



FIJI IMMERSION FAMILY ADVENTURE

ADVENTURE WITH BRIDGE THE GAP

FAMILY GUIDE

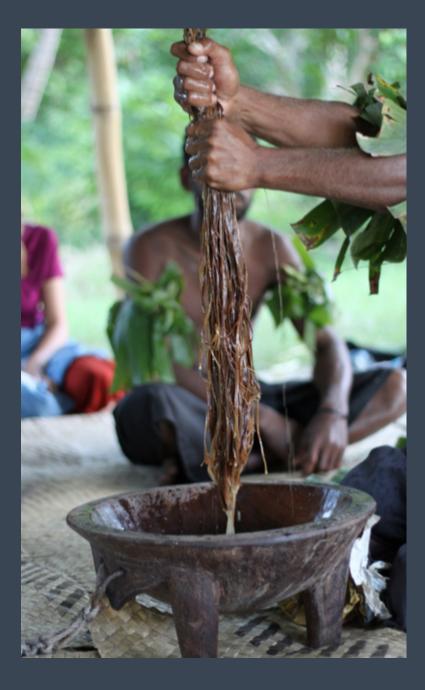
Project Contact: Jennifer Cahill, Director jenny@btgvorovoro.com Vorovoro and BTG invite your family to join our inclusive community where we live and learn from one another through cultural immersion, cultural exchange, skill sharing, and living island life on "island time" - where each day unveils limitless opportunities for growth and learning through connections, exploration, adventure and shared experiences. Bring your open mind, open heart, and a desire to understand more deeply than you ever have before how connected we all really are.

On a pristine 200 acre island in remote Fiji, Bridge the Gap (BTG) and the chiefly family of Vorovoro Island partner to facilitate life-changing cultural immersion experiences. Our customized programs are designed to support local community development goals, while preserving and celebrating native Fijian identity, culture and environment.

BTG works hand in hand with the local Fijian community to identify and collaboratively address goals relating to education, health, income, environment and cultural preservation in ways that strengthen and empower the local community.



On Vorovoro Island, we live and learn from one another through cultural immersion, cross-cultural exchange, and living island life on "island time" - where each day unveils limitless opportunities for growth and learning through connections, exploration, adventure and shared experiences. Bring your open mind, open heart, and a desire to understand more deeply than you ever have before how connected we all really are. Tui Mali, the tribal chief of Vorovoro, says it best: "On Vorovoro, there is no line in the sand that separates visitors and natives. We are one. On Vorovoro, 1 + 1 = 1."



On Vorovoro, you are considered an extension of the local tribal community and are welcomed to participate in truly authentic and beneficial ways. As such, we are invited to take part in aspects of Fijian life that are not typically made available to visitors to Fiji.

Through daily island life, you will come to to understand more thoroughly the challenges that remote indigenous island communities face daily as a result of the world's rapidly changing climate. See and experience these challenges first hand, and participate in discussions about how each of us can live lives that support communities living in the most vulnerable regions of the world.

On Vorovoro, we embrace the Fijian philosophy of life to work hard, love harder, and to never stop laughing together. Each day brings new opportunities to explore concepts of joy, beauty, connection and simplicity in ways you've never had before.

Everything we do is truly a partnership and a collaboration. Let us introduce you to a few of the key people behind the Vorovoro experience.



Tui Mali Chief of Mali and Vorovoro Islands

Tui Mali is the chief of Vorovoro and Mali Islands, which consist of 5 villages. He spent his life working on a ship, laying fiber optic cables that would eventually connect the world. When he retired, he assumed his role as Chief and returned to Vorovoro. His international travels have informed his decision to support and lead his tribe by focusing on creating sustainable sources of income for the Mali people, while honoring and preserving the integrity of their Fijian identity and native environment.



Wati Miriama Operations Director

Wati is the niece of Tui Mali, and the Fijian counterpart of BTG director, Jenny. Like countless generations before her, she was born and raised on Vorovoro. Wati is involved in all aspects of managing and hosting groups on the island, and enjoys working with Jenny to develop experiential cross cultural programming that allows guests to see and experience Fiji in authentic ways that few ever have the opportunity to do. Wati is also the busy and proud mother to four children.



Nemani Baleneiyaca Cultural Manager and Team Leader

Nemani has been helping to host groups on Vorovoro since 2007. His commitment to his Fijian heritage combined with his natural inclination to work hard, continue to learn, and be a team player has aided his growth into the dynamic leader he is today. He mentors new Fijian team members and also develops and facilitates cultural programming for visitors. When not on Vorovoro, you will find Nemani hard at work at his biggest passion: furthering the success of his family's sugarcane farm.



Semisi Verenaivalu Head Chef and Music/Dance Teacher

Semisi is from Nakawaqa village in Mali Island. As head chef on Vorovoro, he is the creator all all things delicious on the island and he loves to share and learn new recipes using fresh, local ingredients. Semisi teaches cooking classes as well as island dance classes and singing classes on Vorovoro. Back in his village, he leads and directs the Mali Island Church choir and also has a small business selling food staples and dry goods to his neighbors from his home.

Pricing and Dates

Session 1: June 16-30, 2020 Session 2: July 7-21, 2020

We need a minimum enrollment of 7-10 families (depending on family size) to confirm the program session.

The program length is 15 days, and prices include ground and boat transport upon arrival and departure to and from Labasa airport, all meals, (3 meals plus two snacks per day), accommodation, cultural classes/workshops/experiences, and access to community and cultural events.

All Fijian team members are paid living wage with full pension, plus their housing and meals during the program are included, and we provide support and mentorship with their business and education endeavors.

ADULT \$980

CHILD (ages 9-13) \$700

CHILD (ages 5-8) \$560

CHILD (age 2-4) \$280

Child (under 2) FREE (limit 5 children total per session. After first 5 children enrolled, cost per child is \$210)



We want to make things as easy on you as possible. Included in your fee:

- Ground transport from Labasa aiport to Labasa town
- Boat transport from Labasa town to Vorovoro Island
- Accommodation
- All meals on Vorovoro (3 large meals plus morning and afternoon tea/snack each day)
- Daily classes/programming and access to community and cultural events

And you can feel good knowing our Fijian team are all paid a living wage with full pension, plus their housing and meals are covered while they are with us.

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Below are some of thing things you can experience on Vorovoro:

Sunset Fijian Sevusevu Classes Fijian Language Classes Fijian History Classes Tribal Community ClassesPeak Hike Four Peaks Trek Local village visits Learn and present a meke (Fijian storytelling dance) Learn to harmonize and sing Fijian songs Learn to fish using traditional Fijian fishing metho Learn to care for chickens and ducks Learn to garden like a Fijian Learn to cook Fijian dishes Fijian Environment & Conservation Classes Interactive Coconut Workshop Traditional Herbal Medicine Workshop **Basic Wilderness Skills Workshops** Island Arts & Crafts Workshops Coconut Olympics Sports Day **Island Scavenger Hunts** Volleyball matches Snorkeling ...and much, much more.



Keep in mind that with the nature of this unique experience, many things we are able to offer and share with our participants come up along the way. The best experiences and adventures sometimes cannot be planned or predicted! The following can be arranged at an additional charge. Fees go directly to the local community members & organizations who help to facilitate these experiences. All prices in USD.

Traditional Mat Weaving Class

- Learn ancient weaving methods from local elder women
- \$15/adult, \$10/child under 12

Night Fishing

- Learn how to catch the big ones using traditional methods
- \$15/adult, \$10/child under 12

Mali Island Church Visit

- Sometimes we are invited to join in a village church service.
 Beautiful voices joined in robust harmonies are truly a highlight of this experience.
- \$15/adult , \$10/child under 12

Mali Island School Visit

- Lend a hand with community projects at the local school, located in nearby Ligaulevu Village.
- \$15/adult , \$10/child under 12



The following can be arranged at an additional charge. Fees go directly to the local community members & organizations who help to facilitate these experiences.

Sunset Boat Tour around Vorovoro and Mali Islands

- A beautiful and peaceful guided sunset boat tour around the islands of Vorovoro and Mali.
- \$10/adult , \$5/child under 12

Snorkel Trip to Cakaulevu Reef

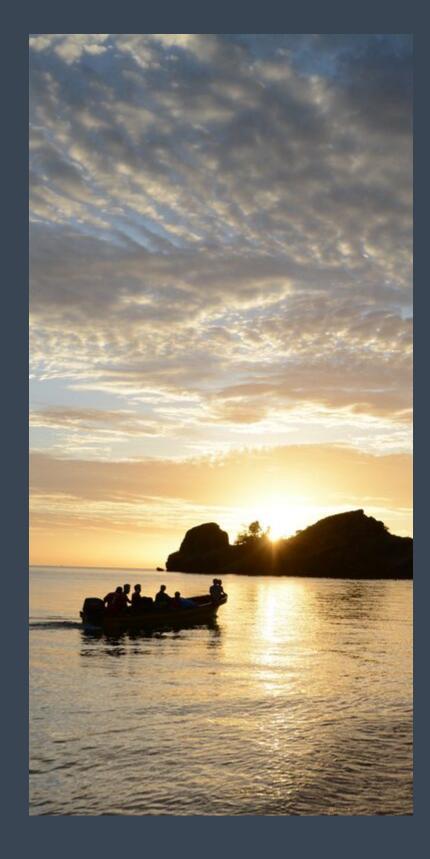
- A snorkeling adventure on the world's 3rd longest reef. See a wide variety of pristine coral and diverse marine life, including turtles, rays, and sharks.
- \$15/adult , \$10/child (12-16, must be a strong swimmer)

Town Trip

- Take a boat ride to colorful and busy Labasa Town. Do some shopping, check out local markets!
- \$10/adult , \$5/child under 12

Nanny Hire

• \$5/hr up to 2 children



Available at additional charge:

The following can be arranged at an additional charge. Fees go directly to the local community members & organizations who help to facilitate these experiences. All prices in USD.

Bread of Life Sugarcane Farm Owned by Team Member Nemani Baleneiyaca

Nemani is a core member of the BTG and Vorovoro team, serving as cultural manager and team leader. However, his passion lies with his sugarcane farm located on the mainland of Vanua Levu. Nemani has completed 2 sustainable agricultural internships at Cegu Farm, offered through Bridge the Gap and Vorovoro. BTB and Vorovoro have also partnered with Auburn University to support infrastructure developments on the farm. Nemani has worked with Vorovoro for over 12 years, making his way up from entry level kitchen boy position to the dynamic leader he is today.

Nemani is working to expand his farm to allow him to grow nutritious and sustainably grown foods for groups that live and learn in Vorovoro. In your time living with us you will come to know Nemani well, and are invited to visit his farm on an adventurous day trip.

Nemani and his family will host you for an unforgettable day at their farm, located about an 1.5 hours by boat and ground transport from Vorovoro. All transport, meals, and kava is included in the fees.

Age 12 and up: \$30/pp Age 5-11: \$20/pp Age 2-4: \$10/pp



The following can be arranged at an additional charge. Fees go directly to the local community members & organizations who help to facilitate these experiences. All prices in USD.

Cegu Valley Farm

Cegu Valley Farm is a sustainable working farm in the heart of mainland Fiji! Owned and operated by the McCay family, our longtime friends and partners, the farm is a thriving example of successful sustainable and environmentally stable farming practices.

Originally from Zimbabwe and Australia respectively, Chuck & Sue Mcay have made Fiji their home since 1991. They have two adopted Fijian children, Tia and Mitchell. They operate the farm with the assistance of their adult daughter Tia and her husband Josh, with whom they share the care of their 13 year old non-verbal autistic son Mitchell.

They are passionate about sustainable farming, permaculture, beekeeping, animal husbandry and more. They serve the community through sharing knowledge, models, resources and more.

The McCay's love to host guests for a day, a night, or even for an extended internship.

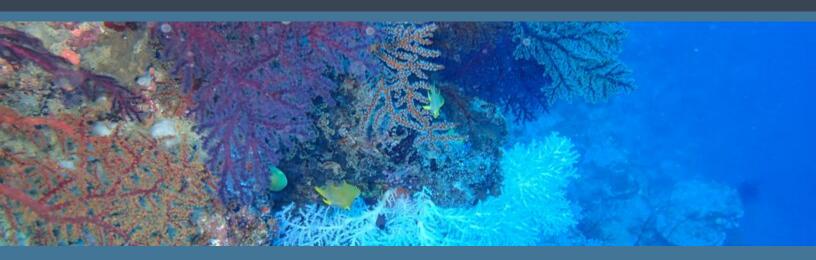
Join us for a day excursion to Cegu Valley Farm, located just 60 minutes inland by boat and ground transport.

Age 12 and up: \$30/pp Age 5-11: \$20/pp Age 2-4: \$10/pp



SCUBA DIVING

The following can be arranged at an additional charge. Fees go directly to the local community members & organizations who help to facilitate these experiences.



SCUBA DIVING

Take advantage of a rare and exclusive opportunity to dive stunning and endangered Cakaulevu Reef, the 3rd longest reef in the world!!

Leone Vokai, a PADI certified dive instructor from Ligaulevu Village, will lead you on customized dives on this remarkably diverse and virtually unexplored reef. Leone grew up free diving this region and is passionate about educating people through underwater encounters.

Divers can expect to dive rare and exclusive dive sites, experiencing breathtaking diverse varieties of hard and soft coral, coral walls and caves, swim throughs, and plentiful marine life ranging from turtle, shark, giant trevallies, rays, countless species of fish, and more.



- PADI Open Water or Advanced Open Water Certification \$450/pp
- 2 tank dive (if already certified) \$125/pp

What is a day on Vorovoro like?



Each day begins with countless opportunities to learn, grow, and connect. We start the day with breakfast at 7:30 am, followed by a community meeting at 8:30 am. At the community meeting, the plans and itinerary of the day will be shared and general announcements will be made. Families can also sign up for daily duties and activities. After the morning meeting, each family can join with BTG and Fiji team members to complete their daily duties and other various duties that may require attention and are vital to keeping our village running smoothly. Examples of daily duties are food prep, planting and harvesting vegetables, taking care of chickens and ducks, harvesting and scraping coconuts, building projects, collecting firewood, village clean up, and more depending on what needs to happen that day.

There will be program options such as classes, workshops, tours, excursions, etc available most mornings and afternoons. In addition, participants can assist our Fijian team with ongoing building and village maintenance projects, which will be determined based on need and supply availability. During downtime, parents and children alike can help out in the kitchen, swim, snorkel, explore, make friends, play games, go fishing, help with community projects, chill in the treehouse, or simply relax with a book in a hammock and enjoy the sea breezes and the breathtaking island scenery, Truly, the possibilities are endless

A day on Vorovoro continued...

Our classes and workshops are great for children and adults to attend and learn together. But we know that sometimes, children need their own space to move and explore and Vorovoro is the perfect place for that - there is so much to do and learn through experience. The nature of our program is rooted in community and collaboration, everyone has so much to offer! So each family have chances to work with us to take turns planning and implementing programs and activities for the kiddos,

We eat often and can usually accommodate most diets. Following breakfast, we have morning tea at 10:30 am. Morning tea consists of light snacks and coffee/tea. We come together to eat lunch at 12:30 pm, and then we enjoy quiet time/rest time from 1 pm - 3 pm. At 3:00 pm, we have afternoon tea - more snacks and coffee/tea - before moving into afternoon activities. We come together one more time to eat dinner at 6:30 pm.

In the evening, families can choose to join in the nightly kava drinking session with chief Tui Mali and the Fiji team, or enjoy other evening activities like star gazing, campfires, games, talent shows, and more. Drinking kava together is a a large part of Fijian culture, and there will be many opportunities during your stay on Vorovoro to participate. We encourage you join in often, even if you choose not to drink the kava! On the kava mat (or grog mat) is a magical place of sharing music, stories, and laughter - it's one of the best ways you can learn, connect, and immerse yourself with the local people and culture.



Vorovoro accommodation is simple, comfortable, and functional. Group and private accommodation is available in open-air beach houses that make the most of island breezes and ocean lullabyes.



Family Testimonial



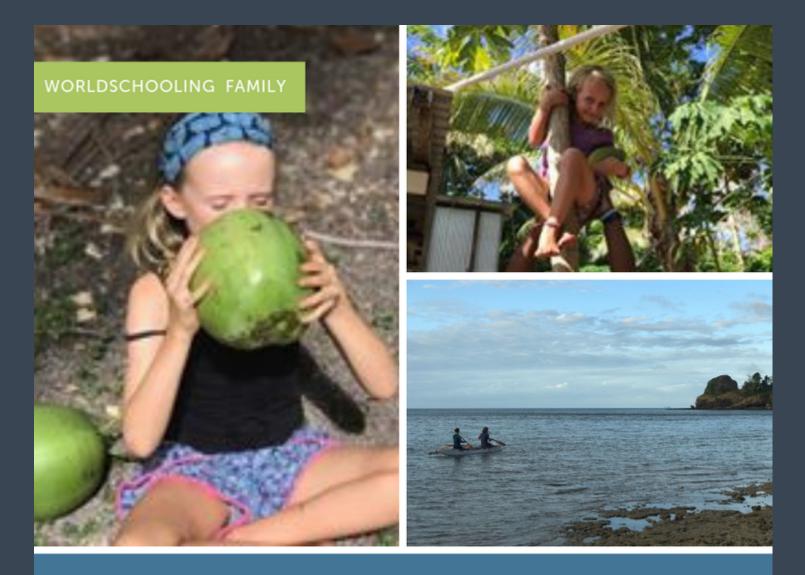
We have just set out on our world travel adventure, Fiji was is our first stop. I'm a little worried it's all downhill from here though, I can't imagine anything comparing to the experience we've had on Vorovoro!

bridge

Krista Mullins - 2018 Worldschooling Family Visitors

Facebook: Bridge the Gap: Vorovoro Island Instagram: Bridge the Gap: Vorovoro Website: www.btgvorovoro.com Email: info@btgvorovoro.com

Family Testimonial



"We have been traveling for a year with our 8 and 6 year old daughters and this was our best stop yet. Don't hesitate, just go."

Gemma Gillet, 2018 Open Island Participant



Facebook: Bridge the Gap: Vorovoro Island Instagram: Bridge the Gap: Vorovoro Website: www.btgvorovoro.com Email: info@btgvorovoro.com Just send an email to jenny@btgvorovoro to start the registration process for your family or group.

Want to come to Vorovoro but need financial assistance? Email Jenny to chat about ways that you can offset the cost of your experience by recruiting others to sign up.



After registering, we will provide ongoing support to families. Registered families will be invited to a closed Facebook group, where they can get to know their adventure mates, have questions answered and participate in Facebook live information and discussions.

	Morning	Afternoon	Evening	Notes
	Breakfast: 7:30 am Community Meeting: 8:30 am Morning tea: 10:30 am *groups will tackle daily duty tasks immediately following the conclusion of the morning community meetings	Lunch: 12:30 pm Quiet/rest time - 1-3 pm Afternoon tea: 3:00 pm	Dinner: 6:30 pm Most, but not all, evenings on Vorovoro, there will be a kava session with Tui Mali and/or our Fiji team. You are always welcome to join, even if you choose not to drink the kava!	These meal times can occasionally vary to allow for different activities and excursions. Activity times are approximate - please remember that we operate on Fiji Time and will need to be flexible to account for tides, weather, and village logistics.
DAY 1	Arrive at Labasa airport. We will meet you at the airport and take you by taxi to the boat that will take you Vorovoro Island	 Arrive to Vorovoro Afternoon tea Island and culture orientation overview Sevusevu Class 	Sevusevu ceremony followed by a kava drinking session with tribe chief Tui Mali and local community	"A Sevusevu ceremony is a traditional Fijian welcoming ceremony and is performed whenever arriving into a new place. Kava is the root of the kava plant. It's pounded into a power, mixed with water and drank ceremonially from coconut shells. It's an important and vital part of the Fijian culture.
DAY 2	 9:30 am We will divide into 2 groups. Each group will be assigned to attend one of these sessions: Island Life 101 Fijian culture, etiquette and basic language 101 *These classes are important, so if possible all adults and children should attend. However, we know little ones will need a breakt We will be happy to take them exploring or off to play so parents can attend. 	 3:30 pm Each group is to attend whichever group they did NOT attend in the morning session. Island Life 101 Fijian culture, etiquette and basic language 101 *These classes are important so if possible all adults and children should attend. However, we know little ones will need a break! We will be happy to take them exploring or off to play so parents can attend. 	5:30 pm Volleyball OR Sunset Peak Hike 7:00 pm Kava session OR Campfire	*Island Life 101 is an informative class that covers all you need to know about living on Vorovoro. Includes a time for Q & A and a boat tour around the island. *Fijian Culture, Etiquette, and Language 101 is an informative class that covers the basics of what you need to know to be culturally appropriate and say a few key phrases. *Sunset Peak is a moderate 20 min hike with breathtaking views from the headland of the island.



DAY 3	 6:30 am 4 Peaks Trek Starts early to avoid heat Age 11 or up 9:30 am Morning program options: Mat Weaving with local women Guided tide pool and island exploration Fijian cooking class 	 1:30 - 4:30 pm School and Village Visit Visit Mali District Village school - volunteer with partner reading program and/or play sports After school, enjoy a visit with the local village and shop for handicrafts made by local women 3:30 pm Program options (for those not going to school): Mat Weaving with local women Traditional Herbal Medicine Workshop* Fijian cooking class 	5:30 pm Volleyball 7:00 pm Kava session OR Game Night	*The 4 Peaks Hike is a rugged hike with spectacular views. The hike takes 2-3 hours and spans the length of the island, with treks through mangroves, jungle, forest, and over volcanic formations. This hike involves heights, some rock scrambling, and physical strength and endurance. *The Mali District School, located in Ligaulevu Village on nearby Mali Island, is a small island school with an enrollment of approx 70 children spanning grades K - 8. *During the Traditional Herbal Medicine Workshop you can tour the island with a village elder, learning about the different plants and the medicine they provide. Help to gather plants and start the process of making a medicine, according to what medicine is needed on the island at the moment.
DAY 4	9:30 am Town trip For those not going to town, the day is yours to make of it what you wish. Explore the island with friends, go for a snorkel, help in the kitchen, or relax in a hammock!	 3:30 pm Sunday planning meeting* Join us in planning our Sunday menu and activity schedule 	8:00 pm Night Fishing Trip Kava session OR Campfire Story Night*	*Our Fijian team spend Sundays with their families. This means we will be looking for volunteers to help us prepare all the meals on Sunday, as well as assist with leading afternoon group activities. *For Campfire Story Night, please bring your best campfire stories to share!



DAY 5	9:15 am Village Church Service	Afternoon activities TBD* *Afternoon activities will happen according to the previous days' planning meeting.	7:00 pm Kava session OR Campfire	*The local religion is Christian (Methodist Church is the dominant denomination) The singing at church is the highlight and most visitors feel attending Fijian church is a meaningful experience, regardless of personal beliefs/affiliations.		
DAY 6	 9:30 am Daily duties 11:00 am Morning program options: Reef Snorkeling Trip* Coconut Workshop Fijian Environment and Conservation Class 	3:30 pm *Eco Clean Up Scavenger Challenge	7:00 pm Kava session OR Game Night	*The Coconut Workshop is on opportunity to learn about what it means to "be good like a coconut". Every single part of the coconut plant is valuable to Fijians - learn about all the uses of the green and brown coconut, learn how to harvest, husk, scrape, and use the shell to make a bilo for drinking kava. Sample flesh and water of the coconut at different phases of growth. And learn how to climb a coconut tree! *Cakaulevu Reef, also known The Great Sea Reef, is the world's 3rd longest reef. The diverse reef is the single greatest local source of income and food for the local community and is seldom dived or snorkeled by tourists. *The Eco Clean Up Scavenger Challenge is a friendly competition where we split into teams and clean up rubbish that has washed up to the island for points and prizes!		



DAY 7	 9:30 am Daily duties 11:00 am Morning program options: Reef Snorkeling Trip Fiji Environment and Conservation Class Coconut Workshop 	3:30 pm • Meke class*	5:30 pm Volleyball 7:00 pm Kava session OR Campfire 8:00 pm Night Fishing Trip	*Meke is a storytelling dance that is done sitting down with upper body movements. There are 6 verses that we try to learn over the course of several days. When the verses are mastered, we will perform it for Tui Mali and other elders in the community.
DAY 8	9:30 am Daily Duties Town trip Morning program options: • Mat Weaving* with local women • Fijian singing class • Coconut Workshop	3:30 pm • Meke Class	5:30 pm Volleyball OR Sunset Peak Hike 7:00 pm Kava session OR game night	*Mats are integral to Fijian culture, providing much more than just the practical use of something to sit on. Join with local women to learn how they are prepared, and try your hand at weaving a small mat that you can take with you. *Bring your talents and tricks to the grog mat to share for the Vorovoro Talent Show!



DAY 9	6:30 am 4 Peaks Trek • Starts early to avoid heat • Age 11 or up 9:30 am Daily Duties Morning program options: • Tribal Community Understanding Class • Coconut Workshop	3:30 pm • Meke Class	5:30 pm Volleyball 7:00 pm Kava session with Vorovoro Talent Show	*Bring your talents and tricks to the grog mat to share for the Vorovoro Talent Show!
DAY 10	9:30 am Daily Duties Morning program options: • Mat Weaving with local women	1:30 - 4:30 pm School and Village Visit	5:30 pm Meke Practice 8:00 pm Kava session and perform meke for Tui Mali	*The Mali District School, located in Ligaulevu Village on nearby Mali Island, is a small island school with an enrollment of approx 70 children spanning grades K - 8.
	 Traditional Herbal Medicine Workshop Fijian cooking class 	 3:30 pm Program options: Mat Weaving with local women Tribal Community Understanding Class 		



DAY 11	9:30 am	3:30 pm	8:00 pm	*Our Fijian team spend Sundays
DAYII	*The day is yours to make of it what you wish. Explore with friends, snorkel, help in the kitchen, or relax in a hammock!	 Sunday planning meeting* Join us in planning our Sunday menu and activity schedule 	Night Fishing Trip Kava session OR Campfire Story Night*	with their families. This means we will be looking for volunteers to help us prepare all the meals throughout the day, as well as assist with leading afternoon group activities. *For Campfire Story Night, please bring your best campfire stories to share!
	9:15 am	Afternoon activities TBD*	7:00 pm	
DAY 12	Village Church Service	Alternoon activities TBD*	7:00 pm Kava session OR Game Night	
DAY 13	9:30 am Daily Duties		7:00 pm Kava session OR Game Night	*The Vorovoro Coconut Olympics Sports and Relay Day is a fun day full of
	ALL DAY • Vorovoro Coconut Olympics Sports and Relay Day* • (lunch break @ 12:30-2:00 pm)			island based sports competitions and relays.
DAY 14	9:30 am Daily Duties	ALL DAY: We'll be preparing a Lovo*	5:30 pm Lovo Farewell Feast	*The Lovo is a extensive Fijian feast prepared in an underground over the course of
	FINAL DAY Free day for exploration, wrap up and packing	(meal prepared in an underground oven) for a farewell feast. You are welcome to join!	7:00 pm Farewell Kava session and tautau presentation*	the day. *Tautau is the traditional farewell presentation of kava to Tui Mali to mark the end of your visit.
DAY 15	9:30 am Depart Vorovoro for Labasa			

