

Cherokee: An attractive place

During last summer vacations, writer had a difficulty in choosing flights for a tour, and most of the flights were busy. He wants to visit a beautiful and peaceful place. He and his friend John, visited Qualla town of Cherokee in Oklahoma. The town was decorated with different paintings, presenting an overview of Cherokee's history. Even, language was a barrier, they visited memento shops which were decorated with different birds' feather and animal bones. People were friendly and welcoming. According to George a native of Cherokee, people there were not financially strong there. They were living on art crafts, and wood cuttings, and some other means. Like wise, on every weekend Bingo, a game event was organized there which financially support them. Their last visit, was to the museum where different art was displayed. After returning, he missed that place and decided to choose another exotic place for next trip.

Total words: 436

Precise words: 139

CSS 2016

During my vacation last May, I had a hard time choosing a tour. Flights to Japan, Hong Kong and Australia are just too common. What I wanted was somewhere exciting and exotic, a place where I could be spared from the holiday tour crowds. I was so happy when John called up, suggesting a trip to Cherokee, a county in the state of Oklahoma. I agreed and went off with the preparation immediately. We took a flight to Cherokee and visited a town called Qualla Boundary surrounded by magnificent mountain scenery, the town painted a paradise before us. With its Oconaluftee Indian Village reproducing tribal crafts and lifestyles of the 18th century and the outdoor historical pageant 'Unto These Hills' playing six times weekly in the summer nights, Qualla Boundary tries to present a brief image of the Cherokee past to the tourists.

Despite the language barrier, we managed to find our way to the souvenir shops with the help of the natives. The shops were filled with rubber tomahawks and colourful traditional war bonnets, made of dyed turkey feathers. Tepees, cone shaped tents made from animal skin, were also pitched near the shops. "Welcome! Want to get anything?" We looked up and saw a middle-aged man smiling at us. We were very surprised by his fluent English. He introduced himself as George and we ended up chatting till lunch time when he invited us for lunch at a nearby coffee shop. "Sometimes, I've to work from morning to sunset during the tour season. Anyway, this is still better off than being a woodcutter ...". Remembrance weighed heavy on George's mind and he went on to tell us that he used to cut firewood for a living but could hardly make ends meet. We learnt from him that the Cherokees do not depend solely on trade for survival. During the tour off-peak period, the tribe would have to try out other means for income. One of the successful ways is the "Bingo Weekend". On the Friday afternoons of the Bingo weekends, a large bingo hall was opened, attracting huge crowds of people to the various kinds of games like the Super Jackpot and the Warrior Game Special. According to George, these forms of entertainment fetch them great returns. Our final stop in Qualla Boundary was at the museum where arts, ranging from the simple hand-woven oak

baskets to wood and stone carvings of wolves, ravens and other symbols of Cherokee cosmology are displayed. Back at home, I really missed the place and I would of course look forward to the next trip to another exotic place. (436 words)