Work and Travel in New Zealand

Dream Au Pair eBook

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“You will never be completely at home again, because part of your heart will always be elsewhere. That is the price you pay for the richness of loving and knowing people in more than one place.”

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Become an Au Pair in New Zealand

We are lucky enough to call New Zealand our home. We think it's one of the best counties in the world. Here's why:

New Zealand is a tiny paradise hidden at the bottom of the world. Despite being so far away, we remain one of the world's greatest tourist destinations. Here are some of the special things about New Zealand that have made it justifiably famous - and why you need to see it for yourself.

Our people. New Zealanders are naturally warm and friendly people and are particularly hospitable to tourists. Wherever you go you will receive a friendly smile and a warm welcome.

Our weather. Although there are four distinct seasons in New Zealand there are not the extremes of hot and cold to be found in most other countries. Any time of year is a pleasant time to explore New Zealand's wonders.

Our safety. Crime is low in New Zealand and as a tourist you are unlikely to encounter problems. Furthermore, there are virtually no lethal creatures amongst New Zealand's wildlife so you can explore without concern for being bitten or eaten!

Our culture. A fascinating blend of cultures with Maori and Pakeha who mingle and thrive in a peaceful yet vibrant society.

Our incredible scenery. You have to see it to believe it.

Becoming an Au Pair with a Kiwi family provides you with a **unique experience into New Zealand culture** with the security of a home away-from-home environment. Au Pairs get a chance to combine all the fun and excitement of being part of a young Host Family with the opportunity to **travel and experience** some of life's most memorable moments.

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What does an Au Pair do?

Simply, you would be a live-in nanny – helping care for the children whether its helping them with homework, preparing simple meals or driving them to soccer practice. You would be part of the family and have your own private bedroom. You would **work between 20 and 45 hours per week** and get **paid with room and board** and between **$100-$285 per week** (depending how many hours you work and your experience). The only thing you need to worry about is your **flights insurance and visa.**

How it Works

Board and Lodgings

Private Bedroom and Bathroom

You will have your own **private, furnished bedroom** in the Host Family's home. The bedroom will include, at least, a bed and all associated linen, somewhere to store and hang clothing, such as a chest of drawers, wardrobe with hangers. There will be a mirror and suitable lighting, heating and window coverings. Your bedroom is your private space in the home. You may not have exclusive use of a bathroom, shared bathroom and toilet facilities are usual. Bathroom linen will be provided.

Meals

You will receive **3 meals per day, 7 days a week**, either with the family or the children. Kiwi's eat their main meal at night and generally have lighter lunches (sandwiches) during the day. The Host Family is not expected to cook each meal for you in fact sometimes they may ask you to cook for the family. You, within reason, should be able to help yourself to snacks as required.

All the costs of living in the family home will be met by the Host Family. This does not include your personal items such as shampoo, conditioner, other toiletries and personal hygiene products. If your Host Family invites you to accompany them on a family outing then they should cover the costs, i.e. family dinners, coffees, ice creams etc.

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About Dream Au Pair

We are New Zealand's largest privately owned Au Pair agency and have been operating since early 2007.

Dream Au Pair is licenced with the Ministry of Education to provide a home-based education programme. Our head office is in Auckland, with Education Coordinators based locally within each licensed region.

Our team has trusted relationships with all Host Families, giving you peace of mind that you are coming to a screened Host Family and reputable agency who are here to assist if things don't go as planned. Our Host Families live in a variety of locations throughout the country, giving you a chance to tailor the Au Pair experience, from farm and country placements to smaller towns and larger cities, coastal, mountainside and urban locations; there is a Host Family to suit you.

Meet the Dream Team

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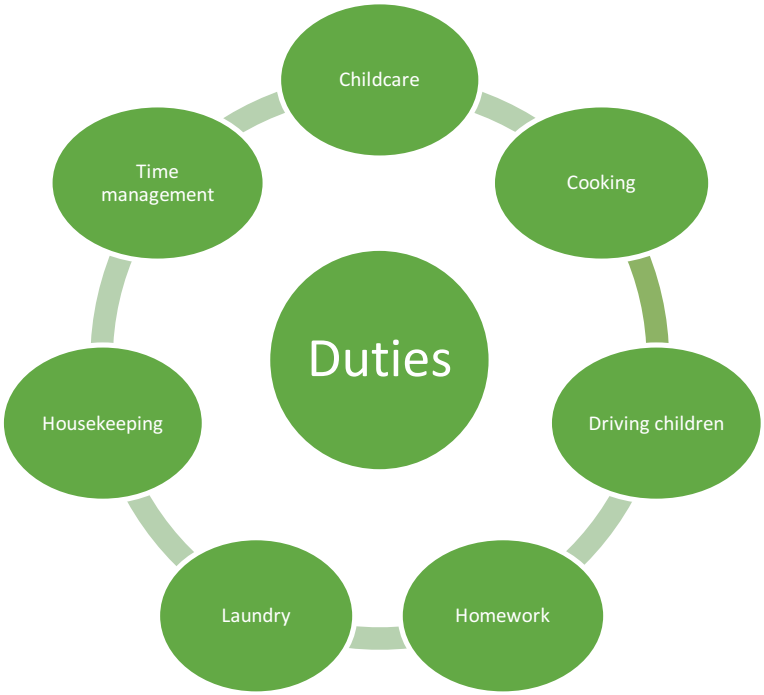
2-Day Orientation in Auckland

Once you have arrived in New Zealand you will attend **a 2- day Orientation in a 4-star hotel in Auckland City.** You will have the chance to meet and socialise with other new Au Pair arrivals and to meet some of the experienced Dream Au Pair staff. You will receive **1 nights' accommodation (shared room)**, lunch/dinner on the 1st day and breakfast/lunch on the 2nd day. The orientation includes everything from local culture and customs, caring for children and first aid and is **paid for by Dream Au Pair.**

Once you have been with your Host Family for a few days, we'll be in touch again to see how you are settling in with the household routines, family and children.

Host Family Expectations

An Au Pairs role is very varied and will differ from family to family. This will give you an idea of what may be expected.



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Duties

Your Au Pair duties should be related to the children, providing care and supervision. Au Pairs on the "Play and Learn Programme" are expected to work together with their Education Coordinator to develop a learning journal for each enrolled child, attend monthly educational excursions, playgroups, child first aid training and professional development sessions run by Dream Au Pair wherever possible.

Some families will have a sole charge arrangement, where both parents are away at work, others, a parent helper to share the workload where there may be a new baby or multiple children to care for. You are expected to play with and entertain children, attend the children's activities and classes with them, drop off and pick up from school and kindergarten, prepare snacks and meals for the children, bathe, dress, change, comfort the children and assist with homework.

It is reasonable for the family to expect you to be responsible for light household chores relating to the care of the children, for example; tidying away toys at the end of the day, cleaning children's rooms, cleaning children's and your own bathrooms. In addition, vacuuming, changing your own and children's bed linen, doing children's laundry and tidying the kitchen after you have used it.

If your Host Family would like you to undertake any extra housekeeping duties, they should discuss this with you at the interview and include these in your job description.

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Work Hours/Weekly Work Planner

Your 'Placement Agreement' (Job Contract)
One of the reasons why families choose an Au Pair to help care for their children is that it offers the families flexibility. Some families will have the same schedule each week while others may vary day to day, week to week. Days off, work times, hours per week and evening babysitting needs will be different for every family. Every family must make every effort to plan your working week in advance so you can plan your time off to spend time with friends and explore New Zealand.

In your Placement Agreement, you will have agreed to how many hours you will work each week, 30 hours, 35 hours, 40 hours or 45 hours. This does not mean your Host Family needs to provide a rigid schedule of work. Parents may at times be home from work late, however if your Host Family are consistently home late every day then you may need to discuss this with them and possibly re arrange your finish time.

Babysitting
In addition to your normal working hours, you are required to be available for one free nights babysitting per week by prior arrangement. Babysitting is when the children are asleep or in bed, so you must be home to supervise but not actively working. You may be watching a movie with a friend or Skyping with family but available if one of the children wakes or is unsettled. Unused babysitting evenings cannot be banked. This means that if you don't babysit one week the family can't save it and use it another week. A family must give you reasonable notice if they require you to babysit. Equally unless you have something specific scheduled for a date you are asked to babysit, you are required to babysit for the date requested.

Time Off

All Dream Au Pairs must have **2 full days off each week** and at least one full weekend (consecutive Saturday and Sunday) free each calendar month. Sometimes Host Families may need their Au Pair to help with additional care as one off overtime, a sole charge overnight or sole charge weekend situation. Please contact Dream Au Pair to discuss these situations and what fair payment for these special occasions would be.

Host Families appreciate that having an Au Pair is not only a great childcare option but also a cultural exchange for you and the Host Family. You should expect to be treated as part of the family and the Host Family should help you to fit in to a new country and culture, invite you on family outings and holidays and help you to pursue your interests and hobbies.

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Work time, Free time and Family time

The most commonly asked question by all Au Pairs is what is free time and what is work time?

Work time
Work hours are defined as times when you are responsible for the children or required to undertake tasks as specified in your job description, you would not be free to go out as you have work to complete or children to supervise.

Free time
Personal time is defined as times when you are able to leave the house if you wish and are not required to perform your duties.

During free time or personal time, you should be able to go out, or have a friend visit. Please check with your family if they have guidelines about friends visiting, how many, how often etc.

Family time
There will be times when you are helping in the house or engaging with the family or children during your personal free time. This is because you are part of the family and these contributions to the household and the children are expected within a Kiwi Host Family.

Curfew
Some families impose a curfew on evenings before a working day. In many cases, Host Families ask that the Au Pair be home by midnight if they will be working the following day. This is to ensure you are fresh and rested when caring for the children and must be respected.

Some examples:

- If you are having a family meal and you help with the dishes after dinner this is personal time.
- If you make something to eat in the weekend during your free time and the dishwasher is full please unpack it and put your dishes in it – this is not work, this is being part of a family.
- If you are looking after a child who has a daytime sleep but you are required to stay in the house to supervise while the child is asleep this is considered working hours.
- If you are playing a game with the children during the weekend, at a time you are not scheduled to work this is not work, this is being part of the family.

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Au Pair Wages

While hosting an Au Pair is in essence a cultural exchange programme, an Au Pair is considered to be an employee within the New Zealand legal framework. This means you entitled to be paid the minimum wage and are eligible for all the benefits New Zealand employment law allows, including paid leave, statutory days/payments, PAYE tax contributions and fair working conditions.

Board and Lodging Deductions

The board and lodging deduction from your wage covers all of the expenses the Host Family incur to accommodate you including your furnished room, linen and laundry facilities, all your meals and snacks, power, phone, water, internet and the other extras many Host Families provide their Au Pairs like cars, phones, holidays etc.

This means you will not have any living expenses while you are placed with your Host Family and the net amount you receive is disposable income for you to spend or save as you wish.

Board and lodging amounts are determined through analysis of costs of rental accommodation and household services/cost of living, typical student homestay costs, university dormitory costs and private board situations to determine an average amount which can be applied to the Au Pair Board and Lodgings across the Dream Au Pair network of Host Families.

You may be eligible for a tax refund when you leave New Zealand. Dream Au Pair is able to do your tax refund for you. This will cost $125 NZD for up to two tax returns. If you are not eligible for a refund, there will be no charge for this service.

Completion Bonus

Dream Au Pairs are eligible for a completion bonus upon successful completion of their Au Pair placement term. To receive the bonus, an Au Pair must complete the placement through to the end date noted in the Placement Agreement and actively participate in the Play and Learn Programme (if applicable).

The completion bonus is accrued in the amount of $**10 per week** and paid out in your final wage payment. The completion bonus is a taxable bonus, meaning PAYE will be deducted and paid to the IRD prior to payment being made to you. Please see your placement agreement for more information on the terms and conditions of the completion bonus.

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Living Together

Each family is different but below are some helpful tips for living in a typical Kiwi family. Being prepared and following the below guidelines will help your placement be successful.

Laundry

- Top loading machines are most common in New Zealand
- Separating dark and light washes
- Most wash on cold cycles
- Kiwi's prefer to use washing lines in good weather
- Most Kiwi's use drying racks indoors in wet weather NOT the dryer 100% as this can be very expensive.

Heating

- In New Zealand most homes do not have central heating or double glazing.
- In winter as night falls close windows curtains and blinds to keep the heat in.
- Kiwi families do not have heaters on all day and night. Usually heating is turned on in the late afternoon as the temperature drops then off again before retiring to bed.

Mobile Phones

Families will want to be able to contact you while you are working with the children and vice versa, particularly if a problem should arise. You will be provided with a 2 Degree pre-pay SIM card at the Dream Au Pair Orientation. It is expected that you will bring your mobile handset with you from home. The SIM card provided should be ready to go on insertion into the handset. In some rare cases the handset may need to be "unlocked" to be able to operate within the New Zealand networks.

We advise Host Families to provide a monthly allowance to cover calls and text messages you make to your Host Family, to ensure you are always able to make contact with your Host Family. Most families contribute $10 per month. It is then your responsibility to keep the phone charged and loaded with credit in order to stay in touch.

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Computers and WIFI

It is expected that your Host Family will provide reasonable internet access for you. You are required to bring your own personal laptop. You should be able to connect to the internet in a private place in the house (preferably your bedroom) with an internet connection able to cope with Skype calls.

It is expected that Au Pairs will NOT use personal computers, mobile devices or the internet while working.

Get Social

Facebook - Our Facebook page connects you with other Au Pairs and to find out about upcoming events.

Pinterest check out our pins on how to make the most of your time in NZ.

Instagram Follow us @dream_aupair and see what other Au Pairs are up to in New Zealand.

Coffee Groups
Dream Au Pair runs a monthly Coffee Group in Auckland to help Au Pairs get together and make new friends, these are free to attend and especially popular for new arrivals. If you are interested in setting up a coffee group in your area outside of Auckland, please contact us and we are very happy to assist.

"Student Trips"

Dream Au Pair has partnered with Student Trips to offer you discounted regular exciting trips and activities. By joining Student Trips, you can meet new people, make new friends and enjoy the exciting activities that New Zealand offers.

Student Trips offers two kinds of different trips; Weekend Trips and Social Activities. We will give you a little overview about our trips.

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Discount codes: dapdiscount
Get yours today:
http://www.studenttrips.co.nz/dreamaupair

Weekend trips
There is a range of weekend trips we offer, from climbing the **Tongariro Crossing,** to **Kayaking in Coromandel** and **Rafting in Rotorua**. During these weekend trips we have organised the accommodation, transport, activities, food and fun for you.

Day trips
We also have day trips that usually leave on a Saturday morning and come back at the end of the afternoon. Here we visit locations like **Hobbiton** and some secret caves.

South Island Trip
A 15-days trip to explore the South Island! Highlights are:

- Ice Explorer Trip in Franz Josef including helicopter ride
- Entry to Franz Josef Hot Pools
- Zip Trek Queenstown
- Daytrip to Milford Sound
- 6WD Argo Tour in Mount Cook
- Use your discount code and you will get a 25% discount for this Trip!

Early Bird
Student Trips works with an Early Bird Rate. This means that if you book prior the deadline, you can book for a discounted price. You will not only get a discounted price, you can still use your discount code, which makes your booking as cheap as possible! Check out www.studenttrips.co.nz for more options.

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WHAT NEXT?

To get one step closer to your next adventure check your email (try your Junk folder in case) to begin your registration.

Once you have registered, we will then email you all the documentation that you need to complete and send back to us. Once we have your completed application you can start to see our pre-screened Host Families and set up Skype calls with them.

We are happy to help you with any questions so please feel free to call/skype/Facetime with Sarah Worn our Placement Manager on +64 21 2490944 or email her with any questions on sarahworn@dreamaupair.co.nz.

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