

Profile: Hamish Day

Hometown:

Hamilton, New Zealand

Program:

Work USA Plus

Length of time spent overseas?

Just over 10 months!

Tell us where you lived and what you got up to in the United States?

I first moved to Salt Lake City Utah. I moved to Utah to snowboard as I heard it had some of the best snow in the world! I came late in the season and all the resorts said there was no work left, so I just started riding! One day I sat next to a guy called Blake on a chair lift who was from Alaska, he was like 'why don't you come ride with me for the day?' so I did. Next thing you know he's my good friend and got me what I think was the best job on the resort. I was driving the food and beverage snow cat (restocking the mountain restaurants with food at night), so I got free food and got to ride all day.

Through him I met a girl called Ali who was high up at the Skull Candy headphone company based out of park city Utah. She introduced me to the right people and I guess they were stoked on me because next thing I knew I was on a plane to L.A and put on a super flash tour bus on the Vans Warped tour. It was a new music festival and new city every day, sweet cash 5-star hotels and all free food, clothes, glasses, skateboards - whatever you needed. It was crazy adventures in every big city in the U.S and Canada. 45 U.S states and 6 Canadian provinces with a sweet as crew (heaps of new friends).

After that I went to Mexico with my girlfriend and then flew to Vancouver where my bro from New Zealand had scored us a sweet kombi van. We headed out on a epic roadie to Alaska to catch up with my friend Blake who lived right on the Keni River, and happed to own a building company so he gave us work and we stayed and explored there until the first snow. Now I'm back in Utah just waiting for the ski resorts to open.



Were there any times that were hard?

For sure! Right at the end of the snow season I tore the MCL in my knee real bad and separated the AC joint in my shoulder on a hard landing so I was basically a cripple. After about 2-months I was so poor and the recession was still pretty bad in the U.S. I finally got a job selling Cutco knives. I was hobbling on my bung knee trying to sell these ridiculously expensive knife sets to rich old American ladies. My first three (average as) paychecks went straight to pay my bank overdraft. I was thinking that I pretty much was going to have to go home. Then got a call from Skull Candy and about a week later I was on a plane to L.A.

Type of job?

- Drove the food and beverage snow cat at Park City Mountain Resort, Utah.
- Sold Cutco knives, door-to-door demonstrations Salt Lake City Utah.
- Worked for Skull Candy on the Vans Warped Tour. Promotions/sales & Candy Girl Model Search. All over the U.S and Canada.
- Construction on the Keni river Alaska.



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How did you find employment in the USA?

Being friendly and word of mouth.

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

Do it! You will not regret it.

Has working in the USA benefited your career work experience?

Definitely. I have gained many new skills and experiences, which will not only be good on a resume but have given me a far broader knowledge and understanding of the world.

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

They sort out all the difficult stuff and make it easy.

What next? Where to next?

Another snow season, Morocco and Egypt for New Years I think, then who knows where ever I feel at the time.



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