

IT WAS THE WORST FAMILY HOLIDAY EVER!

It was the worst family holiday ever! I am surprised that we even survived, but luckily we did!

‘WOW! Look at the beautiful water mum!’ I got a clear glimpse of the crystal clear ocean from the high window above the ground. I had never travelled this way before. The flight attendant walked down the narrow aisle, bringing food to those who were in need of it. I hoped she had come to me first because I was starving! (I would have probably eaten all of the contents on the trolley!!) The light from the small square window beside me blinded me. It was like staring into a torch and the stale air from the air conditioner made the plane smell musty and rustic.

We finally came into landing after 20 hours of flying, I was extremely exhausted! I could never have imagined the airport being so busy. There were flashing lights, signs and directions everywhere. I could hardly even move, it was so crowded. The streets were full of bustling people and so many yellow taxis.

After being in such a cramped indoor space, all I needed was a bit of fresh air in an open park. We saw a million signs and maps of a park that was hidden inside the city, everywhere on the side of the road. We couldn’t get away from all the yellow cabs and the tall buildings loomed above me like shadows. The beeping horns and flashing lights reminded me of home!

We got to the park by travelling in one of the common yellow transports. The cab smelt of rotten fish and every once in a while, the driver would break wind and then open up the screen, it was so disgusting!

The bright coloured leaves made the park look beautiful! The reds, yellows, browns and oranges made the cobblestone path pop out. The rough brown tree trunks were tall and spectacular. I remember the sound of the dry Autumn leaves crunching under my every step. It was great to be outside in the fresh air, it was going to be a beautiful day. I could smell freshly roasted coffee being carried by the crisp air. I felt the smooth wooden seat below me as I sat down to take it all in.

We were able to enter our room at 12:00, so we decided to go for a walk. We were staying at the Conrad. It looked amazing on the internet. Our room had two queen beds, a clear view of the city with floor to ceiling windows and a living area that was filled with natural light. Apparently you could see all of the skyscrapers and buildings from the balcony.

We finally reached the hotel. The main lobby was very royal. I could see sparkling gold benches, black cushioned seats, smooth black marble counters and a very old fashioned, traditional bar. I had never seen anything like it! We went up to our room after an exhausting day. The pictures on the internet were the exact same as what the room looked like, it was luxury! We were so tired, we went to sleep as soon as our heads hit the pillow.

We went out for breakfast early the next day (the most special day of the whole year) as it was my birthday. The restaurant that we were eating in was in one of the tallest skyscrapers. The outside had a circular balcony that curved around the building beautifully. You could see all of the smaller buildings below you. Some people called it the Empire State building. The

food was incredible! I had luscious, warm pancakes with creamy vanilla ice cream and a small pot of sweet maple syrup. My brother, Ben, had a delicious looking brekkie burger. It contained a delicate sesame bun, a well cooked meat patty, fresh lettuce, juicy tomato, melted cheese and homemade barbecue sauce. Mum and dad both had the healthy option, fresh breakfast salad. This salad had a wide variety of colours and textures. It contained fresh kale, perfectly cooked bacon, yummy looking avocado slices and a big, gooey poached egg splat in the middle. NEW YORK, AMERICA, IS A BEAUTIFUL PLACE!

After breakfast, we had a sightseeing tour planned at a place called the World Trade Centre. The Twin Towers, as they were called, were apparently humungous, the two tallest skyscrapers in Manhattan. They had tiny square windows that apparently from the ground, you could hardly even see. The height of 415 metres was what made them stand out. Little did I know that mum had organised a surprise. We were going in the Twin Towers for my birthday surprise. Today I was turning ten on September 11 2001.

We were walking getting ready to walk through the doors of the tall famous building. The doors were grand, gold framed and clean shiny glass. We were about to walk in but I hesitated as an odd shaped shadow flew above me. We heard a terrible roar of an engine. There was a huge explosion as I realised a plane had flown straight into the Towers! The area filled with smoke. We grabbed each other's hands and ran for our lives. The noise was ferociously terrifying! We turned to look and there was a massive explosion of flames. We kept running. It happened again, the smoke clouds getting bigger and bigger. I could hear the sirens screech through the city. How could this happen? We were surrounded by smoke and dust. My thoughts instantly went to all the people working in the World Trade Centre.

The last thing I remember was a massive cloud of smoke hitting me so hard it knocked me off my feet.

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Next year my whole family again is going to New York, but this time we are looking at the memorial for that tragic accident. Let's hope it never happens again!

Shayla Dennis Year 4 aged 10