

Blog 29 - My Trip Back Home



In June, my family and I boarded the plane for the long 24hr trip to Florida for our three week visit back home. After more than a year of living on the other side of the world, I couldn't wait to finally be able to see my friends & all of the familiar places again! The moment I walked through the airport's exit, I took a deep breath and smelled the scent of the sea in the air that triggered intimacy. I knew I would feel it a lot during these memorable three weeks back home.

On the first day, my mom and I woke up at 4:00 in the morning due to our jet lag. When I pulled the curtains aside, the streets looked like they had taken a really good shower from the rain that cleaned the roads and sidewalks and left them spotless. As I looked closer, I saw six big bright green letters at the top of a building in a small plaza. They spelled P-U-B-L-I-X. I was quite surprised and thrilled that there happens to be a Publix right across from the hotel we were staying at! Since Publix wasn't open and there was nothing for us to do at that time, mom fixed a quick snack for me and I jumped back onto the bed to watch some T.V. I snatched up the remote and flicked through all of the fifty eight channels ultra fast, then quietly said to myself: "Yay! The channels are all in ENGLISH, not in CHINESE! :)" I was ecstatic! I flicked back to my favorite channel and stared at the screen not even wanting to blink as I remember how much I used to love watching them before I moved! Some of my favorites such as Wizards of Waverly Place and So Random played their last episode just after I left, but I was glad to see Sponge bob, Good Luck Charlie, Phineas and Ferb and Shake It Up still there!

In the blink of an eye, it was already 7:00. I dropped everything in my hands and told my mom that it was time to go. "Go where?" She asked. "Publix!" I replied with a huge smile spreading across my face. As we stepped out of the hotel's main door, the whole world seemed to immediately fill up with sunshine! The blinding yellow sun sitting in the sky was so bright that my mom had to hurry back to the room and grab her sunglasses. Nanjing's sky is mostly grey and is incomparable to Florida's. After being away for one year, I couldn't help to ask myself: "Was the sky really THIS blue?" Nanjing's sky brought gloomy feelings to me sometimes, but Florida's sparkling blue can defiantly bring many smiles! That might be another reason why Florida is a very popular vacation destination! :)



At Publix, my mom and I rushed in and loaded our shopping cart with foods that are either hard to find or very unpopular in China. Such as cherries, blueberries, American brand crackers, cream cheese etc. We also bought Haagen Dazs ice cream that was on sale that day: Buy One Get One Free. Without hesitation, my mom and I grabbed two large jars and began giggling greedily as we walked down the aisles thinking “What a great Bargain!” :) When we got back to the hotel, we stuffed the little refrigerator with some of the foods we bought not knowing that it was just a fridge and not a freezer. After a whole day went by, my mom and I decided to be a little naughty and have dessert before dinner, we each opened a jar of the ice cream we bought in the morning and was shocked with what we saw. We each were holding a jar of Haagen Dazs chocolate flavored *soup*! My mom felt so guilty for wasting our bargain. In order to comfort her, I drank some of my ice cream. :)



After collecting our rental car that day, mom and I drove around to run some errands and have a look around. I begged my mom if we could stop by at our old house on the way back and she agreed. As we slowly made our way down the familiar street we always took to go back to our house, I shouted out all of the familiar stores one by one as they passed my window. “Walmart! Look, it’s Target! Oh my gosh, is that Dunkin’ Donuts!? Oh! It’s Checkers and Ruby Tuesday! :)” All of these are places that would normally just pass by my window during car rides and I wouldn’t pay much attention to them. I wouldn’t have ever used the time to even think about just how excited I could ever be to see them again!

They all related to one word: home! Glad to be home!