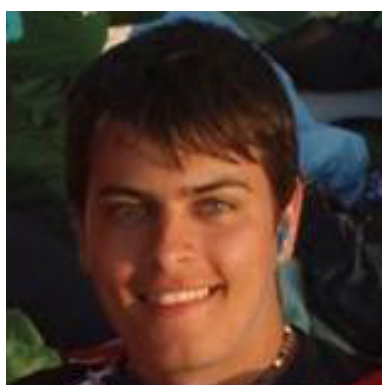


Learning & Leading Gap Year Scholars

● Dene Bowdalo

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| Dates | March to August 2009 |
| Locations | Europe and Australia |
| Activities | Visiting places previously studied in geography lessons |



Why did you do a gap experience?

To see all the geographical sights and interests I'd dreamt of seeing. To build my self-confidence and maturity. To advance my geographical understanding and knowledge.

What did you do on your gap experience?

I visited places such as the Alps, Rome and Budapest, I'd always dreamt of seeing, I'd studied so much European geography at school so as I knew so much about the places, the reality of actually seeing them, was very exciting for me.



What did you find easy and challenging?

Travelling alone is initially very challenging as it forces you from your comfort zone, in order to meet new people and make new friends.

What impact has your gap experience had?

I think this shows how much I have come on as a person. Set against the great knowledge I've picked up from seeing so many wondrous places and sights.



What were the highlights of your gap experience?

The biggest highlight of the trip for me was a place called the Fisherman's Bastion in Budapest. It overlooks the whole of the city and displays how the river separates the differing Buda and Pest. It is an incredibly beautiful sight, especially so at night and surpassed anything I saw on my travels.