



Thursday, 1 February 2007

Fiji Study Programs

Since 1998, Tamarillo Tropical Expeditions has been leading people from around the world on journeys of learning and adventure in Fiji. Most of Tamarillo's activities take place in the remote, unspoiled islands of the Kadavu group, in the south of Fiji.

About Kadavu Island

Kadavu has very few roads, and no large towns. People live in traditional villages, with lifestyles largely unchanged from previous generations. The area's mountains, rainforests, lagoons and islands are surrounded by one of the world's largest coral reefs.

Program content

In this pristine environment students undertake challenging expeditions incorporating sea-kayaking, snorkeling, trekking and participation in the day-to-day lives (work, recreation, ceremonies and customs) of the local people.

Accommodation options

Student groups can stay in Tamarillo Tropical Expeditions' traditionally-built Fijian guesthouse, back-packer resorts, home-stays in traditional villages, and wilderness camping on uninhabited islands.

The guides

Tamarillo Tropical Expeditions' leadership team brings together New Zealand-based outdoor educators with indigenous Fijian guides - a combination which offers visiting groups international-standard risk management and program facilitation skills together with an immense depth of local environmental and cultural knowledge.



Program options

Each study program is customised to suit the visiting group's curriculum, timetable and budget. Over the page are three examples of possible program options.

Option one:	8 days/7 nights in Kadavu Island, Fiji
Description:	An expedition by sea-kayak & on foot around remote north-east Kadavu, stopping overnight in traditional villages & back-packer resorts, with 2 nights' camping on uninhabited islands.
Main activities:	Sea-kayaking, trekking & snorkeling; participation in service projects; traditional food-gathering & preparation.
Educational focus:	Personal development & travel skills; outdoor recreation skills; Fijian language, culture & lifestyle; rainforest & coral-reef ecology; social & environmental issues facing South Pacific communities.
Price:	US\$1095 per person (based on a minimum group size of 10 students).
Price includes:	Return airfares between Fiji's mainland & Kadavu Island; all accommodation, meals, guides, sea-kayaking equipment, local access fees, vehicle & boat use while in Kadavu.
Plus:	1 staff member travels free of charge with each 8 students.



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Option two:	10 days/9 nights in Kadavu Island, Fiji
Description:	A challenging attempt to circumnavigate Kadavu Island by sea-kayak, stopping overnight in traditional villages & back-packer resorts.
Main activities:	Sea-kayaking & snorkeling.
Educational focus:	Personal development & travel skills; sea-kayaking skills; Fijian language, culture & lifestyle; social & environmental issues facing South Pacific communities.
Price:	US\$1295 per person (based on a minimum group size of 10 students).
Price includes:	Return airfares between Fiji's mainland & Kadavu Island; all accommodation, meals, guides, sea-kayaking equipment, local access fees, vehicle & boat use while on Kadavu Island.
Plus:	1 staff member travels free of charge with each 8 students.



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Option three:	22 days/21 nights on Fiji's mainland & Kadavu Island.
Description:	An in-depth journey through Fiji, from the capital city of Suva to remote Kadavu Island. Accommodation in eco-lodges, traditional villages, back-packer resorts, & campsites in Kadavu's pristine wilderness.
Activities:	Lectures at the University of the South Pacific, & other learning experiences around Suva; 16 days in Kadavu; a sea-kayaking, trekking & snorkeling expedition; home-stays with Fijian families; participation in service projects.
Educational focus:	Personal development and travel skills; outdoor recreation skills; Fijian history, language, culture & lifestyle; social and environmental issues facing South Pacific communities.
Price:	US\$2195 per person (based on a minimum group size of 10).
Price includes:	Return airfares between Fiji's mainland and Kadavu Island; all accommodation, guides, sea-kayaking equipment, local access fees, vehicle & boat use, all meals while on Kadavu Island.
Plus:	1 staff member travels free of charge with each 8 students.

Here are a few more examples of the types of educationally-focussed itineraries Tamarillo Tropical Expeditions can organise for student groups:

Marine biology

The Great Astrolabe Reef surrounds the Kadavu Island group. Tamarillo Tropical Expeditions have the local knowledge and resources (including scuba-dive equipment and experienced dive-masters) to support marine biology students study this rare eco-system.

Rainforest ecology

Vast areas of the islands of Kadavu are covered in virgin Pacific rainforest, home to four endemic bird species and a vast range of flora and fauna. Tamarillo's indigenous Fijian guides can teach students about traditional uses of the rainforest (eg: medicinal plants, wild-foods and sources of shelter). Students can view firsthand both un-logged forests and cleared land, and can draw their own conclusions on the effects.

Sociology/Anthropology

Throughout Fiji's 350-plus islands, the Kadavu Island group is known as a region where traditions, customs and culture are held onto more strongly than most. Most of Kadavu's 10,000 people live in clans within village communities, governed by a chiefly structure dating back 3000 years. Tamarillo Tropical Expeditions' connections in Kadavu allow students to live within these communities, and to study social structures, governance systems, roles, customs and ceremonies.



Politics/History

Fiji and the other nations of the South Pacific have a fascinating history of migration, settlement and development. Tamarillo Tropical Expeditions has established links with academic experts from the University of the South Pacific and elsewhere who are able to deliver lectures and lead field trips focussed on the region's historical and contemporary issues.



Sports & recreation

Skill-development programs can focus on outdoor pursuits such as sea-kayaking, swimming, snorkeling, scuba-diving, and trekking. Groups can take part in expeditions designed to increase their fitness, teamwork, communication and leadership skills.

To discuss these options, or to talk about your own study program needs, please contact Tamarillo Tropical Expeditions.