

Hawaii

Global Week 2019 - Upper School

Day 1

What a great day in Oahu! It was picture perfect weather. We enjoyed a wonderful catamaran cruise where we got to snorkel and swim with sea turtles and lots of fish. We enjoyed time on famous Waikiki beach and then we ended our day with a fun scavenger hunt in the area surrounding our hotel to get us familiarized with the local area.

Day 2

Today we got an early start and had breakfast at the Hard Rock Cafe before heading on a scenic tour of Honolulu on our way to Pearl Harbor. Our tour guide, "Cousin Dorothy," gave us great information about the island. We got to see where the opening scenes of Gilligan's Island were filmed, drove by Alamoana City Center, toured by bus the famous Punchbowl (the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific), where we saw the flag at half mast because there was a funeral in progress and "Lady Columbia" that bears an inscription for a mom who lost 5 sons in the war. We also saw "Brothers Row" which has the graves of 30 sets of brothers who died in the war. We drove by Iolani Palace (which we will get a full tour of on Saturday) and took a picture at King Kamehameha Statue.

At Pearl Harbor we had a very informative experience as we watched a historical documentary, had the opportunity to explore the Battleship Missouri Memorial (a.k.a., "Mighty Mo"), had a boat tour of the *USS Arizona* and had a historical briefing while we ate our lunches under the monkey pod trees. We learned some remarkable facts such as the average age of those killed in Pearl Harbor was 20 years old, the *Arizona* still has oil in it and it leaks 1-2 gallons of oil a day, and the remains of nearly 1,000 people still are buried in the *Arizona*. We were also privileged to meet one of only 6 surviving crew members of the *Arizona* at Pearl Harbor.

We ended our day with a tasty dinner at Tanaka of Japan and the students enjoyed some free time walking around and purchasing souvenirs.

Day 3

Today we had an early start with a wonderful breakfast full of fruits and other delicious food. On our way to Sea Life Park we had a great tour from our bus driver, Koko. We had the opportunity to stop at Diamondhead Lookout. At this same location there is a plaque for Amelia Earhart because this is where she was last seen flying in her plane.

We drove through Kahala which is like the BelAir of Hawaii where many celebrities have homes. The Hawaiians call this area "KaHollywood".

We traveled to Waimanalo (the city next to Honolulu) where we had the opportunity to travel to Hanauma Bay where we got another round of beautiful shots next to the water and saw a lot of snorkeling down in the bay. We then had a great scenic drive past beautiful coastline and saw fisherman, and more incredible views.

We arrived at Sea Life Park and had 4 hours to tour the park at our leisure. We saw a sea lion show, dolphin show, had the opportunity to feed sea turtles and fish and some of us even touched 7-month old sea turtles. We also got to see the world's first and only "wolphin," which is a hybrid between a killer whale and a dolphin. She is 33 years old and much to the surprise of everyone, she was able to have a daughter who is now 14 years old!

We ended the evening with a wonderful astronomy lesson of landmark stars in the night sky and were able to see the stars' brilliance of so many different colors through a gigantic telescope.

Day 4

It was hike and luau day! We had an early start at 6:45 for breakfast at Duke's looking out over the beach. The food was delicious and gave us good energy for our Diamondhead hike. All the students did a fantastic job making their ways up the rim of the crater and took some amazing pictures of the 360-degree view that could be seen from the top. At the end of the hike we were able to have delicious snacks like shaved ice, pineapple drinks, and ice cream sweets.

At the aquarium we started with a coral reef presentation. We learned that the Waikiki aquarium specializes in coral production and helps other aquariums around the world (including the Shedd) by supplying them with coral so that it doesn't need to be harvested from the oceans. We learned the importance of coral reefs to the world no matter in which part you live. We saw the oldest clam in captivity which is 41 years old and weighs over 200 pounds and learned that the aquarium has never had to feed it because of the symbiotic relationships with the plant life.

In the afternoon students had some free time to get lunch, go souvenir shopping and in general explore the Waikiki area.

We ended the evening with a wonderful luau. We were able to see one of the 6 roasted pigs being pulled up from the ground, were entertained by traditional dances and customs and, of course, were treated to a wide selection of authentic Hawaiian foods.

Day 5

What a great Saturday! Although it started out rainy, we did have the opportunity to see some rainbows in the Aloha State.

Our last super early start at 6:45 a.m. began with another wonderful oceanside breakfast at Duke's. We then went to Iolani Palace and learned about the rich history of the different kings and queens who ruled here. The amount of restoration that has been done is absolutely amazing and the ornate decorations in every nook and cranny were breathtaking. Our students did a fantastic job asking questions and soaking up the history. The docents were extremely impressed with our students and Mr. Drahozal and I were so proud of them! We learned that the Iolani Palace had electricity before the White House and that one ancestor remains on the island, Princess Abigail, and she pays \$20,000 per month for the electricity bill for Iolani Palace and she doesn't even live there.

We then traveled to University of Hawaii for a tour of the campus and, even though it was spring break, we were able to see classrooms, hear about the college life and get some time in the campus bookstore.

Students had a leisurely afternoon eating lunch in Waikiki and shopping or resting.

For our evening plans we went aboard a sunset dinner cruise, the Star of Honolulu, that was just spectacular. The students really enjoyed their last night out in a boat on the Pacific Ocean. We were hoping to see a whale, but we had an even better show inside from the native dancers performing traditional dances of different influences to our very own students. Our students participated in hula dance lessons and then many of them entertained us with their participation in the end of the evening dances and songs which we have LOTS of video footage from!