

# Here's my Study Abroad Story

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**Arcadia in Auckland, New Zealand**

**Major:** Econ-Accounting

**Program Overview:** I do not have enough good things to say about Arcadia, NZ. My program coordinators, Kate and Jane, are two of the best people I have ever met and made the transition to NZ very easy for all of us. I thought the orientation was well-planned and the mid-semester weekend trip was amazing. We got to experience so much of New Zealand through Arcadia. I also got to know the people in my program extremely well and I still am friends with many of them today. My only advice is to take advantage of all the advice that these women offer because they know what they are talking about and if you ever get into a tough spot or have any questions, they can help you out and make your life way easier.

**Typical Day:** You have to remember that you are going abroad to study, something that I admittedly forgot a few times throughout my semester. School is a big part of the experience and I found myself falling into a routine in Auckland just as one might anywhere else. I woke up, got breakfast every morning, and

then headed to class during the day. There was certainly not as much homework during the evenings, so I spent most of my time with my close group of friends who I lived with. We would go to events downtown, order pizza, play cards and pool, and just hang out like we would in any location. We went out a lot during the evenings as a group at some of the local pubs. There are some great live music joints that run specials every night, so take advantage of them. It is a very relaxed setting and a great time to sit back and have a laugh with your buddies. The weekends were spent mostly traveling. You do not have to go far to have an amazing trip. We would take day trips to beaches nearby, go out to Waiheke Island, drive down to Ragland to surf, and go on some great hikes and campout. There is no end to all the great activities within a close distance. Only advice here, meet someone with a car, or



a few of my friends split a car for about \$400 a piece and it was a smart investment. Auckland can get dull, it's a pretty typical city, and therefore it's good to have a way to make the 30 minute drive outside of the city center and explore all New Zealand has to offer.

**Highlights:** ROADTRIP THE SOUTH ISLAND! If you go to Auckland, do not simply stay in Auckland. Auckland can get pretty mundane and you come to know the city very quickly -- so get out and see it all. The South Island is stunning and it can be done in 2-3 weeks. Start at Abel Tasman and go around through Queenstown, Dunedin and up to Christchurch. It was the best road trip of my life.

**Advice?** Swim with the dolphins in Kaikoura. This was an incredible experience. You get the chance to swim with over 400 wild dolphins in the middle of the ocean.

Ski Queenstown, Bunjee jump in Queenstown, Skydive in Rotorua.. There are a million things to be done. Take advantage of all the adventure that New Zealand has, chances are you won't get to do it again.

Finally, meet the Kiwis. They are simply fantastic and will complete your experience. They are so friendly and have no problem showing you around or even taking you home to mom and dad. Visit a farm if you get a chance, they're awesome. The Kiwis will be your friends even after you have left, and they want to get to know you just as much as you want to get to know them; don't be afraid to reach out in classes, coffee shops, pubs or wherever it might be.

Kia ora and gluck!