



MARINE CONSERVATION INTERNSHIP IN FIJI



OVERVIEW

Join an international team on this marine conservation internship, which focuses on the collection of marine inventory data from underwater research dives. This research is then made available to local communities and organisations to help better inform management decision making. The project is geared at providing long-term benefits to the local communities through strategies designed to help guarantee food security for future generations.

On this program, you will actively work on connecting data with and for the local community. Participants will learn about coral reef ecology and conservation issues facing tropical marine organisms and the communities that depend on them. You will likely be spending time in the water every day, in what is best described as a vibrant marine ecosystem. There is a good possibility of seeing endangered species such as

whales, rays, sharks and humphead wrasse. It is likely that you will also get the opportunity to assist in the local community helping with delivering workshops and on construction projects.

Receive the Coral Reef Research Diver Distinctive Speciality segment of the PADI Divemaster course. This unique offering by the NGO & PADI teaches you about best practices when conducting underwater coral reef surveys. This is offered to participants staying for 2 weeks or longer.

This program will be completed during your first 12 weeks on the base with NGO staff and other participants. Each week you will learn about a specific concept related to leadership and teamwork and complete an assignment on the topic. You will be guided through the process by your assigned mentor on base. At the end of the course, successful candidates will receive a certificate and personal recommendation.

HIGHLIGHTS

- Conducting underwater surveys in the warm waters of the Pacific.
- Discover a myriad of fascinating marine creatures to study and experience the stunning coral reefs of Fiji.
- Complete NGO & PADI's unique qualification, the PADI Coral Reef Research Speciality.
- Data collection on targeted fish, invertebrate and benthic species.
- Habitat mapping for coral reefs and mangrove (Coral Reef and Mangrove Habitat mapping).
- Development of an environmental education and awareness program for local schools and communities.
- Development of terrestrial and marine environmental best practice on Caqalai Island.



LIFE ON BASE

Boasting magnificent sunset views and swaying palm trees, our base is located in the bustling village of Silana, in the district of Dawasamu. We have Tova peak on one side (the third highest mountain on Viti Levu) and the beach on the other. From your bed you can listen to the sounds of the crashing waves. A short boat ride away, you will find the famous Moon Reef with its resident pod of spinner dolphins.

Participating in our program here provides you with a unique opportunity to gain insight into Fiji's famous culture of hospitality and warmth, and to experience what it's like to be part of the community. On arrival, you'll get to experience a "Sevusevu ceremony" – as a sign of respect you present yourself to the community to ask "permission" to stay. The ceremony is an age-old tradition that marks the formalisation of the community accepting and welcoming you, and celebrates your arrival.

Accommodation

Accommodation during your stay includes basic mixed-gender dormitory style rooms in a Fijian bure with wooden walls and a tin roof. There is a communal kitchen, work area, and general living space where you can prepare for project work and socialise with your new friends. We rent this accommodation from the Silana Youth Project. Providing these community members with a sustainable income is a unique arrangement, and a local success story.

Meals

Food on base is mostly vegetarian, consisting of locally-sourced seasonal produce which participants take turns in preparing for the group. Breakfast varies but could include porridge, eggs and beans, fruit or pancakes. Lunch and evening meals consist of sandwiches, rice, beans, vegetables, pasta with sauce, noodles, roti, cassava or dalo, and occasionally some meat. When eating out, you will find that the cuisine is quite diverse and includes a lot of seafood and has an Asian influence.

Transportation

Transfers to and from the Nausori Airport in Suva take about 90 minutes and can be arranged with us in advance for the day before your program start date. For independent travel over weekends, buses, minivans and taxis are available.

Communication

You will have limited access to long-distance communications while on the program, so make sure friends and family know how often they can expect to hear from you. Mobile phone reception is available on base, although it can be poor at times. It's possible to buy a Fijian SIM card and phone credit at the airport which can be used with your

unlocked cellphone. Alternatively, you can purchase a pocket Wi-Fi device which can be topped up with mobile internet. shared working space in the village is a five- minute walk from the base. Here you can get the best signal with your pocket Wi-Fi device. The speed of your connection may be inconsistent, due to our location.

Climate

Dawasamu temperatures remain fairly constant throughout the year, at roughly 26°C (80°F). It can be cooler at night and in the early mornings during the winter months of May to November. Between July and September the weather is usually dry and sunny. The rainy season is between November and April, when temperatures remain high but afternoon showers can be expected, and there may be an occasional tropical storm. For swimming, the sea in Fiji is warm all year round, so be sure to bring your swimsuit and enjoy a dip in the ocean.

What's included

- 24-hour emergency phone
- 24-hour in-country support
- Airport pick-up (unless otherwise stated)
- All necessary project equipment and materials
- All necessary project training by experienced staff
- Safe and basic accommodations (usually shared)
- Meals while on project
- Welcome presentation

What's not included

- Additional drinks and gratuities
- Extra local excursions
- Flights
- International and domestic airport taxes
- Medical and travel insurance
- Personal items and toiletries
- Police or background check
- Visa costs (where necessary)



Your internship program

Before your arrival

- Expectation Group Call
- Overall & Location Specific Training
- Uni Specialization course

Onsite

- Remote Intern Supervisor
- Contribute to project work on the ground
- Undertake additional responsibilities around base

After your program

- Career Mentor
- Career Coaching sessions
- Preferential recruitment on our positions
- Access to Job Portal
- Uni Endorsed Careers Course

Certificate and achievement

- Basic reference (PDF)
- University certificates if completed