

Tourism Cruise

When learning about tourism...where better to study than on a Cruise Ship?

Late 2017 whilst brainstorming career opportunities and how they could make learning meaningful Sheree Saunt (Gateway coordinator at TAS) and Andrea Cameron(Tourism teacher) decided the best option was to take 28 students on a cruise! Before they could talk themselves out of it, the deposit was paid and the planning began!

A cruise would expose the students to nearly every job within the tourism industry- from ticketing to entertainment. The students were responsible for researching and helping plan the trip and on their return would be consolidating their learning with a 1 day service skills course run by local providers ITC (International Tourism College). Students were expected to pay for the trip and many fundraised by working in the school tuckshop and other events.

Aaron Skelton attended the trip as the groups " official photographer" as part of a Gateway/work placement. He has taken some great shots.

Students experienced the highs and lows of travel, the stress of checking in and heightened security restrictions; the joy of new sights, sounds and tastes and the luxury of being cared for by hundreds of staff who treated the students like royalty. For many students it was their first "organised holiday" and excitement and anticipation was high for over three months before the departure date. The students fundraised for hoodies to wear which were designed by local artist Mike Cameron. These hoodies proved invaluable on the giant ship as it made the teachers and students easy to identify amongst the other 2000 plus passengers.

Students were asked to reflect on their trip. Harry Marker said his, "Wow moment was seeing the amount of the food at the buffet", whereas Melayna Tuoro exclaimed, "WOW!" at the sight of the boat, she also loved the parties and said the funniest moment on board the Comedy Cruise was "Dancing with the teachers!!"

Students identified services that made them feel special as a tourist. Tamar de Jong, "liked getting a chocolate on her pillow", whilst Daryl Wall stated, "there are no dull moments and I was always well looked after". Madeline Kawana particularly liked having her room cleaned and bags delivered to her cabin.

All in all the trip was a massive success and the goal of providing students with a fun and authentic learning experience was clearly met. This trip was made easier with the support of the students, their families, Tauraroa Area School BOT ,Principal and support staff along with sponsorship from: Helena Bay Estate, Oxford Sports Trust, Rotary Club, Ngapuhi Runanga, The People Potential Charitable trust, Pak n Save , New World, The Hits, Harroways, Sanitarium, Hells Pizza, Natural Creations Mike Cameron, Terry Blythe ecustom, STAR funding, Dawn Dutton photography, STAR and Gateway funding.



