

Aloha, from Hawaii!

By Rebecca
12-24-10 to 12-27-10

Friday, December 24th, 2010:

I woke up, at 5:15, excited. I was excited because I was going to Hawaii, after five years! My family and I got into our car and drove to Fastrack in South San Francisco, where our car would be parked for the next four days. Then, we took a shuttle to the San Francisco Airport. We walked to Gate 17, and ate a breakfast of muffins. I had baked the muffins myself the previous day. Since we would be landing in Hawaii, after lunch, we bought some sandwiches, to eat on the plane. At around 8:15, we started our trip to Hawaii.

We landed at around 1:00, in Honolulu, Hawaii. As soon as we exited the airport, we began feeling warm. The air was humid, and it was very sunny outside. We took a taxi to the Hilton Hawaiian Village. It was HUGE! The hotel was really like a village. There were shops bordering the streets, from jewelry shops, to restaurants, and shops to buy souvenirs. While Daddy registered, Leah and I looked at the giant Christmas tree in the lobby, and the other Christmas decorations. Then, we went to our room. There were seven towers in the hotel, full of hotel rooms. We were in the Ali'i Tower. In Hawaiian, Ali'i means "royal."

After unpacking a bit, we decided to take a tour of the hotel. We walked up to the lagoon, which looked beautiful. Then, we went to Paradise Pool, one of the four pools in the hotel. At the pool, Leah and I splashed around for a little while, and then we went down the open waterslide. A little later, Daddy joined us in the pool. We went down the closed waterslide many times. We finished off the pool with a quick dip in the Jacuzzi. Then we went to a restaurant near a different pool, and ate some appetizers. There was sushi, meatballs, potstickers, cheese, and crackers. We watched an amazing sunset while eating. After that, we went up to our room, took a shower, changed, and then went back down. We watched some hula dancers, and listened to some Hawaiian music. To end our day, we watched brightly colored fireworks explode in the sky.

Saturday, December 25th, 2010:

MERRY CHRISTMAS! We woke up at around 7:00, and ate breakfast at a Starbucks in the hotel. After breakfast, we took the bus to the foot of the Diamond Head Peak. From there we went on a long hike all the way to the top of Diamond Head Mountain. We climbed up winding trails, went through dark tunnels, and climbed steep flights of stairs, all 271 of them, until we finally reached the summit. The view was amazing from up there. When we reached back down, we bought some shave ice. I got passion fruit and pineapple shave ice. That felt good. After that, we climbed trees, and then we started going back to our hotel. On the way, we stopped, and ate a lunch of burgers and fries. On our walk back, we bought some Hawaiian dresses. At the hotel, Daddy took a swim in the ocean, while Leah and I swam in the pool.

At 5:00, we went to the Waikiki Starlight Luau. There was a wonderful buffet, and an exciting show, with dancing and singing representing Polynesians from different countries. I especially enjoyed the fire-eating. After the show, and before the show, we took pictures with the hula dancers, and the men who did tricks with fire. We had a wonderful night.

Sunday, December 26th, 2010:

We woke up to the rain pouring outside. After breakfast, we went to Pearl Harbor, in a jeep we rented. We took a shuttle to Ford Island. For lunch, we had juicy burgers and a mango smoothie, at Slider's Grill. Then, we took a tour of the battleship, USS Missouri. On her decks, World War II ended. It was docked in Tokyo when the Japanese signed the papers. We saw copies of it. We looked at the Mess Hall, the soldiers' and the captain's rooms, and the weapons. Then, we watched a video, on the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor, in a small theater. After the video, we took a ride, on a Navy boat, to the USS Arizona Memorial. You could still see the oil from the sunken boat, shimmering on the water's surface. Underwater, a faint outline, of some parts of the battleship, was visible.

After we got back to the hotel, we went to the pool, and made Mommy FINALLY get in the blue water. Then, we went to the beach, and made sand sculptures, using the beach's soft, tan sand. Together, we made a cake, and a sculpture of a sea turtle. Daddy swam to the coral reef.

For dinner, we wanted to go to Sergio's Italian Table, a restaurant, but the wait was too long, so we decided to take out, from Round Table Pizza. We ate our dinner on the beach.

Monday, December 27th, 2010:

It was rainy in the morning, as we drove to Hanauma Bay, to go snorkeling. When we reached our destination, however, the skies had cleared, and it was warm and sunny. We watched a video in a small theater, on safety instructions, and about the background of the reef, and then got our snorkeling gear. There were SO many fish. It was like every color of the rainbow was swimming through the waters we were swimming in. By the time we got out, we were tired, but extremely happy.

When we got back to the hotel, we got ICE CREAM! I got creamy passion fruit sherbet, Leah got "Mauna Kea's Secret," a type of ice cream, Daddy got Summer Triple Berry Swirl, and Mommy got a type of chocolate ice cream. Then, we went to the lagoon, and went kayaking. Towards the end of kayaking, Leah and I took turns clinging to the back of the kayak, while Daddy rowed. For dinner, we went to Sergio's Italian Table. I had fettuccine, and dessert was raspberry and chocolate mousse, with whipped cream and raspberry sauce and jello. Then, we went to our room, and slept.

Tuesday, December 28th, 2010

I woke up early, and took a quick swim in the ocean with Daddy. After that, I took a quick rinse, and we went shopping for some souvenirs, and jewelry. Then, we went to our room for the last time, packed up, and then checked out. We went in a taxi, to the airport, sad, but happy to be going home.

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