

DATES OF BREAK:

-Friday, August 19th (evening) to Sunday, September 4th.

PLAN:

-What based our road trip on and used to advise us:

<http://www.newzealand.com/int/trips-and-driving-itineraries/south-island/christchurch-to-milford-sound/>

-Main plan is to fly from Wellington to Christchurch and then drive all the way around the South Island coastline in a campervan and then get back to Christchurch.

-DAY 1: AUGUST 20TH

Plan:

- Left Wellington early in the morning.
- Arrived in Christchurch before 10am and got our campervan from Jucy and left the airport.
- Spend an hour exploring Christchurch and getting some lunch. Then leave Christchurch by 11:30 am.
- Drive to Oamaru to see the Steampunk Museum OR the colony of little penguins. It is about a 3 hour drive. Arrive there around 2:30 pm.
 - Steampunk Museum is \$5 and colony is \$8.
 - Steampunk closes at 5 pm and colony closes an hour before dusk.
- After that, drive to the Moeraki boulders to be there at sunset. It is about a 30 minute drive.
- Leave the boulders before 6 pm and drive to Dunedin, where we would stay at a the Dunedin Holiday Park and Motels where there is free wifi. It will cost us \$18.50 per person. They close at 8 pm.
- After checking in and getting the campsite info, go to the grocery store (Countdown) and buy groceries that will last for three days - until Invercargill.

What actually happened:

- Flight got delayed before we left Wellington by an hour.
- Got to Christchurch around 11 am. Got our van from the airport and immediately went to McDonalds for food. Didn't get to see any of Christchurch.
- Left for Oamaru ASAP and arrived around 3:30 pm. Went to the Steampunk Museum - spent about an hour there. It was AMAZING. And then went to the Steampunk Playground - it has a giant flying fox (zipline for kids) and is right on the ocean.
- Left Oamaru at around 6pm for Dunedin. Got to campsite right at 8pm and then went grocery shopping.

-DAY 2: AUGUST 21ST

Plan:

- Wake up at 8:30 and explore Dunedin from 10:30 am to 2 pm - eat lunch in Dunedin.
- Visit Larnach Castle - leave Dunedin around 2 pm. It is a small drive out of the way (18 min). Spend around an hour or hour and a half here.
 - Botanical Gardens entry fee of \$.
- Then do an hour long [hike that has "stupendous" views](#) of the coast. It is a 10 minute drive from the castle so we would start at 4:15 pm, reach a beach/conservation area around 4:45 and take a small break there, then head back and be at the car by 5:30 pm. Then go back to Dunedin and spend the night as the same place as last night.

What actually happened:

- Since plans yesterday were messed up - changed plans for today.
- Woke up at 8:30 and then went to the Dunedin/Otago Museum.
 - Free entry and great museum.
- Left there right around 1 pm and then drove to the Moeraki boulders. It's around an hour drive.
- Left the boulders around 4 pm and headed for Tunnel Beach. It is around an hour and fifteen minute drive - and then a small, but steep, walk (approx. 20 min).
 - This was my favorite part of the whole trip. It's a neat little beach that would be better to visit in the day because of the tide at night but it was still gorgeous.
 - It has cliffs you can walk out on and to get to the actual beach you have to walk down through a blown out by dynamite tunnel.
- After that - at around 6:45 pm - we went back to the same campsite and spent the night there.

-DAY 3: AUGUST 22ND

Plan:

- Wake up at 8:30 am and head out for the Catlins. It's about a 2.5 hour drive from Dunedin so we would have to leave at around 9:30am. We would arrive at Catlins around 12am and then go on a hike. So we will have to have packed lunches with us. We will do part of the [Catlins River Walk](#). It can be as long as 10 hours round trip or we can shorten it to whatever length we want (just turn around early).
- After the hike we will stay at [Curio Bay Holiday Park](#). It will cost us \$40 total to stay there.

What actually happened:

- Left the campsite around 10:30 am for the Catlins.
- Arrived at the Catlins around 2 - 2:30 pm.
- Went on the hike for around 2 hours and then got back to our van and went to leave to go book our stay and our van was stuck.
- Had to send two people to go hike to get service and call AA while two people stayed behind and tried to get the van out.
- Eventually people came back from hike 3.5 hours later and then 30 minutes later someone got our van out. Costed an extra \$140.
- Left the Catlins around 8:30 pm without a place to stay and very low on gas.
- Found a gas station that had a 24 hour pump.
- Went and parked at a campsite at a campground and paid in the morning.

-DAY 4: AUGUST 23RD

Plan:

- Leave at 9:30am and drive to Te Anau (right near Fiordlands National Park).
 - Take the long way there (around 3.5 hour drive right along the fiords).
- On the way there stop at the Waipapa Lighthouse. About a 45 minute drive to get there so we would get there around 10:15 and then leave there around 11:30am to head for Invercargill - where we can buy some groceries.
- Then head for Te Anau. We should arrive there around 2:30pm. Then go to the Visitor's Center and start a hike from there.
- Start hike around 3 pm. There are a ton of hikes but I think the best one for us would be from the [Visitor's Center to Brod Bay](#) - won't do the full hike and will just turn back early.
- After we get done hiking we can stay at [Te Anau Lakeview Kiwi Holiday Park](#) - it will cost \$77 total so \$19.25 per person.

What actually happened:

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-DAY 5: AUGUST 24TH

-Leave Te Anau for Milford Sound!! It is about a 2 hour drive to get there so we need to leave at like 9:30am. That will put us there by noon. (Apparently the drive there is one of the most scenic drives in NZ so plan to stop a lot for pics.) Once we get there we will eat lunch (make it ourselves) and then do the Lake Marian Hike that is 3 to 4 hours round trip. So if we start the hike before 1:30pm then we should be back for sure by 5:30pm. Then we can stay at [Milford Sound Lodge](#) - it will cost \$25 a person. (I think this is the only place to stay in the area so it's expensive...)

-DAY 6: AUGUST 25TH

-Wake up and go hiking again! Need to call and see which hike would be best or ask the day before. Want to kinda do an all day thing to see a ton of the Fiords. Then we will stay at the same lodge again so another \$25 a person...

-DAY 7: AUGUST 26TH

-Wake up and drive to Queenstown! It is like a 4 hour drive so we should leave at like 9am and get to Queenstown at like 1pm. Then we will eat lunch there/make our own and pick up Brina. Then spend the day kinda just exploring Queenstown. Stay at...

-DAY 8: AUGUST 27TH

-Spend the day in Queenstown. So we are going to do the swing because Brina said she has to do that. It is like \$275 or something. I would love to do The Luge (where you sit on a little cart and go down a hill). Costs vary depending on the amount of rides: 1 ride = \$12, 2 = \$22, 3 = \$30, 5 = \$40.

-After done with Queenstown we are going to drive to Lake Wanaka.

Little Hikes to do in Qtown:

Lake Hayes - little lake to how to. About 2 hours around the lake. Not too steep. 15 minute drive.

1.5 hours - 20 minute drive. Moke Lake. 10 minutes to Glenorchy. Road going up to right that says lake. Onto dirt road to camp site. Go across bridge.

Mt. Criton walk. Keep going to Glen. 15 minutes. Car park. Mt. Criton walkway. Right side of the road.

-DAY 9: AUGUST 28TH

-DAY 10: AUGUST 29TH

-DAY 11: AUGUST 30TH

-DAY 12: AUGUST 31ST

-DAY 13: SEPTEMBER 1ST

-DAY 14: SEPTEMBER 2ND

-DAY 15: SEPTEMBER 3RD

Food Possibilities:

I'm thinking stick to stuff that will last a little while in case the fridge breaks down (e.g. no raw meat)

I also have a few spices at home-- should I bring them just to bump up the food a little bit?

We should have salt, pepper, and oil as our basics

We should also get some sweets/snacks for long days

Breakfasts:

- Cereal/Muesli Bars (Granola Bars are called Muesli Bars here)
- Instant oatmeal
- Instant coffee and/or tea
- Toast w/butter spread
- Eggs
 - Either fried or scrambled
 - Scrambled is easier and quicker to make for more people
- Crumpets (like toast but spongier and holds butter!)
- I feel like pre-shredded processed cheese may last relatively long, we could use that for scrambles (maybe use early in the trip) (I would just buy pre shredded for the trip because it is easier)

Lunches:

- Sandwiches
 - Peanut butter & jelly/jam
 - Ham/Chicken/Roast Beef, etc.
 - Pre sliced cheese just to make the process easier
 - We used Aioli sauce as a good spread for our sandwiches
- Various soups
 - Watte's canned soups are great. They have:
 - Country Chicken
 - Thai Pumpkin Soup
 - Pumpkin Soup
 - Creamy Mushroom
 - Tomato Soup
- Grilled Cheese
 - With or without soup
- Fruit
 - Bananas
 - Apples
 - Clementines/Oranges
- Veggies
 - Carrots

- Celery
 - Capsicum (Bell Peppers)
- Canned fruit/veggies
- Muesli Bars
- Ramen/Cup Noodle

Dinners:

Pasta is very easy to make so we had a lot of it while on this trip. Along with soups as all you have to do with those is heat them up in a pot. We also had vegetables (broccoli, carrots, potatoes) with most meals because they are also easy to cook.

We also had a stove in our van with 2 burners so it was decently easy to cook all of these. Also, all of the campsites that we stayed at had their own kitchens.

- Thai Pumpkin Soup (Watte's)
 - We added potatoes to give the soup more texture
 - And we also ate it with grilled cheese sandwiches
- Fettuccine pasta with a creamy mushroom sauce and beef strips
 - Essentially we made a beef stroganoff
- Spaghetti with bolognese sauce
- Fettuccine with alfredo sauce
- Vegetarian burritos or quesadillas
 - Beans w/ spices and some cheese and salsa in tortillas
- Vegetable Stir Fry
 - Carrots, broccoli, onions, capsicums, potatoes
 - With or without chicken
- [22 Fast and Easy One Pot Meals](#)

Snacks:

- MUESLI BARS!!! (Oaty ones are really good.)
- Fruits (bananas, apples, cuties)
- Apples and nutella is a really good snack
- Bagels and cream cheese? (also maybe for breakfast?)