

THE ISLAND CLASSROOM

Taveuni is our living classroom.

A teacher's guide to The Island Classroom

Fiji student immersions: cultural, environmental, social. Programmes designed around your curriculum and your students' learning.

2027 programmes

We don’t take students to Taveuni to see the island. We use the island to help them understand the world.

The Island Classroom designs bespoke educational experiences for schools, using the whole island of Taveuni as a living classroom.

Students learn alongside local people, organisations and natural environments, and explore the connections between the world around them and the issues that shape our future.

This is more than a school trip to Fiji, and more than a village-immersion experience. Taveuni is Fiji at its most authentic: lush, generous and deeply connected to land and sea. It is authentic Fiji, not the resort version.

We see ourselves as an educational partner for your school, not a travel provider.



At a glance

Where	Taveuni, Fiji, the Garden Island
Getting there	Fly to Nadi, then one scenic Fiji Link flight to Taveuni
Length	Tailored to your group. Most programmes run 7 to 10 days
Base	Camp Taveuni Eco Dome Resort: purpose-built group eco-domes with separate teacher accommodation
Learning	Designed around your learning objectives, not a fixed itinerary
First contact	Allen Burton: bula@theislandclassroom.com
Cost	Shaped by your budget, the length of the journey and your choice of activities. Always excludes flights

What students do on the island

Connect	Connect curriculum with real experiences and challenges.
Disconnect	Switch off technology. Walk, swim, talk and sing.
Learn about	The cultural and environmental significance of Taveuni, Rainbow Reef and the biodiversity of the region.
Engage	With the schools, communities and businesses that are part of Taveuni and our programme.
Contribute	Take part in projects with real impact: sustainability, health, coral rejuvenation.

The whole island is the classroom

Taveuni's value lies in the relationships between its people, environments, communities and systems. The six parts below are not separate topics. A study of biodiversity can open up questions about livelihoods, food security, traditional knowledge and climate adaptation.



Part of the island	What students explore	A sample inquiry question
Environment & biodiversity	Ecosystems, forests, reefs, marine environments, conservation and the pressures affecting them.	*What pressures are Rainbow Reef and the island's forests under, and what is being done to protect them?*
People, culture, faith & spirituality	Community life, identity, traditions, values, faith, spirituality and the relationships between people and place.	*How do culture, faith and tradition shape the way this community lives and makes decisions?*
Community health	Community health, education, access to services and the factors that shape wellbeing.	*What affects access to health and education services on a remote island?*
Food systems & livelihoods	Agriculture, food systems, local enterprise, sustainability and the relationship between land, sea and community.	*How do land, sea and local enterprise sustain a community, and what makes that fragile?*
Institutions & community	Schools, health services, local organisations, women's centres, faith communities and the structures that support community life.	*Which institutions hold this community together, and how do they work with one another?*
Change & resilience	Climate change, adaptation, environmental pressures, development and the choices communities face.	*How are communities adapting to a changing climate, and what choices do they face?*

From your curriculum to lived experience

Every programme is bespoke, but the approach is consistent. We start with your objectives and build the experience around them.

1
Understand your objectives
We work with you to identify the outcomes, themes and questions students will explore.

2
Design the experience
We draw on Taveuni's people, organisations and environments to respond to those objectives.

3
Learn through engagement
Students take part in activities, discussions and community experiences alongside local people.

4
Connect and reflect
Students link their experiences together and relate them to the wider world.

5
Carry the learning forward
The experience becomes a foundation for discussion, inquiry and application back at school.

Learning areas these experiences can support

Experience	Geography	Science	Humanities & social sciences	Health & PE	Religion & values	Business & economics	Arts
Snorkelling or diving Rainbow Reef, with an education session	●	●		●			
Coral planting, invasive species removal and reef clean-up	●	●	●				
Lavena Coastal Walk and Tavoro Waterfalls	●	●		●			
Biodiversity, organic farming, crops and aquaculture with local experts	●	●				●	
Community service project			●	●	●		
Village immersion: village life, sport and a lovo			●	●	●		
Local school visit and exchange			●		●		
Local enterprise and businesses			●			●	
Faith communities and traditions			●		●		
Photography and art							●

Typical connections only. Send us your syllabus documents, unit outlines or learning intentions and we will map experiences to them.

Ideas for making it a unit of work

Before the trip

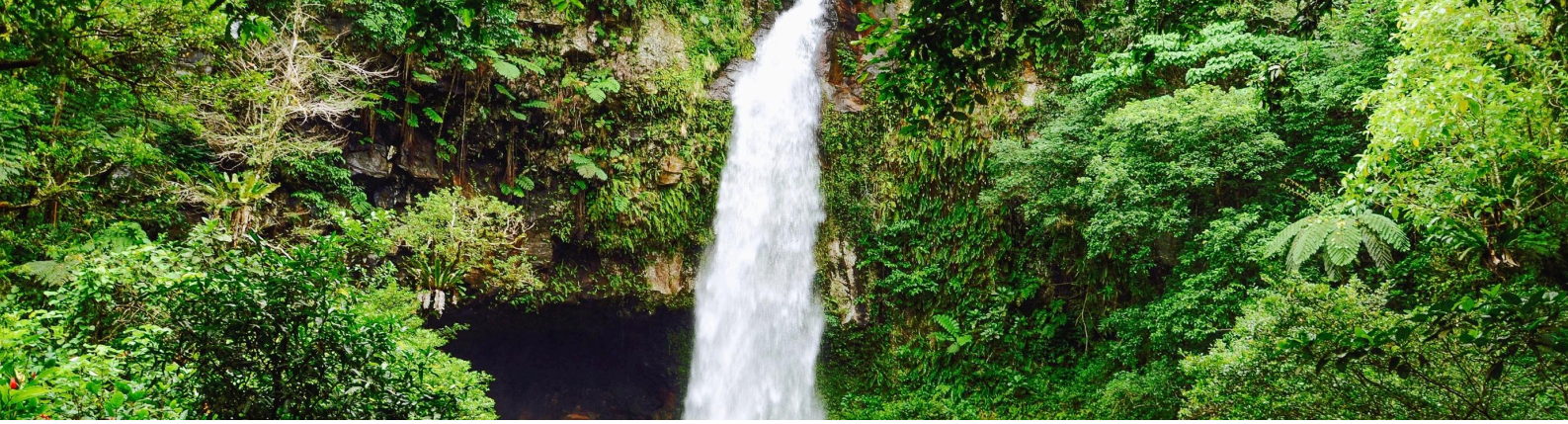
Introduce the Pacific context and the six parts of the island. Have students write their own inquiry questions to take with them.

On the island

Students keep a learning journal and photograph the connections they notice between people, places and systems.

Back at school

Students present what they learned to their school community, and relate it to your curriculum and to Australia's relationships with its Pacific neighbours.



A sample 10-day programme

This is one possible shape. Your programme will be built from your objectives, and the days can be reordered, extended or swapped.

When	Experience	What happens	Learning focus
Day 1	**Arrival and orientation**	Arrive, settle in at Camp Taveuni and get oriented to the island and the week ahead.	Context
Day 2	**Nature immersion**	Lavena Coastal Walk and Tavoro Waterfalls.	Environment
Day 3	**Environment immersion**	Education session, snorkelling on Rainbow Reef, coral planting, invasive species removal and reef clean-up.	Environment, Resilience
Days 4 and 5	**Community engagement**	Work alongside the community on a project, such as a beach clean, planting coral or painting a building.	Community, Health
Day 6	**Village immersion**	Experience village life, play sport and share in preparing a lovo.	People & culture, Livelihoods
Day 7	**Education immersion**	Spend time at a local school with local students.	People & culture, Institutions
Days 8 and 9	**Additional hike or immersion**	Tailored to your objectives: an extra hike, local enterprise, or a theme you want to go deeper on.	Livelihoods, Environment
Day 10	**Homeward bound**	Fly from Taveuni to Nadi and home.	

Tailored experiences

- Themed activities and challenges that bring classroom learning to life
- A community service project: clean a beach, plant coral, paint a building
- Biodiversity, organic farming, crops and aquaculture, taught by local experts
- Time away from technology: nature, waterfalls, hiking, bird spotting, horse riding and sport with local people

Local knowledge is part of the teaching faculty

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 not a cultural add-on or a hospitality feature. It is how the learning happens. Depending on your objectives, students may:

- Learn about biodiversity through a locally led business
- Explore marine environments with local guides
- Take part in community health education
- Spend time with local schools and students, including overnight experiences
- Experience village life, play sport and share in preparing a lovo
- Engage with local enterprise, agriculture and community initiatives
- Learn about faith, spirituality and community life through respectful engagement with local faith communities





Activities your group can add

Swimming · Snorkelling · Learn to dive (option) · Hiking · Birdwatching · Kayaking · Learning local skills · Photography · Art

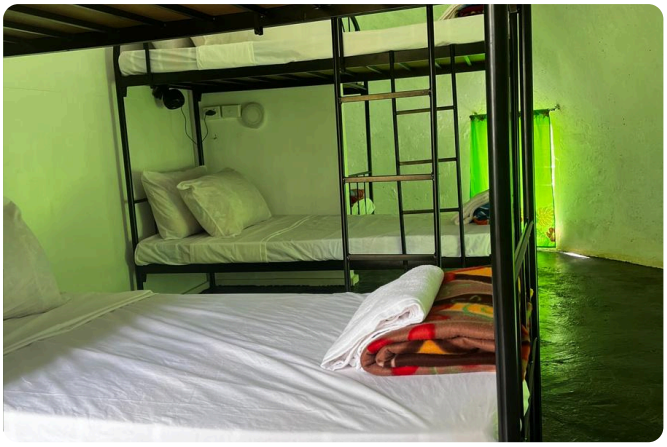
How we approach faith and culture

We approach every community with respect, inclusion and curiosity. We do not promote a particular faith or tradition. Where it fits your objectives, we welcome engagement with local faith communities.

> *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 and how you'll get there









Camp Taveuni Eco Dome Resort

- Unique, purpose-built group eco-dome accommodation
- Dormitory accommodation
- Separate group leader and teacher accommodation
- Break-out and debrief facilities
- Two swimming pools
- Campfire
- Sports field

Each large dome has its own ablution block with 2 showers and 3 toilets.

Getting there

- Fly from Australia or New Zealand to Nadi
- Take one scenic Fiji Link flight from Nadi to Taveuni
- Transfer to Camp 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.



Planning with us

What we will ask you

- Your learning objectives, syllabus documents or unit outlines
- Year levels and group size
- Preferred dates and length of stay
- Themes you want to emphasise: marine science, culture, service, faith, enterprise
- Your budget range
- Anything students or staff need us to know

Settle early with your school

- [ ] Your school’s approval, risk assessment and duty-of-care process
- [ ] Student consent and medical information
- [ ] Dietary and accessibility needs
- [ ] Passports, travel insurance and communication with parents
- [ ] Your staff supervision plan
- [ ] How the learning will be shared or assessed back at school

Talk to us early. We will give you the information you need to complete these.

Pricing

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.

Questions teachers ask

Can we shape the programme to our unit of work?
Yes. Every programme starts with your objectives. There is no fixed itinerary.

Is this a resort holiday or a village stay?
Neither. Students learn across ocean, forest and community, with a purpose-built group camp as a base.

Can students dive?
Snorkelling on Rainbow Reef is part of the programme. Learning to dive is an option.

Will students be on their devices?
We encourage groups to disconnect: walk, swim, talk and sing.

Our people



Allen Burton

Allen is an educator and social enterpriser, and your first point of contact to discuss how your school can connect curriculum with The Island Classroom experience. 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. Jamie and her dad, Allen, are keen to share the secrets of Taveuni and provide a rich learning experience for everyone who visits as part of a school programme.

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

Email: bula@theislandclassroom.com
Phone: +679 862 4229 (Fiji)

The island. The people. The learning.