

TAIPEI 台北

No. 41

Autumn | 2025

A Day in Taipei

Hot-Spring Resort in Beitou

Exploring the Yuanshan/Dalongdong Area

Out in Nature

Hiking in Yangmingshan National Park

Fine Food

Eateries Visited by Celebrities

Meat Restaurants

TAIPEI'S ARTSY SIDE

Places of Art and Creativity in the City
Hybrid Cultural – Creative Spaces
Smaller Cultural Venues



TAIPEI 台北

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Taipei Main Station, Ximen,
Minquan W. Rd. and C.K.S. Memorial
Hall of Taipei Metro



Editor's Note

Welcome to Taipei! In our trio of cover stories in this autumn issue, we're taking you on a long walk on the city's artistic side.

In our main feature, we visit key galleries, music stores, alternative cinema locations, and important heritage complexes that have been magically transformed into cultural-creative parks. Then it's exploration of hybrid creative spaces where "life encounters art," serving combos of such functions as gallery, café, bookstore, select shop, art studio, or community space. Finally, it's a whirlwind sampler tour of smaller performing-arts venues providing "intimate encounters with performing arts and artists."

Autumn's onset brings cooling weather, inviting maximum out-of-doors time. In our *A Day in Taipei* files, we present two splendid day-tour itineraries. Roam Yuanshan/Dalongdong on foot, an area with "old ways and new ways in cultural fusion," home to such gems as Dalongdong Baoan Temple, Taipei Confucius Temple and the Taipei Fine Arts Museum. Then zip up to the famed Beitou hot-spring resort area and tour about on the local S39 bus, taking in the "heritage architecture, hot springs & museums, sulfur pits, mountain beauty."

In our *Out in Nature* department, tackle two trails on the eastern fringes of Yangmingshan National Park, on Taipei's north side. One involves moderately challenging elevation gain, the other is a gentle meander along a creek. And in this section's nature photography offering, get to know the iconic Taiwan Blue Magpie and another endemic belle, the Taiwan Whistling Thrush.

Let's head back inside now – time for a Taipei attraction beloved by tourists, our food! In *DIY Fun*, make traditional Taiwanese pastries to celebrate the upcoming Mid-Autumn Festival. And in two *Fine Food* articles, learn about local eateries that have received more attention after visits by big-name celebrities like NVIDIA CEO Jensen Huang or K-pop idols, and two popular spots for "hearty meat meals" serving up delectable tender steaks and crispy chicken.

Last but not least, in *Where to...* check out three high-quality, easy-access campsites that enable you to sleep out under the starry sky right in the city, two in the hills just off the urban core, one close to downtown on riverside parkland by the Xindian River.

Enough to keep you busy while with us? Enjoy your stay!



Please complete this online questionnaire to help us improve our magazine. Thank you!

TAIPEI 台北

NO. 41 AUTUMN 2025

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ISSN: 24137766

GPN: 2010402342

Vision Creative Marketing & Media Co.

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TAIPEI Subscription Services, Postal Wire Transfer: 4 Issues

Beneficiary Account No.: 16630048

Beneficiary Name: Department of Information and Tourism, Taipei City Government

Domestic	NT\$120	Regular Mail
Hong Kong/Macau	NT\$360	Regular Air Mail
Asia/Pacific Region	NT\$440	Regular Air Mail
Europe/US/Africa	NT\$600	Regular Air Mail

Online reading:

www.travel.taipei/en > Media > TAIPEI



Department of Information and Tourism, Taipei City Government

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中華郵政台北雜字

第 2372 號執照登記為雜誌交寄

Price: NT\$30



This magazine was printed with environmentally friendly soy ink. We hope you enjoy reading this issue of *TAIPEI*. If you have any suggestions, please do not hesitate to contact us.



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Seasonal Festivals and Events

#01



Color Taipei & Taiwan LGBT+ Pride

彩虹觀光活動 & 台灣同志大遊行

Every October, the Taipei City Government hosts the “Color Taipei” event series in conjunction with the Pride parade, highlighting Taipei’s image as a gender-friendly city. The “Rainbow Sightseeing Bus,” with drag queens and LGBTQ+ celebrities as guides, invites the public to hop on an in-depth tour.

The annual Taiwan LGBT+ Pride parade is one of the largest pride events in Asia. This year, under the theme *Beyond Link: More than Clicks*, the parade is a powerful demonstration of the community’s progress and continued fight for equality. Alongside the parade, the Rainbow Market, a themed street fair will be held in front of Taipei City Hall, while the celebrations will also feature an after-party with a main stage for performances.

Rainbow Bus Tour

- 📍 The Red House (start)
西門紅樓 (觀巴起點)
- 📅 October 3-26
(every Fri, Sat, Sun)

Pride Parade

- 📍 Taipei City Hall Square (start)
台北市政府市民廣場 (遊行起點)
- 📅 October 25
- 🌐 taiwanpride.lgbt

#02 Taipei Jazz Festival 爵士音樂節



This year’s festival is themed “Jazz Everywhere,” highlighting the genre’s diverse presence throughout the city. The fête will feature “Alley Improv Stages” and “Jazz Now Live Sessions” at various venues, including live houses, jazz clubs, and cultural spots, to encourage spontaneous and intimate performances and make jazz more accessible to a wider public. The feast of music will conclude with grand outdoor concerts at the Taipei Music Center Plaza, showcasing both local and international jazz artists.

- 📍 Taipei Music Center Plaza and other venues
台北流行音樂中心戶外表演空間等地點
- 📅 September 3-28
- 🌐 [instagram.com/taipei_jazz_festival](https://www.instagram.com/taipei_jazz_festival)

#03 ChillOut Festival 秋 OUT 音樂節



The ChillOut Festival is a popular urban music festival known for its relaxed atmosphere and diverse lineup of independent bands, DJs, and rappers from Taiwan and abroad. One of the key performers this year will be Japanese Shibuya-kei music legend Cornelius. Held over two days in Taipei’s Gongguan area, with venues including Taipei Water Park and PIPE Live Music, the goal of this event is to create a laid-back vibe for enjoying music, food, and art, while revitalizing local businesses.

- 📍 Gongguan Waterfront Plaza and surrounding areas
公館水岸廣場暨周邊場域
- 📅 October 11-12
- 🌐 [instagram.com/chillout_fest](https://www.instagram.com/chillout_fest)

#04 Nuit Blanche Taipei 台北白晝之夜



Nuit Blanche Taipei is an annual all-night urban arts festival that turns a large city area into an open-air museum of diverse artistic experiences. This year, the event celebrates its 10th anniversary with the theme “Hi, Story!” Artists and performers will transform Yuanshan Natural Landscape Park and its surroundings into a vibrant sound and light theater, using light installations, sound art, and interactive experiences. The purpose this year is to reshape childhood memories and awaken cross-generational recollections.

- 📍 Yuanshan Natural Landscape Park and surrounding areas
圓山自然景觀公園暨周邊場域
- 📅 November 1-2
- 🌐 www.nuitblanche.taipei



#05 Taipei Water Dance Festival

台北水舞嘉年華

In its second year, this water dance fiesta takes place at Rainbow Bridge on the Keelung River. This year, a 120-foot platform is being installed on the river for projections, fireworks, lasers, and lights. These elements will be combined to create dynamic, multi-layered water dances synchronized to music. Performances feature diverse fountain types, projection of cute characters, and fire-breathing dragon effects. Lasting 37 days, the celebration features five five-minute shows each night from 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm. Additional “dance of water and fire” performances are scheduled for September 13 at 6:30pm and October 4 at 7pm.

- 📍 Xikou Wharf and Rainbow Bridge
錫口碼頭及彩虹橋
- 📅 September 13-October 19
- 🌐 2025waterdance.taipei



The Artful Heart of Taipei

Exploring the Capital's Happening Gallery, Music, and Film Scenes

TEXT | **HAN CHEUNG** PHOTOS | **CHEN CHENG-KUO**

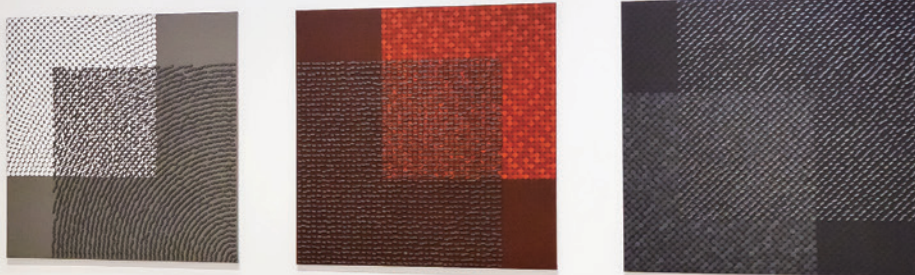
Art and creativity are interwoven into Taipei's urban fabric. A casual stroll might lead visitors to public installations, vibrant craft markets, independent bookstores, and much discovery beyond. Many heritage sites have been converted into cultural hubs, and the city also offers museums and exhibitions aplenty.



Visitors to Taipei don't need to search hard to experience the city's dynamic arts and culture scene. Creativity is embedded in daily life – power boxes are adorned with quirky, hand-painted illustrations, while colorful alley murals reflect local history, humor, and daily life. Installation works and commissioned sculptures appear in metro stations and neighborhood parks. On weekends, pop-up artisan markets seem to be around every corner, often accompanied by live performances.

Top-notch museums and acclaimed galleries showcase everything from cutting-edge contemporary pieces and classic masterpieces to traditional calligraphy and indigenous crafts. Atmospheric heritage sites across town, such as once-abandoned factory complexes and Japanese-era dormitory residences, have been repurposed as cultural hubs. These locations offer a wide range of local and international exhibits, concept shops, design boutiques, specialty bookstores, stylish eateries and bars, open-air performance spaces, and more. Visitors are free to explore and browse at their leisure, learning about the fascinating history of each site along the way.

Movie buffs can head to one of Taipei's atmospheric arthouse theaters, where thoughtfully curated lineups of indie productions, documentaries, and vintage masterpieces are shown at affordable prices. Many also host themed film festivals throughout the year. Music fans can hunt for hidden gems in the surprising number of vinyl and record shops and catch live sets of a diversity of genres at intimate venues scattered throughout the city.



以石質探測光線記錄的相互關係，形體出動與變化時的軌跡關係。
專注當下，像石頭一樣沉澱其中，聆聽著過去。



© Double Square Gallery

Galleries

Taipei's gallery scene is remarkably diverse, ranging from established commercial spaces that showcase renowned artists to smaller, experimental venues. Trendy, pop-culture-infused spots add a more accessible, street-style dimension to the vibrant ecosystem. Many of these are located in the Neihu area, making this a thriving destination for art lovers.

Double Square Gallery (doublesquare.com.tw) isn't simply named after its two rectangular exhibition rooms. The relevant characters in its Chinese name also mean "two sides," reflecting the gallery's mission to foster dialogue and exploration between contrasting roles and ideas, such as artist and curator, space and community, exhibition and audience. It presents multidisciplinary, concept-driven exhibitions by both Taiwanese and international contemporary artists. Visitors can expect thoughtfully curated shows that delve into a wide range of themes while pushing the boundaries of form and content.

Just one metro station away lie two other galleries. **Whitestone Gallery** (whitestone-gallery.com), established in 1967 in Tokyo, expanded to Taipei in 2017. This city's branch features a striking façade of stacked, staggered



© Whitestone Gallery



Jam Wu: Shadow Puppeteer, installation view, 2023.
Photo courtesy of TKG+ © ANPIS FOTO

cypress-wood boards that continue into the interior to form organic sculptural staircases, walls, and other structures. It carries on the gallery's original mission of promoting Japanese postwar avant-garde artists while also spotlighting contemporary Asian painting, sculpture, and installation art.

The nearby **Tina Keng Gallery** (tinakenggallery.com) has its roots in the influential Lin & Keng Gallery, which was instrumental in popularizing the work of Western-trained Chinese modernists such as San Yu and Zao Wou-Ki. Today, Tina Keng continues to spotlight Asian contemporary art across generations and nurture Taiwanese talent, with a focus on historical and cultural context. Located in the same building is **TKG+**, its sister venue that puts on experimental new-media presentations, mostly by local creators.

Outside of Neihu, more alternative spaces present counterpoints to the commercial scene. **FreeS Art Space** (facebook.com/freesartspace) offers the majority of its exhibition slots through open calls to artists and curators, providing a platform for experimentation by students and emerging local voices. Co-run by the Association of Visual Arts in Taiwan and the Hantoo Art Group, the socially minded space emphasizes dialogue and public interaction through panels, open discussions, and community-oriented events.

Opened in 2008 as a platform for local and international contemporary art exchange, **Project Fulfill Art Space** (projectfulfill.com) transcends the conventional



gallery experience by emphasizing site-specificity in each exhibition. Based on the notion of “right here, right now,” it invites contemporary artists to integrate both the spatial and temporal characteristics and conditions of the venue space into their work. Whether through painting, sculpture, installations, video, or sound art, this approach results in unique, immersive experiences for visitors.

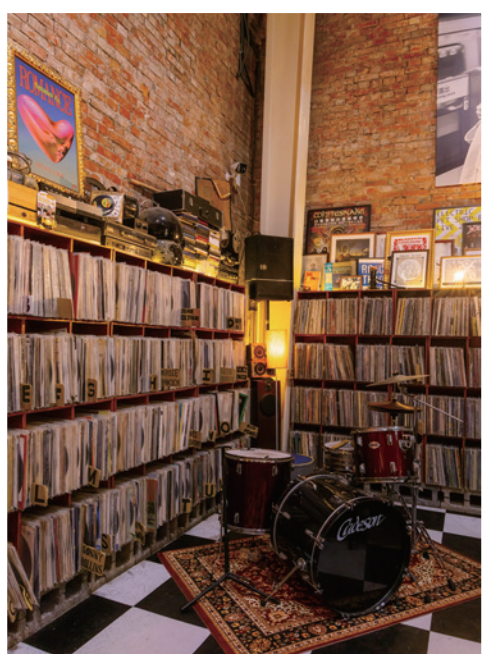
On the other end of the spectrum, **Dopeness Art Lab** (instagram.com/dopenessartlab) highlights trendy, playful pop and urban aesthetics, its spacious, industrial-style concrete building with eye-catching window visuals standing out on busy Keelung Road. Showcasing bold, whimsical, and often humorous pieces by globally recognized artists, such as D*Face and Kwang Hyun Kim, Dopeness Art Lab also incorporates a lifestyle component through brand collaborations and collectible merchandise. Note that since the gallery is only open during exhibitions, checking first on IG is recommended.



Vinyl Decision

Music Stores

Taipei was once dotted with all sorts of music retailers filled with vinyl records, CDs, and cassette tapes, but the rise of streaming platforms and soaring rent forced many iconic shops to shut down over the past decade. Despite this, several stores continue to thrive by focusing on particular genres or formats, rare releases, and independent productions. The selections are well-curated, with knowledgeable staff helping visitors discover new artists or track down hard-to-find gems.





White Wabbit Records

Nestled in a cluster of repurposed, century-old camphor refinery buildings in Huashan 1914 Creative Park, **Vinyl Decision** ([facebook.com/vinyldecision](https://www.facebook.com/vinyldecision)) oozes nostalgic charm with its exposed red-brick walls, high ceilings, checkered floor tiles, and bar crafted with vintage speakers. An impressive selection of more than 10,000 records lines the walls – primarily rock, jazz, blues, funk, and soul – with many pressings imported from the US, UK, and especially Japan. Visitors are welcome to give the records a spin on the in-store turntables.

Vinyl Decision started as a personal collection built up over three decades. When it got too big, in 2014 the owner decided to share his passion with the public. Today, the store also offers vinyl-appraisal services and state-of-the-art vinyl record cleaning for collectors.

While vinyl is the soul of the shop, a full bar/café operation offers Western comfort fare such as pizzas, burritos, quiches, and pies. Customers can be seen hanging out and enjoying tunes in the warmly lit, cozy interior, browsing the shelves while sipping a drink. The shop also puts on live music sessions daily, mostly featuring jazz, funk, and blues acts, plus special guest performers, DJ sets, and listening parties.

Informally founded in 1999 in a converted men's restroom in the now-defunct Zeitgeist Live House, **White Wabbit Records** (www.wwr.com.tw) has long been a vital source of indie music for Taiwan enthusiasts. During a time when it was much harder to access non-mainstream sounds, the label and shop championed local underground artists while introducing local devotees to a wide range of alternative foreign acts, even inviting them to Taiwan to play.

Today, the store is hidden in a quiet alley in the Shida (short for National Taiwan Normal University) neighborhood. Its quaint wooden patio, trimmed windows, and colorful event posters give it a subtle charm that invites in curious passersby. The compact but comfortable interior is packed with an eclectic selection of vinyls and CDs. Handwritten commentary by staff on sticky notes adds a personal touch, and there's even a shelf recommending albums by MBTI personality type. The affable, well-informed staff are happy to chat, at times engaging with customers in lively conversations about music.

Even as physical music sales decline in Taiwan, its independent music scene continues to thrive. White Wabbit remains a haven for those who enjoy tactile formats and eye-catching album art – whether hunting for new favorites, obscure pressings, or just to soak in the atmosphere.



Alternative Cinemas

Cinephiles looking for more than commercial cineplex fare have much to choose from in Taipei. Smaller theaters screen arthouse films, documentaries, restored classics, experimental shorts, and independent Taiwanese productions, while the city's myriad film festivals highlight local talent, explore timely social and cultural themes, and bring in international works and filmmakers. They create an ecosystem that continuously pushes Taiwan's film scene to grow and diversify.

Wonderful Theatre



Opened in Ximending in 1975, **Wonderful Theatre** (wonderful.movie.com.tw) showed mainstream fare for 21 years before becoming the first venue in Taiwan to hone in exclusively on arthouse, smaller budget, and local productions, kicking off with Emir Kusturica's iconic dark-comedy war film *Underground*. Just a short walk from MRT Ximen Station, the no-frills theater with two spacious screening rooms is hidden up on the 7th floor of a commercial building, secluded from the hectic streets below. Fun fact: there has been a cinema on this site since 1920.

Eslite Art House (arthouse.eslite.com) is located inside the Eslite Spectrum building, a popular mall and cultural hub in the Songshan Cultural and Creative Park that includes one of the city's 24-hour bookstores. The theater selects both new and classic

films with cultural depth and social relevance, based on humanistic concern and artistic value. The seats are known for their comfort and leg room, and café-style fare is offered in the lobby.

SPOT Taipei (www.spot.org.tw) is housed in a charming 99-year-old US colonial-style building that once served as the American consulate and ambassador's residence. Abandoned after the US cut diplomatic ties with Taiwan in 1979, it was reopened in 2002 under the management of the Taiwan Film & Culture Association, at that time led by acclaimed director Hou Hsiao-hsien, as a multi-purpose space dedicated to showing non-mainstream films. The screening room occupies the former garage and generator room, while the main building hosts a café, gallery, event space, lounge, and boutique with film-themed goods.

Taipei Film Festival at SPOT Huashan



SPOT Taipei

SPOT expanded to Huashan 1914 Creative Park in 2012, taking over the former packaging hall of the Taipei Wine Factory. Visitors pass through an atmospheric, glass-covered corridor lined with film visuals and artwork to reach the main space, which includes two state-of-the-art screening halls, a café, a cinema-themed shop, and an event space where cinema-related lectures and activities are regularly hosted.

SPOT Huashan is one of the screening venues for the **Taipei Film Festival** (*taipeiff.taipei*). Now in its 27th year, the festival brings independent productions from around the world to the capital every summer while spotlighting local talent. The films are curated into themed sections – including a different City in Focus each year – the International New Talent Competition is staged to showcase debut and second-feature directors, and the Taipei Film Awards celebrate excellence in Taiwanese cinema.

Another important annual cinema event in Taipei is the **Taipei Golden Horse Film Festival** (*goldenhorse.org.tw*), the largest and longest-running film festival in Taiwan. Founded in 1980 to introduce acclaimed foreign films to local audiences, it continues that mission through its rich, thoughtfully curated programming while presenting a wide spectrum of Chinese-language productions from Taiwan, China, Malaysia, Singapore, etc. The lineup includes films nominated for the prestigious Golden Horse Awards, widely regarded as the “Oscars of Chinese-language cinema.” A key festival venue, introduced last year, is the Golden Horse × Vieshow Co-branded Cinema, reflecting the successful blending of art films in Taiwan’s mainstream movie culture.

Golden Horse × Vieshow Co-Branded Cinema
© Taipei Golden Horse Film Festival



Cultural-Creative Parks

Former industrial sites and heritage buildings across Taipei are being revitalized into dynamic creative hubs blending history with contemporary culture. With much to explore, these spaces have become popular destinations for both locals and tourists, offering a mix of art and design exhibitions, craft markets, specialty stores, hands-on workshops, live performances, and more.

One of the most prominent examples is the aforementioned **Huashan 1914 Creative Park** (www.huashan1914.com), a sprawling complex that was built as a wine and sake factory during the Japanese era. It almost became the site of Taiwan's legislature – fortunately, that plan was scrapped in favor of what has become one of Taipei's premier cultural-creative hubs. With red-brick buildings, tall arched windows, sloped tile roofs, and ivy-covered concrete walls, the site unfolds through a maze of narrow walkways and open courtyards that encourage wandering and spontaneous discovery.

Still retaining its raw, time-weathered industrial charm, the park now plays host to a wide array of exhibitions, performances, workshops, and specialty boutiques, as well as an arthouse cinema (see page 13), live-music venue, vinyl shop (see page 11), and a diverse mix of restaurants, cafés, and bars.



Songshan Cultural and Creative Park



Huashan 1914 Creative Park





Programming ranges from pop culture showcases, such as anime and collectibles, to immersive art experiences, family-friendly fairs, and expos displaying local creativity. Visitors can browse select concept shops, join creative workshops, or catch an outdoor performance.

With an endless rotation of pop-up shows and markets, special collaborations, and themed festivals, it seems that there's always something new to discover at Huashan.

Built in 1937, the expansive Songshan Tobacco Factory across town in Xinyi District has been repurposed into Taipei's leading design and cultural center, the **Songshan Cultural and Creative Park** (www.songshanculturalpark.org). Its distinct, modernist industrial architecture features high ceilings and long corridors encircling a tranquil central garden, while a spacious, tree-lined plaza often serves as a stage for outdoor markets, live performances, and food trucks. The park has recently begun offering English guided tours, allowing foreign visitors a deeper understanding of its historic architecture and rich history.

A row of neatly arranged concrete warehouses functions as exhibition and event spaces. Retaining a raw, utilitarian aesthetic, they host pop-up installations, cultural festivals, immersive experiences, student showcases, and pop culture-oriented fairs.

The park positions itself as an incubator for design and innovation, to cultivate emerging talent, support local brands, and explore global trends. The site is home to the Taiwan Design Museum, specialty design shops, a hands-on workshop for upcycling waste materials, coworking studios, and a design library. Major events such as the Golden Pin Design Awards, the Taiwan Design Expo, graduation shows, and seasonal festivals further highlight the creative edge of this park. 📍

Galleries

Association of Visual Arts in Taiwan | 台灣視覺藝術協會
 Double Square Gallery | 双方藝廊
 FreeS Art Space | 福利社
 Hantoo Art Group | 悍圖社
 Project Fulfill Art Space | 就在藝術空間
 San Yu | 常玉
 Tina Keng Gallery | 耿畫廊
 Whitestone Gallery | 白石畫廊
 Zao Wou-Ki | 趙無極

Music Store

White Wabbit Records | 小白兔唱片

Alternative Cinemas

EsLite Art House | 誠品電影院
 Hou Hsiao-hsien | 侯孝賢
 SPOT Taipei | 光點台北電影館
 Taipei Film Festival | 台北電影節
 Taiwan Film & Culture Association | 台灣電影文化協會
 Taipei Golden Horse Film Festival | 台北金馬影展
 Wonderful Theatre | 真善美劇院

Cultural-Creative Parks

Golden Pin Design Awards | 金點設計獎
 Huashan 1914 Creative Park | 華山 1914 文化創意產業園區
 Songshan Cultural and Creative Park | 松山文創園區
 Taiwan Design Expo | 台灣設計展
 Taiwan Design Museum | 台灣設計館



MAP

LIFE ENCOUNTERS ART



TAIPEI'S HYBRID CULTURAL-CREATIVE SPACES

TEXT | **HAN CHEUNG** PHOTOS | **CHEN CHENG-KUO**

Taipei's cultural-creative venues often serve multiple functions. Visitors may encounter any combination of gallery, café, bookstore, select shop, art studio, or community space, the components blending fluidly to craft a unique experience. It's also common for such spaces to host workshops, talks, performances, and other cultural events.

The subdued, gray façade at ISland belies its quirky three-story interior, filled with carefully selected arts and crafts, mostly from Taiwanese artists. The space is located in a quiet alley in the Qingtian Street neighborhood, popular for its vintage Japanese houses and atmospheric cafés.

Many of the offerings are made from natural materials, emphasizing earthy textures, and are inspired by organic forms. These include ceramics, lifestyle goods, fragrances, jewelry, apparel, lighting, decorative objects, household wares, and other curiosities. ISland also collaborates with local artists and organizations to create unique pieces, such as a gift box containing a hand-blown shot glass and kumquat mead, or a series of everyday items featuring artwork by people with disabilities.

With high ceilings and abundant natural light, the first floor immediately evokes a sense of calm, encouraging visitors to wander. The flowing, sculptural spiral staircase serves as the room's centerpiece, leading to the mezzanine where more creative goods await. Visitors can remove their shoes and try the locally designed floor chairs in a small corner by a window with a view onto cherry blossoms in the spring; the space is bathed in a soothing orange glow during sunsets.

Beside the staircase is an arched portal leading down to the spacious basement gallery, in which themed exhibitions by Taiwanese artists are periodically featured, often with an emphasis on handicrafts. Past exhibitions include an exploration of "time" by three artists through ceramics, glass, and repurposed used objects, as well as a modern interpretation of indigenous paper mulberry-fiber techniques.

ISland also hosts workshops on such subjects as herbal candle-making, Japanese *maki-e* lacquer clock decorating, and leatherworking.

ISLAND 一嶼

📍 10, Ln. 6, Qingtian St., Daan Dist.

☎ (02) 2391-6505

🌐 www.is-land.tw

🕒 Wed-Sun 12:00pm-7:00pm



Drawing inspiration from Italo Calvino's fantastical novel *Invisible Cities*, the minimalist, white interior at Winsing Art Place possesses hidden architectural surprises that unfold as the visitor journeys through the main gallery, café, and bookstore.

One such detail is found in a partially open section of the otherwise low-ceilinged ground-floor gallery, where one can spot an arched opening above, hinting at another realm beyond. This compels the visitor to investigate, prompting them to exit the gallery and head up a striking black staircase to the second-floor library. It turns out that this is one of a series of openings aligned neatly across the space, revealing shifting perspectives and sightlines depending on position. These subtle features link the three main separate areas visually, adding to the intrigue of wandering through the place.

Seating area on the ground floor



Staircase to the second floor

Created by Winsing Art Foundation, which is backed by a development company, this architecture- and city-themed space is located in a quaint residential neighborhood in Neihu District. The gallery primarily showcases work by internationally renowned artists; past shows have featured Japanese photographer Hiroshi Sugimoto, French conceptualist Pierre Huyghe, Mexican artist Gabriel Orozco, and American photographer Nan Goldin. This autumn/winter, the gallery hosts a retrospective exhibition focusing on Chinese-born artist Li Yuan Chia's creative journey. Li studied art in Taiwan and is considered to have been one of the founding fathers of Chinese abstract painting in the 1950s.

The bookstore section feels like a secluded sanctuary. Transparent bookshelves add to the meditative atmosphere, while the semi-open layout offers occasional glimpses of the floors below. The shop mostly offers architecture and art books, which include rare and out-of-print titles. There's a table with titles curated around a specific theme, and the space also hosts artist talks and discussions on architecture and the urban landscape.

WINSING ART PLACE 文心藝所

📍 6, Aly. 10, Ln. 180, Sec. 6, Minquan E. Rd., Neihu Dist.

☎ (02) 2790-2786

📱 [instagram.com/winsingartplace](https://www.instagram.com/winsingartplace)

🕒 Wed-Sat, Mon 10:30am-6:30pm

Sun 1:30pm-8:30pm

Art pieces curated with books



Those seeking refuge from bustling shopping malls, entertainment hotspots, and crowds on Nanjing West Road can duck into Link Lion for a moment of peace. Tucked away on a narrow-façade commercial building's second floor, this space combines a gallery, bookstore, café, and select shop in a warm and inviting venue. With the atmosphere falling somewhere between that of a formal gallery and a cozy café, visitors can browse the abundant offerings at their leisure or simply sit down and unwind.

The Lion brand has long been a champion of the arts in Taiwan. Its story began with the influential Lion Art Monthly magazine that ran from 1971 to 1996. Opened in 2016, Link Lion continues this legacy through the connecting of people to art and culture.

The main gallery features a rotating selection of works by Taiwanese and Japanese artists, spanning illustration, ceramics, photography, paper sculpture, and picture books. Picture books also feature significantly in Link Lion's reading selection, including a section dedicated to India's Tara Books, which specializes in handcrafted publications. The rest of the books focus on art and culture, with a full archive of Lion Art Monthly and other Lion publications. Curated shelves feature books recommended by notable cultural figures.

The store also offers a selection of decorative and lifestyle goods, including in-house Buddhist items such as decorations, meditation apparel, and singing bowls. Link Lion regularly holds workshops, ranging from calligraphy to crocheting to oil printing – as well as lecture series, the most recent one exploring music found in films. 📖



LINK LION 雄獅星空

📍 2F, 9, Nanjing W. Rd., Zhongshan Dist.

☎ (02) 2523-6173

🌐 www.linklionart.com

🕒 Wed-Fri, Sun 1:00pm-7:00pm

Sat 10:00am-7:00pm

TAIPEI'S LIVE SHOW VENUES

Intimate Encounters with Performing Arts and Artists

TEXT AND PHOTOS | VISION

While Taipei has its share of sizeable world-class venues for the performing arts, there are also numerous excellent smaller venues in the city, where you can appreciate live performances in cozier settings.

Theaters

One of these venues is the Wellspring Theater (bit.ly/wellspring-theater), occupying the 10th floor of the Shuiyuan Market building. Originally an underutilized auditorium, the space was repurposed as part of an initiative by the city government to create a new cultural landmark in the Gongguan area. The theater, which can hold up to 500 seats in a three-sided configuration, hosts a wide variety of performances, including some that are part of the annual Taipei Arts Festival and the Taipei Children's Arts Festival.

Another small-scale performing arts venue is the Umay Theater ([facebook.com/umaytheater](https://www.facebook.com/umaytheater)), located within the Huashan 1914 Creative Park. Here, audiences can experience performances in a space that carries a sense of history. The theater supports a wide range of creative works, including choreographic, theatrical, and musical productions. It recently hosted the Huashan Children's Arts Festival. With a capacity of up to 250 persons, it is ideal for experimental plays and more personal artistic expressions.

Guling Street Avant-garde Theatre (www.glt.org.tw) is another prominent Taipei independent theater space, known for showcasing experimental, avant-garde, and contemporary performances. A diverse program of drama, dance, music, and multimedia art is offered. With a relatively small capacity of 50-70 persons, performances here often create a very close and personal experience between artists and audience. One of its key annual events is *Theatrical Reader X*, where staged readings and talkbacks are curated.

Livehouses

On the live music front, Legacy Taipei (www.legacy.com.tw) is one of Taipei's most renowned venues, a cornerstone of the city's vibrant music scene. This cutting-edge music performance hall, also part of the Huashan 1914 Creative Park, is known for hosting a wide array of musical acts, including pop, rock, indie, and electronic music. Notable performers include Grammy-nominated producer/DJ Jamie xx and vocalist/songwriter Akasaki, who will come this December.

PIPE Live Music (www.pipelivemusic.com) is known for its unique historical setting and variegated programming. It occupies a century-old former water pumping station close to the Taipei Water Park. The venue is celebrated for its rich, wide-ranging program, aiming to attract young audiences with changing musical styles and events. It is one of the key venues for the annual ChillOut Festival. Due to its location, it's one of the few live houses in Taipei capable of hosting events that extend until dawn.

The Wall Live House ([instagram.com/thewalllivehouse](https://www.instagram.com/thewalllivehouse)) is one of Taipei's most iconic independent live music venues, a linchpin of the alternative music scene. Established in 2003, it quickly became a legendary enterprise for its commitment to independent music. Rock, metal, indie, and alternative bands are hosted, as well as hip-hop and electronic music acts. Its basement location contributes to its raw, "underground" aesthetic.

Revolver (www.revolver.tw) is another beloved institution in Taipei's independent music scene, particularly known for its intimate setting and focus on local and emerging talent. It's popular for its no-frills, authentic pub atmosphere, fostering a direct connection between bands and their audiences.

Comedy Clubs

For those looking for laughs, Two Three Comedy Club ([instagram.com/twothreecomedy](https://www.instagram.com/twothreecomedy)) is Taipei's premier dedicated stand-up comedy venue, a vital hub for both aspiring and established comedians in the growing local comedy scene. It is a central stage for local comedians, including Brian Tseng and Kylie Wang, to perform regularly. There are also American comedians like Sam Yarbs, who performs in English.

A pioneering force in Taipei's stand-up comedy and improv scene, Live Comedy Club Taipei (www.comedy.com.tw) is often credited with laying the groundwork for the city's current stand-up boom. Like many great comedy clubs, its basement location contributes to an intimate, unpretentious atmosphere where the focus is entirely on the performance. 📱



MAP





Beitou Hot Spring Museum



Let's Go Play a Day



in Beitou!

Heritage Architecture, Hot Springs & Museums, Sulfur Pits, Mountain Beauty

TEXT | RICK CHARETTE PHOTOS | VISION

The Beitou hot-spring resort area, developed by the Japanese starting back in the 1890s when they ruled Taiwan, sits at the Yangmingshan massif's base in the city's northwest. Start your day tour at MRT Xinbeitou Station, hopping on a S39 bus, which whisks you to all the attractions rolled out below. The buses run Fri-Sun, coming every 30min or so.



Beitou Park

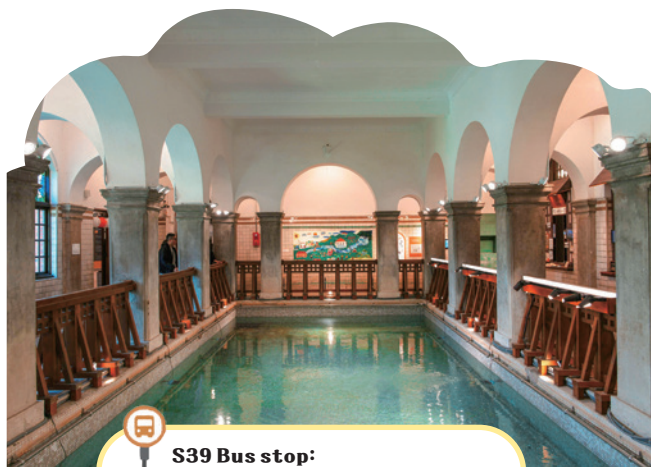
Xinbeitou Historic Station



You've arrived! But don't jump on that bus just yet! Right beside today's metro station is yesteryear's railway station, which stood at the terminus of a Japanese line built to bring folk from the city center to the hot-spring resort. This fetching wood-frame heritage building opened in 1916. Most ostentatious are its ox-eye windows in the steeply sloped roof, added in a 1937 expansion. Awaiting you inside are displays on the station's construction, short period films and photos, and a gift shop area with railway-themed collectibles. The old-world original ticket windows remain in place, one now serving as the gift shop sales counter.



S39 Bus stop:
Xinbeitou Historic Sta.



S39 Bus stop:
Beitou Hot Spring Museum

Beitou Hot Spring Museum

Now, all aboard (unless you want to walk to the museum, which is just 6min)! The S39, that is, which embarks from right beside the metro station's Exit 1. You head up a narrow, gentle-slope valley carved by a hot-spring stream, the main resort area, then jump up to the valley's top and into the high-hill terrain beyond. First stop, Beitou Hot Spring Museum (*hotspringmuseum.taipei*), a Tudor-style mansion-look property built by the Japanese in 1913 as Taiwan's first public bathhouse – East Asia's largest. Inside the museum, you can see exhibits on the history and culture of the Beitou hot-spring area, as well as features like the former bath and tatami rooms.

Thermal Valley

On to the next bus stop to visit Thermal Valley (or a short, easy walk from the hot-spring museum; 8min). This is a small nature park in a high-walled, very humid depression right off the main valley, filled up with a shallow, bubbling, turquoise-hue lake pumping out sulfurous steam. A wide pathway takes you around the lake, one of our world's two green sulfur hot springs. A new attraction is the "streamside meditation area." While sitting on the long stone benches lining the sides of the depression's gurgling narrow exit channel, you can feel the heat from the hot springs, giving you a soothing sauna-like experience.



S39 Bus stop:
Yinguang Lane Entrance



Stone benches in Thermal Valley



Brae Café

Time for a bite and a beverage! Between Thermal Valley and your bus stop is the cozy wood-façade, cottage-style Brae Café, tucked up against the main-valley hillside – its Chinese name translates directly as “beside the brae.” Outdoor porch seating looks directly down through the valley and what fills it up, leafy Beitou Park. Choose from premium coffees and other liquid fare such as fruit smoothies, sweet treats such as cinnamon rolls and affogato, and simple foods such as quiche and Chinese dumplings.

BRAE CAFÉ 山边咖啡

- 📍 110-1, Wenquan Rd., Beitou Dist.
- ☎ (02) 2893-9325
- 📘 facebook.com/BraeCafe
- 🕒 Mon, Thur-Sun 11:00am-6:00pm



S39 Bus stop:
Beitou Museum

Beitou Museum

Onward, upward! A short hop now up narrow roads to the valley's top and the Beitou Museum (beitoumuseum.org.tw), overlooking our just-visited area. This impressively restored complex of buildings of Chinese Tang Dynasty design, dating to 1921, is among Taiwan's largest examples of Japanese wood-built architecture. Originally home of the famed Kazan Hotel, long Taiwan's premier hot-spring inn, during WWII it did duty as an imperial officers' club and, famously, entertained kamikaze pilots before their big days. The museum stages exhibits with Beitou history, Taiwan's folkways, and indigenous peoples as foci, and offers a tea ceremony experience and restaurant serving *Kaiseki* vegetarian fare.



Marshal Zen Garden

Right next door to the museum, the Marshal Zen Garden (sgarden.com.tw) is another esteemed heritage complex of Japanese-built architecture, here done in classical Japanese style. It has had a storied history: life started as an upscale hot-spring inn in 1920, during WWII it was used by the Japanese army as a place of comfort for Kamikaze special forces before their missions, and afterwards it was long a house-arrest abode for Marshal Zhang Xue-liang. Today, the enclave is home to an upscale Marshal-themed restaurant and small museum, teahouse, and hot-spring soaking facilities.



Sulfur Valley

The S39's penultimate stop is by the bottom of Sulfur Valley, a massive open scar-like pit on the Earth's face percolating with an otherworldly spectacle of steam vents and boiling hot-spring pools with an unnatural turquoise color, rich-yellow sulfur deposits, and high bare-rock walls. A well-maintained pathway with some steep sections takes you through the valley from the bottom parking lot to the roadway at the top (just east of the last bus stop). You'll see a cacophony of pipes leading from the pools, delivering liquid gold to the resort-area facilities down below. Attractive foot-soak facilities are found near the parking lot. 📍



S39 Bus stop:
Mituo Temple (Sulfur Valley)

Taipei Hot Springs Season 台北溫泉季

This annual festival (Nov 1-4 in 2025) features a diverse program of cultural performances and experiences, exhibits, and charity initiatives with hot springs/Beitou themes, including "witches singing concerts" ("Beitou" is a bastardization of the original indigenous name, meaning witches/sorceresses). Preferential accommodation/dining/bathing deals are also available.



Beitou Hot Spring Museum | 北投溫泉博物館
Beitou Park | 北投公園
Beitou Museum | 北投文物館
Marshal Zen Garden | 少帥禪園
Sulfur Valley | 硫磺谷
Thermal Valley | 地熱谷
Xinbeitou Historic Station | 新北投車站



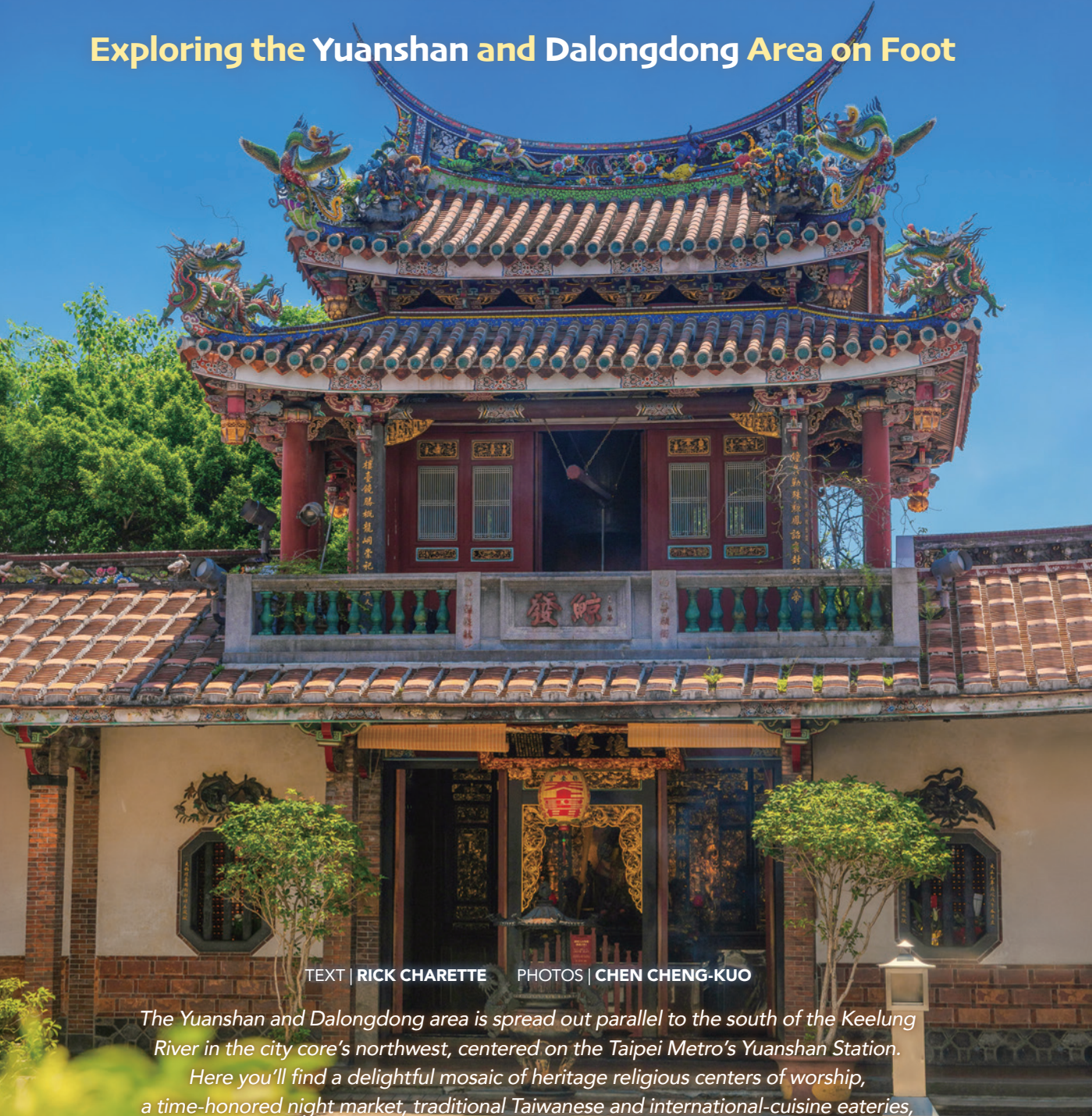
MAP



S39 Real-time

Old Ways and New Ways in Cultural Fusion

Exploring the Yuanshan and Dalongdong Area on Foot



TEXT | RICK CHARETTE PHOTOS | CHEN CHENG-KUO

The Yuanshan and Dalongdong area is spread out parallel to the south of the Keelung River in the city core's northwest, centered on the Taipei Metro's Yuanshan Station.

Here you'll find a delightful mosaic of heritage religious centers of worship, a time-honored night market, traditional Taiwanese and international-cuisine eateries, and a sprawling leisure-plus-entertainment park with outdoor food court and shops, a weekend farmers' market, and a leading fine-arts museum.

Religious Sites

Walking west of MRT Yuanshan Station is a peregrination deep into Taipei's past. Dalongdong Baoan Temple and Taipei Confucius Temple were once the beating hearts of Dalongdong, a community spread out along the Keelung River.

Dalongdong Baoan Temple is one of the city's most ornate and busiest, recognized for its extraordinary decorative arts. Dedicated to the God of Medicine, temple construction began in 1804, replacing a shrine dating to 1742. This is a priceless work of art that has been recognized with national heritage-protection status and a UNESCO Asia-Pacific Award for Cultural Heritage Conservation. The virtuoso wood and stone sculptures, paintings, and koji pottery have been created over different periods by Taiwan's greatest masters, making it a showcase gallery of religious art.

DALONGDONG BAOAN TEMPLE

大龍峒保安宮

📍 61, Hami St., Datong Dist.

☎ (02) 2595-1676

🌐 baoan.org.tw

🕒 6:00am-9:00pm



Diagonally across the street is Taipei Confucius Temple, built 1920s-1930s. Though magnificent in its own right, it is a world apart from Baoan Temple's visual gaiety – honoring the Great Sage's valuing of simplicity, its mien is appropriately austere. Modeled after the original Confucius Temple in Qufu, China, no stone lions guard the entrance, no inscriptions adorn columns, doors, or windows, and there's no image of Confucius, simply a memorial tablet. The site's 4D Theater introduces the temple and Confucian cultural spirit.



Dalong Street Night Market

This night market, situated near the temples along Dalong Street, offers delicious street food from morning until night. Mornings feature numerous stalls with Taiwanese breakfast favorites like *shaobing youtiao* with soy milk, fried egg pancakes, and various rice, noodle, and congee dishes. As night falls, the market transforms with many traditional, long-standing, and even award-winning delicacies, such as braised pork rice, salty crispy chicken, and oyster omelets.



TAIPEI CONFUCIUS TEMPLE 台北孔廟

📍 275, Dalong St., Datong Dist.

☎ (02) 2592-3934

🌐 www.tctcc.taipei

🕒 Tue-Sun 8:30am-9pm

Traditional Eats



TANG SHAN PO RETRO BISTRO
 唐山婆古早味炸肉
 📍 72, Jiuquan St., Datong Dist.
 ☎️ (02) 2599-7699
 🕒 Wed-Sun 11:15am-11:30pm
 Mon 11:15am-9:00pm



Tasty options abound in the neighborhood. Tang Shan Po Retro Bistro is an adorable little eatery a short walk west of Dalong Street Night Market's north end. It specializes in classic Taiwan-style bento and side dishes, with a decor emulating homespun old-time diners. Fried meats are their specialty, declared right in their Chinese name. The pork is beloved for its crispy exterior and tender, flavorful meat.

Order at the street-facing window counter, and if eating in, enter the long and narrow diner-style eating area through the old-style wood door. You'll be entering yesteryear Taiwan: terrazzo floor, ceramic tiling, climbing halfway up the walls (for coolness/easier cleaning), vintage conical farmer's hats, and straw-woven raingear as wall adornments. The bestselling house bento options are the old-fashioned fried breaded pork strips and fried pork chop.

Between Tang Shan Po and Dalong Street is Ice Cool, another Dalongdong culinary icon. If you're in Taiwan, you're likely here on a hot day, and this modern-décor eat-in shop is a specialist in traditional shaved-ice treats and tofu pudding, two islander-treasured means to beating the subtropical heat. Among the quintessential toppings available are sweetened adzuki and mung beans, tapioca pearls, grass jelly cubes, taro balls, pineapple, and hard/soft peanuts. Note, however, that when cool times come, there are also hot items available, notably the warming tofu pudding creations.



ICE COOL 二水三京
 📍 66, Jiuquan St., Datong Dist.
 ☎️ (02) 2595-8048
 📷 [instagram.com/icecoolyummy](https://www.instagram.com/icecoolyummy)
 🕒 Sun-Mon 11:00am-10:00pm





Step east from MRT Yuanshan Station and you're immediately in the Yuanshan Park Area of Taipei Expo Park, one of several contiguous areas used for the hugely attended Taipei International Flora Expo in 2010-2011. Inviting MAJI Square, covered by a high protective roof, is one of this city's precious places where you can eat and drink outdoors. In the Yuanshan Park Area's south sector, a food court is its centerpiece, surrounded by a bazaar-style selection of restaurants, shops, and vendor stalls, many housed in cargo containers and shed-like kiosks.

The square's MAJI Food & Deli is a select shop stuffed with myriad Taiwanese artisanal food and household products, many of which are great take-home gifts/souvenirs. As one suggestion, you can't go wrong with Taiwan's premium boutique mountain-cultivated teas and coffees.

Among MAJI Square's most popular vendors are those offering diverse international cuisine, including Latin American dishes, alongside classic Taiwanese street food stalls, a local bagel shop, a prominent British-style pub, and two bars focused on craft beer.



MAJI SQUARE

- 📍 1, Yumen St., Zhongshan Dist.
- ☎ (02) 2597-7112
- 🕒 11:00am-9:00pm



🍷 Please drink responsibly

Taipei Expo Farmers Market

Held outside the square each Sat/Sun, the daytime Taipei Expo Farmers Market (expofarmersmarket.gov.taipei) provides 120-plus booths run by small farms across Taiwan, emphasizing the agri-products unique to each region, from fresh produce to processed goods.



Fine Arts

In the contiguous Fine Arts Park Area to the east is the Taipei Fine Arts Museum (TFAM), opened in 1983 as the island's first facility dedicated to the exhibition of contemporary artworks, its collection containing works starting from the early 20th century. It sits on the former site of the United States Taiwan Defense Command. The shape of the striking white-facade structure, seen from above, is the Chinese character 井, a form inspired by the traditional Chinese *siheyuan*, a residential complex centered on a courtyard with conjoined buildings on all four sides. The museum features four long, cylinder-shaped sections that intersect, creating promenade-style exhibition spaces.

With a mission to promote Taiwanese contemporary art and fostering international exchange, its key internationally renowned museum-organized happening – Taiwan's most prestigious art event – is the Taipei Biennial (taipeibiennial.org), overseen by international star curators. The 14th Taipei Biennial, themed *Whispers on the Horizon*, will run from November 1 to March 29 next year, featuring 33 newly commissioned works and site-specific installations across diverse mediums and styles.



TAIPEI FINE ARTS MUSEUM 台北市立美術館
📍 181, Sec. 3, Zhongshan N. Rd., Zhongshan Dist.
☎ (02) 2595-7656
🌐 www.tfam.museum
🕒 Tue-Sun 9:30am-5:30pm (Sat till 8:30 pm)

Situated by the south entrance of the TFAM, Rolling Dough is a recently hatched offspring of Taiwan's acclaimed MUME Hospitality Group (MMHG), which operates multiple Michelin restaurants. The concept here is a specialty-coffee café where, in keeping with its location, the croissant is treated as a work of art (along with other artful pastries). The kitchen's master artist is a celebrated Swiss pastry chef. His croissant masterpieces are post-traditional, molded into cubes, cylinders, and spheres beyond the standard crescents. There are six flavor choices on the menu, including Pain au chocolat, Seasonal Fruit chausson, and Marguerita chausson (savory pastry). Other flavors, such as the popular Pistachio, might be offered as well. A unique non-culinary treat at this immaculate-white space of floor-to-ceiling windows is the thrilling sight of airplanes flying very low overhead – Taipei Songshan Airport is just to the east.

Bonami, also in the south entrance area, is another MMHG invention. Starring a Hong Kong-born chef who has worked in multiple Michelin-starred kitchens, this is a bistro serving French home-style dishes, but with a twist, classic French techniques refined with local-flavor tweaks, crafting works comfortingly familiar yet subtly refined. For example, the classic pâté de campagne is created with chicken liver, minced pork, and pork back fat. The labor-intensive, slow-cooked pork head roll features crispy and crunchy pork skin, tongue, and ear, and is served with a side of perilla leaves.

“Bon ami” means “good friend” in French, and the stress here, with a nod to the TFAM's “shared-with-friends” exhibition-visit experiences: no set menus, instead dining groups customizing shared-repast choices based on group size and preferences. Currently, only dinner (multi-course meals) is available; lunch offerings (light meals such as pastas and sandwiches) are planned for the future.

If you visit on a Saturday, you can continue your art appreciation after a nice dinner, as the museum is open until 8:30pm. 📍



Rolling Dough © MMHG

ROLLING DOUGH

📍 [instagram.com/rollingdough_tw](https://www.instagram.com/rollingdough_tw)
 🕒 Tue-Sun 9:30am-5:30pm

BONAMI

☎️ (02) 2585-0161
 📍 [instagram.com/bonami_tw](https://www.instagram.com/bonami_tw)
 🕒 Tue-Sun 5:30pm-11:00pm



MAP



Dalongdong | 大龍峒
 Dalong Street Night Market | 大龍街夜市
 Fine Arts Park Area | 美術園區
 MAJI Square | 集食行樂
 Taipei Biennial | 台北雙年展
 Taipei Expo Park | 花博公園
 Yuanshan Park Area | 圓山園區



Rolling Dough © MMHG



Bonami © MMHG



BLUE SKY, CLIMB HIGH – CLOUDS ROLL, STREAMSIDE STROLL

Two Hikes to Make the Most of Yangmingshan Whatever the Weather

TEXT | AMI BARNES PHOTOS | RAY CHANG

With summer's heat retreating and the bite of winter still far away, autumn is a great season for exploring Yangmingshan National Park. The following pages will introduce twin trails on the park's eastern fringes — one ideal for big, blue-sky, high-energy days, the other just right for overcast conditions, or for those times when you're in the mood for a gentle, creekside wander.





Qingtiangang Grassland



Cedar forest



Fengguikou Pavilion

Route 01

Fengguikou → Cedar Forest

A lighting at the Fengguizui* bus stop – the third to last stop on the M1 bus route (departs from MRT Jiantan Station) – a 20min uphill jaunt brings you to the boundary between Taipei City and New Taipei City. Here, you'll invariably find gaggles of hikers pausing in the shade of the Fengguikou Pavilion, a handy staging point for removing outer layers, catching your breath, and just generally psyching yourself up before heading any further.

The section of path running between here and the grasslands of Qingtiangang is known variously as the Fengguikou Trail, Mt. Ding – Mt. Shiti Trail, and (part of) Section 3 of the Taipei Grand Trail. Whatever you choose to call it, hikers are thrown in at the deep end – or rather, the steep end. Of the 6.4km route's 370m total elevation gain, a 200m rise is frontloaded in the first kilometer. It's a stone-step baptism of fire, but those who persevere are repaid handsomely for their sweat.

The first time you get a sense of these rewards comes about an hour in, when the path dips to enter a scenic stand of cedar trees. Remnants of patchily successful afforestation efforts undertaken by Japanese authorities in the 1920s, the cedar forest is, in effect, an enchanting scar, an arboreal palace entirely unlike the scenery on the rest of the trail. If you arrive on the first bus of a bright day, rays from the low sun slip in between the damp trunks, coaxing dew to rise as steam and forming backlit mossy halos. Later in the day, a clean piney scent fills the air, and a diffused light dances over the needle-softened ground. It's the perfect spot for a short break.

**The names Fengguikou and Fengguizui are both used to refer to the same location.*





Shitiling Grassland → Qingtiangang

Pressing onwards, the trail continues to climb, albeit more gently. Secondary forest covers these leeward slopes, and the rearguard of the summer cicadas can be heard, wooing their mates – the little winged Romeos sounding increasingly desperate as their chorus numbers dwindle. The air here is close and sultry, scented with a multilayered bouquet of warmed sap, damp fern, and an overripe grassy hint of water buffalo poo.

Speaking of which, there's a decent chance you'll cross paths with members of Yangmingshan's buffalo herd at some point. Their yoked ancestors were hard-working beasts of burden that tilled the rice terraces of Zhuzihu (a farmland area in the southwest part of the national park), but in a classic case of "kids these days," their descendants enjoy a life of leisure, tasked with nothing more onerous than trimming the grass and looking photogenic. Though generally too concerned with filling their perpetually hungry bellies to bother hikers, they're still wild, so if you encounter one don't approach it, just pass calmly, giving it as wide a berth as the path allows.

About 90min into the walk, the trail breaks through the treeline to reach a grassland area. On a clear day – and you absolutely must save this walk for a clear day – the views are stupendous. The city's dense-concentration concrete anthill spills across the Taipei Basin in cut-glass clarity, from the seaward tongue of Shezi Peninsula to the reflective towers of Nangang District. Further afield, down along the northeast coast Bitou Cape can be spotted jutting out to sea, just east of Mt. Keelung. To the west, Linkou District's high-rises perch on their lofty plateau, while to the south, endless mountains are stacked one atop another, each subsequent layer tinted fractionally bluer than the last.



Panoramic view of the Taipei Basin

At the top end of the grassland, the trail skirts Mt. Xinglin, then dips and climbs through broken tree cover as it races to the highest point of the journey – Mt. Shiti (Shitiling). In contrast to the grassland's southeastern aspect, Shitiling faces northwest, giving you views over an entirely different corner of the park. Mt. Qixing, Taipei's highest peak, dominates the westward view. Also visible from up here are Mt. Xiaoguanyin (identifiable by dint of its shimmering cloak of arrow bamboo and communications equipment) and, to the east, the steep hump of Keelung Islet.

The remainder of the walk is almost entirely downhill, although don't be fooled into thinking that means easy. Yangmingshan's steps have a way of feeling steep whichever way you take them. Just as the trail arrives at the end of the Qingtiangang Grassland, it passes Jinbaoli Gate on the right, marking the entrance to the Jinbaoli Trail, or Fishermen's Trail – a historic trading route that connects Taipei's Shilin District with the coastal town of Jinshan. And if you cast your gaze to the left, military bunkers – relics of a later era – stand out amidst the bald buffalo-cropped hillside.

Jinbaoli Gate





Qingtiangang Circular Trail



Mud-bathing water buffalo

Qingtiangang Visitor Center – a small but welcome hiker’s way stop – is this walk’s endpoint. Here you’ll find a shop and an exhibit where you can pass the time by reading up on the area’s history and geology as you await the S15 minibus to whisk you back to town. For those seeking a more extensive hike, continue your walk to the Lengshuikeng area, which features another visitor center and a foot bath. From this point, you can hike even further, ascending the steep slope of Mt. Qixing before descending to conclude your trek at Xiaoyoukeng (famous for its sulfur pits). There you can take bus 108.



Route 02

Fengguikou → Shuangxigou Historic Trail

Too foggy for sweeping vistas? Not in the mood for steep slogs? No problem – a gentler option awaits in the form of the Shuangxigou Historic Trail. From the Fengguizui bus stop, breeze past the steps leading to the Fengguikou Pavilion and follow the road uphill for 1.2km until you see a roadside row of boulders and a Taipei Grand Trail fingerpost marking the trailhead.

Unlike the neat, stone-paved expanses of the Mt. Ding – Mt. Shiti route, Shuangxigou is a wilder affair. Ferns crowd the narrow path, and underfoot it's a mix of earth and rock – just what you'd expect from something designated a historic trail, although in truth, some of the features are not as ancient as they seem. This route has received a little TLC from the Taiwan Thousand Miles Trail Association – a non-profit that (among other things) conserves Taiwan's historic trails using materials sourced on-site and traditional trail-crafting methods. The group's trademark handiwork is so artfully done that, within a year or two, it is all but indistinguishable from neighboring decades-old sections.

Waterways are a recurring motif of Taiwan's old byways, and sure enough, the gentle gurgling of a stream accompanies your steps. Go slowly and you'll encounter a whole world of small-scale life – butterflies, damselflies, beetles, frogs, and lizards are common, and if you're lucky, you might meet a basking rat snake. In a couple of spots the trail and creek run together, with handily placed stepping stones allowing hikers to keep their toes dry in all but the wettest of weathers.

Another common feature of historic trails is evidence of long-gone mountain dwellers' lives. About 300m in, you'll pass a crumbling stone residence. Only a single moss-clad gable end remains, but study the negative space carefully and the ghosts of the other three walls start to reveal themselves. Two trails depart the old house's clearing, and if you're planning on doing a loop, this is where you'll circle back to. Beyond this point, there's a maze of trails with nothing but hand-written markers to direct you, so it would be wise to download a GPX file or an offline map before setting off.



Sign indicating an old stone residence



Gurgling stream beside the Shuangxigou Historic Trail



Taking the right-hand fork, the path continues its steady climb following the course of a seasonal stream. The trail wends its way roughly straight towards Mt. Wuzhi Industrial Road, passing several junctions and the remnants of an old charcoal kiln. Then, just as you spot the tarmac through the trees, take a sharp left and follow the path running parallel to the road. You'll quickly find yourself passing Mt. Meihua – a quiet clearing with a triangulation stone marking the summit – then the trail dips to join the road once more before diving left to follow the stream back down to the abandoned farmhouse.

From the point where you turn away from Mt. Wuzhi Industrial Road, it takes about 40min to return to the bus stop. However, this is a short walk (90min tops), and you should still have plenty of time before the next bus. So, it makes sense to wander uphill to the cluster of cafés and snack stalls that have accreted around the top of Mt. Wuzhi (at the intersection with Xiwan Road). There, you can kill time by enjoying a mid-hike coffee – Fingers Star City Coffee has outside seating with sweeping mountain views – and, perhaps, a plate of stinky tofu. 🍲



MAP



- Bitou Cape | 鼻頭角
- Fengguikou | 風櫃口
- Fengguikou Pavilion | 風櫃口涼亭
- Fingers Star City Coffee | 五指山星城咖啡
- Fishermen's Trail | 魚路古道
- Jinbaoli Gate | 金包里大路城門
- Keelung Islet | 基隆嶼
- Qingtangang | 擎天崗
- Lengshuikeng | 冷水坑
- Mt. Ding | 頂山
- Mt. Keelung | 基隆山

- Mt. Meihua | 梅花山
- Mt. Qixing | 七星山
- Mt. Shiti (Shitiling) | 石梯嶺
- Mt. Wuzhi | 五指山
- Mt. Xiaoguan Yin | 小觀音山
- Mt. Xinglin | 杏林山
- Shezi Peninsula | 社子島
- Shuangxigou Historic Trail | 雙溪溝古道
- Taipei Grand Trail | 台北大縱走
- Xiaoyoukeng | 小油坑
- Zhuzihu | 竹子湖



Untamed Taipei

Encounters with Extraordinary Wildlife in the City

TEXT | TWELLI PHOTOS | WILD BIRD SOCIETY OF TAIPEI

Taipei offers surprisingly good birding opportunities, even within its core and suburban areas. Despite being a busy metropolis, the city has a diversity of habitats, from high mountains to riverside parks, attracting many resident and migratory bird species. Birdwatchers can hope to spot iconic endemic species like the Taiwan Blue Magpie and the Taiwan Whistling Thrush, along with various finches, warblers, and raptors, making Taipei a rewarding destination for urban birdwatching.

Taiwan Blue Magpie

The Taiwan Blue Magpie (*Urocissa caerulea*), also known as the Formosan Blue Magpie, is a stunning bird found only in Taiwan. Often called the “long-tailed mountain lady” due to its impressive tail. It has vibrant blue feathers, a black head, and a striking red bill and legs. These intelligent creatures are highly social, frequently seen flying in groups of three to twelve. They even engage in cooperative breeding, with younger birds from previous broods helping raise new chicks. They can often be found near homes in mountainous areas. Their call is raucous, sometimes described as a high-pitched cackling chatter. These magpies are fiercely protective of their nests and young and are known to attack intruders. Students at Chinese Culture University, where these avians are often spotted, even jokingly list bird attacks as a reason not to study there! Despite so, the bird is still a national favorite.

Taiwan Blue Magpie

台灣藍鵲

Length: 63-68cm,
tail length up to 40cm

Wings: 20cm

Food: Omnivorous; plants, fruits, seeds, insects, snakes, rodents, and even chicks of other birds

Taiwan Blue Magpie © Kung-Kuo Chiang

Taiwan Whistling Thrush

The Taiwan Whistling Thrush (*Myophonus insularis*), also known as the Formosan Whistling Thrush, is another endemic bird only found in Taiwan. This large thrush is mostly blackish-blue, with deep red eyes, black bill, lores, and legs, and a scaled pattern on its neck, breast, and flanks. Both sexes are similar, while juveniles are dull blackish with a bluish tinge and yellowish gape. The birds live in damp ravines and mountain forests near fast-flowing streams. Activity is greatest at dawn and dusk. They hop among rocks in forest streams, often bobbing their tails when perched. The thrush's call is a sharp, high-pitched whistle, sometimes likened to the sound of screeching bicycle brakes. They are monogamous, with a breeding season from late March to early September, raising two broods. Nests, made of twigs, roots, stems, and moss, are built in rock or tree holes or on human structures. 📌



Taiwan Whistling Thrush

紫嘯鶇

Length: 28-30cm

Wings: 15-16cm

Food: Shrimp, earthworms, insects, frogs, reptiles, and fish

Taiwan Whistling Thrush © Yunlong Tseng

Baking Up a Storm

Making Traditional Taiwanese Pastries with the Help of a Century-Old Bakery Brand

TEXT | HOLLIE YOUNGER PHOTOS | RAY CHANG

At Jiu Zhen Nan's branch in Taipei's Zhongshan District, you can take a han pastry baking class and forge your own flaky han pastry — from national-icon pineapple cakes to mung bean pastry, they'll guide you from dough to delight. With the Mid-Autumn Festival approaching, a time for exchanging traditional pastries like moon cakes, it's the perfect occasion to visit the bakery!



Jiu Zhen Nan was founded in 1890, at the dusk of the Qing Empire and the dawn of Taiwan's Japanese era. Its handcrafted fine pastries have remained a mainstay throughout a tumultuous 136 years of Taiwanese history. Expanding across the island from a humble bakery in Tainan City in the south to a beloved household name, today their pastries remain popular as traditional wedding gifts and afternoon tea accompaniments.

The brand has bakeries across Taipei and major hotspots in Taiwan. Its Taipei flagship store is tucked into the rather luxurious Regent Taipei hotel, which is located just a short walk from MRT Zhongshan Station.

The store offers small, private *han* pastry baking class right in the heart of the capital (reservations required). Classes are primarily in Chinese, though the teacher can guide foreign tourists through the 90-min process in English (and some Japanese), providing some basic instructions and step-by-step demonstration.

Jiu Zhen Nan embodies the very essence of Taiwan's patisserie culture and its evolution. What better place to learn to make your very own pastries?

Entering the hotel's elegant, sprawling lobby, we find the boutique-style bakery on the first floor (the level below the lobby), flooded with natural light, inviting and refined in equal measure. Our teacher for the day introduces herself as Xiao Mao, meaning "Little Kitten." She is bubbly, patient, and super-friendly.

Traditional *han* pastries, or *hanbing*, have a short, crumbly texture. Xiao Mao explains that Taiwan's high humidity lends itself to pastries with lower water content to prevent spoiling. Goopy pineapple jam or paste made with taro – the sweet and starchy purple root – makes the perfect filling.



Jiu Zhen Nan branch inside Regent Taipei



Flour, sugar, and butter for making mung bean pastry



Attending a *han* pastry baking class





We begin with a brief introduction to Taiwanese pastries and the brand's history and culture, complemented later by a sampling of four mini tasters of the brand's bestselling cakes, accompanied by flowing teacups of honey-scented black tea. Now time to put on our aprons and get baking.

Our task is to create mung bean pastry, or *ludou peng*. The “peng” comes from the Taiwanese Hokkien word for cake, onomatopoeic to how the pastries “puff up” in the oven. A peculiar culinary discovery for travelers to discover in Taiwan is that beans – yes, beans – are widely used in traditional sweet treats, quite the opposite of Western cuisine. From adzuki beans to kidney beans to mung beans, all can be found paired with tofu pudding, shaved ice, and baked goods.



1 Mixing the ingredients



3 Wrapping the mung bean paste



2 Rolling out the dough



4 Decorating the dough with cute stamps



Stamps include Chinese characters, like the name of the poet Li Bai

On this day, we're working with the humble mung bean, a small green bean that's been used in traditional remedies for centuries to relieve internal heat; it's no wonder that it is very popular in subtropical Taipei. Our cake requires us to make two forms of dough following the traditional "laminated pastry" technique, which layers fat and flour to eventually give that "puffed up" effect in the oven.

First, we assemble the "outer dough" or *youpì*, the Taiwanese take on puff pastry dough. Flour, butter, powdered sugar, and water are mixed, folded, layered, stretched, and rolled until we have two evenly sized balls of springy dough left to rise while we work on the next stage.

The "inner dough" or *yousu* that we make next contains just flour and butter, yielding a drier, less pliable dough. Once more, we knead and knot the ingredients to form equally sized balls of dough.

We then combine the two types of dough, layering the springier outer dough with the shorter, fattier inner dough until we have four round discs. We pop in tightly rolled balls of mung bean paste, pre-made by teacher Xiao Mao, with just a hint of sugar and butter for sweetness. Once we've folded and molded our four mung bean cakes into their final round, "full-moon shaped" form, it's time to get creative.

Mung bean pastry traditionally have good luck symbols stamped on top in signature red food coloring, but today we get to play with stamps fashioned into

heart shapes, floral designs, and even iconic local sights like the Taipei 101 tower and Beimen (North Gate) to make our own designs.

We pose with our final creations for teacher Xiao Mao, who prints out framed photo keepsakes for us to take home. Then, it's time to put them in the oven and watch them puff up. Twenty minutes later, after a delicious *hanbing* sampling and afternoon tea, our culinary artworks and souvenir pics are ready. Teacher Xiao Mao even lets us sample one of her creations straight from the oven. The pastry tastes best warm, flaky, and freshly baked.

Now that we have created our yummy cakes, we have the perfect gifts to present to our loved ones, offering them something special this Mid-Autumn Festival! 📸

JIU ZHEN NAN (TAIPEI REGENT HOTEL STORE)

舊振南 (台北晶華店)

📍 3, Ln. 39, Sec. 2, Zhongshan N. Rd., Zhongshan Dist.

☎️ (02) 2511-2295

🌐 www.jzn.com.tw

🕒 Sun-Mon 10:00am-9:00pm



hanbing | 漢餅
ludou peng | 綠豆椪
youpì | 油皮
yousu | 油酥



EAT LIKE A STAR

Local Eateries That Have Gained Attention After Celebrity Visits

TEXT | JENNA LYNN CODY PHOTOS | VISION



In Taipei, restaurants and street stalls that look humble can still attract serious star power. Restaurants visited by Jensen Huang, the CEO of NVIDIA, regularly make the news. K-pop idols also constantly create buzz when they eat out in Taipei. Sometimes it's a night-market stall with sizzling oyster omelets, a beef noodle restaurant that is open well past midnight, or a local favorite for pork trotters – all of these spots gain a bit more fame when celebrities pull up a seat.

Jensen Huang's Favorites

Few business leaders are as well-regarded in Taiwan as Jensen Huang, the co-founder and CEO of NVIDIA. For many, he embodies the middle-class-to-riches dream. His frequent visits to Taiwan have earned a great deal of positive publicity. Entire articles are written about the places he visits while in Taiwan, including restaurants.

On a recent visit, Huang was spotted at Goose City Seafood, a well-known quick-fry establishment in Zhongshan District with an extensive menu and quick service. As with most such restaurants, the seafood here is on display on ice and in water-filled tubs and small tanks; patrons choose what they want by looking over the day's fresh catch. Among the most popular choices are the restaurant's signature goose, along with classic seafood dishes like whole fish, a variety of shrimp plates, and fresh sashimi. The menu also features classic Taiwanese dishes, including items like stinky tofu and century egg cooked in a three-cup sauce—a mixture of sesame oil, light soy sauce, and rice wine. You can also find other staples common in stir-fry restaurants, such as fried rice and stir-fried water snowflake.

Of course, the goose is popular as well, with tender sliced goose meat served with fragrant basil, slivered ginger, and tangy dipping sauce, and both goose liver and gizzard, on the menu. And as with every quick-fry restaurant, no meal is complete without a bottle of Taiwan Beer.



Goose meat



Fried rice



Stir-fried water snowflake



Fu Ba Wang Pork Restaurant



Pork trotters



Pork knuckles

Huang also visited Fu Ba Wang Pork Restaurant on Nanjing East Road. Pork knuckle is a quintessential dish in Taiwanese cuisine: braised in rich soy sauce, green onion, sugar, and spices – usually a combination of cinnamon, fennel, star anise, pepper, and clove – until the skin and meat turn a dark caramel color, it's as indulgent as it is fattening. Fu Ba Wang regularly draws long queues for its bento lunchboxes, and also because dine-in seating is limited.

The kitchen's top dishes are all pork leg cuts: hock, knuckle, and trotter. The pork hock is a sliced cut of leg, the knuckle is the whole joint cut, and the trotter is the foot. They're all succulent, collagen-rich dishes, but the trotter is known specifically for being collagen- and gelatin-forward after the long braising process.

GOOSE CITY SEAFOOD 鵝肉城海鮮

📍 77, Liaoning St., Zhongshan Dist.

☎ (02) 2751-6922

🕒 4:30pm-1:00am

FU BA WANG PORK RESTAURANT 富霸王豬腳

📍 20, Ln. 115, Sec. 2, Nanjing E. Rd., Zhongshan Dist.

☎ (02) 2507-1918

🕒 Tue-Sat 11:00am-7:30pm

🍷 Please drink responsibly

K-Pop Stars Raving about Beef Noodles



When K-pop artists lend their star power to Taiwanese eateries, the country takes notice. Tien Hsia San Chueh in Daan District, long recognized by Bib Gourmand for seven years, gain even more popularity among K-pop fans after visits by Woozi and Hoshi, members of the Billboard chart regular boy band Seventeen. During their tour visit in July 2025, Woozi was so impressed by the restaurant's beef noodle soup that he shared his culinary experience with fans during their Taipei concert. They even went to the restaurant again the next day. The visits, along with Woozi's expressed desire to learn the recipe, and Hoshi's Instagram photo dump, created a stir online and made the restaurant a must-visit destination for many of their fans.

The restaurant has always been popular for its exceptional food quality at affordable prices. Boldly proclaiming to serve "The Rolls Royce of Beef Noodles," the restaurant is known for its upscale atmosphere, a stark contrast to the typical simple and often cramped beef noodle eatery. The key component of the beef noodles is the broth, which is created by simmering beef bones, ribs, and four different types of tomatoes for eight hours, resulting in a deep, rich, and sweet flavor profile.

The Signature Beef Noodle Soup is particularly special as it features four distinct cuts of Australian beef, including beef tail, beef shank, beef tendon, and beef heel muscle, allowing patrons to savor a range of textures and flavors in a single bowl. What also distinguishes this restaurant from other beef noodle establishments is that it offers a selection of red wines (Cabernet Sauvignon), the perfect complement to the high-end beef noodle offerings.



Beef noodles soup with the upgraded tomato broth is a top pick



TIEN HSIA SAN CHUEH 天下三絕

- 📍 3, Ln. 27, Sec. 4, Renai Rd., Daan Dist.
- ☎ (02) 2741-6299
- 🌐 www.noodle3.com.tw/en
- 🕒 11:30am-2:30pm, 5:30pm-8:30pm
(Fri & Sat till 9:00pm)



Braised beef noodle soup

Woozi and Hoshi aren't the only K-pop artists making waves in Taiwan. Enter Jeon Somi and Taeyang (also known as SOL). Somi is a South Korean and Canadian singer-songwriter known for her hit singles *Birthday*, *Dumb Dumb*, and *Fast Forward*, and Taeyang, a member of the legendary K-pop group BigBang, has pursued a successful solo career since his boy band days.

Both artists have visited Taiwan Beef Noodles · Chicken Soup while in town, a popular late-night beef noodle spot in Taipei's fashionable East District, where there's always at least a half-hour wait. The thick-cut beef noodles here are chewy perfection and served with tender cuts of

beef in a mouthwatering broth with a hit of spice; one small bowl will sate the heartiest appetite after a night out. The chicken soup is a must-try as well, with its generous chunks of bone-in dark meat and clams working to create a savory broth with a hint of seafood that will have you slurping to the last drop.

TAIWAN BEEF NOODLES · CHICKEN SOUP

牛肉麵 · 雞湯

📍 164, Sec. 1, Dunhua S. Rd., Daan Dist.

☎ (02) 2778-7776

📘 facebook.com/Taipei.Midnight.BeefNoodles

🕒 6:00pm-3:30am



Chicken soup





Three Must-Try Treasures on Quanzhou Street

While in Taipei, Taeyang enjoyed more than beef noodles. He also went to the quietly famous Three Treasures of Quanzhou Street, a local nickname for a trio of simple joints dishing up food so tasty that cars sit double-parked on the road while their drivers line up to buy snacks for themselves and, judging by the size of some of the orders, all of their friends, family, or coworkers as well.

Taeyang and J-Hope from the K-pop trend-setter BTS, who has since launched a successful solo career, including a collaboration with American rap legend J. Cole in 2023, both tried the chargrilled sausage at Huang's Sausages. This is a hole-in-the-wall establishment where the grill starts working (and the people start waiting in line) at 12:45 and doesn't stop until 7pm or so. The Huangs churn out massive quantities of grilled sausage for the long lines, which usually form before they've opened for the day. It may take as much as an hour to get your snack as you share the sidewalk with senior citizens, parents with children, and people in business attire, but it's well worth it.

The sausages themselves are larger than the typical snack eatery fare, and are the perfect balance of juicy and charred, especially when eaten with small bites of raw garlic clove. Raw sausages are sold at Huang's as well, and can be purchased without lining up.



HUANG'S SAUSAGES 黃家香腸

📍 32-3, Quanzhou St., Zhongzheng Dist.

☎ (02) 2309-7428

🕒 Tue-Sun 12:45pm-7:00pm



A few steps away, Authentic Auntie's Large Intestine Vermicelli has been visited by Taeyang as well. The classic Taiwanese "vermicelli," or thin noodles, are served in small blue-and-white bowls and are surprisingly filling. The thick soup contains large oysters, which add salty umami, and slices of large intestine, which are soft and chewy without being rubbery. The enterprise shares a small space and two steel dining tables with Yuanfu Lemon and runs a brisk takeout business as well. It's not uncommon to see diners pick up a bowl to go with their sausage from Huang's, flavoring it with condiments on the table: chili bean paste, black vinegar, and white pepper. The chili bean paste creates an Instagram-worthy splash of color, but the essential addition is the black vinegar, which adds a complex sourness.

The sausage and noodles pair perfectly with a lemon and calamansi (small Philippine lemon) drink from Yuanfu Lemon. It's the consummate refresher on a humid Taipei day. Traditionally, a dried sour plum is added to this lemonade, a taste which may be surprising to foreigners but pairs impeccably. 🍷



AUTHENTIC AUNTIE'S LARGE INTESTINE VERMICELLI

正宗阿桑大腸麵線

📍 32-2, Quanzhou St., Zhongzheng Dist.

☎ 0958-273-597

🕒 Tue-Sun 11:00am-7:00pm

YUANFU LEMON 元富檸檬

📍 32-2, Quanzhou St., Zhongzheng Dist.

☎ 0958-273-597

🕒 Tue-Sun 11:00am-until sold out



MAP



Tender Steaks and Crispy Chicken

Two Top Spots for Hearty Meat Meals

TEXT | JENNA LYNN CODY PHOTOS | VISION

Taipei offers plenty of small-plate eateries and upscale prix-fixe menus, but sometimes only a hearty, meat-centric meal will hit the spot. Whether you're craving a sizzling steak or fall-off-the-bone chicken, the city has no shortage of delicious options. From the refined cuts at B&B Steak to the smoky, irresistible flavors of Yi Chi Shang Ying Clay Pot Chicken, here's some guidance on where to satisfy your carnivorous cravings in Taipei.

US Chuck Tender steak



Ribeye steak

Some of the best steak in Taipei is also among the most affordable, and word of mouth has spread quickly. There are several steak restaurants along a stretch of Fude Street in Taipei's Xinyi District, including B&B Steak, which regularly has a crowd of expectant diners waiting outside for tables to open up. This quirky restaurant looks nothing like the sort of steakhouse you might imagine as having this kind of reputation, but local meat aficionados know exactly where to go.

B&B is home to a large, friendly bulldog named Shun-shun – the staff will occasionally give customers treats to give her, as she's not allowed to have any steak – an impressive collection of turtles, and several axolotls in an aquarium in the restroom. Posters of different types of turtles adorn some walls, while others are covered in graffiti murals.

The best steak cuts sell out quickly here, with the tender ribeye cap being the most coveted (but not the most expensive); the thick-cut ribeye and slightly pricier U.S. chuck cap are also highly sought-after. Each selection is rated based on tenderness and marbling, and each has its own flavor profile: the U.S. Chuck Tender, for example, is a bit smokier than the ribeye. There are pork and chicken options, too.

Each steak comes on a cast-iron griddle accompanied by a sunny-side up fried egg that will cook through if you leave it long enough, thick udon-like pasta in a tangy, local-style tomato sauce, green vegetables including broccoli and green beans,



and a puff pastry with a salty, slightly sweet butter yolk center. More puff pastries can be ordered, and the pasta can be swapped out for additional vegetables. Every table is equipped with A-1 steak sauce, Worcestershire sauce, a Taiwanese hot sauce, Himalayan salt, and black pepper. House-made steak sauces are available next to the drink station.

Each order comes with unlimited drinks, soup, and ice cream. The corn chowder with ham is on the sweet side, and the beef soup with vegetables is made with a rich, umami-packed clear broth.

B&B STEAK (FUDE BRANCH)

📍 302, Fude St., Xinyi Dist.

☎ 0919-719-721

🕒 Tue-Sun 11:30am-1:30pm, 5:00pm-8:30pm



Yi Chi Shang Ying Clay Pot Chicken

Whole roasted chicken served with chicken dripping sauce



One of the greatest pleasures of traveling in rural Taiwan is eating at restaurants that specialize in “clay pot chicken,” called *wonggangji* in Mandarin, or *ang-a ke* in Taiwanese. You don’t have to leave Taipei to try it, though, because Yi Chi Shang Ying Clay Pot Chicken has you covered.

For food lovers, this restaurant offers a quintessential Taiwan experience not commonly found in the city. For meat lovers, it’s a pilgrimage destination.

Clay pot chicken is typically made by first marinating a whole, skin-on chicken in a mix of ingredients. While specific marinades vary, common components include garlic, green onions, rice wine, and various spices. The chicken is then hung inside a large, preheated clay pot or oven, where it roasts for at least an hour. Below the hanging chicken, a pan is placed to collect the juices and rendered fat that drip down during the cooking process. These flavorful drippings are then used as a dipping sauce, often served alongside the chicken, together with a dish of pepper.

The result is a crispy-skinned chicken that will quite literally have you licking your fingers, and the whole chicken comes to your table. At Yi Chi Shang Ying it must be ordered in advance, and only thirty are prepared per day. If you’re on a quest for the best meat in Taipei, this is a can’t-miss dish.



Chicken dripping large cabbage with mushrooms





Crispy, juicy, and full of flavor

If that's not enough meat for you, try some of the other dishes on the menu, such as Korean kimchi chicken or beef, three-cup chicken thigh, beef with young ginger, spicy pork cheek, or any of the several garlic-forward options, such as the diced beef with sauteed garlic or dry-fried garlic chicken. Seafood options include three-cup squid and scallops with braised bamboo shoots and fresh steamed fish. Feeling adventurous? Try the Sichuanese spicy stinky tofu with pork intestine or the Thai-style century egg.

The chicken dripping from the pot is also used to flavor some vegetable dishes. It's especially good

with cabbage. The chicken dripping baby cabbage and large cabbage with mushrooms are both made this way; the latter looks deceptively simple, but the mushrooms and chicken stock give it a hearty flavor. The salted egg water bamboo are bursting with taste, as most things stir-fried with salted egg yolk are. If you're not into bamboo, salted egg yolk tofu is also available.

The soup menu at Yi Chi Shang Ying is longer than most. The garlic clam soup, medicinal herb and wild mushroom soup, and skinned pepper soup all include chicken wings and thighs, so diners can end their meat-filled dinner with even more meat. **T**



YI CHI SHANG YING CLAY POT CHICKEN

一吃上癮甕缸雞

📍 211, Sec. 4, Civic Blvd., Songshan Dist.

☎️ (02) 2577-6158

🕒 Tue-Thu 5:30pm-11:30pm

Fri 5:30pm-12:30am

Sat 12:00pm-2:30pm, 5:00pm-12:30am

Sun 12:00pm-2:30pm, 5:00pm-11:30pm



MAP

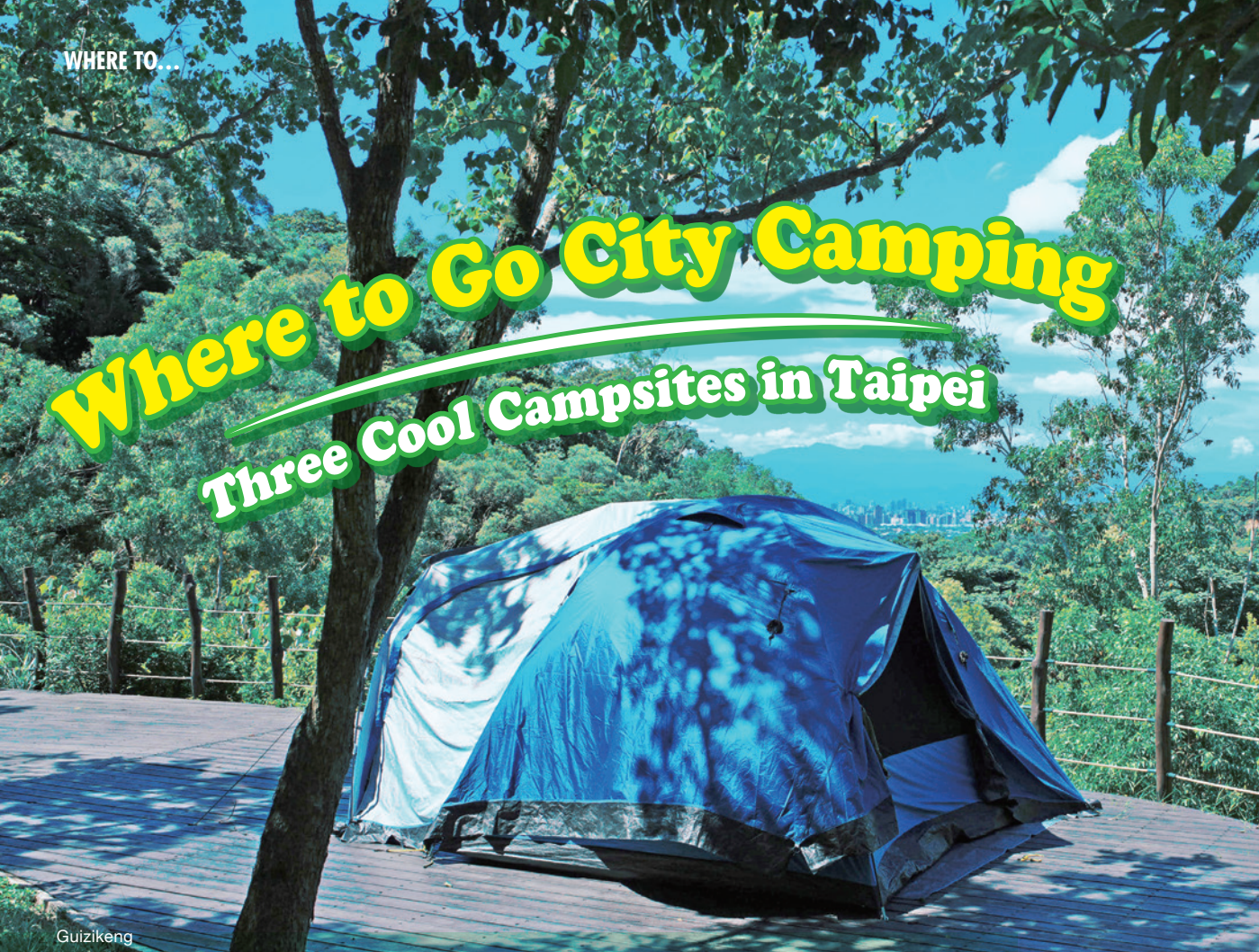


Salted egg water bamboo shoots

Clay pots used for roasting chicken

Where to Go City Camping

Three Cool Campsites in Taipei



Guizikeng

TEXT & PHOTOS | VISION

While camping isn't allowed in Taipei's public parks, dedicated campsites offer outdoor enthusiasts a chance to spend a night under the stars right in the city. Here are three options worth checking out if you want to go camping without leaving the city. Two are located on the northern fringes of the urban core, while another, quite unexpectedly, sits on the right bank of the Xindian River close to the downtown area.



Huazhong



Bishan

Bishan Campground

Located in Neihu District, Bishan Campground is known for its pleasant forest setting, allowing you to immerse yourself in a natural environment with fresh air and scenic views. Managed by the Taipei City Government, this is a free campground that requires online reservations (7-30 days prior) due to high demand. Situated at an altitude of 350m above sea level, it provides magnificent panoramic views of the urban center, including Taipei 101 and Taipei Songshan Airport (perfect for watching planes). Since light pollution is relatively low, this is also an excellent stargazing spot. The campground provides a range of amenities, including family shower rooms with separated dry and wet areas, electricity outlets, picnic tables, water dispensers, etc.

Nearby are Bishan Temple with amazing views, the scenic Baishihu Suspension Bridge (renovation scheduled to be completed in Oct. 2025) leading to the Baishihu Agricultural Recreation Area (tourist-welcoming strawberry farms), and various hiking trails.

Guizikeng Campground

Guizikeng Campground in Beitou District offers a unique blend of urban accessibility and rich natural features. The location is notable for its geological significance, featuring Taipei's oldest exposed stratum and Taiwan's only outdoor classroom focused on geology and soil and water conservation. Recently renovated, it has large grassy areas, wooden platforms for tents, and even dedicated RV parking spots.

Like Bishan, this free campground is also managed by the city government. Its facilities include showers, restrooms, and power outlets. Located at an altitude of about 130m, it provides a "close-to-nature" feel like Bishan's and also has some splendid mountain views. The site is also great for stargazing.

In the area, explore the Guizikeng Soil and Water Conservation Education Park, hike the Guizikeng Hiking Trail, and visit the Ki-Pataw Shan-Tseng-Chi Park. For a different kind of relaxation, the well-known Xinbeitou hot-spring area is just a short ride away.

Huazhong Campground

Huazhong Riverside Park in Wanhua District caters to various camping styles, with dedicated areas for both tent camping and caravans or RVs. Its riverside location provides open spaces and a relaxed atmosphere right by the Xindian River.

Its facilities include bathrooms with showers, picnic areas, and BBQ grills. For those without their own gear, some units have pre-set-up mobile homes or caravans available for rent, offering a "glamping"-style experience with air-conditioning, private bathrooms, and kitchenettes in some units.

Unlike Bishan and Guizikeng, Huazhong is a privately operated campground; a fee is charged for stays, and reservations are made via the campground's dedicated website. Its urban riverside location offers great convenience and access to facilities like bicycle rentals and various sports courts within Huazhong Riverside Park. 📍

BISHAN CAMPGROUND 碧山露營場

- 📍 26-6, Bishan Rd., Neihu Dist.
- ☎️ (02) 2759-3001 ext. 3316
- 🌐 gisweb.gov.taipei/TPCamp/Bishan.aspx

HUAZHONG CAMPGROUND 華中露營場

- 📍 End of Wanda Rd., Wanhua Dist. (inside Huazhong Riverside Park)
- ☎️ (02) 2307-6929
- 🌐 bit.ly/huazhong-campground

GUIZIKENG CAMPGROUND 貴子坑露營場

- 📍 80, Ln. 85, Xiushan Rd., Beitou Dist.
- ☎️ (02) 2759-3001
- 🌐 gisweb.gov.taipei/TPCamp/Guzi.aspx



MAP



Baishihu Suspension Bridge | 白石湖吊橋
 Bishan Temple | 碧山巖
 Guizikeng Hiking Trail | 貴子坑親山步道
 Guizikeng Soil and Water Conservation Education Park | 貴子坑水土保持教學園區
 Ki-Pataw Shan-Tseng-Chi Park | 北投社三層崎公園

TRAVEL INFO

METRO TAIPEI

Service Hours: 6:00am - 12:00 midnight

Customer Service Hotline: (02)218-12345



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(NT\$100 value incl.)



**SINGLE-JOURNEY
TICKET**
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DAY PASS
NT\$150



24HR PASS
NT\$180



48HR PASS
NT\$280



72HR PASS
NT\$380

TAIPEI CITY BUS

TICKET PRICE

Adult: NT\$15, regardless of using cash or an EasyCard

Student: NT\$15 when paying cash; NT\$12 when using an EasyCard (Student ID required)

Child under 115cm or under six years old: Free (ID required)

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Taipei eBus
ebus.gov.taipei

Taipei Sightseeing Bus

The open-top, double-decker buses offer a hop-on/hop-off service, allowing tourists to take in the cityscape and visit many of Taipei's prime destinations.

Website: taipeisightseeing.com.tw



YOUBIKE

YouBike is Taipei's public rental bike system. Register with an EasyCard at youbike.com.tw/region/taipei/register to rent a bike, enjoy free insurance, and a member-only subsidy. The fee per 30 minutes is listed below.

Within 30 minutes	30 minutes to 4 hours	4 hours to 8 hours	Over 8 hours
NT\$0 with member-only subsidy	NT\$10 per 30 minutes	NT\$20 per 30 minutes	NT\$40 per 30 minutes

The electric-assisted Youbike 2.0E charges NT\$20 per 30 minutes for the first 2 hours, and NT\$40 per 30 minutes thereafter. No subsidy is given.

TAIPEI FUN PASS

There are four types of Taipei Fun Pass available: the Unlimited version (attractions+transportation), the Exploring version (attractions+EasyCard), the Classic version (2 attractions+EasyCard) and the Transportation version (transportation only). You can visit Taipei City, New Taipei City, Keelung City, and Taoyuan City within the validity.



Unlimited
1 Day Pass/
2 Day Pass/
3 Day Pass
NT\$1,300/1,700/2,000



Exploring
2 Day Pass/
3 Day Pass/
4 Day Pass
NT\$650/850/1,050



Classic
Taipei 101 +
National Palace Museum
14-Day Valid
NT\$950



Transportation
1 Day Pass/2 Day Pass/
3 Day Pass/5 Day Pass
NT\$210/340/470/730

TRAVEL INFORMATION SERVICES

Tourism Administration, Ministry of Transportation and Communication: 0800-011-765

Information for Foreigners in Taiwan: 1990

Taipei Citizen Hotline: 1999 (Outside Taipei City, please dial 02-2720-8889)

Taipei Travel Net: travel.taipei/en; presents travel information on Taipei City in Chinese, English, Japanese, Korean, Thai, Indonesian, Vietnamese, and Spanish





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Nuit Blanche Taipei 2025

11.1-2

Yuanshan, Taipei

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The Passing Traveller

鳥過客

2025 第27屆臺北國際賞鳥博覽會
27th Taipei International Birdwatching Fair

10.18 SAT - 19 SUN

🕒 9:00 - 16:30 📍 關渡自然公園
Guandu Nature Park

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指導單位
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主辦單位
Organizer



主辦單位
Wild Bird Society of Taipei



關渡
鳥類藝術館

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f 台北鳥會 WBST Q

