



Sample Itinerary for AUIP New Zealand Adventure Recreation and Tourism Program

Please note: This itinerary is a sample of potential program activities, based on previous years' programs. Deviations from this plan may be expected.

Day 1: Depart U.S. for New Zealand

Day 2: En route to New Zealand

(lose a day crossing the International Dateline)

Day 3: Rotorua

Fly into Auckland and travel by chartered coach toward one of New Zealand's adventure tourism hotspots – Rotorua. But even before we get there, we'll launch our program with a stop at Hobbiton, the rural set where parts of "The Lord of the Rings" and "The Hobbit" films were shot. By afternoon we are settling into our hostel in Rotorua where we'll have orientation and an introduction to the program modules. Our first day finishes with a Welcome Dinner.

Day 4: Rotorua

Today is a mix of in-country lectures from local experts and a chance to experience some of New Zealand's tourist attractions. You'll hear from a number of tourism managers as they discuss what it's like to operate a variety of facilities. You'll also have a guided tour of the Whakarewarewa geothermal area and Māori cultural village. Then we wrap up the day with a Māori cultural show and hangi dinner, giving us some insights into the culture of the indigenous people of New Zealand.

Day 5: Rotorua to Christchurch

This morning we fly to the South Island, where the rest of program will take place. After settling into the hostel, you'll continue our foundation lectures as local academics cover topics such as the role of tourism in recreational land use and the unique situation of marketing a destination after a natural disaster. Dinner tonight is a chance to make your own choice from the many nearby establishments.

Day 6: Christchurch

Today you'll get your hands dirty by assisting with a local grassroots organisation that has been instrumental in the restoration of some of the residential neighborhoods damaged by the 2011 Canterbury earthquakes. You'll also have time to discuss this service learning project and the role tourism plays in the recovery of the city.

Day 7: Christchurch

Today is a free day for your own explorations, or time to work on module assignments.

Day 8: Christchurch to Kaikoura

This morning we'll leave the city and travel north through farmland as we make our way up the east coast to the town of Kaikoura. Perched on the thin silver of land between the mountains and the Pacific Ocean, Kaikoura is famous for the abundant marine life that comes close to shore here. The Māori people, the original inhabitants of New Zealand, have a long history here and you'll spend the afternoon with them to learn about their history and their connection to the sea and the land. After a formal welcoming ceremony, we'll spend the night at the marae (Māori meeting house).

Day 9: Kaikoura

Your instruction in the Māori worldview continues today with lectures and an exploration of the rich coastline of the Kaikoura Peninsula. After hiking the coastal walkway, you're free to dine in one of the town's restaurants, many offering beautiful views of the coast.

Day 10: Kaikoura

Dolphins! Today we head to the ocean to spend some time with the many hundreds of dusky dolphins that live along the Kaikoura coast. Wearing warm wetsuits and accompanied by marine mammal guides, we will swim with these animals on their terms. Dusky dolphins are particularly gregarious and playful, and it's not unusual to have several dozen of them zipping around you in the water, eyeing you curiously as you do the same to them. It's an unforgettable experience to share some time with a wild dolphin in its natural habitat. Afterwards, you'll have lectures from tour operators who will share their experiences working in nature tourism.

Day 11: Kaikoura to Nelson

It's an easy travel day today as we leave the east coast and journey by coach to Nelson, the third largest city on the South Island. The road takes us through vineyards and native forests as we work our way westward. The afternoon is free for module work.

Day 12: Nelson to Motueka

This morning you'll have lectures on a variety of tourism topics from staff at the Nelson Marlborough Institute of Technology. Then it's on to the small provincial town of Motueka, the jumping off point for Abel Tasman National Park.

Day 13: Motueka

We'll take to the water today as we explore the coast of New Zealand's most popular national park. With our expert guides, we'll take to sea kayaks and paddle the clear blue waters along the stunning shores of the park. Past golden sand beaches and rocky headlands, the coast here is home to fur seals and a variety of sea birds. At our lunch stop, we'll leave the kayaks and hike back along the famous Abel Tasman Coast Track, which winds in and out of the forest and along those gorgeous beaches. It's a day for adventure and learning as you'll also hear a tourism operator's perspective of this special place.

Day 14: Motueka to St Arnaud

Nestled in a valley of the Southern Alps, St Arnaud is a great base for exploring native forests and witnessing some of the extensive conservation efforts for which New Zealand is

famous. We'll have a chance to hike through southern beech forests which are alive with native birds, thanks to the ecological restoration work undertaken by the Department of Conservation and an army of local volunteers.

Day 15: St Arnaud to Hokitika

Our travel today takes us down the rugged West Coast, the least-populated district in New Zealand. Tourism is crucial to the economy of this region and we'll visit one of the most popular destinations – the Pancake Rocks – on our way to the town of Hokitika. We'll also have a presentation exploring the role of tourism and governance in sustaining the economy of the region.

Day 16: Hokitika to Fox Glacier

This morning is at your leisure so you can work on your assignments, check out the shops, or stroll the wild beach along the city's waterfront. In the afternoon, we'll head further south to another adventure tourism hotspot - Fox Glacier.

Day 17: Fox Glacier

Fox Glacier is the name of a town and a river of ice, and it is the latter that we will explore today. Led by local glacier guides, we'll get outfitted for a hiking excursion on to the glacier as we learn of the impact of ice in this temperate rainforest. The wilderness crowds in close here, and we'll have excellent opportunities to appreciate the forests, mountains, rivers, and wildlife that draw visitors to this remote corner of New Zealand.

Day 18: Fox Glacier to Queenstown

We cross the Southern Alps today as we move from the West Coast to the central lakes district. The drive takes us over the Haast Pass and along scenic lakeshores before we reach our base for the next few days. En route, we'll stop at a local sheep farm for an insight into the New Zealand agriculture industry before we settle into our accommodations in the bustling heart of Queenstown.

Day 19: Queenstown

An early start today as our specialist hiking guides lead us into the mountains on the famous Routeburn Track. The "track" (Kiwi for trail) winds its way through dense forest, across crystal-clear rivers, and into a high valley with dramatic peaks soaring above. Along the way, the guides will tell you all about the landscape and the human and natural history of the region. A substantial lunch is included for what may be the most scenic picnic spot you've ever seen.

Day 20: Queenstown

After yesterday's group adventure, you now have a free day to choose your own activities. Relax at a cafe, catch up on your assignments, or take some time to explore the remarkable landscape of Queenstown – spectacular mountains, gorgeous lakefront, and whitewater rivers. There are ample attractions here for the sedate and active visitors alike.

Day 21: Queenstown



We'll delve further into New Zealand's capital of adventure tourism when we participate in the Ziptrek Ecotour and hear from the operator about how the business functions. In the afternoon, we'll get a broader, city-wide perspective of adventure tourism and its impact on Queenstown.

Day 22: Queenstown to Te Anau

We'll hear more from our informative guide this morning before continuing the journey further southward to the lakeside village of Te Anau. Nestled at the edge of New Zealand's largest national park, Te Anau will be our base for the next few days. This morning we'll pay a visit to the Department of Conservation's wildlife park for a chance to view some of New Zealand's rare wildlife, like the flightless takahe. Then we'll stop at the Fiordland National Park Visitor Centre for an overview of this wildest part of New Zealand.

Day 23: Milford Sound

The steeply verdant fiord of Milford Sound is our destination today. We'll explore the calm, scenic waters on a local tour boat and learn of some of the management issues affecting this, the most-visited site in New Zealand. In addition to cruising on this mountain-studded fiord, we'll also have a chance to explore some of the pristine native forests that make this wild corner of New Zealand world-famous.

Day 24: Te Anau to Dunedin

This morning we travel southeast to Dunedin, the only city in New Zealand that could be described as a 'college town.' Here we'll put the finishing touches on our preparation for our modules and the final exam.

Day 25: Dunedin

We've come to the end of a very enriching and exciting program traversing New Zealand and its varied geography and tourism locales. This morning we complete the final exam before an afternoon free for last-minute souvenir shopping. And tonight, we seal the program with a gala Farewell Dinner as we toast our new mates and reflect on experiences which will remain with us for years to come.

Day 26: Dunedin to U.S.

We depart for Dunedin International Airport, and then we're homeward-bound with the shared memories and new perspectives that can only be gained by studying abroad!