

**Pauline Alaribe**  
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## **A Journey To A New World: Nigeria**

Africa is a country continuously discriminated against as a result of aids, starvation, war, diseases, etc. Before I went to Nigeria, I also believed these stereotypes.

Five years ago, My Grandmother and Grandfather were having their 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary, so our entire family flew to Nigeria for one month. I was skeptical of how myself, a 9-year old Nigerian-American would adapt to the full Nigerian culture. Frankly, I was dreading this entire family trip. I thought about revealing my feelings to my family, but they all looked hopeful and excited about going to Nigeria. My parents were born in Nigeria, and were very happy to go back to the village and see family members they haven't seen for a long time.

This didn't get easier as I stepped on the plane, prepared to fly 18-hours to a different world of human beings.

To my surprise, 18-hours on the plane went quickly. Astonishment hit me as I stepped off the plane. I wasn't expecting to see what was before my

eyes. Women wearing beautiful colors of lace-type clothing roamed around the airport carrying loads of luggage. Tons and tons of people piled the airport communicating in different tongues. My parents speak Igbo, and although I do not know how to communicate using this language, I can hear considerably well.

The scenery was amazing, the people were interesting, and for the first time since I stepped into this country, I felt like I had nothing to be afraid of.

I could not hold back my excitement as my family was escorted out of the airport and in to a car on our way to the village. Hundreds of people walked on sidewalks and pedaled bicycles. I could see that Nigeria was nothing like America. Nigeria was a whole different experience, a totally different culture.

I seemed like hours before we got to the village, but when we finally arrived we were greeted by many strangers at our house. All I could think of was how I desperately wanted a comfortable bed to sleep on. We had been meeting people all day, and I thought that when we arrive at the village, we would finally get a break.

Our house in the village was much more than I was expecting from seeing the pictures. It was more beautiful than any home I had seen in the

United States. One day in Nigeria, and I had already seen a truly magnificent structure. Our house had 3-stories, 5 bathrooms, 7 bedrooms, a kitchen, 3 living rooms, and a balcony.

My parents spent a lot of money trying to make our family's home comfortable, a place we could take a vacation when we needed too. Especially knowing my mom likes everything big, she wanted it to be spacious.

Going on this trip has changed my perspective on life and adventures. An adventure is an exciting or a remarkable experience, and going to Nigeria has given me the ultimate adventure. Despite what people may say about Africa and African people, the individuals who have the opportunity to visit this intriguing continent are the individuals who truly experience life in Africa.