

A Trip to Wonderful Kaohsiung

On January 15 and 16, 2019, the Art & Culture Interest Group led a group of 41 members to Kaohsiung City for a two-day sightseeing tour, the first WTIC overnight trip. The whole group met at the High-Speed Rail Station in Tso Ying and embarked on the tour bus waiting outside. The Lotus Pond was the first stop. The group then went to the famous Sun Fong Temple to pray for a blessing. The members enjoyed taking pictures around the twin pagodas and the temple. In the afternoon, the group took a tour ferry to cruise around Kaohsiung Harbor, which has been the number three in number of shipments in the world, from Banana Pier to Hongmao Port Cultural Park. The tour guide performed beautifully in Chinese and English.

It was a great honor and pleasure to have a meeting with Madam Han, the wife of the Kaohsiung mayor, at a renowned seafood restaurant in the evening. WTIC members were very excited to talk to and take photos with her. The first day ended with the group checking into the Ambassador Hotel, which overlooks the Love River. Some members enjoyed a romantic gondola ride with a boatman serenading them.

On the second day, the whole group took a light rail tram to tour Kaohsiung Asia New Bay Area and were amazed with all the modern buildings in the area. Weiwuying National Art Center, which was just opened in November, 2018 was the main focus of the trip. Due to special arrangements made prior to the trip, the group was given a private tour of the concert hall and the playhouse. The professional guide explained the concept and history of the Center's design and construction. The final destination was the former British Consulate built in 1864, the oldest piece of western architecture in Taiwan still in existence. Climbing up to the Consulate located at the top of the hill was not so easy, but the magnificent views of Kaohsiung from the top were worth it! It was a wonderful ending to the trip!