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DISCOVER TAIPEI

Dt

JUL. / AUG. BIMONTHLY 2011



How to Have Fun

This Summer in Taipei—A Primer

Up on the farm — Bucolic Summer Outings

Summertime Water Play in Taipei

Midsummer Musical Nights' Dreams

The 2011 Taipei Dadaocheng Fireworks Festival

Monga Nostalgia+Zhongshan/Beitou Diversions

— Taipei Pass Classic Self-Guided Tours



TAIPEI



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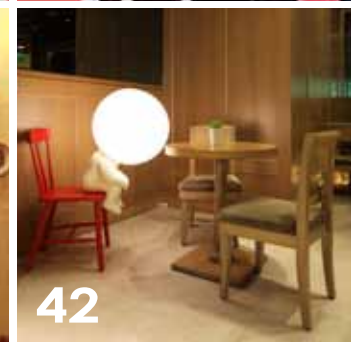
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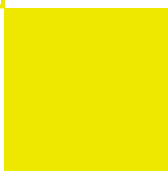
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The Luscious Fruits of Taipei Summer



Taiwan, long called Ilha Formosa or the “Beautiful Island,” has another pretty name today—the “Kingdom of Fruits.” Many different contributors add up to this being an unusually fecund land, rich with fruits in exciting variety—everything from the familiar, such as the pineapple, watermelon, lemon, papaya, and banana, to the less-often heard of and deliciously exotic, such as the carambola, wax apple, and guava. There seems to be something just arriving in season and just hitting the stores every week or two. Tourists from overseas are familiar with and wish to consume their fill of the fresh and juicy local pineapples, mangoes, pomelos, and grapes, and you wouldn't be the first to time your trip to Taipei specifically for the fruits just rolling into town from island orchards.

Most of Taiwan sits in the subtropics, with the far south in the tropics—a veritable Garden of Eden perfect for the cultivation of jackfruit, mango, watermelon, and other specimens. The summers are rich in varieties of grape, lychee, longan, honey peach, red dragon fruit, avocado, red date, and passion fruit. And beyond eating them as is or drinking them as fruit drinks, the people of Taiwan have a genius for introducing them in all their tasty glory in creative food dishes and confections. You could easily spend your entire Taiwan trip introducing yourself to the endless combinations of the sweets and sour and sweet aromas of the Taipei summer fruit menu—an exercise enthusiastically engaged in by local folks, who know each summer brings their favorite taste treats and also brings many they've never had the pleasure of meeting before.

A Sprawling Suite of Sweet Fruity Delicacies

Faced with the myriad selections of fruit orchards, how do you pick? It's really rather simple, actually; some fruits, such as mango, pineapple, papaya, muskmelon, and honey peach, emit a luscious fragrance when ripe, and the more full-bodied the flavor, the more lustrous and beautiful the exterior skin, the skin a fail-safe indicator of the ripeness of the flesh and the fragrant sweetness of its taste. Bananas, in contrast, are plucked while still hard and unripe and should be put aside for a few days after purchase, undisturbed, to ripen properly. Meanwhile, when deciding on which fruit to pluck and purchase, the exterior must have no scars or blemishes, and the fruit must feel heavy in



the hand. If too light, it may mean the fruit is already past fresh. Of course, as a final guarantee that will bring a peace of mind, look for a CAS or GAP mark, traceability information, an organic mark, or other official and trustworthy indication of quality.

One unusual Taiwan fruit you may well never see back home is the Buddha fruit (custard apple), so-called because it looks like the Buddha's head and hair. When picking, choose specimens that are well rounded, have large "scales," have a milky-yellow color in the trenches between the green scales, and have a light and transparent white powdery substance on the scales themselves. Note that the atemoya or pineapple Buddha fruit specially grown in the Taitung (臺東) area on Taiwan's east coast has a thinner skin and smaller scales.

Before eating your Buddha fruit, place it aside 1~3 days and let it ripe, indicated by its increasing softness. At this time, you'll be able to pull off the skin. Pineapple Buddha fruit, however, must be peeled with a knife. Do not put the fruit in the refrigerator, which will hinder the ripening process and leave it inedible. To speed up the ripening process, wrap your Buddha fruit in newspapers, which will keep its warmth. When it's ready, many people like to take the flesh and put it in the freezer first; when you eat it, the texture is very much like ice cream, a sweet treat with stickiness eliminated.

Summertime is the prime time for fruits in Taiwan, with quite a show put on—color, taste, and appearance in splendid and almost endless variety. When in the Kingdom of Fruits, live as the kingdom's subjects do, beating the sizzling summer heat with a luscious line-up of sweet fruit treats. 🍉



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1. Juicy lychee for your tasting pleasure in Taiwan's summer.
2. The island's reputation for mango is far-flung, the fruit rich, sweet, delicious, and very popular with foreigners.
3. A great cold treat to beat the summer heat is shaved ice, covered in assorted fresh fruits.
- 4-5. To pick the choicest and most flavor-packed tropical Taiwan fruits, look for those that are most fragrant and vibrant in exterior color.
6. Buddha fruit are rounded and have large "scales" with a milky-yellow color in between them and a light, transparent white powdery substance on them.
7. The pineapple Buddha fruit has a thinner skin and smaller scales.
8. Products now come with CAS or GAP marks, traceability information, organic marking, and other safety and quality assurances.
9. The sweet, crisp, refreshing wax apple is an iconic Taiwan fruit representative.

"UP ON THE FARM"

Bucolic Summer Outings



Taipei is a big and fast-paced city. But it might surprise you that within city limits are slow-paced farms cultivating fruits, vegetables, and rice. Look around you—they're in those mountains so close to the city, tightly encircling it. When you need to get away from the "city" and get back to the earth and the "farm," you pack up the family and head for these hills and their many tourist farms in a world apart cheered by birdsong chorus.

Summer on the Farm — Picking Fruit, Digging Bamboo Shoots

Are you in the mood for some juice-dripping honey peaches? To get yours, a deep-mountain excursion is not necessary—Jitian Tourist Orchard (吉田觀光果園) is close at hand, on Zhishan Rd. (至善路) in Shilin (士林). Your plucking will be easy for they grow on flat land. These plump and luscious fruits of soft flesh are delectably sweet, with a Brix value of 14 degrees (highest Brix value 20). Though other things are cultivated, Jitian is a honey peach specialist. In the business many years, its honey peaches are consistently of the highest quality, fattest and most beautiful at the end of spring and into the early summer. Another tourist-plucker summer favorite here is the crisp and sweet wax apple. There is no admission price; you pay only for what you pick, by weight and at standard market prices. There's a variety of vegetables also grown here, including baby cucumber, snap bean, sponge gourd, bottle gourd, and snake gourd.

The sweetness in the treats here is not only in the fruits. Mid-summer finds bamboo shoots popping up in abundance, offering their naturally succulent sweetness to food-lovers. Bamboo shoot season on Yangmingshan (陽明山) is from early June to the end of September, and at Anxin Bamboo Garden (安心鮮筍園) groups from schools and companies come in big numbers for fun-filled shoot digs. Even Taipei Mayor Hau Lung-bin (郝龍斌) once came here to get his hands dirty the farmers' way. After getting to know the good earth first-hand, you can then tuck into some great cuisine—the owner prepares



such garden-fresh offerings as bamboo-shoot salad, stir-fried shredded pork with bamboo shoots, and braised pork-rib soup with bamboo shoots, letting visitors work off the big appetites they've worked up digging up the fruits of the rich garden earth here.

Plowing and Bundling = Countryside Joy

July and August is summer vacation time for students, the perfect time for family outings into the country for a little togetherness in pursuit of the green life.

In Beitou (北投), Erqi Ecology Leisure Farm (二崎生態休閒農場) is bursting with plant life, the stars of its grand nature show is a grove of trees 200 and 300 years old. Sit under the thick and shady foliage and the breezes of Mother Nature's natural air-conditioning come swirling in to seek you out. The hot stresses of life sleep away, leaving you cool and relaxed. The friendly owner takes visitors on little edu-tours introducing the many plants, flowers, and birds—even the insects and wild mushrooms—and also demonstrates farm techniques such as ploughing and sowing as well as chopping wood and making charcoal.

Kids, invited to try their own hand at everything, have a blast. Students from the Taipei European School and Taipei Japanese School were both visitors, getting first-hand exposure to Taiwan farm life, and you'll see them moving about intently hauling firewood on their backs, sowing seed, inspecting and digging out bamboo shoots, and picking bananas, melons and fruits, and corn. You'll also see happy kids busily catching butterflies and stag beetles. A family favorite is the roasting of chickens and sweet potatoes in the farm's charcoal kiln, your little group then sit down under centuries-old Chinese sweet gum trees for a picnic you'll long savor.

The Shilin 6th Urban Farm (士林第六市民農園), which is called Zhishan Mingzhe Farm (至善明哲園), is a terraced getaway personally sculpted from nature's raw materials by the hand of the owner, Mr. Guo. It is an organic operation where people are invited to learn the arts of the entire paddy-rice production process, from transplanting seedlings to harvesting, which involves much patience and



sweat-heavy labor. The farm is landscaped with many plant varieties, including numerous selections native to Taiwan. Mr. Guo loves introducing the plants and local ecology and also teaches you how to make your own rice-straw man and how to strip bamboo shoots. This farm is connected with the neighboring farm, Fengdongcao Farm (風動草農園), a greenhouse operation cultivating many types of vegetable run by Mr. Guo's older brother, including lettuce and Romaine lettuce.

1-2. At Jitian Tourist Orchard parents and kids have fun hunting together for the best greens, baby cucumbers, and fruits.

3. Plump, juicy honey peaches are now ripe for the plucking at local orchards.

4. Taipei Mayor Hau Lung-bin (left) was once himself a visitor to Anxin Bamboo Garden for some farm fun.

5-6. At Erqi Ecology Leisure Farm you can do some real plowing, firewood hauling, wood-splitting and charcoal-making, bringing a little country-farm flair to summer vacation.





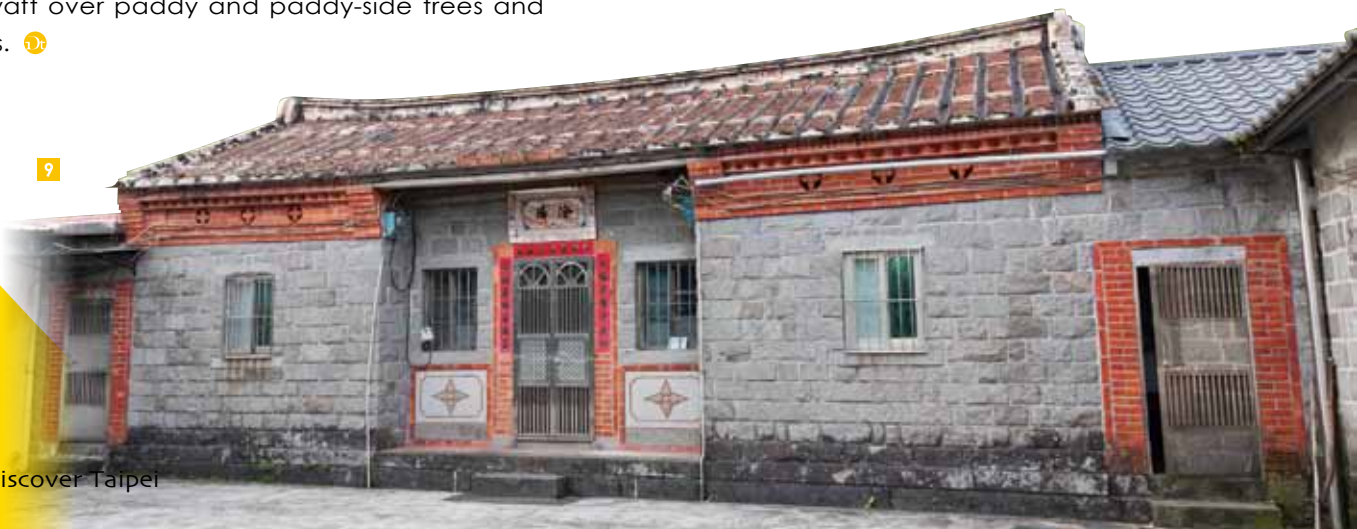
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While at these farms, take time to have a look at the family's 52-year-old traditional three-sided courtyard residence. This is available for visitors to stage activities, and is a grand place to sit back, put your feet up, and slide into the tranquil world of local farming folks. The scenery with which you are surrounded is idyllic, with mountain slopes looming above and with the Taipei 101 tower and, far off behind it, the mass of the Central Mountain Range clearly visible. This spot is fully occupied each year on New Year's Eve by people who know this special vantage point from which to watch the huge Taipei 101 fireworks show. On midsummer nights, people come to watch the sea of twinkling stars above and the navy of twinkling fireflies sailing the breezes that waft over paddy and paddy-side trees and bushes. 📍

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Information

Jitian Tourist Orchard 吉田觀光果園

Add: 11, Alley 20, Lane 71, Sec. 3, Zhishan Rd. (至善路3段71巷20弄11號)

Tel: (02) 2841-2593

Transportation: Take MRT Danshui Line to Jiantan or Shilin Station, transfer to Small No. 19 bus, get off at Banling (半嶺) stop

Anxin Bamboo Garden 安心鮮筍園

Add: 31, Lane 100, Jiannan Rd. (劍南路100巷31號)

Tel: (02) 2841-3290 (reservation required)

Transportation: Take MRT Danshui Line to Jiantan Station or Shilin Station, transfer to bus No. 255, 304, Small No. 18, get off at National Palace Museum (故宮) stop

Erqi Ecology Leisure Farm 二崎生態休閒農場

Add: 39, Lane 355, Fuxing 3rd Rd. (復興三路355巷39號)

Tel: (02) 2891-7787 (reservation required)

Transportation: Take MRT Danshui Line to Beitou Station, then transfer to Small No. 6 bus and get off at Wu Family Ancestral Hall (吳氏宗祠) stop

Zhishan Mingzhe Farm (Shilin 6th Urban Farm) / Fengdongcao Farm

至善明哲園(士林第六市民農園)、風動草農園

Add: 76, Lane 370, Sec. 3, Zhishan Rd. (至善路3段370巷76號)

Tel: (02) 2841-1759

Transportation: At MRT Jiantan Station, transfer to City Minibus No. 1, get off at Dingshan (頂山) stop

7. At Fengdongcao Farm, picking leafy green vegetables is the name of the game.

8-9. The owner at Zhishan Mingzhe Farm shows you how to make your own rice-straw man and gives guided tours of the family's courtyard-style old homestead.

The City as Water Theme Amusement Park

Summertime Water Play in Taipei



1. Aqua Friendly Experiencing Area's outdoor fun area is a summertime water nirvana for family and kids—of all ages!

Where, oh where, can you ride and hide from the sizzling Taipei summer heat without leaving the city? Taiwan is an island country, and Taipei is a city of rivers. Even along the busy city streets, you'll find facilities where water play is the theme. Perhaps the best news of all is that the 2011 Taipei Fun Water Festival (2011臺北親水節) has hit the city with a big splash at the Taipei Water Park (臺北自來水園區), complemented by a whole series of water theme fun-and-exercise classes at the city's sports centers located in each district, offering the whole family a place to escape the heat.

A Kids and Parents Water Festival Showcase

The Taipei Water Park is located in the Gongguan (公館) section of town near the banks of the Xindian River, and this is the eighth annual Fun Water Festival. The festival is one of the biggest events of the Taipei summer holiday season

and certainly the biggest and most anticipated water theme extravaganza among locals, foreign residents and visitors, with over 340,000 people showing up for the H2O-frolic last year.

As always, the featured themes for the festival, which will run until August 28, are "Water" and "Amusement," with the addition of a nifty park-tour train and all sorts of facilities for family-togetherness. There is also a program of at least 28 live performances, with dance, instrumental music, singing, magic, and variety shows highlighted, along with other edutainment attractions such as water conservation activities, DIY games, and summer-theme photography contests with big cash prizes. In late July, there will also be free preview showings of major summer blockbusters at the water park. As can be seen, your festival fun is coming in big waves, so don't miss out.



Among the most popular draws at each year's festival is the riverside concert, a romantic rendezvous that will happen on Chinese Valentine's Day (August 6) in Gongguan Riverside Plaza (公館水岸廣場) beside Yongfu Bridge (永福橋). There will be a slew of big-name pop singers hitting the stage with easy-listening tunes to wish everybody well and create a congenial, happy mood, and a splendiferous and fantabulous fireworks display that will go on at least five full minutes to cap things off with bold colors.

The Fun Water Festival is a once-a-year draw, but Taipei Water Park is also home to a number of year-round attractions such as Water Country Park (水鄉庭園), which you enter via Siyuan Street (思源街). This is a unique water-play amusement area made up to look like the piping you'd see everywhere at a water-treatment plant. Another very popular

attraction is the Aqua Friendly Experiencing Area (親水體驗區), with separate admission charged, where all the facilities are designed to teach you about water velocity, pressure, and temperature; there's both an outdoor fun area and indoor spa area, with a Centrifugal Experiencing Channel, Gravity Experiencing Channel, Water Pressure Experiencing Pond, Water Circulating and Buoyancy Experiencing Pond, and outdoor manmade beach.

Once you've fully refreshed yourself with body-cooling and spirits-lifting water play, a little sightseeing is in order. Also within the Taipei Water Park is the Museum of Drinking Water (自來水博物館), a Baroque work of architecture that was once the waterworks pumping station, today a Historical Relic of the Third Rank. The Pipe Sculpture Area (管材雕塑區) is also well worth a visit, overflowing with outdoor installation artworks made with recycled materials, and you can also rent a bike and head along the dedicated bike path corridor that brings you from the park and past the dike to the nearby riverside without obstruction, where you can enjoy the city's riverside bike path networks and the expansive panoramas.

The fun times have rolled in, and a tidal wave of cool-seekers hits the park each day, so we strongly recommend you take public transportation to and from the site. Note that Exit No. 4 of MRT Gongguan Station on the Xindian Line is just seven easy minutes on foot from the park.

Every District a Sports Center — Swimming and Other Water Fun on Tap

Another great choice for safe water play in the city is the certified swimming pools at local sports centers. The city has set up a community-use sports center in each of its 12 administrative districts, each of which features massage-therapy pools, spa pools, sauna and steam-bath facilities, and other water theme facilities in addition to the swimming pools.

The most special among the centers are those in Neihu (內湖) and Shilin (士林). The former has a heated pool facility on the seventh floor, with pools for swimming, water play, and sauna use. An added bonus is the lovely, twinkling night-time



views of the city. The indoor heated-pool facility at the latter is on the third floor and is liberally splashed with sunlight during the day, overlooking a calming green expanse.

During the July and August summer holidays, many of the sports centers offer intensive swimming classes, divided by age or experience. For example, the centers in Zhongshan (中山), Shilin, Songshan (松山), and other districts concentrate their efforts on helping people rid themselves of “landlubber” (旱鴨子) status. If you're just looking for a little time in the water, not for lessons, no problem: a single-entry pool ticket is just NT\$110 for adults, giving you full use of the top-flight swimming facilities all day, from 6 am to 10 pm.

If you're perhaps looking for something completely new and different to do in or on the water, like canoeing, water-skiing, high-diving, and skin/scuba-diving, Songshan Sports Center is the place for you, drawing many like-minded people. This is the only facility in Taipei with a deep-water swimming pool dedicated to instruction in these activities, with numerous class options designed for you, making your thirst for the thrills that these sports bring an easy one to slake!

Note also that the Nangang (南港) center has a five-meter-deep diving pool and a schedule of classes, and also organizes lectures on diving on an irregular basis. For example, there is a lecture on ocean ecology scheduled for August 7, with details available on the center's website (ngsc.cyc.org.tw).

In the summer of 2011, the city of Taipei is by design transforming itself into a city-wide theme park where water is king. Come catch the wave. For a most “refreshing” view of this hot and busy place/throwing yourself into activities that are both the “hottest” and the “coolest” attractions in town. 🌊

2. The Baroque-exterior Museum of Drinking Water, a Historical Relic of the Third Rank, is well worth an exploratory walkabout.
3. Shilin Sports Center has a heated pool on the third floor, spacious and washed in sunlight, with water fun available all day long for just the price of a single entry ticket.
- 4-5. Songshan Sports Center (Figure 4) has canoe facilities, Nangang Sports Center (Figure 5) has diving facilities, and both have professionally-run classes.

Information

2011 Taipei Fun Water Festival

2011臺北親水節

Time: Until 8/28

Venue: Taipei Water Park (自來水園區)

Add: 1 Siyuan St. (思源街1號)

Summer Hours: 09:00~20:00 (closed Mon)

Tel: (02) 8369-5104

Website: waterpark.twd.gov.tw

Transportation: Take MRT Xindian Line to Gongguan Station, take Exit No. 4, walk approx. seven minutes to Siyuan St. and Dingzhou Rd. (汀州路)

Aqua Friendly Experiencing Area

親水體驗教育區

Summer Hours: Outdoor water play area 08:00~22:00, indoor spa 06:00~22:30

Tel: (02) 2367-7556

Transportation: Take MRT Xindian Line to Gongguan Station, take Exit No. 1, walk approx. three minutes to Lane 160, Sec. 3, Dingzhou Rd. (汀州路3段160巷)





Midsummer Musical Nights' Dreams

The month of July is clear and bright, with the days of summer reaching their height, and like flowing water is the cool of the night. The rhythms of two grand music fests will also float through the air of our fair city this month, serenading audiences—the 2011 Taipei International Jazz Season (2011臺北國際爵士音樂節) and the 2011 Taipei International Choral Festival (2011臺北國際合唱音樂節). Musical romance is afoot, and dreamy rhythms are set to soar.

Swaying to Cool Beats under Twinkling Stars: 2011 Taipei International Jazz Season

When the first long and lazy note wafts from Da'an Park (大安森林公園), musically declaring this year's Jazz season open, pleasant summer nights under starry skies and amidst cool trees and open green expanses is the order of the day.

The highlight of the jazz festival will be the shows staged in the evening on July 22 and 23 in the outdoor amphitheatre at Da'an Park. This is the Taipei Jazz Summer Stage—International Jazz Masters Rendezvous (國際爵士名家星空音樂會), to be divided into two segments, “Explosive Jazz – Creativity without Limits” (勁爆爵士·創意無限) and “Moving Jazz – Spreading Heat” (感動爵士·熱力延伸). There will be a feast of big jazz names on hand to sate your jazz passions, 11 greats from Taiwan and around the world.

Among the cavalcade of bright jazz lights will be

legendary vocalist Tutu Puaone, whose sonorous voice has brought her worldwide renown, and maestro of the piano Peter van Marle, famed as the “master of Latin music.” There's also trumpeter David Smith, whose accelerations and decelerations give his music a textured resonance one can actually feel, and bass player Bart de Nolf, who moves masterfully between jazz, pop, French chanson, electronic, and other genres.

Note that on these evenings, before the big-name international artists hit the stage with their musical extravaganza, the Da'an Jazz Carnivals (大安森林公園爵士樂嘉年華) will happen a little earlier starting at 17:30. These are centered on the Jazz and Latin Parade Bands of the annual Taipei International Summer Jazz Academy (臺北國際爵士音樂營). The program includes marching percussion bands, a cappella, New Orleans street jazz, saxophone ensembles, and more. There's everything you need to get you in the mood for groove and swaying with the swing of things!

The Whole World in Chorus, Just for You: 2011 Taipei International Choral Festival

If you've seen the movie *Sister Act* with Whoopi Goldberg, the choir music performed by the nuns no doubt left you inspired and in a jaunty mood. You no doubt experienced the same contented spiritual high if you watched the children's choir in the French film *Les Choristes* (The Chorus). Further joy is just around the corner with the 2011 Taipei

International Choral Festival, which will run from July 23 to 31 at the National Concert Hall.

This is the 11th festival organized by the Taipei Philharmonic Foundation for Culture and Education (臺北愛樂文教基金會). The crème de la crème of the world of choral music, troupes from Taiwan and the globe's four points, have been invited, and they will be performing both the classical and familiar as well as new-direction musical creations that will pleasantly surprise you. For example, the opening concert, on July 24, will have world-acclaimed conductor Fred Sjöberg, from Sweden, working with the Taipei Philharmonic Chorus (臺北愛樂合唱團) and the Taipei Philharmonic Youth Orchestra (臺北愛樂青年管弦樂團) to present the soaring romantic masterpiece *Förklädd Gud* (A God Disguised) for the first time in Taiwan, a work created by contemporary composer Lars-Erik Larsson of Sweden.

From July 25 to 30, a parade of talent will step into the festival spotlight—Hungary's Cantemus Mixed Choir, the Choir of St. Mary's Cathedral in England, the Dresden Philharmonic Children's Choir, OMMM from France, and Slovakia's APZ Tone Tomšič—presenting you with the music of the world. On July 31, the final concert will have a veritable army of about 300 musical artists ascending the stage, with Hungarian conductor Gábor Hollerung leading a corps that includes the Festival Choir (節慶合唱團), Taipei Philharmonic Chorus, and Taipei Philharmonic Youth Orchestra, the rousing work chosen to end the festival composer and ethnomusicologist David Fanshawe's well-known work *African Sanctus*, in which a Christian Mass is juxtaposed with traditional African rhythms.

With gentle breezes blowing by and the music of midsummer nights lifting your spirits, let yourself get carried away in sweet dreams and reveries this Taipei season. 🎵

1. Sweet notes from talented local and international artists will roll over Da'an Park in waves during this year's Taipei International Jazz Season.
- 2-3. The Taipei International Choral Festival will be a grand fête of gathered vocalists, with such illustrious groups as Hungary's Cantemus Mixed Choir and the Dresden Philharmonic Children's Choir on hand.



Information

2011 Taipei International Jazz Season 2011 臺北國際爵士音樂節

Time: 7/22, 7/23

17:30~18:30 Da'an Jazz Carnivals

19:00~21:00 International Jazz Masters Rendezvous

Venues: Outdoor amphitheatre, Da'an Park

Website: www.taipeijazz.com/2011TIJS

2011 Taipei International Choral Festival 2011 臺北國際合唱音樂節

Time: 7/23~7/31

Venues: National Concert Hall (國家音樂廳)

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

Tel: (02) 2773-3691 (Taipei Philharmonic Foundation)

Website: www.ticf.tw



A Jamboree of TOP ACROBATS & PERFORMANCE ARTISTS at Huashan this Summer

In this 100th year of the Republic of China, the celebratory activities are coming thick and fast, and this Taipei summer is proving to be even more event-heavy than the usual program-packed Taipei summer. Among the more unusual types of planned fun are breeze-filled outdoor music concerts in the evenings and Taiwan's first-ever acrobatic arts festival, both sure-fire ways to take the edge of the heated summer days.

The debut of Huashan Acrobatics Festival (華山百戲雜技節) will burst onto the stage at Huashan 1914 Creative Park (華山1914創意文化園區) on July 15. Talent is on its way from Taiwan and around the world—Japan, Malaysia, the USA, other countries— including 15 circus performers, eight acrobatics and folk arts troupes, 15 extreme sports groups, and 20 street performers. As you can see, it's going to be a big and boisterous party indeed.

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From July 16 through 24, there will be ten international caliber shows put on (paid admission). Perhaps the act getting the most media and public attention in the lead-up to the festival is that of performance artist Huang Mingzheng (黃明正), popularly known as “Mr. Candle” (倒立先生). Huang is a truly unique character, with his best-known project traveling all over Taiwan and documenting the stories of the local land and creating social commentary with photos in picturesque settings in which he himself appears, each time doing a handstand. At the festival he'll present his 70-minute one-man show *Transparent Kingdom* (透明之國) four times, going through his incredible range of circus and traditional folk arts techniques. In addition to his live shows, you can also take in the “Mr. Candle Dream Exhibit” (倒立先生夢想元年展), which allows you to explore the 1,200 photos he took during his round-Taiwan exploration and witness some of the 250 stage and street performances he put on for local residents in each locality—at the same time traveling through the process of how he made his dreams come true. The perspectives of Taiwan you are presented with are extraordinary. Another special treat will be the attempt at a world record for most people doing a handstand in a group, which will happen on July 24, with a thousand people turning their world upside-down.



Canadian Jerry Snell, whose background includes the circus arts and contemporary Asian performance arts, synthesizes dance, theatre, martial arts, and both pop and rock-and-roll music. He'll lead Malaysia's Viva Circus in a thrilling demonstration of the contemporary or "new" circus arts that will take your breath away. Keisuke Kanai, an omni-talented artist who brings together dance, juggling, pantomime, acrobatics, and stunts, will work with Cru Cru Cirque in two shows that will present you with the rich world of the Japanese acrobatics and performance arts—a contemporary-circus extravaganza where though there is no dialog a world of great emotions, drama, and tension is magically created before your eyes.

Another act you'd be wise not to miss out on is that of American Michael Moschen, juggler extraordinaire and one of the world's most visionary performance artists who incorporates the rich beauty of art, science, physics, and mathematics in a show of creative, fantastic, and seemingly impossible feats of manipulation and illusion. His visual calling card is the juggling of crystal balls, and he loves to involve audience members in his virtuoso feats of daring and dexterity. His lyrical nickname "Poet of Motion" is a most deserved one. Moschen will perform two shows.

1. Taiwan's Huang Mingzheng, "Mr. Candle," traveled the island photographing himself upside-down in beautiful locations that capture the Taiwan cultural essence.
2. Canadian Jerry Snell synthesizes dance, theatre, martial arts, and both pop and rock-and-roll music in thrilling contemporary or "new" circus arts.
3. Circus-arts master Keisuke Kanai and the Cru Cru Cirque troupe will give two shows demonstrating Japanese acrobatics and performance arts.
4. American Michael Moschen, master of many arts, performs fantastic crystal-ball juggling augmented with magic, mime, and dance.

If the act of watching compels you toward the act of doing, there's good news. The organizers have also set up a series of four acrobatics/performance-arts experience camps, along with three seminars on the subject, two weekend/holiday creative street bazaars, and the SOLO So Good "Acrobatics and Performance Arts P.K. Arena," the competition ring to feature extreme sports, competitive cheerleader squads, lion dance and drum teams, diabolo dance, rope skipping, street performers, and many more visually exciting talents—a true circus of the fantastic and the wonderful, and a joy-filled carnival of summertime fun! 🎪

Information

Huashan Acrobatics Festival 華山百戲雜技節

Time: 7/15~7/31

Venue: Huashan 1914 Creative Park, East Second (E2) Hall, Four Joint Buildings B (華山1914創意文化園 區東二館、四連棟B)

Add: 1, Sec. 1, Bade Rd. (八德路1段1號)

Tel: (02) 2358-1914

Website: www.huashan1914.com

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The Flora Expo Blooms Anew

The 2010 Taipei International Flora Exposition bloomed far more brilliantly than most everyone expected, attracting 8.96 million visitors. And though the expo was closed on April 25, it is still physically preserved, not just in memory. Many of the pavilions and facilities will be reopened this month, and if you missed the spectacle for the first time, here's your chance. If this is not your first time and you would like to see it again, here's your chance to revisit sweet and florid memories.

There were originally 14 pavilions, spreading over four adjoining park areas. Significant adjustments will be made to the Pavilion of New Fashion (流行館) sponsored by Far Eastern Group (遠東企業), which will be relocated in August, and to Daijia Riverside Park (大佳河濱公園), which will be converted back to a riverside recreational park. The other three areas—Yuanshan Park, Fine Arts Park, and Xinsheng Park—are now collectively the “Flora Expo Park” (花博公園), with all flower walls and “sea of flowers” (花海) landscaping retained. In light of the scorching heat that visits Taipei in July and August, more plants and bushes resistant to heat and aridity have been put in at Yuanshan Park Area (圓山公園區), increasing the range of greens in the flower seas. The lovely maples and ancient city-wall motifs of the Shanghai Charm (上海庭園) and Xi'an's Courtyard (西安庭園) showcase gardens remain in place, making a visit to this park one in which the ecological characters of Taipei, Shanghai, and Xi'an can all be taken in. There's no admission charge for the outdoor gardens in Flora Expo Park.

Still in the Yuanshan Park Area at the Pavilion of Culture (文化館), Hall A is dedicated to folk culture, and Hall B is dedicated to puppetry. The Celebrity's House (名人館) and EXPO Theater (真相館) facilities will again become part of the Taipei Children's Recreation Center (臺北市立兒童育樂中心), staging a wide-range of activities, but the latter will continue to show the 12-minute 3D animation film *Nature's Wrath: Taiwan's Inconvenient Truth* (面對臺灣的真相), which delivers you back to the scenes wrought by Taiwan's fearsome Typhoon Morakot. Note that the entry price to the recreation center is NT\$30; entry to the theater is not expected to surpass NT\$100.

The EXPO Dome (爭艷館) has been transformed into an exhibition and conference center, and until Sep. 4, you can take in the *Animated Version of the Riverside Scene at Qingming Festival* (會動的清明上河圖), which was first staged at the China Pavilion at the Expo 2010 Shanghai and was the most popular attraction, bringing to life one of the Chinese culture's most famous paintings with advanced multimedia technology. The sumptuous elegance of the Northern Song capital, Kaifeng, are given flesh, and you are immersed in the many intricately depicted small scenes from the painting's rich tapestry of imperial life.

In the Fine Arts Park Area (美術公園區), during the Flora Expo the Taipei Fine Arts Museum (美術館) staged shows that specifically complemented the expo's floral theme, and now continues in its quest to present the most aesthetically pleasing modern-arts creations by native soil and international talent. In July and August, two scheduled



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exhibits already creating a great deal of buzz are Trans-Cool Tokyo—Contemporary Japanese Art from MOT Collection (日本MOT當代精選展) and *Super Contemporary—Design in London: A Touring Exhibition from the Design Museum, London* (英國超當代設計大展). At the next-door Taipei Story House (臺北故事館) the exhibit *The Story of Dolls* (娃娃的故事) will run from July to the end of December. The EXPO Hall (舞蝶館) will be available for rent by government organizations and social groups for cultural activities, and the Pavilion of Aroma of Flowers (風味館) will serve as a display showcase and sales outlet for the best arts and crafts by Taiwan's indigenous peoples.

The original Global Garden Area (寰宇庭園區) had 22 lovely outdoor gardens representing the cultures and horticultural traditions of different countries. Many of the courtyards will still exist, including those of Taiwan and the Netherlands, and the original international courtyard concept is being expanded to make this a grand garden that belongs to all citizens. Plans are to reopen this space in the near future— an event awaited with eagerness by one and all.

In the Xinsheng Park Area (新生公園區), which during the expo presented the bright aesthetics of the outdoor floral landscaping and the south Fujian-style gardens (the ancestors of most Taiwanese came from this region) at the Palace of Floral Teas (花茶殿), is now formally renamed the “Lin An-Tai Historic Home and Fujian-Style Garden” (林安泰古厝民俗文物館及閩式庭園). The first floor of the Pavilion of Future (未來館) will continue with its exhibition on plant life, and on the second floor the popular Taipei Pavilion from the Expo 2010 Shanghai is being reconstructed; note that this section is slated to open in September. The

most popular pavilion at the Flora Expo was the Pavilion of Dreams (夢想館), and in addition to its original stellar exhibits, even more high-tech wizardry is now being brought in. A general ticket for admission to this pavilion and the Pavilion of Future's two floors will be just NT\$150, great value for what you witness; individual-entry tickets to the three attractions will not be more than NT\$100. The Pavilion of Angel Life (天使生活館) will continue to be operated by the Angel Art Gallery (天使美術館), with the focus on art and aesthetics in everyday life. The Pavilion of Regimen (養生館) will return back for government use. 📍



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For more information, visit the official Flora Expo website at www.2010taipeexpo.tw

1. The lovely maple bridge and flora motifs of Shanghai Charm remain in the Yuanshan Park Area, allowing re-exploration of the ecological characters of Shanghai.
2. The Taiwan garden took first prize as best of the Global Garden Area at the Flora Expo.
3. Taipei Pavilion from the Expo 2010 Shanghai includes an interactive experience area where you can touch the screen and bring out a powerful expression of Taipei smiling back at you.
4. The Pavilion of Dreams' high-tech flower display blooms and sways in rhythm with changing music and artificial-light conditions.
5. The EXPO Dome has the popular *Animated Version of the Riverside Scene at Qingming Festival* from the China Pavilion at the Expo 2010 Shanghai.
6. The Taipei Story House is featuring *The Story of Dolls* exhibit, with magnificent specimens from around the world.

Happy Dreams While Awake in
Old Dadaocheng—

The 2011 Taipei Dadaocheng Fireworks Festival

Each country has its own famous annual fireworks carnivals, and you no doubt know where to go and what to plan for in your home area, but where is the best and the brightest in Taiwan? You can't go wrong in the character-rich old neighborhood of Dadaocheng (大稻埕), with its 2011 Taipei Dadaocheng Fireworks Festival (2011臺北大稻埕煙火節) boom-fest just around the corner. The air of this community is alive at all times with romance and nostalgia, on this night to be made even more fragrant with the color of traditional puppetry and boisterous pyrotechnics.

Puppetry · Love · Festive Fireworks

Dadaocheng was long as thriving riverside port and one of the city's most important cultural centers, earning it the nickname “den of theaters” (戲窟). As one example, Liangzhou St. (涼州街) had liaison offices and facilities for many puppetry troupes, and came to be called “Liangzhou Puppetry Street” by local citizens. The man considered by aficionados to be Taiwan's greatest ever puppeteer, Li Tienlu (李天祿), was a Dadaocheng native, and the “family firm” he established here, I Wan Jan Puppet Theater (亦宛然掌中劇團), has long been perhaps Taiwan's most iconic and representative puppetry troupe, and still thrives today. Li's own life nearly perfectly encapsulated the modern history of Taiwan puppetry.

In light of this community background, the organizer of the Dadaocheng Fireworks Festival, the city's Dept. of Information and Tourism, has decided on “theater” (戲) as the core concept behind the 2011 party. Glove puppetry is placed at center stage, with film in a supporting role, the history, the culture, and the stories of the Dadaocheng glory years presented to you in an interwoven outline. The themes for the big fireworks extravaganza will be the presentation of the Dadaocheng story as a classic love and romance tale, complementing the centrality of glove-puppet theater and celebration of Chinese Valentine's Day in the district.

Fireworks + Sideshow Activities— In Search of Local History

The big day is August 6, a Saturday, with the revelry starting at 5 in the afternoon and going till 9, when the fireworks take over the night sky. Two glove puppet shows will be presented on the Dadaocheng stage at 5 and 9, the theme “A Tribute to Puppetmaster Li Tienlu,” and the night has been designed as one of ever greater spectacle ending with an explosive pyrotechnic climax.

One of the many thrilling highlights of the night will be the master of ceremonies magically calling puppetmaster Li, who passed away in 1998, to travel through time and appear on stage with senior Taipei City Govt. officials to set the stage for the big, theatrical



fireworks display. Green light projection will be used to create an ethereal time travel portal through which the great man will magically appear, as though really standing before you.

The first fireworks bursts will throw the night-sky curtains open, and a wave of colors and excitement will wash over spectators like a massive wave rolling over the river shore. Wave after wave will come, with the canvas of the black sky painted with impossibly bright pastels as though by the invisible hand of an otherworldly artist. You are lucky to be there to see this artwork in all its ephemeral glory.

Another festival attraction you will not want to be missed is a special exhibition on the neighborhood's rich history, guiding you on a deep walk through events that were particular to this piece of earth and yet often resounded throughout Taiwan and beyond its shores. You should also note that many area merchants will be offering great discounts and other deals on their offerings—just go to the official website, print out the coupons you want to use, and present them on-site. There will also be a food fair set up at the festival venue itself, with the serving of old-time snack treats featuring a heavy dose of nostalgia as a key ingredient and another delicious way to explore the community's history.

To make the Dadaocheng fireworks experience as comfortable as possible this year, the organizer will be putting traffic controls in effect and has set up both extra runs on the nearby MRT Danshui Line and runs after

normal hours. There will of course also be extra bus runs from nearby MRT stations. If at all possible, do not bring your own vehicle into the area.

Straining at the leash, with puppetry, love, and festive fireworks laid at your feet in unlimited quantity? The Dadaocheng Fireworks Festival aims to please you—specifically—and awaits your arrival. 🎆

1. Celebrated puppetmaster Li Tienlu will travel through time to the curtain-raising for the big fireworks show to help launch the pyrotechnics.
2. Visit old Dadaocheng for a heavy dose of historical architecture, and enjoy some of the many special deals offered by local shops.
3. The Dadaocheng stage will be the scene for two riveting puppet-show spectacles.

Information

2011 Taipei Dadaocheng Fireworks Festival

2011 大稻埕煙火節

Time: 8/6 (Sat) 17:00~21:00 (Fireworks: 20:30~20:50)

Venue: In the Yanping Riverside Park area that surrounds Dadaocheng Wharf

Tel: 1999 (outside Taipei City, dial 02-2720-8889), ext. 2031

Website: Taipeitravel.net/2011firesorks

Transportation:

Bus No. 9, 206, 255, 274, 518, 539, 641, 669, 704 and No. Red 33, get off at Minsheng W. Rd. intersection (Dadaocheng Wharf; 民生西路口/大稻埕碼頭)



It's Curtains Up at Dadaocheng Theatre!

Whether you are in Taiwan for short-term touring or long-term living, you have great opportunities at temple festivals or cultural facilities to take in some of this island's traditional stage-performance arts, most notably Taiwanese opera and puppet theatre. They are intrinsically intertwined with the life stories of all Taiwanese, and are a great way to gain understanding of what makes your local friends tick.

The theatre, located on Sec. 1 of Dihua St. (迪化街), is a great venue to watch and learn more about traditional stage arts. Drama is performed in the afternoon of almost every Saturday and Sunday, and throughout each spring and autumn there are cultural workshops on Huangmei opera (黃梅戲), Taiwanese opera, Hakka opera, the nanguan (南管) and beiguan (北管) forms of traditional music, and other topics. If your Chinese or Taiwanese language skills are pretty good, this is a great learning experience—and you'll even get a chance to hit the stage and reach for stardom!

Commercial Hub and Taipei Theatre Treasure-Vault

During the Japanese colonial period (1895-1945), the Dadaocheng area by the Danshui River was the island's most important wholesale district for goods from around the island, as well as for teas and Chinese medicines.

Dadaocheng was also the font for the era's Taiwanese self-awakening and development of self-identity, with people coming in large number to opera houses and lecture halls, the enclave becoming an emporium for traditional-style entertainment where commoners and gentry came together. The result was such fond nicknames for the enclave as “theatre nest” (戲巢) and “theatre den” (戲窟).

Seeking to ensure this prime example of the riverport era in Taipei's history, the city government's Dept. of Urban Development has initiated the preservation of the Fujian-style façade at Yongle Building (永樂大樓) on Dihua St., and the Taipei Cultural Center (社會教育館) has acted with a thoroughgoing renovation of the 8th and 9th floors in the building to create the Dadaocheng Theatre (originally home of the Taipei Cultural Center's Yanping Activity Center; 延平活動中心). The 8th floor is now outfitted with facilities for puppet theatre, and the 9th has been transformed into a medium-sized theatre that can seat 500. The curtains went up at this new cultural hub in March last year, another key Taipei venue ensuring the preservation and flourishing of traditional stage arts, with regular performances.

On July 16 on the 8th floor, The Happy Puppetry Company (真快樂掌中劇團) will perform *Red Boy, The Mischievous Child* (頑皮小子紅孩兒), fun entertainment for the family, an adaptation of the adventures of Red

Boy and Monk Tang (唐三藏) in the classic Journey to the West. On July 23 and 24, on the 9th floor, the Ho-Lo Taiwanese Opera Troupe (河洛歌子戲團) will stage *A Bureaucratic Frame-up* (浮沉紗帽) and *The Imperial Tablet* (御匾), depicting the great struggles and the handling of events by China's officials in ancient imperial times.

It must also be mentioned that, in addition to the staging of dramatic theatre, you can also enjoy performances of popular dance at the 9th floor theatre. On July 16 and 17, the Big Knowledge Tree Dance Troupe (大知樹排練場舞團) will hit the stage with the dance, *Somewhere Only We Know*, an experience vibrant with life and energy. For more information on these shows and shows to follow, visit the Taipei Cultural Center website: www.tmseh.taipei.gov.tw.

Dadaocheng Selling Points: History + Culture + Stories

It must be said that there's certainly more—much more—to Dadaocheng Theatre than the traditional Taiwan stage forms. This year has seen the addition of many new visual delights, making this a theatre for all genres—Henan opera (豫劇), Kun opera (崑劇), shadow puppet shows, crosstalk (相聲), and bamboo clapper performances (竹板快書). Staged on an irregular basis, they give you even more reason to be in the audience when Dadaocheng Theatre curtains go up!

The community immediately surrounding the theatre is heavily laden with local cultural assets of deep historical pedigree, including venerable incense shops, teahouses and tea shops, fabric shops, and puppet museum with theatre. What's on display is the story of Taipei's development and the collective memories of her people—certainly worth a day's browse, wouldn't you think? 🎭

1. Interested in the traditional stage arts? The Dadaocheng Theatre stages all forms, and is a great venue for taking in a show.
2. Classes on elements of traditional opera are offered, from the basics of playing traditional musical instruments to the complicated forms of singing.
3. Articles used in Taiwanese opera have been preserved and are on display, each steeped in the traditions of local culture.
4. Students from the National Taiwan College of Performing Arts (國立臺灣戲曲學院) perform Beijing opera.



Information

Dadaocheng Theatre 大稻埕戲院

Add: 8/9F, 21, Sec. 1, Dihua St. (迪化街1段21號8、9樓)

Tel: (02) 2556-9101

Website: www.tmseh.taipei.gov.tw

Transportation:

From Taipei Main Station, take bus No. 274, 539, 641, or 669 to Nanjing W. Rd. intersection (南京西路口); take bus No. 660 to Taipei City Hospital Zhongxing Branch (聯合醫院中興院區); or take the MRT Danshui Line to Shuanglian Station and transfer to a No. Red 33 bus, getting off at the Dihua St. (迪化街) stop.

Free Wireless Access, Taipei Travel with Seamless Mobility

Being able to go online while moving around is one of the ultimate perks in making a city world-class. Yes, you've guessed it, Taipei is set to become even more user-friendly as of July with the launch of its "Taipei Free Public Wi-Fi Access" (臺北公眾區免費無線上網服務), allowing you to roam this city without boundary and without limit but with a world of information instantaneously available.

Currently in Asia, Hong Kong and Singapore offer free wireless public Internet access in selected areas. Taipei's free wireless network signal coverage will surpass these models this year, markedly improving the travel experience for visiting tourists.



TPE-Free in Two Phases

To ensure information security and facilitate account management, tourists from overseas can go to the visitor information center at the Taipei International Airport or any scenic site, or to the service counter at any major Taipei tourist hotel, 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 facility in the city. Expatriates resident 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.

Among the many public locations where wireless Internet access can be enjoyed starting in July: Taipei City Hall, the 12 city administrative district offices, all city libraries, all Taipei City Hospital complexes, and all Taipei Metro stations and Taipei Metro underground shopping malls.

The second phase of the service will go into operation before October, when the free wireless network will be expanded to include outdoor open areas and city buses. Steady expansion will continue afterwards with the incorporation of places where large numbers of people often gather such as public parks and other expansive outdoor venues.

MOTA at Your Service

In Sep. 2009, the city government unveiled the popular MOTA, or Map of Taipei Amusement (趣遊臺北地圖), which uses location-based services (LBS) to provide users practical information on travel and living for every corner of the city. Access to mota.taipei.gov.tw is via website, mobile phone, and special touch-screen kiosks set up at points of interest throughout the city.

1. The TPE-Free service makes life in Taipei even more relaxed and agreeable.
2. The MOTA function provide users with practical transportation information and map guides.
3. Using TPE-Free, you can handle your work wherever you are in the city, whatever the time.
4. Your mobile phone gives you instant access to a wonderfully wide range of useful information.

Currently, the majority of users are utilizing the popular Apple iPhone and Google Android smart-phone platforms. Access

to the MOTA website brings immediate access to all sorts of information, and the city govt. also provides the special Map of Taipei Amusement app. After downloading, you go on the website and determine your position; a wealth of transportation information and map guidance then becomes available to you. After you get to any tourist site you've decided to visit, visit the MOTA website for a map of the surrounding area, giving you a quick and easy-to-grasp picture of nearby dining and shopping options and helping you determine the best route planning—walking, bus, bicycle, self-drive, alone or in combination.

Taiwan's warm hospitality is known far from its shores, and the Taipei City Govt. works systematically to make this an ever more tech-friendly city. The goal is to make all the information you need available to you the moment you need it, wherever you are and however you're moving around; the seamless TPE-Free system puts a world of dining, transportation, and entertainment information at your fingertips. The good life is being made even better, thanks to the best in high-tech wizardry. 



Taipei City Govt. Department of Information Technology: www.doit.taipei.gov.tw

Map of Taipei Amusement (MOTA): mota.taipei.gov.tw

London's Unmatched Creative Panache

The Super Contemporary Exhibition



If you were given the chance to do some small re-designing of the face of the city, what would you do? Super Contemporary—Design in London: A Touring Exhibition from the Design Museum, London (英國超當代設計展) has an ultra-creative idea or two that you can build on.

Organized in complement to the 2011 IDA Congress Taipei (2011臺北世界設計大會) and the designation of this as the Taiwan Year of Design, the Taipei Museum of Fine Arts is restaging an exhibit originally held in England that showcases 15 of London's most influential creative designers.

These outside-the-box thinkers will strut their most innovative stuff on the Taipei stage starting at the end of August—fashion, architecture, merchandise, household furniture, etc.—in a grand showcase of London's renowned bold and fearless originality and its vanguard experimentation.



The theme of the original exhibition was “How to Make London a Better Place,” with the designers having a go at everything from garbage bins to telephone booths to bus kiosks and famous public spaces. London underwent a thorough theoretical makeover. The works were originally shown at the Design Museum, London in 2009, the exhibition called simply Super Contemporary, with interactive installations works, sculptures, and merchandise also displayed in storefronts and public spaces, giving birth to a unity of the design industry and people's everyday lives.

So what will you be seeing at the Taipei Fine Arts Museum? Renowned fashion designer Paul Smith has forsaken his usual concentration on chic clothing, instead turning to an eco-protection theme and a dose of humor with *New London Rubbish Bin*, giving birth to a garbage bin in the shape of a rabbit that stands almost 1.5 meters tall. Toss in some rubbish and the rabbit's ears light up, flashing in thanks. Eco-friendly behavior is thus gently encouraged without resort to hectoring or being didactic, the child-at-heart master designer taking a playful yet heartfelt approach to keeping a city clean.

Ross Phillips is renowned for his experimental work with video. His work for this project is entitled *Head to Toe*. “London is a unique melting pot of cultures and peoples of different ethnicity,” and Phillips made the capture of the human body his object here. For *Head to Toe*, an interactive installation,



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four pods were set up around London taking short digital videos of the heads, bodies, or legs of people standing in front. Viewers then taking in the installations could then flick through the videos and mix or match body parts at random. Pods were set up at places with heavy foot traffic—Selfridges dept. store, Covent Garden, and the flagship Apple Store. A veritable digital-video theater of the absurd was created, with the ultimate idea behind systematically dismembering us as individuals being to show how we are all human. This reality-redefining experience is now made available to you at the Taipei Fine Arts Museum.

Among the other inventive reconceptions of everyday reality you can meditate over are the architect Thomas Heatherwick's *Lamp Post Chandelier*, using the common streetlamp as inspiration; the *K9 Post Office Kiosk*, created by the acclaimed Industrial Facility design team known for its elegantly minimalist household furniture and other everyday-product gems. The kiosk's inspiration derives from London's iconic red telephone booth, making the booth a functional shop and making it a more integral part of local community life.

Come August 27, Taipei will be looking across land and sea straight at the design heart of “cool London.” There's a terrific menu of food for

thought being presented at this show, for the local designers of our everyday reality and for you and me, the ones who will be living in it. 

1. Paul Smith's green rabbit garbage bin uses a dash of humor to encourage eco-friendly behavior.
2. Tom Dixon took out out engine and exhaust-system parts from England's iconic Bentley and reconfigured the model for eco-friendly battery use.
3. Ross Phillips set up installations around London, took shots of passersby, and mixed their body parts in intriguing reconfigurations to symbolize the mix of nations and peoples in big modern cities.
4. The Industrial Facility design team took an iconic British phone booth and transformed it into a miniature unmanned post office with video links to live post-office personnel.
5. Architect Thomas Heatherwick, using the traditional street lamp as inspiration, used exaggerated twisting and contortion to create a work resembling a wood sculpture.

Information

**Super Contemporary—Design in London:
A Touring Exhibition from the Design
Museum, London** 英國超當代設計展

Time: 8/27~11/27

Venue: Taipei Fine Arts Museum (臺北市立美術館)

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

Tel: (02) 2595-7656

Website: www.tfam.museum

Goods of Fine Design + Fine Shops — A Design Just Right for the IDA Congress

What in the world is an “Incense-Strolling Cup” (躡香杯)? It's not a newfangled way to drink your fine Taiwan tea, but a novel way to experience the fragrance of tea essence. For another new take on a familiar image, try this: Take a couple of red-crowned cranes standing in their elegant manner, pluck out their long, straight legs, and what have you got? Why, chopsticks of course!

These and many other novel items are flowing from the creativity banks of this Treasure Island, Taiwan. They add a little extra spice to our lives and, as it happens, are superb promotions for the great flow of creative energy to be witnessed at the 2011 International Design Alliance (IDA) Congress Taipei.

The Aesthetics of Fun—Goods of Good Design

This year is both the Republic of China centennial and the Year of Taiwan Design, and to celebrate the staging of the prestigious IDA Congress in the country's preeminent city this October, Taipei will be unveiling a steady stream of creative activities.

1. Taiwan's creative merchandise has earned a place on the global stage, and for the 2011 IDA Congress 100 of the best-designed creations will be on view and for sale at Eslite Bookstore's O.H.L. space and other retail locations.
2. Here's a red-crowned crane from which chopsticks can be plucked; stick them back in and the crane is back, an attractive holder foreign tourists will love.
3. The Incense-Strolling Cup has a lid with a branch-shaped fragrance-release aperture that allows your tea's fragrance to waft forth.
4. The Pengpai Bowl is filled to the brim with images of mushrooms, shrimp, etc., symbolizing Taiwan's rich culture of hospitality.
5. The 41 Furnishings Gallery's “Child's Play” seats, made with wood left natural.
6. The Booday concept advocates humanity, localization, and LOHAS.



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Seeking to spread an awareness of fine aesthetics among the general public starting in 2009, the Taiwan Design Center (台灣創意設計中心) began the process of selecting 100 representative good-design merchandise items for this year's congress, and of having these vetted and authorized for the event. These products will also do much to promote Taiwan's image for creative product design abroad. Among the 100 designs are food products (packaging), daily use articles, office stationery, toys, souvenir goods, 3C products and bags, apparel, and accessories. The collection is one of refined workmanship, ingenuity, and beauty, and one that will be of stellar service in promoting Taiwan's design and the creative living industry.

These official merchandise items, along with a rich catalog of other Taiwan cultural-creative merchandise, are available for browsing and purchase at a league of design stores. Among these is the well-known O.H.L. (Office.Home.Life.) space at the Dunhua S. Rd. (敦化南路) branch of the Eslite Bookstore chain, which sets out its army of over 100 cultural-creative wares in a gallery-like setting.

“A Little Round-Round Land” (小小的旋轉樂園) is a coffee cup with a pleasing twist. The glaze on the ceramic cup exterior is mirror-like, reflecting the merry-go-round characters on the inside of the accompanying saucer. Turn the saucer under your cup and your spirits are instantly uplifted. “The Incense-Strolling Cup” has a lid fitted with a fragrance-release aperture in the shape of a branch that allows the fragrance of your tea to still waft forth even when you can't stop to lift the lid for a sip. The “Pengpai Bowl” (澎湃碗) is a porcelain bowl with patterns in the iconic blue and white porcelain style; except the patterns here are food. Pengpai means “surge,” representing the image of a bowl brimming with tasty morsels.

The Search for Originality—Design Spot

The secrets of Taiwan creative originality are not only on display in each product of marvelous design—they are on display in each displayer as well. The Taiwan Design Center has brought its strict evaluation standards to the selection of Taipei's 40 best creative-design stores for highlighting on the Design Spot (設計好站) website.

Among these is Lovely Taiwan (台灣好·店), which serves as a fair-trade platform for items crafted in remote communities and indigenous villages. Another is 1914 Connection, a venue for innovative gift item creations by Taiwan's edgiest contemporary designers, which is located at Huashan 1914 Creative Park (華山1914創意文化園區) in the old brewery site's renovated garage workshop. Among the other lights in this stellar group are Dragonfly Gallery (清庭), a design shop of international caliber and repute, 41 Furnishings Gallery (四一玩作), which focuses on natural



materials and textures, and Au.Dot (華元創意), paper, and Booday (蘑菇). These spots are where you find Taiwan's most dynamic creativity and authentic native soil culture being blended into something—many things, actually—distinctively and appealingly new.

For more details on these and other stores, visit Design Spot at designspot.boco.com.tw. Just a few finger taps away, this invaluable portal brings bricks-and-mortar sellers of top-quality creative merchandise right to your doorstep. 📍

Information

2011 IDA Congress Taipei Official Merchandise

2011 臺北世界設計大會授權商品

Tel: (02) 2745-8199

Website: www.2011ida.com/product.asp

Eslite Bookstore Dunhua S. Branch O.H.L.

誠品敦南店 O.H.L.

Add: B2, 245, Sec. 1, Dunhua S. Rd.
(敦化南路1段245號地下2樓)

Tel: (02) 2775-5977

Design Spot 設計好站

Website: designspot.boco.com.tw

AFTERNOON TEA, ANYONE? THE FRUITY TAIPEI WAY

Summer means heat in Taipei. But it also means fruits in kaleidoscopic colors, fragrance, and taste. Enjoy them in jubilant variety—in floral teas, in fruity sweets and desserts—their bright character declaring you free from any steamy summer doldrums.

Hana Café—Sweet Flower and Fruit Trysts

Hana Café, tucked away down the lanes and alleys of a local neighborhood, is centered on a lovely little garden of distinctive character. Spread throughout the interior, in a fetching display, are goods sourced from France, England, Japan, and elsewhere, perfectly complementing the floor, bay windows, doors, and small round tables—all made of wood. The scene is as though lifted from a small French countryside village; its charm is an especially big hit among female clientele.

Among Hana Café's delectable menu items are thick waffles in the shape of the petals of a flower that are piled high with layer after layer of fruit, with ice-cream and cream piled atop that. It's a happy and colorful little work of art that is brought to life. The "Mango

Waffle" is a summer specialty; the waffle's exterior is brittle and the innards are soft, and piled high in sequence are first mango ice-cream, then cream, followed by mango slices and fresh, natural vanilla. This is a sweet confection so perfect that you'll think this is what the angels in heaven eat all day long in place of manna. This confection's best friend on the menu is the "Mango Smoothie," made with mango paste, condensed milk, and fresh mango chunks, a heavenly choice for dispelling the summer steaminess.

Hana's store manager also recommends the "English Afternoon Tea Set Meal for One," a special mini-meal offering that brings you a salad, hamburger, cake, caramel pudding, macaroon, two-serving fruit tower, ice-cream, and cookies/biscuits. This is an afternoon pastime that is bright in presentation and light in calories. Another choice is the "Seasonal Fruit Tea," your pot of tea coming with slices of apple, orange, tangerine, pineapple, honey peach, and other seasonal fruits, the sweet idea attracting many clutches of ladies who come to wile away an afternoon.

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Melange Café—Oasis of Aromatic Fragrances

Melange Café (米朗琪咖啡館), opened a little over 10 years ago, is dedicated to introducing only the best coffees from around the globe, and it is quite common to see a line-up before the doors. The décor is modern, with simple and clean lines, and there is a half-open kitchen, allowing the views and the aromas of your coffee and foods being prepared to drift forth. The air is constantly one of fine coffees and delicious baked goods, the recipe for pure, unadulterated contentment.

The doors are swung open daily at 7 am, and even so it is recommended that you arrive early. The early-morning air is dense with wisps of the various upscale coffees from the world's great bean-growing areas as the owner prepares for the day, and specially recommended are the one-of-a-kind signature ice-drip coffees and Micro Lot coffees, heavy, rich, and full with wisps of flowery fragrance.

In the store's early days, its popular range of waffles was meant to play only a subordinate role to the big star, the coffees. But they have acquired a stellar reputation all on their own, with delectable

inventions such as the Strawberry Cream Waffle bringing in its own fan base. This waffle has a crispy shell, soft and yummy insides, and is covered in caramel, condensed milk, fresh strawberries, custard cream sauce, and vanilla ice-cream. The Fruit Waffle comes with chunks of seasonal fruits, ice-cream, jam, and cream in a glass, accompanied by four thick waffle sections. Its hearty, pretty, and tasty all piled into one. Your fruit-theme repast is completed with the house's signature fruit tea, which has chunks of apples, oranges, passion fruits, kumquat, and pineapples mixed with preserved plum—refreshing fruit salad in liquid form.



1. Hana Café's Mango Waffle has thick waffle sections in the shape of petals, and has mango slices, ice-cream, fresh cream piled atop—an artwork that sets hearts racing.
2. Hana Café displays items from France, England, Japan, and elsewhere, the overall mood that of a French countryside village.
3. Hana Café's single-person afternoon tea set menu features a suite of nine miniature food treats, satisfying both eye and palate.
- 4-5. Melange Café uses fresh seasonal varieties in its fruit waffles and fruit teas, its current offerings ripe with the refreshing tastes of summer.



When Tart Pastry Meets Fruit Medleys— Orchard Sweets

Orchard Sweets (菓本多田) is a bright spot overflow with touches of Japanese cuteness. Its specialty is bringing together short crust tart pastry, fruits, and cake in delicious combination. The tart pastry shells here are multi-layered and multi-textured, with the skin crispy and crumbly in the French puff pastry style, thick and chewy. There are many flavors for the treats, which are prepared in a way resembling that for macaroons, such as one made with almond and egg white. Good, sweet things such as chunks of seasonal fruits, fruit puree, and fruit mousse are added in for good fun and good taste. Your confection is both a sight and a flavor symphony.



On top of the shell for the “Hawaii Passion Fruit Tart” is strawberry, kiwi, banana, papaya, sweet orange, grapefruit, and other fruits. Inside the shell is fluffy vanilla chiffon cake with passion-fruit mousse. The dense fruit brings just a hint of acidity. This confection ranges freely over the flavor fields and is justifiably a best-seller.

The “Lychee Beauty Fruit Tart” is a summertime seasonal special. The freshest-possible mango, Hami melon, lychee, strawberry, and apple dance together in chunky-fruit heaven, and the filling is even more heavenly, rich in cream, custard made with fresh vanilla, and lychee slices—all the sweetest things of summer packaged together.

More Romancing with Fruits at Afternoon Tea Tearoom

The Afternoon Tea Tearoom is located in department stores, featuring a bright and cool ambiance, with its greatest attraction—the popular and authentic—English afternoon tea. There is an impressive array of cakes, sweets, and light foods to choose from. The attractive combination makes this a lovely spot to relax and rest after one round of serious shopping before your next.



The very popular “Banana and Kiwi Fruit Zuccotto Roll Cake” contains a rolled-up layer of cream that itself contains tasty bits of almond and chocolate. Additional embellishments are flavor-rich caramel banana, kiwi fruit, and raspberry. Each bite brings a burst of nutty and fruity pleasure. Another great choice is the “Berry Chiffon Cake” ; the cake is soft as silk, with the dried cranberries bringing mini explosions of sour and sweet.

In summer only, the limited-edition Mango Tart and “Citrus Jelly” are rare and much-in-demand treasures. Atop the Mango Tart are fresh slices of mango and red currants, and inside is rich and juicy hand-made custard floating with coconut milk and sweet coconut bits. The scrumptious base for all this is the thick and crumbly almond-flavored tart shell, and each bite of this confection brings you the tastes of the Taiwan summer, the fresh-fruit paradise island of milk and honey. For the Citrus Jelly, the syrup used is made from the elderflower and the sauce from boiled oranges and tangerines, making for the healthiest of jelly treats.

Still not on intimate terms with the kaleidoscopic orchard of fruits that defines the Taiwan summer? Let the love affair begin! 🍓



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Information

Hana Café

Add: 14, Alley 33, Lane 216, Sec. 4, Zhongxiao E. Rd.
(忠孝東路4段216巷33弄14號)

Tel: (02) 2711-0933

Melange Café 米朗琪咖啡館

Add: 23, Lane 16, Sec. 2, Zhongshan N. Rd.
(中山北路2段16巷23號)

Tel: (02) 2567-3787

Orchard Sweets 菓本多田

Add: 41, Lane 290, Guangfu S. Rd.
(光復南路290巷41號)

Tel: (02) 2778-0089

Afternoon Tea Tearoom

Add: 2F, 14 Nanjing W. Rd. ; Shin Kong Mitsukoshi
Nanjing West branch, Hall 2; (南京西路14號2樓;
新光三越南西店2館)

Tel: (02) 2562-3966

6. Orchard Sweets brings together shortcrust tart pastry, fruits, and cake in myriad delicious combinations.
7. Among the hottest sellers at Orchard Sweets are the Hawaii Fruit Romance and Lychee Beauty Fruit Tart, topped with many luscious seasonal fruits.
8. The Lychee Beauty Fruit Tart has many fresh fruits chunks, cream, custard, and lychee slices, in a sweet symphony of summer.
- 9-10. Afternoon Tea Tearoom is in a dept. store, perfects for shopping passersby to drop in and rest a bit with a spot of refreshing afternoon tea with cakes and other sweet things.
11. The Banana and Kiwi Fruit Zuccotto Roll Cake at Afternoon Tea Tearoom has a big fan club.

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HAND-CRAFTED CHOCOLATES, CHOCK-FULL OF SWEET SENTIMENT

The seventh day of the seventh lunar month is Chinese

Valentine's Day. It's coming up fast, so have you thought about what you want to get for the love of your life yet? Taipei folks have developed a sweet passion for quality hand-made chocolates, packed full of ingenuity and luscious flavor—and a sure-fire stimulant for sweet romantic passions on Valentine's.

Chocolate Featuring the Tastes of Taiwan and the Tastes of Love

A stroll along Jinhua St. (金華街) brings you to Lovely Cocoa (幸福可可), an attractive boutique store where the air is suffused with the fragrance of bliss. The signature goodie here is the “Macadamia Nut Basket” (夏威夷果籃), with macadamia nut and cranberry used as the filling, and the sweet-sour cranberry paste wrapped around the crunchy nut, creating great taste, pleasant aftertaste, and delicious memories.

The master confectioners at Lovely Cocoa use a delicious range of Taiwan-sourced ingredients to create the shop's impressive range of flavor options, building on France's Valrhona and Michel Cluizel as the chocolate foundations. Among the tasty ingredients are Taiwan's organic rose, Kinmen Kaoliang (sorghum) Liquor (金門高粱酒), lemon, and Yuchi Ruby Black Tea (Taiwan Cultivar No. 18; 魚池台18號紅玉紅茶). The silky smoothness of the rich



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chocolate paired in dances of ever-changing partners with these items creates delectable romantic trysts of the palate. You can have these Taiwan flavor-journey sweets ingrained in lovely gift-boxes, with a picture of you and your sweetheart—made of chocolate too!—inserted in the box as the perfect Valentine's Day gift.

The Prescription for True Love—Flowers, Spirits, Chocolate

You'll find the chocolatier April's (花愛) close to MRT Taipei City Hall Station. Here the baking of sweet things is carried on in the French way, and the chocolates are, in classic French fashion, dainty and beautiful on the outside and plump, moist, rich, and a burst of flavors on the inside. The proprietors said that woman is like the flower and man is like spirits, and so have concocted chocolates with the perfect balance of flower and spirits essence to capture the delicious mellow fragrance of romantic love. The shop's hot-selling line of freshly-made chocolates contain 72% dark Belgian chocolate, perfected with differing blends of wines and spirits, fresh butters and creams, and flower essence.

Summer ingenuity is in full flower with the shop's fruit and floral fragrance series, featuring chocolates that come with such charming and enticing pairings as strawberry and mint, passion fruit and rosemary, and blueberry with lavender. Both the look and the taste of these little treasures are works of art. Another treasure sure to capture a woman's heart is an alluring jewel



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box in the shape of a heart that is hand-crafted using white and dark chocolates; open the box and your significant other finds it filled with dainty, highly aromatic chocolates. It is said that the way to a man's heart is through his stomach; April's knows the way to a woman's heart is through her heart.

Chocolate Meets the Flavors of the Orient—A Love Song

Just a short distance from Taiwan Normal University (臺灣師範大學), the distinctively-named NSKDCHOCO Shop (七見櫻堂) is a very little place with very big ambitions. Its main goal is to take the sweetness and heaviness of chocolate and find the right balance for local palates, which prefer more moderate taste and texture for their chocolate. European chocolates are used, notably Lindt & Sprüngli, Valrhona, and Carma, and amongst the most popular series is the “Matcha (Powdered Tea) Chocolates” (抹茶巧克力), with powdered tea mixed into the 65% bitter chocolate. The double-layered texture is complemented with the light creaminess of white chocolate. For obvious reason, this series is a big hit with ladies.

The shop specially recommends its spirits-based chocolates for Valentine's. At the top of this list are its “Cherry Brandy” (櫻桃白蘭地) chocolates, “Bailey's Irish Cream Chocolates” (愛爾蘭奶酒巧克力), with double-color shells made of white and dark chocolate, and “White Plum Wine Chocolates” (白梅酒巧克力), which contain both the sweet wine and the flesh of the fruit. The duet of aromatic

spirits and head-strong chocolate is one that creates sensual and lingering tactile teasing.

So, how will you be pleasing the love of your life this Chinese Valentine's? You cannot go wrong with any of the treats introduced above, all sure to be sources of pleasant surprises and long-lingering sweet feelings.

A friendly word of advice: drink moderately! 🍷

1. Lovely Cocoa has lovely gift-boxes embellished with a chocolate imprint of a photo of you and your honey, the perfect Valentine's Day gift.
- 2-3. Two much-in-demand April's specialties are hand-crafted, hollowed-out treasure boxes made of chocolate, along with “Imperial Seal” chocolate gift-boxes made with French chocolate infused with unique Taiwan Androia cinnamomea powder.
4. Lovely Cocoa's macadamia nut chocolates and pillow-shaped mocha chocolates.
5. There is constant demand for NSKDCHOCO Shop's wide-ranging line of spirits chocolates and powdered green tea chocolates.

Information

Lovely Cocoa 幸福可可

Add: 120-1 Jinhua St. (金華街120-1號)

Tel: (02) 3393-6066

April's 花愛

Add: 10, Alley 16, Lane 553, Sec. 4, Zhongxiao E. Rd. (忠孝東路4段553巷16弄10號)

Tel: (02) 2763-0599

NSKDCHOCO Shop 七見櫻堂

Add: 2-1 Taishun St. (泰順街2-1號)

Tel: (02) 2364-5593

Monga Nostalgia+ Zhongshan/Beitou Diversions

Taipei Pass Classic Self-Guided Tours



The comprehensive Taipei MRT system and its interconnected bus network offer local travel at its most pleasant and convenient for city visitors. To make your Taipei visit even more rewarding, the city's Dept. of Information and Tourism has created the "Taipei Pass Self-Guided Tour and Preferential Coupon Pamphlet" (臺北觀光護照自由行推薦遊程暨優惠券摺頁), which you can pick up free when you purchase a Taipei Pass. The coupons will bring you great deals on things to eat, drink, do, and buy, and on the trip we set out for you below, a one-day outing with two quite distinctive sections, you can take the fullest advantage of both the pass and the coupon booklet.

MONGA NOSTALGIA TOUR

Route: Monga (Zhou's Meat Congee, Bopiliao Historic Block, Longshan Temple) → Ximending (The Red House, Shanghai Laotienlu, Fongda Coffee, Chengdu Starfruit Ice) → Qsquare → PALAIS de CHINE Hotel

If a nostalgia tour of Taipei's historical core is your goal, Monga (艋舺) is indeed your goal. "Monga" is the old Taiwanese name for the Mandarin district name Wanhua (萬華), still used by most Taiwanese speakers. Whether it's old-time architecture or beloved old-time

food treats, this is a treasure vault of the pleasures that history still extant brings. History is alive and well here, running like a deep current through the local population's veins, through their old shops, through their old buildings, through their art spaces. West Taipei means old Taipei, and this is where life in this city first took place.

The Flavors of History on a Monga Ramble

Every good day should start with a good breakfast, which Zhou's Meat Congee (周記肉粥) happens to serve up with a tasty side dish of historical roots. From Exit No. 3 of MRT Longshan Temple Station, turn right and head along Guangzhou St. (廣州街) for about five minutes to Zhou's, which was opened way back in 1956. Its signature dish today is still prepared exactly as it was back then, with the savory congee coming with a light broth accompanied by side dishes of fresh, crispy pickled vegetables. You'll see many a Taipei old-timer sauntering in for their familiar and cherished old-style breakfast.

After breakfast, the time has come for a leisurely exploration of Bopiliao Historic Block (剝皮寮歷史街區), located directly across the street. Bopiliao is a rare survivor from Qing Dynasty days, with a complete street section and many well-preserved old buildings intimately linked to the everyday lives of yesteryear's commoners. There are heritage shops from the Qing Dynasty, a hostel from the Japanese colonial era (1895-1945), a public bath, and other gems from times past. A walk through the block is a walk through an urban landscape spread over 200 years; to learn more, please visit the attractive Heritage & Culture Education Center of Taipei (臺北市鄉土教育中心).

Walking back along Guangzhou St. toward the MRT station, you will come across the resplendent, venerable Longshan Temple (龍山寺), a hive of community activities and a priceless storehouse of its history. A wonderful example of intricate temple decoration artistry here is the main deity Guanyin (觀世音菩薩), a Buddhist icon known as the Goddess of Mercy. This is also home to other deities often approached for help, including Guan Gong (關公), the God of War, and Old Man Under the Moon (月下老人), the Chinese Cupid—over 100 gods in total. Take time to closely enjoy the elaborate carvings on walls and columns, at what has been the center of Monga's religious and social life for 200 years.



Old Meets New in the Streetscapes of Ximending

After taking in Longshan Temple's many pleasures, the next historic neighborhood is just one station away on the Taipei Metro. Ximending (西門町) was designed specifically as an entertainment and recreation quarter by the Japanese when they ruled Taiwan and, as a result, is home to the complex that housed Taiwan's first modern market, which today is called The Red House (西門紅樓). There is a theatre, a tea room, restaurants, and a creative-design market—a heritage complex that has enjoyed a thoroughgoing renaissance.

- 1-2. Monga's Bopiliao Historic Block and Longshan Temple are superb examples of historical architecture, filled with a sense of nostalgia.
3. Opened over 50 years ago, Zhou's Meat Congee fills old-timers' desire for the tastes of the past.
4. The architecture and relics in Bopiliao Historic Block are reflections of the life of common folk in times past.
5. The lobby area at The Red House heritage site features numerous old photos providing a portal into the past.

Leaving The Red House, you almost immediately see the Chengdu Starfruit Ice (成都楊桃冰) outside the MRT Ximending Station's Exit No. 6. In place over 40 years and with a steady flow of loyal customers, the starfruit here is plump and flavor-packed, the juices bring you through memorable rounds of refreshing sour, savory, and sweet then back again.

A few minutes further along Chengdu Rd. (成都路), you arrive at Fongda Coffee (蜂大咖啡). Have a taste of the ice drip coffee here. The place where this method was first used in Taipei was 40 years ago. The many decorations in the shop are rich with the air of nostalgia and is the main reason, beyond the coffee itself, why this is such a popular meeting spot for long-time Taipei residents. A few doors further on is Shanghai Laotienlu (上海老天祿), long a famed drop-in point for folks who've come to Ximending for a day or a night of shopping and movie-watching. What brings them here is great old-time food treats such as duck wings, duck tongue, and dried beancurd, made by others but with flavors here that devotees swear are never quite equaled.

Chic Fashion around Taipei Main Station

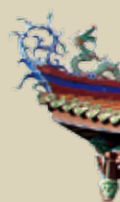
As night falls, take the Taipei Metro to MRT Taipei Main Station. Connected to the station by underground corridor is Qsquare (京站時尚廣場), one of the new breed of giant Taipei retail spaces that has quickly

emerged as one of the city's most popular consumer R&R destinations. On the B1 level is the "Q Shopping Alley" (Q小路), a space lined with shops that will remind you of Tokyo's Shinjuku district, dedicated to the young consumer with passionate need for the latest mass distribution of fashions, enabling individualized self-expression.

The upscale PALAIS de CHINE Hotel (君品酒店) is an unusual work of architecture, sharing the same building with the Taipei Bus Station (臺北轉運站), designed by acclaimed architect Ray Chen (陳瑞憲), who has also brought Taipei and Taiwan the chic, industry-defining Eslite Bookstore chain. Eastern art and Western aesthetics are combined here in an architectural beauty that features a soaring lobby, simple and elegant walls of fine wood, and everywhere the cultured feel of a palatial European chateau of noble times. The La Rotisserie (雲軒) restaurant on the 6th floor treats you to sumptuous grilled delicacies and the classics of southern France village life. Luxurious rooms and refined dining ensure a brand-new you on departure.



6. Chengdu Starfruit Ice serves up delicious, refreshing shaved-ice treats faithful to old-time flavors.
7. The soy-braised delicacies at Shanghai Laotienlu are renowned in Ximending and far beyond.
8. Q Shopping Alley, on the B1 level at Qsquare, attracts young shoppers on the hunt for the latest chic fashions.
9. The European-style lobby at the PALAIS de CHINE Hotel, done in chateau style, is elegance defined.
10. Fongda Coffee pioneered ice drip coffee 40 years ago, complemented today with all kinds of cookies and confectionaries.



HAPPY TRAVELS IN ZHONGSHAN AND BEITOU DISTRICTS

Route: Taipei Confucius Temple, Dalongdong Baoan Temple→The Grand Hotel→Chiang Kai-shek Shilin Residence→National Palace Museum→Beitou Hot Springs Museum, Plum Garden, Wenquan Rd. Special Shops→Kyoto Spring Hotel



11

If what you're looking for in a day-outing is time spent exploring both the wonders of Chinese culture and of Mother Nature in equal measure, time spent in the city's north is a splendid choice. The essence of traditional Chinese culture is alive and thriving at the Taipei Confucius Temple (臺北市孔廟) and Dalongdong Baoan Temple (大龍峒保安宮), among the immaculately sculpted floral landscape grounds of the Chiang Kai-shek Shilin Residence (士林官邸), in the priceless national treasures housed in the National Palace Museum (故宮博物院), and in the cultured environment of the Beitou (北投) hot-springs resort district. These places, by no coincidence, are the gems at the center of our suggested culture and history tour.

A Culture and History Pilgrimage to Dalongdong

Morning time is the right time for inspections of Confucius Temple and Baoan Temple, where the new day's light warms you and also bathes the intricate decorative work of these celebrated heritage sites in rich textures perfect for photos. Taipei Confucius Temple is one of the world's most important centers for the preservation and propagation of the Confucian culture, and is also an important repository of ancient Chinese

palace-style temple architecture, harboring strong southeast China (Fujianese) elements. Until July 23, you can see performances of the ancient Ya Yue Dance (雅樂舞) as well as calligraphy-experience activities. Adjacent Baoan Temple is renowned for its grandiosity and magnificently colorful decorative details, notably its koji pottery, its lifelike ceramic sculptures and exquisite wood carvings.

Next up is The Grand Hotel (圓山大飯店), not far away and quickly reached by bus, which first opened its doors almost 60 years ago. The hotel stands overlooking the downtown area atop a mountain spur, tall and erect like a half-mountain itself, one of the city's best-known landmarks and an important element in Taiwan's modern history. Soaring 14 stories in the Chinese palace style, it is decorated with almost 200,000 deftly crafted dragon carvings—and thus for good reason given the lovely nickname “The Dragon Palace” (龍宮). It has a number of the city's premier restaurants, with Yuan Yuan (圓苑), specializing in north China snacking delicacies, perhaps best known for its red-bean cakes, which were loved in the old days by First Lady Soong Meiling. The cakes, with a soft and slippery exterior and plump red-date filling, today remain a favorite with gourmet patrons.



12

11. The Grand Hotel's famed red-bean cakes were the passion of ROC First Lady Soong Meiling.

12. Taipei Confucius Temple is a fine example of classic temple architecture in the Chinese Palace style, with south Fujian elements masterfully blended in.

A Walk in the Park and a Treasure Vault Tour

After your hotel visit, hop on an MRT train for a quick ride to MRT Shilin Station. From there, enjoy the short walk to the Chiang Kai-shek Shilin Residence. The expansive grounds here are carefully sculpted in Chinese style, with such touches as small arch bridges, gurgling waters, unusually sculpted rocks, and breezy pavilions. These are embellished with large flower gardens in Western style, with all sorts of pretty varieties on proud display. There is a small hill amidst



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all this that is capped with a comfortable pavilion that gives you fine views all the way to the Danshui River and Shezi Island (社子島), and you can also visit the main building of the residence for a look back into history and into the lives of Generalissimo Chiang and Madame Soong.

Zhongshan N. Rd. (中山北路) runs along one side of the residence's grounds; here you can catch a bus and head northwards directly to Beitou, or take a bus on a little diversion to the east and to the National Palace Museum, home to the world's greatest collection of art treasures and historical relics. The museum experience, and the memories you'll have stored for safekeeping forever after will be priceless. These memories come in physical form as well, in the large and attractive souvenir store, where clever merchandise is designed in the shape of the museum's greatest and most beloved works.

It's "Beitou Ho!" for Hot-Springs, Hot-Springs Cuisine, Fine Architecture

To get to the old hill-embraced section of Beitou, teeming with hot-springs resorts and exuding a strong community feel, either take a bus to Beitou Park (北投公園) or ride the metro to the MRT Xinbeitou Station. In the park beside Zhongshan Rd. (中山路), which is just a minute or two from the station on foot, is the picturesque Beitou Hot Springs Museum (北投溫泉博物館). This was originally a public bathhouse, built during the Japanese period, featuring a pronounced wood theme. The facility

is today a national heritage site, with displays explaining the historical development of the Beitou hot-springs culture.

Adjacent is the Japanese-style Plum Garden (梅庭) villa built of wood, a city heritage site and once the summer residence of former Control Yuan president and renowned calligraphy master Yu Youren (于右任). In the courtyard is a pretty fountain and pool, with the grounds clothed in thick foliage and, most notably, age-old trees of great character. Inside are vivid samples of famously bold and vigorous calligraphic art, in the cursive style.

Next, walk uphill along the park's other side, along Wenquan Rd. (溫泉路), passing many small shops on the right each showing off its own rich and interesting style, and you'll come to the Kyoto Spring Hotel (京都溫泉行館). On the left, there is a hot-spring resort with a heavy air of Japanese nostalgia and a history of 30 years. There's no better place to end this day's excursion, surrounded by tranquility and embraced by the soothing mineral waters and fond memories already taking shape. 📍



15 16



17 18



13. The main residence at CKS Shilin Residence preserves an idea of everyday life as lived by Generalissimo Chiang Kaishek and his First Lady.
14. The expansive and attractive souvenir shop at the National Palace Museum has clever memento items in the shape of its most famous treasures.
15. Originally built as a public bathhouse by the Japanese, Beitou Hot Springs Museum preserves the original look and ambiance.
16. In Plum Garden you'll find the works and the work artefacts of the great calligraphy master Yu Youren.
17. The Guoshi X · PLACE shop sells hand-made cookies and other items along with handicrafts, bringing a fresh new aroma and style to Beitou.
18. Kyoto Spring Hotel exhibits the Japanese love of simple architectural lines, a wonderful getaway place to soak your worries away in a hot-spring bath.

Taipei Pass

The Taipei Pass is a transportation pass specially created by the city govt. to make the travelers' visits even easier and more convenient—especially valuable for the budget-conscious backpacker.

1. Sales Locations: Available at all MRT stations.

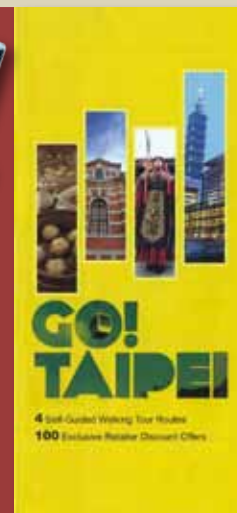
2. Validity Periods: one day (NT\$180), two days (NT\$310), three days (NT\$440), five days (NT\$700); there is also a one-day Maokong Gondola pass available (NT\$250), allowing all regular usage plus unlimited usage of the gondola.

3. Usage: During the specified validity period, brings unlimited use of the Taipei MRT system and of the public bus system in Taipei City and New Taipei City.

4. Preferential Coupons:

Purchase of your one day Taipei Pass brings you the gift of a GO Taipei preferential coupon pamphlet (limited quantity) with recommended tour itineraries and deals on dining, shopping, accommodations, travel, etc., for 32 businesses. If you purchase a 2 days (or above) pass, there will be a coupon pamphlet with 100 businesses. The preferential offers are valid until Dec. 31, 2011, so get out there and start saving!

5. Inquiries: Dial Taipei Citizen Hotline, 1999 (if outside Taipei City, dial (02-2720-8889), ext. 3370



Information

Zhou's Meat Congee 周記肉粥

Add: 104 Guangzhou St. (廣州街104號)

Tel: (02) 2302-5588

Bopiliao Historic Block 剝皮寮歷史街區

Add: 101 Guangzhou St. (廣州街101號)

Tel: (02) 2336-1704

Heritage & Culture Education Center of Taipei

臺北市鄉土教育中心

Open hours: Tue~Sun 09:00~17:00

Longshan Temple 龍山寺

Add: 211 Guangzhou St. (廣州街211號)

Tel: (02) 2302-5162

The Red House 西門紅樓

Add: 10 Chengdu Rd. (成都路10號)

Tel: (02) 2311-9380

Chengdu Starfruit Ice 成都楊桃冰

Add: 3 Chengdu Rd. (成都路3號)

Tel: (02) 2381-0309

Fongda Coffee 蜂大咖啡

Add: 42 Chengdu Rd. (成都路42號)

Tel: (02) 2371-9577

Shanghai Laotienlu 上海老天祿

Add: 56 Chengdu Rd. (成都路56號)

Tel: (02) 2375-7575

Qsquare 京站時尚廣場

Add: 1, Sec. 1, Chengde Rd. (承德路1段1號)

Tel: (02) 2182-8888

PALAIS de CHINE Hotel 君品酒店

Add: 3, Sec. 1, Chengde Rd. (承德路1段3號)

Tel: (02) 2181-9999

Taipei Confucius Temple 臺北市孔廟

Add: 275 Dalong St. (大龍街275號)

Tel: (02) 2592-3934

Dalongdong Baoan Temple 大龍峒保安宮

Add: 61 Hami St. (哈密街61號)

Tel: (02) 2595-1676

The Grand Hotel 圓山大飯店

Add: 1, Sec. 4, Zhongshan N. Rd. (中山北路4段1號)

Tel: (02) 2886-8888

Chiang Kai-shek Shilin Residence 士林官邸

Add: 60 Fulin Rd. (福林路60號)

Tel: (02) 2881-2912

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

Beitou Hot Springs Museum 北投溫泉博物館

Add: 2 Zhongshan Rd. (中山路2號)

Tel: (02) 2893-9981

Plum Garden 梅庭

Add: 6 Zhongshan Rd. (中山路6號)

Tel: (02) 2897-2647

Kyoto Spring Hotel 京都溫泉行館

Add: 105 Wenquan Rd. (溫泉路105號)

Tel: (02) 2891-2151

In Search of Old Taipei

Zhongshan Hall, Yesterday and Today



Taipei is a city rich in heritage architecture. Walking along its streets, you will come across many a fine old structure that—to your pleasant surprise—upon closer inspection has been given a new role to play in the new Taipei on top of its role as a treasure house of historical memories.

One of the grandest oldest places, proudly wearing its near 80 years of history on its façade, is Zhongshan Hall (中山堂). For many years, it was the meeting place for the National Assembly. This year, a major renovation was kicked off in January, and the hall reopened to the public in May. It is now ready to receive an increased number of visitors who've come for the unique ambiance to be found here in the fusion of classic architecture with a modern arts space. The hall is filled with memories of old Taipei, and is busy creating new Taipei memories for tomorrow.

The building, located not far from the Presidential Office Building, has been at center stage in modern Taiwan's history. It was for a time used by the government as a place to receive foreign dignitaries, including US President Nixon. This was also the venue for the formal surrender ceremony of the Japanese to the ROC after the Sino-Japanese War, for the signing of the 1954 Sino-American Mutual Defense Treaty, and for the formal swearing in of the second, third, and fourth President and Vice President of the ROC.

The main architectural theme used in the design of the hall is Spanish Moorish, most notably seen in the archways, high pointed-arch




windows, and geometric brick and tile work on the exterior. Inside, after the recent renovation, all carpeting reflects the tans and moiré pattern seen on the façade. The Zhongzheng Auditorium (中正廳) on the first floor and the Guangfu Auditorium (光復廳) on the second are now fitted out with waiting room areas featuring comfortable sofas and chairs along with LCD displays, making the visitor experience for a stage performance even more pleasant. On the first floor, the heritage iron-grille window has been saved at the ticket booth, and the small area behind has been reserved for waiting patrons. The hall has been made much more barrier-free and has much improved wheelchair access, and now also has service bells and other services.

As you approach the hall's entrance, you are greeted by a foot-wash basin by the doorway. The hall was built during the Japanese colonial period, and used for government functions, so a special area for the cleaning of the feet was specially set up for people to use before they entered the main building area. Faucets and other facilities now once again have their original appearance, evoking an overpowering sense of an era long gone by and very different from ours.

The newly renovated exhibit space is comfortable, bright, and airy, exuding a thoroughly modern feel while still preserving its historical character. In the corridor area of the second floor is The Story of Zhongshan Hall (拼貼堆疊中山堂) exhibit, an informative chronology of both the hall itself and the times amidst which it played a part that is attractively set out in old maps, photos, documents, and even matchboxes.

The years of yesteryear are clearly written for your understanding at Zhongshan Hall. This is the perfect venue for an afternoon of information and meditation, with a soothing cup of coffee in the tranquil first-level arcade or in the classically elegant Fortress Café on the second level. The very flow of the air slows down with soothing jazz, and the cultured ambiance is both thick with the



embrace of nostalgia and with the excitement of things new and modern and yet to be born. 

1. A thorough renovation now complete, the carpets throughout Zhongshan Hall now reflect the site's exterior tans and moiré pattern.
2. There is a rarely seen foot-wash basin by the doorway, used by visitors in the past before entering.
- 3-4. The Story of Zhongshan Hall permanent exhibit has an informative chronology both of the history of the hall and of the city in which it has played such a key role.
- 5-6. The standing exhibit at Zhongshan Hall has bowls used in the hall's restaurant 40 years ago, and displays the graceful dance movements of Taiwan dance pioneer Tsai Juiyueh (right) and famed dancer and choreographer Lin Hwaimin (left).

Information

Taipei Zhongshan Hall 臺北市中山堂

Add: 98 Yanping S. Rd. (延平南路98號)

Tel: (02) 2381-3137

Website: www.csh.taipei.gov.tw

The Story of Zhongshan Hall
拼貼堆疊中山堂

Time: Until 12/31; 10:00 ~17:00

Tours: Sat/Sun 14:00 and 16:00

Tel: (02) 2381-3137, ext. 105





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4



Very Fun Park Set to

“Light Up!” Taipei

1

In this city of increasingly bold and vigorous self-expression, works of art are not just placed away for safekeeping in art museums. They are found down on the streets and down lanes and alleys, with the Very Fun Park (粉樂町) project as a great illustrative example. Each year, the Fubon Art Foundation (富邦藝術基金會) invites a large group of contemporary artists to present works in bright and breezy outdoor street settings and in small bustling shops, bringing art to the people and unexpectedly presenting them with an “art museum without walls” while they are out shopping, walking, and dining. The adage “life is art, and art is life” is realized in the city.

This year, the foundation is focused on the streets of the city's eastern district. The 2011 Very Fun Park theme “Light Up!” invites artists from Taiwan, Japan, Europe, and elsewhere to bring their bright visions to light up the people and places with an air of brightly positive hope. The works beautify the urban landscape and bring a ray of sunshine and vitality.

Various medias are used for this exhibition including: graphics, digital painting, photography, video, environmental sculpture, new media technology, steel art, and more. As seen from this list, the contemporary arts are king, and the artists are given free rein to engage in a freewheeling dialog with their individual display space. This space starts at the large open area at the intersection of Sec. 4, Zhongxiao E. Rd. (忠孝東路) and Sec. 1, Dunhua S. Rd. (敦化南路) and runs south to the large-scale shopping outlets and tourist hotels of the Xinyi

2



Commercial District (信義計畫區). The initiative also encompasses the Songshan Cultural and Creative Park (松山文化創意園區), not directly connected to the first exhibition space. There will be 50 exhibit locations, at such varied spots as clothing boutiques, bookstores, cafes, business spaces, open squares, restaurants, and hotels.

Display locations include the Fubon Financial Building (富邦金融大樓), Eslite Bookstore Xinyi Flagship Store, Visavis Hair Design (斐瑟髮廊), and Jamei Chen (陳季敏) clothing boutique Anhe branch. Public spaces are also being used. There are no strict wall boundaries put in place, and the goal behind the project is a “dream blueprint” of enhanced aesthetics along streets and lanes. The organizers seek to close the gap between you and art, creating foot-traffic routes where people and art seamlessly intertwine, making fine arts aesthetics an “everyday” part of our everyday lives.

This special exhibition, involving no tickets, will be presented to you starting July 23 and will run for more than two months. The trendy upscale shopping and entertainment experience of an east Taipei excursion will have even more luster added to it, with fine art on grand display wherever you saunter to “Light Up!” your summer days. Enjoyed by day or admired by night, you'll find each of these works a smile-obliging sparkling sight. The character of this city that never sleeps is being re-imagined, and will transform before your bedazzled eyes. 10

1. The American creative team Friends With You has created the boisterously colorful *Field of Dreams*, placed atop the wall curtain at the Fubon Financial Building.
- 2.7. English artist Wayne Warren was featured in Vivienne Westwood using recycled materials in recombination to create visually dynamic golden clothing.
3. *My Hero, My Legend*, a large-scale outdoor work being displayed in the plaza facing the Fubon Insurance Building, by the Phalanx Creative (基礎創意) team.
4. Artist Lin Chienjung (林建榮) has created a delightful flashing light-bulb human who appears to be immersed in a meditative reverie, on display at Eslite Bookstore's Dunhua S. branch.
5. Designer Chuang Huilin (莊惠琳) has used plastic to create a work of long, flowing hair hanging down, being displayed at the Visavis Hair Design flagship outlet.
6. Young painter Leland Lee (李柏毅) has created the vivid *Love House*, on display inside Taipei 101.



Information

2011 Very Fun Park 2011粉樂町

Time: 7/23~9/30

Venue: Open area at intersection of Sec. 4, Zhongxiao E. Rd. and Sec. 1, Dunhua S. Rd. to Xinyi Commercial District; 50 exhibit locations

Tel: (02) 2754-6655

Website: www.fubonart.org.tw

Taipei Baseball Madness



1st IBAF 12U Baseball World Championship 2011—Taipei

In the past, Taipei has hosted baseball games that have been part of the competition for the Little League World Series and Pony League World Series. But the International Baseball Federation (IBAF), recognized by the International Olympic Committee, is the sole entity compliant with international standards that can assign the real title of “world champion” to any team delegated to represent a nation, and the organization has chosen Taipei as the stage for the inauguration of the IBAF 12U Baseball World Championship—the biggest sporting event in this sport-loving city this summer.

The Little League World Series, whose approach is “playing baseball for fun,” is based on teams from local communities and schools. The IBAF competition, however, will have teams with rosters filled with each country's very best players. The result will be competition at a level far higher than ever before—something baseball fans all over the world are looking forward to.

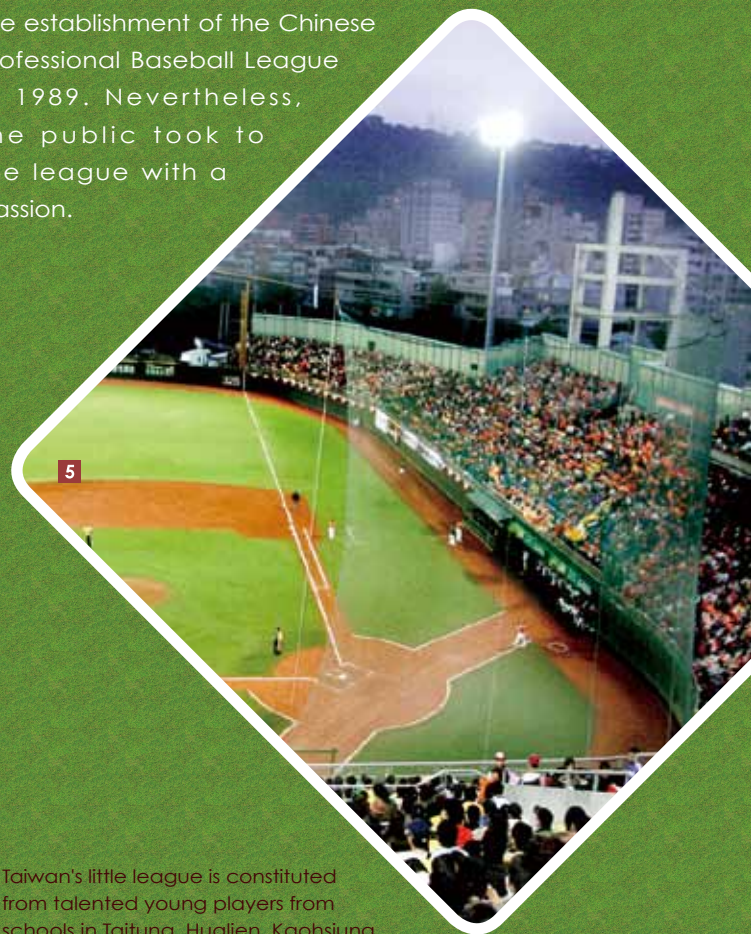
The World Championship will be fought out on July 8~17 at three sites in Taipei: Tianmu Baseball Stadium (天母棒球場), Youth Park Baseball Stadium (青年公園棒球場), and Xinsheng Park Baseball Stadium (新生公園棒球場). The little field generals from the teams of five continents will be in the fray competing for glory, proudly representing Mexico, Venezuela, Cuba, Brazil, Japan, Korea, Hong Kong, the Philippines, Indonesia, Italy, Lithuania, Zimbabwe, and other homelands. This is a great opportunity for you to sit down at a Taipei park, munch on classic Taiwan ballgame snacks (no, not hotdogs and beer!), and pick out the stars of the future we'll all be hearing about.

Baseball, a Great Way to Get Exercise

Baseball has been played in Taiwan for more than a century now. Its great flourishing came during the 1960~80 period, when Little League, Senior League, and Big League teams enjoyed outstanding success on the world stage and instilled

a deep sense of pride in the entire population. When a team of what are often affectionately called “little generals” (小將) would hit the field in a big international game, it would seem as if the entire country would come to a standstill, everyone glued to TV sets, whatever the time of day or night, cheering on these newly-minted national heroes. A favorite Taiwanese expression was “jia ba, kua ya gju” (呷飽看野球), meaning “after eating your fill, sit down for your fill of baseball.”

Professional baseball appeared on the field rather late in Taiwan, with the establishment of the Chinese Professional Baseball League in 1989. Nevertheless, the public took to the league with a passion.



1. Taiwan's little league is constituted from talented young players from schools in Taitung, Hualien, Kaohsiung, Taoyuan, Chiayi, Taichung, and New Taipei City.
- 2-3. Taiwan has been a key development hub in international youth baseball, in the past serving as host for both Little League World Series and Pony League World Series tournament competition.
4. Baseball has a 100-year history in Taiwan, with the country's Little League, Senior League, and Big League teams enjoying stellar success on the world stage.
5. The IBAF 12U championship game will be played at Tianmu Baseball Stadium, which can seat 15,000.



Attendance at a Taiwan game brings you an experience a world apart from a game watched elsewhere; hawkers work the crowd selling such beloved taste treats as Taiwan-style fast foods, popcorn, Chinese-style hot lunchboxes, jellied chicken feet, fried chicken, and small baked octopus balls. Fans also cheer on their teams in highly unusual and very vociferous manner, with the deafening sound of gongs, big drums, and air horns heard all through play. There are special cheers and songs for each team, and even for star players, the army of loyal fans backed up with karaoke equipment. Fans of the two competing teams almost always attend games in roughly equal number, dividing along the first-base and third-base sides, and spend the entire game trying to drown each other out.

6

Ballparks and Batting Cages —Your Fields of Dreams

Has the need to take in a local pro baseball game just now taken over your will? That's good. What's not good is that you'll have to wait just a bit to sit yourself down at a game at Tianmu Baseball Stadium, which has been reserved for the IBAF 12U competition. In the meantime, a fine option is to head over on weekends and holidays to Shilin's Shezi Island Ballpark (社子島棒球場), where high-skill games are staged by amateur community teams. Talented student teams compete at Xincheng Park Baseball Stadium, but games are not on as regular as basis as at Shezi.

If you want to move beyond watching, challenge yourself at a batting-cage facility. Taroko Sports Plaza Batting Cages (大魯閣棒壘球打擊場) in Neihu, and Giants Baseball Batting Square (大聯盟棒壘球練習場) in Ximending, use mechanical pitching arms and virtual-reality simulators that let you step up to the plate and perfect your swing when you don't have a team to practice with.

You can also work on your pitching, aiming at strike-zone matrix boxes. If it's live-action play on a real field you have to have, the Wenshan District Sports Association (文山區體育會) and Songshan District Sports Association (松山區體育會) both organize community



7

- 6. Fourteen teams, representing Cuba, Japan, Korea, Venezuela, and other lands, will vie for the IBAF 12U crown.
- 7. If you've got a hankering to get out and perfect your pitching or your hitting, the city has a number of batting- and pitching-cage facilities.
- 8-9. Attend a Taiwan pro game and one of the main attractions will be the unique approach of the fans in showing support for their teams.

leagues with teams you can join, as does the Shezi community. You can also sign up for a baseball camp organized by the Taipei Municipal Athletics Federation Baseball Association (臺北市體育總會棒球協會). Whether youngster or adult, you'll be able to find like-minded friends, or can even organize your own team for practice and play against other teams. Whichever path you choose, that path will lead down the baselines to fun and the chasing of your dreams of glory. (Note: To make contact with community teams/leagues, you can call the Taipei Municipal Athletics Federation Baseball Association)



Information

1st IBAF 12U Baseball World Championship 2011—Taipei 第一屆IBAF世界少棒錦標賽

Time: Until 7/17

Venues:

Tianmu Baseball Stadium (free entry except team Taiwan matches on 7/8-7/15, rematch on 7/16, and final on 7/17)

Youth Park Baseball Stadium (free entry)

Xinsheng Park Baseball Stadium (free entry)

Tel: (02) 2507-2688 (Chinese Taipei Baseball Association, 中華民國棒球協會)

Taipei Baseball Facilities 臺北市棒球場

Tianmu Baseball Stadium (77, Sec. 3, Zhongcheng Rd.; 忠誠路3段77號)

Shezi Island Ballpark (Sec. 2, Tonghe W. St.; 通河西街2段; riverside dike area)

Youth Park Baseball Stadium (199 Shuiyuan Rd.; 水源路199號)

Xinsheng Park Baseball Stadium (105, Sec. 3, Xinsheng N. Rd.; 新生北路3段105號)

Note: To rent these facilities, visit <http://www.tms.taipei.gov.tw> (Taipei Sports Office, 臺北市體育處)

Tel: (02) 2570-2330

Taipei Municipal Athletics Federation Baseball Association 臺北市體育總會棒球協會

Tel: (02) 2593-1236, 2593-1432

Website: tpebaseball.myweb.hinet.net

Taroko Sports Plaza Batting Cages 大魯閣棒壘球打擊場

Add: 200 Zhifu Rd. (植福路200號)

Tel: (02) 8501-1831

Website: www.trk.com.tw

Giants Baseball Batting Square 大聯盟棒壘球練習場

Add: 8F, 52, Emei St. (峨嵋街52號8樓)

Tel: (02) 2388-3229



Growing Up with Taipei – Nicaraguan Ambassador William Manuel Tapia Alemán

“Forty-eight years ago, when I was studying at National Taiwan University, someone asked me what I wanted to do in the future. I said that I hoped one day to be Nicaragua's ambassador to the ROC. I couldn't know that one day this dream would actually come true.”

H.E. Ambassador William Manuel Tapia Alemán looks at Taipei as his second home, feeling a deep bond of kinship. Forty-eight years ago, he was the first student from Nicaragua to come to Taiwan under the Taiwan Scholarship Program (臺灣獎學金), studying history at National Taiwan University and living in Taipei for some time. Today the city is much cleaner, with the architecture greatly improved and transportation far more convenient; there really is no comparison,” he stated. One pleasant surprise, he said, is that amidst this dramatic personality transformation, Zhongshan N. Rd. (中山北路) still looks much the same as it did way back when, still graced with its forest of shade trees, still framed with the same friendly landscapes, flowing with fond memories. “After all these years, two key spots, Florida Bakery (福利麵包店) and Qingguang Market (晴光市場), are still here and thriving.” Speaking in fluent Chinese, the ambassador says that Taipei has become





a thoroughly modern international metropolis, and he is immensely proud of this, a city he has grown up alongside.


At the Nicaraguan offices in Tianmu (天母), the ambassador's distinctive cultural background is made clear. His hometown is called Masatepe, the main coffee and tobacco cultivation along with pottery production area. It is no surprise then that the fragrant aroma of mellow coffee wafts through the Taipei facility, and that the offices are like a gallery for resplendent works of ceramic art by Nicaragua's indigenous peoples. But you are also greeted with many wood sculptures of iconic Asian religious figures, among them Guanyin (觀音), Bodhidharma, and the Maitreya (彌勒佛) or Smiling Buddha, revelations of the ambassador's respect for the culture of the East.

Ambassador Tapia in fact has a deep interest in Buddhist philosophy, enthusiastically attending Taiwan's traditional cultural festivals. In his four years in Taipei in his current post, he has been present at a wide range of ceremonies, large and small, including the Confucius Ceremony at Taipei Confucius Temple and the dragon boat eye-dotting and river-blessing ceremonies. Whenever he received family and friends in Taiwan for the first time, he took them on a tour of Taipei Confucius Temple, Zhinan Temple (指南宮), Longshan Temple (龍山寺), and other hubs of vibrant traditional culture, letting them watch on in silence through these, the best portals into the world of age-old Chinese culture.

Tapia believes that the recently-ended Taipei International Flora Expo was the most splendid event in Taiwan in recent years, a superlative showcase of the city's and country's talents in high technology, horticulture, and cultural creativity. "The artistic conception behind the expo was magnificent,

something only the city of Taipei could achieve," he said, "because of the impressive strength and diversity of your cultural and horticultural assets and because of the sophisticated tastes of your citizens." He has great praise for the abilities of Mayor Hau Lung-bin (郝龍斌) in staging so many international events in the city and in dramatically raising the city's recognition and position on the international stage.

Tapia has a great passion for Taiwan's food, saying "The Grand Hotel's restaurants have pretty much become another home kitchen for me." His work requires the constant entertaining of guests, and he has come to be on intimate terms with the restaurant's steamed dumplings, sweet and sour pork, beef noodles, spicy Sichuan bean curd, and other treasures. He also has a great fondness for food treasure hunts at Taiwan's colorful night-markets.

Tapia was once posted to Japan, his lovely wife is Japanese, and he is fluent in Japanese. He has recently become a grandfather—a doting one, he says—and one of the highlights of each day is his video chat with his grandchild in the evening. One of the big events marked on his calendar for this year is a holiday visit by his grandchild at year's end, a happy time of family togetherness when he'll introduce his grandchild to the warmth and friendliness of the people of Taiwan. 

1. Nicaraguan ambassador William Tapia at a traditional Chinese cultural festivity.
2. The ambassador's office has many pottery works on display, created by the natives of his home country.
3. The ambassador was a familiar figure in the Zhongshan N. Rd. streetscape and at Florida Bakery during his language-student days.
4. The ambassador, in traditional Chinese costume for the Confucius Ceremony at the Confucius Temple, takes time for a group photo with some youngsters.
5. A lover of culinary exploration, Ambassador Tapia often heads to local night-markets in search of treasure.

Taipei in the Eyes of Foreign Friends



NTNU Mandarin Training Center Dragon Boat Team Members

The Taipei International Dragon Boat Championship (臺北國際龍舟錦標賽) is staged every year during the Dragon Boat Festival (端午節), attracting highly competitive teams of rowers from Taiwan and all over the world. This year, 165 teams from 10 cities participated in the event and they came (by plane, not by paddling) from the Philippines, Singapore, Australia, the USA, South Africa, and elsewhere. Among the most competitive student teams are those from the Mandarin Training Center at National Taiwan Normal University (師範大學國語中心), competing every year without exception, with 53 male and female students signing up for the challenge this year.

All of them competed for the first time this year. “For two months, we practiced every day from 6:30 to 9:30 in the morning,” one said, “and it was tough.” They all found the experience a novel one, presenting a whole new perspective of the city, and each of them has a different interpretation, but all of them are clearly excited.

Taniguchi and Oki, from Japan, very much enjoy the festival celebration activities here during the Dragon Boat

festival, Mid-Autumn Festival (中秋節), Chinese New Year, and other times. The traditional customs are intriguing, and the traditional foods are terrific, leaving them deeply impressed. Ana, from Panama, first came here four years ago during a presidential election. Campaign trucks roamed the streets, and election flags and banners flew everywhere. People were participating passionately and boisterously in the process. “We’ve got another round of big national elections coming up next year,” she says, “so I’ll get to relive all those incredible initial experiences all over again.”

Kim, from Korea, loves the local traditional foods and also loves to spend time visiting heritage sites such as Longshan Temple, Bopiliao Historic Block, and Herb Alley (青草巷) in the Wanhua community, where she can enjoy the fragrant old-time scenic mix of temples, streetscape, and Chinese medicinal herb shops. She also admits that she has visited the Old Man Under the Moon at Longshan Temple, the Chinese cupid, to ask his help in finding her sweetheart. Caline and Maryl, from France, have differing opinions on what’s best about Taipei; Caline says that Grass Mountain Artist Village (草山國際藝術村) and Treasure Hill Artist Village (寶藏巖國際藝術村), the first up on Yangmingshan and the second in Gongguan, have both made a big impression on her, but Maryl says what’s best are the 24-hour shops and taxi services, both so convenient and inexpensive—something not seen back home in France.

Orawin, who hails from Thailand, said he developed a real passion for the stately beauty of the Taipei International Flora Expo, which closed in April. Though Thailand served as host of the event in 2006-2007, he found the contents and the scale of the Taipei event far more impressive. Eduardo, from Guatemala, is into sports and is a frequent visitor to the Da’an Sports Center (大安運動中心) and a frequent climber of Elephant Mountain (象山), where he also indulges his passion for photography. He says he has found Taipei a safe and pretty city of international caliber and intends to stay quite some time.



Robert J Tetzner

Place of Origin: Wisconsin, USA

Occupation: English and painting teacher

Reason in Taipei: Study painting

Time in Taiwan: 23 years

Robert said he has become Taiwanese for having lived in Taipei for over 20 years. He first came here as an exchange student, studying fine arts at Taiwan Normal University, and met his future wife. Roots were thus planted, and have dug deep down into the Taiwan earth. “Whenever I go back to the States,” he said, “I very much miss Taipei’s *zongzi* (粽子) and sesame-seed pastry from local breakfast joints.” Harboring deep-rooted affections for his adopted homeland, he only returns to the U.S. when he has a long vacation to see his family. His Taiwanese wife, quite the contrary, resided in the US with their children.

Robert has a tall, strong build, and grew up playing basketball and American football. In Taipei, his routine is to go to the sports centers to practice archery and shooting. These centers are great for city residents, he said, because it offers a quality environment and top-rate facilities at very reasonable rates. Painting and graffiti art are his first loves, however, and he has brought his graffiti creations to T-shirts and to the walls of shops owned by friends. You’ll see many Chinese elements in his graffiti art, with such unusual vignettes as the philosopher Laozi playing a saxophone, the demon-slayer Zhong Kui (鍾馗) playing a guitar, and a demon playing a harmonica. Materials from local temples and religious practices are also common, creating canvasses that are wonderfully imaginative meetings of East and West.

“I love the foods from local roadside vendors, which all have their own individualized tastes.” So said Kyle the gourmand, who often goes out on the hunt for new taste experiences down the city’s lanes and alleys. He also loves the great variety of succulent fruits to be enjoyed here, saying, “the wax apples and watermelons are very juicy, the dates and papaya are wonderfully fragrant, the lychees and longans perfectly sweet; honestly, I love all of them and really like making juices with them—fresh, sweet, delicious.” The food he’s developed the most passion for is the pineapple cake (鳳梨酥); he’s always hated fruits in soft paste form used as a filling, but finds the perfect balance has been found in the pineapple cake’s flaky pastry shell and the juicy filling, which is not at all greasy or sticky.

Kyle loves hiking in the hills because he finds it a great way to get away from things and relax, and he has been all over Taiwan’s surrounding peaks, with Elephant Mountain, Wuzhi Mountain (五指山), and the peaks of Yangmingshan (陽明山) among his many conquests. “Whenever I get tired,” he said, “I find a glass of pearl milk tea (珍珠奶茶) or a bowl of shaved ice a great pick-me-up.” For this year’s Chinese Valentine’s Day, he intends to head out to Guandu (關渡) and Danshui (淡水) with his girlfriend for a romantic evening watching the famous sunset and going out on a river cruise to enjoy the pleasant scenery along the shores. 🍵



Kyle Thomas Drazkowski

Place of Origin: USA

Occupation: English teacher

Reason in Taipei: Study Chinese

Time in Taipei: One year

A SUMMER RELAY PARTY OF THREE MAJOR ARTS FESTIVALS

The dynamism of this city reaches its highest temperatures in the summer months, and the works of its passionate artists stream forth as though in a relay race of competitive creativity. The 2011 Taipei Arts Festival (2011臺北藝術節) will be a party celebrating the philosophy of art, with many great artists around the world invited to come together to interact with you and like-minded arts lovers under the theme “Mix Night Electric” (混夜電). The 2011 Taipei Fringe Festival (2011臺北藝穗節) is an event where teams of artists will go unbridled, permitted and in fact encouraged to give free rein to their artistic passions and to create a Taipei “summer revolution.” The 2011 Children’s Arts Festival (2011兒童藝術節), on

the other hand, will feel like a warm and fuzzy blanket, with all sorts of activities being staged in every little corner of the city and a highlight being the relay race of public art exhibits, the theme this year “Making Yourself Extraordinary.”

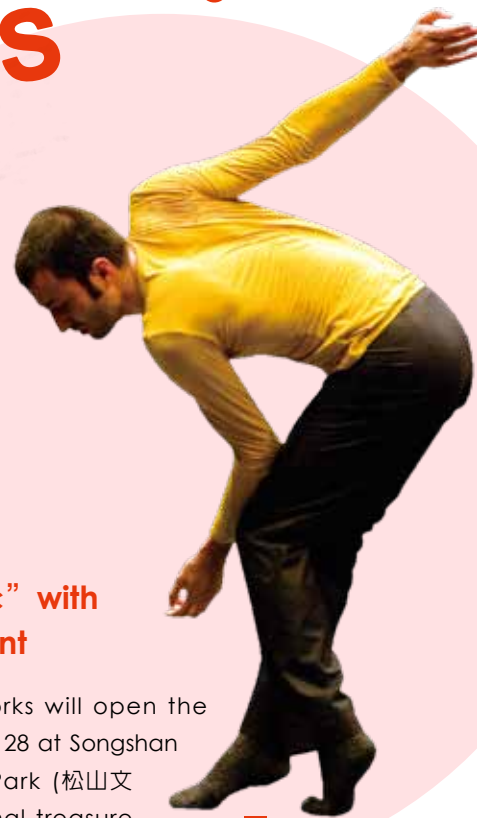


“Mix Night Electric” with Artists of Giant Talent

Two superb stage works will open the Taipei Arts Festival on July 28 at Songshan Cultural and Creative Park (松山文化創意園區). Polish national treasure Krystian Lupa, winner of the coveted 2009 European Theatre Award, will bring his dramatic directorial genius to the Taipei stage, and dance world icon William Forsythe will present an exhibit series of choreographic objects and films.

Lupa, the godfather of Polish dramatic theatre, presents *Ritter, Dene, Voss*, the most important work of the 20th century’s most renowned Austrian literateur, Thomas Bernhard. This is a complicated portrait of familial warfare between three siblings, one of them the great philosopher Ludwig Wittgenstein, exploring the boundaries of genius, sanity and insanity, reality and fiction.

William Forsythe, recognized as the reigning monarch of modern dance, has specially created *Walking with Forsythe* William Forsythe New Media Arts exhibit (與佛塞同步—威廉·佛塞新媒體藝術系列展覽) for the Taipei festival, which will run 32 days from July 28 to August 28. Digital arts presentations will bring us through the 48-year career of one of the most important choreographers of the past century, exploring his process of creative



conceptualization and his views of choreographic technique. This is Taiwan's first ever large-scale free exhibition on a key international dance realm figure.

Other compelling attractions are also scheduled for Songshan Cultural and Creative Park. From August 5 through 7, *An Anthology of Optimism* will be presented, a work co-created by Canadian writer and playwright Jacob Wren and Belgian writer and theatre artist Pieter De Buysser that is both humorous and at the same time a stimulator of deeply searching debate. From August 16 through 21, the local group The Puppet and Its Double Theater (無獨有偶工作室劇團) takes the spotlight with *Who's Hung Tung* (洪通計畫), an exploration of a true-life character from Taiwan in the 1970s, an illiterate man who in his middle years suddenly began to paint, revealing a world of fantasy and great originality—who then just as suddenly faded from view.

From August 26 to 28, the spotlight shifts to Zhongshan Hall with a celebration of the legendary life of Taiwan maestro Lee Taihsiang (李泰祥) and his 70th birthday. Quanta Arts Foundation (廣藝劇場) has created *The Dreamy Fallacy* (美麗的錯誤), intertwining Lee's classic songs in a work that revels in "The Art, Love, and Life of a Musician." On Sep. 2 and 3, the troupe Dance Forum Taipei (舞蹈空間舞團) and the Taipei Chinese Orchestra (臺北市立國樂團) come together for *Eastern Tale* (風云), a rendering of a famous Chinese tale of romance and tragedy involving one of history's great military commanders and his beloved concubine.

This year is the centenary of the ROC, and to celebrate two very special free performances will be staged by the celebrated Spanish troupe Xarxa Teatre in the Taipei City Hall Civic Plaza on Sep. 3 and 4 – *El Foc del Mar* (Fire of the Sea) and *Nit Màgica* (Magical Night). Two nights of scintillating emotion and revelry will be had, with street parades, fire and fireworks, and the passionate music of the Mediterranean world.

July 28 to Sep. 4 will be a time where the philosophy of art takes control of this city, expressed in the form of a grand unending party with seven major works and a series of over 20 activities hitting the stage in rapid succession— theater, dance, music, pyrotechnic parades, and a large-scale exhibition. You'll get in great shape just by rushing from one party to the next.



Artists on the Edge – The Fringe Festival

The Taipei Fringe Festival forces you to redefine the boundaries of your mind. It's fun and it's special and it's liberating, and this year its venues are a trendy hotel, a photography museum, an architectural ruins heritage site, cafes, and other unusual stages. English-speaking personnel are ready in abundance to make your fringe experience a smooth one. Artists freely cross the boundaries of the visual arts, sound arts, and physical arts, creating enthralling new style film and live performance works—110 performance troupes and

1. Krystian Lupa, the godfather of Polish dramatic theatre, presents *Ritter, Dene, Voss*, an adaptation of a work that won a Nobel Prize for Literature.
2. William Forsythe, reigning monarch of modern dance, has created *Walking with Forsythe* · William Forsythe New Media Arts Exhibit for the Taipei Arts Festival.
3. The Taiwan group The Puppet and Its Double Theater presents *Who's Hung Tung* in an installation puppet performance.
4. Bursting with fireworks, music, and stomping about, the *El Foc del Mar* (Fire of the Sea) and *Nit Màgica* (Magical Night) parades will transport crowds into worlds of reverie.

378 performances this year, an 60% increase from the previous year. It will surely tickle your senses repeatedly.

The festival's big opening parade will hit the streets of Ximending (西門町) on August 27. This year the theme is “Wild Beasts” (瘋狂百獸), symbolizing the fierce individualism of the passionate artist. The parade will go from Cinema Park (電影主題公園) to The Red House (西門紅樓), and will be an unbridled ride where the artists let their wild sides run free and where spectators will quite likely need to readjust their definition of what constitutes “artistic expression.” Expose yourself to the Taipei Fringe Festival from August 27 to Sep. 11, and expose yourself to a brave new world of aesthetic boundaries—or the lack thereof.

The Courage to Dream Extraordinarily— Taipei Children's Arts Festival

This year's Children's Arts Festival will see a series of spectacles, one after the other, bursting onto the stage. The curtain-raiser will be *Brave Fish* (游向未來的魚), created by Big Hands Holding Little Hands—Grandparents and Grandkids Creative Workshop (祖孫創作工作坊); from July 4 through 14, in Taipei's 12 administrative districts, 600 sets of grandparents and



grandkids will come together to paint 1,200 dazzling and glittering fish scales, together with visual artist Akibo creating an immense school of brave and courageous and self-confident little fish. The brave fishes will then go on a grand tour in the city from July 19 through 29, putting on display at the Children's Arts Festival performance venues for all to admire. On August 6, starting from URS27– The Grand Green (URS27華山大草原), parents and kids will take the fish out on a big parade where they “swim to a dream future.” These attractive and symbolically meaningful artistic creations will then be on display at the Shopping MOCA (當代文創聚落) venue of the Museum of Contemporary Art, Taipei (臺北當代藝術館) from August 12 to 28.



Three much praised troupes from overseas will be performing, and these shows are sure worth the admission price. From July 13 through 17 is the performance, *We Built This City*, by Polyglot Theatre of Australia, accompanied by live DJ music; at a giant public construction site. Kids and families use thousands of cardboard boxes to build a magnificent imagined city in a single day. From July 19 through 25 is the performance, *Celestial Mechanics*, by Canada's Le Théâtre des Confettis; theatre-goers step through a looking glass, down a passageway, and through Time, stepping into a magical little theatre of dreamlike fantasy. From July 29 through 31 is the performance, *Les Âmes Nocturnes*, by Le Schlemil Théâtre of France, in which two masters of mime lead you through a humorous night of bizarre dreams, one battling with a mischievous duvet, the other morphing into a shadow who loves a good prank.

Unlike past festivals, this year's festival is mostly free, with 3 events that require tickets. For the remainder, just show up for the shows. From August 4 to 6 three shows will be put on at URS27—The Grand Green to close the festival, entitled *The Miser* (喔喔，錢奴才), *Twice Stung in the Three Kingdoms—A New Chinese Opera for Children* (三國計中計), and *Taiwan Temple Festival* (藝陣風華). You should not only come watch the shows, but also watch the grand gathering of brave little fish and watch sweet dreams take flight. 🐟

- 5-6. At the 2011 Taipei Fringe Festival, the A. Cellos and Green Power troupes will present bold and passionately vigorous new ideas in novel creations.
- 7. The 2011 Taipei Children's Arts Festival will feature community presentations such as *The Little Egret's Home* and the large-scale public art exhibition *Brave Fish*.
- 8. In lilted step with accompanying music, the Taipei Children's Arts Festival's *Celestial Mechanics* brings viewers through a looking glass and into a magical little dreamland installation theater.
- 9. The children's festival's outdoor show *Twice Stung in the Three Kingdoms – A New Chinese Opera for Children* creates a kid-friendly world of Beijing opera, helping youngsters develop an interest in this art form.

Information

2011 Taipei Arts Festival 2011臺北藝術節

Time: 7/28-9/4

Venues: Songshan Cultural and Creative Park, Taipei City Hall Civic Plaza, Zhongshan Hall Zhongzheng Auditorium, Eslite Bookstore Dunhua S. Rd. Branch B2 audiovisual room (松山文創園區、臺北市政府市民廣場、中山堂中正廳、誠品敦南店B2)

Website: www.taipeifestival.org

2011 Taipei Fringe Festival 2011臺北藝穗節

Time: 8/27-9/11

Venues: Guling St. Avant-garde Theatre (牯嶺街小劇場) and other performance venues

Website: www.taipeifringe.org

2011 Taipei Children's Arts Festival

2011臺北兒童藝術節

Time: Until 8/28

Add: Various locations through 12 Taipei administrative districts

Website: www.taipeicaf.org



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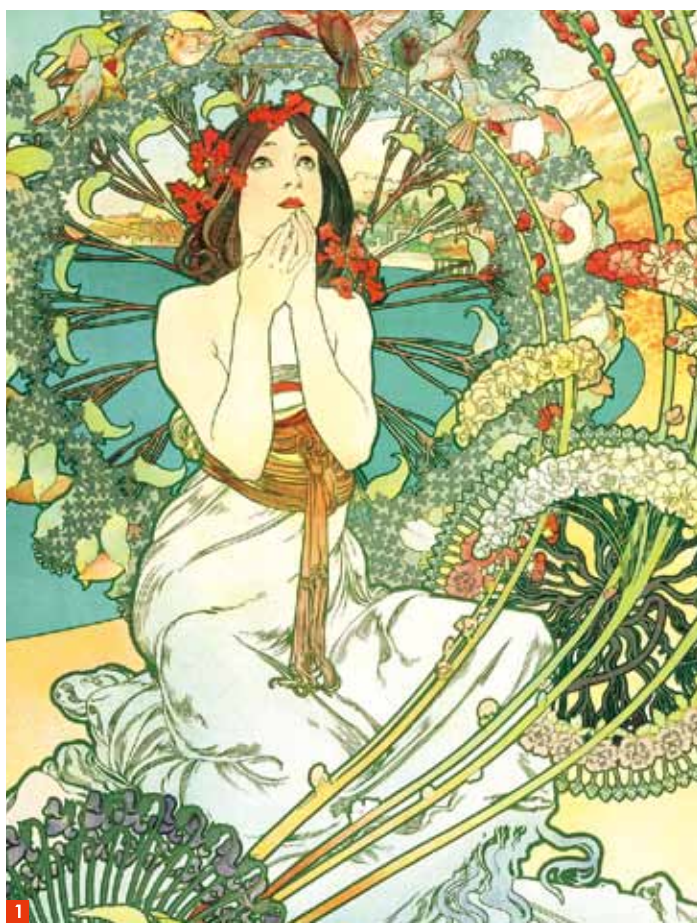


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Alphonse Mucha:

Defining a Century's Cultural-Creative Aesthetics

Whose art was it that was all the rage among Paris socialites in 1900? The name is Alphonse Mucha (1860-1939), Czech artistic treasure and pathbreaker in the world of commercial-design art.



The World Fair was held in Paris in 1900, and the Art Nouveau style was flourishing, influencing a wide range of realms that included advertising and painting, posters, architecture, furniture, and craftworks. Mucha was one of the most outstanding representatives of this European decorative style. This year, the International Design Alliance (IDA) Congress is being held in Taiwan for the first time, and the Czech Republic's Mucha Foundation has chosen Taipei's National Palace Museum as the first stop in Asia on a world tour of its Alphonse Mucha—Art Nouveau & Utopia (慕夏大展—新藝術·烏托邦) exhibition, from June 11 to Sep. 12. The show explores the dawn of the Art Nouveau wave that swept the world a century ago.

Mucha developed a love for drawing and painting in his childhood, and his adult work displays marvelously detailed composition. Flowers and plants are key color elements, and elements of a wide range of artistic styles is incorporated, including Rococo, Gothic, and even Japanese, his works pervaded with complex and profound connotation.



Mucha, who headed off to chase his dreams in Paris not long before he turned 27, produced everything from illustrations to paintings, posters, advertisements, jewelry, theatre art—even wallpaper. This exhibition is divided into six sections. In “A Bohemian in Paris,” we learn how in his early period his illustration work brought him attention and how a chance encounter led him to portray the celebrated Sarah Bernhardt in a poster for her new play *Gismonda*. The poster was heavily Bohemian in style, with Mucha clothing the actress in a flowing gown of rich Byzantine opulence holding a palm branch as a sign of triumph and victory. His preeminence was established, and his reputation soared. Parisians began to imitate the style with a passion, and fashionable Mucha-inspired Art Nouveau goods became all the rage with the city's socialites.

The section “The Creator of ‘Le Style Mucha’ ” introduces how he extended the aesthetics of art to the articles of everyday life, focusing on the curves of the female form, on flowers, and on the animals and plants of the natural world as his creative content. He designed knives and forks, cups and plates, cookie-box packaging, perfume packaging, advertising posters and billboards, decorative wall panels, and a galaxy of other mundane items.

In “A Cosmopolitan,” we see how his fame spread around the world, with exhibits of his works in many lands, and how when he visited the United States, his degree of popularity was seen in headlines proclaiming him the world's greatest decorative artist. In “The Mystic,” we see his yearning to convey his innermost feelings and emotions in his pastels. In “The Patriot,” we can enjoy a projection of the huge canvases of *The Slav Epic*, created in his later years, depicting the story of the Czechs and the Slavic people in general. Finally, in “The Artist Philosopher,” we see his concerns expressed as fascism wafted over Europe and war loomed. Mucha conveyed his hopes for reason, wisdom, and love, yearning for a utopian world of peace and tolerance.

Mucha is among a precious group of great artists who have changed the way the world sees itself. His unique vision deeply impacting many different artistic realms. A vanguard leader in the fusion of cultural-creative aesthetics with commercial design, the chance to look upon the full range of visions from his reveries this summer is a chance not to be passed up. 📍



1. Monaco—Monte Carlo, a poster created for P.L.M. railway services.
2. John Mucha, head of The Mucha Foundation, gives a tour of the master's works to the director of the National Palace Museum, Chou Kungshin (周功鑫).
3. A bust of a young woman created for the perfume-maker Houbigant.
4. Mucha working on the canvases for *The Slav Epic*.
5. Zodiac, a decorative panel, originally designed for a calendar.

Information

Alphonse Mucha—Art Nouveau & Utopia

慕夏大展—新藝術·烏托邦

Time: Until 9/12 (including Mondays)

Hours: 09:00~17:00 (ticket sales and entry closed at 16:30)

Venue: Exhibition Area II, 1F, Library Building, National Palace Museum
(故宮博物院圖書文獻大樓1樓特展室)

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

Tel: (02) 2881-2021

Website: www.muchaart.com.tw

The Best of Japan's Contemporary Artists—

THE TRANS-COOL TOKYO EXHIBIT

In 2003, Marc Jacobs invited Japanese contemporary artist Takashi Murakami to bring his brilliantly multicolored designs to the Louis Vuitton brand. The venture was a splendid success, with the cutesy pop images reinvigorating the Louis Vuitton look and garnering much attention, and started a trend where contemporary art and fashion merchandise are married. Many other contemporary artists in Japan have also brought their bold artistic visions to other fields, among them architecture, design, television, film, and environmental design.

Curated by the Museum of Contemporary Art Tokyo, the exhibition Trans-Cool Tokyo (越酷東京)—Contemporary Japanese Art from MOT Collection started showing at the Taipei Museum of Fine Arts on July 2. Forty-five works by 18 Japanese contemporary artists are on display, exploring the strong impact the iconoclastic creativity of Japan's contemporary arts talent has had on the world scene since the latter half of the 1990s.

Yuko Hasegawa, chief curator of MOT Tokyo and designer of this show, says that the term “Trans-Cool” is derived from “Cool Japan,” embracing the idea of not only introducing the element



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YAYOI KUSAMA
1979

of “cool” seen in modern Japanese culture but also moving “past cool” to explore the roads down which Japan's contemporary arts may travel in the years to come.

Among the creators spotlighted in the exhibition is 81-year-old Yayoi Kusama, who has been proclaimed one of the world's 100 most important artists in the West, and Yasumasa Morimura, who rose to prominence in the second half of the 1980s. He appropriates famous images created by historical artists such as Van Gogh and Manet, donning makeup and costumes, inserts his own face and body into them, critiquing Western culture and civilization. The effect on the viewer is startling, with you staring at him and he staring back at you.

Other highlighted artists are Yoshitomo Nara, whose large-eyes and, at first glance, innocent doll-like figures have a frighteningly sinister air; Ryoji Ikeda, an experimental sound artist; media artist Hachiya Kazuhiko, and Michihiro Shimabaku, who began a grand tour of the globe in the 1990s, creating iconic works along the way using performance, video, photography, graphics, and other modes of expression.

Among the other talent on display are many artists born in the 1970s, whose formative years came after the Japanese financial meltdown in the late 1980 during the “ten lost years,” resulting in a proclivity for deeper exploration of the inner self. This new generation group includes Koki Tanaka, Takagi Masakatsu, and Haruka Kojin. From painting to sculpture and from performance to photography and video, the multi-textured world of the great masters of Japanese contemporary art is laid out before you. 📍

1. Kusama Yayoi's work *Woman from Michigan*.
2. Nara Yoshitomo's *White Night*.
3. *Airboard β* by Hachiya Kazuhiko.
4. Tanaka Koki's very unusually titled *Pick Up Something from FRAC Champagne-Ardenne and Bring It into the City, Then Make Some Noise*.

Information

Trans-Cool Tokyo Exhibit :
Contemporary Japanese Art from MOT Collection
越酷東京—日本MOT當代精選

Time: Until 9/25

Hours: Tue-Sun 09:30~17:30, Sat 09:30~20:30 (closed Mon)

Venue: Taipei Fine Arts Museum (臺北市立美術館)

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

Tel: (02) 2595-7656

Website: ww.tfam.museum

A SPECIAL VISIT BY PICASSO AND HIS SEVEN DEMOISELLES IS NIGH

The genius Picasso, refusing to let the world accept the simple lines of linear perspective, has been traveling the world of late because of a rare opportunity—the closing of the Musée National Picasso Paris for renovations. Picasso—or, his works—have been released from their regular duties to visit seven cities in succession, among them Seattle, San Francisco, Helsinki, and Moscow, and next to be graced with the results of the great painter's visions is Taipei, this special visit will last three long and joyous months starting June 18. The exhibition will display 60 works—oil paintings, sculptures, and prints—spanning his seven decades of creativity.




Picasso started to paint as a youngster, learning at the foot of his father. He had no affections for what he felt were the strictures of classical academic training and the stifling demands of Realism technique. “I hate repeating myself,” he once said, and in his works the viewer can see that he freely followed the changes in fortunes, loves, passions, and moods that shaped his life, wholeheartedly embracing and exploring the metamorphoses that demanded to be given life. He feared not rebirth, and the abstract ideas in many of his works can be obscure to the viewer, but there is one constant theme throughout his many dramatic changes in style—that “love” was his most important font of creativity.

Like his paintings, Picasso's love life had many metamorphoses and changes of direction. He married twice, and had what might be termed five “important” lovers. Each new experience brought new inspiration, stylistic transformation, and a new field of vision. This exhibition is a thorough record of works related to the seven most important women in the artist's life.

At 23, he fell in love with the young model and artist Fernande Olivier. The cold blues of his paintings gave way to soft pinks. He left Olivier for Marcelle Humbert, to whom he gave the pet name “Ma Jolie” and who seemed to give birth in him a new sense of artistic direction. His first wife was Olga Khokhlova, a ballet dancer; who led him into the world of high society, and Picasso's works during this time showed a creative interaction between neo-classicism and cubism. Next in line was Marie-Thérèse Walter, just 17, who inspired a new creative spring in the 54-year-old Picasso. He celebrated her in soft, moon-faced portraits and sinuous nudes. With the bright and incisive Dora Maar, a painter and photographer, Picasso was able to talk freely and deeply about philosophy and other matters, the result being works suffused with a cold logic and literary symbolism.

At 62, Picasso's eye turned to Françoise Gilot, an art student almost 40 years younger. Ignoring convention and social disapproval, they lived together. Under his brush, she was depicted as sometimes roaring like a lion and at other times purring like a kitten, Picasso gave expression to their love in numerous works. Finally,

perhaps realizing that age was surrounding him, the painter married Jacqueline Roque, and the two settled into a quiet family existence that brought a stability which stimulated a rich current of ideas from him. His creativity continued to flow until the end of his days.

The grand master led a life of boundless horizons that was built on a love of life—and of love itself. His ideas are on magnificent view in this exhibition, his concepts regarding the human figures and emotions are explored in chronological sequence. All is on view—the feelings of sentiment and animosity experienced with his women, the feelings of subtle emotional intimacy and of alienation toward his children. A broad canvas of what might be termed the “realism” of Picasso's life is vividly painted for the viewer—you. 

1. The Masterpieces from Musée National Picasso – Paris exhibition has over 60 works—oil paintings, sculptures, and prints—spanning his seven decades of creativity.
2. In *Portrait de Dora Maar*, Picasso superimposes a profile view of his lover with a full view, at the same time using his iconic decomposition and cubist recomposition of the human figure along with his distinctive depiction of apparel.
3. In *Le sculpteur* a sculptor gazes transfixed at the creation he has just brought to life.
4. In *L'étreinte*, done in Picasso's later years, the devices of this period are in full evidence—thick, bold lines, intense brush strokes and colors—bringing the viewer a powerful tactile feel for the passion of the embrace depicted.

Information

Masterpieces from Musée National Picasso-Paris 世紀畢卡索特展

Time: Until 9/18

Hours: Mon-Tue (09:00~18:00)
Wed-Sun (09:00~21:00)

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

Add: 49 Nanhai Rd. (南海路49號)

Website: picasso.ishow.gmg.tw

Transportation:

Take MRT Danshui Line to CKS Memorial Hall Station, take Exit No. 1 or 2, walk toward and then along Nanhai Rd. for approx. 10 minutes.

Take bus No. 1, 204, 630 to Jianguo High School (建國中學); take bus No. 5, 38, 227, 235, 241, 295 to Nanchang Rd. (南昌路); takes buses traveling Roosevelt Rd. route to Nanmen Market (南門市場) stop, then walk approx. 10 minutes.

2011 07/08

July-August Arts Exhibition Calendar



National Palace Museum

Tel: (02) 2881-2021

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

Website: www.npm.gov.tw

Until 07/22

The Tibetan Dragon Sutra –
The Great Treasury of Buddhist Scriptures in the National
Palace Museum

Until 09/05

Landscape Reunited –
Huang Gongwang and “Dwelling in the Fuchun
Mountains”

Until 09/18

Weaving a Brocade of Beauty and Splendor: A Five
Dynasties Embroidery of “The Three Star Gods”

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 08/07

Chou Chu Wang: I Am a Naughty Boy

Until 08/07

Object Fantasy: Ting Ting Cheng Conceptual
Photography Exhibition

Until 08/07

Lame Syndrome

Until 09/25

The Struggle between Space and Sentiment: Read Lee

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 08/14

Popular Nanjing W. Road · Zhongshan Images Series—
Old Materials, New Treasure

Until 08/28

Young Pursuing Film Festival

Until 09/04

Addicted—Daisuke Miyatsu:
A Salaryman's Contemporary
Art Collection



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

7/22-7/24

Cheng Tsung-lung's Work—On the Road

08/20

Michel Camilo Trio

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 09/23

Quest for Immortality—The Hidden Treasure
of Ancient Egypt

Until 09/23

Tezuka Osamu

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 09/18

Dreams Stay Real Exhibition

08/04 - 08/09

Taiwan Product Excellence Exhibition

08/12 - 08/14

Street Fashion Exhibition

08/19 - 08/25

Tap Together - Taipei International Tap Festival

Su Ho Memorial Paper Museum

Tel: (02) 2507-5535

Add: 68, Sec. 2, Chang'an E. Rd. (長安東路2段68號)

Website: www.suho.org.tw

Until 10/15

A Dining Scenery

National Taiwan Science Education Center

Tel: (02) 6610-1234

Add: 189 Shishang Rd.(士商路189號)

Website: www.ntsec.gov.tw

Until 09/25

Body Worlds & The Cycle of Life



How To Get from Taiwan Taoyuan International Airport to Taipei

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

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

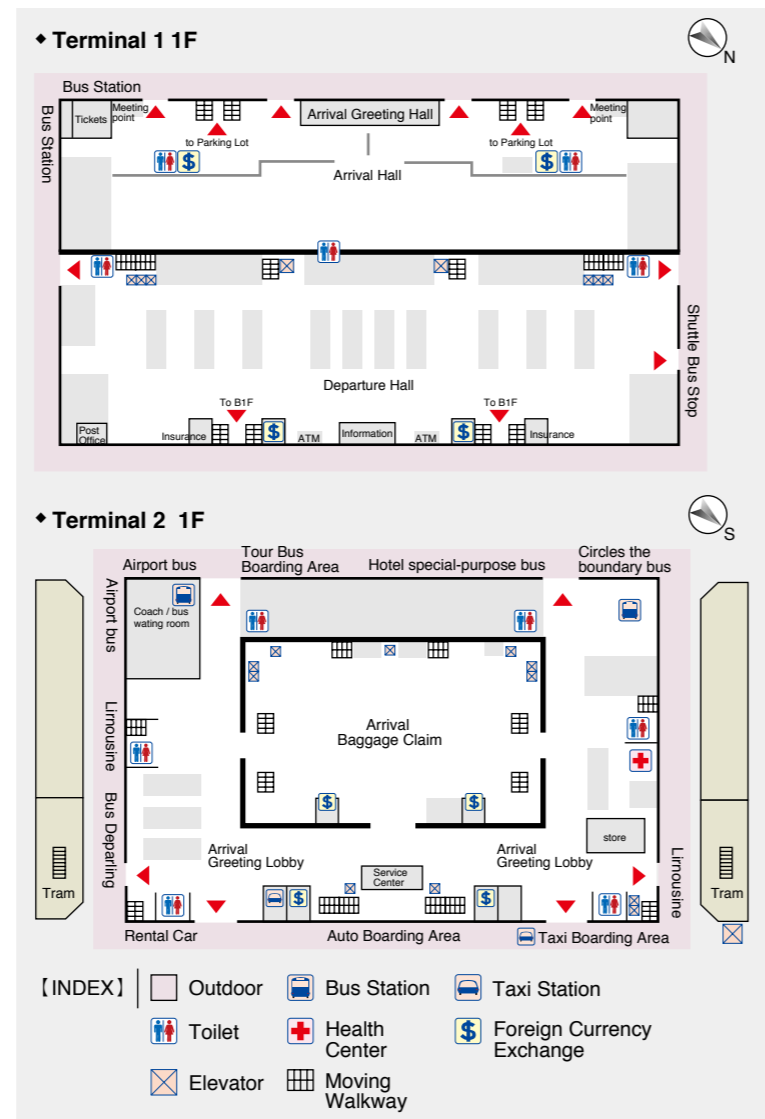
Mocca Power Co.

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

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(North-east end), 3 Beijing 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)

Monga Nostalgia Tour



Transportation Information

Longshan Temple

MRT: MRT Bannan Line to Longshan Temple Station, then walk 8-10 minutes

Zhou's Meat Congee

After exiting MRT Longshan Temple Station, pass through No. 12 Park, then walk along Guangzhou St. approx. 6 minutes

Bopiliao Historic Block

Across from Zhou's Meat Congee

The Red House, Chengdu Starfruit Ice

MRT Ximen Station, Exit No. 6

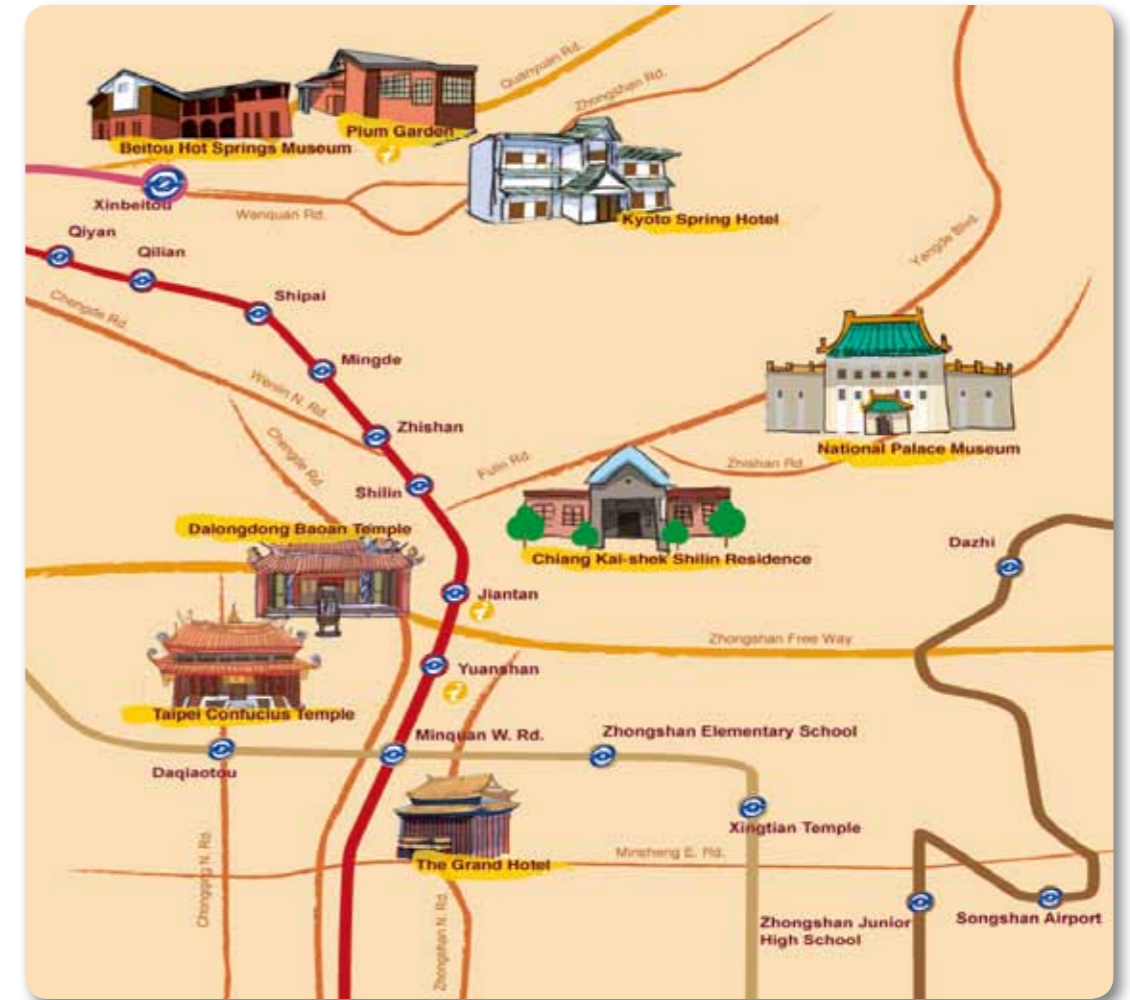
Fong Da Coffee, Shanghai Laotienlu

MRT Ximen Station, Exit No. 6, then walk along Chengdu Rd. approx. 5 minutes

Qsquare, PALAIS de CHINE Hotel

MRT: MRT Taipei Main Station, Exit No. 1, then along Zhongshan Metro Mall (中山地下街), then enter Qsquare's Q Shopping Alley via the connecting portal with Taipei Bus Station (臺北轉運站)

Happy Travels in Zhongshan and Beitou Districts



Transportation Information

Taipei Confucius Temple, Dalongdong Baoan Temple

MRT: Take MRT Danshui Line to Yuanshan Station, then from Exit No. 2 walk past Chengde Rd. along Kulun St. (庫倫街); approx. 400 meters along Kulun St., turn right onto Dalong St. (大龍街)

Chiang Kai-shek Shilin Residence

Bus: No. 203、220、285、612、Zhongshan Rd. Trunk Line buses, Leisure Bus No. 109 (get off at Taiwan Power Co. North Taipei District Office stop station (台電北區分處站))

No. 216、218、250、266、277、304、606 (get off at Xiaobei St. stop (小北街站))

No. 203、279、310 (get off at Chiang Kai-shek Shilin Residence stop; 士林官邸)

National Palace Museum

Bus: Take Small No. 18、Small No. 19、No. Red 30、213、255、304, get off at NPM stop (故宮博物院站)

Beitou Hot Springs Museum, Plum Garden

Bus: No. 216、218、223、266, get off at MRT Xinbeitou Stop

MRT: Danshui Line or Nanshijiao Line to Beitou Station, transfer to Xinbeitou Branch Line, get off at Xinbeitou Station (terminus)

Kyoto Spring Hotel

Approx. 15 minutes on foot from Plum Garden

The Grand Hotel

MRT: Take MRT Danshui Line to Yuanshan Station, then take Exit No. 2



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タピオカとミルクティーの結晶！

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Yongkang mango ice
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Cool and refreshing summer dessert
クールに人々を魅了する金色の山！

鳳梨酥伴手禮
Pineapple cake
手土産バイナッブルケーキ

香氣絕妙黃金種！
Taiwan's premier golden pastry
香り立つ黄金色のレンガのよう

大腸包小腸
Sausage in rice roll
台湾ライスドッグ

美味雙重臺式熱狗！
Taiwanese-style hot dog
美味しダブルの台湾風ホットドッグ

牛肉麵
Beef noodle soup
牛肉麵

令人驚艷的好味道！
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驚くほどの味わい！

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Small steamed bun
小籠包

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Big-sized steamed buns that with
delicious soup
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Organizers: Ministry of Economic Affairs / Taipei City Government Executive organizers: Taiwan Design Center / Taiwan Design Alliance

