

## FO GUANG SHAN MONASTERY

This is the center of Buddhism in southern Taiwan. When you visit Fo Guang Shan, you are not only visiting a temple, but much more than that – monastery, university, meditation center, museum, etc.



The signature feature of Fo Guang Shan is the Great Buddha Land. It is actually a 40 meter of Buddha statue surrounded by another 480 little Buddha statues.

Fo Guang Shan Monastery is located about 30 minutes out of Kaohsiung city. Don't imagine that you will stay in a top of the mountain with a very minimum amenities, it's not what you will expect to see (I was surprised too!) Before you enter the monastery main gate, there are some mini markets which basically sell almost everything you might need during your stay at the monastery. Entering the monastery, there is a lodging area and some restaurant for you to dine.

The lodging is called The Pilgrim's Lodge. Rooms in this lodge are full air-conditioned, equipped with color TV and individual modern shower.



The Pilgrim's Lodge



The Café



ATM Machine

There is also an ATM machine to withdraw your money just in case you need some during your stay there. The ATM machine is located across from the Café. Staying at a monastery doesn't mean you have to change yourself to be a vegetarian. At Fo Guang Shan, you can choose what do you wan to eat – they have a vegetarian buffet meal, but also some café shop which serve western style cooking even an espresso for after dinner. Vegetarian buffet is served for breakfast, lunch and dinner.



Vegetarian buffet



Rolls at Vegetarian buffet



Place for used utensils

For your information, if you dine the vegetarian buffet which served at the main hall of the lodging place, you don't pay for your food, instead you can donate the money (if you want), other wise no bills will come to you. But if you eat at the café, you must pay for your foods. One day is not enough to spend at Fo Guang Shan. They have many things to see and many things to try (please try not to visit this place on Monday since they closed most of the activities every Monday). Chanting and calligraphy could be very interesting, while meditation is offered more challenges.



Morning Praying



Calligraphy trial



Taichi practicing



The monk usually will offer you to join the morning praying, I did it before, and it's really a special experience because you will do the praying in the main hall with thousands of lights be turned on. The monastery has the English version of chanting book, so you don't have to worry about what you will do doing the praying. All you need is just concentration.

Usually after the morning praying, they have a Taichi session you may ask the monk who guides you whether you could join this activity during your stay.

Even you don't know any single Chinese character, doing the calligraphy is a worth to try. They have a calligraphy paper with some Chinese character already been written on it, so all you have to do just move your brush along the letter to make a copy of it, and the best thing of all is that you can bring back your writing as your souvenir.



In Fo Guang Shan, they have monk from countries from different countries in the world. Monk Hui Sho is originally from Austria, he speaks German, English and Chinese. He is usually being appointed to guide European guest during their stay at Fo Guang Shan Monastery.

*Monk Hui Sho with one of teen from the  
Fo Guang Shan orphanage house*

## PICTURES OF ROOM'S AMENITIES AT PILGRIM'S LODGE



Color TV



Spring bed



Individual restroom



Writing table



Soap and shampoo



Sanitary paper



Coffee and tea sets



Water boiler



Stair only