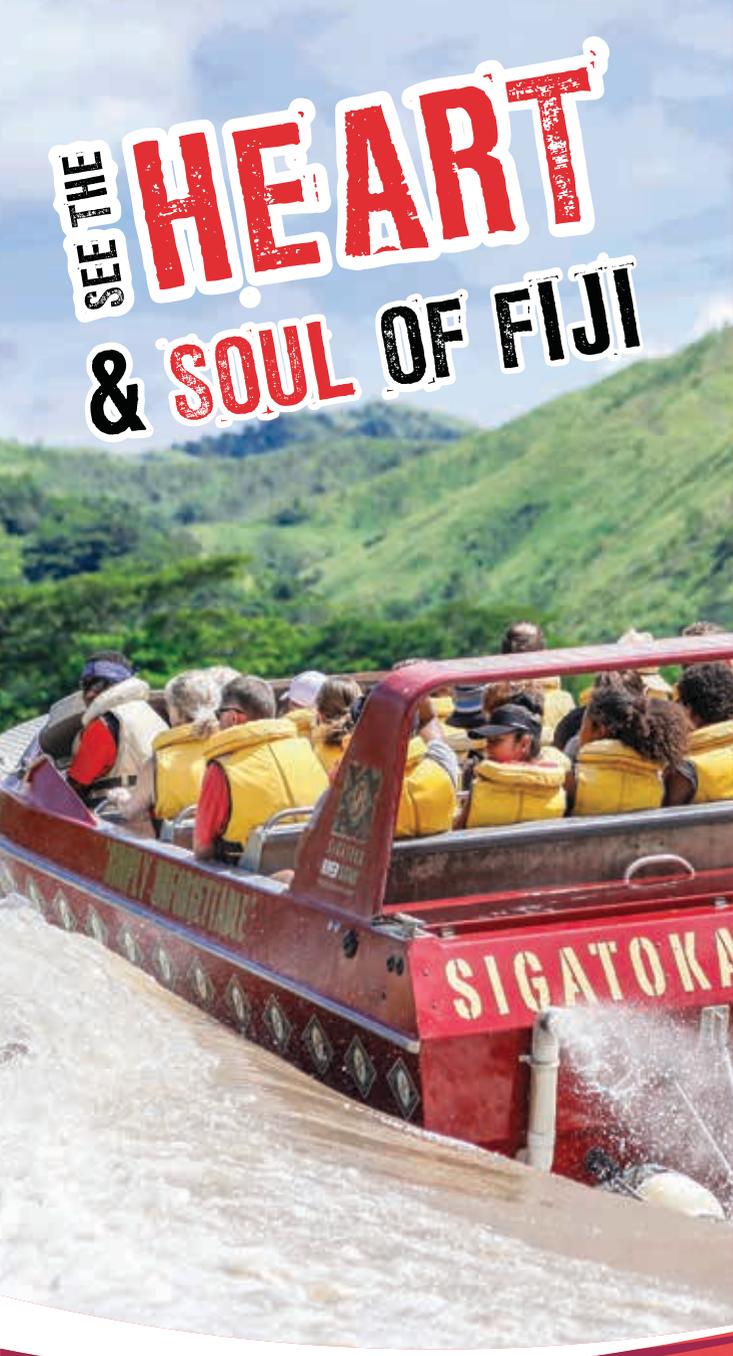
Australasia's Leading Adventure Tour Operator

**"FIJI'S MUST DO ADVENTURE"**



CERTIFICATE of EXCELLENCE

# SEE THE HEART & SOUL OF FIJI



## Dream

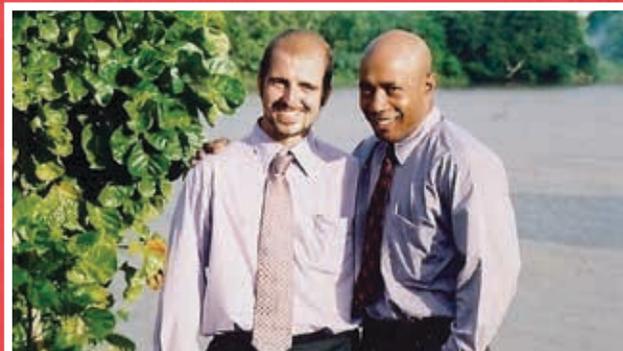
Intensive research followed and by great coincidence, when enquiring about building a boat in New Zealand Jay had unknowingly contacted the pioneer of Safari jet boating in New Zealand, Neil Ross. Jay worked with Neil to build a boat for the conditions in Fiji and in 2005, Neil visited Fiji and surveyed the river and by August of that year work began on a vessel for the mighty Sigatoka River.

Jay moved to Fiji in August 2005, having registered the business in Fiji and his lifelong friend Pita on board as a business partner, he was lucky enough to meet Josh Ratukuna who would join the team and would accompany Jay to New Zealand to learn the art of being a jet boat captain under the tutelage of Neil Ross.

It was on the 9th March 2006, that Fiji's Original and the World's First ever Jet boat & village experience came to life.

A major factor in the decision to work with 18 villages was that Jay did not want to encroach on the village's daily lifestyle too much and wanted to strike a balance between tourism and the village's traditional ways.

To date, the Sigatoka River Safari has assisted in the development of these rural communities directly and indirectly, with the vanua (people) of Navosa seeing much needed tourism development deep in the interior and enabling them to share their amazing spirit with many people from around the world. So many amazing stories have come out from school scholarships, clothing, footpaths, church constructions, kindergartens, school supplies, financial donations and thousands of people falling in love with Fiji!!!! Just like Jay did in 1991.



Jay Whyte & Pita Matasau

### What to Wear & Bring on Safari?

**Please wear the following:** SUNGLASSES & SUNSCREEN, COMFORTABLE CLOTHING & FOOTWEAR,  
**and bring the following items:** CAMERA WITH PLENTY OF MEMORY SPACE & BATTERY POWER, CHANGE OF CLOTHES  
 SENSE OF ADVENTURE & YOUR SMILE.

**Operating:** Monday through Saturday  
 Morning tour departs 8:45am  
 Afternoon tour departs 1:00pm

**Duration:** 4.5 hours

**Ages:** Everyone Anyone

Transfers from all hotels located on the Coral Coast (Warwick Resort to Shangri-La Fijian Resort), Natakola, Sonaisali, Denarau and Nadi Areas.

**Conditions:** Sigatoka River Safari reserves the right to cancel or amend any trip due to river, road or weather conditions. Stringent safety procedures are observed. Sigatoka River Safari cannot be held responsible for personal injury or for loss or damage of equipment.

**Cancellation Policy:** Sigatoka River Safari has a strict cancellation policy, any cancellation made within 24hrs of departure incurs 100% cancellation fees. Bookings cancelled between 24-48hrs incur 50% cancellation fees. Any cancellation made with more than 48hrs notice incur 0% fees. Please read our cancellation policy prior to purchasing this product or enquire at your Hotel Tour Desk.

**FOR RESERVATIONS  
 CALL US FREE ANYTIME  
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## MUST DO IN FIJI

FIJI'S ORIGINAL, WORLD'S FIRST

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**TOUCHING HEARTS SINCE 2006**

## It Was All A



In 1991, as a young 13 yr old boy, Australian Jay Whyte visited Fiji for the first time with his family and family friends. It was on the 3rd day of his stay that Jay's life would change forever. It was the meeting of 23yr old Pita Matasau, a Security Guard at the Resort.

When Jay first met Pita, he became his shadow, following Pita everywhere on his rounds of the resort & listening to the amazing stories Pita would share about Fiji, his village and his family. After 2 days of learning all about Fiji, Pita invited Jay & family to his village of Draiba, deep in the Fijian interior. Arriving in Draiba, after the 2hr inland excursion, Jay and his family would be blown away by what they experienced.



Spending time in the village, swimming in the river and generally spending a day in the life of the Fijian people saw Jay fall in love with Fiji, its culture and its people!!!

Pita and Jay remained friends and kept in touch writing letters back and forth, in the days before E-mails & TXT's. Jay would visit Fiji every two years thereafter and Pita would visit Australia for the first time in 1993.

It was whilst on holiday in New Zealand in 1991 that the IDEA was first born. Enjoying a jet boat ride on a river in the North Island, the jet boat simply cruising along the river, it was then Jay had a vision, to transport people to Draiba along the Sigatoka River. This idea would sit in hibernation for many years, until 2003 when facing a cross roads in life, Jay's idea came flooding back into his mind and it went from being just an idea, to a working project.



**FIJI'S MULTIPLE AWARD WINNING ADVENTURE**

