Prairie: a forgotten land of natural beauty by many!

by Samantha Kirk

Article published on March 22nd 2012 | Travel

When we say America, the places that come to our minds are New York, California, Miami, etc. But there is a place which was one of the first settlements for many immigrants who came from different countries and a place, the prairie. It is a forgotten place by many, but the place has played an important role in the history of America. It is located in the middle of North America and is a unique place with rolling plains of grass, a huge meadow filled with grasses and wild flowers. The Prairie is dominated by plants and grasses, trees are scant in the prairie and they widely spread on the land.

The geographic area of the Prairie is about 1.4 million square miles. It spreads from Alberta Saskatchewan, and Manitoba and passes through the Great Plains to southern Texas and Mexico, it is also spread across western Indiana to the Rocky Mountains. There is a climate difference in the Prairie; the east has more rain than the west. The climate is moister in the North and the East and along the mountains and it is known as the tall grass Prairie. The grass is the highlights of prairie, there are a few types that grow as tall as 10 feet! Climate is the main reason for the natural state of the prairie. Rainfall is not consistent every year and there is a long dry spell during the summer season, the land gets do dry and a hot climate that there are often forest fires because of this. Interestingly, there have been long drought periods in this place which has even lasted for years.

The land has been a mystery for many years; I have read a book called â€œLittle House in the Prairieâ€•, the second book in Laura Ingalls Wilderâ€™s series. The author talks about how her family leaves their little house in the Big Woods of Wisconsin and set out for Kansas. In the book she talks about the majesty of Prairie and I was sucked into the story in no time at all. Her writing is so beautiful that you can smell the grasses of the prairie, feel her fear for the Indian tribe, her love for her family, etc. the book makes you wish to go back in time and experience all the adventures that she experienced. Though each page is filled with a new advantage, you can also see the amount of difficulty the family faced to live in a new settlement. At times, I felt sorry for the family, not having any neighbors and pretty much living in solitude with any friends or immediate family nearby. But, the description about a place that goes dry in summer and has thunderous rains in the rainy season is beautiful. The joy that a little girl feels at finding a simple string of beads makes you respect simple things in life that you never noticed previously. Though it is a book for kids, it is a must read for all book lovers! It is not only a beautiful story, but also gives an insight about Prairie in detail.

Today with modernization, the original prairie is rapidly changing. The lands are mostly used for agriculture and as grazing lands. The forest fires that used happen often are being suppressed with urbanization moving in. prairie has not been left out of technology, there are internet, television and most important of all phone lines like the Xfinity Voice that are being established and with Canada nearby. Modernization has become easier. There are many organizations that are trying to restore some of the natural beauty that the prairie has lost and educate people about the beauty of the place.

Article Source:
http://www.articleside.com/travel-articles/prairie-a-forgotten-land-of-natural-beauty-by-many.htm - Article Side

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Article Keywords:
Xfinity Voice, Phone, Prairie

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