

Hokies Abroad: New Zealand and Australia – Humans + the Environment

Itinerary Highlights

Day 1 – 2 Tāmaki Makaurau/Auckland

New Zealand culture and history lectures

Get to know New Zealand by gaining an insight into Māori culture and understanding the history of NZ from early Māori, to European colonization, and to modern times.

Wilderness nature tour

Be introduced to New Zealand nature and visit some stunning scenery, including rainforest and a black sand surf beach. You will be taken by an experienced guide through walking tracks and dramatic coastlines.

Day 3 – 5 Rotorua

Hobbiton movie set tour and Green Dragon Inn lunch

Enjoy a guided tour of the Hobbiton set from the Lord of the Rings film trilogy. Hear about how it operates as one of the world's most famous film sets, yet remains a working sheep and beef farm. At the conclusion of your tour, you'll enjoy a buffet lunch at the Green Dragon Inn.



Rotorua Canopy Tours

This zipline adventure, with an award-winning eco-business, is an exhilarating journey through nature. You'll be fully immersed in an ancient forest as you traverse stunning swing bridges, zip past thousand-year-old trees, and learn about conservation efforts to protect New Zealand's natural environment.

The National Kiwi Hatchery

Gain an unforgettable insight into the Hatchery's internationally renowned conservation programme, including kiwi husbandry, egg incubation systems, hatching techniques and kiwi chick rearing.

Sanctuary Mountain Maungatautari

Visit this ancient, vibrant forest alive with native wildlife. Surrounded by a 47km fence, it is the largest pest-proof fenced sanctuary in Aotearoa New Zealand and home to many of New Zealand's most endangered native species. Your guide will help you spot the wildlife, including kākā, takahē, tuatara, kiwi, tieke and more.



Waimangu guided walk and boat cruise

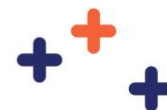
Explore the world's youngest geothermal valley. See spectacular volcanic craters, enormous hot water springs, beautiful geothermal features, rare and unusual plant life, brilliantly colored microbiology and a wide array of birds.

Day 6 – 9 Magnetic Island

Koala population study

You will gain an overview of koala biology and ecology, and will then participate in a field-based survey of the local koala population in an area where koalas are known to live. Finally, you will participate in an interactive koala experience, that will allow you to have a close look at a captive koala being rehabilitated for a return to the wild.





Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority

The Great Barrier Reef Marine Park extends over 2300kms and is one of the richest, most complex, and diverse ecosystems in the world. Meet expert educators to find out about the reef communities and amazing creatures that live there, how the reef is monitored and managed, as well as the role the Authority plays in conservation, research and in protecting the long-term health of the reef.

Magnetic Island Discovery Tour

Visit secluded bays and pristine beaches, and hear the stories and history of the area, with reef and wildlife interpretations from your Master Reef Guides. You will be able to swim and snorkel on the fringing reefs.

Day 10 – 13 Hidden Valley

Hidden Valley Cabins

Your hosts will share their experience of operating a 100% solar-powered, family-run remote ecotourism resort. Your guide will talk tourism and lead you on hikes through rainforests. You will swim in creeks, go platypus spotting, and enjoy a delicious barbecue dinner.



Mungalla Station aboriginal cultural experience

Learn about Nywaigi Aboriginal culture and hear the stories of your guide's ancestors. Try traditional activities such as throwing boomerangs and take part in service-learning.

Day 14 – 15 Mission Beach

Cassowary conservation

C4 members maintain a nursery to propagate local native plant species and a center for education and advocacy. They work to identify, secure, and rehabilitate degraded habitat, including cassowary corridors.

Day 15 – 16 Atherton

Homestay

Get a taste of rural Aussie life by spending two nights with a farming family in small groups of your fellow students. Your host families will encourage you to take part in a variety of fun and immersive experiences.

Day 17 – 18 Cape Tribulation

Daintree Rainforest

You will explore from the forest floor to the upper canopy with the aid of elevated boardwalks, a 23-metre-tall tower, and a gondola. You will also cruise along Cooper Creek in Daintree National Park, keeping an eye out for wildlife amongst the mangroves.

Day 19 – 22 Port Douglas

Wildlife Habitat

Wildlife Habitat is an open and interactive environment where you can wander along elevated boardwalks, observing up close a huge range of freely roaming animals.

Great Barrier Reef day trips

You will spend two unforgettable days snorkeling on the Great Barrier Reef! Learn about the challenges the reef faces due to climate change, and how scientists and governments are working to manage this most precious natural resource. Learn to identify the marine species you will encounter, including schools of tropical fish, coral gardens, sea turtles, eels, reef sharks, and much more!



Day 23 – 24 Cairns

Farewell dinner and free time

Depart for the US