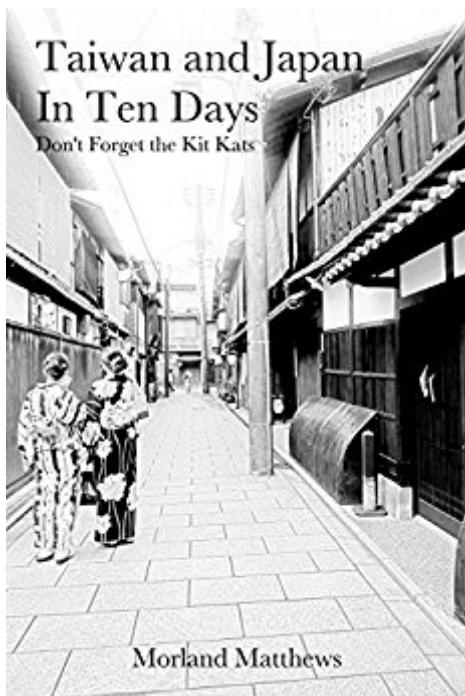


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Taiwan And Japan In Ten Days: Don't Forget The Kit Kats



Synopsis

In 2015 Will a former housemate and good friend invited my wife Sandra and me to visit him and his cousin in Taiwan and Japan. We said, HELL YEAH! These are not countries that the average Hispanic American of African descent gets to experience, especially those who grew up in a low-income household in Brooklyn, like we did. The language barrier, costs and distance make it a challenge for most people to visit. We were eager to evaluate some common questions, myths and stereotypes about these wonderful countries. Specifically, those related to vegetarianism, technology, health, poverty, views towards American minorities and westernization. This book is an account of the wonderful people, food, customs, surprises and challenges we experienced during our ten-day visit.

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Customer Reviews

An epic adventure, rivaled only by the tale of Odysseus, I felt like I was there with Morland & his wife as they wandered through Taiwan and Japan. If you want a glimpse of the people and cultures of these two countries, without the jet lag, you are sure to enjoy this book and gobble it up like a tray of the finest sushi. I hope you experience many more adventures and I encourage you to keep writing

and sharing these adventures with both friends & strangers.

When I read Matthews' book decades after my interest in breaking bricks with my bare hands or executing a perfect roundhouse kick faded, I remembered why the Far East was, and remains, so fascinating to so many people. Besides the style of combat that Bruce Lee made internationally famous during the trendy and experimental and militant 1970s, it is, among other things, the vast distance: because it's so incredibly far away, and expensive to travel to that part of the world, it is a rarity for most Americans. Matthews' putting "Kit Kat" in the title is a stroke of brilliance; it brings the seemingly cosmic experience within easy reach. We are invited, for little more than we would spend on a travel magazine or a pair of earplugs, to follow Matthews and Sandra, his wife, through their well-planned, budget-conscious journey, and through a generous and skillful use of detailed description, we are always right there with them. I can almost feel the nitrogen bubbles welling up inside me from the homicidally long journey. The narrative flows easily, and what is conveyed is a sense of constructive urgency: throughout the book, we feel the tempo and the inspirational anxiety of being late for the flight we're about to miss. One thing that is missing is the larger sense of urgency that should convince the readers of any travelogue to visit a certain place: Venice is sinking; you'd better get there before it's gone forever. Or, the ancient ruins of Athens will soon be rotted away by pollution; better get to the Acropolis before it becomes unrecognizable.

This book is AMAZING! the self developing flow of the book feels so natural with its emotional ups and downs, while still maintaining your undivided attention and holding true to your expectations, with such prominent questions such as " what will happen next?", "will they find what they are looking for?" or " will they arrive on time?" Which in my opinion would keep any reader turning the pages of this book, in search of those ever so satisfying answers. In the end the reader is left with a much welcomed and favorable understanding of some of the culture , habits ,customs and technology of these places and hopefully also with a bit of curiosity to find out more.

It was fun to venture with Morland & Sandra to Taiwan & Japan. Mr. Matthews is comical in certain descriptions that he gives of unexpected and foreign practices. Although these are faraway lands that I probably will not be able to visit personally, I am grateful that I was able to see those countries through Mr. Matthews' eyes while also getting to see the character of the author. I especially enjoyed his experience and difficulties he encountered regarding his boots.

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