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DISCOVER TAIPEI

Dt

NOV. / DEC. BIMONTHLY 2011

Taipei

Goes Party Mad!

Bringing in Year 2012 with a Happy Roar

Taipei — the Stage for One Big Party Show

Party Nights of Pleasant Passion on
Christmas and New Year's Eve

Taipei — Fire in the Sky

Tips for Great Parties from the Party Experts

Happy End-of-Year Wanderings —
City Chic and Suburban Soaks





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BIMONTHLY 2011

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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.

Taipei Goes Party Mad!

Bringing in Year 2012 with a Happy Roar

Another year will soon have its denouement. Looking back at the Taipei year that is soon to forever be of the past tense, this can be said to have been a year of “big things” —international gatherings of colossal size and ambition. The 2010 Taipei Int'l Flora Expo, 2011 Taipei World Design Expo, Taipei Arts Festival, and the full year of ROC Centenary celebrations were all great successes. To say goodbye to what has been a milestone year in the city's history, we have chosen “Taipei Goes Party Mad!” as our theme, for the people of this city have worked hard this year and deserve some rollicking good fun at Christmas and New Year's Eve to finish off this year of great memories with a Big Bang.

You're thinking, “Where should I be at Christmas and New Year's Eve? Where's the biggest shindig?” Warm and festive Christmas gatherings are being put together all around the city, and on New Year's Eve, hundreds of thousands of people will be gathering with you before Taipei City Hall for the roaring annual countdown party and fireworks. Like many others, you can enjoy the city-dominating fireworks from more distant party spots on Taipei's outer edges, or you can plan your own original theme party event. Taipei's slogan is to come “explore the endless possibilities,” and at year-end the possibilities for rip-roaring revelry will seem just that—without limit.

The Xinyi Commercial District is filled with gleaming architectural gems, and even more sparkling jewels have come online this year. We take you on a tour to see the new stars, a cluster of top-flight international hotels and the ATT 4 Fun cultural-creativity emporium. Then, in a complete change of pace, we head away from the ultra-modern into the mystical, timeless world of Chinese divination, exploring the city's venerable clusters of divination experts. Time to find out what the year to come has in store for you—and, perhaps, the rest of your mortal existence!

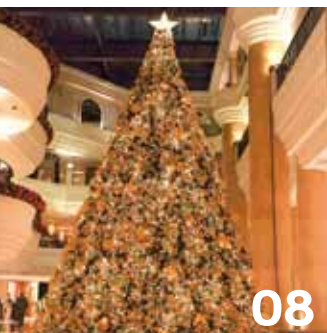
Watching the fireworks spectacular on New Year's Eve from a restaurant with a strategic vantage point is a great idea many have each year. Whether in the outskirts in Yangmingshan or Maokong, or right downtown near Taipei 101, you're guaranteed a super combo visual and food feast. Another splendid food idea is to head along Taipei's streets in search of the piping-hot sweet treats traditionally eaten in winter, which chase away the season's chills, each bowl loaded with warming happiness.

We've also mapped out a couple of relaxing day tours for you to take as the sun sets on 2011, one an easy meander of the city's East District, the other a soothing dip into the Beitou hot springs resort area. This season is also bubbling with top quality cultural arts happenings, such as the Golden Horse Film Festival and repertory theater at Chiang Kai-shek Memorial Hall, and we give you a special sneak preview.

Winter is nigh, and spirits are high, for the time has come to say goodbye to 2011, a fine year, and pop the cork on a brand-new year of bright and bubbling potential. Let the party begin! 🍾



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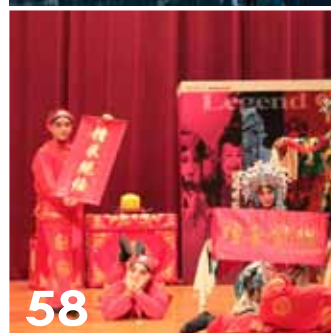
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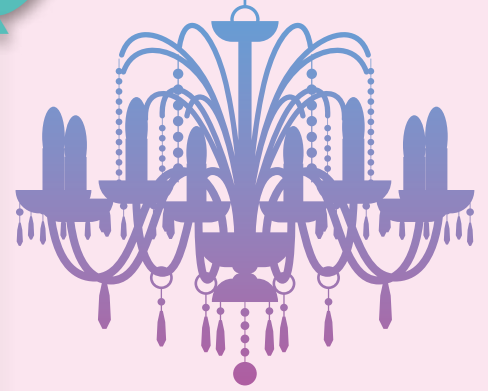
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Taipei

*the Stage for
One Big Party Show*



Merry Christmas and Happy New Year! December is a month for happy partying and celebrating, and you'll find Christmas gatherings popping up all over the city, the month and year colorfully capped with festive New Year's Eve parties and fireworks shows, both big and small. This also happens to be the Republic of China's centenary year, so let's get together for some year-end celebrating of a year of joys and successes and—the moment it ends—fond memories.



Fireworks and Electronic Music— Earthshaking New Year's High

Each year, the New Year's events staged around Taiwan attract people intent on having a good time in stupendous numbers. But the biggest and most booming party of all is the Highest New Year City Taipei—New

Year's Eve Countdown Party (臺北最HIGH新年城跨年晚會), brought to you courtesy of the Taipei City Government. The party's blast-off is at 7 pm on Dec. 31, and the fun won't stop—officially—until 1 am the next morning. The big stage is in Civic Plaza (市民廣場) in front of Taipei City Hall, and the party is to be kicked off with a super combination 3D digital special effects and Taipei 101 light show, creating a pulsating sight-and-sound thriller. Many eyes beyond Taiwan's shores will also be watching, and this is a key annual event for showing off the country's tourism attractiveness. Next up on the show program will be a digital technology focus, with 3D special effects used to create sizzling display of sound and light, and a series of heavyweight entertainment artists taking the stage one after the other and calling the crowds in, getting you and the tens of thousands around you “high” on fun and high on Taipei.





Beyond the kaleidoscopic Taipei 101 pyrotechnics adventure in creative sky painting, the city government has also set up a number of related online activities in celebration of the now-completed Taipei Free service system, which provides free public wireless Internet access. Download a free app made available and enter an activity where members of the public take care of fragile dinosaur eggs (remember, next year is a Year of the Dragon). Each day participants will receive information on fine foods, sightseeing, and city administration, and during the process of cultivating their eggs and watching them change and grow, entrants will also receive special discount-deal coupons from city businesses and can enter prize draws. On New Year's Eve a giant egg will crack open during the big countdown party and—lo and behold!—a dragon will be born, welcoming in the Year of the Dragon in a wireless city young at heart and filled with a sense of play and creative adventure.

Another spot featuring a grand fireworks fest on New Year's Eve is the Dazhi area's Miramar Entertainment Park (美麗華百樂園), where the dazzling display will go on for 240 glorious seconds all around the famous rooftop ferris wheel. This is a big-view location already known for its sense of romance, and the level of heart-racing passion will be raised even higher this night, making this the perfect New Year's Eve spot for sweetheart duos. Miramar will also be staging two other special events, designed for the whole family, before Christmas: On Dec. 10 is the "Christmas Baby Crawl Contest," and on Dec. 11 is the "Christmas Baby Gift Grab Contest." The contests are limited to 50 entrants each, so all you parents who think this might be your child's first step (crawl?) on the road to Olympian glory, the time for action is now.



Wandering Warm Gardens of Delight and Christmas Alley Lights

In fact, the seasonal spirit starts to waft over the city starting in November. Let's head out on a series of family-focus seasonal outings focused on good food and happy play to show you what your options are, shall we? On Nov. 26, the Taipei European School, located in Tianmu (天母), is holding its annual Christmas Bazaar from 4 to 10 pm. This is an event held every year for the past 18 years, and entry is just NT\$20; the location is on easy-access Wenlin Rd. (文林路). The students of the school will entertain you with cool jazz, thumping rock and roll, and warmly synchronized choral music.

You can also explore the many stands set up, getting your fingernails painted or playing like a kid in the balloon castle, and a visit to the Santa Workshop is a must, where you can buy all sorts of pretty Christmas decorations to dress up your house for the holidays. Also on offer are traditional Taiwan snack favorites and traditional foods from Germany, Turkey, countries throughout Asia, and other lands. Though the cultures of these lands vary wonderfully, the people all share the same joy that Christmas brings.

Not too far away from here is Beitou's Jiqing Borough (吉慶里), where the locally renowned "Christmas Alley" (耶誕巷) takes shape each year. The location is Alley 15, Lane 71, Sec. 1, Shipai Rd. (石牌路1段71巷15弄), where each year over 100 families festoon the exterior of their homes with all sorts of attractive lamps and other decorations. The lights will decorate the nights from Dec. 1 right through to Feb. 6. On Christmas Eve, there's a fun concert from 7 to 9 pm featuring the neighborhood's "Grandma Choir" and orchestral music, and you can also pick and choose from stands serving traditional snacks such as *tangyuan* (湯圓; glutinous-rice dumplings) and rice cakes with fried scallions. Perhaps the star attraction this year, however, will be a huge lotus flower placed at the entrance of the alley, measuring one meter across, decked out in LED lights, and pulsating with an ever-changing array of 10 bright and inviting colors, welcoming everyone in.

1. The Taipei City Govt.'s New Year's Eve Countdown Party is the model for all others in the country.
2. Taipei European School, located in Tianmu, is holding its annual Christmas Bazaar.



3



4



5

3. Beitou's Jiqing Borough is where Taipei's first "Christmas Alley" has come to life.
4. Each year at the Rose Historic Site Christmas Evening Party there is solemn religious symbolism in the washing of feet ritual.
5. Studio Classroom (空中英語教室) is transforming the auditorium at Taipei International Convention Center into a Christmas music-party.

The lotus is a potent symbol from the world of Buddhism, and its use here is meant to signify the happy co-existence of the worlds of Buddhism and Christianity. The ever-expanding Christmas Alley tradition took shape in 2000, when the church located on the alley took its Christmas decorations outside and local residents, Christians and non-Christians, decided to follow suit and began prettifying their own homes. Each year the show gets a little bigger, and a pleasant sense of ecumenical warmth and tolerance settles over the community.



Song, Dance, Devotion, Celebration—And a Sense of “One World”

The festive joy of Christmas is keenly felt along this unusually narrow-alley location, and there is another sense of seasonal joy that can be felt, much more calm and tranquil and solemn, within the city's churches at this time of year. At Grace Baptist Church (懷恩堂), on Sec. 3 of Xinsheng S. Rd. (新生南路), there is English Christmas Worship on Christmas Eve at 7:30 pm and a Christmas Midnight Concert later on. On New Year's Eve at 11 pm, there is an International Count Down Midnight Bilingual Service. The Bread of Life Christian Church in Taipei, also on Xingsheng S. Rd., is holding a range of seasonal events, for information on their services visit www.llc.org.tw.

With “Friends Forever” the theme, the Studio Classroom (空中英語教室) people are transforming the auditorium at the Taipei International Convention Center into a Christmas music-party stage. There will in fact be two shows on Dec. 17, one at 2:30 pm and one at 7:30. The Studio Classroom head, Doris Brougham, will as always head the proceedings, with the organization's foreign teacher staff forming the choir and talented jazz singer Zorina London also gracing the stage. Christmas songs will come rolling forth one after another in tandem with the spiritual dance and theater, providing one and all, on stage and watching the stage, with a warming dose of healthy Christmas cheer.

Another celebration deeply imbued with symbolism will take place at the Tsai Jui-yueh Dance Research Institute (蔡瑞月舞蹈研究社), located on Sec. 2 of Zhongshan N. Rd. (中山北路) This is the site of what is today called the Rose Historic Site (玫瑰古蹟), where the originator of modern dance in Taiwan, the great Tsai Jui-yueh (蔡瑞月), started the movement. On this hallowed ground, on Christmas Eve from 6 till 9 pm, come enjoy the Rose Historic Site Christmas Evening Party, to be celebrated with dance, caroling, and the telling of the Gospel of John story of Jesus ritually washing the feet of his disciples. On this night, adults will wash the feet of children, this act of humility reminding us that we should give our love both to those we hold most dear and to strangers, and that we should always give others just a little more time and a little more warmth and affection.

Each Saturday and Sunday starting at 2 pm, The Red House (西門紅樓) hosts the popular The Red House Market for Artists & Designers. On Dec.

24 and 25, the market will be magically transformed into The Red House Christmas X Birthday Theme Creative Market, a mini festival focused on music, lifestyle, and creative originality.

So much fun on tap, so many options. Time to start rounding up your friends and making those crucial Christmas and New Year's decisions! 🎄

Information

2012 Highest New Year City Taipei—New Year's Eve Countdown Party

Organizer: Taipei City Govt. (臺北市政府)

Time: 19:00 on 12/31 to 01:00 on 1/1/2012

Venue: Civic Plaza in front of Taipei City Hall 臺北市府前市民廣場

Add: 1, Shifu Rd. (市府路1號)

Tel: 1999 (call 02-2720-8889 if outside Taipei City) ext. 2031

Note: The district is crowded on this night, and traffic controls are put into effect in Xinyi Planning District and around Taipei City Hall, with no vehicle access. Use of public transportation is recommended. After the fireworks, there is a rush to the closest MRT station, Taipei City Hall Station; a short walk to either of the next closest stations on this line is recommended.

※ For details please visit www.taipeitravel.net

Miramar Christmas and New Year's Celebrations

Organizer: Miramar Entertainment Park (美麗華百樂園)

Time:

12/10 Christmas Baby Crawl Contest

12/11 Christmas Baby Gift Grab Contest
(each contest limited to 50 entrants)

12/31 New Year's Eve Fireworks Show
(midnight; show lasts 4 minutes)

Add: 20, Jingye 3rd Rd. (敬業三路20號)

Tel: (02) 2175-3456

Website: www.miramar.com.tw

Christmas Bazaar

Organizer: Taipei European School (臺北歐洲學校)

Time: 11/26; 16:00~22:00

Add: 727, Wenlin Rd. (文林路727號)

Tel: (02) 8145-9007

Website: www.taipeieuropeanschool.com

"Christmas Alley" Concert

Time: 12/24; 19:00~21:00, Decorations in place from 12/1 to 2/6/2012 (Lantern Festival)

Add: Alley 15, Lane 71, Sec. 1, Shipai Rd. (石牌路1段71巷15弄)

Tel: (02) 2828-2002

Christmas Celebration Program

Organizer: Grace Baptist Church (臺北市基督教浸信會懷恩堂)

Time: 12/24, 25, 31

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

Tel: (02) 2362-5321

Website: www.gbc.org.tw

Christmas Evening Parties

Organizer: Bread of Life Christian Church (臺北靈糧堂)

Time: 12/24~25

Venue: Churches in Taipei's 12 administrative districts

Tel: (02) 2362-3022

Website: www.llc.org.tw

Friends Forever

Organizer: Studio Classroom (空中英語教室)

Time: 12/17, 14:30 and 19:30

Venue: Auditorium, Taipei International Convention Center (臺北國際會議中心大會堂)

Add: 1, Sec. 5, Xinyi Rd. (信義路5段1號)

Tel: (02) 2533-9123

Website: www.studioclassroom.com

※ Free tickets available at all Taiwan Studio Classroom outlets and Christian bookstores.

Rose Historic Site Christmas Evening Party

Organizer: Tsai Jui-Yueh Dance Research Institute (蔡瑞月舞蹈研究社)

Time: 12/24; 18:00~21:00

Add: 10, Lane 48, Sec. 2, Zhongshan N. Rd. (中山北路2段48巷10號)

Tel: (02) 2560-5724

Website: www.dance.org.tw

The Red House Christmas X Birthday Theme Creative Market

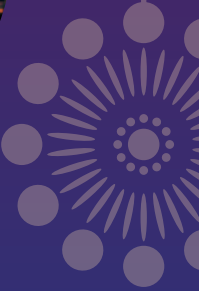
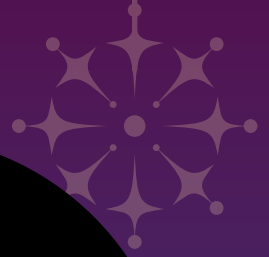
Organizers: Taipei Culture Foundation, The Red House (臺北市文化基金會、西門紅樓)

Time: 12/24~25; 14:00~22:00

Add: 10, Chengdu Rd. (成都路10號)

Tel: (02) 2311-9380

Website: www.redhouse.org.tw



Party Nights of Pleasant Passion on Christmas and New Year's Eve



If you'd like to get together with a group of close friends at these times, there are many hotels and nightspots in the city that offer special Christmas meals for private parties, and there are all kinds of special New Year's activities planned, ensuring you the natural "Taipei high" you seek in this city that never sleeps.

of Christmas trees, creating a soothing regal ambiance enveloped in warm Christmas red.

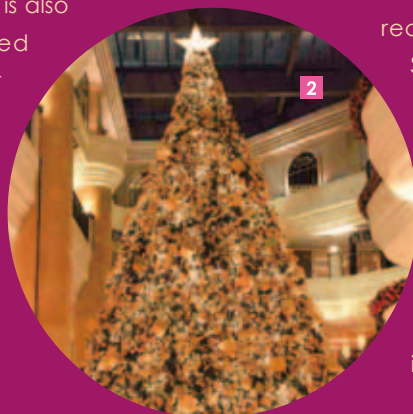


Plush Hotels: Great Memories Added to Great Food and Fireworks

Between Christmas and New Year's, all the restaurants in the Regent Taipei (台北晶華酒店) hotel are offering special menus. These are very popular, so note that numbers are controlled. On the first floor, the takeout counter

Revelry will go on in hotels across the city all through the night on New Year's Eve, terrific food preparations and coruscating fireworks will be the two star attractions. At night on Dec. 31, the restaurants in the Sherwood Taipei (台北西華飯店) are, in tandem, staging the Goodbye 2011 Hello 2012 countdown party, and a special fireworks-viewing party limited to 150 people will happen way up at the top of the hotel on the 20th floor, with grand views of Taipei 101, Miramar Entertainment Park (美麗華百樂園), and Dajia Riverside Park (大佳河濱公園), each of which has a splendid fireworks show. There will be an open bar for beers and red/white wines of myriad brand, and there will also be hot ginger tea and hand warmers available to keep the chills away.

at Azie Grand Café is also selling delicious hand-crafted Christmas pastries, a great gift idea and, of course, even more enjoyable if you eat them yourself. In addition, a giant Christmas tree will go up in the central courtyard area on Nov. 25, surrounded by 10-plus lanterns in the shape



The 2011/2012 Poolside Countdown Party, a cocktail reception, is being held on the rooftop of the Shangri-La's Far Eastern Plaza Hotel Taipei (香格里拉台北遠東大飯店) (43rd floor) on New Year's Eve, starting at 10 pm and wrapping up at 1 am. The sound and beautiful explosive fury of the Taipei 101 show will seem just a stone's throw away, and a special menu has been whipped up by the head chef. A night of many special moments, and lasting memories, is assured.





The large and imposing lobby of the Grand Hyatt Taipei (台北君悅大飯店) will be festooned with decorations in Christmas red and gold from the end of November, getting everybody in the Christmas spirit with an early start, and each restaurant has prepared special dining options for Dec. 24 and 25. You have a buffet option, a classic European-style Christmas feast and, as a special treat, the dessert chef, who hails from Austria, is pouring the very essence of European Christmas tradition into a delectable line-up of sweet seasonal confections, including Christmas stollen, gingerbread houses, and hazelnut gingerbread stars. These will ensure you a Holy Night of the sweetest sentiments.

Cool Parties at Hot Nightspots

Nightclubs, the favorite spots for guys and gals when it comes to boisterous New Year's party spots. Moving in rhythm with the thumping beat of the music washes away all the worries and vexations of the year just finishing and symbolizes fresh beginnings. At Room 18, opened by Taiwan entertainment artists, the New Year's Eve VIP Rooftop Party will go on from 9 pm to the stroke of midnight, capped with a boisterous countdown and thundering fireworks welcoming the year 2012 to come settle in.



Over at the uniquely named restaurant/lounge *in house in the Xinyi District, the *in house 2011 New Year Party is being held with a "snow-white" theme. The head chef has been hard at work crafting an innovative feast for you, and this, accompanied by the pounding of the music and the blasts of the Taipei 101 fireworks-fest, is a great away for you to bring in the new year with a resounding Bang!

The MUSE club, opened this past March, is offering its premium VIP lounges for private parties on the year's closing day. A splendid way to get



Information

Regent Taipei 台北晶華酒店

Add: 41, Sec. 2, Zhongshan N. Rd. (中山北路2段41號)
Tel: (02) 2523-8000

Sherwood Taipei 台北西華飯店

Add: 111, Sec. 3, Minsheng E. Rd. (民生東路3段111號)
Tel: (02) 2718-1188

Shangri-La's Far Eastern Plaza Hotel Taipei 香格里拉台北遠東大飯店

Add: 201, Sec. 2, Dunhua S. Rd. (敦化南路2段201號)
Tel: (02) 2378-8888

Grand Hyatt Taipei 台北君悅大飯店

Add: 2, Songshou Rd. (松壽路2號)
Tel: (02) 2720-1234

Room 18

Add: B1, 88, Songren Rd. (松仁路88號B1)
Tel: (02) 2345-2778

*in house

Add: 90, Songren Rd. (松仁路90號)
Tel: (02) 2345-5549

MUSE Club

Add: 12F, 138, Sec. 4, Bade Rd. (八德路4段138號12樓)
Tel: 0925-112-202

※ Warning: Alcohol can be harmful to your health; drink with moderation.

together "privately" in the midst of a big crowd, the lounges are of different sizes, accommodating 12, 20, and 32 people. You get to choose your own music and, better yet, your room faces Taipei 101, meaning you get a full-on view of the midnight fireworks jamboree. 📺

1. The Regent Taipei sells nine different kinds of Christmas pastries, and has a richly decorated huge tree in its central courtyard, creating a festive Christmas spirit.
2. The lobby of the Grand Hyatt Taipei is festooned with decorations during the Christmas season, putting visitors in a festive mood the moment they walk in.
3. Shangri-La's Far Eastern Plaza Hotel Taipei is hosting the New Year's Eve VIP Rooftop Party, letting you bring in the new year watching the big fireworks fest.
4. Choose your favorite chic nightspot and enjoy the best natural party high with countless friends.

Taipei

Fire in the Sky

Decided yet on what city—and even what country—you want to be in this year for the big New Year's Eve countdown? No? Well, then, let us roll out the red carpet for you here in Taipei! We offer you the bombastic “bombs bursting in air” Taipei New Year's Eve Countdown Party, attended by a great many people from overseas each year, capped off by the pounding Taipei 101 Fireworks Show at midnight. The glitter and the dazzle grow year by year, rolling out the red carpet for the brand new year and the new beginnings this means for us, individually and collectively.

While hundreds of thousands come to the area immediately below the Taipei 101 skyscraper to enjoy the glorious fireworks spectacle, countless others pick out prime outlying spots. Among the most popular and advantage-eous are Rainbow Riverside Park (彩虹河濱公園), the Maokong (貓空) tea-plantation area, Yangmingshan (陽明山), and Elephant Mountain (象山). All offer sweeping, unobstructed views, more open space to sit yourself down in, and a black-as-pitch night sky canvas that is free of fireworks smoke, maximizing the effects of the explosion art.

Rainbow Riverside Park is beside the Keelung River (基隆河), a premier location for taking Taipei 101 photos. The wide open expanse, sparkling river water, and colorful lights of nearby MacArthur No. 1 and No. 2 bridges (麥帥一橋、麥帥二橋) add up to a mise-en-scene of wonderful splendor and a venue of romance and glitter bursts on New Year's Eve. Another good riverside site is Dajia Riverside Park (大佳河濱公園), also on the Keelung river, beside Dazhi Bridge (大直橋). There are fewer high-rises in this area, and the unobstructed river-and-sky sight lines making this an excellent viewing platform. Nearby Dazhi, Miramar Entertainment Park also puts on a brilliant fireworks show on New Year's Eve. The two fireworks extravaganzas plus the bright neon lights of the entertainment park's giant rooftop ferris wheel, second-biggest in Asia, add up to a feast of lights as art.

Looming high on the city's north side is the Yangmingshan massif, its eagle-eye views down into the city from many spots making for great night-time vistas (daytime too!). It's no surprise that these are popular romantic rendezvous spots as well. One such location is on the mountainside behind Chinese Culture University



(中國文化大學), reached via along Yangde Blvd. (仰德大道), a place of pretty views perfect for you and your sweetheart to take in the New Year's show, the color of the fireworks expressing the passions of your heart. After the big bangs subside, locals love to head to nearby hot-spring resorts for a romantic soak—and so should you.

The tranquil Maokong area has a remote and hidden-away feel to it, high up on slopes carpeted with fields of tea. Bring a group of friends, sit yourself down to some fine tea and good conversation, and from the commanding heights take in the full New Year's Eve fireworks spectacle at a glance. Since last year, the good Maokong Gondola started adding extra runs on this night, the grand views extra-special seen through the special glass-bottom gondola cars.

Another place of sweeping overviews that though right on the edge of the bright city lights has a faraway Arcadia-like feel is Elephant Mountain. During the day, its trails are busy with neighborhood folks out for some easy recreational hiking, but at night it becomes something of a private studio for photography buffs, who set up tripods in the open Six Boulders area (六巨石區) for coruscating panoramas of the Xinyi District and Taipei 101 directly ahead, which looks like a giant miniature model so close you can reach out and touch it. On New Year's Eve, naturally enough, the photographers come out in numbers, as do, naturally enough, a great many other spectacle-loving folks.

Whether watched with family, friends, or sweethearts—or all of the above—New Year's Eve in Taipei is a night of fireworks and a sweet romantic air. Where will you be? The people of Taipei and all Taiwan invite you to join them in the countdown to this country's next 100 years. 📍

1. Rainbow Riverside Park on the Keelung River is a favorite spot with photographers for capturing the Taipei 101 fireworks.
2. The view of the fireworks is also great from Dajia Riverside Park.
3. The high-up view from the slopes behind Chinese Culture University attracts many sweetheart couples for romantic fireworks gazing.

Information

Rainbow Riverside Park 彩虹河濱公園

Bus: Take No. 63, 204, 518, 552, Small No. 2, Blue 7, or Blue 26 to stop at mouth of Xinhu 3rd Rd. (新湖三路口站), then walk toward the west approx. 10 minutes.

Dajia Riverside Park 大佳河濱公園

MRT: Tamsui Line to Yuanshan Station, transfer to Red No. 50 bus, get off at Xinsheng Park stop (新生公園站), walk approx. 20 minutes.

Bus: Take No. 72, 222, 286, 527, Brown 16 to Dajia Elementary School stop (大佳國小站), or Red 34, Citizen Mini Bus No. 9 to Dajia Riverside Park stop (大佳河濱公園站).

Yangmingshan 陽明山

MRT: Tamsui Line to Jiantan Station, transfer to No. 260, Red No. 5 bus, get off at Chinese Culture University stop (文化大學站).

Bus: Take No. 109, 260, 303, Red No. 5 to Chinese Culture University stop, walk approx. 10 minutes.

Maokong 貓空

MRT: Wenhua Line to Wanfang Community Station (萬芳社區站), transfer to Small No. 10 bus. Wenhua Line to Taipei Zoo Station, then take Maokong Gondola to Maokong Station.

Bus: Take No. 236, 237, 282, 611, or Brown No. 1, 3, 5, 6, to Chengchi University stop, then take Small No. 10 bus.

Routes offering on/off service at any location:

1. Maokong Itinerant Bus—
 - (1) Right-Side Route: Maokong Gondola Maokong Station←→Sanxuan Temple (三玄宮)
 - (2) Left-Side Route: Tea Promotion Center Parking Lot (茶推廣中心停車場)←→Maokong Zhinan Temple stop (貓纜指南宮站)
2. Brown No. 15—Get on across from Taipei Zoo
3. Small No. 10—Stops at Wanfang Community stop (萬芳社區站) and Chengchi University stop (政大站), with on/off allowed anywhere else along line.

Tel: (02) 2937-8563 (Maokong Station Visitor Center)

Elephant Mountain 象山

MRT: Bannan Line to Houshanpi Station, walk to trailhead at Fengtian Temple (奉天宮).

Bus: 1. No. 1, 22, 32, 33, 37, 38, 226, 266, 288, 665, Blue 5 to Wuxing Elementary School stop (吳興國小站), walk 5 minutes to Lingyun Temple (靈雲宮) trailhead.
2. No. 20, 37, 46, 277, 612 to Songde stop (松德站), then access trailhead via stone steps at side of Taipei City Hospital Songde Branch (臺北市立聯合醫院松德院區).

Tips for Great Parties

from the Party Experts

Christmas and New Year's are just around the corner, and the festive party season is nigh. Decided where to go yet? Plush international hotel, sleek nightspot, or a location to which you've brought your own creative originality for a private party? When on the hunt for the perfect party locale, turn to those who do this for living—professional party planners.



Step No.1 – Choosing Your Venue and Theme

Your choice of venue can of course make or break your party event, and there are many one-of-a-kind Taipei sites that you can rent out in full for the occasion. A quality restaurant or hotel restaurant/hall is a great option, with facilities such as Bu Kate Organic Restaurant (佈貓) and White House (白宮私宅) restaurant offering the space you need yet bringing an intimate and cozy hideaway feel at the same time.

If you need larger spaces than these, appropriate cafes, restaurants, clubs, and small theaters are available, which can save you time and trouble organizing food and can also assist with your activity planning; good examples are the Taipei Mayor's Residence Arts Salon's La Mairie Café (市長官邸餐廳), Artco de Café (典藏咖啡館), Live Comedy Club & Café Taipei (卡米地喜劇俱樂部), and A House (A房子), the last Taiwan first a cappella live house. There are even compellingly attractive venues of bigger size available that sport a pronounced arts and culture flair, such as The Red House (西門紅樓), Huashan 1914 Creative Park (華山1914文化創意產業園區), and Taiwan Folk Arts Museum (北投文物館).

“Selecting a theme makes everything all that much more fun, for hosts and guests,” says the program director of the Live Comedy



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Club & Café Taipei, Zhang Shuoxiu (張碩修). Generally their Christmas and New Year's party events will have a theme—costume party, role play, a theme color for clothing, and so on. He's also handled more unusual approaches, such as a political spoof party where everyone got to express their discontent with the politics of the day. Whatever the main idea, a fair bit of originality is necessary to keep everyone happy through the entire night, he says. Theme parties have more drawing power, and help with program preparation and site decoration. For example, for a party with a 1960s music theme, the guests can be asked to dress up as hippies, rock and roll can be played, and Beatles and Woodstock posters can be put up; for a movie concept party, the music can be famous movie theme songs, and movie name guessing games can be staged, adding great fun and flavor.

“A good idea is to have live entertainment during the middle of the evening, when all the guests have gathered, to work up crowd excitement and a sense of togetherness,” says Zhang. “Here we might have stand-up comedy, improv skits, or a magic show. Right after this, or at the end of the program, gift exchanges and prize draws are good ideas to keep the excitement at a high pitch.” If you feel you can't handle all the planning by yourself, performance companies can step in and assist. The participation of such a group can itself be a strong promotional bonus for your party, and it is always a good idea to have an emcee, who can provide a focus and keep things flowing smoothly.



The Ingredients for Fun – Decorations and Props

The right props and decorations are key ingredients in the recipe for cooking up a great party. The area behind Taipei Main Station around Chongqing N. Rd. (重慶北路) and Huayin St. (華陰街) is home to many festival merchandise stores, and the area behind the East District's Dinghao Market (頂好商城) is home to such businesses as Party Shop (臺灣派對商店), Jamemay Export Wares (津美外銷藝品), and Shinmei Export Wares (鑫美外銷藝品), where you'll find all the festive materials needed to bring out the rich spirit of the season, such as party lights, golden globes, pine wreaths, and artificial Christmas trees.

Chen Zhenghui (陳正輝) is a man who blows a lot of hot air—winner of the 2008 International Balloon Art



1. If you book a small theater or similar performance venue you can put on a stage show to entertain guests.
2. The Red House is a place with a pronounced artsy flair, and a great choice for a quite out-of-the-ordinary party.
3. All the party decorations you need can be found in the bustling commercial districts behind Taipei Main Station and Dinghao Market.
4. Parties with happy themes add to the fun and joy of both hosts and guests. (photo courtesy of American Club Taipei)
5. Balloon-art champion Chen Zhenghui shows how to make a simple flower decoration that can adorn your party-venue walls.



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Competition. But he blows no hot air when he says that, “If you want to use balloons as decorations at an event, you must first consider the theme and the venue size, large or small; only then can you properly wield your skills and creativity to effectively add some bustle and color to your ambiance.” He also helps out by explaining how to create a simple balloon-art flower: take four heart-shaped balloons, tie them together to create two pair, then bind these to create four joined petals, then fix a small round or smiley-faced balloon in the middle, and stick it to the wall using double-sided adhesive. Voila, your own self-created wall art!

Getting Everyone in Rhythm – Choosing the Right Party Music

Another component of any successful party is the right music. The music design director at *In House, Song Xingrang (宋星讓), says that the keys are matching the party's theme and the type of people attending. It's also best to consider the right music for when people are arriving, during cocktails, etc., and the theme and program, all of which help to set the right tone, and smooth the pace and transitions. The start-off music clearly indicates the night's theme, so for Christmas parties, for example, brisk and upbeat tunes such as “Santa Claus Is Coming to Town” and “Jingle Bells” are often used, putting people in a light-hearted mood. During cocktails, easy-listening, unobtrusive instrumental music in the background is best, allowing guests to engage in conversation.

The most important music choice, of course, is the theme music or program music, which carries along the contents of the party. For example, New Year's parties

are often dance events, so tunes with a strong beat are best, such as electronic or samba. This gets people swaying to the rhythms and wanting to join in. If you've chosen an American West cowboy theme, rolling out all-time favorite classics is the best way to go.

“If you'd like to stage a special program during your party, you can first select some appropriate music to play,” says smiling Song. “For example, you might create a music mix to be used during a song guessing contest, always good to create some excitement. As the party's end approaches, you might play some familiar golden oldies or type of music your party-going group strongly identifies with, resonating with the full crowd and getting everyone singing and humming fill the lights go up. Naturally, hiring a professional DJ will greatly ease your music program workload.

The Party's Soul and Sustenance – Serving the Right Foods, the Right Way

Parties without a food plan are like being in an empty decorated shell. There seems to be a limit to the fun felt by guests. According to the very experienced catering director for the VVG Bistro (好樣餐廳), Mao Jiajun (毛家駿), food is a party ingredient that cannot be bypassed or ignored, can add great bonus points—and can even be your theme! One splendid example idea is to have a traditional Taiwan snacks theme, with pig-blood cakes, pearl milk tea, crispy salted chicken, and other favorite timeless treats, and using food-related items bought from Taipei's Dihua Street (迪化街) as your decorations, such as small bamboo steamers and bamboo screens. Another is to have a pineapple cakes or cupcakes theme, setting out your subjects in all their splendid



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shapes, colors, and taste variety, creating much food for thought and conversation among your guests.

A basic rule for any party is easy-to-get-at finger foods that can be easily replenished. For crackers, pastries, etc., another basic rule is to have at least three types, and you should have something more filling as well, such as sandwiches, macaroni salad, and/or mini-pizzas. Two or three types of non-alcoholic liquid refreshments should also be on hand. You need not spend excessive time or money buying these things, for the pastries can be found at any bakery and snacks can be gathered up at a convenience store or supermarket. Another option is to use a catering outfit, budgeting NT\$300-600 per person expected; some even provide servers, making things even easier for you.

A clever idea is to decorate your food area with such mood guidance items as flowers, candles, and/or Christmas toys. You can also use decoration frost to create messages of seasonal greetings and seasonal designs. Appropriate food can be formed into the shape of a Christmas tree, and cakes can come with the number of the year just arriving. The idea is to redefine the food presented, making it a pleasant bit of visual spectacle.

So there you have it—all the secrets to staging the party everybody wants to come to, from the party pros. Ready to make the leap? Taipei, a 24-hour city that never sleeps, is eager to be your stage. 🎪

6. Using a professional DJ can make everyone even happier—both guests and host.
7. For food, the rule is “bite-sized,” making replenishment much easier.
8. Flowers, candles, and snacks aplenty add up to a party of great decorative panache.

Information

Bu Kate Organic Restaurant 佈貓

Add: 189, Yusheng St. (雨聲街189號)
Tel: (02) 2832-3338

White House 白宮私宅

Add: 3, Lane 186, Sec. 6, Zhongshan N. Rd. (中山北路6段186巷3號)
Tel: (02) 2831-8420

Taipei Mayor's Residence Arts Salon— La Mairie Café 市長官邸藝文沙龍—市長官邸餐廳

Add: 46, Xuzhou Rd. (徐州路46號)
Tel: (02) 2392-9510

Artco de Café 典藏咖啡館

Add: 8-1, Sec. 1, Chang'an E. Rd. (長安東路1段8-1號)
Tel: (02) 2542-9871

Live Comedy Club & Café Taipei 卡米地喜劇俱樂部

Add: 20, Lane 553, Sec. 4, Zhongxiao E. Rd. (忠孝東路4段553巷20號)
Tel: (02) 2764-5529

A House A房子

Add: 18, Alley 5, Lane 107, Sec. 1, Fuxing S. Rd. (復興南路1段107巷5弄18號)
Tel: (02) 2778-8612

The Red House 西門紅樓

Add: 10, Chengdu Rd. (成都路10號)
Tel: (02) 2311-9380

Huashan 1914 Creative Park 華山1914文化創意產業園區

Add: 1, Sec. 1, Bade Rd. (八德路1段1號)
Tel: (02) 2358-1914

Taiwan Folk Arts Museum 北投文物館

Add: 32, Youya Rd. (幽雅路32號)
Tel: (02) 2891-2318

Taipei Main Station Rear Area 臺北後火車站

Location: Section encompassing Huayin St. pedestrian area, and area from Taiyuan Rd. shopping district to Chang'an W. Rd. (華陰街徒步區、太原路商圈到長安西路一帶)

Dinghao Market Rear Area 頂好商城後方

Location: Lane 190, Sec. 1, Dunhua S. Rd. (敦化南路1段190巷)

Sweet Balloon (balloon master Chen Zhenghui) 糖果屋氣球藝術

Add: 308, Sec. 3, Civic Blvd. (市民大道3段308號)
Tel: (02) 2751-8600



Hear Ye!

Hear Ye!

You've Got New Animal Friends at the Taipei Zoo



The stars are always out at the Taipei Zoo (臺北市立動物園), located in the south

section of the city, with the King penguins, koalas, Formosan black bears, and pandas as its biggest stars. Some bright and highly picturesque new stars are now taking up positions in the zoo's sparkling animal galaxy—red-crowned cranes from the Japanese island of Hokkaido and a topiary sculpture of a big Thai elephant that was on show in the Global Garden Area during the 2010 Taipei Int'l Flora Expo.

The cranes are named Big and Kika. Red-crowned cranes are national treasures in Japan, and this couple has been presented by Hokkaido's Kushiro Zoo. This is an extraordinary gift, for this is the first time ever that members of these protected cranes have been allowed to leave Japan. This species has deep symbolic meaning, in history and in the present day, in Japan and around the world. For example, the “celestial crane” (仙鶴) and “white crane” (白鶴) so often and for so long depicted in Chinese poetry and paintings are in fact the red-crowned crane, an auspicious symbol of moral character, integrity, and of longevity.

In today's world, wetlands are under constant attack by developers. The red-crowned crane, called the “God of the Wetlands” by Japan's Ainu people, has been placed on the endangered species list by

the IUCN (International Union for Conservation of Nature). There are thought to be just 1,500 left in the entire world. The transfer of Big and Kika to Taiwan demonstrates the proliferation of off-site conservation efforts to protect the species and is also intended to stimulate greater interest in all eco-protection initiatives among those who come to visit them.

To welcome its esteemed noble guests, the zoo has prepared a fine new home that measures 165 square meters and copies the reeds, cat-tails, wild ginger flower, and other features of the birds' familiar wetland habitat. Taiwan is comparatively hot and humid, so fine black netting has been installed to cool their new habitat, and special technology allows the temperature of their pool to be kept below 20 degrees and mist/fog to be sprayed. Big will make its stage debut in November, while Kika will arrive to meet local fans in February next year.

The zoo's new Thai elephant sculpture, as said, lived for many months in the Global Garden Area of the



wonderfully successful Taipei Int'l Flora Expo, and recently uprooted itself for a quiet move to the zoo, located all the way across the city. Its former home was of course the exuberantly colorful Thailand Garden. Its roots now firmly planted in the zoo's earth, the art installation powerfully demonstrates the esteem and admiration that the Thai people have for this powerful and noble creature. In an even grander initiative designed to stimulate the love of the outdoors and support for eco-protection concepts, all of the many natural green sculptures of the Global Garden Area have been moved to locations around Taiwan, bringing beauty and food for thought. The presence of the great green Thai beauty in the Taipei Zoo will cause visitors to fondly remember the explosion of beauty and joy that the Flora Expo brought to Taipei over its splendid seven-month lifetime.

The new green giant's placement in the Tropical Rainforest Area is, deliberately, beside the area where Lin Wang (林旺) resided. Lin Wang the elephant was a long-time resident, over 50 years, and its long-time beloved star. He died in 2003, and this new sculpture's presence is intended to revive the public's memory of this legendary animal.

Consider this article a special personal invitation to come visit the Taipei Zoo's newest "pets." They're waiting—now what are you waiting for? 📍



- 1-2. The zoo's special guests from Japan, two red-crowned cranes named Big (above) and Kika (below).
3. Both the cranes and the Formosan black bear are protected animals, with both on the endangered-species list.
4. The Thai elephant topiary sculpture originally in the Taipei Int'l Flora Expo's Global Garden Area has been moved to the zoo, adding a dash of the expo's colorful glory.
5. When the red-crested cranes were originally moved to Taipei, the Japanese caretaker personnel carefully placed them in their travel crates.
6. When enjoying the green-sculpture Thai elephant many fondly recall Lin Wang the elephant, long one of the zoo's star attractions.
7. The head of the city's Dept. of Information and Tourism, Hsinping Chao (second from left), serving as welcome ambassador, welcomed the Hokkaido red-crowned cranes to Taiwan and issued them citizenship ID cards.
8. At the send-off ceremony staged for the cranes in the Hokkaido city of Kushiro, elementary-school students sang a song of farewell and blessing.



Information

Taipei Zoo 臺北市立動物園

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

Tel: (02) 2938-2300

Website: newweb.zoo.gov.tw

Taipei Expo Park

What's Up in November and December

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The 2010 Taipei Int'l Flora Expo, a grand success, captured hearts and minds around the world. The spotlight was turned off in April this year, but the dreams live on in the site's new persona, the Taipei Expo Park (花博公園). Visitors can, as before, meander the pretty landscaped grounds in the original park areas, a flower-lover's Shangri-La, and many of the original pavilions are still in place, given nips-and-tucks in preparation for new roles hosting conferences, exhibitions, and other activities. This remains a place of great aesthetic pleasure and vitality, while also satisfying functional needs.

In the Yuanshan Park Area (圓山公園區), you'll find the former Flora Expo's Celebrity's House (名人館) pavilion, dedicated to the memory of Taiwan's Teresa Teng (鄧麗君), the internationally beloved singer, housing many artifacts from her life. The facility is now once again formally part of the Taipei Children's Recreation Center (臺北市立兒童育樂中心), and until Dec. 31, you can take in the Mongolian and Tibetan Artifacts Exhibition (蒙藏文物特展), where you can gain first-hand experience of a yurt, the "lele" ox-carts that is so specially adapted to the grasslands, and Obo rites honoring heaven, earth, and all living things. A special treat is the provision of traditional Mongolian attire in which you can wear in a memento photo.



In close proximity to Celebrity's House is the Pavilion of Culture (文化館), now a space for true life simulation of Taiwan pioneer days. After its reopening, the EXPO Theater's (真相館) continued role is to be the screen for the 3D animation film *Nature's Wrath: Taiwan's Inconvenient Truth* (面對臺灣的真相), which explores the destruction wrought by the infamous Typhoon Morakot. Within your 20 to





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30 minute EXPO Theater experience, there are now also other 3D films to experience, making your time thrilling and sensational.

Also in this park area is the EXPO Dome (爭艷館), which has a rich monthly schedule. From Nov. 17 to 20, enjoy the 2011 Taipei International Beef Noodle Festival (2011臺北國際牛肉麵節), which brings the best of Taiwan's beef noodle masters together in competition from the best from overseas, and also features public voting on Taipei's best beef noodle spots, great sampling opportunities, and other noisy and boisterous activities. Then, from Dec. 3 to 11, savor the 2011 Hwa-Fong National Bonsai Exhibition (2011華風第16回全國盆栽展), with masters from over 20 of the world's most talented bonsai-practicing countries invited and bonsai gems valued at over NT\$10 million on display. On Dec. 24 the stately 2012 Bravo Taipei Flora Expo (2012花現臺北—爭艷再現) starts, spread over 3 months.

In the Fine Arts Park Area (美術公園區) is the EXPO Hall (舞蝶館), now an arts and culture exhibit showcase, where during the November and December season you can enjoy music concerts by big-name pop celebrities, repertory theater performed by well-known troupes, and other live entertainment. More details on the official Taipei Expo Park website.

The Pavilion of Aroma of Flowers (風味館) now serves as a display showcase for the best and most representative in Taiwan aboriginal arts and crafts, with areas devoted to decorative items appropriate for the home, bright and attractive apparel, premium designer items, iconic food and crafted goods representing specific aboriginal communities, special native-theme gift items, native music and related publications, and the exhibition display of selected arts and crafts works. Beyond this, you should also regularly check out the irregular program of DIY activities, exhibits on the traditional costumes of all 14 officially recognized tribes, and displays of organic-produce gift items from native communities.

In the Xinsheng Park Area (新生公園區) is the Pavilion of Dreams (夢想館), the most popular site during the Flora Expo, which after staged upgrades is now an even greater platform for high-tech aesthetics, and its dreamlike visuals of a giant 6-meter kaleidoscope show of lifelike flowers in the grand lobby, with 120 new flower sections and over 30,000 new paper-made speakers, now provide audio and visual spectacles even more spectacular than the Flora Expo's original.

Very near the Pavilion of Dreams is the Pavilion of Future (未來館). On the first level is a magnificent display of over 700 species from the Taiwan plant world, guiding you through this land's various terrains and climates, with sections on tropical, succulent, temperate-zone, alpine, and other plant types.



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1. In the revamped Pavilion of Dreams is the popular giant mechanized flower, featuring 120 petals and more than 30,000 speakers made of paper.
2. Taipei Expo Park still features the original 3D floral-wall landscaping.
- 3-4. The Mongolian and Tibetan Artifacts Exhibition features traditional Mongolian attire, which visitors can put on free for a souvenir photo; the mask exhibit explores Tibetan culture and religious devotion.
5. In the interactive area visitors can experience the wonders of technology and nature firsthand.
6. The Taipei Pavilion's Interactive Experience Area.
7. The rich and delicious 2011 Taipei International Beef Noodle Festival will be staged 11/17-11/20 at the EXPO Dome.
8. At the Pavilion of Aroma of Flowers, indigenous arts and handicrafts are displayed and sold.
9. Taipei City Mayor Hau Lungbin (郝龍斌)(right) invites Taipei Pavilion sponsor Terry Guo (郭台銘)(center) to watch the 3D film *Smile*, created by famed Taiwan director Hou Hsiao-hsien (left).



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On the second level of the Pavilion of future you can visit—or re-visit—the Taipei Pavilion that was such a big hit at the Expo 2010 Shanghai. There are three main sections: a 3D theater providing a 360-degree panorama of Taipei from the heights of the soaring Taipei 101 tower, the Theater of the Future (未來劇院), and the Interactive Experience Area (互動體驗區).

In the 101 3D Theater (101 360度3D立體劇院), you can take a simulated ride up the blazingly fast tower elevators and sit down to the film *Smile* (臺北·生活·微笑), created by famed Taiwan movie director Hou Hsiao-hsien (侯孝賢). Then comes a high-tech LED “Corridor of Light to the Future” (未來光廊), which brings you to the Theater of the Future, where within a golden pyramid created with curtains and glass, you can explore Taipei at a distance through models and imagery. On the pyramid glass, you can watch a projection of Hou Hsiao-hsien's *Better Taipei, Better Life* (臺北，讓生活更美好), giving you a look at the city that may one day be real. In the Interactive Experience Area, touch technology allows you to experience how the Tamsui River (淡水河) was dredged and straightened and to learn about the city's best architecture, its best foods, its finest aesthetic pleasures, and many other intriguing subjects.

Connected with the Pavilion of Future is the Pavilion of Angel Life (天使生活館). Enjoy the original aquatic plant-life area in the central hall, with a personal and close-up view of 30 types of herbal species, and immerse yourself in a misty mini-world. When hunger and thirst finally call, head to the second-level Angel's Café (天使咖啡) for a nutritious set meal or premium ice-drop coffee.

Whether you visited during the Flora Expo or are just visiting for the first time now, the one thing guaranteed at the Taipei Expo Park is the sprouting of long-cherished—and pastel-colored memories. Enjoy. Dt

- 10. The newly reopened Pavilion of Dreams now uses even more splendid technique to show off sci-tech aesthetics.
- 11. In the Pavilion of Angel Life, get intimate with over 30 types of herbal species and a mini-world of water and mist.
- 12. The Aquatic Plants Area in the Pavilion of Future teems with different species.

Information

Taipei Expo Park 花博公園

Add: 1, Yumen St. (玉門街1號)

Tel: (02) 2182-8886

Website: www.taipei-expopark.tw

Taipei Children's Recreation Center (Celebrity's House, EXPO Theater)

臺北市立兒童育樂中心 (名人館、真相館)

Add: 33, Yumen St./ 66, Sec. 3, Zhongshan N. Rd. (玉門街33號/中山北路3段66號)

Tel: (02) 2593-2211

Hours: 09:00~17:00, closed Mon

EXPO Dome 爭艷館

11/17-11/20

2011 Taipei International Beef Noodle Festival (2011臺北國際牛肉麵節)

12/3-12/11

2011 Hwa-Fong National Bonsai Exhibition (2011華風第16回全國盆栽展)

12/24-4/8

2012 Bravo Taipei Flora Expo (2012花現臺北—爭艷再現)

Pavilion of Aroma of Flowers 風味館

Hours: Tue~Sun 11:00-19:00, closed Mon

Pavilion of Dreams, Pavilion of Future, Taipei Pavilion 夢想館、未來館、臺北館

Hours: Tue~Thur, Sun 09:00~17:00

Fri/Sat 09:00~20:00, closed Mon

Tickets: Pavilion of Dreams NT\$100, Pavilion of Future NT\$50, Taipei Pavilion NT\$50, combined Pavilion of Dreams/Future ticket NT\$115, combined Pavilion of Future/Taipei Pavilion ticket NT\$75

Pavilion of Angel Life 天使生活館

Tel: (02) 2585-7228, ext. 101

Hours: Tue~Thur, Sun 09:00~18:00, Fri/Sat 09:00~20:00, closed Mon

Tickets: NT\$100

The “Taipei Free” Wireless Internet Service

At Your Service, Making Exploration Easy



When roaming the Taipei streets, the latest info is now at your fingertips, any time, all the time, and in a constant unbroken stream. The Taipei City Government has set up Taipei Free, a free public wireless Internet access service, in two phases. WiFi hotspots have been set up in myriad busy city spots, enabling you to use your favorite digital gadget—notebook, smartphone, etc.—to access the TPE-Free signal and use the service for any length of time you like, as many times as you like, and, as we mentioned but no doubt you’ll enjoy us mentioning again, toll-free.

In the first phase of the project, WiFi access was set up at such public facilities as major government administrative centers, Taipei Metro stations, and buses. The service is now available on about 500 buses. In October, second-phase service came on-line, meaning you now just need to log onto your Taipei Free account and give your password to enjoy service along the city’s main roads and in the eight primary shopping areas, among them the Taipei Main Station (臺北車站), Ximending (西門町), and the Xinyi District (信義) shopping

areas. The “Taipei Free” identifier is clearly posted at hotspots, and before year’s end 800~1,000 Taipei Free buses will be roaming the streets.

The Taipei Free service is not just for local citizens; travelers from overseas are also warmly invited to sign on. Go to the visitor information center at the Taipei International Airport or any tourist information center, or to the service counter at any of 40-plus Taipei international tourist hotels, and apply for a wireless Internet access account using your passport number. After logging in, you can then access the service at any major indoor or outdoor public location in the city. Expatriate residents in Taipei can access www.TPE-Free.taipei.gov.tw on their Taiwan mobile phones, register their mobile number, and when certified go online for free immediately. If you have any difficulties, use the city’s 24-hour toll-free service hotline. The trained personnel will guide you through the registration process. 

1-2. On the city’s major thoroughfares, see the Taipei Free sign posted or get on a Taipei Free bus and you can enjoy free Internet access.

Website: www.tpe-free.taipei.gov.tw
24 Hour Hotline: 0800-190-179
Mobile Phone Hotline: (02) 8751-1719

The Xinyi Shopping Area

Where Buildings Are Fashion Statements

In any thriving city, streets are constantly in change, creating ever-changing architectural landscapes. As with the dynamic metamorphoses that constantly redefine the character and look of New York's Manhattan, the personality of Taipei's Xinyi Shopping Area (信義商圈) rapidly changes, with the interweaving of sleek new commercial buildings and department stores seeming to create a new skyline almost every time you visit. Each architectural work is itself a proud fashion statement, as is the area's many great designs in the collective. Let's have a closer look.

Dept. Stores of Great Fashion Sense – Financial Buildings of Cool Modernity

Leave the MRT Taipei City Hall Station by Exit 2, and you are greeted with the special world of a single building that houses a bus transfer station, hotel, and department store. This is the Uni-President Hankyu Dept. Store Taipei Branch (統一阪急百貨臺北店) building. Chandeliers create dream-like ambiance, and Dream Plaza on the second level is an outdoor garden that offers a grand view and peaceful escape from the city hubbub. At night, the structure's exterior is painted like a work of art in subdued neon lighting in the form of long red tubing and white pearl shapes. This is another of Taipei's attractive examples of sleek, modernistic Japanese-style dept. stores.



Walk along Songren Rd. (松仁路) and you quickly come to BELLAVITA dept. store. This distinctive work of architecture, dreamed up by Taiwan's famed C.Y. Lee & Partners (李祖原聯合建築師事務所) and Hong Kong's P&T Group (P&T建築師事務所), evokes the elegance of classical Europe via the use of a series of archways, round stone columns, and an atrium court on the first level with heavy glass curtains and rounded skylight. Other prominent features are a cooling fountain and the plants used throughout. BELLAVITA has quickly become a favorite backdrop for wedding photos.

Facing BELLAVITA is the Shin Kong Xinyi Financial Center (新光信義金融大樓), sculpted by the respected Taiwan architect Kris Yao (姚仁喜) and architectural-lighting designer JK Yao (姚仁恭). The center has a prominent





joint double-tower design and heavy use of gleaming reinforced steel. At night, the use of squared reds and whites creates a rhythmic whimsical theme of highly individualistic character. Another Kris Yao's work that is also a distinctive sight on Songren Rd. is the Portal 105 Building (全豐盛信

義105大樓), the angularity of the khaki-colored exterior edges making it appear as though a giant painting frame, the oblique angles filled in with irregular glass curtains. This masterfully reduces the heaviness of the building's weight and look, and creates a portal "cut" in the cliff-like face that invites the imagination to flow in and run free.

Since the end of last year, a new corps of stylish premium hotels has one-by-one taken up positions in Xinyi Shopping Area, standing like sentinels on watch. The big names are Le Meridien Taipei (台北寒舍艾美酒店), W Taipei, and Home Hotel. These, like the other architectural works introduced here, are each doing their part to add to the pronounced international ambiance of the district.

Le Meridien Taipei: The Hotel as Art Gallery

This international facility, opened in the winter of 2010, is rich in the artistic spirit of Europe. The first hotel in the Le Meridien chain was opened by Air



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France in Paris in 1972, the goal to bring the joys of "Chic, Culture, Discovery" to the world. The floral-motif imagery used for the hotel's first set of Unlock Art™ keycards was designed by Chinese artist Yan Lei (顏磊); these iconic cards are so attractive that they are collected by many guests, give you free access to the hotel's first-floor art gallery and to the Museum of Contemporary Art Taipei (臺北當代藝術館).

The hotel has nearly 700 premium items of art in place, including a work from the Tai Chi (太極) series by acclaimed Taiwan sculptor Ju Ming (朱銘). Elsewhere, in such spots as second-floor public spaces and on private



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7 bedroom walls from floors 5~12, are the iconic X-ray works of English artist Nick Veasey, which reveal the otherworldly inner workings of familiar objects. Also on floors 5 through 12, on the stairwell and hallway walls, you find the works of Belgian artist Fred Eerdeken, who has been called a "magician of light and shadow," his works utilizing strategically placed light



1. The large crystal chandeliers on the 5th floor of the Uni-President Hankyu Dept. Store Taipei Branch create a fantasia-like atmosphere.
2. The Xinyi Shopping Area, with its busy and resplendent nightscape, has been called "Taipei's Manhattan."
3. BELLAVITA's arched entranceway and fountain exhibit classical European elegance.
4. The angularity of the Portal 105 Building's khaki-colored exterior makes it appear as though a giant painting frame.
5. The novel-concept keycards of Le Meridien Taipei.
6. On the second floor at Le Meridien Taipei has a work from the Tai Chi (太極) series by acclaimed Taiwan sculptor Ju Ming (朱銘).
7. In Le Meridien Taipei, the stairways and walls on floors 5-12 all feature works of art (light-and-shadow sculptures).
8. The My Humble House Art Gallery on the first floor at Le Meridien Taipei.



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to bring life and texture to works of poetry and piled objects. In the hotel's first-floor you'll find an art gallery—My Humble House, a space where patrons can sit down on plush sofas and chairs to savor the visions of young artist Chang Chiaying (張嘉穎) and other creators who freely roam the world of inspiration.

An innovative design spirit has been brought to the food and drink as well as the decorative embellishments. The hotel's first-floor Latest Recipe restaurant offerings bring you the tastes of Michelin 3-star talent, and ChocoArt draws you into the sweet and succulent world of designer chocolates.

W Taipei: The Best in High-Tech and Eco-Concern

W Taipei is on Sec. 5 of Zhongxiao E. Rd. (忠孝東路), spread out over floors 8 through 31 of the Uni-President Hankyu Dept. Store building. Open in February this year, this is a work by London's G.A. Design International Ltd., seamlessly blending natural elements and the most advanced modern technology. As you enter, your attention is captured by the arresting large-scale interlocked visual design (in fact drainage pipes) and walls made of reclaimed wood, visitors are



interplay actors reflected in the shimmering panels of the hanging interactive light installation created by England's rAndom International, entitled *To Light You Fade*, and the ceiling features an imaginative and playful work of mirrored plastic and bamboo by Japanese designer Hirotoishi Sawada entitled *Reflective Cloud Installation*.

Perhaps the W Taipei facility that has sparked the most conversation is the tenth floor—where you find WOOBAR, broadcasting the music of musical director Michaelangelo, where tables feature solar-panel lamps, and where you look out into Taipei space over the outdoor WET pool. Green foliage walls rise up poolside, complementing the fine sand beach, and a barbecue area extends out from the restaurant—all adding up to an oceanside getaway idyll that's right in the city. Inevitably capturing your attention here as well is the wonderful Water Droplet artworks, giants droplets made of reflective stainless steel that appear as though leaping from the pool and hanging in mid-air.

Home Hotel: MIT Dreams Made Reality

On Songren Rd., opened in July this year, is the Home Hotel, brought to life by a young group of thirty-somethings working together to make their dreams come true. One of their key aims is to strengthen the “MIT – Made in Taiwan” cultural-creative image, and you are regaled with fine home-grown Taiwan arts and crafts works. You are also regaled with discriminating corporate-identity design, with artist Jeffrey Wang (王九思) bringing together the Chinese character for “person” (人) and the English word “home” in visual symbols declaring how Home Hotel is a home away from home for the traveler.



Entering your private room, you are greeted with the warm natural tones of green grass of the inviting Strauss-brand sofas, home-grown in Taiwan, finished with pillows made with classic Chinese fabric, today rarely seen. The attractive fabric used in the pillows is also used for the coasters and table mats that make up one of the hotel's popular gift-box offerings. All rooms feature small touches showing the best of Taiwan: the trash bins and toilet-paper trays are made of biodegradable non-woven fabric, both MRKT brand products from Taiwan; the mouth-rinse cups are the result of a cooperative effort between the hotel and the private design shop of Taiwan artist Nicole Teng (鄧乃瑄), Brut Cake, featuring a figure with two arms wrapped up in a warm embrace, signifying the warmth of home; the special shower cap, toothbrush, and laundry bag package brings together different cultural themes—classic Chinese blue-and-white porcelain, Chinese opera facial make-up, and Western monogramming; and the premium Taiwan teas are from Zenique (小茶栽堂), the exquisite tea ware from the town of Yingge (鶯歌), Taiwan's ceramics capital, and the delicious dried fruit from the island's “kingdom of fruit,” Yujing (玉井) in Tainan City.

Other touches show off classic Taiwan architectural flourishes. The spatial design was handled by Taiwan

designer Ted Su (蘇誠修); be on the lookout for walls of smooth washed stones, the warm colors of Taiwan wutong (梧桐) wood, and other iconic materials.

Fancy a day out exploring a city landscape that can itself be called “stylish”? Come spend time in the Xinyi Shopping Area “architectural art gallery,” a place of big ideas and, for you, soaring pleasures. 

Information

Uni-President Hankyu Dept. Store Taipei Branch 統一阪急百貨臺北店

Add: 8, Sec. 5, Zhongxiao E. Rd. (忠孝東路5段8號)
Tel: (02) 2729-9699

BELLAVITA

Add: 28, Songren Rd. (松仁路28號)
Tel: (02) 8729-2771

Shin Kong Xinyi Financial Center 新光信義金融大樓

Add: 32、36, Songren Rd. (松仁路32、36號)

Portal 105 Building 全豐盛信義105大樓

Add: 105, Songren Rd. (松仁路105號)

Le Meridien Taipei 台北寒舍艾美酒店

Add: 38, Songren Rd. (松仁路38號)
Tel: (02) 6622-8000

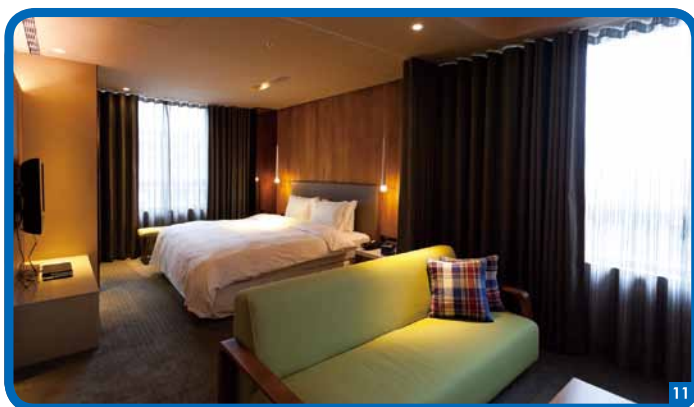
W Hotel Taipei

Add: 10, Sec. 5, Zhongxiao E. Rd. (忠孝東路5段10號)
Tel: (02) 7703-8888

Home Hotel

Add: 90, Songren Rd. (松仁路90號)
Tel: (02) 8789-0111

Please refer to the map provided on P.66.



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- 9-10. At W Hotel Taipei the entrance lobby's ceiling features *Reflective Cloud Installation*, by Japanese designer Hirotohi Sawada; the work *Water Droplet* is by the 10th-floor pool, of stainless steel, reflects the surrounding environs and rivets the eye.
- 11-12. Home Hotel gathers together upscale home-grown Taiwan arts and crafts works, such as green-grass Strauss-brand sofas; the 1F boutique premium artworks by Taiwan's best designers, and the various room types are veritable private art galleries of quintessentially Taiwanese decorative works.

ATT 4 FUN

Shopping Refashioned as Cultural-Creative Fun

You're walking in the Xinyi Shopping Area, and you notice this new store called ATT 4 FUN... interesting. You walk in—into a big hall and a world bursting with LED lighting of all colors in the spectrum. Is this a nightclub or a retail outlet? Where's the usual stuff, like the cosmetics counters, and the service desk?

You're witnessing ATT 4 FUN's creative act, designed to attract the 18-35 crowd. The curtains just went up in the store in October, and heavy doses of eat, drink, and play have also been thrown into the design mix. This is a department store very unlike others—no cosmetics, no home electrical appliances, no bedding, nothing else of similar and familiar ilk. A new type of space is being attempted, brashly flaunting fashion, amusements, cultural creativity, and good food. ATT 4 FUN is designed

for fun, and is fast becoming a must-experience Xinyi Shopping Area diversion.

The reality you see is the physical form of free-ranging imaginations by well-known interior designer Kan Tailai (甘泰來), who has done many prime image Taipei nightspots and retail spaces. At ATT 4 FUN, you'll find levels B1 to 4 dedicated to fashion items, and levels 5 and 6 to restaurants. Levels 7 and 8 are collectively called the ATT Show Box, and 9 through 12 is an entertainment oasis of bars and nightspots.

The area sporting the most distinctive and eclectic character is the ATT Show Box, designed as a cultural-creativity cube, containing two large halls that can accommodate 3,000, and serving a dual-concept role as a “paradise for cultural creativity and amusements,” staging the hottest and most entertaining cultural-creative events. From Nov. 25 through Dec. 17, come watch “Forever Crazy,” the latest cabaret show to feature at the fabulously popular Crazy Horse cabaret in Paris, thrilling audiences with singing, dancing, acting—and artistic theatrics that are both cheeky and sultry. This is the first Crazy Horse show to go on world tour in its 60-year history, and Taipei is the only stop in Asia. From Dec. 8 to Jan. 7, 2012, you should also make time



to take in another special event, a photo exhibit focused on Taiwan entertainers.

One of the other compelling visual attractions at the new venue is the ladder-concept display window set up from levels 1 through 5. Each season, ATT 4 FUN will display the creative works of selected students, giving each NT\$300,000 to work with, giving young talent the precious opportunity to both dream big and to have the means to act on these dreams.

By way of example, right now the Fashion In My Lifestyle display on the second floor has a roulette wheel rotating flower pattern, with the coordinated effects of the pinks, blues, greens, and other dynamic colors alternating to form geometric shapes that tickle the eye, evoking the fashionable and elegant styles of mature young women that come here. On the third floor is Flower Wonderland, a whimsical space of store-dummy models with flower faces and human bodies, gentlemen's top hats in flight, and European-style teapots. On the fourth floor, you'll find Fashion Trends Storm, which greets you with such visuals as human figures with TVs as heads doing handstands, and white gloves in great number climbing upward to form a tower, the elements deliberately creating visual conflict within the surreal fluorescent-tinted space in which they exist.

In the store, each floor has a specific theme, and the brands carried have each self-designed their individual display spaces. The effect created is akin to browsing along attractive design boulevards. Another special touch, anticipating differing customer preferences, is the broadcast of different types of music on each floor, personalizing your visits as though you had your own DJ. Even the parking lot on the B2 level has been given its own special cultural-creative personality, with Taiwan graffiti artists invited in to wield their brushes. ATT 4 FUN has been comprehensive in its attempts to place aesthetic pleasures before you, wherever you are.

The people who have made ATT 4 FUN happen have deconstructed the traditional department-store pattern, making this outlet a tourist attraction as well as a shopping draw, and adding to its attraction is its connection with the district's popular pedestrian sky-bridge network, making your journey to, through, and back from this new cultural-creative city landmark even more pleasurable. 📍



Information

ATT 4 FUN

Add: 12, Songshou Rd. (松壽路12號)

Tel: 0800-065-888

Website: www.att4fun.com.tw

Please refer to the map provided on P.66.

1. The 3,000-seat ATT Show Box is a venue for cultural-creativity exhibits and concerts.
2. The ceiling on the B1 level is adorned with wood-wool board and mirror surfaces in a display of trendy eco-space chic.
3. The 3rd-floor window-display student work *Flower Wonderland*, whimsical and refined.
4. *Fashion In My Lifestyle*, a student-created window-display work on the 2nd floor, another fashionable work evoking the elegance of the mature woman.
5. *Fashion Trends Storm*, a student-created window-display work on the 4th floor, is a display on the aesthetics of visual conflict.
6. Even the cement parking-lot walls have been given their own personality, with Taiwan graffiti artists invited to show off new-generation creativity.



The Joys of Divination in Taipei

There is an ancient Chinese saying that goes “Fate first, luck second, *fengshui* third, virtue fourth, education fifth” (一命、二運、三風水、四積德、五讀書). This means that however the cards have been stacked in your life, the latter three give you opportunity to alter your life course, through use of effective *fengshui* in your living space and by cultivating virtue, studying diligently, and changing your practices to change your character. When life’s obstacles have been placed in your way, going to a fortune-teller or diviner can help you clear your path, pick up your spirits and firm up your will, and help disperse dark clouds.

The types of fortune-telling available to the interested in Taiwan are many, with countless Chinese forms and many Western as well. From the Asian side, there’s Chinese astrology, what is called “four pillars eight characters calculation” (四柱八字推算; the four pillars refer to the year, month, day, and time of birth), *Book of Changes* divination, divination using the poems on

divination lots, studying the written name, studying facial features, bone reading, and other types. On the Western side, there’s fortune-telling based on blood type, zodiac signs, tarot cards, etc. Each has a great number of devotees, and some masters even combine more than one method in their efforts to help people who come to them seeking revelation and a change in fortune.

The end of the present year is nigh. Intrigued in what lays in store for you in the year soon to be revealed? Looking for ways to guide your fortune along more fortuitous paths? Have a listen below to the options that lay before you, and choose the path you feel best matches your beliefs.

Xingtian Temple Fortune Telling Street – Chinese Astrology, Four Pillar Eight Characters, Rice Divination

If you talk to Taipei locals about fortune-telling, one and all will tell you that the most famous place to go is Xingtian Temple Fortune Telling Street (行天宮命理大街). Xingtian Temple (行天宮) is one of the city’s most popular temples and many make a side trip to the cluster of fortune-tellers below street level before the temple—those who believe, to handle their life’s issues, those who do not believe, to witness the color and devotional intensity.



The fortune-telling “street” is in fact in the pedestrian underpass below the major intersection outside the temple, and has an H shape. There are two sections, on the east and west sides, with a total of more than 20 fortune-teller kiosks,

and a few spilled over to the street level along Sec. 2 of Minquan E. Rd. (民權東路2段). Most of the masters here have been in the business more than a decade, and provide a variety of services, including divination, reading faces, etc.

The kiosks, each sporting its own unique decorative character, are opened from about 8 am to 10 pm, and a session will cost you from NT\$500 to NT\$1,000, more if an individual needs more detailed numerology services than the norm. In recent years, the number of Japanese customers has steadily increased, and most kiosks can now handle service in Japanese.

In fortune-telling, astrology, the four pillars eight characters technique, and other techniques are used to gain understanding of an individual's life and to use this insight to invite good fortune and prevent the bad. The person must supply his/her year, month, and date of birth, as well as the particular traditional two-hour period of the day, and with the astrology technique the constellations are studied, which are analogous with the ebbs and flows of a person's life. Calculations are made based on comparisons of the heavenly bodies, revealing the good and ill fortune a person faces. Star comparison is also used for the four pillars eight characters method, but *yinyang* and five processes theory (陰陽五行術) referring to the interaction of the metal, wood, water, fire, and earth elements is also brought into the mix.

If what you desire is simply to ask questions about such things as doubts and suspicions troubling

the mind, rice divination is a good option. When presenting one's questions, you must first calm the mind and soul, then repeat the question over and over in the mind, with no words spoken out loud. Take a cluster rice grains from a jar, between middle finger and thumb, and place them on a plate, repeating this three times. The divination master compares the different numbers of grains with each round, determining the outside environmental forces impacting you, your inner forces and conditions, and the variable results and recommendations for action, referring to the *Book of Changes* for explanation and guidance in methods for overcoming your difficulties.

Longshan Temple Underground Shopping Bazaar Fortune Teller Street – Fortune-Telling Using Physical Appearance and Birds

Longshan Temple's Fortune Teller Street (龍山寺算命街) has long enjoyed a reputation equal to that of its Xingtian Temple counterpart. Stands were originally



1. Xingtian Temple Fortune Telling Street, close by Xingtian Temple, attracts many travelers seeking fortunes told and problems solved.
2. Use of the classic “four pillars, eight characters calculation” method and other methods may well be your most direct path to drawing in good fortune, dispelling bad.
3. Xingtian Temple Fortune Telling Street attracts a great many visitors from Japan.
4. Located on Sec. 2, Minquan E. Rd., Nianqi Mingli Zixun (詭騏命理諮詢) provides service in English and Chinese.
5. Locals believe physical appearance reveals the heart, and that face-reading reveals one's character and condition of the soul.

located around the temple's periphery, all moved into the Longshan Temple Underground Shopping Bazaar (龍山寺地下商城) when it was completed. This is now Taipei's largest fortune-teller street.

There are about 30 fortune-teller booths located on the B1 level. The booths follow the same neat, uniform overall design, though each has its own distinguishing decorative flourishes, and all are bright and airy and offer privacy. Each master here has experience in a number of fortune-telling techniques, helping with such matters as auspicious name selection and wedding dates, reading hands and faces, and so on. A number also help with the interpretation of the oft hard-to-decipher divination-lot writings obtained at temples, devotees coming to rely on their judgement.

In Chinese culture, there is deep belief in the idea that physical appearance reveals the heart, and experts read the physiognomy of the face and other areas of the body for understanding of a person's character and soul. The fortune-teller will take your hands in his own and then proceed with a careful visual

inspection; hand shape, fatness and thinness, contours, palm prints, facial complexion, facial configuration, lines and marks, moles and spots, and your frame, figure, and posture all offer insight into your health, character, intelligence and wisdom, and other matters.

If you're looking for a simpler and more straightforward form of divination, you might try bird divination, numeral divination (the asker stating the first three numbers that pop into his head), or tortoise-shell divination (also called coin divination; the asker draws coins from a tortoise shell six times). All rely on the *Book of Changes* for interpretations and guidance. When using bird divination, the seeker must first calm the mind, then silently contemplate the question. The master will then open his bird cage and have the bird pick up three slips from a pile of divination poems, representing past, present, and future, which when interpreted will provide meaning and guidance.

East vs. West – Book of Changes vs Tarot Cards

All forms of Chinese divination have the *Book of Changes* as their base. This book, one of the oldest of the Chinese classic texts, uses the concept of *yin* and *yang* essence to classify an almost inexhaustible array of materials, with 64 hexagrams used to describe the processes of change for all things on Earth.

With Western tarot cards, 78 cards with different faces reveal life's changes. The tarot specialist will randomly choose a series of cards, with the image on each, their order of

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appearance, and their reverse position revealing hidden messages, the soothsayer using his/her reasoning and intuition to construct and interpret them. Some specialists will also use other items, such as colored essence oils (revealing the true state of one's soul) or other types of cards (angel cards, thangka cards, etc.), in the search for maximum clarity in their divinations.

As you have seen, your destiny is not set in stone—it is yours to grasp and guide. And as you have seen, there are many fortune-telling and divination paths to choose from. Once you have divined the right path for yourself, it is time to take full mastery of your destiny—perhaps here in Taipei, with the help of Taipei's masters. 🌟

Information

Xingtian Temple Fortune Telling Street 行天宮命理大街

Location: Underpass at intersection of Sec. 2, Minguan E. Rd. and Songjiang Rd.
(民權東路2段與松江路交叉口地下道)

Longshan Temple Underground Shopping Bazaar Fortune Teller Street 龍山寺地下商城算命街

Location: B1, 145, Sec. 1, Xiyuan Rd.
(西園路1段145號地下商城B1)



6. In bird divination the bird randomly picks up divination poems, which when interpreted provide meaning and guidance.
7. At Longshan Temple Underground Shopping Bazaar Fortune Teller Street, complicated reading of the face and hands help augur your future and defeat evil.
8. Tarot-card readings are currently very popular, with readings of essence-oil colors and drawings used in assistance. (Photo courtesy of Sufi Blog)
9. The use of *Book of Changes* divination is ancient, incorporating the complicated concepts of *yin/yang*, the five essences, and other beliefs. (Photo courtesy of Master Hu Wenqi ; 胡文起)
- 10-11. The 78 card faces in tarot-card divination reveal the transformations and permutations of one's mortal existence. (Upper photo courtesy of Yuan Yuan Fang; 圓緣坊水晶, lower photo courtesy of Lavender; 紫光貓咪占卜咖啡館)

New Year's Fireworks and Scenic Restaurant Partying

On New Year's Eve, there's no better place to be in Taipei just before midnight than standing with hundreds of thousands of newfound friends and counting down to the New Year and the brilliant, pounding launch of the annual Taipei 101 fireworks show. However, like many others, you just might consider sitting down to a more private party with family and friends at a premium restaurant in a scenic location with a great vantage point for the big show. Your options are many.

Under the Stars, Way Up on Grass Mountain

Up on Yangmingshan in the area behind Chinese Culture University (文化大學) is the restaurant Sleepless in Caoshan (草山夜未眠), which has been opened for 10 years. "Caoshan" (草山) is the old name for Yangmingshan, meaning "grass mountain." Dining alfresco here, especially at night amidst the candlelight, is a great treat, the landscaped foliage inviting breezes, Taipei 101 and the Tamsui River (淡水河) clearly visible far off

and far down below. As the night deepens, the city's lights and the black sky's lights glitter ever brighter, as if in competition. As you might imagine, there is also great competition getting a seat here on weekends and holidays.

Beyond the serving up of beautiful night scenery, the restaurant also serves culinary creations from numerous lands and peoples that make for a perfect small group rendezvous. Italian roast chicken leg with basil, Thai spicy seasoned shrimp with pepper and peppercorns, and Chinese in-house salted pork are just a few of your entrée options. Accompanying these is a pleasing range of fresh seasonal vegetables and soups. A special treat for sweethearts is the heart-shaped tables on the outdoor patio, adding even more spice to your evening, the stars watching you and winking.

For New Year's Eve this year, you can enjoy live musical entertainment from a top-flight crew and then join in the jolly midnight countdown, capped with the far-off Taipei 101 fireworks and the restaurant's own fireworks-art show bursting directly above you at the same time.



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Embracing Maokong's Verdant Hills While Cupping Home-Grown Golden Brew

The Maokong area draws many because city folks love its easy-access strings of peaks and valley-deep quietude. The other draw, even more beloved by locals, are the steep slopeland tea plantations and their dedicated teahouse restaurants. The Big Teapot (貓空大茶壺1樓茶餐廳) restaurant, on the first level of a lovely two-floor open-sided brick building, has perhaps Maokong's best panoramic views. Not far from the Maokong Gondola Maokong Station, you look down upon the valley's plantations, over the crest of the next range of low mountains into the city's center and Taipei 101. In daytime, impressive; at night, art itself.

The tea here is from the plantation you look out over, and is cured on-site. This, like other Maokong restaurants, specializes in "tea cuisine," meaning sometimes tea is used as an ingredient in your dishes and other dishes are specially designed to complement your brewed tea. Starting in December a series of special culinary inventions featuring flowers and fruits is being progressively rolled out, one example being a set meal for two featuring chicken soup with apple, fungus, and mushroom (range chicken is a very popular Maokong specialty), chicken-leg slices smoked with Wuyi Mountain Rock tea (武夷岩茶), bean-curd stewed in spring tea, shrimp baked with rose and salt, mountain vegetables with plum powder and passion fruit sauce, and jasmine tea fried rice. The views, the tea fragrance from the plantations, and the premium food will make you a very happy diner, guaranteed.

After the New Year's countdown and celebration, if you still have a thirst for excitement, head for Maokong Gondola in the moonlight. Here you can sip great tea and savor friendly conversation until the break of dawn, the best post-celebration entertainment program you'll find.

1. At Sleepless in Caoshan, enjoy romantic night views and an array of dishes from different lands, such as black-pepper pork ribs.
- 2-3. At the Big Teapot 1st-floor restaurant, big mountain views are also on the menu, as are chicken-leg slices smoked with Wuyi Mountain Rock tea and special culinary inventions featuring flowers and fruits.
- 4-5. The unique Moon Star Restaurant revolves around the smokestack of the Beitou Incinerator, 120 meters high, giving one-of-a-kind slow-revolving panoramas of Taipei.



A Scenic Restaurant Swirling 360° Round Moon and Stars

Another restaurant of splendid view that is of an entirely different character is the Moon Star Restaurant (星月360° 旋轉餐廳), high up a 40-story-high tower and overlooking the confluence of the Tamsui River and Keelung River (基隆河), site of the fecund Guandu (關渡) wetlands. Within this restaurant's unique revolving vista is the Linkou plateau (林口臺地), Mt. Guanyin (觀音山), and Mt. Datun (大屯山) plus the rest of the Yangmingshan massif. Star Tower is especially popular with families and with groups of bicycle enthusiasts, and especially on weekends and holidays.

As the restaurant makes its comfortable 90-minute revolution, you are presented with a series of painters' canvases. The





most sparkling and riveting come as night falls, with lights along small lanes and big thoroughfares popping into view, up mountainsides and along the basin floor, like a map being drawn. Velvet-voiced crooners match the mood with easy-listening tunes. Little wonder, then, why you'll notice there are so many sweetheart couples seated around you.

The restaurant, which sits 120 meters up the sky-reaching, rainbow-colored Beitou Incinerator (北投焚化廠) smokestack, is Taipei's only revolving scenic restaurant. There is a free-entry observation platform "downstairs," at the 116-meter mark. The restaurant offers a Western-style set-meal menu, afternoon tea, and a late-night snack menu. Among your set-meal choices are two especially popular combinations that bring together salmon and chicken leg, or filet mignon and chicken leg. On New Year's Eve, a number of musical groups have been booked to provide entertainment, and the program will also include entertaining games, a lottery draw, and other excitement, ensuring an atmosphere of much merriment.

Ascending the Clouds and Sharing the Birds' View Up Taipei 101

Have you ever been up in clouds? As you sit enjoying your meal in the Diamond Tony's Panorama—The Best 85 (隨意鳥地方101高空觀景餐廳) restaurant way, way up on the 85th floor of the Taipei 101 skyscraper on its observation deck, you look down over puffs of cloud and mist floating past. The restaurant, run by the Diamond Tony's group, serves Italian cuisine amidst trappings of resplendent classical elegance. Among the rich array of defining decorative flourishes are numerous Swarovski crystal chandeliers and, behind the bar, a full mock-up of a Venetian gondola.

The New Year's fireworks experience here is very different from that experienced by the hundreds of thousands

far below at street level, looking up at you. Of course, since you are inside you cannot see the full fireworks-art display, but it is quite a thrill sitting at cloud level right "inside" the show itself, bursting all around you. The restaurant also has a TV wall that will have a simulation of the exterior fireworks and matching cadence, the sound allowing you to "feel" the thumps and bumps going on outside.

The head chef has also crafted a special premium New Year's Eve set-meal menu for New Year's Eve, featuring such delicacies as fried duck liver accompanied by warm salad with fig and Florence-style charcoal-roasted T-bone steak matched with seasonal vegetables and white truffle. You are served five types of alcohol during your meal—by staff wearing Venetian carnival masks, adding even more color to the night's celebrations.



Enjoy a Most Unusual Taipei Fireworks High – In a Piece of Thailand

When you stand beneath Taipei 101 and the fireworks are blazing high above, you feel the blasts are directly above your head and that you can reach out and touch them, and feel as though the sparkles are floating down right to where you stand. The experience is thrilling and invigorating. You'll get the same thrills, while sitting down amidst somewhat plush surroundings, in the outdoor areas of the brand-new Rama Thai Imperial Restaurant (Rama 泰泰式皇家主題式餐廳) and its Sky Lounge restaurant, which opened in October on floors 10 and 11 of the ATT 4 FUN market.

The restaurant has the look and feel of a Southeast Asia vacation resort. There's an outdoor pool, a coffee bar, and much landscaped greenery. The Sky Lounge, on the upper floor, has a relaxed and carefree Thai-resort air. As you'd expect, the cuisine is Thai, with a dedication to freshness that results in the direct express delivery of ingredients and spices, and the seafood aquarium ensures you to personally select your "catch." The traditions of the royal Thai household are loyally recreated for you, from the decorations to the recipes and cooking methods used.

Among the many special dishes here are curry crab with duck egg, the aroma of the rich sauce compelling, and braised grouper with green curry, a rare preparation in which the curry's coconut milk thoroughly penetrates the meat, creating a delectably silky texture. There is also a wide array of intriguing side dishes, the most popular being the papaya and fresh prawn salad and the hot and sour shrimp. On New Year's Eve, a band will provide you with live entertainment, leading up to a group countdown and the heart-thumping Taipei 101 fireworks thriller on high. 🎆



Information

Sleepless in Caoshan 草山夜未眠

Add: 99, Alley 81, Lane 25, Dongshan Rd. (東山路25巷81弄99號)

Tel: (02) 2862-3751

Big Teapot 貓空大茶壺1樓茶餐廳

Add: 37-1, Lane 38, Sec. 3, Zhinan Rd. (指南路3段38巷37之1號)

Tel: (02) 2939-5615

Moon Star Restaurant 星月360°旋轉餐廳

Add: 271, Zhoumei St. (洲美街271號)

Tel: (02) 2837-7122

Diamon Tony's Panorama—The Best 85

隨意鳥地方101高空觀景餐廳

Add: 85F, 7, Sec. 5, Xinyi Rd. (信義路5段7號85樓)

Tel: (02) 8101-0016

Rama Thai Imperial Restaurant

Rama 泰泰式皇家主題式餐廳

Add: 10/11F, 12, Songshou Rd. (松壽路12號10-11樓)

Tel: (02) 7737-9998

Warning: Alcohol can be harmful to your health; drink with moderation.

6. The Moon Star Tower Restaurant's Western-style salmon and filet mignon set meal.

7-8. Diamond Tony's Panorama View Restaurant atop Taipei 101, where a beautiful Venetian gondola sits in decorative display, serves chef-selected Italian set cuisine on New Year's eve.

9-11. Rama Thai Imperial Restaurant has a fashionable resort village feel, and a range of imperial-house delicacies made fresh upon order, notably the braised grouper with green curry and the papaya and fresh prawn salad.





Sweet Winter Treats that Warm the Heart

The heat and humidity of the summer and autumn has left the island and a mother lode of cool has moved in from the north. Favorite warming treats among locals at this time are bowls of sweet things heated up, with many small and cozy options available at very reasonable prices. Let's head along the city's streets and down its lanes and alleys in search of the shops that supply these old-time snacking treasures.



Genuine Old-Time Ingredients for Authentic Old-Time Tastes

Though these sweet traditional snacks are inexpensive, makers take great care to use the best materials, and family recipes that are long-held and closely guarded. The result is repeat business, a growing reputation, pride in one's brand, and long term business success, one generation after another apprenticing and then taking over.

A prime example is Eastern Ice Store (東區粉圓) down Lane 216 of Zhongxiao East Road's Section 4. Nearby office workers, students, and even foreign travelers are drawn to its taste. Today it's hard to imagine that the business started right here 30 years back with just a streetside stall, but one thing has never changed—everything is made fresh daily, by hand, and loyal customers arrive from near and far.

In winter, demand for one of the store's famed mainstays, “hot herbal jelly” (燒仙草), outstrips that for all others. The key ingredient *xiancao* (仙草), is a dried herbal grass sourced from the island's Guanxi (關西) area—i.e., the island's best. Simmering for 48 hours brings natural thickening, and a dark-brown color approaching black. Heated in winter, the slippery and sweet dessert is a hugely popular pick-me-up. It's accompanied with chewy balls hand-made from sweet potato starch, the source of sweet and warm childhood memories for countless islanders.



Another well-known shop, open 55 years, is Taiyi Milk King (臺一牛奶大王), located near National Taiwan University (臺灣大學). The custom in Taiwan at the winter solstice, in late December, is for the whole family to eat yummy, chewy *tangyuan* (湯圓), stuffed dumplings of glutinous rice flour served in soup, their rounded forms representing the perfection of family reunion and of everyone growing a year older. For many students living away from home, Taiyi Milk King is a home away from home.



The second-generation owner, Mr. Gu, specially recommends the fermented *tangyuan*. Though most people think fermented foods should have a sour taste, he states that “If there’s a sour taste, it means the fermentation has not been done perfectly. There should be a clear and slightly sweet taste.” To ensure this, the yeast used is the key, and to ensure he has the right yeast each year, the owner sources from a number of wholesalers on Taipei’s Dihua St. (迪化街), determining which lot is best after rounds of experimentation. Another of his signature offerings is sesame *tangyuan*, strictly following the tried-and-true traditional methods for selecting the granulated sugar, lard, and sesame and for achieving the perfect ratios, with adjustments constantly made in the search for the best aroma, taste, and healthiness.

- 1-2. Eastern Ice Store has a reputation that brings tourists from far and wide; in winter, its iconic hot herbal jelly or steaming red-bean soup, with the specially made rice and sweet-potato starch balls, warms body and spirit.
- 3-4. Taiyi Milk King, near National Taiwan University, is a place of sweet treats always flowing with students; its signature fermented *tangyuan* are shown here.
- 5-6. The sweet eponymous signature food attraction at Mung Bean and Pearl Barley, along with sesame paste.



Fans of the taste of sesame will much enjoy the paste at Mung Bean & Pearl Barley (綠豆薏人), a combination of sesame and peanut ground as fine as sand and then cooked together with organic rock candy added, creating a taste treat that is nutritious, pleasantly sweet rather than sickly, and free of any oiliness. For the shop's star “mung bean and pearl barley” attraction, the flavor key is the mix ratio for the hair mung bean and oil mung bean used, the former bringing soft texture, the latter fragrance. Pearl barley is added as the piece de resistance, the result a creation that is both very tasty and highly nutritious.





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The traditional accompaniments for tofu pudding are red beans and green beans, but here, Zhuangtou Tofu Pudding has again added novel twists, offering such things as purple rice, oats, and barley, which have proven very popular. The syrup is a combination of

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white sugar, brown sugar, black sugar, and rock sugar, creating with an exacting stir-fry process. In winter the ratio of black sugar and throat-soothing Chinese herbal medicine ingredients increased, helping to invigorate blood circulation.



The Old Ways Refined to Fit New Days

The quest for the perfect warming winter sweet treat is a cherished local ritual, bringing back the most precious memories when the quest begins once again each year. Yet change must come to all things, society's tastes shift, and today's new generation of business owners is enthusiastically engaging in improvement and innovation.

At Zhuangtou Tofu Pudding (莊頭豆花擔), located along Civic Boulevard (市民大道), the ambiance displays a mix of nostalgia and originality, with new tastes created by bringing old-time flavors together with modern ideas on nutrition. A sample of the delicious "black tofu pudding" (黑豆花) immediately shows how much thought has gone into its creation. The store is very proud of its work in bringing this dark source of pleasure to life, highly nutritious and, despite the use of old-style preparation, with the usual gypsum powder discarded as congealing agent.

We now arrive at Sweet Rice Ball (雙連O仔湯), another venerable shop that enjoys putting a new face on things. This popular spot's most irresistible winter draw is "hot mochi" (燒麻糬), prepared in time-honored fashion, lightly fried in oil on the outside and leaving the moisture inside. The flavor enhancer for the shop's original hot mochi is black sesame with sweetened peanut powder, but well-received savory innovations include slivers of dried laver and vegetarian meat floss. Crispy outside and soft and chewy inside, these mochi gems overflow with bliss-filled contentment.

The mainstay sweet offering at Sweet Rice Ball since its opening in 1951 has been the “four fruits soup” (四果湯), featuring clear green bean, small handmade rice balls (i.e., *tangyuan*), dense, soft taro, and oats, with the latter added to fill the belly. In the past, when neither money nor food was so plentiful, a small bowl of this dish was a favorite way to fill up and get required nutrition while treating yourself to a sweet dessert-like gift.

On the walls, you'll find intriguing old photos showing the members of the owner family's first generation and the street stand outside where everything get started, portals to the events and achievements of the past. Some of the key items of the new age, however, are out of view of the customer, located backstage, among them high-temperature dish-washing facilities that effectively disinfect, and a central kitchen subject to stringent inspection. These new elements have been brought in by today's third-generation owner, who says that although beloved old-time tastes will always be in place here, it is innovation, refinement, and progressive health and hygiene concepts that will “preserve” the future of his business.

So, then, you now know where all the “hidden” warm places are to be found along this city's lanes and alleys when the chills of winter come looking for you, and one of the best things about the enjoyable experiences you are yet to have is that you can savor them all over again whenever you choose, in the form of sweet warming memories. 📍

Information

Eastern Ice Store 東區粉圓

Add: 38, Lane 216, Sec. 4, Zhongxiao E. Rd. (忠孝東路4段216巷38號)

Tel: (02) 2777-2057

Taiyi Milk King 臺一牛奶大王

Add: 82, Sec. 3, Xincheng S. Rd. (新生南路3段82號)

Tel: (02) 2362-3172

Mung Bean and Pearl Barley 綠豆薏人

Add: 165-1, Sec. 4, Bade Rd. / Bade branch (八德路4段165之1號)

Tel: (02) 2747-4369

Zhuangtuo Tofu Pudding 莊頭豆花擔

Add: 73, Sec. 4, Civic Blvd. (市民大道4段73號)

Tel: (02) 8771-6301

Sweet Rice Ball 雙連O仔湯

Add: 57, Lane 223, Sec. 4, Zhongxiao E. Rd. / Zhongxiao branch (忠孝東路4段223巷57號)

Tel: (02) 8771-9815

7-9. At Zhuangtuo Tofu Pudding, the décor is a mix of nostalgia and originality; among the innovative ingredients used are purple rice, oats, and barley, and the syrup combines white sugar, brown sugar, black sugar, and rock sugar.

10-12. Sweet Rice Ball is a spot steeped in nostalgia, from the old photos on the walls to the old-style four fruits soup and hot mochi.



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Happy End-of-Year Wanderings – City Chic and Suburban Soaks



This November and December, there's a special mood in the air. As one year winds down and another waits on the doorstep, there's a mood to sweep out the old and bring in the new—with a bang. Celebrations are being launched left and right, one after the other. On another front—the weather front—it's now out with the warm and in with the cool, meaning the peak hot-spring season has arrived in Beitou District (北投區) and it's time to head into the cool hills for steamy and soothing hot soaks. We combine these two themes in the following end-of-2011 day-tour suggestions, specially designed for the year's very last day—raucous fun in the big city's heart, or more tranquil satisfactions in its suburbs.

City Party Tour



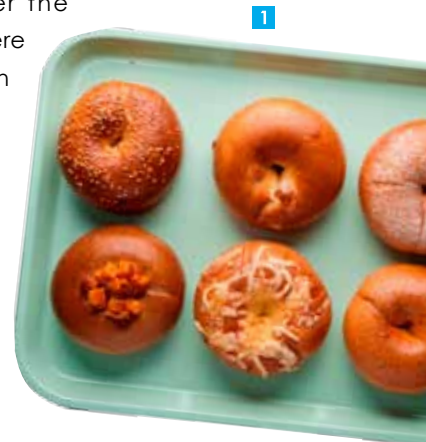
1 A Mix of Views of Old and New – Enjoying Local Fine Foods

Hidden amidst the glamor and shimmering new architecture of Xinyi District (信義區), off to one side of Taipei 101, is a historical gem of great allure, a former military dependants' residential area called 44 South Village / Xinyi Public Assembly Hall; (四四南村 / 信義公民會館). This is a new landmark for the city's cultural creativity circle, a degenerating heritage site saved and given new life as a composite living space, a stage for arts and culture exhibits and for good food and drink.

Taking up Hall C of the assembly hall is Good Cho's (好丘), a creative-lifestyle complex bringing together a display of innovative brands, a market bazaar, music,

culture exhibits, and local cuisine. Many specifically come each day for their chance at the limited quantity creative bagels, baked fresh on-site—a treat you too should vie for.

After breakfast, meander the other areas of the village. There are exhibits that change with the seasons, a weekend agricultural lifestyle market, a flea market, and other attractions. Keep your camera at the ready, for the mix of old and new here is unique and visually compelling.





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- 1-2. The extremely popular bagels at Good Cho's come in mouth-watering variation; the shop also sells Taiwan home-grown agricultural products and cultural-creative merchandise.
- 3. There are four main buildings at 44 South Village, venues for many different kinds of exhibits.

- 4. Wufenpu is a wholesale center for fashionable clothing and accessories at very attractive prices.
- 5. Raohe Street Night Market is known for both its wide range of traditional Taiwan snacks and its equally wide range of consumer merchandise.
- 6. Taipei 101 New Year's Eve Fireworks, lighting up a city that never sleeps.

2 Treasure Hunting in City Shops – Dressing Up for New Year's

Next, hop on a bus or MRT train, your destination the bustling Wufenpu (五分埔) garment wholesale area not far away. Your goal is to hunt down your New Year's party attire. Located in the area behind the MRT Houshanpi Station, this district is choc-a-bloc with shops—nearly a thousand in total—selling trendy clothing at reasonable prices, brought in from around Taiwan, Hong Kong, Japan, Korea, and other places. The shops supply all styles, for all ages, in all sizes. This is much more than a mere wholesale-supply depot; it is also a key Taipei arbiter of fashion, shop displays telling avid shoppers what's in and what's not each season. Come here to hunt for treasures and you'll find the prices is most definitely right; but most importantly, you'll be the most brightly shining jewel at your New Year's Eve party!

As evening nears, head over to the nearby Raohe Street Night Market (饒河街夜市) for a hunt of another kind—for the best in traditional Taiwan snack foods. The market stretches 600 meters, lined with shops on either side of the street and vendors' stalls down the middle. They sell all and sundry, from food treats to daily-use articles to general clothing and on to much else. The market's iconic offering, which all island night-market aficionados know, is medicinal pork-rib stew (藥燉排骨), famed for chasing away the winter chills. The herbal

medicines penetrate the meat, rendering it succulently tender and giving off a wonderfully aromatic fragrance. Another Raohe icon is a specific shop, Fuzhou Ancestor Pepper Buns (福州世祖胡椒餅), a Raohe crown jewel where you'll always find a line-up. The pepper buns are stiffed with minced meat and chopped green onions, the outside crispy, the innards finger-lickin'-good juicy. This treat is charbroiled in the traditional way of the ancestors referred to in the shop name, sealing in authentic Taiwan flavor you'll then release and contentedly savor.

3 Taipei, Sleepless on New Year's Eve! Partying, Fireworks, Late-Night Fun

It's time now to rush over on the MRT system, with a short walk after, to the grand plaza before Taipei City Hall for the grand annual New Year's Eve Countdown Party. Big-name pop stars will sing and dance their way through the evening on the big stage here, one after one without cease, bringing you to the happy midnight countdown where it seems all the citizens of Taipei join in. Eyes in Taiwan and around the world are then fixated on the soaring Taipei 101 tower as it is enveloped in fireworks glory, one and all wishing sharing a joyous sense of new beginnings as they stand below the bursts, tens of thousands standing as one, gazing in awe and making their New Year wishes.





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As the rays of the sun of the next day and the new year peak over the horizon, move over to the Presidential Office Square (總統府前) for the New Year's Day Flag-Raising Ceremony (元旦升旗典禮). To the sombre tones of the national anthem and military music, the flag is slowly raised before citizens decked out in the same red, white, and blue colors. The sense of patriotism is palpable and inspiring, all present quietly expressing the hope for a smooth and happy year, for self and for nation, amidst the sparkle of this first day's beams of warming sunlight. Memories of these people's bright hopes for the future, floating unseen to the sky, will long stay with you.

A Small Hot-Springs Tour

Hong-Gah Museum
view exhibit

Taiwan Folk Arts Museum
Refined set-meal dining

Taipei Season of Hot Springs experience

Hot-spring bathing,
nutritious dining

**Ketagalan Culture Center,
Beitou Hot Springs Museum**
view exhibits

Marshal Zen Garden
Panorama enjoyment,
hot-spring foot soak



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Another type of pleasant outing, which takes you away from the crowds of the city, is a jaunt into the foothills of Taipei's Beitou District. A favorite resort-getaway destination for the city's denizens, Beitou's claim to fame is hot-springs. You can get there in just 30 minutes from the city via the MRT system, entering a wholly different world though it starts just steps away from the MRT station. Rich in sulfur-spring resources and heritage sites, often wrapped in mountain mists and hot-spring mists paired in dance, this is a great place to steam the winter chills away.

1 Exploring Beitou's Dense Cluster of Arts and Culture Venues

It's early morning, and a nice way to start off is an energizing steeping in the cultural arts. Get off at MRT Qiyuan Station, then walk about 5 minutes along Daye Rd. (大業路) to get to Hong-Gah Museum (鳳甲美術館). In the subdued atmosphere of the display halls here, you can view high quality works of contemporary art by talent from Taiwan, mainland China, Japan, Europe, and elsewhere. But perhaps the most striking display is the line of traditional Chinese embroidery artwork presented



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to you as you just walk in, with magnificent embroidery renderings of famous paintings such as *Dwelling in the Fuchun Mountains* (富春山居圖) and of the ladies of the imperial court. Until you get up very close, it's impossible to tell if you are looking at brushwork or needlework.

After the museum, it's back on the MRT for a quick trip to MRT Xinbeitou Station. From there, it's just five minutes on foot to the Ketagalan Culture Center (凱達格蘭文化館). The Ketagalan tribe (凱達格蘭族), a Pinpu (平埔; flatlands) people, were the original residents of the Beitou area, and the center has arts and culture displays on both this tribe and Taiwan's other tribes. Learn about indigenous hunting, nature-theme art, the unique traditional clothing, decorations and adornments,

everyday-use articles, musical instruments, and much else. Perhaps the two main themes that come through in all displays is the deep reverence for ancestors and ancestral lands held by all the local native peoples.

Right across the street from the center, in a park, is the Beitou Hot Springs Museum (北投溫泉博物館). This facility was Taiwan's first public baths, built by the Japanese long ago when they ruled Taiwan, and many of the priceless relics have been preserved. This heritage site was one of the key attractions in the development of Beitou's (and Taiwan's) hot-spring culture, and the pleasant smell of tatami and aromatic wood still lingers, helping you drift back to the romantic atmosphere of Beitou's yesteryear.

2 Riding the Beitou Time Shuttle – Vintage Artifacts and Fine Cuisine

Your next stop is the Taiwan Folk Arts Museum (北投文物館). It's at the top of the valley here; you're at the bottom. Hop on bus No. 230 in front of Guangming Police Station (光明派出所), by MRT Xinbeitou Station, or phone the museum for their free shuttle-bus service (the shuttle runs regularly between the station and museum).

The Japanese-built wood-theme complex that today houses the museum was once Beitou's premier

hot-spring inn. Thoroughly renovated, it today serves as a venue for cultural arts and refined dining. The permanent exhibits bring the past to life and relate it to the present, and a special exhibit now on, from Nov. 5 to next March, is focused on the Japanese kimono, the aesthetics of this exquisite form of attire wonderfully complemented by those of the classical Japanese architecture, the building itself a work of art. Other treats are in store for you on the weekend: From noon to 2 pm each Saturday, the well-known Taiwan classical music artist Zhou Songcun (周松村) regales visitors with his *chiba* (尺八) performances, the *chiba* an ancient type of end-blown flute, and on Sundays old films from

7. Bright and early on New Year's Day, the square before the Presidential Office Building is site for an inspiring flag-raising ceremony and patriotic display.
8. The tranquil space at Hong-Gah Museum allows relaxed and minute examination of the magnificent embroidery artworks.
9. Ketagalan Culture Center is an invaluable repository of precious indigenous culture and art.
10. At Taiwan Folk Arts Museum, a small Japanese-era bath has been preserved in its original state.
11. The classically rustic architecture at Taiwan Folk Arts Museum inspires many to don traditional Japanese dress to have their photos taken.
12. Taiwan Folk Arts Museum serves traditional Japanese *kaiseki* meals, bringing novel twists in the creation of dishes both healthy and innovative.





13



14



15

the 1895-1945 Japanese colonial period are now being shown. What better way to travel into the past than via the magic of ancient musical notes and the flickering images of vintage film treasures?


Aesthetics in another form comes with the museum's upscale kaiseki cuisine, and lunch here within the tranquil surroundings is pure joy. Only the freshest seasonal ingredients are used, and a quiet session with the innovative courses accompanied by the finest tea brings a sense of relaxed contentment to the mind and soul.

Right beside the museum is another classical Japanese wood-theme complex, the Marshal Zen Garden (少帥禪園), buildings staggered on a steep slope and surrounded by woods. One of the key figures in modern Chinese history, the Young Marshal Zhang Xueliang (少帥張學良), spent many years here under house arrest. After thorough refurbishing, the complex was reopened this past February, now doing duty as a secluded restaurant-teahouse-spa hideaway of big vistas. After a pleasant lunch—all foods served are recreations of the marshal's favorites—sit outside for a soothing “milk water” soak in the white-sulfur foot-soak pools, gazing peacefully at pretty Mt. Guanyin (觀音山) off in the distance.

3 Taipei Season of Hot Springs – Health Benefits, Great Special Deals

The biggest event in Beitou each year is what is called the Taipei Season of Hot Springs (臺北溫泉季). This brings a festival cavalcade of events and activities with Beitou's unique local culture as theme, and many of the hot-spring inns, hotels, and related businesses offering attractive deals. The unbeatable combination of good soaking and good food brings devotees of the hot-springs culture in impressive number.

Your hot-spring resorts come in a variety of architectural styles. The Nine Plus Spa Hot Spring Hotel (荷豐溫泉會館), for example, evokes classical China, while the SweetMe Hot Spring Resort (水美溫泉會館) is a place of gracious modern trappings. Whichever spot you pick, however, the soothing Beitou mineral waters will carry all your worldly troubles away.

Taipei invites you to spend the end of your year with us, and we promise all the fun and relaxation you can handle, in whichever style you prefer—boisterous downtown style or edge-of-town contemplative style. Bring your New Year in in grand style! 



16

- 13-14. A monument to the Young Marshal, Zhang Xueliang, has been erected at Marshal Zen Garden; enjoy a "milk bath" in the small foot-soak pools while enjoying the lovely high-slope views.
15. SweetMe Hot Spring Resort, a place of gracious modern trappings, is a good choice for a warming Beitou winter jaunt.
16. As part of the Taipei Season of Hot Springs festival, Nine Plus Spa Hot Spring Hotel is offering great hot-spring bathing/fine dining combo deals.

Information

Good Cho's 好,丘

Add: Hall C, 54, Songqin St. (Xinyi Public Assembly Hall; 松勤街54號C館/信義公民會館)

Tel: (02) 2758-2609

Hours: Tue-Fri 11:00-21:30, Sat-Sun 10:00-18:00 (closed Mon)

Weekend Agricultural Market:

Sun 13:00-19:00, flea market every second, fourth Sat 13:00-19:00

Taipei Raohe Street Tourist Night Market

臺北市饒河街觀光夜市

Location: Between Bade Rd. (八德路) sect.4 and Fuyuan St.(撫遠街)

Website: www.raohe.com.tw

Wufenpu Garment Wholesale Area 五分埔服飾商圈

Location: The area in front of Zongshan Train Station, circumscribed inside Songlong Rd. (松隆路), Zongpo North Rd. (中坡北路), Yongji Rd. (永吉路) and Zong-shan Rd. (松山路)

New Year's Day Flag-Raising Ceremony 元旦升旗典禮

Organizers:

Council for Cultural Affairs (文建會), Republic of China Centenary Foundation (建國百年基金會), China Youth Career Development Association (中國青年創業協會總會)

Time: 2012/1/1, 05:00-07:30

Venue: Presidential Office Square

Add: 122, Sec. 1, Chongqing S. Rd. (重慶南路1段122號)

Tel: (02) 2351-9100

Hong-Gah Museum

鳳甲美術館

Add: 11F, 166, Daye Rd. (大業路166號11樓)

Tel: (02) 2894-2272

Hours: 10:30-17:30 (closed on Mon)

Ketagalan Culture Center

凱達格蘭文化館

Add: 3-1, Zhongshan Rd. (中山路3-1號)

Tel: (02) 2898-6500

Hours: 09:00-17:00 (closed on Mon)

Beitou Hot Springs Museum

北投溫泉博物館

Add: 2, Zhongshan Rd. (中山路2號)

Tel: (02) 2893-9981

Hours: 09:00-17:00 (closed on Mon)

Taiwan Folk Arts Museum

北投文物館

Add: 32, Youya Rd. (幽雅路32號)

Tel: (02) 2891-2318

Hours: 10:00-17:30 (closed on Mon)

Marshal Zen Garden 少帥禪園

Add: 34, Youya Rd. (幽雅路34號)

Tel: (02) 2893-5336

Nine Plus Spa Hot Spring Hotel

荷豐溫泉會館

Add: 1, Yinguang Lane, Wenquan Rd. (溫泉路銀光巷1號)

Tel: (02) 2897-9955

SweetMe Hot Spring Resort

水美溫泉會館

Add: 224, Guangming Rd. (光明路224號)

Tel: (02) 2898-3838

2011 Taipei Season of Hot Springs 2011 臺北溫泉季

Time: Until 11/30

Information of Preferential Offers:

Visit official website at

www.chccd.com/2011taipeilife, or call Taipei Hot Springs Association (臺北市溫泉發展協會) at (02) 2895-5418

Transportation:

Take MRT Tamsui Line to Beitou Station, then to MRT Xinbeitou Station; or take bus Small No. 6, Small No. 7, Small No. 9, Small No. 22, or No. 216, 223, 230, or 266 to MRT Xinbeitou Station stop (新北投站).

2012 Highest New Year City Taipei—New Year's Eve Countdown Party 2012臺北最高新年城

Organizer: Taipei City Govt. (臺北市政府)

Time: 19:00 on 12/31 to 01:00 on 1/1

Venue: Civic Plaza in front of Taipei City Hall 臺北市政府前市民廣場

Add: 1, Shifu Rd. (市府路1號)

Tel: 1999 (call 02-2720-8889 if outside Taipei City); ext. 2031

Note: The district is crowded on this night, and traffic controls are put into effect in Xinyi Planning District and around Taipei City Hall, with no vehicle access. Use of public transportation is recommended. After the fireworks, there is a rush to the closest MRT station, Taipei City Hall Station; a short walk to either of the next closest stations on this line is recommended.

*For details please visit www.taipeitravel.net

Please refer to the map provided on P.66.

Calming the Mind, and Losing Weight Too =

Yoga in Taipei



1

Yoga is a type of exercise that is not overly strenuous, yet though it does not require vigorous movement drenching you in sweat over short bursts of time in the way dance does, it does indeed produce a healthy sweat when practitioners practice their stretches and expand their flexibility which strengthen their muscles and joints, and improve their balance and equilibrium. Day by day, you also feel healthier, stronger, and more fit. Observe closely while you travel the city and you'll spot many people carrying their yoga mats about, clear evidence of the local trend toward leading healthier lifestyles.

Yoga originated in ancient India and is a method of seeking the brahma state, creating harmony and forming a union between the physical self and the highest form of spiritual being. A set regimen must be followed in seeking systematic elevation of body and mind. Today, following the modern tendency to constantly modify the old and the traditional, there are myriad yoga variants, one example being Bikram Yoga or Hot Yoga, practiced in a facility with a temperature of 40°C, the idea being to dispel the body's toxins through profuse sweat, at the same time effectively reducing your weight. Restoration Yoga is believed to be particularly effective for people suffering from insomnia or excessive pressure, relaxing mind and spirit. Ashtanga Yoga emphasizes repetition, the goal is to increase your stamina. A strong body also leads to increased confidence. These methods have now become part of the yoga mainstream.

In Taiwan, many other variants are offered, including forms focused on couples and on the family, practiced in pairs, and on pregnant women and women with babies and small children. Other forms are syncretic, fusing the teachings and movement of different approaches, such as

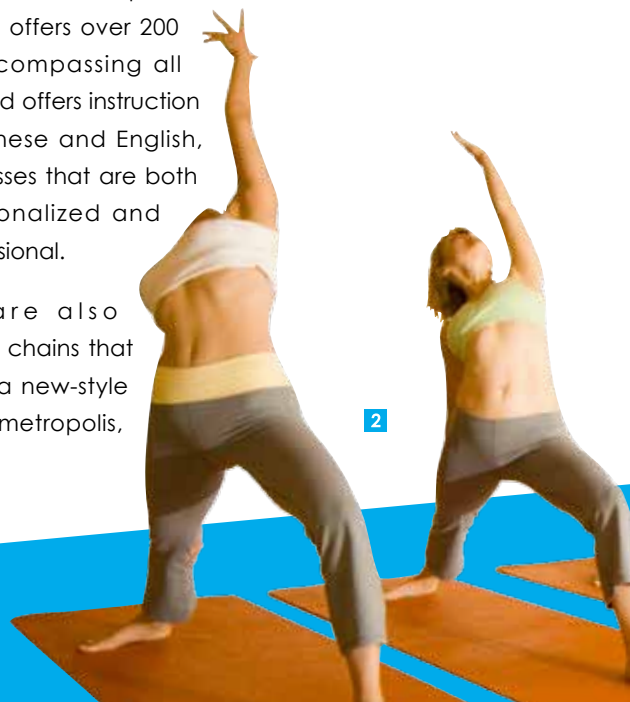
Plastic Rope Yoga, which brings together the movements of Asana Yoga and the use of rope, Fitball Yoga, in which large and small medicine balls are used, Qigong Yoga (氣功瑜伽), Taichi Yoga (太極瑜伽), Pilates Yoga, and numerous other examples. The list goes on and on, seeming to spread ever wider, and thus ensuring there's always one form out there that perfectly fits your spiritual world-view.

So now, the question becomes finding the right place to launch yourself into the world of yoga health and happiness. It's best to begin with classes that enrol many students for reasonably inexpensive fees—Taipei's community activity centers and the city's 12 district sports centers are your answer. Information on class times, duration, content, and other details are available online, making your journey of releasing built-up fatigue and stress toward physical and spiritual bliss an easy and convenient one.

To satisfy demand, private yoga establishments are also sprouting like mushrooms. Look for those with an emphasis on roomy facilities and professional accreditation, such as Space Yoga, which offers over 200 courses encompassing all variations and offers instruction in both Chinese and English, ensuring classes that are both highly personalized and highly professional.


There are also international chains that are forging a new-style path in the metropolis,

2





such as Taiwan's True Yoga and Pure Yoga. At the former, instruction in over 40 yoga schools is offered, including classes focused on the orthodox Indian forms. The latter has professional instructors brought in from overseas, and a comprehensive array of dedicated yoga facilities.

The time has come to commence a deep meditation dialogue between your body and your spirit—time to get yourself registered in a yoga course. 

1. With foot against head, comfortable sitting for long periods is possible, relieving discomfort and sciatica. (Photo courtesy of Pure Yoga)
2. The changing triangular pose with backward curving increases spinal flexibility and preserves a youthful posture. (Photo courtesy of Space Yoga)
3. The hero pose improves muscle strength in the thigh, lower leg, pelvis, abdomen, and neck. (Photo courtesy of True Yoga)
4. Breathing technique helps to concentrate the mind. (Photo courtesy of Space Yoga)
- 5-6. Taipei's 12 district sports centers offer inexpensive yoga-exercise classes, very popular with office workers.

Information

Taipei's 12 District Sports Centers

- Nangang Sports Center:** ngsc.cyc.org.tw
- Wanhua Sports Center:** whsc.cyc.org.tw
- Zhongzheng Sports Center:** www.jjsports.com.tw
- Zhongshan Sports Center:** cssc.cyc.org.tw
- Shilin Sports Center:** www.sisc-taipei.org
- Neihu Sports Center:** www.nhsports.com.tw
- Beitou Sports Center:** www.btsc.org
- Xinyi Sports Center:** xysc.cyc.org.tw
- Songshan Sports Center:** www.sssc.com.tw
- Da'an Sports Center:** dasc.cyc.org.tw
- Datong Sports Center:** www.taipeidt.com
- Wenshan Sports Center:** wssc.cyc.org.tw

Space Yoga

Add: 16F, 27, Sec. 1, Anhe Rd. (安和路1段27號16樓)
Tel: (02) 2773-8108

True Yoga

Add: 1/2F, 563, Sec. 4, Zhongxiao E. Rd. (忠孝東路4段563號1、2樓)
Tel: (02) 2764-8888

Pure Yoga

Add: 151, Sec. 4, Zhongxiao E. Rd. (忠孝東路4段151號)
Tel: (02) 8161-7888





A building is like a set of eyes, witnessing a photo-equipment shop's emergence and the rise of Taiwan's native-soul photography movement. Photos like mouths, speaking quietly of fifty years of the affairs of man and state. In 1948, the local paper *Taiwan Shin Sheng Daily News* (臺灣新生報) held a photo competition to celebrate its third anniversary; first place went to Chang Tsai (張才), second to Deng Nanguang (鄧南光), third to Lee Mingtiao (李鳴雕). The trio was quickly dubbed the "Shutter Trio" (三劍客), after the three pure, just, upright heroes in the film *Les Trois Mousquetaires* then in theaters.

The works of these three outstanding and historically important individuals are now on exhibit at the Futai Street Mansion (撫臺街洋樓) heritage site—see p. 56 for details—and though masters Deng and Chang are no longer with us, Lee Mingtiao is almost 90 years old this year, still brimming with energy, and more than willing to use words to tell the tale about his younger

THE PHOTOS OF LEE MINGTIAO PORTALS INTO TIME



days as a witness to the passage of history and how he used his lens rather than words to capture and preserve so many priceless moments for those of us who have come later.

Lee stands like a giant at the forefront of Taiwan photography history, serving as a pioneer and a beacon of light. He used a natural realist style to capture moments in everyday lives, and during the era of Japanese rule over Taiwan, his works served an alternate record of reality at odds with official Japanese demands for propaganda and historical recording. He started at 14, working as an apprentice in his uncle's photo studio in the Taoyuan County town of Daxi (大溪), then at 18 began work for three photo studios in Taipei helping to repair negatives. Careful, inquisitive, and with both good eyesight and a good eye, he bought his very first camera and threw himself with a passion into the world of photographic creation.

Ask what his favorite subject theme was and Lee shows the cover of his published album *Time Pointillism Lee Mingtiao* (時光·點描·李鳴雕), pointing to the center of the photo shown. "Without this child" he says, "this photo has no spirit, no soul, and is uninteresting." The human figure




and the human personality has always been the focus of his frames and are a reflection of his own soft, gentle, mirthful character. In capturing the Taipei of yesterday to the metropolis of today, yesterday's lack of basic goods to today's soaring skyscrapers and material wealth, Lee has brought small stories of everyday people to life, recording the city's life. Showing one of his most famous photos, "Shepherd Boys" (牧羊童), he shares a little background story. "One time a reporter tried to track down the three boys in this shot, without success. In fact I think what must have happened (Lee breaks into a big smile at this point) is they had all climbed up the social ladder, becoming landlords, and the last thing they wanted to reveal to the public is that they had risen from such humble beginnings!"

Having once studied watercolor painting, Lee traveled widely in search of his subject matter, his background learning apparent in the careful composition of his canvases, the human figure always its central concern, whatever the landscape backdrop. His works also exhibit a heightened sense of aesthetics, and a deep sense of historical classicism, highly prized by fine arts museums and lovers of the arts, finding their way into many exclusive collections, whether a simple shot of a river-side stall for head shaving in earlier times, a woman with bound feet, landscape shots of the

1. Photography master Lee Mingtiao enthusiastically shares his passion for his craft.
2. A photo taken in 1940, when the 19-year-old Lee (at left) was in Guangzhou with friends.
3. Lee likes to use human figures in his shots, which heightens the sense of immediacy.
4. "Haircut at a Street Stall," taken by the Tamsui River in 1947.
5. "Shepherd Boys," taken in 1947 beside the Xindian River.
6. A shot showing a band playing at a new shop's grand opening on Taipei's Hengyang Rd. (衡陽路)

Tamsui River (淡水河) that approximate classical shanshui paintings, or high-angle shots taken with a wide-angle lens to capture the imposing majesty of spots such as the Chiang Kai-shek Memorial Hall (中正紀念堂).

The hard work and enthusiasm Lee Mingtiao has always put into composing his photographic canvases comes through loud and clear when interviewing him. When asked if he has considered adopting the modern digital camera, he states emphatically: "If I'm going to learn, then I have to throw myself into studies with my heart and soul, to learn it right." This dedication and professionalism is what has allowed him to capture the defining light and shadow of evolving eras, radiating a vitality that will never grow old. 

Taipei in the Eyes of Foreign Friends

His job in the import/export trade means a lot of time in Southeast Asia, and 15 years ago Matt decided Taipei would be the place he would live. Today, married to a Taiwanese lady, he says that Taipei is a very open and inviting city with a harmonious blending of East and West, old and new.

Taiwan's Lunar New Year Festival period reminds him a lot of Christmas back home, he says, with everyone feeling great joy in the reunion of family and friends. People clean the home thoroughly in preparation, decorations are set up—the Christmas tree first and foremost back home, of course—and a warm blanket of festive spirit settling over your local community. Matt and his family celebrate Christmas in Taiwan just like back home, with a small tree all decked out and family and friends invited over for a dinner party, the night embraced in a spirit of peace and spiritual comfort.

“We really enjoy the big New Year's Eve program staged outside Taipei City Hall, and the big crowds, which seems to get more exciting and boisterous every year. The Taipei 101 midnight fireworks becoming more spectacular every year, a great way to experience the city's vibrancy.” He lives near Huashan 1914 Creative Park (華山1914文化創意產業園區), close enough to the fireworks to get a great view free of the big press of the crowds in the immediate tower area. However, he says, his favorite annual celebration is now Chinese New Year, with its traditional *weilu* (圍爐) family reunion meal on New Year's Eve, playing mahjong with family and friends, singing karaoke, and spending the long holidays wrapped up in feelings of warmth and caring.



Matt Smith

Nationality: U.S.
Occupation: import/export
Reason in Taipei: Work, marriage
Time in Taipei: 15 years



Tom Howard

Nationality: U.K.
Occupation: MiTAC Information Technology Co. designer
Reason in Taipei: Work
Time in Taipei: 3-plus years

Tom works in Taipei designing high-tech merchandise, working with other people of exceptional talent from around the world and finding great stimulation in the exposure to other cultures that this environment brings. He feels that the quality of Taipei design has reached world-class caliber, and says the 2011 Taipei World Design Expo, which brought together the best of the world's design talent and products, showed the world Taiwan's cultural-creativity prowess.

“By working overseas, I am able to expand my design horizons, the main reason being in constant exposure to unfamiliar cultural elements and national perspectives that consistently set off creative sparks.” At the same time, however, learning to live comfortably within another culture presents challenges. One example is the incredible number of scooters and motorbikes on the streets, a phenomenon he never ceases to marvel at.

On days off, Tom likes to go on bicycle explorations of the city's maze of lanes and alleys, or to climb up hills for sweeping bird's-eye views of the city. Along the way, he met other bicycling enthusiasts, who now form a group that heads off for jaunts to Sishou Mountain (四獸山), Yangming Mountain (陽明山), Wuzhi Mountain (五指山; “Five Fingers” Mountain), and other scenic spots, relishing the green spaces and the release from the stresses of the work world. One of the group members lives in Xinyi District in a home with a great view of the Taipei 101 tower and, thus, of the fireworks spectacular launched from the tower each New Year's Eve. Tom and his friends gather here on this night for champagne, the countdown and fireworks and, best of all, the camaraderie and happiness that indicates another year has been well-lived.



Andreas Baumeister

Nationality: German
Occupation: Student
Reason in Taiwan: Chinese language studies
Time in Taiwan: 4 years

Andreas is in his second year of studies at Taoyuan County's National Central University (中央大學), in the Department of Chinese Literature, following in the footsteps of a good friend from Germany. He has developed a deep love for Chinese antiquities, and frequently visits the National Palace Museum and National Museum of History when out on dates with his girlfriend on weekends and holidays. "I really like Taipei," he says. "Whether it's taking in an exhibition, shopping, or enjoying the superb food, everything is convenient. It seems I spend most of my free days here."

He attends the Taipei New Year's Eve fireworks fun each year, joining the many hundreds of thousands in the big midnight countdown and enjoying the pounding fireworks art show, a tableau he could not ever have imagined when back in his hometown in Germany. "The European winter is intensely cold, and Christmas and New Year tend to be spent indoors, with family, limiting the scope of activities." The comfortable Taipei New Year's experience offers concerts and the fun of the countdown amidst a crowd of almost countless happy revelers, with the follow-on fun of exploring the city's boisterous nightlife.

Each year since 2007, Andreas has gathered with friends in the grand plaza before Taipei City Hall for the big countdown, then headed off to explore a different part of the metropolis. He's been to Maokong (貓空), drinking tea until sun-up, been to Waishuangxi (外雙溪), fishing for shrimp until sun-up, and been to the plaza before the Presidential Office Building (總統府) for the early-morning New Year's flag-raising ceremony. "The first time I went to the flag-raising ceremony, I saw many citizens wearing hats with the ROC flag on them, wearing flag scarves, waving flags in their hands, singing the national anthem together. I was suddenly struck with the realization that everyone, everywhere loves their homeland, and the moment moved me deeply."

Back in his hometown in Australia, Andrew once visited an exhibition displaying the one-of-a-kind visions of Chinese demolition artist Cai Guoqiang (蔡國強). Last year, in Taiwan during his Christmas holidays to spend time with his girlfriend, he took in the Taipei 101 New Year's fireworks show, which was designed by Cai, mesmerized while watching the soaring structure enveloped in a cloak of bursting colors and then a series of bright-burst blasts working their way up the tower.

Sydney has its big fireworks show on New Year's Eve at the Sydney Harbour Bridge, he says, but the crowd is mostly made up of tourists and families with kids. There's no lively warm-up stage show or other activities, so most locals spend the night with family and friends at home or out at a bar. "I find New Year in Taipei much more fun and interesting," he says, "and even though you're in a great mass of people, there's no concern about safety."

"Another thing that I marvel at is how convenient the MRT system and how it seems to whisk you to entirely different worlds. Decide to take a hot-spring soak, decide to go hiking in the mountains—hop on the MRT and it feels like you're there in less than an hour. In Australia, you'd need hours on a plane or train to get to your starting point." Always on the hunt for new sights and new experiences, he's decided that this year's New Year experience will be a round-island trip with friends from Hong Kong, mainland China, and Sydney, recording his impressions of Taiwan's beauties for an even bigger circle of friends and family. 📹



Andrew Stockwell

Nationality: Australian
Occupation: Internet designer
Reason in Taipei: Work, love
Time in Taipei: 1 month



THE GOLDEN HORSE FILM FESTIVAL

New-Horizon Fields of Vision from around the Globe

You may not have been aware of this, but there is a big and avidly followed international horse-race event held in Taipei each year. Yes, we speak of course of the Golden Horse Awards, the main highlight of the prestigious Golden Horse Film Festival (金馬國際影展). Screening of the premier films is already under way, and the curtains will lower on Nov. 24. The line-up includes creations by renowned masters of the film arts from around the globe along with award-winning works, with 200 films in all being screened. There's everything from classics to avant-garde, and from heavy works filled with action and passion, and to lighter works on smaller themes—meaning you the film buff are sure to find what makes you happy.



In the Restored Classics section, some of the great blockbuster classics of film history are being screened. Among them are master director Stanley Kubrick's *A Clockwork Orange*, Federico Fellini's *La Dolce Vita*, Martin Scorsese's *Taxi Driver*, Jerzy Skolimowski's *Deep End*, *A Star Is Born* with Judy Garland in the leading role, and *Singin' in the Rain*, with Gene Kelly and Stanley Donen. The silver screen is a place of magic, and magical moments in such concentration will almost surely never come your way again, so don't miss out!

Among the illustrious directorial maestros whose works will be screened in come to Taipei are the Dardenne brothers from Belgium, who have won two Golden Palm Awards at Cannes, the famous Japanese director Naomi Kawase, and Korea's Kim Ki-duk. Under the summons of these master hands, a number of superb actors will also be showing off their own latest work. You'll see sparkling performances by such talents as young new-era actress Mia Wasikowska, Tilda Swinton, winner of many Best Actress awards, and French screen goddess Carole Bouquet, and movie queen Catherine Deneuve. These bright lights will be presenting you with their newest star turns in *Restless*, *Unforgivable*, *Beloved*, and other masterfully crafted works.



1. Poster for the 2011 Golden Horse Film festival.
2. The iconic scene from the film *Singin' in the Rain* in which Gene Kelly happily dances all alone in the pouring rain.
3. The film *Les bien-aimés (Beloved)*, in which French diva Catherine Deneuve and her daughter play a glamorous mother-daughter pair.
4. *Gainsbourg and His Girls* is a feature documentary exploring the life of an unconventional French singer through the eyes of his muses.
5. In the "Music Apocalypse" section, the documentary *Sigur Rós: Inni* explores the music of the famed Icelandic post-rock band.
6. A new work by Japanese director Shinji Aoyama, *Tokyo Ko'en (Tokyo Park)*.




Other highlights include *I Am Legend! Filmmakers and Filmmaking*, which explores the craftsmanship of movie-making and behind the scenes secrets, *Corman's World: Exploits of a Hollywood Rebel*, exploring the still unfinished career of master story-teller Roger Corman, *Gainsbourg and His Girls*, a feature documentary depicting the life of an unconventional French singer through the eyes of his muses, the documentary *Once Upon a Time... A Clockwork Orange*, an anecdotal exploration of the making of the iconic *A Clockwork Orange*, and *Airang*, a look at the creative road along which Korean director Kim Ki-duk has traveled.

Lovers of rock and roll will much appreciate the Music Revelation section. In the documentary *Sigur Rós: Inni* the music of the Icelandic post-rock band leaps to the screen, and in *The Swell Season* the storybook romance of the music stars of the indie smash *Once* is chronicled. *The Beat Is the Law – Fanfare for the Common People* explores how England's Sheffield became such a fecund site of music innovation gestation, and *Thunder Soul* thrills in the story of love and soul, capturing audiences in the same spirit as the feature *Mr. Holland's Opus*. Finally, *Mama Africa* is a spell-binding sojourn through the life and career of South African singer and anti-apartheid crusader Miriam Makeba.

One of the favorite draws of the festival is the inviting of many talented directors and other film-world personalities to come join in the celebration, who, while here, will engage in face-to-face discussion with fans and participate in informative seminars. Among the big names to grace the Taipei stage this year is Korean director Lee

Chang-dong, a true national treasure in his homeland, who has garnered honors in a number of prestigious international film competitions and once served as Korea's Minister of culture and tourism. Also accompanying their films and joining in the seminars will be a sterling Japanese triumvirate—anime director Makoto Shinkai, Shinji Aoyama, whose film *Eureka* won the Cannes FIPRESCI Prize, and Haruma Miura, actor, singer, and pop idol—as well as famed documentary director Tomer Heymann, whose works explore gender and self-identity, and Ralf Huettner, Ziska Riemann, and Yasemin Samdereli, an inspiring trio of German directorial talent.

More details are available on the official website. The golden horses are already out of their stables and the races have started. So movie fans, time to sit down for some riveting entertainment. 

Information

Golden Horse Film Festival

金馬國際影展

Time: Until 11/24

Venues: Shin Kong Cineplex, Ambassador Breeze Center Cinema, Ambassador Changchun Cinema

Tickets: 7-Eleven ibon system (throughout Taiwan)

* Super Ticket Package: NT\$1,499, contains 8 tickets (valid for all screenings)

* Weekday Matinee Package: NT\$999, contains 6 tickets (valid for all screenings before 17:59 pm, Mon~Fri)



MOCA Carnival @ MRT Zhongshan Station Art Park

Did you notice a transformation in some of the small green spaces you pass by recently, now small bastions of art and culture? What you are seeing are the results of a special artistic mission by the Museum of Contemporary Art, Taipei (MOCA Taipei; 臺北當代藝術館), with projects taken on this year in Datong (大同) and Zhongshan (中山) Districts, the museum's immediate neighborhood. A prime example is the MOCA Carnival @ MRT Zhongshan Station Art Park (南西當紅·我們藝起泡公園) project launched in March this year, with special arts and culture happenings staged toward the end of each month, with participation open to all and entirely free of charge in a deliberate attempt to reduce the distance between art, you, and everyday life.

In this space, where on weekdays you see folks strolling, walking their dogs, and chatting with family and friends, is being used by citizens to tell stories using art and culture as the modes of expression, different occasions and situations

producing different features. Over the past few months, there has been a documentary photo exhibit, Chinese floriculture show, fashion brand show, music party, creative cake show, and even a gathering that highlighted the vehicle-repair industry of Datong District's Guangneng Borough (光能里), with artists using recycled items and car parts to create works of ingenious design and inimitable local character. Everyone from local community folks to professional artists are stimulated to give full expression to their creative energies, pouring color and vitality into park spaces and by using them as canvases to bring color and joy to the entire surrounding community.


On Nov. 27 and 28 weekend, come enjoy a party event with a welcoming retro feel, the MOCA Carnival – Retro Party (南西當紅·復古派對). Being staged in the MRT Zhongshan Station Linear Park (捷運中山站線型公園), master craftsmen and arts and traditional folk-arts groups will be on hand showing off



the age-old ways to make delicious traditional food treats, demonstrating the process for dragon-beard candy (龍鬚糖) and for sugar painting (畫糖人), inviting visitors to taste-test their work. In addition, a number of creative workshops are being set up, on puppet painting, retro-style paper-cut lanterns—and the creation of great memories for the kids. The plan is fun for all, whatever your age, at this two-day space-time crossroads.

On Dec. 24 and 25, the warm ambiance that Christmas brings will blanket the area with the MOCA Carnival – Santa Is Coming to Town (南西當紅 · Santa來了) event, the fun of Santa season matched up with a Pet Modeling Show in which owners and their beloved little darlings dress up and work together in the spirit of Christmas, togetherness, and joyous fun, handling such big tests as a runway show and a talent contest. Elsewhere, at the handicrafts workshop, you can learn how to make bright and sparkling Christmas socks, little gloves, and pint-sized snowmen using unwoven cloth and cotton, and in the special green-thumb plant area, you can whip up your own one-of-a-kind miniature Christmas tree and mistletoe wreath.

Parks are not known as incubators. But the pretty park spaces hidden along the lanes and alleys of this area are

now just that—incubators of the artistic, with many clever people now taking great pleasure in startling you with pleasant surprises. Seeing is believing. Your parks of the arts await. 

1. Under the MOCA Carnival @ MRT Zhongshan Station Art Park program, all types of music-theme parties are staged, bringing a festive spark to the local neighborhood.
2. Public artworks BIGPOW in the park brings fine art into people's everyday lives.
- 3-5. The folk-art sessions on dragon-beard candy, sugar painting, paper-cut lanterns, and other topics allow the public to experience simple old-time pleasures.
6. The shows by musical groups have proven very popular with area residents.

Information

MOCA Carnival – Retro Party

Time: 11/27-11/28, 14:30~17:30

MOCA Carnival – Santa Is Coming to Town

Time: 12/24-12/25, 14:30~17:30

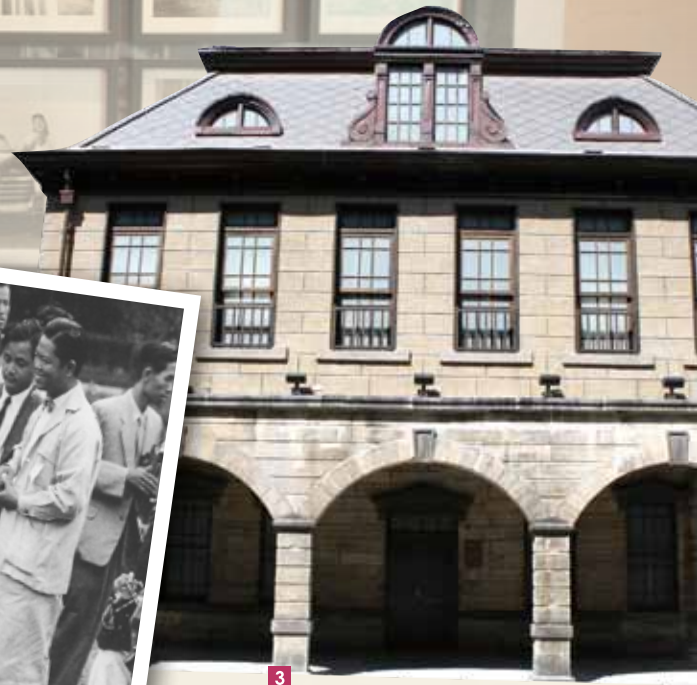
Venue: MRT Zhongshan Station Linear Park 捷運中山站線型公園 (free entry)

Tel: (02) 2552-3721

Website: www.mocataipei.org.tw



A Century of Taipei through the Eyes of the Shutter Trio



What did Taipei look like in the past? What happened here? How did Taipei folks live their lives? Let's open our eyes and let the "Shutter Trio" (三劍客) pierce the mists with their photographic visions. Our heroes? Taiwan pioneer photographers Deng Nanguang (鄧南光), Chang Tsai (張才), and Lee Mingtiao (李鳴鵬). Through their lenses, and with "Taipei people" as our starting point, let's look out upon captured "Taipei scenery" and discover "Taipei's events" in the photo exhibit "A Century of Taipei through the Eyes of the Shutter Trio" (攝影三劍客眼中的百年臺北) at Futai Street Mansion (撫臺街洋樓).

The Futai Street Mansion stands tall and proud on Yanping S. Rd. (延平南路), a classically elegant work of architecture built in 1910 in the continental European tradition. Located near Bo'ai Rd. (博愛路) and Hankou St. (漢口街), this area once served as a key site in the development of home-grown Taiwan photography. Today the memory lives on, for this is Taipei's best-known commercial district for photo


equipment, stuffed with retailers. This elegant heritage site, long one of the key fonts of artistic expression in the Taiwan photography trade, has been a witness to a priceless album of historical changing events over its century of life.

From the 1940s through the 1960s, the Shutter Trio served as pioneering visual documenters of the Taiwan story, choosing realism as their technique. Deng Nanguang favored soft light in capturing his subjects, bringing true depth in terms of cultural insight and a profound tactile sense. His subjects included people, landscapes, and Hakka village life. Chang Tsai's work has a noticeable mix of close-up and faraway perspectives as well as freedom from stylization; his aim was to capture moments in the life of ordinary people and express the Taiwan cultural spirit. Lee Mingtiao synthesized professional photographic techniques and the aesthetics of painting, the composition of his works was exquisitely detailed and precise, his contents were

sincere and innocent on the surface level yet at the same time laden with implied meaning.

The photography exhibition is divided according to three categories: people, landscapes, and events. Among the subjects explored is the suffering of Taipei citizens in the city's center in the wake of Allied bombing during WWII, the infamous incident in 1955 where soy-sauce pollutant was illegally poured into the Tamsui River (淡水河), riverside life, the changing aesthetics of urban women, the Japanization movement to remake the Taiwanese into loyal "Japanized" subjects, the inimitable, raucous, and fondly remembered Zhonghua Market (中華商場) complex that took shape in the post-WWII era along Zhonghua Rd. (中華路), and the old Jianxin Dept. Store (建新百貨). Time seems to melt away as you stand before the 100 black-and-white photos and find yourself standing in the past, contemplating ephemeral worlds that now exist solely in the mists of memory—and in priceless places such as these visual treasures.

Among the other priceless treasures on display are examples of the vintage photographic equipment used, miniature negatives less than 2cm in length, the oil-painting scenic backgrounds that were so popular, and—perhaps most smile-stimulating of all—a mock-up of an old-time photo studio, loaded with nostalgia.

So, then, why not take a walk into Taipei's past with a walk into the Futai Street Mansion? If you've been wondering how the pulsating city of Taipei got to be, this photo exhibition is a trail-blazing path to knowledge and insight. 

1. Deng Nanguang, one of the show's featured "three swordsmen."
2. A Deng Nanguang photo taken in the old Taipei New Park, showing Chang Tsai at left in the first row, Lee Mingtiao standing at right.
3. Futai Street Mansion is near where Bo'ai Rd. and Hankou St. meet; this area was the font of early Taiwan home-grown photography.
4. "Photographer in New Park," by Chang Tsai.
5. "City Center after Bombing," by Deng Nanguang.
- 6-7. The exhibit's photos allow the viewer to travel through Taipei's evolution.



Information

A Century of Taipei through the Eyes of the Shutter Trio

攝影三劍客眼中的百年臺北

Time: Until 2012/02/26

Venue: Futai Street Mansion 撫臺街洋樓

Add: 26, Yanping S. Rd. (延平南路26號)

Tel: (02) 2314-5190

Hours: Tues-Sun 10:00~17:00 (closed Mon)

Transportation:

MRT – Get off at Taipei Main Station, exit via underground mall Exit Z10, or get off at Ximen Station on the Bannan line, exit via underground mall Exit No. 6, then walk to Yanping S. Rd.

Bus – Take No. 9, 15, 18, 22, 49, 206, 220, 232, 247, 249, 257, 262, 276, 287, 513, 527, 635, 662, 835, or Chongqing Rd. trunk line buses, and get off at Taipei Post Office stop (臺北郵局站).



1

Traditional Chinese Theater: The CKS Memorial Hall Proudly Presents a New Repertory Line-Up

In an effort to shake off the staid old images that people have of it, and present a fresh new face for local and overseas travelers, with a nod to the nation's Republic of China centennial celebrations, the Chiang Kai-shek Memorial Hall (中正紀念堂) has undergone a grand transformation. Long serving as a solemn and stately work of historical architecture specifically designed to commemorate a major historical figure, it now seeks to serve as a unique scenic site dedicated to arts and culture. The hall, standing close to the National Concert Hall (國家音樂廳) and National Theater (國家戲劇院), in August reconfigured its 400-seat lecture hall to serve as a stage for repertory theater.

In repertory theater, plays have a universally attractive character, a timeless quality, and a high level of popular appeal. They are put on in a cyclical schedule, with adjustments made to ensure maximum breadth and accommodate different social groups. Think of such cultural landmarks as New York's Broadway and London's West End, and think of such classic productions as *The Phantom of the Opera*, *Les Misérables*, *Cats*, and *The Lion King*. These wonderful spectacles are re-staged and presented in cycle, again

and again, ensuring one and all have the chance to enjoy them. This is what is being done now for Taipei, with the focus on traditional stage works representative of Taiwan.

Things were kicked off at the end of October with the Taiwanese Classic Drama Festival (臺灣經典戲曲藝術節), with the internationally acclaimed Taiwan troupe Contemporary Legend Theater (當代傳奇劇場) presenting a series entitled "Legend Opera" (傳奇風雅). In August, the troupe's artistic director, Wu Hsingkuo (吳興國), led the players to the Edinburgh International Festival, the first time a Taiwan troupe has been officially invited to this event in its 65 years

This program comes with the tagline "A Classic, Is a Legend" (不是經典, 不傳奇), its conceptual foundation the establishment of the Pear Garden operatic academy by Tang Dynasty emperor Ming Huang (唐明皇) for his beloved concubine Yang Guifei (楊貴妃), the performers telling tales of historical rises and falls and of life's triumphs and sorrows—i.e., of "fine legends." The introductory program features four productions, entitled *The Dragon and Phoenix Hall* (龍鳳閣), *Monkey King* (安天會), *The Three-Way Junction* (三岔口), and *Hip Opera*



2



3



4

of *Brother and Sister* (兄妹串戲). Each will appeal to both the local and foreign stage-arts aficionado.

The highlight of *The Dragon and Phoenix Hall* is the bringing together three of the greats of traditional Beijing opera in Taiwan, Wu Hsingkuo (吳興國), Zhao Fufen (趙復芬), and Liu Zhuoyu (劉琢瑜), whose voices in unison are powerfully sonorous and ethereal. *Journey to the West* (西遊記) is one of the four great classical novels of the Chinese world, and in the *Monkey King* story we see how the Monkey King, Sun Wukong (孫悟空) causes havoc in heaven and consternation among the gods. *The Three-Way Junction* is a famous classic Beijing opera that is a repertoire of combat dramas done in pantomime, with the two main characters thrilling audiences by acting as though fighting in pitch blackness while under the bright spotlights of the stage. *Hip Hopera of Brother and Sister* can best be described as “hip-hop Beijing opera,” with hip-hop and pop rhythms brought to the music and mini-skirts and leather attire replacing traditional costumes, subverting well-known opera numbers while staying true in terms of singing style and martial-arts scenes.

As a bonus to the spectacles being brought to the stage, the CKS Memorial Hall's central gallery is playing the role of a small opera museum for the duration of the series, with displays of the elegant costumes, stylized make-up, and props, plus related merchandise. Seating has also been set up for people to relax with some fine tea. This is an opera experience, you'll surely agree, that's hard to beat. 🍵

1. The Contemporary Legend Theater troupe is presenting a series of stage dramas under the “Legend Opera” theme.
2. A still of the ancient Chinese work *The Three-Way Junction*.
3. *Monkey King* shows the Monkey King creating havoc in heaven.
4. In *Hip Hopera of Brother and Sister*, the introductory presentation, hip-hop rhythms and leather attire are used in a bold new-style Beijing opera.

Information

Taiwanese Classic Drama Festival

臺灣經典戲曲藝術節 定目劇

Time: Until 12/31

Venue: Lecture Hall, Chiang Kai-shek Memorial Hall; enter via Gate of Great Piety (中正紀念堂演藝廳; 由大孝門入場)

Add: 21, Zhongshan S. Rd. (中山南路21號)

Performances: Every Fri/Sat at 19:30 and 11/27, 12/25 Sunday afternoon at 14:30

(For more details, visit National CKS Cultural Center ticketing system website at www.artsticket.com.tw)

Tickets: NTCH ticketing system, NTCH ticket offices, Chiang Kai-shek Memorial Hall central gallery ticket office

Website: www.cksmh.gov.tw

Facebook: www.facebook.com/FineLegend



Splendid Masterpieces: *A Hundred Treasures of the National Palace Museum on Parade*

This year is a special one in Taiwan, the centenary of the Republic of China, and the National Palace Museum is of course intent on joining the sparkling parade of celebrations. It has chosen the choicest “national treasures from amongst the national treasure collection” to put on special display in the exhibition *Splendid Treasures: A Hundred Masterpieces of the National Palace Museum on Parade* (精彩100 國寶總動員). There are 132 items in all, including such familiar artistic icons as the famous “Jadeite Cabbage” (翠玉白菜) and “Lotus-shaped Warming Bowl” (蓮花式溫碗) from the Song Dynasty Ru kiln (汝窯), but also such irreplaceable items such as costumes and accessories from the Qing Dynasty, including headwear worn by Emperor Qianlong, imperial jade seals, snuff bottles, and porcelain wares.

The competition to be chosen was stringent, and almost Darwinian in scope. Items chosen had to be unique in terms of function and symbolism, innovative technique, artistic content, and other special characteristics, and then also had to pass a popularity test. The exhibition is divided into six sections: Paragons of Rituals and Music (禮樂典範), Golden Chambers and Treasured Cases (金匱寶笈), Innovations in Arts and Crafts (工藝創新), Masterpieces from a Flourishing Age (皇家寶庫), Splendors of Calligraphy (翰墨光華), and Treasures of Paintings (丹青瑰寶).

In the Paragons of Rituals and Music, you can learn more about the ritual objects and musical instruments used during the ancient Shang, Zhou, Han, Northern Wei, and other imperial periods. Golden Chambers and Treasured Cases present rare books passed down through the ages and key archival documents from the Qing Dynasty, including *the Wenyuan Pavilion Complete Collection of the Four Treasuries* (清文淵閣四庫全書), perhaps the greatest scholarly project of Chinese history. In this project, Qing Emperor Qianlong brought together China's greatest scholars and ordered them to find and collect all the printed knowledge extant in the land, from earliest times, a task only completed 15 years later, the magnificent result an immense library of over 3,000 works, and a priceless repository of intellectual achievements and imperial glory.

The section Innovations in Arts and Crafts spans the tenth to the seventeenth centuries, when the Chinese were responsible for some of the world's most advanced artistic achievements, among them the splendid Song Dynasty porcelains from the Guan kiln (官窯), with their thick bluish green glazes, and the Ding kiln (定窯), with their pure ivory-white color, as well as the bright and lustrous colors of the Ming Dynasty kilns. In the Masterpieces from a Flourishing Age section, the importance that the Qing court placed on arts and crafts is on display,

exploring the dynastic orthodoxy and the preferred tastes in everyday life. Items such as imperial headgear, waist ornamentation, and intricate seals are presented, as are such iconic and beloved National Palace Museum treasures as the "Jadeite Cabbage" and "Four-tiered Food Carrying Case" (象牙雕人物玲瓏提食盒), the case made of carved ivory so fine it seems as though gauze.

The glorious history of the artistic world of Chinese calligraphy is on display in the Splendors of Calligraphy section, with classic works by such illustrious figures as Wang Xizhi (王羲之), Yan Zhenqing (顏真卿), and Su Shi (蘇軾) shown. In the Treasures of Paintings unit, you come face to face with many of the key figures in Chinese history over the eras, and learn about the various painting styles that have emerged, notably bird-and-flower painting and shanshui painting. The highlights of this section are what are often called the three painting treasures of the NPM, the celebrated *Travelers Among Mountains and Streams* by Fan Kuan (廬山行旅圖/范寬), *Early Spring* by Guo Xi (早春圖/郭熙), and *Wind in Pines Among a Myriad Valleys* by Li Tang (萬壑松風/李唐). The showing of another work, *Scroll of Buddhist Images* by Zhang Shengwen (畫梵像/張勝溫), has also been much anticipated. Not on public display for 11 years, it is the only painting in existence that has been passed down from the Dali Kingdom (大理國).

This exhibition is a rare and precious showcase of the quintessence of Chinese culture and of evolving Chinese perspectives on aesthetics. Though it is always a good thing for mind and soul to spend a day at the NPM, now is an especially good time for a pilgrimage to the pretty hills of north Taipei. 📍



Saturday Night at the NPM

Each Saturday night starting at 6 pm an artistic feast of the senses is presented for audiences at the NPM. To tickle the ears, there's symphony music, jazz, and a cappella, and such unfamiliar forms as choro, the original carnival music of Brazil, and for the eyes there's flamenco dancing and programs pitting performers of taiko drumming, banner dance, fire dancing, magic, and other entertainment in competition for audience approval. A great time is to be had with friends taking in the "National Treasure" series of events, highlighting treasures admired around the world, in the expansive landscaped Zhishan Garden (至善園), bringing together elements of the East and West. Detail is available at www.npm.gov.tw/events/98events/saturdaynight_9807

1. One of the great NPM treasures, the Lotus-shaped Warming Bowl.
2. *Scroll of Buddhist Images* by Zhang Shengwen, from the Dali Kingdom.
3. *The Wenyuan Pavilion Complete Collection of the Four Treasuries*, perhaps the Chinese culture's greatest literary treasure.
4. The Yi Xiang Chamber Orchestra (藝饗室內樂團) gives a colorful "Yi Xiang Woodwind Quintet" performance during the Saturday Night at the NPM series.

Information

Splendid Treasures: A Hundred Masterpieces of the National Palace Museum on Parade

精彩100 國寶總動員

Time: Until 2012/01/03

Venue: National Palace Museum 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



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 2012/01/29

The Photographic Journey of a Maverick – Huang Tse-hsiu, 82 Years Young

Until 2012/01/29

Ai Weiwei Absent

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 11/27

Beyond Calligraphy – A Contemporary Calligraphic Art Exhibition by Hsu Yung-Chin

Until 12/31

Face to Face – MOCA Project

11/26-2012/01/8

Looking Inward Beyond the Self

12/02~2012/01/08

Secret Chamber beyond Death



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

11/21

Karl Leister Clarinet Recital

11/20~11/25

Xylophone Concert – Ju Percussion Group

11/28

Tanaka Nobuaki & Formosa Singers

12/04~12/07

NCO Highlights of the Century

12/10

NSO Basically Beethoven – Beethoven & Haydn

12/15~12/18

Cloud Gate Dance Theatre of Taiwan-Portrait of the Families

12/23

Chopin's Silver Xmas Concert

Until 12/24

U Theatre - Beyond Time

Treasure Hill Artist Village

Tel: (02) 2364-5313

Add: 4-8, Aly. 37, Ln. 230, Sec. 3, Tingzhou Rd. (汀州路3段230巷37弄4-8號)

Website: www.artistvillage.org

Until 12/31

Word, World, Would

National Chiang Kai-shek Memorial Hall

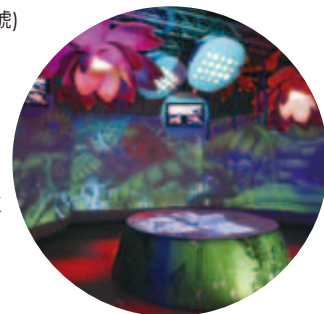
Tel: (02) 2343-1100

Add: 21, Zhongshan S. Rd. (中山南路21號)

Website: www.ntdmh.gov.tw

Until 11/25

2011 Science Season – Technologies of the Future



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 11/27

Volume-Collectif x Horse Dance Theatre – Successor

12/09~12/11

Wind Music Festival

Until 12/12

Tong Yang-tze Exhibition

National Taiwan Science Education Center

Tel: (02) 6610-1234

Add: 189, Shishang Rd. (士商路189號)

Website: www.ntsec.gov.tw

Until 2012/01/29

The Silk Road

12/24~2012/03/11

Typhoon Is Coming



National Museum of History

Tel: (02) 2361-0270

Add: 49, Nanhai Rd. (南海路49號)

Website: www.nmh.gov.tw

11/18~2012/01/01

Qing Elegance – Exhibition of Selected Jades

11/22~2012/01/08

A Century's Cultural Heritage Exhibition

Discovery Center of Taipei

Tel: (02) 2757-4547

Add: 1, Shifu Rd. (市府路1號)

Website: www.discovery.taipei.gov.tw

Until 11/20

Taipei Design Banquet

How To Get from Taiwan Taoyuan International Airport to Taipei

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 50%, 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

Mocca Power Co.

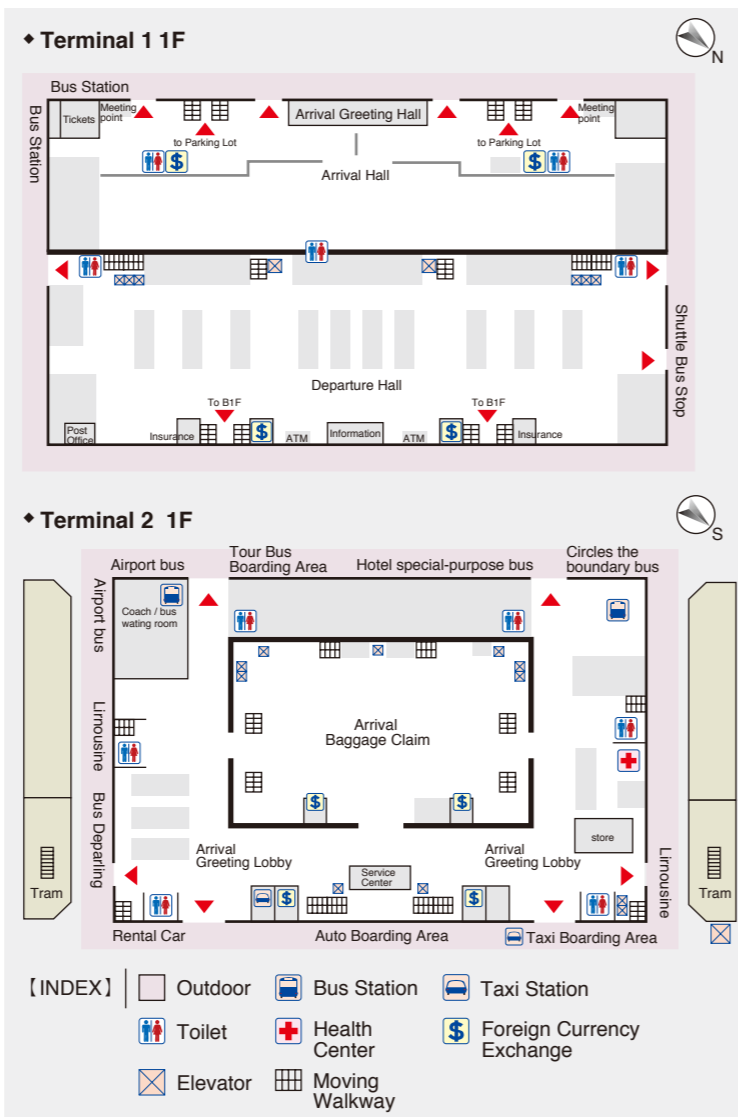
Service locations: Southwest of the Arrivals hall of Terminal I (exterior vehicle pickup corridor) and northeast of the Arrivals hall of Terminal II (exterior vehicle pickup corridor)

Reservations tel: 0926-170-090

One-way fare: NT\$800, travel time 30-40 mins

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 Taoyuan International Airport Terminal I & II



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

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)

NOTICE

In order to improve the quality of telephone service to the public, the city government is systematically implementing the 1999 Citizen Hotline plan (1999市民熱線優化專案). Since 3 July in 2008, 16 toll-free 0800 lines from 15 Taipei City Government departments, along with two non-0800 lines from the Department of Environmental Protection (環保局), have been consolidated within the 1999 public-access hotline service. For more information, please call 1999 or visit the website of the Research, Development and Evaluation Commission (研考會) at 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
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(South-west end), 3 Beiping W. Rd.

Songshan Airport Visitor Information Center
 (02) 2546-4741
 340-10, Dunhua N. Rd.

East Street 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.

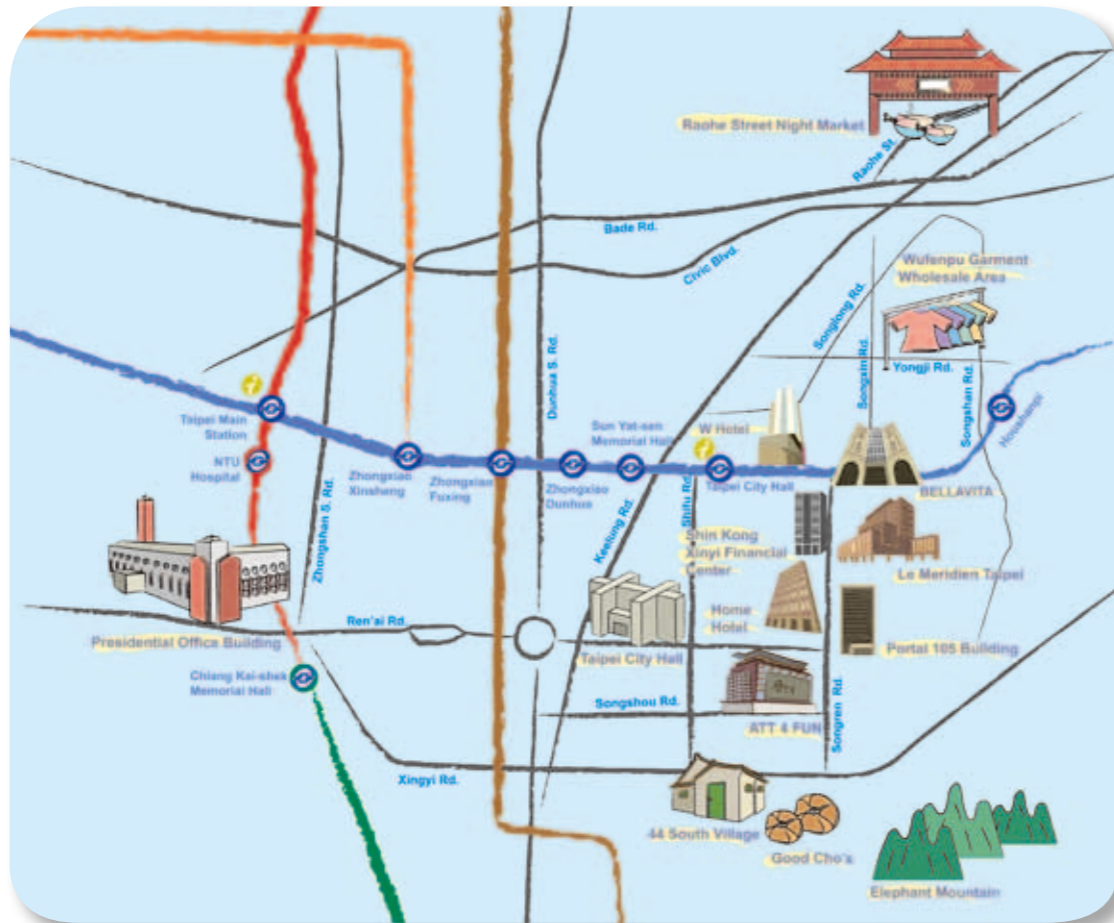
Plum Garden Visitor Center
 (02) 2897-2647
 6 Zhongshan Rd.

Miramar Entertainment Park Visitor Center
 (02) 8501-2762
 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)

City Party, The Xinyi Shopping Area & ATT 4 FUN Tour



City Party Tour Transportation Information

Route:

44 South Village (breakfast, view exhibit)→Wufenpu (buy party attire) →Raohe Street Night Market(traditional snack feast)→Taipei City Hall (New Year's Eve party, Taipei 101 fireworks) →Presidential Office Square (New Year's Flag-Raising Ceremony)

44 South Village

From Taipei Main Station take bus No. 20, 37, Xinyi trunk line buses or Xinyi new trunk line buses to Taipei World Trade Center stop (世貿中心站), walk approx. 10 minutes.

Wufenpu Garment Wholesale Area

From 44 South Village take bus No.281, 284, 611, Xinyi new trunk line buses to Yongchun Elementary School or MRT Houshanpi Station.

Raohe Street Night Market

From Wufenpu take bus No. 204, 232, 256, 286, 518 to Songshan Farmers' Association stop (松山農會站), then walk 3 minutes.

Taipei City Hall

From Raohe Street Night Market take bus No. 28, 311 to Songshan High School stop (松山高中站), or take bus No. 678, Blue 7, Blue 27 to Taipei City Hall stop (市政府站), walk 5~8 minutes.

Presidential Office Building

From Taipei City Hall take bus No. 245, 270 to Taipei First Girls High School stop (一女中站), or take 212, 257 to 228 Memorial Peace Park stop (228和平公園站), then walk 5 minutes. Alternatively, go to MRT Taipei City Hall Station and travel to MRT NTU Hospital Station on Danshi Line, then walk 5 minutes.

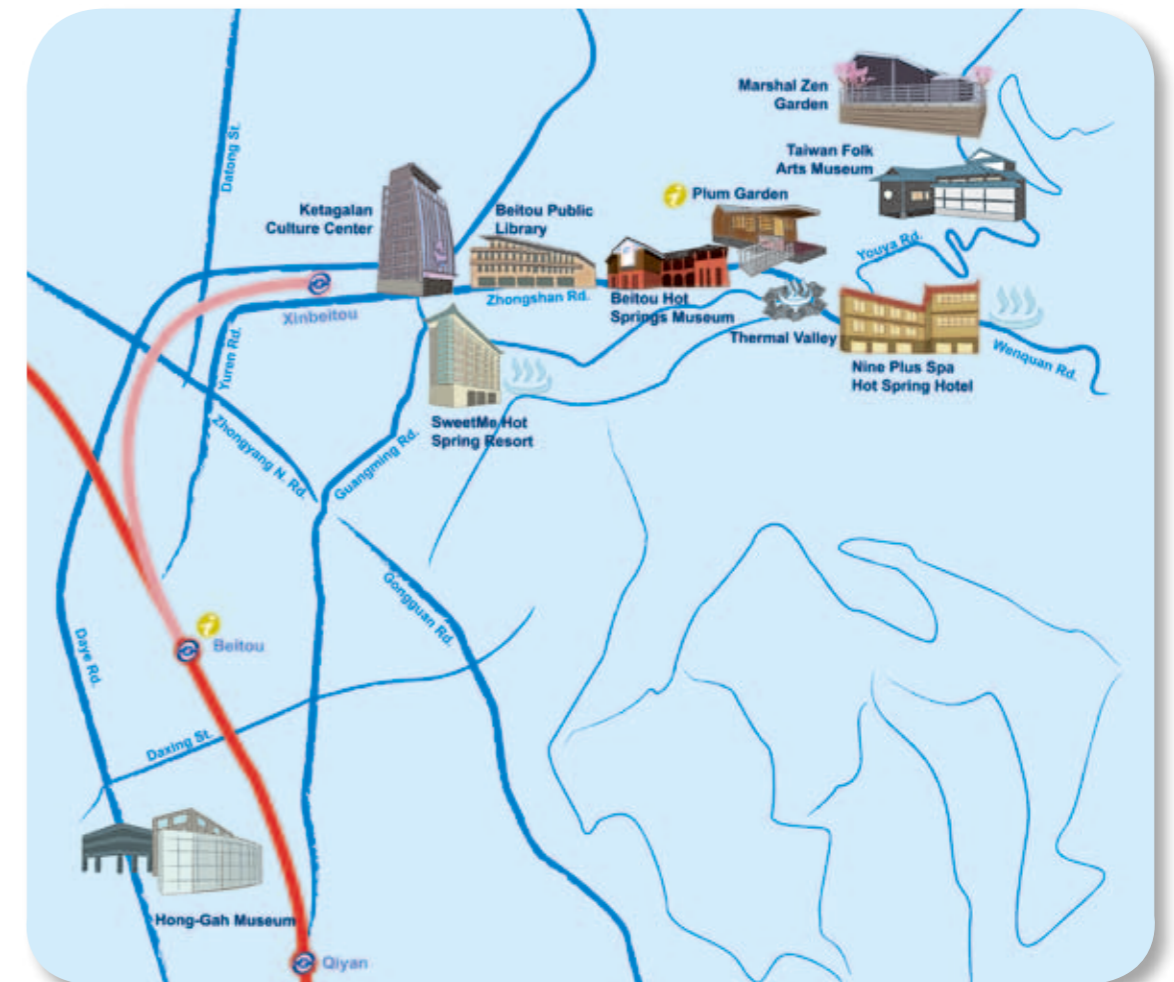
The Xinyi Shopping Area & ATT 4 FUN Transportation Information

MRT Taipei City Hall Station, Exit 2 (walk east 2 minutes)→Hankyu Dept. Store (same building, floors 8 to 31)→W Taipei (walk east to Songren Rd., turn right, walk 5 minutes)→BELLAVITA (walk south 2 minutes)→Shin Kong Xinyi Financial Center (walk north 5 to 8 minutes)→Le Meridien Taipei (walk south 5 to 8 minutes)→Home Hotel (walk south 2 minutes) → Portal 105 Building (walk north along Songren Rd., turn left on Songshou Rd., walk 5 minutes) →ATT 4 FUN

MRT Taipei City Hall Station

From Taipei Main Station, take bus No. 212, 299, 232, 232 secondary line, Zhongxiao new trunk line buses to MRT Taipei City Hall stop. Alternatively, take MRT Bannan Line to Taipei City Hall Station.

A Small Hot-Springs Tour



Transportation Information

Route:

Hong-Gah Museum(view exhibits)→Ketagalan Culture Center, Beitou Hot Spring Museum(view exhibits)→Taiwan Folk Arts Museum (refined set-meal dining) →Marshal Zen Garden (panorama enjoyment, hot-spring foot soak) →Taipei Season of Hot Springs experience (hot-spring bathing, nutritious dining)

Hong-Gah Museum

Take train from MRT Taipei Main Station on Tamsui Line, reaching Qiyang Station in approx. 30 minutes; from station, walk along Daye Rd. 5 minutes.

Ketagalan Culture Center

Take train from MRT Qiyang Station to MRT Xinbeitou Station, then walk 5 minutes.

Beitou Hot Springs Museum

Faces Ketagalan Culture Center, reached immediately on foot.

Taiwan Folk Arts Museum

Take bus No. 230 at Guangming Police Station, near MRT Xinbeitou Station, or take museum's dedicated shuttle bus (call 02-2891-2318 to book).

Marshal Zen Garden

Turn left at road after exiting Taiwan Folk Arts Museum, walk 2 minutes.

Nine Plus Spa Hot Spring Hotel

From Marshal Zen garden, walk along edge of Youya Rd. to Xinglin Lane, bearing left on Yinguang Lane, hotel soon reached, walk approx. 3 minutes.

SweetMe Hot Spring Resort

Walk along Wenquan Road's Yinguang Lane, turn right on Zhongshan Rd., walk straight approx. 20 minutes, turn left at first Guangming Rd. intersection, resort then immediately reached. Alternatively, take shuttle bus from Nine Plus Spa Hot Spring Hotel to MRT Xinbeitou Station, then walk 3 minutes.



Discover Taipei Questionnaire

Dear readers,

Thank you very much for taking the time to read *Discover Taipei*. This English-language bimonthly magazine has been published since 1998. We mean to introduce Taipei to both long-term foreign residents and short-term visitors from all over the world. To help us meet your needs and better serve you, we hope that you can take the time to fill out the following questionnaire and send it back to us (no postage necessary). Your opinions are much appreciated. Please don't hesitate to tell us what you think so that we can improve our magazine.

Department of Information and Tourism
Taipei City Government

Personal Information

Please leave your contact information below.

Name: _____

Date of Birth: _____

Tel: _____

Fax: _____

Email: _____

Sex: Male Female

Age: Below 20 21-30 31-40 41-50 51-60 Above 61

Profession: Student Teacher Public Servant Commerce Manufacturing

Administration Marketing & Public Relations Engineering

Other (Please specify : _____)

I. Contents

(1) Please indicate your opinion of each column in *Discover Taipei*.

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|--|
| a. Special Feature | <input type="checkbox"/> Very satisfied <input type="checkbox"/> Satisfied <input type="checkbox"/> Neutral <input type="checkbox"/> Dissatisfied <input type="checkbox"/> Very Dissatisfied |
| b. What's New in Taipei | <input type="checkbox"/> Very satisfied <input type="checkbox"/> Satisfied <input type="checkbox"/> Neutral <input type="checkbox"/> Dissatisfied <input type="checkbox"/> Very Dissatisfied |
| c. Local Life | <input type="checkbox"/> Very satisfied <input type="checkbox"/> Satisfied <input type="checkbox"/> Neutral <input type="checkbox"/> Dissatisfied <input type="checkbox"/> Very Dissatisfied |
| d. Chance Encounters with Fine Foods | <input type="checkbox"/> Very satisfied <input type="checkbox"/> Satisfied <input type="checkbox"/> Neutral <input type="checkbox"/> Dissatisfied <input type="checkbox"/> Very Dissatisfied |
| e. Taipei Health and Recreation Tours | <input type="checkbox"/> Very satisfied <input type="checkbox"/> Satisfied <input type="checkbox"/> Neutral <input type="checkbox"/> Dissatisfied <input type="checkbox"/> Very Dissatisfied |
| f. Journal of Taipei Personalities | <input type="checkbox"/> Very satisfied <input type="checkbox"/> Satisfied <input type="checkbox"/> Neutral <input type="checkbox"/> Dissatisfied <input type="checkbox"/> Very Dissatisfied |
| g. A Cavalcade of Arts and Culture | <input type="checkbox"/> Very satisfied <input type="checkbox"/> Satisfied <input type="checkbox"/> Neutral <input type="checkbox"/> Dissatisfied <input type="checkbox"/> Very Dissatisfied |
| h. Handy Portable Information | <input type="checkbox"/> Very satisfied <input type="checkbox"/> Satisfied <input type="checkbox"/> Neutral <input type="checkbox"/> Dissatisfied <input type="checkbox"/> Very Dissatisfied |

(2) Is there any other column or any kind of article not mentioned above that you would like to read in future editions of *Discover Taipei*?

II. Design

- a. What do you think of *Discover Taipei's* cover design?
 Very satisfied Satisfied Neutral Dissatisfied Very Dissatisfied
- b. What do you think of *Discover Taipei's* layout?
 Very satisfied Satisfied Neutral Dissatisfied Very Dissatisfied
- c. What do you think of the photos in *Discover Taipei*?
 Very satisfied Satisfied Neutral Dissatisfied Very Dissatisfied
- d. What do you think of *Discover Taipei's* printing quality?
 Very satisfied Satisfied Neutral Dissatisfied Very Dissatisfied



III. Magazine Distribution

a. Where do you usually obtain your copy of the magazine?

- Subscriber
- MRT: _____ Station
- Hotel: _____ Hotel
- Airport
- Language Center
- Police Station
- Museum: _____ Museum
- Bookstore: _____ Bookstore
- Taipei Main Station Visitor Information Center
- Other Location (Please Specify: _____)

b. Is it easy and convenient for you to get the magazine?

- Yes (Continue to Q c.) No (Please skip to Q d.)

c. Is there always sufficient quantity at the location you normally pick it up from?

If not, can you identify this location?

- Yes No (Location: _____)

d. Is there any other location(s) that you would like us to place the magazine?

IV. General Questions

a. In general, how do you like *Discover Taipei*?

- Very much Quite a lot OK So-so Not at all

b. Why do you like or dislike reading *Discover Taipei*?

c. Do you have any other opinion(s) or suggestion(s) that you would like to tell us?

(Please write below)

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廣告回信

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Dec.18 (Sun)
 Start at **7a.m.**
 at the Citizen Square
 in front of Taipei City Hall

臺北 富邦北 馬拉松

2011 Fubon Taipei Marathon

Run
 for the
 Best

The Best Prize Money
 Record-breaking prize
 money of NT\$2,000,000
 - the highest in Taiwan
 marathon history

The Best Route
 Getting rid of the elevated
 bridge-the new
 full-marathon route
 to celebrate
 the Centenary
 of R.O.C.

The Best Deal
 More incentives for veteran
 runners to bring new runners:
 registration fee exemption
 for full-marathon,
 half-marathon and
 9km runners altogether

Seven Best Incentives
 Wait for You at
 2011 Fubon Taipei Marathon

The Best Giveaways
 Everyone joining the
 3km Fun Run will
 get great giveaways

The Best Heart
 Limited-edition
 T-shirt for the
 Centenary Marathon

The Best TV Show
 Live TV broadcast
 for the first time ever

The Best Honor
 Become the
 Healthiest Enterprise
 to join the run

Deadline for Competition Group Registration: November 10th, 2011. Please contact Chinese Taipei Road-Running Association at 02-2585-5659
 For event detail, please log on to the official website of Chinese Taipei Road-Running Association: www.sportsnet.org.tw and Fubon FHC: www.fubon.com
 *Please refer to the announcement on the official website for the event detail of 2011 Fubon Taipei Marathon. Fubon Taipei Marathon Working Group reserves all rights to interpret or revise the content of various activities.



2011 ICT Month

Technology Touching My Heart

Dec. 3-11 Taipei World Trade Center-Hall 1 & Hall 3
Free Entry



The Largest IT Event at Year's End

- **Theme Pavilion**
More Than the Tech-New Experience
- **Government Pavilion**
Digital Government, @ Your Service
- **Creative Stuff**
The Most Splendid Selections
- **Event**
Big Consumer Product Promotional Giveaways

www.itmonth.org.tw