

A Very Special Trip by Anneliese Hoffman

By “very special trip” I mean...you’ll find out.

It all started when my siblings and I found out the news we’d be going to Taiwan in about a month or so. Taiwan is an island across the world from where we live. My mom grew up there. But my dad grew up here, in Traverse City, so that explains why we live here in the United States. We still had to celebrate me and my sister’s birthday on May 16 because we are twins. Then, in June, we set off! The airport was busy. We had to wait in a very long line. Since we had “set off” before my two brothers birthday, they are also twins, we celebrated it in Taiwan. Our brothers birthday is on June 20th. They were SO lucky!

Okay, back to the airport/airplane. Once we boarded the airplane, (it was Eva Air), we got comfortable and loaded up our things. There were screens in front of us. It was past nine o’clock. Time is change in Taiwan. For example, if it’s midnight here, it would be lunchtime in Taiwan! Get it? The airplane was AWESOME! There was movies to watch, games to play, and music to listen to. I REALLY loved this game called Plants Vs. Zombies. I also really liked Jack-Jack’s Escape and Mickey Mouse’s Date Dash. But Plants Vs. Zombies is the best. Anyway, my tummy hurt for quite a chunk of the plane ride. The food was pretty good, like 96%. Notice I said pretty. Anyway, once we landed, we did all our airport stuff we needed to do. Then we waited for a taxi to come. You see, we were in Taipei and that’s not where we wanted to be. We wanted to be in Dalin, where NaiNai (grandma in Chinese) lives. Dalin is a small country place with LOTS of mosquitoes. Little fact: Chinese is the language in Taiwan. Once the taxi came, we boarded. Mom or Dad or both said we fell asleep (it was a long ride). We stopped at a rest stop. We finally arrived at Dalin. When we finally arrived we greeted NaiNai. We had good “adventures” from then on.

Did I tell you about the time we had to walk for a super long time in the city? You see, we had to ride scooters in Taiwan. And we had to JUST WALK in Taipei. We were staying for 3 weeks: Dalin first week, Taipei 2nd week, and Dalin 3rd week with the last three days in Taipei. Here are just some other adventures I went on.

ADVENTURE #1

Once we went on gondolas with one of our cousins. It was very fun. On the way back we wanted to ride crystal clear gondolas, but the line was too long and we had to ride regular ones. Crystal clear gondolas have see-through floors. Cool, right?

ADVENTURE #2

Another time we went to the Taipei Zoo. I made a very bad move there. My very bad move was this: There were pandas at the zoo and I took pictures of their name plates but not THEM themselves. Like, how unsmart is that?

ADVENTURE #3

I got my ears pierced in Taiwan, did you know? Me and my mom rode the train. I got a Dove Chocolate bar and a BIG bottle of my favorite drink, Yulkult, to sip on. My earrings cost 100\$ and had silver and gold in them. WHOA, huh?

ADVENTURE #4

Fortunately, we went to Taipei 101 (you say it like, “one-o-one”) and we went to the ninety-first floor. Fun fact: Taipei 101 used to be the tallest building in the world. There were a bunch of restaurants, including Mos Burger. YUCK! You wanna know why I totally DISLIKE Mos Burger? Once I tried it because I thought

it would be yummy. Well, I was totally WRONG! After I had that experience, I never ate Mos Burger again. I really like dragon fruit, dumplings, and fried rice, and not in that order because I like them all equally. There's this REALLY good restaurant in the city that has REALLY GOOD FRIED RICE that I REALLY LOVE. I also really love watermelon juice and octopus balls.

Next time I go to Taiwan is when I'm 12. I wish it could come sooner!