The Vanderbilt University Insider’s Guide to World Travel
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EUROPE
Top things that must be done, seen, or visited

1. National Museum: Free! Excellent display of a vast array of exhibitions
2. Tivoli (on a Friday night): Rock concert, fun rides, gorgeous during the evening, superb cuisine options
3. Fredriksborgslot: Breathtaking castle scene, quaint town, modern exhibitions present as well as classic castle-associated elements

Favorite restaurants

Name: Lê Lê Nhà Hàng
Type: Vietnamese, take-out or stay in
Description: Deep, scrumptious bowls of soups, noodles, and sushi.
Price: 60 kroner or more
Location: Near Tivoli, Vesterbro, Vesterbrogade 40

Name: Sct. Peder's Bageri
Type: Bakery and cafe
Description: Really good food and espresso. Cheaper on the weekdays.
Price: 5 kroner and up
Location: Two streets behind DIS, Sankt Peders Stræde 29

Useful information or fun facts

Talk to people—the Danes are phenomenal and interesting.

Girls, do NOT travel alone on the metro at night.
Copenhagen, Denmark

Top things that must be done, seen, or visited

1. Tivoli Gardens: It is an amusement park built right into the heart of the city. With fun rides and great food, it is a must-see for Copenhagen.
2. Canal Tours: Traveling along the canals through Copenhagen with a guide gives a unique view of the city and its history.
3. Copenhagen Botanical Garden: A very beautiful garden where you can go to relax, study and just enjoy the surroundings.

Favorite restaurants

Name: Icebar Copenhagen
Type: Bar
Description: A bar completely made of ice, and the air is kept around 5 degrees Celsius (about 40 degrees F). Everything is made of ice, including the seats, tables, bar and glasses. They give you a parka, boots, and gloves to keep you warm while inside. It is more of an attraction than a bar (although they do serve drinks), but it is really cool and worth seeing if you’re willing to pay.
Price: Very expensive (about $30 to enter, which includes 1 free drink)
Location: Løngangstræde 27, Copenhagen

Name: Vesuvio
Type: Italian
Description: Great Italian food (pasta, pizza, meat dishes). The desserts are also delicious. If you want to go out somewhere nice to eat just once during your stay, I would recommend Vesuvio. It is also conveniently right next to the main train station and across the street from Tivoli.
Price: More expensive (about $30/meal)
Location: Rådhuspladsen 4

Useful information or fun facts

Make a day trip to the Kronborg Castle (“Hamlet’s Castle”). It is about a 45-minute train ride from Copenhagen. Allow a lot of time to walk around, and if you want you can take a ferry across to Sweden.
Porquerolles: A small island off the coast that has the most beautiful water I have ever seen. Even the boat trip over is wonderful.

Cassis: A tiny town on the water that offers boat tours through the "calanques." Great ice cream on shore and awesome cliffs out on the water.

Visit the little shops in Aix. Some of the shopping is great and it's fun to see the classically southern French trinkets like lavender and all forms of cigales (cicadas!).

The pace of life is slow, but enjoy it! Take time to sit at a cafe and just look around. People love to talk, so make friends and share your experiences while practicing your French.
1. Eat pizza at the Pizza Capri off the Cours Mirabeau. It tastes just as good as it smells. Slices are cheap, easy, and absolutely delicious.

2. If you have time, take a few hours (or more) to climb Mont Sainte-Victoire. Bring lunch with you and eat it at the top while you take in incredible views of Provence. There are two different paths up the mountain (one challenging, one more leisurely) that make the climb enjoyable to hikers of all levels.

3. Take advantage of the more relaxed lifestyle in Aix and talk with friends over some coffee at a café somewhere. Beware of certain café's on the Cours Mirabeau, though, especially “Les Deux Garçons,” which is nice but a tourist trap and thus overly expensive. Try a café near Place Richelme or Hotel de Ville.

4. If it’s nice out, go to a park. Run in the Promenade de la Torse or sunbathe at the Parc Jourdan.

5. If you’re into art, check out the Atelier Cezanne, the house in which Cezanne painted a lot of his work. The views are nice and Cezanne’s studio is really interesting to look at. Also, tours are offered in many languages.

6. Get a crepe from Paul on the Cours Mirabeau right outside Monoprix. Prices aren’t too bad, Paul is a riot, and the crepes are out of this world.

7. Explore the daily market at Place Richelme which has fresh fruit and vegetables, fish, cheeses, honey, soaps and more for great prices. The market is open almost every morning.

Favorite restaurants

Name: O’Shannons
Type: Bar/pub
Description: A great friendly and student-filled bar.
Price: Moderate
Location: Place Richelme

Name: Le Scat Club
Type: Bar/club
Description: Scat is almost always crowded on the weekends. A great place to dance to house music (one room) or a live band (another room)
Price: Moderate/expensive
Location: 11 rue de la Verrerie

Name: Il Palatino
Type: Bistro/restaurant
Description: A nice, intimate restaurant with many options on the menu. Pizza, pasta, fish, etc. A great place to go with a group of friends or with a date.
Price: Moderate
Location: On the Cours Mirabeau, near la Rotonde.

Name: Anything on the Place des Cardeurs
Type: Bistros/restaurants/cafés
Description: Place des Cardeurs is a long strip of wonderful cafés and restaurants. If it’s nice outside, sit out for lunch and enjoy a great meal and a good glass of rosé.
Price: Moderate/expensive
Location: Place des Cardeurs
Top things that must be done, seen, or visited

1. Buy calissons (local delicacy) at Bechard, a patisserie on the Cours Mirabeau
2. Shop the nice artisan's market on the Cours Mirabeau (every couple of weekends)
3. See a soccer match in Marseille

Favorite restaurants

Name: Pasta Cosy
Description: Nice pasta place, friendly people, really great ambiance. Perfect for dinner with friends or a date.
Price: 15-30 euros
Location: 5 Rue Entrecasteaux

Name: Chez Maxime
Description: Cute, traditional provençal food
Price: 20-30 euros
Location: 12 place Ramus

Useful information or fun facts

There are markets all over the city almost every morning and during the weekends. Find one near your apartment and go twice a week. It's really nice to develop relationships with the vendors. I volunteered at a high school, and it was the best thing. Any activity that will involve you with the locals is worth it. Aix has some of the best fashion in Europe, and it's not too expensive. Take time to shop around. The whole centre Ville is full of fun little shops, and you will never run out of places to poke around.
Top things that must be done, seen, or visited

1. Versailles: Amazing day trip
2. Le Louvre: Free for students on Friday nights; go say hi to the Mona Lisa before you head out for the night!
3. Pont Alexandre III: The most beautiful bridge in the world. Amazing photo ops!

Favorite restaurants

Name: L'As du Fallafel  
Type: Falafel spot  
Description: The best falafel in Paris (or maybe the world!)  
Price: Inexpensive; maybe 5 euros for a sandwich  
Location: the Marais; 34 Rue Rosiers, 75004

Name: Le Refuge des Fondues  
Type: Fondue restaurant  
Price: 15 euros for appetizers, tons of cheese or meat fondued and red/white wine served in baby bottles. This place is so much fun and packed with tourists from all over the world. You will absolutely make friends with other travelers while there!  
Location: 17 Rue des Trois Frères (metro: Abbesses)
Paris, France

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**Top things that must be done, seen, or visited**

1. Musee de l’Orangerie: Best impressionist museum in Paris (features several large Monets)
2. Garden at Musee Rodin: Costs one euro; go sit and enjoy some of the best sculpture in the world!
3. Parc Monceau: Beautiful little park near the Arc de Triomphe, great to go running in

**Favorite restaurants**

- **Name:** Maison Berthillon
  **Type:** Ice cream
  **Description:** Best ice cream in the world!
  **Price:** 2-3 euros per scoop
  **Location:** Ile St. Louis (on the main street)

- **Name:** Poilane
  **Type:** Boulangerie
  **Description:** Small bakery where you can get the best apple tarts; Poilane bread is sold all over Paris
  **Price:** Moderate
  **Location:** Near Sciences Po on Rue du Cherche-Midi

**Useful information or fun facts**

Make sure to buy a Streetwise Paris map from a bookstore. So helpful!
Regensberg, Germany

Kaci McAllister  katherine.c.mcallister@vanderbilt.edu

Top things that must be done, seen, or visited

1. Bürgerfest! This is one of the best parts about life in Regensburg. For a weekend in June, the whole city shuts down, and on every street corner there are musicians, traditional food stands, and crafts for sale.

2. Take the train to Salzburg in winter for a weekend. It is about a four-hour ride away (if you go on the cheap group ticket) through the countryside. When I went, the city was silent and blanketed in snow. It was breathtakingly beautiful.

Favorite restaurants

Name: Ha Tien
Type: Asian bistro
Description: This place looks like an absolute hole in the wall, but the food is unreal! The owner and his wife are from Viet nam, and the food is all very authentic and “Asian-approved” by my Indonesian friend. There are only about three tables inside and two outside, but it’s also a great option for carry-out.
Price: The cheapest you’ll find anywhere! 5-8 euros for a complete meal.
Location: Between Haidplatz and Neupfarrplatz, on the same street as Goldenen Turm (the dorm) (Altesrathausplatz)

Name: L'Osteria
Type: nicer Pizzeria
Description: Fun atmosphere! Usually a wait, amazing pizzas, salads, pastas… Best Italian in Regensburg (which is saying something)
Price: 15 euros for a nice meal.
Location: Altes Rathausplatz

Useful information or fun facts:

You will probably travel all over Europe while living in Regensburg, but every time you come back, you’ll wonder why you ever left…!
Top things that must be done, seen, or visited

1. Weekend trip to Como: Absolutely gorgeous and not very touristy. Take the ferry for the tour of the lake, very easy and cheap. Hotels can be expensive, but well worth the money to be near the lake
2. The Gardens at the Pitti Palace
3. Listening to music at night outside of the Uffizi

Useful information or fun facts

- Climb to the top of the Duomo during the week and around 3-4pm
- Do the Uffizi in multiple days
- Shot Café has some of the cheapest drinks near the center of town (Duomo) and isn’t very crowded
- Oil Shoppe is by the hospital near the Duomo and has American-style sandwiches, soft drinks, and chips (just a taste of home)
- Take advantage of the live music (near the Uffizi and on the Ponte Vecchio)
- Take the bus to Siena, not the train—the train station is outside of the city
- The Deluxe Hostel near the CET apartments is actually very nice (indoor pool, bar, private rooms) and is pretty cheap
- El Centro supermarkets will make you sandwiches in the back
- There is an Apple Store near the Duomo if you need technical help

Favorite restaurants

Name: Osteria dei Benci
Type: Local pasta and steak
Description: Outdoor seating on the sidewalk is enjoyable during the warmer weather. The carne and cheese pasta is great and get the house wine (it’s cheap and tastes good). The steak is supposedly very good, but huge!
Price: You can get pasta and wine for 15-17 euros. The steak is around 25 euros.
Location: Via dei Benci (right near by the Arno and behind the Uffizi)

Name: Secoli 7
Type: Bar/bistro.
Description: CHEESEBURGERS! One of the best (if not the best) cheeseburgers in all of Florence. Also very reasonably priced.
Price: 5-10 euros for a cheeseburger! Absolutely worth it when you need a little touch of the States.
Location: Near the archaeological museum and the hospital. About a 5 minute walk from the Duomo.
Top things that must be done, seen, or visited

1. Piazza Michelangelo: breathtaking view of the city!
2. San Lorenzo markets: open air market with leather goods, souvenirs, and Florentine artisan specialties
3. Academia: see David, it’s an unbelievable masterpiece even if you hate art. Something absolutely everyone should see because its breathtaking!
4. Walk across the Ponte Vecchio for great window shopping to the other side of the Arno River and just explore. Things are less touristy on that side and might give a more authentic taste of Florence!

Favorite restaurants

Name: Pizza Spera
Type: Pizzeria
Description: This is literally the size of a small dining room and is located outside the city center but worth the trip. The chef there won the ‘best pizza in the world’ competition and the pizza is amazing. Very authentic!
Price: Pizzas start at 3 euros and increase to 7 depending on what you want on it!
Location: Via Cernaia (near the Vandy apartment)

Name: Medici Gelateria
Type: Gelateria
Description: I hated the gelato inside the city center and this was much more authentic and delicious! There were flavors of all kinds. A local’s favorite!
Price: Cones start at 1.5 euro
Location: Across from Via Cernaia (Vandy apartment)

Useful information or fun facts

Just wander the city. Florence has a lot of art and museums, but I was not an art history major so I was not enthralled with that aspect of it. My favorite thing to do was take a 2 hour walk and just explore. I loved to get lost and wander to new restaurants, gelaterias, parks, and everything else. I had a million favorite places but could not begin to describe them for you because I found them out of pure accident. Florence is best experienced with a bottle of wine, a good pair of walking shoes, and a book to sit and read when you begin to feel tired. Instead of going to visit Florence to tour, visit it to relax, explore, wander, and just enjoy!
### Florence, Italy

#### Top things that must be done, seen, or visited

1. **If you like music, go see an opera.** Florence is the birthplace of opera, and there are performances going on all the time (and you can go for cheap, too!). I went to a bunch—just look for signs around the city. The cheapest one I went to (12 euros) was at a church near Palazzo Pitti…but I can’t remember the exact name.

2. **Climb to the top of Piazza San Michelangelo.** Don’t take a bus! It’s quite a hike, but once you make it to the top you can see the entire city and the Arno River. Go at sunset. Amazing! Also, there’s a cemetery up there. I know that may sound a bit creepy, but it is so peaceful there. And it was one of my favorite places to draw while I was in Florence.

3. **If the weather is nice, go to the Pitti Palace and the Boboli Gardens.** The gardens and fountains here are pretty remarkable, and you get to see a lot of old Italian sculpture, too. Another great place to draw, but also great for pictures. The Pitti Palace was once the seat of the Medici family. There is so much fascinating history here.

### Favorite restaurants

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<th>Type</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Gusta Pizza</strong></td>
<td><strong>Pizzeria</strong></td>
<td><strong>BEST pizza in Italy! Try the Gustapizza…it’s their specialty.</strong></td>
<td>5-8 euros for a whole pizza</td>
<td>Via Maggio 46R, across from Palazzo Pitti</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Medici Gelateria</strong></td>
<td><strong>Gelato</strong></td>
<td><strong>This gelateria is further away from the center of Florence, so you really get an authentic Italian experience. The flavors change every day, and the portions are great. My favorite: Ciocolatina.</strong></td>
<td>1-4 euros, depending on the size. I recommend going for the 2.5-euro size…it’s plenty big.</td>
<td>Via della Cernaia</td>
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#### Useful information or fun facts

Just like everywhere, but especially in Italy, be super aware of your stuff! I know so many people who lost their entire wallets because some pickpocket managed to distract them. It’s such a pain to have to get everything replaced. So just be careful, especially as a tourist!
1. Piazza Michelangelo: This is the best view of the city, so take pictures! You will want to go at least twice—at sunrise and sunset. This is the best view for a sunset in Europe, hands down. After you take in the view, walk about 5 minutes further up the hill to see San Miniato al Monte.

2. Climb the Duomo: Exit the cathedral and head to the north side of the church (if you are facing the façade go left) and walk to the transept where you find the entrance to climb the dome. It is one of the coolest things you’ll do in Florence, Italy or Europe—and it’s a lot of steps. You come out halfway in the dome looking down on the ant-sized visitors to the church and looking out onto the frescoed dome, and a tiny walkway takes you around the other side where you then begin your ascent. You wind your way up the final summit in which you are climbing foot hole stairs made in the actual shell. The top provides an amazing view of the city, Giotto’s Campanile (bell tower beside at the front of the church) and of the church itself.

3. San Lorenzo Market: Surrounding the San Lorenzo church, this is the place to shop in Florence (and my neighborhood when I studied abroad, on Via Nazionale where the market dead ends). Leather goods are the most sought-after as they are world famous.

4. Accademia: Make a reservation or go really early to avoid the lines to see what most art historians refer to as the greatest work of art ever: Michelangelo’s David.

5. Uffizi Gallery: This is the Renaissance art museum and houses one of the finest collections in the world. Get here early or make a reservation online because the line will be anywhere from 2-3 hours or worse depending on what time of year it is. Inside are masterpieces by Giotto, Cimabue, Lippi, Botticelli, Giorgione, Michelangelo, da Vinci, Titian, Durer and Raphael.

Favorite restaurants

Name: La Giostra
Type: Upscale restaurant
Description: This is one of my favorite restaurants not only in Italy but maybe that I’ve ever been too. The atmosphere is very romantic with dimmed lights and candles on the table. The food is amazing—don’t get appetizers because they will give you a huge free sampler plate of them and some champagne to start.
Price: $$$(fairly expensive)—go when your parents visit
Location: on Borgo Pinti off of Edigio

Name: The Oil Shoppe
Description: This is the best sandwich place in the world. It is always packed with American college students, but is the best place to get a GREAT panini. (It is also one of the only places that serves turkey sandwiches!)
Price: CHEAP! Go for lunch every day to get a sandwich, coke, and fries for 5 euro!
Location: Via Edigio, just before it intersects with Via Orioulo, behind the Duomo (about 3 minutes away)
1. Piazza del Campo/Torre del Mangia: It’s not a “hidden attraction,” but it’s definitely worth it. The climb up the tower costs a few euros, but it gives a fantastic view of the city and surrounding countryside. The Piazza del Campo is a wonderful place to hangout and people-watch, especially at night: most tourists make a daytrip to Siena, so at night the city is much less crowded. Take advantage by going to the Piazza and, if you’re so inclined, buying a few bottles of wine from the enoteca that stays open late (on the north-east side of the piazza). (As far as “guidebook” attractions go, the Duomo is also incredible.)

2. Contrada Scavenger hunt: Siena is composed of 17 contrade, or neighborhoods. If you feel like doing a little exploring, wander around until you find all 17. Siena is a beautiful, well-preserved medieval city: there’s no better way to experience it than to pass an afternoon meandering up and down its hills, lanes, and cobbled streets. For a true challenge, try to find the baptismal fountains of all 17 contrade.

3. Eat! Panforte, a dense Sienese dessert cake; ricciarelli, Sienese Christmas cookies; pici, a Sienese type of pasta; and cinta senese, a special variety of pork, are all delicious and a great way to experience the traditional cuisine of the city. Order pici and ricciarelli, head to Nannini on Banchi di Sopra.

Favorite restaurants

Name: Kopakabana
Type: Gelateria
Description: The best gelato in town, with a huge array of flavors, rotating daily
Price: 1.50-4 euros, depending on size/flavors
Location: Walking south on Banchi di Sopra (toward the piazza), turn left at the Feltrinelli onto Via dei Rossi. It’s about 2 blocks ahead on the right.

Name: Bar San Paolo
Type: Bar/cafè
Description: Small plates/sandwiches, espresso, cocktails/beer
Price: Espresso drinks are 2 euros or less, cocktails ~5 euros, beer 3-7 euros
Location: Vicolo San Paolo, off the Piazza del Campo. A great place to watch a soccer match at night, or to get a morning coffee; sit on the balcony overlooking the Piazza for the best view.

Useful information or fun facts

Siena can be a bit crowded with tourists during the day, so it’s worth staying overnight if possible. However, if you stay at the youth hostel outside town, be aware that buses stop running between 11 and midnight, depending on the route. Budget for a taxi ride back if you plan on staying out later. Inside the historic center, however, cars and buses are mostly prohibited, so be prepared for a day of walking.
Siena, Italy

Nicole Harkinsson

Top things that must be done, seen, or visited

1. Attend a contrada party! It’s an experience you can only have in Siena – tourist-free!
2. See St. Catherine’s head! The church is atrocious, but the head’s pretty bizarre/cool.
3. Go to the Wednesday markets. Most of the stuff’s junk, but it’s fun in cultural terms.

Favorite restaurants

Name: Kopakabana
Type: Gelateria
Description: It’s a small little place with a big ice cream cone by the door as a signifier. They have the best gelato in Siena and certainly the cheapest! Most tourists don’t go here because they stick to the expensive Campo instead.
Price: I think it’s 2 euros for three giant scoops
Location: Via dei Rossi, not too far from CET

Name: Antica Osteria da Divo
Type: Osteria – somewhat fancy
Description: They have amazing gourmet food. It’s very romantic and special. Good if you want to splurge. Make a reservation if it’s tourist season.
Price: It’s expensive. If your parents come, take them here.
Location: Via Franciosa

Useful Information or fun facts

Siena is beautiful. There’s not a lot to do, but it’s relaxing and the people are friendly. Weekends are especially slow, so take this time for trips. Bring twice as much money as you think you need. Don’t ever plan on taking the last train from other cities because, if you miss it, you won’t be able to get back until morning (I speak from experience). Speak to your Italian roommates in Italian... it will help. I have lots of other tips; just email me!!!
Edinburgh, Scotland

Top things that must be done, seen, or visited

1. Rosslyn Chapel: just a 30 minute bus ride outside of Edinburgh, this beautifully carved chapel plays an integral role in Dan Brown's *Da Vinci Code*
2. A witchery tour: Edinburgh has such a rich history of witchery, plague, and murderers. Why not learn about it and get a few scares in the process?
3. The Beltane Fire festival: if you're going in the spring, this is a MUST. It's an ancient pagan tradition that celebrates fertility and spring, and of course, fire.

Favorite restaurants

Name: The Elephant House
Type: Café
Description: It's somewhat touristy because it's where J.K.Rowling reportedly wrote the first Harry Potter, but even without that hype, it's worth visiting. It serves café-type food (sandwiches, stuffed baked potatoes, quiche) and different coffee drinks (try the Fleurs Fantasy—hot chocolate and baileys!). The atmosphere is the main pull—it's cozy and inviting, with tons of cute elephant decorations and a great view of the castle.
Price: Affordable
Location: 21 George IV bridge, 1 block off the royal mile

Name: Ye Olde Golf Tavern
Type: Pub/sports bar
Description: The food is average, but there's always a football (soccer) or rugby match showing. The real pull is that it was established in 1456—well before Columbus came to America.
Price: Affordable
Location: On the west side of the Meadows

Useful information or fun facts

- Go to the Meadows on a nice day - when the sun's out, this park is the place to be.
- Arthur's Seat, a small 'mountain' just outside of town, provides a short hike with a great view of the city.
- Haggis highland tours are the best for a pretty inclusive view of the mysterious Highlands.
- Try to make it to St. Andrew's for a day trip—it's gorgeous on a sunny day.
- On days that it's nice enough out, the Edinburgh zoo has an event called the penguin parade: they let the penguins walk around the zoo paths—close enough that you could touch them!
St. Andrews, Scotland

Favorite restaurants

Name: The Grill House  
Type: Tex-Mex...Sort of. No queso, though. They don't do that in Scotland.  
Description: Only place to get margaritas.  
Price: $$  
Location: Right across from the Union.

Name: Zizzi  
Type: Italian/Pizzeria  
Description: Fun, nice, and a great place for big groups.  
Price: $$  
Location: South Street

Top things that must be done, seen, or visited

1. Glasgow! Glasgow! Glasgow!

Useful information or fun facts

St. Andrews is difficult to travel to, so make friends with someone who has a car!!! Don’t ask for tequila. And always get your cider beer over a little ice with some curly fries from the Raisin. Deliciousness.

The Couch is the best place to study, although sometimes their wireless is down. But let’s be honest, that happens everywhere but McDonald’s in the UK.
1. Wallace National Monument: Sightseeing on the outskirts of town, near the university. It offers the best view of Stirling you can get, and tons of fun info about the star of *Braveheart*, William Wallace. The climb is not bad at all!

2. Arthur’s Seat: A hike up a hill in the center of Edinburgh. This has the best view of Edinburgh, set in the middle so you can see all sides. It’s totally free, and only about a mile, with paths ranging from easy to hard.

3. York, England: South of the Scottish border, this city is a 4-5 hour train ride away but totally worth it! It’s one of the cutest cities, with lots of fun free activities and even more cool stuff for minimal money (York Minster, National Train Museum, Clifford’s Tower, York Museum Gardens, Betty’s for tea).

Stirling is perfect because it’s so close to everything. It’s under an hour to Edinburgh, Glasgow, and St. Andrews. Plus it has tons of things to do around the town like hiking, shopping, movies, and historical site seeing. Also, it has a pretty good night life, but you can also go into the bigger cities where there are a lot of excellent clubs.
Top things that must be done, seen, or visited

1. Parc Ciutadella: Most beautiful, spacious park with fountains, a lake, people having picnics on the grass, performers…
2. El Born: Part of the Old City. Beautiful area with cobblestone streets, small shops, restaurants and bars. Also where the Picasso Museum is located.
3. Parc Guell: Huge park with all of Gaudi’s architecture. Such a wonderful spectacle.

Favorite restaurants

Name: La Boqueria
Type: Market/cafè
Description: Open air market with stands filled with all types of fresh foods ranging from produce to dairy to fish to meats. In the back there are tapas bars and other smaller stands serving fresh, organic meals. Very bustling atmosphere. Definitely a must see!
Price: Moderate
Location: Las Ramblas

Name: Cal Pep
Type: Café/bar
Description: Intimate and fun tapas bar and restaurant with delicious food in a perfect location—considered one of the best in BCN
Price: Moderate-pricey
Location: By Parc de Ciutadella, Old City
Top things that must be done, seen, or visited

1. Fun Bars: La Galerna and Cave Bar (both next to Arguelles and Quevedo Metro stops) are really fun, relaxed places. La Galerna has an amazing beer on tap, is owned by a great guy named Caesar, and has darts. It is a great place to hang out in a relaxed environment during the week. Cave Bar looks like a cave and is really fun.
2. Go to have sangria in Plaza de Santiago. It is amazing, and a really relaxed spot. Also get some sangria in Parque de Retiro.
3. Go to a Real Madrid soccer game. So fun because of the great atmosphere and awesome fans.

Favorite restaurants

Name: Casa Botin  
Type: Traditional  
Description: Oldest restaurant in the world! Awesome Spanish food with great meats!  
Price: $$$  
Location: Next to the Plaza Mayor

Name: El Rey de Las Tortillas  
Type: Bar/café  
Description: Great tapas and sangria  
Price: $  
Location: Next to Arguelles metro stop

Useful information or fun facts

Metro is great and makes it really easy to get around, the Sol Area is the most fun for going out and finding variety of places to meet people
1. You MUST visit the Parque de Buen Retiro; this is the most beautiful and entertaining park. You can sit in a chair at one of the little cafés, but the best thing to do is grab a seat in the grass and people-watch. If you make it all the way to the back of the park there is a waterfall, a large area for rollerblading and hundreds of families there enjoying the outdoors. It is the best place to study, write in a journal, or just to walk around and eat ice cream with your friends.

2. Even if you are not a late night party person, one of the things that Spain prides itself on is its lack of sleep. Spaniards, on average, get one less hour of sleep than the rest of the world (or so they say). A discoteca is a must while in Spain, especially in Madrid, Valencia or Barcelona. I cannot speak for the other beautiful cities in Spain, though I am sure that they have them everywhere. In Madrid the three most popular are: Joy Eslava, Pacha and Kapital. A new one was opening next to Joy Eslava at the Sol metro stop, but I do not know the name. Go and pay too much for a cover charge and waayyy too much for a drink but enjoy it; there's nothing else like a night out in Spain!

3. Walk the Paseo del Prado. Start at the Plaza de Cibeles and look at the beautiful architecture and then walk down toward the Prado and past it to the train station. It is the most beautiful walk, especially in the fall and around Christmastime. Not only that but it contains some of the most beautiful buildings and will lead you to the Prado, which you must visit while you’re there.

**Name:** El Rey de las Tortillas  
**Type:** Bar/Café  
**Description:** This is a great deal if you want something to eat before going out on the town. You can get all sorts of potatoes, meats, and little dishes for a very reasonable price and also share a giant carafe of your drink of choice with some friends. This was a favorite for all of us, especially on a Thursday or Friday night!  
**Price:** $$  
**Location:** Next to Argulles metro stop
Top things that must be done, seen, or visited

1. El Chapandaz (“Cave Bar”): A must do. A fun atmosphere to spend any evening. Try the Leche de Pantera if you dare!
2. Kapital: A great, huge discoteca for dancing, karaoke, and a crazy time. It’s fairly expensive, though, so best for a special occasion.
3. Valor Chocolatería: The best spot for chocolate con churros!

Favorite restaurants

Name: Pasta Pesto Pizza
Type: Pizzeria
Description: The best pizza I’ve ever had, with great pasta, too. Great for when you’re tired of Spanish food and want to get out and have a good meal in a casual environment.
Price: 8-12 euros
Location: Calle de Juan Álvarez Mendizábal 44, in the Arguelles area.

Useful information or fun facts

Go to el Rastro on Sundays for cheap souvenirs. I brought everyone back beautiful Spanish hand-painted ceramics for a very reasonable price. Just make sure to leave room in your suitcase when you come over!
## Top things that must be done, seen, or visited

1. Reina Sofia Museo
2. Retiro Park
3. Teatro Kapital

## Favorite restaurants

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Price</th>
<th>Location</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Gloria de Montera</td>
<td>Really nice restaurant where you can get a three course meal under 20 euros</td>
<td>Pricey, but reasonable</td>
<td>Metro Gran Via</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cuevas de Sesamo</td>
<td>Great sangria—once Hemingway’s favorite bar</td>
<td>5 euros for a cup</td>
<td>Plaza de España</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Top things that must be done, seen, or visited

1. Parque del Buen retiro: Beautiful park, can rent a boat, go walk in; it is huge and gorgeous
2. Bull Fight and Real Madrid soccer game
3. El Rastro: Huge flea market on Sundays; cute jewelry, scarves, etc. for cheap; really cool; I went multiple times

Favorite restaurants

Name: San Ginez
Description: Chocolate con churros, a typical Spanish treat
Price: 5 euros, split it with someone!
Location: In Sol, the center of the city

Name: El Tigre
Description: Tapas, drinks, go for a drink after school or at night
Price: Cheap, buy el sidre, their cider that’s really good—with it you get a huge plate of tapas!
Location: The Tribunal metro stop

Useful information or fun facts

Bars to go to: Narizotas, Chapandaz (cave bar), Dos con cincuenta all are in the Moncloa area

Clubs: Kapital, Joy, Palace, Sol y Sombra

My one piece of advice: do not go on any pub crawls!
Top things that must be done, seen, or visited

1. Parque del Buen Retiro: Spend time relaxing in this huge and beautiful park. It is a great spot to do homework and people-watch!
2. Take in a flamenco show or even take a flamenco dance class. This is a lot of fun to do with friends and you get to experience a part of Spain’s history.
3. Explore the museums: Not to be missed are Museo del Prado and El Reina Sofia—visiting the collections of these incredible museums was one of my favorite experiences in Madrid; it helped me to learn about the city’s history and gave me the opportunity to view important works of art.

Useful information or fun facts

Things in Madrid can be pretty expensive, but there are a lot of ways to have fun in the city for little or no money. I recommend exploring the fun plazas in the city; there are always fun performances going on in these popular places. BUT, I advise against trying to eat in the plazas or in any other tourisy places, because they are almost always overpriced. That way, you can save money to do other activities such as traveling.

Also, although Madrid is a safe place, it is VERY important that you protect yourself from pickpockets. Thieves do target people who are unaware of their surroundings. For this reason, always know where all of your belongings are on your person (I had an over the shoulder bag that I always kept in the front of my body). The metro is a common place for theft, so pay attention and try not to do anything to draw attention to yourself.

Favorite restaurants

Name: Chocolatería San Ginés
Type: Café and Chocolatería
Description: This restaurant is famous for its “Chocolate con churros,” which is a cup of thick hot chocolate with long sticks of fried dough. It is incredibly popular among both tourists and locals in Madrid. With the young, local crowd, it is especially busy from 2 a.m. onwards, after a night out! It has a laid-back and fun atmosphere.
Price: Usually less than $10
Location: Pasadizo San Ginés, near to Puerta del Sol, From Puerta del Sol, take Calle Arenal and turn left at the disco Joy Eslava on a narrow street called Pasadizo San Ginés.

Name: Botín
Type: Bistro
Description: Botín is described in the Guinness Book of World Records as being the oldest restaurant in the world. Hemingway wrote about it and it is said that artist Goya once worked there. The restaurant serves traditional Castilian food and is renowned for its suckling pig and roasted lamb. The atmosphere is more conservative yet still fun, as it is an upscale and historical restaurant.
Price: Expensive
Location: Calle de los Cuchilleros, near Plaza Mayor, Metro Stop Puerta del Sol
SOUTH AMERICA &
the CARIBBEAN
Buenos Aires, Argentina

Top things that must be done, seen, or visited

1. Go to the Plaza de Mayo on Thursday afternoons at 3:00 pm to see the “Madres de la Plaz” after you have read about the country’s situation with the “desparecidos”…It is really fascinating and moving to see the women who are still looking for their lost children and grandchildren (who were taken/killed by the government in the sixties).
2. Go to La Bomba del Tiemp—a drum show on Monday Nights starting at 8:00 pm. Seriously amazing music and just a really, really interesting, very Argentine scene.
3. Go to Club Niceto on a Thursday night for “Club 69”—a wild show/disco that is unlike anything you’ll ever see—it’s the weirdest, most bizarre circus ever!! The address is Niceto Vega 5510.

Favorite restaurants

Name: La Cabrera
Type: Argentine “parrilla” aka steak house
Description: Smaller, non-touristy parrilla with the best steak and side items I’ve had in my entire life. Incredible service, very authentic atmosphere, in the middle of Palermo, an awesome residential neighborhood with lots of great restaurants and bars.
Price: 50 American dollars for a huge meal for two including big steaks, 3-4 sides, desserts and a bottle of Argentine wine
Location: Cabrera 5099

Name: Persicco
Type: Ice cream shop
Description: The best ice cream you’ll ever eat in your life. Argentine ice cream is really unique and different from any type of ice cream you’ll find anywhere else.
Price: 2-3 American dollars for a huge cone with two flavors.
Location: All over Buenos Aires…it’s a chain.

Useful information or fun facts

The Metro is perfectly safe other than pickpockets, who are often disguised as children who beg and pretend to be homeless. As soon as you arrive you’ll want to buy what’s called a “GUIA T.” Also, if you can find one, buy a subway map (even though there’s one in the GUIA T), so that you can navigate the sub or the “SUBTE”. Ask at the subway station for a “Monedero,” so that you do not have to buy a new ticket every time you want to ride the sub. The buses are extremely complicated, and took about a month or two to master. The sub is definitely the easiest way to get around and the D-line (aka the Green line) will take you to almost everywhere you’ll want to go to. The D-line takes you all the way from Belgrano in the North, through Palermo, right near Recoleta, and down to El Centro (which is basically downtown). Once you’re in Plaza de Mayo, or El Centro, you can easily get to Puerto Madero, Sant Telmo, and La Boca.
Buenos Aires, Argentina

Top things that must be done, seen, or visited

1. Bosques de Palermo: A series of beautiful green spaces (Central Park style), all centralized between Avenida Libertador and Avenida Figueroa Alcorta. Be sure to check out both the Japanese and Botanical Gardens in this same area… These can all be a great escape from the hustle and bustle of the city.

2. Feria de San Telmo: Event every Sunday on the cobblestone streets of the Barrio of San Telmo. You definitely don’t want to miss this opportunity to purchase anything from shoes made right in front of your eyes to the CDs of orchestral musicians performing live on the streets.

3. Feria de Mataderos: A more authentically Argentine version of San Telmo. Although it’s a little further out, it is definitely worth the trip!

4. El Tigre: The premier vacation spot for the elite in Buenos Aires. You can take a train to this wonderful getaway on the delta from BA for about 1 peso each way, a total steal, and have a great weekend getaway from the chaos of the city.

5. Museo de Arte Latinoamericano de Buenos Aires (MALBA): Fantastic collection of Latin American art housed in a beautiful new building. Located on Avenida Figueroa Alcorta 3415 (Palermo), you definitely don’t want to miss this cultural monument. Also, less than 10 pesos to enter if you have a student ID!

6. Museo Nacional de Bellas Artes: This beautiful museum, located at Libertador 1473, has a surprisingly impressive collection, including numerous works by Degas, Rubens, and Picasso.

Favorite restaurants

Name: Tandoor
Type: Restaurant/bar
Description: Cocina India
Price: 30-40 pesos for each plate, but they are definitely shareable
Location: Laprida 1293, Palermo, Buenos Aires
Phone Number: 4821-3676

Name: Cilantro
Type: Restaurant/bar
Description: Comida de lejos mundos (basically Southeast Asian cuisine)
Price: Sushi is around 16 pesos a roll, and no entrée will cost you more than 30 pesos
Location: Anchorena 1122, Recoleta/Barrio Norte, Buenos Aires
Phone Number: 4966-2941
Vanderbilt Insider’s Guide to World Travel

Buenos Aires, Argentina

**Favorite restaurants**

**Name:** California Burrito Company (CBC)  
**Type:** Chipotle-style restaurant  
**Description:** Mexican-American  
**Price:** About 15-20 pesos for a Burrito combo  
**Location:** Lavalle 441, Buenos Aires City Center (between San Martin and Reconquista)  
**Phone Number:** 4328-3057

**Name:** The Armenia Restaurant  
**Type:** Restaurant/bar  
**Description:** Armenian Cuisine  
**Price:** About 18 USD per person if you go for appetizer/main course/dessert/wine  
**Location:** Armenia 1366, Palermo, Buenos Aires  
**Phone Number:** 4776-2500

**Name:** La Continental  
**Type:** Pizzeria  
**Description:** GREAT Argentine pizza and pasta (you just got to love that Argentine Italian heritage)  
**Price:** Less than 20 pesos a plate (cheaper if you split a pizza with some friends)  
**Location:** Calle Defensa 701  
**Phone Number:** 4374-1444

**Useful information or fun facts**

Figuring out “colectivos” can be difficult, but it is TOTALLY worth it!

Bolivian fruit stands: Totally affordable fruit, and quite possibly the best you’ll ever have. Can be a great morning snack on the way to class/work.
1. Have lunch in Santa Teresa – take the bonde! It’s a charming neighborhood to grab lunch during the day.
2. Go to a Baile Funk at Castelo das Pedras. Take caution… Ladies, go with guys, and guys, don’t dance with anyone’s girl, but it is a truly Carioca experience not to be missed.
3. Visit the Central Cultural Banco do Brasil!!! It is an incredible, free modern art museum that has constantly changing exhibitions. There are also film showings, a bookstore, and a library on the top floor. One of Rio’s best kept secrets from the tourists!

Name: Café Colombo
Type: Café
Description: One of the oldest coffee shops in Rio. Reflects Rio’s golden era, looks like a charming, high-class 1920s European café.
Price: Salgados R$3-5; Coffee R$3-9
Location: Centro

Nightlife:
- Go to Botafogo for punk-esque/alternative clubs and a young crowd. Try Casa da Matriz! R$10 cover.
- Visit Casa Rosa in Laranjeiras for a well-rounded music and dancing experience. Enormous place, partially open-air, with different beats in different rooms. Great on Sunday nights. ~R$15 cover
- Clandestino in Copacabana. Small bar with a cool, alternative, intimate setting. Worth checking out. Drinks slightly on the expensive side (R$10-12) but large and usually there are drink specials for the ladies. ~R$15 cover

Beaches:
- Itacoatiara in Niterói! GEORGEUS rural beach to which the young people flock. Occasionally surfable. About 30 minutes from downtown Niterói. From downtown Niterói, get the 38 bus, but make sure to ask the driver if it goes to Itacoatiara because not every 38 does. Get off at the very last stop with most everyone on the bus.
- Praia, past Barra da Tijuca.
- Ipanema, around posto 8 (gay) and posto 9

Comida (YUM!):
- Big Bi’s (or any other juice bar on the corner). Get açaí and a mixto quente with queijo minas, pão de queijo, or a coxinhas com catupiry. Try a new juice every time! Don’t miss out on a vitamina de abacate… delicious!
- Bob’s ovalmaltine milkshake. Nothing like it in the U.S.
- Churrasco—try the chicken hearts. They’re actually good.
- KONI SUSHI!- Better than anything in the U.S.
Valparaíso, Chile

Top things that must be done, seen, or visited

1. Torres del Paine, in the south of the country. Okay, it’s not the city. HOWEVER, I truly feel that everyone who has the advantage to see this site definitely should.

2. Cerro Concepción y Cerro Alegre, in Valparaíso. The two cerros here each have their own character. There’s not a whole lot to do but walk around. There’s a whole lot of interesting (and BEAUTIFUL) graffiti, views of the port and the city, and wonderful places where you can tomar un café and try some desserts.

3. Museo Naval en Valpo: One of the oldest museums of Chile. Lots of interesting history about the Chilean navy, which is headquartered out of Valparaíso. A must-see for history geeks.

Favorite restaurants

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Type</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Price</th>
<th>Location</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Entres Masas</td>
<td>Empanadas!!!!</td>
<td>Smallish place. You might have to wait for your food a bit, but it’s also SUPER fresh.</td>
<td>About $2 for an empanada.</td>
<td>5 norte y 6 poniente, Vina del Mar</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Café Journal</td>
<td>Bar</td>
<td>Can get SUPER crowded and overwhelming. But at the same time, it’s fun to go. Usually only visited by foreigners.</td>
<td>$2 for a drink on Tuesdays!</td>
<td>Calle Alvarez y Agua Santa, Viña del Mar</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>La Comarca</td>
<td>Really good terremotos (Chilean drink made with wine &amp; ice cream)</td>
<td>Very low key. Never crowded.</td>
<td>$4 dollars for a pitcher</td>
<td>Calle Valparaíso and Von Shroeder (Vina del Mar)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Useful information or fun facts

- The 18th of September is a really important holiday in Chile (their independence day). There are constantly armadas, which are kind of like carnivals in the US. Check the fliers in the street!
- Any chance to watch a soccer game, whether in person or on the TV, must be taken advantage of. If you can make it to Santiago and see one en vivo, DO IT.
- All they listen to is Reggaeton. If you know Daddy Yankee, you will be SET.
- Sometimes, you might not feel entirely welcome. Get ready for a lot of pitopos (catcalls), and to sometimes just feel generally uncomfortable. But it’s better knowing this than being surprised once you get there. You will stand out, but embrace it (which is NOT the same as flaunting it). Enjoy yourself. Travel as MUCH as you can—buses and hostels make it cheap and accessible.
1. La Sebastiana: House of Pablo Neruda, the Nobel-prize winning writer. Amazing design, quirky house. Cerro Bellavista.
2. Cerro Alegre: Lots of cool and quirky stores and restaurants, museums, and amazing views of the city and sea.

Favorite restaurants

Name: Entre Masas
Type: Empanadas
Description: The best empanadas in the entire world. They have around 40 different options, too.
Price: A bit pricey for an empanada, but still cheap by American standards.
Location: 4 Norte between 3 and 4 Poniente.

Name: Coyote Quemado
Type: Bar
Description: The cheapest, most awesome bar in all of Valpo. Look out for the specials (shots of tequila, beers, tacos, etc…) to get the best deals. If you don’t want to drink, at least get the tacos.
Price: Cheap.
Location: Calle Ecuador

Name: Hot Chili Peppers
Type: Mexican food
Description: Delicious/only good Mexican food you will find
Price: Kind of expensive, but worth it every once in a while. Split fajitas with someone and then you can afford one of their amazing frozen drinks!
Location: Vina del Mar – Calle San Martin

Seasonal events to look out for (music festivals, sporting events, races, markets)

- 18th of September: Independence Day (they celebrate for the entire week, as in, most of your classes for the week will be cancelled). There are armadas (like carnivals) and lots of parties. Generally an excellent time.
- Festival de mil tambores (1000 Drums Festival): in early October. Everyone just hangs out in the street, plays crazy music, and dances. Also, there are amazing parades where a lot of people paint their entire bodies.
- In the spring, there is a huge music festival in Vina del Mar. I wasn’t in Chile this semester, but it always brings big names.
- Music to check out before heading here: Daddy Yankee, La Noche, Tito “el Bambino,” Americo; really any reggaeton.
1. **27 Charcos:** YouTube it, google it, look it up. It’s located just outside of Puerto Plata and it is easily one of the top 3 most amazing places I have been in my life. You get to hike up 27 waterfalls (not around them, through them) and then jump and swim all the way back down.

2. **Sosoua:** This is a small town on the northern coast, near Puerto Plata, and is home to the most beautiful beach in the country. Seriously, go see this beach. It’s a 2 hour max bus ride away from Santiago (and it’s really cheap), so travel should be easy. Make it a day trip or find a hotel in the area and spend the weekend.

3. **El monumento:** You will probably pass by the monument at least once every day while in Santiago, but you should also take some time to visit it in the evening when it is lit up. Tons of people hang out at the monument in the evenings and enjoy the view of nightlife in Santiago. Also, if you get a chance, visit the museum inside – the view from the top is great and the museum is home to a lot of interesting historical displays and fun cultural pieces.

**Favorite restaurants**

**Name:** Bon  
**Type:** Ice cream shop  
**Description:** Ice cream stands or small stores along the street; they sell great ice cream and it’s a fun place to hang out/take a study break in the afternoons.  
**Price:** ~$2 US, but it depends. Not expensive.  
**Location:** everywhere, near Puerto 2 de PUCMM or la Calle del Sol.

We didn’t eat out much in the city, so I don’t have many other recommendations. But, I highly suggest eating at the homes of your friends for dinner or lunch. It’s a lot of fun to see what other families are like and try out different types of Dominican food that your family might not cook. As long as you ask ahead of time, usually families are happy to have company.

**Useful information or fun facts**

Safety is important. Don’t go out alone; don’t walk on the streets at night. There’s a pretty high chance of mugging/robbery, so keep that in mind when you are carrying computers, wallets, money, etc. Travel in groups. Visit the Calle del Sol. Talk to/get to know other Dominican students (they might give you rides to school!). Be friends with students who live near you because you’ll be walking with them often.
Top things that must be done, seen, or visited

1. Zona Colonial: Many historic buildings, including the first Catholic cathedral in the New World. Lots of shops and restaurants nearby.
2. Mercado Modelo: Perfect for practicing Spanish (and bartering) skills! Lots of artwork and souvenirs.
3. Botanical Gardens: Huge! Not great for hot days, because there isn’t a ton of shade. But if plants and flowers are your thing, it’s definitely worth checking out.

Useful information or fun facts

The best time to walk around the historic district is in the evening. All the buildings are beautifully lit, and many outdoor cafés play music. There is a very European feel. Just remember to be constantly aware of your surroundings; Santo Domingo is a big city.

Favorite restaurants

Name: Adrian Tropical
Type: Caribbean/Dominican restaurant
Description: On the waterfront. Great views, great food, lots of variety. Don't even consider sitting inside (unless, of course, it is raining).
Price: Inexpensive
Location: On the waterfront...any taxista should know it. Avenida George Washington
AUSTRALIA and NEW ZEALAND
Brisbane, Australia

Top things that must be done, seen, or visited

1. Lone Pine Koala Sanctuary: The animals are amazing; this is something you cannot do in the United States. There are so many koalas right in front of you. Also there is an open pen with kangaroos, wallabies, and emus that you can feed and get right up close to.

2. South Bank: Southbank is a part of Brisbane with a man made river alongside the Brisbane River. Take the City Cat (a public transportation ferry that runs up and down the river) to get here—it will add to the experience. On Friday nights and all day Saturday there are vendors that set up tents alongside the shores. Also there are frequently shows and special events that take place at Southbank.

3. Zorbing: This is an extreme activity that you will never forget. Essentially you are placed in a huge ball (either strapped in or with 40 liters of water) and you roll down a large hill. You feel like you are mouse in a mouse-ball. You can find a zorbing location less than an hour from Brisbane near the Gold Coast (public transport is an easy option).

4. Fraser Island: Fraser Island is a few (3-4) hours north of Brisbane. That being said if you have 3-4 days off and can make it, seeing Fraser Island is worth the trip. It is an all sand island that only permits four wheel drive vehicles. From the wild dingoes, to the sand dunes, to cooking snags, to swimming in turquoise lakes (Lake McKenzie) to sleeping under the most clear sky (I have never seen more stars), every minute on Fraser Island will be a memory to take with you through life.

Favorite restaurants

Name: Kebab shops (Not necessarily a specific one)
Type: Kebab Stand
Price: $8 AUD
Location: Found in every city around Australia

Useful information or fun facts

• Public transportation is a good way to get around the city. It can be a bit confusing at first but anyone will be more than willing to help you out.

Some other things to do/check out:
• Queenstreet (mall, night life, weekend events)
• Fortitude Valley (night life)
• Gold Coast – Surfer’s paradise (about an hour outside of the city but a great beach)
• Aussie Rules Game
• Byron Bay – Cheeky Monkey, Arts Factory hostel (Good for a weekend trip)
Top things that must be done, seen, or visited

1. Sydney Opera House: It’s famous, and the tour is interesting as well.
2. Taronga Zoo: An awesome zoo with a great view of the city.
3. The Rocks: A great area to eat, shop, and go out.

Favorite restaurants

- Name: Pancakes on the Rocks
  Type: Breakfast/lunch
  Description: Casual, family, overlooking the harbor
  Price: Cheap
  Location: The Rocks

- Name: Melonhead
  Type: Cafe
  Description: Smoothies, sandwiches, salad
  Price: Cheap
  Location: Coogee Beach

Useful information or fun facts

Fantastic city—everyone is so friendly and helpful. Don’t be afraid to ask anyone for help. Do the Bondi-Coogee walk—it’s fantastic. If you go to UNSW, take any and all classes with Zumbo—he’s awesome. Remember that their seasons are opposite so pack accordingly! Travel as much as you can. Go out as much as you can!
Top things that must be done, seen, or visited

1. Ride the train across the bridge to North Sydney (just get on at Central Station and take the train there). You go right by the Opera House, which is especially beautiful at sunrise or sunset.

2. Go to a performance at the Opera House. Look ahead and try to find something you’re interested in seeing, preferably in the Great Hall.

3. Go to a residential college’s informal. The res colleges at the universities (especially at University of Sydney) have crazy informals each year to raise money for their student club. While tickets can be a bit pricey ($15-40 AU), they bring in great bands and oftentimes have themes. Go to one that has a band you’re interested in (check out the band beforehand, as you may not have heard of them but they may be great!). This is your chance to party with the locals!

Favorite restaurants

- **Istanbul on King**
  - **Type:** Turkish kebab shop
  - **Description:** Fast food, open very late! Great kebabs and chicken burgers.
  - **Price:** Cheap. ~ $5-10 AU
  - **Location:** King St. near University of Sydney. Corner shop near Marly Bar.

- **Guylian Belgian Chocolate Cafe**
  - **Type:** Anything and everything chocolate
  - **Description:** Café style, chocolate everything. The “chocolate pots” are great – just a small pot of melted chocolate and a spoon. They are very popular; no one will judge you for ordering straight chocolate and a spoon!
  - **Price:** A bit pricey but WORTH IT!
  - **Location:** Various locations around Sydney
Favorite clubs/bars (good days, atmosphere, pricing):
- Mondays: Sidebar and Scubar by Central Station has great house music, decent prices. No cover for either.
- Tuesdays: Scruffy Murphy’s on George St. is popular. There is usually a DJ or House band playing the greater hits of yesteryear.
- Wednesdays: Marly Bar in Newtown on King St. is big for university students. St. Paul’s College at University of Sydney has themed parties every Wednesday night as well, which are fun to go to before the Marly. No cover for either.
- Thursdays: World Bar in King’s Cross is big – anything in the Cross is big. World Bar has cool “teapots,” which are a bit pricey, but there is a student discount card that you can get at the university bookstore that helps take off a few bucks.

Events to look out for: Look out for the various street markets – most are only open on weekends. (Google Sydney markets and you will find information.) Also, Australia has MANY music festivals throughout the year – many in Sydney – and all worth checking out, if you can save up money. You can also learn about these different festivals by Google, or go to Fuzzy’s website (the company that organizes many of the festivals) or TripleJ’s website to find out dates/line-ups/pricing etc.

Best modes of transportation around the city: Bus and train are great! Buses can sometimes get off schedule though – be aware.

Music to check out: Josh Pyke, ARIA Top 20 Dance Chart.

Favorite restaurants

Name: Campos Coffee
Type: Coffee shop
Description: World-renowned coffee shop. Seriously, celebrities make a point of stopping here when they’re in Sydney. There is no menu, though—it can be a bit intimidating when you enter if you don’t know what to order.
Price: A bit more expensive than your regular cup of coffee, but hey, it's Campos!
Location: Near King St., near University of Sydney. Right by Marly Bar.

Useful information or fun facts:

There really is a lot to do around the city – a lot of restaurants to eat at (there is great sushi in Sydney, as well as kebabs, gelato, etc.), sports events to go to, clubs to try out, concerts to see, shopping to be done, beaches to visit, etc. Just explore around! Take the public transportation. Ask a local what they recommend you do.
Top things that must be done, seen, or visited

1. Hike Rangitoto for the beautiful views
2. Bungee jump from the Auckland bridge
3. Visit the bars at the Viaduct

Favorite restaurants

Name: MexiCali Fresh  
Type: “Chipotle-like”  
Description: Fun atmosphere, good drink specials  
Price: $10-15  
Location: Prince’s Wharf by the Viaduct or Newmarket

Name: Khao San  
Type: Thai food  
Description: Lots of Asian decorations everywhere, best Thai food in town  
Price: $10-15  
Location: Anzac Avenue right next to the Unilodge

Useful information or fun facts:

- The bar scene is great—Globe Bar, Margaritas, and the Fiddler are all a lot of fun
- Bars are open extremely late
- People are very friendly and very willing to show you around the city
- Outrageous Fortune is a fantastic show and helps you get used to the New Zealand accent
ASIA
Beijing, China

Top things that must be done, seen, or visited

1. Shopping!! It is really an integral part of Chinese culture, and you'll get great bargains as well!
2. Go to KTV – I never went, and I very much regret it. Go with some Chinese friends.
3. Explore the hutongs of Beijing – the last hutongs in all of Beijing are located in Beihai area. This area is not only beautiful, but it’s a part of history that has been discounted for the most part in favor of industrialization.

Favorite restaurants

Name: Lao Beijing
Type: Large sit-down restaurant
Description: A large space with wooden tables and chairs, very cheery atmosphere
Price: Not too bad, anywhere from 10-40 yuan per person
Location: Not sure, but it’s THE Lao Beijing, the one that serves the most famous Zha Jiang Mian

Name: Kuai De Ke Bubble Tea
Type: Bubble tea cafe
Description: Just a walk-in place, a favorite among students of CET
Price: 4 yuan a cup
Location: Right next to CET

Useful information or fun facts

1. Go get a massage! They’re a lot cheaper (100 yuan for a full-body massage).
2. Get a yi-ka-tong, basically an all-access transportation card. It’s really useful and you can put money in and use it for the subways, bus system, cabs, and even some restaurants. Learn to navigate around the city using the subway and bus system—it’s much cheaper than by cab.
3. Go shopping in the small marketplaces. The clothing is cheap, and sometimes you can find real treasures for really, really good prices. If you go to Wong Fu Jing, make sure to check out the LaoBeijing Street. It has a lot of souvenirs that you can buy for people back home.
4. Learn to bargain!! This is really important. I was fortunate because I’m Chinese and fluent enough to fool the vendors into thinking I’m native. They let me off really easy with the bargaining, but they like to rip off foreigners. Beware especially of Silk Street, which is notorious for jacking up prices. I learned how to bargain though, and usually could reduce the price to about 1/10 their original asking price (for example 600 yuan to 60 yuan for a jacket.) The key to bargaining is to learn by looking a piece of clothing how much it’s really worth. Just remember that clothes probably cost way less to make than you think. There are a lot of nice marketplaces around the CET Beijing campus, so explore!
Top things that must be done, seen, or visited

1. Outdoor market (Old City in Shanghai, next to Yu Yuan Garden)
2. Great Wall (Beijing)
3. Hua Qing's Garden (Xi’an)
4. Acrobat show (Beijing)

Favorite restaurants

Name: PYRO
Type: Pizzeria/bar at night
Description: It is a nice hangout spot where you can get great pizza and cheap beer. It is the type of place where people can get on the tables and dance. The huge cookie in the pan is a very nice dessert.
Price: 7-10 yuan for a mug of beer, 6 yuan for a cookie (very cheap!!!)
Location: Beijing (down the street from Beijing University)

Name: Le Saleya
Type: Bistro
Description: French food. Very flavorful and rich. Every morsel of food, no matter what it is, tastes divine.
Price: 30-45 Yuan for whole meal including drink
Location: French Concession (Shanghai)
Shanghai, China

Top things that must be done, seen, or visited

1. Ride the metro during rush hour
2. Meet locals: It’s a good way is to ask a group to teach you how to play a Chinese drinking game; you will experience culture, learn some language, and get some free beer
3. Learn to haggle in Chinese: It can be a fun experience even if you don’t want to buy anything (but don’t agree on a price if you’re not going to buy it!)

Useful information or fun facts

Travel by yourself. Get lost at least once. Finding favorite spots is nice but the city is so big that you should always go out and try new things. I would try to visit at least one or two new places every week. Most Chinese in Shanghai are friendly and helpful and really appreciate when you make an effort to communicate with them in Chinese, even if you aren’t very good at it.

Favorite restaurants

Name: Korean Restaurant (Can’t remember Chinese Name)
Type: Korean grill
Description: Hole in the wall Korean restaurant right by Donghua University Campus
Price: $2-4 USD
Location: Near the intersection of Zhongshan Rd. & Yan’an West Rd.

Name: Itsuki Teppenyaki
Type: All you can eat and drink Japanese grill and sushi
Description: All you can eat and all you can drink, with nice semi-private booths for smaller parties or big tables for large groups. Sushi, steak, and sake bombs all night. A great place to treat your Chinese friends or teachers.
Price: 150 RMB (~$22 US)
Location: On the 2nd floor of Donghu Hotel, 7 Donghu Rd., near Huaihai Zhong Rd. (French Concession)
Top things that must be done, seen, or visited

1. Mori Tower at Roppongi Hills: Mori Tower is the highlight of the recently constructed Roppongi Hills complex in the Roppongi nightlife district. With your student ID, you can purchase a $10 ticket to the incredible observation deck on the 52nd floor of the building. Forget Tokyo Tower, this is the absolute best place for city viewing! Admission also comes with access to the Mori Tower Art Museum which has a different exhibit every three months.

2. Odaiba: This man-made island in Tokyo Bay is home to an amazing ferris wheel, an indoor-mall modeled after Venice, Toyota’s MegaWEB showroom, and the ‘Miraikan’ future museum. Odaiba also has a small beach which is perfect for a sunny weekend day!

3. Oedo Onsen: This hot spring spa is located on the northeast corner of Odaiba and is home to two separate spa rooms which each contain 10 different indoor and outdoor baths. But the baths themselves are only half the experience! The interior of the building is modeled after old Edo-era villages. The incredible central area has restaurants, carnival games, and every guest gets to choose a yukata to wear for the evening. Tickets are cheap after 6 p.m., and you can easily spend a whole night here with your friends.

Favorite restaurants

Name: New York Bar at the Park-Hyatt Tokyo
Type: Bar
Description: The New York Bar is the perfect place to spend a few hours in the evening listening to jazz and marveling at the scope of modern Tokyo. This bar was made famous by its prominence in the film Lost in Translation, and the bar even has a drink named after the movie.
Price: $$$$ Location: At the top level of the Park-Hyatt hotel in Shinjuku

Name: Starbucks at Shibuya Crossing
Description: Yes, it may at first appear to be just another Starbucks, but this coffee shop is located right at the corner of Shibuya Crossing, one of the most heavily trafficked intersections in all the world. The equivalent of New York City’s Times Square, Shibuya Crossing is always busy with activity and is a favorite meeting spot for young people in Tokyo. The Shibuya Starbucks is also a great place to settle in and people-watch after a busy day on the streets.
Price: $ Location: Shibuya Crossing in Shibuya
With a population of over 32 million people, the Tokyo metropolitan area is the largest in the world. To manage this massive population, Tokyo boasts a combination of rail and subways that combine to form an extremely efficient public transportation system.

Aside from being an administrative and financial capital, Tokyo’s west side plays host to Harajuku, a landmark in the bleeding-edge world of fashion and material self-expression. Akihabara, perhaps the world’s most thrilling electronics district, lies on the east side of the city.

No matter your interests, Tokyo’s wide variety of places to go and people to see is sure to excite the imagination of any traveler.
Top things that must be done, seen, or visited

1. Pyramids of Giza (kind of goes without saying)
2. Azhar Park: Similar to Central Park in New York. REALLY big, open gardens, fountains, lakes, restaurants, just people hanging out
3. Khan El Khalili Bazaar: A big market where people get up to sell things (ranging from really invaluable things to really valuable things). Make sure you haggle with them! The prices they tell you are SUPER, SUPER inflated, and you should be able to bargain with the little shop owners to get the prices down by at the very least 30-40%. It’s overwhelming with all of the men trying to get you to buy things, so women: DO NOT GO ALONE. Be in a group of at least 4 or 5, or make sure you’re with a guy. It’s definitely an experience!

Favorite restaurants

Name: Andrea
Type: Family style, outdoors in gardens
Description: Rotisserie style charcoal grilled chicken (AMAZING), hummus, falafel, standard Egyptian food, a FAVORITE and a MUST
Price: Don’t remember
Location: 59-60 Marioutiya Canal Shara Kedessa, al-Haram, Cairo, Egypt

Name: Any shisha café (there are TONS on every street in the city)
Type: Café
Description: Coffee, tea, soda, shisha (pipe tobacco), really laid back environment, everyone in Cairo smokes shisha and it’s where people meet to socialize and hang out and have informal meetings
Price: Really cheap
Location: Everywhere! Go to any shisha café (they’re all basically the same)

Useful information or fun facts

People speak English more than you think, and tolerate Americans MUCH more than the preconceived notion that Egyptians hate Americans. The city is loud and busy and dirty, but that’s what makes it so much fun. Go to shisha cafes and night clubs (any and all!) because that’s where the younger crowds hang out!
Top things that must be done, seen, or visited

1. Climb Lion’s Head for an incredible view of the city and a great workout.
2. Visit the Old Biscuit Mill on Sundays for jazz music and Indian food! (Everyone goes on Saturdays so Sunday is the hidden gem, much more relaxed)
3. Go bungee jumping – it was the most exhilarating experience of my life!!

Favorite restaurants

Name: Royale Eatery
Type: More like a burger joint.
Description: Every type of burger...even ones suitable for me as a vegetarian. Everyone will find something they like! And AMAZING MILKSHAKES!
Price: around $5-7 dollars
Location: Long Street

Name: Marcel’s
Type: Ice cream parlor
Description: Amazing frozen yogurt and ice cream
Price: $2-3 dollars for a cone or cup
Location: All over, but in Rondebosch and at the V&A Waterfront

Useful information or fun facts

It is super windy and it rains a lot in September and October. No use having an umbrella so bring a raincoat and boots! It is SO important to explore the communities surrounding Cape Town. The service work I did here was the most rewarding part of my study abroad experience.
Thanks to all our contributors!