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DISCOVER TAIPEI



JAN. / FEB. BIMONTHLY 2014

# Welcome the Year of the Horse with a Feast of Traditional Culture in Taipei

Taipei's Traditional Religious Culture

The Beauty of Taipei's Temples

Success Again on the International Stage!

Taipei Is a 5-Prize Winner at LivCom Awards 2013

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## *Welcome the Year of the Horse with a Feast of Traditional Culture in Taipei*

This issue of Discover Taipei coincides with Chinese New Year, Taiwan's most important traditional festival. A key custom of Taipei's distinctive religious culture at this time of year is to go to a temple and ask the gods' favor in ensuring all goes smoothly during the year to come.

Our theme this issue is "Touring Taipei's Traditional Religious Culture." We explore Taipei's religious life, its best temple architecture, and the delicious snack foods sold at its temple-mouth vendors. We also explain unique Chinese New Year customs, including what are called "sweep out the old, bring in the new" preparations and the tradition of shopping for classic New Year necessities. In our Mapping the Taipei Lifestyle section we serve as your guide and jump straight into the Taipei Lunar New Year Festival, introducing the best market areas where locals come to shop for New Year goodies, soaking in the festive New Year atmosphere. According to age-old folk custom, the holiday season is brought to a close with the Lantern Festival, and Taipei City throws a tremendous and wonderfully colorful party with the Taipei Lantern Festival, with a sea of decorative lanterns coloring the night, capping the foreign visitor's New Year experience with the perfect ending.

Taipei is known for the preservation of a rich traditional culture – a source of great pride as it strides onto the international stage. In our Taipei New Images section, we report on all the activities going on as part of the Taipei Zoo's centennial celebrations, and some of the outstanding entrants in the 2013 LivCom Awards (International Awards for Liveable Communities) and Old Building New Life Awards. After two years of dedicated effort, on November 19<sup>th</sup> last year the city was designated as the 2016 World Design Capital, the best of presents in the 130<sup>th</sup> year since it is founding. We report on how Taipei plans to serve as the 5<sup>th</sup> World Design Capital, giving a taste of the charisma that defines this adaptive city.

In this season of happy, joyous celebration, the Taipei Fine Arts Museum, Huashan 1914 Creative Park, and the National Palace Museum are all celebrating the fresh year with all-new exhibitions, ringing in 2014 with a rich spiritual and cultural feast.

The Year of the Horse is set to come galloping in with thunder and pomp. Join the crowds of Taipei folk heading to the temples to respectfully pray for peace and good fortune, and spend the Chinese New Year in the classic Taipei way. Happy New Year to you – may fortune and success come racing your way! 🐎





# Discover Taipei

## Taipei City Government

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If you have any suggestions, please do  
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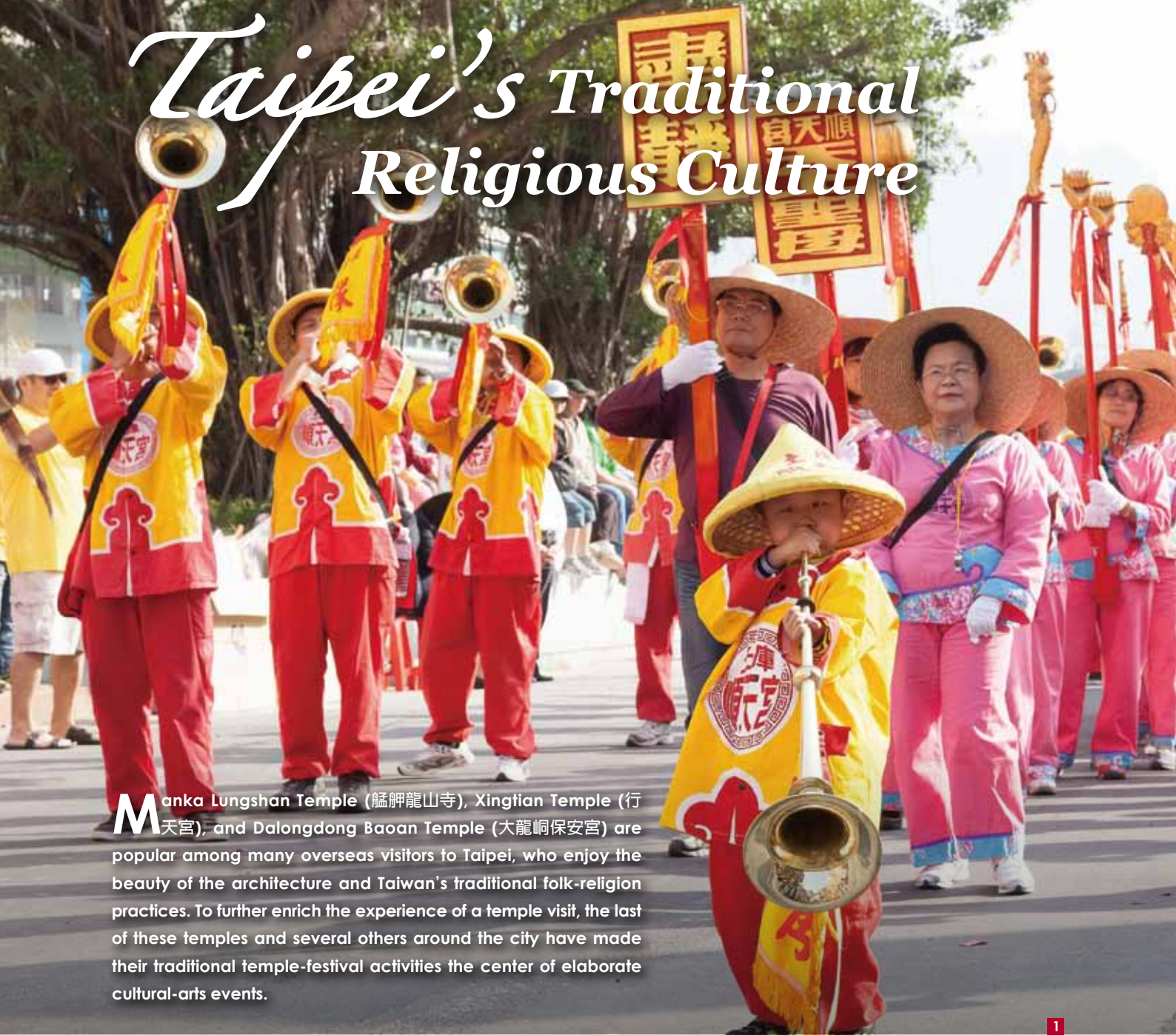
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# Taipei's Traditional Religious Culture



**M**anka Lungshan Temple (艋舺龍山寺), Xingtian Temple (行天宮), and Dalongdong Baoan Temple (大龍峒保安宮) are popular among many overseas visitors to Taipei, who enjoy the beauty of the architecture and Taiwan's traditional folk-religion practices. To further enrich the experience of a temple visit, the last of these temples and several others around the city have made their traditional temple-festival activities the center of elaborate cultural-arts events.

1

## Traditional Folk Religion Emphasizes Peace and Safety - Praying for Good Fortune

Enshrined within local temples are, commonly, Guanyin Pusa (觀音菩薩), Baosheng Dadi (保生大帝), Guansheng Dijun (關聖帝君), or Saintly Emperor Guan, Chenghuang Ye (城隍爺), and Tudi Gong (土地公), or Earth God. These deities were originally introduced to Taiwan during the close of the Ming dynasty (明朝) when the great Ming patriot Zheng Chenggong (鄭

成功), commonly called Koxinga (國姓爺) in the West, established himself on the island in 1661. Han Chinese coming to Taiwan for trade and business, and to open land, also brought their patron deities from their home areas in China. During the Qing dynasty (清朝) the guardian goddess of the sea, Mazu (媽祖), became the mostly widely worshipped deity in Taiwan, and remains at the top of the local religious pantheon to this day. The rich religious culture here also embraces Islam, Protestantism, and Catholicism, but Buddhist and Daoism remain the most popular religions.



Devotees often go to a temple to pray to the enshrined deities and ask them for peace, safety, and good fortune. Temple activity is especially busy around Chinese New Year and other major festivals. At New Year many believers consider *qiang tou xiang* (搶頭香), which literally means to “compete to burn the first incense,” to be a key annual rite. This happens at the stroke of midnight on New Year’s Eve, the first moment of the New Year. The doors of the temple are opened and worshippers rush inside to be the first to plunge incense sticks into censers. Those who succeed are believed to be guaranteed a year of good luck. Little wonder then that such a spectacle is created at Taiwan’s places of worship each year.

All temples feature a constant lineup of sacrificial rites and ceremonies, designed to save souls, prevent disasters, etc. These manifest the spiritual power of the gods, who provide direction and guidance for adherents, help to resolve difficulties, and offer spiritual comfort. One of the most unique is *shoujing* (收驚) or “recalling a frightened soul.” When a person has received a fright, their soul is believed to have left the body. It is recalled by conducting *shoujing*, after which the person will once more be at peace. *Shoujing* is conducted at a temple for the person himself, a child brought by an adult, or by a third party who has brought a piece of clothing or other personal item belonging to the sufferer. Xingtian Temple is regarded as a particularly effective place to receive *shoujing*, and each day from about noon to 9 pm a long lineup of people can be seen, awaiting help from matron volunteers waving incense and chanting scripture.



1. Last year participants from 52 temples around Taiwan took part in the prayer rites and processions for Songshan Ciyou Temple’s 260<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations.

2. Xingtian Temple’s most special service is *shoujing* or “recalling a frightened soul.”

3. Mazu, the guardian goddess of the sea, is one of Taiwan’s most important deities.

4. During the month of Mazu’s birthday, the devotees go to Mazu temples to pay their respects.

## Traditional Religious Practice – Concentrating Believers’ Sincerity

According to an old saying, “Mazu madness in the third month, welcome Wangye (王爺) in the fourth, busy with Pudu (普渡) in the seventh” (三月瘋媽祖，四月迎王爺，七月忙普渡), which emphasizes the importance of three major events in Taiwan folk religion, and their times. Mazu, a key deity along China’s southeast coast, is said to have been born a mortal named Lin Moniang (林默娘), during the Song dynasty (宋朝) in Meizhou, Fujian (福建湄洲). In one version of the Mazu legend, she died while trying to save her fisherman father and brothers from drowning after their ship was caught in a typhoon. Unable to find her remains, relatives and other villagers believed she had been transformed into an immortal and had ascended to heaven. The first Mazu temple was erected to commemorate her, and with time, her influence spread far beyond Meizhou.

Mazu’s birthday is on the 23<sup>rd</sup> day of the 3<sup>rd</sup> lunar month, and devotees head to Mazu temples during this month to pay homage to the goddess. Taiwan has a great many Mazu temples, many of which are *fenling* (分靈; lit. “shared spirit/power”) temples, meaning the power of their enshrined icon was originally taken from a far more powerful icon in another temple. Each year at the time of Mazu’s birthday the *fenling* icons are taken to visit the original, called *yezu* (謁祖; “paying respects to the ancestors”). Pilgrims follow behind their





respective icon during an elaborate procession, gongs and drums loudly sounding the way, in a scene of grand pageantry and hubbub.

Another of the three key religious events in the above-mentioned old saying, Zhongyuan Pudu (中元普渡), is centered on what are called "lonely souls" (孤魂) – the souls of individuals who have no living descendants carrying out sacrificial rites for them. Related activities are conducted throughout the 7<sup>th</sup> lunar month, with activities on an especially grand scale staged during the Zhongyuan Festival (中元節), on the 15<sup>th</sup> day.

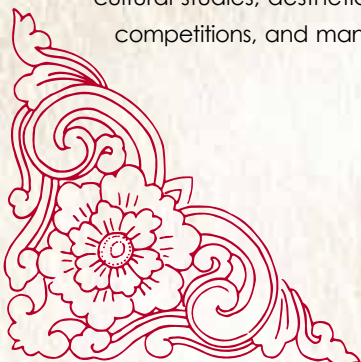
### Special Religious Activities in Taipei – Culture and Faith Merged

Most Taipei temples have an active schedule of activities to serve devotees. Festive temple fairs are staged on and around the birthdays of the main enshrined deities each year, and in addition to attending the grand ceremonies involved, followers and visitors can enjoy the varied program of activities staged in temple squares to honor and thank the gods. Dalongdong Baoan Temple, Songshan Ciyou Temple (松山慈祐宮), Taipei Xia-Hai City God Temple (台北霞海城隍廟), and other major temples offer a combination of traditional temple fair, guided heritage tours, cultural studies, aesthetics competitions, and many

other activities, showcasing the unique charms of Taiwanese folk beliefs and local culture.

One of the main gods at Dalongdong Baoan Temple is Baosheng Dadi, often called the God of Medicine (醫神). The temple's annual Baosheng Cultural Festival (保生文化祭) is centered around his birthday on the 15<sup>th</sup> day of the 3<sup>rd</sup> month. The festival combines modern art and cultural elements with the ceremonies and activities of a traditional temple festival, in a unique combination of religion, folk-custom, arts and culture, and tourism. Each year, in an effort to promote transnational interchange, representatives from 13 temples around the region where Baosheng Dadi is worshiped are invited to come to Taipei for the grand celebrations, with participants from Hong Kong, Singapore, the Philippines, and Malaysia.

Taipei's Songshan area, originally called Xikou (錫口), was given its present name in 1920. Songshan Ciyou Temple, one of the most important Mazu temples in north Taiwan, hosts the Xikou Cultural Festival (錫口文化節) from the 15<sup>th</sup> day of the 1<sup>st</sup> lunar month to the 26<sup>th</sup> day of the 3<sup>rd</sup> month, just after Mazu's birthday. Taiwanese opera and worship rites and ceremonies are staged in the temple square, expressing birthday wishes to the goddess. Other celebratory activities





include Mazu neighborhood inspection processions and traditional folk-arts performances. There are also guided culture tours and historical-drama performances. The Mazu procession is an event of especially splendid pomp and pageantry, heading from Ciyou Temple through Raohe Street Tourist Night Market (饒河街觀光夜市)

and Minsheng Community, along the Keelung River, and past Songshan Station (松山車站). Each year a great many foreign visitors make a special trip to witness the spectacle, reveling in the experience of a grand Taipei temple-festival celebration.

The birthday of Chenghuang Ye (城隍爺) or the City God, who is the patron saint of the city and is in charge of the spirits of the netherworld, falls on the 13<sup>th</sup> day of the 5<sup>th</sup> month. Each year Taipei Xia-Hai City God Temple stages the grand City God Birthday Parade (五月十三迎城隍), in which the City God goes on an inspection procession around the temple area, protected by Song Jiang Battle Array Troupes (宋江陣團體), which combine traditional martial arts and folk arts. About 10 years ago the scale of the celebrations was expanded and named the Taipei Xia-Hai City God Cultural Festival (台北霞海城隍文化季), with a program featuring shows by Taiwanese opera and glove-puppet theater troupes, lion dance troupes performing at fixed locations, and both storytelling and artifact displays explaining the history of the event. The expansion and upgrading of the temple fair into a full cultural season of activities, in

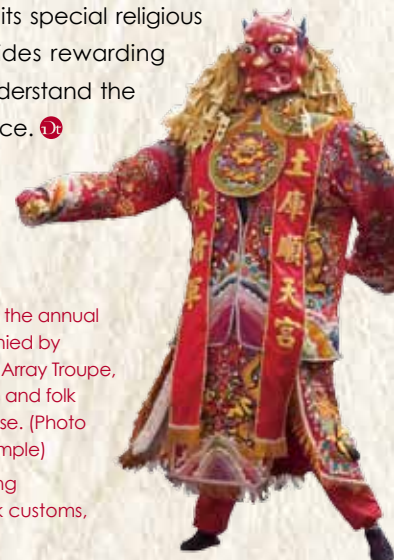


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addition to promoting the economy of the district, also serves as a powerful educational tool. Also enshrined within this temple is a famously efficacious Old Man Under the Moon (月下老人; also known as the Chinese Cupid) icon, making the temple a very popular destination with those looking for help in finding their true love.

The incense has been burning at these Taipei temples for many, many decades, while the city's unique cultural blend has in turn shaped its special religious culture. A visit to one or all provides rewarding insight for the traveler trying to understand the richness of the local living experience. 12

- 5. Another key religious event in Taiwan folk religion is Zhongyuan Pudu. (Photo courtesy of Xingtian Temple)
- 6-7. Taipei Xia-Hai City God Temple stages the annual City God Birthday Parade, accompanied by performances from Song Jiang Battle Array Troupe, which combine traditional martial arts and folk arts, feting the gods gathered en masse. (Photo courtesy of Taipei Xia-Hai City God Temple)
- 8. Dalongdong Baoan Temple's Baosheng Cultural Festival combines religion, folk customs, and tourism.
- 9. Songshan Ciyou Temple's Xikou Cultural Festival features guided culture tours and historical-drama performances.
- 10. A Songshan Ciyou Temple Mazu neighborhood inspection procession and traditional folk-art performances enable people to experience the essence of traditional cultural arts.
- 11-12. During temple inspection processions, large, elaborately dressed doll figures of generals are often seen in front, clearing the way for the gods.



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## Information

### Dalongdong Baoan Temple 大龍峒保安宮

**Add:** 61, Hami St. (哈密街61號)

**Tel:** (02)2595-1676

**Website:** www.baoan.org.tw

### Songshan Ciyou Temple 松山慈祐宮

**Add:** 761, Sec. 4, Bade Rd. (八德路4段761號)

**Tel:** (02)2765-9017

**Website:** www.facebook.com/SONGSHANCIYOU

### Taipei Xia-Hai City God Temple 台北霞海城隍廟

**Add:** 61, Sec. 1, Dihua St. (迪化街1段61號)

**Tel:** (02)2558-0346

**Website:** www.tpacitygod.org



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# *The Beauty of Taipei's Temples*

**D**uring January and February, over the Chinese New Year period, great numbers of local folk go to Taiwan's temples to ask the gods to bless and protect them in the year to come. Beyond the famous temples such as Manka Lungshan Temple, Dalongdong Baoan Temple, and Xingtian Temple, local folk love to visit many other old temples that are key centers of community worship and also architectural works of great character. Now is a great time to mingle with the crowds and visit these unique city attractions.



1



## Bangka's Venerable Temples, Symbol of the City's Origins

The original Taiwanese name of the area known today in Mandarin as Wanhua (萬華) is Bangka. This is present-day Taipei's original place of settlement. During the Qing dynasty immigrants from China settled here, transplanting religious beliefs and icons from their home areas. Many district temples are thus centuries old, and the queen of the cluster is Manka Lungshan Temple, today still a vibrant place of worship, and a well-known international tourist attraction.

Manka Qingshan Temple (艋舺青山宮), established in 1856, is another temple in Wanhua with a pedigree that puts it in a similar league. It is said that in 1854 a plague broke out in what was then called Bangka, and local fishermen who had emigrated from China's Huian (惠安) area in Fujian province (福建省) went home and then brought back to Taiwan an icon from the Quanzhou Qingshan Temple (泉州青山宮). Local plague sufferers who prayed to the King of Qingshan (青山王) were returned to health and peace. The original Qingshan Temple was built on today's Xiyuan Road (西園路), but an ever increasing number of worshipers led to a decision to rebuild the temple on today's Guiyang Street (貴陽街); the present temple was completed in 1859. With a façade just off the busy street in front, it is laid out in

the form of a street house. The vivid, awe-inspiring door gods are in traditional Huianxi style, and the stone lions in front were carved from granite and bluestone in 1938, during the Japanese era, in classic, meticulous Japanese style.



4



5

The large-scale King of Qingshan Festival (青山王祭) is held each year from the 20<sup>th</sup> to 23<sup>rd</sup> day of the 10<sup>th</sup> lunar month, and is commonly called "Great Bangka Sacrificial Ceremony" (艋舺大拜拜). It is one of Taipei's three biggest annual temple fairs, and is a key annual event for the local community. During this year's four-day celebration, there will be a King of Qingshan night-inspection procession on each of the first two nights, one through southern and one through northern Wanhua. The procession is customarily called an *anfang* (暗訪) or "night visit." On the third day is the festival's main event, the "Greeting the King of Qingshan" (迎青山王) *raojing* (遶境) or "tour of inspection," with *zhentou* (陣頭) or "battle-array" performance troupes from all Wanhua temples, large and small, participating. The entire Wanhua district is filled with believers, and there is great noise and commotion. On the 4<sup>th</sup> day, the King of Qingshan's birthday, anniversary rites and celebrations of colorful grandeur are staged. Recognizing the temple's historical and cultural importance, the Ministry of the Interior (內政部) declared it a Historical Relic of the Third Rank in 1985, and in 2010 the Bureau of Cultural Heritage, Ministry of Culture (文化部文化資產局), placed the *anfang* and *raojing* on the country's list of Folk Customs and Related Cultural Artifacts of official cultural heritage.

Another Wanhua temple tucked away within busy Xichang Street Night Market (西昌街夜市) is the Manka Dizang Temple (艋舺地藏庵). Built in 1760, it has recently undergone a full renovation. Though small, it has many distinctive architectural elements, such as a Qing dynasty-style single-hall layout and simple, austere carvings. Its most visually compelling element is the decorative lanterns hung from its crossbeams, and at either end of the beams are colorful, painted stories, something not often seen in temple decoration. Beside this temple is another, independent one, Zhaoxian Temple (昭顯廟), which is customarily called Dazhong Temple (大眾廟), where souls with no one to worship them are honored. Most are the souls of immigrants who came to Taiwan alone in its pioneer days to open land, but died before creating a family.

1. Manka Qingshan Temple, a Historical Relic of the Third Rank, has an exquisite octagonal plafond in its Sanchuan Hall (三川殿).
2. The traditional, colorful painted door-god art is in the Quanzhou Huianxi style.
3. The stone lions before the main portal, over a century old, are in classical Japanese style.
4. The King of Qingshan Festival night-inspection procession and *raojing*, over a century old, are important cultural assets in Taipei.
5. A special attraction at Manka Dizang Temple is the decorative lanterns hung from its roof crossbeams.



6



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## Busy, Flourishing Songshan and Xinyi Temples

The densely populated Songshan and Xinyi districts also have their own fair share of well-known temples. A prime example is Songshan Ciyou Temple (松山慈祐宮), near Raohe Street Night Market. Built in 1753, the main hall has a triple-eave roof, atop which are many auspicious figurines, such as dragons, phoenixes, and figures from historical tales, crafted using the cut-and-paste (剪黏) and cochin pottery methods. Though the temple has undergone repair and rebuilding on numerous occasions through the years, many heritage artifacts possessing historical and cultural significance have been preserved, notably a pair of carvings on either side of the central door crafted in the early 18<sup>th</sup> century, lifelike stone lions, and a carved stone censer over 200 years old.

The main deity enshrined within Songshan Ciyou Temple is Mazu, guardian goddess of the sea. Each year on her birthday (on the 23<sup>rd</sup> day of the 3<sup>rd</sup> lunar month), as well as on the anniversary of the temple's establishment, believers in great number come to express their good wishes and to celebrate. Last year participants from 52 temples around Taiwan took part in the prayer rites and processions for the temple's 260<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations, and over 200 decorated floats and many battle-array troupes added to the magnificent scenes.

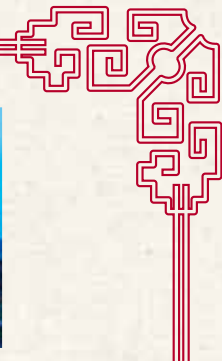
At the foot of Taipei's Sishoushan ("Four Beasts Mountain"; 四獸山), known for its popular network of hiking trails, is Songshan Cihui Temple (松山慈惠堂). Positioned at a key trailhead, it is built to resemble a mountain, with a complex of buildings staggered over five levels. Drum and bell towers are on the left and right, and the overall effect is one of majesty. The halls

are designed in traditional Chinese temple architectural style, with Ming and Qing dynasty palace-art flourishes. The visual canvas of red brick, yellow roof tiles, and green mountain forest is arresting, and an impressive cityscape panorama can be seen from the main hall's second-floor balcony, with buildings sprouting like the trees of the forest. This temple is a must-visit spot for Sishoushan hikers.

The main deity enshrined in this temple is the Golden Mother of the Jade Pool (瑤池金母), the highest goddess in the Daoist pantheon, responsible in heaven for fêting the other gods, and in the mortal world for matters pertaining to marriage and to bearing and raising children. Her likeness, nearly four meters high, has a solemn and dignified bearing. Special activities are regularly staged in the large plaza in front, and each year in the week before Mother's Day (May 2<sup>nd</sup> to 4<sup>th</sup> in the Western calendar) "Protect the People Procession Festival" (保民遶境嘉年華) and "Maternal Love Evening Music Concert" (弘揚母愛音樂晚會) activities are held – demonstrations of the Golden Mother's closeness



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to citizens and her close association with the spirit of maternal love.

Also located at the foot of Sishoushan is Songshan Feng-Tian Temple (松山奉天宮), where the Jade Emperor (玉皇上帝), who sits atop the Chinese pantheon, is worshipped. His birthday is on the 9<sup>th</sup> day of the 1<sup>st</sup> lunar month, and worshipers stream in from near and far, creating a grand spectacle. The temple's architecture is in the classic south China style, with a grandiose monumental archway, landscaped courtyard, a "nine-dragon wall" (九龍壁) relief carving, and countless carvings of dragons, phoenixes, and scenes from famous folktales on stone columns and wooden beams. The unusually tall principal columns in the main hall soar more than 20 meters high. Two other special elements among the many to be enjoyed on a visit are a censer cast from the type of nickel and copper normally used in coins, and a golden Eight Trigrams (八卦) pattern on the roof. Note that until February 14<sup>th</sup> you can also take in the National Palace Museum's digital-collection New Waves of NPM Songshan Feng-Tian Temple Travelling



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Exhibition (故宮潮·松山奉天宮遊), Taiwan's first ever exhibition jointly curated by a temple and national-level museum.



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## Temples in Glorious Hillside Settings

Taipei is surrounded by green mountains on its outskirts, and you'll find many temples built on the forested slopes, many commanding superb views over Taipei Basin from their viewing platforms. They're grand spots to visit when walking in the hills. Zhinan Temple (指南宮), in the hills of Wenshan District, was built in 1890. Spread over 70-plus hectares, it is dedicated to Lu Dongbin (呂洞賓), one of Daoism's Eight Immortals (八仙). Legend has it that Lu has the Midas touch, using it to change stone to gold to assist the poor, and thus was revered by Muzha-area mining folk. There are four grand halls in the complex; Confucius and his disciples are worshiped in Dacheng Hall (大成殿). A special attraction of this temple is that although it is one of Taiwan's most sacred Daoist sites, over the years it has become a mixed Daoist/Buddhist/Confucian place of worship. It is perhaps the most important religious site in Zhinan.

Bluestone, with its solid, heavy, stately appearance, has been used liberally throughout Zhinan Temple, complementing the many dragon different columns.

- 6-7. Songshan Ciyou Temple's main hall has a traditional triple-eave roof; inside are many historical relics, including numerous century-old horizontal inscription boards.
- 8-9. Songshan Cihui Temple is built to resemble a mountain, with a complex of buildings staggered over five levels; enshrined within the soaring temple is the Golden Mother of the Jade Pool.
- 10-12. Busy, splendid Songshan Feng-Tian Temple has myriad dragons, phoenixes, and folktale scenes carved on stone columns and wooden beams; on the exterior is a "nine-dragon wall" relief carving; there is also a censer cast from the type of nickel and copper normally used in coins. (Photo courtesy of Songshan Feng-Tian Temple)



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Also located in the hills of Neihu is Bishanyan Kaizhang Shengwang Temple (碧山巖開漳聖王廟). Enshrined here is Chen Yuanguang (陳元光), patron god of China's Zhangzhou (漳州), who was responsible for many of Taiwan's pioneer-era immigrants. Chen was a Tang dynasty (唐朝) general sent to suppress a revolt in Fujian province. It is said he improved the lives of the local people by teaching improved farming techniques, earning their deep esteem. The original Neihu temple was built in 1814, and originally possessed just three "god stones" (神石). Steadily expanded over the years, today visitors are presented with a much expanded and far statelier complex. Stand on the platform before the temple to soak in the magnificent view over the Taipei Basin, with Taipei 101 (台北101大樓), the Grand Hotel (圓山大飯店), Taipei Songshan Airport (臺北松山機場), and other major city landmarks looking like giant toy models laid out at your feet. The meandering Tamsui River (淡水河), Liyushan (Mt. Liyu; 鯉魚山), and other natural features complete the grand canvas. This temple is visited by great numbers of day-trippers on weekends and holidays, and is a prime site for taking in Taipei's spectacular annual New Year's Eve fireworks show.

A portion of the temple is covered with sturdy copper tiling, giving it an uncommonly elegant bearing. A series of interconnected pavilions and corridors also graces the complex, and the grounds contain over a thousand osmanthus and cherry trees. When in bloom the fragrance of their flowers floats through the air, creating the ambiance of a mountain-garden.

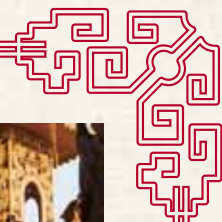
Stately Jinlong Temple (金龍禪寺), built in 1940, is located in Neihu District, beside the Zhongyongshan Trail (忠勇山步道). In his youth, the founder studied in Japan, and brought back a taste for the Japanese Buddhist temple architectural style, reflected in features such as the Japanese Buddhist ornamental figurines on the roof. The ornately decorated interior has a unique elegance. Gilded Sakyamuni Buddha, Amitabha Buddha, and Calamity-Averting Medicine Buddha icons are enshrined in the main hall, and there is a giant white statue of Guanyin (觀音) almost three stories tall – the temple's main attraction. To one side is a 20-foot-high Wall of Buddhist Scriptures (心經牆), and scattered in the woods along an adjoining pathway are the 18 Arhats. The craftsmanship of the arhats is particularly exquisite, each impressively lifelike.



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According to local folklore, the gate of heaven is opened (開天門) on the 7<sup>th</sup> day of the 6<sup>th</sup> lunar month, and the Jade Emperor leads fellow gods down to the mortal world to attend to people's sufferings. Believers can take the opportunity to ask the Jade Emperor for "extended life and replenished fortune" (延壽補運). On this date Bishanyan Kaizhang Shengwang Temple stages the "Gate of Heaven Opening" Extension of Life Ceremony, attracting devotees from near and far.

Many of Taiwan's venerable temples are not only places of spiritual sustenance for local people, but are also places of great architectural beauty and cultural character. They thus serve as centers of local activity, and precious cultural assets that you should be sure to visit when in Taiwan. 📍

- 13-15. Zhinan Temple, built in a mountain setting, is one of Taiwan's most sacred Daoist sites. The central portion is large, with pavilions, terraces, and corridors connecting the halls. Throughout are dragon columns of varying countenance.
- 16-17. At Jinlong Temple, three large Buddha icons covered in gold foil are enthroned in the main hall. On the outside of the courtyard is a giant white statue of Guanyin almost three stories tall and a 20-foot-high Wall of Buddhist Scriptures.
- 18-20. Located high in the hills, Bishanyan Kaizhang Shengwang Temple has great views over the Taipei Basin; starting out as a small, simple structure, today's temple is grandiose, and has become a favorite weekend sightseeing spot with Taipei folk.

## Information

### Manka Qingshan Temple 艋舺青山宮

**Add:** 218, Sec. 2, Guiyang St. (貴陽街2段218號)  
**Tel:** (02)2382-2296

### Manka Dizang Temple 艋舺地藏庵

**Add:** 245, Xichang St. (西昌街245號)  
**Tel:** (02)2306-6352

### Songshan Ciyou Temple 松山慈祐宮

**Add:** 761, Sec. 4, Bade Rd. (八德路4段761號)  
**Tel:** (02)2765-9017

### Songshan Cihui Temple 松山慈惠堂

**Add:** 33, Ln. 251, Fude St. (福德街251巷33號)  
**Tel:** (02)2726-1735

### Songshan Feng-Tian Temple 松山奉天宮

**Add:** 12, Ln. 221, Fude St. (福德街221巷12號)  
**Tel:** (02)2727-9765

### Zhinan Temple 指南宮

**Add:** 115, Wanshou Rd. (萬壽路115號)  
**Tel:** (02)2939-9922

### Jinlong Temple 金龍禪寺

**Add:** 2, Ln. 256, Sec. 3, Neihu Rd. (內湖路3段256巷2號)  
**Tel:** (02)2790-2604

### Bishanyan Kaizhang Shengwang Temple 碧山巖開漳聖王廟

**Add:** 24, Bishan Rd. (碧山路24號)  
**Tel:** (02)2790-0657

In front of many temples in Taiwan are plazas, called *miaokou* (literally “temple mouths” 廟口), which can be said to be a major source of the common people’s culture, and a center of local community life. They are gathering places for farming folk in spare time, where traditional-style battle-array artistic troupes practice and perform, traditional opera is staged, and people come to chat, play chess, discuss issues of the day, and share news. They are also the venues for important activities such as temple fairs, major ritual-prayer rites, deity processions, and deity-receiving festivals.



## The “Temple Mouth” – A Gathering Place for Popular Culture and Food Treats

Dedicated public places of entertainment were uncommon in early Taiwan, and so *miaokou*, where many people could gather, became a key center for recreation and performances such as traditional opera, singing, storytelling, juggling, and acrobatics. At was in the *miaokou* that traditional folk arts and customs such as the entertainment by Songjiang Battle Array and the Eight Generals (八家將) during deity processions and worship rites, and Taiwanese glove-puppet theater and opera, among others, were cultivated and flourished.

The *miaokou* is not just a stage for cultural-arts performances. Due to the great numbers of people who congregate at them, they are also hubs of

economic activity. Due to the pervasive belief in popular folk religion, it was the norm in the old days to begin one’s day at the temple praying for peace and security before moving on to the rest of the day’s activities. Vendors set up around the temple, selling incense and all the other necessities for worship, as well as food to the streams of devotees as well, laying the foundation for the food bazaar and snack-food culture so intimately interwoven into the lives of everyday folk today. Over the years the areas surrounding many *miaokou* have evolved into specialty



commercial districts – notable examples in Taipei are Herb Alley (青草巷) off Xichang Street (西昌街) on one side of Manka Lungshan Temple and Buddhist Implement Street (佛具街) along Xiyuan Road (西園路) on the other, as well as the concentration of shops selling fabrics and worship-related items around Taipei Xia-Hai City God Temple on Dihua Street (迪化街). All are well-known symbols of the popular culture of the common people.

The food sellers before a temple are representatives of the local style of living. Many stay in business for decades, selling traditional snacks, and become essential snack-treat spots for pilgrims and tourists alike. Well-known names around Wanhua's Lungshan Temple are Zhou's Meat Congee (周記肉粥), Fuzhou Yuanzu Crispy Pepper Pastry Cake (福州元祖胡椒餅), San Liu Dessert Shop (三六圓仔店), and the Longdu Ice Dessert Parlor (龍都冰菓專業家), which has been going since 1920. Near Taipei Wenchang Temple (台北市文昌宮) on Shuanglian Street (雙連街) are meat-congee sellers, Shuanglian Pan-fried Glutinous Rice Sausage (雙連大腸煎), and Yanshan Tangyuan (燕山湯圓). Beside Cisheng Temple (慈聖宮) in Dadaocheng is Ye's Meat Congee (葉家肉粥), an original-flavor pork-rib soup shop and a seller of four-tonics soup (四神湯). Near Taipei Xia-Hai City God Temple is Yongle Swordfish Rice-Noodle Soup (永樂旗魚米粉湯), Jiaxing Fish Balls (佳興魚丸店), and Lin He Fa Oil Rice and Rice Cakes (林合發油飯糕店). In the alleys by Dalongdong Baoan Temple are Chongqing Soybean Milk (重慶豆漿) and



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- 1-2. The "temple mouth," or temple plaza, is a key local gathering spot, often used as a stage for such activities as Songjiang battle-array and Eight Generals performances for deity processions, Taiwanese glove-puppet theater and opera, etc.
- 3-5. Herb Alley and Buddhist Implement Street, on either side of Manka Lungshan Temple, and shops selling religious-worship items by Taipei Xia-Hai City God Temple.
- 6-7. San Liu Dessert Shop, by Manka Lungshan Temple, specializes in confections used in worship.
- 8-10. Yanshan Tangyuan, near Taipei Wenchang Temple, and a shop selling original-flavor pork-rib soup by Cisheng Temple in Dalongdong, are great examples of temple-mouth shops selling snacks beloved by local folk.



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Black Tea House (紅茶屋). All of these beloved purveyors of the local popular-food culture offer great value.

As society has changed, so have many of the economic activities of temple-plaza areas, and both morning and night markets have developed there. Examples include Xichang Street Night Market by Manka Lungshan Temple, Raohe Street Night Market by Songshan Ciyou Temple, Dalong Market (大龍市場) and Dalongdong Night Market (大龍峒夜市) by Dalongdong Baoan Temple, Yongle Market (永樂市場) by Taipei Xiahai City God Temple, as well as nearby Ningxia Night Market (寧夏夜市), and Shilin Night Market (士林夜市) by Shilin Cixian Temple (士林慈誠宮). All have become popular tourist attractions with travelers from China and other foreign lands.

To this day, the temple plaza remains a site where the simple and honest ways of the common people are preserved and cultivated. Spend a little time around local miaokou and the surrounding shops, and soak up Taiwan's rich tradition of warm hospitality. 1



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# Black-and-White Baby Animal Competition

The Baby Giant Panda Yuan Zai's (圓仔) distinguishing features are a bright, white face, black-rimmed eyes, and fluffy black ears. Want to know what other black-and-white baby animals are in residence at the Taipei Zoo (臺北市立動物園)? What are these cute toddlers' own distinguishing features? Which are the most stylish? The prizewinners in our black-and-white baby animal competition are ...



**Most Adorable: Baby Giant Panda Yuan Zai**

**Why:** Yuan Zai has the sweetest baby face and the cutest black-and-white coat and fluffy, puffy shape. With even the faintest hint of a smile, the hearts of millions are touched, and people's troubles and worries melt away. In the adorable category, there can be no other choice.



**Best Costume: Malayan Tapir**

**Why:** The Malayan Taipei baby's protective coloration is like a cute costume of dots and stripes. When it grows up, its black and white colors will become more distinctively demarcated, and it will transform into an international supermodel.



**Most Stylish: Chapman's Zebra**

**Why:** This zebra baby has black skin and fur that is slightly brown in color. The stripes on its trunk tend to be narrower than those on its hips and buttocks. When it matures, its hair will become clearly differentiated into black and white, with no light gray mixed in, and its stripes will be vivid and clearly defined – all essential elements in good fashion design.



**Warmest: Ruffed Lemur**

**Why:** The ruffed lemur is the largest of the three types living at the Taipei Zoo. It is primarily black in color, with white fur on its neck, back, and limbs, which make it look as though it is wearing a warm scarf, making you feel warm and cozy as well.

Photos courtesy of Taipei Zoo.

# Yuan Zai Connected



When Yuan Yuan nurses Yuan Zai, she uses her front paws in a manner quite similar to the way human mothers use their hands. What is the brain size of the giant panda? Do pandas share any genes with humans?



**Yuan Zai:** "I may act silly at times, but I ain't stupid!"

The brain volume of the giant panda is about 277cc, slightly less than that of the black bear. According to panda expert Chen Yuyan (陳玉燕), head of Taipei Zoo's Giant Panda House (大熊貓館), there is no absolute relationship between brain size and intelligence, and Yuan Yuan's handling of Yuan Zai is innate behavior. The genomes of the giant panda and humans have about 68% similarity. Chen says that the giant panda has a keen sense of smell, and is highly intelligent. When four-plus months old, Yuan Zai started playing with her drinking-water basin, and though the basin is just a simple item, Yuan Zai has developed many ways of playing with it. For example, sometimes the toddler picks it up and holds it, and sometimes she climbs in for a "bath."



When her caretakers first started taking her outside for some sun and let her play and practice on a perch made from acacia wood, Yuan Zai made her way around her environment, groping and probing. Chen says that after a while, she found the fastest way up to the perch, and the next time out remembered the shortcut without error. On one early occasion, after falling to the ground from the perch she couldn't figure out how to climb back up again, but the next day she went back at it again and succeeded – showing headstrong persistence and both a good memory and admirable learning skills.



On a visit to the Taipei Zoo, while watching a video I saw Yuan Yuan waking Yuan Zai from her sleep. Was she actually telling her baby to wake up?



**Yuan Zai:** "Mama, just a few minutes more, OK!"

With a chuckle, Chen Yuyan says that, yes indeed, Yuan Yuan is telling her child to get up! Naturally, however, what exactly is being "said" is something only mother and daughter know.

The many people who watch the live "Yuan Zai On Air" (天天ㄉ圓仔) online streaming have often seen Yuan Yuan scooping up her sound-asleep toddler to nurse her, and watched Yuan Zai's bowel movements as well. Chen says that when her biological clock sounds, whether her offspring is sleeping or moving around, Yuan Yuan picks her up and holds her.

The lively, energetic baby loves to run off, and each time mother realizes what has happened she goes off to find her and drag her back. In the evenings, after finishing her bamboo dinner around nine, Yuan Yuan starts to think about heading off to dreamland, but rambunctious Yuan Zai will keep pestering her to play, and drowsy Yuan Yuan has no choice but to try to move somewhere else to find a little peace and quiet. Her child inevitably has other ideas, however, and the moment Yuan Yuan gets up and heads off Yuan Zai chases merrily along behind her, in the most charming of scenes, as if they are playing a fun game of hide-and-seek. 🐼



Illustration/ Left

## Information

Taipei Zoo 臺北市立動物園

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

**Tel:** (02)2938-2300, ext. 630

**Website:** [newweb.zoo.gov.tw](http://newweb.zoo.gov.tw)

# Success Again on the International Stage! Taipei Is a 5-Prize Winner at LivCom Awards 2013



Our living spaces should exist in harmony with the surrounding natural environment: rather than an urban jungle, the goal should be to create an urban garden. The city of Taipei believes in the garden vision, and is hard at work seeking to make it reality, piece by piece. The annual International Awards for Liveable Communities (LivCom Awards), staged for the first time in 1997, is the only international competition promoting comprehensive environmental management and liveable community building. Recognized by the United Nations Environment Programme, each year approximately 70 countries and communities enter the competition. In 2012, the city of Taipei won two silver and two bronze awards, and this year has once again garnered international approbation, taking away 1 silver and four bronze.



The silver award winner, Xishan Community (溪山社區) in Shilin District was created as a Taipei eco-paradise. The bronze winners include the Snake-eating Turtle Major Wildlife Habitat at the Feitsui Reservoir (翡翠水庫食蛇龜野生動物保護區), which protects these freshwater turtles (淡水龜), the Urban Regeneration Station (URS; 都市再生前進基地), which injects creative energy into public spaces to reenergize them, Jiantan Township (劍潭里) in Zhongshan District, which seeks to become a model for low-carbon living, and Zhuzihu Community (竹子湖) in Beitou District, which exists in symbiosis with a national park.

The Xishan Community, an area of natural forest, is Taipei's only forest-conservation and eco-education space. Created over many years of cooperative effort by the Taipei City Government and local residents, the site is home to a flourishing natural eco-system. Facilities include a Network of Mountain Hiking Trail, Neishuangxi Nature Center (內雙溪自然中心), Tianxiyuan Ecology Education Center (天溪園生態教育中心), Medicinal Plants Garden (藥用植物園), Forest Classroom (森林教室) Stone House of Geology Education (石頭厝地質解說教室) and the Bishan Campground (碧山露營場). The many projects undertaken have intimately interlinked local community life with Mother Nature.

Feitsui Reservoir is the most important water source for the greater Taipei area, and the Snake-eating Turtle Major Wildlife Habitat, poised to become Asia's first freshwater turtle reserve, is home to the world's largest stable population of snake-eating turtles, or yellow-margined box turtles. When selected it was praised as a premier model for the maintenance of urban biodiversity. The URS initiative was launched in 2010, and integrates private resources with the goal of introducing new community vitality. To date nine projects have been completed. The four sites in the Dadaocheng quarter have helped make the Dihua Street neighborhood one of Taipei City's most interesting, and stations in Zhongshan and



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Nangang districts have added to the local charm and character. The URS sites give the city's young people new stages on which to wield their creative energies, serving as role models in bringing new hope and energy to local communities.

Jiantan Township is an old military dependents' village that has been redeveloped. The residents have established "zero carbon emissions" as a primary community goal, and have implemented many carbon-reduction initiatives. Their actions have attracted the attention of residents in other communities, who have come to learn from the Jiantan experience. Zhuzihu Community is located inside Yangmingshan National Park (陽明山國家公園), amidst a unique landscape created by the surrounding volcanoes in a basin rich in native flora and fauna. The community has transformed from an enclave of traditional farms to a tourist district focused on cash-crop flowers and plants. The annual Zhuzihu Calla Lily Festival (竹子湖海芋季) draws many visitors to the mountains for pleasure, and of late there has been an intense focus on organic agriculture, with a special focus on combined, complementary rice and duck farming. The "Penglai Rice Culture Festival" (蓬萊米食文化季) has been created to popular acclaim, and the rice-duck restoration plan, through reintroduction of ducks in the fields, has rejuvenated soil fertility.

Taking home numerous prized accolades two years in a row from the LivCom Awards showcases the boundless creative energy and dynamism of the citizens of this metropolis, and clearly demonstrates the enthusiasm

with which eco-consciousness has been embraced and the quest to make this a liveable city where humans and nature peacefully coexist. 

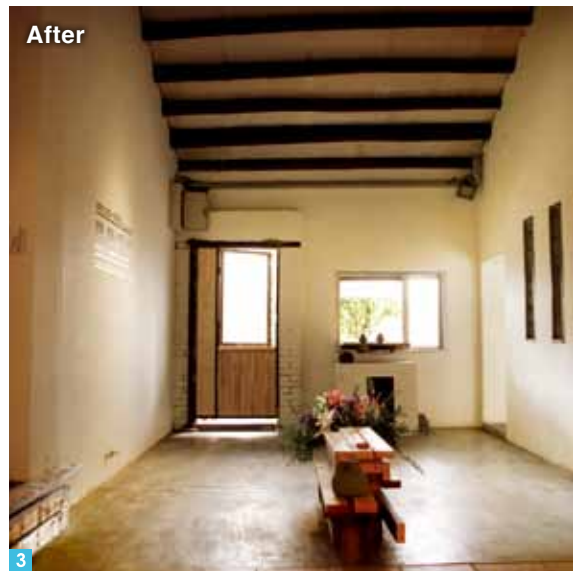
1. The Xishan Community in Shilin District, an area of natural forest, is Taipei's only forest-conservation and eco-education space.
- 2-3. Home to a flourishing natural eco-system, Xishan Community's many projects have intimately interlinked local community life with Mother Nature.
4. Feitsui Reservoir is the most important water source for the greater Taipei area.
5. Snake-eating Turtle Major Wildlife Habitat is home to the world's largest stable population of snake-eating turtles.
6. Each year the Zhuzihu Calla Lily Festival draws many visitors to the mountains for flower-viewing pleasure.
7. Jiantan Township in Zhongshan District has established "zero carbon emissions" as a primary community goal, and have implemented many carbon-reduction initiatives.
8. The Urban Regeneration Station project has transformed many old buildings and put them at the center of neighborhood rejuvenation. (Photo courtesy of URS44)

Photos courtesy of associated Taipei City Government (臺北市政府) bodies, including Department of Urban Development (都市發展局), Geotechnical Engineering Office, Public Works Department (工務局大地工程處), Department of Environmental Protection (環境保護局), Taipei Feitsui Reservoir Administration (臺北翡翠水庫管理局), and Taipei City Urban Regeneration Office (臺北市都市更新處)

## Information

Department of Urban Development, Taipei City Government 臺北市政府都市發展局

Tel: 1999 (02-2720-8889 outside Taipei City); ext. 8254



## New Life for Taipei's Old Buildings – A Discovery Trip

City buildings stand silently decade after decade, collecting countless memories. But as they age these precious jewels often fall into neglect. How can we preserve their original appearance and beauty while giving them new life? This year brought the 12<sup>th</sup> edition of the Old Building New Life Awards (老屋新生大獎). After two selection rounds undertaken over a two-month period, and with a reorientation of past emphasis on the reworking of external appearance in favor of "Integrated Co-existence of Old Building and Residents," the Studio 94 project won gold. In this project, an architect and group of students transformed an abandoned residential building into an "old building amusement park."

### Old Building Reborn as Amusement Park

Studio 94 is beside Yangde Boulevard (仰德大道) on Yangmingshan (陽明山). It was originally the residence of the chairman of the Thermos Foundation (財團法人玉溪有容教育基金會). Left empty for a long period, and lacking sunlight and ventilation, it was first intended to

be used as a storage facility. Instead, it was transformed into the Interbreeding Field (建築繁殖場) for the Tainan National University of the Arts Graduate Institute of Architecture (國立臺南藝術大學建築藝術研究所), a large-scale practical architecture laboratory for the students. They lived in the old building for three months, observing the local natural environment, and at the same time interacting with area residents. After this another two years was spent on renovations, transforming the nearly 60-year-old residence into a theme park complimenting the surrounding landscape and blooming with greenery.

A stepped wooden terrace has been constructed on the roof of Studio 94, and trees have been planted to create a garden in the sky. Inside the building, a wooden desk stretches out from a wall cavity, breaking up the original framework. Moving through doorways into each space feels as though moving through a maze, engaging the old house in a whimsical game. The facility is now being used as a workshop, exhibition venue, and offices, and space is made available free to NGOs for activities.



## Cultural Spaces Brimming with History

MadL2 (madL2文化空間) won silver at the Old Building New Life Awards. This old building, down an alley off Dihua Street, was built 80 years ago. Left unused for a five-year period, there were leaks, the electrical wiring was old, and the flooring and roof were damaged in many places. Nevertheless, the artists at the madL studio felt it would be a pity to leave the place to crumble, and moved to preserve the building structure and elements of traditional craftsmanship. The old house was put in order and furniture made. From the outside, this townhouse looks like any other, but inside sunlight spills through the windowpanes, and in every corner furniture of their own design and small decorative designer items fill the space with a pronounced artistic air. The front half of the building is currently being used as a performance space and studio for young artists, while the back part is a madL studio. It aims to serve as a new hub for cultural creativity in Dadaocheng in cooperation with the surrounding community.

The bronze winner, the designated Taipei City heritage site Beitou Museum (北投文物館), is an almost perfectly preserved two-floor wooden Japanese-style structure. Built in 1921, the building first housed Beitou's finest-quality hot-spring inn. At the end of the Japanese era (1895-1945), it was used as a place of relaxation and entertainment for kamikaze pilots. In 2002 the Fulu Culture Foundation (財團法人福祿文化基金會), which manages the site, hired a team of artisans skilled in traditional methods to conduct a thorough renovation, and even invited Japanese carpenters to engage in cooperation and communication. Renovation returned the building to its full Japanese-era glory. The museum has displays of cultural artifacts, stages cultural-arts

- 1-3. Studio 94 is a formerly abandoned building around 60 years old transformed into a theme park with liberal use of wood materials and foliage by a group of architecture students.
- 4-5. A group of artists put the 80-year-old residence now called madL2 in order, transforming it into a multifunctional space.
- 6-7. The renovated, wood-built Beitou Museum, in what was a hot-spring inn built during the Japanese era, is now a cultural-arts exhibit space.

performances, and rents tatami-floor and Western-style wood-floor spaces to the public for meetings, banquets, and other types of activities. You can also experience the tea ceremony, kaiseki cuisine, and other elements of traditional Japanese culture on a visit to this multicultural creative garden.

## The Story of Life on Stage Here

In addition to the gold, silver, and bronze winners, due to the strength of this year's crop of contenders two special prizes were also awarded, to the "Lin Wuhu Numerology Hall" (林五湖命相館) and to Wake Coffee (微客棧), respectively. The first is a well-preserved example of Taiwan's traditional south Fujian-style architecture, built by a clan surnamed Lin in 1851. One of the oldest

structures along Dihua Street, it was originally the clan's numerology or fortune-telling hall. The hall has been relocated, but ancestral tablets remain, and some members of the family's current generation reside here. The facility is open to the public each Saturday morning. Wake Coffee, which was also voted most popular in an online vote, is a building over 40 years old, transformed into a café by volunteers from the Waker Foundation (社團法人台灣微客公益行動協會). On the first floor, in addition to the dining space, there is a sales area with hand-crafted products made by disadvantaged women in India and Nepal. On the upstairs level are the foundation's offices and space that can be rented for the staging of cultural activities and other uses.

Old buildings are not just representatives of a city's past. They are spaces that can be reactivated for new use and new life – places that look toward to the future. Come explore the evolving cultural landscape to be found down along this city's streets and alleys. 



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8-9. Lin Wuhu Numerology Hall, built in 1851, is one of the oldest structures along Dihua Street; the facility, preserved by Lin's descendants, is a fine example of Taiwan's traditional south Fujian-style architecture.

10. Wake Coffee is a café that occupies the first floor of a renovated old building.

## Information

### 2013 Old Building New Life Awards 2013老屋新生大獎

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

#### Studio 94

**Add:** 94, Sec. 2, Yangde Blvd. (仰德大道2段94號)

**Tel:** (02)8771-7166, ext. 321

**Website:** [www.garden91.org](http://www.garden91.org)

#### madL2 文化空間

**Add:** 4, Aly. 18, Ln. 46, Sec. 1, Dihua St. (迪化街1段46巷18弄4號)

**Website:** [www.facebook.com/madLart](http://www.facebook.com/madLart)

#### Beitou Museum 北投文物館

**Add:** 32, Youya Rd. (幽雅路32號)

**Tel:** (02)2891-2318

**Hours:** Tues~Sun 10:00~17:30

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

#### Lin Wuhu Numerology Hall 林五湖命相館

**Add:** 156, Sec. 1, Dihua St. (迪化街1段156號)

**Tel:** (02)2944-7716

**Hours:** Open for visit second and fourth Saturday each month, 10:00~12:00 and 14:00~16:00.

#### Wake Coffee 微客棧

**Add:** 3-2, Ningbo E. Rd. (寧波東街3之2號)

**Tel:** (02)3322-5103

**Hours:** Tues~Sun 11:30~21:30 (closed Mon)

On October 11<sup>th</sup> last year the first charter plane flew from Taipei Songshan Airport to Matsuyama Airport in Japan's Ehime Prefecture. "Songshan" and "Matsuyama" have the same meaning – "pine mountain" – and this was the first time ever that direct flights have been established between airports of the same name. On October 13<sup>th</sup> a sister agreement was concluded between Taipei's Songshan Station (松山車站), operated by the Taiwan Railways Administration (臺灣鐵路管理局), and Matsuyama Station, operated by the JR Shikoku Railway Company – the TRA's first such agreement with an overseas railway organization for stations of the same name. Matsuyama City formally



## Friendship between Two Cities – Taipei and Japan's Matsuyama



presented Taipei's Songshan District with a stylized rendition of the famed Matsuyama – Dōgo Onsen Blessing Mechanical Clock (松山——道後溫泉祈福機械鐘) on the same day.

After the great earthquake and tsunami that hit Japan in 2011, to thank the people of Taiwan and specifically Songshan Ciyou Temple (松山慈祐宮) for their support and to celebrate the 260th anniversary of the temple's founding, the city of Matsuyama

and Taipei's Songshan Ciyou Temple jointly created the Matsuyama – Dōgo Onsen Blessing Mechanical Clock to present to the city of Taipei at a cost of 30 million yen, with Ciyou Temple providing funding, using the Dōgo Onsen tourist-landmark mechanical clock as the prototype. The clock now stands on the west side of Songshan Elementary School (松山國民小學), across from the temple.

The clock made for Songshan incorporates likenesses of the religious figures enshrined in Ciyou Temple, including Mazu, Goddess of the Sea, and her assistants Qianliyan (千里眼; "Thousand Miles Eyes") and Shunfeng Er (順風耳; "With the Wind Ears"). The clock plays the tune Xikou Song (錫口之歌, also called Songshan Song; 松山之歌), "Xikou" being the original name for the Songshan area. From 8 am to 10 pm each day, each hour on the hour the clock's figurines appear

and its chime is played in a show that has become a key attraction for those visiting the area's Raohe Street Night Market. Matsuyama and Ehime Prefecture also presented Taipei with two copies of the "Dōgo Children's Deity Palanquin" (道後兒童神轎), which are now on long-term display at Songshan Station and SweetMe HotSpring Resort (水美溫泉會館) in Beitou.

Songshan Station has a history going back over a century. When renovated and updated during the Japanese concept of "one-stop shopping" (一次購足) was incorporated, the station emerging as a multi-function destination offering transportation, tourism, shopping, and leisure/recreation facilities. The Matsuyama and Songshan Stations are related in name, history, and function, and the tying of the knot with the new sister agreement adds a new chapter to the history of the Taiwan and Japan railways. 1

1. A sister agreement has been concluded between the Taiwan Railways Administration's Songshan Station and JR Shikoku Railway Company's Matsuyama Station.
2. A stylized copy of the Matsuyama – Dōgo Onsen Blessing Mechanical Clock, jointly presented to Taipei by Japan's Matsuyama City and Taipei's Songshan Ciyou Temple.

### Information

#### Songshan Station 松山車站

**Add:** 11, Songshan Rd. (松山路11號)

**Tel:** (02)2767-3819 (railway station)  
(02)2528-0666 (shopping center)

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



## One Set of Scissors, Infinite Designs – The Beauty of Paper-Cut Art



In rural communities in early China, men tended the fields and women took care of such matters as making clothing, shoes, and headgear. During the Chinese New Year season households would come together in warm-spirited celebration, chatting about small matters and, often, creating paper-cut art – oxen in the Year of the Ox, horses in the Year of the Horse, auspicious characters such as *fu* (福; good fortune), *shou* (壽; longevity), and *xi* (喜; happiness). New art would be put up in wood-frame windows to replace the fading works from the year before, greeting the arriving year and seeking to attract luck and fortune as well. A layer of Tung oil would be spread on the paper-cuts used as window decorations to prevent them being ruined by the snow and cold wind and rains coming down from the north. With the passing of the years, a true paper-cut culture came into being.

## Designs Passed Down Through Countless Generat

In the old days, because printing was not widespread and the multicolor gift-box packaging so familiar today did not exist, paper-cut art was also used for weddings and on other felicitous occasions. The *xi* (囍) or "double happiness" character, as well as auspicious peonies, would be cut and pasted on a *xi he* (囍盒) or "double-happiness box." Decorations pasted on a mirror were called *jing hua* (鏡花) or "mirror flowers." Commoners would use paper-cuts called *zhutou hua* (豬頭花) or "pig head flowers/designs" and *zhutui hua* (豬腿花) or "pig leg flowers/designs" to represent the real thing. Elsewhere, paper-cut designs were borrowed from the traditional embroidery designs on shoes called *xie hua* (鞋花) or "shoe flowers/designs," and on *dudou* (肚兜), a type of undergarment covering a woman's chest and

abdomen. Each of these paper-cut patterns, passed down generation after generation from long ago to the present day, has its own meaning.

## "National Treasure" Paper-Cut Master – Li Huanzhang

An officially declared Taiwan "national treasure," 90 year-old paper-cut master Li Huanzhang (李煥章) is a teacher who has long devoted himself to promotion of this land's paper-cut cultural heritage. However, now in his tenth decade, his voice is strong and measured, and he is filled with energy. He teaches paper-cutting every Saturday morning at National Dr. Sun Yat-sen Memorial Hall, and some of his students have been with him for over a decade. When this class ends at noon, he throws on his backpack and heads out with a spry step to teach another class over at Xingtian Temple.



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When he was young he attended normal school in his hometown in China's Shandong Province (山東省). War threw the country into chaos, however, and he left for Taiwan to live in exile. He's lived in Taipei for 60 years, and taught at Zhongzheng Elementary School (中正國小) for thirty of them. During that time he came to know an official from the Department of Education (教育局), who noticed his talent at paper-cut art, asked him to teach classes, and arranged budgeting. Li was thrilled to share all he knew and to pass on and promote the art skills he had learned in his homeland, taking up the cause with alacrity and educating other teachers from inside and outside his school about paper-art culture. These teachers passed on their knowledge of the traditional art form to many students.

1. Taiwan "national treasure" Li Huanzhang, now in his tenth decade and still filled with energy, continues to teach paper-cutting.
- 2-5. In the old days people often had little material wealth, and printing was not widespread, so paper-cut art was used to make representations of material items – "mirror flowers," "pig head flowers/designs," "pig leg flowers/designs," "shoe flowers/designs," etc.
- 6-7. The Year of the Horse is soon to arrive, so cut-outs of a horse or of a traditional Chinese New Year pattern is a great memento idea.
- 8-9. Li has long devoted himself to promotion of this land's paper-cut cultural heritage, and some of his students have been with him for over 10 years.
10. Paper-cutting is inexpensive and easy to learn, making it an especially appropriate art form for young through old to try.



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## From Cutting Paper to Carving – From Paper to Silks and Satins

In the past, paper-cutting was not considered a form of art. Instead, it was referred to merely as “using scissors to cut paper.” While gravers, a special type of cutting tool, have become universal in modern times, cutting has become carving, and designs have become more elaborate and varied.

Among the designs that have become common are festival scenes, scenes from historical tales, nature scenes in the *shanshui* (山水) style, birds and flowers, fish and insects, Beijing-opera masks, historical figures – you

name it. In the past

Li has made paper-cut carvings of such Chinese classic stories as

*Dream of the Red Chamber* (紅樓夢), *Water Margin* (水滸傳), and *Romance of the Western Chamber* (西廂記), and once spent

three years on a 5-meter-long work entitled *Lives of the Holy Immortals* (87神仙傳).



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11-12. Li's work *Dream of the Red Chamber* and one of his selected works that demonstrate the use of dyeing technique.

Though an icon in the world of paper-cut art, Li remains a dedicated student. Always open to change and transformation, he is currently studying Chinese ink-and-wash paintings as well as traditional Chinese paintings, introducing their color concepts to paper-cut art's color-dye techniques. In the past, in his search for new inspiration and subject matter he spent more than a decade at the National Palace Museum and National Central Library, gathering pictures and calligraphy samples from copies of ancient books as reference for his paper-cut work. He has even collected materials on Western modern art, such as Matisse's Fauvism work. Li has a collection of over 10,000 copies of designs in his home, clear evidence of his willingness and ability to incorporate new ideas. He also looks to non-conventional materials, utilizing traditional rice paper and cotton paper for his art along with silks and satins, which are more durable and long lasting. Li's unquenchable thirst for the new and innovative is clear.

## Mastery – Achieved Only After Countless Failures

Using specialist paper-cut scissors from Japan, Li deftly creates 3D “spring” (春) characters, cherry blossoms, pineapples, national flags, national emblems, and myriad other patterns. He recalls his days in his hometown, hearing the cry of peddlers coming into his alley calling out “Knife sharpening! Scissors sharpening!”

## 3D Paper-Cut Character for "Spring":



**1** Fold a square sheet of paper, then fold again



**2** Fold this into an isosceles triangle, fold this into a right-angle triangle



**3** First, cut out a small regular triangle



**4** Cut five straight lines, then cut out second and fourth lines



**5** Cut out a small triangle and small arc shape



**6** Cut another four straight lines, then cut out first and third lines



**7** Cut a crescent-moon shape (use attractive arc line)



**8** Unfold you're finished "spring" character

Neighbors would come out all along the street to give their old knives and scissors to the master worker to grind and sharpen.

When students ask him how he has attained such a high level of skill, Li always replies: "Everyone always concentrates on the successes. They don't look at the constant, relentless practice I've put in at home, and the countless failed works." He sees paper-cutting as an art with its own culture, in which one cultivates one's temperament to be able to enter a state of pure calm that allows intense thought concentration. There are low barriers to entry, and costs are low, but the gifts you present to family and friends earn you goodwill and high respect. These things provide strong encouragement for more people to try their hand at the form. Since Chinese New Year is arriving soon, we asked Master Li to demonstrate how to craft the character for "spring", a common, auspicious seasonal decoration, so friends from overseas can experience the beauty of the paper-cut experience for themselves. 🎉

## Information

### Li Huanzhang Paper-Cutting Courses (Advance registration required; fee charged)

Xinyi Community College Taipei City  
臺北市信義社區大學

**Time:** Thurs 19:00~21:30

**Tel:** (02)8789-7316, ext. 102 (telephone registration)

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

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

**Time:** Sat 10:00~12:00

**Tel:** (02)2758-8008, ext. 715, 716

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

### Hsing Tian Kong Library

財團法人台北行天宮附設玄空圖書館

**Time:** 13:40~15:40

**Tel:** (02)2713-6165, ext. 355

**Website:** [www.lib.ht.org.tw/eng/index.html](http://www.lib.ht.org.tw/eng/index.html)

# Enjoyable and Interesting Auspicious Chinese New Year Foods

Chinese New Year is the first and most important of the three great annual festivals of Chinese culture. Everyone working or studying away from home makes their way back by Chinese New Year's Eve for a grand family reunion, sitting down for the traditional New Year's Eve feast of homemade New Year delicacies and sweet treats laden with auspicious symbolism, and greeting the New Year together.

## New Year Dishes Bringing Happiness and Luck

Each of the wide assortments of dishes presented at table as everyone happily eats and drinks to their heart's content at the family-reunion meal has an auspicious significance. For example, in Taiwanese the pronunciation of the words for "chicken" (雞) and "home/family" (家) are quite similar. Eating a whole chicken represents the Taiwanese idiom *chiah ke khi ke* (食雞起家), meaning "eat a chicken, establish a home," denoting family togetherness. In Mandarin Chinese "fish" (魚) and "surplus" are both pronounced *yu* (餘), so fish is eaten to represent the idiom *nian nian you yu* (年年有餘), or "every year a surplus." Seniors will not cut mustard greens, also called "long years vegetable" (長年菜), when cooking them since eating them uncut encourages hopes of a long life. At New Year many families will eat a fried dish of about 10 types of shredded vegetables that includes sweet-potato noodles, spinach, cilantro, celery, Chinese cabbage, etc.; the number "10" (十) appears in the expression "perfect in every way" (十全十美), meaning everything will go your way.

It is usually cool or cold on New Year's Eve, and hotpot is often eaten, both to dispel the chill and as a source of rich symbolism, the round pot symbolizing the perfection of a family reunion with all members around the circular table.

The basic stock may be made from a variety of ingredients: stewed fish head, pickled cabbage with plain boiled pork, and braised pork ball for example, or it can be numbingly spicy, to which myriad other tasty items are added, including tofu, stuffed dumplings, meat and fish balls, and Chinese cabbage. Other highly symbolic ingredients are bamboo fungus, because the character for "bamboo" (竹) appears in the blessing *zhubao ping'an* (竹報平安) meaning "peace be with you this year," and long-thread moss, which, like a traditional blessing meaning "get rich" is pronounced *fa cai* (發財). Something that must be eaten on New Year's Day are steamed dumplings, which in shape are similar to imperial-era gold and silver ingots and thus signify the expression *caiyuan gungun* (財源滾滾) or "profits pouring in from all sides."

1-2. New Year's Eve feast foods have auspicious meaning. A whole chicken represents the idiom "eat a chicken, establish a home;" eating fish, "every year a surplus."

3-4. A dish of numerous shredded vegetables represents "perfect in every way"; dumplings, which resemble traditional gold/silver ingots, "profits pouring in from all sides."



## Supporting Role Foods – New Year Snack Treats

There is much to do at New Year beyond the New Year's Eve feast. All through the holidays, beginning on New Year's Day, people are busy going to temples to pray for peace and safety and making New Year calls on friends and relatives. Whether sitting at home having tea and chatting or off visiting kith and kin, there is always much snacking on the sweet array of traditional New Year treats. Below are a selection of the most common:

### Nian gao (New Year cake; 年糕)

"Cake" (糕) and "high" (高) are both pronounced gao, so eating this cakes symbolizes nian nian gao sheng (年年高升) or "year by year ever higher." In Taiwan, niangao is also called "sweet cake" (甜粿). It's made by grinding glutinous rice into a paste, which is then pressed and semi-dried. Brown sugar is mixed in, and the mass is steamed for 3 hours, creating a soft, sweet, chewy treat.



Nian gao

### Fagao (發糕)

The word *fa* (發), which means "to grow," is used in the name of this cake and in the abovementioned phrase *facai* or "get rich." Made with baking powder, granulated sugar, and rice or glutinous-rice flour, of key importance is the *fa* when it is being prepared – i.e., if it rises or "grows" substantially when steamed, fortune is on its way in the New Year!



Fagao

### Malao (Taiwanese rice crispy; 麻荖)

This is said to be a favorite snack among the gods, and eating it thus brings fortune and luck to mortals. Preparation is laborious. Taro powder and glutinous-rice powder are combined and kneaded, then fermented and divided into lumps. The lumps are fried, when they expand into spherical shapes. The final step is to spread maltose and either fried rice grains or sesame seeds on top.



Malao

### Radish cake (蘿蔔糕)

For a savory treat, radish cake is a must. Traditional farming families add Penglai rice milk (蓬萊米漿) to shredded white radish. In Taiwanese, "radish" (菜頭) and "fortune" (彩頭) share the same pronunciation, so radish cake represents *ho chhai-thau* (好彩頭) or "good fortune."



Radish cake

### Red turtle cake (紅龜粿)

An item commonly used in worship rites, the red color of this cake represents good fortune, and the turtle shape symbolizes longevity. The wooden molds used in days of old came in countless shapes. The skin is made from glutinous rice, and the filling is generally red-bean paste, green-bean paste, dried radish, or peanut powder.



Red turtle cake

### Eight treasures rice (八寶飯)

The "eight treasures" in this dish include glutinous rice, red dates, winter-melon slivers, fermented soybeans, bean paste, honey beans (蜜豆), and black dates. The flavor is full and richly textured, the visual presentation sumptuous. The dish evokes the expression "a house full of gold and jade" (金玉滿堂).



Eight treasures rice

(Photos courtesy of Kao Chi)

## The New Year's Final Act – Tangyuan

The traditional Chinese New Year holiday period extends from New Year's Eve to the 15<sup>th</sup> day of the 1<sup>st</sup> lunar month, which is called the Lantern Festival (元宵節). On this day a piping-hot bowl of tangyuan (湯圓) is always eaten. Tangyuan are stuffed dumplings made of glutinous-rice flour served in soup. Beyond warming you up, their perfect roundness represents "perfect happiness," and a bowl is considered the consummate way to end the holiday.

In Taiwan, there are three main kinds of tangyuan, with either peanut, sesame, or date paste as filling. Tangyuan are also called yuanxiao (元宵), and eating them is considered de rigeur during the Lantern Festival – so much so that the direct translation of the Chinese term for "Lantern Festival" is, in fact, "yuanxiao festival." Another type of tangyuan has no filling. There are two colors, white and red, the white version preserving the original color of the glutinous rice, while food coloring is added to the red dumplings. The traditional method of preparing tangyuan was to roll lumps of glutinous rice in a bamboo basket until they were spherical, then to cook them in boiling brown-sugar water. Called "little tangyuan", they are generally eaten during



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the winter holiday season. Another type called Hakka tangyuan (客家湯圓) contain minced meat, chopped green onion, and other ingredients, and are seasoned at the time of cooking with chrysanthemum, mushroom, shrimp, and other flavorings. This is a snack treat traditionally enjoyed by Hakka after a busy season on the farm. Today, tangyuan are enjoyed throughout the year, and seasonal distinctions are no longer so important. Be sure to try them, sweet or savory, with or without filling, and the Lantern Festival presents the perfect opportunity.

Most Taipei eating and drinking establishments are closed on New Year's Eve. However, hotel facilities are still in operation, so if you would like to feast on New Year delicacies you can take advantage of their New Year meal takeaway services or make a reservation for a classic family reunion-style sit-down feast. Places like the Grand Hotel, Ambassador Hotel Taipei (台北國賓大飯店), Regent Taipei (台北晶華酒店), and Grand Hyatt Taipei (台北君悅酒店) serve up meals with auspicious names; examples include the "Auspicious Surplus Reunion Feast" (吉慶有餘團圓宴), "Hall Filled with Gold and Jade New Year Celebration" (金玉滿堂慶新年), and "Welcoming Happiness with the Spring, Galloping Horses Spring Festival Celebration" (迎春納福·萬馬賀新春). Adding to your experience of the traditional festival New Year ambience is the appearance of the God of Wealth (財神爺) at these locations, who grants guests his blessing for success in career and wealth. 🍀



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5. Tangyuan, with fillings of peanut, sesame, and date paste, are also called yuanxiao.
6. Savory Hakka tangyuan contain minced meat, chopped green onion, and other ingredients.
7. "Little tangyuan," which have no filling, are made by rolling lumps of glutinous rice in a bamboo basket until they are spherical.
- 8-9. Many well-known Taipei hotels provide both takeaway New Year foods and full New Year's Eve meals (photo shows Regent Taipei's New Year foods and full New Year's Eve meal).

## New Year Foods and Snacks

### Nanmen Market 南門市場

**Add:** 8, Sec. 1, Roosevelt Rd. (羅斯福路1段8號)  
**Tel:** (02)2321-8069

### Dongmen Market 東門市場

**Add:** 81, Sec. 2, Xinyi Rd. (信義路2段81號)  
**Tel:** (02)2321-8209

### San Liu Yuanzai Dian 三六圓仔店

**Add:** 92, Sanshui St. (三水街92號)  
**Tel:** (02)2306-3765

### Lin Zhen Rise Cake Shop 林貞稜行

**Add:** 3, Aly. 12, Ln. 172, Sec. 2, Dihua St. (迪化街2段172巷12弄3號)  
**Tel:** (02)2598-2956

### Lin He Fa Oil Rice and Rice Cake Shop 林合發油飯糕店

**Add:** 21, Sec. 1, Dihua St.; Yongle Market (迪化街1段21號;永樂市場內)  
**Tel:** (02)2559-7618

### Shanghai Hoshing Gaotuan Dian 上海合興糕糰店

**Add:** 8, Sec. 1, Roosevelt Rd.; Nanmen Market (羅斯福路1段8號;南門市場內)  
**Tel:** (02)2321-4702

### Jiuru Restaurant 九如商號

**Add:** 69, Sec. 4, Ren'ai Rd. (仁愛路4段69號)  
**Tel:** (02)2721-7777

### Kao Chi 高記

**Add:** 1, Yongkang St. (永康街1號)  
**Tel:** (02)2341-9984

# Great Chinese New Year Gift Ideas in Taipei – Splendid Sources of Seasonal Joy



Chinese New Year is approaching, and as you walk the city streets, you will see many shops selling seasonal merchandise such as Spring Festival couplets, red envelopes, and New Year hanging ornaments. Each household prepares all the auspicious items needed to invoke good fortune for the unfolding year. A time-honored custom at this time is to visit friends and relatives, and all remember to bring gifts that symbolize good luck and add to the recipients' festive joy. In this issue, we specially introduce some great gift ideas that combine New Year customs with local agricultural products, perfect for expressing New Year blessings.



## New Color Idea Co., Ltd. – Depicting the Gods through Paper Sculpture

Despite the island's passionate modernization, Taiwan's popular folk religion continues to flourish. Temples, both large and small, are everywhere. Intrigued by the stories of the deities enshrined within? New Color Idea Co., Ltd. (心研舍文化創藝有限公司), established in 2000, uses paper-sculpture art to celebrate folk culture and history, using Taiwan's deities as subjects for its Paper Dolls (紙偶公仔) line. They are attractive, and come complete with each deity's story in Chinese, English, and Japanese, and assembly instructions. Apart from their aesthetic beauty, buying one is a good way to gain a better understanding of the meaning and symbolism associated with the various gods.



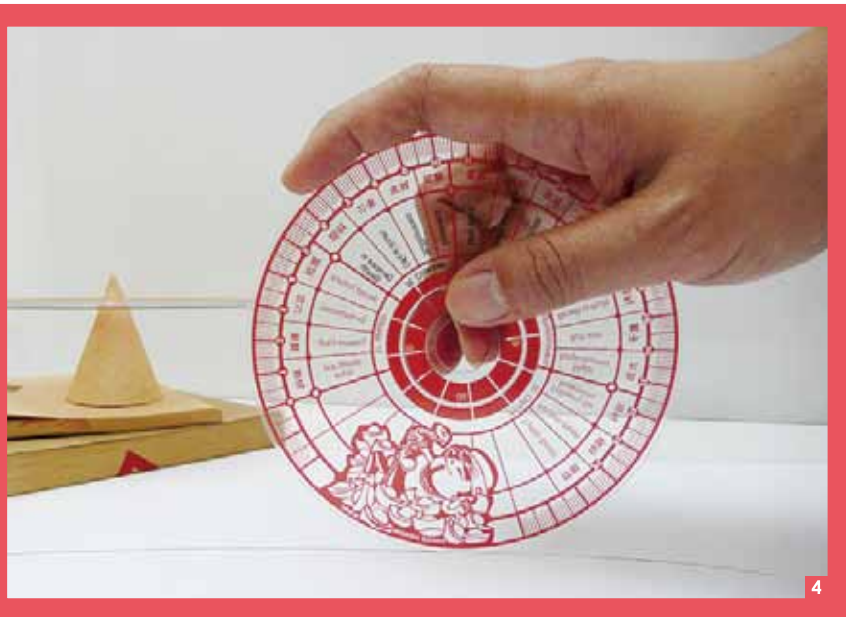
2 There are a variety of Paper Dolls to choose from, dressed in auspicious red clothing, and holding traditional-style

Chinese gold ingots or blessings. Most popular are the God of Fortune (財神爺); Earth God (土地公, one of the most-worshipped gods during the New Year, smiling like a kindly grandfather); Mazu (媽祖, protector of coastal residents and the patron saint of fishermen); and her two subordinates (who possesses supernatural powers), always found by her side – the Far Seeing God (千里眼) and Far Hearing God (順風耳). Each sculpture is a creative, eye-catching work.

The Mask Paper Sculpture (假面浮雕) series is a collection of paper masks that present the myths and legends of different nationalities. Among the most compelling is the Sword Lion (八卦劍獅), a special talisman used in the city of Tainan's Anping District (臺南安平區). It is said that local residents have been putting Sword Lions on doors and walls since the 17<sup>th</sup> century, beseeching peace and safety at home.

1-2. They are all cute, from Buddhist icons that protect you from evil forces to Mazu, who protects sea-travelers.

3. The Sword Lion is a special talisman used in the city of Tainan's Anping District.



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## Tocca Design: Items of Worship Transformed into Enticing Stationery

Tocca Design (土干創意) was established in 2007. Its Chinese name is playful, containing the characters *tu* (土) and *gan* (干), which are written almost exactly the same way but are inverted images of each other. This reflects an important approach to design work, where a sense of fun and youthful playfulness are essential. Tocca's clever designers have taken the mundane items of temple worship and transformed them into delightful objects of whimsy for use as office desk stationery.

A fine example is the Money Ruler (招財尺). Not only is it used for measuring things, but it also has printed images of the Earth God and God of Wealth on it, as well as the blessing phrases *shengyi xinglong* (生意興隆) and *zhaocao jinbao* (招財進寶), the first wishing you "thriving and prosperous business," the second "ushering in wealth and prosperity."

The firm's Talisman Post-its (符咒便利貼) have images and verses from local folk religion that attract good



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fortune and dispel evil, making your postings blessings at the same time. There are six English phrases, including "Just Do It" and "Don't Forget It." The inspiration for the Golden Paper Notebook (金紙筆記本) line is the ritual paper money used in ceremonies to communicate with the gods and ask for blessings. Use it not only to jot down notes, but also to record your wishes and desires, replacing the traditional ritual of burning ghost money and thus reducing carbon-dioxide emissions.

The Gods of Five Directions (五路財神) T-shirts are very cool, printed with the images of the gods in auspicious red on the back of the collar. A traditional Taiwan religious custom is for family elders to take the clothing of family members to a temple at the beginning of each year; a red image of the gods is pressed onto the neckline using a seal, and the mark dispels malevolent forces and brings peace and safety.

- 4-5. The Money Ruler rotates to measure; the Talisman Post-it has six "To Do List" English phrases.
- 6. The Gods of Five Directions T-shirts have deity images in auspicious red on the collar backs.
- 7. The Golden Paper Notebook line's inspiration is the ritual paper money used to communicate with the gods and ask for blessings.



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## Man Fu Tang: Traditional Cakes Rich in Symbolism & Traditional Taste

Opened in 1899 during the reign of Qing Emperor Guangxu (清光緒), the 115-year-old bakery Man Fu Tang (滿福堂餅行) offers between 30 and 40 house-developed handmade confections featuring traditional Taiwan flavors. It won honors at the 2010 Taipei Souvenir Shops (2010年臺北好禮) competition in the pineapple cake and old-style cake categories .

The bakery's "Golden Fruit Pineapple Cakes" (黃金果肉鳳梨酥) and "Dayuling High Mountain Tea Pineapple Cakes" (黃金果肉鳳梨酥) are made with Taiwan home-grown pineapples from Guanmiao (關廟) and with high-mountain tea leaf, respectively. Its "Fortune Taro Cakes" (福芋餅) are made with taro from the Dajia (大甲) area in Taichung and longan smoked with wood from the xiangsi tree (相思樹), a type of acacia. The combination evokes the expression *tian tian zhufu* (甜甜祝福) or "sweet blessings of fortune." Another delicious selection is the "Belly Button Cake" (肚臍餅), which has

been made for over a century. It is said to have been invented by a Japanese engineer stationed in Taiwan during the Japanese colonial period who, missing his home and hometown cakes, used Taiwan green bean as a substitute ingredient.

At the time of Man Fu Tang's founding over a century ago, pork was difficult to preserve. The founder, who viewed food as a precious treasure to be cherished and approached with gratitude, used the food preparation methods of the Hakka. He preserved pork using salt and sugar, and created pork pastries and "happiness" wedding cakes (喜餅). His goal was to be able to share precious, treasured flavors with family and friends in an era of material scarcity – in the same manner as presenting New Year gifts, loaded with blessings and good intentions.

8. Man Fu Tang's Belly Button Cakes have an interesting origin.

9-10. The bakery's Golden Fruit Pineapple Cakes and Dayuling High Mountain Tea Pineapple Cakes are gold-award winners.

11. Fortune Taro Cakes are made with taro from Taichung's Dajia area and acacia-smoked longan.

## Green in Hand: The Sweet Taste of This Land

Established in 2006, Green in Hand Food Bank Co., Ltd. (掌生穀粒) features "Taiwan's people treating their land with friendship" as its spiritual core. The packaging for its agricultural produce is handmade, and staff travel around the country gathering the farming stories of growers, and putting them in the promotional materials. The message is that the produce is more than mere food – each is a cooperative creation of human and nature, a combination of culture and creativity, an agricultural product brimming with vitality.

Besides rice (produced on the east coast), and tea (grown in the high mountains) another precious treasure produced on the fertile island of Taiwan is honey. The packaging for the firm's A Garden with God's Blessing (眾神的花園) honey was an award-winner at the 2012 Red Dot Design Awards. The colorful caps allow you to enjoy the beauty of the flowers of Taiwan; traditional Chinese-style paper-cut silhouettes of a camellia, Chinese guger-tree blossom, and other flowers are pasted on the caps of the Camellia Nectar (山茶蜜), Crystallized Bay Laurel Honey (月桂蜜), and Lychee Honey (荔枝蜜). The firm's Dearest Secret (秘蜜) series, which won a 2013 Red Dot Design Award and the grand prize in the New Product category in the Taiwan Cultural & Creative Awards (台灣文創精品獎), includes Herbal Honey (百草蜜), suffused with the aroma of herbs from Taitung (臺東), Pomelo Honey (文旦蜜), made with Hualien (花蓮) citrus fruit, Crystallized Cinnamon Honey (玉桂蜜), a Taiwan rarity from Nantou (南投), and Blossom Honey (百卉蜜), which brings the scents of early spring to the cold winter months. All are fine ways to bring sweetness and cheer to the Chinese New Year.

In the bubbling, bustling atmosphere of the Taipei New Year, check out the city's cultural-creative gifts, laden with auspicious meaning, which add that much more unique flavor to the one-of-a-kind Taiwan New Year cultural feast. 🍯



12-13. A Garden with God's Blessing and Dearest Secret honey.

### Information

#### New Color Cultural Creation Co. 心研舍文化創藝有限公司

**Sales Points:** Taipei City Hall Publications & Souvenirs Exhibition Center (臺北市政府出版品紀念品展售中心), The Red House (西門紅樓), Chinese Handicraft Mart (中華工藝館)

**Tel:** (02)8671-2811

**Website:** [www.taiwantrade.com.tw/EP/each](http://www.taiwantrade.com.tw/EP/each)

#### Tocca Design 土干創意

**Sales Points:** Huashan 1914 Creative Park (華山1914文化創意產業園區), The Red House (西門紅樓), eslite Xinyi Flagship Store (誠品信義旗艦店)

**Tel:** (02)2835-0461

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

#### Man Fu Tan 滿福堂餅行

**Addr:** 3, Sec. 2, Zhongxiao E. Rd. (忠孝東路2段3號)

**Tel:** (02)3322-3301

**Website:** [www.man-fu-tan.com.tw](http://www.man-fu-tan.com.tw)

#### Green in Hand 掌生穀粒

**Sales Points:** Flagship store, 182, Ln. 415, Guangfu S. Rd. (光復南路415巷182號); eslite Spectrum Songyan Store (誠品生活松菸店)

**Tel:** (02)2723-7511

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





# A Leisurely Tour of International Religious Architecture on “The Road to Paradise”

Taiwan folk beliefs are notably free-ranging and diverse. In addition to traditional Eastern religions, Catholicism and Protestantism are also practiced, first brought to the island in the 17<sup>th</sup> century by missionaries. Xincheng South Road (新生南路), an important Taipei thoroughfare, has many grand places of religious worship, giving rise to its elegant description as “The road to paradise, closest place to God.” The road is bordered by tall, shady trees, and along Section 2 is lovely Daan Park (大安森林公園), which is often called “the lungs of Taipei City” (臺北市之肺). Nearby Yongkang Street (永康街), Qingtian Street (青田街), and the surrounding lanes and alleys form a community known for its shady tree cover and rich cultural atmosphere. This is an area perfect for rambles on foot in the winter months.

## Route

Grace Baptist Church, Taipei Truth Lutheran Church, Heping Presbyterian Church in Taipei, Taipei Mosque, Holy Family Catholic Church, Seventh Day Adventist Taipei Church (architecture)→Lvsang Canteen, Sit-Fun Restaurant (lunch)→Yongkang Street exploration (Ren Lai Fang, Chang Yi Fang)→Bunny Listens To The Music (dinner)



## Paradise Road and Its Beautiful Houses of Worship

In the morning, take a bus to National Taiwan University stop (臺大站) or ride the Taipei Metro to Gongguan Station (捷運公館站) on the Xindian Line (新店線). Leave the MRT station via Exit 3, walk along Roosevelt Road (羅斯福路) and then Xincheng South Road, and in less than 5 minutes you will be at the main entrance to the National Taiwan University campus. Look across the street and you will see Grace Baptist Church (基督教浸信會懷恩堂), which has a conspicuous yellow roof, a foundation in traditional Chinese architectural style, and red-brick exterior walls in traditional Taiwan residential style complemented by round, fan-shaped portals. The roof is designed in the shape of the headgear worn by intellectuals in the Ming dynasty, and its yellow color is symbolic of China's emperors, implying reverence for Jesus Christ.



Taipei Truth Lutheran Church (台北真理堂), created in 1952, was originally a small, simple church with a small enclosure wall. In 2005 this was replaced with a modernistic structure 10 stories high built as a "Christian Holistic Care Building" (全人關懷大樓). The familiar cross was replaced with a large light box and curved roof. A group of seven large strip curtains adorns the central area of the façade, and the light shining on them at night creates a soft, pleasant glow. Manifesting the selfless love of Christ, there is no enclosure wall, creating a public-space with a natural feel of inclusiveness and accessibility, expressing in material form the church's emphasis on "the fellowship of love."

Next, head down Lane 183 off Heping East Road (和平東路) to visit the Heping Presbyterian Church in Taipei (台北和平基督長老教會), which has a tucked-away feel. This is a stunning modernistic religious structure. It was designed by Su Shihsung (蘇希宗), who has been called Taiwan's "church-building designer" and who won a National Golden Award for Architecture (國家建築金質獎) in 2013. The architect says that when he designed the building he decided to make a leap of faith from the standard concept of overall architectural uniformity – instead presenting three faces of different heights on the west side, each topped with a gable, like "the rising and falling notes of a pleasant melody being played for the community."

Head back out of the grid of small lanes and alleys to Xincheng South Road, to find one of Taiwan's most important holy sites for Muslims – the Taipei Mosque (臺北清真寺). Completed in 1960, it was declared an official city heritage site in 1999. The structure features the classic elements of traditional Islamic architecture, including a domed roof above the main prayer hall, corbel-arch corridors, and minarets. The façade is covered with mosaic decorations of great beauty in the classic Islamic geometric style. Since Muslims do not worship idols, there are no statues or other images in the expansive, 15-meter-high prayer hall, nor any tables or chairs. The only embellishment is a large, red handmade Persian carpet covering the floor. The simple beauty of the space exudes a deep and solemn air of holiness.

1. Grace Baptist Church has a conspicuous yellow roof and a stele in the front area.
2. Grace Baptist Church's interior soaring space and warm colors provide a sense of tranquility.
3. The Taipei Truth Lutheran Church's Christian Holistic Care Building has a warm night glow.
4. Heping Presbyterian Church in Taipei has three faces of different heights on the west side, each topped with a gable.
- 5-6. The Taipei Mosque features classic elements of Islamic architecture; inside, there are no statues or other images in the expansive prayer hall, nor any tables or chairs.

Holy Family Catholic Church (天主教台北聖家堂), across from Daan Forest Park, has a simple external appearance of geometric rectangular balance that complements the cross mounted on the façade. The main hall within the church, soaring five stories high and designed in the shape of an arch, has an atmosphere of purity and sacredness. Perhaps the most notable visual element, however, is the century-old stained glass on the sides of the hall, created by the well-known French artist Charles Lévêque and depicting 18 stories from the Bible. Light floods in through the glass on sunny days, the rays converging and creating a glorious glow within, as though a brilliant manifestation of God's amazing grace.

Another religious structure that stands along The Road to Paradise and has architecture well worth inspecting is the Seventh Day Adventist Taipei Church (基督復臨安息日會臺北教會), which has an unusual spiral design and a large-scale relief mosaic entitled "Three Angels" on its façade with a striking 3D effect. The work refers to the messages brought by three angels in the Book of Revelation to prepare the world for the second coming of Jesus Christ, when the world will end and those who have been chosen will be taken to paradise.



## | The Alluring Yongkang Street and Qingtian Street Quarter

After a tour of the local places of worship, head over to the Yongkang Street area for an exploration of local cultural and fine food. It's a short walk to the street from Seventh Day Adventist Taipei Church, taking you through Yongkang Park (永康公園) and by two local-style Taiwanese eateries that foreign visitors should not miss – Lvsang Canteen (呂桑食堂) and Sit-Fun Restaurant (喫飯食堂). Here you will find such local culinary creations as lardy rice (豬油拌飯), Yilan soy-braised xilu pork (宜蘭西魯肉), and Makino bamboo shoots (桂竹筍). Sit down, take a break, and enjoy the inexpensive, hearty tastes of authentic Taiwanese food.

After a filling and tasty repast, take a leisurely stroll along Yongkang Street. The district teems with stylish fashion boutiques, sophisticated teahouses, antique shops, furnishing stores, and much more that the traveler from overseas will find intriguing. Among the many side-alley shops is Ren Lai Feng (人來風), on Lane 47 of Yongkang Street's filled with delicate tea utensils, books on the tea arts, and other treasures that immerse visitors in a refined tea-culture world. Elsewhere on the same lane is Chang Yi Fang (彰藝坊), a boutique that specializes in handmade Taiwanese opera puppets and creative items made from fabric printed with an attractive floral design, and woven hanging lamps. At the end of Lane 47 is Qingtian Street,



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where you will find Taipei's highest concentration of Japanese architecture. Shady and quiet, many Japanese-style residences from the Japanese colonial period remain. After exploring the area, as evening approaches it is time for dinner, and the local restaurant Bunny Listens To The Music (兔子聽音樂餐坊) beckons. This is a favorite spot with the city's arts community, and their presence in number adds to the cultured ambience. Make this your exclamation point to end a fine day of roaming and learning, facing the windows and the world beyond, savoring the Italian cuisine, and recounting the experiences of your day in this fascinating corner of Taipei. 📍

- 7-8. Holy Family Catholic Church has a soaring interior arch design and century-old stained glass.
- 9. The Seventh Day Adventist Taipei Church, which has an unusual spiral design, is on Xincheng South Road.
- 10-11. At Sit-Fun Restaurant, enjoy such Taiwan culinary creations as Yilan soy-braised xilu pork and Makino bamboo shoots.
- 12. At Ren Lai Feng, enjoy old-style trappings and a refined tea-culture world.
- 13-14. Chang Yi Fang is filled with such Taiwan-character items as handmade Taiwanese opera puppets and woven hanging lamps.
- 15-16. Bunny Listens To The Music, on Qingtian Street, has a distinctive artistic ambience.

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## Information

### Grace Baptist Church 基督教浸信會懷恩堂

**Add:** 90, Sec. 3, Xincheng S. Rd. (新生南路3段90號)

**Tel:** (02)2362-5321

### Taipei Truth Lutheran Church 台北真理堂

**Add:** 86, Sec. 3, Xincheng S. Rd. (新生南路3段86號)

**Tel:** (02)2363-2096

### Heping Presbyterian Church in Taipei

台北和平基督長老教會

**Add:** 9, Ln. 183, Sec. 1, Heping E. Rd. (和平東路1段183巷9號)

**Tel:** (02)2351-0087

### Taipei Mosque 臺北清真寺

**Add:** 62, Sec. 2, Xincheng S. Rd. (新生南路2段62號)

**Tel:** (02)2321-9445

### Holy Family Catholic Church 天主教台北聖家堂

**Add:** 50, Sec. 2, Xincheng S. Rd. (新生南路2段50號)

**Tel:** (02)2392-0701

### Seventh Day Adventist Taipei Church

基督復臨安息日會臺北教會

**Add:** 26, Ln. 2, Xincheng S. Rd. (新生南路2段26號)

**Tel:** (02)2341-2830

### Lvsang Canteen 呂桑食堂

**Add:** 12-5, Yongkang St. (永康街12-5號)

**Tel:** (02)2351-3323

### Sit-Fun Restaurant 喫飯食堂

**Add:** 5, Ln. 8, Yongkang St. (永康街8巷5號)

**Tel:** (02)2322-2632

### Ren Lai Feng 人來風

**Add:** 15, Ln. 47, Yongkang St. (永康街47巷15號)

**Tel:** (02)3393-7410

### Chang Yi Fang 彰藝坊

**Add:** 27, Ln. 47, Yongkang St. (永康街47巷27號)

**Tel:** (02)3393-7330

### Bunny Listens To The Music

兔子聽音樂餐坊

**Add:** 15, Ln. 6, Qingtian St. (青田街6巷15號)

**Tel:** (02)2395-9388

Please refer to the map provided on P.66



## Taipei City – The Place to Be for the Chinese New Year 2014

The tradition of Chinese New Year shopping has a long history. In days of old, farming folk, in gratitude for harvests bestowed from on high, would proceed to a temple to worship. To provide offerings to the gods, and to for their own enjoyment too, the best food items were purchased in the run-up to the New Year holidays. These items were, and still are, called *nian huo* (年貨) – “New Year goods.” Today, the Taipei Lunar New Year Festival (年貨大街), organized by the city government, has become a primary local New Year draw in Taipei. Each year during the New Year season old Dihua Street, Taipei’s greatest emporium of traditional goods, is filled with a sea of shoppers. Vendors verbally advertise their goods and prices, and the cool winter air is filled with an atmosphere of busy clamor. This is a great opportunity for the foreign visitor to become a part of the cheery spirit that percolates through the city during the festive season.

Traditional New Year goods include a variety of cakes and other confections, preserved meats, fruits, flowers and plants that have auspicious meanings. For example, *nian gao* (年糕) or “New Year cake” represents the expression *nian nian gao sheng* (年年高升), meaning “step by step ever higher.” Winter-melon and other types of candy represent *tian tian zhuan da qian* (甜甜賺大

錢) or “make big money” – the expression “*tian tian*” meaning “sweet sweet,” a homonym for “day by day” (天天). The Chinese word for “pineapple” (鳳梨) sounds like “prosperity arrives” (旺來), and because oranges resemble imperial-era gold ingots, potted orange trees and gold jujube trees represent fortune and wealth, as do gold money trees (黃金樹).

The shops along Dihua Street offer a wide selection of traditional New Year foodstuffs, and the city’s other large commercial districts will satisfy every taste. The 2014 Taipei Lunar New Year Festival (2014來臺北過好年), organized by the city government, is already off and running, up until January 29<sup>th</sup>. Six of Taipei’s key commercial districts are participating in the event: Dihua Street Commercial District, Rongbin Commercial District (榮濱商圈), Taipei Mall (台北地下街), Ningxia Commercial District (寧夏商圈), Huayin Street Commercial District (華陰街商圈), and Rear Train Station Commercial District (後車站商圈). There is everything from sausages, cured meats, snacks, and fresh food ingredients to all of life’s practical necessities. Elsewhere, special New Year events are also being staged in Ximending (西門町), on Yuanling Street (沅陵街), and in Beimen Commercial District (北門商圈), adding even more atmosphere to the city’s heady Lunar New Year Festival atmosphere for the visitor to enjoy.



If looking for a one-stop shopping experience for your New Year goodies list, head off for a day at the Taipei World Trade Center (台北世界貿易中心), where the 2014 TWTC New Year Shopping Fair (2014世貿年貨大展嘉年華) runs from January 16<sup>th</sup> to 22<sup>th</sup> in Hall 1. The themed display area incorporates imagery from the Dihua Street neighborhood, which gives the impression of moving back and forth between the Taipei of the past and present. In the New Year Goods Area try the "New Year Foods Street" (年菜大街), "Gifts Street" (等路大街), and "Amusements Street" (嬉遊大街), lined with 40 top-quality vendors displaying representative specialty items. The cornucopia of New Year foods and other supplies is sure to fill your every seasonal shopping desire in just one easy outing.

Last year's fair featured the "New Year Fever Passport" (年貨發燒護照), which contained coupons with a total value of over NT\$100,000 in discounts. This was a great hit, and the supply quickly ran out. This year's booklet is called the "Taipei City – The Place to Be for the Chinese New Year, 2014 Spring Festival Passport" (2014來臺北過好年新春護照). As before, many Taipei New Year specialty shops have been recruited to participate, and this time round many well-known discount and department stores are joining in. With passport in hand, your New Year "shop Taipei" experience will know no boundaries.

Come to Taipei for the truest and richest of Chinese New Year experiences – blessings and satisfaction are both guaranteed! 🍀

## Information

### 2014 Taipei Lunar New Year Festival

#### 2014臺北年貨大街

**Time:** 1/11~1/29

**Venues:** Dihua Street Commercial District (迪化街商圈), Rongbin Commercial District (榮濱商圈), Taipei Mall (台北地下街), Ningxia Commercial District (寧夏商圈), Huayin Street Commercial District (華陰街商圈), Rear Train Station Commercial District (後車站商圈)

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

### 2014 TWTC New Year Shopping Fair

#### 2014世貿年貨大展嘉年華

**Time:** 1/16~1/22

**Venues:** Taipei World Trade Center Hall 1 (台北世界貿易中心一館)

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

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

1. Dihua Street is the place to go in Taipei for New Year goods, busy from head to end.
2. Taipei Mayor Hau Lungbin announces the top-selling New Year items.
3. Most participating businesses provide free samples, drawing people in droves.
4. There is a special post-office mail service at New Year.
5. The festival attracts many people from overseas.

# 2014 Taipei City Chinese New Year Activities

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

Time	Activity	Location	Organizer/Tel/Website
1/18 09:30~16:00	<b>Year of the Yang Wood Horse Spring Couplet Calligraphy Gathering</b>	<b>National Dr. Sun Yat-sen Memorial Hall</b> 國父紀念館	<b>National Dr. Sun Yat-sen Memorial Hall</b> 國父紀念館
1/23~2/2 18:00~22:00	<b>Painted Lantern Exhibition</b> Special exhibit of painted lanterns created by well-known Taiwan calligraphers, painters, and professors.	505, Sec. 4, Ren'ai Rd. (仁愛路4段505號)	(02)2758-8008 www.yatsen.gov.tw
1/28~2/9 09:30~16:00	<b>2014 Taipei International Calligraphy Exhibition and Spring Writing on Brush Party</b>		
Until 1/29 (While supplies last)	<b>Spring Festival Couplet Giveaway</b>	<b>Taipei Xingtian Temple</b> 臺北行天宮 109, Sec. 2, Minguan E. Rd. (民權東路2段109號)	<b>Taipei Xingtian Temple</b> 臺北行天宮 (02)2502-7924 www.ht.org.tw
1/18~12/31 09:00~16:30	<b>Year of the Horse Opening Special Exhibit</b> Display of horse specimens and photos	<b>Taipei Zoo Education Center, special exhibits area</b> 臺北動物園教育中心特展區	<b>Taipei Zoo</b> 臺北動物園 (02)2938-2300, ext. 526 www.zoo.gov.tw
1/31~2/4 3 performances daily 1/31~2/4	<b>Animal Friends New Year Visit</b> Animal puppets interact with visitors	30, Sec. 2, Xinguang Rd. (新光路2段30號)	
2/8 10:30~11:30	<b>New Year Blessing of Animals and Lantern Riddle Contest</b>		
1/18 10:00~14:00	<b>New Year calligraphy art to take home, welcoming good fortune for the soul.</b> (limited supply, subject to availability)	<b>Taipei Confucius Temple</b> 臺北市孔廟 275, Dalong St. (大龍街275號) Plaza before Dacheng Hall, under 'Yi' Gate (大成殿前廣場、儀門下)	<b>Taipei Confucius Temple</b> 臺北市孔廟 (02)2592-3934 www.ct.taipei.gov.tw
2/10~2/15 10:00~14:00	<b>Lucky Year of the Horse Blessing Card Calligraphy</b> (500 copies daily)		
1/30 23:00	<b>Peace and Blessings Bell Ringing Ceremony</b> Bao'an Temple is open through the night on New Year's Eve for people to come and pray. The bell-ringing ceremony begins at 11 pm; it will be rung a symbolic 108 times, during which worshipers pray for good fortune, and will ring in the Year of the Horse.	<b>Taipei Dalongdong Bao'an Temple</b> 大龍峒保安宮 61, Hami St. (哈密街61號)	<b>Taipei Dalongdong Bao'an Temple</b> 大龍峒保安宮 (02)2595-1676 www.baoan.org.tw
2/4~2/14 13:30(Starts sending)	<b>Mini Lantern Giveaway, Happy Lantern Festival</b> Celebration of Lantern Festival; 10,000 mini lanterns will be distributed in two sessions		
1/31~2/2 09:30~16:00	<b>2014 Taipei Astronomical Museum Thunder New Year-Thunder Tube DIY Activities</b> The first two hundred visitors each day to the Cosmic Adventure attraction can pick their own lucky red envelope.	<b>Taipei Astronomical Museum Display area on 4F, Cosmic Adventure entrance</b> 臺北市立天文科學教育館展示場 4樓宇宙探險出、入口 363, Jihe Rd. (基河路363號)	<b>Taipei Astronomical Museum</b> 臺北市立天文科學教育館 (02)2831-4551, ext. 745 www.tam.gov.tw

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



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# A Sea of Lights, Color, and Warmth – The Joy of Taipei’s Festival Lanterns

The last day of the traditional Chinese New Year holidays is called the Lantern Festival (元宵節). Its origins go back over 2,000 years, to China’s Western Han (西漢) period. In the later Eastern Han (東漢) period Emperor Ming (明帝), a promoter of Buddhism, learned that on the 15<sup>th</sup> day of the first month lanterns were lit as part of Buddha worship rites, and ordered lanterns to be lit in the imperial palace and Buddhist temples in the evening on this date. He also ordered both the nobility and the common people to hang lanterns. Over time, a folk festival took shape around these activities, and eventually this became a day for family reunions and the related symbolic eating of tangyuan, a type of small glutinous-rice dumpling, as well as the enjoyment of lantern festivals. Today many have evolved into large-scale celebrations, when cities are resplendent with vast numbers of gorgeous, colorful lanterns, some incorporating high-tech features. Radiant with a glorious yellow glow, young and old alike take to the streets to take in the all the color, embraced by the warm atmosphere that settles over the crowds on the cool winter’s night.

## 2014 Taipei Lantern Festival – Stringing Happiness through Taipei City

The always eagerly awaited Taipei Lantern Festival each year attracts enthusiastic revelers in the hundreds of thousands, and in recent years more and more foreign folks have been seen standing in front of lanterns enthusiastically posing for pictures. Aware of how precious an opportunity this is – to personally participate in a festival that the local people value so deeply – the sense of novelty and



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1. The Lantern Festival, which has origins deep in the past, has become an event celebrated on tremendous scale.
2. Lights officially go on at the Taipei Lantern Festival on February 7<sup>th</sup>, with high-tech lanterns a key focus.
3. Traditional lantern-riddle contests add to the festive ambience created by the ubiquitous decorative lanterns.



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expectation is clearly seen on each face. This year's big bash is taking place at Taipei Expo Park (花博公園), from February 7<sup>th</sup> through 16<sup>th</sup>.

Living up to its new "World Design Capital" appellation, in coordination with the "galloping" Year of the Horse theme of this year's festival, the Taipei City Government has specially designed "Vibrant Taipei – Dream Gallop" (活力臺北•夢想馳騁) theme imagery, with the famed masterpiece painting Eight Steeds (八駿圖) as inspiration. Children's playgrounds and cartoon characters have been used as the design motifs for the "Dream Land Lantern Area" (夢幻國度燈區), and in other areas – the "Ancient Epic Lantern Area" (傳唱), "Folk Song Lantern Area" (采風燈區), "Time Corridor Lantern Area" (時光迴廊燈區), "Eight Steeds Adventures Lantern Area" (八駿遊蹤燈區), and "Nostalgic Toys Lantern Area" (懷舊童玩燈區) – a nostalgic style is being employed to evoke the collective memories of the nation's people. In areas devoted to lanterns made by students in national competitions for large and small lanterns, the creativity of young people will be on vivid display. Large theme lanterns have also been created by overseas organizations, various tourism-related organizations, and business groups, adding to the international flavor of the event. The fusion of traditional and modern as well as heritage and modern materials and stories gives the Taipei Lantern Festival a sense of radiant light and heat bound to create memories long cherished by the foreign visitors after their journey back home.



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## Treasure Hill: Celebrating Lantern Festival in Unconventional, Hip New Ways


For something completely different in terms of Lantern Festival experiences, Treasure Hill Artist Village (寶藏巖國際藝術村) calls! This is an artist enclave with a focus on contemporary art, and from February 15<sup>th</sup> through March 16<sup>th</sup>, you can enjoy the work of eight Taiwan contemporary artists invited by the organizer to engage in a showcase that encompasses the entire village, bypassing all traditional "whitewashed walls." Enjoy art of all types – visual, performance, design, architecture, and more. The boldly novel visual artistry you will encounter is bound to redefine the Lantern Festival.

US-based artist Hung Suchen (洪素珍) has woven red thread through the grassy area at the entrance to Treasure Hill, with bamboo as her other artistic medium, forming a strong red-green contrast and a dialogue with the surrounding natural environment. Artist Jen Tahsien (任大賢) uses lines of steel to sketch outlines with a sense of penetration and extension; here he uses the Half-Floor Plaza (半樓廣場) as his base, building a virtual living space on the broken walls of the ruined building, recreating a part of Treasure Hill's unique landscape and history in skeletal form. This year's exhibition area has been extended to the area beside Wansheng Stream (萬盛溪), where artist Huang Lanya (黃蘭雅) uses organic life forms from the world of nature as her creative theme. Using bright colors and cell-like shapes, she has created



a variety of organic bodies of great vitality, forming fantasia-like imagery on the stream's surface like a glistening, glittering rainbow.

For the February 15<sup>th</sup> opening-night celebration, the organizer has specially invited artist Vera Chen (陳雪甄) to present a one-hour cross-genre performance combining theater, variety-show entertainment, and dance at the Historical Façade (歷史斷面) nature theater. Chen is a graduate of the UK's Brunel University, where she earned a Master's degree in contemporary performance arts. She has been selected twice for the National Theater Concert Hall's (國家兩廳院) Young Stars, New Vision program (新人新視野戲劇類). Next up will be New York's popular Improv Everywhere troupe with the "MP3 Experiment – Lantern Festival Special Edition" (MP3 Experiment 燈節特別版), for which participants must pre-download an "MP3 mission" (MP3任務). At a specified time on the performance date, everyone opens their instructions and spring into action together, staging harmless pranks, impromptu street performances, flash mobs, and other types of public art mobilization operations. What better way to ignite a passion for the arts as the curtain rises on another new spring?

This year an attractive dose of Taipei creativity is brought to a popular holiday tradition that has been practiced for thousands of years. Come out, soak up the pomp and spectacle, and express the most wonderful of New Year wishes while standing amidst the glow of lanterns of ethereal color and beauty. 

4. The incredible color and variety of the festive lanterns provides wondrous visual entertainment.
5. Treasure Hill celebrates the Lantern Festival in unconventional, hip new ways.
6. Under the glow of lantern light, Treasure Hill becomes an even more magical place.
7. Artist Huang Lanya uses organic life forms to form fantasia-like imagery on the local stream's surface.
8. Artist Jen Tahsien creates a virtual living space on the broken walls of a local ruined building, recreating a part of Treasure Hill's unique landscape and history.
9. US-based artist Hung Suchen uses bamboo as a key artistic medium to create a dialogue with the surrounding natural environment.

## Information

### 2014 Taipei Lantern Festival

#### 2014 臺北燈節

**Happiness Taipei Sea of Lanterns:** 1/25~2/16; Sec. 1~3, Zhongshan N. Rd., Civic Blvd. to Zhongshan Bridge (中山北路1~3段;市民大道~中山橋)

**Main Venues:** 2/7~2/16; Yuanshan Park Area (圓山園區) and Fine Arts Park Area (美術公園區) in Taipei Expo Park (花博公園); Taipei Children's Recreation Center (臺北市立兒童育樂中心) and Taipei Fine Arts Museum (臺北市立美術館) not included.

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

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

### 2014 Treasure Hill Lantern Festival

#### 2014 寶藏巖燈節

**Time:** 2/15~3/16

**Venues:** Treasure Hill Artist Village (寶藏巖國際藝術村)

**Add:** 2, Aly. 14, Ln. 230, Tingzhou Rd. (汀州路3段230巷14弄2號)

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

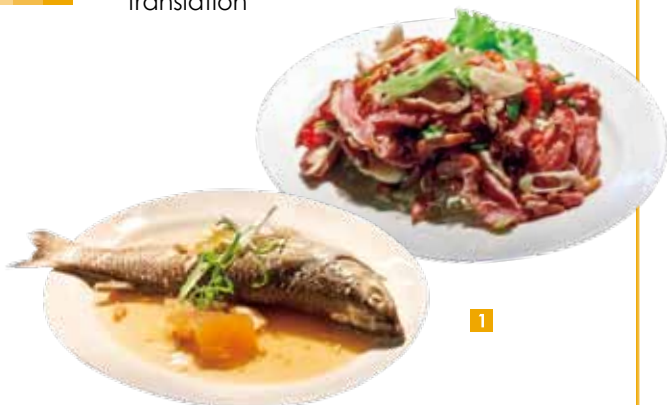
**Website:** [www.artistvillage.org](http://www.artistvillage.org)

# Ian Bartholomew's Taipei Gourmet Diary



## Ian Bartholomew

- Nationality: Australia
- Graduated from Australian National University
- Formerly a reporter with Taipei Times, 14 years
- Currently doing professional English translation



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Australian Ian Bartholomew, who worked as a reporter for the Taipei Times for 14 years, has long had a passion for a fine cuisine, the arts, and tourism. Based on his fine-food knowledge, his reporter's sense of critical observation, and his deep familiarity with the city of Taipei, he says that "If Taipei wants to promote its cuisine, what it most needs to do is 'not change.' "

"Staying true to old-time tastes is how to attract tourists," he says. Whenever back home in Australia and looking for good food in a Chinatown, he makes sure to pick restaurants with a large number of Chinese diners, because "Only authentic hometown flavors will attract your own people." Many other foreigners also know this rule, watching doorways as their means of selecting restaurants with authentic cuisine.

In keeping with the city's flourishing economic development in recent years, many restaurants have focused on "space" and "fashion," emphasizing décor and furnishings to fashion a trendy ambiance. Many, however, forget that it is the food that is a restaurant's *raison d'être*. "What attracts customers over the long term," says Ian, "is care in choosing ingredients and dedication to the art of cooking." He uses the steak specialist Danny's Steakhouse (教父牛排館) on Siwei Road (四維路) as example, opened by chef Danny Teng (鄧有葵), locally called the "godfather of steak" (牛排教父). Teng insists on using only the finest ingredients, which has brought both praise and loyalty from connoisseurs. Another premium example is Zhou's Meat Congee in Wanhua, which Ian describes as having "delicious flavors left unchanged."

In Ian's view, "Taipei in fact has all the right conditions to become a gourmet capital." Taiwan produces premium ingredients, and has *sui generis* snack delicacies such as stinky tofu, Shandong duck head, pig-blood cake, and duck blood jelly that are not found in foreign lands. "What I like best is to bring my friends from overseas to the Taiwan-style izakaya in the Linsen North Road (林森北路) area, or to Lvsang Canteen on Yongkang Street, sitting down on the wooden benches and stools and tucking into a filling, hearty meal with lardy rice,



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sampling the various winehouse foods, surrounded by the happy hubbub of people playing finger-guessing drinking games and constantly toasting each other – the real ‘flavor of Taiwan.’ ”

Ian developed an intense interest in Chinese literature when studying at Australian National University, especially enjoying *Dream of the Red Chamber* and *Three Hundred Tang Poems* (唐詩三百首). The latter is an anthology of Tang Dynasty poems compiled in a later era. He came to Taipei 18 years ago on a study tour, intending to stay just two weeks – but fell in love with the city and stayed. In the years, since he has married a Taiwanese lady, and the two kindred spirits have a lovely child. Though he travels back to Australia every year to visit family, with the passing of time he has found that “When I go back to Australia I’m going on vacation, and when I return to Taiwan I’m coming home.” He says that Taiwan gives foreigners living space to relax and be themselves, and that this tolerance is the main reasons he’s here for the long-term.

This year, the Chinese New Year holidays are in January/February, and Ian recommends that travelers from overseas who want to experience the special

seasonal atmosphere go to Dihua Street, Nanmen Market (南門市場), or Dongmen Market (東門市場), where traditional regional goods are sold in splendid variety. While browsing, you will experience the age-old scenes of happy, jostling crowds of Taipei folk out to buy all the necessary New Year goods. At the front of shops, you will see cured meats, sausages, and Jinhua hams hung up – quintessential New Year treats, and among Ian’s favorites. Another idea is to get up bright and early, at 5 or 6 am, and head off to take in the unique sights and sounds at the Taipei Fish Wholesale Market (臺北市魚類批發市場) or First Fruit and Vegetable Wholesale Market (第一果菜批發市場) on Wanda Road (萬大路), where each day sees a great rush to buy up the cornucopia of fresh and inexpensive produce from sea, fish farm, and field.

Having a little fun, he says that: “Actually, the best way to spend the Chinese New Year in Taipei would be to find a Taiwan boyfriend and girlfriend, and to get them to invite you to come spend New Year with their family!” 🍀

1. Ian likes Lvsang Restaurant's authentic Taiwan food.
- 2-3. Wanhua's Zhou's Meat Congee and Danny's Steakhouse serve what Ian describes as “delicious flavors left unchanged.”
4. At the entrance area to Nanmen Market, the cured meats, sausages, and Jinhua hams on display are classic New Year treats.

# Temple Painting Master Zhuang Wunan



## Zhuang Wunan 莊武男

- Chairman, Tamsui Culture Foundation (淡水文化基金會)
- President, "Huwei Heritage Society" (滬尾文物學會)
- Director, "Huwei Heritage Exhibition Center" (滬尾文物展示中心)



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Taiwanese temples are often richly decorated, not only with beautiful cochin pottery (交趾陶) and cut-paste art on the eaves, but also with finely carved stone pillars and wooden beams, along with what is perhaps the most exquisite artwork feature of all – the temple paintings, which tell historical stories and depict the expressive faces of otherworldly figures. Zhuang Wunan (莊武男), a native of the Tamsui area just north of Taipei, has been engaged in the fine art of temple painting for over 60 years. Many of the old paintings in Taipei and Tamsui temples, large and small, were created by this master's hand, from vivid, lifelike door gods to paintings on transverse beams and walls. Each is a compelling display of his unique, unparalleled craftsmanship.

"Staying true to old-time tastes is how to attract tourists," he says. Whenever back home in Australia and looking for good food in a Chinatown, he makes sure to pick restaurants with a large number of Chinese diners, because "Only authentic hometown flavors will attract your own people." Many other foreigners also know this rule, watching doorways as their means of selecting restaurants with authentic cuisine.

## The Masterly Rivalry of Old Days

As a youngster, Zhuang did not much enjoy studying, but developed a keen interest in drawing. His family was poor, and he would often do drawing assignments for his fellow students in exchange for drawing paper. At 16 he began formal studies under famed Bangka painting master Hong Baozhen (洪寶真), starting with menial labor such as cooking food, washing clothes, and carrying water while studying underpainting. After a number of years of hard work, the dedicated student was creating works independently.

There was no advertising in those days. Work at temples was found through word of mouth, and the traditional *duichang* (對場) or two-team competitive method was a way to get noticed. A temple would be divided right down the middle, using canvas. Each side would be painted by a master-led team, and the final results would be judged by a panel of local gentry.



1. Master Zhuang's coloring implements, and brushes he made by himself.
- 2-3. Zhuang's two magnificent door gods at the front of the National Museum of History and his paintings inside the halls at Taipei Confucius Temple.
4. Many temples in Taipei City and Tamsui have early-period works by Zhuang on display.

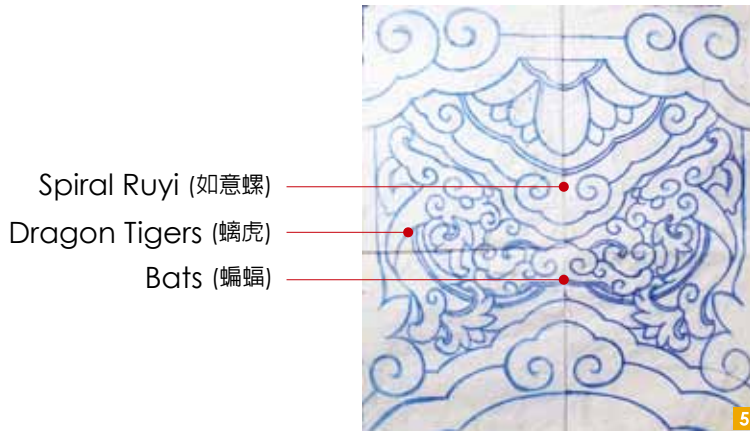
This method inspired maximum effort from the rival teams. Speed was essential, but so was quality. At just 25 years old Zhuang was already involved in such rivalry work at Manka Lungshan Temple, and at 26 was involved in a similar competition at Dalongdong Baoan Temple. Leading teams of 7 or 8 apprentices, he would already be at work at 4 am, and the rest of his team would start work at 7 am. Each day's toil would only end at 11 pm. During this period, everyone lived at the temple itself for days on end, in the quest for victory. Because of his indomitable will to win and unyielding character, Zhuang indeed emerged victorious more often than not.

The painting work at a great many Taipei temples from the 1960s through 1980s was done by Master Zhuang. However, he laments the approach to restoration being taken these days at many such heritage sites: the foundation work today is inferior to that done in the past, and thus when new artists redraw paintings they commonly bring sloppiness to the color matching and workmanship. The painting is often roughly done, and it is common to see paint flaking off.

In former times the traditional craftsmen brought solid practices to their trade, using tools created specifically for their work; Zhuang made all his brushes, large and small, by hand, using human hair in brushes used for painting, and harder horsehair for those employed in the application of oil glue. Only in this manner, building the work layer by layer, can a painting stand the test of time.

## A Primer on Enjoying Taipei Temple Aesthetics Master

Zhuang suggests a number of Taipei temples as especially worthy of a visit for foreigners interested in their beauty. Of special interest is the octagonal plafond at Manka Qingshan Temple, the cochon ceramics on the front-hall roof at Manka Lungshan Temple, and the consummate workmanship of the woodcarvings at Dalongdong Baoan Temple. If you'd like to view Zhuang's own artwork, take in his two magnificent door gods at the front of the National Museum of History (國立歷史博物館) and his paintings inside the halls at Taipei Confucius Temple, and at Xingtian Temple, Beitou



Branch, which is also commonly called Zhongyi Temple (忠義廟). All of these works remain in pristine condition. At Beitou Xingtian Temple, in addition to Master Zhuang's painting art the overall structure of the temple and the cut-paste artwork on the eaves are particularly noteworthy.

Zhuang's exquisite work on *duotou* (垛頭), the painting on the heads of the transverse beams in a temple, has always received enthusiastic praise. Paintings here must be elaborate and have vivid colors, and commonly feature depictions of auspicious dragon tigers (螭虎), bats, and spiral ruyi (如意螺). A ruyi, which literally means "as you wish," has the shape of a ceremonial scepter.

As a bonus, take in the exhibition Living Images – Depictions of Folk Culture Figures (傳神——民間人物造型特展), which is being held at the Beitou Museum (北投文物館). On display are ancient artifacts from the Ming and Qing dynasties related to Taiwan popular culture, including temple items such as Buddhist idols and other deities, cochlin-pottery artworks, woodcarvings, ceramic artworks, and stone carvings. These demonstrate the

aesthetic tastes and living art of Taiwan's pioneering folk. Various works from Zhuang Wunan's personal collection, built up over many years, are featured in the exhibition, including rare and precious cochlin pottery and papercuts used for window decoration. This is a splendid opportunity for foreigners interested in savoring the beauty of traditional temples and related artifacts. 19

- 5. A sketch by Master Zhuang for painting done on a temple's *duotou*.
- 6-8. An exhibit now being held at the Beitou Museum has works from Zhuang's personal collection, built up over many years, cochlin pottery and decorative carvings on wooden window frames.
- 9. Zhuang specially recommends a visit to Manka Lungshan Temple to see the cochlin ceramics on the front-hall roof.

## Information

### Living Images – Depictions of Folk Culture Figures 傳神——民間人物造型特展

**Add:** 32, Youya Rd. Beitou Museum  
(幽雅路32號; 北投文物館)

**Tel:** (02)2891-2318

**Time:** Until 1/19

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

# How to Talk to TAIPEI

Here are a number of sentences that you will find useful during the Chinese New Year season, helping you when you want to offer blessings and congratulations to local acquaintances, when out sightseeing, and when out shopping for New Year goodies!

Can you tell me if there are any temples nearby?

Mandarin Chinese

請問附近有寺廟嗎？

Qǐngwèn fùjìn yǒu sìmào ma?

Excuse me, can you tell me how to get to a shopping area for New Year goods?

Mandarin Chinese

請問年貨大街要往哪裡走？

Qǐngwèn niánhuò dàjiē yào wǎng nǎlǐ zǒu?

Excuse me, can I have a sample taste?

Mandarin Chinese

請問這個可以試吃嗎？

Qǐngwèn zhège kěyǐ shì chī ma?

How much for these? Can you bring the price down a little?

Taiwanese

這些多少錢？可以算便宜一點嗎？

Jiā ài wǎ zéi jí? Gàn éi dàng sèng kā xiù?

I wish you the best of fortune in the Year of the Horse! Enjoy great riches!

Mandarin Chinese

祝你馬年行大運，發大財！

Zhù nǐ mǎ nián xíng dà yùn, fā dà cái!

Happy New Year! I hope all your affairs go just as you wish!

Taiwanese

新年快樂，萬事如意！

Xīn ní kuài lè, wàn sù rú yì!





# Taipei City Declared the World Design Capital 2016

## An Adaptive City of Unceasing Design in Motion

As 2014 dawns, and the city's annual New Year's Eve fireworks show lights up the night sky, people will not only be looking up, but also looking back on the past year, and no doubt reflecting on how Taipei is a city undergoing constant metamorphosis. The city's visibility on the international stage keeps rising. The Washington Post and Singapore Straits Times have both praised the systematic advances of the Taipei Metro system, and in early November, the internationally renowned film director Luc Besson brought a film crew to Taipei on a scouting mission for film-shoot locations, declaring afterwards that Taipei had made a deep impression on him. And on November 19<sup>th</sup> came what was perhaps the greatest accolade of all this past year; after much cooperative effort on the part of the city government, the private sector, and local citizens, a new title – that of World Design Capital 2016!

### The Best Possible Birthday Gift on Taipei's 130<sup>th</sup> anniversary

Given that 2014 marks the 130<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the city of Taipei's founding, the announcement by the International Council of Societies of Industrial Design that Taipei has been designated the 2016 World Design Capital, serving as a model city for the entire planet, is undoubtedly the best of birthday presents for its residents.

Over the past two years, in its bid to make Taipei a World Design Capital, the Taipei City Government has made design a key element in public policy, involving both professional designers and the public. Taipei has become a design-driven city. Among the many related



initiatives undertaken have been waste reduction, beautification of landfill sites, the urban regeneration of Songshan Cultural and Creative Park (松山文創園區), and the promotion of telemedicine. All are premium examples of the integration of creativity in municipal works. Furthermore, during the drafting of relevant World Design Capital documentation substantial assistance was provided by private-sector organizations and designers, crucial in earning the title of World Design Capital 2016.

### Promotion to World Design Capital – A Powerful Boost to the City’s Competitiveness

Over the past few years, the dedicated efforts of the government and society have repeatedly resulted in impressive, startling expressions of Taipei City’s cultural, innovation, and design strengths. Related awards and honors have poured in locally and overseas. However, the city’s successful bid to become the 2016 World Design Capital goes far beyond the winning of applause and trophies.

At the press conference announcing Taipei’s successful bid, Mayor Hau Lungbin (郝龍斌) stated: “Up to this day, only four cities have had the privilege of hosting

WDC events; the fact that Taipei has been selected to host the events indicates that its talent for design has gained international recognition.” Significant benefits have come to prior WDC cities in the tourism and economic sectors, and in the case of Helsinki, the city’s economy grew 6% and 5%, respectively, despite the fact that Europe in general was facing two years of financial crisis. After Seoul’s selection, the number of tourists visiting the city grew markedly. Taipei city government estimates that because of recent public-works projects and the growing reputation of the city’s tourist attractions, the number of tourists will grow 5% in 2016, resulting in direct tourism spending surpassing NT\$9.6 billion.

1. Taipei Mayor Hau Lungbin (front row, first on left) and Deputy Mayor Chang Chin-Oh (front row, second from left) celebrate the city’s selection as 2016 World Design Capital.
2. Songshan Cultural and Creative Park is one of the best examples of the city’s policy of marrying the traditional and the modern.
- 3-4. Taipei Deputy Mayor Chen Hsiung-Wen (front row, second from left) and the Taipei City Government team celebrate the declaration of Taipei as 2016 World Design Capital, which was held in Canada.
5. Private cultural-creative organizations and designers contributed to the city’s successful bid for World Design Capital designation.
6. The Fudekeng Sanitary Landfill Site has been beautified and made a prime leisure destination.



## Public Policy by Design – Creating A New Style for Taipei

According to the commissioner of the Department of Cultural Affairs, Taipei City Government (臺北市文化局), Liu Weigong (劉維公), much new thought and resources have been expended to showcase Taipei's future WDC goals, in addition to integration of existing urban development plans. The result is the Public Policy by Design (設計導入公共政策) plan and six integrated projects, bringing together private-sector organizations to create a new urban style and improve the quality of life for Taipei's citizens.

Of the six plans, four make innovative use of existing municipal resources: Taipei City Museum (城市博物館聚落), Minglun Elementary School Creativity Academy (明倫國小創造力學園), Taipei Green Boulevard Design Project (林蔭大道人行環境改善設計計畫), and Urban Acupuncture – URS Urban Regeneration (城市針灸術——URS都市再生). The power of design will enable more feature-rich and diversified public spaces that have a closer relationship with citizens' lives.

Following ecologically sustainable practices, the Taipei City Museum project will tie together six facilities in Taipei Expo Park (花博公園): the Yuanshan Prehistoric Site (圓山遺址), Pavilion of New Fashion (流行館), Taipei Children's Recreation Center (臺北市立兒童育樂中心), Taipei Broadcasting Station (臺北廣播電臺), Taipei Fine Arts Museum (臺北市立美術館), and Taipei Story House (台北故事館). The area's flora is to be restored to that of the Yuanshan Prehistoric Site period,



7. The ongoing Urban Acupuncture – URS Urban Regeneration project has introduced innovative uses to many old places.
8. In the Taipei Green Boulevard Design Project, Section 3 of Xinseng South Road will be transformed, offering more people-friendly public spaces.
9. The Minglun Elementary School Creativity Academy is transforming a traditional elementary school into a “field of creative education.”
10. Taipei Story House will be in the future part of the Taipei City Museum cluster.
- 11-12. The New City Service System features intelligent bus shelters, integrated traffic signals, and the upgrading of street-cleaning equipment, developing innovative smart services that help satisfy citizens' needs.
13. A Creative Industrial Park, which will pour more design energy and talent into the city, will also be built.



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over an area expected to span 21 hectares, creating a settlement-type museum/ecology zone. The Minglun Elementary School Creativity Academy project addresses low birthrates and declining student numbers by transforming a traditional elementary school into a children's creativity education site, serving as a model for the preservation and re-use of similar structures. In the Taipei Green Boulevard Design Project, street furniture such as pedestrian bridges and underpasses along Section 3 of Xinsheng South Road (新生南路三段), Section 3 of Heping West Road (和平西路三段), and Sections 5 and 6 of Roosevelt Road (羅斯福路五、六段) will be redesigned and transformed into more people-friendly public spaces. In the Urban Acupuncture – URS Urban Regeneration project, old buildings in seven city districts will be transformed into "creativity gardens" (創意園區), providing private-sector cultural-creative spaces with opportunities for expression.

Another initiative, the "New City Service System" (新都會服務系統), features intelligent bus shelters, integrated traffic signals, the upgrading of street-cleaning equipment, a plan to create a more mobility-friendly environment for senior citizens, and a remote-video urban palliative-care project. These develop innovative smart services that help satisfy the needs of citizens, use design ingenuity to improve the quality of public-transport services, and use creativity to construct a more convenient living environment.

An endless supply of creativity is a key requisite for a World Design Capital, so a "Creative Industrial Park" (設計產業園區), which will pour more design energy into the city, will also be built. The city will build the Creative Industrial Park, comprising two campuses, complementing the Taipei Audio-Visual Industrial Park (臺北市影視音產業園區), also being built on two sites, in Beitou and Neihu. These facilities will help creative-design professionals from different fields develop their creative capacity, engender an industrial cluster effect, and stimulate a naturally formed environment that nurtures industry talent and satisfies their needs.

Two years ago the city of Taipei chose "Adaptive City: Design in Motion" (不斷提昇的城市：設計實現市民生活願景) as the theme for its World Design Capital bid. Now, having attained WDC designation, the city will continue to uphold the Adaptive City spirit and, within the context of finite resources, pursue innovation and excellence in urban governance "by design." The world will not have long to wait before being presented with a Taipei City design landscape of even greater abundance and diversity. 

## Information

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

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

# Intersecting Vectors – Experimental Projects from the TFAM Collection



Take a museum's rich collection of artistic treasures, form an exhibition curatorial team made up of a former cafe owner, an art critic, and a one-time magazine editor-in-chief, and what departures from the past will be presented? As part of its 30<sup>th</sup> birthday celebrations, the Taipei Fine Arts Museum has for the first time ever organized an exhibition focused on the experimental works in its collection. The three curators have been deliberately brought in from outside to offer new and refreshing interpretations to the museum's trove of 4,500 art creations.

The "Intersecting Vectors" (斜面連結) in the show's title signifies the effort to break through conventional curatorial approaches. Exhibitions usually present pieces in chronological order, or perhaps works are grouped by type or other criteria. For this exhibition though, no restrictions were placed on the three curators; they were free to select works to exhibit according to their own curatorial concepts. From the thousands of pieces available, they selected ones from different eras and domains, and as if pulling on an invisible string, tied them together in accordance with their intersecting vectors, presenting a new type of display portfolio and new ex-

hibition design that results in unique ways of seeing and a novel experience.

Tsai Mingjiun (蔡明君), once the proprietor of an art café, found that Taiwan's cafes are more than just places for drinking coffee. They are gathering spots for artists and social activists, and owners become enthusiastically involved in their activities. This background caused her to think of the coffeehouses of France in the 18<sup>th</sup> century, and to form a curatorial concept focused on the salon. She has selected 132 graphic-image works from the TFAM collection, representing the huge changes seen in Taiwan over a period of almost a century, from the 1920s to the present. With "To Be Continued" (待續) as her curatorial theme, she will also display her short story featuring the owner of a café, with the hope that

visitors viewing the story and visual works will get a sense of the aesthetic value of artistic works and also see the changing relationships between people, and between people and the land, thus reflecting on how to write the rest of the unfinished story of this island.

Art critic and exhibit curator Wang Yunglin (王咏琳) has chosen "Weightless" (失重) as her curatorial theme. She compares the art world to a large and changeable gravitational field that changes over time, exploring how a work, once entering public discussion and being added to a museum's collection, loses its focus and meaning over time, entering a state of "weightlessness" free from outside influence. Wang has selected 19 works from the museum collection of Taipei Biennial (台北雙年展) and Venice Biennale works. By designing the venue as a space capsule, she imagined a future world 300 years hence in which people have moved into the weightless environment of space, unable to escape from their sealed state of being – just like the works on display.

The third curator, Chin Yachun (秦雅君) has built on her background as an art magazine editor in a daring attempt to combine different curatorial elements. She has collaborated with Liu Runglu (劉榮祿), an artist known for designing residential spaces, in the construction of a comfortable and almost luxurious living space within a TFAM gallery: "Me at Liu's Home" (我在中山劉公館). The large 40-square-meter high-ceilinged space on the second floor is a "home" with wall paintings and television images, and is also adorned with selected works from the TFAM collection. Visitors are also allowed to use all furniture, which has been donated by corporate sponsors, the curator, and artists. You're free to lie down in bed, play the piano in the living room – whatever you desire – in a wondrous experience where you enter a mu-

seum gallery but seem to find yourself somewhere else.

The TFAM was Taiwan's first modern art museum, and its collection of treasures date back to 1920, making it a wonderful venue to explore the collective memory of the nation. In filtering the works through the eyes and experience of a different set of people, new arrangements have taken shape, and different meanings engendered. Come to the museum to see the past from dissimilar angles, and for a TFAM experience unlike all others. 📍

1. With "To Be Continued" as her curatorial theme, curator Tsai Mingjiun uses 132 graphic-image works to represent Taiwan's changes in the past near century.
2. Curator Wang Yunglin has chosen "Weightless" as her theme, designing the venue as a space capsule in a weightless environment. (Work shown here from Huang Chihyang's *Space Series*)
3. A person with no clothing hangs quietly in the "Weightless" exhibit, as if time has been stilled. (*Across Identities*, by Kusaka Junichi)
- 4-5. For the "Me at Liu's Home" exhibit, two artists have made the TFAM space a "home" with wall paintings and television images, all works from the TFAM collection. Visitors can freely use all furniture items.

## Information

### Intersecting Vectors – Experimental Projects from the TFAM Collection

斜面連結——典藏展實驗計畫

**Time:** Until 2/16; Tues~Sun 09:30~17:30, Sat extended hours to 20:30 (closed Mon)

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



# A Double Feast of the Arts at Huashan – Marvelous Tech Art

How many ways are there to enjoy a painting? You can use your eyes to view it, your ears to listen to a guide, and so on. Is there another, more novel way? Thanks to modern technology, the subjects of paintings now commonly jump from two dimensions to three. Truly novel, however, is showing something that was not originally in a painting. Interested in taking in an intriguing exhibition where high-tech interacts with famous painted artworks? Huashan 1914 Creative Park (華山1914文化創意產業園區) is the place to be!

## The Story of “A Hundred Steeds” – An Educational Interactive Show

More than three hundred years ago, Jesuit missionary Giuseppe Castiglione left his homeland, Italy, on a mission to China. Summoned to the imperial palace by Emperor Kangxi (康熙皇帝) in the role of artist, he became the first court painter of the Qing dynasty. While there he created one of the ten most famous paintings in Chinese history, *A Hundred Horses* (百駿圖), which is today part of the National Palace Museum (國立故宮博物院) collection. The scroll painting, over seven meters long, depicts stout steeds feeding in a pasture in autumn. Three steeds, however, are noticeably thin, symbolizing the ups and downs of an official's career. To complement the Year of the Horse, the organizer of this exhibition brings *A Hundred Horses* playfully to life using seven different types of computer technology.

In the “3D Light Gallery” (立體光廊) exhibit area, grating stereoscopic perspective technology enables visitors to bring selected steeds in the painting forward toward them. The animals look almost real, as though they could be touched. In the “Moving Scroll” (移動長

卷) section, digital bionic scenario animation creates the illusion of the passing day, allowing the horses to be viewed in early morning, through the afternoon and into the night.

In addition to novelty value, the computer technology also allows deeper appreciation of the paintings. In the “Painting Talk” (說畫) section, audio guidance and dynamic video is used to bring deeper understanding of the painting's special features. In the “Autumn Wind, Falling Leaves” (秋風落葉) area, sensor technology is used in a game that allows visitors to create their own winds by blowing. The game follows the same fat/thin horse theme used by Giuseppe Castiglione, here using the favorable and unfavorable winds encountered in life as metaphor. Blowing leaves along the river symbolize the course of a talented person's career as they work their way up to a position in the imperial palace. Floating aimlessly with wave and current symbolizes the experience of not being born at the right time and of one's life being adrift. The intriguing experience provided by the interactive technology brings an intimate sense of this artwork's exquisite aesthetics and deep currents of meaning.





## Dark Art 3D Exhibition

The dark art 3D painting is one of the ultimate attainments in trick art. Optical illusions are used to create a stunning visual impact, incorporating state-of-the-art dark art technology, in which visual transformations are crafted using different light sources, revealing secrets hidden within a painting.

In the "Return to Glory: 3D Classics Gallery" (重返榮耀•3D經典畫廊), the character in Munch's famed painting *The Scream*, who trembles in anguished despair, is suddenly transformed via changed lighting into a person with a cunning, affected smile. In the section "Jungle Trails: 3D Animal Visual Stories" (叢林迷蹤•3D動物趣視), black-and-white animals such as zebras and dairy cattle emit a fluorescent luminance after being subjected to the transformative dark-art lighting. Visit the "Halloween Party: 3D Horror Zone" (萬聖派對•3D恐怖之境) to find out what it's like to be put under glass for use as a snack by a vampire queen. This zone is also inhabited by the iconic ghosts and monsters of many other lands, such as American zombies and Japanese *sadako* (malevolent female spirits). In "Crazy Ideas: 3D Wacky Fantasies" (瘋狂奇想•3D搞怪狂想), visitors can create Japanese-

style "shock wave" photos (衝擊波拍照式) in which they join characters from paintings. This style is all the rage in Japan right now, and your shots will be sure to intrigue and delight.

The Dark Art 3D Exhibition is a world first, and Taiwan is the first stop on a worldwide tour. In all, there are more than 40 large-scale dark-art 3D paintings, leading visitors into a world of art that is a world apart from the conventional. When creative interactivity is combined with artistic painting, the viewing of an original painting is filled with a new kind of entertainment and fascination. 🌟

1. In The Story of "A Hundred Steeds" – An Educational Interactive Show, *A Hundred Horses*, one of China's ten most famous paintings, is brought to life with computer technology. (Photo courtesy of National Palace Museum)
2. Using sensors and other advanced technology, you can draw your own *A Hundred Horses*.
3. Augmented-reality and sensor technology let you play soccer with horses.
4. At the Dark Art 3D Exhibition watch out, lest you be put under glass for use as a snack by a vampire queen.
5. Using changed lighting, the anguished character in Munch's famed painting *The Scream* is suddenly transformed into a person with a cunning, affected smile.
6. A black-and-white zebra instead emits a fluorescent luminance under transformative dark-art lighting.

## Information

### The Story of "A Hundred Steeds" – An Educational Interactive Show

繪動的百駿圖——互動科技教育展

**Time:** Until 2/16 (closed 1/30); 10:00~18:00

**Venue:** Huashan 1914 Creative Park, Red Brick Area W1 Building; 1, Sec. 1, Bade Rd. (華山1914文化創意產業園區紅磚區W1;八德路1段1號)

**Tel:** (02)2577-4249

**Website:** [www.itmonth.org.tw/100horse](http://www.itmonth.org.tw/100horse)

### Dark Art 3D Exhibition

Dark Art夜光3D藝術展

**Time:** Until 3/16 (closed 1/30); weekdays 10:00~18:00, weekends/holidays 09:00~18:00

**Venue:** Huashan 1914 Creative Park, M4B Building; 1, Sec. 1, Bade Rd. (華山1914文化創意產業園區中四B館;八德路1段1號)

**Tel:** (02)8732-7976

**Website:** [darkart3d.sincepro.com.tw](http://darkart3d.sincepro.com.tw)



# Qianlong C.H.A.O. New Media Art Exhibition

In ancient China, the emperor sat at the apex of political authority, and the aesthetic tastes of the individuals who occupied the throne naturally influenced both empire and dynasty. The Qianlong emperor (乾隆皇帝), who took power in 1735 A.D. was an avid connoisseur and collector of both Eastern and Western artworks. His tastes were distinctive, and set the trend in the realm that was his universe. Modern local youth use the English "C.H.A.O." as a term for "fashionable" – a direct transliteration of the Chinese character "潮," which means "tide" or "current."

The National Palace Museum has created the Qianlong C.H.A.O. New Media Art Exhibition (乾隆潮——新媒體藝術展), inviting dozens of new-wave anime, manga, and action-figure artists to use the items in its Qianlong collection as inspiration to fire their imagination to craft interactive new-media art installations in the manufacture of a fantasy world blending historical artifacts, modern art, and high technology. The goal is to demonstrate how the antiques of today were the epitome of fashion centuries ago.

In the Rabbit Hole (時空洞), the illustrations of *Official Tribute* (職貢圖) along the walls of the Time Tunnel (時光廊道) depict individuals from 13 nations, among them Russia, Japan, Vietnam, and Germany, plus indigenous people from Taiwan's Chiayi (嘉義) and Tamsui (淡水) areas. All greet you in their mother tongue, as though at

this moment you are a symbolic Qianlong, engaged in reading, interpretation, and creation.

In the Fantastic Landscape (乾隆的奇異山水) exhibit's Tree of Colors section (顏色之樹區), Qianlong's vase collection is used as inspiration. Stand at the designated spot, let the interactive installation take a reading of your clothing colors and patterns, and see them transferred into an image of a vase reflecting your aesthetic taste. In the Stamps of Landscape section (山水印石區), the Activities of the Twelve Months (十二月令圖) such as rock formations and waterscapes are imprinted; augmented-reality technology lets you create your own *shanshui* (山水) world. The City's Spring Festival section (乾隆的春曉慶典區) uses pixel art to create the *Spring Dawn in the Han Palace* (漢宮春曉圖). Present your face before the facial-sensor apparatus and enjoy a digital animated you that is unique and irresistible!





In addition to the high-tech surprises, another pleasant experience is seeing how modern artists interpret ancient artifacts. In *Forest of Vases* (瓶形森林) fashion designer Chen Shaoyan (陳紹彥), who among many accomplishments has designed attire for Icelandic pop diva Björk, has created five sets of concept couture using Qianlong's vase collection as inspiration. In the *Small Universe* (乾隆的小宇宙) exhibit is a giant version of the kind of curio cabinet into which an emperor would put his rare and precious little treasures, and nine artists and art groups engage in friendly competition presenting artworks of very different styles. *Qianlong and His Childlike Innocence* (乾隆與童心), for example, takes the famed *Toad-shaped Inkstone in Celadon Glaze* (仿哥窯蟾蜍硯) as inspiration in the creation of a crowd of office-workers in the form of chattering toads. In *Qianlong and the Float* (乾隆與漂浮), a double-layer design concept inspired by the *Revolving Gourd-shaped Vase* (轉旋葫蘆瓶) is used to create vivid, colorful, staggered lamps. In the *Qianlong of the Ten Great Campaigns* (十全乾隆) exhibit, symbols of the Chinese emperor such as the imperial crown and the dragon are brought together with a modern Western robot figure to create a flying machine. In ten palms are ten cultural-relic symbols that influenced Qianlong's taste in art. Look closely and you will see that the tiny figure flying the aircraft is none other than Qianlong himself!



To cap your visit, be sure to take in the *Everyone Can Be Qianlong* (人人都是乾隆) community photography walls. The charity display features portraits of almost a hundred celebrities with Qianlong's crown or other meaningful treasures from his life. The idea is that you are a Qianlong within your own little universe, with your own unique collection of treasures and tastes. The most important message is to cherish the life and story of the person behind this collection – “you,” the Qianlong of your world. 📷

1. The Qianlong C.H.A.O. New Media Art Exhibition uses modern art and high technology in a new interpretation of artifacts that belonged to the emperor.
2. In the Qianlong of the Ten Great Campaigns exhibit, ten hands surrounding a robot are items that are symbols of the emperor and influenced him.
3. In the Tree of Colors section, your clothing colors and patterns are projected onto a vase from Qianlong's collection.
4. In the City's Spring Festival section you can become a character in an animated version of the famous work *Spring Dawn in the Han Palace*.
5. In *Qianlong and His Childlike Innocence*, the *Toad-shaped Inkstone in Celadon Glaze* from Qianlong's collection is transformed into a group of office workers that are chattering toads.
6. In *Forest of Vases*, a Taiwan fashion designer has created five sets of concept couture using Qianlong's vase collection as inspiration.

## Information

### Qianlong C.H.A.O. New Media Art Exhibition 乾隆潮——新媒體藝術展

**Time:** Until 3/16; 08:30~18:30; Fri/Sat extended hours to 21:00

**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

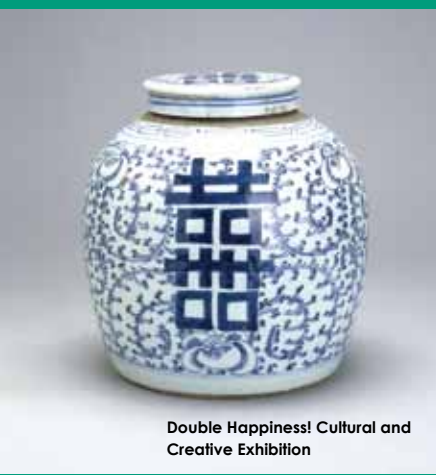
**Website:** theme.npm.edu.tw

2014  
01/02

January-February  
Arts Exhibition Calendar



Destiny Intertwined—A Dialogue between Vincent J.F. Huang and Tuvalu. A Sequel to the Tuvalu Pavilion at the 55th la Biennale di Venezia



Double Happiness! Cultural and Creative Exhibition



Old Master Q 50th Anniversary



The Exhibition Life and Culture

### National Palace Museum

**Tel:** (02)2881-2021  
**Add:** 221, Sec. 2, Zhishan Rd. (至善路 2 段 221 號)  
**Website:** www.npm.gov.tw

**Until** 2/10  
Leonardo – Mona Lisa – The Myths

### Museum of Contemporary Art, Taipei (MOCA Taipei)

**Tel:** (02)2552-3721  
**Add:** 39, Chang'an W. Rd. (長安西路 39 號)  
**Website:** www.mocataipei.org.tw

**Until** 2/9  
Destiny Intertwined – A Dialogue between Vincent J.F. Huang and Tuvalu  
A Sequel to the Tuvalu Pavilion at the 55<sup>th</sup> la Biennale di Venezia

### National Theater & Concert Hall

**Tel:** (02)3393-9888  
**Add:** 21-1, Zhongshan S. Rd. (中山南路 21-1 號)  
**Website:** www.ntch.edu.tw

**1/17~1/26**  
Turn left, turn right – Love or Regret  
**1/21~2/23**  
Post – The Fool's Life  
**2/7~2/16**  
Crystal Boys  
**2/18~2/19**  
New York Philharmonic Asia Tour

### 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

**2/8~2/26**  
Moonlight basin  
**Until** 3/2  
The Frozen Woolly Mammoth: Yuka  
**Until** 5/4  
Meet Vermeer: Master of Light

### Taipei Zhongshan Hall Management office

**Tel:** (02)2381-3137  
**Add:** 3F, 98, Yanping S. Rd. (延平南路 98 號 3 樓)  
**Website:** www.csh.taipei.gov.tw

**Until** 3/2  
Printmaking Grace of Ancient Taipei

### National Taiwan Museum

**Tel:** (02)2382-2566  
**Add:** 2, Xiangyang Rd. (襄陽路 2 號)  
**Website:** www.ntm.gov.tw/tw/index.aspx

**Until** 3/2  
Amber: The Time Capsule  
**1/14~6/22**  
The Exhibition Life and Culture

### Beitou Museum

**Tel:** (02)2891-2318  
**Add:** 32, Youya Rd., (幽雅路 32 號)  
**Website:** www.beitoumuseum.org.tw/index.html

**Until** 1/18  
Living Images – Depictions of Folk Culture Figures

### National Museum of History

**Tel:** (02)2361-0270  
**Add:** 49, Nanhai Rd. (南海路 49 號)  
**Website:** www.nmh.gov.tw

**Until** 2/16  
Mont: Landscapes of Mind  
**1/8~3/23**  
Double Happiness! Cultural and Creative Exhibition

### Huashan 1914 Creative Park

**Tel:** (02)2358-1914  
**Add:** 1, Sec. 1, Bade Rd. (八德路 1 段 1 號)  
**Website:** www.huashan1914.com

**Until** 2/16  
Museum of Bad Art  
**Until** 3/16  
Rody Land 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Exhibition  
**Until** 3/16  
Pili Fantasy world of Puppet Art

### 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** 2/5  
Young!  
**Until** 2/9  
Old Master Q 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

### 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** 3/16  
2013 Taipei Arts Award  
**Until** 4/20  
Telling Details: Photorealism in Taiwan  
**1/25~4/20**  
Xu Bing: A Retrospective

### Suho Memorial Paper Culture Foundation

**Tel:** (02)2507-5535  
**Add:** 68, Sec. 2, Chang'an E. Rd. (長安東路 2 段 68 號)  
**Website:** www.suho.paper.org.tw

**Until** 3/29  
Portrait of Nature – Myriads of Gods



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- 八、帳戶本人在「付款局」所在直轄市或縣（市）以外之行政區域存款，需由帳戶內扣收手續費。

# Travel Information

## How to Get from Taiwan Taoyuan International Airport to Taipei

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

Ticket	Price
<b>Taipei Pass</b> 	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

### NOTICE

In order to facilitate inquiries by the public, the city government has set up the 1999 Taipei Citizen Hotline. Whether by telephone, cell phone, or Voice over IP (payphone excluded), dial 1999 for free access. There is a time limit, with service personnel restricted to 10-minute service availability, and a 10-minute limit on call transfers. 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](http://www.rdec.taipei.gov.tw)

### TAIWAN EMERGENCY TELEPHONE NUMBERS

#### Police / 110

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

#### Fire and Emergency / 119

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

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

※ Entries in green indicate service in English provided

### LIST OF TAIPEI VISITOR INFORMATION CENTERS

<b>Taipei Main Station Visitor Information Center</b> (02)2312-3256 1F, 3, Beiping W. Rd.	<b>MRT Jiantan Station Visitor Information Center</b> (02)2883-0313 65, Sec. 5, Zhongshan N. Rd.	<b>Maokong Gondola Taipei Zoo Station Visitor Center</b> (02)8661-7627 2, Ln. 10, Sec. 2, Xinguang Rd. (1F, Maokong Gondola Service Center)
<b>Songshan Airport Visitor Information Center</b> (02)2546-4741 340-10, Dunhua N. Rd.	<b>MRT Beitou Station Visitor Information Center</b> (02)2894-6923 1, Guangming Rd.	<b>Maokong Gondola Maokong Station Visitor Center</b> (02)2937-8563 35, Ln. 38, Sec. 3, Zhinan Rd. (Exit area, Maokong Station)
<b>East Metro Mall Visitor Information Center</b> (02)6638-0059 Underground Mall 4-2, 77, Sec.1, Da'an Rd.	<b>Taipei City Hall Bus Station Visitor Information Center</b> (02)2723-6836 6, Sec. 5, Zhongxiao E. Rd.	<b>MRT Taipei 101/World Trade Center Station</b> (02)2758-6593 B1, 20, Sec. 5, Xinyi Rd.
<b>MRT Ximen Station Visitor Information Center</b> (02)2375-3096 B1, 32-1, Baoqing Rd.	<b>Plum Garden Visitor Center</b> (02)2897-2647 6, Zhongshan Rd.	
<b>MRT Yuanshan Station Visitor Information Center</b> (02)2591-6130 9-1, Jiuquan St.	<b>Miramar Entertainment Park Visitor Center</b> (02)8501-2762 20, Jingye 3 <sup>rd</sup> Rd.	



## A Leisurely Tour of International Religious Architecture on “The Road to Paradise” (P36~P39) Map



## A Leisurely Tour of International Religious Architecture on “The Road to Paradise” (P36~39) Tour Information



### A Leisurely Tour of International Religious Architecture on “The Road to Paradise”

#### Grace Baptist Church 基督教浸信會懷恩堂

**Add:** 90, Sec. 3, Xinsheng S. Rd.  
(新生南路3段90號)

**Tel:** (02)2362-5321

#### Taipei Truth Lutheran Church 台北真理堂

**Add:** 86, Sec. 3, Xinsheng S. Rd.  
(新生南路3段86號)

**Tel:** (02)2363-2096

#### Heping Presbyterian Church in Taipei 台北和平基督長老教會

**Add:** 9, Ln. 183, Sec. 1, Heping E. Rd.  
(和平東路1段183巷9號)

**Tel:** (02)2351-0087

#### Taipei Mosque 臺北清真寺

**Add:** 62, Sec. 2, Xinsheng S. Rd.  
(新生南路2段62號)

**Tel:** (02)2321-9445

#### Holy Family Catholic Church 天主教台北聖家堂

**Add:** 50, Sec. 2, Xinsheng S. Rd.  
(新生南路2段50號)

**Tel:** (02)2392-0701

#### Seventh Day Adventist Taipei Church 基督復臨安息日會臺北教會

**Add:** 26, Ln. 2, Xinsheng S. Rd.  
(新生南路2段26號)

**Tel:** (02)2341-2830

#### Lvsang Canteen 呂桑食堂

**Add:** 12-5, Yongkang St. (永康街12-5號)

**Tel:** (02)2351-3323

#### Sit-Fun Restaurant 喫飯食堂

**Venue:** 5, Ln. 8, Yongkang St. (永康街8巷5號)

**Tel:** (02)2322-2632

#### Ren Lai Feng 人來風

**Add:** 15, Ln. 47, Yongkang St.  
(永康街47巷15號)

**Tel:** (02)3393-7410

#### Chang Yi Fang 彰藝坊

**Add:** 27, Ln. 47, Yongkang St.  
(永康街47巷27號)

**Tel:** (02)3393-7330

#### Bunny Listens To The Music 兔子聽音樂餐坊

**Add:** 15, Ln. 6, Qingtian St.  
(青田街6巷15號)

**Tel:** (02)2395-9388

### Transportation Information

#### Grace Baptist Church, Taipei Truth Lutheran Church

MRT Gongguan Station, Exit 3 → Walk 5 minutes along Sec. 3, Roosevelt Rd. → Turn right onto Sec. 3, Xinsheng S. Rd. → Grace Baptist Church directly across from National Taiwan University main campus entrance → Walk north 2 minutes along Sec. 3, Xinsheng S. Rd. → Taipei Truth Lutheran Church

#### Heping Presbyterian Church in Taipei

Taipei Truth Lutheran Church → Continue north 10 minutes along Sec. 3, Xinsheng S. Rd. → After crossing Sec. 1, Heping E. Rd, turn left onto Heping → Turn right onto Ln.183, Sec.1, Heping E. Rd. → Walk 3 minutes to reach Heping Presbyterian Church in Taipei

#### Taipei Mosque

Turn right onto lane running beside Heping Presbyterian Church in Taipei → Walk 1 minute to Sec. 2, Xinsheng S. Rd. → Taipei Mosque located on left side of lane at intersection

#### Holy Family Catholic Church, Seventh Day Adventist Taipei Church

From Taipei Mosque, walk north 3 minutes along Sec. 2, Xinsheng S. Rd. → Arrival at Holy Family Catholic Church → Continue along Sec. 2, Xinsheng S. Rd. for 1 minute → Arrival at Seventh Day Adventist Taipei Church

#### Lvsang Restaurant, Sit-Fun Restaurant

Walk along lane on right side of Seventh Day Adventist Taipei Church to Yongkang St. → Yongkang Park reached in 8~10 minutes → Head down Ln. 8, Yongkang St. to Sit-Fun Restaurant, or head direct to Lvsang Restaurant at 12 Yongkang St.

#### Yongkang Street Shops, Ren Lai Feng, Chang Yi Fang

Lvsang Restaurant, Sit-Fun Restaurant → Walk south along Yongkang St., browsing the many shops → Turn left onto Ln. 47, Yongkang St. → Ren Lai Feng → Continue ahead along Ln. 47, Yongkang St., crossing Ln. 243, Jinhua St. → Arrival at Chang Yi Fang in 2 minutes

#### Bunny Listens To The Music

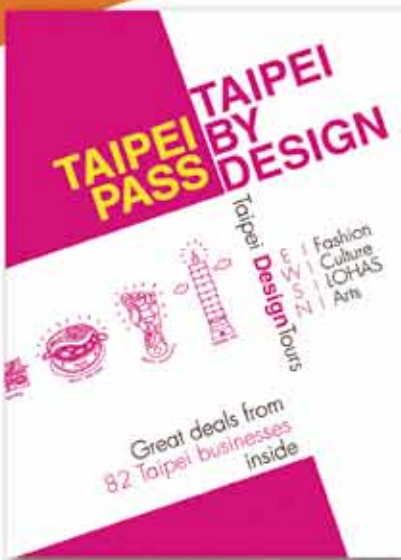
From Chang Yi Fang, walk back toward Ln. 243, Jinhua St. → Walk down Ln. 164, Jinhua St. → Continue ahead, passing Jinhua Park, 5 minutes → Bunny Listens To The Music at corner of Ln. 164, Jinhua St. and Ln. 6, Qingtian St.





# TAIPEI PASS BY DESIGN

Select art and design themes in four districts of Taipei, invite celebrities to recommend their favorite places, and offer a wide variety of coupons from 82 businesses to help you go sightseeing and experience the Taipei cultural/creative charm.



Items subject to availability.



East Taipei | Fashion & Design



West Taipei | Cultural & Historical



South Taipei | Slow Food LOHAS



North Taipei | Cultural Arts

**Buy a Taipei Pass ticket (1-, 2-, 3-, or 5-day, at NT\$180, \$310, \$440, and \$700, respectively), get one Taipei Pass for free.**

## Taipei Pass Types and Prices



1-day Pass: NT\$180



2-day Pass: NT\$310



3-day Pass: NT\$440



5-day Pass: NT\$700



1-day Pass (Gondola version): NT\$250

### Where to Buy

EasyCard Customer Service Center at Taipei Main Station; information counters at Taipei MRT stations.

### Using the Pass

The Taipei Pass can be used for unlimited travel on Taipei City and New Taipei City buses and the Taipei MRT during the period of validity. The one-day gondola pass includes an unlimited number of trips on the Maokong Gondola. The Taipei Pass cannot be used for travel on highway bus routes with four-digit numbers, nor for YouBike rentals.

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