

# MIRJAM (Germany)

## Mirjam Novak

Tourism Queensland Ambassador



Berlin was the theatre, Humboldt University the stage, where I had the privilege to study History and English for the last three years. At the moment I am finishing my Bachelor's thesis. I have appreciated this opportunity, even though in the beginning it was just a welcome change from waiting tables on the side to learn something proper". By now you should be guessing what my true profession is – exactly! I am an actress.

At the age of 19 I arrived from small town Franconia to the concrete jungle of Los Angeles. Not only did I survive in the wild, but I also studied at the Lee Strasberg and even met my best friends there. They come from all over the world: Hungary, Russia, India, Guatemala, Australia and Greece. Really, I do not have that many best friends, but some of them happen to have mixed heritage like me. Being Croatian-German, I grew up with two different cultures. Every summer we would spend with relatives in Croatia, by the beach and grilling whole lambs on spits over an open fire! Naturally and playfully, I learned to embrace and adapt to other cultures. For me it is one of the most exciting things in life to explore and experience the sheer variety of people and, if you are lucky, travel to unique and awe-inspiring places as well. I have been lucky; I have visited most of Europe, as well as parts of the US, Latin America, Turkey and Northern Africa.

Having lived and travelled in different cities I went through ups and downs, through difficulties and challenges to follow my dreams and instincts. At a young age I learned, it is usually what you did NOT do that you regret the most. This is why I sometimes followed the less trodden path. No matter how far I travel and where my journey leads me, my family and friends are my anchor and my roots, they keep me grounded and remind me where I come from. At the same time our home for all of us is this planet. Leaving more behind than taking and securing sustainability is what I want to achieve in life to leave the wonders for other generations to see.

