



GAP SEMESTER



**pacific
discovery**
inspiring educational adventures

Polynesian Journey Gap Semester Program

HAWAII, FIJI & NEW ZEALAND

www.pacificdiscovery.org

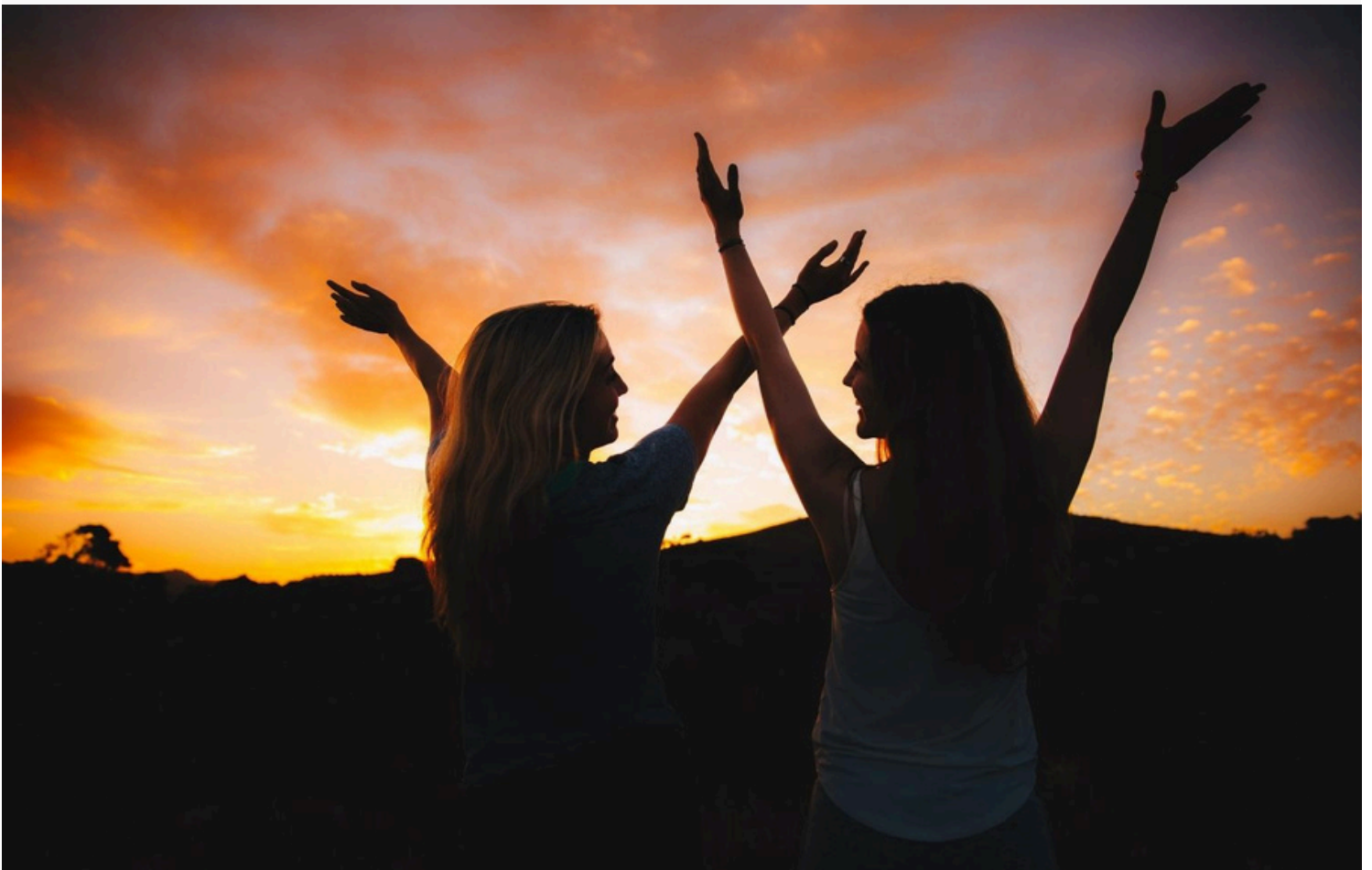
Overview

Join us on an epic journey through Hawaii, Fiji and New Zealand, recreating the path our Polynesian ancestors traveled in the South Pacific!

The true story of how the Polynesians spread across the South Pacific is still a bit of a mystery—but one thing's for sure: they were total legends. These expert navigators, originally of Asian descent, didn't just drift across the ocean by accident. They set out intentionally with canoes full of plants, animals, and enough people to start entire new societies. Over 800 years, they explored and settled every single habitable island across the Pacific—yes, including Fiji, Hawaii, and finally, the stunning shores of New Zealand.

Now it's your turn to retrace their footsteps (minus the ancient canoe). This journey will take you through the heart of Polynesia—learning about the Aloha spirit in Hawaii, the island vibes of Fiji, and the proud Māori culture of New Zealand.

Each day will be packed with purpose and adventure: one moment you'll be volunteering with local communities or taking part in a cultural workshop, and the next you'll be hiking, surfing, or chilling on some of the most beautiful beaches on Earth. Expect to dive into local traditions, meet amazing people, and soak up all the natural beauty this region has to offer. This isn't just a trip—it's a full-on cultural immersion, outdoor adventure, and tropical escape all rolled into one.





Safety

With our 20 years of operation and more than 100,000 student days in the field, we have an excellent safety record.

We even got voted as one of the Top Gap Year Providers for Safety by students on Go Overseas! Safety is something we pride ourselves on at Pacific Discovery, so it feels amazing to be recognized for the efforts we go through.



Accreditations

We have had our safety management systems assessed and accredited by the Gap Year Association (USA), Year Out Group (UK), and OutdoorsMark (New Zealand). Assessors have commented that our systems are among the best they have observed.



Who We Are

We are an accredited gap year provider that offers experiential gap semester and summer programs to some of the most amazing places on earth. Our programs are deliberate overland journeys, blending authentic immersion in diverse cultures, meaningful service-learning projects, rewarding adventures, wilderness exploration, and personal development.



Our Programs

Our programs are more than simply a travel, time-out or study abroad experience. Each is instead an overland journey of discovery, where students are immersed in a facilitated learning environment, designed to maximize the educational and life-skills potential.



Our Philosophy

We want to make the world a better place by providing extraordinary learning adventures that assist students in gaining the skills, confidence and insight to realize their potential in an increasingly global society; developing empathy for other cultures; furthering understanding of international issues; and heightening appreciation for the earth's wilderness and diversity.

Core Educational Components

Our programs are as much a journey of personal development as they are a physical journey, and participants are supported in reflecting together and thinking about their values, goals and what they wish to gain from the program experience.

PRE-PROGRAM

Prior to program start, participants are asked to create some goals for the program – this is personal and unique to each individual group member. Participants are given a suggested outline of skills and competencies that they can choose to focus upon.

DURING PROGRAM

At program orientation, goals participants have identified are discussed in a meeting with the program leaders. Throughout the program, ideas, tools and strategies are discussed that can be useful to help participants achieve their goals both on the program and for the rest of their lives. Participants are encouraged to journal during the program to assist them in clarifying their thoughts and define what they are learning.

TRANSFER AND FOLLOW UP

At the conclusion of the program, participants give a presentation to their group and leaders, summarizing how they've been challenged, what they've learned, how they've grown and how they intend to apply what they've learned to their lives after the program.

Towards the end of the program participants are also asked to write a letter to themselves imagining where they want to be in 6 months' time and identifying behaviors, habits and changes they wish to put in place. These letters are sent to them 6 months after program conclusion, helping reinforce the learning that has occurred.



Program Design

Each of our programs incorporate the following six core program components. These six interdependent components, provide immense opportunity for students to learn about themselves, to push their boundaries, question their assumptions, to stimulate problem solving and inquiry skills.



EDUCATIONAL FOCUS

Our programs are experiential education programs, meaning that learning is hands-on and tangible. For example, students will learn about a country's history and culture by immersing themselves in it, meeting local people and hearing life stories.



ETHICAL TRAVEL & SUSTAINABILITY

Students show respect for local customs, develop meaningful cross-cultural relationships, learn minimum-impact grassroots travel techniques and come to understand social and ecological issues on a deeper level.



OUTDOOR EXPLORATION

Immersion in the wilderness is an opportunity for students to become grounded, teaches appreciation for wild places and provides us the opportunity to explore local environmental issues and relate these issues to global environmental themes



SERVICE LEARNING

Volunteer elements built into our programs allow students to really immerse themselves in a place and share an experience with local people, bridging the gap that often exists between visitor and host.



CULTURAL IMMERSION

We immerse students in the local culture, through homestays, volunteer projects and language study. Students learn empathy for other cultures and build bridges of shared understanding.



PERSONAL & LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

Throughout the program, students are given leadership opportunities from facilitating reflection to coordinating the daily schedule.



Sample Itinerary

***This is a guide to what you can expect to do on program.
The order in which the activities occur might vary***

TO HAWAII

WEEK 1 | ORIENTATION, VOLCANOES AND BLACK SAND

Aloha! After arriving in Hilo, you'll meet your program instructors and head to the quiet, scenic town of Pahala, nestled in the Ka'ū district. Here, we'll kick off the week with a full orientation and begin immersing ourselves in Native Hawaiian culture. From crafting traditional leis using local flora to learning key phrases in the Hawaiian language, you'll begin to understand the deep connections between people, history, and land on this island.

Pahala is known for its stunning black sand beaches, rich rainforests, and peaceful energy—thanks to warm days and misty nights that keep everything lush and green.

One of the most memorable experiences will be participating in a traditional Imu feast, where food is slow-cooked in an underground oven. You'll help prepare the pit, set the hot stones, and wrap the food in taro leaves. Together with local hosts, you'll learn how the process brings people together, not just to eat, but to share stories and honor tradition.

We'll also spend time exploring **Volcanoes National Park**, one of the most unique natural landscapes in the world. Hiking through volcanic terrain, lava tubes, and steam vents offers a powerful reminder of the island's constantly evolving environment.

Throughout the week, you'll gain insight into the values of Native Hawaiian communities and their deep respect for the 'āina (land), which provides the food they eat, the water they drink, and the energy they harness. To end the week on a high note, we'll visit one of only **four green sand beaches** on Earth—an unforgettable sight and the perfect way to reflect on everything you've learned and experienced.

WEEK 2 | SERVICE, SCENERY & ISLAND LIFE

Our second week on the Big Island starts off strong with three immersive days working on the **Ulu Mau Puanui Service Project** in the uplands of Kohala. This hands-on project brings us into the heart of ancient Hawaiian agricultural practices, where we'll help restore traditional farming systems and gain a real connection to the land and culture. It's hard work, but incredibly rewarding—and unlike anything you'll experience back home.

After wrapping up our time in Kohala, we'll head down the coast with a **stop in Kona**, where you'll have time to explore the town or opt in for the unforgettable **Captain Cook Monument** hike and snorkeling in some of the clearest waters you've ever seen.

We'll continue to **Waipi'o Valley**, one of the most beautiful and culturally significant places on the island. With towering cliffs and sweeping views, it's a place that sticks with you.

Then it's on to the east side of the island and the laid-back town of **Hilo**, where the vibe shifts completely. Think rainforests, waterfalls, black sand beaches, and hidden caves. With **Traven** leading a travel orientation, we'll settle into our surroundings and prepare for the next phase of the journey. There'll be plenty of time to explore, discover, and experience the unique energy of Hilo for yourself.

We'll close out the week with a few muddy, hands-on days supporting a local **fishpond restoration project**. Working alongside conservationists, we'll learn how traditional Hawaiian aquaculture supported entire communities and how those systems are being revived today. You'll gain new insight into the ocean ecosystems here—and likely get a little wet along the way.

From rugged coastlines to jungle landscapes, this week captures the Big Island at its most wild and wonderful.

WEEK 3 | WAVE RIDING & ISLAND LIVING ON O'AHU

Next up: the island of O'ahu—where laid-back surf culture meets epic landscapes and vibrant local life. After flying into Honolulu, we'll dive straight into the rhythm of the island.

Our mornings kick off with **surf lessons from Hi Surf School**, where you'll learn from local instructors right on the famous shores of Waikiki. Whether you're a total beginner or ready to level up your skills, riding waves in this legendary surf spot is as fun as it gets.

Afternoons are all about **exploring O'ahu**. From beaches and food spots to cultural gems and scenic lookouts, there's always something new to discover. We'll balance adventure and downtime, giving you a true taste of island life.

Midweek, we'll take a break from the surf and head inland to visit **Sun Farm**, a local sustainability-focused farm where we'll learn about growing food in harmony with the land. It's hands-on, eye-opening, and a cool way to see another side of the island.

To wrap up the week, we'll **climb Koko Crater** just in time for sunset. With its panoramic views and golden light, this hike is a total highlight and a great way to cap off our time on O'ahu—at least for now

WEEK 4 | SERVING LAND & SEA BEFORE FIJI

We're spending this week deepening our connection to Hawai'i—both through meaningful service and epic ocean time. First up: **two days with Papahānaumokuākea**, working alongside local stewards to restore native plants and protect sacred land. It's hands-on, impactful work that shows us just how important community and culture are to the islands.

Next, we'll roll up our sleeves again for a morning at the **Hawai'i Food Bank**, helping to sort and pack food for families in need. It's a powerful way to contribute and see how local communities support one another.

Then it's time to get back on the water with an unforgettable **kayaking trip**—crystal-clear waves, warm sun, and the freedom of paddling your way through paradise.

To wrap up our time in Hawai'i, we'll **snorkel Hanauma Bay**, one of the most iconic spots on O'ahu. With its vibrant coral reefs and calm waters, it's the perfect place to reflect on everything we've experienced so far.

Then—it's wheels up as we **head to Fiji**, ready for the next chapter of this once-in-a-lifetime adventure.

TO FIJI

WEEK 5 | CULTURE AND CONSERVATION

Your journey takes an exciting new turn as we land in **Fiji**, diving straight into the laid-back island lifestyle. After a fun and interactive **orientation**, we'll get our hands dirty with a **sand dunes conservation project**, helping to protect one of Fiji's most important and fragile coastal ecosystems. It's a rewarding way to kick off our time here, connecting sustainability with real-world impact.

After some **R&R in Nadi**, exploring local markets (hello, sarong shopping!) and soaking in tropical vibes, we head off for an unforgettable **village stay**. Over a few immersive days, you'll take part in a **traditional Kava ceremony**, **try your hand at craft making**, and even join locals on a **fishing trip**, learning how Fijian traditions have been passed down through generations. It's full cultural immersion—expect music, laughter, and deep connections.

To round out the week, we'll switch gears and dive into the adventure side of Fiji with river tubing through lush jungle landscapes and a high-energy visit to **Kila World**, an eco-adventure park that's all about ropes, zip lines, and outdoor challenges.

From meaningful service to authentic village life and epic outdoor fun, Fiji's got it all—and we're just getting started.

WEEK 6 | MUD POOLS AND MARINE MAGIC

We'll kick off the week with a visit to the soothing mud pools—a perfect way to relax and recharge before heading out to Ratu Kini, a chill island paradise that will be our base for a couple of days.



Here, get ready for two unforgettable days of snorkeling in some of the clearest, most vibrant waters you'll ever experience. Dive into a kaleidoscope of colorful coral reefs, swim alongside graceful sea turtles, and explore the dazzling underwater world that makes Fiji a true marine wonderland. Every moment beneath the surface will leave you amazed and connected to this incredible ocean life.

After soaking up the sun and sea, we'll head back to the mainland for our Fiji wrap session—a chance to reflect on the journey so far, from immersive village stays and meaningful conservation projects to beach vibes and rich cultural experiences.

With unforgettable memories in hand and bags packed, we'll close this chapter by traveling to New Zealand, ready for the next thrilling adventure.

TO NEW ZEALAND

WEEK 7 | FROM CITY PEAKS TO ANCIENT MĀORI TRAILS

Welcome to New Zealand—the land of stunning landscapes, rich Māori culture, and a completely different vibe from the tropical Pacific islands you've just explored. Here, the air is crisper, the forests denser, and the history deeply rooted in indigenous traditions that have shaped the nation.

We kick off this week with some urban adventure in Auckland, exploring the vibrant city and climbing Mt. Eden for epic views. From there, we travel north to Paihia, nestled in the jaw-droppingly beautiful Bay of Islands. This island paradise offers golden sandy beaches and charming small towns to discover. We'll hike—and maybe even bike—around the stunning Bay of Islands, taking in the incredible scenery and fresh ocean air.

A highlight here is visiting the Waitangi Treaty Grounds—the birthplace of New Zealand—where we'll dive into the country's history, experience powerful Māori cultural performances in the meeting house, and see the world's largest waka (canoe). Strolling through native gardens with panoramic views of Paihia and its islands, you'll gain a deep appreciation for New Zealand's unique culture and natural beauty.



WEEK 8 | RAFT, RIDE, AND RESTORE!

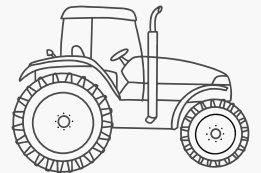
In New Zealand, conservation isn't just a project—it's in everyone's blood. You'll quickly get to know the core conservation principles that Kiwis live by. It might sound tough, but much of the work focuses on eradicating invasive mammals—because originally, New Zealand had almost no mammals at all! The land here is incredibly pristine, and the goal is to restore it to that natural, untouched state.

This week, you'll spend three days working with the Department of Conservation (DOC) at Tawharanui Regional Park, a stunning blend of white sandy beaches, rolling pastures, native coastal forest, and wetlands. You'll team up with park rangers and local volunteers to protect this amazing ecosystem, then camp under the stars surrounded by nature.

But it's not all work—you'll dive into adrenaline-pumping adventures, too! Take on the wild Kaituna River for epic white-water rafting, then shred the famous Redwoods mountain biking trails in Rotorua through towering forests and jaw-dropping scenery. You'll also explore the surreal Waimangu Volcanic Valley and have time to swim and surf at Tawharanui's incredible beaches. Keep your eyes peeled—you might even spot the elusive Kiwi bird! This week perfectly blends hands-on conservation with some of the best outdoor thrills New Zealand has to offer. You'll stay in a traditional **marae**—a sacred Maori meeting place that serves as a community hub for gatherings, ceremonies, and cultural exchange. Living here means immersing yourself fully in Maori culture, connecting with locals, and experiencing their rich traditions firsthand.



WEEK 9 | FARM, LEAD AND EXPLORE



Get ready for a week that's all about hands-on learning and leadership! We'll kick things off at Awhi Sustainable Eco Farm, where you'll dive into real eco-friendly farming—think planting, harvesting, and getting your hands dirty while learning how to grow food that's good for the planet. The farm's vibrant community and fresh air make every day feel like an adventure.

The second half of the week puts you in the driver's seat with a student-led section that's often the highlight of the trip. You and your crew get to plan and lead your own activities, turning your ideas into reality while exploring all that New Zealand has to offer. Whether you're cooking up a storm for the group, organizing the perfect day out hiking, biking, or sightseeing, or planning visits to local hotspots and hidden gems, there's tons to choose from. You could arrange cultural experiences, chill beach days, or even adrenaline-packed adventures—the choice is yours! It's a fun, hands-on way to bring out your skills, bond with the crew, and make this part of the journey totally unique and unforgettable.

WEEK 10 | WELLINGTON WONDERS & FAREWELL

We then head to Wellington, New Zealand's compact capital, a vibrant city known for its awesome shopping, museums, and restaurants—definitely worth the visit! Here, we dive into Maori culture with an immersive experience at the National Museum, Te Papa, before riding the iconic cable car up to Zealandia, a one-of-a-kind urban wildlife sanctuary dedicated to restoring native forest and wildlife across 225 hectares. We'll also take a day trip to Matiu/Somes Island, exploring its scenic loop track hike and soaking in the stunning natural beauty.

This incredible trip finishes as you travel the route like the traditional Maori people did—following their footsteps but making the journey uniquely your own. As this chapter closes, it's time to reflect on the incredible journey so far—stepping back from everyday life, discovering ourselves, and appreciating the rich culture and breathtaking environment around us. With heavy hearts, we say 'Haere rā' goodbye to New Zealand and farewell to the friends we've made along the way.



**Each week there will be some designated free time so that you can catch up on email, do laundry, rest, and explore independently with others in the group.*

***Pacific Discovery reserves the right to alter and/or change the order of the itinerary, the focus of the projects, or the activities themselves due to dates, availability, and safety precautions.*

Program Highlights

- **Snorkel in the pristine waters of Fiji** — Epic underwater adventure in crystal-clear coral reefs.
- **Raft the world's highest commercially rafted waterfall on the Kaituna River** — Adrenaline-pumping white-water thrill.
- **Mountain bike in Rotorua, New Zealand's mountain biking mecca** — Intense trails through stunning forests.
- **Explore Volcano National Park and Green Sand Beach in Hawaii** — Surreal volcanic landscapes and unique beach vibes.
- **Prepare a Hawaiian Imu feast where we take the food from ground to table** — Hands-on, authentic cultural experience with tasty rewards.
- **Roll up your sleeves at a permaculture farm practicing local farming techniques in Hawaii** — Get down and dirty with sustainable farming in a tropical setting.
- **Compare volunteer conservation projects across Hawaii, New Zealand, and Fiji** — Experience what it's like to protect nature in three totally different environments, from tropical beaches to native forests, learning new skills and making a real impact everywhere you go.
- **Explore and travel the route of the indigenous Maori people** — Trace the footsteps of New Zealand's first people while soaking up their rich history and culture.
- **Compare indigenous history and culture in Hawaii, Fiji, and New Zealand** — Discover what makes each culture unique, from Hawaiian chants and Fijian kava ceremonies to Maori legends and traditions.
- **Gain insight into Maori culture through an intimate educational experience** — Dive deeper into New Zealand's indigenous heritage.
- **Learn about Hawaiian heritage and history through music and storytelling** — Connect with culture through song and stories.



COUNTRY INFORMATION

The Hawaiian Culture; is a rich and ancient blend of ethnic influences and traditions. From them, you will learn the importance tied to many of their traditions, from Hula dancing and lei-making, to outrigger canoe paddling and playing the ukulele

The Fijian Culture; from the food, festivals, rituals, and arts, Fijian culture is a fusion of all cultures introduced to the small chain of islands, influenced by its Pacific neighbors to India, China, and Europe. The most emphasis is placed on respect of the family unit, the extended village, and the vanua (land).

The Maori Culture; The Maori are New Zealand's indigenous people. Their history, traditions, and legends are central to New Zealand's identity. You will have the chance to engage and immerse with those who still very much practice and live the Maori ethos daily. From them, you will learn the importance tied to many of their traditions, from tattooing and carving, to the kapa haka and the hangi feast.



CLIMATE

Hawaii: Feb - April temperature - Average min/max 70/83°F Sep - Nov temperature - Average min/max 73/88°F

Fiji: Feb - April temperature - Average min/max 73/90°F Sep - Nov temperature - Average min/max 70/82°F

New Zealand: Feb - April temperature - Average min/max 77/81°F Sep - Nov temperature - Average min/max 40/77°F



MEALS

Meals are fresh, tasty, healthy and varied. Special dietary requirements and vegetarians are catered for. Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner are included in the program cost. Food preparation responsibilities are shared by all students. It's fun, social and often a highlight.

Regular food to expect:

- Breakfast: cereals, porridge (oatmeal), toast, spreads, eggs, yogurt, fruit, tea and coffee
- Lunch: wraps, sandwiches, salads, dinner leftovers, fruit, mac and cheese, rice and protein or veg
- Dinner: BBQ meat, vegetables and salads, potato salad, pasta, chili, wraps, fish and chips, burgers, hot dogs, veggie burgers,, roasted potatoes, corn and bean salad, rice, curry, lots of fresh seafood in Fiji!!



TRANSPORT

We will be traveling in our own group van with a luggage trailer for the duration of this program.

SUITABILITY

Gap programs are intended for students aged 17 - 22. This program is suitable for anyone of average fitness with an enthusiasm for conservation and new experiences. There is always a volunteering component in our programs, so we can give back to the places that give so much to us. You need to be prepared for some physical work during this volunteering portion of the program; i.e. trail building, tree planting or painting. You don't need to have had previous experience with travel or any of the activities offered.

ATTITUDE

The program is a shared group experience. We would like you to join the program with an open mind and a willingness to work together with your group mates to make the program an amazing experience. The programs focus on group cohesion. We appreciate you for being open to learning and challenging your ideas and assumptions in order to get the most from this summer abroad experience.

GROUP SIZE

Group sizes vary per program and are generally 12-14 students, accompanied by two experienced and qualified Pacific Discovery program instructors. Local guides assist with interpretation of some historical sites, cultural experiences, and activities.

PROGRAM LEADERSHIP

We have selected a dynamic team of inspiring, supportive, resourceful, and highly experienced instructors to lead our programs. Our program instructors are committed to putting your welfare and safety first. They are people in whom you can trust and confide, who remain objective whatever the circumstances, and who take a genuine interest in your well-being. They implicitly understand the importance of balancing the needs of individuals with group objectives, facilitating a high level of group cohesion, inspiring a genuine appreciation for the areas visited and an awareness of minimum impact travel ethics. All of our instructors have Wilderness First Responder (WFR) first aid certification, and extensive group leadership and risk assessment/management training.

ACCOMMODATION

Our accommodation will be a mixture of comfortable and clean hostels, lodges and campsites. Accommodation is diverse, comfortable and carefully chosen to fit our needs and varies per program.



FREE TIME

Programs are heavily scheduled so that we are always on the move and having lots of structured fun; but we highly value rest and reflection. There will be some designated free time in a town or city each week so that you can catch up on email and laundry and rest.



HEALTH

One component of all of our programs is outdoor adventures like hiking, biking and kayaking, so while you don't need to have done any of these before, you will need to be prepared and have the fitness level to give them a go. If you have any queries regarding health recommendations for travel, please contact your doctor, or a travel doctor, to discuss this. For further information refer to: [http:// wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/](http://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/) We also recommend you be up to date on specific vaccinations that are required to travel in this region.

We recommend that you carry a personal first-aid kit as well as any personal medication. Please be aware that for legal reasons, our program instructors are prohibited from administering any type of drug. Please ensure that you are adequately prepared.



SPENDING MONEY

Spending money usually goes towards drinks and snacks, personal shopping, laundry, email, entertainment, and optional activities. We recommend you budget approximately \$100 a week for this, but this varies per student and per program. The amount of spending money you bring depends on your budget and shopping habits. You need to bring this money yourself.

Optional activities are available on many programs that can add to this cost, such as skydiving, bungee jumping, extra surfing lessons, etc.



KEEPING IN TOUCH

Our students value the opportunity to wind down, immerse in their surroundings and talk to each other. We encourage students to self manage their phone use, and we strongly encourage flight mode. This allows students to still take photos and send updates to family when in wifi, but allows them to be fully connected to the locals, service work and community when they're out and about. You are able to purchase a SIM or use international roaming plans if you wish. The easiest option is to use the WIFI available at places we stay in main cities and towns. Family and friends will also be able to keep in touch and follow your adventures through Pacific Discovery's social media pages, and through an online Facebook album for your group (which your instructors will upload photos to each week).



PASSPORTS AND VISAS

Travel abroad requires a passport. If you don't have one, you need to apply for one as soon as you apply for this program.

US Government Passport website: <http://travel.state.gov/passport/>

If you already have a passport, it must be valid for more than 6 months after program end, otherwise you need to get a new one issued before joining the program. Pacific Discovery will contact you regarding visa requirements and arrangements after you apply for the program.



TRAVEL INSURANCE

Pacific Discovery requires all students to purchase a comprehensive travel insurance policy for the duration of the program. Travel insurance provides cover in the event of medical expenses due to illness, injury, and emergency medical evacuation. Travel insurance may also include cover for loss of baggage or personal effects, and trip cancellation or trip curtailment.

To arrange your policy, [click here to go to our website](#).



COVID-19

COVID-19 has impacted all of our lives greatly, and Pacific Discovery has developed rigorous policies for safety based on professional advice and endorsement. The health of our students is of the utmost importance at all times. We are working closely and regularly with health professionals on our COVID-19 policy, as the situation continues to develop.

[Read our full COVID-19 policy here.](#)



PEACE OF MIND

Pacific Discovery is an educational travel organization accredited with American Gap Association (USA). Since its inception in 2001, Pacific Discovery has taken several thousand students, graduates, faculty, family and special interest groups, on experiential travel and volunteer programs, utilizing a staff of experienced and qualified program instructors. We have an exemplary safety record, comprehensive Risk Management Systems and a database of alumni, parents, advisors and faculty, who are happy to be contacted for feedback. The program carries public liability insurance, and student funds are held securely until disbursement.

Program Tuition & Costs

A \$500 application fee is due when you apply. Upon acceptance onto program, a deposit is due within 14 days. Balance of program cost to be paid 60 days prior to departure.

Please find the up to date program tuition cost on [our website](#).

Included in Program Tuition

- All in-country travel and transport
- All accommodation
- All meals
- All activities, excursions, entry fees and adventure travel as described in the itinerary
- Informal lectures from resident experts on conservation and sustainability, history, and culture.
- Experienced program Instructors and local guides.

Not Included in Program Tuition

- Travel (international flights) between your home and the program
- Internal flights
- Visas
- Spending money (we suggest allowing \$15 per day for drinks, snacks and personal expenses)
- Travel insurance
- Optional academic credit
- Optional activity costs ie skydiving, bungee jumping, and additional surf lessons.

INTERNATIONAL FLIGHTS

Students should not book their travel until after they have received the flight confirmation email from Pacific Discovery with the program flight requirements and travel agent details. This is sent out 2-3 months ahead of program departure. This information is also made available in the student portal login section of our website.

Our preferred groups travel agent, [The Travellist Co.](#), can assist you to arrange international flights from your nearest regional airport, and return home. We prefer you to arrange your flights through our group travel agent to simplify arrival logistics, and so that you are traveling to and from the program with others in your group.





College Credit

Our programs are a structured syllabus with clear learning outcomes that offer true personal growth and global awareness. As a reputable gap year provider since 2001, we have developed strong industry connections, including two educational institutions which we offer college credits through for our programs.

Pacific Discovery partners with Seattle Central College to offer college credit, a recognized educational provider who offers exceptional study options for students. We have been running college credit options for students for several years now with this provider, and as long as requirements are completed, the system has been an excellent option for students in regard to continuation of study, deferment and easy transfer to other institutions.

If you're keen to explore this option further, please reach out to us using the contact details provided at the end of this catalogue. We'd love to help you identify what options are available to you and support you throughout the process.

Scholarships & Financial Aid

We want to make our programs as accessible as possible. Although we charge the minimum we can for our programs, we recognize that they can still be difficult to fund for many families. Please note that these scholarships go directly towards the tuition costs for the program and do not include assistance towards the cost of international flights. We expect scholarship recipients to demonstrate their commitment to this opportunity by fundraising for their international flights, personal spending, and the balance of tuition.

Our students supplement the program costs in a variety of ways. We encourage you to get creative! Create a Kickstarter, find a part-time job, fundraise. Think big and small. Each dollar adds up to one amazing adventure abroad.

- Exploration Scholarship
- Diverse Voices Scholarship
- Financial Need Scholarship
- Gap Year Ambassador Fellowship

To apply, please go to pacificdiscovery.org/need-to-know/scholarships-financial-aid



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inspiring educational adventures



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www.pacificdiscovery.org