

Maria from the UK: My Time as an Au Pair in America



"I thought I would write to you about my experience with Au Pair in America. I had the best time of my life, and fully recommend it to other people!

I lived in Rye, New York and during my first few days I was given a list of other au pairs in my area and called them and they said they were going to the beach! I went with them and that was that! We clicked immediately and were good friends from then on.

I managed to travel a lot - I saved my money and I went to many states and made it my mission to see them all, but that didn't happen. I visited nearly half of them though. It was very cheap to travel on the local airlines and if booked in advance even cheaper. I used the greyhound a few times. I went to Niagara Falls (Canada) on an organised trek and I also went to Toronto with a friend for the weekend. I also did another trek to California and Las Vegas. It was very well organised and loads of fun. I met some great people on the trips and I am still in touch with some of them.

I was an au pair for a 1 and a half year old and he was amazing. The parents were lovely and always very nice and pleasant and honest. If they had a problem they said so and if I had a problem I tried to say so! Of course sometimes it was hard living in someone else's home but most of the time it was great. The boy I looked after was lovely. Everyone loved him. I can't believe he is now 8 years old! Of course he doesn't remember me, but from time to time I receive a picture from the host family and I still keep in touch and they always say I am welcome to stay with them if I am in New York.

Whilst in the USA, I studied Sociology at the Bronx College. It was interesting and just cool to say that I had studied in the Bronx!

I definitely recommend Au Pair in America. It's so well organised and the fact that you get a list of other au-pairs in your area is a bonus. Of course it is what you make it. You have to go with the idea of travel and meeting people. I would love to do Au Pair in America again but now I have a boyfriend and different priorities. I am currently teaching English in South Korea to 5 to 13 year olds. Being in America made me more confident in myself and my abilities, so thanks! :)"

Maria (Au Pair from 2004-2005).