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Tukuni, the place to be

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In Fijian mythology, the word tukuni can be translated to a legend a myth or a fairytale.

In another translation of the word, it means to tell on someone "au na tukuni iko" (I will tell on you) — literally to be an informer.

Now let me be an informer, and no I am not going to inform you about a person but about an eatery located at Tuvu past Ba Town on your way to Lautoka.

I was on a tour with Pacific Island participants who were in the country for a biodiversity adaptation dialogue hosted by the South Pacific Regional Environment Program (SPREP).

We followed the Sun Coast leaving Rakiraki at 8am and headed to the Yaqara Silica Valley before making our stop at the Foundation for Rural Integrated Enterprises and Development (FRIEND).

FRIEND, a non-government organisation, focuses mainly on a multi-sector intergrated intercropping approach on farming using organic and traditional farming practices of the past in the aim to tackle social, economic and health challenges in communities around Fiji.

After an inspirational and very educational talanoa with Melaia Salacakau the FRIEND co-ordinator, we were ushered to the Tukuni restaurant.

At the entrance you are greeted by local variety of spices, jams and souveneirs made by FRIEND.

The eatery layout has a unique traditional and modern touch. The chairs and tables neatly arranged, masi rolled out on the ceiling and provides cover to the post while on one side neatly plaited bamboo are carefully arranged as the inside wall and to separate the kitchen area from the diner.

And the food, if you ever looking for traditional Fijian food from smoked fish to octopus rich in coconut milk or the more spicy Indian cuisine try a stop-over at Tukuni. Believe me when I say this, you will not be disappointed.

Food so tantalising, that it sinks right into your tastebud, you will wish the diner was close by your home.

Every now and then people want to cook their own food but at Tukuni, you would not want to cook anymore, they will cook it for you and I am sure you will be filled to satisfaction.

So if you ever taking a road trip along the Western Division leaving Lautoka for Ba, or making a round the island trip, make sure to make a stop at Tukuni.

Tukuni, it's where the fairytale of food becomes a reality.



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