Fiji Snorkeling Expedition
Remote Reefs of the South Pacific
August 2 to 13, 2011
Back in the late 1980s, marine biologist Joel Simon, BA ’74, BS ’75, MS ’77, designed and led Stanford’s first snorkeling “safaris.” He has since led more than 50 trips for Travel/Study to marine destinations around the world. With its incredible variety of fish, prolific soft corals and profusion of invertebrates, Fiji is one of the world’s great snorkeling venues. Whether you’re a novice or a veteran snorkeler, you will receive unparalleled access to the best snorkeling locations in Fiji as well as hands-on, personalized instruction. You’ll also have an opportunity to try your hand at (or improve your skills with) underwater photography and learn how to translate your marine experiences into crisp digital memories.

BRETT S. THOMPSON , ’83, DIRECTOR, STANFORD TRAVEL/STUDY

Highlights

DIVE into the pristine blue waters of the South Pacific, home to more than 700 species of coral and 3,000 species of fish

SNORKEL near wildly unique creatures, including the lionfish with its plume-like fins and the brilliantly colored and patterned butterfly fish

GAIN insight into Fijian village life, history and culture during our week-long stay on pristine Kadavu Island
TUESDAY TO THURSDAY, AUGUST 2 TO 4
U.S. / NADI, FIJI
Depart the U.S. on an evening Air Pacific flight departing Los Angeles with non-stop service to Nadi, Fiji, losing a day crossing the international date line. After transferring to our hotel, visit the Garden of the Sleeping Giant to see a collection of exotic orchids and native plants displayed in a lovely natural setting. Easy walking trails allow us to meander through lush hillsides and past streams and pools with water lilies. This evening, enjoy a welcome reception and dinner. TANOA INTERNATIONAL HOTEL (L,D)

FRIDAY, AUGUST 5
NADI
Explore the area around Sigatoka during a full-day excursion. Visit the local market and the Kula Ecopark. This small, gracefully designed hybrid zoo and endangered species breeding facility is home to indigenous banded iguanas, Kadavu parrots and a host of other colorful birds. The curator, who is both personable and knowledgeable, will give our group a special tour. TANOA INTERNATIONAL HOTEL (B,L,D)

SATURDAY, AUGUST 6
NADI / KADAVU ISLAND
Fly to Kadavu Island, one of Fiji’s most traditional islands. Upon arrival, take a short boat ride to the Matana Beach Resort, distinguished by its design and location. Traditionally styled individual bure, Fijian wood- and-straw huts, are situated on a secluded, beautiful white sand beach flanked by slender palm trees. This afternoon, take advantage of introductory shore-based snorkeling (instruction as needed) or just enjoy the surroundings. Near-shore coral heads rise to within just a few feet of the surface and feature soft corals, numerous bright reef fish and a wealth of invertebrates. MATANA BEACH RESORT (B,L,D)

SUNDAY TO FRIDAY, AUGUST 7 TO 12
KADAVU ISLAND
During our stay at the Matana Beach Resort, shore snorkeling is available to us at any time, as often as we like and at our convenience. To complement independent shore snorkeling, we plan daily visits to many of the flourishing offshore sites. Typically, the mornings and early afternoons are devoted to snorkeling from the resort’s custom-designed “dive” boat. We visit protected shallow reefs where gardens of hard and soft coral are home to a host of diverse species. The marine biology of Fiji offers an incredible variety of fish, coral and invertebrates. Huge flat-topped coral heads called “bommies” that rise from the deep to within a few feet of the surface, along with the protected interiors of barrier reefs, make this region of Fiji a snorkeler’s paradise. The reefs offer abundant soft corals resplendently shaded in brilliant reds, yellows and pinks. Common fish sightings...

Itinerary
include lionfish, amusing and very approachable clownfish peeking out from their host anemones, butterfly fish, triggerfish and wrasse, plus the possibility of manta rays, schooling barracudas and the occasional reef shark. In addition to exploring the marine life, we have planned excursions to native villages and a local school. The evenings are spent enjoying leisurely dinners, possible night snorkels, recap sessions and marine ecology lectures.

MATANA BEACH RESORT (B,L,D—ALL 6 DAYS)

SATURDAY, AUGUST 13
KADAVU ISLAND / NADI / U.S.

After a final snorkeling opportunity, transfer to the airport for our return flight back to Nadi. Celebrate with a festive farewell reception and dinner at a local restaurant. Following dinner, transfer to Nadi International Airport for our scheduled return flight home, departing Fiji in the late evening. Gain a day by crossing the international date line on our non-stop return flight to Los Angeles. (B,L,D)

What to Expect

We consider this to be a moderately strenuous program that is at times physically demanding. Daily programs typically involve a morning snorkel excursion after breakfast, returning to the resort for lunch, followed by another excursion in the afternoon. Cultural excursions involve easy walking. While no prior snorkeling experience is necessary, all participants should be comfortable swimming unassisted in open water and able to use a boat ladder. Information on optional SCUBA diving excursions through Matana Beach Resort will be provided to interested participants. We welcome travelers 12 years of age and older on this program.

SKILL LEVEL

All snorkelers, from novice to expert, will enjoy this program. Our tour staff will gladly provide any needed snorkeling instruction, from floating to free-diving. Whenever possible we will seek out protected waters for our snorkeling excursions, but at times the surface may be choppy due to wind.

CLIMATE

Daytime temperatures in Fiji during the month of August range from the high 70s (°F) to the low 90s and a refreshing 65 to 75 degrees at night. Rain showers usually end in April and begin again in late December, however, in the tropics, there is always a chance of rain. Water temperature is approximately 78 degrees.

EQUIPMENT

All necessary snorkeling equipment can be rented from the Matana Beach Resort. However, past travelers have recommended bringing one's own mask and snorkel to ensure the most comfortable fit. While thermal tolerance to the water varies with the individual, many people find that a shortie or a thin wetsuit adds to their comfort while snorkeling.
DATES
August 2 to 13, 2011 (12 days)

SIZE
Limited to 20 participants

COST
$6,195 per person, double occupancy
$7,045 per person, single occupancy
*Association nonmembers add $500 per person

INCLUDED
9 nights of deluxe hotel accommodations
9 breakfasts, 10 lunches and 10 dinners
Welcome and farewell receptions
Filtered water on excursions
Gratuities to porters, guides, drivers and boat crews for all group activities
All tours and shore excursions as described in the itinerary
Transfers and baggage handling on program arrival and departure days
Minimal medical, accident and evacuation insurance
Educational program with lecture series and pre-departure materials, including recommended reading list, a selected book, map and travel information
Services of our professional tour manager to assist you throughout the program

NOT INCLUDED
International and U.S. domestic airfare
Fiji domestic airfare (on August 6th and return on August 13th is part of the international ticketing through Air Pacific)
Passport and visa fees
Immunization costs
Meals and beverages other than those specified as included
Independent and private transfers
Trip-cancellation/interruption and baggage insurance
Excess-baggage charges
Personal items such as email, telephone and fax calls, laundry and gratuities for nongroup services
SCUBA equipment rental and/or activities
Snorkel equipment rental

AIR ARRANGEMENTS
International and U.S. domestic airfare is not included in the program cost. Round-trip, non-stop, economy-class airfare on Air Pacific from Los Angeles to Nadi, Fiji, is approximately $1,550 as of September 2010 and is subject to change without notice. Information on the recommended group flight itinerary will be sent by our designated agent, who can assist you with booking. Please note that domestic flights within Fiji on Saturday, August 6th, and Saturday, August 13th are booked in conjunction with international flights and are not included in the program cost.
Deposit & Final Payment
A $1,000 per-person deposit is required to hold space for the Fiji Snorkeling Expedition. Final payment is due 120 days prior to departure.

Cancellations & Refunds
Deposits and any payments are fully refundable, less a $500-per-person cancellation fee, until 120 days prior to departure. After that date, refunds can be made only if the program is sold out and your place(s) can be resold, in which case a $1,000-per-person cancellation fee will apply. We recommend trip-cancellation insurance; applications will be sent to you.

Insurance
Stanford Travel/Study provides all travelers who are U.S. or Canadian citizens with minimal medical, accident and evacuation coverage under our group-travel insurance policy. Our group policy is intended to provide minimal levels of protection while you are traveling on this program. We strongly recommend that you subscribe to optional baggage and trip-cancellation insurance. A brochure offering such insurance will be mailed with your confirmation about one week after we receive your deposit. The product offered in this brochure includes a special Waiver of Pre-Existing Conditions and coverage for Financial Insolvency and Terrorist Acts if you postmark your insurance payment within 15 days of the date listed on the confirmation letter.

Eligibility
We encourage membership in the Alumni Association as the program cost for nonmembers is $500 more than the members’ price. Stanford alumni may become Annual ($75) or Life ($495) Members. Stanford parents, faculty, staff, interns, residents and fellows may become Installation Members ($90 down, $115/year for four years) or Life Members ($495). Nonalumni may become Life Affiliates (one-time fee, $650). Parents and their children under 21 may travel on one membership. For more information or to purchase a membership, visit www.stanfordalumni.org/member or call (650) 725-0692.

Responsibility
The Stanford Alumni Association, Stanford University and our operators act only as agents for the passenger with respect to transportation and exercise every care possible in doing so. However, we can assume no liability for injury, damage, loss, accident, delay or irregularity in connection with the service of any automobile, motorcoach, launch or any other conveyance used in carrying out this program or for the acts or defaults of any company or person engaged in conveying the passenger or in carrying out the arrangements of the program. We cannot accept any responsibility for losses or additional expenses due to delay or changes in air or other services, sickness, weather, strike, war, quarantine, force majeure or other causes beyond our control. All such losses or expenses will have to be borne by the passenger as tour rates provide arrangements only for the time stated. We reserve the right to make such alterations to this published itinerary as may be deemed necessary. The right is reserved to cancel any program prior to departure in which case the entire payment will be refunded without further obligation on our part. The right is also reserved to decline to accept or retain any person as a member of the program. No refund will be made for an unused portion of any tour unless arrangements are made in sufficient time to avoid penalties. Baggage is carried at the owner’s risk entirely. The airlines concerned are not to be held responsible for any act, omission or event during the time that passengers are not onboard their plane or conveyance. Neither the Alumni Association, Stanford University nor our operators accept liability for any carrier’s cancellation penalty incurred by the purchase of a nonrefundable ticket in connection with the tour. Program price is based on rates in effect in September 2010 and is subject to change without notice to reflect fluctuations in exchange rates, tariffs or fuel charges. As a condition of participation, all confirmed participants are required to sign a Release of Liability.

California Seller of Travel Program Registration #2048 523-50
Faculty Leader

With a lifelong avocation of marine biology, JOEL SIMON, BA ’74, BS ’75, MS ’77, has led more than 50 Stanford programs, assisting hundreds of travelers in their snorkeling and photographic endeavors. In 1980 Joel began developing aquatic and snorkeling activities for Stanford Travel/Study, lecturing on marine biology and photography and producing trip documentaries. He has taught several college-accredited courses in marine biology in the U.S. Virgin Islands and is a licensed SCUBA instructor and an accomplished photographer whose work has been featured in numerous photography and travel publications, including STANFORD Magazine. Joel has been a freelance travel writer and photographer since the early 1980s and has worked in the travel industry in multi-faceted capacities that include itinerary design and tour management. He has traveled to over 100 countries and has published travel articles on many of them.

“What makes Fiji such an ideal snorkeling destination,” explains Simon, “is that Fiji is one of the most accessible South Pacific destinations. Besides its remarkable reef, Fiji fits the image of ‘tropical paradise’ that many of us share: palm-studded white sand beaches, clear water and one of the world’s most friendly indigenous cultures.”

JOHN GOLDMAN, MBA ’75, ULTIMATE SEYCHELLES EXPEDITION, 2008

“Joel got my juices flowing about photography – he inspired me to get into it. What a wonderful person!”

JOHN GOLDMAN, MBA ’75, ULTIMATE SEYCHELLES EXPEDITION, 2008

Reservation Form Fiji Snorkeling Expedition

SIGN UP ONLINE!

NAME      AGE    STANFORD CLASS
NAME AGE    STANFORD CLASS

ADDRESS

CITY / STATE / ZIP

PHONE

EMAIL ADDRESS

I/We have read the Terms and Conditions for the program and agree to them.

SIGNATURE

Here is my deposit of $________ ($1,000 per person) for _____ space(s).

☑ Enclosed is my check (payable to Stanford Alumni Association) OR

☑ Charge my deposit to my:

☐ Visa  ☐ MasterCard  ☐ American Express

CARD #

EXPIRATION DATE

CARDHOLDER SIGNATURE DATE

Mail completed form to address on mail panel or fax to (650) 725-8675 or place your deposit online at www.stanfordalumni.org/trip?fiji2011. Please submit your reservation only once to avoid multiple charges to your account.
“Although we had a great range of ages and backgrounds, we were united by a delight in and reverence for the reef and its inhabitants.”

CARA JONASSEN BOWERS, ’76, MBA ’80
BONAIRE SNORKELING ADVENTURE, 2008