

MEDICAL ELECTIVE OPTIONS

DURATION: 4,6,8 week options

LOCATIONS: FIJI



FIJI MEDICAL ELECTIVE

Programme Highlights:

- Learn about Clinical Care in Savusavu hospital
- Gain valuable hands-on medical experience
- Shadow Camp Medic, ideal for Emergency Care
- Frontline Medical care on our Fiji Med boat
- Immerse yourself in the rich and interesting Fijian cultures
 - Explore the beautiful Fijian islands
- Get the opportunity to scuba dive in the crystal blue Pacific Ocean

PROGRAMME LOCATION

Fiji is an archipelago in the South Pacific that encompasses over 300 stunning islands. Our camp is situated on Nasonisoni Island, a small island just off of Vanua Levu. The second largest island in Fiji, Vanua Levu has idyllic beaches, beautiful reefs, and a rugged inland interior. Vanua Levu's largest town is Savusavu. Nasonisoni itself is a more private and remote island, with only one major village. Programme for the standard 4 weeks is split equally between Savusavu and our Island on our Medboat.

THE PROJECT

As a medical volunteer you would be working alongside our conservation volunteers, who are part of a marine survey and diving programme surveying the reefs surrounding this remote South Pacific Island to create a UNESCO Seascape multi-use reserve. There are two stages for your medical placement, and you are also welcome to take part in as much of the diving project as you wish during your weekends.

SHADOWING AND MEDBOAT

This involves helping treat injuries and illnesses sustained by the conservation volunteers, and generally keeping an eye on the health of the camp – living in fairly basic conditions in our traditional wooden huts on the crystal white sands opposite where our med boat will be moored.

We have now secured approval and registration from the Department of Health, Fiji, and with the agreement of the islands elders, we will provide basic health care, to not only our village, but the initial 8 surrounding villages in our Wainunu bay area.

Your medical service will provide a vital and fundamental tool to enable more of the populace Medical care within these villages. Procedures will include checkups, consultancy and any emergency eventualities that maybe needed at the time, also visits from school children, orphanages etc. This will be the first line care facility, it will be a vital, significant and memorable contribution to this remote island community; it will be a life changer.



CLINICAL PLACEMENT

We aim to install volunteer Medics in multiple clinics in Savusavu and Labasa to assist local staff at the existing clinics, hospitals and/or outposts on the island. As a volunteer Medic we would expect that you'd work 5 days a week and live near to the clinic or outpost in either a hostel or one of our home stay accommodations. You'd have full support and supervision from the Doctors and nurses there and would be able to get involved in many aspects of Medicine that you would expect in any UK based clinic, whilst also living on a beautiful south Pacific island!

ADDITIONAL ACTIVITIES

If you wanted you'd also be able to take the PADI dive course that the conservation volunteers do. It's £375 for the PADI Open Water, PADI Advanced Open Water and Emergency First Response qualifications – which is a rather good deal, particularly for diving in Fiji, and obviously allows you to see some fantastic wildlife while you're there.

TYPICAL ITINERARY AND 4 WEEK PROGRAMME

The standard 4 week trip will be broken up to 2 weeks in clinic and 2 weeks on Camp and the Medboat.

In clinic you will generally work between 9.30 in the morning and 4.30 in the afternoon, with an hour lunch break Monday to Friday, with the weekends free. Please note, however, that your schedule may vary slightly from day to day, depending on the work you are doing.

On camp your days will be Monday to Saturday normally 6 hours travelling up and down the coastline visiting the various villages.

ACCOMMODATION

Volunteers diving or working with the expedition medic will stay in traditional grass burre on the beach, just like the locals. Although basic, they are comfortable and a great cultural experience. The camp has a big open communal burre and a dining area where you will cook and eat as a team. The showers are bucket showers where you scoop water over your head – a very natural experience that lets you shower under the moonlight or fresh morning sky!

Electricity is available for a few hours in the evening when the generator is on. Participants can use this time to recharge electronic equipment such as iPods and cameras. However, as the voltage can fluctuate, it is always best to use a voltage stabiliser on sensitive electronic equipment such as a laptop.

When in clinic you will be staying in our volunteer house or hostels and both have dorm style bedroom, shared bathrooms, basic but clean, fully working showers and toilets.

MEALS

All meals are provided during your stay. They will be based on local produce and rich in vegetables, meat, and very fresh fish. Vegetarians and vegans are easily catered for. You will take it in turns to cook, so it is up to you to use your imagination!

SUPPORT

Throughout your stay, you will be supervised by a doctor and assisted by our expedition leaders.

MONEY & INTERNET

The camp does have intermittent mobile reception so telephone calls can be made. There is no Internet on camp for volunteer use. There will be many opportunities for communication when you are in Suva and Nadi.

The currency in Fiji is Fijian Dollars. You will be able to get money out at cash points in the major banks in larger towns, and most credit cards are accepted in Fiji. However, once you are on camp, there will not be much to spend money on. You will only have opportunities to buy souvenirs en route to camp and on your way home.

SAFETY BRIEFING

On arrival, you will go through a brief orientation by our expedition leaders. This will include a safety briefing, and an introduction to local culture and customs.



GETTING THERE

You will fly into Savusavu Airport or Labasa Airport, where you will be picked up by our co-ordinators. To get to Savusavu or Labasa airports, you will fly via Nadi Airport, which is the only international airport in Fiji. Check out www.skyscanner.net or call our recommended partners call 01227 786 555 and ask for Elaine Matthews and say you're doing a Gapforce project, she will be of great assistance! Alternatively, you can email them at gapforce@flightcentre.co.uk.

PRICES

4 WEEKS	= £2,200
6 WEEKS	= £2,700
8 WEEKS	= £2,700
10 WEEKS	= £2,800

INCLUDED

- Access to your personal pages and UK office support before departure
- Pre departure briefing day
- Airport transfers
- Accommodation
- All meals
- Brief orientation programme on arrival
- Constant guidance and assistance by our expedition leaders
- A Medforce t-shirt

NOT INCLUDED

- Flights
- Insurance: Gapforce have worked closely with Endsleigh to develop specific insurance policies to cover all the activities that you are going to undertake. For details on these policies please follow this link: <http://www.endsleigh.co.uk/partner/gapforce/index.html>.
- Spending money