

Mahurangi College Trips Programme and Procedures

It is common for international students to want to see as much of New Zealand as they can in their time here at the college, and the college is supportive of this. There are three ways in which a student may achieve this:

- A trip under the direct supervision of their homestay family
- A trip undertaken by the college and its staff
- A trip conducted by a company that has direct, responsible adult supervision and is approved by the college.

A student is not allowed to undertake any overnight trip away from their homestay independently. That is, book their own travel programme and arrangements even if they wish to travel with fellow students from the college. This includes short stays such as a weekend visit to Auckland city and longer stays away from their homestay.

In addition, the college will not allow a student to travel overseas during their time at the college unless it is a college-sponsored trip (eg a sports or cultural trip) or with their homestay family. In such cases permission needs to be obtained from the family in their home country (see the form for Parental Permission on this website.)

The college conducts several trips and outings each term at budget prices as the college does not operate as a private tour company. It is the cheapest way to travel. These include visits to Auckland city, the local area, and trips further afield such as Northland, and Rotorua and Taupo. Students are informed of these trips at their college orientation when they first arrive. The aim is to extend their 'New Zealand experience' especially during times when opportunities to participate in college activities (sports eg) are more limited (during the winter months), and to offer opportunities during weekends when students may feel there is little to do. Each term will average about five to six outings or trips. The emphasis on these trips is educational, and adventure-tourism - offering activities that include learning about NZ's culture, sand dune boarding, high ropes confidence courses, snorkeling, quad bike riding, jet boating, sand yachts, and so forth. The college continually looks for activities that can challenge students and add to their NZ experience both in the classroom (NZ Studies) and outside. Costs are kept to a minimum through accommodation at backpackers, youth hostels or camp grounds. Often for overnight stays, students are expected to prepare their own meals under the guidance of the staff; (this keeps costs down and is more nutritious.)

Students may also go on trips conducted by approved tour companies but permission forms need to be completed not only for the tour company but also the Mahurangi College Permission Form. Insurance needs to be checked for some adventure based activities. A list of approved companies is given to students at their Mahurangi College orientation and this can change on occasion. Students are advised **not** to pay for any such trip or tour without first completing the Mahurangi College trip procedures.

The college will invoice for a trips programme on the main invoice (tuition, homestay, uniform etc) notification. This is not compulsory and is an optional payment but does assist students when they come to choose the trip they wish to go on. Any unused money in this category is refunded in full to the student or parents upon departure from the college.