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DISCOVER TAIPEI

Dt

JAN. / FEB. BIMONTHLY 2015

Good Morning, Taipei!

The Beauty of Taipei at First Light

Taipei's Energetic Mornings

Taipei's Bustling Morning Markets

The Ancient Art of the Lion Dance

Shopping in Taipei Main Station Rear Area – Savor the
Atmosphere of Chinese New Year

Browsing Taipei's Indie Bookstores





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Good Morning, Taipei!

“A good year starts in the spring, a good day starts in the morning.” This old aphorism is the inspiration for this issue's “Good Morning, Taipei” theme, with articles describing the beauties of the dawn hours, introducing the early morning exercise routines of Taipei residents, taking you into traditional morning markets – and deeper into the world of the Taipei folk you'll be meeting during your time here.

In our Taipei Metamorphosis section we tell you about what's new, including the most recent winners of the Taipei Urban Landscape Awards, the Black Forest secret garden in Zhuzihu up on Yangmingshan, the renovated Nanmon-cho 323 in Taipei Botanical Garden, and the whimsical Moon Bus large-scale installation art in Xinyi District. These novel attractions fill any exploration of the city with endless pleasant discoveries, and with the newly opened Taipei Metro Songshan Line and Fun Travel in Taipei App, a tour of Taipei is now ultra-convenient.

This issue covers the Chinese New Year period, and in our In-Depth City Culture Explorations section we present the traditional folk art of lion dancing, and the craftsmanship involved in painting the lion's head. In our Exploring Taipei Tastes & Gifts editon we answer the common questions of what to eat and what gifts to buy for Chinese New Year, taking you to restaurants serving classic military dependents' village fare and providing suggestions on nifty New Year-themed gifts for family and friends. If interested in learning all about how Taipei folk go about buying all their traditional New Year necessities, spend time in our Taipei Slow Living section, taking a day-tour of the Taipei Main Station Rear Area, where you can load up on all sorts of new gadgets and curios. With a nod to the 2015 Taipei International Book Exhibition, we bring you through the doors of finest of many special independent bookstores scattered around the city, where book-loving travelers immerse themselves in Taipei's heady book-reading culture.

Taipei has been selected as the 2016 World Design Capital. In the lead-up to the event, what changes has the city seen? Visit our Taipei Designing department, where we'll tell you how transformer boxes, walls, and bridge piers are being used as street-art canvases. In What's New in Taipei Arts we introduce the Taipei Arts Awards, Taipei in Films exhibition, Angling for Years of Plenty: A Special Exhibition of Paintings with Fish at the National Palace Museum, and other happenings that shine a spotlight on this city's imagination and aesthetic allure.

A friendly “Good morning” conveys Taipei residents' kindheartedness. “Congratulations, get rich!” conveys their New Year warmth and joyous spirit. Enjoy Taipei's vitality and festive flavor this January and February! 🌞

Contents



Discover Taipei

Taipei City Government

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ISSN: 17281741

GPN: 2008600233

中華郵政台北雜字

第 1376 號執照登記為雜誌交寄

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

Online reading:

<http://english.tpeoit.taipei.gov.tw> :
Information > Reading Taipei >
Discover Taipei

Correction: Issue No. 104, P.5, picture
5 courtesy of book *The 20 Important
Wedding Customs That Elders Didn't Tell
You*, photographer Lin Ziyao.

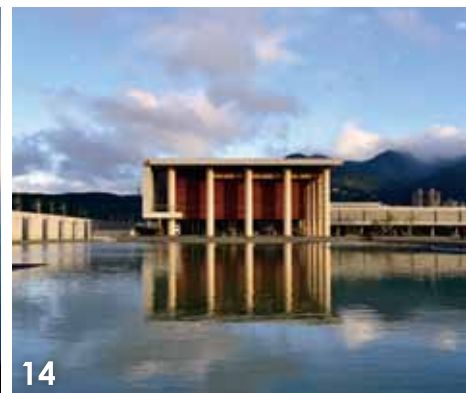


This magazine was printed with
environmentally-friendly soy ink.

Cover: Photo courtesy of Chen Zhenghui



04



14

04 / Taipei Focus

04 The Beauty of Taipei at First Light

06 Taipei's Energetic Mornings

10 Taipei's Bustling Morning Markets

14 / Taipei Metamorphosis

14 Taipei's Alluring New Attractions –
The Taipei Urban Landscape Awards

16 Zhuzihu's Black Forest –
A New Destination for a Romantic Rendezvous

18 Nanmon-cho 323 –
The Reappearance of a Japanese Zen Garden

20 The Moon Bus – A New Taipei Arts Landmark

21 Download the Fun Travel in Taipei App – Explore the
Newest Taipei Metro Line



22 / In-Depth City Culture Explorations

22 The Ancient Art of the Lion Dance





22



26



58

26 / Exploring Taipei Tastes & Gifts

- 26 Authentic Dishes From Taiwan's Military Communities: Nostalgic Flavors From Both North and South
- 31 Chinese New Year Gifts – Expressing Wishes for Fortune and Prosperity

34 / Taipei Slow Living

- 34 Shopping in Taipei Main Station Rear Area – Savor the Atmosphere of Chinese New Year
- 38 Browsing Taipei's Indie Bookstores
- 42 Lantern Viewing in Taipei

44 / Taipei Folk, In Their Own Words

- 44 Veteran Backpacker Nisan Takes Us on a Tour of Taipei
- 46 Annie Ivanova: Merging Cultures Through the Importing and Exporting of Creativity
- 48 Jake Hemingway: The Skater With a Message
- 49 How to Talk to Taipei

50 / Taipei Designing

- 50 Encounter Colorful Paintings in the Streets and Alleys of Taipei
- 52 Taiwanese Cutting-Edge Fashion Displays a Unique Radiance

56 / What's New in Taipei Arts

- 56 The 2014 Taipei Arts Awards – A New Generation of Dynamic Artists
- 58 Taipei in Films – A Window Into the City's Many Past Faces
- 60 The National Palace Museum Over the New Year – Paintings of Fish by the Great Masters

62 / Taipei Events Guide

- 62 January – February Arts Exhibition Calendar
- 65 Airport Transportation, Taipei Visitor Information Centers, Maps, and Other Practical Information



The Beauty of Taipei at First Light

Good Morning,
Taipei

A mong Taipei's better-known attractions abroad are such nighttime diversions as night markets, chic 24-hour bookstores, and bustling commercial districts. However, Taipei in the early morning is equally worth experiencing, and not to be missed. As the sky lightens, birds in the parks begin singing, metro trains start rolling, street-cleaning staff hit their stations, breakfast shops sizzle and stir to life, and another bustling Taipei day begins. People head out for their morning runs, shadow-boxing sessions, and health walks, energizing body and spirit while greeting the beauty of the Taipei morn.

The Many Faces of the City Center – Enjoying the Beauty of the Taipei Dawn

The grand, pure-white National Chiang Kai-shek Memorial Hall is a must-visit attraction for tourists. A great many locals come early each morning to exercise in the grand square before it, a quiet, peaceful oasis where the ever-louder din of the awakening city cannot be heard. Also in the city center is National Dr. Sun Yat-sen Memorial Hall, where seniors congregate to practice such traditional healthy exercises as *taiji* (太極), *waidangong* (外丹功), and *yuanji* dance (元極舞) in a spectacle that attracts

many tourists. As they go through their synchronized movements, the morning air seems to fill with youthful energy.

Earlybirds should also note that the Taipei Songshan Airport Observation Deck (臺北松山機場觀景台) opens at five each morning. Enjoy views across the Keelung River (基隆河) at Dazhi Bridge (大直橋), the Miramar Ferris Wheel (美麗華摩天輪), Neihu Technology Park (內湖科技園區) and, in the far distance, Mt. Datun (大屯山). Or simply sit back and enjoy the dawn on the terraced wooden seating. Another fine early-morning spot to explore is the Taipei Botanical Garden (台北植物園), the



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4

gates of which are thrown open at 5:30 am. Established way back in 1895, the lush, tree-rich garden is home to a rich variety of flora and fauna. A special draw is the lotus pool, which flowers June through August; the blooms look especially fine lit up by the rising sun each morning, and draw flocks of photography enthusiasts and other admirers.

Dates With Nature – Greeting a New Day

Taipei City is surrounded by mountains and crossed by many waterways. If you'd like to take in a city sunrise, there are many easily accessible viewpoints to choose from. High on photographers' list of favorite scenic spots is Yangmingshan National Park (陽明山國家公園), notably such lookouts as the viewing platform beside the Mt. Datun Navigation Station (大屯山助航站) and the main peak of Mt. Qixing (七星山). Beyond the thrill of seeing the sunrise, if you're lucky you may also catch a "sea of clouds" rolling in. If not so keen to hike up to such heights, consider the splendid "101 Sunrise Show" from the Six Giant Rocks (六巨石) up on Xiangshan (象山) – the slanting golden rays light up soaring Taipei 101, painting the tower in gleaming new attire in a startling effect.

Dahu Park (大湖公園) in Neihu is home to the Moon Bridge (錦帶橋). In the morning, bridge, clouds, and surrounding trees are reflected on the calm surface of the lake, creating a scene that could have been lifted from a Chinese ink wash painting, or a poem written in visuals. Huazhong Bridge (華中橋), Guandu Bridge (關渡橋), and Dazhi Bridge are spots with sweeping views from which you can enjoy the ever-changing sky canvas and the artistry of each bridge's form.

It's always good to occasionally get up with the birds to greet the day, and whether you head into the city

center or out into the natural surroundings in outlying districts, you will find that Taipei is at its quietest and most peaceful at first light. 🌅

1. The sunrise of Mt. Datun brings out photo buffs in number for scenic shooting. (Photo courtesy of Lin Hiroshi)
2. Seniors congregate from 6 to 7 each morning for taijiquan sessions.
3. The lotus flowers in the Taipei Botanical Garden are even more dramatically beautiful in the early-morning sunlight. (Photo courtesy of National Museum of History)
4. Splendid first-light views of Taipei 101 are enjoyed at the Six Giant Rocks on Xiangshan. (Photo courtesy of Chen Zhenghui)

Information

National Chiang Kai-shek Memorial Hall

國立中正紀念堂

Add: 21, Zhongshan S. Rd. (中山南路21號)

National Dr. Sun Yat-sen Memorial Hall

國立國父紀念館

Add: 505, Sec. 4, Renai Rd. (仁愛路4段505號)

Taipei Songshan Airport Observation Deck

臺北松山機場觀景台

Add: 340-9, Dunhua N. Rd. (敦化北路340之9號)

Tel: (02)8770-3460 (visitor information service)

Taipei Botanical Garden 台北植物園

Add: 53, Nanhai Rd. (南海路53號)

Yangmingshan National Park Headquarters

陽明山國家公園管理處

Add: 1-20, Zhuzihu Rd. (竹子湖路1之20號)

Xiangshan Six Giant Rocks 象山六巨石

Location: Exit MRT Xiangshan Station (捷運象山站), walk along Sec. 5, Xinyi Rd. (信義路5段) to Zhongqiang Park (中強公園), in approx. 10 minutes reaching trailhead on Ln. 150, Aly. 22 (150巷22弄).

Dahu Park 大湖公園

Add: 31, Sec. 5, Chenggong Rd. (成功路5段31號)

Good Morning,
Taipei

Taipei's Energetic Mornings

It's winter, it's colder, and everyone seems to be in hibernation mode. But come first light each day, you'll find the parks of Taipei bursting with vitality. In addition to cleaning staff, local residents steadily arrive, and whether they're acquainted or not, all wear a smile and offer each other an easy "morning!" as they disperse to their favorite corners to do their *shuai shou* (甩手) or "swinging hands", go through fan dance routines, do exercise, or run circuits around the park, working up a sweat.

While in Taipei, why not get up with the birds a few mornings and head to a local park for a stroll; it's a great chance to see Taipei folk doing their *qigong* (氣功) and *taijiquan* (太極拳), their folk dancing, *yuanji* dance, fan dance (扇子舞) and various other forms of morning exercise. You can even get in on the fun if you like, feeling the vitality of Taipei's energizing mornings.





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with stretching of the tendons and muscles in all body points, easing tension and bringing relaxation.

Traditional Wushu – Imposing Moves

The majority of the early-morning exercisers you'll see are seniors, and each practitioner has his or her own unique skills. The forms of shadow boxing that you'll see involve deft swinging movements that seem mechanized, but require practiced control and are majestic and imposing.

Shuai shou gong (甩手功), which evolved over thousands of years, is an adaptation of the *yi jin jing* (易筋經) developed at China's famed Shaolin Temple (少林寺). *Yi jin* means to temper and strengthen tendons by rhythmically swinging one's arms in pendulum-like fashion, working the 12 tendons in the fingers, palms, and wrists down to the knees, heels, and toes. Through the easy method, the arms are swung from approximately 500 to 2,000 times each session. Over time the tendons are toughened, and the method is rumored to be an effective way to relieve lesions or minor injuries without medication.

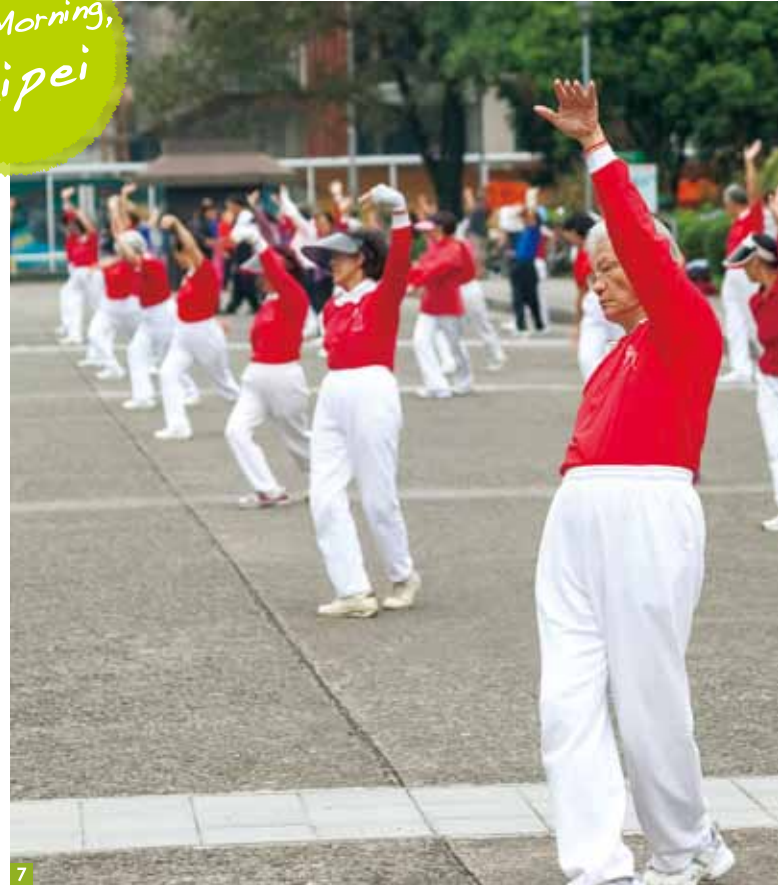
Another form with the same health benefits combines the toning of tendons with proper qi breathing. *Qi* (氣) is the life energy of the universe. *Lajin qigong* (拉筋氣功) is different from ordinary stretching exercises and tendon toning exercises. The emphasis is on overall body equilibrium, combining deep, slow, measured breathing

Qigong is the foundation for most forms of Chinese *wushu* (武術), or martial arts. There are three basic elements: regulating the mind, regulating the breath, and regulating the body. Practitioners must first eliminate any distracting thoughts, then engage in measured breathing using the lower part of the abdomen, and finally to try to relax the entire body, allowing the four limbs to freely follow spontaneous movements in order to conduct the flow of inner qi, promoting peripheral blood circulation, and helping to get rid of built-up waste.

The concept of qi is central to the Chinese world view, and it is believed that wushu study effectively combines exercise and qi regulation. The emphasis in both qigong and taijiquan is on qi regulation, inhaling and exhaling deeply with each step, the fists slowly pushing outward. Although

1. One of the most widely practiced morning exercise forms seen in Taipei parks is taijiquan.
2. The pendulum-like movements of shuai shou gong stimulates and tempers tendons.
3. Qigong movements do not look forceful, but they contain powerful inner-strength surges.
4. Lajin qigong features slow, deliberate breathing while stretching tendons and muscles, activating them.

Good Morning,
Taipei



each individual movement may not appear forceful or powerful, in fact each contains a strong surge of inner strength. Because the body remains soft and supple, many people mistakenly believe that taijiquan is a form of exercise exclusively for the elderly. The emphasis, however, is on inner consciousness, not external strength. The less power used, the more nimble one's movements. And with continuous practice over the long term comes self-cultivation, calming the temperament. Today, more and more young people are taking it up.

The Local Color of Folk Dances

Serious martial arts can be extended into lively dances. In the city's parks you'll often see practitioners of yuanji dance, blending wushu, dance, music, qigong, massage techniques, and Kegel exercise. Practitioners take light dance steps, following the five-tone scale of traditional Chinese music (五音): *gong* (宫), *shang* (商), *jue* (角), *zhi* (徵), and *yu* (羽). They dance alone or in groups, and the form is suitable for males and females, young and old. In this relaxed, comfortable atmosphere dance becomes exercise, there is no

demand for perfection in every movement, and the pleasant melodies get participants both in the mood and in the rhythm. The 12 sets of movements include numerous tiptoe, heel, and finger motions, helping to loosen joints and open what are called the body's meridians. Yuanji dance is a fusion of entertainment and physical strengthening, and can be said to be the Chinese culture's unique form of aerobic exercise.

A visit to parks and community squares shows that folk dance is also very popular. Elements are taken from the life, culture, customs, rituals, and celebrations of common folk around the world. In Eastern folk dance there is a passion for combining dance and song, as well as for the use of various props, including fans, sleeves, handkerchiefs, tambourines, and decorated umbrellas. The song and dance tell the stories of peoples passed down since ancient times.

The fan dance is especially distinctive. It originated as an ancient Korean sorceress blessing ceremony, and afterwards slowly evolving into a folk dance. During a formal stage performance, dancers wear brightly colored, loose-fitting garments, hold elegant fans with long silk ribbons, constantly change



movements in keeping with the changing rhythms of the gentle melodies, and bring masses of fans together in lyrically colorful patterns and shapes, creating aesthetically pleasing visual effects. Though the attire worn in public parks may not be so splendid, the delicate motions, sedate mannerisms, and elegantly feminine postures and movements clearly reflect the ladies' focus and long hours of practice.

Greeting the New Day With a Good Workout

Teachers offer free instruction for most of the exercise types described above. If you'd like to join the early-morning exercisers, you'll be warmly welcomed. However, if you perhaps find these forms a bit abstruse, why not try something that requires no memorization of steps – jogging. Each and every early morning, you'll see parks both big and small busy with Taipei folk out pursuing fitness and relaxation. If you want to try your hand at different things, visit one of Taipei's larger parks, which offer convenient transportation, diverse facilities, and lots of space, enabling various forms of recreation, including

jogging. Especially good choices include the big squares on the grounds of National Dr. Sun Yat-sen Memorial Hall and National Chiang Kai-shek Memorial Hall, 2/28 Peace Park (二二八和平公園), Xinsheng Park (新生公園), Youth Park (青年公園), Daan Park (大安森林公園), Dahu Park, and Nangang Park (南港公園). Other spots where you can get a look at Taipei's denizens engaged in healthy, dynamic early-morning action are the riverside parks that circle the city core and the many community neighborhood parks. 📍

5. Taijiquan emphasizes inner consciousness, not external strength; the less power used, the more nimble one's movements.
6. Folk dance is especially popular with moms and grandmas.
7. Yuanji dance, a fusion of entertainment and physical strengthening, is appropriate for members of both genders, of all ages.
8. The grounds of National Dr. Sun Yat-sen Memorial Hall are busy each early morning with committed Taipei folk limbering up.
9. Expansive, green 2/28 Peace Park, easily reached via public transport, is another popular venue for morning exercise.

Information

National Dr. Sun Yat-sen Memorial Hall
國立國父紀念館

Add: 505, Sec. 4, Renai Rd. (仁愛路4段505號)

National Chiang Kai-shek Memorial Hall
國立中正紀念堂

Add: 21, Zhongshan S. Rd. (中山南路21號)

2/28 Peace Park 二二八和平公園

Add: 3, Ketagalan Blvd. (凱達格蘭大道3號)

Xinsheng Park 新生公園

Add: 105, Sec. 3, Xinsheng N. Rd. (新生北路3段105號)

Youth Park 青年公園

Add: 199, Shuiyuan Rd. (水源路199號)

Daan Park 大安森林公園

Add: 1, Sec. 2, Xinsheng S. Rd. (新生南路2段1號)

Dahu Park 大湖公園

Add: 31, Sec. 5, Chenggong Rd. (成功路5段31號)

Nangang Park 南港公園

Add: Entrance of Ln. 170, Dongxin St. (東新街170巷口)

Rongxing Park 榮星公園

Add: 1, Sec. 3, Minquan E. Rd. (民權東路3段1號)

Taipei's Bustling Morning Markets

Good Morning,
Taipei



After visiting Taipei's heritage sites and related attractions, there's no better immersive experience for those looking to gain insight into local traditional culture than the city's morning markets! At 5 or 6 each morning, as the sky lightens these markets get busier, raising the curtain on another day. At 7 or 8 the streams of shoppers get ever heavier, and the buzz of conversation and interactions that punctuate the vigorous city morning is in full throttle. If you find yourself up early, try taking in one of Taipei's morning markets, prime stages for the city's warm, friendly, hospitable demeanor.



Dadaocheng Morning Markets – A Look at Life in the Old Days

In the past, people commonly went to temples in the early morning to worship the deities, and then bought fruits and vegetables from sellers in front. Over time, more formal morning markets formed in these spots, opening at different times and selling different things, with fruit and veggie sellers opening at 6 am and small eateries opening at 8 am. The market would shut down around 4 or 5 in the afternoon, so people could come and shop anytime in the day.

Liangzhou Street (涼州街), before Cisheng Temple (慈聖宮) in the Dadaocheng (大稻埕) area, is home to some of Taipei's most famous morning-market food stalls. Vendors start opening around 9 am, and close up around 3 pm. Just about every stand here has been in operation for at least a half-century, and everything from salty porridge with soy-braised pork to pork-rib soup is a local classic. To sit under a shady tree with other patrons, tucking into a piping-hot dish, is to experience the life local commonfolk have lived for many decades. Also in Dadaocheng is Yongle Market (永樂市場); visit after 11 am to explore this grand bazaar of fabrics, as well as its food-court area, home to A-Fa's Snack Shop (阿發小吃店) and A-Wen's

Keelung Seafood (阿文基隆海產), both featured in Luc Besson's film *Lucy*, which has made them places of pilgrimage for movie fans.

Beside Exit 2 of MRT Shuanglian Station (捷運雙連站), you'll see the 300~400 meter-long Shuanglian Vegetable Market (雙連菜市場). From 7 to 8 each morning grandmothers and moms pack the place, which in addition to selling the freshest fruits and vegetables, chicken, duck, and other meats, even offers manicures and traditional face-hair removal called *wanmian* (挽面) or "facial threading." Shuanglian Market (雙連市場), a public market in a 4-storey building, has sellers of plants and flowers, antiques, and fresh fruits and veggies, plus something most unusual – a youth hostel. The bright, fresh CU Hotel Taipei (西悠飯店台北店), on the second floor, is a model example of old-market rejuvenation.

1. Browse the city's morning markets to get a taste of the local zest for life and hospitality.
2. Markets busy at 5 and 6 am with delivery and vendor staff presents a vivid picture of the city's dynamism.
3. The vendor-stall area before Dadaocheng's Cisheng Temple is a renowned breakfast spot.
- 4-5. Find fabrics of myriad type and pattern at Dadaocheng's Yongle Market, and in the 4th floor food court check out the shoot location for Luc Besson's film *Lucy*, now a pilgrimage spot for movie buffs.
6. The morning shopping crowd streams like flowing water through Shuanglian Market, by MRT Shuanglian Station.

Wanhua District Morning Markets – Home of One of the “World’s Best Vendors”

The Wanhua District was the first area to be settled in what is today Taipei. At its heart are Manka Lungshan Temple (艋舺龍山寺), Bangka Qingshan Temple (艋舺青山宮), and Bangka Qingshui Zushi Temple (艋舺清水巖祖師廟), and other venerable places of worship. The East Sanshui Street Market (東三水街菜市場), also known as the Xinfu Market (新富市場), was built and has been in operation since 1921, and many businesses have been passed on from generation to generation. One renowned example is Da Fong Fish Ball (大豐魚丸店), which offers many different types of wonderfully fresh and chewy fish balls, meatballs, squid balls, etc., all made by hand and only to order. Grandma's Sticky Rice (阿婆油飯), which cooks its rice with wooden bamboo steamers, once placed third in the “World's Best Vendor” (天下第一攤) competition held by Taipei City Government. Nearby Wanhe Sashimi (丸合生魚片) brings in the fresh catch of the day each day from wholesale markets in Keelung (基隆), and Donggang Township, Pingtung County (屏東縣東港鎮). Each of these spots prepares super-popular delicacies at affordable prices.



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On Kangding Road (康定路) you'll find Zhixing Market (直興市場), where the stands selling fresh meats, sashimi, and fruits are most popular. The “Yangmingshan Farms” (陽明山農場) stand, a seller of many different in-season fresh vegetables, has an extra-special place in shoppers' hearts. Mama Zhang's Chicken Shop (張媽媽雞肉鋪) is another well-known and very popular vendor; its salted chicken and sugarcane chicken are prepared each evening for sale next day, first cooked and then smoked using sugarcane skin, rendering the meat succulently tender. The shop is always busy with customers placing take-out orders to enjoy back home.

A New Kind of Morning Market – Like a Mini Department Store

In recent years a number of old Taipei markets have taken on a completely new atmosphere with the help of government planners. Emphasis has been on better flow lines and redesigned lighting, giving visitors the feeling of browsing a small department store. Huguang Market (湖光市場) is Neihu's oldest vendor-stall market, selling fresh fish, meats, fruits, and vegetables, as well as many regional specialties, dry goods, sundries, etc. Among the most popular shops selling yummy snacks here are Ding Ding Sesame Cakes (鼎鼎燒餅) and Xieji Zhenbao Food Village (謝記珍寶食品莊). Elsewhere, Nanmen Market (南門市場) on Roosevelt Road (羅斯福路) is one of Taipei's oldest traditional public markets. The first floor is choc-a-bloc with regional specialty goods, while the second floor has clothing and the basement level is a wet market. You'll find northern Chinese flavored pastries and puddings, regional specialty items, and many well-known sauces and prepared foods. If you make time to go, be sure to visit the Shanghai Hexing Rice Cake Shop (上海合興糕糰店), Yi-chang's Imperial Workshop (億長御坊), and Yi Xiang Zhai (逸湘齋), where craftsmanship and long tradition are on proud display.



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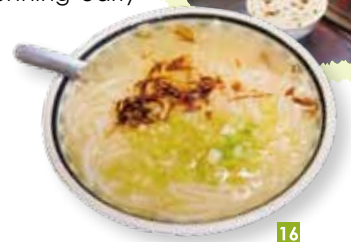


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peoples, cultures, and places." Walk Taipei's morning markets, observe the Taipei culture, taste the flavors of the city, enjoy its hospitality, and you'll see that its dynamism and vitality is already up-and-running early each morning. 02



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- 7. In East Sanshui Street Market, Da Fong Fish Ball hand-makes many types of fish balls.
- 8-9. At Zhixing Market, Mama Zhang's Chicken Shop and Yangmingshan Farms are two of the most popular vendors.
- 10-11. Shanghai Hexing Rice Cake Shop and Yi-chang's Imperial Workshop are enduring names at Nanmen Market.
- 12-14. Jingmei Market morphs from morning to night market as sunlight wanes; among its most popular vendors are Gaoji Rice Noodle Soup and Shanghai Pan-Fried Pork Buns.
- 15-16. Zhonglun Market's A-Mei's Madou Bowl Pudding and Zhonglun Rice Noodle Soup.

Markets Morning and Night – Fun Browsing the Whole Day Long

Morning markets customarily shut down in the afternoon. But sometimes, generally in favorable locations, business continues beyond this, as the area becomes a distinctly different night market. Jingmei Market (景美市場), close to Shih Hsin University (世新大學), and Zhonglun Market (中崙市場) on Bade Road (八德路), both see streams of shoppers from the early morning onward, and at about 7 pm each market transforms into a foodie mecca for students finishing classes and white-collar workers leaving the office. Both markets have been in operation for about 50 years, and of course each offers its own renowned specialties. At Jingmei Market, be sure to visit Gaoji Rice Noodle Soup (高記米粉湯), and Shanghai Pan-Fried Pork Buns (上海生煎包). At Zhonglun Market don't miss A-Mei's Madou Bowl Pudding (阿美麻豆碗粿) and Zhonglun Rice Noodle Soup (中崙米粉湯). All are delicious early-morning taste-bud energizers, all worth a visit.

Solon, the ancient Greek statesman and poet, once said, "The purpose of travel is to 'see.' To see is to promote understanding and appreciation of the other

Information

Liangzhou Street Morning Market 涼州街早市

Add: 17, Ln. 49, Baoan St.; before Cisheng Temple (保安街49巷17號; 慈聖宮前)

Yongle Market 永樂市場

Add: 21, Sec. 1, Dihua St. (迪化街1段21號)

Shuanglian Market 雙連市場

Add: 198, Minsheng W. Rd. (民生西路198號)

East Sanshui Street Market (Xinfu Market) 東三水街菜市場 (新富市場)

Add: 70, Sanshui St. (三水街70號)

Zhixing Market 直興市場

Add: 1, Ln. 172, Kangding Rd. (康定路172巷1號)

Huguang Market 湖光市場

Add: Ln. 23, Sec. 4, Chenggong Rd. (成功路4段23巷)

Nanmen Market 南門市場

Add: 8, Sec. 1, Roosevelt Rd. (羅斯福路1段8號)

Jingmei Market 景美市場

Add: 137, Jingwen St. (景文街137號)

Zhonglun Market 中崙市場

Add: 76, Sec. 3, Bade Rd. (八德路3段76號)



Taipei's Alluring New Attractions – The Taipei Urban Landscape Awards

The winners of the 2014 edition of the Taipei Urban Landscape Awards (臺北市都市景觀大獎), held annually since 2002, were recently announced; from the 54 entrants, six were chosen – giving the metropolis six more alluring attractions.

The top prize went to “Environmental Art and Action” (山水天空——文山區環境藝術行動). National Chengchi University (國立政治大學) campus was used as a base, with seven art platforms that harmonize with the surrounding hilly landscape. Situated on a river dike on the west side of the campus is “Wenshan Radiance” (文山光點), where lights create points of luminescence each night, attracting students and nearby residents to come for a walk and enjoy the night breezes. On the second level of the Art & Culture Center is the Waterfront Experimental Theatre (水岸實驗劇場), where concerts are

staged periodically, allowing listeners to enjoy melodious music and the Jingmei River (景美溪) scenery at the same time. These platforms bring the campus right into the local community, making it a shared living space.

Four of the other winning entrants were granted Special Awards. One was “National Taiwan Museum – Nanmen Park” (國立臺灣博物館——南門園區景觀設計). Nanmen Park is the site of a camphor factory built in 1899, with various remnants from that era, including the original warehouse, dubbed the “Little White House,” with its well preserved Baroque-style pillars and arched windows, Japanese-style black roof tiles, and stone walls made of Taiwan's famed Qilian (唹哩岸) stone. Over the years two fires destroyed the “Four Hundred Stone Fire-Control Reservoir” (四百石貯水槽), which is now a fountain pool.

The second Special Award winner, located on Beitou's Guandu Plain (關渡平原), was the Dharma Drum Mountain Nung Chan Monastery (法鼓山農禪寺). A tall two-sided wall blocks out noise from a nearby expressway, and creates an atmosphere of calm for visitors as they enter the front of the complex. A special highlight is the bodhimanda, standing quietly by the lotus pond, which from a distance looks like a palace floating atop the water. Buddhism's *Heart Sutra* (心經) is carved on the four wooden walls of the main hall, and the *Diamond Sutra* (金剛經) is carved into the outer side





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of the gallery's wall. When the sun shines through, the shapes of the wall text appear on the main hall's floor, to striking artistic effect.

A third Special Award went to the "Renew project for Nishi Honganji (Western Temple of the Original Vow) Plaza (西本願寺廣場古蹟修復再利用工程)." The site, in the bustling Ximending (西門町) area, was home to Taiwan's largest Japanese-style temple during the Japanese era. Fire and illegal construction led to its eventual abandonment and decay, but after restoration it is now a pleasant oasis of tree-shaded historical architecture that draws many sightseers.

The fourth Special Award winner was the URS27M Mountain Forum (郊山友台 URS27M), up on Yangmingshan. Built in the 1960s, the facility was originally used as office and dormitory quarters by the Taipei Water Department (臺北自來水事業處), and has been transformed by faculty and students from Tunghai University (東海大學) and Chinese Culture University (中國文化大學). The enclosure wall has been torn down and a terraced wooden platform evoking the shape of the surrounding mountains added, changing an old closed-off residence into a public space for exhibits and performances.

The Taipei MRT Tamshui – Xinyi Line Daan Park Station (大安森林公園站), which opened at the end of November 2013, won this year's "Internet People's Choice Award." This green metro station, located in Daan Park, is beautified with an attractive sunken courtyard garden, circular pool, and public artworks, creating an inviting space for people to read and relax. Sunlight spills over trees growing in the lobby, in poetic complement to the luxuriant green foliage of the park seen through the windows.

Pay a visit to these beautiful Taipei sights, witness a century of history, and perhaps you'll understand and appreciate the city even more! 📍

1. Environmental Art and Action has the mountain-embraced National Chengchi University campus as base, with art platforms set up harmonizing the river landscape with cultural arts.
2. National Taiwan Museum – Nanmen Park is the site of an 1899-built camphor factory lost to fire; the Four Hundred Stone Fire-Control Reservoir has been replaced by a fountain pool.
3. At the Dharma Drum Mountain Nung Chan Monastery, the bodhimanda stands quietly by the lotus pond, from afar like a palace floating atop the water, bringing the clever architect much praise.
4. The Renew project for Nishi Honganji (Western Temple of the Original Vow) Plaza site, home to Taiwan's largest Japanese-style temple in the Japanese era, is now a tree-shaded oasis of heritage structures.
5. The URS27M Mountain Forum, its terraced wooden platform evoking the shape of the surrounding mountains, has morphed from old closed-off residence to public space for cultural-arts happenings.
6. At Taipei MRT Tamshui – Xinyi Line Daan Park Station, the sunken courtyard garden, circular pool, and public artworks create a poetic complement to Daan Park.

(Pictures 1~6 courtesy of Department of Urban Development, Taipei City Government)



6

Information

Taipei Urban Landscape Awards

臺北市都市景觀大獎

Website: www.2014taipeilandscape.com.tw



1

Zhuzihu's Black Forest – A New Destination for a Romantic Rendezvous

Beitou has always been a favorite place with locals for a day trip on a holiday weekend. Most folk are not aware, however, that near Zhuzihu (竹子湖) in Beitou District is a "Black Forest" (黑森林), the secret of many photography enthusiasts. It's now emerging as a popular backdrop for wedding photographs, and its alluring landscape has also attracted the attention of popular Korean pop idols.

To get to this mystic Black Forest, simply hop on a Small No. 8 or Small No. 9 bus and get off at the Hutian Elementary School stop (湖田國小站), then walk ahead along the road for about 500 meters. As visitors enter the forest, they are often startled by how straight the trunks of the soaring China fir are, and moved by the magical layering of the sun's rays piercing the treetops, from morning to night. To promote this romantic scenic idyll, the Geotechnical Engineering Office, Public Works Department, Taipei City Government (臺北市政府工務局大地工程處) has set up a public artwork titled *Soulmates* (心心相印), representing pure love. A heart made of rounded red stones is set within a larger heart of white stones. It gleams in the bright sunlight, blending with the surrounding forest in a fairytale-like setting. After learning about this place, the well-known Korean actress Ha Jiwon made a special trip here for a pop-idol drama shoot.



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In addition to this hidden landscape within Zhuzihu, the nearby farm roads also have a distinctive



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1. Near Zhuzihu, there is a rarely-known place "Black Forest", its alluring landscape has attracted many newlyweds for wedding photographs.
(Photo courtesy of Manhattan Wedding Studio)
 2. The public artwork *Soulmates*, its large heart pattern is set within white stones, representing pure love and fairytale-like atmosphere.
 3. Walking along the streamside trail in Zhuzihu's Dinghu area, the tourists will see the different scenes in the far distance ahead such as Xiaoyoukeng and high mountains.
 4. Enjoying the fields of calla lilies around the Shuicheliao Trail in closer distance, you can even discover some surprises like little tree frogs.
- (Pictures 2-4 courtesy of Geotechnical Engineering Office, Public Works Department, Taipei City Government)



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character. Kilometers-long section of the main road is called Cherry-blossom Boulevard, where each flower season sees a great display of thousands of blossoms. Elsewhere, down a branch road in Zhuzihu, is its renowned calla-lily farm area. Visitors to this region should make time for a leisurely walk, exploring the stream ecology and terraced-field landscape, as well as the hearty local cuisine at the farm restaurants, built around the fresh, sweet locally-grown mountain produce.

The Geotechnical Engineering Office says that there is another "secret" landscape close to the Black Forest: the streamside trail in Zhuzihu's Dinghu (頂湖) area. Walking along the trail, walkers are greeted with expansive views very different from those of the Black Forest. In the far distance ahead is Xiaoyoukeng (小油坑), and all around are high mountains. The ethereal sulfur mists add to the relaxed tranquility. Another fine scenic choice for exploration is the Shuicheliao Trail (水車寮步道). The trailhead is beside the Hutian Elementary School parking lot. It passes along earthen ridges beside the fields of calla lilies and other crops. With the sound of a gurgling stream as a companion, you'll find yourself relaxing into the peaceful, bucolic ambience.

The oft wet and misty Taipei winter adds to the sense of mystery in Zhuzihu. On February 14th, the Western Valentine's Day, immerse yourself in the air of romance with your sweetheart, arrange a "date with love" in the Black Forest, create photos of lifelong sweet memory, and experience the special moments of intimacy only soulmates can share. 🍷



Information

Yangmingshan Zhuzihu Black Forest

陽明山竹子湖黑森林

Venue: Zhuzihu Rd., Beitou District (北投區竹子湖路); see map

Tel: (02)2759-3001, ext. 3222

Website: www.tcge.taipei.gov.tw

Transportation:

Take Small No. 8 Bus or No. 9 Bus to Hutian Elementary School stop (湖田國小站), then continue ahead along road for 500 meters.



Nanmon-cho 323 – The Reappearance of a Japanese Zen Garden

With over a century of history, the Taipei Botanical Garden is home to more than 1,600 kinds of plants. Quiet and tranquil, it is a treasured green oasis away from the city bustle. Beside the tranquil lotus pond is a bungalow-style wooden structure built during the Japanese era. After Taiwan was returned to Chinese rule in 1945, it was used for a time as a staff quarters by the Executive Yuan Council of Agriculture's Forestry Research Institute (行政院農委會林業試驗所), but was eventually abandoned, and allowed to decay. The institute has now thoroughly renovated the building, reproducing the elegant style of the Japanese garden, and in accordance with Japanese-period cadastral information has renamed it Nanmon-cho 323 (南門町三二三).

To repair the dilapidated main building, the Forestry Research Institute invited two internationally renowned architects, Kuo Chungrui (郭中端) and Horigome Kenji, to come together as a team. According to Kuo, many historical documents show that the grounds of the Taipei Botanical Garden were often used as a key

site for the staging of expositions by the Japanese during the occupation period, and that in its early days Nanmon-cho 323 served as a teahouse where guests were received. Therefore, the building's design and construction was very different from the standard Japanese house. Professor Horigome, who is from Japan, is an expert in traditional Japanese wood architecture. Conducting research on the original structure and appearance, he and Kuo were able to rebuild and restore the building where needed to recreate its original appearance. Walk in the front entrance and you can inspect what is called shoin-zukun design: the doma, a space for household life with central and adjoining rooms, separated by fusuma, sliding panels of thick paper that act as doors. There is also an interior zashiki, a sitting room or parlor for entertaining guests, and a drawing room, where you can get a good feel for how visitors were received during the Japanese era.

The Forestry Research Institute also invited well-known Japanese garden-landscaping master Oguchi Motomi, from Nagano, to create a Zen garden in the



1. Nanmon-cho 323 is a bungalow-style wooden structure built during the Japanese era. After the renovation by the Executive Yuan Council of Agriculture's Forestry Research Institute, it has reproduced the elegant style of the Japanese garden.
2. The interior includes zashiki, a sitting room or parlor for entertaining guests, and a drawing room, where you can get a good feel for how visitors were received during the Japanese era.
3. When visiting here, the tourists will experience not only the spirit of mountains and flowing water, but also the ambience of Eastern Zen.
4. The small "turtle" and "crane" islands in Zen garden, designed by well-known Japanese garden-landscaping master Oguchi Motomi, symbolize longevity.
5. The black-tinted Japanese structure is hidden away in Taipei Botanical Garden, the treasured green oasis full of quietness and natural ecology.

inimitable karesansui garden style, perhaps Japan's most representative. Such gardens are considered "Zen" because they seek "emptiness" at their core, using coniferous plants. The gravel garden landscaping is sculpted using a handheld wooden rake, and the raking motions are highly practiced, almost as if in slow-motion, with the curving raked lines said to reflect the wave-like emotions of the soul. It is said that this style helps purify and heal the souls of visitors otherwise immersed in the fast, disconcerting pace of modern life.

In the subtle, minimalist outdoor-garden design, rocks are symbolic of mountains, while the raked gravel represents flowing water. While savoring the Eastern Zen ambience, visitors should look for another special touch, the small "turtle" and "crane" islands floating amidst the faux waters. These animals – and thus the islands – symbolize longevity. Oguchi's hope is that when visitors spend time in his karesansui garden they'll feel as though in a celestial realm, able to calm their spirits through the ethereal tranquility of Japanese Zen Buddhism.

Nanmon-cho 323 is hidden away in Taipei Botanical Garden. The black-tinted Japanese structure, surrounding emerald-green foliage, and snow-white gravel all contrast compellingly with each other, exuding a sense of tranquility. Come here on a winter afternoon and soak in this place's proud old character. Make time to also visit the nearby Guest House of Imperial Envoys (欽差行臺), a city heritage site, and the National Museum of History (國立歷史博物館), and enjoy these examples of Taipei's rich cultural inheritance. 📍

Information

Taipei Botanical Garden – Nanmon-cho 323
台北植物園——南門町三二三

Add: 53, Nanhai Rd. (南海路53號)

Tel: (02)2303-9978 ext. 1420

Time: 09:30~16:00, 15 visitors allowed in every 30 minutes (closed on Mon)



The Moon Bus – A New Taipei Arts Landmark



Recently, when passing the corner of Section 5 of Xinyi Road (信義路) and Songzhi Road (松智路), have you spotted the lines of people that seem to be waiting to board what looks like a “fantasy bus”? Next time, stop off for a closer look. Set up by Sinyi Realty Inc. to complement the city government’s World Design Capital Taipei 2016 initiatives, in coordination with the “Urban Life Landscape Transformation” project, this large-scale work of installation art has well-known Taiwan illustrator Jimmy’s (幾米) book *When the Moon Forgot* (月亮忘記了) as theme. This new fairytale-art attraction now graces the city center!

Moon Bus (幾米月亮公車) is Jimmy’s first long-term installation artwork in Taipei. As his main element he has chosen something indispensable to urban living, the bus, repainting an abandoned vehicle and dubbing it the “No. 100 Bus.” It’s parked in a quiet pool that measures about 100 square meters. A cartoon-character figure tops the bus: the young boy standing with hands in the air, as if sending the moon off, back into the heavens.

Pedestrians stop, look, and take pictures of the bus and, coming up even closer, find even more surprises inside. Board the bus and you’ll see a young lad seated there, a moon in his arms. Look up through the skylight and you enjoy a framed view of soaring Taipei 101 and the sky. Hidden away in the rear

section, behind a bookcase, is a “secret” tree hollow, which inevitably piques the curiosity of young folk, a safe space for emotions release. Stepping back out of the bus, looking at the stainless-steel moon-shaped balls of different sizes over the pool, you are met with dazzling reflections of the surrounding landscape. This design symbolizes the importance of taking time out for reflection for everyone living in the midst of the urban jungle.

The Taipei City Government hopes this large-scale illustration-theme work of installation art will stir buried memories of joy and innocence, and encourage people to treasure things that are too often taken for granted. ①

1-2. *Moon Bus* is repainted by an abandoned vehicle and dubbed as the “No. 100 Bus.” Just as its fantastic outside, the adorable design of its inside is also childlike and attractive.

Information

Moon Bus 幾米月亮公車

Add: Corner of Sec. 5, Xinyi Rd. and Songzhi Rd.
(信義路5段與松智路交叉口)

Tel: (02)2755-7666

Time : 09:00~21:00
(not open first Monday each month)

Download the Fun Travel in Taipei App – Explore the Newest Taipei Metro Line

Many a traveler from overseas has found that Taipei's comprehensive, friendly metro network is the most convenient way to explore the city. The new MRT Songshan Line (捷運松山線) opened in November last year, bringing the system into a new "5-line, multiple access-point easy ride" era.

With the opening of the Songshan Line, the system's routes are now in accordance with the original plans. The main lines are the Wenhu Line (文湖線), Tamsui-Xinyi Line (淡水信義線), Songshan-Xindian Line (松山新店線), Zhonghe-Xinlu Line (中和新蘆線), and Bannan Line (板南線). Wherever you hop on a train in the system, all of Taipei City's special scenic attractions are within quick and easy reach. All stations have easy-to-understand signage in Chinese and English, supplemented with broadcast announcements, making connections simple. In order to make things even more convenient for visitors from overseas, the Taipei Rapid Transit Corporation has also numbered the lines 1 through 5, so riders new to the system do not have to remember the full names of the routes, making for more relaxed rides and planning.

In addition, one of the first things many independent travelers to Taipei do is to download the Fun Travel in Taipei (臺北好行) App. After the Taipei City Government's 1999 Citizen Hotline was a winner in the first WeGO Awards in 2012, the government unveiled the comprehensive transportation-information services plan Smart & Easy Travelling in Taipei (臺北好好行), with Fun Travel in Taipei a key element. This beat out 68 competitors from around the globe to win the Best e-Government Prize in the Category of Services in 2014. The App is an invaluable travel companion for budget travelers, combining Google Maps, information on public transport tools (metro, bus, YouBike, taxi), transfer information within the city, and real-time information on traffic conditions, buses, and bike-rentals, ensuring you are always in control when moving about.

Riding the metro, bus, and YouBike, leisurely around the city is the best way to really experience local life. So get out and about these winter mornings, pick an MRT



station to start your journey, and check out the comprehensive Taipei Metro network, taking your Fun Travel in Taipei tour-buddy with you, for the best of Taipei times. 📱

1-2. The Fun Travel in Taipei App has combined Google Maps, providing information and real-time information of public transport tools. With English version, it has become much more convenient for tourists from foreign countries.

Information

Fun Travel in Taipei 臺北好行

Website: its.taipei.gov.tw





1

The Ancient Art of the LION DANCE



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1. The lion dance, which possesses a history of more than two thousand years, is a part of ancient Chinese culture. It has changed and developed varying features with the passing of time.

2-3. Integrating martial arts and other forms of art, the modern lion dance has become a part of the New Year celebrations in Taiwan. More and more lion dance groups are being invited to perform in temples. The performance has become more complex and professional. Many international lion dance competitions are held in Taiwan every year.

(Pictures 1~3 courtesy of Hong Wending)

A crowd has formed before a temple and the smell of firecrackers permeates the air. As you push your way through to see what the commotion is about, you are startled by a sudden explosion of raucous drums, and a wild scene comes into view. A multicolored lion with bulging eyes is crouching on the ground as if stalking its prey, and then without warning it vaults into the air and the crowd gasps in unison. The beast's leonine movements are controlled by two concealed men, one carrying an elaborately decorated lion head with a snapping mouth, another at the rear operating the tail.

You've stumbled upon the lion dance (舞獅), an age-old custom that has followed Chinese people everywhere they go. But what is the meaning behind this unique and frenetic display? In this article we explore the history of the lion dance, and particularly its focal point, the head. We also meet up with Hong Wending (洪文定), the youngest in a line of skilled artisans, to see just how lion heads are made.

Foreign Dance Evolves Into Chinese Custom

The history of lion dancing goes back at least 2,000 years in China. But the custom likely originated in India or Persia, where lions were once native fauna. In India the lion was regarded as a guardian, and lions were first introduced to China in the Han Dynasty (漢朝) as gifts for the imperial court.

There are detailed descriptions from the Tang Dynasty (唐朝) of lion dances performed by Central Asians for the pleasure of the rulers, and by the Song Dynasty (宋朝), the dance was referred to as the "northern lion", as another style was developing in Guangdong Province (廣東省) in the southern China. Rather than providing entertainment for royalty, southern lion dancing was conducted in rural villages. Legend has it that in one community, a child-eating monster called a *nian* (年) was making appearances every spring to wreak havoc. The villagers adopted the tactic of scaring the

nian off with firecrackers, tumultuous drumming, cymbal crashing, and of course the fierce lion.

Over time, lion dancing became a part of the New Year festivities, and the practice of *cai qing* (採青), or “plucking the greens,” developed. In order to ensure prosperity in the new year, businesses offered red envelopes filled with cash, so long as the lions could reach them; they could be hung up to six meters high! Affixed to the envelopes were bunches of green vegetables that the lions had to chew up and spit out, making sure to retain the envelopes as their reward.

Heading into modern times, the northern and southern lions retained distinctive features. Northern lions tend to perform in pairs, one male and one female, and they typically feature a gold-covered wooden head and shaggy, orange-haired bodies. Northern lion performances are highly entertaining and include a full range of acrobatics and stunts. The southern lion is more symbolic, as it serves to ward off evil spirits and summon good fortune. The head is larger yet lighter and made of *papier-mâché*. It has a single horn on top and a mirror on the forehead to show enemies their true selves.

In the south, lion dancing goes hand in hand with martial arts. Controlling the lion requires great strength, dexterity, and agility. *Foshan* (佛山) is the preferred style of most *kung fu* schools, and only the most advanced students are allowed to perform. In the 20th century a second major southern style developed, called *Heshan* (鶴山). Characterized by complex footwork, the founder of the school studied the movements of cats in order to develop lifelike moves.

Both Foshan and Heshan followed the Chinese diaspora, and as such they are the most common types found in Chinese communities abroad. A number of countries have also developed their own versions of lion dancing, and even within China, no two lions are alike. Lions come in a number of colors, signifying their ages or personality traits, or they may even represent historical characters.

Lions Leap Across the Strait to Taiwan

Besides the northern and southern lions, a third major variety developed amongst the Hokkien (福建) people, called the “green lion.” With protruding teeth, brows made of steel lances, short black beards, and long

bodies that may conceal weapons, green lions are truly dreadful creatures. Some say that green lions represented the Manchurian overlords in the Qing Dynasty (清朝). After the fall of the Qing, green lions became less common, but they survive to this day in Taiwan.

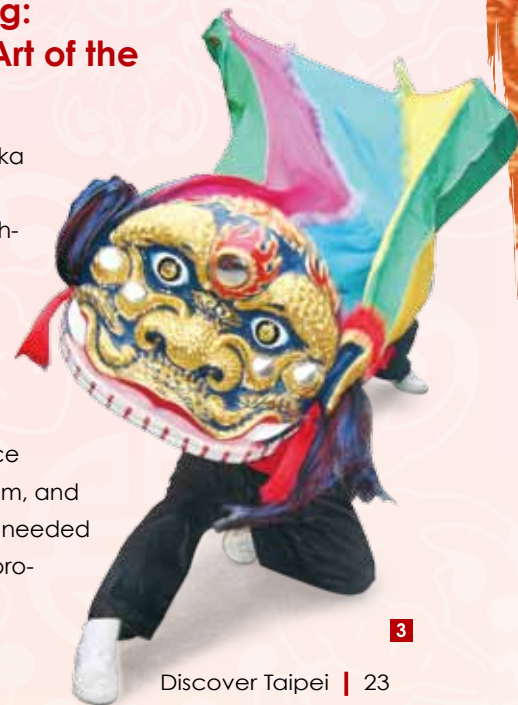
Green lions first crossed the Taiwan Strait in the 18th century. Because most early settlers in Taiwan were boatmen who struggled with the island’s harsh environment, lion dancing in Taiwan retained a strong emphasis on aggressive moves and martial arts. Dance troupes were mostly found in farming villages, where performances were staged for the exaltation of gods, for exercise or even military training.

Moveable, open-mouthed lion heads became common in northern Taiwan, while in the south they tended to be flat and doubled as shields for protecting villagers from bandit raids. Later, Hakka-style lions also arrived in Taiwan, followed by Guangdong-style ones, and after 1945, northern-style ones. In the 1950s and 1960s, lion dance troupes became increasingly associated with gangsters. Violent showdowns between troupes brought the custom a negative reputation.

In the 1970s and 1980s, increased industrialization, wealth, and urbanization meant that more and more lion troupes were being commissioned to perform at temple opening ceremonies, and nowadays the activity has become more sophisticated and professional. A number of international lion dance competitions take place annually in Taiwan.

Hong Wending: Keeping the Art of the Lion Alive

In old times, Bangka (魴甲) was the commercial heart of northern Taiwan. When divine statues were brought over from China, they often passed through and required performance troupes to escort them, and those troupes in turn needed skilled craftsmen to produce their gear.





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In 1924, a lion dance troupe in Beitou, then a fringe community with an emerging lion dance scene, invited Master A Shui (阿水師), a renowned lion head craftsman from Taipei, to travel there to impart his knowledge. His chief student was Master Yi Tu (義塗師).

Master Yi Tu's workshop in Beitou attracted many young local boys to the art of lion head making. One of them was Hong Laiwang (洪來旺), who started hanging out there and picking up the trade at the age of nine. He would go on to found the Central Lion Dance Troupe (中央獅團), who would win national lion dance championships, and became something of a legend in northern Taiwan, for his golden-face lion heads were considered top notch.

In those days, lion head-making was a labor-intensive process that spawned the highest quality results. The first step was to make a clay mold, and only "Beitou soil" obtained from Mt. Datun was considered suitable. The clay would be aged, rehydrated, and finally worked into a mold. The mold was then covered in *papier mâché* consisting of cheesecloth or bits of paper. Next, the mold would be removed and the mask would be covered with a mixture of gold leaf and natural lacquer. Finally, a sealant would be applied for protection, and decorative elements were painted on.

Hong's lion heads typically featured the colors of the five Daoist elements: green, red, yellow, white and black. Besides the large mirror on the forehead, there were two smaller ones on each cheek. On the back of the head was painted a *bagua* octagram (八卦鏡), representing the Daoist cosmology, with a *yin yang* symbol at the center. Rising from the beast's neck were multicolored ocean waves, representing the earth, and

below them hung wisps of dyed hair made from palm bark. The jaw of the movable mouth was made of wicker basket attached to an internal bamboo frame.

Hong fabricated over a thousand lion heads in his lifetime, achieving fame and various awards. Before passing away in 2013 at the age of 99, he made the largest lion head in his life at 90 centimeters across.

Hong's son, Hong Wending (洪文定), says that for as long as he can remember, people in the community looked up to his father. "My father was like a hero to me. When I was growing up there were always people at our house learning from him."

As Wending got older, he became increasingly fascinated with martial arts. In 1987 he founded his own Fu An Dance Troupe (福安獅團). Wending recalls the first time he connected with the lion while dancing, "We were performing a welcoming ritual in the south of Taiwan, I caught scent of the incense, and suddenly I could feel the spirit of the lion moving through me."

Recognizing that lion dancing was falling out of fashion with many youths, Wending started teaching martial arts and the art of lion making in schools, civic



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groups, and other troupes, and also made trips abroad to teach the skills in overseas Chinese communities. In 2006, he and his father established the Taiwan Lion Dance Arts Association (台灣獅頭旺民俗技藝發展協會) in order to share their knowledge with the community and to promote lion dancing in Taiwan. Wending's son, now in college, is also showing a keen interest in the art, providing hope that the art form will continue to be passed on.

The traditional method of making lion heads is in fact on the verge of extinction, not just in Taiwan, but everywhere. Instead of using clay, most now use fiberglass, which is easier to mold and much lighter for performers. Even Wending admits that he has adopted these modern methods, though he still makes lion heads in the traditional manner for special occasions.

If you'd like to see lion dancing in Taipei, your best bet is at temple fairs or on the first day of the Chinese New Year, when there are performances at the National Chiang Kai-shek Memorial Hall, while the most traditional variety can be seen at major temples in and around the city. 📍



4. Nowadays, glass fiber is used make most lion heads. The light weight of this material takes much of the burden off the performers' shoulders.
- 5-6. The painted lion heads made by Hong Laiwang include five colors – green, red, yellow, white, black – which represent the Daoism elements.
7. At the age of 99, Hong Laiwang constructed a 90-centermeter-wide lion head, the biggest he ever made in his lifetime.
8. In his lifetime, Hong Laiwang made over a thousand lions in total. Not only did he receive numerous awards, but also he established his position as a leader in the arts and crafts industry. Picture of Hong Wending and his father, Hong Laiwang.
9. In Hong Wending's childhood, Father was like a hero respected from people.
10. Hong Wending established Fu An Dance Troupe and began teaching martial arts and lion head-making techniques in schools, civic groups and other troupes.

(Pictures 7~9 courtesy of Hong Wending)



Authentic Dishes From Taiwan's Military Communities: Nostalgic Flavors From Both North and South

Taiwan possesses a unique military dependents' village culture that has a rich blend of customs and practices from different mainland China provinces, and even elements of Vietnamese, Burmese, and other Southeast Asian cultures.





1. The most compelling element of the military dependents' village culture is the unique food, each household adding its back-home specialties; shown here are Tsun Tzu Kou Military Village Flavors Restaurant's soy-braised dishes and steamed dumplings and Ceramic Pot Stewed Fish Head.
- 2-3. Tsun Tzu Kou Military Village Flavors Restaurant brims with such decorations as patriotic posters and military attire, making patrons feel like a guest in a serviceman's home. The exterior is like a small lane-mouth noodle house, in the past a characteristic dependents' village feature.

Villages That Resemble a Big Extended Family

Taiwan's military dependents' villages developed between 1949 and 1960, when about 1.2 million people came across from China in the Kuomintang government exodus, and military personnel, with their dependents, were placed in 886 newly constructed villages. They came from different areas of the mainland, and looked upon their fellow servicemen as brothers, taking care of each other. Add to this the fact they now all lived in close proximity, and the similarity of the style and layout of the housing in each dependents' village, and one sees why doors were left open, and how intimate neighborly relations were.

Not notable in the special culture of the villages is the distinctive cooking. Each home has its own specialty dishes, and come each mealtime a great feast of aromas waft out from under eaves, the particular scents identifying a family's ancestral home. By way of example, the strong smell of Sichuan (四川) pepper and fried dried chili pepper identifies families from Sichuan and Hunan (湖南), respectively. Shandong folk love foods made with wheat, and invariably have *mantou* (饅頭), a type of steamed bun, and meat-stuffed buns called *baozi* (包子) on the table. In this issue we introduce the rich banquet of home-style dishes enjoyed in military dependents' villages, with a special focus on New Year feasting.

Cherished Old Military Community Vendor Stalls – Tsun Tzu Kou

Tucked away in the grid of lanes and alleys off Sec. 3, Bade Road is Tsun Tzu Kou Military Village Flavors Restaurant (村子口眷村風味小館). With a humble façade and no signboard, this is a place with a strongly loyal long-term clientele. Posters with patriotic slogans are seen everywhere inside, and the walls are decorated with military fatigues, service caps, and steel cups. Patriotic songs are played, giving the impression of being a guest in an old serviceman's home. There is no set menu; regulars order a serving of the available soy-braised dishes and a plate of the steamed dumplings or beef noodles. The owner, who grew up in Zhongcheng No. 2 Village (忠誠二村), says that "In the past, at the mouth of each lane in a military dependents' village there was sure to be a small noodle house." By opening this eatery, in addition to commemorating her mother's kitchen skills, she is also honoring the memory of the village culture, including the many unmarried veterans who could not cook for themselves and loyally reported at the noodle-vendor businesses each day.

The owner says that a standard at the traditional New Year's Eve family feast in a military dependents' village is a ceramic-pot stew, and her restaurant's signature dish is "Ceramic Pot Stewed Fish Head" (砂鍋魚頭). The ingredients include silver-carp head, stock

cooked with a large soup bone, Chinese cabbage, beancurd skin, frozen beancurd, slices of meat, and other ingredients. The delicious soup is fresh and slightly sweet, and the ingredients are hearty and filling. The restaurant's soy-braised treats, which are New Year must-haves in military dependents' village households, include egg, dried beancurd, lotus root, and white bamboo shoots. According to custom, pots cannot be used for cooking from New Year's Day through the 3rd day of the New Year, so cooking up a big pot of food braised in soy sauce, called *luwei* (滷味), provides a ready source of delicious hot or cold treats. Another must-have New Year dish, steamed dumplings called *shuijiao* (水餃), symbolize imperial-era gold or silver ingots called *yuanbao* (元寶) because of their shape. The cooks make all of the restaurant's delicious *shuijiao* fresh each day by hand. They're filled with two different fillings: minced pork with Chinese garlic chive and minced pork with Chinese cabbage.

Authentic Military Dishes at Zhongnan Restaurant

Located on Renai Road (仁愛路), Zhongnan Restaurant (忠南飯館) has been in operation over 60 years. According to second-generation owner Huang Liping (黃立平), the restaurant was opened by an elder female cousin to serve the air force general headquarters and the then state-owned Broadcasting Corporation of China (中國廣播公司), located opposite. The restaurant's name was chosen to honor General Hu Zhongnan (胡

忠南), who had come to Taiwan in the Kuomintang exodus from China. All of the eatery's master workers are old veterans, and all offerings are authentic old-time dishes, with their origins in military-camp canteens – for example, stir-fried soybean with preserved potherb mustard (雪裡紅炒毛豆), dried beancurd with pork slivers (豆干肉絲), and twice-cooked pork with Chinese pickled vegetables (泡菜回鍋肉).

The original menu has been retained, although the ingredients have been adjusted to accommodate modern diners' health concerns. As one example, the meat used in the signature lion's head (獅子頭) or braised meatballs, an essential part of a New Year feast in the military dependents' villages, is now much leaner. Soy-braised Chinese cabbage and homemade mantou are also added to reduce the greasiness of the meatballs, which are fried. Another dish, fish with fermented beans, is a New Year favorite because the Chinese for "fish" (魚; yu) and for the word "surplus" (餘; yu) in the old expression "every year a surplus" (年年有餘) are homonyms. Fried carp and beancurd are heated over a low fire for 30 minutes along with onion, ginger, and alcohol, forming a wonderfully appetizing dish. Huang also serves a private homemade version of "Ten Fragrant Ruyi Ingredients" (十香如意菜).⁴ It is indeed made with ten ingredients, including dried beancurd, soybean sprouts, carrot, dried orange daylily, mushroom, bamboo-shoot slivers, and wood ear, all cut into shreds/slivers. The process is time-consuming, with each ingredient fried before they're all mixed together, and for this reason this New Year treat is only prepared for old patrons on request.





Everyone is Welcome at Luguang Restaurant

Luguang Restaurant (陸光小館), on Civic Boulevard (市民大道), is a small eatery with a simple décor of military badges and Kuomintang party insignia, photos of Chiang Kaishek (蔣介石) and Chiang Chingkuo (蔣經國), and group photos, resembling the decorations commonly seen inside family homes in the dependents' villages. The owners, a lady and her younger brother, grew up in Luguang No. 1 Village (陸光一村), hence the restaurant's name. On the menu are all sorts of wheat-based dishes with soy-based sauces, luwei, and cold dishes, along with home-cooking specialties from dependents' villages.

The sister, Li Yeyun (李暉昀), says that when young she'd watch her mother hanging fish to dry and pork, chicken legs, and sausages to cure under the eaves of their house, as she prepared for the sumptuous New Year's Eve family feast. Her mom would stir-fry the pork and sausage with garlic and celery, steam the chicken legs, then shred the meat by hand and serve it cold with baby cucumber, cilantro, garlic, and thick soy sauce. These were her father's favorite snack dishes when having a drink. Many mothers would also make

their own naturally fermented stinky tofu in the narrow alleys behind their homes, then make extra-tasty "stinky tofu pot" by heating it with duck blood and frozen beancurd, topping it off with a jar of chili and meat sauce. Of the various wheat-based New Year dishes, her favorite was "eight treasures noodles with soybean paste" (八寶醬麵), made with eight ingredients: minced meat, dried beancurd, corn, green soybean, mushroom, carrot, bamboo shoot, and broad bean, symbolizing the complete family during New Year reunion celebrations.



- 4-5. All Zhongnan Restaurant master workers are old veterans; the fare has its origins in military-camp canteens. Zhongnan's most popular New Year dishes are lion head meatballs, fish with fermented beans, and Ten Fragrant Ruyi Ingredients.
- 6-7. Luguang Restaurant has a simple décor evoking that found in family homes in the dependents' villages. The exterior also preserves the old-time family-home look, notably its wood-frame frosted-glass door.
- 8-9. Military community New Year fare in the military was simple, with myriad luwei treats, stir-fried cured meats and sausages, cold-served wind-fried chicken legs, etc.; a must-have noodle dish was eight treasures noodles with soybean paste, symbolizing New Year family-reunion completion.

Remembering Mama's Home Cooking – Erkong Juancun Restaurant

According to the current owner at Erkong Juancun Restaurant (二空眷村小館), fourteen years ago a group of friends who'd grown up in a military dependents' village got together and found themselves discussing their mothers' best dishes. They came up with the grand idea of opening up a restaurant specializing in them. Fortuitously, to run the kitchen they found a fellow named Su (蘇) who had been a chef at the Legislative Yuan (立法院) and had learned to make many dishes from different regions at the request of old legislators originally from China who missed home cooking. He is able to recreate the dishes of pretty much every Chinese province.

Su wields his kitchen skills to produce the banquet-style dishes mothers in military dependents' villages make in their own kitchens when entertaining. The most popular recipes are steamed cod with crispy beans (豆酥鱈魚), stir-fried Chinese cabbage with vinegar sauce (醋溜高麗菜), and dry-fried green beans (乾煸四季豆).



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His New Year specialty offering is the *kao fang* (烤方), or braised pork, made with black-pig meat from Sanxia (三峡), New Taipei City. After parboiling the meat, thick soy sauce, rock sugar, soup stock, pepper, star anise, and other seasonings are added, and the combination is stewed for 6 hours, then steamed another 6. Each bite melts in the mouth, and the pig skin is chewy, soft, and rich in collagen. A New Year must-order is smooth and tender lion head meatballs braised in a ceramic pot, featuring meatballs with beancurd and Chinese water chestnut as big as a fist. The meatballs are first fried in oil, then stewed in stock with Chinese cabbage, mushroom and green-onion until soft. Open for over a decade now, the restaurant attracts numerous military officers, veterans, and politicians, many of whom write words of praise on the walls, and air-force uniforms have even been contributed to the display, adding color.

For a different experience while visiting Taipei, enjoy the unique cultural atmosphere of eateries in military dependents' enclaves. Order the dishes that are such a quintessential part of their past, enjoying the gracious cheer of the owner while getting a taste of the nostalgic back-home flavors old vets pine for, embraced by the warmth of old-time hospitality in the cool of winter. 🍷

10-11. Erkong Juancun Restaurant was opened by village friends' nostalgic for their mothers' cooking; all dishes are from the special feasts prepared by village mothers when entertaining, including kao fang and lion head meatballs.

Information

Tsun Tzu Kou Military Village Flavors Restaurant

村子口眷村風味小館

Add: 34, Aly. 52, Ln. 12, Sec. 3, Bade Rd.
(八德路3段12巷52弄34號)

Tel: (02)2579-6455

Zhongnan Restaurant 忠南飯館

Add: 88, Sec. 4, Renai Rd. (仁愛路3段88號)

Tel: (02)2755-6177

Luguang Restaurant 陸光小館

Add: 103, Sec. 4, Civic Blvd. (市民大道4段103號)

Tel: (02)8771-8855

Erkong Juancun Restaurant 二空眷村小館

Add: 14, Ln. 155, Dunhua N. Rd. (敦化北路155巷14號)

Tel: (02)2712-2077

Chinese New Year Gifts – Expressing Wishes for Fortune and Prosperity

The people of Taiwan place much emphasis on the etiquette of gift-giving. Gifts are a must when visiting elders, relatives, and friends during Chinese New Year or other festivals, as they express respect and sincerity. Festive gifts can be anything from fruit, food products, and potted plants to daily-use articles. Most people will choose gifts that have auspicious “wealth and good fortune” associations, such as potted kumquats (“kumquat” and “luck” sound alike in Chinese), or potted plants wrapped in red and gold paper, symbolizing luck and wealth, respectively. The act of giving is to bestow a blessing on the recipient.



One Needle, One Thread – Cecilia Arts

Traditional Chinese women worked to master sewing skills from their youth. From sewing, embroidery, and knitting to flower cutting, patchwork quilting, and spinning and weaving, everything was handmade. The term *nugong* (女紅), meaning “needlework,” is literally “women’s work.” This ancient skill, exclusive to women, was almost always passed on from mother to daughter, and the needlework produced was an expression of family love. During Chinese New Year, hanging decorations and “good luck bags” (福袋) are made, adding to the festive atmosphere in the home.

Nowadays, hand-crafted items made using traditional needlework are uncommon, and quite valuable. Chen Caoqian (陳曹倩), the founder of Cecilia Arts (中國女紅坊) had a Western education, with a Master’s degree in biological sciences, but has always been fascinated by folk art, and has collected a great deal of information on the decorative patterns of local ethnic groups. She established Cecilia Arts in 1996, hoping to foster traditional arts while introducing new ways of thinking,



1. Today, traditional needlework done by hand, from sewing, embroidery, and knitting to flower cutting, quilt patchwork, and spinning and weaving, results in precious creations.
2. Cecilia Arts founder Chen Caoqian combines traditional needlework art with innovative thinking to present the craft to a modern audience.
- 3-4. Cotton-fabric persimmon-themed hanging ornaments represent the good-fortune expression *shi shi ru yi*. Handmade tiger-shaped protect children growing up.



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bringing the affection and warmth intrinsic to traditional needlework art to the modern consumer.

Most Cecilia Arts products are articles for everyday use with both practical and aesthetic value. The range is impressive, with everything from delicate cloth bags, change purses, and simple coasters to complicated embroidered brooches. There are numerous special New Year offerings, among them a series of hand-stitched cotton-fabric persimmon-themed hanging ornaments. The pronunciation of the characters for "persimmon" (柿) and "affairs/matters" (事) is the same ("shi"); and suggests the symbolic meaning *shi shi ru yi* (事事如意), or "good fortune in all affairs." Since persimmons are also round, the expression *yuan yuan man man* (圓圓滿滿), which means "without defects" or "perfect" is implied. Handmade pillows serve as talismans protecting children as they grow up, and are made in the shape of the guardian of children in traditional folk belief, the tiger. In the past, "lucky goats" (吉羊) were used in the home as decorations at New Year because the pronunciation in Chinese, *jiyang*, resembles *jixiang* (吉祥), which means "lucky or auspicious." Cecilia Arts has numerous specially designed, bright-colored lucky goats for the Year of the Goat.



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Premium Gifts of "Original-Culture" Essence – KOAN+

All the designers at KOAN+ originally worked in interior design. They found that sourcing was a major difficulty when they wanted to introduce Chinese decorative elements into a project – so they decided to produce their own. Their creative base is nature and original Asian-cultural elements, coupled with a fertile imagination, resulting in products both trendy and rich in Zen character. The name "KOAN+" is taken from Buddhism; the firm says *koan* means "heart-to-heart communion," and what they hope is that when people use their products they will reflect on and obtain understanding of the designers' attentiveness and intention.

One of their hot-selling items is BETWEEN (之間), a pen holder with minimalist lines that flow like poetry. It need not serve merely as a pen holder while sitting on your desk – it is a work of landscape art, transforming pens into columns of rain falling from the sky; instead of pens, flowers or small plants can be placed inside. Another especially popular item is RAIN TIMES (你有雨傘，我有報紙), an eye-catching protective bag made of waterproof material that is designed to look like a newspaper.



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Many KOAN+ creations have a festive New Year character and are imbued with cultural significance. Two good examples are the V-BAMBOO (飲水知竹) and V-FISH (飲水有魚) cup covers, which have a distinctive Chinese flavor and provide thermal insulation. The first resembles strips of bamboo, and the second is like a piece of paper-cut art. Another item, the JIAO BEI (交杯) teacup set, symbolizes the traditional *jiao bei* (cross-cup) conducted at a Chinese wedding – the bride and groom honoring each other by ritually offering the other a cup of tea – as well as the ritual of a soon-to-be daughter-in-law presenting tea to her future parents-in-law. Open the cotton-cloth FU PACKET (福袋·手巾·瞭春聯) and you find a square piece of fabric; spread it out for use as a handkerchief or a New Year spring couplet hanging decoration, or fold it up for use as a red envelope. Reusable, it is both eco-friendly and a conversation piece. The retro TaoTie Dragon Door Knocker (饕餮門環) looks like an ancient-style door knocker, but is in fact a refrigerator magnet. In the old days the rings were made of bronze, and most had a *taotie* design (a *taotie* was a mythical, ferocious animal). It is said the *taotie* is the fifth son of the Dragon King (龍王), and loves to eat, so put this symbol of peace and security on your fridge and you are guaranteed food in abundance.

If spending the New Year here, whether it's a handicraft that expresses the essence of traditional Chinese culture or a new design that reinterprets convention are fine choices to express your respect and affection. 14



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- 5. Cecilia Arts has specially designed numerous bright-colored Year of the Goat cloth-figure lucky goats.
- 6. The KOAN+ creation BETWEEN, a pen holder with minimalist lines that flow like poetry.
- 7-8. RAIN TIMES is a clever waterproof bag for protecting newspaper that itself looks like a newspaper.
- 9. The JIAO BEI teacup set symbolizes the traditional *jiao bei* (cross-cup) Chinese wedding tradition of newlyweds ritually offering each other tea.
- 10-11. The cotton-cloth FU PACKET can be used as a handkerchief, New Year spring couplet hanging decoration, or red envelope, and is reusable.
- 12-13. The retro TaoTie Dragon Door Knocker, designed like an ancient-style door knocker, is actually a fridge magnet.
- 14. The V-BAMBOO cup has a cover of bamboo-like strips that protects holders from heat.

(Pictures 6-14 courtesy of KOAN+)

Information

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Website: www.cecili-art.com

KOAN+

Sales Point: Taipei 101 (Leon's Collection)

Tel: (02)2765-7683

Website: www.koan.com.tw

Shopping in Taipei Main Station Rear Area – Savor the Atmosphere of Chinese New Year

Taipei is buzzing with a holiday atmosphere in the run-up to Chinese New Year, as citizens rush to do their New Year shopping before New Year's Eve and clean and renovate their homes, welcoming the coming of the new year.

The rear area of Taipei Main Station (臺北車站) has always been an excellent place to do New Year shopping. In the past, people from central and southern Taiwan who had moved to Taipei to earn a living would often go to places like Huayin Street (華陰街), Changan West Road (長安西路), and Taiyuan Road (太原路) to buy everyday necessities. As a result, many shops selling sundry goods, clothing, and leather goods have gathered here, developing a style of commerce and traditional food appreciated by ordinary people. In this issue we pay a visit to the shops in the rear area of Taipei Main Station, to enjoy bustling scenes of local people celebrating the New Year.

Route

The Home of Wuwanguo → Cotea House → Changan West Road → Taiyuan Road → Sanduowu Babazui → Crispy Taiwanese Donuts → Huayin Street → Taipei Pu Ji Si → Fuyuan Pepper Buns → Fuzhen Fried Pork Noodles → Q Square or Dihua Street



Changan West Road: Savor the Atmosphere of Chinese New Year

In the morning, first go to The Home of Wuwanguo (吳碗裸之家), which can be found in an alley off Changan West Road, for breakfast. This restaurant has 50 years of history, and throughout that time has maintained its traditional cooking methods. The *wanguo* (碗裸) has a soft, strong texture; accompanied by fish ball soup, its

flavor, unchanged for decades, immediately awakens the tastebuds.

After breakfast, walk to the nearby intersection of Chongqing North Road (重慶北路) and Changan West Road, and you will see Cotea House (The Home of Bitter Tea; 苦茶之家), which has a 90-year history. As well as 36 kinds of bitter medicinal herb and its trademark bitter tea (made from boiled



herbs) it also offers osmanthus flowers and lotus seed soup, iced sugar and lotus seed clam cake, and lily, lotus seed and red bean soup, all of which taste great and are well worth trying.

Next, if you walk along Changan West Road, you will be able to enjoy the bustling scenes of New Year in Taiwan. More than 30 shops sell New Year goods, such as The Holiday House (節慶屋), The Funhouse (歡樂屋), The Sweetcorn Field (玉米田), and Lucky House (吉祥屋). Packed with all kinds of delights, they not only sell products related to the Chinese New Year in Taiwan but also provide decorations for all kinds of parties and balls at other times.

Taiyuan Road: A Cluster of Leather Goods Shops and Popular Eateries

Turn around and you will find yourself on Taiyuan Road, where the air is filled with a rich scent of leather. This was once a key center in north Taiwan for wholesale leather, and there are currently about ten leather stores there. Tourists who'd like to buy a leather belt, purse, suitcase, or briefcase should consider wandering around popular stores such as Laier Leather (徠爾皮飾), Haya City (海亞精品旅行箱專賣店), Seahorse Leather (海馬皮件) or Aili

Leather (愛力皮包), all of which stock a range of designs.

Next, go to the intersection of Taiyuan Road and Huayin Road and you will discover two popular restaurants. One of them is the Japanese restaurant Sanduowu Babazui (三多屋爸爸嘴), which has a long queue outside at lunchtime. The seafood served there is freshly-prepared and reasonably-priced: the owner goes to the seafood market himself every morning. Next door, Crispy Taiwanese Donuts (台灣人甜甜圈) specializes in fresh, crisp hand-made donuts, which make an excellent snack after lunch.

1. The rear area of Taipei Station has always been an excellent place to do Chinese New Year shopping.
2. The Cotea House sells a therapeutic bitter tea (made from boiled herbs); it also offers a nutritious slow-simmered sweet soup.
- 3-4. The Home of Wuwanguo insists on traditional cooking methods. The wanguo (bowl rice cake) has a soft, firm texture; accompanied by fish ball soup, it's a treat for the taste buds.
- 5-6. More than 30 shops sell Chinese New Year goods on Changan West Road; here, visitors can enjoy the bustling atmosphere of this important festival.
7. Taiyuan Road was once a key center in north Taiwan for leather wholesale, with many leather goods stores offering a variety of goods to choose from.
- 8-9. The seafood served in Japanese restaurant Sanduowu Babazui is freshly-prepared and reasonably-priced.
10. Crispy Taiwanese Donuts specializes in fresh, crisp hand-made milk donuts, which make an excellent sweet snack after lunch.





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⌚ Huayin Street: Boutique Clothing to Satisfy Every Need

After lunch, take a look at Huayin Street if you'd like to browse clothes or accessories. As well as leather stores, there are also many stores selling clothes, shoes and jewelry here, where you can choose from a large range of imported European or American clothing, artificial leather, and shoes. Some stores also sell Swarovski crystal, semi-precious stones, and jade items of their own design in every price bracket and in every style.

Walk to the back section of Huayin Street and you will see historic Taipei Pu Ji Si (台北市普濟寺), which has been hidden in this busy street for over 70 years. Walk into the hall, and a seated status of Guanyin (觀音) will come into view. All kinds of Buddhist and Daoist gods are beneath her chair, and a majestic atmosphere permeates the temple. The temple invited a calligrapher to write spring couplets, giving them to worshipers. On the first day of each lunar new year, Taipei Pu Ji Si also holds an activity to welcome Mazu (媽祖), and there are also prayer meetings between the fifth day of the new year

and the Lantern Festival. Foreign tourists who would like to see Taiwanese religious customs can take this opportunity to experience the atmosphere of a Taiwanese New Year.

Walk towards the intersection of Huayin Street and Chengde Road (承德路) upon leaving the temple, and you will see a long queue for freshly-made, mouth-watering Fuyuan Pepper Pork Buns (福元胡椒餅). After eating your fill, it couldn't hurt to go to the neighboring Fuzhen Fried Pork Noodles (福珍排骨酥麵), whose trademark dish is fried pork noodles, for dinner. The owner uses their own sauce to cure pork leg, adding soup and noodles after frying it, which results in an extremely delicious meal.

⌚ Chinese New Year Goods Street: Experience a Traditional Chinese New Year in Taipei

After eating, walk along Huayin Street to Chengde Road, and you will see Q Square ahead on your right. The gor-



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geous light on the building is eye-catching, and a food plaza, stores selling leisure wear and popular fashion, high-class restaurants and a cineplex can all be found inside; this is a budding fashion square.

Next, you can rent a YouBike and ride to Dihua Street (迪化街) in Dadaocheng to experience buying New Year goods in Taipei. This is Taipei's oldest area, and both its architecture and traditional industries have a long history. A "2015 Taipei Lunar New Year Festival" (2015來臺北過好年) activity, at which all kinds of New Year goods are sold, is held before Chinese New Year's Eve every year. This activity provides all of the food, snacks, and sundry goods needed for Chinese New Year. As well as free samples from the vendor's booths, you can see traditional performances, song and dance, and singing on holidays, ensuring a buzzing atmosphere.

This shopping trip through the rear area of Taipei Station not only allows you to experience the lively atmosphere of a traditional Taiwanese Chinese New Year, and to feast your eyes on products and great food, but also allows you to bring something back with you – the trip will not have been in vain! 🍊

- 11-12. Huayin Street has many stores selling clothes, shoes and jewelry in every price bracket and in every style.
- 13. Taipei Pu Ji Si stands imposingly on a busy street and attracts many worshippers.
- 14-15. Mouthwatering charcoal roasted Fuyuan Pepper Pork Buns.
- 16-17. Fuzhen Fried Pork Noodles uses their own sauce to marinate pork leg meat; after frying the meat is tasty and the aroma tempting.
- 18. The dazzling lights on the Q Square building are eye-catching. This is a new shoppers' heaven in Taipei.
- 19. Dihua Street holds the 2015 Taipei Lunar New Year Festival activity, during which all kinds of Chinese New Year goods are sold, in the Chinese New Year period.

Please refer to the map provided on P.66

Information

The Home of Wuwanguo 吳碗棵之家

Add: 1, Ln. 177, Changan W. Rd.
(長安西路177巷1號)

Tel: (02)2550-0901

Cotea House (The Home of Bitter Tea) 苦茶之家

Add: 244, Changan W. Rd. (長安西路244號)

Tel: (02)2558-0019

Sanduowu Babazui 三多屋爸爸嘴

Add: 19, Taiyuan Rd. (太原路19號)

Tel: (02)2555-7708

Crispy Taiwanese Donuts 台灣人甜甜圈

Add: 183, Huayin St. (華陰街183號)

Tel: (02)2550-9914

Taipei Pu Ji Si 台北市普濟寺

Add: 100, Huayin St. (華陰街100號)

Tel: (02)2558-7046

Fuyuan Pepper Buns 福元胡椒餅

Add: 42-19, Huayin St. (華陰街42之19號)

Tel: (02)2550-0356

Fuzhen Fried Pork Noodles 福珍排骨酥麵

Add: 42-13, Huayin St. (華陰街42之13號)

Tel: (02)2555-3337

Q Square 京站時尚廣場

Add: 1, Sec.1, Chengde Rd. (承德路1段1號)

Tel: (02)2182-8888

2015 Taipei Lunar New Year Festival

2015來臺北過好年

Time: 2/4~ 2/17

Locations: commercial areas including Dihua Street, Taipei Station rear area, Huayin Street, Ningxia, Rongbin, Taipei City Mall, and Ximen

Tel: 1999 (02-2720-8889 outside Taipei City), ext. 6478

Website: www.2015taipeinewyear.com.tw
(The website will be online on 1/15/2015)

Browsing Taipei's Indie Bookstores



Taiwan is home to impressively dynamic publishing and bookstore industries. In Taipei alone there are between 200 and 300 bookstores, large and small. If you have a love of reading and collecting books, this city is a fine place to indulge yourself.

Beyond its large-scale bookstore outlets, the city has a fine collection of independent bookstores where you'll find a less commercial, more cultured atmosphere. These have collectively become a unique element of the cityscape. In this issue we take you on a visit to three of the most compelling, where you'll experience three very different management styles in action.



Zeelandia Travel & Books – Travel Via the Printed Word

Tucked away on Qingtian Street (青田街) amidst a cluster of lanes and alleys, at Zeelandia Travel & Books (旅人書房) the main focus is – yes – travel. On the timber bookshelves are approximately 3,000 travel-related books. The cozy, bright, comfortable space adds to the joy of browsing or a sit-down read. It's a great place for armchair travelers to spend some time.



Zeelandia stocks in-depth travel titles. The travel-loving owner, Vienn, arranges titles by theme, such as cultural observation, natural ecology, food culture and adventure travel, among others. In addition to browsing the books, visitors can also peruse a special section with cultural-creative goods, and another section with a unique collection of items from overseas brought by exchange students and backpackers. The shop also rents original-language travel books, enabling readers to travel the world by reading about it for just a small outlay – a big hit with foreign patrons.



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Vienn says that as long as you “move” you’ll enjoy fruitful exchanges, and that such exchanges are also a form of travel. She stages a regular schedule of travel-salon talks, enabling enthusiasts to share stories. While at the shop, which is in a 50-year-old apartment building, sit down for a read with a cup of quality Taiwan tea and enjoy the unique view of old Japanese wood-built residences across the way.

Bookman Bookstore – “The Most Stubborn” Foreign-Language Bookstore

“We have more language-studies books here than the government bookstores do!” Foreign visitors are often amazed at the cornucopia of titles stocked at Bookman Bookstore (書林書店), one of Taiwan’s few specialty foreign-language bookstores. Clear categorization makes browsing easy, with main classifications being literature, language studies, and culture/humanities.

Owner Su Zhenglong (蘇正隆) is a graduate of the National Taiwan University Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures (國立臺灣大學外國語文學系). Because sourcing foreign-language books was not easy during his days as a student, the idea of opening a foreign-language bookstore took root. Now with a 37-year history, he says that “there are readers in all neglected markets,” and he only “sells ‘long-sellers,’ not bestsellers. We exist for niche buyers; you can call us ‘the most stubborn foreign-language bookstore!’”

Michael Sedwick, an American studying Chinese at National Taiwan University, says that you can find whatever English books you need here, at a store that resembles a small library. He was once startled to come across a book entitled *South Park and Philosophy*, after the American animated series. Bookman also frequently holds film, language, and book club exchange activities, publishes its own film studies book series, and stages seminars introducing movies that have not been officially released in Taiwan, satisfying the interests of various niche groups, and publishes titles that help support small-scale theater groups, faithful to its management philosophy that “there are readers in all neglected markets.”



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1. At Zeelandia Travel & Books, travel is the subject king; the uniquely pleasant space combines good reads, silky Taiwan tea, and a view of old Japanese wood-built residences.
2. Zeelandia has a rental service for original-language travel books, providing “budget” virtual world travel, a big hit with international customers.
3. Zeelandia’s “treasure hunt” section is filled with a unique trove of titles from overseas brought by exchange students and backpackers.
4. Bookman Bookstore is one of Taiwan’s few specialty foreign-language bookstores; its bright, spacious reading space, like a small library, is a hit with foreigners.
5. Bookman frequently stages parent-child reading English books activities.
6. Bookman’s novels are classified according to authors’ surnames, making searches easy.



Taiuan-e-tiam – Books that Record Taiwan's History

If you want to understand Taiwan, you can do no better than come to Taiuan-e-tiam (台灣e店). Seeking to present 400 years of modern Taiwanese history and culture, and the stories of its different ethnic groups, the owner opened this source of intellectual light in the lanes across from National Taiwan University 21 years ago.

The decorative embellishments in the store have always been few, but the books have been impressively many. The 72-year-old owner, Wu Chengsan (吳成三), has the same homework assignment each day – scouring newspapers and magazines in the hunt for Taiwan-related titles. "We have no books from bestseller lists here, and some have long been sealed, just waiting for their destined buyer." Some yearbooks have been sitting on the shelves for 7 or 8 years. "Occasionally a discerning book lover will show up and take them away, so how can I change their positions?"

Books on local minority peoples and niche-market titles, such as on indigenous languages, Hakka dictionaries, historical collections, and music, are given the most prominent display spaces. The materials that most local and foreign scholars and research students come to hunt for are historical documents and the Taiwan city/county annals. In addition to its collection of over 10,000 books, Taiuan-e-tiam also has a comprehensive collection of Taiwan historical maps, glove puppets, Taiwan-themed T-shirts, hanging ornaments, and indigenous handicrafts, giving it the look of a traditional small Taiwanese department store. Its strong accent on local-culture has given Taiuan-e-tiam a special place in the hearts of foreign residents and travelers crazy for all things Taiwan. 📖

7. Taiuan-e-tiam, which stocks 10,000-plus books, presents Taiwan's history and its ethnic groups' stories; owner Wu Chengsan wants to help others more deeply "know Taiwan" through the printed word.
8. Carrying many neatly arranged memento items rich with Taiwan cultural character, Taiuan-e-tiam is like a mini department store, popular with foreign folk "crazy for things Taiwan."
9. Taiuan-e-tiam treasures books on local minority peoples and niche-market titles, such as on indigenous languages, Hakka dictionaries, historical collections, and related music, given them pride of place on shelves.

Information

Zeelandia Travel & Books 旅人書房

Add: 2F, 12-2, Ln. 12, Qingtian St.
(青田街12巷12之2號2樓)

Tel: (02)2322-4772

Bookman Bookstore 書林書店

Add: 2F-5, 88, Sec. 3, Xincheng S. Rd.
(新生南路3段88號2樓之5)

Tel: (02)2365-8617

Website: www.bookman.com.tw

Taiuan-e-tiam 台灣e店

Add: 1F, 6, Ln. 76, Sec. 3, Xincheng S. Rd.
(新生南路3段76巷6號1樓)

Tel: (02)2362-5799

Website: www.taiuan.com.tw



2015 Taipei International Book Exhibition: New Zealand – Open Hearts, Open Minds, Open Books

The 2015 edition of the huge, breathtakingly popular Taipei International Book Exhibition (台北國際書展; TIBE) will run from February 11th through 16th. This year's theme is "New Zealand – Open Hearts, Open Minds, Open Books (發現紐西蘭·樂讀新世界)." Come see how the "purest country on earth" commits its resources to the cultivation and development of its literature, film, and traditional culture. The TIBE organizers have invited 11 authors from New Zealand to participate in the fair, among them heavyweight children's literature author Joy Cowley, author and Maori cultural pioneer Witi Ihimaera, (whose novel *Whale Rider* has been adapted for the big screen), and avant-garde writer Eleanor Catton, the youngest-ever author to win The Man Booker Prize. The focus country will



also present Kapahaka, or traditional Maori performing arts, which present the chants and choral singing along with the graceful action songs and ferocious war dances so intrinsic to Maori culture.

This year's exhibition will also have an "Anime and Light Novel Area," showcasing an eye-catching new dynamism in the Chinese-language publishing world, along with an array of new-book announcements, lectures and discussions, book signings, public readings, musical and theatrical performances, teaching demonstrations, DIY sessions, and other activities aimed at promoting reading. This year students 18 and over with Taiwan student ID will enjoy exhibition entry for just NT\$50, and preferential rates are also being offered to students from overseas. 10



10. The TIBE features a wide range of new-book announcements, lectures and discussions, book signings, public readings, musical and theatrical performances, and other reading-promotion activities.

11. Many foreigners are drawn to the TIBE each year, once praised by the Hong Kong media outfit Books4You as the book exhibition possessing Asia's "greatest cultural attraction."

2015 Taipei International Book Exhibition

Time: 2/11~2/16; daily 10:00~18:00
2/13, 2/14 hours extended to 22:00
2/15 hours extended to 20:00

Venue: Taipei World Trade Center Hall 1; 5, Sec. 5, Xinyi Rd. (台北世貿一館; 信義路5段5號)
Taipei World Trade Center Hall 3; 6, Songshou Rd. (台北世貿三館; 松壽路6號)

Website: www.tibe.org.tw



Lantern Viewing in Taipei

The Lantern Festival (which falls on the fifteenth day of the first month in the Lunar Calendar) is an important festival in Chinese societies. It is said that it originated in ancient times, when people lit fires to drive away insects, snakes and wild beasts, and put up lanterns and offered sacrifices to the full moon to pray for a rich harvest in the coming year. This subsequently evolved into today's custom of putting up lanterns and appreciating them on the day of the Lantern Festival.

The Lao Mian Cheng Lantern Shop – Keeping a Beautiful Traditional Craft Alive

In the past, lanterns were closely connected with the lives of the Taiwanese, and were seen in both temples and the main hall of homes. But with the changing times, lanterns have gradually become less ubiquitous, which makes this traditional craft seem all the more precious. The Lao Mian Cheng Lantern

1 Shop (老綿成燈籠店), which is situated on Dihua Street, has been in business for over 90 years, and still follows the traditional method of producing lanterns. Zhang Meimei (張美美), the third-generation owner, says that the Lao Mian Cheng Lantern Shop originally sold traditional joss paper (金銀紙; gold or silver paper used when worshipping ancestors), and later began producing lanterns in response to demand from temples, gradually transforming into today's lantern shop. The art of making lanterns has also been passed on from father to son.

Originally, lanterns were made of paper and thin strips of bamboo, which served as a frame. After the lantern had been painted, it would be coated with oil, which was both labor-intensive and time-consuming. In today's improved production method, the factory first produces half-finished lanterns, and the shop then writes characters or paints pictures on the lantern's surface. However, the Lao Mian Cheng Lantern Shop has still held to this practice of producing lanterns and painting by hand to the present day. In the past, most lanterns were only used at temple lantern festivals, whereas today they're used in more diverse ways. Aside from lanterns ordered for festivals such as Chinese New Year and the Lantern Festival, many people and shop owners also buy them to serve as decorations or signs because they like the traditional form.





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The Lao Mian Cheng Lantern Shop, which has long since become a highlight of Dihua Street, strives to develop new styles of lantern as well as producing traditional kinds. For example, innovative lanterns which incorporate Hakka flower cloth have attracted praise from many foreign tourists. They now provide a customization service, so as to extend this traditional art and culture.

The Taipei Lantern Festival – Creative Lanterns in the Year of the Goat

An extensive area for lantern-viewing is established in Taipei each year for the duration of the Lantern Festival. The 2015 Taipei Lantern Festival (2015臺北燈節) will be held in the Yuanshan Park Area (圓山園區). This year's theme is "The Lucky Goat Appears" (花現吉羊); installation art techniques will be used to produce a multi-story lantern structure incorporating creative stories in the main lantern area. A full range of special effects will be featured, presenting a splendid scene in which the figure of the goat plays the leading role.

Other lantern areas have also been planned, including a Prayer Lantern Area, Students' Lantern Area, International Enterprise Lantern Area, a Party Area featuring animals that children love, and a Dream Land Lantern Area, as well as a Tang Poetry Lantern Area, Country Scene Lantern Area, Historic Story Lantern Area, and an Artists' Lantern Area. In addition to the exhibition in Yuanshan Park Area, creative lantern decorations will also be placed on the sidewalk on both sides of Zhongshan North Road (中山北路), Sections 1 and 2, as well as along the central barrier, for a month beginning on the 14th of February, forming a sea of beautiful lanterns. The shops which line the road will also display their creativity, hanging similar decorations in their entrances and temporarily illuminating the night sky over Taipei. 📍



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- 1-2. The Lao Mian Cheng Lantern Shop's innovative lanterns, which incorporate Hakka floral cloth and lanterns, have been very popular with foreign tourists recently. Characters are written or pictures drawn with a brush on the lantern surface.
- 3-4. The Lao Mian Cheng Lantern Shop has been in business for over 90 years. The shop still custom-makes lanterns for temples or special festivals to this day.
5. The 2015 Taipei Lantern Festival will be held in the Yuanshan Park Area, forming a sea of beautiful lanterns, and providing a fun place for people to spend Lantern Festival.
- 6-7. The 2015 Taipei Lantern Festival will have lanterns with many themes, decorating the large trees and terrain features with lanterns, filling the park with brightly colored lanterns.

Information

Lao Mian Cheng Lantern Shop 老綿成燈籠店

Add: 298, Sec. 1, Dihua Rd. (迪化街1段298號)

Tel: (02)2557-8856

2015 Taipei Lantern Festival 2015臺北燈節

Taipei Sea of Lanterns: 2/14~3/15, Sec. 2~3, Zhongshan N. Rd., (Nanjing E. Road to Zhongshan Bridge) 中山北路2至3段之間 (南京東路至中山橋)

Main Venues: 2/27~3/8, Yuanshan Park Area; 1, Yumen St. (花博公園圓山園區; 玉門街1號)

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

Website: www.taipei.gov.tw

Veteran Backpacker Nisan Takes Us on a Tour of Taipei



Rock music in Taiwan has been gradually growing in popularity since it first emerged here in the late 1980s. One of the most important exponents of the local rock music scene was Nisan (倪重華), who founded a musical scouting agency. He helped to discover such popular Taiwanese rock musicians as Wu Bai (伍佰), Lim Giong (林強), Ju Toupi (豬頭皮), Chang Chenyue (張震嶽), and Lin Weizhe (林暉哲), establishing his role as a godfather of Taiwanese pop music.

Multitalented and with a long list of hobbies, Nisan has not only promoted pop music actively, but also excels in the field of cultural and creative management. On top of this, he is a respected gourmet, offering studied opinions about the foods he samples. He regularly frequents the Meowvelous Project (貓下去計劃) restaurant on Xuzhou Street (徐州路), which specializes in creative Western-Asian fusion cuisine. Many of the restaurant's Western-style dishes feature pork combined with local ingredients.

Nisan

- Formerly: Founder of Mandala Works International Communications (真言社製作有限公司)
- Vice president of MTV Networks, Greater China (MTV 音樂電視頻道大中華區)
- Currently: Commissioner, Department of Cultural Affairs, Taipei City Government (臺北市政府文化局)

Nisan calls himself an “old backpacker.” In the 80s, inspired by *Lonely Planet*'s backpacker books, Nisan took just US\$2,000 and spent two months traveling in countries such as Thailand, Nepal, Singapore, Korea, among others, making him a pioneer backpacker in Taiwan. “When I was studying in Japan, I was inspired by the first *Lonely Planet* guidebook, called *Across Asia on the Cheap*. I made use of my summer vacation by going traveling. We were filled with the energy of youth and just wanted to take off on a journey.”

Recalling his backpacking days, he can't help but admire how courageous and carefree he had been. For example, when he and his classmate were exploring the Golden Triangle (Sop Ruak) in northern Thailand, their






guide was hospitalized and they were stranded in a remote village. In his mind, those kinds of trips embodied the essence of backpacking, just hopping on a plane to Nepal with minimal funds, searching for a bold adventure.

Nisan believes that these days it is harder to be a true backpacker because travel networks are so developed. You can plan everything online beforehand, so this could more accurately be referred to as "independent travel." Traveling thirty years ago, most aspects of travel could not easily be predicted in advance. Backpackers required taught nerves to cope with unexpected situations and the uncertainties of the journey, making it more challenging. The best way to explore strange new places was to go into a second-hand bookstore to find old travel books, and check for notes from their previous owners, and use those notes to find some unexpected surprises.

Nisan believes that Taipei is a very suitable city for backpackers. The city's alleyways feature a unique setting that has developed in response to the local history. Add to that the convenience of Taipei's public transportation system, which can get you to high mountains or lakes, the city's rich and diverse eating culture, the low price of daily goods, and numerous hostels, and you have a perfect city for backpacking.

He feels Taipei is particularly good for a slower pace of travel. Everywhere there are cafes perfect for a leisurely read or to just kick back and enjoy the scenery. During the Lunar New Year, he recommends hopping on a bike to ex-

plore the alleys. "In particular, make your way to historic, atmospheric Wanhua District, where you are guaranteed to find surprises." He especially recommends the Zhixing Market, where you can take in the sights of an authentic traditional market. Next to the market you can also enjoy some cold mung bean noodles at the half-century-old Liang Fen Bo (涼粉伯), where they use an ancient Bangka recipe that includes sweet potato starch: something that never found elsewhere. After that, you can make your way to Dadaocheng to admire alleyways replete with old residences and tiny shops.

Nisan believes that the true spirit of backpacking is to experience the local life of the common people. Taipei, with its down-to-earth people and unique culture, is an ideal destination for backpackers. 

- 1-2. Nisan is fond of the East-meets-West restaurant Meowvelous Project, which makes unique dishes using a variety of Western ingredients combined with local ones.
- 3-4. In the 1980s, Nisan started going backpacking under inspiration from *Lonely Planet*. He is truly a pioneer backpacker. At that time, he was so brave that he went to the Golden Triangle (Sop Ruak), to realize his adventurous spirit of becoming a true backpacker. (Pictures courtesy of Nisan)
5. Taipei is a suitable place for traveling slowly. There are numerous old buildings, traditional markets and so on, waiting for you to discover.
6. Liang Fen Bo retains the use of traditional flavors that are highly worthy for visiting friends to try.

Annie Ivanova: Merging Cultures Through the Importing and Exporting of Creativity



Annie Ivanova

Place of origin: Australia

Experience:

- Taiwan, Taiwan by Design, founder
- Taiwan, MOCATaipei, Wonderland: New Contemporary Art from Australia, curator
- Taiwan Art Taipei, Encoded, invited international guest curator
- Singapore, Taiwanese Media Arts, Illuminations, curator
- Austria, Ars Electronica, FutureLab Program, executive producer
- USA, Impact by Degrees, Australian Embassy in Washington, curator
- Australia, agIdeas Design Week, International Advisory Board

Australian Annie Ivanova is a cultural ambassador who sees it as her mission to create bridges between cultures and their traditions. She views art and digital media as common, unifying languages that transcend the borders of the world and connect its peoples. Over the last four years, she has resided in both Melbourne and Taiwan, taking on a variety of roles dedicated to actualizing this ideal.

Although professionally active for less than two decades, Ivanova has more than eighty international exhibitions, conferences, and public diplomacy projects under her belt, earning her no less than forty-five awards from national or international institutions. She has a background in a broad range of fields, holding degrees in both fine arts and international trade. She first became interested in digital media whilst studying in Europe, where she was strongly influenced by the new but rapidly expanding digital arts scenes growing around events like the annual Ars Electronica Festival in Linz, Austria.

Ivanova went on to co-found and direct Australia's first media arts agency, Novamedia Ltd., representing some of Australia's most renowned digital media artists. In her quest to promote Australian art internationally, she traveled to various global centers of digital media, collaborating with some of the most prestigious arts institutions in the world and taking up positions as curator-in-residence in Denmark, Finland, and Austria.

Australia is a nation that has been historically treated as culturally isolated from its geographical neighbors, and its citizens often encounter misconceptions about who they are. With the goal of promoting understanding about Australia within the Asia Pacific region, the Australian government provides funding to arts professionals interested in doing bilateral projects between Asia and Australia. The program enabled Ivanova to become passionately involved in developing cultural and artistic ties between Taiwan and Australia.

Her relationship with Taiwan began in 2010 when she was invited to be a VIP international curator at Art Taipei (台北國際藝術博覽會). Having traveled extensively in Asia both before and since then, she recalls how the brutality of Taipei's concrete cityscape was initially anything but inspiring. Nevertheless, as time passed, she came to realize that this cold exterior was merely a façade behind which lies the city's true charm and beauty. "All you have to do is turn into one of the city's infinite network of alleyways to discover that Taipei is just a big city with a genuinely communal mentality. People live so closely together and look after each other like you would find in a small community."

In the same year she organized Encoded, the first Australian media art exhibition in Taiwan, followed by the enormously successful Wonderland: New Contemporary Art from Australia at the Museum of Contemporary Art (MOCA) in 2012. Besides her efforts importing Australian art and design to Taiwan, she was all the while dedicated to exporting Taiwanese art and design. To this end she organized Illuminations, a Taiwanese media art exhibition in Singapore in 2013, and played a role in assisting Taiwanese designers to be keynote presenters at the prestigious agIdeas International Design Week in Melbourne.

"If I could have one dream come true for young Taiwanese, it's that they leave Taiwan for a period of time and then come back. Traveling abroad gives individuals a sense of freedom that may be difficult to find here," contends Ivanova. She sees a lot of creativity and technical skills in Taiwan, but as a society, Taiwan is still opening up to the world, and traveling can provide a massive boost to creative individuals. What's more, she believes venturing abroad can stimulate people's appreciation of what they do have here in Taiwan.

In 2013, Ivanova traveled around Taiwan and met with members from all of Taiwan's recognized aboriginal tribes, compelled to call international attention to the endangered culture of the island's indigenous inhabitants. Being the first foreign curator to participate in such an undertaking, her work was recognized by the Australian Arts in Asia Awards. The Taiwanese government has also acknowledged her contributions by granting her a scholarship to study Mandarin at the National Taiwan Normal University (國立臺灣師範大學). Says she of the experience, "I was honored to accept the offer, and it really helped me to kick-start learning Chinese. I only wish I had the luxury of more time to continue studying the language formally."



When asked about the Gifts from the Star exhibition at Taipei 101, her latest endeavor, Ivanova's eyes light up with excitement and she takes an eager breath before going into the details. Taking place until January 4th on the fourth floor of the chic Taipei 101 plaza, the exhibition features 101 products of up-and-coming Taiwanese designers. Each item is displayed in a gift-shaped box within a gift-shaped exhibition room, with an elegant, 12-meter decorated Christmas tree presiding over the exhibition area. Through this event she hopes to encourage shoppers to buy Taiwanese for their holiday gifts this year.

Ivanova selected the 101 products based on research for her upcoming book about Taiwanese product design and culture. She also has some ideas brewing for Taipei's 2016 World Design Capital designation. Always building up her network of creative contacts, aspiring to coalesce the corners of the globe into one diverse family through art and design, she sums up the simplicity of her passion when she asserts, "I don't see any of it as work. I just do it because it's good to be done." 🎧

1. In 2010, she was invited to be a VIP international curator at Art Taipei.
2. Wonderland: New Contemporary Art from Australia (魔境：來自澳洲的當代藝術)
3. Gifts from the Star exhibition at Taipei 101

Jake Hemingway: The Skater With a Message



Jake Hemingway

- Place of origin: the U.S.
- Follow him: www.facebook.com/rewritingrules



1. Jake travels around Taiwan by skateboard in order to encourage people to get out there and do whatever they want to do.
2. Jake will travel around Taiwan three times over the course of 75 days by skateboard, bicycle and on foot, and broadcast it on YouTube daily. A documentary based on this adventurous journey should be released by summer of 2015.

(Pictures 1~2 courtesy of Jake Hemingway)


When Jake Hemingway hopped on his longboard with little more in his backpack than a change of clothes, toothbrush, GoPro camera and NT\$20,000, his intentions were far greater than just skateboarding from Taipei to the southern tip of Taiwan at Kenting. Hemingway's cross-island venture coincided with the "Rewriting Rules," he advocated, a life philosophy devoted to promoting creative ideas and lifestyles. "Society, especially in Taiwan, tells you have to study hard, work for a big company, and be a slave your whole life. If you don't do it, you're frowned upon," states Hemingway.

Arriving in Taiwan eight years ago as an LDS missionary, Hemingway spent his first two years riding around Taichung and Hsinchu on a bicycle, sharing his faith. Back in the U.S., he missed Taiwan, particularly its kind and genuine people, and returned within months. After studying at the National Chiao Tung University (國立交通大學) in Hsinchu City (新竹市), he got into importing and consulting work, establishing a number of startups.

In the process he found his calling managing social media and non-traditional marketing. According to Hemingway, small companies in the U.S. with limited resources already utilize these strategies, but in Taiwan the larger companies have adapted first. Working behind the scenes to help a number of businesses, Hemingway recalls how many were initially skeptical about using online media until they saw the results.

After contemplating the idea of skateboarding across Taiwan for years, he suddenly decided to do it one morning when he found he had time off for the Dragon Boat Festival. Traveling at an average of 10km/h and covering 90 kilometers per day, Hemingway persisted through fierce sun, pouring rain, ferocious winds, and even got chased by feral dogs. On the flipside, he was cheered on every mile of the way by thumbs-up and shouts of encouragement. "I want to inspire people to just go out and do it. If you have an idea, don't dwell on it or buy all the gear, and don't worry about failing." Hemingway's primary vehicles for sharing this message are his Mandarin-language blog and Facebook fansite.

Hemingway also aspires to influence locals to use non-traditional ways to rediscover their own country instead of always looking beyond. Realizing his first trip was too rushed, he has planned (and at the time of publication is executing) a more ambitious expedition: a triple circuit of Taiwan: once by skateboard, again by bicycle, and once more on foot, in a total time of 75 days. With a different route each time and in the company of two friends from the U.S. and one Taiwanese, he will be riding on a unique, eight-wheeled skateboard designed by a Taiwanese brand – Allrover.

"This time we are going to slow it down, only ride half the day, and spend the other half meeting people, uncovering Taiwan's rich culture from new angles." Their adventures will be broadcast daily on a YouTube channel, and a documentary based on the journey will be released by summer 2015. Follow their adventures on Facebook. 

How to Talk to TAIPEI

Here are a few sentences in Mandarin Chinese and Taiwanese that backpackers can use while in Taipei to ensure smooth sailing.

Taipei has a lot of breakfast choices, with great variety.

Taiwanese

臺北的早餐真多、真澎湃

Tâi-pak ê tsá-tng tsin tsē, tsin phong-phài.



Good morning. It's a fine day today.

Taiwanese

早安，今天天氣真好

gâu-tsá, kin-á-jit thinn-khì tsin hó.



Good morning. Do you mind if I join your exercises?

Mandarin Chinese

早安，我可以跟你們一起運動嗎？

Zǎo ān, wǒ kěyǐ gēn nǐmen yìqǐ yùndòng ma?

Happy Year of the Goat!
May you enjoy great fortune.

Mandarin Chinese

吉祥如意，羊年行大運

Jíxiáng rúyì, yáng nián xíng dà yùn



Happy New Year!
May you be happy and prosperous.

Taiwanese

新年快樂，恭喜發財

Xīn ní kuài lè, kiong h'i huat ts'ai



Encounter Colorful Paintings in the Streets and Alleys of Taipei

Have you noticed anything different about the streets of Taipei when you're outside? Bright colors have begun to appear on the formerly drab cement walls, on the streets, on the pillars of elevated bridges, or on some corner walls.

Taipei became the 5th World Design Capital on the 19th of October 2014, and actively began a series of urban remodeling activities, among which "Creating a City with Design Vision" is a core plan. To this end, Taipei City Government has invited many artists and designers to engage in inter-disciplinary cooperation, and make Taipei's urban scenery more varied and interesting by beautifying and changing streetscapes.

Color Paintings on Transformers and Walls: Creating Surprises on the Streets

The creative remodeling of outdoor units has been a rising international trend over the last ten years, most

commonly by painting transformer boxes. There are thousands of these boxes in Taipei, and Dalongdong is the pilot area in which boxes have been painted. Local residents, artists and designers have worked together, fusing Dalongdong's culture and rich history and creating brilliant work connected to the environment and displaying local characteristics. At present, 28 transformers in 12 areas have been painted. For example, the artist Chen Duolong (陳多龍) transformed a transformer box near Dalongdong Baoan Temple (大龍峒保安宮) into a roadside guardian by using the themes of dragons playing with pearls and stone lions.

Other districts, including Zhongzheng District and Zhongshan District have also highlighted the community's character through art and creativity, led by local figures. For example, local elders were invited to recount history in Zhongzheng District, and cooperated with art groups to depict history in wall paintings. Furthermore, famous artists such as Xu Kuanguang (許匡匡) and Juju were invited to attend last year's "Street Fun, Fun

Street" Community Art Festival (「街大歡囍」社區藝術節), with the assistance of the Museum of Contemporary Art, Taipei, for four consecutive years. An impressionistic painting of Chifeng Street (赤峰街) was created on the street's walls, turning it into one of Taipei's new cultural strongholds.

Elevated Bridge Pillar Paintings – Combining the Environment and Childish Curiosity

Aside from this, color paintings on the pillars of elevated bridges in two districts of Taipei were completed in 2014, including Xinsheng (新生) and MRT Huzhou Station (捷運葫洲站) elevated bridges. Young artists were invited to paint on the pillars of Xinsheng Elevated Bridge at the intersection of Nanjing East Road (南京東路) and Changchun Road (長春路) through cooperation

between the Department of Cultural Affairs, Taipei City Government (臺北市政府文化局) and university departments related to design, combining the environment, surrounding structures, and unique local scenery to create characterful, varied works of art. Animals popular with kids, including Formosan black bears, Taipei green tree frogs, koalas, and pandas, can be seen in the paintings. The paintings on the pillars of MRT Huzhou Station elevated bridge, situated in Neihu, combine the art and the environment in a similar way, via a modularized design which uses simple, well-executed lines to present the technological, cultural and artistic characteristics of Neihu District.

Old streets have been given new meaning through creative art and design, and alley culture has been passed on through art, making a more artistic city. When you're wandering the city's streets – perhaps you'll run into a painting that will make you smile! 🌈

1. "Street Fun, Fun Street" Community Art Festival has been held for four consecutive years. A number of artists were invited to paint the walls of the alleys on Chifeng Street, filling the area with colorful pleasant surprises.
2. A transformer box can also be a work of art! The artist transformed a transformer box near Dalongdong Baoan Temple into a roadside guardian by using the themes of dragons playing with pearls and stone lions.

3. The color painted artworks below Xinsheng elevated bridge combine the ecological environment, surrounding structures, and unique local landscape. Very cute hand painted childish greasypaint patterns can be seen.
4. The paintings on the pillars of MRT Huzhou Station elevated bridge in Neihu use simple, well-executed lines and bright colors to present the technological, cultural and artistic characteristics of Neihu District.



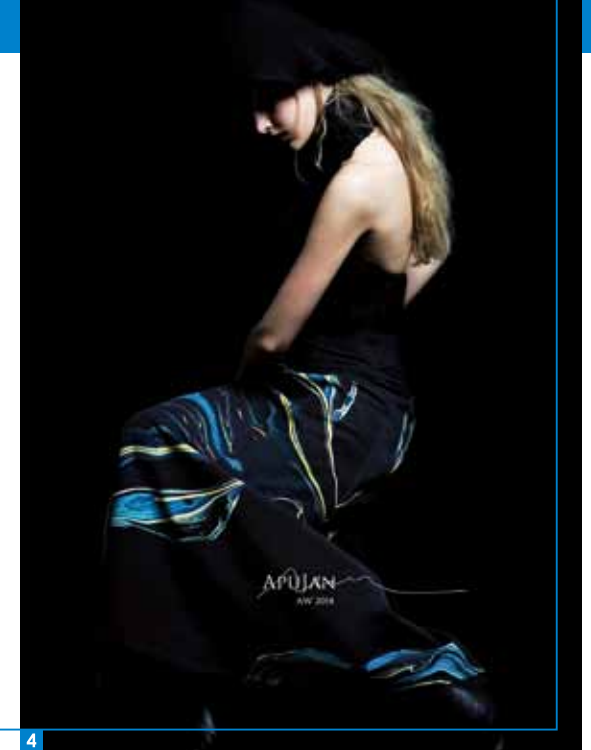
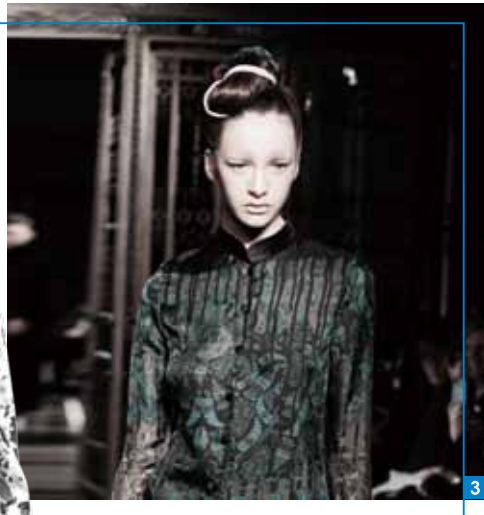
Information

World Design Capital Taipei 2016

2016臺北世界設計之都

Tel: (02)2745-8199

Website: www.taipeidesign.org.tw



Taiwanese Cutting-Edge Fashion Displays a Unique Radiance

Do you remember the dreams you cherished in your twenties? A group of young Taiwanese took fashion as their vocation at a young age, were already showing extraordinary design talent in their twenties, and are now playing leading roles on the international catwalk.

Three Rising Stars of Taiwanese Fashion

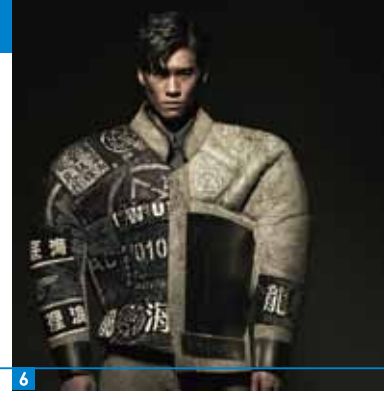
Unlike the internationally-renowned Taiwanese designer Jason Wu (吳季剛), who studied abroad from an early age, Apu Jan (詹朴), Austin Wu (吳日云), and Shanliao Huang (黃山料), who are all 26 years old or younger, studied in Taiwan's two great fashion schools – the Fu Jen Catholic University Department of Textiles and Clothing (輔仁大學織品服裝學系) and the Shih Chien University Department of Fashion Design (實踐大學服裝設計學系). After graduating, they moved into the world of international fashion, attracting much attention, and have recently become a youthful force in the world of fashion which cannot be ignored.

Apu Jan, 26, became famous after exhibiting his work in London Fashion Week Autumn/Winter 2013. His brand, "ApuJan," was displayed at London Fashion Week for five consecutive quarters, opening a career in commercial design. Having loved reading comics and drawing since childhood, after graduating from the Fu Jen University Department of Textiles and Clothing. He moved on to the Royal College of Art in the UK to study for a Master's in Fashion Womenswear. Knitting is a prominent feature of his work, displaying its diversity, flowing contours, and simplicity.





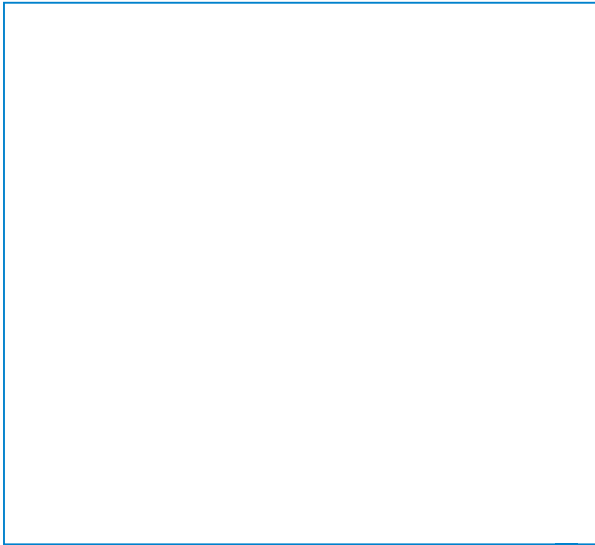
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Having been educated both in Asia and in Europe, Apu Jan believes that Asian designers have a complete grasp of technique, but that in Europe creativity is emphasized, and there is something to learn from both. He considers Taiwan's textile manufacturing technology to rank among the best in the world. His experience in school, together with that gained from an internship in a knitting factory, laid his technical foundation, and he also learned that creative design starts from original, created fabric. He discovered that the UK has a complete fashion industry and a professional division of labor, and is able to nurture a high degree of sensitivity to fashion trends. He believes fashion design brands can prove that there is no contradiction between creativity and business, but that a balance and a way of proving this have to be found. ApuJan products can now be seen at selected shops in London, at eslite Spectrum Songyan Store (誠品生活松菸店) AXES and in his own on-line store.

1-2. Apu Jan often uses black, white and gray, the colors he loves, as the main colors of his fashion works. His self-created brand, ApuJan, was shown at London Fashion Week for five consecutive seasons, opening up a career in commercial fashion design for the designer.

3. Apu Jan became famous after exhibiting his series *Petroleum* at London Fashion Week.

4. Apu Jan is adept at using knitting to express his design concepts. His works highlight feminine tenderness and charm.

(Pictures 1~4 courtesy of Jan)

5. Shanliao Huang won the International Award at the 2014 London Graduate Fashion Week with his graduation work the *Kinmen 1969* series. Huang wears white in the picture.

6-9. The *Kinmen 1969* series uses military boots and coats to express battlefield impressions.

(Pictures 5~9 courtesy of Huang)

Shanliao Huang, who was born in Kinmen and is just 22 years old, represented Shih Chien University when he attended China Fashion Week in Beijing in 2012. In 2014, he went on to win the International Award at the 2014 London Graduate Fashion Week with his *Kinmen 1969* (金門一九六九) series, beating 40 graduates from the best fashion schools around the world.

A native of a small island, he first had the opportunity to come into contact with fashion in Kinmen (金門). He had never studied art, but since he was a child liked drawing on his textbooks. Such experience also lends his work an abundance of originality. He qualified for entrance to Shih Chien University, and it was only when he began studying that he knew that "we make clothes in this department!" Inspired by teachers at the university, he concentrated on the changing colors of the sky in his studies, coming into contact with samples everywhere, and thereby training his own sensitivity to

color, materials, and texture. As time passed, Huang became more and more invested in his work. Today, he has decided to put down strong roots, and continue to forge a career in fashion.

Although only 24 this year, the cutting-edge designer Austin Wu had already established his own brand, Austin. W, while at university. He shot to fame when the First Lady, Chow Meiching, wore two suits he had designed while attending the Anniversary of the Founding of the Republic of China this year. Having loved fashion and design since senior high school, he studied at the Shih Chien University Department of Fashion. When in his third year of study there, he won the third Taipei In Design Contest (超級設計師大賽), which became an important factor in the subsequent founding of his own brand. This competition allowed him to accumulate a great deal of experience and popularity. Even Lady Gaga chose his work from the clothes of a few designers provided by the record company when she came to Taiwan to give a concert. This led to gradual media exposure and also a gradual rise to prominence in the world of fashion. He also displayed his work on stage at the Mercedes-Benz Fashion Week – Asia Fashion Collection Fall 2014 in February, where he was the only Taiwanese entrant.

Austin Wu won “Best Use of Fabrics” title at the 2012 Taiwan Fashion Design Award, in which he uses and combines different materials to design a series of works characterized by a simple, severe style, filled with tension, and inspired by fundamental ideas such as “quiet,” “moderation,” “cool tones” and “the future”. His work can currently be seen in display cases at eslite Spectrum Songyan Store’s AXE.

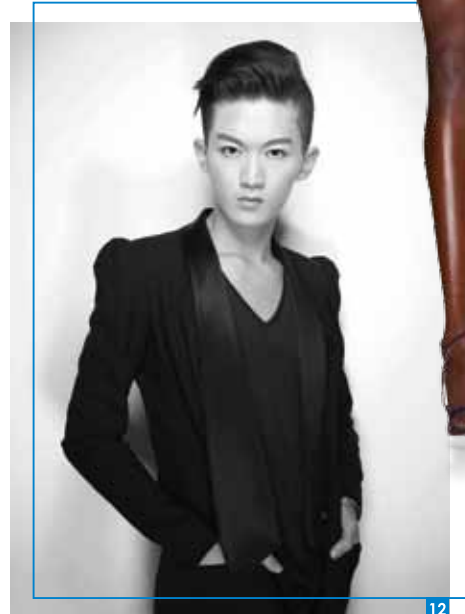
The Taiwan Fashion Design Award: An Important Showcase for New Designers

These three cutting-edge designers all won the world's attention by participating in contests or fashion weeks held in international cities. The Taiwan Fashion Design Award (時裝設計新人獎), organized by the Ministry of Economic Affairs' Industrial Development Bureau (經濟部工業局) and held by the Taiwan Textile Federation (財團法人中華民國紡織業拓展會) in Taipei each autumn, is a great opportunity for up-and-coming Taiwanese designers to show their talent.

The Taiwan Fashion Design Award has been held 28 times to date, and has become a key index of new talent in the domestic textile and clothing industry network. The contest attracts hundreds of outstanding designers every year, and



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more than half of the past victors have already become famous within Taiwan. For example, Stephane Dou (竇騰璜), Changlee Yugin (張李玉菁), Pan Boxun (潘伯勳), Jian Yufeng (簡鈺峰), Hu Yajane (胡雅娟), and Kang Jiawei (康嘉偉) have all become a new Taiwanese force to be reckoned with in the international fashion market.

The prize of the “2014 Taiwan Fashion Design Award” was 1.3 million New Taiwan Dollars, and the winner also received concerted support from many figures in the textile industry. The contest was open to foreign students this year; accordingly, the scale was greater than that of previous editions. The winner, Chu Chiahshuan (朱嘉萱), from Fu Jen University, defeated almost 500 other competitors with *The Death of Soldiers* (兵兵兵丘), winning a prize of US\$10, 000. The work was inspired by the poet Chen Li’s (陳黎) *A War Symphony* (戰爭交響曲). By deconstructing the character meaning “soldier”, it illustrates the fate of soldiers from the past, expressing the varied facets of war. It was chosen from among the mass of entries as a result of its creative characteristics and comprehensive design concept.

Online registration for the 29th Award will be open between March and April this year. Skilled foreign designers are welcome to register and enter. [D](#)

10-11. Austin Wu showed his brand “Austin. W” at the Mercedes-Benz Fashion Week – Asia Fashion Collection Fall 2014 in February. He was the only Taiwanese designer to have this honor.

12. Austin Wu won Best Use of Fabrics award at the 2012 Taiwan Fashion Design Award. (Pictures 10~12 courtesy of Wu)

13-15. Winner of the First Prize at the 2014 Taiwan Fashion Design Award was Chu Chiahshuan, who defeated almost 500 other competitors with *The Death of Soldiers*; the work expresses the fate of soldiers in war.

(Pictures 13~14 courtesy of the Taiwan Textile Federation)



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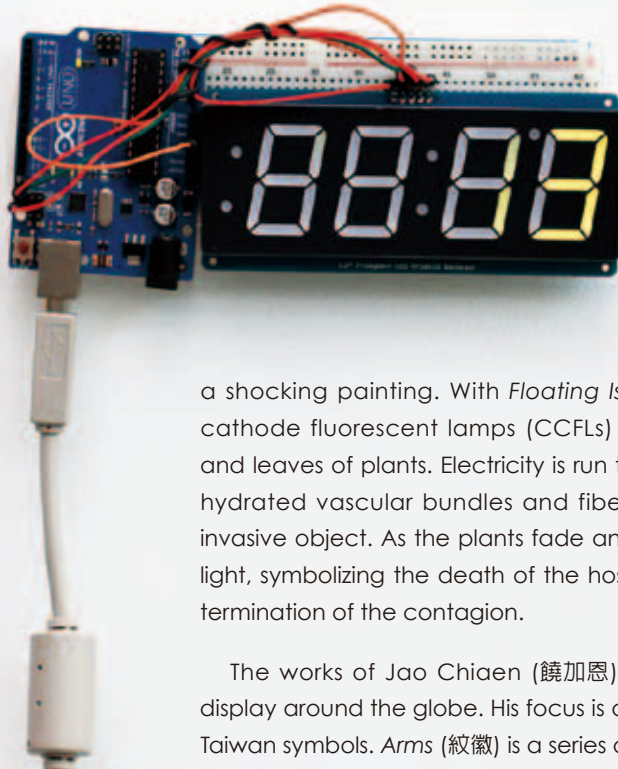
Information

Taiwan Fashion Design Award
時裝設計新人獎

Website: www.tfdaaward.com

The 2014 Taipei Arts Awards – A New Generation of Dynamic Artists

The Taipei Arts Awards (臺北美術獎), held annually since 2001, is a stage for young Taiwan creators to express themselves freely, and a showcase for the dynamism of Taipei's new generation of artists; this year's edition is the fourteenth. After three selection rounds, inspired works by 16 emerging artists (most born after 1980) have been chosen for a showcase display at the Taipei Fine Arts Museum (臺北市立美術館).



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Artist Chi Pohao (紀柏豪), born in 1989, believes that people are capable of different "sound recognition" in different venues. This means that when certain sounds are heard, a person will associate them with the people and things at certain locations. He created his work *The Rhythm of Space* (空間的節奏) by recording 24 hours of Taipei Fine Arts Museum environmental sound and broadcasting it at 100 times its natural speed. When a visitor stands before the artwork's projection clock the compressed sound slows down to normal speed, enticing him or her to stop and listen.

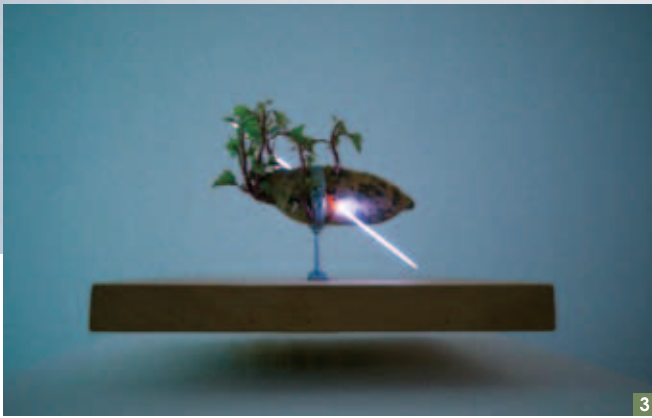
The Infection Series (感染系列), by Chuang Chihwei (莊志維), is also inspired by the experiences of everyday living. From Ebola to autumn and winter flu, the rate at which microbes spread is alarming, as those infected fall sick and, in severe cases, face death. Chuang's work *Laboratory: Air, Water, Soil* (實驗室：空氣、水、土壤) shows the wanton proliferation of bacteria gathered from the environment and cultivated in petri dishes, like

a shocking painting. With *Floating Island* (浮島), cold cathode fluorescent lamps (CCFLs) pierce the stems and leaves of plants. Electricity is run through the highly hydrated vascular bundles and fibers to light up the invasive object. As the plants fade and die so does the light, symbolizing the death of the host and, with it, the termination of the contagion.

The works of Jao Chiaen (饒加恩) are on constant display around the globe. His focus is on the meaning of Taiwan symbols. *Arms* (紋徽) is a series of 30 sketches that give viewers an understanding of Taiwanese history and culture, starting from the short Dutch colonial period that began in 1624. Each *Arms* work is a composition of numerous different elements. For example, sunrise represents Japan's imperial dream of unifying Asia; when the sun rises over Taiwan the shape of mighty Mt. Jade is broken, symbolizing the island's Japanese era. U.S. military steel helmets along with the wings of the black hawk symbolize the period when U.S. troops



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were stationed in Taiwan. Cannon growing from sugarcane represent this commercial crop's key importance in inspiring imperial designs to seize the island, deeply affecting Taiwan's fortunes.

The Suitcase of Madame Joachim (Joachim女士的行李箱) is a uniquely intriguing video installation by Cao Chun (曹淳). In a pile of garbage before her home, "I" pick up an item tossed out by Madame Joachim – a suitcase. Inside are travel guides and personal items. "I" decide to follow in her footsteps. *Nessun Dorma* (你是懂了嘛) is a work of performance art by Chen Ihsuen (陳以軒). The opera aria *None Shall Sleep* (English for "Nessun Dorma," familiar to listeners worldwide) is sung as part of this work, but the words are transliterated into Chinese, and this version of original Italian sounds become a parody, mocking the lyrics sung in Chinese, and reflecting the absurd exchange of the performer giving his all (but clueless as to the meaning of the lyrics) and the audience listening and clapping with enthusiasm (but having no idea what has just been sung).

To get closer to a city, simply looking at beautiful landscapes is not enough. You need to find a way to look out at the world the way that locals do. This show provides the perfect lens; come and see the world the way Taipei's new generation does, and witness the dynamic "noise" they are making. 🎧

1-2. The work *The Rhythm of Space* is centered on recording 24 hours of Taipei Fine Arts Museum environmental sound, played at 100 times normal speed, exploring people's different "sound recognition" in different venues.

3-4. *Floating Island* features CCFLs, used to pierce the stems and leaves of plants; electricity is run through the high-water-content vascular bundles and fibers to light up the invasive object, and as plants fade and die so does the light, symbolizing the death of the host and contagion termination.

5. *Arms* is a composition of myriad Taiwan cultural symbols tracing the nation's history and culture from the Dutch period starting in 1624.

6. The video installation *The Suitcase of Madame Joachim*.

7. In the parody performance work *Nessun Dorma*, the opera aria *None Shall Sleep* is sung, with transliteration for the original Italian mocking the Chinese lyrics, creating a scene of absurdity.

(Pictures 1~7 courtesy of Taipei Fine Arts Museum)

Information

2014 Taipei Arts Awards 2014臺北美術獎

Time: Until 3/8

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

Tel: (02)2595-7656

Website: www.tfam.museum

Taipei in Films – A Window Into the City's Many Past Faces

Have you ever seen a feature film with Taipei used as backdrop? Perhaps international director Besson's recent movie *Lucy*, which showcased the city's internationalized character yet at the same time showed off its unique local culture? Renowned director Tsai Mingliang (蔡明亮) depicts the lives of "little folk" in the midst of the fast-paced city – but where are the Taipei places that so vex the characters in his films? Organized by the Taipei City Government Department of Information and Tourism (臺北市政府觀光傳播局), with the support of the Taipei Film Commission (台北市電影委員會), the Taipei in Films (電影中的臺北) presents film scenes shot in Taipei as well as stories about experiences shooting films in Taipei by Luc Besson and other well-known movie-industry personalities, film-related relics, and interactive multimedia installations.

In the second-floor exhibition area of the Discovery Center of Taipei (台北探索館) is the retro-look Taipei Theater (台北大戲院). From the ticket booth to the movie posters, everything has been created to make visitors feel as though they've walked into a time tunnel, traveling back to an era when seating was made by hand



and posters were hand-painted. A special bonus is the screening of the old 1966 Taiwanese-language film *Guitar of the Hot Springs Village* (溫泉鄉的吉他) and an early work by director Hou Hsiao-hsien (侯孝賢), the 1980 Mandarin Chinese film *Lovable You* (就是溜溜的她).

Other eye-openers are early movie licenses, newspaper promotions, and movie tickets, along with 20- to 30-year-old copies of "Movie Synopsis", a publication sent to movie viewers by theaters containing explanations of film plots. One of these contains an introduction to Hou Hsiao-hsien's *A City of Sadness* (悲情城市), which won the prestigious Golden Lion at the 1989 Venice Film festival.


Comparing the Taipei of yesterday captured through the movie camera lens with the landscapes of today, viewers can explore the city's many faces over the years. In the 1960s Hollywood flick *The Sand Pebbles*, for example, various scenes were shot along the Tamsui River (淡水河), at Manka Lungshan Temple, and in Dadaocheng, leaving a precious visual record of the city. Dadaocheng's Dihua Street was closed down and dressed up like an old Shanghai street,





providing a splendid time-capsule glimpse at the look and character of Dihua Street in those days.

Drift through the Interactive Posters (電影時代走廊) section, and on the screens before you you'll see representative posters from different eras, getting a feel for the passage of time and the changes experienced in the world of film. Or stand before the device in the Big Celebrities section and have your face magically inserted into a favorite movie poster. In the Sounds of the Movies section you can "see" movies by hearing them, choosing selections of favorite theme songs to listen to, and play a "Rhythm Game" with an interactive multimedia installation.

Taipei in Films presents the city as seen through the cinematographer's eye, showcasing widely different views of Taipei while conserving the city's life. Though the people and the scenes may be no more, each celluloid reel preserves a different period, with Taipei taking on a whole new character in each film. Come and see for yourself. 

1. The Interactive Posters section presents representative posters from different eras, giving viewers a feel for time's passage and film-world changes.
2. The Taipei in Films exhibition presents film scenes shot in Taipei as well as stories about film-shoot experiences in Taipei by Luc Besson and other well-known movie-industry luminaries.
3. The Taipei Theater's exhibition area's retro items include a retro ticket booth and movie posters.
4. Publication theaters sent these 20- to 30-year-old copies of movie synopsis to patrons containing info on film plots.
5. Shots of the Tamsui River, Dadaocheng, and other locals spots are seen in the 1960s Hollywood flick *The Sand Pebbles*, leaving a precious visual record of that era's city.
6. The Sounds of the Movies section has many movie theme songs, and you can play the Rhythm Game, an interactive multimedia installation.

Information

Taipei in Films 電影中的臺北

Time: Until 2/1

Venue: Discovery Center of Taipei; 1, City Hall Rd.
(台北探索館; 市府路1號)

Tel: 1999 (02-2720-8889 outside Taipei City); ext. 8629

Website: www.discovery.taipei.gov.tw



1

The National Palace Museum Over the New Year – Paintings of Fish by the Great Masters

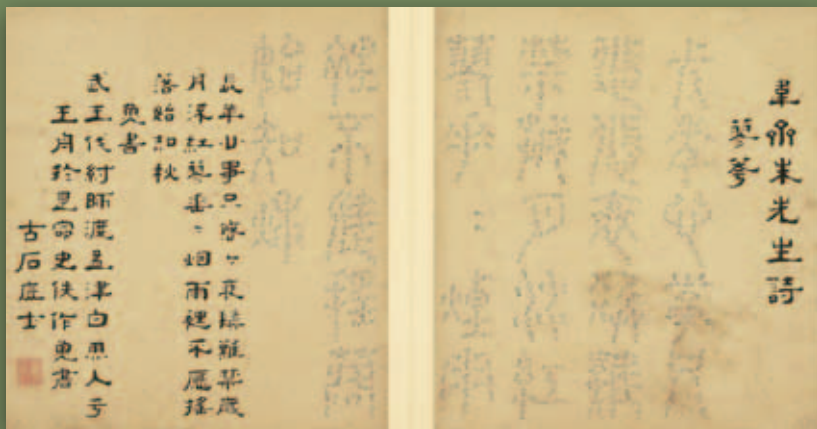
The National Palace Museum is 90 years old! To celebrate the anniversary of its founding, a series of special painting and calligraphy exhibitions are on the menu, allowing visitors to feast on precious historical works only rarely on display. The first coincides with the Chinese Lunar New Year, with an assembly of works by famous masters of ancient China – Angling for Years of Plenty: A Special Exhibition of Paintings with Fish (年年有餘——畫魚名品特展). Come and enjoy this unique New Year gift from the museum!

Following the traditional Chinese custom, during the New Year's Eve family feast, the fish (a compulsory part of the meal) isn't finished, symbolizing *nian nian you yu* (年年有餘), or "every year a surplus." People of Chinese descent love fish imagery, and in countless ink and wash paintings, the free and easy feeling of fish swimming leisurely has been depicted. One of the creations being showcased at this exhibition is Qing Dynasty artist Ma Wenlin's (馬文麟) album *Paintings of Fish and Plants* (畫魚藻冊). The colors, shapes, and movements of a variety of fish are depicted. A special feature is the incorporation of Western painting techniques, the influence of Italian missionary and Qing Dynasty court painter Lang Shining (郎世寧). The three-dimensional presentation of fins and bright glossiness of the skin bring the fish a startling, lifelike character.

The anonymous Qing work *Fish Swimming Among Aquatic Plants* (水藻遊魚) combines embroidery and painting techniques. This intriguing work has tree branches of silk embroidery at the top, and painted aquatic plants, flowers, and fish below, creating a distinctive range of textures. Another arresting piece is the *Seal Script Album – Fish Script* (諸體篆書冊——



2



3



4

魚書), a work by Ming Dynasty artist Lu Yiyue (陸一岳), in which small fish are rendered lined up head to tail in an exposition on ancient Chinese seal script. According to legend, *yushu* (魚書) or "fish script" had its origins in an incident involving Emperor Wu of the Zhou Dynasty (周武帝). As he crossed a river in a boat a white fish jumped into the craft. After offering the fish in sacrificial rites to the gods he won a great military victory, and ordered his subordinates to create the new script style to represent his triumph.

In addition to the impressive technique on display, another highlight of the exhibition is the numerous paintings depicting the interaction of fish and other species. Qing Dynasty Empress Dowager Cixi (慈禧太后) much admired the work of imperial-court painter Shen Zhenlin (沈振麟); in his work *Cat Playing With Fish Among Aquatic Plants* (狸奴魚藻), goldfish swim about in the woods, completely unaware of the threat. In Republic-era artist Ding Yanyong's (丁衍庸) work *Lotus Fish and Small Bird* (荷魚小鳥), the main character is a bird with nefarious intentions, standing atop a lotus stem, waiting to snatch a small fish swimming leisurely just under the water's surface. In *Fish of Longevity and Prosperity*, internationally renowned Chinese contemporary artist Qi Baishi (齊白石) depicts a playful catfish and a Mandarin fish. The Chinese for

catfish is pronounced *nian* (鮎), a homonym for "years/longevity"; for Mandarin fish it is *gui* (鰻), a homonym for "wealth/prosperity." Qi is playfully wishing us all *chang nian da gui* (長年大貴), "long years and great prosperity."

Both time and these artists have long since passed on, but their art and spirit continues to live in these works. They are no longer mere private creations from a specific time, but are examples of how the cultural aesthetics of a nation have developed step by step over time. Take an intimate look at these cultural aesthetics with fellow lovers of art, together enjoying the "every year a surplus" spirit of the Chinese New Year! 🐟

1. The album *Paintings of Fish and Plants* depicts the colors, shapes, and movements of a variety of fish in impressively lifelike character.
2. An unusual work is *Fish Swimming Among Aquatic Plants*, combining embroidery and painting; the tree branches are silk embroidery, and the aquatic plants, flowers, and fish are painted, resulting in unique texturing.
3. In the calligraphy work *Seal Script Album – Fish Script*, small fish are lined up head to tail in an exposition on ancient Chinese *yushu* or "fish script."
4. *Lotus Fish and Small Bird*, done with naturalistic technique, depicts a bird atop a lotus stem waiting to snatch a small fish swimming leisurely just under the water's surface.
5. In *Cat Playing With Fish Among Aquatic Plants*, a memorable vignette is created with a white cat on a jet-black background reaching out trying to snatch swimming goldfish.

(Pictures 1-5 courtesy of National Palace Museum)



5

Information

Angling for Years of Plenty: A Special Exhibition of Paintings with Fish 年年有餘——畫魚名品特展

Time: Until 3/25

Venue: National Palace Museum; 221, Sec. 2, Zhishan Rd. (國立故宮博物院; 至善路2段221號)

Tel: (02)2881-2021

Website: www.npm.gov.tw



A History of the World in 100 Objects



The Adventure of Balloon man



Biorhythm: Music And The Body



The Liang Islander and Prehistoric Culture of Matsu Islands

National Palace Museum

Tel: (02)2881-2021
Add: 221, Sec. 2, Zhishan Rd. (至善路 2 段 221 號)
Website: www.npm.gov.tw
Until 3/15
 A History of the World in 100 Objects
Until 6/28
 The Dao of Book Protection: Special Exhibition on the Art of Traditional Chinese Book Binding and Decoration

Museum of Contemporary Art, Taipei (MOCA Taipei)

Tel: (02)2552-3721
Add: 39, Changan W. Rd. (長安西路 39 號)
Website: www.mocataipei.org.tw
Until 1/25
 Here is Where We Meet – An Exhibition On Participatory Art

National Theater & Concert Hall

Tel: (02)3393-9888
Add: 21-1, Zhongshan S. Rd. (中山南路 21 之 1 號)
Website: www.ntch.edu.tw
1/16~1/18
 Phaedra's Lovel
1/16~1/18
 The Highest Place – All the same

National Chiang Kai-shek Memorial Hall

Tel: (02)2343-1100
Add: 21, Zhongshan S. Rd. (中山南路 21 號)
Website: www.cksmh.gov.tw
2/14~4/6
 Bologna Illustrators Exhibition

Beitou Museum

Tel: (02)2891-2318
Add: 32, Youya Rd. (幽雅路 32 號)
Website: www.beitoumuseum.org.tw
Until 3/1
 Treasures of Kazan: the Beitou Museum 30th Anniversary Series, Part II – Special Exhibition of Weaving and Embroidery Collections

Taipei Fine Arts Museum

Tel: (02)2595-7656
Add: 181, Sec. 3, Zhongshan N. Rd. (中山北路 3 段 181 號)
Website: www.tfam.museum
Until 4/12
 Get Rhythm with Paul Klee – Interactive Exhibition & Workshop Series
1/24~4/26
 Chen Shun-Chu: Coral Stone Mountain
1/31~5/3
 The Wondrous All: Leading Edge of Eastern Thought

Kuandu Museum of Fine Arts

Tel: (02)2896-1000 ext. 2432
Add: 1, Xueyuan Rd. (學園路一號)
Website: www.kdmofa.tnua.edu.tw
Until 2/15
 Disappearance of the Archives – Ku Shihyung Solo Exhibition
Until 2/15
 The Spine of Spectrum
Until 2/15
 Ibid Solo Exhibition

National Taiwan Museum

Tel: (02)2382-2566
Add: 2, Xiangyang Rd. (襄陽路 2 號)
Website: www.ntm.gov.tw
Until 1/25
 A Unique New Breed of Gems: Taiwan Black Jade Exhibition
Until 3/1
 Rainbow and Dragonfly: Where the Atayal Clothing Meet the Paiwan Multi-colored Glass Beads
Until 3/1
 Mysterious Pescadores: The Four Islands of Southern Penghu Exhibition

National Taiwan Science Education Center

Tel: (02)6610-1234
Add: 189, Shihshang Rd. (士商路 189 號)
Website: www.ntsec.gov.tw/
Until 3/1
 Baseball Heroes
1/15~3/8
 The Adventure of Balloon man
Until 6/10
 Biorhythm: Music And The Body

National Museum of History

Tel: (02)2361-0270
Add: 49, Nanhai Rd. (南海路 49 號)
Website: www.nmh.gov.tw
Until 1/25
 The Liang Islander and Prehistoric Culture of Matsu Islands
Until 3/22
 The Mind of an Adherent: The Art of Pu Xinyu
Until 3/29
 Spirited Away in Wu Dang: A Millennium of Taoist Artifacts

Songshan Cultural and Creative Park

Tel: (02)2765-1388
Add: 133, Guangfu S. Rd. (光復南路 133 號)
Website: www.songshanculturalpark.org
Until 3/1
 Piece of Peace – World Heritage Exhibit Built With LEGO® Brick
Until 3/4
 Disney Exhibition – Celebrating 90 years of Dream
Until 3/29
 "Taiwanese Design Faces" Special Exhibition
Until 4/5
 Into Peanuts Comic Strip: Snoopy 65th Anniversary Exhibition

Former Air Force Command Headquarter

Tel: (02)2767-7684 ext. 786
Add: 55, Sec. 3, Renai Rd. (仁愛路 3 段 55 號)
Website: formerairforce.taipei.gov.tw
2/27~4/12
 Spatial Development of Formosa

Digital Art Center, Taipei

Tel: (02)7736-0708
Add: 180, Fuhua Rd. (福華路 180 號)
Website: www.dac.tw
1/17~3/1
 The Portrait of Brain



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



Taxi

Service locations:

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

One-way fare:

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

Terminal I Arrivals hall taxi-service counter Tel:

(03)398-2832

Terminal II Arrivals hall taxi-service counter Tel:

(03)398-3599

Passenger Shuttle Bus

Service locations:

Southwest of the Arrivals hall of Terminal I (exterior vehicle pickup corridor) and Northeast of the Arrivals hall of Terminal II (exterior vehicle pickup corridor)

Shuttle-service companies:

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

One-way fare: NT\$85~145




Travel time:

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

Schedule: Every 15~20 minutes

Metro Taipei

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

Ticket	Price
One-way Trip 	NT\$20-NT\$65
Day Pass 	NT\$150
EasyCard 	Initial purchase: NT\$500 (incl. NT\$400 applicable to transit fares and NT\$100 deposit). The card provides discounts on transit fares and can also be used for small purchases at convenience stores and other designated shops.

Ticket	Price
Taipei Pass 	The Taipei Pass is activated upon first use on bus or metro ticket readers and valid for unlimited use till expiration. The Taipei Pass can be purchased at all Metro stations, and is used on the Taipei Metro and on Taipei and New Taipei City public buses (with Taipei Pass stickers showing). One-day pass: NT\$180 Two-day pass: NT\$310 Three-day pass: NT\$440 Five-day pass: NT\$700 Maokong Gondola One-day pass: NT\$250

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

For more information, call 1999 or visit www.rdec.taipei.gov.tw

TAIWAN EMERGENCY TELEPHONE NUMBERS

Police / 110

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

Fire and Emergency / 119

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

Women and Children Protection Hotline / 113 ext. 0

24-hour emergency, legal information, and psychological services for victims of domestic violence and/or sexual abuse.

NON-EMERGENCY TELEPHONE NUMBERS

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

Source for Above Information:

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

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LIST OF TAIPEI VISITOR INFORMATION CENTERS

Taipei Main Station

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

Songshan Airport

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

East Metro Mall

(02)6638-0059 4-2, 77, Sec.1, Daan Rd. (Underground Mall)

MRT Ximen Station

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

MRT Yuanshan Station

(02)2591-6130 9-1, Jiuquan St.

MRT Jiantan Station

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

MRT Beitou Station

(02)2894-6923 1, Guangming Rd.

MRT Taipei 101/World Trade Center Station

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

Taipei City Hall Bus Station

(02)2723-6836 6, Sec. 5, Zhongxiao E. Rd.

Plum Garden Visitor Center

(02)2897-2647 6, Zhongshan Rd.

Miramar Entertainment Park Visitor Center

(02)8501-2762 20, Jingye 3rd Rd.

Maokong Gondola Taipei Zoo Station

(02)8661-7627 2, Ln. 10, Sec. 2, Xinguang Rd. (1F, Maokong Gondola Service Center)

Maokong Gondola Maokong Station

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



Shopping in Taipei Main Station Rear Area – Savor the Atmosphere of Chinese New Year (P.34~37) Map



Shopping in Taipei Main Station Rear Area – Savor the Atmosphere of Chinese New Year (P.34~37) Tour Information



Shopping in Taipei Main Station Rear Area – Savor the Atmosphere of Chinese New Year

The Home of Wuwanguo 吳碗粿之家

Add: 1, Ln. 177, Changan W. Rd.
(長安西路177巷1號)
Tel: (02) 2550-0901

Cotea House (The Home of Bitter Tea) 苦茶之家

Add: 244, Changan W. Rd.
(長安西路244號)
Tel: (02)2558-0019

Sanduowu Babazui 三多屋爸爸嘴

Add: 19, Taiyuan Rd. (太原路19號)
Tel: (02)2555-7708

Crispy Taiwanese Donuts 台灣人甜甜圈

Add: 183, Huayin St (華陰街183號)
Tel: (02)2550-9914

Taipei Pu Ji Si 台北市普濟寺

Add: 100, Huayin St. (華陰街100號)
Tel: (02)2558-7046

Fuyuan Pepper Buns 福元胡椒餅

Add: 42-19, Huayin St. (華陰街42之19號)
Tel: (02)2550-0356

Fuzhen Fried Pork Noodles 福珍排骨酥麵

Add: 42-13, Huayin St. (華陰街42之13號)
Tel: (02)2555-3337

Q Square 京站時尚廣場

Add: 1, Sec.1, Chengde Rd.
(承德路1段1號)
Tel: (02)2182-8888

2015 Taipei Lunar New Year Festival 2015來臺北過好年

Time: 1/31~ 2/17

Locations: commercial areas including Dihua Street, Taipei Station rear area, Huayin Street, Ningxia, Rongbin, Taipei City Mall, and Ximen

Tel: 1999 (02-2720-8889 outside Taipei City), ext.6478

Website: www.2015taipeinewyear.com.tw
(The website will be online on 1/15/2015)

Transportation Information

The Home of Wuwanguo

Set out from Taipei Bus Station → Walk west along Civic Blvd. (about 5 minutes), to Zhengzhou Road → Walk along Zhengzhou to Chongqing N. Rd., turn right (about 5 minutes) → Turn left on Changan W. Rd. → Turn right at Ln. 177, Changan W. Rd. → The Home of Wuwanguo

Cotea House

On leaving The Home of Wuwanguo, exit Ln. 177 → Cross street at Changan W. Rd. intersection, to Cotea House diagonally opposite

Changan W. Rd., Taiyuan Rd.

Cotea House → Walk east along Changan W. Rd. → On Changan W. Rd. (festive decorations stores) → Continue walking to Taiyuan Rd. intersection, turn right → On Taiyuan Rd. (leather goods stores)

Sanduowu Babazu, Crispy Taiwanese Donuts

Continue walking along Taiyuan Rd. (about 5 minutes) → Intersection of Huayin St. → Sanduowu Babazu, Taiwan Donuts

Huayin St., Taipei Pu Ji Si

Walk on right along Huayin St. (about 3 minutes) → Taipei Pu Ji Si, at 100, Huayin St.

Fuyuan Pepper Buns, Fuzhen Fried Pork Noodles

Taipei Pu Ji Si → turn right and walk along Huayin St. (about 10 minutes) → Fuyuan Pepper Buns, at 42-19, Huayin St. → Fuzhen Fried Pork Noodles, at 42-13, Huayin St.

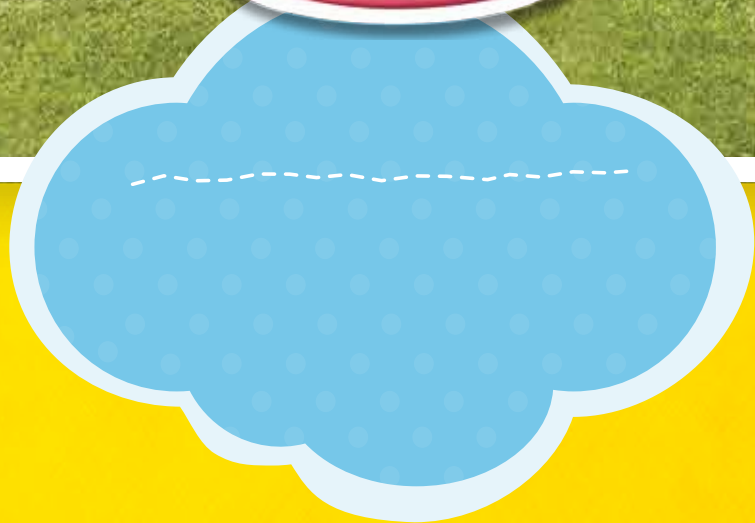
Q Square

Continue along Huayin St. (about 5 minutes) → Intersection at Sec. 1, Chengde Rd. → Cross to opposite side → Q Square

2015 Taipei Lunar New Year Festival

On Sec. 1, Chengde Rd., walk in direction of Civic Blvd. → From Civic Blvd. intersection, walk along boulevard 3 minutes → YouBike station at Taipei Bus Station (rent YouBike) → Proceed on right along Civic Blvd. → Proceed north along Sec. 1, Chengde Rd. (about 5 minutes) → Turn left on Changan W. Rd., proceed along left (about 5 minutes) → Turn right on Tacheng St. → Dihua St. (Taipei Lunar New Year Festival venue)







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