

Birthdays are magical. Turning 10, to double digits is even more special. Recently I had a blast celebrating my 10th



birthday with my friends and also went on Disney Magic cruise, meeting with my favorite Disney characters, travelling to Mexico and Bahamas.

Travelling to another country, meeting new people, learning about new cultures, bundling with the joy of being on a magical cruise with Disney friends made it all fun...fun...fun.. and memorable. This trip is very special and memorable with

swimming in the Caribbean, playing in white sand beaches, going snorkeling, driving in a buggy car ride and enjoying a Mickey shaped chocolate cake for my birthday.



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December 23 2015,

Redmond, WA.

Pre-Birthday Celebration

A couple of days before the 26th, I had a very cool birthday party, where I invited all my friends. It was a science themed party, where we discovered how to make different colored fire, ate our lab-made cotton candy, launched a rocket and even lit a light bulb by making electricity pass through me. It was so much fun! Of course, I got so many presents and best wishes from my friends! I had this giant birthday card on which all my friends signed and gave their best wishes for me in turning 10! At the party, the happiest moment is when I shared my new book: *Lost in The Woods* with all my friends. At school, I also distributed cupcakes to all my friends, got my homework for the time off and now, I am ready to go on this most awaited trip to celebrate my birthday and turn 10!



Magic Number One: The Beginning

Saying a simple “I am excited” is not enough to tell how thrilled I was to start our trip. We touched up our luggage and finished packing all of the stuff needed on the trip. We made sure all the supplies for the cruise are there especially my pink cabin bag with princess dresses along with my favorite bunny Kitty.

As soon as we were all ready, we got into our neighbors’ car who gave us a ride to the airport. We quickly headed over to Alaska Airlines Check-In area waiting for our turn to come for checking in. I have reminded dad on the possibility of an upgrade to a First class seat on the plane which is part of my 10 gifts. Dad asked for an upgrade exclusively for me to first class, my dream come true. Then came my favorite part of heading over to the security check, where they examine all cabin bags and carryon luggage thru a security scanner. For some reason that’s my favorite part of aero travel since I was a toddler. Once all the security checks were over, we headed over to the restaurants area, where we munched on chips from Qdoba with spicy cheese dip.

Me and my dad took a stroll and saw all these cool restaurants and many shops at SeaTac. We even saw a giant orca whale! Then, we headed over to the directions board, where we located N gates, our location and tips on how to get to N gates. We took the train and then walked over to N6 gate and waited till boarding time. We also saw



planes take off and land for some time and after waiting for what seemed like forever, it was finally time to board the flight!

About this special day....

I saw Seattle Tacoma International Airport again (one of my favorite airports of the world)

I met our neighbor, who I knew just a little before, but learned more about him and his daughter who just turned 1 in November 2015.

I went on a domestic flight in first class for the first time.

I liked watching the planes take off and land which is always exciting.

I did not like the fact that First class seating on domestic flights is not as luxurious as on international flights.

I felt awesomely good being in first class and starting our vacation after long wait.

I ate some chips and drank some apple juice on the flight.

USA Influence Lot of security screenings, confiscating items relating to food & water, Seahawks T shirts at the airport.

Learning of the day is that to go to STIA [the abbreviation I gave for Seattle Tacoma International airport also called a SeaTac] from Redmond, you need to continue driving on I-405 south, and towards the end of the highway, you will see Highway 99, which is a non-state highway. We will need to take the airport exit and continue towards Departures to catch a flight. But of course, if you are receiving somebody it is needed to go to Arrivals or rental cars in case of wanting to take or return a rental car.

Magic Number Two: Journey and lay over to Miami



After playing in the airport for some time, it was time for boarding and per my seat upgrade, I stood in the First class line, holding my ticket all by myself. I was very excited as this is my first flight all by myself but just when we were about to board the flight, I found out that kids under the age of 10 cannot travel by themselves.

Surprise, the nice flight attendant upgraded both my parents to first class at the gate. They called my parents and they quickly switched lanes from Economy to First class boarding excitingly. But there was a small mix up over our seats which the crew quickly resolved and I got to sit in my own First class window seat. Mom and Dad sat on the other side one row away but could still see me.

Once the boarding was complete, we put on our seatbelts, listened to the safety video demonstrated by cabin crew [my other favorite thing in aero travel], and then the plane took off. By the way, you always feel funny in the tummy during flight take off. I asked for apple juice, so at least I wouldn't be hungry! For some reason I am always hungry during travel. They also served fresh baked cookies in First class☺. I watched outside until I could see the lights but then started playing a game called Candy Crush Saga on my laptop. But soon I got bored of that and started to work on creating a new flight cabin class: Rainbow Class which is my version of flight seating. This lasted until the captain said it was time to land.

We had a stop in Los Angeles. Once we landed in LAX, I shared my Rainbow class story with parents and they really liked it. We headed

over to Terminal 4, which is where we were going to wait for long hours in the night for our next flight to Miami. It took a really long time for me to fall asleep! I read some books, went on walks with my dad around Tom Bradley International Terminal and played Candy Crush Soda Saga. Luckily, I did tire myself out and fell asleep after reading Harry Potter

and the Chamber of Secrets. To our surprise, there was a nice cot for me to sleep and the airport lady



offered us blankets. After a nice few hour sleep, I woke up, freshened and then we just waited for Zone 2 to be called up. We were going to be taking a 4 ½ hour flight approximately to Miami! I was very excited to see another State, Florida that I have never been before.



About the night especially...

I saw LAX (Los Angeles International Airport) for the first time.

I met the American Airlines hostess who gave us blankets.

I went strolling around the airport at midnight.

I liked reading Harry Potter book at the airport.

I did not like sleeping in the airport while my parents were awake.

I felt a little tired, but mostly happy for the whole trip.

I ate a bagel with cream cheese and drank chocolate milk.

USA Influence LA is mostly the same as Seattle although I found large number of Hispanic people compared to Seattle.

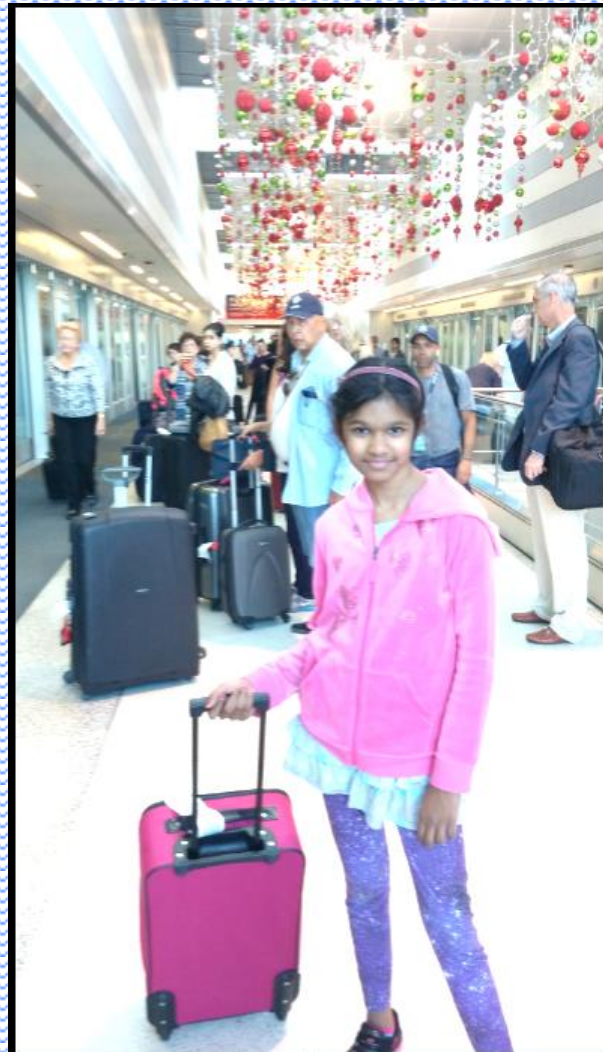
Learning of the day is that you should try to avoid airport layovers as much as possible especially during night time while travelling. Sleeping in the airport is really hard especially to fall asleep and it does disturb your sleep cycle when there is not a nice bed. But I am very thankful that I got one.

Magic Number 3: Florida, here we come!

I so looked forward being in Florida for 2 reasons. One, they have the awesome Walt Disney World and two, you get to see Florida license registration plates on cars. I play a game of seeing all 50 State License plates and make a note of all the states I see. Florida is seen rare, in Redmond.

We listened to the captain's announcements, watched the safety video and then the plane took off! While we were travelling on a plane, we spotted a cargo ship below, and that reminded me of our upcoming Disney cruise trip. More fun to wait for....

The flight attendants came around, asking for complimentary breakfast, consisting an untoasted bagel, cream cheese, strawberry jam, a banana and a drink. I also asked for some apple juice with ice for myself. I ate until I was full, then started playing Candy Crush Saga again. But I didn't play for long, as I was not winning and somehow it felt boring. I started on my Rainbow Class PPT again. This lasted a long time, and I got an idea of including various pictures. Turns out that OneDrive needs internet connection in order to open a file or a picture. That stunk, because I



was in airplane mode. Not minding it, I just caught up writing this journal. I just finished writing about what happened so far and took a long nap which lasted until I heard this announcement: "r landing shortly". Well, that woke me up and when I got up, we were finally at our intended destination: MIA! Miami International Airport.

About the day on the plane...

I saw MIA for the first time. There are many horizontal escalators...

I met Miami air hostess.

I went on a five hour flight from LA to Miami.

I liked the circular luggage carousel.

I did not like the fact that I lost a princess ring that was attached to my luggage.

I felt that airlines should be more careful in handling the baggage but was okay overall.

I ate an untoasted bagel, cream cheese, strawberry jam, a banana with some apple juice.

USA Influence Christmas decorations are all over the Miami airport.

Learning of the day was that internet connection is always necessary to even access files that are not on the computer. I also learned never to wake up a sleeping person, because things get ugly.

Magic Number Four: Hotel stay

We headed over to Baggage Claim 23 to get all our stuff. We had also booked a rental car, so we took a train to get to the car rental center. It was funny that in Miami, they would not assign a specific car instead it's the customer choice to pick a car from the parking lot. So we selected a very nice red Jetta, and used Google Maps to go to the hotel: Best Western Premier. We got a room on the top floor 7: Room 703 with a good view.



All of us were pretty hungry, so we all took baths and headed over with a plan to eat in one of the two restaurants closest to us: Burger King and Subway. We got French fries in Burger King and went to Subway, picked up all 3 sandwiches and headed back to our hotel room. We started unpacking and ate while watching some crime scene show on CNN.

Later, I started reading the Safety tab in the room manual, as a regular habit. When I was done with that, I started on my diary entry. After I got done writing, I started up msn.com to see that our internet connection was working, and sure enough, it was. That's when I went on to Wikipedia and for no reason, searched for random things. I guessed that I was bored. Later I came back to my Rainbow Class PPT and worked on inserting pictures for the different types of cabins. But since it was getting late, I decided to sleep and get some rest thinking about my trip to Disney World, Orlando tomorrow!

About the day especially...

I saw the Best Western Premier on Lejeune road.

I met the Subway workers who are similar to Redmond folks.

I went to Alamo with my dad to rent a car.

I liked the hotel room with TV.

I did not like the concession stand in the hotel where items were not free.

How I felt was pretty happy.

I ate a Subway sandwich with French fries and ketchup.

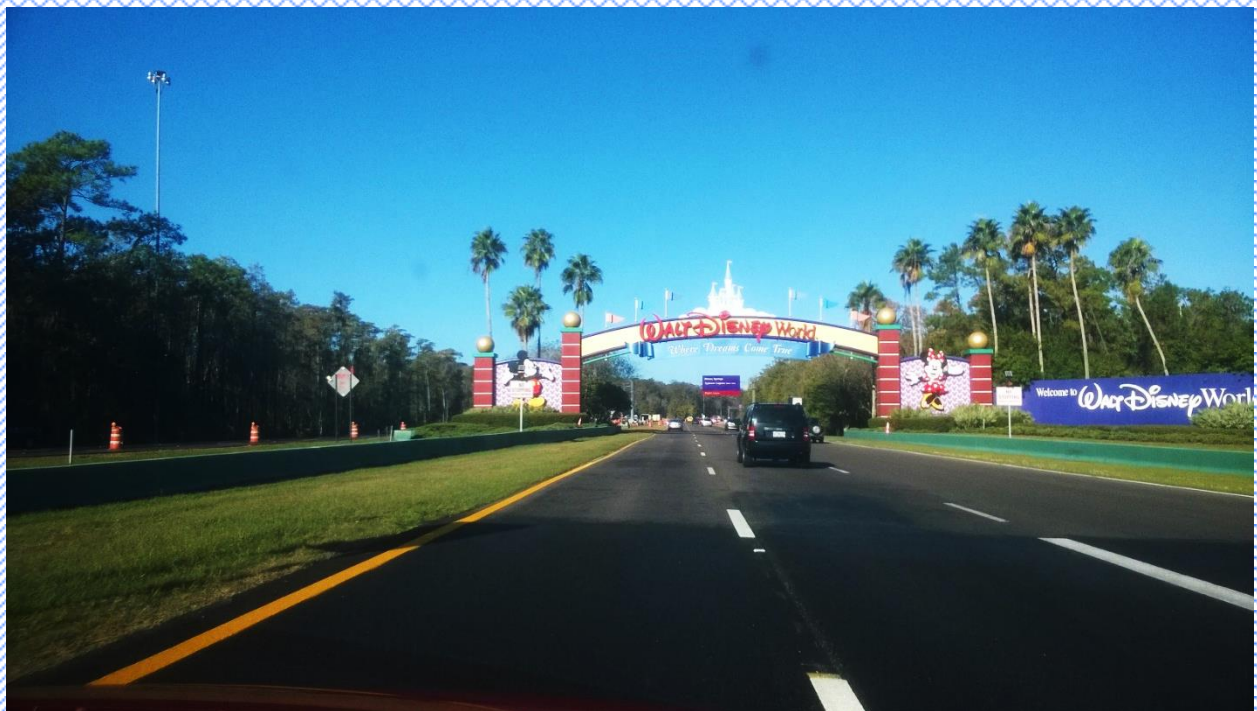
USA Influence There was the same English language and clothing, but food was sort of mixed up. More Spanish influence on food as well in Miami.

Learning of the day

- I learned that when you go on long flights, it is always important that you take a nice, warm bath and get plenty of rest, so you are fresh and ready for the next day.
- I also learned is that Florida is actually very warm, and has almost the same weather as of India. No jackets needed but it makes sense because it is more south.

Magic Number Five: Hello Walt Disney World

This was one of my memorable and favorite day of the trip. First, we woke up at 5:00 AM to get dressed, take baths and brush teeth. Later, we all got into the rental car and drove for three hours straight to Orlando, which is where Disney World is. On the way, I made note of the highways that we saw, first we went on 826 east, then we took the exit for 417 north, and after we drove halfway across that highway, we paid the toll. We then took the exit for 826 west, and there also we paid a toll. That's when I fell asleep, and when I woke up, we were almost there. I spotted the sign finally, the one and only, Walt Disney World where dreams come true.



Once we drove all the way inside the Disney World entrance, we found a nice parking spot and waited for a vehicle called a tram, which is sort of like a long golf cart, but bigger in size. We took the tram to the Magic Kingdom Entrance, got the tickets. I also got a button that said, "Happy Birthday Santoshi!" It is completely another world of a Disney galaxy.



The first thing I spotted was the bibbidi bobbidi boutique and got magical dust sprinkled by the fairy god mother and made a wish. Btw I dressed up as Rapunzel so was Kitty. I also got another Happy Birthday button for aunt Chanda which the lady gave to Kitty. I also took Minnie to the trip as Disney world is her home along with Kitty.

Then I rushed to the castles trying to find princesses. We went to see Rapunzel and Cinderella in a meet 'n greet. They were very playful and funny. I liked their cheerful expressions and how they gave me tips on how to make the most of my birthday.

Then we went on a lot of really fun and cool rides. Here are a few of them:

- **A carousel.** They had all kinds of horses and even a chariot. What I liked about it was the duration. It was longer than any carousel.
- **Splash Mountain.** This is a rollercoaster on water. It was very fun, especially the big splash at the end. When we looked at our pictures, I looked like I was having the time of my life. I also liked when we got totally splashed by the other rollercoaster.
- **Big Thunder Mountain.** This is kind of like Splash Mountain, only it was not on water and had more twists and turns you can never imagine.
- **Tom Sawyer's Island.** For some reason I always like this ride in Disney. The boat ride was nice, but the cave that we used to get to another place on the island was even better. It was very dark, and I thought it was funny that Tom and Huck wrote down messages before each ride. There was a lady and their family sang the whole Happy Birthday song for me giving their best wishes.
- **A haunted house.** It was not very haunted, but I did enjoy the part where we went backwards. I also liked the ghost who gave us the introduction. Although no giant floating baby head.
- **Tomorrowland's car racing place.** Me and my dad sat in one car, and I drove. What I didn't realize until the very end was the car drove by itself, and that explains why it would turn back into position when I turned it around. Well...I really had fun driving!
- **A retelling of The Little Mermaid through a ride.** We sat in a shell and watched as Scuttle narrated the story for us, and the visual description was through statues. This was amazing with all life like characters. Anyways, those are some of the fun rides I went on. I also had a mickey pretzel which was yummy.

I also had fun finding Rapunzel's tower although nobody is allowed to go inside of that. I met Buzz light year, Cinderella's step sister and went inside Monster's Inc. Laugh Floor which was too good.

Actually, the most memorable that I could remember a lot was the souvenir making stations. It went like this. You would insert a penny and two quarters into a slot, and push the coins inside the slot and select a Disney character. You would wait for about 20 seconds, and then your penny would turn into a souvenir with the design that you chose to be on it! We made pretty much the whole collection of those souvenirs across Walt Disney World.



When we finished up with all of the rides, it started to get dark and that means it's time for the light show parade and then fireworks.



Post completion of those events, we started to head back to Miami, where our hotel was. We were talking about all the fun we had during the day while heading back where a sad incident occurred. A car ran the red light while we were going straight and as a result, we were hit. The incident was so scary with the fact that the other car hit on my side. Surprisingly, I was shocked to find out that I wasn't hurt at all and luckily nobody was hurt. All of us were scared and terrified as it was merely a big accident where the car was completely damaged on the side and back, was unable to move and had to be towed.

Because that was a rental car, we had to return it to Alamo, Orlando Airport, to the company that gave us that car. We were all very tired and scared. We waited for the guys that towed our car and meanwhile went over to the McDonald's which is right there and ate some French fries with ketchup. I also got a strawberry Go-Gurt. We waited and waited and waited and finally the towing truck came. The guy who

came and towed our car started explaining about accidents happening there all the time. That was some experience that I could never forget. We finally reached Orlando International Airport, went to Alamo Company, and exchanged cars, this time we got a nice blue Hyundai Sonata. We were originally planning on driving the car all the way back to Miami, but because we were all very shaken up, Dad just drove the car until we found a rest spot. There, we all just slept in the car until it was morning. We needed to go to Miami, check out of the hotel, get ready and head to the most fun part of the trip, our Disney Magic cruise.

About the day and night especially...

I saw Walt Disney World, Orlando for the first time in my life

I met Rapunzel from Tangled along with Kitty

I went on all these fun rides which I am eligible now as I am tall.

I liked being at Disney World that I always dreamed of.

I did not like the accident at all.

How I felt was scared and worried for the accident all that night but really happy for Disney World trip. I think fairy god mother really helped me.

I ate Mickey Waffles and drank Hot Chocolate.

USA Influence Police were pretty easy going in Miami unlike in Redmond and I am not sure if it's a good thing. Too many accidents were spotted thru the drive back and forth from Miami to Orlando which felt like not such a safe state unlike Washington where we rarely see accidents on the road.

Learning of the day Never to run a red light even when there's some highly unavoidable compulsion. It's too risky. I also learned to always pack money and have change with you whenever you are on a trip. The last thing that I learned was to not risk driving in the night, especially when you are coming back from a fun whole day's trip. It's totally ok to stay back and drive the next day peacefully.



Magic Number Six: Welcome Aboard! The Magic Begins!

Today I plan to be dressed up as Snow White. I plan on dressing like a new princess every day.

We started driving at 6:00 AM to go back to Best Western, check out and go to the cruise. We all decided to forget what had happened last night instead look forward for the cruise trip. We finally reached Miami, our hotel, took baths, got ready and proceeded to the checkout process. We didn't have time to even have breakfast!



When the checkout process was done, we headed over to the airport straight to Disney Cruise Line. It was a little confusing on which terminal to go but we spotted a lady holding a Disney cruise line poster. We quickly proceeded towards getting on the ground transportation Bus. The bus led us to the cruise line terminal where there were two other cruises along with the Disney magic. It's HUGE, seriously huge.

We proceeded onto the boarding process, security check but first we needed to get me registered for my Youth Activities band, and then just did the regular boarding stuff. We were finally done, and when we were, we started to board.

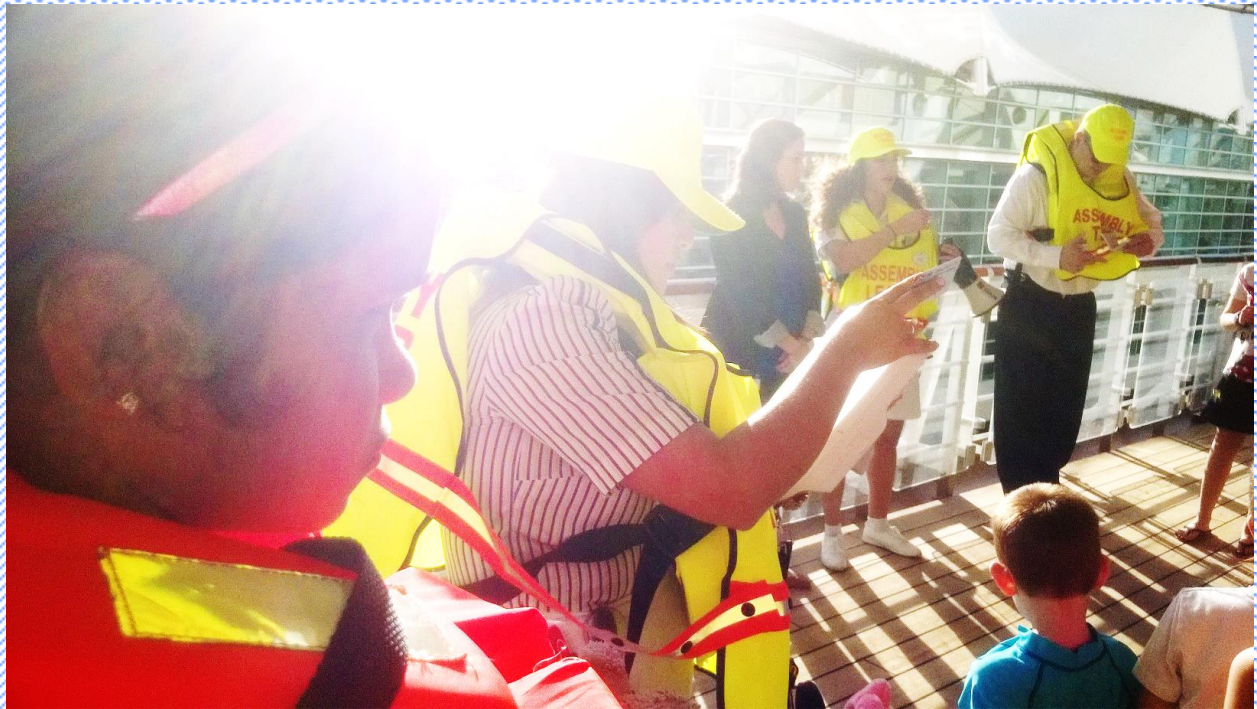


The cruise looked so pretty! All decorated in holiday theme, there was this gorgeous pool area, these awesome restaurants, but the best about it were the staterooms. I mean, they were a little cramped, but that's no biggie, totally fine.

Our room number was 7604, meaning that we were on the 7th floor. We had a nice TV and a big bed along with a small bed with a verandah overlooking the sea. We had a bathroom which was small but convenient, so it wasn't much of a hassle for us to get ready. We decorated our room door which we planned and printed out material in Redmond. As we did not eat any that day, at around 2:30 PM, we went over to the buffet on 9th floor to get some mini-lunch for ourselves before dinner.



Then, we went up to our stateroom again, and while I slept, my mom and dad just talked about something related to accident trying to deal with insurance guys before we sail away for the next 6 days. There was an emergency drill at 3:30 PM, so we had to attend that. On the bright day, I actually wore a real lifejacket. I was so excited that I was part of the drill.



We then went up to the 9th floor for this amazing deck party to celebrate us actually going out on sea. It was so much fun! Mickey, Minnie, Goofy, Donald, Pluto and two chipmunks were there, and when they exited, all of the kids, big and small, started dancing up there. Of course, I was there too.

There was a big screen on the pool deck and the movie Brave was playing. I started to watch the movie and my parents said they were going to have dinner soon. I kept on watching Brave until they got back. Well, they ended up coming a little earlier, because it turns out that they were starting regular dinner and they wanted me to join.



The crew pair families together at dinner generally, and there were two families at Table 9, our family and the Mikus family.



The Mikus' had three kids, One 8 year old daughter named Emillie, one 3 year old daughter named Joseline and one 4 year old boy named Bryer. Emillie and I really seemed to bond with each other, so we spent the hour eating dinner and talking about all sorts of stuff like me not eating meat, our coloring sheets and loads of other stuff. The lead server showed us some magic tricks which were awesome.

Soon it was time for us to leave. That's when I said that I was going to the Oceaneer's Club, a youth club, and Emillie's mom said that they were going there too.

So that meant more play time for me and Emillie. We played, danced, indulged in all of the activities and we even made plans for meeting up tomorrow. We played until 12:00 AM. Soon, it was getting really late. But even then, I was still not tired. So my mom took me to Disney Theatre, yep inside the cruise a whole movie theatre where we watched Disney Pixar's Inside Out. After that, I got tired, so we both went back to our cabin room and rested. I had midnight pizzas because I was kind of hungry. I planned to have midnight pizzas everyday on the cruise from then.



About the long day for me especially...

I saw a cruise ship for the first time in my life. It's BIG!

I met a new friend Emillie Mikus whom I connected with right away.

I went on a tour of the cruise.

I liked the stateroom with a verandah where I could look over the Atlantic Ocean.

I did not like the fact that the day couldn't get any more perfect.

I felt really happy and eager for the day.

I ate a Buffet on a cruise ship by the sea.

USA Influence

- Personal rooms on a cruise are called state rooms.
- People were dressed casual just like they are on regular days. Some TV channels were coming in English, and there were some exclusive Spanish channels. USA really had a lot of influence on the food. I mean, not even one single Spanish dish on the day, we were still in Miami then right?
- Learning of the day is that you should always try and find new friends no matter where you are, even if you're stranded in the middle of the desert. You never know whom you can connect with and play to have a great time.
- It's always good to ask the Guest services on what's there so they can give us all the details of registrations and show bookings.

Magic Number Seven: Our First Day at Sea

Today I plan to be Elsa.



We woke up with a fresh start. First, we got ready and I dressed up as Elsa. Daddy got us hot chocolate. We met Anna and Elsa from Disney Frozen first thing in the morning. I even got a picture with Olaf! Because the deck was just outside, all of us just went out and explored the deck for some time. Seeing the wide ocean with no land is some experience.

Then, my parents dropped me off at the Oceaneer's Club, where I played until it was lunch. I played with people who I thought were nice, and they actually were very good. I met these two girls named Kaya and Anya. Then I wanted to go eat, and my mom checked me out, all of us went over to the buffet for lunch. Then, we came back to our stateroom and I started working on this diary entry.





Of course, what better way to relax than giving my mom tips on where and how to hang up the room decorations for my birthday tomorrow!

Me and my dad also invented and played UNO with regular cards. We also decorated a birthday sash that we had planned for. All of the badges so far we received would go on that sash. When we were on the balcony, Dad saw another cruise: Norwegian Dawn. He said that because it was going to the same destination as us: Cozumel, Mexico, we had to be careful not to get onto the wrong platform at the gangway, otherwise it would take us another week to go all the way to Norway and come back.



Later, I went to the kids club again, and this time I saw Emillie. We played until 9 o'clock, but I still wasn't sleepy then. BTW my mom and my dad took me to the Walt Disney Theater to see the original twist of the Cinderella story, played by some actors. It was awesome extremely different than watching a movie. There was a wicked godfather who wanted to help the stepmother and stepsisters, and this time, they actually break the slipper *and* lock Cinderella in her room. So it was quite interesting. After the play, I started feeling sleepy, so we headed over to our cabin and slept of course after eating midnight pizzas and updating journal.

About Today...

I saw my first theater musical, Twice Charmed.

I met Anna, Elsa and Olaf.

I went to the Oceaneer club which is a kids youth club on a cruise ship.

I liked meeting Sophia and Ava.

I did not like that the Oceaneer Club closes at 12 in the night!

How I felt Yahoo! And Yippee!

I ate Vegetables and pizza.

USA Influence Eating popcorn in the cruise movie theatre.

Learning of the day was that you and your family might not be the only people on a cruise going somewhere. There are many others who go on trips and vacations. I also learned that playing UNO with regular cards isn't that hard. You just take out all the plus 2s and 4s and skips and reverses, and use jokers as wild cards.

Magic Number Eight: Happy Birthday to Me...

Today I plan to be Tiana in the evening.

Today is my birthday! I have loads to tell you. First, we went to the buffet center for breakfast. I wanted to try something new, full of protein. So I tried a yellow scrambled egg, and they tasted bland, which is what I like. (I like foods with no real taste.) We headed on out to the platform, which is where our tour of Cozumel, Mexico began!



I didn't see Emillie there, so I found another girl who I had met yesterday. She called me Queen Elsa yesterday and also helped me with the toilet. Her name was Sophia. We found our tour guides: Mauricio, Omar and Alejandro. We rode in cars called Buggies, which luckily my dad knew how to operate, not because he had driven a Buggy, instead the gears were the same as in his manual car that he drove in India. An hour of buggy ride around the whole island was too much fun.

We first drove to the Atlantic Ocean, where I and my dad went snorkeling. It was my first time doing snorkeling so had trouble catching up. We went into the water with lifejackets on spotting various fish.

Our next stop was a restaurant at which because we were vegetarians, we ate some veg tacos.

Our last and most important stop was the ancient Mayans' home replica. Here, they showed us how the Mayans' once lived. The first place that they showed us was a typical Mayan home. Later, they showed us the kitchen. The tortillas that you normally eat are machine processed, but the Mayans hand made everything. The corn was first put in boiling water and grinded until it became dough. Later, that dough would be put on a plate called a *komal*, and that is how tortillas were made in the old days. I actually tasted a hand-made tortilla! They were very good.

The next part of the Mayan village was where they showed us the currency. The currency used by the Mayans is called Cacao seeds. They also told us that the Mayans made a beverage out of Cacao. Now, they showed us another local home. Here, Mauricio gave everyone a bracelet. He explained all about the house. That was the last part of our tour where some adults also did some wine tasting. We all filled in comment cards and gave tips for their hard work.

We all started to head back to our Buggies. Then we all drove back to the cruise terminal. We also did some shopping, bought a Cozumel pin for my sash and a handmade bracelet with my name on it.

We came back to the gangway, boarded the cruise on time and all of us had to take long bath because we were in the ocean water or the sun and were sweaty. We went for ice cream out on the deck, then just changed into Tiana for dinner. We had planned my birthday earlier so we previously ordered a Mickey Mouse cake, to celebrate my special double digits. We all were eager to have something special to have post dinner at the Animators palate restaurant on the cruise.



After dinner, the crew brought the cake and sang the happy birthday song. The whole room cheered up for my double digits while I cut the cake which btw was delicious. I highly recommend planning for it if anyone wants to celebrate their special day on Disney Cruise.

Anyway, after dinner, me, Emillie, Emillie's family and my mom all went for Pirate's Night, a night probably dedicated to Disney's *Pirates of the Caribbean*, but I don't really know.



There were fireworks as well. We laughed and danced as we and a couple of other girls got the opportunity to dance on the stage. When our dancing was over, we all went for a night snack, after that said our good-byes and went back to our state rooms. Me and my mom just curled up on the bed and slept having a midnight pizza. It was a great birthday celebration.



And also, one of the best things that happened was getting a

conservation hero badge from Disney Cruise Line. We told them that I educated people on saving the environment (which I do, BTW), and also that I did not waste resources. So, DCL thought that I deserved the badge and gave it to us. And from now, I plan to save the environment.

About my birthday on the cruise...

I saw Cozumel, Mexico a new country land on my special day.

I met the dance coach up on the deck for dancing on the stage.

I went on the deck stage to dance.

I liked that I was one of the 8 girls out of the whole cruise who got a chance to dance on the deck with all the Disney characters.

I did not like that the Pirate's Night ended.

How I felt Hip...hip... array!

I ate Pizza and Ice cream.

USA Influence in Cozumel, the US influence is great. The street boards are pretty much in the same manner, the food is a little different but mostly same, they have all these American based restaurants, clothing is regular, English language is almost there, and on the trip they let us use American dollars.. Also, the roads are not that different. They use the same traffic light system: Red, amber, and green. Only, green means stop, red means go, and amber means leave the intersection. People also keep to the right of the road, just like US.

Learning of the day for me is that dancing is really fun, especially when you do it with a friend. I also learned to deal with the salt water and the taste of ocean water is bad.

Magic Number Nine: Second and Last Day at Sea

Today I plan to be Ariel in the morning and Rapunzel in the evening.

We woke up with a fresh start again as I have a princess gathering today. I dressed up as Ariel, ate breakfast of course and started to meet 3 princesses on board: Belle, Cinderella and Rapunzel. I had a sheet which had all the princesses on it, and so that is what I used for an autograph sheet. That's when I realized that I haven't gotten Anna and Elsa's signatures, but Mom said that it was a one-time reservation-made event. Fortunately, there was a mom and her very sweet daughter who were kind enough to help us get our autograph sheet signed.

After getting our sheet signed, I went up to the Oceaneer's Club for some time, and that's when I met Sophia. She said that her family was going to see the Good Dinosaur in 3D, and she asked if I wanted to come along. I said yes, and so I was wearing 3D glasses thru the movie. But, there wasn't really much 3D. In fact, there was only one time were the 3D effect was shown, so the 3D part was very off. But, it was a good movie with a neat message for kids.

After the movie, we just went to the buffet for lunch. Then, I went to the Oceaneer's Club for some more time. Here I just played regularly with some random people. Emillie then called to ask if I wanted to play on the deck where all the pools and slides are. I said yes, and then I quickly changed into swimming clothes and got out. First, I waded around in the kiddie pool because that was where we had to stay until



Emillie's mom said we could leave. Next, me, Emillie and Dad left for this awesome water slide that is yellow, big and twisty. My dad told me how to ride: 1) Never stop. 2) Legs together for faster, legs apart for slower. 3) Smile! The water slide was really cool.

I went to get ice cream, and after I finished eating, I went to Goofy's pool, an approximately 1.2m pool for pretty much all the time that I had. Later it was getting really late, so I quickly handed over the spare goggles that I had borrowed from Emillie, did my business, took a bath, dressed up as Rapunzel and went to see Disney Tangled theatrical play. I was so excited about it and dressed up like Rapunzel along with Kitty. The play was okay; not too good, not too bad. They missed some lines which I can understand that they can't show the whole movie.



Because we went for the 6:30 PM show, we missed dinner, so we had to order room service. Room service is very tasty, we got pizzas, soup, sandwiches and French fries.

About the night especially...

I saw and attended a princess gathering with Rapunzel, Belle and Cinderella.

I met a girl who was dressed as Anna during spring time.

I went to the princess gathering as Princess Santoshi.

I liked hanging out as royalty.

I did not like the fact that time flies when you're having fun.

I felt Bye-bye 9 years, Hello Decade!

I ate a good portion of the buffet.

US Influence American princesses being there on a Central America cruise. Room service mostly consisted of American food.

Learning of the day is that not everything is as good as it seems, and vice versa. I also learned that using whatever resources you have is a great way to come up with new ideas.



Magic Number Ten: Castaway Cay

Today I plan to be Cinderella in the evening.

Castaway Cay is Disney's private port-of-call-paradise, also known as its private island. It is a unique place where you can actually go swimming 7ft deep in the Atlantic Ocean!

First, we got everything that we needed, like sand digging tools and lifejackets. Next, me and my dad put on our bathing suits and splashed around in the water. After that we both played in the water for 1 hour, dried ourselves and went to eat at this place called Cookies Too. The place had a buffet. The food was very delicious. While we were eating, we spotted Emillie, and I went to say hi to her and started talking to her. Emillie said that she was going swimming after lunch, and I asked if I could join. My parents also said yes, so we hit the waters, along with my dad. We all played and had fun together all day. I tried putting on life jackets and they were awesome.

I played in the white sand looking for sea shells and stones. We also bought a Castaway Cay pin for my sash.

Once it was 3:00 PM, my parents said that we should head back to the cruise, and Emillie's parents said that too. So we all headed back, and took a nice long shower and relaxed for some time.



Dinner was again at 5:45. I dressed up as Cinderella and went to dinner. During dinner, we took turns playing the role of queen and princess. After dinner, Emillie's mom and dad needed to do some packing, so they shipped all kids to the kids club and I joined as well.



There's this place in the Oceaneer's Club called Pixie Hollow, and there are screens tablets kind of like iPads there. They have a bunch of really cool games downloaded, but obviously my favorite one is a princess story making. I also like going on the slide in Andy's room from Disney Pixar's Toy Story, playing UNO in Avengers Academy, but most funny, listening to all the great entertainment on the main floor.

Today we were training how to be a pirate, and so Rob needed a new crew because his old one is lost somewhere, but a lady named Barnicle is really annoying (and funny) the way she teaches us. For example, she always has a rhythm that goes, "Peel, potatoes, peel, peel, potatoes." But after she says this 1 or 2 times, she actually starts singing! And there is a no singing policy! This is why Rob yells on her after we call out, "She's singing! She's singing!" Well, I did listen to that, play around on the slide, browse the "Pixie Hollow iPads" and play UNO with Kaya and Anya. Soon, it was time to say bye-bye to the cruise and the club, but luckily my mom had one more thing left for us to do. She was going to take me to see Dreams: An Enchanted Classic. In it, a little girl discovers the power of her



dreams: How to fly! There are also many Disney characters like Aladdin, Jasmine, Ariel and Belle who appear in the show. Finally, it was time to say good-bye to everybody and every room. We said good-bye to the Oceaneer Club, our room, the dinner room from outside, the deck and all of the other places, came to our cabin and slept. But first, we had to get midnight pizzas, just like every night!

About the night especially...

I saw Castaway Cay, Bahamas.

I met our cruise director, Ray.

I went to Disney Dream: An Enchanted Classic.

I liked swimming in the ocean

I did not like Tanning all day and also that it was the last day of the cruise.

I felt was very Sad, because the vacation is coming to an end.

I ate Indian Food, samosas and dal.

US Influence Bahamas is mostly American consisted. There was Lays Chips and ice cream served. All of the rides there are American, the trams are an American inspired idea. Clothing there is loose pants and T-shirts.

Learning of the day is that playing with your friends and family is even more fun than just playing alone. It was a great experience being on the cruise and celebrating my special week.

Magic Number Eleven: Miami Stay again but no car incidents!

I plan to be Sleeping Beauty today.



It's time to come back. Our cruise docked in Miami again. We got ready, quickly snarfed down some breakfast, said bye to our servers, Pani and Bradford who were very nice and disembarked the ship. Bye. Bye. Disney Magic. It was too good.

But that wasn't the end of our trip. We had the day to our self to spend in Miami before catching the flight early morning the next day. I actually finished Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets in the time spent at the airport after that shuttle dropped us off. It was a very nice book. I hope someday I write such great books.

We took a nice rental car from Hertz, to explore Miami because check-in time into the hotel wasn't until 3:00 PM. So we went to this place called Dolphin



Mall. Sadly, there weren't any dolphins 😊. I got some nice black bean soup and a Subway Sandwich, Dad got Japanese food and Mom got a Subway Sandwich, too. There I spotted a build a bear shop where Kitty got her own passport because- Hey! Even furry friends are allowed to travel officially. I spent an hour making Kitty travel places official by putting stickers on countries she travelled with me.

Then we went upstairs in the mall and saw a nice snow play area. It was an Ice Palace with fake snow fall. I played there not for long, but just enough to get snow in my shoes. There was a Hollywood photo promotion where we got our Hollywood style pictures taken. That was quite fun.



Finally, it was time to get back and find the hotel so we set the directions on the phone and went to a hotel called Ramada. The hotel room that we had was 154. The room was very spacious with 2 Kind beds. After 1-2 hours after we checked in, we all took baths, but we needed to eat dinner as well. So we set the directions to an Indian place and just drove there. But there was no such restaurant there. Dad guessed that maybe the restaurant had been removed, but the online maps hadn't got updated. So as we drew nearer and nearer to our hotel, we spotted an IHOP. We just ate there instead. I got some chocolate milk with pancakes and



a strawberry Go-Gurt like brand. Dad had what I was having, and Mom customized the vegetarian Quesadilla. We then went back to our hotel after dinner, pulled the blankets over ourselves and slept for an early wake up.

About the day...

I saw Dolphin mall, Miami, FL.

I met IHOP in Florida.

I went to hotel Ramada.

I liked getting back on land.

I did not like the end of the cruise vacation

I felt little down but happy to be on land.

I ate IHOP pancakes.

US Influence TV was coming in English, unlike in Spanish last time. Also, the food was purely American.

Learning of the day was that you always have to research a place before deciding to go there. I also learned that not everything is simple. Also if you learn a skill applying that skill is so much fun like swimming in an ocean.

Magic Number Twelve: Our trip back home

Today is the last day of our vacation. So sad! Anyway, we woke up at 3:00 AM, got ready and took the shuttle bus to go to Miami International Airport. Once there, we just did some things to keep us occupied until it was boarding time. We just found our seats on the flight. The captain then made the announcement that our flight to Houston was going to be approximately 2 hours. And it was.

We got off at Houston International Airport. There was a two hour break, during which I read my Harry Potter book and completed it all finally. After I read my book, it was time for boarding. The flight was going to be approximately 4 hours. I just slept for some time and played few games on the plane.

We arrived at STIA, then just waited for our neighbor to come and pick us up. Home! Sweet home!! this is where our vacation ends. It was really a fantastic trip turning double digits, which I will never can forget. Well....now I am really excited for my next trip in 11 months ☺



A few fun facts about Cozumel

- a) The system for traffic light is: Red means go, green means stop and amber means clear the intersection.
- b) They drive Buggies, which has the same gear system as manual cars.
- c) Buggies do not have any top covering, and they look like old vintage cars.
- d) There is white sand present at beaches.
- e) You can actually see coral reefs in the ocean if you go snorkeling. You can also see these beautiful fish.
- f) Despite being from a Spanish country, Cozumel has a lot of USA influence.
- g) Other than McDonald's, Starbucks, Burger King and 7 Eleven are also present in Cozumel, where the signs and menus are written in both Spanish and English.
- h) They measure the speed limit in kilometers, not miles. The car radar reads KPH instead of MPH.
- i) There are awesome coconuts available in Cozumel which they directly pluck from the tall coconut tree. They chop and give it to customers for them to enjoy the sweet coconut water.
- j) The currency in Mexico are pesos. One USA dollar is equal to 16 pesos as of December, 2015. It's really amazing how Mexico actually accepts USA dollars.
- k) It's a great place for people who have excellent in bargaining. For example, we wanted this ribbon that can be customized with your own name which was originally priced for \$10. But after bargaining, we ended up paying just \$4! Another example would be the pictures taken by a photographer before going snorkeling. She originally sold them for \$50, but after my dad spoke up, we

ended up paying \$15! That's \$35 dollars less for us, more for the others.

- l) Despite some glitches in the English Cozumel people speak, they are able to convey the message that they want to get across, and get the work done easily.
- m) By law, you are not supposed to get any seashells, beach sand, plant materials and fruits to the USA from Mexico.

Post-Celebration

After we got back, on my Indian birthday (December 12), I opened all the presents my friends gave to me. There were so many of them

and I see how much my friends put the thought in for me and I loved all of them. It was fun opening the presents as well. I sat in a big circle with all the presents around me, once I chose which one I wanted to open,



I opened that one and checked it out. So, even though the trip was over, I still had one more day to enjoy all the cool gifts my friends had given me! I sincerely thank all of my friends who helped me celebrate my double digits and I can't wait for another year of fun.

THE END

I'M THANKFUL FOR...

Food on the Table



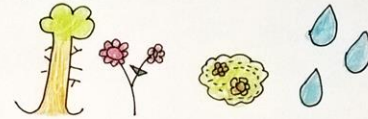
Money



Home



Nature



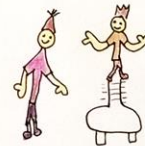
Friends



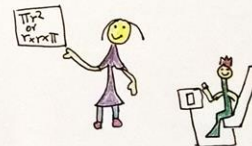
Family



Fun



Education

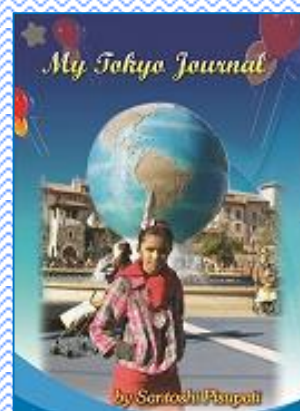
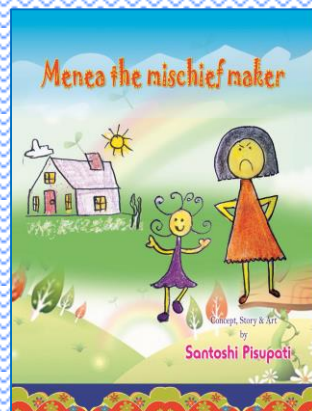
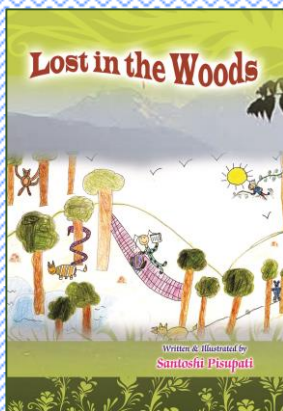


AND OF COURSE...

Life!



My earlier books



Check out my website

www.santoshifuncity.com