

An unforgettable trip essay



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On the first weekend after my arrival in Brisbane, Helen, my homestay hostess, took Kate Xu and me on an interesting trip. After an hour's drive in her car, we got to the Sunshine Coast, a famous resort. So many people had come here that we had trouble finding a parking place. Alas! No wonder people had swarmed here. The sky is clear and blue and the sea, connected to the Pacific, is like a vast blue jade. Free from pollution, the sky and the sea in Australia are definitely without match! As we advanced along the bank, we reached the Happy Valley.

With a gentle, refreshing breeze brushing my face, I felt intoxicated. Wow! This valley did live up to its name. I exclaimed jokingly, "If I had another life, I'd like to be a tree in the Happy Valley!" Despite the wind and waves, there were many fishermen. One of them caught a small fish but threw it back into the sea, which was aimed at sustainability. I gazed at the blue sky and found many tiny spots attached to something like an umbrella. To my amazement, they were parachuters! On top of that, on surfing boards crazy kite-surfers were being pulled by kites up and down the waves .

Practically everywhere I saw toddlers, some in nappies, having fun on sands or in the sea. They were mostly exploring nature on their own, seldom interfered with or supported by adults. Totally inconceivable was that babies in prams joined in the fun, which is a rare phenomenon back in China. Aussies do rear their children in a different way from ours. Time was flying and soon came lunchtime. Helen, our hostess took our picnic out of the trunk. She had even brought a tiny gas stove and a fry-pan to fry sausages. We took pictures of our picnic as a reminder of this gorgeous trip.

Our second stop on the trip was the rainforest near the Glasshouse Mountains, which were ranges of extinct volcanoes. Entering the forest, we found the atmosphere extremely awesome yet peaceful. Enormous rainforests reached as far as the sky, some surrounded with huge vines, with fallen pods and seeds scattered around. Lush grass grew at the foot of the trees, and among the grass was a pile of dead leaves, in which bush turkeys made their nests. The song of a lorikeet drew the attention of many visitors, as did the stealthy skipping of the extremely tiny birds in the bush.

Exhilarated, I expressed my wishes of being a bird in the rainforest in my next life and Helen teased me, reminding me of my earlier wishes in the Happy Valley. Good times don't last long. It was soon 4pm, time for departure. It had been many years since I had enjoyed myself so much. In China tour guides had us spending more time in shops than at scenic spots. And Chinese scenic spots were always far away and overly crowded. How I wish my people could have more leisure, more real enjoyment and more space! Travelling It is exciting to visit different places.

As you travel, you will see beautiful sceneries typical of the region. Besides, you can meet and make friends with people of different colors and races. Finally, you can get to know the customs and living habits of the local people. Today people are so fond of travelling that tourism has become one of the faster growing industries in most countries. The main reason why people travel is, perhaps, for pleasure. For example, having worked hard throughout the weekdays, people will find a widened trip to the nearby mountains or beaches a real relaxation.

For another example, spending an annual holiday travelling abroad is an especially satisfying experience for those who do not have much of an opportunity to be away from their homelands. When people return from their travel, they will generally feel fresh and energetic, ready to work harder. Travelling is also one of the best means for learning. You may have read or heard about something but you can never get an accurate picture of it until you see it for yourself. Seeing is believing. Furthermore, if you are a careful observer, you can learn much during your travel about the geography, biology, and history of the places you visit.

No matter how well educated you are, there is always a lot for you to learn through travelling. The knowledge acquired from travel, as you will have found in your life, is no less valuable than that from any influential reference book. The water in Jiuzhaigou is a big attraction, and is commonly considered the soul of Jiuzhaigou because it remains much less touched by human beings. Generally the water is so clean that you can see to the bottom even at 30m in depth. Now we arrive at the first lake in Jiuzhaigou called Shuanglonghai. You can dimly see two calcified lower banks in the shape of tibbons.

Once waves in the lake surges, the two banks seem to wriggle. The local legend says that they are two swimming dragons. It is said that there are four dragons in Jiuzhaigou. The dragons in the lakes here are two of the four, who take charge of raining and hail. Maybe because they have no strong sense of their duty responsibility, they often make mistakes, and therefore there is no rain when it should rain; there is no hail when it should hail. Therefore Geshaer, the Tibetan hero has subdued the two evil dragons and

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imprisoned them at the bottom of the lake. The water here is closely related with calcification.

The water from the Rizegou Gully has rich content in the ion of calcium and magnesium. Due to the suitable temperature in the water here, the flowing ion easily turns into particulate matters, which stick to plankton or tiny sediments, and deposit on the lower earth bank. narrow mounds, trunks and tree branches in the bottom. Gradually calcified segments have fully covered the objects, forming unique natural phenomenon. Shuzheng Waterfall, one of the main scenic sites, is 11m in height and 62m in width. It is an unseen stream from the high terrace meandering among the forests down to the edge of the cliff.

As it approaches the edge, trees, bushes and rocks there divert the unseen stream into many sub-ones. The sub-streams fall downwards, presenting a splendid huge waterfall and hanging off the cliff. Down below the cliff grow rich trees and bushes and protruding rocks, and the water keeps splashing off these objects in varied shape. Beyond the waterfall is a smooth terrain. Near the road is the Xiniu Lake that is 2km long and 18m deep, the largest one in Jiuzhaigou. Toward the southern end of the lake is a forest where there is a simple bridge spanning across the lake.

Nearby is a stream, and the water from the stream offers a sweet and refreshing taste. The local Tibetan residents think that it is a supernatural stream, for it is said that the water from the stream can stop diarrhea and quench a thirst. The legend had it that a long time ago, a lama from Tibet arrived here on a rhinoceros. He was so sick that he couldn't walk further. So

he drank the water from the stream. Unexpectedly he was fully recovered and felt rejuvenated. Afterwards the lama drove the rhinoceros down into the lake, and he himself resided nearby.

Nuorilang Waterfall, located between the Rizegou and Shuzheng Gullies, is 30m in height and 270m in width. Nuorilang literally means magnificence. the water comes from Rizgou Gully. During the high-water season, the cascading waterfall lproduces a tremendous noise that revetberates in the gully. As the water hits the ground, the splashed liquik immediately moves high up into the air in the form of fine drops, which have been thrown, blown or projected, forming a splendid water curtain. Visitors often view a rainbow that appears in the curtain while the sun shines upon it. In autumn, the water gets much less.