



FIJIFIJI BIOCAMP 2006

June 22 - July 6, 2006

General Description

“Bula” (Fijian greeting),

“FijiFiji BioCamp 2006” is a 15-day biology-centric camp, in which participants will observe and discover the coral reefs (Marine Biology) of Waitatavi Bay, and explore the adjacent rainforests (Botany / Biology) and white sandy beaches (Geography). Participants will also experience the Fijian culture, Southern Hemisphere Night Sky (Astronomy), and most importantly have fun doing it all!

In order to observe the marine life and terrain, participants will be encouraged to study and catalog all of the wondrous things he/she sees. The South Pacific Ocean is full of so many amazing things, many of which will be literally at your fingertips. Biology instruction will occur at the camp to help the participants understand what they observe and discover. The staff counselors will also make sure students learn as much as they possibly can. Moving above sea level, participants will also be encouraged to explore the rainforest right from their camp’s back door. Here, animal and plant life is as diverse as under water; some specimens are found nowhere else in the world.

Participants will be camping in large 10 ft x 17 ft tents at the edge of the rainforest, along the beachfront. Each participant will share a tent with approximately two other students of the same gender. The camp and program will be fully supervised by instructors, supervisors and support staff. Every morning, participants will gather in a general meeting area under a large, locally crafted, traditional Fijian “valevale”, which is an open air thatched canopy. All meals will also be served in this area. Participants will enjoy an array of dishes prepared in the local Fijian style. Participants are also welcome to snack on the variety of fruits found on the land, including papayas, bananas, and coconuts. Proper cleaning and cooking conditions will be maintained.

Besides discovering amazing things in the ocean and rainforests, the group will also go on numerous other adventures. One side-trip will be to visit a local Fijian village. There, participants will get the chance to interact with locals of all ages and also to purchase exotic souvenirs to bring home. Other excursions include day hike(s) to awe-inspiring waterfalls, natural waterslides and tropical rainforests. Evenings will include astronomy lessons taught by the staff.

All of the big-hearted people of Fiji would love to see you there, as would the staff members of FijiFiji BioCamp 2006. But, spaces are limited; so apply now for the 2006 summer program!

About Fiji:

Fiji is located 17-degrees south of the equator, northeast of Australia and due north of New Zealand. Fiji is a recently discovered destination by Americans and has become the focus of great interest for environmentalists, preservationists and tourists alike. Fiji is on the other side of the International Date Line, so it is already "tomorrow" there!! Fiji is also a part of the British Commonwealth. Yes, they drive on the other side of the road! The primary language spoken in Fiji is English, with a number of native Fijian dialects spoken throughout the islands. Fijians are noted for their friendly personalities and big hearts.

Fiji consists of approximately 330 islands (some say more), most of which are mostly uninhabited. Fiji is a 9-½ hour flight from Los Angeles.

During our trip we will be first landing at the international airport in Nadi on the largest island, Vanua Levu. We will then be transported by plane to the island of Taveuni, where we will then boat to a remote, secluded beach and rainforest on the outermost tip of Vanua Levu. Though FijiFiji BioCamp 2006 boasts its remote location, it is only 25 minutes by boat to the small town of Somosomo and its newly built "Taveuni Medical Clinic". In many prior trips to this location, we have not yet needed to utilize the medical facility.

Program Cost:

The program cost for the June 22 – July 6, 2006 trip is \$3,425.00 US.

In addition to a \$95.00 registration fee, a deposit of \$1,260.00 for a total of \$1,355.00 is required to reserve a space on this trip. **The balance of the program cost of \$2,070.00 is due by March 10, 2006.** Refunds will not be available after the registration sign-up deadline of March 10, 2006. If notice of cancellation is received prior to 6 PM March 10, 2006, FijiFiji BioCamp 2006 will retain a \$100.00 cancellation fee and you will receive the balance of your deposit as a refund.

What is included in trip cost*?

- Transportation from San Jose airport to LAX, to Fiji, throughout Fiji and return to SJC.
- Meals and beverages while in Fiji (see *)
- Airport and country-specific entrance fees/taxes
- Base insurance (optional, additional insurance is available)
- Hotel fees, taxis and ground transportation
- Boat transportation
- Camping equipment, etc.
- FijiFiji BioCamp 2006 shirt

* Airfare may be subject to change due to such items as fuel costs, security fees, etc. Participants should bring additional cash for snacks and souvenirs. Roughly \$30US/person is also requested for the final dinner at a nice restaurant in Fiji on the last night.

Packing List

General Note – it has been our general observation that most people over-pack for his or her trip to Fiji. Fiji's warm, tropical climate encourages continual use of swim ware, shorts, sandals, etc. Pack accordingly.

Pack in Large Duffle Bag with no wheels (recommended):

[Have?] [Packed?] Item Description

- [] [] Passport
- [] [] Certified Letter allowing kids (<18) to travel alone
- [] [] Sunglasses (and floats/strings)
- [] [] Clothes (e.g. 5 t-shirts, 3 board-shorts, 3 bathing suits, 1 long pants (light weight), 1 sweatshirt, underwear, sleepwear, 1 dressier shirt (short-sleeved Hawaiian shirt) for boys or 1 sun dress for girls, belt, ...
- [] [] Flip-flops (sandals) for camp
- [] [] Light Tennis shoes or Tivo-style sandals (covered toes) (to walk/climb in)
- [] [] Water shoes (booties for fins or Tivo-style)
- [] [] Sheets (2 twin-size: top & bottom) or (1 queen-size: folded in half)
- [] [] Pillow and/or Pillow-case
- [] [] Towels (1 regular size & 1 small hand towel)
- [] [] Mosquito Repellent -- Deet-10
- [] [] Hat(s)
- [] [] Power Plugs to Cellphone, Camera, flashlights, etc. (U.S. is fine)
- [] [] Watch (not?)
- [] [] Rain Jacket (super light-weight)
- [] [] Swiss Army Knife -- Pack it in luggage below, not as carry-on!
- [] [] Water Bottle Holder
- [] [] Flashlight (LED works great) with rechargeable batteries
- [] [] Snorkel, mask (corrective lenses), fins/booties

(Continued)

- [] [] Diving Misc.: Underwater flashlights (LED), batteries for flashlights ("C" & "AA"), "Hot dog" orange life saver attention-grabbers, tank-clickers, writing tablets, Dive Log/Book to record diving, whistle, dive scissors, 3/4 wetsuit and/or rash-guard style 1-mm skin-suit (top), dive watch, bathing suit(s),...
- [] [] PADI or SSI Dive Card
- [] [] Toiletries: Sunscreen, chapstick w/ SPF, toothbrush, toothpaste, shavekit, organic-shampoo, eye drops, "SwimEar" drops, rubbing alcohol, q-tips, fingernail clippers, tweezers, talc-powder, comb/brush, hair bands, hairspray, feminine products, ointment, dental floss, nose spray, allergy medicine, pain relief medicine, prescription drugs, sea-sickness drugs for boat rides (if needed), Sleeping Pills (2) for Planes (LAX-Fiji & Fiji-LAX)...

- [] [] [] Wallet w/ cash for exchange to buy gifts from villagers and/or snacks, Credit Card (might notify them to allow charging overseas)
- [] [] [] Camera Equipment (batteries, re-chargers, camera manual, New Light, RAM, Underwater Enclosure, etc.
- [] [] [] Cellphone and battery chargers <http://www.vodafone.com.fj>
- [] [] [] Cellphone Charge cards: ZapTel Calls from US to Overseas: Credit of \$10US, PIN#_____, Support: 1.877.532.2737, Instructions: Dial 1.800.462.9904, Enter PIN, Dial 011+Country Code+ Number + "#" Key
<http://www.zaptel.com/>: USA-to-Fiji: (\$0.22/min) Fiji-to-USA: (\$0.96/min)
- [] [] [] Binoculars
- [] [] [] Book(s) to read, then donate to villagers
- [] [] [] Gifts for Villagers?
- [] [] [] Ear Plugs for LAX-Fiji-LAX airplane rides (to sleep)
- [] [] [] Snack Foods
- [] [] [] Reading Glasses

Maximum Weight of Checked-in Luggage: 38 pounds = 48 pounds – 10 pounds of BioCamp shared weight (e.g. community gear that we may bring for everyone, as provided by BioCamp which you must carry one-way to Fiji in luggage). Carry-on Backpack (which they will also weigh!) should include: 1 set of Emergency Shorts/T-shirt/Underwear in backpack (in case of luggage delay) and Passport/Wallet/Camera.

More information will be available at follow-up meetings and/or correspondences.

See also: <http://www.fijifiji.com/fijifijibiocamp.php>

FijiFiji BioCamp 2006 is not affiliated with any school,
nor is it accredited to any school's science curriculum