

Assignment 2

Minimalism Black & White



Tan Yi Yun
0345559

Discover Hidden Gems in Tiny Island, Taiwan

“Jobs fill your pockets, adventures fill your soul.” Travelling is always memorable because nothing makes a person smile more than standing in front of something they have always dreamed of. I love to travel because it gives me a break from the monotonous pattern of life. However, travelling becomes impossible because of the Covid-19 pandemic. Those travel experiences have suddenly begun to seem more precious.

Back in the days, I had my first time flying aboard. It was on the 1st of December, 2018. Feeling excited and uneasy, my family and I took a four-hour flight from Senai Airport to Taiwan. I will never forget how anxious I was during takeoff and landing, kept chewing sweets to prevent ear pain.

Before I visit Taiwan, I have heard about “The most beautiful scenery of Taiwan is its people.” It mentioned how friendly Taiwanese is, which makes visitors want to go back again and again. Well, I could not agree more with this statement. Taiwan is an island nation at the crossroads of Northeast and Southeast Asia. It is known for having an immensely rich cultural and spiritual heritage, amazing food, world-class hot springs and stunning scenery, which are the reasons why so many people are attracted to Taiwan.

Discover Hidden Gems in Tiny Island, Taiwan

The place I was most eager to visit is **Gaomei Wetlands, Taichung**. It is a muddy tidal flat where we can catch the sea breeze and watch the astonishing sunset. There is an area where we can take off our shoes and feel the softness of wetlands between the toes. If you are lucky, you might even see crabs waving their hefty claws beside your legs. The silhouette of windmills was incredible that drove me to grab my camera unconsciously. After filling our stomach, we spent a night at Taichung. Taichung gave me a very good impression, even the **scenery outside my resort** was picturesque.

For the most part, Taiwanese people are quite religious, with the variety of temples dotted throughout the island as clear indicator of their pious nature. Honest speaking, **Wenwu Temple** is one of the most distinctive temples I have ever seen. It is located at the shoulder of mountain where is on the North of Sun Moon Lake in Nantou County. Ascending the observatory of the rear hall, we can overlook the Sun Moon Lake from afar, with a panoramic view of its surrounding. Most importantly, photography is allowed!

In Nantou as well, we visited **Qingjing Farm**, the mini Switzerland in Taiwan. It is a favourite spot to interact with farm animals. We went to the **Small Swiss Garden**, which is one of the most famous attractions in Qingjing Farm. Although it is small in size, it has beautiful Nordic scenery and is well worth a visit. I lost my words to describe the beautiful parterres and high altitude scenery, so I just gazed at the sky and let the gentle breeze blowing through my hair. Besides, we also visited **Evergreen Grasslands**, which is consists of beautiful grassy high plains set against a magnificent mountain backdrop. Under the blue sky, I saw herds of sheep grazing and roaming freely on the open grass plains. While feeding the sheep, I was attracted by a blooming flower near at hand. It was **Hibiscus**, the national flower of Malaysia. I immediately captured this flower glowing under the sunlight.

Discover Hidden Gems in Tiny Island, Taiwan

The next morning, we went to **Hehuan Wuling**. Located within Hehuanshan National Forest Area, Hehuan Wuling with an altitude of 3275 meters is the highest point in the Taiwanese highway system. We were there to witness the beautiful mountain ranges of Wuling, one of Taiwan's hidden treasures. According to our tourist guide, the mountain top will be capped with snow during winter, and crowd of tourists will flock to this white winter paradise. Sadly, we were unlucky to see any snow.

This 8-day-7-night Taiwan trip is indeed an eye-opening experience for me. There are still a lot of amazing destinations that I could not include here. At **Qingshui Geothermal Park**, I secretly took a picture of my parents to express my gratitude towards them because the trip will be meaningless without them. I am looking forward to revisiting again because I love every corner of Taiwan, from the majestic architectures to the breathtaking scenery. I hope I can discover more hidden gems in this wonderful island. But when will the pandemic end to let me travel again?



Gaomei Wetlands, Taichung



Scenery outside a resort in Taichung



Wenwu Temple, Nantou



Small Swiss Garden, Nantou



Small Swiss Garden, Nantou



Small Swiss Garden, Nantou



Evergreen Grasslands, Nantou



Evergreen Grasslands, Nantou



Hehuan Waling



Qingshui Geothermal Park, Yilan