

My study tour in Australia

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As I arrived in Cairns, Australia, all of my doubts somehow suddenly went away. I could not believe that I was stepping on this captivating land and going to start a four-week study tour. Breathing the fresh air, I thought I had fallen in love with this city at the first sight. Each of us were wondering what would lie ahead in the following days. Time would tell us eventually.

I still remember the first day we reached Cairns State High School from the airport. I could not imagine how nervous I was. I met with my host family as soon as I got off the taxi. It was very nice of them to smile and give me a warm welcome. On our way home, they talked about their culture and shared their feelings of the moment. It was a relaxing chat and opened up my heart to them. Another memorable thing is that Rex, my host family father, prepared my lunchbox and morning tea every day. Besides, he also took me to different well-known restaurants to taste the original Australian food. As for the leisure time on weekends, my host family took me to many beautiful scenic spots. We told funny stories and enjoyed ourselves thoroughly. I felt that they are just like my family and always made me feel at home.

During that period of time, we had lots of English lessons. From Monday to Thursday, we stayed in the library for a two-hour English lesson every morning, which was lectured by Mariane and Karen. You may think that it must be quite boring. On the contrary, it was extremely interesting and enjoyable. They arranged lots of amusing activities to make us more active in class. At the beginning of the English lesson, we set up a news sharing section. Two of us reported some international news which appeared on television or newspaper. Afterwards, we were divided into two groups and took lessons respectively. There were debates, dramas, Australia folk songs and bush dances planned in our courses. We also had some writing and reading skill training which were really helpful to develop our abilities in English. From all those activities, I loved the advertisement creation the best. We were asked to create an advertisement in seconds to promote some products. We all racked our brains to create a fresh way to attract more attention. No doubt,

it tested our persuasive skills and also showed our talent to be original.

The happiest thing for me was to make new friends and communicate with local people. Because all the members of our group were from different schools, we had not known each other before we came. Since we stayed in Cairns and took lessons together, we became intimate friends. I developed a close relationship not only with the Macao students but also with my buddies from Cairns State High School. It was a great chance to know more about Australian education from the brilliant lessons. In our spare time, our buddies showed us attractive corners of their School and shared their school life with us.

In these few weeks, my life was filled with surprise and delight. There were also lots of first times: the first time to take lessons and enjoy lunchtime with buddies; the first time to feed the baby kangaroo, the first time to take a photo with lovely koalas, the first time to snorkel and observe the coral reef on Green Island and the first time to make biscuits. There is a saying, 'Sometimes you just need to stop for a while and look around at all the beautiful things in your life.' The key to happiness, which I discovered in Cairns, is to maintain a positive attitude and enjoy your life. Every afternoon, Rex, Judith and I went down to the beach and explored the shoreline together. It seemed that water can drive away our tiredness. It was really a good way to refresh ourselves.

I was grateful that everyone in Cairns was very friendly to us. No more pressure. No more worry. We had received such a remarkable opportunity to learn English and experience the Australian culture. Furthermore, the educational tour broadened my horizons and made me more independent. In spite of making many mistakes, I was always encouraged by my teacher. I will go on learning English and never stop my steps in enriching my knowledge. Although I have come back to Macao, I will never forget these fascinating days there. No matter how long the time may pass, all those gorgeous memories will be lying in my hearts and waiting to be recalled.