



THIS IMAGE Young holidaymakers get into the spirit of Fiji at Vomo Island Resort. **LEFT** An old-style village of traditional Fijian bures.

Family fun and frolics

In a recent survey conducted by *Holidays with Kids* magazine, five of the 10 most popular family holiday resorts were in Fiji. Editor Cathy Wagstaff, for one, is not surprised. "Fiji is geared towards family holidays," she explains. "Most hotels have packages where kids stay and eat for free, and they have really good nanny services."

Another bonus is that the islands are just four hours' flight from eastern Australia. Happily, winter school holidays

another couple with young children and spent nine days at Shangri-La's Fijian Resort & Spa, located on a private isle linked by causeway to Viti Levu, the main island. "This is the second time we've been and we love it," Janine says. Staying close to the mainland, she advises, means that you don't have to hang around for a day in Nadi, the airport town, for an outer island transfer. "We did that the first time and found that with young kids, it was quite an effort."

drinks or, if we wanted to go out, we'd get a babysitter from the hotel." (Janine's tip for adults who'd like to enjoy pre-dinner drinks on their balcony: bring a couple of duty-free bottles, as alcohol is expensive.)

When picking a resort, Wagstaff suggests, check out the activities included in the package, then look at the kids' club, and factor in any extra costs. If possible, pay for major expenses before you go – it makes it easier to stick to a budget. For reviews and parents' comments on Fijian resorts, go to www.holidayswithkids.com.au.

Flight Centre offers a six-night accommodation package at Shangri-La's Fijian Resort & Spa from \$719 per adult: children under 17 stay free. For more details go to www.flightcentre.com.au.

More family-friendly islands... Try tropical Vanuatu (www.vanuatutourism.com), Western Australia's Rottnest Island (www.rottnestisland.com) or Hamilton Island in the Whitsundays (www.hamiltonisland.com.au). **f&g**

Conditions in Fiji are particularly idyllic during winter, when travellers will enjoy lower humidity, fewer tropical downpours and cooler temperatures than in the steamy summer months.

for most states fall in July, the start of Fiji's cool, dry season. Conditions are idyllic at this time, with less humidity, fewer downpours and more comfortable temperatures than the steamy summer.

Janine Ehehalt, a mother of two from Sydney, is a big fan of Fijian getaways. Recently, her family joined forces with

Another big drawcard for families is the sheer variety of things to do, on land and in water, as it means children need never be bored. "I found the kids were exhausted by the end of the day as the resort had so many activities on offer. They practically put themselves to bed," Janine says. "Then the adults would sit on the patio and have