

TRAVEL RESOURCES: AUSTRALIA & NEW ZEALAND

Traveling is often a large part of the study abroad experience. Every semester students plan to take weekend trips to enrich their time abroad, and all have similar questions. To help you out, GPS has collected a list of travel tips and resources provided by WFU study abroad alumni.

When traveling outside of your host country, always make sure to check visa and immigration regulations for the countries you are traveling to. U.S. passport holders can go to www.travel.state.gov for further information.

PACKING FOR YOUR SHORT TRIPS WHILE ABROAD

- Pack light- only bring one bag
- Bring walking shoes (not white sneakers)
- Bring a lock for hostel lockers
- Pack printed directions to your hotel/hostel
- Pack immigration paperwork and store in a safe place with your passport
- Top-off your cell phone minutes—verify rates for out of country travel

TRAVELING BY AIR

- Take your in-country address and a pen with you on your flight
 - You will be required to write your study abroad address on the customs form given to you in-flight
- Upon arrival, generally speaking, you will go through immigration, pick-up your luggage, and then go through customs
- Make sure you are familiar with items you are allowed to bring into each country you are traveling to
 - i.e. fruit, spices and other foods may not be allowed through customs
- Book your flights early to find better deals
 - Read the fine print! Double and triple check the dates and locations of travel before purchasing.
- Budget airlines may seem like a great deal, but make sure you are aware of what the cost DOESN'T include
 - Budget airlines do not always fly into the larger cities, so always be sure to verify where the airport is and how you will get to the city you are visiting
- Some airlines do not have assigned seats, so make sure to arrive early and join the queue
- Most ticket costs do not include checked luggage
- Verify your check-in time and factor in travel time to the airport.

Web Resources

www.attitudetravel.com/lowcostairlines/oceania/

www.easyjet.com

www.expedia.com

www.kayak.com

www.momondo.com

www.statravel.com

www.tripadvisor.com

www.vayama.com

www.jetstar.com/au/en/home

www.flightcentre.co.nz

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www.airnewzealand.com/home
grabaseat.co.nz
www.webjet.co.nz
www.qantas.com

www.austrian.com
www.virginaustralia.com/us/en
www.wotif.com

BOOKING TIP: Always remember to read the fine print when booking through a budget airline. Sometimes a deal really is too good to be true once all the hidden fees add up.

TRAVELING BY RAILWAY

- Always try to book your train tickets at least 2-3 days ahead of time to get a better price
- Keep your ticket handy; it will be scanned inside the train once you depart the station. Never travel without proper ticket.
- Pack a snack for longer train rides as food from the train trolley or store can be quite expensive
- There are many scenic train routes throughout Australia and New Zealand to check out

Web Resources

www.railaustralia.com.au
www.tranzscenic.co.nz

TRAVEL TIP: If you plan to take an overnight train, always make sure that someone in your party is awake. In the past, students who have taken an overnight train have had their luggage and belongings stolen once they fell asleep.

TRAVELING BY BUS

- Book a bus ticket at least 2-3 days ahead of time
- Traveling by bus can be the most economical way to travel, but will it also take the longest. Make sure to plan your time accordingly
- Overnight buses can be very uncomfortable; most students do not recommend this option
- Many companies will offer bus passes that include a certain number of rides or unlimited stops for a certain amount of time in a specific part of the country. These are economic ways to see a part of the country and allow the flexibility to change your travel plans.

Web Resources

www.busaustralia.com
www.greyhound.com.au
www.intercity.co.nz
www.nakedbus.com/nz/bus
www.ozexperience.com

HELPFUL TIPS

- Ask your in-country program staff where to find good deals, transportation websites, and accommodation resources
- Always notify your program director/study abroad office once you have finalized your travel plans. Make sure they have your travel itinerary
- There are many backpacker travel agencies around Australia and New Zealand – some of which employ aggressive sales tactics. Always double check the prices for these packages before booking them.
- Make copies of your passport
 - Keep one with you, one locked in your room, one with your parents, and one with GPS
- Plan your “big” trips ahead of time
 - Popular events abroad will cause airline/rail/bus rates to increase, so it is best to book ahead for these events

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- Make sure to check your program calendar before booking your trips
- Wait to book your smaller trips until after you arrive abroad and receive your course schedule
- Make a travel budget
- Plan how you will get to/from your hotel/hostel
 - If you are arriving really early or late, some options may not be available, so make sure to check service hours.
 - Take a map with you
 - If you do not own a map of the country, it is easy to print one from Google Maps, Yahoo Maps, etc.
- Taxis can be extremely expensive, so try to use other options
- Always be aware of your check-in times
- Remember to factor in travel time to the airport, rail, or bus station to ensure you arrive on time
- Always remember to bring your immigration forms with you when you travel

HOSTELS/HOTELS

- Ask your program staff, or other students for accommodation suggestions and always check online reviews
 - Note when the last review was written
 - Often reading a mix of the best reviews and the worst can give you a good picture of the pros and cons
- There are several hostel chains in Australia and New Zealand. If you travel frequently, purchasing a membership could save you on hostel costs (YHA, BBH, Nomads, etc.)
- Make sure to know how many beds your room has
 - There may be anywhere from 4 to 40+ beds in one room
- Always lock your passports and bags in a locker with a lock
 - Pack a lock in case your hostel does not provide one
- Check what is included with your price
 - Some hostels will include breakfast, discounts on tours, linens, etc.

Web Resources

www.hihostels.com/web/membership.en.htm

www.bbh.co.nz/

www.bbc.com/travel

www.hostelz.com/hostels-in/Australia

www.frommers.com

www.hotels.com

www.hihostels.com/dba/country-Australia-AU.en.htm

www.jumponit.com

www.hostelbookers.com

www.kayak.com/hotels

www.hostels.com

www.nomadsworld.com/

www.hostelworld.com

TRAVEL ADVICE FROM STUDY ABROAD ALUMNI

It is often better to have only a vague idea of things you want to see and do because it is more rewarding to explore leisurely than to rush to see a million things in a short period of time.

—Jennifer Reed

It's really important to do research and plan ahead of time—airport transfers, museum hours, etc.

—Lauren Gensler

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Pack as light as possible! It's such a hassle to drag your luggage around every place.

–Elizabeth Willis

Stay in hostels as opposed to hotels. You are more likely than not in a much more central location and you meet a lot of people. Not to mention you are spending far less money!

–Kelley McGraph

Things will go wrong. Stay calm.

–Sam Richards

Don't be afraid to ask for help, but make sure you're not by yourself when you do so. You should always be traveling with people anyway. Also, always know the emergency number for the country you're in.

Ask for student discounts everywhere you go, but do make sure you have your ID to prove it.

–Eason Armstrong

Don't be scared to try new things!

–Stephanie Gifford

If you're going to a major city, don't just visit the touristy attractions and take pictures. My favorite memories were finding random restaurants or parks to visit with my friends. Allocate some time to explore.

–Steve Caracciolo

I found the New York Times "36 hours" pieces to be a great resource before traveling for a weekend.

Each article describes in detail the best way to make the most of 36 hours in a variety of cities.

Although I never followed the 36-hour plan in its entirety, the article helped provide useful information about navigation, nearby restaurants, hotels and how to see the sights most efficiently in a limited amount of time.

–Arden Smith

Bring an empty, folded up duffel bag in your larger suitcase. That way you will have a smaller, less cumbersome bag to use for weekend/day trips. At the end of your abroad experience, you also have the entire duffel bag to fill up with souvenirs and other additional items that you got abroad and want to bring back home with you.

–Katie Super