



19.12.13 – 19.12.27

Taiwan and Vietnam

By. ____ stevenocchipinti 외 1 명

DAY 1

19.12.13.December 13, 2019 12:00:00 AM GMT





Waiting at the boarding gates
and had some home made
banana bread for our dessert 😊.



Steve doesn't like this travel app so working hard to find a better one. You can tell by his unimpressed face.

DAY 2

19.12.14.December 14, 2019 12:00:00 AM GMT

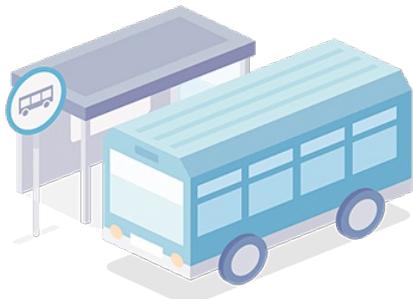


Waiting for our room to be ready

We picked up our prepaid SIM cards
(purchased through klook) from the airport,
withdrew some cash, bought bus tickets

and finally arrived at our hotel.

The only catch is we're here early so we have to wait a few hours for the room to be ready.



May as well nap while we wait for our room hopefully it won't be too much longer...



And we're still waiting so we decided to go for a walk after Steve's nap. We stumbled across a little park and Steve wanted to do some exercise ☒



We were recommended this place by a work colleague, it opened at 11am but the queue was already down the street.

After about 15 minutes of waiting we were able to get a seat upstairs and our food came out quickly.

The beef noodles were so good! The meat just melted in our mouths and the soup was full of flavour! A great first meal in Taiwan!



The queue for Yong Kang Beef Noodles

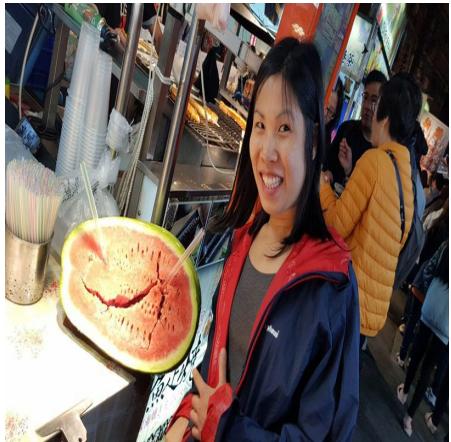
We visited the National Chiang Kai-shek Memorial Hall and did lots of walking!



We checked in to our hotel and chilled there for a bit before going to Raohe Night Market in the Songshan District

After walking around for a bit, we settled on these dishes for

dinner



We ate a chicken skewer, chicken wing stuffed with rice, grilled squid with a watermelon juice to wash it down, followed by some peanut, sesame and red bean mochi and finally the famous pepper pork buns



So many smells and flavours in one place!

DAY 3

19.12.15.December 15, 2019 12:00:00 AM GMT

Got to Taipei station and waiting
to start our day tour to Yehliu
Geopark, Jiufen and Shifen

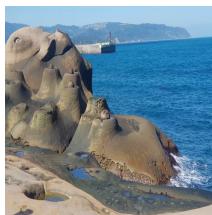


The rock formations of Yehliu Geopark

The first stop on the tour was Yehliu Geopark, a UNESCO World heritage site full of interesting rock formations.

It's kind of like finding shapes in clouds, you have to use your imagination a bit to understand how they got some of their names but they were pretty interesting none the less.

There was even a fossil among the list of rocks to check out.



"Cute Princess rock" looked more like a rat on a rock,
"candle rocks", "potholes" and a fossilized sea urchin

Exploring Jiufen town

Up next was the town of Jiufen. This place is supposedly known for being the inspiration for Spirited Away although we have heard that may not be true. Either way, there are a lot of studio Ghibli souvenirs being sold here!

The streets are very narrow and jam packed with people, it took us at least half an hour to shuffle our way through to the other end!

We ended up eating vegetarian balls in a broth and a strange vegetarian dumpling

but we had no idea what it was made from. We think it was a type of tofu in a sweet sauce wrapped in very stretchy glutenous rice wrapper.

After that we had xiaolongbao and some fried soft-shell crab on the way back to the bus. It was very crowded but timed it well to get back through the crowds to the bus just in time!

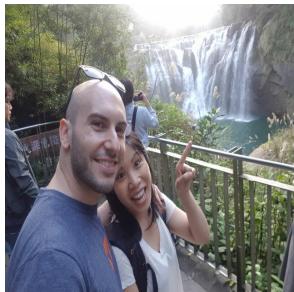
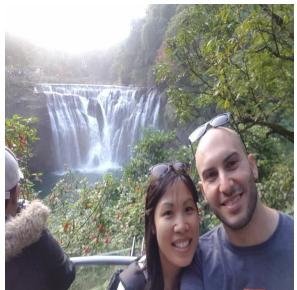
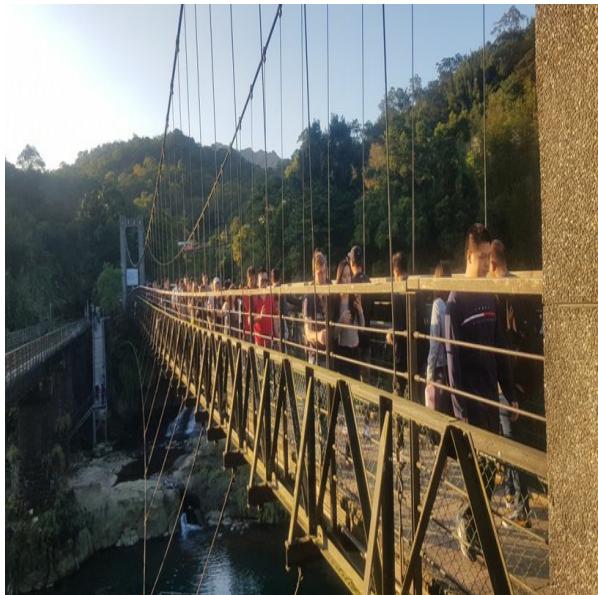
We even had a couple of minutes to get some fresh pineapple.



Shifen Waterfall

Next up is Shifen waterfall, the locals say it has a similar shape to Niagara Falls just much smaller. It's very nice either way. We

had to walk over a bridge to get there and it was swaying quite a lot from all the people!



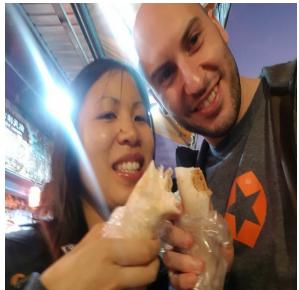
Shifen Old Street

Our final stop on the tour is the Old Street of Shifen. Famous for its sky lanterns and railway running right through the middle of the street.

The other thing is famous for is it's chicken wings stuffed with sticky rice! We had one of these at the night market yesterday but the one here is so much better!

We choose not to release a lantern this time but we ate the chicken and a dessert that has ice cream coated with peanuts and

honey shavings, wrapped in a crepe and walked around the quaint little town as the sun was setting. The sky lanterns looked even better as the sky got darker, it's a much nicer atmosphere here compared to Jiufen!





Taipei 101

From Shifen we boarded the bus back to the city and after about an hour and a half of battling with traffic we arrived, thanked our tour guide and explored the mall there for a bit.



#elephant mountain

#night market

#Yehliu

#Jiufen

#Shifen

#Tienlai

#Yangmingshan

#Nihn Binh

#Halong

#Hanoi

#Hemei
