

My name is Scott Oakley aged 23. My mom is Savika (nee Munivai of Malhaha, Rotuma) and Dad is Roger from Auckland, New Zealand.

This year I completed a degree in Mechanical Engineering at Auckland University. Whilst completing my final year I decided to join a high school friend of mine travelling through Europe and working in Russia over a period of two months.

In preparation for the trip my friend and I joined a group called 'Couch Surfing' and I worked part-time in my final year of study to save for this trip.

The first part of my trip was a 12 hour flight to Tokyo which was the longest flight I've ever been on. Arriving into Narita Airport was quite a scary experience; the reality of the trip hit me at that moment.

After a few hours at Narita Airport I flew to Paris. During our first few days in Paris we stayed with a lovely couple who showed me and my friend around the city. We visited most of the famous sites in Paris, including the Eiffel Tower, the Arc De Triomphe and the Chateau de Versailles.

After travelling south through some other beautiful French cities we went to Barcelona, Spain. We noticed that the weather was getting a lot hotter at this point as we were travelling during the peak of summer. Spain was very beautiful, with amazing culture, food and history. We visited Barcelona, Valencia and the capital city of Madrid during our stay in Spain.

After a week travelling through Spain we went to Italy and spent time in Florence and Rome. The historical sites such as the Coliseum were amazing. The final country we went to before the experience in Russia was Greece. We spent a lot of time in Greece, travelling through Athens, and some of the Greek Islands, Santorini, Mykanos and Crete. We were lucky enough to visit some ancient sites including the Monasteries at Meteora and the Temples of Delphi.

After Greece, we went to Russia to teach at a summer camp for three weeks. The camp was in a forest in a town called Luga, about an hour south of St Petersburg, the second largest city in Russia. The experience teaching and meeting the kids was amazing. Many aspects of Russia took a bit of getting used to, the food, the culture, the language, but overall I found the experience very fulfilling and I was sad to leave when the final day came.

On my way back home I stayed a few days in Bangkok, Thailand. The people were very friendly and the city was so vibrant and colourful, I definitely plan to visit again some day. My two months travelling and teaching took me to 10 different countries overall, visiting amazing sites and meeting interesting people I am looking forward to my next overseas adventure, watch this space....



VALENCIA, SPAIN







ORANGE LANGUAGE CENTRE CAMP, LUGA, RUSSIA

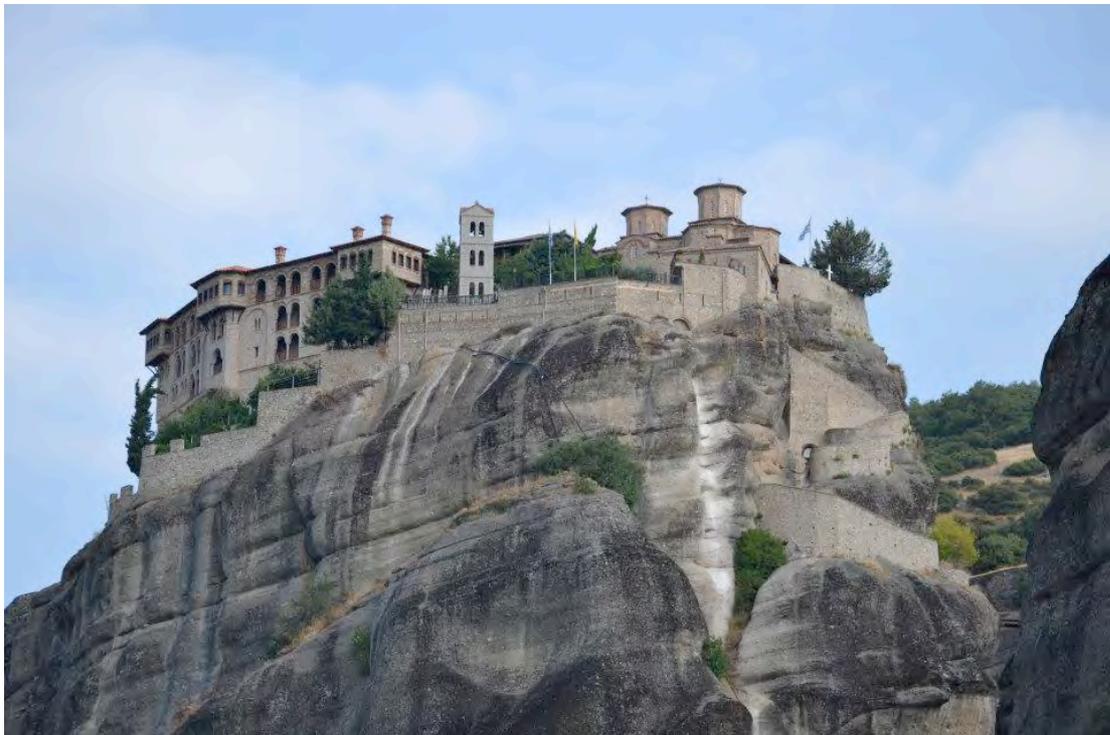


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