

# Watching Returning Player Seasons with Minimal Spoilers

This guide is for Survivor fans who want to watch seasons with returning players before seeing all of those players' previous appearances. It provides background information and suggestions to help make sense of returnee seasons, spoiling details of prior seasons only when absolutely necessary.

## Season 16 – Micronesia: Fans vs Favourites

This season features 10 returning 'favourites' who have only played once before, competing against 10 new 'fans'. The returnees are taken from **seasons 7, 9, 12, 13, 14 and 15** (Pearl Islands, Vanuatu, Panama – Exile Island, Cook Islands, Fiji and China).

Among the Favourites, it is important to note when they originally played. As a general rule, Survivor contestants interact with each other outside of the game, especially with players who competed on seasons immediately before or after their own. On the other hand, contestants who played years earlier are generally more removed from or less active within the show's community.

- Season 7: Pearl Islands
  - **Jon** played for the first time and became known by his moniker '**Jonny Fairplay**', a misnomer because rather than playing fair, he was the most notorious villain the show had ever seen. He lied constantly, swore at and insulted his tribemates, and did absolutely anything possible to further his own game.
- Season 9: Vanuatu
  - **Ami** played for the first time. A seemingly friendly player but coldly expedient, she was the first woman in the show's history to take control and lead a dominant female alliance, for which she became known as the 'ice queen' of S9.
  - **Eliza** also played for the first time. On the outs from the get go, she played frantically and unpredictably. Her constant paranoia, though justified, only annoyed her tribemates further and she was forced to work with people who openly hated her.
  - Although Ami and Eliza worked against each other on S9, they interacted as castmates after the show and became friends over the following years.
- Season 12: Panama – Exile Island
  - **Cirie** played for the first time. Although she seemed out of place outdoors, she made a mark as a strategically savvy fan who got up off the couch and used her social charm to succeed on the island.
- Season 13: Cook Islands
  - **Jonathan Penner** played for the first time. He turned against his tribemates for strategic reasons and became a pariah for doing so, untrustworthy to both sides.
  - **Ozzy** also played for the first time. He quickly showed himself to be one of Survivor's greatest challenge competitors, a skilled outdoorsman and a provider for his tribe.
  - **Parvati** played for the first time. She was the most notable contestant to this point to clearly articulate a strategy of using flirtation to get her way.
  - All three of these players interacted on S13 but neither of them worked closely together following Jonathan's betrayal.

- Season 14: Fiji
  - **Yau Man** played for the first time, surprising tribemates and fans with his honesty, intelligence, strategy and life experience. He was also the first Survivor player to find a hidden immunity idol and replace it with a fake, though the fake was never found.
- Season 15: China
  - **Amanda** played for the first time. She was a savvy strategist who held her own in challenges, but struggled emotionally with having to turn on her friends.
  - **James** also played for the first time on S15. A charming but physically imposing gravedigger, he played a loyal game and became frustrated when other players tried to turn against what he saw as a secure alliance.
  - Amanda and James started on the same tribe in S15 and worked together.
  - Micronesia filmed while S15 was still airing so the other contestants on S16 know nothing about how it played out. They had only seen the first few episodes of S15, which highlighted James' innocent charm but barely featured Amanda at all.