

Oceania Biblical Studies Association Conference 2013

General Travel Advice

The 2013 OBSA Conference will be hosted by the Pacific Theological College, and will take place at the Jovili Meo Mission Centre on PTC's campus (see map and travel directions on two separate documents).

This document was designed for first-time visitors to our shores.

Safety

Fiji is generally quite safe. Exercise the usual caution, especially in urban areas, and particularly at night. Be aware of pickpockets, especially in busy shopping areas, bus stations, and so on. Hitchhiking is not recommended. Women should take care not to travel alone in isolated areas.

Health

Some people prefer to drink only bottled or boiled water.

Swimming in the sea just across the road from the Mission Centre is not advisable due to the proximity of the harbour, and the fact that residential effluent is sometimes let into the sea – the quality of sea water in this area is less than desirable.

There is no malaria in Fiji. Occasionally, dengue fever is transmitted via certain mosquitoes.

Although the Mission Centre is located in a well ventilated place, there will be some mosquitoes. You are advised to bring some insect repellent.

Climate

Suva weather is unpredictable. Rain is always possible, and humidity tends to be high. In August, we might expect to get a daily maximum temperature around 23-25C, and nightly lows around 18-20C. We do not normally expect to get a cyclone in August.

If you are used to a tropical climate, bring clothing for potentially cold and/or wet weather. On the other hand, if you are used to a moderate to cold climate, bring a hat and sunscreen lotion, and be prepared for rain.

Dangerous animals

None, unless you go swimming – and even then, the only dangerous animal is a particular type of sea snake, which is sighted very occasionally.

Large centipedes should be avoided as their bite is very painful.

Electricity

Fiji uses a 240V / 50Hz system, and the standard Australian / Aotearoa plug. There are occasional, and usually unpredictable power cuts. A simple surge protector is advisable for sensitive electronic equipment such as laptop computers, since the voltage is often unstable.

Business hours

Shops are usually open Monday to Saturday from 8am to 5pm, though many urban shops stay open longer. Banking hours tend to be Monday to Thursday 9:30am to 3pm, and Friday 9:30am to 4pm.

Customs (for international travellers)

Fresh fruits and vegetables must be declared and may be confiscated. Customs will x-ray all luggage to search for such items. Any items found that were not declared may result in a hefty on-the-spot fine.

Time

Fiji Standard Time is UTC +12. There is no daylight saving time in August.

Contact in Case of Questions

If you have any questions, please contact the Local Organising Committee:

OBSA 2013 Local Organising Committee
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