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DISCOVER TAIPEI

MAR. / APR. BIMONTHLY 2011

# TAIPEI IN THE ROC'S 100<sup>TH</sup> YEAR

**Yours to Celebrate, Yours to Discover**

Ride the MRT to See a Century of Taipei Architecture

100 Years of Proud Craftsmanship from  
Local Heritage Shops

Sitting Down to Meals Where Island  
Nostalgia Is the Main Ingredient

Countdown for the Flora Expo,  
The Most Exciting Shows Now Hitting the Stage

  
**TAIPEI**



MARCH / APRIL  
BIMONTHLY 2011

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





# Taipei in the ROC's 100<sup>th</sup> Year

Yours to Celebrate, Yours to Discover

In Chinese, the character for “100” indicates both a number and the idea of “completeness” and “plenty.” It is used in many common terms, with “hundred names” (百姓) meaning the common people, “hundred trades” (百業) meaning the business world in general, and “hundred goods” (百貨) meaning general merchandise. In the Chinese world, numbers are powerful symbols, and in this year, the centennial of the Republic of China's founding, we will explore Taipei's significance in the 100 years. We take you on an MRT tour of a century of architecture, explore century-old practitioners of age-old crafts, enjoy beloved traditional foods, and go on day-trips hunting down the traces of the Taipei of yesteryear. Taipei is a place with a young face but many old-world charms, and in this issue, we show you where to find them.

Taipei is always a place of great buzz, especially in March and April this year because of the climactic events before the closing of the Taipei International Flora Exposition. Whether you embark on a single visit or multiple visits during this period, you are promised something new, and whether it's the myriad cultural-arts performances or the final-curtain shows, excitement and satisfaction are guaranteed, as are lifetime memories.

Springtime and art seem to be made for each other, and though you may not know it yet, you are destined for a number of rendezvous with the works of such illustrious names as Chagall, Monet, and Balzac. Taipei has shows going on celebrating all three, with original manuscripts, paintings, and other treasures on loan from museums and private collections around the world, and everyone is waiting for you.

Let's head out now to celebrate the 100th year of the Republic of China together, exploring the wonderful recipe of old and new, traditional and modern that gives Taipei such a strong personality.





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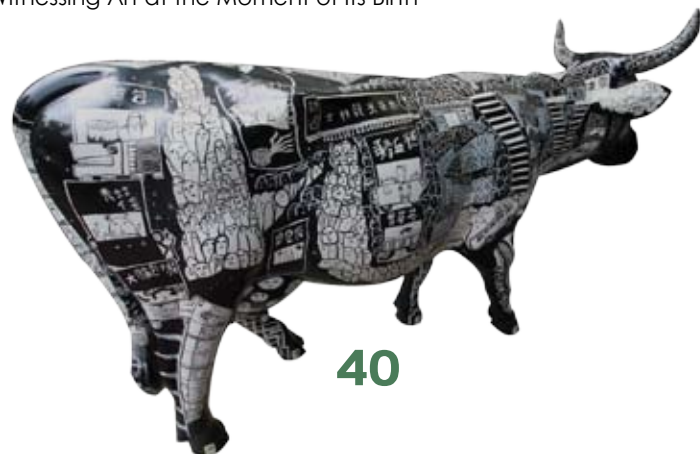
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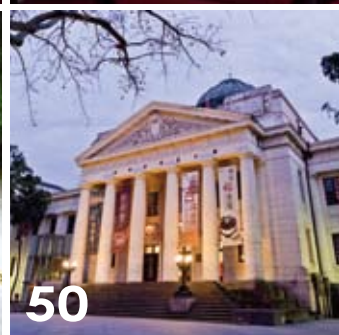
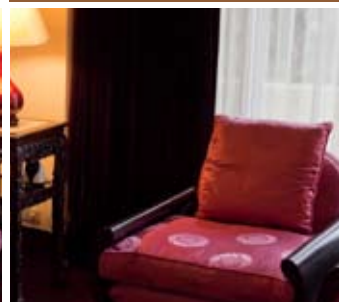




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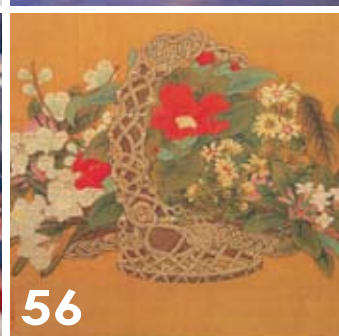
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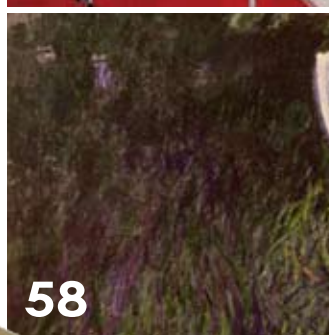
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Taipei in the  
ROC's 100<sup>th</sup> Year



## RIDE THE MRT TO SEE A CENTURY OF TAIPEI ARCHITECTURE

This year is the centennial of the founding of the Republic of China, and Taipei as a long-time capital has played a large role in the country's history, with myriad stories to be told. An excursion through the city's various district communities, where the development of each forms a part of the city's journey through time down to the present, is one of much excitement and many revelations. We will now take you on a ride along Taipei's MRT rails in search of many historical sites and relics, and glimpse into the future.





1



## MRT Danshui Line

### MRT Jiantan Station: Shilin Cixian Temple

Shilin Night Market (士林夜市) has long been a must-see attraction for overseas tourists. At its heart sits the elaborately embellished Shilin Cixian Temple (士林慈誠宮), a place of worship with a history intimately intertwined with that of the surrounding market. In former times, because of its proximity to the Keelung River (基隆河), then a key transportation highway, peddlers would bring their agricultural and fish produce from the surrounding country and gather on the temple yard. Trading would start before sunrise each day and run well into the evening, creating a flourishing market that trades day and night. The market is centered at the temple and surrounded by four major roads: Danan Rd. (大南路), Dabei Rd. (大北路), Dadong Rd. (大東路), and Daxi Rd. (大西路), literally the “Grand South/North/East/West Road.” This was the earliest planned urban market area to take shape in north Taiwan, and today many century-old shops are still in place plying their trade.



2

The temple, which has been declared a Historic Relic of the Third Rank, has a classic south Fujian-style (閩南) layout. It was built to house Mazu (媽祖), the Goddess of the Sea, who is flanked by her two subordinate generals. They are the work-of-art created by master craftsmen in the era of the Qing Dynasty's Guangxu (光緒) emperor (1875-1908). Across the beam above the doorway of this majestic and sumptuous complex is a large, peeling old tablet that indistinctly reads “In the year of Showa...” (昭和某年).

### MRT Yuanshan Station: Along Zhongshan North Road, Dalongdong Baoan Temple

The area by Yuanshan Station is rich in historical sites. Starting from Zhongshan N. Rd. (中山北路), visit the Yuanshan Site (圓山遺址) archaeological digs and move on to Linji Huguo Zen Temple (臨濟護國禪寺), Taipei Story House (臺北故事館), and Lin An-tai Historic House (林安泰古厝). Then, head south along Zhongshan N. Rd., and spend time at Zhongshan Presbyterian Church (中山基督長老教會), SPOT-Taipei Film House (台北之家), and other spots of interest.

In 1901, the Japanese built Taiwan's highest-ranking Shinto shrine, the Taiwan Shrine (臺灣神社), in where the Grand Hotel (圓山大飯店) now stands. The Chokushi Kaido (敕使街道; Imperial Envoy Road), today's Zhongshan N. Road, connects the shrine to the old Taipei city. Later, in 1914, the Tudor-style mansion that houses today's popular Taipei Story House was completed on the shrine's grand approach. It was built by



Dadaocheng tea merchant Chen Chao-jun (陳朝駿) as his private villa. Sun Yat-sen was once a guest here.

Next, walk west from MRT Yuanshan Station into Dalongdong (大龍峒), and you will see the Taipei Confucius Temple (臺北孔廟), Teacher's Residence (老師府; also called Chen Yue-ji Residence; 陳悅記祖宅), and Baoan Temple (保安宮), the leading cultural lights of Taipei. Dalongdong was long famed for cultural distinction and success in the imperial exams: "Every ten steps a licentiate (county-level degree holder), every hundred steps a provincial graduate" (十步一秀、百步一舉).

Baoan Temple, now over 200 years old, is a Historic Relic of the Second Rank. Its main god is Baosheng Dadi (保生大帝), the God of Medicine. In the early 20th century, two master craftsmen were entrusted to conduct major refurbishment; the complex is divided from the middle, with the left and right side assigned to each master for a friendly competition. If you pay attention, you can see how the two sides differ; the woodcarvings reflect the two masters' different styles. In recent years, the temple has undergone a major overhaul, with modern preservation techniques used alongside meticulous old-time temple architecture methods to faithfully restore the true historical look of the complex. The magnificent results garnered the site a UNESCO Asia-Pacific Heritage Award for Cultural Heritage Conservation in 2003.

### **MRT Shuanglian Station: XiaHai ChengHuang Temple, Dihua Street, Qianqiu Street Stores**

From MRT Shuanglian Station, a 15 minutes walk leads you into the bustling heart of the old Dadaocheng community. Though the walk is a little long, it is quite rewarding, allowing you a leisurely look at what was once the most bustling and flourishing area of Taipei. The area first rose to prominence as a riverport market town in the 1860s, during the Qing Dynasty, flourishing well into the 20th century. History is on the grandest display on three old streets parallel to the Danshui River (淡水河): Guide St. (貴德街), Dihua St. (迪化街), and Yanping N. Rd. (延平北路).



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1. The ornate, majestic Shilin Cixian Temple and Shilin Night Market are in every way intimately connected.
2. Baoan Temple, over 200 years old, is a Historic Relic of the Second Rank.
- 3-4. Dadaocheng's Koo Family Salt Hall (above) and Chen Tian-lai Residence, site of Jin-Ji Tea Co.(below), are Japanese-era structures done in Neo-Baroque style.

Guide St. was once known as "tea street," home to tens of tea shops. Today, walking along the narrow street lined with arcade buildings with raised foundation, you will experience the history of the tea street unfolding before you. The raised foundations were the answer to the flooding of this lowland by the nearby Danshui River. Guide St. was perhaps once Taipei's most fragrant street, with rich aromatic scents of roasting tea leaves and dried jasmine flowers used in floral teas spread on factory floors.

Dadaocheng grew rich by the export of tea, and was home to many of Taiwan's richest men, who built mansions that are today official city heritage sites. Prime examples are the Koo family residence (大稻埕辜宅), customarily called the Koo Family Salt Hall (鹽館), at No. 9, Lane 303, Guisui St. (歸綏街303巷9號), and the Chen Tian-lai Residence (陳天來故居) at No. 73 Guide St. (貴德街73號), home to Jin-Ji Tea Co. (錦記茶行). Both were created in the 1920s

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during the Japanese rule (1895-1945), and feature Neo-Baroque designs. Public entry is not allowed currently. From Lane 86 of Xining N. Rd. (西寧北路86巷), walk west and you'll see a row of shoulder-to-shoulder two-story red-brick shophouses, called the Dadaocheng Qianqiu Street Stores (大稻埕千秋街店屋). Inspect the unusual cement drainage pipes, which sport bamboo-joint shapes. A short alley trip then brings you to Dihua St., where among the many attractions is the old post office, thoroughly renovated just last year, Japanese-built and called the "Taipei South Street Post Office" (臺北南街郵便局). Each Chinese New Year, the Dihua St. shops bustle in the shopping spree of traditional New Year goods and the post office cannot afford to be idle but deliver the goods for the joyous New Year.

Dihua St. is Taipei's only preserved "Old Street" (老街), and a wonderful living portfolio of architectural styles from the end of the Qing Dynasty down to the present. The neo-Baroque and neo-Renaissance facades popular during Japan's Taisho and Showa periods are found on the combined warehouse/retail/residential south Fujian-style shophouses and the two-story Western-design buildings. In addition to the intriguing architectural landscape since Taiwan's turnover to Chinese rule after WW II, Dihua St. has remained Taiwan's key emporium for fabrics, Chinese medicines, and regional specialty goods, creating an unbeatable combination of shopping and history-tourism opportunities.

Another not-to-be-missed Dihua St. icon is XiaHai ChengHuang Temple (霞海城隍廟), another Historic Relic of Third Rank, constructed in the mid-19th century as Dadaocheng took shape. Inside is the Old Man Under the Moon (月下老人), the Chinese Cupid, attracting many singles to receive his blessings.



## MRT Bannan Line

### MRT Ximen Station: The Red House

Today's Ximen Station is located where the Ximen (West Gate) Traffic Circle (西門圓環) used to be. It is named after Taipei's old city wall, West Gate (西門). The Japanese tore the old gate and walls down, and created the traffic circle. It slowly developed into a commercial district, and eventually evolved into the youth-oriented shopping and entertainment Ximending (西門町) district of today.

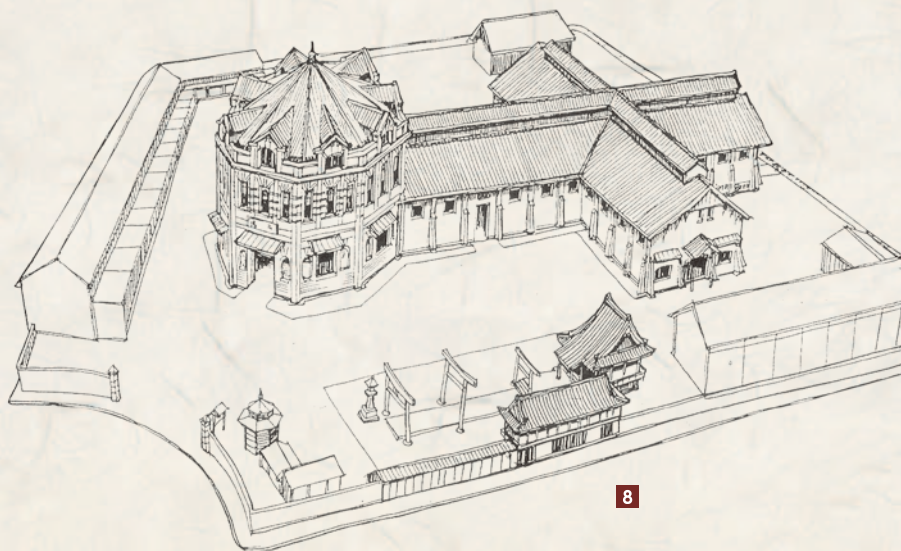
The Red House (西門紅樓) is a heritage site located almost right beside Ximen Station.

Opened in 1908, this was Taiwan's first modern public market, designed by Japanese architect Juro Kondo. The

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structure has two conjoined sections; groceries were originally sold in the cross-shape section, books and antiques in the two-story octagonal section at the front. Today, the complex is a center for the cultural-creative arts, with a rock-and-roll venue and artist boutiques in the cross, and a café and theater in the octagon.

### MRT Taipei Main Station: Futai Street Mansion

Futai Street Mansion (撫臺街洋樓), built in 1910 by a Japanese corporation, is a stand-alone Western edifice unique to its period. It is built as a mansion, but intended to be used as a store. The design is a combination of wood and stone, with the first level made of high quality stone from Qilian (湄哩岸) in today's north Taipei and the second level and roof trusses are made of wood. The Mansard-style roof and three dormer windows, one large and two small, add to the sense of height and stateliness.

### MRT Zhongxiao Xinsheng Station: Huashan 1914 Creative Park

The heritage facilities at Huashan 1914 Creative Park (華山1914文化創意園區) were originally part of a brewery complex established in the city's heart



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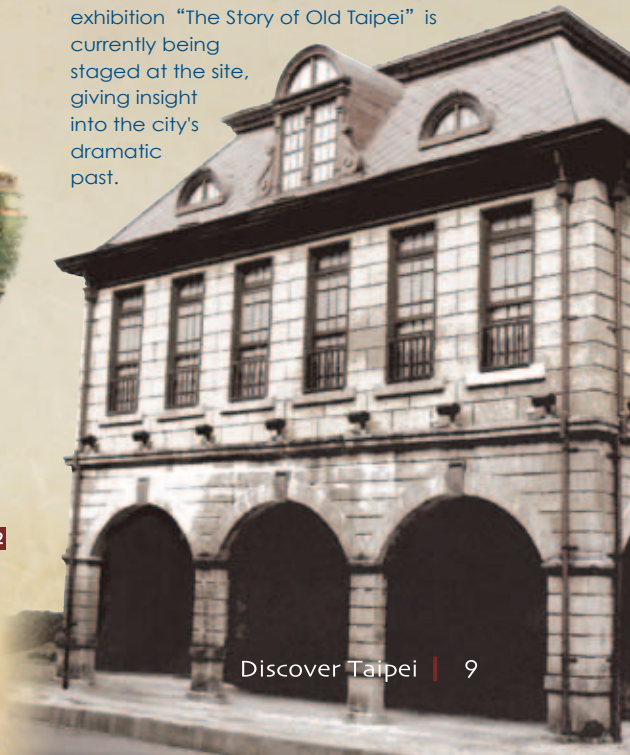


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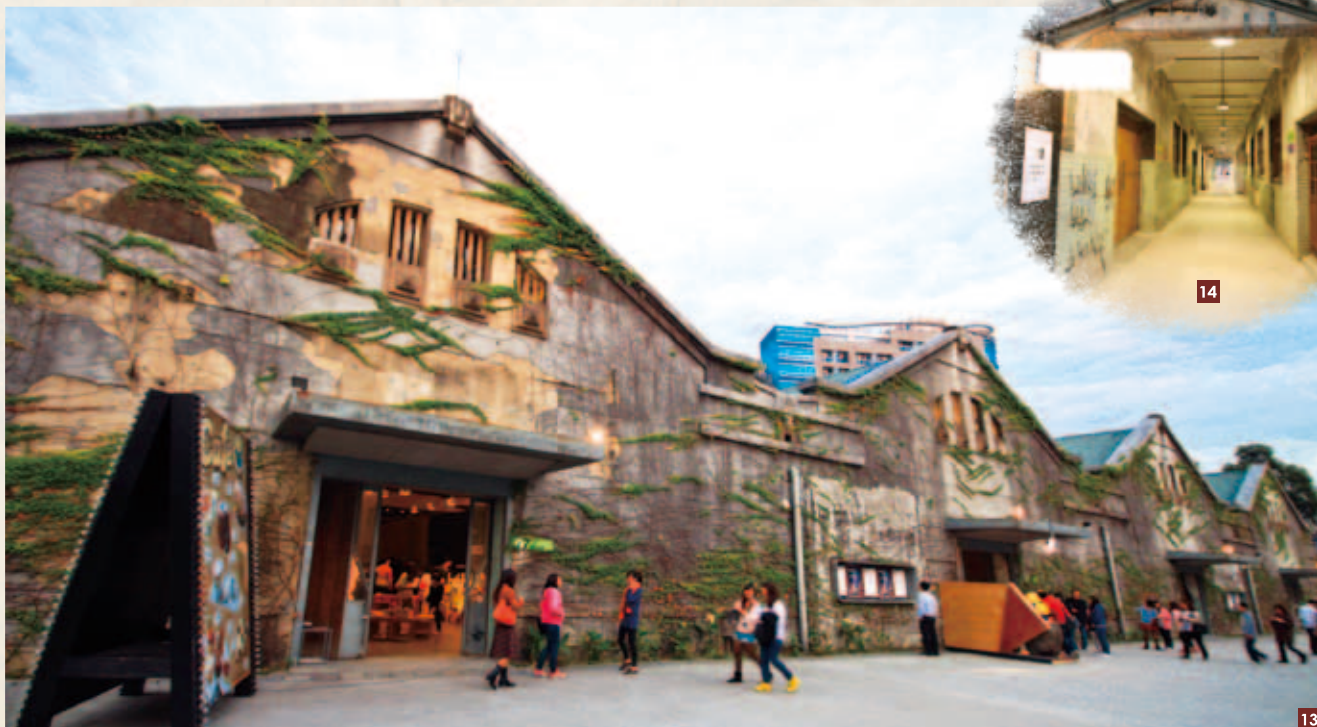
5. The red-brick shophouses along Dadaocheng's Qianqiu St. have interesting cement water pipes that look like bamboo stalks.
6. The old post office on Dihua St., an area of traditional goods from different regions, gets very busy during the Chinese New Year season.
7. The XiaHai ChengHuang Temple is home to Dadaocheng's main tutelary deity.
8. A sketch of the Red House the Japanese period was personally drawn by Professor Li Qianlang (李乾朗), an authoritative figure in traditional architectural studies.
9. The red brick and white stucco octagonal section of The Red House has served as an important Taipei leisure and entertainment venue for over a century.
- 10-12. Futai Street Mansion is the best-preserved example of old commercial-street architecture in the old walled city area, with a wood and stone combination used; the exhibition "The Story of Old Taipei" is currently being staged at the site, giving insight into the city's dramatic past.



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during the Japanese era. Because of the land's expense and pollution problems, production was eventually transferred elsewhere. The site, today, is a priceless window into the city's industry and everyday working life during the days of yesteryear. It is a rare open-space gem presented in the middle of the city for public recreational use.

Three sections of the Huashan complex, the tower area (M1 Building cluster), plum wine facility (E3 Building), and smokestack were declared city historical relics in 2003. The most striking features of the tower are its gables and wooden windows along with the lab-testing tables and other industrial-era relics left intact. The tower stands in a cluster of buildings, and their differing heights seems like dancing skylines. The Administrative Office building (行政大樓), tower, and Huashan Square (華

山廣場) area is open, with no fence or wall surrounding them. In the afternoons and evenings, people gather here to seek some open space, and the flow of vehicles on Bade Rd. (八德路) magically becoming a tableau of urban landscape art.



## MRT Xindian Line

### MRT Jingmei Station: Jiying Temple

Jingmei Jiying Temple (景美集應廟) is the only historical temple in Wenshan District (文山區). It is surrounded by the Jingmei Night Market (景美夜市), with the two combined into a distinctive scene. The temple's back leans against Mt. Jingmei (景美山), and before flows the Jingmei Stream (景美溪), two powerful elements in creating optimal temple fengshui. The red-colored railings at the front hall are in traditional Qing Dynasty style; though many such authentic elements are

lost when temples undergo renovation, Jiying

Temple has held on to its true historical appearance. A great day-trip combo—coming by MRT to visit a temple that has maintained its original good looks and then filling up on authentic traditional Taiwan snacks.







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## MRT Xinbeitou Line

### MRT Xinbeitou Station: Beitou Hot Springs Museum

The old area of today's Beitou (北投) was one of the first developed areas in Taipei. There are ample of hot-springs and heritage sites, making a visit to Beitou Hot Springs Museum (北投溫泉博物館), Puji Temple (普濟寺), Taiwan Folk Arts Museum (北投文物館), or other cultured destination an enticing option. At the entrance to this historical area is the 90-year-old Beitou Park (北投公園), a mere five-minute walk from MRT Xinbeitou Station, delicately dressed up with a circular fountain and arched stone bridge in the simple and unaffected old style.

Flowing down from the higher slopes through the shady green park is Beitou Stream (北投溪). Sometimes wisps of steam can be seen wafting up from the hot-spring waters. The Beitou Hot Springs Museum and Beitou Branch of the Taipei Public

Library (北投圖書館), are connected together

by a wooden walkway, giving a good sense of Beitou's pleasant contrast of old and new and the strong local sense of community. The attractive building housing the Beitou Hot Springs Museum was opened long ago by the Japanese as the Beitou Public Bath; today the museum displays the original ancient Roman-style men's bath on the first floor, especially beautiful

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at dusk when the sun's rays pierce through the

stained glass. The large tatami room on the second floor is suffused with the earthy fragrance of straw. Though there is bathing here no more, there is much to enjoy for visitors as they soak up the local history, in a place where Crown Prince Hirohito and Sun Yat-sen once came to refresh their spirits. 17



## Information

### Shilin Cixian Temple 士林慈誠宮

Add: 84 Danan Rd. (大南路84號)

Tel: (02) 2880-2972

### Taipei Story House 臺北故事館

Add: 181-1, Sec. 3, Zhongshan N. Rd. (中山北路3段181-1號), beside Taipei Fine Arts Museum

Tel: (02) 2587-5565

### Baoan Temple 保安宮

Add: 61 Hami St. (哈密街61號)

Tel: (02) 2595-1676

### XiaHai ChengHuang Temple

霞海城隍廟

Add: 61, Sec. 1, Dihua St. (迪化街1段61號)

Tel: (02) 2558-0346

### The Red House 西門紅樓

Add: 10 Chengdu Rd. (成都路10號)

Tel: (02) 2311-9380

### Futai Street Mansion 撫臺街洋樓

Add: 26 Yanping S. Rd. (延平南路26號)

Tel: (02) 2314-5190

### Huashan 1914 Creative Park

華山1914創意文化園區

Add: 1, Sec. 1, Bade Rd. (八德路1段1號)

Tel: (02) 2358-1914

### Jingmei Jiying Temple 景美集應廟

Add: 37 Jingmei St. (景美街37號)

Tel: (02) 2934-8446

### Beitou Hot Springs Museum

北投溫泉博物館

Add: 2 Zhongshan Rd. (中山路2號)

Tel: (02) 2893-9981

13-14. The complex that today is home to Huashan 1914 Creative Park was originally the Taipei Brewery, with high gables and long wood-frame windows the most prominent architectural features.

15. The front hall of Jingmei Jiying Temple has the original Qing Dynasty-style red-colored railing before it.

16. The classically elegant Beitou Hot Springs Museum was built as a public bath house during the Japanese colonial era; museum visitors learn about Beitou's hot-spring culture and history.

17. Beitou's Puji Temple was done in Japan's neo-Tang Dynasty style.





## Taipei in the ROC's 100<sup>th</sup> Year

# 100 Years of Proud Craftsmanship from Local Heritage Shops

Down the streets and alleys of Taipei, you'll find many proud old businesses that first hung out its shop sign more than a hundred years ago. But it would be very, very wrong to just think of these shops as "old." No, what they truly represent is reliability, comfortable familiarity, and tradition, with quality proudly guaranteed and with the promise of holding steadfast to the tried and the true. The newfangled arrives in our lives in wave after wave, but most if not all of us know that timeless tradition contains its own intrinsic value, both practical and spiritual.

### Qian Yuan Ginseng Medicine – 100 Years as Guardian of Health

The old wooden cabinets containing this apothecary's great trove of Chinese medicines are living history, as is the venerable abacus on the table and the suite of grinding instruments, the old cabinet-top medicine canisters, and the medicinal ingredients written out in careful calligraphy—a charming scene from the past that touches those in the present.

Qian Yuan Ginseng Medicine (乾元蔘藥行) has been standing guard over people's health in the Dadaocheng (大稻埕) community for over a century. The steadfast insistence on the quality of its medicinal ingredients is still faithfully followed today. The proprietor, Chen Jian-zhong (陳建忠), says that those who sell medicine must show true heart, for they hold the health of their patrons in their hands. And in keeping with modern understanding of quality and hygiene, the shop now stores its medicines in plastic lock boxes to avoid direct contact with the cabinet wood. However, all other key aspects follow the trusted traditions of the ancient masters of the profession, such as the preparation of its medicinal decoctions. Deeply aware of its time-honored role as guardian of its patrons' health, Qian Yuan is strict in choosing all its medicinal materials. Although the materials are more expensive, it remains the source of choice for many Chinese-medicine professionals.

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## Lin Hua Tai Tea Company – Foundation Built on Solid Trustworthiness

“Honor and honesty; that's the image we've created with customers,” says Lin Hua Tai Tea Co.'s (林華泰茶行) Lin Mao-sen (林茂森), the fourth-generation leader of the family concern. Inheriting his father's approach to business, and learning it at his hand, integrity toward the customer is what has kept them passing under the Lin signboard for a century. Though many tea shops have gone with the times and turned to ever fancier packaging, Lin Hua Tai has stayed with simple plastic bags, believing that you cannot judge a book by its cover, the truth of this maxim is proven by the continuous streams of patrons through the door in search of fine leaves.

Unlike the situation with many family enterprises, Lin Mao-sen is not worried at all about who will inherit his business. His three children all love drinking tea, and all have shown clear interest in how the firm is running. Lin says that he constantly tells his kids that “a penny spent is a penny of goods” (一分錢、一分貨); tea cultivation is demanding, he says, and Taiwan tea growers are slowly leaving the business, so he spent money from his own pocket to hire growers to plant in the high mountains of eastern Taiwan to ensure the highest-quality “goods” for his customers. He is in the business of “fine” teas, he says, and this insistence on honest sales will keep the Lin signboard swinging gently in the breeze for another hundred years.

## Lao Ming Yu Incense Shop – Incense with the Purity of Chinese Medicine

Lao Ming Yu Incense Shop (老明玉香舖) is located in Wanhua (萬華), the district with northern Taiwan's greatest concentration of temples. This old shop has been making incense for a century, and inside you enter a fantastic world of different types of incense sticks and coils along with various other articles needed for religious worship. An image of the shop's founder is found on each of the red packages containing the incense sticks.

1-2. At the Qian Yuan Ginseng Medicine shop, the old grinding instruments and cabinet-top medicine canisters are colorful props in a living-history display.

3-4. At Lin Hua Tai Tea Company the tea's the thing, not the packaging, the proof of the business formula the constant inflow of knowledgeable customers.

5. Lao Ming Yu Incense Shop uses Chinese-medicine fragrances in its incense.







The majority of the shop's customers are private individuals heading off to worship. Foreign tourists also regularly stop by, intrigued by the exotic array of worship paraphernalia. A single stick of incense may appear to be a simple item, but the manufacturing process is in fact quite complicated. The master craftsman must wield a large and heavy bundle of sticks made from bamboo, and spread the sticks wide enough to apply powder, layer upon layer, moving carefully to ensure uniformity. The bundle is manipulated back and forth for some time, requiring significant strength and endurance. Another specialty carried on faithfully for a century is the use of Chinese-medicine fragrances in the incense using a secret house recipe, which has its own distinctive delicate fragrance and contains no elements harmful to health.

Burning incense and engaging in dialog with deities and ancestors is a tradition as old as the Chinese culture itself. And for locals, the sweet incense fragrance symbolizes blessings and protection. The passing of the incense craft is like the passing of the torch that will continue on for generations.



### Peng Ying Fang Rice Shop – Doing Good While Doing Business

Another respected heritage shop serving its local neighborhood for over a century now is Peng Ying Fang Rice Shop (彭英芳米行), in Songshan (松山) District. Peng Bing-yi (彭炳義) says the Peng family's ability to thrive so long is that they bring a good conscience in addition to their sense of business. When his mother and father handed the business over to him, he said, they made it clear that good business meant more than just good business morals—they are to remain humane and lower prices for those who cannot afford even the basics.

The result over time has been prices are consistently lower across the board. For years, his prices per catty of white rice were lower than those sold at local markets. Today, with rising transport and labor costs along with the emergence of large discount supermarkets and outlets, the price difference has narrowed.

In addition, various charitable citizens quietly place orders for the Pengs' rice to distribute to orphanages and other charitable institutions around the city each month. Helping in these gives added purpose to the lives of the current husband and wife proprietors, who know that helping others get through their days more easily is the main reason why the family business still thrives in the fifth generation.

### Kuohezi Shilin Knife – The Knife as Work of Art

Located in the alleys behind Shilin Night Market is Kuohezi Shilin Knife (郭合記士林名刀), an enterprise established way back in the Qing Dynasty. This heritage shop enjoys a fame that has even spread overseas.

The famous "Shilin knife" (士林刀) has a blade shaped like a bamboo leaf and a handle shaped like an eggplant. It was in fact originally called an "eggplant-





handle bamboo-leaf knife” (茄柄竹葉刀). After Taiwan was restored to Chinese rule in 1945, it has been called Shilin knife due to its place of manufacture. Its attractive shape makes it a work of art, and its folding blade makes storage convenient, an innovation that in fact preceded the development of the famous folding Swiss Army knife by a number of years. The delicate pattern design on the blade and the elegance of the ox-horn handle have brought a steady stream of orders from Japanese knife aficionados for their collections.

Guo Ming-rang (郭明讓), representing the family's fifth generation, and started studying the secrets of the trade under his father at the age of 15, says that creation of each Shilin knife takes much time and painstaking craftsmanship, and his family's insistence on superior quality means he can only complete one knife each day. Demand is brisk and collectors must wait, but wait they do—and willingly. 🇹🇼



6. An image of the Lao Ming Yu Incense Shop founder is on each of red package containing its incense sticks.
- 7-8. Peng Ying Fang has been in the same family for generations, selling at low prices to ensure all get good food and get their fill.
9. Guo Ming-rang, from the family's fifth generation, says his family's insistence on superior quality means he completes one knife each day.
10. A look at any Kuohezi Shilin Knife shop product immediately reveals the pride and stellar craftsmanship brought to bear for over a century.
11. With a blade shaped like a bamboo leaf and handle like an eggplant, the Shilin knife was originally called an “eggplant-handle bamboo-leaf knife.”

## Information

### Qian Yuan Ginseng Medicine

乾元蔘藥行

**Add:** 71, Sec. 1, Dihua St. (迪化街1段71號)

**Tel:** (02) 2558-4291

### Lin Hua Tai Tea Company

林華泰茶行

**Add:** 193, Sec. 2, Chongqing N. Rd. (重慶北路2段193號)

**Tel:** (02) 2557-3506

### Lao Ming Yu Incense Shop

老明玉香舖

**Add:** 155, Sec. 2, Guiyang St. (貴陽街2段155號)

**Tel:** (02) 2381-5569

### Peng Ying Fang Rice Shop

彭英芳米行

**Add:** 200 Songshan Rd. (松山路200號)

**Tel:** (02) 2768-6368

### Kuohezi Shilin Knife

郭合記士林名刀

**Add:** 74 Dabei Rd. (大北路74號)

**Tel:** (02) 2881-2856





Taipei in the  
ROC's 100<sup>th</sup> Year

## Sitting Down to Meals Where Island Nostalgia Is the Main Ingredient



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From the street stalls of yesterday to the cleverly decorated shopfronts of today, local businesses have passed through the hands of numerous generations and today stand tall, proud of their heritage history of over a hundred years. Passed on at the same time have been recipes of time-proven value, making customers happy yesterday and doing the very same today.



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### Centuries-Old Tradition Handed Down – But Innovation Never Forgotten

The founder of Taipei Leechi (台北犁記), Zhang-Lin Li (張林犁), started learning the cake and pastry trade at the tender age of 12. Diligently mastering the skills passed to him by the masters under which he trained, he opened the original Leechi (犁記) shop in the city of Taichung in the late Qing Dynasty, using the “li” (犁) from his given name in the name of his bakery.





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- 1-2. Taipei Leechi follows tried-and-true recipes, its green-bean cakes and pineapple cakes especially popular.
3. Lin He Fa Rice and Rice Cakes always has long-standing customers coming for orders.
4. Each day, the moment the shop opens there is a line-up, and the proprietress (left) deftly gets to work wrapping up sales of just-made Lin He Fa oil rice.

Today's Taipei Leechi proudly follows the traditions of the mother shop that earned the firm its far-flung reputation, but also makes room for the concerns of the modern-day consumer—their concentration on health-promoting foods and their constant search for novel tastes. According to third-generation proprietor Zhang Yi-zhou (張沂州), he is not afraid of losing money, but afraid he cannot source premium ingredients in keeping with family tradition. With each bite of their offerings—the green-bean cakes (綠豆椪), pineapple cakes (鳳梨酥), and especially the signature treat, small green-bean mooncakes (綠豆小月餅)—it is obvious how much meticulous care has been taken in their preparation. As proof of their famed quality, famed actors Brigitte Lin (林青霞) and Jackie Chan (成龍) have made special trips here.

### A Longstanding Source of Great Tastes “Hidden” in a Venerable Market

Each day starts in the very same way—the Yongle Market (永樂市場) in the old Dadaocheng (大稻埕) community has just opened, and over in the corner at Lin He Fa Rice and Rice Cakes (林合發油飯糕店) a line quickly forms in front of the store. The owner and her daughter-in-law get busy right away calling out to customers and ringing up sales for those who've come for a bite of freshly-made oil rice (油飯). At

the same time, they deftly make up ordered gift packages containing oil rice, one after the other, for people following traditional Chinese celebratory gift-giving practices in the first month after a child is born.

A family-run business, Lin He Fa's fourth generation is now at the helm. The firm early on concentrated on taro rice cake and *niangao* (年糕), a type of glutinous-rice cake and prepared oil rice only for traditional holidays and other special events for old-time customers on request. These requests increased steadily, and eventually oil rice emerged as the main product. Fourth-generation Wu Pei-ci (吳珮慈) has learned the secrets of the trade from her mother-in-law, and says the key “secrets” are the insistence on premium Taiwan-grown glutinous rice, homemade pork fat, and choosing only premium soybean sauce and the most delicious mushrooms, dried shrimp, and other ingredients. Another key is an insistence on the ultimate in freshness for customers—the family gets to work at four in the morning, saying this is the traditional way and that the authentic taste of oil rice exists only in just-made offerings. Changing the old Western expression, in Taiwan “the proof is in the oil rice,” the steady stream of contented customers at this century shop proves that the Lin He Fa traditional way is the true way.





### Old-Time 140-Year-Old Flavors Once Delivered by Shoulder Pole

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In 1867, the first generation of the Guo (郭, also spelled as Kuo) family arrived in Shilin (士林), and quickly set up a shop, opening Shilin's first cake and pastry business. During the Japanese colonial period (1895-1945), young 18-year-old Guo Qin-ding (郭欽定), from the third generation, began learning the family skills at the hand of his father, and working local channels to acquire precious flour and sugar. He'd diligently head out with their goods on a shoulder pole, calling out throughout the area, making the Kuo Yuan Ye name known to one and all. The reputation of Kuo Yuan Ye Foods (郭元益糕餅店) exploded soon after the Second World War, to the point that supplies could not be obtained fast enough for the family's iconic green-bean paste. The solution was found by inventing a new paste using both green beans and white beans, proving greatly popular with customers and further distinguishing Kuo Yuan Ye Foods from the competition.



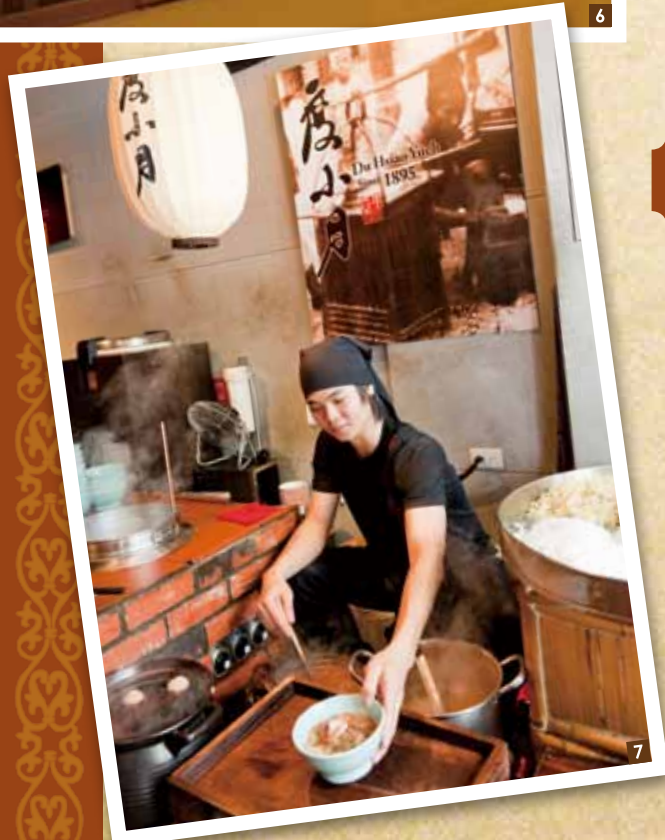
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Though a heritage shop, Kuo Yuan Ye has not restricted itself to Chinese-style cakes and pastries. It has developed a line of delectable Western treats as well, with its wedding cakes especially sought out. Another pleasant surprise is the museum dedicated to confectionaries set up at the original location in honor of the family firm's founder, the Kuo Yuan Ye Museum of Cake & Pastry (郭元益糕餅博物館), where visitors gain better understanding on the hows and whys of traditional confectioneries through info displays and, even better, through sessions where they can try their hand at preparation DIY-style.

### Aroma Brimming Over – The Small Noodle Stand that Grew Very Big

In 1895, during a summer and autumn season heavy with typhoons that prevented them from going out to fish, the Hong (洪) family took to bringing noodles by shoulder pole to their local temple in the southern city of Tainan to bring in some income, using the old rural expression Du Xiao Yue (度小月) or “passing the slack season” as the name for their little enterprise.

The simple noodle dish comes with a tasty soup stock made by boiling fresh and plump flavour-rich shrimp heads, with savory minced, lean pork spread atop and accompanied by a special house mix of condiments. The recipe captures the earthy and hearty flavors of the countryside, and business flourished from the beginning. To satisfy demand, full-fledged restaurants have long been in operation, including in Taipei.



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The three popular Taipei outlets have a strong air of nostalgia, outfitted with clones of the low stools used a hundred years ago, mock-ups of old street-vendor stands, the small stoves carried on shoulder poles bubbling with cooking noodles and wrapped up in the mouth-watering aroma of cooking minced pork. To pass through the portals into these venerable establishments is to pass back through time, sitting yourself down amongst the fragrances, tastes, and ambiance of the Taiwan of a century ago.

### True Original Flavors – Freshness Means Soup That Is Good

Jin Chun Fa Beef Noodles (金春發牛肉麵店) is now in its fourth generation of family ownership. Though it has been moved many times, the flagship outlet remains in the original area behind Taipei Main Station. Simple beef-noodle dishes reign supreme here, following tried and true recipes, bringing steady streams of both old-time and new customers. According to third-generation member Chen-Lin Zhi-xian (陳林芝嫻), the key to the restaurant's success is that it exactly follows the recipes and preparation methods handed on by her mother-in-law, created well over a century ago—and the main edge over competitions is the secret broth, tastier than all challengers.

Unlike most beef soup stewed with soy sauce, the broth in Jin Chun Fa's beef soup achieves its distinctive taste by stewing without added ingredients. Only the freshest beef is used, avoiding the taste change that is brought with refrigerated beef, and the only flavorings used are rock sugar and salt. This allows the natural character of the beef to come through. The authentic “century” flavor of the Jin Chun Fa approach wafts through the air as the most savory of scents as the broth is ladled over the beef slices, which have been either stir-fried or boiled. 9



### Information

#### Taipei Leechi 台北犁記

**Add:** 73, Sec. 2, Chang'an E. Rd.  
(長安東路2段73號)

**Tel:** (02) 2506-2255

#### Lin He Fa Rice and Rice Cakes 林合發油飯裸店

**Add:** 21, Sec. 1, Dihua St.  
(迪化街1段21號), in Yongle Market

**Tel:** (02) 2559-7618

#### Kuo Yuan Ye Foods 郭元益糕餅店總店

**Add:** 546 Wenlin Rd. (文林路546號)

**Tel:** (02) 2831-3422

#### Tu Hsiao Yueh Danzai Noodles (Yongkang outlet) 度小月擔仔麵 (永康店)

**Add:** 9-1 Yongkang St.  
(永康街9-1號)

**Tel:** (02) 3393-1325

#### Jin Chun Fa Beef Noodles (flagship outlet)

金春發牛肉麵店總店

**Add:** 20 Tianshui Rd. (天水路20號)

**Tel:** (02) 2558-9835

5. The popular green-bean cakes from Kuo Yuan Ye Foods contain both green-bean and white-bean paste.
6. The Kuo Yuan Ye Museum of Cake & Pastry gives visitors background on the hows and whys of traditional confectioneries.
7. Each Tu Hsiao Yueh Danzai Noodles outlet is filled with period items and brims with nostalgia.
8. The simple noodle dish comes with a tasty soup stock, savory minced lean pork, shrimp, and other condiments—but the main ingredient is “old-time Taiwan.”
- 9-10. The secret to success at Jin Chun Fa Beef Noodles is its clear-stock broth, strong with beef flavour, nothing else added.





# Countdown for the Flora Expo, The Most Exciting Shows Now Hitting the Stage

The Taipei International Flora Expo has been on since late last year, and has been a huge success. Now entering its finale stage, the best and most spectacular cultural performances have been saved for last, to ensure you going home with the most powerful memories.





## Yuanshan Park Area: International Floriculture Competitions

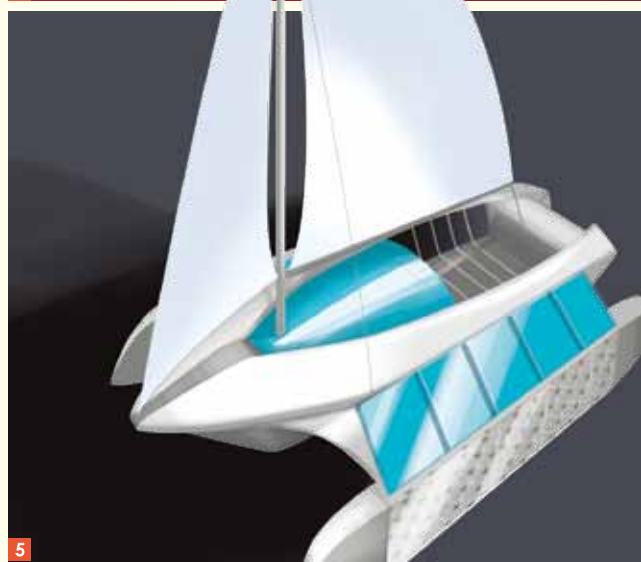
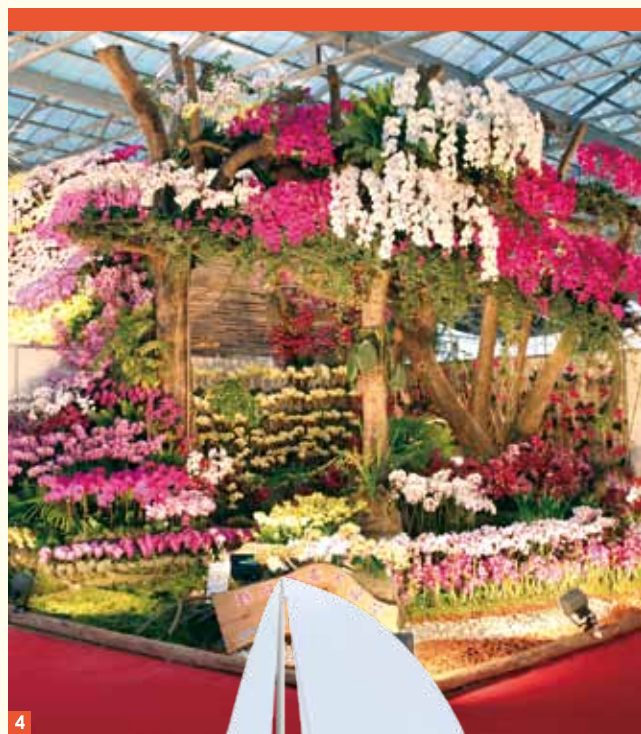
Competitions and exhibits featuring the best international talent are being staged at the EXPO Dome (爭艷館). First under the big dome spotlight is the Taipei International Orchid Show 2011 (2011臺北國際蘭展), a color carnival featuring over 1,000 varieties of this stately, regal flower. Among the many highlights are large-scale floral landscapes, floriculture design displays, and orchid-theme merchandises.

Taking the stage right after this will be one of the three big international floriculture-industry competitions, the Intercontinental Cup Flower Design Competition (洲際盃花藝競賽), where the best talent from numerous countries go head to head showing off their design talent, wielding the latest and most advanced in this field's international technique and artistry. After this comes The Future of Horticulture: Exhibition on Horticultural Development and the Application of New Technology (植物夢工廠展), showing off the future in such forms as 3D cultivation spaces and other scientific visions. Capping things off is the 2011 Taiwan Flower Show (2011MIT臺灣花卉展), exploring the latest green concepts being developed by Taiwan's horticulture practitioners.

The visiting public has been much enamored with the Pavilion of New Fashion (流行館), which is also billed the FE EcoARK, built by local talent from bricks created from recycled PET bottles and showing off Starting on March 21st, the National Geographic Channel will present the Flora Expo special presentations. Part of the highlight will be the GeoArk eco-friendly boat created by the National Geographic Taiwan team using the PET bottles that created the EcoArk. The creation is entirely made in Taiwan and demonstrate the environmental friendly theme which meshes perfectly with the green theme of the EcoArk.

The Folk Arts Plaza (百藝廣場) is primarily dedicated to performances of traditional theater. On March 19, be sure to be present at the special Flora Rites (花神祭); in ancient times, on the

1. The EXPO Hall's specially created expo-finale regular show, *Flower Petals on the Water*.
2. The Garden of Dreams has demonstrations of chinlone, Myanmar's traditional sport, the athletes showing tremendous athleticism.
3. The Dajia Riverside Park Area has a nightly closing show, two performances daily of the Paperwindmill Inchworm Happiness Parade.
4. In March one of the world's three big orchid shows will be staged at the EXPO Dome, the Taipei International Orchid Show 2011.
5. On show at the Pavilion of New Fashion is the GeoArk, created with PET-bottle bricks by the National Geographic Channel Taiwan team. (Drawing courtesy of National Geographic Channel)
6. The Folk Arts Plaza is site of the colorful Flora Rites spectacle.







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15th of the second lunar month, the Birthday of the Flowers (花朝節) was celebrated with family outings to forest and field in search of floral beauties, as well as with the wearing of flowers, the singing of their glories, flower arrangements, and even their eating and drinking. Flowering trees were also festooned with red silk ribbons, and rites were held to honor the flower gods and ask for their help in bringing in a bumper harvest.

On March 19, the Flora Expo will bring the Birthday of the Flowers back to life with the fragrant and colorful Flora Rites activity, recreating the ceremonies of ancient days, with Taipei City Mayor Hau Lung-bin (郝龍斌) officiating. Visitors can watch how the old ways were

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played out, join in with the tying of silk ribbons on flowering trees, and dig into some tasty Flower Birthday Porridge (花朝粥) made with boiled flower nectar.



Another Folk Arts Plaza attraction on display is the play *Peony and the Flower Goddess* (牡丹花神), by Ming Hwa Yuan Arts and Cultural Group (明華園). This is the Flora Expo's curtain-lowering play, and the Ming Hwa Yuan will create a fantasia-like dream world of flower gods with their unique synthesis of the traditional and modern dance, iconic Sichuan opera face-changing, and other elements. Full use of mobile theater techniques, with action constantly shifting from stage to ground, exuberantly expressing the splendid glories of the play's protagonists, the peony and the flower goddess.

### Fine Arts Park and Xincheng Park Areas: The Rousing Pageantry of Dance and Traditional Folk Arts

Starting on March 21, in the Fine Arts Park Area, the EXPO Hall (舞蝶館) begins its series of expo-finale events, launching with *Flower Petals on the Water* (花蕊渡河), specially created for the Flora Expo by the renowned U-Theatre troupe (優劇團). The vision embodied in this creative work is an exciting blend of drumming, dance, martial arts, and music. The story told is of a weary traveler who, after traveling days on end and near to giving up, finally gets a good night's



sleep and next day sets off with a sense of inner peace and spiritual clarity. Nature appears in all its clarity, and he espies a beautiful flower by roadside in full resplendent bloom. Thumping drumming is used to represent the firing of salutes, and dance to represent ceremonial rituals, evoking both human rejoice at the glories of nature and the essence of the Zen Buddhist spiritual vision.

Over in the Xinsheng Park Area, at the Dream of Flower Plaza (花夢廣場) and Garden of Dreams (夢想庭園), you are presented with whirlwind variety shows featuring programs that are constantly changing. Ancient ballads, *taiji quan*, diabolo demonstrations, traditional Chinese music—are all here, and more. One of the many highlights will be the performances of The Chinlone Dream Team from Myanmar, staged from April 4 through 10 at the Garden of Dreams, centered around heart-thumping chinlone, Myanmar's traditional sport, a non-team combination of sport and dance that is a mainstay at local temple festivals. Played with a rattan ball to the beat of traditional folk music, the focus is not on winning or losing but on the beauty of the athleticism—and beautiful it certainly is.

### Dajia Riverside Park Area: Daily Closing Shows, Expo Closing Activities, Pure Joy

The daily closing show at Dajia Riverside Park Area is the perfect “nightcap” for those who come to life after the sunset. The Eco Theater's Aquatic Stage (生態劇場的水舞台) will be graced with the presence of the French performance group Ilotopie, premiering *The Memory of Water* (水的記憶), created in collaboration with Taiwan stage talent. Creating aquatic spectacles for 30 years, and having brought childlike joy to audiences in 55 countries, the Ilotopie troupe will perform on a floating stage that represents the meandering flow of time, the show's design rife with visuals from the 1930s, 1970s, and the present day in a work that jumps between reality and pure-fun childlike fantasy.

After delivering everything and more that was expected, the Flora Expo will end with a grand display of cultural-performance fireworks to officially lower the curtains. On April 23, there will be singers performing before the Celebrity's House (名人館) pavilion, with the Flora Expo's celebrity spokespersons leading the audience in a happy sing-along that will no doubt



## Flora Expo March/April Event Schedule

### Yuanshan Park Area

#### EXPO Dome:

Taipei International Orchid Show 2011

**Time:** Until 3/20

Intercontinental Cup Flower Design Competition

**Time:** 3/19~3/27

The Future of Horticulture:

Exhibition on Horticultural Development and the Application of New Technology

**Time:** 3/26~4/5

Floral Creations: Showcase on Future Flora Stars

**Time:** 4/2~4/10

2011 Taiwan Flower Show

**Time:** 4/11~4/25

#### Pavilion of New Fashion:

National Geographic Channel Special Flora Expo Exhibit

**Time:** 3/21~4/25

#### Folk Arts Plaza:

Flora Rites

**Time:** 3/19 10:00~17:00

*Peony and the Flower Goddess*, by Ming Hwa Yuan Arts and Cultural Group

**Time:** 4/8~4/10

10:30, 11:00, 15:00, 15:30

7. At the Garden of Dreams enjoy performances of heart-thumping chinlone, Myanmar's traditional sport.

8. In addition to the visual joy of the Flora Rites activity, visitors can also savor tasty Flower Birthday Porridge, made with boiled flower nectar.

9. Taiwan's renowned U-Theatre troupe has specially created *Flower Petals on the Water* for the Flora Expo, blending drumming, dance, martial arts, and music.

10-11. The daily closing show at the Dajia Riverside Park Area, *The Memory of Water*, is put on by France's Ilotopie in cooperation with Taiwan talent, mixing physical action and music.



leave everyone with lasting memories. On April 24, the many “message in a bottle” thoughts left at the Pavilion of New Fashion by visitors will be opened for public enjoyment, bringing everyone a sentimental look back on what has been a very happy six-month expo experience.

Closing day is April 25—there will be VIPs from countless countries on hand for the official closing ceremony at the EXPO Hall, along with a grand celebrity

feast held at the Pavilion of Culture (文化館) where a special reserve of osmanthus wine created and sealed in jars in December by Mayor Hau Lung-bin and various VIPs and celebrities (stored in the pavilion's cellar) will be unsealed and served to all present. This final day toast to the expo's success, no doubt, will create many an

**12.** At the expo's close the Pavilion of New Fashion's many “message in a bottle” thoughts will be opened for everyone to look back on a happy shared experience.



## Flora Expo March/April Event Schedule

### Fine Arts Park Area

#### Taipei Fine Arts Square:

Variety performances with orchestral music, acrobatics, lion dancing, martial arts, belly dancing, etc.

**Time:** Daily 10:00~20:00  
Each show 20~30 minutes, program changes daily

#### Greeting Plaza :

Variety performances with Latin dance, acrobatics, diabolo, aboriginal dance, taiko drumming, and more

**Time:** Daily 10:00~17:00  
Each show 20~30 mins, program changes daily

#### EXPO Hall:

Robot Theatre V-Baby Show

**Time:** 11:00/12:30  
Each show 20 minutes

*Flower Petals on the Water*, by U-Theatre

**Time:** 3/21~4/25  
14:30, 16:30, 19:00  
Each performance 40 minutes

## Flora Expo March/April Event Schedule

### Xinsheng Park Area

#### Dream of Flower Plaza:

Variety performances with classical ballads, *taiji quan*, fan dance, diabolo, and traditional Chinese music

**Time:** Daily 13:00~17:00  
Each show 15~40 minutes, program changes every 2~3 days

#### Garden of Dreams:

Variety performances with dance, theater, music

**Time:** Daily 11:00, 14:00, 16:00  
Each show 30 minutes, program changes every 2~3 days

#### Pavilion of Regimen:

Classes: Shan shui painting, bonsai, healthy desserts, calligraphy

**Time:** Until 4/23  
Saturdays 14:00~16:00

### Dajia Riverside Park Area

#### EXPO Arena Show Area:

Happy Rainbow Caterpillar Exhibit

**Time:** Daily 09:00~21:30

#### Cultural Arts Performance Area:

Variety performances with theater, modern dance, traditional Chinese song and poem recitation, etc.

**Time:** 14:00, 19:00  
Each show 30~40 minutes, program changes every 1~2 days

#### Carnival Boulevard:

Paperwindmill Inchworm Happiness Parade

**Time:** Daily 11:00~11:30, 15:00~15:30

#### Eco Theater Aquatic Stage:

*The Memory of Water* (daily park-closing show)

**Time:** Sun~Fri 20:30, Sat 18:30 and 20:30  
Each show 30 minutes



★ For detailed information on scheduled exhibits and performances, visit the official Flora Expo website ([www.2010taipeiexpo.tw](http://www.2010taipeiexpo.tw)).



# Creative Flora Expo Memento Gifts

## Great Memories Forever Imprinted



1

The Flora Expo ends on April 25. Want to capture the sweet and fragrant memories in physical form? Over 2,000 creative gift and memento items are available

on the Flora Expo grounds, the favorites to date with visitors being the colorful Flora Expo Flower Fairy mascot thermoses, commemorative badges, commemorative passports, doll key rings, and floriculture-theme postcard sets. Other hot buys include the Yingge (鶯歌) ceramic lunchboxes, Flower Fairy limited-edition commemorative lunchboxes, Flora Expo nanometer-thin paper-speaker series, and “Immortal Flower” (永生花) merchandises.

Each pavilion will house its own distinctive merchandise offerings. By way of example, the EXPO Dome in the Yuanshan Park Area has a souvenir sales outlet, the painter

Anderson Yang (楊恩生) has created an exclusive Flora Expo series of flower-theme merchandises, and there is a special series of EXPO Hall merchandises. In the greeting area of the green-architecture Xinsheng Park Area, eco-friendly items are featured, notably a series of PLA eco-friendly cups, lunchboxes, and other green goods.

In the Fine Arts Park Area Pavilion of Aroma of Flowers (風味館), we enter the world of the Flora Expo's flagship sales outlet, with the mascot Flower Fairies on prominent display. Over one thousand separate items carrying Flower Fairy decorations are on offer. But your spree need not end here—there are also merchandise areas with Taipei-theme and Taiwan-theme items, Taipei 101 T-shirts and cups, and stackable message mugs with famous Taiwan scenic site themes. The scenic attractions at the Flora Expo seem endless, as will the gift mementoes you must select from—but select you must, and will, for those priceless mementoes will be displayed on your mantel forever after. 🌸

2



1. In commemoration of the centenary of the ROC's founding this year, the Flora Expo has brought out a series of souvenir mugs, ballpoint pens, file folders, etc.
2. Special Flora Expo ROC centenary ceramic lunchboxes, designed in classic dual-tone chromatographic style.
3. Painter Anderson Yang has created special Flora Expo sound-emitting cups – two ROC centenary series with a flower and butterfly theme.
4. The Flora Expo's much-in-demand series of Immortal Flower merchandise.
5. The area set aside for Taipei and Taiwan limited-edition theme merchandise has building-block desk calendars, stackable message mugs with famous Taiwan scenic sites, etc.



3



4



5



# High Tech e-MRT Stations

## MRT NANGANG LINE EASTERN EXTENSION OPENS

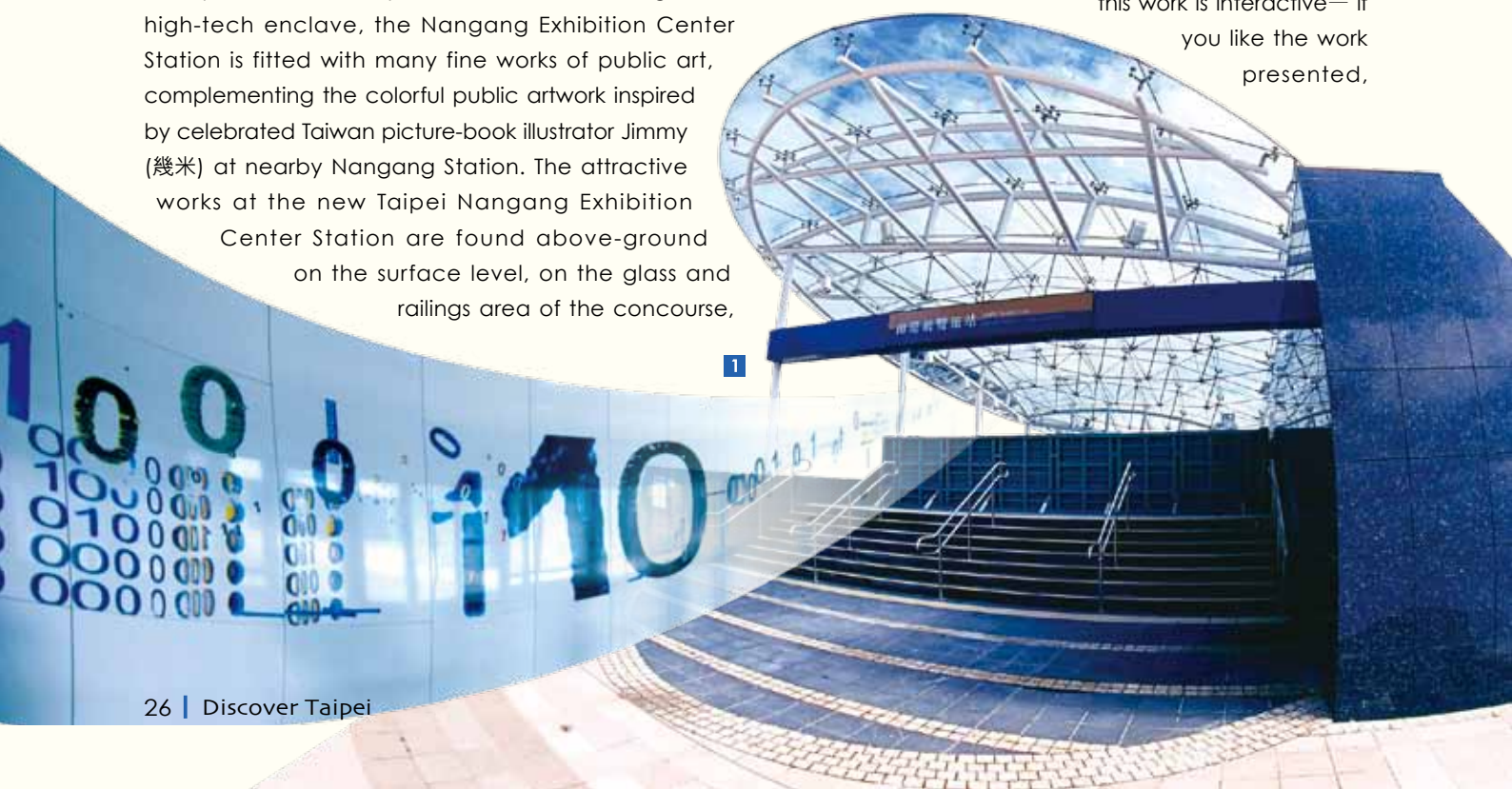
Following the Taipei MRT system's recent opening of the new Luzhou Line (蘆洲線), work on the link between the two Taipei Nangang Exhibition Center Stations on the Bannan (Banqiao-Nangang) Line and Wenhua (Wenshan-Neihu) Line is now complete and the Nangang Eastern Extension (南港線東延段) opens.

Nangang Station was originally the eastern terminal on the Nangang Line, interconnected with Taiwan Railway and Taiwan High Speed Rail facilities. Taipei Nangang Exhibition Center Station is the eastern terminal on the Wenhua Line. The newly-built Taipei Nangang Exhibition Center Station on the Nangang Eastern Extension and the original Taipei Nangang Exhibition Center Station are now linked via an underground passage, serving as a transfer station for the Bannan and Wenhua lines. It now takes just 18 minutes for residents of the Neihu (內湖) and Nangang (南港) communities to travel to/from MRT Taipei Main Station. At the same time, participants in Nangang conferences/exhibition and tourists will experience shorter travel times.

Replete with the symbolism of the thriving local high-tech enclave, the Nangang Exhibition Center Station is fitted with many fine works of public art, complementing the colorful public artwork inspired by celebrated Taiwan picture-book illustrator Jimmy (幾米) at nearby Nangang Station. The attractive works at the new Taipei Nangang Exhibition Center Station are found above-ground on the surface level, on the glass and railings area of the concourse,

on platform doors, and at other locations. Each work incorporates the latest barcode, circuit board, and other elements in digital display technology, in honor of the various nearby enclaves of advanced high-tech thinking that the station gives access to, notably the Nangang Software Park (南港軟體工業園區), Nangang Business Park (南港經貿園區), and Academia Sinica (中央研究院).

The main entrance, shaped like “a giant clam holding a pearl” with metal framework and floating plate low-E glass used is impossible to miss, and has immediately become a visual landmark associated intimately with the station. In the concourse area is artist Huang Xin-jian's (黃心健) “Our Personal Public Art” (我們的私房公共藝術), with two LED screens showing the artist's creations, and one LCD screen, where various artists have used electronic signalling in creative ways along with a stainless steel and glass that creates a mirror effect reflecting back the immediate environment. This is a dynamic work that reaches out and snatches your attention. Adding to the high-tech dazzle is the fact that this work is interactive— if you like the work presented,







touch the sensor on the side, and instantly, fireworks will be presented on the screen along with a “thumbs up” indicating the popularity of the work. Interactive games usually create an allure that visitors want to linger longer.

You can also log on to the website the artist has set up ([publicart.tw](http://publicart.tw)) and start create and upload your own work of art using the digital tools he provides. Whenever you visit this space in the future, you can see the result of your artistic flair and share your masterpiece with others.

Along the underground passage that connects the two Taipei Nangang Exhibition Center Stations, you'll find the work “Fast or Slow” (快或慢), by Japanese artist Koichiro Miura. You actually have to pass through this creation, which activates LED lights in the walls. The lights activate according to your walking directions and the variations are endless. The delight is palpable on people's faces as they momentarily become a living public-art component.

On your busy days, should you find yourself using the Nangang Eastern Extension, pause for a moment to think of the convenience brought to you by Taipei City MRT system and also take a moment to “stop and smell the roses,” in the form of unique works of public art that captivate and thrill. 📍

1. The work “Giant Clam Holding a Pearl” is at the main entrance, with metal framework and plate glass used; a compelling high-tech digital display brings the cross-track platform wall to vivid life.
2. At numerous locations such as walls, concourse glass railings, and platform entrance artworks incorporates the latest ID code, circuit board, and other elements in digital display technology.
3. Nostalgic high-tech visual elements are incorporated into the design of the escalator handrails, and cleverly blended into the matte surface glass.
4. In the concourse area is the interactive high-tech work “Our Personal Public Art.”







## Public Art that Reflects Local Communities The MRT Luzhou Line

The new MRT Luzhou Line (蘆洲線) went on-line in early November last year. The various stations, starting from the Taipei City center, are Zhongxiao Xinsheng, Songjiang Nanjing, Xingtian Temple, Zhongshan Elementary School, Minquan W. Rd., and Daqiaotou. From here the line moves into New Taipei City (新北市; formerly Taipei County), the stations along this section are Sanchong Elementary School, Sanhe Junior High School, St. Ignatius High School, Sanmin Senior High School, and Luzhou. Travel times have been dramatically shortened between Taipei and the New Taipei City communities of Luzhou (蘆洲) and Sanchong (三重). Another pleasant surprise is that

commuters will see quite a few public art on display at the stations.

By way of example, Xingtian Temple Station and Daqiaotou Station strongly emphasize the strong cultural characters of their local neighborhoods in their public pieces, with bright and vivid symbolic imagery. You will never be mistaken by which station to get off.


According to the Taipei City Govt.'s Department of Rapid Transit Systems (臺北市捷運局), Xingtian Temple (行天宮) is a renowned city cultural icon and thus it was decided that ceramic tiling would be used on the walls of the Xingtian Temple Station concourse level in a work entitled "Prosperity to the Country and Peace to Her People" (國泰民安), a classic expression long used as the theme in Taiwan temple-fair activities and requested in prayer to deities. The work features the colorful operatic facial masks used for the Eight Household Generals (八家將), who protect the community, various instruments used in temple-worship ceremonies, and the auspicious Flower Windows (花窗) used in temple architecture. This and other artwork gives this station a wonderfully cultured air while celebrating the deeply held religious beliefs of Taiwan's people.





Daqiaotou Station's public art is immersed in the history and character of the old surrounding community. There are four works on the walls of the concourse. “The Starting” (出發點) symbolizes the local community of Dadaocheng's (大稻埕) role as the starting point for old Taipei, with the movement of many people through the local land weaving the area's deeply intertwined cultural fabric. It also symbolizes the new starting point for the people of Dadaocheng in this newly launched era of MRT access with the Daqiaotou Station. “Stories of Objects” (物件故事) represents the collective memory of the local people for the tapestry of their history, with each article depicted telling a different story. “Dance Again, River” (大河再舞) conveys the hopes of the local people that Dadaocheng, once a key commercial area but long on the wane, will flourish once again with the coming of the MRT. Finally, “The Cradle” (搖籃) features representations of a pregnant woman and her unborn child, symbolizing the nurturing role of the nearby Daqiao Elementary School (大橋國小) and the idea that this is a place of gestation for a caring culture.

Sanchong and Luzhou are located on immense sandbars that have formed along the Danshui River, and have long been a prime habitat for waterfowls. In keeping with this concept, the five MRT stations located in New Taipei City have “Images of Luzhou” (回憶蘆洲) as their public art theme and “Egrets” (白鷺鷥) as their central image theme, with the artworks blended seamlessly with the station architecture. The five stations are the only ones in the MRT system with coordinated architectural design, and Luzhou Station the only facility with an open-air “courtyard” (天井) design. This station's individuality is further heightened by the dynamic large-scale work “Dancing Feathers” (舞之羽), done by American sculptor Ray King.

The many examples of artistic beauty spread along the MRT Luzhou Line makes this a platform for cultural creativity as well as one for transportation—so why not spend a day riding the rails on a unique “Luzhou Line public art day-tour !” 

- 1-2. On the wall of the Xingtian Temple Station concourse, “Prosperity to the Country and Peace to Her People” features Eight Household Generals operatic facial masks, temple-worship instruments, and auspicious temple-architecture Flower Windows.
3. The design of the MRT Xingtian Temple Station is based on the traditional beliefs and cultural values of Taiwan as expressed by the renowned Xingtian Temple.
4. The “Stories of Objects” public artwork at Daqiaotou Station has articles that each tell a different story of Dadaocheng, Daqiao Elementary School, Daqiao Night Market, etc.
5. The dynamic large-scale public work “Dancing Feathers” at Luzhou Station uses an interplay of glass and the natural surrounding environment, the changing light environments creating a magical feather display.







# *The 12 Flower Gods, Bedecked in Calla-Lily Landscapes*

Though indeed a splendid treasure, cherry blossoms are not all you get to see during the springtime pastel bloom on Yangmingshan (陽明山). Continue past the cherry-blossom gardens to the tucked-away Zhuzihu (竹子湖) basin, you'll be greeted by waving seas of calla-lily fields in full spring song. The 2011 edition of the popular annual Zhuzihu Calla Lily Festival (2011竹子湖海芋季), held by the city-level Dept. of Economic Development (產業發展局), will burst forth in glorious blossom starting March 11. Taking an approach somewhat different from the pure enjoyment of beautiful flowers of the concurrent Yangmingshan Flower Festival (陽明山花季), here you

can pay a small fee to enter the fields of the basin's commercial farms to experience the fun of picking elegant calla lilies on your own.

According to the organizer of the Zhuzihu festival program, the Beitou Farmers' Association (北投區農會), the location of Zhuzihu—lit. “Bamboo Lake,” brings it a combination of cool climate and abundant mountain-spring waters perfect for growing calla lilies. The flower season is January through May, and the greatest bloom in March and April. Zhuzihu commercial operations currently give over 12 hectares of earth to calla-lily



cultivation, with an annual output of about 2.5 million individual plants, accounting for over 80% of Taiwan's total production.

The calla lily goes by another, and very pretty, name in Chinese—the “horse-hoof lotus” (馬蹄蓮)—because the shape of the brilliant-white spathe is said to resemble an upside-down hoof and the stem stand grows amidst water, just like lotus. The sparkling-white spathe is often mistaken as flowers; this is in fact leaves that changed shape and color, to surround and protect the yellow, fleshy spikes of the spadix or flower cluster. The small and inconspicuous male and females flowers are spread out in ordered sequence.

When choosing your calla lilies, check that the spathe is full and is pure white, without blemishes or browning, and that the base of the stem has no reddening or decay. In terms of blossom, the level of maturity for suitable lilies should be 30 to 50 percent before April, and 50 percent and more after this.

Each year, the Zhuzihu calla lily Festival attracts a great number of visitors to enjoy the flowers' beauty as well as to experience the joy of picking calla lilies. This year's official theme is “Lilies and Fate—Flower Gods in Bloom · Together Forever” (芋守緣—繽紛花神·御守一生), and the fun will run a full 45 days, from March 11

to April 24. The area's tourist farms will

deck themselves in floral

landscaping featuring

the 12 Chinese

flower deities,

the skill and

ingenuity

of the

cultivator-

artists sure to amaze you. On non-holidays,

there will be calla-lily eco-tour day outings, and

cost NT\$500 per person (register with the

Beitou Farmers' Association). Step

out on what is called the “calla

lily trail” (海芋大道) and


you'll come across

shows by talented street

performers, with small music

concerts staged by the various

farms along the trail, weaving an intertwined visual and aural concerto of lily and musical beauty.

One fine day this spring, you will find yourself in the calla-lily fields absorbing the earth's scents and the sun's warmth. 



The Zhuzihu Calla Lily Festival brings people up into the mountains to enjoy the beauty of flowers and to pick their own, and each local farm stages inviting small-scale musical entertainment.

## Information

### 2011 Zhuzihu Calla Lily Festival

#### 2011年竹子湖海芋季

**Venue:** Zhuzihu (竹子湖), Yangmingshan

**Time:** Until 4/24

**Tel:** (02) 2892-4185, ext. 450 (Beitou Farmers' Association)

**Website:** [www.callalily.com.tw](http://www.callalily.com.tw)

#### Transportation:

1. From Taipei Main Station, take bus No. 126 or No. 260 to Yangmingshan (service every 10~20 minutes), then transfer to No. Small 9 or No. 131.
2. From MRT Danshui Line Beitou Station, take No. Small 9 bus direct to Zhuzihu (service every 30~40 minutes), or take No. 129 bus (every 20 minutes) to Yangmingshan and transfer to No. Small 9 or No. 131.
3. From MRT Danshui Line Shipai Station, take No. Small 8 bus direct to Zhuzihu (weekday service every hour on the hour, weekends approx. every 40 minutes).
4. From MRT Danshui Line Jiantan Station, take the No. Red 5 bus or No. 109, 111, 126, or 127 to Yangmingshan (service every 10~20 minutes), then transfer to No. Small 9 or No. 131.





# Coffee and Magazines In [Fragrante] Delicto

## The Magazine Toward Life Festival



If you're the one that likes to sit down for a cup of premium java and a stimulating read, here's good news—head down the city's lanes and alleys in the month of April in search of your new favorite café and you'll smell the perfect blend of magazine and coffee fragrance.

The city of Taipei today has about 500 magazine titles floating around. Each represents a lifestyle choice—either the one you're living or the one you want to live. To better expose people to the wide selection of magazines, the Magazine Business Association of Taipei (臺北市雜誌商業同業公會) has decided to stage the “Future Style Magazine Life Reading Month” (Future Style雜誌生活閱讀月), coordinating the event with celebrations of the Republic of China's centennial by setting up displays of 100 magazines at 100 cafes across the city. As you explore the world of coffee-bean cultivation, you can also explore the world of ideas cultivated by these publications, free! The magazine publishers are also staging a series of 40 talks at various larger cafés, on such key lifestyle issues as money and finance, fashion, beauty care, fine foods, pet care, and parenting. What better way to see the growing magazine culture than this, among like-minded people?

The month of the Magazine Toward Life (雜誌生活節) festival, which opens on April 1, will be capped off with an extra-special bonus, three days of great exhibitions at the Huashan 1914 Creative Park (華山1914創意文化園區) with the staging of the consecutive “Magazine Exhibition” (翻閱雜誌百年展) and “Digital Reading Exhibition” (閱讀數位大展) along with a “Cultural Creative Magazine Market” (雜誌文創市集). The program will be rich and highly varied, presenting 100 magazines, bringing just what they were looking for to one and all.

In the Magazine Exhibition, you can track the course of evolution for Taiwan's magazine-publishing industry, about to cross the threshold

into its second century. The display of past magazine covers draws insights into the news and events that so closely relate to our lives and how inseparable we are to magazines. Also on view are the inaugural issues for 100 magazine titles, demonstrating Taiwan's changing landscape, and the National Central Library (國家圖書館) has prepared a special display of rare and valuable magazine issues published before 1945.

The Digital Reading Exhibition will have displays on the latest digital reading devices being rolled out by the high-tech industry, including e-books and mobile-phone e-readers, and tech-lovers will love the display showing breakthrough audio-visual technology that brings magazine-cover figures and contents to life. The Cultural Creative Magazine Market will be a grand emporium of magazine brands and related cultural-creative merchandise, where mag-lovers can browse to their heart's content, subscribe to whatever they like, and immerse themselves in the fragrant world of 100 publications of unique individual personality. Dt

### Information

#### Magazine Toward Life Festival 雜誌生活節

**Tel:** (02) 2501-5696

**Website:** [www.magazine.org.tw](http://www.magazine.org.tw)

#### Future Style Magazine Life Reading Month

**Time:** 4/1~4/30

**Venue:** Please visit the official website

#### Magazine Exhibition & Digital Reading Exhibition

**Time:** 4/29~5/1

**Venue:** E2 Building, Huashan 1914 Creative Park  
(華山1914創意文化園區東2館)

#### Cultural Creative Magazine Market

**Time:** 4/30

**Venue:** Huashan Square, Huashan 1914 Creative Park  
(華山戶外劇場)



## *Day-Touring the Sweet Harmony of Taipei New and Taipei Old*

Taipei's most fascinating attraction, countless visitors have reported, is the charming mix of old and new standing comfortably side by side and hand in hand. From the old-time public cultural spaces to the futuristic Taipei International Flora Expo now in its final phase, the beauties come to you from all angles and, it might be said, from past, present, and even the future. In this issue, we present you with two day tour options that possess widely varying flavors, one an exploration of Taipei's heritage treasures, the other a nature exploration on bicycle and boat that allows you the chance to say goodbye to the wildly successful Flora Expo. Choose one, choose both—whatever it is, you've no better choice for exploring the lovely Taipei of spring.





## Route 1

# Locating the Old Days among Taipei's Heritage Sites

A ramble through the Yongkang St. (永康街) district brings a special feel. You pass by travelers from many different country speaking different languages and dip in and out of attractive boutique stores that each has its own unique look and personality. You then stop for a bite at a special local eatery introduced in the travel book carried in hand. Beyond this, however, the area is also a treasure vault of preserved Taipei cultural memories and beloved heritage, with numerous second-hand bookstores and antique shops down its tight lanes and alleys. Turn around and you're in an

## 01 Causing Memory Blooms Via the Taste Buds

Din Tai Fung (鼎泰豐) is an iconic Taiwan restaurant that attracts many travelers from overseas. To beat the inevitable lineups, get there before 11am to enjoy an early lunch in a comparatively quiet environment. Have a cup of silky smooth tea to accompany the Din Tai Fung signature dishes: *xiao longbao* (小籠包), a type of steamed dumpling, mung bean noodle soup with fried soybean curd, and meat with vegetable wontons. The foods are warming, as is the ambiance.

After enjoying your fill, it's off to the Formosa Vintage Museum Café (秋惠文庫), on the third floor of a nearby building. The elevator serves as a time-transport device—as you step out you are delivered into the past,



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independent bookstore looking at the past in print; turn around again and you hold it in your hands in the form of a well-crafted items created long, long ago.

surrounded by old Taiwan photographs, maps from the 17th-century Dutch colonial period, old Dutch documents and books, 18th-century drawings depicting the appearance of the aboriginal peoples of the island's plains, posters from the 1895-1945 Japanese colonial period, and much more that will pique your interest. This place has the feel of a small museum, and is indeed a treasure-house collection of



precious Taiwan artifacts collected by Taiwan dentist Lin Yu-fang (林于昉), who spent more than NT\$100 million to create this treasure vault of Taiwan history. There is a heady air of cultured sophistication in this café, where you can sip back with a cup of fine coffee and pick up an antique book for a leisurely read or simply savor the revolving display of revealing historical artifacts, wrapping yourself up in the air of Taiwan's yesteryear.

## 02 Treasure Hunts in Cozy Old Book Shops Down Hidden Alleys

Down the stairs on the basement level of No. 11-4 Yongkang St. is a specialist seller of old books, Dixiajie (地下階). The premises overflow with used CDs, books, and precious Chinese and English vinyl records, arranged in terms of language and type. You'll almost always find expatriates here, intently inspecting the treasures they've uncovered, heading over to a quiet nook for a contented listen or a read.

Head further down along Yongkang St. and down along a side lane and you come to Qing Kang Salon (青康藏書房), a place that looks much like the study you might set up in your own home. This is another small oasis of delight for book lovers, and to make visitors feel right at home the owner, He Xin-xing (何新興), has put out all the books in his treasured collection for patrons to enjoy and exchange. Most treasured among these are Norwegian titles from the 19th century and various 200-year-old antique tomes. An afternoon spent reading a rare house selection on one of the comfy sofas is an afternoon spent well and wisely.

Our next stop is along nearby Qingtian St. (青田街), where you look for a shop sign with a not-often-seen character on it, 蠹. This is the character for “bookworm.” You have arrived at the “Bookworm Shop” (蠹行), and as you may have guessed, this is a hideaway of great character dedicated to antique works. There are many titles on art in Chinese, English, and Japanese, rare editions from the early days of Taiwan's period of Japanese colonial rule, and many another artefact of venerable pedigree in Chinese and other languages. These works are not obviously arranged in any clear order according to historical period, type, or other classification, making your hunt

all the more adventurous and, likely, rewardingly serendipitous. As you leave, look at the glass in the doorway; what you see are words written by well-known Taiwan democracy activist Yin Hai-guang (殷海光; also known as Yin Foo-sun). The words seem to compel you to travel down the cozy lanes of nearby Wenzhou St. (溫州街) to the Yin Foo-sun's Residence (殷海光故居).



1. Din Tai Fung's steamed dumplings, mung bean noodle soup with fried soybean curd, and meat with vegetable wontons have long been big hits with foreign visitors.
- 2-3. Formosa Vintage Museum Café owner Lin Yu-fang shows off a superb collection of old Taiwan pictures, classic maps, Japanese-era posters and more.
4. Dixiajie, among many other treasures, has precious Chinese and English vinyl records that bring out the treasure-hunters.
5. The comfortable feeling at Qing Kang Salon is as if you're nestled in your own private study.
- 6-7. Bookworm Shop bristles with valuable Japanese-era books and artifacts.





### 03 Yin Foo-sun's Residence, Wistaria Tea House – Eyewitnesses to Taiwan History

Yin Hai-guang has been praised as the leading thinker on Taiwan democracy. In his former home, made of wood in Japanese style, you'll find such gems as original hand-written manuscripts and letters to him from scientist Albert Einstein and philosopher Bertrand Russell. Outside in the quaint gardens, you'll enjoy the stone table and chairs he worked so hard at to create. Meandering through this comfortable abode, you get a glimpse into the process of genesis for a philosopher's thinking on the meaning of our existence.

Our first day trip through the city's unique cultural blend has come to an end. Time to head home for restful contemplation of all you've discovered before heading out on Route 2, which awaits you just a few lines beyond. 🚗

**8-9.** Yin Foo-sun's Residence houses photos from the scholar's life along with his manuscripts, pictures, books, and letters.

**10-11.** Among the many enjoyments at Wistaria Tea House are the century-old Chinese wistaria trees and the tea-theme meals.

### Information

#### Din Tai Fung 鼎泰豐

**Add:** 194, Sec. 2, Xinyi Rd. (信義路2段194號)  
**Tel:** (02) 2321-8928

#### Formosa Vintage Museum Café 秋惠文庫

**Add:** 3F, 178, Sec. 2, Xinyi Rd. (信義路2段178號3樓)  
**Tel:** (02) 2351-5723

#### Dixiajie 地下階

**Add:** B1, 11-4 Yongkang St. (永康街11號之4 地下1樓)  
**Tel:** (02) 2392-3257

#### Qing Kang Salon 青康藏書房

**Add:** 19, Lane 75, Yongkang St. (永康街75巷19號)  
**Tel:** (02) 2393-7770

#### Bookworm Shop 蠹行

**Add:** 25, Lane 2, Qingtian St. (青田街2巷25號)  
**Tel:** (02) 3322-1163

#### Yin Foo-sun's Residence 殷海光故居

**Add:** 1-1, Alley 16, Lane 18, Wenzhou St. (溫州街18巷16弄1-1號)  
**Tel:** (02) 2364-5310

#### Wistaria Tea House 紫藤廬

**Add:** 1, Lane 16, Sec. 3, Xinsheng S. Rd. (新生南路3段16巷1號)  
**Tel:** (02) 2363-7375



# A Flora Expo Day of Biking and River Cruising

The magnificent Taipei International Flora Expo (臺北國際花卉博覽會) spectacle is entering its final phase, and will be brought to a close in April. There are four large park areas and 14 sparkling pavilions serving as a grand showcase for the best and most beautiful in advanced technology, horticulture, environmental protection, and natural ecology. Capped with such festive attractions as scores of landscaped courtyard scenes and seas of waving flowers, this is parished by AIPH director Dr. Faber as the greatest expo in the 50 years of this event. We head out now on a happy, breezy Flora Expo inspection tour, by bike and on the water aboard a tour yacht.

01

## Xinsheng Park Area—Dazzling Sea of Flowers, Intriguing Heritage Architecture

Xinsheng Park Area in the slanted rays of the early morning sun is a rolling canvas of bright pastel colors. The Flower Base Under Trees (林下花園花海區) is planted with seasonal flowers of all colors and description, and in the Serenity Garden (怡情園) of March,

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the African touch-me-nots and marguerites vie for everyone's attention. In the Garden Maze (迷宮花園), the noise of the surrounding world slowly disappears as you move ever deeper into this fun labyrinth of hedgerows. A walk through the Palace of Floral Teas (花茶殿) is a walk through the history of Taiwan over 200 years ago; this heritage site is a traditional courtyard residence complex built in the Chinese south Fujian style, from where the ancestors of most Taiwanese came from. Enjoy the exhibits on arts and culture within and then sit down to a soothing cup of one of Taiwan's finest teas in the high two-level pavilion, looking out over the complex and park. The Taiwanese Gourmet Delight area (臺灣美食區) is just outside the complex, and since it's just about lunchtime, it's a good idea to stop here to try some of Taiwan's countless traditional snack treats.

2

1-3. In the Xinsheng Park Area is the Palace of Floral Teas, showing off south Fujian courtyard-residence architecture, the Flower Base under Trees, and the Taiwanese Gourmet Delight area.

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## 02 New Ways to Play at Flora Expo – Novel Ways of Transporting Yourself

Next, head through the Floral Tunnel (花之隧道) and its Bamboo Veranda (綠築曉徑) latticework to the Xinsheng Park shuttle bus station, where you can catch a free ride over to the Dajia Riverside Park Area (大佳河濱公園區). At the entrance gate, you can get your hands on a spiffy bike by presenting your ID and Flora Expo ticket or pass; these cleverly designed two-wheelers have a worldwide patent on technology that propels you forward whether pedalling backward or forward, and you can ride from just outside the Flora Expo park all the way to Xikou Pier (錫口碼頭) along the city's easy-grade riverside bike-path system. Along the way, soak up the pretty scenes of bright brocades of waving flowers inside the expo's Dajia Riverside Park Area, the green expanses and rippling river waters along the riverside path, and the majestic mountain backdrop to the city.

The ride will take you a leisurely 30 minutes. After turning in your bike at the stand beside Xikou Pier, your next ride awaits for your return trip on the Keelung River to Dajia Pier (大佳碼頭)—the tour yachts of the Blue Highway (藍色公路) service.

## 03 Romantic Flora Expo Nights – Daily Closing Shows, Riverside Light Sculpture, Miramar Giant Ferris Wheel

From the pier, you can enter directly into the Dajia Riverside Park Area, where you are feted with upbeat shows highlighting theater, dance, music, traditional folk arts, and other entertaining types of performance. Be sure to show up on Carnival Boulevard (嘉年華大道) at 15:00 as the Paperwindmill Inchworm Happiness Parade (幸福彩虹毛毛蟲大遊行) comes rolling by, a fun romp featuring big walking puppets and entertaining interaction with onlookers. Finally, each night comes the park area's closing show, at 20:30, starring the French performance group Ilotopie, premiering *The Memory of Water* (水的記憶). Created in collaboration with Taiwan stage talent, the medium of artistic expression here is water, and what is artistically interpreted are three different eras of Taiwan's ever-evolving personality.

After the 30-minute closing show, hop aboard the last yacht tour of the evening from Dajia Pier to enjoy the Flora Expo's very special riverside light sculpture and water-curtain show from open water. You'll find your heart both fully relaxed and carefree yet at the same time thumping with excitement as the gentle night



breeze brushes against you, caressed by the gentle gurgling of the river water, and tickled by the digital animated water curtain hanging 36 meters from Dazhi Bridge (大直橋) and the Flora Expo-theme light-sculpture art on both sides of the river.





Our disembarkation point is Meiti Pier (美堤碼頭). From here, it's a short walk to Miramar Entertainment Park (美麗華百樂園), with its iconic giant rooftop Ferris wheel, the perfect place to end our tour. The last ride is at 11 pm, and as the giant slowly turns and you are entertained with some big-view, neon-rich panoramas, you can at the same time look back on a day filled with happy snapshots to store away in your portfolio of memories. 📷



4. The Floral Tunnel takes you to the Xinsheng Park shuttle-bus station, where you can catch a free ride to the Dajia Riverside Park Area.
5. On the right at the Dajia Riverside Park Area entrance gate are bicycles on free loan that have worldwide-patent technology that propels you forward whether pedalling forward/backward.
6. Blue Highway river cruises on yachts lets you enjoy the lovely Flora Expo riverside scenery.
7. A favorite show with kids and grown-ups alike is the twice-daily Travels of a Happy Caterpillar parade along Carnival Boulevard in Dajia Riverside Park.
8. The Miramar Entertainment Park giant ferris wheel, operating till 23:00, is a good place to end your day's travels.

## Information

### Flora Expo Thru Bus

**Hours:** Ticket office open 11:00~20:30; boat service Tue~Sun 13:00~20:00, 6 to 8 launches per day

**Departure Point:** Miramar Entertainment Park (美麗華百樂園)

**Fees:** Miramar boat service, full ticket NT\$250; boat service and Miramar Ferris Wheel (摩天輪) package, full ticket NT\$350; group boat charters available, NT\$2,000 (seating for 8)

### Flora Expo Double-Direction-Pedal Bicycles

**Travel Points:** Shezi bicycle kiosk (under Zhoumei Bridge on Shezi Island; 社子洲美橋下), Dajia kiosk (outside Flora Expo Gate G5, near Water Gate No. 8; 8號水門), Xikou kiosk (Xikou Pier by Rainbow Bridge, near Raohe Street Night Market ;彩虹橋錫口碼頭, 近饒河街夜市)

**Fees:** Free for individuals presenting ID and Flora Expo ticket/pass

### Flora Expo Blue Highway

**Hours:** 11:00 to 21:00, with departures adjusted in accordance with tide schedules; consult the daily schedules posted on the official Flora Expo website

**Departure Points:** Dajia Pier, Meiti Pier, Xikou Pier (大佳碼頭、美堤碼頭、錫口碼頭)

**Tickets:** Adult ticket NT\$80-240, depending on distance



## Thru Bus

The Flora Expo Blue Highway service has a fun new option called the Thru Bus (電動水陸霸) that you should take advantage of. This uses the famous “duck boats,” vehicles that can move on land and water. It's the Flora Expo Shuttle Bus No. 5 service, which takes you from Dajia Riverside Park across the Keelung River and to Miramar Entertainment Park. These are members of the first series of duck crafts in the world to use electric power, and well complement the Flora Expo themes of renewable energy and reduction of energy consumption. You can reserve a full vehicle for a group trip, or hop on one of the regular 8-person runs. If getting on at

Miramar Entertainment Park, you first travel on Jingye 3rd Rd. (敬業三路) and then ease into the water beside Meiti Pier, your road vehicle magically transforming into a boat. Your destination is Dajia Riverside Park, and you come up on land again on the gentle bank under Dazhi Bridge. After disembarking, it's just a short walk into the Flora Expo grounds. Or you can choose a simple travel back and forth on a Blue Highway river cruise. Outings are limited and the service is extremely popular, so early bookings are highly recommended.



# Taipei Artist Village

## Witnessing Art at the Moment of Its Birth

When admiring a work of art, would it not be better to actually see the artist at the moment of creation and learn the mysteries of his/her thought processes? All this is possible at the Taipei Artist Village (臺北國際藝術村), where you can witness artists around the globe come together as they create artworks in the village.

### Taiwan's First International Artist Village

TAV is located on Beiping E. Rd. (北平東路), just a little east of Taipei Main Station. Housed in empty buildings that were once Taipei City Government offices, it stands in a quiet enclave surrounded by office buildings. Its bamboo-enclosed courtyard give it a further sense of seclusion. Pedestrians can pass by without even noticing its presence, a quiet oasis amidst the general big-city hubbub.

This is not a place of static exhibits of works nor a staid place of administrative offices and quiet exhibit space. This is a place filled with life, where artists create, rest, inhabit living spaces and work studios. A place of people connecting with people and bringing creative ideas to life in physical form. The Taipei Artist Village itself was brought to life as part of a city plan to put abandoned space back into use for a new purpose, following successful artist-village models set up in New York, Paris, and London. It melds seamlessly into the community life of the big city it is a part of.





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In 2001, the city's Dept. of Cultural Affairs refurbished the facility and mapped out village plans, bringing it both a new mission and a new face. As of the end of 2009, 227 artists from 41 countries have lived in residence at TAV, and the facility has established itself as one of Taiwan's most important platforms for arts and culture exchange with the rest of the world. Through residency programs or residency exchanges with Taipei's various sister cities, TAV has developed a new and far more cosmopolitan artistic world-view for the city of Taipei.

## Artist Encounters

From the outside, the TAV facility looks like just another office building. On its left and right are display spaces for works created by the artists in residence, the Barry Room (百里廳) and Village Café (村落餐廳). In the rear is the secluded Bamboo Courtyard (幽竹小院) and an exhibit/activity space. On the 2nd through 4th floors are the residential quarters for the artists, to which access is restricted without special permission.

As you walk into the courtyard, many eye-catching works done by artists who have previously resided at TAV come into view. French artist Yvan Mauger created a mural on the second-floor wall, "Artists in Movement," depicting humans as worker ants—his impression of the always-busy people of



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- 1-2. Taipei Artist Village is a key arts and culture platform for interchange between Taiwan and the world; the types of art created here have no limitations
3. French artist Yvan Mauger's "Artists in Movement," found in the TAV's rear bamboo courtyard area.
4. Each floor has graffiti art and installation works by artists who've been in residence.





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Taipei during his stay. The other levels feature the graffiti art and installation works of various creators. Within the courtyard is a work called "Cow" (牛), the contribution of Taiwan artist Chen Pei-tong (陳沛彤). Its body is covered in painted images of the city's night markets. In another area are red barrels that are

filled with organic compost, a work of action art called "Compostism Workshop" by Australian artists Rodney Glick & Lynnette Voevodin, created in

cooperation with local restaurants. While here, you may very well encounter one of the artists who is at work or at rest. For this has proven a favorite place for them as well.



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The joy at seeing the range of unbridled artistic vision expressed by former artist-residents continues in the café, in what has proven the single most visited public space by the artists. Every wall is covered with photos and writings left behind by the artists on their departure. Australian artist Jayne Dyer has also left behind black butterflies that are attached to the pillars yet looking to flutter freely about the room. The theme of her creation is the unbridled consumption of our natural resources. The café is a comfortable high-ceilinged space where you can sit under the tall windows and listen contentedly to some blues, or maybe some aboriginal music, while savoring the quality European menu.

### Meet the Current Spring Crop of TAV Artists

Among the current roster of artists-in-residence is Yugo Isaji, a young sculptor. He invites people who come to visit his work studio to bring daily-use articles, which he transforms into unusual works of art and returns to them. By doing so, he hopes to engage in meaningful communication with residence of Taipei and create a new-style art form of unending variation.





While in residence, the visual artist Kim Meek has taken the opportunity to visit a number of important local cultural sites, including the National Palace Museum (故宮), Chiang Kai-shek Shilin Residence (士林官邸), Taipei Botanical Garden (臺北植物園), Lin Family Mansion and Garden (林家花園), and Shilin Night Market (士林夜市). His impressions of Taipei have been recorded via drawing, photography, sketching, and video, capturing the essence of the cultural life here in the same manner members of elite families traveled to Europe for personal growth and first-hand experience in the old days. Visitors are presented with his creations in both digital and print form.

All the works of the current group in residence will be on display from the end of March through April, so if you are interested in seeing Taipei in a brand-new light—sometimes startling, always novel—the Taipei Artist Village awaits. 📍

5. Yvan Mauger's "Artists in Movement" is a mural that depicts humans as busy worker ants.
6. Also in the courtyard is a work of action art called "Compostism Workshop" by Australian artists Rodney Glick & Lynnette Voevodin.
7. The Village Café is filled with photos and writings left behind by artists on their departure, and Australian artist Jayne Dyer has left behind black butterflies.
8. The work "Cow," by Taiwan artist Chen Pei-tong, is covered in painted images of the city's night markets.
9. Visual artist Kim Meek's digital creation "Hilt 2008."
10. Artist Yugo Isaji creates works of art made of familiar everyday items.

## Information

### Taipei Artist Village

臺北國際藝術村

**Add:** 7 Beiping E. Rd. (北平東路7號)

**Tel:** (02) 3393-7377

**Hours:** Daily 12 : 00~21 : 00

**Website:** [www.artistvillage.org](http://www.artistvillage.org)

### Taipei Artist Village AIR (Artists-in-Residence) Program

Artist-in-Residence Taipei (AIR Taipei) provides a platform for diverse cultural collaboration across artistic disciplines throughout the globe. The capital of Taiwan, Taipei is AIR'S base encouraging professional artists exchanges between Taiwanese and international artists. These interactions help create intercultural and interdisciplinary dialogues that resonate between communities and individuals long after the artist's residence is completed.

### How Artists from Overseas Can Apply

General regulations and a sign-up list are posted on the official website each year April~July; visit [www.artistvillage.org/Residence/Residence](http://www.artistvillage.org/Residence/Residence). If you would like to be notified of any related news, you can subscribe to TAV's free digital newsletter (<http://www.artistvillage.org/Other/Epaper>).





# The Mysteries of the Chiang Kai-shek Shilin Residence Unveiled – The Main Residence Now Open

The Chiang Kai-shek Shilin Residence (士林官邸) is a tourist destination always filled with smiling faces. For a quarter of a century, this was a place with a very different function, however, a key seat of power that was shut off to common folks. It was the home of the late President Chiang Kai-shek and his wife, Soong May-ling, and after their departure the residence remained a place of secrets. Finally, after long reparations and preparations started in 2006, the main residence (正館), a national historic site, has been opened to public as a record of the past.

The two-storey main residence incorporates Western architecture, with the facade dark-green and the roof slanting. The colors help blend in with the lush surrounding foliage in understated fashion, giving it an air of seclusion and security. On the first level is the expansive reception room, where the classical Chinese interior design contrasts with the Western exterior. It is filled with refined antique-style furnishings that give a classical elegance—notably the armchairs with curved back, usually for persons of senior rank in old China. Everything is delicate and exquisite, and obviously fastidiously chosen and placed, from the ornate vases to the lampstands and even the carpeting. All are in the “ox-tongue red” (牛舌紅) beloved by Madame Chiang, matching her ceramics collection on display and dramatically heightening the visual texture of the scene.



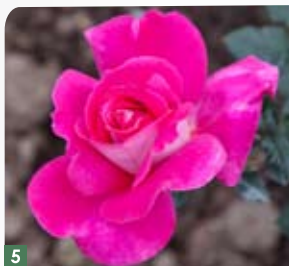




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While living here, Chiang Kai-shek received many key world figures, so there are both classical Chinese-style tables and chairs made of polished wood and Western-style sofas. Among the powerful personalities feted here were former US presidents Nixon and Eisenhower, US secretaries of state Dulles and Rusk, and South Korean president Syngman Rhee.

After passing through the simple and unadorned foyer, visitors will notice the entrance hall lined both sides with chairs, and the walls are adorned with Madame Chiang's paintings. On ahead, after a slight turn, you will enter a space with an entirely different feel, a small and cozy living room decorated with an elegant sofa set and other furnishings of simple, tasteful line, and a

portrait of Chiang Kai-shek's mother over the fireplace. The first couple loved this comfortable little getaway oasis, watching movies or playing games with their grandchildren. On the other side of the wall is the dining room, dominated by a long table where twenty would sit. Today, it is strong memories that are served.

The rose gardens of the Chiang Kai-shek Shilin Residence have long been among the prettiest in Taiwan. The annual bloom occurs from February through May. Madame Chiang adored flowers, and there are over 200 varieties cultivated here, with more than 4,000 individual flowers. Accompanying the roses are plum blossoms, favorite of the former president. The two flowers symbolizes the close relationship and the companionship of the first couple.

When you first step onto the grounds of the Chiang Kai-shek Shilin Residence, the perfumed scents of a sea of pretty flowers rushes up to greet you, and the sculpted world of ornamental plants and flowers charms. Adding to the allure, glimpses of history seem to float through the air. 📍

## Information

### Chiang Kai-shek Shilin Residence 士林官邸

**Add:** 60 Fulin Rd. (福林路60號)

**Tel:** (02) 2883-6340

**Hours:** Gardens 08:00-17:00, holidays 08:00-19:00  
Main Residence Tues~Sun 09:30-16:30  
Free entry (first come, first serve) through June;  
NT\$100 entry fee thereafter. Guide services  
available in English and Japanese. Daily visitors  
limited to 900.

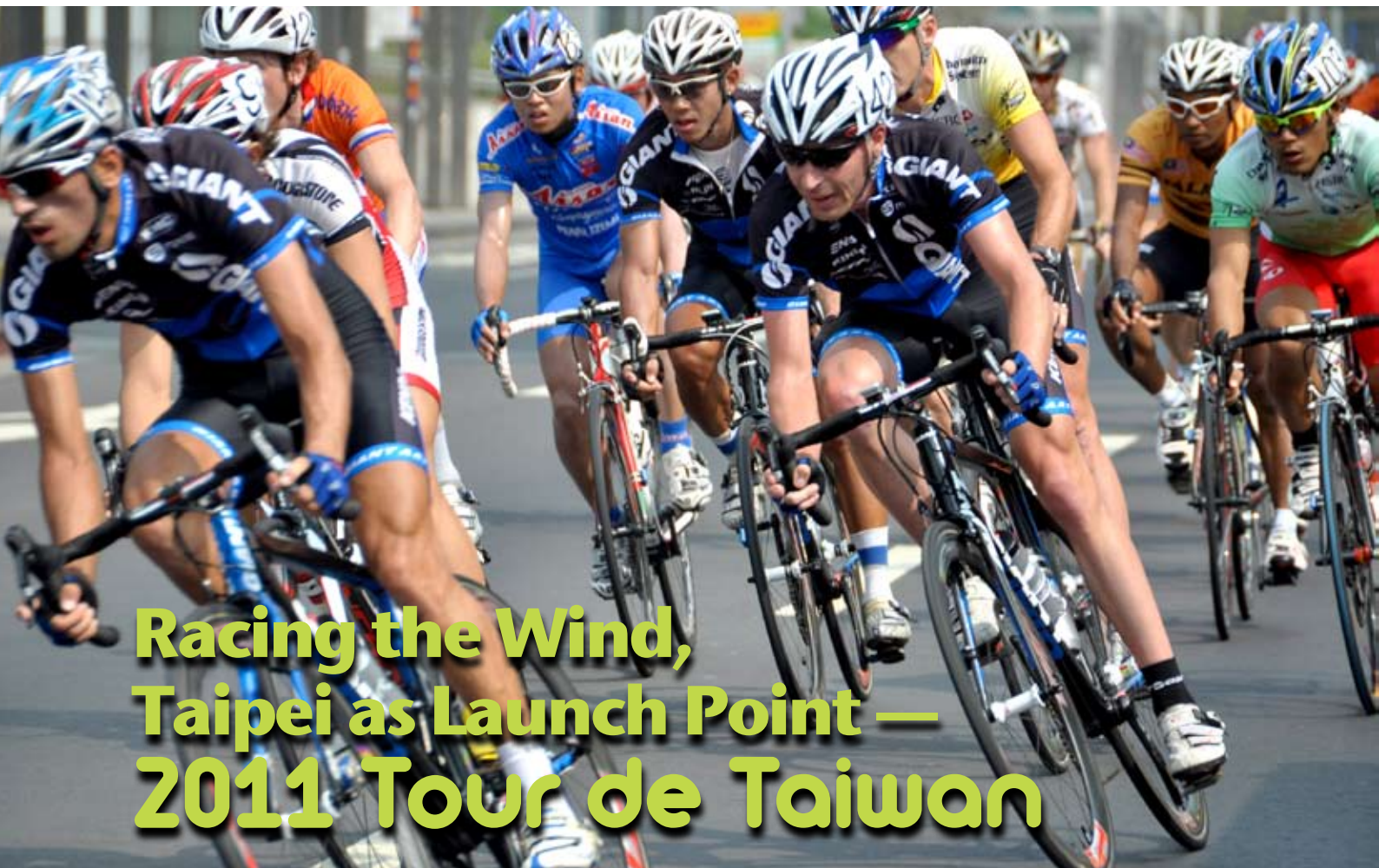
**Website:** [pkl.taipei.gov.tw](http://pkl.taipei.gov.tw) (Parks and Street Lights  
Office, Taipei City Govt.)

#### Transportation:

1. MRT Danshui Line to Shilin Station (Exit No. 2), then walk approx. 7 minutes.
2. Public bus No. 220, 260, 285, 606, 612, 902 to Taiwan Power Co. North Taipei District Office stop. (臺電北區分處站)

1. The design of the small, cozy living room is one of simple and tasteful lines, with a portrait of Chiang Kai-shek's mother over the fireplace.
2. The architecture of the two-storey main residence is Western, the façade black-green and the roof slanting, set midst lush surrounding foliage.
- 3-7. The Chiang Kai-shek Shilin Residence rose gardens have over 200 varieties, interspersed with the plum blossoms Chiang Kai-shek was partial to.





# Racing the Wind, Taipei as Launch Point — 2011 Tour de Taiwan

All aboard! The 2011 Tour de Taiwan (2011年國際自由車環臺公路大賽) is set to launch! Around the island in 10 days, 1,300 kilometers, the start gun will go off on March 19, with the city of Taipei serving as the launchpad. This is Asia's best-known long-distance multi-stage bicycle road race, and the 2011 race has been incorporated as a qualifying event for the 2010 London Olympics. The competition has attracted premier teams from around the globe, 20 in all, notably entrants from Australia, Austria, England, the U.S., Italy, Iran, Japan, and Korea who will contend first and foremost to be crowned race champion and, no less important, take home the grand prize of NT\$3 million.

The starting line for the big race will be Taipei City Hall Square. The route is ambitious, and takes the bikers a full loop around Taiwan, the “beautiful island,” Ilha Formosa. This year's route will be the longest in the event's 23 years, and the finish line will also be in Taipei, but up on the grandly picturesque Yangmingshan (陽明山) massif on Taipei's north side. Get yourself to a good

vantage spot along the course and you'll experience—almost—the same thrill as the riders as they chase down the wind at often blistering speeds. And beyond the beauty of Yangmingshan, you and the competitors, can also take in the soothing vistas of Sun Moon Lake (日月潭), Baguashan (八卦山), the East Rift Valley (花東縱谷), and the island's other scenic stars, soaking up the town-and-country tapestry of the island's west side before switching to the quieter and more isolated tableaux of green mountains and blue Pacific coastline of the east.

On March 19, the event will kick off with 2 km individual time trials in the Prologue event. A 60 km race will follow the next day, starting at the foot of what is perhaps Taipei's most iconic landmark, the Taipei 101 (臺北101) tower. This will be a loop race of breakneck speeds through city streets. The route will include Shifu Rd. (市府路), Songgao Rd. (松高路), Songzhi Rd. (松智路), and Songshou Rd. (松壽路)—i.e., encircling Taipei 101 and Taipei City Hall. The loop will be 1 km, and riders will zoom around 60 times. The Xinyi District (信義區) is normally a





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**1-2.** The starting point for the 2011 Tour de Taiwan will be Taipei City Hall Square, with racing through the wide, busy Xinyi District streets, where you can come out to cheer the riders on.

busy commercial sector, but on this day, it will be thrillingly transformed into an international arena where members of national bike-racing contestants fight for glory.

Also on March 20, a special 10 km leisure excursion for amateur bikers will start from the square in front of Taipei City Hall. Green is the theme, with bikers meandering along the wide and shady Ren'ai Rd. (仁愛路) toward Zhongshan N. Rd. (中山北路), lined with Chinese sweet-gum trees. Caressed by the brisk air of the cool new spring, sunlight sprinkles down through seams in the thickets of leaves above. This is a ride for the public, one and all, designed to bring people together. Enjoy the city's pretty street scenes from new vantage points, and experience the healthy joys of its ever-more-friendly bicycling environment.

The last leg of the tour, the 9<sup>th</sup> stage on March 28, will have an exceedingly high degree of difficulty. First to Xiaoyoukeng (小油坑) in Yangmingshan National Park (陽明山國家公園) will be the winner. This spot, on the western slope of Qixingshan (七星山), Yangmingshan's highest peak, is the largest fumarole in the Datun Mountain Range (大屯山脈), spewing great clouds of white sulfurous smoke high and slow into the air. The heat causes spurs of refracted light to shoot forth in pastel hues, rainbow colors and steam mixing as though on a painter's

canvas with the green mountain foliage and white mountain mists. As they ride their "steel horses" up the last leg, this terrain of surreal beauty will create an ending of very real physical beauty for this year's breathtaking and breathless Tour de Taiwan. 

## Information

### 2011 Tour de Taiwan

#### 2011 年國際自由車環臺公路大賽

**Time:** 3/19~3/28

#### Taipei City Itinerary:

- ◆ 3/19 - 2 km Prologue, individual time trial
- ◆ 3/20 - 60 km race around Taipei City Hall; Taipei leisure ride (07:30—09:30)
- ◆ 3/28 - 9th stage finish, at Xiaoyoukeng in Yangmingshan National Park (臺北陽明山小油坑)

**Tel:** (02) 2570-2330, ext. 606 (Taipei Sports Office, Taipei City Govt.; 臺北市政府體育處)  
(07) 355-6978 (Chinese Taipei Cycling Association; 中華民國自由車協會)

**Website:** [www.cycling.org.tw](http://www.cycling.org.tw)





# The Bicycle — Trendy New City Range Rover

The bicycle—one of the world's most eco-friendly modes of transportation; bicycling— currently one of the world's trendiest modes of transportation. Better than walking, easy on Mother Nature. The warm spring breezes are now starting to blow up, and the spring flowers are starting to peek out at the warm sun; time to hit the trail and path for a dose of the natural world on two—un-motorized—wheels.

In the rest of Taiwan, bike routes all start in the suburbs. Not so in Taipei, where they start right in the heart of the city. Move to the riverside bike paths and then out of town through surrounding New Taipei City (the newly renamed Taipei County). There is a network of six bike routes to choose from, and the paths are long, straight and convenient. A full support network of bike rental and repair stations is set up path-side, making your ride through nature-friendly environs simply a “walk in the park.”

If you're looking for more challenge, the city of Taipei's suburbs provide these bike trails. The relaxed Zhongyang Community (中央社區) area by the National Palace Museum is a favorite for night outings with local riders, according to the head of the Taipei Cycling Association (臺北市自由車協會), Peng Jian-yong (彭劍勇). Located on the slopes of Waishuang Stream (外雙溪) across from the museum, Zhongshe Rd. (中社路) is a favorite bike path; biking groups can start from its intersection with Zhishan Rd. (至善路) and ride to the last bus station, a distance of 4 km. This route is characterized by

relatively gentle grades, and is a great choice for developing your “mountain legs.” Says Peng: “Each and every night you'll find groups of riders gathering up here, and on Wednesday nights between 7 and 8, the bicycle traffic is especially heavy.”

For those looking for an even bigger challenge, answers await in a run along three interconnected industrial roads through Shilin (士林), Neihu (內湖) and, finally, into the township of Wanli (萬里) outside Taipei borders, ending at Fengguizui (風櫃嘴; Wind Cabinet Mouth). It starts in front of the National Palace Museum and heads eastward to Fenguizui Pavilion, and there are two especially steep climbs. Do not fear, however; it's not all steep ups, the route is essentially a roller-coaster of more friendly ups and downs, and riders have time to warm up before the more challenging sections. The distance is about 10 km, requiring about an hour, and after resting up at the pavilion you can either return via your original route or continue ahead, moving north and all downhill, to the towns of Wanli and Jinshan (金山) in New Taipei City.





“Bicycling is one of the best form of exercises for breaking the ice between strangers, and in just 30 easy minutes, you can travel 10 kilometers, broadening your horizons as well,” says Peng. He adds that Taiwan's league of bicycling enthusiasts is very friendly and mutually supportive—those passing by anxious bikers trapped on the road will at once stop to see if someone is lost or their bike has a problem.

Cycling is a great way to get to know the friendly and warm side of Taiwan's people. So, time for you to hit the road as the city's newest “road ranger” on your spiffy two-wheeled range rover! 🚲

1. Taipei City's completed bike-path system, giving riders an ideal environment for comfortable, carefree exploration.
2. The interconnected roads from the National Palace Museum to Fengguizui are ideal for riders looking for a more strenuous challenge.

## Bike-Riding Safety Tips

- ◆ Before setting out, check that your brakes, tires, and other bike parts and components are in good working order.
- ◆ Always wear a helmet, and be sure it is CNS certified.
- ◆ Wear bright clothing, but be sure pantwear and legwear are not too loose, to avoid the fabric getting caught in chain or gears.
- ◆ If riding at night, be sure your bike has a dedicated bike light and reflectors.
- ◆ It is best to warm up all joints and muscles before riding, which reduces the chance of injury and soreness.
- ◆ When braking, pump the brakes rather than jamming on them, and use both front and rear brakes if possible, and to avoid locking the front wheel and risking a fall.



## Information

**Taipei Cycling Association** 臺北市自由車協會

**Tel:** (02) 2813-6564

**Website:** [www.tpe-bike.org.tw](http://www.tpe-bike.org.tw)

**Taipei Travel Net (for maps of six riverside bike routes and other related info)**

臺北旅遊網

**Tel:** 1999(02-2720-8889 if outside Taipei City) ext.8186

**Website:** [www.taipeitravel.net](http://www.taipeitravel.net)



## The Many Stories of Old Taipei City –

# As Told by Historian Chuang Yung-ming on a Walkabout Tour



### Chuang Yung-ming 莊永明

Committee member, Taipei City Archives  
Author of approximately 30 books on Taiwanese history

“Mengjia (艋舺), Dadaocheng (大稻埕), and Taipei's old walled city area define the original core shape of our city, individually flourishing in this order. Each has its own distinctive background, these stories explaining each area's street layout, building styles, and unique character.” Certainly, when the story of the streets and architecture of these old neighborhoods is told by renowned cultural historian Chuang Yung-ming (莊永明), they come to vivid life and hold an audience spellbound.

Chuang, born in 1931, was raised in the Dadaocheng community. In junior high school, he began to systematically collect documents on Taiwan history, fascinated with the history of Taipei. Today, in the 100th year of the Republic of China, foreign travelers and expatriates interested in Taipei's historical development have no better place to start, says Chuang, than its birthplace, Wanhua (萬華). Wanhua is the Mandarin Chinese name, but most Taiwanese still use the community's original Taiwanese name, Monga (艋舺), pronounced Mengjia in Mandarin. A visit to Longshan Temple (龍山寺), Bopiliao Historic Block (剝皮寮), and Qingshan Temple (青山宮) is an exploration of the pleasing aesthetics of Taiwan's traditional architecture. Longshan Temple, says Chuang, is a place of unique history and marvelous tales, rich with the smoke of burning incense in the past and still today, the devout streaming in and out, in former times known by all as “Taiwan's leading temple.” The architectural layout and ornamentation are intricate and fully faithful to classical practices, this temple for good reason used as model by many others in temple construction and renovation throughout the land.

The community of Dadaocheng is also rich in traditional Taiwanese-Chinese architecture, and offers other history-laden architectural surprises as well. Visit Guide St. (貴德街) and you will see the many Western-style mansions that went up in the Qing Dynasty to house foreign trading-firm personnel, built at the instigation of progressive Taiwan Governor Liu Ming-chuan (劉銘傳). These were the first Western-style buildings constructed in Taipei. You should also take advantage of the Dadaocheng history tours led by Chuang, the local Dadaocheng lad (who also acts as the guide for the tours), which are held on the first Sunday of each month. These are sponsored by XiaHai ChengHuang Temple (霞海城隍廟), and Chuang serves as a volunteer. Culture explorers are taken along main streets and down alleys and pay visits to Cisheng Temple (大稻埕慈聖宮), Lee Chun-sheng Memorial Church (李春生紀念教堂), Dadaocheng Church (大稻





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埕教堂), Wangs' Tea (王有記茶行), XiaHai ChengHuang Temple, and other important heritage sites.

Should you be seeking even deeper understanding of the city's history, Chuang says that the old walled city area is a must-go. The old walled city was Chinese-built in the late Qing Dynasty, but is a district heavy with the architectural flavor of the Japanese colonial period (1895-1945). Roughly bounded by today's Zhongshan S. Rd. (中山南路), Zhonghua Rd., (中華路), Aiguo W. Rd. (愛國西路), and Zhongxiao W. Rd. (忠孝西路), the main Japanese-built heritage buildings here are the Presidential Office Building (總統府) and Taipei Guest House (臺北賓館), originally the Japanese governor-general's offices and residence, respectively, along with the National Taiwan Museum in the 228 Peace Park (二二八和平公園) and the old National Taiwan University Hospital building (舊臺大醫院) on Changde St. (常德街).

Pulling a last surprise out of his bag of compelling stories, something that few people know about, Chuang talks about how, because of Taiwan's frequent rains and intense sunlight, the Japanese designed and compelled local developers to use building arcades (騎樓)—all floors above the first projecting out above it, creating weather cover—which today is an iconic architectural feature seen throughout Taiwan.

When strolling the old streets of Taipei, you may well come across a friendly elderly gentleman leading a group of intently-listening followers, a steady stream of words flowing from his mouth. This, very likely, is our Mr. Chuang the historian, and you'd do well to slip in with the rest for some very rewarding digging at Taipei's historical roots. 📍

1. Wanhua's Bopiliao Historic Block has many buildings from the Qing Dynasty that still have their original look.
2. The museum buildings in 228 Peace Park are prime models from the Japanese colonial period.
3. Taiwan's distinctive building arcades were developed by the Japanese colonial govt. as protection against Taiwan's frequent rains and intense sunlight.





# Taipei in the Eyes of Foreign Friends



## Silvia Miller

**Homeland:** Germany

**Vocation:** Student

**Time in Taipei:** 6 months

**Reason:** Studying Chinese

With her bright eyes, Silvia Miller is searching for the retro culture in Taipei in the used bookstore, Dixiajie (地下階 : the underground) in Yongkang St. (永康街). Her fluent Mandarin shows that hard work has paid off after studying a 6-month language course in National Taiwan Normal University. Silvia is enamored with the fascinating transition from old to new in Taipei, where in the midst of a hyper-advanced metropolis you can choose to step into a specialty shop where yesteryear nostalgia is lovingly displayed, or enjoy traditional treats any time you desire, making life in Taipei an unbeatable combination of riches.

Silvia enjoys visiting Taipei's old temples, with the pageantry and solemnity of Wanhua's Longshan Temple (艋舺龍山寺) creating the deepest impression. She is also quite impressed by the modern progress in Taipei, and could not wait to visit the Flora Expo with her friends. Of the many interesting new experiences, she found the giant six-meter paper loudspeakers of the Pavilion of Dreams (夢想館) most intriguing, offering a terrific journey of sound and color. She was also deeply impressed with the technology incorporated into the wrist bracelets provided to visitors, which interact with the different display areas. Beyond this, she marvelled at the time-tested technique on glorious display at the Pavilion of Regimen (養生館) with its magnificent bonsai. Silvia is aware that there is a complete flora makeover at the Flora Expo with the change of the growing seasons, and plans to come again with the coming warmth of the spring for another novel Flora Expo experience.

Few years back, the Sato couple moved to Taiwan because of work. No one could have guessed that the one time relocation turned out to be a 5 year stay. Now, not only is the couple used to the Taipei lifestyle, they established their family here and can freely communicate in Mandarin. Two years ago, the two gave birth to a lively baby boy. And now, the three are comfortably living in Taiwan.

The couple has the most positive view of Taiwan, noting its safe living environment and the friendliness of the Taiwan people. Each day, folks would greet them when they take their child out the door. The family lives in the culture- and fashion-rich Yongkang St. area, and on days off, they head to Chiang Kai-shek Memorial Hall (中正紀念堂), Wistaria Tea House (紫藤廬), and Da'an Park (大安森林公園). Recently Mrs. Sato has become interested in traditional Chinese knotting she visited the cluster of DIY shops in the commercial area behind (north of) Taipei Main Station. In the area, the family will also visit venerable friend-recommended beef-noodle houses. The Satos say that their plan in Taiwan is to continually expand their culinary horizons, for they have heard of the wonders of this city's many other heritage eateries, especially those specializing in "shoulder pole" noodles (擔仔麵), rice with soysauce-braised meats (滷肉飯), and traditional baked goods.



## Mr. Mitsuhiro Sato and Mrs. Yumi Sato

**Homeland:** Japan

**Vocation:** Engineer / Homemaker

**Time in Taipei:** 5 years

**Reason:** General manager, FDK Taiwan





## Tuija Hirvikoski

**Homeland:** Finland

**Vocation:** University professor

**Time in Taipei:** 7 days

**Reason:** Participation in forums for “Talent Cultivation Program for Smart Living Industry”

“The Flora Expo is really a great place for both the body and soul!” says Finland native Tuija Hirvikoski excitedly, showing the photos and videos she had taken on the previous day on her mobile phone. Of all the many marvels, she says, the Pavilion of Dreams was the best experience she had. Tuija says this is an exhibit unlike any other she has experienced, filled with novelty, especially impacted by the trees that follow your respiration and grow accordingly. This type of surprise, along with the lovely Florabot (花械花開) opening and closing according to changing environments, and other innovative displays marrying art and high technology, placed her in a world of the fantasies as if she had drunk a magic potion bringing pure joy—a feeling she has never before experienced at such an event.

Tuija has already visited Taiwan three times previously, and as always her favorite “attraction” is the local hospitality. Each time she visits, her Taiwan friends take her under their wing like family, making her feel right at home. She especially likes the many tranquil oases hidden amongst what is a metropolis of incessant busy-ness, and finds real happiness amidst the cultured Wistaria Tea House, a renowned heritage-site teahouse, where the attentively roasted teas of Taiwan are presented for comfortable contemplation.

Tuija feels that anybody planning a trip through Asia must come to Taipei. Next year, the capital of Finland, Helsinki, will stage the World Design Capital exhibition, and Tuija plans to return to her homeland to tell everyone about her Pavilion of Dreams and other Flora Expo high-tech revelations to assist the Finland organizer in raising the innovation of its planning to the maximum.

Ginny, who has traveled to many countries, is a US psychology professor. This is her second visit to Taipei, with a duration of just three days, and she has taken advantage of a taxi driver who understands English to act as her guide and maximize the quality of her explorations, taking her all over the place. She loves travelling to different countries and experiencing the unique cultures of different cities, and this time in Taipei, she has concentrated on old temples, historical streets, and other sites filled with traditional culture.

Visiting Cixian Temple (慈誠宮) in Taipei’s Shilin (士林) District, Ginny says the contrast between the simplicity of Japan’s temples and the sumptuous decorativeness of Taiwan’s temples is striking, two worlds apart. Pointing to the exquisite gold foil on the ceiling, elaborate spiralling stone-dragon columns, inscribed tablets above the main entrance, and distinctive character of each of the many deity icons housed within, she says the cultural explorations are endless.

On this trip, Ginny has also made a special trip to Beitou’s (北投) hot-springs resort area, reporting that the milky-white sulfur waters has given a smooth and silky tenderness to her skin and taken years off her appearance. Afterwards she enjoyed a piping-hot bowl of Taiwan’s iconic beef noodles (牛肉麵), a taste experience she says she will long savor. Though just a short time in Taiwan, says Ginny, both the sweet and the savory memories are sure to long linger. 🍜



## Ginny Page

**Homeland:** USA

**Vocation:** University psychology professor

**Time in Taipei:** 3 days

**Reason:** Consultant for business leadership coaching



## *Springtime Meets the NPM in a Picturesqu Encounter*

The National Palace Museum (國立故宮博物院), evoking the Chinese palaces of the imperial past with deep-green mountain as backdrop, has both the air and the trappings of antiquity. To celebrate the 100th anniversary of the Republic of China's founding in 2011, the museum is using surrealist pioneer Marc Chagall's work *L'anniversaire* as focus. In addition to over 100 of Chagall's masterpieces brought together for a romantic rendezvous with us in this 100th new spring, four grand exhibit modules featuring floral-theme works from the museum's own unsurpassed collection of antiquities from China's imperial past will burst into bloom to greet the spring warmth. Also on is Sharing Treasures – A Special Exhibition of Antiquities Donated to the Museum (寄情人間—歷年捐贈器物特展), a precious display of rare treasures ranging from ceramics to curios and bronzes to jades. Let's head off now for our spring rendezvous with that elegant muse, the NPM.



1. Chagall's work *Moi et le village*.
2. The National Palace Museum houses the essence of Chinese culture, making it a must-visit site for foreign visitors seeking a view into the world of ancient China.
3. Chagall's work *Les fiancés*.
4. Chagall's work *L'anniversaire*, painted when he was 28.





### Spring in the 100th Year – An Encounter between Love and Beauty

Marc Chagall, who Picasso proclaimed as the artist who best understood color in the 20th century, was born into an impoverished family in Russia. He experienced the Russian Revolution, its pogrom of the Jews, and two world wars, and was exiled twice because of his art. But his ardent pursuit of the relationship between love and beauty never waned, and the classic symbols of his imagination and his canvases were perpetually reappearing—his native soil, flower clusters, the fiddler on the roof, circus performers, and the cosmology of Judaism. His colors were vivid and lustrous, his visual themes display a pure and childlike innocence. Picasso perhaps best captured this romantic impulse when he said that “Somewhere or other inside his head there must be an angel.” Admiring such works of lyrical warmth, one must agree.

On display until May 29, 118 works from Chagall's oeuvre are being presented in Celebration by Marc

Chagall (生日快樂—夏卡爾的愛與美), including his magnum opus, *L'anniversaire*, and such other classics as *Moi et le village*, *Les fiancés*, and *Phaeton*. *L'anniversaire* was painted when he was 28, on an occasion where his fiancée Bella brought a bouquet of flowers to him in his studio to celebrate with him. Chagall was moved and painted the scene, his happiness was captured in the painting which shows him floating toward the ceiling in an impossible and playful pose while stealing a kiss from Bella. Describing the scene as “love defeats gravity,” there is a sense of sweet romantic whimsy that is touching. This painting was long kept in the family, then was with New York's Guggenheim Museum for a period, and is now part of the private trove of a Japanese collector. Rarely on public show, the Chagall family became involved, and communication through various channels occurred, to initiate the rare loan of this priceless treasure for public viewing in Taiwan.

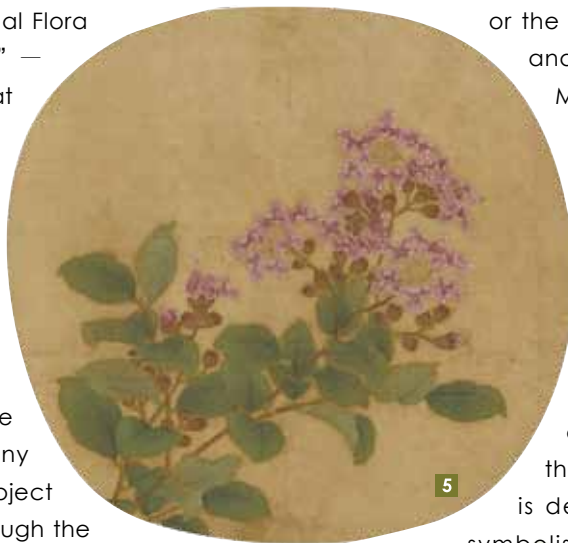


## Mapping of Flowers, Old and New— Welcoming the New Spring with Festive Floral Colors

It is not just Chagall who has understood romance. The many lovely faces and alluring poses of the beauties of the floral world are captured and can be enjoyed in the “new world” —the wonderful world of the ongoing Taipei International Flora Expo—and in the “old world” — on canvas at the hand of great masters of the brush.

The exhibit, *Fragrance Fills the Courtyard: Chinese Flower Paintings through the Ages* (滿庭芳：歷代花卉名品) is on display till May 31 in the NPM, and is representative of the “old world” floral themes. The NPM collection contains many excellent examples on the subject of flowers collected down through the centuries, and this special exhibition is divided into four sections. “Beautiful Scenes All Year Round” (一年好景) presents the magic of the many costume changes by the actors of the floral world through the four seasons, such as the peach blossoms of spring, crape myrtle and lotuses of summer, chrysanthemums of autumn, and camellias of winter. “Formal Expressions

of the Mind” (境由心造) brings you the world of the canvas from the mind's eye of the painter, whether it is the full close-up view of the flowers, the view from a little distance, the view of a single branch of flower, or the view of flowers posed in vases and baskets and as bonsai. “Their Many Features in Painting” (丹青面目) is a challenge of different creative techniques, with the delicate and gracious peony rendered in many frames in different ways, from bold and unrestrained use of black ink to happy and vividly bright colors. In “Auspicious Signs and Lucky Omens” (祥瑞吉兆), the color and form of the flower is depicted while the auspicious symbolism associated with flowers is explored, such as the wishes for long life, peace, and good fortune associated with the matching of stones with the narcissus, lily, persimmon, ganoderma, apple, and other subjects. What better way to welcome the new spring than among this painted garden of floral beauty?







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## The Fun of a Treasure Dig amongst Donated Beauties

The NPM is a vast repository of the ancient Chinese artistic heritage, but not all of its treasures were originally part of the Qing Dynasty imperial collection. About 4,000 pieces, in wide-ranging variety, have been donations, and to show off this priceless collection within a collection Sharing Treasures – A Special Exhibition of Antiquities Donated to the Museum has been organized, running until March 31. In “Ceramics and Porcelains” (陶與瓷), you can explore works from the Neolithic age to the Qing era, with everyday items carrying auspicious symbols and possessing festive resplendence. In “Curios” (文房珍玩), get intimately close with the

classic instruments of the Chinese gentleman's study, inspecting elegant ink sticks, inkstones, paperweights, seals, and other items, along with everyday-use items such as apparel and decorative accessories and snuff bottles. In “Metal Artifacts and Jades” (金相玉質), the aesthetic world on display are from different parts of Asia, with among other things, an intriguing comparison of the aesthetics of bronze Buddhist icons from Asia's four corners. The generosity of many public-spirited collectors has enabled this precious opportunity for you to dig in the most comfortable and rewarding treasure hunt. 17



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5. Wei Sheng (衛昇), Song dynasty (960-1279), *Crape Myrtle*.
6. Li Song (李嵩), Song dynasty (960-1279), *Basket of Flowers*.
7. Li Peiyu (李培雨), Qing dynasty (1644-1911), *Peonies*.
- 8-9. In Sharing Treasures – A Special Exhibition of Antiquities Donated to the Museum one finds the historically important “Tang Dynasty Xuan Zong Jade Prayer Tablets” and a depiction of the ideal Tang woman, “Grey Pottery Painted Lady Figurine.”

## A Little NPM Craze on Weekend Nights



The NPM is not just a place for static exhibits. The museum's Saturday Night at the NPM program, is in its third year now, with arts performances each Saturday night outside the plaza and in the B1 level. Youth groups of wide-ranging specialties perform—from new wave rock to jazz to glove-puppet theater. They hit the stage on the weekends one after another, creating boisterous weekend nights quite extraordinary, painting the usually quiet and sedate museum with bold and vivid colors. In March and April, the Hanlin Folk Arts Story Telling Troupe (漢霖民俗說唱藝術團), established in 1985, will be performing its traditional Chinese children's comic dialog repertoire, the Taiwan Silk Bamboo Ensemble (臺灣絲竹室內樂團) will be presenting traditional Taiwan native-soil string music, and the National Taiwan College of Performing Arts (臺灣戲曲學院) will be staging shows combining western clown skills and magic with traditional arts. These are just a few of the many acts scheduled; for detail, visit [www.npm.gov.tw/events/98events/saturdaynight\\_9807](http://www.npm.gov.tw/events/98events/saturdaynight_9807).

## Information

### National Palace Museum

國立故宮博物院

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

**Tel:** (02) 2881-2021

**Hours:** Open year round,  
main building 08:30~18:30,  
library building Mon~Sat 09:00~17:00

**Website:** [www.npm.gov.tw](http://www.npm.gov.tw)

### Transportation:

1. MRT Danshui Line to Shilin Station, transfer to Red No. 30 bus to entrance of main building, or bus No. 255, 304, Small Bus No. 18, 19 to main gate of NPM grounds.

2. MRT Wenhua Line to Dazhi Station, transfer to No. Brown 13 bus to main gate of NPM grounds on Sec. 2, Zhishan Rd.; or take Wenhua Line to Jiannan Rd. Station, transfer to No. Brown 20 bus to entrance of main building.





## *Walking with Radiant Light Into Monet's Garden*

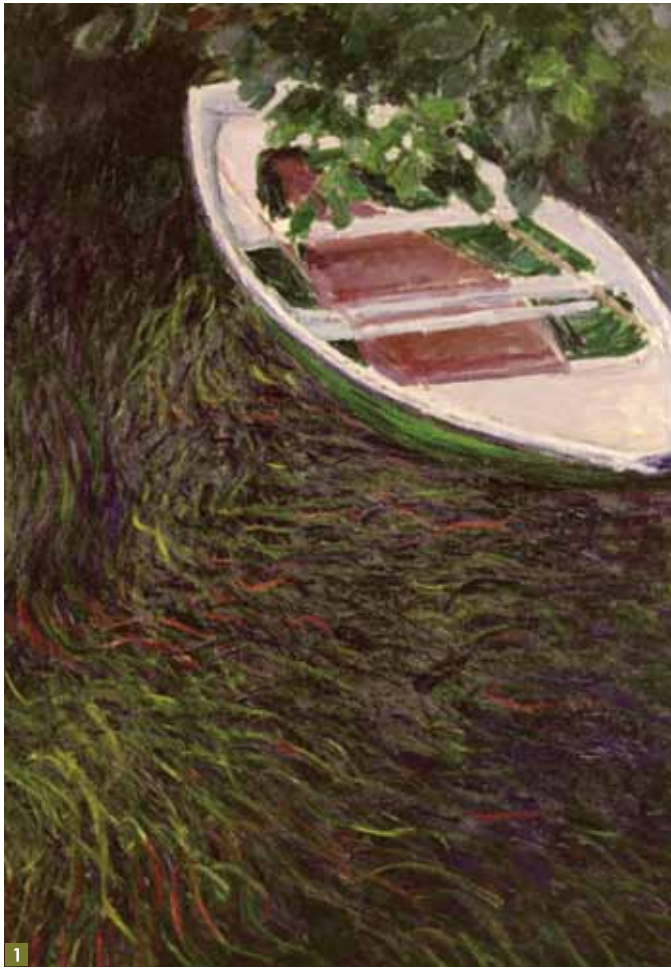
In celebration of the grand floral theme of the ongoing Taipei Int'l Flora Expo, the Taipei Fine Arts Museum invites you to step inside Monet's Garden starting March 5. After extensive negotiations, approximately 32 of his works from different creative periods of his life are being loaned from collections in Scotland and other places in the world—and that great pilgrimage venue for his fans, the Musée Marmottan Monet in Paris. The focus is on outdoor tableaux, allowing you to explore the great Impressionist master's attempts to capture the ephemeral character of light and shadow, and allowing you to journey side by side with radiant traveling light.

This exhibit spans the early 1870s period through to the artist's late period of 1920s productivity. The canvases are fecund with water lilies, white poplar, a Japanese-style decorative bridge, and other familiar floral-garden icons, in works that soon became familiar benchmarks of aesthetic for other artists. For nearly 30 years, Monet persists in weaving portraits of lilies, he created an artificial pond at his residence in Giverny

on the outskirts of Paris, channelling in Epte River water. On the pond floated water lilies, and beside it bloomed violets, azaleas, cherry blossoms, willows, bamboo, and other decorative beauties. Everywhere along the curving paths were inviting seats, and Monet would set up his easel by water's side. Early each morning, the old house gardener would take to his bamboo raft to gather up the dead and dying foliage, engendering exotic lotus-pond vignettes that gave birth to many of the artist's masterpieces of visual musings.

An intense observer of the natural habitat before him, Monet would paint the same scene over and over again, seeking to capture its character—20, 30 times. His brush would chase the shifting rays and streams of light, and changing weather conditions would engender countless further permutations. He painted over 250 canvases just of water lilies, the ripples of light off the pond water's surface setting off their beauty in limitless poses—a grand summary of Monet's evolving understanding of the intimacies between light and color.





Monet had a fascination for the culture of Japan, and had a replica of a 17th century Japanese arch bridge built over his water lily pond, with a canopy over the top covered with Chinese wisteria. His 1918 work *The Japanese Bridge* has the poetic feeling of a Chinese ink-and-wash work to it, with the elegant curve of the bridge enchanting in the hazy, misty ambiance of vibrant colors. Today, Monet's garden remains a hallowed ground for travelers to Paris with a love for fine art.

At 80, almost completely blind, Monet was still constantly at his easel. Boldly innovative right to the last stroke of his brush, he strove for intimacy with every shaft of light caressing the water lilies of the beloved pond he had created with his own hand. Creating great texture by piling up layer upon layer of paint and color, his strokes continued to be thick, bold, dynamic, and warm. The hazy and indistinct contours of lilies, vines, and pond shore capture a single moment of a fleeting liaison between light and color. Clear and detailed explanations take exhibit visitors on a journey

into Monet's experimental spirit, and his passion for creation—into the world of a man ahead of his time.

To walk into Monet's Garden is to walk next to the man in his pursuit of the ever-shifting impressions of life's light and shadow. 🎨

1-3. Monet's paintings *Small Boat on Water*, *The Japanese Bridge*, and *Promenade near Argenteuil*.

## Information

### Monet's Garden 莫内花園特展

**Time:** Until 6/5

**Venue:** Taipei Fine Arts Museum 臺北市立美術館

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

**Tel:** (02) 2595-7656

**Hours:** 09:00-22:00 until 4/25 (discount for holders of Flora Expo Pass or ticket)

after 4/25 Tues-Sun 09:30~17:30 (closed Mon)

**Website:** [www.tfam.museum](http://www.tfam.museum)





# Balzac

## The Napoleon of Literature

Honoré de Balzac once stated that, “What Napoleon had done by the sword, I shall achieve with the pen.” He came to be called the “Napoleon of letters,” and in the exhibition “Balzac, the Napoleon of Literature,” you can learn more of the great French literary hero through 300 priceless items on special loan from public and private collections around the world—his writings, along with paintings, sketches, sculptures, woodcuts, and photographs. The exhibition is on stage at Taipei’s National Taiwan Museum (國立臺灣博物館) until April 5, and according to the director of the Maison de Balzac in France, Yves Gagneux, this is the largest Balzac exhibition ever held in Asia, and is also unique in another sense, for it contains many rare items that even the French have never seen.

A man with a prominent nose, plump cheeks, and rounded form, Balzac cut a distinctive figure. He excelled at discerning and portraying in words the hidden, dark

character of the people of his day, and the conditions and attitudes of the French society of his times. His series of linked novels and short stories entitled *La Comédie humaine* (The Human Comedy) brought him great fame; his pen brought 2,500 characters to life, and his themes and wide range of intellectual vision seemed to run across the entire human spectrum as he described how the imperatives of capitalism, the interlacing of desire and fame, money, and media came to increasingly dominate the souls of the people of his era. His great oeuvre came to be called the “encyclopedia” of French society.

The exhibit is divided into seven sections. Among them, “The Man Behind the Name, Honoré de Balzac” (巴爾札克的衆生相) focuses on portraits, sculptures, and the great events of his times, serving as an overview. “Lovers and Friends: The Legend and the Reality” (由真實到神話—愛情與友誼) explores the truth







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of the prolific writer's reputation for prolific spending and romantic relationships; on display is his famous heavy walking cane with turquoise knob, and descriptions of the man by lovers and friends. Balzac once stated that "I am a galley slave to pen and to ink," and spent 15 to 16 hours a day writing; in the section of the same name (筆與墨的苦刑犯: 工作中的巴爾札克), we have the opportunity to inspect many of the seemingly countless original manuscripts and proofs created in his lifetime. In "The Author of 2,500 Characters" (活靈活現), we enjoy a display of printing plates used to create the elaborate illustrated depictions of many of his myriad characters. In "Scientific Works: *La Comédie humaine*" (人間喜劇: 科學的創作), we explore Balzac's incorporation into his body of work the new scientific classification and typology that fascinated him and inspired widespread interest in his time.

Manuscripts by other great writers of Balzac's day, and which the man called friends, are also on display—George Sand, Dumas the younger, Victor Hugo—along with sculptures by Rodin, sketches by Picasso, and other treasures, some of which have never before been on public display. These are on loan from a wide array of prestigious sources, among them the Institut de France, Musée Rodin, Musée Carnavalet, Rossini Foundation, Museum of Romantic Life, and numerous private collections. His contemporaries will shed lights and offer their perspectives on the great works of Balzac.

There are Chinese and English tours available, along with printed information in Chinese, English, and French. This event brings the romance of Paris to Taipei as the spring air warms, and will take you back in time for a feast of the senses as you explore the culture of France in the 19th century under Balzac's pen. ①

1. In 1957 Picasso created eight portraits of Balzac, using the same theme with slight variations, with the last work differing little from the first.
2. In addition to Balzac's own works, writings by other great pens such as George Sand, Dumas the younger, and Victor Hugo.
3. The display area exploring the 2,500 characters brought to life by the writer's pen.
4. The Man Behind the Name, Honoré de Balzac display area.
5. The Scientific Works: *La Comédie humaine* display area.



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## Information

### Balzac—The Napoleon of Literature

文學拿破崙—巴爾札克特展

**Time:** Until 4/5

**Venue:** National Taiwan Museum 國立臺灣博物館

**Add:** 2 Xiangyang Rd. (襄陽路2號)

**Tel:** (02) 2382-2566

**Hours:** Tue~Sun 10:00 to 17:00

**Website:** [xcm.nmtl.gov.tw/balzac](http://xcm.nmtl.gov.tw/balzac)



2011 **03/04**

March-April Arts Exhibition Calendar



## 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 2011/4/30**

A New Era for the Museum Collection: Recent Additions of Fine Painting and Calligraphy

**Until 2011/7/17**

The Tibetan Dragon Sutra: The Great Treasury of Buddhist Scriptures in the National Palace Museum

**Until 2011/8/1**

An Assorted Tapestry of Lustrous Beauty: Export Porcelains from the Museum Collection

## 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

**Until 2011/4/3**

Aria of Life: The Art of Liu Keng-I

**Until 2011/4/3**

Heart and Hand: The Paintings of Shi Song

## 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

**2011/3/23**

Taipei Symphony Orchestra – Wildner & Giuffredi

**2011/3/26**

Little Giant Chinese Chamber Orchestra (gCO) – Instrumental Romance XV

**2011/3/26**

National Symphony Orchestra – The Gloomy but Revelry Fin de Siecle – Mahler No. 7

**2011/4/9 - 2011/4/10**

2011 5<sup>th</sup> International Ballet Star Gala in Taipei

**2011/4/14**

Taipei Chinese Orchestra – A New World for 88 Keys and Chinese Orchestra

## 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 2011/10/13**

Colorful e-NPM

## Treasure Hill Artist Village

**Tel:** (02) 2364-5313

**Add:** 4-8, Aly. 37, Ln. 230, Sec. 3, Tingzhou Rd. (汀州路3段230巷37弄4-8號)

**Website:** www.artistvillage.org

**Until 2011/3/31**

See or Be Seen – Public Art Light Project

**Until 2011/3/27**

Root of Treasure – Public Art Video Installation by Shimura Nobuhiro

**Until 2011/4/10**

Treasure Hill, The Flowing Color Code

## National Museum of History

**Tel:** (02) 2361-0270

**Add:** 49 Nanhai Rd. (南海路49號)

**Website:** www.nmh.gov.tw

**Until 2011/5/1**

Treasures from the Qing's Golden Age

**Until 2011/5/8**

Celestial Skillfulness: Calligraphy and Painting of Qi Bai-shi

## Taipei Word Trade Center

**Hall 1**

**Add:** 5, Sec. 5, Xinyi Rd. (信義路5段5號)

**Tel:** (02) 2725-5200

**Hall 3**

**Add:** 6 Songshou Rd. (松壽路6號)

**Website:** www.twtc.com.tw

**2011/4/7 - 2011/4/11**

2011 Softex

## National Taiwan Science Education Center

**Add:** 189 Shihshang Rd. (士商路189號)

**Tel:** (02) 6610-1234

**Website:** www.ntsec.gov.tw

**Until 2011/4/17**

A Classic Art Exhibition

**Until 2011/5/31**

Animal Whispers: Decoding Their Communication





# How To Get from Taiwan Taoyuan International Airport to Taipei

## 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 50%, with freeway tolls extra; average fare to Taipei around NT\$1,100.

**Terminal I Arrivals hall taxi-service counter tel. no.:** (03) 398-2832

**Terminal II Arrivals hall taxi-service counter tel. no.:** (03) 398-3599

## Mocca Power Co.

**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)

**Reservations tel:** 0926-170-090

**One-way fare:** NT\$800, travel time 30-40 mins

## 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:** Taiwan Bus Corp., Evergreen Bus, Free Go Express, Citi Air Bus

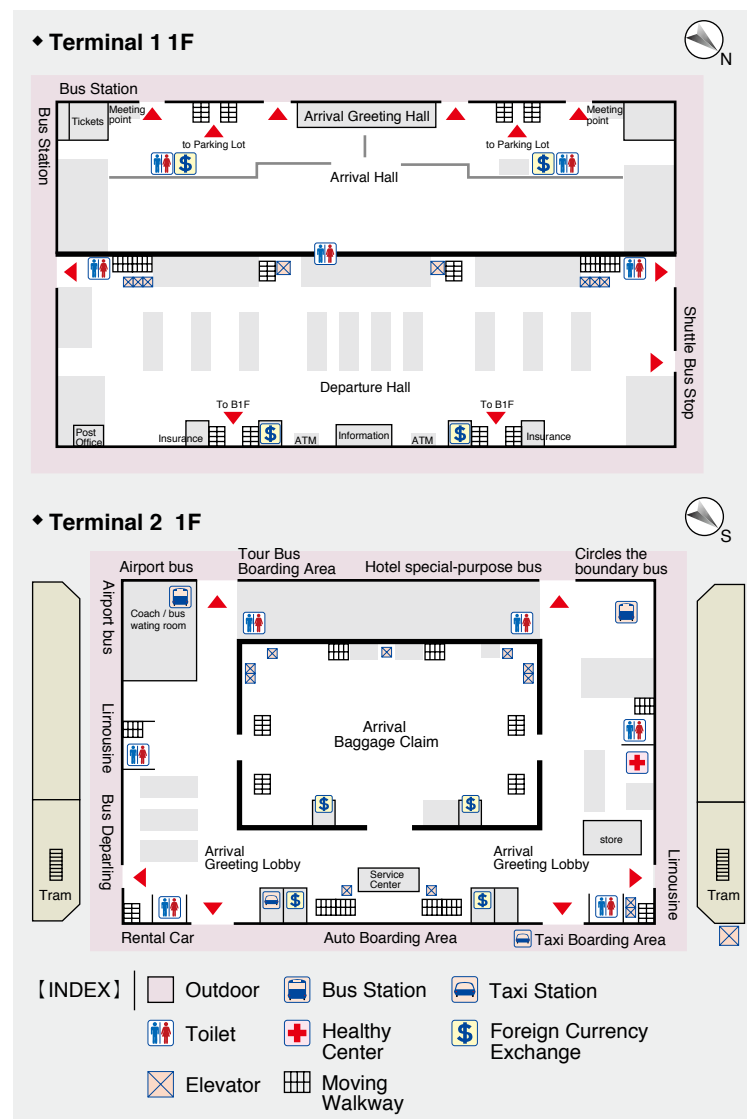
**One-way fare:** NT\$85~145

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

**Schedule:** Every 15~20 minutes (Citi Air Bus 20~30 minutes)

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 Taoyuan International Airport Terminal I & II



## NOTICE

In order to improve the quality of telephone service to the public, the city government is systematically implementing the 1999 Citizen Hotline plan (1999市民熱線優化專案). Since 3 July in 2008, 16 toll-free 0800 lines from 15 Taipei City Government departments, along with two non-0800 lines from the Department of Environmental Protection (環保局), have been consolidated within the 1999 public-access hotline service. For more information, please call 1999 or visit the website of the Research, Development and Evaluation Commission (研考會) at [www.rdec.taipei.gov.tw](http://www.rdec.taipei.gov.tw)

## TAIWAN EMERGENCY TELEPHONE NUMBERS

### Police / 110

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

### Fire / 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 Bureau   | 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<br>Terminal 2:(03)398-3341 |
| Government Information Office, Executive Yuan                            | (02) 3356-8888                                     |
| Bureau of Foreign Trade  | (02) 2351-0271                                     |
| Taiwan External Trade Development Council (TAITRA)                       | (02) 2725-5200                                     |
| Taiwan Visitors Association  | (02) 2594-3261                                     |
| Ministry of Foreign Affairs  | (02) 2348-2999                                     |
| Ministry of Foreign Affairs Citizens Hotline                             | (02) 2380-5678                                     |
| Police Radio 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 brown indicate service in English provided

## LIST OF TAIPEI VISITOR INFORMATION CENTERS

**Taipei Main Station Visitor Information Center**  
(02) 2312-3256  
1F(North-east end), 3 Beiping W. Rd., Zhongzheng District

**Songshan Airport Visitor Information Center**  
(02) 2546-4741  
340-9, Dunhua N. Rd., Songshan District  
*Expected to reopen in late March.*

**East Street Mall Information Center**  
(02) 6638-0059  
Underground Mall 4-2, 77, Sec.1, Da'an Rd., Da'an District

**MRT Ximen Station Visitor Information Center**  
(02) 2375-3096  
B1 32-1, Baoqing Rd., Zhongzheng District

**MRT Yuanshan Station Visitor Information Center**  
(02) 2591-6130  
9-1 Jiuquan St., Shilin District

**MRT Jiantan Station Visitor Information Center**  
(02) 2883-0313  
65 Sec. 5, Zhongshan N. Rd., Shilin District

**MRT Beitou Station Visitor Information Center**  
(02) 2894-6923  
1 Guangming Rd., Beitou District

**Miramar Entertainment Park Visitor Information Center**  
(02) 8501-2762  
20 Jingye 3rd Rd., Zhongshan District

**Yangming Park Visitor Information Center**  
(02) 2861-8975  
26 Sec. 2, Hushan Rd., Beitou District

**Gongguan Visitor Information Center**  
(02) 2364-8618  
1 Siyuan St., Zhongzheng District

**Plum Garden Visitor Information Center**  
(02) 2897-2647  
6 Zhongshan Rd., Beitou District

**Maokong Gondola Taipei Zoo Station Visitor Information Center**  
(02) 8661-7627  
2 Lane 10, Sec. 2, Xinguang Rd. (1F, Maokong Gondola Service Center)

**Maokong Gondola Maokong Station Visitor Information Center**  
(02) 2937-8563  
35 Lane 38, Sec. 3, Zhinan Rd. (Exit area, Maokong Station)



## Locating the Old Days among Taipei's Heritage Sites



### Transportation Information

#### Bus

Take bus No. 0 East, 3, 20, 22, 38, 204, Xinyi trunk line, to bus stop at mouth of Yongkang St.

#### MRT

1. Take the MRT Bannan Line to MRT Zhongxiao Xincheng Station, then walk along Xincheng S. Rd. to Xinyi Rd. and turn right.
2. Take the MRT Xindian Line or Zhonghe Line to MRT Guting Station, then take Exit No. 5 and walk along Heping E. Rd., turn left on Jinshan S. Rd., turn right on Jinhua St., then walk to

mouth of Lishui St.; Yongkang St. is one block down with a turn to the left. The walk from the MRT station takes 10~15 minutes.

3. Take the MRT Xindian Line or Zhonghe Line to MRT CKS Memorial Hall Station, then take Exit No. 3 and walk along Jinhua St., on the way passing Jinshan S. Rd., to reach the mouth of Lishui St.; Yongkang St. is one block down with a turn to the left. The walk from the MRT station takes 10~15 minutes.

## A Flora Expo Day of Biking and River Cruising



### Transportation Information

#### Xinsheng Park Area

##### Bus

Get off at the Xinsheng Park (新生公園) and Jilin Rd. End (吉林路底) bus stops.

##### MRT

Take the No. 1 free Flora Expo shuttle bus from MRT Songshan Airport Station or MRT Zhongshan Junior High School Station, both on the MRT Wenhu Line.

#### Dajia Riverside Park Area

##### Bus

Get off at Dajia Elementary School (大佳國小) and Dajia Riverside Park (大佳公園) bus stops.

##### MRT

Take the No. 5 free Flora Expo shuttle bus from MRT Jiannan Rd. Station on the MRT Wenhu Line.



# A City of Color and Wonder

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