

Fiji Adventurer

Combine teaching and living in a Fijian community with adventure travel and living in an idyllic beach house on a South Pacific island.

The Fijian archipelago lies scattered lazily in the achingly blue waters of the Pacific Ocean, bathed in the radiant antipodean sunlight. Its towns and villages are veritable melting pots of cultural influences – see multicoloured Hindu temples perched next to relics of the traditional indigenous spirit houses with their lingering sense of an ancient magic.

Its irresistible shores are fringed with picture-perfect palm trees, and the azure waters that surround the islands are inhabited by an astonishing array of marine creatures; over 1,200 species of fish including clown fish, trigger fish, blue tangs, 12 species of whales, dolphin, anemones, soft coral and much more.

Enjoy fragrant sun drenched days and balmy exotic nights – try a Fijian beach party for whirling fire dancers, traditional dancing and delectable food cooked in a traditional underground oven. Fiji will enchant you with its infectious, chilled out "Fiji time" lifestyle and its heavenly beaches – the perfect paradise location for your Frontier adventure!

PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

- Earn your TEFL certificate for free if you join for more than 4 weeks!
- Visit this irresistible tropical paradise
- Enliven & enrich the experience of the kids in your care and learn to dive and snorkel if you join for more than 4 weeks

FAST FACTS

Location	Suva and the Island of Beqa, Fiji
Activities	Helping to teach and coach sports to excited and lively local kids Assemble innovative & effective lesson plans and teach Fijian children Caring for stray and abandoned animals Animal health checks Community healthcare Nutritional education Explore the mangrove forests, dense sea grass beds & productive

	intertidal areas Swim and snorkel or dive on the reefs of Beqa to study the various marine life living on coral reefs
Transport	Airport pick-up and transfer to Suva if you arrive on the first Monday of the month, (if you arrive any other day alternative pickup arrangements are available at extra cost) Transfer to the Island of Beqa
Accommodation	Homestay accommodation (hostel style upgrade available) in Suva, beach house and castaway camp on the Island of Beqa

WHAT DOES THE PROJECT DO?

Fiji is renowned for its spectacular beaches and coral reef: a picturesque string of islands floating peacefully in the Pacific Ocean. This is true but as a picture of Fiji it is incomplete. Fiji also has impoverished rural populations who as yet have not been able to capitalise on the booming tourist trade in the country.

As a Fiji Adventurer volunteer, you have the opportunity to take part in a variety of placements to develop a greater understanding of the issues that affect Fiji and gain greater exposure to the skills needed in a variety of fields. You will spend 2 weeks of your trip on our beach conservation project on the island of Beqa as well as 2 or more weeks on a combination of our teaching, sports coaching, animal welfare, healthcare or journalism projects based in the capital city of Suva. Volunteers are asked to spend at least two weeks at each project (four for journalism), and can combine as many projects as their time allows.

If you choose to work on the Fiji Teaching or Sports Coaching project in Suva, you'll soon see that education is a crucial part of achieving sustainable development. By teaching in these communities volunteers can make a real difference to the lives of young people growing up in Fiji, learn about life in Fiji as a teacher and contribute to establishing sustainable development programmes.

If you volunteer on the Fiji Animal Health & Welfare project you will work at a local animal shelter on a range of tasks depending on your previous experience and academic qualifications. Those with Veterinary experience may be able to involve themselves in minor procedures, whilst those with less experience will be able to take part in the general care of animals and maintenance of the shelter.

If you volunteer on the Fiji Healthcare project you will work at a local hospital comprised of a skin clinic, wards for chronic patients with spinal injuries, stroke or TB, and a prosthetics workshop or caring for children with disabilities one-on-one at a specialized development and learning center.

Our Frontier-Fiji Beach Conservation Project is designed to better understand the marine resources of the island of Beqa, and to provide teaching and training to enable local communities to make informed decisions regarding the management of their coastal ecosystems.

To achieve this mission, we conduct scientific baseline data surveys of reef areas while diving or snorkeling, map the sea grass beds and mangrove fringes of the region, identify patterns of resource use, and work with local communities to build awareness of the value and vulnerability of their marine environment.

WHAT WILL I BE DOING?

Your work schedule will cover a comprehensive, varied and enjoyable teaching, sports coaching, healthcare or animal welfare project and beach conservation programme split between Suva for a minimum of 7 days and the Island of Beqa for a minimum of 7 days.

Teaching in a local school in suva (fjt)

In Suva, you will be working with local schools and alongside teachers following the national curriculum. Your work will engage you fully with your pupils and will awaken your creativity and initiative. Volunteers help teach the children of all ages at primary and intermediate school level, working a full school day five days a week. The respect students will show you, the friendliness of the school staff, and the opportunity to introduce engaging new activities into the classroom is what makes teaching in Suva, Fiji's Capital City, a once in a lifetime experience.

You may be directly involved in the administration side of working in a school by helping to mark pupil's work, report writing, data entry and paperwork as well as helping to produce an inspiring teaching strategy including preparing homework and we encourage you to assemble innovative and effective lesson plans. Your classes will last just under an hour each, with school starting at 8:30am and ending at 2:30pm every day.

As well as this you will have the opportunity to help with lots of extracurricular activities which will vary extensively depending on your personal skills and interests – whether it is helping to put on a play or organising a choir. You should be prepared to take part in a range of teaching and administration activities whilst on your project. Whatever you decide, you are sure to gain huge satisfaction from interacting with and inspiring these underprivileged children, whilst enhancing your own skills and experience significantly.

Sports coaching in a local school in suva (fjs)

Fully integrated into the life of the local school, you will work with a range of ages for up to five days a week, mornings and afternoons. Many sporting activities also go on after school so be prepared to work long days! You will work with primary and secondary school age children (5-16), organising a variety of sporting activities.

During your placement, you may find yourself coaching hockey, football, rugby, netball, volleyball, swimming and a whole host of other sports. With extra curricular activities often taking the back burner to other subjects such as English and maths, you will inject much needed enthusiasm and creativity into the children's lives. You will be much more than a coach to them and will be both their mentor and friend. Whilst working on this project, you are encouraged to be creative and bring your own unique skills and personality to enliven and enrich the experience of the kids in your care.

Volunteer in a local animal shelter (fjw)

You will work closely with a local animal welfare charity and will be substantially involved in the day to day running of a large urban animal welfare centre. You may cover activities ranging from cleaning animal cages, caring for stray and abandoned cats and dogs, helping to re-home pets or educating local communities about the importance of animal welfare. Your level of involvement will of course depend on your skills, practical work experience and academic qualifications.

Healthcare (fjc)

You will have the opportunity to work at one of two possible placements, depending on your interest and experience: a local hospital comprised of a skin clinic, wards for chronic patients with spinal injuries, stroke or TB, and a prosthetics workshop; or caring for students aged from 4 through adult with varying degrees of disability at a specialized development and learning center.

In either placement, you may have the opportunity to integrate within the wider community by providing mobile care, teaching and training at local schools and villages, however please be aware that this aspect of the project cannot be guaranteed and is dependent upon the needs of the project at the time of your visit.

Beach conservation and snorkelling (fjb)

Following this you will transfer to the Island of Beqa where you will work with our Frontier Fiji Beach Conservation Project. You will have the opportunity to snorkel or dive to locate and map the extensive coral reefs and study the various communities living on them (extra cost applies for PADI Dive Qualifications and courses are subject to availability). You will also explore and record the organisms that inhabit the luxuriant mangrove forests, dense sea grass beds and productive inter-tidal areas.

Whilst swimming and snorkelling, you'll see an extraordinary array of animals from turtles to rays, sea cucumbers to feathery starfish, spiny urchins to octopus and jellyfish – even the occasional shark! When you motor out each day on the Frontier boats to each dive site you may even encounter gigantic manta rays, sharks, humpback whales or flying fish. By the end of your project you will be expert at identifying hundreds of colourful and patterned reef fish as well as being an experienced and competent snorkeller. Although the work is intense and challenging you'll get immense satisfaction from having completed the programme and from having made a valuable contribution to the conservation of this untarnished marine wilderness. You will return home with the new friends you've made and a wealth of fascinating stories and memories.

WHAT HAPPENS WHEN I ARRIVE?

An airport pick-up service is offered to volunteers arriving on the first Monday of the month only, whose flights land before 2:30pm local time. All other volunteers must make their own way to the project site. We will provide you with easy to follow instructions prior to your departure to enable you to plan your journey. If you are arriving into Fiji before the first Monday of the month but wish to travel to the project site with the main deployment group on the first Monday of the month, the overland arrival meeting point is at Nadi international airport arrivals hall. Please make sure that your intended arrival/travel plans have been arranged and confirmed with the project field staff a minimum of 1 week before your project start date.

WHERE WILL I BE STAYING?

Your home in Suva will be a comfortable and welcoming homestay with a hospitable Fijian family giving you a true sense of the Fijian culture and way of life. Your family will welcome you as one of their own, and your evenings will be filled with hide-n-go-seek or movie nights with the children, and interesting conversations over kava with your older siblings and host parents.

While most volunteers reflect on their homestay experience as one of the most meaningful aspects of their project, you can also opt to stay in a simple and comfortable lodge near the centre of Suva for an additional cost of CA\$120 a week. Here you will be in a single sex dorm with access to a kitchen, TV, garden, sun deck, laundry service (10 FJD for 1 bag), cold showers, and linen.

During the marine and beach conservation project you'll live in our simple beach house and cast away camp on the south Pacific island of Beqa. We aim to provide you with an authentic and memorable living experience. The Beqa beach house and camp has been constructed by local craftsmen, using traditional building techniques and locally sourced building materials. The camp is a 10-minute walk away from the shore through the rainforest. Camp life is very simple, unsophisticated and fun. You will be staying in communal beach house near to the local communities and a short

walk from the beach. Your "shower" consists of a pipe that runs from the local stream 24 hours a day!

WHAT WILL I BE EATING?

In the Suva homestay, you'll be able to sample Fijian home-cooked meals which will be prepared for you by your host family. A common breakfast is toast with butter and tea with milk, though some volunteers will purchase eggs, rolled oats, fresh fruit, or coffee to complement their breakfast. Common dinners include vegetable curry with rice, lamb sausage with chips, fried noodles with vegetables, and stewed ro ro with tuna and cassava. A delicious Fijian speciality is a lovo feast, which is a meal cooked in a hole in the ground- unusual but very tasty!

On Beqa you will there will be a cooking rota whereby all volunteers will take turns to cook and clean up. The food here can be very simple and basic or very gourmet depending on your creativity, but either way it will consist of lots of rice, potatoes, onions, lentils, peas, and tinned tomatoes complemented by food grown on the land including eggplant, banana, papaya, mango, fresh chilis, pumpkin, mandarin, dalo, breadfruit, and bele – a leaf similar to spinach.

HOW WILL I GET TO WORK?

Transport from your accommodation to your place of work in Suva each day will be by local bus, taxi (cost not included) or foot.

On Beqa any project related travel will be by foot on boat.

COSTS

2 weeks	CA\$ 2,195
3 weeks	CA\$ 2,395
4 weeks	CA\$ 2,595
5 weeks	CA\$ 2,995
6 weeks	CA\$ 3,395
7 weeks	CA\$ 3,795
8 weeks	CA\$ 4,195
9 weeks	CA\$ 4,445
10 weeks	CA\$ 4,745
12 weeks	CA\$ 5,345
20 weeks	CA\$ 7,645
Extra week	CA\$ 395

PADI Open Water training CA\$700 may be available depending on the duration of your stay

DEPARTURE DATES

First Monday of the month.

Alternative dates available on request.

School holidays dates 2018

15th January - 20th April 2018

7th April - 10th August 2018

27th August - 23rd November 2018

During school holidays a modified program will run with one to one coaching, educational workshops and extracurricular activities.

DURATION

2 weeks and longer

WHAT'S INCLUDED

Before you go

- Pre-departure support
- Travel & medical advice & documentation
- Equipment advice
- Discounted medical kit
- Free Frontier t-shirt
- UK TEFL Certification (subject to duration of stay)
- UK residential briefing weekend including food, accommodation and training (extra cost applies)

In-country

- Airport pick-up (subject to your project start date)
- Food (two meals per day)
- Basic accommodation (hostel upgrade available at extra cost)
- Local orientation
- Project briefing
- In-country emergency support
- 24-hour international HQ back-up
- Airport pickup subject to start date
- In-country transfers subject to start date
- Boat transfer to Island of Beqa
- Dive training courses available subject to duration of stay. PADI Open Water (CA\$700), PADI Advanced Open Water (CA\$660). (Courses available in Jan, Feb, Mar, Apr, May, Jun, Jul, Aug, Sep, Oct, Nov). Course costs include PIC cards, PADI membership & use of Frontier project equipment and dive equipment (tanks, weights, BCDs, REGs etc), personal dive kit, (wet suit, fins, mask, snorkel etc) not included, recreational dives, speciality dives available at extra cost.
- Dive kit is available for hire locally

AIRPORT INFORMATION

Nearest airport(s): Nadi (NAN)

CONTACT INFORMATION

Call us on 020 7613 2422 (UK) / 1 949 336 8178 (US)

Mail us on info@frontier.ac.uk

Check out our social media here:

Project details were correct at the time this document was generated. Price, dates and other details are subject to change. Please see our website for current details for this project.