

An Aboriginal Treasure

AT FIRST GLANCE, this looks like a relatively large, average tree. To some people, this is all it may ever be, but to the aborigines who inhabit Australia's Daintree Rainforest, it is the *tallest, oldest* remnant of their past.

The tree's history was shared with me by Rosie, a 56-year-old aboriginal woman with a remarkable spirit. She led my family through the world's oldest rainforest, pointing out nuts, plants, and streams that were crucial to her people's survival. She asked us if we would like to see her "baby tree," and I instinctively thought she was nurturing a newly planted seed. Instead, Rosie led us to what was the tallest, most robust tree I have ever seen. It is here that the aborigine boys underwent the ceremony from boyhood to manhood, and in this exact place where hundreds of native peoples' heritage remained.

To have this sacred part of Rosie's culture shared with me, an outsider, felt special. It gave me a newfound appreciation for the entire land on which I walked, and allowed me to see the rainforest as more than a collection of trees and plants, but as a sacred place full of meaning and tradition.

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YOU'RE INVITED! We invite you to submit your photos along with a brief (approximately 200 words) description of why these images are important in your understanding of a person, place, idea, or incident from your experiences in international education. The photos could be of a simple moment on your home campus involving international students, a major event in an exotic location, or anything in between. The editors of *International Educator* will run selections on this page throughout the year. Please contact us for submission details at elainal@nafsa.org.