

Taroko tribe

Today we visited Chong-de village of the Taroko tribe! We were fortunate enough to get the opportunity to experience their culture and see the daily life of the Taroko tribe. Here are some of the things I observed during the trip.

One unique characteristic of the Taroko culture is their face tattoos. For the Taroko people, face tattoos represent a symbol of bravery and courage. It's a part of the customs of the tribe. The face tattoos are a mark of adulthood and their accomplishments. Those without it are not recognized by the tribe leaders. It is necessary for men to kill off the boar's heads in the wild to earn the leaders' approval to get the face tattoos. When the girls turn 5 years old, they'll get a face tattoo as well. If they can weave their own clothes, they will receive a second one. Another interesting fact of the face tattoo is that when one of the members passes away, the tribesmen walk across a rainbow bridge and the people who don't have face tattoos are buried underneath the bridge, to serve as food for the crabs. According to the legend, this is the proper way to honor those who have fallen in battle.

Furthermore, we also tried out a cuisine of the Taroko tribe called "Banana Rice" and even made some ourselves! The Banana Rice was made by the women of the tribe for men who went hunting in the mountains. If you want to make one yourself, here are the steps to do it! First, you have to mix the banana with rice. Next, add a little sugar to it. Then, use the leaves to wrap the filling. Finally, tie both ends together, and your Banana Rice is completed!

We also learned that males and females are assigned to various roles and occupations. Only female members have exclusive access to the sewing machine. The machine can only be used for making or fixing clothes, otherwise, their family will suffer severe consequences. On the other hand, men go hunting in the woods to prove their strength and worth to the tribe leaders. If they display some outstanding abilities, they'll be well respected by the leaders.

As I reflect on this thrilling journey, I realize the significance of this trip as it is a once-in-a-lifetime experience. I got to experience something I never would have imagined myself doing. I learned plenty of valuable lessons and cherished every second of them. This trip shifted my whole perspective on living in a rural environment along with the richness of the culture surrounding it. It's the first time I'm in a setting that's filled with nature. I thought it was going to be boring to be in this kind of environment but as it turns out, I found pleasure in this countryside setting. In the city, you become distracted by the busy, fast-paced traffic, but in a rural place, you actually take time out of your day to take in all that nature has to offer and let out the satisfying fresh air. You're in a better mood just from the sight of gorgeous scenery. You focus on all the small details around you. Then you realize you take many things for granted and don't enjoy life as much as you should. Overall, it's a very relaxing and peaceful world outside the city. I also found it fascinating that every member of the tribe was all extremely close to each other, like one big family. They had each other's back through the thick and thin. What a magnificent day it was!