Sample Itinerary for

AUIP New Zealand & Australia Sustainability 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: Christchurch
Fly into Christchurch to begin your Kiwi educational adventure. We'll take a quick look around the "Garden City," and then settle into our hostel for orientation. We round off the day with a delicious Welcome Dinner before your first night's sleep under the stars of the Southern Cross.

Day 4: Christchurch
Today we begin in-country lectures with presentations from local experts on topics such as New Zealand's unique flora and fauna, sustainable tourism, and agriculture. After lunch we'll lend a hand to a local service project, aiding the post-earthquake recovery of some residential zones in the city. And, now that you've worked up an appetite, you have dinner on your own tonight to sample some of the local restaurants of your choosing.

Day 5: Christchurch to 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 we'll spend the afternoon with them to learn about their connection to the sea and to the land.

Day 6: Kaikoura to Hokitika
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.
This afternoon we travel through the Southern Alps and down the rugged West Coast on our way to Hokitika.

Day 7: Hokitika to Fox Glacier
We continue further south to the small village of Fox Glacier. The village shares its name with 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 rain forest. The wilderness crowds in close here and we'll have excellent

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opportunities to appreciate the forests, mountains, rivers, and wildlife of the least-populated district in New Zealand.

Day 8: Fox Glacier to Queenstown
We cross the Southern Alps again today as we move from the rainforests of the coast to the central lakes district. The drive takes us over the Haast Pass and along scenic lakeshores. We'll stop at a local sheep farm for an insight into the New Zealand agriculture industry before we settle into our accommodations in Queenstown.

Day 9: 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 10: Queenstown to Sydney
A travel day as we switch from one Down Under country to another. Keep your senses open to the differences and similarities between the two. Upon arrival in Sydney, we'll make our way to our hostel, located in the heart of downtown. Dinner is on your own tonight as you explore the vibrant city center.

Day 11: Sydney
As we settle into Australia's biggest city, with a population greater than all of New Zealand, we'll have a series of lectures to introduce us to Australian history, culture, and sustainable development.

Day 12: Sydney
Large as it is, Sydney also has accessible wilderness areas, and today we'll explore one of them with our trip to the Blue Mountains. With a local mountain guide, we'll hike some of the spectacular trails that lead to clifftop lookouts. It's a chance to stretch our legs and compare the Australian bush with the forests of New Zealand.

Day 13: Sydney
It's back to the classroom this morning with lectures from local experts, who today will introduce us to Aboriginal culture and history. This afternoon we visit Sydney Olympic Park, site of the 2000 Games. We'll have a guided tour of some of the facilities there and hear about the many sustainable design features that are incorporated in this modern construction.

Day 14: Sydney
Sydney is one of the most cosmopolitan cities in the world, with a host of social issues that affect housing and urban development. Today we'll hear from an expert on globalisation

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and sustainability and take a guided tour across much of the city to see real examples of the concepts discussed.

Day 15: Sydney
We explore a different part of Sydney's wildland fringe today as we head out to Royal National Park, on the south edge of the city. Our local guide will escort us along one of the scenic coastal trails, interpreting the landscape and the plants and animals seen along the way. One of the oldest national parks in the world, Royal is evidence of the foresight of the early Australian government in protecting special places from urban development.

Day 16: Sydney
Part of the reason Sydney is considered a 'global city' is because of the diverse range of people that live there. Today we'll learn about the immigration history of Sydney and Australia and visit an ethnically and economically diverse range of neighborhoods.

Day 17: Sydney
Today is a day for academics, finishing up our module work and completing the final exam. In the afternoon there's time for some last-minute souvenir shopping before 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 18: Sydney to U.S.
After breakfast, we depart for Sydney International Airport, and then we're homeward-bound with the shared memories and new perspectives that can only be gained by studying abroad!

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