

Seahawk

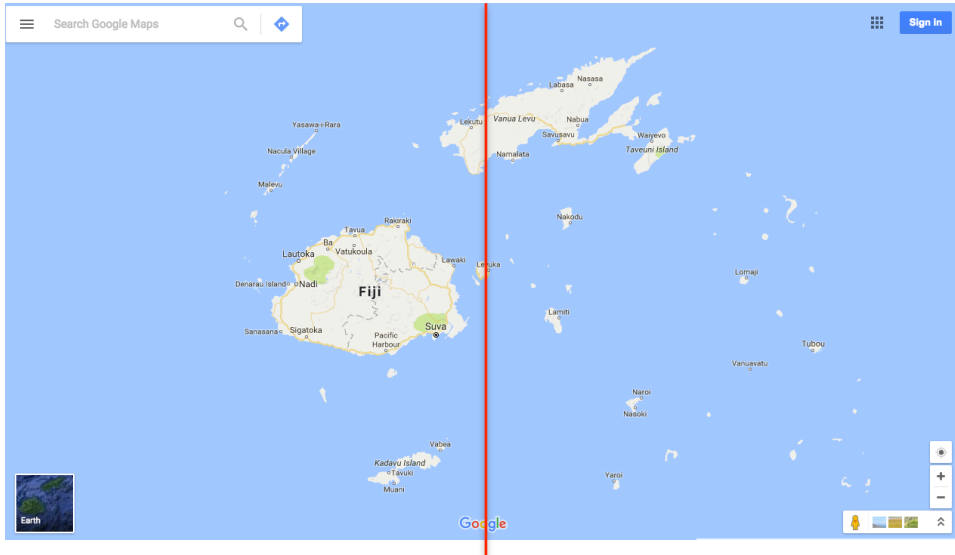
2017

**May / June / July / August
Charter Itinerary**



**Fiji, Tonga, Vanuatu,
New Caledonia
French Polynesia**

FIJI A country in the South Pacific, is a cluster of more than **300** islands. It's famed for rugged landscapes, palm-lined beaches, coral atoll reefs with clear lagoons and volcanic islands. Its major islands, **Viti Levu** and **Vanua Levu**, contain most of the population. Viti Levu is home to the capital, Suva, a port city with British colonial architecture.



Fiji prides itself as being the place where yesterday becomes today. The International Date Line runs through **Vanua Levu**

Traditions are still thriving and visitors are expected to pay a **sevu – sevu** visit to the **Chief** of the island or village bearing a token gift, usually **Yagona**, intoxicating drink made from roots of the kava plant

The most convenient Port when cruising Eastern Fiji is Savusavu on the island of Vanua Levu. A special permit is required to visit the **Lau Group** where the traditional way of life has remained almost unaffected by the modern world.



South of Viti Levu are two other islands **Kandavua** and **Beqa**, where traditions are also still strong.

Further North is the **Yasawa Group**, a popular cruising ground due to the scenic anchorages and clear waters.

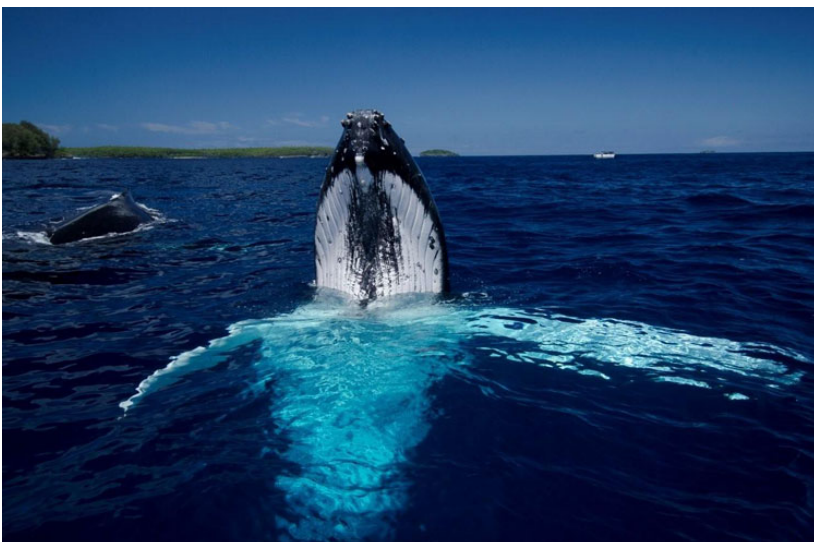
TONGA is a Polynesian Kingdom, situated in the heart of the South Pacific, consists of more than 160 coral and volcanic islands, many uninhabited, most lined in white beaches and coral reefs and covered with tropical rainforest.

The main island, **Tongatapu**, is protected by lagoons and limestone cliffs. It's home to the rural capital of **Nuku'alofa**, as well as beach resorts, plantations and the **Ha'amonga 'a Maui**, a monumental coral gate from the 1200s.



Best known is the northern group of “**Vava’u**” the maze of small islands and reefs provides one of the best cruising grounds in the south pacific, from its unique sheltered waters

It's also the only surviving Polynesia kingdom and the only Pacific nation to have enjoyed political independence throughout its history.



Scores of Humpback whales gather here in early spring to breed and it's a great thrill to watch these gentle giants and their off spring swim slowly by.

VANUATU is made up of roughly 80 islands that stretch 1,300 kilometers. **Espiritu Santo, Malekula, Efate, Erromango, Ambrym and Tanna** are the main ones. This is a place where rich Melanesian culture is kept very much alive.



A must attraction is the live volcano **Yasur** on **Tanna**, where you can walk right on the edge of the crater and look into the bubbling and hissing abyss, the closest you can go to a volcano anywhere in the world.

The islands offer scuba diving at coral reefs, underwater caverns and wrecks such as the WWII-era troopship SS President Coolidge.

A thrill of a different kind is to witness a performance by the land divers of **Pentecost Island**. Part of a tribal ceremony to celebrate the start of the yam harvest, the death – defying divers, young Ni-Vanuatu men jump from wooden towers at least 20m (65ft) high. Watching diver after diver hurtling towards the ground, the green vines stretching enough to slow down the fall. The tower has 3 levels, the youngest boys of nine dive from the first level. These dives take place **April and May**.



NEW CALEDONIA bordering on the Coral Sea. It is a French territory island known for its palm-lined beaches and marine-life-rich lagoons. It boasts, a 24,000-sq km barrier reef one of the largest in the world. The massive barrier reef surrounds the main island, **Grand Terre**. The capital, **Nouméa**, is home to French-influenced restaurants and luxury boutiques selling Parisian fashions.



The best cruising is in **Baie du Prony** and in some of the outlying islands, either the “**Ile des Pins**” or the “**Loyalties**”



For centuries this land was home to a Melanesian people who practiced and reutilized cannibalism!