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Trip to Tahiti

Once I went on a family vacation to an island where my parents were born, an island that had lots of tall brown coconut trees, many mountains covering the middle of the land where the only way you can go is around them, and a massive deep blue ocean with many fishes and corals in it. The island of which my parents were born and raised is the island of Tahiti. Being born and raised in Utah I wasn’t too familiar with our island; although both of my parents were from Tahiti I only had a little understanding of the island and what life was like over there.

In 2003 I went on my first trip to Tahiti and there I was taught many things of my culture and was able to meet lots of family members for the first time. During the time spent over there I was taught new things and went to new places, but because I was so young I have very few memories of it. So in 2009 we went on our second trip to Tahiti and since I was a bit older I have more memories of it then I had the first time I went. In Tahiti I went to many places that I hadn’t been to on the first trip. I learned about places my family was from, discovering little islands that surrounded Tahiti, and sightseeing near the waterfalls. I saw many things that I had never seen before which had really fascinated me.

What I really wanted to learn was the lifestyle the Tahitian people lived. I wanted to learn more about what they did throughout the day, what they learn in school, what they ate every day. I wanted to know if there were any similarities or differences between living over there than where I am living in Utah. I had asked my parents about it before but they would give me short answers so I looked for the answer myself while I was over there. During the time there I noticed big differences and little differences as well as big similarities and little similarities.

The huge difference you would catch when you first arrive there is the language; the language they use is French and Tahitian, and also the way they greet would be a big difference as well, when the Tahitian people greet they greet by saying Iaorana or Bonjour and do what the French people do which is a French kiss on the cheek. Some similarities I noticed would be transportation, many people take the bus, the car, a bicycle or just even walk. What got me interested that I learned was the way schooling was over there; they have a different learning system like how they teach in different ways than we do at our school here in Utah. They teach them different learning tips and teach them English as their language credit.

During the trip I not only learned the way the people’s lifestyles were but I also learned that different environments can lead to different lifestyles. While over there I went to visit some of my family member that lived in Papeete and Paea which are two different cities but they seemed similar to each other, the way they talk and the way they acted. I then went to another area called Punaauia and there their accent was a bit different than those from Papeete and Paea. Another island in Tahiti called Bora Bora, the people were the same as the ones on the island of Tahiti but they have a different type of housing than those on the main land Tahiti. They live in huts on the ocean, but since its where tourist come to stay at it’s more like a resort so it makes more sense that it would be nice huts than what others live in on the island of Tahiti.

Now that I have already learned more of the lifestyles in Tahiti I wanted to find out more about what they eat there. In Papeete, the capital of Tahiti, there is a large market place called The Marche and there they have lots and lots of food as well as lots of merchandise you can buy. They have plenty of different fruits, different types of fishes, and lots of vegetables. The Marche basically has all the food that you can buy. In Papeete the people eat lots of meats like steak and beef, the people in Paea eat lots of fish and vegetables.

During the times spent there I learned many things that I was already familiarized with and lots of things that were just new to me. I got to learn the places my parents were born and raised in, what the people of Tahiti ate, and all the places you can go and discover new things. During my journey in Tahiti I went to many different places and learned many different things but I wasn’t able to see everything, so I decided the next trip to Tahiti I will be planning to go to many more different places and learn many more different things.