

In San Francisco

I am in San Francisco. It is cold and foggy here. They are having the heat on at the hotel. We could not see anything of the Golden Gate Bridge nor of the city from top of the hill. I hope things clear tomorrow and the day after. I am going out shortly after I finish this e-mail and solve my credit card problem. I tried to call the Saudi American bank from 3 places today but had no luck.

Sun Valley

I was in Idaho in the last few days of my tour. The weather was very cool. 65 degrees F. I went hiking in Sun Valley, Idaho. It is an area that looks like Austria. Green mountains all around and fresh refreshing air. Sun Valley is a small town with expensive homes for wealthy people like you and me. Everything is so expensive here. I paid 4 riyals for one peach. I walked up the mountain for 2 hours and down for 1.5 hours then took the chair lift the rest of the way down. The scenery from the top of the mountain was magnificent. I'm warming up before I go hiking in Petra when we go the APETAU Conference in Amman.

The 17-mile Drive in California

Today we went to Monterey, Carmel and the 17 mile drive. They were picturesque. Crooked rocky beaches with cedar and pine trees, calm water and lots of sea lions, nice expensive homes along the way. It was so peaceful. Tonight we are in a town called Solvang in California. The buildings are Danish in style and it is famous for Danish pastry. You feel as if you were in Europe not America. We did not walk that much today. We stayed on the bus most of the day except for the few stops that we made. Despite the pain, it is refreshing to walk in crisp cool air around San Francisco. Not to mention the crowds of people, souvenir shops, beautiful scenery, sounds of sea lions and seagulls. I wish I could walk that much every day, especially when I am in Riyadh.