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DISCOVER TAIPEI

Dt

JAN. / FEB. BIMONTHLY 2012

# Spring Prayers and Blessings

Celebrating the Chinese New Year in Taipei

Chinese New Year Prayers : A DIY Guide

Taipei Spring Prayer and Blessings Tours

Exploring the Aesthetics of Chinese Calligraphic Art

Festival Joy – Taipei's Love of Decorative Lanterns



TAIPEI



JAN. / FEB.  
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# Spring Prayers and Blessings

## Celebrating the Chinese New Year in Taipei

The year 2012 has arrived, meaning a fresh start for us all. And the people of Taipei have even more reason to celebrate this year, since the city was recently chosen to host the 2017 Summer Universiade. This happy news will add that much more to the air of festive revelry during the soon-to-begin Chinese New Year holidays, before government and citizens move forward in unison to prepare for what will be Taiwan's largest-ever international sporting competition.

Since the Chinese New Year season is fast approaching, our special theme this issue is "Spring Prayer and Blessings – Taipei Journeys." We'll be taking you on tours following local citizens around town as they head to temples to pray for good fortune in the year to come, and also tell you about all the many small, symbolic New Year traditions people follow to invite blessings and good fortune.

In our Taipei's Best Foods & Gifts section we help you to find traditional New Year foods and the most memorable gifts, while in Mapping the Taipei Lifestyle we take you on a tour of the old Dadaocheng community on foot and by bike, and for some New Year "Big Street" shopping, rounded off with an exploration of the extensive nearby riverside park. The New Year celebrations close with the beauty and boisterous colors of the Lantern Festival. The 2012 Taipei Lantern Festival sees two key international artist villages adding to the bedazzling artistry with an ambitious festival of lights.

At this time of year, "All things begin again, and all things are new." In this same spirit, this issue of *Discover Taipei* introduces several new features, in a continuing effort to best match your needs and interests. For example, in this issue's In-Depth City Culture Explorations section we introduce the beauty of Chinese calligraphic art. There is also a new feature presenting a practical mini-classroom to you on Mandarin Chinese and Taiwanese. We truly hope our new introductions help you to enjoy even more in-depth, interesting, and rewarding explorations of this city's endless beauties and fascinating culture.

Those of you with a passion for the world of cultural-creativity design will especially enjoy our new section titled The Taipei Quest – World Design Capital. Taipei is bidding for World Design Capital honors in 2016, and an endless stream of attractive new "points of design light" are being brought online, changing the face of the city. In this issue we visit one of the city's bright new green jewels, Songshan Cultural and Creative Park, showcase and incubator of this city's deep-flowing currents of design energy. We also report on such momentous events about to hit the city stage as the 2012 Taiwan International Festival of Arts and two exhibitions focused on its animation arts.

The Year of the Dragon is here, and a time to begin anew. *Discover Taipei* has a fresh new look and a new approach, so let's head out on an exploration of a city that's also in the process of inventing a whole new look for itself. 🐉

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



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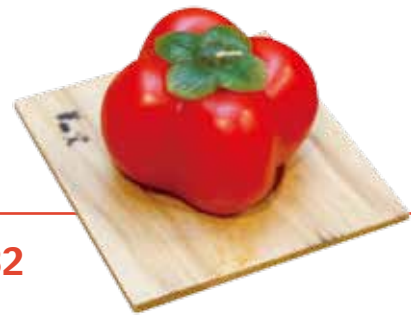
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# Chinese New Year Prayers : A DIY GUIDE

In the Chinese-speaking world, the Lunar New Year is considered a time of transition, one of fresh starts and new beginnings. This is the best time to ask the powers that be — the gods — for blessings and fortune. Many rise bright and early on Chinese New Year's Day to go to a temple, where they burn incense sticks, light a Bright Fortune Lamp (光明燈), and ask the gods for good fortune to arrive and any black clouds in their lives to be dispersed. If you're in Taipei over the festive period, why not do as the locals do and head to temple as well, where tourists are common and most welcome. It's certainly a wonderful opportunity to gaze directly into the religious life of the local people and observe all the small ways they go about praying for blessings during the New Year.

The custom at many temples is to open their doors anywhere from 11 pm on New Year's Eve to 1 am New Year's Day (most either exactly at 11, or at midnight), following an ancient tradition when daily time was counted in two-hour periods. Crowds rush in, individuals racing to be the first to stick their incense sticks in the ash-filled censer, for it is traditionally believed that being the first ensures good luck in the year to come. Many temples in fact do not close their doors on New Year's Eve, keeping their doors open into New Year's Day to accommodate all who want to come and pray for the first time in the New Year as early as possible.



2



1

There is a specific sequence that must be followed when praying, which is often posted at temple entrances, with the ritual, the names of gods and the order in which they are to be approached explained. The usual way to start is facing the outermost hall, praying to the Heavenly Lord (天公). Next turn around and face the temple's main god seated in the main hall, pray to that god, then move about praying to the other gods. Proceed from left to right, front to back, and from the ground level upwards.

twin blocks to the floor. If the blocks fall with one flat, one convex, the god has agreed with your request, for you have the “sacred combination” (聖杯). Two flat sides up are called “laughing blocks” (笑杯), meaning the god has not yet decided or your request is unclear; you must clarify your request and ask again. With two convex sides you have *yin* or “*yin* (dark) blocks” and the answer is negative (*yin* as in *yin/yang*). Before drawing divination lots, must first cast the divination blocks, once again first stating your name and request. If you get the sacred combination, you can then draw a bamboo lot



3



4



5

Before praying, it is best to clean your hands. Then, with respectful attitude, lift up the incense sticks with your hands together, or raise your hands with palms together and fingers pointed upward, and begin your prayer. The practice of ceremonially burning spirit money is no longer followed at most temples in eco-friendly Taipei, and for the same reason temples will now light and place a single incense stick in a censer for worshippers, and allow no more. Voluntary donations can be given to the temple, literally called “adding incense and oil money” (添香油錢). Those wishing to further demonstrate their devotion can present fresh flowers, fruit, cakes or crackers, placing them on the tribute table. These are taken home after prayer (when their “essence” has been absorbed by the deity) to share with the family.

When praying, inform the deity of your full name, date of birth, and address, and formally ask that your request be heard. An alternative form of prayer involves presenting your request by throwing divining blocks (擲筊杯) or drawing divining lots. Divining blocks are made of wood or sometimes plastic, they are shaped like a crescent moon, one side flat, the other convex. Inform the god of your full name, the year, month, and date of your birth, your address, and your request, then cast the

with a number on it from a container. Next throw the blocks again to see if this is the correct lot. If you get the sacred combination again, go to the chest of drawers containing divination poems, take one matching the number on your bamboo lot from the drawer, and give the poem to the counter staff for interpretation.

Now that you have the basics of the worship and prayer process, you're ready to head out along with local folk on their New Year rounds, visiting temples and beseeching blessings from on high. And what do most locals pray for? The four classic themes are peace and health, wealth, attainment in studies and career, and a happy marriage. 🍵

1. When throwing blocks, an affirmative answer is called the “sacred combination” (one flat side and one convex side showing).
2. When praying put palms together and piously present your wish. Fresh flowers and fruit can be presented.
- 3-4. When using divination lots, first take divination blocks, tell the god your personal info and wish, and cast them. If affirmative, take a numbered lot, ask if it's the right one, and if affirmative take a divination poem of the same number.
5. Because divination poems are cryptic, temple staff help interpret.

# TAIPEI SPRING PRAYER AND BLESSINGS TOURS



## Peace and Health Tour:

Xingtian Temple, Dalongdong Bao'an Temple,  
Songshan Ciyou Temple

### Xingtian Temple – Shoujing and Beseeking Fortune

The main deity at Xingtian Temple (行天宮), located on Minquan East Road (民權東路), is Guansheng Dijun (關聖帝君) or “Saintly Emperor Guan.” He was originally a great general from China's Three Kingdoms period, and is the God of War. The temple opens its doors each day at 4 am to the sound of a gong. It does not close on Chinese New Year's Eve, and a solemn prayer and worship ceremony begins at midnight, inviting the new year to the sound of bells and gongs.

At this temple you can witness a special service called *shoujing* (收驚), which literally means “retrieving the soul.” In traditional belief, a person might feel lethargic or have trouble sleeping because the soul has received a fright and fled; this service coaxes it back. The service is held weekdays from 11:20 am to 9:30 pm (no service during New Year holidays from January 22nd to 27th). You'll see sufferers lined up in the main courtyard, attended to by female personnel in blue robes who pray for their soul while waving incense about each person's body.

### Dalongdong Bao'an Temple – Lighting Lamps, Beseeking Well-being

This temple, located in the old Dalongdong (大龍峒) community, is one of the city's, and the country's, key historic sites. The main deity is the God of Medicine, Baosheng Dadi (保生大帝), the “Great Emperor Protecting Life.”

Many devotees specially come here to ask for physical health and well-being, and during the New Year period until the Lantern Festival the temple offers lamp-lighting and services to pacify *Tai Sui* (安太歲). *Tai Sui* is the heavenly god charged with watching over





the world in the year to come. You can light a Bright Fortune Lamp (光明燈) to request “brightness” in your life; the lamp representing a clearly lit path and clear understanding of what has true meaning and what does not. The act also shows reverence for the God, as you ask for peace and contentment. The temple stays open all through the night on New Year's Eve, and the “Praying for Peace Bell-Ringing Ceremony” is conducted at 11 pm, during which a bell is sounded 108 times, which symbolizes blessings for the public and the dispelling of negative influences.

### Songshan Ciyou Temple – Pacifying Tai Sui, and Lighting Lamps for Prevention of Disasters

Located in front of Songshan Railway Station (松山火車站), close to Raohe Street Night Market (饒河街夜市), Songshan Ciyou Temple (松山慈祐宮) is dedicated to Mazu (媽祖), the Goddess of the Sea. The temple has five levels, each hall enshrining different deities; on the second you find *Zhu Sheng Niang Niang* (註生娘娘), the Goddess of Birth, with the midwife Du Yuniang (杜玉娘) and the Twelve Great Aunts (十二婆姐) on either side. It is said Du was a local figure who would not take a cent for her services, later becoming an object of prayer for those seeking smooth and safe childbirths.

In the rear hall's second level, you'll see lamps used in “pacify *Tai Sui*” services. This year is the Year of the Dragon, and people born in Dragon, Dog, Ox, and Rabbit years are thus in conflict with the sign of the year's *Tai Sui* and risk a year of bad luck. To prevent this, they should write their birth date, the traditional two-hour time period in which they were born, and their address on a piece of red paper, then ceremonially present it to the God. Temple personnel will thereafter

say a prayer for them on the 1st and 15th of each lunar month, requesting a year of safety and peace.

### Wealth Tour:

Zhinan Temple, Guandu Temple God of Wealth Cave, Monga Qingshuiyan Zushi Temple

### Zhinan Temple – Lighting Lamps for the God of Wealth

Zhinan Temple (指南宮), dedicated to Lu Dongbin (呂洞賓, one of the Eight Immortals) is on Zhinan Road, in the Maokong (貓空) area, and is one of Taiwan's most sacred Daoist sites.

Within the complex are three large halls: Lingxiaobao Hall (凌霄寶殿), Daxiongbao Hall (大雄寶殿), and Dacheng Hall (大成殿). Within Daxiongbao Hall is a golden Sakyamuni Buddha, a gift from a Thai field marshal. Made from nine precision-cast metals, this is the temple's most distinctive Buddha icon. Those wishing to pray for wealth and prosperity can pray to the gods enshrined on second floor of Lingxiaobao Hall, then present their wishes to the God of Wealth on the first floor. The wealth lamps here are said to be especially efficacious.

1. Xingtian Temple offers a rarely observed *shoujing* service.
2. Xingtian Temple's main deity, Guansheng Dijun, protects the local community.
3. Each year Dalongdong Bao'an Temple offers lamp-lighting and pacifying *Tai Sui* services to help devotees deflect calamity and ensure peace.
4. Songshan Ciyou Temple's Goddess of Birth receives many pleas from believers wishing for a child.

5. The golden Buddha at Zhinan Temple's Daxiongbao Hall.
6. Prayer under the plafond in Guandu Temple's God of Wealth Cave brings a change of magnetic field and of luck.
7. The gods in Guandu Temple's God of Wealth Cave are very powerful, attracting many.
8. Monga Qingshuiyan Zushi Temple has four special talismans said to beckon wealth and luck.
9. The nose of the main Qingshuiyan Zushi Temple god is said to fall off as a warning of calamity.
10. The prayer wall at Taipei Confucius Temple is filled with prayer tablets from students about to take exams.



## Guandu God of Wealth Cave – Requesting Wealth and Fortune

Guandu Temple (關渡宮) is dedicated to Mazu, and is northern Taiwan's oldest temple dedicated to the Goddess. Built against a cliff, perhaps its most special feature are its two caves, one dedicated to Avalokitesvara, the other to the Five Directions Gods of Wealth (五路財神). The latter gets an unusually heavy and steady stream of believers during the New Year season.

The cave stretches tens of meters. After praying before each of the five gods, visitors can then light God of Wealth lamps, use divination poems for guidance, burn special five-color “wealth-beckoning five-directions money,” or stand under the plafond (the richly decorated ceiling) and pray. According to Japanese believers who visited in the past, the cave's magnetic field is able to change the direction of one's fortune.

## Qingshuiyan Zushi Temple – Four Talismans that Beckon Wealth

Located in the Wanhua District (萬華區), Monga Qingshuiyan Zushi Temple (艋舺清水巖祖師廟) has a wooden plaque on the front of the main temple. Presented by the Qing Dynasty's Guangxu Emperor commemorating China's success in the 1884-1885 Sino-French War, this is one of Taipei's few examples of boards with imperial script. The temple's main god, Qingshui Zushi (清水祖師) or “Ancestral Patriarch of Qingshui,” was brought over by immigrants from China's Anxi County in Fujian Prefecture, where he was the area's guardian deity. Legend has it that the nose of this icon will drop off to warn of impending natural disaster.





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When praying for wealth here you must first light three incense sticks and pray to the God of Wealth, asking which of four talismans embroidered with representations of animals from the Chinese zodiac you should take with you: a dog, ox, dragon, or sheep. Toss a pair of divining blocks to confirm the God's decision, and finally carry the correct talisman on your person to draw riches toward you.

## Attainment in Studies and Career Tour :

Taipei Confucius Temple, Wenchang Temple

### Taipei Confucius Temple – Requesting the Gift of Wisdom

The Taipei Confucius Temple (臺北市孔廟), dedicated to the Great Sage and his key disciples, is a National Historical Relic of the Third Rank. Many come here seeking good fortune in examinations, and there is a stipulated “Line of Prayer” to follow. First enter the grounds by the Hong Gate (夔門), then proceed through the Li or “Courtesy/Etiquette” Gate (禮門, formally called the Lingxing Gate (櫺星門), symbolizing respect for the Sage. Next enter Dacheng (Great Accomplishment) Hall (大成殿) for the formal worship rites.

To begin the worship rites, first place your hands before your chest, palm over fist. Fix your eyes on the Confucius tablet, report your basic personal details, state your request, and bow three times. The temple bell will then be sounded to indicate completion of your prayer ritual. After this you can proceed to the other shrines, bowing at each to show respect. Talisman pouches and wisdom pens are sold here to help ensure success in studies or exams; alternatively fill out a prayer card and affix it to a special blessings rack.



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### Wenchang Temple – Sacrificial Offerings Plus Lamp Lighting, Two-Pronged Entreaty Approach

Wenchang Temple (文昌宮), located close to MRT Shuanglian Station's Exit No. 2, is Taipei's only temple consecrated to Wenchang Dijun (文昌帝君), the “Emperor of Prospering Culture,” popularly known as the God of Literature (he is often a secondary god in other temples). This site is extraordinarily busy each exam season, and teachers at local cram schools (補習班) also regularly bring groups of students.

Students usually come to pray just before an exam, bringing their exam-admission ticket and the clothes they will wear, plus some green onion, celery, preserved osmanthus petals, tangerine leaves, two bottles of mineral spring water, or *baozi* (包子, stuffed steamed buns). These ingredients, which are all sold in the market before the temple, and each has a specific symbolic meaning, due to auspicious words which have a similar pronunciation in Chinese. In this way green onion is associated with “intelligence, (both are pronounced “cong” )” “celery” with “diligence,” “osmanthus” with “elite bearing,” “tangerine” with “luck,” “spring” with “a fountain or steady spring of ideas,” and so on. The food is later brought home, cooked and eaten by the student. Round items such as eggs and fish balls must never be used, however, for they symbolize a perfect “0” exam score. The osmanthus and tangerine leaf are taken home, washed, and then placed in water for the student to wash with. Finally the mineral water is drunk by the student in the countdown to the exam.

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11. Each exam season, students come to Wenchang Temple for last-minute blessing requests.

12. Students offer such symbolic prayer items as green onions, celery, and white radish, which can bring exam luck.



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15



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## Happy Marriage Tour:

Meeting the Old Man under the Moon at Taipei XiaHai ChengHuang Temple, Zhaomingjing Temple, Lungshan Temple

### Taipei XiaHai ChengHuang Temple – Lead Coins and Red Threads Lead to Tie-the-Knot Bliss

Since old Dadaocheng community's earliest days Taipei XiaHai ChengHuang Temple (台北霞海城隍廟) has been the center of religious belief in the area. Inside what is a surprisingly small temple, considering its importance, is an even more surprising legion of almost 600 deity statues. One is the Old Man under the Moon (月老), Chinese culture's answer to Cupid, so efficacious he is known far from Taiwan, with a noticeably high number of visiting Japanese visitors.

Each year thousands of couples come to the temple to fulfill vows made to the Old Man under the Moon when they first came looking for his help. In 2010 it was an incredible 6,566. The best days to pray to the Old Man under the Moon are the 15th of the first lunar month, February 14th (Western Valentine's Day), on the 7th of the seventh lunar month (the traditional Chinese Valentine's Day), and on the 15th of the eighth lunar month (the Old Man under the Moon's birthday). Before starting to pray, prepare three incense sticks and gold spirit money (金紙); first-timers must also prepare traditional wedding or "happiness" candy (喜糖), a lead coin, and a red silk thread (all sold at the temple).

After lighting and presented the incense, state your full name, address, the year, month, and date of your birth, your preferences in a romantic partner, and what pledge you wish to make to thank the god when successful. Next eat some of the sweets others have offered in fulfillment of vows, and drink some "peace tea" (平安茶). Taking the lead coin and red thread, go to the censer at the front of the temple and circle it three times, carrying these items. The process is now complete, and you must begin your patient wait for love's arrival. Once engaged, come back to redeem your vow, when the temple will present you with a small fabric pouch with an embroidered image of Old Man under the Moon; take this home, place the coin and thread in it, and put it in a chest of drawers or wardrobe to ensure enduring matrimonial bliss after the big day arrives.

### Zhaomingjing Temple – Using Pledge Tablets in the Search for True Love

Located on Beitou's Chongyang 7th Road (崇仰七路), Zhaomingjing Temple (照明淨寺), often simply called Zhaoming Temple, was built in 1961, its exterior architecture designed in the style of a Thai temple. Enshrined in the main hall is the Four-Faced Thousand-Hand Guanyin (四面千手觀音), the Goddess of Mercy, who attends to people's health, marriage, life "brightness," and wealth.

When praying at this temple for your destined marriage partner to appear, you must prepare dedicated marriage-prayer writing paper, a pledge tablet, and a red thread (all of which are sold at the temple). First stand before Guanyin, either holding up incense sticks or placing palms together before your chest. Now write your desires on the paper and your fulfillment pledge on the tablet, place the paper in a dedicated box inside the hall, and take the tablet to the pledge pool (許願池) area, hanging it in the pledge pavilion (許願

14



亭). Finally take the length of red thread home, place it under your pillow, and await destiny's arrival.

## Longshan Temple – Using Red Thread to Bind Up a Happy Marriage Fate

Longshan Temple (龍山寺), a National Historical Relic of the Second Rank, is a place always busy and always filled with incense smoke. The temple's Old Man under the Moon, enshrined in the rear hall, is one of the city's more powerful, and all year round the sacrificial table before him is piled with bridal cakes from those who found love thanks to the Old Man.

When making an entreaty, hold up incense sticks and state your full name, birthday, address, and the type of person you are looking for, and request the present of a red thread from him (the threads are piled in front of him). Now cast divining blocks and if you come up with the “sacred combination” (聖筊) three times in a row, (one flat side upwards, the other with the convex side up), you can take a thread with you and keep it on your person, thus “binding” your fate.

The Chinese New Year period offers great opportunities for getting out and seeing just how local



folk go about their lives and, especially, how they seek guidance along their life paths through worship and prayer. Whatever it is you seek most — Mr or Miss Right, career promotion, riches, success in exams, or simply health, peace and happiness — there's no harm in paying a visit to a temple in Taipei and stepping up to the deities who can improve your fortune. It'll be an unforgettable travel experience, and the people around you will welcome your interest in their age-old beliefs and customs. 📍

**13-14.** The Old Man Under the Moon at Taipei XiaHai ChengHuang Temple helps with romance; to pray, “happiness” candy, a lead coin, and a red thread are needed.

**15.** Zhaomingjing Temple's distinctive look emulates Thai temples.

**16.** The pledge pool area at Zhaomingjing Temple has many pledge tablets hung up by those seeking true love.

**17.** Longshan Temple's Old Man Under the Moon even attracts believers from overseas.

## Information

### Xingtian Temple 行天宮

**Add:** 109, Sec. 2, Minquan E. Rd. (民權東路2段109號)  
**Tel:** (02) 2502-7924  
**Hours:** 04:00~22:30  
**Website:** www.ht.org.tw

### Dalongdong Bao'an Temple 大龍峒保安宮

**Add:** 61 Hami St. (哈密街61號)  
**Tel:** (02) 2595-1676  
**Hours:** 06:30~22:30  
**Website:** www.baoan.org.tw

### Songshan Ciyou Temple 松山慈祐宮

**Add:** 761, Sec. 4, Ba'de Rd. (八德路4段761號)  
**Tel:** (02) 2765-9017  
**Hours:** 06:00~23:00  
**Website:** ssyg.myweb.hinet.net

### Zhinan Temple 指南宮

**Add:** 115 Wanshou Rd. (萬壽路115號)  
**Tel:** (02) 2939-9922  
**Hours:** 06:00~23:00  
**Website:** www.chih-nan-temple.org

### Guandu Temple 關渡宮

**Add:** 360 Zhixing Rd. (知行路360號)  
**Tel:** (02) 2858-1281  
**Hours:** 06:00~22:00  
**Website:** www.kuantu.org.tw

### Monga Qingshuiyan Zushi Temple 艋舺清水巖祖師廟

**Add:** 81 Kangding Rd. (康定路81號)  
**Tel:** (02) 2371-1517  
**Hours:** 06:30~21:00

### Taipei Confucius Temple 臺北市孔廟

**Add:** 275 Dalong St. (大龍街275號)  
**Tel:** (02) 2592-3934  
**Hours:** Tues~Sat 08:30~21:00, Sun and national holidays 08:30~17:00 (closed Mon)  
**Website:** www.ct.taipei.gov.tw

### Wenchang Temple 文昌宮

**Add:** 9, Lane 45, Minsheng W. Rd. (民生西路45巷9號)  
**Tel:** (02) 2521-0366  
**Hours:** 06:00~21:00  
**Website:** www.wunchang.org.tw

### Taipei XiaHai ChengHuang Temple 台北霞海城隍廟

**Add:** 61, Sec. 1, Dihua St. (迪化街1段61號)  
**Tel:** (02) 2558-0346  
**Hours:** 06:30~19:30  
**Website:** tpecitygod.org

### Zhaomingjing Temple 照明淨寺

**Add:** 51, 53 Chongyang 7th Rd. (崇仰七路51、53號)  
**Tel:** (02) 2894-1362  
**Hours:** 08:00~17:00

### Longshan Temple 艋舺龍山寺

**Add:** 211 Guangzhou St. (廣州街211號)  
**Tel:** (02) 2302-5162  
**Hours:** 06:00~22:00  
**Website:** www.lungshan.org.tw



UNIVERSIADE  
TAIPEI 2017



## Hoorah! Taipei's Been Chosen as Host for the 2017 Summer Universiade

Yes it's on. Taipei city has built up a mountain of experience hosting big international events—the 2009 Taipei Summer Deaflympics, the 2010 Taipei International Flora Expo, the 2011 Taipei World Design Expo—and is more than ready to stage what are called the “little Olympics,” the 2017 Summer Universiade. The honor is all the greater in light of the sterling competition Taipei was up against, Brazil's capital city, Brasilia. This will be the largest sporting event ever held in the country.

splendidly successful large-scale international events made a strong impression on the selection committee. And the 2017 games, the mayor has promised the committee, will be the best and most splendid yet.

Among the numerous big international sporting competitions, the city has successfully staged over the past decade was the 2001 Baseball World Cup, 2002 International Children's Games, 2004 FIFA Futsal World Championship, and the spectacularly successful 2009 Summer Deaflympics. Individually and collectively, these are evidence of the city's mastery in hosting the biggest competition gatherings in the world of sport.

The key in being selected, however, is of course the quality and quantity of the city's sporting venues. Taipei City is world-class in both respects, with many large-scale competition facilities already in place, and will be even more ready in 2017, for there are also a number of venues either in the blueprint stage or already taking shape. Existing facilities include the Taipei Stadium (臺北田徑場), Taipei Arena (臺北小巨蛋), and Taipei Physical Education College Gymnasium (臺北市立體育學院體育館); among those becoming or soon to become reality are the Taipei Dome (臺北大巨蛋), to be used for the opening and closing ceremonies, and the Taipei Tennis Center (臺北網球中心) and Taipei Basketball Arena (臺北籃球館). All will fully meet international competition standards.

Taipei City mayor, Hau Lungbin (郝龍斌), states that Taipei is a city of sports and is primed to take on the task, having staged many international competitions, being home to countless sports aficionados, and having a large base of university students. All these were recognized by the organizing committee, he says, and played key roles in winning Taipei the right to host the Universiade. In recent years, Taiwan athletes have enjoyed a stellar run of success in international meets, and the great run experienced by the city in hosting





Asian Green City Index, and among the many related measures that have been successfully undertaken is the promotion of waste reduction, recycling of resources, and transformation into a green-energy city. In terms of health enhancement, each of the city's 12 administrative districts has its own sports center, each with its own special set of top-flight facilities, all made available at prices affordable for one and all. Both locals and foreigners—expatriates and visitors—are welcome, and come in great numbers. All visitors also soon find that Taipei is a very tech-friendly city; among the many amenities is a free-use wireless Internet-access network that continues to be expanded, ensuring Taipei visits are smooth, seamless, and information-rich.

According to survey results, 70% of Taipei citizens support the city's acting as host for the 2017 games. In a warm display of the Taiwanese people's renowned hospitality, a series of special welcoming benefits will be enjoyed by athletes during the games, including free use of the Taipei Metro system, discounts on air tickets, their own EasyCard (悠遊卡) with 70 Euros in stored value, and waived visa fees. Perhaps the most special initiative, however, will be the establishment of a commemorative hall after the event where a unique collection of related artifacts will be on display and where the new records set by the most outstanding athletes will be honored.

Over the next six years the city of Taipei will be hard at work, working hand in hand with the International University Sports Federation (FISU), to ensure that the 2017 Summer Universiade will be one of the best ever. To the 12,000 athletes coming from 160 participating countries: "See you in Taipei!" 📺

1. A happy group photo of the Taiwan team at the announcement that Taipei had been chosen by the FISU to host the 2017 Summer Universiade.
2. Taipei Arena is one of the city's premier facilities for indoor sports.
3. Taipei Stadium has seating for over 20,000.
4. The Taipei Dome, under construction, will serve as a first-rate platform for sporting competitions and also opening and closing ceremonies.
5. Taipei's 12 district sports centers are very popular with local residents because of the five-star facilities available at reasonable rates.

## Information

### Taipei Sports Office 臺北市體育處

**Add:** 10, Sec. 4, Nanjing E. Rd. (南京東路4段10號)

**Tel:** (02) 2570-2330

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

International University Sports Federation (FISU):  
[www.fisu.net](http://www.fisu.net)



# Minglun Hall at the Taipei Confucius Temple becomes a 4D Theater

Take a tour of the Taipei Confucius Temple (臺北市孔廟) at the moment and you're sure to discover a creative new way of showcasing traditional culture. The temple is a popular spot with locals and foreigners looking for tranquility and old customs, and with the surge in interest in all things Confucian in recent years the Taipei City Government has taken active measures to promote understanding of this crucial aspect of Chinese culture. Now, in a startling innovation for such a decidedly solemn and august venue, the Minglun Hall (明倫堂) at Taipei Confucius Temple has been transformed into a 4D theater!

This temple is a key heritage site, and a fine example of traditional temple architecture from Fujian, a province in southern China from where the majority of Taiwanese originally came, centuries ago. While there be sure to take in the Taipei Confucius Temple Six Arts Experience Multimedia Exhibit (臺北市孔廟多媒體六藝體驗展), an interactive installation that teaches you about the life of Confucius, the special features of the ancient Yi Dance (佾舞), the system of Confucian rituals, and other fascinating topics. Travel through time and space

for a visit with the Foremost Sage and Teacher (至聖先師) and a stimulating session of cultural exchange.

The good people that take care of the Confucius Temple have also asked experts on Confucianism, theater design consultants and multimedia companies to work together in making the grand transformation of Minglun Hall into a 4D theater, where two 4D virtual-reality special-effects films are now being shown.

The two films are entitled *Confucius* (孔子) and *Taipei Confucius Temple* (臺北孔廟). In the 13 minute-long first film, experts explore the significance of historical references to the Spring and Autumn and the Warring States periods, as well as images of other related subjects such as dress, sculptures of Confucius, and the elderly and aging. Traditional glove-puppet theater plays a key role in this novel presentation, transporting you into the life of Confucius and regaling you with wondrous 4D special effects such as falling snowflakes all around, as well as pulsating vibrations. Expect to be immersed in an innovative world of sensation the like of which you've never experienced before! 🎬



## Information

### Taipei Confucius Temple 臺北市孔廟

**Add:** 275 Dalong St. (大龍街275號)

**Tel:** (02) 2592-3934

**Hours:** Tue-Sat 08:30~21:00, Sun and national holidays 08:30~17:00 (closed Mon)

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

1. The new Minglun Hall 4D theater uses special effects to draw you into a virtual-reality world.

2-3. The Taipei Confucius Temple Six Arts Experience Multimedia Exhibit, an interactive installation, teaches visitors about the life of Confucius, the ancient Yi Dance, Confucian rituals, and other interesting matters.

4. Minglun Hall at Taipei Confucius Temple has been recreated as a 4D theater.



# The Rebirth of Taipei Songshan Airport – New 180° View Deck

Taipei Songshan Airport is going through a renaissance of sorts, reimagining itself and taking on new functions and a new look. It remains a key island hub for business travelers, and now a little fun is being added to the airport experience with an observation deck that gives great views of the surrounding cityscape. The old airport of the past 40 years is no more; instead, with the opening of new observation deck, it has recast itself as a tourist destination in its own right.

The deck, on the roof of Terminal 2, is the only observation deck in Taiwan specially designed for watching aircraft taking-off and landing. The observation space is large, measuring about 1,800 square meters, and can accommodate 500 to 600 people comfortably. It is set up like a lounge, has been designed for comfort, and has attractive wood flooring and comfy chairs. The environment is clean, neatly arranged, and safe, and features seating from the celebrated Twig series, imported from Spain. Created by Alexander Lotersztain (who has been called one of the world's ten most influential designers) the modular seats double as sculptures, and are visually very pleasing. At night they radiate a wonderful soft glow that adds even more to their chic look and feel.

The deck also has an area for light foods and drinks, and sitting down with a nice cup of coffee while taking-in the 180-degree panorama is a fine way to wile away the time. The view encompasses the Miramar Entertainment Park with its rooftop Ferris wheel (美麗華摩天輪), Dajia Riverside Park (大佳河濱公園), and the Grand Hotel (圓山大飯店), all backed by the majestic Datun Mountain Range (大屯山系). As night falls, the colorful lights of the city are lit, adding an air of romance and making this a popular spot for sweethearts.

Another new and interesting attraction at Songshan Airport is the special display wall that has been set up on the third floor of Terminal 2, showing all the various types of aircraft flown by airlines operating out of the airport. You'll find this a great help when heading back up to the deck for a round of plane-spotting. Whatever time of day you come — in the bright afternoon, as dusk arrives, or during the twinkling night hours — your outlook on Taipei will change. Why not come at several different times, and get to know the international city of Taipei in all its moods! 📷



## Information

### Taipei Songshan Airport View Deck 臺北松山機場觀景台

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

**Tel:** (02) 8770-3460

**Hours:** 09:00~21:00 (free entry)

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

1. Attractive Taipei scenery and views of planes taking off and landing can be enjoyed from the Songshan Airport's view deck.
2. Taipei Songshan Airport's chic, innovative view deck is a scenic sight in itself.
3. The Twig-series chairs, imported from Spain, are sleek, artistic, modular, and look like sculptures.
4. A Terminal 2 display wall on the third floor shows the many different planes flown by local and international companies.



# The City in New Makeup, and Brand-New Costumes

## Taipei's "Old Building New Life Awards"



Building exteriors collectively form the face of a city, determining its level of beauty. To bring new life to Taipei's rich trove of historic old buildings, the city government actively promotes urban renewal and transformation, encouraging citizens to carry out renovation and protective maintenance on the exteriors of these invaluable gems. In 2001, the city launched the Urban Colorful Makeup Movement, bestowing awards on those who have brought new life to heritage structures, recognizing the best urban-renewal projects that coordinate environmental concerns with innovative ideas.

The 2011 "Old Building New Life Awards" (老屋新生大獎) divided projects into a number of

categories, including the repair and regeneration of historic buildings, the greening of building exterior and night-illumination, and citizen-initiative home renovation and maintenance. In this issue, we take you on a tour of the year's winners, including the Gold Award winners in the public architecture category, "Huashan 1914 Creative Park Red Brick Area Architectural Renovation Project" (華山創意園區紅磚區建築修復工程案), as well as the Silver Award winner, Luoyang Car Park (洛陽停車場), along with the Gold Medal winner in the commercial architecture category, Qingtian Geo 76 (青田七六), the Silver Medal winner, Daughter's Café (朵兒咖啡館), and the co-winners of the Bronze Medal, Café Trouvé (找到咖啡) and Lao Bu Xiu (老不修).

# Public Architecture

## – Adding Beauty Spots to the Face of the City

### Gold Medal

#### Huashan 1914 Creative Park Red Brick Area Architectural Renovation Project



The Gold Medal winner in the Public Architecture section, the Huashan 1914 Creative Park Red Brick Area Architectural Renovation Project, was the work of architect Xu Boyuan (許伯元) and his architectural firm. This project gave new life to a complex long left idle and in a state of decay, transforming the warehouses into performance and exhibition venues and making a once decrepit site a welcome complement to the surrounding community landscape. This is a superb example of comprehensive best-practice planning and design.

The Red Brick Area is near the intersection of Beiping East Road (北平東路) and Hangzhou North Road (杭州北路). The seven buildings, which have stood here since the early 20th century, were constructed for industrial use, and feature red-brick walls and wood-frame roofs. After the original industrial enterprise moved out, the structures were used as warehouses, but as usage declined over the years, the complex became ever more dilapidated, and the red of the brick faded. Weeds, vines, and other plants began to take over, damaging the structural integrity of the buildings and also strangling the life out of them.

After eight long years of dedicated effort, the transformation team successfully restored the Red Brick Area to its original glory. The exteriors add to the elegance of Huashan 1914 Creative Park, and the interiors are bright, airy, and welcoming. The red bricks of the walls contrast nicely with the wood framing, and the disorderly and dark growth has been magically replaced with attractive green plants and tree cover with an emphasis on representative local species. This is an old-yet-new site of distinctive design and one-of-a-kind personality.

1. The Red Brick Area was long in a state of disrepair, creating a dead corner.
2. Trees and other refreshing elements were brought to the Red Brick Area, now a performance venue.
3. The red-brick buildings, now used for exhibits, have attractive interiors of red brick and wood.

## Silver Medal



Before

### Luoyang Car Park

Luoyang Car Park (洛陽停車場) is an important public facility located near Taipei Main Station. Architect Chang Huaiwen (張懷文) used white FRP (fiber-reinforced polymer) on the surface of the exterior walls, which reflects the hot summer sun, and beautified the original façade of alternating red and white, thus enhancing the visual texture of the car park, nearby public housing, and surrounding environs. On the façade a white grill, the spaces between filled with green foliage, serves as a filter for vehicle exhaust, and produces shading that reduces energy usage, reduces carbon dioxide emissions, and helps in diminishing the urban heat-island effect.



After

At night, low-energy LED lights on the white exterior grill transform the building into a "city light box" and make it one of the most visible nightscape landmarks in the Taipei Main Station area.

The "City Light Box" changes its nightly colors with the seasons, with blue and green in spring and summer for a cool feel, and orange and yellow in autumn and winter for a warmer tinge. Hues are different at different levels, and the color gradient changes slowly, the different warm and cool tones giving rise to noticeably different interaction with the environment.

## Commercial Architecture – Old Buildings, New Uses, Big Functions

### Gold Medal



Before

### Qingtian Geo 76

This venue is named for its location: No. 7, Lane 6, Qingtian St. (青田街) The structure was built in 1931 by a Japanese microbiologist who had come to Taiwan to teach. After the end of World War II in 1945, the eminent geologist Ma Tingying (馬廷英) moved in. In 2006, in recognition of its deep historical value the Taipei City Government declared the building an official city heritage site, and in May of 2010 entrusted management responsibility to Goldenseeds Education Organization (黃金種子文化事業有限公司), which formulated a blueprint for maintenance and re-use. In June of 2011, this venerable



Japanese-style residential work, a place filled with stories and memories, was opened to the public, doubling as a small museum and a dining space.

The design concept for Qingtian Geo 76 says the management team is to "preserve all the traces of history, tell all people's stories." In cleaning and fixing up the venue, doing their research and recording all

observations and data, and in ongoing maintenance, the team has carefully retained all the design concepts of the original owner. Inside, the original wood architectural elements have been reintroduced, and evidence of the lives of the former occupants have been retained as well, including scrawls made by Professor Ma's children and such homey touches as hanging hooks and ceramic light switches.

Outside, the courtyard area has also been restored to its original look and character, the big trees have been retained and the original plant species reintroduced. A 2,000-year-old camphor wood unearthed here in the Taipei Basin has been displayed, and a collection of Taiwan rock samples is displayed on a wall. Several interesting large boulders have been arranged around the courtyard, making full use of the outdoor space as a living classroom for science.

## Silver Medal



### Daughter's Café

Daughter's Café, on Fujin Street (富錦街) in the Minsheng Community (民生社區), is in what was originally a private residence. The old apartments of the facility were transformed into a café setting for the 2010 film *Taipei Exchanges* (第36個故事), serving as its main location, and when shooting wrapped the set was again transformed: this time into a real café that has become very popular, due both to the movie and to the café's great coffee.

According to the design firm, BIT Production Co. (積木影像公司), since the café was set up as a movie set, film-aesthetics and film-shoot considerations were placed front and center. Since very little has been changed, when customers walk in today, the setting still retains the look and feel of a sound stage. For example, look up and you'll see the light racks installed on the ceiling.

The color scheme at the café is a lively melody of blue and white, matching the ceramic-tile mosaic

4. Today's Daughter's Café was in the past an old derelict residence.

5. Daughter's Café, with its clean and bright exterior, had its genesis as a film set built for a Taiwan movie.



work and the timber of the bar. The drawings on the wall add a touch of romance, and the addition of a dome invites natural light in, brightening what was originally a much darker and more subdued space, increasing the natural light enough to create a central courtyard of rich green foliage. The pretty scene has made Daughter's Café a favorite Fujin Street drop-in spot.

6. The café interior is a melody of blue and white; the hand-done drawings on the wall add a touch of romance,

(Photo courtesy of Daughter's Café)

## Bronze Medal



### Café Trouvé

The facility that today is home to Café Trouvé was in days gone by a rooming house for professors at National Taiwan University. The original wood structure was built during the Japanese colonial period in 1941. Cement walls and a tin roof were added later. The facility had been left empty and had fallen into a state of disrepair. According to Project Ecolé Studio (學設計劃工作室), which carried out the recent award-winning renovation, because this building was not a protected heritage site, they had much more room for maneuver in terms of design and construction work, and were thus able to both return the building to its original historical appearance while at the same time incorporate the aesthetic concepts of the local community.

Balancing appearance and safety considerations, metal beams were put in within to reinforce beams weakened by termites. Incense cedar was used to replace the original rain-protection wood boards outside. Raised wood frames were introduced to a section of the unused asphalt-covered area outside for use as a garden and children's play area.

In the courtyard you'll find a fecund plant assortment, including the Chinese yam, lemon tree, and original white mulberry. Another section of unused space has been set aside as a fire lane, shared with neighbors, the wall is adorned with the work of artists, adding a touch of aesthetic flair to the environs. Sharing the Café Trouvé is an associated shop, Mooi (魔椅), which specializes in vintage imported home furnishings. The result is a unique venue retaining the flavor and character of an old Japanese living space that features distinctive yet complementary old furniture from Germany.



### Lao Bu Xiu

The co-winner of the Bronze Medal in this category was "Lao Bu Xiu" (老不修), located beside Central Park (中央公園) in the Minsheng Community. This takes up a corner area of the first floor in a seven-story apartment building built nearly 30 years ago. The renovation was done by 6636 Advertising and Creativity (陸陸參拾陸有限公司), which transformed it into a multifunctional space, while also housing an advertising design office and serving as a sales point for self-designed creative merchandise.

Before formal work on the renovation began, a half-year was spent fixing leaks and during this time the surrounding work-site fencing was decorated with pictures and words painted by the property owner (who works in creative advertising and is a gifted illustrator). one section explained the source of the property's name: "When a house gets old, how can you not repair it? There's no hyaluronic acid, no botox, no anti-wrinkle treatment. This little bit of humor brought much attention while the renovation work went on, with many passersby stopping to enjoy the art and figure out what was going on behind the fence.

The "old building, new life" inspirations we've introduced to you here are just some of the many lovely restored old buildings that pepper Taipei's streets. Take some time to explore the back lanes and alleys and you are sure to come across many more restoration success stories, which bring sparkling new faces to invaluable old places and brighten local communities. Happy hunting! 📍

7. Café Trouvé has used timber framing on the outside to create an outdoor garden.
8. Numerous trees have been planted at Lao Bu Xiu, greatly enhancing its appeal.

## Information

### Public Architecture

#### Gold Medal

**Huashan 1914 Creative Park**  
**Red Brick Area Architectural**  
**Renovation Project**  
 華山創意園區紅磚區  
 建築修復工程案

**Add:** 1, Sec. 1, Bade Rd.  
 (八德路1段1號)

**Tel:** (02) 2358-1914

**Hours:** 11:00~21:00

**Website:** www.huashan1914.com

#### Silver Medal

**Luoyang Car Park**  
 洛陽停車場

**Add:** 1, Sec. 1, Huanhe S. Rd.  
 (環河南路1段1號)

**Hours:** Open daily year-round

**Tel:** (02) 2381-2484

#### Bronze Medal

**Dadaocheng Urban Academy**  
 大稻埕城市書院

**Add:** 155 Dihua St. (迪化街155號)  
 in middle section of Dihua Street  
 Historic District (迪化街歷史街區)

### Commercial Architecture

#### Gold Medal

**Qingtian Geo 76**  
 青田七六

**Add:** 6, Lane 7, Qingtian St.  
 (青田街7巷6號)

**Tel:** (02) 2391-6676

**Hours:** Weekdays 11:30~21:00  
 weekends/holidays  
 09:00~21:00

**Website:** www.geo76.tw

#### Silver Medal

**Daughter's Café**  
 朵兒咖啡館

**Add:** 393 Fujin St. (富錦街393號)

**Tel:** (02) 8787-2425

#### Bronze Medal

**Café Trouvé 找到咖啡**

**Add:** 4, Lane 16, Taishun St.  
 (泰順街16巷4號)

**Tel:** (02) 2365-5653

#### Lao Bu Xiu 老不修

**Add:** 1, Alley 8, Lane 36, Sec. 5,  
 Minsheng E. Rd.  
 (民生東路5段36巷8弄1號)

**Tel:** (02) 2768-5266

### Residential Architecture



Rear area of Heping Community  
 和平社區後巷新生命

#### Silver Medal

**Residential building at 188,  
 Sec. 6, Nanjing E. Rd.**  
 集合住宅南京東路6段188號

**Add:** Residential building at  
 188, Sec.6, Nanjing E. Rd.  
 (集合住宅南京東路6段188號)

#### Bronze Medal

**Rear area of Heping Community**  
 和平社區後巷新生命

**Location:** On the corner of  
 Bangka Boulevard and  
 Shuangyuan Street.  
 (艋舺大道及雙園街口)



## EXPLORING THE AESTHETICS OF CHINESE CALLIGRAPHIC ART



Chinese calligraphy is one of the quintessential representatives of Chinese culture and of Oriental art, perfectly capturing the aesthetic beauty of the Chinese character. This revered art form has been practiced for several thousand years, and for today's visitors looking to explore Chinese culture at a deeper level, Chinese calligraphy is an excellent place to start.

Though some Chinese characters are undeniably complicated, the study of calligraphy is not as hard as is often imagined. Many locations in Taipei offer instruction, and to get started all you need to do is purchase the classic “four treasures of the study” (文房四寶: brush, paper, inkstick, and inkstone), and choose a suitable class time. Basic materials in hand, you're set to begin a fascinating journey; learn the basic strokes, and look forward to slowly unveiling the many secrets of this most Chinese of art forms.

In this issue we have asked celebrated calligrapher Shi Chunmao (施春茂), the head of The Republic of China Society for Calligraphy Education (中華民國書法

教育學會), to teach you the basics. Shi points out that there are a number of calligraphy styles – Regular Script (楷書), Cursive Script (草書), Semi-Cursive Script (行書), Seal Script (篆書), and Clerical Script (隸書) – each with its own historical evolution and artistic qualities, and that each work of calligraphy is like a painting on a canvas, and should be viewed in a similar way.

The study of calligraphy has many benefits, among them the practice of learning both inner and exterior stillness. Calligraphy incorporates many of the skills of painting, the changing form of the characters expressing meaning and emotion in a similar way, and thus in mastering the craft you'll not only learn to write beautifully with an aesthetic sensibility, but also build character, cultivate a higher state of mind and mood, and enhance your artistic literacy.

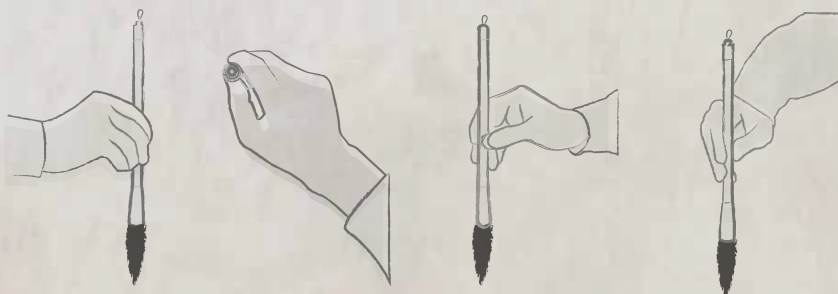
Chinese culture is filled with stories of great calligraphers, among which Wang Xizhi's (王羲之) is perhaps the most compelling. Wang lived during the Eastern Jin Dynasty (東晉, 317-420 CE), and legend

has it that he loved geese, believing that rearing the creatures also cultivated one's own character, and temper. He also believed that the swaying gait of the goose while on land, and its graceful, flowing bearing when in water taught the calligrapher how to hold and wield one's brush in order to compose finer calligraphy. One day Wang decided to buy a flock of white geese that had been raised by a Daoist priest; the priest wanted no money, but instead asked Wang to write out part of a classic Daoist text on spiritual self-cultivation. Wang readily agreed, and the "Wang Xizhi exchanges calligraphy for geese" (王羲之書換白鵝) story was born. In another famous story known to all the Chinese-speaking world, once, while on a sightseeing trip, Wang saw an old woman hawking fans. Wang, noticing she was selling nothing, kindly took her fans and composed some calligraphy on each. The batch was sold out in an instant, demonstrating old China's veneration for the beautifully written word.

Calligraphy has a supple and broad-minded character. It has struck sparks of surprise and inspiration with those adept in other types of art. For example, Lin

Hwaimin (林懷民), founder of Taiwan's internationally acclaimed Cloud Gate Dance Theatre (雲門舞集), drew his inspiration for the stage work *Cursive: A Trilogy* (行草三部曲) from the art inherent in calligraphy. In this inspired creation, the dancers seem, almost miraculously, to become a work of calligraphic art before the audience's eyes. *Cursive* has inspired high praise overseas, including the claim that this piece is the very definition of 21st-century dance, and that even if audience members have no previous knowledge of Chinese characters, the effect is still very powerful, for Chinese calligraphy knows no spatial or cultural boundaries.

Master Shi Chunmao has been practicing his art for 40 years. He's also served as teacher to more overseas students than he can count. Shi says that whatever skill you wish to master, you must proceed with a clear method, and in clear steps. In calligraphy, the first class involves learning how to hold the brush properly and learning the proper seating position. Though learning how to write beautifully takes a very long time, if you do not master brush-holding and proper seating in the beginning you are doomed to failure.



Holding the brush properly involves five principles: a flat wrist, a vertical palm, brush upright, fingers concentrated, fist with middle hole. This allows for maximum suppleness and dynamism of stroke.

1. Proper calligraphy technique is, first, to hold the brush straight and to sit upright.
2. Calligraphy is an art form that most fully displays the aesthetic beauty of Chinese characters.

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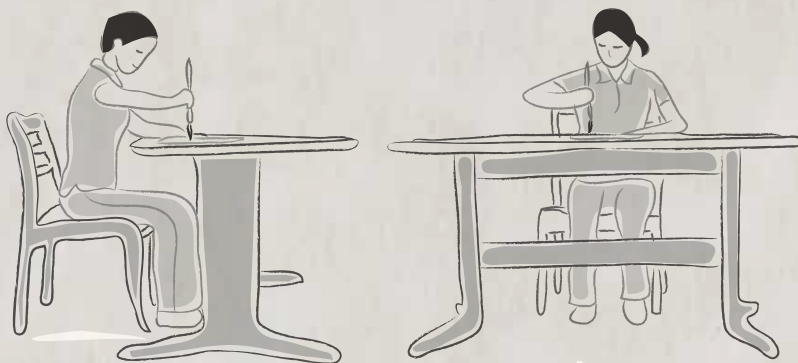
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Apart from holding the brush correctly, proper posture, plus the height and distance between table and chair are also of crucial importance. When correct, these together enable the calligrapher to create the most fluid and natural strokes. Your back must be kept straight and your posterior must be flat on the front two-thirds of the chair, with your body's center of gravity in the chair's center. Keep your chest a fist-width away from the table, following the maxim “no touching of front to table, no touching of back to chair.”



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In his teaching, Master Shi stresses that “getting the shape is not as important as getting the method” (得形不如得法). Calligraphy is the composition of lines, and strokes are basic skills. The basics must be mastered first, after which comes the study of a character's “character” and structure. Only after this can the formal writing phase commence. Shi recommends Tang Dynasty calligrapher Ouyang Xun's (歐陽詢) book on Regular Script entitled *Inscription on the Sweet Spring at Jiucheng Palace* (九成宮醴泉銘) as a model for students, which teaches all the basic strokes — horizontal lines, vertical lines, dots, hooks, picks, and so on. Students can then move on to study of the basic compositional building blocks of the Chinese character, called radicals. When fully familiar with the basic strokes and compositional elements, the writing of full characters can begin.


In terms of building one's repertoire of styles, says Shi, the idea of building blocks and moving from simpler to more difficult styles also applies. Start with Regular Script, followed by Semi-Cursive and then Cursive. He uses the metaphor of a person needing to first learn to stand in order to walk and then run: learning Regular is learning to stand, with characters correctly composed and easy to read, with Semi-Cursive (walking) and then Cursive (running) becoming less and less so.

A careful choice of “four treasures” and success in your studies are closely intertwined. Character lines are ever-changing, so soft and supple brush hairs are a must. It is said the calligraphy brush was invented by a general named Meng Tian (蒙恬) in the Qin Dynasty, using different types of animal hair: rabbit, rat, wolf, goat, even chicken. The different types of hair have different qualities — soft or hard, thick or thin — enabling strokes of wide-ranging personality. The ink used also has a profound and directly affect on the aesthetic appearance of the characters, with wetness/dryness of primary importance. Paper that



is able to fully absorb the ink must also be used; suitable paper is generally made from bamboo, rice, or cotton, among other materials.

The proper placement of the four treasures is also part of the curriculum: carelessness is verboten! First, spread the protective soft calligraphy mat out evenly on the table. Place a sheet of paper on the mat. Then to ensure maximum accuracy and efficiency, write each character from directly above the paper, and when each character is done, reposition the paper. Each character must be written in front of your right eye. Place your copybook directly in front of the paper, upright on a bookstand. The brush rest should be to the right of the paper, with the brush on the bed of the brush rest, while the ink stone and ink tray lie on the table to your right, with the ink stick to the right of the ink stone.

Calligraphy can be a source of boundless enjoyment. One unique and especially fun introduction to the art pay a visit to one of the special public Chinese New Year activities, where calligraphy masters compose traditional spring couplets which are then given away. There's probably no easier way to get to terms with the customs of the season and the incredible beauty of this art form. 



- Well-known calligraphy master and teacher Shi Chunmao shows correct technique to foreign pupils.
- The classic “four treasures of the study” are brush, paper, inkstick, and inkstone.
- Spring couplets are written at Chinese New Year and pasted on doors and windows, symbolizing good fortune.
- Each year the Taipei Confucius Temple has a Spring Festival Calligraphy Writing and Prayer Card Giveaway.
- The Taipei International Calligraphy Exhibition and Spring Writing on Brush Party is an annual event at Sun Yat-sen Memorial Hall.

## Information

### Calligraphy Studies in Taipei

#### **Chiang Kai-shek Memorial Hall 中正紀念堂**

**Add:** 21 Zhongshan S. Rd. (中山南路21號)

**Tel:** (02) 2343-1100, ext. 1112

**Website:** [signup.cksmh.gov.tw](http://signup.cksmh.gov.tw)

#### **Sun Yat-sen Memorial Hall 國父紀念館**

**Add:** 505, Sec. 4, Ren'ai Rd. (仁愛路4段505號)

**Tel:** (02) 2758-8008, ext. 524

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

#### **Community Colleges' Web of Taipei**

臺北市社區大學聯網

**Website:** [www.ccwt.tp.edu.tw/files/11-1000-106.php](http://www.ccwt.tp.edu.tw/files/11-1000-106.php)

#### **China Youth Corps Social Education Center**

救國團社會教育中心

**Tel:** (02) 2502-5858

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

#### **► Guanqian Social Education Center 館前社教中心**

**Add:** 45 Guanqian Rd. (館前路45號)

**Tel:** (02) 2381-9165

#### **► Dunhua Social Education Center 敦化社教中心**

**Add:** 4F, 214, Dunhua N. Rd. (敦化北路214號4樓)

**Tel:** (02) 2713-0900

#### **► Nanjing Social Education Center 南京社教中心**

**Add:** 2F~1, 164, Sec. 4, Nanjing E. Rd.

(南京東路4段164號2樓之1)

**Tel:** (02) 2570-8075

#### **► Jingmei Social Education Center 景美社教中心**

**Add:** 4F, 136, Sec. 6, Roosevelt Rd.

(羅斯福路6段136號4樓)

**Tel:** (02) 8663-3516

#### **► NeiHu Social Education Center 內湖社教中心**

**Add:** 4F, 50, Sec. 4, Chenggong Rd. (成功路4段50號4樓)

**Tel:** (02) 2796-5061

#### **Shi Chunmao Calligraphy Classroom**

施春茂書法教室

**Add:** B1, 15, Lane 14, Sec. 1, Hangzhou S. Rd.

(杭州南路1段14巷15號B1)

**Tel:** (02) 2341-9237

### Taipei Spring Festival Calligraphy Activities

#### **2012 Jubilee Dragon Spring Couplet Giveaway (written on-site, limit 200)**

**Venue:** Chiang Kai-shek Memorial Hall; 21 Zhongshan S. Rd. (中正紀念堂; 中山南路21號)

**Time:** 1/15, 14:00~15:30

#### **Taipei Confucius Temple Spring Festival Calligraphy Writing and Prayer Card Giveaway**

**Venue:** Taipei Confucius Temple central courtyard plaza; 275 Dalong St. (臺北市孔廟; 大龍街275號)

**Time:** 1/22 to 1/29, 10:00~12:00

#### **2012 Taipei International Calligraphy Exhibition and Spring Writing on Brush Party**

**Venue:** Yat-sen Gallery, Sun Yat-sen Memorial Hall; 3F, 505, Sec. 4, Ren'ai Rd.

(國父紀念館逸仙藝廊; 仁愛路4段505號3樓)

**Time:** 1/20 to 2/1, 09:00~17:00 (closed 1/22 to 1/23)



# Chinese New Year Feasts Made Easy

The Lunar New Year is the most important annual festival for the people of Taiwan and for all people in the Chinese-speaking world. It's a time that all who are far from home look forward to, a time of family reunions, happy times, and good food. Great effort is spent in the run-up to the festival, preparing all the finest food the family can buy; special auspicious foods are also prepared and shared. By doing this, it's believed that good fortune will bless the homestead. Sellers in Taipei's traditional markets prepare many such lucky food items, including various cooked dishes, lightening the load for families preparing for the main holiday meal, the New Year's Eve family-reunion feast.

## Nanmen Market – “Buddha Jumps over the Wall,” “Braised Carp with Scallion,” and “Ten Completes, Ten Beauties”

Located on Roosevelt Road (羅斯福路), Nanmen Market (南門市場) is an iconic treasure-house of goods from all around Taiwan and Mainland China, of special foods, and of quality Chinese cakes and pastries. It's been in business since the Japanese colonial period, serving as a distribution center for fruits, vegetables, fish, and meats, and there are many heritage vendors on the first floor faithfully practicing traditional ways, hawking sausages, cured meats, and all sorts of prepared foods from mainland China. There are also filled steamed buns called *baozi* (包子), leaf-wrapped glutinous-rice dumplings called *zongzi* (粽子), stuffed rice-flour soup dumplings called *tangyuan* (湯圓), and other snack treats. This food emporium is first choice for many citizens when the time comes to start stocking up for New Year feasting.



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1. Buddha Jumps Over the Wall has many expensive ingredients, and its name is heavy in auspicious meaning.
2. Yi Xiang Zhai specializes in prepared foods from mainland China's Jiangzhe region.
3. Yichang Yufang's auspicious “Ten Completes, Ten Beauties” is a New Year favorite.
4. The Chinese-radish cake offered by Jiang Ji Hakka Foods.
5. The Chinese-radish cake made by Xing Ji Food Shop is loaded with Hong Kong-style flavor, especially the chunks of cured meat.
6. Eight Treasures Rice is a standard at the Chinese New Year's Eve feast.

The market's Yi Xiang Zhai (逸湘齋) booth has been open for 23 years, specializing in prepared foods from China's Jiangzhe (江浙) region. Perhaps the most representative New Year food is “Buddha Jumps over the Wall” (佛跳牆), a rich and savoury stew of more than 10 special ingredients such as scallops, shark fin, and pork ribs cooked in a crockery pot. The dish is said to have been so-named because the food is so tasty that even the Buddha jumps in excitement; it also carries the auspicious implication that He will also jump over your perimeter wall to pay a visit and thus bring good fortune. There is great demand for this complicated dish, pre-orders are a must, and Yi Xiang Zhai receives hundreds during the New Year rush.

Another Nanmen stalwart, Yichang Yufang (億長御坊), also specializes in cooked Jiangzhe foods and special New Year goodies. Its braised carp with scallions is heavy in auspicious symbolism, signifying the old expression *nian nian you yu* (年年有餘) or “every year may there be extra” because the words for “fish” and “extra” sound the same (魚 and 餘 are both pronounced “yu”). Perhaps this vendor's most popular New Year dish, however, is “Ten Completes, Ten Beauties” (十全十美), containing ten ingredients cut into slivers, including bamboo shoots, dried beancurd, carrot, and mushroom. For foreigners looking for that special New Year fragrance, there's no better place to start.

### Dongmen Market – “Eight Treasures” Rice, Hong Kong-style Dim Sum, Radish Cake

Filling lanes and alleys around the intersection of Jinshan South Road (金山南路) and Xinyi Road (信義路), Dongmen Market (東門市場) is another key destination for local shoppers in the run-up to the New Year holidays (also called the Spring Festival; 春節). Xing Ji Food Shop (興記), near the market's Jinshan South Road entrance, is a family business that's been here for 55 years and is today run by the third generation of the family. Its signature offerings are “Eight Treasures” rice (八寶飯), Chinese-radish cake, and Hong Kong-style dim sum. Many travelers from Hong Kong and Japan make special trips here, and many locals rely on Xing Ji for much or all of their Lunar New Year's Eve family feast. Western travelers have a special liking for the savoury seafood snacks, notably the shrimp dumplings and crystal shrimp dumplings.

“Eight Treasures” rice is a must-have food over New Year; its auspicious symbolism is obvious from its name. Glutinous rice and bean paste are used to form the base, and bright circles of colourful dried fruits, raisins, and other sweetened items are formed on top.

Walking further into the market, you'll notice many vendors selling Chinese-radish cakes, signifying the auspicious expression *bu bu gao sheng* (步步高升) or “raising higher, step by step,” because the words for “cake” and “high(er)” sound the same (糕/高/*gao*). At Dongmen Zhongli Hakka Foods (東門中壠客家食品) and Jiang Ji Hakka Foods (江記客家美食) the preparation is simple and the taste pure,



- 7-8. At 123 Dumplings, the dumplings containing carrot and spinach are notably popular with Westerners.
9. Taiwan Shidong Tasty Chicken prepares delicious sugarcane-smoked chicken.
10. The Grand Formosa Regent Taipei is offering a takeaway Shanghai-style feast.
11. The Grand Hyatt Taipei's New Year folk-performance show is popular with foreign guests, bringing firsthand experience with traditional-style New Year fun.

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using sticky rice and radish slivers and nothing more. The full-bodied aroma, pleasing texture, and rich taste make these New Year bestsellers year after year.

Dongmen Market today retains its traditional ways and yesteryear ambiance, and seems to get ever warmer, cosier, and busier as Chinese New Year approaches. This is a great place to come to taste great foods and to get a taste of genuine, timeless local New Year cultural traditions.

## Shidong Market – Dumplings and Smoked Chicken

Near the Tianmu Shopping Area (天母商圈), Shidong Market (士東市場) is an especially clean and bright space with a noticeably efficient layout and very welcome air-conditioning, justifiably known as a “five star” model market. The Tianmu area is known for its heavy concentration of expatriate residents, and this is reflected in the unusual range and variety of offerings in the market.

At New Year a must-eat item is *jiaozi* (餃子), a stuffed dumpling, considered highly auspicious because its distinctive shape resembles the gold or silver *yuanbao* (元寶) – ingots used as money during the imperial era. There's a traditional expression, *yuanbao gun gun lai* (元寶滾滾來) or “ingots roll in,” the image evoked when dumplings are cooked and rolled onto the plate. Families roll their own, and at New Year a coin will be secretly placed in one; whoever gets it during the family feast is assured riches during the following year. Many families wait until midnight on New Year's Eve to eat theirs, following the expression *geng sui jiao zi* (更歲交子), a complicated expression which, simplified, evokes new beginnings, and of sweeping out the old to bring in the new. The “*jiaozi*” of the expression rhymes with the Chinese word for dumplings” .

One of Shidong Market's best-known outlets is 123 Dumplings (123水餃), in business for 16 years. The owner continues to make *jiaozi* the traditional way, by hand, believing that machine-made dumplings are just not the same. However, he eagerly engages in experimenting with new fillings to set himself apart from the city's many competitors. His line of refrigerated dumplings is especially wide-ranging and popular, with the abalone and scallop flavors the most popular with Japanese tourists, while the carrot, spinach, and fresh fish versions are most in demand among Westerners.

Another essential food for any traditional New Year's Eve dinner table is chicken, preferably a whole chicken. The “completeness” of the chicken represents the “completeness” of the family, all gathering together on this day. In Mandarin Chinese the words for “chicken” and “lucky/auspicious” are once more the same (雞/吉/ji), and in Taiwanese “chicken” and “family” sound similar. Shidong Market's Taiwan Shidong Tasty Chicken (臺灣士東好吃雞肉) prepares delicious sugarcane-smoked chicken, salted range chicken, and other selections.

## New Year Feasts at Hotels – “Turnkey” Family-Reunion Meals

In recent years more and more families are giving Mom a well-deserved break, and instead have taken to having their big New Year's Eve

meal at a quality hotel. The Grand Hyatt Taipei (台北君悅大飯店) offers a delectable New Year's Eve feast, and on the following morning at 11 am stages a folk-performance show, including the chance to make a door god rubbing, auspicious spring couplets, dough figurines, and paper-cutting artworks, with free giveaways. This public gathering is a great opportunity for foreign tourists to join in the New Year fun and learn more about local traditions.

Many local hotels, in addition to Lunar New Year reunion meals in their restaurants, also provide a full takeaway service (pre-ordering is essential), allowing you to enjoy terrific repasts designed by five-star talent in the comfort of your own home. Among its selections, the Westin Taipei (六福皇宮) is offering a seafood soup that includes such premium items as abalone, ginseng, large scallops, and Silkie (black-boned) chicken. The "richness" of the soup symbolizes the "riches" that will come to the family. The Grand Formosa Regent Taipei (台北晶華酒店) is offering both Shanghai-style and Cantonese-style feasts, each with a menu of five main dishes, a soup, and a dessert.

Enjoying a traditional Taiwan New Year's Eve meal is now more convenient than ever – you can even place your order for one of the popular hotel feasts through your local convenience store. So, if you'll be on the island come the New Year holidays this time around, why not place your order and have a big helping of traditional New Year atmosphere delivered, piping hot and delicious, right to your door! 🍲



## Information

### Nanmen Market 南門市場

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

**Hours:** 07:00~20:00 (closed Mon)

### Yi Xiang Zhai 逸湘齋

**Location:** No. 175, Nanmen Market (南門市場175號)

**Tel:** (02) 2393-0469

### Yichang Yufang 億長御坊

**Location:** No. 187/189, Nanmen Market (南門市場187、189號)

**Tel:** (02) 2393-0383

### Dongmen Market 東門市場

**Add:** 81, Sec. 2, Xinyi Rd. (信義路2段81號)

**Hours:** 07:00~17:00 (closed Mon)

### Xing Ji Food Shop 興記食品行

**Add:** 120, Sec. 1, Jinshan S. Rd. (金山南路1段120號)

**Tel:** (02) 2341-2214

### Dongmen Zhongli Hakka Foods 東門中壢客家食品

**Add:** 7, Lane 60, Linyi St., Stall No. 7 (臨沂街60巷7號; 7號攤)

**Tel:** 0938-161-898

### Jiang Ji Hakka Foods 江記客家美食

**Add:** 11, Lane 75, Linyi St., beside Xin'ai Park (臨沂街75巷11號; 信愛公園旁)

**Tel:** (02) 2311-9380

### Shidong Market 士東市場

**Add:** 100, Shidong St. (士東路100號)

**Hours:** 07:00~18:00 (closed Mon)

### 123 Dumplings 123水餃

**Location:** Stall 25, Shidong Market (士東市場25號攤)

**Tel:** (02) 2835-9307

### Taiwan Shidong Tasty Chicken 臺灣士東好吃雞肉

**Location:** Stall 114, Shidong Market (士東市場114號攤)

**Tel:** (02) 2831-2512

### Grand Hyatt Taipei 台北君悅大飯店

**Add:** 2, Songshou Rd. (松壽路2號)

**Tel:** (02) 2720-1200, ext. 3198

### The Westin Taipei 六福皇宮

**New Year Meal Reservations:**

Until January 23rd, 2012

**Add:** 133, Sec. 3, Nanjing E. Rd. (南京東路3段133號)

**Tel:** (02) 8770-6565

### Grand Formosa Regent Taipei 台北晶華酒店

**New Year Meal Reservations:**

Until January 18th, 2012

**Add:** 41, Sec. 2, Zhongshan N. Rd. (中山北路2段41號)

**Tel:** (02) 7701-7722

# How the Lantern Festival Is Celebrated – In a Military Dependents' Village

MAMA HOU



**L**i Jiaqian (李嘉茜) is used to people calling her by her better-known moniker, Mama Hou (侯媽媽). She ran a restaurant, published cookbooks, written fine-food columns, and appeared on TV shows. She's originally from Shanghai, where among her family's claims to pedigree was the fact that her grandfather was one of the few local Harvard Master's degree holders, and her grandmother was one of Soong Meiling's sworn sisters. Fleeing from the chaos of war, her grandparents brought her to Taiwan when she was five years old. Like many other refugees from China, her new home was in a government-established settlement.

The enclave she lived in was not a true military dependents' village, which were defined as one where the father of each household were in the military. It was common for such immigrant villages to be attached to one, however, and there was a seamless blending of people, conditions, and lifestyle. Residences consisted of a single room, with living quarters and bedroom sharing the same space. The kitchen was a tiny space built out behind the house, and since the residences were built in close-knit rows, the kitchens formed long rows as well, and when preparing food the ladies of the house could all see each other and chat, sharing cooking advice and helping one and all, it seemed, to become accomplished cooks.

Mama Hou's mastery in the kitchen, however, was not cultivated here. She was born into a rich family, with chefs and other serving staff, and her place was not in the kitchen. However, as a young lady of high society she was expected to learn such “basics” as the theory of culinary-arts, painting and calligraphy, embroidery, and the making of cotton-padded jackets and shoes, which would help her run

## Making Yuanxiao

### Ingredients/Materials:

One bag of glutinous-rice flour, red-bean paste or fresh meat filling, sieve, bowl of water, large round bowl.



step 1



Make small rounded balls of bean paste or fresh meat.

step 2



Put balls in sieve, moisten with water, then place in round bowl to which flour has been added. Shake bowl to cover balls with flour.

step 3



Take out balls, moisten again with water, and roll again in flour. Repeat process until balls become large.

### Tips 1 :

When you wish to cook your *tangyuan* or *yuanxiao*, bring a pot of water to a boil, put the dumplings in, and cook over low heat. A short time after putting them in, use a spoon to gently release any stuck to the bottom, but after that, do not stir or agitate. The dumplings are ready when they have all floated to the top. Let *tangyuan* made with meat cook a little longer, however, to ensure the filling is thoroughly cooked.

a household and to carry herself well in upper circles. Of course, she also had to master etiquette and ritual, and in fact helped director Ang Lee in the making of his 2007 film *Lust, Caution* (色.戒), helping actors with the Shanghai dialect and serving as an advisor on the high-society etiquette and ritual of the old days.

Thinking back on her days in the old village, and of the Lantern Festival, Mama Hou says that “It was as though everybody was part of one big family in the military dependents’ villages.” On festival day you were sure to witness groups of housewives crowded around kitchens making small, stuffed soup dumplings (made with glutinous-rice flour) called *tangyuan* (湯圓), a traditional festival treat, then calling the neighbors to come and enjoy some. Sometimes the village head would host a night-time feast on a piece of open land, with each mother bringing a special homemade dish. Lots of raucous celebrating ensued, with excited kids carrying around festive lanterns made from discarded food cans, each with a glowing candle inside.

In the past people adhered to the old expression “At the winter solstice eat *tangyuan*, at Lantern Festival eat *yuanxiao* (元宵).” *Yuanxiao* are another kind of dumpling made with glutinous-rice flour, made by rolling balls of sweetened filling in a flour-filled sieve; they were long so intrinsic to the Lantern Festival that in fact the day is simply called *Yuanxiao* in Chinese. In Mama Hou's village, however, the *tangyuan*/*yuanxiao* division was discarded early on, and—to the delight of the village youngsters—their moms would prepare a range of



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different *tangyuan*, including a savory Hakka-style kind containing minced pork. Below Mama Hou shows how to make both *tangyuan* and *yuanxiao*, so you can enjoy making your own for the Lantern Festival. 📖

- 1-2. Long-time Taipei resident Mama Hou, born into a wealthy household, was taught many different skills.
- 3. In the military dependents' villages, housewives would gather together to make *tangyuan*.
- 4. In the villages, children would gather together in the empty spaces to play. (Photo courtesy of 44 South Village)

## Making Tangyuan

### Ingredients:

One bag of glutinous-rice flour, red-bean paste or fresh minced meat for filling.



### step 1



Make small rounded balls of filling.

### step 2



Blend water into flour and form into a dough. Break into small chunks, and press into round, flat pieces. Place a little filling in the center of each piece.

### step 3



Then, form dough into a ball, sealing filling inside.

### Tips 2 :

To make Shanghai-style fermented rice and osmanthus dumplings, cook a soup for your dumplings in a separate pot. Add fermented glutinous rice, assorted canned fruit, osmanthus paste, white granulated sugar, 1 or 2 eggs, bring to a boil and add the *tangyuan* or *yuanxiao*. For savory Hakka-style *tangyuan*, bring a soup stock to a boil, add garland chrysanthemum, chopped celery, fried onion, salt and, (lastly) the savory meat-filling *tangyuan*.

# Great Taipei Chinese New Year Gifts Treasures of Tradition



1

Taipei is home to many special shops offering well-known and well-loved local products, from century-old places with long histories to chic boutiques bursting with creativity. Though the goods differ, the backgrounds are similar in that they involve the building of an iconic brand. In this issue we begin a series exploring these special enterprises, explaining their origins and introducing just what it is that is so special about each, so that you know exactly what makes their products unique when choosing them as gifts and mementoes. At this festive time of year, let's direct you to places offering the best Chinese New Year gifts.

## Lee Cake

### A Most Fragrant Heritage

Lee Cake (李亭香餅店) was established way, way back in 1895. In that year the founder, Lee Tengfei (李騰飛), turned to making traditional cakes and pastries in the face of a bad economy, studying the craft at the hands of the great masters of the day at the most successful related enterprise of the day, Bao Xiang Zhai (寶香齋). Second-generation owner Lee Yuantan (李淵潭) continued his father's traditions while expanding on them, spreading the fame of

the shop's name in his shop across from Yonglian Temple (湧蓮寺), in today's Luzhou District (蘆洲區), New Taipei City. The third generation, thinking even bigger, established a new base of operations on old Dihua Street in Taipei's heritage-rich Dadaocheng (大稻埕) community, and today the shop is run by the fifth generation of the family.



In the fast-paced, modern city of Taipei, Lee Cake adheres to straightforward time-tested traditions. Walk into this shop is walking into 116 years of history. Admire the vintage wooden tables for handling the dough and the molds and other vintage implements. They all date back at least a half-century, as does each cake and pastry shape and the design of all the packaging used. The head of the fifth generation, Lee Jiahui (李佳懋), says that because Lee Cake has great pride in faithfully carrying on Taiwan's bakery traditions it wants all customers to understand the origins and meaning of everything they take away, and thus takes special care in designing packaging that reflects this heritage, giving the full story of each treat on the package itself or inside.

One example is “Bu Bu Gao” (步步糕) or “Step by Step Cake” a play on the old auspicious expression “step by step rise higher” (步步高升; see our Chinese New Year Feasts article; in Chinese “cake” and “high” are pronounced gao). It is a traditional “dry cake” (乾糕) in which glutinous rice is ground, mixed in fixed proportion with other ingredients, placed in molds and steamed. Because of the low moisture contents the cakes keep for a long time, and in days of old students would take them on the long trip often necessary to sit for a big examination. The cakes came to be considered auspicious because of their association with students seeking to rise ever higher. Lee Cake has changed the original round shape of the cakes to that of a jade pendant, one of the most powerful traditional symbols of good fortune and also a powerful talisman, making this a great gift for people you know, whether or not they're taking exams!



4

In traditional Chinese belief, the turtle is a symbol of good fortune, long life, safety and peace. Thus Lee Cake also make special “turtle cakes” (麵龜) for a range of ritual occasions – for instance ancestor or deity worship, birthdays, or opening a business. The cakes are usually made with wheat flour, but Lee Cake add their own touch, using peanut powder to create confections it calls Pin'an Cakes (平安龜; “peace and safety turtles” ). An old family recipe is used, giving these turtle-shaped treats a pleasing “traditional” flavor. They come in auspicious, attractive red packaging, and are among Lee Cake's bestsellers.

The bakery has also crafted a new item for the coming Year of the Dragon, which they call “Lucky Dragons” (瑞氣祥龍). These come in attractive, specially designed gift boxes, six to a box, each round-shaped cake imprinted with a “true-to-life” image of a Chinese dragon. What better symbol to have in your home this New Year?

1. Lee Cake's wooden molds are over a half-century old, adding to the heavy air of nostalgia.
- 2-3. History is a primary ingredient in everything Lee Cake does at its 116-year-old Dadaocheng Dihua St. location.
4. “Peace and safety turtles,” symbolizing long life, are a hot Lee Cake item.
5. Lee Cake has “step by step cake” formed like a jade pendant, great as a workplace gift or for exam-taking students.



## Lovely Taiwan Shop

### The Best Local Specialty Products, and Fine Gifts

Located along a lane off Nanjing West Road is Lovely Taiwan Shop (台灣好·店), an attractive store opened by the Lovely Taiwan Foundation (台灣好基金會) in 2009. It exclusively stocks traditional Taiwan crafts, gathering the best and most representative items from towns, rural districts and indigenous villages around the country. In the past communities often had difficulty finding permanent display-showcase platforms for their creations, so the foundation stepped in to provide exposure, eliminating middlemen, and Taipei-dwellers and visitors alike the chance to see the wondrous range of beautiful and clever handmade items being created around the country. Surplus profits are poured back into the respective communities.

The shop, then, is a grand showcase for Taiwan's wonderfully diverse culture. The store has many items specially designed for this Chinese New Year, including auspicious red envelopes from the Guangxing Paper Mill (廣興紙寮) in Puli Township (埔里鎮), Nantou County; A Lang Tea (阿朗茶) gift boxes from Nantou's Ren'ai Township (仁愛鄉); and ceramic spring-theme name-card holders and good-fortune soap trays from San-he Tile Kiln (三



和瓦窯) in Kaohsiung City's rural Dashu District (大樹區), all expressing the spirit and personality of the areas from which they come. You'll also find unique T-shirts with the words "Lovely Taiwan" emblazoned on the front (in English or Chinese) and the enterprise's logo on the back. The design features the red brick so common in Taiwan's traditional areas, shaped in such a way that the bricks also look like the character for "river" (川), another defining Taiwan image.



According to the store manager, items on sale in the shop are all imbued with native sentiments, memories, and the character of the local people. Each is unique, and made by hand. Each has sprouted from the local earth, and behind each is a story, and often a poignant one. An example is the Yuanai Fabric Workshop (原愛布工坊) and Yuanai Woodwork Shop (原愛木工坊) in Taitung County's Jinfeng Township (金峰鄉). These were the inspiration of Zheng Hanwen (鄭漢文), the former principal of Xinxing Elementary School, who worked with the village chief in an effort to provide work opportunities for the heads of local indigenous households. The initiative has given people direction and a boost in self-confidence, and given a solid economic boost to both individual households and the entire community.

Yetong Workshop (野桐工坊) is located in the indigenous village of Xiangbi (象鼻部落) in Tai'an Township (泰安鄉), Miaoli County. It was set up by a native daughter, Yuma · Taru, who gave up her office job and the bright lights of Taipei City to return to her roots. Her goal in opening the workshop was to preserve and research the traditional weaving techniques of the Atayal people (泰雅族); she first spent over 10 years gathering information on dyeing and weaving techniques and on traditional patterns in eight major villages. The workshop produces attractive works that also have practical functions, with business-card holders, pencil cases, and small purses among its bestsellers.

Each item at Lovely Taiwan Shop is an example of the indomitable pioneering spirit, intelligence, and creativity of the Taiwan people, each tells a story from one of this land's cities, towns, villages or rural areas, and surely deserves a place in your home. 10



## Information

### Lee Cake 李亭香餅店

**Add:** 309, Sec. 1, Dihua St. (迪化街1段309號)

**Tel:** (02) 2557-8716

**Website:** [www.lee-cake.com](http://www.lee-cake.com)

### Lovely Taiwan Shop 台灣好，店

**Add:** 18-2, Lane 25, Nanjing W. Rd.  
(南京西路25巷18-2號)

**Tel:** (02) 2558-2616

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

Please refer to the map provided on P.66.

6. Lovely Taiwan Shop's "Lovely Taiwan" T-shirts, capturing Taiwan's beauty.
7. Lovely Taiwan Shop offers many New Year season gifts, including attractive small packages of rice.
- 8-9. Lovely Taiwan Shop has specialty handicrafts from scores of Taiwan towns and townships, making for great treasure hunting.
10. Persimmons are an auspicious New Year gift, symbolizing "everything as you desire"; shown here are persimmon candles from famous Huatao (華陶) Kiln.
11. The attractive A Lang Tea gift boxes, from Nantou's Ren'ai Township.
12. A cute frog from Yuanai Woodwork Shop.



# A Tour of the Old Dadaocheng Community –

## Chinese New Year Shopping, Bicycle Rides, and Riverside Fun

### Itinerary:

Breakfast beside Yongle Market → New Year Shopping along Dihua Street → ArtYard → Prayer at Taipei XiaHai ChengHuang Temple → Traditional Peanut Soup → Bicycle Ride Starting at Dadaocheng Wharf → Dinner at Ningxia Night Market

Taipei's Dadaocheng (大稻埕) area was one of the first commercial areas to flourish in the Taipei Basin, and for a long time it was the most important. After going through a period of decline during the last couple of decades, today it is flourishing once more, and is a fascinating area of traditional commerce laden with historic sites. As the Chinese New Year approaches this always busy place becomes even busier and more festive than usual, and is a great destination for travelers to get a taste of Taiwan New Year spirit and traditions. Leave time though, after exploring the area, to take a leisurely bike ride along the nearby bike-path system which follows the Tamsui River (淡水河). To round off the day, sample some traditional Taiwan *xiao chi* (snack food) in one of the city's best night markets.

To get to Yongle Market (永樂市場), hop on the Taipei Metro system, and hop off at MRT Shuanglian Station. Now take the Mackay Memorial Hospital (馬偕醫院) exit, transfer to the No. 518 bus, and get off at the mouth (west end) of Nanjing West Road (南京西路). Alternatively walk from the MRT station, heading west for about 15 minutes along Minsheng West Road (民生西路), then turn south on Dihua Street (迪化街). Either way, it takes about 15 minutes from the station. Beside the market is a collection of heritage shops and vendors of authentic old-time snack treats, and since it's probably breakfast-time and this spot is well-known in Taipei for its saffron and rice-noodle soup, why not sample a steaming bowl? The delicious broad noodles are saturated with the rich broth. Try adding a delicious side serving of soy-



braised pork. Other taste-of-the-good-old-days items sold at the stalls here are thick mackerel soup and short, thick rice-noodle soup.

Next, head up to the second and third floors of Yongle Market, to the Yongle Fabric Market (永樂布業商場). These two floors can in fact be said to be the original Yongle Market, and forms the core of Taipei's fabric-industry development. It's been up-and-running for more than a century, long before the present-day market building was built. During the 1895-1945 Japanese colonial era, Japanese businessmen had a taste for imported Japanese printed fabrics, and this venue quickly developed into north Taiwan's key wholesale center for imported materials, a position it still holds today. The shops on the second floor sell all sorts of printed fabrics, along with cloth for household furnishings such as curtains and drapes, while the third-floor vendors handle sewing, processing, and customized tailoring. The old New Year adage "out with the old, in with the new" (除舊布新) means business is beyond brisk here as the holidays approach, and whatever type of cloth or pattern you had in mind, Yongle Fabric Market pretty much guarantees satisfaction.





Adding to the festive aura at the market is a “prayer corridor” on the second floor, which will be in place until January 21st. Small prayer cards are being given away for free, on which you can write your New Year wishes.

When you leave Yongle Market you'll immediately be swept up in the crowds swarming into Dihua Street for Taipei Lunar New Year Festival (臺北年貨大街) events. Here you'll be regaled by enthusiastic hawkers shouting out what they have and why you must have it; stop for the free samples given out by many of the food vendors, and check out the wonderful array of New Year goods on sale. If your load of purchases gets too heavy, remember that the Dihua Street Post Office (迪化街郵局) and special booths set up offer New Year delivery services, taking the load out of your hands and a load off your mind. There's also a special deal available until January 27th at Yongle Plaza (永樂廣場), where you can get a lucky bag (福袋) valued at NT\$500 for just NT\$100 — an auspicious and convenient item for hailing your trove. Entertainment beyond the joys of shopping are also being provided for you, with a loaded program of events on weekends/holidays that includes shows by folk-arts troupes, street-dance performers, and pop singers.

## ArtYard – Traditional Culture, Modern Art Aesthetics

If you need a little break from all that passionate New Year consumer-ing, head down Dihua Street's Lane 32, to ArtYard (小藝埕) and a relaxing history/art/café combo. Opened in February 2011, ArtYard is located in a facility that originally housed (on the right side) the first pharmacy in Taiwan to import Western medicines. ArtYard was opened by a cooperative of artists as a cultural space containing a cultural-creative studio and merchandise outlet, a historic space designed to draw a younger crowd to Dadaocheng.



1. A first-rate bike path goes by Dadaocheng Wharf, drawing those who enjoy scenic outings on two wheels.
2. Beside Yongle Market await such authentic old-time local tastes as sailfish and rice-noodle soup and thick mackerel soup.
3. The Taipei Lunar New Year Festival attracts happy, boisterous crowds.
4. The 2nd and 3rd floors at Yongle Market are filled with century fabric shops, selling materials in tremendous variety.
5. During the Lunar New Year Festival super-value shopping deals and an attractive events program are offered.
6. Sellers offer free samples during the Lunar New Year Festival, making your purchase selections easier.
7. Along Dihua Street, a Lunar New Year Festival “Big Street,” the old Dihua Street Post Office provides home-delivery service, a great New Year shopping convenience.



ArtYard has three floors. On the first is the ceramics-brand outlet Hakka Blue (台客藍), showcasing the simple traditional themes of Hakka culture (in which indigo dye was heavily used), and In Bloom (印花樂), which has a concentration on fabrics with bird patterns and the ceramic-tile patterns of old. On the second floor is Lugu Café (爐鍋咖啡), which sports a nouveau atmosphere within an old heritage space. The coffees are presented here as a sommelier presents wine, first in sample glasses, then with your choice delivered, again in the appropriate glass, as wine would be. The third floor is an exhibit space, Thinkers' Theater (思劇場), which has an irregular program of small exhibits, symposiums, and other events related to the cultural arts.


Across from this attraction, the Taipei XiaHai ChengHuang Temple (台北霞海城隍廟) is another must-visit draw when in Dadaocheng. Many come here on Valentine's Day to ask the Chinese version of Cupid, the Old Man Under the Moon (月下老人), to bring true love and marriage into their lives. Beside the temple is a small but very well known shop, Maofeng Peanut Soup (茂豐花生湯), which is always busy but especially so in the chilly winter months, when the steaming bowls of peanut soup warm the spirits.

## Bike Outings from Dadaocheng Wharf – Enjoying the Tamsui River Landscape

As it gets later in the day, and the sun prepares to make its daily exit in the west, head to the Dadaocheng riverside for a leisurely bike ride from Dadaocheng Wharf (大稻埕碼頭).

Walk to the western end of Minsheng West Road, and through Evacuation Gate No. 5 (第5號水門). There's a bike-rental facility here, and with wheels you can meander into and through Yanping Riverside Park (延平河濱公園), enjoying unique vistas and the local eco-environment. As the sun disappears off in the distance the ripples on the Tamsui River seem to dance and sing with fading sparkles.

Ride back to the wharf, through the dike gate, and head eastwards to Chongqing North Road (重慶北路), dipping into the lanes and alleys. This is where the community's old days still live strong, bright, and vigorous. When you hit the Ningxia Night Market (寧夏夜市) you'll then experience what makes traditional local nightlife tick. Hopefully you'll have a big appetite by now, for to truthfully claim you've “done” this market you have to try the oyster omelet, the fresh seafood snacks, the mountain-raised range chicken, and the many sweet treats, notably the conspicuously popular fried taro balls.

This Dadaocheng “riverside and old town” tour allows you to glimpse directly into Taiwan's past while enjoying all the amenities of the present, enjoying the New Year atmosphere, the warm hospitality of the people of this city, and the crisp, fresh riverside air while enjoying pleasant scenery and a bit of exercise. What better way to enjoy a winter's day? 





## Taipei Lunar New Year Festival 臺北年貨大街

**Time:** Until January 22nd, daily 09:00~22:00

**Venues:** Huayin St. (華陰街), Dadaocheng, Ningxia, Taipei City Mall (臺北地下街), Taipei Main Station Rear Area (後火車站), Rongbin (榮濱) Shopping Areas

**Tel:** 1999, ext. 6477

**Website:** newyear.taipei.gov.tw

## Courier and Home Delivery Services:

### Taipei Dihua Street Post Office 臺北迪化街郵局

**Add:** 38, Sec. 1, Dihua St. (迪化街1段38號)

**Tel:** (02) 2556-0519

### Taiwan Pelican Express 宅配通

**Add:** Before Hi-Life convenience store Dihua St. outlet (萊爾富前迪化街門市廣場)

**Tel:** (02) 6618-1818

### Takkyubin 黑貓宅急便

**Add:** Dihua St. collection-pointy kiosks (迪化街巷口增設代收點)

**Tel:** 412-8888

- 8-9. Hakka Blue and In Bloom, on ArtYard's first level, sell creative handmade ceramic crafts and printed fabrics.
- 10-11. In the Luguo Café, an old space given a new face, enjoy an artfully crafted coffee in a delicately crafted glass.
- 12. A common sight at Dadaocheng Wharf is sweethearts snuggled close, watching the sunset.
- 13. A bowl of steaming sweetened peanut soup on a wintry day is pure bliss.
- 14. As the Western Valentine's Day approaches, the Old Man Under the Moon is waiting to help in the hunt for true love.
- 15. The oyster omelet, a favorite Ningxia Night Market snack.

## Information

### Yongle Fabric Market 永樂布業商場

**Add:** 2/3F, 21, Sec. 1, Dihua St. (迪化街1段21號2、3樓)

**Tel:** (02) 2558-9818

**Time:** 09:00~18:00 (closed Sun)

### Taipei Big Street Lunar New Year Festival Dadaocheng Commercial District 臺北年貨大街大稻埕商圈

**Location:** East side at Yanping Road, south at Nanjing West Road, north toward Guisui Street, west to Dadaocheng Wharf (東起延平北路, 南至南京西路, 北往歸綏街, 西迄大稻埕碼頭)

### ArtYard小藝埕

**Add:** 1, Lane 32, Sec. 1, Dihua St. (迪化街1段32巷1號)

**Tel:** (02) 2552-1338

### Taipei Xiahai ChengHuang Temple 台北霞海城隍廟

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

**Time:** (02) 2558-9818

### Maofeng Peanut Soup 茂豐花生湯

**Add:** 21, Sec. 1, Dihua St.; No. 1204, 1F, Yongle Market (迪化街1段21號; 永樂市場1樓1204室)

**Tel:** 0916-838-987

### Dadaocheng Wharf 大稻埕碼頭

**Add:** End of Minsheng W. Rd.; beyond Huanhe N. Rd. intersection (民生西路底; 環河北路交叉口)

### Taipei City Bike Rental Center - Dadaocheng Service Station 臺北市自行車租借站一大稻埕站

**Venues:** End of Minsheng W. Rd., on the river side of Dadaocheng Evacuation Gate, beside Dadaocheng Wharf (民生西路底大稻埕疏散門進入; 大稻埕碼頭旁)

**Tel:** (02) 2557-1639

**Time:** 08:00~20:00 (weekdays closed 12:00~14:00, open weekends/holidays)

### Ningxia Night Market 寧夏夜市

**Venues:** Ningxia Rd., between Minsheng W. Rd. and Nanjing W. Rd. (民生西路與南京西路之間寧夏路)

Please refer to the map provided on P.66.

# Festival Joy – Taipei's Love of Decorative Lanterns

Taiwan enjoys a succession of folk festivals throughout the year, but most beloved of all is the fifteen-day celebration of Chinese New Year. Think of Christmas, but extend the holiday atmosphere from Chinese New Year's Eve all the way to the Lantern Festival, which falls on the 15th of the first lunar month. The Lantern Festival is celebrated just as boisterously as New Year itself, leading to the well-deserved moniker “Little New Year” (小過年).

In the China of old, on Lantern Festival day people would take decorated lanterns out to parade around, and enjoy lantern-riddle contests. These customs still flourish today, but Lantern Festival celebrations have grown far larger in scope. Taipei City stages one of the biggest of them all, presenting the perfect opportunity for visitors to experience firsthand one aspect of the local culture.

## 2012 Taipei Lantern Festival

The 2012 Taipei Lantern Festival (2012臺北燈節) will last from February 2nd to 12th, when Taipei City Hall, Civic Plaza (市民廣場) before it, Sun Yat-sen Memorial Hall (國父紀念館), and the length of Ren'ai Rd. (仁愛路) starting near the City Hall and ending at Ren'ai Traffic Circle at the Dunhua South Road (敦化南路) intersection will

all be bathed in the glowing colors of countless festive lanterns, large and small.

Take the MRT Bannan Line to Taipei City Hall Station. When you exit you'll enter a brilliant manmade world of decorative-lantern color—small mosaic-light lanterns, traditional lanterns, and special shining lantern-theme streamers. Walk along Sec. 4 of Ren'ai Rd. to the popular Sea of Lanterns Tunnel (燈海隧道) at the Taipei City Council (臺北市議會) building and the north and south sides of Civic Plaza. On the south side is the Magic Forest Lantern Area (魔法森林燈區), with “magic” of course the festival theme and such fun interactive activities as forest treasure hunts staged, a place where the public can come in direct contact with small lantern floats and enjoy stimulating edutainment. The north side of Civic Plaza is home to the Blessing Lantern Area (祈福燈區), a colorfully decorated oasis of hope and cheer where visitors can place their own prayers for good fortune in the year to come on all sorts of tree lanterns and prayer cards.

In between the north and south sides of the plaza, at the east end of Ren'ai Road, themed floats based on *Transformers* (變形金剛), *Star Wars* (星際大戰) and the like will line the road in the section known as the Cartoon Lantern Area (卡通燈區). This will also be site of the



1. The Taipei Lantern Festival is great for family-oriented lantern-viewing outings.
2. Visitors shuttle back and forth in the Blessing Lantern Area, on the Civic Plaza's north side.

3. The Cartoon Lantern Area will also have theatrical, musical, dance, and other cultural-arts performances.
4. In Sun Yat-sen Memorial Hall's Traditional Lantern Area, cute doll-like gods and old folk legends will be brought to life.

Auspicious Dragon Theater (祥龍劇場), featuring a rich array of theater, music, dance, and other cultural-arts performances that will bring round after round of artistic delight to this joy-filled festival of lights.

Head west from here along the Sea of Lanterns Tunnel and soon you will arrive at the Taipei Lantern Festival's biggest attraction of all, the Sun Yat-sen Memorial Hall's HAPPY Dragon Theme Lantern Area (HAPPY龍主燈區). The Year of the Dragon will have arrived, and this powerful and imposing dragon lantern, a blend of traditional folk-culture motif and modern high-tech wizardry, will move and sway in rhythm with the huge virtual version of the float projected onto the face of Taipei City Hall down the road, the two facing and pacing each other.

By the flower gardens at Sun Yat-sen Memorial Hall you'll find the "Fish Leaping the Dragon Gate" Lantern Area (魚躍龍門燈區), and the Traditional Lantern Area (傳統燈區), where a fusion of real and virtual lanterns will bring cute doll-like gods and old folk legends about the dragon to life, the true lanterns static, the virtual versions moving. In the Student Competition Lantern Area (學生競賽燈區) young students show off their free-wheeling imaginative powers with lantern creations following such themes as the Year of the Dragon, world travel, and

scientific adventure. This year also features a special Traffic Circle Lantern Area within the Ren'ai Traffic Circle at Ren'ai and Dunhua South roads, with LightScribe technology to recreate the circle's 3D space and cause a duo of auspicious dragons to circle—another dazzling demonstration of Taipei's stature as an international city of dazzling design creativity.

## International Artist Villages Light a Creative Fuse

The Taipei Artist Village (臺北國際藝術村) and Treasure Hill Artist Village (寶藏巖國際藝術村) are together presenting what may well be the prettiest and most artistic Lantern Festival lanterns in the 2012 Treasure Hill Lantern Festival – Bow Dragon, Shiny Eyes (寶力龍亮睛睛) event. The show starts at Treasure Hill, and wends its way across Taipei to Taipei Artist Village, spreading into other neighborhoods on the way, the glow of countless lanterns stretching out like a great, curling dragon.

Each city has its own special design strengths. What, then, best defines the unique "Taipei design style"? On January 23rd theme lanterns will be lit in the open green area before the Historical Facade (歷史斷面) in Treasure Hill Artist Village, along nearby Dingzhou Road (汀州路), and at the main entrance to Taipei Water Park (自來水



園區). This, along with the many intriguing and surprising public-art installations in the area, will provide a splendid example of Taipei's design artistry. From January 23rd to March 18th the Taipei Artist Village will stage the Light Fiesta (光節) special exhibit at its Barry Room (百里廳), where artists from around the world will present their reinterpretations of the ideas of “Lantern” (燈) and “Light” (光), bringing more modern artistic perspectives to the festival.

The two villages, key centers of the city's arts scene, are also open to public visits from January 23rd (Chinese New Year's Day), through to March 31st. Try to make it, though for February 4th or 5th, when the artist workshops at each village will be scenes of wonderful creative ferment, with artists in residence and talent from the cultural-creativity industry working together with handmade paper, balloons, metal, and other materials to bring to life innovative works with a Lantern Festival theme.

You'll also want to be part of another fun artistic event on February 4th. In the afternoon artists will lead the public in festooning bicycles with festive lantern lights, after which everyone will head out on a parade from Taipei Artist Village to Treasure Hill. This living “art in action” work will light up the city as it proceeds—a moving “stage of light” linking neighborhoods in a glowing fusion of both traditional and modern.

At the end of the parade at Treasure Hill, there will be a grand celebration in the plaza before the historical façade in the evening with a lantern lighting ceremony, ceremonial dotting of the dragons' eyes to bring them to life, and another demonstration of Taipei's creative prowess with performances by selected indie bands, creating a Lantern Festival celebration the likes of which has never been seen — or heard! — before.

## Lantern Festival Temple Celebrations: Shining Lanterns, Evening Events

We've just introduced you to all Taipei's big public parties and arts-related events over Lantern Festival, but remember that for thousands of years such large-scale events did not even exist – the main place of celebration for the Lantern Festival was the temple. And so it remains in the city's various neighborhood communities, presenting a great opportunity for you to witness how local folk make seasonal sacrificial offerings and pray for blessings and fortune, and also to enjoy the warm hospitality of the traditional evening community celebrations held at temples.

Songshan Ciyou Temple (松山慈祐宮) will stage a resplendent (and usually very well attended) costume parade at 2 pm on February 5th, with teams of residents from 33 boroughs competing to entertain the audience. They'll set off from the Puppetry Art Center of Taipei (台北偶戲館) and, after following a roundabout route, end up at the temple. A grand evening party celebration will then blast off at 6:30 pm. There'll be many other attractions, including a lantern-riddle contest, and an exhibition of lanterns handmade and decorated by students, running from January 22nd to March 21st.



5-7. In the open area before the Historical Facade at Treasure Hill Artist Village, enjoy many different artist interpretations of the festival lantern.

8. Many kids join the parade fun at Songshan Ciyou Temple's Lantern Festival celebrations.

9. Guandu Temple has a special exhibit of electric cartoon-character lanterns that move.

※File photos used in this article.

At 7 pm on the evening of February 6th the Taipei XiaHai ChengHuang Temple (台北霞海城隍廟) is also having a big public party, with cultural-arts troupes and dragon lanterns created by paper-art masters free giving. There will only be a certain number of lanterns made, so be quick!

From February 2nd to March 4th Guandu Temple (關渡宮) in the Beitou (北投) area is staging a special exhibit of electric-powered festival lanterns. The three overarching subjects: "Carp Leaps the Dragon Gate to Gallop the Yellow River" (鯉躍龍門飛黃騰達), "Andersen's Tales – the Little Mermaid" (安徒生童話—小美人魚), and "Caring for the North and South Poles" (愛護地球南北極) share an ecological theme. The idea is to remind everyone that while we all hope for personal fortune at this time of year, the fortunes of our fellow inhabitants on Earth, such as polar bears and penguins, are also in our hands.

In traditional folk belief, Lantern Festival coincides with the birthday of the Emperor-Official of Heaven (天官大帝), one of the Three Divine Officials (三官大帝), which has given rise to all the traditional cultural customs of the day, from decorative lanterns to lantern riddles, praying to heaven for good fortune and so on. So don't forget another Lantern Festival ritual, the eating of a bowl of *yuanxiao* (元宵), little dumplings whose roundness symbolizes the perfection of this season's full-family reunions. What better way to create "perfect" Lantern Festival memories? 🍡

## Information

### 2012 Taipei Lantern Festival 2012臺北燈節

**Time:** 2/2~2/12, 18:00~23:30

**Venue:** Civic Plaza and area around Taipei City Hall, Sun Yat-sen Memorial Hall, section of Ren'ai Road from city hall area to Ren'ai-Dunhua Traffic Circle, other areas (市政大樓周邊、市民廣場、國父紀念館及新仁愛路到仁愛敦化圓環等地)

**Tel:** 1999 (dial 02-27208889 outside Taipei City) ext. 6237

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

### 2012 Treasure Hill Lantern Festival – Bow Dragon, Shiny Eyes 寶力龍亮睛睛

**Time:** 1/23~3/31, 18:00~22:00

**Venues:** Taipei Artist Village (TAV; 臺北國際藝術村), 7, Beiping E. Rd. (北平東路7號)  
Treasure Hill Artist Village (THAV; 寶藏巖國際藝術村)  
2, Alley 14, Lane 230, Sec. 3, Dingzhou Rd. (汀州路3段230巷14弄2號)

**Tel:** (02) 3393-7377 TAV (02) 2364-5313 THAV

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

### Songshan Ciyou Temple – 100 Years of Lantern Festival Celebrations and Decorated Lanterns 松山慈祐宮一百年錫口慶元宵暨花燈展

**Time:** 1/22~3/21, 07:00~22:00

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

**Tel:** (02) 2766-9212

### Taipei XiaHai ChengHuang Temple – Lantern-Riddle Contest 台北霞海城隍廟元宵猜燈謎

**Time:** 2/6, 19:00~21:30

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

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

### Guandu Temple – Exhibit on Electric Festival Lanterns 關渡宮電動花燈展

**Time:** 2/2~3/4, 09:00~21:00

**Add:** 360, Zhixing Rd. (知行路360號)

**Tel:** (02) 2858-1281

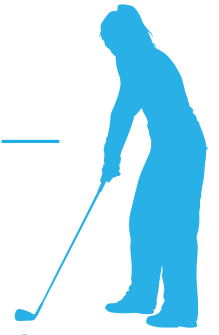


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# Looking for that Elusive Hole-in-One — The Joy of Golf in Taipei



In 2011 the first LPGA event ever was held in Taiwan, letting the people of the country get their first ever up-close look at the reigning global queens of the golf links. The world's No. 1, Yani Tseng (曾雅妮), is in fact from Taiwan, and also competing were Norway's Suzann Pettersen, South Korea's Na Yeon Choi, Japan's Ai Miyazato, and Morgan Pressel from the United States. The competition was fierce, the display of skills impressive. Taiwan's shining light, Yani Tseng lived up to the high expectations of the home crowd and walked away with victory, continuing her remarkable run of success in recent years and deepening passion for the game amongst Taiwan's golf aficionados and neophytes.

## Appropriate for All While Challenging for All

All avid golfers know well, and deeply love, the pure joy felt when stepping out onto a course, with its sweeping swathes of blue sky and green fairway. Nevertheless, once competition begins the eyes of one and all, players and spectators, are drawn to a work of art of an entirely different color—that little round piece of white perfection called a golf ball. All lose sense of time and space as the club is brought down with power and the ball takes flight with energy, soaring over the fairway, past treetops, and above water obstacles and sand traps on its way to the impossibly small target: a tiny hole off in the distance. “In the hole!” yell spectators in encouragement, as both players and fans hold their breath.

Golf, invented in Scotland, is a game of simple rules. A golfer, playing individually or as part of a team, uses different clubs to hit a small white dimpled ball down a wide fairway and into a small hole on what is called a “putting green” of close-cut grass. Over the course of a normal game, there are 18 fairway/green/hole combinations, simply called “holes,” and the player using the lowest number of hits or “strokes” wins. Holes are generally classified as requiring 3 to 5 strokes, the total number of strokes for a full 18-hole course totalling 72.

The design of each hole on a golf course has its own clever variations, challenging the player. There are rises and falls, curvatures, bunkers filled with sand, ponds, and other obstacles. Golf is thus



not merely a game of raw power; experience brings accuracy and finesse. Different conditions bring the choice of different clubs, different swings, and welcome challenges.

Though within the confines of busy Taipei City, there's no opportunity to stand on an open fairway, practice facilities abound, giving you the opportunity to practice fairway drives and putting. Various facilities also offer professional instruction, such as Wanhua Sports Center (萬華運動中心), which has a comprehensive range of options, including 10 driving stations, artificial putting greens, and sand traps, simulating the experience of being outside.

At the Xinyi Sports Center (信義運動中心), in addition to driving-range and sand-trap practice, you can also stand before a digital-simulation screen and happily experience the “real” thing. Other city-established sports centers in Nangang, Da'an, Zhongzheng, and Neihu districts offer practice ranges accommodating golf-club numbers 1 through 6, enabling lovers of the game to save travel time, hone their skills, and impress their friends next time they are on the links for a round in the great outdoors. 📍

### Notes of Interest:

If you're interested in taking up the game, note that a full set of clubs (up to 14), plus appropriate clothes and shoes are required. Golfing etiquette must also be followed while on the course, for instance standing well away from a fellow player's line of shot, maintaining an appropriate and safe distance from groups playing before and behind you, and not taking any shot or practice swing in a direction where people are in the line of shot, etc.

1. Taiwan's bright light Yani Tseng lived up to the high expectations of the home crowd and walked away with victory at the 2011 Sunrise LPGA Taiwan Championship. (Photo courtesy of Sunrise)
2. The 2011 championship, Taiwan's first LPGA event, was held at Taoyuan's Sunrise Golf & Country Club, and attracted many golf fans. (Photo courtesy of Sunrise)
3. The Guizikeng Driving Range in Beitou, with grass laid out like a carpet, is perhaps Taipei's best practice facility.
4. Wanhua Sports Center has professional golf coaching and a complete range of training facilities.
5. The Qing Qing Recreational Farm Driving Range, down an alley across from the National Palace Museum, gets very busy on weekends/holidays.

## Information

### Taipei Golf Practice Locations:

**Nangang Sports Center:** [ngsc.cyc.org.tw](http://ngsc.cyc.org.tw)

**Wanhua Sports Center:** [whsc.cyc.org.tw](http://whsc.cyc.org.tw)

**Zhongzheng Sports Center:** [www.jjsports.com.tw](http://www.jjsports.com.tw)

**Neihu Sports Center:** [www.nhsports.com.tw](http://www.nhsports.com.tw)

**Xinyi Sports Center:** [xysc.cyc.org.tw](http://xysc.cyc.org.tw)

**Da'an Sports Center:** [dasc.cyc.org.tw](http://dasc.cyc.org.tw)

#### Youth Park Driving Range 青年公園練習場

5 Guoxing Rd. (國興路5號); (02) 2301-4409 (run by private group under commission by Parks & Street Lights Office)

#### Guizikeng Driving Range 貴子坑練習場

17, Lane 150, Xiushan Rd. (秀山路150巷17號); (02) 2895-8670

#### Qing Qing Recreational Farm Driving Range 青青農場練習場

32, Lane 266, Sec. 2, Zhishan Rd. (至善路2段266巷32號); (02) 2841-2853

#### Shilin Practice Club 士林練習俱樂部

2 Zhoumei St. (洲美街2號); (02) 2838-5678



## Shiro Chu

褚士瑩

*Consultant to international NGOs*

*Special adviser to England's Eco Positive Limited*

*Well-known travel writer, with over 40 travel-themed books to date*

1. Taipei's breakfast sellers have just about everything, and are happy to "custom-build."
2. Hot foods and seating, along with Internet access, await you at the city's 24H convenience stores.
3. The friendly owners of local eyewear stores often provide free little extras for customers.
4. The many small neighborhood parks, enveloped in lane-and-alley mazes, are comfortable leisure spots.

# TAIPEI –

## A City of Myriad Small Oases, and Countless Treasurable Experiences

Travel writer Shiro Chu (褚士瑩) spends much of the year away from the city, but returns to Taipei every two or three months. Each time he's back he sees changes, he says, and is enjoying the city's steady transformation into a sophisticated international metropolis.

The essence of travel, says Chu, is to spend time in the daily lives of the people of another place. In Taipei, the particulars of everyday existence are sprinkled with points of aesthetic beauty, providing an endless journey of discovery and pleasure for the traveler.



Taipei's most distinguishing characteristic, Chu feels, is that it offers something for all people, whether visitor or permanent resident, whatever their desires and temperament. For instance it seems there's a breakfast joint along every lane and alley, selling everything from a traditional *fantuan* (rice roll; 飯糰) or *danbing* (egg pancake; 蛋餅) to Italian pasta and hamburgers. To drink, choose from fresh-ground coffee, or the more traditional *naicha* (milk tea; 奶茶). Everything is made fresh, and is full of flavor. Even more notable, visit a spot two or three times and you may not even need to give your order, for the owner will probably have already promoted you to his list of regulars, remembering your preferences with uncanny accuracy.

This sense of "customization" does not end with breakfast vendors. Far from it. This city makes it easy for the visitor to make themselves an "old Taipei hand" in no time, choosing what most gives you pleasure from among street vendors selling treats such as crispy salt/pepper popcorn chicken, shops



selling refreshing hand-shaken drinks, and Starbucks outlets on the first levels of 5-star hotels. Choose what best defines your character and become a regular. Perhaps most Taipei folk take all this in their stride, but Chu does not; he's traveled to over a hundred countries, and returns each time with the eyes of a newcomer. Why does he feel this special city trait is to be so cherished? It's not that you can't find other places serving breakfast around the world that will customize whatever your whims are – it's just that these are most likely in a 5-star hotel, rather than in a small breakfast joint selling breakfast for just an American dollar or so. This local willingness to tailor services to individual customers is a constant surprise for visitors, often leaving pleasant memories.

Taipei's second most distinguishing point is its 24-hour convenience, says Chu. Even in Tokyo, known as the most orderly of international cities, you don't see 24-hour convenience stores that let customers sit down for a bite to eat and access to the Internet in the middle of the night. The famous Dunhua South Road outlet of Eslite Bookstore is open all through the night. On occasion you'll even see tour guides out in the

wee hours, waving their little flags to rally their groups of tourists from Hong Kong and mainland China. What in the world are they doing? They're on a pilgrimage, of course, and bookstore visits at 1 or 2 in the morning have become a ritual element on Taipei tours.

Distinguishing point number three? The famed *renqingwei* (人情味) of this city's people, a term translators struggle to capture, which encompasses the ideas of warmth, friendliness, and hospitality. Walk into an eyewear store, for example, and rare is the manager who will charge you for replacing a screw; some will even replace the nose pads on your glasses on their own initiative, clean them, adjust them, put them in a new case, add some cleaning cloth, and hand them back — all free of charge. Strangest of all, you do not need to be a regular customer to receive this kind of treatment, nor perhaps even pay for other services during your visit. This is not a practice that's seen commonly, if ever, in most of the world's cities.



Taipei's dense grid of streets, lanes, and alleys have given rise to neighborhoods with parks of limited size. There's nothing like New York's Central Park in Taipei, though in the last decade or so the city's riverside areas have been systematically opened up and made more recreation-friendly. Nevertheless, the neighborhood parks are great in number, and every few streets you seem to run into one, some big, some small, a concentrated mosaic of small green urban oases quite unique in the cities of the world.

Chu says he fully realizes that Taipei does not yet have a place among the cities chosen as the world's top destinations, but he has traveled the world, seen many things, and remains impressed with this city's determined efforts to remold itself. The "old" is thrown off, the "traditional" kept and cherished, the "new" boldly and proudly showcased. 📺



### Davod Bagherzadeh

Place of Origin: Iran  
Owner,  
Laowai Yipin Beef Noodles  
老外一品牛肉麵

## International-Style Beef Noodles Challenging Local Palates and Expectations



Fragrant, succulent, delicious beef noodles are one of Taipei City's signature dishes. Down the city's lanes and alleys are countless beef-noodle purveyors, each proudly proclaiming theirs is the best ever. Now, into the fray comes an unusual contender; the restaurant "Laowai" (老外) has thrown down the gauntlet. The name literally means "foreigner" and, yes indeed, it's run by a foreigner. Can it be, locals ask, that a foreigner can make a good — or even edible — bowl of beef noodles?

Davod Bagherzadeh is originally from Iran. Giving up his original love, Judo, he came to Taiwan 17 years ago with little in the way of luggage, but with big hopes of finding a business opportunity here. Eating his way around the island, he found two new loves: beef noodles, and a Taiwan lass, and moved to Taipei. Once here he found someone to teach him the art of making beef noodles. Before opening his own business, he worked at an Iranian restaurant to learn the ins and outs of the restaurant business here. Finally, three years ago, he opened his own beef noodles shop.

Says Davod: "Foreigners living In Taipei have to 'work' at living here, needing to spend extra time and money to buy experience." Before opening his eatery, Davod spent a good deal of time at the Binjiang (濱江市場) and Huannan (環南市場) Markets in search of sources for fresh ingredients. He even spent time in Huanhe South Road (環河南路) and in Shenkeng (深坑) warehouses searching for second-hand professional

kitchen equipment. To ensure the best and most distinctive taste for his patrons, he uses large soup bones and Taiwan herbs and spices as a foundation for the broth, adding five Persian spices to enhance the flavor further. The final result is a soup stock of truly full-bodied, exotic, international character. The handmade noodles are chewy and firm, and with the unique broth make for a bowl of beef-noodles that measures up with any offered by beef-noodle shops owned by locals.

Davod has entered the Taipei International Beef Noodle Festival (臺北國際牛肉麵節), staged by the city government three years in a row, and was placed third in the Soy-Stewed category in 2009, named one of the city's ten best beef-noodle shops in 2010, and received an Award of Excellence in the Soy-Stewed category in 2011.

In Davod's view, Taipei is a city of great convenience. To get a taxi you just walk outside and wave one down; markets have a comprehensive range of goods, and you can find restaurants all around the city serving foods from all around the globe. And he hasn't left his first love completely behind—Davod serves as a part-time consultant for both Judo and wrestling athletes, and he's taken Taiwan teams overseas to participate in international competitions. He's deeply proud, he says, to be a "Taipei local."

1. Davod participated in the 2011 Taipei International Beef Noodle Festival competition.
2. The restaurant Laowai, which means "foreigner," draws many locals looking to sample its international approach to familiar foods.

## Home-made American-style Burgers that Captured Local Hearts



**Joe Hodgson**

Place of Origin: Canada  
Owner, Forkers restaurant  
Forkers 美式漢堡餐廳

American burgers have long been a part of the Taipei culinary scene, taking their spot on the menu way back when US government and military personnel were stationed on the island. However, says Joe Hodgson, a debonair Canuck, standard true-blue American burger joints have always suffered from high prices, meaning the average person could not afford to often enjoy the experience and discover the joys of well-prepared American family food.

Nine years ago, Joe decided to take up a hometown friend's invitation to come to Taipei and set up a new base. He took up hockey coaching and teaching English to children, finding both quite a challenge. At that time, hockey was just taking root on the island, and teaching a foreign language to kids required a great deal of patience and care. A lover of American food and a graduate of a hotel food-management program at a Canadian university, when a chance came up to join the Taipei restaurant world, he jumped at it.

Seven years back he took another big leap, opening up his own American-style burger restaurant with a friend. It was an immediate hit with people in the local community, and three years later the doors on a second outlet swung open. The signature hamburgers and their special secret sauces, tasty, varied, and made freshly by hand, has given Forkers prime standing within the East District's thick concentration of burger-sellers. "We insist on making

all our foods and all our sauces by ourselves," says Joe, "and all our fruits, vegetables, and meats are brought in fresh every day. Our Taipei suppliers are great at meeting our demand for just-in-time delivery, and our orders always on time and accurately filled. I'm really happy with their service."

When off work, he loves to head off to Ximending's Polar Bear Ice World (北極熊滑冰世界) and Nanjing East Road's Taipei Arena (臺北小巨蛋) to play hockey with friends. His other great passion is riding his 600cc motorcycle, chasing the wind and enjoying the scenery on Yangmingshan (陽明山), in the Tamsui (淡水) coastal area, and in hilly Maokong (貓空). "What I cherish most about Taipei life, however," he says, "is the friendliness and warmth of Taipei's people." He tells how, when still teaching English, his parents came to visit and the husband-wife team that owned his school offered to pick them up, helped arrange accommodation, helped him entertain them, and acted as tourist guides. Nowadays, he says, many of his customers ask him to take group photos with him even though he doesn't know them well or at all, and many even post the shots on Facebook, as if old friends. This attitude, he states, is the main reason why he has stayed in Taipei so long.

1. Forkers, an American-style burger restaurant, serves great tastes at reasonable prices.
2. Forkers offers burgers in over 50 different taste combinations.



**Peter Larsson**

Place of Origin: Sweden  
Owner, Milo Milo Swedish  
Restaurant & Bar  
迷路麋鹿瑞典小酒館

## Sweden's Slow Food, Leading Taipei Folks in Slow, Easy Living



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In Sweden, a beloved custom for families and groups of friends hitting a restaurant is to sidle up to the bar after the meal, savoring some good drinks and small sample dishes. When Sweden's Peter Larsson first came to Taiwan, his plan was to spend a few weeks studying Chinese and then head home; little did he know that the gods of love were chasing him, and that he would soon meet the love of his life, Kathy, at the Taipei Fine Arts Museum (臺北市立美術館). A grand international love affair blossomed, and as Peter explains, "Kathy lived at home with her Mom, and if she followed me back to Sweden her Mom would have been all alone - so I decided to stay in Taiwan."

To build his home in Taipei, Peter, who had worked as a business management consultant, switched gears and opened a restaurant, introducing Swedish home-style cooking and a slice of the Swedish slow-food culture to the people of Taipei. The two did all the décor work and food design by themselves, and Peter had a special 3 kilogram professional-use pancake pan sent over from Sweden so he could introduce genuine Swedish sweet treats to his diners. He insists on the highest standards for all his ingredients, from his beef meatballs to his raw salmon appetizers to his seafood casserole. He is constantly experimenting with ingredients, mixes, and preparation methods, so that all his patrons know that the main item in all his offerings is Tender Loving Care.

"The people of Taipei have a great liking for discovering the best in new foods, but the pace of modern life continues to speed up, and thus diners rush off right after dinner without lingering." For himself, even during a 15-hour day, Peter is always at each tableside when customers are seated, offering his service and his advice on Swedish dishes and what they mean in terms of good living. He hopes that Taipei folks will learn to slow the pace of their lives and appreciate what's right in front of them instead of what might await down the road. A key step in this direction, he says, is lingering over meals with family, discussing the beauties of the food and of the day.

In their free time, Peter and Kathy like to go to Da'an Park (大安森林公園) to enjoy the lush green space, or head off exploring the shops and boutiques in the Shida (師大) and Gongguan (公館) areas. Taipei, says Peter, is a place filled with warmth, love, and affection, and while living his exotic international life, he feels wrapped up in a warm blanket of welcoming congeniality. 🇹🇼

1. Milo Milo Swedish Restaurant & Bar prepares classic Swedish beef meatballs.

2. Owner Peter Larsson enjoys introducing classic Swedish fare and the Swedish lifestyle.

# How to Talk to TAIPEI

Here are a few standard New Year good will expressions that will help you get in the swing of things during the holidays.

Congratulations and be prosperous, with surplus year after year.

**Mandarin Chinese**

恭喜發財, 年年有餘

gong xi fa cai , nian nian you yu



**Mandarin Chinese**

祥龍瑞氣, 龍年行大運

xiang long rui qi , long nian xing da yun

The auspicious dragon is lucky, may the Year of the Dragon bring great fortune.



Every year a surplus, every year flowing riches, every year build a grander home.

**Taiwanese**

年年春, 年年富,

ni ni cun , ni ni bu ,

年年起大厝

ni ni ki dua chu



**Taiwanese**

新正大發財, 錢銀家己來

xin zian dua hua cai , qi yin ga gi lai

May great wealth begin with the New Year, riches flowing into your home.



## Cultural-Creative Taipei

# The March Toward 2016 World Design Capital Glory

In recent years, this city's determined and relentless march toward internationalization has been marked with such world-class milestones as the 2009 Taipei Deaflympics, the 2010 Taipei International Flora Expo, and the 2011 Taipei World Design Expo. These events have been powerful local-creativity stimulants and have drawn the entire globe's attention. A belt of cultural creativity is taking shape in the city in the form of bricks-and-mortar, through the National Palace Museum (故宮博物院), Taipei Performing Arts Center (臺北藝術中心 construction of which is to begin this year), Huashan 1914 Creative Park (華山1914文化創意產業園區), and Songshan Cultural and Creative Park (松山文化創意園區). A grand showcase platform for Taipei's creative energy is being built, for all the world to see.

Now, with Taiwan designers having garnered numerous awards at Germany's red dot and iF design competitions, the city of Taipei's bid to become a World Design Capital in 2016 and its quest for national honor and glory is gaining ever greater attention.

### A City by Design: No Place in Life without a Design Focus

The World Design Capital promotional program was launched in 2008 by the International Council of Societies of Industrial Design (ICSID). Choices are made every two years. The city of Torino in Italy was declared the first World Design Capital in 2008, followed by Seoul in 2010. The title holder for 2012 is Helsinki. Among these, one is noted for traditional art heritage, another for fundamental architectural changes to the city's appearance, and another for making design an intrinsic part of everyday living.





## A Taipei Green Jewel: Songshan Cultural and Creative Park

Today's cultural and creative park is a heritage complex, built in 1937 during the 1895-1945 period of Japanese colonial rule as a tobacco factory. The air here is thick with history, and the rich ambiance of culture and history is a prime ingredient in the creative incubation going on at today's creative design center — a new creative green jewel for the Metropolis. The on-site Taiwan Design Museum (臺灣設計館), the Chinese-speaking world's first museum dedicated to design innovation, has an area of 500 ping and features seven large exhibition galleries. The museum is itself designed as a multifunctional and diversified venue operated according to micro-museum concepts.

In terms of Taiwan as a creative platform of international standard, the majority of the creative ferment and experimentation occurs in Taipei. The capital is home to 60% of the cultural-creative enterprises in the country. In 2010, the city staged a daily average of 14 arts and culture activities, or one every 1.4 hours, and the Taipei Industrial Design Award (臺北工業設計獎) has become the inspirational beacon and benchmark in domestic design circles.

Perhaps Taipei's most compelling charm, and what distinguishes it from other cities, is the distinctive design landscape of its lanes and alleys. The city has 11 creative district clusters — among them Yongkang (永康), Minsheng (民生), and Zhongshan (中山) — filled with shops and boutiques with styles and characters like no other, from façades to products to interior décor, often brimming with exhibitions of the novel creative concepts of digital designers. The result is a series of encounters with clever design expression, literally everywhere you turn.

In this section, we'll be continually introducing to you the many expressions of creative vitality to be found hidden away along the byways and arteries of the capital, which is also Taiwan's capital of design. In this issue, we present a cultural-creative flagship base carefully crafted by the Taipei City Government — Songshan Cultural and Creative Park. This is a venue of stimulating ferment where the fusion of the “old” of history and the “new” of design is having powerful impact, with dynamic and often very surprising creative winds flowing from a potent blending of different cultural forces.

In “Spot Light on Design” (設計光廊區), seven levels of cloud images represent the seven levels of consciousness. LCD projection manifests dynamic visual blurring, spatial layering, time changes, fashion, and design sequences. Clouds are also



**1-2.** The 2011 Taipei World Design Platform was a vivid showcase of Taiwan's design prowess.

**3-4.** In 2011 Taiwan designers garnered the second- and third-highest number of awards at Germany's red dot and iF design competitions.

**5.** Songshan Cultural and Creative Park has already become a city cultural-creative jewel with the presence of the Taiwan Design Museum.

## Songshan Cultural and Creative Park



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pulled together and combined, allowing visitors to send their ideas into the realm of glass, stimulating greater interest in, and understanding of, design via interactive fun. In the “Design Interaction” area (互動區) a virtual studio is created; here you can hear about the international award-winning concepts of Taiwan designers (in English and Japanese), and experience hands-on control, learning about both the hard work and the great fun that comes with being a designer. In the “Golden Pin Design” area (金點區), the grand display platform is a street of window displays and a wall of TV screens; on display are winners from the international awards competition organized by the Industrial Development Bureau of the Ministry of Economic Affairs — elite works bearing the Golden Pin Award (金點設計獎) product certification mark.



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In the “International Design” area (世界區), five sections in the style of large plates or continents create a map of global design, helping visitors understand how the world's various areas approach design and life, culture, and geography, and how these are interconnected. In the “Taiwan Design” area (臺灣區), folding technique is used to create a display platform in the shape of Taiwan's topography, and the platform used in an interpretation of the five stages of design development that characterizes this “Treasure Island” (寶島). In the “Concept Design” area (概念區), enjoy brilliant conceptual works that stimulate the creative imagination, and in the “Innovative Design” area (前瞻區), explore the environment and issues revolving around sustainable design through interactive virtual imagery.

## Watching a Great Show: Up Close with Art and Culture Product Creativity

In addition to the permanent exhibits introduced above, note the park's heritage-architecture Halls 1 through 5 have also been transformed into venues for a diverse selection of fine arts and culture showcases, staged on an irregular basis. These are designed to enhance the public's arts and culture literacy. By way of example, in January and February enjoy a veritable feast of stimulation with a triumvirate of entertaining events: *From Up on Poppy Hill*, an Original Art Exhibition (吉卜力工作室：《來自紅花坂》原畫展), Dinosaur Dream Park (恐龍夢公園—海陸空總動員), and Painted Dunhuang — Exhibition of Feitian Murals (繪動敦煌—飛天壁畫展).

*From Up on Poppy Hill* is the latest film from Studio Ghibli, which is led by renowned Japanese director/ animator Hayao Miyazaki. The exhibit presents 14 magnified images of his sketches for the film, along with 373 drafts by director and close collaborator Katsuya Kondo. The presentation of such a collection is truly a rare event, and not to be missed.

Beyond the many exhibits, make time to visit the park's design library and design store as well, browsing the comprehensive range of design-related books and information materials, or hunt for the perfect Taiwan design-savvy cultural-creative gift item, taking the charm of good design home with you. 🎁



## Information

### Songshan Cultural and Creative Park

松山文化創意園區

**Time:** Daily 10:00~18:00

**Add:** 133 Guangfu S. Rd. (光復南路133號)

**Tel:** (02) 2765-1388

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

### Taiwan Design Museum 臺灣設計館

**Time:** Tue-Sun 10:00~18:00 (closed Mon)

**Add:** 133 Guangfu S. Rd., 1F, Songshan Tobacco Factory (光復南路133號, 製菸工廠1樓)

**Tel:** (02) 2745-8199, ext. 123, 124

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

### From Up on Poppy Hill Original Art Exhibition

吉卜力工作室：《來自紅花坂》原畫展

**Time:** Until 2/12

### Dinosaur Dream Park

恐龍夢公園—海陸空總動員

**Time:** Until 3/4

### Painted Dunhuang — Exhibition of Feitian Murals

繪動敦煌—飛天壁畫展

**Time:** Until 3/11

6. The Taiwan Design Museum is a multifunctional, diversified venue operated following micro-museum concepts.
7. The Taiwan Design Area uses a display platform shaped like Taiwan's topography to explain the island's five stages of design development.
8. In the Design Interaction Area a virtual-reality work studio is created.
9. The Concept Design Area displays award-winning works at international design competition by both Taiwan and overseas talent.
10. In the International Design Area, five large plates are used to build a map of global design.
11. The Golden Pin Design Area has winners from the international competition staged by the Industrial Development Bureau of Taiwan's Ministry of Economic Affairs.
- 12-13. Now running in Halls 1 through 5 at Songshan Cultural and Creative Park are *From Up on Poppy Hill* Original Art Exhibition and Dinosaur Dream Park.



# Animation Art Nouveau in Taipei

Many of the Disney cartoons you remember and love—the cute lifelike characters, the special worlds of dreams and magic—were in fact created through the painstaking craftsmanship of animators in Taiwan. In the 1980s this small land sprang forth as the world's largest contracted-animation workshop, and at that time upwards of 70% of all American cartoon shows were created here. This experience has had a profound effect on Taiwan's animation development in the past 30 years.

## From Contract to Original Productions

In 1978 James Wang (王中元), returning from studies in the U.S., established the Cuckoo's Nest Studio (宏廣公司). He went from work on Disney TV shows to film animation, working on as many as 17 films a year and employing more than 100 key animators doing original art. The studio's incredible quantity and production efficiency amazed Hollywood, which began to call it the "Magic Cuckoo's Nest."

In the early 1990s the animation industry began a slow migration across the Taiwan Strait to mainland China, but self-produced animation has not stopped. In 1994 the Far Eastern Animation Tech. Co. (遠東動畫) produced *Zen Taipei Ah-Kuan* (禪說阿寬), an original work by Cai

Zhizhong (蔡志忠). The animation and coloration was carried out in mainland China, but the direction, original concept art, and screenplay were all done in Taiwan. The film garnered a Special Jury Award at that year's Golden Horse Film Festival. Also in 1994, the film *The Quest of Magic* (學仙記), created by Cuckoo's Nest, was chosen as best animated film at France's Annecy Film Festival. In 1998 the work by Taiwan director Wang Shaudi (王小棣) entitled *Grandma and Her Ghosts* (魔法阿媽), a co-production with Korean interests, highlighted Taiwan folk customs and beliefs, gaining widespread acclaim and also winning a key best-film award at the first-ever Taipei Film Festival (臺北電影節).



## Cross-Border New School Cooperation – From 2D into 3D

In addition to self-produced animated films, cross-border cooperations also became a new option. In 1994 Taiwan Public Television Service (PTS) cooperated with Japan's NHK and Korea's KBS in producing *The Story of Confucius* (孔子傳), which took four years to shoot, at a cost of NT\$40 million. Premium Taiwan talent was involved at all levels, including famed film director Hou Hsiao-hsien (侯孝賢) as executive producer and acclaimed animator Zheng Wen (鄭問) as consultant for character development.

In the 1990s digital technology and 3D computer animation came to the fore. The online revolution also brought Flash animation to prominence. In Taiwan A-Kuei (阿貴), produced by Spring House Entertainment Tech. (春水堂), was first shown online and became a big hit,

and was then made into a full-length feature in 2002 and released as *A-Kuei and His Magic Hammer* (阿貴槌你喔). This was the first film ever produced using Flash animation. The A-Kuei phenomenon was both a milestone marker for the new century and a signal of a complete change of direction for the animation industry.

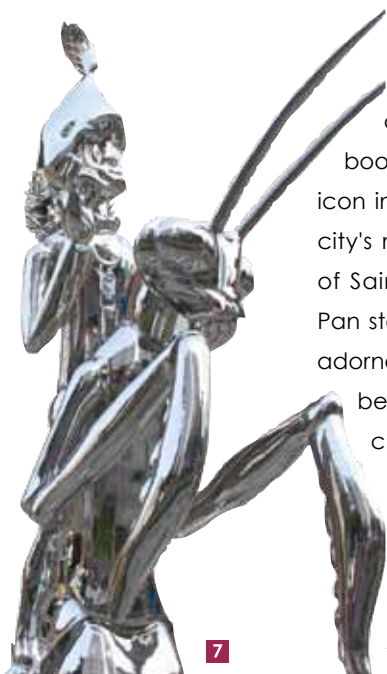
1. The first Chinese full-length animated feature was *Fireball: Journey to the West – The Secret Behind the Fiery Mountains*, by Wang Film Productions. (Photo courtesy of Wang Film Productions; formerly known as Cuckoo's Nest Studio.)
- 2-3. The animated work *Grandma and Her Ghosts* has Taiwan folk customs and religious beliefs as its themes. (Photo courtesy of Rice Film International Co., Ltd.)
4. The feature film *A-Kuei and His Magic Hammer*, was the first ever created using Flash animation; view it at [ikland.emone.net](http://ikland.emone.net). (Photo courtesy of Spring House Entertainment Tech. Inc.)
5. Selena Lin's work *Bu Quan Cai Nu* captures the essence of Chinese cultural traditions while also capturing uniquely Taiwanese characteristics. (Photo courtesy of Sharp Point Publishing Group)
6. *Wings of Kople*, by AKRU, depicts Taiwan's unique ecological landscapes, showing off this land's many beauties to readers. (Photo courtesy of Gaea Books Co., Ltd.)

## Taiwan Animators – Occupying the International Spotlight

In recent years Taiwan's comic illustrators have also received a great deal of attention. In 2011 comic authors Selena Lin (林青慧) and AKRU (沈穎杰) were invited to the Festival Chambéry BD (香貝里國際漫畫節) in France, the first time Taiwan animation talent have been invited onto the European stage. Lin has been affectionately called the "national diva of comics" (國民漫畫小天后). Known for work that is bright and colorful, her *Bu Quan Cai Nu* (不全才女), a wonderful and entertaining glimpse into the enduring traditions of Chinese school life, captures the essence of Chinese cultural traditions while also depicting the richness of uniquely Taiwanese characteristics.

AKRU's real name is Shen Yingjie (沈穎杰). Though her main artistic influence is Japanese master Hayao Miyazaki, the subjects of her work are Taiwan's native culture and history. For example, her book *Wings of Kople* (柯普雷的翅膀) is set in 19th-century Taiwan, depicting the adventures of a Western traveler exploring the central mountains and depicting many of Taiwan's unique ecological landscapes; one of her key goals to show the people of Taiwan how beautiful their homeland is. In 2012 the Festival Chambéry BD asked the extremely popular Lin Mingxuan (林珉瑄); the humorous tone and easy-to-understand pictorial style of her work makes her especially beloved by young readers.





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In 2009 the sculptor Yang Maolin (楊茂林) was invited to the heavyweight Venice Biennale, where he showed off a series of 30 works depicting comic-book characters with elements of Buddhist-icon imagery incorporated, using one of the city's most venerable churches, the Basilica of Saint John and Paul, as his stage. Peter Pan stood on the rooftop, the Little Mermaid adorned the windows, and Mazinger Z stood before the altar, transforming the solemn church into a temple of cartoon deities and, as one might imagine, creating a scene of surreal imagery and symbolism. The collective work was called *The Temple of Sublime Beauty – Made in Taiwan*.



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## Classic Animation Art Comes to Taipei

Anything defined as "classic" has value in its ability to transport us across time, providing fascinating linkage with another reality. Two exhibitions on classic animation art have taken command of the Taipei stage, transporting you via the latest high-tech to enjoy timeless classics.

Visit the National Palace Museum (NPM) now and you can take in the Classic Paintings in Animation (古畫動漫) exhibit, watching online 3D versions of such short films as *Adventures in NPM: Meet the Painting and Calligraphy Masterpieces* (國寶娃娃入寶山). In this exhibition the past meets the present in highly creative animated films, with classic paintings presented in the form of unrolled scrolls. The chosen paintings are all priceless treasures

from the National Palace Museum trove, such as *Along the River during the Qingming Festival* (清明上河圖). The films are shown using four industrial-grade projectors and a seamless 8-meter screen. The high-resolution imagery and dynamic animation bring classics once silent and static to colorful and vivid life.

In the films the star, selected by the public through ballot, is the *Ding Ware White Ceramic Baby-shaped Pillow* (定窯白瓷嬰兒枕), a work from the Northern Song period. The advanced 3D imagery can be watched by netizens around the world, watching the film's "National Treasure Baby" and the little white horse from paintings by Guiseppe Castiglione playing and exploring in the NPM.



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**7-9.** In *The Temple of Sublime Beauty* – Made in Taiwan, sculptor Yang Maolin used comic-book characters to make one of Venice's most venerable churches into a temple to animation.

**10.** In *Classic Paintings in Animation*, classic paintings are presented in the form of scrolls unrolled.

**11-12.** Want to "play" with National Palace Museum masterpieces? Check out *Adventures in NPM: Meet the Painting and Calligraphy Masterpieces* at [www.npm.gov.tw/digital/archives/](http://www.npm.gov.tw/digital/archives/).

**13-14.** The exhibition *Dreams Come True: Classic Disney Animation Art* has original *Cinderella* works by the acclaimed Mary Blair, and *Snow White's Wishing Well* (1973).

Over at the National Museum of History, take in the self-curated exhibition *Dreams Come True: Classic Disney Animation Art* (美夢成真-迪士尼經典動畫藝術), an inspiring showcase of over 600 Disney animation artworks. There are sketches, scenery paintings, character studies, sculptures, rare and precious manuscripts, and other creations. Disney fans can visit favorite characters such as Snow White, Cinderella, and Sleeping Beauty, and even earlier characters such as the Three Little Pigs and the Ugly Duckling, learning how they were brought to life and getting to know them more intimately. The wonders of Disney animation art and the distinctive Disney style are made clear. One of the show's highlights are rare scenarios created by legendary early-era

animators such as Mary Blair, Eyvind Earle, and Kay Nielsen, supported by original old work stations and clips from animation shorts, giving you a glimpse into Disney's giant role in animation history and how its creative artists made dreams come true.

The simple beauty of animation touches our innocent hearts when we are young and brings a sense of innocence and wonder back to our hearts when we are young no more. Come take a break from the world of "big people" with a visit to the world of the imagination, limitless and filled with joy. 12



## Information

### Classic Paintings in Animation

《古畫動漫》常設展

**Time:** Daily 08:30~18:30, free entry Sat night 18:30~20:30

**Venue:** National Palace Museum (國立故宮博物院)

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

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

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

### Dreams Come True:

### Classic Disney Animation Art

美夢成真-迪士尼經典動畫藝術

**Time:** Until March 14, Tue-Sun 10:00~18:00 (closed Mon)

**Venue:** National Museum of History (歷史博物館)

**Add:** 49, Nanhai Rd. (南海路49號)

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

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

# New Era for Fashion in Art — The 2012 Taiwan International Festival of Arts

The center of Taiwan's artistic universe is Taipei's National Theater & Concert Hall (NTCH; 兩廳院). In celebration of the center's 25th anniversary, the grand theme for this year's Taiwan International Festival of Arts (台灣國際藝術節) is "Heritage and Development." Groups from 12 countries will hit the stage, featuring the work of great masters from home and abroad in splendid creations that cross both borders and cultures. A wide-ranging program of 61 exciting shows will be presented at the NTCH's four venues, giving you the opportunity to enjoy stage classics and at the same time find out what the latest fashions and trends are in the world of international performing arts.

The 2012 edition will have a 46-day run, from February 16th to April 1st, and aims to serve as a catalyst for the fusion of fashion and art. Famed French choreographer Mourad Merzouki, of the Compagnie Käfig, will weave together hip-hop and modern dance, combining the concepts of the lyrical weaving of dance movements and the intricate weaving of fabric. Merzouki is cooperating with celebrated Taiwan cutting-edge fashion designer Johan Ku (古又文), known for his delicate and sophisticated sculpture-like knitwear. Dancers donning Ku's specially crafted, highly plastic costumes will engage in

a creative and pleasantly surprising dialogue between textiles and dance art.

The international program is one of splendid diversity. In the Dance category, on February 25th and 26th the French choreographer Myriam Herve-Gil and Taiwan stage queen Hsu Yenling (徐堰鈴) are together presenting *Will There Really Be a "Morning"?* (明天的這裡會有黎明嗎?). In this highly unusual work the poetry of Emily Dickinson is brought to life, the bodies of four modern dancers merged with music and language, presenting Dickinson's unique "fragmenting text by dash" method of poetic expression through the metamorphic embodiment of this mysterious poet.

March 16th to 18th, choreographer Hofesh Schechter and his Hofesh Schechter Company present the powerful *Political Mother*. In this work, dancers' distorted body movements symbolize disturbed emotional undercurrents, and the following explosive loping and iron-like stomping are a shout-out to exhausting hardship. Accompanied by up-tempo live music, this work gets the blood boiling in feverish ferment.





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In the Theater department, from February 17th to 19th British heavyweight director Declan Donnellan brings British-style minimalism to a bold reinterpretation of Shakespeare's classic tragicomedy *The Tempest*. The three-time winner of England's prestigious Oliver Award is working with top Russian acting talent from stage, screen, and television, in turn bringing the incorporation of authentic Russian realist dynamism.

From March 8th to 10th, Peter Brook, the most influential theater maestro of the 20th century, is presenting an exciting piece adapted from Mozart's masterpiece *The Magic Flute*, removing the vast panoply of scenic effects and shedding the heavy and solemn symbolism. *The Magic Flute* becomes music theater, reinterpreted by actors, pianists, and vocalists and actors, turning the audience's expectations on their head and immersing them in a magical world.

Seventy-eight-year-old Yoshi Oida, an actor considered one of Japan's national treasures, is coming to Taiwan for the second time, bringing with him *Interrogations: Words of the Zen Masters*, his self-directed and self-acted one-man play with live musical accompaniment. This superb work, to be staged from March 16th to 18th, has a perfect combination of drama, music, movement and physicality, and profound religious meditations. This masterpiece will thrill audiences.

Taiwan's own performance troupes have also been introducing a raft of new works. *Taipei Dad, New York Mom* (臺北爸爸・紐約媽媽), is director Li Huanhsiung's (黎煥雄) adaptation of the popular novel by the same

name. Visit Taipei in the 1960s and 70s, and New York in the 80s, crossing time and cultures as the riveting true story of the book's author is told.

Also on the program are shows by local and international puppet-theater troupes, a Chinese opera adaption of Shakespeare's *Antony and Cleopatra*, and rousing opera concerts with the National Symphony Orchestra. Fashion will be flowing into a palace of high art, great masters of the stage are bringing creativity and perception to touch the deepest-flowing currents of our lives, and the 2012 edition of the Taiwan International Festival of Arts will have its greatest ever showing of puppetry genius and cross-boundary cooperative productions. Surely, then, you know where you must be starting February 16th, don't you ? 🎭

1. Theater maestro Peter Brook's *The Magic Flute*.
2. British director Declan Donnellan brings British-style minimalist interpretation of Shakespeare's *The Tempest*.
3. *Hand Stories* by Mainland China's Yeung Fai, previously presented at the theatre Vidy-Lausanne.
4. *Taipei Dad, New York Mom* is Taiwan director Li Huanhsiung's adaptation of the popular novel of the same name.

## Information

### 2012 Taiwan International Festival of Arts 2012台灣國際藝術節

**Time:** 2/16~4/1

**Venue:** National Theater & Concert Hall, NTCH (兩廳院)

**Add:** 21-1 Zhongshan S. Rd. (中山南路21-1號)

**Tel:** (02) 3393-9888

**Website:** tifa.ntch.edu.tw

**Tickets:** NTCH Ticketing Service(www.artsticket.com.tw)

2012 1/2

January-February  
Arts Exhibition Calendar



The Public Spirit - Beauty in the Making - Shui-Long Yen



2013 - World Is Over ?



Magic Anima



Transjourney 2012  
Future Media Festival

## National Palace Museum

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

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

**Website:** www.npm.gov.tw

**Until 3/25**

The Art and Aesthetics of Form: Selections from the History of Chinese Painting

**1/20~4/23**

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

## Taipei Fine Arts Museum

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

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

**Website:** www.tfam.museum

**Until 2/26**

The Public Spirit - Beauty in the Making - Shui-Long Yen

## Museum of Contemporary Art Taipei (MOCA Taipei)

**Tel:** (02) 2552-3721

**Add:** 39 Chang'an W. Rd. (長安西路39號)

**Website:** www.mocataipei.org.tw

**Until 1/29**

2013 - World Is Over ?

**Until 1/29**

Chen Shun-Chu Solo Exhibition

## National Chiang Kai-shek Memorial Hall

**Tel:** (02) 2343-1100

**Add:** 21 Zhongshan S. Rd. (中山南路21號)

**Website:** www.ntdmh.gov.tw

**1/19~5/6**

Watch Me Move - The Animation Show

## National Theater & Concert Hall

**Tel:** (02) 3393-9888

**Add:** 21-1 Zhongshan S. Rd. (中山南路21-1號)

**Website:** www.ntch.edu.tw

**2/18~19**

Le Nozze di Figaro by Taipei Philharmonic Opera Stadio

**2/21**

Martin Stadtfeld 2012 Piano Recital

## Kuandu Museum of Fine Arts

**Tel:** (02) 2896-1000 ext. 2432

**Add:** 1 Xueyuan Rd. (學園路1號)

**Website:** www.kdmofa.tnua.edu.tw

**Until 2/19**

Transjourney 2012 Future Media Festival

## Huashan 1914 Creative Park

**Tel:** (02) 2358-1914

**Add:** 1, Sec. 1, Bade Rd. (八德路1段1號)

**Website:** web.huashan1914.com

**Until 3/18**

The M Riders Magic Exhibition

**1/30~2/3**

Cloud Gate "Moving Paradise" Winter Camp

## National Museum of History

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

**Add:** 49 Nanhai Rd. (南海路49號)

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

**Until 2/19**

Cheng Huai Wei Xiang - Selected Paintings from the Museum Collection

**Until 3/14**

Dreams Come True: The Art of Disney's Classic Fairy Tales

## National Taiwan Science Education Center

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

**Add:** 189 Shishang Rd. (士商路189號)

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

**Until 1/29**

Through Space and Time - The Silk Road

**Until 2/19**

Theo Jansen - Art. Science. Education

## Digital Art Center, Taipei

**Tel:** (02) 7736-0708

**Add:** 180 Fuhua Rd. (福華路180號)

**Website:** www.dac.tw/index.html

**Until 1/21**

Magic Anima

## National Taiwan Museum

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

**Add:** 2 Xiangyang Rd. (襄陽路2號)

**Website:** www.ntm.gov.tw/tw/index.aspx

**Until 3/11**

On the Tracks of Anthropologists- Centennial Exhibit of Taiwan Anthropology





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# How To Get from Taiwan Taoyuan International Airport to Taipei

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



**The Transportation Map of Taiwan Taoyuan International Airport Terminal I & II**

## Taxi

### Service locations:

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

### One-way fare:

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

### Terminal I Arrivals hall taxi-service counter tel. no.:

(03) 398-2832

### Terminal II Arrivals hall taxi-service counter tel. no.:

(03) 398-3599

## Passenger Coach Bus

### Service locations:

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

### Coach-service companies:

Taiwan Bus Corp., Evergreen Bus, Free Go Express, Citi Air Bus, U Bus

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

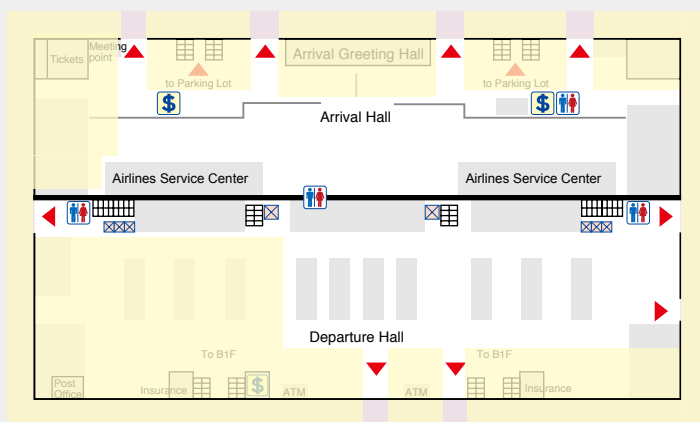
### Travel time:

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

### Schedule:

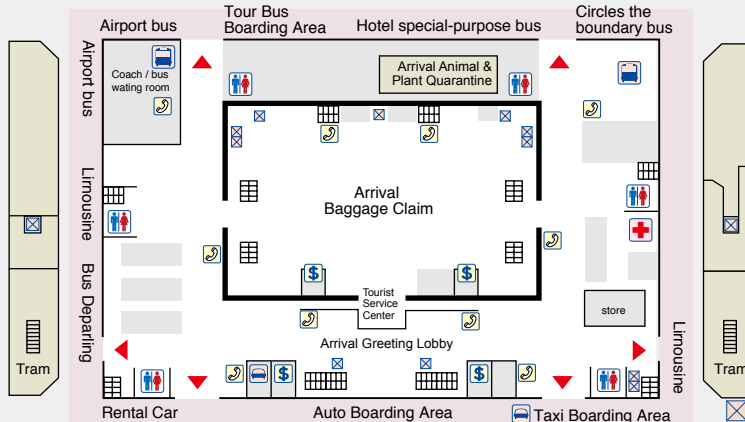
Every 15~20 minutes (Citi Air Bus 20~30 minutes)

### ◆ Terminal 1 1F



Construction Temporarily don't open during construction

### ◆ Terminal 2 1F



- 【INDEX】
- Outdoor
  - Bus Station
  - Taxi Station
  - Toilet
  - Healthy Center
  - Telephone
  - Elevator
  - Moving Walkway
  - Foreign Currency Exchange



## NOTICE

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

For more information, call 1999 or visit [www.rdec.taipei.gov.tw](http://www.rdec.taipei.gov.tw)

## TAIWAN EMERGENCY TELEPHONE NUMBERS

### Police / 110

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

### Fire / 119

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

### Women and Children Protection Hotline / 113 ext. 0

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

## NON-EMERGENCY TELEPHONE NUMBERS

Unit	Tel. No.
Taipei City Govt. Citizen Hotline	1999
English Directory Service	106
IDD Telephone Service Hotline	0800-080-100 ext.9
Time-of-Day Service	117
Weather Bureau	166
Traffic Reports	168
Tourism Bureau (MOTC) 24-Hour Toll-Free Travel Information Hotline	0800-011-765
Tourism Bureau (MOTC) Toll-Free Traveler Complaints Hotline	0800-211-734
International Community Service Hotline	0800-024-111
Tourism Bureau Information Counter, Taiwan Taoyuan International Airport	Terminal 1:(03)398-2194 Terminal 2:(03)398-3341
Government Information Office, Executive Yuan	(02) 3356-8888
Bureau of Foreign Trade	(02) 2351-0271
Taiwan External Trade Development Council (TAITRA)	(02) 2725-5200
Taiwan Visitors Association	(02) 2594-3261
The Japanese Chamber of Commerce & Industry, Taipei	(02) 2522-2163
Ministry of Foreign Affairs	(02) 2348-2999
Ministry of Foreign Affairs Citizens Hotline	(02) 2380-5678
Police Radio Station	(02) 2388-8099
English Hotline for Taxi Service	0800-055-850 ext.2
Consumer Service Center Hotline	1950
Bureau of National Health Insurance Information Hotline	0800-030-598 ext.3
AIDS Information Hotline	0800-888-995

### Source for Above Information:

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

※ Entries in brown indicate service in English provided

## LIST OF TAIPEI VISITOR INFORMATION CENTERS

### Taipei Main Station Visitor Information Center

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

### Songshan Airport Visitor Information Center

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

### East Metro Mall Visitor Information Center

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

### MRT Ximen Station Visitor Information Center

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

### MRT Yuanshan Station Visitor Information Center

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

### MRT Jiantan Station Visitor Information Center

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

### MRT Beitou Station Visitor Information Center

(02) 2894-6923 1 Guangming Rd.

### Taipei City Hall Bus Station Visitor Information Center

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

### Plum Garden Visitor Information Center

(02) 2897-2647 6 Zhongshan Rd.

### Miramar Entertainment Park Visitor Information Center

(02) 2175-3456 20 Jingye 3rd Rd.

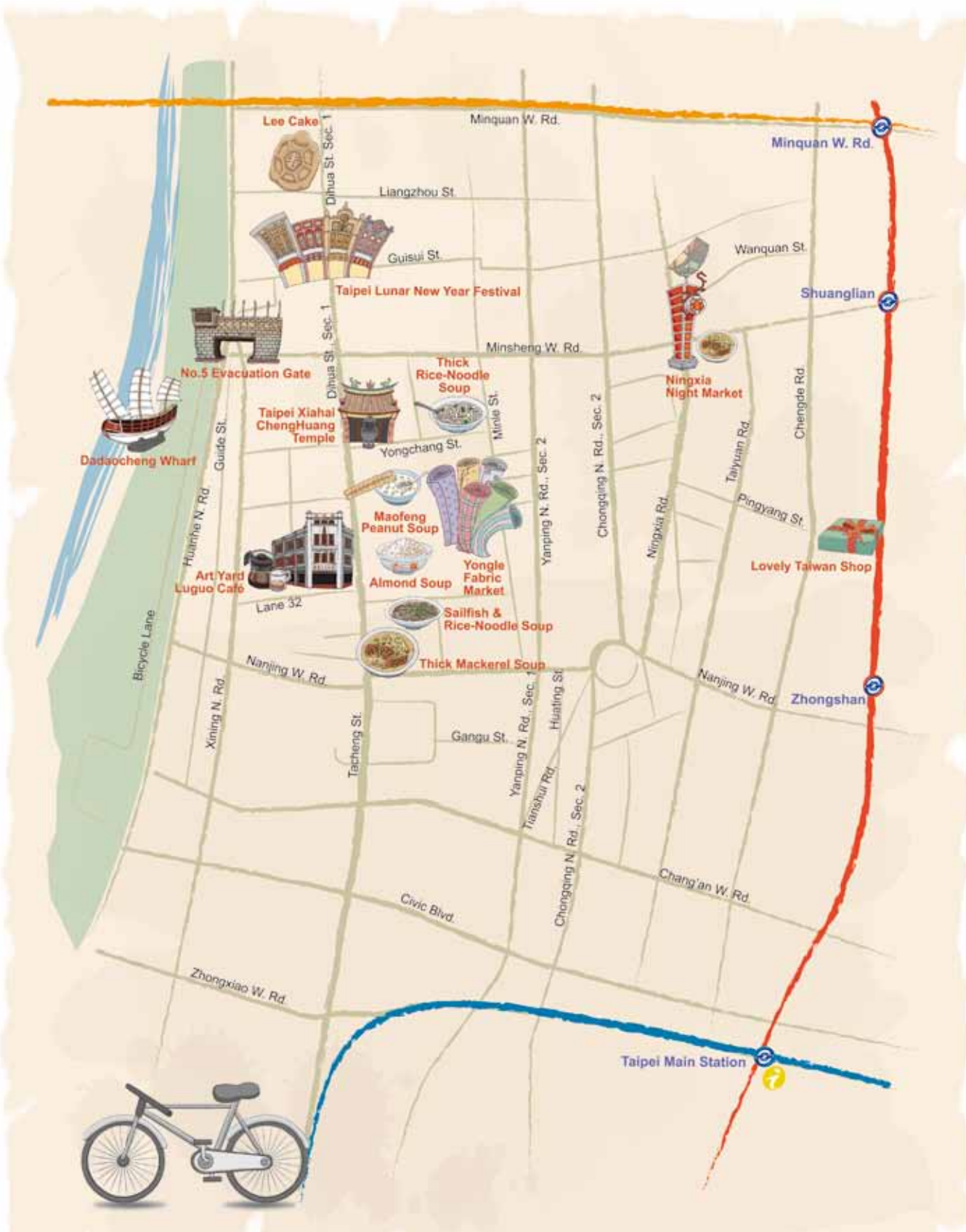
### Maokong Gondola Taipei Zoo Station Visitor Center

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

### Maokong Gondola Maokong Station Visitor Center

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

## Taipei's Best Gifts (P32~P35) & Old Dadaocheng Community (P36~P39) Tour Map



## Taipei's Best Gifts (P32~P35) & Old Dadaocheng Community(P36~P39) Tour Information



### Old Dadaocheng Community

#### Yongle Fabric Market

永樂布業商場

**Add:** 2/3F, 21, Sec. 1, Dihua St. (迪化街1段21號 2、3樓)

**Tel:** (02) 2558-9818

**Time:** 09 : 00~18 : 00 (closed Sun)

#### ArtYard

小藝埕

**Add:** 1, Lane 32, Sec. 1, Dihua St. (迪化街1段 32巷1號)

**Tel:** (02) 2552-1338

#### Taipei XiaHai ChengHuang Temple

台北霞海城隍廟

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

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

#### Maofeng Peanut Soup

茂豐花生湯

**Add:** 21, Sec. 1, Dihua St.; No. 1204, 1F, Yongle Market (迪化街1段21號; 永樂市場1樓1204室)

**Tel:** 0916-838-987

#### Dadaocheng Wharf

大稻埕碼頭

**Add:** End of Minsheng W. Rd.; beyond Huanhe N. Rd. intersection (民生西路底; 環河北路交叉口)

#### Taipei City Bike Rental Center - Dadaocheng Service Station

臺北市自行車租借站一大稻埕站

**Venues:** End of Minsheng W. Rd., on the river side of Dadaocheng Evacuation Gate, beside Dadaocheng Wharf (民生西路底大稻埕疏散門進入; 大稻埕碼頭旁)

**Tel:** (02) 2557-1639

**Time:** 08:00~20:00 (weekdays closed 12:00~14:00, open weekends/holidays)

#### Ningxia Night Market

寧夏夜市

**Venues:** Ningxia Rd., between Minsheng W. Rd. and Nanjing W. Rd.

### Taipei's Best Gifts

#### Lee Cake

李亭香餅店

**Add:** 309, Sec. 1, Dihua St. (迪化街1段309號)

**Tel:** (02) 2557-8716

**Website:** www.lee-cake.com

#### Lovely Taiwan Shop

台灣好, 店

**Add:** 18-2, Lane 25, Nanjing W. Rd. (南京西路 25 巷 18-2 號)

**Tel:** (02) 2558-2616

**Website:** www.lovelytaiwan.org.tw

### Transportation Information

#### Itinerary:

Breakfast beside Yongle Market→New Year Shopping along Dihua Street →ArtYard→Prayer at Taipei XiaHai ChengHuang Temple→Traditional Peanut Soup→Bicycle Ride Starting at Dadaocheng Wharf→Dinner at Ningxia Night Market

#### Yongle Fabric Market

Take MRT to Shuanglian Station, take Exit No. 2, walk west along Minsheng W. Rd., turn left at Sec. 1, Dihua St., walk approx. 5 minutes.

#### Taipei Big Street New Year Shopping Festival

All along Sec. 1 of Dihua St.

#### ArtYard

Across from Yongle Market, enter Lane 32, Sec. 1, Dihua St., walk 1 minute.

#### Taipei XiaHai ChengHuang Temple

Walk north approx. 2 minutes along Sec. 1, Dihua St., to Yongchang St. intersection.

#### Maofeng Peanut Soup

Walk south along Sec. 1, Dihua St., then approach ground level of Yongle Market.

#### Dadaocheng Wharf

Walk north along Sec. 1, Dihua St. to Minsheng W. Rd., turn left and walk west 5 minutes to Sec. 1, Huanhe N. Rd., go through Evacuation Gate No. 5, walk toward left 1 minute.

#### Ningxia Night Market

From Evacuation Gate No. 5, walk east along Minsheng W. Rd. approx. 12 minutes, to Ningxia Rd.



士林之味  
臺灣之最  
TASTE OF TAIWAN  
TREASURE OF TAIPEI

Please come to the Grand Opening of

**Taipei  
Shilin Market**  
at its new location at

Jihe Rd.  
**基河路**  
**No.101**



Hosted by Taipei City Market Administration Office  
Executed by Origin Integrated Marketing Co., Ltd.  
Cohosted by Taipei City Public Shilin Market Council  
Supervised by the Department of Economic Development, Taipei City Government