

# TAIPEI 台北

STORIES FROM THE CAPITAL

SPRING 2020

| VOL.19

## SEASON TO EXPLORE

**Spring into Action**  
Five Diversified Tours to  
Explore Taipei

**Blossoming Flowers**  
The Must-See Taipei  
Flower Festivals

**Get on Your Bike**  
Three Cycle Routes in Taipei

**Traditional Folk Acrobatics**  
Bringing Taipei to New Heights



# TAIPEI 台北

## STORIES FROM THE CAPITAL

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A close-up photograph of pink flowers with green leaves, likely azaleas, in the background. The flowers are in various stages of bloom, with some showing white centers. The leaves are vibrant green and have serrated edges. The overall scene is bright and fresh, evoking a sense of spring.

EDITOR'S INTRODUCTION

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## Notes from a Taipei Spring

Spring has sprung in Taipei, a time of constant change and renewal. For this issue, celebrating the fairest of all seasons in the Taiwanese capital, we here at *TAIPEI* are showcasing the rich diversity of our city, a quality that can be experienced in innumerable ways by those who pass through our quaint back alleys and bustling thoroughfares.

For the travel section, we've designed five specially-themed tours curated to let you experience Taipei in several different ways. With themes like food, outdoors, relaxing, LGBTQ-friendly, and culture, visitors can appreciate this unique place from a myriad of perspectives. For flower aficionados, the spread on flower viewing in spring — prime time for those who like to literally stop and smell the azaleas (or calla lilies and hydrangeas) — is your guide to the best gardens, mountainside vistas, and parks for experiencing the floral magic of Taipei. For cyclists, we present a few different bike tours that will have you checking out the different districts on two wheels. Retail therapy fans, take warning — our feature on shopping in the glitzy East District may test your credit card limit.

Spring is also the season of religious festivals, when the many temples of Taipei abound with the joy of polytheistic revelry, and we've got your guide to a few of the main godly shindigs happening around town. Moreover, traditional acrobatic performances are often a big part of those celebrations, so we also sat down with some key figures from the Taiwan Acrobatic Troupe to get a behind-the-scenes look at how this storied artform continues to amaze in modern times.

Diversity in Taipei also means fostering an inclusive society, where people from around the world of any race, faith, and sexual orientation feel completely at home and at ease. *TAIPEI* spoke with NGOs working toward achieving such an environment for the tens of thousands of Southeast Asian migrant workers in the capital, an Imam who has witnessed the history of the Islamic faith in the capital, and a loving couple, two dads, who recently celebrated the first anniversary of the legalization of same-sex marriage in Taiwan.

And finally, everyone knows Taipei is a paradise for food and drink lovers. So, we've put together a roundup of the best and brightest from the beverage scene, above and beyond the usual bubble tea. What's more, we've secured the services of a renowned chef, who will provide all the culinary secrets to success in making some of Taiwan's most treasured dishes — featuring spring ingredients, of course! Bon appetit, and welcome to spring!

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(Photo / MyTaiwanTour)



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The Lowdown on Taiwanese Drinks

A Head Chef's Homestyle Take 58  
on Taiwanese Cuisine



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# Calendar of Good Times

## MARCH



**Now - 4/12**

### The 2020 Dadaocheng Youth Xiqu Art Festival

This is the seventh year of the Dadaocheng Youth Xiqu Art Festival (大稻埕戲苑青年戲曲藝術節). The performance series brings together all manner of *xiqu* (戲曲, traditional opera), including Taiwanese opera, Beijing opera, Kun opera, Hakka opera, and glove puppetry. This year's theme is centered on "Classic Story, Modern Interpretation: Fantasy and Chivalry." Through stories of the weird, ghosts, heroic quests and baring the soul, the performances combine modern artistry with classic *xiqu*. Performance locations are centered around the Dadaocheng Theater (大稻埕戲苑), which helps give the area its nickname as the "Theater Grotto." For more information, see the Festival website:

[www.facebook.com/DDCYXFA/](http://www.facebook.com/DDCYXFA/)

**3/14 - 4/5**

### 2020 Taipei Azalea Festival

The 2020 Taipei Azalea Festival (台北杜鵑花季) takes "Our Promise of Spring" as its creative inspiration this year. It will include the communities and shopping districts near Daan Park (大安森林公園), as well as a series of activities for the spring season, creating the image of a blooming city. The most prominent activity is the "Azalea Concert," which will be held in Daan Park on March 14. The creative market "Floral Carnival" will be held on March 28. Taipei City invites you to bring your loved ones to enjoy the blossoms, listen to music, and experience the wonder of Taipei through the Azalea Festival.



**3/27 - 6/21**

### 2020 Zhuzihu Calla Lily & Hydrangea Festival

The 2020 Zhuzihu Calla Lily & Hydrangea Festival (竹子湖海芋季 & 繡球花季) takes "Happiness and Hope" as its theme, and there will be a variety of flower-viewing activities at Yangmingshan National Park. Calla lily season will start from March, with the flower exhibition kicking off on March 27 in Zhuzihu (竹子湖). The creative market from April 2 to 5 at Zhuzihu invites local vendors to join. Visitors can not only have fun at the market but can also experience the fun of picking calla lilies. The hydrangea season, which starts in May, brings with it chances to see the fields resplendent with hydrangeas next to Zhuzihu. This means another great chance for family and friends to see some greenery.





## 3/25 - 4/30

### 2020 Taipei Rose Festival

This year's 2020 Taipei Rose Festival will be held at the Taipei Rose Garden (台北玫瑰園), on the grounds of Taipei Expo Park (台北花博公園). More than 700 varieties of roses are grown within the Garden; the riot of color on display has made the garden known far and wide. A grand opening will be held March 25. The festival gives visitors a wonderful experience of scent, taste and sight as they appreciate the flowers.



## Late MAY

### 2020 Eid Al-Fitr in Taipei

The Muslim tradition of Eid al-Fitr symbolizes purity and rebirth. In Taipei, the once-a-year Eid al-Fitr celebration will begin in late May. On the day of the carnival, a world Muslim market will come to Daan Park, bringing Muslim product selections and interactive cultural experiences. There will also be singers and bands performing live during the festival. The nearby Taipei Grand Mosque (台北清真寺) welcomes all local and visiting Muslims to join together in prayers for peace and new beginnings.

**Dates and times of events are not final and subject to change.**



## 3/28 - 6/28

### 2020 Baosheng Cultural Festival

Baosheng Cultural Festival (保生文化祭) is one of Taipei's three biggest religious celebrations. It began as a way to celebrate the birthday of Baosheng Emperor, the God of Medicine, and to pray for health and peace. The main event and birthday celebration of 2020's Baosheng Cultural Festival will be held on April 7, 2020. For more information, please check the website: <https://www.baoan.org.tw/?&lang=en>







*Spring is the best time to explore Taipei and find out what this wonderful city has to offer. (Photo / Gao Zanzian)*





# Spring

## Spring into Action: Five Diversified Tours to Explore Taipei

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WORDS BY  
*Adam Hopkins*

PHOTOS BY  
*Gao Zanzian, Taiwan Scene, Yenping Yang, Department of Economic Development,  
Taipei City Government, MyTaiwanTour, Francesca Chang, Mashal Zen Garden,  
Longtail, bhakpong, Mudan, Xu Yirong, Department of Information and  
Tourism, Taipei City Government, Liu Jiawen, Baoan Temple*

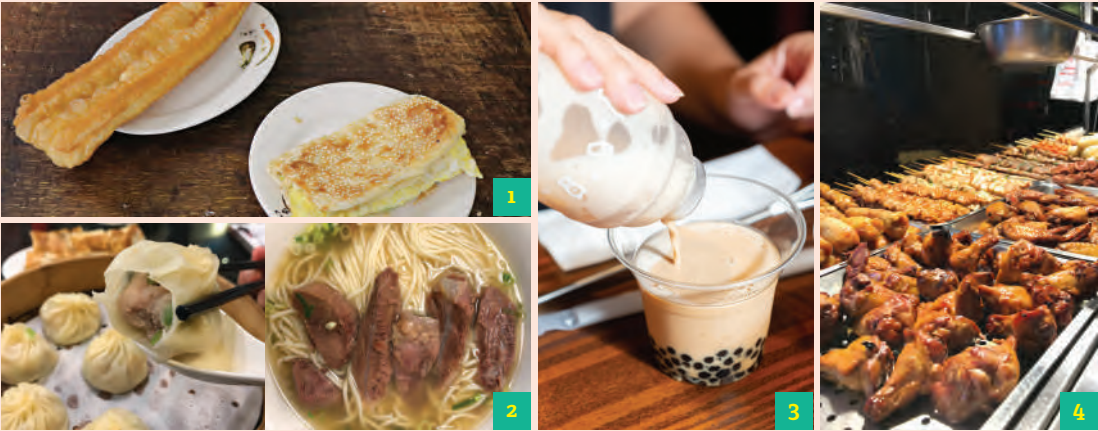
Not too hot, not too cold and not too wet; spring is truly the best time to visit Taipei. Winter is behind us and the sweltering summer has yet to arrive, resulting in the perfect conditions for getting out and exploring what this wonderful city has to offer. A bustling capital with a diverse range of options on offer for tourists: whether its food, culture or outdoor activities you're looking for, Taipei has it all, and spring is an ideal season to be here. Want to see everything Taipei has to provide but don't know where to start? We've hand-selected five tours for visitors to Taipei that show different sides of the city and give a true representation of what's going on in the Taiwanese capital.

Taste of Taipei Tour

ROUTE ① A traditional Taiwanese breakfast youtiao, shaobing & doujiang → ② Sample authentic Taiwanese xiaolongbao & beef noodles → ③ Try DIY bubble tea in the afternoon → ④ A night market tour at night

Taipei is famous for its food, and you can't come here without trying the local delicacies and dishes. Hop on this food tour and start your spring trip by filling your belly. The first stop must be a traditional Taiwanese breakfast of youtiao (油條), a sort of Chinese churro, a type of flatbread known as shaobing (燒餅), and a big bowl or glass of warm soy milk, referred to as doujiang (豆漿), for dipping. This is a breakfast that's been enjoyed across Taiwan and is the perfect way to start your Taipei culinary journey on a beautiful spring day. Take a walk through a classic

Taipei market, and then for lunch sample a couple of the country's most famous dishes: xiaolongbao (小籠包), delicious world-famous soup dumplings, and beef noodles. And it doesn't stop there! In the afternoon, it'll be all about bubble tea as you take part in your own DIY class where you'll learn how to make Taiwan's most famous drink. Round off your day as a Taipei foodie by getting dinner at one of the city's many brilliant night markets — if you still have room, that is!



(Photo / Taiwan Scene)

RECOMMENDATION

Traditional Taiwanese Breakfast	
Ho's Soy Milk	2-2, Ln. 463, Sec. 3, Heping E. Rd., Xinyi Dist.   7:00am - 11:30am (Closed on Wed. & Thu.)
Miss Chin's	7-6, Yanji St., Songshan Dist.   5:30am - 1:30pm
Xiaolongbao	
Shengyuan Luffa Xiao Long Bao	1, Aly. 25, Sec. 2, Hangzhou S. Rd., Daan Dist.   11:00am - 9:30pm
Hang Zhou Xiao Long Bao	17, Sec. 2, Hangzhou S. Rd., Daan Dist. 11:00am - 10:00pm (Sun. to Thu.), 11:00am - 11:00pm (Fri. & Sat.)
Beef Noodles	
Yong-Kong Beef Noodle	17, Ln. 31, Sec. 2, Jinshan S. Rd., Daan Dist.   11:00am - 3:30pm, 4:30pm - 9:00pm
Lin Dong Fang Beef Noodle	322, Sec. 2, Bade Rd., Zhongshan Dist.   11:00am - 3:00am
Bubble Tea DIY	
Chun Shui Tang Zhongzheng Branch	21-1, Zhongshan S. Rd., Zhongzheng Dist.   <a href="https://chunshuitang.com.tw/">https://chunshuitang.com.tw/</a>
CookInn Taiwan	8F, 210, Sec. 3, Nanjing E. Rd., Zhongshan Dist.   <a href="https://cookinn.tw/en/home-2/">https://cookinn.tw/en/home-2/</a>
Night Market	
Raohe Street Night Market	Raohe Street (between Sec. 4, Bade Rd. and Fuyuan St.)
Ningxia Night Market	Ningxia Road (between Nanjing W. Rd. and Minsheng W. Rd)





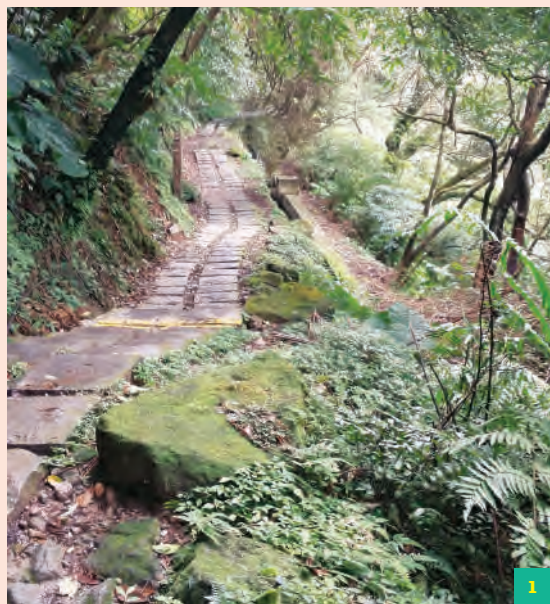
## Taipei Great Outdoors Tour

### ROUTE

① Hiking in Yangmingshan → ② Flower viewing during the Calla Lily and Hydrangea season → ③ Bike to explore the city

Make the most of Taipei's spring weather with an outdoor tour of the city. A hike up the glorious Yangmingshan (陽明山) in Yangmingshan National Park between Taipei and New Taipei City will get your blood pumping and fill your lungs with fresh spring air. It's an ideal time of year to visit Yangmingshan as the wild flowers will be blooming, especially calla lily and hydrangea at the Zhuzihu (竹子湖). The flower festival will be held from late March through June, where you can enjoy creative market, concerts, and guided tours while enjoying flower viewing.

Following your flower field frolicking, it's time to explore Taipei by bike. Hop on a YouBike, one of the many yellow share bikes accessible to the public around the city, and find out just how cyclist-friendly Taipei can be. Designated cycle lanes all across the city make navigating Taipei by bike a piece of cake, while the riverside cycle routes such as park near Dadaocheng (大稻埕) is not to be missed.



(Photo / ① Yenping Yang, ② Department of Economic Development, Taipei City Government, ③ MyTaiwanTour)

### RECOMMENDATION

#### Hiking Trail in Yangmingshan

##### Juansi Waterfall Trail

Take bus 303 or S15 at MRT Jiantan Station. Get off at Juansi Waterfall Station.

##### Zhuzihu Circular Trail

Take bus 128 or S8 at MRT Shipai Station, or take bus 129 or S9 at MRT Beitou station. Get off at Zhuzihu Station.

#### 2020 Zhuzihu Calla Lily & Hydrangea Festival

March 27 – June 21

<http://www.callalily.com.tw/>

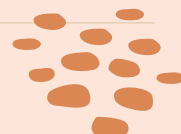
#### Biking Site

##### Dadaocheng Wharf (Yengping Riverside Park)

10-min bike from MRT Beimen Station

##### Shezi Daotou Park

40-min bike from Dadaocheng Wharf

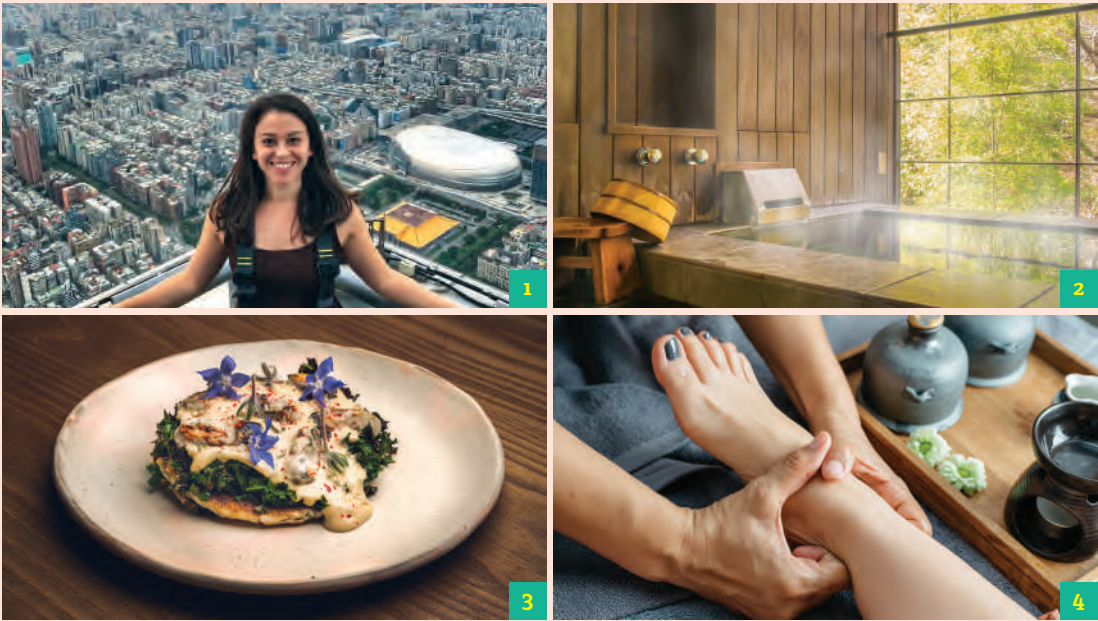


Taipei Chill-Out Tour

ROUTE ① Visit the top of Taipei 101 → ② Soak in the hot spring in Beitou to relax on a spring day → ③ Enjoy a great meal at a Michelin-starred restaurant → ④ End the day with a relaxing foot massage

Get a taste of Taipei affluence this spring with a tour of the city's most posh hotspots. Literally experience the high life with a trip up the iconic Taipei 101 skyscraper, formerly the world's tallest building and to this day the most recognizable landmark in Taipei. Head next to the hot springs of Beitou (北投) for a healing soak in the city's world-

renowned hot spring water before going for some fine dining at one of the Taipei's many Michelin-starred restaurants. Then end your day with a relaxing foot massage at one of the capital's premier spas. A day of luxury definitely worth treating yourself to. You deserve it.



(Photo / ① Francesca Chang, ② Marshal Zen Garden, ③ Longtail, ④ bhakpong)

RECOMMENDATION

Taipei 101

Observatory Deck at 89th floor	7, Sec. 5, Xinyi Rd., Xinyi Dist.   9:00am - 10:00pm
Skyline 460 (Out-door deck at 101th floor)	7, Sec. 5, Xinyi Rd., Xinyi Dist.   Limited Time at 1:00pm, 2:00pm and 3:00pm
Hot Spring in Beitou	
Marshal Zen Garden	34, Youya Rd., Beitou Dist.
Radium Kagaya International Hotel	236, Guangming Rd., Beitou Dist.
Michelin-Starred Restaurant	
Longtail	174, Sec. 2, Dunhua S. Rd., Daan Dist.   6:00pm - 12:00am
Mingfu Taiwan Seafood Dishes	18-1, Ln. 137, Sec. 2, Zhongshan N. Rd., Zhongshan Dist.   12:00pm - 2:30pm ; 6:00pm - 9:30pm
Foot Massage	
Six Star Foot massage Taipei Nanjing Branch	76, Sec. 5, Nanjing E. Rd., Songshan Dist.   Opened 24-hours
Sasyunkan	2F, 8, Sec. 2, Nanjing E. Rd., Zhongshan Dist.   9:30am - 11:00pm





## LGBT Taipei Tour

### ROUTE

① Visit Treasure Hill Artist Village in Gongguan → ② The Witch House → ③ Ximending area → ④ Bar Hopping to experience the night life

This May will mark one year since Taiwan legalized same-sex marriage, and once you visit some of the city's various LGBTQ-friendly venues, you'll see why we became the first country in Asia to pass the law. Your first stop will be Treasure Hill Artist Village (寶藏巖國際藝術村), a small community on the banks of the Xindian River (新店溪) in Gongguan (公館) housing resident artists from all over the world who frequently curate exhibitions or create artworks to voice for LGBTQ rights. Peruse the installations,

stores and houses of the charming area that has stood in its present form since the 1970s. A visit to The Witch House (女巫店), a multipurpose venue known for its live music, will give you a further taste of Taipei's LGBTQ culture before you hit the streets of the city's famous Ximending (西門町) area and have an unforgettable bar hopping tour to experience the local nightlife in well-known LGBTQ-friendly bars such as Commander D, Karen Bar and Mudan.



1



2



3



4

(Photo / ① Taiwan Scene, ② Xu Yirong, ③ Department of Information and Tourism, Taipei City Government, ④ Mudan)

### RECOMMENDATION

#### Treasure Hill Artist Village

2, Aly. 14, Ln. 230, Sec. 3, Dingzhou Rd., Zhongzheng Dist.  
<http://www.artistvillage.org/index.php>

#### LGBTQ-Friendly Bar in Ximending

##### Commander D

B1F, 36, Sec. 2, Kaifeng St., Wanhua Dist. | 9:00pm - 3:00am

##### Karen Bar

63, Ln. 10, Chengdu Rd., Wanhua Dist.  
9:00pm - 2:00am (Sun. to Thu.), 8:00pm - 3:00am (Fri. & Sat.)

##### Mudan

45, Ln. 10, Chengdu Rd., Wanhua Dist.  
5:00pm - 1:00am (Sun. to Thu.), 5:00pm - 2:00am (Fri. & Sat.)



## Taipei Culture Vulture Tour

### ROUTE

① A historical tour in Dadaocheng → ② Tea tasting & tea ceremony → ③ Visit Baoan Temple

Taipei is a city loaded with culture, and no visit here is complete without a tour in Dadaocheng. As the area was the biggest center to trade Taiwanese tea in the 1800s, you can find various tea houses there to participate an authentic tea ceremony and sample a few of the country's best tea. Spring time also coincides with the Baosheng Cultural Festival (保生文化季). As part of your tour, you'll also visit the historic Baoan Temple (保安宮) and join the festival

to both celebrate the birthday of Baosheng Emperor (保生大帝) and experience the local cultural traditions. The structure was also recognized by the UNESCO Asia-Pacific Heritage Awards for Culture Heritage Conservation back in 2003. The festival is a symbol of Taiwan's folk religious celebrations as well as architectural legacy, and has inspired similar festivities in places such as Singapore and China.



(Photo / ① Liu Jiawen, ② Taiwan Scene, ③ Baoan Temple)

### RECOMMENDATION

#### Tea Houses in Dadaocheng

##### WANG TEA

26, Ln. 64, Sec. 2, Chongqing N. Rd., Datong Dist. | 9:00am - 7:00pm (Closed on Sun.)

##### South St. Delight

67, Sec. 1, Dihua St., Datong Dist. | 11:00am - 7:00pm

#### 2020 Baosheng Cultural Festival

March 28 — June 28

<https://www.baoan.org.tw/?&lang=en>





## How to prepare to visit Taipei in the spring

As previously mentioned, springtime, in terms of weather, is pretty pleasant in Taipei. In terms of other clothing, you'll be comfortable in long pants, but shorts, skirts and dresses etc. may be more comfortable, especially during the daytime. During the night, however, might be a little chilly but a light jacket will do. The average temperature during spring in Taipei is around 25 degrees Celsius. The energy-sapping humidity of summer won't have arrived, yet rainy season might start at the end of May, so prepare for rain just in case by packing some waterproof clothing (you can pick up a cheap umbrella at any convenience store). It's also highly recommended that you bring adequate sun protection, such as sun cream, as even in the springtime, the sun in Taipei can be intense. <sup>T</sup>



(Photo / Taiwan scene)

# Blossoming Flowers: The Must-See Taipei Flower Festivals

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WORDS BY

You Ziying, Ani Syu

PHOTOS BY

Wang Zhengxiang, Cai Yuzhen, Yang Yachun, He Chengxun, @jenneyhearts, @livia.chen414

In spring, you can see beautiful blossoms at every corner, whether you're strolling along the streets or commuting in Taipei. In this season, azaleas, roses, and hydrangeas bloom one by one. At this time, visitors can go flower-viewing and enjoy music, picnicking, markets and other activities. It's time to have an outing and go flower-viewing with your family and friends, sharing good times in this beautiful weather.







1 | 2  
1, 2. *Blossoming azaleas can be seen on Taipei streets in spring.*  
(Photo / ① He Chengxun,  
② Yang Yachun)



## PINK AZALEAS: PERFECT FOR PHOTO SHOOTING AND VIEWING

Every spring, the azaleas appear on streets, in parks, and on the campuses of Taipei, gently surrounding the whole city. The common genera in Taipei include Hirado azaleas, Belgian azaleas, Kurume hybrids, Oldham's azaleas, and Kanehira azaleas. Due to climate change and Taiwan's complex terrain, native wildflowers such as *Rhododendron Kanehirais* and Woolly-styled *Rhododendrons* are bred here. The azaleas growing in the city may not be as big as those growing in the mountains, but they are rather elegant and delicate.

This year's Taipei Azalea Festival (台北杜鵑花季) is also ready to spread the happiness represented by spring flora. The Azalea Concert (杜鵑花音樂會) will take place in Daan Park (大安公園森林) as a prelude to the festival on March 14. Not only can visitors be surrounded by azaleas, they can also enjoy atmospheric performances of singers and bands, a creative market and the outdoor cinema. In addition, "Floral Carnival" (花漾幸福嘉年華) is going to be held in front of the Grace Baptist Church (懷恩堂) on Xinsheng South Road (新生南路) on March 28, inviting locals and foreign visitors to join the celebration.

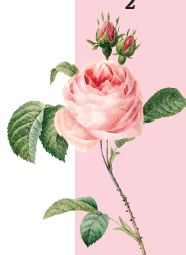


## ROMANTIC ROSES: A FEAST OF SIGHT AND SCENT

When spring arrives, there seem to be endless options for flower-viewing. Besides azaleas, the roses at the Taipei Rose Garden (台北玫瑰園) in Taipei Expo Park, Xincheng Area (花博公園新生園區) and Chiang Kai-Shek Shilin Residence (士林官邸) will bloom in succession. The roses in Taipei are not only in red and white; their diverse shapes, colors, and aromas are all romantic additions to this city.

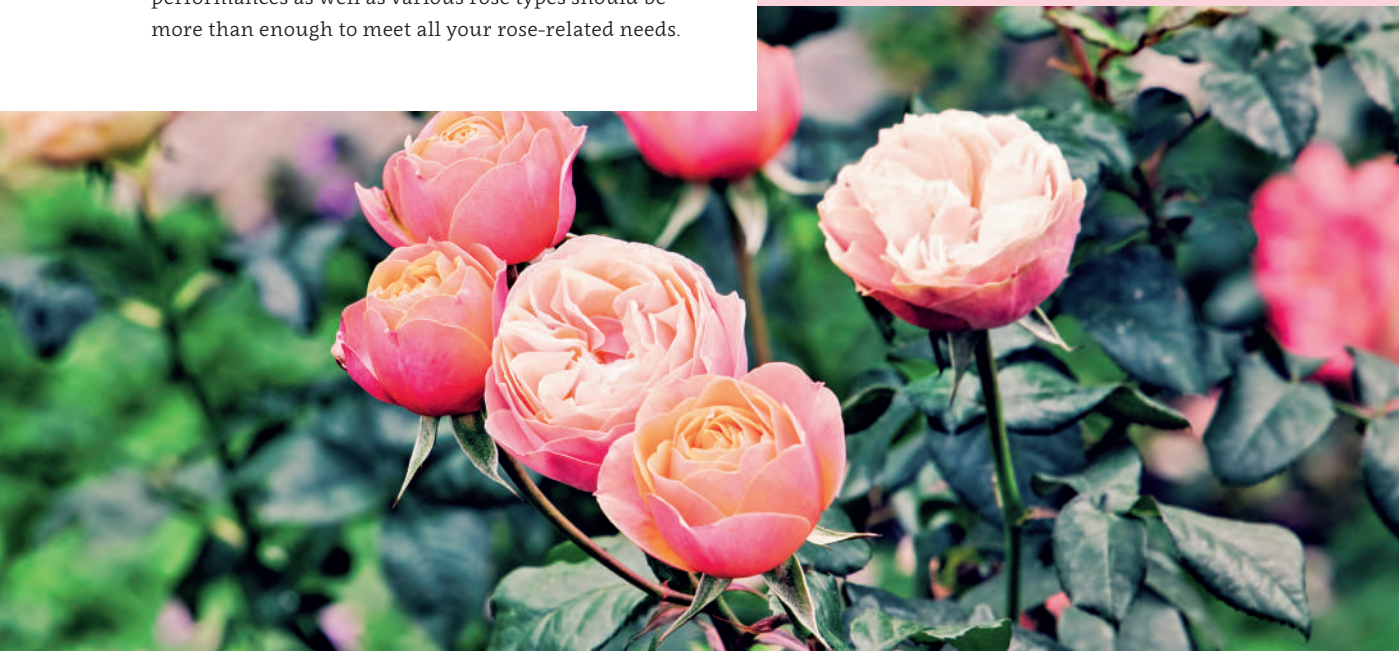
Roses need sufficient sunlight and the soil needs to be properly watered to remain moist. Only with the gardener's care can roses grow in perfect shapes. Taipei Rose Garden is something of a "secret garden" for all kinds of roses. Allocating more than 700 species of roses, it ranks as the most diverse garden in northern Taiwan. It used to feature experimental cultivations of different rose types until the Old Garden Rose Park Area was launched a few years ago. The abundant tea roses introduced into the park not only bloom in all seasons but also make it the first old-garden-rose-themed park domestically and internationally, becoming an appealing photography site for newly-weds.

If Taipei Rose Garden isn't enough to satiate your love for roses, do visit the rose exhibition at Chiang Kai-Shek Shilin Residence from April 1 to April 26. You will see around 125 rose species including Floribundas, English roses, French roses, hybrid tea roses, and rose shrubs. The cultural activities and performances as well as various rose types should be more than enough to meet all your rose-related needs.



1 3  
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- 1, 2. **More than 700 rose types at Taipei Rose Garden add romantic hues to the city.**  
(Photo / Wang Zhengxiang)
- 3, 4. **Yangmingshan is always crowded with people taking photos and checking in during the hydrangea flowering season.**  
(Photo / © Cai Yuzhen, @livia.chen414)
5. **Take a one-of-a-kind photo with the petals arranged in words or shapes you like.**  
(Photo / @jenneyhearts)







## HYDRANGEA SEASON: GO TREASURE-HUNTING AMONG THE FLOWERS' RICH COLORS

When it comes to a spring outing in the suburbs of Taipei, the Hydrangea season at Yangmingshan (aka Mt. Yangming, 陽明山) is a must-go. During the Hydrangea season, the well-known settlement of Zhuzihu is like a stunning canvas painted with light blue and pink-violet.

Hydrangeas are seen as a natural indicator of the health of a region's land. The flowers appear in different colors according to soil pH. Acidic soil makes the flowers blue while alkaline soil makes them appear pink. The hydrangeas at Zhuzihu are imported from abroad and are mainly cultivated next to the ridge lines of the calla lilies. If not artificially induced with low temperatures, the hydrangeas flower around May and June.

You can see different types of flowers in all seasons at Zhuzihu. For example, the "Flora and Tree Garden" (花與樹繡球花園) on Calla Lily Boulevard (海芋大道) has designed activities for different flowering periods. Other than hydrangea viewing, you can also pick grapes in June there. Also, the "Terrace Botanic Farm" (大梯田生態休閒農場) filled with cherry blossoms and the "Gaojia Hydrangea Garden" (高家繡球花田) provides professional photography reservations. Both are distinctive hydrangea gardens worth a visit during the blossoming season.

Don't miss out on viewing the blossoming flowers when you visit Taipei! 





# Get on Your Bike: Three Cycle Routes in Taipei

WORDS BY

Adam Hopkins, Jamie R. Wood

PHOTOS BY

Samil Kuo, Taiwan Scene

Spring means winter is over, and it's time to get outside. Sure, the winter season in Taiwan isn't super cold, but there are still those days when the weather outside makes you want to do nothing more than wrap yourself in a blanket and watch Netflix. Now that spring is here, that's all behind us. We've got to take advantage of the weather before summer rolls around and it's too hot to do anything outdoors. Cycling is the perfect spring activity, and Taipei is very cyclist friendly. We're not just talking about the abundance of YouBikes and designated cycle lanes all around the city for leisurely cycling; we mean the picturesque and enjoyable specialized biking routes for serious bikers that Taipei has to offer.

Shosho Chang is a cyclist from Taiwan, who since quitting his job in the technology industry to pursue his quest to explore the world, has cycled through 29 countries. Now he strives to promote using bicycles in Taiwan, capturing footage of beautiful cycle routes on video in the hope that it will encourage foreign visitors to come to Taiwan and discover just how much of a cycling paradise the island can be. Despite his travels and all the places he's visited, he firmly believes Taiwan is the most beautiful place in the world. Read on to discover three Taipei cycling routes recommended by the man himself.

*Come to Taipei, get on your bike, and have a cycling trip in spring. (Photo / Samil Kuo)*





**BEGINNER**

Distance: 10 km

Average slope grade: &lt; 4%

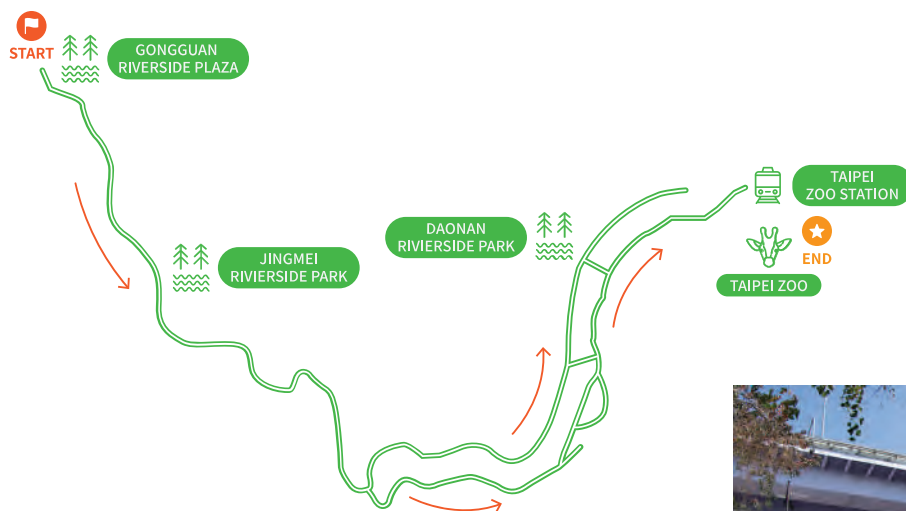
Difficulty: ★★★★★

**RIVERSIDE ROUTE: GONGGUAN TO TAIPEI ZOO**

Route Gongguan Riverside Plaza (公館水岸廣場) → Jingmei Riverside Park (景美河濱公園) → Daonan Riverside Park (道南河濱公園) → Taipei Zoo

A leisurely ride for beginners or those just looking for a scenic trip along the river, this route is easy-breezy, taking you along a popular stretch of Taipei's flat and easy-to-follow designated riverside cycle paths. You'll reach Taipei Zoo, passing a couple of Taipei's delightful riverside parks as you ride, filling your lungs with fresh spring air. Taipei Zoo is one of the largest in Asia, and it houses animals from across Asia, Africa and Australia, including giant pandas from China. Due to the route not being strenuous, we recommend you wear whatever clothes you're comfortable biking in.

1. **The beginner route starts from Gongguan Riverside Plaza and it takes 40~60 minutes to get to Taipei Zoo.**  
(Photo / Taiwan Scene)
2. **There are parks on both sides of the various rivers that run through Taipei, which is the best option for biking.**  
(Photo / Taiwan Scene)
3. **The YouBike rental system in Taipei is superb and there are many people using them in riverside parks.**  
(Photo / Taiwan Scene)



► Video Interview



## ADVANCED

Distance: **12.5 km** (5.3 km uphill)    Average slope grade: **6%**    Difficulty: ★★★★★

## MAOKONG ROUTE

**Route** A loop from National Chengchi University (政治大學) → Maokong Gondola Station (貓空纜車貓空站)

One for slightly more seasoned cyclists, this is a bike ride up into tea country. This looping route will take you from National Chengchi University (NCCU) to Maokong (貓空) and back again. Following Section 3 of Zhinan Road (指南路), you'll turn right at Caonan Bridge (草湳橋). The part before you reach the bridge will be the hardest with more than 6% of slope grade. So, make sure you have enough supplies before taking off from NCCU.

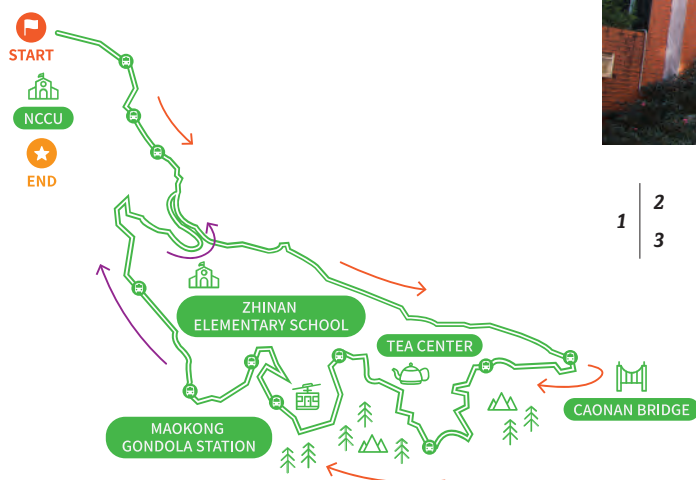
Once you pass the bridge, the rest will be way easier. Along the way you'll pass the Taipei Tea Promotion Center for Tie Guanyin Tea and Baozhong Tea (台北市鐵觀音包種茶研發推廣中心). From here, you'll make your way up to Maokong Gondola Station before following Alley 38 of Section 3 of Zhinan Road to eventually make a U-turn at Zhinan Elementary School (指南國小) and head back to NCCU.

### Shoshos Note

Maokong was once the biggest tea growing area in Taipei. While tea is still produced there, nowadays it is more of a destination for tea culture tourists looking to find out more about

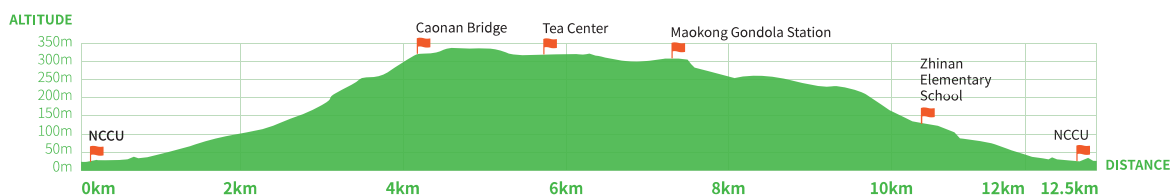


Taiwanese tea and the history behind it. If you're there just for road training, you might want to finish the loop at once. But if you do not mind stopping on the road and getting to know about Maokong, be sure you grab a cup of tea like most college students always do!



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1. **Taipei Tea Promotion Center is a great site to stop and learn more about Taiwanese tea.**  
(Photo / Taiwan Scene)
2. **Don't miss out on the gondola ride to enjoy the city view when riding to Maokong.**  
(Photo / Taiwan Scene)
3. **Maokong Gondola station is a great place for cyclists to take a rest.**  
(Photo / Taiwan Scene)







## CHALLENGE

Distance: **22.4 km** (< 15.3 km uphill) Average slope grade: **6-10%** Difficulty: ★★★★★

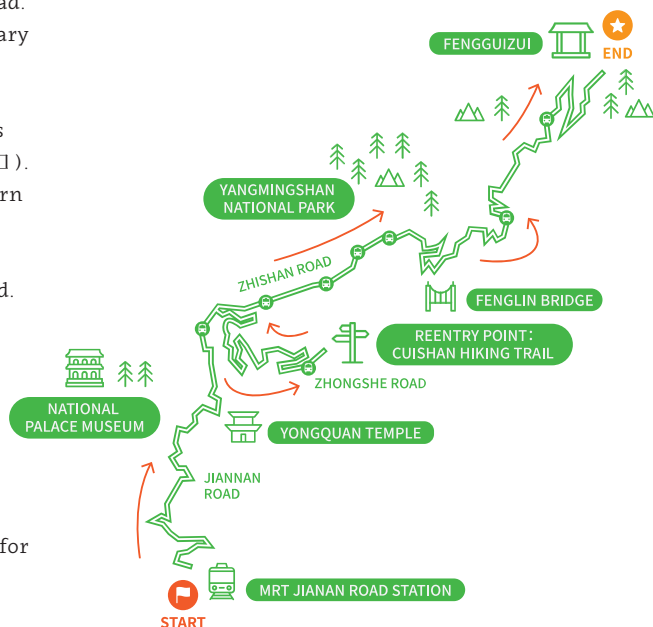
## FENGGUIZUI “FENG-ZHONG-JIAN” ROUTE

**Route** From Jiannan Road (劍南路) → Zhongshe Road (中社路) → up to Fengguizui (風櫃嘴)

This challenging route can be divided into three parts. The first part will be a warm-up from MRT Jianan Road Station to Section 2 of Zhishan Road (至善路), which is about 5.2 kilometers with 4% of slope grade. Make sure you stop at Yongquan Temple (湧泉寺), where you can enjoy the top view of the National Palace Museum.

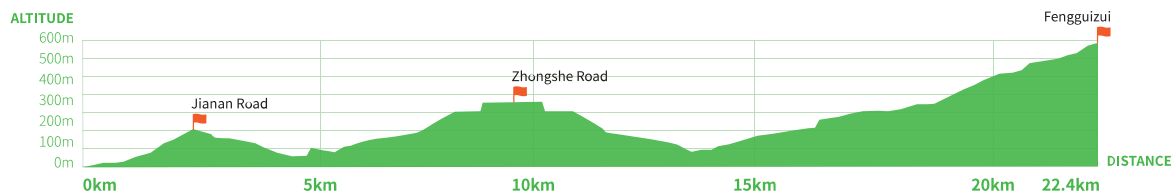
Start the second part by following Section 2 of Zhishan Road. After passing Waishuangxi Bridge (外雙溪橋), make a right turn to go on Zhongshe Road, where a bike way is set on the side of the road. Follow the road and make it to Shuangxi Elementary School (雙溪國小). Take a rest if you need, as the next 1.7 km to the reentry point will be a tougher uphill with 8% of slope grade. The reentry point is at the entrance of Cuishan Hiking trail (翠山步道口). Give yourself a round of applause before you return to Zhishan Road for the final challenge.

The last part starts from Section 3 of Zhishan Road. Make sure you have enough supplies with you before turning right onto Fenglin Bridge (楓林橋) to start the testing uphill climb. You'll ride all the way up to Fengguizui Observation Deck (風櫃嘴涼亭), which is 8 to 10% of slope grade the whole way (some parts are even more than 10%!). Reward your efforts with a wonderful view of Yangmingshan National Park — a welcome relief for your tired legs.



### Shosho's Note

Fengguizui Route is also known as feng-zhong-jian (風中劍, the Sword in the Wind) route, which is the abbreviation of the three routes in Chinese. *Feng* (風) from Fengguizui means “wind;” *Zhong* (中) from Zhongshe Road means “in” or “middle;” *Jian* (劍) from Jianan Road means “sword.” It's a perfect summary of this route: Although the challenge lies ahead, be a modest but strong sword in the wind!







1 | 2

1. **Take a rest in the front of Yongquan Temple and enjoy the view of National Palace Museum.**  
(Photo / Samil Kuo)
2. **Shosho thinks the climb at Fengguizui is the biggest challenge for many cyclists in Taipei.**  
(Photo / Samil Kuo)

## WHAT TO PREPARE FOR CYCLING IN TAIPEI DURING SPRING



### Weather

The average temperature in Taipei during spring is around 20~25°C, which is perfect for cycling. The rainy season will start from late May, though.



### What to prepare

A short-sleeve sweatshirt and a light windbreaker will be quite enough for spring. Water is always recommended to keep yourself hydrated. Helmets and sunglasses are suggested too because safe is sexy!



### Equipment

If you're not bringing your own bike to Taiwan, you can find anything you need at Shosho's recommended bike stores Mathewbike and Froging Touring Bike. Their services include selling bikes, bike rental, and bike repair and maintenance.

Mathewbike is located in the north of Taipei, closer to the Fengguizui route. Froging Touring Bike is in the south of the city, which is better for those who are going on a Maokong challenge. If it's just riverside riding you're after, the YouBike system in Taipei is always available.

Meanwhile, if you're looking for great advice for your bike trip in Taiwan, Shosho's door is always open for cyclists from around the world. **T**

#### Mathewbike (馬修單車)

📍 577, Wenlin Rd., Shilin Dist.  
🌐 <https://mathewbike.com/>

#### Froging Touring Bike (蛙不停自行車)

📍 320, Sec. 6, Roosevelt Rd., Wenshan Dist.  
🌐 <http://www.froging.net/>

#### Cycling with ShoSho

🌐 <https://shosho.tw/en/>

## Unique Perspectives on Fashion:

# 8 MUST-GO STORES IN TAIPEI'S EAST DISTRICT

WORDS BY  
W, L

TRANSLATION BY  
Joe Henley

PHOTOS BY  
Zhuang Zhiyuan

Taipei's East District (東區) has always been the core of Taiwan's fashion culture. Despite ever-changing trends, the streets of the East District have continued to lead the way. It is because the area's many stores are collectively insistent on individuality and not going with the flow that a strong atmosphere of style can be found in the alleys and lanes of this center of Taiwan's fashionable capital.

In the past, when information didn't move as quickly as it does now, taking a stroll through the back alleys of the East District and looking at the mannequins on display in shop windows was the best way to get first-hand knowledge of the current fashion trends. Furthermore, the East District's strong position in fashion drew many trendy brands from Japan, Hong Kong, and the US to open stores here. As a result, the area became the perfect location to scope out the latest fashions.

Though the rise of the Internet means that you can shop at home with products being just a click away, the East District has irreplaceable qualities compared to other locations, especially with the numerous well-established stores that have steadfastly maintained their uniqueness, which keeps those in the know coming back time after time.

In this issue of *TAIPEI*, we have selected eight fashionable stores in Taipei's East District ranging from clothing and accessories to trendy toys. It is hoped that the diversity and uniqueness of the East District will rekindle the fun and novelty of shopping on the streets for the new generation.



### BOUTIQUE NO.1 The Warehouse Optical Taipei

This boutique optician from Hong Kong is much beloved by celebrities, including Hong Kong film star Shawn Yue (余文樂). The store's interior is decorated primarily in white and gold, creating the charm of simplicity and quality. They offer an elegant and comfortable space as well as highly professional services. You will be surprised with how perfectly this optician integrates professionalism and fashion sense.

📍 77, Ln. 187, Sec. 1, Dunhua S. Rd., Daan Dist.

☎ (02) 8772-1600

🕒 12:00pm - 10:00pm



## BOUTIQUE NO.2

# INVINCIBLE EAST

Founded in 2007, INVINCIBLE EAST has benefited from over a decade of hard work and tempering to take a strong position in the market and a commanding position in fashion. Selecting brands and products from Japan, Europe, and the US helps cultivate a space that is rich in quality for discerning fashionistas and fashion aficionados. The store also provides exclusive products to meet different consumers' preference.



📍 3, Aly. 35, Ln. 181, Sec. 4, Zhongxiao E. Rd., Daan Dist.

☎ (02) 8771-9958

🕒 2:00pm - 10:00pm



## BOUTIQUE NO.3

# Stussy Taipei

A trendy brand from the streets of California, Stussy's summer line often makes use of design elements such as the beach and tropical plants to add a laid-back feel to a style already full of personality. The store's design includes elements of cold, steel framing and rustic wooden materials to create a unique atmosphere that is well worth exploring.

📍 7, Aly. 69, Ln. 161, Sec. 1, Dunhua S. Rd., Daan Dist.

☎ (02) 2751-2651

🕒 1:30pm - 10:00pm

## BOUTIQUE NO.4

### PHANTACi Taipei Flagship Store

This clothing brand, established by Taiwanese pop star Jay Chou (周杰倫), bases its designs on a blend of fantastic and grand concepts into everyday living and specializes in incorporating leisure into the agile elements of the streets. PHANTACi uses bold, color-clashing styles to accentuate visual focus in an outfit. In addition to selling its own products, the store also frequently introduces limited-edition jointly produced products with other well-known brands.



📍 27, Aly. 35, Ln. 181, Sec. 4, Zhongxiao E. Rd., Daan Dist.

☎ (02) 8773-1426

🕒 2:00pm - 10:00pm (Monday to Friday) ; 1:00pm - 10:00pm (Saturday & Sunday)

## BOUTIQUE NO.5

### Rather Concept Store

This store creates a unique aura of feminine fashion through minimalist design elements. Rather's proprietary brand uses black and white as its primary colors to create neat office fashions while providing comfortable everyday wear with a unique color palette and design. The store includes a coffee bar and seating area, and holds occasional art exhibitions as well.

📍 5, Ln. 147, Sec. 4, Zhongxiao E. Rd., Daan Dist.

☎ 0900-370-599

🕒 1:30pm - 10:00pm







## BOUTIQUE NO.6

### JUICE Taipei

JUICE, a clothing store founded by Hong Kong celebrity Edison Chen (陳冠希), enjoys an esteemed position in the Asian fashion world. Apart from offering Chen's personal brand CLOT, the store provides a select array of foreign-brand clothing and limited-edition items. Whenever its limited, co-branded products with Japanese and other popular foreign brands are introduced, the streets of the East District will be packed with enthusiastic shoppers.

📍 38, Ln. 161, Sec. 1, Dunhua S. Rd., Daan Dist.

☎ (02) 2751-3227

🕒 2:00pm - 10:00pm (Monday to Friday)

1:30pm - 10:00pm (Saturday & Sunday)

## BOUTIQUE NO.7

### Monster Taipei

Monster Taipei was purely a toy retailer at first. The shop later began to act as the agent for brands in Japan and Hong Kong and then even became the organizer of the Taipei Toy Festival (台北國際玩具創作大展). Now the company provides anime merchandise that are loved by adults and children alike; their range of rare toys in line with the latest trends are highly sought-after by senior collectors. The store also occasionally features commemorative T-shirts with high collection value.



📍 46, Ln. 51, Sec. 1, Daan Rd., Daan Dist.

☎ (02) 2740-2428

🕒 12:30pm - 9:00pm



## BOUTIQUE NO.8

### TripMoment VR

The world's first specialty store combining VR with travel themes allows customers to visit other countries via VR games in addition to shopping and dining. Visitors can experience various recreational facilities, such as "flying over Ba Na Hills" and taking a "basket boat" in Da Nang, Vietnam. In addition, the store welcomes pets with open arms, making it a fun and friendly indoor amusement park. ⓘ

📍 67, Sec. 4, Zhongxiao E. Rd., Daan Dist.

☎ (02) 2731-9222

🕒 1:30pm - 9:30pm



# Season of Folk Beliefs: Fun Cultural Festivals in Taipei

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#### WORDS BY

Liao Yanming, Zhu Wanci

#### TRANSLATION BY

Joe Henley, JR Wu

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#### PHOTOS BY

Lin Guanliang, Songshan Ciyou Temple, Jean Lee Photography, Songshan Cihui Temple, Baoan Temple

Temples are an indispensable part of daily life for most people in Taiwan. They pray to the gods and goddesses at temples dedicated to both Buddhism and Taoism for answers to important issues and seek divination for peace of mind for small issues. In addition to static worship, worship festivals held once a year also highlight followers' devotion to the rich pantheon of gods, forming an integral part of Taiwanese folk religious culture.

In spring, a variety of folk belief ceremonies are held in Taipei. This year, however, due to the recent outbreak of the coronavirus and some events might be affected. *TAIPEI* has chosen the best events in Taipei that you should know about. In case you cannot join them this year, you can still learn about local culture first and prepare for the next year.





## THE BLESSING OF MAZU: A LIVELY CULTURAL LANDSCAPE IN SONGSHAN

As an island country, Taiwan's ancestors came across the sea and made a living from its bounty, placing the sea goddess Mazu (媽祖) in an important position in the hearts of the people. As a center of Mazu worship in Taipei, a series of grand ceremonies are held at Songshan Ciyou Temple (松山慈祐宮) in March of the lunar calendar, the birth month of Mazu.

On the birthday of Mazu, March 23 of the lunar calendar, it is a custom to hold the ancient ritual of the "Three Offerings Ceremony" (三獻大典) at the main hall of Ciyou Temple, in which large praying parties with flags and drums will march through Songshan District along eastern, southern, and northern routes. Tables filled with incense burners, flowers, and fruits will be prepared by stores and residents along the way. Devout followers will follow the goddess' palanquin and compete in crawling under the palanquin to receive her blessings. There is also a Taiwanese opera performance at the front square of the temple, where gongs and drums will be played, showing local traditional religious and folk customs, which is worth experiencing with your family.

Ciyou Temple, as the center of faith in Xikou (錫口, now known as Songshan District), also acts as a hub to bring the local community together. Every year, it is routine for Ciyou Temple collaborates with Taipei City government to hold the Xi Kou Festival (錫口文化節). The festival is the celebration of Mazu's birthday, through a 13-village pilgrimage and traditional yizhen (藝陣), a folk art performance that usually takes place in religious parades, making this event more appealing and culturally diverse. In addition to religious and cultural performances, local attractions like the Rainbow Bridge and Raohe Street Night Market (饒河街夜市) are involved in this exciting event as well, making the Xi Kou Festival a spring ceremony not to be missed.

- |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | 2 | 1. Folk beliefs in Taiwan are centered around temples and require public participation to be passed on.<br>(Photo / Lin Guanliang)                            |
| 3 |   |   |
| 4 |   | 2, 3, 4. Every year on Mazu's birthday, people join the march and celebration to pray for blessings at Songshan Ciyou Temple. (Photo / Songshan Ciyou Temple) |

## TAKE UP THE TORCH OF RITUAL HERITAGE: BAOSHENG CULTURAL FESTIVAL

Because medical technology in Taiwan was not as advanced in the past, when disasters such as plagues struck, locals would often pray to the gods for spiritual consolation. Therefore, belief in deities such as Baosheng Emperor (保生大帝), the god of medicine, and Shennong Emperor (神農大帝), the god of herbal medicine, were popular.

The celebration of Baosheng Emperor's birthday is usually held on March 15 of the lunar calendar in Dalongdong (大龍洞). Since 1994, Baoan Temple (大龍峒保安宮) has added art performances and cultural events to traditional temple ceremonies, extending the original events to the birthday of Shennong Emperor, creating the Baosheng Cultural Festival that lasts more than two months. This year, the festival will kick off on March 26 and continue until June 28.

The Baosheng Cultural Festival is an annual event in Dalongdong. Although the famous Fire Lion fireworks display (放火獅), fire-walking rituals (過火) and *jiaxingxi* (家姓戲, literally "Family Surnames Folk Opera") will not be held as usual this year, the birthday celebration on March 15 (April 7

of Western calendar) is still going ahead and will be the highlight of festival. Furthermore, Baoan Temple received the Asia-Pacific Heritage Award for Cultural Heritage Conservation from UNESCO in 2003 for its excellent preservation of architectural and decorative crafts. Taipei Confucius Temple (台北市孔廟) is located in the vicinity, adding a strong human and artistic atmosphere to the Baosheng Cultural Festival in addition to its religious significance.

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1. *Baoan Temple in Dalongdong was a center of faith for immigrants from Quanzhou (泉州) in earlier times. (Photo / Jean Lee Photography)*
2. *The celebration at Baoan Temple displays its extraordinary cultural and spiritual value. (Photo / Baoan Temple)*







## SHOWING AND ENCOURAGING KINDNESS: TAIPEI MUNIANG CULTURAL FESTIVAL

Located in Taipei's Xinyi District, Songshan Cihui Temple (松山慈惠堂) mainly worships Yaochi Jinmu (瑤池金母), who watches over family prosperity, marriage and childbirth, and is also known as Queen Mother of the West (西王母) or Muniang (母娘, Mother Empress). Songshan Cihui Temple occupies a crucial role in Muniang worship in Northern Taiwan, and always endeavors to manifest motherly love, based on the Muniang Spirit of kindness and gratitude, through education, public welfare, social education, and more.

- 1 1. *The Muniang parade ceremony last year was held by followers who carried a huge statue of the Queen Mother of the West, marching around the city.*  
(Photo / Songshan Cihui Temple)
- 2 2. *Songshan Cihui Temple gives followers a sense of stability and calm with the power of the kindness of the Queen Mother of the West.* (Photo / Songshan Cihui Temple)

Because the principal deity of Songshan Cihui Temple is the Queen Mother of the West, most followers are women. You will find that everything in the temple is arranged in an orderly and disciplined manner. All followers are dressed uniformly in blue shirts, giving a sense of stability and revealing a refined and elegant atmosphere. Accordingly, the temple was chosen as one of the "Top 100 Religious Scenes in Taiwan" by Taiwan's Ministry of the Interior in 2013.

Songshan Cihui Temple has been holding the Taipei Muniang Cultural Festival (台北母娘文化季) every year since 2008, organizing religious ceremonies, parades, and all kinds of public welfare, cultural, education and charitable activities during the first half of the year. Though the parade has been cancelled this year due to coronavirus concerns, visitors are always welcome to visit the temple to pray to Queen Mother of the West, in turn wishing your family a health and happy year. **T**





# TRADITIONAL FOLK ACROBATICS: Bringing Taipei to New Heights



WORDS BY  
Catherine Shin

PHOTOS BY  
Samil Kuo, Taiwan Acrobatic Troupe

Unique, jaw-dropping performances, such as balancing on scattered ladder poles (散梯竿, *san tigan*), high poles (高竿, *gao gan*), living bicycle pyramids (飛車羅漢, *feiche luohan*), and martial arts are just a few of the traditional folk acrobatics that have marveled and captured the eyes of foreign visitors for decades. **TAIPEI** has given the amazing opportunity to sit down with Wang Tongyuan (王動員), Director of Taiwan Acrobatic Troupe (台灣特技團), Chang Ching-lan (張京嵐), Chair at the

Department of Acrobatics (民俗技藝學系), National Taiwan College of Performing Arts (NTCPA, 國立台灣戲曲學院) and Dr. Liu Chin-li (劉晉立), President of the NTCPA, to help our readers better understand the background and development of this traditional, yet ever-changing feature of Chinese culture. We hope to provide our audience a glimpse into the awe-inspiring world of traditional folk acrobatics and learn more about this multifaceted dimension of Taipei.

## How can we define “traditional folk acrobatics”? And how are they different from juggling or western acrobatics?



DEPT. CHAIR  
CHANG

Actually, the terms “juggling,” “acrobatics” and “circus” that we hear all the time essentially carry the same meaning when referring to “traditional folk acrobatics.” The only difference is that a “circus” normally entails animals and a circus tent and is found mostly in western countries, while “traditional folk acrobatics” are rooted deep in Chinese history and use everyday household props found around the house such as plates, chairs, balls, bamboo sticks, and others.

Traditional folk acrobatics were born from everyday life in rural China during the Han dynasty (漢朝, 206 B.C. - 220 A.D.) when it was still a mostly agriculture-driven society. Back then, acrobatics were their version of the modern street performances that we have today. Over time it grew and eventually made its way across the strait to Taiwan, with many families running their own performing groups such as the Chang family (張家班), Zhu family (朱家班), and many others. Later during the 1950s and '60s, it eventually found its way into hotels, theaters, and opera houses around Taiwan as popular showcases where the audience could wine and dine with traditional folk acrobatics as their main form of entertainment.



► Video Interview

*Traditional folk acrobatics were born in China and became a main form of entertainment in Taiwan after the 1950s. (Photo / Samil Kuo)*





## Where are traditional folk acrobatics usually performed? What is the difference between the past and the present?



Well, I began learning traditional folk acrobatics nearly 40 years ago when I was just 10 years old back in the fourth grade. Back then, traditional folk acrobatics occurred in places like temples, squares, or other public areas of gathering. Beforehand, it was just a “showing off” of your skills, but nowadays, artistic elements such as dancing and acting have been included, taking the entire experience and performance to a whole new level. These visual elements allow traditional folk acrobatics to be appreciated on a scale never done before.

In terms of the evolution of its performers, in the past, many students who came to learn were from single-parent households or from financially disadvantaged families. Even growing up, around 70 to 80 percent of my classmates were from orphanages or single-parent families. However, times are now changing. Many of the students we see nowadays come from wealthy families whose parents are busy working abroad elsewhere in China or other places. For these parents, it's an easy decision to send their children to our school because we offer boarding, food, and rigorous training and education.



## Are there any unique costumes, props, or makeup for traditional folk acrobatic performances?



Every performance requires unique props that are catered specifically to you and your ability or skill. You can think of them as your second lifeline — similar to how a soldier might view his or her rifle during a war. It really is one of the most important aspects of performance. For example, in a featured act like stacking chairs, the chairs we use are not the average wooden chair that you'd find in a classroom or restaurant. It's not that we can't use those; we can. It's just that we would have less guarantee of safety if we did. So, instead, we have customized chairs that are lighter and created with better balance in mind.

The same goes for even something as simple as juggling. The balls the artist chooses to use may be smaller in size due to the size of his or her palms, and vice versa. The act that I perform used to require long bamboo shoots, but they were too difficult to bring abroad or would sometimes dry up and crack. Therefore, we've switched to a new form of aluminum instead. Not only are they lighter in weight, but more importantly, they are safer.

Generally, we are responsible for handling our own makeup and costume. Most costumes are tailor-made to fit our specific skill set and cannot be sewn too tight or tailored using smooth material due to the risk of malfunctioning during performances. And we typically manage makeup on our own too, unless there is a special occasion on that day, in which case we sometimes hire a makeup artist for added assistance.







## How long does it take to become a professional traditional folk acrobat?



**TROUPE DIR.**  
**WANG**

To develop a proper base and foundation for strong acrobatic skills, it requires constant practice every single day. In the beginning, when I first started learning, my

teacher would often beat me with a stick or whip. And during the showers at the end of the day, the few of us boys would compare who had more whip marks on their back as marks of pride. To be honest, it was one of the quickest, most effective ways to learn back then (chuckles). Nowadays, we can't do that anymore. That type of education and training isn't allowed or possible.

The problem is that there is a real inherent danger involved in learning acrobatics. If you fall three stories and land on your arm, chances are you are going to break your arm or wrist. That has happened to us many times before, and each time, that performer is out for at least three to six months — which means a temporary replacement is needed, only adding to the cost. Nowadays, we can only stress the urgency of learning and allow students to face the consequences themselves. As performers, we cannot use safety nets or ropes, so it's even more critical that our movements are correct and we have a solid base for training. Necessary movements like stretching your arms back or doing handstands are the most basic requirements in joining this form of acrobatics, and upon arrival, the teachers will help you discover and refine your own talents as you grow in your abilities.

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|---|---|---|
| 1 | 2 | 1. Nowadays, props used in traditional folk acrobatics are custom-made so that performers can complete the complex routines easier. |
|   | 3 | (Photo / Samil Kuo)   |
|   | 4 | 2, 3. It takes endless practice and rehearsal to put together a perfect traditional folk acrobatics show.                           |
|   |   | (Photo / Samil Kuo)   |
|   |   | 4. In the Taiwan Acrobatic Troupe, performers have to learn how to apply makeup by themselves.                                      |
|   |   | (Photo / Samil Kuo)   |



## What are some traditional folk acrobatic skills that are amazing? What is their background?



DEPT. CHAIR  
**CHANG**



Actually, one of the most iconic and easily recognizable traditional folk acrobatic skills is the famous *che ling* (扯鈴) or “diabolo” (the “Chinese yo-yo” as some call it), which was carried over from China. Originally made from wood and bamboo, it was called “扯” (*che*, meaning spinning/pulling) because of the movement the performer made every time, though nowadays they’re mostly made of plastic. With over a thousand years of history, it has become an integral part of early childhood Taiwanese education, with many diabolo classes starting as early as elementary school all the way up until college. Another iconic performance is the stacking of chairs or various balancing acts using ladders or poles. Like most other performances, they both originated from China and use objects from daily life as a props.



## What is the most difficult traditional folk acrobatic move? Why?



TROUPE DIR.  
**WANG**

Actually, to be honest, every single acrobatic movement is challenging in its own way — even juggling. Without constant stability and movement, even balls could fall and hurt or hit someone in the head. Traditional folk acrobatics are no different in this way. However, something worth mentioning is that for group performances, it’s essential to have a sense of mutual understanding among your team members. And for individual performances, however, having a strong foundation of basic skills is absolutely necessary. At front and center stage of all this is obviously one’s acrobatic skills. Without these skills, it would just be another group of people dancing on stage.





**Talk about the transformation and improvement of modern folk acrobatics, integration with world culture (such as how foreigners can experience and watch performances), and the future performance plans of the Taiwan Acrobatic Troupe.**



Traditional folk acrobatics were mostly based on skills and usage of props, such as the diabolo or cycling, and required lots of patience and perseverance. But using this type of traditional performance, performers are left restricted by old-fashioned mindsets or ways of thinking. "The New Circus" or "新馬戲" (Xin maxi, meaning "new circus") emerging from France in recent years has begun to change the way audiences experience and think about circuses. By using other elements such as lighting, 360-degree projection, dancing, acting, ballet, modern dance, gymnastics, or new props and costumes, we can introduce a new form of traditional folk acrobatics that speak to the audience on various levels. In fact, it even changes and pushes the boundaries of traditional folk acrobatics. For example, we can create the illusion of clouds or a forest that makes the background appear almost 3D-like for the audience and blends that backdrop in with traditional folk acrobatics. I believe that foreigners alike can appreciate this type of performance since it is not constricted by language barriers that you may normally get while watching the Peking opera, for instance. **T**



For performance information, check out <https://www.facebook.com/TaiwanAcrobaticTroupe>

- 1 | 2
1. **Living bicycle pyramids are one of the routines that need teamwork and trust between performers.**  
(Photo / Samil Kuo)
  2. **Taiwan Acrobatic Troupe welcomes audiences to watch their performances to feel the vibe of live traditional folk acrobatics.**  
(Photo / Samil Kuo)



# A Reason for Migrant Workers to Stay

WORDS BY

Zhang Yachun

TRANSLATION BY

Joe Henley

PHOTOS BY

Lin Guanliang, One-Forty

Migrant workers can be seen all around Taipei. According to Ministry of Labor statistics, the number of migrant workers in Taiwan exceeded 700,000 in 2018. In other words, 1 out of 33 people in Taiwan today is a migrant worker, and most of them are from Southeast Asia. Chen Kaixiang (陳凱翔), founder of the nonprofit organization One-Forty, and Zhang Zheng (張正), founder of Brilliant Time Bookstore (燦爛時光) and 4-Way Voice (四方報), a multilingual newspaper targeted at migrant workers, have long been devoted to the empowerment of migrant workers and providing much-needed services for them. Through their conversations, let's explore how these newcomers fit into this land.





## SOUTHEAST ASIAN HOTSPOTS IN TAIPEI

When it comes to Southeast Asian migrant gathering spots in Taipei, “Little Indonesia” near Taipei Main Station, the Taipei Grand Mosque, and parks of various sizes throughout the city are all common and well-known locations.

If we break it down by nationality, Ankang Market (安康市場) in Muzha (木柵) used to be a famous gathering place for Vietnamese migrants, providing various goods and services, including food, fortune-telling, gold accessories, and hair salons, with 15 out of the 20 stalls run by Vietnamese vendors.

“However, the market was torn down just when 4-Way Voice was first established (Sep. 2006), so the first issue commemorated the event,” Zhang recalls. Additionally, many Vietnamese migrants used to gather around Ming Jih Vietnamese Restaurant (銘記越南美食) in Neihu District since its establishment 20 years ago.

As for migrants from the Philippines, Zhang and Chen both mention the area near St. Christopher's Church (聖多福天主堂) called “Little Philippines” on Zhongshan North Road (中山北路), as well as the neighboring Jin Wan Wan Mall (金萬萬名店城), EEC, and RJ supermart, etc., which are all rich with Southeast Asian characteristics.



## OPENING THE DOOR TO SOUTHEAST ASIAN RESEARCH AND ACTION

Zhang used to be a journalist. His acuity brought his attention to the insufficiency of reports on migrant workers in Taiwan 20 years ago whilst Southeast Asian issues were even not on the public radar.

“When reading news articles about migrant workers, I felt that the reports would be biased due to our lack of understanding of Southeast Asian groups. When a dispute between an employer and migrant worker was reported, only the employer would be interviewed, whereas the migrant worker would not have an opportunity to make his/her voice heard. That's when I would wonder what the truth really was.”

However, he also says with a smile that he began looking into Southeast Asian migrant worker issues because of his being accepted into the Institute of Southeast Asian Studies at National Chi Nan University (暨南國際大學) rather than a sense of justice. “I felt that having relevant knowledge would be useful. Then, in 2006, I integrated it with my specialty in media and founded the 4-Way Voice newspaper,” Zhang explains.

In addition to 4-Way Voice being written in Southeast Asian languages for migrant workers, Zhang's attentiveness and efforts toward relevant issues are practical and diverse. The efforts, including the 2011 new resident homecoming Grandma Bridge Program that encourages and supports migrants and their children to know their home countries, the 2013 *Singing in Taiwan* Southeast Asian singing show, and the 2014 Taiwan Literature Award for Migrants, were made in the hopes of enabling migrant workers to gain comfort and identity through language exchange and cultural activities.

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1, 2. ***One-Forty provides Southeast Asian migrant workers with opportunities to learn Chinese and other skills.***

(Photo / One-Forty)

3. ***Brilliant Time Bookstore hopes to serve as a place for Taiwanese to learn more about Southeast Asian immigrants and migrant workers.*** (Photo / Lin Guanliang)



## BUSINESS CLASSES IN TAIPEI FOR MIGRANT WORKERS

As for One-Forty founder Chen Kaixiang, his devotion to migrant worker issues began with the graduation trip he planned for himself after finishing university. During the six-month trip, he volunteered in India for three months before traveling in the Philippines, where he made a lot of friends. After returning to Taiwan, he found his heart was still in the Philippines. Therefore, he started to frequent the areas neighboring St. Christopher's Church and met more Filipino migrant workers.

"Initially, I didn't have any plans for helping these workers. I just found them interesting and wanted to know where they usually went. I once visited St. Christopher's Church on a Sunday, where I was the only Taiwanese among those who spoke Tagalog." As he befriended these migrant workers, he heard a lot of stories about how they were trying to make it on their own in Taiwan. That got him thinking about what he could do for them.

Accordingly, he began with the idea of a migrant worker business school and taught the migrant workers simple business concepts, enabling them to learn something and better themselves during the holidays so that they could start their own businesses when returning home. This became the predecessor of One-Forty.

## SEEING MORE OPPORTUNITIES FOR CHANGE IN THE CITY

In Chen's and Zhang's point of view, the overall treatment of the migrant workers today has significantly improved compared to the past. More and more organizations are noticing such issues and coming forward. Though it's not easy for the government to quickly adapt regulations to the rapidly changing social context, courses are gradually emerging for workers to enhance their language skills, professional abilities, and living capabilities. "If I were an Indonesian living in Taipei, there are a lot of activities and courses I could attend during the holidays," Chen says, "Of course, the precondition is that these activities are

1. **Coming from different professional fields, Chen Kaixiang (right) and Zhang Zheng (left) share the same goal by way of different reasons: to fight for migrant workers in Taiwan.** (Photo / Lin Guanliang)
2. **4-Way Voice was established in 2006 and comes in several Southeast Asian languages. The publication aims to make the lives of migrant workers richer and more interesting.** (Photo / Lin Guanliang)



well-delivered to the migrant workers. I came across events intended for migrant workers that were only promoted with Chinese posters. The workers couldn't even read them."

In recent years, many enterprises have started to recognize the needs of Southeast Asian migrants and organize activities for them. For example, a book sharing event by Taipei 101 was initiated in response to Brilliant Time Bookstore launching a campaign for Indonesian migrants to read books in Indonesian. The National Palace Museum even cooperated with One-Forty to promote Southeast Asian-language audio tours specifically for migrant workers.

## EMPOWERMENT AND EXPLORATION OF THE IMAGINATION

Zhang holds some 300 talks at Brilliant Time Bookstore per year. After one sharing event about the Philippines, a young person asked, "Having done so much, do you see any improvements in Taiwan because of you?" After giving it some thought, he asked whether the young person learned a little more about the Philippines after this event. He believes that if one person understands one more thing, 10 audience members at one talk would find out 10 things. After 300 talks, 3,000 more things will be made known.

Chen, on the other hand, mentions that One-Forty had two major tasks since 2015. One is empowerment courses for migrant workers, and the other is to help Taiwanese find out more about migrant workers and generate more interactions between the two groups. "These two tasks seem to be in different directions, but because we think both are equally crucial, we have to do both."

To this, Zhang responds, "I think both tasks have the same level of necessity!" He picked up the thick bound volume of 4-Way Voice from the bookshelf, which includes every issue ever published since its founding. "The founding purpose of 4-Way Voice was for migrant workers to have something to read that's in their first language. However, we later realized that if we want them to live well, the Taiwanese people will also have to treat them well.

This definitely had to be promoted to the Taiwanese population." Zhang and Chen were the first to see and the first to act, with the expectation that the Taiwanese people and the migrant workers will co-construct a great society. <sup>1</sup>



**Chen Kaixiang**

An NGO worker and the co-founder of the nonprofit organization One-Forty. After graduating from university, he was exposed to Southeast Asian cultures during his travels in the Philippines. This led him to pay attention to issues related to Southeast Asian migrant workers in Taiwan. He hopes to help migrant workers acquire a professional skill on top of working in Taiwan.

(Photo / Lin Guanliang)

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**Zhang Zheng**

Zhang Zheng, a member of the media, has long paid attention to issues related to Southeast Asian new residents in Taiwan and foreign laborers. He founded 4-Way Voice and acted as its chief editor. He is currently the Director-General of Radio Taiwan International and in charge of Brilliant Time Bookstore.

(Photo / Lin Guanliang)





## The Muslim Experience in Taipei

Living and Traveling in the City — A Conversation with Taipei Grand Mosque Imam Dr. Ibrahim Chao

WORDS BY  
Rick Charette

PHOTOS BY  
Yenyi Lin, Taiwan Scene, Liu Jiawen

*In a sit-down beside the mosque's prayer hall, the good Dr. Ibrahim Chao (趙錫麟) discusses the origins of Taiwan's Muslim community, the local Muslim experience growing up, and today's travel experience for Muslims both local and from afar.*

Dr. Ibrahim Chao is an unusually cosmopolitan man. Among the professional hats he wears: Taipei Grand Mosque (台北清真寺) Imam, Chief Sharee'ah Advisor with the Chinese Muslim Association (中國回教協會), and part time professor in Arabic and Islamic studies at National Chiao Tung University (交通大學). Among professional hats worn in the past: diplomat representing the Republic of China in Libya and the Middle East for more than 20 years.

Chao has borne witness to Islamic history in Taipei his entire life. The gentle professor invited us into the Taipei Grand Mosque to talk about his memories from the old days, and share his insights on Muslim culture in Taipei.



## THE MUSLIM PAST IN TAIWAN

According to Chao, today Taiwan is home to approximately 60,000 Muslim residents, of which about 90% belong to the Hui (回; ethnically Chinese adherents of Islam) ethnic group. There are also about 150,000 foreign Muslims working in Taiwan, primarily from Southeast Asia. The island has 11 mosques, with the Taipei Grand Mosque the oldest and largest.

There have been three waves of Muslim migration, says Dr. Chao. Islam first reached Taiwan when Muslims from the mainland Chinese province of Fujian (福建) came with Zheng Chenggong (鄭成功), aka Koxinga (國姓爺), on his campaign to oust the Dutch from the island in the 1660s. Their descendants were eventually absorbed into the general Han Chinese population.

The second wave came with the Nationalist exodus to Taiwan from China at the end of the Chinese Civil War in 1949. About 20,000 Muslims came, and many of them were soldiers and government employees, including Dr. Chao's grandfather.

The third wave began in the 1980s. Muslims in their thousands have migrated from Thailand and Myanmar, seeking a better life. These are primarily descendants of Nationalist military personnel that escaped to this region following the Communist

victory in the Chinese Civil War. A well-known neighborhood surrounding Huaxin Street (華新街) in New Taipei City's Zhonghe District (中和), immediately south of Taipei, is called "Little Burma" or "Burma Street", chock-full of theme eateries, cafes, and shops. It is located close to MRT Nanshijiao Station (捷運南勢角站). Taipei itself has no such concentration of Muslim residents.



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| 1 | 2 | 1. <b>Taipei Grand Mosque is not just a center for Muslim to gather but also a historical building in Taipei.</b><br>(Photo / Yenyi Lin)                          |
| 3 | 4 | 2. <b>Chao has witnessed Islamic history in Taipei for more than 30 years and shared his insights on local Muslim culture with TAIPEI.</b><br>(Photo / Yenyi Lin) |
|   |   | 3, 4. <b>There're plenty of collections in Taipei Grand Mosque are given by foreign Muslim who had visited the mosque.</b><br>(Photo / Yenyi Lin)                 |









## || MUSLIM IN TAIWAN

The Imam states that Muslims face no discrimination in any form in Taiwan. In full agreement with this is the Chairman of the Taipei Grand Mosque Foundation, Omar Wang (王保新) — Dr. Chao's lifelong friend — who is sitting in on the interview. Taiwan's geo-position has made it “a crossroads of humanity,” Dr. Chao states, “and the different groupings have learned to get along with and support each other.”

Many fellow citizens may not even be aware that an individual is Muslim, says Chao, because in outward appearance and most habits local Muslims blend in seamlessly with the Han Chinese majority. There is a philosophical life approach in the Muslim world that you “create your own environment” — meaning that when it comes to prayer and such matters you adjust so that you can maintain peace and harmony in your life by not forcing others to change their ways. It is the inner sincerity of your belief, your personal relationship with Allah, that counts, not external display.

Today, there are many public Muslim-friendly facilities, but in times past it never seemed much of a problem. “Taiwan's Buddhist roots mean many vegetarian eateries,” says Wang, “and in any event, Muslims tend to gather with each other in private quarters, preparing food communally.” He has fond memories of his Taipei university days, gathering with fellow Muslim students from Taiwan and around the world. Both Wang and Chao have vivid memories of their younger days when Halal slaughter and meat preparation could be carried out in private homes in the city.



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1. **The domed roof of Taipei Grand Mosque is about 15 meters high, and is supported without any beams.** (Photo / Yenyi Lin)
2. **Muslim in Taipei come to the mosque for praying and finding peace.** (Photo / Yenyi Lin)
3. **Chao (right) and his lifelong friend Omar Wang (left) both have vivid memories of the establishment of Taipei Grand Mosque.** (Photo / Yenyi Lin)

Both also have bright memories of the proud and colorful day when the Taipei Grand Mosque was formally opened. The Byzantine-style mosque was built in 1960 according to the tenets of the Islamic religion and Arabic architecture. The domed roof, 15 meters high, is supported without beams. With space for a thousand worshippers, visitors can find both local and foreign Muslims gathering every Friday from 12:00 pm to 1:15 pm for Jumu'ah (Friday Prayers). Standing solemn and proud on Xinsheng South Road facing tree-rich Daan Park, today this stately mosque has become a visible symbol of Islam in Taiwan.



## || MUSLIM-FRIENDLY TAIPEI TRAVEL

Dr. Chao states that the travel experience for Muslim visitors, in Taipei and throughout Taiwan, has been impressively advanced over the past two decades. In recent years, Taiwan has consistently been named one of the top non-Muslim country destinations in the MasterCard-CrescentRating Global Muslim Travel Index (GMTI), and right at the top for travel safety.

The Taiwan and Taipei governments are very aware, he states, “that in contrast to the norm among Western travelers, who engage in much individual DIY adventuring, Muslim travelers have a preference for group travel, with family members and/or friends and associates.” The city government is engaged in a systematic years-long promotion campaign to attract tourists from Southeast Asia, and works with tourism industry enterprises to develop targeted preferential travel packages. Special Muslim-friendly guided tours have also been put together.



The government, says Dr. Chao, works closely with the Chinese Muslim Association to improve and expand Muslim-welcoming facilities. Special amenities such as prayer rooms and facilities for both ritual and minor ablution have been set up in public locations, notably in transportation stations. Taipei Main Station — the biggest hub in Taipei — is one of the examples that provides prayer rooms for Muslim travelers as well as foreign workers from Southeast Asia.

The association also does vetting for a restaurant and offers a hotel certification program providing Halal, Muslim, and Muslim-friendly labels. In cooperation with the Tourism Bureau, Muslim travelers can easily find a list of Muslim-friendly restaurants and hotels online. Hotels like the Madison Taipei (慕軒飯店) provide prayer timetables, prayer rugs, and the QIBLAH mark for Muslim's use in the room. In coordination with the Taipei City Government, many vendors at Taipei's Raohe Street, Ningxia (寧夏夜市), Nanjichang (南機場夜市) and other night markets also have "pork free" and "non-alcoholic" signage posted.

When asked about areas where he would like to see improvement in the Muslim-traveler environment, Dr. Chao states that he would like to see expansion of Muslim-friendly facilities in more public spaces, such as government buildings, hospitals and parks — especially in places either popular or commonly used by Muslims both local and from overseas. As well, he states, it remains too common that extant Muslim-friendly facilities in public places are found inaccessible; posted contact information for responsible quick-response service personnel would be a big help.



## ★ More Information

For more information on Muslim-friendly services, visit the "Muslim-friendly Taipei" section on the Taipei City Government travel website ([travel.taipei/muslim](http://travel.taipei/muslim)) and the "Muslim-friendly Environment" section on the Taiwan Tourism Bureau website ([eng.taiwan.net.tw](http://eng.taiwan.net.tw)); the Tourism Bureau has also published a booklet, Taiwan Travel Guide for Muslims, also available online.

## IN TOWN JUST A DAY OR TWO — THE DOCTOR'S TOURING RECOMMENDATIONS

We live in a globalized world, says Dr. Chao, and by definition the Muslim traveler who likes to travel the world and chooses Taiwan as destination is more cosmopolitan. Thus, those who visit Taipei have a thirst for knowledge and experience that leaps far beyond what can be called "Muslim matters."

His first example — a day-tour for nature lovers. Taipei is one of the few cities in the world where, in a single day, you can leave the urban core and spend time both up in the high mountains and down by the frothy ocean. It's also one of the world's few cities with a national mountain park looking directly down into it. Yangmingshan National Park takes up the upper reaches of the multi-peak Yangmingshan (Mt. Yangming) massif, and visitors enjoy choices ranging from the lyrical floral landscaping of Yangming Park (陽明公園) to a moderate-grade hour-long hike up fumarole-decorated Mt. Qixing (七星山), an extinct volcano. The mountainsides slide down right to the ruggedly photogenic rocky north coast, and in the port town of Tamsui (淡水), easily reached via the Taipei Metro, visitors can enjoy leisurely cycling on Taipei's extensive riverside bike-path system.

A second example — a day-tour for foreign-culture aficionados. An unbeatably entertaining and educational way to explore Taiwan/Taipei traditional religious and folk culture is with visits to two of the world's most impressive Chinese temples, Longshan Temple (艋舺龍山寺) and Baoan Temple, both located in thriving old-time market areas in the west of the city. As is the norm with large-scale Chinese temples, both also have neighborhood night markets, originally set up long ago to service the needs of the streams of worshipers. Visit these to explore Taiwan's horizonless world of traditional and newfangled snack-treat treasures.



Invariably, visits to these places will raise myriad “big picture” questions regarding Taipei’s development. Perhaps the city’s best place to find answers is the Discovery Center of Taipei (台北探索館), a multi-floor facility right inside Taipei City Hall that has first-rate exhibits, many interactive, on Taipei’s past, present, and future.

Naturally, Dr. Chao also recommends that a Taipei Grand Mosque visit be put on every traveler’s itinerary, Muslim and non-Muslim alike. Guided group tours are available in numerous languages, with advance notice required. As well, if in town at the right time, don’t miss the annual Eid al-Fitr Celebration in Taipei, an invaluable public window into the Taipei Muslim-community experience. The community turns out en masse, yet is far outnumbered by non-Muslim revelers. Staged in Daan Park by the city government, attractions of this festive event include a themed market with treasures from Muslim communities around the globe along with cultural performances and outdoor lectures. **T**

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1. *For those who enjoy cultural experiences, Chao suggests visiting temples to learn more about local life. (Photo / Liu Jiawen)*
2. *Yangmingshan National Park is especially suitable for friends and families who like outdoor activities. (Photo / Taiwan Scene)*





# Celebrating the One-Year Anniversary of Same-Sex Marriage: Gay Couple's Fatherhood Dreams

WORDS BY

Zhang Kaihong

TRANSLATION BY

Joe Henley

PHOTOS BY

Kris Kang, Jay Lin

On May 17, 2019, the International Day Against Homophobia, Transphobia and Biphobia, Taiwan became the first Asian country to legalize same-sex marriage. The legalization of same-sex marriage will reach its one-year anniversary in May of this year, marking an important milestone for human rights not only in Taiwan, but also in the world.

This important day this spring serves as a reminder that love is love, regardless of gender. For gay couple Jay (林志杰) and Jona, this means that they can also enjoy their responsibilities and rights as parents. Let's have a look at their story and experience their happy life of building a family of four in Taipei.

## A HARD-EARNED ORDINARY DAY

For many parents, their child's first day of kindergarten is by turns nerve-racking and highly anticipated. It's no different for Jay and his partner Jona. After work that day, they strolled along tree-lined Dunhua South Road (敦化南路), ready to pick up their twin boys from their first day of school. The journey toward this day, which seems so ordinary for most, has been anything but easy for the couple.

Jay and Jona put a lot of effort into preparing the boys for this important day. Apart from explaining what "going to school" means to their sons and reminding them to be good boys at school, they also offered a precaution: "After you start school, you will often not be at home for the whole day, and daddy won't always be by your side."

In addition to preparing their children mentally, they also had to courageously face their identities as parents. It is perhaps Taipei's friendliness toward the gay community that allows Jay and his partner to walk their children to school, hand in hand, without any cause for concern. Even the teacher embraced the twins with graciousness. The brothers did not cry or cause any trouble; they just nodded, took the teacher's hand, and entered the classroom without a fuss.

## REALIZING THE DREAM FOR A DIVERSE FAMILY IN THE SECOND HALF OF LIFE

Four years ago, through a surrogate mother in the United States who gave birth to his twin boys, Jay and Jona, Jay's partner, 13 years his junior, became fathers. Before that, Jay, aged 40, was an entrepreneur in a stable relationship with his boyfriend and elderly parents who accepted his gay identity. He was considered to have the full package in the gay community — quite a catch. It was not until the crossroads to the second half of his life began to loom that he started to think about the possibility of having a family and raising children. "Perhaps it was a mid-life crisis," Jay says jokingly.

As the saying goes, "It takes a village to raise a child." Jay says that there is no better description than this for a gay family. He explains that for a gay couple to raise a child, the "mother" role doesn't exist. However, assistance from women is necessary in the process. Take the twin boys for example, a lesbian friend in Taiwan had provided the egg, and the womb was offered by a surrogate mother in Southern California, which is the perfect depiction of a miracle realized through the "global village."





*Jay and Jona often appear as a family of four on various occasions, showing the public that love is love.  
(Photo / Kris Kang)*



## A GAY FAMILY'S LIFE IN TAIPEI

Taipei's diversity and tolerance allow Jay to never have to think about how his decisions along the way were different from others. Instead, the recognition from his friends, family members, and even kindergarten teachers has convinced Jay and Jona that what their children have given them is the "sweetest burden" in life.

Gay families may seem different from the typical heterosexual families. However, for Jay's family, apart from one being called "Baba" and another being called "Daddy," they are no different from any other parents in the world. They go to amusement parks and family-friendly restaurants during weekends, their mobile phone albums are full of videos and photos of their sons, and they always put their children first.

There are actually many gay families in Taipei, though most keep a low profile. The Go Go Kids Parent-Child Space (Go Go Kids 親子空間) on Xinsheng North Road (新生北路) is a laboratory

established for children by a lesbian couple. This is a place where families can play games, make cakes, and conduct experiments. If one hopes to meet other gay families or friendly parents, this is just the place to go.

Every weekend, Jay's family of four take trips to the countryside of the Greater Taipei area, setting foot in places like the Taipei Children's Amusement Park (台北市兒童新樂園), Xiangshan (象山, Elephant Mountain), Treasure Hill (寶藏巖), etc. "Taipei is a highly children-friendly city. The density and diversity of family-friendly spaces are better than any city I have ever visited," Jay says. Most importantly, the convenience of the city's public transportation network allows people to go anywhere without any obstructions. Jay, having returned to Taiwan from California, says with a smile that he has not driven in Taipei for 15 years.



### Go Go Kids



12, Ln. 15, Sec. 2, Xinsheng N. Rd., Zhongshan Dist.



11:00am - 5:00pm







1 | 2  
3  
4

1. ***Walking on the streets of Taipei, the open and inclusive atmosphere enables everyone to live freely.***  
(Photo / Kris Kang)
2. ***Jay's satisfied expression shows that having children makes the world a different place.***  
(Photo / Kris Kang)
3. ***The boys' carefree smiles are the greatest consolation in their fathers' lives.***  
(Photo / Kris Kang)
4. ***Jay is lucky to have open-minded parents. Now that he is a father himself, he wants to be a pillar of support for his children as well.***  
(Photo / Jay Lin)

## || CHILDREN ARE, AFTER ALL, LIFE'S GREATEST CONCERN

Some say that raising children is just like starting a business, to which Jay's response is "Yes and no." They are similar in that it requires you to go all in, giving full devotion economically, in terms of your time, and also spiritually. However, the difference is that "You can fail in entrepreneurship; just start over and write a new business plan. You can't do that in raising kids."

After kindergarten, Jay and Jona stroll along Dunhua South Road, heading home, each holding one of their sons. Jay says that at that precise moment, flashes of the children going from primary school, junior high school, senior high school, to university suddenly pop into his mind. Could it be that the children will grow up and leave home so quickly, as though it's just a blink of an eye? "When that time comes, even if you keep chasing, they won't let you hold them anymore," Jay says. "My mother often said that we shouldn't hold our children all the time. Instead, we should teach them about independence from a young age. I never understood that. Independence will happen sooner or later. Until then, I should hold them for as long as I can." Truly, whether you are a father or a mother, love is indeed always the same. **T**







DRINK RESPONSIBLY

## Drinkipedia:

# The Lowdown on Taiwanese Drinks

WORDS BY  
MTT C Team

PHOTOS BY  
Samil Kuo, Kavalan Whisky

Bubble milk tea was invented in 1980s in Taiwan and, over the past three decades, has proceeded to do nothing less than take over the world. While boba stands tall in the beverage world, other Taiwanese handmade drink stores are booming in Taipei as well, not to mention the growing market for craft beers and local whisky.

It's no secret that the choice of beverage is a big part of daily life for Taiwanese. In Taipei, you can find drink stores one after the other, choc-a-bloc on a single street, offering countless new types of drinks and flavors for people to enjoy. TAIPEI has rounded up some of the best drinks you can find in our country's capital. From freshly-squeezed juice to high mountain tea, here's everything you need to know about Taiwanese drinks and the background of each unique store.

### ★ How to Order a Drink? ★

Worried about placing an order at drink stores when visiting Taipei?  
Here are a few simple sentences you should learn, and don't forget that sugar and ice can be adjusted too!

Wo yao (Drink's Name) ! (I want a \_\_\_\_\_ !)

Sugar level

no sugar (= 0%)	low/light sugar (= 30%)	half sugar (= 50%)	less sugar (= 70%)	Standard (= 100%)
無糖 wu tang	微糖 wei tang	半糖 ban tang	少糖 shao tang	正常 zheng chang

Ice level

no ice	low/light ice	less ice	normal	extra ice
去冰 qu bing	微冰 wei bing	少冰 shao bing	正常 zheng chang	多冰 duo bing



# JUICE

## Sugarcane Juice

🔊 / ganzhezhi 甘蔗汁 /

Alexander the Great's General Nearchus once reported, "A reed in India brings forth honey without the help of bees, from which an intoxicating drink is made though the plant bears no fruit." The mystical reed is actually sugarcane, commonly found in Taiwan. Freshly squeezed sugarcane juice can be easily found on street corners at the chain store Sugarcane Mama (甘蔗媽媽). Popular items also include sugarcane juice with milk and sugarcane juice with lemonade. As sugarcane is rich in antioxidants, it can be helpful in fighting infections and boosting the immune system. Now, grab a cup of iced sugarcane juice and raise a toast to good health!



## Fruit Tea

🔊 / shuiguocha 水果茶 /

Yifang Taiwan Fruit Tea (一芳水果茶) specializes in mixing tea and juice. Does that make it tea or juice? Well, judge for yourself! Yifang fruit tea, the most popular item on their menu, contains of a bit of oolong as a base. With lots of passion fruit juice and actual slices of apple and orange in the cup, it's almost like you're eating a plate of fruit. One of their secrets is to add homemade pineapple jam to balance the sourness. Not too sour, not too sweet. It's all about spring!



## Kumquat Green Tea with Greengages

🔊 / qinglong meiguoyin 青龍梅果飲 /

Kumquat Green Tea with Greengages from KOTEA (康青龍) is another drink that elevates tea with juice. With normal green tea as a base, you'll see kumquat flesh spinning in the cup when you give it a stir. With a single sip, you'll find it balances the bitterness of the tea with the contrasting flavors of sweet and sour. Don't forget to rip off the plastic lid when you finish it. There will be two plums at the bottom of the cup. They're the olive in the martini, or the cheese served with the wine. Enjoy!



(Photo / Samil Kuo)



# TEA



## The King's 913

🔊 / jiuyisan cha wang 913 茶王 /

The King's 913 from Ten Ren's Tea (天仁茗茶) mainly consists of high-quality *oolong* tea leaves that are harvested from the mountains of Central Taiwan during spring and winter for the best tasting experience. The relatively lower temperature on the mountains reduces the need for pesticides which subsequently gives the tea leaves a sweeter taste. Moreover, the King's 913 tea leaves are blended with a touch of American ginseng and leaves that give you a genuine mild sweetness. There's a reason why it's called the King. We salute you!



## Signature Black Tea

🔊 / shucheng hongcha 熟成紅茶 /

Signature Black Tea is the best seller of KEBUKE (可不可熟成紅茶). The tea leaves are carefully selected from Sri Lanka and preserved at the right temperature to be well fermented for a year in Taiwan. The fermentation will make the tea into a deeper amber color after brewing. You might find its taste is stronger and more astringent than others, but the sweet aftertaste follows immediately and last even longer. You'll also find a fruity and floral scent when drinking it, which makes it a perfect choice to drink after having greasy or deep-fried food.



## Jade Oolong Tea

🔊 / feicui wulong 翡翠烏龍 /

When Ching Shin (清心福全) was established 30-plus years ago, their only product at the time was *oolong* tea but not everybody's favorite, boba. "Jade Oolong" is one of their signature drinks that was brought to the public in 2012. Using tea leaves picked from high mountains in Taiwan, the crystal green Jade Oolong enchants people with its elegant scent. The classic way of enjoying it is to have it plain. However, sugar can always be added if you prefer.

(Photo / Samil Kuo)



# BOBA

## Pearl Milk Tea

🔊 / zhenzhu naicha 珍珠奶茶 /

Chun Shui Tang (春水堂) is considered among the first tea houses in the world that invented bubble milk tea. You might suppose the tapioca balls are big and flavored with brown sugar like you've tried before. However, at Chun Shui Tang, you'll find their tapioca balls are smaller and less sweet in comparison to others. This is to make the drink less cloying and bring to the fore the tea itself, which is brewed with actual tea leaves, not tea bags. The type of tea leaves, on the other hand, might change depending on the season and weather to make every sip fresh and unique.



## Brown Sugar Bubble with Milk

🔊 / heitang zhenzhu xiannai 黑糖珍珠鲜奶 /

Started from a small shop in Shilin night market (士林夜市), Truedan (珍煮丹) brought the world of bubble tea to another level in 2010 with its pure handmade brown sugar boba. Their tapioca balls are cooked in condensed brown sugar water for hours before they are added to the milk. The thick syrup of brown sugar can be extra comforting when it's served in hot milk. Today, Truedan has extended their empire from Taipei to Canada, Singapore, Japan, Australia and more.



## Bubble Milk Tea

🔊 / zhenzhu hongcha natie 珍珠红茶拿鐵 /

Unlike most shops which always highlight the quality of tea and tapioca balls, Milkshop (迷客夏) specializes in milk. Using no cream or milk powder, Milkshop insists on using certified milk that is properly sterilized. The high portion of milk is the reason why they call their product a "latte" and not just "milk tea" in Chinese. Another feature of Milkshop is the white and chewy tapioca balls. To be more accurate, they are crystal-like jelly balls that contain no food dye. It's not even sunk into brown sugar water at the production stage, just to keep its color clear. Milk lovers, what are you waiting for?



(Photo / Samil Kuo)



# ALCOHOL



## Kavalan Solist ex-Bourbon Single Cask Strength Single Malt Whisky

Many people don't know that Taiwan is producing whisky. Not only is Taiwan making whisky, it's making some of the world's best — laying claim to the No.1 whiskey on the planet. Kavalan Whisky (噶瑪蘭威士忌), has been in production since 2008. Their Kavalan Solist ex-Bourbon won trophies at the International Spirits Challenge, the International Review of Spirits, and many other competitions since 2016. Their bourbon barrels are all made of American oak that has a stronger scent than other kind of wood, which make the whisky dignified and rich.



## Hop Lanterns DDH

Taiwan is somewhat of a surprising paradise for lovers of craft beer. Taihu Brewing (台虎精釀), one of the Taipei-based craft brewers, is the brand you must try if you're in Taiwan. Famous for making limited edition flavors, Taihu never stops surprising beer lovers with their creative ideas. However, if you want a taste that you can find anytime when visiting Taiwan, try Hop Lanterns DDH that is made from five different hops. Follow its fruity and floral fragrance, and enjoy the spring in Taipei!



## 18 Days

You can't beat a nice glass of Taiwan Beer 18 Days. Refreshing and crisp, it's called 18 Days because that's how long it lasts after brewing before it loses its freshness. And, to get you even more into the spring spirit, Taiwan Beer also comes in mango, pineapple, grape and orange flavors. Sweet and fruity, they're a great twist on a classic beverage and perfect for sipping on a balmy spring day.



(Photo / Top: Kavalan Whisky,  
Middle & Bottom: Samil Kuo)



# TRADITIONAL TASTES

## Hot Grass Jelly

🔊 / shao xiancao 燒仙草 /

Hot Grass Jelly is a grass jelly (made from mesona tea) served with toppings such as taro tapioca balls, sweet potato tapioca balls, red beans and roasted peanuts. From its name, you can tell that the best way to have it is to “drink” it when it's hot (though it's almost like you're eating it as you need to use a spoon, not a straw). The dessert is easily found in any night market in Taipei while you might also find it served in different ways, e.g. grass jelly juice, grass jelly on shaved ice, and grass jelly with milk.



## Savory Soy Milk Soup

🔊 / xian doujiang 鹹豆漿 /

Savory Soy Milk Soup, or Taiwanese-Style Soy Milk Soup, is a common item you can find in any traditional breakfast restaurant. It's a bowl of hot soy milk curdled with vinegar and flavored with sesame oil, green onions, pickled radishes and most importantly, the crispy youtiao! Some stores will add dried shrimp to create even more flavor. It might not be the typical “drink” as you imagine, but it's certainly a popular option for breakfast, brunch or even late-night supper for Taiwanese.



## Taro Sago Soup

🔊 / yutou ximilu 芋頭西米露 /

We all know sago is a common dessert in East and Southeast Asia. Most people have it with coconut milk, but here in Taiwan the combination of taro and sago is totally bravo! The sweet taro is cooked in sugar water for hours to create a soft but firm texture. Meanwhile, sago is like mini tapioca balls that melt in your mouth before you chew. Some stores use sugar water as the soup, but you can't go wrong enjoying it with milk. **T**



(Photo / Samil Kuo)



# A Head Chef's Homestyle Take on *Taiwanese Cuisine*



WORDS BY  
Wayne

PHOTOS BY  
Yenyi Lin

You might know Taipei for its distinguishing food culture. When it comes to Taiwanese food, *xiaolongbao*, beef noodles and stinky tofu may immediately spring to mind. But what about the ingredients and other creative dishes that really make Taiwanese cuisine shine under the international spotlight? Last year, out of the 24 restaurants in Taipei that were starred by the

Michelin Guild, at least half of them are proudly known for their innovative style. Restaurants like Impromptu by Paul Lee and Shoun RyuGin use local ingredients, curating a traditional menu with unique recipes and serving Taiwanese food in their own special ways. It almost goes without saying that a new and trendy food culture in Taipei is ready to bloom.





As spring is right around the corner, I've designed three alternative recipes for Taiwanese dishes featuring three traditional spring ingredients — sweet potato, spinach and asparagus. These ingredients are commonly seen in Taiwanese cooking and can be utilized in numerous ways to make amazing dishes. I have also converted what would normally be a complicated restaurant menu into something anyone can easily make at home. Finally, I hope that with a few unique twists, such as adding very common ingredients like Asian basil and shallots, will make the flavor of the dishes "truly Taiwanese!" Here we go.

**Here are the culinary secrets of making Taiwan's most treasured dishes that feature spring ingredients.**



## About the Author



**Wayne** is the head chef and instructor at Make My Day Cooking Lab. He started learning to cook when he lived in Melbourne as an overseas student and established the cooking studio after coming back to Taipei in 2015. Wayne's main expertise is fusion cuisines featuring Italian food and Taiwanese homestyle dishes. To Wayne, the vision of his cooking career is to "exchange culture" by sharing Taiwanese food with visitors from all over the world.



## Make My Day Cooking Lab

📍 4F, 12, Ln. 2, Yongkang St., Daan Dist.

🌐 <http://www.mmdcook.com>

## SWEET POTATO TAPIOCA BALLS WITH CONDENSED MILK

Sweet potato balls are the most common dessert in Taiwan other than the world-famous bubble tea. The texture and the look are similar to Italian gnocchi. Instead of regular flour, sweet potato flour is used to make them softer and puffier. The recipe I demonstrate here comes from my mother. She used to make this for family gatherings. If you have a bit of a sweet tooth, try this and you'll definitely enjoy it. The process is a fun activity for kids, too.



### Ingredients

 Serves 3~4 people

180g mashed sweet potato

70g sweet potato starch

3 tbsp condensed milk

1 cup of milk (optional)



### Recipe

#### Step 1

Wash one sweet potato thoroughly and peel the skin. Dice it roughly into 3x3 cm pieces and microwave for 3 to 4 minutes. Add sweet potato starch and 1 tbsp of condensed milk.



#### Step 2

Smash the potato with a spoon. Mix everything well until the dough is moist but firm.

*(Tip: add some water if the dough is too dry.)*



#### Step 3

Divide the dough into 4 pieces. Make each piece into a long cigar shape. Cut them into 2 cm pieces and reshape them into round balls or any shape you desire. Don't be too fussy.



#### Step 4

Boil the sweet potato balls for a couple of minutes until they float on the surface.

*(Tip: After they float, boil them for another 30 seconds to make sure they're well cooked.)*



#### Step 5

Drain the water and toss them straight into a bowl with 2 tbsp of condensed milk.



#### Optional

Serve with some chilled or warm plain milk. It'll be the kids' favorite afternoon snack!





# HEARTY SPINACH SOUP WITH CHICKEN AND TOFU

The hearty spinach soup is usually part of a full course dinner in high-end Chinese restaurants. I have simplified the cooking process without losing any taste, yet more nutrition is preserved. If you are trying this dish at home, you can also add some seafood, such as fresh anchovies or prawns, to enhance the flavor even more. It's a perfect appetizer to warm up your stomach, and maybe your romantic date too!



## Ingredients

 Serves 3~4 people

250g baby spinach

1 box of soft tofu

1 chicken breast

1 egg

1 tbsp finely diced shallots

1,000ml chicken stock

1.5 tbsp Chinese rice wine

2 tsp tapioca flour + 2 tbsp water

1/2 tsp salt

1/3 tsp sugar

Dash of vegetable oil

Dash of sesame oil

Dash of white pepper



## Recipe

### Step 1

Prepare all the ingredients first. Finely chop the spinach, cut the soft tofu into cubes and cut the chicken breast into 5 cm strips, then finely mince the shallots.



### Step 2

Heat the pan with vegetable oil and stir-fry minced shallots on medium heat for 1 minute. Add the chopped spinach into the pan and stir-fry them for another minute. While waiting, mix the tapioca flour and water in a small bowl for later use.



### Step 3

Pour the chicken stock into the pan and keep cooking on medium heat. Add tofu and chicken breast.



### Step 4

Once the aforementioned ingredients are added, drizzle rice wine and pre-mixed tapioca flour water to thicken the soup. **(Tip: Quickly stir the soup when adding the tapioca flour water to prevent lumps.)**



### Step 5

At this moment, the soup should soon be boiling or close to it. Season the soup with salt and sugar. Don't forget to taste it to make sure it's well-seasoned. Drizzle beaten eggs in the soup and wait for 5 seconds. Then gently stir the soup clockwise a couple of times.



### Step 6

Turn the heat off and garnish the soup with extra white pepper powder and sesame oil. Serve immediately to keep it fresh!



## ASPARAGUS AND PRAWNS WARM SALAD BOWL

The prawn warm salad bowl is quite popular and often seen in proper Chinese restaurants. The dish is known for using ingredients with crispy texture, such as water chestnuts and deep-fried youtiao, but they are not always available in other countries. So, why not use asparagus and cashews? They have a similar texture and, more importantly, asparagus cannot be more “spring” for this season. Asian basil is added to enhance the flavor. If you are having a party at home, definitely try this flavorful and mouthwatering dish to kick off the night.



### Ingredients

Serves 3~4 people

- 6 asparagus
- 10 deshelled prawns
- 1 cup of cashews
- 1/2 egg white
- 1/2 tsp white pepper powder
- 1 tsp tapioca flour
- 4 pieces lettuce
- 1/2 diced onion
- 1/2 tsp minced ginger
- 1 minced scallion
- 3 minced garlic cloves
- 2 tbsp roughly chopped basil
- Dash of salt



### Recipe

#### Step 1

Prepare all the vegetables first. Crush cashews, dice the asparagus, scallions, onion, garlic, and ginger, and set aside.



#### Step 2

Rinse lettuce thoroughly and cut the head from top to bottom in half, making the lettuce into a bowl-shape.

*(Tip: Soak them in a bowl of ice water for 1 minute to make the texture crispy. Drain and set aside afterward.)*



#### Step 3

Dry the prawns with paper towel. Cut into small pieces and marinate with the egg white, white pepper, salt and tapioca flour. Set aside for 10 minutes.



#### Step 4

Heat the oil in your pan, then stir-fry the prawns until they are 80% cooked.

*(Tip: Do not stir fry until it's well-done. Take the prawns out of the pan and set aside. Leave that 20% to cook later.)*



#### Step 5

Re-heat the pan and use the remaining oil from the previous step to stir-fry the diced onions until browned and softened. Then add garlic and ginger into the pan to stir-fry too.

*(Tip: to avoid burning the pan, add some water when stir-frying the onions.)*





**Step 6**

Add all the diced asparagus along with the almost-cooked prawns and fry on high heat for another minute.  
(Tip: Time control is very important here. The prawns should be cooked very soon as they have already been stir-fried. Asparagus should not be over-cooked as you'll want to keep the crispy texture.)



**Step 7**

Turn the heat off and sprinkle some cashews, scallions, white pepper, basil and salt. Taste it to make sure it's well seasoned.



**Step 8**

Serve them in the lettuce bowl. Enjoy! 



## TRAVEL INFORMATION

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

### TAXI

**Service locations:** West side of the Arrivals Hall of Terminal I and west side 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:** Terminal 1 bus pickup point: Bus pickup zone at B1 Arrivals Hall. Terminal 2 bus pickup point: Bus pickup zone at the east arcade of the 1st floor Arrivals Hall.

**Shuttle-service companies:** Kuo-Kuang Motor Transportation, Evergreen Bus, Citi Air Bus

**One-way fare:** NT\$65~145

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

**Schedule:** Every 15~30 minutes

### TAOYUAN AIRPORT MRT

**Service Locations:** A12 Airport Terminal 1 Station & A13 Airport Terminal 2 Station

**One-way fare:** NT\$150

**Service Time:** First train - to Taipei 05:57 / to Airport 06:00 ; Last train - to Taipei 23:35 / to Airport 23:37

## METRO TAIPEI

**Service Hours:** 6:00am - 12:00 midnight **Customer Service Hotline:** (02) 218-12345

### METRO TICKETS



**ONE-WAY TRIP TICKET**  
NT\$20 - NT\$65



**DAY PASS**  
NT\$150



**24HR PASS**  
NT\$180



**48HR PASS**  
NT\$280



**72HR PASS**  
NT\$380

### IC CARDS

Easy Card (left) and iPASS (right) are available at MRT stations and convenience stores. Just add value before entering the system; the fare for each journey will be deducted appropriately. These cards also have an e-purse function for use at convenience stores and other authorized businesses, and for YouBike rentals.



### TAIPEI FUN PASS

There are three types of Taipei Fun Pass available: the Unlimited version (attraction+transportation), Exploring version (attractions+Easy card) and Transportation version (transportation only). You can visit Taipei City, New Taipei City and Keelung City within the validity of the pass.



**Unlimited**  
1 Day Pass/2 Day Pass/  
3 Day Pass  
NT\$1,200/1,600/1,900



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



**Transportation**  
1 Day Pass/2 Day Pass/  
3 Day Pass/5 Day Pass/  
Maokong Gondola  
1 Day Pass  
NT\$180/310/440/700/350

## TRAVEL INFORMATION SERVICES

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

**Information for Foreigner in Taiwan:** 0800-024-111

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



**Taipei Sightseeing Bus**  
(02) 8791-6557 ext. 6006



# FunPASS TAIPEI



funpass.travel.taipei

## Exploring Version



2 DAY NT\$ 700 3 DAY NT\$ 900 4 DAY NT\$ 1,100

## Unlimited Version



1 DAY NT\$ 1,200 2 DAY NT\$ 1,600 3 DAY NT\$ 1,900

## Transportation Version



1 DAY NT\$ 180 2 DAY NT\$ 310 3 DAY NT\$ 440  
5 DAY NT\$ 700 Maokong Gondola 1 Day NT\$ 350

## Attraction Tickets

Up to 20 creative arts and science park attraction admissions including Maokong Gondola, Juming Museum, Miniatures Museum of Taiwan, Miramar Ferris Wheel etc.

16 Must-see attractions in Northern of Taiwan such as Taipei 101, National Palace Museum, Yehliu Geopark, etc.

## Transportations

After topping up, can take

- ✓ Taipei Metro
- ✓ Buses
- ✓ Taiwan Tourists Shuttle Bus

Unlimited rides on

- ✓ Taipei Metro
- ✓ Taipei City, New Taipei City and Keelung Buses
- ✓ Taiwan Tourists Shuttle Bus

## Selected Stores Offering Discounts

### Card Validity

Attraction Tickets: 2 Days, 3 Days or 4 Days  
EasyCard: Top up before using

1 Day, 2 Days or 3 Days

1 Day, 2 Days, 3 Days, 5 Days or  
Maokong Gondola 1 Day

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Taoyuan International  
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Taipei Metro -  
Information Kiosk at  
all stops



EasyCard Service  
Center in Taipei City  
Hall Bus Station



Taipei Metro  
Three information booths are set up in Ximen Station,  
Taipei Main Station, Songshan Airport Station



Purchase your card at official webpage, then pick up the  
card at pickup points. (Please refer to official site for  
more detail)





# All You Need to Know About Novel Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19)



**Caution !**

## About Coronavirus



How it spreads:  
contact and droplet infections

Incubation  
period:

✓  
**14**  
DAYS

## Reminder:

If you're having a fever, coughing, or experiencing shortness of breath, please wear a mask and seek medical advice ASAP. Return to your home and do not participate in any outdoor activities.



## Epidemic Prevention



Wear a mask  
if coughing



Wash your  
hands often



Avoid  
crowded spots



Do not interact with  
wild animals or birds

## Who should wear a mask

**1**

Whenever going to a hospital or a clinic

**2**

When having respiratory symptoms

**3**

Chronic patients

## Environmental cleaning

**Environmental disinfection can be done by using  
chlorine (with bleach) and water (chlorine / bleach : water = 1 : 100)**



Epidemic prevention line:

**19222** or dial  
02-2375-3782



Department of Health, Taipei City Government

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