

The Unforgettable Journey

For me, New York City and Los Angeles used to be my all-time favorites when visiting USA. However, there has been one thing that forever changed my mind. The Exchange Program made Chicago my most beloved city since then, and is the place that I am always looking forward to go again. Yes, I have been enchanted by this wonderful windy city where people are so nice and gentle. The city locates by the beautiful Lake Michigan where attractive architectures could be easily found along the way.



Heading south-west of Chicago for approximately two hours, a small quiet town of my destination is reached. Illinois State University locates in the town of Bloomington-Normal with another fine university, Illinois Wesleyan. In addition, there are two major U.S. companies operating, State Farm and Caterpillar, making most people in the town college students and employees of the companies.

My first week of arrival was full of new experiences. I found that people in the town were so nice and helpful. I spent most of my time exploring here and there surrounded by such a nice weather. My very first impressions include people at the bus stop telling me which bus I needed to catch, and people in the bus telling me which stop I should take.

During the semester, I lived in the university's apartment which was very comfortable. I enjoyed living on my own, as well as working for the campus dining center. People here live their lives moderately with less hurry than in a big city, plus the cost of living is not so high. So, living here for me was sort of a relaxation.



Moreover, since the town locates in the middle USA, getting outside was somehow easy. The great places nearby beside Chicago include Wisconsin, Champaign, and Peoria where fine foods and outlets could be found.



However, by going a little bit further on the east USA, I got to visit New York City, Washington D.C., Philadelphia, and Niagara Falls where each of them was truly memorable. The running lights at Times square, the elegance on Fifth Avenue, and the Statue of Liberty who, for all time, stands still in the Big Apple City made me never forget. Also the historical pieces in Philly and D.C. widened my experiences a lot. What most unforgettable was the spray and freshness of

Niagara Falls which is totally impossible to put in plain words but experience it yourself.

Alternatively, west side is also a good idea to visit. Las Vegas is the city that full of excitements from extravagant structures. On the other hand, Seattle is a peaceful city where fine seafood and two first original coffee shops, Starbucks and Seattle's Best, located. In addition, Portland is also a great place to shop at tag prices with zero tax, and San Francisco is where the scenery was exceptionally stunning. Furthermore, LA gave the feelings of celebrities at Beverly Hills and Hollywood/Highland, while Disneyland reminded me my old childhood times where I ended my journey with Disney princesses' fairy tales.



All of the above could never be possible without the BBA Exchange Program and every single one engaged. I would like to say special bunch of thanks to you all for completing this truly meaningful time of mine.

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