Around the World with Stan Delaplane

SUVA, Fiji — For me there are no lands in the world so green, so fragrant as the islands of the South Pacific. No ocean so blue. No bays so turquoise. No tropical air so filled with some magic that unwinds you.

These are the islands you shuddered over in the steel engravings in your grandfather's library: "A Missionary Among the Cannibals." (Loved that book!) The menu has changed. But the islands are the same. The Fijians live in brass bures. The coco palms bend into the prevailing wind. And at night, the reef, twinkling with fishermen's torches, is the village supermarket.

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"What places would you suggest in the Outer Islands of Hawaii? We have been to Honolulu."

I'm highest on the islands of Kauai and Maui. But you might consider Fiji. It's only six and a half hours from Honolulu. Air fares have just come down dramatically. There are planes three and four times a day. And these are the wild, untouched islands.

There's a 16-passenger boat goes out of here twice a week to the primitive Yasawa group. It's three days — $75 to $90 for everything. You get into places where the King's bodyguards still paint their faces and pack spears.

New fares and splendid weather. These islands won't be like this much longer — they're Hawaii a hundred years ago. There are no Hiltons. But very good, small hotels. The Mocambo and Sky Lodge near Nadi Airport. Korolevu an excellent resort halfway down the island. Reef Lodge has housekeeping units.

In Suva the new Outrigger is motel style with a pool. The Grand Pacific — the GPH — is the big, breezeway colonial hotel. There are dozens of guest houses and housekeeping flats for rent. Prices are moderate — $8 to $15 double.

No night clubs but some entertainment at the hotels. Food still only fair. I auditioned the curry at the GPH, and I think I can make better curry than that. In a country with 300,000 people from India, they ought to make good curry. (I'd have gone back to the good old days and barbecued the doorman. But I imagine in a cannibal island, they count the help each night.)

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"What would it cost for a complete South Pacific trip?"

The round trip fare from San Francisco and Los Angeles has gone down to $756 all the way to Sydney. This gives you stopovers in Hawaii, Samoa, Tahiti, Fiji. And you can make side trips. Fiji Airways flies into some really far out islands.

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". . . best time of year?"

From now on through summer. The big rains are over and this is winter in the South Pacific. The tropic islands are cooler.

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"Are health conditions all right?"

Fiji is a British crown colony and has British health service. There's no malaria in the islands. Nothing that bites you in shallow water — but don't walk barefoot on the reef.

Everybody says you can drink the tap water anywhere. But I came back to Honolulu taking sulfasuxiadine pills. However, I could not say it was the water. Might have been anything.)

The Fijians are wonderful people. Everybody waves to you on the road. They don't mind that grandpa ate people —it's a big joke. They say King Cakombau gave the islands to the British in return for paying off a debt to the U.S. Somebody ate an American missionary, and the U.S. sent them a dinner tab (by warship) for $40,000.

The most famous item was the Rev. Mr. Thomas Baker, who became the main course up at Nabutautau. The Nabutautau people tried to eat him with his boots one and were dreadfully ashamed of their ignorance. The big city people in Suva had learned to remove the boots after a local chief broke a tooth on a nail.

These are splendid islands. And now is just the right time to come. Just enough tourists to have good hotels and good food. And not enough to change it to a high rise mass of concrete. Nobody tips in Fiji. Not yet.

Scottsdale Townhouses Now Open in Wilmington

"If you'd like the very finest in condominium living, you owe it to yourself and your family to visit Ray Watt's Scottsdale Townhouses in Wilmington," Mack Lyons, sales director, said.

Elegant two-, three-, or four-bedroom, two-bath homes are available now for immediate occupancy, starting at $17,500.

"When you match what you get for your money at Scottsdale with 'comparable-priced' homes in the area, you realize there's no comparison," Lyons said. "Homebuyers seeking the best in family recreation living may purchase the few remaining homes at Scottsdale for a very low down payment."

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"WE FEEL that Scottsdale Town Houses in Wilmington, is the area's greatest home value," he added.

Ray Watt's Scottsdale Town Houses offers a world of country club living for the entire family. Recreation facilities at Scottsdale include Kiddie Parks, Olympic-sized swimming pools, Little League ball park, Pop Warner football field, and a $150,000 Town Hall and Community Clubhouse.

Families have the time to enjoy all these recreation facilities because they are freed from those time-consuming chores of yard care and exterior maintenance tasks.

"IF YOU'D like to start enjoying Country Club living, here's your chance to make your home at Scottsdale Town Houses. Condominium living is Southern California's fastest-growing residential trend. We feel that Scottsdale typifies this trend at its finest.

"Since only a limited number of these luxury homes are now available, you are urged to act without delay," Lyons warns.

Scottsdale Town Houses is located on Avalon Boulevard, between Carson Street and Sepulveda Boulevard, one mile east of the Harbor Freeway. The sales office is open daily from 10 a.m. until dark.

Marine Pfc. **Steven J. Fuhr**, son of Mrs. Carl Clemens of 2300 Huntington Lane, Redondo Beach, is in Da Nang, Vietnam with the First Marine Regiment, a unit of the First Marine Division.

He is a member of the Security Platoon for the regimental headquarters, located about seven miles southwest of Da Nang.

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Hormel R
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4¼-oz. pkg. 59c
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RUBY RED GRAPEFRUIT 10c ea.
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