



Kimi Cantrell:

I was only able to spend about three days with the Bedouin Community, but I was still able to learn so much about their culture. Even though I had arrived extremely late in the evening, the people insisted we eat dinner together. I ate more food that night than I have in a long time. Everyone was so welcoming. .

Afterwards we got ready for bed, Saeed and his wife gave us their room to sleep in, while they slept in the family room. They really made us feel at home. In the morning we were greeted with the sweet aroma of mint tea and were given delicious chocolate cookies .

The first day we were immediately submerged into the culture, given a tour of the Bedouin Community, visiting houses and the school. The children were practicing their English and seemed to be having fun at school .

Walking around the community, I noticed the lifestyle is very laid back and very relational. People would be gathered together on their porches, enjoying each other's company. When we would visit the families in the houses they would always greet us with a warm smile, offer us tea and would typically already have company over. I can tell they care a lot about a relationships .

The next night I was given the opportunity to stay with another family. We gathered in their family room, sat on the floor, snacking on fruits and nuts. Although the language barrier was a bit rough, I still felt welcome. The daughter was kind enough to give up her bed for the night and sleep on a mat on the floor so that I would sleep in a comfortable bed .

By the time I woke up the following morning, breakfast was already prepared. An overwhelming tray of food was given to me, I could not finish it all. Every meal they

always provide more food than I can eat, it just shows how generous the people of the Bedouin community are. They always make sure I am comfortable and well fed. They truly care about my well being, they're very considerate. The evening of our second day Saeed took time out of his busy schedule to take us to the beach. The hospitality is outrageous .

I was given the chance to help bake cookies with the ladies of the community. It was a lot of fun to spend time with the older and younger generations of the community. I love baking at home, so it was neat to experience baking in another culture .

I'm sad I was not able to spend more time in the Bedouin Community. It was one of the first places where I was actually immersed in the culture. I learned so much about their history and find it amazing that despite their background they are still such loving, strong, welcoming, friendly and hospitable people. It is apparent through observing their interaction, that the Bedouin community truly loves each other and looks after one another. There is a strong sense of family in this community.

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