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New York City and Washington DC.

“The Big Apple”, “The city that never sleeps” –sayings I’ve heard but never quite understood until I had seen it with my own eyes. From the moment we arrived we immediately took to the streets of New York, determined to explore everything we possibly could in the short time we had in NYC.

Within the first few hours of landing we had already seen Times Square by night, buying everything from clothing; to small gifts for family back home of buildings and monuments we knew we’d see for ourselves in the next few days.

One of my highlights from my time in America has to be the first full day we spent in NYC. My friends and I saw everything and the day was one I shall never forget. We began early (like we did every day – to make the most of the time we had there), getting a boat to see the iconic Statue of Liberty, she was smaller than I imagined, but just as mind blowing as I pictured in my head. After that we went to Ellis Island which gave me a real insight as to what America was like for immigrants travelling to the ‘Land of the Free’ in the 1920’s, then to the 9/11 memorial museum; a truly touching moment, followed by a walk through the centre of Little Italy, Wall Street and China Town. Following a meal at Bucca De Beppo we watched an evening production of the musical Wicked, and just as the night seemed like it was about to come to an end we travelled up 86 floors to the top of the Empire State Building, and that’s when I realised the city never really slept at all.

Packing our suitcase and leaving the hotel in NYC seemed like the end – but it wasn’t. It was straight on the coach and off to Philadelphia for the day, and then to Washington DC.

In Washington we were able to experience the Washington Mall, the Museum of American History, go bowling, eat at the Hard Rock Café, visit the Capitol building and see the Whitehouse – all in just 2 days!

I will always remember 2017 as the year I went to America and learnt about the place I had always been so curious about, all in just 7 days.