

# TAIPEI

AUTUMN  
2016

Vol. 05



## Universiade Mascot Blows Out the Candles at Countdown Celebration

Wishing Bravo a Happy Birthday!

## Three Recommended LOHAS Itineraries

One-Day Tours of Taipei's Green Areas



## Taking the NBA by Storm

Jeremy Lin: Believe in Yourself, and Dreams Can Come True

## Art Can Change Lives!

The 2016 Taipei Arts Festival



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# Fun, Green, Early Autumn Walks – Harvesting a Full Year of Good Times

The countdown to the 2017 Taipei Summer Universiade is now officially less than 365 days. With the Universiade approaching, the Taipei City Government held “Taipei Universiade 365 Day Countdown Carnival” in the square in front of Taipei City Hall on August 20<sup>th</sup>. There were 22 games booths on-site, giving the public a taste of the different sporting events. In the United States, the NBA’s Jeremy Lin was the focus of the famed “Linsanity” wave. Since then he has had some down times and has switched teams a number of times, but maturity has brought perspective and he has been able to overcome his mental struggles, giving new inspiration to both fans and athletes.

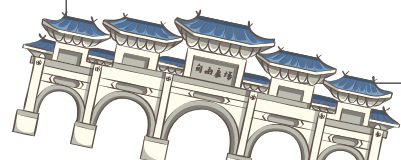
Taipei City is blessed with “one-day green living experiences,” as it is surrounded by mountains with rivers running through its heart. Just slip on your sneakers, head out your door, and in no time you’ll find yourself traversing mountain trails or riverside pathways, embracing the green life, all in the outskirts of the city! Accompanied by the cool autumn breezes, *TAIPEI* invites you to go for a walk.

We’ve specially mapped out three LOHAS walking routes for you: on the city’s east, visit Xiangshan, Tiger Mountain, Zhongqiang Park, and 44 South Village. On the south are Fuyang Eco Park, Qingtian Street, Taipei Water Park’s Water Garden Organic Farmers’ Market, and Treasure Hill. On the north, check out the Taipei Public Library Beitou Branch, Taipei Expo Farmer’s Market, Neishuangxi Nature Center, and Jiantan Mountain Hiking Trail. Along these green corridors, the lovely scenery of cool autumn is being ushered in.

Taipei sports a comprehensive transportation network, its public bus, metro, and YouBike services offering unbeatable convenience, enabling quick and easy access to all attractions for citizens and domestic and international visitors. It’s no doubt hard to imagine that almost right next to Taipei 101 is a beautiful mountain hiking trail along which you are likely to see Taipei tree frogs, Muller’s barbets, and Formosan blue magpies; or that beside MRT Linguang Station is a dense low-altitude forest; or that just a short walk from MRT Xinbeitou Station is one of “the 25 Most Beautiful Public Libraries in the World” – the aforementioned Taipei Public Library Beitou Branch, Taiwan’s first diamond-class green building. This is a place well worth visiting.

A cosmopolitan international city, Taipei boasts a splendid legion of cafes that in turn boast rich variation in individual style and personality. In this issue’s All About Cuisine section we take you on an exploration, spending time in quiet old buildings transformed into cafes where the hand-brewed coffees are richly aromatic and the air brims with history. Industrial, country village, Nordic – the distinctive style of each reflects the character of the respective owners, who pour heart and soul into their enterprises, adding richness of flavor to the food and drink, as well as the lives, of their patrons.

The literature and history of a city depicts the richness and depth of local life. In 2015, writer Akira Higashiyama, who was born in Taipei and raised in Japan, won Japan’s prestigious Naoki Prize for his novel *Ryu*. Taipei is a key source of creative nutrition for him, and in this book he describes the everyday life of ordinary people. This book is filled with magical, exotic vignettes, and a flood of images depicting the Taipei landscape in a bygone era. After World War II, Taiwan-born Japanese were repatriated to Japan with their families. Many, however, looked on Taiwan as their spiritual home, and beginning not so long ago, with time slowly healing the wounds of history, former students of one school started visiting Taipei and their alma mater in regular pilgrimages. Their smiles on recalling precious old memories have become this city’s most precious memories.





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**Taipei City Government**

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(Photo: Department of Information and Tourism, Taipei City Government)

## Universiade Mascot Blows Out the Candles at Countdown Celebration

# Wishing Bravo a Happy Birthday!

Article \_\_ Bravo

Photos \_\_ Taipei City Government Department of Information and Tourism, Yu-Qing Deng, Pan Junlin

The curtains came down on the intense and exciting Rio 2016 Olympic Games not long ago. Were you like me, watching the competitions on television, your heart pounding so fast it was hard to breathe?

In various riveting competitions, Taiwan's team brought home one gold and two bronze medals. The gold was won by Hsu Shu-ching (許淑淨) in women's weightlifting in the 53-kilogram category. Another

female weightlifter, Kuo Hsing-chun (郭婞淳), claimed the bronze in the 58-kilogram category. Tan Ya-ting (譚雅婷), Lei Chien-ying (雷千瑩), and Lin Shih-chia (林詩嘉) were awarded the women's team bronze medal in



archery. This year, Taiwan's female athletes really performed well!

## 2017 Taipei Summer Universiade – Taking Up the Olympic Baton

At this year's Olympic Games, there were several moments that left a deep impression on me. In addition to the "primordial power" of Chinese swimmer Fu Yuanhui, there was the selfie of Lee Eun-ju of South Korea and Hong Un-jong of North Korea, both gymnasts, which crossed political divides, and the mutual support of runners Abbey D'Agostino of the U.S. and Nikki Hamblin of New Zea-

land after they collided and fell during the women's 5,000-meter qualifying heat, which enabled both to complete the race. This was also the first time that stateless athletes were allowed to form a "refugee team."

Sports transcend national boundaries, conveying a type of simple beauty. Of course, the athletic spirit of striving for victory is important. However, a higher level of concern for humanity is more valuable than a gold medal. Many outstanding athletes from countries around the world will be arriving in Taipei to participate in the intense, exciting, and outstanding

1. Bravo's performance, "Song of Bravo" with cheerleaders, was full of passion and energy. (Photo: Yu-Qing Deng)



world-class competitions that will make up the 2017 Summer Universiade. While they are here, make sure to help cheer them on!



## Countdown Party – Bravo’s Birthday Celebration

Do you know what happens on August 19<sup>th</sup>? This is the date of the opening ceremony for next year’s Taipei Summer Universiade. But even more importantly, it is my birthday! With the Universiade approaching, the Taipei City Government held a special birthday party for me – “Taipei Universiade 365 Day Countdown Carnival” (世大運 365 倒數嘉年華) – in the square in front of Taipei City Hall on August 20<sup>th</sup>. There were 22 games booths on-site, giving the public a taste of the different sporting events.

The extraordinary cheerleading team joined me on stage to perform “Bravo’s Song” (熊讚之歌). For the grand finale, I stood on the knees of

two cheerleaders. My legs were shaking badly – but the cheerleaders’ legs were shaking even worse. Am I really that heavy?

Taipei Mayor Ko Wen-je said that, “To let the world see a better Taipei, we must excite the public during the process of preparing for this event!” With only 300-some days left before the start of the Taipei Summer Universiade, I, Bravo, pledge to work even harder and more fervently day by day, inspiring the public through my dedicated action.

I’ve been rushing here and there every day, and have been so busy that I almost forgot my own birthday. I never expected that my handlers would so thoughtfully organize such a grand

2. Mayor Ko had special ear phones made for Bravo’s birthday present. (Photo: Pan Junlin)

birthday party. My boss, Mayor Ko, not only remembered my birthday, but also gave me a set of earphones made just for me. What made me even happier was, of course, the large amounts of pizza and cake, satisfying my “bearish” appetite. Upon seeing my birthday cake, my first wish was that the number of Universiade Facebook fan page likes will double from 10,000 to 20,000, and from 20,000 to 40,000. My second wish was for the world to come together to love and protect black bears. And my third wish was for a very smooth and successful 2017 Taipei Summer Universiade. Taipei, Bravo! 🐻





Taking the NBA by Storm  
Jeremy Lin: Believe  
in Yourself, and  
Dreams Can Come  
True

Article — Yuan Tingyao, Sabrina  
Photos — Reuters, Associated Press, Tian Mingwei,  
Department of Information and Tourism, Taipei  
City Government

(Photo: Reuters)



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Jeremy Lin, the focus of the “Linsanity” phenomenon in the NBA and affectionately called “Little How” (豪小子) – from his Chinese name, which he spells Lin Shu-How (林書豪) – has always refused to be defeated by setbacks and frustrations. Steadfast of heart, embracing his love for basketball and showing all how persistence can lead to dreams coming true, his story has been inspirational, and he has become a superb role model for other athletes.

The Lin legend began in 2010, when he came off the bench to lead

the NBA’s New York Knicks to seven straight wins. Lin, born in the U.S. to Taiwanese parents, had been an outstanding student at Harvard. He soon became the subject of the “Linsanity” tidal wave, a phenomenon still much talked about. Six years have passed since, and the young man who wears no. 7 on his back has been traded and transferred to a number of teams and faced lows and setbacks. Meeting these challenges head on and maturing in the process, he now actively shares his passion for basketball and the lessons he has learned with others, especially disadvantaged children.

- 
1. Jeremy Lin, who sports no. 7, God’s divine number, on his jersey, is the NBA’s first player of Taiwanese descent. (Photo: Associated Press)
  2. Feeling a bond with his parents’ homeland, Lin comes back to Taiwan to take part in basketball camps, cultivating new young talent. (Photo: Tian Mingwei)
- 

## Bumpy Road to the NBA – Then the Linsanity Whirlwind

Recalling that he and basketball seemed fated to be together, Lin remembers how his sports-loving father introduced him to the game at the age of five. In junior high school, he was his team’s point guard, and in high school he was team captain, leading Palo Alto High School to the California state championship. He then went on to Harvard, with a major in economics and minor in sociology. Under the patient instruction of his varsity coaches, he worked on improving his speed, jumping ability, passing, ball control, and other skills. Demonstrating calm, cool intelligence on the court, he became a superlative all-round player.

After graduating from university, Lin’s road to the NBA was not smooth. He was not selected in the 2010 NBA draft; feeling depressed, he and his family went out and bought 150 spicy chicken wings, drowning their frustration in a bout of binge eating. His chance came while playing for the Dallas Mavericks’ team in the NBA Summer league, putting in stellar performanc-



2

es and catching the eye of both the media and scouts. Lin chose to play with his hometown team, the San Francisco Bay Area's Golden State Warriors, and chose "7" as his jersey number, i.e., God's divine number. He became the first American player of Taiwanese descent in the NBA. Lin's opportunities in his first season in the star-studded league were few; he only came off the bench in 29 games, averaging 9.8 minutes of playing time, and found that because of his constant fear of being released from the team that his love of playing had disappeared. He had reached a low point, and before the beginning of his second season he was waived by the Warriors and then by the Houston

Rockets, before landing with the New York Knicks.

Lin's burst into the big time came on February 4<sup>th</sup>, 2012, when he exploded off the bench with a whirlwind offensive performance, achieving a record-setting 25 points, 7 assists, and 5 rebounds in 35 minutes, bringing the Knicks from behind to defeat the New Jersey Nets. On February 6<sup>th</sup>, he started for the first time in his career, and in 45 minutes netted 28 points and 8 assists, becoming the man of the match for the Knicks in defeating the Jazz. In following games, Lin time and again turned in highlight-reel plays, scoring ever

more points and achieving new personal highs. He won Player of the Week honors, the Linsanity craze exploded, and at the end of that year *TIME* magazine declared him one of the world's 100 most influential people.

### A Taiwan Bond – Includes Love of Night-Market Snacking

What his fans see in Lin is much more than just superb skills. They see how he exudes warmth, sincerity, and kindness, as well as other positive attributes. A devout Christian, each time prior to taking the floor he makes time to pray. His roots here – his parents are from

Taiwan – give the island a special place in Lin’s heart, and each year he visits to take part in basketball camps and fan meetings, happy to spend time with his followers and passionate about cultivating new basketball blood. He brings his warm spirit to charity work, this year taking part in Public Dream Day (公益圓夢日) charity activities, organizing a basketball camp, and having fun with his young students.

His itinerary was packed full when he visited Taipei in June this year. He made an appearance at the Adidas 101 basketball court, where he went head to head with his younger brother, Joseph Lin (林書緯), who plays in Taiwan’s Super Basketball League (超級籃球聯賽), and then got together with 2,000 fans at the National Taiwan University Sports Center (台大體育館). Afterwards, energy and enthusiasm unabated, he appeared at the open-air courts on the campus for some three on three with the school’s students, causing great excitement and commotion.

Lin praises Taipei’s great food. “What I like best is night-market snacking,” he says. “Things like pig’s blood cake and mango ice – I really love them.” Though he has a huge appetite, he’s a professional athlete, and this time had to listen

to his trainers’ advice as the new season will soon be starting. He managed to control himself, but says it was a great pity.

### Encouraging Universiade Athletes – Training to Play Better Defense

Now playing for his sixth team, Lin admits that it was only last year with the Hornets that he was truly able to feel happy playing the game. “Each of the teams I’ve played on has had its own orientation and learning system,” he says, “and you can clearly feel if your coaches or teammates like you or not.” For him, what is most important now is playing for the love of the game. “On graduating from Harvard, I felt I could conquer the world, and make all my dreams come true,” he says. “But it took me six years to finally find happiness in the NBA. During this period, I faced many difficulties, and behind my success often felt empty. However, the challenges and tempering have made me a better player.”

Looking at the upcoming 2017 Taipei Summer Universiade, Lin is eager to share his experiences in preparing for competition. He highly recommends that Taiwan’s basketball players strengthen their defensive capability. “Many of the NBA’s elite players work hard on their defensive fundamentals

during the off-season,” he says. Starting a few years ago, beyond each week’s regimen of basic drills and weightlifting, he too began adding to his defensive-training menu. Proper training on defense, he believes, can help overcome the inherent limitations of the Chinese physique, and players will experience significant improvement. This year, during training while in Taiwan, Lin’s high-school assistant coach Brandynn Williams noted that Lin is well-known for his uncanny sixth sense, able to predict his opponent’s moves and shot decisions, saying

3. Mango ice is a must-eat treat for Lin each time he comes back to Taipei. (Photo: Department of Information and Tourism, Taipei City Government)



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this stems directly from the solid work he puts into improving his defensive skills.

Beyond one's skills, Lin says another key is to stay relaxed while playing, enabling maximum composure in the heat of competition. Using his own experience as example, he says that the more nervous you get before an exam, the more nervous you'll be during the exam itself. You won't be able to think clearly, and won't do well. He reminds the young athletes set to take part in the Universiade that trying to change fundamentals in just a short time is both difficult and high-risk, and the slightest mistake

will negatively impact performance during competition. He believes that since athletes already have ample training, they should learn to relax properly before competition. "Having faith in yourself" is a must and in his sport means enjoying the game of basketball!

Lin loves the warm hospitality of the people in his parents' homeland, and although in total he has not spent that much time in Taiwan, he has seriously considered moving here after his NBA retirement. However, he is now in his prime years as an athlete, and has many more dreams to pursue. Back in New York, this time on

the roster of the Brooklyn Nets, he will continue to seek out new challenges and scale new heights. Someone once asked him how to choose between dreams and reality; without hesitation, he replied: "Make your dreams come true!" To his mind, one's dreams cannot be seen as being too far out of reach. If you just have faith in yourself, you can make them happen. Learn to relax and accept things, while embracing happiness. Lin's basketball dreams are still to be fully written, and the whole world is cheering for his renaissance. 📌

### Notable Honors/Achievements:

- 2008, 2009: All-Ivy League First Team, one of 10 finalists for NCAA Division 1 MVP
- 2012: NBA Eastern Conference Player of the Week, powering New York Knicks to four straight victories that week
- 2012: *TIME* list of "Top 100 Most Influential People in the World"; NBA Social Breakout Player of the Year Award
- 2014: First career triple-double, with 15 points, 11 rebounds, and 10 assists against Cleveland Cavaliers

### Career:

- 2006 ~ 2010: NCAA Harvard Crimson
- 2010 ~ 2011: NBA Golden State Warriors
- 2011 ~ 2012: NBA New York Knicks
- 2012 ~ 2014: NBA Houston Rockets
- 2014 ~ 2015: NBA Los Angeles Lakers
- 2015 ~ 2016: NBA Charlotte Hornets
- 2016 ~ : NBA Brooklyn Nets

### Jeremy Lin (林書豪)

Born: August 23<sup>rd</sup>, 1988

Current Team: NBA Brooklyn Nets

Education: Department of Economics, Harvard University





Swift and Fierce – An Athlete’s Quest to Show Taiwan to the World

# Table Tennis Great Hung-Chieh Chiang Eyes Universiade Gold

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Hung-Chieh Chiang, who has won numerous medals at major international tournaments, wants to scale new heights at the 2017 Taipei Summer Universiade. (Photo: Department of Information and Tourism, Taipei City Government)

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Article \_\_ Xie Yingjie  
Photos \_\_ Li Tinghuan, Department of Information and Tourism, Taipei City Government

At 180 centimeters in height, Hung-Chieh Chiang (江宏傑) is tall and imposing in appearance, yet gentle and courteous in demeanor. He seems to fit the very definition of an idol drama leading man. When he speaks, his expressive eyes overflow with honest laughter. It is difficult to imagine that this is a top-notch, world-ranked table tennis player, known for his razor-sharp focus and extreme accuracy in competitions.

Chiang was the third member of Taiwan's men's table-tennis team to qualify for the Rio Olympic Games. He has been a U-12 Junior National Player. As a junior player, he reached number one in the world rankings. He has also claimed numerous gold medals in men's singles at national championships – National Table Tennis Tournaments. He is a three-time Universiade gold medal winner, in men's singles, men's doubles, and mixed doubles, and a frequent victor on the International Table Tennis Federation (ITTF) competition circuit. He will now be vying for more medals at the 2017 Taipei Summer Universiade. Chiang says that, "The only Universiade gold medal that has eluded me is the one for the men's team. This is my goal for next year."

### Lack of Interest in Afternoon Naps, Start of a Glorious Career

When in third grade he didn't

like to take afternoon naps, and as a result was written up every day by the discipline officer. So his teacher instead encouraged him to play table tennis. He never thought that he would develop a keen interest from the moment he started playing, and that table tennis would ultimately become his passion. He became so obsessed with the sport that his family worried that it would impact on his schoolwork. There was even a time that they did not allow him to play. Chiang recalls with a laugh that, "At night, when my mother and father were watching TV, I would be next to them hitting a ball against the wall with my racket paddle. After a while my father got annoyed enough that he finally agreed to let me play on the school team." To ensure that he would have the opportunity to continue playing, he also gave his all to his schoolwork.

To fulfill his dream, after graduating from elementary school Chiang left his hometown, Hsinchu, to study at the Tainan Table Tennis Training Center (台南桌訓中心). This training facility was for the best players, learning from well-known coaches such as Chung-Hsiung Lin (林忠雄), Wen-Chia Wu (吳文嘉), and Peng-Lung Chiang (蔣澎龍). "I had lived in comfort at home," Chiang recalls. "But, moving to another place, I had to adapt to team life. It was truly difficult.

However, being able to play table tennis with my idol Peng-Lung Chiang, that really made me happy."

### With Persistence Comes the Opportunity for Success

For professional athletes, a chosen sport means a series of training exercises for the body and mind. "When you suffer a setback, you have to continuously tear down and rebuild," Chiang says. "Through this process of tearing down and rebuilding, you slowly become stronger mentally. Everyone has to face low points. Everyone's abilities are actually about the same. But, if you can hold on longer than others, maybe for an hour longer or one or two days longer, success over the long term may be yours!"

After many years of competition, Chiang is all the more mentally prepared. Although he will now still feel upset after a loss, he knows that what is more important is that he studies his opponent, and corrects his mistakes to allow for the recovery of his best mental and physical states. Explaining, he says that, "The process of self-healing is not easy. You must find a way to get back on your feet, go back to the table, and grab the next victory."

## Striving for Glory, Allowing the World to See Taiwan

Currently, Chiang is ranked 76<sup>th</sup> in the world (highest ranking 47<sup>th</sup>). To prepare for this year's Rio Olympics and the 2017 Taipei Summer Universiade, his daily training menu has been very full. It includes fitness routine, sprinting, jumping rope, muscle strengthening, and cardio and core training exercises. He notes

that, "Chinese, Japanese, Korean, and Russian athletes are my imaginary opponents. If I can complete the most difficult training well, and understand my opponents' strategies and movements, I will know what to do."

Of those moments of victory, and standing on a podium to receive a medal, Chiang says that, "When I see our federation flag waving, I get goosebumps. I feel proud and hon-

ored to be Taiwanese!" He adds that, with the home-court advantage of the 2017 Universiade, "I really want to win the men's team gold, and let the world know that Taiwan is a formidable nation!" 🇹🇼



### Hung-Chieh Chiang's Medals Record

- 2006 Men's singles champion, World Junior Circuit Finals
- 2007 Men's doubles bronze medal, men's team bronze medal, Bangkok Summer Universiade
- 2008 Men's singles under 21 division champion, ITTF World Tour Finals
- 2009 Men's singles gold medal, mixed doubles gold medal, Belgrade, Serbia Universiade
- 2013 Men's doubles gold medal, men's team bronze medal, Kazan, Russia Universiade
- 2013 Men's singles gold medal, men's doubles gold medal, men's team gold medal, National Table Tennis Tournament
- 2015 Men's doubles gold medal, mixed doubles silver medal, men's team bronze medal, Gwangju Summer Universiade
- 2016 Men's doubles gold medal, National Intercollegiate Athletic Games

(Photos: Li Tinghuan)





Three Recommended  
LOHAS Itineraries

# One-Day Tours of Taipei's Green Areas

Article \_\_ You Ziying  
Photos \_\_ Shi Chuntai

How can you make the best of your precious free time and get away from the noise and stress of daily life? Are you tired of going to movie theaters, coffee shops, and department stores? Do you want to travel to someplace scenic, but worry about the crowds and traffic? In truth, with a change in mode of thinking, embracing a green lifestyle can be very simple. Step out-

side your door and travel light. While in Taipei City, take the MRT or ride a YouBike, low-carbon emitting forms of transportation, to enjoy a green, more relaxed lifestyle.

## Embracing New Views on Green

On hot days, the hiking trails and nature parks on the outskirts of Taipei

offer cool retreats. Along the Xiangshan (象山) and Tiger Mountain (Hushan; 虎山) hiking trails are rich flora and fauna, and in the local mountain streams are native fish species such

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1. Walking barefoot on grass is one way to enjoy a beautiful green lifestyle. (Photo: Shi Chuntai)

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2-3. In Taipei, pristine nature is always close at hand. (Photo: Shi Chuntai)



as grouper and goby. The nature parks are alternative ecosystems located within the urban area. Parents can take their children for a day out and become detectives in search of plant hoppers, tree frogs, and lizards.

Along streets, roads, lanes, and alleys are shade trees. They not only make a leisurely stroll pleasant, but are witnesses to human history and culture. Walking along Qingtian Street (青田街), admire the graceful shapes of the old banyan trees and look for

the nests of Formosan blue magpies. Or visit the Taipei Public Library Beitou Branch (台北市立圖書館北投分館) to experience the natural warmth of the wood used in the construction of this green building and the design ingenuity that allows it to blend in with its surroundings. Or walk around Treasure Hill (寶藏巖) and chat with the residents, listening as they share their experiences of ecological farming.

If you are looking for fresh and

healthy dining options, remember to patronize restaurants that use locally sourced ingredients. This will allow you to taste delicious flavors at their purest while supporting local small farms. Moreover, Taipei City has many farmers' markets. These are the best places to purchase safe, fresh foods, as consumers deal directly with first-line producers and gain an understanding of how the food on their dining tables was produced. As such, they are assured that the produce they bring home is fresh and healthy. 📍



(Photo: Shi Chunta)



# Beautiful Forest Scenery Close to the Urban Center

Article \_\_ Du Yunru  
Photos \_\_ Shi Chunta, Wu Jinshi

Xinyi District is a shoppers' paradise. Yet in addition to its fashion boutiques and department stores, there is abundant natural scenery. All that is required to reach its scenic natural areas is a ride on the MRT or a YouBike. Next to this busy city district are hiking trails through hills that can be easily completed by people of average fitness. Near Taipei 101 is an old military dependents' village, where there is a local market selling fresh farm produce.

Not far from the neighborhood is an ecological park that is an outstanding nature classroom for both children and adults. After experiencing the hustle and bustle of urban life, change direction and find yourself on a wonderful nature journey.

## Xiangshan Hiking Trail – Breathe in the Fresh Air Along a Green Forest Corridor

MRT Xiangshan Station is close to

the Xiangshan (“Elephant Mountain”) Hiking Trail (象山親山步道). Due to the diverse terrain on Xiangshan, including exposed rock faces, crest line, slopes, valley, and gorge, it possesses rich flora. Just in terms of ferns, more than 70 species are to be found. This area also boasts the largest numbers of woolly ferns and brush pot trees in Taipei. In warm weather, it is best to hike early in the morning when the trail is shrouded in the dense shade of



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1. Rambling the shaded Xiangshan Hiking Trail, the heat of the city seems far away. (Photo: Shi Chuntai)
  2. Zhongqiang Park is a precious tree frog preserve located within Taipei city limits. (Photo: Shi Chuntai)
- 



the vegetation, providing a cool break from the city heat.

According to the Geotechnical Engineering Office, Public Works Department, Taipei City Government (台北市工務局大地工程處), there is little variation in Xiangshan's vegetation over the four seasons of the year. Therefore, there is opportunity all year round to come across such species as the Taipei tree frog, Latouche's frog, and Muller's barbet. In warm weather plant hoppers may appear, an important ecological-observation indicator. While hiking here, take the time to search for these natural treasures.

### Tiger Mountain Hiking Trail – Cool and Refreshing Fish Spotting

Xiangshan and Hushan belong to the same Sishou (四獸) mountain system, and their hiking trails are connected. Individuals in good physical shape can complete the Xiangshan Hiking Trail, then pass Jiuwu Peak (九五峰) to connect to Tiger Mountain pathways. Along this route is the Tiger Mountain Hiking Trail (虎山登山步道), which follows Hushan Creek's (虎山溪) banks and is shaded on both sides by vegetation. Accompanied by the sounds of the gurgling water, this is a place of rich ecology.

In recent years, progress has been made in protecting the fish populations of Hushan Creek. Making use of the uneven river-terrace terrain, habitats have been created for numerous species of aquatic plants and animals. In the crystal-clear waters of this creek guppy and goby can be seen, as well as other native fish species. According to the Geotechnical Engineering Office, the nearby residents are very happy to see that the ecosystem is gradually being restored, and that this is becoming an ecological park. Slow down your pace and rest for a while in a pavilion, admiring the schools of fish or the egrets foraging for food, enjoying the small moments of urban LOHAS living.

## Transportation



MRT Xiangshan Station

Walking time 16 minutes



Ride YouBike

Xiangshan Hiking Trail

Tiger Mountain Hiking Trail

Ride YouBike



MRT Taipei 101/World Trade Center Station

Walking time 10 minutes

Zhongqiang Park

Walking time 3 minutes



44 South Village Simple Market

**Xiangshan Hiking Trail:** From Exit 2 of MRT Xiangshan Station, walk approximately 16 minutes toward Zhongqiang Park. The entrance to the hiking trail is located along Alley 22, Lane 150, Section 5, Xinyi Road (信義路).

**Tiger Mountain Hiking Trail:** From Exit 2 of MRT Houshanpi Station, walk approximately 26 minutes toward Cihui Temple (慈惠堂), or ride a YouBike. The trail entrance is located along Lane 251, Fude Street (福德街).

**Zhongqiang Park:** From Exit 2 of MRT Xiangshan Station, walk approximately 12 minutes.

**44 South Village Simple Market:** From Exit 2 of MRT Taipei 101/World Trade Center Station, walk approximately 3 minutes.



### Zhongqiang Park – Observing Tree Frog Ecology

Zhongqiang Park (中強公園) is located at the foot of Xiangshan. Here, old trees provide shade, and the air is filled with the calls and songs of birds and the sweet fragrances of flowers in bloom. This park, rich in both plant and wildlife, is Taipei’s well-known tree frog reserve.

To allow the Taipei tree frog population to increase, giant upright elephant ear and wild ginger lily have been planted to create a precious wetland environment. Zhou Ziqin (周子欽), president of the Sanli Community Development Association (三犁社區發展協會), which has long worked to promote tree frog conservation, says that in winter

Taipei tree frogs move down from Xiangshan to this park to lay eggs. In summer, the ornate narrow-mouthed toad, olive frog, Brauer’s tree frog, and other native species can be observed in the park’s wetland area. It is also possible to see Formosan blue magpies nesting in the trees, as well as the larvae of fireflies in the ecological pond.

### 44 South Village Simple Market – Experience Natural Flavors and Aromas

44 South Village (四四南村) is Taiwan’s first military dependents’ village cultural preservation site. The old, low houses and soaring height of the surrounding skyscrapers create a striking contrast, this site’s most distinctive feature. Every Sunday from

1:00 to 7:00 pm the village becomes a great shopping destination, when the 44 South Village Simple Market (四四南村簡單市集) is held. This is a place to purchase local farm produce and cultural-creative products, and to enjoy live performances.

There are a variety of stalls at this market, including ones selling local farm products produced using natural farming methods, and beauty products comprised of natural ingredients. He Yiting (何奕廷) and his son, from Jinguang Garden (金光園圃), note that, “In summer, people should eat more sweet potato leaves, squash, pumpkin, and other seasonal foods. In this way, they are not only eating fresh, natural, and organic foods, but



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3. Walking along the banks of Hushan Creek listening to the sounds of the murmuring waters is very therapeutic. (Photo: Shi Chuntai)
4. The 44 South Village Simple Market is a place for residents to purchase local farm produce and cultural-creative products, as well as to enjoy live performances. (Photo: Shi Chuntai)
- 

healthy foods as well.” To provide more choices to the public, they are currently attempting to grow bananas organically, and hope to produce other organic fruits and vegetables. 📍

## Locally Produced Food Tastes Best: Farmers' Table

The flagship products at Farmers' Table (小農鍋物) are ingredients in their original state. This restaurant collaborates with small farms all around Taiwan that use natural methods of irrigation and cultivation. From the hotpot broth to the cooked foods, all ingredients are fresh and safe. The fruits and vegetables on offer are adjusted daily, based on the season and variations in supply.

General Manager Tang Cixiang (唐慈鄉) says that there are many in-season ingredients served in this restaurant that are rarely seen in other hotpot restaurants, such as tuberose, snake gourd, and purple yam. The refreshing broth, which possesses a natural sweetness, is used to cook slices of meat and vegetables. There is no need to use any dipping sauces – the fresh, delicate flavors tantalize the taste buds. Diners will be surprised that there is no feeling of heaviness after eating a hotpot meal here. On one side is a fresh food-sales area, where diners can purchase produce to take home. While enjoying the delicious flavors, they can experience the feeling of security from eating foods that have been brought directly from their production area to the dining table.



🌐 [www.facebook.com/farmerstabetw](http://www.facebook.com/farmerstabetw)

📍 B2, 19, Songgao Rd.; B2, A4 Building, Shin Kong Mitsukoshi Xinyi Place (松高路 19 號 B2; 新光三越信義新天地 A4 館 B2)

☎ (02)2722-1883



(Photo: Wu Jinshi)



South Taipei Shaded  
Walks Route –  
Coexisting with Nature

# Tranquil Streets Close to Nature

Article — Chen Wanjing

Photos — Shi Chuntai, Wu Jinshi, You Ziyang





In your free time, take a Taipei green tour. Early in the morning, head to Fuyang Eco Park (富陽自然生態公園) and breathe in the fresh air. In the afternoon, enjoy a leisurely YouBike ride or stroll along Qingtian Street (青田街), admiring the old homes down the shaded side lanes and alleys. Then, visit the Water Garden Organic Farmers' Market (水花園有機農夫市集) at Taipei Water Park (自來水園區), and purchase a week's worth of groceries directly from small farm owners. At night, head to Treasure Hill Artist Village (寶藏巖國際藝術村) and get away from the daytime heat. Treasure hunting under the moonlight is a different way to have fun.

### Fuyang Eco Park – Protected Habitat for Three Bird Musketeers

A visit to Fuyang Eco Park is sure to be filled with pleasant surprises. Just a few minutes' walk takes you from an active area next to an MRT station to dense forest. This park, which occupies an area of 3.8 hectares, was originally the site of a military ammunition depot. Due to long-term restricted access to the area its ecology has remained intact, preserving a rare low-elevation forested area within a city and providing a convenient retreat.

There are more than 300 species of plant within this park. Among them, at least a dozen are protected. According to the Society of Wilderness (荒野保護協會), plant hoppers lay

their eggs in Chinese tallow trees in warm weather, and this is the best time to observe them. As these insects are a main food source for the Swinhoe's tree lizard, this is also when it is relatively easy to spot these reptiles. When they lie prostrate and their body becomes rigid, this is a warning not to encroach on their territory.

The so-called "Three Musketeers of Fuyang" (富陽三劍客) are the Muller's barbet, Japanese white-eye, and black bulbul. It is possible to spot these three bird species in the treetops. If you would like a deeper look into this green treasure-house, free guided tours are offered in the morning on the second Sunday of each month, with advance registration online required.

### Qingtian Street – Urban Green Corridor

Riding a bicycle or walking are the best methods for taking in the sights along Qingtian Street. This was once an area of faculty housing for

Taihoku Imperial University (today's National Taiwan University; 國立台灣大學). The scholars that lived here planted many types of tree, including sweetgum, bodhi, *Magnolia kachirachirai*, breadfruit, Taiwan incense cedar, and royal palm. Together, they form a continuous green canopy that is eco-rich, as they attract birds to nest. There are bird songs and calls year round. People, old homes, and old trees coexist harmoniously along Qingtian Street, creating a unique tranquility.

Community residents work in unity to protect these old trees, which connect to nearby Daan Park (大安森林公園) in a long green sprawl. Hong Qiuja (洪秋甲), chief of Lon-

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1. The many trees along Qingtian Street provide shade; down the side lanes and alleys, they form a continuous green canopy. (Photo: Shi Chuntai)
  2. In Fuyang Eco Park, small animal sightings are common. (Photo: Shi Chuntai)
- 





3. Farmers and the public share their interest in friendly cultivation methods. (Photo: Shi Chuntai)

### Treasure Hill Artist Village – Edible Landscapes

Passing the burning incense sticks and candles at Treasure Hill Temple (寶藏巖寺), you will come to an artist village. Follow the winding slope, and feel yourself caught up in the artistic atmosphere. Set your sights on the plots of land that make up the community’s eco farm, adding to its flourishing landscape.

According to the Treasure Hill Community Association (寶藏巖文化村協會), when the decision was made to create an edible landscape, an artist produced the first design. Residents have now adopted an eco-garden approach. Vegetables and fruit trees make up the landscape, and are integrated with the communal-eating traditions of the settlement. This has led to a community in which ecology, art, and communal living coexist. Heavy losses were sustained last year due to Typhoon Soudelor, but after a period of eight months the edible landscape was restored. In April of this year, children from the National Taiwan University Preschool (台灣大學附設幼稚園) were invited to plant seeds, such as squash, water spinach, and sweet potato leaves, and the summer seasonal vegetables have already been harvested.

gan Borough (龍安里), says that, “The Malayan night heron, which prefers to stay hidden, has been seen flying from Daan Park to Qingtian Street to forage for food.” Other bird species can also be seen here, including Muller’s barbets and ring-necked doves. Visit Qingtian Street, enjoying the tranquil atmosphere under a flame tree, with its brilliantly colored blossoms, and observe how local residents are putting green living into practice by planting starfruit trees and dragon fruit.

### Water Garden Organic Farmers’ Market – Fresh Produce to Take Home

In Taipei Water Park, located in Gongguan (公館), you’ll see a group of happy organic farmers manning stalls in the Water Garden from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. every Saturday. View fresh fruits and vegetables of every imaginable color, and feel your mood brighten.

A farmer from Zaoqiao Township (造橋鄉) in Miaoli County (苗栗縣) displays fresh cucumbers, okra, and long beans. From time to time, he can be heard sharing his farming experiences with passersby. From these conversations, it is easy to get a sense of his enthusiasm for organic farming. Another farmer, from faraway Pingtung County (屏東縣), runs a fruit orchard in the north of Gaoshu Township (高樹鄉). This producer has brought pineapples, dragon fruit, and papayas, as well as delicious jams made using fresh fruit, insisting on providing customers with the most delicious in-season flavors.

At the Water Garden, you’ll not only enjoy the fun of shopping, but also gain better understanding of the hardships of organic farming, and see how these organic cultivators cherish the environment, have a fervent love for this land, and work hard to produce healthy foods.

## Transportation



MRT Linguang Station

Walking time 5 minutes



MRT Guting Station

MRT transfer 45 minutes



Ride YouBike

Qingtian Street

Ride YouBike

MRT Gongguan Station

Walking time 6 minutes

Water Garden Organic Farmers' Market



MRT Gongguan Station

Walking time 23 minutes

Treasure Hill Artist Village

**Fuyang Eco Park:** From Exit 1 of MRT Linguang Station, walk approximately 5 minutes.

**Qingtian Street:** From Exit 2 of MRT Guting Station, rent a YouBike and ride toward Daan Park.

**Water Garden Organic Farmers' Market:** From Exit 4 of MRT Gongguan Station, walk approximately 6 minutes in the direction of Siyuan Street (思源街).

**Treasure Hill Artist Village:** From Exit 1 of MRT Gongguan Station, walk 23 minutes in the direction of, and then along, Tingzhou Road (汀州路).



In addition to viewing the eco farm, visitors can walk to Yongfu Park (永福公園), located along the banks of the Xindian River (新店溪) below Treasure Hill. In this park is a water-play area and ecological corridor. In warm weather, bright white shellflowers and wild ginger lilies can be seen. This is also a good location for photographing Treasure Hill. 📍

4. Treasure Hill's eco farm, after suffering damage in a typhoon, has been restored and is once again prospering. (Photo: You Ziying)

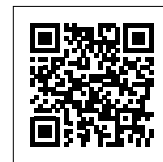
## Locally Produced Food Tastes Best: “I Love You Rice Market” Experimental Kitchen

After returning to the farming industry Luo Wenjia (羅文嘉), former chair of the Council of Hakka Affairs, Executive Yuan (行政院客家委員會), opened an experimental kitchen called “I Love You Rice” on the second floor above the “I Love You Rice Market” (我愛你學田市集), on Ruian Street (瑞安街). He invited Jimmy Su (蘇彥彰), a Le Cordon Bleu executive chef who shares his ideals, to reinterpret local Taiwan ingredients. No excessive seasoning or cooking is used, to preserve the original flavors of the foods.

Yu Xinghui, who manages the kitchen, says that the menu changes seasonally. The specialty dish, roasted vegetables, is naturally very colorful and appetizing. French fries are cooked in duck oil that is condensed in the kitchen from Yilan cherry duck oil, and are served very crispy. The Kavalan black pig pork chop (葛瑪蘭黑豬排), made from selected Yilan-raised Berkshire black pigs, has meat that is sweet and tender. Only limited quantities are available each month. On the first floor, diners can buy produce from the small farmers’ market, and can head next door to the Buffalo Bookstore (水牛書店) to choose a good book. The combination of books and produce reveals the attention and care given toward the land and people.



(photo: Wu Jinshi)



🌐 [www.buffalo1966.tw/ilov-yourrice](http://www.buffalo1966.tw/ilov-yourrice)

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# Paradise Within the Urban Jungle

(Photo: Shi Chuntai)

Article — Meng Jinlan  
Photos — Shi Chuntai, Wu Jinshi

Nature lovers do not need to go far in Taipei to visit a secluded green building, shop for healthy, seasonal produce at a farmer's market, and relax while watching the sunset from a hiking trail before quietly admiring the nightscape. In Taipei, a green lifestyle is right beside you; you just need to take the first step in exploring all that is beautiful.

## Taipei Public Library Beitou Branch – Diamond-Class Green Building

Walking through Beitou Park (北投公園), you will see a rich green space complemented by a babbling brook, public outdoor hot-spring pools, the Beitou Hot Spring Museum (北投溫泉博物館), and other attrac-

tions. In addition, an old stone bridge has been preserved since the Japanese era. Added to this is the faint odor of sulfur in the air. There is an unavoidable feeling of stepping back in time, as if experiencing this hot-springs enclave as it was 100 years ago. Blending new and old elements, the Taipei Public Library Beitou Branch, which was completed in 2006, does not appear at all out of place. Looking as if it has long been here, it blends in well with the surrounding scenery.

From the initiation of the design process, environmental conservation has been the starting point for the Taipei Public Library Beitou Branch, including the use of construction materials, structure, and layout. On the roof are

solar panels, and there is copious use of glass to allow in natural light. A rainwater collection and recycling system has been installed, and on the roof is grass cover. Each detail builds on the use of natural power, leading to reduction in energy use and harm to the environment. This has resulted in designation as Taiwan's first diamond-class green building, and a US-based website has also named this one of the world's 25 most beautiful public libraries.

## Taipei Expo Farmer's Market – Great Place for Purchasing Healthy Ingredients

If you are concerned about food safety, and would like to buy the healthiest ingredients directly from the farmers who produce them, visit the Taipei Expo Farmer's Market (台北花博農民市集), held every Saturday and Sunday, to search for food treasures.



Taipei Expo Park (花博公園) is located next to MRT Yuanshan Station (捷運圓山站). Every weekend it becomes a platform for exchanges between city residents and farmers from all over Taiwan. The farmers that set up stalls here have all been recommended by the farmers' association in the city or county in which they live. Products sold here are safe, grown with non-toxic methods. They also come with a complete traceability and testing report to ensure consumers' peace of mind.

Zhang Shuisheng (張水勝), who represents the Changhua Coffee Production and Marketing Group (彰化咖啡產銷班), brings coffee beans grown on Baguashan (Mt. Bagua; 八卦山), and shares their aroma and taste with visitors to his stall. He says that, "Our coffee is mild, and not excessively stimulating. With each sip, the sweet harmony of flavors lasts for a long time." He adds that the coffee from his production and marketing group has been certified by the Specialty Coffee Association of America (SCAA) for three consecutive years, its high quality bringing the coffee top marks.

In addition, promotional events related to seasonal vegetables and fruits are held, such as for Shetou (社頭) guava, Miaoli (苗栗) sand pears, and Tainan (台南) mangoes. These are the best-tasting fruits during the hot-weather months. Visit the Taipei Expo Farmer's Market and experience Taiwan's rich diversity of farm produce for yourself.

### Neishuangxi Nature Center – Premier Nature Classroom

Just to the north of the Neishuangxi Nature Center (內雙溪自然中心) is Yangmingshan National Park (陽明山國家公園). On its east are Wanli (萬里) and Xizhi (汐止). To the south, crossing Daluntoushan (Mt. Daluntou; 大崙頭山) and Dalunweishan (Mt. Dalunwei; 大崙尾山), is Neihu (內湖). Covering an area of 104 hectares, this park possesses tropical, subtropical, and temperate broadleaf forest. Rich in resources, including wildlife, plant life, and geological features, it is a precious forest area along the outskirts of Taipei City. Within the park

are forest and geology classrooms, a medicinal-plant garden, Bixi Nature Trail (碧溪自然步道), and the Daluntoushan Trail Group (大崙頭山步道群). The former Xi-Shan Nursery (溪山苗圃) is now an education center.

According to the Geotechnical Engineering Office of the Public Works Department, Taipei City Government, partial renovation work is currently being carried out. However, visitors can still view the medicinal-plant garden, and sign up for environmental-education guided tours providing in-depth exploration of a diversity of seasonal plants, such as wishbone flower, star cluster, mint, and sweet chrysanthemum. At the same time, they can enjoy a natural forest symphony of the songs and calls of the Latouche's frog, katydid, and Formosan blue magpie.


### Jiantan Mountain Hiking Trail – Taipei Nightscape Views

Standing on the Old Place Plane-Spotting Platform (老地方觀機平台), along the Jiantan Mountain Hiking Trail



1. You can interact directly with farmers when shopping at the Taipei Expo Farmer's Market. (Photo: Shi Chuntai)
2. In hot weather, rhinoceros beetles appear at the Neishuangxi Nature Center. (Photo: Shi Chuntai)
3. The Taipei Public Library Beitou Branch blends in naturally with its surroundings. It is Taiwan's first diamond-class green building. (Photo: Shi Chuntai)
4. The Jiantan Mountain Hiking Trail is of "lightweight grade", making it well suited for families. (Photo: Shi Chuntai)

(劍潭山登山步道), off to the left is Taipei 101, for a time the tallest building in the world. To the right is the Shin Kong Life Tower (新光大樓), once Taipei's tallest building. Directly ahead you can see airplanes taking off and landing at Taipei Songshan Airport (台北松山機場). It is difficult not to feel moved, as from this vantage point Taipei is a picture of beauty.

Jiantan Mountain Hiking Trail is of "lightweight grade." The tallest peak is at an elevation of just 153 meters. Along this trail are many scenic spots; in addition to what is called the area's "Eighth Beauty" (八美), the Old Place, there is the "Seventh Beauty" (七美), where you can watch the sunset over Tamsui (淡水). If you have not yet walked too far, after the sunset return to the Old Place to wait for the night view, when myriad twinkling lights will appear before your eyes. 

### Locally Produced Food Tastes Best: SheMe To Go



SheMe To Go combines three brands, Beitou's SheMe House (拾米屋), 55th Street Craft Brewery (55街精釀啤酒), and Shang Qing Restaurant (上清料理) to create this fine-food restaurant and bar. It makes use of healthy, fresh ingredients to produce natural cuisine. Products include roasted coffee beans, domestic and imported natural foods, and homemade desserts.

Su Yifan (蘇怡帆), the chef, says that all of the items on the menu, without exception, are handmade with ingredients produced in a friendly environment. For example, the eggs used to make the homemade desserts are from farms that allow their chickens to roam freely under the sun (free-range eggs). In addition, the spices in the curry are ground and mixed by hand. The owner insists on the concept of delicious ingredients and friendly land use in the making of the dishes, providing diners with the best tastes of Taiwan.



 [www.facebook.com/shemetogo](http://www.facebook.com/shemetogo)  
 12, Quanyuan, Rd. (泉源路 12 號)  
 (02)2892-6040

# Transportation



MRT Xinbeitou Station

Walking time 6 minutes



MRT Xinbeitou Station

Walking time 6 minutes

Taipei Public Library Beitou Branch

MRT transfer 30 minutes



MRT Yuanshan Station

Walking time 1 minute

Taipei Expo Farmer's Market



MRT Jiantan Station

Neishuangxi Nature Center

Walking time 20 minutes following Citizen Mini Bus 18 transfer



MRT Jiantan Station

Walking time 12 minutes

Jiantan Mountain Hiking Trail

**Taipei Public Library Beitou Branch:** From MRT Xinbeitou Station, walk approximately 6 minutes.

**Taipei Expo Farmer's Market:** From Exit 1 of MRT Yuanshan Station, walk approximately 1 minute.

**Neishuangxi Nature Center:** From MRT Jiantan Station, transfer to Citizen Mini Bus 18 and get off at the Bixi Bridge (碧溪橋) stop. Cross the bridge and walk approximately 20 minutes.

**Jiantan Mountain Hiking Trail:** From MRT Jiantan Station, walk along Zhongshan North Road (中山北路) toward the Grand Hotel (圓山飯店) for approximately 500 meters, to the Jiantan bus stop (劍潭站). The trail entrance is near this bus stop.



## Developing Taipei Into a Friendly, Easy-to-Travel City

# Thoughtful Mobile Visitor Information Service

Article \_\_ Zhang Huanpeng

Photos \_\_ Gao Zanzian, Jin Kanglan



1. Every weekend, Mobile Visitor Information Service attendants provide tourism information services in Ximending, Xinyi and Shilin. (Photo: Gao Zanzian)

It is the weekend, and Ximending (西門町) is bustling with activity. A woman with blond hair lowers her head to study the map in her hand. From time to time she looks up, and then right and left, her expression revealing her state of confusion. A young man takes the initiative, walking up to her, saying hello, and asking if she is in need of assistance. The woman looks as if she has found her savior, a smile of relief on her face.

This woman's name is Cindy. She has come alone from London as an independent traveler. Wanting to visit Longshan Temple (龍山寺), she hasn't been able to find her way. With the enthusiastic assistance of this young man, Cindy is able to understand the route that she needs to take to reach her

destination. This young man is a Taipei Visitor Information Center "Mobile Visitor Information Service Attendant" (走動式青年旅遊服務員). Every weekend, he and other service attendants appear in such popular tourist spots as Ximending, Shilin, and Xinyi, providing "mobile" travel information and services to domestic and international tourists.

### Barrier-Free Communication in a Multitude of Languages

Taipei 101, Shilin Night Market (士林夜市), the National Palace Museum, and Ximending are some of Taipei's most representative tourist spots, and are must-see destinations for visitors from around Taiwan and abroad. The Department of Information and Tourism, Taipei City Government, in an effort to

reduce any inconvenience caused by not being able to immediately locate a fixed visitor service center or encountering a language barrier, has assigned mobile visitor information service personnel proficient in three foreign languages, English, Japanese, and Korean, to provide directions and travel information on Saturdays and Sundays until December 31<sup>st</sup> of this year.

Wang Shijia (王施佳), head of the City Tourism Division (城市旅遊科) of the Department of Information and Tourism, states that "considerate," "secure," and "happy" are the three main adjectives associated with mobile visitor information services. Guided tours are offered on weekends and holidays in fixed places and at fixed times; this is the "considerate" aspect. Services are provided in a multitude of languages, enabling barrier-free communication with international travelers and bringing them a "secure" feeling. Working with Taiwan Mobile Telecom (台灣大哥大), chosen as exclusive-sponsor

supplier of tablet computers and mobile Internet access, prompt and comprehensive services are provided, enabling tourists to feel “happy” during their limited amount of time traveling in Taipei.

## Enthusiastic Diplomatic Vanguard

This year, a total of 60 outstanding young people have joined the mobile visitor information service staff, chosen from among more than 400 applicants. Each has his or her own area of specialty and strengths. Zhang Mengru (張夢如), who once worked at the Taipei Rapid Transit Corporation (台北捷運公司), is proficient in several languages. In addition to being fluent in English and French, she has no difficulty communicating in Japanese and Korean. Zhang believes that she learns a lot from helping tourists resolve various problems.

“*Wo hao xihuan Taipei!*” says Tsukada Shoko – “I really like Taipei!” – speaking in Chinese with a Japanese accent. She is a graduate of Otsuma Women’s University in Japan. An avid traveler, she has visited a number of countries, but loves Taipei the most. Currently on a working holiday visa, she very much hopes to play a part in creating a friendly tourism environment in Taipei.

Jiang Yi (江怡) is a young person who already has impressive work experience. She has worked in public relations at the National Taipei University of Technology Innovation & Incubation Center (國立台北科技大學創新育成中心), as a social media manager, and as a product manager for a technology company. Proficient in Korean, she has been on the receiving end of mobile tourism service when traveling abroad, and thus wishes to help

other international travelers in her spare time.

Whether the day is bright and sunny or cold and windy, these mobile visitor information service attendants must spend long hours outdoors. This is a job that requires a great deal of enthusiasm. Yu-yen Chien (簡余晏), commissioner of the Department of Information and Tourism, has expressed her affirmation and gratitude to each of the mobile visitor information service attendants: “Thank you for your hard work! Due to your efforts and determination, you have helped to build an even friendlier image for this city.” In her eyes, these enthusiastic young people are Taipei’s most outstanding frontline diplomatic personnel. **T**

2. Taipei Mobile Visitor Information Service attendants speak a number of foreign languages for barrier-free communication with international travelers. (Photo: Jin Kanglan)



# Reliving Childhood Memories Taiwan-Born Japanese Visit Their School of Long Ago

Article \_\_ Cai Jiawei  
Photos \_\_ Chen Zhengguo, Cai Jiawei

At the most recent triennial gathering Arai Motoya, the president of the Jian Cheng Elementary School alumni association, talked about his memories of the past. (Photo: Cai Jiawei)



Jian Cheng Junior High School (建成國中), located in Taipei City's Zhongshan District, was known as Jian Cheng Elementary School (建成國小) during Taiwan's period of Japanese colonial rule. At that time the students, mostly Japanese, with a small number of Taiwanese, were from the old Taipei walled city and Dadaocheng areas. The school boasted comprehensive facilities, including two swimming pools and one sumo-wrestling area, where many top athletes were trained. Following the passage of time, this has become a place of nostalgia for former students of Japanese descent born in Taiwan.

Second-generation Japanese students born in Taiwan during the Japanese era (1895-1945) who studied at Jian Cheng Elementary School were repatriated to

Japan with their families following the end of World War II. However, for these students, the thought that "I was born in Taiwan" remains a most precious memory. In more recent times, with the opening up of Taiwan politically, these former students established an alumni association to visit their alma mater in Taiwan once every three years, as well as to carry out exchanges with current Jian Cheng Junior High School students.

## Memories of Things Past

In 2001, the first such trip was organized. That year more than 200 alumni association members returned to Taiwan, accompanied by their family members. This year many of the elderly alumni were not up to the trip due to physical limitations and health reasons, and only eight members came to Taiwan, each nearly 90

years of age. "This is where I used to sit!" exclaimed one. At that time, the red-brick schoolhouse was a palace of learning for many students. In that space, it is as if the past and present have intersected. During their visit the elderly alumni touched each brick and tile of the schoolhouse, symbolizing the handing down of desks and chairs to the following generations of students, and the forming of a connection between new and old memories.

Arai Motoya, who is 88, is a graduate of Jian Cheng Elementary School and president of the association formed by these Japanese alumni. Thinking about the past, he said that when he was attending Jian Cheng Elementary School he was a member of the sumo-wrestling team. As someone who is fond of sports, he said that he remembers where the stadium



and swimming pools were located. Sitting next to him, Ohno Hironari chimed in, “When I was little I loved the school’s sports stadium the most. I especially remember the sports day *kibasen* (literally cavalry fight, a game similar to shoulder wars or chicken fights) and *bo-taoshi* (pole toppling) competitions. Even now, I still remember them very clearly!”


For this gathering of the Jian Cheng Elementary School alumni association, Jian Cheng Junior High School prepared an old map of the area surrounding the school during the Japanese era. This map was drawn by Tokumaru Sachio, a graduate of the school’s 15th class. When these elderly alumni saw the map of the school and the houses surrounding it, they excitedly pointed out the route that they took to school, and the places where they played with their friends. Nakata Yoshiko, who is now 85, lived along what is today Zhongshan North Road (中山北路) when she was a child. Pointing to the Tokumaru Hair Salon (德丸理

髮店), she said, “That was my home!” Having not visited Taiwan in a long time, she gazed in wonder at the rows of tall buildings that now line Zhongshan North Road and the old Hayashida Bucket Shop (林田桶店) which still stands across from where she used to live, sharing with the group how she and the former owner of that shop were close friends at school. Although this old friend has passed away, she will never forget that time.

In addition to these eight elderly alumni, a seat was kept for Shigeru Okabe, who passed away last year. Okabe visited Taiwan many times during his lifetime. Taiwan was never far from his mind, even as he grew older. This year his granddaughter, Suzuki Chie, came with the group, as she had heard many stories about Taiwan from her grandfather. She said that, “For his whole life, my grandfather believed that his homeland was Taiwan, and that to have been born in Taiwan was really a wonderful thing!”

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1. Taiwan-born Japanese students who studied at Jian Cheng Elementary School during the Japanese era returned to Taipei to recapture the warm memories of those times. (Photo: Chen Zhengguo)
  2. At the Songjiang Market (松江市場), members of the Jian Cheng Elementary School alumni association looked for their favorite fruits from their elementary school years. (Photo: Chen Zhengguo)
- 

Though his seat was empty, it was nevertheless filled with countless glorious memories. No matter how much time passes, Jian Cheng Elementary School will always reserve a place for him.

As these elderly alumni talked and laughed, that period of history seemed to come to life. Through the memories and eyes of these former students, we can recall Taipei’s past. Behind every smile, the scars of history have gradually healed, hastening in a different and meaningful historical context for this city. 

## Malaysia: A Place of Diversity That Welcomes All

# Sharing Its Muslim Friendly Tourism Experience With Taiwan

Article \_\_ Cheryl Robbins  
Photos \_\_ You Jiahuan

For the last two and a half years, Ahmad Faisal has served as director of the Malaysia Promotion Board Taiwan (馬來西亞觀光局在台辦事處). He is tasked with promoting Malaysia's tourism to the Taiwan market. As a believer in the power of networking, he is also a willing participant in the sharing of Malaysia's successful tourism experience with Taiwan, especially in the area of Muslim-friendly tourism.

Born and raised in a small town in the state of Selangor, Faisal longed to travel and see the world. Thus, at a young age he began his career at the Malaysia Tourism Board as a tourism officer. For the past 15 years, he has worked his way up the ranks to his current position. When looking back on his decision to enter the tourism industry, Faisal enthusiastically offers up his own definition of tourism: happiness. "You meet with new people every day. You experience travel and different cultures and carry out networking. It is a fun industry." It also suits his

personality well, as he explains, "I don't like to stay in one place, such as in an office, and I quickly become bored if I have to do the same thing over and over again. Thus, this is the best career for me."

Although an avid traveler, he had not had the opportunity to visit Taiwan before his posting to Taipei in January of 2014. He found that it differed greatly from his expectation, but pleasantly so. "It is very convenient and very advanced. It's a good place to travel and have a career. It's a country with a good future."

## Studying the Language Opened the Doors to Travel in Taiwan

Although Faisal enjoys living in Taipei, he admits that there were a few challenges at first. He had not studied Mandarin before coming to Taiwan and found it difficult to travel around the island and to buy things that he needed on his own. He decided to hire a private tutor. After studying for two years he can now carry out basic communication, which allows him to explore Taiwan during his free time, something he enjoys very much.



(Photo: You Jiahuan)



Faisal says that when he promotes Malaysia to Taiwanese travelers, he is not just selling a destination, but an experience. (Photo: You Jiahuan)

The majority of Malaysia's population is Muslim, as is Faisal. He has discovered that there are many halal restaurants in Taipei that serve a variety of flavors, such as from the Middle East, Thailand, Indonesia and India. Outside of Taipei there are few certified halal restaurants. However, he expects this situation to improve over time with the central government's aggressive efforts to create and promote a Muslim-friendly environment.

### Learning From the Malaysian Experience

Taiwan's government has been keen to learn from Malaysia's experience in serving and attracting Muslim tourists, as for several years an online survey conducted by a Singapore-based travel portal has shown Malaysia to be the world's top Muslim-friendly destination, among 50 countries analyzed.

Faisal notes that he and other Malaysian experts have been happy to work with Taiwan's Tourism Bureau (觀光局) and have participated in the organizing of forums to provide advice on how to market Taiwan to Muslim tourists from Malaysia, such as the types of facilities that Muslim tourists want and need. "We have shared this experience with the Tourism Bureau during last year's ITF (International Travel Fair). And,

He is a self-professed nature lover, and is especially fond of hiking and diving. Thus, Hualien (花蓮) and Taitung (台東) have become his favorite destinations. He has attended the hot air balloon festival on the Luye Gaotai (鹿野高台) in Taitung County and has ridden the rapids in a rubber raft along the Xiuguluan River (秀姑巒溪) in Hualien County. The indigenous communities along the east coast remind him of the ethnic communities of Sabah and Sarawak in terms of culture, language and arts and handicrafts. In addition, just as the Amis tribe holds its harvest festival in July and August in eastern Taiwan, there are similar events in Sabah and Sarawak in May and June. As Taiwan is considered the origin of the Austronesian language family, the largest language family in the world, in terms of distribution, and Malaysia is within that distribution, there are relationships between Taiwan's indigenous peoples and some of the ethnic minori-

ty groups of Sabah and Sarawak. This has inspired him to learn more about Taiwan's indigenous culture. He sees these relationships as a bridge for mutual promotion and exchanges between the two countries.

As he is based in Taipei, and, thus, is where he spends most of his time, he does have his favorite places in this city. True to his nature loving spirit, Yangmingshan National Park tops his list. He also includes the Shilin Night Market for its diversity of street foods and Ximending for its diversity of shopping options.

Faisal says that Malaysian tourists tend to focus on culture and nature when planning a trip overseas. They also like to try new foods and Taiwan is blessed in this aspect, especially in terms of street foods. Taipei is a good draw because it has good public transportation and the people are friendly.

we work closely with the Taiwan Tourism Bureau and the Taipei City Government in this effort,” he says.

Most likely, the first aspect of Muslim tourism that comes to mind is food, especially with the significant and recent increases in halal-certified restaurants in Taipei. Faisal notes that halal is a brand and an assurance of safety, quality and humane treatment of animals. Most restaurants in Malaysia serve halal food, even the international fast-food franchises, which are all certified by the Department of Islamic Development Malaysia (JAKIM), Malaysia’s sole halal certification body. This certification body processes applications and carries out evaluations to ensure that there is compliance in all areas. In addition, Faisal notes that most hotels in Malaysia offer Muslim guests information about *qibla* (prayer) direction, as well as prayer mats, in their rooms. Moreover, travel agencies provide tour packages that accommodate religious needs such as prayer stops during tours and halal meals.

Faisal says that while the number of halal restaurants and prayer rooms are increasing in Taipei, there are not yet enough outside of the capital city and more effort should be made in these areas. He also explains that in Malaysia the emphasis is on providing comfort to all travelers, Muslims and non-Muslims alike. All facilities and certifications are universal and can be enjoyed by all. Non-Muslim tourists are encouraged

to experience the country’s Muslim culture and cultural events. They can even join halal gastronomy tours. To gain a deeper understanding, tourists can experience a homestay with a Muslim family. They can live and work with a family and participate in community activities, as well as learn how to cook traditional dishes and farm using traditional methods.

### Taiwan is an Important Tourism Market for Malaysia

Malaysia and Taiwan, although similar in terms of indigenous culture, are unique in terms of religion, architecture and technology. In addition, while both countries boast cultural diversity, Malaysia’s population includes the major Malay, Chinese, and Indian ethnicities, as well as many other ethnic groups.

Faisal says that when he promotes Malaysia to Taiwanese travelers, he likes to emphasize the word “experience”. He adds that, “I am not selling a destination. I am selling an experience. The key to any great trip is the experience.” The current trends among Taiwanese travelers are to visit the beautiful islands along Malaysia’s eastern coast, as well as the naturally diverse state of Sabah and Sarawak. They also like to shop in the country’s modern malls and those traveling with children prefer to visit theme parks such as Legoland and Hello Kitty Town. Of course, Taiwanese are also food lovers and he recommends Penang and Kuala Lumpur for food-

ies. Just this year, Penang was named one of the world’s best food destinations. Faisal explains that, “The dishes in Malaysia are the result of Malay, Indian and Chinese influences. Thus, there is a symphony of flavors. This is one of Malaysia’s advantages.”

Taiwan is currently an emerging tourism market for Malaysia. Last year, 285,000 Taiwanese visited Malaysia. This year, for the period between January and May there was a 13 percent increase over the previous year. Faisal attributes this to better connectivity by air. More and more direct flights are being offered between Taiwan and various destinations in Malaysia. He says that, “This shows how important this market is to Malaysia.” This connectivity issue is something that he has been personally working very hard to improve, by talking with airlines to offer more flights to more destinations, and flights are now available to Kota Kinabalu. These are part of the efforts towards achieving Malaysia’s target of 36 million tourist arrivals and RM168 billion in tourism receipts by 2020, making tourism a very important part of that country’s economy, and accumulating experience that can be shared with other nations.

With its cultural, religious, food and natural diversity, there are unique and exciting experiences awaiting all those who travel to Malaysia. Time to pack your bags! 🧳

# A Traveler's Views – Microscopic and Macroscopic

Article \_\_ Jiang Xinying

Photos \_\_ Yoshifumi Katakura, Chiang Hsinying



Travel involves stepping into unknown, yet beautiful, lands and facing unfamiliar roads, foods, smells, and languages, while wandering about and piecing together a journal of your adventures. Perhaps these are the reasons that travel captivates so many people. Husband-and-wife authors Yoshifumi and Mari Katakura have traveled to more than 60 countries around the world, but have a special liking for Taiwan. In 1997, and again in 1999, they took up residence in and traveled throughout Taiwan, writing, photographing, riding its railways, and researching its history,

recording its quintessential cultural practices and customs. Through the eyes of these travelers we see an even more beautiful Taiwan.

## An Island of Stories – Viewing History Through Travel

For 50 years, from the signing of the Treaty of Shimonoseki in 1895 to 1945, Taiwan experienced various types of interactions between people of different ethnic groups, forging a profound and complicated relationship between Taiwan and Japan. This relationship is today still reflected

in such aspects as culture, language, and architecture. Yoshifumi Katakura visited Taiwan for the first time in 1991. Unable to speak Chinese, he used kanji, a system of writing in the Japanese language similar to Chinese characters, to communicate with locals through reading and writing. He was amazed when he came across elderly people who spoke fluent Japanese. Everywhere he went in Taiwan he observed richness in customs and traditions, which attracted him to research the relationships between Taiwan and Japan. He carried out in-depth explorations of the remaining



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1. Mari Katakura (left) and Yoshifumi Katakura (right), who have published their own books, present the *School Trip Handbook*, commissioned by the Department of Information and Tourism, Taipei City Government, which opens from both right and left and features lively and interesting content. (Photo: Chiang Hsinying)

2. Yoshifumi Katakura records the sounds of Taiwan's railways, including inside the stations, on the platforms, and in the cars. These detailed recordings, which enable him to catch small details that go unnoticed during everyday activities, is what keeps him motivated. (Photo: Yoshifumi Katakura)

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traces of Japanese-era history in all areas of Taiwan. In recent years he has made great efforts to locate and interview Japanese, from all over Japan, who were born and received at least part of their education in Taiwan during the Japanese era. This has created a precious repository of images and text related to this era's people and history.

He believes that there are many ways to interpret each event in history, making it difficult to reach a conclusion. He adds that only through in-depth understanding, and by squarely facing all that has happened, can we understand how to respect one another, and that history should not be confined to textbooks. Katakura therefore feels that he has a mission to help younger generations better understand the history and the influences that events of a past era have had on both nations.

According to a study conducted

by the Educational Tour Institute, in 2014 Taiwan was the favorite destination among Japanese for overseas field trips, with approximately 28,314 arrivals to Taiwan for this purpose. In 2015 the *School Trip Handbook* (台北滿喫) was published by the Department of Information and Tourism, Taipei City Government, for which Katakura was specially invited to serve as editor-in-chief. For the planning and images, he collaborated with the cutting-edge Japanese graphic designer Takora Kimiyoshi Futori. The result is an innovative design accompanied by lively content that appeals to young readers. This handbook has become very popular among Japanese youth. Katakura's schedule now includes about 30 lectures per year in Taiwan and Japan. His topics include food, customs, historical sites, and religious beliefs, i.e. observations of Taiwan from different aspects. His detailed, creative material has inspired more and more people to want to learn about and visit Taiwan.

## A City of Stories – Seeing Life Through Travel

Though they have lived in Taipei for nearly 20 years, Katakura and his wife are still often asked why they like Taiwan. Katakura offers his characteristic squint as he replies: "It seems that the people of Taiwan do not really understand how beautiful Taiwan is." As a railway enthusiast, he likes to spend his time on and around Taiwan's railways, especially platforms and cars. He looks for the minutest sounds and images, and enjoys the human touch associated with riding the rails. Specially mentioning the announcements on the metro systems and trains, he says that, "Taiwan is the only place in the world where announcements in cars are made in four or five languages; that's really unique." This is something familiar for locals, but a thing of fascination for travelers.

Traditional and modern, old-style simplicity and convenience – this




mix of historical sites and contemporary architecture is how those traveling through Taipei over the years have described this city. The original Japanese-era appearances of the National Museum of History (國立歷史博物館), Museum of Drinking Water (自來水博物館), Taipei Guest House (台北賓館), and Presidential Office Building (總統府) have all been retained. Glimpses of history seem to be caught in the exchanges of light and shadow. Both Yangmingshan and Beitou are places to enjoy natural hot springs and relax. Beitou's green-sulfur hot springs of Long Nice Hot Spring (龍乃溫泉) are a rarity, found only in Beitou and Tamagawa, Japan. They contain precious trace elements of radium. Said to rid bathers of fatigue, in Japan they are also called healing hot springs. Another of Katakura's personal favorites is Linji Huguo Zen Temple (臨濟護國禪寺), located next to MRT Yuanshan

Station. Founded by a Japanese monk during Taiwan's Japanese era, it is devoted to worship of the Shakyamuni Buddha. This temple, built in the classic Buddhist temple style of Japan's Edo period, offers a tranquil environment and beautiful surrounding landscapes, making it well suited to spending a leisurely afternoon.

Katakura enthuses that, "The trees in Taipei's parks grow very well in summer, and there are so many birds!" During their long time living in Taipei, the Katakuras have been able to observe the vitality of the land from the smallest of details. Even if there has been pruning, when they awake the next morning they can see that the trees and flowers are once again flourishing. They see this as comparable to the vitality of Taiwan, citing how over the past five years they have seen fervent effort all over this island.

3. Construction on Linji Huguo Zen Temple, next to MRT Yuanshan Station, began in 1900 and ended in 1911. The architecture of the bell tower gate shown here, adjacent to the main hall, echoes that of the Edo period. (Photo: Yoshifumi Katakura)

From The Red House Market for Artists & Designers (西門紅樓創意市集) to the stylish shops that serve as starting points for the promotion of local agricultural products, such efforts symbolize the hard work and growth of Taiwan's young people. Katakura says that, "Twenty years have passed, but the things I don't know seem to grow and grow, making me want to continuously go out and discover." The Taiwan diaries of the Katakuras continue to be written, and the cultural and ethnic diversity of Taiwan continue to make Taiwan unique in the eyes of world travelers. 



## Plaza Before Cisheng Temple (慈聖宮) in Dadaocheng (大稻埕)

Under a banyan tree in front of this temple, it is possible to sample a variety of authentic and traditional Taiwanese foods, such as oyster omelets, savory meat congee (鹹肉粥), braised pork on rice, and pork sparerib soup (排骨湯).

📍 17, Ln. 49, Baoan St.  
(保安街 49 巷 17 號)



## ASW TEA HOUSE

This teahouse, in a Western-style building, is both retro and elegant in style. It sells organic black teas produced in Taiwan. The unique interior design and specially selected teas satisfy the senses of sight and smell. From the second floor, look out over Dadaocheng.

📍 34, Sec. 1, Dihua St.  
(迪化街 1 段 34 號)



## Hei Yan Old-Style Shaved Ice with Brown Sugar (黑岩古早味黑砂糖剉冰)

Here, brown sugar is poured onto finely shaved ice, as in times past. Various ingredients, prepared fresh daily, are then added. Sampling this dish on a hot day is one of life's great pleasures.

📍 195, Jinzhou St. (錦州街 195 號)

## Leputing Brasserie/No. 1 Food Theater (樂埔匯農 / 樂埔町一號糧倉)

Housed in a renovated Japanese-era granary, agricultural products are sold on the first floor. On the second floor is a restaurant. The original structure has been preserved, including the vaulted ceilings. Insistence on the use of local ingredients embodies the "granary" quintessence. This is a fusion-style cultural-creative space that incorporates both history and innovation.

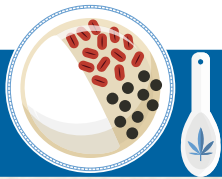
📍 2, Aly. 3, Ln. 346, Sec. 2, Bade Rd. (八德路 2 段 346 巷 3 弄 2 號)





## Delicacy Travel Notes Old Taipei Rambles

Delicacy is always key to good travels. In "gastronomic capital" Taipei, indulging your palate not only guarantees smiles and wonderful experiences, but is perhaps the best of all ways to get intimate with local culture. Let's head out together for mini-tour rambles around three areas percolating with nostalgic aroma – Dadaocheng, Chengzhong District (城中區; the old city-center district), and Dalongdong (大龍峒) – putting together the day's breakfast, brunch, lunch, and dinner as desired, tasting this city's old-time flavors and letting food memories take us into old street scenes.



## Dadaocheng Lohas Tour Starts From Breakfast

Dadaocheng, by the Tamsui River, long thrived as north Taiwan's key river-trading port, becoming the home of many leading Taiwan social figures. Today, the delicious foods before Cisheng Temple, and the old classic tastes found all round, attract travelers in droves.

### Dadaocheng Cisheng Temple – True Local Flavor

The street in front of Cisheng Temple, a temple dedicated to Mazu, seems filled up with food vendors. Many foodie favorites here are the pork-rib soup (排骨湯), salty-meat congee (鹹肉粥), soybraised meats (紅燒肉), four spirits soup (四神湯), "Xu's Pork Knuckle Thin Noodles (許仔豬腳麵線)", "Biao's Squid (魷魚標)", "A-Fa's Seafood Buddha Jumps Over the Wall (阿發海鮮佛跳牆)", and "A-Wan's Mitten Crab (阿萬毛蟹)". Food-loving travelers come from far and wide to sample the terrific tastes.

📍 Ln. 49, Baoan St. (保安街 49 巷)



### Dadaocheng's Environs – Classic Old Flavors

Old streets filled with the foods of regular workaday folk best reveal the attitudes and zest for life of a place's people. Classic Dadaocheng flavor can be found at Minle Street's (民樂街) "Minle Sailfish Rice Noodles (民樂旗魚米粉)", where thin rice noodles and fresh sailfish chunks are served with delicious soup stock. At Yongchang Street's (永昌街) Yongle Mitaimu (永樂米苔目), the mitaimu, a thick rice noodle, is served with stock made with red onion and leek, a savory nostalgic combo. At "Yan Family Almond Sweet Soup (顏記杏仁露)", on Section 1, Dihua Street, the smooth, refreshing, lightly sweet soup is topped with condensed milk and syrup.

#### Minle Sailfish Rice Noodles (民樂旗魚米粉)

📍 3, Minle St. (民樂街 3 號)



#### Golden Celestial Fish Ball (金仙魚丸店)

📍 19, Ln. 233, Nanjing W. Rd. (南京西路 233 巷 19 號)



#### Yan Family Almond Sweet Soup (顏記杏仁露)

📍 21, Sec. 1, Dihua St. (迪化街 1 段 21 號)



#### Yongle Mitaimu (永樂米苔目)

📍 7, Yongchang St. (永昌街 7 號)



#### Old-Time Flavor Budai Famous Foods (古早味布袋名產蚵嗲)

📍 Ln. 36, Sec. 2, Yanping N. Rd. (延平北路 2 段 36 巷)



On Lane 36, Section 2, Yanping North Road (延平北路) you'll find the crispy, delicious oyster fritters of "Old-Time Flavor Budai Famous Foods (古早味布袋名產蚵嗲)", flour used for the fried exterior, oysters and leek the innards stars. On Lane 233, Nanjing West Road (南京西路) is "Tainan Bowl Cake (台南碗粿)", serving authentic Tainan-style rice-pudding cakes, and a "Golden Celestial Fish Ball Shop (金仙魚丸店)", selling savory shrimp rolls and rice with mackerel chunks.



## Nearby Places of Interest

### 01. Taipei Xia Hai City God Temple (台北霞海城隍廟)

The main deity here is the City God, with secondary deities including the City God's Wife, Old Man Under the Moon, and Generals Fan and Hsieh. The temple has acquired fame for helping worshipers find true love. It's said that in 1971 a woman donated the Old Man statue after the City God's help finding her children's fated mates, the news spread, and single males and females have been coming since – even from overseas. From May 21<sup>st</sup> to July 3<sup>rd</sup> the Taipei Xia Hai City God Cultural Festival (台北霞海城隍文化節) takes place around the temple.

📍 61, Sec. 1, Dihua St. (迪化街 1 段 61 號)  
☎ (02)2558-0346



### 02. Dihua Street Commercial District (迪化街商圈)

In the 19th century, this was a key trading/distribution center for regional specialty goods, tea, Chinese medicines, and textiles. Through the decades its essence has remained intact, seen in the vintage townhouse architecture and shop-lined streets selling medicines, dried goods, etc.

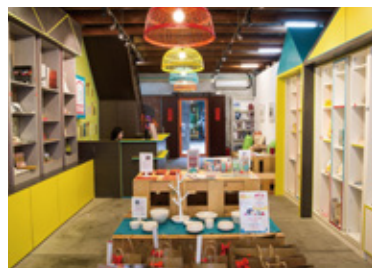
📍 Sec. 1, Dihua St. (迪化街 1 段)



### 03. Taiyuan Asian Puppet Theatre Museum (台原亞洲偶戲博物館)

Formerly the Lin Liu-Hsin Puppet Theatre Museum (林柳新紀念偶戲博物館), on the first floor is the Puppet Workshop. On the second, third, and fourth floors are display spaces dedicated to Chinese shadow puppets, marionettes, traditional glove puppets, Golden Ray puppets, etc., plus the Nadou Theatre. There's also an irregular schedule of puppet exhibitions and puppet-operation classes. Visit the website to learn more.

📍 79-1, Xining N. Rd. (西寧北路 79 之 1 號)  
☎ (02)2556-8909 (Closed on Monday and national holidays)  
🌐 [www.taipeipuppet.com](http://www.taipeipuppet.com)



### 04. URS127 Art Factory (URS127 玩藝工場)

Located in a heritage red-brick mansion, this art space fosters the interaction between traditional Dadaocheng industries and international interchange. The first-floor front room has books and magazines about art and design. Pass by the open-sky inner courtyard to enjoy the old building's lovely architecture. The first-floor rear hall and second floor are used for cultural-arts exhibits, and there are also DIY workshops.

📍 127, Sec. 1, Dihua St. (迪化街 1 段 127 號)  
☎ (02)2550-6775 ext. 2003

**MRT: Take the Zhonghe-Xinlu Line to Daqiaotou Station. Take Exit 1 and follow Minquan W. Rd. to Sec. 2 of Yanping N. Rd. Follow the signs to places of interest.**

### MOGU (蘑菇)



In the spirit of "making everything from scratch," designs unique-style canvas bags, natural-dye clothing, paper-crafted products, and other daily-use goods.

📍 187, Sec. 1, Dihua St. (迪化街 1 段 187 號)

☎ (02)2557-0155 (Closed on the last Wednesday each month)



### Simple Pleasure (簡單喜悅)

Focused on the simple pleasures of good living, recapturing the warm feelings of things made by hand, through the irresistible design of elegant, refined clothing, scarves, handmade soaps, etc.

📍 184, Sec. 1, Dihua St. (迪化街 1 段 184 號)

☎ (02)2552-8611 (Closed on Sunday)



### Wang Tea (有記名茶)



Owned by a family engaged in tea production over a century, here you'll find Taiwan's best preserved old tea factory, with tours and tastings offered. Enjoy traditional nanguan music performances Saturday 2 ~ 5 p.m. (reservations required).

📍 26, Ln. 64, Sec. 2, Chongqing N. Rd. (重慶北路 2 段 64 巷 26 號)

☎ (02)2555-9164 (Closed on Sunday)



# Savoring Architecture, Listening to Nostalgia Good Times With Fine Coffee in Old Houses

Article — Chen Wanjing  
Photos — Wu Jinshi

1

Old houses have a special type of tranquility. People enter and find themselves slowly absorbed by them, as if taking a ride in a time machine, immersed in the atmosphere of yesteryear. Features such as mottled walls and antique wood-frame windows bring back long-forgotten days, as though springing forth from old black-and-white films, transformed with the vivid colors of the present day.

In this issue we visit three cafés housed in renovated historical buildings. Under the care of a new generation, their historical elegance has been

maintained. In this new era, they burst with new vitality while brimming with the aroma of coffee.

## Boan 84 – Coffee “Clinic”

In the past, Baoan Street (保安街) in the city’s Dadaocheng (大稻埕) sector had earned the nickname “Doctor Street” (醫生街), as it was filled with clinics and pharmacies. Boan 84 is in what was originally the Shuntian Surgical Hospital (順天外科醫院), opened by Taiwan’s first Taiwan-born surgeon, Xie Tangshan (謝唐山). The facility’s renovation has given life to a new composite

facility with a café, art gallery, cultural-creative merchandise sales section, and performance space.

The key architectural features of the old building, erected in 1912, have been faithfully preserved. These include the elegant original hospital fascia signboard, wash-stone outer walls with their decorative plant-and-flower carvings, and Greek-style columns. The long, narrow townhouse-style structure seems to draw people inside. On the first floor, red brick in the flooring circles the location of the original consulting room. The space beside the





1. Boan 84 is a fusion-style arts and culture facility, serving as café, art gallery, cultural-creative merchandise display/sales point, and performance space. (Photo: Wu Jinshi)

2. Boan 84 specially recommends its ice drip coffee balls, Guatemalan Huehuetenango coffee, and berry tiramisu. (Photo: Wu Jinshi)

atrium, originally the surgery, is today a bathroom, wittily identified with a sign with the words “Emergency Room.” Head up the stairs to the second floor, where the white wall on the left is made up of small mosaic tiles; this type is no longer produced, and today they are showing their age, the rows having become uneven. The windows on the third floor have the original wood frames and latticework, giving them a very distinctive look. The new-design

stepped stage brings players and audiences closer together, engendering a new-era experimental spirit.

Miss Mi (咪姊), the café’s manager, says that to blend in with the atmosphere of the old place a retro-style Italian espresso machine was specially chosen, which complements the single-origin siphon coffee brewed. With each serving of single-origin coffee a small cup of ice coffee is also served, which prepares the palate for the coffee’s aroma and acidity, enhancing the hot coffee’s subtlety. The café’s ice drip coffee is also very popular. The natural fermentation process brings out an elegant wine-like fragrance. The addition of ice cubes made with ice

drip coffee brings deep satisfaction to the passionate caffeine addict.

### Tadpole Point – Explore the Flavors of an Old Military Dependents’ Community

The Treasure Hill military dependents’ community, which once faced demolition, was reborn as an artist village that the *New York Times* has declared one of Taipei’s best attractions. Meander up the gentle slope here and soon the small Tadpole Point (尖蚪) signboard appears. An old briefcase serves as a doorstep, keeping the door wide open to invite everyone inside. A distinctive curtain marks off the work area. Head up to the second floor to enter another world, relaxing on the

### Store Information

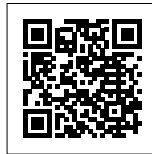
The space beside the atrium used to be an x-ray room. An old door now leans against the wall, and a skeleton dressed as a physician sits at a desk. A doctor’s cloak and nurse’s uniform are provided for customers to don for a bit of role-play fun.

🌐 [www.facebook.com/Boan84](http://www.facebook.com/Boan84)

📍 84, Baoan St. (保安街 84 號)

☎ (02)2552-8836

🕒 11:00~19:30





3

comfy old-style leather sofas in the living room or the Japanese-style cushions placed in front of the windows. Dive into the cozy study and dig into whatever catches your eye in the bookcase, on a voyage of discovery through the owners' reading preferences.

Tadpole Point has a homey feel. This is the specific intent of the owners, A-Fa (阿發) and Little Xi (小嬉) – continuation of the atmosphere found in the original military dependents' settlement. The furnishings are simple, with interesting old things from their private collection casually placed here and there, bringing many a knowing smiles from customers. Speaking with sincerity, A-Fa says that the tadpole in the café's name is a "screaming" tadpole; biologists have found that tadpoles emit a high-frequency scream-like sound when encountering danger. Thus, he wants the message of the



4

### Store Information

The green leather sofa beside the bookcase in the study on the second floor is like a magnet, attracting customers to find a book and sit themselves down for a read. If tired, instead soak in the view through the window. Staring into space is a form of pleasure.

🌐 [www.facebook.com/tadpole.point](http://www.facebook.com/tadpole.point)

📍 57, Ln. 230, Sec. 3, Tingzhou Rd. (汀州路3段230巷57號)

☎ (02)2369-2050

🕒 Tues~Fri 14:00~22:00;  
Sat/Sun 11:00~22:00  
(closed Mon)





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café to be that we must all support each other, and help each other grow strong.

Influenced by the Japanese manga series *Shinya Shokudō*, known in English as *Midnight Diner*, the aim of Tadpole Point is the same relationship as that between the diner and its regulars, sharing the common foods of everyday life. One example is the fresh-made *mentaiko* rice balls (明太子飯糰; “mentaiko” is marinated pollock/cod roe), in which the balls are smeared with mentaiko mayonnaise and baked. The dish has a refreshing sweet/salty taste. Accompanied by hand-drip iced coffee, this is an especially appealing treat at the height of summer when appetites are somewhat diminished.

Each year A-Fa, himself an artist-in-residence at Treasure Hill, invites other artists to stage exhibitions, in keeping with the special “collective” spirit of the community. In this “secret base” at the edge of the city, the imagination is allowed to run free, and new possibilities for old houses, and for people, are explored.

### SheMe House – Old Grain Warehouse, Coffee Bean Aromas

Push open the gray-blue metal gate, walk through the lush little courtyard, and you stand before an old Beitou grain warehouse built during the Japanese era (1938). It reemerged as the SheMe House after renovations by the café’s youthful operators – a place where the luscious

- 
3. Tadpole Point imitates the rustic character of the old Treasure Hill military dependents’ village, making patrons feel at home. (Photo: Wu Jinshi)
  4. Fresh-baked *mentaiko* rice balls and hand-drip ice coffee are Tadpole Point’s signature menu items. (Photo: Wu Jinshi)
  5. SheMe House percolates with the aromas of coffee and sweet confections, bringing fresh new life to an old Beitou grain warehouse. (Photo: Wu Jinshi)
-



6

## Store Information

Beside a bench placed in front of the mottled wall at the café's entrance is the café's special treasure, a set of wooden stairs once used to haul rice upstairs for storage. Today this is the favorite check-in spot for customers.

🌐 [www.facebook.com/SheMeHouse](http://www.facebook.com/SheMeHouse)

📍 Warehouse No. 1, 153, Datong St.  
(大同街 153 號 1 號倉庫)

☎ (02)2892-2800

🕒 Daily 13:00~20:00



aromas of coffees and confections float through the air.

To save the warehouse's original look, renovation work was kept to a minimum. To preserve the high-wall ventilation windows, supplementary 45cm-thick brick walling was introduced. Windows and walls help with ventilation, heat dissipation, and prevention of moisture buildup. This is architectural knowledge derived from the original owners to ensure that the nature of the stored grain did not change. By happy coincidence it suits the green architecture concepts of today. If the wooden ceiling had not rotted and been replaced with metal siding, the interior would be a lot cooler. On both sides of the interior of SheMe House, transparent corrugated sheeting is used, allowing in the natu-

ral light. This saves on artificial lighting during the day and provides a feeling of warmth in winter.

Well aware of the current obsession with coffee and love of sweet treats, a transparent-compartment design was chosen for the bean-roasting and baking rooms, showing customers the freshness involved in preparations. Quality beans are sourced from growers around the world, which are slow-roasted to ensure a polished finish. The myriad house-made desserts feature seasonal fruits cultivated with natural methods. The menu, thus, changes with the seasons. The pastry chef, Su Yi-fan (蘇怡帆), specially recommends the pumpkin cheese tart accompanied by hand-drip Ecuadorian coffee, the coffee's tea fragrance highlighting that of the pumpkin, and

6. SheMe House specially recommends its pumpkin cheese tart. (Photo: Wu Jinshi)

the pineapple pound cake with a hand-drip Kenyan coffee, which emphasizes the pineapple's sweet/sour character.

Long ago an artery plied by long lines of ox-carts, Beitou's Datong Street (大同街) is today a quiet roadway to which hipsters come in search of aromatic coffees. New life has been given to this old grain warehouse, with the rich spirit of the agricultural world given respect in its floating coffee fragrances. 📍

Reading Design, Savoring Chic

# Experiencing Life Aesthetics Through Stylish Coffee

Article — Chung Wen-Ping  
Photos — Chic-Jen Yan



Taipei is a place that eagerly absorbs all that is best in other cultures, resulting in superb, unique culinary experiences. As with all the world's cosmopolitan cities, it has no lack of quality cafés. In recent years, there has been a boom in privately financed small-business startups, resulting in an explosion of cafés of wonderfully varied styles. They've become fashionable places for local residents to gather, and many have become pil-

grimage destinations for tourists. The city's unique "coffee scenery" is something that must be savored, inviting slow, unhurried discovery.

## 5 Senses Café – American Industrial-Style Chic

5 Senses Café (五感咖啡館) is located outside the campuses of National Taiwan University and National Taiwan University of Science and Technology (國立台灣科技大學).

1. 5 Senses Café features an interior design that integrates stylish chic with industrial elements, attracting many idol-drama crews for shoots. (Photo: Chic-Jen Yan)

The high ceiling is busy with the type of industrial-style decorative elements that define the café – deliberately exposed utility piping. The color of the cement walls is nicely complemented by the wood bookcases, chairs, and tables, and the large windows allow full

### Store Information

The first floor has two large square tables that can each accommodate about ten people, with a recessed area in the middle fitted with sockets. These are extremely popular with patrons dining in groups and students hauling their books to prepare for tests in groups.

🌐 [www.facebook.com/5senses.cafe](http://www.facebook.com/5senses.cafe)

📍 85, Sec. 3, Keelung Rd.  
(基隆路3段85號)

☎ (02)2739-9556

🕒 Weekdays 12:00~21:00;  
weekends and holidays  
10:30~22:30; winter  
and summer vacations  
12:00~21:00



view of the play of light and shadow in the greenery outside. This brings a feeling of warmth to the space while its original rugged industrial character is maintained. Shooting for popular idol dramas such as *In Time with You* (我可能不會愛你) and *Love You* (醉後決定愛上你) has been done here, taking advantage of the stylish minimalism, and the café has won a special place in the hearts of area stu-



dents and Gongguan residents.

The café has a pronounced academic air, with the look and feel of the reading cafés one finds on college campuses. Light foods are served, with sandwiches the signature offering. Only whole-wheat bread is used, and manager Zheng Yaxin (鄭雅馨) says: “This is to protect the students’ health, and is not negotiable.” The Margherita Sandwich features house-prepared sun-dried tomatoes, two-color cheese, and basil leaf. These represent the three colors – red, white, and green – of the Italian flag. Light and refreshing, it is the café’s most representative taste selection. The Cheese and Ham with Doritos Sandwich is, indeed, stuffed with salty, spicy,

crunchy Doritos. The menu’s various zany entries invariably makes people chuckle: “Young folk really do love this one!”

The most unusual item from the dessert menu is “Not Sure Today” (今天不確定), which changes with the seasons, the chef buying ingredients fresh each day depending on availability and the mood of the moment. Sometimes it’s a sumptuous apple tarte Tatin, sometimes a more reserved matcha chiffon, or maybe a sweet, ice-cold coffee cheesecake akin to an ice-cream bar. Each little masterpiece is crafted with great care, each customer always guaranteed happiness.



## O’Bear Coffee – Warm Rustic Style

O’Bear is on a small lane in a quiet residential neighborhood with little commercial activity. However, from blazing-hot summer days to bleak cold nights, this place is always busy with coffee and bread fans. If you’ve ever seen the Japanese drama series *Pan to Soup to Neko Biyori*, you’ll know that the smell of bread wafting from the kitchen can give rise to a feeling of happiness impossible to describe, which makes it difficult to resist.

The owner, Wang Shu-li (王叔俐), decided three years ago to retire from a busy career as a product manager. He found this old-style two-story town-

2. The 5 Senses Café dessert menu is quite whimsical and free-spirited, with different treats rolled out in accordance with the seasons and available ingredients. (Photo: Chic-Jen Yan)
3. Large glass windows look out onto the greenery, and allow sun and shade to flow in, inspiring a sense of warmth while maintaining the rugged industrial feel. (Photo: Chic-Jen Yan)

house, a rarity in the city, and opened the kind of shop he liked, selling the things he loved making himself—desserts, breads, coffees, and Italian pastas. The handmade decorations primarily feature natural materials, notably cotton, linen, wood, and stone. Everything is laid out in homey countryside style, and there is seating along the walls and tucked into cozy corners, designed for



### Store Information

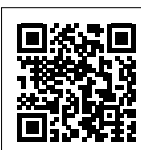
The wood boxes atop the petite tables are filled with organic herbal tea bags in all kinds of colorful flavors, all available for free for customers to try at home. There’s chamomile, lavender, rosemary ... just to name a few!

🌐 [www.facebook.com/OBear-Cofe](http://www.facebook.com/OBear-Cofe)

📍 19, Ln. 213, Zhongzheng Rd. (中正路 213 巷 19 號)

☎ (02)2888-1100

🕒 12:00~21:00 (closed Wed)





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4. O’Bear decorations feature natural materials, presenting a country-village style. (Photo: Chic-Jen Yan)
5. The bitter/sweet taste experience of the coffee and handmade cookie pairing at O’Bear echoes the experience of life. (Photo: Chic-Jen Yan)
6. Leisure Kaffe is bright and open; the owner recommends the terrace seating, bathed in pleasant sunshine. (Photo: Chic-Jen Yan)
7. These Nordic-inspired cookies are dense, crunchy, and creamy. (Photo: Chic-Jen Yan)

peace and quiet, for those who want lose themselves in their thoughts and enjoy a bit of solitude.

No instant-mix packages or canned goods are used here. All breads, and sauces, etc., are made from scratch in-house. Ingredients are purchased on regular visits to the Binjiang Market (濱江市場). O’Bear’s signature bread meal comes with a choice of one of three entrees: smoked salmon, bacon and eggs, or fried mushrooms, accompanied by hand-kneaded bread made with old-dough fermentation methods and specially selected extra virgin olive oil free of astringency and any grassy taste, resulting in a soft, mellow texture and taste. The café’s polished, fragrant single-origin coffees come

with handmade cookies, chiffon cake, and pie, the contrast of bitter and sweet meaningfully echoing the tastes of life.

### Leisure Kaffe – Scandinavian Lohas Style

Café owner Lu Wei-ting (盧威廷) has deep affection for the wilderness and relaxed, laid-back style of Finland, Iceland, and their fellow north European lands. He also loves how different coffees pleasure one’s taste buds with novel taste journeys. Bringing these two passions together, he opened the Scandinavian-character Leisure Kaffe (樂思咖啡). From spatial design to furnishings, and from bean selection to roasting to brewing, nothing leave’s Lu’s hand.

Leisure Kaffe features bright colors and a roomy open-concept layout. Walls and corners are embellished with photos of beautiful polar-region scenery taken by Lu himself in Finland. He has also brought back Nordic elf dolls, tableware, and accessories from his trips. “Though I can’t actually live in northern Europe,” he says, “I want to live each day in a Nordic landscape.”


The premium coffees here, all hand-brewed and free of acidity, bitterness, and astringency, possess melodious richness of body and pleasant sour/

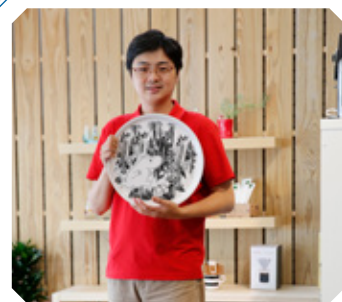




sweet balance. Lu says that his selection of coffee is dependent on the mood of the moment. If in a happy mood, it's from the Ethiopia Worka Cooperative, the mellowness and fruit sweetness stunning. When feeling pressure, it's a cup from the Costa Rica Tarrazu Finca Montanas del Diamante, which has a sweet, nutty, melodious lingering finish, agreeably cool and refreshing as in the moments after a rain.


The café's sweet treats are also Nordic in style, but in keeping with the healthy-eating trend that has emerged


in Taipei in recent years with their sweetness half or less than half of the Nordic originals. For the Finnish cardamom pudding, natural nutmeg powder and gelatin are added and the dessert is baked, followed by the addition of lingonberry jam. This delectable is chewy, soft, and sweet. The café's dense, crunchy, creamy Nordic sprite-shaped cookies served with an ice drip coffee that has hints of red wine and smokiness form the perfect pairing! 




### Store Information

The wood used on the terrace brings a soft, soothing ambience. While savoring the coffee and desserts, bathe in what feels like pleasant Nordic warming sunshine.

 [www.facebook.com/2Lets-Cafe](http://www.facebook.com/2Lets-Cafe)

 7, Aly. 12, Ln. 71, Sec. 5, Zhongxiao E. Rd. (忠孝東路5段71巷12弄7號)

 (02)2767-3718

 8:30~21:00



# Japan's Naoki Prize-Winning Writer Akira Higashiyama: Taipei, My Original Landscape

Article — Wang Zhengxiang  
Photos — You Jiahuan, Department of Information and  
Tourism, Taipei City Government

## Akira Higashiyama

Chinese name Wang Zhen-xu (王震緒), born in Taipei in 1968. Third Taiwan writer to win the Naoki Prize, following Qiu Yong-han (邱永漢) in 1955 and Chen Shun-chen (陳舜臣) in 1968. Author of a number of Japanese-language novels, including prose and anime scripts. Recipient of numerous awards in Japan, including a grand silver and reader's choice awards as part of the Kono Mystery ga Sugoi! Awards (lit. "This Mystery Novel Is Excellent!"; 2002), Haruhiko Oyabu Award (2009), Mystery Writers of Japan Award (finalist; 2014), and Naoki Prize (2015).

In 2015, Akira Higashiyama's novel *Ryu* won the Naoki Prize, the highest honor in popular Japanese literature. Written as a mystery, it is set in 1970s Taiwan and features the elements of a youth novel. For Taiwanese readers, the work provides a view of yesteryear Taipei in the old time – and a look at themselves. The book provides stimulation and satisfaction far beyond mere reading pleasure.

## A Gift From Heaven

*Ryu* has a smooth flow and a well-knit plot, and deftly kneads together mystery, fantasy, and realism. Shrouded in the depressive atmosphere of a bygone era, it has been hailed in Japan as one of the premier works of the past two decades. The protagonist is a young, frivolous high-school student who witnesses the brutal death of his grandfather. He decides to track down the truth behind the murder, and over the next while also goes through a wild phase. The book vividly describes life in a closed political system, echoing discussions on transitional justice in Taiwan society in recent years.

The Taiwanese writer Hsiao Yeh (小野) has gone so far as to call this book “a gift from heaven.” This alludes to the fact that such subject material was long left as unexplored territory in Taiwan's literary circle, and that the book's appearance now satisfies the needs of the times.

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1. The youth novel *Ryu* using the post-war period as backdrop earned Higashiyama the Naoki Prize. (Photo: You Jiahuan)

2. In *Ryu*, author Higashiyama engages in confessions on his youth using straightforward, unadorned prose. (Photo: You Jiahuan)

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## Magic and Memory

Another key reason why this book has touched readers in Taiwan is its rich evocation of the good old days. Though it describes a grim and oppressive political atmosphere, it movingly portrays the minutiae of life. Readers can almost smell the aromas of the ditches along yesteryear's Xiamen Street (廈門街), wafting forth from the pages, and hear the noises and shouts of the city's bustling Zhonghua Market (中華商場). All these are derived from Higashiyama's treasured storehouse of childhood memories.

Higashiyama's ancestral home is China's Shandong province. He was born in Taipei, and grew up in Japan. But, his elementary school days were spent in Taiwan, and these are the sustenance for his Taiwan descriptions. “When I was a kid we lived on Xiamen Street,” he says. “And though there was still a lot of unrest in Taiwan society, for me it was a time of fond memories, filled with the love of the older generation and of my parents.”

Taiwan literature suffers no lack of descriptions of Taipei-life memories, such as *Taipei People* (台北人) by Pai Hsien-yung (白先勇). *Ryu*, in contrast, has a more straightforward manner. The characters in the book are not driven by different feelings of remorse and desire, the urgings of nationalism and culture are less palpable, and they harbor no modernist sense of alienation. Instead, they are affected by direct questions of survival, such as each time the book's protagonist finds himself in a fight, and each emotional trauma, on each occasion a cry and confession of youth. Higashiyama's father served as the prototype for the protagonist, and through the telling of family stories the writer pours forth a vivid torrent of the characters that made up the era's Taipei landscape.

Interestingly, the book has many strange vignettes, such as the use of an *Ouija* board and the sudden



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appearance of great numbers of cockroaches. Though such things are familiar elements in the lives of Taiwanese readers, the author says that, “For Japanese readers this is another matter; they look on this as magical realism.” *Ryu* contains many bizarre scenes, but in fact the source for all are his own actual memories. Yet Japanese readers see these as exotic imaginings, and see Taiwan as a place of fantasy in comparison to Japan, lending it a deep appeal.

### A Simple Youth Novel

Though this novel incorporates

many associations with history, politics, and literature, Higashiyama stresses that, “This is simply a youth novel. Because the backdrop is 1970s Taipei, to give readers a realistic window I added historical and political elements. This “youth novel” involves the author’s subjective will. In places where *Ryu* features a humorous narrative tone, in the background is reflection of the author’s convictions. “I don’t like to impose my values on the readers,” Higashiyama says, “but in order to reflect the realities of the authoritarian era, humor is a quite natural tone.”

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3. Taipei streetscape before the railway was moved underground and Zhonghua Market demolished – the Taipei scenery of Higashiyama’s memory. (Photo: Department of Information and Tourism, Taipei City Government)

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The youth novel also involves heavy leaning on the author's personal life history, with reliance on the readers' ability to "empathize." In Higashiyami's words: "I love reading American and Latin American novels. Though these writers and I are worlds apart, I can understand their points of view in light of my own story." In terms of using his father in the book, he served as a point of departure, as a narrator for the story. Readers can experience the pain of others through his eyes and then look back on this character to understand him.

This empathy gives Higashiyama the gift of being able to relate the larger tale of a distant city, as well as the small experiences of the almost anonymous people within it. Though he refrains from describing feelings in great depth, they are portrayed in great beauty. In the book he describes how people, though they can't let someone go, nevertheless decide to persevere and continue on. This serves as a metaphor both for history and for universal personal fortune.

## Taipei, My Original Landscape

Asked about the impressions Japanese have of Taipei, Higashiyama responds: "Most Japanese think Taipei's people are very friendly and cheerful, and very polite. For example, whenever people see someone carrying a child they automatically yield their seat." As for his own impressions? "Joy! My

Taipei time has been the happiest of my life. Though somewhat chaotic, this was my childhood's 'landscape of origin.'" He also knows that, to a certain extent, these happy memories are shared with Taipei's citizens.


Among his most vivid memories are his frequent trips with his grandfather to the Taipei Botanical Garden (台北植物園) to do gymnastics. "These gymnastics were the recreational kind that seniors practice in the early morning," he says. "When my grandfather demonstrated the movements to me, each careful step seemed to be imbued with deep meaning. He explained them to me, and much of what he said has proven very useful in my life." Key pieces in the framework of his Taipei summertime memories are the Taipei Botanical Garden's royal palms, the gorgeous red lotus lowers in its pond, and the dancing play of light and shadow in its open spaces.

He also has vivid memories of the red-brick walls in today's Bopiliao Historic Block (剝皮寮歷史街區), the curling incense mists at the Longshan Temple, and the nearby Huaxi Street Tourist Night Market (華西街觀光夜市). "I went many times to Huaxi Street, listening to the cries of the hawkers, enjoying the boisterous crowds and vendors. These made a deep impression on me, and the memories are just as strong and vivid today as they were in the past."

## Golden Taipei City

Higashiyama speaks fairly fluent Mandarin Chinese, and comes back frequently to Taipei. Speaking of the places he finds most interesting today, he says, "In Japan I'll sometimes feel a need to hear Chinese, so whenever I'm here in Taiwan I'll buy some music albums. For example, Luan Dan A Xiang (亂彈阿翔), The Chairman (董事長樂團), and 1976. When listening to Mandarin Chinese songs I find that sometimes the lyrics just can't be conveyed in Japanese, or when translated directly have a different meaning. I find this intriguing, and it has helped my writing." Asked about his favorite Taipei food, he enthusiastically responds, "I really like *shaobing youtiao* (燒餅油條; a type of fried cruller in a baked pastry), and recently I've become really fond of stir-fry dishes, especially accompanied with Taiwan Beer." All of these are iconic Taiwan offerings – in truth, who wouldn't fall in love with them?

When talking about a city, every person will have certain color impressions in their mind. For Higashiyama, Taipei "has a color like the sun." The source of this color is the good days he enjoyed here, giving him a cherished childhood and brilliant golden memories. 📍



Art Can Change Lives!

# The 2016 Taipei Arts Festival

Article — Xie Yingjie

Photos — Dark Eyes Performance Lab, Tjimur Dance Theatre, Black Grace Dance Company



Taiwan's Tjimur Dance Theatre and New Zealand's Black Grace Dance Company have co-created *2 Gather*, exploring the traditions and contemporary spirit of the two countries' indigenous peoples. (Photo: Tjimur Dance Theatre, Black Grace Dance Company)

“Art cannot be eaten as bread, but art can make bread even more delicious!” These are the words of Keng Yi-Wei (耿一偉), artistic director for the Taipei Arts Festival (台北藝術節). Bringing art into everyday life can lead to new sensory experiences, and change the way people look at the world.

At the 2016 Taipei Arts Festival – now in its 18<sup>th</sup> year – the curatorial concept is “Art Can Change Lives” (藝術改變你的生活). The invited international and local art creators utilize theatre, music, dance, new circus arts, cross talk (traditional Chinese comic dialogue), documentary theatre, and other forms. A total of 11 splendid and inspiring works are being presented, bringing art of differing character into your life.

## Axis Taipei & International Collaboration

Keng believes that the arts festival must reflect the character of the city, and that what defines Taipei is its youth, creativity, and diversity. “What is most special this year is the addition of sexual minority, indigenous, and Hakka elements,” he says. Behind this is a desire for creation of a new atmosphere and fresh programs, and to use this opportunity to facilitate cross-border collaboration, making Taipei a creative core and assisting artist development.

In recent years, the organizers have sought to integrate the Taipei Arts Festival with other arts festivals



around the globe, utilizing an “international collaboration” model. The latest topics and works in the international art market are presented. *God Bless Baseball* (棒球奇蹟), a Taiwan/Japan/South Korea co-production with Japan’s Okada Toshiki as director, highlights the interdependencies and contradictions between Major League Baseball in the U.S. and professional baseball in Japan and Korea. Taiwan’s The Party Theatre Group (同黨劇團) and France’s Cie du Veilleur are co-operating in *Europe Connexion* (歐洲聯結), in which power machinations

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In *Bananaiana*, a magical time-travel drama, the protagonist is a Qing Dynasty-era reformist poet named Huang Zun-Xian. (Photo: Dark Eyes Performance Lab)

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in the European Parliament are seen through the eyes of an ambitious conference assistant who becomes a powerful lobbyist. *2 Gather* (在一起) is a collaborative production by Taiwan’s Tjimur Dance Theatre (蒂摩爾古薪舞集) and New Zealand’s Black Grace Dance Company exploring the traditions and contemporary spirit

of the two countries' indigenous peoples.

## Circus Arts, High School Girls & A Window on the World

The popular “Circus” (馬戲) category in the Taipei Arts festival's program has continued this year. The British troupe Gandini Juggling first appeared at the festival in 2014, to much acclaim; this year, in *4X4: Ephemeral Architectures* the company blends precision juggling with ballet's grace and elegance. FOCA Formosa Circus Art (FOCA 福爾摩沙馬戲團) is cooperating with director Baboo for the first time ever in *How Long Is Now?* (一瞬之光), deconstructing circus arts and acrobatic skills with comics and animation to create a sense of wonder and illusion.

Taiwan's Riverbed Theatre (河床劇團) has crafted the new theatrical work *Still Life* (停格停格) in collaboration with the students of Taipei Municipal Zhongshan Girls High School (中山女高), looking at the city through their eyes. Three-time winner of the Ubu Prize, Italy's highest theatre-world honor, the Motus Theatre Company is presenting *MDLSX*, a one-person performance by Silvia Calderoni in which, utilizing her life story of gender blending as starting point, modern society's cognition and framing in regard to gender are subverted.

*La Mélancolie des Dragons*, directed by French visual artist Philippine

Quesne, is a Molière Award nominee. In this work, a lyrical snowy landscape is brought to the stage, and a heavy metal amusement park constructed. In *Common Ground*, directed by Israeli Yael Ronen, seven postwar second-generation immigrants travel back to a now-dissolved Yugoslavia in search of common memories. Keng says that, “The process of theater takes the enmity caused by war and race and fosters compromise and reconciliation, and transforms the life experience of the performers.”

## Fantasy Time Travel & A Shakespearean Classic

Taiwan theater director Hung Hung (鴻鴻) has joined hands with Golden Melody Award-winning singer Huang Lien-Yu (Ayugo Huang; 黃連煜) to create *Bananaiana* (我是東西南北香蕉人). The protagonist in this work is a real-life character named Huang Zun-Xian (黃遵憲), who was a reformist poet at the end of the Qing Dynasty. Poetry, song, rock music, puppetry, and other elements are fused in this fantasy time-travel drama. In Keng's words, “Among ‘traditional’ characters, for that era Huang was an avant-garde individual. Take him and place him in the Taipei of today for a look at the world, with people from north, south, east, and west and the references to diversification and internationalization – this is all truly symbolic of this city!”

This year marks the 400<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Shakespeare's death. Echoing the tributes to him being

staged around the world, the Taipei Arts Festival will feature a cross-talk performance and film screening. Taiwan's Comedians Workshop (相聲瓦舍) is presenting a collage work of selections from the playwright's classics along with newly created repertoire. It is being staged free of charge on October 7<sup>th</sup> in the amphitheater at Daan Park (大安森林公園). The theatrical documentary film *Maxine Peake as Hamlet* is being screened at the Chiang Kai-shek Memorial Hall Zhong Zheng Auditorium (中正紀念堂演藝廳) on September 13<sup>th</sup>. Actress Maxine Peake, also seen in the film *The Theory of Everything*, is cast in the title role.

Keng states that the hope is for the Taipei Arts Festival to serve as a window, enabling audiences to feel and see the larger world with deeper acuity, while at the same time spreading the event's festive atmosphere throughout the city! 📍

### Taipei Arts Festival

- 🌐 [www.taipeifestival.org](http://www.taipeifestival.org)
- 📺 Search for “Taipei Arts Festival” on Facebook
- 📍 TAF Arts Ticket Booths: Zhongshan Hall Square (中山堂廣場), Taipei Water Park (自來水園區), Chiang Kai-shek Memorial Hall Square (中正紀念堂廣場)
- ☎ (02)2528-9580, ext. 191~199



# Travel Information

For traveling between Taipei and Taiwan Taoyuan International Airport, whether by inexpensive, high-quality shuttle, safe and fast taxi, or high-grade professional airport limo service, you're spoiled for choice in satisfying your particular time and budget.

## Taxi

### Service locations:

North of the Arrivals Hall of Terminal I and South of the Arrivals Hall of Terminal II

### One-way fare:

Meter count plus 15%, with freeway tolls extra; average fare to Taipei around NT\$1,100.

### Terminal I Arrivals Hall taxi-service counter

Tel:(03)398-2832

### Terminal II Arrivals Hall taxi-service counter

Tel:(03)398-3599

## Passenger Shuttle Bus

### Service locations:

Southwest of the Arrivals Hall of Terminal I (exterior vehicle pickup corridor) and northeast of the Arrivals Hall of Terminal II (exterior vehicle pickup corridor)

### Shuttle-service companies:

Kuo-Kuang Motor Transportation, Evergreen Bus, Free Go Express, Citi Air Bus

### One-way fare: NT\$85~145






### Travel time:

40~60 minutes depending on routes (60~90 minutes for Citi Air Bus, which has more stops)

### Schedule: Every 15~20 minutes

## Metro Taipei

Service Hours: 06:00~24:00; 24-Hour Customer Service Hotline: (02)218-12345

Ticket	Price
 One-Way Trip	NT\$20-65
 Easy Card	Price: NT\$100 (without deposit).The card provides discounts on transit fares and can also be used for small purchases at convenience stores and other designated shops.
 iPass	Metro station information counters are only authorized to sell the General Adult Card, which is sold outright without any deposit or credit. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Eligibility: Ordinary passengers.</li> <li>• Price: NT\$100 (without deposit).</li> <li>• Availability: Select stores, online, all Taipei Metro stations.</li> <li>• Metro discount: 20% discount on each trip.</li> <li>• Transfer discount: Passengers who use a General Adult Card to transfer from the metro to a bus or vice versa within one hour will receive a NT\$8 discount.</li> </ul>
 Day Pass	NT\$150
 Taipei Pass	The Taipei Pass is activated upon first use on bus or metro ticket readers and valid for unlimited use till expiration. The Taipei Pass can be purchased at all Metro stations, and is used on the Taipei Metro and on Taipei and New Taipei City public buses (with Taipei Pass stickers showing). <p>One-Day Pass: NT\$180  Two-Day Pass: NT\$310  Three-Day Pass: NT\$440  Five-Day Pass: NT\$700  Maokong Gondola One-Day Pass: NT\$350</p>
 Taipei Metro Pass	24hr: NT\$180 48hr: NT\$280 72hr: NT\$380

### NOTICE

In order to facilitate inquiries by the public, the city government has set up the 1999 Taipei Citizen Hotline. Whether by telephone, cell phone, or Voice over IP (payphone excluded), dial 1999 for free access. There is a time limit, with service personnel restricted to 10-minute service availability, and a 10-minute limit on call transfers. Callers are asked to make the most efficient use of this resource, making all calls as brief as possible. For more information, call 1999 or visit [www.rdec.taipei.gov.tw](http://www.rdec.taipei.gov.tw)



## TAIWAN EMERGENCY TELEPHONE NUMBERS

### Police / 110

Crimes, traffic accidents, and other incidents for which police assistance is needed

### Fire and Emergency / 119

Fire, injury or accident, or other urgent matters for which emergency relief is needed

### Women and Children Protection Hotline / 113 ext.1

24-hour emergency, legal information, and psychological services for victims of domestic violence and/or sexual abuse. Foreigner 24-hour General Inquiry Hotline: 0800-024-111

## NON-EMERGENCY TELEPHONE NUMBERS

Unit Tel.	No.
Taipei City Govt. Citizen Hotline	1999 (02-2720-8889 outside Taipei City)
English Directory Service	106
IDD Telephone Service Hotline	0800-080-100 ext.9
Time-of-Day Service	117
Weather Service	166
Traffic Reports	168
Tourism Bureau (MOTC) 24-Hour Toll-Free Travel Information Hotline	0800-011-765
Tourism Bureau (MOTC) Toll-Free Traveler Complaints Hotline	0800-211-734
International Community Service Hotline	0800-024-111
Tourism Bureau Information Counter, Taiwan Taoyuan International Airport	Terminal 1: (03)398-2194 Terminal 2: (03)398-3341
Bureau of Foreign Trade	(02)2351-0271
Taiwan External Trade Development Council (TAITRA)	(02)2725-5200
Taiwan Visitors Association	(02)2594-3261
The Japanese Chamber of Commerce & Industry, Taipei	(02)2522-2163
Ministry of Foreign Affairs	(02)2348-2999
Ministry of Foreign Affairs Citizens Hotline	(02)2380-5678
Police Broadcasting Station	(02)2388-8099
English Hotline for Taxi Service	0800-055-850 ext.2
Consumer Service Center Hotline	1950
Bureau of National Health Insurance Information Hotline	0500-030-598
AIDS Information Hotline	0800-888-995

Source for Above Information:  
Information For Foreigners Service / Tel: 0800-024-111  
Tourism Bureau, Ministry of Transportation and Communications  
Tel: (02)2349-1500

※ Entries in brown columns indicate service in English provided

## LIST OF TAIPEI VISITOR INFORMATION CENTERS

### Taipei Main Station

(02)2312-3256  
1F, 3, Beiping W. Rd.

### Songshan Airport

(02)2546-4741  
340-10, Dunhua N. Rd.

### MRT Ximen Station

(02)2375-3096  
B1, 32-1, Baoqing Rd.

### MRT Jiantan Station

(02)2883-0313 65  
65, Sec. 5, Zhongshan N. Rd.

### MRT Beitou Station

(02)2894-6923  
1, Guangming Rd.

### MRT Taipei 101/World Trade Center Station

(02)2758-6593  
B1, 20, Sec. 5, Xinyi Rd.

### Plum Garden Visitor Center

(02)2897-2647  
6, Zhongshan Rd.

### Miramar Entertainment Park Visitor Center

(02)8501-2762  
20, Jingye 3<sup>rd</sup> Rd

### Gondola Maokong Station

(02)2937-8563  
35, Ln. 38, Sec. 3, Zhinan Rd.  
(Exit area, Maokong Station)

### Dadaochang Visitor Center

(02)2559-6802  
44, Sec. 1, Dihua St.

## TAIPEI Is Available at

### 臺北市政府觀光傳播局

Department of Information and Tourism,  
Taipei City Government  
1999 ext. 7564  
4F, 1, City Hall Rd., Taipei City

### 臺灣桃園國際航空站一

Tourist Service Center at Arrival Hall,  
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### 國語日報語文中心

Mandarin Daily News (Language Center)  
(02)2341-8821  
2, Fuzhou St., Taipei City

### 臺北市立美術館

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(02)2595-7656  
181, Sec. 3, Zhongshan N. Rd., Taipei City

### 聖多福天主教堂

St. Christopher Catholic Church  
(02)2594-7914  
51, Sec. 3, Zhongshan N. Rd., Taipei City

### 士林區公所

Shilin District Office  
(02)2882-6200 ext.8725  
8F, 439, Zhongzheng Rd., Taipei City

### 臺北士林劍潭活動中心

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### 臺北美國學校

Taipei American School  
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800, Sec. 6, Zhongshan N. Rd., Taipei City

### 國立中正紀念堂

National Chiang Kai-shek Memorial Hall  
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21, Zhongshan S. Rd., Taipei City

### 台北當代藝術館

Museum of Contemporary Art, Taipei  
(02)2552-3720  
39, Chang'an W. Rd., Taipei City

### 官邸藝文沙龍

Mayor's Residence Arts Salon  
(02)2396-9398  
46, Xuzhou Rd., Taipei City

### 台北國際藝術村

Taipei Artist Village  
(02)3393-7377  
7, Beiping E. Rd., Taipei City

### 臺北二二八紀念館

Taipei 228 Memorial Museum  
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3, Ketagalan Blvd., Taipei City

### 交通部觀光局旅遊服務中心

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### 光點台北

SPOT-Taipei Film House  
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18, Sec. 2, Zhongshan N. Rd., Taipei City

### 臺北市政府市民服務組

The public service group of Taipei City  
Government  
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1, City Hall Rd., Taipei City

### 北投溫泉博物館

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Taipei Confucius Temple  
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### 松山文創園區

Songshan Cultural and Creative Park  
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133, Guangfu S. Rd., Taipei City

### 華山 1914 文化創意產業園區

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1, Sec.1, Bade Rd., Taipei City

### 國立臺灣博物館

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(02)2382-2566  
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### 10 座臺北市旅遊服務中心

10 Visitor Information Centers in Taipei  
(More details on P. 63)

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A photograph of the Starbucks Bangkok store interior. The scene is a long, narrow room with a series of round wooden tables and matching chairs arranged in rows. The room has high ceilings and large, multi-paned windows that let in bright, natural light. The walls are a warm, neutral tone. The overall atmosphere is clean, modern, and historic.

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