

THE CELAC STUDENT VOICE

My Pride, Taiwan

by Ying Nian (Tina) Chen

Today, more and more people travel to Taiwan or even study in Taiwan. Here are some reasons why I think people would want to come to Taiwan.

First of all, you won't worry about food. There are many different kinds of food that you can eat, not only Taiwanese food but also Japanese food, Korean food, Thai food, etc. Of course, the most important is to try Taiwanese food. If you go to a night market, you can try almost every Taiwanese dish there. Braised pork rice, oyster omelet and Taiwanese sausage with sticky rice are my favorite dishes. Also, for dessert, you would like taro balls and tofu pudding; these are the best desserts for me.

In addition, the transportation is very convenient. There are lots of buses you can take, and you can take the MRT in Taipei city, New Taipei city and Kaohsiung city. If you go somewhere in the country side, you can take a train and view the beautiful landscapes of Taiwan along the way. When I was in Taiwan, scooters were the most convenient vehicle for me. They are small and easy to ride, so whenever I went to school or wanted to go to a night market, I would ride on my lovely scooter. If you are a traveler to places except Taipei, I recommend you renting a scooter, for there is a lot of traffic in Taipei that you might be scared of riding a scooter there.

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Honduras Bay Islands

by Belkis Garcia

Honduras' Bay Islands are an international destination. The islands, Roatan, Utila, and Guanaja are about 65 to 75 kilometers away from the La Ceiba on the northern Coast of Honduras. The Bay Islands main economic activity is the tourism, and fishing. All the islands have fabulous beaches, scuba diving and snorkeling. The most common foods are mostly seafood, and there are many similarities among each island's culture and food as well as differences in each community.

Utila's main focus for tourists is scuba dive training. It is the most economical place in the world to learn to dive. There are many PADI (Professional Association of Diving Instructors) schools to take scuba diving classes. The lessons they teach are in almost any language you can think of. There are teachers that speak Hebrew, Italian, Korean, French, German for example. It is a small island with only a few restaurants and resort opportunities. On Utila they focus on teaching people to scuba!

Roatan is more of a party island. It is the biggest island. You can still learn to scuba dive in Roatan, but there are many bars and restaurants too. People gather to watch soccer games and sing karaoke. Resting on the beach is a popular thing to do. Many resorts are all inclusive so you can eat and drink all you want! The cruise ships stop at Roatan because there are many things to do for all ages. I would like to swim with the dolphins!

The inhabitants of the Bay Islands are composed mainly of people of English descent, Black, and Mestizo and a small group of Indigenous natives. The diving sites are wonderful. In addition, it can provide the sighting of incredible species like the whale shark, multicolored fish, turtles, and dolphins that a tourist can enjoy watching.

The Honduras Bay Islands are a relaxing and exciting adventure.

My pride, cont.

The most important aspect of my country is that the Taiwanese are considered kind and friendly, and as a Taiwanese I think most people in Taiwan are definitely good guys. Take my experience for example: one day, I parked my scooter in a parking lot, and I forgot to pull out the key. Then, when I went back to my scooter, it surprised me that someone put the key in the front glove compartment of my scooter. Another time, when I was at a night market, I saw that if someone had trash in hand, the vendor would ask forwardly to help this person with the trash. These kinds of sweet movements not only occur between the Taiwanese but they also occur between the Taiwanese and foreigners.

In my words, I am very proud of Taiwan where I was born and grew up. If you go to Taiwan and experience these adorable things, you would like Taiwan as well.

Glamorous Balloon Fiesta in Albuquerque

by Xinghui (Pam) Pan

The Balloon Fiesta is held for nine days every October in Albuquerque, New Mexico. It is very spectacular and beautiful. It is the largest Balloon Fiesta in the United States, and the government attaches great importance to this event. This October was my first time to join in the Balloon Fiesta. Even though I got up at 4 AM, the Fiesta was already very crowded when I arrived.

I witnessed the balloon rise from the folded state to the gas filled state. Do you know how the balloon works? The balloon is equipped with simple flight instruments, fuel tanks and blowtorches in the basket. First, when lifting from the ground, the blower ignites the torch, heats the air and fills the airbag from the bottom of the airbag. After the flight is lifted, the amount of fuel injected by the blower is manipulated to control the rise or fall of the balloon. They can only rise in good weather conditions, and they should be far apart from each other. If the sailing distance is too close, it will cause a collision.





<https://www.ngenespanol.com/travel/visita-mixquic-en-el-dia-de-muertos/t>

The two most famous holidays in Mexico

by Alejandra Trillo

Since I live here, I have met people from different countries, and this has helped me to learn about different types of cultures, opinions, and traditions of which I did not know. Just as I like to hear others talk about their countries and cultures, I also like to talk about my country Mexico. However, I have noticed that a lot of people just know the negative facts of my country, like poverty and crime. That's why in this article I will tell you some of the most interesting and famous holidays from Mexico.

Mexico has several holidays throughout the year. The Day of the Dead is one of them, and it takes place on November first and second. In this holiday, families and friends come together to remember those who have passed away. Even though it sounds a little bit sad, it's the opposite. People remember the good and happy things about their loved ones. To celebrate this holiday, people go to the cemeteries to set up altars in the graves. The altars usually have several levels where a photograph of the person you want to remember, and their favorite food, objects, candles, and flowers are placed. These days people spend most of the day in the cemeteries praying and singing since it is believed that the dead return. However, this is not the only special thing about my country.

Independence Day is one of the biggest celebrations in the country. In this holiday we celebrate the cry of independence which started the war against the Spanish regime. Independence Day takes place on September 16th. However, we celebrate on September 15th until midnight. Several days before, the city streets begin to be decorated with the colors of our flag which are green, white and red. The afternoon of September 15th is when the celebration begins which took place in the center of each city, so all the people can attend.

Balloon Fiesta, cont.

In addition to the balloons, the Fiesta also has fireworks. On the last night, there was a special show. Four performers jumped off the plane with the parachute and flew in the air. The fireworks were fired from the equipment on them. I am very lucky because I enjoyed both the balloons and the fireworks. In conclusion, going to the Balloon Fiesta was the happiest thing for me this year. I want to introduce it to all the friends around me.



Holidays, cont.

Singers, dances and traditional music are presented during the celebration. Also, you can find all kinds of Mexican food and snacks as well as patriotic products to celebrate. Finally, at midnight the President gives a speech which always ends up mentioning the names of the most important people who started with the war of independence, and the phrase "Viva Mexico!"

In short, Mexico has many positive things, one of those are holidays like, The Day of the Dead, and Independence Day which unite more families and society. That is why I encourage you to learn more about each country especially the positive things.





Why Do American People love ‘Teriyaki’?

by Nami Tominaga

I was surprised. Why are there “Teriyaki” sauces in the store?! It was my first impression when I went to a grocery store in Albuquerque. There were some American-produced Teriyaki sauces on the shelves.

On another day, I was shopping at the mall. When I went through the food court, my eyes were shocked. At first glance I guessed it was a normal Chinese restaurant, but I noticed that almost all of the items on the menu had a Teriyaki taste, such as Teriyaki pork, Teriyaki beef, Teriyaki chicken, Teriyaki tofu, Teriyaki fried rice, Teriyaki vegetables. This fact was really funny for me because I am Japanese. The dishes were absolutely different from the Japanese style of Teriyaki. Teriyaki is just one of many recipes in Japan. Its taste is made by three ingredients: soy sauce, sugar, mirin. The recipe is only used for cooking chicken or yellowtail fish. Teriyaki is definitely a specific cooking sauce for Japanese people.

I’m sure Teriyaki tastes attractive to American people all over the U.S. However how did Teriyaki get citizenship like now? Today, I introduce Teriyaki’s pretty history in the U.S. because of a Japanese company’s effort.

KiKKOMAN is a big company and famous for producing soy sauce in Japan. Approximately 60 years ago, KIKKOMAN began to sell soy sauce in the Western U.S. states because some Japanese American and Asian American people lived there at that time. However, American consumers thought Soy sauce is just a Japanese taste, so most American people didn’t use soy sauce in their daily cooking. Then KIKKOMAN produced a new policy in American food culture and thus was born a new catchphrase: Delicious on meat. After that, the demonstration of soy sauce’s cooking with meat was held in some U.S. department stores and it was attractive to American house wives. Also KIKKOMAN had continued to develop a kind of soy sauce for Americans with the help of economists.

There had been a Japanese movement from around 1958 in U.S. American people were interested in Japanese culture like the KIMONO (着物), TEIEN (庭園), JUDO(柔道). In 1959, Tomi Egami, who was cooking researcher, came from Japan to the U.S. She created special Japanese American recipes to use soy sauce and suggested the recipes. These were introduced by TV shows and newspapers in San Francisco and Los Angeles at certain times. The two things seemed to have an influence on food culture in the U.S.

Afterwards, the habit of using soy sauce was spread throughout daily cooking in general. Then an American used soy sauce with BBQ, and this style came to be Teriyaki for American people. I think American Teriyaki is very different from the Japanese style. But I’m glad to know the fact because Teriyaki was born in Japan and has been loved by American people for a long time. In other words, Teriyaki has earned a citizenship in American food cultures.

If you’ll eat Teriyaki, please remember this story.

Reference <https://www.kikkoman.co.jp/kiifc/index.html>



Recipe for Crunchy Sweet Balls, or “Luqaimat”

By Huda Safhi

Most Arabs enjoy Luqaimat in the Holy month of Ramadan. It is one of the popular desserts made in that month. If you could peak into any Arab woman’s kitchen during the month of Holy Ramadan, you’ll find luqaimat batter resting on the kitchen table.

Components:

- * 1 cup all-purpose flour
- * 1 teaspoon sugar
- * 1 tablespoon corn starch
- * 1 teaspoon oil.
- * 3/4 cup warm water you may need less, depends on the flour you’re using
- * 1/2 teaspoon dry yeast
- * Pinch of saffron
- * 2 cups of oil for frying

For the syrup:

3 tablespoons date syrup

How to make it....

- 1- In a blender, add water and then the rest of ingredients. Blend well until you get a combined smooth batter.
- 2 – Pour in a bowl, cover, and let it double in size in a warm place. This may take an hour.
- 3- In a deep frying pan, add oil and when it is hot, reduce to medium heat.
- 4- Dip a spoon in oil to separate it; then take a heaped teaspoon of batter, push the batter off using another spoon. Be careful while dropping the batter in the oil.
- 5 – Move the dumplings around using a wooden spoon or spatula; this will make them cook evenly.
- 6- When the dumplings are light brown, remove them from the oil, and place them on kitchen paper.
- 7- Pour your favorite syrup on top (I like to use condensed milk)

Concluding, if you follow these steps, you can get a delicious dish and enjoy your Luqaimat!





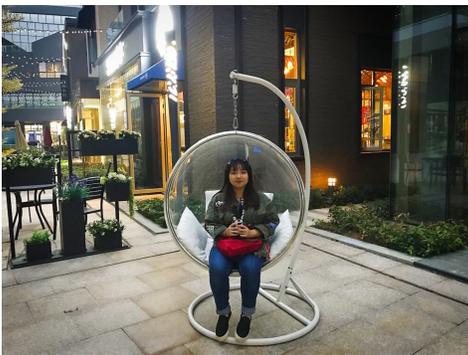
Alejandra

My name is Alejandra Trillo. I'm 19 years old, and I'm from Chihuahua Mexico. I like picnics and hiking in the woods. Have a nice day :)



Alexandra

I come from Bolivia the heart of South America. I have a degree in Marketing & Logistics and I am planning on obtaining an MBA with a concentration in Operations Management. My hobbies are watching futbol and football games, watching movies and dance Flamenco.



Apple

My name is Yanxu, you also can call me Apple. Before I became a Lobo, I studied Financial Management in BITZH. My hobby is being a photographer and traveling the world. If you want to know more about taking pictures and you want to be a photographer in the future, or you like taking pictures, please read my essay and have a contact with me.



Belkis

My name is Belkis Garcia. I'm from a famous coffee growing area in Honduras. I study English at the Center for English Language and American Culture. I like snorkeling and looking for seashells on the beach.



Huda

My name is Huda, and I am from Saudi Arabia. I like to take photographs, but I am not a professional. I love to travel alot.



Nami

My name is Nami. I'm from Japan, Kumamoto. My major is Agricultural, so I love New Mexico's nature like the high desert. I definitely love camping and hiking but cooking also is interesting for me. Thank you.



Pam

My name is Pam. I come from China. My hobby is painting.



Tina

I'm from Taiwan. My major was Food Nutrition when I was in the university in my hometown. I like to watch videos, especially Korean dramas.