



Community Development in Fiji



OVERVIEW

As a hands-on member of our team, you will be involved with a diverse variety of key initiatives involving themes such as freshwater management, education enrichment, environmental monitoring and mapping, waste management and health awareness.

On this program, you will find yourself among the forests and mountainous backdrop of the Dawasamu District, where you will be working alongside local people on a range of community development initiatives. The dramatic Fijian landscape is defined by sweeping volcanic hillsides, dense jungle, fresh water waterfalls, extensive beaches and colourful coral reefs.

The goals and priorities of this expedition are discussed and determined in collaboration with the local communities of the Dawasamu District. There are five core focuses of the expedition: WASH (Water, Sanitation, Hygiene), health and nutrition, education enrichment and empowerment, and environmental management & protection.

Overall, our program aims to assist villagers to adapt their livelihoods in response to the changing pressures on traditional life due to both environmental and social change. Our focus is on empowering communities by actively engaging important issues involved with the factors that inform their quality of life, such as access to fresh water, access to education and food security.

Volunteers help the local communities assess environmental impacts, enrich available education, and solve basic infrastructure issues through improvements and new initiatives. In comparison to other areas of Fiji, this district is relatively untouched by tourism and there are few sources of income for the local community.

HIGHLIGHTS

- Promoting the importance of preventive health measures.
- Developing workshops for adults on topics of interest including IT skills and monitoring skills.
- Working alongside the local community to contribute to long term sustainable development.
- Meeting other volunteers from all over the world, in a quest to become a global citizen.



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 career 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
- Project work with local partners
- External placement available

After your program

- Career Mentor
- Career Coaching sessions
- Preferential recruitment on our positions
- Access to Job Portal
- Uni Endorsed Careers Course
- Job Guarantee (6 months minimum)

Certificate and achievement

- Basic reference (PDF)
- University certificates if completed
- LinkedIn Reference & skills endorsement
- Project with partner

