

CALIFORNIA

Perfect Life for everyone?

In the easter holidays, me and my mother visited my sister, who studies in San Fransisco, and together we made a little trip trough California and drove to Los Angeles. In this report I will tell you about our trip, but also about the reality of dreamland California.



After an eleven hours flight from Frankfurt to San Fransisco, we arrived in the evening and drove with our rental car to the college of my sister (Menlo College). It was really rainy and a bit cold. After a little chaotic first drive, we arrived at the college and I immediately hugged my sister, because I haven't seen my sister over 8 months!

On the first day in the morning we ate breakfast together with my sister, I ordered waffles with strawberries and maple syrup. This was delicious! And I think a good thing in America is, that in almost every restaurant you get free water with ice cubes. So after the breakfast my mother and me drove to San Fransisco by train, because my sister studies outside San Fransisco in a little city called Atherton. We visited Pier 39 (a famous pier with many food and tourists shops) and saw the famous and cute sea lions of San Fransisco. Two of them were catching and pushing each other in the water! This was funny! And I also bought a black pullover in the „Hard Rock Cafe“ Shop. On the next day we visited San Fransisco again, and ate a speciality from there: Clam Chowder(a sourdough bread with soup inside). I ate it with tomato soup. This was so delicious! After that we made a „hop-on/hop off“ tour through the city. We saw the „Painted Ladies“, a famous victorian row of houses, skyscrapers and we drove over the Golden Gate Bridge and made photos from a viewing point (see photo). In a poorer district you could also saw many homeless people and you felt bad to look from the top of the bus to the poor people, because you felt like in a Zoo.

On Thursday, me, my mother and my sister drove with our car to Los Angeles. We passed dry grass fields, almond tree and other fields, but also green mountains. In the evening we arrived in Los Angeles and slept in a little, beautiful „Airbnb“.

On Friday we visited the Universal Studios in Hollywood. We had to start early in the morning because during the day it was getting fuller and you had to wait long for attractions. We made the

Studio Tour and visited the „Harry Potter“ World. We also watched the stunt show „Water World“. One man jumped burning from a Tower and they let jump a little plane in the water in the station! We were the whole day in the Universal Studios and I bought a jacket with the logo on it. This was a really exciting day!

At the weekend we drove to the Hollywood Sign, the Walk of Fame and the Santa Monica Pier. We tried to come as near as possible to the Hollywood Sign and it was really full. Many people wanted to make a photo for their social media and it wasn't able to not have another person on your photo. Then we went to the Walk of Fame. We could see the stars from the different actors, singers and other famous people, but it was also really full and it had many old, dilapidated tourist shops. It has also many people who sold fruits and hot dogs on the street. I was a little bit shocked because the hygienic conditions weren't really good. After that we were at Santa Monica Beach/Pier and relaxed a bit. But it was really full and the pier was overcrowded, and also the sand was a bit dirty.

On our last day we visited the Griffith Observatory, which is near to the Hollywood Sign and you have a great view over the city and the Hollywood sign (see photo). But we also drove a bit with our car through Beverly Hills, with its big houses and palm trees. In the evening we went a bit shopping in „The Grove“ (Shopping Mall) and the next day we went back to San Francisco.

In the last days I went shopping to the Stanford Shopping Center and one day before we went back to Germany, I visited together with my mom the Filoli Gardens, a museum with a big garden full of flowers. This was really beautiful and exciting, but I also had an allergy reaction because of the flowers. And after that we also visited the Stanford University and the Cantor Arts Center, which tells about the history of the Stanford family.

On the next day we flew back to Germany, and I think that this was a trip which will give me many experiences about the USA. As many people think that when they come to California, they will have a perfect life, but this isn't reality. First, it isn't cheap to live in California, for example when you just buy some things in the supermarket, it is really really expensive. Also you have to work really hard for your dreams because California is big. For example you can see that in L.A., there are many homeless people, whom often wanted to become rich/famous, but couldn't make it.

But it was a really exciting trip and I hope that I can travel again to the USA. And it was also very nice that I could see my sister again.

