

Fiji's women keep nation warm with 'Bula Spirit'

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Dawn Simpson - Resort manager at Dolphin Island. Photo / Supplied.



Fiji is focusing on caring for its own communities, with the tourism industry leading the way.

It's not just the tropical waters and year-round sunshine that makes this beautiful group of islands one of the warmest places on earth. Meet six of the nation's most innovative women working hard to keep inspiring that famous Fijian spirit. While crystal-clear warm turquoise waters, multicoloured fish, gently swaying palms and laid-back holiday vibes are among the memories any lucky visitor to Fiji takes home with them, it's the irresistible friendliness of its people that lingers long after the tan has faded.

The sheer joy of an exuberant "Bula" greeting, delivered dozens of times a day, never fails to make you smile, and it's easy to see why Fiji is considered the happiest country on Earth. You'd be happy too if you enjoyed year-round sunshine, temperatures that rarely drop below 25°C, sparkling white-sand beaches and lush tropical islands so beautiful that you can't quite believe your eyes.

Fijians love nothing more than sharing their home and culture. But while international tourists have had to stay away over the past few months, six of Fiji's most inspiring women have found different avenues to keep the Bula Spirit alive. They've found other ways to share their innovative thinking and ensure happiness remains the number one priority for the Fijian people.



Caroline Oakley, Head Chef at Kokomo Private Island. Photo / Supplied.

CREATIVE IN THE KITCHEN CAROLINE OAKLEY - HEAD CHEF AT KOKOMO PRIVATE ISLAND

Kokomo Private Island is fortunate to have a 2.2ha farm for its head chef Caroline Oakley to get creative with when she's creating her culinary masterpieces — her unique menu is entirely made using ingredients from the island. Caroline is currently driving Fiji's Dock to Dish movement — an initiative that supports local fishermen from the Kadavu region.

Caroline's hidden Fiji gem: "Kiwis need to check out the Great Astrolabe Reef. It is full of underwater hues of pinks, oranges, yellows and purples and frequently visited by our friendly manta rays."

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