

the island groups are divided according to whether the tourist has one or two weeks, or three or four weeks. This is a handy summary that involves travel time, accessibility, and what one can see in various available time-frames. Also, here we find out *when* to go to this part of the world, what official papers one needs, and how to get around. The end matter includes a Glossary, Phrasebook, and Suggested Reading.

In-between is everything you ever wanted to know about French Polynesia.

The section titled “Explore Tahiti and French Polynesia” has a 14-day itinerary titled “The Best of French Polynesia”, followed by a 10-day itinerary for scuba divers including details of the best places to dive and how to reach them; a 7-day honeymoon itinerary, and a 7-day “*tiki-trek*” to the Marquesas Islands. This section continues with Ancient Temples and Sacred Sites for those who are interested in archaeology, and includes sites to see in Tahiti, Mo‘orea, Huahine; Ra‘iatea; Bora Bora; Nuku Hiva; and Hiva Oa. Lastly, “Back to Nature” includes hiking suggestions for jock readers.

The general text begins on page 25 with a description and discussion of Tahiti that includes a history of the island and of Pape‘ete (with maps); Accommodations; Food; Services; and information about getting around the island. Following that, the “Other Windward Islands” are described.

A chapter on Mo‘orea follows, with the same format and information: “Highlights” to “History” to “Sights”. Inserts include information about Captain Cook, how to buy a black pearl, sports and recreation, day cruises and diving. This section ends with descriptions of places to stay, restaurants, and information about how to get there.

The Leeward Islands are described in the following section, including “Highlights” and “History” and “Getting There”. Detailed sections on Huahine, Ra‘iatea, Taha‘a, Bora Bora, Maupiti, and other Leeward Islands follow. Stanley then tackles the Australs (Rurutu, Tubuai, Rimatara, Ra‘ivavae, Rapa, and Marotiri). The Tuamotu and Gambier Islands are treated in a chapter followed by a comprehensive chapter on the Marquesas Islands.

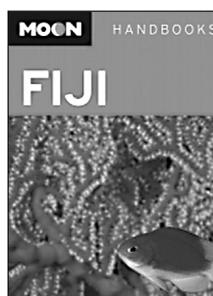
“Background” begins on page 244, with discussions of the land, geology, climate, flora and fauna, history and government, European contact, the Colonial Era, and the Nuclear Era. “Economy” describes trade and tourism, agriculture and fishing. “People and Culture” is followed by “Language” and then “Arts and Entertainment” and “Handicrafts and Shopping”, as well as “Holidays and Festivals”.

At page 287, we reach “Essentials” such as Getting There, Organized Tours, and Cruises. “Getting Around” describes how to reach the various islands by air or boat, bus or car rental, or bicycle. And finally, “Visas and Officialdom.” Starting on page 312 are “Accommodations” and here Stanley lists the hotel chains, *pensiones*, and then a discussion of food. Finally we come to “Conduct and

Customs” and “Tips for Travelers”, followed by “Health and Safety”. Page 326 concludes with “Information and Services”, “Tourist Information”, and “Time and Measurements.”

While the layout of these guidebooks is unusual, it makes excellent sense in the way the material is presented. By the time one has read through the front matter, it is time to think of booking a trip – and as soon as possible. The text is well-written, comprehensive, fun, informative, and can be read for information and interest whether or not a trip is the end result.

Stanley, David. *Fiji, Moon Handbooks*.



Berkeley: Avalon Travel, 2011. (9th edition). 420 pp., 24 col. plates, photos, 49 maps. ISBN: 978-1-598807-37-0. US\$19.85 (papercover, printed on recycled paper).

Review by Georgia Lee, Easter Island Foundation

Moon Handbooks Fiji follows the same format as Stanley’s *Tahiti*, with suggestions based upon the amount of time one has available. Given the far-flung islands of Fiji, this is an excellent way to estimate what is possible to do in a given time-span—although to visit all the islands would become a major and time-consuming effort: the Lau group and Rotuma mark the far limits of this group.

The sheer numbers of islands that comprise “Fiji” are staggering, and reaching these far-away places can be a challenge. The islands are grouped into Viti Levu; the Yasawas; Kadavu; Lomaiviti; Venua Levu; Lau; Moala; Ringgold; and Rotuma, and they range in height from 2 meters to 1,323 meters, and from 0.1 sq. km. to 10,532 sq. km. Each is described with details of things to do and see, how to get there and back, where to stay and eat.

David Stanley has been writing guidebooks since the late 1970s and his relaxed writing style, firsthand information, and personal insights into the various countries he writes about mark his books as the best handbooks for the intelligent traveler. Headed for the Pacific? Don’t leave home without these guides in your pocket.