

The Astrolabe reef is bustling with life  
Photo by JIM GARIN



Astrolabe without worry of schedules, and practicality and simplicity are its signature traits.

A notable feature of Fiji Time's visit to Mai Dive: Our divemaster for the day was Dee, a young woman from the neighbouring village of Narikoso. In a largely male-dominated field, the rise of young local female divemasters caused a surge of pride in our team. Having clocked more than 3000 dives on the Astrolabe Reef, she was more than qualified to reveal to us its wonders.

Alternatively, if you're more comfortable above water than in it, Oneta Resort is a popular spot for fishing enthusiasts. Thatched bures connected by wooden walkways right on the beachfront are your base in between fishing trips and the local guides are considered the most proficient fishermen on the island.

Right next door sits the romantic haven of Koromakawa Resort. With only one guesthouse, you're absolutely guaranteed one-on-one attention and your own private beachfront. Owned and operated by divers, you're taken on personalised dive tours and welcomed enthusiastically into the Koromakawa family.

#### DIVE

The Kadavu group is the site of the world

famous Great Astrolabe Reef, the fourth largest barrier reef in the world at about 100 kilometres long. It stretches from the south side of Kadavu near Vunisea, and runs along the south coast before looping around Ono Island and ending off the east coast of the main island.

Despite its reputation and pristine hard corals, the Great Astrolabe is virtually empty on any given diving day. Due to its immense size and Kadavu's isolation, it's easy to feel like you're the only ones on the reef. And usually, as far as you can see, you are.

Inquire with any resort on Kadavu or Ono and a day (or many more) of diving can most certainly be arranged. Dramatic drift and wall dives or sheltered macro exploration are part of your range of diving options, depending on whether you're on the 'inner' or 'outer' side of the reef.

Either way, it is definitely Kadavu's biggest attraction and a must-see if you've made the journey all the way to Fiji's south.

✈️ *Fiji Airways' subsidiary Fiji Link flies to Kadavu on Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays from Nadi and Suva. Visit [fjiairways.com](http://fjiairways.com)*

Papageno resort in Kadavu



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