

Environmental Conservation and Leadership in the South Pacific

Week 1: Arrival and Program Orientation: Daintree, Queensland Australia

Departing from the US, we'll fly into Cairns, in Queensland Australia. Following a quick rest from a long flight, your group will make your way to the Daintree, one of the oldest rainforests in the world. Here, you will settle into a wonderful green oasis on a nature reserve where your group will get some time to set intentions and build a strong group culture that will serve you well for the rest of the semester. You will get the opportunity to venture out and explore the famous coast line of Queensland.

Weeks 2: Environmental Restoration and Conservation at SheOak Ridge.

Spend a week in 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.

Week 3: Regeneration and Sustainable Models

Spend a week with a young community working at the forefront of sustainability. With a goal of planting over 360,000+ native Australian trees in the oldest rainforest in the world before 2025, this regeneration project has had a huge positive impact which has resulted both in creating green jobs and sequestering carbon. Working between the Reef (Great Barrier Reef) and the Rainforest (the Daintree) your group will take part in regenerating the local flora and fauna and learning about sustainable solutions.

Week 4: PADI on the Great Barrier Reef

After a few weeks of hard yet rewarding working and learning, the group will engage in a PADI open water diver course. Based in the town of Port Douglas, 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 5: Organic Farm Stay

Leave behind the Land Down Under and make the journey to New Zealand or Aotearoa (the Māori name for New Zealand). Your group will start their time here on 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 yogurt 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!

Week 6-7: Māori Culture and Indigenous Perspectives

Cross over the North Island to Raglan, home to 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 8-9: Outdoor Adventure and Education with Whenua Iti

Drive down to the southern tip of the North Island to Wellington, where you will discover the Te Papa museum (a world class museum dedicated to Maori history and culture), and enjoy 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 10: 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! Your group will need to end in Christ Church, where you will have your final goodbyes and celebrations before making your way home.

****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.***