



Oxley College Year 9 Fiji OSSO

29 September - 9 October 2019

The Oxley College Year 9s who visit Fiji this year will spend ten days on the islands. At first, they will base themselves in a hotel in the Viti Levu town of **Tavua**, quite close to **the village school at Korovu** where they will be involved in community activities. Here they will be involved for five days assisting at the pre-school in **Korovu Village**: and they will have an opportunity to interact with the village community. Afterwards, the Fiji OSSO experience takes the students by ferry to an outlying island in the **Yasawas** group, NW of Viti Levu, the little island of **Wayasewa** (Wayalailai). They will stay in community-run accommodation on the island for the next three days and will be exposed to typical Fijian village life - as well as have all the beach activities for which Fiji is well known.



1 - Your destination

Your Itinerary



The Itinerary Outline

29 September Depart Oxley for Sydney Airport
Fly Fiji Airways to Nadi
Transfer by coach to Tavua and **Gold Town Hotel**

30 Sep – 4 Oct Work with the Korovu community and the school

5 October Coach to Port Denerau
Catch a ferry from Port Denerau Marina to Wayasewa Island and **Naqalia Lodge**

5-7 October Exposure to the local community while relaxing at Naqalia Lodge on Wayasewa Island

8 October Catch ferry back to Port Denerau.
Stay overnight at **Smugglers Cove Beach Resort**

9 October Coach to Nadi airport
Fly back to Sydney and return to Bowral



4 - The Korovu kids



Oxley's relationship with Korovu School



5 - Mrs Akisi Philipson visits Oxley and the students and staff who have helped at her school in Korovu

The Oxley College link with the school in Korovu village has been ongoing for many years. In 1999 John Philipson was enrolled at Oxley and went on to become the 2004 Head Boy. The Philipson family lived in Mittagong but John's mother, Akisi Philipson, was the chief's daughter from the village of Korovu in Fiji.

Mrs Philipson was very active in supporting Oxley and was involved in many ways. However, one thing she became aware of was how the Governors, the Headmaster, the staff and parents of Oxley were building something important and special for the students. She knew that the village of her youth had no school and decided to do something about this. She followed Oxley's example by starting small and adding on something new each year.

Unlike Oxley, Akisi Philipson did not have any government support to create her school. She began on her own, supported by many Oxley families, paying for the school building and the salary of the

teacher. Many Oxley families contributed to her funds and some have travelled to the village in the past during their holidays to help her with her project.

Mrs Philipson, whose brother is now the village chief, has subsequently received some support from the Fijian Education Department but she would very much like to grow the school and add more year groups. Support is always welcome and it is very important and appreciated that Oxley keeps assisting her noble project for as long as it can.

The 2019 student group will be the fourth Oxley Year 9 OSSO to visit Fiji and Korovu. In the past they have always been made most welcome.

Day 1 Sunday 29 September



Today you will move from Oxley with your teachers to **Sydney International Airport**

You will fly Fiji Airways departing at 1300.

On arrival in **Nadi**, you will be met by a ground operator and transferred by coach to the town of **Tavua** and the **Gold Town Hotel**.

Tavua, Fiji



Tavua Town & Korovu Village On the main island of Viti Levu you will be based in the Gold Town Hotel in Tavua. Tavua is a town that is 91 kilometres from Nadi, in an area that is well-known for its scenery. It is a small, quiet agricultural town with lots of temples, churches and mosques. There are plenty of old houses and an air of faded glory – the town's fortunes have risen and fallen with the Emperor Gold Mining Company which mined here from the 1930s until 2006 when the mine was closed.

The Gold Town Tavua Hotel is the only hotel located in downtown Tavua. It offers comfortable, clean accommodation and a swimming pool.

Korovu village is a short bus drive from Tavua



The Gold Town Hotel, Tavua





Days 2-6 Monday-Friday 30 September- 4 October



After breakfast in the hotel you will be taken each day by local bus to Korovu Villlage Your day will be spent working with the Korovu Village community and in the school. The hotel will provide you with a packed lunch At the end of the day you will be returned by bus to Tavua.









Days 7-9 Saturday-Monday 5-7 October

After breakfast, you will transfer to the nearby **Port Denerau** marina where you will catch the Yasawa Islands inter-island ferry.

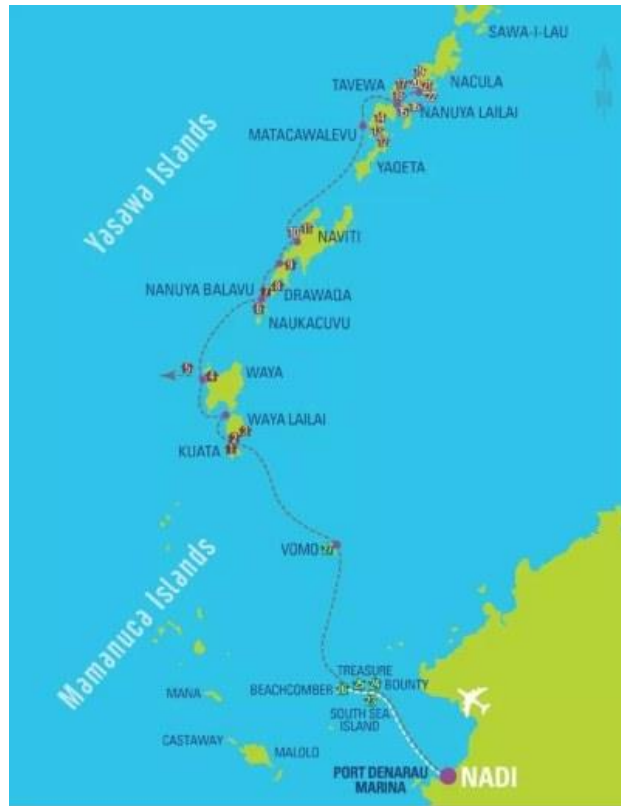




6 - Island Ferry



You will be dropped off at **Wayasewa Island** where you will stay at **Naqalia Lodge** for the next three days.



Naqalia Lodge



The Lodge was built by the local Tagova Clan using resident artisans. Located on the little island of Wayasewa (Wayalailai), it is more a home stay than a resort as it is a traditional community-owned facility. The bures and dorms face the water from behind tropical gardens and there is incredible scenery – with a magnificent volcanic backdrop - and pristine palm-fringed beaches.

While on the island students will get the opportunity to immerse themselves in Melanesian culture and tradition and become friends with the locals (and even learn to speak a little Fijian). You will be able to join the clan singing Fijian songs and sharing stories about your/their lives. You can even try ‘Fiji Masterchef’ and take a cooking lesson, plant a cassava or banana tree and learn about its importance and use to Fijians. Or you can be taught how to catch an octopus or weave mats.

Meals at Naqalia Lodge include wonderful seafood and fish dishes cooked on an authentic open wood. Meals are eaten as a family, so don’t be late!

It is possible to snorkel in the turquoise water, where the pristine reef and the vibrant marine life await you. For the more adventurous there are natural forests for hiking, the ocean for free diving, cave diving or kayaking and plenty of other activities.

Optional activities include guided walks, village visits, hand line fishing trips/crabbing trips, outer reef snorkelling/shark viewing trip, guided kayaking trip, snorkelling, Church on Sunday, traditional cooking lessons, visit old village sites and view old rock paintings





Day 10 Tuesday 8 October



After breakfast, you will catch the inter-island ferry back to Port Denerau.

A coach will then transfer you to the **Smugglers Cove Beach Resort** a few kms away.

In the afternoon you will probably get an opportunity to spend time on the beach

Smugglers Cove Beach Resort



The resort is about 15 minutes' drive from Nadi Airport, situated on the famous Wailoaloa Beach. It is centrally located on Nadi Bay close to the town and Port Denarau. There are stunning views across the bay to the Mamanuca and southern Yasawa Islands.

There is direct access to the beach as well as an outdoor swimming pool

You will staying overnight here so that you can easily catch your early morning flight from Nadi to Sydney



Day 11 Wednesday 9 October



An early start this morning to get you from Wailoaloa Beach to the airport to catch your Fiji Airways flight to Sydney

Return to Bowral – and home.



UNDERSTANDING THE FIJIAN TRIBE & CLAN SYSTEM



Fijian indigenous society is very communal, with great importance attached to the family unit, the village, and the vanua (land). A hierarchy of chiefs presides over villages, clans, and tribes. Chiefly positions are hereditary; a deceased chief is invariably followed by a kinsman or kinswoman, though not necessarily his own son or daughter.

All indigenous Fijians belong to a clan which is located in a village. Every clan in the village is represented by an elder, known as a mataqali (matangali). The mataqali appoint a Ratu (Chief) or Turaga-ni Koro (Headman) who represents them in all village matters and who goes to Regional meetings with the Provincial Chief.

There are fourteen provinces in Fiji.

Fijian villagers work together in the preparation of feasts and in the making of gifts for presentation on various occasions; they fish together, later dividing the catch; and they all help in communal activities such as the building of homes and maintenance of pathways and the village green. The great advantage of this system is an extended family unit that allows no-one to go hungry, uncared for or unloved. Ideally it is an all-encompassing security net that works very effectively not only as a caretaking system, but also by giving each person a sense of belonging and identity.

<http://fijiguide.com/page/cultural-roots>

The culture of Fiji is a tapestry of indigenous Fijian, Indian, European, Chinese, and other nationalities.