

My American Dream (Trip)!

I had been looking forward to this day for ages. I jumped out of bed and pulled over the curtains. What a miserable day! It was pouring rain and I couldn't see Keash Hill through the mist. Even though the weather was awful, it couldn't dampen my spirits, as I knew where I was going, the sun would be beating down from a clear, blue sky. You see, back in February, I had entered a contest to win a trip to Los Angeles, California, for me and four people, a weeklong stay in a hotel overlooking the city, \$1000 spending money, and, to my astonishment, tickets for front-row seats at an L.A. Lakers vs. L.A. Clippers basketball game. After entering, I didn't think much of it, as I didn't think I had a chance of winning, but that all changed later that evening, when the company who was holding the contest called me to say I was the lucky winner of their contest! I couldn't believe it!

And so... the much anticipated day had dawned. My mum, dad and brother, Justin, would all be coming with me, as well as my best friend, Kylie. Our flight departed at 10 and from Dublin Airport, so we quickly got dressed, put our suitcases in the car, and collected Kylie, before beginning our long journey up to Dublin.

We eventually arrived at Dublin Airport, and unloaded the suitcases, before making our way into the main building. After all the security checks had been completed, we took a quick look in duty free before heading off to departures. We were 20 minutes early for our flight, so Kylie, Justin and I played a game of 'Go Fish' with a pack of cards Justin got in a souvenir shop.

Before we knew it, we were on the plane, ready to take off (as our plane inched its way down the runway, I made every attempt to stop my ears popping).

I listened to some music on my tablet and took some photos of the beautiful view out the window. Kylie and I talked for a while, before we decided to take a nap. I woke to find our plane was descending, and within 15 minutes we were basking in the beautiful sunlight of Los Angeles!

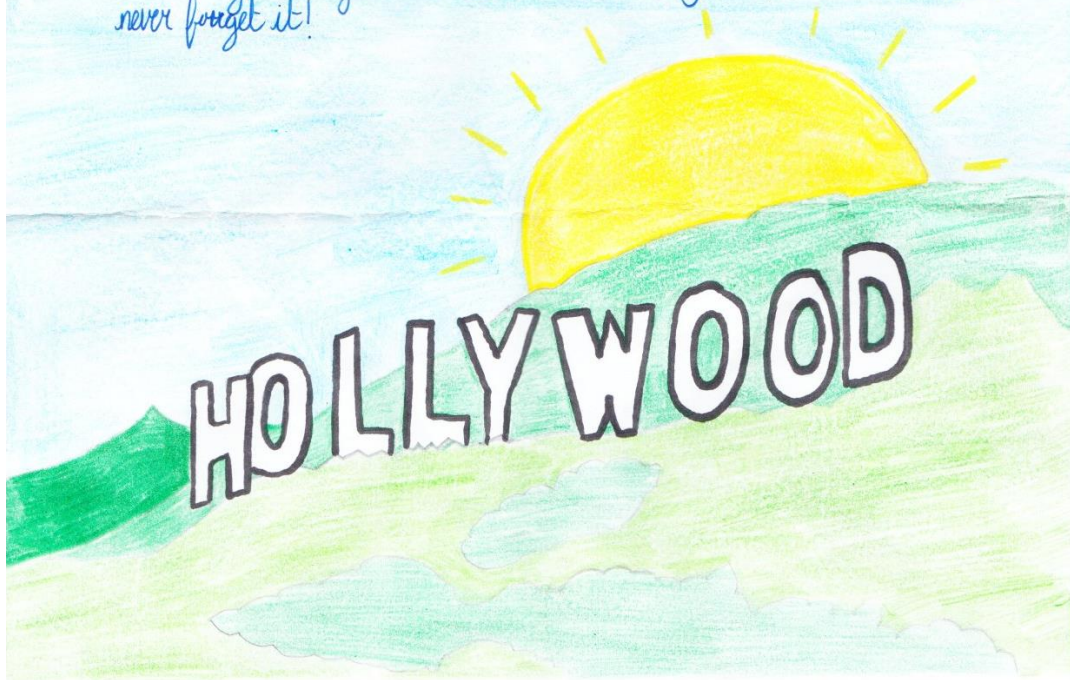
As it was only 12 o'clock in the afternoon, we took a cab to our hotel and unpacked, so we could have the rest of the day to have fun. The view from our room was stunning! We could see everything from the beautiful beaches to the promenade of amazing shops. My favourite part, though, was the fact that through all the palm trees and buildings, I could see the Hollywood sign on the hill and it looked outstanding!

We went for a walk on a nearby strand, which was surrounded by rocky sand-dunes and plenty of unusual sea creatures. Suddenly, I heard a cry from behind me. Justin, being Justin, had decided to attempt to climb one of the sand-dunes, and in the process of coming back down, had slipped and cut his leg badly. Mum and Dad ran to help him, while Kylie and I asked a local what the emergency number was. Before I realised what was happening, we were in the hospital, waiting to get Justin's leg bandaged. Everyone in the hospital was lovely, and we were heading back to our hotel within two hours. For the rest of the evening, we relaxed and gave Justin's leg a chance to heal.

By the next day, Justin was up and walking, which was brilliant as the L.A. Lakers game was that day! When we arrived, we took our seats in the front row. The atmosphere was unbelievable! It was as if every Lakers or Clippers fan had turned out to see this tense match. My favourite part was at half time when they held a trick-shot competition. One of the Lakers players noticed my brother's bandaged leg, and he called Kylie, Justin and I over, as well as a few other people from the crowd. We took turns doing our best trick-shots, and Justin won with his half-way-down-the-court backwards shot! He won an awesome

cap and a t-shirt, and after the amazing game (which the Lakers won) we went to Venice beach. We then decided to climb to the 'Hollywood' sign, which we had a picnic in front of. We took many beautiful pictures, and then we went back to our hotel. A perfect end to a perfect day!

For the rest of the trip, we shopped in all the brilliant stores, went to many gorgeous beaches, and even went to the Hollywood Walk of Fame! At the end of the week, I was sorry I had to leave, but I promised myself that when I was older, I would come back and explore more of this beautiful city, and that I would stay even longer. I had such an outstanding week, and I knew I would never forget it!



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