

EXPLORING the tropics

Junior Brian Stewart visits Tahiti over break.
Photos courtesy of Brian Stewart

Having a week to take a break from schoolwork and other academic activities can be the perfect time to explore new places. Junior Brian Stewart and his family decided to travel to Tahiti over spring break.

"We flew into Tahiti, then took a ferry over to Moorea," Stewart said.

One of the most memorable pastimes from the trip was swimming in the ocean.

"The water was completely clear and really warm so it made swimming and snorkeling really great," Stewart said. "Also, there were a bunch of cool fish."

Another unique experience he had was being able to ride around the island on a bike that came with the place he stayed in.

"I really enjoyed the biking for the freedom it gave me," Stewart said. "I got to explore the island and experience the real culture and day to day life."

Overall, while travel is something he only does a couple times a year, it continues to be an invigorating experience.

"Being fortunate enough to travel and experience different cultures and learn about their history is really rewarding for me," Stewart said. "[It] allows me to reflect on my own life."

Story by Hope Van Riesen

"I got to explore the island and experience the real culture and day to day life"
BRIAN STEWART ('24)

What was the highlight of your spring break?

"The highlight of my spring break was seeing a turtle hatching at the beach in Costa Rica."

ANYA GREENE ('24)



"The highlight of my spring break was going to Great America with my family! My favorite part was eating their delicious funnel cake!"

KATIE WU ('24)



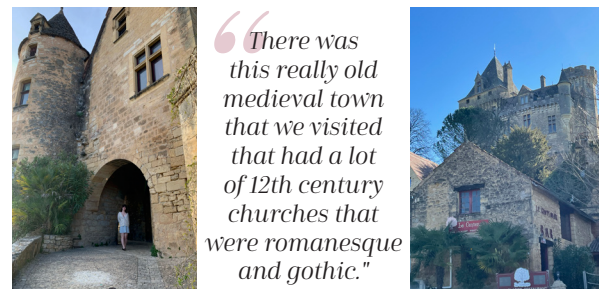
(top left) **THROUGHOUT HIS TRIP**, Brian Stewart ('24) explores the beautiful scenery of Tahiti. "I loved visiting Tahiti because of the culture and beauty there," Stewart said. (bottom left) **WHILE VISITING A** glittering beach, Brian Stewart ('24) watches the sunset. (right) **IN FRONT OF** Mount Roto Nui, Brian Stewart ('24) poses for a photo with his family on a hike. "There are a lot of good hikes in the area," Stewart said.



bonjour from france

Alice Sheffer ('26) shares her adventures in Dordogne, France.
Photos courtesy of Alice Sheffer

"My favorite part was just seeing so much as we drove around. [We] got to see a lot of the countryside which was really cool."



"There was this really old medieval town that we visited that had a lot of 12th century churches that were romanesque and gothic."

"I really liked driving around with my parents and seeing all the pretty chateaus. They were really cool, and we had a guidebook where it had the history of the little towns."



LENDING a helping hand

Celina Lee ('25) goes on a volunteer trip to Guatemala.
Photos courtesy of Celina Lee



Why did you go to Guatemala?

I decided to go on the Guatemala spring break trip through Dream Volunteers, because I'm one of the Vice Presidents of the Paly Dream Volunteers Club at Paly, and it seemed like a perfect opportunity for me to immerse myself in a new culture alongside service work.

What did you do in Guatemala?

In Guatemala, the other volunteers and I worked hard to help form the foundations of a new school in El Astillero for the children in that community. We were also lucky enough to learn a lot about the culture of Antigua, Guatemala and surrounding areas.

What did you gain through this experience?

Throughout this entire experience, I was able to make new connections, try new foods, and learn about the well preserved history in Antigua.



(left) **WHILE DISCOVERING THE** vibrant culture in Guatemala, Celina Lee ('25) sees some locals. (above) **WHILE IN GUATEMALA**, Celina Lee ('25) strolls through the town. (top right) **IN THE MOUNTAINS**, Celina Lee ('25) works with the other volunteers.