

Kia Ora!

WKU NZ 2018





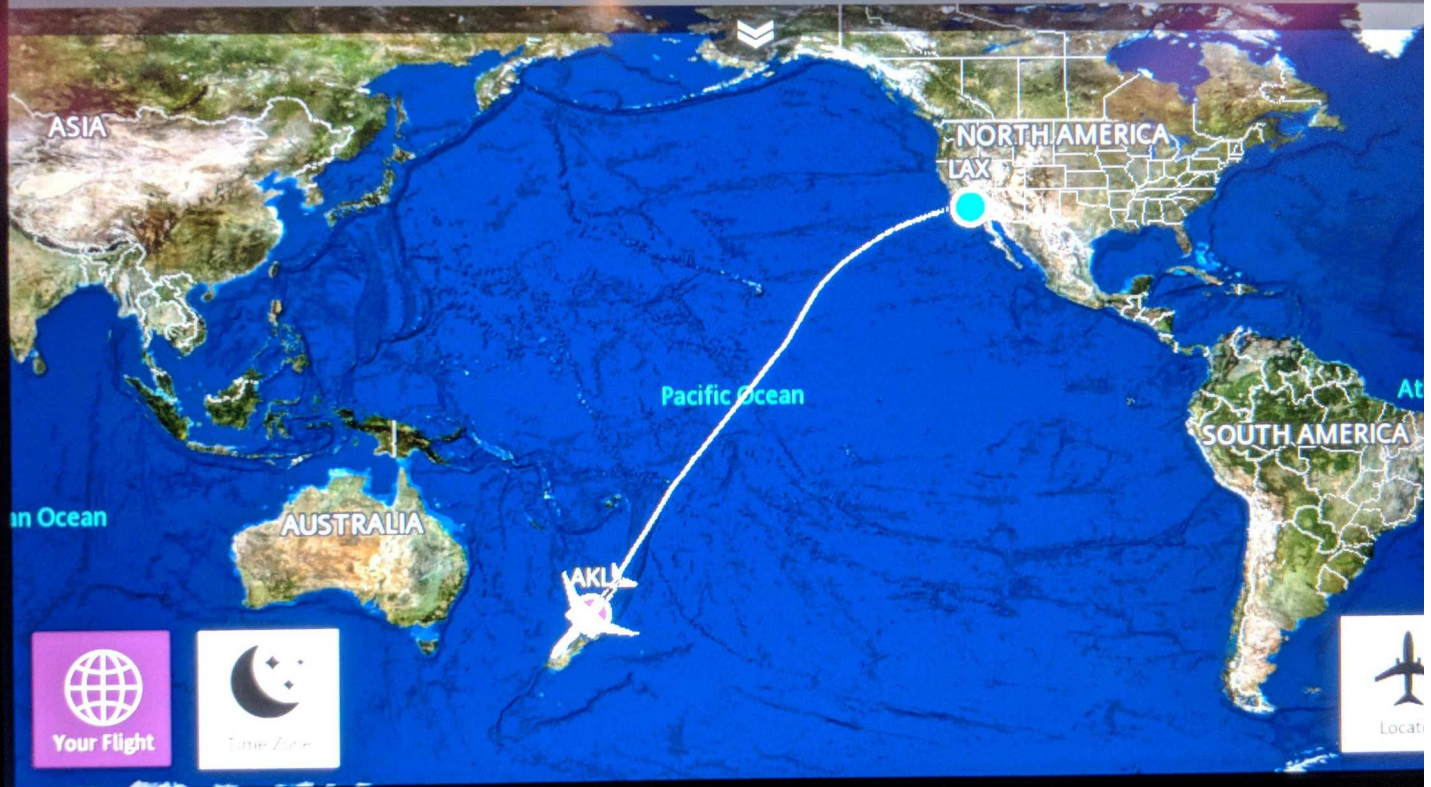
Our WKU NZ 2018 group (L-R): Co-leader Clinton Lewis, Teddy Wax, Tanner Harden, Sydne Medley, Melanie Oglesby, Connor Lewis, Brittany Bishop, Garrett Boyd, Marissa Jett, Emily Rodriguez, Alec Broughton, AirNZ staff member and program leader Dr. Raymond Poff at the ticket counter in LAX.

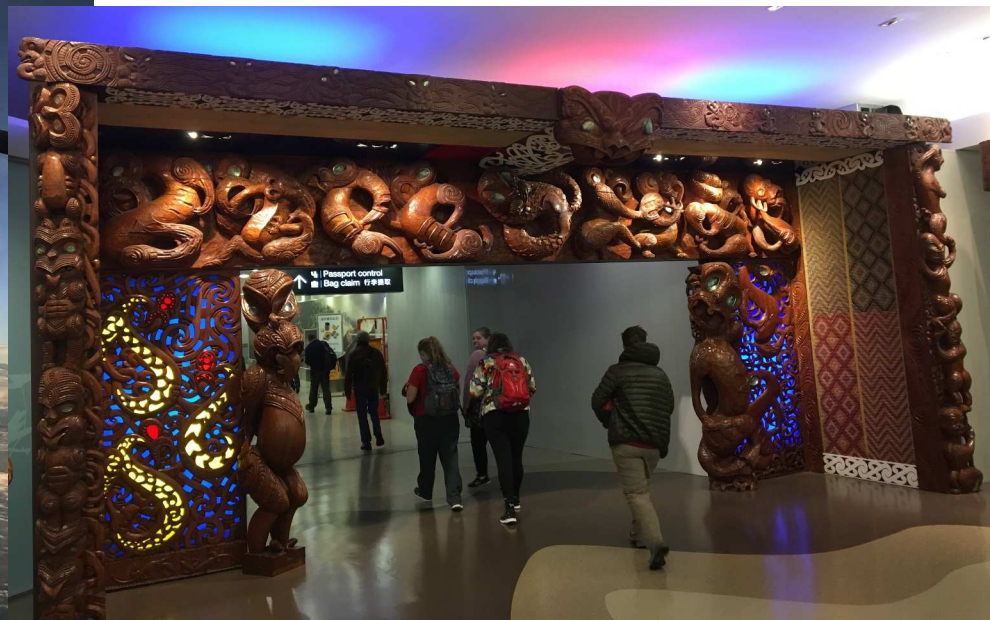


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Time to Auckland 0:07 / Estimated Arrival Time 06:36





BNA-LAX-AKL

We left Nashville on Dec. 31 with a stop in LA for a quick In-N-Out burger then spent our 14-hour flight and New Year's Eve over the Pacific and arrived in Auckland on Jan. 2!



Arriving in Auckland



Fantastic scenery on the way to Raglan.





Our first order of business was a surf lesson with the Raglan Surf School at the world famous left-hand break!











LEFT PAGE: Inspiration Point was a popular destination at the Karioi Lodge. Tanner and Alec get to know the locals at the Raglan EEL farm. THIS PAGE: Jan gives us a great tour and insight on the agriculture of New Zealand at Raglan EELS.



Following the EEL farm, we traveled to Hamilton to stand up paddle board down the Waikato River.











Black Water Rafting

The next morning we were up super early to catch the shuttle to Waitomo to visit the Legendary Black Water Rafting Co. After a great interview with the manager, we suited up and floated through the cave system to find the famous glow worms!

Following our cave adventure, we set off to Matamata and a whole new Hobbit-sized adventure. Hobbiton!













Hobbiton was certainly a highlight of the trip for many students. Despite the rain from a pesky (and rare) cyclone, it did little to dampen the spirits of the group as we toured the Hobbit holes and Green Dragon to retrace the steps of the Lord of the Rings and Hobbit characters.

Next stop: Auckland!



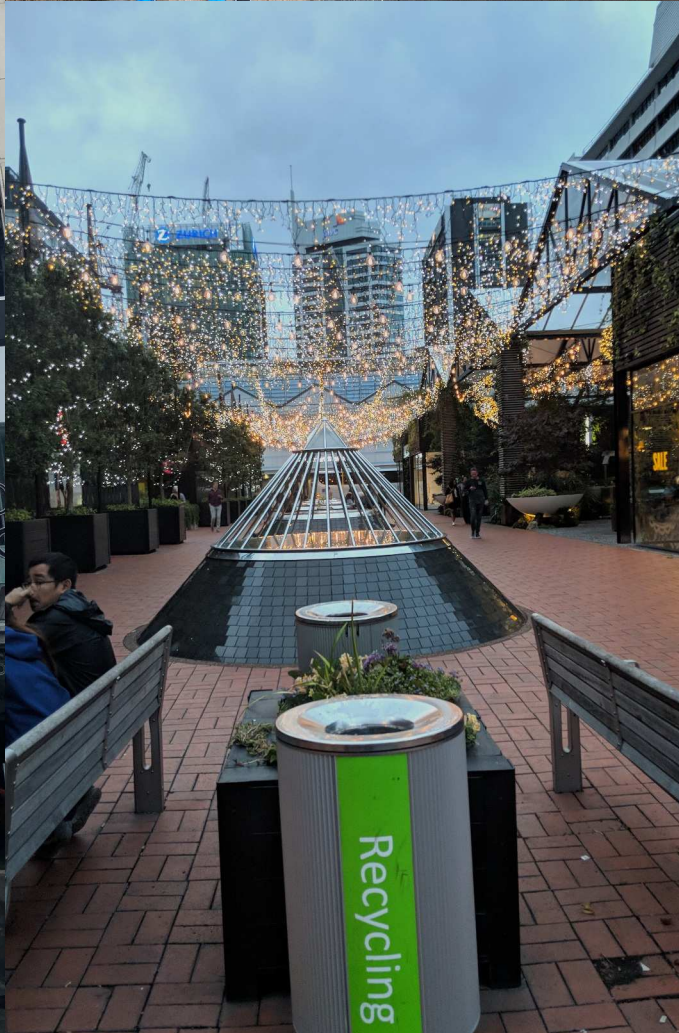


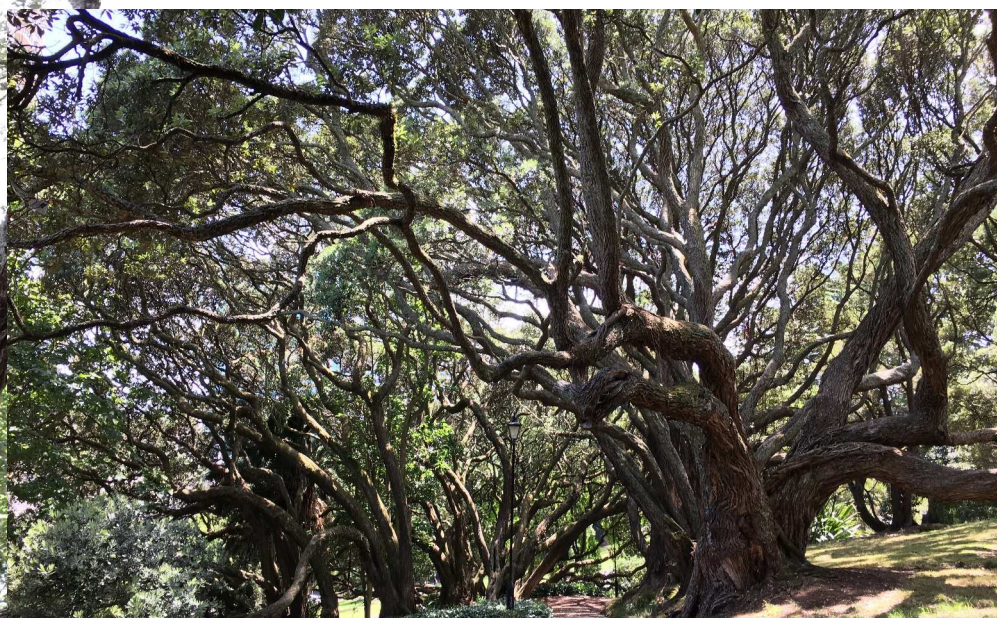


With the cyclone (mostly) out of the way, we were able to switch up our days to go sea kayaking with Auckland Sea Kayaks along Auckland's North Shore with the volcano Rangitoto looming in the background.









Our free day in Auckland was well spent with adventures in the city of 1.6M people with trips up the SkyTower, escape rooms and exploring the area on foot.













OKUPE LAGOON AND BOULDER BANK

Formation of Okupe Lagoon

The Okupe Lagoon is a shallow body of water that has formed in a low-lying area of the coast. It is surrounded by a low bank of sand and silt, which has been deposited by the ocean waves. The lagoon is a natural habitat for many species of birds and fish.



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Boulder Bank

The Boulder Bank is a large, rounded bank of sand and silt that has been deposited by the ocean waves. It is a natural barrier that protects the lagoon from the open ocean.



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AKL-WLG

Our next stop is at the south end of the North Island in Wellington, the capitol of New Zealand. We checked into our YHA hostel for a night, then made the trip up to Kapiti Island, a Dept. of Conservation nature preserve and home to a unique Maori-family owned business, Kapiti Island Nature Tours. Located on the northern corner of the island, which has been in their family for generations, we enjoyed wonderful hospitality, hiking on the mountain and beach, and a nighttime kiwi spotting tour.









Back in Wellington, we had meetings with Tourism New Zealand and NZ Maori Tourism to learn about how they market New Zealand to the world.

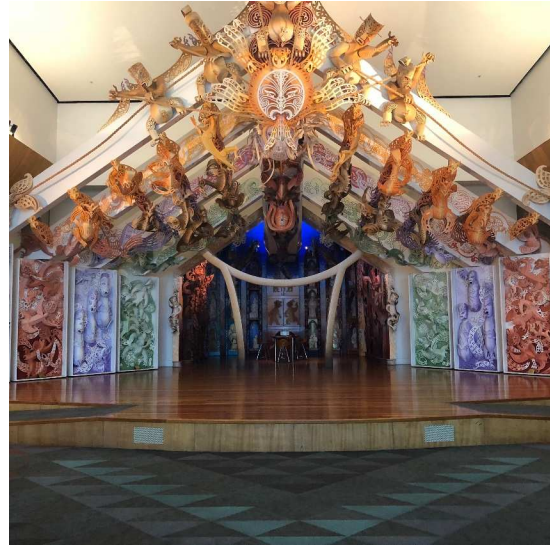
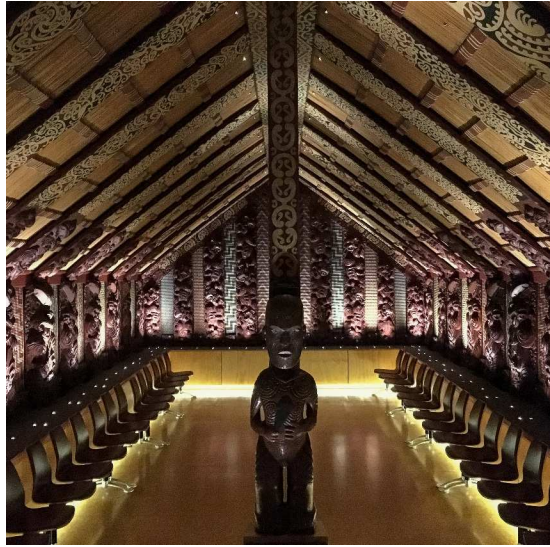




Following our morning meetings, we spent the afternoon traversing the Wellington area on a Rover tour of the Lord of the Rings filming sites on Mt. Victoria and the WETA Cave.

We also managed to squeeze in a quick trip to Te Papa, New Zealand's national museum.











WLG-ZQN

Our final destination in New Zealand is Queenstown, the adventure capitol of the country on the South Island.







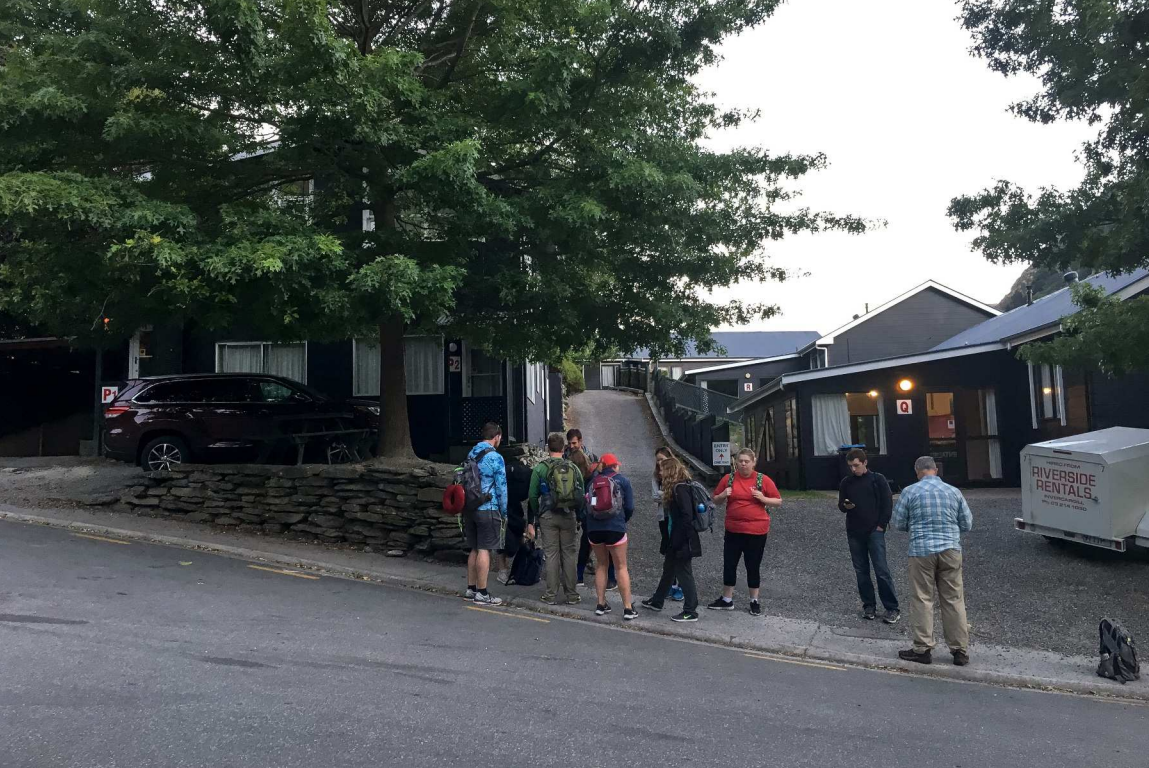




Sydne, Marissa and Teddy take in views of Lake Wakatipu while Melanie & Brittany ride the gondola up to the alpine slide.







Queenstown

With two choose-your-own-adventure days built into the program, we had ample opportunity to explore the area. Excursions around Lake Wakatipu, the Queenstown Beach were popular.

Alec & co-leader Clinton ran up Ben Lomond mountain, just outside of Qtown.

Our first group activity was a visit to Fiordland National Park and the 8th Wonder of the World: Milford Sound.





Our group in Fiordland National Park. Mirror Lake (next page).



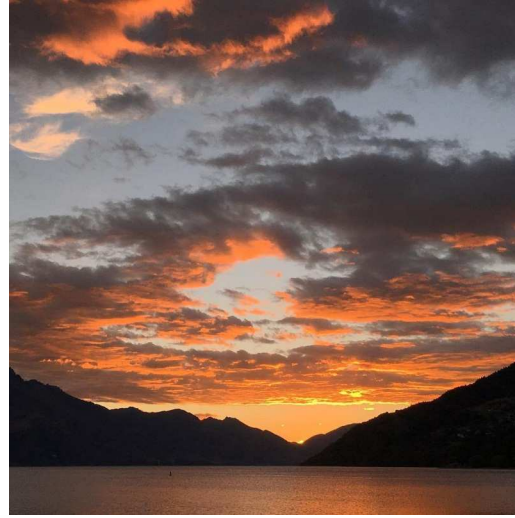
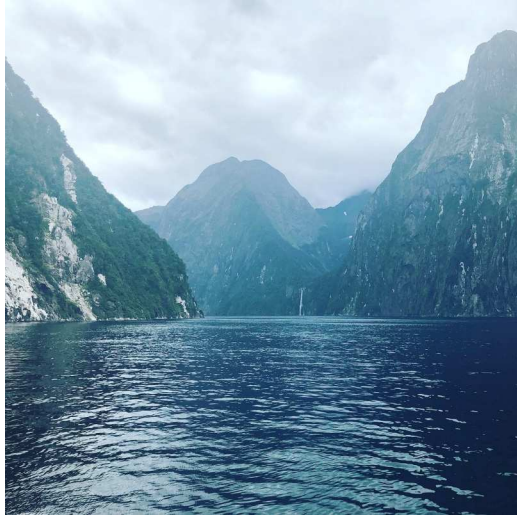








Milford Sound gave us a mix of clouds, rain, sunshine and a spectacular tour.





Our group: Connor Lewis, Teddy Wax, Alec Broughton, program leader Dr. Raymond Poff, Marissa Jett, Brittany Bishop, Melanie Oglesby, Garrett Boyd, Tanner Harden, program co-leader Clinton Lewis, Emily Rodriguez and Sydne Medley in front of the Remarkables mountain range en route to jet boat the Shotover River.



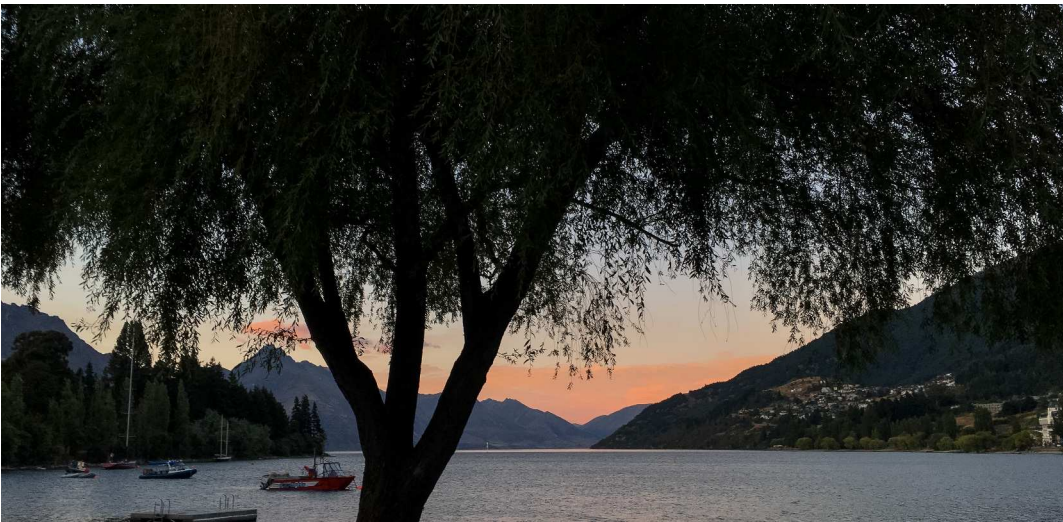






We also visited the birthplace of commercial bungee jumping at AJ Hackett Bungy. Our final choose-your-own-adventure day had some students jumping off bridges and touring the South Island by helicopter!









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Photography by Clinton Lewis, Raymond Poff, and members of the 2018 WKU New Zealand study abroad class.

NZ Study Abroad

64 views

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Individual styles

- Land in Auckland
- Raglan Surf School
- Waitomo Caves Road
- The Weta Cave
- Tourism Industry Associatio...
- SUP the Waikato
- Queenstown Resort College
- Milford Sound
- Hobbiton Movie Set and Far...
- YHA Wellington
- Best Western Cranbury Court
- Outside Sports Queenstown
- Los Angeles International Ai...
- Air New Zealand
- In-N-Out Burger
- Sea Kayak the North Shore
- CityLife Auckland
- Kapiti Island

Auckland Area

- Driving
- A Land in Auckland
- B Hamilton, Waikato, New Zeal...
- C Raglan Surf School
- D Waitomo Glowworm Caves, ...
- E Hobbiton Movie Set and Far...
- F North Shore, Hauraki, Auckl...
- G Auckland International Airpo...
- Add Destination

Wellington Area

- Driving
- A YHA Wellington
- B Tourism Industry Associatio...
- C The Weta Cave Weka Street, ...
- D Mount Victoria, Wellington, ...
- E Paraparaumu Beach, Parapa...
- F Wellington Airport, Rongotai...
- Add Destination

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