

Profile: Sara Morgan

Hometown:

Te Awamutu, New Zealand

Program:

IEP Work Canada Job Fair

Tell us about where you live and what you got up to in Canada?

I live in Vancouver, which is an awesome city. It's big without being industrial and is so pretty with places like Stanley Park and Granville Island. Being here during the Olympics was a great experience, everyone was always in a good mood and there was so much going on. Vancouver is well placed for travel, I travelled from LA on greyhound buses up to Vancouver stopping in many places along the way. It's only US\$15 and a couple of hours to get to Seattle. I've been to Whistler also to go snowboarding which is like nothing you can imagine. I have a trip to Mexico planned, which was fairly inexpensive also, US\$350 return, which is only one example of how easy it is to travel around the Americas.

What are some of the experiences that you had which made an impact on you?

Coming to Canada through the USA, I was struck by how friendly Canadians were. The people here are laid back, always pleased to meet people from other places, while also being proud of what their country has to offer. During the Olympics this was especially evident, which made the event a great experience, even without seeing the sports events live.

Were there any times that were hard?

While it is very picturesque and friendly in Canada, it is completely different. The food, television, money, road rules/-signs, everything is different. You both speak english, but because of different terms for things, it's often hard to understand or get your point across. No one knows what 'heaps' means!



What is something unexpected/different/strange about Canada compared with other places you have lived?

What I found unexpected was how hard it is to communicate, even though we both speak english, after a while you pick up new words and learn not to use others and people get used to your accent.

Do you have any advice for someone who wants a Canadian adventure?

Visit Whistler. Even if you can't ski or snowboard. It's so soft it doesn't matter if you fall down all the time, and you don't have to worry about getting on and off any chairlifts because you can just take the gondolas which is great for beginners.



WORKING ADVENTURES WORLDWIDE

What did you find valuable in going to Canada on an IEP program?

Having a job to go to through the job fair got rid of any stress. The cost of the fair is really only the same as not working for a week, which you would do while looking for a job anyway. The orientation is great once you get here. The tips on rent, cell phones and banks is all useful because you need to know it right away and it all functions differently to New Zealand.

What next or where to next for you?

I am currently working on Grouse Mountain, with the winter season ending at the end of March. I plan to holiday for a month or so, then hopefully find a job at Lake Louise for the summer, then back to New Zealand.

What advice would you give to somebody else who is considering going on Work Canada Job Fair?

Consider how much the fair costs, and how much time you would be spending finding a job not earning and the fair basically pays for itself, not to mention the ease of walking right into the job. The jobs you get through the job fair are really unique, and you get added benefits such as fixed term contracts which other people I work with do not have.

