



ADVENTURE \Leftrightarrow COMMUNITY \Leftrightarrow LEARNING \Leftrightarrow FUN \Leftrightarrow CONNECTION

FIJI IMMERSION FAMILY ADVENTURE

ADVENTURE WITH BRIDGE THE GAP

PROGRAM GUIDE

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Our Mission

In partnership with the Vorovoro Island community located in a remote region of northern Fiji, Bridge the Gap provides unique responsible and educational tourism experiences that enhance the local community, culture, and environment with long-term sustainability in mind.

Responsible Travel:

A way of traveling that minimizes negative impacts on the environment, culture, and local communities, while maximizing the benefits for all stakeholders involved.

Responsible travel aims to create a positive and lasting impact on the destinations visited, while promoting awareness, respect, and sustainable practices among travelers. Bridge the Gap (BTG) and the people of Vorovoro invite your family to join us on a pristine 200 acre island in remote Fiji for a truly unique family adventure - a remarkably authentic, truly transformational, and incredibly fun cultural immersion experience. You'll be hosted by Tui Mali, chief of the Mali tribe (including Vorovoro) and recipient of the Order of Fiji award (Fiji's top honor!). On this journey you will experience Fijian village life, get to explore the wild beauty of the island and its reef, and learn ancient skills from local experts through hands-on workshops.

This is also mutually beneficial - we're a responsible tourism enterprise operated in direct partnership with the people of Vorovoro, and therefore your family trip helps to preserve and celebrate native Fijian identity, culture, and environment. Through friendships going back to 2009, BTG works hand in hand with the local Fijian community to identify and collaboratively address community development 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." 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."



Here, you are considered an extension of the local tribal community and are welcomed to participate in truly authentic and beneficial ways. As such, you and your family 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 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.

FAMILY TESTIMONIALS

"We just watched a slideshow of our trip to Vorovoro tonight and all I could think is how forever changed we are after that trip!"

> Krista Mullins and family Family Program Participant



FAMILY TESTIMONIALS

"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 FAMILY PROGRAM PARTICIPANT

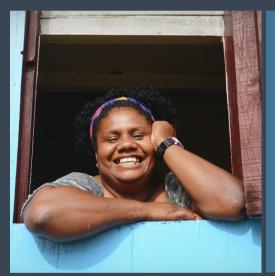
THE VOROVORO ISLAND FAMILY

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.



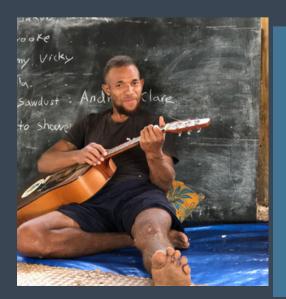
Tui Mali, Chief of Mali and Vorovoro Islands

Tui Mali is the chief of the Mali tribe, encompassing five villages. He spent his career laying oceanic 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 informed his decision to lead his tribe by focusing on creating sustainable sources of income for the Mali people that honor their Fijian identity, protect their environment, and continue to connect the world.



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 proud mother of four children.



Nemani Baleneiyaca, Cultural Manager & Team Leader

Nemani has been helping to host groups on Vorovoro since 2007. His commitment to his native Fijian heritage combined with his hardworking spirit make him a dynamic leader. He mentors new Fijian team members and also develops and facilitates cultural classes 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.

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Apenisa Bogiso (Bogi), Boat Captain

Bogi is the nephew of chief Tui Mali, brother of Wati, and the eldest sibling in his family. He and his wife are the proud and busy parents of six children. Bogi was born and raised on the shores of Vorovoro Island and is in line to one day assume the role of chief of Vorovoro. As boat captain for Vorovoro, he makes sure everyone gets where they need to go safely. When not driving the boat, Bogi also serves as general team support for Team Fiji.



Semisi Verenaivalu, Head Chef & 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 island dancing and singing classes on Vorovoro. He also works as a chef at two well-regarded resorts in Fiji.

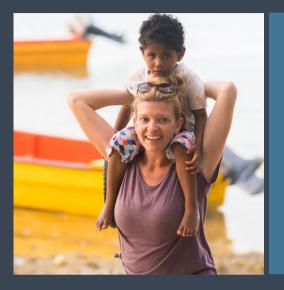


Apenisa Laisave (Api), Boat Captain

Api belongs to a tribe from Kia Island, a neighboring island visible in the distance from the beaches of Vorovoro. Api has been helping people live and learn on Vorovoro for over 15 years now. He feels most at home navigating the waves and currents of the open sea. In addition to his duties as boat captain, Api also lends an experienced hand with whatever projects or activities are underway on Vorovoro.

THE BRIDGE THE GAP FAMILY

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Jenny Cahill, BTG Director and Trip Facilitator

Jenny has been working closely with Vorovoro since 2009. In partnership with the Vorovoro chiefly family and community, she designs and facilitates unique and immersive opportunities for travelers to authentically experience Fijian culture, in ways that support the short and long range development goals of the local community. It is her belief that travel can and should be a source of mutual benefit, and in alignment with principles of responsible travel.



Andrew Bates, Operations and Trip Facilitator

Andrew first visited Vorovoro in 2015 as a university study abroad student. He was deeply impacted by his experience and knew he wanted Vorovoro to continue to be a part of his life. The close proximity with nature, the deep cultural immersion, the triumph of relationships over materialism, and the constant laughter made him never want to leave. Andrew joined first joined BTG in 2016 as an intern, then as a trip facilitator, and now also assists with Operations and Program development.



Isabella Bates, Marketing and Trip Facilitator

In 2018, Isabella journeyed to Vorovoro for the first time, eager to experience the remarkable place that her thenfiancé, Andrew, couldn't stop talking about. She saw first hand what drove his passion for this special place and saw that it aligned with her personal values in regards to travel and vulnerable communities. In 2020, she decided bring her marketing and operations expertise to the BTG and Vorovoro effort. She is also looking forward to helping to facilitate programs on Vorovoro in 2024.

Session 1: June 24 - July 4, 2024 Session 2: July 8, 2024 - July 18, 2024

We require a minimum enrollment of approximately 10 families (depending on family size) to confirm the program session. A 25% deposit is required at booking, and payment plans are available. Contact us for more info or to schedule a call to begin the booking process.



ALL PRICES IN USD

ADULT / TEEN CHILD (ages 9-12) CHILD (ages 5-8) \$1300/pp \$900/pp \$700/pp CHILD (age 2-4) BABY (under 2) \$300/pp FREE

THE VOROVORO AMBASSADOR PROGRAM

We understand that the rising cost of inflation can make international travel expensive for families. To ensure that our prices remain affordable, we are implementing a referral and discount program called the "Vorovoro Ambassador" program.

By spreading the word about our programs, Vorovoro Ambassadors can earn cash or discount incentives while helping us minimize our marketing expenses and drive program enrollment. This enables us to pass on the savings to our customers and ensure that they get the best possible value.

The way it works is that Ambassadors earn either \$100 in cash or a 10% discount on their current or future booking for every person who books through their referral. You can earn multiple cash rewards or discounts by recruiting multiple people.

Interested in learning more? Contact us @ info@btgvorovoro.com!

PRICING AND DATES

ALL-INCLUSIVE PRICING WITH OPTIONAL PAID EXCURSIONS

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

- Pre-departure support via email and video chat w/ BTG and other program participants
- Transportation from Labasa airport to Vorovoro island
- Kava and sulu needed for ceremony (traditional kava root and sarong)
- Lodging: Island-style accommodation and eco-friendly amenities
- 3 full meals daily plus morning and afternoon tea/snack
- Daily on-island classes / programming (see standard activity list)
- Access to community and cultural events as the opportunity arises
- Full-service travel and booking support to ensure all your questions are answered and concerns are taken care of before you arrive on island
- An intimate educational experience on a private, remote island you will likely know everyone on the island before you see your first Vorovoro sunset!

What is NOT included in our all-inclusive pricing?

There will be optional off island paid excursions such as visiting a local school or going night fishing. These are typically priced between \$10 and \$20 to cover transportation and staffing costs. Further detail is included in this guide on the page entitled "Optional Off-Island Excursions."

There are a handful of Add On Packages that some guests choose too. These packages include scuba certification with a local expert and nanny services. Further detail is included in this guide on the page entitled "Add On Packages."

Some guests like to buy personal snacks or food when they are in town. These personal food items are not covered in our all-inclusive pricing.

STANDARD ON-ISLAND ACTIVITIES ON VOROVORO

Due to the dynamic nature of this unique experience, many things we are able to offer and share come up along the way. The best experiences and adventures are always hands-on and sometimes cannot be planned or predicted! That being said, the following activities are pretty standard:

LEARN THROUGH CULTURAL IMMERSION

- Learn about and perform a Meke (traditional Fijian storytelling dance)
- Coconut workshop including how to harvest, husk, and open fresh ones
- Discuss Fijian history, culture and current events
- Tour the island's indigenous plants with traditional medicinal uses
- Go fishing using traditional Fijian methods
- Observe and participate in tribal community village-style living

CREATE SOMETHING

- Learn how to make coconut oil and coconut soap from scratch
- Weave a traditional Voivoi mat
- Learn to cook island food, Fiji-style
- Weave a palm-leaf basket

SHARE LIFE TOGETHER

- Hang out Fijian style by gathering around the kava (grog) bowl in the evenings
- Share jokes, tell stories, or sing and play guitar on the grog mat
- Relax and enjoy tea-time together, twice a day

EXPERIENCE THE ISLAND

- Explore your private island, full of vibrant flora and fauna
- Snorkel and swim right in your backyard
- Watch a sunset from the perfect spot, Sunset Peak
- Chill in a beachfront hammock
- Do a sunset cruise around the island
- Hike Vorovoro's four volcanic peaks
- Play beach volleyball by the water's edge
- Tell stories around the campfire
- Stargaze the southern stars are fabulous when you're so far from light pollution
- Compete in our Coconut Olympics Sports Day and the Island Scavenger Hunt!

Below are answers to a few of the most commonly asked questions. Don't see your answer here? You can find a more thorough FAQ on our website at www.btgvorovoro.com.

What flexibility will my kids have?

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. You can join in as much or as little as you like. The nature of everything on Vorovoro is rooted in community and collaboration everyone has so much to offer! Families and their children will have chances to work with us to take turns planning and implementing programs and activities for the kiddos.

What's the food like?

We eat often and can usually accommodate most allergies and dietary food restrictions with advance notice. Our ingredients are sourced locally whenever possible, and meals are made from scratch. We serve a mix of traditional Fijian foods and kid-friendly western staples. Example foods include oatmeal, fresh fruit, dhal soup, chicken soup, stew, fried rice, cassava, mashed potatoes, curries, roti, homemade breads and pastries, fruits/vegetables, homemade pizza, stir fry, etc.

In the event of an emergency, what's the plan?

All BTG team members are first aid and CPR certified. We have first aid supplies on the island. The hospital is located 30 mins away by boat, and we always have a boat and a boat captain ready to go at a moment's notice.

ACCOMMODATIONS

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. Contact us for more details.



DAILY FLOW

MEALS

Breakfast 7:30 am Morning tea 10:30 am Lunch 12:30 pm Afternoon tea 3:30 pm Dinner 6:30 pm

We eat often and can usually accommodate most diets with advance notice.

Following our 7:30 am breakfast, we have morning tea at 10:30 am. Morning tea consists of light snacks/fruits and coffee/tea. We come together to eat lunch at 12:30 pm. At 3:00 pm, we have afternoon tea - more snacks/fruit and coffee/tea - before moving into afternoon activities. We come together one more time to eat dinner at 6:30 pm.

Meal times can occasionally vary to allow for different activities and excursions.





We gather for a community meeting each morning at 8:30 am. It's a great time to catch up on the plans for the day and hear any important announcements.

Plus, families can sign up for daily duties and activities. These duties are important for keeping our community running smoothly. You might be in charge of prepping food, taking care of chickens and ducks, collecting firewood, or helping out with village clean up. We'll mix it up depending on what needs to happen each day.

DAILY FLOW

ACTIVITIES/EXCURSIONS

Do as much, or as little, as you like. Choose your own pace.

Every day is packed with awesome stuff to do! We've got classes, workshops, tours, and excursions, as well as the chance to help out with building and village maintenance projects. Once the community meeting is over, the day is yours to enjoy. You and your family can join in on any of the scheduled activities, take care of your daily duties, or just do your own thing!

During your free time, you can get involved in all sorts of fun activities like meal prep, fishing, gardening, hiking, and more. Parents and kids alike can swim, snorkel, play games, chat with new friends, or simply chill in a hammock and take in the gorgeous island scenery. If you're feeling extra adventurous, you can even arrange for a private dive or dive certification course with a local Fijian dive instructor on the stunning Cakaulevu Reef.

At night, there are tons of activities to enjoy too. You can choose to join in on the kava drinking session with Chief Tui Mali and the Fiji team, or try out other evening activities like star gazing, campfires, and games.

Drinking kava is a big part of Fijian culture, and we'll have plenty of chances for you to participate - even if you don't want to drink, you can still hang out and learn about the local culture. The kava mat is a place for sharing stories and music, and it's one of the best ways to connect with the people of Vorovoro.



REST TIME

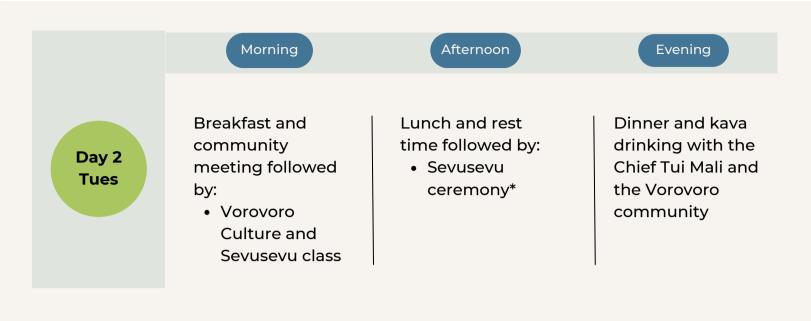
After lunch, we recharge from morning activities and take respite from the heat of the day by enjoying quiet time/rest time from 1 pm - 2pm.



Below is a sample itinerary. The actual schedule will account for tides, weather, and island/community logistics. For these reasons, we always operate on Fiji Time, so times and dates are subject to change!









*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 drunk ceremonially from coconut shells. It's an important and vital part of the Fijian culture.



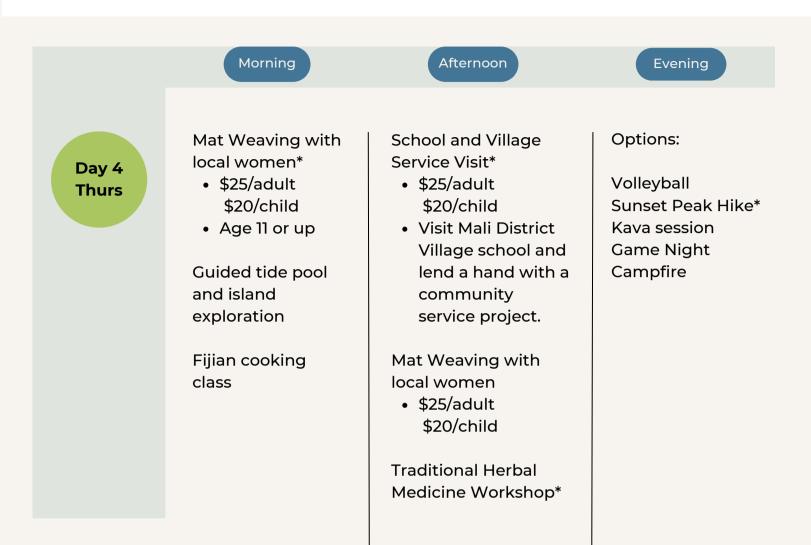


*Island Life 101 is a comprehensive class covering everything you need to know about living on Vorovoro. This includes a Q&A session and a boat tour around the island.

*Fijian Culture, Etiquette, and Language 101 is a class that covers the basics of being culturally appropriate and teaches you a few key phrases to use.

It's important to attend these classes to understand Vorovoro's culture, and we encourage all adults and children to join. However, we know little ones will need a break! If desired, we will be happy to take them exploring or off to play so parents can attend.

*Sunset Boat Tour is a beautiful and peaceful guided sunset boat tour around the islands of Vorovoro and 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.

*Weaving mats is a significant aspect of Fijian culture that extends beyond the practical use of seating. Join local women and learn about the intricate process of preparing and weaving a small mat to take home with you.

*Join a Traditional Herbal Medicine Workshop and tour the island with a village elder to learn about the various medicinal plants. You can assist in collecting plants and creating medicine that is currently needed on the island.

*A hike up Sunset Peak is a moderate 20-minute climb that offers mesmerizing sunset views from the island's headland.





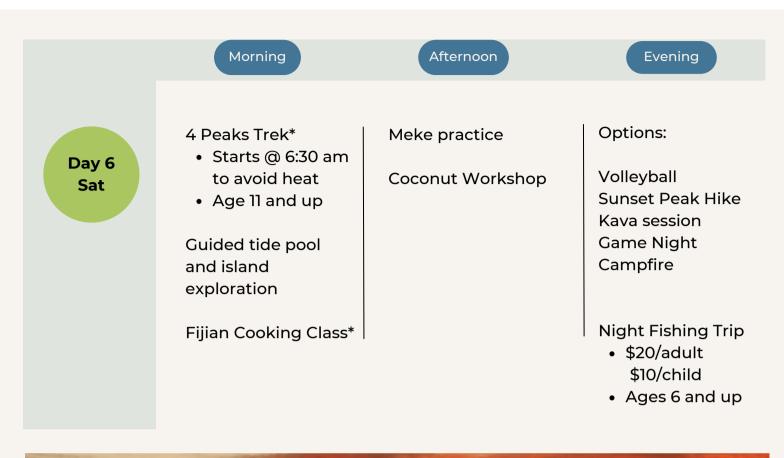
*The Coconut Workshop offers an immersive experience where you can learn about the versatile coconut plant and its many uses. From harvesting to husking and scraping, you'll be taught the skills to make a bilo for drinking kava. Sample the coconut's flesh and water at different stages of growth and even learn how to climb a coconut tree!

*Meke is a traditional dance that tells a story through upper body movements. Learn all six verses over several days and perform it as a way of expressing gratitude to the community's elders. You'll have the opportunity to showcase your newly acquired skills to Tui Mali and other community leaders.

*Take a 30-minute boat ride into the bustling Labasa town and explore the area's diverse offerings on the Town Trip. Grab a local meal, shop for souvenirs, and discover local handicraft treasures.

*Experience a unique form of fishing with Night Fishing. Board a boat at night and learn how to catch fish the Fijian way using only a 12 oz soda bottle, fishing line, and a hook.

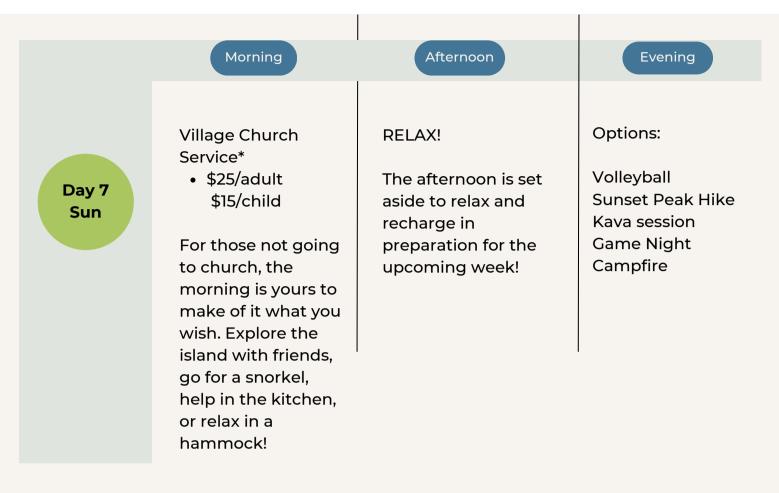






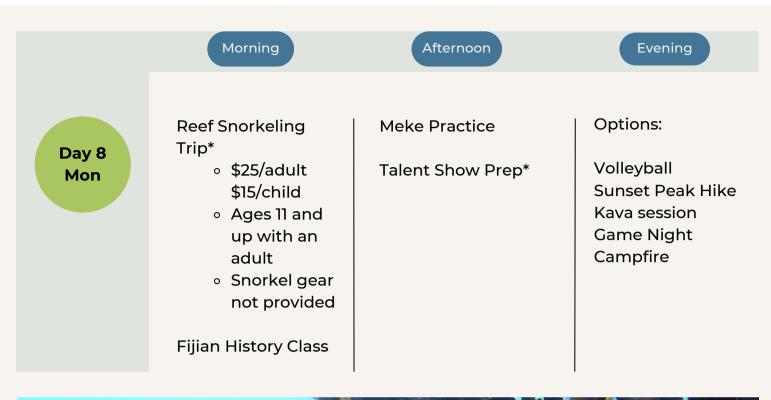
*Experience the beautify of Vorovoro's landscape with the 4 Peaks Trek: This challenging hike offers stunning views of the island and lasts between 2-3 hours. You'll traverse through mangroves, jungle, forest, and volcanic formations, and put your physical strength and endurance to the test with rock scrambling and heights.

*Learn to cook Fijian cuisine with a Fijian Cooking Class! Discover the secrets of Fijian cuisine and learn how to prepare delicious dishes using fresh, locally sourced ingredients.





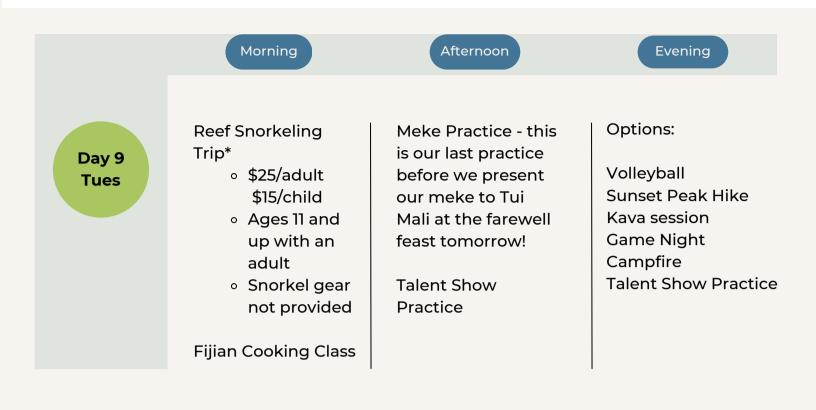
*Travel by boat to nearby Mali Island and attend a village church service. The local religion is Christian (Methodist Church is the dominant denomination). The robust harmonies at church are the highlight and most visitors feel attending Fijian church is a meaningful experience, regardless of personal beliefs/affiliations.



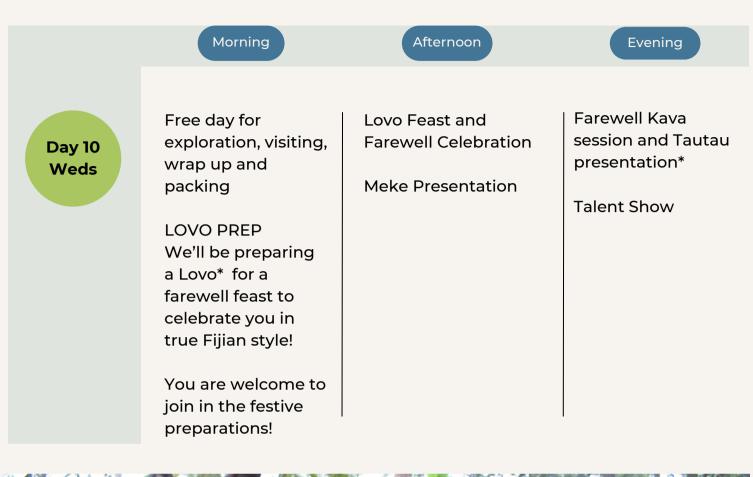


*Travel by boat 30 mins to pristine Cakaulevu Reef, also known The Great Sea Reef. Cakaulevu Reef is is the world's 3rd longest reef. This remote and diverse reef is the single greatest local source of income and food for the local community and is seldom dived or snorkeled by tourists.

*Share your talents with the community! Prep for the talent show starts today - choose and practice your talent and present it to Tui Mali and the community on your farewell night.



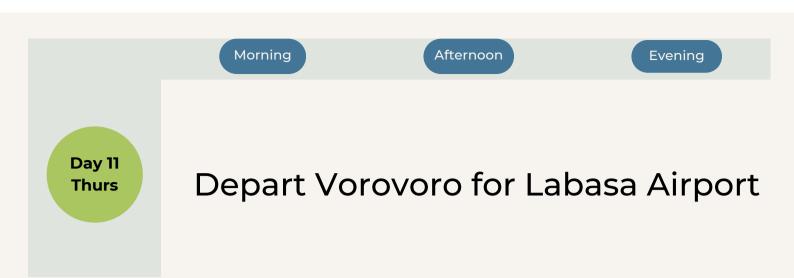






Lovo is a traditional extensive Fijian feast of meat, fish and vegetables prepared in an underground oven over the course of a day

*Tautau is the traditional farewell presentation of kava to Tui Mali to mark the end of your visit.



All good things must come to an end, but the memories and connections you made on Vorovoro will last a lifetime.

After breakfast on your final day, we will send you off with a Fijian farewell and will transport you and your luggage to the Labasa airport.



OPTIONAL OFF-ISLAND EXCURSIONS

As opportunities arise, we take optional off-island excursions. These potential excursions are based on external factors such as village celebrations, tide patterns, and local holidays.

There is a small additional charge for these activities to pay for expenses, typically \$10-\$20, including donations/tithes on your behalf to the local community. Charges for these extra off-island excursions will be billed separately on an adhoc basis once on the island.

During the booking process, we'll discuss these with you to **gaug**e your family's interest in each activity. For those you're interested in, we'll do our best to make those happen!

SAMPLE EXCURSIONS	DESCRIPTION
Community Service in a Local Village	Lend a hand with a community project!
Night Fishing	Did you know you can fish using a Coke bottle? Learn how to catch the big ones the Fijian way!
Snorkel Trip to Cakaulevu Reef	A snorkeling adventure on the world's 3rd longest barrier reef. See a wide variety of pristine coral and diverse marine life, including turtles, rays, and sharks.
Town Trip	Take a boat ride to colorful and busy Labasa Town. Do some shopping,check out local markets!
Mali Island Church Visit	Attend a village church service. Beautiful voices joined in robust harmonies are truly a highlight of this experience.
Mali Island School Visit	Sometimes we are invited to lend a hand with community projects or attend a program at the local primary school, located in nearby Ligaulevu village.

ADD-ON PACKAGES

The following add-on packages can be arranged in advance at an additional charge. We take a minimal (5%) fee for marketing, logistics, & administration. After that, all monies go directly to the local community members & organizations who help to facilitate these experiences.

- Nanny Services
- Scuba Certification & Scuba Diving
- Tour or Stay at Bread of Life Sugarcane Farm
- Tour or Stay at Cegu Valley Permaculture Farm



ADD-ON PACKAGES: SCUBA DIVING

GREAT SEA REEF DIVERS

Owned by longtime partner and Mali tribe member Leone Vokai

Take advantage of a rare and exclusive opportunity to dive pristine and endangered Cakaulevu Reef, the third longest barrier reef in the world.



Leone Vokai, local legend and professional PADI certified dive instructor from nearby Ligaulevu village, will lead you on customized dives on Cakaulevu Reef, also known as The Great Sea Reef. This remote and diverse reef is the single greatest local source of income and food for the local community and is rarely dived or snorkeled by tourists. Leone grew up free diving this region and is passionate about educating people and promoting conservation through underwater encounters.

Certification courses and diving opportunities are available. Contact us @ info@btgvorovoro.com for more information.

ADD-ON PACKAGES: SUGARCANE FARM

BREAD OF LIFE 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 other passion lies with his sugarcane farm located on the mainland of Vanua Levu. Nemani has completed two sustainable agricultural internships at Cegu Valley Farm, offered through Bridge the Gap, Vorovoro and Auburn University. BTG and Vorovoro have also partnered with Auburn University to support infrastructure developments on the Nemani's farm. Nemani has worked with Vorovoro for over 17 years, making his way up from an entry level kitchen boy position to the dynamic cultural and team 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 transportation, meals, and kava are included in the fees.

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

ADD-ON PACKAGES: PERMACULTURE FARM

CEGU VALLEY FARM Owned by longtime BTG partners Chuck and Sue McCay

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



Originally from Zimbabwe and Australia respectively, Chuck & Sue McCay 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 17 year old nonverbal autistic son Mitchell.

They are passionate about sustainable farming, permaculture, beekeeping, animal husbandry and more. They serve the community through sharing knowledge, models, and resources, and are leaders in Fiji's beekeeping movement. The McCays 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. Includes farm tour, refreshments, farm to table lunch and beekeeping experience.

Age 12 and up: \$60 pp | Age 2-11: \$30/pp | Under 2 - Free

Just send an email to info@btgvorovoro.com to start the registration process for your family or group.

Feel good about your travel knowing that:

- Our Fijian team members are all paid a good living wage with full pension, plus their housing and meals are covered during the program.
- Outside of the visitor season, we provide financial support and mentorship opportunities for their respective business and education endeavors.
- Your support makes all this possible!

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 events for information and discussions.



Want to come to Vorovoro but need financial assistance? Email us at info@btgvorovoro.com to chat about ways that you can discount the cost of your experience by recruiting others to come with you on the experience of a lifetime!

Moce mada!

(Moh-they mahn-dah!)

See you soon!