

Our South Island Trip

By Ken Rangseethsanasak, Shin Kosaka, Klaus Cheung and David Benseman

Day 1 – Saturday 7 July Kaiteriteri Nelson – Abel Tasman (Ken)

I along with my host-family took an exceedingly well-organized trip to South Island. It was a blissful day. We went out from the ferry boat and shopping in Nelson. We bought something to eat for the way in the car. Then, we went to Kaiteriteri, we took a lot of photos of the South end of Kaiteriteri beach and sea waves. After that we drove to Abel Tasman National Park. We played small rugby ball together inside the park. We spent the night in a motel. We had a tea with a lovely dessert before went to bed.

Day 2 – Sunday 8 July Hokitika Junes friend house (Ken)

Today the weather is not pretty good because it was a rainy day. We left from motel early. We saw some beautiful scenery such as small waterfall from mountain and mountain that cover with fog. We went Paparoa National Park to see Pancake Rocks blowholes and surge pool. It quite windy and humid but we had a lot fun and got many good photos. After that we left our stuffs at motel and went to take some photos at Hokitika Beach. We saw sunset and beautiful sky. We visited June friend house and had great dinner together. We played mobile game before took a shower and slept.

Day 3 – Monday 9 July Franz Joseph (Hot pools, Glaciers) (Ken)

The weather was great I was waking up to a deep blue sky and blazing sun. We left from motel about 8 am. We went to Jade shop called Mountain Jade Hokitika. It had a lot of decoration that made up of jade from natural such as jade stones different shape, necklaces, chairs and bracelets. Then we went to Hokitika Gorge. It quite a long way to the river we walked across the spring bridge and took some photos. We went to Franz Joseph Glaciers before we went to the hot pools. After that we had a nacho for a dinner. It such a relaxed day of this trip.

Day 4 - 10/7/2018 Franz to Queenstown (Shin)

We left Franz Joseph in the early morning. We went through west coast and saw lakes and beautiful natures. We went to the salmon farm for morning tea. It was my second time being at salmon farm. And then we went through Haast Pass and went Wanaka. We went to Puzzling World in Wanaka. You can experience optical illusion between your eyes and brain in the Puzzling World. I went there when I was yr 9 (which is in 2016) and had fun there however, I felt dizzy so I didn't go this time. Klaus and Ken, my host brothers went inside and they seemed like they had fun in there. After they finished it, we went through the crown range to get to Queenstown. We went to the lodge first and headed in central city of Queenstown. In town, we walked around the city and toured.

Day 5- 11/7/2018 Skiing Queenstown (Shin)

We left the lodge at 8 o'clock in the morning to go skiing!! I have done snowboarding and skiing when I was in Japan but it was a while ago. I decided to do snowboarding because I felt like it. I and Klaus did snowboarding and David, my host dad and Ken did skiing. Both of my brothers have never done skiing and they said they have never touched or seen snow before. Everyone but David got lessons. Klaus and I took the same lesson. I gradually got the hang of it because I have done it few times. For Klaus, it was his first time so he was not very good at it. However, he also getting better and better and I was very impressed by him. I bought the ticket that allowed me to ride any lifts so that I rode a lowest lift to for few times and so as Klaus and Ken. We stayed at ski field for whole day and went back to the lodge. We were exhausted and we stayed at the lodge.

Day 6 - 12/7/2018 Queenstown to Milford Sound (Shin)

We left the lodge in the morning about half past 5 because we booked the boat to see Milford Sound. We slept in the car on the way. We hadn't had any traffic and I thought we could get there earlier than what we were thinking. But because it was freezing cold outside it's froze the roads in the tunnel we had to go through meaning we couldn't get to the other side. We had plenty of time to get Milford Sound and wait till the tunnel opened. There was a place where we could see beautiful nature by the road to the tunnel so we went back to spend the time waiting there. We saw a lake and some trees, bushes, etc. When the tunnel opened we went straight through because we were running a bit late on time. When we came out from the tunnel, I was shocked because what I saw a view full of snow and it was a brilliant scenery. It didn't take us long to get to the port and get on a boat. We saw a lot of waterfalls. Ken and David were moving around a lot to take a photos of the scenery. We ate fish and chips for lunch. After we saw some of the gorgeous views, we went to see Chasm.

Once we finished gazing at the Chasm we hopped into the car to get to get to our motel. When we arrived at motel, we cooked our tea straight away because we were too tired to do anything else.

I had a great time with my host parents and host brothers and it was a very fun trip. I have been to the trip last year and the year before but it was my first time going with Klaus and Ken because they only arrived at the start of this year. June (My host mom) and David always take us to fun activities and to see beautiful scenery all around New Zealand. I really appreciate them to take us around New Zealand. I hope in the future I can do the same for them in my country, Japan.

I had an extraordinary holiday with my host family in the South Island. We started from the Picton, then heading to Queen's Town, Southland, Dunedin and Christchurch. It was full of fun. There were lots of gorgeous views, like the glacier, vegetation, landscapes, etc. As well as the countless waterfalls. It was a valuable chance for me because I am studying South Island High Countries at the moment, it was amazing that when I first saw the glacier just in front of me at Franz Josef Glacier. Also, we had a great time in Queen's Town, we skied and had a lovely lunch over there. I can't wait to tell you how lovely of this trip.

Day 7 - 13 July Friday, Te Anau to Curio Bay (David)

We left Te Anau for Lake Manapouri with June walking the dog for half an hour before we picked her up on the way. It was then the slightly longer way for us to travel straight down to the coast then through Riverton before stopping in Invercargill for supplies. We went to Bluff for lunch, which included Bluff Oysters deep fried in batter for all of us. After seeing the view of Stewart Island and the Tiwai Point smelter, we went in to Bluff where June did more shopping, and I bought some more kilometers for my Road User Charges which I noticed that I ran out of that morning. We then went on to Slop Point, the most southern point on mainland New Zealand, before heading off to the backpackers in Curio Bay. There was no one there when we arrived, but the place was open and my name was on the blackboard beside the rooms that were in, along with a note for anyone else to just write their name alongside any room/bed that they chose for the night, and the manager would sort things out when he got there later in the evening. Before cooking tea, Ken and I went for a walk down to the petrified forest at the end of the street, and managed to see a couple of penguins coming ashore at the end of their day, something that we found out many missed even going back several nights to see.

Day 8 - 14th July Saturday, Caitlins Forest Park and Omarama (Klaus)

Walking at the Catlins Forest Park was definitely a kind of enjoyment, you can hear that the waterfall was pounding the rocks. If you get closer you can feel the cool water vapour— it was 1 degree Celsius in the morning. Then we went to the pub for watching Rugby on Omarama at night. We played pool over there, and I found David, my host-dad, is a skilled player, he did a pretty much pot at that night, however, he lost because the black ball went to the pocket in his first term.

Day 9 - 15th July Sunday, Lyttelton (Klaus)

It was a brilliant night that I met Denver and June's friend and having a lovely dinner with them. Then, I had an experience of high-speed driving with Denver on the way returning to the motel. It was fantastic. He took me a hill and showed me the night view of Christchurch, which is extremely flat and separate. I noticed that there was an earthquake took place in couple years ago, nevertheless, I did not find much evidence that left by the earthquake, it seems the reconstruction was processing very well, and I am so pleased with it.

Day 10 - 16th July Monday, Christchurch (Klaus)

Shin, one of my host brother, left this morning, he returned to Wellington College for the election of the Rugby junior team, who will play for Hurricanes if he was picked. (I hope I explain it correctly)

Then, we were going to play go-kart with David and Ken, my others host-brother, while June was having a great lunchtime with her friend. I hope I can have the same experience as last night. Yet, the situation was out of my control, the way wasn't build by concrete but mud, so my face was muddy after the game and sometimes the mud went to my mouth, which is awful. Therefore, I am here advising you that keep your mouth shut when you are playing go-kart in muddy ground, I know it's hard to do that when you are feeling excited, but do that for your own good.

Day 10 – Monday 16 July (David)

The day started early for Shin and June as Shin had to be at the airport by 6:30am for his flight back to Wellington. He had made the squad for the Wellington Rugby Under 16 team training week. Luckily, he had already seen the part of the South Island that the rest of us were about to visit so he wouldn't be missing out on any of the sights.

While June visited a friend, Ken, Klaus and I went to the Action Raceway for some laps in the go-carts. The track is a clay track which they wet to make the track slippery and allow us to drift a bit. Because the track had been recently sprayed, it ended up a bit too slippery for the boys and they spent quite a bit of time waiting to be pointed in the right direction after having spun out. They also found out why we changed shoes and wore overalls when the mud started to fly.

From Christchurch, it was a short trip to Hanmer Springs for the night. We stayed in the only place on our trip which was dog friendly, where we could openly have the dog out and about. What trip to Hanmer Springs is complete without a trip to the hot pools where we relaxed and had a soak. We did get a little competitive and had a couple of swimming races as a bit of exercise.

Day 11 – Tuesday 17 July (David)

Time to head home today, but not before checking out the Kaikoura coast and looking at the changes that the earthquake made to the landscape. We checked out the seals lounging around on the boardwalk on the peninsula and had a brief look around the town. I was dropped off in Blenheim

to see my family for a couple of days while June and the boys went to visit a friend in Picton before catching the ferry at 10:30pm and heading home.

By the time I got home, I had driven a total of 3400km during the holiday and managed to keep reasonably close to the budget that I had set for the trip for transport and accommodation. We had had a great holiday and the boys had seen just how beautiful the South Island countryside is. They also had a chance to try some new things, which included touching snow for the first time for two of them.



Lake Tekapo



Seal on the boardwalk in Kaikoura



Looking south from South Bay over the whale watch marina with Klaus in the foreground



(heading to the top~~~ we're on the ski lift, Coronet Peak Ski Area, Queen's Town)



Lounging around at the entrance to Bluff



Moeraki Boulders