



# English Enhancement Tour Auckland, New Zealand

Fifteen AST students went to New Zealand for three weeks. Apart from attending three-week intensive English training, they have been visited various places such Rotorua and South Island,



## ABOUT THE TOUR

# BACKGROUND INFORMATION

## SCOPE

This 3-week English language programme was offered by EF International Language Centers. It consisted of

- 20 English lessons per week (total 60hrs)
- 6 x Special Interest Class (SPINS) incl. Business, IT, Design, Logistics

Participated students were accommodated in local family for an immersive language learning environment. Two weekend excursions to (1) Rotorua and (2) Franz Josef Glacier were provided to enrich the knowledge of AST students in unique natural science spots such as glacier.

*On completion of the project, the participating students should be able to:*

- a. Communicate with an increased level of English language proficiency and confidence, as well as a fresh understanding of distinct variations among English accents and cultural contexts.
- b. Demonstrate a deeper appreciation for New Zealand's culture, landscape, and language, in particular to those related to natural sciences and environment protection.
- c. Be more fully equipped to handle the challenges and opportunities that arise when traveling or living in a foreign country.
- d. More comfortably function for an extended period of time in an English immersion context with both local English speakers and other students from across the globe.



# ITINERARIES

HKK GROUP ACTIVITIES CALENDAR 2013							
MON	TUES	WEDS	THURS	FRI	SAT	SUN	
A R I V E	C L A S S	SKYTOWER! A MUST-DO! <u>Option</u> <u>OR=</u> <u>FREE</u> <u>TIME</u>	A S S	ROTORUA TRIP			
Mount Eden	C L A S S			Travel, accommodation, and breakfast included. Options: BUNGY, SKYDIVING, RAFTING, And much much more!			
AUCKLAND MUSEUM FREE Afternoon activity after class.	C L A S S	One Tree Hill	C L A S S	FRANZ JOSEPH TRIP- SOUTH ISLAND Friday-Sunday HIKE UP THE GLACIER!			
				Waitomo caves Kiwi House 1 Day Trip <u>Option/FREE TIME</u>			
		To be confirmed.					

Please arrive at your activity 10 minutes before it starts.  
 If you have any questions or need help, just ask Tony.  
**THANK YOU AND.....HAVE FUN!!!!**



# GROUP REPORT

## Auckland City by Kwok Yi Wai; Liu Suk Ching; Lim King Fai, Lee Chun Kit, Leung Mei Wa May

Auckland City is a multicultural city. There are many people from different countries like Korea and Japan. So we might not be strange for the citizens when we walked on the street. There are different cuisine restaurants as well. When we were homesick, we went to a Chinese restaurant. Then, we felt better. Moreover, there were many performers on the street such as performing acrobatics and singing with playing the guitar. We felt that they were so talented and brave and thought that there were still many hidden talented people in the world.

Frankly, these three weeks are the happiest weeks in our life. We did and tried various things in Auckland. For example, meeting friends from other countries, visiting lots of sceneries, savoring different delicious dishes and talking to our host family as well as having culture exchange are just a few examples. We love this place very much. Thank goodness that we had the chance to join this summer study abroad programmes.

These three weeks, where we walked the most was Queen Street. However, our favorite place in Auckland city was the end of Queen Street – Downtown. We love the calm sea. Especially in the evening, this is a painting. This is art. But when we looked back, there are tall buildings and great mansions. It is a strong contrast.



Sun Rise in Auckland City



The whole view of Auckland City from Mount Eden



He performed in order to save money to enter a circus school!



## Rotorua by Wong Hei Yu, Lam Kam Yan, Wong Ho Yee Renee, Au Ho Tin, Lam Pak Hin

We have visited lots of places in Rotorua. We have a great experience during this trip. For example, we have visited geothermal park, sheep show and some of our classmate have tried bungy jump and rafting. The followings are the details of our visit.

During the first weekend, we have been to Rotorua for a 2 days trip. After our arrival on Friday afternoon, we started on going sightseeing around Rotorua. As Rotorua is a geothermal area, we first visited the Wai-O-Tapu thermal wonderland, which is full of natural thermal landscape sculptured out by volcanic activities. We have had a walk there and definitely have enjoyed the nature there. The nature there simply is irreplaceable and unique.

Rotorua is also known as Whangapiro in Maori, means an evil-smelling place. The sulphur city has a distinctive smell created by the sulphur dioxide gas from the geothermal activities. One of the famous tourists spot is hot springs, which occur when a geyser expels water if it is heated by the hot rocks to boiling point and flashes into steam, beginning with some water seeps through the earth's crust. The water underground is erupted violently like a marvelous rainfall.

And for the rafting, we have a great time as we rafted a 1.5km river. Along the river, there are lots of waterfalls and lots of trees, plants nearby the river. The highest waterfall is about 7 meters, and we went through this waterfall. And finally we jumped into the river to swim. It was freezing. And we climbed on the rafts after a few seconds jumped into the river.

For the Taupo Bungy, it is the highest water touch bungy in the world (47 meters), which is located at a point along the Waikato River. Bungy jump is one of the most popular outdoor activities in New Zealand. People can choose the degree of water touch from a hand touch to full body.

On the last day of Rotorua trip, we visited Farm tour and sheep show agrodome. The Agrodome Sheep Show is a one-hour performance, presented three times daily in a specially designed auditorium. During the show, the audience will see nineteen sheep breeds introduced onto the stage; the art of sheep shearing, sheepdog demonstrations, cow milking, bottle feed lambs.

The one-hour sheep show was entertaining and educational. The energetic presenter took us deep into the world of New Zealand farming where you will be introduced to 19 breeds of sheep. We witnessed a live sheep shearing demonstration. But it's not just about the sheep. Be amazed by the remarkable Huntaway dogs and the Strong-eye Heading dog as they demonstrate their ability to respond to commands and keep those sheep in line. What is more, we also can jump up on stage for the opportunity to feed the lambs. After the sheep show, all the audience got a chance jump up on stage and have a close interaction with those sheep.



It was a remarkable experience for us since this is our first time to meet sheep and watch this kind of amazing performance. Our favorite part is the shepherd dog stoop up on sheep and they were performing perfect.



## **South Island by Chan Mei Yu, CHEUK CHAU SHA, Fong Shiu Shan, Ng Tsz Wing Ivy, CHAN Shuk Man**

The day before we went to South Island, the weather was adverse and roads were closed. We were uneasy about our trip to Franz Josef. Fortunately, some of them opened when we were on the way. We took an early flight to Christchurch and joined our driver, Felicity. During the drive, she made some stops at Hurunui, St James Walkway and Lake Mahinapua for us to enjoy the beautiful view and take photos. It was the first time for most of us to see and touch the snow. We were very happy and excited. After eight-hour driving, finally we arrived the nice resort in the town of Franz Josef.

The first activity in South Island was walking the glacier, which was also one of the most unforgettable experiences in this trip. We took the helicopter and arrived at the bottom of the glacier. We followed our coach and spent two hours to walk around the glacier. Although some of the routes were a bit challenging, we still overcame. The view we saw at the top was very gorgeous and splendid. It was very memorable.

At night, we had an enjoyable dinner with our tour driver, Felicity, who is a traveler and photographer as well. We all enjoyed having delicious meal and chatting with her in the bar & restaurant of the resort. It was really nice to meet her and listen to her sharing of life in a restaurant with nice food, service and relaxing atmosphere. What a delightful night here!

Our driver Felicity drove us to the downtown of Christchurch before we went to the airport. As we knew that Christchurch was suffered from earthquake in 2011, it caused a great damage to the city. We were shocked when we saw the broken cathedral and the army were there to prevent any citizen or tourist from entering the restricted area. Standing there looking at the consequence after earthquake, we really felt that human beings are so tiny compared with the nature.





Here is Franz Josef Glacier and we get there by helicopter ride. It is a really awesome experience for us. When we arrive the glacier, we change our shoes and get ready to walk on the ice with a nice instructor.



We become crazy when we see the snow and we have so much fun in it.





We have dinner and beer with our driver who is called Felicity in the restaurant. She shares her interesting life with us and the reason why she became a tour driver. We really enjoy the cuisine and the atmosphere here. Also, we watch the live All Blacks rugby match and the Haka Dance which is a traditional war dance that is used to intimidate the opponent in rugby matches.



It is the Lake Paringa where we stop on the way to Christchurch International Airport.





Here is Christchurch. We can see that the church was destroyed by the earthquake and fenced to avoid people entering. Although there is earthquake frequently occurred in Christchurch and many houses and buildings collapsed and damaged, the local still plan to rebuild their city.



# INDIVIDUAL REFLECTIVE JOURNALS

## Mimi Chan Shuk Man

In these three weeks I learnt and gained a lot of English skills. I met new friends from around the world. The trip also helps me to broaden my horizon. And I can say I can take care myself after 3 weeks living in a foreign country.

We went to school every weekday to improve our English. Hong Kong group students were separated into different classes. Our classmates are from different countries and different cultures. This is very good mix to meet new friends. After school, we hanged out and travel around the city. Our school always holds some theme parties on Friday, such as international food day, dress up day etc.

I lived with a very big host family in Auckland. Host mom Anne is an Australian kiwi. My roommate Diana is Swiss girl. There a Korean family, two Mexican girls and a Thai girl live in our family. Every dinner time we had a topic to discuss, that improve our English a lot.

In the weekends and holiday, our group travelled around New Zealand. We have been to Rotorua, Christchurch, Franz Josef glacier. We can see the beautiful view of New Zealand, these memorable experiences I will never forget. I would like to thanks CCCU for giving me a good chance to explore the world.



We did skydive for weekend holiday



International food day in school



## Au Ho Tin

In this Auckland study tour, I learnt and experience a lot. For example, I learnt a lot about English language, culture of New Zealand and experienced a lot of 'first times' in my life.

In the three-week English course held by the Education First International Language School, I learnt English grammar, listening skills, writing skills and, most importantly, communication skills. During the classes, I built great relationships among classmates and thus the atmosphere in my class is very active and fun. In my opinion, being forced by the school to use English as the sole language to communicate among people, I improved in English speaking, speaking more fluently.



In addition, because of living in a host family, there were even more chances to use English, especially the daily English. I could still remember the times when we talked in every breakfast and dinner, and discussions of TV programs.

In my spare time before and after school, I had a lot of walk everywhere in Auckland, for example, the art gallery and Auckland Museum. I looked about the history of New Zealand. I found that the culture of New Zealand is very multi-cultural. The citizens can come from every part of the world.

For my 'first times', I did bungy jump in Taupo, took a close look of volcano in Rotorua and played snow games with friends and walked on the glacier.





In a word, I really enjoyed the time in New Zealand and it is one of the most valuable experiences in my life.



## Chan Mei Yu

During the three weeks study tour, I have gained lots of valuable experience and broadened my horizon. Before I went to New Zealand, I was afraid I would have homesick. As this was my first time to leave my family for such long time. Luckily, I did not have homesick. On the contrast, I really love and miss New Zealand.

We went to school from Monday and Sunday for three weeks. In these three weeks, I have made lots of friends who come from different countries. After I came back to Hong Kong, we still keep in contact. It is precious. Besides that, I have enhanced my English skills, especially the speaking skill. As we used English to communicate with each other, therefore my speaking has improved.

During the two weekends, we went to Rotorua and South Island. These two places are very wonderful. I have not seen such beautiful views in Hong Kong. My host family said that their living style is very environmental friendly as they want to protect their homeland and save the resources. That's why we could not take a shower for more than ten minutes. In Hong Kong, we do not cherish our resources. We just take it for granted. After coming back to Hong Kong, I have cut the shower time. In the second weekend, we went to South Island. When we arrived, it was snowing. I was excited to see snow. On the next day, we walked the glacier. It was one of the unforgettable and valuable experiences in this trip. I cannot believe I can walk the glacier in my life. It is really rare. I was a bit afraid when I walked the glacier. My coach encouraged me and at the end I could finished the whole route. I could enjoy the wonderful view at the top of the glacier. We should not give up when we face difficulties. Otherwise, we will lose some valuable things.

I really enjoyed the whole trip. I have gained a lot of precious experience. I hope I can join more study tour in the future.



Taking ferry with my friends in Devonport



After playing Jet Boat



Visiting the Kelly Tarlton's Sea Life Aquarium with my friends



Walking the Franz Josef Glacier



## Lam Kam Yan

During the New Zealand trip, I learnt most of the things from my host mother - Colleen. Her life style is very environmentally – friendly. For example, she recycles the waste as much as she can. She even recycles the food waste for fertilizing purpose. She only use very limit amount of water. She always rinses the plates and then put them in the dishes machine. Also, the average shower is just 7 minutes. She strongly suggested us to do it. At that time, I thought how could a citizen be like this?

Colleen exercises every day and she is a net ball coach . She adds only little salt in the food so I thought the food is quite different from Hong Kong food. I reflect my own life style. I am still a student. I suppose I have more time to do anything I want. Why didn't I exercise? Busy is not an excuse. The residents in New Zealand also work but they wake up at 5 to go for a run. Then, they take a shower and go to work. By the way , I talked to Colleen sometimes. She taught me some alternative words in English like cathedral. She's really an experienced host mum. Without her, I think I would miss the bus, the first day school time, and even would not bring enough clothes to Rotorua.

I live in Devonport so I have to catch the bus, the ferry and then walk up to the school from Britomart for 20 minutes. However, I think it was good for me. The New Zealanders are very kind. They say 'Thank you', 'Thanks' or 'Thanks a lot' to the driver before they get off. Also, they are very extroverted. They talk with a stranger in a bus if they look similar ( age, job.... ). They seem that they have a great talk with a stranger. How great is a society like this. Some people in Hong Kong can don't know their neighbor.

I went to the Art Gallery, Auckland museum, Auckland Zoo; Mount Victoria, Mount Eden, Kelly Tarlton's, Mission Bay , etc... I like exploring a foreign city. I planned the daily routes for my friends. It was a really great to treasure a city by ourselves. I learnt to be a planner. It was easy with the help of the Internet and a map. During the trip, the transportation system caught my attention. Apparently, the rail network cannot cover most of the places because everyone drives.

I applied something I learnt from the course – ' Land and Sea Transportation' last semester, which is a good learning experience. For example, the horizontal level and the lane width of the road at the crossing of a rail should be the same. The landscapes of New Zealand make it difficult to keep to same horizontal level but the intersection point should at the same level.

I saw many beautiful views and scenes on the way to Rotorua and the Franz Josef glacier. I realized that things are pass by very fast. If I don't catch, see and remember them, I will miss them forever. It's like the steps in my lives. I will meet many people and will have some opportunities. If I don't notice them, they slip away. I should cherish everything I have.

I met many people at EF. It was a really good chance to know people from different culture. Korean is cool, Mexican is more outgoing, Saudi Arabians are not that boring as I think, and many others. Although we add each other Facebook, it's nothing. We

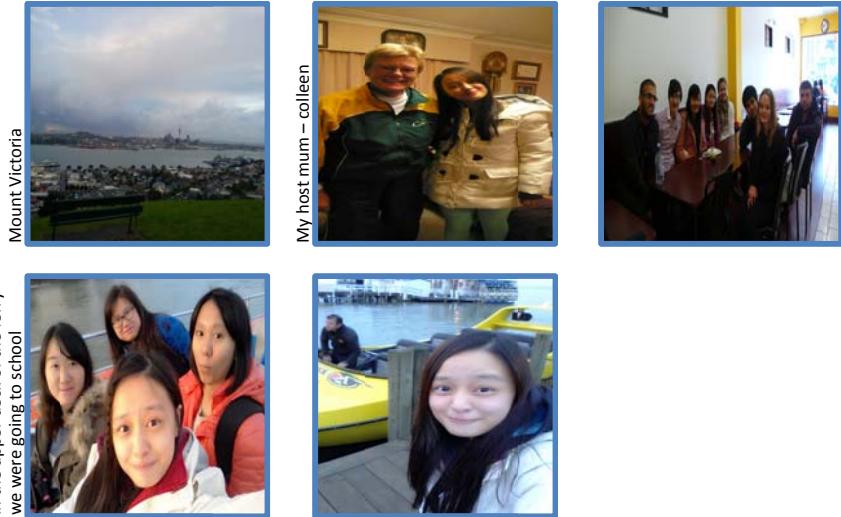


don't talk to each other because we don't have anything in common. However, I did enjoy the time with them in Auckland. That's enough.



Mount Victoria







## Lim King Fai

I have learnt a lot from this trip, particularly how to communicate with people that have totally different culture with me. I am used to be passive and shy. When I first started my study in Auckland, I didn't talk much to others. Since I knew this is a valuable opportunity for me to improve my English and broaden my horizon, I tried to be more active and started to have fun with my new classmates. Furthermore, I found that the teaching method in Auckland is totally different from that of Hong Kong. I got a lot of chances to speak out my ideas and discussion during class. In this way, I could improve my English a lot more as I got more chances to speak than I got in Hong Kong.

For my host stay, as this is the first time I stayed under other people's house. I learnt to be independent as I need to prepare my breakfast by myself and wake up early in the morning for school by myself. I also learnt how to find places with a map, even though I didn't have GPS in my phone. During this trip, I feel incredible as I have stayed in a place that is totally different with Hong Kong.



MY Classmates





My First Bungee Jump



## Liu Suk Ching

I am glad to get a chance to explore New Zealand. This is the first time I have been to a country that is in Southern hemisphere. It was totally different from Hong Kong. There were thousands of stars in the sky at night and they were beautiful. In New Zealand, I found myself feeling totally relaxed and I enjoyed everything there. During classes in EF, I spoke a lot and I was happy to meet a great diversity of people, including Saudi Arabia, Japan, Columbia, Germany, Thailand, etc. When I became friends with them, I found myself a very lazy person and with poor English. Although my classmates didn't speak English as another language like me, they had better English than me as they were more hard-working and they were active. When I was in Hong Kong, I learnt English passively and didn't get a lot of chance to speak in English. Due to this reason, I really treasured this opportunity and try to improve my English as much as possible.

I also have a great time in my host stay. I have a Japanese girl as my roommate. This is the first time in my life that I need to share a room with a stranger. I learnt how to take care of her and not to be selfish. I also talked a lot with my host family and learnt a lot about New Zealand, not only their culture and also their policy and economy too.



My first Helicopter experience in Rotorua





Famous Hobbiton Movie Set



## Kwok Yi Wai (Janly)

I am Kwok Yi Wai (Janly), a student of Associate of Science in Applied Business Statistics (AScABS). This is my first time to visit New Zealand. I intended to join this study tour since I want to improve my English. Unexpectedly, things I acquired were more than I imagined. During the trip, I visited many places and made many attempts.

Local people are very nice and friendly. One day, my friend and I wanted to go to Mount Eden, but we went to wrong bus stop. When we were perplexed to find a right bus stop, there was a man who walked beside us and then asked where we wanted to go. Usually, we just help when people ask for help. I appreciate the initiative of New Zealanders. We should pay more attention to and caring for others. I wish I can assist people before they seek for help.

Besides, the teaching mode is different with Hong Kong. It makes me become more active to study. The learning atmosphere was very relaxed. Teachers often gave us the opportunity to communicate with students around. By contrast, in Hong Kong, students always have the principle "silence is golden". Even if the teacher asks a question, no one will take the initiative to answer. "Do you understand?" always only exchanges for silence. In Auckland, although you don't understand or answer wrong, no one ridicule. Learning from wrong is a step of process of studying.

Even though it is only three weeks, it grows me up a lot. It is a good chance to learn to be alone. I deeply appreciated CCCU to give me this opportunity. It is a valuable experience. I really want to go there again. I like this pure, natural and beautiful country.



There is Whakarewarewa Village. They are Maori people. Even though I don't understand what they sang, the voice was really beautiful



There is Kelly Tarlton's Sea Life Aquarium. I think New Zealanders are very creative. They can design the shuttle bus to be so lively and interesting



They were my classmate. All of them are from different countries such as Saudi Arabia, Columbia, France and so on. The class was interesting. I was glad to meet them.



This was my last time to take local bus. The bus driver was friendly. When he knew I was leaving, he actively let me sat driver's seat and then took a photo for me



Mount Eden



Jet Boat





There is Franz Josef Glacier. Glacier hiking is very exciting. During the tour, I admired the grandeur of nature. I think this is unforgettable experience



Franz Josef Glacier



## Lam Pak Hin

Travelling to New Zealand is a unique experience for me. During this trip, I had to stay with a local KIWI family. The host mother is a 60 years-old woman. She was called jenny and was a teacher that taught in Hong Kong for ten years. Living with a foreigner was a very special experience for me. For example, she is an environmentalist; she had strict environmental rules in her house, such as the bathing time must be within 5minutes, the heater only can open for 2 hours and you can only get the hot water from the toilet. Moreover, she separated the rubbish clearly, most of the things she would reuse like plastic bag. And for the food waste,

She would put it into a food waste bin to be compost, then taking them to the garden to fertilize the soil. In addition, she feeds the bird with bread every day. She is a lovely and woman.

For me, I am an environmental student. The way of her lifestyle inspires me that every citizen in the world has the responsibility to conserve the resources. In Hong Kong, our living style never thinks of how to protect the world. Citizens only consider their way of life. Why the KIWI citizens are so protective to their environment but we Hong Kong citizens can't? I don't know the answer, maybe we Hong Kong people only focus on money and efficiency. But I know that the city is dying.



We are giving the letters of "CCCU" in the Wai-O-Tapu Thermal Wonderland in Rotorua.





We are so excited and touched by the view of snowing here, the first scenic spot of six-hour driving to Franz Josef which called St James Walkway, as we had never seen snow before!



Here we go, to climb up the Franz Josef Glacier after the helicopter ride. I was fascinated by the scene in front of me and I love to touch our nature in this way.





This is our last school day as well as the fabulous dressing day. Here are my teacher, Cristina from Brazil, and classmates from Mexico, Sweden, Saudi Arabia and Italy. We did have a great time these few weeks!



We are good friends now, after three weeks together studying in EF, going around in Auckland city and having fun in two weekend trips, though all of us come from different programme in CCCU.



## Wong Hei Yu

Spending the days in Auckland via the English enhancement tour has been one of the best trips in my lifetime. Looking back to the tour, I found three most interesting parts, and I want to share my unique experience with others.

The first part has been living with a kind host family during the trip. It is very common nowadays students often went on school tours, not surprising; I have also been to study tours before. However, how I found that the Auckland trip differs from others is that we lived with a host family. We shared the house, the food, and the fun moments throughout the whole staying period. It has been a very memorable home stay period that we exchange all our experiences with others. Staying with the host family helps us to get deeper exploration of the culture and people in New Zealand.

The other part is having student around the world as classmate. We studied in a small group of 15 people, within this small group, there are people coming from the different parts of the world. My classmates include Japanese, Saudi Arabian, Korean, Mexican, Spaniard, and Swiss. EF School gave me a precious chance to meeting people from countries around the world and getting along with them. And the interactive way of learning helps a lot in learning English. We use what we learnt from class to communicate with others during classes.

The last part is the valuable chance to explore the nature in New Zealand. During the trip we got chance to visit the Franz Josef Glacier in the South Island and the Wai-O-Tapu geothermal park in Rotorua. I am impressed by the stunning view over the beautiful glacier and the diversity of the volcanic activities inside the geothermal park. Kiwi people really take good care of their environment and that is what we should learn from them.

This has been a very valuable chance for me to explore different part of the world and to widen my horizons. My English speaking skills definitely improved a lot because we got numerous chances to speak with foreigners. Thank you for this kind opportunity.





Having a nice homemade dinner with my host mother



The beautiful and stunning view over the top of Franz Josef Glacier



## Cheuk Chau Sha

Although I sleep at ten and wake up at six in Auckland, I still like this daily schedule. In fact, I do get into their life style as my life speed become slowly and enjoy my daily meals and walk through the city. It is more relax in Auckland as I can have a seat in the park or even in the port and then have a drink and enjoy the sunshine that I really want to do in foreign country.

Studying in EF Auckland is the best learning experience in my study life as there is more interactive learning atmosphere in the class and I can know more about different English accents and cultural from my classmates because they all come from various countries. Besides, I can practice my English proficiency in class as well as in host family. It really creates a great opportunity for me to practice English.

The most impressed thing is the landscape in New Zealand. Also, there is much more fresh air and blue sky that I can't breathe and see in Hong Kong. I have been to Rotorua and Wai-O-Taupo Thermal Wonderland and geyser in Taupo in North Island, and Franz Josef Glacier in South Island which are amazing places that I haven't seen and experienced before. I extremely appreciate how the local people protect the environment and enjoy what they have. Apart from these places, there are still many green belts in the city. In Auckland, animals like sheep are not enclosed by the fence. We can walk close to see the sheep and they will walk in front of us. It shows that how people can get along with the animals and people will not attack those animals too. Last but not least, I wish I can stay more few days in Auckland.



My first week in EF school and it is international day that we all bring our own country food for sharing.





View from Sky Tower



Geyser in Taupo





Wai-O-Tapu Thermal Wonderland

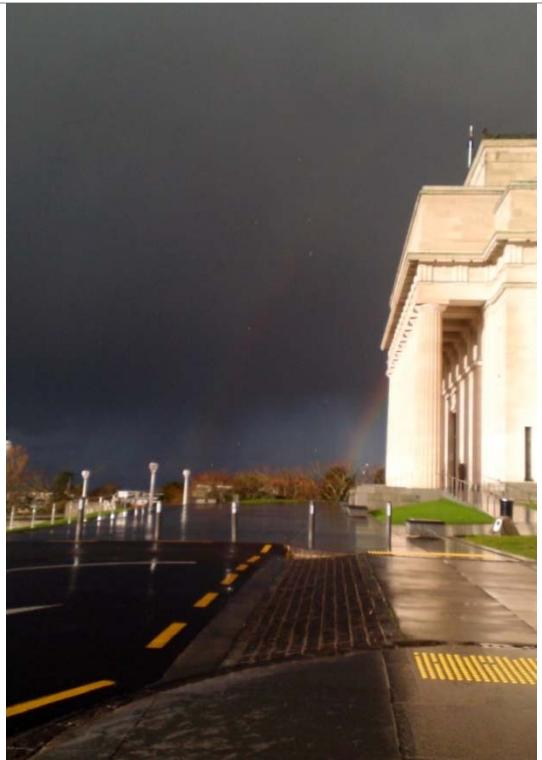


Auckland Zoo





We prepare our dinner in YHA hostel



There is the Auckland Museum and we can see a double rainbow that I haven't seen before



Here is the One Tree Hill

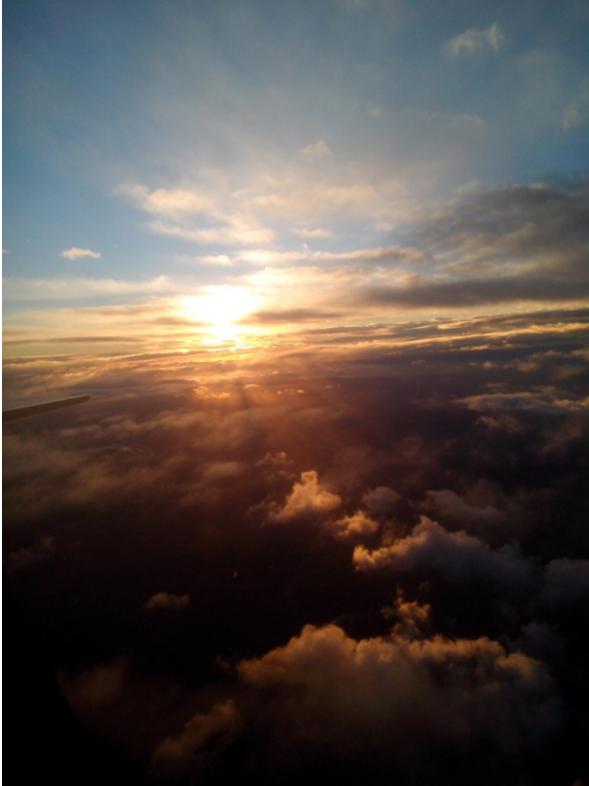


So many sheep spread over the One Tree Hill





This sun rising that I took by my cell phone in the plane when I flew to South Island



Here are some stops that we stop on the way to and from hostel.



It is extremely different view after an hour driving and we have so much fun in playing with snow.





We walk in the Franz Josef Glacier in the South Island.





Skydiving in Auckland



## FONG SIU SHAN

The 3 weeks that I spent in New Zealand were the most unforgettable and precious moment in my life. I love the culture, life style and landscapes there. The view in New Zealand is so amazing. I saw 8 rainbows in these 3 weeks, which is far more than I saw in my previous life. And I even saw double rainbow twice. I was attracted by those wonderful views.

During the 1st weekend, we have been to Rotorua. Although the weather was not that good, we did enjoy the natural landscape there. We have visited the WAI-O-TAPU Thermal Wonderland and watched the sheep & crazy dog show. During the 2nd weekend, we went to Franz Josef, which is a small city in South Island. Although it took 6 hours driving, our driver made some stops during the drive. Hence, we saw countless attractive landscapes. It was the 1st time in my life to saw the snow and play outside when snowing. We all were so excited to see the snow and walk on the snow.

The two most precious experiences for me were Franz Josef Glacier and skydive. At first, I was so afraid of walking on the glacier as. But with the help from our schoolmates, I got the skill about walking on it. The scenes were really charming. For the skydiving, it was so amazing. The scenery is wonderful and marvelous, even though it requires much courage to jump

out from the plane and some people will think that is crazy, it is really good to have a try in the life.

The most grateful things in this trip were the host family. They are friendly, nice and lovely. We always cook the dinner together and share what we have learnt and seen on the day during dinner. They brought us to different spots in Auckland to know and understand more about Auckland & New Zealand. I love them so much and deeply appreciated their kindness and effort.

It was also a great experience to learn English in EF school. Since the teaching format is different, we have much chance to speak during the class, so that's a good way to speak English well and will not be hesitated to speak it. And we



We took local bus to school



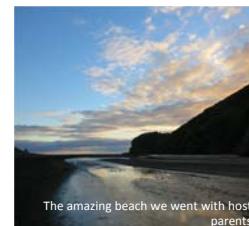
can share and talk with different students around the world which help improve our English.



The 1<sup>st</sup> rainbow I saw in Auckland, on the day we just arrived



The beautiful Britomart Harbour



The amazing beach we went with host parents



The nice view in South Island



Franz Josef Glacier



Our footprint on the snow



## Lee Chun Kit

It is such a wondrous trip in Auckland and because I have learnt lots of different things which can definitely help me to enrich my life experience for future studies and careers.

To begin with, I met various people from other countries like Japan, Turkey, Italy and Saudi Arabia as well as Mexico. The range of our topics was very broad. We talked and discussed different topics such as the difference of our culture, relationship, hobbies, food and taboo and so on. And I realized that the way of thinking and the hobbies among Asians is quite different from those people from Europe. For instance, the hobbies of Europeans are horse-riding, skiing and going to bar or pub every weekend etc, while the hobbies of Asians are usually watching movies, hanging out with their friends and window-shopping etc.

In addition to meeting friends, I have also learnt their culture, food in particular. My host mother told me that there is no a particular conventional dish as New Zealand is a place which is greatly influenced by people from other countries. Thus, it was not uneasy to see Asians and Europeans in the street. Besides, it was a little bit difficult for me to distinguish kiwi people from the majority. Although there is no a particular traditional New Zealand dish, I do like the dishes prepared by my host mother. Most of the dishes like risotto, coq au bleu, spaghetti Bolognese and penne carbonara were delicious and delectable. My host mother also prepared a very "NZ" dessert, mini pavlova, for me in the last day of my trip. I savored her dishes and desserts and I found that I actually prefer western cuisine to Chinese food!

Moreover, I really appreciated the Maori culture. I went to the Auckland Museum and bought tickets to watch a performance about Maori culture. During the performance, Maori people sang and danced as well as showing the traditional weapons. The most impressive part I like is the Haka Dance which is a traditional ancestral battle cry, dance or challenge from Maori people of New Zealand. It is a posture dance usually performed by a group of people, with vigorous movements and stamping of the feet with rhythmically shouted accompaniment. Haka Dance also includes facial distortion like showing the white of eyes, poking out of the tongue and slapping the hands against the body etc. All Blacks, the New Zealand men's national rugby union team, perform Haka Dance before each international rugby match. You can just type "All blacks" in YouTube and you can watch the Haka Dance.

All in all, just as the saying goes, traveling thousands of miles is better than reading thousands of books. I hope I can join the similar exchange programme next year or in the coming future as so to widen my horizons and enhance my English proficiency.



## Ng Tsing Wing Ivy

Thanks to this opportunity offered by CCCU, I had a golden chance and enjoyed every precious moment in this three-week study tour to Auckland, New Zealand. I did gain a lot from it and cherish it. It is my first time to learn English and travel in this way. To communicate with students and teachers from across the globe, to live with host family, to take care of myself and friends in foreign country, to visit some places that I have never imagined I will have a chance to go before, etc. Everything is new-to-me and the experiences here are just unique to me.

In the language school EF, it provided me a fresh style to learn English by communicating with international teachers and students who came from over ten different countries including Spain, Italy, Saudi Arabia, Japan, etc. Here, I was much dare to try and eager to learn. The lessons provided us more chances to group with people from different places to communicate and share anything from our home country in English. I love this way which sounds like pushing me to listen, speak and hence substantially improve my English.

Apart from school, I did have a marvelous moment with my host family. We cooked together happily and shared a lot about different living style between New Zealand and Hong Kong, etc. Although there are differences, but I had immersed in their daily life quickly and I really enjoyed it. Living with host family is a really good and direct way to know more about the culture and living style of that particular country.

Thanks to the weekend trip to Rotorua and Franz Josef Glacier, I had more chances to immerse myself in the nature. I love the scenes at the countryside and the fresh air there so much, especially the beautiful view of snowing. When I was following the coach climbing up the glacier, I looked back and down the glacier and mountain, I really felt like dreaming. I have never thought that I can be here and I really did it.

Again, thanks to this fabulous chance living in a foreign country, I am really trained up to be dare to try more new things and more fully equipped to handle any challenges such as my host mate and I got lost after catching the wrong bus to home. Luckily we solved it out by ourselves with the help of host family and finally we were safe to home.

I wish I could stay longer as I did enjoy the life in New Zealand and the real experience is better than my expectation. This three-week study tour ends but I am sure it is not the end. I must come again in the future, to immerse in this nice place again, or even live here.





They are Sarah and Mark, our nice host, who took good care of me and Iris in these three weeks. We miss and love to live with them so much

We are cooking pasta together. What a delightful dinner that we enjoyed making by ourselves and having the meals together!





Here is the fabulous Friday which is the dressing day in EF. Everyone dressed up with special costumes and smiled happily.



She is my class teacher, Cristina, and I am getting the graduation certificate from her on my last school day



Here is some free time during our way back to Christchurch. There is no doubt for me to sit on the snow and touch the amazing and gorgeous nature which I do not know when will be the next time for me to do so.





Here is a lake during six-hour driving away from Franz Josef to Christchurch International Airport. I love the natural view here, with much less environmental pollution.



I watched the Dog & Sheep Show in Rotorua and I was surprised that I can touch and take photos closely with the real sheeps!

Walking on the Franz Josef Glacier, we did it!



## Wong Ho Yee

The trip was a brand new experience for me to explore the New Zealand and broaden my horizon.

In homestay, I experienced a completely different life style. It is not the first time that I live without parent, but it's the first time have to live and get along with foreigner. They emphasize environmental protection and energy saving. My host mother told us not to boil water if unnecessary as water in Auckland is preciousness and luxury. In New Zealand, everyone drink tap water instead of boil water. It made me aware the water crisis. Nature resources aren't distributed equally in the world. There're many places facing lack of fresh water. Therefore, the thing that we can do is save our resources.

For the environment, we visited Mount Eden in Auckland. This mountain is the second highest natural point in the whole of Auckland region. The central focus of the suburb is the dormant eponymous volcano. We only took 20 minutes from down to top. When we arrived to the top, we overwhelming with surprise. We saw amazing views in all directions over the city. Apart from Mount Eden, there're plenty of small mount in Auckland that visitor can enjoy the view in Auckland city. It was remarkable for me to see the whole view with city, as its pretty difficult to do that in Hong Kong. I do really enjoy the trip in New Zealand and its environment.



Hiking on mount Victoria in Devonport.





A men busking on the Queen Street.



Having a fun time with Hong Kong friends after school.





We were on the glacier and had an adventure.



Visit Auckland museum with Japanese friend.



## Leung Mei Wa

It was an unforgettable trip and 3 weeks passed so fast. I gained a lot of new experiences on this trip. First of all, it was my first time to study aboard. It was good to have small-class teaching (15 people) which the tutors could take care of any student in need. Also, I had a lot of chances to speak in English as the tutors asked you questions in every class. Although it was a 3-week course which was very intensive, they provided me resources to learn independently. Moreover, I met many people coming from different countries like Japan, Switzerland and Saudi Arabia. I was excited that we could talk together using the same language. It made me want to improve my English more. Besides, I realized that there are so many things waiting for me to discover in the world after hearing their stories.

In addition, I did love the nature I saw such as wide green lands, beautiful lakes and a glacier. Many businesses were run because of these wonderful natural sceneries like skydiving, bungee jumping and rafting. I played rafting. I did feel the power of nature after I dropped from the waterfall. The height of it was 7m! It was one of the impressive activities. Another one was to go to Franz Josef Glacier which was beautiful. During the hiking on the glacier, the leader chiseled the ice to open a road for us. Then, I realized the power of human. I hope I can do something for the world even if it may be a little thing. Also, I hope all magnificent sceneries in the world can be kept forever. We should live with nature harmoniously and should not pollute our environment excessively so the sceneries and the excitement from the activities can be sustainable. It depends on our co-operation.

Apart from this, I like the lifestyle here. While I was taking a ferry, many people were reading. It is not like Hong Kong that many people hold their smartphones to play games or watch videos. Furthermore, many people rode bicycle as transport. Some people jogged in the morning before they went to work as well. It made me think of my lifestyle and what I want in the future. Hong Kong people are regarded that they spend all day to earn money and do not know when to take a rest. When they get old, they regret that and are willing to use all the wealth they earn in their prime to exchange their health. I understand that we do not want to fall behind in times. But a balanced life is important because life is a game for a long time.

Last but not least, the biggest challenge was that you needed to have the courage to ask foreigners questions. Then, almost all problems could be solved like asking the direction to go because they were kind to answer your questions in general.





My classmates and tutor who companioned me for 3 weeks.

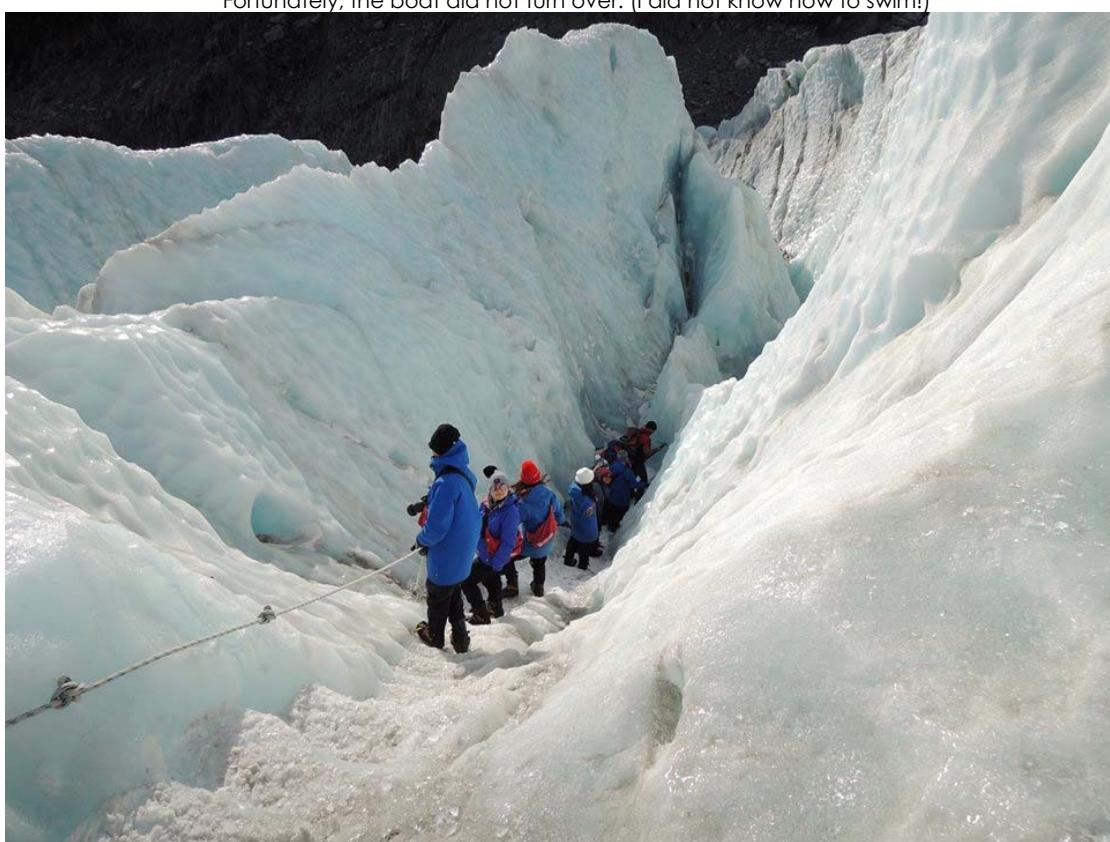


What a BEAUTIFUL lake!





Fortunately, the boat did not turn over. (I did not know how to swim!)



We went down the ice stairs carefully.





The man was reading a book.

