THE ISLAND CLASSROOM



Taveuni Island: the living classroom.

Principals' Prospectus

Pacific learning for your school: student educational experiences and leadership programmes on Taveuni, Fiji.

2027 programmes

Why Pacific learning, and why now?

For Australian and New Zealand schools, the Pacific is the immediate neighbourhood, with shared environmental, economic, social and strategic interests. Understanding it is part of preparing students for the region they will live and work in.



Pacific Studies is now a senior secondary course in the ACT

From 2026, ACT students can study a dedicated Year 11 and 12 Pacific Studies course, the first of its kind in Australia. Its units include the modern Pacific, Pacific peoples and communities, and Pacific popular culture. Each school decides whether to offer it.

You don’t need Pacific Studies to benefit. Whether or not your school offers Pacific Studies, the programme is highly valid across your academic and social curriculum. Pacific Studies is one way in, not a requirement.

Pacific themes reach well beyond one course. Climate and ocean health, regional connections and shared futures show up in Geography, Science, Humanities and social sciences, Health, religion and values, and business and economics.

An education experience on Taveuni brings those themes to life. We don’t take students to the island to see it. We use the island to help them understand the world, through local knowledge and real-world learning.

What we offer principals

Two programmes, both designed around your objectives and led on the island by Allen Burton, an educator who spent ten years teaching Business and Economics. Both work whether or not your school offers Pacific Studies.

Student active educational experiences

For year groups, classes and student leaders. Students learn alongside local people, organisations and natural environments, with the island as the classroom.

Leaders' immersion

For principals and senior leadership teams, and university study groups. A shorter programme for adults who want to learn from the Pacific and shape their school's approach to it.

	Student immersions	Leaders' immersion
Length	Tailored to your group. Most programmes run 7 to 10 days	4 or 5 days, Saturday to Thursday
Group size	Tailored to your school	Up to 14 guests
Focus	Your curriculum objectives, connected to real experiences and challenges	Pacific learning, climate and resilience, community and, for faith-based schools, faith and mission
Professional learning	Certificate of participation for staff who need it	Certificate of participation for those who need it
Base	Camp Taveuni eco-domes, with separate teacher accommodation	Private ensuite rooms or shared eco-domes
Pricing	Shaped by your budget, length and activities. Always excludes flights	Shaped by your budget, length and activities. Always excludes flights

How the learning is designed

We start with what your students or leaders need to learn, then build the experience around it. The island's six connected parts are not separate topics. Their value lies in how they connect.



1

Understand your objectives

We work with you to identify the outcomes, themes and questions to explore.

2

Design the experience

We draw on Taveuni's people, organisations and environments to respond.

3

Learn through engagement

Participants take part in activities, discussions and community experiences with local people.

4

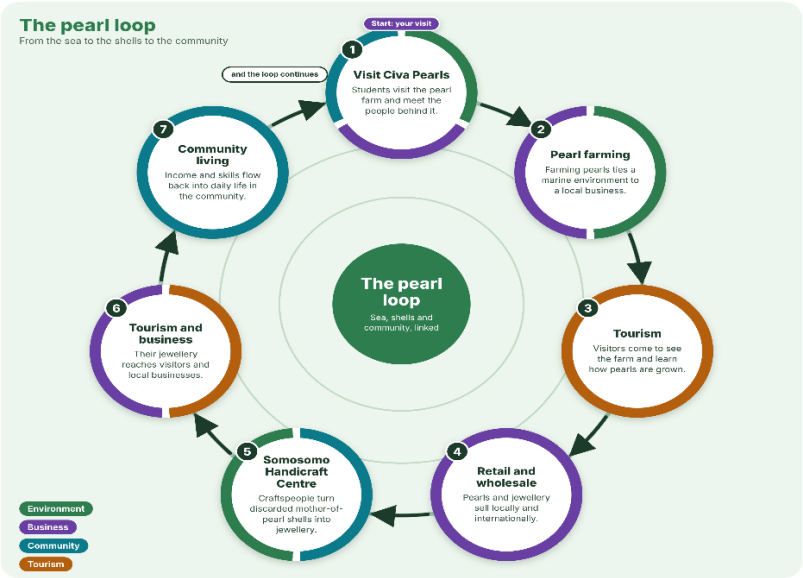
Connect and reflect

They link experiences together and relate them to the wider world.

5

Carry the learning forward

The experience becomes a foundation for inquiry and application back at school.



What it delivers for your school

Curriculum that comes alive

Experiences are mapped to your learning areas, across your academic and social curriculum, whether or not you offer Pacific Studies. Send us your syllabus documents or unit outlines and we will connect them to what happens on the island.

Learning area	Example experiences
Geography	Lavena Coastal Walk, reef and forest systems
Science	Rainbow Reef education session, coral planting, invasive species removal, biodiversity and aquaculture with local experts
Humanities and social sciences	Village immersion, local school exchange, community projects, local enterprise
Health and PE	Community health education, snorkelling, hiking, sport with local people
Religion and values	Respectful engagement with local faith communities, service projects
Business and economics	Local enterprise, agriculture, aquaculture and remote tourism
Social curriculum	Service, values and intercultural understanding, through community projects, village life and exchange with local schools
Arts	Photography and art

Professional learning for your staff

Participants who need it receive a certificate of participation with full descriptions of each learning experience, mapped to professional learning. Recognition of hours varies by state and employer, and we will help you document it.

Local partnerships, not a package

Our programmes are built on relationships with partner schools, the Ministry of Health, locally led businesses, women's centres, faith communities, hiking and marine guides, and local biodiversity experts. Local knowledge is part of the teaching faculty.

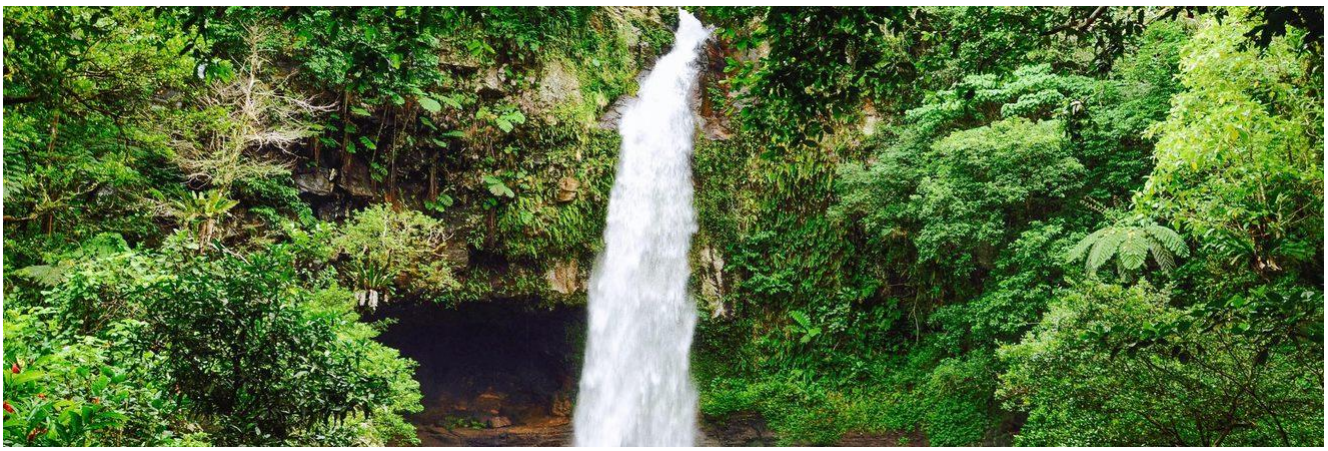
Learning that travels home

The experience is designed to become a foundation for discussion and inquiry back at school, so the learning is carried into your classrooms and your community.





A sample student programme



One possible 10-day shape. Yours will be built from your objectives, and the days can be reordered, extended or swapped.

When	Experience	What happens
Day 1	**Arrival and orientation**	Arrive, settle in at Camp Taveuni and get oriented to the island and the week ahead.
Day 2	**Nature immersion**	Lavena Coastal Walk and Pearl Farm
Day 3	**Environment immersion**	Education session, snorkelling on Rainbow Reef, coral planting, invasive species removal and reef clean-up.
Days 4 and 5	**Community engagement**	Work alongside the community on a project, such as a beach clean, planting coral or painting a building.
Day 6	**Biodiversity, agriculture, health and wellbeing**	Visit Yanu Yanu and learn about biodiversity in agriculture and how the cycle of learning extends across a community. Sample the local gelato!
Day 7	**Education immersion**	Spend time at a local school with local students, play sport and share in preparing a lovo.
Days 8 and 9	**Additional immersion**	Tailored to your objectives: an extra hike, local enterprise, or a theme to go deeper on.
Day 10	**Homeward bound**	Fly from Taveuni to Nadi and home.

A sample leaders' immersion

Five days of learning on the ground, from Saturday arrival to a Thursday flight home. It is designed for up to 14 people and shaped around the questions your leadership team brings.

Day	What happens	Learning focus
Saturday	Arrive about 3pm, connecting via Nadi from Sydney or Brisbane. A lovo dinner to welcome the group.	**Understand the context**
Sunday	Church service or Mass in Wairiki with the local community, all welcome. Rainbow Reef snorkelling as part of the environmental education program, or diving for those who dive. Dinner at a local restaurant.	**Environment, people, culture and faith**
Monday	Lavena Coastal Walk, Civa Pearls and more snorkelling.	**Environment, food and livelihoods**
Tuesday	Somosomo handicrafts centre, then a farm and remote tourism operation at Paradise. A conversation about constraints, disaster recovery, climate resilience and what care for creation asks of school leaders.	**Change and resilience**
Wednesday	A morning at Yanu Yanu Biodiversity Agricultural Education Centre, then lunch. In the afternoon, a visit to Holy Cross College in Wairiki.	**Environment, institutions and community**
Thursday	A visit to Naselesele village and a talanoa session that doubles as the group's debrief, with a closing reflection on faith and leadership. Airport by 2:30pm for the 4pm flight home via Nadi.	**Reflect and carry forward**

For Catholic and other faith-based schools, Sunday includes Mass or a service in Wairiki and Wednesday includes a visit to Holy Cross College. For other groups, these days are shaped around your own school's interests.

Faith, culture and respect

Taveuni is a multi-faith and multi-cultural community. Many traditions are celebrated here, and people navigate real challenges together. All of it can be experienced first-hand and brought into your group's discussions. We approach every community with respect, inclusion and curiosity, and we do not promote a particular faith or tradition. For faith-based schools, this makes Taveuni a rich setting to explore faith, community and care for creation in daily life.

> *We do not seek to interpret Taveuni on behalf of its people. We create opportunities for students to learn from the people who know and live the island.*

Where you'll stay





- Purpose-built group eco-domes with separate teacher and leader accommodation
- Break-out and debrief facilities
- Two swimming pools, a campfire and a sports field
- Each large dome has its own ablution block with 2 showers and 3 toilets
- For leaders' immersions: four private ensuite rooms (the Luxury Dome, a double dome, a double bure and a single bure) with limited availability, plus the two large domes
- Simple, comfortable and close to the island, with encouragement to disconnect from technology

Getting there

Fly from Australia or New Zealand to Nadi, then take one scenic Fiji Link flight to Taveuni. The Taveuni flight is on a small aircraft, so luggage allowances are limited. We will confirm current allowances and flight times when you book.

Duty of care, risk and governance

You carry the responsibility, so we work with your school's processes. We will give you the information you need to complete your risk assessment and approvals.

What we will give you

- A day-by-day itinerary with activities and local providers
- Accommodation and supervision information, including separate teacher accommodation
- Transport and flight plans, with luggage limits
- Local medical access and emergency procedures
- Briefing material for students, staff and families

What we ask of your school

- Your approval, risk assessment and duty-of-care process
- Student consent and medical information
- Dietary and accessibility needs
- Passports, travel insurance and communication with families
- Your staff supervision plan

Investment

Pricing is shaped by your budget, the length of the journey, and the decisions you make about activities that align with your learning outcomes. Pricing always excludes flights. Tell us your outcomes and your budget, and we will propose a programme that fits.

Our people



Allen Burton

Allen is an educator and social enterpriser, and your first point of contact. Following a corporate career in travel, he completed a Master of Education (Leadership) at Monash and spent ten years teaching Business and Economics. Having looked around the world, from Southern Africa and Thailand to Samoa, the Solomon Islands, Vanuatu and Tonga, he found the perfect island classroom on Taveuni. He is also accredited in Al Gore's Climate Reality Program.



Jamie Burton

Jamie is our Australian-based liaison, working with schools and groups to customise a journey. She visited Fiji with her own school's Beyond Boundaries programme in 2014 and fell in love with it. She and her dad, Allen, are keen to share the secrets of Taveuni and provide a rich learning experience for everyone who visits.

How to begin

1	**Talk with us**	A conversation about your objectives, your students or leaders, and your timing.
2	**Receive a proposal**	A programme shaped around your outcomes, with an approach to pricing that fits your budget.
3	**Take it through your school**	We give you the information your approval and risk processes need.
4	**Learn, then carry it home**	We design and deliver the experience, and help you take the learning back to school.

What could your students and leaders learn if the whole island became their living classroom?

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The island. The people. The learning.