



DOLPHIN ISLAND

Just 20 minutes by boat from the tip of Viti Levu, this private island is its own small world of quiet, relaxed luxury. Part of Alex van Heeren's The Huka Retreats portfolio (along with Huka Lodge near Taupo and South Africa's Grande Provence Estate), it's an exclusive-use experience for up to eight privileged guests.

Britain's *The Telegraph Luxury Travel* section named Dolphin among the world's best private islands. And why wouldn't they? The 5.6ha property lacks for very little in the way of scenery, accommodation, service, food, leisure amenities and, of course, aquatic adventures and watersports in the warm, clear waters around the island.

Two guest bures, each with two suites, sit on either side of an elevated main bure that looks out over a large deck and infinity pool to a palm-fringed beach. And when extra privacy is called for there's the comfortably rustic





hilltop sleep-out bure, a romantic room for two cooled by sea breezes and lit by lanterns and candles.

Dolphin Island was refurbished in 2011 with interiors by Virginia Fisher, whose designs reflect the colours, textures and patterns of the Pacific with casual elegance and comfort. Air-conditioned guest suites have large dressing rooms and well-appointed bathrooms with shower, sculptural freestanding bath and outdoor shower within a private garden courtyard.

Host Dawn Simpson leads a small team to look after guests – as much or as little as they want. Dawn also cooks, in a style described as “Fijian fusion”. Guests can choose what they want to eat – they can even select their own fresh seafood when the local fisherman calls.

Snorkelling, diving, fishing, kitesurfing, waterskiing/wakeboarding, windsurfing and jetskiing, kayaking and sailing are all on Dolphin’s activities menu. Cultural visits to nearby villages and sightseeing tours can be arranged, as can pampering massages and facials.

www.dolphinislandfiji.com