

# TICKET TO UNDERSTANDING: IMMERSED IN THE CULTURE OF TAIWAN

2017 CULTURAL IMMERSION PROGRAM

PROVIDENCE UNIVERSITY - BINA BANGSA SCHOOL INDONESIA

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As a response to the recent national southbound policy, Providence University hosted a 10-day Cultural Immersion Program for students from Bina Bangsa School, Indonesia. From September 29<sup>th</sup>, 2017 to October 8<sup>th</sup>, 2017, students from Bina Bangsa School were taken to some of the most famous tourist attractions across Taiwan and to Providence University to attend some courses so that they can learn about Taiwanese culture and experience student life in Taiwan.



*Students from Bina Bangsa School arrived at Taoyuan Airport (09/29)*

On the first two days of the trip, students were taken to Taipei to visit some of the popular sites in the city, such as Taipei 101, Huashan 1914 Creative Park, Beitou District, Ximending, and Sun Yat-Sen Memorial Hall.



*First stop of the day: Taipei 101 (09/30)*



*Going around Ximending on a sunny day (09/30)*

*Students practiced writing in Traditional Chinese Characters in Mandarin Language Class (10/02)*



In Taichung, students attended classes from various majors in the university to get the first-hand experience of becoming a student at a Taiwanese university. In Mandarin Language Class, students got to acquaint themselves to traditional Chinese characters which are different from the simplified Chinese they were already familiar with. Through Cosmetics Science Class, students learned how to make moisturizers and got

some useful tips for applying makeup. And of course, food. As Taiwan is quite well-known for its fascinating yet enchanting cuisine, the cultural experience will not be complete without a cooking lesson of Taiwanese food. Thus, students were also taught how to make some Taiwanese dishes in Food and Beverage Culture Class. When students were not in class, they could use their free time to explore the city and go shopping.



*A student prepping partner's face before applying makeup in Cosmetic Science Class (10/03)*

To celebrate the Moon Festival, students were brought to Lukang Old Street where they could go around the old shops in the business district and pay a visit to famous temples located there. Before going back, students made a quick stop at Taiwan Glass Gallery to see various kinds of interesting glassworks on the site. Once they finished looking around, they were then taken to the next stop, Gaomei Wetlands, to catch the breathtaking view of the sunset.



*Students interacts with the guide at Lukang Old Street (10/04)*



On the ninth day, students went on a trip to Sun Moon Lake, Nantou. Besides enjoying the view of the largest lake in Taiwan, students could also walk around the market located nearby. After the short trip to the lake, they were given the chance to do some souvenir shopping before they went back to Indonesia on the next day.



*A trip is not complete without a stop at souvenir shops (10/07)*



*Enjoying a nice walk around Sun Moon Lake (10/07)*

This 10-day trip has been quite a journey for the students. There were quite a lot of unexpected things that they never thought they could encounter in Taiwan. Students could experience how it is like to use Easy Card to take public transportation and buy things from the convenience store. The mesmerizing nightlife of Taiwan also offered so many things to see: strange food, clothing shops, and even carnival games, they all can conveniently be found in one place. Through this trip, students certainly learned many new things about Taiwan and its culture. In addition, this short visit to Taiwan also taught them to be more independent as they had to be away from home during the trip and therefore, need to learn how to take care of themselves when their parents were not around.