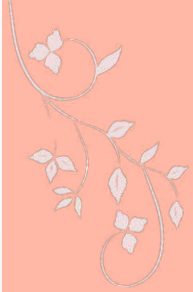
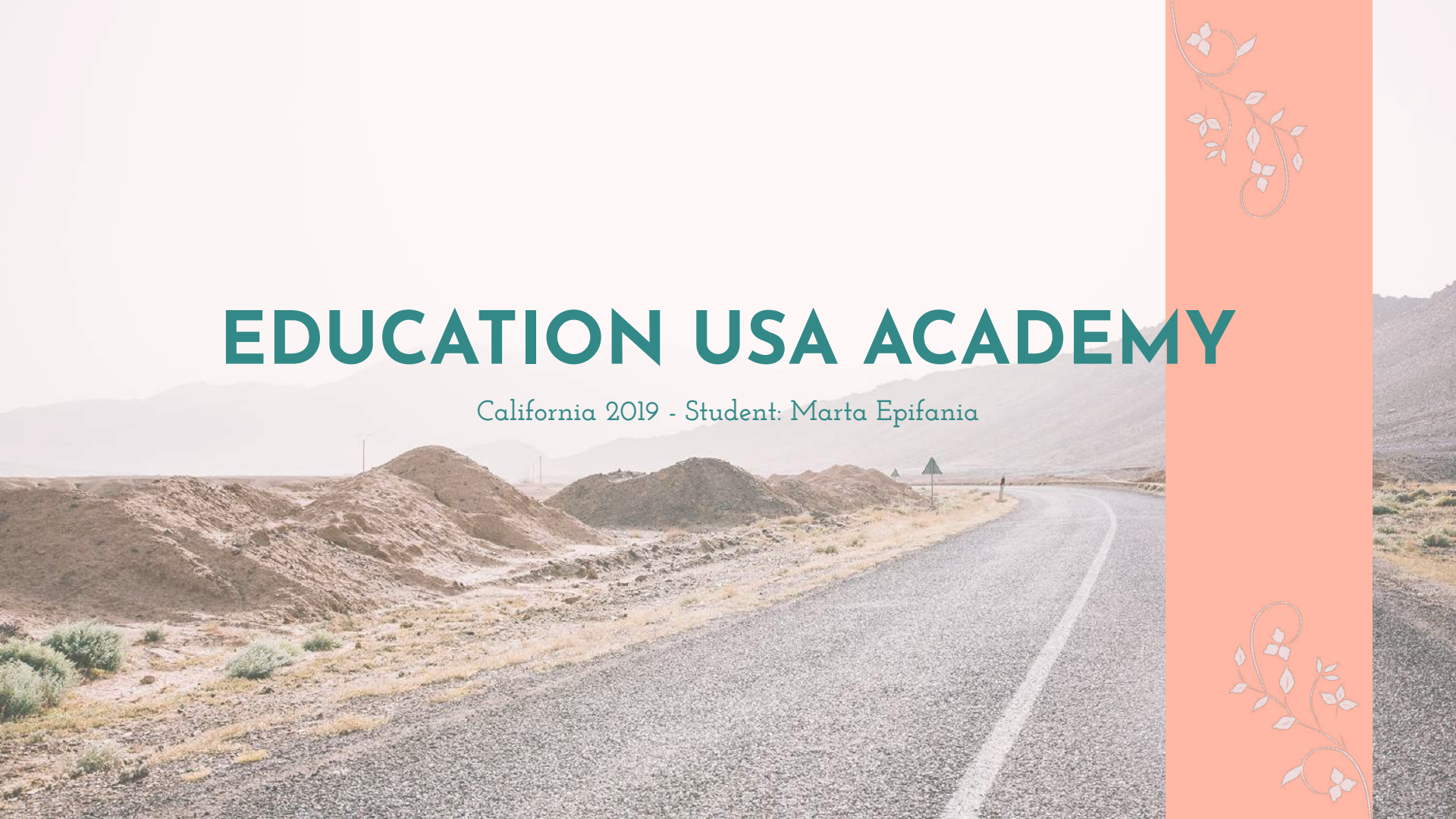


EDUCATION USA ACADEMY

California 2019 - Student: Marta Epifania



01

OBJECTIVES

- Improving English Proficiency
- Business and Technology



TABLE OF CONTENTS

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METHODOLOGY

- Living in a host family
- Attending classes at DVC, with workshops, and University Tours
- Meeting students from all over the world



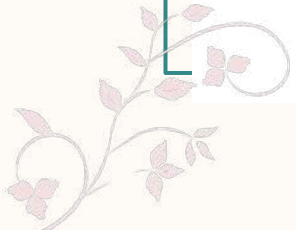
Departure Day: 07/13/2019

When I left home, I was nervous thinking about what I could find in a place where I would live for a month, far from my country and my family.

The flight took approximately 12 hours, but it was more comfortable than my expectations.

Once arrived at the Oakland SF airport, one of the DVC directors joined me to Pleasant Hill.

There, I met for the first time my host Persian family (really kind people, as all the Americans in that place).



The next day, we went to the Diablo Valley College located in Pleasant Hill as well.

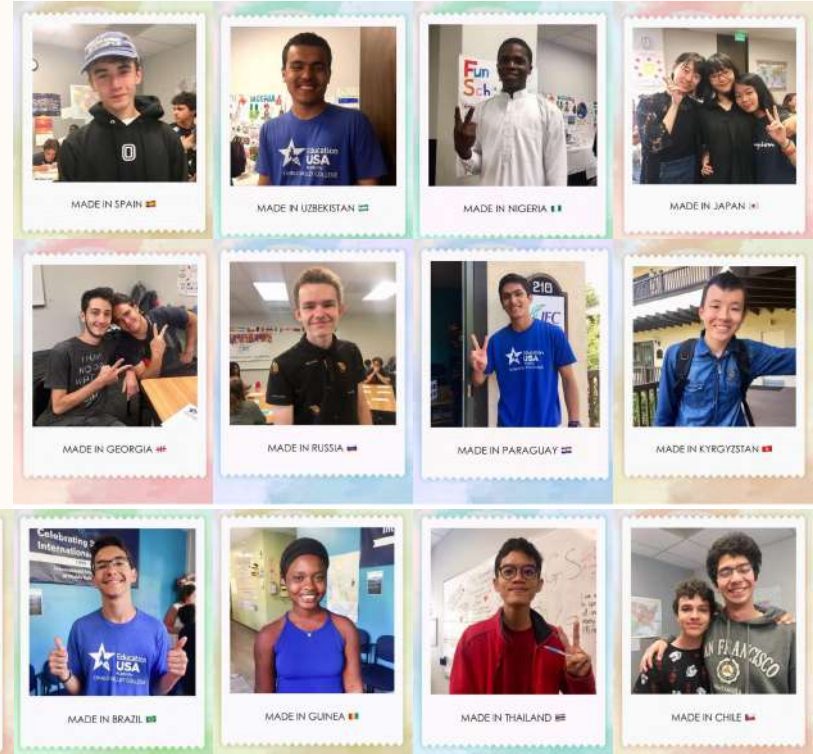
1ST DAY AT DVC

4

I met 17 guys from different countries who decided to apply for my same Summer Education Program and those who would be my teachers for that month.

We had some time to introduce ourselves and better know about each other.

STUDENTS



TEACHERS: JENNIFER & SARAH



Then, we met our big siblings: two student workers, Lee and Katia, always helpful, playing a key role during this experience.

Thank to them, we had a general tour of the huge campus where we all were.

LEE VERRALL



KATIA NOVAK



Typical Day at DVC (monday-friday)

8:20 am	DROP OFF AT DVC BY HOMESTAY CAR	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We met each other in front of the DVC and reached our classrooms We were split into two groups with different teachers
8:30 am	ACADEMIC & WRITING SKILLS CLASS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Grammar lessons (Tests) Writing practice about several topics (Essays) Riding activities about Silicon Valley Vocabulary improvement trough QuizLet
11:30 am	LUNCH TIME	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We could eat at the DVC cafeteria or choose a Food Shop close to the College Campus
12:30 am	PRESENTATION & COMMUNICATION SKILLS CLASS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Listening and Speaking lessons Pronunciation Practice Works about Cultural Topics Business Workshops with Special Guests and Companies
5:00 pm	PICK-UP BY HOMESTAY CAR	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> From now on, we had free-time to go wherever we want to (hanging out all together and host family allowing), until dinner time (7 pm): to the movie theater, the park, the shopping center...



Cultural Presentations Time

We had the opportunity to share something about our own country at the "Senior Center" practising on our speaking skills.

Each of us told about the following topics:

FOOD

FLAG

GEOGRAPHY

VALUES

TRADITIONS

CULTURAL ITEMS



VOLUNTEERING & COUNTRY PRESENTATION 8



Biking the Golden Gate Bridge

During the first weekend, we lived an incredible adventure: cycling across the Golden Gate Bridge, one of San Francisco's most recognizable landmarks.

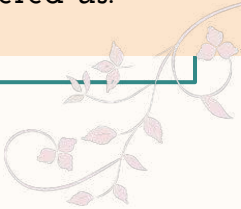




GOLDEN GATE

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There were two sidewalks: one for the pedestrians, and the other usually reserved for bicyclists. We chose a bike rental shop near to that area, and then we started our route from Sausalito (a nice little town full of small shops and restaurants). It was a really not-easy trip because of the strong wind and the deep fog which hovered us.



Anyway, we completed the entire trip in under 5 hours. It was a nice time spent taking awesome pictures and enjoying the wonderful view offered by the Bay area, which is the host for several professional sport teams and center for music, theater, and the arts.

BAY AREA

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Mysterious Trip To Alcatraz

1ST WEEKEND

12



In San Francisco, our directors also planned a super interesting tour to Alcatraz Island, the worst prison ever.

The island's geography was suitable for defense as an isolated place for the most dangerous U.S. criminals.

It could generally housed no more than three hundred prisoners at a time, and after thirty years of functioning as a federal prison, it closed due to environmental issues.





The prison's museum was interesting to visit, because we could try to imagine all those scaring escape attempts. At the same time, the island provided me a breathtaking panorama view of downtown San Francisco (as you can see by the photos in these slides), that I will never forget.



UC Berkeley & Stanford Guided Tours

Thanks to this program, I started to figure out how my “student future” might be.

In fact, I visited some of the most important universities in California, such as Berkeley UC and Stanford.

Both of them, are extremely good schools in pretty much every fields.
However, I want to explain some of the main differences between them.



- UC Berkeley is a public university. Instead, Stanford is a private one.
- UC Berkeley has more students than Stanford.



VERSUS *Cal*



- Stanford is more clearly religious (in the campus you can find a beautiful chapel).
- UC Berkeley is huge and really competitive in every field it offers. So if a student wants to rich classmates, he should apply for Stanford.

Yosemite Camping Adventure

This was, surely, one of the best experiences during my travel.

For our third weekend, we went to Yosemite, the most impressive national park of California: a wonderland of geological formations and biological diversity.





Several activities were available through The National Park Service, including nature walks, photography classes, tours, rafting and climbing. In the morning we had always a long guided hike to discover all the beautiful hidden places of the Park, while in the afternoon we had free-time to swim in the river close to our tents-area, or to go play volleyball into the nature.

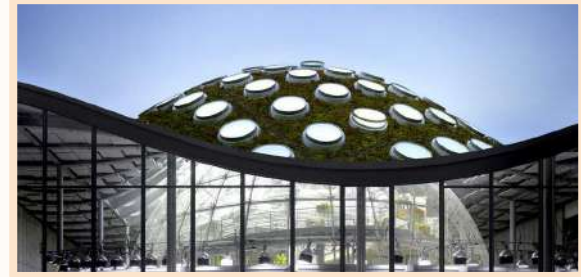


Here, some of the best pictures I took through the mountains of Yosemite.

YOSEMITE PICS

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California Academy Of Sciences

This is a research institute and natural history museum located in San Francisco.

The main venues we visited are the following:

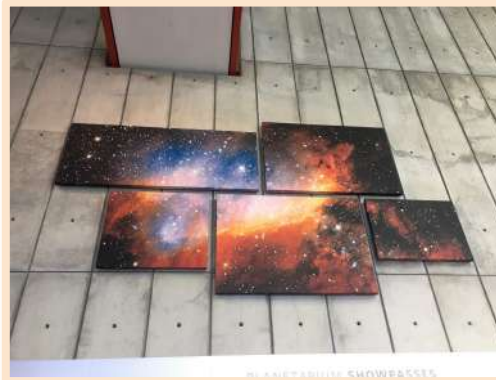
- 1 - MORRISON PLANETARIUM
- 2 - RAINFORESTS OF THE WORLD
- 3 - STEINHART AQUARIUM

Of course, as a girl really interested about astronomy, the best activity which really impressed me was at The Planetarium.

The Planetarium is a space theatre made by a large projection dome-screen for presenting educational and entertaining shows about the night sky or the celestial navigation.

Scenes of stars and planets can appear and move realistically to simulate the complex "motions of the heavens".

It was actually insane seeing how small is our Earth compared to the mysterious infinite space.



PLANETARIUM

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FREE TIME

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FREE TIME

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FREE TIME

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Farewell Party

In order to spend together the last few days, our teachers allowed us to have a farewell party. An awesome way to wish each other good luck for the future. The other academy girls and I prepared an exhibition for singing and dancing all together one last time..

←goodbye→



Then, towards our host families, we had lunchtime with a surprising cake-moment before to receive our certifications. It was such a great time to make reflections about that wonderful experience, looking at different perspectives.

At the end, the directors brought us to a suitable room to interview each student with several interesting questions.



←goodbye→



Time to ☹️ Come Back ☹️

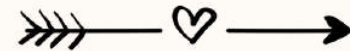
The last day was the worst day.
Definitely.

These pictures fully express the meaning of family. And even more, that a true family shouldn't necessarily be composed by people born in the same place, bound by the same blood or skin color. This is the reason why I already and deeply miss all of that.



THE END.

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←goodbye→

I'm so grateful to have received this chance and much more to have found new special friends like them. I've learned not only about English and new cultures, but also that if you're surrounded by love and happiness every day, no matter where or with who you are. That's your family.





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EDUCATION
USA
ACADEMY
2019

Thanksgiving

English Teacher: Brunella Buonsanti

Fulbright Teacher: Marney Kline

Fulbright Commission

Headmistress of "Liceo Tommaso Stigliani": Rosanna Papapietro

IEC/DVC Directors, Teachers and Student Workers

"Education USA Academy Program 2019" students