

Day 11: May 17<sup>th</sup>  
Christchurch to Picton

Today we parted from the south island, back to the north island. It was a rather long trek back to the ferry so we made a few necessary stops along the way. First stop: seals. When driving along the windy roads we noticed a ton of seals, so we stopped to check it out. On one side of the road where the water was, there were a ton of seals lying on the rocks living the good life. While on the other side there was a path that led back to a waterfall with at least 50 seals all playing in the water. I'm sure the seals were used to people so they would come right up to you, and if you were lucky enough they allowed you to touch them. Unfortunately we had no seal whisperers with us so we were unable to touch them. Once the excitement of the seals was over and a million pictures were taken, we were back on the road again.





All the driving along the way was worth it with the views that we had observed between all of our naps. Finally we made it to the ferry and drove on to head back to the north island. We all got out of the cars and headed up to the bar area to meet with our groups. The majority of the ferry ride was utilized to meet with the other group members and talk about where our research proposals were headed. The other time was spent roaming around the ship and eating at the cafeteria. The cafeteria special of the day was fish and chips accompanied with a jar of m&m's and a drink (the m&m part was the seller for me). So naturally all the food lovers on the trip couldn't resist. Once the ferry ride was over and we were back on the north island, we hit traffic. It was a bittersweet feeling because for about 90% of the trip we were all convinced there were NO people living in New Zealand; however, the traffic reassured us there were indeed people living here. On top of the traffic, the weather was not too ideal. But, the ride got instantly better when we were informed we were stopping in Bulls to go to the same kebab place that we ate at before, and there were also those who were excited about the fish and chips place on the corner that had "the best fish and chips in New Zealand." So of course we flocked the kebab place when we arrived and all ate our kebabs in glory. It was rainy throughout the rest of the drive to the national park. We arrived at the national park hostel around 11pm that night so we were unable to see the surrounding area. The boys hit up the sketchy bar next to our hostel to keep their streak going. The bar was closing so the boys brought back beer to the hostel so we all gathered in the boy's room and bonded yet again! Before going to bed Alyssa, Kate, and I decided to wake

up before the sunrise to go for a hike. We were unaware of the surrounding area still but we decided it was worth the risk. After all, YONZO was our motto.

