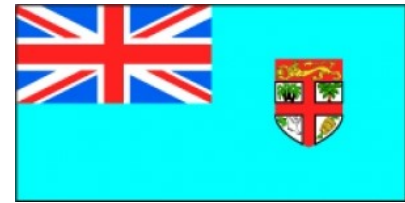




Fiji Islands

Joined the Commonwealth in 1970 - visited by the Queen in 1982



Fiji is a small island nation in the western Pacific

Pop: (2012) 875,000

Capital: Suva

Area: 18,333 sq km

Fiji consists of over 300 islands (of which only 100 are inhabited), and 540 islets spread over an ocean area of 3 million sq kms. Viti Levu is the largest island and its international airport is the hub for inter-island flights.

Much of Fiji is volcanic. The larger islands have more densely populated fertile coastal plains with uninhabited mountainous interiors. Many of the smaller islands have coral reefs. The tropical and oceanic climate has high temperatures and humidity year round making Fiji an ideal tourist destination. Six species of bat, including flying foxes, and the Polynesian rat are the only indigenous wildlife. Turtles, sharks, eels and prawns are found in Fiji's tropical waters.

As well as tourism, the production of clothing is now important along with gold mining, fishing and timber production.



Air transport is used by Fijians to island hop

