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DISCOVER TAIPEI

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JAN. / FEB. BIMONTHLY 2013

The Golden Snake Brings Luck and a New Year Spring Festival Fun in Taipei

Taipei – The Place to be for Chinese New Year

The Taipei Lunar New Year Festival

Chinese New Year – The Many Ways Taipei Celebrates

**Welcoming in the New Year with Colorful Plants
and Flowers**

The Artistry of the Lantern Festival

A Ramble Through the Unique Taipei World of Books



The Golden Snake Brings Luck and a New Year

Spring Festival Fun in Taipei


The Snake is on the doorstep! Yes, Chinese New Year, beloved and always so eagerly anticipated by the people of Taiwan, is at the door. The Year of the Snake (also called "Little Dragon Year") is nigh. Our theme this issue is "New Year Fun with the People of Taipei," and we explore the many ways local folk celebrate. We go Taipei Lunar New Year Festival shopping, we explore the many customs of different ethnic groups, we tell you about the different auspicious flowers and plants that decorate homes during the holidays, and we give you a line-up of the many different holiday events being staged. Our goal is to guarantee you the richest and most boisterous New Year possible.

The traditional Chinese New Year holidays continue until the Lantern Festival. A favorite New Year event with visitors from overseas is the annual Taipei Lantern Festival, and in our In-Depth City Culture Explorations section we present you with a detailed introduction on the origins of the Lantern Festival's decorative lanterns and the alluring aesthetics of this art form. We also give you detail on the program for the 2013 Taipei edition, being staged at Taipei Expo Park.

The family-reunion feast on New Year's Eve marks the beginning of the traditional holiday. In our Taipei's Best Foods & Gifts department we introduce the New Year customs and foods of the people of Japan, Korea, France, and India. Chinese New Year and Valentine's Day are not far apart, so in the same section we suggest some creative gifts that you can present to your family members, friends, and sweetheart.

In winter one's instinct is to stay indoors. Don't. In our Mapping the Taipei Lifestyle section we take you on a grand bicycling excursion, chasing breezes, enjoying birdsong, and stretching the stress from your joints. Another reason to get out and moving is the thinking person's need for books – we prepare you for the annual Taipei International Book Exhibition, and also introduce a number of the city's most interesting independent bookstores, snuggled away in cozy city nooks.

Over the next few months, adding to the festive atmosphere of the Chinese New Year celebrations will be a steady stream of special arts and culture events, most notably The Taiwan Story of Sweets exhibition, Taipei Arts Awards, and Taiwan International Festival of Arts.

This is a season of cool temperatures, but as always the city will be brimming over with warm, bustling activity. We welcome you to spend some time here, soaking up the Taipei seasonal spirit! 





Discover Taipei

Taipei City Government

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ISSN: 17281741

GPN: 2008600233

中華郵政台北雜字

第 1376 號執照登記為雜誌交寄

Hope you enjoy reading this issue of DTB.
If you have any suggestions, please do
not hesitate to email or fax us.

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Taipei – The Place to be for Chinese New Year

The Taipei Lunar New Year Festival

Chinese people deeply cherish the Lunar New Year. Age-old customs are steadfastly followed: cleaning the house thoroughly before the New Year to “sweep out the old and bring in the new” (除舊布新), the family-reunion on New Year's Eve feast, visiting friends and relatives during the holidays and celebrating together by presenting fine gifts to each other. The annual Taipei Lunar New Year Festival (臺北年貨大街) is a grand city-wide shopping carnival that makes New Year shopping ultra-convenient, and offers a well-planned schedule of events. This year the four major themes are Gift-Giving, Reunion, Out with the Old, In with the New, and Sightseeing. The themed commercial districts enable you to satisfy all your shopping needs in one trip, whatever they may be, ensuring a happy, carefree New Year.

The Taipei Lunar New Year Festival, established by Taipei City Government, is a grand showcase of the city's cultural characteristics and a superb opportunity for tourists to experience the festive New Year spirit. Visit Taipei Rear Station (後火車站) and Huayin Street (華陰街) commercial districts and explore a world of fresh and colorful small items perfect for giving your home a new look, all reasonably priced, and all of fine quality. A tour of the many furniture sellers on Wenchang Street (文昌街) and Nanchang Street (南昌街) will also give you a whole new perspective on what's possible décor-wise. If you've been racking your brain trying to think of the perfect gifts to present to others, worry no more – Taipei City Mall (臺北地下街) awaits with a variety of pineapple cakes (鳳梨酥), Iron Goddess tea (鐵觀音) from the Muzha (木柵) area, and Baozhong tea (包種茶) from Wenshan District (文山區). All are quintessential Taipei souvenir gifts.

If interested in experiencing the pleasures of the New Year's Eve family-reunion meal, you don't need to spend big money. Head to Jilin Commercial District (吉林商圈), Maokong Commercial District (貓空商圈), or Taotong Commercial District (條通商圈) for classic Taiwan cuisine, tea cuisine, and Japanese dining bar food. Also, be sure to visit Bao'an Temple (保安宮),

Longshan Temple (龍山寺), Xingtian Temple (行天宮), or another well-known place of worship in Taipei to pray for peace and security in the year to come.

Until February 8th, use your purchase invoices from participating Taipei – The Place to Be for Chinese New Year businesses to enter the “Year-End Lotto Big Prize Draw” (樂透年終抽大禮). There's no minimum purchase. Just enter your info online and you're eligible for some great gifts. There's also 50,000 copies of the special free New Year Shopping Passport (年貨護照) available, which contains great discount coupons. Distribution starts on January 12th, and they'll be available at Taipei City visitor information centers, Taipei International Airport, and participating commercial-district stores. Happy New Year – and happy shopping! 🍊

Information

2013 Taipei Lunar New Year Festival 2013臺北年貨大街

Time: 1/25~2/8

Venues: Dihua Commercial District, Taipei City Mall Commercial District, Ningxia Commercial District, Huayin Street Commercial District, Taipei Rear Station Commercial District, Rongbin Commercial District (迪化商圈、臺北地下街商圈、寧夏商圈、華陰街商圈、後火車站商圈及榮濱商圈)

Event Info: Facebook; search for 來臺北過好年 (official fan club)

Website: www.tcooc.taipei.gov.tw

Transportation:

Capital Bus No. 518 Lunar New Year Shop-Around Bus Route: Yanping N. Rd. (Dihua Commercial District) → Minsheng East/West Rd. (Ningxia Commercial District) → Tayou Rd. → Bade Rd. (Wufenpu Commercial District) → Chengmei Bridge → Sec. 1, Jiuzong Rd. (Costco, RT-Mart, other large retail outlets) → MacArthur Housing Complex → Neihu terminus

首都客運518年貨公車行駛路線：

延平北路(迪化商圈)→民生西、東路(寧夏商圈)→塔悠路→八德路(五分埔商圈)→成美橋→舊宗路1段(好市多、大潤發等大賣場)→麥帥新城—內湖站

Chinese New Year

The Many Ways Taipei Celebrates

【長長久久】 *chang chang jiu jiu*

【鞭炮】 *Firecracker*

【食雞起家】
chiah ke, khi ke

【事事如意】
shi shi ru yi

【好彩頭】
ho chhai-thau

Taiwan is a grand melting pot. Beyond about 500,000 members of various indigenous tribes, the remainder of the population is mostly made up of people whose ancestors came from the Chinese provinces of Fujian and Guangdong in imperial times, and others (or their descendants born in Taiwan) who came from various regions of mainland China around the end of the Chinese Civil War in 1949. The result is a land blessed with rich cultural diversity.

The majority of Taiwan's present population was born in Taiwan. The long-in-use nomenclature "aborigine," "this province people" (本省人), describing those whose ancestors came to Taiwan before 1949, "other province people" (外省人), describing those who came around 1949 and their descendants, and "Hakka" (客家), have largely fallen by the wayside. But when it comes to celebrating the Chinese New Year, families continue to hold dear the group customs of yesteryear, bringing a feast of unique flavors to the holidays.

【壓歲錢】
lucky money

【年年有餘】
nian nian you yu

【發財】
fa cai

【吉祥】 *jixiang*

The Taiwan New Year – Deep Conviction, Beseeking Fortune

The majority of the local population follow a mix of Buddhism and Daoism, and most practice ancestor worship. Many festival traditions thus incorporate a mix of religious and ancestor worship elements. Each year the *weiya* (尾牙) season starts on the 16th day of the 12th month in the lunar calendar. What are called *zuoya* (做牙) sacrifices are staged on the 2nd and 16th day of each month; these are sacrifices to the Earth God (土地公), with prayers asking for prosperity and good fortune. The *weiya* or “end ya” is the last such sacrifice of the year, and during the period that follows the New Year atmosphere builds noticeably. Families generally prepare *gebao* (割包; steamed buns with braised pork) or *runbing* (潤餅; soft spring rolls) on this day. These are traditional end-of-year prayer blessings and rewards for both self and family. Businessmen will give thanks to the Earth God for the god's protection and blessings during the past year, and will prepare a sumptuous feast, with prizes and performances, to thank employees for their hard work. After the *weiya* it's time for the year-end clean-up, “sweeping out the old to bring in the new,” and for preparing all the traditional New Year goodies needed.

On the 23rd or 24th day of the 12th lunar month, a rich array of sacrificial offerings will be prepared for the Kitchen God (灶神), who protects hearth and family. All families also put up auspicious Spring Festival couplets (春聯) outside their doors for the New Year, beseeching good luck. The ancient forerunners of modern-day couplets was the peachwood charm (桃符), with first peachwood and then red paper featuring paintings of gods that drove off evil spirits, protecting the home and keeping the family safe. The practice of writing couplets on the paper evolved later.

The New Year holidays kick off on New Year's Eve, when the whole family gets together for a family-reunion feast. This is called *weilu* (圍爐), literally meaning “surround the stove.” The table is piled with dishes brimming with auspicious symbolism. The characters for “fish” (魚) and “surplus” (餘) are homonyms, so a fish dish represents the expression *nian nian you yu* (年年有餘) or “every year a surplus.” A whole chicken is a must, symbolizing the rhyming Taiwanese aphorism *chiah ke khi ke* (食雞起家), meaning “eat a chicken, establish a home,” denoting family togetherness. The characters for “green” (青) and “pure” (清) are also homonyms, so green vegetables symbolize *qing ji ru yi* (清吉如意), meaning “everything as you wish.” Mustard greens or “long years vegetable” (長年菜) symbolize *chang chang jiu jiu* (長長久久), meaning “long, long time” – i.e. living to a ripe old age. In Taiwanese, “radish” (菜頭) and “fortune” (彩頭) share the same pronunciation, so radish cake is served, representing *ho chhai-thau* (好彩頭) or “good fortune.” The word *fa* (發) means “to grow,” so a type of sponge cake called *fagao* (發糕) that grows when steamed is eaten, symbolizing *facai* (發財) or “grow money/get rich.” “cake” (糕) and “high” (高) sound the same, so eating





niangao (年糕) or "New Year cake" symbolizes *bu bu gao sheng* (步步高升), or "step by step ever higher." The red turtle cake (紅龜粿), a small cake with bean-paste filling shaped like a turtle, symbolizes *yan nian yi shou* (延年益壽), or longevity.

After the meal, the family's older members give "lucky money" (壓歲錢) to younger members. Children take the money, put it under their pillow, and pray for good fortune when they go to sleep; by pressing down on the money they symbolically suppress evil spirits and demons. Adult members who are already married give lucky red envelopes with money inside to parents, expressing filial piety and respect and the hope that they'll live a long life. This is followed by *shou sui* (守歲), or "seeing in the new year," with the whole family sitting around together and chatting until past midnight. This also represents the hope that parents enjoy longevity. As the first day of the New Year arrives firecrackers are set off, the fiery bursts and loud noise chasing away any evil otherworldly types lingering about.

During New Year friends and family exchange auspicious *bai nian* (拜年) or "New Year greetings" with each other. *Bai nian* also means to "pay a New Year courtesy call." A family being visited will offer guests candy, auspicious kumquats, and other treats, and the two sides will present red envelopes to each other's younger members. Each act adds to the festive atmosphere and strengthens the bond of friendship. An old custom practiced on the first day of the New Year is to *zou chun* (走春), literally "walk spring," meaning to take a walk to make courtesy calls. This practice arose in old farming communities. Taiwanese pick both an auspicious time and direction to set out, which attracts good luck and also increases one's chances of meeting the God of Wealth (財神) at the door. Nowadays many people will visit a temple to pray as part of their *zou chun*, asking that all will go well in the year to come. Many also clean ancestral tombs on this day, to let those that have passed on know they are remembered and cherished.

On the second day of the New Year, married females *hui niangjia* (回娘家) or return to their parents' home to visit family and relatives. The festive fun continues right through the holidays, and the holiday traditions end on Lantern Festival (元宵節), the 15th day of the new year. On this day everyone eats *yuanxiao* (元宵) or *tangyuan* (湯圓). Both are small dumplings made with rice flour, and their perfect roundness symbolizes the perfection of a full family reunion. At this time people also go out to admire traditional decorated lanterns.

1. Pasting auspicious spring couplets at the doors of homes is a Taiwan New Year tradition.
2. Eating "long years vegetable" symbolizes long life, making them a must at the New Year's Eve feast.
3. Eating red turtles cakes, shaped like the long-lived turtles, also symbolizes longevity.
4. Eating a sponge cake called fagao symbolizes the growing of wealth.
5. On Lantern Festival *yuanxiao* or *tangyuan* are eaten, their roundness symbolizing family reunion, the custom signifying the close of the spring holidays.

The Hakka New Year – Happiness and Wealth

The New Year customs of Hakka people are for the most part similar to those of Taiwan's other Han Chinese, but more emphasis is placed on rites honoring ancestors. When family members hurry back to their childhood home for the New Year family reunion, the first thing they do upon arrival is pray before the ancestral tablets, and head over to the main hall at their ancestral home for more worship rites. The Hakka also *ru nianjia* (入年假) or start the New Year celebrations on the 25th day of the 12th month by launching their New Year cleaning and shopping. They *chu nianjia* (出年假) or "exit the New Year celebrations" on the 5th day of the 1st month, returning to their regular routine.

The Hakka New Year's Eve family-reunion meal is rich in fish and meat dishes. The must-have dishes are similar to those of Taiwan's other Han Chinese folk, but Hakka dishes are known for being salty, fragrant, and fatty, because the Hakka tended to live in remote mountainous areas in the past, demanding environments that lacked many resources. Extra salt in foods replenished the salt lost through grueling work, and meats were commonly salted for storage. A sauce made with oranges would be put on dining tables to moisten the dried meat when eaten. The sauce is usually made in summer, marinated in salt, and would be ready for consumption when Chinese New Year arrived in the winter.

Farming families do not go out to pay courtesy calls on the first day of the New Year, and the year's first breakfast must be vegetarian. Some do not eat fish or meat the entire day. This symbolizes that frugality will be practiced right from the beginning.

Hakka entertain guests with *xingren tang* (星仁糖; peanuts with a candy coating), winter-melon candy, and sweetened sticky-rice cakes.

The 20th day of the 1st lunar month is called Heaven Mending Day (天穿日), a day of celebration when Hakka folk in each farming community set down their tools for a day of rest and relaxation with each other. The rest of Taiwan calls this unique day "Hakka Day" (客家日).

6. A meat-accompanying sauce made with oranges is a Hakka specialty.
7. The Hakka greet guests at New Year with a traditional winter-melon candy.
8. The dishes found at the Hakka New Year's Eve meal are comparatively salty, fragrant, and fatty.
9. The first lunar month's 20th day is the Hakka's Heaven Mending Day, a time of rest and celebration.



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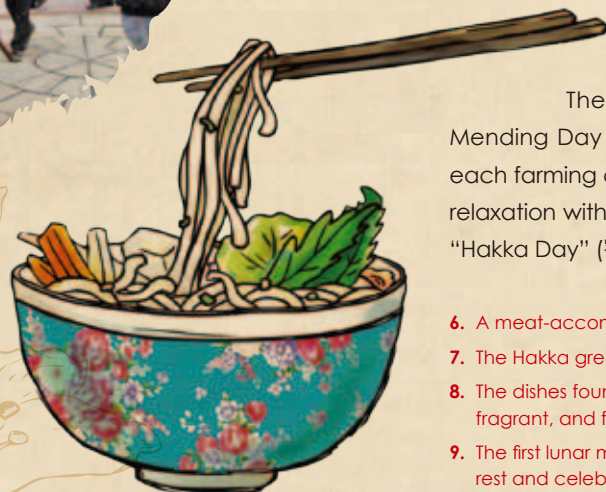
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Other New Year Customs

Taiwan's indigenous peoples, of course, do not celebrate Chinese New Year. Their main celebrations are related to land and sea harvests. Those who came from mainland China after the Chinese Civil War, along with their descendants, share most customs with the Taiwanese and Hakka, with minor variations. Those with their roots in north China, where wheat rather than rice is a staple, eat *jiaozi* (餃子) as a main dish at the family-reunion meal. These are plump stuffed dumplings with skins made from wheat flour, and their shape reminds people of imperial-age ingots. To eat them beckons wealth. At New Year some families may hide a clean coin in one of the dumplings; whoever finds it will enjoy a year's luck in making money.

Each year on the 8th day of the 12th lunar month, popularly called *laba* (臘八), "Old Beijing" (老北京) folk will cook up a big pot of *laba* porridge (臘八粥). The porridge contains rice, beans, dried fruits, and other ingredients, symbolizing a good harvest in the new year. People with their roots in China's Shandong (山東) province like to eat steamed buns called *mantou* (饅頭) with smoked black jujubes on top, symbolizing a prosperous family reunited. On New Year's Eve those with roots in Shanghai (上海) must have two types of sweet cake – a kind of sponge cake called *songgao* (鬆糕) and New Year cakes with red beans. Those from Anhui (安徽) province eat fried green-bean balls. Legend tells people with Jiangsu (江蘇) province roots that if they eat *tangyuan* the God of Wealth will visit, and thus eat the dumplings throughout New Year, from morning on the first day to the Lantern Festival. Many families, whatever their origin, also believe that the New Year's Eve food should not be completely eaten, for the leftovers signifies that they *youyu* (有餘) or "have a surplus." Many wrap the leftovers in auspicious red paper, calling it *genian fan* (隔年飯) or "next year food," symbolizing plenty to eat in the year to come.

Now that you know what to look for and why, an invitation to a Taiwan friend's house to spend some time at New Year will be even more fun as you watch for which customs are followed and which aren't. By showing up for your visit with the appropriate New Year goodies, and extending a hearty *Gongxi Facai!* (恭喜發財; "Congratulations, get rich!") – or by taking the initiative and inviting Taiwan friends to *zou chun* and visit you – you'll be experiencing New Year the authentic Taiwan way! 🍊



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10. Families who came from mainland China after the Chinese Civil War eat *jiaozi*, round dumplings with shapes like imperial-age ingots, symbolizing wealth.
11. On the last lunar month's 8th day, "Old Beijing" families eat *laba* porridge.
12. Families with Shandong roots eat steamed buns called *mantou* with smoked black jujubes atop, symbolizing family reunion and prosperity.
13. Families with Shanghai roots eat *songgao* as dessert for their New Year's Eve feast.



Welcoming in the New Year with Colorful Plants and Flowers

Putting out attractive pot plants and flowers during the Chinese New Year not only adds to the festive spirit, but can also attract prosperity and wealth, since many are considered auspicious. Generally speaking, red flowers symbolize happiness, and mean advancement in one's career as well as good luck. Yellow flowers mean luck in making money. Flowers in these two colors, for obvious reasons, are the two most popular at Lunar New Year time. Purple symbolizes nobility or high rank, and white possesses class and elegance. Plants and flowers in these colors are also highly valued, brightening moods and inviting good fortune.



Taipei is home to a number of large-scale flower markets: the Jianguo Holiday Flower Market (建國假日花市), Taipei Pot Plant Auction (臺北花木批發市場), and Taipei Flowers Auction Co., Ltd. (臺北花市). The Chinese New Year holidays are always at least 5~7 days, so buying blooms that will last is a good idea. Orchids, for example, are long-flowering, and you can choose from the moth orchid and boat orchid among others. Other durable and hardy plants include the *Guzmania lingulata*, bromeliads, Cherry Belle radish, and Zanzibar gem. The shape and color of chrysanthemums, lilies, and flaming lilies also give them auspicious meaning and great popularity. Each of these is a splendid addition to your own home and a great New Year gift idea.

In general, plants and flowers that bring luck in money are most popular in Taiwan. The most popular such plants are the Malabar chestnut, jade plant, and Zanzibar gem. Each of these have "money tree" nicknames. Yellow flowers are favored when it comes to luck in money-making, notably the lady's slipper, also called the pouch flower, colored calla lily, sunflower, dancing-doll orchid, and *Narcissus*. Some plants are considered auspicious because of name associations: the chrysanthemum is pronounced *juhua* (菊花), which sounds like *jifa* (吉發), meaning "luck spreads"; the white willow is pronounced *ynliu* (銀柳), which sounds like *ynliang* (銀兩), meaning "tael," the silver currency used in imperial times; "pineapple" (鳳梨) sounds like "prosperity arrives" (旺來) in Taiwanese; and "beetroot" (紅菜頭) sounds like "auspicious beginnings" (好彩頭). The kumquat is auspicious because it looks like a gold ingot, and lucky bamboo is associated with the auspicious phrase *bu bu gao sheng* (步步高升), meaning "step by step rise higher," because of its steady and rapid growth. Larger potted plants can also immediately become auspicious decorations, inviting in good fortune, by hanging small decorations shaped like bamboo cannon (竹砲), old Chinese-style ingots (元寶) or lucky red-silk ribbons on them.

If you're looking to sweep out the old and bring in the new for Lunar New Year, adorn your home with something fresh like a potted plant or landscape, or a fresh-cut bouquet of flowers. They'll immediately brighten the atmosphere. 🍀



1. Auspicious New Year plants and flowers brighten the home and beckon both wealth and happiness. (photo courtesy of Taipei Florist)
2. The orchid, symbol of high rank and very hardy, is both a great home decoration and gift item. (photo courtesy of Taipei Florist)
3. The white willow symbolizes wealth.
4. A favorite New Year plant is Lucky Bamboo, symbolizing ever-rising station in life.
5. The calla lily comes in many colors, spreading joy.
6. The hardy lily keeps its shape, and its color brings happiness.

Information

Jianguo Holiday Flower Market 建國假日花市

Location: Between Ren'ai and Xinyi roads, under Jianguo Elevated Expressway (仁愛路與信義路之間建國高架橋下橋段)

Tel: (02)2325-6995

Website: www.fafa.org.tw

Hours: Sat/Sun 09:00-18:00

※ Adjusted hours prior to Chinese New Year: 2/2~2/8 09:00-22:00, 2/9 (New Year's Eve) 09:00-18:00

Taipei Pot Plant Auction 臺北花木批發市場

Add: 15, Sec. 1, Xinglong Rd. (興隆路1段15號)

Tel: (02)8663-3565

Website: www.12flower.com.tw

Hours: Tues~Sun 09:00-18:00; closed 2/10~2/16 (starting Chinese New Year's Day)

Taipei Flowers Auction Co., Ltd. 臺北花市

Add: Near 321, Ruiguang Rd. (瑞光路臨321號)

Tel: (02)2659-5729

Website: www.tflower.com.tw

Hours: Mon~Sat 04:00-12:00

※ Adjusted hours prior to Chinese New Year: 2/5 04:00 to 2/9 13:00 (Closed 2/10~2/14)

Taipei City Chinese New Year Activities

Want to experience all the fun and cultural delights of the Taiwan Lunar New Year? To spread the lucky red carpet for the arrival of the New Year holidays, the city's tourist areas, exhibition venues, and temples are staging many colorful events, to ensure you the happiest possible festival season.

Time	Activity	Location	Organizer/Tel/Website
Until 1/31	Spring Festival Couplet Giveaway	Taipei Xingtian Temple 臺北行天宮 109, Sec. 2, Minquan E. Rd. (民權東路2段109號)	Taipei Xingtian Temple 臺北行天宮 (02)2502-7924 www.ht.org.tw
1/19	Year of the Snake Opening Special Exhibit Display of snake specimens and photos	Taipei Zoo Education Center, special exhibits area 臺北動物園教育中心特展區 30, Sec. 2, Xinguang Rd. (新光路2段30號)	Taipei Zoo 臺北動物園 (02)2938-2300, ext. 526 www.zoo.gov.tw
2/10~2/17 09:00-17:00	Animal Friends New Year Visit Animal puppets interact with visitors		
1/26 13:30-16:30	Snake Year Auspicious Spring Couplets Expert calligraphers will create spring couplets on-site and present them to visitors.	National Taiwan Museum 國立臺灣博物館 1 st floor, grand lobby 本館一樓大廳 2, Xiangyang Rd. (襄陽路2號)	National Taiwan Museum 國立臺灣博物館 (02)2382-2699 www.ntm.gov.tw
1/27 13:30-16:30	New Year Joy with Snake Image Prints Celebrating the Year of the Snake, visitors are invited to experience traditional print making, and create their own art.		
2/11 09:30-09:40	Happy Red Envelope Year of Abundance Draw Receiving lucky money is one of the best things about Lunar New Year; come early on the second day of the New Year to pick your lucky red envelope!		
2/12 10:30-12:30 2/14 13:30-15:30	"Hundred Professions" Spring Couplet Grand Display A display of spring couplets by people from all walks of life, each different profession bringing couplets of different meanings.		
2/16~17 14:00-16:00	Happy Snake Encounters An exhibit of 52 different Taiwan snake species, with 23 poisonous species.	Chiang Kai-shek Memorial Hall 中正紀念堂 21, Zhongshan S. Rd. (中山南路21號) Central Hallway 中央通廊	Chiang Kai-shek Memorial Hall 中正紀念堂 (02)2343-1100 www.cksmh.gov.tw
1/27 14:00-15:30	"Welcome Happiness with Spring's Arrival" Spring Couplet Giveaway Well-known calligraphers create spring couplets on-site and present them for free to the public.		
2/11~14 09:00	Year of the Snake Luck and Blessings Welcome Daily free giveaway of one hundred Chiang Kai-shek Lunar New Year stickers.		
2/23 14:00-16:00	CKS Memorial Silver Snake Happy and Boisterous Spring Welcome Dance, musical groups, lion and dragon dancing.		
2/24 16:00	Lantern Lighting Ceremony Lantern Festival lantern lighting ceremony, lion and dragon dancing, traditional vaudeville-style performances.		



Time	Activity	Location	Organizer/Tel/Website
Until 2/24 09:00-18:00	Chinese and Japanese Damask (Paper) Cutting Joint Display Winners of heritage and cultural awards will give free demonstrations.	National Dr. Sun Yat-sen Memorial Hall 國父紀念館 505, Sec. 4, Ren'ai Rd. (仁愛路4段505號) Cuixi Gallery 翠溪藝廊	National Dr. Sun Yat-sen Memorial Hall 國父紀念館 (02) 2758-8008 www.yatsen.gov.tw
2/9-2/24 09:30-16:00 2/24 13:30-16:00 Spring Festival Calligraphy	Taipei International Calligraphy Exhibition and Spring Writing on Brush Party In addition to the calligraphy exhibition, well-known experts from overseas and from local schools will give on-site demonstrations, and there will be prize draws for calligraphy, poetry and singing, dance performances, and calligraphy giveaways for visitors. 	National Dr. Sun Yat-sen Memorial Hall 國父紀念館 Yat-sen Gallery 逸仙藝廊	National Dr. Sun Yat-sen Memorial Hall 國父紀念館 Dept. of Education, Taipei City Govt. 臺北市教育局 1999 (or (02)2720-8889 if outside Taipei City) www.tp.edu.tw/game/ Republic of China Calligraphy Education Society 中華民國書法教育學會 (02)2356-0822 163.20.160.14/~edu/
2/10-3/14	Painted Lanterns Special exhibit of painted lanterns created by well-known Taiwan calligraphers, painters, and professors.	National Dr. Sun Yat-sen Memorial Hall, exterior corridor 國父紀念館戶外迴廊	National Dr. Sun Yat-sen Memorial Hall 國父紀念館
2/2-2/9 09:00-22:00	2013 New Year Flower Market & Special Exhibit on Japan's Daikonsima Peonies 	Jianguo Holiday Flower Market 建國假日花市 under Jianguo Elevated Expressway between Xinyi and Ren'ai roads (信義路與仁愛路間，建國高架橋下橋段)	Jianguo Holiday Flower Market Council 建國假日花市自治會 (02)2325-6995 www.fafa.org.tw
2/2 10:00~14:00	New Year calligraphy art to take home	Taipei Confucius Temple 臺北市孔廟 275, Dalong St. (大龍街275號) Plaza before Dacheng Hall, under 'Yi' Gate 大成殿前廣場、儀門下	Taipei Confucius Temple 臺北市孔廟 (02) 2592-3934 www.ct.taipei.gov.tw
2/10-2/15 10:00~14:00	Write blessed cards to embrace the year of the Snake		
2/5-2/8 2/8 16:30 Prize Draw	Famous Artist New Year Art Draw Visitors to the TFAM can enter a draw, with one hundred winners receiving a woodcut print by famed Taiwan artist Zheng Shanxi (鄭善禧) with a Year of the Snake zodiac animal theme.	Taipei Fine Arts Museum 臺北市立美術館 181, Sec. 3, Zhongshan N. Rd. (中山北路3段181號)	Taipei Fine Arts Museum 臺北市立美術館 (02)2595-7656, ext. 321 www.tfam.museum
2/10-2/12	2013 New Year – Year of the Snake: Prosperity and Luck Red Envelope Draw The first two hundred visitors each day to the Cosmic Adventure attraction can pick their own lucky red envelope.	Taipei Astronomical Museum 臺北市立天文科學教育館 363, Jihe Rd. (基河路363號) Display area on 4F, Cosmic Adventure entrance 展示場4樓宇宙探險出、入口	Taipei Astronomical Museum 臺北市立天文科學教育館 (02)2831-4551, ext. 745 www.tam.gov.tw
2/16、2/24 13:30	Mini Lantern Giveaway, Happy Lantern Festival Celebration of Lantern Festival; 10,000 mini lanterns will be distributed in two sessions.	Taipei Dalongdong Bao'an Temple 臺北大龍峒保安宮 61, Hami St. (哈密街61號)	Taipei Dalongdong Bao'an Temple 臺北大龍峒保安宮 (02)2595-1676 www.baoan.org.tw

* Times and contents will be in accordance with the organizer's public announcement; check online or via telephone for detail.

The Elegant Xi Ben Yuan Temple Rises Once Again

The Japanese city of Kyoto is home to an area of ground that's considered sacred by Buddhists: the Nishi Honganji Temple (西本願寺), a key site for the Jōdo Shinshū Honganji Sect (a form of Jōdo Shinshū or Pure Land Buddhism). Taipei long had its own Nishi Honganji Temple – called the Xi Ben Yuan Temple in Chinese – the sect's temple in Taiwan. Built in 1922, it had a Hall for State Ceremonies (紫宸殿), Grand Hall (本堂大殿), urn tower, assembly hall called the "Tree Heart Hall", (樹心會館) for lectures and other events, bell tower, and *rinbansho* (輪番所), or residence of the head priest. It was the largest Japanese Buddhist temple in Taiwan during the 1895-1945 Japanese colonial period.

The temple was ill-fated, however. After the end of World War Two the newly established Chinese Nationalist government on Taiwan decided to use the temple first as an army and military police headquarters, then as temporary living quarters for military personnel and civilians when the Nationalists retreated from mainland China. It was thereafter overrun by illegal buildings, and began to deteriorate. Finally, much of the place burned down in a 1975 fire.

In 2006, the city government declared the bell tower and the Tree Heart Hall official city historical relics, and in 2010 architect Xu Yuming (許育鳴) began restoration work on these relics as well as the residence of the head priest, entrance pathway, Grand Hall, and urn tower. Work was completed at the end of December 2012, and there are plans to open the site to the public in March this year. As you travel along Zhonghua Road (中華路) you can't miss the imposing bell tower and quiet, tranquil red-brick architecture.

The bell tower's copper bell and roof tiling were severely damaged in the 1975 fire; only the beam structure was left intact.

A bronze bell made in Miaoli (苗栗) is now in place, and the plan is to restore the stately Buddhist bell-sounding ceremony in the courtyard. On the left- and right-hand sides respectively are the Tree Heart Hall and *rinbansho*. The Tree Heart Hall's original Chinese cypress roof framework was destroyed in the 1975 conflagration, leaving only the red-brick walls behind. The Western architectural

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elements that were introduced toward the end of Japan's Taisho period have been restored, as has the Japanese-style "Tang door" (唐門) arch portal. There is a small stage inside the hall, restoring wedding and funeral scenes of yesteryear centered on well-known political and business figures. The restoration work done on the rinbansho is more complete – you'll see well-preserved weatherboarding on the exterior, bamboo-weaving mud walls in a portion of the interior, and Japanese-style ridge tiles and *onigawara* or ogre/demon tiles (鬼瓦) on the roof. Behind the structure is a Japanese-style courtyard that will be used as a viewing space and area for light snacks in the future.

The entrance pathway leads to the main hall. There were once two levels, which together originally measured just under 1,000 square meters. Wood was used on the upstairs level in the same palace style as Kyoto's famed Shishin-den or Hall for State Ceremonies. Today only the downstairs level and the upstairs-level stylobate remain. The renovation architects have installed different types of wood flooring on the stylobate to show the location of different second-level spaces in the past. Elsewhere on the grounds, the only section of the urn tower that remains is the foundation, as a memory of the former structure.

Following its initial days of glory as a key Buddhist site, and its dark period of neglect and decay, the Xi Ben Yuan Temple is now once again an architectural work of elegantly attractive mien. Its renaissance brings a space of quiet comfort and spirituality to the hustle and bustle of the Ximending (西門町) area. 📍

1. The stately bell tower is the Xi Ben Yuan Temple's iconic symbol.
2. After the great fire, the only remains of the urn tower was the foundation.
3. The rinbansho has Japanese-style ridge tiles and *onigawara* or ogre/demon tiles on the roof; in behind is a Japanese-style courtyard to be used as a viewing space and for light foods.
4. The residence of the head priest is the most intact of the remaining structures.
- 5-6. The "Tang door" arch portal at Tree Heart Hall is a common design element in Japanese temples; the hall's small stage was preserved during the renovation.

Information

Xi Ben Yuan Temple 西本願寺

Add: 174, Sec. 1, Zhonghua Rd. (corner of Zhonghua Rd. and Changsha St.) (中華路1段174號; 中華路與長沙街口)

Tel: (02)2381-5132, ext. 318





NK101 Tea@Style – Creating a New Entertainment Experience



南港101文創會館
NK101Tea@Style

Although formal stage performances are the traditional places to catch Taiwan's colorful, dynamic theater, venues are working hard to create new experiences for audiences. NK101 Tea@Style (南港101文創會館) is one such new experience, presented as a large-scale teahouse. The performance space measures just under 3,970 square meters, with a ceiling 21 meters high, and has seating for six hundred. The area has been transformed into a place where audiences can drink tea and enjoy a showcase of the arts at the same time. Visitors can relax and savor the taste of Taiwan's finest tea while also taking in its finest performance-culture traditions.

The facility has already served as a spacious, multi-purpose performance space full of sweeping sight lines, and is furnished with traditional square wooden teahouse-style tables and chairs, set in tiered rows in the central area for unobstructed views of the stage. The stage front is high above the audience, and the cross-

shaped, intersecting aisles in the audience area have also been transformed into a performance space, bringing viewers into intimate contact with players – and also bringing viewers right into the action.

The atmosphere of a modern teahouse is enhanced by using small and delicate lamps in the shape of sky lanterns (天燈), placed on tables to provide cozy illumination. The tea utensils are all from Taiwan designer Huey Lien's (連國輝) KungFu Tea Set (品功夫), winner of Taiwan's prestigious Golden Pin Design Award (金點設計獎). A smaller version of the original teapot is used, the lines and materials exuding a sleek, modern feel. The teapot, along with a fork rest and three tea-snack trays that fit neatly together, are all placed in a round wooden tea tray. Each patron is presented with their own tea set, giving them the most intimate and individualized experience with Taiwan's high-mountain tea and unique tea refreshments.



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1. NK101 Tea@Style is a place where audiences can drink tea and enjoy stage performances at the same time.
2. Each table has the KungFu Tea Set, an award-winning Taiwan design, and small lamps shaped like sky lanterns.
3. "Wu Shen Jiang - The Dance of Head Police in the World of the Dead" is the first part of the daily show, *Formosa Fantasy, The Amazing Night of Taiwan*.
4. The "Nankang Night Market" section is a celebration of Taiwan's night-market culture blending magic, street dance, percussion music, and special effects.

Each night at 8:30 from Tuesday through Sunday (the facility is closed on Monday), NK101 Tea@Style presents the stage work *Formosa Fantasy, The Amazing Night of Taiwan* (藝想臺灣—美麗寶島夜). This is a song-and-dance presentation focused on Taiwan culture, featuring four major themes: religion, night markets, pop fashion and indigenous groups. First up is "Wu Shen Jiang - The Dance of Head Police in the World of the Dead" (舞神將), during which dancers surround the audience, accompanied by pulsating music provided by great drums, gongs and horns. The opening sets pulses racing, and sets up the following sections, entitled "Inviting the Gods" (請神), the "Eight Generals" (八家將), and "God Commanders" (官將首), all of which are centered around traditional battle-array formations, along with a dazzling high-wire dance act and a flying dance act that moves vertically up and down off the stage.

Next up is "Nankang Night Market" (美麗寶島夜), a celebration of Taiwan's night-market culture that brings together magic, street dance, percussion music, and special effects, then "Let's Dance" (舞力全開), an exploration of pop dance, Taiwan's beatboxing, and

street dance subcultures. Last up is "Aboriginal Fantasy" (原舞曲), an aboriginal song-and-dance performance in which dancers take to the air on ropes to demonstrate awe-inspiring skill and artistry. The night ends with a welcome dance in which the dancers invite audience members to join in an enthusiastic grand finale that goes on until the last note of the evening is sounded.

Each performance is ninety minutes long – a spectacle of magnificent costumes and high-tech stage effects that thrills and bedazzles. There is no better way for the lover of the performing arts to get up close and personal with the glamor and vitality of Taiwan performance theater. 🎪

Information

NK101 Tea@Style 南港101文創會館

Add: 71, Xingnan St.; turn right at 72, Chongyang Rd.
(興南街71號; 重陽路72號右轉)

Tel: (02)2788-7070

Hours: Tues~Sun 19:30~22:00 (closed Mon)

Website: www.nk101.com


Water Scene – the World's Greatest Paper-Curtain Artwork

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The wonderful large-scale paper-curtain artwork *Water Scene* (水之即景) has recently been installed in the right-side corridor off the grand lobby of the National Theater (國家戲院). Hand-crafted paper in different colors, along with changing light and shadow, create the impression of flowing water, symbolizing the endless cycle of water falling from the sky and returning once more to the heavens. The creator of the work hopes that people coming to see a show at the National Theater will first view the work and have their spirits calmed before taking their seats, and that it will help them to enjoy the performance in a relaxed frame of mind.

Water Scene is a major artwork created to celebrate the 25th anniversary of the National Theater & Concert Hall (兩廳院), a joint enterprise by the NTCH and the Suho Memorial Paper Culture Foundation (樹火紀念紙文化基金會). Japanese artist Junko Kobayashi, who specializes in working on paper, was invited to create the work. The effort, from preparation through crafting and dyeing to paper-making, took almost a year. *Water Scene* stretches 14.2 meters, which is estimated to be a world record for a paper curtain. The greatest difficulty faced was in creating a single massive sheet of paper of such impressive dimensions, without any seams. A special paper-making filter and trough had to be manufactured, and a unique team of sixteen master craftsmen had to be brought together, working in faultless unison through every step, for any flaw in their synchronization would have required the process to be started all over again.

How do you use a static medium such as paper to create the dynamic fluidity of water? Building on five colors of the spectrum, *Water Scene* blends them in ways that bring to life twenty-seven different color tones. Light and shadow flow is used to give them a natural character. To create the impression of a rainy environment, the production team mixed in slivers of silver foil before the paper was fully dry. The pliability of the paper's fibers is cleverly used to create the imagery of water circulation, and the iconic flowing water-sleeve metaphor from traditional Chinese opera is utilized to elegantly symbolize the artwork's National Theater home.

Water Scene is now on show at the National Theater. If you're anywhere near the grounds of the Chiang Kai-shek Memorial Hall (中正紀念堂), be sure to drop in and inspect this inspirational one-of-a-kind work of public art. 

1. *Water Scene* has been called the world's greatest paper-curtain artwork.

Information

Water Scene 水之即景

Location: Right-side corridor, National Theater lobby;
21-1, Zhongshan S. Rd. (國家戲院大廳右側
走廊;中山南路21-1號)

Tel: (02)3393-9387

Website: www.suhopaper.org.tw



Taipei Free



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Give You Public Wi-Fi — Everywhere



Everywhere you walk in Taipei, you see them. On the streets. Waiting for the bus. Getting on the metro. Smartphones – yes, the mobile digital era has arrived! The public wants Internet access everywhere, all the time, and the Taipei City Government has given it. Third-phase Taipei Free Public Wi-Fi Access (臺北公眾區免費無線上網) services are now up and running, with over 6,000 hotspots. There's no need to meander around aimlessly, looking for a hotspot; just head to the nearest bus stop, metro station, or indoor/outdoor public area. Usage is free of charge.

The third phase of service development was completed in December last year. Wi-Fi hotspot coverage now includes such public facilities as Taipei City Hall, the administrative centers in the city's twelve districts, Taipei Public Library (市立圖書館) branches, Taipei City Hospital (市立聯合醫院) campuses, Taipei Metro stations and underground malls, district health centers, district sports centers, household registration offices, land offices, public schools, bus transfer stations, parking lots, bus shelters, refuse incineration plants, parks, markets, tourist night markets, public rental housing facilities, and city buses.

To make it easier for travelers from overseas to set up a Taipei Free account, special service is available at numerous locations, including Taipei Songshan Airport, visitor information centers at tourist attractions, and service desks at over forty tourist hotels. Use your passport number to apply. Applications can also be made on the Taipei Free website. You can start using the system as soon as your application is filed.

Two-way roaming has now been set up between the Taipei Free system, the NewTaipei system that serves New Taipei City (新北市), and the iTaiwan system that serves all of Taiwan. Just one account is needed, meaning once you have your Taipei Free account you do not need to register again with the others. Whatever your need of the moment – looking up info, map searching, swiping a QR code, contacting friends – satisfaction is instantaneous while you roam Taipei, both physically and digitally! ➡



1-3. With its third phase completed, the Taipei Free Public Wi-Fi Access system now has over 6,000 hotspots, providing the public with free 24H Internet access at all indoor and outdoor public places.

Information

Taipei Free 臺北公眾區免費無線上網

Website: www.tpe-free.taipei.gov.tw

Local Toll Free Number: 0809-091919

2013 Taipei Lantern Festival – A Celebration of Painted Lanterns

The Artistry of the Lantern Festival

Each year during Lantern Festival, the Taiwanese enjoy such traditional customs as eating the small, round dumplings called yuanxiao, which symbolize family togetherness and happiness. Happiest of all are the kids, who get to carry traditional-style decorated lanterns around, tagging along behind Mom and Dad at various Lantern Festival activities. The annual Taipei Lantern Festival (臺北燈節) features a mix of traditional and modern electric lanterns, based either on the image of the year's zodiac animal, on ancient and modern stories, or inspired by creative whimsy. Gorgeous, resplendent light sculptures and thumping music add to the festival's fantasy-like beauty. Temples are also aglow with decorated lanterns hanging everywhere, and add to the celebratory atmosphere by staging lantern-riddle contests.

The 2013 Taipei Lantern Festival will be staged in a new location: Taipei Expo Park (花博公園), in the Fine Arts Park (美術公園) and Yuanshan Park (圓山公園) Areas, and will run from February 21st to March 3rd. The Chinese zodiac animal for the new year is the snake, which will of course be the theme for the large-scale decorated float lanterns, along with myths and cartoon stories, and the totems of Taiwan's indigenous peoples. There will also be a special area given over for lantern artists to express themselves as they wish, with iconic Taipei imagery as the theme. From February 6th a 2,900-meter-long Sea of Lanterns Tunnel will stretch along the central reservation of Sections 1 to 3 of Zhongshan North Road (中山北路), and there will also be enticing Sea of Lanterns installation art along the pedestrian walkway between Yuanshan and Minquan West Road MRT Stations.



Many old stories explain why people go out to enjoy lanterns at this time of year. According to one, on the 15th day of the first lunar month Emperor Wu of the Han Dynasty (漢武帝) would set up a sacrificial altar in the imperial palace to worship the Daoist deity Taiyi (太一神/太乙神; "supreme unity"), who presided over the universe. The rites lasted through the night, necessitating the use of lanterns. Later, after the introduction of Buddhism in China, temples were festooned with lanterns, bestowing blessings, and thus the custom of appreciating lantern slowly took root. During the rich and prosperous Tang Dynasty (唐朝), lantern art reached its apogee and the scale of related activities expanded markedly. Immense crowds would line the streets, and everyone, from the highest social ranks to the lowest, came out to admire the beautiful lanterns.



The Artful Combination of the Common Lantern and Palace Lantern

The star of the Lantern Festival is of course the decorative lantern. Each is an ingenious work of art imbued with the character of ancient times, combining the function of the common lantern (燈籠) with the shape, adornment, and painting of the palace lantern (宮燈).

The common lantern was used in ancient times for illumination at night. Night-watch patrols would move through neighborhoods, sounding drums to tell residents to shut doors and windows tight and protect against fire. Candles or oil lamps were first used to light the way, but later a protective covering (a bamboo framework covered with transparent paper or fabric) was invented to prevent a breeze or wind from blowing out the flame. Thus the lantern was born. The palace lantern is the version of such lanterns developed for the imperial palace; the term was coined to highlight its noble status. To differentiate these from the lanterns of the common people, the framework was exquisitely carved, and colored painting or silk embroidery was attached. These lanterns were perfect representatives of the palace's sumptuous aesthetics.

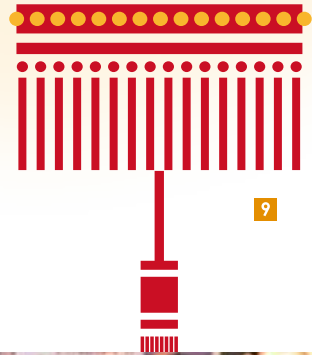


1. Each year the Taipei Lantern Festival uses zodiac-animal and laser-sculpture theme art to add to the excitement.
2. The 2013 Taipei Lantern Festival will feature the lovely Sea of Lanterns tunnel along Zhongshan N. Road's first three sections.
3. The decorative lanterns at temples are generally round or gourd-shaped.
- 4-5. The function of the palace lantern was to display the high status of the owner.



Beyond illumination, the palace lantern was used for decoration and to display identity and status. They came in three shapes: four, six, and eight-sided. Four sides symbolized “square and upright” (方方正正). Six sides, “smooth in all directions” (六六大順). Eight sides symbolized the Eight Trigrams (八卦) and the good fortune their use brings. The materials used were carefully selected; most were made of premier-quality wood, notably red sandalwood, mahogany, and rosewood. The framework would have had carvings of the Chinese dragon and phoenix, each leaf a traditional Chinese-style painting of birds, flowers, insects, and fish or a *shanshui* (山水) scene, and tassels with white or emerald jade would have been attached as accessories. Whatever the shape chosen, each lantern had a practical use while also exhibiting pageantry and majesty. Today you can savor the loveliness of the palace lantern in a number of Taipei’s Chinese palace-style venues, including The Grand Hotel (圓山大飯店), Zhongshan Building (中山樓), National Theater and Concert Hall, and Chiang Kai-shek Memorial Hall (中正紀念堂).

With time, the exquisitely crafted palace lantern came to be an iconic element in the life of the general population, transformed and used in temples and in shops and, in miniature form, carried by children. Though the materials and craftsmanship are not of the same high grade, common folk have shown great ingenuity in design, in terms of shape, material and decoration. These myriad folksy adaptations are on resplendent display each Lantern Festival, competing colorfully for the attention.



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Festive Lantern Evolution and Innovation

Each year the Taipei Lantern Festival serves as a grand display showcase of decorative lantern art. Lin Yuzhu (林玉珠), the founder of the Chinese Artistic Lantern Association (中華花燈藝術學會), talks about the history and the many types of lanterns. With over thirty years of experience in this area, Lin wields lanterns featuring many different shapes, materials and designs during her enthusiastic presentation. She also uses candles to display the oldest types of lanterns, and LED lights to show off the different modern versions. There are even mobile motor-driven lanterns, showcasing the full creative panoply of the lantern world. Lin says that "In the past, if people wanted to enjoy the art of decorative lanterns, they had to go to temples." Most decorative lanterns at temples are round or gourd-shaped, and feature painted deities or scenes from well-known stories teaching filial piety. Admirers are keenly aware of the meticulous artistry involved. Since the launch of the Taipei Lantern Festival, however, the different showcase areas have given people another option for enjoying decorative lanterns, with festive artworks in a wondrous range of color and shape on display.

Remarking on the ever-increasing sophistication of modern lanterns, Lin says that creators require a solid foundation in structural studies, light engineering, color science, and graphics – and of course a large dose of originality and ingenuity – to create works that will grab the spectator's attention. She says that "To construct a 3D lantern a detailed blueprint must be drawn up in

6. You can experience the beauty of old-time palace lanterns at The Grand Hotel.
- 7-8. Each year Lin Yuzhu creates 3D decorative lanterns in myriad themes, and teaches beginners the basics in making their own.
9. Each Lantern Festival, exquisite decorative lanterns done by talented painters are displayed at Chiang Kai-shek Memorial Hall.
10. Festive lanterns created by Lin Yuzhu.

advance, and meticulous care must be taken in forming each line of the shape. The work is painstaking." Novices, however, can start with basic round or triangular models.

Want to create your own lantern? During the Taipei Lantern Festival, each day from 2 to 5 pm instructor Lin Yuzhu will give demonstrations, so you can craft your own uniquely beautiful lantern, and stand out amidst the sea of glowing light during the Lantern Festival celebrations. 10

Information

2013 Taipei Lantern Festival 2013 臺北燈節

Time: 2/6 - 3/3

Venues: 2/6~3/3

Sea of Lanterns — Sec. 1~3, Zhongshan N. Rd. (Civic Blvd. to Zhongshan Bridge), pedestrian walkway between MRT Yuanshan Station and MRT Minquan W. Rd. Station (幸福燈海—中山北路1-3段; 市民大道-中山橋、捷運圓山站至民權西路站間沿線人行道)

2/21 - 3/3

Main exhibition site – Taipei Expo Park (Fine Arts Park, Yuanshan Park); not including Taipei Children's Recreation Center and Taipei Fine Arts Museum (主展場—花博公園美術及圓山園區; 不含兒童育樂中心及臺北市立美術館)

Tel: 1999 (outside Taipei City, dial 02-2720-8889) ext. 6237

Website: www.taipei.gov.tw

Taipei Palace Lantern Venues

The Grand Hotel 圓山大飯店

1, Sec. 4, Zhongshan N. Rd. (中山北路4段1號)

Zhongshan Building 中山樓

15, Sec. 2, Yangming Rd. (陽明路2段15號)

National Theater & Concert Hall 兩廳院

21-1 Zhongshan S. Rd. (中山南路21之1號)

Chiang Kai-shek Memorial Hall 中正紀念堂

21 Zhongshan S. Rd. (中山南路21號)

Taipei Painted Lantern Venues

Longshan Temple 龍山寺

211, Guangzhou St. (廣州街211號)

Bangka Qingshuiyanzushi Temple 艋舺清水巖祖師廟

81, Kangding Rd. (康定路81號)

Bangka Qingshan Temple 艋舺青山宮

218, Sec. 2, Guiyang St. (貴陽街2段218號)

Taipei Bao'an Temple 臺北保安宮

61, Hami St. (哈密街61號)

Guandu Temple 關渡宮

360, Zhixing Rd. (知行路360號)

Songshan Ciyu Temple 松山慈祐宮

761, Sec. 4, Bade Rd. (八德路4段761號)

Exotic New Year Feasts

Splendid in Taste & Rich in Meaning

Every country has its own unique culture and tradition, and this is also reflected in the different food that's prepared for New Year celebrations. New Year feasts from Japan, Korea, France and India are all very elaborate but each is unique in its own way. However, the one thing they all have in common is that they're all created to generate happiness during this special holiday.



Japanese New Year Feast: An Imperial Food Festival to Bring Good Fortune

New Year in Japan falls on January 1st. On New Year's Eve, families serve special New Year's Eve Noodles (buckwheat noodles). Eating noodles signifies growing a year in age and therefore conveys hope for longevity. On New Year's Eve, starting at 11 p.m., bells in all temples in Japan strike continuously 108 times, a practice called "New Year's Eve Bells." It's believed that the ringing of bells drives away bad luck and the 108 troubles in life.

The Japanese New Year feast can be described as an imperial food festival. Beautifully lacquered boxes are used as containers and the food in them must be of the highest quality, arranged in an auspicious fashion and presented in a meticulous and delicate setting. Mr. Shigehito Tokumitsu, General Manager of Radium Kagaya (日勝生加賀屋國際溫泉飯店) stated that each New Year dish has its own special meaning.

For example, konbu signifies happiness because phonetically it sounds similar to *yorokobu*, which means joy. Other dishes include herring roe (*kazunoko*), which represents harvest and fertility. Shrimps with long whiskers represent long life, and yellowtail fish represents promotion and recognition. Ida omelet (a special Japanese egg roll which looks like a traditional book roll), is also served to convey expectations of the growth of knowledge in the New Year.

This imperial food festival originated from royal palace rituals, which was prepared with great care and importance, was adopted as the Japanese New Year feast. Families gather together each year to enjoy these high quality dishes with the intention of welcoming the New Year with good luck and blessings.





Korean New Year Feast: A Celebration of Abundance with Five-colored Dish & Tri-colored Pancakes

Korean New Year traditions are very similar to those of Taiwan. Koreans celebrate the Lunar New Year, placing special emphasis on honoring their ancestors. In Korea, families wear traditional costumes on the first day of the New Year and hold a special memorial ceremony at home to honor their ancestors. Families also visit their ancestors' graves together on New Year's Day.

The Korean New Year feast focuses mainly on altar tributes prepared for ancestors. There are usually more than twenty different food varieties, most sliced finely. It takes long hours to prepare such food, which includes a vibrant five-colored vegetarian dish, meat kebabs, rice cake soup, assorted omelets, etc. Because these dishes utilize large numbers of ingredients and are prepared differently from typical daily meals, they are usually only served on New Year's Eve. The five-colored vegetarian dish is prepared only as an altar tribute. The combination of daikon, spinach, shiitake mushrooms, soybean sprouts and julienned *gosale* (a Korean root plant), served with various pickled vegetables and rice, forms a very traditional New Year dish. A tri-colored or five-colored pancake is prepared with three to five ingredients, typically melding a mixture of fish paste, pork, zucchini, sweet potato and potato. It is not only a culinary treat but also a visual delight.

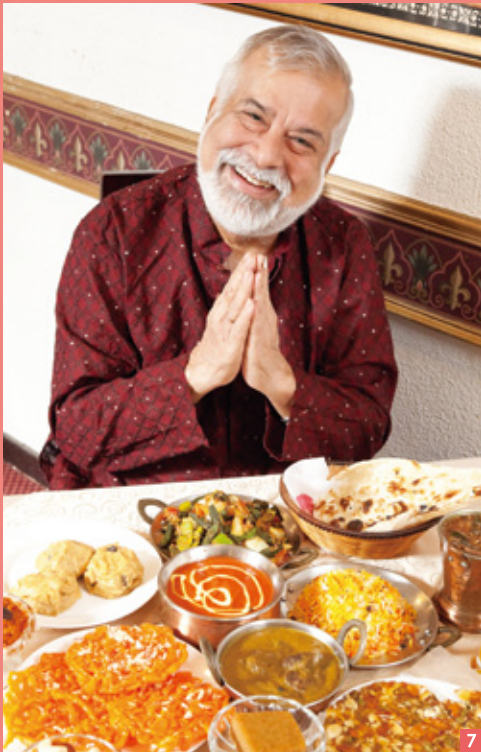
Ms. Yi, who has operated the Manman Korean Restaurant (滿滿韓國料理) in Taipei for more than twenty years, told us that another indispensable New Year dish is rice cake soup. The soup is prepared with thinly sliced white rice cake, along with beef stock, julienne of beef and cabbage. After cooking for many hours, the soup is served with a final addition of shredded fried egg yolk, egg whites and seaweed – it makes a hearty breakfast on New Year's Day. Koreans believe that the tradition of eating rice cake soup signifies growing older by one year.



6



1. The Japanese New Year feast can be described as an imperial food festival; Mr. Shigehito Tokumitsu, General Manager of Radium Kagaya, says each dish has its own special meaning.
2. The Japanese imperial-style feast must have foods of the highest quality, arranged in auspicious fashion.
3. Buckwheat noodles signifying long life are eaten at the Japanese New Year's Eve meal.
4. In Korea items, including thin pancakes, used as offerings to ancestors have also become traditional New Year foods.
5. Ms. Yi, with 20 years' experience cooking Korean foods, explains Korean New Year delicacies.
6. A five-colored vegetarian dish and rice cake soup are New Year standards in Korea.



Indian New Year Feast: Happiness Born from Savoring Sweets

New Year in India falls between the end of October and the end of November each year, and is called Diwali. On this day, every household is illuminated with lights and special decorations. Families gather together to enjoy the New Year feast and to welcome the arrival of the New Year with chanting around a fire. In addition, people also place oil lamps along the route from home to work so as to welcome Lakshmi, the auspicious Goddess who brings wealth and blessings.

Raju Relwani, who has operated the Tandoor Indian Restaurant (坦都印度餐廳) for thirty-five years, shared

that the Indian New Year feast includes butter chicken, curry mutton, lentil soup, naan bread, saffron rice, fried okra with onion and tomatoes. Indian families believe that a table overflowing with food is the best reward for a year's hard work.

Most Indians feel that sweets bring happiness, so naturally desserts are an indispensable part of the New Year feast. When passing out red envelopes (in India, they're actually pink), Indians also offer sweets. Indian sweets are mainly made with wheat flour, fresh milk or milk powder and copious amounts of sugar. Raju says that carrot pudding, rasgulla, mung bean, peanut and sesame candies, and Indian betel nuts are all integral components of the New Year celebration. Balushahi, a sweet donut made with yogurt and spices along with lalu, a sweet made with soybean flour, sugar water and raisins are ubiquitous specialty desserts.

Regardless of country and nationality, every culture celebrates the arrival of the New Year through food with the same underlying desire for happiness, good luck and blessings. This is truly the most significant meaning behind every New Year feast.



7. Raju Relwani, from India, explains deliciously sumptuous Indian New Year foods.
8. Indians believe sweet foods bring happiness and well-being, making such treats indispensable at New Year.
9. Balushahi (top) and lalu (right) are ubiquitous Indian specialty desserts.



French New Year Feast: Sharing Luxury Culinary Delights

New Year is a very important holiday in France. Some families are frugal in their everyday life, but will choose to stay in a castle or a luxury hotel to celebrate this special occasion. It's a rare treat for many families to savor delicacies such as lobster, caviar, foie gras and truffles. These items are served with roasted chicken or duck along with different varieties of wine, cheese and special breads. The accompaniment of food makes the celebration of the New Year a truly joyous and special occasion.

Executive Chef of L'Atelier de Patrick (法式派翠克餐廳), Patrick Fanchiang (范姜群煜), shared a few French delicacies. These dishes began with rich foie gras and caramelized apple as an appetizer, creamy vanilla mousseline saffron risotto served with blue lobsters from Brittany, crab legs and caviar as a main course, all accompanied by a perfect white wine. Tantalizingly delicious food delights every heart and soul.

Chef Patrick says that galette des rois, a special pastry served in every household during the Christmas season is a French classic. This round multi-layered shortbread is usually stuffed with dried fruit or almond paste and is infused with the rich flavor of rum. Many families hide a little ring or a porcelain doll (feve) in the pastry. The person who finds it has to wear a paper crown or a ring that day to show that he/she is the king for the day and it's believed that this brings good luck for the whole year. 10

New Year feasts can be enjoyed at :

Radium Kagaya

日勝生加賀屋國際溫泉飯店

Add: 236, Guangming Rd. (光明路 236 號)

Tel: (02)2891-1111

Website: www.kagaya.com.tw

Manman Korean Restaurant

滿滿韓國料亭

Add: 2F, 34, Sec. 1, Nanjing E. Rd.

(南京東路 1 段 34 號 2 樓)

Tel: (02)2567-2545

Website: manman.eatingout.com.tw

Tandoor Indian Restaurant

坦都印度餐廳

Add: 10, Ln. 73, Hejiang St. (合江街 73 巷 10 號)

Tel: (02)2509-9853

Website: tandoor.com.tw

L'Atelier de Patrick

法式派翠克餐廳

Add: 42, Siwei Rd. (四維路 42 號)

Tel: (02)2707-9586

Website: patrick-atelier.com

10. French restaurant chef Patrick Fanchiang demonstrates French New Year cuisine.
11. A classic sweet treat on French tables at New Year is galette des rois.
12. The French like to treat themselves with expensive goodies such as lobster, caviar, and pâté de foie gras at New Year.

On the Hunt for Creative Taipei New Year Gifts

1 2

The anticipation is growing in Taiwan as everyone gets set for the arrival of the Lunar New Year in February. During the holidays beloved traditions are followed, as people head back to their hometown to visit family and pay calls on relatives and friends. Giving gifts as an expression of goodwill is a must, and you'll find the variety of New Year gift purchases is stunning. Among the bright new gift ideas that unite tradition with original design are those available from CiChi (喜器) and BONHO (寶號).



3

CiChi – Gifts Brimming with Festive Flair

CiChi, established by the Afterrain Design Studio (天晴設計事務所), fuses Eastern cultural concepts with modern lifestyle tastes. It brings clever design to the creation of a series of daily-use products with a unique fashion aesthetic. Selections such as the Money Tree (金錢樹) and Tofu Cup (豆腐杯) will add to the joyous atmosphere of the New Year season.

The Money Tree evokes the image of the kumquat tree, an auspicious symbol in the Far East because its fruits look like golden nuggets. Just as the tree grows slowly, your wealth will build slowly and steadily, like building a castle from a few grains of sand each day. Tofu is one of the most iconic traditional foods in the Orient, and each cup in the Tofu Cup set is shaped like a tofu square. The “fu” (腐) in “tofu” (豆腐) is a homonym with the auspicious character “fu” (福), meaning “good fortune/happiness.” When not in use the cups can be placed upside-down on the set's wooden board, and look just like a set of fresh-cut tofu squares.



4



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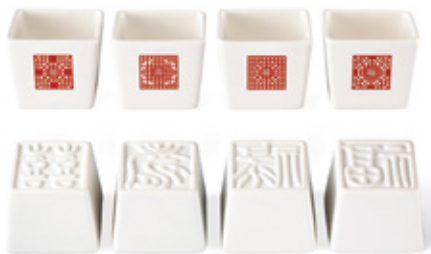
BONHO – Adding an Auspicious Flavor to the Tea Ceremony

BONHO's innovative merchandise is all researched and developed in-house, and many of the creations feature iconic elements of the Taiwan character, with the emphasis on local personality and on eco-friendliness. Each is also a practical item with alluring aesthetics. A prime example is the extremely popular Taiwan Centennial Blessing Tea (百年賜喜茶禮) gift set, which has garnered eleven domestic and international awards, even though it's been on the market for less than a year.

Within each set are four different types of Taiwan premium-selection high-mountain Oolong tea. Another name for the set is “Fu Lu Shou Xi” (福祿壽禧), four auspicious characters meaning “fortune, prosperity, longevity and happiness.” The four highly detailed, classically elegant patterns used on the gift boxes are reminiscent of traditional Chinese paper-cut art long used to adorn windows. An LED light is fixed inside the hard box-casing, which when turned on shines through the delicately wrought patterns, transforming the gift-box into an elegant lantern.

A related series is the Taiwan Blessing Seal Cup Set (賜喜印章杯). The focus is on the seal, a central part of both traditional and modern life in Taiwan. Four Taiwanese seal-cutting masters were commissioned to create versions of the four auspicious characters named above, “fu,” “lu,” “shou,” and “xi,” each one featuring on the bottom of a cup in the set, presenting the rich aesthetics of this form of Taiwanese calligraphic craftsmanship. The cups are made of white porcelain, and the gift boxes, which also feature traditional window-dressing paper-cut art, are also eco-friendly, and can be used as an appealing pen/brush holder or a New Year candy box after opening.

Lunar New Year is approaching, so why not present these special gifts, so full of festive and auspicious character, to family and friends? They're a great way to share the atmosphere of good fortune that settles over Taiwan at this time of year. 🧧



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1. CiChi's Tofu Cup set is shaped like a tofu square, when placed upside-down on the set's wooden board it looks like fresh-cut tofu squares.
2. BONHO's Taiwan Centennial Blessing Tea gift set has an LED light fixed inside the box, which when turned on shines through the delicately wrought paper-cut-style patterns, making the gift-box an elegant lantern.
3. Specially designed cups feature the “double happiness” characters that are a key motif at local weddings.
4. CiChi's Money Tree, symbolizing the growth of wealth, is a hot seller at New Year.
5. The Taiwan Blessing Seal Cup Set gift boxes feature window-dressing paper-cut art, and make appealing pen/brush holders or a New Year candy boxes after opening.
6. The bottoms of the cups in the Taiwan Blessing Seal Cup Set have the auspicious characters for fortune, prosperity, longevity, and happiness.

(Photos courtesy of CiChi, BONHO)

Information

CiChi 喜器

Add: Room N304, 3F, 21, Sec. 1, Minsheng E. Rd.
(民生東路1段21號3樓N304室)

Tel: (02)2531-9082

Website: www.cichilife.com

BONHO 寶號

Add: 27, Ln. 219, Sec. 1, Fuxing S. Rd.
(復興南路1段219巷27號)

Tel: (02)8773-7028

Website: www.bonho.com.tw



SWEET DESIGNS FOR YOUR VALENTINE



Western Valentine's Day is on the horizon, and selecting just the right gift for the object of your affection will rack up valuable romantic bonus points. Among the glittering array of Valentine's gift possibilities available, certain brands created by home-grown Taiwanese contemporary designers stand out. MOISSUE, 22 Design Studio, and DESIGNBURG are all notable for an original approach in their use of materials, and exhibit impressive ingenuity in their designs, creating rings, necklaces, and other works of jewelry art gifts that your sweetheart will surely think are perfect.



1

♥ MOISSUE – Happiness, Simple and Natural

Like a natural style? Don't miss out on the MOISSUE series of wood-themed rings. The designs are simple yet elegant, declarations that love need not be noisy, loud, and spectacular. Simple + natural = happiness.

Wood veneer in two different colors is used in MOISSUE's rings. Rings in various shapes are formed using precision turning technology, and each possesses a distinctive appearance. Each ring comes in an elegant, specially designed little wooden box with a twist-open lid. Upon opening there are two pleasant surprises – the ring itself, and its alluring presentation on a display stand attached to the base. The design is both one of splendid originality and warm intimacy.



2

3

MOISSUE

Tel: (02)2568-2928

Website: moissue.com



♥ 22 Design Studio – Everlasting Love

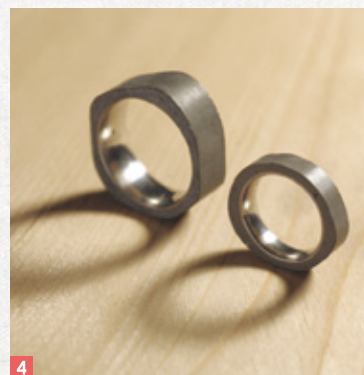
Using cement for construction is something we see everyday, but using it in jewelry is something rare indeed. Cement is the main material used in 22 Design Studio's (二十二設計公司) newly unveiled line of 22™ rings, fashioned with stainless steel, and featuring simple line and dynamic fashion statements. The “Seven” line of ring symbolizes luck and fortune, while the “Corner” line symbolizes the change in mood. The cement itself is a symbol of firm and enduring love. These elements come together in accessories that are addictively attractive.

The unusual use of cement as a creative material came about as a result of a visit to Japan by the designers in 2006, where they saw how the exposed concrete technique allowed for casting designs in fine detail. Deeply impressed, they realized that the detail now possible would make cement a unique material for use in other products, and the first cement rings were produced in 2007. Their innovative concept and their unique raw material quickly made them a breakthrough hit in local art circles, and they've drawn significant attention in the international market as well.

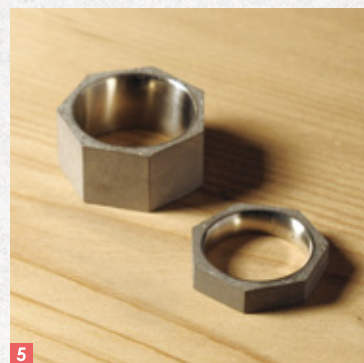
22 Design Studio (22™)

Tel: (02)2395-1970

Website: www.22designstudio.com.tw



4



5

♥ DESIGNBURG – Reveal Your Inner Emotions with Simple Grace

Another popular Valentine's gift that elegantly conveys tender sentiments is a necklace. DESIGNBURG highlights titanium in a line of jewelry art of classic simplicity and classy understatement. If what you want to express is something along the lines of “I love you more than I can say,” the selections from the Lovers (情人) line are perfect, expressing your feelings clearly and with passion.

Within the Lovers line, the “Adam & Eva” (亞當 & 夏娃) pieces feature simple geometric shapes that, stacked together, outline the male and female body forms. Amusingly, the male's head is slightly larger, the female's hips wider. For the “Dressing Couple” (穿衣情人), the design concept is the different dressing philosophies of men and women. The “clothing” of the male piece is simple and neat, depicting a stand-up collar suit. The female wears a high-slit dinner ensemble. The two appear as though holding hands, perhaps heading out together for a romantic candlelit meal.

On Valentine's Day, say “I love you” in the most special way, with gifts of unique character by Taiwan designers. They'll make this special day one of pure romance, and also one that celebrates original thinking. 🎁



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1. MOISSUE's wood rings are simple and natural.
2. Each wood ring comes in an elegant wooden box; the ring sits on a display stand attached to the base.
3. Each wood ring features unique lines that declare “one of a kind.”
4. 22™ rings, made with cement and stainless steel, are sleekly modern.
5. The “Seven” rings have seven sides, representing the days of the week; turning them around symbolizes the arrival of good luck.
6. The lines in DESIGNBURG's “Lover” necklace are clean and well-executed.
7. The “Adam & Eva” necklaces have simple geometric outlines creating the male and female forms. (Photos courtesy of MOISSUE, 22™, DESIGNBURG)

DESIGNBURG

Tel: (02)2771-1833

Website: www.designburg.com



An Ecological Tour Along the Tamsui River: Bike Touring & Bird Watching

Route

Morning market at Sanshui Street (breakfast) → Huajiang Wild Duck Nature Park, Zhongxing Bridge (teal watching) → Dihua Street (shop for New Year goodies and enjoy traditional street food) → Dadaocheng Wharf → Tamsui River, Keelung River (sightseeing by bike) → Guandu Nature Park (bird watching) → Tapas House (dinner) → Guandu Bridge (enjoy the night-time skyline)

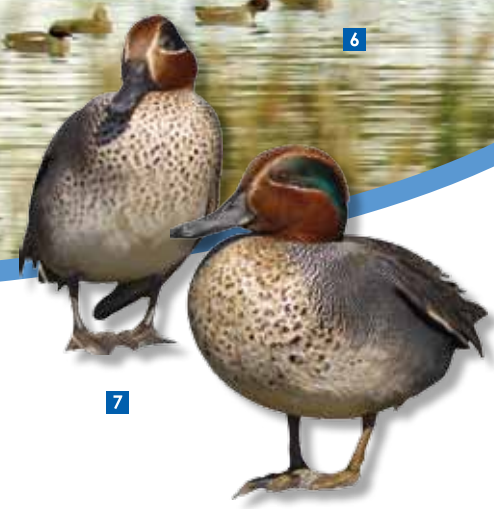
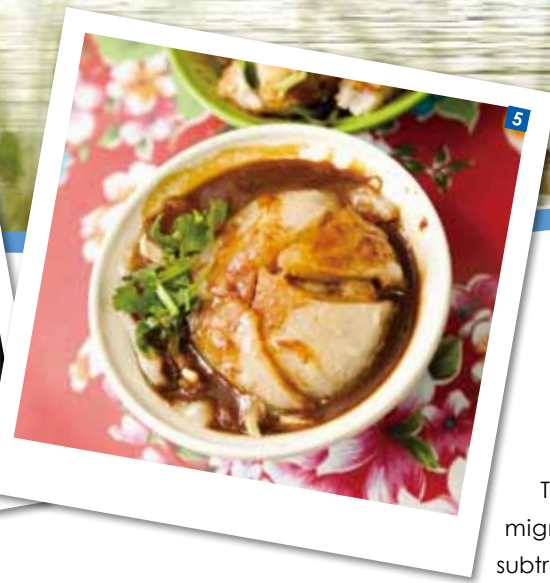


In recent years great efforts have been made to clean Taipei's rivers and other environments. Many bike paths have been created along the Tamsui and Keelung Rivers and they have now been connected to form a beautiful sightseeing belt linking attractions in all the city's districts. It's often hectic right before and after New Year, and it's refreshing to escape the crowds, jump on a bike and explore the city, especially when it also helps to improve your fitness. We suggest that you begin the trip in Wanhua District (萬華區) with its flourishing traditional markets, then move on to Huajiang Bridge (華江橋) to visit the Huajiang Wild Duck Nature Park (華江雁鴨自然公園). The next stop is Dihua Street (迪化街), which serves as the perfect spot to enjoy decadent food and to shop for Lunar New Year goodies. After that, you can ride from Dadaocheng (大稻埕) to Guandu (關渡) for bird watching to complete a delightful and free-spirited ecological tour of nature and good food.



Savor Traditional Food at a Morning Market Followed by Goose and Duck Watching by the Riverbank

Before beginning the tour, an authentic Taiwanese breakfast is a must! The Xinfu Market (新富市場) close to Longshan Temple (龍山寺) in Wanhua District, formerly known as Dongsanshuijie Market (東三水街市場), was originally developed during the Japanese rule. The street vendors



located both in the market and nearby are considered important attractions by Japanese tourists, with a true Taiwan flavor.

Amongst them, the Grandma's Sticky Rice (阿婆油飯) and Jinhe Sushi (金禾壽司), both located within the “Golden Triangle” area of the market, are the most visited venders. The rich, delicious scent of rice cooked in wooden steamers permeates the air the moment one approaches. Jinhe Sushi prides itself on freshness and a made-to-order approach. The tamago (egg sushi), chirashi (flower sushi) and inari (fried bean curd sushi) all have a fresh and tantalizingly delicious flavor despite their simple appearances. Sticky rice cake stuffed with meatballs at the Su Home Sticky Rice Cake (萬華蘇記肉圓油粿) stall and the pearl wantons from the original We Are the World Old-Time Flavors (天下一家好味老店) stall outside the market are also highly recommended examples of traditional Taiwanese street food. Many may think it strange to consume such fatty food so early in the morning, but it's precisely the aroma of the deep fried scallions and the pungent flavor of greasy salt that brings out the true local flavor and unique character of Taiwan breakfasts.

The absolute best time to watch the migratory birds in the nearby river is on a subtropical winter day with a full and satisfied tummy. The Huajiang Evacuation Gate (at the junction of Huanhe South Road and Changshun Street; 環河南路與長順街交叉口) gives access to the bike path along the Tamsui River (淡水河). The area between Huajiang and Zhongxing bridges (中興橋) made up of a large sand bank, wetlands and swamps formed by the accumulation of large amounts of sediment. The abundantly rich aquatic flora and fauna provide stable food sources for mollusks, arthropods, crustaceans and fish. Because of this, large flocks of birds come to search for food, especially between the months of September and April. Thousands of geese and ducks stop here during their southerly winter migration from Siberia. The takeoff and landing of such large flocks is absolutely spectacular. The Huajiang Wild Duck Nature Park under the Huajiang Bridge occupies twenty-

1. Xinfu Market is one of the best-known traditional markets in the city's south.
2. The selection is wide-ranging at Jinhe Sushi.
- 3-5. Genuine Taiwan snack flavors are found at places like pearl wantons (We Are the World Old-Time Flavors), Grandma's Sticky Rice, and Su Home Sticky Rice Cake.
- 6-7. The best season for birdwatching at Huajiang Wild Duck Nature Park is September through April. (Photos courtesy of He Yixian、Chen Wangshi)



eight acres of land. The ecological environment inside the park consists of water, mud and sand banks, marshes, freshwater pools and green spaces. This is a protection zone for migratory birds with the main focus on migrating geese and ducks, and bird watching with binoculars along the riverbank evokes a sense of joy and discovery.

Shopping in Dadaocheng and Capturing the New Year Spirit

Riding further along the Tamsui Bikeway you will soon reach Dadaocheng. Park your bike here, so that you can shop around Dihua Street in Dadaocheng to soak up the Lunar New Year atmosphere. New Year goodies are sold as early as January 25th, and everything under the sun is for sale, including unexpected knick-knacks from far-flung corners of the world. Also featured are abalone, flat fish, shrimps, jerky, walnut cakes, dried dates, honey preserved fruits and tea from all around the world. Delicacies are piled in a huge array and can be sampled freely. The beckoning sounds of vendors' chants permeate the air non-stop, and have made Dadaocheng the best place in Taiwan for foreigners to experience Lunar New Year preparations. As an added convenience, many vendors offer a free delivery service so that customers don't have to carry heavy bags while shopping.

After finishing New Year shopping, lunch can be found just around the corner. Along Dihua Street are abundant street food choices and traditional eateries. The street vendors offer homegrown, inexpensive and good quality foods favored by the general public, including simple but delicious Minle sailfish rice noodle soup, fried tender-crispy chicken rolls from Yongle Chicken Rolls King (永樂雞捲大王) and Yongle *mitaimu* (米苔目; a kind of rice noodle) braised in a rich, concentrated broth; these are all true Taiwan traditions.

Strolling Through Guandu's Natural Beauty

After getting back in the saddle, continue riding along the Tamsui Bikeway to connect to the Keelung Bikeway. The scenery along the river bank where the two rivers meet is magnificent and the spot has become the most popular area for bike riders. Guandu Nature Park (關渡自然公園), the largest wetland in Taipei, is the mid-point stop on the migration route for birds from the Pacific region. During the autumn and winter seasons, snip plovers, geese and ducks can be observed freely through long-range telescopes. Visitors can also learn about their habits, movements and other interesting ecological facts from park volunteers. Additionally, the views open up dramatically as the river connecting Guandu and Tamsui (and edged with extended mangrove wetlands) approaches the ocean, forming an impressive sight. This dramatic view makes this section of the bike path truly a bird watching paradise.

At nightfall, there is no better place to enjoy a good dinner than at the Tapas House (92水鳥餐廳) next to Guandu Nature Park. The restaurant features mainly



Spanish tapas-style food. The manager explained that Spaniards habitually eat their dinner very late, around 10 pm, and therefore usually eat a few light dishes earlier in the evening. The food served at the restaurant consists of small appetizer-sized dishes - light, not confined to either salty or sweet flavors and usually a perfect match with wine or liquor. Spain's national dish, paella, the most popular menu choice, is cooked beautifully to a unique golden color, oozing with the rich aroma of saffron. Combined with other dishes like the orion cheese-baked pancake and the seafood tower, a perfectly balanced sangria (Spanish fruit wine) brings out the Spanish character in the food.

Don't hurry home right after dinner; instead, ride through the evening breeze and go to Guandu Bridge to enjoy the night skyline – What a perfect ending to a beautiful winter outing! 📍

- 8-9. During the New Year shopping season vendors give out food samples; traditional decorations are also displayed.
- 10. Aromatic mitaimu at Yongle Market.
- 11. The grand, expansive scenery where the Tamsui and Keelung rivers meet attracts many cyclists.
- 12. Great numbers of migratory birds visit Guandu Nature Park in fall and winter; high-powered telescopes bring them up close.
- 13. Tapas House serves Spanish cuisine.
- 14. The night-time light sculpture at Guandu Bridge is splendorous.

Information

Grandma's Sticky Rice 阿婆油飯

Add: 70, Sanshui St. (三水街70號)
Tel: 0910-032-372

Jinhe Sushi 金禾壽司

Add: 93, Sanshui St. (三水街93號)
Tel: (02) 2320-4727

Su Home Sticky Rice Cake

萬華蘇記肉圓油粿

Add: 109, Sanshui St. (三水街109號)
Tel: (02) 2308-3724

We Are the World Old-Time Flavors

天下一家好味老店

Add: 302, Kangding Rd. (康定路302號)
Tel: (02) 2308-3694

Minle Sailfish Rice Noodle

民樂旗魚米粉

Add: 3, Minle St. (民樂街3號)
Tel: 0933-870-901

Yongle Chicken Rolls King

永樂雞捲大王

Add: 6, Ln. 50, Sec. 2, Yanping N. Rd.
(延平北路2段50巷6號)
Tel: (02) 2556-0031

Yongle Mitaimu 永樂米苔目

Add: 7, Yongchang St. (永昌街7號)
Tel: (02) 2559-9603

Guandu Nature Park 關渡自然公園

Add: 55, Guandu Rd. (關渡路55號)
Tel: (02) 2858-7417
Website: your.gd-park.org.tw

Tapas House 92水鳥餐廳

Add: 92, Zhixing Rd. (知行路92號)
Tel: (02) 2858-8668

Taipei is a key hub in the world of Chinese publishing and each year the Taipei International Book Exhibition (TIBE; 台北國際書展) is held soon after the Chinese New Year: a feast of the printed word all local book lovers circle on their calendars. While waiting for the doors to be thrown open for the TIBE, why not ramble through the city checking out the many charming, eclectic, independent bookstores that spice up the city's nooks and crannies?

The indie stores we're about to introduce have a couple of things in common: they specialize in particular books and their names give a good introduction of the kind of books they stock: Shimarisu Picture Books (花栗鼠繪本館), Taipei Musiker House (台北音樂家書房), Librairie Le Pigeonnier (信鴿法國書店), Fembooks (女書店), and Artland Bookstore (亞典藝術書店). Though these stores do not all have eye-catching façades, or expansive interiors, they have inimitable qualities that bring book fanciers through their doors again and again.



A Ramble Through the Unique Taipei World of Books



An Indie Store Group Portrait

Books of Playful Personality – Shimarisu Picture Books

Amidst the great variation that personifies the city's east-side commercial district, there's an especially eye-catching place down in the alleys near MRT Zhongxiao Dunhua Station. Its facade and decorations look like they've come right out of a children's storybook, and out front is a large tree. People feel compelled to go in and have a look. You've found Shimarisu Picture Books.

Shimarisu is painted in the dark greens of Mother Nature. It measures just under 100 square meters in area. Among its display categories are new, foreign-language, science, and art titles. There is also a special theme-exhibit area and an area devoted to antique picture book classics. This store is, for obvious reasons, very popular with younger consumers; the most

common visitors are children, leading their parents. A dedicated corner has been set aside for parent-child interactive reading and for private reading, and one wall even features a kids' height chart.

The owner, Lin Zhongzheng (林忠正), is an overseas Chinese from Japan. He was inspired to open Shimarisu in February 2010 by fond memories of his parents reading picture books with him when he was a child. The tree out front inspired him to choose a familiar picture-book character, Shimarisu or "Siberian chipmunk," for the shop's name. His hope is that parents and kids alike will see his shop as "a magical space under a big tree" where they can come and read together.





A Harmonious Treasure Trove of Music – Taipei Musiker House

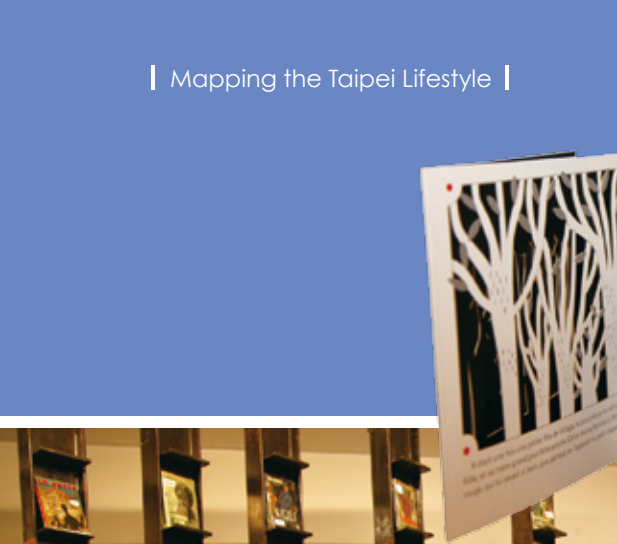
Folks with a passion for music find little in the way of books on music or sheet music at the average bookstore. Pleasant surprises are the norm at Taipei Musiker House, however, a music treasure-house treasured by Taipei music fans, with the character of a music library in miniature.

The forerunners at the Taipei Musiker House location were Yue-Yun Publishing House (樂韻出版社) and China Music Book House (中國音樂書房). The current operators are the husband-and-wife team of Liu Dongli (劉東黎) and Wang Zizhi (王子芝), both of whom are musicians. In addition to the bricks-and-mortar store, they also run an online bookstore (www.musiker.com.tw). In the shop you can lose yourself in thousands of book-series and sheet-music works, ranging from classical music to piano, folk instrumental, choral, and vocal, and wade through a rich trove of CDs, VCDs, and many other types of music-related merchandise. Special highlights are the reproductions of original manuscripts

by composers such as Debussy, Chopin, and Verdi. The shop's wonderfully comprehensive collection of materials has brought it a reputation beyond local music-aficionado circles – there is a steady stream of customers from the West, mainland China, and Hong Kong, who specially seek out the store while in Taiwan.

Wang Zizhi, who comes from a musical family, says that musical education in Taiwan has become too elitist. In opening Taipei Musiker House the couple's hope is that, via music salons and lectures, music appreciation can be popularized. They welcome all those with a love of music, and hope aficionados will treat the shop as a miniature music library and a garden for idea exchange.

1. The façade at Shimarisu Picture Books makes it look like a fairy-tale house.
2. Inside, Shimarisu Picture Books has an area set aside for families to read together, or just to relax.
3. The friendly staff are happy to introduce their picture books' special features.
- 4-5. Taipei Musiker House looks like a miniature music library; the owner displays valuable musical scores and reproductions of manuscripts by famed musicians.



Romantic French Flair – Librairie Le Pigeonnier

Le Pigeonnier is tucked away among the lanes and alleys near Yitong Park (伊通公園). It has a classically elegant interior of clean lines, with bookshelves of black steel and timber bookcases. The dulcet tones of French chansons float among the rich visual array of French titles, creating a lazily romantic Parisien air.

The shop was opened in 1999 by Françoise Zylberberg (施蘭芳), a professor of French studies at National Taiwan University (臺灣大學). Zylberberg, originally from France, is devoted to Chinese-French cultural interchange. The shop's original specialty was postcards, but a switch was made to French-language books – this is Taiwan's first store dedicated to French works.

Store manager Hong Lifan (洪麗芬) says that new books and other materials are brought in by air two or three times a month. There's over a hundred kinds of French language product: study books, grammar books, upscale stationery, French chanson CDs, and more. French film-related fiction and representative works by selected authors will also be brought in and put on special display to complement the screening of French films in Taiwan and the annual themes at the Taipei International Book Exhibition. She also points to a case bound in Bible paper that she calls the “treasure of the store” – classic French works from the famed Bibliothèque de la Pléiade series launched in the 1920s. The collection is a book-lover's dream.

Le Pigeonnier also carries a range of choice merchandise for which it is the exclusive agent, such as Rebecca Dautremer's 3D illustrated book *Le petit théâtre de Rébecca* and Gallimard's Folio pocketbooks. These diverse, distinctive offerings are much fancied by fans of French publishing.

Le Pigeonnier is a regular at the Taipei International Book Exhibition, and has helped with the planning of the France Pavilion in the past. This year it is assisting with the design of the Belgium Pavilion. All readers interested in French books can drop in at store in advance of the big Taipei show for a “sneak preview” of what's up in French-language publishing.





For Women, About Women– Fembooks

Located in the network of lanes and alleys near National Taiwan University, Fembooks was opened in 1994. This, the first bookshop in the Chinese-speaking world dedicated to feminist issues, was the inspiration of a group of activists, male and female, who were concerned about gender-equality issues and wanted to provide a comfortable space where people could see women's writing, hear women's voices, and engage in the exchange of women's experiences.

The store has the most complete selection of books and audio-visual materials on women and gender in the Chinese-speaking world, and organizes many “Literary Kitchen” (文學廚房) courses, lectures and activities focused on women's issues. It also displays and sells accessories hand-made by indigenous craftspeople. The store has a publishing section, creating its own works; its first title was *The Awakening* (覺醒), and among its other titles are *Feminist Classics* (女性主義經典) and *Going Back to Mom's on New Year's Day* (大年初一回娘家). Calendars and diaries designed especially for women include “Good to Remember – A Woman's Cultural

Calendar” (好事記—女人文化年曆) and “Good Journal” (好日誌).

A close look at the works on display around the store reveals three selections orientations: By Women, For Women, and About Women. You'll also find non-mainstream periodicals, CDs, accessories, etc. The ambience here can be described as “gentleness with strength;” the books draw readers, who then exchange and share their ideas on women's issues with each other. It is well worth making a special trip.

6. Le Pigeonnier stocks many special French 3D picture books.
7. Bookshelves of black steel and timber bookcases create an air of classic elegance.
8. The owner introduces the “treasure of the store” – classic French works from the famed Bibliothèque de la Pléiade series, bound in bible paper.
9. Le Pigeonnier has the exclusive agency for the 3D illustrated book *Le petit théâtre de Rébecca*, a book-lover's dream.
10. Fembooks is a space where women can comfortably come to read and exchange ideas.
11. Fembooks also publishes its own works, designed for women, among them “Good to Remember – A Woman's Cultural Calendar.”
12. The reasons and goals in opening Fembooks are clearly stated at the entrance.



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Focused on Design – Artland Bookstore

For art and design professionals and students, going to Artland Bookstore is like going on a pilgrimage. The store, opened in 1989, was originally located in the alleys off Roosevelt Road (羅斯福路), and only sold fine art books. In 1994, the move was made to the present location on Ren'ai Road (仁愛路), and responding to growing public demand for design and architecture books – the store often selected books for customers abroad – it gradually morphed into a specialist in design and art titles.

Located in the building's basement, the store is spacious and elegantly decorated, with the individuality of style and aesthetics only an independent bookstore can possess. The comfortable sofas placed here and there create small oases that readers treat like their living room or study. Pick out a title that piques your interest and settle in for a nice, leisurely read.

The store's display categories include fine art, commercial design, architectural design, handicrafts, hardbound books, and animation design. Among the special works you'll see are 3D pop-up books and *Vincent van Gogh: The Letters / The Complete Illustrated and Annotated Edition*, which is a set of six volumes with a complete collection of his correspondence (plus manuscripts and illustrations). Artland also provides packaging and shipping services, making it all the easier for you to satisfy all your whims and buy in quantity.

- 13. Artland Bookstore is a treasure-house for art and design professionals and students.
- 14. A store highlight is *Vincent van Gogh: The Letters / The Complete Illustrated and Annotated Edition*, a six-volume complete set of his correspondence.
- 15-16. Comfortable sofas at Artland invite readers to explore the world of art at leisure; among the special works you'll see are 3D pop-up books.

Information

Shimarisu Picture Books 花栗鼠繪本館

Add: 8, Ln. 147, Sec. 4, Zhongxiao E. Rd.
(忠孝東路4段147巷8號)

Tel: (02)2778-2211

Website: shimarisu2010.pixnet.net/blog

Taipei Musiker House 台北音樂家書房

Add: 3F, 196, Sec. 1, Zhonghua Rd.
(中華路1段196號3樓)

Tel: (02)2371-3333

Website: www.musiker.com.tw

Le Pigeonnier 信鴿法國書店

Add: 9, Ln. 97, Songjiang Rd. (松江路97巷9號)

Tel: (02)2517-2616

Website: www.llp.com.tw

16



Fembooks 女書店

Add: 2F, 7, Ln. 56, Sec. 3, Xinsheng S. Rd.
(新生南路3段56巷7號2樓)

Tel: (02) 2363-8244

Website: www.fembooks.com.tw

Artland Bookstore 亞典藝術書店

Add: B1, 122, Sec. 3, Ren'ai Rd.
(仁愛路3段122號B1)

Tel: (02) 2784-5166

Website: www.artland.com.tw



2013 Taipei International Book Exhibition – Joyful Reading

The 2013 Taipei International Book Exhibition will be the 21st edition of this event. This major draw will run from January 30th to February 4th this year. The theme for this round is Joyful Reading (讀・樂樂), and the focus country is Belgium, known for fine chocolate, beer, art, and architecture.

During the show the Belgium Pavilion (比利時館) you can enjoy a special display on the famed *The Adventures of Tin Tin*, with 200 million copies sold to date. There will be original manuscripts, comics, and photos on view. You can also take in a special exhibit on Belgium's greatest poets and the Invention of the Saxophone Exhibit (薩克斯風發明展). There will also be special screenings of select videos and animated works introducing Belgium's unrivaled illustration style. A special highlight among the many Belgium-spotlight highlights will be the presence of Kitty Crowther, celebrated Belgian children's book author and illustrator, who won the Astrid Lindgren Memorial Award in 2010, the highest honor in the children's book world. More than 20 Belgian publishing houses will also be participating in the exhibition.

At a grand carnival for readers and publishers such as this, all eyes of course are on which big-name international writers will be in town. The list this year includes the best-selling French novelist Marc Levy, Japan's best-known contemporary female writer Banana Yoshimoto, and *A History of Reading* author Alberto Manguel. All will be available for personal interaction with their admirers.

In addition to the various country pavilions, a special Taiwan Publishing Theme Pavilion (臺灣出版主題館) has also been planned for this year, along with a pavilion entitled Book Exhibition Awards (書展大賞) that will feature an index looking back at the past year's best books, and both a Digital Pavilion (數位館) and Film Pavilion (電影館). As always, there will be a stimulating schedule of lectures and discussions. All people with a passion for the printed word in bound form – this means you – should head into the Lunar New Year and the new spring with a visit to the TIBE, where books will be in glorious bloom! 🌸

2013 Taipei International Book Exhibition 2013台北國際書展

Times: 1/30 ~2/4 : daily 10:00-18:00

2/1 ~2/2 : Starlight Night, extended hours till 22:00

2/3 : Starlight Night, extended hours till 20:00

Venues: TWTC Hall 1:5, Sec. 5, Xinyi Rd. (台北世貿一館;信義路5段5號)

TWTC Hall 2:3, Songlian Rd. (台北世貿二館;松廉路3號)

TWTC Hall 3:6, Songshou Rd. (台北世貿三館;松壽路6號)

Website: www.tibe.org.tw

17. The Taipei International Book Exhibition has pavilions showcasing different countries. (2012 Finland Pavilion shown in photo)

18. The most iconic writers from different countries are invited to TIBE, with sessions where they interact with fans.

Taipei's digital gamers are now making a big splash on the world stage. The Taipei Assassins (TPA; 台北暗殺星) is a professional gaming team. It has seven members, who average about 21 years old. In October, they represented Taiwan in the League of Legends Season 2

World Championship in Los Angeles, coming away with the championship.

In November, they won the first-season playoffs for the League of Legends Garena Premier League in Singapore. Their stunning success sent Taiwan gaming fans into a frenzy, and earned them a hearty "Well done!" from fans around the world.



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Taipei's Digital Gamers Making Virtual Dreams Reality



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The League of Legends is the world's best-known online gaming-battle arena. It has seventy million registered users, and has had a massive impact on the digital-gaming world. The outstanding performance by the Taipei Assassins in the two recent international competitions has made the gaming world aware of the hard work and resolute will of Taiwan's gaming professionals.

The seven Assassins are: Chen Huizhong (陳彙中), Wang Rongcan (王榮燦), Song Kuanbo (宋寬柏), Liu Weijian (劉偉建), Zhang Bowei (張博為), Lin Yingxuan (林穎璇), and Qiu Bojie (邱柏傑). The team members say that what is most significant in being world champions is not the prize money won, but the new attention that their feat has brought to digital gaming, and the legitimacy and support of Taiwan's professional gaming talent that it will bring.

Digital gaming is a contemporary pastime that has gained popularity the world over. Many parents, however, still believe

that gaming is a waste of time, interfering with studies and work. Even fewer parents support the idea of their offspring becoming gaming professionals, but Chen Huizhong and his fellow Assassins have all received the full support of their families. The team trained together for over sixty days before heading off for the Los Angeles competition, practicing each day from 9 am until midnight. Beyond the actual game-playing, their demanding practice schedule included physical training and English classes. Team leader Huizhong, who goes by the name MiSTake, says the team was fortunate to receive sponsorship funding for their overseas trip; without such support the team's members would have

dreams in hearts and initiating everyone to a world of simple, pure pleasures.


This year's display contents include online games, single games, console games, arcade games, animation figures/toy figures/models, and 3C peripherals. The "i Wall Mobile Entertainment Area" will showcase Taiwan's soft power in mobile apps, with demonstrations of one hundred different Apps and a



had to find outside work, which would have eaten into training time and surely had a negative impact on their results.

Huizhong has been competing in the League of Legends for a year-and-a-half now. During competitions, he says, players must attain supreme brain/finger coordination. Players who have time to train have better focus and endurance. Because of the need for coordinated tactics and strategy, practice also cultivates gamesmanship and team spirit. He hopes that the government will soon make digital gaming an officially recognized competitive sport.

The Taipei Assassins have seen their dreams come true, and their success is lighting the way along a new path for local gaming. The Taipei Game Show (TGS; 台北國際電玩展) will open on January 31st, and the theme for this year's exhibition is "Games Launch Dreams." The goal is to draw more people to gaming with a display of rich content and an exciting games area, launching

QR code download wall that will enable game-lovers to swipe and play to their heart's content. 

1. The Taipei Assassins represented Taiwan in the League of Legends Season 2 World Championship in Los Angeles, and came away champions. (Photo courtesy of Garena Taiwan)
2. The Taipei Assassins' outstanding recent performance has demonstrated the hard work and resolute will of Taiwan's gaming professionals to the gaming world.
- 3-4. The Taipei Game Show is rich in content, a grand display of Taiwan developers' prowess. (Photo courtesy of Taipei Computer Association)

Information

2013 Taipei Game Show

2013台北國際電玩展

Venue: Nangang Exhibition Center (南港展覽館)

Add: 1, Jingmao 2nd Rd. (經貿二路1號)

Time: 1/31 ~ 2/4

Website: tgs.tca.org.tw

Taipei Assassins: www.facebook.com/tpalol



Ye Yilan 葉怡蘭

- Food, travel, and lifestyle writer, founder of the website Yilan's Fine Foods and Living (Yilan美食生活玩家), editor-in-chief at the creative publishing department of Simply Life Company (自由心向公司), founder of PEKOE gourmet foods store (PEKOE食品雜貨鋪).
- Essays, columns, articles and photographs on food, travel, and lifestyle published in major Chinese media in Taiwan, Hong Kong, and mainland China.



Ye Yilan – Life in Taipei is Far from Ordinary

Ye Yilan (葉怡蘭) is a well-known local food, travel, and lifestyle writer, whose name appears on the cover of many books. She has much practical experience in gourmet food and travel under her belt, having visited 38 countries and explored the special culinary delicacies of countless regions. But she has a special place in her heart for Taiwan's snack foods.

"You'll find the most authentic Taiwan snack foods in front of temples and in markets," she says. Talking about the universality of religious folk belief, she says that the square before a temple is a natural gathering spot for people as they go about their daily business, and that most go to pray in the early morning, finishing before noon. The venerable "breakfast food culture" is thus at its most traditional and delicious at temple entrances. "Every time an overseas friend visits," she says, "I take them out to get a feel for the character and beauty of the city – and the first stop has to be breakfast outside a temple." She likes snacking in the places beside Cisheng Temple (慈聖宮) in the Dadaocheng neighborhood, because of their warm and friendly hospitality and because of the extensive range of choices: notably the meat congee, pork prepared with red-yeast rice, and steamed pork buns. Pick a table, order the tasty specialties from the different stalls, and feast to your heart's content. This type of experience exemplifies the close-knit relationship between snacking and the lives of ordinary folk.

If a visiting foreign friend happens to be a gourmet, a visit to Ming Fu (明福) Taiwanese restaurant is a must. This is a place of down-to-earth, full-bodied flavors. Fancy presentation isn't the main concern here; instead the emphasis is on ultra-fresh ingredients brought together in dishes of light and simple character that nevertheless demand skill. This is the essence of Taiwanese home-style cooking. "Foodies have nothing but praise for the fragrant steamed marble goby and the rich, hearty *fotiaoqiang* (佛跳牆; Buddha jumps over the wall) with its bed of bamboo shoots and clear broth."



Next up are the distinctive flavors of “tavern food” (酒家菜). The renowned Golden Formosa (金蓬萊) in Tianmu (天母) has preserved the precious skills used in the famed tavern foods of the Beitou (北投) hot-springs resort in days of old. A classic example is fried taro strips, batter-fried glutinous rice and taro. The outside is crispy, the inside soft, and the mix of taro and duck-egg yolk aromas is sublime. Last comes a stop at a place that creates new Taiwanese cuisine, Chef Show Time (阿正廚坊). The chef, trained in the kaiseki culinary arts, fuses tasty Taiwanese ingredients with Japanese cooking techniques. The results are some fantastic flavors. “The three very different flavor experiences at these restaurants are like a culinary baptism for foreign gourmets,” says Ye, “leaving them deeply impressed with Taipei cuisine.”

Ye also makes sure to take visiting friends for a taste of the city's tea and coffee cultures. Iconic, attractive spots such as Wistaria House (紫藤廬), Ye Tang (冶堂), and Hui Liu (回留) are wonderful windows into the refined Taiwanese tea lifestyle. At cafes such as Haaya's Coffee (哈亞咖啡) and Coffee Sweet the care taken in pursuit of a perfect, sophisticated flavor in every cup is obvious. This extends from the selection of estate-grade beans to the roasting and the art of brewing the coffee. The Taiwanese passion for the ultimate in freshness and flavor in all foods and drinks is on full show at these locations. Ye caps off her culinary introductions with a trip to Zhanlu Coffee (湛盧狂草) on Yanji Street (延吉街) for a takeaway. Zhanlu's hand-drip coffee is less than NT\$100 a cup, but the quality of this “plebian” specialty coffee never fails to impress her visitors.

“Many people say that Taipei has so many special characteristics that they seem to blend together, and nothing really stands out,” she says. “But I say that Taipei does indeed have a distinctive overarching personality, and that is its splendid, harmonious blend of East and West, new and old, traditional and modern, bustle and tranquility. This is a city of rich, living and multifarious facets.” For Ye Yilan, this is what is most enchanting about the metropolis called Taipei. 📍

1. The snacks sold beside Dadaocheng's Cisheng Temple are rich in genuine local flavors.
2. The fried taro strips at Golden Formosa are a classic Beitou tavern food treat.
3. At Chef Show Time, innovative technique is brought to Taiwanese food, creating dishes with lovely visual aesthetics.
4. Hui Liu is a wonderful window into the refined Taiwan tea lifestyle.
5. At Coffee Sweet you taste the care taken in pursuit of flavor perfection in each cup.
6. Zhanlu Coffee's takeaway coffee, though less than NT\$100 a cup, is nevertheless of gourmet character.

(Photos courtesy of Ye Yilan)





Nick Kembel

- Place of Origin: Canada
- CNN Travel freelance writer, English editor
- Website: www.nickkembel.com
- Published Work: *Taiwan in the Eyes of a Foreigner: A Journey of Teaching English and Traveling in Taiwan* (老外愛臺灣)



Nick Kembel – Love Affair with Taipei's Old/ New Mix

Nick Kembel, avid backpacker, was born and raised in the city of Edmonton in the Canadian province of Alberta. After obtaining a degree in anthropology & religious studies, he immediately picked up his backpack and set off to see the world, rambling through the Middle East, Africa, Asia, and both North and Central America, exploring more than 40 countries. He's lived in Taipei four years now, attracted by its rich and vibrant culture, and is constantly on the move, camera in hand, exploring Taiwan's nooks and crannies.

Nick sees Taipei as a warm and inviting city with an advanced, international mien and character, but one that does not suffer from the indifference people have toward each other in other big cities. Instead, courtesy and warm-heartedness is the norm. "Everyone is happy to provide assistance," he says, "and is concerned about being seen as inhospitable." He is fond of the city's cultural mix of old and new; for example, along bustling Zhongxiao East Road (忠孝東路) you see sleek international shops at street level, which are housed at the bases of venerable old low-rise apartment blocks. The juxtaposition is not jarring, instead giving people a good feel for the city's cultural history. "Perhaps it's because I studied anthropology that I have such a liking for exploring traditional culture."

Nick has a special liking for Taipei's temple culture. For example, the tunnel at Guandu Temple (關渡宮), links old and new buildings, and serves as a conduit of the temple's history and many stories. The simplicity and solemnity of the Taipei Confucius Temple contrasts sharply with the colorful splendor and busy noisiness of most other temples. His favorite temple is Ciyou Temple (慈祐宮), because Mazu (媽祖), Goddess of the Sea, is enshrined within. Nick grew up on the Canadian prairies, far from the sea, so this goddess



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responsible for protecting the lives of seafarers out on the open waters, and the culture that surrounds her, has a special fascination for him.

The biggest reason why he decided to settle down in Taipei, he says, is that he met his wife Emily here. "When we were dating we'd often head up Elephant Mountain (象山) to enjoy the stars twinkling over Xinyi District (信義區)," he says, "or find a place on Fisherman's Wharf (漁人碼頭) in Tamsui (淡水) to enjoy the beautiful sunsets. Sometimes we'd head up Yangmingshan (陽明山) for a nice hot-springs soak." All of these, he says, are cherished experiences that would be difficult if not impossible to replicate elsewhere. "There are also many activities and events staged in Taipei that are perfect for sweethearts," he adds, "like picking your own movie to watch in a private room at MTV, or singing love songs in your own private room at a KTV. Foreign visitors find all these experiences both unique and highly entertaining."

Nick has traveled with his wife to her old family home, which is a *sanheyuan* (三合院) or traditional three-sided courtyard residence, to spend the Lunar New Year. The place is brilliantly lit up starting from New Year's Eve, and three mahjong tables are set up in the courtyard, supplying endless entertainment for a constant stream of kith and kin. Family members also emerge with a constant stream of delicious New Year foods and snacks, with everyone eating as much as they like. Relatives and friends travel from all over to be at the reunion, which has the lively, boisterous atmosphere of a carnival. "One year my parents came from Canada for a visit to Taipei," says Nick, "and got to experience the traditional New Year atmosphere of the place. We also went into the countryside to set off firecrackers, giving them the full Taiwan New Year flavor."

Nick is now concentrating on work as a freelance writer and photographer. He's had multiple articles on Taiwan and Taipei published on CNN Travel, and this year published a Chinese-English book entitled *Taiwan in the Eyes of a Foreigner* (老外愛臺灣). His goal is to help foreign friends gain a deeper understanding of, and like him fall in love with, his adopted homeland. 📷

1. Nick and Emily often climbed Elephant Mountain when dating.
2. Nick loves investigating Taiwan's temple culture.
3. Nick's favorite temple is Ciyou Temple, its main deity Mazu, Goddess of the Sea and protector of seafarers.
4. *Taiwan in the Eyes of a Foreigner: A Journey of Teaching English and Traveling in Taiwan* (老外愛臺灣)
5. The simplicity and solemnity of Taipei Confucius Temple cause Nick to sit in deep contemplation.

(Photos courtesy of Nick Kembel)



5



Serina Huang

- Place of Origin: Australia
- Copy writer, *Centered on Taipei* magazine (published by the Community Services Center) and Australian Breastfeeding Association magazine
- Website: taiwanxifu.com



Serina Huang – Happy Taiwan Daughter-in-Law, Enjoying Taiwan's Customs

“I am blessed to be a Taiwan daughter-in-law,” says Serina, from Australia, who firmly believes that her fate is intertwined with Taiwan; her husband is from Taiwan, they met in Australia, married, and life has now brought her here. Two years ago she successfully applied a position at the Australian Office Taipei, which has given her the chance to get to know her husband’s homeland. She has also given birth to their second child while in Taipei, enabling her to experience the Taiwan custom of *zuo yuezi* (坐月子), or spending a month-long period of postpartum rest and recuperation in seclusion. She’s also spent several Lunar New Year holidays here. These and many other experiences have introduced her to the warmth and joy of Taipei.

Serina believes the Taiwan practice of *zuo yuezi* is beneficial for new mothers. When she had her first child in Australia, she had to juggle many things by herself. She had to take care of her newborn, leaving no time to rest and recuperate. She was weak after giving birth and constantly felt exhausted. Before she gave birth to her second child in Taipei she inspected Taipei’s postpartum confinement centers (坐月子中心), before deciding to hire a trained postpartum-care nanny, called a *yuepo* (月婆), to take care of her at home. This enabled her to look after both her newborn and her toddler, and gave her a better sense of security. “With the *yuepo* always there to help, I could get some proper rest,” Serina says. “It was great.” The *yuepo* also prepared special meals to help Serina’s recuperation. This ensured ample supply of breast milk, and helped rebuild her strength. Serina shared her experiences through her online blog, and received positive feedback from many cyber friends.

Many people have expressed difficulty coming to terms with the custom of refraining from washing your hair



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during zuo yuezi, but have been more accepting after hearing Serina's explanation and suggestions for working around it. You can, for example use a 'dry' shampoo, or brush your hair with hot water and blow-dry it right away. This has made it easier for many Western women who have gone through the process. "I really think that Taiwan's zuo yuezi would be well received overseas," says Serina, "because so many women don't get a proper chance to rest and recuperate after giving birth, and as a result suffer from problems such as postpartum depression." Taipei, she adds, is paradise for new Mums.

Serina is looking forward to the forthcoming Spring break. "Spending Chinese New Year in Taiwan is an exciting experience," says Serina. When still in Australia she and her husband attended New Year activities organized by the local Chinese community. These were all fun, she says, but nothing like the Taipei Lunar New Year Festival and the city's Lantern Festival. The atmosphere in Taipei is, "everyone flocks to the shops before the Taipei Lunar New Year Festival, with hawkers using loudspeakers outside creating a constant buzz. It's so dynamic." Her three-year-old son really gets into the swing of things local-style, wearing a traditional Tang outfit and greeting everyone with the traditional "Gongxi, gongxi!" (恭喜、恭喜), or "Congratulations! Congratulations!" Pleased adults happily gave him lucky red envelopes (紅包), and as a result he likes New Year in Taipei very much.

The boisterous atmosphere and the beauty of a city adorned with colorful decorative lanterns during the Lantern Festival provides one of her most enduring impressions of Chinese New Year in Taipei. She is especially fond of the glowing night sky of the Taipei Lantern Festival. When she looks at the soaring Taipei 101 tower ablaze with fireworks, her impression is of a giant lantern standing watch over the city. "The grounds of the Dr. Sun Yat-sen Memorial Hall(國父紀念館) and the plaza before Taipei City Hall become lantern cities in miniature," she says, "alive with lanterns in all shapes and colors and buzzing with cryptic lantern-riddles. The spirit of Chinese New Year is rich here." With her time in Taipei due to come to an end in late 2013, Serina says that when she returns to Australia she will treasure her fond memories of Taipei, a city she and her family plan to often return. 🇹🇼

1. Serina feels that those recovering from childbirth are especially lucky in Taiwan.
- 2-3. Having a yuepo in her home to help prepare meals and take care of her kid gave Serina peace of mind.
4. Serina's oldest son loves wearing old-style Tang attire and receiving red envelopes at New Year.
5. The Taipei Lantern Festival's pretty festive lanterns, and the New Year fireworks at Taipei 101, are among her most unforgettable memories.



5



Ewa Lewinska

- Place of Origin: Poland
- English, Polish interpretation/translation

1. Ewa likes to bake cakes and Western-style sweets for her clan at New Year.



A Foreign Wife's Chinese New Year Trepidation — Ewa Lewinska

Ewa Lewinska, from Poland, has been married to a local for six years and lives in Taipei. Because of the cultural barrier, she has found herself at a bit of a loss when Chinese New Year rolls around. "When I became a 'Taiwan daughter-in-law' I didn't know it was my responsibility to prepare the big New Year's Eve dinner." Not knowing how to cook Taiwanese food, during her first New Year visit to her husband's family home she asked her busy mother-in-law if she could help in the kitchen, but with great courtesy her mother-in-law declined. Taking what was said at face value, she went to relax in the living room. "I had no idea my mom-in-law was just being polite," says Ewa, "and that she really wished I could give her a hand." The next year she found out she was pregnant just before the Chinese New Year and, feeling excited, she broke the happy news when everyone sat down to the big family-reunion dinner. "Nobody congratulated me," she says, "and nobody seemed happy. I felt awful." Later on her mother-in-law explained that in Taiwan the custom is to wait three months before announcing the happy event, for fear of losing the baby. She felt greatly relieved to know the reason for the silence during the meal.

With Ewa not able to handle Taiwanese dishes, and fearing her mother-in-law was overburdened, during the following years the heavy responsibility of the New Year's Eve dinner was given to an aunt who was a talented cook. The feast was held at the aunt's house. "I made a type of Polish dumpling that had pickled cabbage, cheese, and cherries inside," says Ewa, "but the family and relatives weren't used to the taste, so it wasn't a success." After that she made cakes and Western-style sweets to share with everybody, but after the second year her mother-in-law told her the aunt had diabetes, and couldn't eat too many sweets. Ewa felt utterly defeated.

In Poland, Christmas celebrations are similar in many ways to Taiwan's Lunar New Year festivities. Ewa's custom is to clean her house thoroughly before Christmas arrives. But Chinese New Year arrives shortly after, and her husband wants her to clean the house again at that time, which she thinks is a bit much. "One time," she says, "on New Year's Day my son broke a water glass. I badly wanted to clean up all the pieces right away, but Taiwan folk believe if you do any sweeping on New Year's Day you sweep all your good fortune right out the door. I love having everything neat and clean, but I still had to wait until the next day before I could clean up the mess."

"Every year at New Year I'm afraid I'll break another taboo." Nevertheless, though cultural differences give her a sense of pressure, there are many that she enjoys, especially receiving lucky red envelopes from family elders, a happy ritual not found among Poland's New Year traditions. 🍀

How to Talk to TAIPEI

Here are a few standard New Year good will expressions that will help you get in the swing of things during the holidays.

Enjoy numerous sources of wealth;
good luck and smooth sailing.

Mandarin Chinese

財源廣進，大吉大利

Cáiyuán guǎng jìn, dàjí dàlì

May your gold and jade (wealth)
fill a hall; enjoy both happiness and
longevity

Mandarin Chinese

金玉滿堂，福壽雙全

Jīnyù mǎntáng, fú shòu shuāngquán

Eat peanuts, live a long life.

Eat melon seeds, enjoy happy days.

Taiwanese

吃土豆，好年老

Jiā tǒu dào, hǎo niǎo

吃瓜子，好日子

Jiā guī jì, hǎo rì jì

Eat a tangerine, marry a
good husband.

Taiwanese

吃紅柑，嫁好尪

Jiā áng gum, gēi hǎo āng

Best wishes for the year to
come, and Happy New Year

Mandarin Chinese

恭賀新禧，新年快樂

Gōnghè xīn xǐ, xīnnián kuàilè

Wishing a good start to the
New Year.

Mandarin Chinese

一元復始，萬象更新

Yīyuán fù shǐ, wànxiàng gēngxīn


MY CITY MY VOICE

Each “Taipei Tour Wish Station” (臺北巡迴許願站) has a “Theme Area” (主題區) and “Wish Area” (許願區). Each Theme Area is focused on its respective Taipei neighborhood, showcasing examples of nearby

The My City, My Voice wish stations will be located in three separate neighborhood blocks from January through March. Come submit your wish and have a



look through the theme windows at innovative case samples on different themes. For example, on January 19th, Yongle Market (永樂市場) on Dihua Street takes "City Renaissance" as the main theme, transforming old historic buildings into venues where cultural-creativity and exchange may flourish. In February, the theme "Challenges of an Aging Society" will display new, forward-looking city service facilities and systems, presenting a vision of a city of diversity and inclusion as well as of comfortable and affordable housing. In March, "Creative Thinking Education" will be featured, showcasing the concept of "Planting the Roots of Creativity, Integrating Design into Education" and sample cases of innovative design used in fostering neighborhood culture.

The forces of change are gathering quickly in Taipei, and you are personally invited to lend your energy to this grand enterprise. The goal is to make Taipei one of the world's most livable cities, and design is the key! 

1. People write their blessings and expectations for the city on each stone at the wish stations.
- 2-4. The citizens of Taipei have been enthusiastic participants in the My City, My Voice program.
- 5-6. The My City, My Voice activities are being staged in procession-like fashion at different spots around Taipei.

Information

2016 Taipei World Design Capital
臺北申辦2016世界設計之都

Website: www.taipeidesign.org.tw

A city's architecture and its design aesthetics are intimately connected, and in the first-ever ADA Awards for Emerging Architect (ADA新銳建築獎), half of the ten works entered have Taipei as theme. These young talents, wielding impressive creative vitality, provide a sketch of Taipei's architectural story and also provide strong support in the city's quest for World Design Capital designation in 2016.

The organizer of the awards is the Advanced Developers Association (建築世代會), a group of architecture – and development – related enterprises well-versed in the latest developments. The competition is limited to architects below 45 years of age, and their design-work entries must be for a project in Taiwan, thus ensuring the contest attracts lots of youthful Taiwan-themed originality.

The ten finalists were selected from 54 works submitted by 41 organizations around the world, including Taiwan, Hong Kong, and the United States. They include residential buildings, bed and breakfasts/homestays, and installation art. Playing creatively with design and style, the architects have brought to life attractive works that foster a resonance between people and their environment.

The Taipei finalists include commercial buildings, renovations of old residences, and even conceptual installation art. One of the most representative Taiwan-flavored works is "Sky and Street Building View" (天街樓景) by Li Wensheng (李文勝). Li has fused the culture of the courtyard and arcade building into a residential structure, introducing an ultra-high "sky well" (天井) shaped like the Chinese character "凸" to a cluster

The ADA Awards for Emerging Architect – Brimming with Taiwanese-style Innovation





of high-rises. The sky well presents the heavens like a painter's canvas, filled with sunlight, fresh air, rain, breezes, and starlight. The complex is thus provided with natural ventilation, lighting and convection, and people walking through the arcades are able to look up and see the sky. The design awakens the subconscious intimacy between man and nature, despite the hubbub at ground level.

An old building given new life is the "Jilin Residential" (喆霖公寓). The designer has brought unique ingenuity to the renovation, much improving the aesthetics of the façade and taking care of water seepage from the roof, the lack of an elevator, a narrow staircase, and aged piping. This is a model example of the city's ongoing Urban Regeneration initiative, which rejects the unthinking tendency to "destroy the old to make way for the new," instead emphasizing the idea of "cherishing the old while embracing the new." The historical essence of venerable old works of architecture is preserved and made a more intimate part of people's lives.

Chu Hungnan's (朱弘楠) "Xian De Yue" (先得月; literally "first to catch the moon") is a densely populated residential complex on a narrow lot of land. To enable tenants to fully enjoy their private space and the natural outdoor environment, he came up with a bold, open, public staircase tower and sky bridge design. The design complements the spacious ground-level courtyard with a high-level terrace and balconies, and while maintaining residential privacy it also allows both the surrounding natural environment and the attractive details of the architecture to blend seamlessly with the interior of the residential-units.

Also among the ten finalists are two architectural installations, both experimental in nature and forward-thinking. The U.S.A's Oyler Wu Collaborative has created "Anemone," which has an exterior covered in hose-like tentacles which undulate just like those on the sea creature. The interest of onlookers is invariably piqued by the structure and its materials. In "Plastic(Bag) Architecture," designed by Chen Zhisheng (陳志昇), the plastic bag so commonly seen in everyday life here is redesigned to become a building material. Bags are shaped into small shelter-like spaces providing protection from rain, and are also used in structures providing drainage, ventilation, and insulation. In this way an item that is not environmentally friendly is recycled as a green building material.

The ADA Awards for Emerging Architect presents the innovation and design dynamism of cutting-edge architects. Come on out to do your part in spurring Taiwan's architecture on to ever greater aesthetic heights! 📸

1. Chu Hungnan's "Xian De Yue" ("First to Catch the Moon")
 2. The ADA Awards for Emerging Architect exhibition showcases the originality and design prowess of Taiwan's young new-era architects.
 3. The "Jilin Residential," by Wu Shengming (吳聲明).
 4. The U.S.A.'s Oyler Wu Collaborative has created "Anemone."
 5. "Sky and Street Building View," by Li Wensheng.
 6. "Plastic(Bag)Architecture," designed by Chen Zhisheng.
- (Photos courtesy of the JUT Foundation for Arts & Architecture)

Information

ADA Awards for Emerging Architect ADA新銳建築獎

Time: Until 2/3 (Tues-Sun 10:00-18:00; free entry)

Venue: URS21 Chung Shan Creative Hub, N1
Exhibition Area (中山創意基地URS21, N1展區)

Add: 21, Sec. 1, Minsheng E. Rd. (民生東路1段21號)

Tel: (02)2562-1617

Website: www.adaawards.org.tw



The Taiwan Story of Sweets

An Exhibition of the Sweetest Flavor



Sweets aren't an intrinsic part of a meal, but their presence on the dining table is often a great source of happiness. Biting into a sweet, slightly tart pineapple cake (鳳梨酥), or a chewy, soft, sweet, and fragrant red turtle cake (紅龜粿), is a source of contentment for those with a sweet tooth. To savor a sweet is to savor the food and drink culture of the place it comes from. The Taipei Story House (台北故事館) is introducing the venerable culture of Taiwanese sweets with its exhibition The Taiwan Story of Sweets (甜點·故事·台灣味), which will run until April 7th, bringing you all the rich cultural background that makes these creations so delectable.

The exhibition has two venues, both heritage sites – Taipei Story House (台北故事館) and Bopiliao Historic Block (剝皮寮歷史街區) – presenting Taiwan's sweet story to the public from distinctive angles. The Taipei Story House has seven display themes: The History of Sweets (甜點的歷史), Time-Tested Bakeries with Memorable Sweets (百年老店·好甜點), Sweets for Happy Occasions (喜事甜點), The Season for Sweets (甜點的季節), The Secrets of Sweets (甜點的祕密), The Beauty of Sweets (甜點的美), and Sweet Audio-Visual Room (甜點視聽室). A visit will bring an understanding of the history, special character, and significance of Taiwan's sweets, and let you know where all the heritage shops are located.

The Sweets for Happy Occasions area introduces the sweets and customs that are such an intrinsic part of the Taiwanese wedding, with delicacies such as wedding cookies (喜餅) and longevity peach buns (壽桃) on display. The subject of The Season for Sweets is traditional Taiwanese festival sweets. This area presents familiar items such as mooncakes (月餅), Chinese New Year cakes (年糕), red turtle cakes, and turtle buns (麵龜), and also presents treats from the old days no longer seen, such as the sugar towers (糖塔) that were once part of the Ghost Festival (中元節). The Secrets of Sweets has a fragrant lineup of smelling bottles containing spices and pigments for visitors to learn more about the origins of the fragrances and colors of Taiwan's sweets. Visitors can also draw from among the set of "Sweet Recipe Divinity-Lot Poems" that has been prepared, and take recipes home for a DIY trial.



Also on display is a collection of rare items from Taiwan heritage shops. Long Yue Tang (龍月堂), located in the Dadaocheng neighborhood, has contributed a colorful embroidery work with an Eight Immortals (八仙) theme that was displayed at its opening during the Japanese colonial period. Yu Hua Hsin (御華興), located in Songshan District (松山區), has contributed pastry tongs that date back to the shop's first day in 1946. There's also a display of almost a hundred distinctive cake and pastry molds, the largest with a diameter of 88 centimeters, with mold patterns of great variety, each steeped in meaning.

Over at Bopiliao Historic Block, take in The Artists' World of Sweets (藝術家的甜點世界), in which the delight of sweets is expressed through three works of art. A giant ice cream 160 centimeters high is from Xu Jiayu's (許家瑜) *Eating Soldiers* (吃兵) series. Chen Qiujin (陳秋瑾) brings together Western pastries and the traditional Taiwan *hongyuan* (紅圓), round buns made from rice flour, in a collection of strikingly bright-color watercolors. Su Zihan (蘇子涵) blends urban scenes with sweets in a set of highly innovative works. These works bring some bright and decidedly newfangled interest to a quaint old heritage complex.

From their ingredients to their appearance, Taiwanese sweets are rich in local cultural flavor, and tell endless stories. The many types of traditional folk-celebration sweets, the master craftsmen, and traditions and knowledge passed on by heritage bakeries, preserve the true tastes of Taiwan. Come savor the taste of Taiwan at this intriguing exhibition on its sweet heritage. 🍪

1. A giant ice cream 160 centimeters high is from Xu Jiayu's *Eating Soldiers* series.
2. Chen Qiujin brings Western pastries and traditional Taiwan *hongyuan* together in watercolor paintings.
3. Su Zihan blends urban scenes with sweets in a set of highly innovative installations.
4. Traditional Taiwan-style wedding cookies have a key role in Taiwan wedding customs.
5. A super-sized entry in a special display of almost 100 cake and pastry molds gives visitors quite a surprise.
6. The Sweet Recipe Divination-Lot Poems present recipes for DIY home-trial.

Information

The Taiwan Story of Sweets

「甜點・故事・台灣味」特展

Time: Until 4/7

Venue 1: Taipei Story House 台北故事館

Add: 181-1, Sec. 3, Zhongshan N. Rd. (中山北路3段 181-1號)

Tel: (02)2587-5565

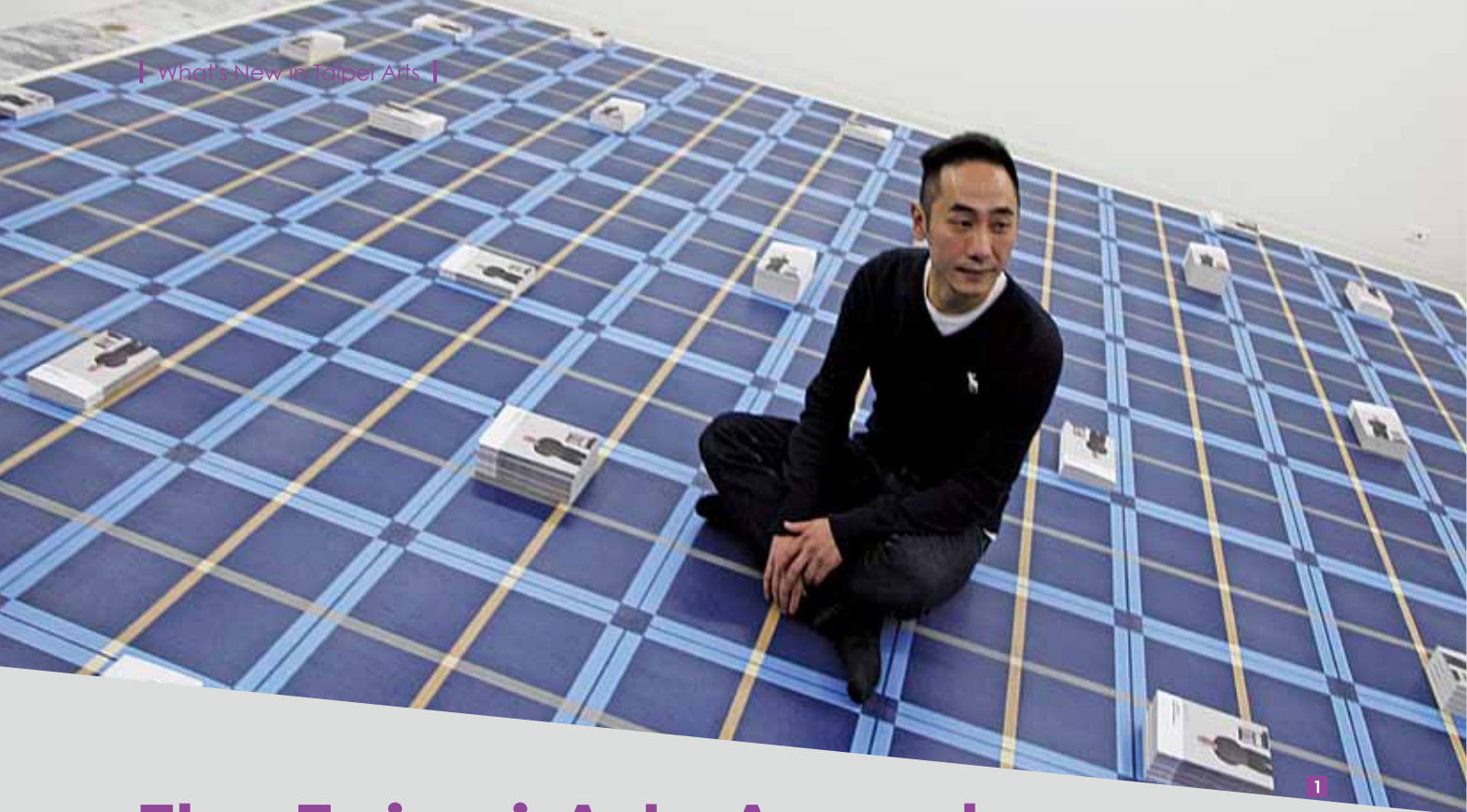
Hours: Tues~Sun 10:00-17:30 (closed Mon)

Website: www.storyhouse.com.tw

Venue 2: Bopiliao Historic Block 剝皮寮歷史街區

Add: 129, 131, Guangzhou St. (廣州街129、131號)

Hours: Tues~Sun 10:00-18:00 (closed Mon)



The Taipei Arts Awards –

A New Generation of Artists Compete Head to Head


The Taipei Arts Awards (臺北美術獎) uses a competitive format to encourage the contemporary spirit and individuality of the new generation of artists, and to test their mettle. The competitions have been going on for eleven years now, since 2001. There are no restrictions in terms of age, category of work, or medium of expression – the emphasis is on uniqueness of concept and style. Entries thus brim with freedom of spirit and pluralism of character, reflecting the pulse of society and the trends of the times. A total of 230 works have been entered this year, and thirteen have made it to the final round. You can view these splendid works, by young talents that have passed the test of fire, at the Taipei Fine Arts Museum (臺北市立美術館) until March 10th.



In the thirteen very different and iconoclastic works, the creators have utilized the medium of expression most familiar to them and dealt with the life issue that most concerns them. Some works are focused on social phenomenon, such as *A Working History - Lu Chieh-te* (工作史—盧皆得), a project by Chou Yucheng (周育正). In his Work History book, the artist records the process of interviewing for temporary work, documenting the humdrum reality of everyday life. The book presents the ups and downs of the temp employee's existence, at the same time depicting Taiwan's current socioeconomic circumstances. In Chu Chunteng's (朱駿騰) work, entitled *My Name Is Little Black* (我是小黑), the star is a Taiwan mynah bird that is being taught to speak. In this work of installation art, eight speakers have been placed in a circle around Little Black's cage. In 30-second rotations, each speaker utters the sentence "My name is Little Black", in a total of 24 languages. The installation work serves as a language classroom, with the bird mimicking the recordings and "learning" multiple languages. The list of languages includes those of peoples who have ruled over all or part of Taiwan in the past, as well as various ethnic groups. The artist seeks a partial reconstruction of all the complex influences that have shaped Taiwan through its history, engaging in an experimental reflection on its many possibilities.

Works by some of the other creators are in-depth explorations of personal memories and emotions. In an installation work by artist Luo Jrshin (羅智信), furniture, electrical appliances, and the tools and seating in a

showroom are utilized in a humorous and satirical reflection on Taipei's endless rainy winters, which lead to dripping water inside buildings. The medium of expression used in a work by Chuang Jungche (莊榮哲) is the tattoo, with physical trauma expressed through Chinese calligraphy. Flesh is used as the canvas, and blood has become the pigment. Wounds accumulated at different times, scabbing or healed, form a work of varied color and texture. The final work is presented as a traditional mounted Chinese scroll painting, and the process of creation is presented as a freeze-frame photo documentary.

The Taipei Arts Awards is a stage pointed toward the future of Taiwan's contemporary arts. Come see which of the country's many wonderful talents is bursting with the greatest creative-development potential. You'll witness unbridled creative innovation, and glimpse life from a diverse range of perspectives. 



6

1. Winner of the 2012 Taipei Arts Awards Grand Prize, Chou Yucheng, with his installation *A Working History - Lu Chieh-te*.
2. In Chu Chunteng's work *My Name Is Little Black*, eight speakers have been placed in a circle around a bird named Little Black's cage, teaching it 24 languages.
3. Luo Jrshin's installation artwork.
4. An unusual creation by Chuang Jungche, featuring tattooing, and the body as canvas.
5. *Telecommunication Moment* (電訊時刻), by Huang Yenchiao (黃彥超), who won an Honorable Mention.
6. The plan for Chou Yucheng's *A Working History* is recorded in a book of the same name.

Information

2012 Taipei Arts Awards 2012 臺北美術獎

Time: Until 3/10

Venue: Taipei Fine Arts Museum, basement galleries;
181, Sec. 3, Zhongshan N. Rd. (臺北市立美術館地下樓展場, 中山北路3段181號)

Tel: (02)2595-7656

Website: www.tfam.museum



The annual Taiwan International Festival of Arts (TIFA; 台灣國際藝術節) is a dazzling showcase of the European avant-garde and creativity emerging from deeply planted Taiwan roots. The theme for the 2013 show is "Newly Launched Masterpieces Sail on Accolades Overseas." Continuing in its role as an art platform fostering global convergence, Eastern and Western talent are joining forces in the creation of seventeen works, with 49 performances to be given from February 15th through March 31st at the National Theater and National Concert Hall.

The Taiwan International Festival of Arts – An Innovative Blend of Ancient and Modern



For its annual production, this year the NTCH has brought famed German composer Christian Jost, esteemed Taiwan composer Chung Yiukwong (鍾耀光), and well-known theater director Li Huanhsiung (黎煥雄) together to produce the musical work *Fall for Eileen Chang* (落葉·傾城·張愛玲). The work unveils the lyrical, poetic beauty and gloomy inner world hidden in the texts of this legendarily talented woman. Eileen Chang's works have often been adapted for theater and cinema; this musical adaptation is based on her poetry work "Love of the Fluttering Autumn Leaf" (落葉的愛) and her short stories "The Heart Sutra" (心經) and widely-

known "Love in a Fallen City" (傾城之戀). Eileen Chang is reinterpreted through musical notes and visual elements.

In addition, the NTCH and Singapore's Esplanade – Theatres on the Bay have co-commissioned Japanese choreographer Hiroaki Umeda's *Temporal Pattern* (形式暫留), which explores the use of body language across different cultures.

The program of domestic productions includes numerous brand-new creations by heavyweight performance troupes. *Flowing Sleeves and Rouge* (水袖與胭脂), by the Guoguang Opera Company (國光劇團),

brings Kun Opera (崑劇) and Beijing Opera (京劇) to a stage drama. Greenray Theatre (綠光劇團) is presenting *Temperature of a Single Man* (單身溫度), an adaptation of the short stories of writer Wang Dingjun (王鼎鈞) which explores human warmth and different social realities. Flying-Group Theatre (飛人集社) and French L'Est et l'Ouest are staging *La Disparition – rêverie sous l'arbre de mille ans* (消失—神木下的夢), a fresh-faced puppet production tailored for both adults and youngsters. Germany-based Taiwan choreographer Sun Shangchi (孫尚綺) is staging the world premiere of *Uphill* (浮・動), and Taiwan's National Symphony Orchestra is teaming up with the world-renowned Sabine Meyer, the "queen of the clarinet," for a concert of Western classics. Another first is to occur when Taiwan's Cloud Gate Dance Theatre (雲門舞集) and Georgia's Ensemble Rustavi stage *Songs of the Wanderers* (流浪者之歌) – the first time these groups are appearing together on stage in Asia.

The curatorial philosophy behind TIFA is the transcendence of national boundaries and cultural barriers. Many important international theaters are presenting their work in Taiwan for the first time. Germany's Volksbühne am Rosa-Luxemburg-Platz brings *The Gambler*, an adaptation of the story of the same name by Fyodor Dostoyevsky, created by the prestigious German director Frank Castorf. The work brings together punk music, an avant-garde Gothic-style revolving stage, and superb acting in a deft exploration of man's risk-taking nature. *Fishes Don't Fly* blends elements of Spanish, French, and Chilean folk cultures in telling the story of three dreams. Greece's Attis Theatre is presenting a modern interpretation of the Greek classic *Prometheus Bound*.

The dance program includes a new work entitled *Rooster* by Israel's Barak Marshall Dance Theatre, which has recently shot to fame on the global stage. This dance-theater piece, a philosophical exploration of meaning in life, is based on Greek mythology, Beckett's *Waiting for Godot*, the Bible, and other classical sources, and is rife with explosive dance movement. Germany's Tanztheater Wuppertal, established by the celebrated Tina Bausch, is presenting *Café Müller* and *The Rite of Spring*. *Café Müller* is one of the best representative works of Bausch's path-breaking dance-theater concepts.

These performances, crossing both national borders and cultures, produce startling emotions. Lovers of the arts are invited to come experience the rich and diverse cultural heritage of Taiwan along with other like-minded folk. 131

1. Greece's Attis Theatre is presenting a modern interpretation of the Greek classic *Prometheus Bound*.
2. Taiwan's Cloud Gate Dance Theatre and Georgia's Ensemble Rustavi are appearing on an Asian stage for the first time together for *Songs of the Wanderers*. (Photo by Peter Fiebeg)
3. Germany's Tanztheater Wuppertal is presenting one of its most representative works, *The Rite of Spring*. (Photo by Zerrin Aydin Herwegh)
4. *Der Spieler/The Gambler* is a creation of the prestigious German director Frank Castorf. (Copyright of Thomas Aurin)
5. *Flowing Sleeves and Rouge*, by the Guoguang Opera Company.
6. *Rooster*, a new work by the Barak Marshall Dance Theatre. (Photos courtesy of NTCH)



Information

Taiwan International Festival of Arts 台灣國際藝術節

Time: 2/15~3/31

Venues: National Theater, National Concert Hall,
Experimental Theater, Recital Hall
國家戲劇院、國家音樂廳、實驗劇場、演奏廳

Tel: (02)3393-9888

Website: tifa.ntch.edu.tw

2013
1/2

January-February
Arts Exhibition Calendar



King Wu Ding and Lady Hao:
Art and Culture of the Late Shang Dynasty



Capture the Moment – The Pulitzer Prize Photographs



Post-Loyalist of Doomsdayism



Their Stories of Paper Making

National Palace Museum

Tel: (02)2881-2021

Add: 221, Sec. 2, Zhishan Rd. (至善路 2 段 221 號)

Website: www.npm.gov.tw

Until 2/19

King Wu Ding and Lady Hao:

Art and Culture of the Late Shang Dynasty

Museum of Contemporary Art, Taipei (MOCA Taipei)

Tel: (02)2552-3721

Add: 39, Chang'an W. Rd. (長安西路 39 號)

Website: www.mocataipei.org.tw

2/2~4/14

Gregory Chatonsky Solo Exhibition

National Theater & Concert Hall

Tel: (02)3393-9888

Add: 21-1, Zhongshan S. Rd. (中山南路 21-1 號)

Website: www.ntch.edu.tw

1/20

The Style of Guitar, the Frenzy of Percussion

2/22~2/23

2013 TIFA – Accordion & Cello Duet

2/23

2013 TIFA – Voyages by Salamandrum & NSO

National Taiwan Science Education Center

Tel: (02)6610-1234

Add: 189, Shishang Rd. (士商路 189 號)

Website: www.ntsec.gov.tw

Until 2/28

Transformers Taiwan EXPO

Until 3/3

The Science of Aliens

Huashan 1914 Creative Park

Tel: (02)2358-1914

Add: 1, Sec. 1, Bade Rd. (八德路 1 段 1 號)

Website: web.huashan1914.com

Until 1/28

Classic Furniture Exhibition

Until 3/10

Candy Wonderland

1/18~4/17

Capture the Moment –

The Pulitzer Prize Photographs

National Museum of History

Tel: (02)2361-0270

Add: 49, Nanhai Rd. (南海路 49 號)

Website: www.nmh.gov.tw

1/26~5/12

The Divine Michelangelo

Songshan Cultural and Creative Park

Tel: (02)2765-1388

Add: 133, Guangfu S. Rd. (光復南路 133 號)

Website: www.songshanculturalpark.org

Until 4/7

100 Years Before the Birth of Doraemon

Kuandu Museum of Fine Arts

Tel: (02)2896-1000, ext. 2432

Add: 1, Xueyuan Rd. (學園路 1 號)

Website: www.kdmofa.tnua.edu.tw

Until 2/24

Post-Loyalist of Doomsdayism

Taipei Fine Arts Museum

Tel: (02)2595-7656

Add: 181, Sec. 3, Zhongshan N. Rd.

(中山北路 3 段 181 號)

Website: www.tfam.museum

2/2~4/14

Unveiled: Restoring the Permanent Collection

2/2~5/5

Hsin-yuen LIN: Enchanting Taiwan

National Taiwan Museum

Tel: (02)2382-2566

Add: 2, Xiangyang Rd. (襄陽路 2 號)

Website: www.ntm.gov.tw

Until 2/24

Taiwan's Gems – Wen Stone Exhibition

Until 4/21

The Return of the Yellow Tiger Flag -
Conservation of the Yellow Tiger Flag of the
Formosan Republic

Until 4/21

Death Is Just another Beginning -
Legend of the Taiwanese Mummy: Ko Hsiang

National Dr. Sun Yat-sen Memorial Hall

Tel: (02)2758-8008

Add: 505, Sec. 4, Ren'ai Rd. (仁愛路 4 段 505 號)

Website: www.yatsen.gov.tw

1/18~1/27

Notre Dame de Paris

Taipei Zoo

Tel: (02)2938-2300

Add: 30, Sec. 2, Xinguang Rd. (新光路 2 段 30 號)

Website: www.zoo.taipei.gov.tw

Until 9/30

Exhibit of Aquatic Insects

National Chiang Kai-shek Memorial Hall

Tel: (02)2343-1100

Add: 21, Zhongshan S.Rd. (中山南路 21 號)

Website: www.cksmh.gov.tw

1/15~4/14

Quest for Treasures: Looking for Lost Empires

1/26~4/21

Legend – Teresa Teng

Su Ho Memorial Paper Museum

Tel: (02)2507-5535

Add: 68, Sec. 2, Chang'an E. Rd.

(長安東路 2 段 68 號)

Website: www.suhopaper.org.tw

Until 3/2

Their Stories of Paper Making

How To Get from Taiwan Taoyuan International Airport to Taipei

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



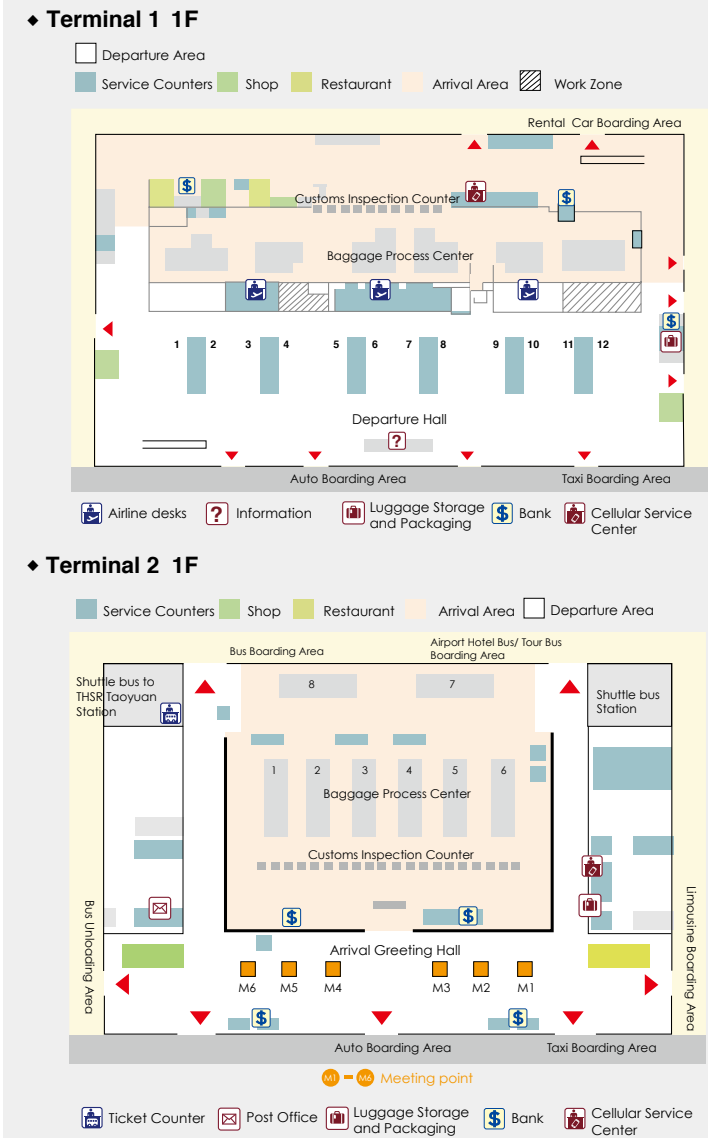
The Transportation Map of Taiwan Taoyuan International Airport Terminal I & II

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 Coach 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)
- Coach-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



NOTICE

In order to facilitate inquiries by the public, the city government has set up the 1999 Taipei Citizen Hotline. Whether by telephone, mobile phone, or Internet phone (public telephones and prepaid cellphone cards 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. Citizens 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

TAIWAN EMERGENCY TELEPHONE NUMBERS

- Police / 110**
Crimes, traffic accidents, and other incidents for which police assistance is needed
- Fire / 119**
Fire, injury or accident, or other urgent matters for which emergency relief is needed
- Women and Children Protection Hotline / 113 ext. 0**
24-hour emergency, legal information, and psychological services for victims of domestic violence and/or sexual abuse.

NON-EMERGENCY TELEPHONE NUMBERS

Unit	Tel. No.
Taipei City Govt. Citizen Hotline	1999
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	0800-030-598 ext.3
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 mulberry indicate service in English provided

LIST OF TAIPEI VISITOR INFORMATION CENTERS

Taipei Main Station Visitor Information Center (02) 2312-3256 1F, 3 Beiping W. Rd.	MRT Yuanshan Station Visitor Information Center (02) 2591-6130 9-1, Jiuquan St.	Plum Garden Visitor Center (02) 2897-2647 6, Zhongshan Rd.
Songshan Airport Visitor Information Center (02) 2546-4741 340-10, Dunhua N. Rd.	MRT Jiantan Station Visitor Information Center (02) 2883-0313 65, Sec. 5, Zhongshan N. Rd.	Miramar Entertainment Park Visitor Center (02) 8501-2762 20, Jingye 3 rd Rd.
East Metro Mall Visitor Information Center (02) 6638-0059 Underground Mall 4-2, 77, Sec.1, Da'an Rd.	MRT Beitou Station Visitor Information Center (02) 2894-6923 1, Guangming Rd.	Maokong Gondola Taipei Zoo Station Visitor Center (02) 8661-7627 2, Lane 10, Sec. 2, Xinguang Rd. (1F, Maokong Gondola Service Center)
MRT Ximen Station Visitor Information Center (02) 2375-3096 B1, 32-1, Baoqing Rd.	Taipei City Hall Bus Station Visitor Information Center (02) 2723-6836 6, Sec. 5, Zhongxiao E. Rd.	Maokong Gondola Maokong Station Visitor Center (02) 2937-8563 35, Lane 38, Sec. 3, Zhinan Rd. (Exit area, Maokong Station)

An Ecological Tour Along the Tamsui River: Bike Touring & Bird Watching (P32~P35) Map



An Ecological Tour Along the Tamsui River: Bike Touring & Bird Watching (P32~P35) Tour Information



An Ecological Tour Along the Tamsui River: Bike Touring & Bird Watching

Grandma's Sticky Rice 阿婆油飯

Add: 70, Sanshui St.
(三水街70號)
Tel: 0910-032-372

Jinhe Sushi 金禾壽司

Add: 93, Sanshui St.
(三水街93號)
Tel: (02)2302-4727

Su Home Sticky Rice Cake 萬華蘇記肉圓油粿

Add: 109, Sanshui St. (三水街109號)
Tel: (02)2308-3724

We Are the World Old-Time Flavors 天下一家好味老店

Add: 302, Kangding Rd. (康定路302號)
Tel: (02)2308-3694

Minle Sailfish Rice Noodle 民樂旗魚米粉

Add: 3, Minle St. (民樂街3號)
Tel: 0933-870-901

Yongle Chicken Rolls King 永樂雞捲大王

Add: 6, Ln. 50, Sec. 2, Yanping N. Rd.
(延平北路2段50巷6號)
Tel: (02)2556-0031

Yongle Mitaimu 永樂米苔目

Add: 7, Yongchang St. (永昌街7號)
Tel: (02)2559-9603

Guandu Nature Park 關渡自然公園

Add: 55, Guandu Rd. (關渡路55號)
Tel: (02)2858-7417
Website: your.gd-park.org.tw

Tapas House 92水鳥餐廳

Add: 92, Zhixing Rd. (知行路92號)
Tel: (02)2858-8668



Transportation Information

Morning market at Sanshui Street

Take the MRT with your bike → Longshan Temple Station Exit 1 → Bike along Guangzhou St., turn right at Kangding Rd. and arrive at the Xinfu Market (park your bike) walk straight into the market for 3 minutes to get to Grandma's Sticky Rice and Jinhe Sushi → exit the market and continue to walk 200 meters forward to the Su Home Sticky Rice Cake, or go right for 200 meters to the We Are the World Old-Time Flavors.

Huajiang Wild Duck Nature Park

Bike along Kangding Rd. for 3 minutes → Turn right onto Heping W. Rd. and go straight for 10 minutes → Turn left onto Huanhe S. Rd. and keep biking forward for about 10 minutes → Turn right onto Changshun St. → The Huajiang Evacuation Gate → Huajiang Wild Duck Nature Park → The Tamsui bike path → Zhongxing Bridge

Dadaocheng Wharf

Bike along the Tamsui bike path → Dadaocheng Wharf (Park your bike) → Exit from Gate 5, take Minsheng W. Rd. and go straight for 5 minutes → Turn right onto Dihua St. (New Year Shopping) → Turn left onto Yongchang St. (Yongle mitaimu), Minle St. (sailfish rice noodle soup), and Sec. 2, Yanping N. Rd. (Yongle Chicken Rolls King) → Back to Dadaocheng Wharf

Keelung Bikeway

Bike along the Tamsui bikeway for about 30 – 40 minutes → Keelung bikeway → Guandu Rd. → Guandu Nature Park

Guandu Nature Park

Exit Guandu Nature Park → Turn left onto Zhixing Rd. and go straight for 1 minute to the Tapas House → Go along Zhixing Rd. and connect to the Tamsui Bikeway → Guandu Bridge



JAN. / FEB.
BIMONTHLY 2013

DISCOVER TAIPEI is Available at

臺北市府觀光傳播局

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

臺灣桃園國際航空站一

Tourist Service Center at Arrival Lobby,
Taiwan Taoyuan International Airport
(03) 398-2194
Dayuan, Taoyuan County

臺灣桃園國際航空站二

Tourist Service Center at Arrival Lobby,
Taiwan Taoyuan International Airport
(03) 398-3341
Dayuan, Taoyuan County

美國在臺協會

American Institute in Taiwan
(02) 2162-2000
7, Lane 134, Sec. 3, Xinyi Rd., Taipei

遠企購物中心

Taipei Metro the Mall
(02) 2378-6666 ext.6580
203, Sec. 2, Dunhua S. Rd., Taipei

國語日報語文中心

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

臺北市立美術館

Taipei Fine Arts Museum
(02) 2595-7656
181, Sec. 3, Zhongshan N. Rd., Taipei

聖多福天主教堂

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

士林區公所

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

臺北士林劍潭活動中心

Shilin Chientan Overseas Youth Activity Center
(02) 2885-2151
16, Sec. 4, Zhongshan N. Rd., Taipei

南港軟體工業園區

Nangang Software Park
(02) 2655-3093 ext.124
2F, 19-10, Sanchong Rd., Taipei

臺北美國學校

Taipei American School
(02) 2873-9900
800, Sec. 6, Zhongshan N. Rd., Taipei

中正紀念堂

National Chiang Kai-shek Memorial Hall
(02) 2343-1100
21, Zhongshan S. Rd., Taipei

臺北當代藝術館

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

官邸藝文沙龍

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

臺北國際藝術村

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

臺北二二八紀念館

Taipei 228 Memorial Museum
(02) 2389-7228
3, Ketagalan Boulevard, Taipei

交通部觀光局旅遊服務中心

Travel Service Center, Tourism Bureau,
M.O.T.C
(02) 2717-3737
240, Dunhua N. Rd., Taipei

西門紅樓

The Red House
(02) 2311-9380
10, Chengdu Rd., Taipei

光點台北

SPOT-Taipei Film House
(02) 2778-2991
18, Sec. 2, Zhongshan N. Rd., Taipei

臺北市政府市民服務組

The public service group of Taipei City
Government
(02) 2720-8889 / 1999 ext.1000
1, Shifu Rd., Taipei

北投溫泉博物館

Beitou Hot Springs Museum
(02) 2893-9981
2, Zhongshan Rd., Taipei

士林官邸

Chiang Kai-shek Shilin Residence
(02) 2883-6340
60, Fulin Rd., Taipei

臺北市孔廟

Taipei Confucius Temple
(02) 2592-3924
275, Dalong St., Taipei

松山文化創意園區

Songshan Cultural and Creative Park
(02) 2765-1388
133, Guangfu S. Rd., Taipei

華山1914文化創意產業園區

Huashan 1914 Creative Park
(02) 2358-1914
1, Sec.1, Bade Rd., Taipei

台北故事館

Taipei Story House
(02) 2587-5565
181-1, Sec. 3, Zhongshan N. Rd., Taipei

國立臺灣博物館

National Taiwan Museum
(02) 2382-2566
2, Xiangyang Rd., Taipei

12座臺北市旅遊服務中心

12 Visitor Information Centers in Taipei
(see more detail on P. 65)

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Price: NT\$320

