

Leadership and Environmental Conservation in the South Pacific

Week 1: Arrival and Program Orientation in Raglan, New Zealand

After making the trans Pacific journey, the group will have a day to settle in to the community of Raglan. The group will explore the beauty of this area while engaging in 3-4 days of Orientation, team building activities, establishing a group culture, and setting the foundation for the upcoming journey.

Week 2: Māori Culture and Indigenous Perspectives

Remaining in the Raglan region of Aotearoa (the Māori name for New Zealand), there is a progressive movement toward environmental activism, closely linked with the Māori emphasis on stewardship of the land. The group will stay on a traditional marae (common space). We'll dive into 8 days of exploring traditional Māori performing arts (Waiata and Kapahaka) and language, as well as participating in local initiatives that have garnered national attention for local efforts in recycling and trash reclamation. The group will end the experience with reflection-based activities and sharing our gratitude with our hosts.

Week 3: Organic Farm Stay

Next, your group will travel to a regenerative farm near Hawkes Bay. The group will learn about food systems, the importance of organic farming practices, and the latest practices in sustainable/regenerative agricultural. We'll gain firsthand experience by shearing sheep, harvesting vegetables, milking cows, and planting trees. We'll learn to make yoghurt and bake homemade bread. And all the while, we'll enjoy fresh organic food that is either directly from the farm, or grown locally. The Hart family are wonderful hosts and this is an incredible opportunity to gain insight into family-owned and operated farm life!

Weeks 4-5: Outdoor Adventure and Education with Whenua Iti

Travel to the capital of Wellington, and discover the Te Papa museum (a world class museum dedicated to Maori history and culture), enjoying a brief urban interlude. Crossing the Cook Strait by boat, we transfer to the South Island: a wonderland of lush forests, rugged mountains, and ocean beaches. Here your group will hike the Abel Tasman trail, one of New Zealand's "Seven Great Walks". Along the way, our local partners offer workshops in Māori culture, myth, and legend; knowledge of local flora and fauna; and introductions to Rakau (traditional fighting sticks), Rongoa (traditional Maori medicine), and haka (a traditional Māori dance of both war and peace). Additional activities may include mountain biking, rappelling, sea kayaking, ropes courses, and open water paddling in a traditional waka (Māori Canoe).

Week 6: Student Directed Travel

Having established a cohesive group culture, and experiencing many facets of New Zealand culture, students will collectively shape a week of group travel. While your Overseas Educators will be there to assist and guide, the group will handle budget, logistics, and determine activities for the upcoming week. New Zealand has endless opportunities for exploration!

Weeks 7-8: Permaculture and Environmental Restoration

As the group says farewell to New Zealand, we move to the Australian continent and explore a unique eco reserve and rehabilitation project. Owners Claire and Marcus, two PhD level scientists, have lovingly revitalized this 165 acre

site. With ample help from volunteers, they have succeeded in efforts of large scale reforestation, restoration of wetlands, increasing pollinator populations, and starting a wallaby rehabilitation project. Claire and Marcus are amazing hosts, and will provide a mix of educational activities, work projects, guided nature walks (sunrise and sunset are the best), and plenty of inspiration as to how we can each participate in environmental stewardship. We'll spend 10 days here, camping in comfortable canvas tents, exploring local swimming holes, cooking communal meals, and learning from our hosts. We'll also spend 2 days working on a nearby local marine conservation project, helping to gather data for scientists in their efforts to keep Australia's marine life healthy and abundant.

Week 9: SCUBA

After a few weeks of hard yet rewarding working and learning, the group will engage in a PADI open water diver course. We'll work with a local dive shop who'll teach you all you need to know about basic scuba theory, equipment, and pool skills. The group will then head out to the ocean and begin exploring the majestic, colorful reefs just off the coast of Northern Australia!

Week 10: Reflection and Reentry

At this point in the journey, our hearts and minds are full with experience, gratitude, and endless possibilities. An important aspect of such intensive learning is the act of reflecting on one's experiences. To this end, the group will travel to a retreat center and engage in learning specific to mindfulness, integration of experience, and reflection. The group will practice seva (selfless service) during the day, attend morning and evening meditations, and have ample opportunities to find a quiet spot and reflect on all that we have learned. The Overseas Educators will also introduce reentry activities meant to assist you in returning home and to set intentions for your next steps.

****Carpe Diem reserves the right to make changes to the program at any time, and indeed has the responsibility to do so in some instances; changes may be required to provide the best possible experience, protect the safety of participants, or respond to changes in weather or political conditions.***