

Diary of a Pacific Beauty

Shani Matenga-Troughear, Miss South Pacific NZ competes at Miss South Pacific

Friday 17th Oct:

Arrive in Tafuna, Samoa. We then get transported to Apia and spend the night in Aggie Greys Hotel, I had never stayed in a hotel before!

Saturday

We had to get up at 5am to check in for our 7 o'clock flight to Pago Pago American Samoa. The heat over there was like a very hot summer's day in Australia but worse. It was very humid. When we arrived in Pago I was greeted by Miss American Samoa Shanette Pualani Tilo. Then we were transported to the Tradewinds Hotel. I spent time in the pool and went to a mall down the road. That night at our hotel there was a "Fashionista" which was a fashion show showcasing the American Samoa dressware. The models also known as the "Fafz" were absolutely stunning and become good friends of mine. This was definitely a great start to my time in American Samoa.

Sunday

Our days had officially started. Everyday we had to be ready for breakfast and briefing at 7.30am. Then we were transported to the Church Service at Futiga Methodist Church followed by lunch by the hosting parish.

Monday

This day to me was a day that I will never forget. Pavaiai Elementary School touched my heart. The kids were just so excited to meet us and were very interested to learn about all our different cultures - it was amazing. All of us contestants went into a few classrooms each to mingle with the kids and teach them a little about ourselves and our culture and basically, about home. After that, they put on a huge show for us and gave each of us gift baskets!

Lunch was at Moana O Sina and that is where we had a TV interview with Malama TV and Talofa Samoa, also following us throughout the week was Diehl from KSBS Radio Station and we also had our photo shoot for Miss Photogenic as well, the photos were taken by our official photographer Jason Prichard.

Tuesday

Island Wide Tour - it was great to explore the island of American Samoa! The tour was great. I enjoyed it made me be really open my eyes also. I think that it made me appreciate New Zealand a lot more at the same time.

Lunch at Tisa's Barefoot Bar was cool and very scenic. The view of the beach was beautiful. Food was delicious. Tisa's grand daughter entertained us, it was so cute!

Dinner with the Governor Togiola and First Lady Mary Ann: What an honour it was to be able to dine with them at Sadies by the Sea. I also got to taste the "Palolo" which is a delicacy over there, a sea worm that only comes out once a year.

Wednesday

The float parade was so unreal. To see the whole community gather like that really showed me how big pageants really are over in the islands. The support was amazing, it really helped me a lot. My float was sponsored by Lupelele Elementary School.

Thursday

Pre-pageant interviews were very difficult for me. I wasn't exactly the brightest cookie in the jar out of all of us girls, but I tried my hardest and still come out with a good presentation. For pre-pageant interviews we had to write a 4 minute presentation on a topic that we chose out of the jar. The topics were a wide range of questions to do with terrorism, poverty, over population, technology, culture and a lot more. It was hard, but I think I did quite well over all. It was like a huge weight was lifted off my shoulders when that was over.



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