



SACRED SITES

YADRA CAVE

The original village of Yaro was located in Likuliku about two centuries ago before being relocated to its current location. On the lease, the headland is marked as "Sacred Rock".

Before Christianity, the special clan of the "Bete", the ancient Fijian priests from the village of Yaro, would make traditional sacrifice to the Sea Gods using kava roots and produce from the land at certain times in the lunar calendar. On the headland is a magic wishing cave occupied by the "Kalou Vu" (spirit god), that is said to be able to bring great blessing and grant all your dreams and aspirations. The cave can only be accessible by the Bete, and no-one else.

Villagers would petition the village elder with a request - for example, to have good crops this season, a child for newlyweds, good weather during a long sea journey, etc. The village elder "mata ni vanua" would present a kava root to the Bete, who would in turn visit the cave to present the petitions. If requests were made with noble intentions, the wish would always be granted.

When plans for the development of Likuliku Lagoon were being made, the village elders requested that the rock be marked a "Ni Sa Tabu" site meaning a sacred site. No development will ever occur on this headland. "Yadra" in Malolo dialect is new, and Vula is moon, and "Vatu Tabu" means sacred rock, so the area is translated "The Sacred Rock of the new moon".

KI NI WAI

Literally meaning "keys to the ocean", this is a sacred site where the paramount chief of all the Mamanucas "Na Tui Lwa" (Chief of Lawa) would be installed. In his installation he would be given the "keys to the ocean" meaning his paramount control of all the land and ocean resources in the Mamanuca area. The ancient village of Yaro Lawa, was located originally on Likuliku before moving to its current location.

It is also believed a magic walking stick "titoko tabu" is still buried in this location. This stick was used to separate the original Malolo Island into two islands: Malolo and Malolo Lailai (lailai means small). It has power over the elements. Some believe the magic stick was from the magic treasure chest located somewhere between Mana and Likuliku. (Refer: Legend of the Magic Box).

The Fijians believe that at dead midnight, a large star would always hover over this site, a symbol of the presence of the "titoko" and its influence on the elements and importance of the chiefly location.

VATU TAGI

This legendary rock is said to make a ringing or wailing sound when struck, a sound that is completely different from other rocks around it. The rock is located on the left of the large black rocky outcrop behind Likuliku Beach, and it sits under the vaivai tree on a long flat black rock. This rock was used by elders of the Tui Lawa as a sign of sending messages for meetings to be held around Likuliku. If a lali (hollow wooden log) is beaten close to the rock, its sound echoes around Malolo informing the elders to convene for a chiefly meeting.

MOKA

Moka literally means "fish trap". Characterized by its soft soil, it is known to the fisherman's clan as a way of trapping fish moving along the coastline during high tide. There is a lot of moka around Likuliku but the "old moka" used by turaga Ratu is located here. It is close to the old village site and the main use was in a "fish drive" by turaga Ratu. Turaga Ratu also used this place as a trap for enemies when they tried to attack the old village of Yaro.