

# Exploring Aotearoa

2016 WKU Study Abroad to New Zealand





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Photography by Clinton Lewis, Dr. Poff and members of the 2016  
study abroad class.





WKU New Zealand Study Abroad took off for Middle-Earth on January 2, 2016 to study the recreation and tourism industry. In Los Angeles, Air New Zealand hosted us in the Star Alliance first class lounge for a meeting in LAX. Pictured from left to right: Nick Yeast, Olivia Hall, Matthew Mayer, Tanner Leigh, Nina Wells, Zach Jones, Chloe Carr, Gary Soloff, Laura Burchfield, Katie Swor, Isaac Smith and Dr. Raymond Poff. Behind the camera: Clinton Lewis.



Matt hanging loose in Raglan.



LAX Airport



First stop: legendary surfing in Raglan.









In Raglan, we visited the Raglan eel farm where we hung out with sheep, llamas and eels.



Katie & Olivia paddling to Hauroto Bay.



Jan gives us a lesson in calling sheep.







Traditional Maori greeting aboard the Wahine Moe.



Sunset in Raglan.



Waitomo!



Waitomo Glowworm Caves.



Group selfie with Dr. Poff.





In the Waitomo Caves region, we embarked on an underground adventure Black Labyrinth tour through Ruakuri Cave with the Legendary Blackwater Rafting Company. Then we were on to Hobbiton!







Climbed to the top of the Shire to see Bag End and Bilbo.



Bag End in Hobbiton.



New Zealand currency.







In Rotorua we visited Pohutu Geyser, the largest geyser in the Southern Hemisphere.

Nina greets a local in the Agrodome.



Redwoods grow especially fast in NZ with ideal conditions.





Tamaki Village gave us a great introduction and history of the native Maori culture with games and a fantastic dinner.











Quite the successful dolphin encounter with GreatSights in Paihia.



Auckland's SkyTower.



Auckland skyline

Logging airport time before landing in Wellington. First stop in the capitol: Te Papa museum.



**TE PAPA**  
OUR PLACE



**L&P**

GOOD LEMONISH STUFF

YOU'RE ABOUT TO OPEN  
A **KIWI CLASSIC.**  
ITS UNIQUE LEMONY BLEND  
LEAVES YOUR **BODY & MIND**  
**REFRESHED.** SO DON'T BE  
SHY, TAKE A SIP, THEN A **GULP.**  
**KEEP IT FRESH,**  
LIKE THE DELICIOUS  
**TASTE OF**  
**L&P.**

**L&P**  
LEMON PAEROA

WORLD FAMOUS IN NEW ZEALAND

300ML

ENERGY 559KJ  
DI\* 6%  
PER 300ml SERVE









**LORD  
OF THE  
RINGS**

**FILMING  
LOCATION**  
→





Touring filming locations for *The Lord of the Rings* in and around Wellington.



Picnic and walk through Rivendell in Kaitoke Regional Park.



Rivendell



Exploring Kaitoke Regional Park.















Previous spread: Wellington. Walking Maori tour of Wellington with NZ Maori Tourism, meeting with Tourism New Zealand, down time at the hostel & group photo with Smaug at the Wellington airport.

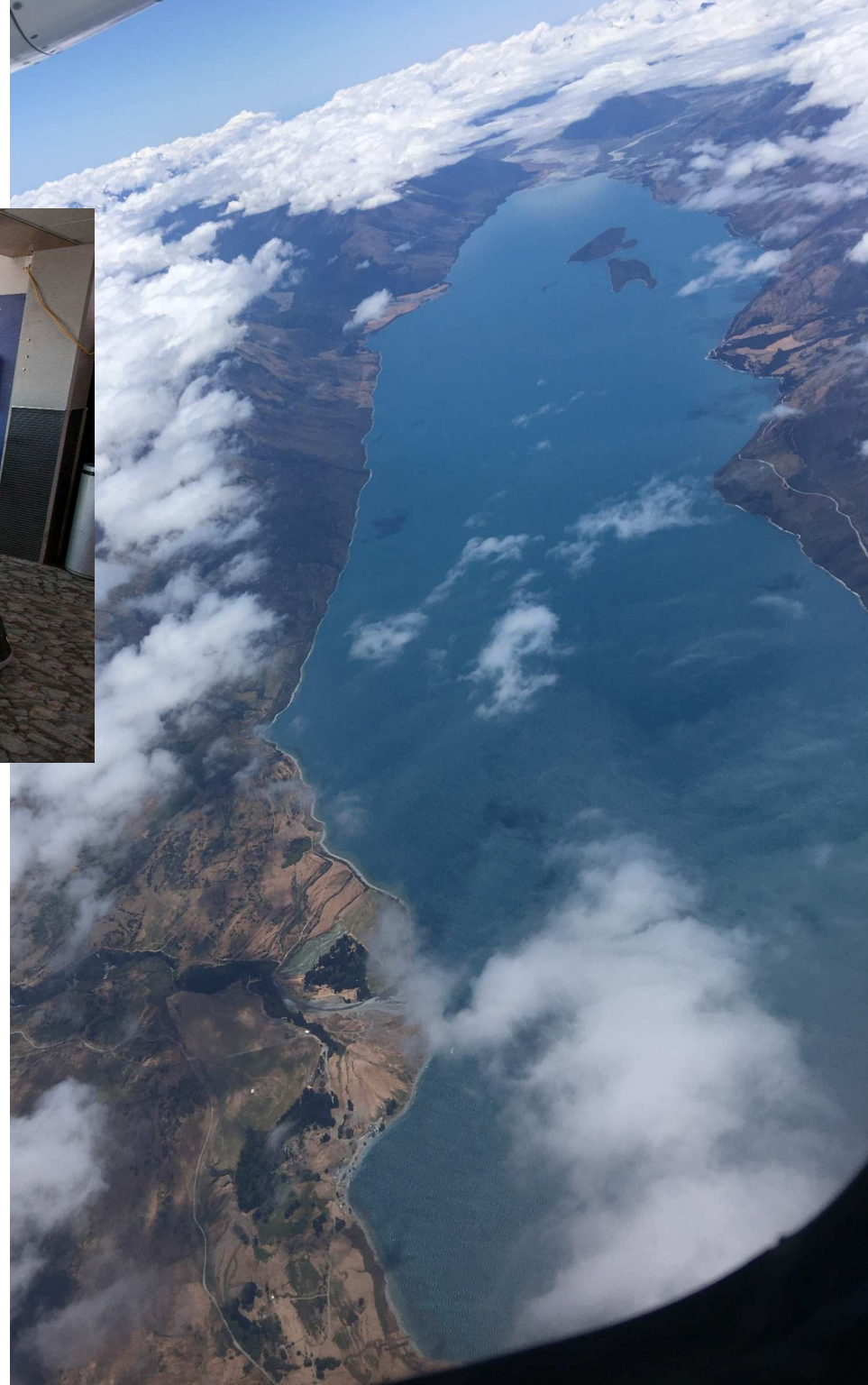




## Exploring Aotearoa



Presentations at the Wellington airport before we head to the South Island and Queenstown!





## Exploring Aotearoa



Awesome views on the ride to Skippers Canyon.



Zach, Clinton & Matt take the back seat on their boat.



Katie, Olivia, Tanner, Chloe & Nick set out on a jet boat tour of the Shotover River.





We had a chance to pan for gold by the Shotover River.





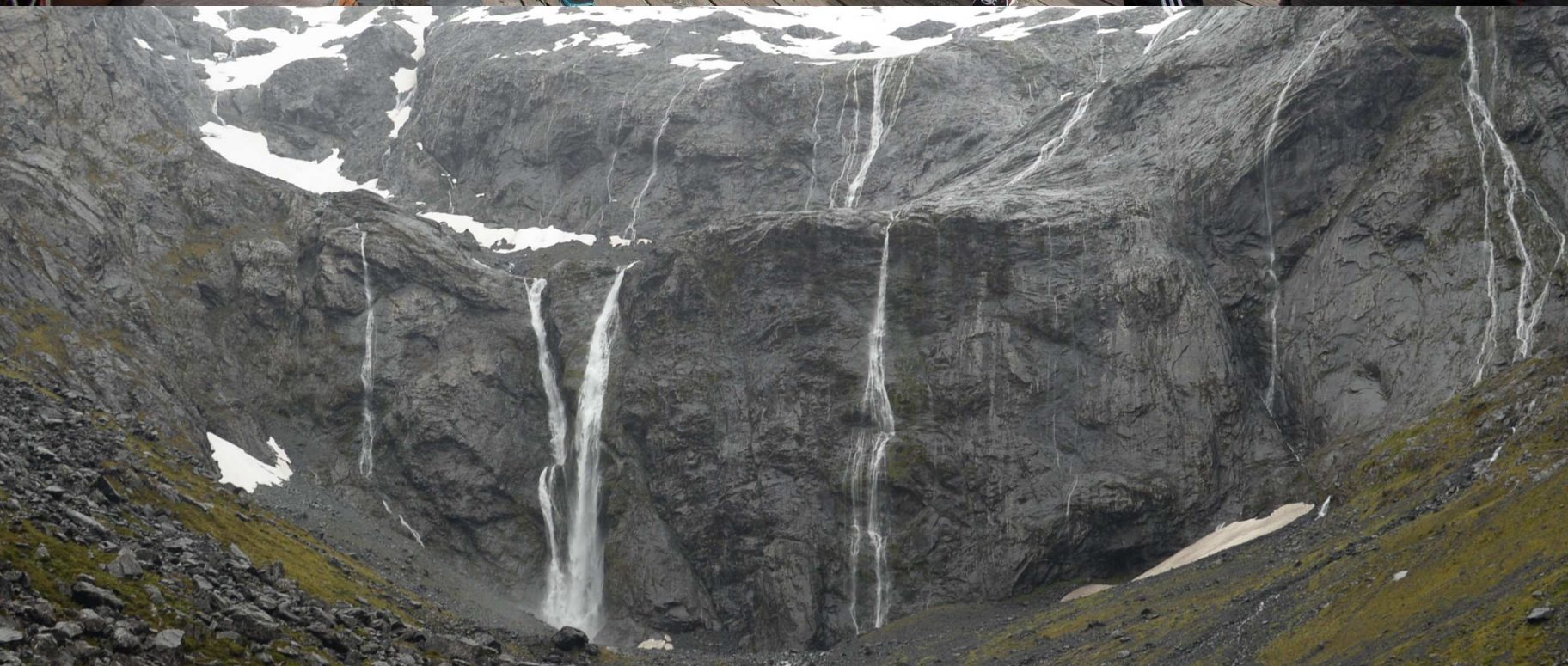












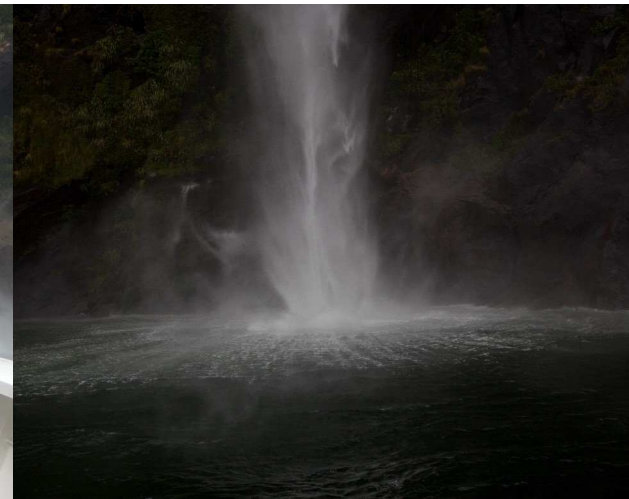




After a visit to AJ Hackett Bungy (previous page) we set out the next day to Milford Sound!



Nina & Chloe pose near Fairy Falls.



Fairy Falls.











The BBQ Bus was a great way to tour Fiordland National Park and Milford Sound area.

Laura caught a great sunrise along Lake Wakatipu.



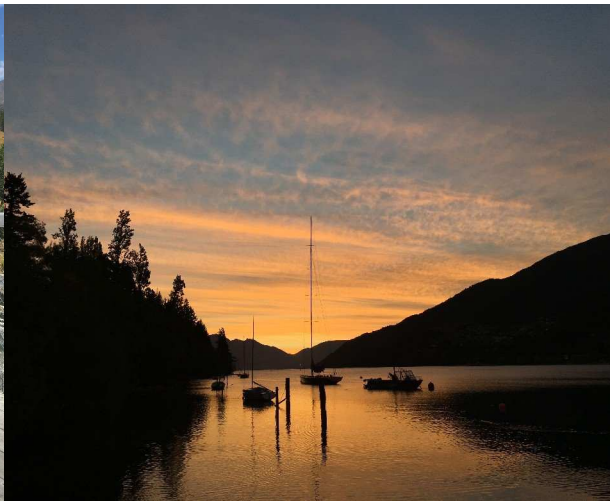
Shotover River







The class had an opportunity to explore Queenstown our last weekend... Zach and Chloe take a mountain bike tour from Queenstown to the Shotover River. Dr. Poff takes a canopy zip line tour (left).



Many great sunsets over Lake Wakatipu.



Tanner takes the plunge at Kawarau River Bungy. (and far left)

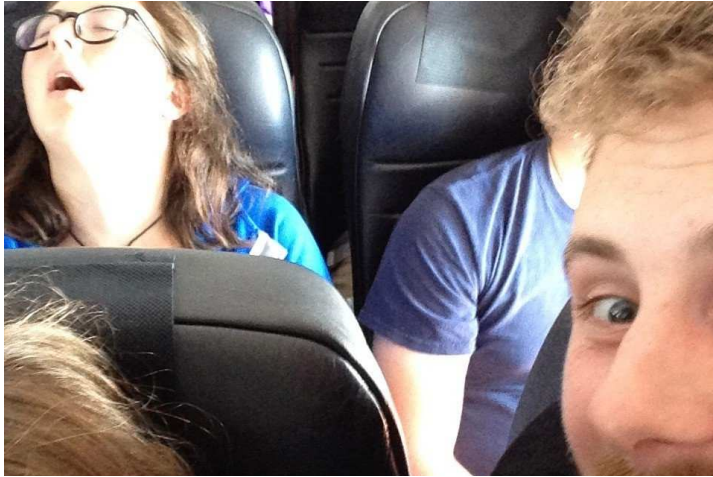


Laura makes the jump at AJ Hackett's Nevis site.



One last Fergburger!





Sleeping shenanigans on the flight home.



Leaving Queenstown.



Class debriefing in LAX. Almost home!



## Afterword

A journey to New Zealand for a group of 12 individuals does not come together quickly or easily. Although Bilbo Baggins met and joined the company of Thorin Oakenshield for his adventure within one day, WKU's planning and preparation took much longer and required the assistance of many people.

To avoid the embarrassment of leaving someone off of the list, we would like to provide a comprehensive expression of gratitude for the assistance and support we received from many individuals and offices at WKU prior to, and following, our adventures in New Zealand. We would also like to thank all of the people and organizations we interacted with during our educational experience. Your time and generosity made us feel welcome and helped us better understand New Zealand, its varied cultures, and its people. Additionally, we would like to acknowledge the financial support our program received from Dr. Scott Lyons, Director, School of Kinesiology, Recreation & Sport and from Dr. Neale Chumbler, Dean, College of Health and Human Services.

Last of all, we would like to thank our wonderful families for supporting our participation in this fabulous opportunity.

Raymond Poff Clinton Lewis

January 2-18, 2016

REC 480 NZ: Recreation and Tourism in Middle-earth

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Dr. Raymond Poff, Professor, Recreation Administration

Clinton Lewis, University Staff Photographer

Laura Burchfield, Hospitality Management & Dietetics (Hotel, Restaurant, and Tourism Management)

Chloe Carr, Recreation Administration (Outdoor Recreation)

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Zach Jones, International Business

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Matt Mayer, M.A. Social Responsibility and Sustainable Communities

Isaac Smith, Recreation Administration (Outdoor Recreation)

Katie Swor, Family and Consumer Sciences (Child Studies)

Nina Wells, Master of Social Work

Nick Yeast, Hospitality Management & Dietetics (Hotel, Restaurant, and Tourism Management)

**NZ Study Abroad**

Open in My Maps

**Untitled layer**

- Land in Auckland
- Raglan Surf School
- Waitomo Caves Road
- Rotorua

14 MORE

**North Island**

- Directions from Land in Auckland to Auckland In...
- A Land in Auckland
- B Hamilton, Waikato, New Zealand
- C Raglan Surf School
- D Waitomo Glowworm Caves, Waitomo Caves Ro...
- E Rotorua
- F Hobbiton Movie Set and Farm Tours
- G Auckland International Airport, Auckland, New Z...

LESS

**South Island**

- Directions from Queenstown, Otago, New Zeala...
- A Queenstown, Otago, New Zealand
- B Milford Sound

**Flight Paths**

- Flight from USA
- NZ Flights

