

# HOTEL REVIEW: CROWNE PLAZA FIJI NADI BAY

Tel + 679 6700 6700, see [fijinadibay.crowneplaza.com](http://fijinadibay.crowneplaza.com).

**WHO STAYS?** Mix of business and leisure travellers (including families with young children).

**HOW BIG?** 324 rooms

**COST** Standard rooms from FJD427 a night.

**CHECK IN** 2pm

**CHECK OUT** 11am

**HIGHLIGHTS** The daily aqua aerobics class is led by an entertaining team.

- Wi-Fi in rooms:
- TV:
- Air conditioning in room:
- Swimming pool:
- Room service:
- Free airport transfers:
- Gym:
- Hotel arranges tours:
- Breakfast included in standard charge:



PICTURES: FIONA HARPER

## LOCATION

Crowne Plaza Fiji Nadi Bay Resort & Spa is at Wailoaloa Beach, about 15 minutes by road from Nadi International Airport. The beachfront hotel sits midway between Denarau and Vuda Marina. There's a handful of local bars lining the beachfront.

## THE PLACE

The resort opened in 2018 under the Pullman brand. It was acquired by US-based, former Fijian Jay Singh in the aftermath of the COVID-19 pandemic. A multi-million-dollar reconstruction has breathed new life into it, with further upgrades to the spa, gym and kids club still to come. Wailoaloa translates from Fijian into black sand, so don't expect the sort of brochure-worthy beaches found in the Mamanuca or Yasawa Islands. There is, however, a strip of imported white sand dotted with sun lounges. But Crowne Plaza is really all about swimming pools – six of them – including two near-100-metre lap pools.

## ROOMS

There are 324 rooms and suites across four accommodation wings. The original standard rooms in two central wings have undergone soft refurbishment. Second and third-floor rooms have triangular balconies, some with ocean or pool views. Ground floor rooms open onto grassy terraces and pool-facing rooms

are just a few steps from the water. But it's the two new wings where this hotel shines. One and two-bedroom suites are styled in neutral contemporary tones while a wall of glass bathes them in natural light. Ground-floor suites have direct pool access while upper levels enjoy ocean or pool views.

## FOOD AND DRINK

Dining and bar options are plentiful: La Bottega Italian Ristorante is fine dining, complete with a pizza oven. Harvest is a relaxed all-day restaurant and offers an extensive international breakfast buffet. Azura offers casual poolside lunches. Urban Sugar Beach Club is the resort's centrepiece with a DJ spinning tunes each afternoon, lounges that spill onto the deck along with sunken glass-sided poolside tables that give the impression of dining underwater. Latitude Lounge Bar is sultry and sophisticated, while 17.78 Whiskey Bar is an intimate speakeasy styled bar. Add a coffee shop, lobby bar and swim-up pool bar and there's no shortage of venues.

## WHAT GUESTS LIKE

"Loved every bit of the place, the friendly services from the staff, the delicious food especially breakfast. The rooms were just so divine." – Google

"Perfection. The rooms are comfortable and the staff outstanding." – Google

